



Oklahoma Statistical Analysis Center

Arrest-Related Deaths, 2011

December 2012

Introduction

The Oklahoma Statistical Analysis Center participates in the Arrest-Related Deaths (ARD) program, which is a national data collection of persons who die either during the process of arrest or while in the custody of state or local law enforcement. The program is administered by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). According to BJS, an arrest-related death is defined as "one that occurs anytime a person's freedom to leave is restricted by state or local law enforcement personnel. Arrest-related deaths can occur before law enforcement personnel establish physical custody or before a formal arrest process is initiated. The ARD collection also includes the deaths of individuals who die while attempting to elude police during the course of apprehension (e.g., police chases and standoffs)."

This report provides descriptive data and a summary of events surrounding qualifying deaths in Oklahoma for 2011.

Methodology

SAC staff collects data from multiple sources, including local newspapers, television reports, Internet searches, medical examiner reports, and Supplementary Homicide Reports. The Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) serves as an additional source of information; historically, OSDH has assisted the SAC in identifying additional deaths missed using traditional sources.

Once a qualifying death is identified, staff requests the autopsy report from the Oklahoma Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. After data are collected, staff completes required forms (a form for each death and a quarterly form), which are then submitted to BJS for inclusion in the national ARD data collection.

SAC staff also collects data for state-level analysis, including descriptive data, pertinent circumstances, weapons involved in the incident, and behaviors of both the individual and law enforcement prior to the death.

Findings

Oklahoma SAC staff reported 38 qualifying deaths for 2011, representing a 90% increase. Eight deaths occurred in the first quarter, 11 occurred in the second quarter, 12 in the third quarter, and seven in the fourth quarter.

Demographics

The average age of the individuals was 34 - the youngest was 20 and the oldest was 59. All but one of the individuals was male. Twenty-five individuals were white, nine were black, three were Hispanic, and one was American Indian. Thirteen deaths occurred in Oklahoma County; seven in Tulsa County; three in Cleveland County; two in Pushmataha County and Garvin County; and one in Canadian, Noble, Stephens, Greer, Delaware, Rogers, Marshall, Wagoner, Woodward, Grady, and Cherokee counties. Seventeen of the deaths occurred in Oklahoma City (10) and Tulsa (7), Oklahoma's two largest cities.

Manner of Death

The Oklahoma Office of the Chief Medical Examiner is responsible for determining manner of death for all sudden, violent, unexpected, or suspicious deaths. While there may be multiple causes of death listed on an autopsy report, there can be only one manner of death: natural, accident, suicide, homicide, or unknown.

For 2011, the manner of death of those reported to BJS included 14 homicides, 11 suicides, and eight accidents. In addition, the medical examiner ruled one death as "natural" and two deaths as "unknown." Autopsy reports were unavailable for two deaths (see table 1).

Events Surrounding the Death

The following two tables provide descriptive data on the location of death and behaviors exhibited by the individual prior to his or her death.

Ninety-six percent of deaths occurred at the crime/arrest scene, while two percent of the deaths occurred at a

medical facility, and two percent occurred while en route to a booking center. In 2011, none of the individuals died while en route to a hospital.

Table 1. Manner of Death

Manner	Number of Deaths
Total	38
Homicide	14
Suicide	11
Accident	8
Natural	1
Unknown	2
Pending*	2

* ME Report Unavailable

Table 2. Location of Death

Location	Percent of Deaths
Statewide	100%
Crime/Arrest Scene	96
Medical Facility	2
En Route to Booking Center	2
En Route to Hospital	0

To better understand the events surrounding each death, SAC staff gathers information on the behaviors exhibited by individuals prior to their death. In 61% of deaths, the individual attempted to escape or flee custody, while almost half (47%) attempted to resist arrest. Fifty-six percent of individuals threatened or fought with officers prior to his or her death. Thirteen percent appeared intoxicated at the time of his or her death, and 11% appeared to have mental health issues (see table 3). At the time of their death, individuals may have exhibited more than one of the identified behaviors.

Table 3. Behaviors Exhibited at Time of Death

Behaviors	Percent Exhibiting Behavior
Tried to Escape/Flee Custody	61%
Resisted Arrest	47
Fought Officer(s)	32
Threatened Officer(s)	24
Appeared Intoxicated	13
Mental Health Issues	11

Twenty-four individuals would have faced charges had they survived the events leading to the death. Sixty-three percent of arrest-related deaths were associated with criminal activity.

Table 4. Most Serious Offense*

Charge	Number of Individuals
Violent Offense	13
Property Offense	6
Drug-Related Offense	2
Crime against Law Enforcement	3

* As reported by law enforcement

Conclusion

For 2011, SAC staff reported 38 arrest-related deaths to BJS, representing a 90% increase from the previous reporting year. Homicide by law enforcement was the leading cause of death, followed by suicide. The majority of individuals died at the crime scene.

Sixty-one percent of individuals attempted to flee from officers, while 11% exhibited behaviors associated with mental illness. Finally, the majority of arrest-related deaths were associated with criminal activity.

Case Descriptions

This section briefly describes the events surrounding each death.

January 18, 2011 - A 20-year-old Tulsa man died from injuries sustained in an automobile accident following a high-speed pursuit. The manner of death was ruled accident.

February 28, 2011 - A 33-year-old Oklahoma City man died from a self-inflicted shotgun wound. The manner of death was ruled suicide.

March 1, 2011 - A 30-year-old man was shot by law enforcement in Perry, Oklahoma. The manner of death was ruled homicide.

March 2, 2011 - A 40-year-old Duncan man died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound following a standoff with law enforcement. The manner of death was ruled suicide.

March 6, 2011 - A 43-year-old Oklahoma City man died from injuries sustained in an automobile accident

following a high-speed pursuit. The manner of death was ruled accident.

March 17, 2011 - A 31-year-old Tulsa man was shot by law enforcement after he pulled a gun on officers during a pedestrian check. The manner of death was ruled homicide.

March 25, 2011 - A 22-year-old Midwest City man died from injuries sustained in an automobile accident following a high-speed pursuit with officers. The manner of death was ruled accident.

March 30, 2011 - A 44-year-old Mangum man killed himself with a shotgun during a traffic stop. The manner of death was ruled suicide.

April 3, 2011 - A 38-year-old Oklahoma City man died after a brief struggle with law enforcement. The manner of death was ruled unknown.

April 5, 2011 - A 34-year-old man committed suicide after a standoff with law enforcement in Tulsa. The manner of death was ruled a suicide.

April 17, 2011 - A 20-year-old Tulsa man died was shot by law enforcement after he pointed a semi-automatic handgun at officers during a traffic stop. The manner of death was ruled homicide.

April 19, 2011 - A 47-year-old Yukon man was killed by an off-duty law enforcement officer after the man attempted to break in to the officer's home. The manner of death was ruled homicide.

May 11, 2011 - A 20-year-old jail escapee died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound sustained when officers attempted to apprehend him. The manner of death was ruled suicide.

May 20, 2011 - A 30-year-old Moore man was shot by law enforcement during a traffic stop. The man allegedly "charged" at officers while holding a gun. The autopsy report was unavailable.

May 31, 2011 - A 20-year-old Oklahoma City man was shot by law enforcement during a high-speed police pursuit. The man was driving a stolen vehicle at the time of his death. The manner of death was ruled homicide.

May 31, 2011 - A 31-year-old Tulsa man was killed by law enforcement after a police pursuit. He was driving a

stolen vehicle at the time of death. The manner of death was ruled homicide.

June 2, 2011 - A 27-year-old Tulsa man died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. The manner of death was suicide.

June 16, 2011 - A 34-year-old man was killed by law enforcement after a brief police pursuit. The manner of death was ruled homicide.

June 16, 2011 - A 31-year-old man was killed by law enforcement after a brief police pursuit. The manner of death was ruled homicide.

July 10, 2011 - A 27-year-old Tulsa man died from injuries he sustained during a fight with law enforcement. The manner of death was ruled an accident.

July 13, 2011 - A 57-year-old Foyil man died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound after a standoff with law enforcement. The manner of death was ruled suicide.

July 16, 2011 - A 29-year-old Arkansas man was killed by law enforcement after a high-speed pursuit. The manner of death was ruled homicide.

July 27, 2011 - A 24-year-old Del City woman died from injuries sustained in an automobile accident following a brief high-speed pursuit with law enforcement. The manner of death was ruled accident.

August 8, 2011 - A 22-year-old man from Madill died from injuries sustained in an automobile accident following a brief high-speed pursuit with officers. The manner of death was ruled homicide.

August 16, 2011 - A 56-year-old Wagoner man was killed by law enforcement after threatening employees of a local fast food restaurant. The manner of death was ruled homicide.

August 18, 2011 - A 42-year-old Pauls Valley man died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound after a brief standoff with law enforcement. The manner of death was ruled suicide.

August 21, 2011 - A 37-year-old Oklahoma City man died after he attempted to run from police after a bar fight. Officers discovered that he had attempted to swallow narcotics, but the bag got lodged in his throat. The manner of death was ruled accident.

September 14, 2011 - A 40-year-old man died from injuries he sustained in a motorcycle accident following a high-speed pursuit with officers. The manner of death was ruled accident.

September 17, 2011 - A 36-year-old Moore man died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Police were responding to a domestic violence call at the time of the man's death. Manner of death was ruled suicide.

September 24, 2011 - A 38-year-old man from Mooreland was killed by law enforcement after he refused to cooperate with officers. According to reports, the man "lunged" at officers with a knife. The manner of death was ruled homicide.

September 26, 2011 - A 34-year-old Oklahoma City man died after a brief struggle with law enforcement. The manner of death was ruled unknown.

November 10, 2011 - A 25-year-old man from Alex died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Police were responding to a domestic call at the time of the man's death. The manner of death was ruled suicide.

November 20, 2011 - A 33-year-old man was killed by law enforcement after a high-speed pursuit, which ended in Moore. The manner of death was ruled homicide.

November 20, 2011 - A 31-year-old Oklahoma City man died from injuries sustained during a brief pursuit. The manner of death was ruled accident.

November 24, 2011 - A 29-year-old man from Oklahoma City died from self-inflicted gunshot wounds. Prior to shooting himself, the man killed his girlfriend during a domestic dispute. The manner of death was ruled suicide.

November 30, 2011 - A 54-year-old Woodall man died after deputies were called to his residence. When officers arrived, the man's ex-wife was bleeding from a gunshot wound to her neck. Officers arrested the man, but he became unresponsive on the way to police headquarters. The manner of death was ruled natural.

December 8, 2011 - A 35-year-old Oklahoma City man died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound after a brief standoff with law enforcement. The manner of death was ruled suicide.

December 8, 2011 - A 36-year-old Valley Brook man was killed by law enforcement after he attempted to burglarize a city hall. The man began shooting at officers when they arrived, wounding three. The manner of death was ruled homicide.

Arrest-Related Deaths, 2011						
Date	Sex	Race	Age	City	County	Manner of Death
01/18/11	Male	White	20	Tulsa	Tulsa	Accident
02/28/11	Male	White	33	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma	Suicide
03/01/11	Male	White	30	Perry	Noble	Homicide
03/02/11	Male	White	40	Duncan	Stephens	Suicide
03/06/11	Male	White	43	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma	Accident
03/17/11	Male	Black	31	Tulsa	Tulsa	Homicide
03/25/11	Male	White	22	Midwest City	Oklahoma	Homicide
03/30/11	Male	White	44	Mangum	Greer	Suicide
04/03/11	Male	Black	38	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma	Unknown
04/05/11	Male	Black	34	Tulsa	Tulsa	Suicide
04/17/11	Male	Black	20	Tulsa	Tulsa	Homicide
04/19/11	Male	White	47	Yukon	Canadian	Homicide
05/11/11	Male	White	20	Jay	Delaware	Suicide
05/20/11	Male	White	30	Moore	Cleveland	---
05/31/11	Male	White	20	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma	Homicide
05/31/11	Male	White	31	Tulsa	Tulsa	Homicide
06/02/11	Male	Black	27	Tulsa	Tulsa	Suicide
06/16/11	Male	White	34	Antlers	Pushmataha	Homicide
06/16/11	Male	White	31	Antlers	Pushmataha	Homicide
07/10/11	Male	White	27	Tulsa	Tulsa	Accident
07/13/11	Male	White	57	Foyil	Rogers	---
07/16/11	Male	White	29	Pauls Valley	Garvin	Homicide
07/27/11	Female	A. Indian	24	Del City	Oklahoma	Accident
08/08/11	Male	Hispanic	22	Madill	Marshall	Accident
08/16/11	Male	White	59	Wagoner	Wagoner	Homicide
08/18/11	Male	Black	42	Pauls Valley	Garvin	Suicide
08/21/11	Male	Black	37	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma	Accident
09/14/11	Male	Hispanic	40	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma	Accident
09/17/11	Male	White	36	Moore	Cleveland	Suicide
09/24/11	Male	White	38	Mooreland	Woodward	Homicide
09/26/11	Male	Black	34	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma	Unknown
11/10/11	Male	White	25	Alex	Grady	Suicide
11/20/11	Male	White	33	Moore	Cleveland	Homicide
11/20/11	Male	Hispanic	31	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma	Accident
11/24/11	Male	Black	29	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma	Suicide
11/30/11	Male	White	54	Woodall	Cherokee	Natural
12/08/11	Male	White	35	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma	Suicide
12/08/11	Male	White	36	Valley Brook	Oklahoma	Homicide

The Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation is recognized by the Bureau of Justice Statistics as the Statistical Analysis Center (SAC). The SAC collects, analyzes, and disseminates justice information; these functions are located within OSBI's Office of Criminal Justice Statistics. The following individuals wrote this report, under the direction of David Page, and Information Services Division Director; Christopher Hill Ph.D, Assistant Division Director; and Angie Baker, SAC Director:

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