



Oklahoma Statistical Analysis Center

Arrest-Related Deaths, 2012

October 2013

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 2012.

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 32 qualifying deaths for 2012; seven deaths occurred in the first quarter, six occurred in the second quarter, 10 in the third quarter, and nine in the fourth quarter.

Demographics

The average age of the individuals was 36 - the youngest was 18 and the oldest was 66. All but one of the individuals was male. Twenty individuals were white, eight were black, three were Hispanic, and one was American Indian. Ten occurred in Oklahoma County; seven in Tulsa County; two in Cleveland County; three in Canadian County; two in Comanche County; two in Payne County; and one in Cherokee, Custer, Garvin, Mayes, Okmulgee, and Seminole counties. Fourteen of the deaths occurred in Oklahoma City (8) and Tulsa (6), 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 2012, the manner of death of those reported to BJS included 19 homicides, eight suicides, and three accidents. In addition, the medical examiner ruled two deaths "unknown" (see table 5).

Events Surrounding the 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 2012, none of the individuals died while en route to a hospital.

Arrest-Related Deaths, 2012						
Date	Sex	Race	Age	City	County	Manner of Death
01/06/12	Male	White	31	Norman	Cleveland	Homicide
01/26/12	Male	Black	31	Tulsa	Tulsa	Homicide
02/01/12	Male	White	56	Hulbert	Cherokee	Homicide
03/11/12	Male	White	41	Purcell	Garvin	Homicide
03/14/12	Male	Black	18	Del City	Oklahoma	Homicide
03/20/12	Male	Hispanic	25	Tulsa	Tulsa	Homicide
03/21/12	Male	White	42	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma	Suicide
04/03/12	Male	White	45	Tulsa	Tulsa	Homicide
04/21/12	Male	White	28	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma	Homicide
05/12/12	Male	White	51	Yukon	Canadian	Homicide
05/14/12	Male	Black	25	Lawton	Comanche	Homicide
06/23/12	Male	Black	54	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma	Homicide
06/27/12	Male	Native	34	Clinton	Custer	Homicide
07/16/12	Male	Hispanic	32	Tulsa	Tulsa	Homicide
07/19/12	Male	Black	26	Tulsa	Tulsa	Suicide
07/29/12	Male	Black	25	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma	Accident
08/01/12	Male	White	50	Morris	Okmulgee	Homicide
08/25/12	Male	White	24	Seminole	Seminole	Homicide
09/04/12	Male	White	27	Perkins	Payne	Suicide
09/13/12	Male	White	30	Pryor	Mayes	Homicide
09/18/12	Male	White	23	El Reno	Canadian	Suicide
09/26/12	Male	Black	43	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma	Unknown
09/28/12	Male	White	32	Cushing	Payne	Suicide
10/13/12	Male	Black	32	Lawton	Comanche	Accident
10/19/12	Male	Hispanic	35	Tulsa	Tulsa	Suicide
11/11/12	Male	White	32	El Reno	Canadian	Suicide
11/29/12	Male	White	44	Tulsa	Tulsa	Homicide
12/03/12	Male	White	42	Midwest City	Oklahoma	Homicide
12/11/12	Female	White	54	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma	Accident
12/16/12	Male	White	66	Norman	Cleveland	Unknown
12/18/12	Male	White	26	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma	Homicide
12/21/12	Male	White	36	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma	Suicide

Manner	Number of Deaths
Total	32
Homicide	19
Suicide	8
Accident	3
Unknown	2
Natural	0

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 events surrounding each death, SAC staff gathers information on the behaviors exhibited by individuals prior to their death. In 58% of deaths, the individual attempted to escape or flee custody, while one-third (33%) attempted to resist arrest. Forty-eight percent of individuals threatened or fought with officers prior to their death. Twelve percent appeared intoxicated at the time of death, and nine percent 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 or none at all, as was the case in 18% of deaths.

Behavior	Percent Exhibiting Behavior
Tried to Escape/Flee Custody	58%
Resisted Arrest	33
Fought/Threatened Officer(s)	48
Appeared Intoxicated	12
Mental Health Issues	9

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

Charge	Number of Individuals
Violent Offense	13
Property Offense	2
Drug-Related Offense	1

Conclusion

For 2012, SAC staff reported 32 arrest-related deaths to BJS. Homicide by law enforcement was the leading cause of death, followed by suicide. The majority of individuals died at the crime scene.

Fifty-nine percent of individuals attempted to flee from officers, while nine percent 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 6, 2012 - A 31-year-old Oklahoma City man was shot by law enforcement in Noble after threatening officers who were responding to the report of several fires. The manner of death was ruled homicide.

January 26, 2012 - A 31-year-old Tulsa man died after a standoff with law enforcement. The manner of death was ruled homicide.

February 1, 2012 - A 56-year-old Hubert man was shot by law enforcement after he shot at officers responding to a noise complaint. The manner of death was rule homicide.

March 11, 2012 - A 41-year-old Pauls Valley man died from gunshot wounds following a high-speed pursuit. The manner of death was ruled homicide.

March 14, 2012 - An 18-year-old Del City man died from gunshot wounds sustained after a brief struggle with law enforcement following a high-speed pursuit. The manner of death was ruled homicide.

March 20, 2012 - A 25-year-old man was shot by law enforcement in Tulsa. Officers were dispatched to the

area due to several home invasions. The manner of death was ruled homicide.

March 21, 2012 - A 42-year-old Yukon man died from self-inflicted injuries following a domestic incident. The man shot himself when officers arrived at the home. The manner of death was ruled suicide.

April 3, 2012 - A 45-year-old Tulsa man with a history of mental illness was shot by law enforcement after threatening officers with a knife. The manner of death was ruled homicide.

April 21, 2012 - A 28-year-old Oklahoma City man was shot during a standoff with law enforcement following a car-jacking. The manner of death was ruled homicide.

May 12, 2012 - A 51-year-old man was shot by law enforcement near El Reno. Officers were attempting to pull over the man after receiving reports he had shot at another vehicle while driving on the interstate. The manner of death was ruled homicide.

May 14, 2012 - A 25-year-old Lawton man died was killed by law enforcement after he led officers on a police chase. The manner of death was ruled homicide.

June 23, 2012 - A 54-year-old Oklahoma City man died at the hospital from injuries sustained in an accident following a police pursuit. The manner of death was ruled homicide.

June 27, 2012 - A 34-year-old Clinton man was shot by law enforcement after a brief police pursuit. The manner of death was ruled homicide.

July 16, 2012 - A 32-year-old Tulsa man was shot by law enforcement after he shot at them. The decedent was a suspect in an armed robbery. The manner of death was ruled homicide.

July 19, 2012 - A 26-year-old Tulsa man died after a short foot pursuit. Officers were attempting to apprehend him after he robbed a local donut store. The suspect was eventually cornered in a neighborhood cul-de-sac and turned the gun on himself. The manner of death was ruled suicide.

July 29, 2012 - A 25-year-old Oklahoma City man died from injuries sustained in an automobile accident following a brief high-speed pursuit with officers. The manner of death was ruled accident.

August 1, 2012 - A 50-year-old Morris man was shot after he approached an officer with a machete. Officers were dispatched to the area after receiving reports of a suicidal man. The manner of death was ruled homicide.

August 25, 2012 - A 24-year-old Seminole man was killed by law enforcement after he attacked a drug court officer. The manner of death was ruled homicide.

September 4, 2012 - A 27-year-old Perkins man died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Law enforcement initiated a traffic stop after decedent ran a red light. The car eventually stopped but when officers approached the vehicle, the decedent shot himself. The manner of death was ruled suicide.

September 13, 2012 - A 30-year-old Pryor man died following a foot pursuit in the woods. Law enforcement was attempting to make contact with the man because he was suspected of an auto theft. The decedent pointed a gun at officers; in response, law enforcement shot the suspect. The manner of death was ruled homicide.

September 13, 2012 - A 23-year-old El Reno died following a domestic violence incident. The decedent was driving erratically and hit another vehicle, which caused his vehicle to stop. As officers approached the vehicle, the suspect shot himself. The manner of death was ruled suicide.

September 26, 2012 - A 43-year-old Oklahoma City man died following a foot pursuit. Officers were dispatched to the area in response to a person shooting a gun into the air. As the decedent attempted to flee on foot, law enforcement tased him once. He became nonresponsive at the scene, so paramedics transported him to a local hospital where he was pronounced dead. The manner of death was ruled unknown.

September 28, 2012 - A 32-year-old Cushing man died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Police were responding to a mental health call. The manner of death was ruled suicide.

October 13, 2012 - A 32-year-old Lawton man died after a short pursuit with law enforcement. The manner of death was ruled accident.

October 19, 2012 - A 35-year-old Tulsa man died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound following a standoff with law enforcement. The man was a suspect in a murder. The manner of death was ruled suicide.

November 11, 2012 - A 32-year-old El Reno man died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. He had recently separated from his wife. The manner of death was ruled suicide.

November 29, 2012 - A 44-year-old Tulsa man was shot by officers after he pointed a gun at them. Officers were attempting to apprehend the decedent for a gun-related crime. The manner of death was ruled homicide.

December 3, 2012 - A 42-year-old Midwest City man was killed by law enforcement after he lunged at officers with a machete. Law enforcement was dispatched to the area because of a suspected explosion. The manner of death was ruled a homicide.

December 11, 2012 - A 54-year-old Oklahoma City female died after a short pursuit with law enforcement. She was wanted in connection with an armed robbery that had occurred earlier in the evening. The manner of death was ruled accident.

December 16, 2012 - A 66-year-old Norman man died after he was involved in an automobile accident. When they arrived on the scene, law enforcement found the man nude on the side of the highway. A brief pursuit ensued and the man was tased. He became nonresponsive and died at a local hospital. The manner of death was ruled unknown.

December 18, 2012 - A 26-year-old Oklahoma City man was killed by law enforcement after a brief struggle. Police were responding to a domestic call. When they arrived, the man reached for a weapon. In response, officers shot the decedent. The manner of death was ruled homicide.

December 21, 2012 - A 36-year-old Oklahoma City man died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound after a high-speed pursuit. Law enforcement was attempting to apprehend the man because he was a suspect in a double homicide. The suspect stopped and as law enforcement approached the car, the suspect shot himself. The manner of death was ruled suicide.

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 Oklahoma SAC would like to thank Tegan Burkhard for her assistance in creating this report. The following individuals wrote this report, under the direction of David Page, Information Services Division Director:

Angie Baker, SAC Director

For more information, please contact:

Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation
6600 North Harvey
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73116
405.858.5271
<http://www.ok.gov/osbi/>

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