



Oklahoma Statistical Analysis Center

Arrest-Related Deaths, 2013

April 2014

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 2013.

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 34 qualifying deaths for 2013; seven deaths occurred in the first quarter, nine occurred in the second quarter, eight in the third quarter, and ten in the fourth quarter.

Demographics

The average age of the individuals was 32 - the youngest was 18 and the oldest was 58. All but two of the individuals were male. Twenty individuals were white, five were black, five were Hispanic, and one was Native American. Two were categorized as "other" and one was unknown. Ten occurred in Oklahoma County; three in Tulsa County; three in Comanche County; two in Garfield County; and one in Atoka, Canadian, Cleveland, Custer, Garvin, Grady, Logan, Mayes, Okfuskee, Payne and Wagoner counties. Seventeen of the deaths occurred in Oklahoma City (13) and Tulsa (4), 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 2013, the manner of death of those reported to BJS included one unknown, 16 homicides, seven suicides, and seven accidents. Autopsy reports were unavailable for three deaths (see table 1).

Events Surrounding the Death

Twenty-one deaths occurred at the crime/arrest scene, while six of the deaths occurred at a medical facility, and seven were dead on arrival at medical facility. In 2013, none of the individuals died at a law enforcement facility/booking center.

Arrest-Related Deaths, 2013						
Date	Sex	Race	Age	City	County	Manner of Death
01/10/13	Male	Other	18	Cushing	Payne	Homicide
01/29/13	Male	White	29	Pryor	Mayes	Homicide
02/07/13	Female	White	30	Lawton	Comanche	Suicide
02/16/13	Male	Hispanic	31	Tulsa	Tulsa	Homicide
03/01/13	Male	Black	35	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma	Homicide
03/11/13	Male	White	50	Lawton	Comanche	Suicide
03/23/13	Male	White	36	Enid	Garfield	Homicide
04/08/13	Male	Hispanic	58	Paoli	Garvin	Suicide
04/08/13	Male	Other	29	Owasso	Tulsa	Suicide
04/09/13	Male	White	23	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma	Homicide
04/09/13	Female	White	20	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma	Homicide
05/01/13	Male	Black	38	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma	Accident
05/04/13	Male	White	30	Atoka	Atoka	Homicide
06/09/13	Male	White	44	Paden	Okfuskee	Homicide
06/17/13	Male	Black	37	Midwest City	Oklahoma	Homicide
06/19/13	Male	Black	45	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma	Homicide
07/06/13	Male	White	18	Geronimo	Comanche	Accident
07/11/13	Male	Black	24	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma	Homicide
08/02/13	Male	White	32	Oklahoma City	Canadian	Homicide
08/03/13	Male	White	28	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma	Accident
08/20/13	Male	White	48	Rush Springs	Grady	Accident
09/01/13	Male	Hispanic	25	Tulsa	Tulsa	Homicide
09/21/13	Male	White	46	Guthrie	Logan	Accident
09/21/13	Male	White	33	Tulsa	Tulsa	Homicide
10/01/13	Male	White	31	Norman	Cleveland	Suicide
10/10/13	Male	White	23	Enid	Garfield	Accident
10/14/13	Male	Hispanic	29	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma	Suicide
10/14/13	Male	White	25	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma	--
10/21/13	Male	White	45	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma	Accident
11/27/13	Male	Hispanic	30	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma	--
12/04/13	Male	White	20	Tulsa	Tulsa	Unknown
12/21/13	Male	Unknown	26	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma	--
12/21/13	Male	Native American	18	Clinton	Custer	Homicide
12/24/13	Male	White	33	Coweta	Wagoner	Suicide

Table 1. Manner of Death

Manner	Number of Deaths
Total	34
Homicide	16
Suicide	7
Accident	7
Unknown	1
Natural	0
Pending*	3

*ME Report Unavailable

Table 2. Location of Death

Location	Number of Deaths
Statewide	34
Crime/Arrest Scene	21
Medical Facility	6
Dead on Arrival at Medical Facility	7
Law Enforcement Facility/Booking Center	0

To better understand events surrounding each death, SAC staff gathered information on the behaviors exhibited by individuals prior to their death. In 35% of deaths, the individual attempted to escape or flee custody. Thirty-five percent barricaded themselves or initiated a standoff, while 21% made suicidal statements. Twelve percent attempted to resist arrest; 12% attempted to grab, hit, or kick law enforcement; and 12% verbally threatened others prior to their death. Three percent attempted to gain possession of officer's weapon (see table 3). At the time of their death, individuals may have exhibited more than one of the identified behaviors (32%) or none at all (18%).

Table 3. Behaviors Exhibited at Time of Death

Behavior	Percent Exhibiting Behavior
Tried to Escape/Flee Custody	35%
Barricade Self or Initiate Standoff	35
Made Suicidal Statements	21
Attempt to Grab, Hit, or Kick Officer(s)	12
Resisted	12
Verbally Threatened other(s)	12
Attempt to Gain Possession of Officer's Weapon	3

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

Table 4. Most Serious Offense

Charge	Number of Individuals
Violent Offense	14
Property Offense	5
Drug-Related Offense	3

Conclusion

For 2013, SAC staff reported 34 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.

Thirty-five percent of individuals attempted to flee from law enforcement, while twenty-one percent made suicidal statements. Finally, the majority of arrest-related deaths were associated with criminal activity.

Case Descriptions

This section briefly describes the events surrounding each death.

January 10, 2013 - An 18-year-old Tulsa man was shot by law enforcement in Cushing. The decedent refused to drop his weapon. The manner of death was ruled homicide.

January 29, 2013 - A 29-year-old man died in Pryor from gunshot wounds after shooting at law enforcement while handcuffed. The manner of death was ruled homicide.

February 7, 2013 - A 30-year-old Lawton woman died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Law enforcement was dispatched to the area after reports of a suicidal woman. The manner of death was ruled suicide.

February 16, 2013 - A 31-year-old Tulsa man was shot after pointing a gun at law enforcement. Law enforcement was responding to reports of a suicidal man. The manner of death was ruled homicide.

March 1, 2013 - A 35-year-old Oklahoma City man died from gunshot wounds after striking an undercover officer

with his vehicle. The manner of death was ruled homicide.

March 11, 2013 - A 50-year-old man died in Lawton from a self-inflicted gunshot wound after a stand-off with law enforcement. The manner of death was ruled a suicide.

March 23, 2013 - A 36-year-old Enid man died after being shot by law enforcement. The decedent pointed a shotgun at law enforcement when they arrived on scene. The manner of death was ruled homicide.

April 8, 2013 - A 58-year-old Paoli man died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound following a standoff with law enforcement. The manner of death was ruled suicide.

April 8, 2013 - A 29-year-old Owasso man died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound after a stand-off with law enforcement. The decedent had been holding his wife and son hostage inside the home. The manner of death was ruled suicide.

April 9, 2013 - A 23-year-old man was shot by law enforcement in Oklahoma City during a traffic stop. The decedent had outstanding warrants. The manner of death was ruled homicide.

April 9, 2013 - A 20-year-old woman was shot by law enforcement in Oklahoma City after a traffic stop. There were outstanding warrants for the driver of the vehicle. The manner of death was ruled homicide.

May 1, 2013 - A 38-year-old Oklahoma City man died from excited delirium after a confrontation with law enforcement. The decedent was placed in restraints to prevent injury when he became unresponsive. The manner of death was ruled accident.

May 4, 2013 - A 30-year-old New York man was shot by a park ranger after a brief foot chase through McGee State Park. The decedent reached his vehicle and attempted to run over the ranger. The manner of death was ruled homicide.

June 9, 2013 - A 44-year-old Paden man was shot by law enforcement after approaching an officer with a shotgun. The decedent did not comply when asked to drop his weapon. The manner of death was ruled homicide.

June 17, 2013 - A 37-year-old man was shot by an officer in Midwest City after taking a 2-year-old girl hostage inside a grocery store. The manner of death was ruled homicide.

June 19, 2013 - A 45-year-old Oklahoma City man died after opening fire on an officer. Law enforcement was responding to a domestic call. The manner of death was ruled homicide.

July 6, 2013 - An 18-year-old Waurika man died from injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident following a brief high-speed pursuit. The decedent was a passenger. The manner of death was ruled accident.

July 11, 2013 - A 24-year-old Kansas man was shot when law enforcement found the decedent in a vehicle with a handgun. The manner of death was ruled homicide.

August 2, 2013 - A 32-year-old man was shot by law enforcement in Oklahoma City after a brief pursuit. The manner of death was ruled homicide.

August 3, 2013 - A 28-year-old Oklahoma City man died from cardiac arrhythmia after being handcuffed and placed in the patrol car. The decedent had methamphetamine in his system. The manner of death was ruled accident.

August 20, 2013 - A 48-year-old Rush Springs man died after wrecking his motorcycle. The decedent failed to pull over for speeding. The manner of death was ruled accident.

September 1, 2013 - A 25-year-old Tulsa man was shot by an off-duty officer after the officer noticed the decedent had several guns in his possession. The decedent refused to drop his weapons. The manner of death was ruled homicide.

September 21, 2013 - A 46-year-old Nebraska man died after being struck by a patrol car. The decedent was walking across the interstate. The manner of death was ruled accident.

September 21, 2013 - A 33-year-old Claremore man was shot after an altercation with an officer following a foot pursuit in Tulsa. The officer initiated a traffic stop when the decedent fled. The manner of death was ruled homicide.

October 1, 2013 - A 31-year-old Oklahoma City man died from self-inflicted injuries following a short pursuit with law enforcement. The decedent had outstanding warrants. The manner of death was ruled suicide.

October 10, 2013 - A 23-year-old Enid man died from a head wound after wrecking his vehicle. Law enforcement

attempted to initiate a traffic stop when the decedent fled. The manner of death was ruled accident.

October 14, 2013 - A 29-year-old Oklahoma City man died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound when law enforcement arrived on scene. The decedent was a suspect in a sexual assault case. The manner of death was ruled suicide.

October 14, 2013 - A 25-year-old Oklahoma City man was found dead in his vehicle by law enforcement. Law enforcement was responding to reports of a suicidal man. The medical examiner's report was unavailable.

October 21, 2013 - A 45-year-old Oklahoma City man died from cardiac arrhythmia due to acute methamphetamine toxicity. He became unresponsive after being handcuffed by law enforcement. The manner of death was ruled accident.

November 27, 2013 - A 30-year-old Oklahoma City man died after fleeing from law enforcement. The decedent

was shot after pointing a gun at law enforcement and motorists. The medical examiner's report was unavailable.

December 4, 2013 - A 20-year-old Tulsa man died after a brief pursuit with law enforcement. The decedent struck an officer's vehicle and fired a shotgun. The decedent had outstanding warrants. The manner of death was ruled unknown.

December 21, 2013 - An 18-year-old Clinton man was shot after threatening law enforcement with a knife. Law enforcement was responding to a domestic call. The manner of death was ruled homicide.

December 21, 2013 - A 26-year-old man died in Oklahoma City from a self-inflicted gunshot wound after a long standoff with law enforcement. The medical examiner's report was unavailable.

December 24, 2013 - A 33-year-old Coweta man died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound after shooting his brother. 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 following individual(s) wrote this report, under the direction of Angie Baker, Director of the Oklahoma Statistical Analysis Center:

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