



# Office of Criminal Justice Statistics

## Fatal Officer-Involved Shootings, 2017

April 2018

### **Introduction**

The Office of Criminal Justice Statistics collects data on all fatal officer-involved shootings in Oklahoma. For purposes of this report, a fatal officer-involved shooting is defined as the discharge of a service weapon by an officer that results in the death of a civilian. This report includes descriptive data and a summary of events surrounding fatal officer-involved shootings in Oklahoma for 2017.

### **Methodology**

Research staff collected data from multiple sources for each death including media reports, online searches, and Supplementary Homicide Reports from the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) also assists research staff with identifying and collecting information about each death. Once a fatal officer-involved shooting is identified, research staff request an autopsy report from the Oklahoma Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME). Each year, research staff publish a summary report that provides descriptive data, circumstances surrounding the incident, weapons used by either the decedent or law enforcement during the incident, and other behaviors of both the decedent and law enforcement during the incident.

### **Findings**

In 2017, 29 fatal officer-involved shootings occurred in Oklahoma. All decedents were male. The average age of the decedents was 39; the youngest was 18 and the oldest was 64. Eighteen decedents were white, four were American Indian, three were black, three were Hispanic, and one was unknown. The highest number of deaths occurred in Oklahoma County (7), followed by Tulsa County (5), and Sequoyah County (3). Eleven deaths occurred in Oklahoma City (6) and Tulsa (5). In the majority of incidents (55%), law enforcement made initial contact with the decedent because of a citizen request (e.g., criminal or suspicious behavior). In another 14% of incidents, law enforcement made initial contact with the decedent during a traffic stop (see table 1).

Decedents verbally threatened others in 55% of incidents. Decedents attempted to escape or flee to elude law enforcement in 34% of incidents. The decedents attempted to grab, hit, or kick law enforcement in almost 14% of incidents. In 10% of incidents, decedents attempted to barricade themselves or initiate a standoff. Decedents attempted to gain possession of an officer's weapon in 3% of incidents.

Table 1. Fatal Officer-Involved Shootings, 2017

Date	Sex	Race/Ethnicity	Age	City	Country	Manner of Death
01/07/17	M	White	42	Fairland	Ottawa	Homicide
01/18/17	M	White	40	Watts	Adair	Homicide
01/30/17	M	Black	50	Kiowa	Pittsburg	Homicide
02/08/17	M	American Indian	34	Anadarko	Caddo	Homicide
02/10/17	M	White	45	Bethany	Oklahoma	Homicide
02/17/17	M	White	34	Tulsa	Tulsa	Homicide
02/23/17	M	White	54	Fairfax	Osage	Homicide
03/04/17	M	White	38	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma	Homicide
03/29/17	M	White	57	Byars	McClain	Homicide
04/15/17	M	White	42	Chelsea	Rogers	Homicide
04/20/17	M	White	64	Edmond	Logan	Homicide
04/30/17	M	White	32	Tom	McCurtain	Homicide
05/15/17	M	White	48	Wewoka	Seminole	Homicide
06/02/17	M	Unknown	18	Tulsa	Tulsa	Homicide
06/09/17	M	White	58	Roland	Sequoyah	Homicide
06/09/17	M	Black	29	Tulsa	Tulsa	Homicide
06/21/17	M	Hispanic	29	Millerton	McCurtain	Homicide
06/24/17	M	White	47	Tulsa	Tulsa	Homicide
06/25/17	M	Black	24	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma	Homicide
07/05/17	M	White	45	Sallisaw	Sequoyah	Homicide
07/12/17	M	American Indian	34	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma	Homicide
08/20/17	M	White	32	Marietta	Love	Homicide
08/26/17	M	Hispanic	18	Guymon	Texas	Homicide
09/19/17	M	Hispanic	34	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma	Homicide
09/21/17	M	White	58	Lane	Atoka	Homicide
10/20/17	M	White	30	Muldrow	Sequoyah	Homicide
11/15/17	M	American Indian	29	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma	Homicide
12/10/17*	M	American Indian	28	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma	Homicide
12/25/17	M	White	31	Tulsa	Tulsa	Homicide

\*Verified by OSDH. Unable to obtain OCME autopsy report.

## **Case Descriptions**

This section briefly describes the events surrounding each death.

### ***January 7, 2017***

Law enforcement spotted a man suspected of burglary and motor vehicle theft. The 42-year-old man led law enforcement into a vehicle pursuit. At some point during the pursuit, the suspect abandoned his vehicle and fled into a wooded area. An officer pursued the suspect and confronted him. The officer opened fire when the suspect produced a handgun and refused to drop it.

### ***January 18, 2017***

A 40-year-old man was shot after threatening officers with a metal pipe. While responding to a domestic disturbance, law enforcement confronted a man holding a metal pipe outside a residence. The man refused to comply with commands to drop the pipe. Instead, he held the metal pipe in a threatening manner and headed towards the officers. Law enforcement fired at the suspect to contain the threat.

### ***January 30, 2017***

Law enforcement pulled a 50-year-old man over for speeding. During the search and frisk of the suspect, the officer felt a gun in the suspect's coat pocket. The suspect began to struggle with the officer over the gun. The officer opened fire after the suspect refused to hand over the gun.

### ***February 8, 2017***

A 34-year-old man was shot after threatening officers with a knife. While responding to a domestic disturbance, law enforcement confronted a man armed with a knife. A verbal exchange ensued. Officers gave the suspect repeated commands to drop the knife. Instead, the suspect started to approach the officers. One of the officers opened fire, striking the suspect.

### ***February 10, 2017***

A victim reported being assaulted at her residence during a domestic disturbance. When officers arrived at the scene, they found a 45-year-old man with a gun, pointed at his own chest. Officers drew their weapons and gave the suspect multiple commands to drop the gun, but he refused to obey. The man was shot when he pointed his weapon towards law enforcement.

### ***February 17, 2017***

A man was shot by officers following a vehicle pursuit near southeast Tulsa. Law enforcement attempted to serve an arrest warrant at the apartment complex where the 34-year-old man was staying. The man was wanted on several felony counts including rape, kidnapping, and domestic assault. When the man saw the officers, he fled and led officers on a vehicle pursuit. The man eventually stopped in a shopping center parking lot and exited his vehicle with a knife in hand. Officers shot the man after he lunged in their direction.

***February 23, 2017***

A 54-year-old man was shot after opening fire on law enforcement. Earlier that day, the man shot and killed his estranged wife at her place of business. The man then headed to Fairfax City Hall, where he was confronted by law enforcement. The man fired two rounds at officers before one of them returned fire. The man was taken to a hospital where he died from his injuries.

***March 4, 2017***

Law enforcement attempted to pull over a 38-year-old man for a traffic violation. The man refused to stop and led officers on a high-speed pursuit. At some point during the chase, the man lost control of the vehicle and crashed it in the front yard of a residence. Officers opened fire when the man put his car in reverse and attempted to run them over. The man was pronounced dead at the scene.

***March 29, 2017***

A 57-year-old man was shot by law enforcement after he pulled a gun on them. Law enforcement pulled over a man for a traffic violation. The man exited his vehicle and became belligerent. He then got back into his vehicle and fled from law enforcement. A vehicle pursuit ensued and ended when the man exited his vehicle with a gun. The deputy opened fire when the man pointed the gun at him. The man was pronounced dead at the scene.

***April 15, 2017***

A 42-year-old man was shot after confronting officers with a compound bow and arrow. While responding to a domestic disturbance, deputies found a man holding a compound bow and arrow outside a residence. Officers gave the man multiple commands to drop his weapon, but he refused to obey. The man was shot when he started to advance towards the deputies. The man was taken to a hospital in critical condition, but died several months later (November 20, 2017).

***April 20, 2017***

A 64-year-old man was shot after pointing a firearm at law enforcement. While responding to a call for suspicious activity, deputies spotted a man hiding in the woods and holding a shotgun. Deputies attempted to talk to him, but the man seemed irate. Deputies fired their weapons when the man started to raise his shotgun. The man was pronounced dead at the scene.

***April 30, 2017***

Law enforcement responded to a call in reference to a man walking down the road with a gun, threatening people. When deputies arrived at the scene, they learned the man had run into a wooded area. As they continued to pursue the suspect, deputies spotted a truck leaving a home near the area and pulled the vehicle over. While questioning the passenger, deputies asked if he had a weapon. The 32-year-old man showed deputies a gun in his waistband then held it to his own head. Law enforcement asked the man to put down the gun and exit the truck, but he refused. Deputies shot the man after he opened fire on them.

***May 15, 2017***

A 48-year-old man was shot by law enforcement following a standoff and hostage situation. A man barricaded himself inside a home when deputies attempted to serve him with two misdemeanor warrants. The man took a woman hostage, but eventually released her after she had a medical episode. The man refused to exit the home and threatened to kill officers. A tactical team used gas to force the man out. When the man exited the house, he was holding a compound bow. Deputies opened fire when the man aimed the weapon in their direction.

***June 2, 2017***

An 18-year-old man was fatally shot when he pulled a gun on law enforcement. While responding to a call in reference to a shooting at a hotel, officers spotted a man matching the suspect's description. Officers attempted to make contact with the man, but he ran away from them. Officers opened fire at the man when he pulled a gun on them. The man was able to retreat into a wooded area where officers found him unresponsive. He was pronounced dead at the scene. The initial suspect in the hotel shooting was later identified and captured.

***June 9, 2017***

Law enforcement received a call for a possible suicidal man barricaded inside a home. When deputies arrived, they found a 57-year-old man making threatening statements and refusing to exit the house. The man threatened to shoot officers and set the house on fire if they attempted to enter. A tactical team arrived at the scene and attempted to negotiate with the man. After several hours, the man started breaking out windows and setting the home on fire. The man was fatally shot by a sniper when he pointed a gun at law enforcement.

***June 9, 2017***

A 29-year-old man was shot by law enforcement when he attempted to enter a store holding two knives. Law enforcement received multiple calls regarding a man threatening people with knives in a Tulsa neighborhood. When deputies arrived, they found a man holding two kitchen knives. Deputies ordered the man to drop the knives, but he refused to obey. Instead, the man started to threaten officers and continued to walk towards a store. Officers shot the man when he attempted to enter a convenience store with people inside.

***June 21, 2017***

Law enforcement fatally shot a man after he threatened them with a knife. While responding to a domestic disturbance, officers found a 29-year-old man holding a knife and refusing to obey commands. The disturbance call came as a result of the man forcing his way into a residence with a knife. Officers shot the man when he advanced towards them in a threatening manner.

***June 24, 2017***

Officers spotted a stolen vehicle parked outside a residence in Tulsa. When officers approached the residence, a 47-year-old man, holding a gun, attempted to flee through a back door. Officers ordered the man to stop and drop the gun, but he refused to obey. Officers opened fire to keep the man from gaining access to a nearby home.

***June 25, 2017***

Law enforcement received a call in reference to a man pointing a gun at vehicles. When officers arrived on the scene, they found a 24-year-old man holding a gun. Officers gave the man multiple commands to drop his weapon, but he refused to comply. Law enforcement opened fire when the man began to approach one of the officers.

***July 05, 2017***

A 45-year-old man died from gunshot wounds after opening fire on law enforcement. The man was a suspect in a domestic incident with a gun reported in Fort Smith, Arkansas. Officers tracked the man and found him at a fast food restaurant in Sallisaw. When officers approached the man, he fired his gun from under the table. One officer fired back fatally wounding the man.

***July 12, 2017***

Law enforcement was attempting to serve an arrest warrant on a 34-year-old man wanted for assault with a dangerous weapon. Officers spotted the man in a stolen vehicle and watched the man enter a residence in Southwest Oklahoma City. When officers approached the residence, the man opened fire on them. Officers fired back. The man was pronounced dead at the scene.

***August 20, 2017***

Law enforcement fatally shot a 32-year-old man following a vehicle pursuit and standoff in Love County. Deputies received a call in reference to an intoxicated man causing a disturbance at the Marietta Landing boat ramp. When law enforcement arrived, they spotted the man fleeing the scene in an SUV. Officers initiated a vehicle pursuit and managed to disable his vehicle. A standoff ensued. Officers shot the man after he opened fire on them.

***August 26, 2017***

An 18-year-old man was fatally shot after advancing aggressively toward law enforcement. Troopers engaged in a vehicle pursuit after attempting to stop the man for a speeding violation. The chase continued for several miles until the man ran over stop sticks and his vehicle came to a stop. The man exited his vehicle and began to run aggressively towards the troopers. Law enforcement fatally shot the man after he refused to stop.

***September 19, 2017***

Officers received a call in reference to a hit-and-run incident in Southeast Oklahoma City. When they arrived at the scene, they spotted a vehicle matching the description of the one reported in the crash. The vehicle was parked in front of a residence. When officers approached the residence, they found a 34-year-old man holding a metal pipe. Officers gave the man multiple commands to drop his weapon. The man kept holding the metal pipe and moved quickly towards an officer. Officers backed up from the residence until they were unable to retreat. It was then law enforcement fatally shot the man.

***September 21, 2017***

A 58-year-old man died from gunshot wounds following a shootout with law enforcement. While responding to a deadly shooting call, deputies learned the homicide suspect took a woman hostage and fled the scene. State troopers spotted the man in Atoka County and engaged in a vehicle pursuit. The man exchanged gunfire with law enforcement and died on the scene. The hostage was unharmed.

***October 20, 2017***

A 30-year-old man was fatally shot after stabbing an officer with a knife. Law enforcement was serving an arrest warrant at the man's residence. While conducting a search inside the residence, the man jumped out of a pile of clothes with a knife and stabbed a deputy at least twice. The deputy pulled his service weapon and shot the man.

***November 15, 2017***

Law enforcement received a call in reference to a suicidal man in a Southwest Oklahoma City neighborhood. When officers arrived, they found a 29-year-old man in a courtyard holding lighter fluid in one hand and a lighter in the other. Officers ordered the man to show his hands and drop both objects. The man partially complied, but did not drop the objects. One of the officers fired a bean bag round to incapacitate the man. Almost immediately, another officer fired his service weapon. The man was pronounced dead at the scene.

***December 10, 2017***

A 28-year-old man died from gunshot wounds after attempting to take an officer's weapon. Law enforcement received a call to check the welfare of a man lying on the grass near a Southeast Oklahoma City street. When the officer arrived at the scene, she made contact with the man. He became combative with the officer and an altercation ensued. The officer used pepper spray and a taser to control the man, but was unsuccessful. The man was shot after attempting to take the officer's firearm. The man was pronounced dead at the scene.

***December 25, 2017***

Law enforcement fatally shot a 31-year-old man after he pointed a gun at them. While responding to a disturbance with a weapon in Mid-town Tulsa, law enforcement spotted a man holding a gun and wearing no clothes. Officers gave the man several commands to drop his gun, but he refused to comply. Law enforcement opened fire when the man aimed his weapon in their direction.

The Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation is recognized by the Bureau of Justice Statistics as the Statistical Analysis Center (SAC). SAC staff collect, analyze, and publish criminal justice information for Oklahoma. This function is located in the Office of Criminal Justice Statistics under the Information Services Division. The following individual(s) wrote this report under the direction of Anne Simons, Administrative Programs Officer of the Office of Criminal Justice Statistics:

***John Flores-Hidones, Statistical Research Coordinator***

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/>

---