



OHIO ARREST-RELATED DEATHS – 2017

Anjolie Harland, M.S.





Ohio Arrest-Related Deaths – 2017

Background

An arrest-related death (ARD) is defined as any death (e.g., gunshot wound, cardiac arrest, or drowning) that occurs during an interaction with state or local law enforcement personnel, including those that occur:

- Shortly after freedom to leave is restricted.
- During an attempt to arrest or in the process of arrest.
- Without any direct action by law enforcement. This would include deaths attributed to suicide, intoxication, accidental injury, medical emergencies or health complications¹.
- After law enforcement have established physical custody of an arrestee. These in-custody deaths can occur at the scene of the incident, during transport or while the suspect is being held at a law enforcement facility².

It should be noted that not all deaths that occur during an interaction with state or local law enforcement personnel are reported to the ARD program, and they include:

- Deaths of bystanders, hostages and law enforcement personnel.

¹ This results in a more inclusive characterization of arrest-related deaths than officer involved shootings or justifiable homicides by law enforcement.

² Once an arrestee is arraigned or custody of the individual is transferred to a jail or prison, the death is no longer within the scope of the arrest-related death program.

Highlights

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In 2017, the Office of Criminal Justice Services collected reports for 53 confirmed arrest-related deaths in Ohio. Homicide by law enforcement personnel accounted for 62% of those reported incidents.

All 53 arrest-related deaths were men. Sixty-eight percent were White males and Black males accounted for 30 percent of the deaths.

Fifty-eight percent of arrest-related incidents were initiated based on a civilian's request for response to criminal or suspicious activity.

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- Deaths by federal law enforcement. However, fatal incidents that include interactions between federal law enforcement, along with state or local law enforcement are reportable to the ARD program³.
- Deaths of wanted criminal suspects before police contact. If a death of a wanted criminal suspect occurred before law enforcement interaction, it is not within the scope of the ARD program.
- Deaths by vehicular pursuits **without** any direct police action. If law enforcement did not take direct action against the subject or his/her vehicle, these deaths are excluded from the ARD program. ARD incidents require that law enforcement take some kind of direct action against the subject, such as shooting at the subject's vehicle, ramming it, or otherwise forcing the vehicle to stop or leave the road (e.g., roadblocks or spike strips).
- Deaths that occur in a jail or other long-term holding facility are also outside of the scope of the ARD program and are not collected by the Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS)⁴.

For further details and definitions on the current Arrest-Related Deaths Program, please visit <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/ardpdqp.pdf>

Methodology

In 2003, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) implemented the ARD program as part of the Deaths in Custody Reporting Program, which was initiated to fulfill the data collection requirement act of the Deaths in Custody Reporting Act of 2000 (DICRA, P.L. 106-247). In 2006, the DICRA reporting requirements expired; however, BJS continued to collect, analyze, and report on deaths in custody. In December 2014, the Death in Custody Reporting Act of 2013 was signed into law (P.L. 113-242), requiring states to submit quarterly data on deaths that occur in the process of arrest. BJS created an incident form (CJ-11A) to capture information on ARDs. In 2014, due to issues with variability and general data quality of the ARD program, the ARD data collection program was discontinued. However, Ohio continues to collect ARD data using the BJS incident form in order to track such incidents. This annual report is a result of the data collected throughout the year.

The data collection cycle begins January 1st and ends December 31st. OCJS researchers rely on multiple sources to collect ARD data; however media reports are often used for initial identification. Official autopsy reports are then requested via fax from the appropriate county coroner or medical examiner. Once these reports are received, four weeks to six months following the death, final incident reports are completed⁵. When necessary, OCJS researchers may also submit a request for an investigative summary

³ Current Death in Custody Reporting Act of 2013 (P.L. 113-242) includes federal law enforcement within scope.

⁴ The Federal Deaths in Custody Reporting Program quarterly collects inmate death records from the nation's 50 state prison systems and approximately 2,800 local jail jurisdictions.

⁵ A copy of the BJS Arrest-Related Death Report form can be found at the conclusion of this document.

from the appropriate law enforcement agency for additional details surrounding the arrest-related death incident.

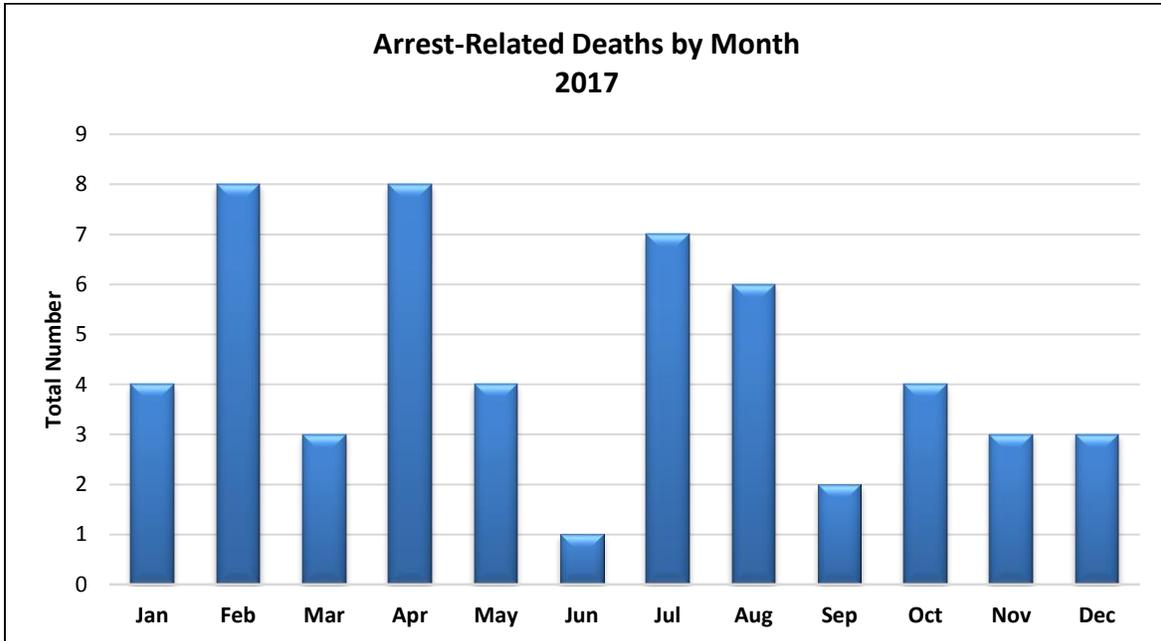
In some cases, coroners and medical examiners are proactive and submit reports to OCJS of deaths they believe to qualify under the ARD program. Some of these reports have been excluded from this summary because they do not meet the parameters of an ARD.



Ohio Arrest-Related Deaths – 2017

Characteristics of Ohio Arrest-Related Deaths

In 2017, the Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) collected reports for 53 arrest-related deaths in Ohio. There were no patterns found when looking at the number of incidents based on the month of occurrence.



Twenty-four counties were reported to have at least one arrest-related death, with Franklin County accounting for 15 percent of the incidents. Regionally, Northeast Ohio accounted for 45 percent of arrest-related death incidents.

Region	Total	Percent ⁶
Central	10	19%
Southeast	2	4%
Southwest	13	25%
Northeast	24	45%
Northwest	4	8%

⁶ Percent total will exceed 100 percent due to rounding.

Incident Circumstances

Of the 53 arrest-related deaths captured, 58 percent of incidents were initiated based on a civilian's request for response to criminal or suspicious activity.

Reason for initial contact	Total	Percent
Civilian request for medical, mental, health or welfare assistance	3	6%
Civilian request for response to criminal or suspicious activity	31	58%
Routine patrol/on-view (other than traffic stop)	3	6%
Traffic/vehicle stop	5	9%
Warrant service	5	9%
Other	6	11%

When circumstances were known, 17 incidents involved the decedent attempting to injure or injuring others. Of those incidents, the following were reported⁷:

- Eight or 42% attempted to injure law enforcement personnel
- Five or 26% non-fatally injured law enforcement personnel
- Two or 11% fatally injured law enforcement personnel
- One or 5% attempted to injure civilian(s)
- Two or 11% non-fatally injured civilian(s)
- One or 5% fatally injured civilian(s)

Sixty-four percent of the decedents either displayed or discharged a weapon during an arrest-related incident. Of the 17 incidents that involved a decedent attempting to injure or injuring others, 76 percent of the decedents displayed or discharged a weapon.

During the arrest-related death incidents, 45 percent of decedents were reported to have barricaded themselves or initiated standoff with law enforcement, 15 percent were reported to have attempted to escape/flee from custody, and 15 percent were reported to have attempted to grab, hit kick officers.

At any time during the incident, did the decedent ...	Total ⁸	Percent ⁹
Attempt to escape/flee from custody	5	20%
Attempt to grab, hit or kick officer(s)	5	20%
Barricade self or initiate standoff	15	60%
Make suicidal statements	3	12%
Resist being handcuff or arrested	2	8%
Verbally threaten other(s)	2	8%
Gain possession of officer's weapon	1	4%

⁷ Total will be greater than 17, due to some incidents involving more than one attempt to injure or injure others.

⁸ Total will not equal 53 arrest-related deaths, as some incidents did not report a decedent engaging in any of the listed behaviors.

⁹ Percent will exceed 100 percent, due to a decedent engaging in more than one behavior during an incident.

Of the 53 arrest-related death incidents, there were 20 incidents in which law enforcement personnel reported any of the following types of engagement with the decedent.

At any time during the incident, did law enforcement personnel ...	Total ¹⁰	Percent ¹¹
Arrest the decedent	2	10%
Engage in foot pursuit	6	30%
Engage in motor vehicle pursuit	5	25%
Fight or struggle with decedent	5	25%
Physically restrain decedent	1	5%
Restrain decedent with equipment	2	10%
Other	1	5%

There were 39 incidents in which law enforcement reported the use of any of the following types of weapons.

At any time during the incident, did law enforcement personnel use ...	Total ¹²	Percent ¹³
Firearm discharge	37	95%
Conducted energy devices (Taser) contact	4	10%
Deployed stop sticks	2	13%
Baton/blunt instrument impact	1	3%

Of the incidents where manner of death could be determined, 62 percent of the deaths were ruled a homicide by law enforcement and 32 percent were the result of a suicide. Six percent of deaths were ruled an accidental death. A firearm caused the death of 98 percent of the decedents¹⁴.

Location

Thirty-eight percent of arrest-related incidents occurred at a residence and 26 percent occurred on a roadway/highway/street/sidewalk.

¹⁰ Total will be greater than 20 incidents, due to some incidents in which law enforcement personnel engaged in more than one behavior.

¹¹ Percent total will exceed 100 percent due to some incidents having law enforcement engaging in more than one behavior.

¹² Total will be greater than 39 incidents, due to some incidents in which law enforcement personnel engaged in more than one behavior.

¹³ Percent total will exceed 100 percent due to some incidents having more than one law enforcement use of a weapon.

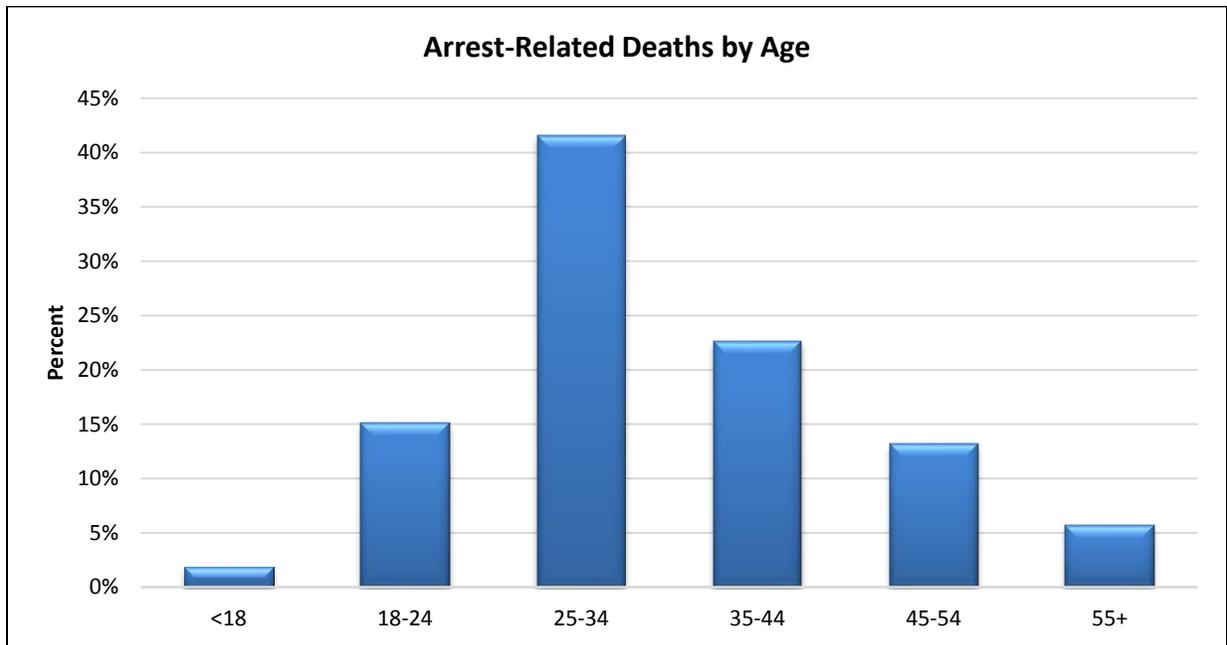
¹⁴ This percentage includes both the decedents' and law enforcement use of firearms.

Decedent Characteristics

All decedents identified in an arrest-related death were identified as male. When race was known, White males made up 68 percent of the deaths, with Black males accounting for 30 percent.

	Total	Percent
Black	16	30%
White	36	68%
2 or more races	1	2%

The average age of a decedent was 35.3 years and 42 percent of decedents were between the ages of 25 and 34 years.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
 BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS
 AND ACTING AS COLLECTION AGENT:
 RTI INTERNATIONAL

ARREST-RELATED DEATH INCIDENT REPORT, 2013



1. What was the decedent's name?

 Last First M.I.

2. What was the time and date of death?
 ____:____ AM PM Month: ____ Day: ____, 2013

3. What law enforcement agency was involved with the death?
 Agency name: _____
 Check if multiple law enforcement agencies responded
 Agency ORI: _____
 Agency ORI unknown

4. Where did the event causing the death occur?
 Street Address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____

5. What location category best describes where the event causing the death occurred? (Mark only one)
 Residence/home
 Law enforcement facility
 Business, specify type: _____
 Roadway/highway/street/sidewalk
 Parking lot/garage
 Field/woods/lake/waterway/beach
 Other, specify: _____
 Unknown

6. What was the decedent's sex?
 Male
 Female

7. What was the decedent's date of birth (DOB)?
 ____/____/____ or age at death if DOB unknown ____

8. What was the decedent's ethnic origin? (Mark only one)
 Hispanic or Latino
 Not Hispanic or Latino
 Unknown

9. What was the decedent's race? (Mark only one)
 American Indian or Alaska Native
 Asian
 Black or African American
 Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
 White
 Two or more races
 Unknown

10. What was the reason for the initial contact between the decedent and law enforcement personnel? (Mark only one)
 Civilian request for response to criminal or suspicious activity, specify reason for request: _____
 Civilian request for medical, mental health, or welfare assistance, specify reason for request: _____
 Routine patrol/on-view (other than traffic stop), specify observed behavior: _____
 Traffic/vehicle stop, specify reason for stop: _____
 Warrant service, specify charge: _____
 Other reason for contact, specify reason: _____
 Unknown

11. At any time during the incident, did the decedent

	Yes	No	Unknown
Make suicidal statements.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Barricade self or initiate standoff.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Verbally threaten other(s).....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Resist being handcuffed or arrested.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Attempt to escape/flee from custody.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Attempt to grab, hit, or kick officer(s).....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Attempt to gain possession of officer's weapon.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Gain possession of officer's weapon.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

12. At any time during the incident, did the decedent display or use a weapon?
 Yes, mark all that apply:
 Displayed firearm without discharge
 Discharged firearm
 Displayed other weapon, specify weapon displayed: _____
 Used other weapon, specify weapon used: _____
 Used vehicle as a weapon
 No
 Unknown

13. At any time during the incident, did the decedent attempt to injure or injure others?
 Yes, mark all that apply:
 Fatally injured law enforcement personnel
 Non-fatally injured law enforcement personnel
 Attempted to injure law enforcement personnel
 Fatally injured civilian(s)
 Non-fatally injured civilian(s)
 Attempted to injure civilian(s)
 No
 Unknown

Name of decedent _____

14. At any time during the incident, did law enforcement personnel

	Yes	No	Unknown
Fight or struggle with decedent.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Physically restrain decedent (e.g., control hold, body compression).....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Restrain decedent with equipment (e.g., handcuffs, leg shackles).....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Place decedent in prone position.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Engage in motor vehicle pursuit.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Engage in foot pursuit.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Arrest the decedent.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other, specify: _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

15. At any time during the incident, did law enforcement personnel use any of the following weapons?

	Yes	No	Unknown
Firearm discharge.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Conducted energy device (Taser) contact.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pepper/OC spray, mace dispersion.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Baton/blunt instrument impact.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other, specify: _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

16. Did the decedent sustain a fatal injury during the incident?

Yes, mark who caused the fatal injury (Mark only one)

- Law enforcement personnel
- Decedent
- Other civilian(s)
- Unknown person(s) caused the fatal injury

No

Unknown whether decedent sustained a fatal injury

17. If a weapon caused the death, what type of weapon caused the death? (Mark only one)

- Handgun
- Rifle/shotgun
- Firearm, unspecified
- Conducted energy device (e.g., Taser)
- Knife/edged instrument
- Baton/blunt instrument
- Other weapon, specify: _____
- Vehicle-involved death (i.e., vehicle accident)
- Not applicable, weapon or vehicle did not cause death
- Unknown

18. Where did the death occur? (Mark only one)

- Law enforcement facility/booking center
- Scene of incident
- Dead on arrival at medical facility
- Medical facility following clinical intervention
- Other, specify: _____
- Unknown

19. What was the manner of death? (Mark only one)

- Natural
- Homicide
- Accident
- Suicide
- Could not be determined
- Unknown

20. What was the cause of death?

Immediate cause:

Secondary causes (if applicable):

Unknown (skip Item 21 if cause of death is unknown)

21. How was information provided for cause of death (Item 20) determined? (Mark all that apply)

- Death certificate
- Autopsy report or medical evaluation
- Other source, specify: _____

22. Did the autopsy report or medical evaluation indicate the presence of alcohol or of drugs other than alcohol?

Yes, mark all that apply:

- Alcohol
- Drug(s) other than alcohol, specify: _____

No

Unknown, did not obtain autopsy report or medical evaluation

Notes:

