Ohio Arrest-Related Deaths – 2018

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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 complications.
- 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 facility.

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.

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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.
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 program.

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).

For further details and definitions on the Arrest-Related Deaths Program, please visit [http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/ardpdqp.pdf](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 (DCRA) 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 continued to collect ARD data using the BJS incident form and ARD definition in order to track such incidents. In 2019, the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) received approval to begin collecting DCRA data in 2020 using a new data collection method. This report highlights reporting requirements set by BJS for 2018 ARD incidents.

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, final incident reports are completed. When necessary, OCJS researchers may also submit a request for an investigative summary from the appropriate law enforcement agency for additional details surrounding the arrest-related death incident.

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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.
Characteristics of Ohio Arrest-Related Deaths

In 2018, the Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) collected reports for 50 arrest-related deaths in Ohio. There were no patterns found when looking at the number of incidents based on the month of occurrence.

Nineteen counties were reported to have at least one arrest-related death, with Franklin County accounting for 32 percent of the incidents. Regionally, Central Ohio accounted for 34 percent of arrest-related death incidents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwest</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwest</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southeast</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Incident Circumstances

Of the 50 arrest-related deaths captured, 48 percent of incidents were initiated based on a civilian’s request for response to criminal or suspicious activity.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason for initial contact</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Civilian request for response to criminal or suspicious activity</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warrant service</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traffic/vehicle stop</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civilian request for medical, mental, health or welfare assistance</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Routine patrol/on-view (other than traffic stop)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When circumstances were known, 22 incidents involved the decedent attempting to injure or injuring others. Of those incidents, the following were reported:

- Thirteen or 59% attempted to injure law enforcement personnel
- Six or 28% non-fatally injured law enforcement personnel
- One or 5% attempted to injure law enforcement personnel and civilian(s)
- Two or 9% fatally injured civilian(s)

Eighty percent of the decedents either displayed or used a weapon during an arrest-related incident. Of the 22 incidents that involved a decedent attempting to injure or injuring others, 77 percent of the decedents displayed or used a weapon.

During the arrest-related death incidents, 58 percent of decedents were reported to have barricaded themselves or initiated standoff with law enforcement, 18 percent were reported to have attempted to grab, hit or kick officer(s) or made suicidal statements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>At any time during the incident, did the decedent ...</th>
<th>Total $^7$</th>
<th>Percent $^8$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barricade self or initiate standoff</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attempt to escape/flee from custody</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attempt to gain possession of officer’s weapon</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make suicidal statements</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resist being handcuff or arrested</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attempt to grab, hit or kick officer(s)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verbally threaten other(s)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gain possession of officer’s weapon</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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6 Total will be greater than 22, due to some incidents involving more than one attempt to injure or injur others.
7 Total will not equal 50 arrest-related deaths, as some incidents did not report a decedent engaging in any of the listed behaviors.
8 Percent will may exceed 100 percent, due to a decedents engaging in more than one behavior during an incident.
Of the 50 arrest-related death incidents, there were 18 incidents in which law enforcement personnel reported any of the following types of engagement with the decedent.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>At any time during the incident, did law enforcement personnel ...</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fight or struggle with decedent</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrest the decedent</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engage in foot pursuit</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engage in motor vehicle pursuit</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restrain decedent with equipment</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There were 40 incidents in which law enforcement reported the use of any of the following types of weapons.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>At any time during the incident, did law enforcement personnel use ...</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Firearm discharge</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conducted energy devices (Taser) contact</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tear gas</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other weapon</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Of the incidents where manner of death could be determined, 68 percent of the deaths were ruled a homicide by law enforcement and 28 percent were the result of a suicide. One death was ruled an accidental and one other death was ruled undetermined. A firearm caused the death of 94 percent of the decedents.

**Location**

Fifty-two percent of arrest-related incidents occurred at a residence and 28 percent occurred on a roadway/highway/street/sidewalk.

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9 Total will be greater than 18 incidents, due to some incidents in which law enforcement personnel engaged in more than one behavior.

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

11 Total will be greater than 40 incidents, due to some incidents in which law enforcement personnel engaged in more than one behavior.

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

13 This percentage includes both the decedents’ and law enforcement use of firearms.
Decedent Characteristics

Ninety-four percent of decedents identified in an arrest-related death were identified as male. When race and ethnicity was known, White males made up 60 percent of the deaths, with Black males accounting for 28 percent. All three females were white.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 or more races</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The average age of a decedent was 38.2 years and 36 percent of decedents were between the ages of 25 and 34 years.
Form CJ-11A

Name of decedent: ________________________________

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

Yes No Unknown
- Fight or struggle with decedent
- Physically restrain decedent (e.g., control hold, body compression)
- Restrained decedent with equipment (e.g., handcuffs, leg shackles)
- Place decedent in prone position
- Engage in motor vehicle pursuit
- Engage in foot pursuit
- Arrest the decedent
- Other, specify: ________________________________

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

Yes No Unknown
- Firearm discharge
- Conducted energy device (Taser) contact
- Pepper/OC spray, mace dispersion
- Baton/blunt instrument impact
- Other, specify: ________________________________

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)
- Knives/daggers
- 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 cause(s) (if applicable): _____________________________

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 other 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:

______________________________
______________________________
______________________________
______________________________
______________________________
______________________________

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