



OHIO ARREST-RELATED DEATHS – 2019

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Highlights

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In 2019, the Office of Criminal Justice Services collected reports for 43 confirmed arrest-related deaths in Ohio. Homicide by law enforcement personnel accounted for 56% of those reported incidents.

All arrest-related death subjects were male. Sixty-five percent were White males and Black males accounted for 30 percent of the deaths.

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

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Ohio Arrest-Related Deaths – 2019

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.

- 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 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 (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 2019 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 completed⁵. 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.

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.

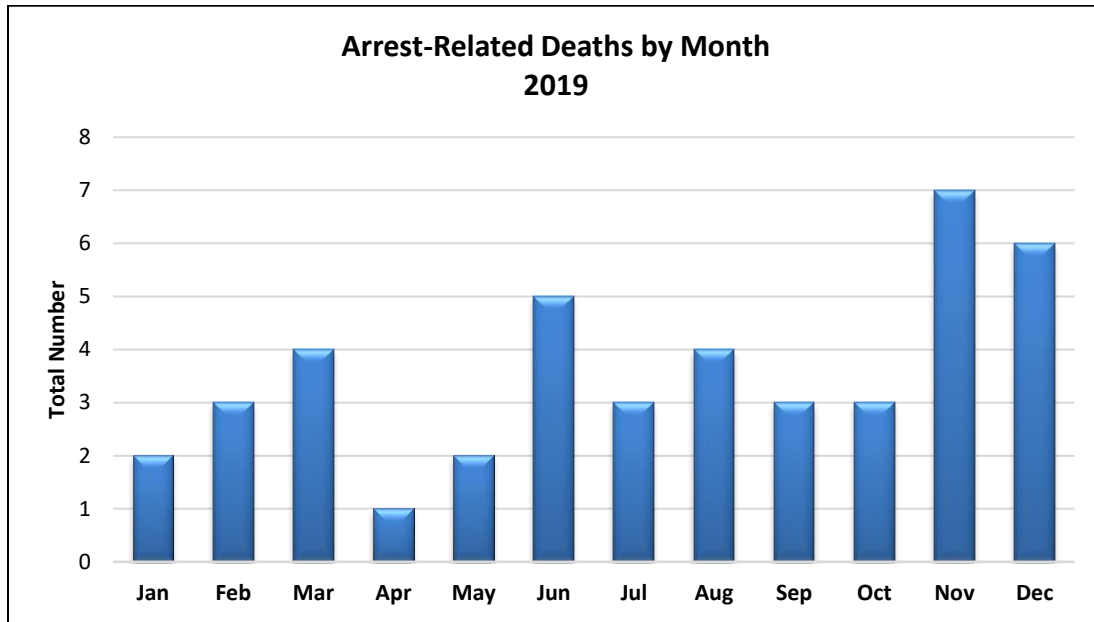
⁵ A copy of the BJS Arrest-Related Death Report form can be found at the conclusion of this document.



Ohio Arrest-Related Deaths – 2019

Characteristics of Ohio Arrest-Related Deaths

In 2019, the Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) collected reports for 43 arrest-related deaths in Ohio. There were no patterns found when looking at the number of incidents based on the month of occurrence.



Twenty-five counties reported to have at least one arrest-related death, with Franklin County accounting for 12 percent of the incidents. Regionally, Northeast accounted for 49 percent of arrest-related death incidents.

Region	Total	Percent
Central	6	14%
Northeast	21	49%
Southwest	10	23%
Northwest	2	5%
Southeast	4	9%

Incident Circumstances

Of the 43 arrest-related deaths captured, 60 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	2	5%
Civilian request for response to criminal or suspicious activity	26	60%
Routine patrol/on-view (other than traffic stop)	7	16%
Traffic/vehicle stop	5	12%
Warrant services	2	5%
Other	1	2%

When circumstances were known, 12 incidents involved the decedent attempting to injure or injuring others. Of those incidents, the following were reported:

- Five incidents there was an attempt to injure or injure or injuring of civilian(s)
- One incident there was an attempt to injure or injuring of civilian(s) & law enforcement officer(s)
- Six incidents there was an attempt to injure or injuring of law enforcement officer(s)

Seventy percent of the decedents either displayed or used a weapon during an arrest-related incident. Of the 12 incidents that involved a decedent attempting to injure or injuring others, all but one incident the decedents displayed or used a weapon.

Of the 43 incidents, 26, or 60 percent, involved the decedent engaging in at least one of the following behaviors. Of those incidents, 62 percent barricaded themselves or initiated a standoff, 27 percent verbally threatened others, and 15 percent made suicidal statements.

At any time during the incident, did the decedent ...	Total ⁶	Percent ⁷
Barricade self or initiate standoff	16	62%
Attempt to gain possession of officer's weapon	1	4%
Make suicidal statements	4	15%
Resist being handcuff or arrested	3	12%
Attempt to grab, hit or kick officer(s)	1	4%
Verbally threaten other(s)	7	27%

⁶ Total will not equal 26 incidents, as some incidents reported a decedent engaging in more than one of the listed behaviors.

⁷ Percent will may exceed 100 percent, due to a decedents engaging in more than one behavior during an incident

Of the 43 arrest-related death incidents, there were 18 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 ⁸	Percent ⁹
Fight or struggle with decedent	4	22%
Arrest the decedent	2	11%
Engage in foot pursuit	7	39%
Engage in motor vehicle pursuit	10	56%
Restrain decedent with equipment	2	11%
Physically restrain decedent	2	11%

There were 30 incidents in which law enforcement reported the use of any of weapons. Of these, 87 percent involved firearm discharge.

At any time during the incident, did law enforcement personnel use ...	Total ¹⁰	Percent ¹¹
Firearm discharge	26	87%
Conducted energy devices (Taser) contact	2	7%
Tear gas	2	7%
Deployed stop sticks	2	7%
Pepper/OC spray, mace dispersion	1	3%

Of the incidents where manner of death could be determined, 56 percent of the deaths were ruled a homicide by law enforcement, 37 percent were the result of a suicide, and seven percent ruled an accident. A firearm caused the death of 93 percent of the decedents¹².

Location

Forty percent of arrest-related incidents occurred at a residence, and 37 percent occurred on a roadway/highway/street/sidewalk.

⁸ Total will be greater than 18 incidents, due to some incidents in which law enforcement personnel engaged in more than one behavior.

⁹ Percent total will exceed 100 percent due to some incidents having law enforcement engaging in more than one behavior.

¹⁰ Total will be greater than 30 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 more than one law enforcement use of a weapon.

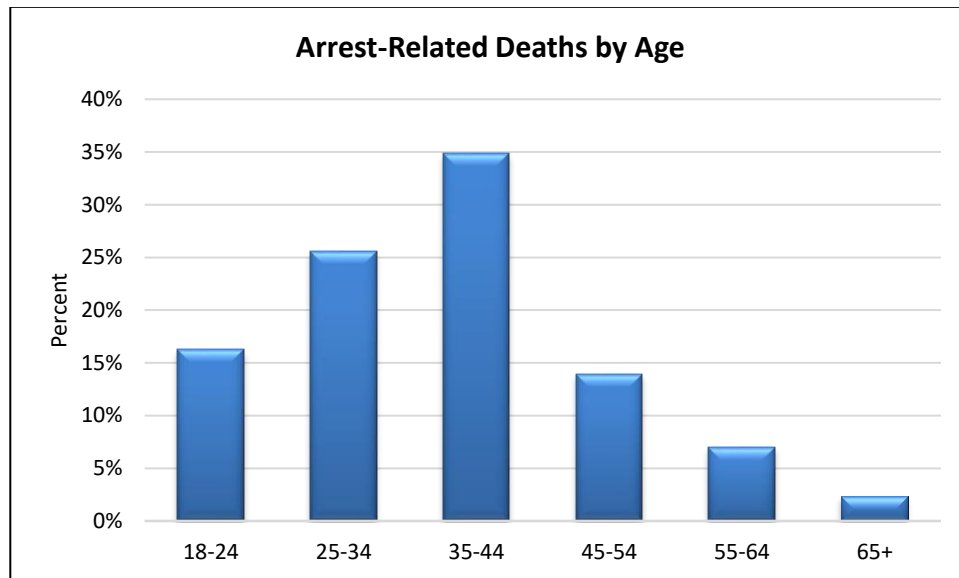
¹² This percentage includes both the decedents' and law enforcement use of firearms.

Decedent Characteristics

All decedents identified in an arrest-related death were identified as male. When race and ethnicity were known, White males made up 65 percent of the deaths, with Black males accounting for 30 percent.

	Total	Percent
White	28	65%
Black or African American	13	30%
Palestinian	1	2%
Biracial	1	2%
Total	43	

The average age of a decedent was 37.1 years and 35 percent of decedents were between the ages of 35 and 44 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:

