



Violent Deaths in Oklahoma

Oklahoma Violent Death Reporting System, 2004-2010

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Oklahoma Highway Patrol Troop C	Department	Grant County Sheriff's Office
Oklahoma Highway Patrol Troop E	Ft. Worth, Texas Police Department	Greer County Sheriff's Office
Oklahoma Highway Patrol Troop G	Dublin, Texas Police Department	Harmon County Sheriff's Office
Oklahoma Lake Patrol	United States Forestry Service	Harper County Sheriff's Office
Thunderbird Lake Patrol	Federal Bureau of Investigation – Durant	Haskell County Sheriff's Office
Oklahoma Scenic Rivers Commission -	Office	Hughes County Sheriff's Office
Investigations	Federal Bureau of Investigation – Lawton	Jackson County Sheriff's Office
Oklahoma State Fire Marshal Office -	Office	Jefferson County Sheriff's Office
Arson Division	Federal Bureau of Investigation -	Johnston County Sheriff's Office
Ft. Sill, OK - Army Base Military Police	Oklahoma City, OK Office	Kay County Sheriff's Office
Tinker Air Force Base	Federal Bureau of Investigation -	Kingfisher County Sheriff's Office
Bureau of Indian Affairs - Ponca City, OK	Stillwater, OK Office	Kiowa County Sheriff's Office
Bureau of Indian Affairs - Stillwater, OK		Latimer County Sheriff's Office
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Comanche Nation Police	Alfalfa County Sheriff's Office	Lincoln County Sheriff's Office
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OU Campus Police Department	Cimarron County Sheriff's Office	Noble County Sheriff's Office
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Pryor Police Department
Purcell Police Department
Quapaw Police Department
Ralston Police Department
Red Oak Police Department
Ringling Police Department
Roff Police Department
Roland Police Department

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Sayre Police Department
Seiling Police Department
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Stillwater Police Department
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Stratford Police Department
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Tecumseh Police Department
Temple Police Department
Thackerville Police Department
Thomas Police Department
Tipton Police Department
Tishomingo Police Department
Tonkawa Police Department
Tryon Police Department

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Yale Police Department
Yukon Police Department

Executive Summary

Oklahoma is one of 18 states participating in the National Violent Death Reporting System. Violent deaths include homicides, suicides, deaths from legal intervention, unintentional firearm deaths, deaths of undetermined manner, and deaths from terrorism. The Oklahoma Violent Death Reporting System (OKVDRS) is a collaborative effort between the Oklahoma State Department of Health, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation and the Oklahoma Child Death Review Board. OKVDRS data are collected from death certificates, medical examiner reports, police reports, and Supplementary Homicide Reports and include specific information on victims, suspects, circumstances, and weapons. Child fatality review data are also collected for violent deaths of children. Data collected in Oklahoma during 2004 to 2010 are summarized in numerous tables, figures, and bullets highlighting key findings. The report includes a section on all violent deaths combined and individual sections for each manner of violent death. An additional section is included on violent deaths of children.

Violent Deaths

A total of 6,282 violent death incidents occurred in Oklahoma during 2004 to 2010 resulting in 6,477 deaths (average annual rate = 25.4 per 100,000 population) of Oklahoma residents. More than half (59%) of the deaths were suicides, 24% were homicides, 15% were undetermined manner deaths, 1% were legal intervention deaths, and 1% were unintentional firearm deaths. There were no terrorism deaths in Oklahoma during this period. Seventy-five percent of the victims were male and 25%

were female. The majority of the injuries (73%) occurred on a home premises. Four percent of violent deaths occurred while the person was in custody or in the process of being arrested. Forty-six victims were homeless. Seventeen percent of violent death victims had served in the U.S. Armed Forces. Forty percent of all violent deaths in Oklahoma were among Oklahoma and Tulsa County residents. The rate of violent death per 100,000 population was generally higher in eastern Oklahoma and lower in the Panhandle and western regions of the state.

Suicides

Suicide was the most prevalent type of violent death, accounting for 3,836 deaths (average annual rate = 15.1 per 100,000 population), an average of 548 deaths per year. The rate of suicide increased from 14.1 in 2004 to 16.9 in 2010. Seventy-nine percent of suicide victims were male and 21% were female. In 86 of the suicide deaths, victims killed at least one other person before taking their own life resulting in 102 homicides. Males 85 years of age and older had the highest suicide rate among all ages. Among females, women 35-54 years were at greatest risk for suicide. White males and Native American males had the highest rates of suicide, 25.5 and 20.1, respectively. Firearms were used in 60% of the suicide deaths, hanging/strangulation in 19%, poisoning in 16%, and other/unknown methods were used in 5% of suicides. A substantial number of suicides were associated with a current depressed mood, intimate partner problem, mental health problem, physical health problem, or crisis in the past two weeks. Circumstances associated with suicide varied by age. Physical health problems were more often associated with suicide among persons 65

years and older. Intimate partner problems were more often associated with suicides of persons less than 65 years of age. Almost one in five suicide victims had a history of suicide attempts, and 32% had stated their intent or expressed suicidal feelings to another person. Twenty-three percent of suicide victims had served in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Homicides

There were 1,439 homicide incidents resulting in 1,529 homicide deaths from 2004 to 2010, an average of 218 deaths per year (average annual rate = 6.0 per 100,000 population). The annual rate of homicide ranged from a high of 6.4 in 2007 to a low of 5.5 in 2010. Seventy-five percent of homicide victims were male and 25% were female. The homicide rate among blacks (22.9) was more than three times higher than the rate among Native Americans (6.9) and more than six times higher than the rate among whites (3.7). The homicide rate among Hispanics was 1.2 times higher than the rate among non-Hispanics (6.8 and 5.8, respectively). Firearms were used in 57% of the homicides, sharp or blunt instruments were used in 24%, hanging/strangulation was used in 4%, and other or unspecified weapons in 15% of homicides. Handguns were used in the majority (70%) of firearm-related homicides and semi-automatic pistols were the most common type of handgun. The victim-suspect relationship was known in 67% of the homicides. Victims were often the intimate partners (20%), acquaintances (19%), family members other than spouses (16%), other persons known by the suspect (14%), or friends or roommates (10%). In 8% of homicides the suspect was a stranger.

Females were more often killed by an intimate partner or family member than were males. Males were more often killed by an acquaintance than were females. An argument or interpersonal conflict was a precipitating factor in 39% of homicides, crime was a factor in 25%, and drug dealing or illegal drug use was suspected in 17% of homicides. Nineteen percent were related to intimate partner violence and ten percent of the homicides were gang-related.

Undetermined Manner of Death

For 972 deaths, the manner of death could not be determined. An average of 139 deaths of undetermined manner occurred per year (average annual rate = 3.8 per 100,000 population). The annual rate of undetermined manner of death decreased by 28% from 2004 to 2010. Forty-three percent of undetermined manner death victims were female and 57% were male. Native Americans had the highest rate of undetermined manner of death (6.3 deaths per 100,000 population). Almost one-third of all undetermined manner deaths were among infants less than one year of age. In 78% of undetermined manner deaths among infants, co-sleeping with adults or other children, overlay or possible overlay was described in the record. In 52% of undetermined manner deaths among persons 15 years of age and older, actual or possible drug toxicity, including drug combination toxicity or drug and alcohol combination toxicity, was described. Among persons 15 years of age and older, the three most common circumstances associated with deaths of undetermined manner were having physical health problems (33%), substance abuse problems (31%), or current mental health problems (28%).

Unintentional Firearm Injury Deaths

There were 60 unintentional firearm injury deaths, an average of 9 deaths per year (average annual rate = 0.2 per 100,000 population). The rate of unintentional firearm injury deaths remained constant from 2004 to 2010. Ninety-three percent of victims were male and 7% were female. Fifty percent of unintentional firearm deaths were among males less than 25 years of age. Circumstances surrounding the deaths included playing around with a gun (22), showing/loading a gun (15), hunting/target shooting (13), and cleaning a gun (5). In 19 of the deaths, the shooter thought the gun was unloaded.

Legal Intervention Deaths

Eighty deaths resulted from legal intervention (i.e., the person was killed by a law enforcement officer acting in the line of duty), an average of 11 deaths per year. Sixty-three percent of legal intervention deaths were among persons 15-34 years of age. Seventy-four of the victims were male

and six were female. The rate among Hispanic males (0.8) was 1.3 times higher than the rate among non-Hispanic males (0.6). Criminal activity was associated with 70% of the legal interventions.

Violent Deaths of Children

There were 674 violent deaths of children (average annual rate = 10.6 per 100,000 population under 18 years of age), an average of 96 deaths per year. The rate decreased by 19% from 2004 to 2010. Sixty-five percent of victims were male and 35% were female. Forty-nine percent of the victims were infants less than one year of age. Among children 1-17 years of age, homicides accounted for 45% of deaths, followed by suicides (33%), undetermined manner deaths (14%), unintentional firearm deaths (8%), and legal interventions (1%). Firearms were used in 46% of these deaths, and males were more likely than females to be killed by firearms (55% and 23%, respectively).

Background

The National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) is a federally funded program in 18 states. Currently, Oklahoma and 17 other states (Alaska, Colorado, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, and Wisconsin) participate in the NVDRS. Violent deaths include homicide, suicide, legal intervention death, unintentional firearm death, undetermined manner death, and terrorism-related death. Data are collected from death certificates, medical examiner reports, and law enforcement reports, and entered into a standardized database. The data, with personal identifiers removed, are electronically transmitted to a national database maintained by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Data are now available on a queryable website at WISQARS NVDRS (<http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/>)

The Oklahoma State Department of Health, the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, and the Oklahoma Child Death Review Board provide data for the Oklahoma Violent Death Reporting System (OKVDRS). The OKVDRS is housed at the Injury Prevention Service, Oklahoma State

Department of Health, with offsite data collection at the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation. OKVDRS staff collect specific information on violent death events and link all available information on victims and suspects, circumstances, weapons, and methods of death.

The results presented in this report include violent deaths that occurred within Oklahoma's borders to Oklahoma residents from January 1, 2004, to December 31, 2010. Rates were calculated per 100,000 population using 2004 – 2010 U.S. Census bridged-race population estimates for Oklahoma. A category of mixed race was assigned when more than one race was indicated on the death certificate. However, persons of mixed race with Native American as one of the races were classified as Native American. The manner of death determined by the abstractor (based on review of the death certificate and medical examiner report) was used to analyze the data. All rates are average annual rates unless specified otherwise. Rates based on less than 5 deaths have been suppressed. This report includes a section on all violent deaths combined and individual sections on suicide, homicide, undetermined manner of death, unintentional firearm deaths, and legal intervention deaths. An additional section is included on child deaths.

Definitions

Suicide – A death resulting from the intentional use of force against oneself with a preponderance of evidence to indicate the force was intentional.

Homicide – A death resulting from the intentional use of force or power, threatened, or actual, against another person, group, or community with a preponderance of evidence to indicate that the use of force was intentional. It includes deaths where the suspect only intended to injure rather than kill, intentional discharge of a weapon, justifiable homicides where the person who commits the homicide is not a police officer, child abuse, and deaths that resulted from neglect by one person against another. Homicides do not include deaths from vehicular homicide unless there is evidence to prove that the force was intentional. Hunting accidents or deaths that take place in combat under declared wars are not included as homicides.

Undetermined manner of death – A death resulting from the use of force or power (including drugs/poisons) against oneself or another person for which the evidence indicating one manner of death is no more compelling than the evidence indicating another manner of death.

Unintentional firearm death – A death resulting from a penetrating injury or gunshot wound from a weapon that uses a powder charge to fire a projectile when

there is a preponderance of evidence that the shooting was not intentionally directed at the victim.

Legal intervention death – A death where the victim is killed by a police officer or other peace officer acting in the line of duty. Executions are excluded.

Terrorism-related death – A homicide or suicide death that results from an event labeled by the Federal Bureau of Investigation as an act of terrorism.

ICD-10 – The *International Statistical Classification of Disease and Related Health Problems, 10th Revision* (ICD-10) is the classification system used by the National Center for Health Statistics to code the underlying cause of death on the death certificate. Deaths that are assigned an ICD-10 External Cause of Death Code from the table below are included in the OKVDRS case definition.

Victims – People who died by suicide, homicide, undetermined manner of death, unintentional firearm death, legal intervention, or terrorism-related death.

Suspects – People who are suspected of having killed another person in an incident, whether intentionally or unintentionally. Persons who die in an incident who have also killed someone else are considered both a victim and a suspect.

ICD-10 External Cause of Death Codes for Manners of Death Meeting the NVDRS Case Definition

	Death ≤ 1 year after the injury	Death >1 year after the injury
Intentional self harm (suicide)	X60-X84	Y87.0
Assault (homicide)	X85-X99, Y00-Y09	Y87.1
Undetermined intent	Y10-Y34	Y87.2, Y89.9
Unintentional exposure to firearms	W32-W34	Y86 due to firearm “accidents”
Legal intervention, excluding executions	Y35.0-Y35.4, Y35.6-Y35.7	Y89.0
Terrorism	U01, U03	U02

Violent Deaths

- During 2004 to 2010, there were a total of 6,282 violent death incidents (average of 925 incidents per year or 2.5 incidents per day) that resulted in 6,477 deaths (average annual rate=25.4 per 100,000 population) (Table 1) of Oklahoma residents. Another 259 violent deaths that occurred in Oklahoma to non-residents were excluded from the analysis.
- The number of violent deaths increased by 10% from 882 deaths in 2004 to 974 in 2010.
- In 2010, the overall rate of violent deaths in Oklahoma was 39% higher than the U.S. rate (26.7 and 19.2, respectively) (Figure 1).
- Seventy-five percent (4,850) of violent death victims in Oklahoma were male and 25% (1,627) were female.
- The mean age of victims was 40 years. Violent death rates were highest among persons 25-55 years of age (35.0) and lowest among persons 5-14 years of age (2.6).

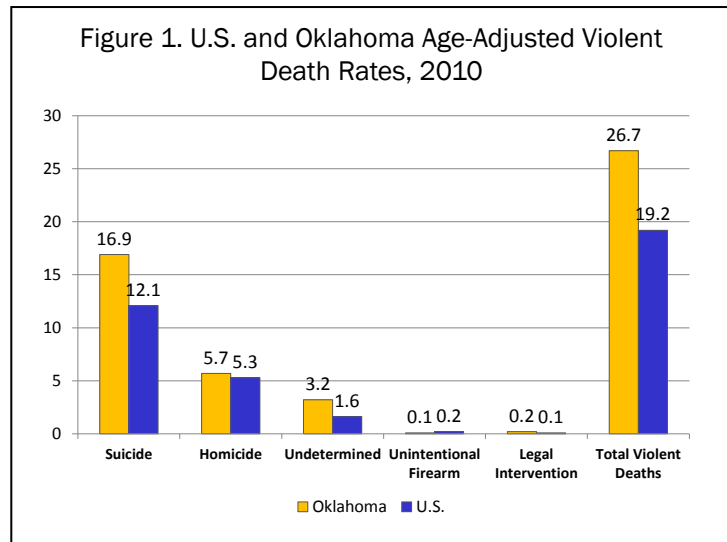


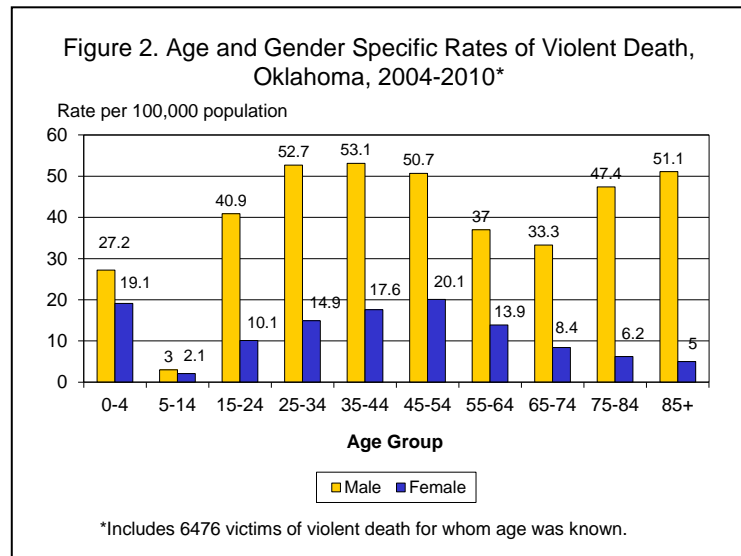
Table 1. Number of Victims* and Number of Incidents by Manner of Death and Type of Incident, Oklahoma, 2004-2010

Incident Type	Suicide	Homicide	Legal Intervention	Unintentional	Unknown Manner	Number of Victims	Number of Incidents
Suicide only	3,750	0	0	0	0	3,750	3,746
Homicide							
Single homicide	0	1,299	0	0	0	1,299	1,299
Multiple homicide	0	129	0	0	0	129	55
Legal intervention only	0	0	72	0	0	72	72
Homicide and suicide	86	102	0	0	0	188	86
Unintentional firearm	0	0	0	60	0	60	60
Undetermined	0	0	0	0	972	972	961

*Some data have been suppressed due to small numbers.

- Males had the highest rate of violent deaths at 38.6 per 100,000 population, which was three times higher than the rate for females (12.6). Among males, persons aged 25-54 years and persons aged 85 years and older had the highest rates of violent death (52.1 and 51.1, respectively). Among females, the highest rates of violent death were among children less than 5 years of age (19.1) and females 45-54 years (20.1) (Figure 2).

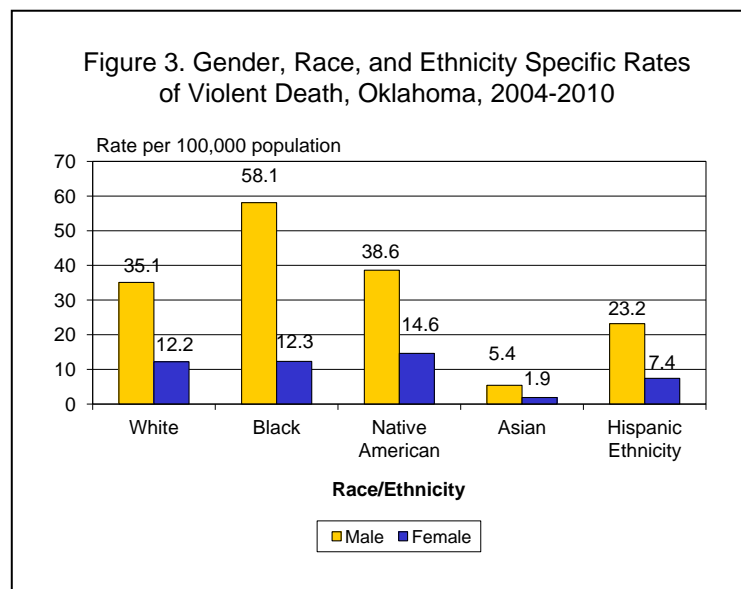
- The majority (74%) of victims were white, 12% were black, 10% were Native American, 4% were mixed race or other race and less than 1% were Asian. However, the rate of violent death per 100,000 population among blacks (35.3) was 33% higher than the rate among Native Americans (26.5), 50% higher than whites (23.5), and 9.8 times higher than the rate among Asians (3.6) (Table 2). Blacks 15-34 years and Native Americans 25-44 years of age had the highest rates of violent death (61.7 and 42.4, respectively).



- The violent death rate among Hispanics (15.7) was lower than non-Hispanics (26.0).

- Males in all racial and ethnic categories had higher rates of violent death than females (Figure 3).

- The rate among Black males (58.1) was 66% higher than white males (35.1), 51% higher than Native American males (38.6) and 10.8 times higher than Asian males (5.4) (Figure 3).



- Among females, Native American females less than 5 years of age had the highest rate of violent death (37.3), followed by black females less than 5 years of age (26.7).

- The rate among Hispanic males (23.2) was 3.1 times higher than the rate among Hispanic females (7.4). Among Hispanic males, the rate of violent death was highest for persons ages 15-34 years (36.8), while the highest rate among Hispanic females was among children less than 5 years of age (13.1) (Table 2).

Table 2. Violent Deaths by Age, Gender, Race,* and Ethnicity,** Oklahoma, 2004-2010

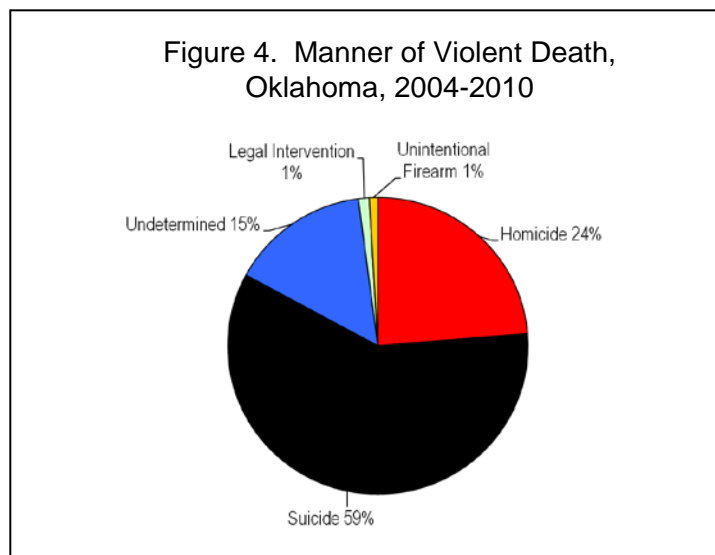
Age	White		Black		Native American		Hispanic	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Both Genders								
0-4	224	17.3	71	35.5	86	35.1	38	13.6
5-14	55	2.2	15	3.9	14	2.8	6	1.5
15-24	540	19.1	225	57.7	128	28.2	98	25.5
25-34	726	28.0	198	65.6	143	41.9	83	22.6
35-44	885	33.5	107	39.9	135	43.2	47	18.2
45-54	1056	35.6	83	31.2	96	31.9	30	18.4
55-64	626	25.9	30	18.0	42	20.3	9	11.2
65+	654	21.6	22	14.5	28	15.5	5	8.8
Males								
0-4	141	21.2	45	44.0	41	32.9	20	14.2
5-14	35	2.7	11	5.6	§	§	§	§
15-24	416	28.6	196	97.3	103	44.5	86	40.7
25-34	553	41.6	174	114.5	108	63.3	68	32.9
35-44	656	49.3	86	64.0	102	66.4	36	25.5
45-54	742	50.3	69	52.8	70	48.5	21	23.6
55-64	446	37.9	20	25.2	31	31.5	8	19.3
65+	530	40.6	13	21.3	25	32.0	§	§
Females								
0-4	83	13.1	26	26.7	45	37.3	18	13.1
5-14	20	1.6	§	§	10	4.1	§	§
15-24	124	9.1	27	14.3	25	11.3	12	6.9
25-34	173	13.6	24	16.0	35	20.5	15	9.3
35-44	229	17.5	20	14.9	32	20.2	11	9.4
45-54	314	21.0	14	10.3	26	16.6	9	12.1
55-64	180	14.5	9	10.3	11	10.1	§	§
65+	124	7.2	8	8.8	§	§	§	§

* Race was "mixed" for 24 persons, Asian for 18 persons, "other" for 224 persons, and unknown for 22 persons. Age was unknown for one person.

** Hispanic ethnicity is counted separately from race and is not a racial category. Hispanic ethnicity was not specified for 71 persons.

§ Some data have been suppressed due to small numbers.

- Suicides accounted for the majority of deaths (59%), followed by homicides (24%), undetermined manner deaths (15%), legal interventions (1%), and unintentional firearm deaths (1%) (Figure 4).
- Males were 3.8 times more likely to die from suicide, 3.1 times more likely to die from homicide, 15 times more likely to die from legal intervention, 1.3 times more likely to die from undetermined manner and over 13 times more likely to die from unintentional firearm injury death than females (Table 3).



- The majority (73%) of persons were injured on a home premises (includes house, apartment, driveway, porch, or yard), 6% were injured in motor vehicles, 4% were injured on a street or highway, 4% in natural areas or parks, 2% in parking lots, 2% in jails or prisons, 1% in hotels/motels, 1% in commercial businesses, and 7% in other or unknown locations.
- Four percent (230) of deaths occurred while the person was in custody. Of these, 121 (53%) persons died in jails or prisons, 18 persons (8%) died while under arrest but not in jail, 83 (36%) persons died prior to being arrested, and 8 (3%) of persons died in other types of custody.
 - Fifty-three percent of deaths in custody were suicides, 19% were homicides, 24% were from legal intervention, and 3% were of undetermined manner of death.
 - Ninety-five percent of persons who died while in custody were male and 5% were female.
- Forty-six (1%) victims of violent death were homeless including 17 suicide victims, 18 homicide victims, and 10 persons for whom the manner of death was undetermined. Thirty-seven of the homeless victims were male, and nine victims were female. (Homeless was defined as having no fixed address and living in a shelter, on the street, in a car, or in makeshift quarters in an outdoor setting.)

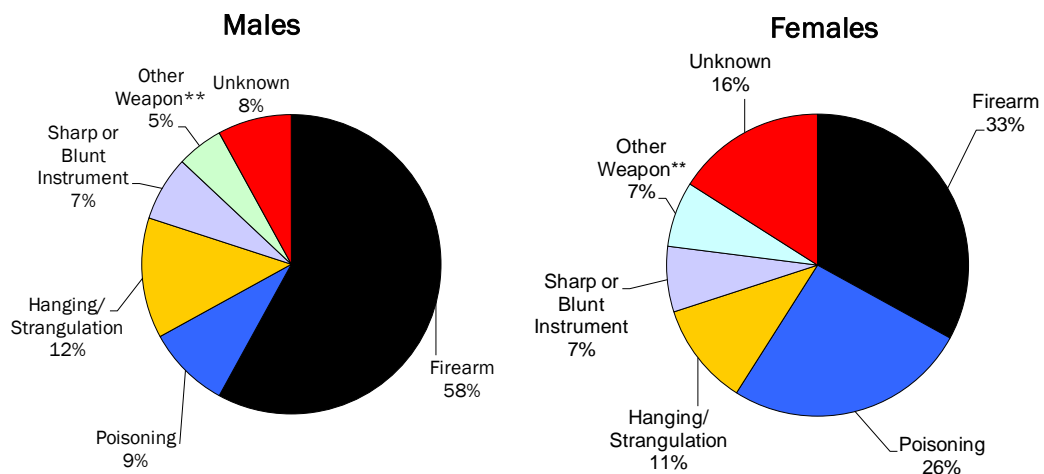
Table 3. Manner of Violent Death by Gender, Oklahoma, 2004-2010

Manner of Death	Male			Female		
	Number	%	Rate	Number	%	Rate
Suicide	3019	62%	24.0	817	50%	6.3
Homicide	1152	24%	9.2	382	23%	3.0
Undetermined	553	11%	4.4	419	26%	3.3
Legal Intervention	70	1%	0.6	5	<1%	0.04
Unintentional firearm injury	56	1%	0.4	§	§	§

§ Some data have been suppressed due to small numbers.

- In more than half (51%) of the deaths, a firearm was used to kill the victim. Other methods included poisoning (14%), hanging or strangulation (12%), sharp or blunt instruments (7%), and other or unspecified methods (16%).
- Firearms were involved in the majority of both male and female violent deaths; however, firearms were used in proportionally more male violent deaths than female violent deaths, 58% and 33%, respectively (Figure 5).
- Poisoning was used in a greater proportion of female violent deaths than male violent deaths, 26% and 9%, respectively.
- Eighty-four percent of all firearm death victims were males.

Figure 5. Weapons/Methods* Involved in Violent Death Incidents by Gender, Oklahoma, 2004-2010



* More than one type of weapon/method may have been involved in the death.

**Other weapon includes motor vehicle or other transportation (81), fire/burn (81), drowning (38), personal weapons (72), fall (36), shaking (17), and other (14).

- Thirty-seven percent of victims were single, less than one-third of victims were married, and one-fourth of victims were divorced or separated. Six percent of victims were widowed (Table 4).
- Seventeen percent of violent death victims had served in the U.S. Armed Forces.
- Twenty-three percent of victims 25 years of age and older had not completed high school or high school equivalent (GED). Forty-one percent had completed high school and 35% of victims had some college or a college degree (Table 5).
- Thirty-five percent of violent death victims 25 years of age and older had some college or a college degree compared to 55% of Oklahoma's population.

Table 4. Selected Socio-demographic Characteristics of Violent Death Victims, Oklahoma, 2004-2010

Marital Status	Number (N=6477)	Percent
Single	2396	37%
Married	1980	31%
Divorced/Separated	1613	25%
Widowed	357	6%
Unknown	131	2%
Veteran Status		
Served in U.S. Armed Forces	1094	17%

Table 5. Educational Attainment of Victims of Violent Death and Oklahoma's Population, 2004-2010

Educational Level	Violent Death Victims		Oklahoma's Population**
	Number* (N=4996)	Percent	Percent
8 th Grade or Less	280	6%	5%
9-12 th Grade	858	17%	9%
High School or GED	2031	41%	32%
Some College	904	18%	24%
Associate Degree	265	5%	7%
Bachelor Degree	375	8%	15%
Graduate Degree	187	4%	8%
Unknown	96	1%	

*Includes violent death victims 25 years of age and older.

**U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey. Includes educational attainment of Oklahoma's population 25 years of age and older.

Geographic Distribution of Violent Deaths

Uniform Crime Reporting Regions

- The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) system is a law enforcement data system maintained by the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation. Data are collected from 324 police and sheriff departments statewide. The state is divided into eight designated reporting regions for the purpose of collecting UCR data (Figure 6).
- Violent death rates were highest in eastern Oklahoma with UCR Region 5 having the highest rate of violent death (30.0 per 100,000 population), followed by Region 3 (28.5) and Region 4 (26.8) (Table 6). UCR Region 6 had the lowest overall rate of violent death (20.4).
- UCR Region 5 had the highest suicide rate (18.9), UCR Region 3 had the highest homicide rates at 7.2, UCR Regions 3 and 4 had the highest rate of undetermined manner of death at 4.3, UCR Region 5 had the highest unintentional firearm death rate (0.7), and UCR Regions 1 and 6 had the highest rate of death by legal intervention at 0.4.

Figure 6. Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation
Uniform Crime Reporting Regions

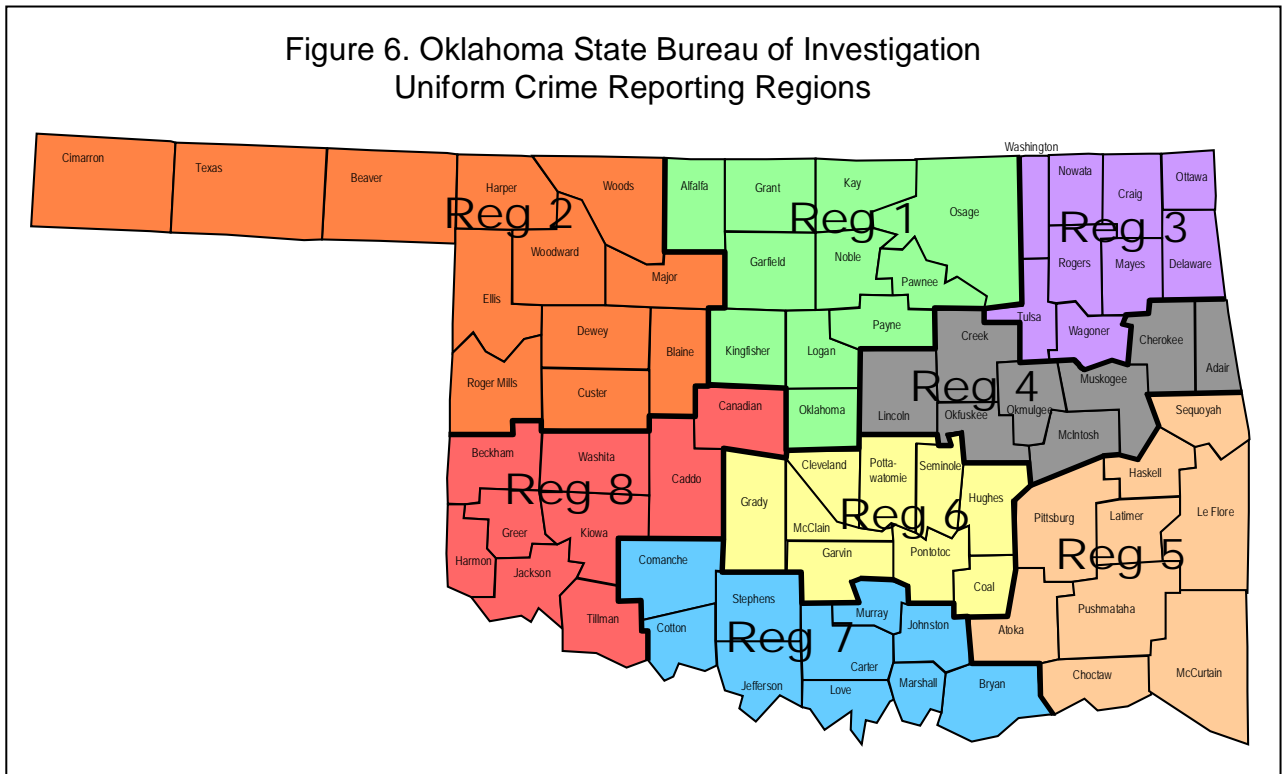


Table 6. Type of Violent Death by UCR Reporting Region, Oklahoma, 2004-2010 §

Type of Death	Region 1			Region 2		
	2010 Population = 1,048,554			2010 Population = 118,964		
	Number	%	Rate*	Number	%	Rate*
Suicide	983	55%	13.8	114	67%	13.8
Homicide	507	28%	7.1	29	17%	3.5
All Violent Deaths	1791	100%	25.2	170	100%	20.6

Type of Death	Region 3			Region 4		
	2010 Population = 956,976			2010 Population = 318,129		
	Number	%	Rate*	Number	%	Rate*
Suicide	1064	58%	16.5	358	61%	16.4
Homicide	466	25%	7.2	121	21%	5.5
All Violent Deaths	1840	100%	28.5	584	100%	26.8

Type of Death	Region 5			Region 6		
	2010 Population = 236,678			2010 Population = 524,358		
	Number	%	Rate*	Number	%	Rate*
Suicide	309	63%	18.9	472	66%	13.5
Homicide	103	21%	6.3	120	17%	3.4
All Violent Deaths	491	100%	30.0	714	100%	20.4

Type of Death	Region 7			Region 8		
	2010 Population = 323,201			2010 Population = 232,622		
	Number	%	Rate*	Number	%	Rate*
Suicide	330	60%	15.2	205	62%	13.2
Homicide	120	22%	5.5	62	19%	4.0
All Violent Deaths	553	100%	25.4	332	100%	21.4

County of residence was unknown for one person.

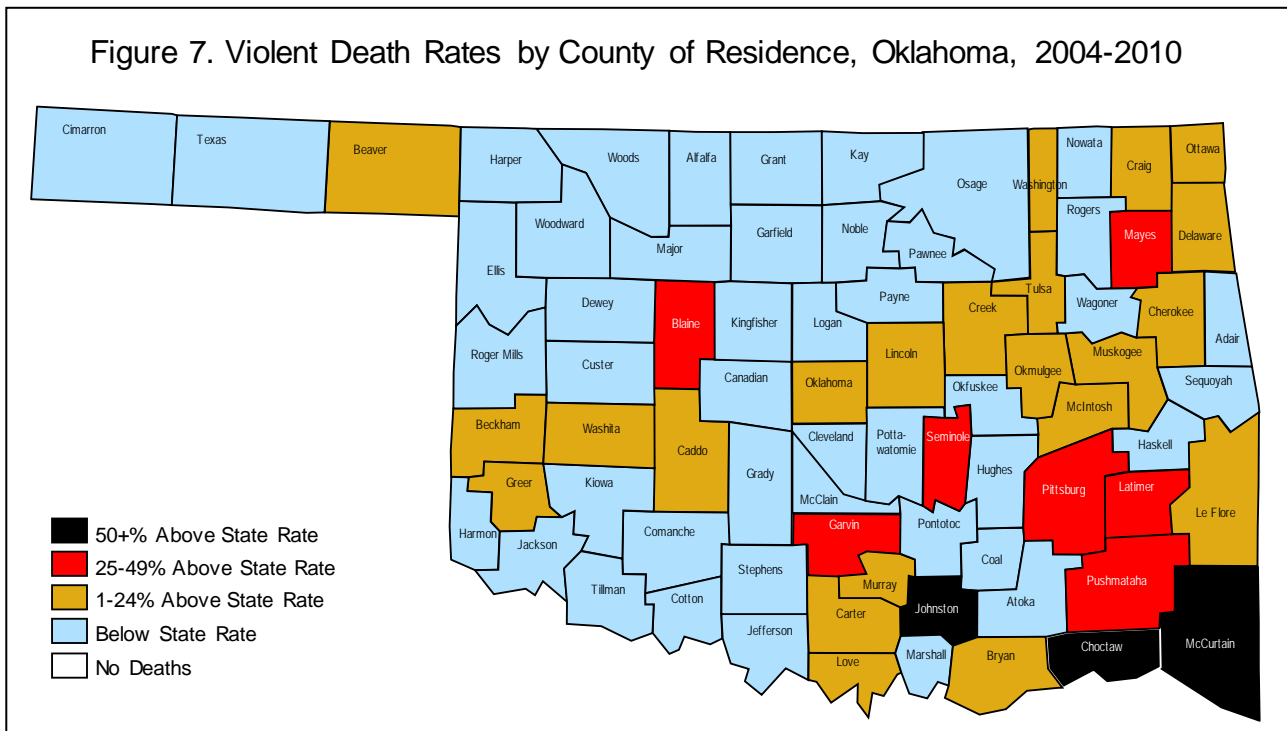
*Average Annual Rate of violent death is based on residence of victim

§ Some data have been suppressed due to small numbers.

County Rates

- Forty-five counties had a rate of violent death below the state rate (25.4 per 100,000 population). Twenty-nine counties had rates of violent death 1% to 49% higher than the state rate, and three counties had rates that were more than 50% higher than the state rate (Figure 7).
- Oklahoma and Tulsa counties ranked 23rd and 11th, respectively, among counties in the rate of violent deaths during 2004 to 2010. However, 40% of all violent deaths occurred among residents of these two counties alone. More than half (54%) of homicides, over one-third (35%) of suicides, 39% of undetermined manner deaths, 25% of unintentional firearm deaths, and 44% of legal intervention deaths were among Oklahoma or Tulsa County residents (Appendix 1).
- Choctaw County had the highest homicide rate at 12.2 per 100,000 population, while Johnston County had the highest suicide rate (26.7) and Seminole County had the highest rate of deaths with undetermined manner (8.0). The number and rate of all manners of violent death by county are found in Appendix 1.

Figure 7. Violent Death Rates by County of Residence, Oklahoma, 2004-2010

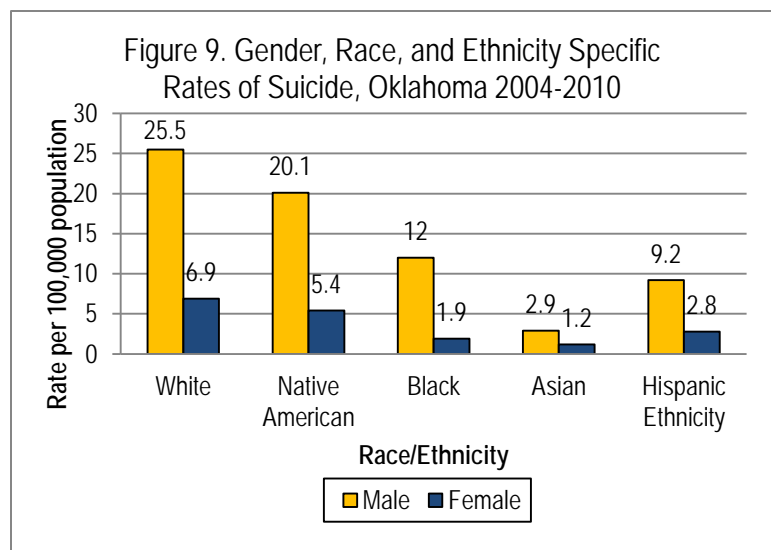
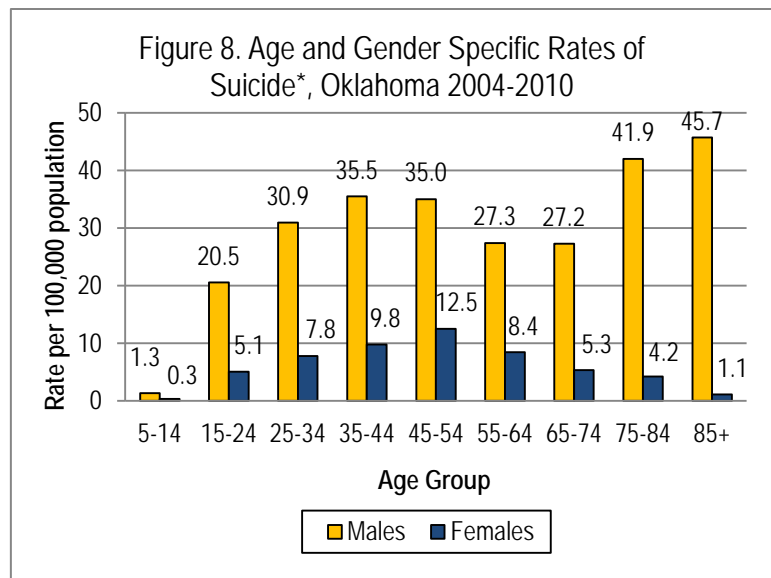


Suicides

- Suicide was the most common manner of violent death accounting for 3,836 deaths during 2004 to 2010, or an average of 548 deaths per year (average annual rate = 15.1 per 100,000 population).
- The annual state suicide rate increased 20% from 2004 to 2010 (Table 7).
- The mean age of suicide victims was 46 years.
- Seventy-nine percent of suicide victims were male and 21% were female.
- In 86 (2%) of the suicide deaths, the victim killed other people before taking their own life, resulting in 102 homicide deaths.
- Males 85+ years of age had the highest suicide rate among all age and gender groups (45.7 per 100,000 population) (Figure 8 and Table 8).
- The suicide rate among males was 3.8 times higher than the rate among females (24.0 and 6.3, respectively); females 35-54 years of age were at greatest risk for suicide. The suicide rate among females 35-54 years of age was almost twice the overall suicide rate among females, 11.2 and 6.3, respectively.
- The suicide rate among whites was 2.3 times higher than blacks, 27% higher than Native Americans, and 8.1 times higher than Asians.
- Males in all racial categories had higher suicide rates than females (Figure 9).

Table 7. Suicide by Year, Oklahoma, 2004 -2010

Year	Number	Rate
2004	496	14.1
2005	516	14.6
2006	528	14.8
2007	516	14.2
2008	580	15.8
2009	565	15.2
2010	635	16.9



- The suicide rate among non-Hispanics was almost 2.5 times higher than the rate for Hispanics (15.7 and 6.2, respectively).
- Firearms were used in 60% of suicides.
- Sixty-six percent of firearms used in suicides were handguns, 13% were rifles, 15% were shotguns, and 6% were other/unknown firearms.
- Hanging/strangulation were used in 19%, poisoning 16%, and other/unknown methods in 5% of suicides.
 - Other methods used to complete suicide were sharp/blunt instrument (68), motor vehicle or other transportation vehicle (40), drowning (20), fire (23), fall (15), and unknown (4) methods.

Table 8. Suicide by Age, Gender, Race,* and Ethnicity,** Oklahoma, 2004-2010

Age	White		Black		Native American		Hispanic	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Both Genders								
5-24	366	6.9	32	4.1	90	9.5	39	4.9
25-34	507	19.5	46	15.2	68	19.9	37	10.1
35-44	625	23.7	33	12.3	71	22.7	20	7.7
45-54	750	25.3	21	7.9	56	18.6	23	14.1
55-64	463	19.1	9	5.4	18	8.7	§	§
65+	546	18.1	6	4.0	18	10.0	§	§
Males								
5-24	296	10.8	26	6.5	71	14.7	32	15.2
25-34	408	30.7	40	26.3	51	29.9	29	14.0
35-44	487	36.6	29	21.6	57	37.1	15	10.6
45-54	548	37.2	20	15.3	41	28.4	15	16.9
55-64	348	29.6	7	8.8	15	15.3	§	§
65+	466	35.7	5	8.2	17	21.8	§	§
Females								
5-24	70	2.7	6	1.6	19	4.1	5	1.3
25-34	99	7.8	6	4.0	17	9.9	8	5.0
35-44	138	10.6	4	3.0	14	8.8	5	4.3
45-54	202	13.5	1	0.7	15	9.6	8	10.7
55-64	115	9.2	§	§	§	§	0	0
65+	80	4.7	§	§	§	§	0	0

* Race was "mixed" for 6 persons, Asian for 10 persons, "other" for 87 persons, and unknown for 8 persons.

** Hispanic ethnicity is counted separately from race and is not a racial category. Hispanic ethnicity was unknown for 10 persons.

§ Some data have been suppressed due to small numbers.

- Firearms were used in male suicide deaths more often than in female suicide deaths, 65% and 42%, respectively. Poisoning was used more often in female suicide than male suicide, 35% and 11%, respectively (Figure 10).

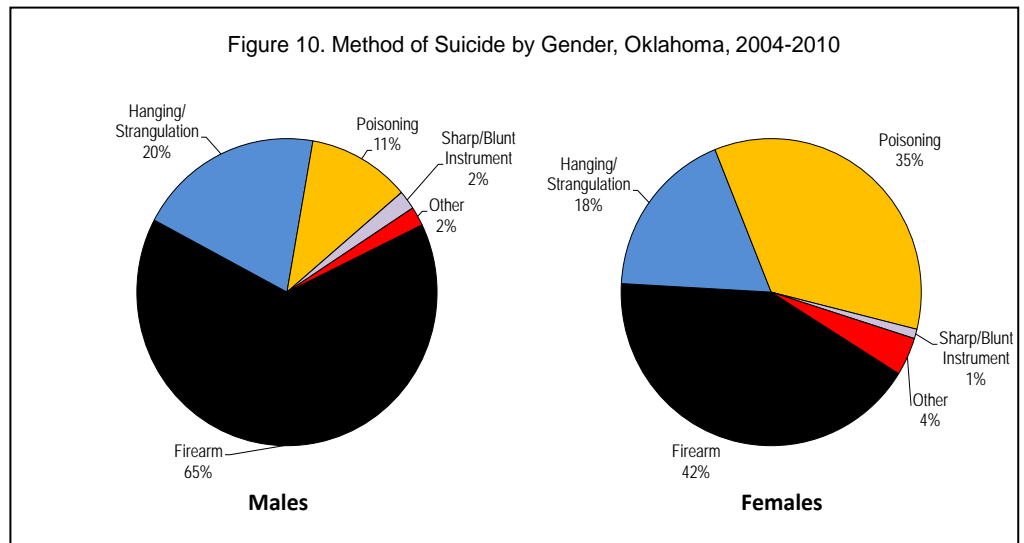


Table 9. Selected Suicide Circumstances by Gender, Oklahoma, 2004-2010*

	Total (n=3,836)		Male (n=3,019)		Female (n=817)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Current depressed mood	1509	39	1188	39	321	39
Intimate partner problem	1305	34	1069	35	236	29
Disclosed intent to commit suicide	1226	32	958	32	268	33
Mental health problem	1260	33	873	29	387	47
Depression/dysthymia	848	22	596	20	252	31
Bipolar disorder	169	4	89	3	80	10
Schizophrenia	64	2	45	1	19	2
Anxiety disorder	65	2	45	1	20	2
Post-traumatic stress disorder	16	<1	§	§	§	§
ADD or hyperactivity disorder	12	<1	§	§	§	§
Other/unknown	237	6	172	6	65	8
Left a suicide note	1142	30	868	29	274	34
Physical health problem	1018	27	788	26	230	28
Crisis in past two weeks	871	23	726	24	145	18
History of previous suicide attempts	697	18	446	15	251	31
Alcohol	505	13	426	14	79	10
Substance abuse	492	13	356	12	136	17
Financial problem	449	12	370	12	79	10
Other relationship problem	413	11	309	10	104	13
Job problem	398	10	348	12	50	6
Recent criminal legal problem	370	10	332	11	38	5
Other death of friend or family	245	6	191	6	54	7
Non-criminal legal problem	144	4	124	4	20	2
Perpetrator of interpersonal violence within past month	60	2	55	2	5	1
Suicide of friend or family within past five years	67	2	43	1	24	3
School problem	31	1	25	1	6	1
Victim of interpersonal violence within past month	10	<1	§	§	§	§

*More than one circumstance may have been associated with the death. Percentages were calculated using the total number of persons that committed suicide.

§ Some data have been suppressed due to small numbers.

- The types of substances used in suicide deaths by poisoning were prescription drugs (65%), carbon monoxide or gas vapor (16%), over-the-counter drugs (6%), alcohol (4%), other drugs/poison (3%), street drugs (1%), and unknown poisons (1%).
- For 3,686 (96%) victims, information on circumstances associated with the suicide was available in the police report and/or medical examiner report.
 - The leading circumstances associated with suicide were current depressed mood (cited in 39% of suicides), intimate partner problem (34%), current mental health problem (33%), physical health problem (27%), crisis in the past two weeks (23%), and alcohol (13%) (Table 9).
- The circumstances associated with suicide varied somewhat by life stages (Table 10).
 - The rate of suicide associated with physical health problems was 4.6 times higher among persons 65 years of age and older than among persons less than 65 years of age (12.4 and 2.7, respectively).
 - The rate of suicide associated with intimate partner problems was 4.6 times higher among persons less than 65 years of age than among person 65 years of age and older, 5.7 and 1.2, respectively.
 - A substantial proportion of suicide deaths were associated with a current depressed mood, mental health problem, or crisis in the past two weeks for persons across all age groups.
 - Seventy percent of persons who died by suicide with a current mental health problem were receiving mental health treatment, including 60% of persons 10-24 years, 70% of persons 25-44 years, 73% of persons 45-64 years, and 64% of persons 65 years and older.

Table 10. Ten Most Common Circumstances* Associated with Suicide Deaths by Rank and Age Group, Oklahoma, 2004-2010

Rank	10-24 Years	25-44 Years	45-64 Years	65+ Years
1	Intimate partner problem (37%)	Intimate partner problem (48%)	Current depressed mood (42%)	Physical health problem (73%)
2	Current depressed mood (36%)	Current depressed mood (36%)	Current mental health problem (38%)	Current depressed mood (44%)
3	Current mental health problem (27%)	Current mental health problem (34%)	Physical health problem (30%)	Current mental health problem (23%)
4	Crisis in past 2 weeks (25%)	Crisis in past 2 weeks (26%)	Intimate partner problem (30%)	Crisis in past 2 weeks (20%)
5	Relationship problem other than intimate partner (22%)	History of suicide attempts (21%)	History of suicide attempts (21%)	Death of family or friend (11%)
6	Substance abuse problem (18%)	Substance abuse problem (18%)	Crisis in past 2 weeks (19%)	Intimate partner problem (7%)
7	History of suicide attempts (17%)	Alcohol problem (16%)	Financial problem (17%)	History of suicide attempts (6%)
8	Recent criminal/legal problem (10%)	Recent criminal/legal problem (14%)	Alcohol problem (15%)	Financial Problem (6%)
9	Job problem (9%)	Physical health problem (12%)	Job problem (14%)	Other relationship problem (5%)
10	Alcohol problem (8%)	Financial problem (12%)	Substance abuse problem (10%)	Alcohol problem (5%)

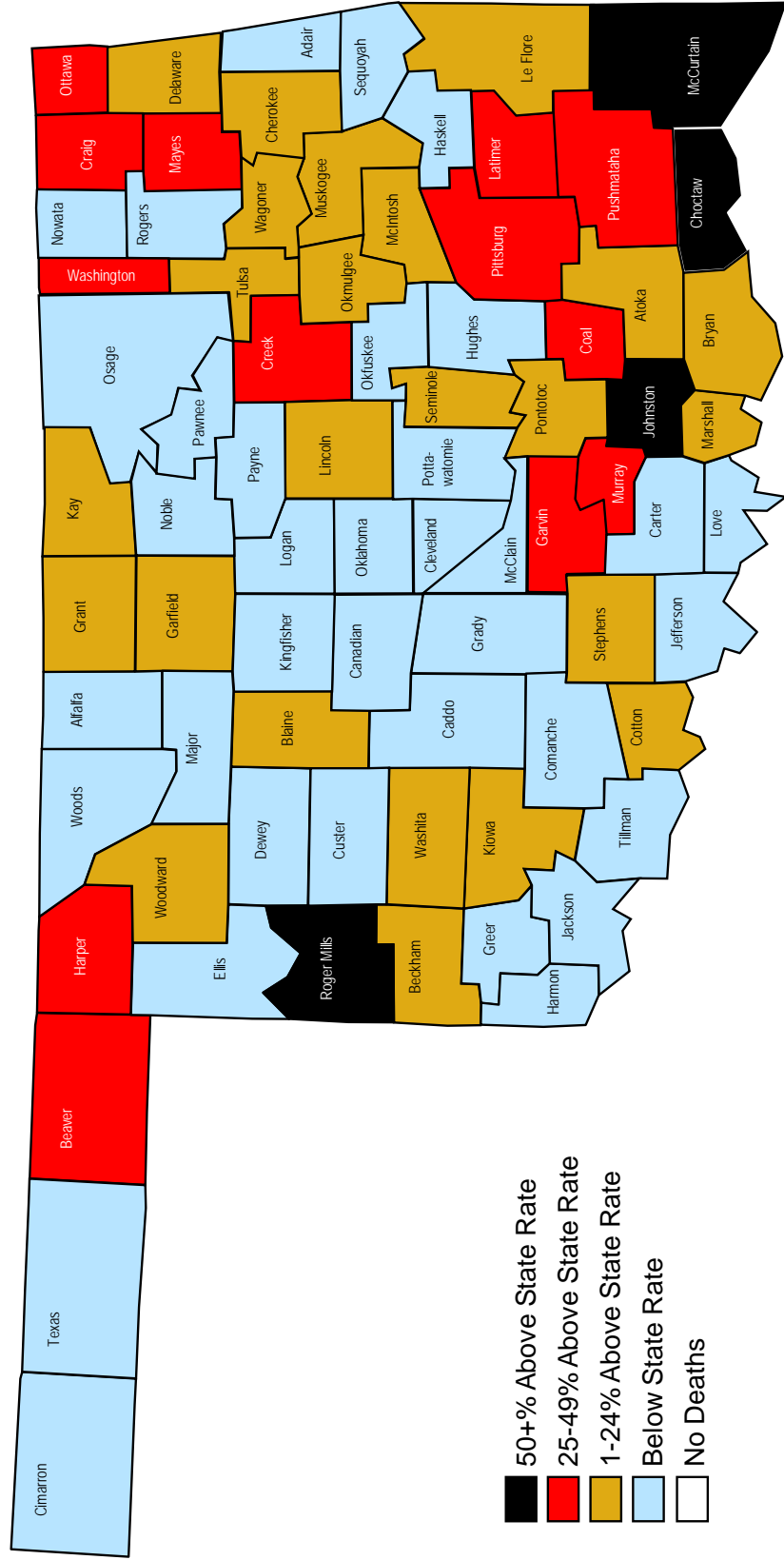
*More than one circumstance may have been associated with the suicide.

- Eighteen percent of suicide victims had a history of suicide attempts.
- 32% of suicide victims had previously stated their intent or expressed suicidal feelings to another person and 30% left a suicide note.
- A positive blood alcohol test was documented for 1,125 persons (32% of persons tested), and a positive drug test was documented for 733 persons (19% of persons tested) who died by suicide.
- Twenty-three percent (863) of suicide victims were veterans (persons who had served in the U.S. Armed Forces), including 839 males and 24 females. This represents 79% (863/1094) of all violent deaths among veterans.
- The mean age of veterans who died by suicide was 58 years. The youngest victim was 18 and the oldest was 93 years of age; 39% of these suicide deaths were among veterans 65 years of age and older (Table 11).
- The vast majority (74%) of suicides among veterans were completed with a firearm. Other methods of suicide among veterans were poisoning (12%), hanging/strangulation (11%), and other methods (3%).
- Circumstances were known in 830 (96%) of the suicides among veterans. The circumstances most often associated with the deaths were physical health problem (45%), current depressed mood (41%), current mental health problem (29%), intimate partner problem (24%) and crisis in the past two weeks (22%).
- Forty-one counties had suicide rates higher than the state rate, 36 counties had suicide rates at or below the state rate during 2004 to 2010 (Figure 11).

Table 11. Suicide Deaths of Veterans by Age, Oklahoma, 2004-2010

Age	Number	Percent
15-24	34	4%
25-34	60	7%
35-44	111	13%
45-54	146	17%
55-64	178	21%
65+	334	39%
Total	863	100%

Figure 11. Suicide Death Rates by County of Residence, Oklahoma, 2004-2010



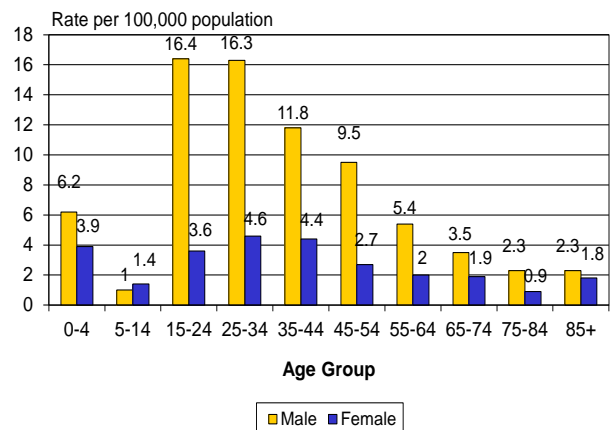
Homicides

- During 2004 to 2010, there were 1,439 incidents where homicide occurred resulting in 1,529 victims, an average of 218 deaths per year (average annual rate=6.0 per 100,000 population). The annual homicide rate ranged from a high in 2007 of 6.4 to a low in 2010 of 5.5 (Table 12).
- Homicide victims were generally younger than suicide victims with a mean age of 34 years.
- Seventy-five percent of homicide victims were male and 25% were female.
- In 145 (10%) homicide incidents, more than one victim was killed, including 102 homicide victims in homicide-suicide events, 129 victims in multiple homicides.
- There were 131 homicides among persons less than 15 years of age (9% of all homicide deaths). Of these, 58 (44%) were female (representing 15% of all homicides among females), and 73 (56%) were male (representing 6% of all homicides among males).
- The homicide rate among males (9.1) was 3.1 times higher than the rate among females (3.0). Homicide rates were higher for males across all age groups except for persons 5-14 years of age (Figure 12).
- The homicide rate among blacks (22.9) was 6.2 times higher than among whites (3.7) and 3.3 times higher than among Native Americans (6.9).
 - The homicide rate among black males (39.1) was 3.9 times higher than the rate among Native American males (10.1), and almost 8 times higher than the rate among white males (5.0) (Figure 13).
 - Black males 15-34 years of age had the highest homicide rate in all race and gender categories at 80.4 per 100,000 population (Table 13).
- Among females, the homicide rate among black females (6.9) was 3.0 times higher than the rate among white females (2.3) and 1.8 times higher than the rate among Native American females (3.8).

Table 12. Homicide by Year, Oklahoma, 2004-2010

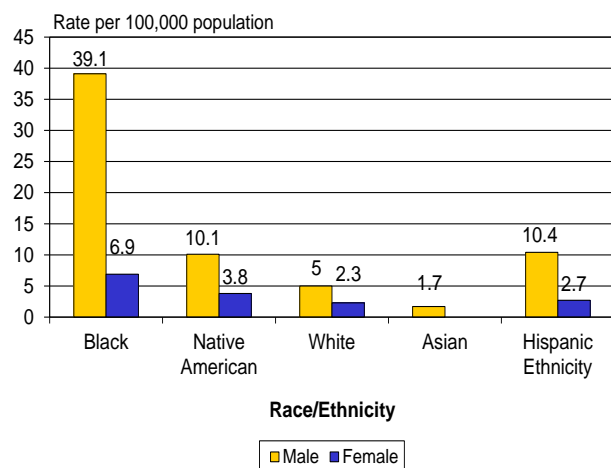
Year	Number	Rate
2004	211	6.0
2005	208	5.9
2006	212	5.9
2007	232	6.4
2008	223	6.1
2009	237	6.4
2010	206	5.5

Figure 12. Age and Gender Specific Rates of Homicide,* Oklahoma, 2004-2010



*Includes 1534 homicide victims.

Figure 13. Gender, Race, and Ethnicity Specific Rates of Homicide, Oklahoma, 2004-2010



- The homicide rate among Hispanics was 1.2 times higher than the rate among non-Hispanics (6.8 and 5.8, respectively). The homicide rate among Hispanic males was 1.2 times higher than the rate among non-Hispanic males (10.4 and 8.8, respectively). Alternately, the homicide rate among non-Hispanic females was 1.1 times higher than the rate among Hispanic females (2.7 and 3.0, respectively).

Table 13. Homicide Rates by Age, Gender, Race,* and Ethnicity,** Oklahoma, 2004-2010

Age	White		Black		Native American		Hispanic	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Both Genders								
0-14	73	1.9	28	4.8	22	3.0	11	1.6
15-24	127	4.5	179	45.9	28	6.2	56	14.6
25-34	125	4.8	138	45.7	54	15.8	39	10.6
35-44	147	5.6	63	23.5	41	13.1	21	8.1
45-54	139	4.7	54	20.3	21	7.0	§	§
55-64	78	3.2	16	9.6	§	§	§	§
65+	56	1.9	9	5.9	5	2.8	§	§
Males								
0-14	43	2.2	17	5.7	8	2.1	§	§
15-24	90	6.2	162	80.4	21	9.1	49	23.2
25-34	85	6.4	122	80.3	41	24.0	33	15.9
35-44	99	7.4	50	37.2	32	20.8	16	11.3
45-54	103	7.0	43	32.9	18	12.5	§	§
55-64	55	4.7	13	16.4	§	§	§	§
65+	31	2.4	6	9.8	§	§	§	§
Females								
0-14	30	1.6	11	3.9	14	3.8	7	2.1
15-24	37	2.7	17	9.0	7	3.2	7	4.1
25-34	40	3.2	16	10.7	13	7.6	6	3.7
35-44	48	3.7	13	9.7	9	5.7	5	4.3
45-54	36	2.4	11	8.1	§	§	0	0.0
55-64	23	1.8	§	§	§	§	0	0.0
65+	25	1.5	§	§	§	§	0	0.0

* Race was "mixed" or Asian for 12 persons, "other" or unknown for 118 persons.

** Hispanic ethnicity is counted separately from race and is not a racial category.

Hispanic ethnicity was unknown for 12 persons.

§ Some data have been suppressed due to small numbers.

- A firearm was the weapon used to kill in 57% of homicides, and sharp or blunt instruments were used in 24% of deaths. Hanging/strangulation or suffocation was used in 4% of homicides, personal weapons (hands, fists, feet) in 4%, motor vehicles in 2%, and other weapons in 5%. For 4% of homicides, the weapon was unknown.
 - Other weapons included fire (37), poison (18), shaking (15), fall (7), and drowning (5).
- Firearm-related homicides were more common among males than females (61% and 45%, respectively), and hanging/strangulation and suffocation were used to kill in proportionally more homicides among females than among males, 9% and 2%, respectively (Figure 14).
- A total of 938 firearms were used in homicide incidents. In 73 of the incidents, two or more firearms were involved.
 - Seventy percent of the firearms were handguns, 8% were shotguns, 8% were rifles; the type was unknown for 14% of firearms.
 - Semi-automatic pistols were the most common types of handguns used (45% of firearm-related homicides). Revolvers were used in 14% of firearm-related homicides. In 10% of incidents, the handgun type was not specified.

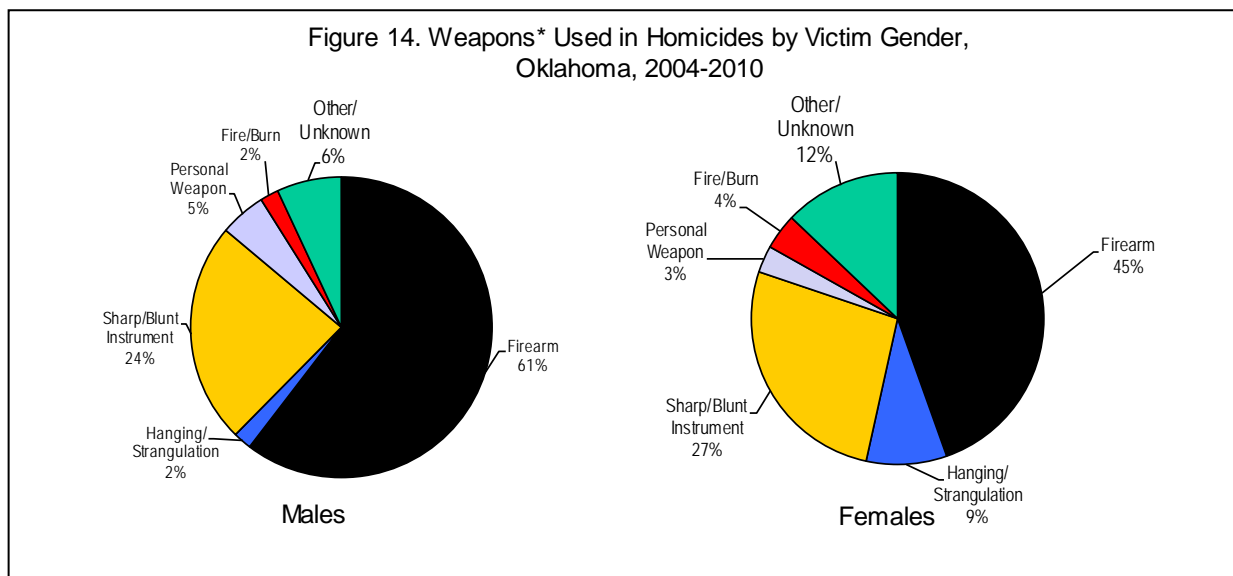


Table 14. Relationship of the Victim to the Suspect by Victim Gender, Oklahoma, 2004-2010

	Males		Females		Total	
Intimate partner*	56	8%	152	51%	208	20%
Acquaintance	170	23%	24	8%	194	19%
Family member other than spouse	107	15%	60	20%	167	16%
Other persons known to victim	122	17%	21	7%	143	14%
Friend or roommate	88	12%	11	4%	99	10%
Stranger	73	10%	11	4%	84	8%
Other relationship**	103	13%	21	7%	124	12%
	719	100%	300	100%	1019	100%

*Intimate partners included current and former marital (90) and non-marital partners (118).

**Other relationships included rival gang member, child of suspect's intimate partner, law enforcement, work relationship, and babysitter.

§ Some data have been suppressed due to small numbers.

- The relationship between the victim and the suspect(s) was known for 1,019 (67%) homicide victims. Victims were often killed by people known to them, including intimate partners (20%), acquaintances (19%), family members (16%), and friends or roommates (10%) (Table 14). In 8% of homicides the suspect was a stranger.
- Intimate partners and family members other than spouses were the suspects in a substantially higher percentage of homicides among females than among males (51% vs. 8% and 20% vs. 15%, respectively).
- Acquaintances were the suspects in a substantially higher percentage of homicides among males than among females (23% vs. 8%).
- For 1,331 (87%) homicide deaths, circumstances surrounding the homicide were documented in the police report and/or the medical examiner report.
 - In 39% of homicides, an argument or interpersonal conflict was a precipitating factor (26% of these arguments involved money or property).
 - Twenty-five percent (389) of homicides were precipitated by other serious crimes including robbery (171), drug trade (48), burglary (48), assaults (93), rape (24), motor vehicle theft (5), and other crimes (25) (Table 15). In two-thirds of these incidents the crime was in progress.
 - Drugs were involved in 17% (263) of the homicides, and 10% (157) of homicides were gang-related.
 - Gang-related homicides were 6.2 times more common among males than females and drug-related homicides were 1.8 times more common among males than females.
 - Nineteen percent (283) of homicides were related to conflict between intimate partners.

Table 15. Selected Homicide Circumstances by Gender, Oklahoma 2004-2010*

	Total (n=1529)	Male (n=1148)	Female (n=381)
	Percent	Percent	Percent
Other argument, abuse, conflict	31%	36%	18%
Precipitated by another crime	25%	28%	16%
Robbery	11%	13%	5%
Drug trade	3%	4%	1%
Burglary	3%	4%	1%
Assault, homicide	6%	6%	5%
Rape, sexual assault	2%	1%	3%
Arson	1%	1%	<1%
Other crime	2%	1%	3%
Intimate partner violence-related	19%	10%	43%
Drug involvement	17%	19%	11%
Argument over money/property	10%	12%	5%
Gang-related	10%	13%	2%
Brawl (mutual physical fight)	5%	6%	1%
Jealousy (lovers triangle)	6%	6%	6%
Justifiable self defense/law enforcement	4%	5%	1%
Victim was a bystander	1%	1%	1%
Hate crime	1%	1%	<1%
Mercy killing	<1%		1%
Terror	<1%	<1%	

* More than one circumstance may have been associated with the death. Percentages were calculated using the number of homicide victims.

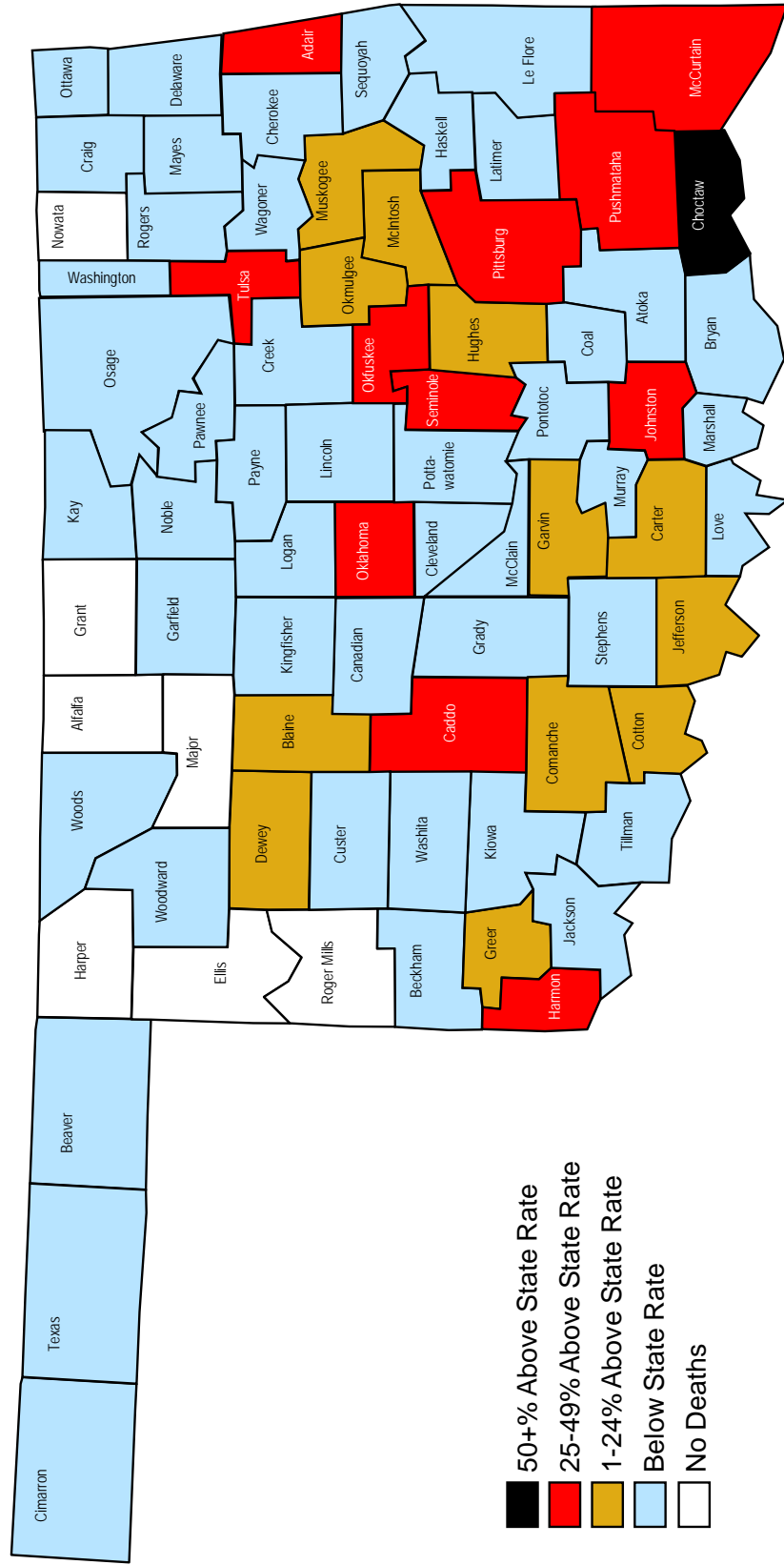
- Conflict between intimate partners was cited in proportionately more homicides among females than among males (43% and 10%, respectively).
- Circumstances involved in homicides varied somewhat by age; however, argument or interpersonal conflict was the leading circumstance among all age groups (Table 16).
 - Gang-related circumstances were cited more often in homicides of persons 10-24 years of age (25%) (Table 16).
- A positive blood alcohol test was documented for 473 homicide victims over 14 years of age (37% of persons tested), and a positive drug test was documented for 136 homicide victims over 14 years of age (49% of persons tested).
- Twenty-four counties had homicide rates higher than the state rate; 46 counties had homicide rates below the state rate. In 7 Oklahoma counties, there were no homicide deaths (Figure 16).

Table 16. Six Most Common Circumstances* Related to Homicide Deaths by Rank and Age Group, Oklahoma, 2004-2010

Rank	<10 Years	10-24 Years	25-44 Years	45-64 Years	65+ Years
1	Argument or interpersonal conflict (46%)	Argument or interpersonal conflict (42%)	Argument or interpersonal conflict (42%)	Argument or interpersonal conflict (41%)	Argument or interpersonal conflict (36%)
2	Conflict between intimate partners (21%)	Crime (26%)	Crime (25%)	Crime (29%)	Crime (34%)
3	Crime (7%)	Gang-related (25%)	Conflict between intimate partners (24%)	Conflict between intimate partners (19%)	Conflict between intimate partners (9%)
4	Drug dealing or illegal drug use (5%)	Drug dealing or illegal drug use (19%)	Drug dealing or illegal drug use (23%)	Drug dealing or illegal drug use (10%)	Drug dealing or illegal drug use (9%)
5	Victim was a bystander (4%)	Conflict between intimate partners (11%)	Jealousy (8%)	Jealousy (5%)	Jealousy (4%)
6	Gang-related (2%)	Brawl (8%)	Gang-related (7%)	Brawl (5%)	Justifiable, Self defense (3%)

*More than one circumstance may have been associated with the death.

Figure 16. Homicide Death Rates by County of Residence, Oklahoma, 2004-2010



Undetermined Manner of Death

- For 972 deaths in Oklahoma during 2004 to 2010, the manner of death could not be determined. There was an average of 139 deaths per year (average annual rate = 3.8 per 100,000 population).
- The rate of undetermined manner of death decreased by 28% from 2004 to 2010 (Table 17).
- Forty-three percent of undetermined manner of death victims were female and 57% were male.
- The highest rate of undetermined manner of death was among children less than 5 years of age (18.0 per 100,000 population less than 5) (Figure 17). Ninety-one percent (291/320) of these children were infants less than one year of age. Almost one-third (30%) of all undetermined manner deaths were among infants less than one year of age.
 - Among females less than 5 years of age, Native Americans had the highest rate of undetermined manner of death (31.5), followed by blacks (19.5) and whites (10.3).
 - Among males less than 5 years of age, blacks had the highest rate of undetermined manner of death (31.3), followed by Native Americans (28.9) and whites (15.8).
- Native Americans (all ages combined) had the highest rate of undetermined manner of death (6.3).
- The rate of undetermined manner of death among Native American males (7.3) was two times higher than among white males (3.7) and 1.4 times higher than among black males (5.4) (Figure 18).
- The rate of undetermined manner of death among non-Hispanics was 1.9 times higher than among Hispanics (3.9 and 2.1, respectively).
- In 78% (227/291) of undetermined manner deaths among infants, co-sleeping with adults or other children and/or overlay or possible overlay was described in the cause of death text of the death certificate or medical examiner's narrative.

Table 17. Undetermined Manner of Death by Year, Oklahoma, 2004-2010

Year	Number	Rate
2004	152	4.3
2005	152	4.3
2006	134	3.7
2007	142	3.9
2008	147	4.0
2009	128	3.4
2010	117	3.1

Figure 17. Age and Gender Specific Rates of Undetermined Manner of Death,* Oklahoma, 2004-2010

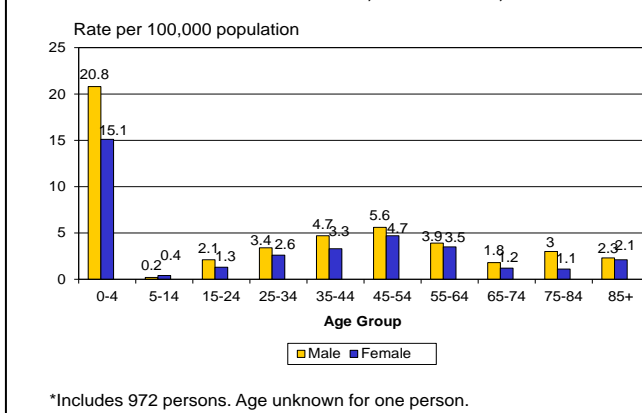
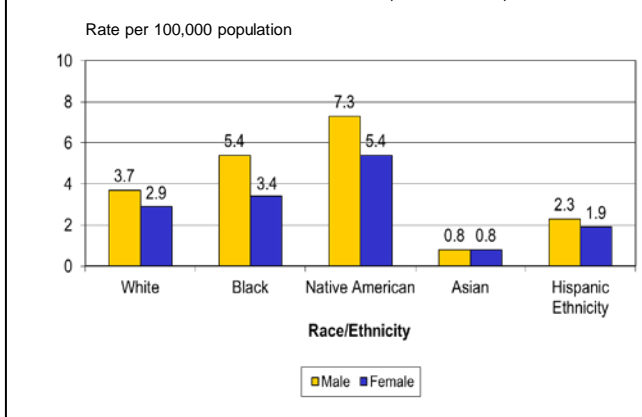


Figure 18. Gender, Race, and Ethnicity Specific Rates of Undetermined Manner of Death, Oklahoma, 2004-2010



- Among persons 15 years of age and older, actual or possible drug or alcohol toxicity (32%), or drug combination toxicity (20%), was described in the cause of death text of the death certificate or the medical examiner’s narrative.
- Other methods/weapons involved in these deaths were firearms (24), fire/burn (21), falls (14), drowning (13), blunt instrument (13), motor vehicle (11), hanging/strangulation (5), and other methods (20).
- For 479 (75%) persons 15 years of age and older, circumstances surrounding the death were documented in police and/or medical examiner’s reports.
- The three most common circumstances surrounding undetermined manner deaths among persons 15 years of age and older were physical health problems (27% among males and 41% among females), substance abuse problems (31% among males and 32% among females), and current mental health problems (21% among males and 38% among females) (Table 18 and Table 19).
- Among persons with a mental health problem, diagnoses included depression (94), bipolar disorder (35), schizophrenia (24), anxiety disorder (16), and other or unspecified conditions (39).
- In 12% of deaths, the person had previously stated their intent to commit suicide or expressed suicidal ideation to another person and 2% of persons had left a suicide note.
- Positive blood alcohol tests were documented for 126 persons over the age of 14 (26% of persons tested), and positive drug tests were documented for 373 persons over the age of 14 (80% of persons tested).
- Forty-five counties had undetermined manner of death rates higher than or equal to the state rate, and 26 counties had rates below the state rate. Six counties reported no undetermined manner deaths (Figure 18).

Table 18. Leading Circumstances Associated with Undetermined Manner of Death Among Persons 15 Years of Age and Older by Rank and Gender, Oklahoma, 2004-2010*

Rank	Males	Females	Both Genders
1	Substance abuse problem (31%)	Physical health problem (41%)	Physical health problem (33%)
2	Physical health problem (27%)	Current mental health problem (38%)	Substance abuse problem (31%)
3	Current mental health problem (21%)	Substance Abuse Problem (32%)	Current mental health problem (28%)
4	Alcohol problem (18%)	Current depressed mood (15%)	Current depressed mood (15%)
5	Current Depressed Mood (15%)	History of suicide attempt (13%)	Alcohol problem (14%)
6	Intimate partner problem (11%)	Intimate Partner Problem (10%)	History of suicide attempt (11%)
7	History of suicide attempt (9%)	Alcohol Problem (9%)	Intimate Partner Problem (10%)

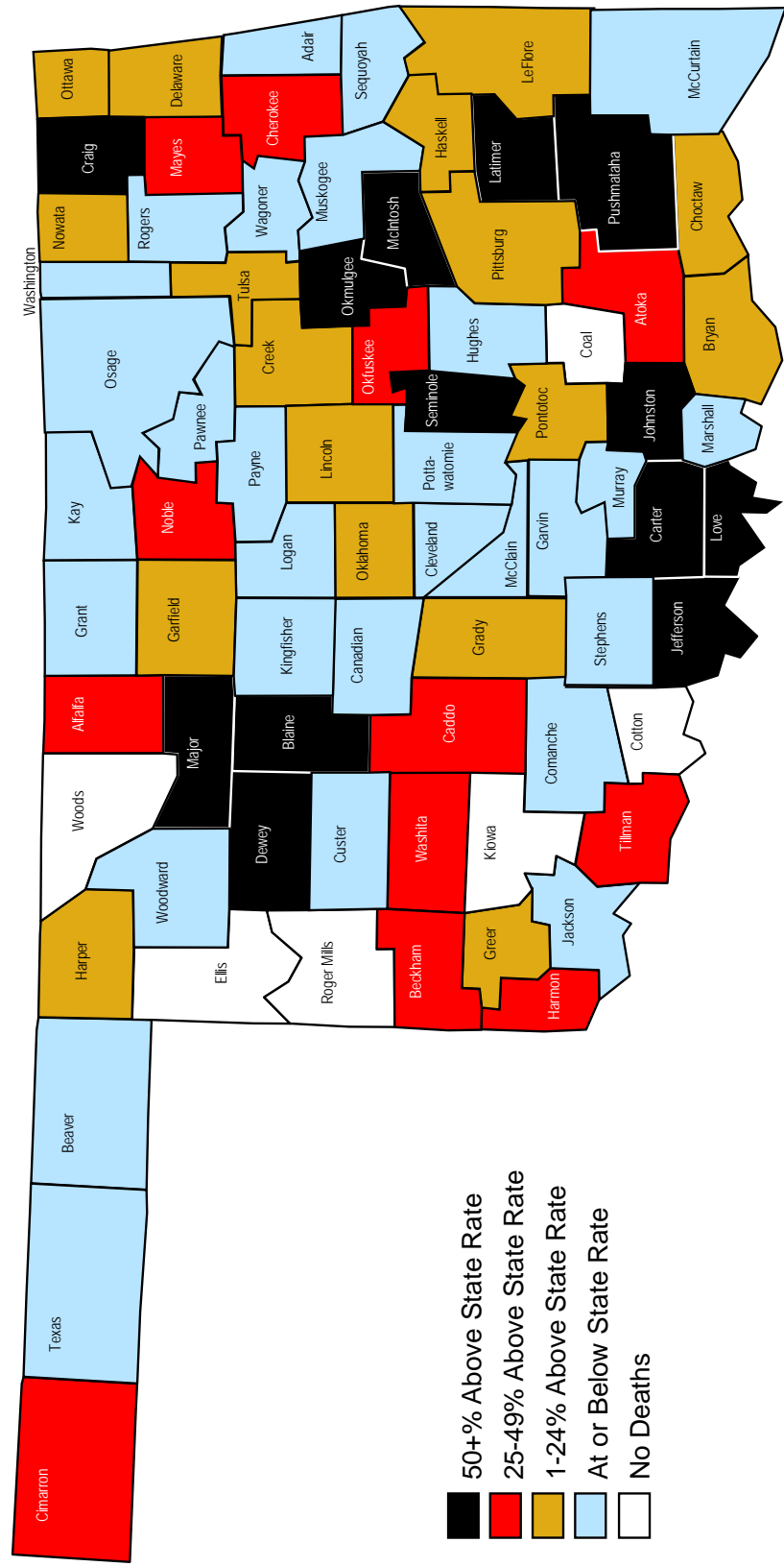
*More than one circumstance may have been associated with the death. Percentages were calculated using the number of persons 15 years and older for whom the manner of death was undetermined: 202 males and 171 females.

Table 19. Selected Undetermined Intent Death Circumstances among Persons 15 Years of Age and Older by Gender, Oklahoma, 2004-2010.

	Total (n=641) Percent	Male (n=360) Percent	Female (n=281) Percent
Physical health problem	33	27	41
Substance abuse	31	31	32
Mental health problem	28	21	38
Depression/Dysthymia	14	11	19
Bipolar disorder	5	2	10
Schizophrenia	4	3	5
Anxiety disorder	2	1	4
Post-traumatic stress disorder	1	1	0
ADD or hyperactivity disorder	<1	0	<1
Other/unknown	5	5	6
Current depressed mood	15	15	15
Alcohol	14	18	9
Disclosed intent to commit suicide	12	11	13
History of previous suicide attempts	11	9	13
Intimate partner problem	10	11	10
Crisis in past two weeks	4	4	4
Other death of friend or family	4	2	6
Other relationship problem	3	3	4
Recent criminal legal problem	3	6	<1
Job problem	2	3	1
Financial problem	2	3	2
Left a suicide note	2	1	3
Victim of interpersonal violence within past month	1	0	1
Non-criminal legal problem	1	1	1

* More than one circumstance may have been associated with the death. Percentages were calculated using the number of undetermined manner of deaths: 641 overall, 360 for male and 281 for female.

Figure 19. Undetermined Death Rates by County of Residence, Oklahoma, 2004-2010



Unintentional Firearm Injury Deaths

- During 2004 to 2010, there were 60 unintentional firearm injury deaths, an average of nine deaths per year (average annual rate = 0.2 per 100,000 population). The rate of unintentional firearm injury death remained constant from 2004 to 2010 (Table 20).
- Nearly all victims were male. Fifty percent (30/60) of unintentional firearm deaths were among males less than 25 years of age. Unintentional firearm deaths were most common among males 15-24 years of age (Table 21).
- Unintentional firearm deaths included injuries that were unintentionally inflicted by another person (30), self-inflicted (23), and injuries where the shooter was not specified (7).
- The majority (70%) of unintentional firearm deaths were among white males; 12% (7) of deaths were among black males. However, the rate among black males (0.7) was 1.8 times the rate among white males (0.4) (Figure 20).
- The circumstances surrounding unintentional firearm deaths were available from police reports and/or medical examiner's reports in 56 (93%) of the cases.
 - In 22 (37%) of the incidents the shooter was “playing around” with a gun.
 - In 15 (25%) incidents, the shooting happened while someone was showing or loading a gun.
 - In 13 (22%) incidents, the victim was shot by another person while hunting or target shooting.
 - In 5 (8%) incidents, the person was cleaning the gun.
- In 19 (32%) deaths, the shooter thought the gun was unloaded.
- The types of firearms that killed victims were semi-automatic pistols (19), rifles (12), revolvers (10), shotguns (10), pistol-bolt action (3), submachine gun (1), and other/unknown (5).
- Thirty-nine (65%) of the firearm injuries occurred on a home premises (house, apartment, yard, porch, etc.), 9 (15%) in a natural area, 6 (10%) in a motor vehicle or on a roadway, and 6 (10%) in other or unknown places.

Table 20. Unintentional Firearm Injury Deaths by Year, Oklahoma, 2004-2010

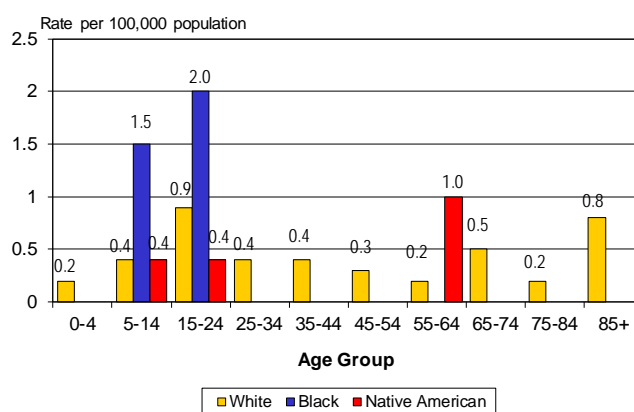
Year	Number	Rate
2004	7	0.2
2005	10	0.3
2006	11	0.3
2007	11	0.3
2008	10	0.3
2009	7	0.2
2010	§	§

§Some data have been suppressed due to small numbers.

Table 21. Age Specific Rates of Unintentional Firearm Death Among Males, Oklahoma, 2004-2010

Age	Number	Percent	Rate
0-14	12	21%	0.4
15-24	18	32%	0.9
25-34	5	9%	0.3
35-44	7	13%	0.4
45-54	5	9%	0.3
55+	9	16%	0.3
All ages	56	100%	0.4

Figure 20. Age and Race Specific Rates of Unintentional Firearm Deaths Among Males, Oklahoma, 2004-2010



Legal Intervention Deaths

- During 2004 to 2010, 80 deaths, an average of 11 deaths per year (0.3 per 100,000 population) resulted from legal intervention (i.e., person killed by law enforcement officers in the line of duty).
- The mean age of victims was 34 years.
- Ninety-three percent of legal intervention victims were male and 7% were female. The rate of legal intervention deaths among males was 12 times higher than the rate for females (0.6 and 0.05, respectively).
- Legal intervention death rates were highest among persons 15-34 years of age (Figure 21). Sixty-three percent of all legal intervention deaths were among persons in this age group.
- Fifty-nine percent of victims were white, 20% were black, 15% were Native American, and 7% were other/unknown races. The rate of legal intervention death was highest among black males (1.4) (Figure 22).
- The rate among Hispanic males (0.8) was 1.3 times higher than the rate among non-Hispanic males (0.6).
- Black males 25-34 years of age had the highest rate of legal intervention death at 5.3 per 100,000 population.
- There were five legal intervention deaths among white females. There were no legal intervention deaths among Native American or Asian females.
- Criminal activity was associated with 56 (70%) legal intervention deaths.
 - The types of crimes included assaults, robbery, motor vehicle theft, burglary, drug trade, rape, and arson. In 61% of these cases the crime was in progress at the time of the shooting.
- In incidents where a crime was not involved, circumstances included drug involvement, arguments or conflict between intimate partners, arguments, a physical fight or brawl, gang involvement, and jealousy.
- Toxicological tests were conducted in almost all cases. Thirty-eight percent (30/78) of persons tested positive for alcohol and/or drugs.
- In all but seven of the deaths, a firearm was used to kill the victim. Victims also died from sharp instruments, blunt instruments, personal weapons, killed by a motor vehicle, and other weapon.

Table 22. Legal Intervention by Year, Oklahoma, 2004-2010

Year	Number	Rate per 100,000 population
2004	16	0.5
2005	13	0.4
2006	7	0.2
2007	14	0.4
2008	12	0.3
2009	6	0.2
2010	12	0.3

Figure 21. Age and Gender Specific Rates of Legal Intervention Deaths, Oklahoma, 2004-2010

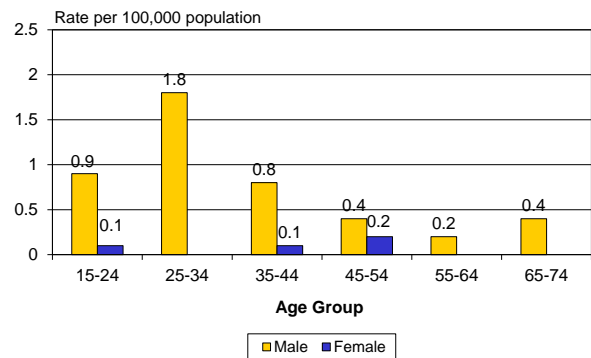
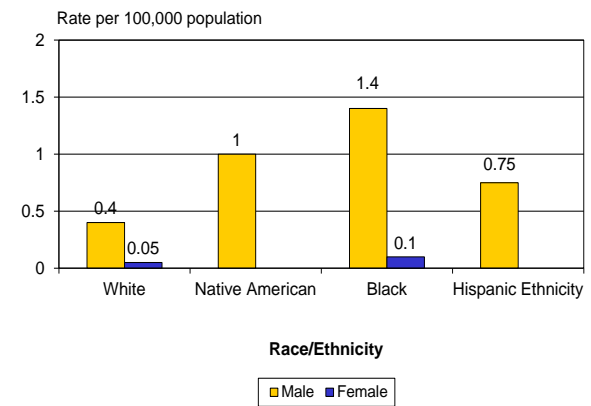


Figure 22. Gender, Race, and Ethnicity Specific Rates of Legal Intervention Deaths, Oklahoma, 2004-2010



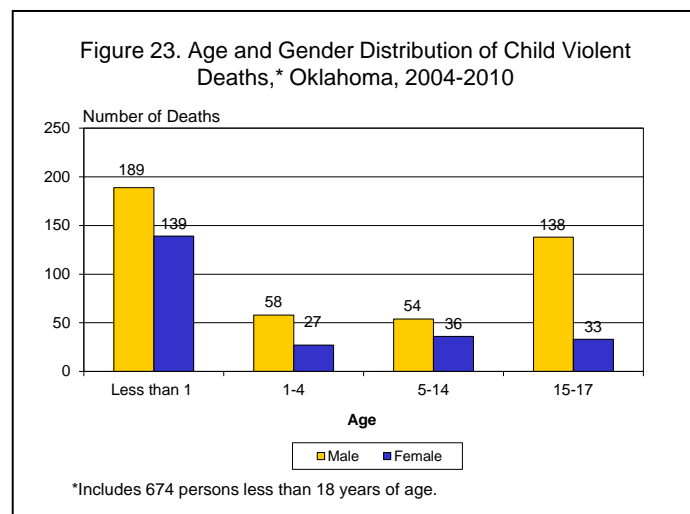
Violent Deaths of Children

- In 2004 to 2010, there were 674 violent deaths of children less than 18 years of age (average annual rate = 10.6 per 100,000 population under 18 years of age), an average of 96 deaths per year. The rate of child violent death decreased by 19% from 2004 to 2010 (Table 23).
- Sixty-five percent of victims were male and 35% were female.
- Forty-nine percent (328/674) of victims were infants less than one year of age and 51% of victims were 1-17 years of age (Figure 23).
- Undetermined manner of death accounted for the majority (51%) of deaths among children, followed by homicide (28%), suicide (17%), unintentional firearm deaths (4%), and legal intervention (<1%).

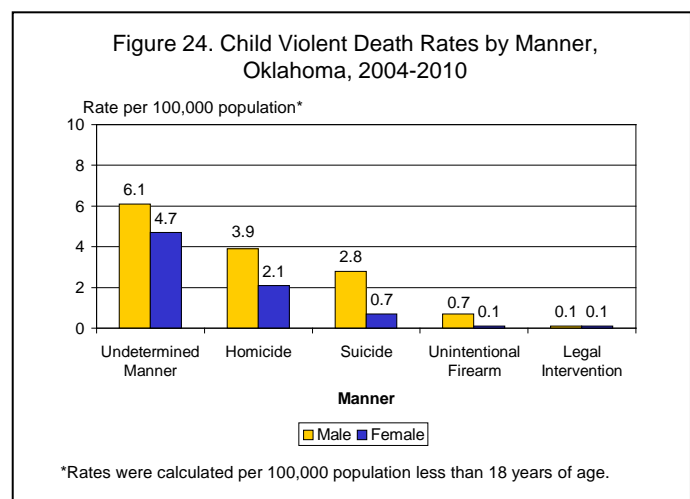
Table 23. Annual Number of Child Violent Deaths, Oklahoma, 2004-2010

Year	Number	Rate
2004	95	10.8
2005	92	10.3
2006	100	11.2
2007	106	11.8
2008	104	11.4
2009	95	10.3
2010	82	8.8

- Among infants less than one year of age, 89% (291/328) of deaths were of undetermined manner and 11% (37/328) were homicides.
- Among children 1-17 years of age, homicides accounted for 45% of deaths, followed by suicides (33%), undetermined manner deaths (14%), unintentional firearm deaths (8%), and legal interventions (1%).



- The rate of violent deaths among males less than 18 years of age (13.5) was 78% higher than the rate among females (7.6).
 - The rate of undetermined manner death among males (6.1) was 30% higher than the rate among females (4.7).
 - The homicide rate among males (3.9) was 1.9 times higher than the rate among females (2.1).
 - The suicide rate among males (2.8) was 4 times higher than the suicide rate among females (0.7) (Figure 24).



- Fifty-six percent of child victims of violent death were white, 20% were black, 17% were Native American, 2% were mixed race, and 6% were other or unknown race. Eight percent of child victims were Hispanic (Figure 25).

- Eighteen children 15-17 years of age tested positive for alcohol; 21 tested positive for drugs.
- Among children 1-17 years of age, firearms were the most common weapon/method used to kill (46% of deaths). Other methods used to kill included hanging/strangulation (17% of deaths), sharp/blunt instruments (7%), poisoning (6%), fire (2%), personal weapons (3%), and other/unknown methods (19%).
- Among children 1-17 years of age, the types of weapons/methods used to kill differed by gender (Figure 26).
- Males were more likely to be killed by firearms than were females (55% and 23%).

