



# Crime in Oklahoma, 2013

## Selected Findings

September 2014

## Murder in Oklahoma

According to Uniform Crime Reporting requirements, murder is defined as “the unlawful killing of a human being in which the element of malice aforethought was present.”

Any death due to a fight, argument, quarrel, assault, or commission of a crime is included. Manslaughters, suicides, accidental deaths, and justifiable homicides are excluded from this category.

**Oklahoma law enforcement reported 207 murders in 2013.**

Murders accounted for 1.2% of all violent crimes. In 2013, 152 murders were cleared by arrest or exceptional means, representing a statewide clearance rate of 73.4%. For reporting purposes, clearance rates are calculated by dividing the number of murders cleared by the total number of murders reported.

**The majority of victims and offenders of murder were white males.**

In 2013, white victims accounted for 60.1% of all murders, while 35.6% were black and 3.4% were American Indian. In 2013, 50.3% of persons arrested for murder were white, 46.7% black, and 2.4% American Indian.

**The majority of murders were committed using a firearm.**

Sixty-seven percent of all murders in Oklahoma were committed with a firearm. The most common firearm type was a handgun (117), followed by a shotgun (9). A knife was used in 12.5% of murders. Other methods used by offenders to commit murder included personal weapons (19), narcotics and drugs (2), and other blunt objects (8).

**The victim-offender relationship was identified in 72% of reported murders.**

In 61.8% of murders, the offender knew the victim. Approximately 18% of murders were committed by a family member.

**The number of murders has remained steady over the last ten years.**

In 2013, Oklahoma law enforcement reported 207 murders. Over the last ten years, law enforcement in Oklahoma has reported, on average, 208 murders per year.

**High murder rates are found in both urban and rural counties.**

Oklahoma and Tulsa counties comprise one-third of Oklahoma’s population. Even though they do not have the highest murder rates, they are the only counties with more than 40 murders in 2013.

**Murder in Oklahoma, 2004-2013**

