



# Crime in Oklahoma, 2018

## Selected Findings

Sept 2019

### 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 in the commission of a crime is included. Manslaughters, suicides, accidental deaths, and justifiable homicides are excluded from this category.

**In 2018, Oklahoma law enforcement reported 210 murders.**

Murders accounted for 1.1% of all violent crimes, and it only accounted for 0.2% of all index crimes reported. In 2018, law enforcement cleared 144 murders by arrest or exceptional means, representing a 68.6% clearance rate.

**The highest number of murders were reported in the month of October.**

Murders were reported the most on Sunday and Saturday. Of the 210 murders, 25.2% were related to felony offenses including but not limited to: Rape, Robbery, and Burglary. The remaining 74.8% of murders were related to non-felony offenses.

**The majority of murder victims were reported as male (69.5%).**

White victims accounted for 54.3% of murder victims, while Black victims accounted for 34.8%, American Indian were 5.7%, Asian were 2.4%, and Hawaiian were 0.5%. Lastly, 12.9% of victims were Hispanic.

**Of all murders reported in 2018, 21.4% occurred within a domestic relationship (i.e. the murder of one family member by another).**

Of those, 33.3% of the murders were a result of an intimate-partner murder (i.e. one spouse killing the other).

**A firearm was used in 66.2% of the reported murders; a handgun (pistol, revolver, etc.) represented 46.7% of the firearms.**

In addition to firearms, chemicals accounted for 1.9% of the murders, whereas blunt objects and knife/cutting instruments comprised 16.7% of weapons used. Lastly, physical weapons represented 9.0%, and other (type not designated or known) accounted for 6.2% of weapons used.

**The number of murders reported in 2018 declined 14.6% compared to the number (246) reported in 2017.** Oklahoma and Tulsa Counties had the highest number of murders reported for 2018. These counties represented 61.9% of the murders reported.

**Murder in Oklahoma, 2009-2018**

