



Crime in Oklahoma, 2014

Selected Findings

June 2015

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 178 murders in 2014.

Murders accounted for 1.1% of all violent crimes. In 2014, 118 murders were cleared by arrest or exceptional means, representing a statewide clearance rate of 67.8%. 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 2014, white victims accounted for 59.5% of all murders, while 31.5% were black, 6.2% were Native American, and 0.6% were Asian. In 2014, 53.1% of persons arrested for murder were white, 37.5% black, 8.6% Native American, and 0.8% were Asian.

The majority of murders were committed using a firearm.

Sixty percent of all murders in Oklahoma were committed with a firearm. The most common firearm type was a handgun (90), followed by rifle (6). A knife or cutting instrument was used in 17.4% of murders. Other methods used by offenders to commit murder included personal weapons (6), strangulation/hanging (2), and other blunt objects (8).

Law enforcement identified the offender in 79% of reported murders.

The offender knew the victim in 69%; of those, 21% of murders were committed by a family member.

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

In 2014, Oklahoma law enforcement reported 178 murders. Over the last ten years, law enforcement in Oklahoma has reported, on average, 207 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 2014.

Murder in Oklahoma, 2005-2014

