



An Analysis of Violent, Gun-Related Crime in Oklahoma Using State Incident-Based Data Selected Findings

Dec 2020

Violent, Gun-Related Crime in Oklahoma

The Oklahoma Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) conducted a study on violent, gun-related crime in Oklahoma for the offenses of murder/non-negligent manslaughter and aggravated assault. For this project, staff used data collected in the State Incident-Based Reporting System (SIBRS). The SAC identified this as an area of interest for Oklahoma due to the recent law changes allowing most citizens to carry a firearm without first obtaining a conceal carry permit. For this project, staff limited data collection to calendar year 2018; however, the SAC plans to replicate this study for 2019 and 2020 data.

SIBRS defines murder/non-negligent manslaughter as “the willful (non-negligent) killing of one human being by another” and aggravated assault as “an unlawful attack by one person upon another wherein the offender uses a weapon or displays it in a threatening manner, or the victim suffers obvious severe or aggravated bodily injury involving apparent broken bones, loss of teeth, possible internal injury, severe lacerations, or loss of consciousness.”

❖ **The SAC analyzed 523 unique SIBRS reports for the offense of murder/non-negligent manslaughter and/or aggravated assault.**

Of the 523 reports, 30 reports were murder/non-negligent manslaughter, 490 were aggravated assault, and 3 included a murder/non-negligent manslaughter and an aggravated assault. Staff found 80.5% of the counties in Oklahoma had at least one report of murder/non-negligent manslaughter and/or aggravated assault. There were 130 SIBRS reporting agencies included in the study.

Researchers found the number of reports per month varied but noted the largest increases from September to October

(55.3%) and from November to December (53.6%). The largest decrease (52.5%) occurred from October to November. Of the 523 reports analyzed, 47.6% occurred on a Friday, Saturday, or Sunday, and 58.3% of incidents occurred between 5:00 pm and 2:00 am.

❖ **Staff found there were 38 unique victims of murder/non-negligent manslaughter and 681 unique victims of aggravated assault.**

For victims of murder/non-negligent manslaughter, 19 (50.0%) were between the ages of 15-19, 20-24, or 35-39. Staff found 63.2% of murder/non-negligent manslaughter victims were reported as White and 60.5% were Non-Hispanic. Lastly, they found 71.1% were reported as male. When evaluating victim-to-offender (V-O) relationships, researchers determined the victims of murder/non-negligent manslaughter knew their offender for 73.7% of relationships and nearly half of the relationships were within the family (42.1%). The most common within family relationship type reported was a victim who was the child of the offender.

For victims of aggravated assault, 55.9% were reported as male, 41.6% were between the ages of 15 to 29, and 69.6% were White. For ethnicity, almost 60.0% were reported as Non-Hispanic. Staff determined 79.3% of aggravated assault victims were reported with no injury, and for those who did have an injury reported, an apparent minor injury was the most common (59.2%).

Staff found only 17.8% of V-O relationships were within the family. Nearly half (47.0%) of all aggravated assault V-O relationships were outside the family but known, and acquaintance was the most commonly reported relationship

in this category (36.0%). Lastly, in nearly a third (30.8%) of V-O relationships, the offender was not known by the victim.

❖ **Researchers found there were 35 unique offenders for the offense of murder/non-negligent manslaughter, and 564 unique offenders for the offense of aggravated assault.**

Out of the 35 offenders for murder/non-negligent manslaughter, 17 were reported as an “arrestee”, and 18 were reported as a “suspect.” Almost two-thirds (65.7%) were reported as male, and 22.9% were between the ages of 35-39. Staff determined 25 offenders were White, and 20 were Non-Hispanic.

For the 17 offenders arrested, 82.4% were arrested “on-view” (apprehension without a warrant or a previous incident report), and 47.1% of the 17 arrestees were arrested on the same day as the reported offense. Lastly, the majority (76.5%) of arrestees were not armed with a weapon at the time of arrest.

Out of the 564 offenders of aggravated assault, researchers found 64.7% of offenders were reported as a suspect, and 35.1% were reported as an arrestee. The majority (78.2%) were male, and 35.8% were between the ages of 20 to 34. Staff found 66.8% were reported as White, and 59.2% were reported as Non-Hispanic.

For the 35.1% of offenders who were arrested, 74.4% were arrested “on-view”, and 67.2% of all arrestees were arrested on the same day as the reported offense. Approximately 51.4% of arrestees of aggravated assault were unarmed at the time of arrest. For those who were armed at the time of arrest, the most common weapon type was a handgun.

❖ **The most common premise type reported for the offenses of murder/non-negligent manslaughter and aggravated assault was residence/home.**

Out of the 526 offenses of murder/non-negligent manslaughter and aggravated assault, 78.8% of murder/non-negligent manslaughter and 65.7% of aggravated assault offenses occurred at a residence/home. In addition to a firearm, staff collected other weapon types used during the offense(s). For murder/non-negligent manslaughter, staff recorded blunt objects and motor vehicles were used, and for aggravated assault, other weapon types included personal weapons, blunt objects, and a knife/cutting instrument.

Lastly, staff found there were seven additional offenses that occurred in conjunction with the murder/non-negligent manslaughter. For 69.0% of aggravated assault offenses, staff found there was no other offense reported.

❖ **Staff analyzed the criminal history records for arrestees (215) of murder/non-negligent manslaughter and/or aggravated assault.**

The SAC used the criminal history record to determine if the arrestee had previously applied for a conceal carry permit in Oklahoma. In addition to this, staff assessed if the arrestee had a prior felony conviction, previous arrests for violent or substance-related offenses, and if charges for the murder/non-negligent manslaughter and/or aggravated assault were filed and adjudicated.

Of the 215 arrestees, 11 individuals were not searched using the computerized criminal history (CCH) repository because the individual was a juvenile or a record could not be located. Staff determined that 56 of the 204 arrestees had a prior felony conviction, and there were 51 individuals who had a previous arrest and/or conviction for a violent crime. Of the 51 individuals, 33 individuals had a previous violent crime conviction(s), and 18 had a prior arrest. Of the 204 individuals researched, 45.1% had a previous substance-related arrest.

Researchers also used CCH and the Oklahoma State Courts Networks (OSCN) to determine if charges for the reported offense in this study were filed and/or adjudicated. They determined that for 94.1% of individuals, charges were filed in court. Of those filed cases, approximately two-thirds (66.7%) were adjudicated (i.e. conviction, plea agreement, acquitted) in court, and 24.5% were dismissed. Only 8.9% were still pending adjudication at the time of the review.

With respect to conceal carry permits, researchers found 13 of the 204 individuals had previously applied for a permit in Oklahoma, and of those 13, none had a prior felony conviction in Oklahoma that would have disqualified the applicant. Staff did find of those 13 individuals, one individual’s criminal history record reflected a previous arrest for aggravated assault prior to applying for the permit. It should be noted the arrest occurred 26 years before the individual applied for a conceal carry permit.

The full project with more detailed analysis is available to be viewed [here](#).