



Office of Criminal Justice Statistics

Fatal Officer-Involved Shootings, 2018

December 2019

Introduction

The Office of Criminal Justice Statistics (OCJS) collects data on all fatal officer-involved shootings associated with state or local law enforcement in Oklahoma. For the purposes of this report, a fatal officer-involved shooting is defined as “the discharge of a service weapon by an officer that results in the death of a civilian.” This report provides descriptive data and a summary of events surrounding fatal officer-involved shootings in Oklahoma for 2018.

Methodology

Research staff collected data from multiple sources for each death including media reports, internet searches, and Supplementary Homicide Reports from the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) assists staff with identifying and collecting information about each death. Once a fatal officer-involved shooting is identified, research staff requests an autopsy report from the Oklahoma Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME). Yearly, research staff publishes a summary report that provides descriptive data, circumstances surrounding the incident, and weapons used by the decedent or law enforcement during the incident. In addition, the research staff includes other behaviors of the decedent and law enforcement during the incident.

Findings

Thirty fatal-officer involved shootings occurred in Oklahoma in 2018. The most fatal officer-involved shootings occurred in Oklahoma County (5) and Tulsa County (4). In addition to collecting information about the location of the incident, researchers collected demographics for each decedent. Twenty-nine out of the 30 decedents were male, and the remaining decedent was a female. The youngest decedent was 16, and the oldest decedent was 72. The average age of decedents was 39. Lastly, 60.0% of decedents were reported as White, 16.7% were Black, 10.0% were American Indian, 10.0% were Hispanic, and 3.3% were listed as “Other.” Table 1 shows the date, demographics (Sex, Race/Ethnicity, and Age), city of incident, county of incident, and the manner of death reported for each decedent.

Circumstances for Contact

Lastly, researchers recorded the circumstances that resulted in law enforcement encountering the decedent. In 56.7% of incidents, law enforcement made contact due to a Citizen Request for Criminal or Suspicious Activity. Other common contacts for incidents included Traffic/Vehicle Stop (13.3%) and Warrant Service (13.3%). The remaining 16.7% occurred during Routine Patrol/On-View, Citizen Request for Welfare, or “Other.”

Manner of Death

The Oklahoma Office of the Chief Medical Examiner is responsible for determining manner of death for all sudden, violent, unexpected, or suspicious deaths. While there may be multiple causes of death listed on an autopsy report, there can be only one manner of death: natural, accident, suicide, homicide, or unknown. In 2018, the manner of death for all fatal officer-involved shootings was homicide (see Table 1) except for one.

Table 1. Fatal Officer-Involved Shootings, 2018

Date	Sex	Race/Ethnicity	Age	City	County	Manner of Death
01/06/2018	M	White	39	McLoud	Pottawatomie	Homicide
01/17/2018	F	Black	72	Bartlesville	Washington	Homicide
01/22/2018	M	White	37	Sallisaw	Sequoyah	Homicide
01/22/2018	M	White	40	Tulsa	Tulsa	Homicide
02/01/2018	M	White	56	Newalla	Oklahoma	Homicide
02/17/2018	M	White	55	Catoosa	Wagoner	Homicide
02/25/2018	M	Black	26	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma	Homicide
03/21/2018	M	White	47	Mannford	Creek	Homicide
03/21/2018	M	American Indian	39	Owasso	Rogers	Homicide
03/28/2018	M	Hispanic	31	Stillwater	Payne	Homicide
03/31/2018	M	White	27	Guthrie	Logan	Homicide
04/04/2018	M	Black	35	Okmulgee	Okmulgee	Homicide
04/09/2018	M	White	34	Kansas	Delaware	Homicide
04/17/2018	M	White	39	Tishomingo	Johnston	Homicide
05/06/2018	M	White	39	Seminole	Seminole	Homicide
05/07/2018	M	White	26	Tulsa	Tulsa	Homicide
05/12/2018	M	White	52	Talihina	LeFlore	Unknown
06/03/2018	M	Hispanic	32	Pocasset	Grady	Homicide
07/03/2018	M	American Indian	41	Lawton	Comanche	Homicide
07/22/2018	M	White	16	Bixby	Tulsa	Homicide
08/13/2018	M	Black	33	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma	Homicide
09/27/2018	M	White	19	Enid	Garfield	Homicide
09/29/2018	M	American Indian	54	Okmulgee	Okmulgee	Homicide
10/08/2018	M	White	24	Okarche	Canadian	Homicide
10/23/2018	M	White	37	Tulsa	Tulsa	Homicide
11/11/2018	M	White	52	Wagoner	Wagoner	Homicide
11/12/2018	M	Other	36	Muskogee	Muskogee	Homicide
11/12/2018	M	Black	47	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma	Homicide
12/09/2018	M	White	39	Perry	Noble	Homicide
12/16/2018	M	Hispanic	35	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma	Homicide

Case Descriptions

This section briefly describes the events surrounding each death.

January 6, 2018

Law enforcement responded to a call for service regarding domestic violence in a home. Approximately one quarter mile from the home, an officer saw a man walking down the road matching the suspect's description. The officer made contact with the 39-year-old man who was carrying a baseball bat. The man began swinging the baseball bat at the officer, and the officer then fired his weapon.

January 17, 2018

Law enforcement went to a home to serve a warrant. While serving the warrant on a different individual, officers heard a popping sound and discovered the 72-year-old woman firing a high-powered pellet gun at officers. The woman struck one officer in the face and the other in the leg. One officer fired back at the woman.

January 22, 2018

Law enforcement performed a traffic stop on a 37-year-old man. During the traffic stop, the man began physically assaulting the officer. A second officer arrived to assist, and the man began fighting with the second officer. During the second assault, the first officer fired his weapon at the man.

January 22, 2018

Law enforcement performed a traffic stop on a 40-year-old man. The man fled from the traffic stop; leading police on a low-speed pursuit. When the pursuit ended, the man exited his vehicle with a shotgun. The man pointed the shotgun at his head, and attempted to enter a house. While attempting to enter the home, the individual shot himself in the shoulder. During the subsequent standoff, the man came around the corner of the home with the shotgun pointed at officers. The officers shot the man.

February 1, 2018

Law enforcement received a "trouble unknown" call for service. When the officer arrived, he approached the door to the residence. A 56-year-old man answered the door and shot at the officer. The officer returned fire.

February 17, 2018

Law enforcement received information that a man who appeared to be intoxicated fired shots into the air in a RV/Mobile home park. When law enforcement arrived, a 55-year-old man barricaded himself inside the trailer resulting in a lengthy standoff. While inside the trailer, the man fired his weapon at officers through the wall of the trailer, and officers returned fire. The man was found deceased inside the trailer.

February 25, 2018

Law enforcement received a report that an individual was walking the halls of a hotel and asking for money. Once law enforcement arrived at the scene, they located a 25-year-old man. The man brandished a knife and approached an officer. The officer gave commands to the man to drop the knife; the man did not comply with the officer's commands and proceeded towards the officer with the knife. The officer shot the man.

March 21, 2018

Law enforcement was called to an area due to a report of a suspicious man. When officers arrived at the scene, the 47-year-old man attempted to flee the area. Officers followed the individual and confronted him. During the confrontation, the man was uncooperative and pulled a large knife from his pants. The man made a move towards one of the officers with the knife; officers then fired their weapons at the man.

March 21, 2018

Law enforcement officers were responding to a disturbance call when they were approached by a 39-year-old man carrying a firearm. Officers gave the man verbal commands to drop the firearm while taking cover behind their patrol cars. The man reportedly continued towards the officers making verbal threats. The man was shot by officers.

March 28, 2018

Dispatch received a call from a 31-year-old man stating he was suicidal and had a firearm and knife in his possession. The man provided them with his location and a description of his clothing. Officers arrived at the man's location. When officers approached the man, he brandished a pistol and a knife. Officers fired their weapons at the man.

March 31, 2018

Law enforcement was responding to an unrelated call when they observed a 27-year-old man standing over a woman with a machete. The officer approached the man giving verbal commands to drop the weapon and move away from the woman. The man did not comply with the commands from the officer; the officer then fired his weapon at the man.

April 4, 2018

Law enforcement officers were called to reports of a disturbance at a motel. Officers made contact with a 35-year-old man who was threatening suicide and had a knife to his throat. Despite multiple commands to drop the knife, the man advanced on officers, and officers discharged their firearms.

April 9, 2018

Law enforcement officers spotted two individuals reportedly driving a stolen motor vehicle. Officers pursued the individuals for a short period before the individuals crashed the motor vehicle. After the crash, both individuals fled the scene. One individual, a 34-year-old man, broke into a home where he held the occupants hostage. At some point officers discharged their firearms at the individual.

April 17, 2018

Law enforcement officers were responding to a residence for a domestic violence call. When officers arrived, a 39-year-old man at the home rammed his motor vehicle into an officer's patrol car. Officers discharged their firearms at the man.

May 6, 2018

Law enforcement received a call regarding a male assaulting a female while driving. Law enforcement located the individual and attempted to perform a traffic stop. Officers initiated a pursuit when the car did not stop. An officer performed a tactical vehicle intervention maneuver disabling the subject's vehicle. Officers gave multiple commands for the 39-year-old man to exit the motor vehicle, however, the man raised a rifle. Officers then discharged their firearms at the man.

May 7, 2018

Officers approached men sitting in a parked vehicle at a local hotel. While one officer questioned one individual outside of the vehicle, the other officer approached the passenger, a 26-year-old man, who remained inside the vehicle. During questioning, the individual inside the motor vehicle pointed a firearm at the officer and discharged his weapon. The officer returned fire at the individual inside the vehicle.

May 11, 2018

Law enforcement officers were attempting to serve a warrant on a 52-year-old male. While attempting to serve the warrant, the man fired at officers, and the officers returned fire. During the gun fire, the building the individual was in caught on fire.

June 3, 2018

Officers responded to a domestic incident at a home. When officers arrived, a 32-year-old man fled the scene and led officers on a chase. During the chase, officers bumped the man's vehicle causing him to crash. After the crash, the man did not comply with any of the officers' commands. At some point officers felt threatened and fired at the man.

July 3, 2018

Officers were responding to a disturbance call, after speaking with the calling party, the other involved party, a 41-year-old male, approached officers with a knife. Officers gave multiple commands for the man to drop the knife, but he was not compliant. The man proceeded towards officers, and the officers attempted to use less than lethal force. The less than lethal force was not successful, and the man ran towards the officers cutting one officer. The officers discharged their weapons at the individual.

July 22, 2018

Police were responded to a report of an assault with a weapon; they later learned a 16-year-old male took a vehicle from the home. This information resulted in a pursuit of the vehicle. The male was driving towards the officers when the officer fired his weapon.

August 13, 2018

Law enforcement received a call of an individual disturbing customers at a convenience store. Upon arrival, the 33-year-old man was threatening to shoot up the store. The man turned and pointed a gun at an officer; the officer then returned fire.

September 27, 2018

Law enforcement responded to an armed robbery. Officers located the suspect's vehicle and the 19-year-old man fled from the officers. The man eventually came to a stop and exited his vehicle with a firearm. Officers gave several commands to drop the firearm, but the man pointed the gun at officers. Officers fired their guns at the suspect.

September 29, 2018

An officer attempted a traffic stop on a motorcycle operated by a 54-year-old man. The man fled from the officer which initiated a pursuit. During the pursuit, the man jumped off the motorcycle and fled on foot. The officer was able to locate the man and gave verbal commands to the man to surrender. The man refused to comply, retrieved an object from his pants, and walked towards the officer. The man made verbal threats to the officer; the officer continued to provide commands; however, the man still did not comply. The officer discharged his firearm at the man.

October 8, 2018

Law enforcement officers were pursuing a truck that was stolen. During the pursuit, the driver, a 24-year-old man, lost control of the vehicle and came to a rest in the center median. While in the center median, officers saw the man with a firearm, and the officers fired their weapons at the man.

October 23, 2018

Law enforcement served a search warrant at a residence. When law enforcement announced their presence, two children were released from inside the residence. After the children were out of the home, a 37-year-old man fired at officers. Officers returned fire at the man.

November 11, 2018

An officer saw a 52-year-old man driving erratically through town. The officer attempted to initiate a traffic stop; however, the man attempted to elude the officer. When the man finally stopped, he exited his vehicle and approached the officer aggressively. The officer then fired his weapon at the man.

November 12, 2018

Officers located a 36-year-old man with several warrants inside of a local restaurant. The officers approached the man and were placing handcuffs on him when the man became uncooperative. He attempted to grab a firearm on his person. During this action, the officers fired their weapons at the man.

November 12, 2018

Law enforcement received a call about an armed robbery incident. Officers were able to locate a 47-year-old man with a tracking device from an item the man had stolen. They chased the man on foot, and were able to confront the man, who was armed with a gun. The officers gave the man numerous verbal commands to drop the gun, but he did not comply. The officers discharged their weapons at the man.

December 9, 2018

The incident began in Kansas where a 39-year-old man brandished a firearm at a clerk at a store. Later the man reportedly shot at a vehicle as he was driving. The man entered Oklahoma, and he was seen waving a firearm at another driver. The man was spotted by Oklahoma authorities at a gas station, and the man fled from police. Law enforcement performed a tactical vehicle intervention and stopped the vehicle. When the man exited his vehicle, he pointed his firearm at officers. Officers then fired at the man.

December 16, 2018

Law enforcement officers were responding to a disturbance call of a 35-year-old man with a knife and lighter at a local gas station. Upon arrival, officers reportedly saw the man armed with a knife and a screwdriver. Officers provided numerous verbal commands, but the man did not comply. Officers reportedly attempted to use less lethal force on the man, but he was still noncompliant and approaching officers. When the man approached officers, an officer discharged his/her firearm at the man.

The Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation is recognized by the Bureau of Justice Statistics as the Statistical Analysis Center (SAC). The SAC collects, analyzes, and disseminates justice information; these functions are located within OSBI's Office of Criminal Justice Statistics. The following individual(s) wrote this report, under the direction of Erin Henry, Director of the Statistical Analysis Center:

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