

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

Ohio Arrest-Related Deaths

Ohio's Heroin Arrestees

2011 Statewide Telephone Survey of Seat Belt Use

Solving Criminal Justice Problems

**SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:**

Be sure and look for next month's issue where we discuss evaluating re-entry initiatives. Here is an excerpt from that article:

*"The number of offenders exiting jail or prison each year across the United States is staggering, with nearly 50% of them returning within 3 years".*



Quarterly bulletin of the Ohio Statistical Analysis Center

# OCJS Research Brief

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## Ohio Arrest-Related Deaths

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The Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) submits arrest-related deaths data for the state of Ohio annually to the Bureau of Justice Statistics to be included in the federal Arrest-Related Deaths (ARD) Program. The ARD Program collects data on any death of an arrested person or an intended arrestee that occurs during the process of arrest, in the custody of law enforcement officers, or as the result of lethal force by officers. Deaths that occur in a jail or other long-term facility and deaths that occur in the custody of federal law enforcement officers are outside the scope of the ARD program and are not collected by OCJS.

OCJS researchers rely on multiple sources to collect ARD data, but media reports are often used for initial identification. Official autopsy reports are then requested from the appropriate county coroner. Once these reports are received following the death, final incident reports are completed.

Summary of Ohio statistics:

- In Ohio between the years 2008 – 2010 there were a total of 88 arrest-related deaths. Homicide by law enforcement personnel accounted for 61 (69%) of reported arrest-related deaths; suicide accounted for approximately 25 percent.

- Among arrest-related deaths, approximately 57 percent of decedents allegedly engaged in violent offenses. 11.5 percent took place in Lucas. At least one arrest-related death occurred in 26 Ohio counties.
- During this time period, Cuyahoga County accounted for 24 percent of all arrest-related deaths. Nineteen percent occurred in Franklin County and approximately 11.5 percent took place in Lucas. At least one arrest-related death occurred in 26 Ohio counties.
- Of the 58 law enforcement agencies involved in reported arrest-related death incidents, 34 employed between 25 – 99 full-time sworn personnel.

### Reported arrest-related deaths, by incident circumstances, 2008-2010

Incident circumstances	Number	Percent
<b>Total</b>	88	100.0%
<b>Violent offenses</b>	50	56.8%
Homicide	9	10.2%
Sexual assault	4	4.5%
Robbery	12	13.6%
Assault	10	11.4%
Other violent	15	17.1%
<b>Property offenses</b>	6	6.8%
Burglary	4	4.5%
Larceny	2	2.3%
<b>Drug offenses</b>	3	3.4%
<b>Public-order offenses</b>	18	20.5%
Obstruction of justice	4	4.5%
Weapons	4	4.5%
Traffic violations, OVI	7	8.0%
Drunkenness, disorderly conduct	1	1.1%
Other public-order	2	2.3%
<b>No criminal charges intended</b>	10	11.4%
Mental health call	8	9.1%
Medical transport	1	1.1%
Unspecified	1	1.1%
<b>Offense not reported</b>	1	1.1%

*Note: Details do not sum to total due to rounding. Sexual assault includes rape and other sexual assault offenses. "Other violent offenses" include incidents of domestic violence, standoffs, and kidnappings.*

## Solving Criminal Justice Problems

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Communities throughout Ohio have suffered from vastly reduced resources that have forced many communities to reassess the services they can provide to their residents. At the same time, many have seen increases in crime that have negative impacts on community residents and community businesses. The present study was intended to provide communities with the knowledge and technical assistance necessary to implement evidence-based interventions directed at problems identified by local communities and to positively influence the ability of the agency to maintain regular service, improve the quality of life of community residents, and the overall level of support for local government. Specifically, research team solicited input from communities (populations less than 100,000) and, if possible, provided technical assistance to agencies to help them solve a range of criminal justice problems -- crime prevention, police reform, crime analysis, and criminal justice evaluations.

The specific tasks carried out during the research project varied by agency and their identified problem. Efforts were focused on problems having a negative impact on quality of life where the research team's skills were likely to be useful and those that did not require a multi-year commitment. Over the course of the study, the research team was able to provide specialized data analysis services to five agencies that allowed them to reassess the magnitude of their perceived problems and explore the

possible causes of the problems they identified. Five jurisdictions identified problems for which the research team analyzed data and returned analytical memos with both analyses and recommendations. More specifically, two jurisdictions requested place-based analyses that focused on problem locations that were believed to be using an inordinate amount of city resources. One site asked the research team to focus on problem apartment complexes. Additionally, the team provided the agency with information about calls for service at shopping centers and extended stay hotels and motels. The other agency requested an analysis of police calls for service to determine whether residents with Housing Choice Vouchers (Section 8 housing vouchers) were utilizing a disproportionate amount of city resources. For this analysis researchers used both police and fire data. For a third agency the research team analyzed traffic collision data to identify the most crash-prone intersections in the jurisdiction and to determine if photo enforcement of traffic signals would be likely to reduce crashes. The fourth agency requested an assessment of perceived increases in both the burglary and robbery occurrences in the jurisdiction. The research team ultimately provided them with trend analyses indicating the problems were not as severe as perceived. For the fifth agency, researchers performed an audit of calls for service data to determine if there was a clustering of nuisance calls at certain multi-unit residences.

In addition, three other agencies benefitted from the resources and knowledge that were provided to them, even though the research team did not become involved in extended data analysis work with these law enforcement agencies. Two of these jurisdictions were provided information concerning community survey construction. The third jurisdiction requested information concerning problems they were encountering with public inebriants near a convenience store and disorderly behavior near two homeless shelters.

## 2011 Statewide Telephone Survey of Seat Belt Use and Alcohol-Impaired Driving

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USDOT/NHTSA Grant # GG-2011-9-00-00-00567

Annually the Office of Criminal Justice Services commissions an evaluation of the traffic safety campaigns focusing on seat belt use and alcohol impaired driving. These campaigns consist of paid and earned media designed to influence individuals' attitudes towards traffic safety (e.g. Click it or Ticket) as well as funds provided to local law enforcement agency for high visibility enforcement overtime. The Applied Research Center – Miami University conducted the 2011 telephone survey to evaluate the impact of traffic safety programs on Ohio residents self-reported knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors related to the issues of seat belt use and impaired driving. The 2011 final report Statewide Telephone Survey of Seat Belt Use and Alcohol-Impaired Driving for the state of Ohio was published highlighting the findings from the most recent survey.

Four rounds of random digit dialed telephone surveys were administered to a total of 3,857 individuals in Ohio. Results from the study showed that a majority of respondents (74%) had “definitely” or “probably” seen or heard media messages that encouraged seat belt use in the 30 days prior to the survey, while 48 percent had seen or heard slogans discouraging alcohol-impaired driving in the past 30 days. Other findings highlight traffic safety issues faced by Ohio, 82% of respondents stated they “always” wear a seat belt, 69% of respondents stated they utilize a cell phone without a hands free device

while driving, 65% of respondents stated they drive at least 5 miles per hour over the speed limit “half of the time” or more frequently, and 15% of respondents stated they had driven within two hours of drinking an alcoholic beverage. Pickup truck drivers were among the groups least likely to wear a seat belt and most likely to drive after drinking.

Click here to view the full report.

<http://www.ohiohighwaysafetyoffice.ohio.gov/Reports/2011statewidetelephonesurvey.pdf>

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## Ohio's Heroin Arrestees

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Data from numerous sources throughout Ohio have indicated a disturbing increase in heroin use. The Ohio Department of Health reports that heroin-involved deaths have increased from 16 percent in 2008 to 22 percent of all drug overdoses in 2010.<sup>1</sup> This is likely an undercount because not all death certificates identify the specific drug contributing to the overdose death. The Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS) reported in their Ohio Substance Abuse Monitoring Network report that heroin availability is on the rise across all regions of Ohio, reaching what some have called “epidemic” levels.<sup>2</sup> Data from Ohio's multijurisdictional drug task forces<sup>3</sup> showed that task forces seized 35,546 grams and 1,139 unit doses of heroin in 2010.<sup>4</sup>

Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System (OIBRS)<sup>5</sup> data were used to analyze two crimes: Possession of Drugs-heroin (ORC 2925.11C6) and Trafficking in Drugs containing heroin (ORC 2925.03C6). The following analyses were based on a total of 1,045 incidents of heroin trafficking and possession arrests involving 1,282 individuals covering the two-year period of January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2011 that were reported to OIBRS by law enforcement.

**Month of Arrest.** Heroin arrests were greatest during the summer months for both 2010 and 2011. The three-month period of July-September saw one-third of all heroin arrests in 2011 and 31 percent of all heroin arrests in 2010. Looking at possession and trafficking separately the same trends are seen, with arrests highest during

the summer/early fall months of July-September in 2011 and August-October in 2010.

**County of Arrest.** Forty-four percent of heroin arrest incidents occurred in large counties, and 37 percent occurred in medium counties (1000,000 - 500,000 population). Of the smaller Ohio counties (under 100,000 population), four percent occurred in the 32 counties designated rural Appalachian and 15 percent occurred in rural non-Appalachian counties.

**Demographics of Arrestees.** The data were collapsed across years to provide a larger sample set for analysis. Arrestee ages for heroin possession and trafficking peaked in the twenties and declined thereafter. The mean arrestee age was 29.2, and median was 27.0. Broken down by sex, the mean age for female arrestees was 27.91 (median = 26), whereas the mean age for male arrestees was 29.6 (median = 27). Broken down by crime type, the mean age for possession was 29.29 (median = 27), whereas the mean age for trafficking was slightly lower at 28.5 (median = 26.0).

Looking at the age by race, 82 percent of heroin arrestees across all age groups were white and 18 percent were black. This percentage changes as a function of age. From youth through age 49, white arrestees made up nearly 84 percent of all arrestees while black arrestees made up 16 percent of arrestees. However, from age 50 and over, 68 percent of arrestees were white and 32 percent were black.

**Race and Age of Arrestees**

	Percent Across All Ages	Through Age 49	Age 50 and Older
Black	18%	16%	32%
White	82%	84%	68%

Nearly three-quarters of arrestees for heroin possession and 80 percent of arrestees for heroin trafficking were males.

Looking at each gender separately, 91 percent of females arrested on heroin charges were arrested for possession, and the remaining nine percent were arrested for trafficking. For males, 86 percent of arrests on heroin charges were for possession and 14 percent were for trafficking.

**Crime Type by Gender of Arrestee**

	Heroin Possession	Heroin Trafficking	Total
Female	91%	9%	100%
Male	86%	14%	100%

<sup>1</sup>Ohio Department of Health, Center for Public Health Statistics and Informatics. 2010 Ohio Drug Overdose Data: General Findings.

<sup>2</sup>Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services, Ohio Substance Abuse Monitoring Network. *Surveillance of Drug Abuse Trends in the State of Ohio, June 2011-January 2012.*

<sup>3</sup>The multijurisdictional drug task force data come from those task forces that are funded through the Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) and are required to report their data to OCJS.

<sup>4</sup>Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services. *Ohio Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force Annual Report 2010.*

<sup>5</sup>OIBRS is a voluntary crime reporting system. At the end of 2011, 558 agencies representing 75% of the Ohio population and 79% of Ohio crime were reported using OIBRS data. Because reporting for Ohio is incomplete, caution must be used in interpreting OIBRS data. Additionally, incidents are often reported that contain missing information. Such is the case for drug crimes, in which the specific drug for which the person is arrested is not identified. Analyses used in this report were limited to those arrests in which heroin was specifically named.