Summary of Violent Deaths in Oklahoma

Oklahoma Violent Death Reporting System, 2004-2008

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Oklahoma Highway Patrol Troop C
Oklahoma Highway Patrol Troop E
Oklahoma Highway Patrol Troop G
Oklahoma Lake Patrol
Thunderbird Lake Patrol
Oklahoma Scenic Rivers Commission - Investigations
Oklahoma State Fire Marshal Office - Arson Division
Ft. Sill, OK - Army Base Military Police
Tinker Air Force Base
Bureau of Indian Affairs - Ponca City, OK
Bureau of Indian Affairs - Stillwater, OK
Choctaw Nation Tribal Police
Comanche Nation Police
El Reno Federal Correctional Facility
Great Plains Correctional Facility
Joseph Harp Correctional Facility
Oklahoma State Penitentiary at McAlester Facility
Oklahoma Panhandle State University Campus Police Department
OSU School of Technology Training at Okmulgee, OK
OSU Campus Police Department
OU Campus Police Department
Sac & Fox Nation Police
Carroll County Sheriff's Office, Arkansas
Springdale, Arkansas Police Department
Siloam Springs, Arkansas Police Department
Coffeyville, Kansas Police Department
Independence, Kansas Police Department
ParSheriff's Office Kansas Police Department
Springfield, Missouri Sheriff's Office Police Department
Springfield, Tennessee Police Department
Ft. Worth, Texas Police Department
Dublin, Texas Police Department
United States Forestry Service
Federal Bureau of Investigation – Durant, OK Office
Federal Bureau of Investigation – Lawton, OK Office
Federal Bureau of Investigation - Oklahoma City, OK Office
Federal Bureau of Investigation - Stillwater, OK Office

Adair County Sheriff's Office
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Atoka County Sheriff's Office
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Cleveland County Sheriff's Office
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Ponca City Police Department
Pond Creek Police Department
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Stonewall Police Department
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Wyandotte Police Department
Wynnewood Police Department
Wynona Police Department
Yale Police Department
Yukon Police Department

Executive Summary

Oklahoma is one of 18 states participating in the National Violent Death Reporting System. Violent deaths include homicides, suicides, deaths from legal intervention, unintentional firearm deaths, deaths of undetermined manner, and deaths from terrorism. The Oklahoma Violent Death Reporting System (OK-VDRS) is a collaborative effort between the Oklahoma State Department of Health, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation and the Oklahoma Child Death Review Board. OK-VDRS data are collected from death certificates, medical examiner reports, police reports, and supplemental homicide reports and include specific information on victims, suspects, circumstances, and weapons. Child fatality review data are also collected for violent deaths of children. Data collected in Oklahoma during 2004 to 2008 are summarized in numerous tables, figures, and bullets highlighting key findings. The report includes a section on all violent deaths combined and individual sections for each manner of violent death. An additional section is included on violent deaths of children.

Violent Deaths

A total of 4,417 violent death incidents (an average of 883 incidents per year or 2.4 incidents per day) occurred in Oklahoma during 2004 to 2008 resulting in 4,558 deaths (25.5 deaths annually per 100,000 population) of Oklahoma residents. The number of violent deaths increased from 882 in 2004 to 970 in 2008. More than half (58%) of the deaths were suicides, 24% were homicides, 16% were undetermined manner deaths, 1% were legal intervention deaths, and 1% were unintentional firearm deaths. There were no terrorism deaths in Oklahoma during this period. Seventy-four percent of the victims were male and 26% were female. The youngest victim was one day old and the oldest was 101 years of age. The majority of the injuries (73%) occurred on home premises. Four percent of violent deaths occurred while the person was in custody or in the process of being arrested. Thirty-five victims were homeless. Seventeen percent of violent death victims had served in the U.S. Armed Forces. Forty-one percent of all violent deaths in Oklahoma were among Oklahoma and Tulsa County residents. The rate of violent death per 100,000 population was generally higher in eastern Oklahoma and lower in the Panhandle and western regions of the state.

Suicides

Suicide was the most prevalent type of violent death, accounting for 2,637 deaths (14.8 suicides annually per 100,000 population), an average of 527 deaths per year. The rate of suicide increased 13% from 2004 to 2008. The youngest person to commit suicide was 12 years of age and the oldest person was 101 years of age. Seventy-eight percent of suicide victims were male and 22% were female. In 64 of the suicide deaths, victims killed at least one other person before taking their own life, resulting in 79 homicides. Males 75 years and older had the highest suicide rate among all ages. Among females, women 35-54 years were at greatest risk for suicide. White males and Native American males had the highest rates of suicide, 24.5 and 22.5, respectively. Firearms were used in 60% of the suicide deaths, hanging/strangulation in 19%, poisoning in 18%, and other methods were used in 3% of suicides. A substantial number of suicides were associated with a current depressed mood, intimate partner problem, mental health problem, or physical health problem. Circumstances associated with

suicide varied by age. Physical health problems were more often associated with suicide among persons 65 years and older. Intimate partner problems were more often associated with suicides of persons less than 65 years of age. Almost one in five suicide victims had a history of suicide attempts, and 31% had stated their intent or expressed suicidal feelings to another person. Twenty-three percent of suicide victims had served in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Homicides

There were 1,016 homicide incidents resulting in 1,084 homicides from 2004 to 2008, an average of 217 deaths per year (6.1 homicides annually per 100,000 population). The annual rate of homicide was similar from 2004 to 2008. The youngest homicide victim was two months old and the oldest was 96 years of age. Seventy-four percent of homicide victims were male and 26% were female. The homicide rate among blacks (21.6) was more than three times higher than the rate among Native Americans (6.6) and more than five times higher than the rate among whites (3.9). The homicide rate among Hispanics was 1.4 times higher than the rate among non-Hispanics (8.0 and 5.8, respectively). Firearms were used in 61% of the homicides, sharp or blunt instruments were used in 25%, hanging/strangulation and personal weapons were used in 4% each, and other weapons in 5% of homicides. Handguns were used in the majority (73%) of firearm-related homicides and semi-automatic pistols were the most common type of handgun. The victim-suspect relationship was known in 65% of the homicides. Victims were often the intimate partners (22%), acquaintances (19%), family members (17%), friends or roommates (9%), or other known person (13%) of the suspect. Females were more often killed by an intimate partner or family member than were males. Males were more often killed by an acquaintance or rival gang member than were females. Some information was available on homicide suspects in 86% of the incidents; 80% were male, 13% were female, and for 8% of suspects gender was not specified. Forty-four percent of suspects were less than 25 years of age, 40% were 25-44 years of age, and 16% were 45 years of age and older. An argument or interpersonal conflict was a precipitating factor in 40% of homicides, crime was a factor in 25%, and intimate partner violence was a factor in 19% of homicides. Drugs were involved in 17% of the homicides and 10% were gang-related.

Undetermined Manner of Death

For 724 deaths, the manner of death could not be determined. An average of 145 deaths of undetermined manner occurred per year (4.0 deaths annually per 100,000 population). The annual rate of undetermined manner of death decreased by 8% from 2004 to 2008. Forty-three percent of undetermined manner death victims were female and 57% were male. The youngest person was one day old and the oldest person was 94 years of age. Native Americans had the highest rate of undetermined manner of death (7.2 deaths per 100,000 population). Almost one-third of all undetermined manner deaths were among infants less than one year of age. In 77% of undetermined manner deaths among infants, co-sleeping with adults or other children, overlay or possible overlay was described in the record. In 41% of undetermined manner deaths among persons 15 years of age and older, actual or possible drug toxicity, including drug combination toxicity or drug and alcohol combination toxicity, was described.

Unintentional Firearm Injury Deaths

There were 51 unintentional firearm injury deaths, an average of 10 deaths per year (0.3 deaths annually per 100,000 population). The rate of unintentional firearm injury deaths remained relatively stable from 2004 to 2008. Eighty-eight percent of victims were male and 12% were female. The youngest was one year of age and the oldest was 87 years of age. Fifty-three percent of unintentional firearm deaths were among males less than 25 years of age. Circumstances surrounding the deaths included playing with a gun (22), showing a gun (11), hunting (6), loading a gun (6), and target shooting (3). In 18 of the deaths, the shooter thought the gun was unloaded, and in eight incidents the gun discharged when it was dropped.

Legal Intervention Deaths

Sixty-two deaths resulted from legal interventions (i.e., the person was killed by a law enforcement officer acting in the line of duty), an average of 12 deaths per year. The rate of legal intervention deaths decreased by 40% from 2004 to 2008. The youngest person was 15 years of age and the oldest person was 71 years of age. Sixty percent of legal intervention deaths were among persons 15-34 years of age. Fifty-seven victims were male and five were female. The rate among Hispanic males (1.2) was two times higher than the rate among non-Hispanic males (0.6). Criminal activity was associated with 77% of the legal interventions. In three incidents, the victim killed another person before being killed by law enforcement officers.

Child Deaths

There were 497 violent deaths of children (11.1 per 100,000 population under 18 years of age), an average of 99 deaths per year. The rate of child deaths increased by 7% from 2004 to 2008. Sixty-four percent of child victims were male and 36% were female. Fifty-one percent of the child victims were infants less than one year of age. Among infants less than one year of age, 91% of deaths were undetermined manner deaths and 9% were homicides. Among children 1-17 years of age, 43% of deaths were homicides, 29% were suicides, 15% were undetermined manner deaths, 10% were unintentional firearm deaths, and 2% were legal intervention deaths. Firearms were used in 52% of these deaths, and males were more likely than females to be killed by firearms (59% and 33%, respectively). According to 2005-2007 child fatality review data, 47% of the child victims lived in households where a prior Child Protective Services report had been filed and 83% lived in households where the primary caregiver had received welfare assistance in the past 12 months.

Background

The National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) is a federally funded program in 18 states. Currently, Oklahoma and 17 other states (Alaska, Colorado, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, and Wisconsin) participate in the NVDRS. Violent deaths include homicides, suicides, deaths from legal intervention, unintentional firearm deaths, deaths of undetermined manner, and deaths from acts of terrorism. Data are collected from death certificates, medical examiner reports, police reports, supplemental homicide reports, and crime labs, and entered into a standardized database. The data, with personal identifiers removed, are electronically downloaded to a national database maintained by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Data are available on a queryable website at WISQARS NVDRS (http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/).

The Oklahoma State Department of Health, the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, and the Oklahoma Child Death Review Board provide data for the Oklahoma Violent Death Reporting System (OK-VDRS). The OK-VDRS is housed at the Injury Prevention Service, Oklahoma State Department of Health, with partial offsite data collection at the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation. OK-VDRS staff collect specific information on violent death events and link all available information on victims, suspects, circumstances, weapons, and methods of death.

The results presented in this report include violent deaths that occurred within Oklahoma's borders to Oklahoma residents from January 1, 2004, to December 31, 2008. Rates were calculated per 100,000 population using 2004-2008 U.S. Census bridged-race population estimates for Oklahoma. A category of mixed race was assigned when more than one race was indicated on the death certificate. However, persons of mixed race with Native American as one of the races were classified as Native American. The abstractor-assigned manner of death was used to analyze the data (i.e., the manner determined by the abstractor based on review of the death certificate and medical examiner report). The statistics in this report were generated from five years of data. The reader should be aware that some of the rates may be based on small numbers, and thus unstable. All rates are average annual rates unless specified otherwise. This report includes a section on all violent deaths combined and individual sections on suicide, homicide, undetermined manner of death, unintentional firearm deaths, and legal intervention deaths. An additional section is included on child deaths.

Definitions

Suicide – A death resulting from the intentional use of force against oneself with a preponderance of evidence to indicate the force was intentional.

Homicide – A death resulting from the intentional use of force or power, threatened, or actual, against another person, group, or community with a preponderance of evidence to indicate that the use of force was intentional. It includes deaths where the suspect only intended to injure rather than kill, intentional discharge of a weapon, justifiable homicides where the person who commits the homicide is not a police officer, child abuse, and deaths that resulted from neglect by one person against another. Homicides do not include deaths from vehicular homicide unless there is evidence to prove that the force was intentional. Hunting accidents or deaths that take place in combat under declared wars are not included as homicides.

Undetermined manner of death – A death resulting from the use of force or power (including drugs/poisons) against oneself or another person for which the evidence indicating one manner of death is no more compelling than the evidence indicating another manner of death.

Unintentional firearm death – A death resulting from a penetrating injury or gunshot wound from a weapon that uses a powder charge to fire a projectile when there is a preponderance of evidence that the shooting was not intentionally directed at the victim.

Legal intervention death – A death where the victim is killed by a police officer or other peace officer acting in the line of duty. Executions are excluded.

Terrorism-related death – A homicide or suicide death that results from an event labeled by the Federal Bureau of Investigation as an act of terrorism.

ICD-10 – The *International Statistical Classification of Disease and Related Health Problems, 10th Revision* (ICD-10) is the classification system used by the National Center for Health Statistics to code the underlying cause of death on the death certificate. Deaths that are assigned an ICD-10 External Cause of Death Code from the table below are included in the OK-VDRS case definition.

Victims – People who died by suicide, homicide, undetermined manner of death, unintentional firearm death, legal intervention, or terrorism-related death.

Suspects – People who are suspected of having killed another person in an incident, whether intentionally or unintentionally. Persons who die in an incident who have also killed someone else are considered both a victim and a suspect.

ICD-10 External Cause of Death Codes for Manners of Death Meeting the NVDRS Case Definition

	Death ≤ 1 year after the injury	Death >1 year after the injury
Intentional self harm (suicide)	X60-X84	Y87.0
Assault (homicide)	X85-X99, Y00-Y09	Y87.1
Undetermined intent	Y10-Y34	Y87.2, Y89.9
Unintentional exposure to firearms	W32-W34	Y86 due to firearm “accidents”
Legal intervention, excluding executions	Y35.0-Y35.4, Y35.6-Y35.7	Y89.0
Terrorism	U01, U03	U02

Violent Deaths

- During 2004 to 2008, there were a total of 4,417 violent death incidents (average of 883 incidents per year or 2.4 incidents per day) that resulted in 4,558 deaths (average annual rate=25.5 per 100,000 population) of Oklahoma residents (Table 1). Another 190 violent deaths that occurred in Oklahoma to non-residents or where the state of residence was unknown were excluded from the analysis: Arizona (7), Arkansas (18), California (9), Colorado (3), Florida (3), Georgia (4), Hawaii (1), Idaho (1), Illinois (3), Indiana (1), Iowa (1), Kansas (17), Kentucky (3), Louisiana (1), Massachusetts (1), Michigan (1), Minnesota (1), Mississippi (5), Missouri (16), Montana (1), Nevada (4), New Mexico (2), New York (1), Pennsylvania (1), South Carolina (2), Tennessee (4), Texas (57), Utah (2), Virginia (3), Washington (1), Wisconsin (1), other countries (2) and unknown residence (13).
- The number of violent deaths increased by 10% from 882 deaths in 2004 to 970 in 2008.
- The overall rate of violent deaths in Oklahoma was 31% higher than the U.S. rate (25.5 and 19.4, respectively) (Figure 1).
- Seventy-four percent (3,375) of violent death victims in Oklahoma were male and 26% (1,183) were female.
- Victims' ages ranged from one day old to 101 years. The mean age of victims was 40 years. Violent death rates were highest among persons 35-44 years of age (36.0) and lowest among persons 5-14 years of age (2.6).

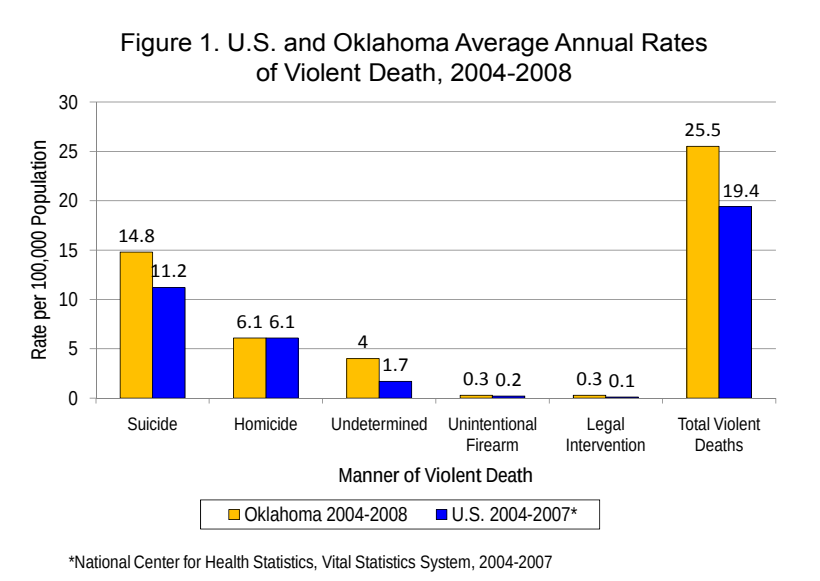


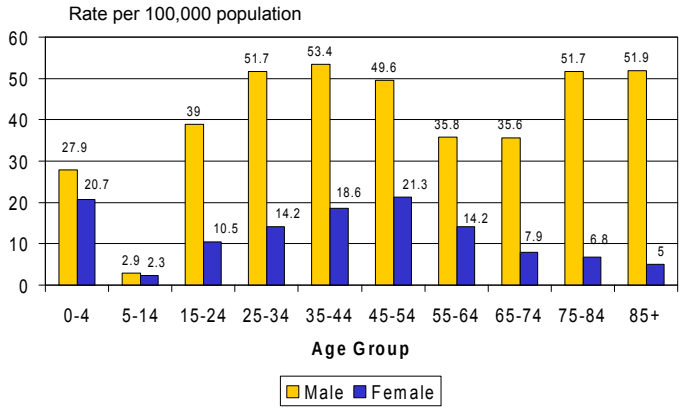
Table 1. Number of Victims and Number of Incidents by Manner of Death and Type of Incident, Oklahoma, 2004-2008

Incident Type	Suicide	Homicide	Legal Intervention	Uninten-tional	Unknown Manner	Number of Victims	Number of Incidents
Suicide only	2,573	0	0	0	0	2,573	2,570
Homicide							
Single homicide	0	906	0	0	0	906	906
Multiple homicide	0	96	0	0	0	96	43
Legal intervention only	0	0	59	0	0	59	59
Homicide and legal intervention	0	3	3	0	0	6	3
Homicide and suicide	64	79	0	0	0	143	64
Unintentional firearm	0	0	0	51	0	51	51
Undetermined	0	0	0	0	724	724	721
Total	2,637	1,084	62	51	724	4,558	4,417

- Males had the highest rate of violent deaths at 38.3 per 100,000 population, which was almost three times higher than the rate for females (13.1). Among males, persons aged 25-44 years and persons aged 75 years and older had the highest rates of violent death (52.5 and 51.7, respectively). Among females, the highest rates of violent death were among females 45-54 years (21.3) and children less than 5 years of age (20.7) (Figure 2).

- The majority (74%) of victims were white, 11% were black, 10% were Native American, 4% were mixed race or other race and less than 1% were Asian. However, the rate of violent death per 100,000 population among blacks (33.8) was 21% higher than the rate among Native Americans (28.0), 44% higher than the rate among whites (23.4), and 8.5 times higher than the rate among Asians (4.0) (Table 2). Blacks 15-44 years and Native Americans 25-54 years of age had the highest rates of violent death (51.8 and 43.2, respectively).

Figure 2. Age and Gender Specific Rates of Violent Death,* Oklahoma, 2004-2008



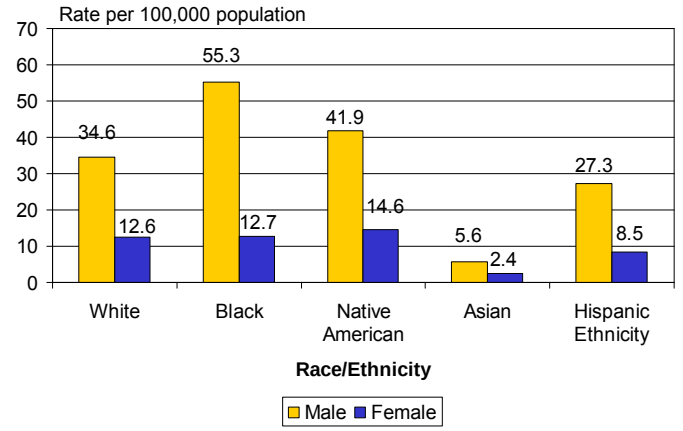
*Includes 4557 victims of violent death for whom age was known.

- The violent death rate among Hispanics (18.6) was lower than non-Hispanics (25.7).

- Males in all racial and ethnic categories had higher rates of violent death than females (Figure 3).

- The rate among black males (55.3) was 60% higher than white males (34.6), 32% higher than Native American males (41.9), and 9.9 times higher than Asian males (5.6) (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Gender, Race, and Ethnicity Specific Rates of Violent Death, Oklahoma, 2004-2008



- Native American females less than 5 years of age had the highest rate of violent death among females (35.8), followed by black females less than 5 years of age (31.8) (Table 2).

- The rate among Hispanic males (27.3) was 3.2 times higher than the rate among Hispanic females (8.5). Among Hispanic males, the rate of violent death was highest for persons ages 15-34 years (45.8), while the highest rate among Hispanic females was among children less than 5 years of age (14.1) (Table 2).

Table 2. Violent Deaths by Age, Gender, Race,* and Ethnicity,** Oklahoma, 2004-2008

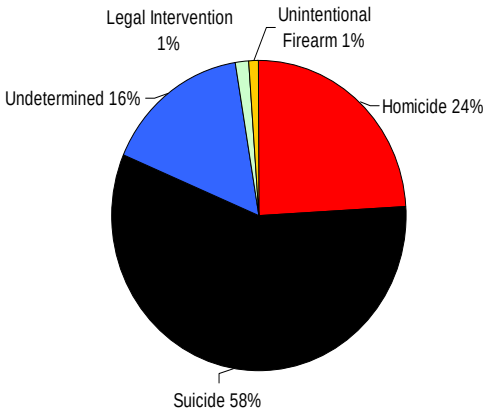
	White		Black		Native American		Asian		Hispanic	
Age	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Both Genders										
0-4	174	18.1	54	38.1	56	36.4	0	0.0	29	15.5
5-14	40	2.2	10	3.7	8	2.8	0	0.0	5	1.9
15-24	388	18.9	152	53.6	82	26.9	3	4.9	74	31.1
25-34	487	26.4	135	62.5	105	47.5	4	6.5	68	29.4
35-44	647	34.1	72	37.2	94	46.7	1	1.9	34	20.1
45-54	747	35.9	49	27.1	67	34.7	3	7.6	19	17.7
55-64	419	25.4	22	20.3	23	17.1	1	3.8	5	9.3
65-74	226	20.7	10	16.6	15	20.1	1	8.1	3	11.8
75-84	196	26.5	2	5.8	6	14.8	0	0.0	2	15.6
85+	57	19.8	2	16.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	3381	23.4	508	33.8	456	28.0	13	4.0	239	18.6
Males										
0-4	106	21.5	32	44.0	29	37.0	0	0.0	16	16.9
5-14	23	2.5	7	5.0	3	2.0	0	0.0	3	2.3
15-24	294	27.5	131	87.7	68	43.8	3	9.1	64	49.5
25-34	375	39.7	119	108.6	79	71.4	3	9.5	56	42.2
35-44	471	49.5	57	60.0	73	73.7	0	0.0	26	27.9
45-54	510	49.6	39	45.1	49	53.1	1	5.8	15	25.7
55-64	293	36.8	17	33.8	15	23.7	1	9.2	4	14.6
65-74	179	35.4	7	27.0	13	38.5	1	20.0	3	24.7
75-84	164	53.8	2	15.3	6	36.5	0	0.0	1	17.7
85+	48	55.4	1	29.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total Males	2463	34.6	412	55.3	335	41.9	9	5.6	188	27.3
Females										
0-4	68	14.5	22	31.8	27	35.8	0	0.0	13	14.1
5-14	17	1.9	3	2.3	5	3.5	0	0.0	2	1.6
15-24	94	9.5	21	15.6	14	9.3	0	0.0	10	9.2
25-34	112	12.4	16	15.0	26	23.6	0	0.0	12	12.1
35-44	176	18.6	15	15.3	21	20.6	1	3.8	8	10.6
45-54	237	22.5	10	10.6	18	17.8	1	4.5	4	8.1
55-64	126	14.8	5	8.6	8	11.3	2	13.1	1	3.8
65-74	47	8.0	3	8.7	2	4.9	0	0.0	0	0.0
75-84	32	7.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	13.9
85+	9	4.5	1	11.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total Females	918	12.6	96	12.7	121	14.6	4	2.4	51	8.5

* Race was “mixed” for 21 persons, “other” for 158 persons, and unknown for 21 persons. Age was unknown for one person.

** Hispanic ethnicity is counted separately from race and is not a racial category. Hispanic ethnicity was not specified for 56 persons.

- Suicides accounted for the majority of deaths (58%), followed by homicides (24%), undetermined manner deaths (16%), legal interventions (1%), and unintentional firearm deaths (1%) (Figure 4).
- Males were 3.7 times more likely to die from suicide, 2.9 times more likely to die from homicide, 6 times more likely to die from legal intervention, 1.4 times more likely to die from undetermined manner and 5 times more likely to die from unintentional firearm injury death than females (Table 3).

Figure 4. Manner of Violent Death, Oklahoma, 2004-2008



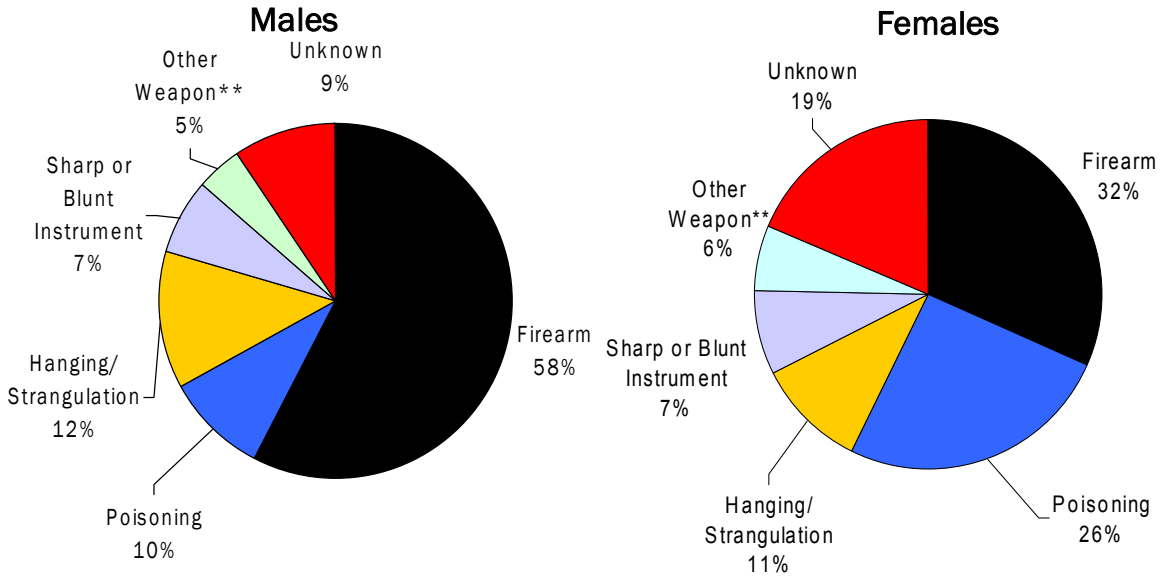
- The majority (73%) of persons were injured on home premises (includes house, apartment, driveway, porch, or yard), 6% were injured in motor vehicles, 4% on a street or highway, 4% in natural areas or parks, 2% in parking lots, 2% in jails or prisons, 1% in hotels/motels, 1% in commercial businesses, and 4% in other locations. In 3% of deaths the location of the injury was unknown.
- One hundred seventy-four deaths (4%) occurred while the person was in custody. Of these, 84 (48%) persons died in jails or prisons, 17 persons (9%) died while under arrest but not in jail, 67 (38%) persons died prior to being arrested, and 6 (3%) of persons died in other/not specified types of custody.
  - Forty-eight percent of deaths in custody were suicides, 22% were homicides, 26% were from legal intervention, and 3% were of undetermined manner of death.
  - Ninety-five percent of persons who died while in custody were male and 5% were female.
- Thirty-five (1%) victims of violent death were homeless including 12 suicide victims, 12 homicide victims, 1 victim of legal intervention, and 10 persons for whom the manner of death was undetermined. Twenty-eight of the homeless victims were male, and 7 victims were female. (Homeless was defined as having no fixed address and living in a shelter, on the street, in a car, or in makeshift quarters in an outdoor setting.)

Table 3. Manner of Violent Death by Gender, Oklahoma, 2004-2008

Manner of Death	Male			Female			Both Genders		
	Number	%	Rate	Number	%	Rate	Number	%	Rate
Suicide	2061	61%	23.4	576	49%	6.4	2637	58%	14.8
Homicide	800	24%	9.1	284	24%	3.1	1084	24%	6.1
Undetermined	412	12%	4.7	312	26%	3.4	724	16%	4.0
Legal Intervention	57	2%	0.6	5	<1%	0.1	62	1%	0.3
Unintentional firearm injury	45	1%	0.5	6	<1%	0.1	51	1%	0.3
Total	3375	100%	38.3	1183	100%	13.1	4558	100%	25.5

- In more than half (51%) of the deaths, a firearm was used to kill the victim. Other methods included poisoning (14%), hanging or strangulation (12%), sharp or blunt instruments (7%), and other or unspecified methods (16%).
- Firearms were involved in the majority of both male and female violent deaths; however, firearms were used in proportionally more male violent deaths than female violent deaths, 58% and 32%, respectively (Figure 5).
- Poisoning was used in a greater proportion of female violent deaths than male violent deaths, 26% and 10%, respectively.
- Eighty-four percent of all firearm death victims were male.

Figure 5. Weapons/Methods* Involved in Violent Death Incidents by Gender, Oklahoma, 2004-2008



* More than one type of weapon/method may have been involved in the death.
**Other weapon includes motor vehicle or other transportation (54), fire/burn (54), drowning (30), personal weapons (45), fall (20), shaking (7), intentional neglect (2), explosive (1), nonpowder gun (1), and other (6).

- Thirty-seven percent of victims were single, less than one-third of victims were married, and one-fourth of victims were divorced or separated. Six percent of victims were widowed (Table 4).
- Seventeen percent of violent death victims had served in the U.S. Armed Forces.
- Twenty-four percent of victims 25 years of age and older had not completed high school or high school equivalent (GED). Forty percent had completed high school and 34% of victims had some college or a college degree (Table 5).
- Proportionally, more violent death victims 25 years of age and older had lower levels of educational attainment compared to Oklahoma's population (i.e., 34% of violent death victims had some college or a college degree compared to 52% of Oklahoma's population).

Table 4. Selected Socio-demographic Characteristics of Violent Death Victims, Oklahoma, 2004-2008

Marital Status	Number (n=3,588)	Percent
Single	1,683	37%
Married	1,395	31%
Divorced/Separated	1,130	25%
Widowed	257	6%
Unknown	93	2%
Veteran Status		
Served in U.S. Armed Forces	790	17%

Table 5. Educational Attainment of Victims of Violent Death and Oklahoma's Population, 2004-2008

Educational Level	Violent Death Victims		Oklahoma's Population**
	Number* (n=3,499)	Percent	Percent
8th Grade or Less	206	6%	5%
9-12th Grade	616	18%	10%
High School or GED	1,410	40%	33%
Some College	614	18%	23%
Associate Degree	189	5%	7%
Bachelor Degree	251	7%	15%
Graduate Degree	133	4%	7%
Unknown	80	2%	

*Includes violent death victims 25 years of age and older.
**U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2008 American Community Survey. Includes educational attainment of Oklahoma's population 25 years of age and older.

Geographic Distribution of Violent Deaths

Uniform Crime Reporting Regions

- The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) system is a law enforcement data system maintained by the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation. Data are collected from 324 police and sheriff departments statewide. The state is divided into eight designated reporting regions for the purpose of collecting UCR data (Figure 6).
- Violent death rates were highest in eastern Oklahoma with UCR Region 5 having the highest rate of violent death (31.1 per 100,000 population), followed by Region 3 (29.5) and Region 4 (28.0) (Table 6).
- UCR Region 2, located in western Oklahoma, which is a sparsely populated area of the state, had the lowest overall rate of violent death (17.9).
- UCR Region 5 had the highest suicide rate (19.0), UCR Region 3 had the highest homicide rate (7.4), UCR Regions 3 and 4 had the highest rates of undetermined manner of death (5.3 and 5.0, respectively), UCR Region 5 had the highest unintentional firearm death rate (0.9), and UCR Region 7 and 8 had the highest rate of death by legal intervention (0.5 respectively).

Figure 6. Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation
Uniform Crime Reporting Regions

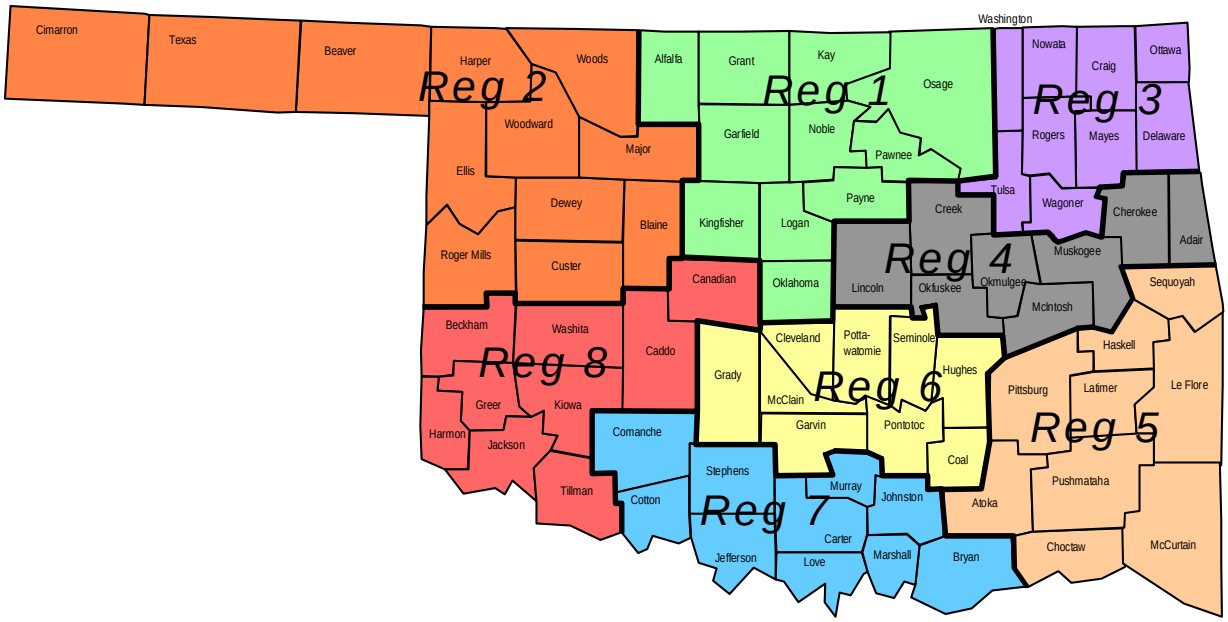


Table 6. Type of Violent Death by UCR Reporting Region, Oklahoma, 2004-2008

Type of Death	Region 1 2008 Population = 1,024,002			Region 2 2008 Population = 117,628		
	Number	%	Rate*	Number	%	Rate*
Suicide	682	55%	13.5	71	68%	12.2
Homicide	356	29%	7.1	19	18%	3.3
Undetermined Manner	174	14%	3.5	13	13%	2.2
Unintentional Firearm Death	12	1%	0.2	0	0%	0.0
Legal Intervention	17	1%	0.3	1	2%	0.2
All Violent Deaths	1241	100%	24.6	104	100%	17.9

Type of Death	Region 3 2008 Population = 934,483			Region 4 2008 Population = 309,694		
	Number	%	Rate*	Number	%	Rate*
Suicide	741	55%	16.3	259	60%	16.8
Homicide	337	25%	7.4	87	20%	5.7
Undetermined Manner	242	18%	5.3	77	18%	5.0
Unintentional Firearm Death	9	1%	0.2	3	<1%	0.2
Legal Intervention	15	1%	0.3	5	1%	0.3
All Violent Deaths	1,344	100%	29.5	431	100%	28.0

Type of Death	Region 5 2008 Population = 233,132			Region 6 2008 Population = 501,106		
	Number	%	Rate*	Number	%	Rate*
Suicide	220	61%	19.0	301	65%	12.4
Homicide	73	20%	6.3	84	18%	3.5
Undetermined Manner	53	15%	4.6	62	13%	2.5
Unintentional Firearm Death	10	3%	0.9	5	1%	0.2
Legal Intervention	3	1%	0.3	9	3%	0.4
All Violent Deaths	359	100%	31.1	461	100%	18.9

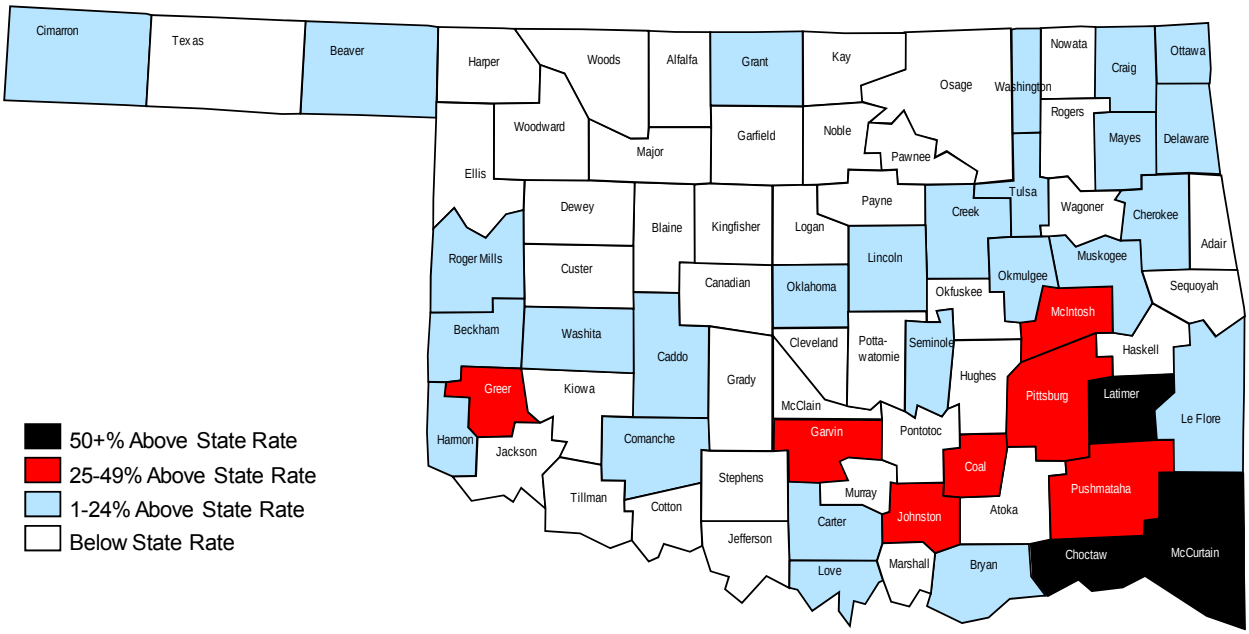
Type of Death	Region 7 2008 Population = 303,547			Region 8 2008 Population = 220,433		
	Number	%	Rate*	Number	%	Rate*
Suicide	221	58%	14.7	142	60%	13.3
Homicide	83	22%	5.5	44	19%	4.1
Undetermined Manner	64	17%	4.3	39	17%	3.6
Unintentional Firearm Death	7	2%	0.5	5	2%	0.5
Legal Intervention	7	2%	0.5	5	2%	0.5
All Violent Deaths	382	100%	25.4	235	100%	22.0

County of residence was unknown for one person.
*Average annual rate of violent death is based on residence of victim.

County Rates

- Forty-one counties had a rate of violent death below the state rate (25.5 per 100,000 population). Thirty-three counties had rates of violent death 1% to 49% higher than the state rate, and three counties had rates that were more than 50% higher than the state rate (Figure 7).
- Oklahoma and Tulsa Counties ranked 30th and 11th, respectively, among counties in the rate of violent deaths during 2004 to 2008. However, 41% of all violent deaths occurred among residents of these two counties alone. More than half (54%) of homicides, over one-third (36%) of suicides, 40% of undetermined manner deaths, 25% of unintentional firearm deaths, and 40% of legal intervention deaths were among Oklahoma or Tulsa County residents (Appendix 1).
- Choctaw County had the highest homicide rate at 16.0 per 100,000 population, while Rogers Mills County had the highest suicide rate (30.6) and Latimer County had the highest rate of deaths with undetermined manner (9.5). The number and rate of all manners of violent death by county are found in Appendix 1.

Figure 7. Violent Death Rates by County of Residence, Oklahoma, 2004-2008



Suicides

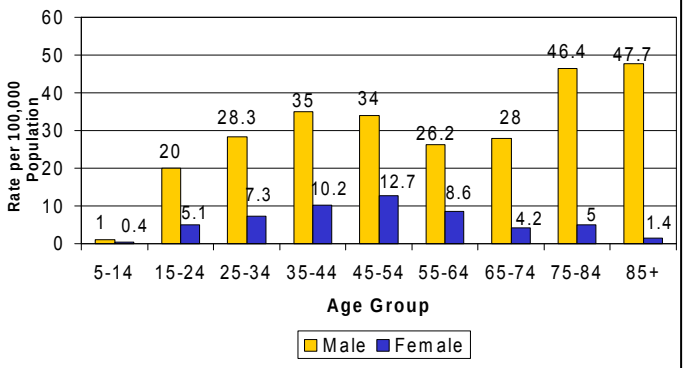
- Suicide was the most common manner of violent death accounting for 2,637 deaths during 2004 to 2008, or an average of 527 deaths per year (14.8 per 100,000 population).
- The annual state suicide rate increased by 13% from 2004 to 2008 (Table 7).
- The mean age of suicide victims was 45 years. The youngest person who committed suicide was 12 years of age and the oldest person was 101 years of age.

Table 7. Suicide by Year, Oklahoma, 2004 -2008

Year	Number	Rate
2004	496	14.1
2005	517	14.6
2006	528	14.8
2007	516	14.3
2008	580	15.9

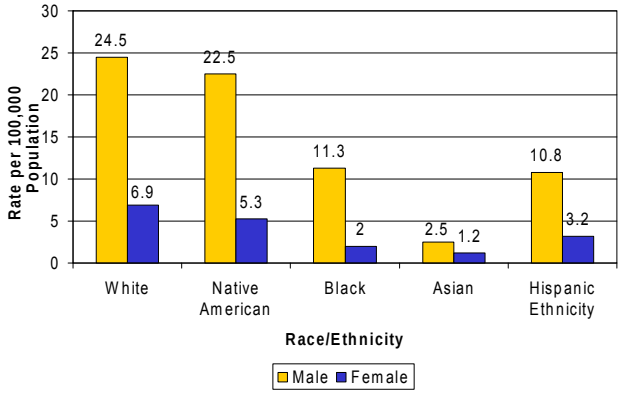
- Seventy-eight percent of suicide victims were male and 22% were female.
- In 64 (2%) of the suicide deaths, the victim killed other people before taking their own life, resulting in 79 homicide deaths.
- Males 75 and older had the highest suicide rate among all age and gender groups (46.6 per 100,000 population) (Figure 8).
- The suicide rate among males was 3.7 times higher than the rate among females (23.4 and 6.4, respectively).
- The suicide rate among females 35-54 years of age was almost twice the overall suicide rate among females, 11.5 and 6.4, respectively.
- The suicide rate among whites was 2.3 times higher than blacks and 8.6 times higher than Asians. The suicide rate among Native Americans was 11% less than the suicide rate for whites, 13.8 and 15.5, respectively (Table 8).
- Males in all racial categories had higher suicide rates than females (Figure 9).

Figure 8. Age and Gender Specific Rates of Suicide,* Oklahoma, 2004-2008



*Includes 2,637 persons.

Figure 9. Gender, Race, and Ethnicity Specific Rates of Suicide, Oklahoma, 2004-2008



- The suicide rate among non-Hispanics was twice the rate for Hispanics (15.2 and 7.2, respectively).

Table 8. Suicide by Age, Gender, Race,* and Ethnicity,** Oklahoma, 2004-2008										
	White		Black		Native American		Asian		Hispanic	
Age	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Both Genders										
5-14	14	0.8	1	0.4	2	0.7	0	0.0	3	1.2
15-24	242	11.8	22	7.8	63	20.7	2	3.3	27	11.4
25-34	321	17.4	31	14.4	51	23.1	1	1.6	30	13.0
35-44	445	23.5	19	9.8	50	24.9	1	1.9	16	9.5
45-54	517	24.8	13	7.2	37	19.1	1	2.5	14	13.0
55-64	309	18.7	8	7.4	7	5.2	1	3.8	1	1.9
65-74	174	15.9	2	3.3	10	13.4	0	0.0	2	7.9
75-84	173	23.4	2	5.8	4	9.9	0	0.0	0	0.0
85+	47	16.3	1	8.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	2,242	15.5	99	6.6	224	13.8	6	1.8	93	7.2
Males										
5-14	11	1.2	1	0.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	1.5
15-24	192	18.0	17	11.4	54	34.8	2	6.1	23	17.8
25-34	258	27.3	26	23.7	38	34.3	1	3.2	23	17.3
35-44	341	35.8	16	16.8	41	41.4	0	0.0	13	13.9
45-54	369	35.9	13	15.0	29	31.4	0	0.0	10	17.1
55-64	228	28.6	6	11.9	5	7.9	1	9.2	1	3.6
65-74	147	29.0	2	7.7	9	26.6	0	0.0	2	7.9
75-84	150	49.2	2	15.3	4	24.4	0	0.0	0	0.0
85+	44	50.8	1	29.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total Males	1,740	24.5	84	11.3	180	22.5	4	2.5	74	10.8
Females										
5-14	3	0.3	0	0.0	2	1.4	0	0.0	1	0.8
15-24	50	5.1	5	3.7	9	6.0	0	0.0	4	3.7
25-34	63	7.0	5	4.7	13	11.8	0	0.0	7	7.1
35-44	104	11.0	3	3.1	9	8.8	1	3.8	3	4.0
45-54	148	14.1	0	0.0	8	7.9	1	4.5	4	8.1
55-64	81	9.5	2	3.5	2	2.8	0	0.0	0	0.0
65-74	27	4.6	0	0.0	1	2.4	0	0.0	0	0.0
75-84	23	5.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
85+	3	1.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total Females	502	6.9	15	2.0	44	5.3	2	1.2	19	3.2

* Race was "mixed" for 3 persons, "other" for 55 persons, and unknown for 8 persons.
** Hispanic ethnicity is counted separately from race and is not a racial category. Hispanic ethnicity was unknown for 19 persons.

- Firearms were used in 60% of suicides.
- Sixty-six percent of firearms used in suicides were handguns, 12% were rifles, 16% were shotguns, and 6% were other/unknown firearms.
- Hanging/strangulation was used in 19%, poisoning 18%, and other/unknown methods in 3% of suicides.
  - Other methods used to complete suicide were sharp/blunt instrument (46), motor vehicle or other transportation vehicle (29), drowning (18), fire (19), fall (7), and unknown (5) methods.
- Firearms were used in male suicide deaths more often than in female suicide deaths, 65% and 39%, respectively. Poisoning was used more often in female suicide than male suicide, 39% and 12%, respectively (Figure 10).

- The types of substances used in suicides by poisoning were prescription drugs (69%), over-the-counter drugs (11%), carbon monoxide or gas vapor (9%), alcohol (5%), street drugs (2%), other drugs/poison (2%), and unknown poisons (1%).

Figure 10. Method of Suicide by Gender, Oklahoma, 2004-2008

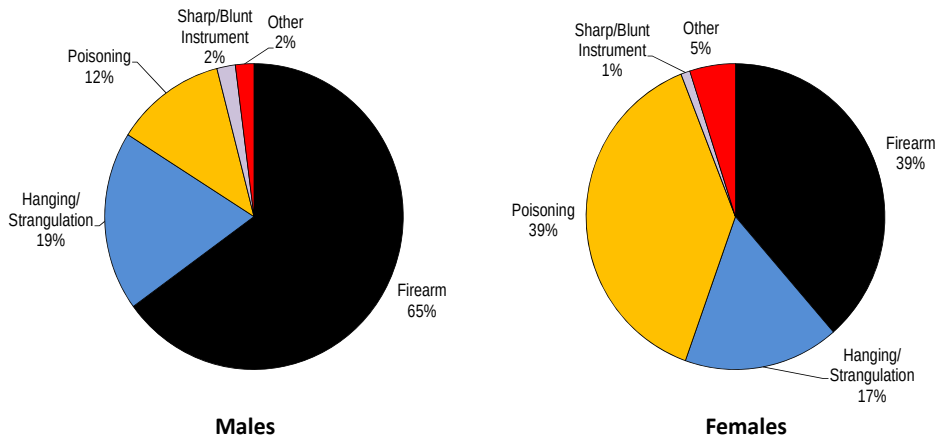


Table 9. Selected Suicide Circumstances by Gender, Oklahoma, 2004-2008*

	Total (n=2,637)		Male (n=2,061)		Female (n=576)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Current depressed mood	1,145	43	889	43	256	44
Intimate partner problem	879	33	714	35	165	29
Disclosed intent to commit suicide	811	31	618	30	193	34
Mental Health Problem	782	30	524	25	258	45
Depression/Dysthymia	476	18	327	16	149	26
Bipolar disorder	117	4	57	3	60	10
Schizophrenia	36	1	26	1	10	2
Anxiety disorder	36	1	23	1	13	2
Post-traumatic stress disorder	7	<1	6	<1	1	<1
Attention deficit disorder/Hyperactivity disorder	5	<1	4	<1	1	<1
Obsessive-compulsive disorder	3	<1	3	<1	0	0
Eating disorder	2	<1	1	<1	1	<1
Other/Unknown	23	1	16	1	7	1
Left a suicide note	787	30	599	29	188	33
Physical health problem	706	27	546	26	160	28
Crisis in past two weeks	582	22	481	23	101	18
History of previous suicide attempts	481	18	301	15	180	31
Substance abuse problem	326	12	233	11	93	16
Financial problem	298	11	237	11	61	11
Other relationship problem	286	11	205	10	81	14
Alcohol	325	12	272	13	53	9
Job problem	244	9	212	10	32	6
Recent criminal legal problem	238	9	212	10	26	5
Other death of friend or family	176	7	140	7	36	6
Non-criminal legal problem	108	4	92	4	16	3
Perpetrator of interpersonal violence within past month	54	2	49	2	5	1
Suicide of friend or family within past five years	42	2	24	1	18	3
School problem	18	1	13	1	5	1

*More than one circumstance may have been associated with the death. Percentages were calculated using the total number of persons that committed suicide.

- For 2,519 (96%) victims, information on circumstances associated with the suicide was available in the police report and/or medical examiner report.
  - The leading circumstances associated with suicide were current depressed mood (cited in 43% of suicides), intimate partner problem (33%), current mental health problem (30%), physical health problem (27%), crisis in the past two weeks (22%), and substance abuse problem (12%) (Table 9).
- The circumstances associated with suicide varied somewhat by life stages (Table 10).
  - The rate of suicide associated with physical health problems was 4.9 times higher among persons 65 years of age and older than among persons less than 65 years of age 12.7 and 2.6, respectively).
  - The rate of suicide associated with intimate partner problems was 4.6 times higher among persons less than 65 years of age than among person 65 years of age and older, 5.5 and 1.2, respectively.
  - A substantial proportion of suicides was associated with a current depressed mood, mental health problem, or crisis in the past two weeks for persons across all age groups.
  - Seventy-six percent of persons who committed suicide with a current mental health problem were receiving mental health treatment, including 67% of persons 12-24 years, 77% of persons 25-44 years, 79% of persons 45-64 years, and 71% of persons 65 years and older.
- Eighteen percent of suicide victims had a history of suicide attempts.

Table 10. Ten Most Common Circumstances* Associated with Suicides by Rank and Age Group, Oklahoma, 2004-2008

Rank	12-24 Years	25-44 Years	45-64 Years	65+ Years
1	Current depressed mood (40%)	Intimate partner problem (47%)	Current depressed mood (46%)	Physical health problem (72%)
2	Intimate partner problem (39%)	Current depressed mood (40%)	Physical health problem (36%)	Current depressed mood (47%)
3	Crisis in past 2 weeks (25%)	Current mental health problem (32%)	Current mental health problem (34%)	Crisis in past 2 weeks (20%)
4	Current mental health problem (25%)	Crisis in past 2 weeks (25%)	Intimate partner problem (29%)	Current mental health problem (20%)
5	Relationship problem other than intimate partner (20%)	History of suicide attempts (21%)	History of suicide attempts (21%)	Death of family or friend (12%)
6	Substance abuse problem (19%)	Substance abuse problem (17%)	Crisis in past 2 weeks (18%)	History of suicide attempts (7%)
7	History of suicide attempts (17%)	Alcohol problem (15%)	Financial problem (16%)	Intimate partner problem (7%)
8	Recent criminal/legal problem (9%)	Recent criminal/legal problem (13%)	Alcohol problem (15%)	Financial Problem (6%)
9	Job problem (9%)	Financial problem (12%)	Job problem (12%)	Other relationship problem (5%)
10	Financial problem (5%)	Physical health problem (12%)	Substance abuse problem (10%)	Alcohol problem (4%)

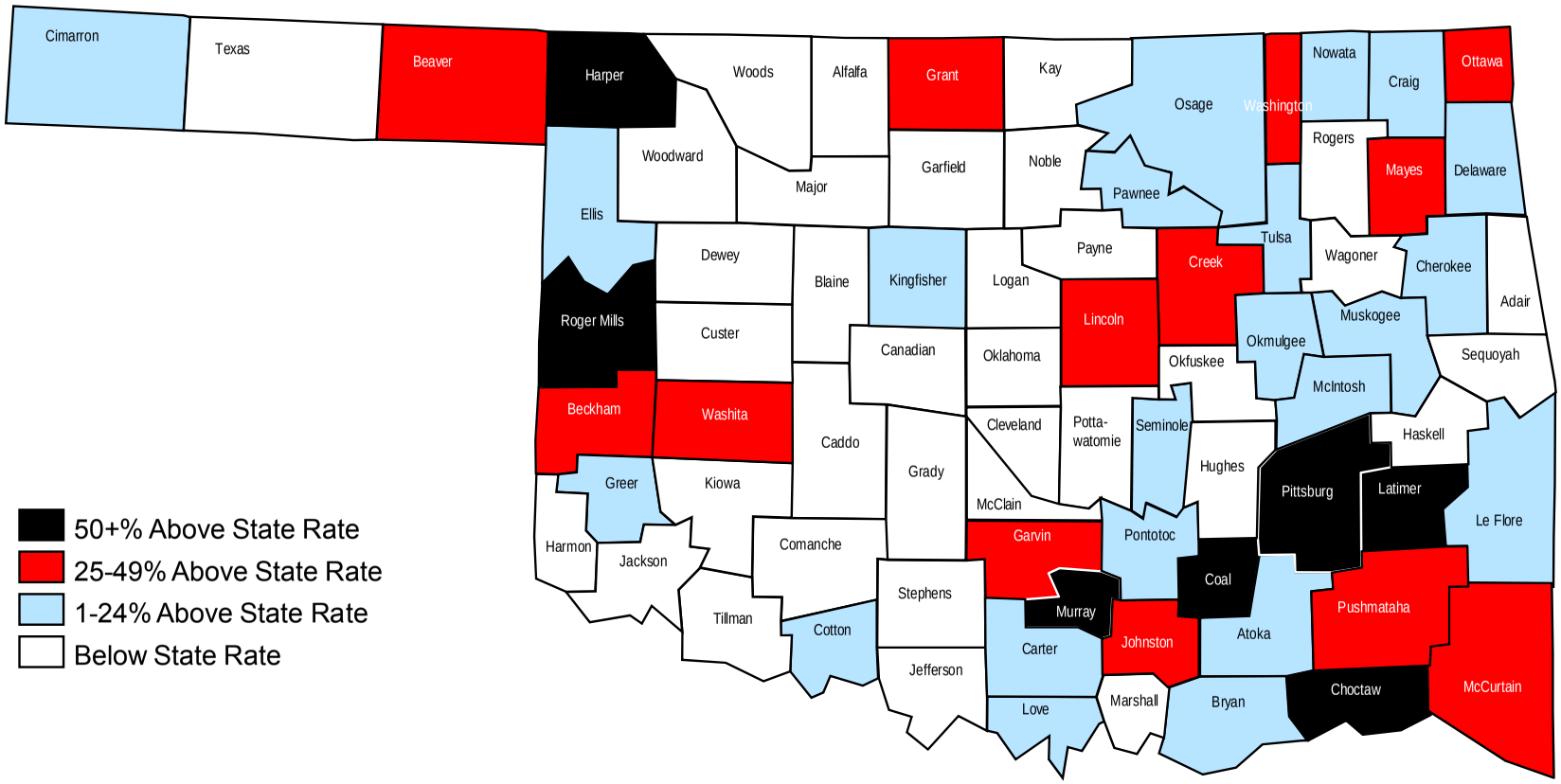
*More than one circumstance may have been associated with the suicide.

- Thirty-one percent of suicide victims had previously stated their intent to commit suicide or expressed suicidal feelings to another person and 30% left a suicide note.
- A positive blood alcohol test was documented for 793 persons (30% of persons tested), and a positive drug test was documented for 500 persons (86% of persons tested) who committed suicide.
- Twenty-three percent (611) of suicide victims were veterans (persons who had served in the U.S. Armed Forces), including 596 males and 15 females. This represents 77% (611/790) of all violent deaths among veterans.
- The mean age of veterans who committed suicide was 59 years. The youngest victim was 18 and the oldest was 93 years of age; 42% of these suicides were among veterans 65 years of age and older (Table 11).
- The vast majority (76%) of suicides among veterans were completed with a firearm. Other methods of suicide among veterans were poisoning (11%), hanging/strangulation (10%), and other methods (3%).
- Circumstances were known in 729 (92%) of the suicides among veterans. The circumstances most often associated with the deaths were current depressed mood (45%), physical health problem (49%), crisis in the past two weeks (23%), current mental health problem (26%), and intimate partner problem (25%).
- Forty-two counties had suicide rates higher than the state rate; 35 counties had suicide rates below the state rate (Figure 11).

Table 11. Suicides of Veterans by Age, Oklahoma, 2004-2008

Age	Number	Percent
15-24	24	4%
25-34	41	7%
35-44	75	12%
45-54	101	16%
55-64	114	19%
65+	256	42%
Total	611	100%

Figure 11. Suicide Death Rates by County of Residence, Oklahoma, 2004-2008



Homicides

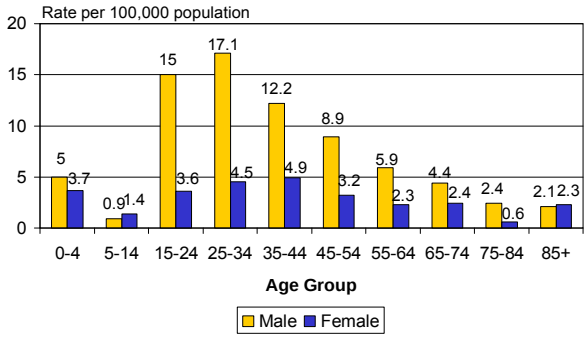
- During 2004 to 2008, there were 1,016 incidents where homicide occurred, resulting in 1,084 victims, an average of 217 deaths per year (average annual rate=6.1 per 100,000 population). While the annual number of homicides increased from 2004 to 2008, the annual homicide rate remained stable (Table 12).

Table 12. Homicide by Year, Oklahoma, 2004-2008

Year	Number	Rate
2004	211	6.0
2005	208	5.9
2006	210	5.9
2007	232	6.4
2008	223	6.1

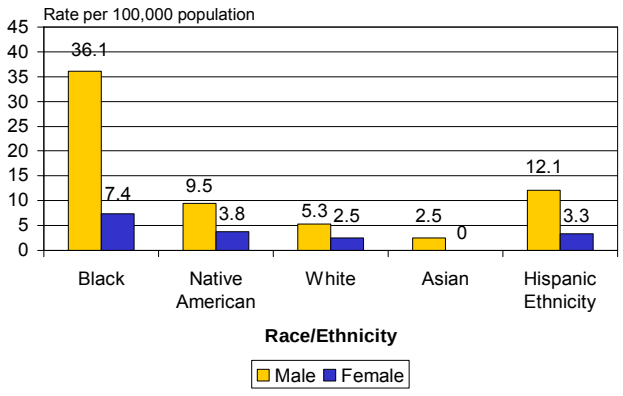
- Homicide victims were generally younger than suicide victims with a mean age of 34 years. The youngest homicide victim was two months old and the oldest homicide victim was 96 years of age.
- Seventy-four percent of homicide victims were male and 26% were female.
- In 110 (11%) homicide incidents, more than one victim was killed, including 79 victims in homicide-suicide events, 3 victims in separate legal intervention events, and 96 victims in multiple homicides.
- There were 84 homicides among persons less than 15 years of age (8% of all homicides). Of these, 40 (48%) were female (representing 14% of all homicides among females), and 44 (52%) were male (representing 5% of all homicides among males).
- The homicide rate among males (9.1) was 2.9 times higher than the rate among females (3.1). Homicide rates were higher for males across all age groups except for persons 5-14 years of age and persons 85 years old and older (Figure 12).
- The homicide rate among blacks (21.6) was 5.5 times higher than whites (3.9) and 3.3 times higher than Native Americans (6.6) (Table 13).
  - The homicide rate among black males (36.1) was 3.8 times higher than the rate among Native American males (9.5), and 6.8 times higher than the rate among white males (5.3) (Figure 13).
  - Black males 15-34 years of age had the highest homicide rate in all race and gender categories at 73.0 per 100,000 population.
- Among females, the homicide rate among black females (7.4) was almost three times higher than the rate among white females (2.5) and 1.9 times higher than the rate among Native American females (3.8).

Figure 12. Age and Gender Specific Rates of Homicide,* Oklahoma, 2004-2008



*Includes 1,084 homicide victims.

Figure 13. Gender, Race, and Ethnicity Specific Rates of Homicide, Oklahoma, 2004-2008



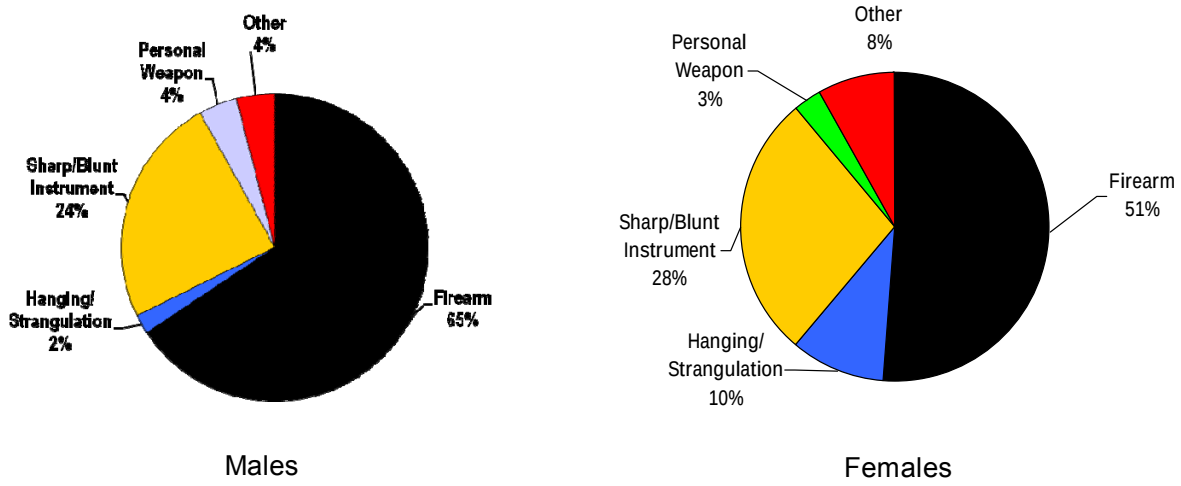
- The homicide rate among Hispanics was 1.4 times higher than the rate among non-Hispanics (8.0 and 5.8, respectively). The homicide rate among Hispanic males was 1.4 times higher than the rate among non-Hispanic males (12.1 and 8.7, respectively). The rate among Hispanic females was similar to the rate among non-Hispanic females (3.3 and 3.1, respectively).

Table 13. Homicide Rates by Age, Gender, Race,* and Ethnicity,** Oklahoma, 2004-2008

	White		Black		Native American		Asian		Hispanic	
Age	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Both Genders										
0-4	37	3.9	12	8.5	4	2.6	0	0.0	8	4.3
5-14	18	1.0	5	1.8	4	1.4	0	0.0	1	0.4
15-24	91	4.4	117	41.2	12	3.9	1	1.6	41	17.3
25-34	92	5.0	96	44.5	40	18.1	1	1.6	32	18.8
35-44	116	6.1	45	23.3	27	13.4	0	0.0	14	8.3
45-54	101	4.8	32	17.7	14	7.2	1	2.5	2	1.9
55-64	59	3.6	11	10.2	3	2.2	0	0.0	3	5.6
65-74	29	2.7	6	9.9	3	4.0	1	8.1	1	3.9
75-84	10	1.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	7.8
85+	6	2.1	1	8.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	559	3.9	325	21.6	107	6.6	4	1.2	103	8.1
Males										
0-4	24	4.9	7	9.6	1	1.3	0	0.0	3	3.2
5-14	6	0.6	2	1.4	2	1.4	0	0.0	0	0.0
15-24	65	6.1	104	69.6	8	5.2	1	3.0	36	27.9
25-34	67	7.1	85	77.6	29	26.2	1	3.2	27	20.4
35-44	77	8.1	34	35.8	22	22.2	0	0.0	10	10.7
45-54	72	7.0	23	26.6	11	11.9	1	5.8	2	3.4
55-64	40	5.0	10	19.9	1	1.6	0	0.0	3	10.9
65-74	17	3.4	4	15.4	2	5.9	1	20.0	1	8.2
75-84	7	2.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	17.7
85+	2	2.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total Males	377	5.3	269	36.1	76	9.5	4	2.5	83	12.1
Females										
0-4	13	2.8	5	7.2	3	4.0	0	0.0	5	5.4
5-14	12	1.4	3	2.3	2	1.4	0	0.0	1	0.8
15-24	26	2.6	13	9.7	4	2.7	0	0.0	5	4.6
25-34	25	2.8	11	10.3	11	10.0	0	0.0	5	5.1
35-44	39	4.1	11	11.2	5	4.9	0	0.0	4	5.3
45-54	29	2.8	9	9.6	3	3.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
55-64	19	2.2	1	1.7	2	2.8	0	0.0	0	0.0
65-74	12	2.0	2	5.8	1	2.4	0	0.0	0	0.0
75-84	3	0.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
85+	4	2.0	1	11.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total Females	182	2.5	56	7.4	31	3.8	0	0.0	20	3.3

* Race was “mixed” for 8 persons, “other” for 78 persons, and unknown for 4 persons.
** Hispanic ethnicity is counted separately from race and is not a racial category. Hispanic ethnicity was unknown for 15 persons.

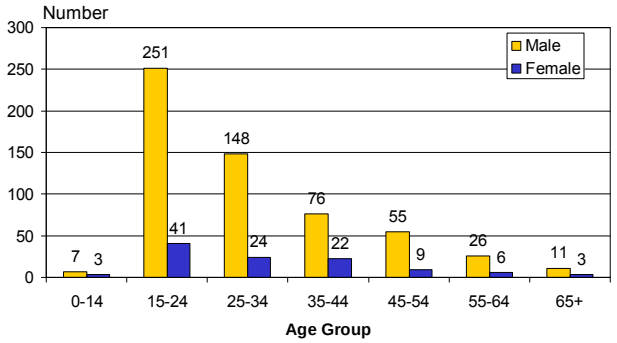
Figure 14. Weapons* Used in Homicides by Victim Gender, Oklahoma, 2004-2008



*Includes 1,082 weapons used to kill.

- A firearm was used to kill in 61% of homicides, and sharp or blunt instruments were used in 25% of deaths. Hanging/strangulation or suffocation was used in 4% of homicides, personal weapons (hands, fists, feet) in 4%, and other weapons in 5%.
  - Other weapons included fire (21), motor vehicle (19), shaking (7), poison (4), drowning (3), fall (3) and neglect (1).
- Firearm-related homicides were more common among males than females (65% and 51%, respectively), and hanging/strangulation and suffocation were used to kill in proportionally more homicides among females than among males, 10% and 2%, respectively (Figure 14).

Figure 15. Age and Gender of Homicide Suspects,* Oklahoma, 2004-2008



*Includes 682 suspects for whom age and gender was known as reported in the police report or medical examiner report.

Table 14. Relationship of the Victim to the Primary Suspect by Victim Gender, Oklahoma, 2004-2008

	Males		Females		Total	
Intimate partner*	41	9%	110	50%	151	22%
Acquaintance	112	23%	19	9%	131	19%
Family member other than spouse	75	16%	47	21%	122	17%
Friend or roommate	56	12%	10	5%	66	9%
Rival gang member	51	11%	4	2%	55	8%
Stranger	41	9%	7	3%	48	7%
Other persons known to victim	79	16%	16	7%	95	14%
Other relationship**	24	5%	9	4%	33	5%
	479	100%	222	100%	701	100%

*Intimate partners included current and former marital (67) and non-marital partners (84).
**Other relationships included child of suspect's intimate partner (20), work relationship (3), babysitter (4), and intimate partner of suspect's parent (3), and law enforcement officer injured in line of duty (3).

- A total of 695 firearms were used in homicide incidents. In some of the incidents, two or more firearms were involved.
  - Seventy-three percent of the firearms were handguns, 9% were rifles, 10% were shotguns; the type was not specified for 8% of firearms.
  - Semi-automatic pistols were the most common type of handguns used (45% of firearm-related homicides). Revolvers were used in 15% of firearm-related homicides. In 13% of incidents, the handgun type was not specified.
- The relationship between the victim and the primary suspect(s) was known for 701 (65%) homicide victims. In 244 of the homicide incidents there was more than one suspect. Victims were often killed by people known to them, including intimate partners (22%), acquaintances (19%), family members (17%), and friends or roommates (9%) (Table 14). In 7% of homicides the suspect was a stranger.
- Intimate partners and family members other than intimate partners were the suspects in a substantially higher percentage of homicides among females than among males (50% vs. 9% and 21% vs. 16%, respectively).
- Acquaintances and rival gang members were the suspects in a substantially higher percentage of homicides among males than among females (23% vs. 9% and 11% vs. 2%, respectively).
- Information was available on 1,251 homicide suspects from 870 incidents. Eighty percent of suspects were male, 13% were female, and for 8% of suspects, gender was not specified.
- Age was known for 55% (682/1,251) of homicide suspects. The mean age was 31 years. The youngest suspect was 13 years of age and the oldest was 86 years of age.
  - Forty-four percent of these suspects were less than 25 years of age, 40% were 25-44 years of age, and 16% of suspects were 45 years of age or older (Figure 15).

Table 15. Selected Homicide Circumstances by Gender, Oklahoma 2004-2008*

	Total (n=1,084)		Male (n=800)		Female (n=284)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Other argument, abuse, conflict	343	32	288	36	55	19
Precipitated by another crime	267	25	220	28	47	17
Crime in progress	173	16	141	18	32	11
Robbery	112	10	97	12	15	5
Drug trade	41	4	38	5	3	1
Burglary	30	3	28	4	2	1
Assault, homicide	56	5	45	6	11	4
Motor vehicle theft	5	<1	2	<1	3	1
Arson	4	<1	3	<1	1	<1
Rape, sexual assault	19	2	9	1	10	4
Other crime	17	2	9	1	8	3
Intimate partner violence-related	208	19	87	11	121	43
Drug involvement	183	17	155	19	28	10
Argument over money/property	119	11	103	13	16	6
Gang-related	111	10	104	13	7	2
Brawl (mutual physical fight)	73	7	68	8	5	2
Jealousy (lovers triangle)	61	6	45	6	16	6
Justifiable self defense	42	4	40	5	2	1
Drive-by shooting	25	2	24	3	1	<1
Victim was a bystander	15	1	10	1	5	2
Hate crime	7	1	7	1	0	0
Mercy killing	1	<1	0	0	1	<1

* More than one circumstance may have been associated with the death. Percentages were calculated using the number of homicide victims: 1,084 for overall, 800 for male and 284 for female.

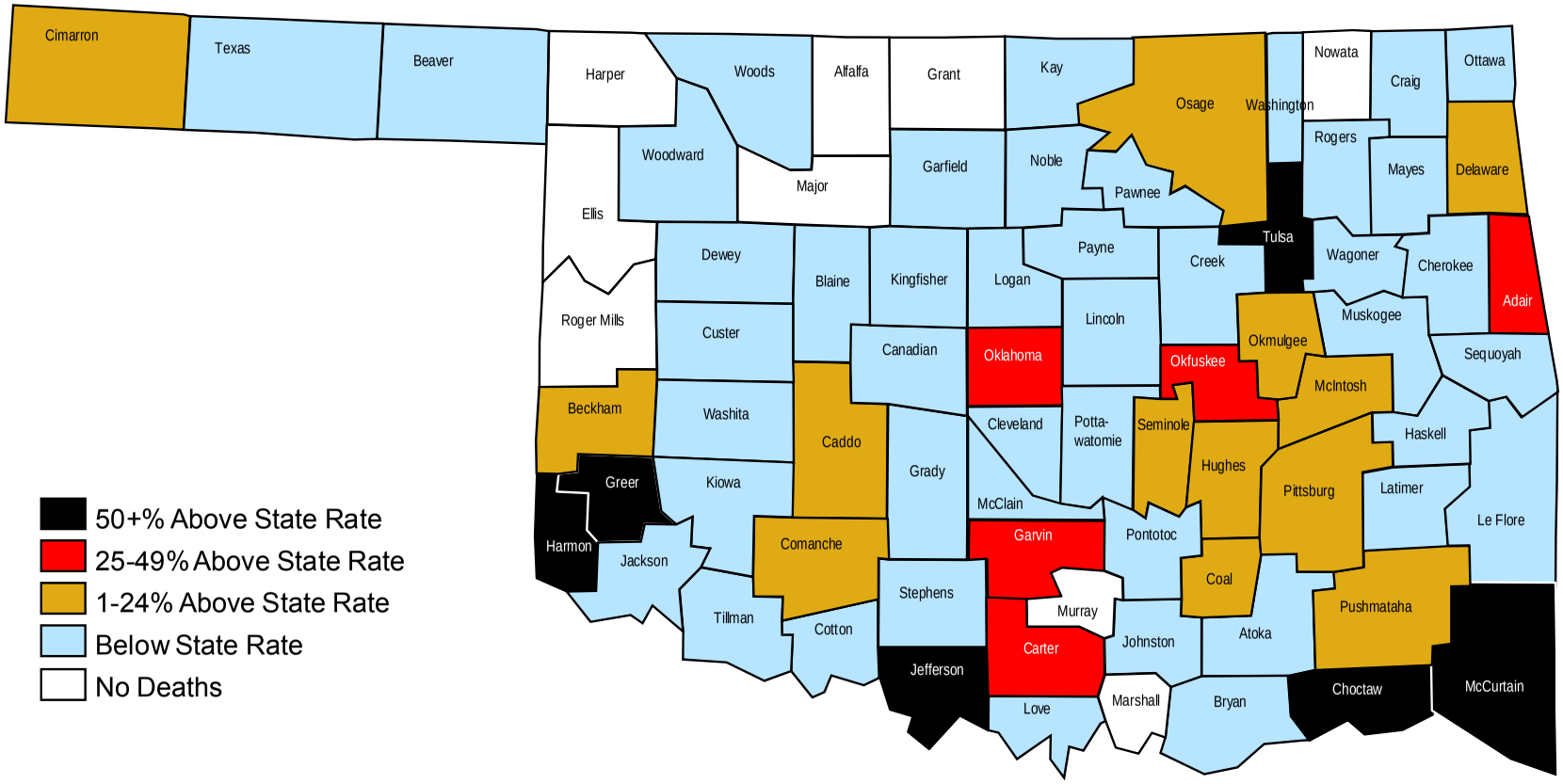
- For 931 (86%) homicides, circumstances surrounding the homicide were documented in the police report and/or the medical examiner report.
  - In 40% of homicides, an argument or interpersonal conflict was a precipitating factor (28% of these arguments involved money, property or drugs).
  - Twenty-five percent (267) of homicides were precipitated by other serious crimes (Table 15). In 65% of these incidents the crime was in progress.
  - Drugs were involved in 17% (183) of the homicides, and 10% (111) of homicides were gang-related.
  - Nineteen percent (208) of homicides were related to conflict between intimate partners. Fifty-eight percent of intimate partner-related homicides were among females.
  - Ninety-four percent of gang-related homicides and 85% of drug-related homicides were among males.
- Circumstances involved in homicides varied somewhat by age; however, argument or interpersonal conflict was the leading circumstance among all age groups (Table 16).
- Gang-related circumstances were involved more often in homicides of persons 10-24 years of age (26%) (Table 16).
- A positive blood alcohol test was documented for 330 homicide victims over 14 years of age (36% of persons tested), and a positive drug test was documented for 73 homicide victims over 14 years of age (48% of persons tested).
- Twenty-four counties had homicide rates higher than the state rate; 44 counties had homicide rates below the state rate. In nine Oklahoma counties, there were no homicide deaths (Figure 16).

Table 16. Six Most Common Circumstances* Related to Homicides by Rank and Age Group, Oklahoma, 2004-2008

Rank	<10 Years	10-24 Years	25-44 Years	45-64 Years	65+ Years
1	Argument or interpersonal conflict (50%)	Argument or interpersonal conflict (40%)	Argument or interpersonal conflict (38%)	Argument or interpersonal conflict (39%)	Argument or interpersonal conflict (34%)
2	Conflict between intimate partners (25%)	Crime (26%)	Crime (25%)	Crime (26%)	Crime (32%)
3	Drug dealing or illegal drug use (7%)	Gang-related (26%)	Drug dealing or illegal drug use (24%)	Conflict between intimate partners (21%)	Conflict between intimate partners (78)
4	Crime (4%)	Drug dealing or illegal drug use (17%)	Conflict between intimate partners (23%)	Drug dealing or illegal drug use (8%)	Drug dealing or illegal drug use (8%)
5	Victim was a bystander (3%)	Conflict between intimate partners (12%)	Gang-related (7%)	Brawl (7%)	Brawl (2%)
6	Gang-related (1%)	Brawl (11%)	Brawl (6%)	Jealousy (6%)	Justifiable, Self defense (2%)

*More than one circumstance may have been associated with the death.

Figure 16. Homicide Death Rates by County of Residence, Oklahoma, 2004-2008



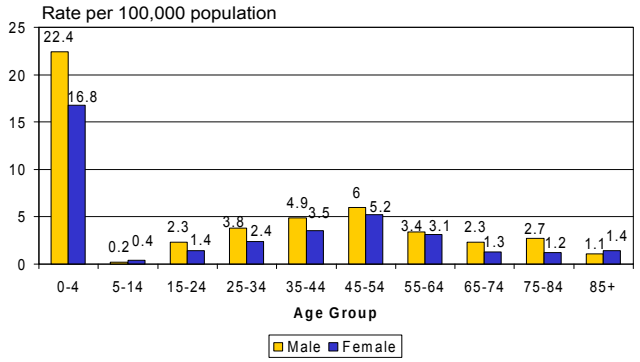
Undetermined Manner of Death

- For 724 deaths in Oklahoma during 2004 to 2008, the manner of death could not be determined. There was an average of 145 deaths per year (4.0 per 100,000 population).
- The rate of undetermined manner of death decreased by 8% from 2004 to 2008 (Table 17).
- The mean age of persons was 29 years. The youngest person was one day old and the oldest person was 94 years of age.
- Forty-three percent of undetermined manner of death victims were female and 57% were male.
- The highest rate of undetermined manner of death was among children less than 5 years of age (19.7) (Figure 17). Ninety-two percent (232/252) of these children were infants less than one year of age. Almost one-third (32%) of all undetermined manner deaths were among infants less than one year of age.
  - Among females less than 5 years of age, Native Americans had the highest rate of undetermined manner of death (31.8), followed by blacks (24.6) and whites (11.5).
  - Among males less than 5 years of age, Native Americans had the highest rate of undetermined manner of death (35.8), followed by blacks (33.0) and whites (16.4).
- Native Americans had the highest rate of undetermined manner of death (7.2) (Table 18).
- The rate of undetermined manner of death among Native American males (8.9) was 2.3 times higher than white males (3.9) and 1.6 times higher than black males (5.5) (Figure 18).
- The rate of undetermined manner of death among non-Hispanics was 1.7 times higher than Hispanics (4.1 and 2.4, respectively).

Table 17. Undetermined Manner Deaths by Year, Oklahoma, 2004-2008

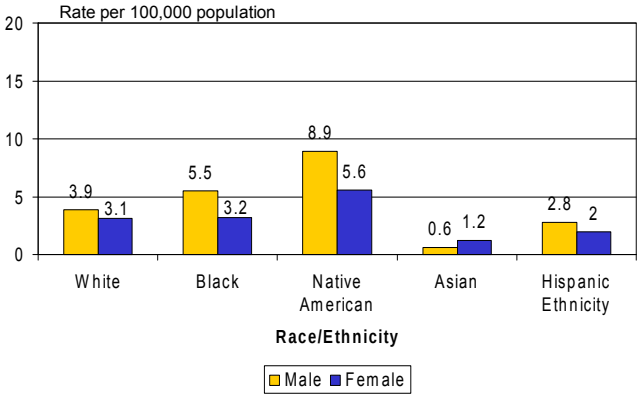
Year	Number	Rate per 100,000 population
2004	152	4.3
2005	151	4.3
2006	134	3.7
2007	142	3.9
2008	145	4.0

Figure 17. Age and Gender Specific Rates of Undetermined Manner of Death,* Oklahoma, 2004-2008



*Includes 723 persons. Age unknown for one person.

Figure 18. Gender, Race, and Ethnicity Specific Rates of Undetermined Manner of Death, Oklahoma, 2004-2008



- In 77% (179/232) of undetermined manner deaths among infants, co-sleeping with adults or other children and/or overlay or possible overlay was described in the cause of death text of the death certificate or medical examiner's narrative.
- Among persons 15 years of age and older, actual or possible drug or alcohol toxicity (25%), drug combination toxicity (14%), or drug and alcohol combination toxicity (2%) was described in the cause of death text of the death certificate or the medical examiner's narrative.
- Other methods/weapons that killed victims were fire/burn (14), firearms (16), falls (10), drowning (9), blunt instrument (10), explosive (1), motor vehicle (4) and other methods (11).

Table 18. Undetermined Manner Deaths by Age, Gender, Race,* and Ethnicity,** Oklahoma, 2004-2008

	White		Black		Native American		Asian		Hispanic	
Age	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Both Genders										
0-4	135	14.1	41	28.9	52	33.8	0	0.0	20	10.7
5-14	3	0.2	1	0.4	1	0.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
15-24	37	1.8	6	2.1	5	1.6	0	0.0	3	1.3
25-34	54	2.9	3	1.4	12	5.4	2	3.3	1	0.4
35-44	74	3.9	6	3.1	16	8.0	0	0.0	3	1.8
45-54	119	5.7	3	1.7	16	8.3	1	2.5	2	1.9
55-64	47	2.9	3	2.8	12	8.9	0	0.0	1	1.9
65-74	19	1.7	2	3.3	1	1.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
75-84	12	1.6	0	0.0	2	4.9	0	0.0	1	7.8
85+	3	1.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	503	3.5	65	4.3	117	7.2	3	0.9	31	2.4
Males										
0-4	81	16.4	24	33.0	28	35.8	0	0.0	12	12.7
5-14	1	0.1	1	0.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
15-24	23	2.2	4	2.7	4	2.6	0	0.0	2	1.5
25-34	30	3.2	3	2.7	10	9.0	1	3.2	1	0.8
35-44	42	4.4	5	5.3	9	9.1	0	0.0	2	2.1
45-54	62	6.0	2	2.3	9	9.7	0	0.0	2	3.4
55-64	22	2.8	1	2.0	8	12.6	0	0.0	0	0.0
65-74	11	2.2	1	3.9	1	3.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
75-84	6	2.0	0	0.0	2	12.2	0	0.0	0	0.0
85+	1	1.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total Males	279	3.9	41	5.5	71	8.9	1	0.6	19	2.8
Females										
0-4	54	11.5	17	24.6	24	31.8	0	0.0	8	8.7
5-14	2	0.2	0	0.0	1	0.7	0	0.0	0	0.0
15-24	14	1.4	2	1.5	1	0.7	0	0.0	1	0.9
25-34	24	2.7	0	0.0	2	1.8	1	3.3	0	0.0
35-44	32	3.4	1	1.0	7	6.9	0	0.0	1	1.3
45-54	57	5.4	1	1.1	7	6.9	1	4.5	0	0.0
55-64	25	2.9	2	3.5	4	5.6	0	0.0	1	3.8
65-74	8	1.4	1	2.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
75-84	6	1.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	13.9
85+	2	1.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total Females	224	3.1	24	3.2	46	5.6	2	1.2	12	2.0

* Race was "mixed" for 10 persons, "other" for 19 persons, and unknown for 7 persons. Age was unknown for one person.
** Hispanic ethnicity is counted separately from race and is not a racial category. Hispanic ethnicity was unknown for 19 persons.

- For 332 (72%) persons 15 years of age and older, circumstances surrounding the death were documented in the police report and/or the medical examiner report.
- The three most common circumstances surrounding undetermined manner deaths among persons 15 years of age and older were physical health problems (26% among males and 37% among females), substance abuse problems (29% among males and 31% among females), and current mental health problems (23% among males and 34% among females) (Table 19 and Table 20).
- Among persons with a mental health problem, diagnoses included depression (63), bipolar disorder (24), anxiety disorder (12), schizophrenia (16), post-traumatic stress disorder (3), and other or unspecified conditions (36).
- In 10% of deaths, the person had previously stated their intent to commit suicide or expressed suicidal ideation to another person; 2% of persons left a suicide note.
- Positive blood alcohol tests were documented for 95 persons over the age of 14 (27% of persons tested), and positive drug tests were documented for 264 persons over the age of 14 (80% of persons tested).
- Forty counties had undetermined manner of death rates higher than the state rate, and 27 counties had rates below the state rate. Ten counties reported no undetermined manner deaths (Figure 19).

Table 19. Leading Circumstances Associated with Undetermined Manner of Death Among Persons 15 Years of Age and Older by Rank and Gender, Oklahoma, 2004-2008*

Rank	Males	Females	Both Genders
1	Substance abuse problem (29%)	Physical health problem (37%)	Physical health problem (31%)
2	Physical health problem (26%)	Substance abuse problem (31%)	Substance abuse problem (30%)
3	Current mental health problem (23%)	Current mental health problem (34%)	Current mental health problem (28%)
4	Alcohol problem (18%)	Current depressed mood (17%)	Current depressed mood (17%)
5	Current depressed mood (16%)	History of suicide attempt (12%)	Alcohol problem (14%)
6	Intimate partner problem (10%)	Intimate partner problem (11%)	Intimate partner problem (10%)
7	History of suicide attempt (8%)	Death of friend or family (6%)	History of suicide attempt (10%)

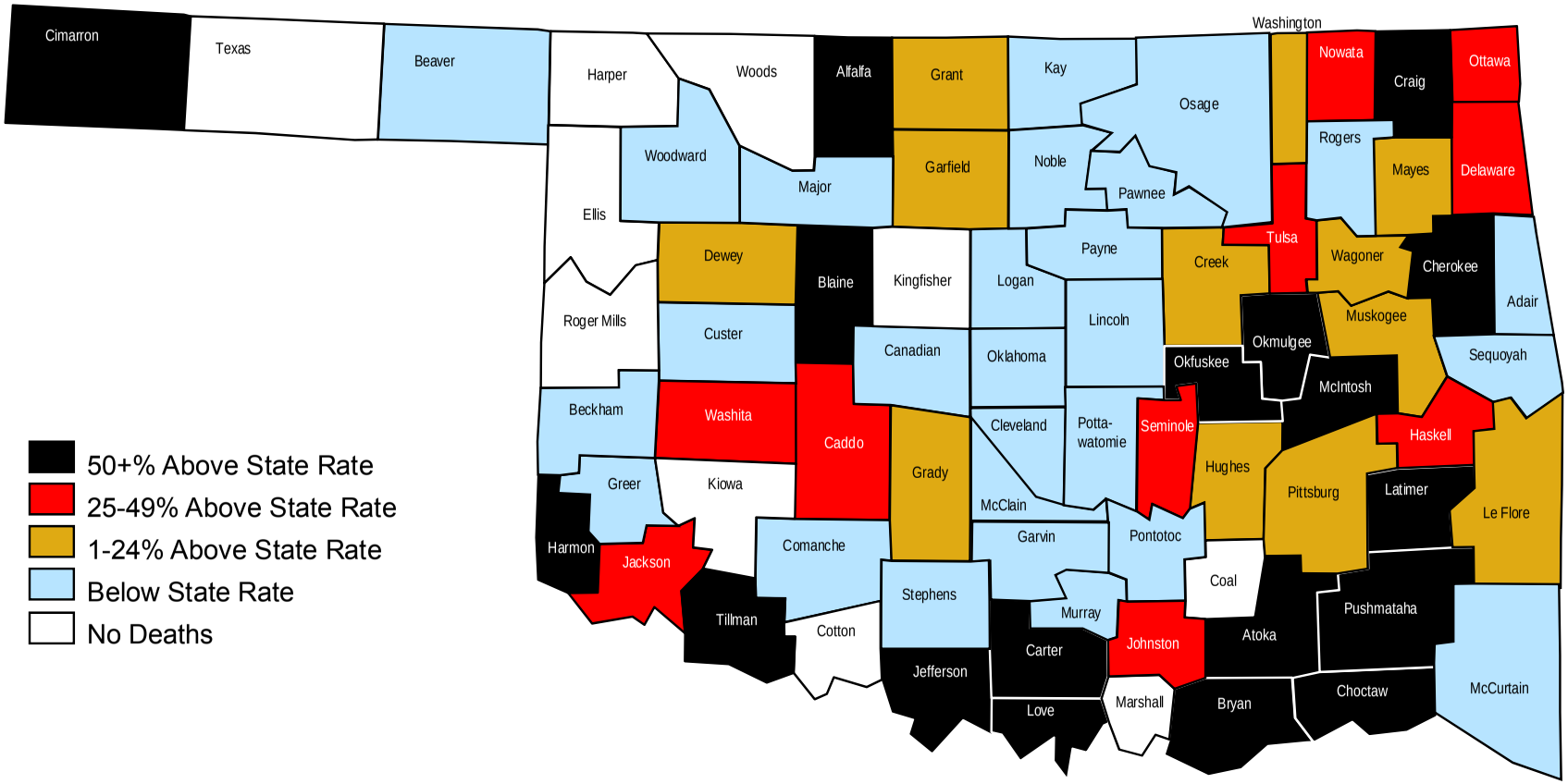
*More than one circumstance may have been associated with the death. Percentages were calculated using the number of persons 15 years and older for whom the manner of death was undetermined: 262 males and 202 females.

Table 20. Selected Undetermined Intent Death Circumstances among Persons 15 Years of Age and Older by Gender, Oklahoma, 2004-2008.

	Total (n=464)		Male (n=262)		Female (n=202)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Physical health problem	144	31	69	26	75	37
Substance abuse problem	137	30	75	29	62	31
Mental health problem	128	28	60	23	68	34
Depression/dysthymia	63	14	31	12	32	16
Bipolar disorder	24	5	5	2	19	9
Schizophrenia	16	3	8	3	8	4
Post-traumatic stress disorder	3	1	0	0	3	1
Anxiety disorder	12	3	4	2	8	4
Other/unknown	36	8	18	7	18	9
Current depressed mood	78	17	43	16	35	17
Alcohol	65	14	46	18	19	9
Intimate partner problem	48	10	26	10	22	11
Disclosed intent to commit suicide	47	10	23	9	24	12
History of suicide attempts	46	10	22	8	24	12
Crisis in past two weeks	20	4	12	5	8	4
Other death of friend or family	19	4	6	2	13	6
Other relationship problem	16	3	6	2	10	5
Recent criminal legal problem	16	3	15	6	1	0
Financial problem	11	2	6	2	5	2
Job problem	10	2	7	3	3	1
Left a suicide note	9	2	1	0	8	4
Victim of interpersonal violence within past month	4	1	0	0	4	2
Non-criminal legal problem	4	1	2	1	2	1
Perpetrator of interpersonal violence within past month	0	0	0	0	0	0
Suicide of friend or family within past five years	0	0	0	0	0	0
School problem	0	0	0	0	0	0

* More than one circumstance may have been associated with the death. Percentages were calculated using the number of undetermined manner of deaths: 464 overall, 262 for male and 202 for female.

Figure 19. Undetermined Death Rates by County of Residence, Oklahoma, 2004-2008



Unintentional Firearm Injury Deaths

- During 2004 to 2008, there were 51 unintentional firearm injury deaths (0.3 per 100,000 population). The rate of unintentional firearm injury death remained relatively stable from 2004 to 2008 (Table 21).
- Nearly all (45/51) victims were male. Fifty-three percent (27/51) of unintentional firearm deaths were among males less than 25 years of age. Unintentional firearm deaths were most common among males 5-24 years of age (Table 22). The youngest victim was 1 year of age and the oldest victim was 87 years of age.
- Unintentional firearm deaths included injuries that were self-inflicted (21), injuries inflicted by another person (25), and injuries where the shooter was not specified (5).
- The majority (63%) of unintentional firearm deaths were among white males; 14% (7) of deaths were among black males. However, the rate among black males (0.9) was 2.3 times the rate among white males (0.4). There were two unintentional firearm deaths among Native American males and no unintentional firearm deaths among Asian males (Figure 20).

Table 21. Unintentional Firearm Injury Deaths by Year, Oklahoma, 2004-2008

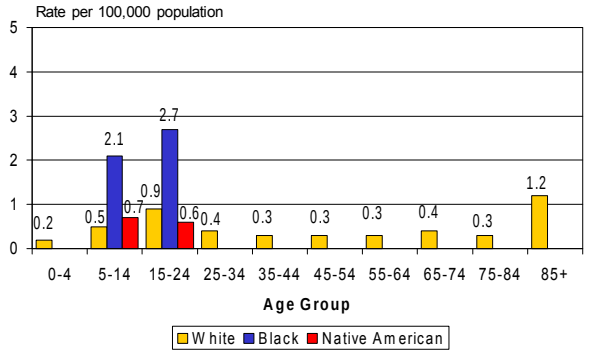
Year	Number	Rate
2004	7	0.2
2005	10	0.3
2006	13	0.4
2007	11	0.3
2008	10	0.3

Table 22. Age Specific Rates of Unintentional Firearm Death Among Males, Oklahoma, 2004-2008

Age	Number	Percent	Rate
0-4	2	6%	0.3
5-14	10	20%	0.8
15-24	15	35%	1.1
25-34	4	8%	0.3
35-44	5	12%	0.4
45-54	3	6%	0.2
55-64	2	6%	0.2
65-74	2	4%	0.4
75-84	1	2%	0.3
85+	1	2%	1.1
All ages	45	100%	0.5

- The circumstances surrounding unintentional firearm deaths were available from police reports and/or medical examiner reports.
  - In 22 (43%) incidents, the shooter was "playing around" with a gun.
  - In 11 (22%) incidents, the shooting happened while someone was showing a gun.
  - In 6 (12%) incidents, the victim was shot by another person while hunting.
  - In 6 (12%) incidents, the person was loading a gun.
  - Three (6%) incidents occurred while target shooting.
- In 18 (35%) deaths, the shooter thought the gun or magazine was unloaded; in 8 incidents, the gun discharged when it was dropped or someone accidentally pulled the trigger; and in 4 incidents, the gun had a defect or malfunctioned. In two incidents, the shooter thought the safety was engaged or was engaging the safety lock, and in one (2%) incident, the shooter was cleaning the gun.
- The types of firearms that killed victims were semi-automatic pistols (16), revolvers (9), rifles (11), shotguns (9), and other/unknown firearm types (5).
- Thirty-four (68%) of the firearm injuries occurred on home premises (house, apartment, yard, porch, etc.), 5 (10%) in a natural area, 2 (4%) occurred on a street/road, 4 (8%) in a motor vehicle, 2 (4%) on a farm, and 4 (8%) in other/unknown places.

Figure 20. Age and Race Specific Rates of Unintentional Firearm Deaths Among Males, Oklahoma, 2004-2008



Legal Intervention Deaths

- During 2004 to 2008, 62 deaths, an average of 12 deaths per year (0.3 per 100,000 population) resulted from legal intervention (i.e., person killed by law enforcement officers acting in the line of duty).
- The rate of legal intervention death declined by 40% from 2004 to 2008 (Table 23).
- The mean age of victims was 35 years. The youngest victim was 15 years of age and the oldest was 71 years of age.

Table 23. Legal Intervention Deaths by Year, Oklahoma, 2004-2008

Year	Number	Rate per 100,000 population
2004	16	0.5
2005	13	0.4
2006	7	0.2
2007	14	0.4
2008	12	0.3

- Ninety-two percent of legal intervention victims were male and 8% were female. The rate of legal intervention deaths among males was six times higher than the rate for females (0.6 and 0.1, respectively).
- In three (5%) of the legal intervention events, the victim killed another person before being killed by law enforcement officers.
- Legal intervention death rates were highest among persons 15-34 years of age (Figure 21). Sixty percent of all legal intervention deaths were among persons in this age group.
- Sixty-five percent of victims were white, 18% were black, 10% were Native American, and 7% were other/unknown races. The rate of legal intervention death was highest among black males (1.5) (Figure 22).
- The rate among Hispanic males (1.2) was two times higher than the rate among non-Hispanic males (0.6).
- Hispanic males 25-34 years of age had the highest rate of legal intervention death at 3.8 per 100,000 population (Table 24).
- There were five legal intervention deaths among white females. There were no legal intervention deaths among black, Native American, or Asian females.
- Criminal activity was associated with 48 (77%) legal intervention deaths involving 44 (92%) male victims and 4 female victims.
  - The types of crimes included assaults (23), robbery (8), drug trade (2), rape (1), other crimes (19), and unspecified crimes (2). In 56% of these cases the crime was in progress at the time of the shooting.

Figure 21. Age and Gender Specific Rates of Legal Intervention Deaths, Oklahoma, 2004-2008

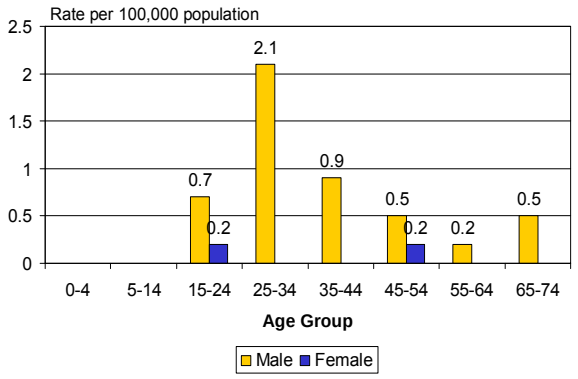
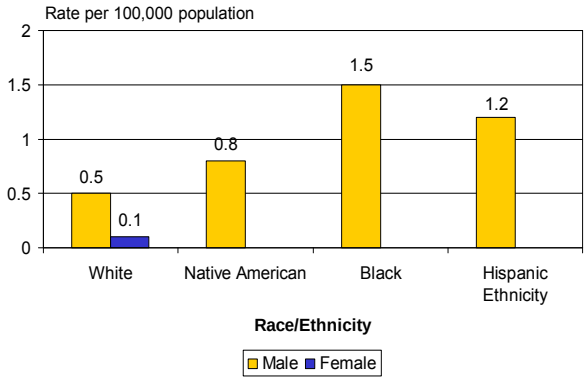


Figure 22. Gender, Race, and Ethnicity Specific Rates of Legal Intervention Deaths, Oklahoma, 2004-2008



- Other circumstances included arguments (5), a physical fight or brawl (5), drug involvement (11), arguments or conflict between intimate partners (11), gang-related (1), and jealousy (1).
- Toxicological tests were conducted in almost all cases. Fifty-four percent (33/61) of persons tested positive for alcohol and/or drugs.
- In all but two deaths, a firearm was used to kill the victim. In two incidents, the victims died from a sharp instrument injury that occurred during a struggle, and in another incident, hands and/or feet were used to kill.

Table 24. Legal Intervention Deaths by Age, Gender, Race,* and Ethnicity,** Oklahoma, 2004-2008

	White		Black		Native American		Asian		Hispanic	
Age	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Both Genders										
0-4	0	0.0	1	0.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
5-14	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
15-24	6	0.3	2	0.7	1	0.3	0	0.0	2	0.8
25-34	16	0.9	5	2.3	2	0.9	0	0.0	5	1.7
35-44	8	0.4	2	1.0	1	0.5	0	0.0	0	0.0
45-54	7	0.3	1	0.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.9
55-64	1	0.1	0	0.0	1	0.7	0	0.0	0	0.0
65-74	2	0.2	0	0.0	1	1.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
75-84	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
85+	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	40	0.3	11	0.7	6	0.4	0	0.0	8	0.5
Males										
0-4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
5-14	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
15-24	4	0.4	1	0.7	1	0.6	0	0.0	2	1.5
25-34	16	1.7	2	1.8	2	1.8	0	0.0	5	3.8
35-44	8	0.8	5	4.6	1	1.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
45-54	4	0.4	2	2.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.7
55-64	1	0.1	1	2.0	1	1.6	0	0.0	0	0.0
65-74	2	0.4	0	0.0	1	3.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
75-84	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
85+	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total Males	35	0.5	11	1.5	6	0.8	0	0.0	8	1.2
Females										
0-4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
5-14	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
15-24	2	0.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
25-34	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
35-44	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
45-54	3	0.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
55-64	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
65-74	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
75-84	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
85+	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total Females	5	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0

* Race was "other" for 4 persons and unknown for one person.
** Hispanic ethnicity is counted separately from race and is not a racial category.

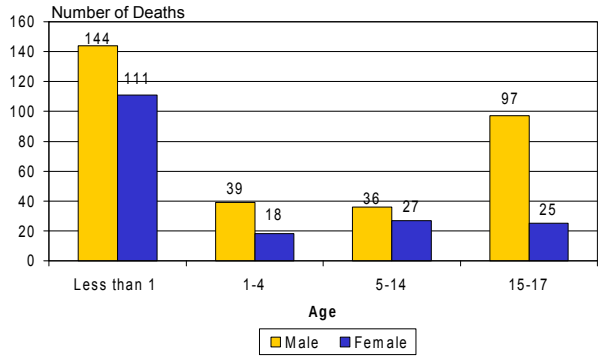
Child Deaths

- In 2004 to 2008, there were 497 violent deaths of children less than 18 years of age (11.1 per 100,000 population under 18 years of age), an average of 99 deaths per year. The rate of child violent death increased by 7% from 2004 to 2008 (Table 25).
- Sixty-four percent of victims were male and 36% were female.
- Fifty-one percent (255/497) of victims were infants less than one year of age and 49% of victims were 1-17 years of age (Figure 23).
- Undetermined manner of death accounted for the majority (54%) of violent deaths among children, followed by homicide (26%), suicide (14%), unintentional firearm deaths (5%), and legal intervention (<1%) (Table 26).
  - Among infants less than one year of age, 91% (232/255) of deaths were undetermined manner deaths and 9% (23/255) were homicides.
  - Among children 1-17 years of age, homicides accounted for 43% of deaths, followed by suicides (29%), undetermined manner deaths (15%), unintentional firearm deaths (10%), and legal interventions (2%).
- The rate of violent deaths among males (13.8) was 1.7 times higher than the rate among females (8.3). The rate of undetermined manner death among males (6.7) was 26% higher than the rate among females (5.3).
- The homicide rate among males (3.6) was 1.7 times higher than the rate among females (2.1). The suicide rate among males (2.4) was 3.4 times higher than the suicide rate among females (0.7) (Figure 24).
- Twenty-three males and two females died in unintentional firearm incidents.

Table 25. Child Violent Deaths by Year, Oklahoma, 2004-2008

Year	Number	Rate
2004	95	10.8
2005	91	10.3
2006	100	11.2
2007	106	11.8
2008	105	11.6

Figure 23. Age and Gender Distribution of Child Violent Deaths,* Oklahoma, 2004-2008

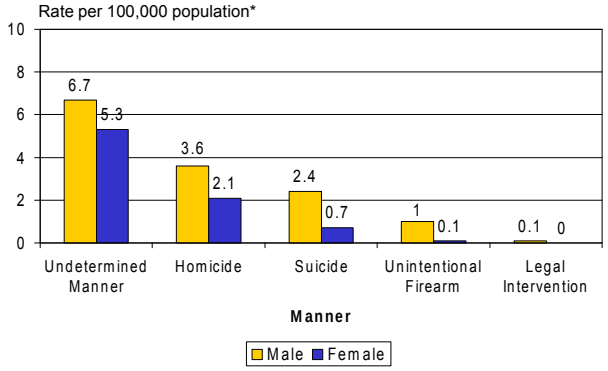


*Includes 497 children less than 18 years of age.

Table 26. Manner of Violent Death Among Persons Less Than 18 Years of Age, Oklahoma, 2004-2008

Manner of Death	Number	Percent	Rate
Homicide	128	26%	2.9
Suicide	71	14%	1.6
Undetermined	269	54%	6.0
Unintentional Firearm	25	5%	0.6
Legal Intervention	4	<1%	0.1
All Violent Deaths	497	100%	11.1

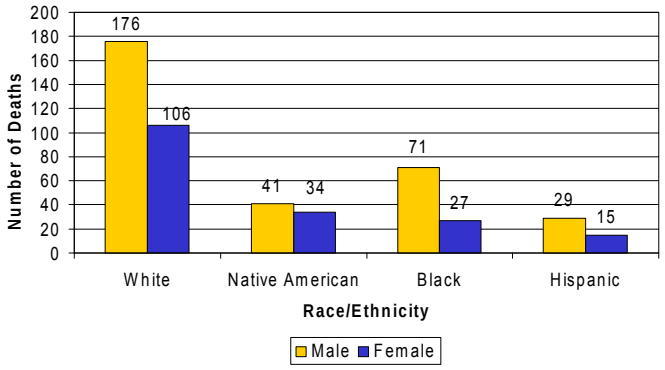
Figure 24. Child Violent Death Rates by Manner, Oklahoma, 2004-2008



*Rates were calculated per 100,000 population less than 18 years of age.

- Three males and one female died in legal intervention incidents.
- Fifty-seven percent of child victims of violent death were white, 20% were black, 15% were Native American, 2% were mixed race, and 6% were other or unknown race. Nine percent of child victims were Hispanic (Figure 25).
- Fourteen children 15-17 years of age tested positive for alcohol; 15 tested positive for drugs.

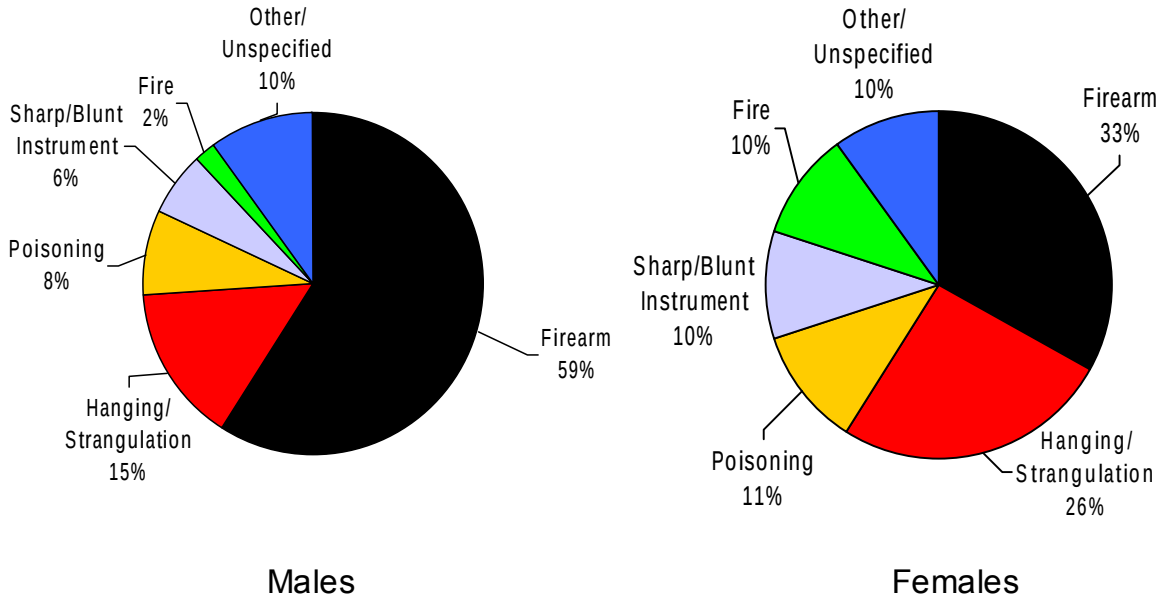
Figure 25. Gender, Race, and Ethnic Distribution of Violent Deaths Among Persons Less than 18 Years of Age,* Oklahoma, 2004-2008



*Includes 497 persons less than 18 years of age. For 42 children race was mixed (11), other (25), or unknown (6). For 7 children, Hispanic ethnicity was unknown.

- Among children 1-17 years of age, firearms were the most common weapon/method used to kill (52% of deaths). Other methods used to kill included hanging/strangulation (18% of deaths), fire (5%), poisoning (9%), sharp/blunt instruments (7%), and other/unknown methods (23%).
- Among children 1-17 years of age, the types of weapons/methods used to kill differed by gender (Figure 26).
  - Twice as many deaths among males were caused by firearms than among females, 59% and 33%, respectively.

Figure 26. Method of Violent Death by Gender for Persons Ages 1 - 17 Years, Oklahoma, 2004-2008



Oklahoma Child Death Review Board

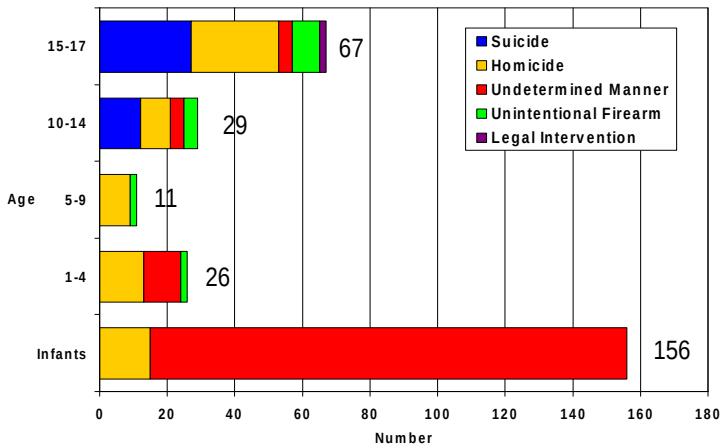
The Oklahoma Child Death Review Board (OCDRB) reviews every child death (<18 years of age) that results from an accident, homicide, suicide, or unknown manner of death. In some cases, the OCDRB also reviews child deaths resulting from natural causes. A state board and four regional review teams, located in Muskogee, Pottawatomie, Stephens, and Tulsa Counties, conduct the reviews.

The mission of the OCDRB is to reduce the number of preventable deaths through a multidisciplinary approach to case review. The Board submits recommendations to the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth each year. Previous recommendations have included graduated driver's licensing for teenage drivers and mandated booster seat usage for children 40-80 pounds. Recommendations may also be made on a case-by-case basis to improve agency practice.

Oklahoma is one of five states that collect child fatality review data in their violent death reporting system. Child fatality review data include information on the victim's household and social environment as well as systems contacts documented in case records. The OCDRB began contributing data to OK-VDRS in 2005. Since that time, child fatality review data have been collected on 289 (97%) child violent deaths that occurred during 2005 to 2007.

- Sixty-six percent of the child violent death cases reviewed by the OCDRB were males and 34% were females.
- Fifty-four percent of the cases reviewed were infants less than one year of age, 9% were 1-4 years of age, 4% were 5-9 years of age, 10% were 10-14 years of age, and 23% were 15-17 years of age.
- The majority (160/289) of cases reviewed were undetermined manner deaths, 72 (25%) were homicides, 39 (13%) were suicides, 16 (6%) were unintentional firearm deaths, and 2 (4%) were legal interventions.
- Undetermined manner death was most common among infants less than one year of age accounting for 141 (90%) deaths; 15 infant deaths were homicides.
- Among youth 10-17 years of age, suicide and homicide accounted for the majority (79%) of deaths (Figure 27).
- In 47% of victims' households, a prior Child Protective Services report had been filed (Table 27).
  - In 54% of homicides, 56% of suicides, and 43% of undetermined manner deaths among children, a prior Child Protective Services report had been filed.
- Child abuse or neglect had been substantiated in the victim's household in 28% of homicides, 22% of undetermined manner deaths, and 18% of suicides.

Figure 27. Child Fatality Review Cases by Manner of Death and Age, Oklahoma, 2005-2007



- Evidence of substance abuse was present in 15% of households and intimate partner violence was present in 13% of households of child violent death victims.
- The most common systems contacts were welfare assistance (83%), social services (includes child support enforcement) (42%), and Medicaid (45%) within 12 months prior to the death.
  - The primary caregiver in 78% of homicides, 67% of suicides, and 89% of undetermined manner deaths had received welfare within 12 months prior to the death.
  - The victim or primary caregiver in 50% of homicides, 49% of suicides, and 38% of undetermined manner deaths had contact with social services within 12 months prior to the death.

Table 27. Risk and Protective Factors Documented in Child Violent Deaths, Oklahoma, 2005-2007

Factor	Suicide (n=39)		Homicide (n=72)		Undetermined Manner (n=160)		Unintentional Firearm (n=16)		Legal Intervention (n=2)		Total (n=289)	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Household factors												
Prior Child Protective Services report filed on victim's household	22	56%	39	54%	69	43%	6	38%	1	50%	137	47%
Child abuse or neglect substantiated in victim's household (includes physical and sexual abuse)	7	18%	20	28%	35	22%	2	13%	0	0%	64	22%
Biological parents single or never married	2	5%	13	18%	45	28%	0	0%	0	0%	60	21%
Substance abuse in household	1	3%	12	17%	29	18%	0	0%	0	0%	42	15%
Unrelated adult living in household	2	5%	15	21%	23	14%	3	19%	0	0%	43	15%
Biological parents married	3	8%	9	13%	22	14%	3	19%	0	0%	37	13%
Intimate partner violence in household	2	5%	20	28%	17	11%	0	0%	0	0%	39	13%
Biological parents divorced or separated	6	15%	12	17%	1	<1%	3	19%	0	0%	22	8%
Systems contact												
Primary caregiver on welfare/financial assistance within past 12 months	26	67%	56	78%	143	89%	13	81%	2	100%	240	83%
Victim or primary caregiver had contact with social services within past 12 months	19	49%	36	50%	60	38%	7	44%	0	0%	122	42%
Victim or primary caregiver had contact with Medicaid within past 12 months	18	46%	32	44%	68	43%	11	69%	1	50%	130	45%
Household had contact with police within past 12 months	2	5%	12	17%	21	13%	0	0%	0	0%	35	12%
Victim had contact with police or juvenile justice system within past 12 months	2	5%	5	7%	5	3%	0	0%	1	50%	13	4%
Victim had contact with health or mental health system within past 12 months	3	8%	2	3%	3	2%	0	0%	0	0%	8	3%

Appendix 1. Number and Rate* of Violent Deaths by County of Residence and Manner of Death, Oklahoma, 2004-2008

UCR Region	County	2004-2008 Population	Homicide		Suicide		Unintentional Firearm Injury		Legal Intervention		Undetermined Manner		All Deaths	
			Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
4	Adair	108,623	9	8.3	9	8.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	2.8	21	19.3
1	Alfalfa	28,124	0	0.0	2	7.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	7.1	4	14.2
5	Atoka	71,912	1	1.4	12	16.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	5	7.0	18	25.0
2	Beaver	26,735	1	3.7	5	18.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	3.7	7	26.2
8	Beckham	98,390	7	7.1	20	20.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	3.0	30	30.5
2	Blaine	63,218	2	3.2	6	9.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	6.3	12	19.0
7	Bryan	193,918	6	3.1	33	17.0	1	0.5	0	0.0	12	6.2	52	26.8
8	Caddo	147,037	11	7.5	18	12.2	2	1.4	0	0.0	8	5.4	39	26.5
8	Canadian	502,772	11	2.2	73	14.5	0	0.0	4	0.8	13	2.6	101	20.1
7	Carter	235,219	18	7.7	35	14.9	1	0.4	0	0.0	16	6.8	70	29.8
4	Cherokee	224,305	12	5.3	39	17.4	0	0.0	1	0.4	14	6.2	66	29.4
5	Choctaw	75,233	12	16.0	17	22.6	2	2.7	0	0.0	5	6.6	36	47.9
2	Cimarron	13,426	1	7.4	2	14.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	7.4	4	29.8
6	Cleveland	1,157,061	23	2.0	122	10.5	3	0.3	4	0.3	19	1.6	171	14.8
6	Coal	28,465	2	7.0	8	28.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	10	35.1
7	Comanche	564,541	40	7.1	76	13.5	2	0.4	6	1.1	21	3.7	145	25.7
7	Cotton	31,870	1	3.1	5	15.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	6	18.8
3	Craig	75,053	2	2.7	13	17.3	1	1.3	0	0.0	7	9.3	23	30.6
4	Creek	342,762	12	3.5	69	20.1	0	0.0	2	0.6	16	4.7	99	28.9
2	Custer	128,681	4	3.1	14	10.9	0	0.0	1	0.8	3	2.3	22	17.1
3	Delaware	198,624	13	6.5	34	17.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	10	5.0	57	28.7
2	Dewey	22,063	1	4.5	1	4.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	4.5	3	13.6
2	Ellis	19,261	0	0.0	3	15.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	15.6
1	Garfield	286,741	6	2.1	42	14.6	1	0.3	0	0.0	12	4.2	61	21.3
6	Garvin	134,808	12	8.9	29	21.5	0	0.0	1	0.7	5	3.7	47	34.9
6	Grady	248,449	8	3.2	25	10.1	1	0.4	2	0.8	11	4.4	47	18.9
1	Grant	22,795	0	0.0	5	21.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	4.4	6	26.3
8	Greer	28,968	3	10.4	5	17.3	1	3.5	0	0.0	1	3.5	10	34.5
8	Harmon	14,477	2	13.8	1	6.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	6.9	4	27.6
2	Harper	16,662	0	0.0	4	24.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	24.0
5	Haskell	60,333	1	1.7	4	6.6	1	1.7	0	0.0	3	5.0	9	14.9
6	Hughes	68,365	5	7.3	7	10.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	4.4	15	21.9
8	Jackson	130,968	5	3.8	6	4.6	2	1.5	1	0.8	7	5.3	21	16.0
7	Jefferson	31,540	3	9.5	1	3.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	6.3	6	19.0
7	Johnston	51,753	3	5.8	11	21.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	5.8	17	32.8
1	Kay	230,270	8	3.5	32	13.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	1.3	43	18.7
1	Kingfisher	70,685	3	4.2	12	17.0	1	1.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	16	22.6
8	Kiowa	47,600	1	2.1	6	12.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	7	14.7
5	Latimer	52,505	2	3.8	14	26.7	1	1.9	0	0.0	5	9.5	22	41.9

UCR Region	County	2004-2008 Population	Homicide		Suicide		Unintentional Firearm Injury		Legal Intervention		Undetermined Manner		All Deaths	
			Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
5	Le Flore	246,101	11	4.5	43	17.5	2	0.8	0	0.0	11	4.5	67	27.2
4	Lincoln	160,539	9	5.6	33	20.6	1	0.6	1	0.6	5	3.1	49	30.5
1	Logan	181,877	5	2.7	19	10.4	1	0.5	0	0.0	6	3.3	31	17.0
7	Love	45,178	1	2.2	8	17.7	1	2.2	0	0.0	3	6.6	13	28.8
2	Major	35,943	0	0.0	2	5.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	2.8	3	8.3
7	Marshall	72,689	0	0.0	9	12.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	9	12.4
3	Mayes	197,106	10	5.1	38	19.3	0	0.0	1	0.5	11	5.6	60	30.4
6	McClain	154,244	6	3.9	12	7.8	1	0.6	0	0.0	2	1.3	21	13.6
5	McCurtain	167,361	23	13.7	37	22.1	2	1.2	2	1.2	4	2.4	68	40.6
4	McIntosh	97,592	7	7.2	17	17.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	8	8.2	32	32.8
7	Murray	63,184	0	0.0	14	22.2	1	1.6	0	0.0	1	1.6	16	25.3
4	Muskogee	351,980	19	5.4	54	15.3	2	0.6	1	0.3	14	4.0	90	25.6
1	Noble	55,285	1	1.8	8	14.5	1	1.8	0	0.0	2	3.6	12	21.7
3	Nowata	53,299	0	0.0	9	16.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	5.6	12	22.5
4	Okfuskee	56,183	5	8.9	4	7.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	7.1	13	23.1
1	Oklahoma	3,464,430	311	9.0	474	13.7	7	0.2	15	0.4	129	3.7	936	27.0
4	Okmulgee	196,405	14	7.1	34	17.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	13	6.6	61	31.1
1	Osage	225,130	14	6.2	34	15.1	0	0.0	1	0.4	7	3.1	56	24.9
3	Ottawa	161,498	5	3.1	35	21.7	0	0.0	1	0.6	9	5.6	50	31.0
1	Pawnee	82,254	3	3.6	14	17.0	1	1.2	1	1.2	1	1.2	20	24.3
1	Payne	388,988	5	1.3	40	10.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	11	2.8	56	14.4
5	Pittsburg	220,997	14	6.3	56	25.3	1	0.5	1	0.5	10	4.5	82	37.1
6	Pontotoc	179,753	9	5.0	29	16.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	7	3.9	45	25.0
6	Pottawatomie	341,908	10	2.9	48	14.0	0	0.0	2	0.6	9	2.6	69	20.2
5	Pushmataha	57,839	4	6.9	11	19.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	5	8.6	20	34.6
2	Roger Mills	16,357	0	0.0	5	30.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	5	30.6
3	Rogers	407,362	11	2.7	46	11.3	1	0.2	0	0.0	14	3.4	72	17.7
6	Seminole	120,543	9	7.5	21	17.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	6	5.0	36	29.9
5	Sequoyah	203,060	5	2.5	26	12.8	1	0.5	0	0.0	5	2.5	37	18.2
7	Stephens	214,240	11	5.1	29	13.5	1	0.5	1	0.5	6	2.8	48	22.4
2	Texas	101,039	4	4.0	12	11.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	16	15.8
8	Tillman	41,240	1	2.4	2	4.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	7.3	6	14.5
3	Tulsa	2,892,830	278	9.6	466	16.1	6	0.2	11	0.4	161	5.6	922	31.9
3	Wagoner	326,431	14	4.3	47	14.4	1	0.3	1	0.3	15	4.6	78	23.9
3	Washington	247,147	4	1.6	53	21.4	0	0.0	1	0.4	12	4.9	70	28.3
8	Washita	57,284	3	5.2	11	19.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	5.2	17	29.7
2	Woods	42,346	2	4.7	4	9.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	6	14.2
2	Woodward	95,909	4	4.2	13	13.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	2.1	19	19.8
	Unknown		1	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	1	N/A
	State	17,877,763	1,084	6.1	2,637	14.8	51	0.3	62	0.3	724	4.0	4,558	25.5

*Average annual rates calculated using 2004-2008 combined bridged-race census population estimates.