



Tennessee
Bureau of Investigation
CJIS Support Center

Law Enforcement-Related Deaths 2018





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David B. Rausch
Director

March 29, 2019

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation would like to present the 2018 Law Enforcement-Related Deaths report. This publication, which satisfies the requirements set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 38-10-102, has been produced by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation's CJIS Support Center, and provides information on qualifying incidents as submitted by the state's law enforcement agencies to the TBI through the CrimeInsight Portal.

I am very proud of the efforts of all participating law enforcement agencies in the state to provide the data necessary to produce this report. Our combined efforts have resulted in a successful reporting program and the relationships necessary to produce a report of this nature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Rausch".

Director
David Rausch





Law Enforcement Related Deaths in Tennessee

Introduction

Annually, the TBI's Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division collects crime data through the Tennessee Incident Based Reporting system, also known as TIBRS. Although most data collected is predominantly TIBRS, the TBI's CJIS Division deployed the CrimeInsight Portal to collect data on Law Enforcement-Related Deaths. Law Enforcement-Related Deaths fall outside the scope of TIBRS and are therefore collected in the CrimeInsight portal using the appropriate web entry utility.

According to T.C.A. § 38-10-102, Law enforcement-Related Deaths means "the death of an individual in custody, whether in prison, in a jail or otherwise in the custody of law enforcement pursuant to an arrest or a transfer between institutions of any kind or; the death of an individual potentially resulting from an interaction with law enforcement, while the law enforcement officer is on duty or while the law enforcement officer is off duty but

performing activities that are within the scope of the officer's law enforcement duties."

An Arrest Related Non-Forcible Death (ARNFD) is any death that is attributed to suicide, alcohol, drug intoxication, or medical conditions (i.e. cardiac arrest) that occurs during the process of arrest by or in the custody of state or local law enforcement personnel. Though ARNFDs are not common, they do fall within the scope of the "Law Enforcement Related Deaths" definition. However, these particular incidents are not reported in CrimeInsight, but are instead reported using a form found on the TBI website.

Scope of Study

For the purpose of this study, the TBI'S CJIS Division divided Law Enforcement Related Death data into three sections: Deadly Use of Force, Arrest-Related Non-forcible Deaths, and Deaths in Custody – all which meet the T.C.A.§38-10-102 definition.

Data presented in this study only represents numbers for the year of 2018.



Law Enforcement Related Deaths Overview

This report only contains information pertaining to deaths that occurred in the presence of law enforcement or deaths that occurred while in custody, such as in a local jail or prison.

Data in this study does not include occurrences where an officer fired his/her weapon in a situation which did not result in a death or when a subject sustained a serious bodily injury directly related to use of force by a law enforcement officer.

Additionally, this study does not contain deaths that occur in non-residential community-based programs run by jails, such as house arrest, work programs, community service, day reporting, or electronic monitoring.

Methodology

Each employing agency is responsible for submitting a report for its own officers connected to incidents that meet the criteria of the data collection. Jails and Prisons are responsible for submitting a CJ-9 form to the TBI for deaths that occurred in their facility.

Findings

In 2018, 58 agencies reported a Law Enforcement Related Death. Some agencies reported more than one event in 2018.

Reporting Agency by Type

- 5 Sheriffs' Offices
- 15 Police Departments
- 36 Jails/Prisons
- 1 State Agency
- 0 Law Enforcement College
- 1 Drug Task Force



The diagram above should be interpreted with caution, as the location icons do not represent the total reported occurrences of law enforcement related deaths, but rather an approximate location of the jurisdiction in which the event occurred. Also, the diagram above does not indicate whether more than one agency was involved in an incident.



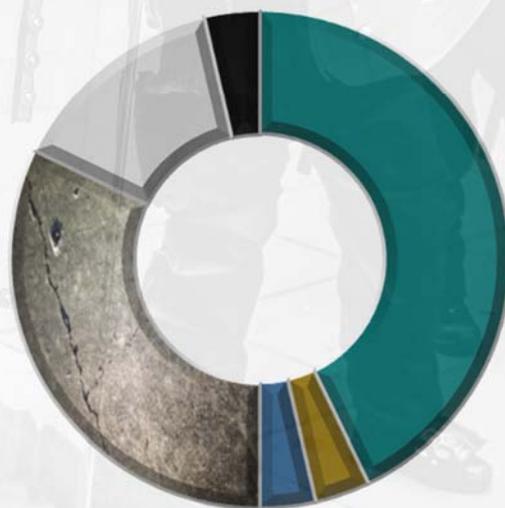
Deadly Use of Force Summary

In 2018, a total of 180 Law Enforcement Related Deaths were reported by 22 police agencies and 36 facilities in Tennessee. Of the 180 reported deaths, 28 met the reporting criteria of Deadly Use of Force by a police officer, a 16.7% increase from 2017. Most incidents occurred during the second half of 2018.

Deadly Use of Force by Month



Data also revealed that Deadly Use of Force incidents occurred predominantly during the month of October accounting for a total of 21.4% followed by March and July at 14.3% respectively. For three consecutive months—April, May, and June— one deadly use of force occurred in each month.



Location of Death

- Residence/Home
- Commercial/Office Building
- Department/Discount Store
- Highway/Road/Alley/Street/Sidewalk
- Parking/Drop Lot/Garage
- Field/Woods

Further analysis revealed that 42.9% Deadly Use of Force incidents occurred predominantly in Residence/Home locations followed by the location of Highway/Road/Alley/Street/Sidewalk at 32.1% in 2018. One aspect that should not be ignored by police-public encounters when analyzing location is the initial contact between the officer and subject.



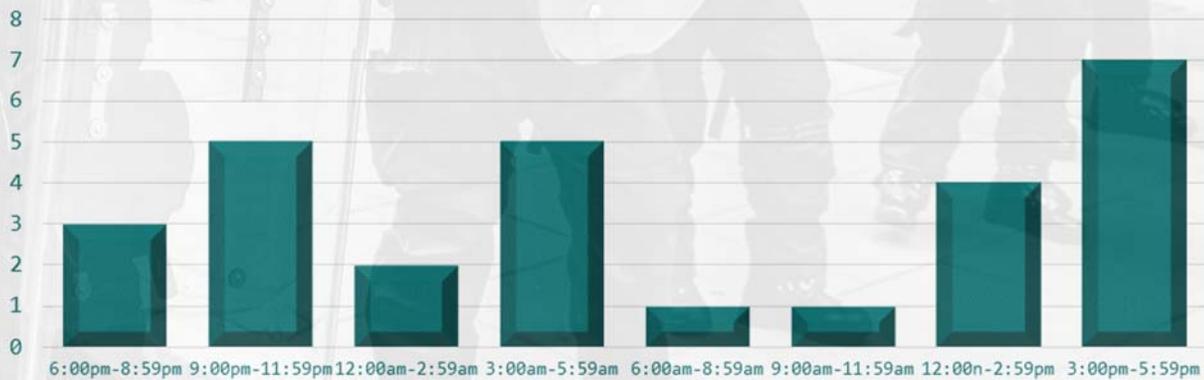
Deadly Use of Force Summary

Initial Contact



Findings revealed the initial contact of “Response to unlawful or suspicious activity” was the most reported police-public encounter type in 2018 accounting for 42.9% followed by Warrant Service at 28.6%. The category of “Other”, in this study, is used to describe an event where authorities from a different state issued a BOLO—be on the lookout. There were only two instances where officers responded to Medical, mental health, or welfare assistance in 2018.

Time of Day



Data also revealed that incidents mostly occurred in the evening between the hours of 3:00 p.m.- and 5:59 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.-11:59 p.m. Though the time frame of 3:00 a.m.- 5:59 am accounted for 17.9%, use of force incidents were less likely to occur during regular morning commute hours in Tennessee.



Deadly Use of Force Summary

Of the 28 reported deadly use of force incidents in 2018, 1 incident involved two subjects. Whites accounted for 62.1% compared to Black or African American at 37.9%. One Subject reported as White had an Ethnicity of Hispanic or Latino. There were zero Asian, American Indian or Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander reported in 2018. Subject data also revealed Males accounted for 93.1% while Females accounted for 6.9%.

Subject by Race

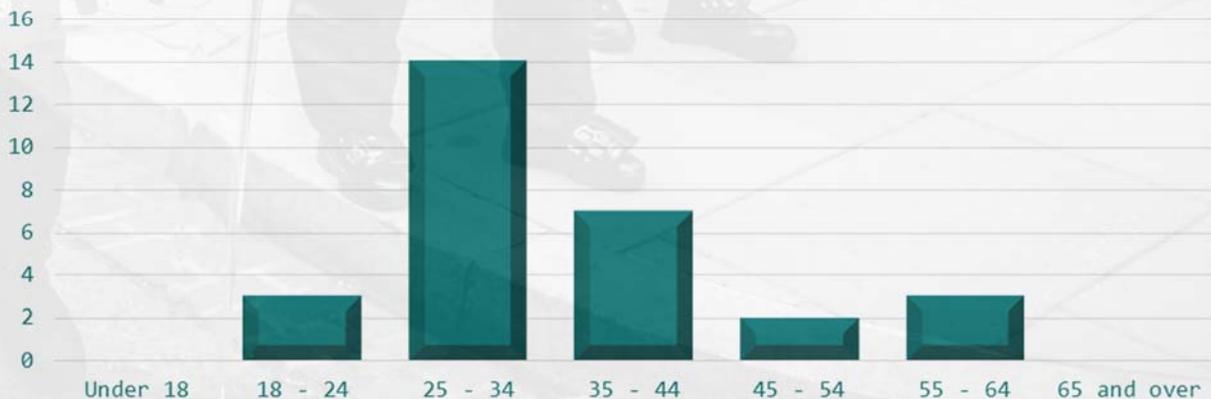


Subject by Gender



Further examination of Subject data indicated that the age group categories of 25-34 made up the highest reported age group in 2018 accounting for 46.4%, followed by the age group category of 35-44 at 25.0%. The age group categories of Under 18 and 65 and Over had zero for 2018.

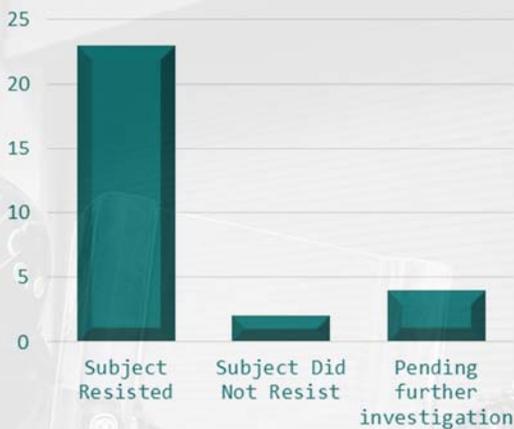
Subject Age





Deadly Use of Force Summary

Resisted



The data element of “Resisted” is used to indicate whether the subject involved resisted against an officer during the initial contact. Some examples of resistance types include Escape Flee, Barricade, Verbal Threats, Resist Arrest, Physical Assault on Officer, Display/Use of a Weapon or Noncompliance to Verbal Commands.

More than one resistance type may be selected for each incident. Data illustrated on Chart 8 indicates that 79.3% of decedents resisted in some form against police officers.

Armed

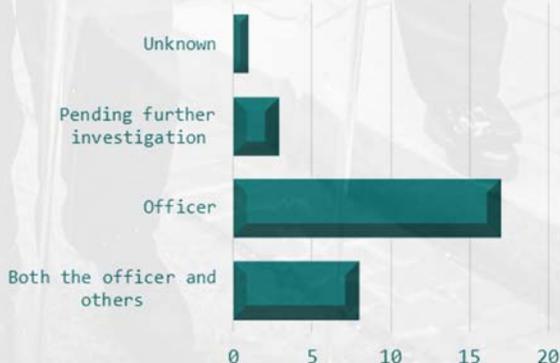


- Subject was Armed
- Subject was not Armed
- Pending further investigation

The data element of “Armed” is used to indicate whether the subject appeared to have a weapon during an incident. Of all the reported deadly use of force incidents in 2018, 72.4% of incidents were reported as Subject was Armed during the initial contact with the officer.

Though more than half (58.6%) of 2018 incidents were reported as subject threatened the officer, 27.6% of incidents indicated that Subject threatened officer and bystanders.

Threat Directed At



Noteworthy findings also revealed that four agencies reported the officer was struck by a vehicle while attempting to apprehend subject. Fifteen of the 28 incidents indicated that Subject displayed or used a weapon against an officer and/or others.



Arrest-Related Non-Forcible Death Summary

This section analyzes deaths that occurred in the presence of police but were not directly related to use of force by a law enforcement official. As mentioned in the introduction, an *Arrest-Related Non-Forcible Death* (ARNFD) is any death that is attributed to suicide, alcohol, drug intoxication, or medical conditions (cardiac arrest, etc.) that occurs during the process of an arrest by or in the custody of state or local law enforcement personnel.

Out of the 180 Law Enforcement Related Deaths reported in 2018, 4 deaths met the Arrest Related Non-Forcible Death (ARNFD) reporting criteria.

- ◆ Corresponding law enforcement agencies reported the initial contact as “Response to Unlawful or Suspicious Activity,” “Warrant Service,” “Routine Patrol”, and “Traffic Stop.”
- ◆ Findings on *Offender Demographics* revealed that three subjects were White Males and one Black Male. The decedents were between the ages of 21-38.
- ◆ The *Manner of Death* is another important data element when exploring ARNFDs. Of the four Arrest-Related Deaths, two reports indicated the subject committed Suicide while in the process of law enforcement making an arrest. One report indicated the subject died from “accidental injury to self” during apprehension. One report indicated the subject stopped breathing shortly after the arrest was made. The autopsy results determined cause of death was due to Methamphetamine toxicity.
- ◆ Two incidents were reported with the *Location Type* of Residence/Home and one with the location type of Field/Woods/Lake/Waterways and one with the location of Highway/Road/Alley/Street/Sidewalk.
- ◆ *Incident Time* data revealed that all incidents occurred during the evening hours.



Deaths in Custody Summary

The Deaths in Custody section analyzes data on deaths that occur in local jails or state prisons. A total of 38 facilities in Tennessee reported a death in 2018.

Deaths in Custody by Month

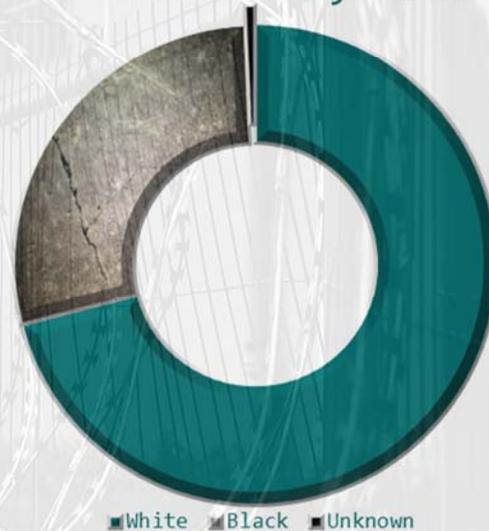


In 2018, 148 deaths were reported across the state. March accounted for the highest reported month at 13.5% followed by February at 11.5%. October represented the lowest reported month with only three deaths reported for the year. Deaths in custody occurred predominantly during the first half of 2018.

Decedent by Gender



Decedent by Race



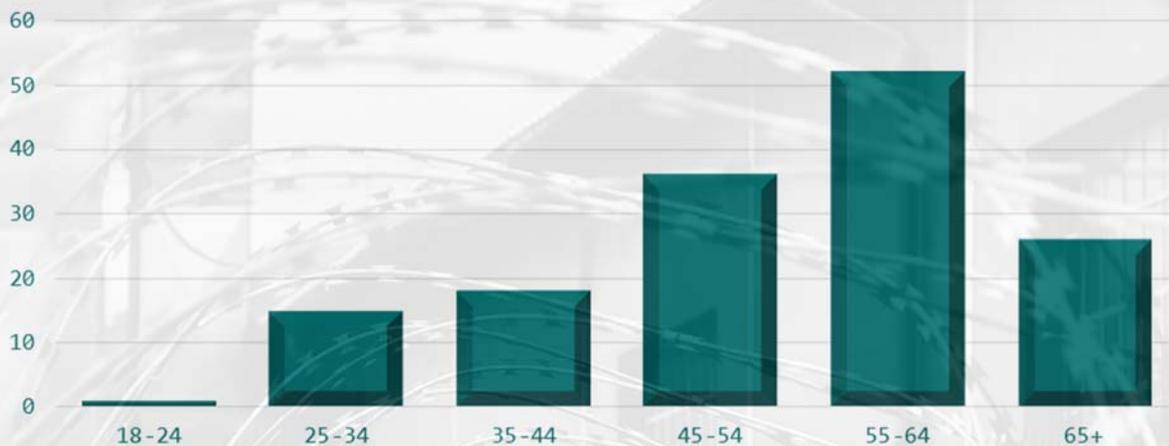
Further analysis of data revealed that Males accounted for the highest reported gender type accounting for a total of 92.6% compared to Females at 7.4%. Inmates classified as White made up 70.9% of all reported Deaths in Custody, followed by Black or African American at 28.4%. Zero Asian or Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander were reported last year. Only one reported indicated Race of Unknown in 2018.



Deaths in Custody Summary

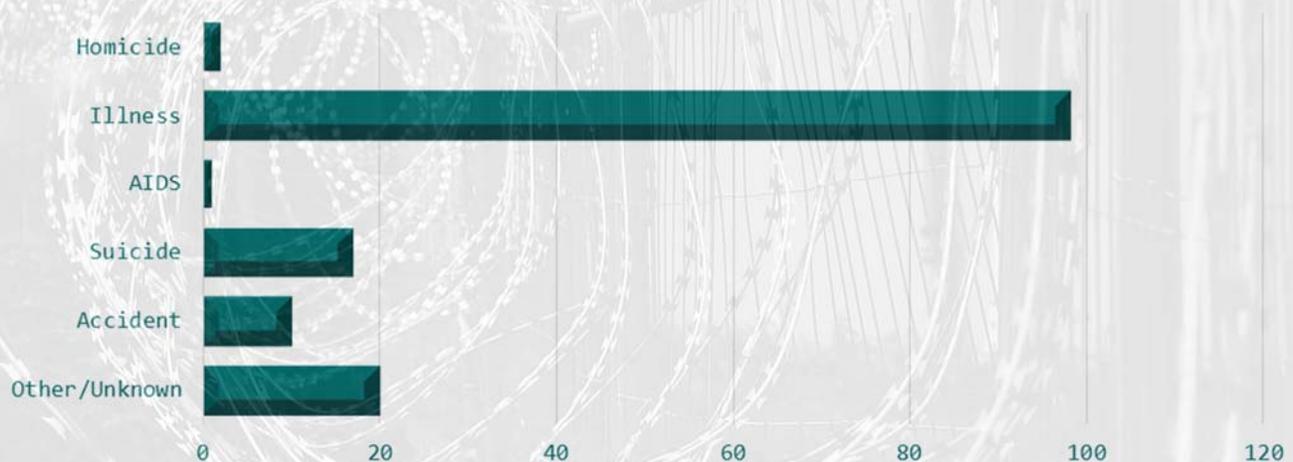
Additional decedent characteristics, such as age is analyzed in this summary. Although local jails book individuals of all ages, decedents under 24 are less likely to be reported by a state prison. Local jails generally hold inmates less than a year whereas state prisons generally hold inmates for more than one year.

Decedent by Age



Data displayed above illustrates mortality rates are the most predominant between the ages of 55-64. Among all age groups, 24 and under represented the lowest mortality rates in 2018.

Cause of Death



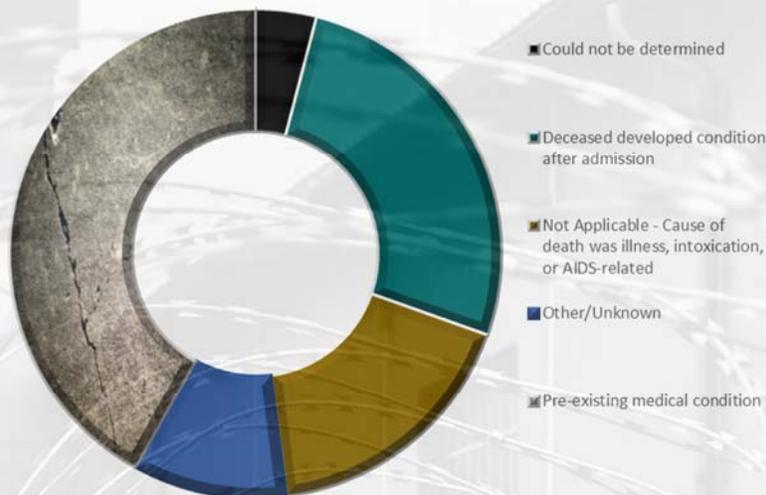
Illness-related deaths constituted 66.2% of the reported Cause of Death for 2018. Suicides made up 11.5%. Other/Unknown, in this study, refers to deaths that involved drugs, intoxication or deaths that had missing or results pending "Cause of Death information."



Deaths in Custody Summary

Another important data element to assess is whether the decedent had a pre-existing medical condition. Findings in data revealed that most individuals who died in a jail or prison had a pre-existing medical condition in 2018.

Decedent's Medical Condition



Further findings on medical condition indicate that 26.4% of decedents developed the condition after admission while 17.6% were classified as Not Applicable-Cause of death was illness, intoxication, or AIDS-related. Other/Unknown accounted for 10.1% of the total reportable categories.

Location of Death	#
In a general housing unit within the jail facility or in a general housing unit on jail grounds	20
In a segregation unit	7
In a special medical unit/infirmary within the jail facility	43
In a special mental health services unit within the jail facility	3
In a medical center outside the jail facility	72
In a mental health center outside the jail facility	0
While in transit	0
Elsewhere	3
Total	148

To conclude, most decedents who had an illness related death died in a medical center outside the jail facility (48.6%) or in a medical unit/infirmary within the jail facility (29.1%). Deaths classified as Suicide, Accident, or Homicide occurred predominately in a general housing unit within the facility, in a segregation unit or in a special mental health center outside the jail facility.



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