



Crime in Oklahoma, 2013

Selected Findings

September 2014

Murder in Oklahoma

According to Uniform Crime Reporting requirements, murder is defined as “the unlawful killing of a human being in which the element of malice aforethought was present.”

Any death due to a fight, argument, quarrel, assault, or commission of a crime is included. Manslaughters, suicides, accidental deaths, and justifiable homicides are excluded from this category.

Oklahoma law enforcement reported 207 murders in 2013.

Murders accounted for 1.2% of all violent crimes. In 2013, 152 murders were cleared by arrest or exceptional means, representing a statewide clearance rate of 73.4%. For reporting purposes, clearance rates are calculated by dividing the number of murders cleared by the total number of murders reported.

The majority of victims and offenders of murder were white males.

In 2013, white victims accounted for 60.1% of all murders, while 35.6% were black and 3.4% were American Indian. In 2013, 50.3% of persons arrested for murder were white, 46.7% black, and 2.4% American Indian.

The majority of murders were committed using a firearm.

Sixty-seven percent of all murders in Oklahoma were committed with a firearm. The most common firearm type was a handgun (117), followed by a shotgun (9). A knife was used in 12.5% of murders. Other methods used by offenders to commit murder included personal weapons (19), narcotics and drugs (2), and other blunt objects (8).

The victim-offender relationship was identified in 72% of reported murders.

In 61.8% of murders, the offender knew the victim. Approximately 18% of murders were committed by a family member.

The number of murders has remained steady over the last ten years.

In 2013, Oklahoma law enforcement reported 207 murders. Over the last ten years, law enforcement in Oklahoma has reported, on average, 208 murders per year.

High murder rates are found in both urban and rural counties.

Oklahoma and Tulsa counties comprise one-third of Oklahoma’s population. Even though they do not have the highest murder rates, they are the only counties with more than 40 murders in 2013.

Murder in Oklahoma, 2004-2013

