

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS  
AND ACTING AS COLLECTION AGENT:  
RTI INTERNATIONAL

## Arrest-Related Death INCIDENT REPORT, 2013



### Question-by-Question Guide

#### Item 1: What was the decedent's name?

Please provide the decedent's legal name (last, first, and middle initial).

#### Item 2: What was the time and date of death?

Please indicate the **official** time and date of death. The **official** time and date of death indicate when the decedent was pronounced dead by either medical personnel or another authorized official. The official time or date of death may be different from the time or date of the fatal event. If the official time and date of death are unknown, estimate the time and date of when the fatal injury was sustained or the fatal medical condition presented.

**Example:** The decedent sustains a life-threatening injury (e.g., gunshot wound, blunt force trauma) during the process of arrest, but does not die until hours, days, or weeks later. The most appropriate response to this item would reflect the time and date life ceased rather than the time and date the injuries were sustained.

#### Item 3: What law enforcement agency was involved with the death?

Please indicate the name and ORI (ORiginating Identifier) of the **primary** law enforcement agency involved with the death. When personnel from a single agency were involved with the decedent during the incident, the primary agency is the responding agency. In instances in which personnel from more than one agency interacted with the decedent during the incident, the primary agency is the one most involved with the **death**. For the purposes of ARD, the **primary** agency refers to the agency that caused or contributed to the death, or the agency detaining the decedent at the time of death. The primary agency may be different from the agency initially involved with decedent at the start of the incident.

**Example 1:** Law enforcement personnel from Agency X attempt a traffic stop. The suspect flees and initiates a high-speed chase that crosses several jurisdictions. Personnel from Agency Y and Agency Z join Agency X in the pursuit. Personnel from Agency Z deploy a spike strip (tire deflation device), which punctures the suspect's tires. The punctured tires cause the suspect to lose control of the vehicle and crash into a utility pole at a high rate of speed. The impact from the crash causes fatal injuries. In this instance, Agency Z should be listed as the primary agency because that agency effected the death.

**Example 2:** A small local police department receives a mental health assistance call for a suicidal person. Law enforcement personnel from this agency are dispatched to the scene and they request backup from the larger county sheriff's department and the assistance of the sheriff's Crisis Intervention Team (CIT). The CIT is given operational responsibility for the suicidal person, who is apprehended and placed under their custody. The suspect dies from complications attributed to a fatal drug overdose during transport to the medical facility. In this instance, the sheriff's department should be listed as the primary agency because the decedent was in their custody at the time of death.

If personnel from multiple law enforcement agencies were involved with an arrest-related death, mark the box labeled, "Check if multiple law enforcement agencies responded." In this case, only the primary law enforcement agency should be reported; additional agencies do not need to be listed.

The ORI number is an alpha-numeric identification code used by law enforcement agencies to report and access data. All law enforcement agencies are issued an ORI number by the FBI. ORI numbers are *not* derived from the incident or case number generated by the reporting law enforcement agency. If you are unsure of the reporting agencies' ORI number, mark the box labeled, "Agency ORI unknown."

#### **Item 4: Where did the event causing the death occur?**

Please indicate the address or the approximate location (i.e., street intersection, neighborhood) where the decedent was injured or developed the condition that resulted in death. The purpose of this item is to identify the location of where the death-causing event occurred, which may be different from the location where the incident began or where the decedent died or was pronounced dead (e.g., medical center). If the incident occurred at multiple locations, specify the location where the decedent was injured or developed the condition that resulted in death.

**Example 1:** Law enforcement personnel are dispatched to a residence for a disturbance. While at the residence, the decedent sustains a gunshot wound and later dies at a medical facility. The most appropriate response to this item would be the street address of the decedent's residence.

**Example 2:** Law enforcement personnel respond to a bank robbery in progress. The suspect flees the bank and engages law enforcement personnel in a pursuit. The suspect fires gunshots at law enforcement personnel during the pursuit, who return fire, causing a fatal injury. The most appropriate response to this item would be the address of where the gunfire occurred, not the bank where the incident originated.

#### **Item 5: What location category best describes where the event causing the death occurred? (Mark only one)**

Please categorize the address or the approximate location provided as response to Item 4 into one of the listed location types. The purpose of this item is to specify the type of location where the decedent was injured or developed the condition that resulted in death. If none of the listed

location categories describe where the event that resulted in death occurred, mark “Other” and specify the most appropriate location type. If the location type is unknown, mark “Unknown.”

If the incident occurred at multiple locations, specify the location type of where the decedent was injured or developed the condition that resulted in death.

**Residence/Home:** Permanent residences, including apartments, condominiums, townhouses, nursing homes, residential driveways, and residential yards. Incidents occurring on public sidewalks or in public streets near residences should be categorized as “Roadway/Highway/Street/Sidewalk.”

**Law enforcement facility:** Places where law enforcement activities are carried out, including local police departments, sheriffs’ offices, substations, lockups, or booking centers, where arrestees are detained or confined before arraignment. Incidents occurring in local jails, state prisons, state juvenile correctional facilities, or private correctional facilities should be excluded from the ARD collection and reported to Jails or Prisons data collection components of the Deaths in Custody Reporting Program (DCRP).

**Business, specify type:** Places where an organization is engaged in the trade of goods or services to consumers. Includes the interior space occupied by the business, as well as related parking lots and walkways. Specify the type of business where the event resulting in death occurred (e.g., bank, convenience store, liquor store, bar/night club, restaurant, grocery store/supermarket).

**Roadway/highway/street/sidewalk:** Includes open public ways for the passage of vehicles, people, and animals, except where a business is associated with a walkway (mark “Business”).

**Parking lot/garage:** Includes areas that are used primarily for parking motorized vehicles, except when a business is associated with a parking lot (mark “Business”).

**Field/woods/lake/waterway/beach:** Includes areas that are primarily open fields or wooded areas, shorelines, lakes, streams, canals, or bodies of water other than swimming pools. This category does not include parks.

**Other, specify:** This category encompasses any location that is not applicable above. Specify the location type in the space provided (e.g. park; hotel or motel; school or college; church, synagogue, temple, or mosque).

#### **Item 6: What was the decedent’s sex? (Mark only one)**

If the decedent’s sex is not known, leave blank.

#### **Item 7: What was the decedent’s date of birth (DOB)?**

Please indicate the decedent’s date of birth (DOB) in a MM-DD-YYYY format. If the DOB is unknown, indicate the decedent’s age at time of death. If both DOB and age at death are unknown, leave blank.

### **Item 8: What was the decedent's ethnic origin? (Mark only one)**

Race and ethnicity are considered separate and distinct identities. There are two categories for data on ethnicity: "Hispanic or Latino" and "Not Hispanic or Latino." In addition to the decedent's race, please indicate whether the decedent was of Hispanic or Latino descent or origin. If ethnic origin is unknown, mark "Unknown."

**Hispanic or Latino.** A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race. The term "Spanish origin" can be used in addition to "Hispanic or Latino."

### **Item 9: What was the decedent's race? (Mark only one)**

In addition to ethnicity, please specify the decedent's race. There are five categories on race: "American Indian or Alaska Native," "Asian," "Black or African American," "Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and "White." The categories in this classification are social-political constructs and should not be interpreted as being scientific or anthropological in nature. If the decedent's racial background is of two or more races, mark "Two of more races." If race is unknown, mark "Unknown."

**American Indian or Alaska Native:** A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America) who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment.

**Asian:** A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent, including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam.

**Black or African American:** A person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa. Terms such as "Haitian" or "Negro" can be used in addition to "Black or African American."

**Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander:** A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific islands.

**White:** A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa.

### **Item 10: What was the reason for the initial contact between the decedent and law enforcement personnel? (Mark only one)**

Please indicate how the decedent came into contact with law enforcement personnel and specify why the contact occurred. Contact between the decedent and law enforcement can be initiated by civilians, including the decedent, or by law enforcement personnel. Civilian-initiated contacts include "civilian request for response to criminal or suspicious activity" and "civilian request for medical, mental health, or welfare assistance." Law enforcement-initiated contacts include "routine patrol/on-view," "traffic/vehicle stop," and "warrant service." If the reason for contact between the decedent and law enforcement is not listed, mark "Other" and specify why

the interaction occurred. If the reason for contact between the decedent and law enforcement is unknown, mark “Unknown.”

**Civilian request for response to criminal or suspicious activity:** Involves situations in which a civilian requested the assistance of law enforcement in response to actual, perceived, or suspected criminal activity. This includes 9-1-1 calls for law enforcement assistance as well as instances in which law enforcement personnel are flagged down by civilians.

**Example 1:** A woman calls 9-1-1 to report a domestic assault in progress. Law enforcement personnel are dispatched to her residence. Upon their arrival, they are confronted by a man with a gun. The man engages in a shoot-out with law enforcement personnel and is fatally wounded. The most appropriate response to this item would be “civilian request for response to criminal or suspicious activity,” specified as “domestic violence/assault.”

**Civilian request for medical, mental health, or welfare assistance:** Involves situations in which a civilian requested the assistance of law enforcement for reasons that are not criminally related, such as requests related to medical or mental health assistance (i.e., suicidal person) and welfare checks. This includes 9-1-1 calls for law enforcement assistance as well as instances in which law enforcement personnel are flagged down by civilians.

**Example 2:** A civilian makes a 9-1-1 call to request that law enforcement personnel perform a well-being check at a neighbor’s residence. Law enforcement personnel arrive and make contact with the neighbor. After the initial contact, the individual threatens to commit suicide and then barricades himself in the residence. Law enforcement personnel hear a gunshot from inside the residence during the standoff. They later enter the residence and find the subject dead from what appears to be a self-inflicted gunshot wound. The most appropriate response would be “civilian request for medical, mental health, or welfare assistance.”

**Routine patrol/on-view (other than traffic stop):** Involves situations in which law enforcement personnel witnessed an actual or perceived criminal act during the course of performing law enforcement duties. This category excludes contacts initiated by a traffic stop, even if the traffic stop was made during routine patrol activities. This category also excludes dispatched responses to 9-1-1 calls, which should be recorded as either “civilian request for response to criminal or suspicious activity” or “civilian request for medical, mental health, or welfare assistance.”

**Example 3:** Law enforcement personnel are on routine patrol when they see a man attempting to break into the back door of a closed retail store. The subject flees the scene on foot and engages law enforcement personnel in a pursuit. The subject runs into traffic during the pursuit and is fatally struck by a civilian motorist. The most appropriate response would be “routine patrol/on-view (other than traffic stop),” specified as “burglary” or “breaking and entering.”

**Traffic/vehicle stop:** Involves situations in which law enforcement personnel initiated contact with the decedent through a traffic or vehicle stop during the course of performing law enforcement duties.

**Example 4:** Law enforcement personnel observe a vehicle driving erratically and initiate a traffic stop. They suspect the subject is intoxicated and begin conducting field sobriety tests. The subject becomes belligerent during the tests and attempts to assault law enforcement personnel. Law enforcement personnel use their conductive energy device on the subject. The subject falls and strikes his head on the ground, causing fatal injury. The most appropriate response would be “traffic/vehicle stop.”

**Warrant service:** Involves situations in which law enforcement initiated contact with the decedent through an attempt to serve an active warrant for their arrest. This category excludes situations in which the decedent had an active arrest warrant, but came into with law enforcement personnel for other reasons, such as a traffic stop.

**Example 5:** Law enforcement personnel obtain an arrest warrant for a murder suspect and attempt to apprehend the suspect at his residence. The suspect flees the house with a firearm and a pursuit ensues. The suspect fires several shots at law enforcement personnel as he attempts to escape. Law enforcement personnel return fire and fatally wound the decedent. The most appropriate response would be “warrant service,” specified as “murder” or “homicide.”

### **Item 11: At any time during the incident, did the decedent –**

Please indicate whether the decedent engaged in any of the actions listed, during the incident that resulted in death, by marking either “Yes”, “No” or “Unknown” for each item. For the purposes of the ARD program, the “incident” refers to the period of time from the decedent’s initial contact with law enforcement personnel up to the time of death. Limit responses to actions taken by the decedent during the incident and disregard any similar behaviors or actions that occurred before contact with law enforcement personnel. If it is unknown whether the decedent engaged in one or more of the actions listed, mark “Unknown” for each relevant action.

**Make suicidal statements:** Includes all instances in which the decedent stated that he or she planned to commit suicide, expressed a desire to end his or her life, or directed law enforcement personnel to use lethal force against him or her. Mark “Yes” to this response if the contact between the decedent and law enforcement personnel was initiated because the decedent indicated he/she was suicidal (i.e., 9-1-1 call for mental health or welfare assistance).

**Barricade self or initiate standoff:** Includes all instances in which the decedent attempted to elude apprehension by refusing to surrender to law enforcement or by taking action aimed at preventing capture, such as using a structure to conceal him- or herself.

**Verbally threaten other(s):** Includes all instances in which the decedent made statements indicating a desire to inflict harm or to engage in violence against either law enforcement personnel or civilians.

**Resist being handcuffed or arrested:** Includes all instances in which the decedent physically struggled with law enforcement personnel in an attempt to get out from being restrained (e.g., handcuffed, put into a police vehicle). This category is representative of evasive actions taken by the decedent to avoid restraint, rather than direct physical assaults on law enforcement personnel.

**Attempt to escape/flee from custody:** Includes all instances in which the decedent attempted to or actually evaded law enforcement personnel to avoid apprehension or detention.

**Attempt to grab, hit, or kick, officer(s):** Includes all instances in which the decedent attempted to or actually physically attacked law enforcement personnel.

**Attempt to gain possession of officer's weapon:** Includes all instances in which the decedent attempted to disarm law enforcement personnel of his or her service firearm or other weapon (e.g., conducted energy device, baton).

**Gain possession of officer's weapon:** Includes all instances in which the decedent disarmed law enforcement personnel of his or her service firearm or other weapon (e.g., conducted energy device, baton).

**Item 12: At any time during the incident, did the decedent display or use a weapon?**

Please indicate whether the decedent displayed or used a weapon against law enforcement personnel or civilians, during the incident that resulted in death, by marking "Yes" or "No." For the purposes of the ARD program, the "incident" refers to the period of time from the decedent's initial contact with law enforcement personnel up to the time of death. Limit responses to actions taken by the decedent during the incident and disregard any similar behaviors or actions that occurred before contact with law enforcement personnel. If weapon display or use by the decedent is unknown, mark "Unknown."

If "Yes," mark all that apply to indicate if a weapon was displayed, used, or both, as well as the type of weapon the decedent possessed. For the purposes of this item, hands, fists, or feet are not considered weapons.

**Displayed firearm without discharge:** Includes instances in which the decedent openly brandished or pointed a firearm at another person without bullets being fired from it.

**Discharged firearm:** Includes instances in which the decedent expelled bullets from a firearm, regardless of whether the bullets struck another person.

**Displayed other weapon:** Includes instances in which the decedent made an instrument or device other than a firearm (e.g., knife, sword, pipe, baseball bat) visible to

others under threatening circumstances, without using the instrument in a physical attack. Specify the weapon the decedent displayed in the space provided.

**Used other weapon:** Includes instances in which the decedent used an instrument or device other than firearm (e.g., knife, sword, pipe, baseball bat) to attack, cut, strike, beat, etc., another person. Specify the weapon the decedent used in the space provided.

**Used vehicle as weapon:** Includes instances in which the decedent used a motor vehicle to attempt to or actually hit another person with a motor vehicle.

### **Item 13: At any time during the incident, did the decedent attempt to injure or injure others?**

Please indicate whether the decedent attempted to injure or injured law enforcement personnel or another civilian, during the incident that resulted in death, by marking “Yes” or “No.” For the purposes of the ARD program, the “incident” refers to the period of time from the decedent’s initial contact with law enforcement personnel up to the time of death. Limit responses to actions taken by the decedent during the incident and disregard any similar behaviors or actions that occurred before contact with law enforcement personnel. If injuries inflicted by the decedent are unknown, mark “Unknown.”

If “Yes,” mark all that apply to indicate whether law enforcement personnel or civilians were injured during the incident.

**Fatally injured law enforcement personnel:** Includes instances in which the decedent caused the death of law enforcement personnel during the incident, regardless of whether the death was intentional or accidental.

**Non-fatally injured law enforcement personnel:** Includes instances in which the decedent caused physical harm to law enforcement personnel during the incident, regardless of whether the harm was intentional or accidental.

**Attempted to injure law enforcement personnel:** Includes instances in which the decedent intended to cause law enforcement personnel physical harm, but did not inflict physical injuries. This category includes instances in which the decedent discharged a firearm, in the direction of law enforcement personnel, without striking the intended target with the bullets.

**Fatally injured civilians(s):** Includes instances in which the decedent caused the death of a civilian during the incident, regardless of whether the death was intentional or accidental.

**Non-fatally injured civilian(s):** Includes instances in which the decedent caused physical harm to a civilian during the incident, regardless of whether the harm was intentional or accidental.

**Attempted to injure civilian(s):** Includes instances in which the decedent intended to cause a civilian physical harm, but did not inflict physical injuries. This category includes instances in which the decedent discharged a firearm, in the direction of another civilian, without striking the intended target with the bullets.

#### **Item 14: At any time during the incident, did law enforcement personnel**

Please indicate whether law enforcement personnel engaged in any of the actions listed, during the incident that resulted in death, by marking “Yes” or “No.” For the purposes of the ARD program, the “incident” refers to the period of time from the decedent’s initial contact with law enforcement personnel up to the time of death. If it is unknown whether law enforcement engaged in one or more of the actions listed, mark “Unknown” for each relevant action. If law enforcement personnel engaged in an action that is not listed, mark “other” and specify the action in the space provided.

**Fight or struggle with decedent:** Includes instances of physical contact between the decedent and law enforcement personnel (e.g. punching, grabbing, kicking, wrestling).

**Physically restrain decedent (e.g., control hold, body compression):** Includes instances in which law enforcement personnel used bodily contact to control, subdue, or restrain the decedent.

**Restrain decedent with equipment (e.g., handcuffs, leg shackles):** Includes instances in which law enforcement personnel placed the decedent in any confining or restraining device.

**Place decedent in prone position:** Includes instances in which law enforcement personnel restrained the decedent by laying him or her face down on the ground.

**Engage in motor vehicle pursuit:** Includes instances in which law enforcement personnel chased or followed a decedent fleeing in a motor vehicle.

**Engage in foot pursuit:** Includes instances in which law enforcement personnel chased or followed a decedent fleeing on foot.

#### **Item 15: At any time during the incident, did law enforcement personnel use any of the following weapons?**

Please mark “Yes,” “No,” or “Unknown” for every response category. In this question, “use” is defined as **any** use of weapons, even if they were not a cause of or contributing factor in the death. If law enforcement personnel used a weapon that is not listed, indicate “Other” and fill in the specific weapon used.

#### **Item 16: Did the decedent sustain a fatal injury during the incident?**

Please indicate whether the decedent sustained a fatal injury during the incident, by marking “Yes” or “No.” For the purposes of the ARD program, the “incident” refers to the period of time from the decedent’s initial contact with law enforcement personnel up to the time of death. A fatal injury is one that directly leads to the cause of death noted in Item 20. If it is unknown whether any injuries were sustained, or whether those injuries were fatal, mark “Unknown.”

If “Yes,” indicate whether law enforcement personnel, the decedent, or other civilians caused the fatal injury. The choice “decedent” refers to self-inflicted injuries including any accidental injuries to the decedent’s self, as well as suicide.

**Item 17: If a weapon caused the death, what type of weapon caused the death?**  
**(Mark only one)**

This item should be completed for all deaths, regardless of the manner of death. The purpose of this item is to identify specific weapon(s) that **caused** the death, instead of weapons that were **used** during the incident. All weapons used by law enforcement during the incident should be listed under Item 15. Please limit response to Item 17 to the **one** weapon to which the death was attributed, if any.

If a firearm was used, but the type of firearm is not known, mark "Firearm, unspecified." If the weapon that caused the death is not listed in Item 17, mark "Other weapon" and specify the type of weapon that caused the death. Deaths due to an individual struck by a vehicle or deaths attributed to a vehicle accident should be marked as "Vehicle-involved crash." If the weapon that caused the death is not known, mark "Unknown." If a weapon did not cause the death, mark "Not applicable, weapon or vehicle did not cause death."

**Item 18: Where did the death occur? (Mark only one)**

Please choose the best response for this question. The response option should reflect where the decedent actually expired, not necessarily where the incident originated. If the location of the death is unknown, mark "Unknown."

**Item 19: What was the manner of death? (Mark only one)**

The **manner** of death is how the person died, typically illustrated by a one-word description of intentions and circumstances that led to the stated medical **cause** of death. Essentially, the manner of death is the way in which death was caused (e.g., homicide, suicide).

Note the difference between "Could not be determined" and "Unknown." "Could not be determined" is an official cause of death, whereas "Unknown" indicates that the information is missing, unavailable, or unknown at the time the form is completed. If a medical examiner or coroner classified the death as "Undetermined," mark "Could not be determined."

**Intentional** alcohol or drug overdoses should be marked as "Suicide." Overuse of alcohol or drugs for recreational purposes, that **unintentionally** resulted in death, should be marked as "Accident."

**Item 20: What was the cause of death?**

Unlike the manner of death, which describes the circumstances leading to one's death, **cause** of death is a description of the specific medical factors leading to the termination of the biological functions that sustain life. In cases where cause of death is attributed to multiple factors, please list the **immediate** (e.g., primary) cause of death first. If any secondary causes are known, list those.

**Example 1:** During the incident, the decedent sustains a gunshot wound and subsequently dies as a result of massive blood loss. A response of “gunshot wound” would suffice as a cause of death, regardless of the manner of death.

**Example 2:** During the incident, the decedent swallows a packet of cocaine to conceal the narcotics from law enforcement personnel. The packet ruptures, causing the decedent to overdose. A response of “cocaine toxicity” would suffice as a cause of death.

**Example 3:** During an altercation with law enforcement personnel, the decedent suffers a heart attack. “Cardiovascular event” would suffice for the primary cause of death. The coroner indicates that diabetes was also a contributing factor in the death of the decedent. In this case, “Diabetes” would be an applicable secondary cause of death. If causes are not known or not indicated, leave this section blank.

**Item 21: How was information provided for cause of death (item 20) determined?**  
**(Mark all that apply)**

Please indicate whether the cause of death was determined from an official death certificate or an autopsy report or medical evaluation. If the cause of death was determined from a different source (e.g., press release), mark “Other source” and specify the source.

**Item 22: Did the autopsy report or medical evaluation indicate the presence of alcohol or of drugs other than alcohol?**

The purpose of this item is to identify the presence of drugs, alcohol, or both in the decedent’s system. This information should be obtained from an official document such as a death certificate, autopsy report, or other type of medical evaluation. If drugs were reported to be present in the decedent’s system on the basis of one of these sources, mark the checkbox “Drug(s) other than alcohol” and specify the type of drug reported (e.g., cocaine).

If the autopsy report, death certificate, or medical evaluation was obtained, but no alcohol or drugs were reported to be in the decedent’s system, mark “No.” If this information is not known, or an autopsy report or medical evaluation was not obtained, mark “Unknown, did not obtain autopsy report or medical evaluation.”