



TECHNICAL REPORT

December 2016, NCJ 250112

# Arrest-Related Deaths Program Redesign Study, 2015–16: Preliminary Findings

Duren Banks, Ph.D., Paul Ruddle, and Erin Kennedy, *RTI International*  
Michael G. Planty, Ph.D., *BJS Statistician*

## Introduction

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) has maintained the Arrest-Related Deaths (ARD) program since 2003. BJS developed the ARD program in response to the Death in Custody Reporting Act (DICRA) of 2000 (P.L. 106-297) and designed it to be a census of all deaths that occur during the process of arrest or during an attempt to obtain custody by a state or local law enforcement agency in the United States (see text box, *Deaths reportable to the Arrest-Related Deaths program*). The ARD program is a component of BJS's Deaths in Custody Program (DCRP), which has also collected data on inmate deaths that have occurred in the custody of local jail or state prison since 2000.

BJS released two reports on the number, characteristics, and circumstances of arrest-related deaths occurring in the United States between 2003 and 2009.<sup>1</sup> BJS has also assessed and updated the methods used to identify arrest-related deaths and collect information about decedents and the circumstances surrounding those deaths. In 2010, for example, the ARD program began to rely more on open information sources, such as media stories, to identify arrest-related deaths, rather than relying solely on law enforcement agencies to identify and report these deaths.<sup>2</sup> BJS also conducted an assessment of the ARD program's coverage in 2014.<sup>3</sup> Based on findings from the program assessment, BJS launched a redesign of the ARD program in June 2015 to include multiple methods of identifying and confirming arrest-related deaths. The revised ARD program methodology is designed to increase the reliability, validity, and comprehensiveness of the data collection. A key feature of the redesigned data collection process is a standardized review of media articles to identify potential

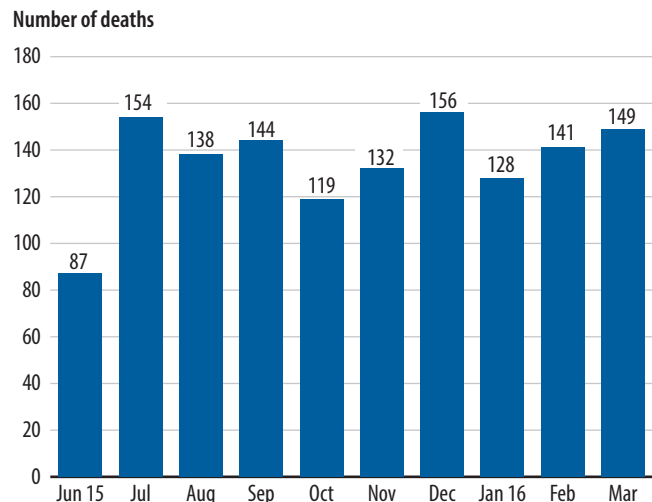
arrest-related deaths. This review is followed by a survey of law enforcement agencies and medical examiner/coroner's (ME/C) offices for official reports and information about the arrest-related death.

This report describes the redesign methods, findings from the media reviews conducted from June 2015 through March 2016, and preliminary results from the agency survey to collect more information about deaths identified in June, July, and August 2015.

Media reviews identified 1,348 potential arrest-related deaths in the United States from June 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016 (figure 1). With the exception of June, the number of deaths was fairly consistent across months, ranging from 87 to 156 arrest-related deaths—an average of 135 deaths per month.

BJS conducted a survey to confirm and collect more information about the 379 deaths that were identified in June, July, and August 2015. The survey asked law

**FIGURE 1**  
Potential arrest-related deaths identified through open source review, June 2015–March 2016



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Arrest-Related Deaths Program Redesign Study, 2015–16.

<sup>1</sup> See *Arrest-Related Deaths, 2003–2009 - Statistical Tables* (NCJ 235385, BJS web, November 2011) and *Arrest-Related Deaths in the United States, 2003–2005* (NCJ 219534, BJS web, October 2007).

<sup>2</sup> See *Arrest-Related Deaths Program: Data Quality Profile* (NCJ 248544, BJS web, March 2015).

<sup>3</sup> See *Arrest-Related Deaths Program Assessment: Technical Report* (NCJ 248543, BJS web, March 2015).



enforcement agencies and ME/C offices to confirm or deny those potential arrest-related deaths and to identify other deaths meeting the ARD program scope that were not identified through media review. Preliminary survey findings indicate 425 arrest-related deaths occurred in the United States from June to August 2015. Using information captured from media sources from June 2015 through May 2016 and assuming another 12% identified directly from agencies, an estimated 1,900 arrest-related deaths occurred.

## Arrest-Related Deaths program redesign

The DICRA of 2000 expired in 2006, although BJS continued to maintain the ARD program until 2014, at which time BJS suspended data collection efforts to assess the program's ability to capture all relevant incidents. The program assessment found that the ARD program captured about half of the estimated number of justifiable homicides in the United States from 2003 through 2011, excluding 2010.<sup>4</sup> In general, the incomplete coverage each year was due in part to the unstandardized data collection process across states. However, program coverage increased to a high of 69% in 2011, when the program began to rely more on open information sources to identify potentially eligible deaths.

The DICRA of 2013 (P.L. 113-242) was reauthorized in December 2014 and requires any state receiving funds from the Department of Justice to report information on a quarterly basis regarding the death of any person who is detained, under arrest, in the process of being arrested, en route to be incarcerated, or incarcerated. BJS has been developing new methodologies to identify the full scope of arrest-related deaths identified by the DICRA of 2013 and to collect information about those deaths through the ARD program redesign study.

The ARD program redesign data collection methodology includes two phases to maximize agency participation and data completeness. During the first phase, BJS identified potential arrest-related deaths through review of open information sources, including news outlets, official agency documents, and other publicly available information. During the second phase, BJS conducted a survey of law enforcement agencies and ME/C offices. BJS surveyed the state and local agencies with jurisdiction over the potential arrest-related deaths identified in phase one and a selected group of agencies where no death was identified.

This hybrid approach was designed to address two primary obstacles to compiling accurate and reliable information from media sources. First, a huge amount of information is

<sup>4</sup>See *Assessment of Coverage in the Arrest-Related Deaths Program* (NCJ 249099, BJS web, October 2015).

available from open sources that must be reviewed, which carries associated cost and time resources. This obstacle was addressed through a process of automated article reduction, coding, and classification. Second, the reliability and accuracy of various media sources was unknown and in many cases limited to a few pieces of information about the event. As a result, any information about the decedent and circumstances surrounding the death must be collected and verified through official sources. This obstacle was addressed through the agency survey.

The redesigned ARD program study will enable BJS to—

- confirm whether potential arrest-related deaths identified through open information source review meet the ARD program definition and scope
- identify any additional arrest-related deaths that BJS did not identify during the open information source review
- collect additional information about the decedent and the circumstances surrounding the incident for all confirmed arrest-related deaths.

For the purposes of the ARD program, a death is defined as arrest-related when (1) the death results from police use of force or (2) the event causing the death (e.g., self-inflicted injury, cardiac arrest, fall from a height, and drowning) occurs while the decedent's freedom to leave is restricted by a law enforcement agency.

### Deaths reportable to the Arrest-Related Deaths program

- All deaths attributed to any use of force by law enforcement personnel acting in an official agency capacity.
- Any death that occurs while the decedent's freedom to leave is restricted by a state or local law enforcement agency prior to, during, or following an arrest, which includes—
  - while detained for questioning
  - during the process of apprehension
  - while in the custody of, or shortly after restraint by, law enforcement (even if the decedent was not formally under arrest)
  - during transport to or from law enforcement or medical facilities.
- Any death that occurs while confined in lockups or booking centers.

## Redesign phase 1: media review methods and findings

BJJS set up a series of media alerts designed to capture the full scope of arrest-related deaths. The alerts return articles that include one or more of several primary search terms in proximity to other text that indicates state or local law enforcement personnel acting in an official agency capacity. The primary search terms included text variations of shot, killed, death, standoff, Taser, use of force, accidental, overdose, and heart attack. Law enforcement proximity words included text variations of police, officers, custody, and arrest.

A data pipeline was built to manage the large volume of data returned through the media alerts and reduce the number of articles that needed to be manually coded by reviewers (figure 2). An external media monitoring provider was used to obtain URLs, titles, and short descriptions of articles that matched alerts of interest. Some sources (e.g., reddit.com, craigslist.com, and tumblr.com) were determined to be either unreliable sources of information on arrest-related deaths or returned information not relevant to the ARD program scope. Articles from such sources were excluded. Returned articles that corresponded to duplicate web addresses were also excluded.

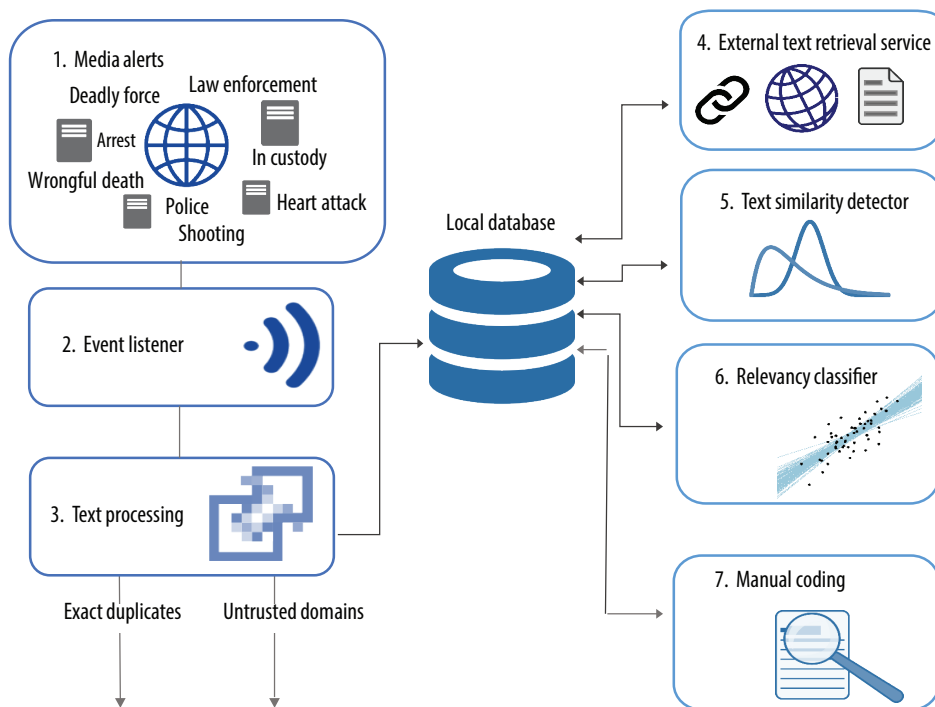
An external text retrieval service was then used to retrieve article text associated with each URL. Modern natural language processing techniques were used to identify articles

that are similar to each other and exclude such similar articles from further classification and coding. Similarity was determined on the basis of whole text similarity and similarity of the entities (e.g., people, places, and things) automatically extracted from an article.

Machine learning classifiers were developed to identify articles that were likely to provide information related to an arrest-related death. Information from approximately 150,000 articles, which were manually reviewed and coded, was used to train logistic regression and decision tree classifiers. Classifiers were combined to maximize predictive power. Articles were weighted to protect against developing a classifier that identified arrest-related deaths covered widely in the media but failed to identify arrest-related deaths mentioned in a few articles. During model building, articles that identified a decedent found in a small number of articles were weighted higher than articles that identified a decedent found in many articles. Between June 2015 and June 2016, more than 2 million articles were classified using this approach.

Following the classification process, approximately 250,000 media articles with a higher likelihood of providing relevant information were manually coded to determine if they identified a potential arrest-related death. The vast majority of articles (83%, not shown in table) were associated with the primary search terms of shooting, shot, killed, death, or dead.

**FIGURE 2**  
**Arrest-Related Deaths program redesign study coding and classification process**



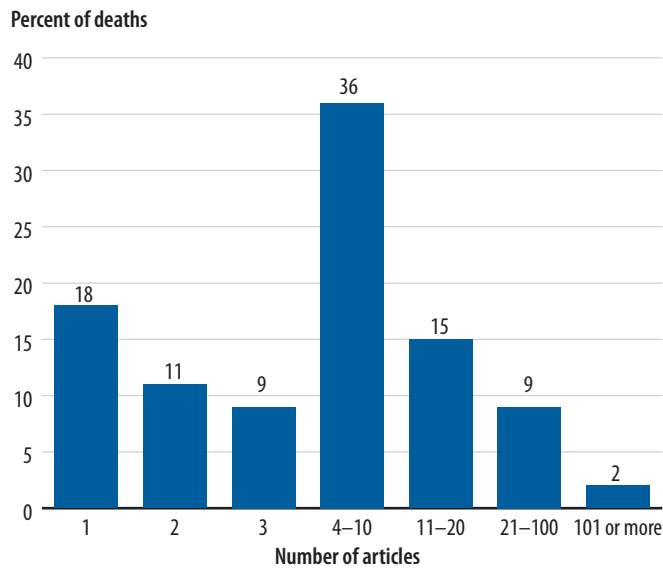
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Arrest-Related Deaths Program Redesign Study, 2015–16.

Each article was reviewed to determine if it identified a death that appeared to meet the ARD program scope. For these potential arrest-related deaths, reviewers then recorded the name of the decedent, incident location, date of death, and the primary law enforcement agency or agencies involved. The list of decedents was then re-reviewed to remove duplicate references to the same decedent and to follow up on any records with incomplete information. The resulting list of unique decedents was further compared to existing open source lists with overlapping scope (see text box, *Arrest-Related Deaths program scope*).

Among the reviewed articles, an average of 8% of articles identified a potential arrest-related death (not shown). From June 2015 through March 2016, 18% of the potential arrest-related deaths were identified through one article, while 2% of the potential deaths were referenced in more than 100 articles (figure 3).

An open source review of articles published from June 2015 through March 2016 identified potential arrest-related deaths in all 50 states (figure 4). California had the largest number of potential arrest-related deaths identified during this period, although the District of Columbia, Wyoming, and New Mexico had the highest rate of potential arrest-related deaths per

**FIGURE 3**  
Percent of potential arrest-related deaths identified through open source review, by number of articles per decedent, June 2015–March 2016



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Arrest-Related Deaths Program Redesign Study, 2015–16.

## Arrest-Related Deaths program scope

In addition to direct media alerts, BJS consulted existing open source lists of deaths with scopes that overlapped with the ARD program, including lists maintained by *Fatal Encounters*, *The Guardian*, *Killed by Police*, *Gun Violence Archive*, and *The Washington Post* (table 1). Of these, *Fatal Encounters* most closely matched the ARD program scope. *Killed by Police* included deaths associated with off-duty police officers who are not acting in an official agency capacity, and the ARD program excludes such deaths.

**TABLE 1**  
Arrest-Related Deaths program scope compared to other sources, by manner of death, June 2015–March 2016

Data source	Other use				Natural cause
	Shooting	of force	Accident	Suicide	
ARD program	x	x	x	x	x
Fatal Encounters <sup>a</sup>	x	x	x	x	x
Killed by Police <sup>b</sup>	x	x	x		x
The Counted <sup>c</sup>	x	x	x		
Gun Violence Archive <sup>d</sup>	x			x	
National Police Shootings Database <sup>e</sup>	x				

<sup>a</sup><http://www.fatalencounters.org/>

<sup>b</sup><http://killedbypolice.net/>

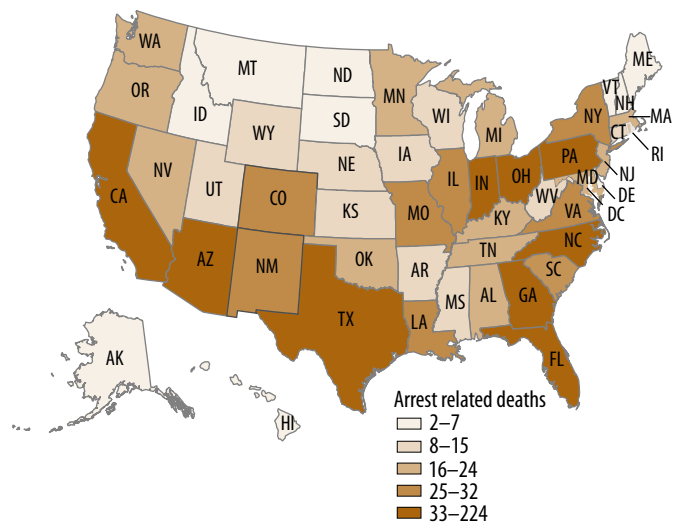
<sup>c</sup>Maintained by *The Guardian*, <http://www.theguardian.com/us-news/ng-interactive/2015/jun/01/the-counted-police-killings-us-database>

<sup>d</sup><http://www.gunviolencearchive.org/>

<sup>e</sup>Maintained by *The Washington Post*, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/national/police-shootings/>

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Arrest-Related Deaths Program Redesign Study, 2015–16.

**FIGURE 4**  
Number of potential arrest-related deaths identified through open source review, by state, June 2015–March 2016



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Arrest-Related Deaths Program Redesign Study, 2015–16.

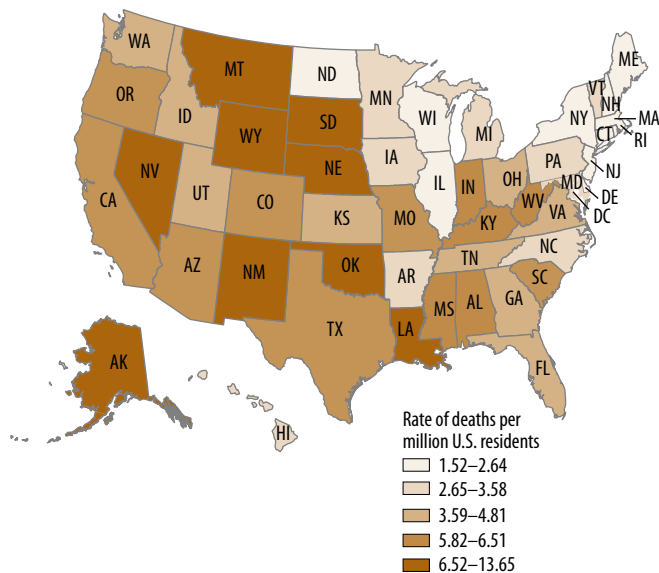
million residents. In some states with very high rates, such as Wyoming, the estimated rate is based on a low number of deaths. New Jersey, New York, and Rhode Island had the lowest rates of potential arrest-related deaths per million residents compared to other states (figure 5).

## Redesign phase 2: survey methods and findings

The ARD program survey was distributed to the chief executive in each state and local law enforcement agency that was involved with the 379 potential arrest-related deaths that occurred from June to August 2015, as well as the chief medical examiner or coroner with concurrent jurisdiction over those deaths. Each survey respondent was asked to confirm or deny each potential arrest-related death identified through media review and identify any other deaths that met the ARD program scope and occurred during the same time frame. For all confirmed deaths, the agency was then asked to complete an incident form.

The law enforcement agency incident form (Form CJ-11A) requests information about the decedent, the reason the law enforcement agency was involved with the decedent, actions the decedent took during the incident, and actions the law enforcement agency took during the incident. The ME/C office incident form (Form CJ-12A) also includes decedent characteristics and the cause and manner of death (see text box, *ARD Program Incident Form Measures*).

**FIGURE 5**  
Rate of potential arrest-related deaths identified through open source review, by state, June 2015–March 2016



Note: Estimated rates are based on less than 10 deaths in Alaska, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Maine, Montana, North Dakota, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Vermont, and Wyoming.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Arrest-Related Deaths Program Redesign Study, 2015–16.

## Arrest-Related Deaths program incident form measures

### Form CJ-11A

#### Law Enforcement Agency (LEA) Arrest-Related Death Incident Report

1. Identifying information
  - LEA involved
  - State
  - Decedent name
  - Date/time of death
2. Location of incident
3. Decedent demographics
4. Precipitating events
  - Reason for initial contact
  - Did decedent commit or allegedly commit any crimes
5. Decedent behavior during incident
  - Barricade, threaten, assault, escape, etc.
  - Exhibit mental health problems or appear to be intoxicated
  - Possess or appear to possess a weapon
  - Use a weapon to threaten or assault
  - Attempt to injure officers or others
6. Law enforcement actions during incident
  - Engage in pursuit or restraint tactics
  - Use of force
  - If firearm discharged, how many shots fired
  - Number of officers and LEAs that responded to incident

### Form CJ-12A

#### Medical Examiner/Coroner's Office Arrest-Related Death Incident Report

1. Identifying information
  - State
  - Decedent name
  - Date/time of death
2. Location of incident
3. Decedent demographics
4. Whether autopsy was performed
5. Manner of death
6. Cause of death
7. If died from injuries, how were those injuries sustained
8. If weapon caused death, what type of weapon



In most states, separate surveys were sent to the law enforcement agencies and the local ME/C offices involved in the death. Respondents in Arizona, California, Maryland, and Texas provided information on behalf of both the law enforcement agencies and ME/C offices due to centralized reporting requirements already in place in those states. From June to August 2015, a total of 486 agencies were surveyed, with 75% providing some response and 72% providing a complete response, including full incident forms for all confirmed decedents (table 2). The response was approximately the same for both law enforcement and ME/C offices. While the response rates for agencies reached 75%, a low response

was expected given the short response window and follow-up period. Many of these incidents were open investigations at the time of data collection or had other matters standing, such as civil cases. More time to allow these cases to close, coupled with more aggressive nonresponse follow-up strategies, could yield higher participation rates.

Of the 379 potential arrest-related deaths identified through media sources for the agency survey from June through August 2015, 79% were confirmed by at least one survey respondent and 55% were confirmed by both the law enforcement agency and ME/C office involved (table 3).

**TABLE 2**  
**Agency-level survey response for deaths identified in June–August 2015**

Survey response	All deaths		LEA <sup>a</sup>		ME/C <sup>b</sup> office		Agency responding on behalf of both LEA and ME/C office	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Total</b>	486	100%	265	100%	142	100%	79	100%
<b>None</b>	118	24.3%	75	28.3%	39	27.5%	4	5.1%
<b>Yes</b>	368	75.7%	190	71.7%	103	72.5%	75	94.9%
Agency completed all expected incident forms	351	72.2	185	69.8	95	66.9	71	89.9
Agency did not complete all expected incident forms	17	3.5	5	1.9	8	5.6	4	5.1

Note: State-level points of contact provided data on behalf of all LEAs in Arizona, Texas, and Maryland, and for all ME/C offices in states with a centralized medical examiner system.

<sup>a</sup>Law enforcement agency.

<sup>b</sup>Medical examiner/coroners' office.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Arrest-Related Deaths Program Redesign Study, June–August 2015.

**TABLE 3**  
**Decedent-level survey response for deaths identified in June–August 2015**

Survey response	All identified deaths		Media-identified deaths
	Number	Percent	Percent
<b>Total<sup>a</sup></b>	427	100%	~
<b>Media-identified deaths</b>	379	88.8%	100%
Confirmed	298	69.8%	78.6%
By both LEA <sup>b</sup> and ME/C <sup>c</sup> office	208	48.7	54.9
By LEA only	49	11.5	12.9
By ME/C office only	41	9.6	10.8
Denied <sup>d</sup>	60	14.1%	15.8%
By LEA and ME/C office (person not deceased)	2	0.5	0.5
By one agency, and no response from other agency	26	6.1	6.9
Conflicting response from LEA and ME/C office	32	7.5	8.4
No response from LEA and ME/C office	21	4.9%	5.5%
<b>Agency-reported deaths<sup>a</sup></b>	48	11.2%	~
Confirmed through media review	14	3.3	~
Retained, no media record found	34	8.0	~
<b>Decedents with at least one incident form completed</b>	375	87.8%	~
Full incident response	232	54.6	~
LEA response only	67	15.8	~
ME/C office response only	76	17.9	~

~Not applicable.

<sup>a</sup>Excludes agency-reported deaths that duplicated media-identified deaths, were identified as out of scope, or were identified but did not include incident information to confirm that death was in scope. Efforts were made to verify all agency-reported deaths through additional media searches. Any deaths not found in media searches were retained for further analysis unless exclusionary criteria were otherwise identified (e.g., out of date scope).

<sup>b</sup>Law enforcement agency.

<sup>c</sup>Medical examiner/coroners' office.

<sup>d</sup>Two potential arrest-related deaths were denied because the individual identified was not deceased, and they were removed from further analyses. Follow-up research on the remaining 26 denied decedents did not conclude that they were in fact, out of ARD program scope, and they were retained in further analyses.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Arrest-Related Deaths Program Redesign Study, June–August 2015.

Sixty deaths were denied by at least one agency, with more than half (32) of those deaths denied by one agency but confirmed by another. The most common reason for denying a potential arrest-related death was because the agency surveyed had no record of the decedent (N = 24, 40% of all denied deaths). The second most common reason was because the agency reported that the potential decedent was in the custody of another agency (N = 15, 25% of denied deaths). Approximately 15 deaths were denied because the agency did not agree that the death met the ARD program scope. Follow-up review of publicly available information showed that these deaths meet the ARD program scope and included suicides and accidents that occurred during police pursuit. Two deaths were denied by both the law enforcement agency and ME/C office involved, who indicated in both cases that the potential decedent was not deceased. These two deaths were removed from further analysis. The remaining denied cases were researched further, and no information was identified that excluded these cases from the ARD program scope, so they were retained for further analyses.

In addition to reviewing the list of deaths BJS identified from open source review, agencies were asked to report any other deaths that met the ARD program scope and occurred in their jurisdiction from June to August 2015. Agency-reported deaths determined to be out of ARD program scope, either because they occurred outside of the survey period, occurred in the custody of local jail or state prison, or otherwise did not meet ARD program criteria, were excluded from the analysis (not shown in table). Forty-eight deaths were reported by agency respondents and retained in the ARD program analysis. Through follow-up media review, 14 of these agency-reported deaths were confirmed to meet the ARD program scope. A media record of the remaining 34 agency-reported deaths was not located.

Media reviews and agency surveys together identified a total of 425 arrest-related deaths that occurred from June to August 2015, excluding the two persons determined not to be deceased. Among the total deaths, 88% or 375 decedents had an incident form completed by either a law enforcement agency or ME/C office. Forty-four states had at least one death in the 3 month period, with three states accounting for 35% of the total—California (64), Texas (58), and Florida (25) (table 4).

Twelve percent of the 425 deaths in June, July and August 2015 were reported by agency respondents and not initially identified through media searches. Based on deaths identified from open source information review from June 2015 to May 2016 and assuming an additional 12% identified by agencies, there were an estimated 1,900 arrest-related deaths.

**TABLE 4**  
**Number of deaths according to the Arrest-Related Deaths program, by state, June–August 2015**

State	All deaths	Media-identified deaths	Agency-reported deaths
Total	425	377	48
Alabama	8	8	0
Arkansas	1	1	0
Arizona	10	9	1
California	64	60	4
Colorado	7	7	0
Connecticut	2	2	0
Florida	25	25	0
Georgia	14	12	2
Hawaii	2	2	0
Iowa	2	2	0
Idaho	2	2	0
Illinois	11	8	3
Indiana	10	10	0
Kansas	6	6	0
Kentucky	11	10	1
Louisiana	7	7	0
Massachusetts	6	5	1
Maryland	4	3	1
Maine	5	1	4
Michigan	5	5	0
Minnesota	3	3	0
Missouri	12	6	6
Mississippi	3	3	0
Montana	1	1	0
North Carolina	10	10	0
Nebraska	1	1	0
New Hampshire	1	1	0
New Jersey	8	8	0
New Mexico	8	7	1
Nevada	10	9	1
New York	11	11	0
Ohio	16	12	4
Oklahoma	10	10	0
Oregon	7	7	0
Pennsylvania	13	12	1
South Carolina	7	7	0
Tennessee	8	8	0
Texas	58	43	15
Utah	6	6	0
Virginia	7	7	0
Washington	11	8	3
Wisconsin	5	5	0
West Virginia	4	4	0
Wyoming	3	3	0

Note: States not shown in table had no media-identified deaths in June, July, or August, 2015.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Arrest-Related Deaths Program Redesign Study, June–August 2015.

Manner of death was determined for decedents with a completed ME/C office incident form (N = 300) or imputed from open source information when the item was missing (N = 125). Of all deaths occurring in June, July, and August 2015, 64% were homicides, 18% were suicides, and 11% were accidents (table 5).

## Conclusions

A key component to the Arrest-Related Deaths (ARD) program redesign study is the standardized mixed method, hybrid approach that does not rely solely on media sources or voluntary reporting from law enforcement agencies to identify and provide information about arrest-related deaths.

Arrest-related homicides are often reported in the media and included in other open source existing lists, while deaths due to suicide, accident, and other manners of death are also within the scope of the ARD program and may be identified less often in publicly available information sources. Information on the circumstances surrounding all manners of arrest-related deaths—*including homicides, suicides, accidents, and deaths due to natural causes*—may inform law enforcement training and policies. Furthermore, information about the incident, such as the number of shots fired, the reason for the interaction between law enforcement and the decedent, and whether the decedent threatened or assaulted officers or civilians during the incident may be incomplete or unavailable in the media.

**TABLE 5**  
Manner of death by identification source, June–August, 2015

Manner of death	All deaths		Media-identified deaths		Agency-reported deaths	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>All manners of death</b>	425	100%	377	100%	48	100%
Homicide <sup>a</sup>	270	64	268	71	2	4
Suicide	76	18	62	16	14	29
Accident	48	11	26	7	22	46
Natural	7	2	1	0	6	13
Undetermined	8	2	8	2	0	0
Unknown/investigation incomplete	16	4	12	3	4	8
<b>Data source</b>		100%		100%		100%
Indicated on incident form	300	71	257	68	43	90
Imputed from open source information <sup>b</sup>	125	29	120	32	5	10

<sup>a</sup>Homicide is the willful killing of one person by another. It includes justifiable homicide by a law enforcement officer.

<sup>b</sup>Manner of death was imputed from open source information when it was not completed on the incident form from the state reporting coordinator (SRC) or medical examiner/coroners' (ME/C) office or because no SRC or ME/C form was completed. Manner of death was not measured on the law enforcement agency incident form.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Arrest-Related Deaths Program Redesign Study, June–August 2015.



The ARD program redesign also includes a survey of law enforcement agencies and medical examiner/coroners' (ME/C) offices that did not have a potential arrest-related death identified through media review. This survey component was concluded in July 2016. Based on the survey data, BJS will update the number of arrest-related deaths that occurred from June to August 2015 to include any deaths identified by the additionally surveyed agencies. BJS will also report more detailed information on the circumstances surrounding confirmed arrest-related deaths, including decedent race and ethnicity, reason for law enforcement involvement, decedent actions during the incident, and law enforcement agency actions during the incident.

Additionally, the redesign study deviates from past ARD data collection efforts by centralizing data collection efforts across states, standardizing search efforts, and conducting direct contact with the responsible law enforcement and ME/C offices. These efforts result in improvements in data completeness and quality.

## Federal coordination

The FBI has historically collected information on law enforcement homicides through the Supplementary Homicide Reports, which are part of the Uniform Crime Reporting Program. To better capture the wider scope of use of force by law enforcement officers, the FBI is developing a national use of force data collection system.

BJS and the FBI continue to coordinate data system development and data collection efforts to ensure that the activities of both federal agencies minimize reporting burden on law enforcement agencies and maximize the comprehensiveness and accuracy of the information that is collected. The ARD program redesign work will inform the development of a reliable and valid use of force data system maintained by the DOJ. This collaboration across agencies will serve as a way to maintain and increase data quality and public accountability.



The Bureau of Justice Statistics of the U.S. Department of Justice is the principal federal agency responsible for measuring crime, criminal victimization, criminal offenders, victims of crime, correlates of crime, and the operation of criminal and civil justice systems at the federal, state, tribal, and local levels. BJS collects, analyzes, and disseminates reliable and valid statistics on crime and justice systems in the United States, supports improvements to state and local criminal justice information systems, and participates with national and international organizations to develop and recommend national standards for justice statistics. Jeri M. Mulrow is acting director.

This report was written by Duren Banks, Paul Ruddle, and Erin Kennedy of RTI International, and Michael Planty of BJS. Jason Nance and Nicole Johnson verified the report.

Morgan Young edited the report. Tina Dorsey and Morgan Young produced the report.

December 2016, NCJ 250112



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