



Arrest-Related Deaths (ARD) Program

Program Summary

The ARD program provides data essential for understanding deaths that occur during the process of arrest by state or local law enforcement personnel. The scope of the ARD program is broad and includes all deaths that occur anytime a person's freedom to leave is restricted by law enforcement personnel, regardless of whether an arrest was made prior to death. It is important to note that ARD data are not used for investigative purposes at the agency or officer level.

Why Is Collecting ARD Data Important?

- **To better understand the nature of arrest-related deaths.** The ARD program is the only national collection of information about all manners of death that occur during an interaction between civilians and law enforcement personnel.
- **To increase awareness.** The ARD program quantifies and disseminates information on the causes and circumstances of arrest-related deaths in order to better inform the public and criminal justice community.



How Is an Arrest-Related Death Reported?

Each arrest-related death should be reported on a CJ-11A Arrest-Related Death Incident Report. An electronic version of the CJ-11A form is available on the ARD website (www.bjsard.org) along with instructions on how to submit completed forms. A detailed CJ-11A question-by-question guide, training resources, and FAQs are also provided on the ARD website to assist those completing an arrest-related death incident report.

Contact Us

More information on the ARD program, including technical assistance, can be found at www.bjsard.org or by contacting the ARD Helpdesk at ardhelpdesk@rti.org or 1-877-475-7039.

What Is an Arrest-Related Death?

A death is defined as "arrest-related" when the **event causing the death** (e.g., gunshot wound, self-inflicted injury, cardiac arrest, fall from a height, drowning, etc.) occurs during an interaction with state or local law enforcement personnel. An "arrest-related" death can occur prior to, during, or following an arrest. For the purposes of the ARD program, reportable civilian deaths include those that occur:

- While detained for questioning or investigation (e.g., Terry stop)
- During law enforcement response to medical or mental health assistance
- During the process of apprehension, such as pursuits or standoffs
- In the custody of, or shortly after restraint by, law enforcement personnel (even if the person was not formally under arrest)
- While in transport to or from law enforcement or medical facilities
- While confined in lockups or booking centers (i.e., facilities from which arrestees are usually transferred within 72 hours and not held beyond arraignment)

What Types of Deaths Should Be Reported to the ARD Program?

- All deaths resulting from any use of force by state or local law enforcement personnel
- Suicides that occur during the process of apprehension or during welfare assistance, as well as those that occur at lockups or booking centers
- Fatal alcohol and drug overdoses that occur during the process of arrest or while in the custody of law enforcement personnel
- Accidental injuries sustained while attempting to elude law enforcement personnel or those incurred after custody has been established
- Fatal medical conditions that present during an arrest-process (e.g., cardiac arrest, asthma)