

Portland Copwatch
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February 24, 2023

To: Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum
1162 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

From: Portland Copwatch

Re: List of 385+ Law Enforcement Deadly Force Incidents in Oregon 2010-2022, Highest Annual Count Ever
Attorney General Rosenblum:

Portland Copwatch has been sending you information about officer involved deadly force incidents in Oregon (or involving Oregon law enforcement) every year since 2014. We now have data collected for 13 years: 2010-2022. Police set a record in 2022 with 42 new incidents, including a non-fatal stabbing. We added those to our database and this letter, along with five from 2012-2015 in Lane County we had missed before, bringing a total of at least 386 incidents in the past 13 years. The average per year, which was 25 per year before 2017, is now nearly 30 per year. This year included the youngest victim, age 16. Since 2019, we have asked your office to pay attention to the uptick in officer shootings-- this is now the sixth year in a row where there have been over 30 incidents. The increase in Oregon does not match the national number of deadly force incidents ending in death remaining constant at about 1000 (per the *Washington Post*). As of February 23, there have already been at least six such incidents in Oregon in 2023.*-1

We began our analysis to ensure the AG's office was publishing the incidents in which a person died after Oregon law enforcement used deadly force, as required by SB 111 (2007). The State DOJ created that list quietly in late 2016. At last check, only 59 of 100 deaths caused by law enforcement deadly force from 2018 to 2022 (59%) were listed on the DOJ website.*-2 While still better than the 30% figure we found in 2020, it is unacceptably low.

Twenty-three people died at the hands of law enforcement in 2022, bringing the total to 211 in 13 years (16 per year average). Oregon's crime data showed there were 211 homicides in Oregon in 2021 (we could not find the figure for 2022).*-3 Assuming the rate was comparable in 2022, with 23 killings this means one of every 10 homicides was committed by law enforcement. That is lower than our past estimates, but still alarming. Such rampant use of violence to enforce state power deserves your attention.

To summarize our updated findings:

___ Totals:

---386 incidents involving 391 civilians*-4	[was 339/341]
---367 shootings, 195 ending in death (53%)	[was 321/172 and 54%]
----9 Taser-related deaths	[no change]*-5
----5 deaths in custody	[no change]
----4 vehicles as deadly force, 3 ending in death	[no change]

___ Location of 385 incidents (excluding one in Washington state):

--The incidents occurred in 28 of Oregon's 36 counties [first record of a Crook County shooting this year].
--The incidents happened in 115 municipalities/unincorporated areas in Oregon [6 new; last count was 109].
--The top 5 cities accounted for 148 incidents (38%); the top 5 counties accounted for 244 (63%).

___ Agencies involved:

--98 Oregon agencies were involved including incidents involving multiple agencies.
--Most frequently involved were Portland Police (69), Oregon State Police (42), Clackamas County Sheriffs (22), Salem Police (20), Washington County Sheriffs (20), Hillsboro Police (17), Gresham Police (13), Eugene, and Medford Police (12 each).

[Note: includes 9 new incidents by the PPB, 6 new incidents by Oregon State Police++, 4 by Salem Police, 3 new incidents by Clackamas County, 2 new incidents by Gresham+, Hillsboro, McMinnville and Umatilla Tribal^ Police and Multnomah County, and one each by Brookings Police^, Columbia County+, Coos Bay Police+, Coos County, Crook County^, Douglas County, Grants Pass Police, Jefferson County, Josephine County, Klamath Falls Police, Lane County, Marion County, Medford Police, Madras Police+, and Washington County Sheriffs. +=agency was involved in a secondary role, ^= agency new to the list. Five older incidents were added for Lane County, Eugene, Springfield and Cottage Grove^. One incident involved US Marshals; a second agency was not listed for Dec. 10.]

___ Broken down by year:

--2022:

--- 42 incidents
--- 41 shootings, 23 ending in death
-----> 9 by Portland Police
-----> 5 with no hits
-----> 1 non-fatal stabbing

--2021:

--- 35 incidents
--- 35 shootings, 18 ending in death
-----> 8 by Portland Police
-----> 3 with no hits

--2020:

--- 35 incidents
--- 33 shootings, 17 ending in death*-5
-----> 2 by Portland Police, 1 each by
 Gresham Police and US Marshals in Portland
-----> 4 with no hits (maybe 5)
-----> 1 by Warm Springs Tribal Police,
 1 by US Marshals
---- 1 death in custody, 1 Taser-related death

--2019:

--- 35 incidents
--- 32 shootings, 17 ending in death
-----> 6 by Portland Police, one by
 Vancouver (WA) Police in Portland
-----> 9 with no hits
---- 1 death in custody, 1 deadly force using vehicle
 ending in death, 1 Taser-related death

--2018:

--- 37 incidents
---36 shootings, 19 ending in death
-----> 6 in Portland plus one death in custody
-----> 4 with no hits
----1 death in custody (in Portland)

--2017:

--- 26 incidents
---26 shootings, 12 ending in death
-----> 6 in Portland
-----> 4-6 with no hits (unclear)

--2016:

--- 25 incidents
---24 shootings, 15 ending in death
-----> 2 in Portland
-----> 1 with no hits
----1 deadly force using vehicle ending in death

--2015:

--- 26 incidents
---25 shootings, 16 ending in death
-----> 6 in Portland
-----> 3 with no hits
----1 deadly force using vehicle ending in death

--2014:

--- 25 incidents
---23 shootings, 16 ending in death
-----> 4 in Portland
----1 death in custody
----1 deadly force using vehicle

--2013:

--- 30 incidents
---28 shootings, 13 ending in death
-----> 2 in Portland
-----> 3 with no hits
----2 Taser-related deaths

--2012:

--- 30 incidents
---27 shootings, 12 ending in death
-----> 6 in Portland
-----> 1 by US Marshals
-----> 2 with no hits
----3 Taser-related deaths

2011:

---14 incidents
---13 shootings, 5 ending in death
-----> 4 in Portland plus one death in custody
-----> 2 with no hits
-----> 1 by off duty Protective Service officer
----1 death in custody (in Portland)

2010:

--- 26 incidents 2010
---24 shootings, 12 ending in death
-----> 6 in Portland
-----> 1 with no hits
----2 Taser-related deaths

___Race: We do not have enough information to fully break down the list by race statewide.

--14 of the 69 Portland shootings/deaths were of African Americans, or 20% of victims in a city that is 6% Black.

--Overall, at least 23 of the 391 civilians were African Americans, still 6% in a state which is 2% Black. Three people shot in 2022 were added to this total.

___Gender: All but 17 of 390 civilians whose gender was reported were male (96% male, same as 2021).

Four of the cases where females were shot (or tasered) were in 2014; one female was shot in 2018; three were shot at in 2019, two were shot in 2020, one of whom was killed, and one was shot each in 2021 and 2022.

___Age: The victims whose ages are known ranged in age from 16 to 88.

--Most common ages were 29 (19); 30 (17), 26 (16); 25, and 31 (15); 27 and 34 (14); 44 (13); 36 and 40 (12), 32 (11), 24, 37 and 49 (10), 20, 22, 23, 38, and 51 (9).

[Five people in 2022 were age 24; four were under 20; four were over 50.]

[12 people's ages are not known including three from 2020, two from 2021 and four from 2022.]

--Average age was 37, down from the usual 38 for our study.

___Veterans/mental health: At least eleven of the victims were primarily identified as military veterans in some kind of psychological crisis. We are still unable to track exactly how many of the civilians were in crisis, although in 2022 at least Nicholas Rodin in Prineville and Jeremy Rieck in Portland were reported to have mental health issues.

The fact remains that the only indictment for an officer in any of these cases (that we know of) ended with the unfortunate suicide of Portland Officer Dane Reister in 2015. His prosecution for a 2011 shooting was never carried out as an appeal from the Multnomah District Attorney was pending at the time of his death. We continue to encourage the AG's office to look into the idea of special prosecutors for these incidents, since local DAs are unlikely to pursue charges in cases involving officers they need to convict criminal suspects in their daily court proceedings. We recognize, however, that the Oregon DOJ has investigated the death of Philip Moskios, Jr., in Klamath County in 2018 and . In 2021, the state helped investigate Isaac Matheney's shooting in Lake County and Robert Delgado's shooting in Portland. Though DOJ found no criminal wrongdoing in any of these cases, we continue to encourage outside looks at these most serious events.

The officers who have not yet been named (we believe) in 2022 are the officers involved in the shootings in Lincoln City (3/3), Selma (3/6), Madras (7/22), McMinnville (7/30), Klamath Falls (8/4), Grants Pass (9/20), Gresham (10/6) and Brookings (12/10), as well as the US Marshals in Portland (4/18) and the two incidents with Umatilla Tribal Police (8/17 and 9/18). These 12 cases are not consistent with the 2-3 cases lacking such information most years. We again urge the AG to ensure such names are published. Last note about naming officers: it's troubling Casey Coddling, the Oregon State Police Lieutenant who shot and killed Lavoy Finicum in 2016 was also involved in a shooting death in Lincoln County in 2012 and is now OSP Superintendent.

We hope to hear back from you.

dan handelman

Portland Copwatch

footnotes:

*1- in Albany (1/3&2/8), Boardman (1/4), Salem (1/23), Wilsonville (2/14) and Portland (2/18).

*2- OR DOJ data: <https://justice.oregon.gov/deathincident/home/search> .

*3- Data from <https://www.oregon.gov/osp/Pages/Uniform-Crime-Reporting-Data.aspx>

*4- One civilian was shot at twice by police in 2018; in five other cases, including Portland in April 2022 and Salem in November 2022, two or more people were targets of the police.

*5- Allen Pitts died in custody in Salem after being struck by a Taser in 2019, it is not clear if this contributed to his death. If so there have been at least 13 such deaths since Tasers were introduced in Oregon in 2002.

Additional notes:

--The Portland Police used a carotid choke hold in late August 2018, but we're not including that incident on this list as otherwise every use of a Taser or other violence that could lead to death would also be included.

--A Clackamas County Sergeant negligently discharged his gun in Jan 2019, no one was hit.

--In 2021, a Washington County Deputy accidentally killed a pedestrian, Clackamas Deputies chased a shoplifting suspect, who crashed into another car, killing a person, and Portland Police investigated an incident where a person they boxed in took their own life as a death in custody even though they did not use deadly force on the man.

PCW's database can be found at: <https://www.portlandcopwatch.org/ORshootings2010-22.pdf> .

NOTES:

(A) Explanation of data other than shootings by Oregon law enforcement (or not in Oregon) resulting in injury or death:

---Shootings with no hits are included because the officer(s) intended to injure or kill the civilians, so the incidents should be tracked as deadly force anyway and investigated as attempted homicides.

---Incidents involving federal agencies within Oregon's borders should be of concern to the State.

---An incident near Lincoln City in 2014 where an officer using a patrol car struck a suspect who was on foot should be counted as deadly force; the suspect ended up in critical condition. The incident in Klamath Falls in 2015 saw the officer hit the suspect's car, causing his death. In 2016, a Redmond officer deliberately struck a suspect, who died three days later. In 2019, a St. Helens officer deliberately struck and killed a man with his patrol car.

---A 2013 incident in Wishram, Washington involved deadly force by a plainclothes officer from The Dalles.

--We have chosen to include the 2022 incident in which a Washington County Deputy stabbed a suspect.

(B) Breakdown of incident data: (New: Adams, Aurora, Brookings, Estacada, Prineville, Selma)

--By location (384 incidents in Oregon, some areas are the nearest municipality): 79 in Portland; 27 in Salem; 16 in Hillsboro; 13 in Eugene and Medford; 12 in Gresham; 9 in Beaverton, Grants Pass and Springfield, 8 in Aloha and Bend; 6 in Klamath Falls, 5 in McMinnville and Oregon City; 4 in Albany, Cottage Grove, Eagle Point, Happy Valley, Madras, Milwaukie, Pendleton, and Silverton; 3 in or near Fairview, Gladstone, Keizer, Lincoln City, Ontario, Roseburg, The Dalles, Tigard and Woodburn; 2 in or near Astoria, Boring, Brownsville, Canyonville, Cave Junction, Central Point, Coos Bay, Cornelius, Forest Grove, Lakeview, Lebanon, Molalla, Myrtle Creek, Oak Grove, Oakridge, Redmond, Reedsport, Scappoose, Seaside, Sherwood, St. Helens, Tualatin and the Warm Springs Reservation; and 1 each in Adams, Amity, Ashland, Athena, Aumsville, Aurora, Beatty, Bethany, Boardman, Brookings, Burns, Cedar Mill, Clackamas County, Colton, Corvallis, Creswell, Dallas, Elgin, Estacada-Florence, Gaston, Gates, Gold Beach, Gold Hill, Grand Ronde, Hermiston, Hubbard, Lafayette, La Grande, Lake Selmac, La Pine, Modoc Point, Mt. Angel, Newport, North Albany, North Bend, Philomath, Prineville, Sandy, Selma,, Sisters,, South Beach, Sunset Beach, Talent, Terminal City, Troutdale, Turner, Tygh Valley, Umapine, Valley Falls, Veneta, Warren, Welches, West Linn, White City, Wilsonville, Wimer, Winchester Bay, Wolf Creek, Yachats and Yamhill County.

--By county: 94 in Multnomah; 47 in Washington; 41 in Marion; 31 in Clackamas and Lane; 25 in Jackson; 14 in Josephine; 12 in Deschutes; 9 in Douglas and Klamath; 8 in Umatilla and Yamhill; 6 in Linn; 6 in Benton, Jefferson, Lincoln and Linn; 5 in Columbia and Clatsop.; 4 in Wasco; 3 in Coos, Lake and Malheur; 2 in Curry, Polk and Union; and 1 each in Crook, Harney, and Morrow. [The eight counties without shootings from 2010-2022 are Baker, Gillam, Grant, Hood River, Sherman, Tillamook, Wallowa and Wheeler; all among the 14 least populous counties.]

--By agency (second number after /slash/ indicates agency was one of multiple responsible in additional incident[s]): Portland Police (69-including 3 or more SERT); Oregon State Police (30-including 2 SWAT/12); Clackamas County Sheriff (21-including 4 SWAT/1); Salem Police (20); Hillsboro Police (15/2); Washington County Sheriff (14-including 3 SWAT or TNT/6); Eugene Police (12-including 1 SWAT); Medford Police (12); Gresham Police (10/3); Lane County Sheriff (10); Beaverton Police (8/1); Marion County Sheriff (8/1); Jackson County Sheriff (7/2); Springfield Police (7); Klamath Falls Police (6); Deschutes County Sheriff (5); Douglas County Sheriff (5/2); Bend Police (4); Fairview Police (4); Grants Pass Department of Public Safety (4/1); Josephine County Sheriff (4); Linn County Sheriff (4); Eagle Point Police (3); Keizer Police (3); Klamath County Sheriff (3/1); McMinnville Police (3); Milwaukie Police (3); Multnomah County Sheriff (3/1); Polk County Sheriff (3); The Dalles Police (3); Tigard Police (2); Tualatin Police (3/1); Yamhill County Sheriff (3); Albany Police (2); Benton County Sheriff (2), Dallas Police (2); Gladstone Police (2); Jefferson County Sheriff (2); Oregon City Police (2); Pendleton Police (2); Reedsport Police (2); Seaside Police (2); Silverton Police (2); St. Helens Police (2); Umatilla Tribal Police (2); and 1 each by Astoria Police, Athena Police, Aumsville Police, Brookings Police, Central Point Police, Coos County Sheriff (1/1), Cornelius Police, Corvallis Police; Cottage Grove Police, Crook County Sheriff, Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution, Elgin Police, Forest Grove Police (1/2), Gold Beach Police, Hermiston Police, LaGrande Police, Lake County Sheriff's Office (1/1), Lebanon Police, Lincoln City Police, Lincoln County Sheriff, Madras Police (1/1) Malheur County Sheriff, Molalla Police, Morrow County Sheriff, Mt. Angel Police, Myrtle Creek Police, Newberg-Dundee Police, Newport Police, North Bend Police, Oakridge Police, Ontario Snake River Corrections Officers, Portland State University Police (1/1), Redmond Police, Roseburg Police, Sandy Police, Umatilla County Sheriff's Office, Warm Springs Tribal Police, Warrenton, Wasco County Sheriff, West Linn Police, Woodburn Police, Yamhill Police, a "multijurisdictional SWAT team" in Gladstone and, Vancouver (WA) Police; also shootings involving US Marshals (5/1) and one off duty Federal Protective Service officer, plus one which involved the Department of Justice, one with the FBI, one with the DEA and two with Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms as additional agencies. Listed as secondary agencies are also Clatsop County Sheriff's Office, Columbia County Sheriffs (2), Confederated Tribal Police, Coos Bay Police (2), Coquille Police, Florence Police, Milton-Freewater Police, PSU Campus Safety, and Sherwood Police.

[Note: police in Brookings, Cottage Grove, Crook County, and the Umatilla Tribal Police are new on the list, all other agencies had previous incidents.]