

Portland Copwatch
PO Box 42456
Portland, OR 97242
503-236-3065

February 11, 2025

To: Attorney General Dan Rayfield
1162 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

From: Portland Copwatch

7th Consecutive Year of 30+ Law Enforcement Deadly Force Incidents in Oregon; 451+ total 2010-24

Attorney General Rayfield:

Portland Copwatch has been sending your office information about officer involved deadly force incidents in Oregon (or involving Oregon law enforcement) yearly since 2014. We now have data collected for 15 years: 2010-2024. Police set a **record in 2022 with 42** new incidents, but we **only counted 31 in 2024**-- a 26% decrease since 2022. **This is the eighth year in a row with over 30 incidents.** We've updated our database and this letter, bringing a total of at least 452 incidents in the 15 years. The average per year, which was 25 per year before 2017, is now 30 per year. Since 2019, we have asked the AG to pay attention to the uptick in officer shootings. The increase in Oregon's fatal deadly force incidents does not match the national trend of a consistent number of such incidents at about 1000 (per the *Washington Post*). As of February 6, there have already been at least two such incidents in Oregon in 2025.*-1 We also urge you to remind police agencies to file reports in a timely manner.

Last year, we noted nine people in the state's database had their race listed as "other" but the drop-down menu for data entry did not have a Latino option. After we alerted your office, Latino has been added to visible data. Thanks.

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 84 of 136 deaths caused by law enforcement deadly force from 2018 to 2024 (62%) were listed on the DOJ website.*-2 While still better than the 30% figure we found in 2020, it is unacceptably low.

Eighteen people died at the hands of law enforcement in 2024, bringing **the total deaths of community members to 250 in 15 years** (nearly 17 per year average). Only four are in the SB111 database. Oregon's crime data show about 200 homicides a year in Oregon in 2021 and 2022.*-3 Assuming a comparable rate in 2024, with 18 killings this means one of every 11 homicides was committed by law enforcement. That is alarming. We still contend that such rampant use of violence to enforce state power deserves your attention.

To summarize our updated findings:

___Totals:

---452 incidents involving 460 civilians*-4	[was 421/428]
---432 shootings, 232 ending in death (54%)	[was 402/215 and 53%]
---9 Taser-related deaths	[no change]*-5
---6 deaths in custody	[was 5]
---4 vehicles as deadly force, 3 ending in death*-6	[no change]

___Location of 451 incidents (excluding one in Washington state):

- The incidents occurred in 30 of Oregon's 36 counties [*first Baker County shooting this year*].
- The incidents happened in 132 municipalities/unincorporated areas in Oregon [*12 new; last count was 120*].
- The top 5 cities accounted for 171 incidents (38%); the top 5 counties accounted for 292 (63%).

___Agencies involved:

- 102 Oregon agencies were involved including incidents involving multiple agencies.
- Most frequently involved were Portland Police (80), Oregon State Police (50), Clackamas County Sheriffs (29), Salem Police (25), Washington County Sheriffs (23), Hillsboro Police (19), Gresham Police (14), Eugene and Medford Police (13 each). The top 5 primary agencies account for 185 primary incidents, or 41%.

[Note: includes 7 new incidents by Portland Police; 4 new incidents by Oregon State Police; 2 new incidents by Beaverton Police+, Clackamas County and Lincoln County+; and one each by Baker City Police^, Bend Police, Benton County, Eugene Police, Gold Beach Police, Gresham Police, Klamath County, Lincoln City Police, Linn County, Milton-Freewater Police^, Milwaukie Police, Salem Police, The Dalles Police, Tillamook County and Wasco County+. Agencies were not identified for the incidents on 8/14 and 12/26.

+ = agency was involved in a secondary role in one incident, ^ = agency new to the list as primary agency.]

___ Broken down by year:

--2024
---31 incidents
----30 shootings, 17 ending in death
-----> 6 in Portland (plus one death in custody)
-----> 1 with no hits
----1 death in custody

--2023:
--- 33 incidents
----33 shootings, 18 ending in death
-----> 4 involving Portland Police
-----> 4 with no hits

--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

--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:
--- 28 incidents 2010
----26 shootings, 14 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.

--17 of the 80 Portland shootings/deaths were of African Americans, or 21% of victims in a city that is 6% Black.

--Overall, at least 29 of the 460 civilians were African Americans/Black people, still 6% in a state which is 2% Black. One person shot in 2024 was added to this total (in Portland).

Gender: All but 20 of 457 civilians whose gender was reported were male (96% male, same as previous years). Four of the cases of females shot (/tasered) were in 2014; one female was shot in 2018; three were shot at in 2019, two were shot in 2010, 2020 and 2024, and one was shot or shot at each in 2012, 2013, 2015, 2021, 2022 & 2023.

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

--Most common ages were 30 (23); 29 (22); 34 (19); 31 (18); 25 (17); 26 and 27 (16); 40 and 44 (14); 32, 36 and 49 (13); 20, 24, 37, 38 and 39 (11); 23, 33 and 45 (10); and 22, 51 and 55 (9).

[Four people in 2024 were age 30; fourteen were between 36 and 49; just two were over 50.]

[15 people's ages are not known including three from 2020 and 2024, four from 2022 and two from 2021.]

--Average age was 36, down from 37 over the past several years. Ages in 2024 ranged from 18 to 68.

Veterans/mental health: At least 11 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 2024 at least Robert Seeger in Portland was 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 rely on to convict criminal suspects in their daily court proceedings. We recognize, however, that the Oregon DOJ investigated the death of Philip Moskios, Jr., in Klamath County in 2018. 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 investigation of these most serious events.

The officers who have not yet been named (we believe) in 2024 are the officers involved in the shootings in Gold Beach (1/12), Harrisburg (4/28), Sweet Home (5/30), Tillamook (6/26), Eugene (8/14), Milton-Freewater (9/24), Chiloquin (12/23) and Tidewater (12/26). These eight cases are not consistent with the 2-3 cases lacking such information most years (though there were 12 in 2022). We again urge the AG to ensure such names are published as transparency is in the public interest.

We hope to hear back from you.

dan handelman
Portland Copwatch

footnotes:

*1- in Salem and Owyhee Junction (both on 1/22).

*2- OR DOJ data: <https://justice.oregon.gov/deathincident/home/search> . The 62% figure is down from 63% in 2024. Notably there is also one death that was reported as a suicide in 2019 (and two in 2015) listed on the DOJ site.

*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 eight other cases, including Portland and Salem in 2022, Clackamas County twice in 2023, and Linn County in 2024, 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.

We are also still awaiting more information on a man hit by a Taser at the Portland Airport in December 2024.

*6- There was also one incident in 2022 where an officer used a knife to stab Joshua Wesley, who survived.

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 need to 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/ORshootings2010-24.pdf> .

NOTES:

(A) 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 and investigated as attempted homicides.

---Incidents involving federal agencies within Oregon's borders should be of great 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: (12 new locations in 2024: Baker City, Chiloquin, Clackamas, Glenwood, Harrisburg, Milton-Freewater, Scio, Sweet Home, Tillamook, Tidewater, Waldport and West Salem)

--**By location** (450 incidents in Oregon, some areas are the nearest municipality): 89 in Portland; 33 in Salem; 18 in Hillsboro; 17 in Eugene; 14 in Medford; 13 in Gresham; 11 in Grants Pass; 10 in Beaverton, 9 in Bend and Springfield, 8 in Aloha; 6 in Albany, Happy Valley and Klamath Falls, 5 in Lincoln City, McMinnville, Milwaukie, Oregon City and Roseburg.; 4 in Cottage Grove, Eagle Point, Madras, Pendleton, Silverton and The Dalles; 3 in/near Boardman, Clackamas County, Fairview, Gladstone, Keizer, Ontario, Tigard, Tualatin and Woodburn; 2 in/near Astoria, Boring, Brownsville, Canyonville, Cave Junction, Cedar Mill, Central Point, Coos Bay, Cornelius, Forest Grove, Gold Beach, Harrisburg, Lakeview, Lebanon, Molalla, Myrtle Creek, Oak Grove, Oakridge, Redmond, Reedsport, Scappoose, Seaside, Sherwood, St. Helens, Troutdale, the Warm Springs Reservation and Wilsonville; and 1 each in/near Adams, Amity, Ashland, Athena, Aumsville, Aurora, Baker City, Beatty, Bethany, Brookings, Burns, Cascadia, Chiloquin, Clackamas, Colton, Corvallis, Creswell, Dallas, Damascus, Elgin, Estacada, Florence, Gaston, Gates, Glenwood, Glide, Gold Hill, Grand Ronde, Hermiston, Hubbard, Idleyld Park, Lafayette, La Grande, Lake Selmac, La Pine, Milton-Freewater, Modoc Point, Mt. Angel, Newport, North Albany, North Bend, Philomath, Prineville, Rockaway Beach, Sandy, Scio, Selma, Sisters, South Beach, Sunset Beach, Sweet Home, Talent, Terminal City, Tidewater, Tillamook, Turner, Tygh Valley, Umapine, Valley Falls, Veneta, Waldport, Warren, Welches, West Linn, West Salem, White City, Wimer, Winchester Bay, Wolf Creek, Yachats, and Yamhill County.

--**By county:** 107 in Multnomah; 52 in Washington**; 47 in Marion; 39 in Clackamas; 37 in Lane**; 26 in Jackson; 16 in Josephine; 13 in Douglas and Deschutes; 11 in Linn; 10 in Klamath; 9 in Lincoln and Umatilla; 8 in Benton, and Yamhill; 6 in Jefferson; 5 in Columbia, Clatsop and Wasco; 3 in Coos, Curry, Lake, Malheur, Morrow and Polk; 2 in Tillamook and Union; and 1 each in Baker, Crook and Harney. [The six counties without shootings from 2010-2023 are Gillam, Grant, Hood River, Sherman, Wallowa and Wheeler; all among the 14 least populous counties. Baker County joined the ranks in 2024.] **corrected from 2023 data**

--**By agency** (second number after /slash/ indicates agency was one of multiple responsible in additional incident[s]): Portland Police (80-including 3 or more SERT); Oregon State Police (37-including 1 SWAT/13); Clackamas County Sheriff (27-including 4 SWAT/2); Salem Police (24 including 1 SWAT/1); Hillsboro Police (17/2); Washington County Sheriff (16-including 2 SWAT or TNT/7); Medford Police (13); Eugene Police (13-including 1 SWAT); Gresham Police (11/3); Lane County Sheriff (11); Beaverton Police (9/2); Marion County Sheriff (9/1); Douglas County Sheriff (8/2); Jackson County Sheriff (7/2); Springfield Police (7); Klamath Falls Police (6); Linn County Sheriff (6); Bend Police (5); Deschutes County Sheriff (5); Grants Pass Department of Public Safety (5/2); Multnomah County Sheriff (5/1); Fairview Police (4); Josephine County Sheriff (4/1); Klamath County Sheriff (4/1); Milwaukie Police (4); Polk County Sheriff (4); The Dalles Police (4); Albany Police (3); Benton County Sheriff (3), Eagle Point Police (3); Keizer Police (3); Lincoln County Sheriff (3); McMinnville Police (3); Tigard Police (3); Tualatin Police (3/1); Yamhill County Sheriff (3); Boardman Police (2); Dallas Police (2); Gladstone Police (2); Gold Beach Police (2); Jefferson County Sheriff (2); Lincoln City Police (2); Oregon City Police (2); Pendleton Police (2); Reedsport Police (2); Roseburg Police (2), Seaside Police (2); Silverton Police (2/1); St. Helens Police (2); Tillamook County Sheriff (2); Umatilla Tribal Police (2); and 1 each by Astoria Police, Athena Police, Aumsville Police, Baker City 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), Hermiston Police, LaGrande Police, Lake County Sheriff's Office (1/1), Lebanon Police, Madras Police (1/1), Malheur County Sheriff, Milton-Freewater Police (1/1), 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, Sandy Police, Umatilla County Sheriff, Warm Springs Tribal Police, Warrenton Police, Wasco County Sheriff (1/1), West Linn Police, Woodburn Police, Yamhill Police, a "multijurisdictional SWAT team" in Gladstone, and Vancouver (WA) Police; also shootings involving US Marshals (5/1), two Federal Protective Service officers, plus one each involving the Department of Justice, the FBI, 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, PSU Campus Safety, and Sherwood Police.

[**Note: Milton-Freewater (as primary) and Baker City Police are new, other agencies had previous incidents.**]