

Total Homicides by Oregon Law Enforcement Officers May 2007 to the Present

The following vignettes describe the circumstances for all homicides (murders and manslaughter) by Oregon law enforcement officers. These were killings that were not in the line of their duties as law enforcement officers. The descriptions include the current, known status of any charges filed against the law enforcement officer as reported by news sources as well as noting instances where the perpetrator committed suicide.

To facilitate comparison of data, this information on the homicides by Oregon Law Enforcement Officers is presented in the format used by the Violence Policy Center for their [Concealed Carry Killers data](#).

Oregon

- **Law Enforcement Officer:** Clackamas County Sheriff's Sgt. Jeffrey Grahn
SUICIDE

Date: February 12, 2010

Homicides: 3

People Killed: 4 (including shooter)

Circumstances: In February 2010 Clackamas County Sheriff's Sergeant Jeffrey Grahn walked into a busy M&M Lounge & Restaurant in Gresham, Oregon and confronted his wife, Charlotte, who was sitting with friends. Grahn and his wife then went outside, where he fatally shot her. Moments later, he re-entered and shot two of his wife's friends before going back outside and shooting himself. His wife's friend Kathleen Hoffmeister died at the scene and his wife's friend Victoria Schulmerich died two weeks later.

His wife Charlotte feared her husband but had been afraid to report him to police. Grahn had been investigated in April 2009 after sheriff's deputies received information of possible domestic abuse.

Source: [The Oregonian, February 25, 2010](#)

Oregon

- **Law Enforcement Officer:** Gladstone Police Sgt. Lynn Benton

PENDING

Date: May 28, 2011

Homicides: 1

People Killed: 1

Circumstances: In May 2011 Deborah Higbee Benton, was found dead in her beauty salon - she had been shot, beaten and strangled. Six days later, police arrested Susan Campbell, who was accused of participating in a murder-for-hire plot to kill the woman.

Susan Campbell was a close friend of Deborah Higbee Benton's husband Sgt. Lynn Benton - Campbell had provided in-home care to Sgt. Lynn Benton's mother.

Investigators immediately suspected Sgt. Lynn Benton, "whose relationship with Higbee Benton grew increasingly strained as the police sergeant went through female-to-male gender reassignment. A month before his wife's death, [Sgt. Lynn] Benton moved out of the couple's Gladstone home."

Seven months after his wife's murder, in December 2011, the city of Gladstone fired Sgt. Lynn Benton for allegations unrelated to the murder case.

In November 2012, Lynn Benton was arrested and charged with aggravated murder and conspiracy to commit aggravated murder. If convicted, he could receive the death penalty.

Sources: [The Oregonian, November 7, 2012](#)

[KPTV, December 2011](#)

[The Oregonian, November 8, 2012](#)

[The Oregonian, November 7, 2012](#)

Oregon

- **Law Enforcement Officer:** Morrow County Sheriff's Reserve Deputy Steven Montie Crum
NOT COUNTED – RESERVE DEPUTY

Date: October 1-4, 2010

Homicides: 2

People Killed: 2

Circumstances: Between October 1, 2010 and October 4, 2010, sheriff's reserve deputy Steven Montie Crum shot and killed pregnant Jessica Rae Killian on a farm near Ione in Morrow County, Oregon. Crum was also charged with stealing more than \$10,000 from a cafe and lounge where Killian worked.

Crum was arrested several days later, on October 8, 2010, after a traffic stop.

The state alleged that Crum and Killian planned to steal from her employer and flee the country together. Crum told police he killed Killian after she threatened to reveal their affair to his wife, family and friends.

In December 2011, Steven Montie Crum pled guilty to the murder of Jessica Rae Killian and was sentenced to life in prison.

Source: [KEPR, December 14, 2011](#)

[OPB, December 14, 2011](#)

[The Oregonian, October 8, 2010](#)

[Indictment, October 12, 2010](#)