

# South Carolina Deaths in Police Custody, 2009 - 2010

## Final Report

Submitted to the SC Department of Public Safety

Robert J. Kaminski, Ph.D.  
Gillian M. Pinchevsky, M.A.

Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice  
University of South Carolina

June, 2010

## **Introduction**

This report summarizes findings regarding the on-going effort of research staff at the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of South Carolina to collect information about deaths in “police custody” – defined broadly as persons who died while being restrained without the intent to arrest, were in the process of being arrested, or were in the custody of law enforcement officers. Data were collected on deaths that occurred during the last three quarters of 2009 and the first quarter of 2010 (April 1, 2009 – March 31, 2010).

As during previous data collection reporting periods, county coroners in South Carolina were contacted to determine whether or not any persons died while in police custody in their jurisdiction. When a coroner indicated an eligible death occurred, details regarding that death were requested. In addition to contacting coroners, extensive media searches were conducted by research staff to identify deaths that might have gone unreported and to assist coroners in locating case files by providing names and dates of death.

Based on the media searches and information supplied by coroners or their assistants, 25 deaths in custody were identified that occurred during the 12-month reporting period. The research staff also collected information regarding an additional death that occurred during the previous 12-month reporting period, but for which the details were pending at the time (see Table 2 in the Appendix).

Basic descriptive statistics and a summary of the data appear on page 3. Short narratives about each incident begin on page 4, and media accounts of deaths begin on page 7. The next section provides additional details regarding the data collection process.

## **Method**

As during previous data collection efforts, information on deaths in police custody was obtained by contacting county coroners' offices in South Carolina ( $N = 46$ ). We report on deaths that occurred during the second quarter of 2009 through the first quarter of 2010 (April 1 – March 31). Data were collected semiannually for this reporting period. Specifically, county coroners were contacted during October to collect information on deaths that occurred April 1 – September 30 and again during April to collect information on deaths that occurred October 1 – March 31. Coroners or their assistants were contacted by phone, fax, and/or email and asked whether or not any subjects in their county died while in police custody during the previous six months. If a death appeared to meet the criteria established by the Bureau of Justice Statistics for a death in police custody, the respondent was asked to provide specific details regarding that death. The research staff also obtained information from a coroner about a death that occurred during the previous 12-month reporting period, but for which information was not yet available due to an ongoing investigation. Basic descriptive information for this death is provided in the Appendix (Table 2).

It is important to point out that our practice is to err on the side of inclusion regarding cases that are vague in terms of meeting BJS eligibility criteria for a “death in custody.” For example, according to the criteria deaths that occur in lock-up facilities<sup>1</sup> pre-arraignment are eligible, but deaths that occur post-arraignment are not since information on post-arraignment deaths is obtained under a separate BJS data collection effort. We include some deaths that occur beyond 72 hours post-arrest because of possible arraignment delays. In other cases deaths may have occurred within 72 hours of

---

<sup>1</sup> Lock-up facilities include temporary holding cells in police stations and booking facilities in which police register and enter charges against a suspect.

being arrested, but it is unclear whether or not the subjects had been arraigned prior to their death. Although this may produce some duplication, BJS can crosscheck these cases with those obtained under their other data collection effort.

In addition to contacting coroners' offices, internet searches were conducted to obtain media accounts of deaths. This information was used to assist coroners in identifying eligible cases in their records by providing names and dates and to identify deaths that may have gone unreported. If unreported cases were identified, coroners were queried about them and details requested. For some known deaths information was not yet available from coroners due to ongoing investigations or other reasons. For these cases the information provided is based on media accounts only, when available. We will attempt to update and verify this information during future data collections efforts.

## **Findings**

Based on information obtained from coroners and media searches, 25 deaths were identified. The date of death, the proximate cause of death, and basic demographic information are provided in Table 1. Information about 7 deaths is based solely on media accounts and should be considered preliminary. These cases are identified with an asterisk.

**Table 1: Descriptive Information for Deaths Occurring April 1, 2009 - March 31, 2010**

<i>Case</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Race / Ethnicity</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Date of Death</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Proximate Cause</i>
1	Male	White	55	04-29-09	Aiken	Assaulted by 3 <sup>rd</sup> party
2	Female	Black	15	06-04-09	York	Shot by police
*3	Male	----	31	06-10-09	Cherokee	Unknown
4	Male	White	43	06-16-09	Greenville	Suicide
*5	Female	White	35	07-02-09	Cherokee	Suicide
*6	Male	----	41	07-04-09	Horry	Suicide
7	Female	Black	23	07-14-09	Charleston	Shot by police
8	Female	Black	47	08-28-09	Charleston	Illness/natural causes
9	Male	White	41	09-13-09	Lancaster	Suicide
*10	Male	Black	29	09-19-09	Anderson	Neck restraint/asphyxiation
11	Male	White	44	09-24-09	Spartanburg	Suicide
*12	Male	White	16	10-16-09	Horry	Shot by police
13	Male	White	28	10-17-09	Dorchester	Shot by police
14	Male	White	39	10-17-09	Richland	Suicide
15	Female	White	20	10-20-09	Richland	Suicide
16	Male	White	45	10-22-09	Spartanburg	Shot by police
17	Female	Black	38	12-13-09	Charleston	Illness/natural causes
18	Male	White	28	01-09-10	Dorchester	Shot by police
19	Male	White	51	01-10-10	Spartanburg	Shot by police
20	Male	Black	47	01-15-10	York	Drug overdose
21	Male	Black	27	01-28-10	Greenville	Suicide
*22	Male	White	71	02-01-10	Horry	Motor vehicle accident
23	Female	White	49	02-02-10	Dorchester	Suicide
24	Male	White	40	02-08-10	Greenville	Suicide
*25	Male	Black	27	02-22-10	Chesterfield	Suicide

Notes: \* = information based solely on media accounts.

As Table 1 shows, 7 of the deaths (28%) involved female subjects. Age ranged from 15 to 71, with a mean of 37.2 years. Eight subjects (32.0%) were black, 15 (60.0%) were white, and race/ethnicity was unknown in two cases (8.0%). Most deaths (11 or 44.0%) were suicides, and 8 (32.0%) were due to the application of force by law enforcement officers (7 of these involved firearms and 1 case involved the use of a neck restraint). Two deaths were due to illness or natural causes, 1 was due to a motor-vehicle accident, 1 due to an assault by a third party, and 1 was due to a drug overdose. In one case the cause of death was not yet known.

## **Narratives**

This section provides brief narratives regarding the deaths. Asterisks indicate the information is based solely on media accounts. Media accounts themselves appear in the next section.

1. A 55-year old white male died at the scene or during transport to a medical facility on 4/29/09 after being assaulted by another inmate at the Aiken County Detention Center. The subject had apparently been punched in the face and fell backwards, hitting his head on a concrete floor. The medical cause of death was *subdural hematoma* and the manner of death was *other homicide (assault by other inmate)*.
2. A 15-year old black female died at the scene on 6/4/09 after being shot multiple times by law enforcement officers following a robbery of a grocery store in Rock Hill. The medical cause of death was *gunshot wound of head* and the manner of death was listed as *other homicide*.
3. \*A 33-year old male of unknown race/ethnicity died on 6/10/09 after running from law enforcement officers in Gaffney. Officers responded to a domestic violence call and had handcuffed the subject who then ran about 100 feet before collapsing. He later died at a medical facility. The medical cause of death and the manner of death were not yet known.
4. A 43-year old white male died at the scene in Mauldin on 6/16/09 after threatening or assaulting one or more law enforcement officers with a weapon (probably a handgun). The medical cause of death was *gunshot wound to the head* and the manner of death was *suicide*.
5. \*A 35-year old white female died at the scene on 7/2/09 after speeding away from a traffic stop involving Cherokee Sheriff's Deputies. Deputies reported shots being fired from inside the subject's vehicle and later reported finding narcotics inside the car. Based on the media account, the subject reportedly died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

6. \*A 41-year old male of unknown race/ethnicity died at the scene on 7-4-09 following an armed robbery in Little River and a pursuit by Horry County Police officers. After hitting one of the officer's vehicles, the subject crashed and according to the media account the coroner indicated the subject died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound.
7. A 23-year old black female died at a medical facility on 7-14-09 following police response to a domestic dispute call in Charleston. The subject was shot by an officer after reportedly refusing to drop a firearm. The medical cause of death was *multiple gunshot wounds* and the manner of death was *justifiable homicide*.
8. A 47-year old black female died on 8-28-09 at the Charleston County Detention Center after entering the facility on 8-26-09. The medical cause of death was *intracranial hemorrhage due to hypertension* and the manner of death was *illness/natural causes*.
9. A 41-year old white male died on 9-13-09 at the Lancaster County Detention Center after entering the facility on the same date. The medical cause of death was *suicide* and the manner of death was *asphyxia by hanging*.
10. \*A 29-year old black male died during or following transport to a medical facility on 9-19-09 following a struggle between the subject and an Anderson police officer. The struggle ensued following a motor-vehicle chase through a parking lot. During the struggle the officer employed a neck restraint. The cause of death was reportedly asphyxia due to neck vascular compression and no charges were filed against the officer.
11. A 44-year old white male died on 9-24-09 in Spartanburg. The Spartanburg Sheriff's Office was involved, but details regarding the circumstances of the death are unknown. The medical cause of death was *contact wound to head* from an unspecified firearm and the manner of death was *suicide*.
12. \*A 16-year old white male died on scene or during or following transport to a medical center on 10-16-09 after being shot by a school resource officer in Myrtle Beach. The subject reportedly attacked the officer with a knife and was shot several times. Preliminary autopsy results indicated the fatal shot was to the chest.
13. A 28-year old white male died at a medical facility on 10-17-09 following a traffic stop by a Summerville police officer. The subject threatened the officer with a handgun and was shot several times. The medical cause of death was *sepsis due to multiple organ failure* and the manner of death was *suicide by cop*.
14. A 39-year old white male died on 10-17-09 at the Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center in Columbia after reportedly entering the facility on 10-16-09. The medical cause of death was *asphyxiation due to hanging by ligature* and the manner of death was *suicide*.

15. A 20-year old white female died on 10-20-09 at the Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center in Columbia after reportedly entering the facility on 10-16-09. The medical cause of death was *asphyxiation due to hanging by ligature* and the manner of death was *suicide*.
16. A 45-year old white male died on 10-22-09 at a medical facility after being shot by a sheriff's deputy in Spartanburg. The deputy was reportedly responding to a disturbance call when the subject attacked the deputy with a shovel and was shot one once. The medical cause of death was *irreversible internal hemorrhage secondary to a gunshot wound to upper abdomen* and the manner of death was *homicide by law enforcement officer*.<sup>2</sup>
17. A 38-year old black female at the Charleston County Detention Center died on 12-13-09 after entering the facility on 12-4-09.<sup>3</sup> The medical cause of death was *massive pleural effusion with pulmonary compression and peritoneal/renal hemorrhage complicating end stage renal disease* and the manner of death was *natural causes/illness*.
18. A 28-year old white male died at the scene on 1-9-10 in Summerville following a traffic stop and threatening a deputy with a handgun. The subject apparently had been suicidal prior to being stopped and media accounts indicated he shot at the deputy. The medical cause of death was *innominate and left subclavarian pulmonary disruptions penetrating gunshot wound to neck and right upper arm chest* and the manner of death was *suicide by cop*.
19. A 51-year old white male died at the scene on 1-10-10 in Spartanburg following an armed robbery and a motor vehicle pursuit by deputies. The subject had a rifle and according to media accounts he refused to drop the firearm after exiting his vehicle. Deputies shot the subject after he reportedly pointed the rifle at the deputies. The medical cause of death was *exsanguination secondary to multiple gunshot wounds to the body* and the manner of death was *homicide by law enforcement officers*.
20. A 47-year old black male died at a medical facility in Rock Hill on 1-15-10 following a traffic stop and arrest on drug charges. The subject had been transported by EMS to a medical facility prior to booking and later died. The medical cause of death was *cocaine toxicity* and the manner of death was *accidental drug intoxication*.
21. A 27-year old black male died at the scene in Taylors on 1-28-10 after being approached by deputies regarding a string of robberies. The deputies had reportedly been tipped off regarding the subject's location. As deputies approached the car that the subject was sitting in, he shot himself with a handgun. The medical cause of death was *gunshot wound to the chest* and the manner of death was *suicide*.

---

<sup>2</sup> In 2010 the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) replaced “*justifiable homicide*” with *homicide by law enforcement officer(s)*.

<sup>3</sup> The BJS criteria specify the deaths in police custody should include only deaths that occur pre-arraignment. Even though arraignment delays were possible, given the substantial amount of time between entry into the facility and the date of death, this case may not qualify.

22. \*A 71-year old white male died at the scene in Myrtle Beach on 2-1-10 following an armed robbery and motor vehicle pursuit by deputies. The subject crashed his car during the pursuit and reportedly then took his own life with a firearm.
23. A 49-year old white female died at the Summerville Annex of the Dorchester County Jail on 2-2-10 after entering the facility on 2-1-10. The medical cause of death was *asphyxia due to hanging* and the manner of death was *suicide*.
24. A 40-year old male died at the scene in his residence in Simpsonville on 2-8-10. The subject reportedly had barricaded himself in his home following a domestic dispute. Responding officers sent a robot into the house and found the subject deceased. He had shot himself with a handgun. The medical cause of death was *gunshot wound to the chest* and the manner of death was *suicide*.
25. \*A 27-year old black male died at the scene in Cheraw on 2-22-10 following a motor vehicle pursuit for a traffic violation. The subject reportedly shot the officer and then took his own life after running into a building on foot.

## **Media Accounts** (asterisks indicate information from coroners was not available)

### **Case 1**

Aiken County Detention Center Inmate Accused of Killing Fellow Inmate

Randy Key

April 29, 2009, updated: April 30, 2009

Aiken, SC—According to SLED spokesperson Jennifer Timmons, the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) is charging an Aiken County Detention Center inmate with the death of a fellow inmate. Andrew Nathan York, 37, of the 300 block of Outing Club Road, in Aiken, SC is accused of Murder. According to an arrest warrant, York used his fist to hit the victim, 55-year-old Dale Ralph Sengelman in the face. As a result, Sengelman fell backwards onto a concrete floor of a common area at the Detention Center, causing a fracture to his head. Sengelman was transported to MCG, where he was pronounced dead. The crime allegedly happened on April 28, 2009. Murder is a felony offense punishable by death, life in prison or a mandatory minimum of thirty (30) years in prison. The Aiken County Sheriff's Office assisted with this investigation.

Sengelman, 55, of Orangeburg, SC was being held at the detention center on two counts of Lewd Act on a Child under 16. York 37, of Aiken, SC is being held at the detention center on one count of Breach of Trust with Fraudulent Intent, \$5,000 or more, in addition to the new Murder charge.

UPDATE: According to Aiken County Coroner Tim Carlton, Sengelman died at Medical College of Georgia, Neurology ICU from injuries he sustained after an alleged fight at the Aiken County Detention Center. Singelman was transported initially to Aiken Regional Medical Centers in Aiken after the April 28, 2009, 4:45 pm incident. He was then transferred to Medical College of Georgia, Augusta GA around 10pm. The inmate was transferred to the Neurology ICU where he was operated on for a subdural hematoma and skull fracture. The inmate's condition worsened and he was pronounced dead Wednesday afternoon at 3:53 pm. The inmate is scheduled for autopsy in Newberry, SC on Thursday. South Carolina Law Enforcement Division is investigating the incident and the Aiken County Coroner's Office is investigating the death.

Source:[http://www2.wjbf.com/jbf/news/crime/article/aiken\\_county\\_inmate\\_assault\\_being\\_investigated/13135/](http://www2.wjbf.com/jbf/news/crime/article/aiken_county_inmate_assault_being_investigated/13135/)

### **Case 2**

Police video shows teen pointed gun in Rock Hill shooting

June 10, 2009, updated: Jun 13, 2009

ROCK HILL, SC. Authorities in York County showed dramatic dash cam video Wednesday morning which shows a teen pointed her gun at police several times before they shot and killed her. According to police, Yvette Williams allegedly robbed the Park Grocery store on East Main Street last Thursday. As she was running from the business, a witness called police to tell them where she was running. On Wednesday, South Carolina Solicitor Kevin Brackett met with the media to discuss the circumstances leading up to Williams' death. When the officers arrived on the scene, Brackett said they assumed Williams had a 9mm gun since that's what the 911 caller told police. They later learned she actually had a BB gun. Of the 11 shots fired by the two police officers, 3 of the shots actually hit Williams. Bracket showed videotape recorded by the dash cam in the police cars. The tape showed the cops arriving on scene. Police immediately instructed Williams to stop.

The video showed Williams pulling the weapon from her clothing and pointing it toward the police. The police immediately fired their weapons. Williams fell onto the ground and police said they thought she was in a neutral position. The video then showed she pointed the gun at the cops a second time. They responded by firing their weapons. As they walked up to Williams, the tape reveals she rolled over and grabbed her gun. That's when at least one of the officers fired the final shot which killed her. Brackett would not release the videotape or the 911 call to the media. He said it was still being held as evidence in the matter. He said it appeared the officers acted appropriately considering the chain of events leading up to Williams' death.

Source: <http://www.wistv.com/global/story.asp?s=10511033>

### **\*Case 3**

Gaffney man dies in police custody

June 11, 2009

A Gaffney man died Wednesday night shortly after being taken into police custody, according to a statement from the Cherokee County Coroner's Office. After being handcuffed, Omar D. Adams, 31, of 503 Willow St., Gaffney, ran about 100 feet and then collapsed, Coroner Dennis Fowler said in the statement. Gaffney police responded to Adams' home shortly after 9 p.m. in response to a domestic violence situation, according to the statement. After collapsing, Adams was taken to Upstate Carolina Medical Center, where he died at 10 p.m. An autopsy is scheduled for today in Newberry.

Source: <http://www.goupstate.com/article/20090611/articles/906119974>

### **Case 4— media account not available.**

### **\*Case 5**

Driver commits suicide after chase

Cherokee officers find drugs in car

Craig Peters

July 4, 2009

GAFFNEY -- Cherokee County officials said Friday that a woman ended a police chase Thursday night with a self-inflicted fatal gunshot. Cherokee County Coroner Dennis Fowler said Teresa Lynn Blankenship, 35, of Blacksburg died Thursday night. Blankenship fired shots near Highway 11 and Cherokee National Highway after speeding away from a traffic stop that began near I-85. That chase and shooting occurred amid multiple agencies investigating five shootings in the county with four fatalities since last Saturday. The first three fatal shootings occurred at residences in northwest Cherokee County, and Thursday's shooting of Stephen Tyler, 48, and his 15-year-old daughter, Abby, occurred at Tyler Home Center, a family business in Gaffney's city limits. Stephen Tyler died at the scene, and his daughter was airlifted to Spartanburg Regional Medical Center. Authorities think one man, about 6-feet, 2-inches tall and 250 pounds, is responsible for the Tyler shootings and three others. Cherokee County Sheriff Bill Blanton said Blankenship's flight from the traffic stop was not related to the other investigations. Blanton said Blankenship was driving a dark S-10 Chevrolet Blazer when authorities attempted to pull over the vehicle. The sheriff said two juveniles got out of the vehicle with their hands up, but Blankenship then drove away. About 10 to 15 cars chased Blankenship, and shots fired from her vehicle were reported. Blanton said narcotics were found in Blankenship's vehicle. Blanton said authorities did not fire at Blankenship's vehicle, but the

incident will be investigated by the State Law Enforcement Division, which is assisting Cherokee County deputies and Gaffney police with the other shootings.

Source: <http://www.goupstate.com/article/20090704/ARTICLES/907041001?Title=Driver-commits-suicide-after-chase>

## \*Case 6

A suspect dies after a police chase

Thema Ponton

WBTW News 13

July 5, 2009, updated: July 6, 2009

A Marion man is dead after a chase involving Horry County Police. Lt. Jay Brantly, with the Horry County Police Department said at 6:15 p.m. Saturday, there was an armed robbery at a store in Little River and Steven Branham, 41 of Marion was seen fleeing. Brantly said police pursued Branham on Highway 17, in Little River, to S.C. Highway 9 and S.C. Highway 917, outside of Loris. Brantly said while the Branham was being pursued by HCPD on 917, he ran his car into the back of an HCPD car that was not involved in the chase and Sgt. Jeff Gause was injured and flown to New Hanover Medical Center in Wilmington. Brantly said Sgt. Gause was released early Sunday morning and is at home recovering. Brantly said the Branham crashed in a cornfield on 917 after hitting Sgt. Gause's vehicle. Horry County Coroner Robert Edge said autopsy results revealed Branham died of a self-inflicted gun shot wound. Brantly said the state Law Enforcement Division is investigating the incident.

Source:[http://www2.scnow.com/scp/news/local/grand\\_strand/article/horry\\_county\\_armed\\_robbery/62070](http://www2.scnow.com/scp/news/local/grand_strand/article/horry_county_armed_robbery/62070)

Police: Horry County suspect killed himself: Horry probe complete; SLED ongoing,

Kurt Knapak

The Sun News

July 8 2009

The victim, a Family Dollar employee, said Branham entered the store, asked about detergent, then put his hand on her shoulder and pulled out a handgun, according to police. He ordered the woman into an office -- from which she called police -- then left the store. Stephenson reported that a chase to S.C. 9, and then onto S.C. 917 west of Loris occurred soon afterward. Sgt. Jeff Gause was rammed three times by Branham's vehicle during the chase, causing the officer's car to spin out of control, according to the report. Gause was treated and released from a hospital. Police said Branham's vehicle left the road at 4315 S.C. 917, cut across a ditch, went through a yard and into a cornfield. Stephenson's vehicle was damaged during the chase when he hit a ditch. Stephenson said he got out of his patrol car and watched McCullough continue the pursuit. While running down a path the vehicles were travelling, Stephenson said he heard McCullough report that shots were fired. When he reached the scene, he noticed McCullough had his gun drawn, police said.

McCullough told Stephenson that Branham shot himself, the report stated. Branham was pronounced dead at the scene, according to Horry County Deputy Coroner Tony Hendrick. The victim, a Family Dollar employee, said Branham entered the store, asked about detergent, then put his hand on her shoulder and pulled out a handgun, according to police. He ordered the woman into an office -- from which she called police -- then left the store. Stephenson reported that a chase to S.C. 9, and then onto S.C. 917 west of Loris occurred soon afterward. Sgt. Jeff Gause was rammed three times by Branham's vehicle during the chase, causing the officer's car to spin out of control,

according to the report. Gause was treated and released from a hospital. Police said Branham's vehicle left the road at 4315 S.C. 917, cut across a ditch, went through a yard and into a cornfield. Stephenson's vehicle was damaged during the chase when he hit a ditch. Stephenson said he got out of his patrol car and watched McCullough continue the pursuit. While running down a path the vehicles were travelling, Stephenson said he heard McCullough report that shots were fired. When he reached the scene, he noticed McCullough had his gun drawn, police said. McCullough told Stephenson that Branham shot himself, the report stated. Branham was pronounced dead at the scene, according to Horry County Deputy Coroner Tony Hendrick.

Source: <http://www.allbusiness.com/government/government-bodies-offices-regional/12550019-1.html>

## **Case 7**

Woman shot by police dies

Andy Paras

The Post and Courier

July 14, 2009

Tiraneka Jenkins, the 26-year-old woman shot by a Charleston Police officer outside of a downtown bar on Friday, died this morning, authorities said. Jenkins was pronounced dead at 11:02 a.m. at the Medical University Hospital, Charleston County Deputy Coroner Dottie Lindsay. An autopsy is set for Wednesday. Authorities say officer Christopher Simmons shot Jenkins outside Frankie's Cafe on Spring St. about 2 a.m. after she refused to drop a gun. Simmons and other officers were responding to a reported domestic dispute at the bar, authorities say. Jenkins had been at the hospital since the shooting. The State Law Enforcement Division is investigating, which is procedure during police-involved incidents.

Source: [http://www.postandcourier.com/news/2009/jul/14/woman\\_shot\\_by\\_police\\_dies89172/](http://www.postandcourier.com/news/2009/jul/14/woman_shot_by_police_dies89172/)

**Case 8** – media account not available.

## **Case 9**

Hanging death of inmate investigated

The Herald

Kimberly Dick

September 15, 2009

Lancaster, S.C. Authorities are investigating the death of an inmate at the Lancaster County Detention Center, Lancaster County Sheriff Barry Faile said. Henry Clark Hearn Jr., 41, of Lancaster was found hanging in his cell Sunday night. He was pronounced dead on the scene, a release states. Hearn was brought into the detention center Sunday afternoon after being arrested on burglary and domestic violence charges, Faile said. Hearn had been arrested before. Hearn was discovered in his private cell by corrections officers just after 6:00pm, and attempts to revive him were unsuccessful. Faile said he's not aware of any similar deaths happening in the detention centers. The S.C. Law Enforcement Division and the Lancaster County Coroner's Office are investigating the death.

Source: [http://issuu.com/the\\_herald/docs/state\\_09-15-2009](http://issuu.com/the_herald/docs/state_09-15-2009)

## **\*Case 10**

Solicitor: Anderson officer faces no charges in man's death

Independent Mail  
Titus Ledbetter III  
December 14, 2009

ANDERSON — An Anderson police officer will face no state charges for his involvement in a struggle with a 29-year-old man who died shortly afterward of asphyxiation. The struggle between officer Bradley Small of the Anderson Police Department and Robert Lee Thompson occurred Sept. 19 after a chase through the parking lot of the Upstate Nissan Dealership in Anderson. Small received injuries in the struggle and was placed on medical leave. He returned to work a few days later. Tenth Circuit Solicitor Chrissy Adams announced Monday that no charges would be filed and said the decision was based on a report from the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division. An autopsy showed that Thompson died of asphyxia due to neck vascular compression, according to the solicitor. An announcement from her office said that “Officer Small was forced to place his arms around Mr. Thompson in a manner that resulted in Mr. Thompson’s neck being compressed against his own arm.” Thompson died less than an hour after the police chase and was pronounced dead after he was taken to Anderson Med Health Medical Center. Adams said Monday that the autopsy results are consistent with witness statements and physical evidence. She said the decision on whether to press charges was made after looking at the totality of the evidence available. “SLED did a thorough investigation,” Adams said. “They interviewed everyone at the scene.” She said she met with the family members of Thompson in her office Monday before the decision was made public. Thompson was a passenger in a car that was stopped for a traffic violation. During the stop, the police discovered that Thompson had an outstanding criminal domestic violence warrant.

Thompson pushed open the car door and fled with Small in pursuit. The struggle between Small and Thompson lasted two and a half minutes, according to the solicitor’s statement. Evidence indicates that Thompson was still breathing when the handcuffs were placed on him and he was breathing for several minutes afterward, according to the statement. Thompson had a history of resisting arrest, according to the solicitor’s office. The statement said Small attempted to release his grip several times during the struggle while telling Thompson to stop resisting, but Thompson failed to comply. Randall Williams, a spokesman for the Anderson Police Department, said Small resumed his normal duties when he returned to work. He said Small did not face an internal reprimand. Since Thompson’s death, Williams said, the police department has not changed its policies on pursuing suspects. “We are pleased with the thorough investigation of SLED and with the report from the solicitor’s office,” Williams said. The Rev. Otis Burns, a spokesman for Thompson’s family, said the family lawyer would file a Freedom of Information Act request to obtain a copy of SLED’s report. He said the family is represented by J. Kirkman Moorhead of the law firm of Krause, Moorhead & Draisen in Anderson. “It would be irresponsible to assume that everything that was presented is factual,” Burns said. “The family is going to conduct their own investigation and look into it further.” Burns said the family would take every avenue possible to ensure justice even if it included going to the attorney general or filing an action for wrongful death. Burns said he was also upset because the family had not received a single call from the police department since Thompson’s death. He said any show of sympathy could have calmed tensions but the emotions are about to explode. Burns said he was concerned about a possible cover-up because it took so long for the report to come out. He said the family also wonders if it was appropriate for Small to have been back on the job soon after the death of Thompson.

Source: <http://www.independentmail.com/news/2009/dec/14/solicitor-anderson-officer-faces-no-charges-mans-d/>

## **Case 11 – media account not available**

### **\*Case 12**

Coroner: Carolina Forest teen shot five times during attack

The Sun News

Tonya Root

October 17, 2009

The 16-year-old Carolina Forest High School student, who officials said attacked a school resource officer with a knife, was shot five times including a fatal shot to the chest, Horry County Coroner Robert Edge said Saturday. An autopsy was performed Saturday at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston on Trevor Varinecz, an 11th grader at the school, Edge said. Preliminary results showed Varinecz was shot five times including the only life-threatening shot to the chest area, Edge said. "The rest were not life-threatening," Edge said. Varinecz was pronounced dead at 9:34 a.m. Friday in the emergency room of Conway Medical Center, Edge said. "He was a junior at Carolina Forest High School and loved computers, video games and music," reads his obituary notice. Visitation and a memorial service for Varinecz is planned for Wednesday at Goldfinch funeral home in Conway. The visitation will be at 2:30 p.m. and the memorial service will follow at 4 p.m. The family has requested memorials be made to the Autism Advocate Foundation in Myrtle Beach. Friday's fatal shooting was the first incident where an S.C. school officer has killed a student on campus, officials said. "There's never been anything like this," said Jim Foster, a spokesman for the state Department of Education. "It's unprecedented." Varinecz's family declined to comment. Authorities said Varinecz came to school at 8:20 a.m. Friday and asked to talk to the resource officer. They went into the officer's office inside the F building of the school, which houses the math and science classrooms, and closed the door. "It is unknown the nature of why the student approached the officer," Horry County Schools spokeswoman Teal Britton said Friday. School system officials identified the officer as Lance Cpl. Marcus Rhodes, who is listed in the school's online directory as the school resource officer. Varinecz had a knife and got in a "tussle" with the resource officer, Britton said. Rhodes was stabbed and Varinecz was shot during the altercation, she said. The officer was treated and released at 12:26 p.m. Friday from Conway Medical Center, said Julie Rajotte, spokeswoman for Conway Medical Center. School officials responded to the incident quickly and appropriately, Britton said. "The faculty and staff performed with precision in terms of how to deal with an emergency," Britton said. "You can't always predict a random unplanned act of violence. There will be lots of debriefings going on in terms of our response. I don't [think] in this situation there was any shortcoming on anybody's part." "When the details do come out. . . . Marcus did everything he could to contain that situation. Anybody who knows Marcus knows that he'd walk 10 miles to help any kid. Kids love him," Britton said. "There are numerous cases where he has gone way beyond the call of duty to help kids. I know this is very difficult for people who know him and love him to see people question his actions." Mona Sarajian was substitute teaching at Carolina Forest on Friday. "I didn't feel any danger. I didn't feel like there was an out-of-control situation," she said. "There were a lot of polite words and 'thank you's' and 'could you,' 'would you,' 'is there any way?' just very positive, calm. Nobody showed any hysteria or anything like that." Sarajian, who is also president of the Carolina Forest High School Parent Teacher Student Organization, said the students stayed with their first block teachers and classmates the entire day, only leaving the classroom when escorted by a teacher or school official. The teachers went with their classes to the lunchroom and the students "sat together as a group like when they were in elementary school," she said. Periodically, announcements were made on the

intercom system, telling the students that they were not in danger and that they could be picked up by their parents if they would like, Sarajian said. "They were given worksheets or just talking among themselves, just trying to get through it, just try to get through the day, making the best of a bad situation," she said. "We didn't have any other situations at all at the school, and I was very impressed with that." School was not canceled, but numerous parents and student relatives picked up students early after hearing about the incident. Police kept the school in lockdown for more than two hours following the incident. It was the second deadly incident at a Carolina Forest school. On May 18, 2006, Natalia Holmes, an 18-year-old Carolina Forest student, was stabbed to death by her boyfriend as he was dropping her off at school. Edwin Cornelius was sentenced to life in prison after pleading guilty of a murder charge last year. Whitney Simbeck, whose younger brother attends the school, waited with about a dozen others Friday morning on National Drive across from the entrance to school property to pick up students. Simbeck said she received a text message that her brother was not involved in the incident. "I'm shocked something like this could happen again," Simbeck said. "It makes me concerned that our school is where it happened again." Agents with the State Law Enforcement Division are investigating the incident since it involved an Horry County police officer, Kegler said. There had been no prior incidents involving Varinecz, Kegler said. SLED officials declined to release additional details about the incident. Two school resource officers will be at the school Monday and another officer will be assigned to the school, Kegler said. A crisis team that includes counselors and psychologists also will be at the school Monday to talk with student and teachers, Britton said. The Carolina Forest at South Florence football game scheduled for Friday night was postponed until 6:30 p.m. Monday. Jacquie Burke said her son is a junior at the school and was inside F building when the incident occurred Friday and her daughter attended the school when Holmes was killed. "I want my kid out of this school. They don't have any kind of control over what these kids bring in. Just because this is an upper class neighborhood doesn't mean these kids aren't bad kids," Burke said. "They need to tighten the reins up here. They need to be more cautious with these kids. Kids shouldn't have to go through this crap. Kids should be able to enjoy their life and be a kid and not worried about someone having a knife or being mad at them." Staff writer Monique Newton and McClatchy Newspapers' Tim Flach contributed to this report.

Source: <http://www.thesunnews.com/news/local/story/1120403.html?storylink=mirelated>

### **Case 13**

SC man shot by police after traffic stop dies

The Gazette

October 19, 2009

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — A South Carolina man shot and wounded by a police officer following a traffic stop has died from his injuries. The Post and Courier of Charleston reported that 28-year-old Christopher James Campbell of Summerville died Saturday at Medical University Hospital in Charleston. Dorchester County Coroner Chris Nisbet says Campbell died from multiple organ failure because of gunshot wounds. A Summerville police officer says he shot Campbell when he pointed a gun toward other officers. The name of the officer who shot Campbell has not been released. He has been placed on leave during the investigation. Campbell was stopped for not wearing a seat belt Oct. 3. An incident report says Campbell was shot when he raised a gun toward other officers who had arrived.

Source: <http://www.ourgazette.com/ap/SC-man-shot-by-police-after-traffic-stop-dies>

## **Case 14**

Inmate Dies at Jail Just Days after Arrest

WLTX.com

Tony Santaella

October 18, 2010

Richland County (WLTX) - Officials are investigating the death of an inmate at the Richland County jail. Richland County deputies say they responded to the jail about 8:00 p.m. Saturday night for a report of the death of an inmate, 39-year-old Olin Taylor II. County officials say Taylor was found unresponsive in a cell. They say he was checked within a half-hour prior to the incident and did not show any signs of abnormal behavior. Jail officials say he was being held in the orientation dorm, and had received a mental evaluation Friday which did not turn up any questionable behavior. Richland County Coroner Gary Watts has determined the cause of death as asphyxiation by ligature. Ligature indicates a rope or some other type of cord was used to cut off the air supply. The Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center is investigating and conducting a full administrative review, and Richland county deputies are investigating as well. Taylor was booked Friday on several charges, including assault and battery with intent to kill on accusations that he stabbed a woman. Deputies say they received a call at 1:30 a.m. at the Briargate Condos on Menlo Drive of an incident inside a unit. Once they arrived, they found a female victim who's been stabbed several times. She was taken to Palmetto Richland where she's receiving treatment.

Source: <http://www.wltx.com/news/story.aspx?storyid=79662>

## **Case 15**

Second inmate dies in Richland County jail hanging

The State

John Monk

October 20, 2009

The dead woman was identified as Angela Meitzner. She had been booked into the jail Friday on charges of fraudulent checks and forgery, county officials said. Her body was found shortly after 5 a.m. Tuesday. Jail medical staff performed emergency medical measures, but to no avail, officials said. County coroner Gary Watts said his preliminary ruling in Meitzner's death is suicide. However, he said, an investigation is ongoing. County officials made Meitzner's death public shortly before 6 p.m. Tuesday in a press release sent to media outlets. The press release did not mention whether jail officials are doing anything different now to prevent more jail suicides. On Saturday, jail inmate Olin Taylor was found dead in his cell, hanging from a cord made with his shoelaces. Watts has tentatively ruled that death a suicide, but an investigation is continuing. "The Richland County Administrator and Jail leadership is (sic) currently conducting an administrative review of this incident in an effort to determine whether all jail protocols and procedures were followed," the press release said.

Source: <http://www.thestate.com/2009/10/20/991827/second-inmate-dies-in-richland.html>

## **Case 16**

Spartanburg man shot by police officer dies

October 22, 2009, updated: October 26

SPARTANBURG, S.C. (AP) - A South Carolina man has died a day after he was shot by a police officer. Spartanburg County Coroner Rusty Clevenger says 45-year-old Steven M. Satterfield Jr. was pronounced dead early Thursday morning at a local hospital. Satterfield had been shot in the chest Wednesday. The Herald-Journal of Spartanburg reports that sheriff's deputy Brandon Bentley

was responding to a dispute between neighbors when Satterfield charged him with a weapon. The report says Bentley shot the man once. Officials say Bentley has been placed on "light duty" with pay. The State Law Enforcement Division is investigating. Bentley has worked for the sheriff's office about four years.

Source: <http://www.wistv.com/Global/story.asp?S=11364751>

## **Case 17**

Woman who died in jail identified

The Post and Courier

December 16, 2009

The identity of the 38-year-old woman who died Sunday at the Charleston County Detention Center was released Tuesday, but authorities are withholding details of the case until an investigation is complete. Veronica Denise Tyler, 38, of Driftwood Drive in Charleston, apparently died of natural causes, Charleston County Deputy Coroner Bobbi Jo O'Neal said. Tyler suffered from chronic illnesses, O'Neal said. An autopsy was performed and there was no indication of foul play, O'Neal said. A final ruling on the cause of Tyler's death will be issued after toxicology test results are completed, she said. Charleston County sheriff's Maj. John Clark, public information officer, said Tyler was in custody on a shoplifting charge. She was arrested by Charleston police Dec. 4 at a Target store on Sam Rittenberg Boulevard, according to a report. She was accused of pushing a basket filled with 38 items out of the store without paying. A store employee stopped her, and she ran away from the store without the items, the report said.

The Sheriff's Office has not commented on the circumstances surrounding Tyler's death, pending the completion of an internal investigation. The State Law Enforcement Division is also investigating the death, Clark said.

Source: <http://www.postandcourier.com/news/2009/dec/16/woman-who-died-jail-identified/?pluck2>

## **Case 18**

Sheriff talks about shooting

Knight expresses sympathy for slain man's family, support for deputy who fired shot

David MacDougall

The Post and Courier

January 12, 2010

Dorchester County Sheriff L.C. Knight expressed sympathy Monday for the family of a Summerville man who was shot to death by a deputy Saturday night in an apparent "suicide by cop" incident. Knight also expressed support for the deputy who fired the fatal shot. Dorchester County Sheriff L.C. Knight speaks Monday during at news conference regarding a deputy shooting and killing a man. "We feel, right now, unless something we don't know about comes out, he was justified in what he had to do," Knight said. "But it's a terrible thing. Anytime there's a loss of life, it's a terrible thing." The deputy, Andy Martin, has been re-assigned to administrative duties pending the outcome of a State Law Enforcement Division investigation into the shooting. Martin has been a deputy since 2006, Knight said. Jason Kastelhun, 28, of Grapevine Road had been drinking Saturday night and had threatened to take his own life, according to an incident report released by the sheriff's office. Kastelhun's wife called authorities to report that her husband was driving around Ridgeville and Summerville and at one point had a .40-caliber semiautomatic pistol to his chin and "wanted to end it all." She also told police she and her mother and children were leaving their house because she was afraid he would return and "he was an angry person when he

had been drinking," the report said. Kastelhun drove back to his own neighborhood and, when pulled over by a deputy, stepped out of his truck and drew his gun. He reportedly fired at Martin when ordered to put the gun down. Martin returned fire, fatally wounding him. No law enforcement officers were hurt.

Source: <http://www.postandcourier.com/news/2010/jan/12/sheriff-talks-about-shooting/>

## **Case 19**

Deputies: Suspect Fatally Shot After Chase

2 Officers on Paid Administrative Leave

Greenville News

January 10, 2010

SPARTANBURG, S.C. -- The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division is investigating a chase that ended with the death of a suspect in Spartanburg County. Deputies responded to an armed robbery call at about 10:51 a.m. at the Lil' Cricket Food Store at the intersection of Valley Falls Road and Lone Oak Road. The Spartanburg County Coroner has identified the suspect as 51-year-old Billy L. Gowan, of Inman S.C. Responding deputies were told to be on the lookout for a white Dodge Neon that had been stolen from the store's parking lot by a man with a rifle. Deputies saw the vehicle on Asheville Highway, just a few blocks from the robbery location, and started to chase it. The deputies tried to stop the vehicle using their patrol car's blue lights and siren, but say Gowan refused to stop and began to point the rifle at them. The chase ended on West Henry Street in Spartanburg when the stolen vehicle struck a curb, causing a front tire to go flat. Deputies said Gowan got out of the vehicle with the rifle, and refused to obey commands to drop the weapon. Instead, deputies said he pointed the rifle at them. They opened fire. Gowan was pronounced dead at the scene. "I'm sorry that it ended in death, and I know they are as well. But I wanna make everyone aware that less than 300 yards from where the car stopped, was a church full of 300 plus people worshipping," said Sheriff Chuck Wright during a news conference Sunday. Sgt. Harry Cline and Deputy Jeff Strickland are on paid administrative leave as SLED continues to investigate the incident.

Source: <http://www.wyff4.com/news/22199526/detail.html>

## **Case 20**

Rock Hill man dies after arrest on drug charges

Charlotte Observer

Andrew Dys

January 16, 2010

A Rock Hill man who had been arrested on drug charges after a traffic stop Friday night died soon afterward at Piedmont Medical Center, according to police. An autopsy will be done Sunday on Reginald McCullough, 47, said Ev Amick, York County deputy coroner. Police attempted to stop the car driven by McCullough on the 500 block of Green Street after 9 p.m. Friday, following "a possible drug transaction," said Rock Hill police spokesman Lt. Brad Redfearn. The car kept going for a short distance until McCullough stopped at the intersection of Green Street Extension and Frank Street, police said. McCullough was arrested at the scene on charges of possession of crack cocaine, second offense; and failure to stop for a blue light and siren, Redfearn said. McCullough was alone in the car, Redfearn said. Police did recover crack cocaine during the arrest, he said. Officers on the scene saw white powder residue around McCullough's mouth that appeared to be crack cocaine and officers offered medical assistance to McCullough several times, according to a

police department news release. McCullough was taken to the Rock Hill law center but had not yet been booked when EMS was contacted, according to police. McCullough was taken to PMC, where he died. The police department contacted the State Law Enforcement Division, which Redfearn said is normal procedure for an incident involving the death of someone who was in custody. Both SLED and the police department are continuing the investigation.

Source: <http://www.charlotteobserver.com/2010/01/16/1185409/rock-hill-man-dies-after-arrest.html>

## Case 21

Deputies: Surrounded Robbery Suspect Shoots Self

No Other Shots Fired, Deputies Say

Greenville News

January 28, 2010

GREENVILLE, S.C. -- A 27-year-old man a police said committed a string of robberies of pizza delivery workers killed himself Thursday night as officers closed in on him, according to Greenville police. "Greenville County deputies received information that Williams was at a family member's house on Lauren Wood Circle in the Taylors area," said Matt Armstrong, public information officer of the Greenville County Sheriff's Office. He said deputies arrived at the scene at about 7:05 p.m. When they recognized the vehicle in the home's driveway as the one for which they had been searching, they approached the car and ordered Williams to step out of the car. "Investigators heard a fire arm discharged," Armstrong said. Deputy Matthew Armstrong said it appeared Williams was about to get out when he shot himself before officers could intervene. Armstrong says deputies did not fire at Williams and he didn't shoot at them. Armstrong said the sheriff has asked the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division to run a parallel investigation to make sure that there are no doubts about what happened to the alleged robber. All the robbery incidents occurred within the last week and a half. The first incident happened Jan. 18 around 9:30 p.m. at an apartment complex located at 4990 Old Spartanburg Road. According to a press release, the victim told deputies that he went to the location to deliver a pizza, and when he knocked on the apartment door, a man came around the corner of the breezeway and pointed a semiautomatic handgun at him and demanded his money. The victim stated that he dropped the pizza delivery bag and handed the thief the money from his pocket. The suspect ordered the victim to leave, so the victim ran to his vehicle and contacted the Sheriff's Office. The thief fled the area with the money and pizza bag. The second incident happened Jan. 23 just before midnight at an apartment complex located at 2207 Wade Hampton Blvd. The victim stated that he went to the location to deliver a pizza, and when he knocked on the apartment door, the resident advised him that he didn't order a pizza. The victim stated that while returning to his vehicle, the suspect charged at him while pointing a semiautomatic handgun at him. The victim placed the pizza delivery bag in his vehicle and ran away from the thief. The thief stole the pizza delivery bag from the vehicle and fled the area, the release states. The third incident happened Jan. 27 shortly after 5 p.m. at an apartment complex located at 4307 Edwards Road. The victim stated that he went to the location to deliver a pizza, and when he knocked on the apartment door, the resident advised him that he didn't order a pizza. The victim stated that while returning to his vehicle a man charged at him while pointing a semiautomatic handgun at him. The victim was ordered to the ground, and the thief placed the gun to the back of the victim's head and stole his cash and the pizza bag. Deputies said in each case, the pizza delivery person learned that either no one was at the residence where they were supposed to deliver the pizza, or the resident didn't order a pizza. Deputies said they considered Williams armed and

dangerous, and warned the public that he should not be approached. He was facing three charges each of armed robbery, and possession of a weapon during a violent crime.

Source: <http://www.wyff4.com/news/22365401/detail.html>

## \*Case 22

Family of 71-year-old Myrtle Beach painter stunned by bank heist claims

The Sun News

Meg Kinnard

February 3, 2010

No one expected Frank Palazzo to rob a bank when the 71-year-old painting contractor rolled up to one in his silver Jaguar. However, authorities say Palazzo did just that for the fourth and final time Monday, desperate for money to keep his business afloat. He'd already borrowed thousands from relatives in the past year. Police were chasing the car on Robert Grissom Parkway near S.C. 31 about 1:30 p.m. Monday when the car crashed and Palazzo shot and killed himself, according to a police report. What started as an armed robbery and police chase Monday afternoon ended in a crash and a fatal gunshot at the intersection of Robert M. Grissom Parkway and S.C. 31 outside of Myrtle Beach. Horry County Deputy Coroner Tamara Willard identified the victim late Monday as 71-year-old Frank Palazzo. She said she was not certain about other information about Palazzo, including where he lived. The chase began after a man entered Carolina First Bank on 76th Avenue North with a handgun, demanded money from the clerks and left with an undisclosed amount, said Myrtle Beach Police Capt. David Knipes. Witnesses at the bank said the gunman was driving a silver Jaguar. Palazzo's sister-in-law, Marian Palazzo, told The Associated Press her brother-in-law bought the Jaguar when business was good. But the economic downturn hit the construction industry especially hard - costing 20,000 jobs in the past two years in South Carolina - and Frank Palazzo's business was crumbling. He slipped into depression and took medication to help him sleep. "I guess if you get desperate enough, anybody does things that you wouldn't normally do," Marian Palazzo said from her home in Plainfield, Conn. She said Palazzo had also still been mourning his 94-year-old mother, who died last spring, and his wife's death several years before. It had all pushed him into a spiral of depression, which may be what pushed him to start robbing banks, she said. Using surveillance video, Horry County police say they've identified Palazzo in three other bank robberies in their jurisdiction. They say he's the same man who demanded money from a teller and manager at the Waccamaw Bank on Dick Pond Road in Socastee on Sept. 10, then ordered both employees into a back room while he fled. A week later, he robbed First Palmetto Savings Bank at 48th Avenue North, according to FBI spokeswoman Denise Taiste. And in November, he did it again, returning to the Socastee bank, again pointing a gun at the teller, and again leaving with money in hand. Authorities didn't know Palazzo was the culprit until after he turned that gun on himself, but they knew the same man was responsible for all three robberies. FBI officials are investigating to determine whether Palazzo might be linked to bank robberies outside of the Myrtle Beach area, Taiste said. A background records check through the State Law Enforcement Division showed no previous arrests for Palazzo, who lived on River Gate Lane in Little River. Stunned that the charming, once happy-go-lucky man had not only robbed a string of banks but then took his own life, relatives are even further shocked that he hadn't been caught earlier. "How do you rob a bank in a Jaguar?" Marian Palazzo said, referring to her brother-in-law's flashy getaway car. "It just doesn't make any sense to me. If you couldn't have caught him, if he did it before, I don't understand." Palazzo's siblings are planning a trip to South Carolina to identify his

body, which the family then plans to cremate. "You don't really see this coming," she said. "I'm just so surprised by all of this."

Source: <http://www.thesunnews.com/2010/02/03/1295027/family-stunned-by-bank-heist-claims.html>

### **Case 23**

Woman found dead at Dorchester County jail annex

The Post and Courier

February 2, 2010

A 49-year-old woman apparently hung herself in the Summerville Annex of the Dorchester County Jail, officials said. The woman was discovered at 9 a.m. today. After being cut down she could not be revived and was pronounced dead at the scene, the Dorchester County Sheriff's Office reported. Dorchester County Coroner Chris Nisbet identified the woman as Susan Stanfield, 49, of Summerville. An autopsy is pending, Nisbet said. Stanfield was arrested Monday night and charged with driving under the influence of alcohol, and also charged with an open container violation. She refused a test to determine her blood alcohol level. She was scheduled for a bond hearing this morning. She had apparently taken materials in the cell to form a ligature with which she hung herself. Jail staff checked on her not long before she was discovered hanging, the sheriff's office reported. The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division will investigate the death, which is the usual procedure in such a situation, officials said.

Source: <http://www.postandcourier.com/news/2010/feb/02/woman-found-dead-dorchester-county-jail-annex/>

### **Case 24**

Man Found Dead After Barricading Himself In Home

Man Apparently Committed Suicide, Chief Says

Greenville News

February 8, 2010

SIMPSONVILLE, S.C. -- Simpsonville police said a man is dead after he briefly barricaded himself in a home Monday. Simpsonville Police Chief Charles Reece said officers were called to a home on Springleaf Court Monday morning. Reece said a man who was at the home had a fight with his wife. His wife left the house, and that's when the man barricaded himself inside, police said. The Greenville County Sheriff's Office SWAT team was called in. They sent a robot into the house and SWAT team members then entered the home. They found the man dead upstairs. Greenville County Deputy Coroner Scott Ramsey has identified the man as 40-year-old William Joseph Klenotiz. Reece said it appears Klenotiz killed himself. Ramsey said Klenotiz had a gunshot wound. An autopsy will be performed Tuesday.

Source: <http://www.wyff4.com/news/22498710/detail.html>

## **\*Case 25**

Preliminary autopsy results back on Travis Quick

Carolina Alive

Tonya Brown

February 23, 2010

Preliminary autopsy results are back on the man investigators say shot a Cheraw Police officer and then took his own life on Monday. According to the Chesterfield County Coroner, the results show Travis Quick took his own life, but toxicology tests are still pending. Police say Officer Maurice Merritt tried to pull Quick over in Cheraw for a traffic violation. They say Quick led him on a chase, but eventually stopped on Godfrey Street. That's when they say Quick shot Merritt. Police say Quick ran to a nearby building and shot himself when confronted by officers. Officer Merritt was released from the hospital Tuesday night.

<http://www.carolinalive.com/news/story.aspx?id=421420>

## Appendix

Table 2 provides descriptive information from coroners for known deaths of subjects that occurred during the last data collection period, but for which the details were not yet available.

**Table 2: Descriptive Information for Deaths Occurring April 1, 2008 - March 31, 2009**

<i>Case</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Race / Ethnicity</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Date of Death</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Proximate Cause</i>
1	Male	White	27	06-17-08	Greenwood	Asphyxia