



## **LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS KILLED AND ASSAULTED - 2005**

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## LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS KILLED AND ASSAULTED 2005

On Monday, October 30, 2006, the FBI released its annual *Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted* for 2005. The report is based on data submitted to the FBI from agencies participating in the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) Program, FBI Field Division and Legal Attaché Office Reports and the Bureau of Justice Assistance Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program. Data is grouped by officers feloniously killed, officers accidentally killed, and officers assaulted, with narrative descriptions provided for incidents where officers were feloniously killed.

### National statistics

- 55 law enforcement officers were feloniously killed in the line of duty in 2005. The deaths occurred in 53 separate incidents in 24 states and Puerto Rico. In 2004, 57 officers were feloniously killed.
- Characteristics of the feloniously killed officer in 2005:
  - Average age was 37.
  - Average length of service was 10 years.
  - 54 officers were male, 1 was female.
  - 47 officers were white and 8 were black.
- Characteristics of the incident surrounding the murder:
  - 15 percent occurred in ambush situations.
  - 15 percent occurred in arrest situations.
  - 13 percent occurred during the investigation of a disturbance call.
  - 13 percent occurred while investigating suspicious persons/circumstances.
  - 27 percent occurred during traffic stops/pursuits.
  - 7 percent occurred during investigative activities.
  - 5 percent occurred during a high-risk tactical situation.
  - 4 percent occurred while handling a mentally deranged individual.
  - 2 percent occurred while handling a prisoner.
- 50 of the 55 victim officers were killed by a firearm, the majority of which were handguns. Five officers were intentionally hit by vehicles.
- There were 67 accidental deaths of law enforcement officers in the line of duty in 2005. Fifty-six of the 67 died as the result of a vehicle-related accident, including car, aircraft, or motorcycle mishaps or other traffic-related incidents (directing or stopping traffic, assisting motorists). Four were killed by accidental shootings. The remaining seven were killed by drowning, falls, or other accidental means.
- 57,546 officers were assaulted in the line of duty, and 27 percent of these resulted in an injury. Twenty-nine percent of the assaults resulting in injury involved the use of personal weapons (hands, fists, etc.), nine percent involved firearms, 13 percent involved cutting instruments, and 25 percent involved other dangerous weapons.

## Ohio statistics

- In Ohio, two officers were feloniously killed in 2005.

**Columbus Police Department.** A 33-year-old officer was shot and killed while working special duty at a bank. The officer had more than eight years of law enforcement experience. The suspect, who had a prior criminal record, was arrested and confessed to the murder of the officer as well as to several robberies. He was charged with murder and four counts of robbery.

**Chillicothe Police Department.** A 44-year-old officer was shot and killed while investigating a suspicious person. The officer was off duty when he observed police activity and a potential suspect in an alley. The officer was believed to have transitioned to on-duty status and, unarmed, pursued the suspect. The suspect fired on the officer, killing him. The officer had 19 years of law enforcement experience. The suspect was a known drug user and was on parole at the time of the incident. He was arrested and confessed to the murder. He was charged with aggravated murder and aggravated robbery.

- Since 1996, there have been 20 felonious killings in Ohio.
- No Ohio officers were accidentally killed in 2005. Since 1996, 12 officers were accidentally killed.
- During 2005, 185 Ohio agencies reported 586 assaults on officers. Eighty-four percent of the assaults were committed with a personal weapon. Less than one percent of assaults were committed with a firearm.
- The rate of assault per 100 officers in Ohio in 2005 was 9.4, which is below the U.S. rate of 11.9 per 100 officers.

