



LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS KILLED AND ASSAULTED - 2007

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On October 14, 2008, the FBI released its annual *Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted* for 2007. 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 provided for duly sworn city, university and college, county, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement officers feloniously killed, officers accidentally killed, and officers assaulted, with narrative descriptions provided for incidents where officers were feloniously killed.

The data pertain to those officers who at the time of the incident met the following criteria:

- They were working in an official capacity
- They had full arrest powers
- They ordinarily wore a badge and carried a firearm
- They were paid from governmental funds set aside specifically for payment of sworn law enforcement representatives

National statistics

- 57 law enforcement officers were feloniously killed in the line of duty in 2007. The deaths occurred in 51 separate incidents in 25 states and Puerto Rico. In 2006, 48 officers were feloniously killed.
- Characteristics of the feloniously killed officer in 2007:
 - Average age was 37.
 - Average length of service was 10 years.
 - All 57 officers were male.
 - 47 officers were white, 8 were black, and 1 was Asian-Pacific Islander. Race was not reported for 1 officer.
- Characteristics of the incident surrounding the murder:
 - 28 percent occurred in ambush situations.
 - 28 percent occurred in arrest situations.
 - 9 percent occurred during the investigation of disturbance calls.
 - 7 percent occurred while investigating suspicious persons/circumstances.
 - 19 percent occurred during traffic stops/pursuits.
 - 5 percent occurred during tactical situations.
 - 2 percent occurred during an investigative activity.
 - 2 percent occurred during the handling, transport, or custody of prisoners.
- 55 of the 57 victim officers were killed by a firearm, the majority of which were handguns. Sixteen officers attempted to fire their own weapon and 11 fired their own weapon during

the incidents. Forty-nine percent of firearm deaths of officers occurred when the distance between the victim and offender was between 0-5 feet.

- Sixty-three percent of officers were wearing body armor at the time of their murder.
- Two of the 57 victim officers were intentionally hit by vehicles.
- The average age of identified offenders was 29 years. All were male, 56 percent were white. Ninety-four percent had prior criminal arrests, and 31 percent were under some form of judicial supervision at the time of the felonious incident.
- There were 83 accidental deaths of law enforcement officers in the line of duty in 2007. Fifty-eight of the 83 died as the result of a vehicle-related accident, including car, aircraft, or motorcycle mishaps. Twelve were struck by vehicles (directing or stopping traffic, assisting motorists). Four were killed by accidental shootings. Two officers drowned, one died as the result of a fall, and six officers died as the result of other causes.
- 59,201 officers were assaulted in the line of duty, a rate of 11.4 per 100 officers. Twenty-six percent of these assaults resulted in an injury.
- Over a 10-year period, 40 percent of felonious killings of officers occurred in the a.m. hours between midnight and noon, while the remaining 60 percent occurred in the p.m. hours. The six-hour stretch between 8 p.m. and 2 a.m. accounted for 44 percent of such incidents. Similarly, these were the most active hours for assaults on officers, as 42 percent of all assaults occurred between 8 p.m. and 2 a.m.

Ohio statistics

- In Ohio, two officers were feloniously killed in 2007.

Toledo Police Department. A 35 year-old Toledo Police Department detective with 13 years of law enforcement experience was shot and killed on February 21 while working undercover in an area well-known for drug sales. The detective, along with two other undercover detectives, observed two suspicious individuals who appeared to be underage. After exchanging words with the individuals, the officers identified themselves. As they attempted to arrest the two individuals, one suspect ran and was pursued by two detectives. The remaining detective grabbed the second individual and a struggle ensued. The suspect pulled a .38-caliber revolver from his coat pocket and fatally shot the victim detective in the front upper torso/chest. As the suspect tried to flee, the detective fired six rounds at the suspect, none of which hit the suspect. The victim was able to broadcast for help, and the other detectives, who had heard the shots, returned with their suspect to the location of the downed detective. The veteran detective was transported to a local hospital where he was pronounced dead. A 15-year-old male on probation, who had a prior criminal record including police assault and weapons violations, was arrested later that day and was charged with Aggravated Murder.

Cleveland Heights Police Department. A 31-year-old Cleveland Heights Police Department investigator with seven years of law enforcement experience was shot and

killed when he responded to a disturbance call on May 25. The investigator, along with other officers, was driving to the location of a large fight. All of the officers noticed a westbound vehicle when the driver turned around, headed in the opposite direction, and then backed into a driveway. To block the suspicious vehicle, the investigator maneuvered his vehicle so that his driver's side door was aligned with the outside of the suspect's driver's door. As the investigator was exiting his vehicle, the suspect began firing at him with a 9 mm semiautomatic handgun from inside his vehicle. The man then got out of his vehicle, approached the downed investigator, and fired several more shots at him. The investigator, who was wearing a protective vest, suffered wounds to the arms, legs, side of the head, and a fatal wound to the front of his head. The assailant fled the scene on foot and broke into a nearby residence. Investigating officers subsequently apprehended the 27-year-old man hiding on the second floor of the home. The man, who had a prior criminal record that included violent crime and police assault, was charged with Aggravated Murder of a Law Enforcement Officer with Specifications, Aggravated Robbery with a Handgun, and Felonious Assault.

- Since 1998, there have been 14 felonious killings in Ohio.
- Two Ohio officers were accidentally killed in 2007. An officer from Euclid Police Department was killed in an automobile accident. In another incident, an officer from the Massillon post of the Ohio State Highway Patrol was accidentally killed. Since 1998, 15 officers have been accidentally killed.
- During 2007, 144 Ohio agencies reported 472 assaults on officers. Eighty-four percent of the assaults were committed with a personal weapon. Two percent of assaults were committed with a firearm.
- The rate of assault per 100 officers in Ohio in 2007 was 7.8, which is below the U.S. rate of 11.4 per 100 officers.

**Assaults on Ohio Law Enforcement Officers
Rate per 100 officers**

