



LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS KILLED AND ASSAULTED - 2008

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On October 19, 2009, the FBI released its annual *Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted* for 2008. 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

- 41 law enforcement officers were feloniously killed in the line of duty in 2008. The deaths occurred in 19 states. In 2007, 58 officers were feloniously killed.
- Characteristics of the feloniously killed officer in 2008:
 - Average age was 39.
 - Average length of service was 10 years.
 - 37 officers were male, 4 officers were female.
 - 30 officers were white, 9 were black, and 1 was American Indian/Alaskan Native. Race was not reported for 1 officer.
- Characteristics of the incident surrounding the murder:
 - 15 percent occurred in ambush situations.
 - 22 percent occurred in arrest situations.
 - 2 percent occurred during the investigation of disturbance calls.
 - 17 percent occurred while investigating suspicious persons/circumstances.
 - 20 percent occurred during traffic stops/pursuits.
 - 17 percent occurred during tactical situations.
 - 5 percent occurred during an investigative activity.
 - 2 percent occurred during the handling, transport, or custody of prisoners.
- 35 of the 41 victim officers were killed by a firearm, the majority of which were handguns. Four officers attempted to fire their own weapon and 11 fired their own weapon during the incidents. Forty-six percent of firearm deaths of officers occurred when the distance between the victim and offender was between 0-5 feet.

- Seventy-eight percent of officers were wearing body armor at the time of their murder.
- The average age of the 42 identified offenders was 32 years. All but two were male. Forty-eight percent were white, 50 percent were black, and two percent were Asian/Pacific Islander. Eighty-six percent had prior criminal arrests, and 26 percent were under some form of judicial supervision at the time of the felonious incident.
- There were 68 accidental deaths of law enforcement officers from 66 agencies in 2008. Forty-seven of the 68 died as the result of a vehicle-related accident, including car, aircraft, or motorcycle mishaps. Thirteen were struck by vehicles (directing or stopping traffic, assisting motorists). Two were killed by accidental shootings. One officer drowned, and five officers died as the result of other causes.
- 58,792 officers were assaulted in the line of duty, a rate of 11.3 per 100 officers. Over 80% percent of these officers were assaulted with personal weapons, such as hands, fists, feet. Twenty-six percent of all 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 37 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 reported in LEOKA as feloniously killed in 2008.

Cleveland Police Department. A 36-year-old Cleveland Police Department patrol officer with over nine years of law enforcement experience was shot and killed on February 29 while investigating suspicious persons. The officer and his partner observed what appeared to be a drug transaction taking place between a man in a vehicle and a man in front of an abandoned house. There were five other men standing on the porch of the house. They began to walk away in different directions when they saw the officers approach. The officers pursued them on foot. One man turned and fired several shots at the veteran officer, hitting him in the abdomen below his protective vest. The victim officer was taken to the hospital where he died. The suspect turned himself in and was charged with Aggravated Murder.

Twinsburg Police Department. A 33-year-old Twinsburg Police Department officer with over 12 years of law enforcement experience was shot and killed while attempting to make an arrest. The veteran officer made a traffic stop and radioed for a back-up unit. A few minutes later, the dispatcher received a call from a resident reporting hearing individuals arguing and subsequent popping sounds. Officers arrived at the scene to find the victim patrol officer lying on the ground near his vehicle, with wounds to the front and side of his head and his neck. His K-9 partner was still in the vehicle. He was flown by helicopter to the hospital, where he died a short time later. Officers located a 26-year-old suspect, with one handcuff on his wrist, in a nearby community and arrested him. He was charged with

two counts each of Aggravated Murder, Escape, and Resisting Arrest, one count of Carrying Concealed Weapons, and three counts of Tampering with Evidence.

- Since 1999, there have been 15 felonious killings in Ohio.
- Two Ohio officers were accidentally killed in 2008. An officer from Franklin County was killed in an automobile accident. In another incident, an officer from Pickaway County was accidentally killed. Since 1999, 15 officers have been accidentally killed.
- During 2008, 134 Ohio agencies reported 506 assaults on officers. Eighty-five percent of the assaults were committed with a personal weapon. Less than two percent of assaults were committed with a firearm.
- The rate of assault per 100 officers in Ohio in 2007 was 8.6, which is below the U.S. rate of 11.3 per 100 officers.

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

