



LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS KILLED AND ASSAULTED - 2009

Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services

1970 W. Broad Street, 4th Floor

Columbus, Ohio 43223

Toll-Free: (800) 448-4842

Telephone: (614) 466-7782

Fax: (614) 466-0308

www.ocjs.ohio.gov



LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS KILLED AND ASSAULTED 2009

On October 18, 2010, the FBI released its annual *Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted* for 2009. The report is based on data submitted to the FBI from agencies participating in the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) Program, FBI field offices and federal agencies including the U.S. Capitol Police, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Department of the Treasury, and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. 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

In addition, their deaths must have been directly related to injuries received during the incidents.

National statistics

- 48 law enforcement officers were feloniously killed in the line of duty in 2009. The deaths occurred in 18 states and Puerto Rico. In 2008, 41 officers were feloniously killed.
- Characteristics of the feloniously killed officer in 2009:
 - Average age was 38.
 - Average length of service was 12 years.
 - 47 officers were male, 1 officer was female.
 - 42 officers were white, 3 were black, and 2 were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 1 was Asian/Pacific Islander.
- Characteristics of the incident surrounding the murder:
 - 31 percent occurred in ambush situations.
 - 17 percent occurred in arrest situations.
 - 13 percent occurred during the investigation of disturbance calls.
 - 8 percent occurred while investigating suspicious persons or circumstances.
 - 17 percent occurred during traffic stops/pursuits.
 - 10 percent occurred during tactical situations.
 - 4 percent occurred during the handling, transport, or custody of prisoners.
- 45 of the 48 officers were killed by a firearm. Of these, 62 percent were killed with handguns, and 33 percent were killed with rifles. Nine officers attempted to fire their own weapon and 12 fired their own weapon during the incidents. Forty-two percent of firearm deaths of officers occurred when the distance between the victim and offender was between 0-5 feet.

- Seventy-five percent of officers were wearing body armor at the time of their murder.
- The average age of the 41 identified offenders was 32 years. All but two were male. Fifty-nine percent were white and 41 percent were black. Eighty percent had prior criminal arrests, and 32 percent were under judicial supervision at the time of the felonious incident.
- There were 47 accidental deaths of law enforcement officers from 29 agencies in 2009. Thirty-eight of the 47 died as the result of a vehicle-related accident, including car, aircraft, or motorcycle mishaps. Six were struck by vehicles (directing or stopping traffic, assisting motorists). Two were killed by accidental shootings. One officer died as the result of an other accidental cause.
- 57,268 officers were assaulted in the line of duty, a rate of 10.3 per 100 officers. Eighty-one percent of these officers were assaulted with personal weapons, such as hands, fists, or feet. Twenty-six percent of all assaults resulted in an injury.
- Over a 10-year period, 41 percent of felonious killings of officers occurred in the a.m. hours between midnight and noon, while the remaining 59 percent occurred in the p.m. hours. The six-hour stretch between 8 p.m. and 2 a.m. accounted for 36 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

- There were no felonious killings of officers in Ohio in 2009.
- Since 2000, there have been 15 felonious killings in Ohio.
- One Ohio officer was accidentally killed in 2009. An officer from Boston Heights was accidentally struck by a vehicle.
- During 2009, 149 Ohio agencies reported 366 assaults on officers. Eighty-four percent of the assaults were committed with a personal weapon. Five percent were committed with a firearm.
- The rate of assault per 100 officers in Ohio in 2009 was 6.3, which is below the U.S. rate of 10.3 per 100 officers.

