

OCJS Special Report

Ohio Statistical Analysis Center

12/2/2014



Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted 2013

U.S. and Ohio Statistical Summary

In November 2014, the FBI released its annual *Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted* for 2013. The report is based on data submitted to the FBI from agencies participating in the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) Program, FBI field offices, and the following 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, whether on or off duty
- 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.

U.S. statistics

- Twenty-seven law enforcement officers were feloniously killed in the line of duty in 2013. The deaths occurred in 16 states. In 2012, 49 officers were feloniously killed.
- **Characteristics of the feloniously killed officer in 2013:**
 - Average age was 39.
 - Average length of service was 13 years.
 - 25 officers were male, 2 officers were female.
 - 25 officers were white and 2 were black.

- **Characteristics of the incidents surrounding officer felonious murders:**

- 22 percent (6) occurred during arrest situations.
- 19 percent (5) occurred in ambush situations.
- 7 percent (2) occurred during traffic pursuits or stops.
- 15 percent (4) were killed during tactical situations.
- 15 percent (4) of officers were killed answering disturbance calls.
- 19 percent (5) of officers were killed while investigating suspicious persons or circumstances.
- 1 officer (4%) was killed while conducting investigative activity.
- Twenty-six of 27 (96%) officers were killed by a firearm. Of these, 69 percent were killed with handguns, 19 percent were killed with rifles, and 12 percent were killed with shotguns. Three officers attempted to fire their own weapon and six fired their own weapon during the incidents. Thirty-five percent of firearm deaths of officers occurred when the distance between the victim and offender was between 0-5 feet.
- Seventy percent of all officers feloniously killed were wearing body armor at the time of their murder.
- Twenty-eight identified offenders were associated with the 27 homicides. The average age of the alleged offenders was 30 years. There were 26 males, one female and one offender unidentified by gender. Of those whose race was reported, 15 were white and 11 were black. Seventy-one percent had prior criminal arrests, and 21 percent were under judicial supervision at the time of the felonious incident.
- Over a 10-year period, 56 percent of felonious killings of officers occurred in the P.M. hours between noon and midnight, while 44 percent of felonious killing occurred in the A.M. hours. In 2013, 48 percent of felonious killings occurred during the A.M. hours while 52 percent of felonious killings occurred during the P.M. hours. Thirty-three percent (9 incidents) occurred between the daytime hours of 12 A.M. and 6 A.M.
- Over a 10-year period, 49 percent of felonious killing of officers occurred between Thursday and Saturday, while the remaining 51 percent occurred between Sunday and Wednesday. Over the 10 year period, more felonious killings occurred on Thursdays and Saturdays than any other day. In 2013, the most felonious killings occurred on Thursday (nine).

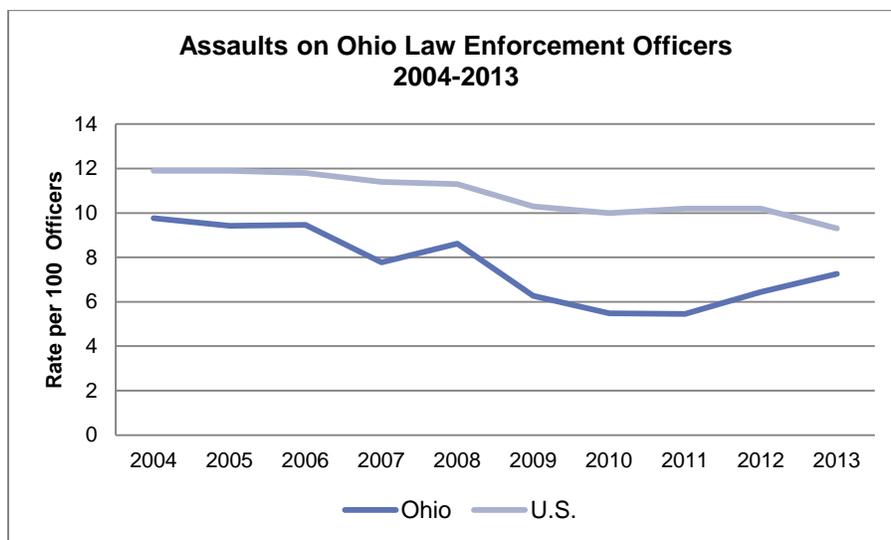
- **Characteristics of the incidents surrounding officer accidental deaths:**

- 47 percent (23) died as a result of automobile accidents
- 18 percent (9) were struck by vehicles
- 8 percent (4) died in motorcycle accidents
- 8 percent (4) were killed in falls

- 4 percent (2) were accidentally shot as a result of crossfire
 - 4 percent (2) officers drowned
 - 2 percent (1) died in an aircraft accident
 - 8 percent (4) died in other types of accidents
- **Characteristics of the incidents surrounding officer assaults:**
 - 49,851 officers were assaulted in the line of duty, a rate of 9.3 per 100 sworn officers and of these 29 percent sustained injuries. Eighty percent of officers were assaulted with personal weapons, such as hands, fists, or feet. Two percent were assaulted with knives or other cutting instruments. Five percent were attacked with firearms. Fourteen percent were attacked with other dangerous weapons.
 - About one-third of officers were assaulted while handling a disturbance call. In other circumstances, 16 percent were assaulted while attempting arrest and 13 percent were assaulted while handling, transporting, or in custody of a prisoner.

Ohio statistics

- There were no officers feloniously killed in Ohio in 2013. Since 2004 there have been 14 felonious killings in Ohio.
- Since 2004, there have been 14 officers accidentally killed in Ohio. One Ohio officer, from Akron, was accidentally killed in an automobile accident in 2013.
- During 2013, 59 Ohio agencies reported 183 assaults on officers. Ninety-one percent of the assaults were committed with a personal weapon. Three percent of assaults were committed with a firearm.
- The rate of assault per 100 officers in Ohio in 2013 was 7.3, which is below the U.S. rate of 9.3 per 100 officers.



For the full report, please visit the FBI's website at <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/leoka/2013/leoka-home>