

OCJS Special Report

Ohio Statistical Analysis Center

10/18/2016



Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted 2015

U.S. and Ohio Statistical Summary

In October 2016, the FBI released its annual *Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted* report for 2015. 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; 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 were duly sworn with 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

Officer felonious deaths

- In 2015, 41 law enforcement officers were feloniously killed in the line of duty. The deaths occurred in 21 states and Puerto Rico. In 2014, 51 officers were feloniously killed.
- Profile of feloniously killed officers in 2015:
 - Average age was 40 years old
 - Average length of law enforcement service was 12 years
 - Of the 41 officers killed, 38 were male and 3 were female
 - In regards to race, 29 were White, 8 were Black/African American, 2 were American Indian/Alaska Native and 2 were Asian/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander

- Characteristics of the incidents surrounding officer felonious killings:
 - 20 percent (8) of officers were killed while investigating suspicious persons or circumstances.
 - 15 percent (6) occurred during traffic pursuits or stops
 - 10 percent (4) occurred in ambush situations.
 - 7 percent (3) were killed in an unprovoked attack.
 - 5 percent (2) were killed handling persons with mental illness
 - 17 percent (7) were killed during tactical situations
 - 12 percent (5) occurred during arrest situations.
 - 7 percent (3) were killed in answering disturbance calls.
 - 5 percent (2) were killed while handling, transporting or maintaining custody of prisoners
 - 2 percent (1) were killed while conducting investigative activity

- Ninety-three percent (38) of the 41 officers were killed by a firearm. Of those killed by a firearm, 71 percent (29) were killed with handguns, 17 percent (7) were killed with rifles, and 2 percent (1) were killed with shotguns. Six officers attempted to fire their own weapon and 6 fired their own weapon during the incidents. Twenty-nine percent (12) of firearm deaths of officers occurred when the distance between the victim and offender was between 0-5 feet.

- Seventy-three percent (30) of all officers feloniously killed were wearing body armor at the time of their murder.

- Thirty-seven offenders were identified in connection with the 41 homicides. The average age of the alleged offenders was 33 years. All thirty-seven offenders were male. Of those whose race was reported, 46 percent (17) were black, 43 percent (16) were white, 3 percent (1) were American Indian/Alaska Native, and 3 offenders for whom race was not reported. Eighty-four percent (31) had prior criminal arrests, and 24 percent (9) were under judicial supervision at the time of the felonious incident.

- In 2015, 54 percent of felonious killings occurred during the A.M. hours and 44 percent of felonious killings occurred during the P.M. hours. However, over a 10-year period, 54 percent of felonious killings of officers occurred in the P.M. hours, while 46 percent of felonious killing occurred in the A.M. hours.

- In 2015, the most felonious killings occurred on Wednesdays (9). However, over a 10-year period, more felonious killings occurred on Thursdays and Saturdays than any other day. During this 10 year period, 46 percent of felonious killing of officers occurred between Thursday and Saturday, while the remaining 54 percent occurred between Sunday and Wednesday.

Officer accidental deaths

- In 2015, 45 officers in 21 states died as the result of accidents that occurred in the line of duty. In 2014, 45 officers were accidentally killed.
- Characteristics of the incidents surrounding officer accidental deaths:
 - 64 percent (29) died as a result of automobile accidents.
 - 9 percent (4) died in motorcycle accidents.
 - 2 percent (1) died in an aircraft accident
 - 2 percent (1) were killed in a fall
 - 16 percent (7) were stuck by vehicles.
 - 4 percent (2) were accidentally shot. One incident was the result of crossfire, mistaken for subject or other firearm mishap, and one incident occurred during a training session.
 - 2 percent (1) died from other types of accidents

Officer assaults

- 50,212 officers were assaulted in the line of duty in 2015, a rate of 9.9 per 100 sworn officers.
- Characteristics of the incidents surrounding officer assaults:
 - Of the officers who were assaulted, 28 percent sustained injuries. Thirty-one percent of officers were injured by personal weapons, such as hands, fists, or feet. Twelve percent were injured by knives or other cutting instruments. Ten percent were injured by firearms and 25 percent were injured by other dangerous weapons.
 - Roughly one-third of officers were assaulted while handling a disturbance call. In other circumstances, 16 percent were assaulted while attempting arrest and 12 percent were assaulted while handling, transporting, or in custody of a prisoner.

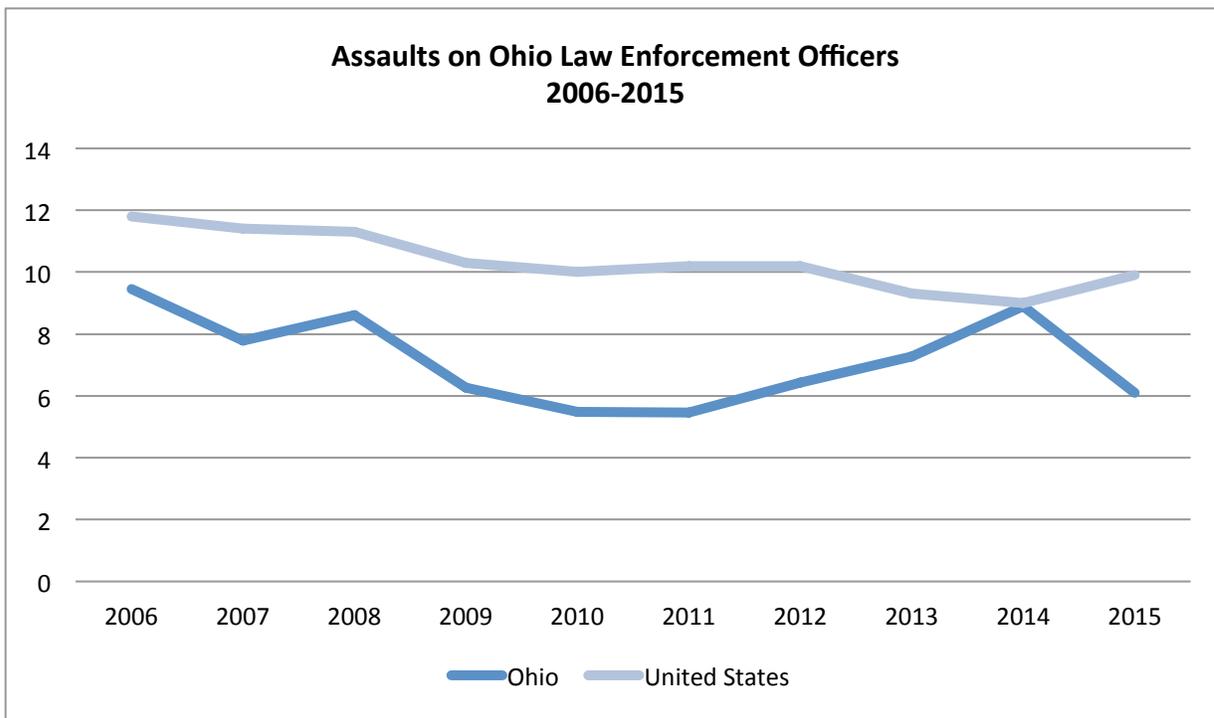
Ohio statistics

- There was one officer feloniously killed in Ohio in 2015. Since 2006 there have been 13 felonious killings in Ohio.

A 48-year-old police officer with the Cincinnati Police Department was killed during an ambush shortly before 9:30 a.m. on June 19. The officer, a veteran of law enforcement with over 27 years of experience, responded to a call reporting a man with a firearm. The officer arrived on the scene and observed an armed individual arguing with a woman later identified as the individual's mother. The officer was familiar with the individual and his mother from patrolling the neighborhood. The officer drew his conductive energy device and ordered the individual to show his hands. The individual moved toward the officer and drew a .380-caliber semiautomatic handgun from his waistband. The officer then

removed his weapon, a 9 mm semiautomatic handgun, from its holster. The individual fired four rounds at the officer, three of which struck the officer in the arms/hands and in the front lower torso/stomach between the side panels of the body armor he was wearing. The officer fell into the street; he and the suspect wrestled briefly before the suspect gained control of the victim officer's weapon and used it to fire at a probation officer who had arrived on the scene. The suspect then demanded that the probation officer kill him. Another officer arrived, and the suspect and that officer engaged in a gun battle around the officer's car. The responding officer shot the suspect, killing him. The victim officer was transported to the hospital where he was pronounced deceased; the fatal wound was to his front lower torso/stomach. The 21-year-old suspect had a prior criminal record and was under the influence of alcohol and narcotics at the time of the incident.

- Since 2006, there have been 13 officers accidentally killed in Ohio. No Ohio officers were accidentally killed in 2015.
- During 2015, 69 Ohio agencies employing a total of 2,428 officers reported 147 assaults on officers, a rate of 6.1 per 100 officers. This rate is lower than that reported by the states in the East North Central region (7.6) and in the U.S. (9.9).
- Eighty-two percent of the assaults were committed with a personal weapon. Thirteen percent of assaults were committed with other dangerous weapons and 5 percent of officers were reported to have been assaulted with a firearm.



For the full report, please visit the FBI's website at <https://ucr.fbi.gov/leoka/2015>