

OCJS Special Report

Ohio Statistical Analysis Center

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Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted 2016

U.S. and Ohio Statistical Summary

In October 2017, the FBI released its annual *Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted* report for 2016. 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

- In 2016, 66 law enforcement officers were feloniously killed in the line of duty. The deaths occurred in 29 states and Puerto Rico. In 2015, 41 officers were feloniously killed.
- **Profile of feloniously killed officers in 2016:**
 - Average age was 40 years old
 - Average length of law enforcement service was 13 years
 - Of the 66 officers killed, 64 were male and 2 were female
 - Sixty-one officers were White, 4 were Black/African American, 1 was Asian/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander

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

- 14 percent (9) of officers were killed while investigating suspicious persons or circumstances.
 - 6 percent (4) occurred during traffic pursuits or stops
 - 26 percent (17) occurred in ambush situations.
 - 5 percent (3) were killed in an unprovoked attack.
 - 9 percent (6) were killed during tactical situations
 - 14 percent (9) occurred during arrest situations.
 - 20 percent (13) were killed in answering disturbance calls.
 - 8 percent (5) were killed while conducting investigative activity.
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- Ninety-four percent (62) of the 66 officers were killed by a firearm. Of those killed by a firearm, 60 percent (37) were killed with handguns, 39 percent (24) were killed with rifles, and 1 percent (1) were killed with a shotgun. Eleven officers attempted to fire their own weapon and 14 fired their own weapon during the incidents. Thirty-one percent (19) of firearm deaths of officers occurred when the distance between the victim and offender was between 0-5 feet.
 - Seventy-seven percent (51) of all officers feloniously killed were wearing body armor at the time of their murder.
 - Fifty-nine offenders were identified in connection with the 66 homicides. The average age of the alleged offenders was 34 years. Fifty-five offenders were identified as male and 4 were not identified by gender. Of those whose race was reported, 31 percent (15) were black, 67 percent (32) were white, 2 percent (1) were American Indian/Alaska Native. Seventy-six percent (45) had prior criminal arrests, and 24 percent (14) were under judicial supervision at the time of the felonious incident.
 - Over a 10-year period, 54 percent of felonious killings of officers occurred in the P.M. hours between noon and midnight, while 46 percent of felonious killing occurred in the A.M. hours. In 2016, 42 percent of felonious killings occurred during the A.M. hours while 56 percent of felonious killings occurred during the P.M. hours (hours were not reported for one incident).
 - Over a 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. During this 10 year period, more felonious killings occurred on Thursdays and Saturdays than any other day. In 2016, the most felonious killings occurred on Wednesday (15).

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

- 50 percent (26) died as a result of automobile accidents.
- 13 percent (7) died in motorcycle accidents.
- 2 percent (1) died in an aircraft accident.
- 4 percent (2) officers drowned.
- 23 percent (12) were stuck by vehicles.
- 6 percent (3) were accidentally shot. All three were the result of crossfire, mistaken for subject or other firearm mishap.
- 2 percent (1) died from other types of accidents

- **Characteristics of the incidents surrounding officer assaults:**

- 57,180 officers were assaulted in the line of duty in 2016, a rate of 9.8 per 100 sworn officers. Of these, 29 percent sustained injuries. Thirty-one percent of officers were assaulted with personal weapons, such as hands, fists, or feet. Eleven percent were assaulted with knives or other cutting instruments. Twelve percent were attacked with firearms and 23 percent were attacked with 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 13 percent were assaulted while handling, transporting, or in custody of a prisoner.

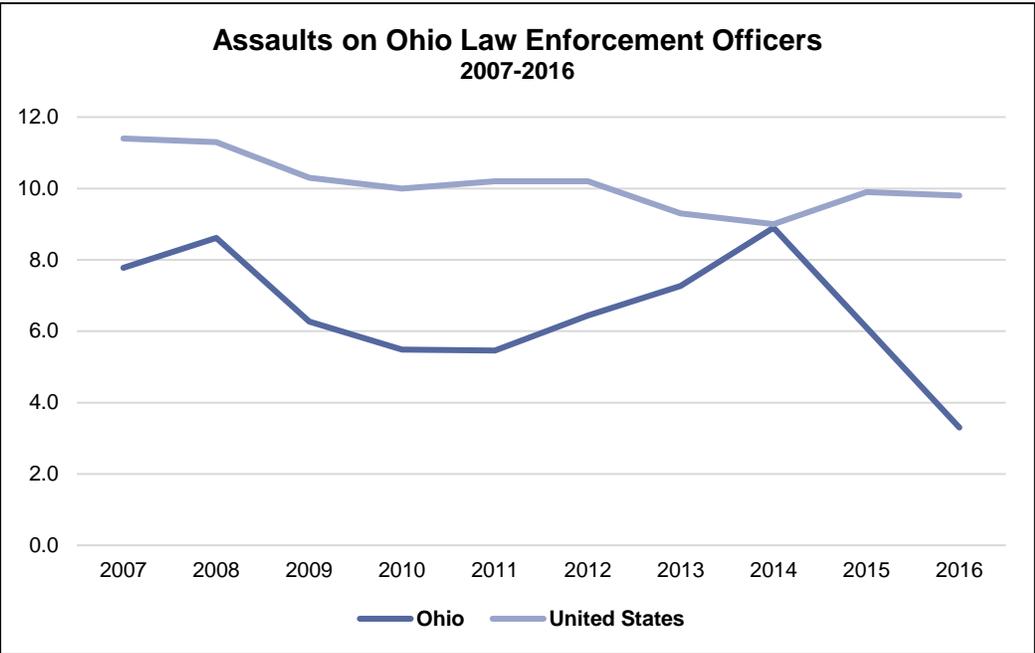
Ohio statistics

- There were two officers feloniously killed in Ohio in 2016. Since 2007 there have been 14 felonious killings in Ohio. Both officers died from wounds sustained by a firearm.
 - A 54-year-old police officer with the Columbus Division of Police was fatally wounded during a tactical situation that began late in the evening on April 9 and lasted into the next day. The veteran officer, who had 27 years of law enforcement experience, was part of a SWAT team assigned to execute an arrest warrant for a man who was wanted for aggravated arson. The individual was suspected of starting a fire inside the home of his estranged wife. The SWAT team arrived at the residence and the negotiation team attempted to communicate with the man over a loudspeaker, but he refused to leave the residence. Two SWAT members entered the basement in an attempt to turn off the power to the house. The man heard the officers beneath him, and he started shooting through the floor at them. A SWAT officer then drove an armored vehicle to the rear of the residence. He parked the vehicle and stood, wearing body armor, in the open hatch behind the turret with his rifle pointed toward the residence. Around 2:30 a.m. on April 10, the suspect fired a 9 mm semiautomatic handgun out his back bedroom window in the direction of the armored vehicle. One of the rounds struck the victim officer above his left eye as he stood in the vehicle's open hatch. Officers removed the victim officer from the armored vehicle, and he was taken to a local hospital. A short time later, the house started burning. After a several hour standoff, members of the

SWAT team arrested the suspect. The victim officer died at the hospital on April 12 from the gunshot wound to the front of his head. The 44-year-old suspect was charged with Aggravated Arson, two counts of Aggravated Murder of a Law Enforcement Officer, four counts of Felony Assault, and four counts of Attempted Murder.

- At 10:45 p.m. on January 17, a 34-year-old patrol officer with the Danville Police Department (DPD) was killed in an ambush. Around 11:20 p.m., a caller advised 911 dispatch that an individual had threatened to kill a cop, and Danville officers were in danger. Dispatchers then attempted to contact the DPD patrol officer several times on his radio and phone, but were unable to reach the veteran officer, who had 12 years of law enforcement experience. Officers responded to the parking lot of the Danville Municipal Building and observed an officer's hat on the ground and blood on the yellow parking blocks. In the same area, officers located the body of the missing officer. The victim officer, who had been wearing body armor, had suffered a fatal gunshot wound to the rear of the head from a .380-caliber semiautomatic handgun. The victim officer's vest and duty belt, along with his 9 mm semiautomatic handgun, had been removed and were unaccounted for. The victim officer's cruiser was also missing. Soon after, dispatch advised officers a fire had been set at a house, which turned out to be the residence of the suspect's ex-girlfriend. A short time later, the ex-girlfriend exited her house followed closely by the suspect. The DPD shouted commands for both individuals to get on the ground. The suspect fled on foot into the fenced area of a nearby football field and unsuccessfully attempted to scale the fence. The suspect then put his hands in the air and began walking toward the chief. The chief ordered the suspect to get on the ground, and this time, the suspect obeyed. The chief held the suspect at gunpoint until backup arrived and secured the suspect in handcuffs. At that time, the chief noticed the victim officer's vest and service weapon underneath the bleachers. The 32-year-old suspect, a known drug user and dealer who was under supervision at the time of the incident, had a prior criminal record including a violent crime, drug law violation, weapons violation, and an assaulting an officer/resisting arrest charge. He was arrested and charged with Aggravated Murder, Death of a Specified Law Enforcement Officer, Firearm Law Violation, Grand Theft, and Grand Theft of a Motor Vehicle.

- Since 2007, there have been 13 officers accidentally killed in Ohio. Three Ohio officers were accidentally killed in 2016.
- During 2016, 240 Ohio agencies reported 406 assaults on officers. Eighty-three percent of the assaults were committed with a personal weapon. Eleven percent of assaults were committed with other dangerous weapons and 6 percent of officers were reported to have been injured with a firearm.
- The rate of assault per 100 officers in Ohio in 2016 was 3.3, which is significantly below the U.S. rate of 9.8 per 100 officers.



For the full report, please visit the FBI's website at <https://ucr.fbi.gov/leoka/2016/home>