



## Officers Assaulted

The following information concerns duly sworn federal, state, city, county, university and college, and tribal law enforcement officers who were assaulted in the line of duty in 2020. The law enforcement officers included in this report also met certain other criteria, which is listed on the Officer Criteria page.

The FBI's Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted Data Collection has collected aggregate assault data for more than 50 years. In 2013, more detailed data about assaults with injury were added to the collection. The data collection for these assault incidents is similar to the comprehensive data collected about law enforcement officers feloniously killed in the line of duty. However, the detailed assault with injury data reflect only a subset of the assault incidents reported to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program.

This topic page discusses information about aggregate assault data, not detailed assault with injury data.

### Overview

- In 2020, the FBI collected assault data from 9,895 law enforcement agencies that employed 505,212 officers. These officers provided service to more than 235.5 million people, or 71.5 percent of the nation's population. (See Table 8o.)
- Law enforcement agencies reported that 60,105 officers were assaulted while performing their duties in 2020. (See Table 8o.) This figure differs from the 71 officers who were assaulted and injured with firearms, knives, or other cutting instruments (or detailed assault data) in that the detailed assault with injury data reflect only a subset of the assault incidents reported to the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Program.
- The rate of officer assaults in 2020 was 11.9 per 100 sworn officers. (See Table 8o.)

### Injuries

- Of the 60,105 officers who were assaulted, 18,568 (30.9 percent) sustained injuries. (Based on Table 80.)
- 25.8 percent of the officers who were attacked with personal weapons (e.g., hands, fists, or feet) suffered injuries. (See Table 85.)
- 9.7 percent of the officers who were assaulted with knives or other cutting instruments were injured. (See Table 85.)
- 6.1 percent of officers who were attacked with firearms were injured. (See Table 85.)
- 16.8 percent of officers who were attacked with other dangerous weapons were injured. (See Table 85.)

### **Times of incidents**

- The largest percentage of assaults on officers (12.3 percent for both time periods) happened from 8:01 p.m. to 10 p.m. and from 10:01 p.m. to midnight. (See Table 82.)
- 11.6 percent of assaults on officers occurred from 6:01 p.m. to 8 p.m., and 10.9 percent happened from 12:01 a.m. to 2 a.m. (See Table 82.)
- The smallest percentage of assaults on officers (3.3 percent) occurred between 6:01 a.m. and 8 a.m. (See Table 82.)

### **Circumstances**

Of all officers who were assaulted in 2020:

- 29.6 percent were responding to disturbance calls (family quarrels, bar fights, etc.). (Based on Table 83.)
- 16.1 percent were attempting other arrests. (Based on Table 83.)
- 12.6 percent were handling, transporting, or maintaining custody of prisoners. (Based on Table 83.)

## **Clearances**

Law enforcement agencies may clear offenses by arrest or exceptional means (i.e., when they can identify the perpetrator but are unable to make an arrest due to circumstances beyond their control, such as the death or suicide of the subject).

- In 2020, law enforcement agencies cleared 83.2 percent of the 60,105 reported assaults on law enforcement officers. (See Table 83.)
- By type of circumstance, agencies cleared the greatest percentage of assaults (87.9 percent) on officers who were attempting other arrests. (See Table 83.)
- Agencies reported that they cleared 87.8 percent of the 17,799 assaults on officers who were responding to disturbance calls. (See Table 83.)

## **Assignments**

- 63.4 percent of the officers who were assaulted were assigned to 1-officer vehicle patrols. (Based on Table 84.)
- 16.2 percent of the officers who were assaulted were assigned to 2-officer vehicle patrols. (See Table 84.)
- 3.6 percent of officers who were assaulted were assigned to detective duties or special assignments. (Based on Table 84.)
- 16.8 percent of officers were assigned to other duties when they were assaulted in the line of duty. (Based on Table 84.)

## **Weapons**

- In 2020, 73.9 percent of officers who were assaulted in the line of duty were attacked with personal weapons (e.g., hands, fists, or feet). (Based on Table 85.)
- 4.6 percent of the officers were assaulted with firearms. (Based on Table 85.)
- 2.0 percent of the officers were assaulted with knives or other cutting instruments. (Based on Table 85.)

- 19.6 percent of the officers were assaulted with other dangerous weapons. (Based on Table 85.)

Information about officers assaulted can be found in Tables 80-88. Specific information about officers assaulted and injured with firearms, or other cutting instruments is on the Detailed Assault Data page and in Tables 89-133.