# About *Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted*

The FBI publishes data from the Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted (LEOKA) Data Collection each year to provide information about officers who were killed, feloniously or accidentally, and officers who were assaulted while performing their duties. Under the umbrella of the FBI’s Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program, LEOKA data has traditionally been released on FBI.gov on the UCR Publications webpage. However, beginning May 2021, LEOKA data for 2020 and all future UCR data will be released exclusively on the FBI's Crime Data Explorer (CDE) website where data users can access and sort a variety of data. UCR data from previous years will also be accessible on the CDE.

The CDE is a user-friendly portal that anyone can use to access, sort, visualize, and download data from any of the UCR data collections. On the site, users can build and view charts and graphs that break down the data of their choosing in a variety of ways. The content of the CDE comes from data collections such as LEOKA, Hate Crime Statistics, the National Incident-Based Reporting System, and National Use-of-Force.

## History

Beginning in 1937, LEOKA line-of-duty death statistics were collected and published in the annual UCR publication, *Crime in the United States*. Statistics regarding assaults on officers were added in 1960. In June 1971, executives from the law enforcement conference, “Prevention of Police Killings,” called for an increase in the FBI’s involvement in preventing and investigating officers’ deaths. In response to this directive, the UCR Program expanded its collection of LEOKA data to include more details about the incidents in which law enforcement officers were killed and assaulted.

Using this comprehensive set of data, the FBI began in 1972 to produce two reports annually, the *Law Enforcement Officers Killed Summary* and the *Analysis of Assaults on Federal Officers*. These two reports were combined in 1982 to create the annual hard copy publication, *Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted*.

Beginning with the 2005 edition, the FBI began producing *Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted* exclusively as a Web publication on FBI.gov.

**Release schedule**

This year, 2020 LEOKA data will be delivered in two installments:

***Sections included in the Spring 2021 release***

* Officers Feloniously Killed (including select narratives detailing incidents of officers who were feloniously killed)
* Officers Accidentally Killed
* Federal Officers Killed and Assaulted

***Sections included in the Fall 2021 release***

* Officers Assaulted (including select narratives detailing officers who were assaulted in the line of duty)
* Officers Assaulted – Detailed Assault Data

## Data considerations

When reviewing the tables, charts, and summaries presented in this data release, readers should be aware of certain features of the LEOKA data collection process that could affect their interpretation of the information.

The data in the tables and charts reflect the number of victim officers, not the number of incidents or weapons used.

The UCR Program considers any parts of the body that can be used as weapons (such as hands, fists, or feet) to be personal weapons and designates them as such in its data.

Law enforcement agencies use a different methodology for collecting and reporting data about officers who were killed than the methodology used for those who were assaulted. As a result, information about officers killed and information about officers assaulted reside in two separate databases, and the data are not comparable.

Because the information in the tables of this publication is updated each year, the FBI cautions readers against making comparisons between the data in this publication and those in prior editions.

**Caution against comparisons with data from other organizations.**

The FBI’s LEOKA Data Collection is one of a number of data releases issuing information about line-of-duty deaths and/or assaults of law enforcement officers in the United States. Each organization has its own purpose and may use different methods to collect and report information or focus on somewhat different aspects of these important topics. Therefore, care should be taken not to compare LEOKA data to data provided by other entities, such as the Officer Down Memorial Page, National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, and others. Refer to the Criteria page for the requirements that determine which officers are included in this report.

**Portable Document Format (PDF) file available**

Included on the CDE’s LEOKA page is a link to a PDF file of summaries of incidents in which law enforcement officers were killed or assaulted and injured in the line of duty. The current compilation of narratives includes 17 years of information and will be updated for 2020 in the fall of 2021.

The objective of these products is to offer LEOKA information in portable, convenient formats that can be downloaded for use on mobile devices (e.g., tablets, smartphones, etc.) by law enforcement researchers, trainers, and other partners.

## What do you think?

The E-Government Act of 2002 promotes more efficient uses of information technology by the federal government. This online report is a product of the FBI’s effort to reach a larger audience more efficiently. The FBI welcomes your input about this electronic report via a short Feedback Form. Your comments will help us improve the presentation of future releases of LEOKA data.

## What you won’t find on this page

Raw data. The data presented in the LEOKA portion of the CDE provide information about law enforcement officers killed and assaulted in the nation broken down by state and region. More detailed data (including the source data from which this publication is created) may be obtained by contacting the FBI’s LEOKA staff via e-mail at [leoka.statistics@fbi.gov](mailto:leoka.statistics@fbi.gov).

LEOKA data for 2021. The LEOKA data collected for 2021 will be released in 2022.

## Questions? To submit questions about this information or for Web assistance, contact the FBI’s LEOKA Program at [leoka.statistics@fbi.gov](mailto:leoka.statistics@fbi.gov).