# Officers Feloniously Killed

The following information concerns law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty in 2020 as a result of felonious incidents. The law enforcement officers included in this report met certain criteria, such as they had full arrest powers and they ordinarily wore/carried a badge and firearm.

## Overview

* In 2020, 46 law enforcement officers died from injuries incurred in the line of duty during felonious incidents. (See Table 1.)
* Line-of-duty deaths occurred in 25 states. (See Table 1.)
* By region, 24 officers were feloniously killed in the South, 11 officers in the Midwest, 10 officers in the West, and 1 officer in the Northeast. (See Table 1.)
* Of the officers feloniously killed, 35 were employed by city police departments, including 13 who were members of law enforcement agencies in cities with 250,000 or more inhabitants. (See Table 2.)

## Victim profile

* The average age of the officers who were feloniously killed in 2020 was 39 years old. (See Table 10.)
* The slain officers’ average length of law enforcement service was 12 years. (See Table 11.)
* Of the officers who died due to felonious incidents in 2020, 41 were male and 5 were female. (See Table 15.)
* By race, 32 of the victim officers were White, 10 were Black/African American, 2 were Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander, and 1 was American Indian/Alaska Native. Race was not reported for 1 victim officer. (See Table 15.)

## Circumstances encountered by victim officer upon arrival at the scene of the incident (See Table 24.)

* 9 officers were ambushed (entrapment/premeditation).
* 7 officers died as a result of investigative/enforcement activities.
  + 2 were investigating drug-related matters.
  + 2 were handling persons with mental illness.
  + 1 was performing a high-risk traffic stop.
  + 1 was assisting with a motor vehicle crash.
  + 1 was conducting a traffic violation stop.
* 7 officers were assisting other law enforcement officers.
  + 2 were providing/deploying spike strips/stop sticks.
  + 1 was conducting a high-risk traffic stop.
  + 1 was involved with an officer down (requiring emergency assistance).
  + 1 was assisting an officer requiring emergency assistance (not pursuit).
  + 1 was assisting with a vehicular pursuit.
  + 1 was reported in the *other nonemergency circumstance* category.
* 5 officers responded to crimes in progress.
  + 2 were shootings/shots being fired situations (not “active shooter” situations).
  + 1 was a burglary.
  + 2 were reported in the *other crime against property* category.
* 4 officers responded to disorders/disturbances.
  + 3 were responding to domestic disturbances (family quarrel, no assault).
  + 1 was responding to a domestic violence situation.
* 3 officers were involved in arrest situations.
  + 2 were attempting to restrain/control/handcuff offenders.
  + 1 was involved with verbal advisement only.
* 2 officers were involved in tactical situations. Both were serving/attempting to serve arrest warrants.
* 2 officers were victims of unprovoked attacks.
* 2 officers were encountering/assisting emotionally disturbed persons.
* 2 officers were handling citizen complaints.
* 1 officer was serving/attempting to serve a court order (eviction notice, subpoena, etc.).
* 1 officer was assisting a motorist.
* 1 officer encountered a circumstance in the *other* category

## Assignments (See Table 21.)

* 34 officers were on assigned vehicle patrol when the felonious incidents occurred.
* 2 officers were on special assignments.
* 2 officers were on tactical assignments (uniformed).
* 2 officers were working undercover.
* 4 officers were reported to be working in the *other assignment* category.
* 2 slain officers were off duty but acting in official capacities at the time of the incidents.
* 35 on-duty officers who died in 2020 were assisted at the times of the attacks.
* 9 on-duty officers were alone and unassisted at the times of the attacks.

## Weapons

* Of the 46 officers feloniously killed in 2020, most (41) were killed with firearms. Of these, 21 were killed with handguns. (See Table 28.)
* 11 officers fired their weapons; 5 officers attempted to fire their weapons. (See Table 18.)
* 1 officer’s weapon was stolen during the incidents. (Based on Table 19.)
* 10 officers were slain with firearms when they were less than 5 feet from the offenders. (See Table 32.)

## Body armor

* In 2020, 26 of the officers feloniously killed were wearing body armor at the time of the incidents. (See Table 35.)
* Of these officers, 23 were killed with firearms (see Table 36) and incurred the following wounds:
  + 6 were shot in the front upper torso/chest.
  + 4 suffered wounds to the front of the head.
  + 3 were shot in the neck/throat.
  + 2 were wounded in the side of the head.
  + 1 was shot in the rear of the head.
  + 1 was shot in the shoulder (upper torso) area.
  + 1 was shot in the rear upper torso/back.
  + The fatal wound location was not reported for 5 officers.

## Months, days, and times of incidents

* More officers (7) died from felonious assaults that occurred in March than in any other month in 2020. (See Table 9.)
* More officers (9) were involved in fatal assaults that occurred on Sundays and Saturdays than on any other days of the week. (See Table 6.)
* 25 officers were fatally injured in assaults that happened between 12:01 p.m. and midnight. (See Table 7.)
* 15 officers were fatally injured in assaults that happened between 12:01 a.m. and noon. (See Table 7.)
* The time of the assault was not reported for 6 of the officers.

## Profile of alleged known assailants

In 2020, 44 alleged offenders were identified in connection with the 46 law enforcement officers feloniously killed. Of those offenders, the following characteristics are known:

* The average age of the alleged offenders was 37 years old. (See Table 40.)
* The average height was 5 feet 10 inches tall, and the average weight was 183 pounds. (See Table 41.)
* 41 alleged offenders were male. Sex was not reported for 3 offenders. (See Table 42.)
* 17 of the alleged offenders were White, 13 were Black/African American, and 1 was American Indian/Alaska Native. Race was not reported for 13 of the alleged offenders. (See Table 42.)
* 5 of the alleged offenders were under judicial supervision at the time of the incidents. (See Table 45.)
* 8 of the alleged offenders were under the influence of alcohol and/or a controlled substance at the time of the fatal incidents. (See Table 45.)
* 20 of the alleged offenders had prior criminal arrests. (See Table 46.)

Information about officers feloniously killed can be found in Tables 1-47 of this report.