# Officers Accidentally Killed

The following information concerns law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty in 2021 as a result of accidental 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. See the Criteria document for more information about this topic.

## Overview

* In 2021, 56 law enforcement officers died as the result of accidents that occurred in the line of duty. (See Table 48.)
* Accidental line-of-duty deaths of law enforcement officers occurred in 29 states, the District of Columbia, and 1 in Puerto Rico. (See Table 48.)
* By region, 26 officers who were accidentally killed were employed by agencies in the South, 13 by agencies in the West, 9 by agencies in the Midwest, and 7 by agencies in the Northeast. (See Table 48.)
* Of the officers accidentally killed, 35 were employed by city police departments, 18 were employed by county agencies, 2 were employed by federal agencies, and 1 was employed in Puerto Rico. (See Table 49.)

## Victim profile

* The average age of the officers who were accidentally killed in 2021 was 40 years. (See Table 55.)
* The average length of law enforcement service for the officers accidentally killed in the line of duty was 10 years. (See Table 56.)
* Of the 56 officers who were accidentally killed, 46 were White, 7 were Black/African American, and 1 was Asian. Race was not reported for 2 officers. (See Table 60.)
* 52 of the officers who died in 2021 due to accidental line-of-duty incidents were male; 4 were female. (See Table 60.)

## Circumstances (See Table 65.)

Of the officers who were accidentally killed in the line of duty in 2021:

* 32 died as a result of motor vehicle crashes. Sixteen officers were patrolling, 5 officers were responding to emergencies, 3 were responding to nonemergencies, 2 were assisting/investigating vehicle crashes, 2 were escorting dignitaries or funerals, 1 was overseeing a work zone, 1 was performing traffic control. Two officers died in other types of motor vehicle crashes.
* 20 were pedestrian officers struck by vehicles. Nine were assisting or investigating vehicle crashes, 4 were performing traffic control, 2 were assisting motorists, 2 were patrolling, and 2 were providing/deploying equipment. One officer was struck by vehicles in other situations.
* 4 officers drowned.

**Assignments (See Table 66.)**

* 28 of the on-duty officers accidentally killed in 2021 were alone at the time of the incidents.
* 16 on-duty officers had assistance at the time of their fatal accidents.
* 12 of the on-duty officers’ type of assignment was not reported.

**Months, days, and times of incidents**

* More officers died from accidental line-of-duty incidents that occurred in October (8) than in any other month in 2021. (See Table 54.)
* More officers (11) were fatally injured in accidents on Saturdays than on any other day of the week. (See Table 51.)
* 13 officers were killed as a result of accidents occurring between 12:01 a.m. and noon. (See Table 50.)
* 11 officers were fatally injured in accidents that occurred between 12:01 p.m. and midnight. (See Table 50.)
* Time of incident was not reported for 32 of the officers killed as a result of accidents. (See Table 50.)

Information about officers accidentally killed can be found in Tables 48-70.