



## 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 2021. The law enforcement officers included in this report also met certain other criteria, which is listed on the Officer Criteria page.

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

### Overview

- In 2021, the FBI collected assault data from 7,886 law enforcement agencies that employed 354,144 officers. (See Table 80.)
- Law enforcement agencies reported that 43,649 officers were assaulted while performing their duties in 2021. (See Table 80.)
- The rate of officer assaults in 2021 was 12.3 per 100 sworn officers. (See Table 80.)

### Injuries

- Of the 43,649 officers who were assaulted, 15,369 (35.2 percent) sustained injuries. (Based on Table 80.)

### Circumstances

Of all officers who were assaulted in 2021:

- 28.6 percent were responding to disturbance calls (family quarrels, bar fights, etc.). (Based on Table 83.)
- 18.4 percent were attempting other arrests. (Based on Table 83.)
- 13.8 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 2021, law enforcement agencies cleared 84.8 percent of the 43,649 reported assaults on law enforcement officers. (See Table 83.)
- By type of circumstance, agencies cleared the greatest percentage of assaults (89.5 percent) on officers who were responding to burglaries in progress/pursuing burglary suspects. (See Table 83.)
- Agencies reported that they cleared 89.0 percent of the 8,046 assaults on officers who were attempting other arrests. (See Table 83.)

## **Assignments**

- 65.1 percent of the officers who were assaulted were assigned to 1-officer vehicle patrols. (Based on Table 84.)
- 11.6 percent of the officers who were assaulted were assigned to 2-officer vehicle patrols. (Based on Table 84.)
- 3.1 percent of officers who were assaulted were assigned to detective duties or special assignments. (Based on Table 84.)
- 20.2 percent of officers were assigned to other duties when they were assaulted in the line of duty. (Based on Table 84.)

## **Weapons**

- 74.3 percent of officers who were assaulted in the line of duty were attacked with personal weapons (e.g., hands, fists, or feet). (Table 86)
- 5.1 percent of the officers were assaulted with firearms. (Table 86)
- 2.3 percent of the officers were assaulted with knives or other cutting instruments. (Table 86)
- 18.3 percent of the officers were assaulted with other dangerous weapons. (Table 86)

**Information about officers assaulted can be found in Tables 80, 81, 83, 84, 86, 87, and 88.**