# Officers Feloniously Killed

The following information concerns law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty in 2021 as a result of felonious incidents. The law enforcement officers included met certain criteria, such as they had full arrest powers and they ordinarily wore/carried a badge and firearm.

## Overview

* In 2021, 73 law enforcement officers died from injuries incurred in the line of duty during felonious incidents. (See Table 1.)
* Line-of-duty deaths occurred in 28 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. (See Table 1.)
* By region, 44 officers were feloniously killed in the South, 13 officers were killed in the West, and 12 officers in the Midwest. No officers in the Northeast were feloniously killed in 2021. Four officers were feloniously killed in Puerto Rico. (See Table 1.)
* Of the officers feloniously killed, 41 were employed by city police departments, including 14 who were members of law enforcement agencies in cities with 10,00o or less inhabitants. (See Table 2.)

## Victim profile

* The average age of the officers who were feloniously killed in 2021 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 2021, 68 were male, and 5 were female. (See Table 15.)
* By race, 60 of the victim officers were White, and 9 were Black/African American. Race was not reported for 4 victim officers. (See Table 15.)

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

* 24 officers were killed in unprovoked attacks.
* 9 officers died as a result of investigative/enforcement activities.
  + 4 were involved in surveillance activities.
  + 2 were conducting traffic violation stops.
  + 1 was responding to an active shooter.
  + 1 was involved in an undercover situation.
  + 1 was investigating a wanted person.
* 8 officers were ambushed (entrapment/premeditation).
* 8 officers were involved in pursuits.
  + 7 were vehicular (anything other than on foot).
  + 1 was on foot.
* 7 officers responded to disorders/disturbances.
  + 3 were responding to a disturbance (disorderly subject, fight, etc.).
  + 2 were responding to domestic disturbances (family quarrel, no assault).
  + 2 were responding to domestic violence situations.
* 6 officers were involved in tactical situations.
  + 4 were involved in barricaded/hostage situations.
  + 2 were serving/attempting to serve arrest warrants.
* 4 officers were involved in arrest situations.
  + 2 were involved with verbal advisements only.
  + 1 was maintaining custody of a prisoner (in vehicle, precinct, etc.).
  + 1 arrest situation type was not reported.
* 2 officers responded to crimes in progress.
  + 1 was an active shooter.
  + 1 was an assault.
* 1 officer was assisting other law enforcement officers.
* 1 officer was serving/attempting to serve a court order (eviction notice, subpoena, etc.).
* 1 officer was out of service.
* 1 officer was responding to a report of crime.
* 1 officer was providing/deploying equipment (flares, traffic cones, etc.).

## Assignments (See Table 21.)

* 41 officers were on assigned vehicle patrol when the felonious incidents occurred.
* 10 officers were assigned to investigative/detective duties.
* 7 officers were on tactical assignments (uniformed).
* 4 officers were reported to be working in the *other assignment* category.
* 1 officer was on a special assignment.
* 1 slain officer was off duty but acting in official capacities at the time of the incidents.
* 9 assignment types were not reported.
* 43 on-duty officers who died in 2021 were assisted at the times of the attacks.
* 20 on-duty officers were alone and unassisted at the times of the attacks.

## Weapons

* Of the 73 officers feloniously killed in 2021, most (61) were killed with firearms. Of these, 15 were killed with handguns. The type of firearm was not reported in the deaths of 31 of the officers. (See Table 28.)
* 7 officers fired their weapons; 4 officers attempted to fire their weapons. (See Table 18.)
* 1 officer’s weapon was stolen during the incidents. (See Table 19.)
* 8 officers were slain with firearms when they were less than 5 feet from the offenders. (See Table 32.)

## Body armor

* In 2021, 30 of the officers feloniously killed were wearing body armor at the time of the incidents. (See Table 35.)
* Of these officers, 25 were killed with firearms (see Table 36) and incurred the following wounds:
  + 4 suffered wounds to the front of the head.
  + 3 were shot in the neck/throat.
  + 3 were wounded in the side of the head.
  + 1 was shot in the shoulder (upper torso) area.
  + 1 was shot in the front lower torso/abdomen.
  + 4 suffered multiple wound locations, unable to determine which was fatal wound.
  + The fatal wound location was not reported for 9 officers.

## Months, days, and times of incidents

* More officers (8) died from felonious assaults that occurred in July and October than in any other months in 2021. (See Table 9.)
* More officers (17) were involved in fatal assaults that occurred on Mondays than on any other day of the week. (See Table 6.)
* 24 officers were fatally injured in assaults that happened between 12:01 p.m. and midnight. (See Table 7.)
* 11 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 38 of the officers. (See Table 7.)

## Profile of alleged known assailants

In 2021, 66 alleged offenders were identified in connection with the 73 law enforcement officers feloniously killed. Of those known offenders, the following characteristics are known:

* The average age of the alleged offenders was 31 years old. (See Table 40.)
* The average height was 5 feet 9 inches tall, and the average weight was 174 pounds. (See Table 41.)
* 53 alleged offenders were male, and 4 were female. Sex was not reported for 9 offenders. (See Table 42.)
* 20 of the alleged offenders were White, and 11 were Black/African American. Race was not reported for 35 of the alleged offenders. (See Table 42.)
* 9 of the alleged offenders were under judicial supervision at the time of the incidents. (See Table 45.)
* 6 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.)