



Officers Accidentally Killed

The following information concerns law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty in 2022 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 2022, 58 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 25 states and Washington, D.C. (See Table 48.)
- By region, 35 officers who were accidentally killed were employed by agencies in the South, 10 by agencies in the West, 7 by agencies in the Northeast, and 6 by agencies in the Midwest. (See Table 48.)
- Of the officers accidentally killed, 36 were employed by city police departments, 19 were employed by county agencies, and 1 was employed by a state agency. The agency type was not reported for 2 of the officers. (See Table 49.)

Victim profile

- The average age of the officers who were accidentally killed in 2022 was 39 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 58 officers who were accidentally killed, 47 were White, 5 were Black/African American, and 1 was Asian. Race was not reported for 5 officers. (See Table 60.)

- 51 of the officers who died in 2022 due to accidental line-of-duty incidents were male; 7 were female. (See Table 60.)

Circumstances (See Table 65.)

Of the officers who were accidentally killed in the line of duty in 2022:

- 34 died as a result of motor vehicle crashes. Of these, 16 officers were patrolling, 6 officers were responding to nonemergencies, 3 officers were engaged in vehicle pursuits, 3 were responding to emergencies, and 1 was escorting a dignitary or funeral. Five officers died in other types of motor vehicle crashes.
- 13 were pedestrian officers struck by vehicles. Four were conducting traffic control, 4 were performing traffic stops, and 1 was overseeing a work zone. Four officers were struck by vehicles in other situations.
- 6 officers were killed in aircraft crashes.
- 2 officers died in firearm-related incidents. One of those officers was engaged in a foot pursuit, and the other was engaged in a tactical situation.
- 2 officers died in falls. One officer was participating in a training exercise, and the other was involved in an “other” type of situation (which means the incident did not fit into the other fall subcategories of “engaging in foot pursuit,” “participating in rescue operation,” or “participating in a training exercise”).
- 1 officer died in an ATV/motorcycle crash while on patrol.

Assignments (See Table 66.)

- 30 of the on-duty officers accidentally killed in 2022 were alone at the time of the incidents.
- 20 on-duty officers had assistance at the time of their fatal accidents.
- 8 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 January (9) and July (9) than in any other month in 2022. (See Table 54.)
- More officers (13) were fatally injured in accidents on Thursdays than on any other day of the week. (See Table 51.)
- 20 officers were killed as a result of accidents occurring between 12:01 p.m. and midnight. (See Table 50.)
- 7 officers were fatally injured in accidents that occurred between 12:01 a.m. and noon. (See Table 50.)
- Time of incident was not reported for 31 of the officers killed as a result of accidents. (See Table 50.)

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