



Officers Accidentally Killed

The following information concerns law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty in 2023 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 2023, 34 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 18 states and Puerto Rico. (See Table 48.)
- By region, 24 officers who were accidentally killed were employed by agencies in the South, 5 by agencies in the West, 3 by agencies in the Midwest, 1 by an agency in the Northeast, and 1 by an agency in Puerto Rico. (See Table 48.)
- Of the officers accidentally killed, 18 were employed by city police departments, 12 were employed by county agencies, and 2 were employed by federal agencies. One (1) officer was employed in Puerto Rico. The agency type was not reported for 1 officer. (See Table 49.)

Victim profile

- The average age of the officers who were accidentally killed in 2023 was 39 years. (See Table 55.)
- The average length of law enforcement service for the officers accidentally killed in the line of duty was 11 years. (See Table 56.)
- Of the 34 officers who were accidentally killed, 29 were White, 2 were Black/African American, and 1 was American Indian or Alaska Native. Race was not reported for 2 officers. (See Table 60.)

- 32 of the officers who died in 2023 due to accidental line-of-duty incidents were male; 2 were female. (See Table 60.)

Circumstances (See Table 65.)

Of the officers who were accidentally killed in the line of duty in 2023:

- 20 died as a result of motor vehicle crashes. Of these, 8 officers were patrolling, 5 officers were responding to emergencies, 3 were responding to nonemergencies, 1 was assisting/investigating a vehicle crash, 1 was escorting a dignitary or funeral, and 2 were in the category of “other.”
- 3 officers died in ATV/motorcycle crashes. Two of the officers were on patrol, and the other was responding to an emergency.
- 3 were pedestrian officers struck by vehicles. One was training, and 2 were struck by vehicles in other situations.
- 2 officers were killed in aircraft crashes.
- 2 officers died in falls. One (1) officer was engaging in a foot pursuit, and 1 was involved in an “other” type of situation (which means the incident did not fit into the fall subcategories of “engaging in foot pursuit,” “participating in rescue operation,” or “participating in a training exercise”).
- 1 officer drowned. The officer was patrolling.
- 1 officer died in a firearm-related incident. The officer was participating in range training.
- 2 officers died in other accidents in which the type of accident was not reported.

Assignments (See Table 66.)

- 21 of the on-duty officers accidentally killed in 2023 were alone at the time of the incidents.
- 12 on-duty officers had assistance at the time of their fatal accidents.

- 1 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 March (5), July (5), and September (5) than in any other month in 2023. (See Table 54.)
- More officers (8) were fatally injured in accidents on Fridays than on any other day of the week. (See Table 51.)
- 15 officers were killed as a result of accidents occurring between 12:01 p.m. and midnight. (See Table 50.)
- 14 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 5 of the officers killed as a result of accidents. (See Table 50.)
- Information about officers accidentally killed can be found in Tables 48-70 in the law enforcement section of the FBI's Crime Data Explorer website.