



## Officers Feloniously Killed

The following information concerns law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty in 2023 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 2023, 60 law enforcement officers died from injuries incurred in the line of duty during felonious incidents. (See Table 1.)
- Line-of-duty deaths occurred in 31 states and the outlying areas of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. (See Table 1.)
- By region, 20 officers were feloniously killed in the South, 16 officers in the Midwest, 12 in the West, and 10 officers in the Northeast were feloniously killed in 2023. One (1) officer was killed in Puerto Rico, and 1 officer was killed in the U.S. Virgin Islands. (See Table 1.)
- Of the officers feloniously killed, 38 were employed by city police departments, including 15 who were members of law enforcement agencies in cities with 10,000 or less inhabitants. (See Table 2.)

### Victim profile

- The average age of the officers who were feloniously killed in 2023 was 39 years. (See Table 10.)
- The slain officers' average length of law enforcement service was 11 years. (See Table 11.)
- Of the officers who died due to felonious incidents in 2023, 54 were male, and 6 were female. (See Table 15.)
- By race, 53 of the victim officers were White, 4 were Black/African American, and 2 were Asian. Race was not reported for 1 victim officer. (See Table 15.)

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

- 13 officers died as a result of investigative/enforcement activities.
  - 5 were involved in investigative activities (surveillance, searches, interviews, etc.).
  - 3 were investigating possible DUI/DWI suspects (operating vehicles).

- 2 were investigating suspicious persons or circumstances.
  - 2 were investigating wanted persons.
  - 1 was conducting a traffic violation stop.
- 9 officers responded to crimes in progress.
  - 4 were shootings/shots being fired (not “active shooter” situations).
  - 2 were involved in burglaries.
  - 2 were robberies.
  - 1 was a larceny-theft.
- 8 officers were involved in pursuits.
  - 5 were on foot.
  - 3 were vehicular (anything other than on foot).
- 7 officers were killed in unprovoked attacks.
- 6 officers were ambushed (entrapment/premeditation).
- 4 officers responded to disorders/disturbances.
  - 2 were responding to disturbances (disorderly subjects, fights, etc.).
  - 1 was responding to a domestic disturbance (family quarrel, no assault).
  - 1 was responding to domestic violence.
- 3 officers were involved in arrest situations, all 3 of whom were attempting to restrain/control/handcuff offenders.
- 2 officers were involved in tactical situations, both of which involved barricade/hostage situations.
- 2 officers had encounters with or were assisting emotionally disturbed persons.
- 2 officers were assisting other law enforcement officers.
  - 1 was assisting with providing/deploying spike strips/stop sticks.
  - 1 was assisting with a vehicular pursuit.
- 2 officers were serving/attempting to serve court orders (eviction notices, subpoenas, etc.).
- 1 officer was conducting traffic control (crash scene, directing traffic, etc.).
- 1 officer was on an administrative assignment involving prisoner transport.

### **Assignments (See Table 21.)**

- 39 officers were on assigned vehicle patrols when the felonious incidents occurred.
- 39 on-duty officers who died in 2023 were assisted at the times of the attacks.

- 19 on-duty officers were alone and unassisted at the times of the attacks.
- 6 officers' assignment types were not reported.
- 3 officers were assigned to investigative/detective duties.
- 3 officers were working on overtime/extra duty activities.
- 3 slain officers were off duty but acting in official capacities at the time of the incidents.
- 2 officers were on special assignments.
- 2 officers were involved in other types of assignments.
- 1 officer was on a tactical assignment (uniformed).
- 1 officer was undercover.

## **Weapons**

- Of the 60 officers feloniously killed in 2023, most (45) were killed with firearms. Of these, 16 were killed with handguns, 9 were killed with rifles, and 1 was killed with a shotgun. The type of firearm was not reported in the deaths of 18 of the officers, and the type of firearm was unknown for the death of 1 officer. (See Table 28.)
- Eight (8) officers were killed with firearms when they were 6-10 feet from their offenders, and 7 officers were slain with firearms when they were 0-5 feet from the offenders. Four (4) officers were from 11-20 feet from their offenders. Two (2) officers were 21-50 feet from their offenders, and 1 officer was over 50 feet from the offender. The distance was unknown for 5 officers. This data was not reported for the other 18 officers. (See Table 32.)

## **Body armor**

- In 2023, 32 of the officers feloniously killed were wearing body armor at the time of the incidents. (See Table 35.)
- Of these officers, 24 were killed with firearms (see Table 36) and incurred the following wounds:
  - 6 suffered wounds to the front of the head.
  - 3 officers were shot in the side of the head.
  - 3 were shot in the neck/throat.
  - 3 were shot in the front lower torso/abdomen.
  - 2 were shot in the front upper torso/chest.
  - 1 was shot in the front below the waist/groin area.
  - 1 was shot in the front legs.

- The fatal wound location was not reported for 5 officers.

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

- More officers (10) died from felonious assaults that occurred in June than in any other month in 2023. (See Table 9.)
- More officers (13) were involved in fatal assaults that occurred on Fridays and Saturdays than on any other day of the week. (See Table 6.)
- 30 officers were fatally injured in assaults that happened between 12:01 p.m. and midnight. (See Table 7.)
- 14 officers were fatally injured in assaults that happened between 12:01 a.m. and noon. (See Table 7.)
- The times of the assaults were not reported for 16 of the officers. (See Table 7.)

### **Profile of alleged known assailants**

In 2023, 57 alleged offenders were identified in connection with the 60 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 10 inches tall, and the average weight was 191 pounds. (See Table 41.)
- 54 alleged offenders were male, and 1 was female. Sex was not reported for 2 offenders. (See Table 42.)
- 28 of the alleged offenders were White, and 17 were Black/African American. Race was not reported for 9 of the alleged offenders. Race was unknown for 3 alleged offenders. (See Table 42.)
- 7 of the alleged offenders were under judicial supervision at the time of the incidents. (See Table 45.)
- 12 of the alleged offenders were under the influence of alcohol and/or a controlled substance at the time of the fatal incident. (See Table 45.)
- 8 of the alleged offenders were known to the agency as having prior mental disorders. (See Table 45.)