

OCJS Special Report

Ohio Statistical Analysis Center

1/7/2016



Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted 2014

U.S. and Ohio Statistical Summary

In October 2015, the FBI released its annual *Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted* for 2014. The report is based on data submitted to the FBI from agencies participating in the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) Program, FBI field offices, and the following federal agencies; the U.S. Capitol Police, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Department of the Treasury, and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. Data is provided for duly sworn city, university and college, county, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement officers feloniously killed, officers accidentally killed, and officers assaulted, with narrative descriptions provided for incidents where officers were feloniously killed.

The data pertain to those officers who at the time of the incident met the following criteria:

- They were working in an official capacity, whether on or off duty
- They had full arrest powers
- They ordinarily wore a badge and carried a firearm
- They were paid from governmental funds set aside specifically for payment of sworn law enforcement representatives

In addition, their deaths must have been directly related to injuries received during the incidents.

U.S. statistics

- Fifty-one law enforcement officers were feloniously killed in the line of duty in 2014. The deaths occurred in 24 states and Puerto Rico. In 2013, 27 officers were feloniously killed.
- **Characteristics of the feloniously killed officer in 2014:**
 - Average age was 39
 - Average length of service was 13 years
 - All 51 officers were male
 - 47 officers were white, 2 were black and 2 were identified as Asian/Pacific Islander

- **Characteristics of the incidents surrounding officer felonious killings:**

- 8 percent (4) occurred during arrest situations.
- 14 percent (7) occurred in ambush situations.
- 18 percent (9) occurred during traffic pursuits or stops.
- 6 percent (3) were killed handling persons with mental illness.
- 2 percent (1) were killed in an unprovoked attack.
- 8 percent (4) were killed during tactical situations.
- 21 percent (11) of officers were killed answering disturbance calls.
- 14 percent (7) of officers were killed while investigating suspicious persons or circumstances.
- 10 percent (5) were killed while conducting investigative activity.
- Forty-six of 51 (90%) officers were killed by a firearm. Of those killed by a firearm, 72 percent were killed with handguns, 22 percent were killed with rifles, and 7 percent were killed with shotguns. Seven officers attempted to fire their own weapon and five fired their own weapon during the incidents. Twenty-eight percent of firearm deaths of officers occurred when the distance between the victim and offender was between 0-5 feet.
- Seventy-six percent of all officers feloniously killed were wearing body armor at the time of their murder.
- Fifty-nine identified offenders were associated with the 51 homicides. The average age of the alleged offenders was 31 years. There were 54 males, and five females. Of those whose race was reported, 42 were white, 13 were black, 2 were American Indian/Alaska Native, one identified as Asian/Pacific Islander and one for whom race was unknown. Eighty-five percent had prior criminal arrests, and 19 percent were under judicial supervision at the time of the felonious incident.
- Over a 10-year period, 56 percent of felonious killings of officers occurred in the P.M. hours between noon and midnight, while 44 percent of felonious killing occurred in the A.M. hours. In 2014, 39 percent of felonious killings occurred during the A.M. hours while 61 percent of felonious killings occurred during the P.M. hours. Forty-three percent incidents (22) occurred between the daytime hours of 12 P.M. and 6 P.M.
- Over a 10-year period, 47 percent of felonious killing of officers occurred between Thursday and Saturday, while the remaining 53 percent occurred between Sunday and Wednesday. Over the 10 year period, more felonious killings occurred on Thursdays and Saturdays than any other day. In 2014, the most felonious killings occurred on Saturday (11).

- **Characteristics of the incidents surrounding officer accidental deaths:**

- 62 percent (28) died as a result of automobile accidents.
- 13 percent (6) were struck by vehicles.
- 13 percent (6) died in motorcycle accidents.
- 2 percent (1) of officers drowned.

- 4 percent (2) died from other types of accidents. firearm mishap, and one incident occurred during a training session.
- 4 percent (2) were accidentally shot. One incident was the result of crossfire, mistaken for subject or other

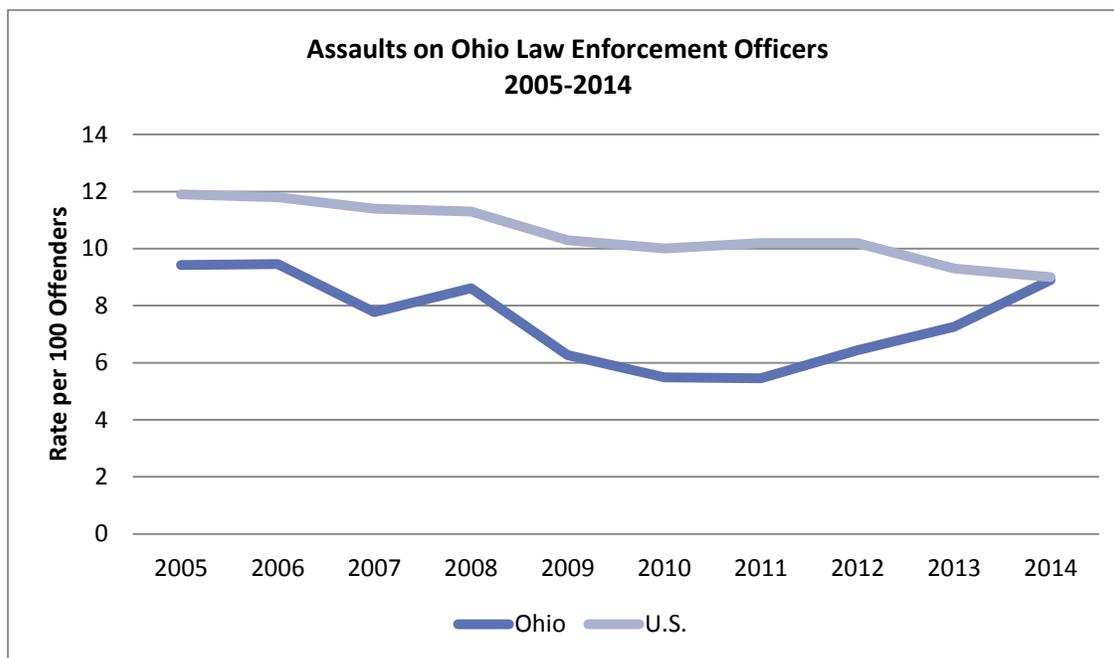
- **Characteristics of the incidents surrounding officer assaults:**

- 48,315 officers were assaulted in the line of duty, a rate of 9.0 per 100 sworn officers, and of these 28 percent sustained injuries. Eighty percent of officers were assaulted with personal weapons, such as hands, fists, or feet. Two percent were assaulted with knives or other cutting instruments. Four percent were attacked with firearms. Fourteen percent were attacked with other dangerous weapons.
- About one-third of officers were assaulted while handling a disturbance call. In other circumstances, 15 percent were assaulted while attempting arrest and 13 percent were assaulted while handling, transporting, or in custody of a prisoner.

Ohio statistics

- There was one officer feloniously killed in Ohio in 2014. Since 2005 there have been 14 felonious killings in Ohio. This officer died from wounds sustained by a firearm.
 - Just before 2 a.m. on November 16, a police officer with the Akron Police Department was shot and killed during a disturbance at a restaurant/bar. The 32-year-old officer, a 7-year veteran of law enforcement, was off duty and at the restaurant when a man created a disturbance. The man was removed from the restaurant, and management asked him not to return for the evening. The officer was aware of the incident but did not act in an official capacity. A short time later, the man returned to the restaurant with a .40-caliber semiautomatic handgun. He brandished the weapon and stated he was armed. Patrons alerted the officer to the situation. Now acting in an official capacity, the officer immediately approached the man and attempted to defuse the situation. During the encounter, the man began discharging his weapon as the officer was forcing him out the door. The offender shot the officer at close range in the front upper torso/chest, and fatally in the front lower torso/stomach area. Four restaurant patrons were also struck and injured by rounds fired by the offender. Upon being pushed out of the restaurant, the offender threw his handgun on the ground and fled the scene. Within minutes, responding officers found the weapon and located the offender hiding in a field not far from the restaurant. One of the officers, assisted by his K-9 partner, arrested the offender. The 35-year-old offender was charged with Aggravated Murder of a Law Enforcement Officer and five counts of Felonious Assault. The offender was a known drug dealer and was under the influence of alcohol at the time of the incident. The offender was aware that the officer he killed was a member of law enforcement. The offender, who had a prior criminal record including drug violations and weapons violations, had been convicted previously.

- Since 2005, there have been 13 officers accidentally killed in Ohio. No Ohio officers were accidentally killed in 2014.
- During 2014, 43 Ohio agencies reported 166 assaults on officers. Ninety-three percent of the assaults were committed with a personal weapon. Seven percent of assaults were committed with knives or other dangerous weapons. No officers were reported to have been injured with a firearm.
- The rate of assault per 100 officers in Ohio in 2014 was 8.9, which is almost identical the U.S. rate of 9.0 per 100 officers.



For the full report, please visit the FBI's website at <https://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/leoka/2014/home>