

OCJS Special Report

Ohio Statistical Analysis Center

12/6/2019



Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted 2018

U.S. and Ohio Statistical Summary

In October 2019, the FBI released its annual *Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted* report for 2018. The report is based on data submitted to the FBI from agencies participating in the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) Program, FBI field offices, and 66 federal departments, agencies and offices. 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 circumstances regarding the death, and 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 were duly sworn with 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 death must have been directly related to injuries received during the incident.

U.S. statistics

- In 2018, 55 law enforcement officers were feloniously killed in the line of duty. The deaths occurred in 28 states and Puerto Rico. In 2017, 46 officers were feloniously killed.
- **Profile of feloniously killed officers in 2018:**
 - Average age was 37 years old
 - Average length of law enforcement service was 10 years
 - Of the 55 officers killed, 52 were male and 3 were female
 - Forty-six officers were White, 7 were Black/African American, 2 were Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander

- **Characteristics of the incidents surrounding officer felonious killings:**
 - 42 percent (23) of officers died as a result of investigative or enforcement activities.
 - 20 percent (11) of officers were ambushed.
 - 11 percent (6) of officers were involved in pursuits.
 - 7 percent (4) of officers were responding to crimes in progress.
 - 5 percent (3) of officers were involved in arrest situations.
 - Two officers were assisting other law enforcement officers.
 - Two officers were on administrative assignment and were performing a prisoner transport.
 - Two officers responded to a disorder/disturbance; one on a disturbance call, one encountered domestic violence.
 - One officer was involved in an unprovoked attack
 - One officer was on traffic control

- Ninety-three percent (51) of the 55 officers were killed by a firearm. Of those killed by a firearm, 73 percent (37) were killed with handguns, 20 percent (10) were killed with rifles, and 4 percent (2) were killed with a shotgun. Five officers attempted to fire (but did not) their own weapon and 14 fired their own weapon during the incidents. Forty-five percent (23) of firearm deaths of officers occurred when the distance between the victim and offender was between 0-5 feet.
- Seventy-eight percent (43) of all officers feloniously killed were wearing body armor at the time of their murder.
- Fifty-five alleged offenders were identified in connection with the 55 homicides. The average age of the alleged offenders was 33 years. Fifty-three offenders were identified as male. Of those whose race was reported, 56 percent (31) were white, 42 percent (23) were black, and 2 percent (1) was Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander. Eighty-nine percent (49) had prior criminal arrests, and 36 percent (20) were under judicial supervision at the time of the felonious incident.
- Over a 10-year period, 55 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 2018, 65 percent of felonious killings occurred during the P.M. hours, while 35 percent of felonious killings occurred during the A.M. hours.
- Over a 10-year period, 45 percent of felonious killing of officers occurred between Tuesday and Thursday, while the remaining 55 percent occurred between Friday and Monday. In 2018, the most felonious killings occurred on a Wednesday (13).

U.S. statistics

- In 2018, 51 law enforcement officers died as a result of accidents that occurred in the line of duty. These deaths occurred in 25 states and Puerto Rico.

- **Profile of officers accidentally killed in 2018:**
 - Average age was 36 years old
 - Average length of law enforcement service was 10 years
 - Of the 51 officers accidentally killed, 47 were male and 4 were female
 - Thirty-nine were White, 8 were Black/African American, 3 were American Indian/Alaska Native, and 1 was Asian

- **Characteristics of the incidents surrounding officer accidental deaths:**
 - 67 percent (34) died as a result of automobile accidents.
 - 18 percent (9) were pedestrian officers struck by vehicles.
 - 6 percent (3) officers drowned.
 - 4 percent (2) officers died in firearm-related accidents.
 - 4 percent (2) officers died when stuck by a commuter train.
 - One officer died while engaging in a foot pursuit.

- **Characteristics of the incidents surrounding officer assaults:**
 - 58,866 officers were assaulted in the line of duty in 2018, a rate of 10.8 per 100 sworn officers. Of these, 31 percent sustained injuries. Seventy-nine 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 and 15 percent were attacked with other dangerous weapons.
 - Thirty-one percent of officers were assaulted while handling a disturbance call. In other circumstances, 17 percent were assaulted while attempting arrest and 12 percent were assaulted while handling, transporting, or maintaining custody of a prisoner. Ten percent were assaulted while investigating a suspicious person or circumstance and 8 percent while in a traffic pursuit or stop.

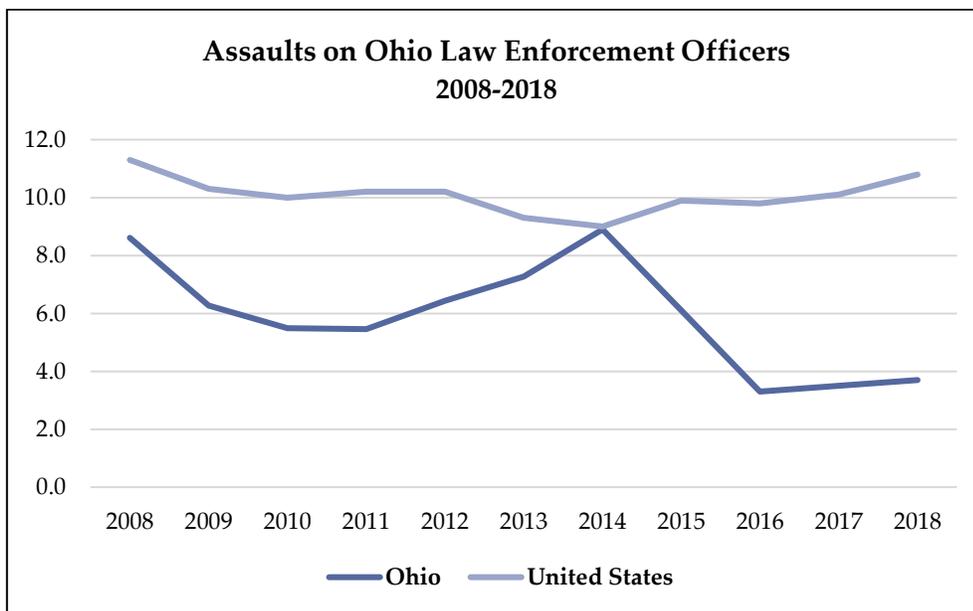
Ohio statistics

- There were two officers feloniously killed in Ohio in 2018. Both officers died from wounds sustained by a firearm. Since 2009 there have been 14 felonious killings in Ohio.

- ❖ The following narrative was taken directly from the FBI's 2019 LEOKA report: Two police officers with the Westerville Division of Police were killed in an ambush on February 10 shortly after noon. The officers were responding to a 911 hang-up call that involved potential domestic abuse. Officers from the division had

previously responded to calls about domestic disputes at the property, which was located in a condominium community. As they entered the apartment, the occupant immediately began firing from an unknown caliber handgun, and the two officers, who were both wearing body armor, returned gunfire. The offender fired four rounds. Three rounds struck the 39-year-old officer, who was a veteran of law enforcement with 17 years' experience. He was injured in his arms and hands and fatally in the front of his head and died at the scene. One round struck the second officer, age 54, who was a 30-year law enforcement veteran. The round entered through the armhole or shoulder area of his body armor, wounding him in the front upper torso/chest. He was evacuated by helicopter to a hospital in Columbus in critical condition and died later that day. Three of the officers' rounds struck the 30-year-old suspect, and he was taken to a hospital. He had a prior criminal record that included resisting arrest, a violent crime, a weapons violation, and a previous incarceration. *Note: The offender was found guilty of two counts of Aggravated Murder of a Law Enforcement Officer in 2019.*

- Since 2009, there have been 11 officers accidentally killed in Ohio. One Ohio officer was accidentally killed in 2018. This pedestrian officer from Mentor Police Department was struck by a vehicle.
- During 2018, 206 Ohio agencies reported 493 assaults on officers. Fifty-six percent of the assaults were committed with a personal weapon. Eight percent of officers were reported to have been assaulted with a firearm. Thirty-four percent of assaults were committed with other dangerous weapons. Three percent were assaulted with a knife or other cutting instrument.
- The rate of assault per 100 officers in Ohio in 2018 was 3.7, which is substantially below the U.S. rate of 10.8 per 100 officers.



For the full report, please visit the FBI's website at <https://ucr.fbi.gov/leoka/2018/home>