

# OCJS Special Report

Ohio Statistical Analysis Center

5/5/2020

## **Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted 2019**

### **U.S. and Ohio Statistical Summary**



In May 2020, the FBI released its annual *Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted* report for 2019. 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 Defense, 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 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 2019, 48 law enforcement officers were feloniously killed in the line of duty. The deaths occurred in 19 states and Puerto Rico. In 2018, 55 officers were feloniously killed.
- **Profile of feloniously killed officers in 2018:**
  - Average age was 40 years old
  - Average length of law enforcement service was 13 years
  - Of the 48 officers killed, 45 were male and 3 were female
  - Forty officers were White, 7 were Black/African American, and 1 was Asian

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

- 31 percent (15) of officers died as a result of investigative or enforcement activities.
  - 19 percent (9) officers were involved in tactical situations.
  - 10 percent (5) officers were victims of unprovoked attacks.
  - 8 percent (4) officers responded to crimes in progress.
  - 6 percent (3) of officers were involved in vehicular pursuits.
  - 6 percent (3) officers were attempting to restrain/control/handcuff offenders during the arrest situation.
  - 6 percent (3) of officers were assisting other law enforcement officers.
  - 6 percent (3) of officers responded to disorder/disturbances.
  - 4 percent (2) officers were ambushed.
  - One officer was serving/attempting to serve a court order.
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- Ninety-two percent (44) of the 48 officers were killed by a firearm. Of those killed by a firearm, 77 percent (34) were killed with handguns, 16 percent (7) were killed with rifles, 2 percent (1) were killed with a shotgun, and the remaining 2 officers were killed by an unknown type of firearm. Six officers attempted to fire (but did not) their own weapon and 10 fired their own weapon during the incidents.
  - Sixty-three percent (30) of all officers feloniously killed were wearing body armor at the time of their murder.
  - Forty-nine alleged offenders were identified in connection with the 48 officers feloniously killed. The average age of the alleged offenders was 31 years. Forty-eight alleged offenders were identified as male and one was identified as a female. Of those whose race was reported, 64 percent (28) were White, 34 percent (15) were Black, and 2 percent (1) was Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander. Seventy-three percent (36) had prior criminal arrests, and 24 percent (12) were under judicial supervision at the time of the felonious incident.
  - Over a 5-year period, 60 percent of felonious killings of officers occurred in the P.M. hours between noon and midnight, while 39 percent of felonious killing occurred in the A.M. hours. In 2019, 71 percent of felonious killings occurred during the P.M. hours, while 27 percent of felonious killings occurred during the A.M. hours.
  - Over a 10-year period, 44 percent of felonious killing of officers occurred between Tuesday and Thursday, while the remaining 56 percent occurred between Friday and Monday. In 2019, the most felonious killings occurred on a Saturday (15).

## U.S. statistics

- In 2019, 41 law enforcement officers died as a result of accidents that occurred in the line of duty. These deaths occurred in 23 states.
- **Profile of officers accidentally killed in 2019:**
  - Average age was 40 years old
  - Average length of law enforcement service was 11 years
  - Of the 41 officers accidentally killed, 38 were male and 3 were female
  - Thirty-nine were White, and 2 were Black/African American.
- **Characteristics of the incidents surrounding officer accidental deaths:**
  - 46 percent (19) died as a result of motor vehicle crashes.
  - 39 percent (16) were officers struck by vehicles.
  - 7 percent (3) firearm-related incidents.
  - 5 percent (2) officers drowned.
  - One officer died in another type of duty-related accident.
- **Characteristics of the incidents surrounding officer assaults:**
  - Data unavailable until Fall 2020.

## Ohio statistics

- There were two officers feloniously killed in Ohio in 2019. Both officers died from wounds sustained by a firearm. Since 2010 there have been 16 felonious killings in Ohio.
- ❖ On February 2, 2019, a Clermont County deputy sheriff was killed, and another lieutenant was wounded when they responded to a report of an armed suicidal subject who had barricaded himself inside his residence in an apartment complex. Around 8:30 p.m., responding officers were negotiating with the subject when they heard him inside the apartment counting down an alleged suicide threat followed immediately by shots fired. A small group of officers with the Clermont County Special Response Team (CCSRT) decided to breach the door of the residence to attempt life-saving measures. During the breach attempt, the subject fired a 9 mm semiautomatic handgun and a .223-caliber semiautomatic rifle, fatally wounding the deputy and injuring the lieutenant. Neither of the officers fired on the offender. The offender, who was under the influence of drugs at the time of the incident, was charged, and later indicted and arraigned, on a Weapons Law Violation, Aggravated Murder, and multiple counts of Attempted Murder. The wounded lieutenant has since recovered from his injury and has returned to duty.
- ❖ On November 4, 2019, a Dayton Police Detective was shot while serving a narcotics-related federal search warrant as part of a Drug Enforcement Administration task force. Shortly before 7 p.m., a group of law

enforcement officers knocked at the door of a residence, announced their presence, then forced open a side door and entered. The detective, a law enforcement veteran with 30 years of experience, headed down the stairs toward the basement in search of suspects. A subject hiding in the basement fired on the detective with a 5.7x28 mm semiautomatic handgun, mortally wounding the detective. Officers arrested the suspect, along with two other adults and one juvenile who were also inside the residence. The suspect was charged with First-Degree Murder and Conspiracy to Distribute a Controlled Substance. The other three arrestees also faced federal charges related to the search warrant and the detective's homicide. The detective succumbed to his injuries on November 7, 2019.

- Since 2010, there have been 11 officers accidentally killed in Ohio. One Ohio officer was accidentally killed, struck by a vehicle, in 2019.

For the full report, please visit the FBI's website at <https://ucr.fbi.gov/leoka/2019/home>.