



# FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 326 Lewisberry, PA 17339

[www.fleoa.org](http://www.fleoa.org)

(717) 938-2300

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## Information Regarding Violence Against Law Enforcement Officers in the United States:

### Uniform Crime Report

#### *Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted, 2008*

#### *Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted, 2008 U.S.*

#### **Department of Justice—Federal Bureau of Investigation**

Released October 2009

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

This page furnishes information regarding federal law enforcement

officers who were

killed or assaulted in the line of duty in 2008 and who met the appropriate criteria.

**Please note that since 2006, the weapon type “threat” is no longer a weapon category. In order for a threat to be included in these data, a weapon must have been present when the threat was made. These types of assaults are reported under the particular weapon with which the offender threatened the victim.**

### Overview

• There were 1,347 federal law enforcement officers assaulted in 2008. Of these officers assaulted, 188 were injured. Two federal officers were killed in the line of duty.

By department:

• The U.S. Capitol Police employed 9 of the officers who were assaulted, and 4 of these officers were injured.

• The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) employed 1,098 of the federal officers who were assaulted, and 74 of these officers were injured. One DHS officer was killed in the line of duty.

• The U.S. Department of the Interior employed 189 of the officers who were assaulted. More than half (100) of these officers were injured.

• The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) employed 50 of the officers who were assaulted, and 9 of these officers were injured. One DOJ officer was killed in the line of duty.

• The U.S. Department of the Treasury employed 1 of the officers who were assaulted, and this officer was also injured in the attack.

***Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted, 2008 U.S. Department of Justice—Federal Bureau of Investigation***

Released October 2009

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• No U.S. Postal Inspection Service officers were assaulted in 2008.

More information about this topic is provided in Tables 74 and 75.

See also Summary of Assaults by Department.

### **Weapons**

- 400 federal officers were attacked with personal weapons such as hands, fists, or feet, and 125 of these assaults resulted in injuries to the officers.
- 85 federal officers were assaulted with vehicles. One officer was killed, and 19 officers suffered injuries.
- 71 officers were assaulted with firearms. One officer died, and 2 officers were injured.
- 11 officers were assaulted with knives or other cutting instruments, 2 of whom were injured.
- 11 officers were attacked with blunt instruments, 6 of whom were injured.
- 769 officers were assaulted with various other types of weapons, 34 of whom were injured.

### **Type of activity**

- 1,063 of the 1,347 federal officers assaulted in 2008 were on patrol or guard duty when they were assaulted, and 1 of these officers was killed.
- 167 officers were assaulted while attempting arrests or trying to serve summonses, including 1 officer who was killed.
- 43 officers were attacked while conducting investigations or searches.
- 34 officers were assaulted while maintaining custody of prisoners.

### **Dispositional information**

- 328 alleged assailants were identified in connection with the 1,347 assaults on federal officers.
- Of the 328 offenders, dispositional information was reported for 308 of them.
- Of the 308 offenders for whom dispositions were provided, 144 were found guilty.

Information derived from the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund:

## **Law Enforcement Facts**

### **Key Data about the Profession**

- There are more than **900,000** sworn law enforcement officers now serving in the United States, which is the highest figure ever. About **12 percent** of those are female.
- In 2008, there were an estimated **4.9 million** violent crimes committed in the United States, as well as an estimated 16.3 million property crimes (according to the National Crime Victimization Survey conducted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics). Violent and property crime rates in 2008 remain at the lowest levels recorded since 1973, the first year that such data were collected. The rate of every major violent and property crime measured by BJS fell between 1999 and 2008. The overall violent crime rate fell 41 percent and the property crime rate declined by 32 percent during the last 10 years.
- Crime fighting has taken its toll. Since the first recorded police death in 1792, there have been nearly **19,000** law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. Currently, there are **18,983** names engraved on the walls of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial.

- A total of **1,626** law enforcement officers died in the line of duty during the past 10 years, an average of one death every **53** hours or **163** per year. There were **116** law enforcement officers killed in 2009, the lowest annual total since 1989.
- On average, more than **58,000** law enforcement officers are assaulted each year, resulting in approximately **16,000** injuries.
- The **1970s** were the deadliest decade in law enforcement history, when a total of **2,286** officers died, or an average of almost **229** each year. The deadliest year in law enforcement history was **1930**, when **285** officers were killed. That figure dropped dramatically in the **1990s**, to an average of **160** per year.
- The deadliest day in law enforcement history was September 11, 2001, when **72** officers were killed while responding to the terrorist attacks on America.
- New York City has lost more officers in the line of duty than any other department, with **693** deaths. Texas has lost **1,563** officers, more than any other state. The state with the fewest deaths is Vermont, with **21**.
- There are **1,002** federal officers listed on the Memorial, as well as **565** correctional officers and **29** military law enforcement officers.
- There are **237** female officers listed on the Memorial; just **one** female officer was killed in 2009, one of the lowest numbers in recent years.
- During the past ten years, more officers were killed feloniously on **Friday** than any other day of the week. The fewest number of felonious fatalities occurred on **Sunday**. Over the past decade, more officers were killed between 8:01 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. than during any other two-hour period.

## Preliminary 2010 Fatality Statistics

<b>Law Enforcement Officer Fatalities as of May 23</b>			
	2010	2009	% Change
Total Fatalities	66	48	+37%
Gunfire	26	15	+73%
Traffic Incidents	29	28	+4%
Other Causes	11	5	+120%
 <b>2010 Fatalities - Top States</b>			
Texas	6	Tennessee	3

California	5	Maryland	2
Ohio	4	Michigan	2
Louisiana	4	Missouri	2
Arkansas	3	New Jersey	2
Florida	3	Utah	2
Georgia	3	Washington	2
Illinois	3	Eleven States	1
South Carolina	3		

**Federal Agencies: 2**  
**Military Police: 1**  
**U.S. Territories: 3**

*Note: All data are preliminary and are subject to change*

## Causes of Law Enforcement Deaths

Over the Past Decade (2000-2009)

CAUSE OF DEATH	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	TOTAL
Aircraft Accidents	4	3	3	3	2	3	1	7	5	7	38
Auto Accidents	38	44	60	45	43	51	52	44	42	50	469
Beaten	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	2	2	2	10
Bicycle Accident	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	4
Boating Accident	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3
Bomb-Related Incident	0	2	0	0	1	3	0	1	0	1	8
Drowned	0	1	4	0	4	3	4	3	1	3	23
Electrocuted	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	3
Fall	0	0	3	0	4	1	2	0	2	3	15
Horse-Related Accident	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	3
Job-Related Illness	12	17	16	20	23	18	8	12	9	9	144
Motorcycle Accident	3	9	10	11	5	10	11	7	8	10	84
Poisoned	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
Shot	49	40	68	54	60	59	50	60	72	53	565
Stabbed	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	2	0	2	9
Strangled	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Struck by Falling Object	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	1	1	2	8
Struck by Train	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	5
Struck by Vehicle	10	18	14	16	16	13	13	14	24	16	154

Terrorist Attack	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	72	0	78
<b>Total</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>1,626</b>
<i>Updated April 2010</i>											

ADDITIONAL DATA	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
Female Officers Killed	1	13	6	7	5	9	6	15	12	7
Alcohol-Related Deaths	9	13	25	17	14	26	14	13	24	12
Drug-Related Deaths	5	8	21	12	10	15	13	2	11	7
Officers Killed Wearing Body Armor	68%	64%	73%	66%	56%	53%	74%	62%	35%	62%
<i>Updated April 2010</i>										