Justifiable Homicide, 2015-2024

Justifiable homicide is not a crime. It is defined by the National Incident-Based Reporting System and the FBI as "the lawful killing of a perpetrator of a serious criminal offense by a law enforcement officer in the line of duty [or] by a private individual." Because justifiable homicides involve the willful and lawful taking of human life, they are tracked by the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program in order to identify trends in where, when, and under what circumstances they occur.

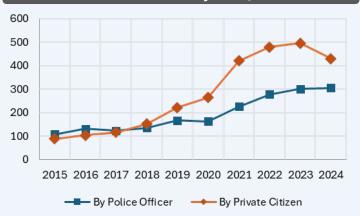
Justifiable Homicides by Region and Year, 2015-2024

Justifiable Homicides by U.S. Region, 2015-2024*			
Region	By Police Officer	By Private Citizen	Total
Midwest	423 (21.8%)	624 (22.5%)	1,047 (22.2%)
Northeast	147 (7.6%)	142 (5.1%)	289 (6.1%)
South	804 (41.5%)	1,748 (63.0%)	2,552 (54.2%)
West	562 (29.0%)	262 (9.4%)	824 (17.5%)

2,776 (100.0%)



Justifiable Homicides by Year, 2015-2024



Circumstances, 2015-2024

Justifiable Homicide

Justifiable Homicide, 2015-2024*: Perpetrator's Activity at Time of Death



USE OF WEAPONS/FORCE IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDE INCIDENTS, 2015-2024

- Law enforcement officers used firearms in 96.9% of justifiable homicide incidents.
- In justifiable homicides involving private citizens, firearms were used in 88.5% of incidents, knives or other cutting instruments in 7.0% of incidents, and personal weapons (hands, feet, etc.) in 2.8% of incidents.

Justifiable Homicides, 2015-2024*: Relationship to Deceased

