



Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted

Officers Killed and Assaulted in the Line of Duty, 2024 Special Report

Executive Summary

In 2024, sixty-four (64) law enforcement officers were feloniously killed, 46 of whom were killed with a firearm. The number of law enforcement officers who were feloniously killed has remained steady since 2022; however, more officers were feloniously killed from 2021 to 2024 (258) than any other consecutive 4-year period in the past 20 years. Cities with a population of less than 10,000 inhabitants show a return to lower counts of officer killings in 2024 after having the highest count of officer deaths from 2021 to 2023 (38) in the past 5 years. The past decade shows the rate of non-fatal assaults against law enforcement officers has been increasing since 2021, with firearms being used in more than 300 assaults against officers each year since 2020.

This report provides statistical data and analysis on the deaths (felonious and accidental) and assaults against law enforcement officers.

Introduction

The FBI publishes data from the Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted (LEOKA) Data Collection each year to provide information to study, inform, shape training and policing strategies, and ultimately save officers' lives. The LEOKA Data Collection is a collective effort by duly sworn federal, state, county, city, tribal, and university and college law enforcement agencies to present a nationwide view of data about sworn law enforcement officers who were killed or assaulted in the line of duty.

For LEOKA data to be used to its fullest potential, it is important that agencies submit as many details known about the incident as possible to the LEOKA Data Collection. More complete data will allow for a more thorough understanding of the evolving policing situations that law enforcement face in communities.

This publication includes information voluntarily reported by participating agencies to the FBI via the following Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program data collections:

- Number of Law Enforcement Employees¹
- Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted²

¹ Information from the Number of Law Enforcement Employees Data Collection includes the total number of all male and female full-time sworn law enforcement officers who were on a department's payroll as of October 31 of the reporting year and who worked a full-time work week. This includes data from positions such as chiefs, sheriffs, commissioners, superintendents, and other sworn department heads. It also includes full-time civilian employees paid from law enforcement funds. It does not include special officers, merchant police, or others who are not paid from law enforcement funds.

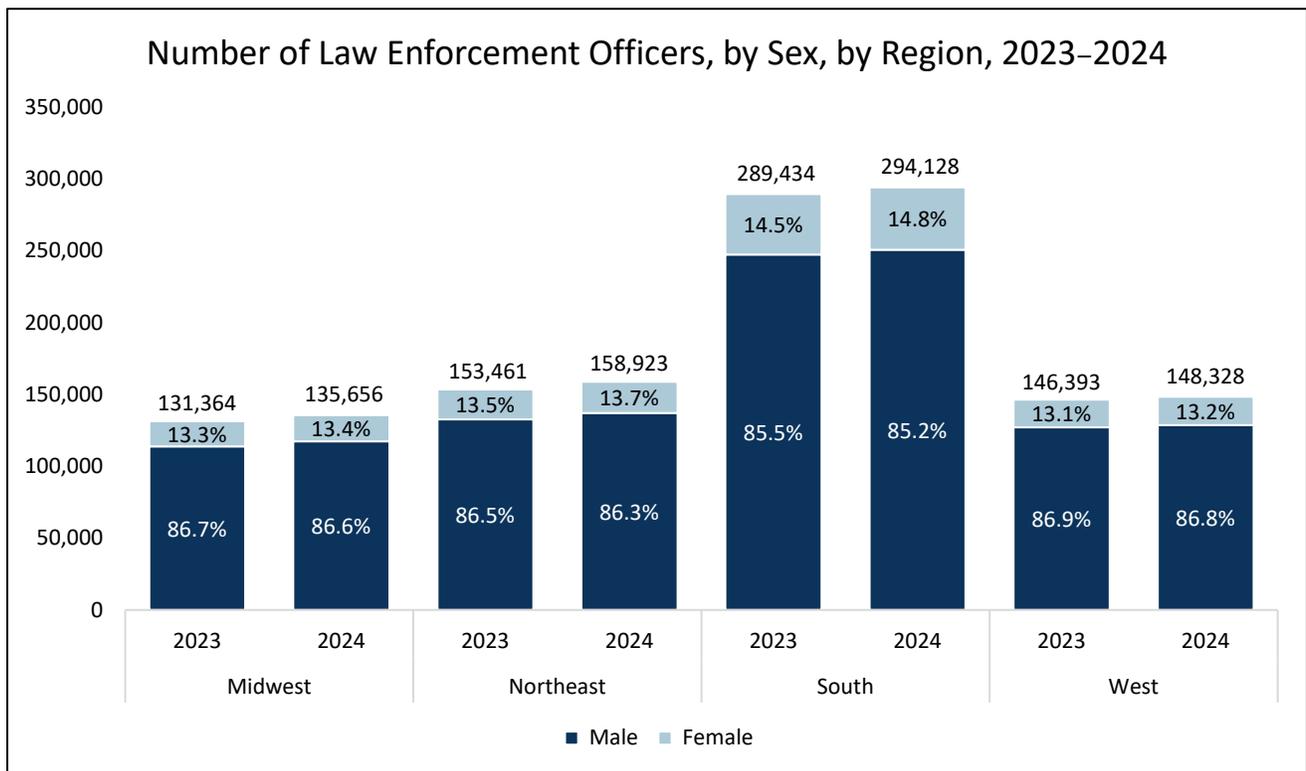
² The LEOKA Data Collection includes information on felonious deaths, accidental deaths, and assaults of duly sworn law enforcement officers who, at the time of the incident, met the following criteria: wore/carried a badge (ordinarily); carried a firearm (ordinarily); were duly sworn and had full arrest powers; were members of a law enforcement agency; were acting in an official capacity, whether on or off duty, at the time of the incident; and, if killed, the deaths were directly related to the injuries received during the incidents.

Number of Law Enforcement Employees

The following statistics from the Number of Law Enforcement Employee Data Collection include information about full-time officers but not civilian employees.

- The percentage of male and female officers have remained stable the last 2 years.
- For 2023 and 2024, more than 85 percent of the officers in each region were male.
- For 2024, the South employed the most officers, with 294,128 out of the total 737,035 officers.

FIGURE 1



Law Enforcement Officers Feloniously Killed, 2024

The LEOKA Data Collection includes information about duly sworn law enforcement officers who lost their lives in the line of duty as a result of felonious incidents. The information presented in this report was collected from federal, state, county, city, tribal, and university and college law enforcement agencies.

In 2024:

- 64 law enforcement officers were feloniously killed in the line of duty.
- Of the 64 officers who were feloniously killed, 71.9 percent³ had gunshot wounds.
- Of the officers who died due to felonious incidents, 63 were male, and 1 was female.
- 50 officers were White and 8 were Black or African American. The race for the remaining 6 officers was not reported.
- The victim officers' average years of sworn law enforcement experience was 8 years, while the median was 6 years.
- More officers were feloniously killed in the South (28) than in any other region.
- The top reported circumstance at the time the victim officer was attacked was "response to unlawful or suspicious activity."

TABLE 1

Victim Officer Data, 2023-2024		
Feloniously Killed	2023	2024
	60	64
Gunshot Wound	2023	2024
	32	46
Male Officers Feloniously Killed	2023	2024
	54	63
Female Officers Feloniously Killed	2023	2024
	6	1
Average Years as a Sworn LEO	2023	2024
	11	8

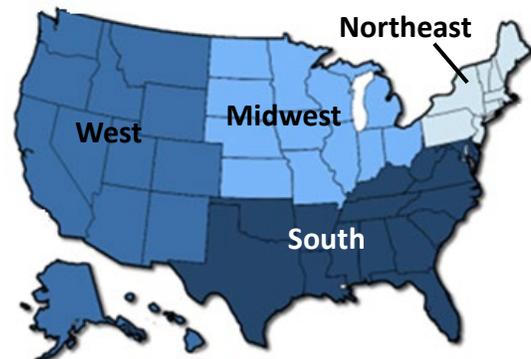
TABLE 2

Circumstance at Time of Attack, 2024	
Circumstance of Victim Officer	Count of Victim Officers
Response to unlawful or suspicious activity	14
Traffic stop	11
Circumstance unknown / not reported	7
Follow up investigation	7
Tactical situation	7
Pursuit	7
Check in with another law enforcement officer	4
Routine patrol other than traffic stop	3
Warrant service	2
Medical, mental health, or welfare assistance	1
Out of service (court / dining / etc.)	1

TABLE 3

Count of Victim Officers by Region, 2024	
Region	Count of Victim Officers
South	28
Midwest	18
West	11
Northeast	6
Puerto Rico and Outlying Territories	1

FIGURE 2

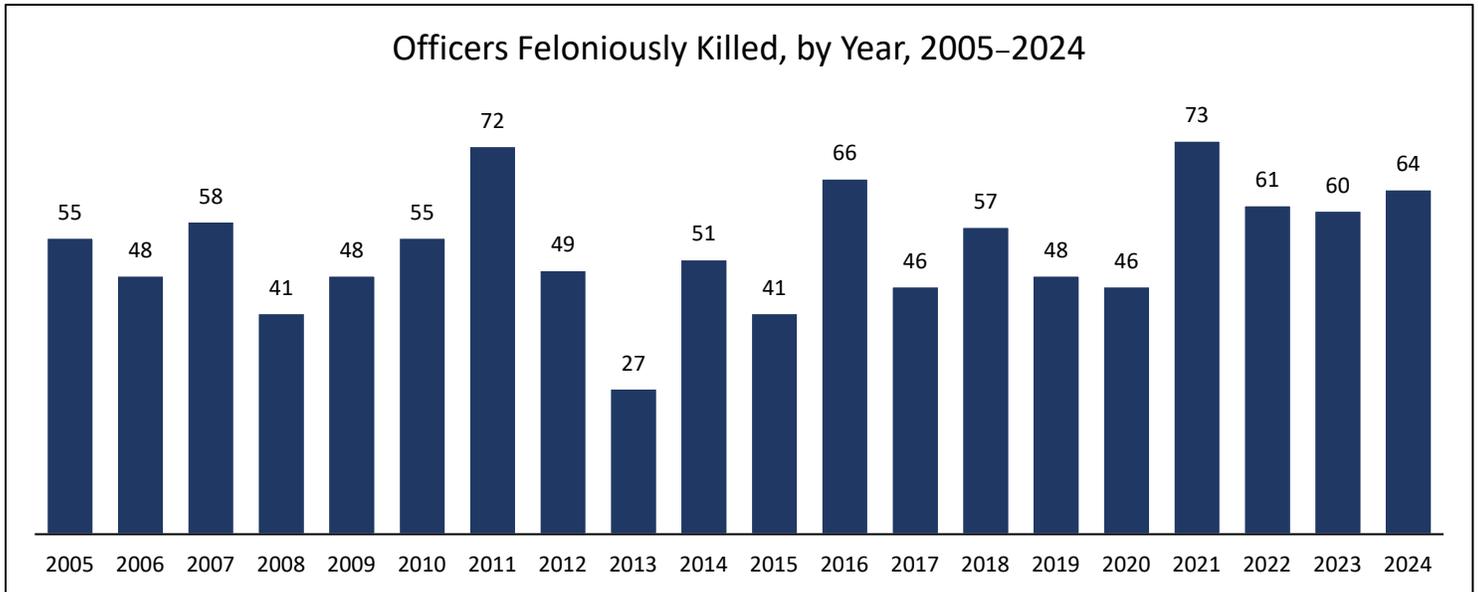


³ It should be noted, this percentage could be low because the type of fatal wound was not reported for 6 of the 64 incidents.

Law Enforcement Officers Feloniously Killed, 2005–2024

Reported data from 2005 through 2024 shows more officers were feloniously killed in 2021 (73 officers) than in any other year. More officers were feloniously killed in the 4-year period from 2021 to 2024 (258 officers) than any other 4-year period in the past 20 years. The number of officers feloniously killed from 2022 through 2024 have remained more consistent than any other 3-year period (61, 60, and 64, respectively). The only years with more officer felonious killings per year than in 2024 were in 2021 (73), 2011 (72), and 2016 (66).

FIGURE 3

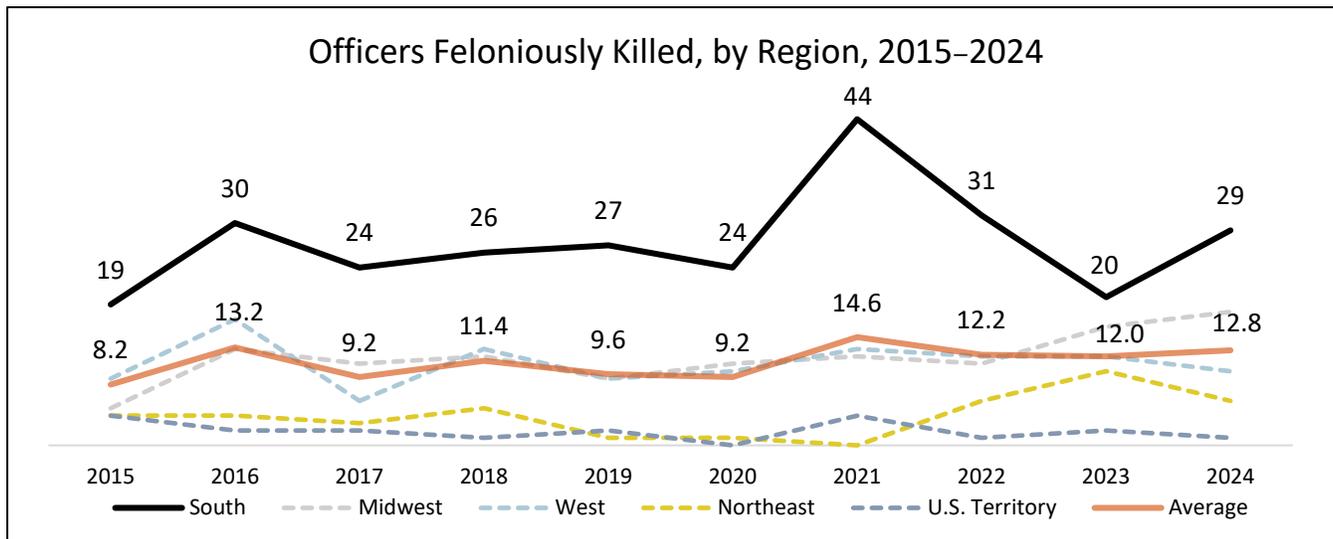


Law Enforcement Officers Feloniously Killed, 2015–2024

From 2015 to 2024, more officers were feloniously killed in the South (274) than in any other region (562 total). From 2023 to 2024, the number of officers who were feloniously killed in the South increased by 45.0 percent. The only years that had a higher percent increase in the South were 2016 (57.9 percent) and 2021 (83.3 percent). However, it should be noted, the South is the largest region in number of employed officers, law enforcement agencies, and largest population, made from 16 states and the District of Columbia. The 16 states part of the South region are as follows: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

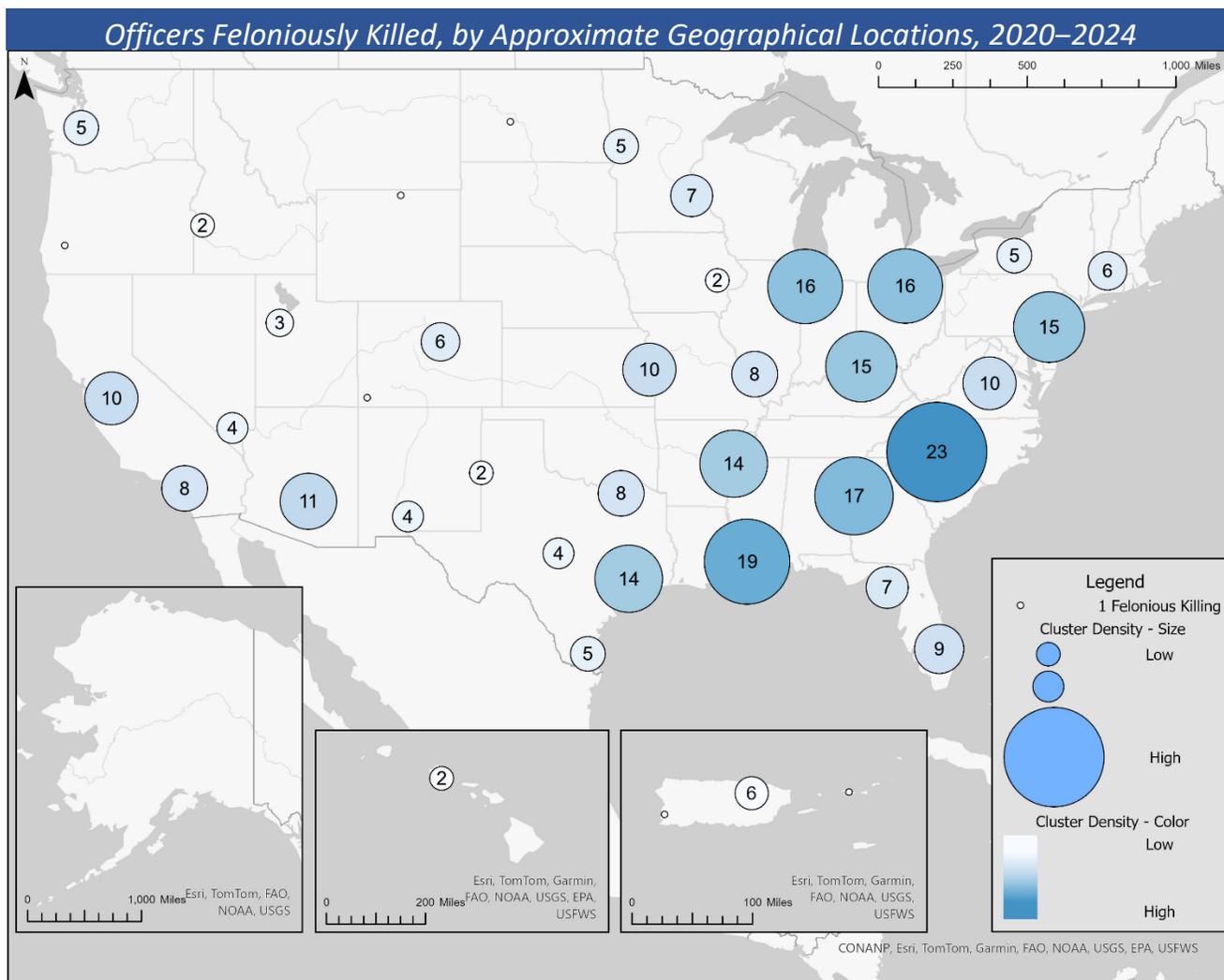
Across all regions, 2024 had the third highest average of officer killings at 12.8 deaths, with 2016 (13.2 deaths) and 2021 (14.6 deaths) having higher averages.

FIGURE 4



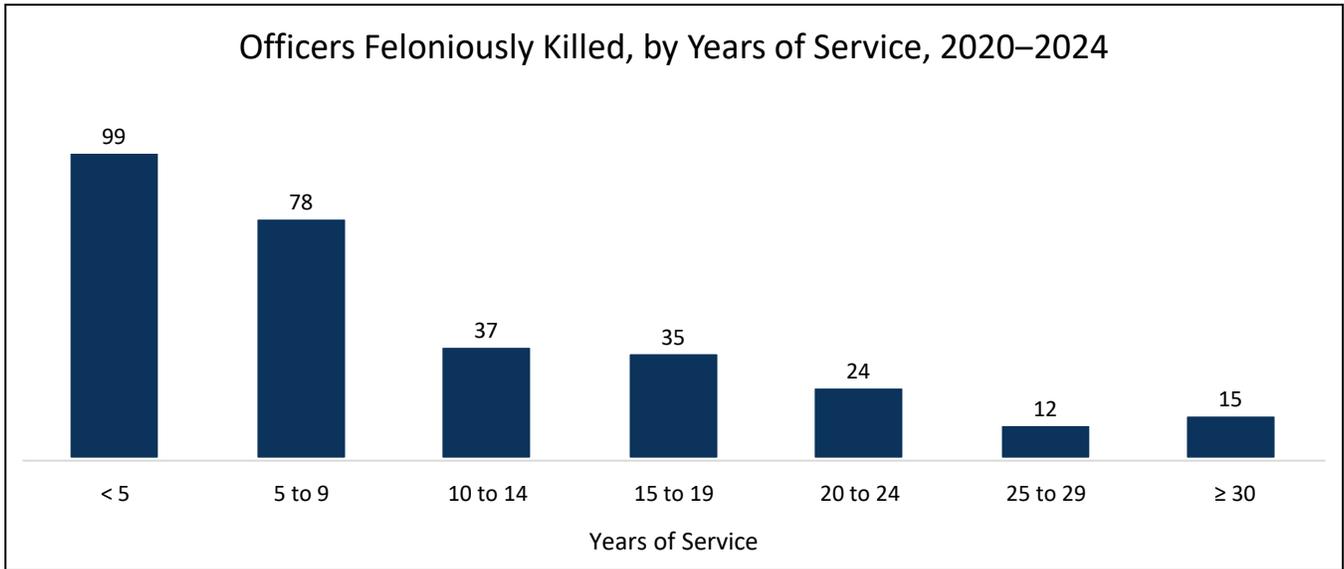
Law Enforcement Officers Feloniously Killed Trends, 2020–2024

The following map shows the approximate geographical locations where officers were feloniously killed from 2020 to 2024. During this timeframe, 304 officers were feloniously killed in the line of duty.



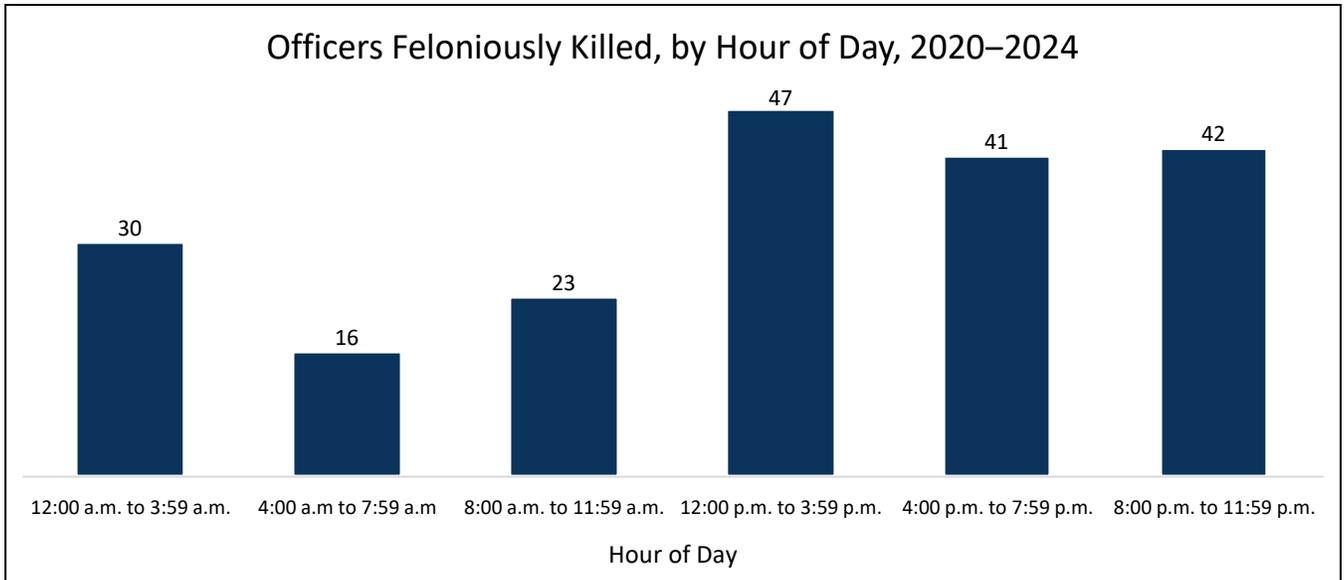
The officers who were feloniously killed in the line of duty from 2020 to 2024 had an average of 10.7 years of sworn law enforcement experience. However, from 2020 to 2024, 33.0 percent of victim officers had less than 5 years of sworn law enforcement experience.⁴

FIGURE 6



From 2020 to 2024, 47 victim officers were killed between the times of 12:00 p.m. and 3:59 p.m. 83 victim officers were killed between the hours of 4:00 p.m and 11:59 p.m.⁵

FIGURE 7

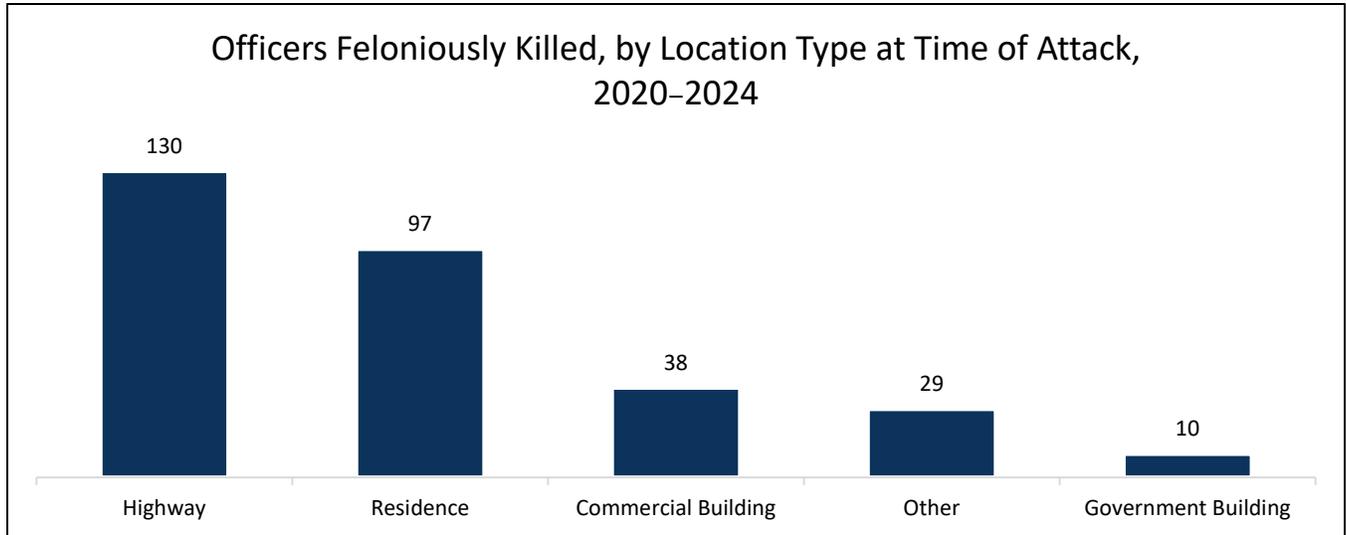


⁴ 4 of 304 law enforcement officers' years of service were not reported/unknown.

⁵ 105 of 304 law enforcement officers' time of incident was not reported.

Out of the 304 victim officers feloniously killed from 2020 to 2024, 130 deaths occurred on a highway/road/alley/street/sidewalk and 97 occurred in residential locations.⁶

FIGURE 8



The following chart only considers city agencies and does not include the 126 victim officers from federal, state, county, tribal, or university and college law enforcement agencies. From 2020 to 2024, more officers were feloniously killed in cities with a population of 250,000 or more inhabitants than in any other population group. However, the second highest number of officer deaths came from cities with population coverage of less than 10,000 inhabitants. More notable, from 2021 to 2023, the majority of officer deaths came from cities with less than 10,000 inhabitants.

TABLE 4

City Population Groups	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
Group 1 (Cities 250,000+)	13	10	6	10	17	56
Group 2 (Cities 100,000-249,999)	6	4	6	3	6	25
Group 3 (Cities 50,000-99,999)	4	2	4	1	3	14
Group 4 (Cities 25,000-49,999)	4	1	4	6	2	17
Group 5 (10,000-24,999)	4	7	1	4	5	21
Group 6 (Cities <10,000)	5	10	12	16	2	45

⁶ “Highway” includes highways/roads/alleys/streets/sidewalks, “residence” includes residences/homes, “commercial building” includes commercial/office buildings, and “government building” includes government/public buildings. “Other” includes convenience stores, gambling facilities/casinos/race tracks, lakes/waterways/beaches, elementary and secondary schools, service/gas stations, and other locations not listed or provided.

Offender Information, 2024

- Agencies reported 64 officers were feloniously killed. Those incidents included 61 offenders.
- Sex was reported for 49 offenders: 95.9 percent were male.
- Race was reported for 38 offenders: 57.9 percent were White, 39.5 percent were Black or African American, and 2.6 percent were American Indian or Alaska Native.
- Age was reported for 41 offenders. The average age of the offenders was 35 years, while the average victim officer age is 36.
- 12 of the 15 reported offenders were known to the agencies prior to the incident.
- 18 offenders were reported to be under the influence of some kind.
- 32 offenders were reported to have a prior criminal record. 17 had reported prior arrests with 16 of those reported judicial supervision status: 5 were under supervision, 8 were not under supervision, and 3 were unknown.

TABLE 5

Reported Offenders, 2024		
Offenders' Sex (49 reported)	Male	Female
	95.9%	4.1%
Offenders' Race (38 reported)	White	Black/African American
	57.9%	39.5%
Average Age (Victims: 64 reported) (Offenders: 41 reported)	Victim	Offender
	36	35
Known by Agency (15 reported)	Yes	Unknown
	12	3
Under the Influence (18 reported)	Known Substance	Unknown Substance
	55.6%	44.4%
Judicial History (34 reported)	Prior Record	Prior Arrest
	32	17

Seventeen offenders were reported to have had prior arrests. Offenders may have had multiple prior arrests. The most common offense reported regarding offenders with prior arrest instances—except for the category of “Other,”⁷ which was reported 11 times—were for weapons violations (8). Aggravated assault (7) and domestic violence (6) were the next most common offenses reported.

FIGURE 9

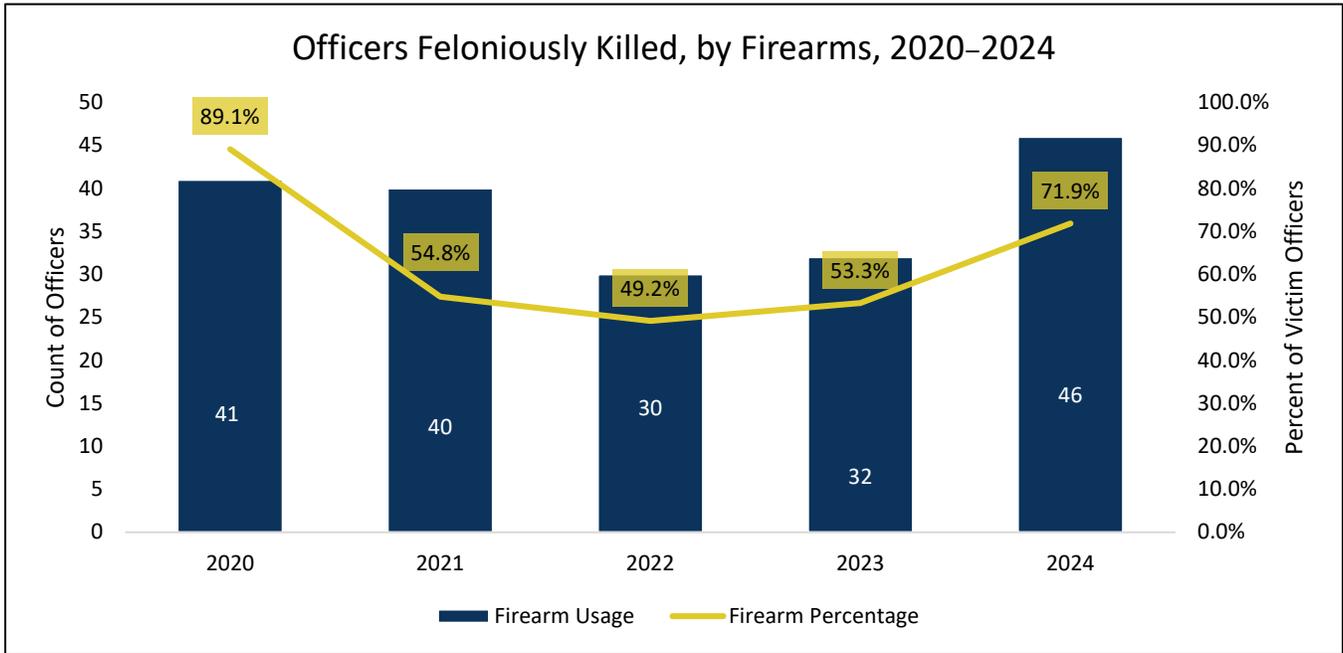


⁷ “Other” is defined as any other offense not provided in the chart above.

Firearm Involvement with Feloniously Killed Officers, 2020–2024

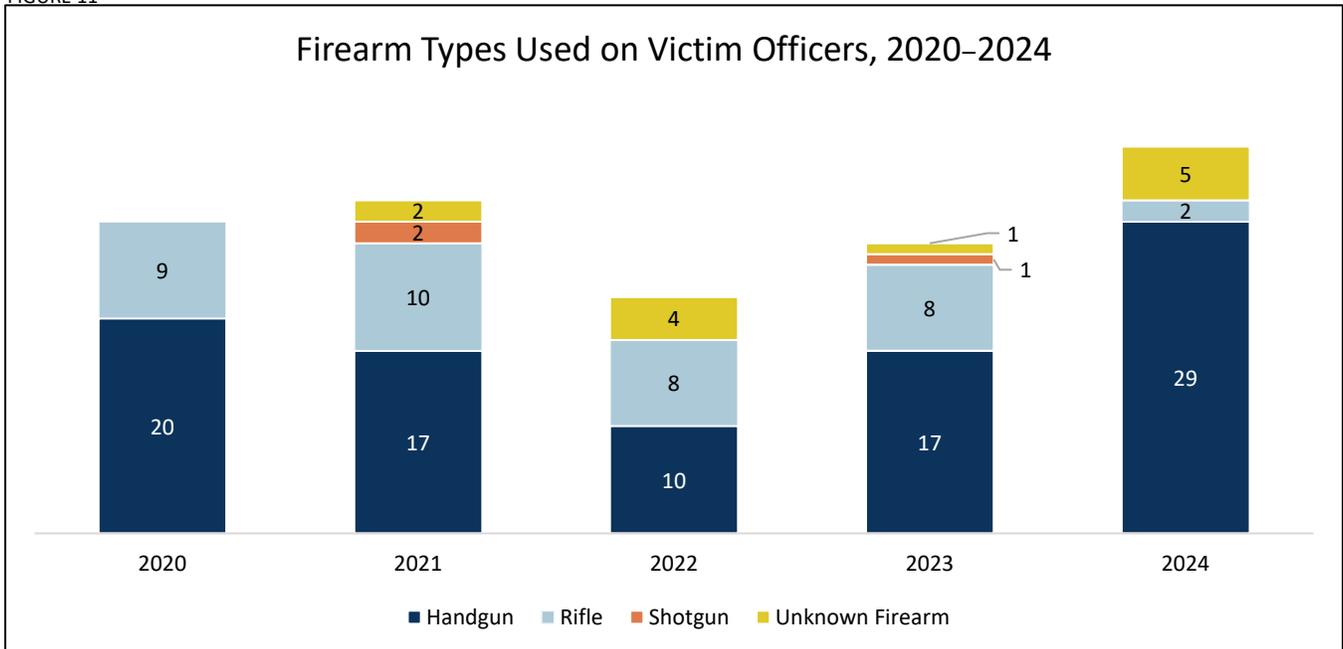
More officers were feloniously killed by firearms (46) in 2024 than any other year from 2020 to 2024. However, in 2020, the percent of firearms used to kill victim officers (89.1 percent) was the highest in the five-year period.

FIGURE 10



Handguns were the firearm type most used to kill officers from 2020 to 2024, with more handguns being used in 2024 (29) than in any other year.⁸

FIGURE 11



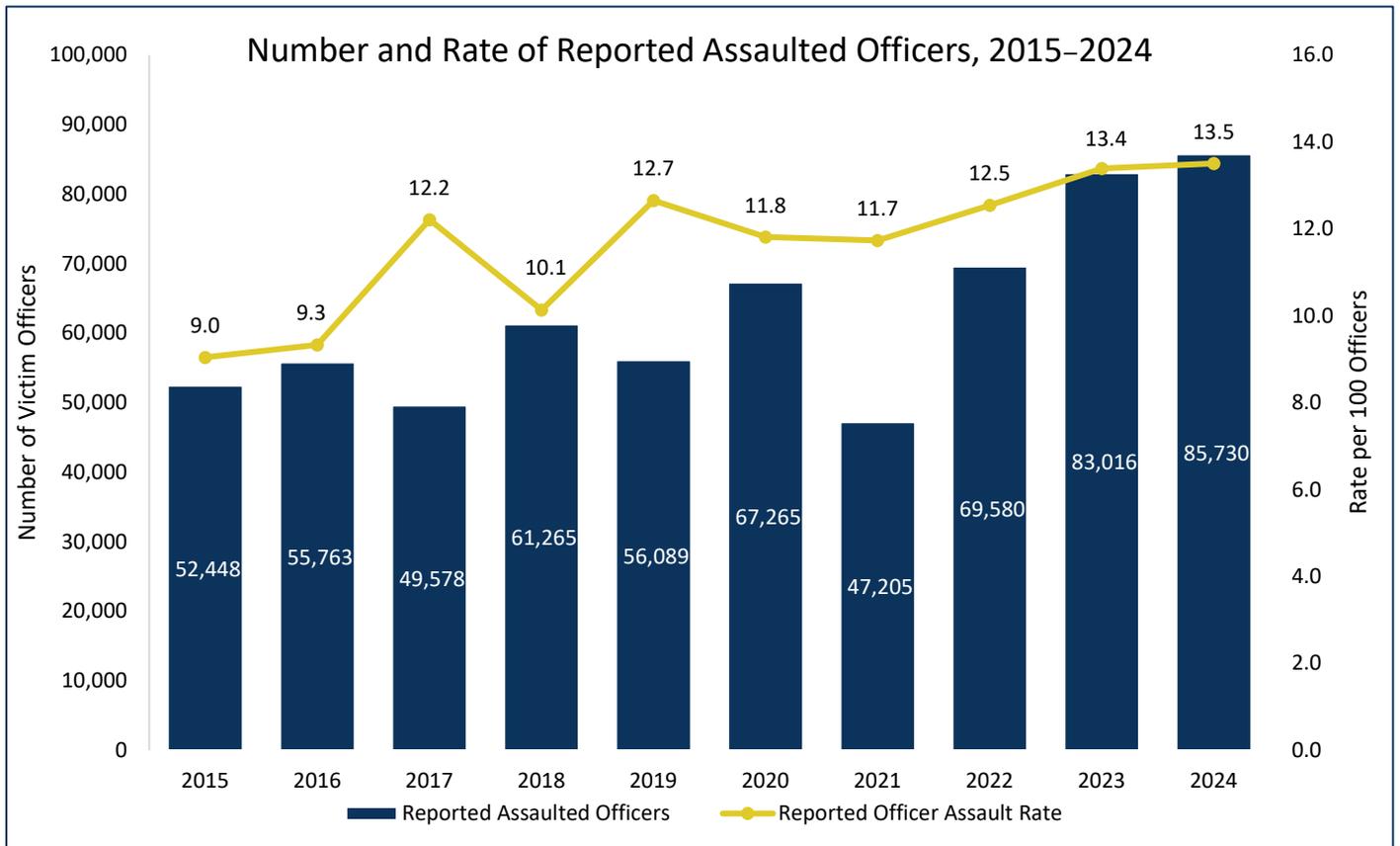
⁸ A single offender may have killed multiple officers with a firearm, thus the firearm count may not equal the count of officers killed by a firearm.

Law Enforcement Officers Assaulted, 2024

The LEOKA Data Collection also reports information about incidents in which officers were assaulted in the line of duty. The following includes data reported through the Summary Reporting System (SRS) and the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). For assault data to be included in the publication, law enforcement agencies must have submitted information for all 12 months of the reporting year regarding sworn officers who were assaulted, as well as the number of officers and civilians employed full time for the reporting year.⁹ The following officer assault data are considered preliminary and is subject to change prior to the release of 2024 LEOKA assault tables, which will be published on the FBI’s Crime Data Explorer website later this year.

In 2024, 11,784 agencies employing 634,770 officers reported 85,730 assaults on victim officers, indicating a rate of 13.5 assaults per 100 officers. This is the highest officer assault rate from 2015 through 2024.

FIGURE 12



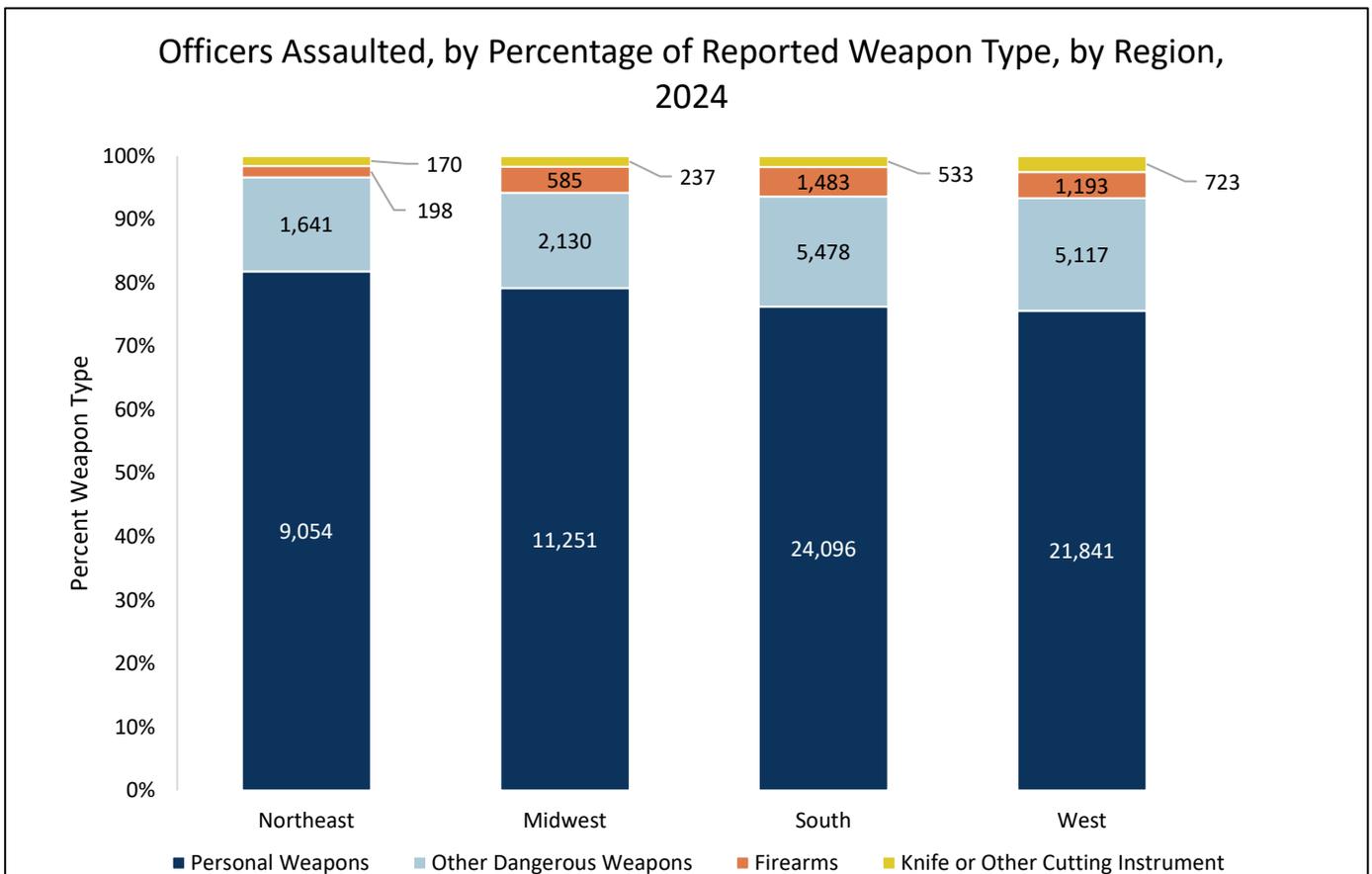
⁹ This data can be reported through either NIBRS or SRS.

Law Enforcement Officers Assaulted with Firearms

In 2015 and 2016, officers were assaulted with a firearm at a reported rate of 3.6 and 3.8 per 1,000 officers, respectively. The rate increased to 5.4 per 1,000 officers in 2017, then dropped to 3.7 per 1,000 officers in 2018. Since 2019, the rate of officers assaulted with a firearm has remained above 5.0 per 1,000 officers, reaching a 10-year peak of 5.9 per 1,000 officers in 2021 and 2022 before declining to 5.8 per 1,000 officers in 2023. In 2024, the reported rate of officers assaulted by a firearm decreased to 5.4 per 1,000 officers.

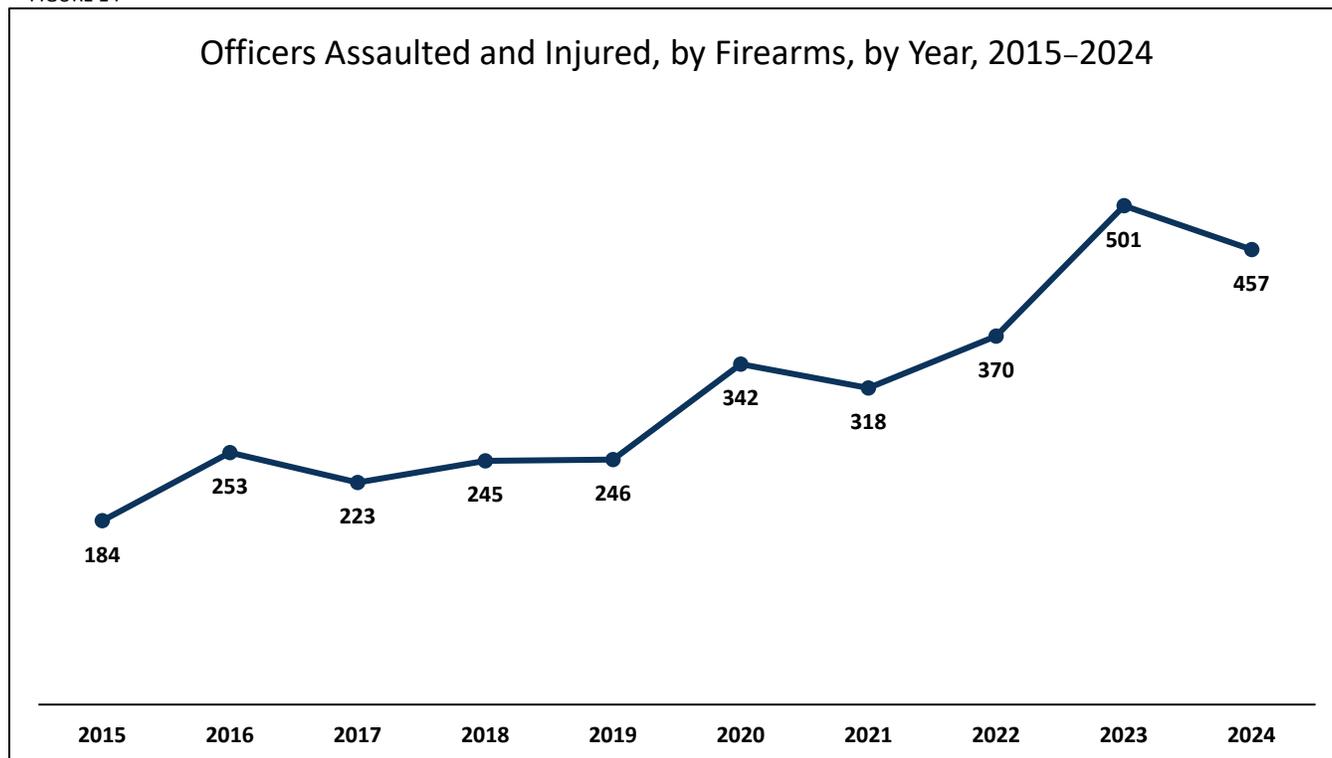
Firearm use against officers varied by geographical region. In 2024, 1.8 percent of assaults involved a firearm in the Northeast, while 4.1 percent of assaults involved a firearm in the Midwest and West. The highest percentage was in the South, with firearms used against 4.7 percent of assaulted officers.

FIGURE 13



In 2015, the number of officers who were assaulted and injured by firearms was less than 200. Each year from 2016 through 2019, that number surpassed 200 and continued to rise to over 300 from 2020 through 2024. The number of officers assaulted and injured by firearms reached a 10-year high with approximately 500 officer assaults reported with firearm injuries in 2023. In 2024, that figure dropped to approximately 457 officers.

FIGURE 14



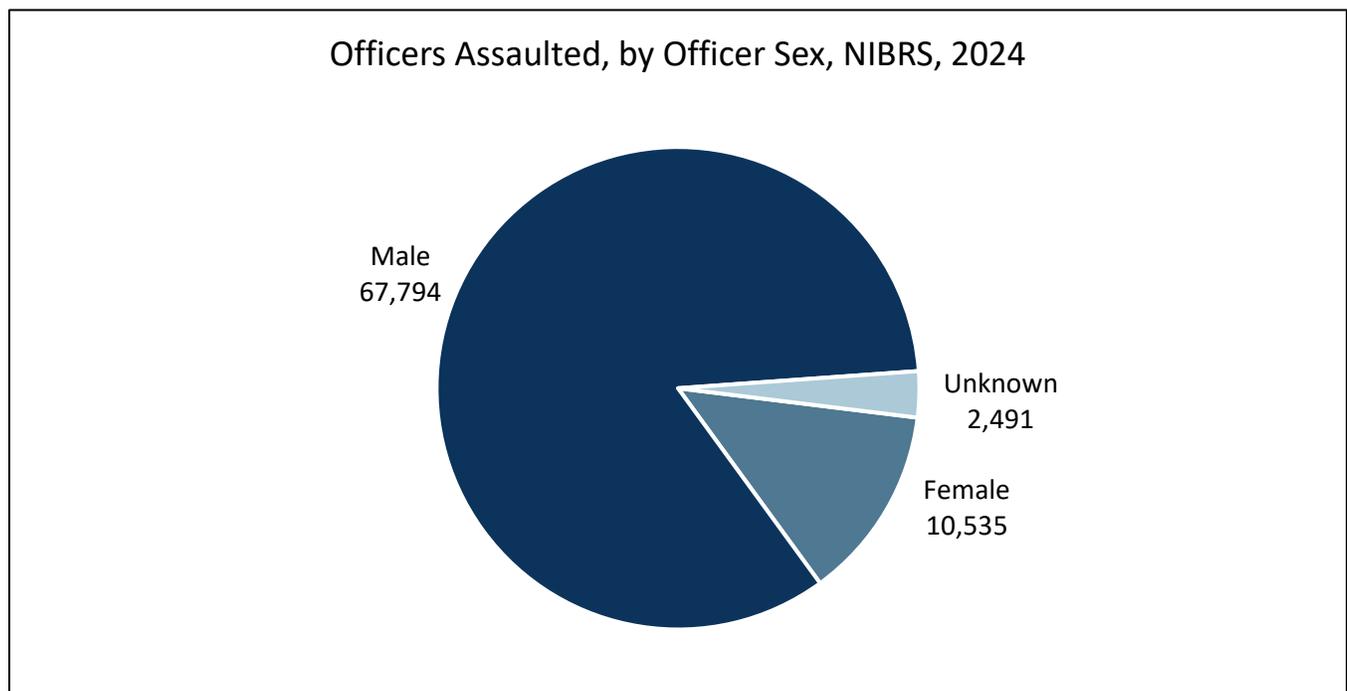
Officer Assault Data from the National Incident-Based Reporting System

Agencies submitting officer assault data through NIBRS can provide additional details on each single crime incident, as well as on separate offenses within the same incident. The FBI's UCR Program defines an incident as one or more offenses committed by the same offender, or group of offenders acting in concert, at the same time and place. The FBI's UCR Program defines an offense as a violation of the law. An incident may involve more than one offense. Within the LEOKA Data Collection, assaulted officers are victims of either an aggravated assault¹⁰ offense or a simple assault¹¹ offense.

In 2024, 6,448 agencies reported at least one LEOKA-type assault via NIBRS, totaling 80,820 officer assaults in 64,285 incidents.

Victims of LEOKA assaults reported through NIBRS in 2024 were most often male (83.9 percent) and White (80.2 percent). The top age group of assaulted officers was between the ages of 20 and 29 (35.6 percent).

FIGURE 15



¹⁰ The FBI's UCR Program defines *aggravated assault* as an unlawful attack by one person upon another wherein the offender uses a dangerous weapon or displays it in a threatening manner or the victim suffers obvious severe or aggravated bodily injury, or where there was a risk for serious injury/intent to seriously injure.

¹¹ The FBI's UCR Program defines *simple assault* as an unlawful physical attack by one person upon another where neither the offender displays a dangerous weapon, nor the victim suffers obvious severe or aggravated bodily injury involving apparent broken bones, loss of teeth, possible internal injury, severe laceration, or loss of consciousness.

FIGURE 16

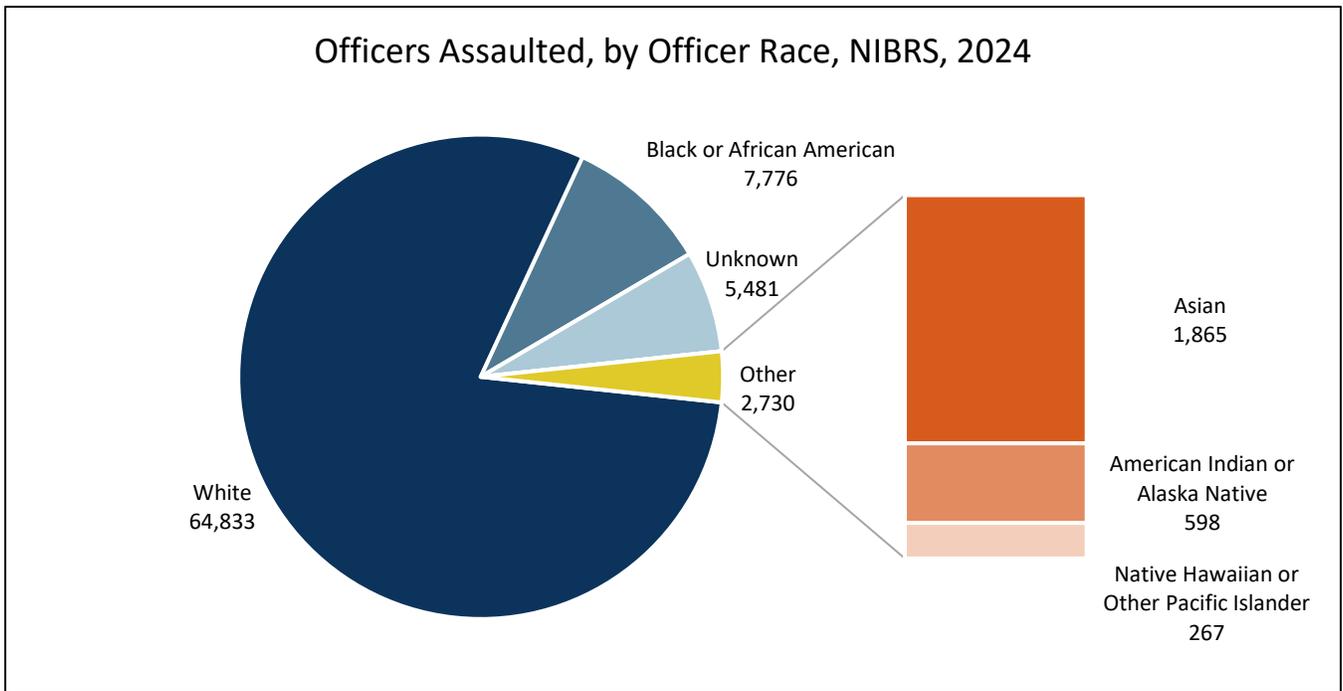
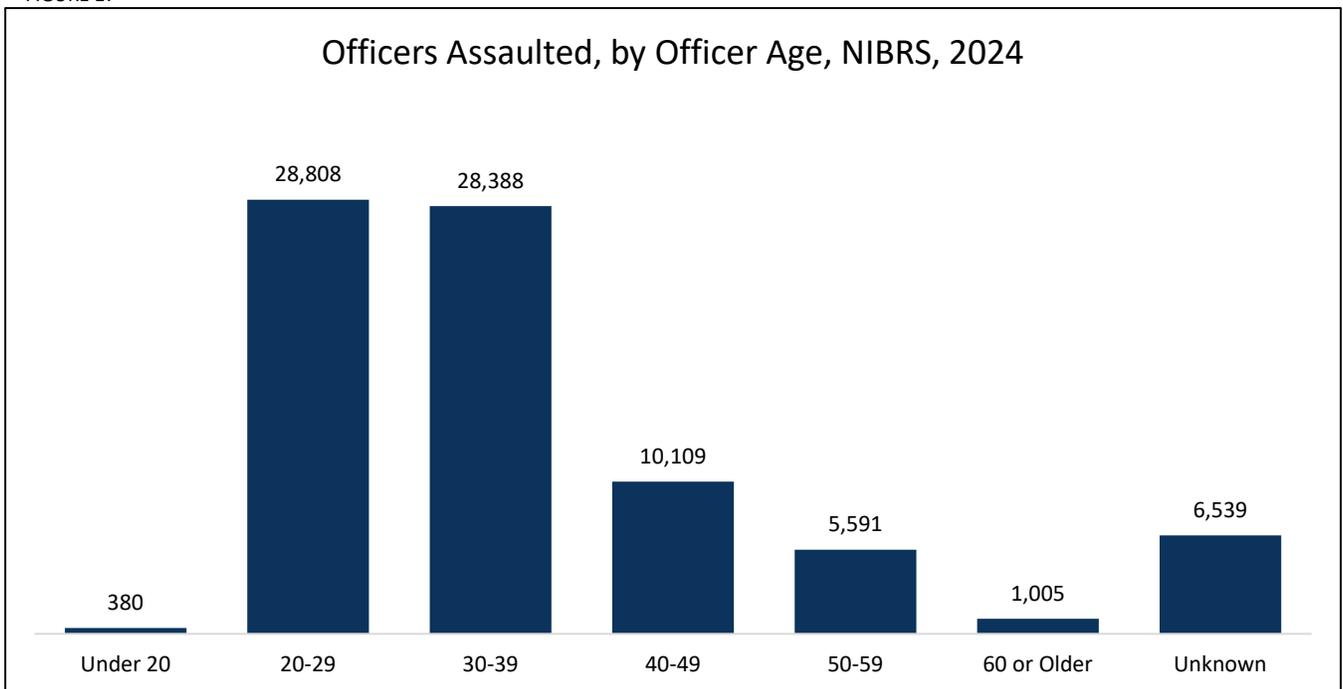


FIGURE 17



Agencies reporting via NIBRS can provide up to five types of bodily injuries sustained by victims of certain offenses, to include aggravated and simple assault. In 2024, 52,031 LEOKA assault victims were not injured. The remaining 28,789 officers received 29,102 injuries from the assaults.

FIGURE 18



Agencies submitting LEOKA assault data through NIBRS can include up to ten Group A offenses occurring within an incident. In 2024, 38.7 percent of reported LEOKA assault incidents involved at least one additional Group A NIBRS offense beyond an assault on an officer. LEOKA assault incidents that did not involve an additional Group A NIBRS offense may have involved Group B NIBRS offenses or circumstances not captured through NIBRS, e.g., traffic stops.¹²

In 2024, the most common NIBRS offenses observed in conjunction with LEOKA assaults were simple assault against a person other than a law enforcement officer (reported in 7,322 LEOKA incidents), drug/narcotic violations (reported in 5,294 LEOKA incidents), and destruction/damage/vandalism of property (reported in 4,736 LEOKA incidents).

TABLE 6

Associated NIBRS Offenses with Assaulting an Officer	
Top 10 Non-LEOKA Offenses	LEOKA Incidents
Simple Assault (non-officer)	7,322
Drug/Narcotic Violations	5,294
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property	4,736
Drug Equipment Violations	2,791
Aggravated Assault (non-officer)	2,713
Weapon Law Violations	2,655
Intimidation	1,933
Shoplifting	1,500
Burglary/Breaking & Entering	892
Stolen Property Offenses	863

¹² Group A offenses are used to report all incident data elements, whereas Group B offenses are used only to report arrest data elements.

Law Enforcement Officers Accidentally Killed, 2020–2024

The LEOKA Data Collection also collects information on law enforcement officers who were accidentally killed in the line of duty. The following data points were collected from agencies from 2020 to 2024. There were 236 total reported accidental law enforcement officer deaths from 2020 to 2024.

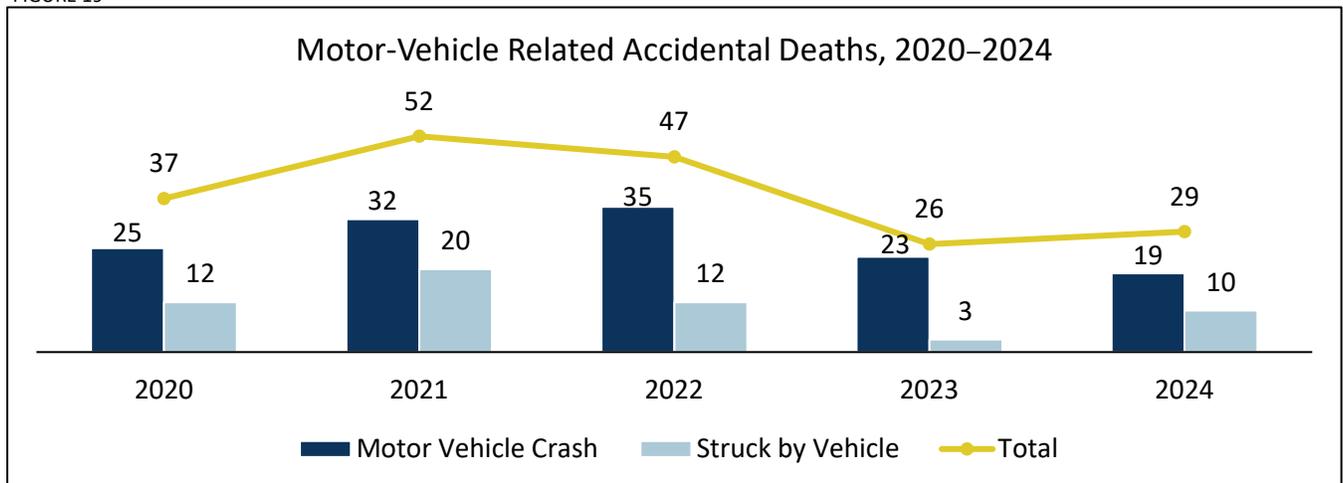
- The average age of law enforcement officers accidentally killed in the line of duty was approximately 41 years old.
- Approximately 91.5 percent of law enforcement officers accidentally killed in the line of duty were male.
- The average years of sworn law enforcement service was approximately 12 years. However, law enforcement officers most commonly had less than 5 years of service.
- Top (3) Victim Officer Activity at time of incident:
 - Patrol (65)
 - Other (51)¹³
 - Performing traffic control/stop (22)

TABLE 7

Reported Accidental Deaths, 2020–2024	
Average Age (202 reported)	41
Percent Male (236 reported)	91.5%
Percent Female (236 reported)	8.5%
Top Years of Service (233 reported)	<5 Years 29.6%
Top Activity (226 reported)	Patrol 28.8%
Top Cause (236 reported)	Motor Vehicle Crash 56.8%

Of the officers who were accidentally killed from 2020 to 2024, 56.8 percent died as a result of motor vehicle crashes and 24.2 percent were struck by a vehicle. The data reported for accidental deaths involving motor vehicles for 2020 through 2024—involving both categories of motor vehicle crash and struck by vehicle—peaked in 2021 but has declined in both 2022 and 2023¹⁴ with a slight increase from 2023 to 2024

FIGURE 19



¹³ “Other” refers to calls for service such as but not limited to: en route to work or home, assisting citizen or other law enforcement, driving home, clearing roadway, escorting funeral procession, structure fire, security detail, school resource officer, and Division of Transportation detail.

¹⁴ The 2023 total count for the category “struck by vehicle” was updated after the publication to reflect changes in the final data. Previously 12 deaths, this category now shows 3 deaths in 2023.

Conclusion

The LEOKA Data Collection compiles an abundance of information that can help a nationwide audience gain insight into the details of officer deaths and assaults. The data presented in this LEOKA report is published in an effort to aid the law enforcement community by providing information to positively impact their training and keep them safe as they diligently perform their duties.

Analysis of this data shows the numbers of felonious officer deaths for each of the last 3 years (2022-2024) were consistent; however, over the same time period, the rate of assaults against officers has increased. Firearms were the most reported weapon used in fatal incidents, followed by vehicles.

LEOKA assault data shows in 2024, officers were assaulted at a rate of 13.5 assaults per 100 officers, which is the highest officer assault rate in the past 10 years. In 2024, the number of officers assaulted and injured by firearms was approximately 457. From 2021 to 2023, the rate of officers assaulted with firearms was highest, with each year showing a firearm assault rate of 5.8 or more assaults per 1,000 officers. In 2024, officers who were assaulted and injured most often sustained minor injuries.

The LEOKA data for 2020 to 2024 accidental deaths of law enforcement officers shows an overwhelming majority of accidents involved motor vehicles and patrol was the most common activity officers were performing. Instances of officers being struck by a vehicle increased from 2023 to 2024, while the number of motor vehicle accidents continued to decline.

LEOKA data can be a crucial tool for the law enforcement community to enhance and update officer safety strategies, especially when the contributed data is complete and accurate. For this data to be complete and beneficial to the law enforcement community, it is imperative agencies regularly submit data to the FBI's UCR Program's various data collections.¹⁵ The partnerships between law enforcement agencies must be preserved and cultivated through sharing applicable data to keep law enforcement officers and the public safe from harm. Collectively, these statistics provide vital information that can improve awareness of risks to officers in the United States.



U. S. Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Criminal Justice Information Services Division

¹⁵ For more information on how your agency can submit to the FBI's UCR Program, email ucr@fbi.gov or reach out to your state UCR program coordinator.