



Law Enforcement Officers Shot in the Line of Duty

2022 Year-End Summary



COPS
Community Oriented Policing Services
U.S. Department of Justice



**NATIONAL FRATERNAL
ORDER OF POLICE**

May 2023



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This report is compiled from publicly available information using media monitoring software and general research. It contains data on law enforcement officers shot in the line of duty, both fatally and nonfatally, for the express purpose of better understanding the nature and frequency of incidents that could give rise to the issuance of a Blue Alert. Care should be considered when comparing these results to those of other entities that collect similar data. The opinions contained herein are those of the author(s) or contributor(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position of the U.S. Department of Justice.

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NATIONAL BLUE ALERT NETWORK

In 2015, Congress passed the Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu National Blue Alert Act, named in honor of two New York City police officers killed in an ambush attack on December 20, 2014. The act directs the U.S. Department of Justice to establish a voluntary nationwide system to promote the use of early warnings of threats against law enforcement officers and to aid in the apprehension of suspects who have killed or seriously injured an officer. In 2016, the COPS Office was given the honor of implementing the act and established the National Blue Alert Network.

The National Blue Alert Network seeks to encourage, enhance, and integrate Blue Alert plans throughout the United States. Blue Alerts provide for rapid dissemination of information to law enforcement agencies, media, and the public to aid in the apprehension of offenders who have killed, seriously injured, or pose an imminent and credible threat to law enforcement. Blue Alerts can be transmitted via wireless devices and through the Emergency Alert System (EAS) in the same manner as AMBER Alerts.

TRACKING OFFICER SHOOTINGS

This report was compiled by the **Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office)** in partnership with the **National Fraternal Order of Police** using media monitoring software and general research to analyze publicly available information. It contains data on law enforcement officers shot in the line of duty, both fatally and nonfatally, for the express purpose of better understanding the nature and frequency of incidents that could give rise to the issuance of a Blue Alert. Care should be taken when comparing these results to those of other entities that collect similar data. The opinions contained herein are those of the author(s) or contributor(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position of the U.S. Department of Justice.

2022 SUMMARY DATA

- **A total of 331** law enforcement officers were shot in the line of duty during calendar year 2022 in **267** separate shooting incidents, including **42** incidents where multiple officers were shot.
- A total of **62** law enforcement officers died in 2022 as a result of being shot in the line of duty. **Fifty-nine** law enforcement officers died after being shot in 2022; **272** officers survived. In addition, in 2022, **three** officers succumbed to complications of gunshot wounds that occurred during incidents that took place prior to 2022.¹
- **City or municipal** law enforcement officers accounted for nearly two-thirds (**60.7 percent**) of all shooting incidents in 2022.
- **Disturbance calls (49 incidents)** and **traffic stops (43 incidents)** accounted for **35 percent** of all shooting incidents and resulted in **111** officers shot.
- **A total of 126** law enforcement officers were shot in **89** separate ambushes. **Thirty-two** of those officers died.
- At least **34** officers were known to have been protected from gunshots that struck a protective ballistic vest.
- Shootings occurred in **39** states, the **District of Columbia**, and **Puerto Rico**. **Texas** had the highest number of officers shot with **29**, followed by **Arizona** with **21** and **Georgia** with **18**.
- **February** and **June** saw the highest number of officers shot in 2022 with **37** each, followed by **March** seeing **34** officers shot. The day of the week that experienced the highest number of officers shot was Thursday, which saw a total of **72** officers shot in 2022.

¹ When the three 2022 deaths resulting from incidents prior to 2022 are included in a specific data point, they will be noted with the use of an asterisk (*).

2022 INCIDENT DATA

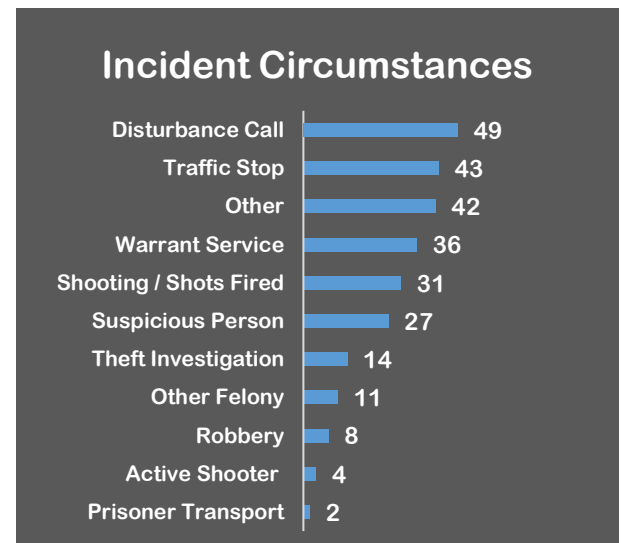
There were **267 incidents** in 2022 where law enforcement officers were shot in the line of duty, which is a **1.5 percent** decrease from the total number of incidents in 2021. While the number of officers shot in the line of duty in 2022 decreased by **4.3 percent** compared to 2021, it was still **6.1 percent** greater than in 2020. The number of officers who died in 2022 as a result of being shot increased by **31.9 percent** compared to 2020 and decreased by **3.1 percent** compared to 2021. *NOTE: Each asterisk (*) represents an officer who was shot in one calendar year but succumbed to that gunshot wound in the next.*

	2022 totals	Change from 2021 to 2022	2021 totals	2020 totals	Change from 2020 to 2021
Total number of shooting incidents	267	- 1.5 %	271	246	+ 8.5 %
Total number of officers shot	331	- 4.3 %	346	312	+ 6.1 %
Number of officers shot and survived	272	- 1.5 %	287	268	+ 1.5 %
Number of officers shot and killed	62***	- 3.1 %	64*****	47***	+ 31.9 %

INCIDENT DATA BY CIRCUMSTANCE

Disturbance calls and **traffic stops** accounted for more than a third (**35 percent**) of all shooting incidents. The third–most common circumstance involved activity related to warrant services (**13.6 percent**).

Circumstance at Time of Incident				
<i>Each asterisk (*) equals one officer who was shot prior to 2022 but succumbed to that gunshot wound in 2022.</i>				
Circumstance	Shooting incidents	Officers shot	Number survived	Number killed
Active shooter	4	6	6	0
Disturbance call	49	63	47	17*
Prisoner transport	2	2	1	1
Robbery	8	9	6	3
Shooting / Shots fired	31	44	39	5
Other felony	11	15	14	2*
Suspicious person	27	30	26	5*
Traffic stop	43	48	40	8
Warrant service	36	51	41	10
Theft investigation	14	14	13	1
Other	42	49	39	10
	267	331	272	62***



NATURE OF ATTACKS

Every felonious attack on law enforcement officers, especially by gunfire, is disturbing regardless of the circumstances. Officers are always vulnerable to life-threatening attacks and therefore must always be vigilant and maintain the highest level of situational awareness. In most cases, officers are able to quickly assess situations, recognize threats, and take adequate defensive actions. Tragically, not every threat can be seen or mitigated. Perhaps most troubling and worrisome are ambush-style and other calculated attacks on law enforcement. These types of attacks are carried out with an element of surprise and intended to deprive officers of the ability to defend against the attack, which contributes to a worrisome desensitization to evil acts that were once largely considered taboo except by the most depraved. In 2022, **33 percent** of shooting incidents involved a discernable element of premeditation.

AMBUSH-STYLE ATTACKS

There were **89** ambush-style incidents in which officers were shot without any warning or opportunity to defend themselves, including several pre-planned assassinations. In many cases, officers were shot before they could exit their vehicles after an initial traffic stop or upon arrival at the scene of an incident. In all, **126** law enforcement officers were shot in ambush-style attacks, of whom **32** died.

Of the total number of officers who were ambushed, **25.4 percent** died of their injuries, compared to **14.6 percent** of officers shot under other circumstances, making ambush-style attacks more lethal to targeted officers.

Examples of ambush-style attacks include the following:

- Deputies responding to a 911 call arrived on the scene only to be met with gunfire. A shooter from inside the home managed to hit one deputy.
- An officer responded to a call for service about a theft; when he arrived and exited his vehicle, he was hit with a hail of gunfire and struck multiple times.
- Officers serving a search warrant at a residence were shot at by a man inside the home after they announced themselves. A standoff ensued and gunfire was exchanged over the next few hours, with one officer being struck in the vest.

CALCULATED ATTACKS

Similar to ambush-style attacks, there were **52** incidents in which offenders acted in a calculated and premeditated manner to shoot officers in the performance of their duties. These attacks differ only slightly from the more brazen ambush-style attacks in that officers in these situations *may* have had some reason to anticipate a threat. In all, **70** officers were shot in calculated attacks; **four** those officers were killed.

Examples of calculated attacks include the following:

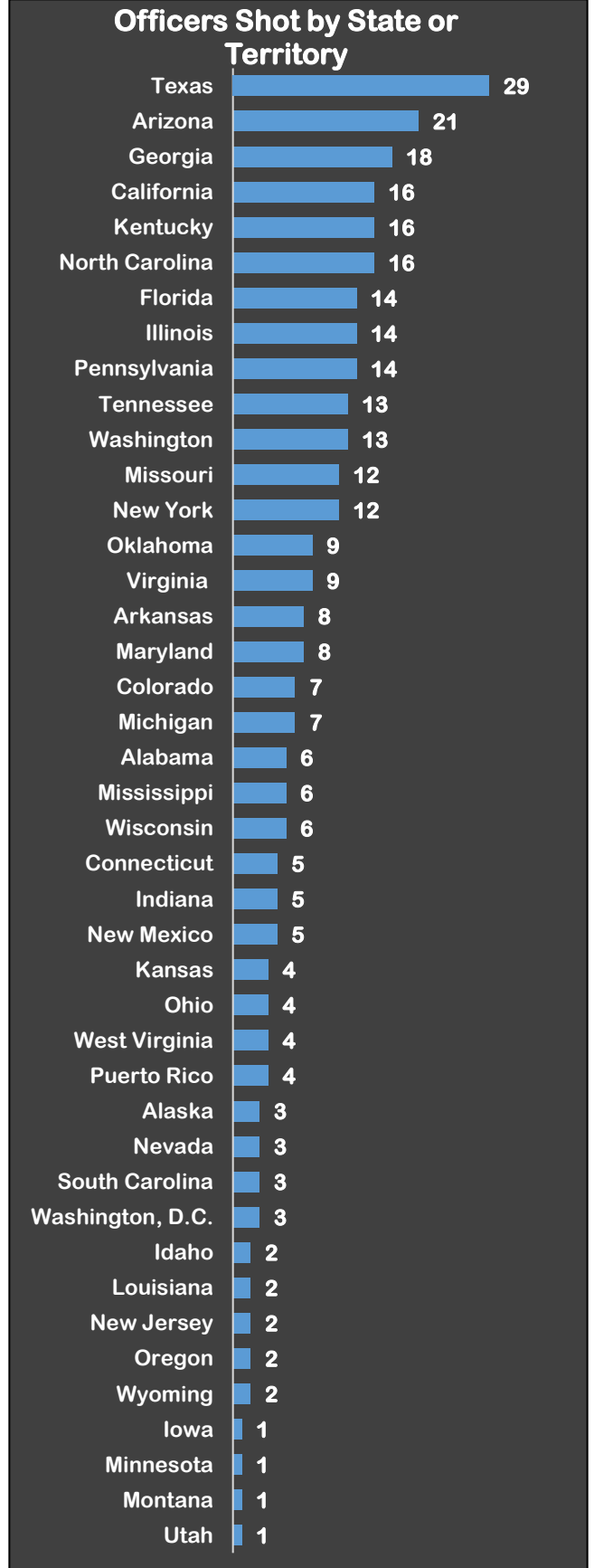
- Officers responding to a call for service involving shots being fired arrived to find the suspect barricaded in the home. At one point, the suspect began firing at officers, striking one officer in the chest.
- Following a 911 call to report a domestic abuse incident, the suspect left the apartment and headed into the woods with multiple firearms. After the officers arrived at the scene, they entered the woods with a K9 unit to search for the suspect, who initiated a shootout resulting in the death of the suspect.
- Officers were serving a search warrant. The detectives approached the apartment, identified themselves, and asked to enter. They waited an extended period of time with no response before forcing entry into the apartment. The suspect was lying in wait inside and opened fire as the detectives entered the apartment. Two officers were struck, and one of them was killed.

BULLET-RESISTANT VESTS

At least **34** officers were protected from gunshots that struck a protective ballistic vest. The actual number may be higher, but this element is not consistently apparent from news reporting.

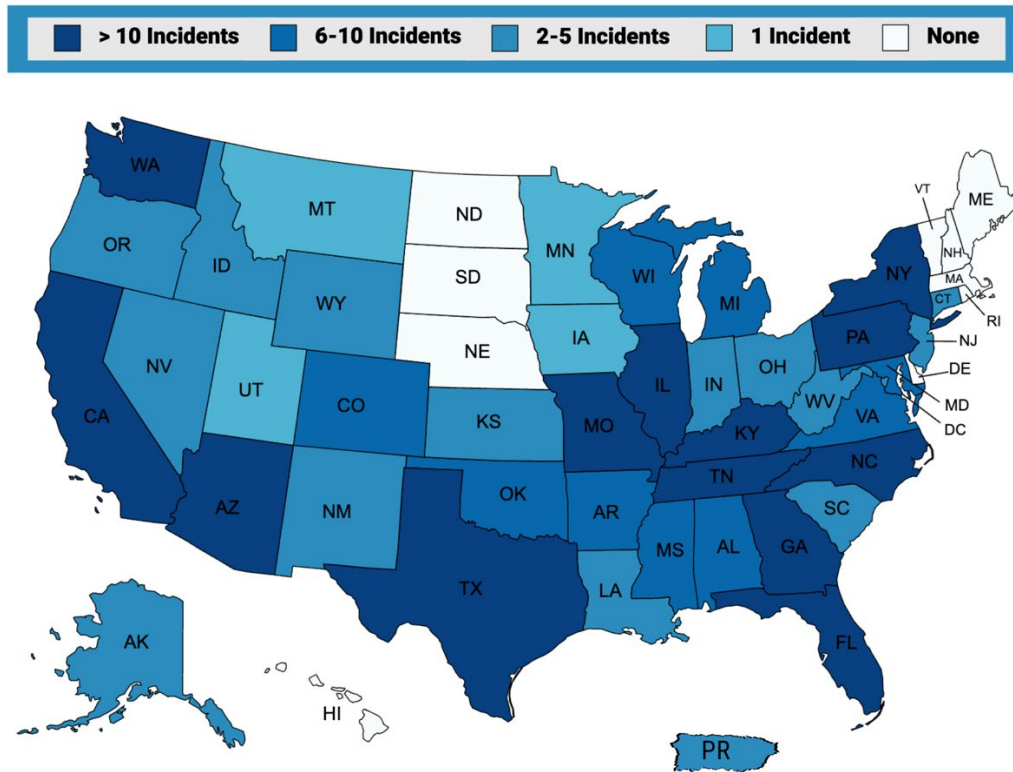
INCIDENT DATA BY STATE

State or territory	Shooting incidents	Officers shot	Number survived	Number killed
<i>Each asterisk (*) equals one officer who was shot prior to 2022 but succumbed to that gunshot wound in 2022.</i>				
Alabama	5	6	5	1
Alaska	3	3	3	0
Arizona	11	21	18	3
Arkansas	7	8	5	3
California	15	16	11	5
Colorado	7	7	5	2
Connecticut	3	5	3	2
Florida	14	14	11	3
Georgia	16	18	15	3
Idaho	1	2	2	0
Illinois	12	14	14	0
Indiana	5	5	3	2
Iowa	1	1	1	0
Kansas	2	4	4	0
Kentucky	10	16	12	4
Louisiana	2	2	2	1*
Maryland	7	8	7	1
Michigan	6	7	6	2*
Minnesota	1	1	1	0
Mississippi	5	6	2	4
Missouri	8	12	8	4
Montana	1	1	1	0
Nevada	2	3	2	1
New Jersey	1	2	2	0
New Mexico	4	5	5	0
New York	8	12	9	3
North Carolina	13	16	14	2
Ohio	4	4	3	1
Oklahoma	8	9	8	1
Oregon	2	2	2	0
Pennsylvania	9	14	13	1
Puerto Rico	2	4	3	1
South Carolina	3	3	1	2
Tennessee	13	13	13	0
Texas	22	29	26	4*
Utah	1	1	1	0
Virginia	8	9	7	2
Washington	11	13	10	3
Washington, D.C.	3	3	3	0
West Virginia	3	4	3	1
Wisconsin	6	6	6	0
Wyoming	2	2	2	0
	267	331	272	62***



INCIDENT LOCATION DENSITY MAP

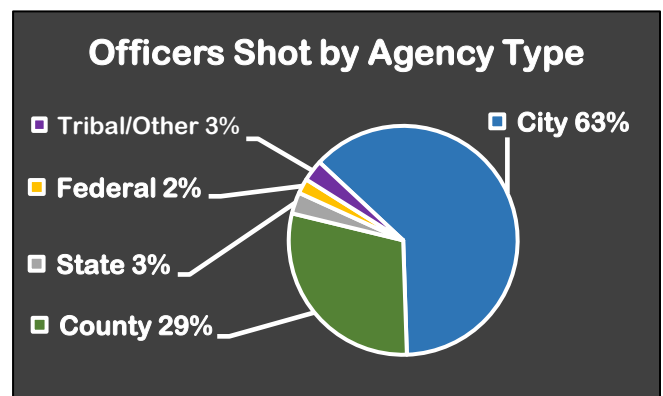
Officer shootings were reported in **39** states, the **District of Columbia**, and **Puerto Rico**. **Texas** had the highest number of officers shot with **29**, followed by **Arizona** with **21** and **Georgia** with **18**. There were no reports of officers shot in **10** states (**Delaware, Hawaii, Maine, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Dakota, and Vermont**) nor in the territories of Guam and American Samoa. (No data are available for the Northern Mariana Islands or the U.S. Virgin Islands.) The map below depicts shooting incident density across the nation.



INCIDENT DATA BY AGENCY TYPE

Two hundred seven of the officers shot in 2022 were members of city or municipal law enforcement agencies. The data and chart below depict incidents based on agency type. *NOTE: Some incidents involved multiple types of agencies.*

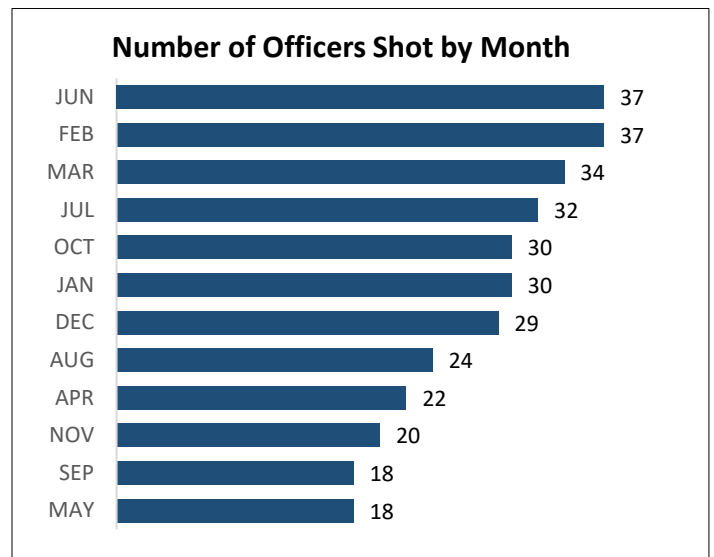
Incidents by Agency Type				
<i>Each asterisk (*) equals one officer who was shot prior to 2022 but succumbed to that gunshot wound in 2022.</i>				
Agency type	Shooting incidents	Officers shot	Number survived	Number killed
City	163	207	176	33**
County	82	97	73	24
State	10	10	9	1
Federal	5	7	6	1
Tribal/other	9	10	8	3*
	269	331	272	62***



INCIDENT DATA BY MONTH

February and **June** saw the highest number of officers shot in 2022 with **37** each, followed by **34** officers shot in **March**.

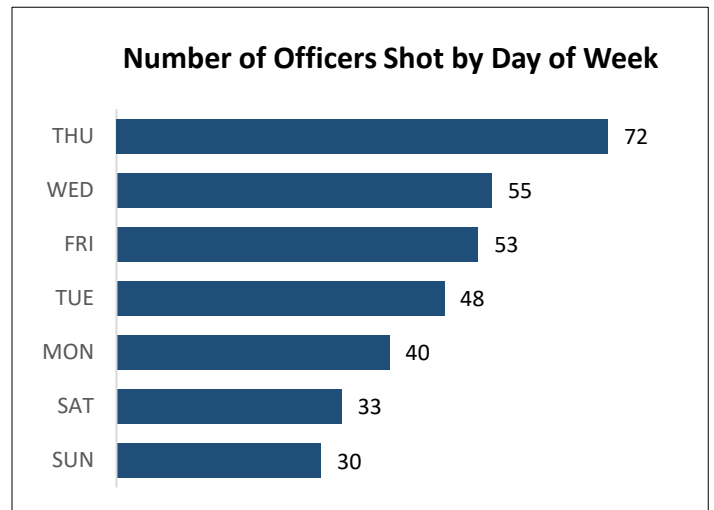
Incident Data by Month				
<i>Each asterisk (*) equals one officer who was shot prior to 2022 but succumbed to that gunshot wound in 2022.</i>				
Month	Shooting incidents	Officers shot	Number survived	Number killed
JAN	24	30	25	5
FEB	26	37	33	5*
MAR	24	34	26	8
APR	19	22	21	1
MAY	16	18	17	2*
JUN	27	37	24	13
JUL	28	32	27	5
AUG	20	24	17	7
SEP	16	18	15	4*
OCT	24	30	25	5
NOV	17	20	19	1
DEC	26	29	23	6
	267	331	272	62***



INCIDENT DATA BY DAY OF WEEK

Thursday was the day of the week that experienced the highest number of officers shot, with **72** officers shot, followed by **Wednesday** (**55**) and **Friday** (**53**). *NOTE: The three officers who were shot prior to 2022 but succumbed to those gunshot wounds in 2022 were not included in the data below.*

Incident Data by Day of Week				
Day	Shooting incidents	Officers shot	Number survived	Number killed
SUN	29	30	23	7
MON	34	40	33	7
TUE	37	48	36	12
WED	46	55	45	10
THU	52	72	56	16
FRI	38	53	48	5
SAT	31	33	31	2
	267	331	272	59



	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	2022	2021	% Change
Total Number of Shooting Incidents	24	26	24	19	16	27	28	20	16	24	17	26	267	271	- 1.5%
Total Number of Officers Shot	30	37	34	22	18	37	32	24	18	30	20	29	331	346	- 4.3%
<i>Number of Officers Survived</i>	25	33	26	21	17	24	27	17	15	25	19	23	272	287	- 1.5%
<i>Number of Officers Killed</i>	5	5*	8	1	2*	13	5	7	4*	5	1	6	62***	64*****	- 3.1%

Each asterisk () represents one officer who was shot prior in one year but succumbed to that gunshot wound in a subsequent year.*

267 Shooting Incidents / 331 Officers Shot



Officer Shot and Wounded (272)



Officer Shot and Killed (62)



** Assaults on law enforcement occurring on-duty during calendar year 2022 with firearms resulting in an officer being wounded or killed. Does not include assaults by means other than firearms due to inconsistent availability of data. Markers represent approximate geographic location.*