



Law Enforcement Officers Shot in the Line of Duty

2018 Year-End Summary



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

JANUARY 2019

This report is compiled from publicly available information. It contains data on law enforcement officers shot in the line of duty, both fatally and non-fatally, 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 to account for differing methodology when comparing these results with 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 or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

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NATIONAL BLUE ALERT NETWORK 2018 - SHOT IN THE LINE OF DUTY

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 Department of Justice to establish a voluntary nationwide system to give authorities an early warning 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 Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) was given the honor of implementing the Act and established the National Blue Alert Network.

The National Blue Alert Network, administered by the COPS Office, 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

The COPS Office uses DOJ Libraries—verified news reporting services to monitor and track shootings of law enforcement officers in the United States and its territories—specifically, shootings in which on-duty officers are wounded or killed. In this way, it hopes to better understand the nature and frequency of incidents that could give rise to the issuance of a Blue Alert; these types of felonious attacks account for nearly all situations where a Blue Alert would be issued. Tracking data does not include assaults by means other than firearms, due to inconsistent availability of data.

2018 NOTABLE STATISTICS

- In calendar year 2018, **251** on-duty law enforcement officers were shot in **204 incidents**, including **32** incidents where multiple officers were shot.
- Of those shot, **51** law enforcement officers died from their injuries and **200** survived.
- There was a **24 percent** increase in the number of law enforcement officers shot and killed during 2018 compared to 2017.
- Sheriffs and county law enforcement officers who were shot died at a higher rate (**28 percent**) than their city/municipal counterparts (**17 percent**).
- Disturbance calls (**72**) and traffic stops (**39**) accounted for more than half of all shooting incidents and resulted in **22** officer deaths.
- **22** law enforcement officers were shot and **5** died as a result of being ambushed.
- Another **11** officers were shot and **3** died in situations where the offender acted without warning in a premeditated/calculated manner taking an officer by surprise.
- Shootings occurred in **39** states and Puerto Rico.
- California had the highest number of shooting incidents at **20**, followed by Texas at **19**.
- The highest number (**27**) of shooting incidents occurred during the month of July.

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2018 - LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS SHOT IN THE LINE OF DUTY

2018 INCIDENT DATA

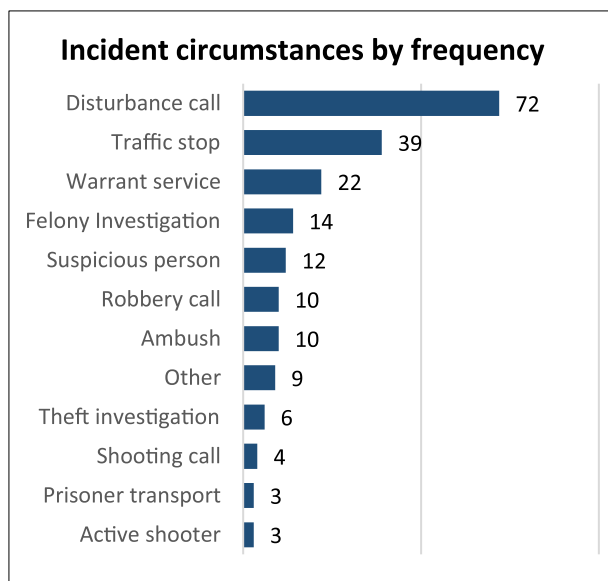
There were **204** incidents in 2018 where law enforcement officers were shot in the line of duty, a **2 percent** increase over the number of incidents in 2017. However, the number of officers shot and killed increased by **24 percent** from 2017.

	2018 Totals	2017 Totals	% Change
Total number of shooting incidents	204	200	+ 2%
Total number of officers shot	251	252	0%
Number of officers shot and survived	200	211	- 5%
Number of officers shot and killed	51	41	+ 24%

INCIDENT DATA BY CIRCUMSTANCE

Disturbance calls and traffic stops accounted for more than half of all shooting incidents. **17** law enforcement officers were shot and **5** died as a result of being ambushed. Another **11** officers were shot and **3** died in situations where the offender acted without warning in a premeditated/calculated manner, taking the officer by surprise—for example, an officer shot in the back while walking back to his patrol car to run the license of a driver he just stopped.

Circumstance at time of incident				
Circumstance	Shooting incidents	Officers shot	Number survived	Number killed
Active shooter	3	6	5	1
Ambush	10	22	17	5
Disturbance call	72	85	68	17
Felony investigation	14	17	11	6
Prisoner transport	3	4	2	2
Robbery call	10	10	9	1
Shooting call	4	4	4	0
Suspicious person	12	12	7	5
Theft investigation	6	10	8	2
Traffic stop	39	41	36	5
Warrant service	22	31	26	5
Other	9	9	7	2
	204	251	200	51



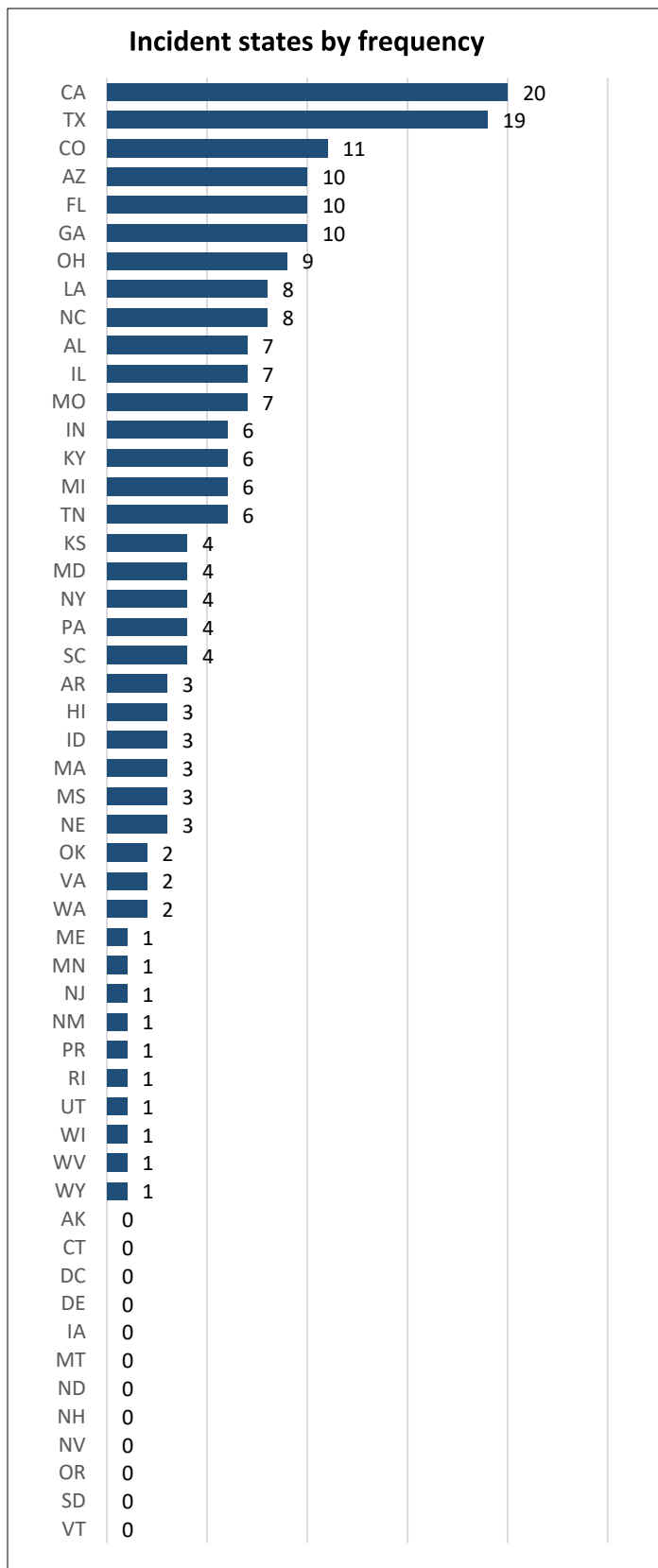
BULLET RESISTANT VESTS

At least **14** officers were protected from gunshots by a protective ballistic vest. The actual number may be higher, but this element is not always apparent from news reporting.

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2018 - LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS SHOT IN THE LINE OF DUTY

State	Shooting incidents	Officers shot	Number survived	Number killed
AK	0	0	0	0
AL	7	7	6	1
AR	3	3	3	0
AZ	10	12	9	3
CA	20	24	20	4
CO	11	14	12	2
CT	0	0	0	0
DC	0	0	0	0
DE	0	0	0	0
FL	10	11	7	4
GA	10	12	8	4
HI	3	3	2	1
IA	0	0	0	0
ID	3	4	4	0
IL	7	8	6	2
IN	6	6	4	2
KS	4	6	3	3
KY	6	6	4	2
LA	8	8	8	0
MA	3	4	2	2
MD	4	6	5	1
ME	1	1	0	1
MI	6	8	7	1
MN	1	2	2	0
MO	7	12	11	1
MS	3	4	2	2
MT	0	0	0	0
NC	8	8	7	1
ND	0	0	0	0
NE	3	3	3	0
NH	0	0	0	0
NJ	1	2	2	0
NM	1	1	1	0
NV	0	0	0	0
NY	4	4	3	1
OH	9	10	8	2
OK	2	2	2	0
OR	0	0	0	0
PA	4	8	7	1
PR	1	1	0	1
RI	1	1	1	0
SC	4	13	10	3
SD	0	0	0	0
TN	6	7	6	1
TX	19	22	19	3
UT	1	1	1	0
VA	2	2	2	0
VT	0	0	0	0
WA	2	2	1	1
WI	1	1	0	1
WV	1	1	1	0
WY	1	1	1	0
	204	251	200	51

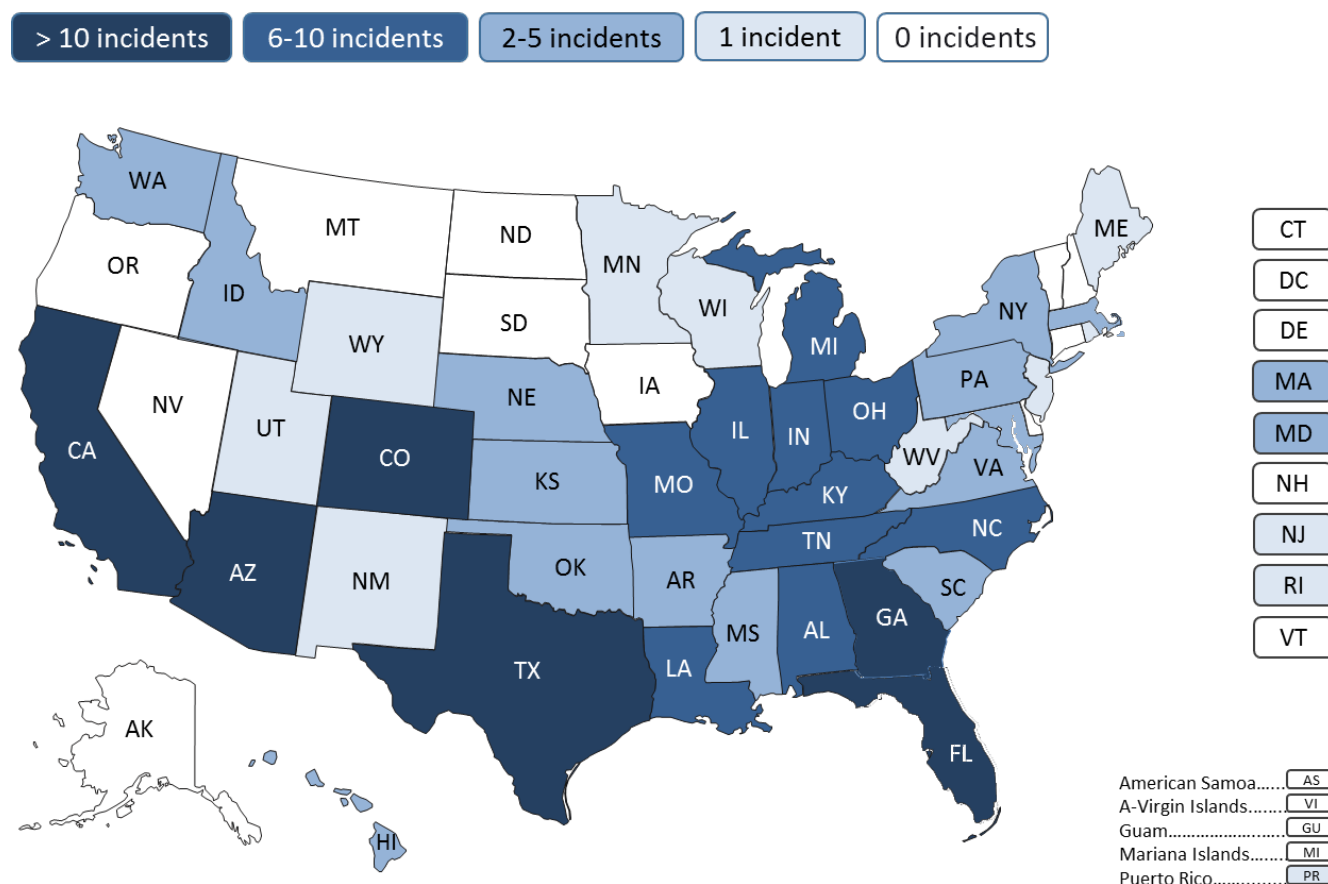


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2018 - LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS SHOT IN THE LINE OF DUTY

INCIDENT LOCATION DENSITY MAP

Officer shootings were reported in **39** states and Puerto Rico. California had the highest number of shooting incidents at **20**, followed by Texas at **19** and Colorado at **11**. No officer shootings were reported in **11** states. The map below depicts shooting incident density across the nation.

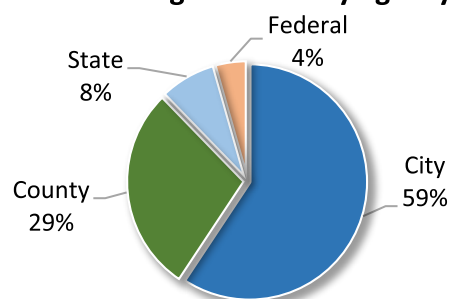


INCIDENT DATA BY AGENCY TYPE

59 percent of all shooting incidents involved city/municipal law enforcement agencies. The following data and chart depict incidents based on agency type. Sheriffs and county law enforcement officers who were shot died at a higher rate (**28 percent**) than their city/municipal counterparts (**17 percent**).

Incidents by agency type				
Agency type	Shooting incidents	Officers shot	Number survived	Number killed
City	121	146	121	25
County	58	76	55	21
State	16	19	16	3
Federal	9	10	8	2
	204	251	200	51

Total shooting incidents by agency type



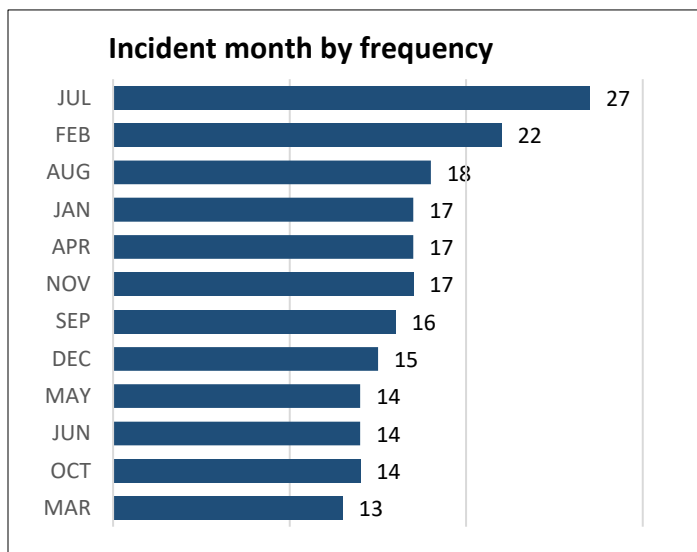
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INCIDENT DATA BY MONTH

The highest number (**27**) of shooting incidents occurred during the month of July. The deadliest month was February, when **8** law enforcement officers died from shooting injuries. There were no shooting fatalities reported during the month of August.

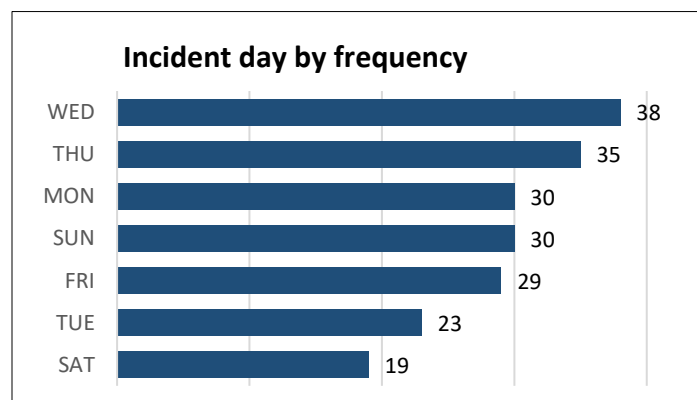
Incident data by month				
Month	Shooting incidents	Officers shot	Number survived	Number killed
JAN	17	24	19	5
FEB	22	29	21	8
MAR	13	17	11	6
APR	17	19	13	6
MAY	14	14	11	3
JUN	14	16	14	2
JUL	27	33	27	6
AUG	18	20	20	0
SEP	16	20	15	5
OCT	14	25	21	4
NOV	17	17	14	3
DEC	15	17	14	3
	204	251	200	51



INCIDENT DATA BY DAY OF WEEK

More shooting incidents occurred on Wednesdays and Thursdays than other days of the week.

Incident data by day of week				
Day	Shooting incidents	Officers shot	Number survived	Number killed
SUN	30	35	30	5
MON	30	40	36	4
TUE	23	30	24	6
WED	38	48	36	12
THU	35	42	31	11
FRI	29	35	28	7
SAT	19	21	15	6
	204	251	200	51



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2018 – LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS SHOT IN THE LINE OF DUTY*

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	2018 Totals	2017 Totals	% Change
Total number of shooting incidents	17	22	13	17	14	14	27	18	16	14	17	15	204	200	+ 2%
Total number of officers shot	24	29	17	19	14	16	33	20	20	25	17	17	251	252	0%
Number of officers shot and survived	19	21	11	13	11	14	27	20	15	21	14	14	200	211	- 5%
Number of officers shot and killed	5	8	6	6	3	2	6	0	5	4	3	3	51	41	+ 24%

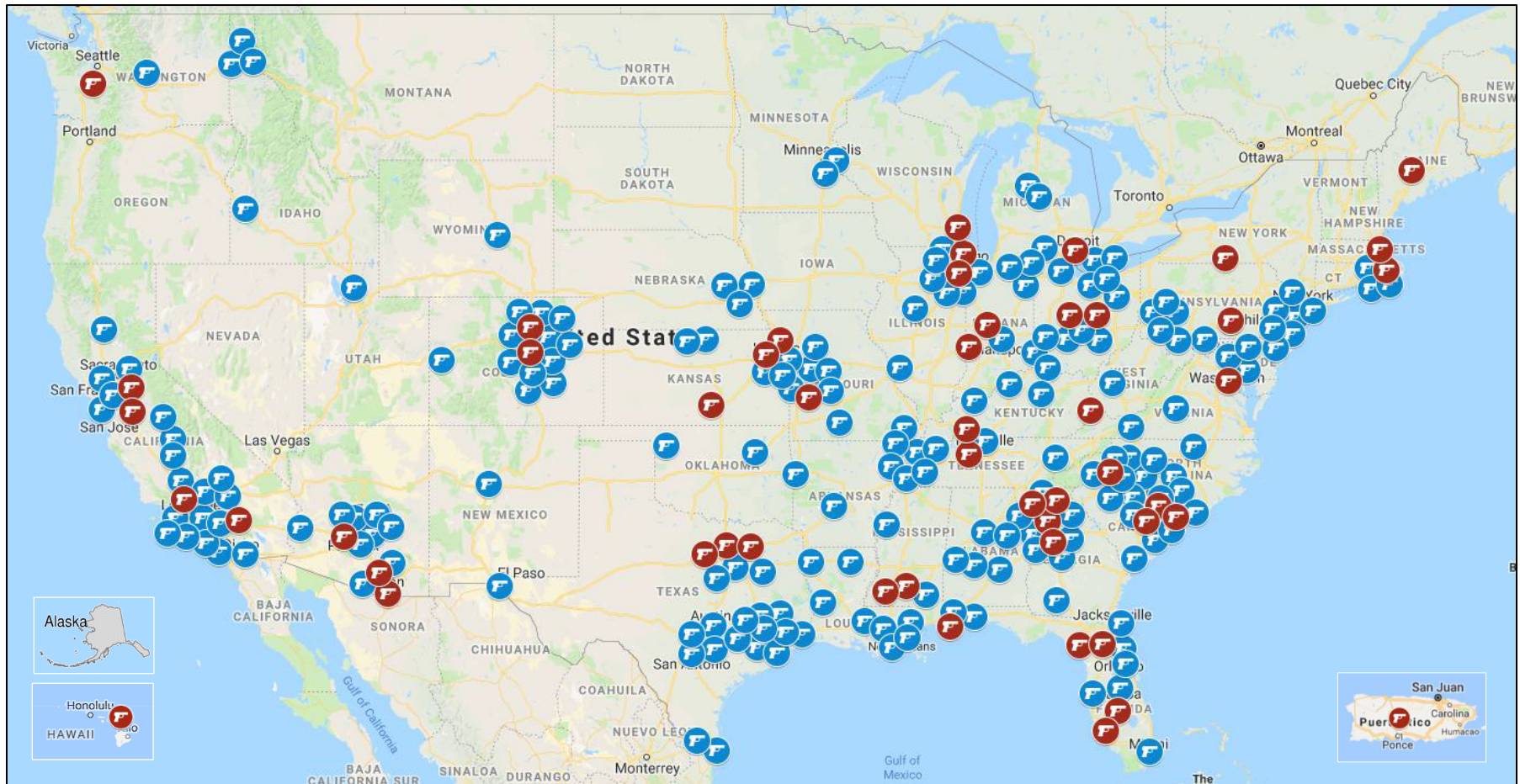
204 Shooting Incidents / 251 Officers Shot



Officer Shot and Wounded (200)



Officer Shot and Killed (51)



* Assaults with firearms on on-duty law enforcement officers resulting in an officer being wounded or killed in calendar year 2018. Does not include assaults by means other than firearms due to inconsistent availability of data. Markers represent approximate geographic location.

This report contains data on law enforcement officers shot in the line of duty, both fatally and non-fatally, for the purpose of better understanding the nature and frequency of incidents that could give rise to the issuance of a Blue Alert. 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.



COPS

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