

Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu National Blue Alert Act

Report to Congress June 2026

United States Department of Justice
Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office)

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I. Purpose

Pursuant to the Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu National Blue Alert Act of 2015, Pub. L. No. 114-12 (Blue Alert Act or Act), the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ or Department) provides this annual report to Congress.

II. Background

The Blue Alert Act was enacted to “establish a national Blue Alert communications network within the Department of Justice to issue Blue Alerts through the initiation, facilitation, and promotion of Blue Alert plans, in coordination with States, units of local government, law enforcement agencies, and other appropriate entities” (34 U.S.C. § 50502).¹ Named for two fallen New York City Police Department officers who were ambushed, the Act is intended to facilitate rapid dissemination of information to law enforcement agencies, the media, and the public that will aid in (1) apprehending violent criminals who have killed or seriously injured a law enforcement officer in the line of duty, (2) finding an officer when they are missing in connection with their official duties, or (3) sharing notice of an imminent and credible threat that an individual intends to cause the serious bodily injury or death of a law enforcement officer.

This Administration is committed to Making America Safe Again. It supports the men and women of law enforcement. They serve on the front line in contributing to making America safe again. Accordingly, officer safety and wellness are top priorities for the DOJ. The Department is committed to implementing the Blue Alert Act to protect the lives of those who bravely serve in law enforcement. The nature of police work is uniquely dangerous, and the DOJ is steadfast in its strong support of federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement officers as they advance public safety.

The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office), because of its extensive work on officer safety and wellness issues, is responsible for overseeing implementation of the Blue Alert Act and supporting the National Blue Alert Network.

¹ Although the legislation does not specifically mention Tribes, in its implementation of the Act the COPS Office is working with tribal law enforcement as well.

III. Coordinator Duties/Activities

The Blue Alert Act requires an annual report to Congress on the activities of the National Blue Alert Coordinator and the effectiveness and status of Blue Alert plans that are in effect or being developed. The COPS Office has dedicated significant time and effort to implementing the Blue Alert Act and reports the following activities:

Designation of national coordinator

The Blue Alert Act requires the Attorney General to assign an existing officer of the DOJ to act as the national coordinator of the Blue Alert communications network and to serve as the nationwide point of contact for the development of a network and regional coordination of Blue Alerts through the network (34 U.S.C. § 50503(a)).

A new director has not yet been appointed to the COPS Office. Currently, Cory D. Randolph, a deputy director in the COPS Office, is serving as the supervisor of COPS Office and filling the role of National Blue Alert Coordinator.

Deputy Director Randolph has served in the COPS Office for more than six years. He oversees the majority of the COPS Office grant portfolio, including the COPS Hiring Program, the School Violence Prevention Program, the Anti-Heroin Task Force, the Anti-Methamphetamine Program, and the Tribal Resource Grant Program. Deputy Director Randolph brings a wealth of criminal justice experience; prior to joining the COPS Office, he worked at other DOJ components, including the Bureau of Justice Assistance. Deputy Director Randolph's commitment to supporting law enforcement is an invaluable contribution to supporting the National Blue Alert Network externally and internally.

The COPS Office Blue Alert team continues to meet regularly to discuss implementation strategies, timelines, and deliverables. Select members of the team have been trained to provide technical assistance to state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies seeking to establish Blue Alert plans or enhance an existing Blue Alert plan.

Establishment of Advisory Group and regular meetings

Pursuant to the Blue Alert Act, the coordinator is required to establish an Advisory Group to assist states, local governments, and other involved entities with initiating, facilitating, and promoting Blue Alert plans (34 U.S.C. § 50503(b)(5)). The act requires the group to have geographically diverse representation and to include the following representatives:

- A law enforcement organization representing rank-and-file officers
- Other law enforcement agencies and public safety communications
- Broadcasters, first responders, dispatchers, and radio station personnel
- Other individuals and organizations the coordinator determines are necessary for the success of the network

As previously reported, the coordinator established an Advisory Group that satisfies each of the statutory requirements. Currently, there are 14 members from the following organizations:

- Fraternal Order of Police (FOP)
- National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO)
- Blue Alert Foundation, Inc.
- International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)
- National Sheriffs' Association (NSA)
- National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF)
- Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO)
- National Fusion Center Association
- National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE)
- National Association of Broadcasters (NAB)
- Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.)
- Fulton County Sheriff's Office
- Indian Country Intelligence Network (ICIN)

The Advisory Group meets on a regular basis (approximately once per quarter). The COPS Office is pleased to have the support and input from the Advisory Group members. To date, Advisory Group members have provided valuable individual feedback to the COPS Office on its guidance and recommendations to states and local governments in developing or enhancing their Blue Alert plans. The COPS Office will add additional Advisory Group members or amend the frequency of meetings, as appropriate, consistent with the discretion granted to the coordinator by the Blue Alert Act.

Development of voluntary guidelines and protocols

The Blue Alert Act requires the coordinator to establish voluntary guidelines for states and local governments to use in developing Blue Alert plans. These must include a list of resources necessary to establish Blue Alert plans, criteria and guidelines for issuing Blue Alerts, guidelines to protect privacy and civil liberties, and guidelines aligned with the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database operated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and any other relevant crime information repository (34 U.S.C. § 50503(b)(2)).

The DOJ has developed voluntary guidelines that address two complementary components of the Blue Alert Act: (1) public alerts and (2) law enforcement–sensitive (LES) alerts. Public alerts directed at media outlets and affected communities provide suspect or missing officer information appropriate for public dissemination. LES alerts directed at affected law enforcement agencies provide sensitive information accessible only to law enforcement personnel. Public and LES alerts are often sent concurrently.

Unlike public Blue Alerts, LES Blue Alerts are limited to situations where an investigating agency needs to share information with other state or law enforcement agencies but has elected not to make suspect information publicly known. LES alerts are used when the investigating agency believes that making

suspect information known publicly could jeopardize the criminal investigation or when the investigating agency believes that public alerting is not prudent given the facts known at the time. LES alerts are also used when there is a known credible threat to law enforcement in a particular jurisdiction and the investigating agency wishes to alert other law enforcement personnel in the affected jurisdictions or geographical area without making the threat known publicly.

To meet its statutory mandate to establish voluntary guidelines, the COPS Office has issued *Blue Alert Guidelines* (https://cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/blue-alert/blue_alert_guidelines.pdf) to provide general information on when a law enforcement agency should issue Blue Alerts consistent with the statutory criteria as set forth in the Blue Alert Act. Blue Alerts may be issued when one of the following sets of threshold criteria are met: (1) death or serious bodily injury of a law enforcement officer in the line of duty, (2) law enforcement officer missing in connection with official duties, or (3) threat to cause death or serious injury to a law enforcement officer.

The COPS Office has also developed *Effective Blue Alert Plans: Guidance and Recommendations* (https://cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/blue-alert/Blue_Alert_Guidance_2018.pdf) to help states and local agencies through the Blue Alert plan development process, to enhance and standardize existing state and local Blue Alert plans, and to promote nationwide compatibility of Blue Alert plans. This comprehensive guidance identifies and addresses eight key elements to consider in developing new or updating existing Blue Alert plans: (1) activation criteria for alerts, (2) requesting alerts, (3) writing effective alerts, (4) geographic scope of alerts, (5) interstate and intrastate coordination of alerts, (6) duration of alerts, (7) officer privacy protection, and (8) suspect apprehension efforts.

The COPS Office has worked closely with partners at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) to establish the most effective way to deliver targeted alerts within the existing alerting infrastructure. The infrastructure for Blue Alerts leverages the existing AMBER Alert system. The COPS Office is currently collaborating with FEMA to develop a concise resource video to be published on the COPS Office website, featuring streamlined flowcharts developed jointly by FEMA and the COPS Office to clearly illustrate how alerts are initiated, coordinated, and disseminated. By combining visual guidance with consistent messaging, the resource is intended to provide clear, actionable direction and promote effective, standardized implementation across jurisdictions.

Additionally, the COPS Office will also continue to work with law enforcement stakeholders and Advisory Group members to increase the effectiveness of its guidance.

Information repositories and delivery of technical assistance

Since October 2016, the COPS Office has maintained a dedicated web page on our website at <https://cops.usdoj.gov/bluealert> to promote Blue Alerts and provide educational materials. This National Blue Alert Network web page serves as a center for resources including the following:

- Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu National Blue Alert Act of 2015
- Blue Alert map indicating those states with Blue Alert plans
- *Blue Alert Guidelines*
- National Blue Alert Network fact sheet
- Blue Alert Legislation compendium
- State Blue Alert officials directory (public contact information)
- Information on how to access our secure controlled-access information-sharing platform and who is eligible to use it

Since January 2017, the COPS Office has provided a secure web-based data repository maintained on the FBI Law Enforcement Enterprise Portal (LEEP) that provides controlled access to states, local governments, law enforcement agencies, and other qualified stakeholders as determined by the coordinator. Individuals with existing LEEP or LEO.gov accounts can access the National Blue Alert Network via <https://cops.usdoj.gov/bluealert> on the JusticeConnect platform. The National Blue Alert Network provides curated information that may not be appropriate for public dissemination, including the following:

- State Blue Alert officials directory (24-hour emergency contact information)
- National Blue Alert Network PowerPoint presentation
- *Effective Blue Alert Plans: Guidance and Recommendations*
- Sample Blue Alert policies

This resource is presently undergoing maintenance. The COPS Office is currently working to update this resource, and it will be reopened and available again shortly.

The COPS Office will continue to enhance the National Blue Alert Network web page and the JusticeConnect Network with updated and new information on a regular basis.

Notably, the Blue Alert Act prohibits the coordinator from lobbying any state officer regarding the funding or implementation of a Blue Alert plan (34 U.S.C. § 50503(e)(2)). The COPS Office does offer free informational resources and technical assistance to any state or local agency wishing to establish or modify its Blue Alert plans. Upon request by the state or local agency, trained COPS Office Blue Alert team members will review Blue Alert plans and provide feedback to ensure compliance with the voluntary guidelines and protocols.

Engagement with stakeholders

The COPS Office maintains active partnerships with various stakeholders representing law enforcement and emergency communications agencies to administer and expand the National Blue Alert Network. Stakeholder organizations play a key role in ensuring that the COPS Office is aware of relevant issues affecting officer safety and alerting technologies. The COPS Office will continue to work with stakeholders individually and collectively to develop and enhance our National Blue Alert strategy. We will also identify additional stakeholders as needed. The COPS Office's reach is further amplified by its work with the Advisory Group, which is composed of members from key stakeholder organizations.

Cooperation with other federal agencies

The Act requires the coordinator to cooperate with the FCC, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), and other DOJ offices as appropriate (34 U.S.C. § 50503(d)). The COPS Office will continue to work with its federal partners and is confident that under this Administration there will be seamless coordination and working relationships.

The FCC oversees the national Emergency Alert System (EAS) used to deliver important emergency information, such as AMBER alerts and weather information targeted to specific areas. The FCC plays a key role in alerting, as it establishes technical standards, activation procedures, and testing protocols. The FCC has sole authority to create the fixed three-letter EAS event codes used to define alerts and their corresponding actions by broadcasters, cable system operators, wireless carriers, and other parties responsible for alerting the public. On December 14, 2017, the FCC voted unanimously to approve the creation of a special three-letter EAS event code to be used by alerting authorities when issuing Blue Alerts: BLU. The new FCC rule constituted a major advancement in alerting capabilities and will benefit all 50 states and all U.S. territories, including Tribal lands. The rule took effect in two phases: The use of the BLU event code for alerts issued via television and radio went into effect on January 18, 2019, and the use of BLU for Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) became effective on November 29, 2019.

In tandem with the FCC's role in alerting, the DHS's FEMA is responsible for maintaining and operating the national Integrated Public Alerts and Warning System (IPAWS). To ensure that alerting capabilities keep up with current and emerging technologies, FEMA partners with various stakeholders from the public and private sectors representing broadcasting, mobile device manufacturers, and other interested industries. States and many jurisdictions rely on IPAWS to use EAS and Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) to alert the public. IPAWS allows alerting authorities to write their own emergency alerts using commercially available software applications approved by FEMA and compliant with common alerting protocols. Alerts are authenticated and delivered simultaneously through multiple communication pathways to quickly reach the public.

The COPS Office will continue its ongoing coordination efforts with FEMA to advance the integration of Blue Alert Plans into IPAWS. As stated above, the COPS Office is working with FEMA to develop a concise resource video for the COPS Office website, featuring streamlined flowcharts from both agencies that outline the Blue Alert process. Because Blue Alerts rely on the AMBER Alert infrastructure, the video will

provide coordinated, clear guidance to help law enforcement agencies understand how alerts are initiated, coordinated, and disseminated. The COPS Office will also continue to seek consultation with and ongoing advice from our federal partners. We will also identify new federal partners as needed.

Promotion of the Blue Alert Act

The Blue Alert statute prohibits the coordinator from conducting any official travel or hosting a conference for the sole purpose of implementing the Blue Alert Act (34 U.S.C. § 50503(e)(1) and (3)). These restrictions have not prevented the COPS Office from promoting the Blue Alert Act, and we have undertaken a number of measures to raise awareness of the Blue Alert Act.

Beginning in the first administration of President Trump, and continuing during this reporting period, the National Blue Alert Coordinator set forth a “battle plan” to target states that had not yet adopted Blue Alert plans or systems. COPS Office staff partnered with U.S. Attorneys’ Offices in the affected states to identify select groups of law enforcement stakeholders who could assist with information sharing regarding the benefits of Blue Alerts and the resources of the National Blue Alert Network. The results led to the creation of working coalitions of concerned stakeholders in the targeted states. Many of these coalitions have gone on to promote Blue Alert legislation and other actions leading to the adoption of Blue Alert plans or systems.

The DOJ has also promoted awareness of the Blue Alert Act at various national law enforcement conferences, including the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Major Cities Chiefs Association, the National Sheriffs’ Association, and the Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies (ASCI). These conferences enable outreach to tens of thousands of law enforcement officers and agencies. The Department also promoted awareness of the Blue Alert Act during trainings conducted by the COPS Office at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) at the Department of Homeland Security Leadership Academy. The Department has also responded to requests from various local law enforcement agencies for additional information, technical assistance, and resources, offering stakeholders a roadmap for establishing Blue Alert plans and examples of existing Blue Alert legislation.

The COPS Office continues to monitor state legislative activity toward enactment of Blue Alert legislation. There are no new states that have enacted Blue Alert legislation this reporting period.

Coordination with United States Attorneys’ Offices

The COPS Office will continue to expand its partnerships with U.S. Attorneys’ Offices throughout the nation to promote the National Blue Alert Network. COPS Office staff share information with law enforcement coordinators (LECs) about issues affecting officer safety and Blue Alert–related news. The Executive Office for United States Attorneys has been instrumental in facilitating coordination between the COPS Office and LECs.

IV. Blue Alerts Issued

There are six known instances of Blue Alerts issued during this reporting period.

Alabama

1. **July 2025, Scottsboro, AL:** An officer responded to a domestic incident. The suspect fled the scene and led officers on a police chase ending in a shootout. One officer was wounded, and the suspect escaped. The Alabama Law Enforcement Agency issued a Blue Alert. After a 20-hour manhunt, the suspect was arrested. The wounded officer sustained non-life-threatening injuries and was reported to be in stable condition.

Georgia

2. **September 2025, McCaysville, GA:** An officer responded to a suspicious person report. After the officer arrived, the suspect shot the officer, injuring him, and fled the scene. A Blue Alert was issued, and the suspect was located and arrested the following day. Fortunately, the officer's injuries were not life-threatening and he was discharged from the hospital after three days to continue his recovery.

Missouri

3. **June 2025, Lee's Summit, MO:** An officer was shot while responding to a domestic disturbance, prompting the Missouri State Highway Patrol to issue a Blue Alert. The suspect was tracked nearly 300 miles to Kansa, and, with the coordination of Kansas law enforcement, arrested there without incident. The officer was hospitalized and is expected to make a full recovery.

North Carolina

4. **October 2025, Vanceboro, NC:** A suspect allegedly murdered his grandmother before setting fire to her house. The suspect was located later by a deputy who approached the suspect, whereupon the suspect stabbed them with a knife. The suspect fled, activating a statewide Blue Alert. After a manhunt of more than two months, the suspect was located and taken into custody, where he faces multiple charges, including murder and assault of a law enforcement officer. The stabbed deputy has thankfully since recovered and returned to duty.

Texas

5. **July 2025, Alvarado, TX:** A suspect attacked a detention center, shooting and wounding an officer in the process. Afterwards, the suspect fled the scene, and the Texas Department of Public Safety issued a Blue Alert. The suspect was located and arrested in North Dallas. Thankfully, the wounded officer's injuries were not life-threatening.
6. **November 2025, Jacksonville, TX:** An officer approached a suspect's home attempting to arrest him for outstanding warrants related to illegal firearm possession. The officer was fired upon by the suspect, during which her K-9 unit was injured by gunfire. While attempting to flee, the

suspect continued firing at the officer, striking her twice. Before backup arrived, the suspect fled, while both the officer and her K-9 unit were taken in for medical treatment. A Blue Alert was issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety. After a three-day manhunt, a joint group of law enforcement agencies located the suspect and successfully took him into custody. The suspect has been charged with attempted murder of a police officer. Thankfully, the officer's injuries were not life-threatening and she was treated successfully. The K-9 was also expected to make a full recovery after being airlifted to a veterinarian.

V. Effectiveness and Status of Blue Alert Plans

In addition to reporting on the activities of the coordinator, the Blue Alert Act also requires the annual report to Congress to include the effectiveness and status of Blue Alert plans (34 U.S.C. § 50503(f)). The effectiveness of existing Blue Alert plans is difficult to gauge, partly because each state develops and administers its own plan. The COPS Office is not yet aware that any of the states with Blue Alert plans have conducted research into their effectiveness.

As previously reported, the COPS Office has made direct outreach calls to all 50 states and all six territories, both the 38 states that operate Blue Alert systems and the 18 states and territories that currently do not. The COPS Office is currently working to formalize a protocol for outreach to jurisdictions that issue Blue Alerts in order to surface best practices and any lessons learned.

As previously reported, the COPS Office has also verified which states have Blue Alert plans and the extent to which those plans comport with the voluntary guidelines. We have secured copies of Blue Alert plans and related materials such as program overviews, activation plans, legislation, and brochures from states that currently have Blue Alert plans.

To facilitate analysis of existing Blue Alert plans, the COPS Office has a legislation compendium containing the specific public laws, statutes, or executive orders that have authorized and created state Blue Alert systems. The following are highlights of the threshold activation criteria from those states. These highlights illustrate clear and significant differences between states that could limit or complicate coordination efforts when a suspect flees, or is thought to have fled, to another jurisdiction:

- 62 percent of plans (24 states) contain provisions for officers missing in the line of duty.
- 16 percent of plans (six states) allow for activation in cases where an officer is threatened with a deadly weapon but not actually injured.
- 70 percent of plans (26 states) require sufficient descriptive information about a suspect to enlist the public's assistance.
- 57 percent of plans (21 states) require a suspect vehicle description or license tag for activation.

Table 1 on page 13 is a quick reference of threshold activation criteria for the featured states as of May 2025. The wide range of Blue Alert activation criteria among states highlights the need for uniform guidance and consistent protocols to enhance coordination and maximize interoperability from one state to another.

The COPS Office continues to examine and document the differences and commonalities between existing Blue Alert processes. Our legislative compendium includes policies, forms, brochures, and promotional material from Blue Alert states that will be useful to states and law enforcement agencies in developing or improving their own Blue Alert systems.

Table 1. Threshold activation criteria for Blue Alert states, May 2026

	AL	AZ	CA	CO	CT	DE	FL	GA	ID	IL	IN	IA	KS	KY	MD	ME	MI	MN	MS	MO	MT	NH	NC	ND	NJ	NY	OH	OK	RI	SC	SD*	TN	TX	UT*	VA	VT*	WA	WV	
OFFICER STATUS																																							
Killed	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Attempted killing										•																													
Serious bodily injury	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Life-threatening injury				•								•																											
Assaulted with deadly weapon		•	•		•		•																	•							•								
Injured																•																							
Missing	•				•		•	•	•		•	•		•		•				•		•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•		•	•		•	
Concerning circumstances	•				•		•				•												•				•									•			
Last location known							•				•			•		•											•												
SUSPECT																																							
Poses serious threat to public	•					•		•		•		•							•																	•		•	
Imminent threat to public or LE		•	•		•		•		•				•	•	•	•	•				•	•		•	•	•		•	•	•	•		•	•		•		•	
Sufficient desc. to enlist public	•				•	•		•	•	•		•		•		•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•			•		•		•	•
Vehicle description or tag		•	•		•		•		•		•		•	•	•	•	•					•	•	•	•	•		•		•			•	•		•		•	•
OTHER																																							
Alert may avert further harm		•	•		•		•																	•		•					•			•					
Alert may hasten apprehension		•	•		•		•				•													•		•					•			•					

*Blue Alert adopted through executive action; no legislation available to include in compendium

VI. Officers Shot in the Line of Duty

In 2025, the COPS office awarded a grant to the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) 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. The FOP uses media monitoring software and general research to analyze publicly available information. Based on this data, the DOJ, in partnership with the FOP, issues a *Report on Officers Shot* that documents all known shooting incidents in a calendar year to better understand the nature and frequency of incidents that could give rise to the issuance of a Blue Alert. The 2025 report contains data on law enforcement officers shot in the line of duty, both fatally and nonfatally. These types of felonious attacks account for nearly all situations where a Blue Alert would be issued. Tracking data do not include assaults by means other than firearms because of inconsistent availability of data.

The COPS Office acknowledges the significant contributions and leadership of the FOP's staff to this report, including National President Patrick Yoes, Executive Director Jim Pasco, Senior Legislative Liaison Tim Richardson, and Legislative Liaisons David Taboh, and Ben Stokes. Highlights of the 2025 report include the following:

2025 summary data

- **Three hundred and forty-seven** law enforcement officers were shot in the line of duty during calendar year 2025 in **268** separate shooting incidents, including **55** incidents where multiple officers were shot.
- A total of **45** law enforcement officers died in 2025 as a result of being shot in the line of duty, with **303** officers surviving.
- **City or municipal** law enforcement officers accounted for **57 percent** of all shooting incidents in 2025.
- **Disturbance calls (74 incidents)** and **Warrant service (38 incidents)** accounted for **42 percent** of all shooting incidents and resulted in **159** officers shot.
- **Ninety** law enforcement officers were shot in **67** separate ambushes. **Twenty-two** of those officers died.
- At least **15** officers were known to have been protected from gunshots that struck a protective ballistic vest.
- Shootings occurred in **46** different states and the District of Columbia. **Texas** had the highest number of officers shot with **47**, followed by **Georgia** with **25** and **Florida** with **21**.
- **October** saw the highest number of officers shot in 2025, with **34**, followed by **33** officers shot in **December**.
- The days of the week that experienced the highest number of officers shot were **Wednesday** with **69**, followed by Thursday with **53**.

VII. Summary of Activities and Projected Next Steps

Notable past developments/activities

The DOJ reported the following developments and activities in its previous reports to Congress:

- Developed a wide variety of Blue Alert informational resources, including the following:
 - National Blue Alert Network fact sheet and PowerPoint presentation
 - Compendium of state Blue Alert legislation and policies
 - Directory of state Blue Alert officials
 - Guidance and recommendations on developing or enhancing Blue Alert plans
- Launched the National Blue Alert Network SIG on the FBI LEEP platform.
- Conducted periodic Advisory Group meetings.
- Coordinated with FCC to create a dedicated Blue Alert EAS event code.
- Identified all 56 state and territorial IPAWS authorizing officials.
- Coordinated with FEMA to integrate Blue Alert plans into IPAWS.
- Visited the FEMA IPAWS lab and trained on alerting equipment and software, including conducting test Blue Alerts.
- Trained selected COPS Office Blue Alert team members to provide technical assistance to states and local agencies.
- Performed immediate outreach to states after officers were killed to offer assistance and facilitate interstate coordination.
- Promoted awareness of the Blue Alert Act at various national law enforcement events, including the annual IACP conference and the National Officer Safety and Wellness Group forum.
- New FCC rules authorizing the use of “BLU,” the Blue Alert EAS event code went into effect on January 18, 2019. The same FCC rule authorized the issuance of Blue Alerts via Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) beginning on November 29, 2019. Together, these rules enable alerting authorities throughout the nation to quickly issue Blue Alerts using existing alerting software and systems.
- Members of the COPS Office Blue Alert team and colleagues from the FCC were awarded the Attorney General’s Award for Outstanding Contributions to Community Partnerships for Public Safety for their outstanding leadership in implementing Blue Alert plans throughout the United States.
- Members of the COPS Office Blue Alert team monitored media reports and other sources to identify possible Blue Alert situations. When practical, team members contacted the affected law enforcement agency to verify facts and offer assistance if needed.
- The COPS Office launched a targeted outreach plan to establish working coalitions in each state without Blue Alert laws and policies. The purpose of the outreach was to inform key stakeholders about the benefits of Blue Alerts and about the resources of the National Blue Alert Network. All efforts were coordinated with U.S. Attorneys’ Offices in the affected states and districts.

- The National Blue Alert Coordinator represented the COPS Office at dozens of conferences and meetings around the country where he promoted the use of Blue Alerts and available resources.
- The Deputy National Blue Alert Coordinator traveled to Des Moines, Iowa, at the request of the Iowa Peace Officers Association to attend a meeting; while there, he was asked to provide information and answer questions from state officials who were considering the adoption of a statewide Blue Alert plan.
- The Deputy National Blue Alert Coordinator presented information about Blue Alerts at the annual training conference for DOJ LECs in Columbia, South Carolina. LECs play a key role in U.S. Attorneys' Offices through their support of state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies in their districts.
- The COPS Office created and framed certificates to present to states that have enacted statewide Blue Alert plans for the benefit of all law enforcement agencies within the state. The presentations of these Blue Alert certificates were placed on hold because of COVID restrictions but has since resumed.
- The COPS Office conducted a nationwide outreach to solicit active, sworn law enforcement officers and deputies to serve a one-year detail as Law Enforcement Fellows to advance the National Blue Alert Network and assist with other COPS Office resources. Following a rigorous, competitive process, the COPS Office selected three fellows: (1) a patrol officer from Pennsylvania, (2) a detective from Colorado, and (3) an undersheriff from Washington. The fellows began their one-year details in April 2021. During their fellowships, each of the fellows contributed greatly to advancing the National Blue Alert Network.
- The COPS Office published a report describing incidents in which law enforcement officers were shot in the line of duty during calendar years 2018 and 2019. These reports were the first of their kind and provided meaningful insights into incidents that could give rise to the issuance of Blue Alerts. The COPS Office has continued to publish yearly summary reports of such incidents.
- In 2019, the COPS Office awarded a \$100,000 Community Policing Development grant to the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) for data collection activities to help identify and document incidents in which law enforcement officers are shot in the line of duty. In 2022, additional grant funding was awarded to extend the grant for one year. The FOP has a long history of research and involvement in the study of attacks on law enforcement. Throughout the reporting period, the FOP reported the status of its activities to the COPS Office and to the National Blue Alert Advisory Group.
- In April 2023, the COPS Office released a solicitation seeking a grantee to produce an educational video to raise awareness of the Blue Alert system and to research, gather, and compile accurate and timely information from credible sources about all reported incidents in which law enforcement are shot in the line of duty throughout the United States, territories, and Tribal lands. The grant had a 24-month period of performance. The grant was awarded to the Fraternal Order of Police via a competitive process.

Notable new developments/activities

The DOJ reports the following new developments and activities in the current reporting period:

- Members of the COPS Office Blue Alert team monitored media reports and other sources to identify possible Blue Alert situations. When practical, team members contacted the affected law enforcement agency to verify facts and offer assistance if needed.
- The National Blue Alert Coordinator attended (virtually and in person) numerous conferences and meetings around the country and, where appropriate, promoted the use of Blue Alerts and resources offered by the COPS Office.
- COPS Office Leadership provided information and awareness about the National Blue Alert program during trainings conducted by the COPS Office at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) at the Department of Homeland Security Leadership Academy.

Upcoming activities

The DOJ plans to undertake the following activities in the coming year in furtherance of its Blue Alert mission:

- Conduct additional outreach to states and territories to raise awareness about the availability of free educational resources and technical assistance.
- Work with the FCC, FEMA, and other federal partners to ensure effective coordination of Blue Alert rules and infrastructure.
- Continue to work with law enforcement stakeholders and Advisory Group members to increase the effectiveness of Blue Alert guidance and recommendations.
- Continue to promote the Blue Alert Network to thousands of officers and agencies at upcoming law enforcement events.
- Identify fiscal needs for further implementation of the Blue Alert Act and make appropriate funding requests.
- Continue with COPS Office Blue Alert team meetings.
- Continue with periodic National Blue Alert Advisory Group meetings.
- Identify and highlight acts of heroism exhibited during a Blue Alert event, showcasing courage and selflessness exhibited in the face of danger. This work will be facilitated in coordination with our grantee, the FOP, in coordination with their 2025 grant award.
- Continue to work with grantee FOP under a grant award to support states participating in the National Blue Alert Network, promote awareness, and educate and inform non-Blue Alert states of the National Blue Alert Network. Specific program goals include the following:
 - Production of a short educational video, factsheets, newsletters, presentations and other items to raise public awareness of the National Blue Alert Network.
 - Provide monthly summaries of Blue Alert activations throughout the country, including detailed accounts of heroism involving Blue Alert events.
 - Collection of information on officers shot in the line of duty.

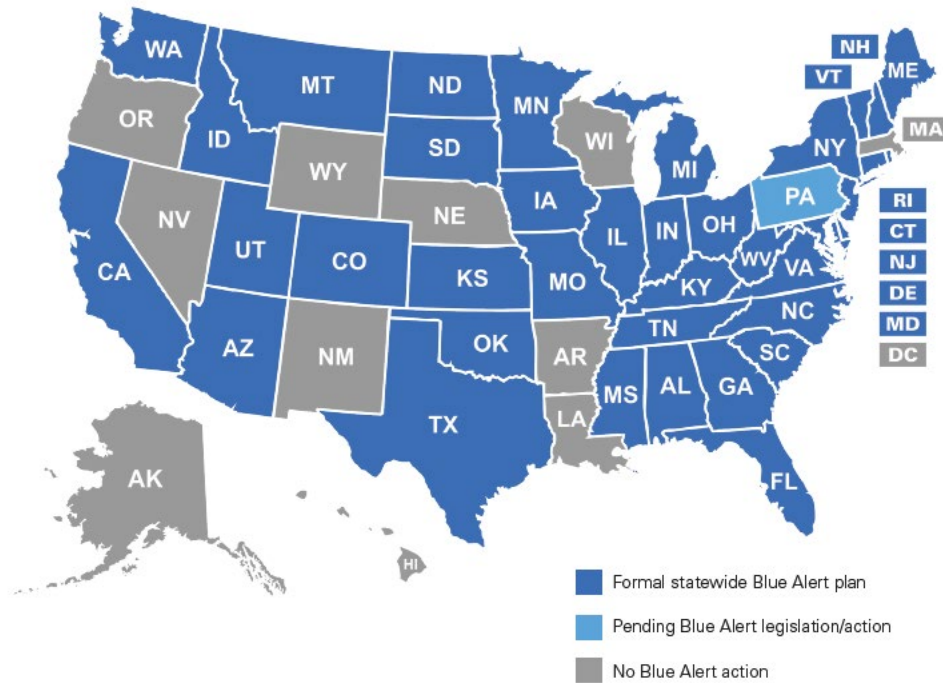
- Preparation of an annual report on officers shot and other materials, both for the advisory group Advisory Group and for public dissemination (based on research of information from credible sources).
- Formalize a protocol for outreach to jurisdictions that issue Blue Alerts to surface best practices and any lessons learned.

VIII. Attachments

- Map of state Blue Alert plans (May 2026)
- Blue Alert web page screen image
- DOJ Blue Alert certificate sample
- Blue Alert fact sheet (April 2026)
- *Officers Shot in the Line of Duty: 2025 Report*

Map of state Blue Alert plans (May 2026)

Blue Alert Network Map



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The **National Blue Alert Network** supports the use and integration of Blue Alert plans throughout the United States in order to rapidly disseminate information to law enforcement agencies, the media and the public to aid in the apprehension of violent criminals who have killed, or seriously injured an officer in the line of duty. Blue Alerts can also be issued when a suspect poses an imminent and credible threat to law enforcement, or when an officer is missing in the line of duty.



The law is named in honor of New York City Police Officers Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu who were killed in an ambush attack on December 20, 2014.

Alert Guidelines



DOJ Blue Alert certificate sample



Blue Alert fact sheet (April 2026)

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



Fact Sheet

www.cops.usdoj.gov



National Blue Alert Network

History

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 establishes a voluntary nationwide system to give police an early warning of threats against police officers and to aid in the apprehension of suspects who have killed or seriously injured an officer. In 2016, the COPS Office was asked to implement the Blue Alert Act and establish a National Blue Alert Network.

Blue Alerts

Blue Alerts provide for rapid dissemination of information to law enforcement agencies, media, and the public about violent 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). The National Blue Alert Network works to encourage, enhance, and integrate Blue Alert plans throughout the United States.

Blue Alert Activation Criteria

Blue Alerts may be issued in any of the following circumstances, provided there is actionable information known about a suspect (e.g., name, physical description, or vehicle description):

- When a law enforcement officer is killed or seriously injured in the line of duty
- When an officer is missing in connection with official duties
- When there is an imminent and credible threat to kill or seriously injure a law enforcement officer



Blue Alert Resources

The COPS Office provides resources and technical assistance to states, law enforcement agencies, and other stakeholders seeking to establish or enhance an existing Blue Alert plan. The National Blue Alert Network also maintains a secure data repository, for law enforcement only, containing many Blue Alert resources collected from around the nation, including examples of legislation, policies, forms, and a directory of state Blue Alert officials.

For more information, visit the COPS Office website at www.cops.usdoj.gov/bluealert, email the COPS Office at BlueAlert@usdoj.gov, or call the COPS Office Response Center at 800-421-6770.

Other Resources

Federal Emergency Management Agency Integrated Public Alerting and Warning System (IPAWS)

<https://www.fema.gov/integrated-public-alert-warning-system>

Federal Communications Commission Emergency Alert System (EAS)

<https://www.fcc.gov/general/emergency-alert-system-eas>

April 2026



NATIONAL
Blue Alert
NETWORK

Law Enforcement Officers Shot in the Line of Duty

2025 Year-End Summary

June 2026



COPS
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U.S. Department of Justice



**NATIONAL FRATERNAL
ORDER OF POLICE**



NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

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 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 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.

The COPS Office acknowledges the contributions of the National FOP's staff to this report, including National President Patrick Yoes, Executive Director Jim Pasco, Senior Legislative Liaison Tim Richardson, and Legislative Liaisons David Taboh and Benjamin Stokes.

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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 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 tasked with implementing the Act and establishing 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 the 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 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 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.

2025 SUMMARY DATA

- **Three hundred and forty-seven** law enforcement officers were shot in the line of duty during calendar year 2025 in **268** separate shooting incidents, including **55** incidents where multiple officers were shot.
- A total of **45** law enforcement officers died in 2025 due to being shot in the line of duty, with **303** officers surviving.
- **City or municipal** law enforcement officers accounted for **57 percent** of all shooting incidents in 2025.
- **Disturbance calls (74 Incidents)** and **Warrant Services (38 Incidents)** accounted for **42 percent** of all shooting incidents and resulted in **159** officers being shot.
- **Ninety** law enforcement officers were shot in **67** ambush-style attacks, **22** of whom died.
- At least **15** officers were known to have been struck in their soft body armor.
- Shootings occurred in **46** different states and the District of Columbia. **Texas** had the highest number of officers shot, with **47**, followed by **Georgia** with **25** and **Florida** with **21**.
- **October** saw the highest number of officers shot in 2025, with **34**, followed by December with **33** officers shot.
- The day of the week that experienced the highest number of officers shot was **Wednesday**, with **69**, followed by **Thursday** with **53**.

2025 INCIDENT DATA

There were **268 incidents** in 2025 where law enforcement officers were shot in the line of duty, a **0.8 percent** increase from the total number of incidents in 2024. The number of officers shot in the line of duty in 2025 increased by **1.5 percent** compared to 2024, while 2024 saw a **9.5 percent** decrease from 2023. The number of officers who died in 2025 as a result of being shot decreased by **10 percent** compared to 2024 and decreased by **2.2 percent** compared to 2023. NOTE: Each (*) represents an officer who died of a wound received in a previous calendar year. Because of the inclusion of such officers, the number of officers killed in a given table may be larger than the sum of the incidents shown.

Table 1. Number of officers shot and killed yearly, 2023–2025

	2025 Totals	2024 Totals	Change since 2024	2023 Totals	Change since 2023
Total number of shooting incidents	268	266	+0.8%	308	-13.0%
Total number of officers shot	347	342	+1.5%	378	-8.2%
Number of officers shot and survived	303	292	+3.4%	332	-9.0%
Number of officers shot and killed	45*	50	-10.0%	46**	-2.2%

Each (*) represents an officer who was shot in a previous year but succumbed to a gunshot wound in 2025.

Incident data by circumstance

Disturbance calls (74 incidents) and **warrant service (38 incidents)** accounted for **42 percent** of all shooting incidents.

Table 2. Incident data by incident type

Incident type	Shooting incidents	Officers shot	Number survived	Number killed
Active shooter	2	4	3	1
Ambush†	14	17	11	6
Disturbance call	74	102	90	12
Felony investigation	13	14	14	0
Robbery call	14	15	15	0
Shooting call	30	39	35	4
Suspicious person	32	39	38	1
Prisoner transport	2	2	1	1
Theft Investigation	4	4	4	0
Traffic stop	30	34	29	5
Warrant service	38	57	47	10
Other	15	20	16	4
TOTAL	268	347	303	45*

*Includes an officer shot in 2016.

† The 14 incidents classified here as “Ambush” differ from the ambush-style attacks discussed on page 3.

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 must therefore remain 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.

Ambush-style attacks

Premeditated ambush-style attacks are particularly disturbing. These types of attacks are carried out with an element of surprise, intended to preempt any chance of defense.

There were **67** ambush-style incidents where 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, **90** law enforcement officers were shot in ambush-style attacks, of whom **22** died. In 2025, **19.3 percent** of shooting incidents were considered ambush-style.

Of the total number of officers who were ambushed, **24.4 percent** died of their injuries, compared to **8.9 percent** of officers shot under other circumstances, making ambush-style attacks far more lethal to targeted officers.

(While the ambushes referenced in the Incident Data by Incident Type chart in the strict sense are a separate incident type, ambush-style attacks are sudden and unsuspected attacks police encounter in the course of routine interactions such as calls for service, traffic stops, or warrant service.)

Examples of ambush-style attacks include the following:

- Officers were entering a home for a domestic situation when the suspect opened fire, striking and killing three officers. After a firefight in which another two officers were shot, the suspect was killed by the officers returning gunfire.
- Officers were eating lunch in a car park when a man ambushed them with a high-powered rifle, injuring one officer and killing another. A third officer was injured when arriving to help. Officers returned fire, killing the suspect.
- Deputies were called to help a domestic violence victim move out when the suspect ambushed the officers at the door, striking and killing one. The suspect was wounded and taken into custody.

Calculated attacks

In 2025, there were **185** incidents where 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 may have had some reason to anticipate a threat. In all, 241 officers were shot in calculated attacks, and 20 of those officers were killed.

Examples of calculated attacks include the following:

- Officers approached the suspect while attempting to serve a warrant, and the suspect fired upon them, striking and killing one officer. The suspect fled but was pursued and later killed in returning gunfire from police.
- Officers were on patrol when they came across an armed man who refused instructions and fired at officers, striking one. Officers returned gunfire, killing the suspect.
- An officer was fatally shot by a prisoner he was transporting, who then fled the scene. The suspect was found and arrested after an extended manhunt.

Soft Body Armor

At least **15** officers were protected from gunshots that struck their soft body armor. The actual number may be higher, but this element is not consistently apparent from news reporting.

Incident data by agency type

Three hundred and thirteen officers shot in 2025 were members of city or county law enforcement agencies. The data and chart below depict incidents based on agency type. (Some incidents involved officers from multiple types of agencies.)

Table 3. Incident data by agency type

Agency type	Shooting incidents	Officers shot	Number survived	Number killed
City	149	194	172	22
County	90	119	101	18
Federal	2	2	2	0
Other	4	5	4	1
State	17	19	16	3
Township	5	7	7	0
Tribal	1	1	1	0
TOTAL	268	347	303	45*

*Includes an officer shot in 2016.

Incident data by month

October saw the highest number of officers shot in 2025, with **34**, followed by **33** officers shot in **December**. **September** saw the lowest number of officers shot at **22**.

Table 4. Incident data by month

Month	Shooting incidents	Officers shot	Number survived	Number killed
January	19	30	28	2
February	23	28	22	6
March	21	26	24	2
April	20	25	23	2
May	22	30	26	4
June	25	28	23	5
July	26	31	26	5
August	20	31	26	5
September	16	22	18	4
October	30	34	31	3
November	22	29	24	5
December	24	33	32	2*
TOTAL	268	347	303	45*

*Includes an officer shot in 2016.

Incident data by state

Shootings occurred in **46** different states and the **District of Columbia**. **Texas** had the highest number of officers shot, with **47**, followed by Georgia with **25** and Florida with **21**. There were no reports of officers shot in a total of **four** states (**Arkansas, North Dakota, Oregon, and Rhode Island**), nor in the territories of Guam, American Samoa, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Table 5. Incident data by state

State	Shooting incidents	Officers shot	Number survived	Number killed
Alabama	4	5	5	0
Alaska	1	1	1	0
American Samoa	0	0	0	0
Arizona	7	10	9	1
Arkansas	0	0	0	0
California	14	15	11	4
Colorado	5	9	9	0
Connecticut	2	3	3	0
Delaware	1	1	0	1
Florida	18	21	18	3
Georgia	21	25	22	3
Guam	0	0	0	0
Hawaii	3	3	2	1
Idaho	1	1	1	0
Illinois	8	11	10	2*
Indiana	7	9	9	0
Iowa	2	3	3	0
Kansas	4	7	4	3
Kentucky	5	6	6	0
Louisiana	9	12	9	3
Maine	1	1	1	0
Maryland	3	3	3	0
Massachusetts	1	1	1	0
Michigan	8	9	9	0
Minnesota	2	2	2	0
Mississippi	6	6	3	3
Missouri	5	6	5	1
Montana	1	1	1	0

*Includes an officer shot in 2016.

State	Shooting incidents	Officers shot	Number survived	Number killed
Nebraska	2	4	4	0
Nevada	1	1	0	1
New Hampshire	1	1	1	0
New Jersey	4	5	4	1
New Mexico	3	4	3	1
New York	9	11	10	1
North Carolina	12	14	12	2
North Dakota	0	0	0	0
Ohio	13	17	15	2
Oklahoma	4	6	6	0
Oregon	0	0	0	0
Pennsylvania	10	18	14	4
Puerto Rico	0	0	0	0
Rhode Island	0	0	0	0
South Carolina	1	2	1	1
South Dakota	1	1	1	0
Tennessee	8	8	8	0
Texas	34	47	46	1
U.S. Virgin Islands	0	0	0	0
Utah	3	5	3	2
Vermont	1	1	0	1
Virginia	12	18	16	2
Washington	2	2	2	0
Washington D.C.	1	3	3	0
West Virginia	1	1	1	0
Wisconsin	5	6	5	1
Wyoming	1	1	1	0
TOTAL	268	347	303	45*

Figure 1. Officers shot by state

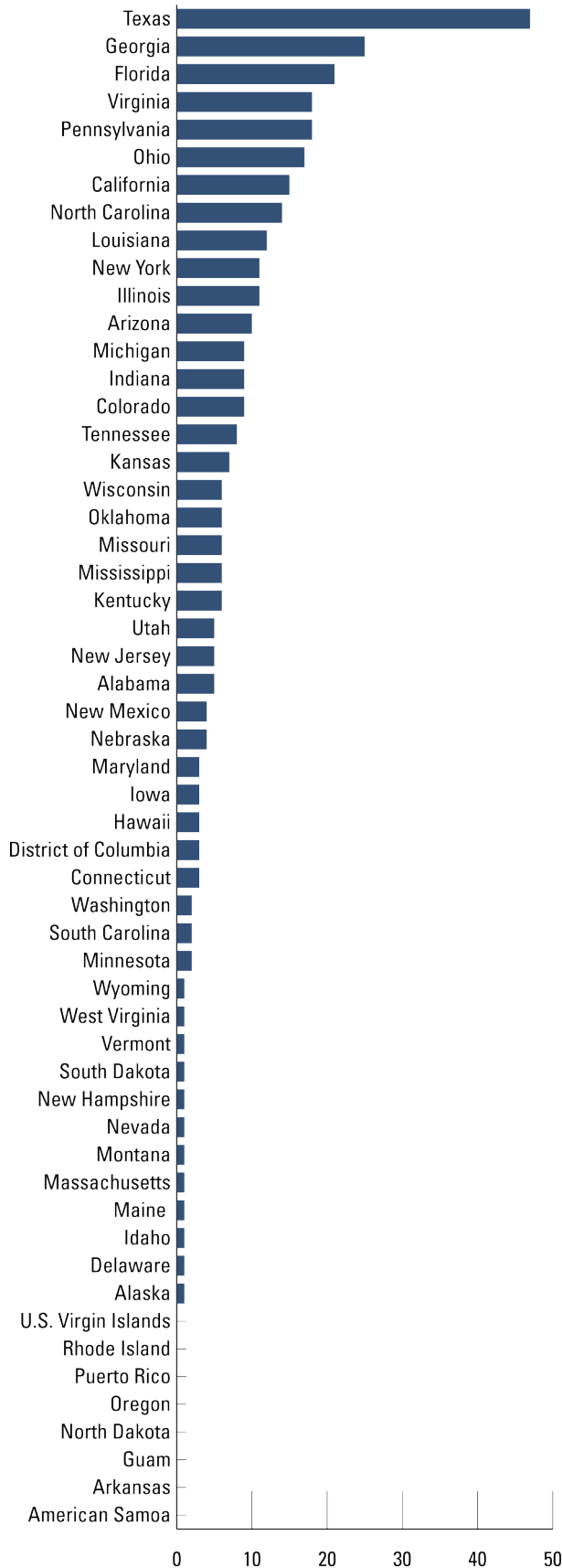


Figure 2. Officers shot per 100,000 population

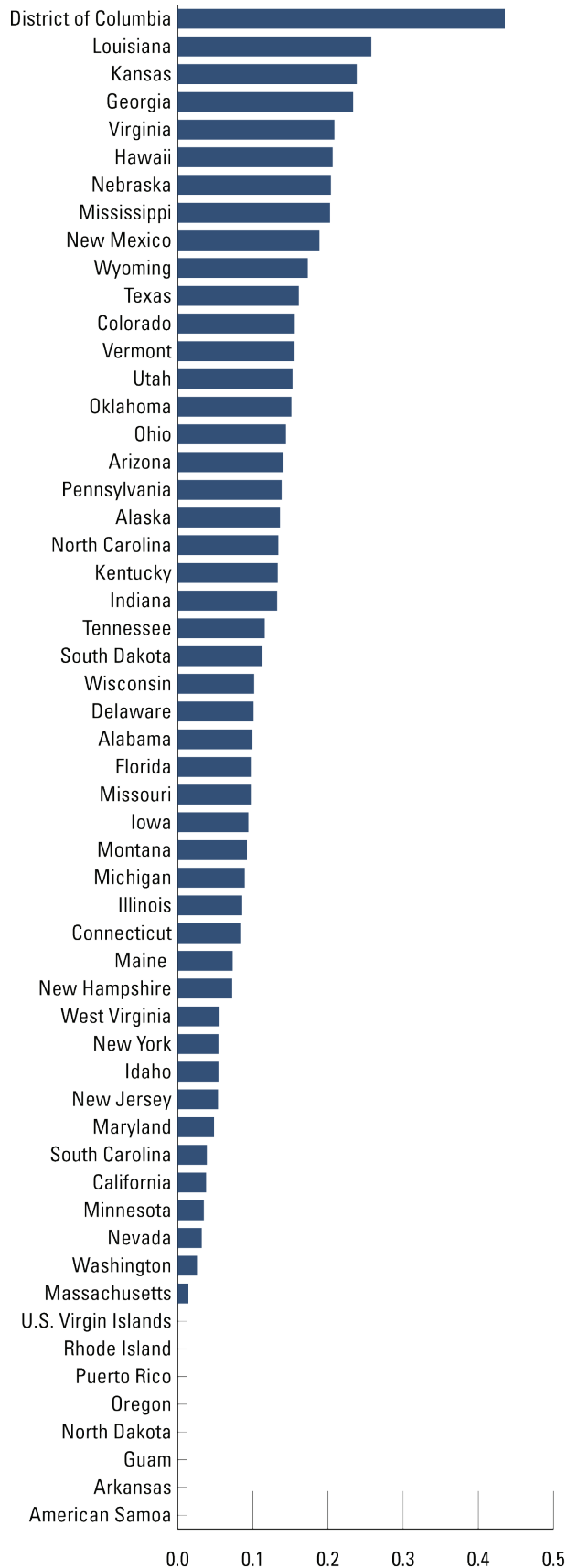
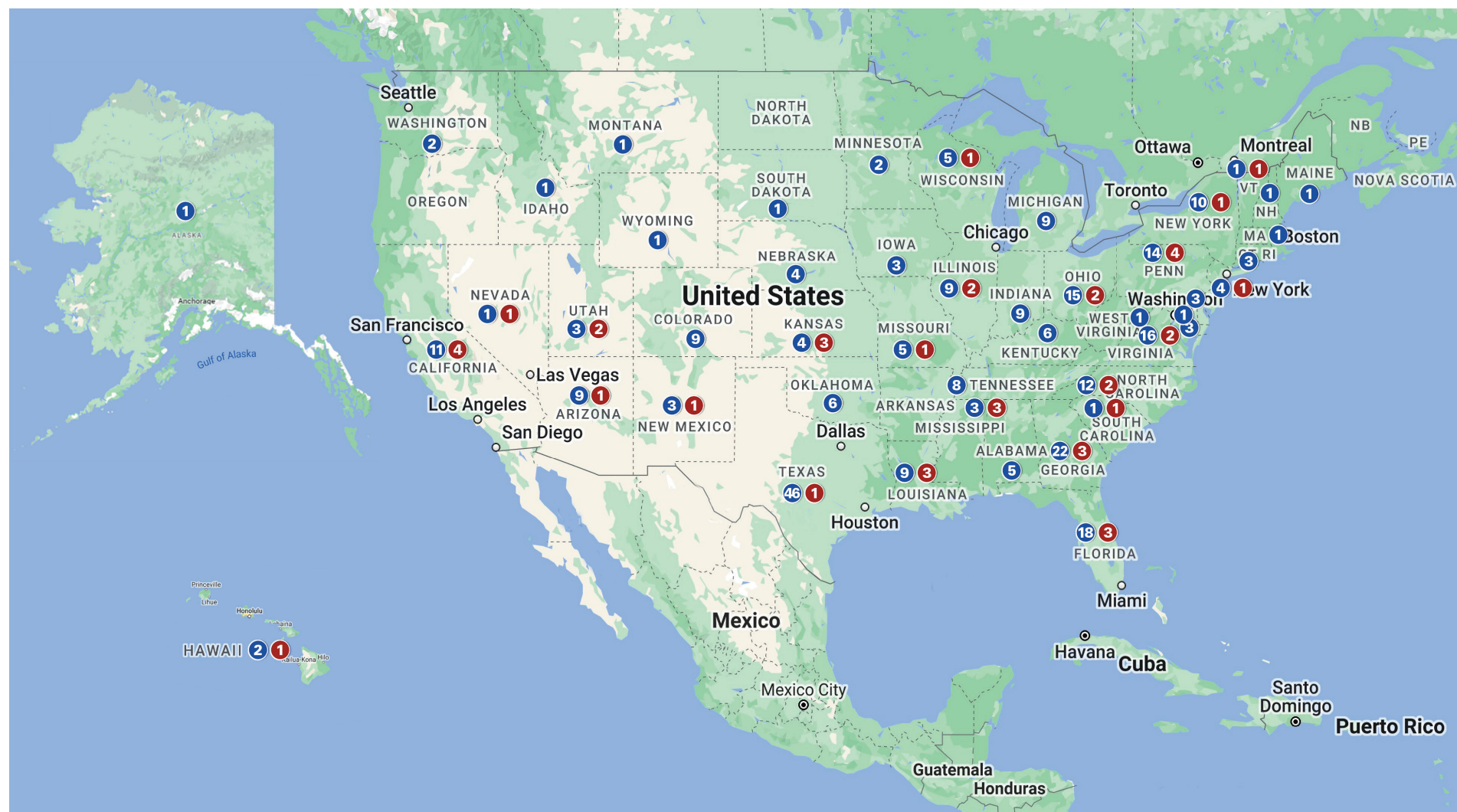


Figure 3. Map of U.S. officer shootings, 2025



347 officers were shot in 268 incidents.

 Officer shot and wounded (303)

 Officer shot and killed (45*)

*Includes an officer shot in 2016.