



126 Law Enforcement Fatalities Nationwide in 2014

Firearms-related fatalities spike 56 percent while ambushes remain the leading cause of felonious deaths

According to preliminary data compiled by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, 126 law enforcement officers died in the line of duty in 2014, a 24 percent increase from 2013, when 102 officers were killed.

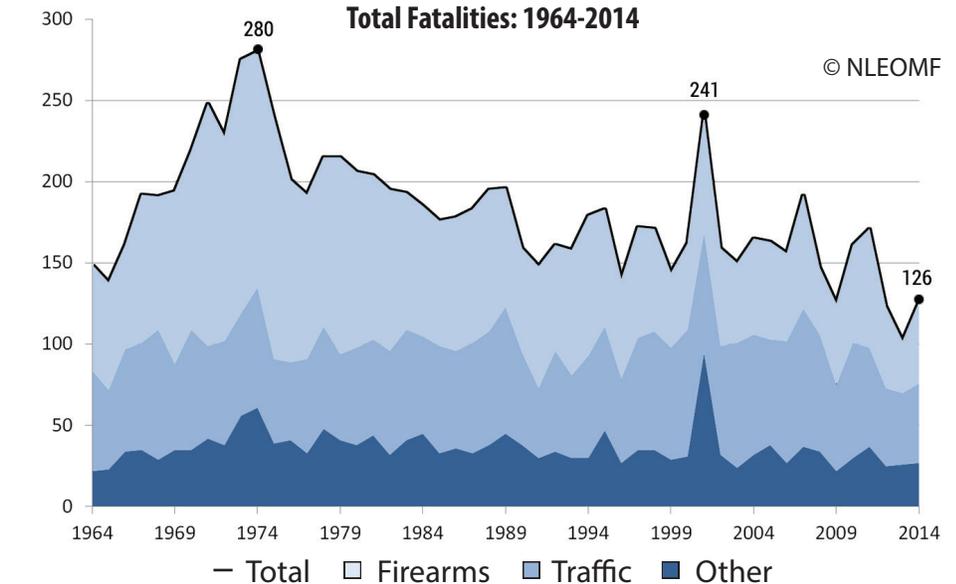
Firearms-related incidents were the leading cause of death among law enforcement officers in 2014. Firearms-related fatalities accounted for 50 deaths, increasing 56 percent from 2013 when 32 officers were killed.

Traffic-related incidents were the second leading cause of officer deaths in 2014, killing 49 officers. Thirty-five officers died in automobile crashes, nine officers were struck and killed outside their vehicle and five officers were killed in motorcycle crashes. Traffic-related fatalities increased 11 percent from 2013 when 44 officers were killed.

Twenty-seven officers died from other causes in 2014 compared to 26 in 2013, a four percent increase.

Job-related illnesses, such as heart attacks, nearly doubled in 2014 with 24

Sixty-two officers were killed in felonious incidents



officer deaths compared to 13 officers in 2013.

Sixty-two officers were killed in felonious incidents, a 40 percent increase from 2013, and 64 officers died as a result of non-felonious incidents, increasing 10 percent.

California led the nation in officer fatalities, losing 14 officers in 2014. Texas followed closely behind with 11 fatalities, while New

York lost nine officers. Florida lost six officers and Georgia lost five officers. Six federal officers, five officers from U.S. territories, two tribal officers, two correctional officers and a military officer were killed in 2014. Twelve states and the District of Columbia did not lose an officer in 2014.

Three of the fallen officers were female. The average age of a fallen officer was 41, with an average of 12 years of service. Each officer left behind two children on average.

RECENTLY FALLEN



Special Police Officer Stephen Petruzzello
Cliffside Park (NJ) Police Department
EOW: 12/29/2014

Special Police Officer Stephen Petruzzello was struck by a vehicle while on foot patrol.



Police Officer Tyler Jacob Stewart
Flagstaff (AZ) Police Department
EOW: 12/27/2014

Police Officer Tyler Jacob Stewart was shot and killed while investigating a domestic violence case.



Corporal Jamel Clagett
Charles County (MD) Sheriff's Office
EOW: 12/22/2014

Corporal Jamel Clagett was killed in a single-vehicle crash.

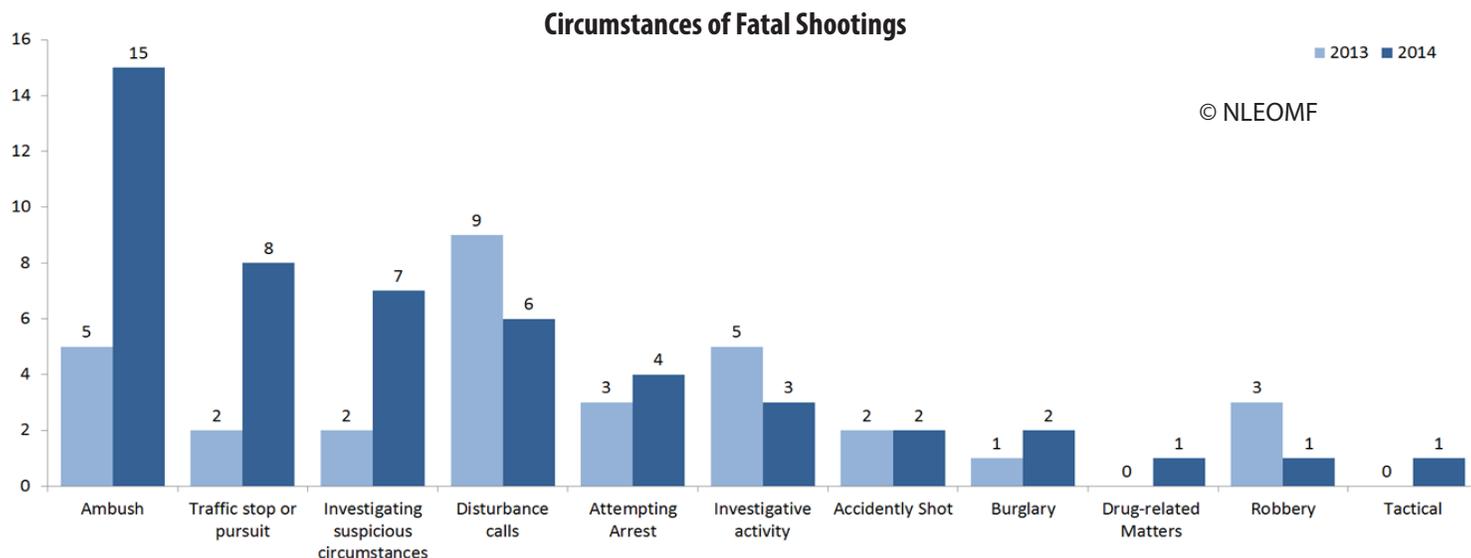
Register to receive Recently Fallen alerts at www.LawMemorial.org/RecentlyFallenAlerts

Firearms-related Fatalities

Firearms-related fatalities increased 56 percent in 2014 with 50 fatalities compared to 32 firearms-related fatalities in 2013.

After increasing dramatically in 2010 and 2011, firearms-related fatalities decreased in 2012 (50) and 2013 (31). Although firearms fatalities increased in 2014, they remain below the decade average (53).

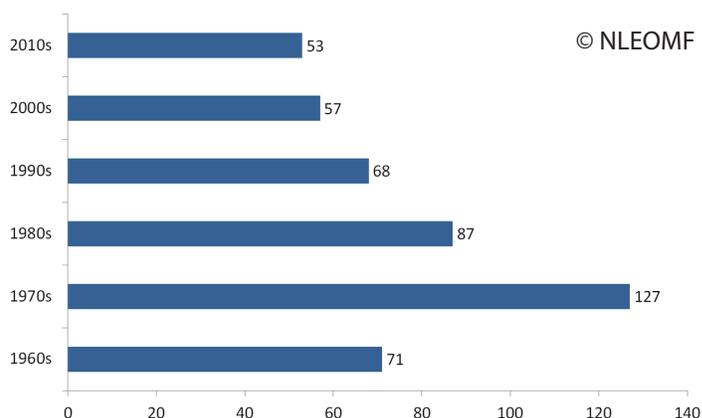
Handguns were the leading type of firearm used in fatal shootings of law enforcement officers in 2014. Of the 50 firearms-related fatalities, 68 percent, or 34 officers, were shot and killed with a handgun. Seven officers were shot and killed with assault weapons; three officers each were shot and killed with a shotgun and a rifle. The type of gun used to kill three officers is currently unknown.



Ambushes were the leading circumstance of officer fatalities in firearms-related deaths. Of the 50 firearms-related fatalities in 2014, fifteen officers were shot and killed in ambush attacks, more than any other circumstance of fatal shootings in 2014. Nine officers were killed during disturbance calls. Eight officers were shot and killed during a traffic stop or pursuit and seven officers were killed while investigating suspicious persons or circumstances in 2014.

Firearms-related fatalities peaked in 1973, when 156 officers were shot and killed. Since then, the average number of officers shot and killed has decreased from 127 per year in the 1970s to 57 per year in the 2000s. The 50 firearms-related fatalities in 2014 are 12 percent lower than the average of 57 per year for the decade spanning 2000-2009.

Average Annual Firearms-related Fatalities by Decade



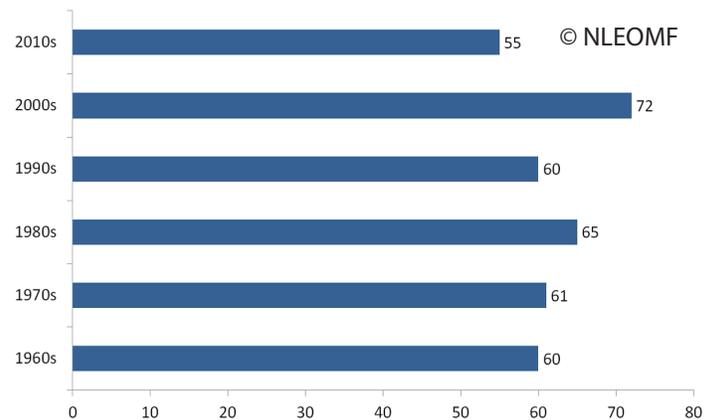
Traffic-related Fatalities

In 2014, forty-nine officers died as a result of traffic-related incidents, a slight increase from 44 traffic-related deaths last year.

Thirty-five officers were killed in automobile crashes—a 25 percent increase—compared to 2013 when 28 officers were killed in automobile crashes. Nine officers were struck and killed outside their vehicles this year, an 18 percent decrease from 2013 when 11 officers were struck and killed. This year, five officers were killed in motorcycle crashes, the same number of officers killed in motorcycle crashes in 2013.

Of the 35 automobile crashes in 2014, fourteen were multiple vehicle crashes, 20 were single-vehicle crashes and one is unknown. Traffic-related fatalities decreased during the previous decade (2000-2009), but since 2011 they have fallen to the lowest levels since the 1950s.

Average Annual Traffic-related Fatalities by Decade



Other Causes of Officer Deaths

Of the 126 officers who died this year, 27 officers died from job-related illnesses and other causes unrelated to traffic or firearms. In 2013, twenty-six officers died as a result of other causes, representing a four percent increase.

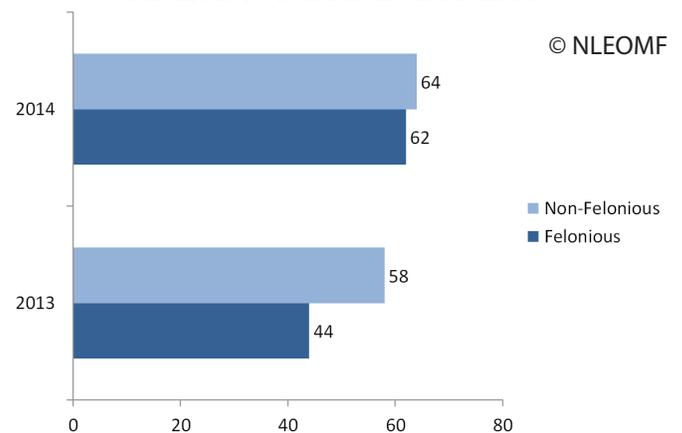
Once again, job-related illnesses were the leading cause of officer fatalities in this category. Twenty-four officers died from job-related illnesses this year, such as heart attacks, compared to 13 in 2013.

In addition to fatalities from job-related illnesses this year, one officer was strangled to death, one officer drowned, and one officer was killed in a fire-related incident.

Felonious and Non-Felonious Fatalities

Sixty-two officers were killed feloniously in 2014, a 41 percent increase from 2013 when 44 officers died as a result of a criminal act. Of the 62 officers feloniously killed this year, 48 were shot and killed; 10 officers were killed in traffic-related incidents and four officers were killed in incidents unrelated to traffic or firearms. Of the ten officers feloniously killed in traffic-related incidents, five were struck, three were killed in automobile crashes, and two were killed in motorcycle crashes. Two officers died as a result of a physical altercation with a suspect, one officer was strangled to death and one officer was killed in a fire-related incident.

Felonious vs. Non-Felonious Fatalities



Sixty-four officers died in non-felonious incidents in 2014, a 10 percent increase from 58 in 2013. Automobile crashes were the leading cause of non-felonious deaths in 2014 with 32 fatalities followed by job-related illnesses, which accounted for 22 officer deaths. Four officers were struck and killed by a vehicle and three officers died in motorcycle crashes. Two officers were inadvertently shot and killed and one officer drowned.

Officer Fatality Data

The deadliest month in 2014 was May with 18 fatalities. February had the fewest fatalities with five deaths.

Friday was the deadliest day of the week for law enforcement officers in 2014, with 23 fatalities, followed by Monday with 21 fatalities. Thursdays had the fewest fatalities with 14 this year.

Six federal officers, five territorial officers, two correctional officers, two tribal officers and a military officer were also killed in the line of duty in 2014. Thirty-eight states lost at least one officer in the line of duty.

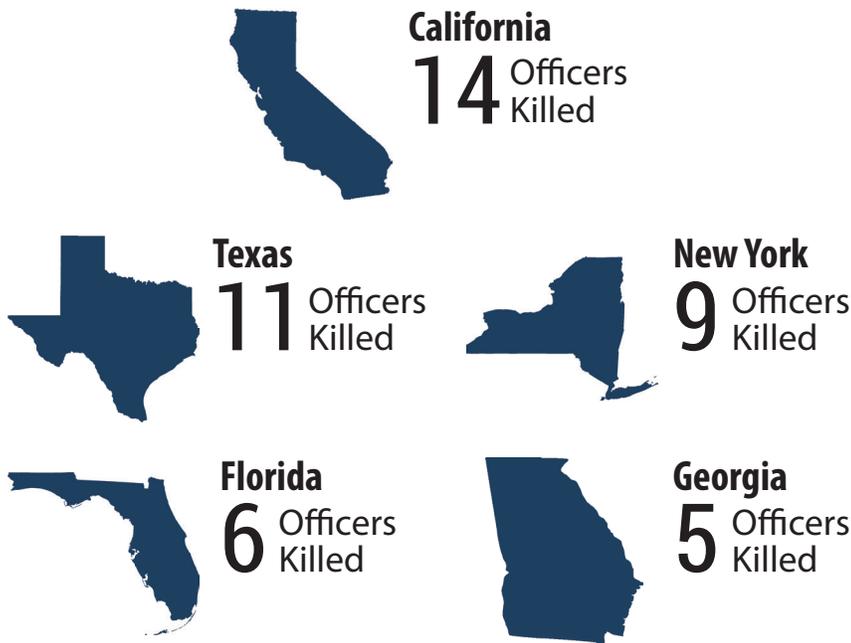
Fatalities by Day of Week

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
18	21	17	15	14	23	17

One date of incident unknown

Five Deadliest States

California led the nation in officer fatalities, losing 14 officers in 2014. Thirty-six percent of the 2014 officer deaths were in these five states. The leading cause of fatalities among these states was gunfire, killing 19 officers. Seventeen officers were killed in traffic-related incidents and nine officers in these five states died as a result of other causes. Fifty-eight percent of officers killed in these five states were killed feloniously.



	Low	Average	High
Age of Officer	22	41	69
Length of Service	1 month	12 years	43 years
Number of Children	0	2	9

Jurisdiction

Municipal	52	Territorial	5
County	47	Tribal	2
State	12	University	1
Federal	6	Military	1

Fatalities by Month

January	February	March
13	5	15
April	May	June
10	18	7
July	August	September
6	6	13
October	November	December
12	12	9