



## **Officers Assaulted and Injured With Firearms, Knives, or Other Cutting Instruments**

The following information concerns duly sworn city, university and college, county, state, federal, and tribal law enforcement officers who were assaulted and injured in the line of duty with firearms, knives, or other cutting instruments in 2017. The law enforcement officers included in this report also met certain other [criteria](#).

Although the FBI's Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted Program has collected aggregate assault data for more than 50 years, the program began collecting more detailed data about assaults with injury more recently. The data collection for these assault incidents is similar to the comprehensive data collected about law enforcement officers feloniously killed in the line of duty. However, the detailed assault with injury data reflect only a subset of the assault incidents reported to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program. The detailed assault data were introduced in the 2013 publication with only 1 year of data. For 2016, selected tables presented 5 years of detailed assault data; however, beginning in 2017, 10 years of detailed assault data are also presented.

### **Overview**

- In 2017, detailed information was received for 102 law enforcement officers who were injured with firearms, knives, or other cutting instruments during assault incidents. (See [Table 89](#).)
- Of the officers assaulted and injured with firearms, knives, or other cutting instruments, 70 were employed by city police departments, including 41 who were members of law enforcement agencies in cities with 250,000 or more inhabitants. (See [Table 90](#).)
- Detailed data in reference to line-of-duty assaults with injuries from firearms, knives, or other cutting instruments were received from 28 states plus the District of Columbia. (See [Table 89](#).)
- By region, of the 102 victim officers reported, 41 officers in the South were injured as a result of assaults with firearms, knives, or other cutting instruments,

along with 35 officers in the West, 20 officers in the Midwest, and 6 officers in the Northeast. (See [Table 89.](#))

### **Victim profile**

- The average age of the officers who were assaulted and injured by firearms, knives, or other cutting instruments in 2017 was 37 years old. (See [Table 102.](#))
- The officers' average length of law enforcement service was 11 years. (See [Table 102.](#))
- Of the officers who were injured with firearms, knives, or other cutting instruments in 2017, 95 were male and 7 were female. (See [Table 103.](#))
- By race, 87 officers were White, 10 were Black/African American, 3 were Asian, and 1 was American Indian/Alaska Native. Race was not reported for 1 officer. (See [Table 103.](#))

### **Circumstances (See [Table 112.](#))**

- 52 officers were participating in investigative/enforcement duties (tactical situations, investigating suspicious persons/circumstances, handling persons with mental illnesses, etc.).
- 11 officers were involved in pursuits (foot or vehicular).
- 8 officers were involved in arrest situations.
- 7 officers were injured in unprovoked attacks.
- 5 officers encountered or were assisting emotionally disturbed persons.
- 5 officers were responding to crimes in progress.
- 4 officers had responded to disorder/disturbance calls.
- 4 officers were involved in ambush (entrapment/premeditation) situations.
- 2 officers were responding to reports of crimes.

- 1 officer was performing administrative duties.
- 1 officer was assisting another law enforcement officer(s).
- 2 officers were involved in other activities.

### **Assignments (See [Table 109.](#))**

- 72 officers were on assigned vehicle patrol when they were assaulted and injured with firearms, knives, or other cutting instruments.
- 27 officers were assigned to other duties, such as detectives, officers on special assignments, undercover officers, or officers on other types of assignments not listed.
- 3 officers were off duty but acting in an official capacity at the times of the attacks.
- 84 on-duty officers were assisted at the times of the attacks.
- 15 on-duty officers were alone and unassisted at the times of the attacks.

### **Weapons**

- 77 officers were assaulted and injured with firearms. Of these, 46 were injured with handguns. (See [Table 116.](#))
- 26 officers were injured with firearms when they were 0-5 feet from the offenders. (See [Table 120.](#))
- 45 officers fired their own weapons. (See [Table 106.](#))
- 41 officers did not use or attempt to use their weapons during the incidents. (See [Table 106.](#))
- 15 officers attempted to fire their own weapons during the incidents. (See [Table 106.](#))
- Firearm use was not reported for 1 victim officer. (See [Table 106.](#))

## **Uniforms, body armor, and holsters**

- 84 of the 102 officers injured in assaults by firearms, knives, or other cutting instruments were wearing uniforms. (See [Table 122.](#))
- 94 of the officers were wearing body armor. 83 of these officers were also wearing uniforms. (See [Table 123.](#))
- 99 of the 102 victim officers were wearing holsters at the times of the incidents. (See [Table 123.](#))

## **Months, days, and times of incidents**

- More officers (15) were injured during assaults with firearms, knives, or other cutting instruments that occurred in the month of June than in any other month in 2017. (See [Table 97.](#))
- More officers (23) were injured with firearms, knives, or other cutting instruments in assaults that occurred on a Sunday than on any other day of the week. (See [Table 94.](#))
- 61 officers were injured with firearms, knives, or other cutting instruments in assaults that happened between 12:01 p.m. and midnight. (See [Table 95.](#))
- 41 officers were injured with firearms, knives, or other cutting instruments in assaults that happened between 12:01 a.m. and noon. (See [Table 95.](#))

## **Profile of alleged known assailants**

In 2017, 81 alleged offenders were identified in connection with the law enforcement officers assaulted and injured with firearms, knives, or other cutting instruments. (See [Table 127.](#)) Of those offenders, the following characteristics are known:

- The average age of the alleged offenders was 32 years old. (See [Table 128.](#))
- 79 of the alleged offenders were male, and 1 was female. The gender of 1 of the known assailants was not reported. (See [Table 129.](#))

- 50 of the alleged offenders were White, 28 were Black/African American, 1 was American Indian/Alaska Native, and 1 was Asian. The race was not reported for 1 of the known assailants. (See [Table 129](#).)
- 61 of the alleged offenders had prior criminal arrests. (See [Table 133](#).)
- 22 of the alleged offenders were under judicial supervision at the times of the incidents. (See [Table 132](#).)
- 26 of the alleged offenders were under the influence of alcohol and/or a controlled substance(s) at the times of the incidents. (See [Table 132](#).)

Information about officers assaulted and injured with firearms, knives, or other cutting instruments can be found in Tables 89-133 of this publication.