



## Officers Accidentally Killed

This page provides information regarding accidental line-of-duty deaths of duly sworn city, university and college, county, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement officers who met the same criteria as officers feloniously killed.

### Overview

- In 2010, 72 law enforcement officers died as the result of accidents that occurred in the line of duty.
- Accidental line-of-duty deaths of law enforcement officers occurred in 27 states and the District of Columbia.
- 26 of the 72 officers accidentally killed were employed by city police departments, 22 were employed by county agencies, 19 were employed by state agencies, and 5 were employed by federal agencies.

More information about these topics (including annual totals from 2001 to 2010) is provided in Tables 48, 49, 59, 60, and 64.

### Victim profile

- The average age of the officers who died accidentally in 2010 was 39 years.
- The average length of law enforcement service for the 72 officers accidentally killed in the line of duty was 11 years.
- Of the 72 officers who were accidentally killed, 60 were white, 8 were black, 2 were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 1 officer was Asian/Pacific Islander. The race was not reported for 1 victim.
- 67 of the officers were male; 5 were female.

More information about these topics is provided in Tables 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, and 58.

## **Circumstances**

Of the 72 officers who were accidentally killed in the line of duty in 2010:

- 45 died as a result of automobile accidents.
- 11 officers were struck by vehicles.
- 7 officers died in motorcycle accidents.
- 3 officers were accidentally shot as a result of crossfire or other firearm mishaps.
- 6 officers died as a result of other types of accidents.

Of the 11 officers struck by vehicles:

- 7 were directing traffic or assisting motorists.
- 4 officers were executing traffic stops or roadblocks.

More information about this topic (including a complete breakdown of the types of circumstances in which officers accidentally died) is provided in Tables 61, 62, 63, and 64.

## **Assignments**

- 47 of the on-duty officers accidentally killed in 2010 were alone at the time of the accidents.
- 23 on-duty officers had assistance at the time of their fatal accidents.
- 2 officers were off duty.

More information about this topic is included in Tables 59, 60, 62, and 63.

## **Regional and outlying area breakdowns**

Of the officers who were accidentally killed in the line of duty in 2010:

- 39 officers were employed by law enforcement agencies in the South.

- 14 officers were employed by law enforcement agencies in the Midwest.
- 11 officers were employed by law enforcement agencies in the West.
- 8 officers were employed by law enforcement agencies in the Northeast.

More information about this topic (including annual totals from 2001 to 2010) is provided in Table 48.

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

- In 2010, the greatest number of accidents resulting in the deaths of law enforcement officers (15) occurred in June.
- More officers (17) were fatally injured in accidents on Friday than on any other day of the week in 2010.
- 39 officers were fatally injured in accidents that occurred between the hours of 12:01 a.m. and noon.
- 32 officers were killed in accidents occurring between 12:01 p.m. and midnight.

More information about these topics (including annual totals from 2001 to 2010) is provided in Tables 50, 51, and 52.