# Quarterly Report on Traffic-related Fatalities

**According to preliminary data from the National Law Enforcement Memorial and Museum, the fourth quarter of 2020 experienced a 53% decrease in traffic-related fatalities compared to the same three-month period in 2019.** This final quarter of the calendar year also provides a look at the entire year's data and overall, there was a 2% increase in traffic-related crashes in 2020 compared to all of 2019.

There was a total of 43 traffic-related Law Enforcement fatalities in 2019, compared to 44 in 2020. Despite the dramatic drop in the final quarter of 2020, the year ended with one more traffic fatality than in 2019.

## FOURTH QUARTER ANAYLSIS

In the fourth quarter of 2019 there were a total of 13 traffic-related fatalities compared with 7 in the fourth quarter of 2020. In 2020 there were four automobile crashes, two officers struck by vehicles and one motorcycle crash, while in 2019 there were seven auto crashes, six officers struck by vehicles and no motorcycle crashes. There were no single vehicle crashes in the last quarter of 2020, compared to four single-vehicle crashes during the same period in 2019.
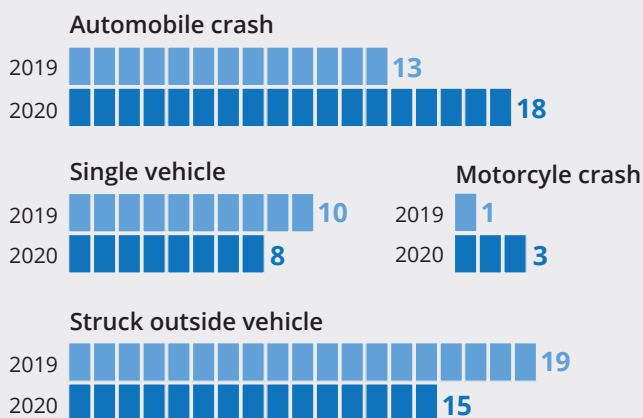
The disturbing trend of police vehicles striking and killing fellow officers continued in the fourth quarter of 2020, as the final case involved a patrol sergeant being struck by an officer who was responding to assist him. The officer swerved to avoid a collision and inadvertently struck the Sergeant. The third such case in 2020.

Three of the four automobile collisions in the fourth quarter of 2020 involved officers who were involved in crashes while on patrol and not responding to a call or expediting. In 2019, five of the seven automobile crashes (Includes Single-vehicle crashes) involved officers responding to a call for service or request for emergency assistance.
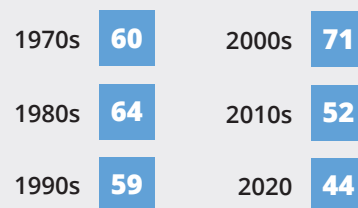
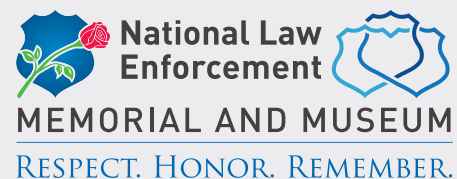## Traffic-Related Fatalities
### Through End of Year

### BY CIRCUMSTANCE

**Automobile crash**
- 2019: 13
- 2020: 18

**Single vehicle**
- 2019: 10
- 2020: 8

**Motorcyle crash**
- 2019: 1
- 2020: 3

**Struck outside vehicle**
- 2019: 19
- 2020: 15

### BY DECADE (AVERAGE)

| Decade | Average | Decade | Average |
|--------|---------|--------|---------|
| 1970s | 60 | 2000s | 71 |
| 1980s | 64 | 2010s | 52 |
| 1990s | 59 | 2020 | 44 |

Note: End of Year is from January 1 through December 31 of each year.

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There were no traffic-related fatalities in NHTSA Region 6 in the fourth quarter of 2020, compared to five cases in region 6 during the same period in 2019. Sheriffs agencies account for the highest number of traffic-related fatalities with 8 deputies killed in the fourth quarter of 2019 and four deputies being killed in the same period in 2020.

At least four officers killed in automobile crashes in the last quarter of 2019 were not wearing seatbelts and for the same period of 2020, it has been confirmed that at least one officer was unbelted when involved in a crash.

The average age of an officer killed in traffic-related incidents in 2020 was 43 compared to 40 years of age in 2019. All the officers killed in the final quarter of 2020 were male. There was one female killed in the same period of 2019.

# Officers Fallen: Traffic-Related

### Police Officer Sheena Yarbrough-Powell

Beaumont (TX)
Police Department

**End of Watch:**
August 9, 2020

Police Officer Sheena Yarbrough-Powell was **killed in an automobile crash** when a wrong-way driver struck her patrol vehicle head-on and she was pronounced dead at the scene. Her partner was seriously injured in the crash and is in stable condition.

### Officer Andy Ornelas

California
Highway Patrol

**End of Watch:**
December 2, 2020

Officer Andy Ornelas **succumbed to injuries sustained in a motorcycle crash** that occurred on November 23, 2020. Officer Ornelas was responding to a call when he was critically injured.

### Sergeant William Conley Jumper Jr.

Greenville County (SC)
Sheriff's Office

**End of Watch:**
October 20, 2020

Sergeant William Conley Jumper Jr. was **killed during a traffic stop** when a suspect attempted to flee the scene. The suspect had a physical altercation with Sergeant Jumper and another deputy. At some point during the altercation, the suspect's vehicle accelerated and collided with a tractor-trailer causing injuries to two deputies and the suspects. However, Sergeant William Conley Jumper Jr. later succumbed to his injuries after being transported to the hospital.

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