



64 Law Enforcement Fatalities Nationwide in the First Half of 2015

Traffic-related incidents were the leading cause of officer fatalities in the first half of the year

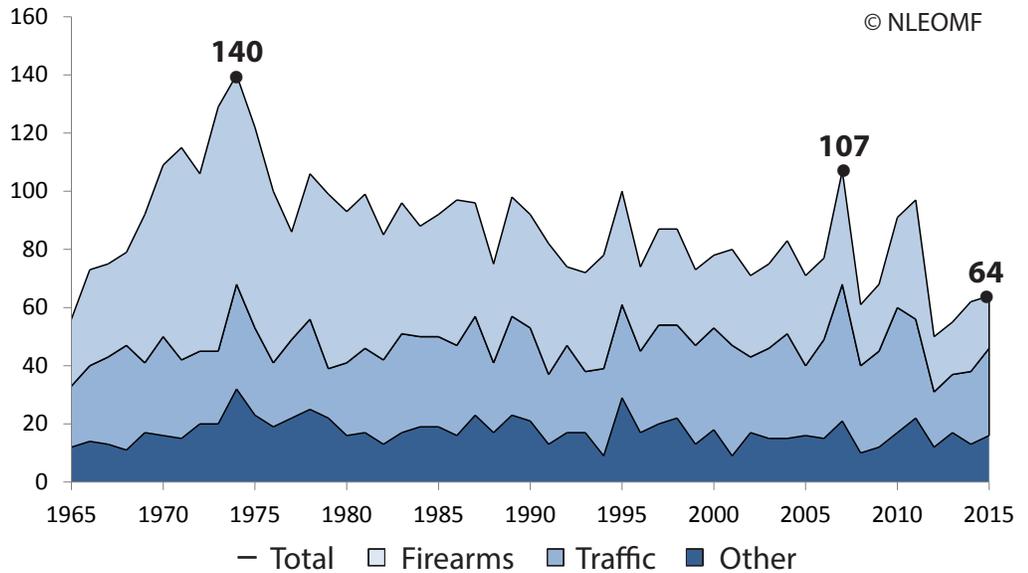
According to preliminary data compiled by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, 64 law enforcement officers have been killed in the line of duty during the first half of 2015. This represents a three percent increase over the same period in 2014 in which 62 officers were killed.

For the third year in a row, traffic-related incidents were the leading cause of officer fatalities in the first half of 2015. Thirty officers were killed as a result of traffic-related incidents, increasing 20 percent from the same period in 2014.

Firearms-related fatalities were the second leading cause of death among our nation's law enforcement officers in the first half of 2015, decreasing 25 percent with 18 fatalities compared to 24 in the same period last year.

Officers feloniously killed during a traffic stop or pursuit was the

Mid-Year Fatalities: 1965-2015



leading circumstance of fatal shootings, with four fatalities.

In the first half of 2015, 16 officers died as a result of other causes unrelated to firearms or traffic, increasing 23 percent during the same period in 2014.

Job-related illnesses, such as heart attacks, increased in the first half

of 2015, with 16 officer deaths compared to 13 officers during the same period in 2014.

Sixty-two fallen officers were male and two were female. Their average age was 40 years, with 13 years of service. On average, each officer left behind two children.

Thirty officers were killed as a result of traffic-related incidents

RECENTLY FALLEN



Police Officer Daryle Holloway
New Orleans (LA) Police Department
EOW: 6/20/2015

Police Officer Daryle Holloway was shot and killed while transporting a prisoner.



Police Officer Kerrie Orozco
Omaha (NE) Police Department
EOW: 5/20/2015

Police Officer Kerrie Orozco was shot and killed while attempting to serve a felony arrest warrant.



Police Officer Richard Martin
Houston (TX) Police Department
EOW: 5/18/2015

Police Officer Richard Martin was intentionally struck and killed while deploying spike sticks during a pursuit.

Register to receive Recently Fallen alerts at www.RecentlyFallen.org



This report is part of an innovative partnership with the VALOR initiative to promote law enforcement officer safety.

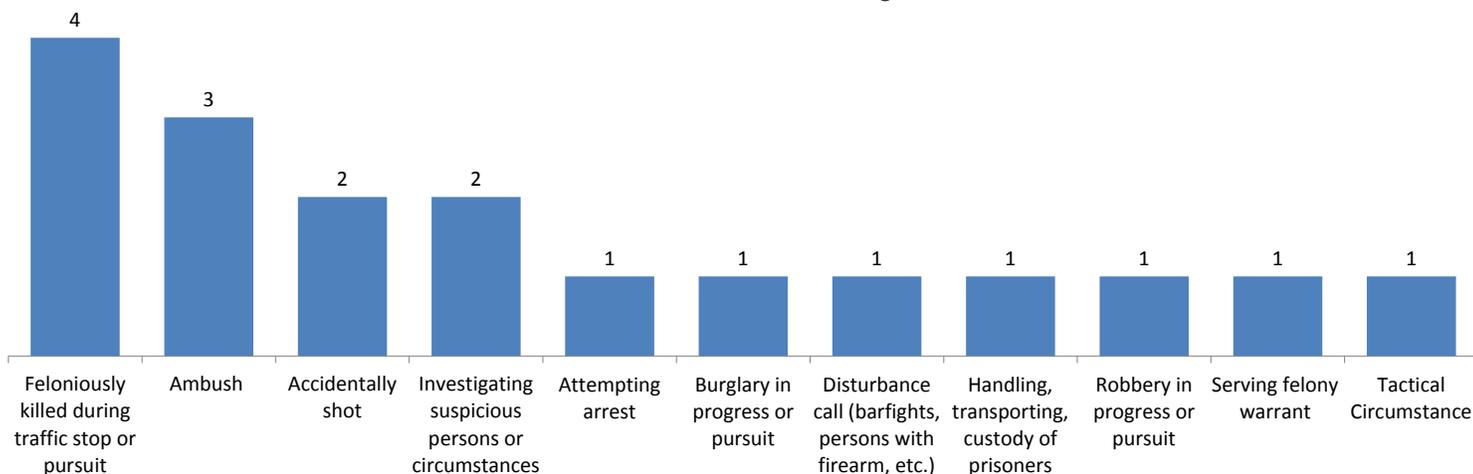
The data and statistics contained in this report are preliminary and do not represent a final or complete list of individual officers who will be added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in 2016.

Firearms-related Fatalities

After increasing during the first half of 2014, firearms-related fatalities decreased during the first half of 2015. Eighteen officers were fatally shot and killed this year, compared to 24 in the same period of 2014. Of the 18 firearms-related fatalities, four officers were feloniously shot and killed during a traffic stop or pursuit—the most of any circumstance of fatal shootings in 2015.

Three officers were shot and killed in ambushes, two officers were inadvertently shot and killed and two officers were killed while investigating suspicious persons or circumstances. One officer was shot and killed while pursuing a burglary suspect, one officer was shot and killed while responding to a disturbance call, one officer was shot and killed while transporting a prisoner, one officer was shot and killed while attempting to make an arrest, one officer was shot and killed while serving a felony warrant and one officer was killed during a tactical operation.

Circumstances of Fatal Shootings © NLEOMF

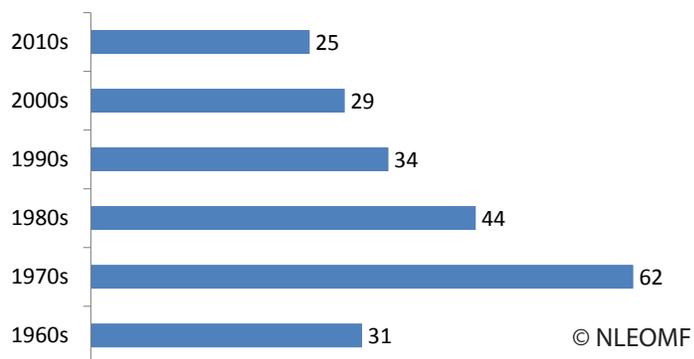


Handguns were the leading type of firearm used in fatal shootings of law enforcement officers in the first half 2015. Of the 18 officer fatalities, 14 officers were shot and killed with a handgun. Two officers were shot killed by assault weapons and two officers were killed with rifles in the first half of 2015.

Of the 18 officer fatalities in the first half of 2015, eight were shot and killed in May, the most of any other month. This represents 44 percent of all firearms-related fatalities during the reporting period. February saw no firearms-related fatalities.

Firearms-related fatalities peaked in 1973, with 84 officers shot and killed in the first six months of that year. Since then, the average has decreased from 62 in the 1970s, to 29 in the 2000s.

Average Mid-Year Firearms-related Fatalities by Decade



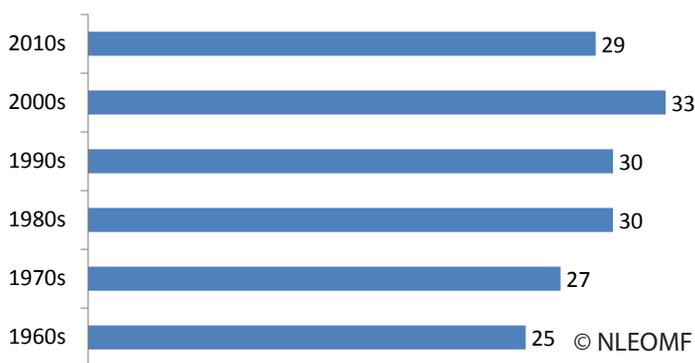
Traffic-related Fatalities

After decreasing dramatically in 2012 and 2013, traffic-related fatalities began increasing last year and have again increased 20 percent in the first six months of 2015.

Traffic-related fatalities were the leading cause of officer fatalities in 2015, accounting for 30 deaths. Twenty-one officers were killed in automobile crashes, five were struck and killed outside their vehicles and four were killed in motorcycle crashes.

Of the 21 automobile crashes in the first half of the year, eight were single-vehicles crashes and 13 were multiple-vehicle crashes.

Average Mid-Year Traffic-related Fatalities by Decade



Compared to the average number of fatalities per decade, 2015 ranks below the past 10-year average (2000-2009). In the prior decade, nearly 33 officers were killed on average in the first half of a given year. Since the 1960s, traffic-related fatalities have increased, even as overall law enforcement fatalities have been decreasing.

Felonious and Non-Felonious Fatalities

Twenty-three officers were feloniously killed in the first half of 2015, decreasing 28 percent from the same period in the prior year when 32 officers were feloniously killed. Of these 23 officer deaths, sixteen were shot and killed, four officers were killed attempting arrest or investigating suspicious persons or activities and three officers were struck and killed by vehicles.

Forty-one officers died in non-felonious incidents in the first half of 2015, increasing 36 percent from the same period in the prior year when 30 officers were feloniously killed. Of these 41 officer deaths, 27 were traffic-related incidents, 12 were job-related illnesses (heart attacks) and two were inadvertently shot.

Training Recommendations

Based on fatality information collected by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, these recommendations are intended to help prevent violence against law enforcement officers and ensure officer resilience and survivability during encounters. Learn more at www.ValorForBlue.org.

Recommendation 1

Officers must thoroughly search suspects coming into their custody. Additionally, officers must remember to search transport vehicles prior to and immediately after transporting a prisoner. A number of recent incidents indicate that prisoners are not being properly searched.

Recommendation 2

In the first half of 2015, deaths due to job-related illnesses, such as heart attacks, increased significantly compared to the same period last year. Officers need to find ways to maintain a healthy lifestyle, including exercise, good nutrition and sufficient sleep. They should take advantage of any wellness programs their department may offer, such as fitness incentive plans.

Recommendation 3

Remember, your body armor can protect you from more than just bullets. Wearing body armor can increase an officers chance of survival during a physical assault and traffic-related incidents.

Officer Fatality Data

The deadliest month in the first half of 2015 was May with 17 fatalities. Sixteen officers were killed in March and 14 were killed in January. Nine officers died in June, six officers died in April, and February had the fewest fatalities with two deaths.

Tuesday was the deadliest day of the week for law enforcement officers in the first half of the year, with 15 fatalities, followed by Wednesday with 13 fatalities. Thursday and Sunday had the fewest fatalities with five fatalities each during the first six months of the year.

Five Deadliest States

In the first half of 2015, more officers were killed in Texas (seven) than any other state. Georgia, Louisiana and Mississippi all lost five officers in the first half of 2015 and Alabama lost four officers during the period.

Three federal officers, one territorial and one tribal officer were also killed in the line of duty in the first six months of 2015. Fifteen states lost one officer. Thirty-three states and the District of Columbia did not lose an officer in the first half of this year.

Gender



	Low	Average	High
Age of Officer	21	40	58
Length of Service	0 years	14 years	43 years
Number of Children	0	2	6

Jurisdiction

Municipal	36	Federal	3
County	12	Territorial	1
State	11	Tribal	1

