



RESEARCH BULLETIN

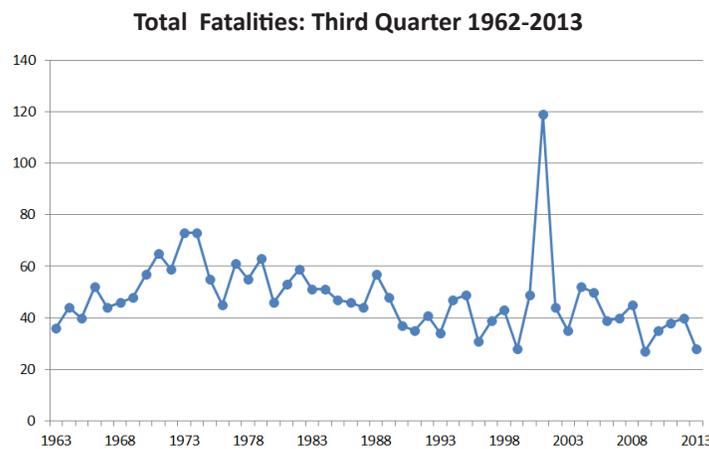
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28 Officer Fatalities in the Third Quarter of 2013

According to preliminary data from the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, law enforcement officer fatalities have decreased 30% at the end of the third quarter, compared to the same time period in 2012.

Twenty-eight law enforcement officers were killed during the third quarter, from July 1, 2013 to September 30, 2013, down from 40 fatalities during the same time period in 2012. Traffic-related fatalities have decreased during this period in 2013, with 15 officer fatalities, down 21% from 19 fatalities during the same time in 2012. However, traffic-related fatalities are the leading cause of deaths during this period.



Of the remaining 13 officer fatalities, seven officers were shot and killed, four officers died from job-related illnesses such as heart attacks, and two officers fell to their death. Eight of these officers were feloniously killed during this period.

Louisiana and Texas suffered the most fatalities in the third quarter, each with three fatalities. Six states lost two officers and nine states lost an officer. One federal officer was killed during this time period. Thirty-three states and the U.S. territories did not lose an officer.

September was the deadliest month during the third quarter with 13 officer fatalities. The average age of the officers killed in the line of duty was 43 years old, and the average length of service was 14 years. All of the 28 fallen officer were male, and on average, each officer left behind 2 children.

A Closer Look



Police Officer Jason Schneider
Baltimore County (MD) Police Department

Police Jason Schneider was shot and killed while attempting to serve a warrant on August 28, 2013.

Trooper Paul Butterfield II
Michigan State Police



Trooper Paul Butterfield was shot and killed while conducting a traffic stop on September 9, 2013.

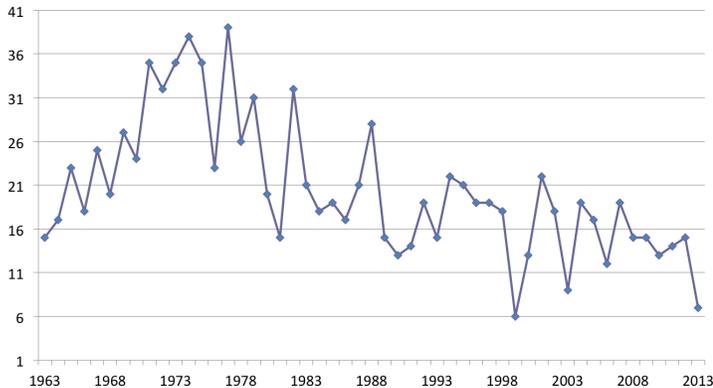


Sergeant Michael Wilson
Charlotte County (FL) Sheriff's Office

Sergeant Michael Wilson was shot and killed while responding to a domestic disturbance call on August 5, 2013.

Firearms-related Fatalities: 2013 Third Quarter

Third Quarter Firearms-related Fatalities: 1963-2013



Of the 28 officers killed during the third quarter of 2013, seven officers were feloniously shot and killed, a 53% decrease in firearms-related fatalities compared to the same time period in 2012 (15). The third quarter in 2013 saw the fewest firearms-related fatalities since 1999, which saw six officers shot and killed in the third quarter.

Of the seven officers shot and killed in the third quarter of 2013, three officers were shot and killed while responding to disturbance calls, two were shot and killed while attempting to serve a warrant, one was shot and killed while conducting a traffic stop, and one was killed while investigating a suspicious vehicle.

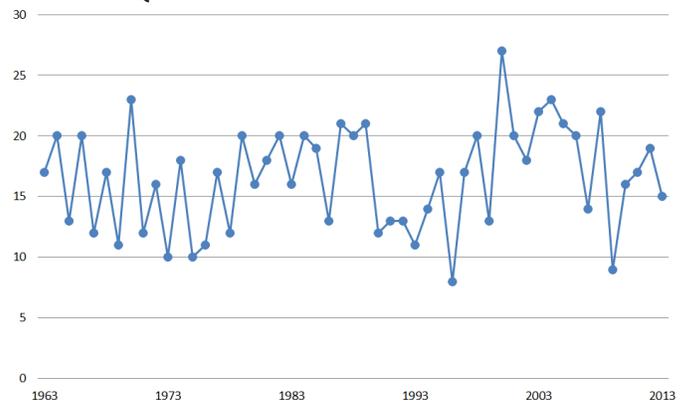
Traffic-related Fatalities: 2013 Third Quarter

In contrast with the trend of rising traffic-related fatalities over the last three years, traffic-related fatalities in the third quarter declined 21% in 2013 compared to 2012.

With 15 fatalities, the third quarter of 2013 saw the lowest number of traffic-related fatalities since 2009, which had nine traffic-related fatalities in the third quarter.

One officer was feloniously struck and killed by a hit-and-run driver in the third quarter of 2013.

Third Quarter Traffic-related Fatalities: 1963 - 2013



Training Recommendations

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

Finding 1.

Three of the eight officers feloniously killed during the third quarter were responding to disturbance calls.

Recommendation 1.

Disturbance calls can be as routine as loud music or as violent as a domestic disturbance. Never let your guard down when responding to any type of call for service.

Finding 2.

Both traffic- and firearms-related fatalities were down this quarter, but strokes and heart attacks were up.

Recommendation 2.

Officer safety also includes wellness. Talk to your officers about being physically prepared for the job and being committed to a wellness plan.

Finding 3.

In the third quarter of 2013, more officers were killed during evening and late night shifts than any other.

Recommendation 3.

Although officers can be killed at any time of day, remember to discuss the possibility of a deadly encounter with officers working especially vulnerable shifts.