Thirty-eight officers were killed in traffic-related incidents during the first half of 2021, compared to 24 over the same period last year, a 58% increase. Of the 38 traffic-related fatalities, 10 were automobile crashes involving a collision with another vehicle, five were single-vehicle crashes, and 19 were struck-by fatalities while on the side of the road. This year, four officers have been killed in motorcycle crashes, while during the same time period last year, one officer was killed.

Struck-by incidents, where an officer was hit by a vehicle while outside of their patrol vehicle, were the leading circumstances of the traffic-related fatalities. Many of these fatal struck-by crashes occurred while officers were investigating motor vehicle crashes or assisting motorists on the side of the road. Nineteen struck-by fatalities occurred during the first half of the year, versus eight during the same period last year, representing a 138% increase.

Compared to the average number of traffic-related fatalities per decade, 2021 is significantly higher than the past 10-year average (2010 – 2019). In the prior decade, 27 officers were killed on average in the first half of a given year.

### Traffic-Related Fatalities Through Mid-Year

**By Circumstance**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Circumstance</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Automobile crash</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single vehicle crashes</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Struck outside vehicle</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**By Decade**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Decade</th>
<th>1970s</th>
<th>1980s</th>
<th>1990s</th>
<th>2000s</th>
<th>2010s</th>
<th>2020s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1970s</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980s</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Average per decade

Note: Mid-Year is from January 1 through June 30
OFFICERS FALLEN: TRAFFIC-RELATED

Police Officer Melton Levi Gore
Horry County (SC) P.D.
**EOW: JANUARY 12, 2021**

Police Officer Gore stopped to remove a large garbage can from the roadway. Upon returning to his patrol vehicle, he was **struck and killed** by a passing motorist.

Conservation Officer Sarah Grell
Minnesota (MN) Department of Natural Resources
**EOW: MAY 24, 2021**

Conservation Officer Grell was killed in an **automobile crash** when her department vehicle was struck by a tractor trailer.

Trooper Todd Hanneken
Illinois (IL) State Police
**EOW: MARCH 25, 2021**

Trooper Hanneken was killed in a **single-vehicle crash** when his patrol vehicle left the roadway and struck a light pole and tree.

Deputy Sheriff Thomas Albanese
Los Angeles County (CA) S.O.
**EOW: FEBRUARY 25, 2021**

Deputy Sheriff Albanese was killed in a **motorcycle crash** when his patrol motorcycle collided with another vehicle.