

2023 END-OF-YEAR PRELIMINARY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS FATALITIES REPORT



**NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS
MEMORIAL FUND**

MEMORIAL | MUSEUM | OFFICER SAFETY & WELLNESS

136

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER FATALITIES

According to preliminary data compiled by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF), as of December 31, 2023, **136 federal, state, tribal and local law enforcement officers died in the line-of-duty in 2023**. This is a sizeable decrease of approximately 39% from the 224 officers killed in 2022. The decrease line-of-duty deaths for 2023 is evident in most major categories that are tracked, including another year of substantial reductions in Covid-19 related deaths.

47 officers were shot and killed in the line of duty in 2023. This represents a 25% decrease compared to the 63 officers who were shot and killed in 2022. It also represents a reduction compared to the average of such deaths in the prior decade. From 2010 through the end of 2020, an average of 53 officers were killed each year by felonious assaults involving firearms.

A decrease in traffic-related fatalities in 2023 is also welcome news for law enforcement agencies nationwide. In 2023, 37 officers have died due to traffic-related crashes, such as single-vehicle accidents, vehicle collisions, struck-by incidents, and motorcycle crashes while working along our nation's roadways. These 37 crash-related fatalities are a decrease of 27% compared to the 51 crash-related deaths in 2022.

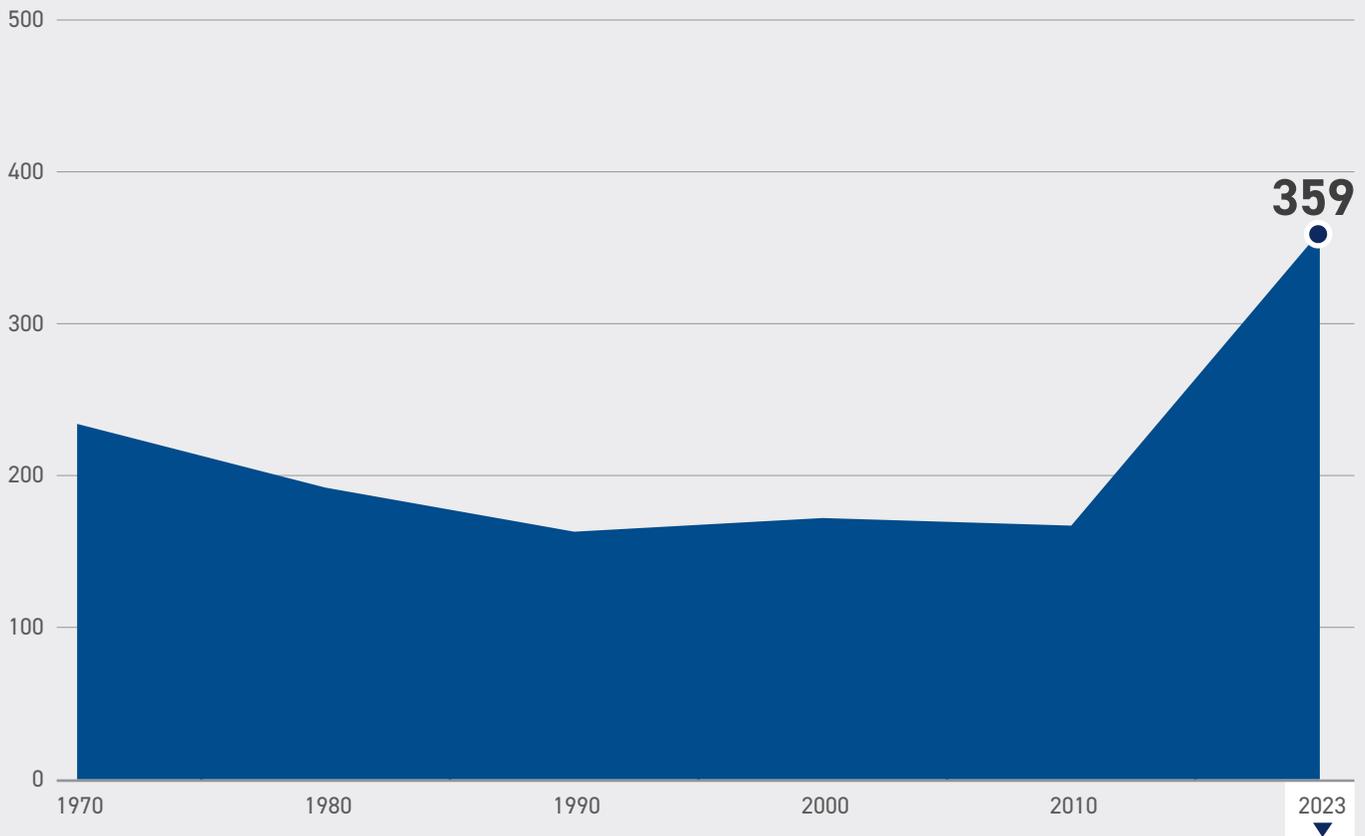
52 officers died of other causes in 2023, such as falling objects, fire-related incidents, and medical-related illnesses/events including Covid-19, heart attacks and strokes suffered while in the performance of their official duties. This represents a 53% decrease from the 110 officers who died under similar circumstances in 2022.



↓ 39%

Law Enforcement
Line-of-Duty Deaths
Down Approximately
39 Percent in 2023

AVERAGE LAW ENFORCEMENT FATALITIES BY DECADE 1970 - 2023



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 2024.

FIREARMS-RELATED FATALITIES

Of the 136 law enforcement line-of-duty deaths in 2023, firearms-related fatalities were the leading primary cause of death. While the 47 officers who were shot and killed in 2023 number fewer than the 63 killed by firearms in 2022, the number of men and women who are fatally wounded by gunfire remains a pressing concern for law enforcement personnel.

Forty-seven officers were shot and killed during 2023, compared to 63 such deaths in 2022. Of the 47 firearms fatalities, 9 were attempting to make an arrest, 7 were handling domestic disputes, 6 were investigating suspicious circumstances/persons, 5 were ambushed, 5 were killed making or attempting to make traffic stops, 5 were killed responding to a robbery/burglary call, and 2 were killed handling disturbance calls. Two officers each were shot while serving warrants and two were shot during tactical situations. One was inadvertently or mistakenly shot during training, one was shot intervening in a crime in progress off duty, and the final 2 were not clearly defined.

Handguns continue to be the leading type of firearm used in fatal shootings of law enforcement officers. In 2023, 25 officers were killed with a handgun. Of the 22 additional officer firearms-related fatalities, 13 were killed with a rifle, 1 was killed by an officer's weapon, and 2 were killed by a shotgun. The type of firearm used in the remaining 6 fatalities is still under investigation or unknown at this time.

Of the 47 firearms-related fatalities in 2023, 8 officers died in July followed by 6 in April, 5 each in May and June, and 4 in February. Three each occurred in January, March, August, October and December. Two each occurred in September and November.

OFFICERS FALLEN: FIREARMS-RELATED



Sergeant
Heather Jayne Glenn

Tell City, Indiana, P.D.

EOW: JULY 3, 2023

Sergeant Glenn was shot and killed after responding to a domestic violence call. The victim was being treated at a local hospital. While attempting to arrest the suspect, a brief struggle ensued, and the suspect produced a firearm and shot Sergeant Glenn.



Special Agent
Patrick Charles Bauer

Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation Division

EOW: AUGUST 17, 2023

Special Agent Bauer was inadvertently shot and killed while participating in a departmental firearms and defensive tactics training in Phoenix, Arizona. Agent Bauer was transported to a hospital where he succumbed to his gunshot wound.



Police Officer
Richard Carrero Mendez

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, P.D.

EOW: OCTOBER 12, 2023

Police Officer Mendez was shot and killed as he and his partner observed suspects breaking into vehicles. As the officers approached the men, the suspect fired upon the officers. Officer Mendez succumbed to his gunshot wounds and the other officer survived his injuries.



Sergeant
Michael Moran

Cortez, Colorado, P.D.

EOW: NOVEMBER 29, 2023

Sergeant Moran was shot and killed after conducting a traffic stop because of a reckless driving complaint. The suspects fired upon Sergeant Moran during the stop and fled the scene. Sergeant Moran was transported to a hospital where he succumbed to his gunshot wounds.

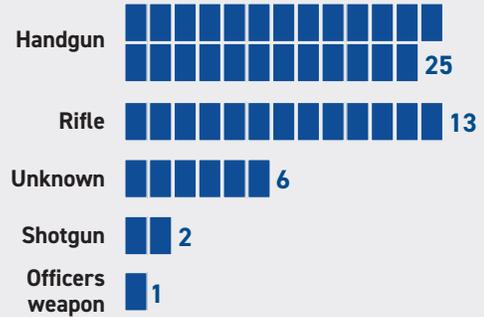
FIREARMS-RELATED FATALITIES

JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31

BY CIRCUMSTANCE



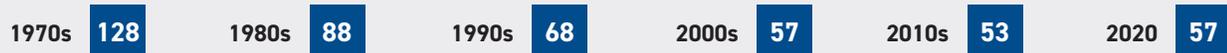
BY FIREARM TYPE



BY MONTH



BY DECADE*



*Average gun fire fatalities per decade

37

TRAFFIC-RELATED FATALITIES

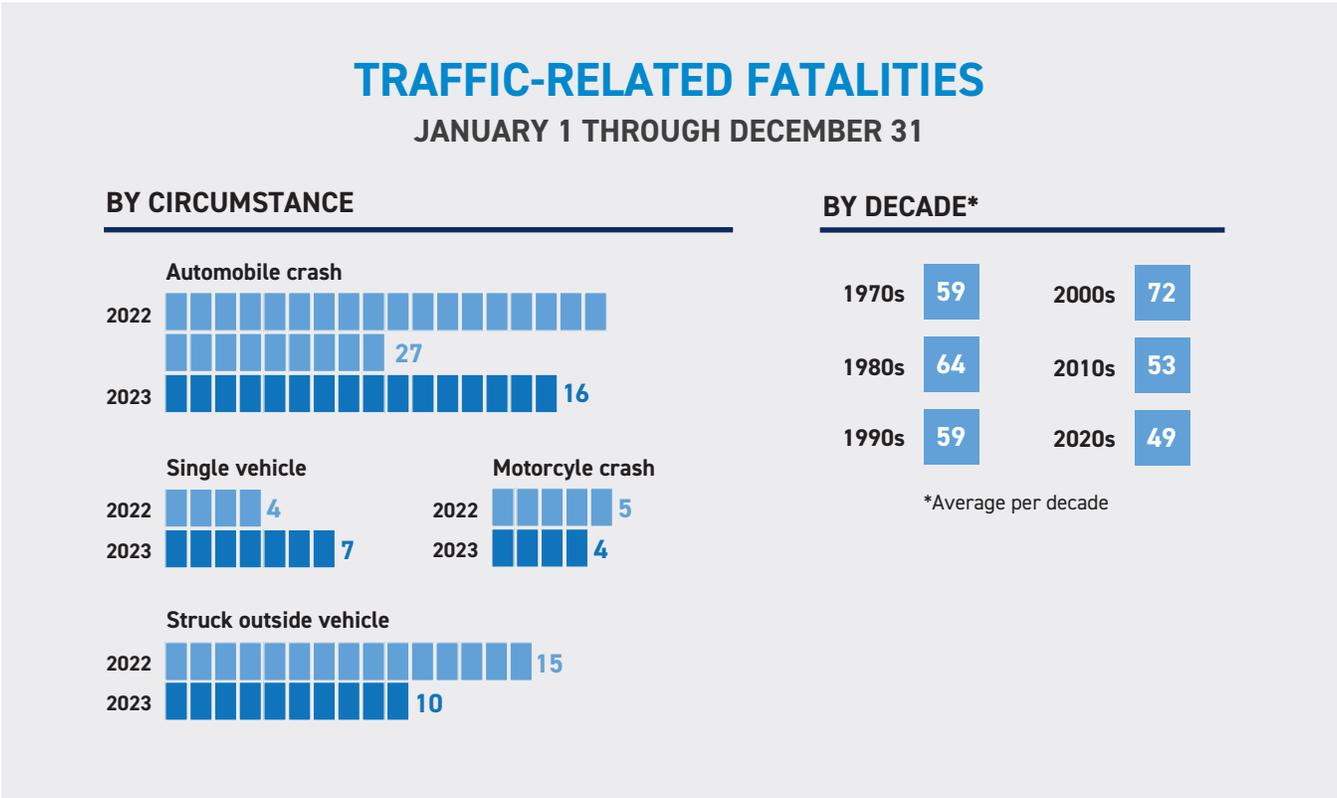
Thirty-seven officers were killed in traffic-related incidents in 2023, compared to 51 in 2022, an overall 27% decrease.

Of the 37 traffic-related fatalities, 23 were killed in automobile crashes and 4 were killed in motorcycle crashes. For the prior year (2022), 31 officers were killed in automobile crashes and 5 died in motorcycle crashes. The 27 total crashes in 2023 represents a 25% decrease compared to 36 in 2022.

The remaining 10 officers were killed in struck-by incidents, where an officer was hit by a vehicle while outside of their patrol vehicle. Many of these fatal struck-by crashes occurred while officers were

investigating motor vehicle crashes or assisting motorists on the side of the road. Ten struck-by fatalities occurred during the 2023, versus 15 during 2022, representing a **33% decrease**. Of note, 4 of the struck-by fatalities in 2023 involved an officer deploying a tire deflation device. [We recently released a report examining the risk of using such devices.](#)

Compared to the average number of traffic-related fatalities per decade, 2023 reverses a trend in prior years with lower deaths compared to the past 10-year average (2010 – 2019). In the prior decade, 53 officers were killed on average each year.



OFFICERS FALLEN: TRAFFIC-RELATED



Police Officer
Anthony John Francone

Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe,
Nevada, P.D.

EOW: AUGUST 25, 2023

Police Officer Francone was intentionally struck and killed while deploying a tire deflation device during a vehicle pursuit.



Deputy Sheriff II
Auston Smith Reudelhuber

Forsyth County, North Carolina, S.O.

EOW: SEPTEMBER 9, 2023

Deputy Sheriff Reudelhuber was killed in an automobile crash after a truck crossed the center line and struck Deputy Reudelhuber's patrol vehicle. Deputy Reudelhuber was transported to a hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.



Police Officer
Chad Swanson

Manhattan Beach, California, P.D.

EOW: OCTOBER 4, 2023

Police Officer Swanson was enroute to the department when his department issued motorcycle was struck by another vehicle attempting to switch lanes. Officer Swanson was transported to a hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.



Border Patrol Agent
Freddy Ortiz

U.S. Border Patrol

EOW: NOVEMBER 14, 2023

Border Patrol Agent Ortiz was killed in a single vehicle ATV crash, while responding to reports of undocumented immigrants in Douglas, Arizona. Agent Ortiz's ATV left the roadway and struck a utility pole. Agent Ortiz was assigned to the Douglas Station Tucson Sector.

IT IS NOT HOW
THESE OFFICERS DIED
BUT THE WAY THEY LIVED

52

OTHER CAUSES AND FATALITIES

The single largest category of officer fatalities in this report, which combines a number of unrelated subcategories, is the 'Other' category. This category contains a wide variety of health-related deaths such as heart attacks, strokes, lingering health effects from the September 11 attacks, and other line-of-duty fatalities. Fifty-two officers are listed under the Other category. The 52 who died in 2023 compared to 110 who died in 2022, and represents a 53% **overall decrease** in 'Other' related line of duty deaths.

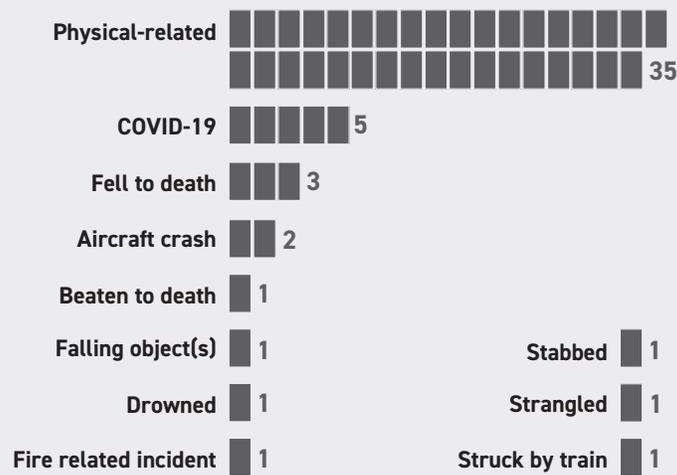
In 2022, the largest sub-section of the 'Other' category, and the overall leading cause of death in 2022 and several years prior, was Covid-19-related fatalities. Falling from 74 such deaths in 2022, only 5 officers succumbed to complications from the disease in 2023. The continued and substantial drop in Covid-19 related deaths has thankfully diminished

such deaths to a relatively minor percentage of overall officer fatalities.

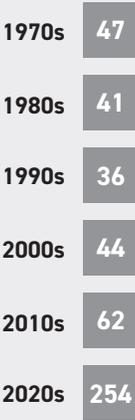
Forty-seven additional officers in this category died of other causes not related to Covid-19 during 2023. This compares to 36 similar fatalities last year, representing a **31% increase**. Thirty-five officers succumbed to either job-related illness or a sudden medical event. The health-related illnesses include those involved in the recovery efforts following the terrorist attacks on September 11th. The medical events generally involve heart attacks and strokes suffered as a result of actions taken while on duty. Three officers fell to their death. Two were killed in aircraft crashes. The remaining officers died as a result of one each: beaten to death, being struck by a falling object, drowning, assisting during a fire incident, stabbed to death, strangled to death, and struck by a train.

OTHER CAUSES OF FATALITIES JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31

BY CIRCUMSTANCE



BY DECADE



OFFICERS FALLEN: OTHER CAUSES



Special Agent
Robert Charles Castioni

U.S. Immigration & Customs
Enforcement

EOW: JULY 24, 2023

Special Agent Castioni performed duties related to the recovery work after the terrorist attack at the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. Special Agent Castioni died due to metastatic gastric cancer.



Correctional Officer I
Robert Danforth Clark

Georgia Department of
Corrections

EOW: OCTOBER 1, 2023

Correctional Officer Clark was assaulted by an inmate with a homemade weapon at the Smith State Prison in Georgia. At the time of the attack, Officer Clark was escorting prisoners when one of them attacked him from behind. Officer Clark was transported to a hospital where he succumbed to his wounds.



Deputy Sheriff
Marilyn Anjanette Mayo

St. Tammany Parish,
Louisiana, S.O.

EOW: SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

On June 13, 2007, Deputy Sheriff Mayo and Sergeant Ramier were in a funeral procession for a fellow officer when a pine tree that had been struck by lightning fell on Sergeant Ramier's patrol car during a storm. Sergeant Ramier was killed instantly when the tree struck his police unit and Deputy Mayo suffered a severed spinal cord injury, leaving her paralyzed from the chest down. Deputy Mayo succumbed to her injuries on September 21, 2023.



Sergeant
Russell Earl LaVarl Jones

Pamlico County,
North Carolina, S.O.

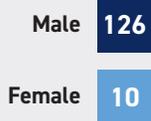
EOW: DECEMBER 6, 2023

Sergeant Jones suffered a fatal heart attack after responding to a disruptive inmate at the Pamlico County Detention Center in Bayboro, North Carolina.

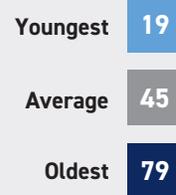
FATALITIES BY DEMOGRAPHIC

JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31

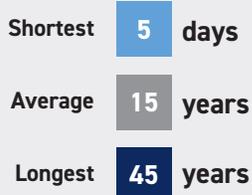
GENDER



AGE



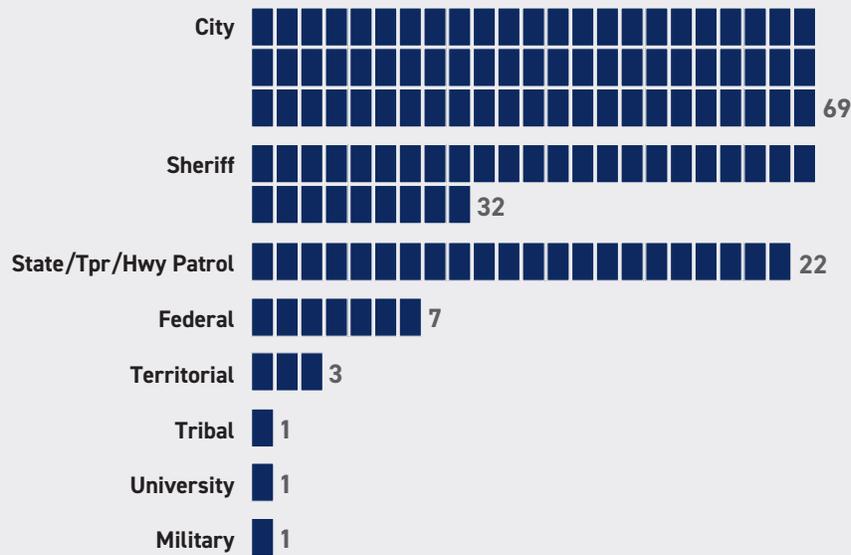
TOUR OF DUTY LENGTH



NUMBER OF CHILDREN



JURISDICTION



NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS MEMORIAL

HONOR, RESPECT, REMEMBER

OFFICIAL NAMES FROM JANUARY 1, 2023 – DECEMBER 31, 2023

A place of honor, the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial features the names of the Official Line-of-Duty Fallen Heroes who have made the ultimate sacrifice. Here, you may search for those who have been so honored – those whose names are engraved on the Memorial wall to be remembered and revered forever.

Since 1786, more than 23,000 law enforcement officers have died in the line of duty. The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial ensures that those who gave their lives to protect and serve their communities are remembered for generations to come, while providing a place where survivors can spend a quiet moment paying tribute to their loved ones.

The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, the foremost organization that memorializes law enforcement heroes who die in the line of duty, offers an official monthly announcement sharing the number of fallen who have been through our stringent review process. As of December 31, 2023, 151 officers, both recent and historical, have been designated as Official Line-of-Duty Fallen Heroes and will be added to the Memorial in the Spring of 2024.





**NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS
MEMORIAL FUND**

MEMORIAL MUSEUM OFFICER SAFETY & WELLNESS

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