

# 2022 END-OF-YEAR PRELIMINARY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS FATALITIES REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL DRAFT



**NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS  
MEMORIAL FUND**

MEMORIAL | MUSEUM | OFFICER SAFETY & WELLNESS



# LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER FATALITIES

According to preliminary data compiled by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF), as of December 31, 2022, **226 federal, state, tribal and local law enforcement officers died in the line-of-duty in 2022**. This is a dramatic decrease of approximately 61% from the 586 officers killed in 2021. The massive decrease in line of duty deaths for 2022 is almost entirely related to the significant reduction in Covid-19 deaths.

While America's law enforcement officers are still battling the deadly effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, there has been a significant reduction in such overall deaths, likely attributed to reduced infection rates and the broad availability and use of vaccinations. 70 officers have died as a result of contracting the disease while executing official duties in 2022. Those 70 officers represent a decrease of 83% compared to the 405 officers who died of Covid-19 related causes during 2021. Despite these dramatic reductions, Covid-19 remains the number one cause of law enforcement deaths in 2022.

64 officers were shot and killed in the line of duty in 2022, mirroring the 64 officers who were shot and killed in 2021. This continues a disturbing trend of an increase in firearms related deaths compared to the average number of officers killed by gunfire each year 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. The 64 deaths by gunfire in both 2021 and 2022 continues to represent an increase of 21% compared to recent historical norms.

An increase in traffic-related crashes in 2022 should also be a concern for law enforcement agencies nationwide. In 2022, 40 officers have died due to traffic-related crashes, such as single-vehicle accidents, vehicle collisions, and motorcycle crashes while working along our nation's roadways. These

40 crash-related fatalities are an increase of 29% compared to the 31 crash-related deaths in 2021. While crash-related fatalities were up in 2022, the number of struck-by fatalities was down. Sixteen officers executing duties outside of their vehicle died as a result of struck-by fatalities in 2022. This represents a 41% decrease compared to the 27 officers killed in struck-by fatalities in 2021.

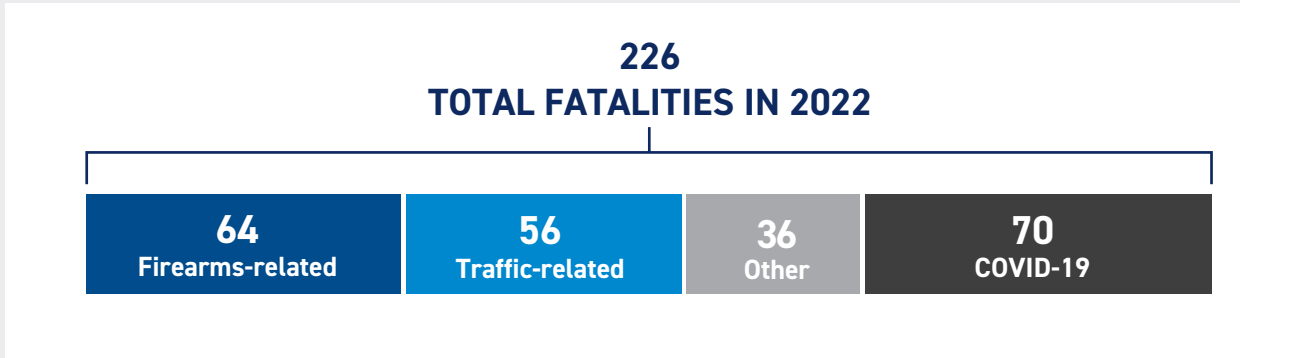
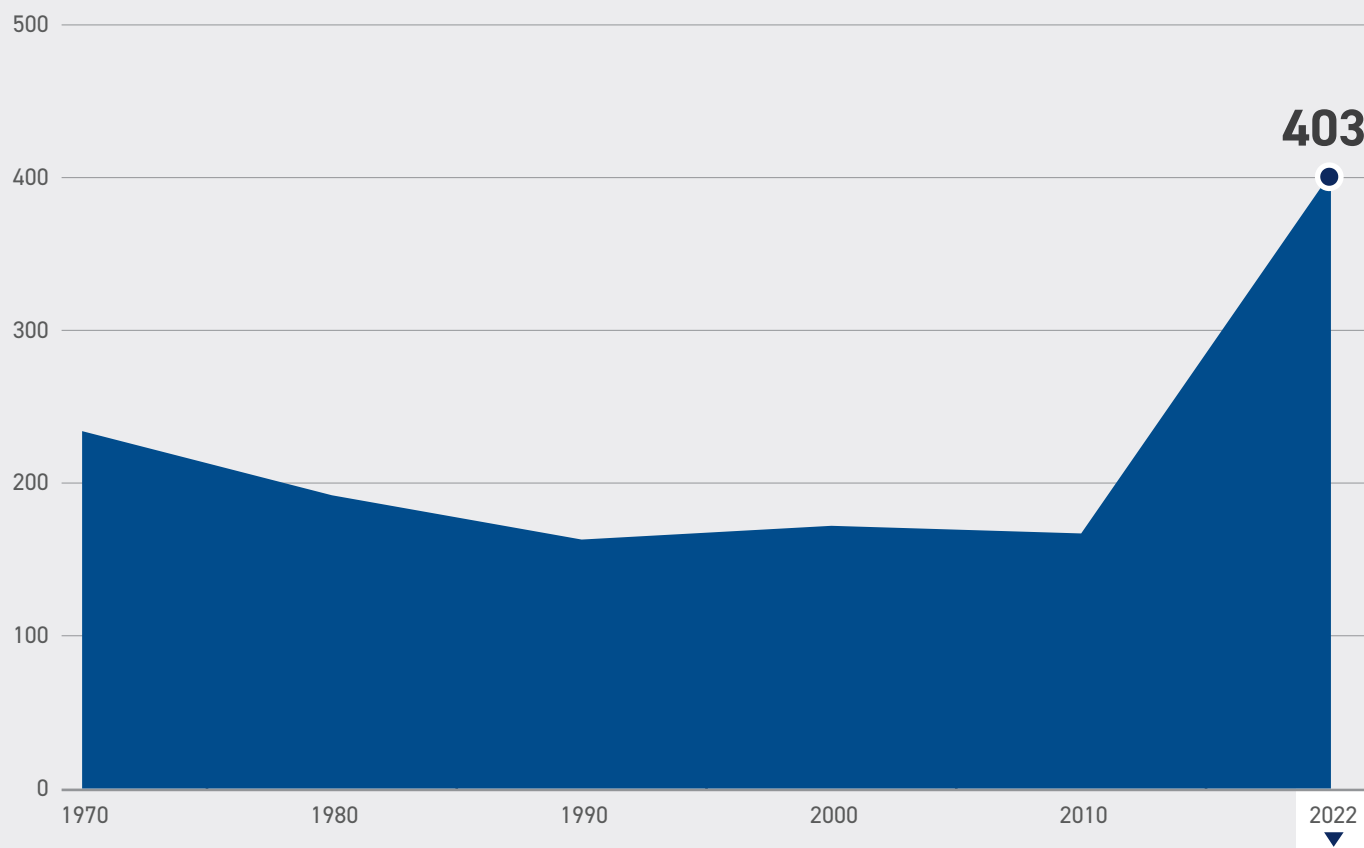
36 officers died of other causes in 2022, such as falling objects, fire-related incidents, and medical-related illnesses/events including heart attacks and strokes suffered while in the performance of their official duties. This represents a 39% decrease from the 59 officers who died under similar circumstances in 2021.



## ↓ 61%

Law Enforcement  
**Line-of-Duty Deaths**  
**Down Approximately**  
**61 Percent** in 2022

# AVERAGE LAW ENFORCEMENT FATALITIES BY DECADE 1970 - 2022



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 2023.

# FIREARMS-RELATED FATALITIES

Of the 226 law enforcement line-of-duty deaths in 2022, firearms-related fatalities were second-only to Covid-19 as the leading cause of death. While much has been done in terms of mitigating the impact of Covid-19 related deaths, firearms-related deaths have remained disproportionately high compared to recent historical averages. In the prior decade, to include 2010-2020, the average number of officers killed each year was 53. The 64 officers killed by gunfire in 2022 mirrors the 64 such officers killed in 2021 and continues to reflect a 21% increase over the historical average of firearms-related deaths between 2010 and 2020.

Sixty-four officers were shot and killed during 2022, compared to the same number in 2021. Of the 64 firearms fatalities, 11 were ambushed, 10 were attempting to make an arrest, 9 were handling domestic disputes, 8 were investigating suspicious circumstances/persons, 6 were killed making traffic stops, and 5 were killed handling disturbance calls. Four were inadvertently or mistakenly shot by fellow officers and 3 each were shot while serving civil papers and responding to robbery calls. Two were shot while serving a felony warrant, 1 was shot handling an inmate, 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 2022, 33 officers were killed with a handgun. Of the 31 additional officer firearms-related fatalities, 16 were killed with a rifle, 2 were killed by an officers weapon, and 1 was killed by a shotgun. The type of firearm used in the remaining 12 fatalities is still under investigation or unknown at this time.

Of the 64 firearms-related fatalities in 2022, 12 officers died in June followed by 8 in March and

7 in August. Six each occurred in July, October, and December. Five each occurred in January, February, and September. May had 2 officers die, followed by April and November with 1 death each.

## OFFICERS FALLEN: FIREARMS-RELATED



**Deputy Sheriff  
Matthew Eugene Yates**

Clark County, Ohio, S.O.

**EOW: JULY 24, 2022**

Deputy Sheriff Yates was shot and killed after responding to a shots fired call. Once deputies responded to the scene where a woman was reportedly shot, they checked the inside of the residence and the suspect shot at deputies, striking Deputy Yates. Deputy Yates was transported to a hospital where he succumbed to his gunshot wounds.



**K-9 Officer  
Seara Brooke Burton**

Richmond, Indiana, P.D.

**EOW: SEPTEMBER 18, 2022**

On August 10, 2022, K-9 Officer Burton was shot and critically wounded during a traffic stop. Officer Burton deployed her canine partner during the stop to search for narcotics. During the search, the suspect produced a handgun and shot Officer Burton. She was transported to a hospital and succumbed to her gunshot wounds on September 18, 2022.



**Police Officer  
Truong Thanh Thai**

Las Vegas Metropolitan, Nevada, P.D.

**EOW: OCTOBER 13, 2022**

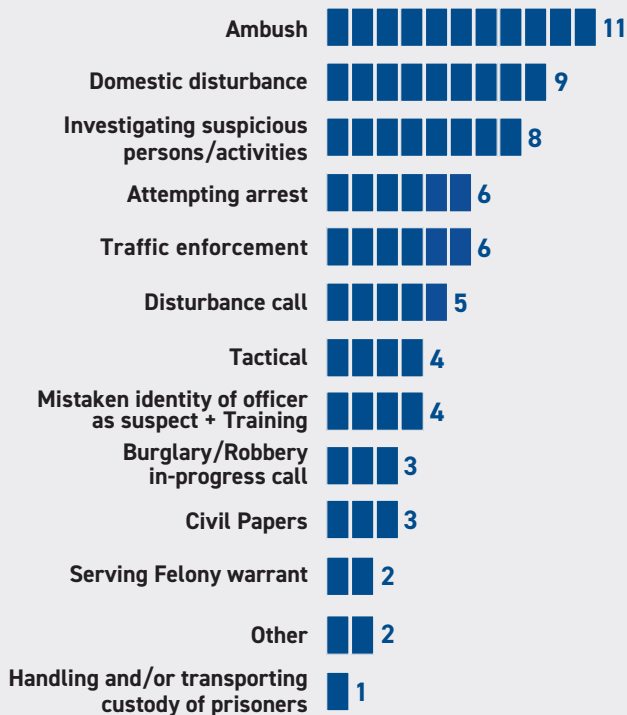
Police Officer Thai was shot and killed while handling a domestic disturbance call. Officer Thai made contact with the suspect and shortly after the suspect reached for a gun and opened fire on Officer Thai. Officer Thai was transported to a hospital where he succumbed to his gunshot wounds.



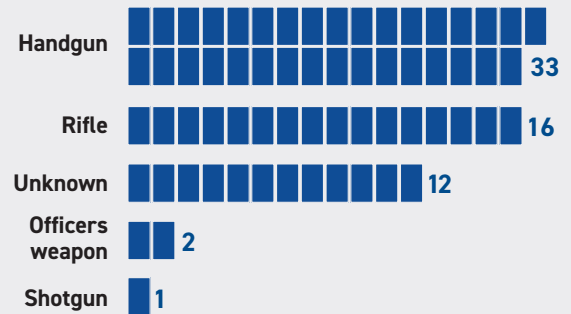
# FIREARMS-RELATED FATALITIES

JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31

## BY CIRCUMSTANCE



## BY FIREARM TYPE



## BY MONTH



## BY DECADE\*



\*Average gun fire fatalities per decade

# TRAFFIC-RELATED FATALITIES

Fifty-six officers were killed in traffic-related incidents in 2022, compared to 58 in 2021, a 3% decrease. While overall traffic-related fatalities are down, crash-related deaths increased. Of the 56 traffic-related fatalities, 35 were automobile crashes and 5 were motorcycle crashes. For the prior year (2021), 28 officers were killed in automobile crashes and 3 died in motorcycle crashes. The 40 total crashes in 2022 represents a **29% increase** compared to 31 in 2021.

Struck-by incidents, where an officer was hit by a vehicle while outside of their patrol vehicle, were the second-leading cause of 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. Sixteen struck-by fatalities occurred during the 2022, versus 27 during 2021, representing a **41% decrease**.

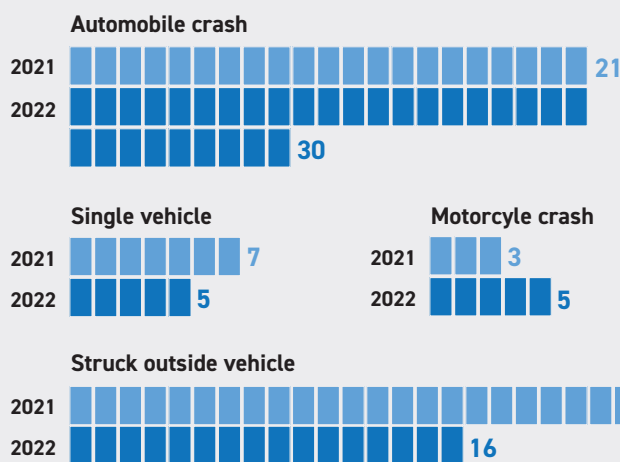
Compared to the average number of traffic-related fatalities per decade, both 2021 and now 2022 remain higher than the past 10-year average (2010 – 2019). In the prior decade, 53 officers were killed on average each year.



## TRAFFIC-RELATED FATALITIES

JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31

### BY CIRCUMSTANCE



### BY DECADE\*

1970s	59	2000s	72
1980s	64	2010s	53
1990s	59	2020s	53

\*Average per decade



## OFFICERS FALLEN: TRAFFIC-RELATED



Sergeant  
**Christopher James Nelson**

Edmond, Oklahoma, P.D.

**EOW: JULY 19, 2022**

Sergeant Nelson was killed when he was stopped at a traffic light on his department issued motorcycle while on duty. An impaired driver in a utility pickup truck struck the officer from behind causing fatal injuries.



Deputy Sheriff  
**Sidnee Taylor Carter**

Sedgwick County, Kansas, S.O.

**EOW: OCTOBER 7, 2022**

Deputy Sheriff Carter was killed in an automobile crash while responding to a disturbance call. Another motorist ran a stop sign and struck her patrol vehicle. Deputy Carter died at the scene of the crash.



Special Agent  
**Jose Antonio Perez**

Florida Dept. of Law Enforcement

**EOW: AUGUST 20, 2022**

On August 3, 2022, Special Agent Perez sustained injuries in an automobile crash while responding to an intrusion alarm at the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's evidence warehouse. Agent Perez was transported to the hospital where he succumbed to his injuries on August 20, 2022. The driver involved in the crash was impaired with both drugs and alcohol and failed to yield the right of way when he collided with Agent Perez.



Police Officer  
**Jordan Taylor Jackson**

Bellevue, Washington, P.D.

**EOW: NOVEMBER 21, 2022**

Police Officer Jackson was killed in a motorcycle crash while he was conducting traffic enforcement. A vehicle crossed into Officer Jackson's path and his department issued motorcycle struck the vehicle. Officer Jackson was transported to a hospital where he later succumbed to his injuries.

IT IS NOT HOW  
THESE OFFICERS DIED



## OTHER CAUSES AND FATALITIES

The single largest category of officer fatalities in this report, due primarily to the inclusion of Covid-19 related deaths, 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. One-Hundred-Six officers are listed under the Other category. The 106 who died in 2022 compares to 464 who died in 2021, and represents a **77% overall decrease** in 'Other' related line of duty deaths.

In 2022, the largest sub-section of the Other category is Covid-19-related fatalities. In 2022, 70 officers succumbed to complications from the disease, compared to 405 in 2021. Preliminary information suggests that each of these officers has died as a result of their exposure while conducting official

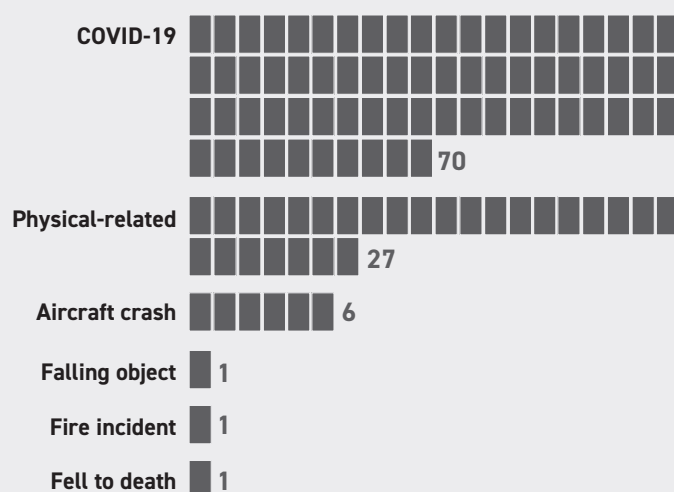
duties. The drop in Covid-19 related deaths from 405 in 2021 to 70 in 2020 is a dramatic reduction, and represents an **83% decrease** year over year.

Thirty-six additional officers in this category died of other causes not related to Covid-19 during 2022. This compares to 59 similar fatalities last year, representing a **39% decrease**. Twenty-seven 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. Six were killed in 3 separate aircraft crashes. The remaining three officers died as a result of one each: falling to their death, being struck by a falling object, and assisting during a fire incident.

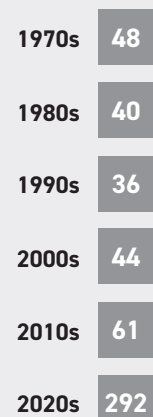
## OTHER CAUSES OF FATALITIES

JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31

## BY CIRCUMSTANCE



## BY DECADE





## OFFICERS FALLEN: OTHER CAUSES



Undersheriff  
**Lawrence George Koren**  
Bernalillo County, New Mexico, S.O  
**EOW: JULY 16, 2022**

Undersheriff Koren, Lieutenant Fred Beers, and Deputy First Class Michael Levison were killed in an aircraft crash after assisting firefighters with a wildfire in the area. Rescue Specialist Matthew King of the Bernalillo County Fire Department was also killed in the aircraft crash.



Trooper Cadet  
**Patrick Dupree**  
Georgia Department  
of Public Safety  
**EOW: SEPTEMBER 8, 2022**

Trooper Cadet Dupree suffered a fatal medical emergency and passed away after participating in a mandatory Shotgun Stress Course at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center. Cadet Dupree was transported to a hospital where he later passed away.



Police Officer  
**Lawrence Edward Cabana**  
New York Dept. of Environmental  
Conservation  
**EOW: AUGUST 6, 2022**

Police Officer Cabana performed rescue and recovery duties in the aftermath of the terrorist attack at the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. Officer Cabana succumbed to metastatic lung carcinoma on August 6, 2022.



Lieutenant  
**Kristina Zell**  
Niagara Falls, New York, P.D.  
**EOW: NOVEMBER 7, 2022**

Lieutenant Zell contracted COVID-19 during the commission of her job duties and succumbed to complications of COVID-19 on November 7, 2022.

70

## COVID-19-RELATED DEATHS

Of the 226 confirmed law enforcement line-of-duty deaths in 2022, Covid-19-related fatalities were the leading cause of law enforcement deaths. Seventy officers succumbed to the disease in 2022, as compared to 405 officers in 2021. This reduction represents a massive **83% decrease from last year.**

While the preliminary reports submitted to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund show the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic continues to claim more law enforcement lives than any single category in this report, the decrease in these deaths in 2022 is an encouraging trend.

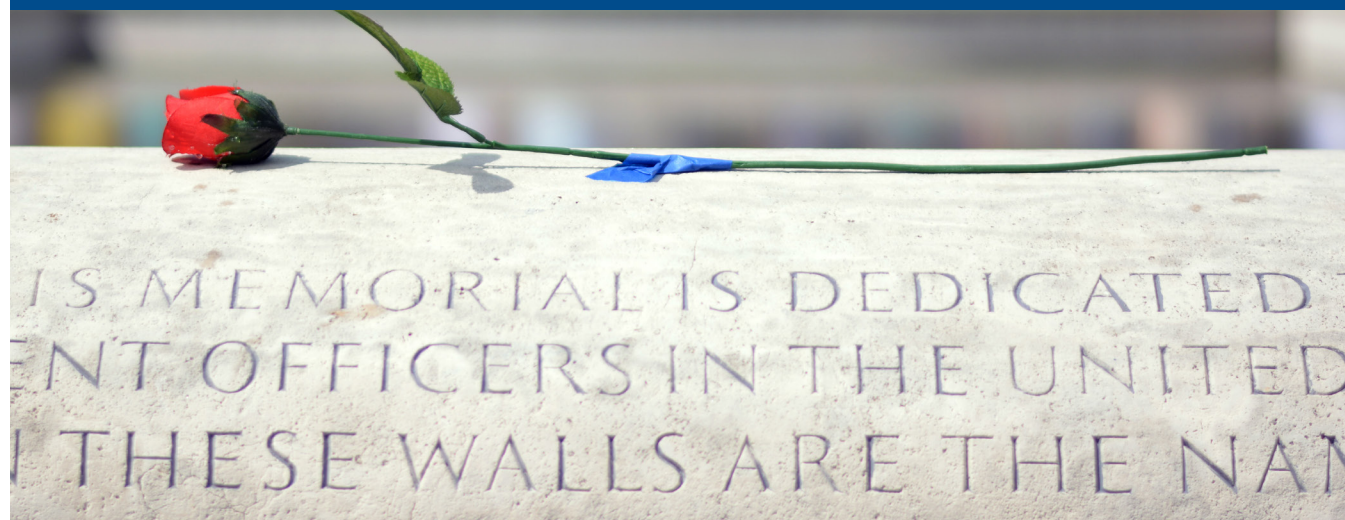
To date, 70 Covid-19-related fatalities have been identified. In order to properly identify these cases,

NLEOMF works with federal, state, tribal and local agencies to establish the likelihood that impacted officers were exposed to individuals with Covid-19 while they were performing in their official law enforcement capacity. If such officers were exposed to the virus on-duty, and later succumbed to its effects, they will then be included in the "Other" category of line-of-duty deaths and officially counted as law enforcement fatalities.

While law enforcement officers and first line responders across the country continue to be exposed to the virus, the substantial downward trend in these deaths is welcome news. The 70 Covid-19-related law enforcement deaths under review are listed on the next page by state.

**83%**

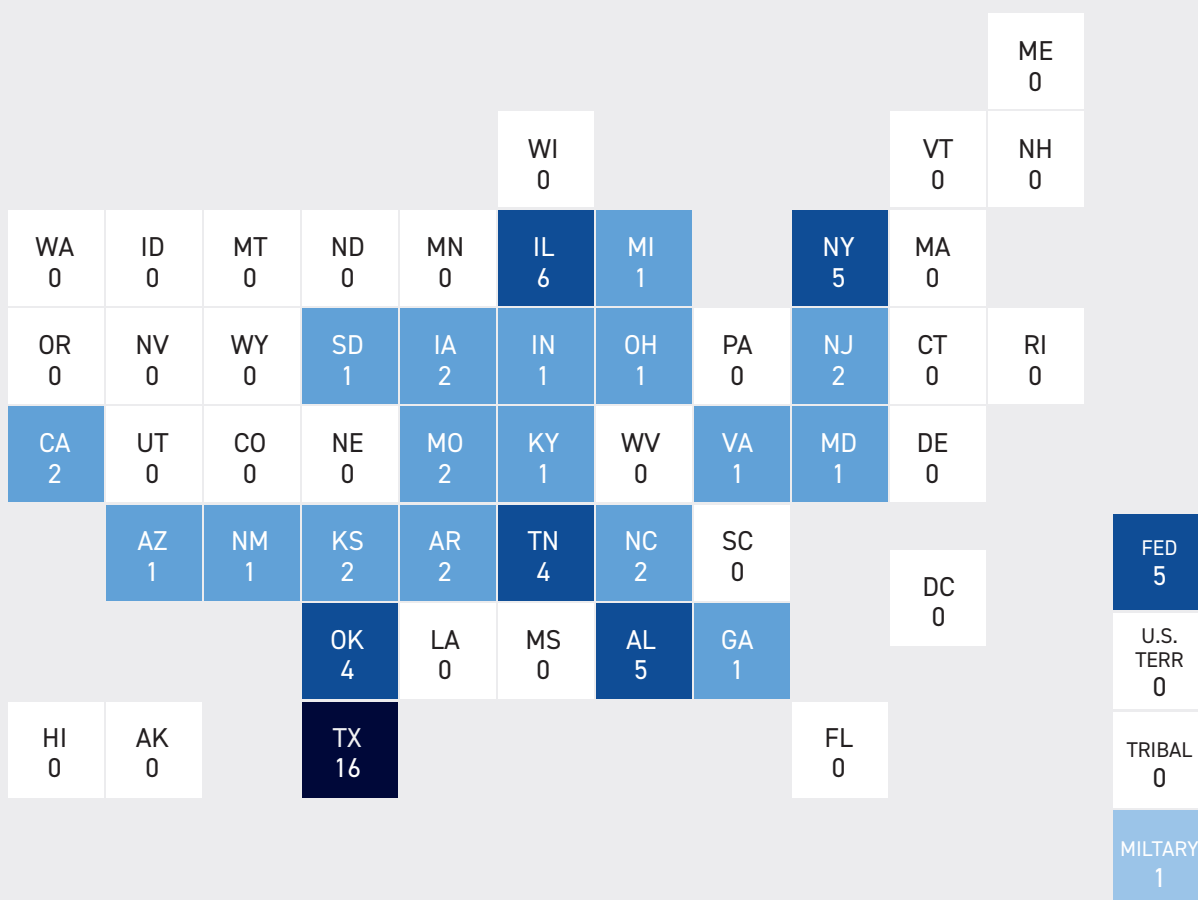
Covid-19-Related Law  
Enforcement Fatalities have  
**Down 83% from Last Year.**





## 2022 COVID-19 FATALITIES BY STATE

JANUARY 1, 2022 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2022



Number of Fatalities:

7+ 4-6 1-3 0

► 27 States and DC had zero COVID-19-related fatalities

# DEMOGRAPHICS OF FATALITIES



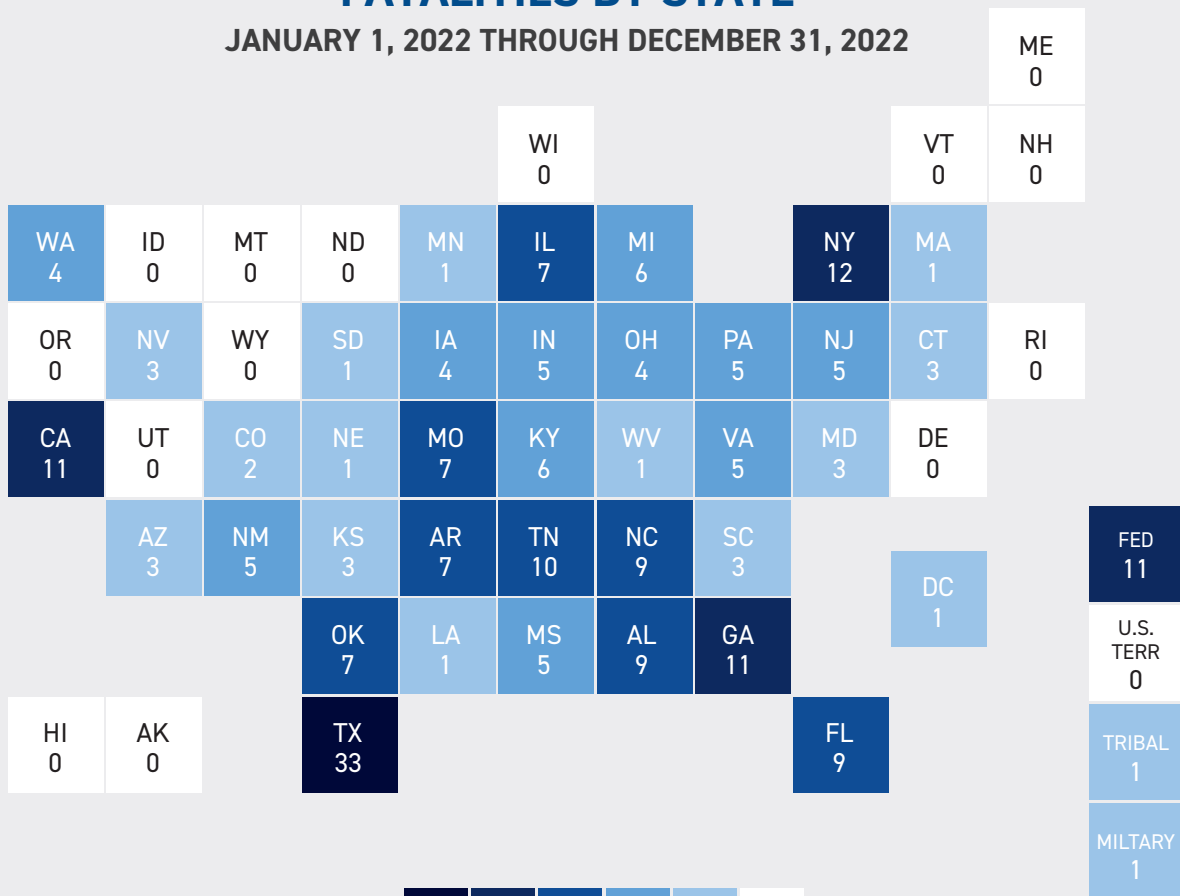
In 2022, the states with the most line of duty deaths were Texas with 33, New York with 12, 11 each from Georgia and California, and 10 from Tennessee. Alabama, Florida, and North Carolina lost 9 officers each, and Arkansas, Illinois, Missouri and Oklahoma all lost 7. In descending order, the following states lost 6 or fewer officers; Kentucky, Michigan, Indiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, New Mexico, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Iowa, Ohio, Washington, Arizona, Connecticut, Kansas, Maryland, Nevada, South Carolina, Colorado, Washington D.C., Louisiana, Massachusetts, Nebraska, South Dakota, West Virginia,

and Minnesota. Tribal and Military Police agencies lost 1 each. Eleven Federal Officers lost their lives in 2022. The states of Alaska, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Maine, Montana, North Dakota, New Hampshire, Oregon, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont, Wisconsin, and Wyoming did not lose an officer in the line of duty in 2022.

Looking at gender, 204 fallen officers were male and 22 were female. The average age of fallen officers in 2022 was 44 years old, with an average of 15 years of service. On average, each fallen officer left behind two children.

## FATALITIES BY STATE

JANUARY 1, 2022 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2022



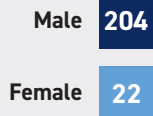
Number of Fatalities: 16+ 11-15 7-10 4-6 1-3 0 ► 14 States had zero fatalities



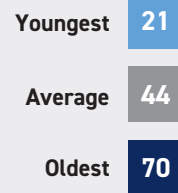
# FATALITIES BY DEMOGRAPHIC

JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31

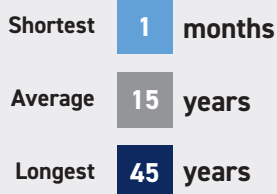
## GENDER



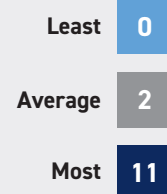
## AGE



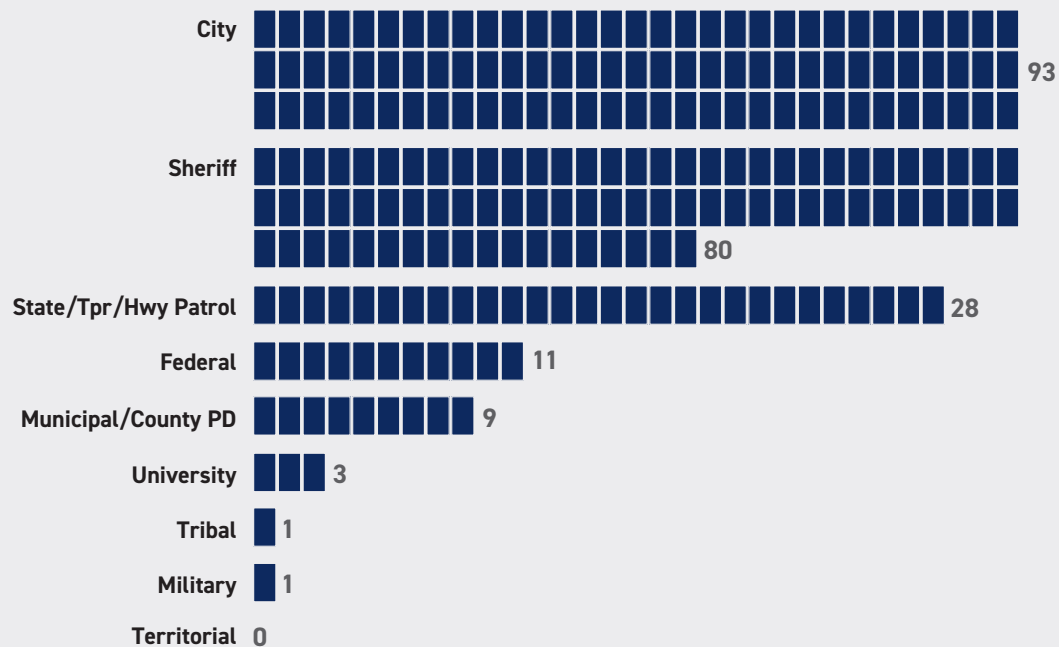
## TOUR OF DUTY LENGTH



## NUMBER OF CHILDREN



## JURISDICTION



# NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS MEMORIAL

## HONOR, RESPECT, REMEMBER

### OFFICIAL NAMES FROM JANUARY 1, 2022 – DECEMBER 31, 2022

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, 2022, 410 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 2023.









**NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS  
MEMORIAL FUND**

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