



## Law Enforcement Firearms Fatalities Spike 78 Percent in First Half of 2016

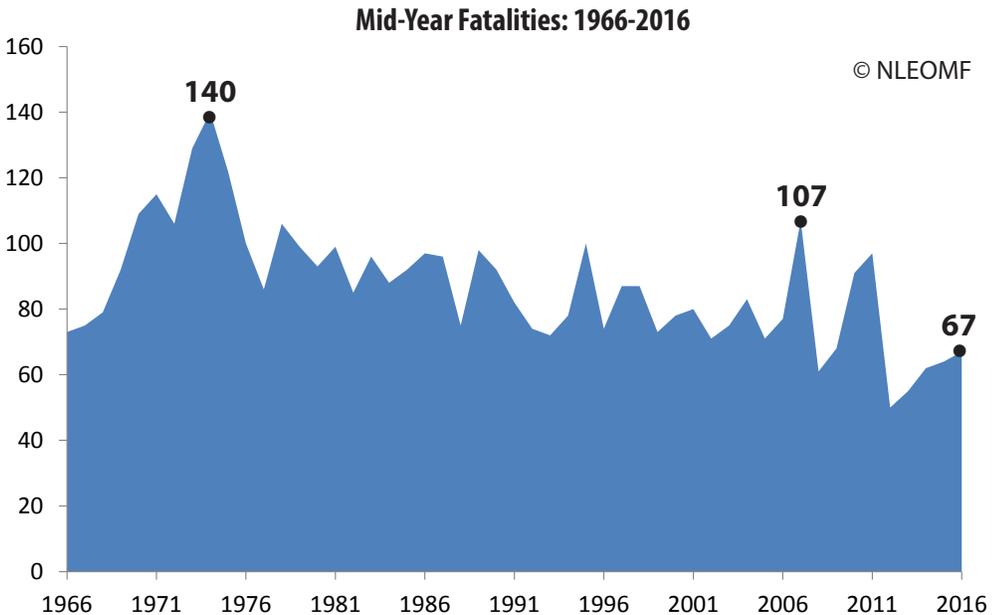
*Ambush killings of officers increased more than 300 percent this year*

According to preliminary data compiled by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, as of July 20, 2016, sixty-seven federal, state and local law enforcement officers have died in the line of duty this year, increasing eight percent over the 62 officers killed in the same period last year.

Thirty-two officers have been killed in firearms-related fatalities this year, a dramatic increase of 78 percent, compared to 18 deaths during the same period last year. Traffic-related fatalities were the second leading cause of officer deaths, with 24 officers killed thus far in 2016. This represents a 17 percent decrease over the 29 officers killed in traffic-related incidents during the same period last year.

Eleven officers died as a result of other causes during the reporting period in 2016, six of which were job-related ailments. Two officers fell to their death, one officer died

**Ambush killings are the deadliest circumstance so far in 2016**



in an aircraft crash, one officer drowned and one officer was beaten to death.

Ambush killings of unsuspecting law enforcement officers is the leading circumstance of the firearms-related fatalities with 14 thus far in 2016—spiking more than 300 percent over the three ambush killings in the same

period last year. The leading circumstance of traffic-related fatalities was automobile collisions with another vehicle.

Sixty-three fallen officers were male and four were female. Their average age was 39 years, with 12 years of service. On average, each officer left behind two children.

### RECENTLY FALLEN



**Captain Robert David Melton**  
Kansas City (KS) Police Department  
EOW: 7/19/2016

Captain Robert David Melton was shot and killed while searching for a suspect involved in a drive by shooting.



**Correctional Officer Kristopher Moules**  
Luzerne County (PA) Correctional Facility  
EOW: 7/18/2016

Correctional Officer Kristopher Moules was killed when he and an inmate fell down an elevator shaft.



**Corporal Montrell Jackson**  
Baton Rouge (LA) Police Department  
EOW: 7/17/2016

Corporal Montrell Jackson was shot and killed while responding to reports of a man with a gun.

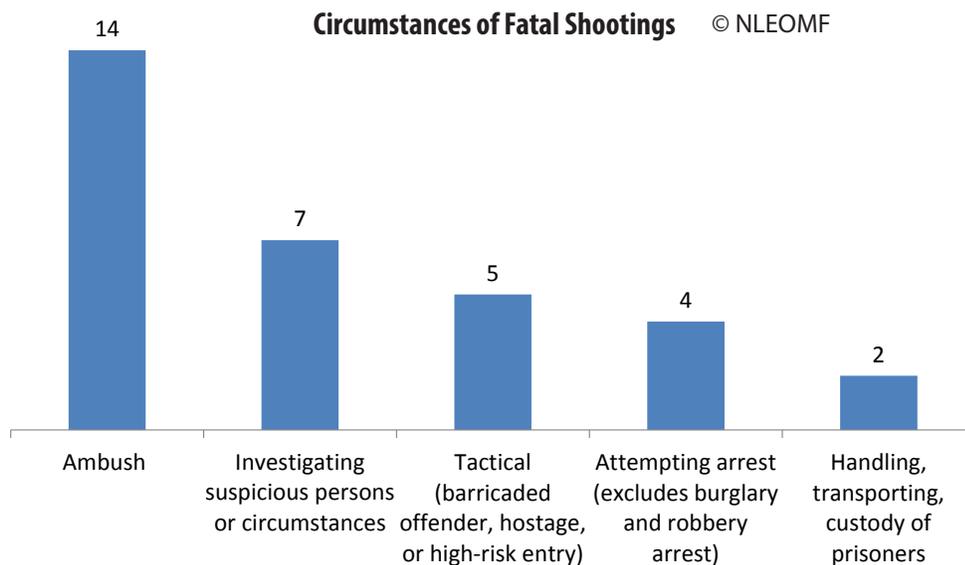
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## Firearms-related Fatalities

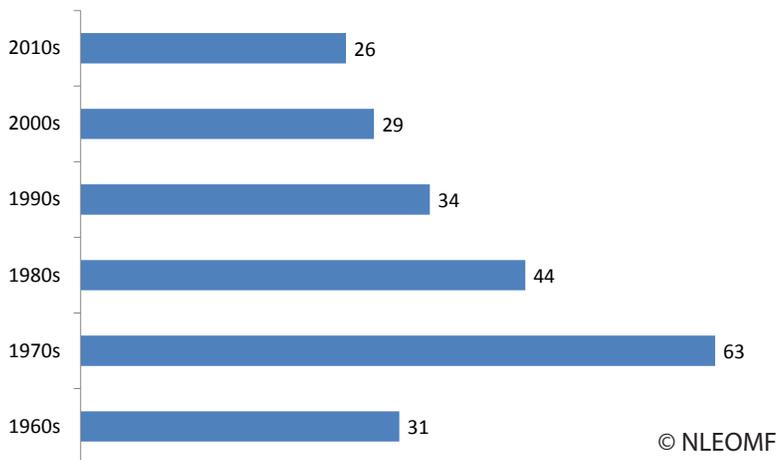
Firearms-related fatalities rose 78 percent thus far in 2016. Thirty-two officers were shot and killed this year compared to 18 during the same period in 2015. All of the 32 firearms-related cases involved fatal assaults on officers, driving up the percentage of officers feloniously shot and killed.

Of the 32 firearms-related cases, 14 were the result of an ambush-style attack carried out upon unsuspecting officers, compared to three in the same period in 2015. Seven of the cases involved officers stopping a suspicious person. Five officers were killed while executing tactical arrests or high-risk warrants.

Four officers were killed while attempting to arrest suspects and two officers were killed while handling or transporting prisoners.



### Average Mid-Year Firearms-related Fatalities by Decade



Handguns were the leading type of firearm used in fatal shootings of law enforcement officers in the first half 2016. Of the 32 officer fatalities, 19 officers were shot and killed with a handgun. Twelve officers were shot and killed with rifles and one officer was shot and killed with an unidentified firearm in the first half of 2016.

Of the 32 gunfire fatalities in the first half of 2016, 11 officers were shot and killed in July, the most of any other month. Nine officers were shot and killed in the month of February.

Firearms-related fatalities peaked in 1973, with 84 officers shot and killed in the first half of the year. Since then, the annual average has decreased from 63 in the 1970s, to 29 in the 2000s.

## Felonious Fatalities

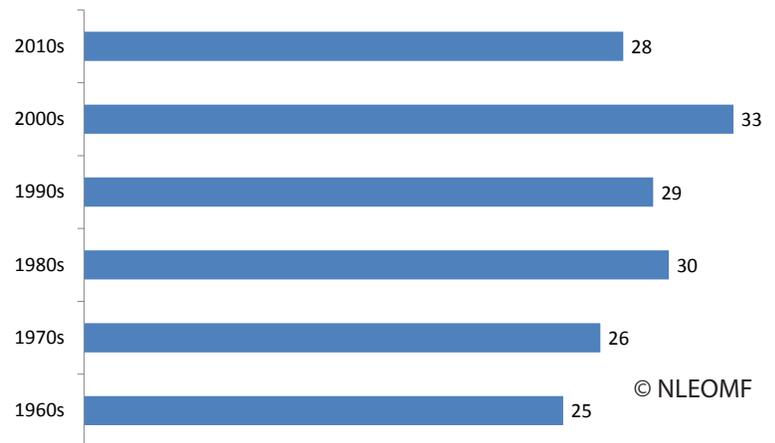
Forty-six officers were killed feloniously thus far in 2016, a 100 percent increase from 2015 when 23 officers died as a result of a criminal act. Of the 46 officers feloniously killed this year, 32 were shot and killed; 12 officers were killed in traffic-related incidents, an officer was beaten to death and an officer died of an illness contracted as a result of rescue and recovery work following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Of the 12 officers feloniously killed in traffic-related incidents, seven were killed in automobile crashes, three were struck, and two officers were killed in motorcycle crashes.

Twenty-one officers died in non-felonious incidents in 2016, a 46 percent decrease from 39 in 2015. Automobile crashes were the leading cause of non-felonious deaths in 2016 with eight fatalities, followed by job-related illnesses, which accounted for five officer deaths. Two officers died in motorcycle crashes, two officers were struck and killed by a vehicle and two officers fell to their death. One officer was killed in an aircraft crash and one officer drowned.

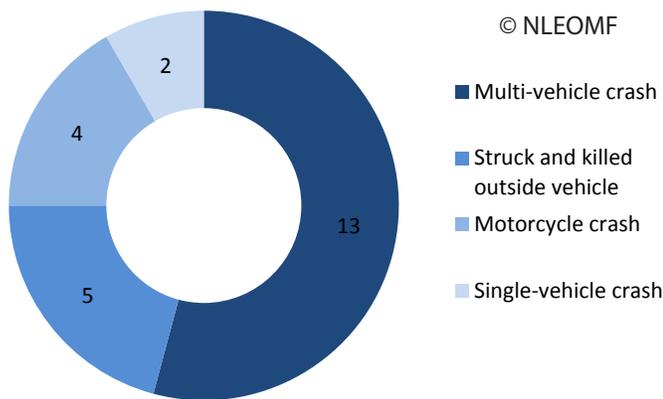
## Traffic-related Fatalities

For the first time in three years, traffic-related fatalities were not the leading cause of law enforcement deaths during the first half of the year. There have been 24 traffic-related incidents in 2016, compared to 29 over the same period last year, a 17 percent decrease. Of the 24 traffic-related incidents, 13 were automobile crashes involving a collision with another vehicle, five officers were struck while on the side of the road, four were motorcycle crashes and two were single-vehicle crashes.

Average Mid-Year Traffic-related Fatalities by Decade



Circumstances of Traffic-related Fatalities



Of the 15 automobile crashes in the first half of this year, only two were single-vehicle crashes compared to nine at the same time in 2015, representing a 78 percent decrease. This result could be an early indication that progress is being made in reducing many of these preventable deaths.

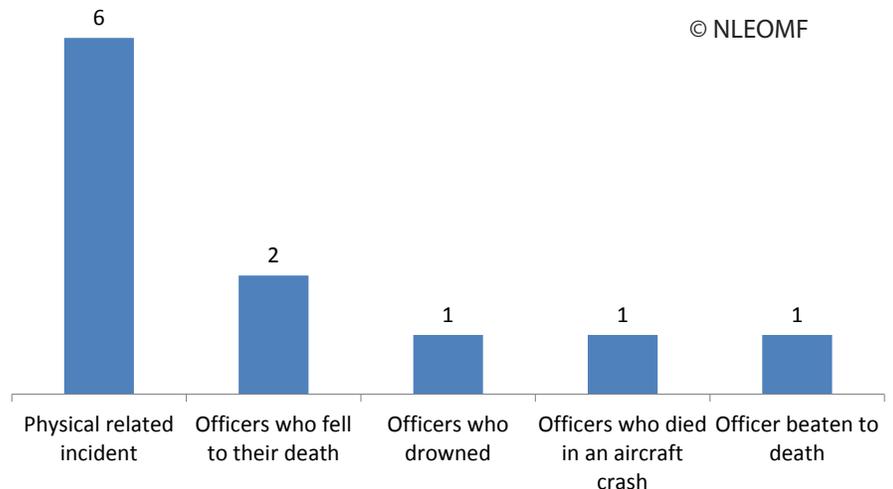
Compared to the average number of fatalities per decade, 2016 ranks below the past 10-year average (2000-2009). In the prior decade, nearly 33 officers were killed on average in the first half of a given year. Since the 1960s, traffic-related fatalities have increased, even as overall law enforcement fatalities have been decreasing.

## Other Causes of Officer Deaths

During the first half of 2016, 11 officers died of causes other than firearms or traffic-related incidents. Six officers died from job-related illnesses compared to twelve officers who died as a result of job-related illnesses during the first half of 2015.

In the first half of this year, four of the six job-related illnesses were heart attacks. In addition, two officers fell to their death, one officer died in an aircraft crash, one officer was beaten to death and one officer drowned.

Other Causes of Officer Death at Mid-Year 2016



## Officer Fatality Data

In the first half of 2016, the average age of a fallen officer was 39 years old, the average length of service was 12 years and the average officer had two children. The eldest fallen officer was 63 years old and the youngest was 22 years old.

This year, 63 male officers and four female officers have been killed.

More officers were killed in Texas (13) than any other state. Louisiana lost seven officers during the period. California, Colorado, Florida, Maryland, Michigan, Ohio and Virginia all lost three officers thus far in 2016.

Three federal officers were also killed in the line of duty in 2016. Six states lost two officers and eleven states lost one officer.

Twenty-four states and the District of Columbia did not lose an officer in the first half of this year.

## The Deadliest States



**Texas**  
**13** Officers Killed



**Louisiana**  
**7** Officers Killed

### Gender



	Low	Average	High
Age of Officer	22	39	63
Length of Service	0 years	12 years	39 years
Number of Children	0	2	6

### Jurisdiction

Municipal	34	Federal	3
County	20	University	1
State	9		

