



## 2015 –Summary of Fallen Officers

129



A 3% decline from 2014

In 2015, 129 U.S. law enforcement officers (state, local, tribal, and federal) tragically died in the line-of-duty. This figure is down approximately 3% from 2014 during which there were 133 fatalities. Of the 129:

- 49 were the result of traffic and motor vehicle-related incidents
- 41 were the result of firearms-related incidents
- 18 were the result of fatal heart attacks
- 21 officers died from other causes, average age was 40
- Average length of service was 12.5 years
- 92 percent of the fallen were male officers, 8 percent were female

Among the 49 traffic and motor vehicle-related fatalities:

- 28 officers died in automobile accidents
- 4 officers died in motorcycle accidents
- 5 officers died in crashes during vehicular pursuits
- 5 officers were fatally struck by other vehicles (non-feloniously)
- 7 officers died in felonious vehicular incidents (including those involving intoxicated drivers)

Traffic-related fatalities, whether resulting from automobile crashes or officers being struck

on the side of the road while conducting traffic stops, continue to account for a glaring percentage of line-of-duty deaths each year despite being significantly down from previous decades. These incidents continue to account for the majority of officer fatalities and they are largely preventable. The IACP has produced [roll-call videos](#), developed [resolutions](#), and continues to highlight new and pertinent findings and reports from the field to assist law enforcement leaders in better addressing officer traffic safety issues.

Among the 41 firearms-related fatalities:

- 7 officers were killed as part of domestic complaints
- 6 officers were killed during traffic stops
- Perpetrators used handguns in the majority of fatal assaults against officers

The IACP educates law enforcement executives on the strategies and equipment that can be deployed to prevent and mitigate the effects of firearms violence, the need for officers to wear tactical vests, and the importance of situational awareness. The IACP participates in the "[Vests Save Lives](#)" campaign and partners with DuPont™ on the [IACP/DuPont™ Kevlar® Survivors' Club®](#) to increase the use of personal body armor on every shift, everyday to reduce officer fatalities and disabilities. In 2011, the IACP passed a [resolution](#) encouraging mandatory vest use among law enforcement officers. In 2015, IACP recorded a [webinar](#) that examined the officer safety considerations for domestic violence response calls.

Finally, recognizing that physical and mental health are linked to officer safety and wellness, the IACP continues to develop innovative resources designed for law enforcement leadership and line officers alike. 18 officers suffered fatal heart attacks while on the job in 2015. In promoting the importance of officers taking care of themselves physically and developing positive habits on and off-the-job, the IACP Center for Officer Safety and Wellness has developed a [doctor's checklist](#) addressing noteworthy health concerns for law enforcement officers, a [pocket guide](#) for patrol officers providing healthy, on-the-go nutrition options, and an [executive fact sheet](#) for leadership encouraging prioritization of nutrition education in departments. Later this year, IACP will also publish guidance and recommendations for how law enforcement agencies of any size can take the steps to develop robust physical fitness programs and encourage exercise among officers.

*It is IACP's position that no injury to or death of a law enforcement professional is acceptable and strives to improve awareness on a range of complex officer safety issues. For more information on the IACP Center for Officer Safety and Wellness, please visit [www.theiacp.org/officersafety](http://www.theiacp.org/officersafety). If you have officer safety and wellness best practices to share or have a specific topic that you would like to see addressed, please contact the Center at [officersafety@theiacp.org](mailto:officersafety@theiacp.org).*

About ODMP:

The [Officer Down Memorial Page](#) is a non-profit agency dedicated to honoring the memory of law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty. The largest law enforcement memorial in the United States, ODMP pays tribute to over 22,000 fallen law enforcement officers in its online memorial and reflection pages. ODMP also honors fallen K9 officers, provides support to survivors through a benefits database, and works to keep cop killers behind bars through its No Parole program. The ODMP

database tracks LODD statistics in the US back to 1791, enabling the law enforcement community to analyze trends and patterns in order to work toward the goal of improving officer safety.



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