



Federal Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted

This page furnishes information regarding federal law enforcement officers who were killed or assaulted in the line of duty in 2008 and who met the appropriate criteria.

Please note that since 2006, the weapon type “threat” is no longer a weapon category. In order for a threat to be included in these data, a weapon must have been present when the threat was made. These types of assaults are reported under the particular weapon with which the offender threatened the victim.

Overview

- There were 1,347 federal law enforcement officers assaulted in 2008. Of these officers assaulted, 188 were injured. Two federal officers were killed in the line of duty.

By department:

- The U.S. Capitol Police employed 9 of the officers who were assaulted, and 4 of these officers were injured.
- The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) employed 1,098 of the federal officers who were assaulted, and 74 of these officers were injured. One DHS officer was killed in the line of duty.
- The U.S. Department of the Interior employed 189 of the officers who were assaulted. More than half (100) of these officers were injured.
- The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) employed 50 of the officers who were assaulted, and 9 of these officers were injured. One DOJ officer was killed in the line of duty.
- The U.S. Department of the Treasury employed 1 of the officers who were assaulted, and this officer was also injured in the attack.

- No U.S. Postal Inspection Service officers were assaulted in 2008.

More information about this topic is provided in Tables 74 and 75.

See also Summary of Assaults by Department.

Weapons

- 400 federal officers were attacked with personal weapons such as hands, fists, or feet, and 125 of these assaults resulted in injuries to the officers.
- 85 federal officers were assaulted with vehicles. One officer was killed, and 19 officers suffered injuries.
- 71 officers were assaulted with firearms. One officer died, and 2 officers were injured.
- 11 officers were assaulted with knives or other cutting instruments, 2 of whom were injured.
- 11 officers were attacked with blunt instruments, 6 of whom were injured.
- 769 officers were assaulted with various other types of weapons, 34 of whom were injured.

More information about this topic (including a complete breakdown of the types of weapons used to attack federal officers) is provided in Tables 76, 77, 78, and 79.

Type of activity

- 1,063 of the 1,347 federal officers assaulted in 2008 were on patrol or guard duty when they were assaulted, and 1 of these officers was killed.
- 167 officers were assaulted while attempting arrests or trying to serve summonses, including 1 officer who was killed.
- 43 officers were attacked while conducting investigations or searches.
- 34 officers were assaulted while maintaining custody of prisoners.

More information about this topic (including a complete breakdown of the types of activities in which federal officers were attacked) is provided in Table 80.

Regional and outlying area breakdowns

Of the 1,347 federal law enforcement officers who were assaulted in 2008:

- 850 officers were stationed in the West.
- 387 officers were stationed in the South.
- 65 officers were stationed in the Midwest.
- 26 officers were stationed in the Northeast.
- 15 officers were stationed in Puerto Rico.
- 3 officers were stationed in the U.S. Virgin Islands.
- 1 officer was stationed in Ecuador.

More information about this topic (including a complete breakdown by state) is provided in Table 78.

Dispositional information

- 328 alleged assailants were identified in connection with the 1,347 assaults on federal officers.
- Of the 328 offenders, dispositional information was reported for 308 of them.
- Of the 308 offenders for whom dispositions were provided, 144 were found guilty.

More information about this topic is provided in Tables 74 and 81.

Five-year totals

- From 2004 through 2008, there were 6,833 federal officers assaulted, 3 of whom were killed.

- Two of the officers who were slain in the 5-year time frame were employed by the DHS. One officer with the DHS, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, was killed in the line of duty in 2005, and an officer employed by the DHS, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, was killed in 2008. The third officer was employed by the DOJ, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and he was slain in the line of duty in 2008.

More information about this topic is provided in Tables 76 and 77.