

Law Enforcement Officer Deaths, Mid-Year 2007

The number of law enforcement officers killed in the United States soared by 44 percent during the first six months of 2007, according to preliminary statistics from the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF) and Concerns of Police Survivors (COPS).

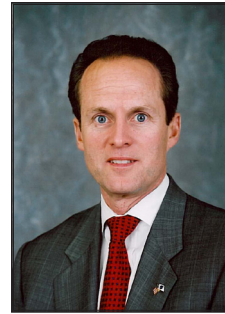
The 101 local, state and federal law enforcement officers killed between January 1 and June 30, 2007, represent the highest mid-year total since 1978, when there were 105 officer deaths. In 2006, 70 officer fatalities were recorded at the six-month mark. There were 145 line-of-duty deaths during all of 2006, the lowest annual total in eight years.

This year's surge in officer deaths is being driven by increases in both traffic-related fatalities and fatal shootings.

- During the first six months of 2007, 45 officers died in traffic-related incidents, an increase of 36 percent from the 33 traffic-related fatalities during the first six months of 2006. The 2007 figure includes 35 officers who died in automobile crashes, six who were struck by automobiles while outside their own vehicles and four who died in motorcycle crashes.
- Thirty-nine officers were shot to death during the first six months of 2007, an increase of 44 percent from the 27 fatal shootings that occurred during the same period of 2006.

Officer deaths were geographically dispersed, with 33 states, along with the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, experiencing fatalities during the first half of 2007. Texas (13) experienced the most officer deaths, followed by North Carolina (8) and New York (6). Ten of the fatalities involved members of federal law enforcement, including two military police officers killed by improvised explosive devices in Iraq.

Note: The mid-year statistics are preliminary data and do not represent a final or complete list of individual officers who will be added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in 2008.



“Though still preliminary, these latest numbers are cause for alarm for two reasons. First, the disturbing trend of more officers being killed on our roadways appears to continue unabated. Second, we are now seeing a spike in fatal shootings of officers as well – cases which have generally been declining in recent years. The law enforcement profession and the community as a whole – in particular, the motoring public – need to do everything possible to reverse these numbers and protect our men and women in blue.”

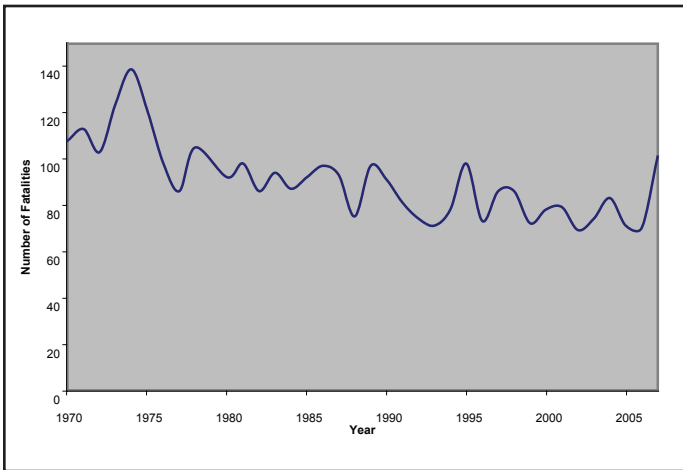
– Craig W. Floyd, Chairman and CEO
National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund



“It is horrifying to realize that Concerns of Police Survivors may be seeing many more families than expected join our organization. The increased danger to our officers weighs heavy on the minds of all law enforcement survivors who are members of COPS. We know the pain their families will need to endure. But the COPS organization will be there for them for many years to come whenever they feel the need for compassionate support, just like COPS is there for the families who lost their loved ones in years past.”

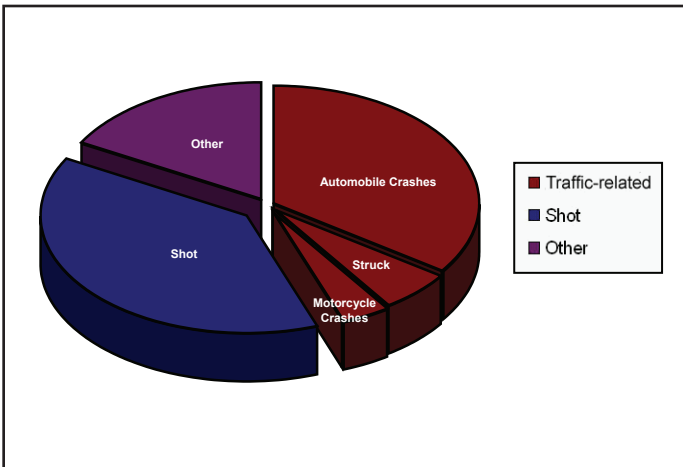
– Jean Hill, National President
Concerns of Police Survivors

Trends in law enforcement officer fatalities during first six months of the year: 1970-2007



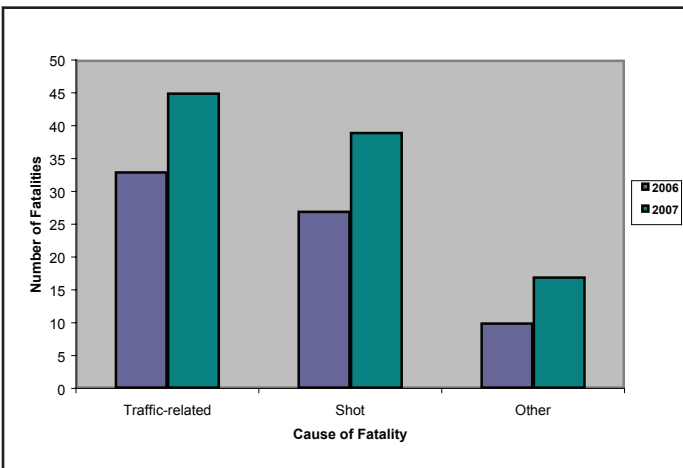
After remaining comparatively low in recent years, the number of law enforcement officer deaths surged by 44 percent during the first six months of 2007, when compared with the same time period of 2006. The 101 officer fatalities during first half of 2007 represent the highest mid-year total since 1978, when there were 105 officer deaths nationwide.

Causes of law enforcement officer fatalities during first six months of 2007

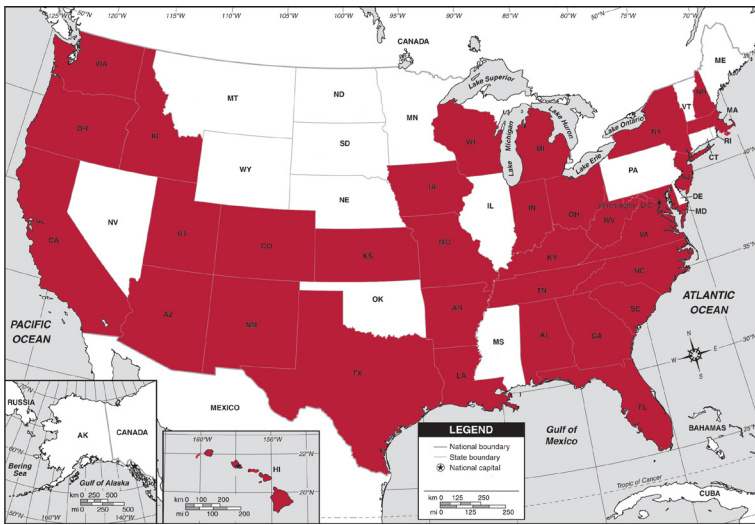


More officers were killed in traffic-related incidents than from gunshots or any other single cause of death during the first six months of 2007. This continues a nine-year trend in which the largest number of officer deaths has involved traffic incidents, which include automobile, motorcycle and bicycle crashes, as well as officers being struck by other vehicles while outside their police vehicles.

Changes in causes of law enforcement officer fatalities during first six months of the year: 2006 vs. 2007



Geographic distribution of law enforcement officer fatalities during first six months of 2007



State	Number of Fatalities		
TX	13	CO	1
NC	8	DC	1
NY	6	IA	1
FL	5	ID	1
GA	5	KS	1
SC	5	MA	1
CA	4	MI	1
LA	4	NH	1
MD	4	NM	1
NJ	3	OR	1
AL	2	TN	1
AZ	2	UT	1
HI	2	VA	1
IN	2	WA	1
KY	2	WI	1
MO	2	WV	1
OH	2	Federal	10
AR	1	Territorial	3
		TOTAL	101

Thirty-three states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, experienced officer fatalities during the first half of 2007, with Texas (13), North Carolina (8) and New York (6) losing the most officers. An additional 10 fatalities involved members of federal law enforcement.

Causes of law enforcement officer fatalities during first six months of the year: 2006 vs. 2007

Cause of Fatality	2006	2007
Traffic-related		
Automobile Crashes	24	35
Stuck By Car	5	6
Motorecycle Crashes	4	4
Subtotal:	33	45
Shot	27	39
Other		
Job-related Illness	7	7
Drowned	0	3
Terrorist Attacks	1	2
Aircraft Accidents	2	2
Bomb Blast	0	1
Boating Accident	0	1
Struck by Falling Object	0	1
Subtotal:	10	17
TOTAL	70	101

The steep increase in traffic-related fatalities during the first half of 2007 was largely the result of a 46 percent jump in the number of officers killed in automobile crashes. Fatal shootings and officers who drowned also rose substantially between the first half of 2006 and 2007.

Demographic profile of law enforcement officers killed during first six months of 2007

Race/Ethnicity	
Caucasian	76
Hispanic	13
African American	10
Other	2
Gender	
Female	1
Male	100
Average Age	37.5
Average Years of Service	10.3

While the majority of officers killed during the first half of 2007 were white, a significant number of Hispanic and African-American officers also died. All but one of the deaths involved male officers. The officers had an average age of 37.5 years and had been law enforcement professionals for an average of more than 10 years.



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Surviving family members of fallen law enforcement officers can access the services of COPS by calling 1.800.784.2677 or via email at cops@nationalcops.org.

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