



Crime in Oklahoma, 2017

Selected Findings

June 2018

Law Enforcement Officers Killed or Assaulted

The Oklahoma Uniform Crime Reporting Program collects data on law enforcement officers killed or assaulted in the line of duty.

According to reporting guidelines, assault on a law enforcement officer includes “any assault or death that occurred while the officer was working in an official capacity (on or off-duty), had full arrest powers, was wearing or carrying a badge and firearm, and was being paid from public funds.”

Assaults on law enforcement increased in 2017.

Oklahoma law enforcement agencies reported 946 assaults on officers in 2017, representing a 3.1% increase compared to 2016. Oklahoma law enforcement reported two officers killed as the result of a felonious act in 2017. The first one occurred in March while an officer conducted a traffic stop in Pottawatomie County. The second one occurred in April while an officer was responding to a call for service regarding an eviction in Logan County.

The highest number of officer assaults occurred at night.

Fifty-one percent of officer assaults occurred from 6:01 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. The highest number of officer assaults (15.1%) occurred from 10:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m., while the lowest number of assaults (1.9%) occurred from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.

The highest number of officer assaults occurred during a disturbance call.

Thirty percent of assaults occurred while the officer was reporting to a disturbance call, and 18.5% of officer assaults occurred during prison handling and/or transport.

Assaults occurring during a traffic pursuit/stop increased 6.4% compared to 2016. Officers were assaulted by ambush eight times.

The majority of officers were assaulted with personal weapons.

Seventy-four percent of officers were assaulted with personal weapons (hands, feet, fist), while 16.1% were assaulted with other dangerous weapons, and 7.2% with firearms. Officers assaulted with a firearm increased 70% from the previous year.

Assault-related injuries increased in 2017.

Officers injured during the assault increased 25.4% in 2017, compared to 2016. Officer assaults resulted in 217 injuries in 2017 and 173 injuries in 2016.

Officer Assaults in Oklahoma, 2008-2017

