



Crime in Oklahoma, 2016

Selected Findings

May 2017

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 2016.

Oklahoma law enforcement agencies reported 918 assaults on officers, representing a 14.9% increase compared to 2015. No reports indicate officers killed in 2016.

In comparison to 2012, two officers were killed – one as a result of a felonious act and the other as a result of an accident or negligent act.

The highest number of officer assaults occurred at night.

Fifty percent of officer assaults occurred from 6:01 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. The highest number of officer assaults (14.3%) occurred from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., while the lowest number of assaults (2.8%) occurred from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.

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

Thirty-two percent of assaults occurred while the officer was reporting to a disturbance call, and 19.3% of officer assaults occurred during prison handling and/or transport.

Assaults occurring during a traffic pursuit/stop increased 6.4% compared to 2015. Officers were assaulted by ambush eight times.

The majority of officers were assaulted with personal weapons.

Seventy-six percent of officers were assaulted with personal weapons (hands, feet, fist), while 16.1% were assaulted with other dangerous weapons, and 4.4% with firearms. Officers assaulted with a firearm increased 25% from the previous year.

Assault-related injuries increased in 2016.

Officers injured during the assault increased 13.8% compared to 2015. In comparison, officer assaults resulted in 152 injuries in 2015 and 153 injuries in 2014.

Officer Assaults in Oklahoma, 2007-2016

