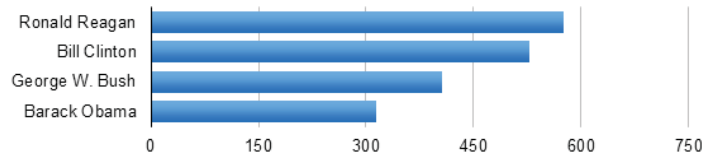


L.E.O. DIGEST

War on Police: Fact or Fiction

Being a cop isn't always safe, but is there really a war brewing?

Despite what major media outlets, politicians, and some law enforcement officials would have you believe, violence against police officers in 2015 has been the lowest in 20 years. In fact, fewer police officers have died on the job under Barack Obama's administration than during Ronald Reagan's presidency. See graph below:



Number of officers who have died on the job during various administrations

The media's concept of an increase in police killings is fabricated, because it is not based in factual evidence. The narrative has been used to advocate state-sanctioned murder by police officers against perceived threats to the law enforcement community. Police supporters are forced to engage in the conversation by detailing the reasons why police officers should be respected and protected, while they often ignore the growing evidence that police brutality is actually at the highest point in American

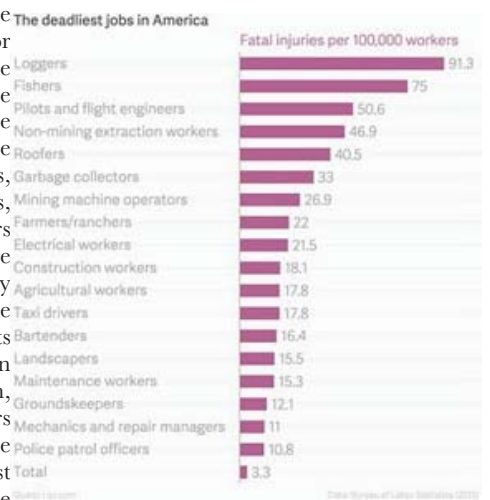
Violence against police officers in 2015 has been the lowest in 20 years

history. Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker, a Republican 2016 Presidential candidate, recently published an article with the online magazine "Hot Air," discussing the "disturbing trend of police officers being murdered on the job," though as the facts are observed, fewer police officers are killed on the job with each presidency in the United States during his lifetime.

Being a police officer is hardly among the list of deadliest jobs in America, as official data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics accounts. The recent

report by the Bureau shows that 4,585 Americans died on the job last

year, with only 79 police officers accounting for those deaths across the country. While police officers are more prone to encounter violence while working, roofers, garbage collectors, farmers, taxi drivers and bartenders are among the many positions that provide more enhanced threats to one's safety while on the job. Oddly enough, police patrol officers don't even make the top 15 list for deadliest jobs in America, yet the media continues to spin the issue to persuade the public that there is a justified cause in the overreactions by police officers while on duty.



Deadliest jobs in America

Another common misconception about violence against police officers is that black Americans are the main perpetrators to these types of crimes. In fact, attacks against police officers in almost always more likely to occur from white Americans,

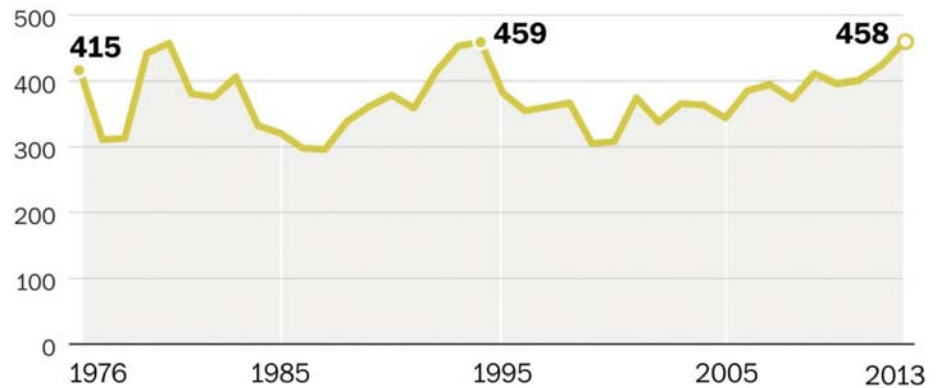
according to the FBI's annual report entitled Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted. After the highly publicized deaths of black Americans in recent

	# Deaths	# Assaultants			% Total		
		White	Black	Other	White	Black	Other
2004	57	28	30	0	49%	53%	0%
2005	55	36	21	0	65%	38%	0%
2006	48	25	29	0	52%	60%	0%
2007	57	35	24	3	61%	42%	5%
2008	41	20	21	1	49%	51%	2%
2009	48	24	17	0	50%	35%	0%
2010	56	25	35	0	45%	63%	0%
2011	72	43	29	5	60%	40%	7%
2012	48	30	16	2	63%	33%	4%
2013	27	15	11	2	56%	41%	7%
Total	509	281	233	13	55%	46%	3%

Source: FBI Annual Reports: Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted

Justifiable homicides by a police firearm

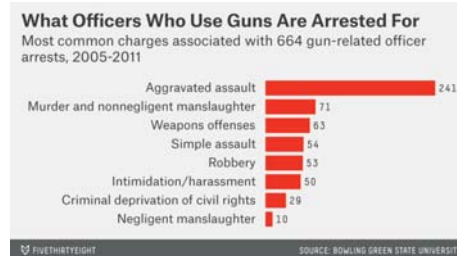
Since 1976, the FBI has not reported more than 460 fatal police shootings in a year.



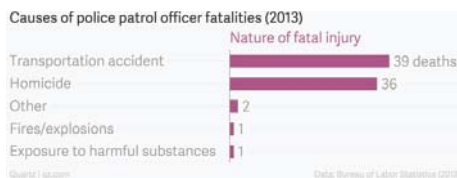
Source: FBI

THE WASHINGTON POST

memory, namely Mike Brown and Eric Garner, media outlets were very quick to report on these deaths in a way that encouraged their readers and viewers to assume that there was a desire by black Americans to retaliate against police officers, but these claims are unfounded by statistical evidence. The FBI report also shows that, over the last three years, of the 147 police officers killed by people, only 56 of the assailants were black, even though more than 70 percent of police interactions were with non-white citizens.



According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, only 1/3rd of the charges against police officers lead to a conviction, while the conviction rate for the general population rate is more than double that figure. In addition to that, out of the officers that are actually convicted, only 12 percent of them are ever sent to serve time in prison, while the rest of the population has an incarceration rate 400% higher if convicted of similar crimes. Most often out of these cases, police officers are convicted of aggravated assault, followed by murder and non-negligent manslaughter.



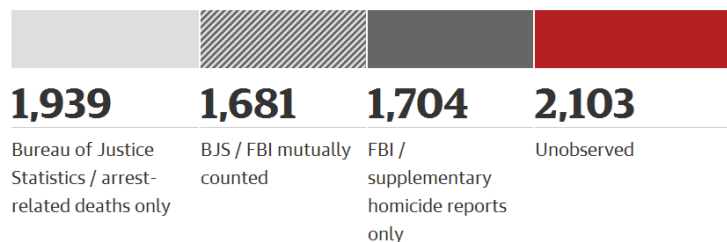
If the myth of police officer deaths while on the job still seems to be a relevant statistical figure by now, consider that more police officers are killed on the job in traffic accidents than by homicide. Of course, this doesn't mean being a cop is exactly safe. The mortality risk they brave is still many times higher than the 3.3 deaths per 100,000 that full-time American workers face overall.

In contrast to police officer deaths, the amount of “justifiable homicide” cases that are reported every year stand in far greater numbers than have ever been reported for police officers. Since 1976, the FBI has not reported more than 460 fatal police shootings in a year, yet over 500 men, women, and children were murdered by police officers in 2015 by the month of July. At least two people have been shot and killed by police every single day of the same month, and the number isn't getting any smaller. Since none of these deaths have led to convictions in a court of law, it is to be assumed that all of these individuals are innocent until they have been proven guilty by a court of law.

The executive powers of law enforcement offer little recourse when a family member is murdered, and often times the deaths are left incomplete and unreported by the agency at all. The Bureau of Justice Statistics only accounts for approximately half of all deaths by police. The US government recorded over 2,103 “unobserved” killings between 2003-2011, which doesn't speak much to the precision of law enforcement's job to document their actions while serving the public. For more than a decade, government agencies have stated that there is no hard data to determine how many citizens are killed by police across the country every year. After the death of Mike Brown in Ferguson, Missouri last year, the combination of public pressure and media scrutiny led the Bureau to release their report, detailing at least 928 people that have been killed by police annually over the last eight years — more than doubling the number reported by the FBI.

The uncounted

A recent report estimated that there were 7,427 law enforcement homicides in the US during the eight years spanning 2003-2009 and 2011 — or an average of 928 per year. The number is more than twice as large as the closest previous official tally from the US government. Even the two best tallies — combined — left an estimated 2,103 homicides uncounted during those years.



SOURCE: Bureau of Justice Statistics