



Reducing Officer Injuries Study



To better understand the scope and frequency of injuries sustained by law enforcement officers, the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), through a cooperative agreement with the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, conducted a multi-department assessment of officer injuries over 1 year. Notable study findings are as follows:

- 18 participating agencies
- 1,295 total injuries reported
- 5,938 total resulting days missed
- \$1,211,352 (est.) lost due to injuries
- \$1,817,028 (est.) lost due to added overtime assignment costs

Officers with less than 5 years on the job were most likely to sustain injuries.

Officers wearing their seatbelts during a vehicular crash missed an average of 5 fewer days compared to those who did not.



What qualified as an injury?

Reportable injuries were defined as any injury resulting in pain or discomfort that occurred during the performance of an individual's duties as a law enforcement officer, including both on- and off-duty employment. All cases were self-reported.

Officers who reported wearing body armor while sustaining an injury missed fewer work days than those who did not.

Officers who reported healthy weights according to the Body Mass Index (BMI) measure missed almost half as many days of work following an injury as those officers who reported being overweight.

Officers who reported being engaged in fitness training were less likely to suffer a more severe, OSHA-reportable injury.



Center for Officer Safety and Wellness

International Association of Chiefs of Police



Interactions with offenders who had prior contact with law enforcement resulted in more serious officer injuries.

Encounters with suspects under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol resulted in more severe officer injuries.



Officers trained in the areas of arrest procedure and tactics and use of force sustained less severe injuries.

[Access IACP's findings from a 2012 report on Use of Force](#)

What Can Law Enforcement Agencies Do to Help Prevent and/or Mitigate Officer Injuries?

- Track officer injuries of all types, as well as the circumstances of the injury, in order to identify possible patterns.
- Develop injury reduction efforts for at-risk officer groups.
- Keep track of offenders residing in agency jurisdiction to improve the chances of neutralizing threats and reducing injury.
- Incorporate advanced arrest procedure and tactics training and use-of-force training in academy and in-service curricula.
- Implement mandatory seatbelt policies and address speed and pursuit policies.
- Implement physical fitness programs and nutrition education programs for officers.

Complete findings from this study can be found in the Reducing Officer Injuries Final Report, which can be accessed at: www.theiacp.org/roi

For more information about the IACP Center for Officer Safety and Wellness, please visit: www.theiacp.org/CenterforOfficerSafetyandWellness



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OFFICER SAFETY
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WELLNESS

International Association
of Chiefs of Police
Alexandria, VA
officersafety@theiacp.org
800-THE-IACP