

2023

LEOKA IN TENNESSEE

- *MULTI-YEAR BREAKDOWN*
- *SITUATION ANALYSIS*
- *LEOKA BY LOCATION*



A PUBLICATION OF THE TENNESSEE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS CENTER | CJIS SUPPORT UNIT



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DAVID B. RAUSCH
Director

October 31, 2024

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I would like to present the 2023 Law Enforcement Officers Killed or Assaulted (LEOKA) annual report. This report is published by the TBI presenting information on reported incidents of assaults or deaths of policing professionals in the line of duty that occurred in Tennessee. The information contained in the report is based on crime statistics data submitted by policing agencies, including those at colleges and universities in Tennessee to TBI's Tennessee Incident Based System (TIBRS) program. TIBRS is the state version of the FBI's National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) program. The information collected by TBI conforms to the national standard as presented in the FBI's annual LEOKA report. Please see <https://crimeinsight.tbi.tn.gov/> for additional information.

I am deeply concerned about the significant increase in the number of officers killed or assaulted in 2023, which you will see in the report. I encourage communities to review this information and seek ways to improve safety for those in the policing profession in Tennessee.

I am very proud of the efforts of all participating policing agencies in the state to provide the data necessary to produce this report. Our combined efforts have resulted in a successful program and this annual report providing critical information on incidents involving assaults and deaths of police professionals.

Sincerely,

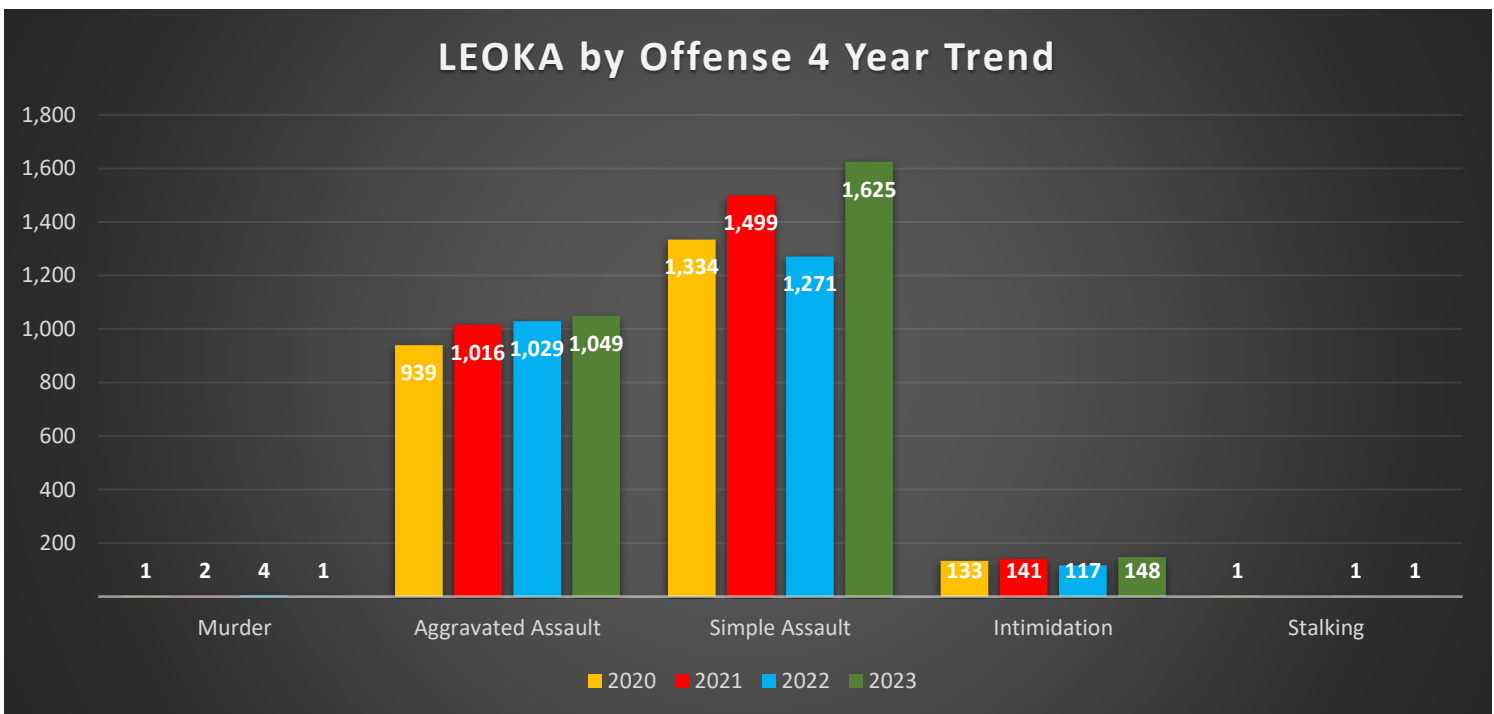
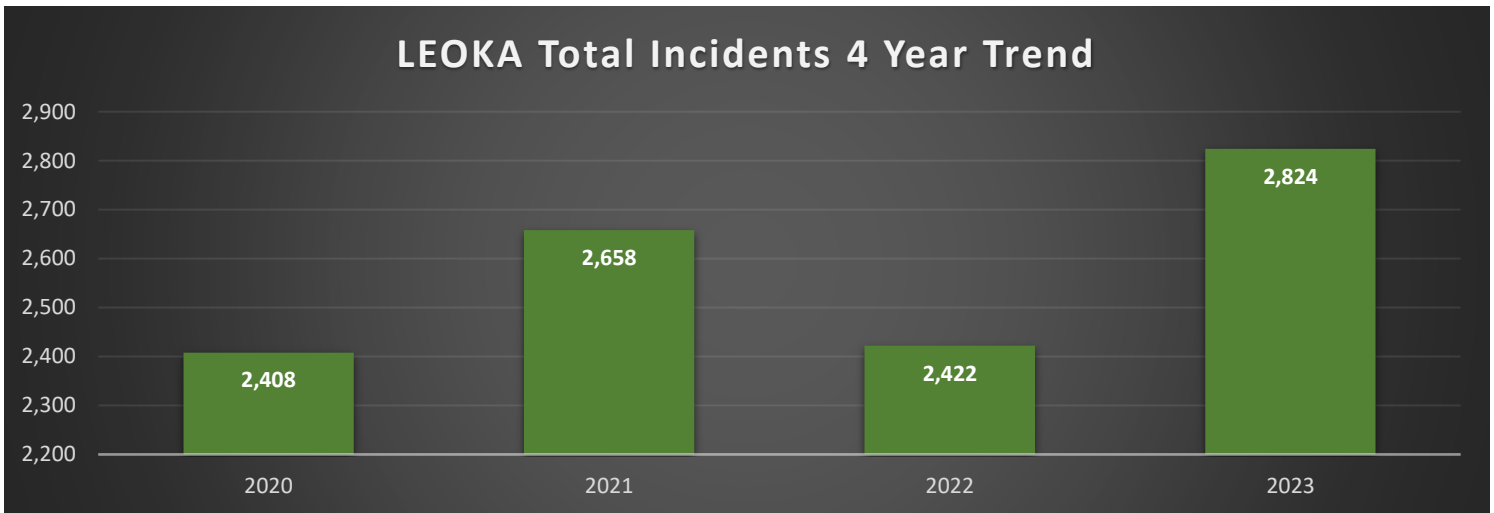
David B. Rausch
Director





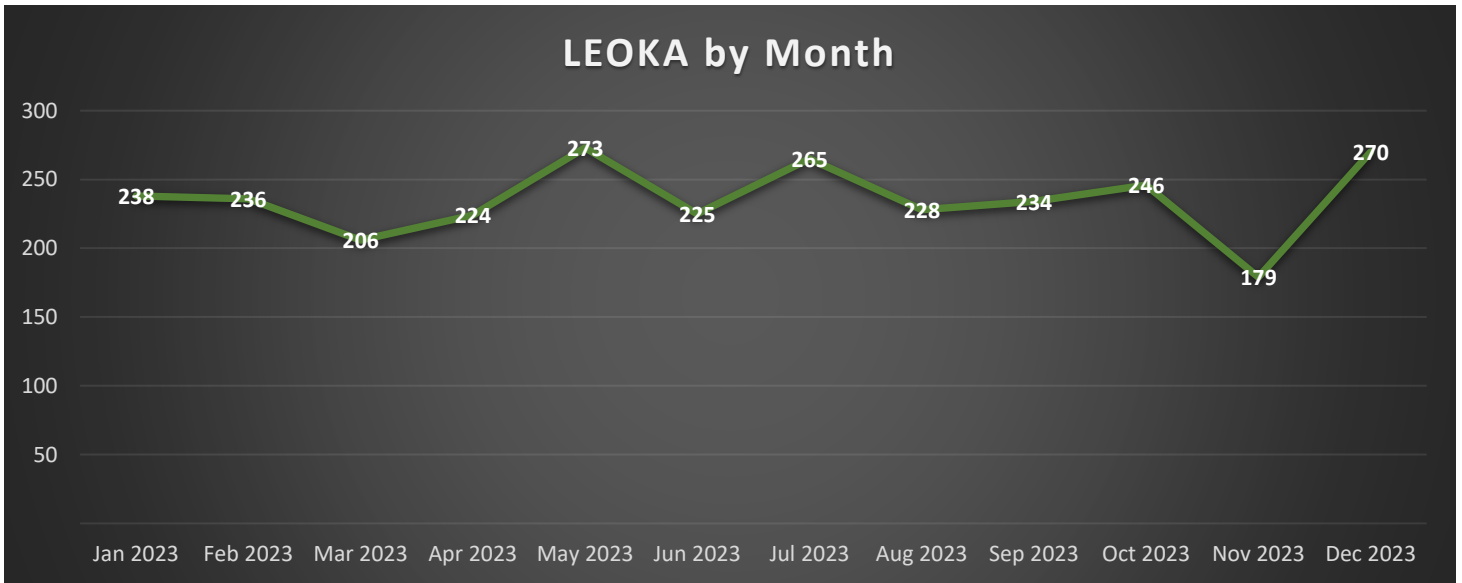
LEOKA 2023

This publication will examine incidents in which law enforcement officers were killed or assaulted in the line of duty in 2023. This information was collected through the Tennessee Incident Based Reporting System (TIBRS). Incident-based reporting views a crime and all of its components as an “incident.” In order to obtain important information, facts recorded and preserved about the incident are organized into specific categories or segments. The vehicle used for recording these facts is a “data element.” Data elements provide information about the crime and the involvement of relevant victims, offenders, property, arrestees, etc. All data used in this publication was pulled on 8/20/24. Although the data may change, this report will not be updated.

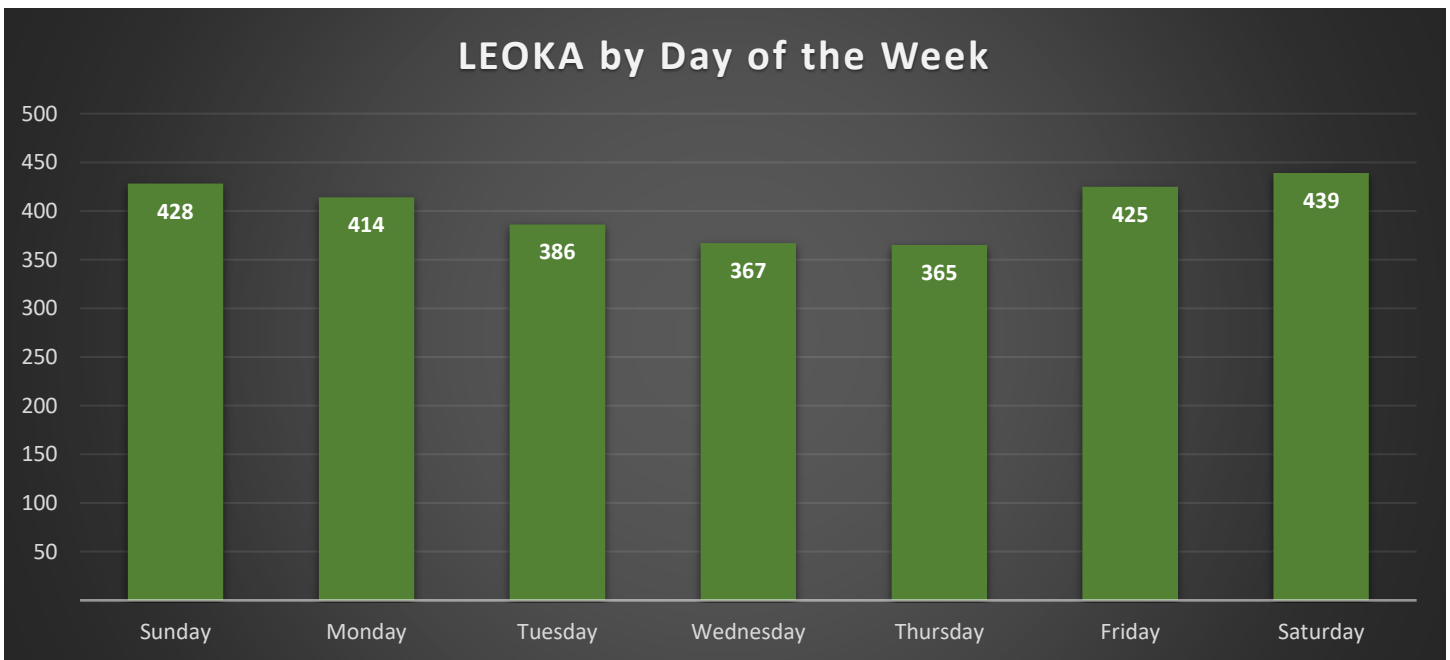


In 2023, reported LEOKA incidents showed an increase of 16.60%. The majority of the reported increase occurs in the form of a 27.85% rise in reports of Simple Assault in LEOKA incidents. The other major rise of LEOKA incidents was with Intimidation, which showed a 26.50% increase. Despite the large increases in non-lethal incidents, there were 75.00% fewer reported Murders in 2023 compared to 2022.

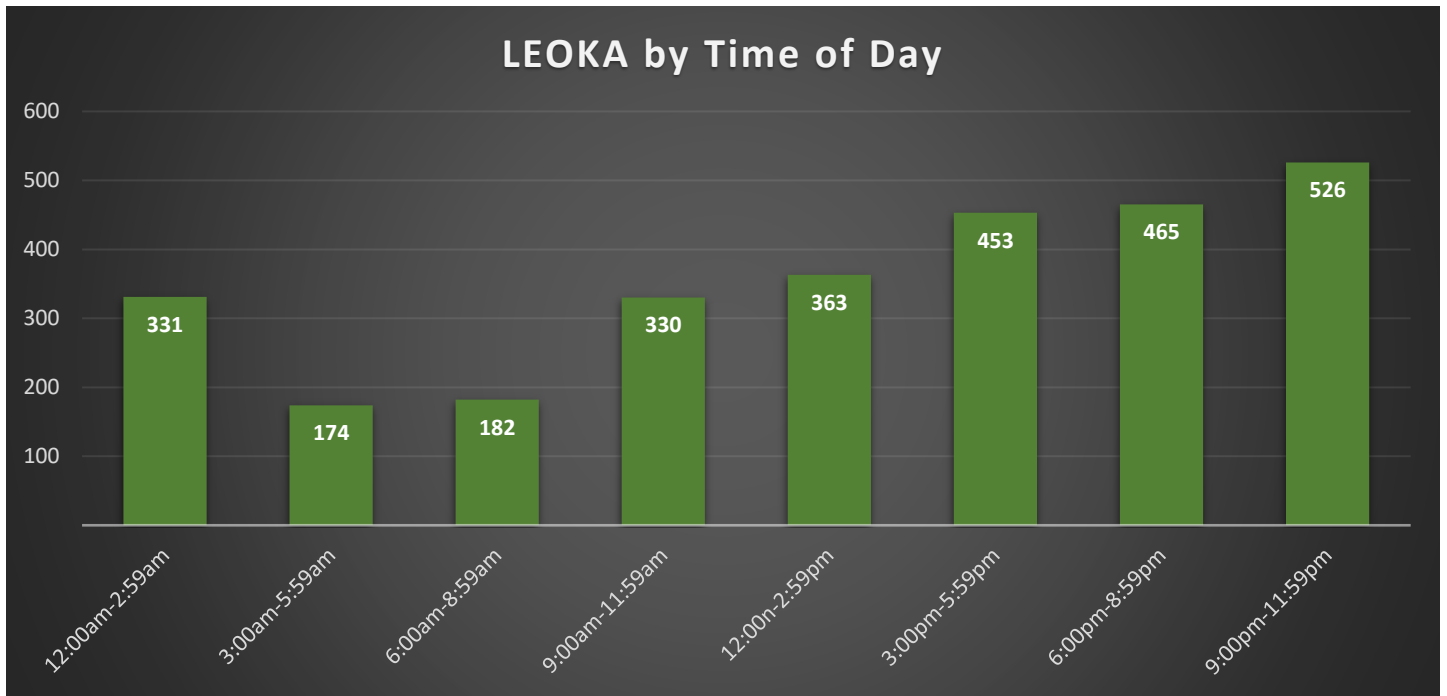
LEOKA BY OCCURRENCE



LEOKA incidents occur with a similar frequency throughout the year, with May comprising the most amount of incidents, 9.67%, and November having a noticeable dip with 6.34% of incidents.



Similar to the comparison of LEOKA incidents by month, the days of the week in which incidents occur shows a relatively similar spread throughout the week. The numbers are highest clustered around the weekends with Saturday being the highest, at 15.55% of incidents, while the lowest reported days for LEOKA incidents occurred midweek with Thursday being the lowest, comprising 12.92% of reports.



Examining when LEOKA incidents occur by time of day shows a relatively large variance between reported times with the highest amount of incidents being reported as in evening to early late night hours (9:00-11:59pm) with 18.63% of reports, with late night and early morning comprising the lowest number of incidents (3:00-5:59am and 6:00-8:59am) at 6.16% and 6.44% of reports respectively.

Number of Incidents and Specific Location Type	
Residence/Home	904
Highway/Road/Alley	792
Parking Lot/Garage	285
Jail/Prison	249
Hospital	124
School – Elementary/Secondary	92
Other/Unknown	51
Government/Public Building	49
Hotel/Motel/Etc.	45
Convenience Store	44
Restaurant	33
Bar/Night Club	30
Department/Discount Store	24
Service/Gas Station	24
Field/Woods	23
Park/Playground	21
Grocery/Supermarket	16
Arena/Stadium/Fairgrounds/Coliseum	10
Church/Synagogue/Temple	9
Air/Bus/Train Terminal	9
Bank/Savings and Loan	7
Specialty store (TV, Fur, etc.)	7
Commercial/Office Building	6
Carpport	6
Shopping Mall	5
Lake/Waterway	5
Shelter - Mission/Homeless	4
Camp/Campground	4
Industrial Site	4
School – College/University	3
Library	3
Movie Theater	2
Pawn Shop	2
Rental Storage Facility	2
Rest Area	2
Construction Site	2
Auto Dealership New/Used	1
Doctor's Office	1
Gambling Facility/Casino/Race Track	1
Pharmacy	1
School/College(Historical Only)	1
Community Center	1

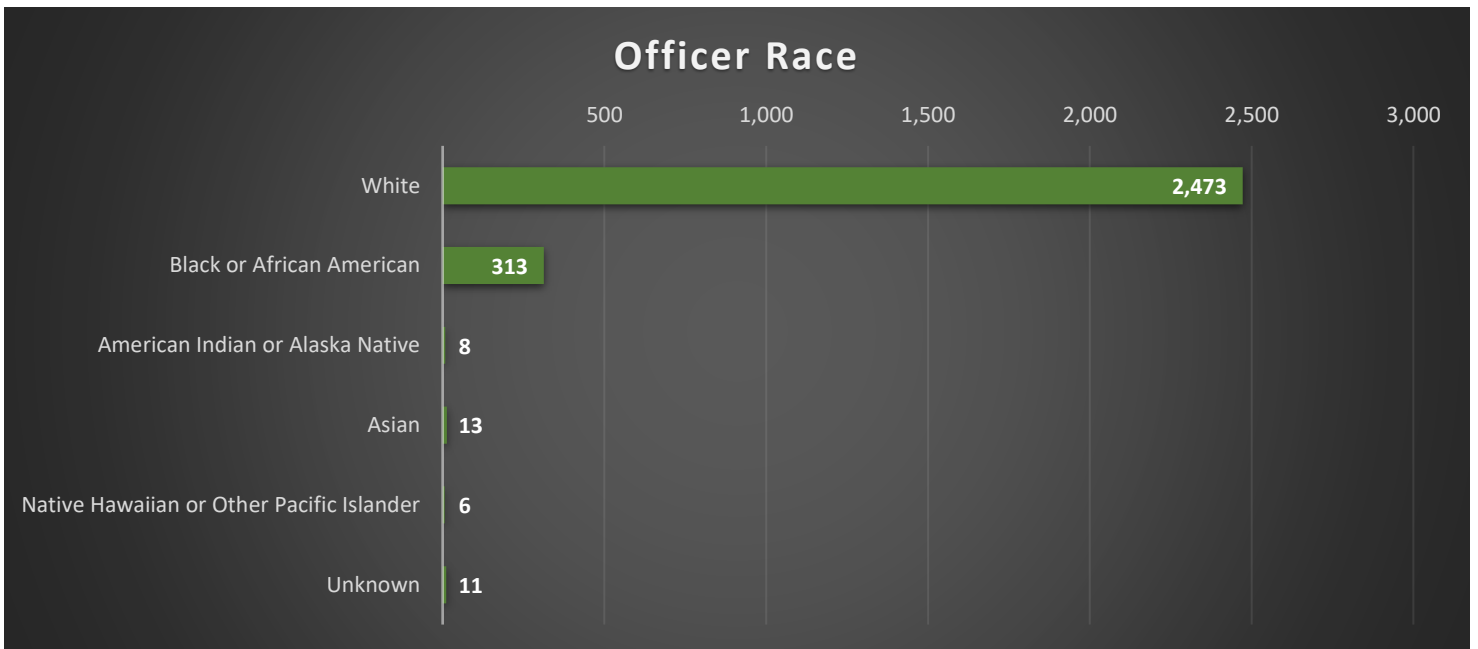
Examining the location types in which LEOKA incidents were reported as having happened showed a few location types as standing out for being common. The most common being Residence/Home at 31.13%. Following this were Highway/Road/Alley and Parking Lot/Garage at 27.27% and 9.81% respectively.

Please note that when an incident is entered, up to two location types may be selected for each given incident leading to a higher number of Location Types reported than incidents.

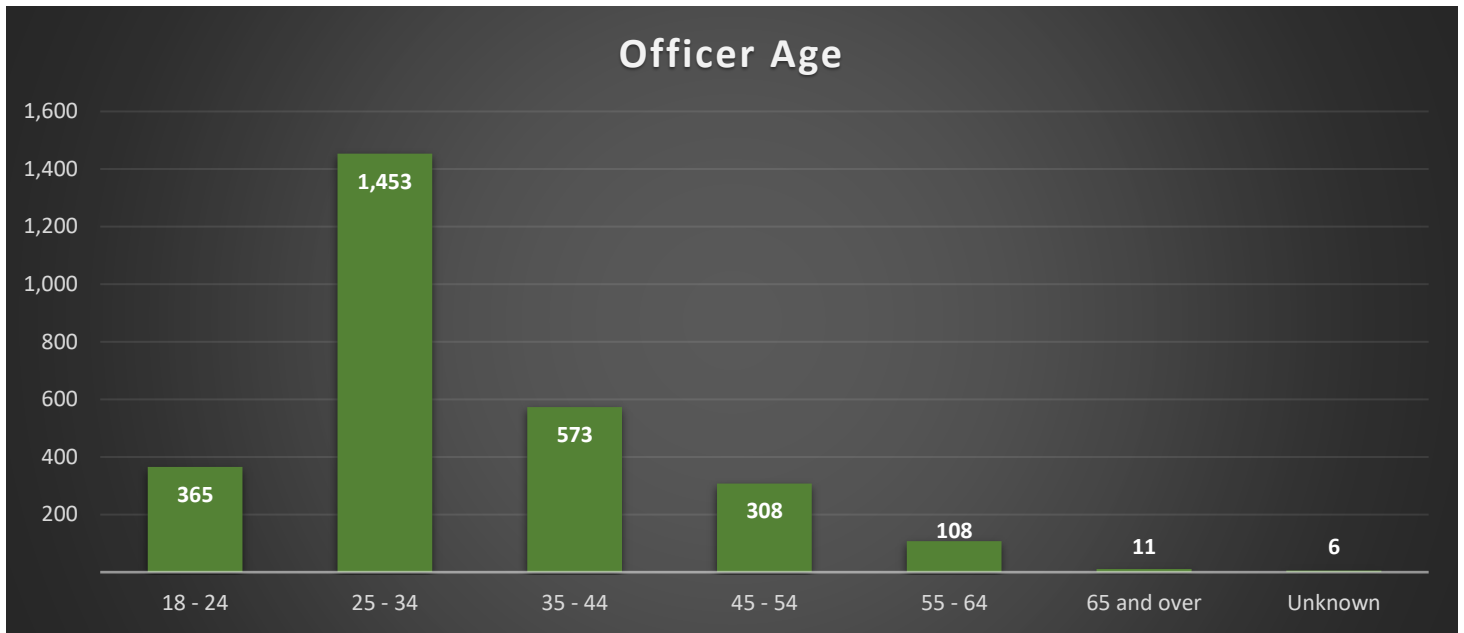
OFFICER DEMOGRAPHICS



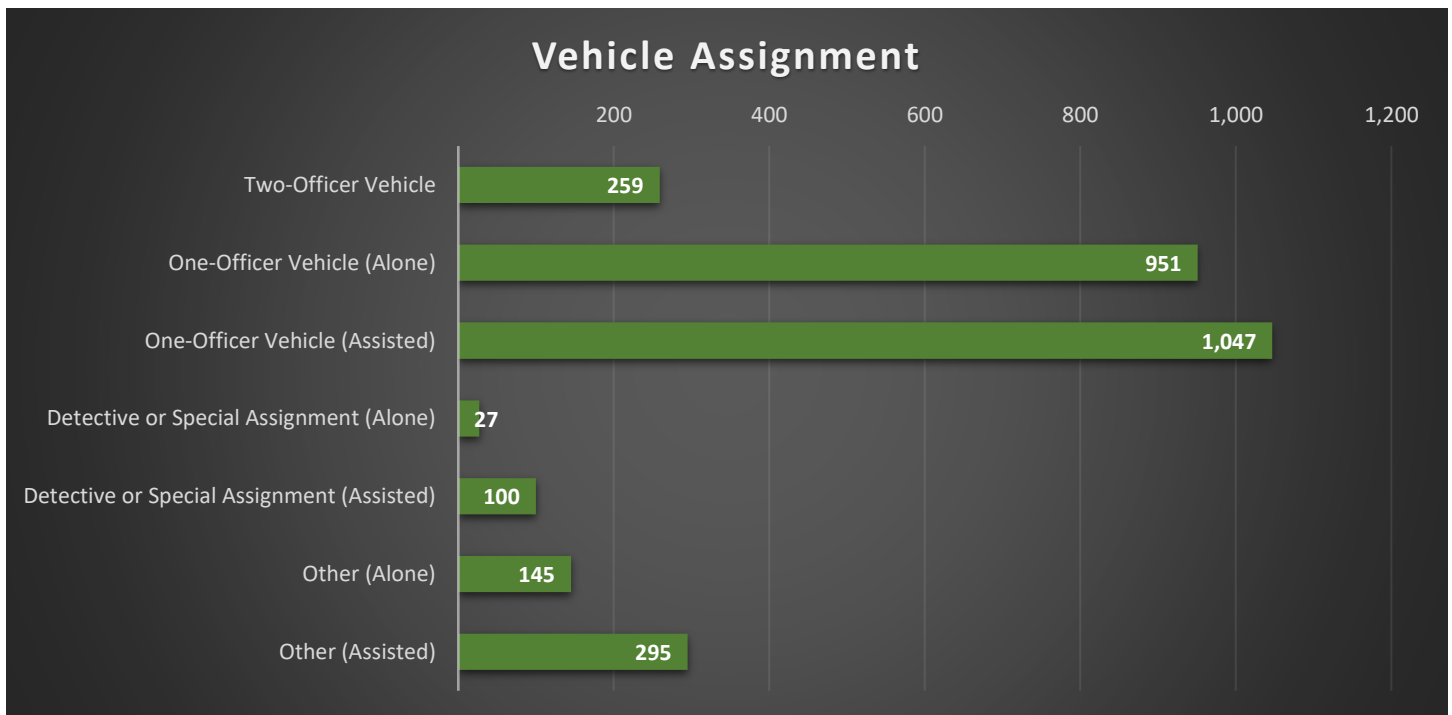
Breaking down the officers affected by LEOKA incidents shows that those officers categorized as Male made up 88.31% of reports. Females made 11.30% of reports with the remaining 0.39% reported as Unknown.



Officers who were killed or assaulted in 2023 fell almost entirely in the racial categories of either "White" or "Black or African American" with those comprising 87.57% and 11.08% of reported officers respectively. The remainder of reports were split between other racial groups or reported as being "Unknown."



The ages of officers involved in LEOKA predominantly fell within the age range of 25-34 with 51.45% of reported officers. Following that are 35-44 and 18-24 with 20.29% and 12.92% of reported ages respectively. As ages advance and those reaching retirement age are approached, the number of officers reported as having been affected by a LEOKA incident drops dramatically, with only 0.39% reported as being 65 or older.



A data point unique to LEOKA offenses is the officer's vehicle assignment at the time of an incident. In 2022, the majority of affected officers were reported as having been in One-Officer Vehicles, either Alone (33.68%) or Assisted (37.08%). Those listed in Other (Assisted) comprised the next highest number of reports, albeit at a significantly lower rate of 10.45% of reported vehicle types.

LEOKA INJURIES & WEAPONS USED

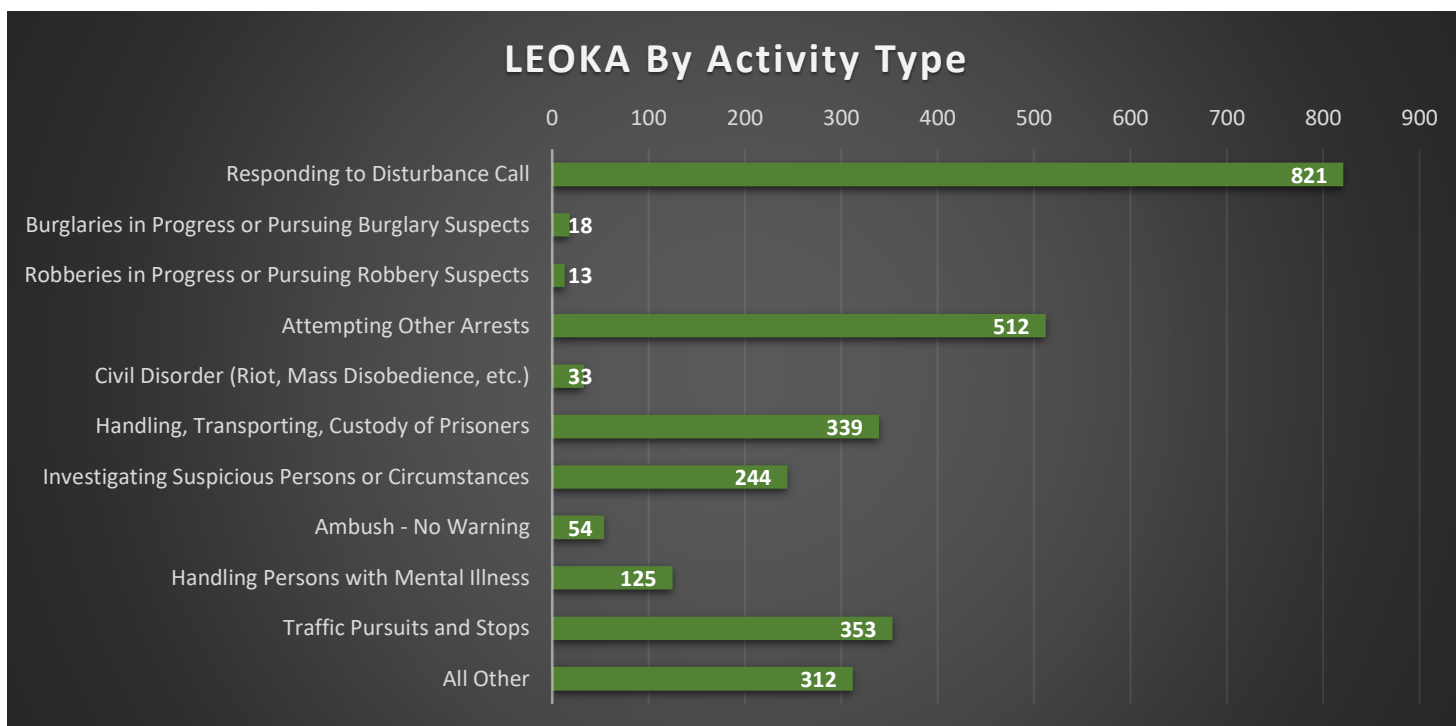
Injury Type	
None	1,929
Apparent Minor Injury	681
Other Major Injury	25
Severe Laceration	23
Possible Internal Injury	21
Apparent Broken Bones	12
Unconsciousness	5

Per TIBRS, up to 5 injury types may be reported per victim. Injury Type is a required data element when Aggravated Assault and Simple Assault are reported. In 2023 there were a total of 2,696 reported Injury Types. However, the most commonly reported selection was None with 71.55% of reports. Besides this, the most common reported injury was Apparent Minor Injury comprising 25.26% of injuries entered. More severe injuries only accounted for 3.19% of Injury Types reported.

Weapon Type	
Personal Weapons (Hands, Fist, Feet, Arms, Teeth, Etc.)	1,536
Motor Vehicle/ Vessel	380
Handgun	235
Other	214
Knife/ Cutting Instrument (Icepick, Ax, Etc.)	114
Firearm (Type Not Stated)	72
Shotgun	59
Blunt Object (Club, Hammer, Etc.)	52
Rifle	49
Explosives	20
Other Firearm	9
Asphyxiation (by Drowning, Strangulation, Suffocation, Gas)	5
Drugs/Narcotics/Sleeping Pills	4
Fire/Incendiary Device	2
Handgun- Automatic	1

Per TIBRS, up to 3 weapon types may be selected per incident. In 2022 a total of 2,311 weapon types were reported in conjunction with a LEOKA incident. Among these, Personal Weapons comprised the largest portion of reports at 52.01% of reported weapons. Following this were Motor Vehicle/Vessel (16.53%) and Handgun (10.90%).

LEOKA BY ACTIVITY TYPE

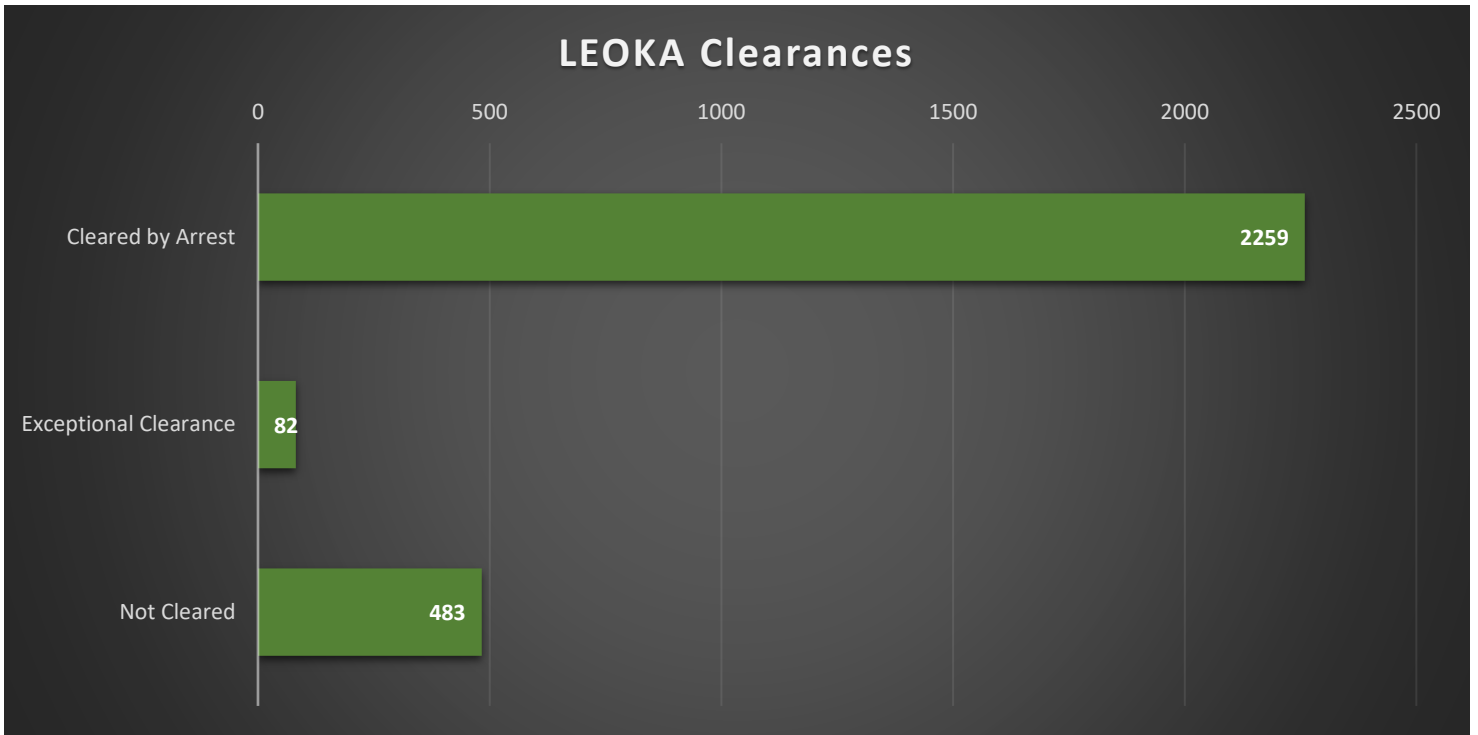


A unique facet of data collected in LEOKA cases is the circumstances as to why an officer was present during the commission of LEOKA incident. In 2023, the primary activity type reported was Responding to a Disturbance Call at 29.07% of incidents. Following this was Attempting Other Arrests at 18.13% of reports.

Activity Type	Aggravated Assault	Simple Assault	Intimidation	Murder	Stalking
Responding to Disturbance Call	245	529	47	0	0
Burglaries in Progress or Pursuing Burglary Suspects	8	9	1	0	0
Robberies in Progress or Pursuing Robbery Suspects	13	0	0	0	0
Attempting Other Arrests	202	301	9	0	0
Civil Disorder (Riot, Mass Disobedience, etc.)	13	19	1	0	0
Handling, Transporting, Custody of Prisoners	29	284	26	0	0
Investigating Suspicious Persons or Circumstances	102	129	12	1	0
Ambush – No Warning	35	19	0	0	0
Handling Persons with Mental Illness	26	95	4	0	0
Traffic Pursuits and Stops	262	74	17	0	0
All Other	114	166	31	0	1

Breaking down the Activity Types to which an officer was responding during a LEOKA incident shows that Simple Assault is the predominantly reported offense in most situations. The most notable exception was “Traffic Pursuits and Stops,” which seems to be the case because a motor vehicle is categorized by TIBRS as a type of weapon which, if used as such, would immediately elevate a Simple Assault to an Aggravated Assault.

CLEARANCES



Finally examined was how many LEOKA incidents were cleared in 2023. The majority of incidents were Cleared by Arrest at 79.99%, and an additional 2.90% were categorized as an Exceptional Clearance. Exceptional Clearance refers to cases in which the offender is known but due to a mitigating circumstance (such as the death of an offender or the victim refusing to cooperate), the incident is unable to be cleared by an arrest. The remaining 17.10% of incidents had not been cleared at the time the data for this publication was pulled.



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