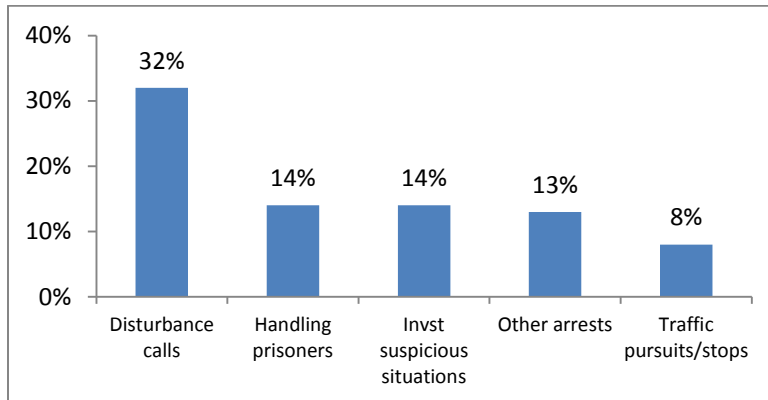


Responding to Disturbance Calls Poses Greatest Risk to Peace Officers

Peace officers face serious risks to their personal safety whenever they are in the line of duty. As such, the FBI annually tracks the number of officers killed and assaulted while on duty, as well as the type of weapon and nature of the situation, which provides useful training information to law enforcement regarding situations posing greatest risk in the field. In 2011 (the most recent statistics available), 125 officers in the U.S. lost their lives in the line of duty – 72 through a felonious act and 53 through accidents. Compared to 2010, the number of felonious deaths nationally jumped 29 percent (from 56 in 2010), while the number of accidental deaths dropped 27 percent (from 73 in 2010).¹ In 2011, six officers lost their lives in California (2 through a felonious act and 4 through an accident, compared to 4 and 6 in 2010) and one officer lost his life in San Diego County (through a felonious act) compared to 2 in 2010, (1 each by felonious act or injury) (not shown).²

In addition, 54,774 officers were assaulted nationally in the line of duty in 2011 (approximately 150 per day on average), including 8,424 in California and 566 in San Diego County. Locally, around four in five (81%) assaults were described as occurring in one of five categories: responding to a disturbance call, handling or transporting prisoners, investigating suspicious persons/circumstances, attempting other arrests, and traffic pursuits/stops (Figure 1). Other situations, accounting for the remaining one-fifth, included interactions with mentally impaired individuals, burglaries/robberies in progress, ambush situations, and civil disorder. Most of the San Diego County peace officers assaulted in 2011 were confronted by an assailant using his/her hands/fists/feet (89%), followed by some other dangerous weapon (8%), knife/cutting instrument (3%), or firearm (1%). Nearly half (47%) of the assaults against San Diego peace officers resulted in some injury, a considerably higher proportion than those that occurred statewide (24%) and nationally (27%) (not shown).²

Figure 1
**MOST COMMON SITUATIONS IN WHICH LOCAL
LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS WERE ASSAULTED IN 2011**



SOURCE: Federal Bureau of Investigation; State of California Department of Justice, 2012

Numerous national and local events are scheduled in May to recognize law enforcement officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. This CJ Fax is dedicated to all of the sworn officers in San Diego County who take risks on a daily basis to keep our community safe. Thank you for your service.

¹ Federal Bureau of Investigation (2012). Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted, 2011. U.S. Department of Justice.

² Office of the Attorney General (2011). Law Enforcement Officers Killed or Assaulted, 2010. State of California Department of Justice.