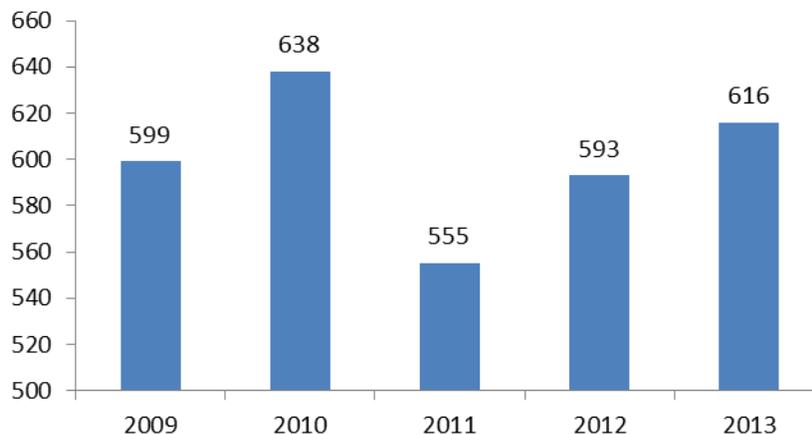


### Number of Sworn Officers Assaulted in San Diego County Up for the Second Consecutive Year in 2013

Peace officers face serious risks to their personal safety whenever they are in the line of duty. In 2012 (the most recent national statistics available from the FBI<sup>1</sup>), 95<sup>2</sup> officers in the U.S. lost their lives in the line of duty – 48 through a felonious act and 47 through accidents. Of those feloniously killed, 69 percent were assigned to patrol; the average length of law enforcement service was 12 years; the most common circumstance was an arrest situation (25%), followed by a traffic pursuit or stop (17%), investigating suspicious persons or situations (17%), or ambush situations (13%); and the weapon used most often was a firearm (92%). In addition, 52,901 officers were assaulted in the line of duty in 2012 nationally, a rate of 10.2 per 100 sworn officers, and a decline of 3 percent from the number reported in 2011. Across the U.S., almost 28 percent of these assaults resulted in injury, and while most deaths resulted from a firearm, most injuries (80%) resulted from the use of personal weapons (e.g., hands, fists, feet). According to the FBI, the largest percent of victim officers (33%) was assaulted while responding to disturbance calls (not shown).

LEOKA (Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted) statistics compiled for this CJ Flash revealed that the number of officers killed or assaulted in the County has varied over the past few years, but has increased 11 percent most recently from the five-year low of 555 in 2011 to 616 in 2013 – an average of almost 12 officers killed/assaulted per week and a rate of 15.0 per 100 sworn officers, higher than the national average of 10.2. Fortunately, however, no sworn officers were killed, either feloniously or accidentally, in the San Diego region in 2013. Across the jurisdictions, the City of San Diego reported 251 officer assaults in 2013, followed by the Sheriff (196), Escondido (64), Oceanside (34), La Mesa (16), Chula Vista and El Cajon (both 23), the Harbor Police (6), Carlsbad (2), and National City (1).

**Figure 1**  
**NUMBER OF SWORN OFFICERS KILLED OR ASSAULTED IN THE SAN DIEGO REGION**



SOURCE: Local law enforcement data provided to SANDAG, 2014

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 Flash is dedicated to all of the sworn officers in San Diego County who take risks on a daily basis to keep our communities safe. Thank you for your service.

<sup>1</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation (2013). *Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted, 2012*. Available on-line: [www.fbi.gov](http://www.fbi.gov).

<sup>2</sup> It should be noted that this number does not include other in line of duty deaths not documented by the FBI but reported elsewhere ([www.odmp.org](http://www.odmp.org)).