



The Delaware Repeal Project

100 W. 10th Street, Suite 603, Wilmington, DE
 www.derepeal.org | Brian@derepeal.org | 732-814-7679

Facts about law enforcement deaths by homicide in states that have ended the use of the death penalty since 2007. (As of March 26, 2014)

Findings:

- The presence or absence of the death penalty has no bearing on law enforcement deaths by homicide.
- States that have ended the death penalty tended to have fewer law enforcement deaths by homicide *after* their states ended the death penalty, confirming that the death penalty is not an effective method for protecting law enforcement officers from being killed.

Data Compiled from *Officer Down Memorial Page* – www.odmp.org

	Average number of Law Enforcement Officer (LEO) homicides per year		Raw data
	Prior to end of death penalty	After end of the death penalty	
New York (courts cleared death row)	3	2.3	Pre (2002-2007, 5 years) – 15 LEO homicides Post (2007-present, 7+ years) – 16 LEO homicides
New Jersey repeal bill signed 12/17/2007	1.2	1	Pre (2001-Dec 2007, 6 years) – 7 LEO homicides Post (Dec 2007-present, 6+ years) – 5 LEO homicides
New Mexico repeal bill signed 3/19/2009	.8	.2	Pre (2004-March 2009, 5 years) - 4 LEO homicides Post (March 2009-present 5 years): 1 LEO homicide
Illinois repeal bill signed 3/9/2011	3.4	1.3	Pre (2006-March 2011, 5 years) - 17 LEO homicides Post (March 2011-present 3+ years): 4 LEO homicides
Connecticut repeal bill signed April 25, 2012	.8	0	Pre (2007-April 2012, 5 years): 4 LEO homicides Post (April 2012-present, 23 months): 0 (zero) LEO homicides
Maryland repeal bill signed May 2, 2013	.8	1	Pre (2007-May 2, 2013, 6+ years): 5 LEO homicides Post (May 2, 2013-present, 10 months): 1 LEO homicide

Additional Findings:

- The deadliest states for law enforcement officers in recent years are all states that actively use the death penalty, including the busiest death states like Texas and Florida.
- The 32 states which have the death penalty account for 83% of all law enforcement officer deaths by homicide in the U.S. from 2010-2013.

2010 – 2013 Law Enforcement Officer Deaths by Homicide Across the United States

2010 - 74

2011 - 81

2012 - 53

2013 - 38

2010 - 2013 Deadliest States for Law Enforcement Officers:

Arizona – 7

California – 18

Florida – 18

Georgia – 14

Mississippi- 7

Texas – 22

Data Source: Officer Down Memorial Page – www.odmp.org

Methodology: Raw numbers of all Law Enforcement Officer deaths in the line of duty were gathered from 5 or 6 calendar years prior to the repeal date until the present. Accidental and non-homicidal deaths were not counted. Only deaths by gunfire, assault, stabbing and vehicular assault are indicated in the data, and those are counted.

Talk to an Expert

Dr. George F. Kain and Associate Professor Terrence P. Dwyer, Esq., have been researching trends in law enforcement deaths by homicide and provided the national statistics shown on this fact sheet. Dr. Kain is available to comment.

George F. Kain, Ph.D.

Police Commissioner, Town of Ridgefield, CT

Professor, Division of Justice and Law Administration, Western Connecticut State University

Coordinator, Master of Science in Justice Administration Program

Western CT State University, Danbury, CT

kaing@wcsu.edu 203-837-8514

The Delaware Repeal Project is a coalition of 29 local, state, and national organizations working to repeal Delaware's death penalty. To learn more visit www.derepeal.org.