

# 2021

## LEOKA IN TENNESSEE

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



A PUBLICATION OF THE TENNESSEE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS CENTER | CRIME STATISTICS UNIT



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**DAVID B. RAUSCH**  
Director

August 15, 2022

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I would like to present the 2021 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 law enforcement officers in the line of duty that occurred in Tennessee. The information contained in the report is based on crime statistics information submitted by law enforcement agencies, colleges and universities in Tennessee to TBI's Tennessee Incident Based Reporting 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 very proud of the efforts of all participating law enforcement 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 information on incidents involving assaults and deaths of our law enforcement officers.

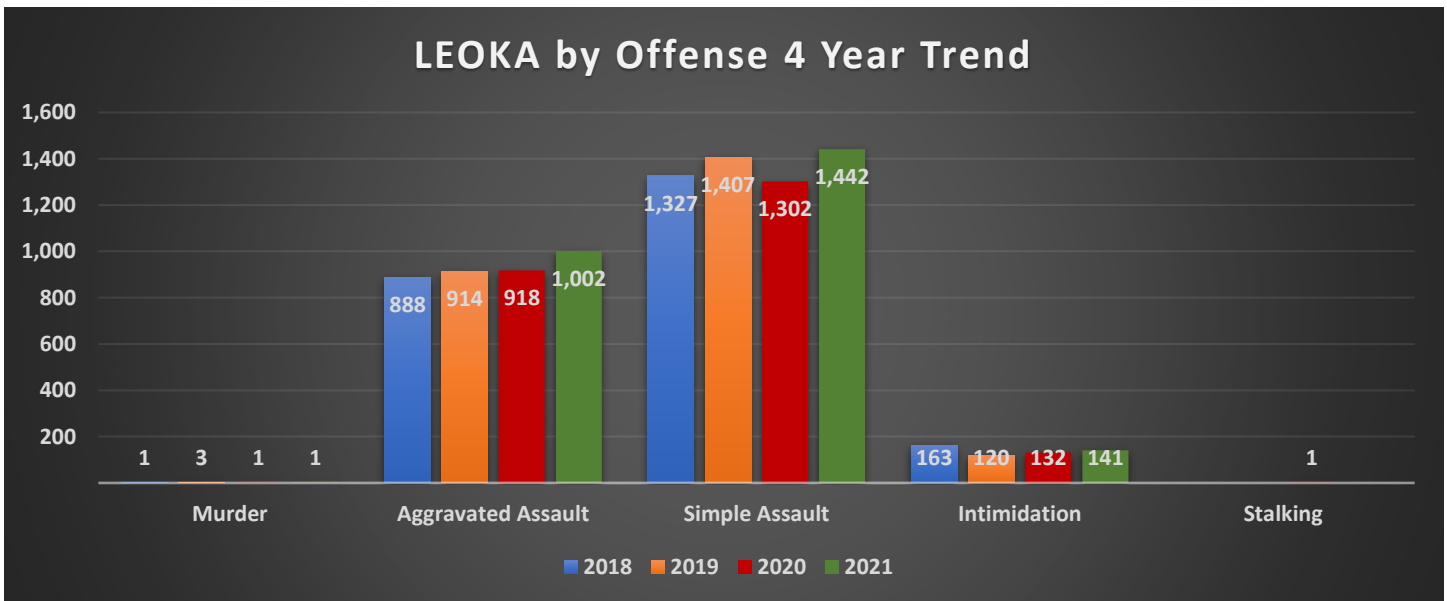
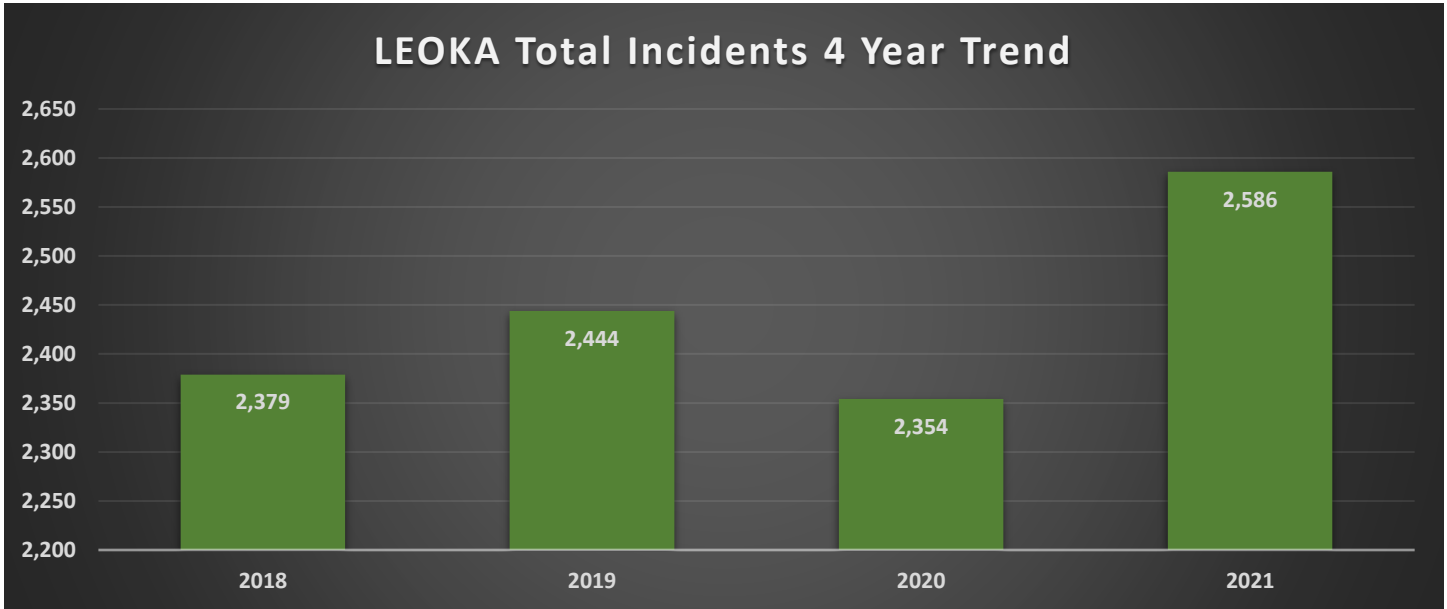
Sincerely,

Director  
David B. Rausch



# LEOKA 2021

This publication will examine incidents in which law enforcement officers were killed or assaulted in the line of duty in 2021. This information is 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.

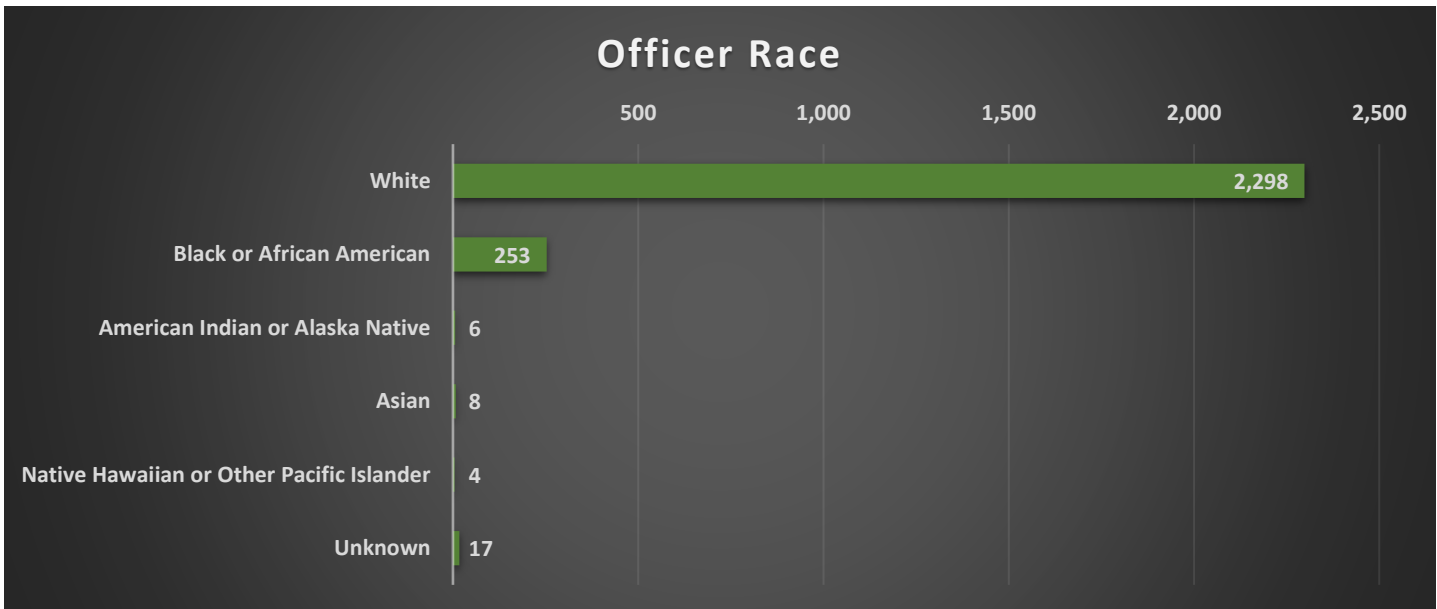


In 2021, LEOKA showed a rather significant increase, with incidents increasing 9.86% from 2020. In particular, there were notable increases in LEOKA incidents categorized as Simple Assault and Aggravated Assault, increasing 10.75% and 11.33% since 2020 respectively.

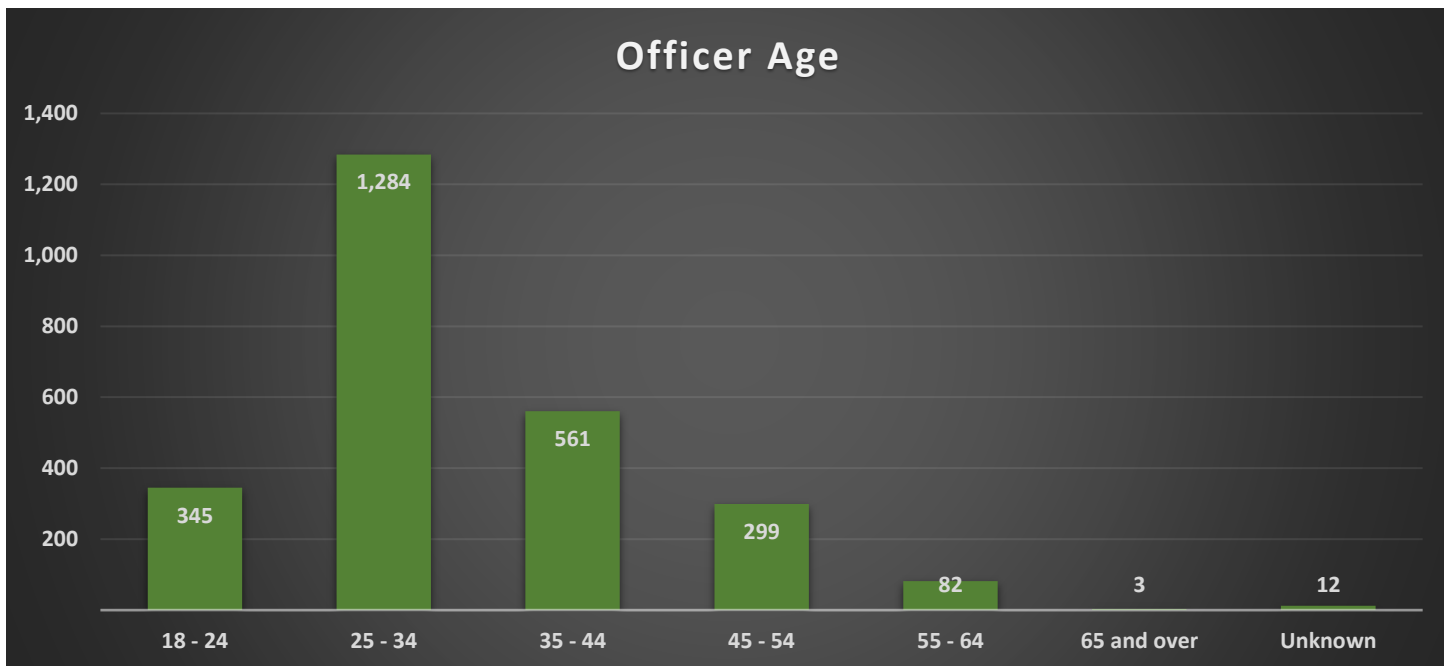
# VICTIM ANALYSIS



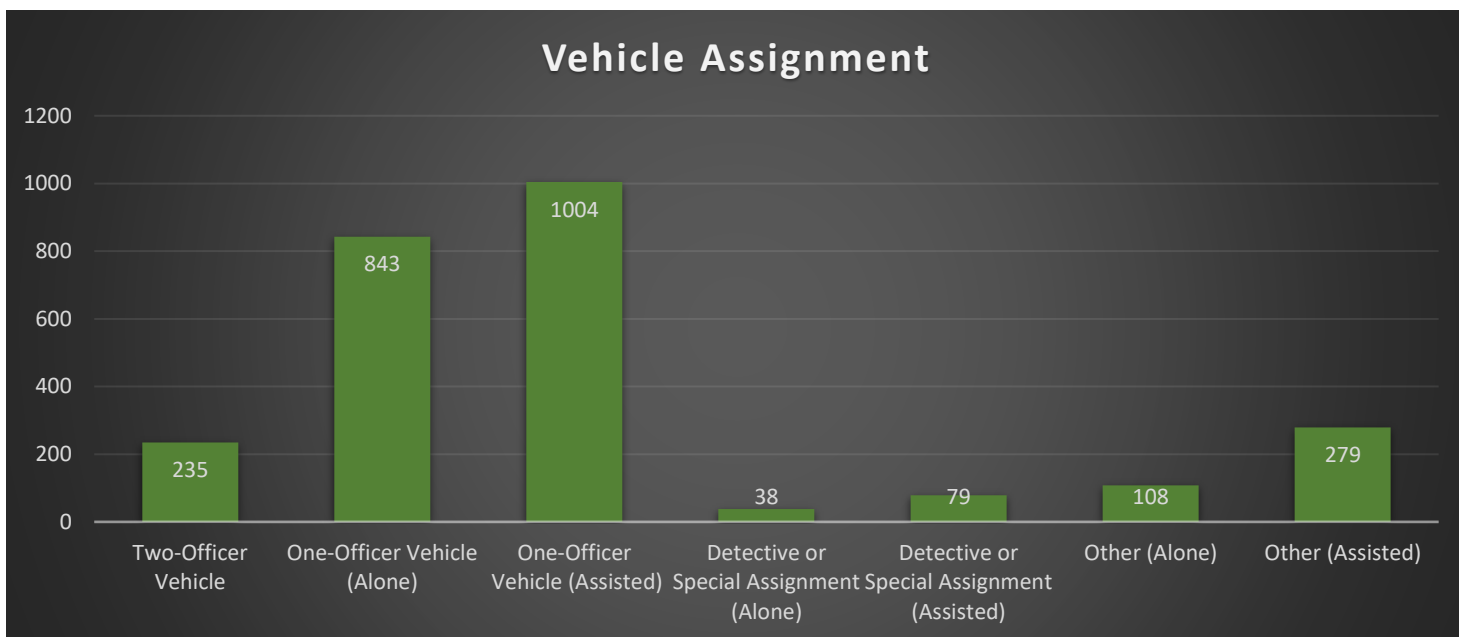
The vast majority of officers killed or assaulted were Male, making up 89.06% of reported victims, while Female officers make up 10.4%, with the remainder being reported as Unknown.



When looking at the Race of officers that were killed or assaulted, those categorized as White made up the majority of reported victims at 88.86% of the total. Black officers made up 9.78% of officers report with the remainder being made up of either officers of other races, or those listed as unknown in the incidents.



By breaking down officers ages, the majority of those killed or assaulted were on the younger end of the spectrum, between the ages of 18-44. The largest age segment reported was those aged 25-34, making up nearly half (49.65%) of the victims. Outside of that segment, the largest report group of ages was 35-44, accounting for 21.69% of victims.



A unique type of data that can be considered when examining LEOKA cases is that of what type of vehicle assignment the officer in question had at the time of the incident. The most reported type was that of One-Officer Vehicle (Assisted) with 38.82% of LEOKA offenses, followed by One-Officer Vehicle (Alone) at 32.6%.

## LEOKA INJURIES & WEAPONS USED

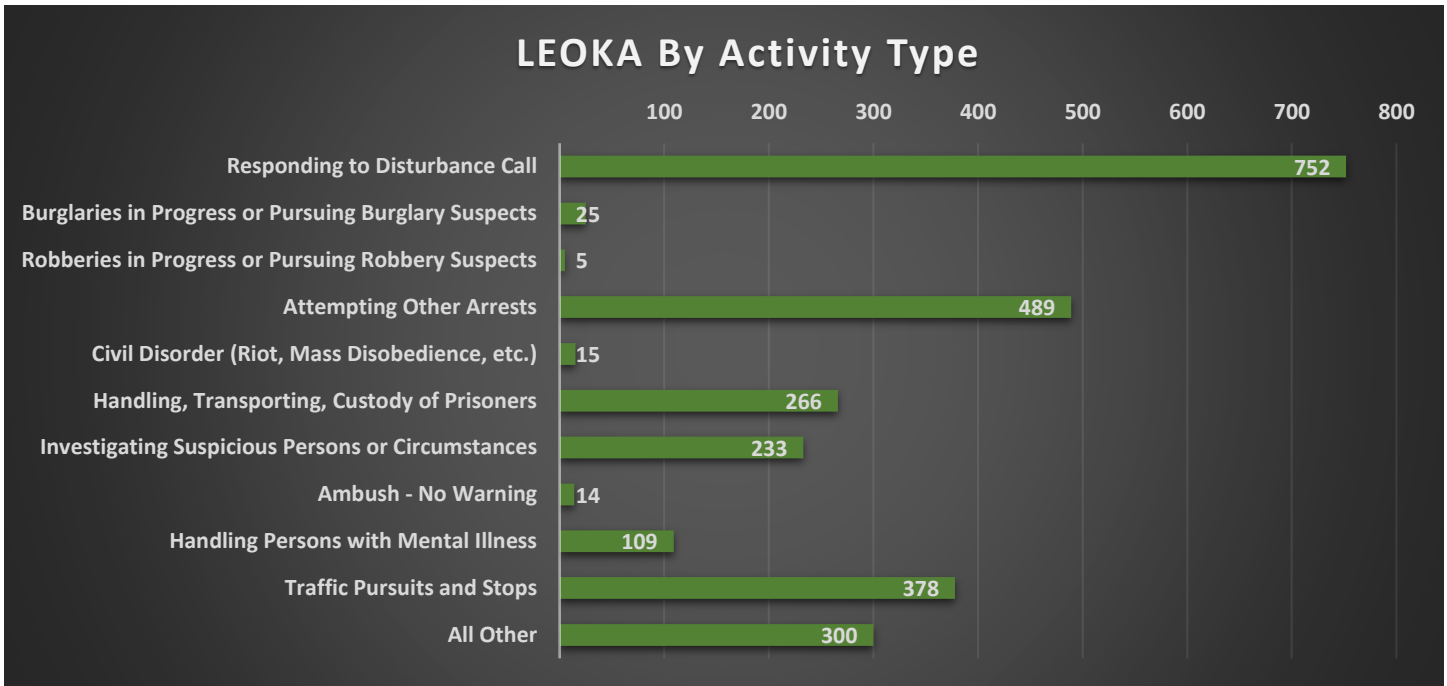
Injury Type	
None	1,611
Apparent Minor Injury	585
Apparent Broken Bones	14
Other Major Injury	20
Severe Laceration	17
Possible Internal Injury	8
Unconsciousness	4
Loss of Teeth	0

Per TIBRS, up to five injury types can be reported per victim. Injury Type is a required data element when reporting Aggravated Assault and Simple Assault. There was a total of 2,259 reported Injury Types in 2021; however, the vast majority of those reports indicate that there were no injuries with the “None” category comprising 71.31% of reported injury types. The second most, “Apparent Minor Injury” made up 25.9% of identified injury types.

Weapon Type	
Personal Weapons (Hands, Fist, Feet, Arms, Teeth, Etc.)	1,349
Motor Vehicle/ Vessel	487
Other	227
Handgun	147
Knife/ Cutting Instrument (Icepick, Ax, Etc.)	94
Firearm (Type Not Stated)	68
Blunt Object (Club, Hammer, Etc.)	31
Rifle	22
Other Firearm	12
Shotgun	11
Fire/ Incendiary Device	6
Asphyxiation (by Drowning, Strangulation, Suffocation, Gas)	5

Per TIBRS, up to three weapons can be reported per incident. Personal Weapons were the most reported Weapon Type accounting for 54.86% of all weapon types reported. Motor Vehicle/ Vessel was the second most reported comprising 19.8% of weapon types.

# LEOKA VICTIMS & ACTIVITY TYPE

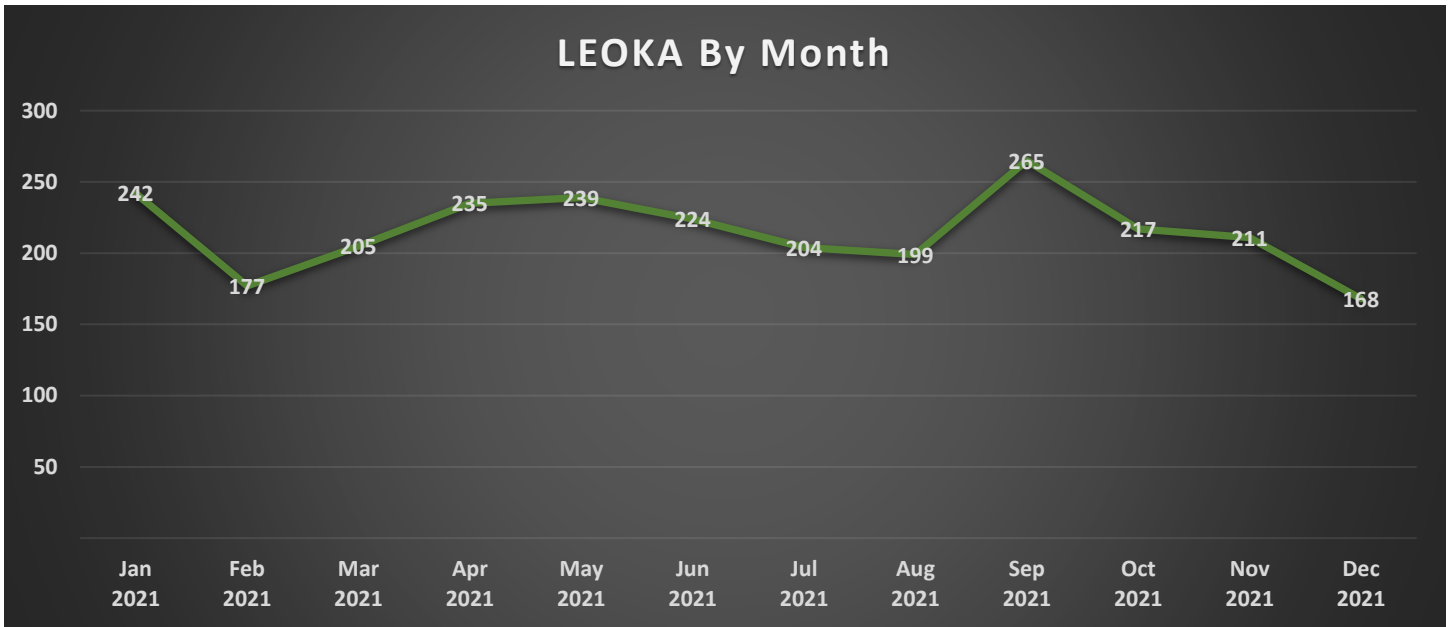


By looking at the circumstances of a LEOKA crime occurring, the majority can be seen to have occurred when the officer was present while Responding to Disturbance Call, comprising 29.08% of LEOKA incidents. Following this, events marked as an officer Attempting Other Arrests when an incident occurs account for 18.91% of LEOKA crimes.

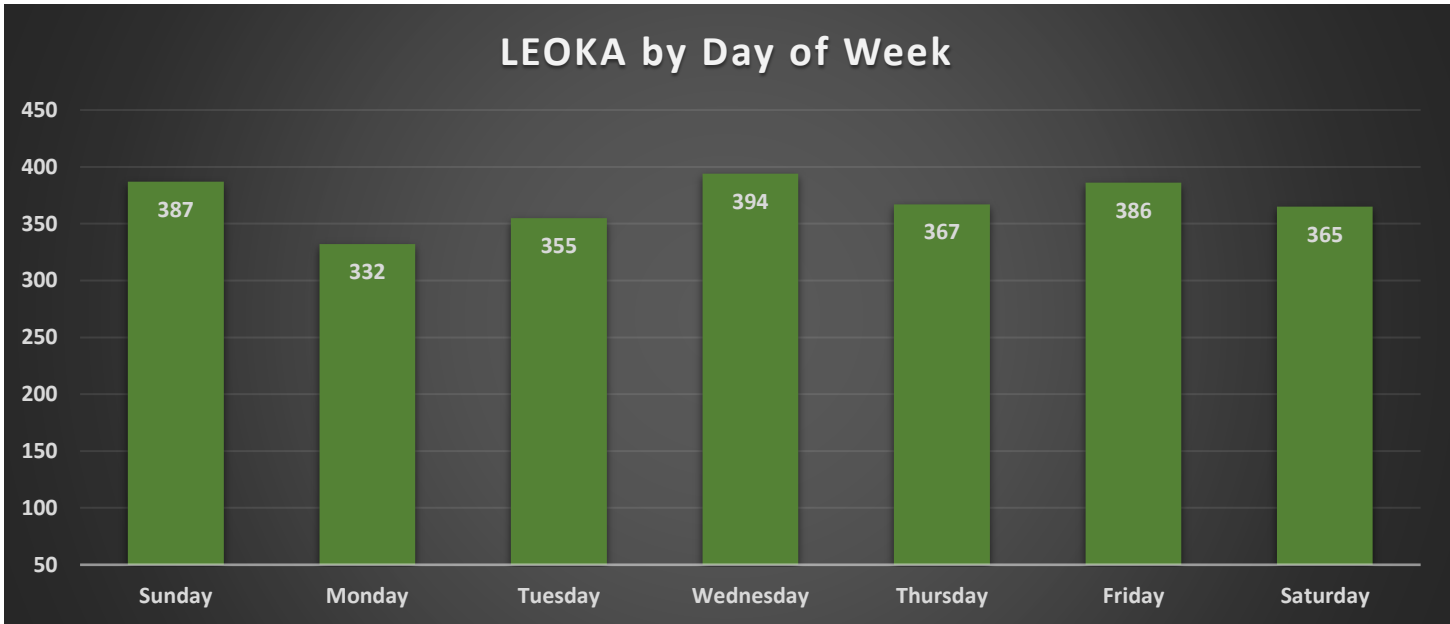
Activity Type	Aggravated Assault	Simple Assault	Intimidation	Murder
Responding to Disturbance Call	224	497	30	1
Burglaries in Progress or Pursuing Burglary Suspects	14	7	4	0
Robberies in Progress or Pursuing Robbery Suspects	3	2	0	0
Attempting Other Arrests	162	299	28	0
Civil Disorder (Riot, Mass Disobedience, etc.)	5	10	0	0
Handling, Transporting, Custody of Prisoners	31	221	14	0
Investigating Suspicious Persons or Circumstances	116	103	14	0
Ambush – No Warning	11	3	0	0
Handling Persons with Mental Illness	26	69	14	0
Traffic Pursuits and Stops	287	78	13	0
All Other	123	153	24	0

Further breaking down the type of LEOKA crime by activity type yields mostly expected proportions with the notable exceptions of Traffic Pursuits and Stops having more Aggravated Assault incidents than Responding to Disturbance Call, despite the former making up only roughly half of the latter. This could be explained by the fact that LEOKA offenses occurring during Traffic Pursuits or Stops involve a vehicle, which, if flagged as a weapon, would categorize the crime as Aggravated Assault.

# TIMES OF LEOKA INCIDENTS



Examining LEOKA incidents on a month-to-month basis reveals that the peak amount of LEOKA offenses occurred in September, accounting for 10.25% of incidents. The month with the least amount of occurrences was December, with about a hundred less than the peak, or 6.5% of total reported incidents.



Examining LEOKA rates of occurrence by day of the week shows that LEOKA occurrences occur with similar frequency throughout the week. The day with the most incidents, Wednesday, accounts for 15.24% of crimes, while the day with the least LEOKA reports, Monday, comprises 12.84%.



## LOCATIONS OF LEOKA INCIDENTS

Number of incidents and specific location type	
Residence/Home	785
Highway/Road/Alley	782
Parking Lot/Garage	332
Jail/Prison	199
Hospital	107
Hotel/Motel/Etc.	69
School-Elementary/Secondary	58
Government/Public Building	54
Other/Unknown	53
Convenience Store	50
Restaurant	30
Field/Woods	24
Department/Discount Store	24
Park/Playground	23
Bar/Night Club	19
Service/Gas Station	17
Air/Bus/Train Terminal	11
Grocery/Supermarket	11
Specialty Store (TV, Fur, etc.)	10
Church/Synagogue/Temple	8
Commercial/Office Building	7
Shopping Mall	6
Doctor's Office	5
Pharmacy	5
Arena/Stadium/Fairgrounds/Coliseum	5
Rental Storage Facility	5
Abandoned/Condemned Structure	5
Community Center	4
Lake/Waterway	4
Auto Dealership New/Used	3
Cemetery	3
Amusement Park	2
Shelter- Mission/Homeless	2
Construction Site	2
Bank/Savings and Loan	1
School- College/University	1

Per TIBRS, an incident may have a Secondary Location reported to provide a better, more accurate description of the scene of an incident. In 2021, a total of 2,726 location types were reported. The most common of these was Residence/Home, with an occurrence rate of 28.8%, followed by the very similar number of reported locations of Highway/Road/Alley making up 28.69%.

A notable change from 2020 LEOKA reports is the more varied reports of location, the most likely cause of this is that as pandemic restrictions began to lift throughout 2021, there was simply a greater amount of people in places other than those strictly necessary to be in (i.e. Residence/Home or Highway/Road/Alley.)



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