

Investigator Led Studies of Law Enforcement Officer Suicide

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Investigator Led Studies: Takeaways

Distinction between officer suicide publications and officer suicide investigator-led studies

- Most **publications** on officer suicide use surveillance data
- Most **publications** on officer suicide focus on policing
- Most **investigator led studies** focus on suicidal ideation
- Most **investigator led studies** of officer suicide focus on policing

Investigator led studies use different methodologies and often combine data from multiple sources

- Retrospective cohort
- Web surveillance
- Case study
- Systematic reviews

Investigator led studies can offer unique insights that may not be as readily determinable from analyses of national surveillance datasets

- Active officers versus retired or terminated
- Offer depth and detail not always possible in surveillance data
- Highlight the potential for misclassification of suicide

Investigator Led Studies of Officer Suicide

Study	Year Published	Study Focus	Type of Study	Scope/Sample Size/Coverage	Method/Data Source	Other Notes
Marzuk et al.	2002	Police Suicide	Retrospective Cohort	668 NYC police officer suicides from 1977 to 1996	Department data and death certificates	Focused on establishing prevalence of police officer suicide
Violanti et al.	2011	Police Suicide	Retrospective Cohort	55-year retrospective mortality police cohort consisting of 3,228 officers who worked in Buffalo between 1950 and 2005	Multiple data sources (NDI, benefit & pension systems, NYS retirement and vital statistics, employment data, obituaries, etc.)	Wide-range of data sources. Focused on whether separated or retired officers are at increased risk for suicide
Violanti et al.	2012	Police Suicide	Retrospective Cohort	298 large and small police departments totaling 119,624 officers	U.S. Public Safety Office Benefits Database	Focused on differences in suicide based on police department size

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O'Hara, Violanti, Levenson, and Clark	2013	Police Suicide	Web Surveillance	National	News reporting of 922 officer suicides	Two previous studies also used web surveillance
Klinoff et al.	2015	Police Suicide	Case Study / Web Surveillance	43 officers committing murder-suicides between 2016 and 2014	Web site covering domestic violence and related problems in police families	Focus on homicide-suicides
Frost and Monteiro	2020	Corrections Suicide	Retrospective Case Study	20 officer suicides in a northeastern corrections department between 2010 and 2015	Multiple data sources (departmental personnel data, death certificates, police reports, obituaries, interviews with family, friends, coworkers)	Included currently working and separated or retired officers

Systematic Reviews of Law Enforcement Suicide

Violanti, J.M., Owens, S.L., McCanlies, E., Fekedulegn, D. and Andrew, M.E. (2019), "Law enforcement suicide: a review", *Policing: An International Journal*, 42(2): 141-164.

Stanley, I.H., Hom, M.A. and Joiner, T.E. (2016), "A systematic review of suicidal thoughts and behaviors among police officers, firefighters, EMTs and paramedics", *Clinical Psychology Review*, 44: 25-44.

Chae, M.H. and Boyle, D.J. (2013), "Police suicide: prevalence, risk and protective factors." *Policing*, 36(1): 91-118.

Studies Cited in Table

Marzuk, P.M., Nock, M.K., Leon, A.C., Portera, L. and Tardiff, K. (2002), "Suicide among New York City police officers, 1977-1996." *American Journal of Psychiatry*, 159(12), 2069-2071.

Violanti, Gu, Charles, Fekedulegn, Andrew, and Burchfiel (2011) Is suicide higher among separated/retired police officers? An epidemiological investigation. *International Journal of Emergency Mental Health*.13(4):221-8.

Violanti, J.M., Mnatsakanova A., Burchfiel C.M., Hartley T.A., Andrew M.E. (2012) **Police suicide in small departments: a comparative analysis.** *International Journal of Emergency Mental Health*, 14(3):157-62.

O'Hara, A. F., Violanti, J. M., Levenson, R. L., Jr., & Clark, R. G., Sr. (2013). "National police suicide estimates: Web surveillance study III." *International Journal of Emergency Mental Health and Human Resilience*, 15(1), 31–38.

Klinoff, V.A., Van Hasselt, V.B. and Black, R.A. (2015), "Homicide-suicide in police families: an analysis of cases from 2007-2014", *Journal of Forensic Practice*, 17(2): 101-116.

Frost, N.A. and Monteiro, C.E. (2020) The interaction of personal and occupational factors in the suicide deaths of correction officers, *Justice Quarterly*, 37(7): 1277-1302.