

# Florida Mortality Study:

**Florida Law Enforcement and Corrections Officers  
compared to Florida General Population**



Presented by Sheriff J.R. "Jack" Parker

October 17, 2011

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# **Florida Mortality Study:**

## **Florida Law Enforcement and Corrections Officers compared to Florida General Population**

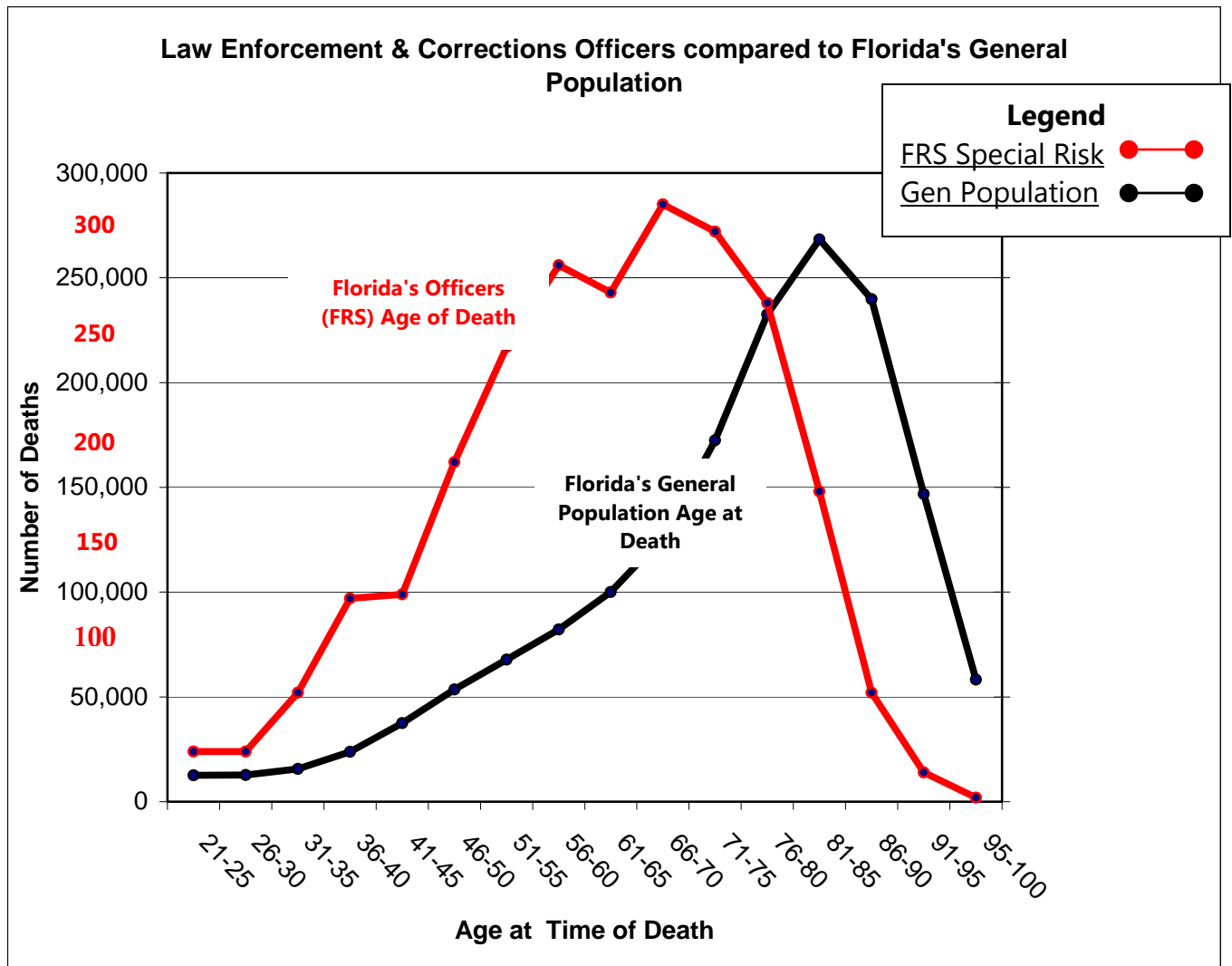
### **Executive Summary**

During the 2011 Legislative Session, changes made to the Florida Retirement System (FRS) extended by five years both the age and the years of service necessary to retire for members of the special risk class which includes law enforcement and corrections officers. The stated justification for the change was the assumption that special risk class members are living longer and now have life spans similar to that of the general population. This assumption was derived without the benefit of conducting any studies in the State of Florida. The assumption also conflicts directly with well-established medical theory and other scientifically conducted longitudinal studies regarding the lifespan of law enforcement officers.

To verify whether there is a lifespan difference between the law enforcement and corrections special risk class members and that of the general population in Florida, data was derived from the FRS and the Florida Department of Health. The comprehensive data was analyzed and compiled to establish an accurate "average age at death" comparison between FRS special risk class members (Law Enforcement and Corrections Officers) and the State of Florida general population.

The actual death rates between the two groups were compared during the most recent decade beginning in year 2000 and ending in 2009. It was determined the average age at death for FRS special risk class members assigned to law enforcement and corrections duties was 62.4 years, while the average age of death for Florida's general population was almost 12 years longer at 74.2 years (approximately 19% longer life spans).

This report clearly demonstrates that FRS special risk class members assigned to law enforcement and corrections duties do not enjoy a similar lifespan as compared to the population they serve and the 2011 changes to the FRS requiring officers to work to age 60 was based on an invalid assumption. The following graph illustrates the difference in life spans of Florida law enforcement and corrections officers as compared with Florida's general public:



*Graph 1 - Graph Comparing Florida's (FRS) Law Enforcement and Corrections Officers with Florida's General Population regarding age of death.*

It is requested the Florida Legislature submit and pass bill language in this legislative session in both the Florida House and Florida Senate, and that Governor Scott sign into law, corrective statutory language that will return special risk members in the Florida Retirement System to the appropriate special risk retirement age of 55 or 25 years of service. It is further requested those FRS special risk members hired on or after July 1st of 2011 be retroactively included in the legislative change.

If you have any questions regarding this report or this legislative request, please contact Sheriff J. R. "Jack" Parker, by calling 321-264-5201 or by email at [jack.parker@bcso.us](mailto:jack.parker@bcso.us) or by mail at Brevard County Sheriff's Office, 700 South Park Avenue, Titusville, Florida, 32780.

# **Florida Mortality Study:**

## **Florida Law Enforcement and Corrections Officers compared to Florida General Population**

### **Introduction**

A commonly held belief among policymakers and the public is that law enforcement officers, by nature of their profession, have a shorter life expectancy than the general population. Law enforcement work is riddled with stressors that exist throughout the career of the officer. Officers function in a constant state of stress and it is a major contributor to the earlier death suffered by law enforcement and corrections professionals. The negative impact of stress on life span is not a disputed fact and acts as one of the justifications that granted special risk members a retirement age commensurate with their life span and service to our citizens.<sup>i</sup>

In a cost-cutting measure, during the 2011 legislative session, the Florida Legislature extended the years of service and age requirements for Special Risk class members. Many in Florida's law enforcement community expressed concern that extending the retirement age from 55 to 60 years for law enforcement and corrections officers was dangerous both for the officer and for the public.

### **Research Parameters**

The research focuses on a ten-year period ranging from 2000 to 2009 and is specific to Florida. Given the state of current research in this area, statistical data was acquired from reliable and valid sources relating specifically to the general population in the State of Florida and FRS special risk population. Mortality rate statistics for Florida's general public were obtained directly from the Department of Health, and statistics for FRS Special Risk employees were obtained directly from the Florida Retirement System.

The objective of the study was to determine if Florida law enforcement and corrections officers who belong to the FRS have a similar life expectancy as the general population.

Two data sets were analyzed to determine an average age for all persons who died in the State of Florida and for members of the FRS Special Risk Class, employed by or retired from Sheriff's Offices, State Law Enforcement Agencies, or the Department of Corrections.

Cause of death statistics were not collected for these study groups but rather focuses simply on the age of death regardless of cause. There is great debate and discussion on the reasons those in direct service public safety positions die much earlier than their non-public safety counterparts. The objective of this study was not to determine what factors contribute to reducing the lifespan of those in the public safety profession, rather it was conducted to determine if law enforcement and corrections officers were, in fact, suffering from reduced life spans.

### **Data: Florida General Population**

Per Florida Statute 302.008 Death and Fetal Death Registration, a certificate for each death and fetal death which occurs in this state shall be filed on a form prescribed by the department with the local registrar or the district in which the death occurred within five days after such death and prior to the final disposition, and shall be registered by such registrar if it has been completed and filed in accordance with this chapter or adopted rules. Per Department of Health Administrative Code 64V-1.0061 Death and Fetal Death Registration, all deaths must be registered with the Florida Department of Health, State Office of Vital Statistics, P.O. Box 210, Jacksonville, FL 32231-0042.

The following death information was compiled from the Florida Department of Health, Office of Health Statistics and Assessment's website. The illustrated menu (Table 1) was utilized to compile that data. With the exception of the AGE field, all displayed fields were employed when compiling death statistics. The AGE field was increased numerically beginning at age twenty-one (21) through age ninety-nine (99). Empirical data obtained for each individual age was copied directly from the menu to an Excel spreadsheet.

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Category:        | All Causes (A00-Y89) ▼  |
| Cause of Death*: | All Causes (A00-Y89) ▼  |
| Year:            | 2009 ▼  |
| Race:            | All Races ▼   |
| Ethnicity**:     | All Ethnicities ▼   |
| Sex:             | All Sexes ▼   |
| Age:             | 21 through 99 (leave blank for all ages, enter <b>0 through 0</b> for infant deaths)  |
| Counties:        | <input checked="" type="radio"/> All counties <i>(Displays a single cause of death for all counties)</i><br><input type="radio"/> Single county <i>(Displays all individual causes of death for 1 county)</i> |
| Report Type:     | <input checked="" type="radio"/> 10 single-year counts<br><input type="radio"/> Single-year counts by standard age groups<br><input type="radio"/> Single-year counts by race, ethnicity and gender           |

Table 1: Florida Department of Health Menu Illustration

Florida Department of Health data was segregated by the number of reported deaths specific to each year and the age of the decedent at the time of death. <sup>ii</sup>

Calculations for the average age at death for both populations were determined by summing the number of deaths for each age group for the specified time frame and multiplying this result by the age of death to obtain a total number of years of age at the time of death.

The variables for this calculation can be expressed mathematically as:

Y= Sum of all deaths as specific age

A= Age at time of death

N= Sum of all (y x a)

T= Sum of all deaths

$N \div T$  = Average age at death

Using this formula, the average Age at Death for persons in the General Public in the State of Florida for the ages of 21 through 99 is **74.21** years.

Please see Graph 2 on page 8 for a graphical illustration.

### **Data: FRS Special Risk Class (Law Enforcement and Corrections)**

Data requested from the Florida Division of Retirement (FRS) was used to establish the average Age at Death for members who are part of, or retired from, the Special Risk Class assigned to law enforcement and corrections duties including Sheriff's Offices, State Law Enforcement Agencies and the Department of Corrections.

For FY 2000-01 through FY 2009-10, the number of deaths by age (the age in years at time of death) for members who died post retirement from the Special Risk Class, or died active without retiring were derived for the purposes of this study.<sup>iii</sup>

The average age at death for Florida Law Enforcement Officers and Florida Corrections Officers in the FRS data set is **62.47** years of age.

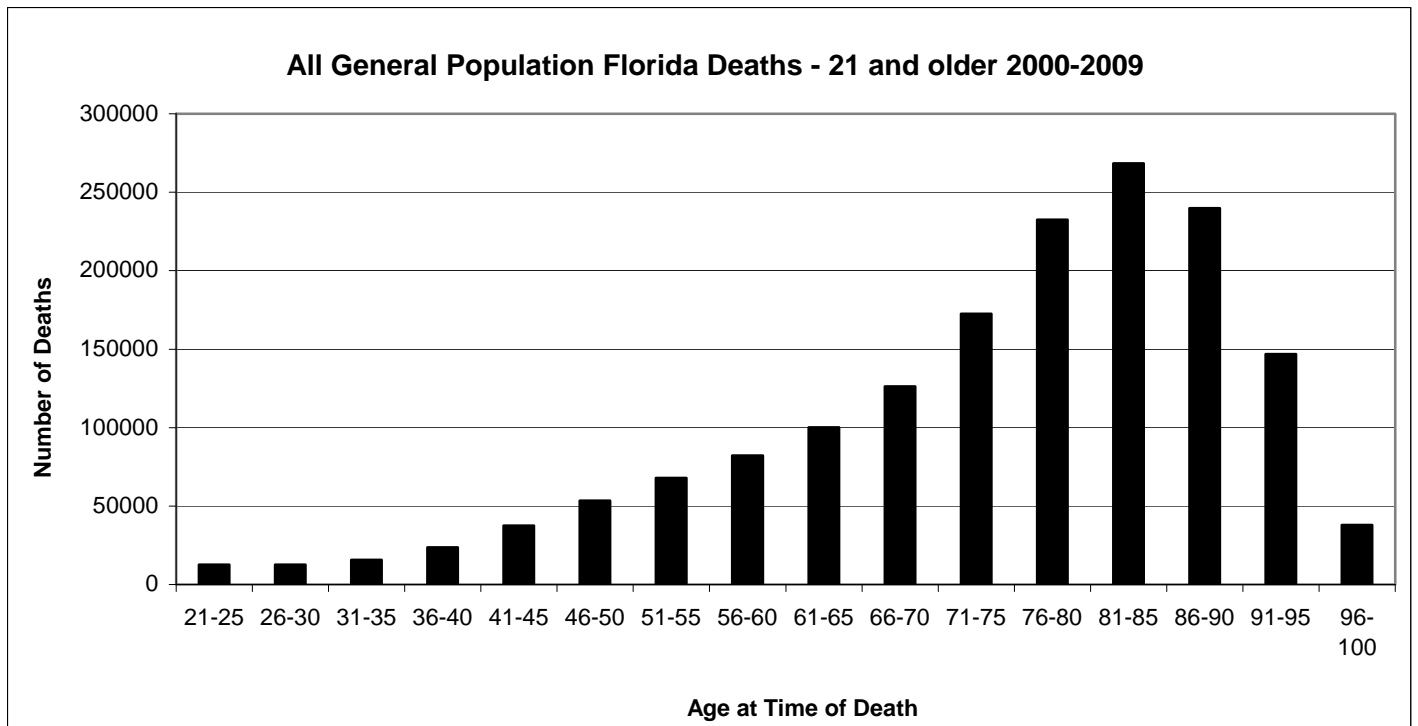
Please see Graph 3 on page 8 for a graphical illustration.

### **Population Comparison**

To simplify the comparisons, FRS data was presented in the same Age at Death segregated format as the Florida Department of Health data for the ten-year period.

Subtracting the Age at Death for the Special Risk Population (FRS) of 62.47 years from the average Age at Death for the general population (DOH) of 74.21 years yields a difference of 11.74 years. Members of the general population in the State of Florida had lived an additional 11.74 years, or almost 19% longer, than Florida's Law Enforcement and Corrections Officers.





*Graph 2: Graphical illustration of age of death for Florida's general population*



*Graph 3: Graphical illustration of age of death for Florida's Law Enforcement and Corrections Officers (FRS)*

## **Conclusion**

The data presented indicated that for the ten-year period specified, law enforcement and corrections officers who belonged to the Florida Retirement System died, on average, approximately 12 years earlier than the general population. The study also found that the general population in the State of Florida are enjoying lives approximately 19% longer than Florida's Law Enforcement and Corrections Officers (FRS).

DOH Age of Death Data for Florida  
2000 - 2009

| Age | 2000    | 2001    | 2002    | 2003    | 2004    | 2005    | 2006    | 2007    | 2008    | 2009    | 10 Year<br>Annual<br>Total | Total Deaths<br>Multiplied<br>by Age | Percentage |
|-----|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------|
| 21  | 200     | 230     | 243     | 237     | 250     | 257     | 295     | 297     | 273     | 245     | 2,527                      | 53,067                               | 0.1551%    |
| 22  | 184     | 219     | 207     | 263     | 257     | 267     | 265     | 315     | 289     | 269     | 2,535                      | 55,770                               | 0.1556%    |
| 23  | 205     | 207     | 230     | 239     | 245     | 253     | 285     | 280     | 264     | 289     | 2,497                      | 57,431                               | 0.1532%    |
| 24  | 216     | 213     | 224     | 221     | 243     | 272     | 307     | 312     | 316     | 272     | 2,596                      | 62,304                               | 0.1593%    |
| 25  | 196     | 184     | 202     | 201     | 233     | 260     | 307     | 315     | 298     | 276     | 2,472                      | 61,800                               | 0.1517%    |
| 26  | 209     | 217     | 221     | 230     | 250     | 269     | 312     | 285     | 267     | 283     | 2,543                      | 66,118                               | 0.1560%    |
| 27  | 198     | 205     | 218     | 234     | 232     | 248     | 250     | 254     | 286     | 290     | 2,415                      | 65,205                               | 0.1482%    |
| 28  | 218     | 217     | 207     | 230     | 218     | 253     | 261     | 291     | 309     | 276     | 2,480                      | 69,440                               | 0.1522%    |
| 29  | 244     | 261     | 246     | 264     | 241     | 232     | 295     | 287     | 288     | 271     | 2,629                      | 76,241                               | 0.1613%    |
| 30  | 259     | 252     | 281     | 244     | 229     | 251     | 249     | 271     | 273     | 299     | 2,608                      | 78,240                               | 0.1600%    |
| 31  | 241     | 271     | 271     | 277     | 255     | 283     | 268     | 269     | 312     | 257     | 2,704                      | 83,824                               | 0.1659%    |
| 32  | 264     | 280     | 305     | 285     | 292     | 300     | 276     | 276     | 294     | 285     | 2,857                      | 91,424                               | 0.1753%    |
| 33  | 299     | 320     | 323     | 348     | 316     | 324     | 281     | 331     | 281     | 286     | 3,109                      | 102,597                              | 0.1908%    |
| 34  | 335     | 343     | 357     | 324     | 338     | 352     | 353     | 333     | 300     | 318     | 3,353                      | 114,002                              | 0.2057%    |
| 35  | 367     | 376     | 389     | 333     | 373     | 368     | 373     | 388     | 329     | 303     | 3,599                      | 125,965                              | 0.2208%    |
| 36  | 428     | 425     | 399     | 378     | 376     | 361     | 350     | 401     | 376     | 357     | 3,851                      | 138,636                              | 0.2363%    |
| 37  | 490     | 496     | 459     | 442     | 455     | 378     | 386     | 426     | 431     | 390     | 4,353                      | 161,061                              | 0.2671%    |
| 38  | 505     | 527     | 528     | 464     | 470     | 471     | 469     | 411     | 427     | 431     | 4,703                      | 178,714                              | 0.2886%    |
| 39  | 582     | 559     | 583     | 534     | 554     | 559     | 485     | 433     | 440     | 480     | 5,209                      | 203,151                              | 0.3196%    |
| 40  | 607     | 635     | 641     | 594     | 617     | 582     | 514     | 501     | 467     | 474     | 5,632                      | 225,280                              | 0.3456%    |
| 41  | 639     | 635     | 648     | 695     | 656     | 602     | 605     | 579     | 543     | 513     | 6,115                      | 250,715                              | 0.3752%    |
| 42  | 713     | 718     | 721     | 772     | 729     | 763     | 728     | 611     | 647     | 549     | 6,951                      | 291,942                              | 0.4265%    |
| 43  | 749     | 709     | 760     | 805     | 739     | 800     | 836     | 723     | 686     | 661     | 7,468                      | 321,124                              | 0.4582%    |
| 44  | 737     | 792     | 861     | 861     | 831     | 899     | 838     | 796     | 811     | 765     | 8,191                      | 360,404                              | 0.5026%    |
| 45  | 864     | 867     | 937     | 892     | 940     | 917     | 878     | 901     | 828     | 802     | 8,826                      | 397,170                              | 0.5416%    |
| 46  | 854     | 872     | 954     | 1,013   | 957     | 972     | 1,001   | 966     | 947     | 898     | 9,434                      | 433,964                              | 0.5789%    |
| 47  | 961     | 969     | 999     | 1,014   | 1,089   | 1,047   | 1,046   | 1,063   | 1,012   | 973     | 10,173                     | 478,131                              | 0.6242%    |
| 48  | 935     | 978     | 993     | 1,065   | 1,073   | 1,188   | 1,137   | 1,098   | 1,147   | 1,125   | 10,739                     | 515,472                              | 0.6590%    |
| 49  | 968     | 985     | 1,055   | 1,142   | 1,133   | 1,225   | 1,254   | 1,219   | 1,239   | 1,156   | 11,376                     | 557,424                              | 0.6980%    |
| 50  | 993     | 1,013   | 1,066   | 1,159   | 1,157   | 1,216   | 1,251   | 1,296   | 1,354   | 1,274   | 11,779                     | 588,950                              | 0.7228%    |
| 51  | 1,023   | 1,030   | 1,120   | 1,226   | 1,279   | 1,326   | 1,327   | 1,350   | 1,394   | 1,358   | 12,433                     | 634,083                              | 0.7629%    |
| 52  | 1,147   | 1,159   | 1,123   | 1,199   | 1,318   | 1,269   | 1,407   | 1,437   | 1,452   | 1,544   | 13,055                     | 678,860                              | 0.8011%    |
| 53  | 1,235   | 1,196   | 1,189   | 1,252   | 1,329   | 1,430   | 1,377   | 1,463   | 1,460   | 1,577   | 13,508                     | 715,924                              | 0.8289%    |
| 54  | 1,113   | 1,325   | 1,283   | 1,372   | 1,391   | 1,397   | 1,474   | 1,515   | 1,644   | 1,615   | 14,129                     | 762,966                              | 0.8670%    |
| 55  | 1,141   | 1,239   | 1,505   | 1,507   | 1,549   | 1,433   | 1,547   | 1,540   | 1,591   | 1,653   | 14,705                     | 808,775                              | 0.9023%    |
| 56  | 1,352   | 1,232   | 1,319   | 1,597   | 1,553   | 1,558   | 1,617   | 1,575   | 1,597   | 1,731   | 15,131                     | 847,336                              | 0.9285%    |
| 57  | 1,399   | 1,448   | 1,316   | 1,445   | 1,720   | 1,652   | 1,625   | 1,665   | 1,744   | 1,782   | 15,796                     | 909,372                              | 0.9693%    |
| 58  | 1,327   | 1,533   | 1,504   | 1,514   | 1,503   | 1,834   | 1,819   | 1,807   | 1,718   | 1,776   | 16,335                     | 947,430                              | 1.0023%    |
| 59  | 1,386   | 1,480   | 1,651   | 1,658   | 1,561   | 1,674   | 2,049   | 1,875   | 1,859   | 1,914   | 17,107                     | 1,009,313                            | 1.0497%    |
| 60  | 1,484   | 1,561   | 1,618   | 1,835   | 1,689   | 1,710   | 1,804   | 2,110   | 2,062   | 2,021   | 17,894                     | 1,073,640                            | 1.0980%    |
| 61  | 1,530   | 1,589   | 1,656   | 1,754   | 1,973   | 1,837   | 1,805   | 1,736   | 2,280   | 2,200   | 18,360                     | 1,119,960                            | 1.1266%    |
| 62  | 1,656   | 1,687   | 1,821   | 1,807   | 1,932   | 2,101   | 2,003   | 1,975   | 1,936   | 2,409   | 19,327                     | 1,198,274                            | 1.1859%    |
| 63  | 1,761   | 1,869   | 1,771   | 1,934   | 1,896   | 2,141   | 2,234   | 2,065   | 2,122   | 2,123   | 19,916                     | 1,254,708                            | 1.2221%    |
| 64  | 1,937   | 1,954   | 1,958   | 2,039   | 2,105   | 1,992   | 2,042   | 2,284   | 2,203   | 2,137   | 20,651                     | 1,321,664                            | 1.2672%    |
| 65  | 2,098   | 2,031   | 2,039   | 2,087   | 2,191   | 2,180   | 2,119   | 2,201   | 2,479   | 2,370   | 21,795                     | 1,416,675                            | 1.3374%    |
| 66  | 2,118   | 2,216   | 2,191   | 2,115   | 2,213   | 2,234   | 2,231   | 2,298   | 2,390   | 2,641   | 22,647                     | 1,494,702                            | 1.3896%    |
| 67  | 2,258   | 2,316   | 2,392   | 2,413   | 2,439   | 2,413   | 2,351   | 2,311   | 2,429   | 2,532   | 23,854                     | 1,598,218                            | 1.4637%    |
| 68  | 2,537   | 2,530   | 2,409   | 2,516   | 2,395   | 2,457   | 2,409   | 2,482   | 2,529   | 2,611   | 24,875                     | 1,691,500                            | 1.5264%    |
| 69  | 2,738   | 2,812   | 2,737   | 2,599   | 2,685   | 2,584   | 2,668   | 2,538   | 2,675   | 2,576   | 26,612                     | 1,836,228                            | 1.6329%    |
| 70  | 3,079   | 3,002   | 2,977   | 2,884   | 2,749   | 2,723   | 2,649   | 2,771   | 2,656   | 2,715   | 28,205                     | 1,974,350                            | 1.7307%    |
| 71  | 3,253   | 3,372   | 3,063   | 3,013   | 2,903   | 2,814   | 2,885   | 2,823   | 2,856   | 2,791   | 29,773                     | 2,113,883                            | 1.8269%    |
| 72  | 3,585   | 3,556   | 3,357   | 3,346   | 3,214   | 3,022   | 2,957   | 3,013   | 3,055   | 2,948   | 32,053                     | 2,307,816                            | 1.9668%    |
| 73  | 3,923   | 3,829   | 3,822   | 3,621   | 3,536   | 3,398   | 3,180   | 2,938   | 3,214   | 3,130   | 34,591                     | 2,525,143                            | 2.1225%    |
| 74  | 4,103   | 4,151   | 3,959   | 3,890   | 3,825   | 3,644   | 3,457   | 3,308   | 3,158   | 3,471   | 36,966                     | 2,735,484                            | 2.2683%    |
| 75  | 4,311   | 4,344   | 4,234   | 4,131   | 3,943   | 3,897   | 3,747   | 3,632   | 3,422   | 3,422   | 39,083                     | 2,931,225                            | 2.3982%    |
| 76  | 4,531   | 4,613   | 4,523   | 4,266   | 4,137   | 4,150   | 4,017   | 3,888   | 3,727   | 3,612   | 41,464                     | 3,151,264                            | 2.5443%    |
| 77  | 4,760   | 4,833   | 4,708   | 4,471   | 4,578   | 4,482   | 4,323   | 4,173   | 4,029   | 3,908   | 44,265                     | 3,408,405                            | 2.7162%    |
| 78  | 4,837   | 4,920   | 4,946   | 4,916   | 4,730   | 4,743   | 4,628   | 4,320   | 4,209   | 4,333   | 46,582                     | 3,633,396                            | 2.8583%    |
| 79  | 5,144   | 5,178   | 5,165   | 5,114   | 5,001   | 4,846   | 4,804   | 4,651   | 4,643   | 4,463   | 49,009                     | 3,871,711                            | 3.0073%    |
| 80  | 5,128   | 5,371   | 5,352   | 5,245   | 5,181   | 5,223   | 5,028   | 4,957   | 4,964   | 4,639   | 51,088                     | 4,087,040                            | 3.1348%    |
| 81  | 5,014   | 5,452   | 5,495   | 5,370   | 5,247   | 5,324   | 5,366   | 5,066   | 4,991   | 4,938   | 52,263                     | 4,233,303                            | 3.2069%    |
| 82  | 5,332   | 5,330   | 5,530   | 5,449   | 5,618   | 5,438   | 5,318   | 5,261   | 5,110   | 5,226   | 53,612                     | 4,396,184                            | 3.2897%    |
| 83  | 5,188   | 5,301   | 5,506   | 5,509   | 5,563   | 5,601   | 5,281   | 5,324   | 5,373   | 5,344   | 53,990                     | 4,481,170                            | 3.3129%    |
| 84  | 5,187   | 5,481   | 5,256   | 5,248   | 5,530   | 5,624   | 5,646   | 5,410   | 5,596   | 5,503   | 54,481                     | 4,576,404                            | 3.3430%    |
| 85  | 5,082   | 5,207   | 5,317   | 5,409   | 5,225   | 5,674   | 5,525   | 5,603   | 5,403   | 5,511   | 53,956                     | 4,586,260                            | 3.3108%    |
| 86  | 5,114   | 5,283   | 5,040   | 5,137   | 5,192   | 5,126   | 5,295   | 5,545   | 5,567   | 5,494   | 52,793                     | 4,540,198                            | 3.2394%    |
| 87  | 5,007   | 5,026   | 5,053   | 4,962   | 5,069   | 5,148   | 5,026   | 5,163   | 5,666   | 5,452   | 51,572                     | 4,486,764                            | 3.1645%    |
| 88  | 4,500   | 4,718   | 4,641   | 4,855   | 4,750   | 4,894   | 5,003   | 4,721   | 5,239   | 5,265   | 48,586                     | 4,275,568                            | 2.9813%    |
| 89  | 4,249   | 4,445   | 4,439   | 4,596   | 4,453   | 4,476   | 4,585   | 4,639   | 4,542   | 4,858   | 45,282                     | 4,030,098                            | 2.7786%    |
| 90  | 3,944   | 3,892   | 4,091   | 4,134   | 4,276   | 4,276   | 4,116   | 4,186   | 4,377   | 4,266   | 41,558                     | 3,740,220                            | 2.5501%    |
| 91  | 3,554   | 3,684   | 3,652   | 3,693   | 3,880   | 3,944   | 4,003   | 3,791   | 4,106   | 3,991   | 38,298                     | 3,485,118                            | 2.3500%    |
| 92  | 3,116   | 3,188   | 3,323   | 3,316   | 3,365   | 3,470   | 3,503   | 3,451   | 3,502   | 3,521   | 33,755                     | 3,105,460                            | 2.0712%    |
| 93  | 2,740   | 2,864   | 3,014   | 2,856   | 2,851   | 3,073   | 2,997   | 2,991   | 3,118   | 3,148   | 29,652                     | 2,757,636                            | 1.8195%    |
| 94  | 2,221   | 2,455   | 2,374   | 2,473   | 2,295   | 2,487   | 2,546   | 2,512   | 2,653   | 2,728   | 24,744                     | 2,325,936                            | 1.5183%    |
| 95  | 1,843   | 1,952   | 1,928   | 2,049   | 1,965   | 2,091   | 2,087   | 2,082   | 2,215   | 2,167   | 20,379                     | 1,936,005                            | 1.2505%    |
| 96  | 1,456   | 1,588   | 1,574   | 1,639   | 1,560   | 1,676   | 1,555   | 1,596   | 1,734   | 1,817   | 16,195                     | 1,554,720                            | 0.9937%    |
| 97  | 1,163   | 1,137   | 1,207   | 1,176   | 1,161   | 1,293   | 1,247   | 1,226   | 1,386   | 1,342   | 12,338                     | 1,196,786                            | 0.7571%    |
| 98  | 825     | 893     | 918     | 875     | 882     | 935     | 944     | 1,010   | 1,030   | 994     | 9,306                      | 911,988                              | 0.5710%    |
|     | 158,089 | 162,247 | 162,594 | 163,272 | 163,148 | 164,883 | 163,781 | 162,206 | 164,839 | 164,634 | 1,629,693                  | 120,935,729                          | 100.00%    |

Average Age at Death

74.21

FRS Age of Death Data  
2000 - 2009

| Age | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 10 Year<br>Annual<br>Total | Total Deaths<br>Multiplied<br>by Age | Percentage     |
|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| 21  | 0    | 1    | 0    | 0    | 1    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 2                          | 42                                   | 0.0914%        |
| 22  | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 1    | 0    | 1    | 2                          | 44                                   | 0.0914%        |
| 23  | 0    | 1    | 1    | 2    | 0    | 0    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 0    | 7                          | 161                                  | 0.3201%        |
| 24  | 0    | 0    | 2    | 0    | 1    | 0    | 1    | 0    | 1    | 1    | 6                          | 144                                  | 0.2743%        |
| 25  | 2    | 0    | 2    | 0    | 0    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 0    | 0    | 7                          | 175                                  | 0.3201%        |
| 26  | 0    | 0    | 0    | 2    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 5                          | 130                                  | 0.2286%        |
| 27  | 0    | 0    | 0    | 1    | 1    | 0    | 0    | 2    | 0    | 2    | 6                          | 162                                  | 0.2743%        |
| 28  | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 1    | 1    | 0    | 0    | 2                          | 56                                   | 0.0914%        |
| 29  | 1    | 1    | 1    | 2    | 0    | 1    | 0    | 0    | 1    | 1    | 8                          | 232                                  | 0.3658%        |
| 30  | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 2    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 1    | 3                          | 90                                   | 0.1372%        |
| 31  | 1    | 0    | 0    | 2    | 0    | 1    | 0    | 2    | 3    | 1    | 10                         | 310                                  | 0.4572%        |
| 32  | 0    | 0    | 2    | 2    | 0    | 1    | 1    | 2    | 1    | 3    | 12                         | 384                                  | 0.5487%        |
| 33  | 1    | 0    | 2    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 0    | 2    | 1    | 10                         | 330                                  | 0.4572%        |
| 34  | 0    | 0    | 4    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 0    | 3    | 1    | 12                         | 408                                  | 0.5487%        |
| 35  | 0    | 1    | 0    | 1    | 2    | 0    | 2    | 2    | 0    | 1    | 9                          | 315                                  | 0.4115%        |
| 36  | 1    | 0    | 2    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 3    | 3    | 3    | 2    | 17                         | 612                                  | 0.7773%        |
| 37  | 1    | 0    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 3    | 3    | 0    | 3    | 2    | 15                         | 555                                  | 0.6859%        |
| 38  | 1    | 1    | 2    | 2    | 3    | 3    | 2    | 0    | 4    | 0    | 18                         | 684                                  | 0.8230%        |
| 39  | 3    | 1    | 4    | 2    | 2    | 1    | 3    | 1    | 3    | 3    | 23                         | 897                                  | 1.0517%        |
| 40  | 1    | 2    | 3    | 3    | 2    | 4    | 1    | 6    | 0    | 2    | 24                         | 960                                  | 1.0974%        |
| 41  | 1    | 1    | 3    | 0    | 5    | 4    | 2    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 19                         | 779                                  | 0.8688%        |
| 42  | 0    | 1    | 1    | 2    | 1    | 3    | 0    | 1    | 2    | 1    | 12                         | 504                                  | 0.5487%        |
| 43  | 3    | 0    | 0    | 3    | 3    | 3    | 1    | 3    | 1    | 3    | 20                         | 860                                  | 0.9145%        |
| 44  | 0    | 1    | 0    | 2    | 1    | 3    | 3    | 1    | 4    | 6    | 21                         | 924                                  | 0.9602%        |
| 45  | 2    | 2    | 0    | 3    | 2    | 3    | 2    | 5    | 3    | 5    | 27                         | 1,215                                | 1.2346%        |
| 46  | 5    | 2    | 1    | 3    | 1    | 8    | 5    | 2    | 2    | 1    | 30                         | 1,380                                | 1.3717%        |
| 47  | 2    | 3    | 4    | 5    | 5    | 1    | 4    | 4    | 5    | 3    | 36                         | 1,692                                | 1.6461%        |
| 48  | 2    | 0    | 3    | 1    | 3    | 2    | 7    | 5    | 4    | 3    | 30                         | 1,440                                | 1.3717%        |
| 49  | 1    | 6    | 1    | 1    | 2    | 5    | 6    | 6    | 3    | 3    | 34                         | 1,666                                | 1.5546%        |
| 50  | 4    | 3    | 5    | 2    | 3    | 1    | 4    | 4    | 3    | 3    | 32                         | 1,600                                | 1.4632%        |
| 51  | 2    | 2    | 5    | 6    | 4    | 3    | 2    | 3    | 5    | 4    | 36                         | 1,836                                | 1.6461%        |
| 52  | 1    | 4    | 4    | 1    | 3    | 3    | 4    | 4    | 4    | 5    | 33                         | 1,716                                | 1.5089%        |
| 53  | 6    | 6    | 6    | 5    | 7    | 6    | 3    | 4    | 3    | 6    | 52                         | 2,756                                | 2.3777%        |
| 54  | 2    | 3    | 4    | 6    | 4    | 7    | 5    | 6    | 8    | 4    | 49                         | 2,646                                | 2.2405%        |
| 55  | 4    | 2    | 7    | 4    | 4    | 3    | 10   | 6    | 4    | 3    | 47                         | 2,585                                | 2.1491%        |
| 56  | 2    | 0    | 0    | 2    | 5    | 4    | 5    | 3    | 3    | 7    | 31                         | 1,736                                | 1.4175%        |
| 57  | 1    | 3    | 4    | 2    | 4    | 9    | 5    | 7    | 4    | 4    | 43                         | 2,451                                | 1.9662%        |
| 58  | 4    | 11   | 6    | 4    | 3    | 8    | 5    | 10   | 5    | 6    | 62                         | 3,596                                | 2.8349%        |
| 59  | 5    | 3    | 3    | 10   | 3    | 5    | 11   | 10   | 5    | 6    | 61                         | 3,599                                | 2.7892%        |
| 60  | 9    | 3    | 2    | 7    | 5    | 9    | 7    | 5    | 5    | 7    | 59                         | 3,540                                | 2.6978%        |
| 61  | 4    | 5    | 1    | 3    | 3    | 8    | 3    | 6    | 6    | 9    | 48                         | 2,928                                | 2.1948%        |
| 62  | 1    | 2    | 5    | 7    | 3    | 3    | 5    | 1    | 6    | 7    | 40                         | 2,480                                | 1.8290%        |
| 63  | 6    | 7    | 5    | 3    | 6    | 5    | 7    | 5    | 11   | 5    | 60                         | 3,780                                | 2.7435%        |
| 64  | 6    | 1    | 5    | 6    | 4    | 2    | 3    | 8    | 6    | 3    | 44                         | 2,816                                | 2.0119%        |
| 65  | 0    | 5    | 4    | 5    | 2    | 5    | 6    | 8    | 7    | 9    | 51                         | 3,315                                | 2.3320%        |
| 66  | 3    | 2    | 2    | 5    | 4    | 10   | 3    | 5    | 3    | 5    | 42                         | 2,772                                | 1.9204%        |
| 67  | 5    | 7    | 5    | 9    | 5    | 6    | 5    | 10   | 5    | 9    | 66                         | 4,422                                | 3.0178%        |
| 68  | 4    | 4    | 7    | 6    | 8    | 6    | 5    | 8    | 4    | 11   | 63                         | 4,284                                | 2.8807%        |
| 69  | 5    | 2    | 9    | 8    | 5    | 5    | 4    | 8    | 6    | 6    | 58                         | 4,002                                | 2.6520%        |
| 70  | 8    | 1    | 7    | 5    | 3    | 9    | 4    | 10   | 3    | 6    | 56                         | 3,920                                | 2.5606%        |
| 71  | 8    | 5    | 6    | 6    | 6    | 8    | 5    | 3    | 8    | 2    | 57                         | 4,047                                | 2.6063%        |
| 72  | 3    | 3    | 6    | 2    | 8    | 4    | 8    | 6    | 5    | 1    | 46                         | 3,312                                | 2.1033%        |
| 73  | 2    | 6    | 4    | 14   | 4    | 8    | 4    | 8    | 12   | 7    | 69                         | 5,037                                | 3.1550%        |
| 74  | 8    | 5    | 3    | 5    | 6    | 3    | 3    | 8    | 3    | 9    | 53                         | 3,922                                | 2.4234%        |
| 75  | 3    | 6    | 6    | 6    | 3    | 5    | 5    | 5    | 3    | 5    | 47                         | 3,525                                | 2.1491%        |
| 76  | 1    | 4    | 3    | 10   | 5    | 5    | 6    | 8    | 8    | 7    | 57                         | 4,332                                | 2.6063%        |
| 77  | 1    | 3    | 5    | 9    | 6    | 5    | 9    | 6    | 5    | 10   | 59                         | 4,543                                | 2.6978%        |
| 78  | 3    | 4    | 0    | 4    | 6    | 6    | 3    | 9    | 6    | 7    | 48                         | 3,744                                | 2.1948%        |
| 79  | 4    | 2    | 2    | 4    | 4    | 3    | 9    | 6    | 3    | 5    | 42                         | 3,318                                | 1.9204%        |
| 80  | 1    | 3    | 0    | 3    | 3    | 6    | 5    | 5    | 4    | 2    | 32                         | 2,560                                | 1.4632%        |
| 81  | 1    | 2    | 1    | 4    | 4    | 4    | 5    | 8    | 4    | 8    | 41                         | 3,321                                | 1.8747%        |
| 82  | 1    | 0    | 1    | 0    | 0    | 4    | 8    | 6    | 7    | 8    | 35                         | 2,870                                | 1.6004%        |
| 83  | 1    | 1    | 1    | 2    | 0    | 3    | 2    | 4    | 7    | 6    | 27                         | 2,241                                | 1.2346%        |
| 84  | 3    | 0    | 4    | 1    | 2    | 6    | 4    | 5    | 5    | 5    | 35                         | 2,940                                | 1.6004%        |
| 85  | 0    | 1    | 1    | 2    | 0    | 0    | 2    | 3    | 0    | 1    | 10                         | 850                                  | 0.4572%        |
| 86  | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 2    | 0    | 3    | 1    | 2    | 1    | 13                         | 1,118                                | 0.5944%        |
| 87  | 0    | 0    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 2    | 1    | 2    | 4    | 1    | 13                         | 1,131                                | 0.5944%        |
| 88  | 0    | 0    | 1    | 2    | 1    | 1    | 0    | 0    | 4    | 3    | 12                         | 1,056                                | 0.5487%        |
| 89  | 0    | 1    | 0    | 0    | 2    | 1    | 0    | 0    | 2    | 1    | 7                          | 623                                  | 0.3201%        |
| 90  | 0    | 0    | 1    | 0    | 0    | 2    | 1    | 3    | 0    | 0    | 7                          | 630                                  | 0.3201%        |
| 91  | 0    | 1    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 2    | 1    | 1    | 0    | 5                          | 455                                  | 0.2286%        |
| 92  | 1    | 2    | 1    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 1    | 0    | 5                          | 460                                  | 0.2286%        |
| 93  | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 1    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 1    | 2                          | 186                                  | 0.0914%        |
| 94  | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 1    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 1                          | 94                                   | 0.0457%        |
| 95  | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 1    | 1    | 2                          | 190                                  | 0.0914%        |
| 96  | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0                          | 0                                    | 0.0000%        |
| 97  | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 1    | 1                          | 97                                   | 0.0457%        |
| 98  | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 1    | 0    | 1                          | 98                                   | 0.0457%        |
|     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | <b>2,187</b>               | <b>136,631</b>                       | <b>100.00%</b> |

152 150 183 225 192 245 242 279 253 266

Average Age at Death

62.47

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<sup>ii</sup> Ages 21 to 99 years-of-age were chosen in order to maintain consistency with the FRS data.

<sup>iii</sup> Sheriff's Offices –as a group; DHSMV, DOC, DOACS, DEP, FWC, and FDLE

# Sheriff



# J. R. "Jack" Parker

BREVARD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

October 17, 2011

The Honorable Governor Rick Scott  
Office of Governor Rick Scott  
State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 S. Monroe St.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor Scott:

Please allow me to express my most sincere gratitude for your continued interest and support to reverse the component in the 2011 pension law which arbitrarily raised the minimum age and length of service for law enforcement and corrections officers in the State of Florida.

Pursuant to our previous conversations, we have conducted, completed and attached our ***Florida Mortality Study: Florida Law Enforcement and Corrections Officers compared to Florida General Population*** for your review. Our study utilized data from the Florida Department of Health and the Division of Retirement that reflects the actual death rate of law enforcement and corrections officers belonging to the FRS versus the actual death rate in the general population for the most recent decade (2000 through 2009).

Our study found that law enforcement and corrections officers from Sheriff's Offices, State Police Agencies and the Department of Corrections who belonged to the Florida Retirement System died, on average, at the young age of 62, approximately twelve years earlier than the general population in Florida, at age 74. The general population in Florida lived an average of approximately 19% longer lives than the Florida law enforcement and corrections officers.

While there was great debate and thought put into many aspects of last year's pension legislation, the component increasing years of service and retirement ages for officers simply assumed officers were living longer and had life spans which were now more comparable to the general public. However, when we look at the real death rates in a real "apples to apples" comparison, those assumptions proved to be invalid. While members of the general public may be living longer, it is sadly not the case in the law enforcement and corrections profession.

We are hopeful this report will prove useful as the justification for legislation during the 2012 session to revert to the previous retirement standard of age 55 with 25 years of services. This study clearly demonstrates our officers do not enjoy a lengthy retirement when compared to the population they serve. Requiring officers to work to the age of 60 when they die at the average age of 62 is not acceptable.

Understanding the pension costs to the State, Counties (and Municipalities enrolled in the FRS) have been substantially reduced as a result of the many pension changes enacted, and realizing reversing this one aspect may have some financial impact, I would recommend this impact be offset by increasing the vesting period of special risk members from eight (8) to ten (10) years.

The Law Enforcement Officers and Corrections Officers in the State of Florida greatly appreciate your efforts to correct this situation.

Respectfully,

A blue ink signature of Sheriff Jack Parker, written in a cursive style.

Sheriff Jack Parker  
Brevard County