



# Section Ten

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## **LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS KILLED & ASSAULTED SUMMARY**

# POLICE OFFICERS KILLED AND ASSAULTED

The killing or assault of a police officer has a deleterious effect on society that reaches far beyond the overt act. Such occurrences constitute an immediate threat to the well-being of the community and serious breach of the internal security of the country. Today a young person who considers a career in law enforcement must also consider the very strong possibility of being killed or assaulted by a member of the very same society they are sworn to protect. This deplorable situation should be a subject of serious concern, for in truth, an attack on a police officer is an attack on society. The violence directed against law enforcement officers acting in the line of duty is clearly demonstrated by the following information.

## POLICE FELONIOUSLY KILLED

### VOLUME/TREND

- In 2001, one police officer was feloniously killed while in the performance of his duties.
- On July 4, 2001, Jersey City Police Officer Domenick J. Infantes Jr., while off-duty, responded to a disturbance call, possibly involving a knife, at a residence in his neighborhood. Upon arriving at the residence, the officer identified himself as a police officer and attempted to restore peace. While ordering a suspect armed with a metal pipe to turn over the weapon, a second suspect struck the officer in the head with a metal pipe, causing fatal head injuries.

Year	Police Officers Killed	Year	Police Officers Killed
1992	-	1997	3
1993	1	1998	-
1994	2	1999	2
1995	4	2000	-
1996	-	2001	1

## ASSAULTS ON POLICE OFFICERS

Police assault statistics are important to the police administrator who attempts to identify the causative factors of this type of criminal activity. Many factors contribute to police assaults, and circumstances vary from place to place. Identifying specific reasons for these assaults is therefore extremely difficult. The following information illustrates the frequency of these events, and any attempt at analysis of these assaults should include consideration of the unique variables present in each jurisdiction. Due to the broad field of services performed by many state and county police agencies, no assault rates are computed for total police officers.

### VOLUME/TREND

- There were 3,253 police officers assaulted in 2001, an increase of 3 percent when compared to the 3,158 in 2000.

### ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS

- Thirty-one percent (1,024) of the officers assaulted sustained injury.
- Personal weapons, such as hands, fists and feet were used in 82 percent (2,661) of all police assaults.
- Twenty-nine percent of police assaults occurred when officers responded to disturbance calls.
- Fourteen percent of the assaults on police officers occurred during the 2-hour period of 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

## **CLEARANCES**

- The police of New Jersey were successful in clearing 95 percent of the assaults directed at them.

# **ASSAULTS ON MUNICIPAL POLICE OFFICERS**

## **VOLUME/TREND**

- A total of 2,937 municipal police officers were assaulted during 2001, a 2 percent increase compared to the 2,879 assaulted in 2000.
- The assault rate, for every 100 municipal officers, was 14.0, a 1 percent increase compared to 2000.

## **ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS**

- Thirty-one percent of the municipal officers assaulted sustained injury.
- Personal weapons, such as hands, fists and feet were used in 81 percent of all municipal police assaults.
- Thirty-one percent of municipal police assaults occurred when officers responded to disturbance calls.
- Attempting Other Arrests accounted for 18 percent of municipal police assaults.

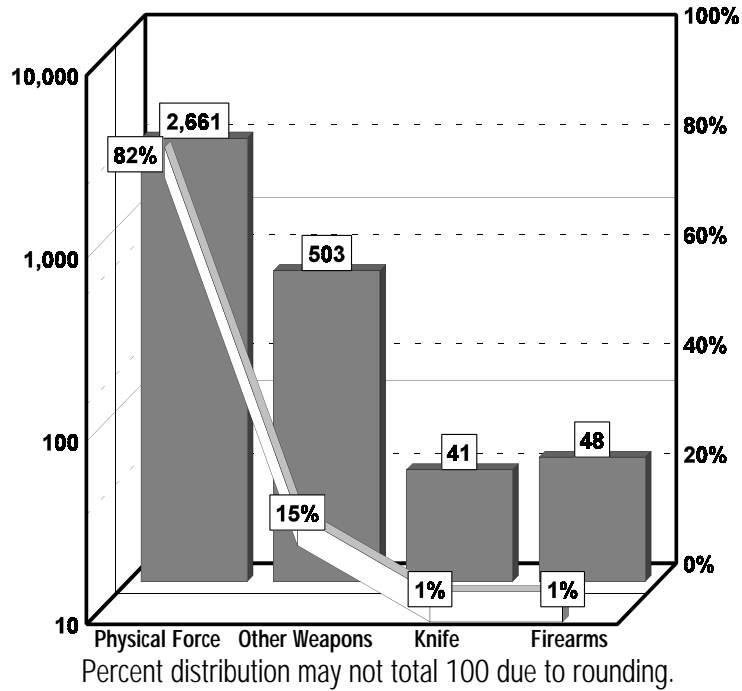
# **OTHER POLICE OFFICERS ASSAULTED**

The following law enforcement agencies are dealt with separately and are not included when computing municipal assault rates; the services performed by these agencies vary greatly from the functions of municipal police agencies.

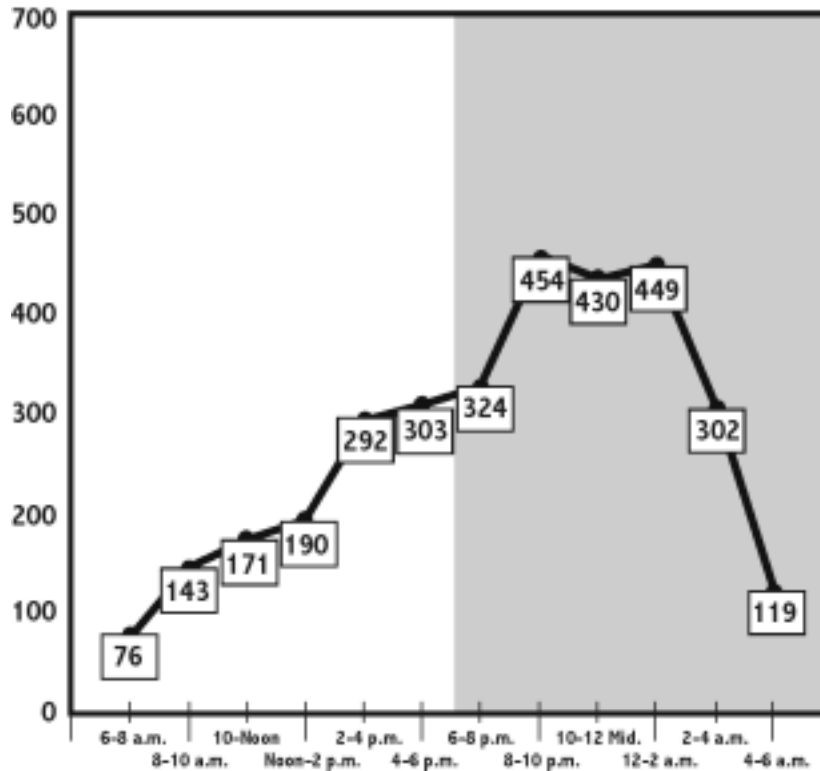
## **VOLUME/TREND**

- County law enforcement agencies reported 103 officers assaulted with 56 sustaining injury.
- The New Jersey State Police reported 21 officers assaulted with 9 sustaining injury.
- Other state agencies, with police powers, reported 177 officers assaulted with 50 sustaining injury.
- University and college police agencies reported 15 officers assaulted with 8 sustaining injury.

# WEAPONS USED IN ASSAULTS ON POLICE OFFICERS



# ASSAULTS ON POLICE OFFICERS BY HOUR OF DAY NUMBER – PERCENT DISTRIBUTION



# ASSAULTS ON POLICE OFFICERS BY TYPE OF ACTIVITY NUMBER – PERCENT DISTRIBUTION

TYPE OF ACTIVITY	Municipal Police		County Agencies		State Police		Other State Agencies		Universities and Colleges		TOTAL	
	Number	Percent Distribution	Number	Percent Distribution	Number	Percent Distribution	Number	Percent Distribution	Number	Percent Distribution	Number	Percent Distribution
Responding to "Disturbance" Calls	924	31	2	2	1	5	11	6	8	53	946	29
Burglaries in Progress	58	2	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	58	2
Robberies in Progress	40	1	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	40	1
Attempting Other Arrests	518	18	19	18	11	52	2	1	-	0	550	17
Civil Disorder	69	2	1	1	-	0	-	0	1	7	71	2
Handling or Transporting Prisoners	236	8	64	62	3	14	145	82	-	0	448	14
Investigating Suspicious Persons or Circumstances	467	16	2	2	2	10	3	2	3	20	477	15
Ambush	8	*	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	8	*
Mentally Deranged Persons	39	1	-	0	-	0	1	1	1	7	41	1
Traffic Stops	308	10	7	7	3	14	14	8	-	0	332	10
All Other	270	9	8	8	1	5	1	1	2	13	282	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,937</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3,253</b>	<b>100</b>

\* Percent is less than one-half of one percent.  
Percent distribution may not total 100 due to rounding.

# ASSAULTS ON MUNICIPAL POLICE OFFICERS NUMBER – RATE PER 100 OFFICERS BY COUNTY – 2001

COUNTY	NUMBER OF OFFICERS	NUMBER OF ASSAULTS	PERCENT DISTRIBUTION	ASSAULT RATE PER 100 POLICE OFFICERS
ATLANTIC	942	120	4.1	12.7
BERGEN	2,112	173	5.9	8.2
BURLINGTON	779	93	3.2	11.9
CAMDEN	1,316	165	5.6	12.5
CAPE MAY	341	46	1.6	13.5
CUMBERLAND	270	48	1.6	17.8
ESSEX	2,860	578	19.7	20.2
GLOUCESTER	544	71	2.4	13.1
HUDSON	1,964	401	13.7	20.4
HUNTERDON	163	5	0.2	3.1
MERCER	936	126	4.3	13.5
MIDDLESEX	1,568	180	6.1	11.5
MONMOUTH	1,421	167	5.7	11.8
MORRIS	1,054	48	1.6	4.6
OCEAN	1,020	161	5.5	15.8
PASSAIC	1,152	157	5.3	13.6
SALEM	108	24	0.8	22.2
SOMERSET	579	56	1.9	9.7
SUSSEX	195	15	0.5	7.7
UNION	1,454	292	9.9	20.1
WARREN	148	11	0.4	7.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20,926</b>	<b>2,937</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>14.0</b>

Percent distribution may not total 100 due to rounding.