

SECTION IX
LAW ENFORCEMENT
OFFICERS
KILLED AND 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 man 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 he is sworn to protect. This deplorable situation should be a subject of serious public 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

- This is the third consecutive year there were no New Jersey police officers killed as a result of criminal action.
- Since the inception of the Uniform Crime Reporting Program in 1967, forty-seven police officers have been feloniously killed in the line of duty.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Police Officers Killed</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Police Officers Killed</u>
1981	3	1986	1
1982	—	1987	1
1983	—	1988	—
1984	3	1989	—
1985	4	1990	—

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. It is therefore extremely difficult to identify specific reasons for these assaults. 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 5,002 police officers assaulted in 1990, a decrease of one percent when compared to the 5,054 in 1989.

ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS

- Twenty-eight percent (1,411) of the officers assaulted sustained injury.
- Personal weapons, such as hands, fists and feet were used in 88 percent of all police assaults.
- Thirty percent of police assaults occurred when officers responded to disturbance calls.
- Sixteen percent of the assaults on police officers occurred during the 2 hour period of 10:00 p.m. to 12 midnight.

CLEARANCES

- The police of New Jersey were successful in clearing 97 percent of the assaults directed at them.

ASSAULTS ON MUNICIPAL POLICE OFFICERS

VOLUME/RATE/TREND

- There were 4,404 municipal police officers assaulted during 1990, a 1 percent decrease compared to the 4,439 assaulted in 1989.
- The assault rate, for every 100 municipal officers, was 23.5; a 2 percent decrease compared to 1989.

ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS

- Twenty-five percent of the municipal officers assaulted sustained injury.
- Personal weapons, such as hands, fists and feet were used in 88 percent of all municipal police assaults.
- Thirty-three percent of municipal police assaults occurred when officers responded to disturbance calls.
- Attempting Other Arrests accounted for 21 percent of municipal police assaults.

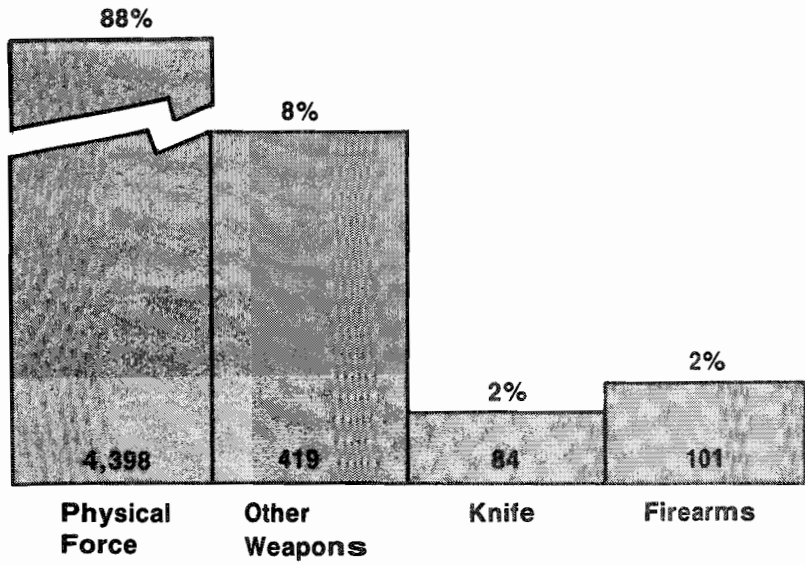
OTHER POLICE OFFICERS ASSAULTED

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.

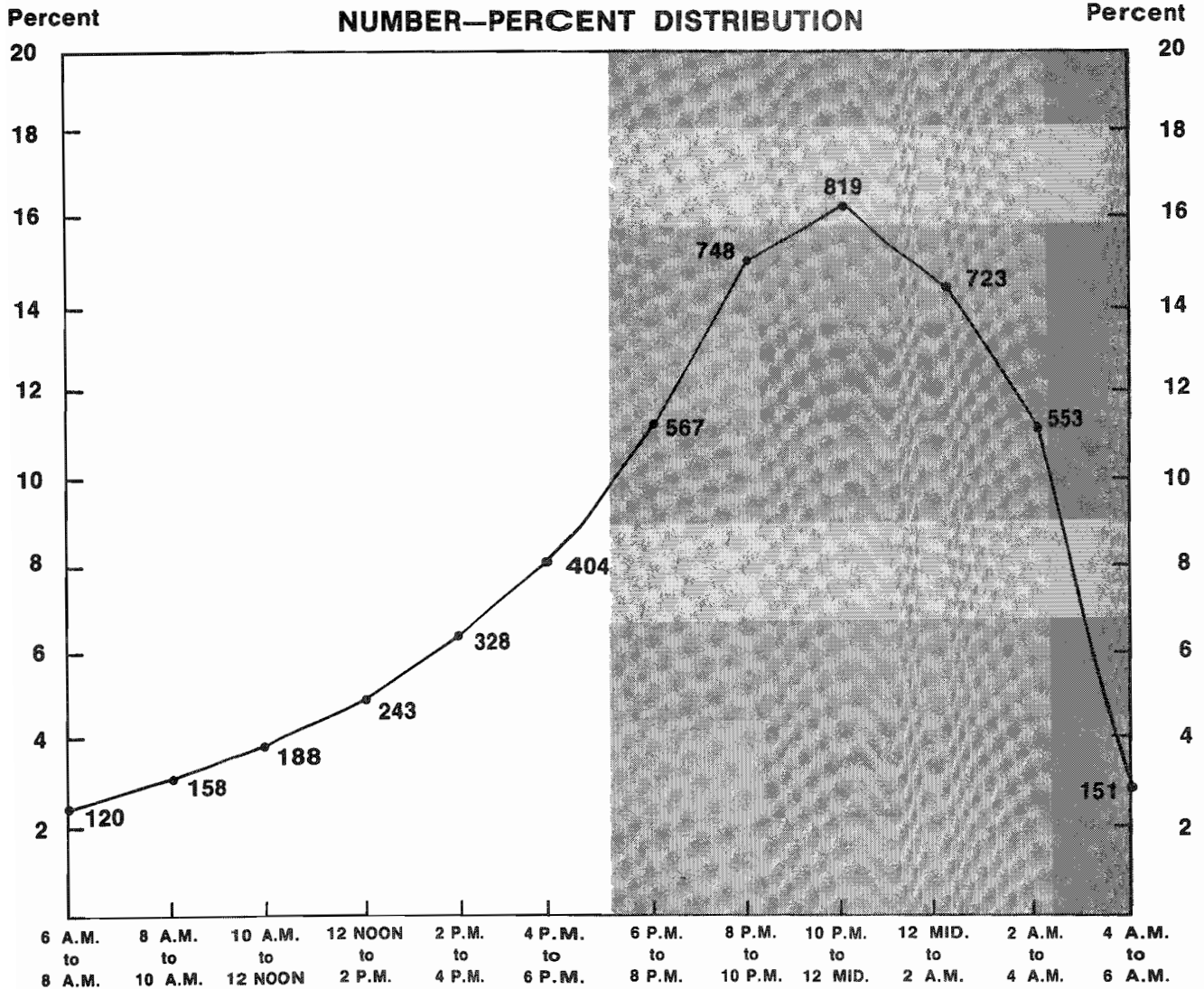
VOLUME

- County law enforcement agencies reported 220 officers assaulted, with 106 sustaining physical injury.
- The New Jersey State Police reported 81 officers assaulted, with 21 sustaining injury.
- Other state agencies, with police powers, reported 266 officers assaulted and 184 sustaining injury.
- University and college police agencies reported 31 officers assaulted with 17 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	1,467	33	4	2	9	11	1	†	8	26	1,489	30
Burglaries in Progress	77	2	1	†	—	—	—	—	1	3	79	2
Robberies in Progress	50	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	3	53	1
Attempting Other Arrests	938	21	47	21	23	28	28	11	5	16	1,041	21
Civil Disorder	98	2	—	—	3	4	82	31	1	3	184	4
Handling or Transporting Prisoners	355	8	133	60	9	11	142	53	2	6	641	13
Investigating Suspicious Persons or Circumstances	487	11	7	3	7	9	6	2	7	23	514	10
Ambush	13	†	1	†	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	†
Mentally Deranged Persons	52	1	—	—	—	—	1	†	1	3	54	1
Traffic Stops	437	10	13	6	17	21	3	1	3	10	473	9
All Other	430	10	12	5	13	16	3	1	2	6	460	9
TOTAL	4,404		220		81		266		31		5,002	

*Percent distribution may not total 100 due to rounding.

†Less than one half of one percent.

**ASSAULTS ON MUNICIPAL POLICE OFFICERS
NUMBER-RATE PER 100 OFFICERS
BY COUNTY
1990**

COUNTY	NUMBER OF OFFICERS	NUMBER OF ASSAULTS	*PERCENT DISTRIBUTION	ASSAULT RATE PER 100 POLICE OFFICERS
ATLANTIC	869	288	6.5	33.1
BERGEN	2,101	311	7.1	14.8
BURLINGTON	608	185	4.2	30.4
CAMDEN	1,047	214	4.9	20.4
CAPE MAY	339	89	2.0	26.3
CUMBERLAND	221	75	1.7	33.9
ESSEX	2,461	669	15.2	27.2
GLOUCESTER	416	103	2.3	24.8
HUDSON	1,930	541	12.3	28.0
HUNTERDON	136	12	0.3	8.8
MERCER	865	179	4.1	20.7
MIDDLESEX	1,453	318	7.2	21.9
MONMOUTH	1,253	290	6.6	23.1
MORRIS	964	91	2.1	9.4
OCEAN	881	266	6.0	30.2
PASSAIC	973	203	4.6	20.9
SALEM	102	17	0.4	16.7
SOMERSET	482	73	1.7	15.1
SUSSEX	162	38	0.9	23.5
UNION	1,318	420	9.5	31.9
WARREN	121	22	0.5	18.2
TOTAL	18,702	4,404	100.0	23.5

*Percent Distribution may not total 100.0 due to rounding.