

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 fourth 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>
1982	—	1987	1
1983	—	1988	—
1984	3	1989	—
1985	4	1990	—
1986	1	1991	—

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 3,972 police officers assaulted in 1991, a decrease of 21 percent when compared to the 5,002 in 1990.

ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS

- Twenty-six percent (1,052) of the officers assaulted sustained injury.
- Personal weapons, such as hands, fists and feet were used in 86 percent (3,429) of all police assaults.
- Twenty-nine 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 98 percent of the assaults directed at them.

ASSAULTS ON MUNICIPAL POLICE OFFICERS

VOLUME/RATE/TREND

- There were 3,498 municipal police officers assaulted during 1991, a 21 percent decrease compared to the 4,404 assaulted in 1990.
- The assault rate, for every 100 municipal officers, was 18.8; a 20 percent decrease compared to 1990.

ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS

- Twenty-five percent of the municipal officers assaulted sustained injury.
- Personal weapons, such as hands, fists and feet were used in 87 percent of all municipal police assaults.
- Thirty-two percent of municipal police assaults occurred when officers responded to disturbance calls.
- Attempting Other Arrests accounted for 22 percent of municipal police assaults.

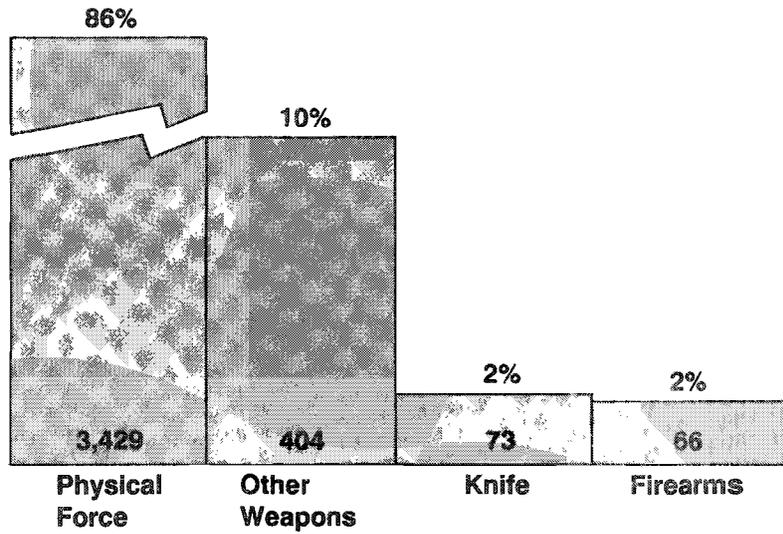
OTHER POLICE OFFICERS ASSAULTED

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.

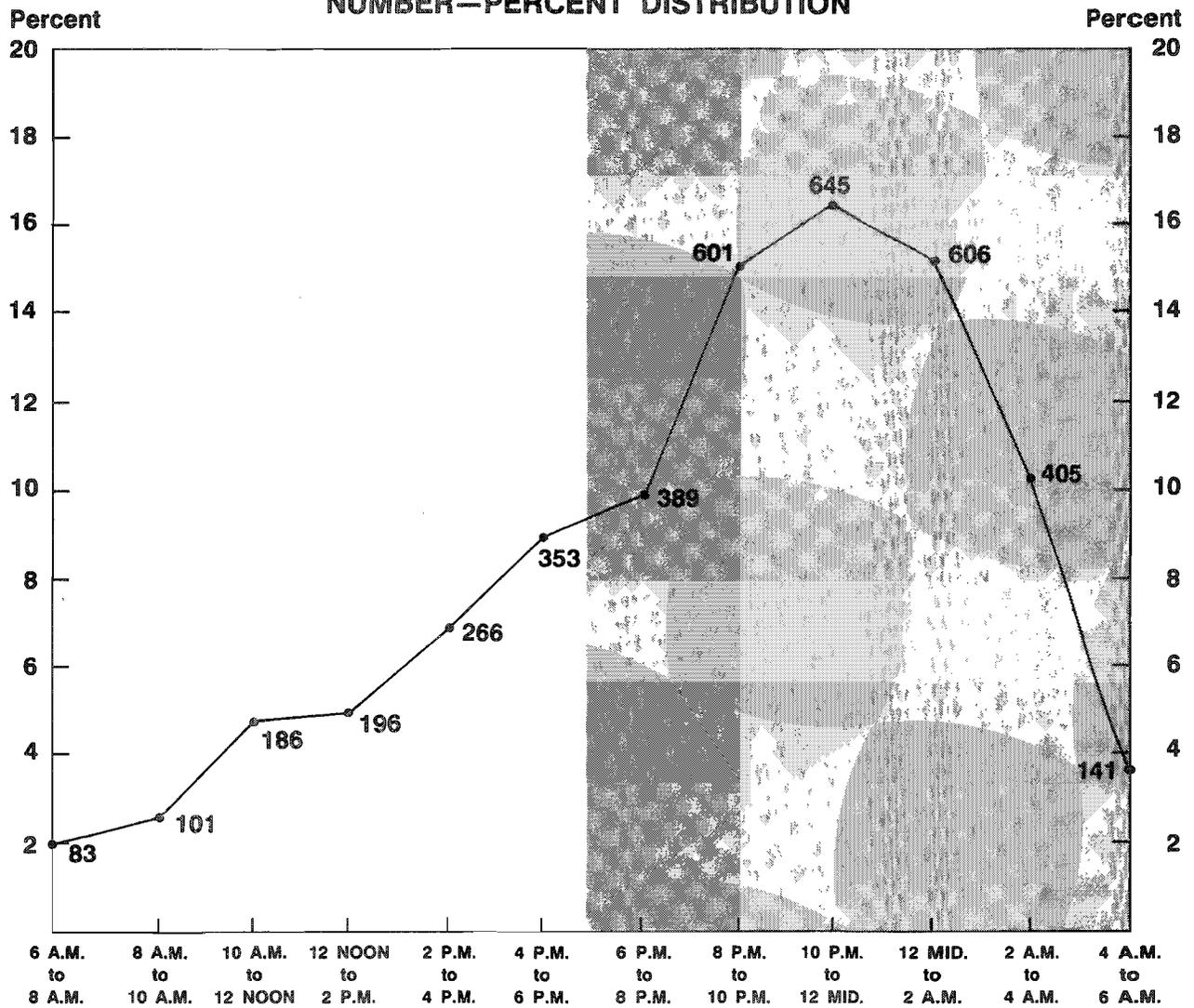
VOLUME

- County law enforcement agencies reported 207 officers assaulted, with 78 sustaining physical injury.
- The New Jersey State Police reported 67 officers assaulted, with 21 sustaining injury.
- Other state agencies, with police powers, reported 168 officers assaulted and 57 sustaining injury.
- University and college police agencies reported 32 officers assaulted with 19 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	1,135	32	12	6	2	3	3	2	3	9	1,155	29
Burglaries in Progress	57	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	58	1
Robberies in Progress	39	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	41	1
Attempting Other Arrests	763	22	40	19	19	28	22	13	7	22	851	21
Civil Disorder	82	2	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	84	2
Handling or Transporting Prisoners	246	7	102	49	15	22	126	75	—	—	489	12
Investigating Suspicious Persons or Circumstances	459	13	10	5	2	3	6	4	15	47	492	12
Ambush	16	†	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	18	†
Mentally Deranged Persons	47	1	2	1	1	1	7	4	—	—	57	1
Traffic Stops	331	9	22	11	20	30	2	1	3	9	378	10
All Other	323	9	15	7	8	12	—	—	3	9	349	9
TOTAL	3,498		207		67		168		32		3,972	

*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
1991**

COUNTY	NUMBER OF OFFICERS	NUMBER OF ASSAULTS	PERCENT DISTRIBUTION*	ASSAULT RATE PER 100 POLICE OFFICERS
ATLANTIC	856	248	7.1	29.0
BERGEN	2,064	231	6.6	11.2
BURLINGTON	612	143	4.1	23.4
CAMDEN	1,073	197	5.6	18.4
CAPE MAY	345	66	1.9	19.1
CUMBERLAND	220	40	1.1	18.2
ESSEX	2,538	524	15.0	20.6
GLOUCESTER	428	65	1.9	15.2
HUDSON	1,807	418	12.0	23.1
HUNTERDON	138	16	0.5	11.6
MERCER	871	142	4.1	16.3
MIDDLESEX	1,455	253	7.2	17.4
MONMOUTH	1,248	198	5.7	15.9
MORRIS	962	83	2.4	8.6
OCEAN	872	195	5.6	22.4
PASSAIC	973	196	5.6	20.1
SALEM	102	18	0.5	17.6
SOMERSET	470	63	1.8	13.4
SUSSEX	164	40	1.1	24.4
UNION	1,330	345	9.9	25.9
WARREN	121	17	0.5	14.1
TOTAL	18,649	3,498	100.0	18.8

*Percent Distribution may not total 100.0 due to rounding.