

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 fifth 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>
1983	—	1988	—
1984	3	1989	—
1985	4	1990	—
1986	1	1991	—
1987	1	1992	—

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 3,988 police officers assaulted in 1992, an increase of less than one-half of one percent when compared to the 3,972 in 1991.

ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS

- Twenty-eight percent (1,130) of the officers assaulted sustained injury.
- Personal weapons, such as hands, fists and feet were used in 87 percent (3,455) of all police assaults.
- Twenty-eight percent of police assaults occurred when officers responded to disturbance calls.
- Seventeen percent of the assaults on police officers occurred during the 2 hour period of 12 midnight to 2 a.m.

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 3,608 municipal police officers assaulted during 1992, a 3 percent increase compared to the 3,498 assaulted in 1991.
- The assault rate, for every 100 municipal officers, was 19.4; a 3 percent increase compared to 1991.

ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS

- Twenty-seven 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 percent of municipal police assaults occurred when officers responded to disturbance calls.
- Attempting Other Arrests accounted for 25 percent of municipal police assaults.

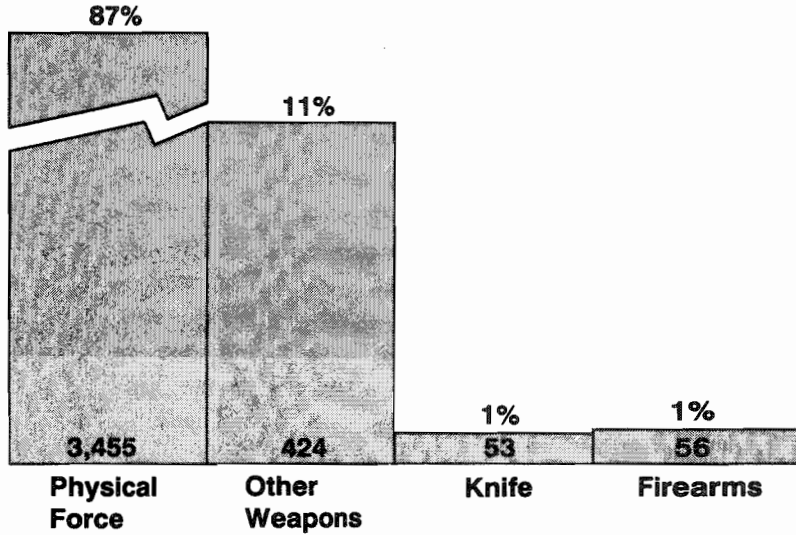
OTHER POLICE OFFICERS ASSAULTED

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.

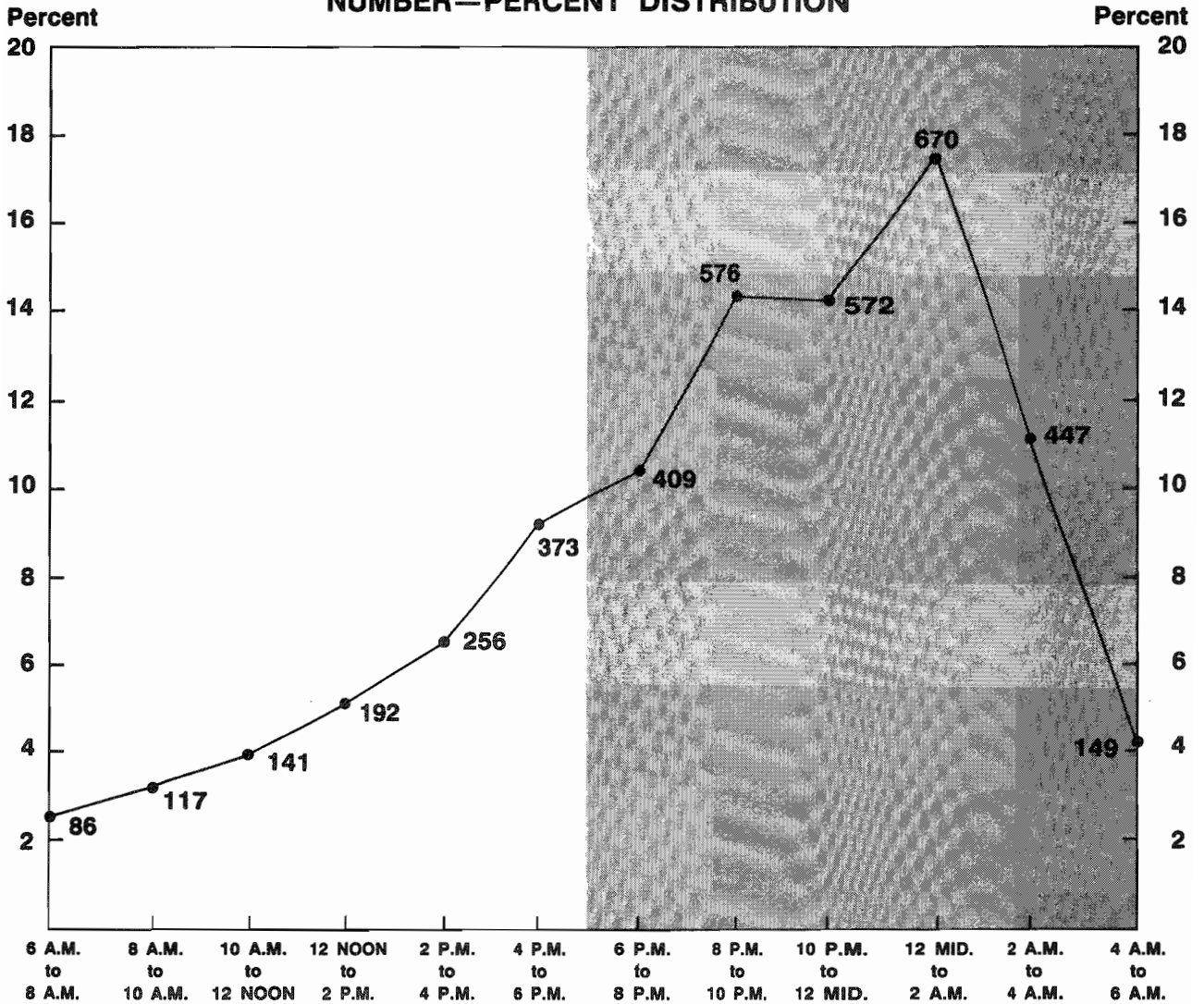
VOLUME

- County law enforcement agencies reported 128 officers assaulted, with 49 sustaining physical injury.
- The New Jersey State Police reported 67 officers assaulted, with 23 sustaining injury.
- Other state agencies, with police powers, reported 156 officers assaulted and 88 sustaining injury.
- University and college police agencies reported 29 officers assaulted with 6 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	1,074	30	10	8	7	10	1	1	5	17	1,097	28
Burglaries in Progress	83	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	83	2
Robberies in Progress	44	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	45	1
Attempting Other Arrests	895	25	28	22	8	12	12	8	6	21	949	24
Civil Disorder	78	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	3	80	2
Handling or Transporting Prisoners	281	8	56	44	6	9	136	87	—	—	479	12
Investigating Suspicious Persons or Circumstances	442	12	2	2	12	18	2	1	8	28	466	12
Ambush	10	†	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	11	†
Mentally Deranged Persons	45	1	—	—	—	—	4	3	—	—	49	1
Traffic Stops	319	9	22	17	25	37	—	—	7	24	373	9
All Other	337	9	10	8	7	10	—	—	2	7	356	9
TOTAL	3,608	—	128	—	67	—	156	—	29	—	3,988	—

*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
1992**

COUNTY	NUMBER OF OFFICERS	NUMBER OF ASSAULTS	PERCENT DISTRIBUTION*	ASSAULT RATE PER 100 POLICE OFFICERS
ATLANTIC	875	224	6.2	25.6
BERGEN	2,033	244	6.8	12.0
BURLINGTON	612	120	3.3	19.6
CAMDEN	1,072	181	5.0	16.9
CAPE MAY	321	92	2.6	28.7
CUMBERLAND	228	40	1.1	17.5
ESSEX	2,496	568	15.7	22.8
GLOUCESTER	426	54	1.5	12.7
HUDSON	1,835	393	10.9	21.4
HUNTERDON	133	13	0.4	9.8
MERCER	862	150	4.2	17.4
MIDDLESEX	1,458	246	6.8	16.9
MONMOUTH	1,232	224	6.2	18.2
MORRIS	946	98	2.7	10.4
OCEAN	869	209	5.8	24.1
PASSAIC	980	173	4.8	17.7
SALEM	99	17	0.5	17.2
SOMERSET	481	48	1.3	10.0
SUSSEX	158	26	0.7	16.5
UNION	1,351	480	13.3	35.5
WARREN	116	8	0.2	6.9
TOTAL	18,583	3,608	100.0	19.4

*Percent Distribution may not total 100.0 due to rounding.