

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

- In 1993, one New Jersey police officer was feloniously killed while in the performance of his duty.
- On June 3, 1993, a Newark City plainclothes police officer was waiting to testify in a pending drug case. The officer was waiting in the hallway outside the courtroom on the 11th floor of the Essex County Superior Court House. The brother of one of the defendants in the drug case, walked up to the police officer and shot him in the head with a .357 magnum revolver. The officer was fatally wounded. The suspect was arrested and charged with murder.
- Since the inception of the Uniform Crime Reporting Program in 1967, forty-eight 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> |
|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|
| 1984 | 3 | 1989 | — |
| 1985 | 4 | 1990 | — |
| 1986 | 1 | 1991 | — |
| 1987 | 1 | 1992 | — |
| 1988 | — | 1993 | 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. 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 3,819 police officers assaulted in 1993, a decrease of (4%) four percent when compared to the 3,988 in 1992.

ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS

- Twenty-eight percent (1,081) of the officers assaulted sustained injury.
- Personal weapons, such as hands, fists and feet were used in 83 percent (3,173) of all police assaults.
- Twenty-seven 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 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

CLEARANCES

- The police of New Jersey were successful in clearing 96 percent of the assaults directed at them.

ASSAULTS ON MUNICIPAL POLICE OFFICERS

VOLUME/RATE/TREND

- There were 3,407 municipal police officers assaulted during 1993, a 6 percent decrease compared to the 3,608 assaulted in 1992.
- The assault rate, for every 100 municipal officers, was 18.1, a 7 percent decrease compared to 1992.

ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS

- Twenty-five percent of the municipal officers assaulted sustained injury.
- Personal weapons, such as hands, fists and feet were used in 83 percent of all municipal police assaults.
- Thirty percent of municipal police assaults occurred when officers responded to disturbance calls.
- Attempting Other Arrests accounted for 24 percent of municipal police assaults.

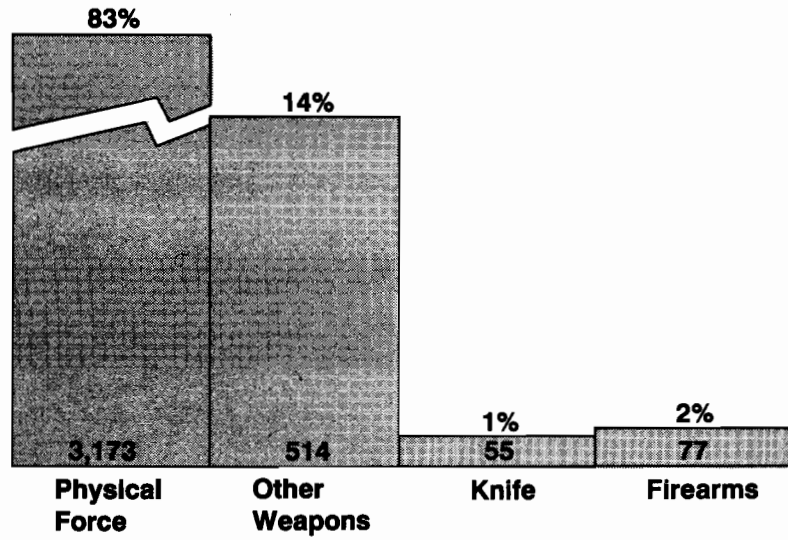
OTHER POLICE OFFICERS ASSAULTED

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.

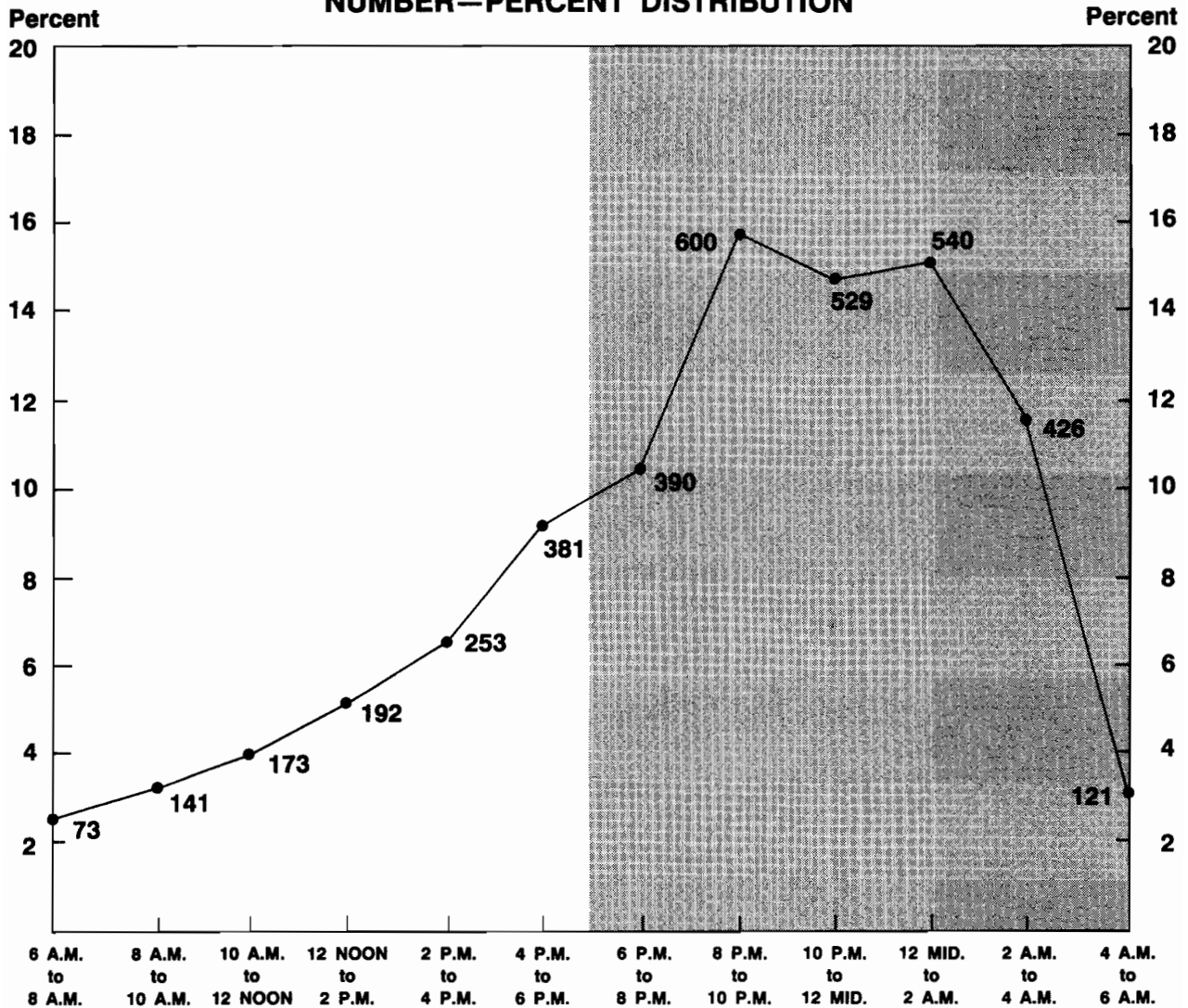
VOLUME

- County law enforcement agencies reported 141 officers assaulted, with 65 sustaining physical injury.
- The New Jersey State Police reported 78 officers assaulted, with 42 sustaining injury.
- Other state agencies, with police powers, reported 150 officers assaulted and 107 sustaining injury.
- University and college police agencies reported 43 officers assaulted with 15 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 | 1,037 | 30 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 1049 | 27 |
| Burglaries in Progress | 71 | 2 | 2 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 73 | 2 |
| Robberies in Progress | 54 | 2 | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 55 | 1 |
| Attempting Other Arrests | 808 | 24 | 30 | 21 | 28 | 36 | 15 | 10 | 7 | 16 | 888 | 23 |
| Civil Disorder | 54 | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 6 | 14 | 60 | 2 |
| Handling or Transporting Prisoners | 206 | 6 | 69 | 49 | 7 | 9 | 119 | 79 | 3 | 7 | 404 | 11 |
| Investigating Suspicious Persons or Circumstances | 507 | 15 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 8 | 19 | 535 | 14 |
| Ambush | 10 | † | 1 | 1 | — | — | 1 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 14 | † |
| Mentally Deranged Persons | 39 | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | 9 | 21 | 49 | 1 |
| Traffic Stops | 338 | 10 | 14 | 10 | 25 | 32 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 383 | 10 |
| All Other | 283 | 8 | 14 | 10 | 9 | 12 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 309 | 8 |
| TOTAL | 3,407 | — | 141 | — | 78 | — | 150 | — | 43 | — | 3,819 | — |

*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
1993**

| COUNTY | NUMBER OF OFFICERS | NUMBER OF ASSAULTS | PERCENT DISTRIBUTION* | ASSAULT RATE PER 100 POLICE OFFICERS |
|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ATLANTIC | 865 | 230 | 6.8 | 26.6 |
| BERGEN | 2,038 | 226 | 6.6 | 11.1 |
| BURLINGTON | 617 | 107 | 3.1 | 17.3 |
| CAMDEN | 1,094 | 185 | 5.4 | 16.9 |
| CAPE MAY | 322 | 65 | 1.9 | 20.2 |
| CUMBERLAND | 240 | 27 | 0.8 | 11.3 |
| ESSEX | 2,604 | 645 | 18.9 | 24.8 |
| GLOUCESTER | 433 | 57 | 1.7 | 13.2 |
| HUDSON | 1,838 | 380 | 11.2 | 20.7 |
| HUNTERDON | 136 | 9 | 0.3 | 6.6 |
| MERCER | 878 | 172 | 5.0 | 19.6 |
| MIDDLESEX | 1,476 | 202 | 5.9 | 13.7 |
| MONMOUTH | 1,234 | 175 | 5.1 | 14.2 |
| MORRIS | 962 | 77 | 2.3 | 8.0 |
| OCEAN | 866 | 218 | 6.4 | 25.2 |
| PASSAIC | 984 | 141 | 4.1 | 14.3 |
| SALEM | 103 | 14 | 0.4 | 13.6 |
| SOMERSET | 483 | 50 | 1.5 | 10.4 |
| SUSSEX | 162 | 24 | 0.7 | 14.8 |
| UNION | 1,372 | 386 | 11.3 | 28.1 |
| WARREN | 121 | 17 | 0.5 | 14.0 |
| TOTAL | 18,828 | 3,407 | 99.9 | 18.1 |

*Percent Distribution may not total 100.0 due to rounding.