

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 person who considers a career in law enforcement must also consider the very strong possibility of being killed or assaulted by a member or 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

- Since the inception of the Uniform Crime Reporting program in 1967, 54 police officers have been feloniously killed in the line of duty.

Year	Police Officers Killed	Year	Police Officers Killed
1987	1	1992	-
1988	-	1993	1
1989	-	1994	2
1990	-	1995	4
1991	-	1996	-

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 variable 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 4,090 police officers assaulted in 1996, an increase of 6 percent when compared to the 3,871 in 1995.

ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS

- Thirty-two percent (1,304) of the officers assaulted sustained injury.
- Personal weapons, such as hands, fists and feet were used in 84 percent (3,416) of all police assaults.
- Twenty-three percent of police assaults occurred when officers were handling or transporting prisoners.
- 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 97 percent of the assaults directed at them.

ASSAULTS ON MUNICIPAL POLICE OFFICERS

VOLUME/TREND

- A total of 3,273 municipal police officers were assaulted during 1996, a 5 percent increase compared to the 3,114 assaulted in 1995.
- The assault rate, for every 100 municipal officers, was 16.7, a 4 percent increase compared to 1995.

ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS

- Thirty percent of the municipal officers assaulted sustained injury.
- Personal weapons, such as hands, fists and feet were used in 84 percent of all municipal police assaults.
- Twenty-seven percent of municipal police assaults occurred when officers responded to disturbance calls.
- Attempting Other Arrests accounted for 23 percent of municipal police assaults.

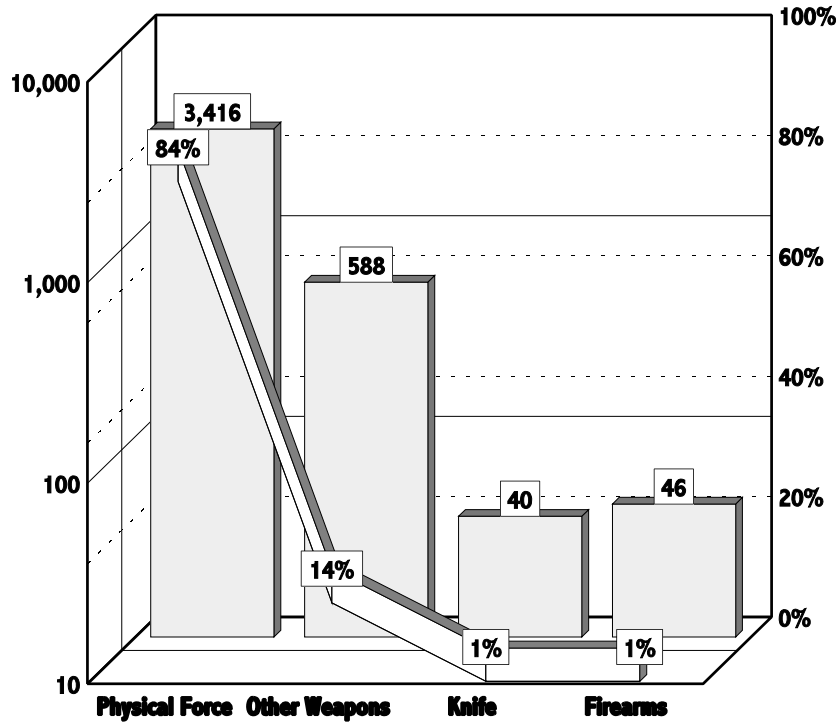
OTHER POLICE OFFICERS ASSAULTED

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.

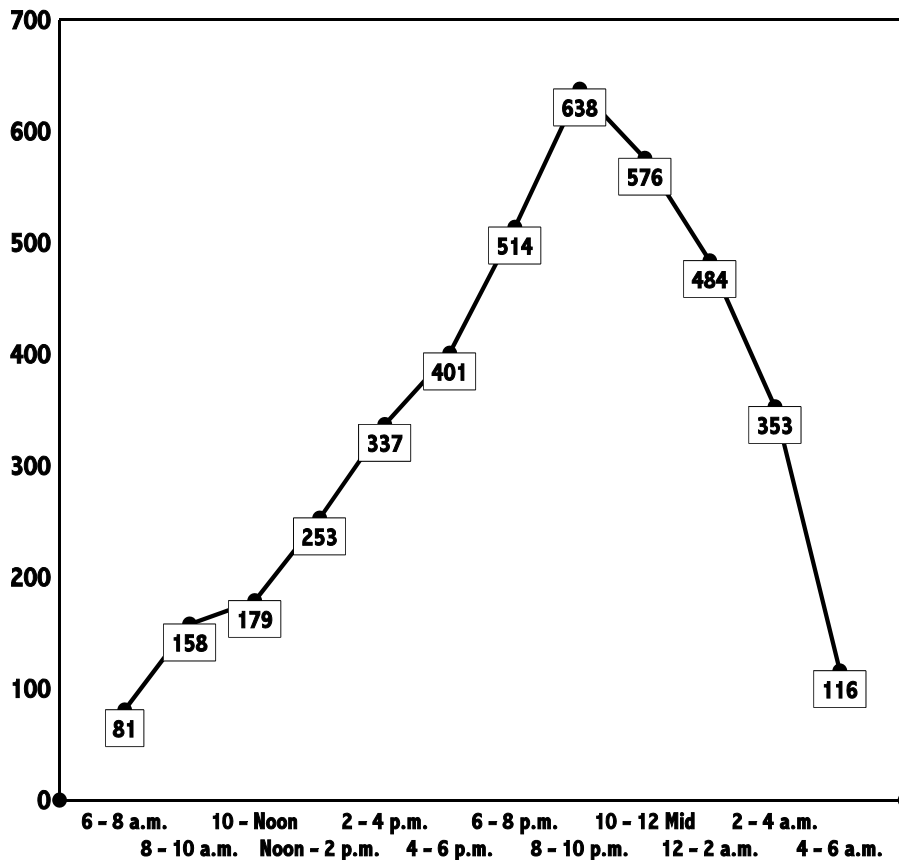
VOLUME/TREND

- County law enforcement agencies reported 138 officers assaulted with 57 sustaining injury.
- The New Jersey State Police reported 59 officers assaulted with 38 sustaining injury.
- Other state agencies, with police powers, reported 599 officers assaulted with 231 sustaining injury.
- University and college police agencies reported 21 officers assaulted with 12 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	884	27	6	4	1	2	4	1	4	19	899	22
Burglaries in Progress	69	2	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	69	2
Robberies in Progress	39	1	1	1	-	0	-	0	-	0	40	1
Attempting Other Arrests	764	23	32	23	17	29	7	1	2	10	822	20
Civil Disorder	83	3	-	0	-	0	-	0	2	10	85	2
Handling or Transporting Prisoners	289	9	73	53	9	15	568	95	2	10	941	23
Investigating Suspicious Persons or Circumstances	448	14	6	4	7	12	2	*	2	10	465	11
Ambush	14	*	-	0	-	0	1	*	-	0	15	*
Mentally Deranged Persons	28	1	-	0	-	0	5	1	3	14	36	1
Traffic Stops	337	10	3	2	20	34	9	2	4	19	373	9
All Other	318	10	17	12	5	8	3	1	2	10	345	8
TOTAL	3,273	100	138	100	59	100	599	100	21	100	4,090	100

* 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 – 1996

COUNTY	NUMBER OF OFFICERS	NUMBER OF ASSAULTS	PERCENT DISTRIBUTION	ASSAULT RATE PER 100 POLICE OFFICERS
ATLANTIC	906	164	5.0	18.1
BERGEN	2,013	302	9.2	15.0
BURLINGTON	671	110	3.4	16.4
CAMDEN	1,189	175	5.3	14.7
CAPE MAY	335	39	1.2	11.6
CUMBERLAND	259	45	1.4	17.4
ESSEX	2,772	581	17.8	21.0
GLOUCESTER	463	56	1.7	12.1
HUDSON	1,866	456	13.9	24.4
HUNTERDON	151	10	0.3	6.6
MERCER	897	150	4.6	16.7
MIDDLESEX	1,490	179	5.5	12.0
MONMOUTH	1,306	196	6.0	15.0
MORRIS	983	84	2.6	8.5
OCEAN	900	103	3.1	11.4
PASSAIC	1,051	166	5.1	15.8
SALEM	104	14	0.4	13.5
SOMERSET	514	36	1.1	7.0
SUSSEX	175	24	0.7	13.7
UNION	1,409	368	11.2	26.1
WARREN	131	15	0.5	11.5
TOTAL	19,585	3,273	100.0	16.7