

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

- In 1995, four New Jersey police officers were feloniously killed while in the performance of their duties.
- On March 11, 1995, Andre Motley, of the Essex County Correction's Department, intervened in a fight between two rival drug gangs feuding over control of the drug dealing turf. The officer was shot and fatally wounded. Eight offenders were arrested.
- On April 20, 1995, John D. McLaughlin, of the Camden County Prosecutor's Office, was executing a search warrant when the offender commenced firing an AKF-47 7.62 caliber semi-automatic rifle. The officer was struck numerous times and died of his wounds. The offender was arrested.
- On April 20, 1995, John F. Norcross, of Haddon Heights Police Department, responded to the scene of a police shooting. The officer had cleared the area of bystanders and was behind cover across the street. The officer peered around the residence and received a single gunshot wound to the right eye/temple from an AKF-47 7.62 caliber semi-automatic rifle. The offender was arrested.
- On May 7, 1995, Ippolito Gonzalez, of Franklin Township Police Department, conducted a routine motor vehicle stop. As he approached the vehicle, the passenger opened fired upon the officer fatally wounding him. The offender was arrested.

Year	Police Officers Killed	Year	Police Officers Killed
1986	1	1991	-
1987	1	1992	-
1988	-	1993	1
1989	-	1994	2
1990	-	1995	4

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 3,871 police officers assaulted in 1995, a decrease of 1 percent when compared to the 3,898 in 1994.

ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS

- Thirty-two percent (1,252) of the officers assaulted sustained injury.
- Personal weapons, such as hands, fists and feet were used in 81 percent (3,129) of all police assaults.
- Twenty-five 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/TREND

- A total of 3,114 municipal police officers assaulted during 1995, a 7 percent decrease compared to the 3,347 assaulted in 1994.
- The assault rate, for every 100 municipal officers, was 16.1, a 6 percent decrease compared to 1994.

ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS

- Twenty-eight percent of the municipal officers assaulted sustained injury.
- Personal weapons, such as hands, fists and feet were used in 82 percent of all municipal police assaults.
- Thirty percent of municipal police assaults occurred when officers responded to disturbance calls.
- Attempting Other Arrests accounted for 23 percent of municipal police assaults.

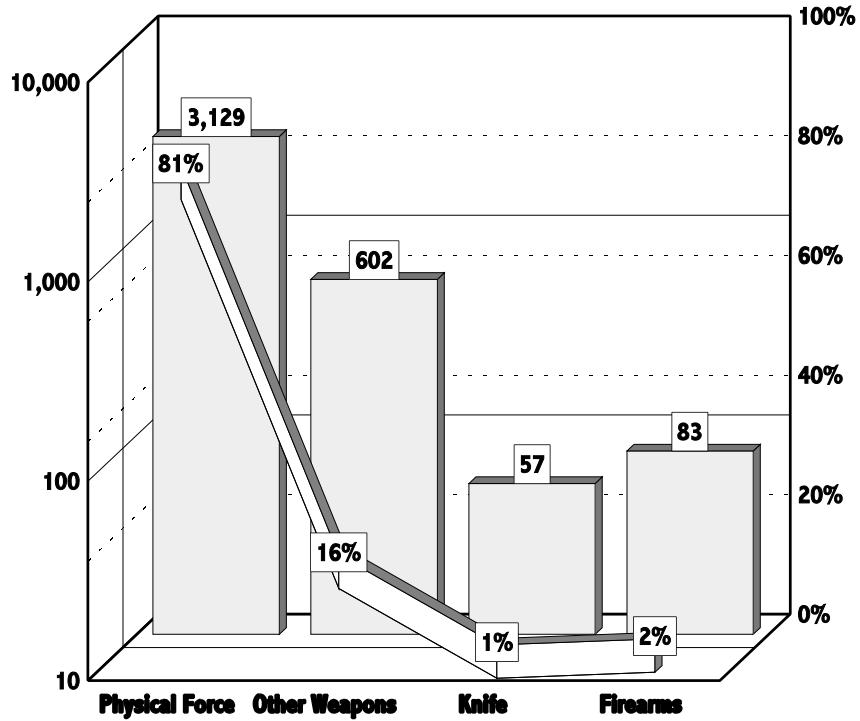
OTHER POLICE OFFICERS ASSAULTED

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.

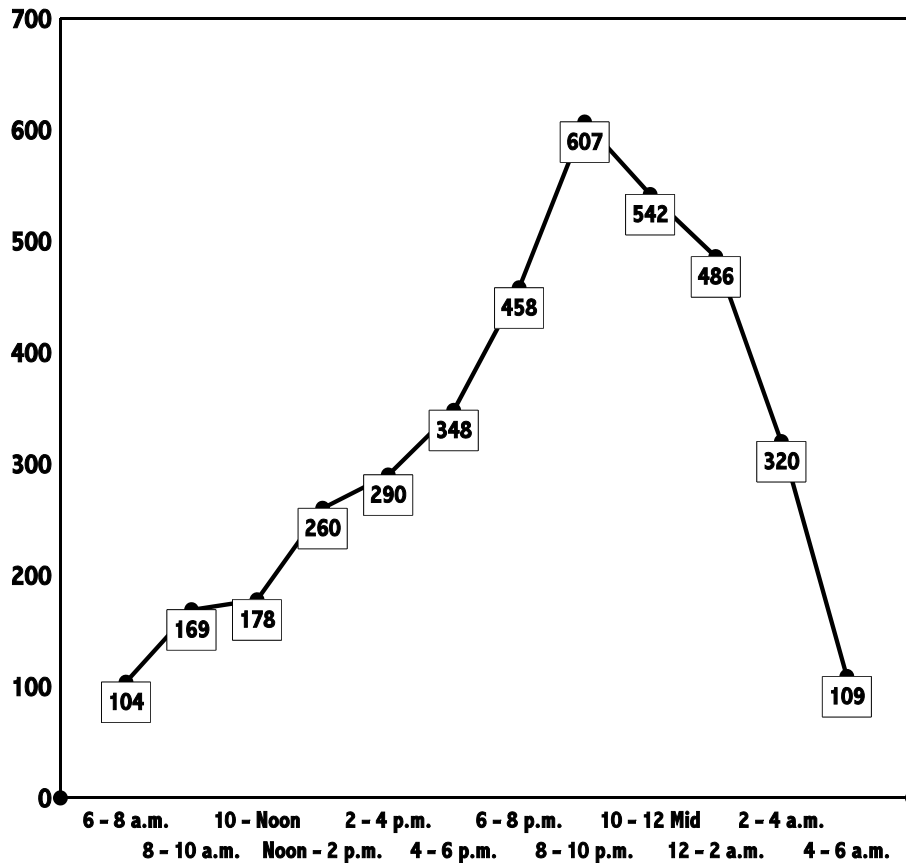
VOLUME/TREND

- County law enforcement agencies reported 143 officers assaulted with 67 sustaining injury.
- The New Jersey State Police reported 60 officers assaulted with 34 sustaining injury.
- Other state agencies, with police powers, reported 538 officers assaulted with 277 sustaining injury.
- University and college police agencies reported 16 officers assaulted with one 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	943	30	1	1	3	5	28	5	2	13	977	25
Burglaries in Progress	66	2	1	1	-	-	2	*	-	-	69	2
Robberies in Progress	52	2	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	54	1
Attempting Other Arrests	725	23	37	26	14	23	4	1	1	6	781	20
Civil Disorder	71	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	25	75	2
Handling or Transporting Prisoners	211	7	65	45	6	10	475	88	1	6	758	20
Investigating Suspicious Persons or Circumstances	405	13	10	7	2	3	6	1	4	25	427	11
Ambush	11	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	*
Mentally Deranged Persons	33	1	1	1	-	-	3	1	2	13	39	1
Traffic Stops	323	10	10	7	27	45	6	1	-	-	366	9
All Other	274	9	16	11	8	13	14	3	2	13	314	8
TOTAL	3,114	—	143	—	60	—	538	—	16	—	3,871	—

* 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 – 1995

COUNTY	NUMBER OF OFFICERS	NUMBER OF ASSAULTS	PERCENT DISTRIBUTION	ASSAULT RATE PER 100 POLICE OFFICERS
ATLANTIC	874	171	5.5	19.6
BERGEN	2,016	260	8.3	12.9
BURLINGTON	664	124	4.0	18.7
CAMDEN	1,163	221	7.1	19.0
CAPE MAY	332	49	1.6	14.8
CUMBERLAND	253	59	1.9	23.3
ESSEX	2,675	509	16.3	19.0
GLOUCESTER	456	59	1.9	12.9
HUDSON	1,855	375	12.0	20.2
HUNTERDON	144	8	0.3	5.6
MERCER	898	150	4.8	16.7
MIDDLESEX	1,497	152	4.9	10.2
MONMOUTH	1,282	130	4.2	10.1
MORRIS	973	56	1.8	5.8
OCEAN	883	153	4.9	17.3
PASSAIC	1,011	143	4.6	14.1
SALEM	106	5	0.2	4.7
SOMERSET	509	43	1.4	8.4
SUSSEX	172	25	0.8	14.5
UNION	1,397	401	12.9	28.7
WARREN	130	21	0.7	16.2
TOTAL	19,290	3,114	100.0	16.1