



Section Ten

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS KILLED & 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 of 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 2002, no police officers were feloniously killed while in the performance of their duties.

Year	Police Officers Killed	Year	Police Officers Killed
1993	1	1998	-
1994	2	1999	2
1995	4	2000	-
1996	-	2001	1
1997	3	2002	-

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 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 3,296 police officers assaulted in 2002, an increase of one percent when compared to the 3,253 in 2001.

ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS

- Twenty-nine percent (944) of the officers assaulted sustained injury.
- Personal weapons, such as hands, fists and feet were used in 82 percent (2,693) of all police assaults.
- Twenty-seven percent of police assaults occurred when officers responded to disturbance calls.
- Fifteen 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 2,981 municipal police officers were assaulted during 2002, a two percent increase compared to the 2,937 assaulted in 2001.
- The assault rate, for every 100 municipal officers, was 14.2, a one percent increase compared to 2001.

ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS

- Twenty-seven 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.
- Twenty-nine percent of the municipal police assaults occurred when officers responded to disturbance calls.
- Attempting Other Arrests accounted for 17 percent of municipal police assaults.

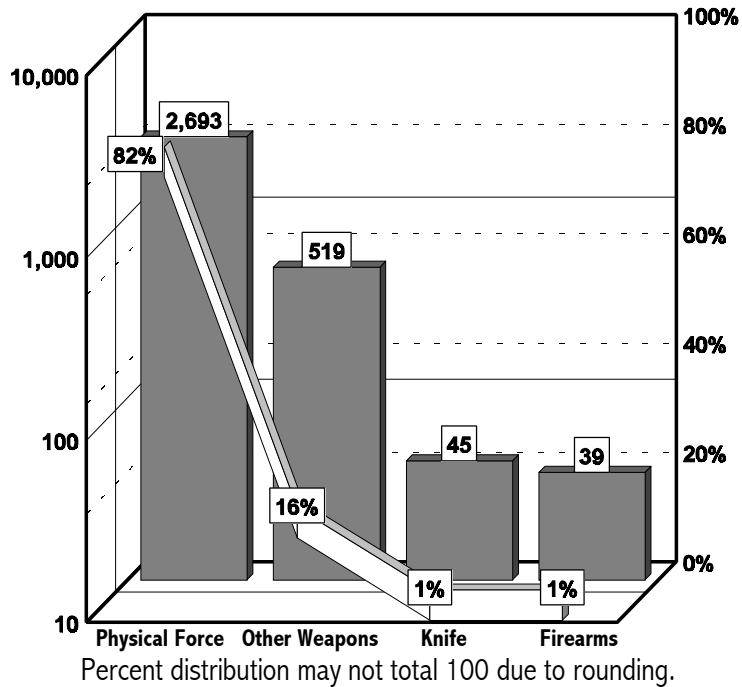
OTHER POLICE OFFICERS ASSAULTED

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.

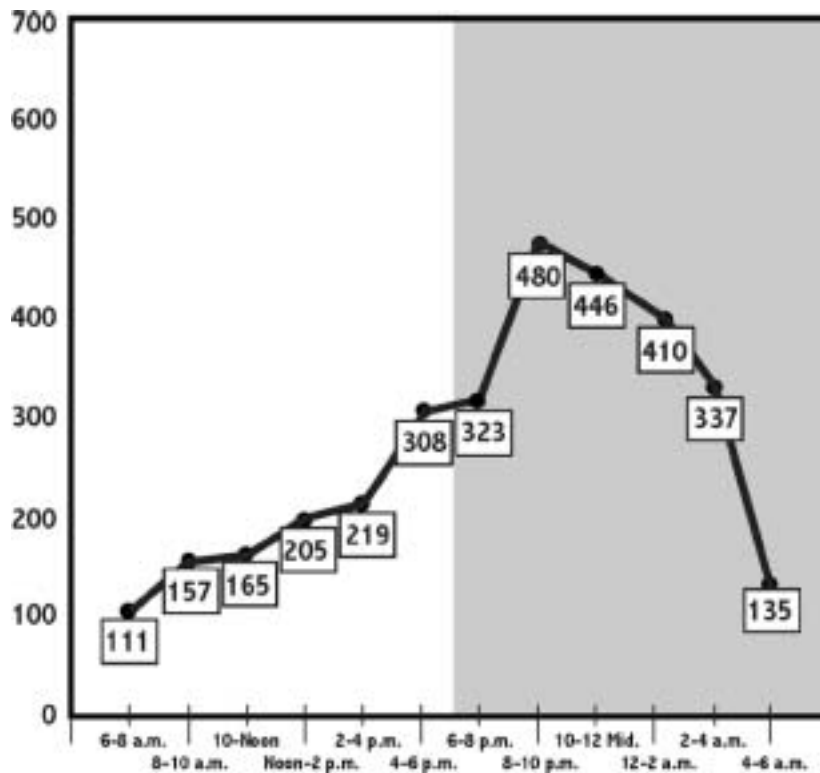
VOLUME/TREND

- County law enforcement agencies reported 118 officers assaulted with 68 sustaining injury.
- The New Jersey State Police reported 22 officers assaulted with 12 sustaining injury.
- Other state agencies with police powers reported 162 officers assaulted with 63 sustaining injury.
- University and college police agencies reported 13 officers assaulted with 4 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	862	29	1	1	1	5	11	7	2	15	877	27
Burglaries in Progress	66	2	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	66	2
Robberies in Progress	36	1	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	36	1
Attempting Other Arrests	500	17	19	16	2	9	1	1	5	38	527	16
Civil Disorder	58	2	-	0	-	0	-	0	1	8	59	2
Handling or Transporting Prisoners	314	11	74	63	6	27	140	86	-	0	534	16
Investigating Suspicious Persons or Circumstances	435	15	7	6	1	5	1	1	-	0	444	13
Ambush	8	*	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	8	*
Mentally Deranged Persons	44	1	-	0	-	0	1	1	2	15	47	1
Traffic Stops	347	12	4	3	11	50	2	1	2	15	366	11
All Other	311	10	13	11	1	5	6	4	1	8	332	10
TOTAL	2,981	100	118	100	22	100	162	100	13	100	3,296	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 – 2002

COUNTY	NUMBER OF OFFICERS	NUMBER OF ASSAULTS	PERCENT DISTRIBUTION	ASSAULT RATE PER 100 POLICE OFFICERS
ATLANTIC	938	139	4.7	14.8
BERGEN	2,119	211	7.1	10.0
BURLINGTON	780	90	3.0	11.5
CAMDEN	1,348	175	5.9	13.0
CAPE MAY	337	31	1.0	9.2
CUMBERLAND	268	43	1.4	16.0
ESSEX	2,862	572	19.2	20.0
GLOUCESTER	555	78	2.6	14.1
HUDSON	1,948	379	12.7	19.5
HUNTERDON	166	8	0.3	4.8
MERCER	936	111	3.7	11.9
MIDDLESEX	1,586	162	5.4	10.2
MONMOUTH	1,428	155	5.2	10.9
MORRIS	1,062	83	2.8	7.8
OCEAN	1,038	145	4.9	14.0
PASSAIC	1,137	214	7.2	18.8
SALEM	109	18	0.6	16.5
SOMERSET	586	36	1.2	6.1
SUSSEX	192	22	0.7	11.5
UNION	1,445	289	9.7	20.0
WARREN	151	20	0.7	13.3
TOTAL	20,991	2,981	100.0	14.2

Percent distribution may not total 100 due to rounding.