



Section Ten

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS KILLED & ASSAULTED SUMMARY

POLICE OFFICERS KILLED AND ASSAULTED

The killing or assault of a police officer has a harmful 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 2006, one police officer was feloniously killed while in the performance of his duties.
- On August 7, 2006, Orange Police dispatch received a call for a “man with a gun” in the area of Central Avenue and Central Place. Numerous officers responded to the scene including Detective Kieran Shields who was alone, in plainclothes and in an unmarked car.

Upon arrival witnesses reported that the suspect was running north on Hickory Street from Central Avenue. Detective Shields drove to that area. A suspect was observed running behind a house on Taylor Street. Detective Shields radioed dispatch that he observed a suspect. Detective Shields exited his vehicle and gave chase. The suspect was seen running behind 172 Taylor Street.

Detective Shields along with Officer David Thompson went to the rear of 172 Taylor Street and lost sight of the suspect. The officers observed a staircase at the rear of the house. Detective Shields ascended the staircase followed by Officer Thompson. The suspect was hiding on the landing of the staircase, the suspect came over the top of the rail and fired one round from a shotgun at Detective Shields, striking him in the chest just above his bulletproof vest.

Detective Shields was carried away by officers to a patrol vehicle and transported to University Hospital in Newark and later succumbed to his injuries. The assailant fled the area and was later arrested in the City of East Orange.

Year	Police Officers Killed	Year	Police Officers Killed
1997	3	2002	-
1998	-	2003	1
1999	2	2004	-
2000	-	2005	1
2001	1	2006	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. 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 3,092 police officers assaulted in 2006, a decrease of 3 percent when compared to the 3,186 in 2005.

ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS

- Twenty-five percent (786) of the officers assaulted sustained injury.
- Physical Force, such as hands, fists and feet were used in 87 percent (2,677) of all police assaults.
- Twenty-nine percent of police assaults occurred when officers responded to disturbance calls.
- Fourteen 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 2,659 of municipal police officers were assaulted during 2006, a 5 percent decrease compared to the 2,792 assaulted in 2005.
- The assault rate, for every 100 municipal officers, was 12.3, a 5 percent decrease compared to 2005.

ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS

- Twenty-one percent of the municipal officers assaulted sustained injury.
- Physical Force, such as hands, fists and feet were used in 86 percent of all municipal police assaults.
- Thirty-two percent of the municipal police assaults occurred when officers responded to disturbance calls.
- Attempting Other Arrests accounted for 16 percent of municipal police assaults.

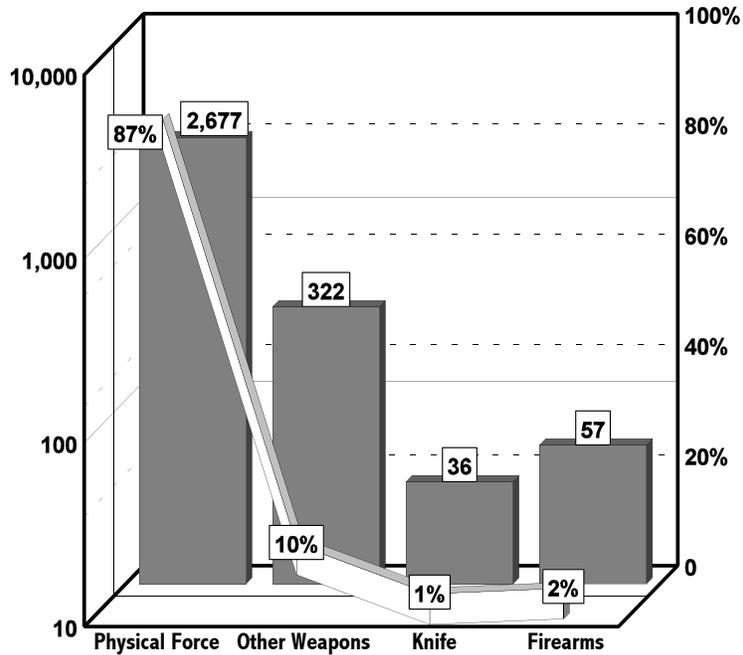
OTHER POLICE OFFICERS ASSAULTED

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

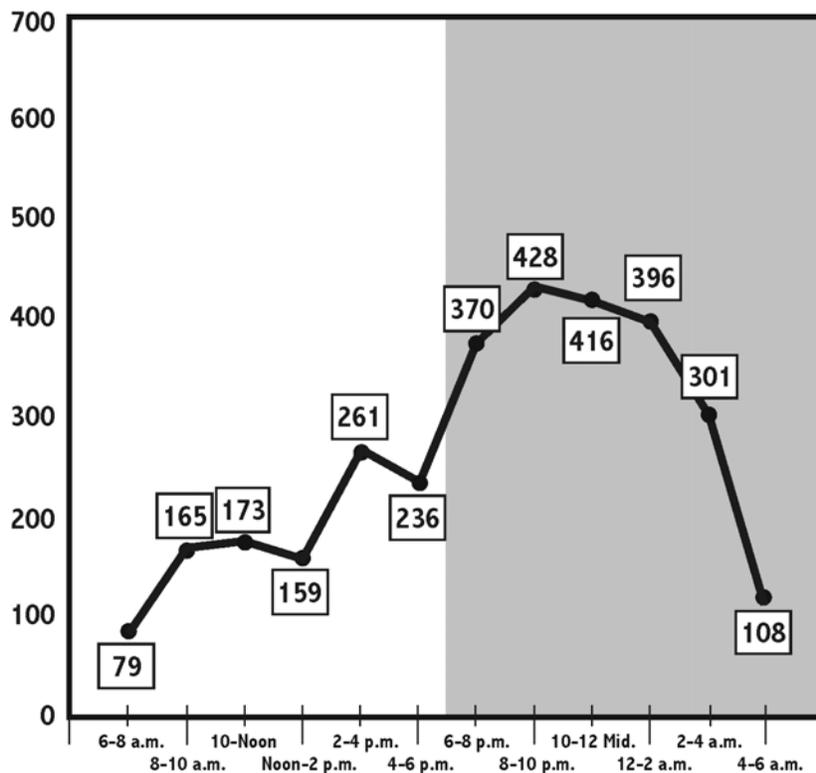
- County law enforcement agencies reported 110 officers assaulted with 57 sustaining injury.
- The New Jersey State Police reported 53 officers assaulted with 16 sustaining injury.
- Other state agencies with police powers reported 246 officers assaulted with 137 sustaining injury.
- University and college police agencies reported 24 officers assaulted with 7 sustaining injury.

WEAPONS USED IN ASSAULTS ON POLICE OFFICERS



Percent distribution may not total 100 due to rounding.

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	861	32	2	2	9	17	5	2	7	29	884	29
Burglaries in Progress	33	1	-	0	-	0	-	0	2	8	35	1
Robberies in Progress	26	1	-	0	1	2	-	0	-	0	27	1
Attempting Other Arrests	422	16	15	14	5	9	19	8	-	0	461	15
Civil Disorder	53	2	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	53	2
Handling or Transporting Prisoners	244	9	85	77	7	13	195	79	5	21	536	17
Investigating Suspicious Persons or Circumstances	416	16	2	2	3	6	-	0	6	25	427	14
Ambush	12	*	1	1	-	0	-	0	-	0	13	*
Mentally Deranged Persons	65	2	-	0	3	6	1	*	-	0	69	2
Traffic Stops	224	8	2	2	15	28	17	7	1	4	259	8
All Other	303	11	3	3	10	19	9	4	3	13	328	11
TOTAL	2,659	100	110	100	53	100	246	100	24	100	3,092	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 2006

COUNTY	NUMBER OF OFFICERS	NUMBER OF ASSAULTS	PERCENT DISTRIBUTION	ASSAULT RATE PER 100 POLICE OFFICERS
ATLANTIC	909	161	6.1	17.7
BERGEN	2,182	221	8.3	10.1
BURLINGTON	806	89	3.3	11.0
CAMDEN	1,374	221	8.3	16.1
CAPE MAY	342	31	1.2	9.1
CUMBERLAND	294	56	2.1	19.0
ESSEX	2,862	364	13.7	12.7
GLOUCESTER	593	80	3.0	13.5
HUDSON	1,984	415	15.6	20.9
HUNTERDON	175	2	0.1	1.1
MERCER	931	125	4.7	13.4
MIDDLESEX	1,638	169	6.4	10.3
MONMOUTH	1,511	162	6.1	10.7
MORRIS	1,089	38	1.4	3.5
OCEAN	1,127	92	3.5	8.2
PASSAIC	1,213	126	4.7	10.4
SALEM	104	14	0.5	13.5
SOMERSET	626	46	1.7	7.3
SUSSEX	209	15	0.6	7.2
UNION	1,457	224	8.4	15.4
WARREN	160	8	0.3	5.0
TOTAL	21,586	2,659	100.0	12.3

Percent distribution may not total 100.0 due to rounding.