



# Section Ten

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## **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 1999, two police officers were feloniously killed while in the performance of their duties.
- On April 8, 1999, Orange City Police officer Joyce Ann Carnegie stopped to question a robbery suspect. The suspect drew a 9mm handgun and fired twice. One round struck the officer's body armor; the fatal round struck the officer in the head near the right temple. The offender was arrested.
- On October 1, 1999, Washington Twp. Police officer, Cpl. Steven L. Levy, a member of the Gloucester County Critical Incident Team, was assisting Woodbury Police with a domestic violence call involving an armed, barricaded suspect. Tactical entry was made to the residence by the Critical Incident Team. The barricaded suspect fired his shotgun and struck Cpl. Levy near the right eye causing the fatal injury. The offender subsequently committed suicide.

Year	Police Officers Killed	Year	Police Officers Killed
1990	-	1995	4
1991	-	1996	-
1992	-	1997	3
1993	1	1998	-
1994	2	1999	2

## 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 3,191 police officers assaulted in 1999, a decrease of 7 percent when compared to the 3,433 in 1998.

### **ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS**

- Thirty percent (951) of the officers assaulted sustained injury.
- Personal weapons, such as hands, fists and feet were used in 83 percent (2,655) of all police assaults.
- Twenty-five 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 10:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight.

### **CLEARANCES**

- The police of New Jersey were successful in clearing 95 percent of the assaults directed at them.

## **ASSAULTS ON MUNICIPAL POLICE OFFICERS**

### **VOLUME/TREND**

- A total of 2,751 municipal police officers were assaulted during 1999, a 4 percent decrease compared to the 2,857 assaulted in 1998.
- The assault rate, for every 100 municipal officers, was 13.3, a 6 percent decrease compared to 1998.

### **ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS**

- Twenty-nine 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-nine percent of municipal police assaults occurred when officers responded to disturbance calls.
- Attempting Other Arrests accounted for 23 percent of municipal police assaults.

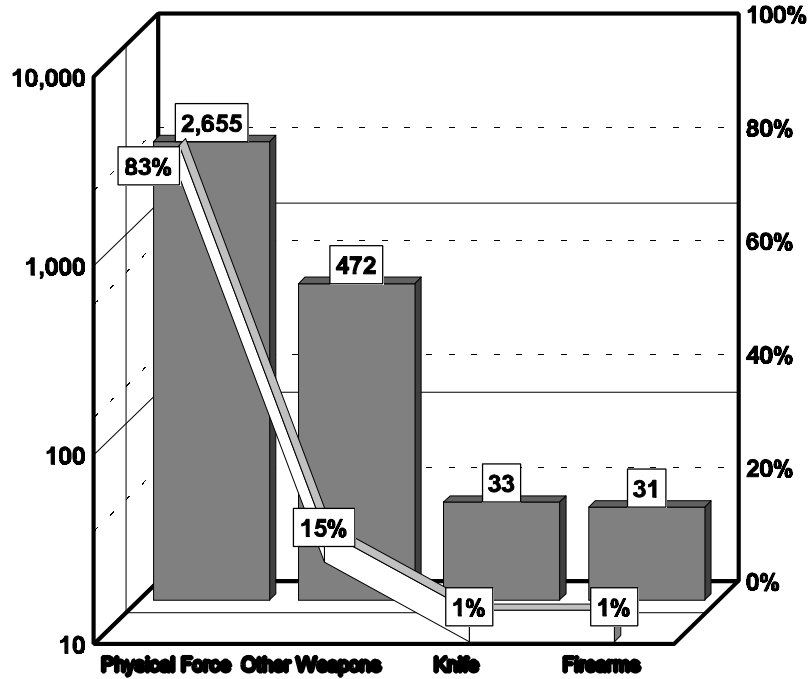
## **OTHER POLICE OFFICERS ASSAULTED**

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.

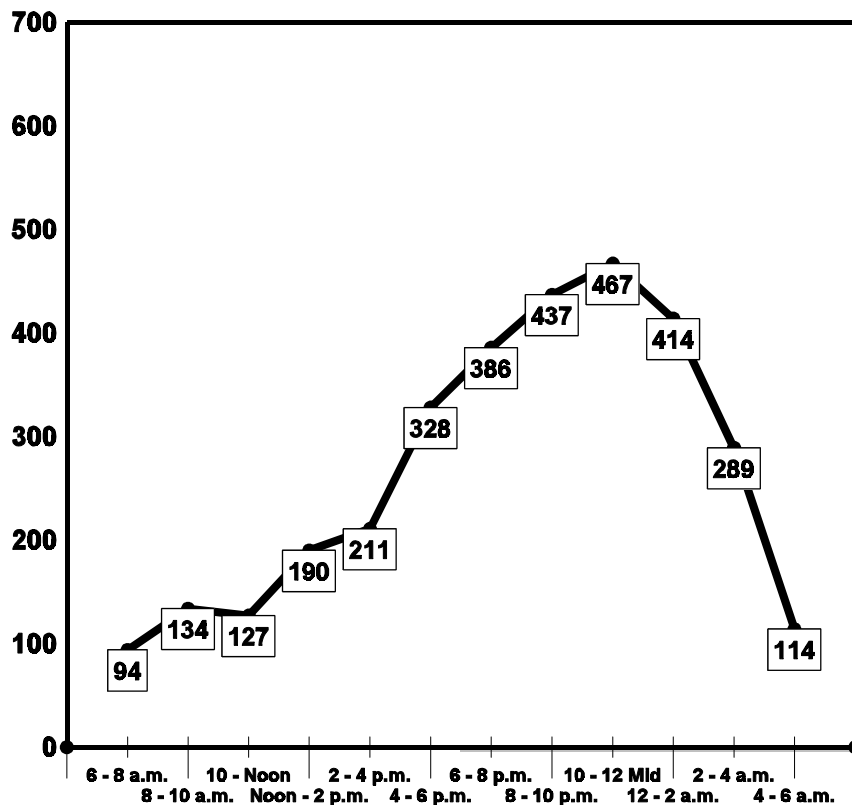
### **VOLUME/TREND**

- County law enforcement agencies reported 111 officers assaulted with 52 sustaining injury.
- The New Jersey State Police reported 55 officers assaulted with 21 sustaining injury.
- Other state agencies, with police powers, reported 267 officers assaulted with 77 sustaining injury.
- University and college police agencies reported 7 officers assaulted with 5 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	787	29	4	4	6	11	9	3	-	0	806	25
Burglaries in Progress	56	2	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	56	2
Robberies in Progress	33	1	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	33	1
Attempting Other Arrests	631	23	30	27	20	36	6	2	2	29	689	22
Civil Disorder	38	1	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	38	1
Handling or Transporting Prisoners	213	8	55	50	5	9	236	88	1	14	510	16
Investigating Suspicious Persons or Circumstances	332	12	2	2	6	11	3	1	1	14	344	11
Ambush	13	*	-	0	-	0	-	0	1	14	14	*
Mentally Deranged Persons	45	2	-	0	-	0	1	*	-	0	46	1
Traffic Stops	298	11	4	4	13	24	2	1	1	14	318	10
All Other	305	11	16	14	5	9	10	4	1	14	337	11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,751</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3,191</b>	<b>100</b>

\* 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 – 1999

COUNTY	NUMBER OF OFFICERS	NUMBER OF ASSAULTS	PERCENT DISTRIBUTION	ASSAULT RATE PER 100 POLICE OFFICERS
ATLANTIC	899	126	4.6	14.0
BERGEN	2,079	209	7.6	10.1
BURLINGTON	733	78	2.8	10.6
CAMDEN	1,307	169	6.1	12.9
CAPE MAY	346	52	1.9	15.0
CUMBERLAND	274	34	1.2	12.4
ESSEX	2,980	442	16.1	14.8
GLOUCESTER	520	71	2.6	13.7
HUDSON	2,001	386	14.0	19.3
HUNTERDON	163	8	*	4.9
MERCER	924	114	4.1	12.3
MIDDLESEX	1,524	192	7.0	12.6
MONMOUTH	1,386	156	5.7	11.3
MORRIS	1,023	83	3.0	8.1
OCEAN	951	154	5.6	16.2
PASSAIC	1,122	139	5.1	12.4
SALEM	103	20	0.7	19.4
SOMERSET	567	37	1.3	6.5
SUSSEX	184	17	0.6	9.2
UNION	1,404	257	9.3	18.3
WARREN	138	7	*	5.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20,628</b>	<b>2,751</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>13.3</b>

Percent distribution may not total 100 due to rounding.

\* Percent is less than one-half of one percent.