

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 of the very same society they are sworn to protect. This deplorable situation should be a subject of serious public 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 1994, two New Jersey police officers were feloniously killed while in the performance of their duties.
- On February 18, 1994, a Lower Township police officer was detailed to investigate a suspicious person complaint. The officer located the individual and a foot pursuit followed. As the officer approached the individual he pulled out a .38 caliber handgun and fatally wounded the officer. The suspect was arrested in New York City on a fugitive warrant in April of 1994.
- On June 12, 1994, a Winslow Township police officer lost his life during an act of domestic violence. The officer responding to a disorderly person complaint at the Fireside Restaurant encountered his assailant. While speaking to him, his assailant opened fire with an UZI, killing him. The offender killed his girlfriend and then turned the weapon on himself.
- Since the inception of the Uniform Crime Reporting Program in 1967, fifty police officers have been feloniously killed in the line of duty.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Police Officers Killed</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Police Officers Killed</u>
1985	4	1990	—
1986	1	1991	—
1987	1	1992	—
1988	—	1993	1
1989	—	1994	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. It is therefore extremely difficult to identify specific reasons for these assaults. 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 3,898 police officers assaulted in 1994, an increase of (2%) two percent when compared to the 3,819 in 1993.

ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS

- Thirty percent (1,167) of the officers assaulted sustained injury.
- Personal weapons, such as hands, fists and feet were used in 83 percent (3,229) of all police assaults.
- Twenty-six 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 10:00 p.m. to 12:00 mid.

CLEARANCES

- The police of New Jersey were successful in clearing 97 percent of the assaults directed at them.

ASSAULTS ON MUNICIPAL POLICE OFFICERS

VOLUME/RATE/TREND

- There were 3,347 municipal police officers assaulted during 1994, a two percent decrease compared to the 3,407 assaulted in 1993.
- The assault rate, for every 100 municipal officers, was 17.7, a 2 percent decrease compared to 1993.

ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS

- Twenty-seven percent of the municipal officers assaulted sustained injury.
- Personal weapons, such as hands, fists and feet were used in 83 percent of all municipal police assaults.
- Thirty percent of municipal police assaults occurred when officers responded to disturbance calls.
- Attempting Other Arrests accounted for 24 percent of municipal police assaults.

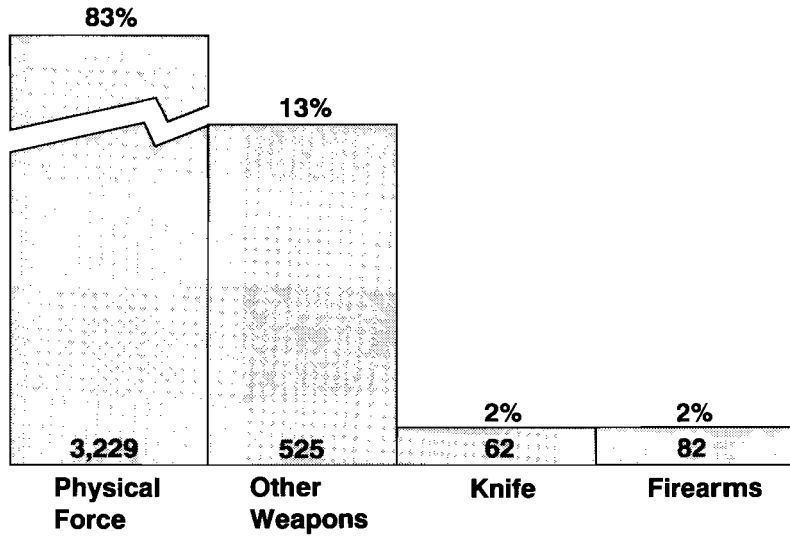
OTHER POLICE OFFICERS ASSAULTED

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.

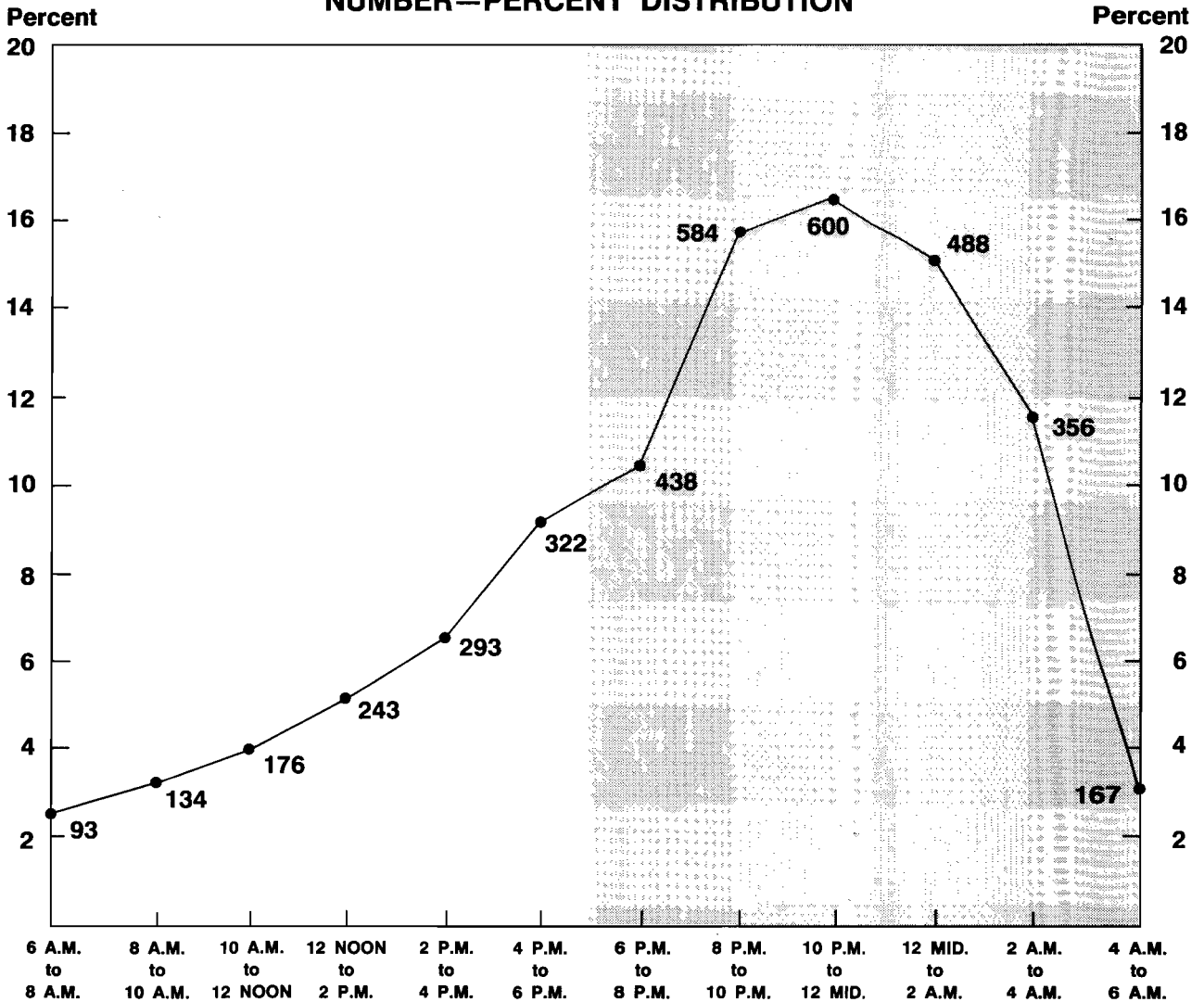
VOLUME

- County law enforcement agencies reported 142 officers assaulted, with 57 sustaining physical injury.
- The New Jersey State Police reported 78 officers assaulted, with 49 sustaining injury.
- Other state agencies, with police powers, reported 308 officers assaulted with 135 sustaining injury.
- University and college police agencies reported 23 officers assaulted with seven 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	1,009	30	1	1	2	3	10	3	6	26	1,028	26
Burglaries in Progress	58	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	58	1
Robberies in Progress	57	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	57	1
Attempting Other Arrests	794	24	40	28	14	18	14	5	3	13	865	22
Civil Disorder	79	2	—	—	—	—	1	†	—	—	80	2
Handling or Transporting Prisoners	251	7	49	35	9	12	277	90	—	—	586	15
Investigating Suspicious Persons or Circumstances	457	14	13	9	5	6	2	1	4	17	481	12
Ambush	6	†	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	7	†
Mentally Deranged Persons	47	1	—	—	—	—	1	†	2	9	50	1
Traffic Stops	325	10	10	7	38	49	2	1	4	17	379	10
All Other	264	8	29	20	9	12	1	†	4	17	307	8
TOTAL	3,347	—	142	—	78	—	308	—	23	—	3,898	—

*Percent distribution may not total 100 due to rounding.

†Less than one half of one percent.

**ASSAULTS ON MUNICIPAL POLICE OFFICERS
NUMBER-RATE PER 100 OFFICERS
BY COUNTY
1994**

COUNTY	NUMBER OF OFFICERS	NUMBER OF ASSAULTS	PERCENT DISTRIBUTION*	ASSAULT RATE PER 100 POLICE OFFICERS
ATLANTIC	873	156	4.7	17.9
BERGEN	2,023	237	7.1	11.7
BURLINGTON	647	106	3.2	16.4
CAMDEN	1,161	152	4.5	13.1
CAPE MAY	329	54	1.6	16.4
CUMBERLAND	250	53	1.6	21.2
ESSEX	2,643	645	19.3	24.4
GLOUCESTER	447	69	2.1	15.4
HUDSON	1,756	403	12.0	23.0
HUNTERDON	139	12	0.4	8.6
MERCER	876	194	5.8	22.1
MIDDLESEX	1,486	188	5.6	12.7
MONMOUTH	1,265	176	5.3	13.9
MORRIS	967	59	1.8	6.1
OCEAN	863	186	5.6	21.6
PASSAIC	937	140	4.2	14.9
SALEM	101	13	0.4	12.9
SOMERSET	495	63	1.9	12.7
SUSSEX	173	29	0.9	16.8
UNION	1,365	394	11.8	28.9
WARREN	121	18	0.5	14.9
TOTAL	18,917	3,347	100.3	17.2

*Percent Distribution may not total 100.0 due to rounding.