



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 2003, one police officer was feloniously killed while in the performance of her duty.
- On April 17, 2003, a Clifton Police pursuit ends in Fairlawn as the vehicle becomes disabled. Fairlawn's Officer Mary Ann Collura arrives on the scene and observes a Clifton Officer in a foot pursuit. She cuts the suspect off which allows the Clifton Officer to tackle him. As the Clifton Officer attempts to handcuff him, the suspect draws a .380 caliber handgun from his waistband and fatally wounds Officer Collura. The assailant then fires two shots and wounds the Clifton Officer. The assailant flees the scene in the Fairlawn police cruiser. Subsequently, the assailant flees New Jersey and is killed in a police shooting in Hernando County, Florida, the next day.

Year	Police Officers Killed	Year	Police Officers Killed
1994	2	1999	2
1995	4	2000	-
1996	-	2001	1
1997	3	2002	-
1998	-	2003	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 3,206 police officers assaulted in 2003, a decrease of three percent when compared to the 3,296 in 2002.

ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS

- Thirty-one percent (988) of the officers assaulted sustained injury.
- Personal weapons, such as hands, fists and feet were used in 82 percent (2,616) 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 97 percent of the assaults directed at them.

ASSAULTS ON MUNICIPAL POLICE OFFICERS

VOLUME/TREND

- A total of 2,818 municipal police officers were assaulted during 2003, a five percent decrease compared to the 2,981 assaulted in 2002.
- The assault rate, for every 100 municipal officers, was 13.3, a six percent decrease compared to 2002.

ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS

- Twenty-eight 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-two percent of the municipal police assaults occurred when officers responded to disturbance calls.
- Attempting Other Arrests accounted for 18 percent of municipal police assaults.

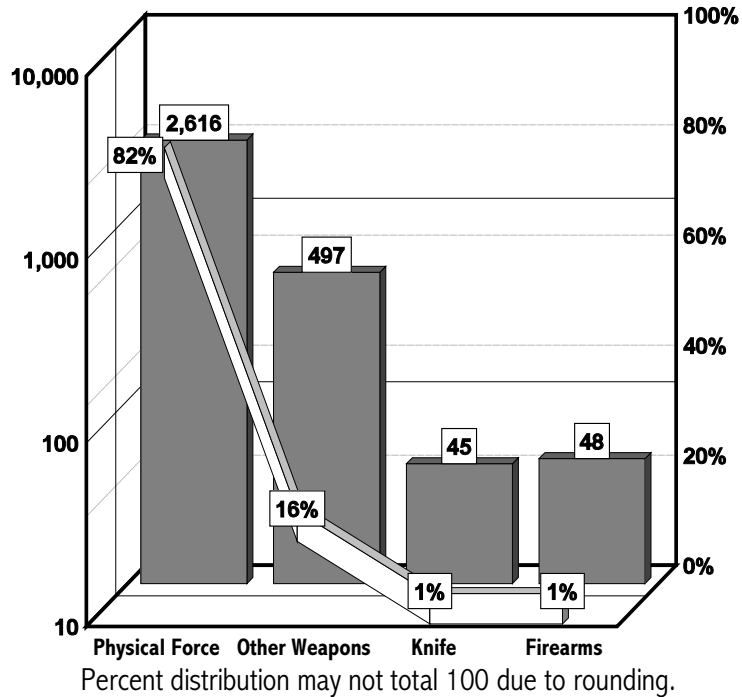
OTHER POLICE OFFICERS ASSAULTED

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.

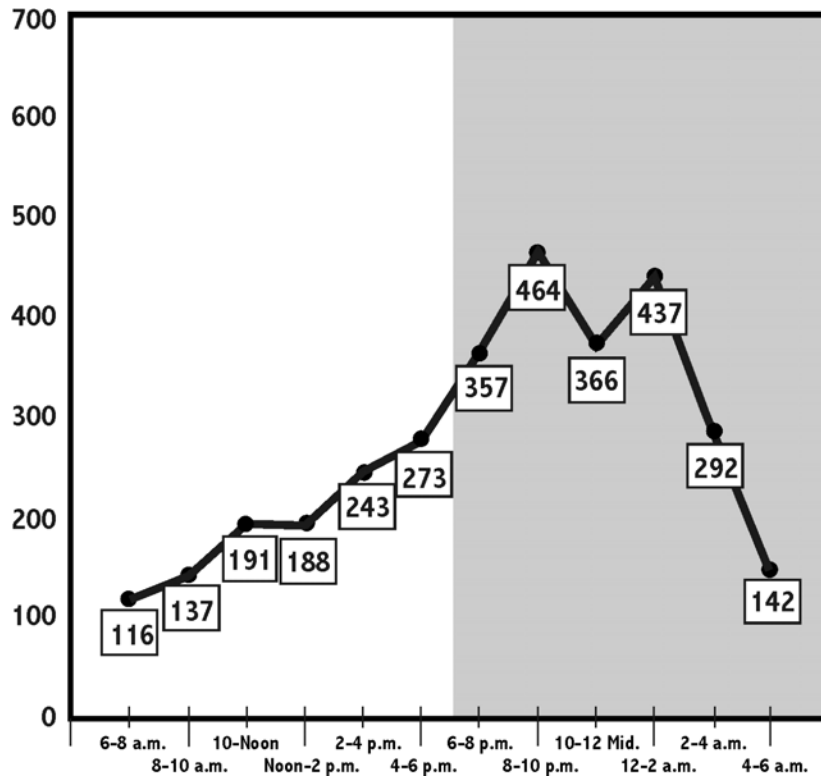
VOLUME/TREND

- County law enforcement agencies reported 129 officers assaulted with 80 sustaining injury.
- The New Jersey State Police reported 41 officers assaulted with 25 sustaining injury.
- Other state agencies with police powers reported 211 officers assaulted with 96 sustaining injury.
- University and college police agencies reported seven officers assaulted with two 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	907	32	2	2	3	7	9	4	1	14	922	29
Burglaries in Progress	44	2	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	44	1
Robberies in Progress	37	1	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	37	1
Attempting Other Arrests	508	18	30	23	16	39	3	1	-	0	557	17
Civil Disorder	45	2	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	45	1
Handling or Transporting Prisoners	255	9	81	63	7	17	186	88	1	14	530	17
Investigating Suspicious Persons or Circumstances	356	13	3	2	3	7	4	2	2	29	368	11
Ambush	6	*	1	1	-	0	-	0	-	0	7	*
Mentally Deranged Persons	52	2	-	0	3	7	-	0	-	0	55	2
Traffic Stops	301	11	1	1	8	20	2	1	2	29	314	10
All Other	307	11	11	9	1	2	7	3	1	14	327	10
TOTAL	2,818	100	129	100	41	100	211	100	7	100	3,206	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 – 2003

COUNTY	NUMBER OF OFFICERS	NUMBER OF ASSAULTS	PERCENT DISTRIBUTION	ASSAULT RATE PER 100 POLICE OFFICERS
ATLANTIC	968	125	4.4	12.9
BERGEN	2,159	163	5.8	7.6
BURLINGTON	789	110	3.9	13.9
CAMDEN	1,368	190	6.7	13.9
CAPE MAY	341	22	0.8	6.5
CUMBERLAND	268	56	2.0	20.9
ESSEX	2,904	436	15.5	15.0
GLOUCESTER	577	83	2.9	14.4
HUDSON	1,950	362	12.8	18.6
HUNTERDON	170	10	0.4	5.9
MERCER	950	99	3.5	10.4
MIDDLESEX	1,607	199	7.1	12.4
MONMOUTH	1,469	161	5.7	11.0
MORRIS	1,069	75	2.7	7.0
OCEAN	1,046	130	4.6	12.4
PASSAIC	1,119	209	7.4	18.7
SALEM	108	25	0.9	23.1
SOMERSET	598	43	1.5	7.2
SUSSEX	200	37	1.3	18.5
UNION	1,444	271	9.6	18.8
WARREN	155	12	0.4	13.3
TOTAL	21,259	2,818	100.0	13.3

Percent distribution may not total 100 due to rounding.