



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 2005, one Special Police Officer was feloniously killed while in the performance of his duties.
- On July 18, 2005, Newark Special Police Officer Dwayne Reeves and his partner, Special Police Officer Ahkia Scott, assigned to Weequahic High School, intervened in a fight between two female students outside the school. A brother of one of the girls and another man confronted a group of girls outside the school that they accused of also being involved in the dispute. When Officer Reeves and Scott approached the men, one became unruly and combative. A struggle ensued as the officers attempted to search him for weapons. During the struggle, the assailant was able to retrieve a 9mm handgun from his waistband firing a single shot that struck Officer Scott in the hand and Officer Reeves in the head. Officer Scott returned fire, shooting the assailant three times as he fled the scene on foot, striking him twice in the torso and once in the leg. The assailant was apprehended a short distance away by another officer who was responding to investigate the sound of shots fired in the area. Police apprehended the second suspect, who also fled the scene on foot, several hours later.

Officers Reeves and Scott, along with the assailant, were all transported to the hospital. Officer Scott was treated and released for his injuries, the assailant was listed in serious condition while Officer Reeves succumbed to his injuries later that day.

Year	Police Officers Killed	Year	Police Officers Killed
1996	-	2001	1
1997	3	2002	-
1998	-	2003	1
1999	2	2004	-
2000	-	2005	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 3,186 police officers assaulted in 2005, a decrease of 6 percent when compared to the 3,383 in 2004.

ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS

- Twenty-four percent (749) of the officers assaulted sustained injury.
- Physical Force, such as hands, fists and feet were used in 85 percent (2,720) of all police assaults.
- Twenty-eight 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 12:00 midnight to 2:00 a.m.

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 2,792 of municipal police officers were assaulted during 2005, a 4 percent decrease compared to the 2,914 assaulted in 2004.
- The assault rate, for every 100 municipal officers, was 13.0, a 5 percent decrease compared to 2004.

ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS

- Twenty-one percent of the municipal officers assaulted sustained injury.
- Physical Force, such as hands, fists and feet were used in 84 percent of all municipal police assaults.
- Thirty-one percent of the municipal police assaults occurred when officers responded to disturbance calls.
- Attempting Other Arrests accounted for 18 percent of municipal police assaults.

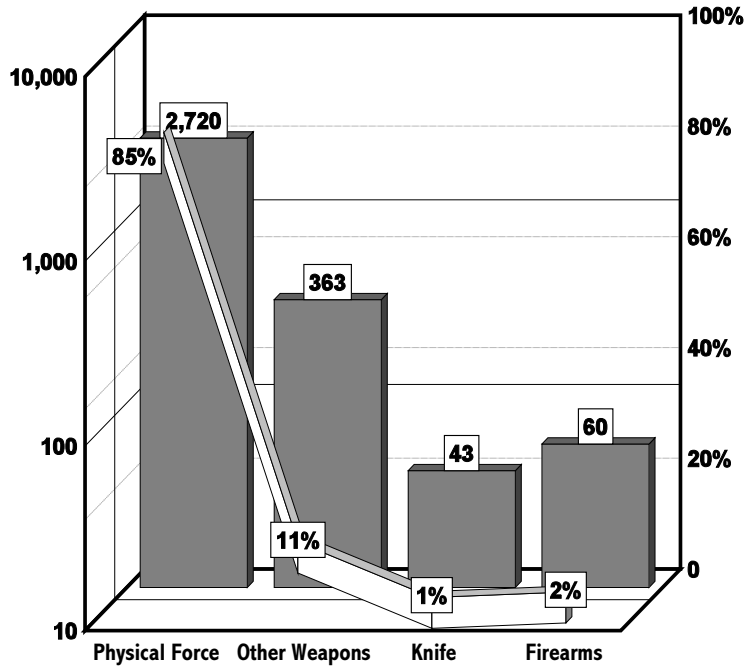
OTHER POLICE OFFICERS ASSAULTED

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

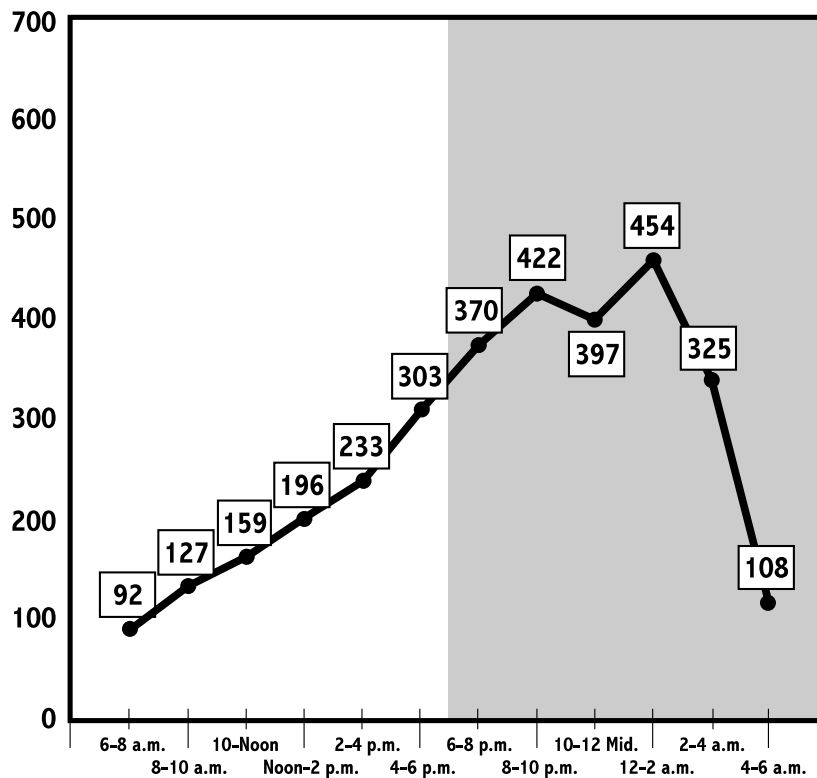
- County law enforcement agencies reported 90 officers assaulted with 44 sustaining injury.
- The New Jersey State Police reported 52 officers assaulted with 16 sustaining injury.
- Other state agencies with police powers reported 239 officers assaulted with 82 sustaining injury.
- University and college police agencies reported 13 officers assaulted with 8 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	858	31	1	1	14	27	12	5	-	0	885	28
Burglaries in Progress	35	1	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	35	1
Robberies in Progress	41	1	2	2	-	0	-	0	-	0	43	1
Attempting Other Arrests	496	18	11	12	8	15	13	5	2	15	530	17
Civil Disorder	54	2	1	1	-	0	1	*	-	0	56	2
Handling or Transporting Prisoners	223	8	66	73	9	17	191	80	2	15	491	15
Investigating Suspicious Persons or Circumstances	419	15	4	4	4	8	1	*	4	31	432	14
Ambush	5	*	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	5	*
Mentally Deranged Persons	51	2	-	0	4	8	1	*	1	8	57	2
Traffic Stops	246	9	1	1	11	21	8	3	2	15	268	8
All Other	364	13	4	4	2	4	12	5	2	15	384	12
TOTAL	2,792	100	90	100	52	100	239	100	13	100	3,186	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 2005

COUNTY	NUMBER OF OFFICERS	NUMBER OF ASSAULTS	PERCENT DISTRIBUTION	ASSAULT RATE PER 100 POLICE OFFICERS
ATLANTIC	971	165	5.9	17.0
BERGEN	2,173	224	8.0	10.3
BURLINGTON	808	84	3.0	10.4
CAMDEN	1,377	194	6.9	14.1
CAPE MAY	341	31	1.1	9.1
CUMBERLAND	292	87	3.1	29.8
ESSEX	2,894	432	15.5	14.9
GLOUCESTER	585	86	3.1	14.7
HUDSON	1,944	406	14.5	20.9
HUNTERDON	172	9	0.3	5.2
MERCER	928	127	4.5	13.7
MIDDLESEX	1,644	141	5.1	8.6
MONMOUTH	1,503	160	5.7	10.6
MORRIS	1,082	60	2.1	5.5
OCEAN	1,083	112	4.0	10.3
PASSAIC	1,185	149	5.3	12.6
SALEM	104	22	0.8	21.2
SOMERSET	611	54	1.9	8.8
SUSSEX	209	14	0.5	6.7
UNION	1,440	219	7.8	15.2
WARREN	158	16	0.6	10.1
TOTAL	21,504	2,792	100.0	13.0

Percent distribution may not total 100.0 due to rounding.