



# 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 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 2007, two police officers were feloniously killed while in the performance of their duties.
- On January 7, 2007, Paterson police received a call at approximately 1:30 AM of a shooting at the Broadway Fried Chicken. Paterson police officers arrived to find Officer Tyron Franklin and another man shot inside the restaurant.

Officer Franklin, who was off duty and unarmed at the time, had taken money out of his pocket to pay for food at the restaurant when a man attempted to rob him by taking his wallet. After a brief struggle, the suspect pulled out his weapon and fired several rounds at the officer striking him several times. Another man in the restaurant was also struck and wounded during the robbery. Officer Franklin was pronounced dead at St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center less than an hour later. The assailant fled the scene and was later apprehended after a massive manhunt and investigation.

- On March 3, 2007, Newark police received a call complaining of drag racing on a quiet industrial strip on the eastern edges of Newark. Newark Sgt. Tommaso Popolizio, an East District supervisor, was one of several police officers who responded to the scene to break up the drag racing. Sgt. Popolizio pulled over a suspects car and observed him toss a handgun out the window.

The suspect was arrested and placed alone in a patrol car, but managed to get his handcuffs in front of him and slip through a partition between the front and back seats. The suspect then drove off with the police cruiser, and Sgt Popolizio gave chase in a marked SUV, which collided with the stolen cruiser and flipped over near the gates of the Essex County Jail. Sgt. Popolizio was ejected from the SUV and died of massive head injuries.

The suspect was found shortly after the crash hiding in the tall grass off Doremus Avenue with no shoes and his hands still in handcuffs.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Police Officers Killed</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Police Officers Killed</b>
1998	-	2003	1
1999	2	2004	-
2000	-	2005	1
2001	1	2006	1
2002	-	2007	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 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 3,006 police officers assaulted in 2007, a decrease of 3 percent when compared to the 3,092 in 2006.

## ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS

- Twenty-seven percent (822) of the officers assaulted sustained injury.
- Physical Force, such as hands, fists and feet were used in 87 percent (2,623) 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 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 2,588 of municipal police officers were assaulted during 2007, a 3 percent decrease compared to the 2,659 assaulted in 2006.
- The assault rate, for every 100 municipal officers, was 7.5, a 39 percent decrease compared to 2006.

## ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS

- Twenty-three 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.
- Twenty-nine percent of the municipal police assaults occurred when officers responded to disturbance calls.
- Attempting Other Arrests accounted for 19 percent of municipal police assaults.

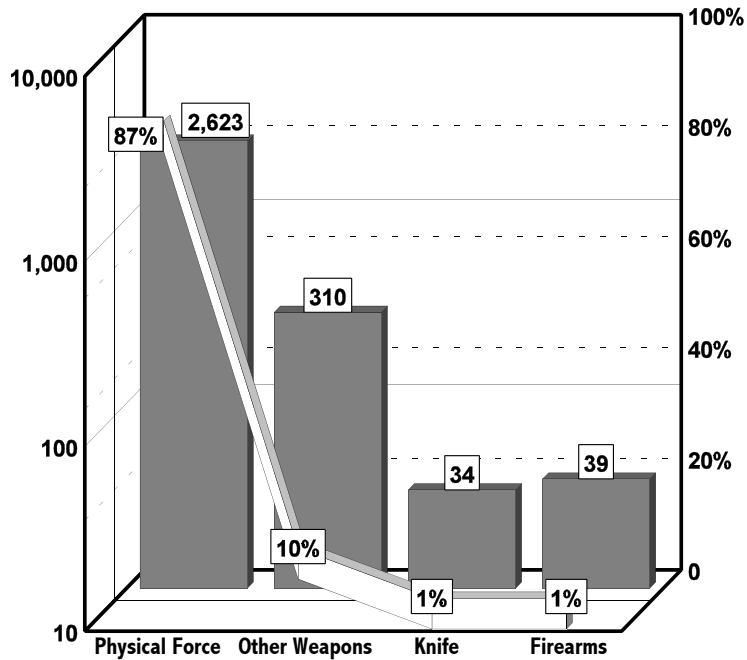
# OTHER POLICE OFFICERS ASSAULTED

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

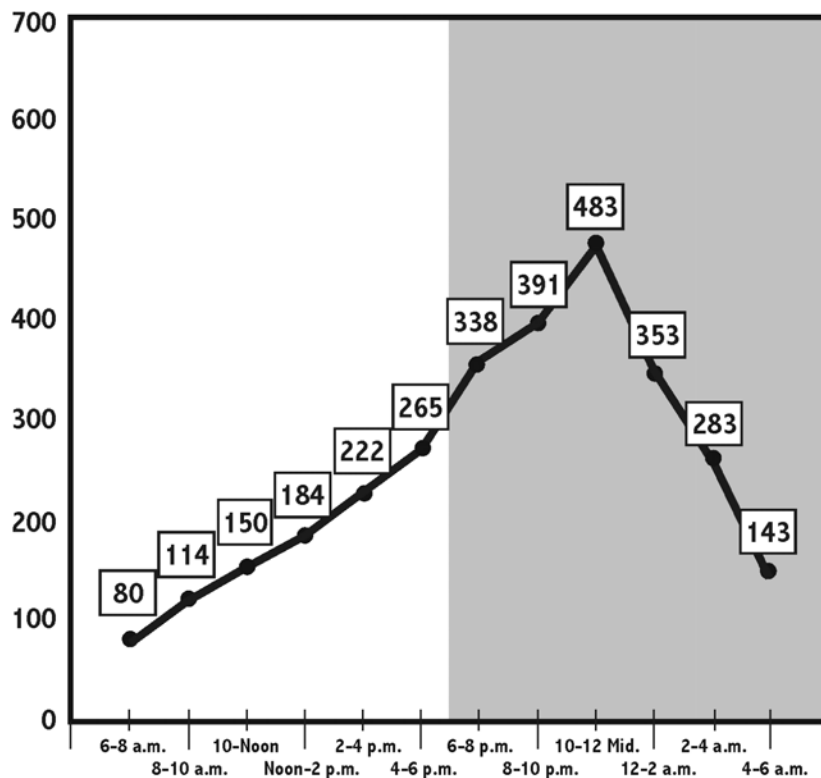
- County law enforcement agencies reported 80 officers assaulted with 57 sustaining injury.
- The New Jersey State Police reported 55 officers assaulted with 12 sustaining injury.
- Other state agencies with police powers reported 272 officers assaulted with 157 sustaining injury.
- University and college police agencies reported 11 officers assaulted with 7 sustaining injury.

# WEAPONS USED IN ASSAULTS ON POLICE OFFICERS



Percent distribution may not total 100 due to rounding.

# NUMBER OF ASSAULTS ON POLICE OFFICERS BY HOUR OF DAY



# 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
<b>Responding to “Disturbance” Calls</b>	755	29	2	3	18	33	6	2	1	9	782	26
<b>Burglaries in Progress</b>	40	2	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	40	1
<b>Robberies in Progress</b>	36	1	1	1	-	0	-	0	-	0	37	1
<b>Attempting Other Arrests</b>	487	19	14	18	9	16	27	10	5	45	542	18
<b>Civil Disorder</b>	54	2	-	0	1	2	-	0	-	0	55	2
<b>Handling or Transporting Prisoners</b>	203	8	52	65	9	16	225	83	3	27	492	16
<b>Investigating Suspicious Persons or Circumstances</b>	368	14	1	1	6	11	-	0	1	9	376	13
<b>Ambush</b>	5	*	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	5	0
<b>Mentally Deranged Persons</b>	50	2	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	50	2
<b>Traffic Stops</b>	208	8	3	4	8	15	4	1	-	0	223	7
<b>All Other</b>	382	15	7	9	4	7	10	4	1	9	404	13
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,588</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3,006</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 2007

COUNTY	NUMBER OF OFFICERS	NUMBER OF ASSAULTS	PERCENT DISTRIBUTION	ASSAULT RATE PER 100 POLICE OFFICERS
ATLANTIC	964	130	5.0	13.5
BERGEN	2,179	201	7.8	9.2
BURLINGTON	827	97	3.7	11.7
CAMDEN	1,377	228	8.8	16.6
CAPE MAY	341	21	0.8	6.2
CUMBERLAND	298	40	1.5	13.4
ESSEX	2,826	317	12.2	11.2
GLOUCESTER	601	85	3.3	14.1
HUDSON	2,001	358	13.8	17.9
HUNTERDON	170	11	0.4	6.5
MERCER	929	137	5.3	14.7
MIDDLESEX	1,653	126	4.9	7.6
MONMOUTH	1,522	134	5.2	8.8
MORRIS	1,094	58	2.2	5.3
OCEAN	1,146	109	4.2	9.5
PASSAIC	1,259	165	6.4	13.1
SALEM	108	25	1.0	23.1
SOMERSET	632	30	1.2	4.7
SUSSEX	220	15	0.6	6.8
UNION	1,446	292	11.3	20.2
WARREN	163	9	0.3	5.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21,756</b>	<b>2,588</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>11.9</b>

Percent distribution may not total 100.0 due to rounding.