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WISCONSIN Office of Justice Assistance

Statistical Analysis Center



Jerome D. Lacke
Executive Director

Tommy G. Thompson
Governor

128990

**U.S. Department of Justice
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Tommy G. Thompson
Governor

Jerome D. Lacke
Executive Director

August, 1990

Dear Colleague:

I am pleased to provide you with a copy of Wisconsin Law Enforcement Officers Assaulted, 1984 - 1989. This report is based upon monthly forms submitted by nearly 290 law enforcement agencies in Wisconsin during the past six years. We sincerely appreciate the continued efforts of personnel from each of these agencies in collecting and reporting this important information.

The first section of the report presents information on assaults reported in 1989 with comparisons to patterns in the previous year. The second section shows trends in those assaults which occurred between 1984 and 1989. Also, Appendix B provides more detailed information on 1989 assaults for each law enforcement agency which reported four or more assaults during the year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all law enforcement officers throughout Wisconsin for their continued efforts in ensuring the security of our citizens and enforcing our laws. Your dedication and willingness to serve the public are greatly appreciated.

I hope this report meets your needs and you will find it useful. Please contact our office if you have suggestions for improving this report or if your Department needs additional copies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jerome D. Lacke".

JEROME D. LACKE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

WISCONSIN
LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

ASSAULTED 1984 - 1989

UNIFORM CRIME REPORTS

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DEDICATION

This publication is dedicated to
all Wisconsin law enforcement officers,
and in particular, to the memory of the
twelve law enforcement officers
who were killed during the past six years
while performing their duty.

Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance - Statistical Analysis Center

The Statistical Analysis Center is a program of the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance. The Center collects, analyzes, interprets and disseminates criminal justice data in Wisconsin.

The Center also provides technical assistance to local criminal justice agencies. Further, it provides state and local government with access to federal criminal justice statistical information. The Statistical Analysis Center also promotes the coordination and development of criminal justice statistical systems in Wisconsin.

Acknowledgements

Wisconsin Law Enforcement Officers Assaulted 1984 - 1989 is the product of information provided by a variety of agencies. Without the excellent cooperation of the people in these agencies, the publication would not have been possible. The Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance gratefully acknowledges the assistance of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reporting Program; and especially the administrators of local law enforcement agencies and their staffs, whose efforts made the data available.

Wisconsin Law Enforcement Officers Assaulted 1984 - 1989 is a publication of the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance, Statistical Analysis Center. The Statistical Analysis Center was funded during 1989 by the State of Wisconsin and, in part, by a grant from the U. S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Table of Contents

	<u>Page Number</u>
Executive Summary	1
Introduction and Methodology	2
Assaults on Law Enforcement Officers - 1989 vs 1988	2
Officers Assaulted - Six Year Trends	7
Appendix A: Law Enforcement Officers Killed or Assaulted (LEOKA) form	13
Appendix B: Assaults on Law Enforcement Officers by Agency, 1989	14

Executive Summary

Officers Assaulted - 1989

- * During 1989, three Wisconsin law enforcement officers lost their lives in accidents while in the performance of their official duties.
- * Nearly sixty percent of assaults occurred during the nighttime hours from 8 p.m. through 4 a.m.
- * Three types of circumstances (disturbance calls, handling prisoners, and attempting an arrest) were involved in over seventy percent of the assaults reported in 1989.
- * The percentage of officers assaulted who were assigned to a two person vehicle declined from 26.4 percent in 1988 to 18.3 percent in 1989.
- * Nearly 95 percent of assaults involved personal weapons (hands, feet or fists) rather than firearms, knives or other dangerous weapons.
- * Of the 932 assaults reported in 1989, 917 or 98 percent were cleared by arrest.

Officers Assaulted - Six Year Trends, 1984 - 1989

- * While three Wisconsin law enforcement officers have been killed feloniously from 1984 through 1989, nine officers lost their lives in accidents while in the performance of their official duties.
- * The number of officers assaulted in Wisconsin has increased by over thirty percent from 1984 (715 assaults) to 1989 (932 assaults).
- * Assaults on law enforcement officers were most frequent during the eight hour period from 8 p.m. through 4 a.m.
- * There has been an increase in the percentage of assaults while officers were responding to disturbance calls, and a decrease in assaults of officers attempting an arrest or making a traffic stop.
- * There has been an increase in the percentage of assaults while officers were assisted in either a one person vehicle or an other assignment. Also, there has been a decrease in assaults of officers assigned to a two person vehicle.
- * While the number of assaults involving a personal weapon increased steadily during the past six years, assaults involving all other weapon categories showed little change.
- * The percentage of assaults which resulted in an injury to the law enforcement officer has decreased during the past six years.
- * There has been a slight increase in the percentage of assaults on law enforcement officers which have been cleared. However, the overall clearance rate exceeded 95 percent even in 1984, the first year of the six year period.

I. Introduction and Methodology

This report presents information on Wisconsin law enforcement officers assaulted from 1984 through 1989. Law enforcement agencies in Wisconsin report such assaults as part of their participation in the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. Assaults which are reported include assaults which resulted in serious injury or in which a weapon was used which could have caused serious injury or death. Assaults are recorded only if they involved more than verbal abuse or minor resistance to an arrest. The form used to report assaults upon law enforcement officers is included as Appendix A.

The first section of this report focuses on assaults reported in 1989 with comparisons to patterns in the previous year. The next section presents data on all assaults occurring between 1984 and 1989. Both sections contain information on the timing of the assault, circumstances of the assault, assignment of the officer, weapon use, injuries, and clearances. Appendix B provides more detailed information on 1989 assaults for each law enforcement agency in Wisconsin which reported at least four assaults during the year.

II. Assaults on Law Enforcement Officers - 1989 vs. 1988

Officers Killed in the Line of Duty

During 1989, three Wisconsin law enforcement officers lost their lives in accidents while in the performance of their official duties. One officer was accidentally killed in the line of duty during 1988. No officers were feloniously killed in either year.

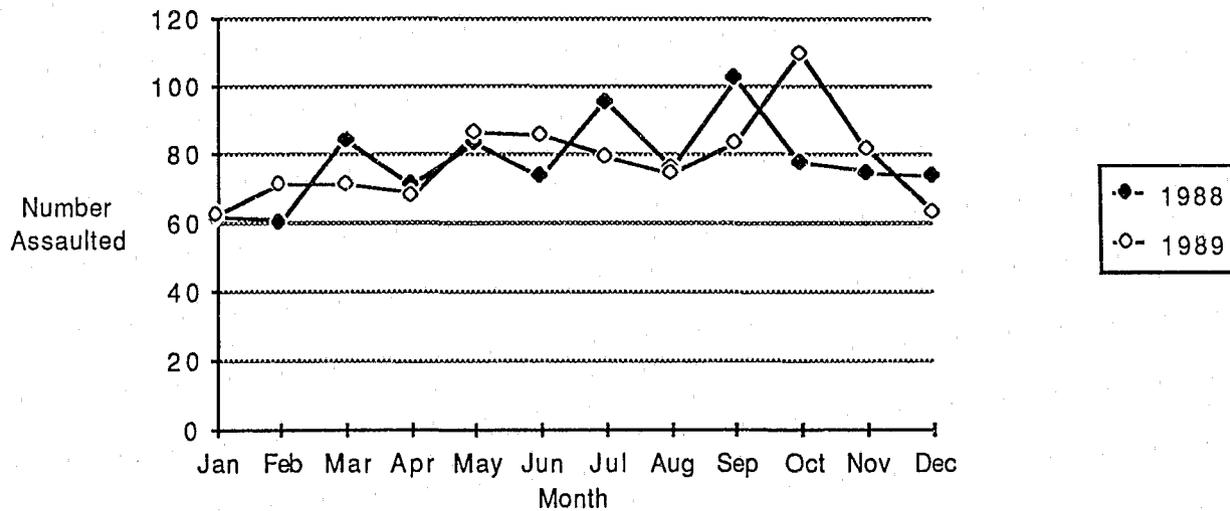
Month

There were 932 reported assaults on Wisconsin law enforcement officers in 1989, a 0.3 percent increase compared to the 929 reported assaults in 1988. Table 1 and Graph 1 show the month in which assaults occurred during the past two years.

Table 1: Month of Assault - 1988 and 1989

<u>Month</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>Total - 1988 and 1989</u>
January	61	62	123
February	60	71	131
March	84	71	155
April	71	68	139
May	83	86	169
June	73	85	158
July	95	79	174
August	76	74	150
September	102	83	185
October	77	109	186
November	74	81	155
December	73	63	136
Total	929	932	1,861

Graph 1: Law Enforcement Officers Assaulted, by Month

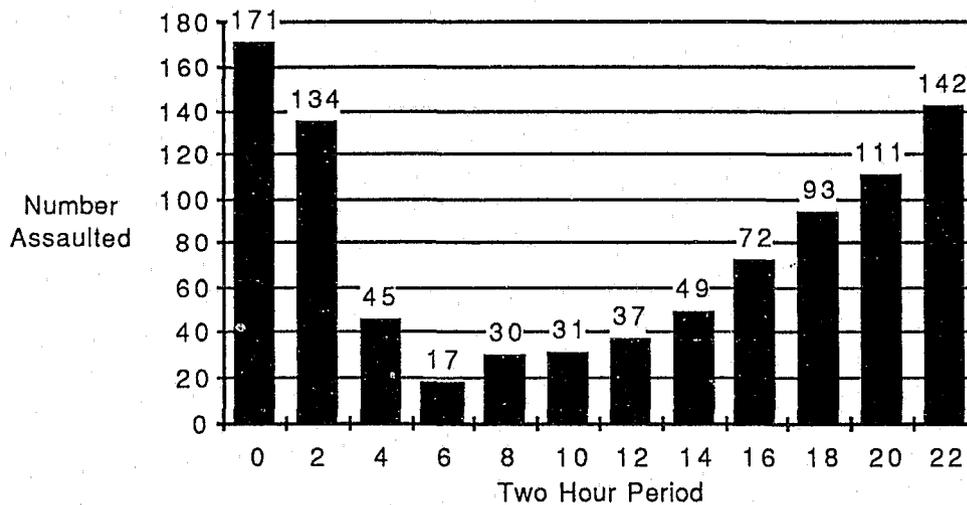


Patterns in the month of assault were very similar in 1988 and 1989. The two months of September and October accounted for nearly twenty percent of all assaults in the two year period, while the six months from May through October accounted for fifty-five percent of all assaults.

Time of Day

Graph 2 and Table 2 show the time of day in which officers were assaulted in 1989.

Graph 2: Law Enforcement Officers Assaulted, by Time of Day



Note: The time periods in the graph are expressed in terms of the first hour in a twenty-four hour clock (e.g., period 0 with 171 assaults includes the two hours between midnight and 2 a.m.).

Table 2: Officers Assaulted by Time of Day

<u>Time</u>	<u>12-2:00</u>	<u>2-4:00</u>	<u>4-6:00</u>	<u>6-8:00</u>	<u>8-10:00</u>	<u>10-12:00</u>	<u>Total</u>
AM	171	134	45	17	30	31	428
PM	37	49	72	93	111	142	<u>504</u>
Total Assaults							932

Nearly sixty percent of assaults occurred during the nighttime hours from 8 p.m. through 4 a.m. Patterns in the timing of assaults were very similar in 1988.

Circumstances

Table 3 shows the circumstances under which officers were assaulted during 1989.

Table 3: Circumstances at the Scene of the Assault

<u>Circumstances</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Responding to Disturbance Calls	367	39.4
Burglaries in Progress or Pursuing Burglary Suspects	13	1.4
Robberies in Progress or Pursuing Robbery Suspects	4	0.4
Attempting other Arrests	127	13.6
Civil Disorder	12	1.3
Handling, Transporting, Custody of Prisoners	166	17.8
Investigating Suspicious Persons or Circumstances	86	9.2
Ambush - No Warning	1	0.1
Mentally Deranged	25	2.7
Traffic Pursuits and Stops	107	11.5
All Other	24	2.6
TOTAL	932	100.0

Three types of circumstances (disturbance calls, handling prisoners, and attempting an arrest) were involved in over seventy percent of the assaults reported in 1989.

As shown in Graph 3, patterns in the circumstances surrounding assaults reported in 1988 were very similar.

Graph 3: Circumstance at Time of Assault



Type of Assignment

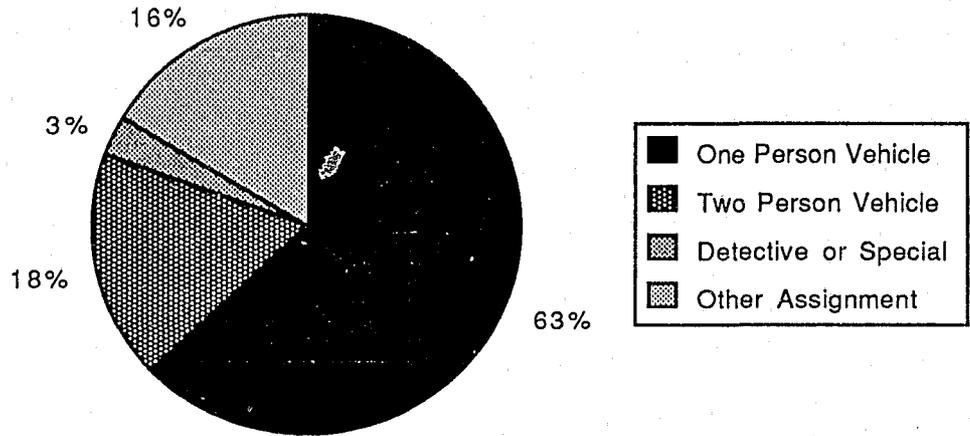
Table 4 and Graph 4 show the type of assignment engaged in by officers who were assaulted in 1989.

Table 4: Number of Assaults by Type of Assignment

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Two-Person Vehicle	171	18.3
One-Person Vehicle		
Alone	120	12.9
Assisted	<u>469</u>	<u>50.3</u>
Total One-Person	589	63.2
Detective or Special Assignment		
Alone	6	0.6
Assisted	<u>22</u>	<u>2.4</u>
Total Detective or Special Assignment	28	3.0
Other		
Alone	32	3.4
Assisted	<u>112</u>	<u>12.0</u>
Total Other	144	15.4
TOTAL	932	99.9¹

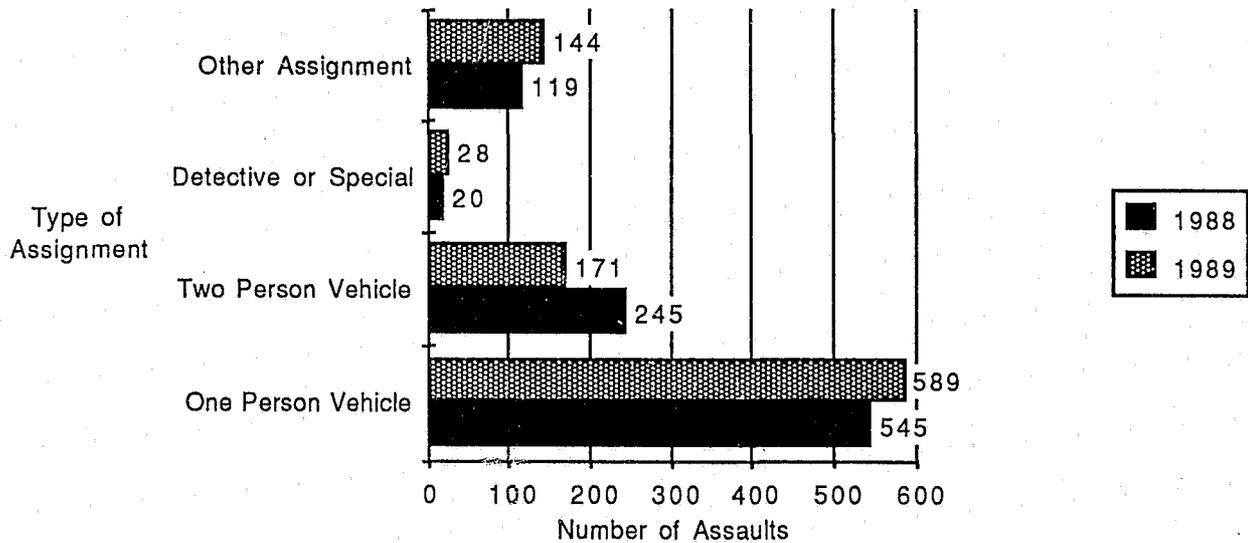
¹ Percentages do not add to 100 percent because of rounding.

Graph 4: Assaults by Type of Assignment - 1989



Graph 5 shows the number of assaults in 1988 and 1989 according to the assignment of the officer. There were changes in the number of assaults by officer assignment during the two year period. For example, the percentage of officers assaulted who were assigned to a two person vehicle declined from 26.4 percent in 1988 to 18.3 percent in 1989.

Graph 5: Assaults by Type of Assignment



Injuries and Weapons

As shown in Table 5, injuries resulted from somewhat more than half of reported assaults in 1989

Table 5: Personal Injury by Type of Weapon - 1989

	<u>Firearm</u>		<u>Knife</u>		<u>Other</u>		<u>Personal</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Injury	6	1.3	1	0.2	22	4.7	440	93.8	469	100.0
No Injury	8	1.7	4	0.9	10	2.2	441	95.2	463	100.0
TOTAL	14	1.5	5	0.6	32	3.4	881	94.5	932	100.0

Nearly 95 percent of assaults involved personal weapons (hands, feet or fists) rather than firearms, knives or other dangerous weapons. Injury patterns and weapon use were very similar in 1988 assaults.

Clearances

There were 932 assaults reported in 1989; 917 or 98 percent of these were cleared by arrest. In 1988, approximately 96 percent of the 929 reported assaults were cleared by arrest.

III. Officers Assaulted - Six Year Trends

Officers Killed in the Line of Duty

Table 6 shows the number of Wisconsin law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty from 1984 through 1989.

Table 6: Wisconsin Law Enforcement Officers Killed in the Line of Duty, 1984 - 1989

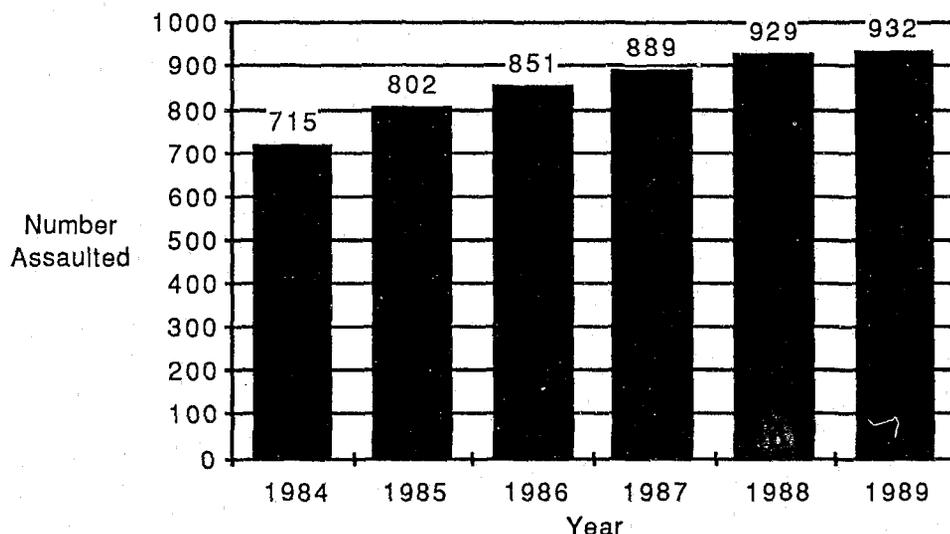
<u>Year</u>	<u>Killed Feloniously</u>	<u>Killed Accidentally</u>	<u>Total Killed</u>
1984	0	1	1
1985	3	0	3
1986	0	1	1
1987	0	3	3
1988	0	1	1
1989	0	3	3
TOTAL	3	9	12

While three Wisconsin law enforcement officers have been killed feloniously from 1984 through 1989, nine officers lost their lives in accidents while in the performance of their official duties.

Year

Graph 6 shows the total number of officers assaulted in Wisconsin since 1984.

Graph 6: Officers Assaulted, by Year



The number of officers assaulted in Wisconsin has increased by over thirty percent from 1984 (715 assaults) to 1989 (932 assaults).

Time of Day

Table 7 shows the time of day of assaults on law enforcement officers during the past six years.

Table 7: Assaults on Law Enforcement Officers, Time of Day

<u>Time of Day</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>% Change 1984 - 89</u>
Midnight - 2 a.m.	173	178	161	190	185	171	-1.2
2 a.m. - 4 a.m.	115	108	100	125	141	134	+16.5
4 a.m. - 6 a.m.	12	30	45	32	42	45	+275.0
6 a.m. - 8 a.m.	13	11	19	24	20	17	+30.8
8 a.m. - 10 a.m.	25	25	30	20	21	30	+20.0
10 a.m. - Noon	30	25	27	30	22	31	+3.3
Noon - 2 p.m.	27	21	42	25	50	37	+37.0
2 p.m. - 4 p.m.	33	33	42	40	59	49	+48.5
4 p.m. - 6 p.m.	55	49	67	46	74	72	+30.9
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.	63	84	78	99	80	93	+47.6
8 p.m. - 10 p.m.	64	104	105	115	105	111	+73.4
10 p.m. - Midnight	105	134	135	143	130	142	+35.2
TOTAL	715	802	851	889	929	932	+30.3

Assaults on law enforcement officers were most frequent during the eight hour period from 8 p.m. through 4 a.m. The summed percentage of these three categories ranged from a low of 58.9 percent in 1986 to a high of 63.9 percent in 1984.

Circumstances

Table 8 shows the circumstances under which law enforcement officers were assaulted during the six year period.

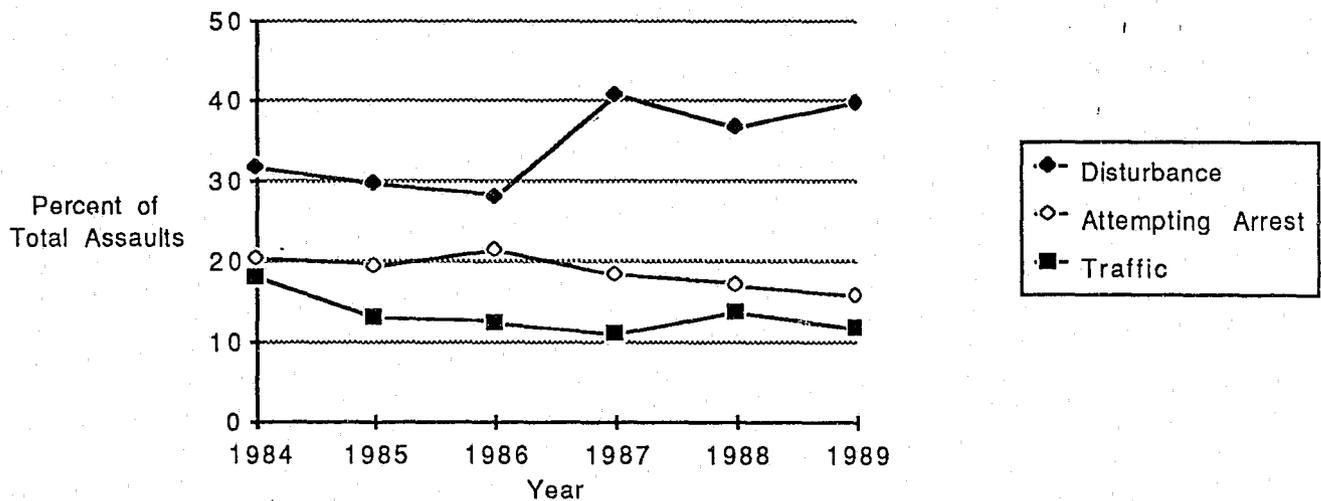
Table 8: Circumstances at the Scene of the Assault

<u>Circumstances</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>
Responding to Disturbance Calls	226	236	238	360	338	367
Burglaries in Progress or Pursuing Burglary Suspects	10	7	12	13	6	13
Robberies in Progress or Pursuing Robbery Suspects	5	1	11	3	5	4
Attempting other Arrests	129	146	157	145	148	127
Civil Disorder	4	6	24	4	0	12
Handling, Transporting, Custody of Prisoners	119	181	188	153	153	166
Investigating Suspicious Persons or Circumstances	40	56	58	44	86	86
Ambush - No Warning	1	0	2	1	3	1
Mentally Deranged	25	24	14	27	25	25
Traffic Pursuits and Stops	129	103	105	95	125	107
All Other	<u>27</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>24</u>
Total Assaults	715	802	851	889	929	932

Major trends during the six years include an increase in the number of assaults while officers were responding to disturbance calls or handling prisoners together with a decrease in assaults when making a traffic stop.

Since the total volume of assaults has increased substantially during the past six years, focusing on the number of assaults by differing circumstances may not be the best method of illustrating changes over time. Instead, Graph 7 shows changes in the percent of assaults involving different circumstances.

Graph 7: Circumstances at the Time of the Assault



The percentage of assaults involving response to a disturbance call increased from 31.6 percent in 1984 to 39.4 percent in 1989. However, the percentage of assaults involving an arrest attempt, traffic, and the handling of prisoners declined from 1984 to 1989 or remained essentially unchanged.

Types of Assignments

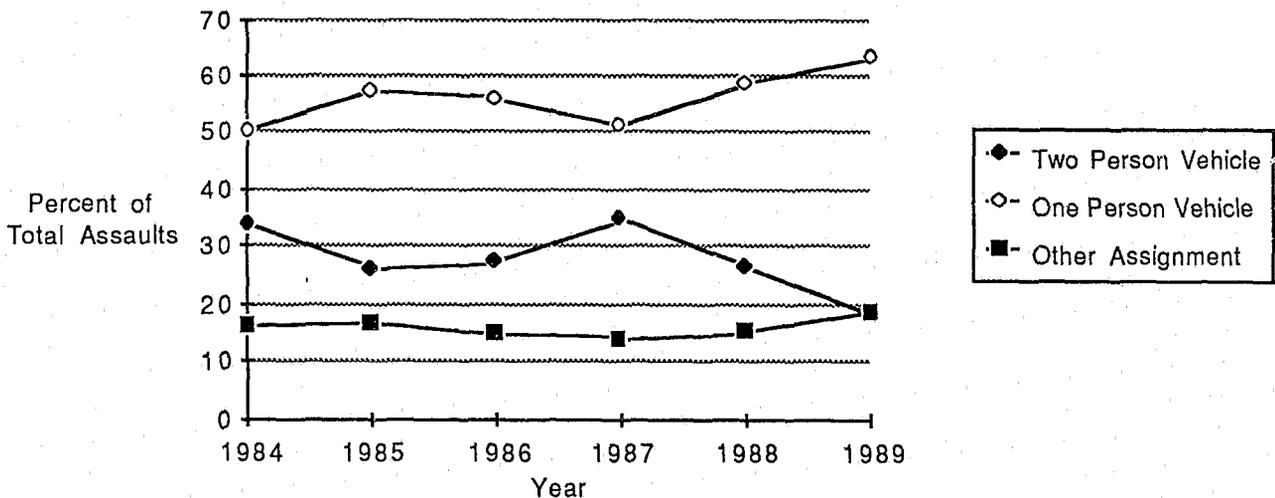
Table 9 shows trends in the number of assaults on law enforcement officers by the type of assignment.

Table 9: Number of Assaults by Type of Assignment

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>
Two-Person Vehicle	241	209	232	308	245	171
One-Person Vehicle						
Alone	113	101	121	113	109	120
Assisted	<u>245</u>	<u>357</u>	<u>373</u>	<u>343</u>	<u>436</u>	<u>469</u>
Total One-Person	358	458	494	456	545	589
Detective or Special Assignment						
Alone	7	6	4	11	5	6
Assisted	<u>18</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>22</u>
Total Detective or Special Assignment	25	23	30	20	20	28
Other						
Alone	35	45	27	39	36	32
Assisted	<u>56</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>112</u>
Total Other	91	112	95	105	119	144
TOTAL	715	802	851	889	929	932

There has been an increase in the percentage of assaults while officers were assisted in either a one person vehicle or another assignment. Also, there has been a decrease in assaults when officers were assigned to a two person vehicle. Graph 8 shows changes in the percent of assaults involving different assignments.

Graph 8: Assignment at the Time of the Assault



While the percentage of assaults involving a one person vehicle has increased from 50.1 percent in 1984 to 63.2 percent in 1989, the percent involving a two person vehicle has decreased from 33.7 percent in 1984 to 18.3 percent in 1989.

Weapons

Table 10 shows trends in the use of weapons in assaults on law enforcement officers during the past six years.

Table 10: Assaults on Law Enforcement Officers - Weapon Use

<u>Weapon</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Firearm	10	14	12	7	7	14	+40.0
Knife	15	18	11	7	12	5	-66.7
Other Weapon	40	36	37	29	34	32	-20.0
Personal Weapon	<u>650</u>	<u>734</u>	<u>791</u>	<u>846</u>	<u>876</u>	<u>881</u>	<u>+35.5</u>
Total Assaults	715	802	851	889	929	932	+30.3

While the number of assaults involving a personal weapon increased steadily during the past six years, assaults involving all other weapon categories showed little change.

Injuries

Table 11 shows trends in injuries to law enforcement officers resulting from assaults.

Table 11: Injuries to Law Enforcement Officers

<u>Injury Level</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Injury	431	467	450	471	465	469	+8.8
No Injury	284	335	401	418	464	463	+63.0
Total	715	802	851	889	929	932	+30.3
Percentage with Injury	60.3	58.2	52.9	53.0	50.0	50.3	-16.6

The percentage of assaults which resulted in an injury to the law enforcement officer has decreased during the past six years.

Clearances

Table 12 shows trends in the clearance rates for assaults on law enforcement officers.

Table 12: Clearances in Assaults on Law Enforcement Officers

<u>Assaults & Clearances</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>
Total Assaults	715	802	851	889	929	932
Total Cleared	683	773	825	864	895	917
Percent Cleared	95.5	96.4	96.9	97.2	96.3	98.4

There has been a slight increase in the percentage of assaults on law enforcement officers which have been cleared. However, the overall clearance rate exceeded 95 percent even in 1984, the first year of the six year period.

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS KILLED OR ASSAULTED

It is requested this report be completed and transmitted with monthly crime reports to: Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reports, Washington, D. C. 20535. This form should be used to report the number of your officers who were assaulted or killed in the line of duty during the month. Additional information concerning officers killed will be requested by a separate questionnaire.

OFFICERS KILLED

Number of your law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty this month.

By felonious act _____

By accident or negligence _____

Officers Assaulted (Do not include officers killed) - See other side for instructions.

Type of Activity	Total Assaults by Weapon A	Type of Weapon					Type of Assignment						Police Assaults Cleared M	
		Firearm B	Knife or Other Cutting Instrument C	Other Dangerous Weapon D	Hands, Fists, Feet, etc. E	Two-Officer Vehicle F	One-Officer Vehicle		Detective or Special Assign.		Other			
							Alone G	As-sisted H	Alone I	As-sisted J	Alone K	As-sisted L		
1. Responding to "Disturbance" calls (family quarrels, man with gun, etc.)														
2. Burglaries in progress or pursuing burglary suspects														
3. Robberies in progress or pursuing robbery suspects														
4. Attempting other arrests														
5. Civil disorder (riot, mass disobedience)														
6. Handling, transporting, custody of prisoners														
7. Investigating suspicious persons or circumstances														
8. Ambush - no warning														
9. Mentally deranged														
10. Traffic pursuits and stops														
11. All other														
12. TOTAL (1-11)														
13. Number with personal injury														
14. Number without personal injury														
15. Time of assaults														
	AM													
	PM													
		12:01	2:00	4:00	6:00	8:00	10:00	12:00						

DO NOT WRITE HERE

Recorded	Initials
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Punched	
Verified	
Adjusted	

DOJ/FBI

Month and Year

Agency Identifier

Prepared by

Title

Agency

State

Chief, Sheriff, Commissioner, Superintendent

APPENDIX B

Assaults on Law Enforcement Officers by Agency, 1989

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Full Time Officers</u>		<u>Total Arrests</u>	
			<u>Number</u>	<u>Assaults Per 1,000 Officers</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Assaults Per 1,000 Arrests</u>
<u>Police Depts.</u>						
Green Bay	135	96,412	168	804	6,540	20.6
Madison	135	180,636	298	453	7,403	18.2
Milwaukee	131	600,324	1,950	67	77,084	1.7
West Allis	85	63,884	129	659	6,105	13.9
Eau Claire	73	55,095	83	880	5,705	12.8
Waukesha	14	54,764	90	156	6,467	2.2
Beloit	14	35,097	69	203	8,844	1.6
Racine	12	81,588	204	58	5,999	2.0
Manitowoc	12	32,702	62	194	4,263	2.8
Sheboygan	10	48,484	88	114	4,623	2.2
Wausau	9	34,242	53	170	2,349	3.8
Kenosha	8	77,752	157	51	7,634	1.0
Janesville	7	52,826	74	95	5,763	1.2
Madison, Town	7	6,518	15	467	755	9.3
West Bend	6	24,119	40	150	2,258	2.6
Fond du Lac	5	37,493	57	88	4,539	1.1
La Crosse	5	50,105	83	60	5,893	0.8
Mount Pleasant	5	20,687	18	277	808	6.2
Somerset	5	1,091	3	1,666	369	1.4
Superior	5	26,914	55	91	3,665	1.4
Caledonia	4	21,294	20	200	1,156	3.5
<u>Sheriffs' Offices</u>						
Eau Claire	40	25,266	47	851	841	47.6
Milwaukee	28	0	443	63	9,823	2.8
Rock	17	31,035	88	193	1,556	10.9
Washington	8	45,606	70	114	1,348	5.9
Dane	6	79,662	210	29	2,313	2.6
Manitowoc	5	34,028	54	93	1,746	2.9
Oneida	4	21,320	24	167	814	4.9
Polk	4	35,371	21	190	902	4.4
Racine	4	29,996	166	24	2,418	1.6
<u>Other</u>						
Wis. State Patrol	19	0	474	40	3,583	5.3
All Other Agencies	110	2,958,843	5,098	22	161,606	0.7
State Total	932	4,863,154	10,411	90	355,172	2.6