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**ATTORNEY GENERAL'S REPORT CONCERNING
ASSAULT FIREARMS 1996**

State of New Jersey
Department of Law and Public Safety
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ATTORNEY GENERAL'S REPORT CONCERNING

ASSAULT FIREARMS 1996

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C:58-14, the following information concerning assault firearms was compiled through procedures established by the Office of the Attorney General to report on the Assault Firearms Act.

- . The number and types of firearms surrendered or rendered inoperable.
- . The number and types of criminal offenses involving assault firearms.

While this Annual Report includes the data requested by the Legislature, this information does not serve as a total measure of the benefits derived from the enactment of the assault firearms law. This law serves to protect the people of this state from the dangers presented by firearms designed to rapidly discharge ammunition capable of killing human beings as well as firearms that are ill-suited and infrequently used for legitimate civilian purposes. The purpose of the assault firearms law is two-fold:

- . To prevent the availability and increase of these firearms by limiting future sales.
- . To reduce the number of these firearms in circulation.

This current report provides a compilation of data collected from the effective date of the Act, May 30, 1990, through October 31, 1996. In addition to the narrative highlights presented concerning the number and types of criminal offenses involving assault firearms, detailed data is provided in accompanying tables. Moreover, a brief description of a few of the crimes that contribute to the statistics involving assault firearms is also provided.

Section 1. Firearms Surrendered or Rendered Inoperable

Any person lawfully owning an assault firearm on May 30, 1990, the effective date of the Assault Firearms Act, who was not eligible to register the weapon pursuant to the criteria established, or who chose not to register the weapon, was given one year to take one of three actions:

- . Transfer the weapon to a person or entity lawfully entitled to possess it;
- . Render the weapon inoperable; or
- . Voluntarily surrender the weapon to law enforcement officials.

Since enactment of the Assault Firearms Act, a total of 921 assault firearms were certified to the Division of State Police as rendered inoperable and 40 were surrendered.¹

During the recent report year, November 1, 1995 through October 31, 1996, 12 additional weapons were surrendered to the State Police.²

An inventory of those firearms rendered inoperable or surrendered since enactment of the Assault Firearms Act is provided in Table 1.

¹ Those persons who disposed of assault firearms through sales to dealers or out-of-state residents were not required to report the sales or transfer of the weapon. Accordingly, there is no way to determine how many assault firearms were eliminated through such lawful sales or transfers.

² Assault firearms are currently surrendered to law enforcement officials pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 2C:39-12*, the voluntary surrender law. Assault firearms surrendered to local law enforcement agencies are not included as this information is not reported to the State Police.

Table 1
Firearms Rendered Inoperable or Surrendered³

<u>Type of Firearm</u>	<u>Rendered Inoperable</u>	<u>Surrendered</u>
AK-47	1	2
Armalite	2	-
Beretta AR-70, BM 59	4	-
BFI Automatic	-	2
Bushmaster	1	-
Calico	3	-
Chartered Industries	3	-
Cobray Semi-Automatic M12	-	1
Colt AR-15, Car 15	109	2
Daewoo	6	-
FN-FAL, FN-LAR, FN-FNC	15	-
Franchi	5	-
Galil	3	-
Heckler & Koch HK 91	39	-
Ingram MAC 11	-	1
Intratec	10	1
Kasnar Import	-	1
M1-A	-	3
M1 Carbine	29	9
M14	-	1
Marlin Mod. 60	-	3
Norinco Automatic Rifle	-	1
Plainfield Machine Co. Carbine	29	-
PWA223	-	1
Remington Mod. 552	-	1
RPG MAC10	-	1
Ruger	57	-
Sears "Ted Williams" 3T	-	3
Springfield Armory	37	-
Sterling	1	-
Steyr	3	-
Street Sweeper	5	-
Striker 12	7	-
Uzi	11	5
Valmet	5	1
Winchester	-	1
Other ⁴	536	-
TOTAL	921	40

³Based on the Division of State Police accumulative assault firearms data for the period May 30, 1990 through October 31, 1996. Assault firearms surrendered to local law enforcement agencies pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C:39-12, the voluntary surrender law, are not included as this information is not reported to the State Police.

⁴ Other indicates firearms that were not adequately identified in certifications filed by their owners to permit grouping according to brand name.

Section 2. Criminal Offenses Involving Assault Firearms

With the enactment of the Assault Firearms Act, the Division of State Police Uniform Crime Reporting Unit implemented procedures for the reporting of offenses committed with or involving assault firearms. Pertinent information, including the offense committed, the date of the offense, and the case number, is reported monthly by the original investigating law enforcement agency. This information is reported on a standardized form developed by the State Police.

Criminal incidents are reported by most serious Uniform Crime Report (UCR) tracked offense. When an episode is reported as an unlawful possession of an assault firearm, that means only that unlawful possession is the most serious UCR-tracked crime. For example, incidents involving both narcotics violations and possession of an assault firearm are reported as unlawful possession of a firearm. Incidents involving murder or robbery and possession of an assault firearm are reported as murder or robbery, respectively. Moreover, each criminal incident is reflected once, although many involve numerous victims, several defendants and separate crimes.

. From May 30, 1990, the effective date of the Assault Firearms Act, through October 31, 1996, a total of 656 criminal offenses involving assault firearms have been reported statewide (Table 2).

. The total 656 offenses included: 15 murders; 141 armed robberies; 81 aggravated assaults; 410 unlawful possession of firearms; and 9 other offenses (Table 2).

Table 2

**Criminal Offenses Involving
Assault Firearms
by County**

May 30, 1990 - October 31, 1996

County	Murder	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Unlawful Possession Weapon	Other	Total
Atlantic	-	-	6	30	-	36
Bergen	2	2	4	27	-	35
Burlington	-	3	1	29	-	33
Camden	2	11	9	55	3	80
Cape May	-	-	-	6	-	6
Cumberland	1	-	2	5	-	8
Essex	3	105	44	88	1	241
Gloucester	-	1	1	14	-	16
Hudson	1	5	1	22	1	30
Hunterdon	-	-	1	5	-	6
Mercer	-	6	2	6	2	16
Middlesex	2	1	2	25	-	30
Monmouth	-	1	1	8	-	10
Morris	1	-	1	5	-	7
Ocean	-	1	2	19	1	23
Passaic	2	-	3	13	1	19
Salem	-	-	-	11	-	11
Somerset	-	2	-	8	-	10
Sussex	-	-	-	5	-	5
Union	1	3	1	23	-	28
Warren	-	-	-	6	-	6
STATEWIDE	15	141	81	410	9 ⁵	656

⁵ Other includes the following offenses: five unlawful sale of assault firearms offenses, two criminal mischief offenses, one conspiracy to commit murder, and one sexual assault.

Table 3

**Criminal Offenses Involving
Assault Firearms
by County
November 1995 - October 1996**

County	Murder	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Unlawful Possession Weapon	Other	Total
Atlantic	-	-	-	1	-	1
Bergen	-	-	1	5	-	6
Burlington	-	1	-	4	-	5
Camden	-	1	1	8	-	10
Cape May	-	-	-	1	-	1
Cumberland	-	-	-	-	-	-
Essex	1	8	4	16	-	29
Gloucester	-	-	-	1	-	1
Hudson	-	-	-	7	-	7
Hunterdon	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mercer	-	-	-	-	2	2
Middlesex	-	-	-	-	-	-
Monmouth	-	-	-	1	-	1
Morris	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ocean	-	-	-	4	-	4
Passaic	-	-	1	1	-	2
Salem	-	-	-	-	-	-
Somerset	-	1	-	1	-	2
Sussex	-	-	-	2	-	2
Union	-	1	-	7	-	8
Warren	-	-	-	1	-	1
STATEWIDE	1	12	7	60	2 ⁶	82

. During the most recent report year, November 1995 through October 1996, a total of 82 assault firearms offenses were reported statewide: 1 murder; 12 robberies; 7 aggravated assaults; 60 unlawful possession of assault firearms offenses; and two unlawful sale of assault firearms offenses (Table 3).

⁶ Two unlawful sale of an assault firearm offenses.

Table 4

**Criminal Offenses Involving
Assault Firearms
by County**

November 1994 - October 1995

County	Murder	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Unlawful Possession Weapon	Other	Total
Atlantic	-	-	-	5	-	5
Bergen	-	1	1	5	-	7
Burlington	-	-	-	7	-	7
Camden	1	-	-	11	-	12
Cape May	-	-	-	1	-	1
Cumberland	-	-	-	2	-	2
Essex	-	5	5	11	-	21
Gloucester	-	-	-	1	-	1
Hudson	-	-	-	3	1	4
Hunterdon	-	-	-	1	-	1
Mercer	-	2	-	2	-	4
Middlesex	-	-	1	3	-	4
Monmouth	-	-	-	1	-	1
Morris	-	-	-	1	-	1
Ocean	-	-	-	4	-	4
Passaic	2	-	1	8	-	11
Salem	-	-	-	1	-	1
Somerset	-	-	-	1	-	1
Sussex	-	-	-	2	-	2
Union	-	-	-	5	-	5
Warren	-	-	-	1	-	1
STATEWIDE	3	8	8	76	1 ⁷	96

- . During the report year, November 1994 through October 1995, a total of 96 offenses involving assault firearms were reported: 3 murders; 8 robberies; 8 aggravated assaults; 76 unlawful possession of assault firearms offenses; and 1 other offense (Table 4).

⁷ Unlawful sale of an assault firearm.

Table 5

**Criminal Offenses Involving
Assault Firearms
by County**

November 1993 - October 1994

<u>County</u>	<u>Murder</u>	<u>Robbery</u>	<u>Aggravated Assault</u>	<u>Unlawful Possession Weapon</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total</u>
Atlantic	-	-	1	2	-	3
Bergen	-	1	-	2	-	3
Burlington	-	-	1	4	-	5
Camden	1	1	-	9	-	11
Cape May	-	-	-	2	-	2
Cumberland	-	-	1	1	-	2
Essex	-	43	2	15	-	60
Gloucester	-	-	-	2	-	2
Hudson	-	-	-	3	-	3
Hunterdon	-	-	-	1	-	1
Mercer	-	3	-	1	-	4
Middlesex	-	-	-	6	-	6
Monmouth	-	-	-	1	-	1
Morris	-	-	-	1	-	1
Ocean	-	-	-	4	-	4
Passaic	-	-	-	1	-	1
Salem	-	-	-	4	-	4
Somerset	-	-	-	3	-	3
Sussex	-	-	-	-	-	-
Union	-	-	-	2	-	2
Warren	-	-	-	-	-	-
STATEWIDE	1	48	5	64	-	118

During the report year, November 1993 through October 1994, a total of 118 offenses involving assault firearms were reported: 1 murder; 48 robberies; 5 aggravated assaults; and 64 unlawful possession of firearms offenses. (Table 5).

Table 6

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Criminal Offenses Involving
Assault Firearms
by County
November 1992 - October 1993

County	Murder	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Unlawful Possession Weapon	Other	Total
Atlantic	-	-	1	6	-	7
Bergen	-	-	1	6	-	7
Burlington	-	-	-	7	-	7
Camden	-	-	2	7	1	10
Cape May	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cumberland	1	-	-	1	-	2
Essex	-	15	15	17	-	47
Gloucester	-	-	-	5	-	5
Hudson	1	1	-	2	-	4
Hunterdon	-	-	1	1	-	2
Mercer	-	-	-	1	-	1
Middlesex	-	-	-	1	-	1
Monmouth	-	-	1	1	-	2
Morris	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ocean	-	-	1	1	-	2
Passaic	-	-	1	-	-	1
Salem	-	-	-	2	-	2
Somerset	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sussex	-	-	-	1	-	1
Union	1	-	-	3	-	4
Warren	-	-	-	2	-	2
STATEWIDE	3	16	23	64	1 ⁸	107

. During the prior one-year report period, November 1992 through October 1993, a total of 107 offenses involving assault firearms were reported: 3 murders; 16 robberies; 23 aggravated assaults; 64 unlawful possession of firearms offenses; and 1 other offense (Table 6).

⁸ Unlawful sale of an assault firearm.

Table 7

**Criminal Offenses Involving
Assault Firearms
by County
November 1991 - October 1992**

County	Murder	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Unlawful Possession Weapon	Other	Total
Atlantic	-	-	1	6	-	7
Bergen	-	-	-	5	-	5
Burlington	-	-	-	1	-	1
Camden	-	-	1	15	1	17
Cape May	-	-	-	1	-	1
Cumberland	-	-	-	1	-	1
Essex	1	11	11	10	-	33
Gloucester	-	-	-	2	-	2
Hudson	-	-	-	3	-	3
Hunterdon	-	-	-	2	-	2
Mercer	-	-	1	1	-	2
Middlesex	1	-	-	6	-	7
Monmouth	-	-	-	2	-	2
Morris	-	-	-	2	-	2
Ocean	-	-	-	4	1	5
Passaic	-	-	-	3	-	3
Salem	-	-	-	3	-	3
Somerset	-	-	-	1	-	1
Sussex	-	-	-	-	-	-
Union	-	1	1	6	-	8
Warren	-	-	-	2	-	2
STATEWIDE	2	12	15	76	2 ⁹	107

. During the two preceding one-year periods, November 1991 through October 1992 and November 1990 through October 1991, 107 and 110 criminal offenses involving assault firearms were reported, respectively (Tables 7 and 8).

⁹ Includes one conspiracy to commit murder and one criminal mischief.

Table 8

Criminal Offenses Involving
Assault Firearms
by County
November 1990 - October 1991¹⁰

County	Murder	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Unlawful Possession Weapon	Other	Total
Atlantic	-	-	3	6	-	9
Bergen	2	-	1	3	-	6
Burlington	-	-	-	5	-	5
Camden	-	8	5	4	-	17
Cape May	-	-	-	1	-	1
Cumberland	-	-	1	-	-	1
Essex	1	12	7	15	1	36
Gloucester	-	1	1	3	-	5
Hudson	-	2	-	2	-	4
Hunterdon	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mercer	-	1	-	-	-	1
Middlesex	1	-	1	8	-	10
Monmouth	-	1	-	2	-	3
Morris	1	-	1	1	-	3
Ocean	-	1	1	2	-	4
Passaic	-	-	-	-	-	-
Salem	-	-	-	1	-	1
Somerset	-	1	-	2	-	3
Sussex	-	-	-	-	-	-
Union	-	1	-	-	-	1
Warren	-	-	-	-	-	-
STATEWIDE	5	28	21	55	1 ¹¹	110

¹⁰ Because of reporting and data compilation practices at the time, this report period includes data for the two-week period, October 16, 1990 through October 31, 1990, along with the one-year period, November 1990 through October 1991.

¹¹ Unlawful sale of an assault firearm.

Table 9
 Criminal Offenses Involving
 Assault Firearms
 Statewide Yearly Summary¹²

	Murder	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Unlawful Possession Weapon	Other	Total
Nov. 1990 Oct. 1991 ¹³	5	28	21	55	1	110
Nov. 1991 Oct. 1992	2	12	15	76	2	107
Nov. 1992 Oct. 1993	3	16	23	64	1	107
Nov. 1993 Oct. 1994	1	48	5	64	-	118
Nov. 1994 Oct. 1995	3	8	8	76	1	96
Nov. 1995 Oct. 1996	1	12	7	60	2	82
TOTAL	15	124	79	395	7 ¹⁴	620

¹² Reflects six annual periods. Does not include the initial four and one-half period immediately following the effective date of the Assault Firearms Act. The data for that period, however, is reflected in the total reported in Table 2.

¹³ Because of reporting and data compilation practices used at the time, this report period includes the two-week period, October 16, 1990 through October 31, 1990, along with the one-year period November 1990 through October 1991.

¹⁴ Includes five unlawful sale of an assault firearms offenses, one conspiracy to commit murder, and one criminal mischief.

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Summarized below are some of the facts of a few of the offenses that contribute to the crime statistics involving assault firearms and weapons with large capacity ammunition magazines or folding stocks. These descriptions provide a more complete picture of the nature of the problem. These assault firearms offenses were reported for the most recent report year, November 1995 through October 1996.

. After an argument over change from a purchase in a fried chicken restaurant, one of the parties to the argument fired five shots from an Uzi-type assault firearm. One of the bullets entered the victim's neck, exploded and pierced his main artery, and killed him.

. Two suspects, standing on different corners of an intersection, fired weapons described as Tech 9s at various individuals in the area. There were three victims. One was struck in the chest, another in the leg, and a third victim in the foot. At least 16 rounds of 9mm ammunition were fired.



