



JON S. CORZINE
Governor

State of New Jersey
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY
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TRENTON, NJ 08625-0080

ANNE MILGRAM
Attorney General

October 23, 2008

The Honorable Joseph J. Roberts, Jr.
Speaker of the General Assembly, New Jersey Assembly
State House Annex
P.O. Box 098
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Re: *Annual Report Concerning Assault Firearms, 2007*

Dear Speaker of the General Assembly Roberts:

Enclosed please find the Attorney General's Report Concerning Assault Firearms, 2007, which is submitted pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 2C:58-14*.

The report provides information, as statutorily-mandated, about "the number and types of criminal offenses involving assault firearms" since May 30, 1990, the effective date of the Assault Firearms Act. During the most recent one-year report period (November 2006-October 2007), 86 offenses involving assault firearms were reported statewide. During the previous report year (November 2005-October 2006), 68 offenses involving assault firearms were reported statewide.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Milgram
Attorney General

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Enclosure





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October 23, 2008

The Honorable Richard J. Codey
Senate President, New Jersey Senate
State House Annex
P.O. Box 099
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Re: *Annual Report Concerning Assault Firearms, 2007*

Dear Senate President Codey:

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October 23, 2008

The Honorable Jon S. Corzine
Governor of the State of New Jersey
State House, P.O. Box 001
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

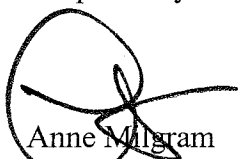
Re: *Annual Report Concerning Assault Firearms, 2007*

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Enclosed please find the Attorney General's Report Concerning Assault Firearms, 2007, which is submitted pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 2C:58-14*.

The report provides information, as statutorily-mandated, about "the number and types of criminal offenses involving assault firearms" since May 30, 1990, the effective date of the Assault Firearms Act. During the most recent one-year report period (November 2006-October 2007), 86 offenses involving assault firearms were reported statewide. During the previous report year (November 2005-October 2006), 68 offenses involving assault firearms were reported statewide.

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cc: The Honorable Richard J. Codey, Senate President
The Honorable Joseph J. Roberts, Jr., Speaker of the General Assembly



**ATTORNEY GENERAL'S REPORT CONCERNING
ASSAULT FIREARMS 2007**



Office of the Attorney General
Department of Law and Public Safety
Division of Criminal Justice
State of New Jersey

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S REPORT CONCERNING ASSAULT FIREARMS 2007

Pursuant to the Assault Firearms Act, *N.J.S.A. 2C:58-14*, information concerning the number and types of criminal offenses involving assault firearms was compiled through procedures established by the Office of the Attorney General and is reported in this Annual Report. This information pertains to any offense involving an assault firearm which was reported to a law enforcement agency within New Jersey.

While this Annual Report includes the data required 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 assault firearms law serves several purposes:

- . To prevent the availability and increase of these firearms by limiting future sales.
- . To reduce the number of these firearms in circulation.
- . To reduce the number of incidents and offenses involving this type of firearm.

Criminal Offenses Involving Assault Firearms

With the enactment of the Assault Firearms Act, *N.J.S.A. 2C:58-14*, in 1990, the Division of State Police Uniform Crime Reporting Unit implemented procedures for reporting 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.

This current report provides a compilation of data collected from the effective date of the Act, May 30, 1990 through October 31, 2007 in the tables which follow.

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 an incident may involve numerous victims, several perpetrators or defendants and separate crimes. No statewide standardized system exists through which arrest or clearance rates are reported.

From May 30, 1990, the effective date of the Assault Firearms Act, through October 31, 2007, a total of 1,525 criminal offenses involving assault firearms have been reported statewide (Table 1).

The total 1,525 offenses included: 31 murders; 183 armed robberies; 133 aggravated assaults; 1,158 unlawful possession of firearms; and 20 other offenses (Table 1).

Table 1
Criminal Offenses Involving Assault Firearms
by County
May 30, 1990 - October 31, 2007

County	Murder	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Unlawful Possession Weapon	Other	Total
Atlantic	-	2	7	75	2	86
Bergen	2	3	6	65	-	76
Burlington	-	3	2	77	-	82
Camden	5	16	15	114	4	154
Cape May	-	-	-	14	-	14
Cumberland	1	2	8	21	-	32
Essex	7	121	57	276	3	464
Gloucester	-	1	3	26	2	32
Hudson	2	8	1	54	1	66
Hunterdon	-	-	1	17	-	18
Mercer	1	8	5	55	2	71
Middlesex	3	3	8	68	1	83
Monmouth	-	2	3	35	1	41
Morris	1	1	2	36	-	40
Ocean	5	1	4	49	1	60
Passaic	2	3	6	37	1	49
Salem	-	-	1	17	1	19
Somerset	-	2	-	21	1	24
Sussex	-	-	-	14	-	14
Union	2	7	4	72	-	85
Warren	-	-	-	15	-	15
Statewide	31	183	133	1,158	20 ¹	1,525

¹ Other includes the following types of offenses: unlawful sale of assault firearms, criminal mischief, conspiracy to commit murder, sexual assault, terroristic threats, and burglary.

Table 2
Criminal Offenses Involving Assault Firearms
by County
November 2006 - October 2007
(Current Report Year)

County	Murder	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Unlawful Possession Weapon	Other	Total
Atlantic	-	-	-	3	-	3
Bergen	-	-	-	2	-	2
Burlington	-	-	-	6	-	6
Camden	-	-	-	9	-	9
Cape May	-	-	-	1	-	1
Cumberland	-	-	-	1	-	1
Essex	-	-	3	25	-	28
Gloucester	-	-	-	3	-	3
Hudson	-	-	-	8	-	8
Hunterdon	-	-	-	1	-	1
Mercer	-	-	-	3	-	3
Middlesex	1	-	-	4	-	5
Monmouth	-	-	-	3	-	3
Morris	-	-	-	1	-	1
Ocean	-	-	-	3	-	3
Passaic	-	-	-	2	-	2
Salem	-	-	-	2	-	2
Somerset	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sussex	-	-	-	-	-	-
Union	-	-	-	5	-	5
Warren	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide	1	-	3	82	-	86

During the current report year, November 2006 through October 2007, a total of 86 assault firearms offenses were reported statewide: 1 murder; 3 aggravated assaults; and 82 unlawful possession of assault firearms offenses. (Table 2).

Table 3
Criminal Offenses Involving Assault Firearms
by County
November 2005 - October 2006

County	Murder	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Unlawful Possession Weapon	Other	Total
Atlantic	-	-	-	3	-	3
Bergen	-	-	2	3	-	5
Burlington	-	-	-	5	-	5
Camden	-	-	-	3	-	3
Cape May	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cumberland	-	-	-	1	-	1
Essex	-	-	-	21	-	21
Gloucester	-	-	-	1	1	2
Hudson	-	-	-	2	-	2
Hunterdon	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mercer	-	-	-	8	-	8
Middlesex	-	-	1	4	-	5
Monmouth	-	-	-	4	-	4
Morris	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ocean	-	-	1	2	-	3
Passaic	-	-	-	1	-	1
Salem	-	-	-	1	-	1
Somerset	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sussex	-	-	-	1	-	1
Union	-	-	-	3	-	3
Warren	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide	-	-	4	63	1	68

During the report year, November 2005 through October 2006, a total of 68 assault firearms offenses were reported statewide: 4 aggravated assaults; 63 unlawful possession of assault firearms offenses; and 1 other offense (sexual assault) (Table 2).

Table 4
Criminal Offenses Involving Assault Firearms
by County
November 2004 - October 2005

County	Murder	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Unlawful Possession Weapon	Other	Total
Atlantic	-	-	-	2	1	3
Bergen	-	-	-	5	-	5
Burlington	-	1	-	4	-	5
Camden	-	-	1	4	-	5
Cape May	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cumberland	-	-	1	1	-	2
Essex	-	3	1	16	-	20
Gloucester	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hudson	-	-	-	3	-	3
Hunterdon	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mercer	-	-	1	7	-	8
Middlesex	-	-	-	4	-	4
Monmouth	-	-	1	2	-	3
Morris	-	-	1	2	-	3
Ocean	-	-	-	3	-	3
Passaic	-	-	-	4	-	4
Salem	-	-	-	-	-	-
Somerset	-	-	-	1	-	1
Sussex	-	-	-	2	-	2
Union	-	-	-	1	-	1
Warren	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide	-	4	6	61	1	72

During the previous report year, November 2004 through October 2005, a total of 72 assault firearms offenses were reported statewide: 4 armed robberies; 6 aggravated assaults; 61 unlawful possession of assault firearms offenses; and 1 other offense (unspecified) (Table 3).

Table 5
Criminal Offenses Involving Assault Firearms
by County
November 2003 - October 2004

County	Murder	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Unlawful Possession Weapon	Other	Total
Atlantic	-	-	-	8	-	8
Bergen	-	-	-	7	-	7
Burlington	-	-	-	7	-	7
Camden	1	1	1	5	-	8
Cape May	-	-	-	1	-	1
Cumberland	-	-	1	0	-	1
Essex	-	-	1	17	1	19
Gloucester	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hudson	-	-	-	2	-	2
Hunterdon	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mercer	-	-	-	8	-	8
Middlesex	-	-	1	3	1	5
Monmouth	-	-	-	-	1	1
Morris	-	-	-	1	-	1
Ocean	-	-	-	3	-	3
Passaic	-	1	-	1	-	2
Salem	-	-	-	-	-	-
Somerset	-	-	-	1	-	1
Sussex	-	-	-	-	-	-
Union	-	-	-	6	-	6
Warren	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide	1	2	4	70	3	80

During the report year, November 2003 through October 2004, a total of 80 assault firearms offenses were reported statewide: 1 murder; 2 armed robberies; 4 aggravated assaults; 70 unlawful possession of assault firearms offenses; and 3 other offenses (receiving stolen property, terroristic threats, and one unspecified offense) (Table 4).

Table 6
Criminal Offenses Involving Assault Firearms
by County
November 2002 - October 2003

County	Murder	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Unlawful Possession Weapon	Other	Total
Atlantic	-	-	-	4	-	4
Bergen	-	-	-	2	-	2
Burlington	-	-	-	7	-	7
Camden	-	-	1	5	-	6
Cape May	-	-	-	-	-	0
Cumberland	-	-	-	2	-	2
Essex	1	-	-	24	1	26
Gloucester	-	-	-	1	-	1
Hudson	-	-	-	3	-	3
Hunterdon	-	-	-	-	-	0
Mercer	-	-	-	4	-	4
Middlesex	-	-	-	3	-	3
Monmouth	-	-	-	4	-	4
Morris	-	-	-	1	-	1
Ocean	-	-	-	1	-	1
Passaic	-	-	1	3	-	4
Salem	-	-	-	1	1	2
Somerset	-	-	-	1	1	2
Sussex	-	-	-	2	-	2
Union	-	-	-	3	-	3
Warren	-	-	-	2	-	2
Statewide	1	-	2	73	3	79

During the report year, November 2002 through October 2004, a total of 79 assault firearms offenses were reported statewide: 1 murder; 2 aggravated assaults; 73 unlawful possession of assault firearms offenses; and 3 other offenses (Table 5).

Table 7
Criminal Offenses Involving Assault Firearms
Statewide Yearly Summary²

	Murder	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Unlawful Possession Weapon	Other	Total
Nov. 1990 - Oct. 1991 ³	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
Nov. 1996 - Oct. 1997	1	13	10	41	1	66
Nov. 1997 - Oct. 1998	4	3	3	67	-	77
Nov. 1998 - Oct. 1999	1	6	9	54	-	70
Nov. 1999 - Oct. 2000	-	5	2	76	1	84
Nov. 2000 - Oct. 2001	1	5	4	75	-	85
Nov. 2001 - Oct. 2002	6	4	5	86	1	102
Nov. 2002 - Oct. 2003	1	-	2	73	3	79
Nov. 2003 - Oct. 2004	1	2	4	70	3	80
Nov. 2004 - Oct. 2005	-	4	6	61	1	72
Nov. 2005 - Oct. 2006	-	-	4	63	1	68
Nov. 2006 - Oct. 2007	1	-	3	82	-	86
TOTAL	31	166	131	1,143	18⁴	1,489

² Reflects 17 annual periods, November 1st through October 31st. Does not include the 36 offenses reported for the initial four and one-half month period (May 30, 1990 - October 15, 1990) immediately following the effective date of the Assault Firearms Act. The data for that period was reported in the initial report filed as required by statute within 180 days of enactment of the Act. The data for that period is, however, reflected in the total reported in Table 1.

³ Because of reporting and data compilation practices used in 1990, 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.

⁴ Includes the following types of offenses: unlawful sale of an assault firearms, conspiracy to commit murder, criminal mischief, burglary, terroristic threats, and sexual assault.

