

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S REPORT CONCERNING
ASSAULT FIREARMS 2006



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



State of New Jersey

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June 8, 2007

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Re: Attorney General's Report Concerning Assault Firearms 2006

Office of Legislative Services Library:

Enclosed is a copy of the completed Attorney General's Report Concerning Assault Firearms for the report year, 2006.

If you have any questions concerning the report, please feel free to call me (856.486.3901).

Very truly yours,

Judy Wheat
Management Specialist

encl.



ATTORNEY GENERAL'S REPORT CONCERNING

ASSAULT FIREARMS 2006

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, 2006 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, 2006, a total of 1,439 criminal offenses involving assault firearms have been reported statewide (Table 1).

The total 1,439 offenses included: 30 murders; 183 armed robberies; 130 aggravated assaults; 1,076 unlawful possession of firearms; and 20 other offenses (Table 1).

Table 1
Criminal Offenses Involving Assault Firearms
by County
May 30, 1990 - October 31, 2006

County	Murder	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Unlawful Possession Weapon	Other	Total
Atlantic	-	2	7	72	2	83
Bergen	2	3	6	63	-	74
Burlington	-	3	2	71	-	76
Camden	5	16	15	105	4	145
Cape May	-	-	-	13	-	13
Cumberland	1	2	8	20	-	31
Essex	7	121	54	251	3	436
Gloucester	-	1	3	23	2	29
Hudson	2	8	1	46	1	58
Hunterdon	-	-	1	16	-	17
Mercer	1	8	5	52	2	68
Middlesex	2	3	8	64	1	78
Monmouth	-	2	3	32	1	38
Morris	1	1	2	35	-	39
Ocean	5	1	4	46	1	57
Passaic	2	3	6	35	1	47
Salem	-	-	1	15	1	17
Somerset	-	2	-	21	1	24
Sussex	-	-	-	14	-	14
Union	2	7	4	67	-	80
Warren	-	-	-	15	-	15
Statewide	30	183	130	1,076	20 ¹	1,439

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 2005 - October 2006
(Current Report Year)

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	-	-
Union	-	-	-	3	-	3
Warren	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide	-	-	4	63	1	67

During the current 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 3
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	-	-	-	-	-	0
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	-	-
Union	-	-	-	1	-	1
Warren	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide	-	4	6	61	1	70

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 4
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 5
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 6
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
TOTAL	30	166	124	998	17⁴	1,403

² Reflects 16 annual periods, November 1st through October 31st. Does not include 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.

