

## Statistics on Assaults Against Police Officers in Connecticut (2009-2016)

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July 6, 2017 | 2017-R-0085

### Issue

Summarize the number of assaults against police officers in Connecticut, including the case dispositions and criminal penalties and compare the New England states', New York's, and New Jersey's penalties for such a crime. (This report updates OLR Report [2009-R-0463](#).)

### Summary

The number of assaults against police officers in Connecticut has averaged around 800 per year from 2007-2015, the last year for which credible data is available. As Table 1 shows, the number of assaults during this period reached a high of 902 in 2012 and a low of 696 in 2015.

By law, assaulting a police officer is a Class C felony, punishable by one to 10 years in prison, a fine up to \$10,000, or both ([CGS § 53a-167c](#)). This provision also applies to assaults on public safety, emergency medical, public transit, or health care personnel, among others.

The Judicial Department compiles these and other crime statistics based on the number of times someone is charged with a criminal offense. Because the database does not break down the charges brought under this statute by the type of officer assaulted, we can only report the aggregate number of charges and outcomes for assaulting all personnel, not just police officers. As Table 2 shows, from 2009-2016, the average annual number of charges brought under [CGS § 53a-167c](#) is 928. Approximately 28% of the cases during this time period had an outcome of guilty.

With the exception of New Hampshire, all the New England States, as well as New Jersey and New York have statutes that make assaulting a police officer a higher penalty than an assault on other people. As Table 3 shows, New York appears to have the most stringent punishment for this crime, three to 15 years in prison and up to a \$5,000 fine. Conversely, Massachusetts appears to have the most lenient punishment, 90 days to two and a half years in prison and a fine from \$500 to \$5,000.

## Statistics on Assaults Against Police Officers in Connecticut

Table 1 summarizes the number of assaults against police officers in Connecticut from 2007 – 2015.

**Table 1: Assaults Against Police Officers in Connecticut, 2007-2015**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Assaults</b>
2007	860
2008	770
2009	787
2010	897
2011	853
2012	902
2013	728
2014	713
2015	696

Source: Connecticut Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program,  
Available at <http://www.dir.ct.gov/dps/ucr/ucr.aspx>.

## Outcome of Prosecution Under [CGS § 53a-167c](#) (2009-2016)

Table 2 summarizes the charges and disposition of cases brought under [CGS § 53a-167c](#) from FY 2009-2016 using data provided by the Judicial Department. The data is based on offenses disposed of by the courts, which the court can do in a number of ways (e.g., dismissal, plea, or jury verdict). Additionally, because an individual is often charged with multiple offenses in the same case, some charges might be dismissed as part of an agreement to plead guilty to other charges. For example, if an individual was charged under [CGS § 53a-167c](#) and another crime, then worked out a plea deal for the other crime that did not include the assault charge, that offense would be categorized as a dismissal.

**Table 2: Outcome of Prosecution Under [CGS § 53a-167c](#) (2009-2016)**

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Charges</i>	<i>Guilty</i>	<i>Not Guilty</i>	<i>Dismissed</i>	<i>Nolle</i>	<i>Not Prosecuted</i>
2009	1028	272	4	174	567	11
2010	1014	267	7	171	554	15
2011	947	286	3	164	490	4
2012	936	246	1	192	494	3
2013	918	273	6	215	422	2
2014	903	245	4	191	463	0
2015	848	248	2	196	401	1
2016	829	230	3	187	409	0

Source: Judicial Department

## Northeast States' Penalties

Table 3 compares the New England states', New York's and New Jersey's penalties for assaulting public safety officers.

**Table 3: Comparison of Northeast States' Penalties for Assaulting Public Safety Officers**

<i>State and Statute Citation</i>	<i>Imprisonment</i>	<i>Fine</i>
<b>Connecticut</b> CGS § 53a-167c	1-10 years	Up to \$10,000
<b>Maine</b> Me. Rev. Stat. Ann. tit. 17-a § 752-A	Up to five years	Up to \$5,000
<b>Massachusetts</b> Mass. Gen. Laws Ch. 265 § 13D	Up to 90 days and two and half years	Not less than \$500 nor more than \$5,000
<b>New Hampshire</b>	No Statute	
<b>New Jersey</b> N.J. Stat. § 2C:12-1(b)(5)(a)	If victim suffers bodily injury: three to five years  If victim does not suffer bodily injury: up to 18 months	Up to \$15,000  Up to \$10,000
<b>New York</b> N.Y. Penal Law §§ 120.08 & 120.11	Assault: three to 15 years  Aggravated Assault: three to 25 years	Up to \$5,000 for either assault or aggravated assault
<b>Rhode Island</b> R.I. Gen. Laws § 11-5-5	Up to three years	Up to \$1,500
<b>Vermont</b> Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 13 §§ 1024 & 1028	1 <sup>st</sup> offense: up to one year  2 <sup>nd</sup> offense: up to 10 years	Up to \$5,000

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