



## Violence, population decrease in NY prisons

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There were slightly fewer attacks on inmates and staff in 2011 than in 2010 despite a decrease in staff levels, according to new statistics distributed this week by the state Department of Corrections and Community Supervision.

There were 563 inmate assaults on staff and 666 inmate assaults on other inmates, with about 80 percent coming at maximum security prisons like Auburn Correctional Facility.

In 2010, there were 577 staff assaults and 675 inmate assaults.

The statistics count a broad range of incidents as attacks, including those that cause no pain or injury.

More than 95 percent of the incidents did not result in an injury and only one-tenth of 1 percent resulted in serious injury.

Through March 2012, inmate on staff assaults are down by about one third compared to the first quarter of 2011.

The small decrease in violence is encouraging when compared to DOCCS staff levels, which have gone down by 12.6 percent -- a loss of 2,795 positions among officers -- since 2000.

Over the same period, the inmate population decreased 23 percent from 72,649 to 55,945, according to DOCCS.

The economic fallout from prison closures and staff cuts, as well as the safety implications for remaining staff, has been a major point of contention between DOCCS and unions, which argue that prisons across the state are overcrowded.

In a statement, NYSCOPBA President Donn Rowe called the 2012 violence decrease "a small snapshot" that doesn't tell the whole story.

[Read More \[http://auburnpub.com/news/local/violence-population-decrease-in-ny-prisons/article\\_26a1fbbe-d2c7-5178-887e-f6dcf657e864.html\]](http://auburnpub.com/news/local/violence-population-decrease-in-ny-prisons/article_26a1fbbe-d2c7-5178-887e-f6dcf657e864.html).

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