



**New York State Correctional Officers  
& Police Benevolent Association, Inc.**

***“Keeping New York Safe”***

**As 2022 Draws to a Close, Data Shows New York’s Prisons are  
More Violent than Ever Before**

*State Data Indicates Single Year Records for Assaults-on-Staff and  
Inmate-on-Inmate Assaults Set in 2022*

*The Implementation of the HALT Act Clearly Served as a Catalyst for an  
Increased Violence Rate in New York Correctional Facilities*

*Union Renews Call to Repeal the HALT Act and Restore Safety into New  
York’s Prisons and Jails*

***For Immediate Release  
January 13, 2023***

**Albany, NY** – The New York State Correctional Officers & Police Benevolent Association, Inc. (NYSCOPBA) is demanding the New York State Legislature address the skyrocketing violence within New York’s correctional facilities after state-maintained data reveals 2022 is the single most violence year in New York State history. The union is calling on a full repeal of the Humane Alternatives for Long Term (HALT) Solitary Confinement Act, as the law has led to a significant increase of violent assaults in prisons since its enactment. The HALT Act, which severely limits, or in some cases eliminates, the ability to place incarcerated individuals in Special Housing Units separated from the general population, was implemented in all state-run correctional facilities on April 1, 2022.

**NYSOPBA President Michael Powers said:** “For nearly nine months, thousands of people who work in or reside in prison, have been forced to endure the some of the most violent conditions New York has ever experienced. The HALT Act has dismantled any semblance of safety measures for staff or incarcerated individuals alike, by stripping the ability to separate violent predators from their prey for any meaningful amount of time and the data clearly reflects that. It’s infuriating to watch these legislators who so vocally supported the HALT Act, sit idly by as the numbers skyrocket and our members suffer. Now more than ever we need the New York State Legislature to put common sense over political agendas and address the skyrocketing violence we’ve been experiencing since the enactment of the HALT Act. The time is now to repeal HALT before another individual has to needlessly suffer from this State-created danger.”

According to numbers maintained by the NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS), the single year records for inmate-on-staff assaults and inmate-on-inmate assaults were both set in 2022. From January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022, there were 1489 assaults-on-staff and 1486 inmate-on-inmate assaults recorded, topping the previous single year marks, 1177 assaults-on-staff and 1265 inmate-on-inmate assaults respectively. In total, 2975 prison assaults recorded shatters the previous record of 2298, set in 2019.

The data further reveals prison violence spiked dramatically after the implementation of the HALT Act. Since April 1, 2022, the date the HALT Act took effect in New York’s prisons and jails, overall violence in New York State correctional facilities rose 31%. In the 9 months of the HALT Act, 2379 assaults were recorded in prison, a rate of over 8.6 assaults/day. In the months prior to HALT, the rate of daily assaults was only 6.6 assaults/day. Individually, inmate-on-staff assaults increased approximately 33%, while inmate-on-inmate assaults climbed 28%.

“The numbers are simply alarming and should serve as a wakeup call to anyone who isn’t paying attention. HALT has created a new level of violence our correctional facilities has never experienced before,” **President Powers said.** “Despite what the sponsors of the HALT Act believe, HALT doesn’t make our prisons safer, as it has only emboldened the most violence individuals who reside in our facilities. Our members, who are severely overworked and understaffed, need the

elected leaders of this State to show that they care about the safety and security of the State's workforce, as well as the well-being of the incarcerated community, by repealing the HALT Act immediately."