



Bureau of Justice Statistics

Executive Summary

April 1999, NCJ 175712

Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics, 1997

Data for Individual State and Local Agencies with 100 or More Officers

As of June 1997, there were more than 700 general purpose State and local law enforcement agencies with 100 or more full-time sworn personnel that included 50 or more uniformed officers responding to calls for service. These larger agencies collectively employed about 381,000 full-time sworn personnel, including about 226,000 officers assigned to respond to calls for service.

Nearly all of these agencies provided data in response to the 1997 Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics (LEMAS) survey sponsored by the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Included among these respondents were 454 municipal police departments, 167 county sheriffs' departments, 30 county police departments, and the 49 primary State law enforcement agencies operating in each State except Hawaii.

Personnel

In 1997, the Nation's larger municipal police departments employed an average of 23 full-time officers per 10,000 city residents. Larger county police and sheriffs' departments employed 13 and 12 officers per 10,000 county residents, respectively. The 49

Item description	Local law enforcement agencies				Primary State law enforcement agencies
	Total	County police	Municipal police	Sheriff	
Number of agencies by number of full-time sworn personnel					
1,000 or more	55	7	34	14	15
500-999	68	4	39	25	17
250-499	133	11	74	48	11
100-249	395	8	307	80	6
Total number of —					
Full-time employees	436,857	29,361	289,278	118,218	82,261
Full-time sworn officers	326,968	22,479	225,820	78,669	54,206
Average number of —					
Full-time employees per 10,000 residents	25	17	29	17	4
Full-time sworn officers per 10,000 residents	19	13	23	12	2
Median percent change in number of full-time employees 1993-97					
Total employees	10%	9%	9%	15%	7%
Sworn officers	9	9	9	13	4
Civilian employees	10	8	8	13	6

primary State police agencies employed an average of about 2 officers per 10,000 State residents.

From 1993 to 1997 the median agency increase in number of full-time sworn personnel was 13% among sheriffs' departments, 9% among county and municipal police departments, and 4% among State police agencies.

Among county and municipal police departments, an average of 90% of the sworn personnel worked in field operations, and an average of 63% were uniformed officers with regular duties that included responding to calls for service.

In sheriffs' departments a smaller average percentage of officers worked in field operations (57%) and responded to calls for service (42%) because more officers were assigned to jail-related (27%) and court-related (8%) duties. Across all types of agencies, an average of 5% of sworn personnel worked in administration, and 3% in technical support.

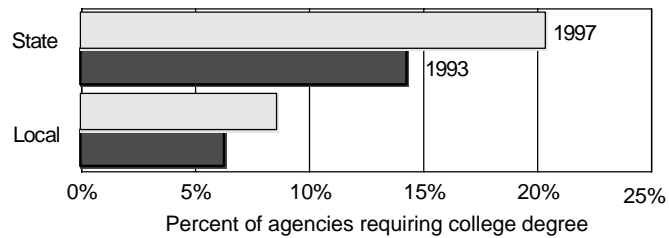
Sheriffs' departments (15%) employed a higher average percentage of female officers than county (11%), municipal (9%), or State (5%) police agencies. The average percentage of sworn personnel who were members of a racial or ethnic minority was 23% for county police departments, 19% for municipal police departments, 17% for sheriffs' departments, and 12% for State police agencies.

Nearly all law enforcement agencies with 100 or more officers screened applicants for sworn positions by means of a personal interview, background investigation, criminal record check, driving record check, and a medical exam. About 9 in 10 required psychological testing and a written aptitude exam. More than 4 in 5 required applicants to take a drug test, and nearly two-thirds administered a polygraph exam to applicants.

Nearly all of the 49 primary State police agencies (92%) had some type of residency requirement for new officers. About three-fifths of local law enforcement agencies with 100 or more officers had a residency requirement.

Percent of law enforcement agencies that required new officers to have a 2-year or 4-year college degree, 1993 and 1997

Law enforcement agencies with 100 or more full-time sworn personnel



In 1997, 16% of State police agencies required a 2-year college degree, and 4% required a 4-year degree. County police were the next most likely to require either a 2-year (13%) or 4-year (3%) degree. Among large municipal police agencies, 9% had a degree requirement, with 2% requiring a 4-year degree. Among sheriffs' departments, 6% required a degree, including 1% with a 4-year degree requirement.

The median number of hours of classroom training required of new officers was highest in State police agencies (823), and lowest in sheriffs' departments (448). The requirements for county and municipal police were 760 and 640 hours, respectively. The median field training hours required was 480 hours for county and municipal police, 436 for sheriffs' departments, and 360 for State police.

Community policing

Thanks to the support of the Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, the 1997 LEMAS survey was the first in the series to collect data on agency policies and practices as they relate to community policing. A majority of the Nation's larger county (63%) and municipal (61%) police agencies reported they had a formally written community policing plan, compared to fewer than half of sheriffs' departments (38%) and State police agencies (33%).

About four-fifths of larger county (80%) and municipal (79%) police departments had full-time community policing officers, with an average of 20 such officers each. Among larger sheriffs' departments, two-thirds had full-time community policing officers, with an average of 11 each.

About three-fourths of larger county (77%) and municipal (74%) police agencies operated one or more community substations during 1997, as did about two-thirds of sheriffs' departments (66%), and two-fifths of State police agencies (39%).

In a large majority of municipal (80%) and county (73%) police departments with 100 or more officers, all new officer recruits received community policing training. This was true in less than half of larger sheriffs' departments (49%) and State police agencies (41%). In the majority of these latter two types of agencies, however, at least some recruits received such training.

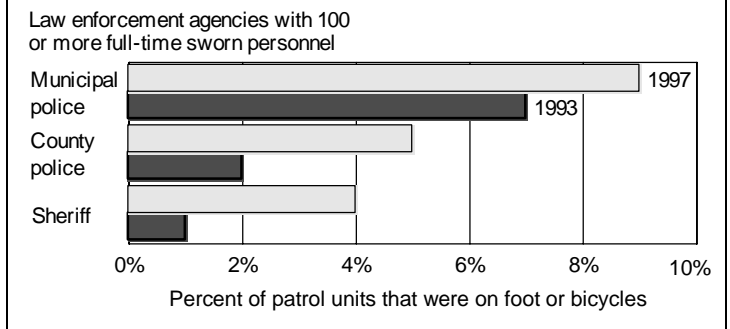
A large percentage of the municipal police (91%), county police (83%), and sheriffs' (79%) departments with 100 or more officers trained at least some of their in-service officers in community policing. Most State police agencies (57%) did so as well.

Two-thirds of larger local law enforcement agencies offered community policing training to citizens, compared to about a fourth of State agencies.

During the 12-month period ending June 30, 1997, nearly two-thirds of larger local law enforcement agencies (65%) formed problem-solving partnerships with community groups, local agencies, or others through written agreements. A majority (55%) also actively encouraged patrol officers to engage in problem-solving projects that utilized community policing concepts.

Nearly all larger local law enforcement agencies met with community groups during the 12-month period ending June 30, 1997. The largest percentages met with neighborhood associations (96%), school groups (88%), and business groups (82%). Many also met with tenants' associations (70%), youth service organizations (67%), advocacy groups (61%), and religious groups (61%). Nearly half surveyed citizens regarding their satisfaction with police services (49%) and their perceptions of crime problems (44%).

Average percent of patrol units that were on foot or bicycles, 1993 and 1997



Operations

All State and local law enforcement agencies with 100 or more officers used automobiles for routine patrol during 1997. A majority of municipal police departments also used bicycle (76%), motorcycle (68%), and foot (55%) patrol routinely. A majority of county police departments used motorcycle (63%) and bicycle (57%) patrol.

The average percentage of all patrol units that were deployed in automobiles ranged from 97% in State police agencies to 84% for municipal police. Municipal police departments used the most motorcycle (5%), bicycle (5%) and foot (4%) patrol units. The use of foot and bike units was greater in 1997 than in 1993 for municipal police, county police, and sheriffs' departments.

More than three-fourths of the Nation's larger municipal police (85%), county police (80%), and sheriffs' (75%) departments participated in an enhanced (or expanded) 9-1-1 system in 1997. From 1993 to 1997, the overall percentage of larger local law enforcement agencies with enhanced 9-1-1 increased from 77% to 83%.

In addition to responding to citizen calls for service, all but a few of the municipal, county, and State police agencies with 100 or more officers also handled the enforcement of traffic laws and the investigation of traffic accidents. Most sheriffs' departments enforced traffic laws (88%) and investigated accidents (75%) as well.

About 9 in 10 large local law enforcement agencies and 3 in 4 State agencies performed Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) operations. A majority of sheriffs' departments had responsibility for search and rescue (75%) and underwater recovery (62%), and about half handled bomb disposal (49%). Most county police agencies handled bomb disposal (60%) and search and rescue (53%) and nearly half were responsible for underwater recovery (43%). Nearly half of State police agencies performed search and rescue (47%) and bomb disposal (45%) functions.

A large percentage of county (93%) and municipal (82%) police agencies with 100 or more officers operated a full-time drug enforcement unit. About two-thirds of sheriffs' departments (69%) and State police agencies (65%) operated such a unit.

About three-fourths of county police (77%), municipal police (76%), and sheriffs' (75%) departments participated in a multi-agency drug enforcement task force during 1997, as did about half of the State police agencies. More than 90% of the agencies of each type had receipts from a drug asset forfeiture program during fiscal 1997.

Nearly all sheriffs' departments with 100 or more officers performed court-related functions such as executing arrest warrants (98%), providing court security (93%) and serving civil process (93%). Nearly all municipal police (93%) and county police (87%) also executed arrest warrants.

About 5 in 6 sheriffs' departments with 100 or more officers operated at least 1 jail facility during 1997, as did about 1 in 4 municipal police departments. Just 1 county police agency and no State police agencies operated a jail.

A majority of larger county police (80%), municipal police (72%), and sheriffs' (56%) departments operated at least one temporary holding (lockup) facility separate from a jail. Eighteen percent of State police agencies operated a lockup facility.

Expenditures and pay

During fiscal 1997, the median total operating expenditure per employee in law enforcement agencies with 100 or more officers was \$56,800 for State police, \$55,500 for county police, \$54,000 for municipal police, and \$49,200 for sheriffs' departments. When only sworn personnel are included, the medians were \$82,600 for State police, \$77,500 for sheriffs' departments, \$73,500 for county police, and \$70,700 for municipal police.

The mean starting salary for entry-level officers was highest in municipal police agencies (\$29,859), followed by county police (\$27,901), State police (\$26,877), and sheriffs' departments (\$25,994). Officer salaries increased by an average of about 10% after 1 year of experience.

A majority of large municipal police (72%) and sheriffs' (62%) departments authorized educational incentive pay for officers, compared to 40% of county police and 20% of State police. County police were the most likely to authorize shift differential pay (63%), merit pay (60%), and hazardous duty pay (47%).

Equipment

State police agencies operated an average of 102 cars per 100 officers. Among local agencies, county police operated an average of 81 cars per 100 officers, compared to 60 per 100 for sheriffs' departments and 57 per 100 for municipal police.

Eighty-six percent of State law enforcement agencies operated at least one airplane. This was a much higher percentage than for sheriffs' (27%), county police (20%) or municipal police (6%) departments.

About two-thirds of State law enforcement agencies (69%) operated at least one helicopter. This was also a higher percentage than for county police (47%), sheriffs' (39%), or municipal police (14%) departments.

Sheriffs' departments (76%) were about twice as likely as county (40%) or State (37%) police agencies to use boats and about 3 times as likely as municipal police (26%) to do so.

All but a few of the State and local law enforcement agencies with 100 or more officers authorized their officers to use semiautomatic sidearms. About two-thirds of the State police agencies authorized the 40-caliber version and about half the 9mm. More than two-thirds of municipal police (74%), sheriffs' (69%) and county police (67%) departments authorized 9mm semiautomatic sidearms. A majority of sheriffs' departments also authorized their officers to use .40-caliber semiautomatic sidearms.

About two-fifths of larger sheriffs' (41%) and municipal police (39%) departments required all field officers to wear body armor compared to about a fourth of State and county police agencies.

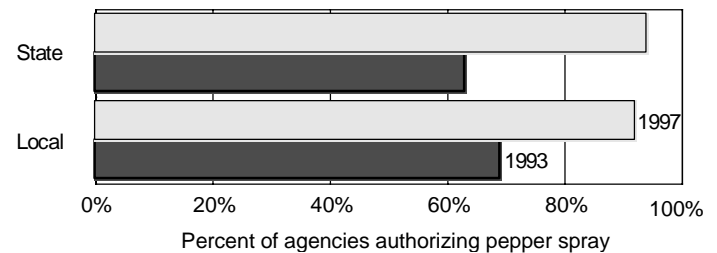
The use of batons was authorized by all but a few agencies, with the collapsible variety the most likely to be authorized by both State (78%) and local (71%) agencies. Pepper spray was also a widely authorized type of nonlethal weapon, with over 90% of the agencies of each type allowing for its use. For each agency type, this was an increase over 1993 levels.

After batons and pepper spray, flash/bang grenades were the next most authorized nonlethal weapon, with 73% of local and 59% of State law enforcement agencies authorizing them.

About three-fourths of State police agencies used video cameras in at least some patrol cars during 1997, as did a majority of larger sheriffs' (57%) and county (53%) police agencies. Municipal police departments (41%) were the least likely to be using in-car video cameras.

Percent of law enforcement agencies authorizing the use of pepper spray, 1993 and 1997

Law enforcement agencies with 100 or more full-time sworn personnel



About two-thirds of State police agencies (69%) were using tire deflation spikes in 1997. Among local law enforcement agencies with 100 or more officers, nearly half of sheriffs' departments (47%) used them compared to about a fourth of county (27%) and municipal (22%) police departments.

Nearly three-fifths of larger county police agencies (57%) were using stolen vehicle tracking devices, compared to about a third of municipal police (35%) and a fifth of sheriffs' and State police agencies.

Computers and information systems

More than 90% of State police agencies used some type of mobile computer or digital terminal in 1997, as did 78% of larger local law enforcement agencies. Laptops were used by a majority of both State (88%) and local (62%) agencies. Car-mounted digital terminals were used by about half of municipal police agencies compared to about a third of other agencies.

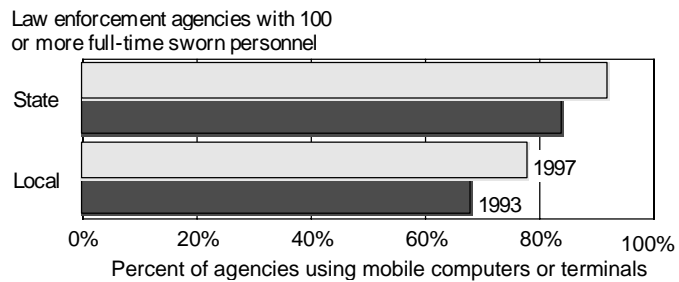
During 1997 the Nation's larger law enforcement agencies primarily used paper reports to transmit field report data to their central information system. Some State police (10%), municipal police (8%), and sheriffs' (7%) departments used computer methods such as diskette transfer or laptop downloads.

In about half of larger local law enforcement agencies and a third of State agencies, at least some officers had direct computer access to vehicle and driving records while in the field. In more than a fourth of larger local law enforcement agencies, at least some officers in the field had direct computer access to criminal history (28%) and calls for service (27%) information.

About half of larger local law enforcement agencies used digital imaging for mug shots during 1997, including 68% of sheriffs' departments. Fifty percent of county police departments used digital imaging for suspect composites, as did 41% of sheriffs' departments and 30% of municipal police departments.

A majority of State and local law enforcement agencies with 100 or more officers either owned or had access to an Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS). This included four-fifths of county police agencies and nearly three-fourths of sheriffs' departments.

Percent of law enforcement agencies using mobile computers or terminals, 1993 and 1997



Three-fifths of larger local law enforcement agencies used computers for crime mapping during 1997. Nearly half were geocoding and mapping incident (49%) and calls for service (44%) data. More than a third were geocoding and mapping arrest data (36%).

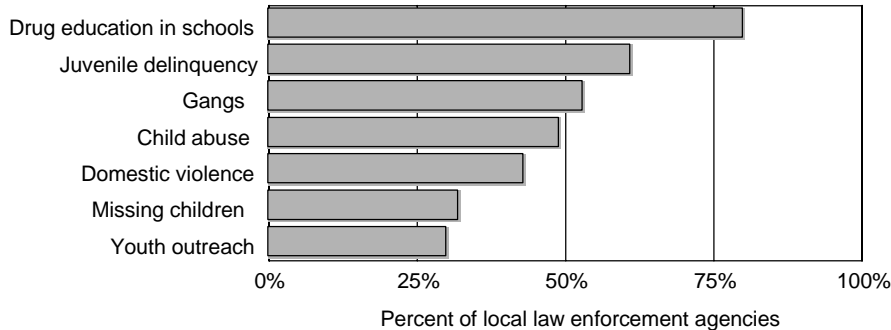
More than three-fourths of larger local law enforcement agencies maintained computerized files on calls for service (94%), arrests (93%), incident reports (88%), evidence (81%), criminal histories (78%), and warrants (77%).

Computers and information systems in State and local law enforcement agencies with 100 or more sworn personnel

item description	Local law enforcement agencies				Primary State law enforcement agencies
	Total	County police	Municipal police	Sheriff	
Percent of agencies in which primary method of transmitting criminal incident reports to central information system is —					
Computer medium (disk transfer)	4%	0%	5%	2%	8%
Data device (laptop download)	3	3	3	5	2
Paper report	86	90	87	84	90
Telephone line (voice)	5	7	4	7	0
Wireless transmission (cellular, UHF)	1	0	1	2	0
Percent of agencies using digital imaging for —					
Fingerprints	44%	50%	39%	58%	35%
Mug shots	51	40	45	68	14
Suspect composites	34	50	30	41	14
Percent of agencies that maintained computerized files on —					
Arrests	93%	90%	93%	94%	73%
Calls for service	94	90	96	90	57
Criminal histories	78	83	75	86	53
Incident reports	88	90	88	90	69
Evidence	81	87	78	86	47
Warrants	77	80	70	95	49

Percent of local agencies operating full-time special units for youth and family problems, 1997

Special units in local law enforcement agencies with 100 or more full-time sworn personnel



Policies and programs

All local law enforcement agencies with 100 or more officers had written policies pertaining to the use of deadly force. In addition, nearly all had directives on employee conduct and appearance (99%), handling juveniles (97%), less-than-lethal force (97%), citizen complaints (96%), domestic disputes (96%), and off-duty employment (95%).

All State law enforcement agencies had written directives on deadly force, employee conduct and appearance, and off-duty employment, and 94% had directives pertaining to citizen complaints and less-than-lethal force.

A majority of both State and local agencies had written directives on discretionary arrest powers, employee counseling, maximum work hours for officers, handling mentally ill persons, and strip searches.

All but a few of the State and local law enforcement agencies with 100 or more officers had a written policy pertaining to vehicle pursuits. Both local (82%) and State (59%) agencies were most likely to have a policy that restricted vehicle pursuits by specific criteria such as type of offense or speed. State agencies (37%) were more likely than local ones (10%) to have a policy that leaves pursuit decisions to the officer's discretion. In a small percentage of municipal police (4%) and sheriffs' (3%) departments, the official agency policy discouraged all vehicle pursuits.

Many larger local law enforcement agencies operated special units with personnel assigned full-time to address specific community problems. Four-fifths had a full-time unit for drug education in schools, and more than half operated a unit to deal with juvenile delinquency (61%) and gang (53%) problems. Nearly half had full-time special units for child abuse (49%) and domestic violence (43%).