



## Police Employees

### *Definition*

The UCR Program defines law enforcement officers as individuals who ordinarily carry a firearm and a badge, have full arrest powers, and are paid from governmental funds set aside specifically for sworn law enforcement representatives.

### *User's note*

Because of law enforcement's differing service requirements and functions as well as the varied demographic traits and characteristics of jurisdictions, use caution when drawing comparisons between agency staffing levels based upon police employment data from the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. The data merely reflect existing staffing levels and are not preferred officer strengths recommended by the FBI. In addition, it must be remembered that the totals given for sworn officers for any particular agency reflect not only the patrol officers on the street but also officers assigned to various other duties, such as those in administrative and investigative positions as well as those assigned to special teams.

### *Data collection*

- Each year, law enforcement agencies across the United States report the number of sworn law enforcement officers and civilians in their agencies as of October 31 to the UCR Program.
- Civilian employees include full-time personnel such as clerks, radio dispatchers, meter attendants, stenographers, jailers, correctional officers, and mechanics.

### *Overview*

- In 2006, sworn officers accounted for 69.2 percent of all law enforcement personnel. (Based on Table 74.)

- The rate of full-time law enforcement employees (civilian and sworn) per 1,000 inhabitants in the Nation for 2006 was 3.5; the rate of sworn officers was 2.4 per 1,000. (Based on Table 74.) The UCR Program computes these rates by taking the number of employees, dividing by the population of the agency's jurisdiction, and multiplying by 1,000.
- Female employees accounted for 61.6 percent of all full-time civilian law enforcement employees in 2006.
- Males accounted for 88.2 percent of all full-time sworn law enforcement officers in 2006.

***What you won't find on this page:***

- The annual UCR publication *Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted* contains extensive information on line-of-duty deaths (felonious and accidental) and assaults on city, county, state, tribal, and federal officers. The publication can be found at [www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm#leoka](http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm#leoka).
- The raw data used to compile these tables are available in ASCII upon request. For more information about master data files, contact the FBI's Criminal Justice Information Services Division via e-mail at [cjis\\_comm@leo.gov](mailto:cjis_comm@leo.gov) or by telephone at (304) 625-4995.