



Police Employees

Definition

The Uniform Crime Reporting (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 to pay sworn law enforcement. Civilian employees include full-time agency personnel such as clerks, radio dispatchers, meter attendants, stenographers, jailers, correctional officers, and mechanics.

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 comparing agency staffing levels based upon police employment data from these tables. The data merely reflect existing staffing levels and are not preferred officer strengths recommended by the FBI. Please also note 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 administrative and investigative duties as well as those assigned to special teams/task forces.

Data collection

Each year, law enforcement agencies across the United States report to the UCR Program the total number of sworn law enforcement officers and civilians in their employ as of October 31.

Overview

- In 2007, sworn officers accounted for 68.8 percent of 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 2007 was 3.6; 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 61.5 percent of full-time civilian law enforcement employees in 2007.
- Males accounted for 88.3 percent of full-time sworn law enforcement officers in 2007.

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.