

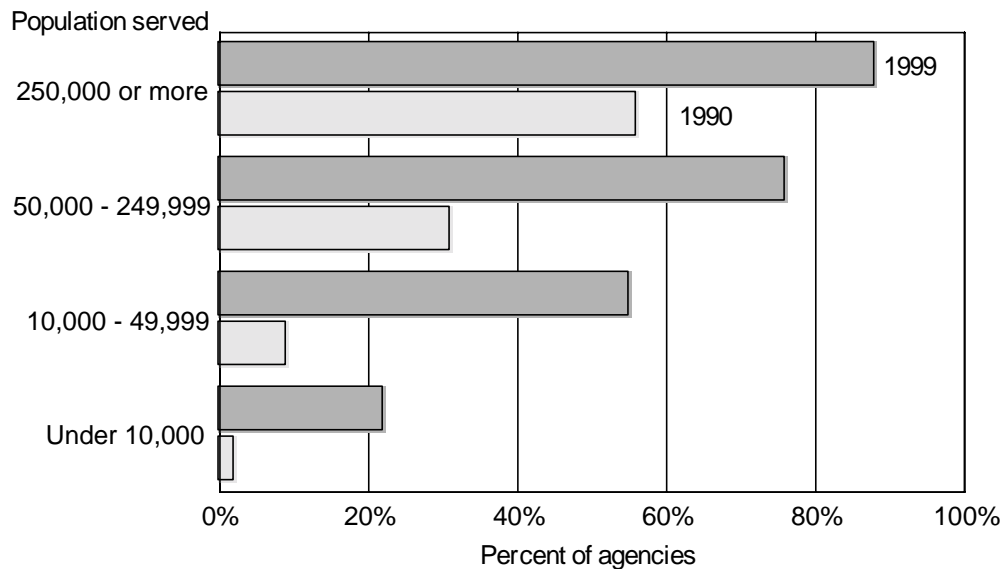


Bureau of Justice Statistics

Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics

Local Police Departments 1999

Local police departments using in-field computers or terminals, 1990 and 1999





Local Police Departments 1999

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The 1999 LEMAS data were collected and processed by the U.S. Census Bureau under the supervision of Stephanie Brown of the Governments Division. Census Bureau staff on the project included Carolyn Gates, Theresa Reitz, Martha Haselbush, Martha Greene, Bill Bryner, Patricia Torreyson, and Henrietta Herrin.

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Data presented in this report may be obtained from the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data at the University of Michigan, 1-800-999-0960. The report and data are available on the Internet at: <www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs>.

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Highlights

Personnel

- As of June 1999, the more than 13,000 local police departments nationwide had an estimated 556,631 full-time employees. This included about 436,000 sworn personnel.
- From 1997 to 1999, the number of full-time local police employees increased by about 25,000, or 4.7%. When only sworn personnel are considered, employment increased by about 16,000 officers, or 3.8%.
- As of June 1999, the Nation's largest local police force, the New York City Police Department, had 39,099 full-time officers. This was about 3 times as many as the next largest, the Chicago Police Department (13,307 officers).
- Forty-six departments employed 1,000 or more officers, and these agencies accounted for about a third of all local police officers. Nearly 800 departments employed just 1 officer.
- About 282,000, or 65%, of all local police officers had regularly assigned duties that included responding to calls for service. The percent of officers assigned to respond to calls ranged from 90% in departments serving fewer than 2,500 residents to less than 60% in those serving 100,000 or more residents.

Operations

- From 1997 to 1999, the percent of residents served by a department that routinely used bicycle patrol increased from 66% to 76%, the percent served by a department that used routine foot patrol increased from 59% to 68%, and the percent served by a department using one or both of these types of patrol increased from 78% to 85%.
- In 1999, 88% of local police departments, employing 98% of all officers, participated in a 9-1-1 emergency telephone system. Sixty-seven percent of departments, employing 90% of all officers, had enhanced 9-1-1 in 1999, compared to 53% of departments, employing 80% of all officers, in 1997.

- Ninety-two percent of departments, employing 99% of all officers, were responsible for investigating at least some types of crimes. About two-fifths handled computer crime investigations, including more than two-thirds of those serving 10,000 or more residents.
- About 1 in 4 departments were responsible for providing court security, and 1 in 6 served civil process. Just 1 in 12 departments operated a jail.
- Nearly all departments had traffic and vehicle-related responsibilities such as enforcement of traffic laws (99%), accident investigation (98%), parking enforcement (90%), and traffic direction and control (87%).

Community policing

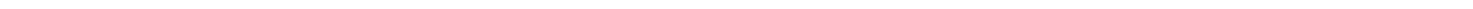
- More than 90% of the departments serving 25,000 or more residents had some type of community policing plan, and most of those serving 50,000 or more residents had a written plan.
- About 7 in 8 local police officers worked for a department that trained at least some new recruits in community policing skills such as problem-solving and building community partnerships. Most departments serving 10,000 or more residents offered such training to all recruits.
- Nearly two-thirds (64%) of departments had full-time community policing officers. Nationwide, an estimated 91,000, or 21%, of all local police officers were regularly engaged in community policing activities.
- Nearly a third (30%) of departments had full-time school resource officers, with a total of more than 9,100 assigned overall.
- Nearly all departments serving 10,000 or more residents regularly met with community groups. A majority of those serving 50,000 or more residents had formed problem-solving partnerships, and a majority of those serving 25,000 or more residents provided community policing training to citizens.

Computers and information systems

- All departments serving 25,000 or more residents used computers during 1999, as did nearly all of those serving 2,500 to 24,999 residents. Just 1% of all local police officers worked for a department not using computers.
- In 1999, 56% of local police dispatch systems were computer-aided, including nearly all of those in departments serving 50,000 or more residents. In 1990, 40% of departments used computer-aided dispatch.
- From 1990 to 1999, the percent of officers employed by a department with computerized arrest records increased from 81% to 95%. Increases were also observed for criminal histories (60% to 79%), warrants (68% to 78%), and summonses (28% to 52%).
- About a third of departments used computers for crime analysis (38%) and crime mapping (32%) during 1999, including most departments serving a population of 10,000 or more.
- From 1990 to 1999, the percent of local police officers working for a department using in-field computers or terminals increased from 31% to 73%. Local police departments had about 20 in-field computers or terminals per 100 officers as of June 1999.
- More than half of local police officers worked in a department where at least some officers in the field could use in-field computers to access information on wanted suspects (62%) or driving records (54%). About 2 in 5 officers were in departments where calls for service (41%) or criminal history (39%) records could be accessed.

Written policies and procedures

- Nearly all local police officers worked for a department which had written policies or procedures pertaining to conduct and appearance (99%), use of deadly force (99%), domestic disputes (97%), citizen complaints (96%), and the use of nonlethal force (96%).



The LEMAS survey

During 1999, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), as a part of its Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics (LEMAS) program, surveyed a nationally representative sample of State and local law enforcement agencies operating nationwide. Previous LEMAS surveys were conducted in 1987, 1990, 1993, and 1997.

This report presents data from the 1999 survey describing the more than 13,000 local police departments operating in the United States in terms of their personnel, operations, community policing initiatives, computers and information systems, and written policies. Comparisons are made with prior years where appropriate.

Nearly all local police departments are operated by municipal (86%) or township (13%) governments. As of 1996, about 100 general purpose local police departments were operated by tribal governments, and approximately 50 by county governments.

The 1999 LEMAS survey questionnaire was mailed to 3,319 State and local law enforcement agencies, and 3,246 of them provided data for a response rate of 97.8%. (See *Methodology* on page 20 for a description of sampling procedures.)

This report and its companion report (*Sheriffs' Offices 1999*, May 2001, NCJ 186479), summarize data collected from agencies of all sizes. Detailed agency-by-agency tabulations from the 1999 LEMAS survey were previously published for agencies with 100 or more officers (see *Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics, 1999: Data for Individual State and Local Agencies with 100 or More Officers*, November 2000, NCJ 184481).

Table 1. Employment by general purpose State and local law enforcement agencies in the United States, 1999

Type of agency	Number of agencies	Number of employees					
		Full-time			Part-time		
		Total	Sworn	Civilian	Total	Sworn	Civilian
Total	16,661	932,780	677,933	254,847	84,171	37,062	47,109
Local police	13,524	556,631	436,182	120,449	63,575	27,824	35,751
Sheriff	3,088	290,707	185,859	104,848	19,670	9,238	10,432
Primary State	49	85,442	55,892	29,550	926	0	926

Note: Data are for the pay period that included June 30, 1999. Table excludes State and local law enforcement agencies that serve special jurisdictional areas or have limited enforcement responsibilities. Sworn employees are those with general arrest powers. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

Personnel

As of June 30, 1999, local police departments had an estimated 556,631 full-time employees (table 1). About 436,000, or 78%, of full-time local police department employees were sworn officers. This accounted for nearly two-thirds (64%) of full-time officers working for State and local general purpose law enforcement agencies nationwide. Local police departments also employed about 28,000 part-time sworn officers.

The estimated 120,449 full-time nonsworn local police employees comprised nearly half (47%) of all nonsworn employees in general purpose law enforcement agencies. Local police departments had about 36,000 part-time nonsworn employees.

From 1990 to 1999, local police employment increased by about 97,000, or 21% C an average of 2.3% annually (figure 1). The number of full-time sworn officers increased by about 73,000, or 20%, during this period.

There were about 25,000 more full-time local police employees in 1999 than in 1997, an increase of 4.7%. When only sworn personnel are considered, local police employment increased by about 16,000, or 3.8%, from 1997 to 1999.

From 1990 to 1999, the number of full-time civilian local police employees rose from 96,890 to 120,449, an increase of 24.3%. This included an increase of about 9,000, or 8.2%, from 1997 to 1999.

Full-time employment by local police departments, 1990, 1993, 1997, and 1999

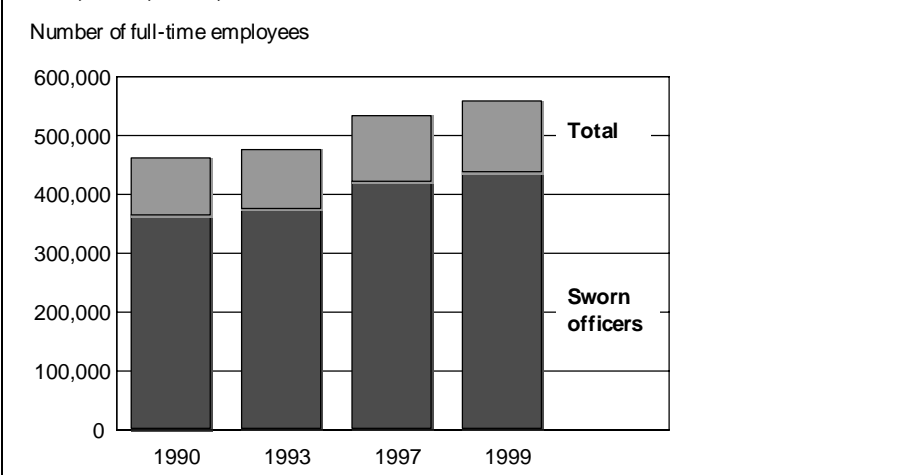


Figure 1

Nationwide, 573, or 4.2%, of local police departments employed at least 100 sworn personnel (table 2). This included 46 departments with 1,000 or more officers. An estimated 7,095, or 52.4%, of departments employed fewer than 10 sworn personnel, including nearly 800 with just 1 officer.

About a third of all full-time local police officers were employed by a department with 1,000 or more officers, and about three-fifths were employed by a department with at least 100 officers. Departments with fewer than 10 sworn personnel accounted for about 5% of all local police officers.

Table 2. Local police departments, by number of sworn and civilian personnel, 1999

Number of sworn personnel*	Agencies		Full-time sworn personnel		Full-time civilian personnel	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	13,524	100%	436,182	100%	120,449	100%
1,000 or more	46	0.3%	148,744	34.1%	42,798	35.5%
500-999	38	0.3	26,462	6.1	8,358	6.9
250-499	104	0.8	35,514	8.1	10,782	9.0
100-249	385	2.8	54,570	12.5	16,907	14.0
50-99	767	5.7	51,185	11.7	13,968	11.6
25-49	1,727	12.8	53,780	12.3	13,965	11.6
10-24	3,361	24.9	42,970	9.9	9,888	8.2
5-9	3,535	26.1	16,654	3.8	3,037	2.5
2-4	2,789	20.6	5,788	1.3	729	0.6
1	771	5.7	514	0.1	17	--

Note: Sworn employees are those with general arrest powers. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.
 --Less than 0.05%.
 *Includes both full-time and part-time employees.

The 50 largest local police departments, by total number of full-time sworn personnel, number of full-time sworn personnel per 10,000 residents, and percent of full-time sworn personnel regularly assigned to respond to calls for service, 1999

Jurisdiction	Full-time sworn personnel			Jurisdiction	Full-time sworn personnel		
	Total number	Number per 10,000 residents ^a	Percent responding to calls ^b		Total number	Number per 10,000 residents ^a	Percent responding to calls ^b
New York (NY)	39,099	53	54%	St. Louis (MO)	1,604	46	62%
Chicago (IL)	13,307	49	79	Jacksonville (FL)	1,502	22	60
Los Angeles (CA)	9,573	27	52	Atlanta (GA)	1,500	37	72
Philadelphia (PA)	7,013	47	59	Denver (CO)	1,440	29	43
Houston (TX)	5,433	31	55	Newark (NJ)	1,415	53	64
Detroit (MI)	4,016	40	52%	Prince George's Co. (MD)	1,405	18	58%
Washington (DC)	3,443	63	54	Charlotte-Mecklenberg Co. (NC)	1,363	31	43
Nassau Co. (NY)	3,103	24	42	San Jose (CA)	1,343	16	78
Baltimore (MD)	3,005	44	67	Seattle (WA)	1,252	24	61
Miami-Dade Co. (FL)	2,949	14	52	Nashville (TN)	1,245	24	33
Dallas (TX)	2,858	27	36%	Kansas City (MO)	1,215	28	42%
Suffolk Co. (NY)	2,648	20	43	Fort Worth (TX)	1,153	24	62
Phoenix (AZ)	2,532	22	41	Miami (FL)	1,117	31	61
Boston (MA)	2,226	40	69	Austin (TX)	1,100	20	44
San Francisco (CA)	2,186	30	47	El Paso (TX)	1,062	18	49
Honolulu (HI)	2,100	24	61%	Pittsburgh (PA)	1,061	30	66%
Milwaukee (WI)	2,079	35	63	Fairfax Co. (VA)	1,048	12	56
San Diego (CA)	2,028	17	46	Montgomery Co. (MD)	1,038	13	48
Clark Co. (NV) ^c	1,998	19	49	Indianapolis (IN)	1,037	14	58
San Antonio (TX)	1,986	19	45	Portland (OR)	1,008	21	46
Cleveland (OH)	1,837	37	53%	Cincinnati (OH)	1,004	29	65%
Memphis (TN)	1,815	30	73	Oklahoma City (OK)	978	21	48
Columbus (OH)	1,776	27	50	Buffalo (NY)	944	30	65
Baltimore Co. (MD)	1,639	23	55	Tampa (FL)	930	33	64
New Orleans (LA)	1,630	34	70	Minneapolis (MN)	917	26	50

Note: Sworn employees are those with general arrest powers. Officers not assigned to respond to calls for service typically were assigned to other functional areas of duty related to administration, investigations, technical support, jail operations, or court operations.

^aIn some cases, county populations were adjusted to more accurately reflect the population for which an agency provided law enforcement services.

^bIncludes all uniformed officers whose regularly assigned duties included responding to citizen calls for service.

^cLas Vegas Metropolitan Police.

Although 77% of local police departments served fewer than 10,000 residents, these agencies employed just 15% of all local police officers (table 3). About half of all officers served a jurisdiction with 100,000 or more residents, including nearly a fourth in jurisdictions with 1 million or more residents.

With 39,099 officers, New York City had a police force about 3 times as large as Chicago, the city with the second largest force (see box on page 2). While departments serving the largest cities had thousands of officers on average, those serving fewer than 2,500 residents had an average of just 3 full-time officers each (table 4).

Overall, nearly two-thirds (65%) of full-time sworn local police employees had regularly assigned duties that included responding to calls for service (table 5). By population category, the proportion of officers responding to calls ranged from about 3 in 5 in departments serving 50,000 or more residents, to more than 4 in 5 in those serving fewer than 10,000 residents.

Overall, 89% of sworn personnel worked in field operations (table 6). Officers working in the field operations area, but not assigned to respond to calls, often performed supervisory or investigative duties.

The next highest area of employment for sworn personnel was administration (6.2%). This included positions related to the chief's office, financial affairs, human resources, and internal affairs. About 4% of officers handled technical support duties primarily related to communications, fleet management, crime prevention, or training. Few officers were assigned duties related to jail (0.3%) or court (0.3%) operations.

Among civilian local police employees, most worked in technical support jobs (68.7%). Other areas of employment for nonsworn employees included field operations (11.1%), administration (9.2%), and jail operations (4.7%).

Table 3. Local police departments and full-time personnel, by size of population served, 1999

Population served	Agencies		Full-time sworn personnel		Full-time civilian personnel	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All sizes	13,524	100%	436,182	100%	120,449	100%
1,000,000 or more	16	0.1%	99,425	22.8%	28,460	23.6%
500,000-999,999	24	0.2	34,513	7.9	9,698	8.1
250,000-499,999	46	0.3	38,077	8.7	12,640	10.5
100,000-249,999	156	1.2	46,534	10.7	14,897	12.4
50,000-99,999	381	2.8	47,970	11.0	14,042	11.7
25,000-49,999	718	5.3	46,233	10.6	12,430	10.3
10,000-24,999	1,820	13.5	56,133	12.9	14,010	11.6
2,500-9,999	4,078	30.2	47,526	10.9	11,578	9.6
Under 2,500	6,285	46.5	19,771	4.5	2,694	2.2

Note: Sworn employees are those with general arrest powers. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

Table 4. Average number of employees in local police departments, by size of population served, 1999

Population served	Average number of employees					
	Full-time			Part-time		
	Total	Sworn	Civilian	Total	Sworn	Civilian
All sizes	41	32	9	5	2	3
1,000,000 or more	7,973	6,199	1,774	142	--	142
500,000-999,999	1,839	1,436	403	106	3	103
250,000-499,999	1,099	825	274	38	1	36
100,000-249,999	394	298	96	24	1	23
50,000-99,999	163	126	37	16	2	14
25,000-49,999	82	64	17	9	1	8
10,000-24,999	39	31	8	5	2	3
2,500-9,999	14	12	3	4	3	2
Under 2,500	4	3	--	2	2	--

Note: Sworn employees are those with general arrest powers. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. --Less than 0.5.

Table 5. Officers assigned to respond to citizen calls for service in local police departments, by size of population served, 1999

Population served	Full-time sworn personnel assigned to respond to citizen calls for service*	
	Number	Percent
All sizes	282,041	65%
1,000,000 or more	55,276	56%
500,000-999,999	20,393	59
250,000-499,999	21,303	56
100,000-249,999	27,056	58
50,000-99,999	29,333	61
25,000-49,999	30,784	67
10,000-24,999	41,542	74
2,500-9,999	38,610	81
Under 2,500	17,745	90

*Includes all uniformed officers whose regularly assigned duties included responding to citizen calls for service.

Table 6. Job function category of full-time employees in local police departments, 1999

Job function category	Percent of full-time employees	
	Sworn	Civilian
Total	100%	100%
Administration	6.2%	9.2%
Field operations	89.4	11.1
Technical support	3.6	68.7
Jail operations	0.3	4.7
Court operations	0.3	0.6
Other	0.2	5.6

Note: Sworn employees are those with general arrest powers. Percent calculations based on agencies with 10 or more full-time sworn or civilian employees.

Table 7. Authorized full-time strength of local police departments, and percent of authorized strength employed, by size of population served, 1999

Population served	Full-time employees			
	Sworn		Civilian	
	Authorized	Percent employed	Authorized	Percent employed
All sizes	446,924	97.6%	124,774	96.5%
1,000,000 or more	101,375	98.1%	29,030	98.0%
500,000-999,999	35,616	96.9	10,669	90.9
250,000-499,999	40,382	94.3	13,152	96.1
100,000-249,999	47,797	97.4	15,857	93.9
50,000-99,999	49,002	97.9	14,722	95.4
25,000-49,999	48,491	95.3	12,698	97.9
10,000-24,999	56,719	99.0	14,202	98.6
2,500-9,999	47,856	99.3	11,677	99.2
Under 2,500	19,686	100.4	2,769	97.3

Note: Sworn employees are those with general arrest powers.

As of June 30, 1999, local police departments collectively employed 97.6% of the maximum number of sworn personnel authorized by their budgets, and 96.5% of their authorized civilian employee strength (table 7). Actual-to-authorized ratios for sworn personnel ranged from about 100% among departments serving fewer than 2,500 residents to about 94% in those serving 250,000 to 499,999 residents. For nonsworn employees, departments serving 2,500 to 24,999 residents (99%) had the highest ratio, and those serving 500,000 to 999,999 residents (91%), the lowest.

Some local police departments partly offset officer shortages through the use of supplemental personnel such as sworn reserve or auxiliary officers. As of June 30, 1999, 43% of departments were using reserve or auxiliary sworn officers, with an average of 2 full-time and 5 part-time officers each (table 8).

Some departments utilized nonsworn volunteers such as community service officers or police service aides. As of June 30, 1999, 11% were using community service officers or police service aides, with an average of 3 full-time and 2 part-time each. Twelve percent used other types of nonsworn volunteers, with an average of 3 part-time volunteers each.

Table 8. Use of sworn reserve/auxiliary officers, and nonsworn community service officers/police service aides by local police departments, by size of population served, 1999

Population served	Reserve or auxiliary sworn officers			Community service officers or police service aides		
	Percent using	Average number		Percent using	Average number	
		Full-time	Part-time		Full-time	Part-time
All sizes	43%	2	5	11%	3	2
1,000,000 or more	37%	9	150	38%	37	11
500,000-999,999	37	0	85	37	33	11
250,000-499,999	46	5	31	43	23	3
100,000-249,999	48	4	18	47	11	4
50,000-99,999	47	11	13	41	6	3
25,000-49,999	42	6	8	34	3	2
10,000-24,999	40	3	8	17	2	2
2,500-9,999	42	2	5	8	1	2
Under 2,500	45	1	3	6	1	1

Nationwide, local police departments had about 14,000 full-time reserve officers and 31,000 part-time reserve officers (not shown in table). They also had about 4,200 community service officers and police service aides with about two-thirds of these working full-time. Departments utilized an additional 28,000 nonsworn volunteers, with nearly all working part-time.

Operations

Stations and substations

As of June 30, 1999, local police departments operated an estimated 3,566 district or precinct stations and 4,021 neighborhood or community

substations that were separate from headquarters (table 9). More than 9 in 10 departments serving 250,000 or more residents had district or precinct stations, and more than 8 in 10 had community substations. About 7 in 10 departments serving 50,000 to 249,999 residents had community substations.

Among departments operating such facilities, the average number of district or precinct stations ranged from 16 in jurisdictions with 1 million or more residents to 1 in those with fewer than 50,000 residents. For substations, the average number operated ranged from 14 in jurisdictions with 1 million or more residents to 1 in those with fewer than 10,000 residents.

Table 9. Stations and substations operated by local police departments, by size of population served, 1999

Population served	Agencies operating facilities separate from headquarters					
	District/precinct stations			Community substations		
	Percent operating	Number		Percent operating	Number	
		Total	Average		Total	Average
All sizes	20%	3,566	1	12%	4,021	2
1,000,000 or more	100%	255	16	87%	199	14
500,000-999,999	92	142	6	83	146	7
250,000-499,999	91	195	5	80	335	9
100,000-249,999	47	196	3	76	577	5
50,000-99,999	25	155	2	66	713	3
25,000-49,999	23	205	1	41	709	2
10,000-24,999	22	440	1	22	676	2
2,500-9,999	20	863	1	8	441	1
Under 2,500	18	1,113	1	3	225	1

Patrol and response

All local police departments provided patrol services during 1999, and all used automobiles for at least some of their routine patrol units (table 10). About half used foot patrol units, including nearly all departments serving a population of 1 million or more. Departments with routine foot patrol employed about three-fourths of all officers.

Nearly all departments (96%) serving 250,000 or more residents had routine bike patrols, as did more than 80% of departments serving a population of 50,000 to 249,999. Overall, 34% of departments, employing 78% of all officers, used bicycle patrol units on a routine basis.

Just 10% of departments used motorcycle patrol units on a routine basis, although 86% of those serving 100,000 or more residents did so. Departments using routine motorcycle patrol employed about three-fifths of all officers. Overall, few departments routinely scheduled marine (3%) or horse (1%) patrol units. However, a majority of the departments serving 500,000 or more residents did so.

About a fourth (24%) of departments used foot patrol for special events only. Nine percent used bicycles for special events patrol, but not routine patrol. Smaller percentages used motorcycle (3%), horse (2%), or marine (2%) patrol units exclusively for special events.

In 1999, 63% of departments used foot and/or bicycle patrol on a routine basis, up from 60% in 1997. Nearly all departments serving 50,000 or more residents used one or both of these patrol types, often in conjunction with community policing initiatives designed to enhance police-community interaction.

Of the approximately 195 million U.S. residents served by a local police department, 85% were served by one

Table 10. Types of patrol used on a routine basis by local police departments, by size of population served, 1999

Population served	Percent of agencies using each type of patrol on a routine basis					
	Automobile	Foot	Bicycle	Motorcycle	Marine	Horse
All sizes	100%	53%	34%	10%	3%	1%
1,000,000 or more	100%	94%	94%	88%	56%	62%
500,000-999,999	100	79	96	92	54	46
250,000-499,999	100	82	96	87	24	57
100,000-249,999	100	65	87	85	15	23
50,000-99,999	100	65	81	63	9	8
25,000-49,999	100	58	72	42	7	2
10,000-24,999	100	54	60	17	5	1
2,500-9,999	100	55	40	5	4	1
Under 2,500	100	50	14	1	1	--

--Less than 0.5%.

Percent of population served by a local police department using foot or bicycle patrol units on a routine basis, 1997 and 1999

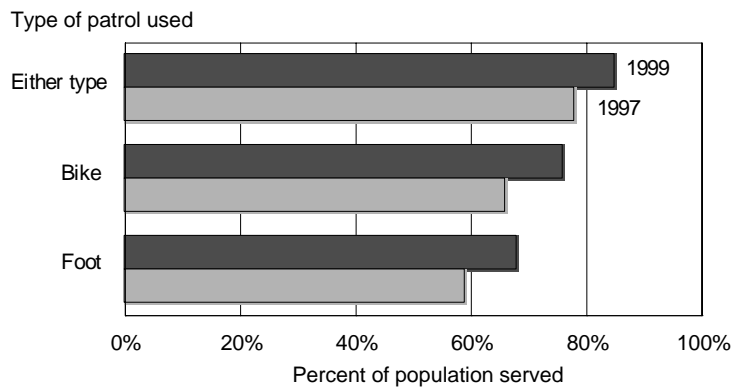


Figure 2

that used foot and/or bicycle patrol on a routine basis during 1999, compared to 78% in 1997 (figure 2). From 1997 to 1999 the percentage of residents served by a department using routine bicycle patrol went from 66% to 76%, and the percentage served by a department with foot patrol from 59% to 68%.

Dispatch

Thirty-eight percent of local police departments, employing 76% of all officers, had responsibility for dispatching citizen calls for service (table 11). This included more than 80% of the departments serving a population of 250,000 or more and more than 70% of those serving a population of 10,000 to 249,999.

Table 11. Dispatch functions of local police departments, by size of population served, 1999

Population served	Percent of agencies dispatching calls for service
All sizes	38%
1,000,000 or more	81%
500,000-999,999	79
250,000-499,999	87
100,000-249,999	78
50,000-99,999	69
25,000-49,999	76
10,000-24,999	72
2,500-9,999	48
Under 2,500	14

Table 12. Participation in a 9-1-1 emergency telephone system by local police departments, by size of population served, 1999

Population served	Percent of agencies participating in 9-1-1 system		
	Total	Enhanced	Basic
All sizes	88%	67%	22%
1,000,000 or more	100%	100%	0
500,000-999,999	100	96	4
250,000-499,999	100	100	0
100,000-249,999	99	92	7
50,000-99,999	99	94	6
25,000-49,999	97	92	5
10,000-24,999	97	84	13
2,500-9,999	91	71	20
Under 2,500	82	53	29

Note: Participation is defined as the ability to dispatch a unit as a result of a call to 9-1-1. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

9-1-1 emergency telephone system

In 1999, 88% of local police departments, employing 98% of all officers, participated in an emergency telephone system whereby one of their units could be dispatched as a result of a call to 9-1-1 or its equivalent (table 12). More than 90% of the departments in each population category of 2,500 or more were 9-1-1 participants, including all of those serving 250,000 or more residents.

Three-fourths of local police 9-1-1 systems were enhanced, capable of pinpointing the location of a caller automatically. More than 90% of departments serving a population of 25,000 or more had enhanced 9-1-1, compared to about half of those serving fewer than 2,500 residents.

The 67% of local police departments participating in an enhanced 9-1-1 system in 1999 represented a sizable increase over 1997, when 53% were participants. It was nearly 4 times the proportion with such a capability in 1990 (18%). In 1999, 9 in 10 local police officers worked in a department with enhanced 9-1-1 compared to 5 in 10 officers in 1990.

From 1990 to 1999 the percentage of residents served by a local police department with 9-1-1 increased from

Percent of population served by local police departments participating in a 9-1-1 emergency telephone system, 1990, 1993, 1997, and 1999

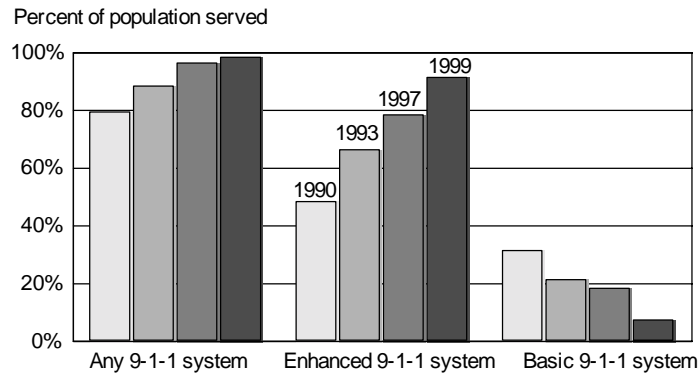


Figure 3

79% to 98% (figure 3). During this time, the percentage of residents covered by an enhanced 9-1-1 system nearly doubled from 48% to 91%.

Crime investigation

Overall, 92% of local police departments, employing 99% of all officers, conducted investigations of at least some types of crimes. Eighty-seven percent had investigative responsibility for violent crimes such as rape, robbery, or assault, including nearly all of those serving a population of 10,000 or more (table 13). About 3 in 4 departments handled homicide investigations, including all of those serving 250,000 or more residents, and more than 90% of those serving 10,000 to 249,999 residents.

Ninety percent of departments were responsible for investigating property crimes such as burglary, larceny, or motor vehicle theft. All departments serving 250,000 or more residents handled such investigations, as did more than 9 in 10 departments serving 2,500 to 249,999 residents.

Sixty-three percent of all departments were responsible for arson investigations, with those serving 2,500 to 99,999 residents the most likely to handle such incidents.

About a third of departments were responsible for investigating environmental crimes. No more than 42% of the departments in any population category handled such investigations.

Table 13. Crime investigation functions of local police departments, by size of population served, 1999

Population served	Percent of agencies with primary responsibility for investigating:					
	Violent crimes		Property crimes		Environmental crimes	Computer crimes
	Homicide	Other ^a	Arson	Other ^b		
All sizes	76%	87%	63%	90%	33%	40%
1,000,000 or more	100%	100%	56%	100%	25%	94%
500,000-999,999	100	100	54	100	42	92
250,000-499,999	100	100	54	100	26	69
100,000-249,999	98	99	64	97	36	79
50,000-99,999	97	100	78	99	35	76
25,000-49,999	95	99	82	99	36	67
10,000-24,999	91	98	76	98	35	66
2,500-9,999	82	93	71	94	37	46
Under 2,500	64	77	51	84	29	22

^aIncludes rape, robbery, and assault.

^bIncludes burglary, larceny/theft, and motor vehicle theft.

Two-fifths of departments handled computer crime investigations, including more than 90% of those serving a population of 500,000 or more, and about 70% of those serving 10,000 to 499,999 residents.

Investigative support functions

A fourth of all local police departments were responsible for fingerprint processing (table 14). This included all departments serving a population of 1 million or more, and about 9 in 10 serving 100,000 to 999,999 residents.

Few departments provided crime lab services (4%) or performed ballistics tests (2%), although more than half of departments serving 250,000 or more residents were responsible for these functions.

Court-related functions

Eighty-five percent of departments, employing 84% of all officers, were responsible for executing arrest warrants (table 15). This included at least 74% of the departments in each population category.

Twenty-six percent of departments, employing 25% of all officers, provided court security. No more than 32% of

Table 14. Investigative support functions of local police departments, by size of population served, 1999

Population served	Percent of agencies with primary responsibility for:		
	Fingerprint processing	Crime lab services	Ballistics testing
All sizes	25%	4%	2%
1,000,000 or more	100%	81%	75%
500,000-999,999	96	50	50
250,000-499,999	91	63	48
100,000-249,999	87	38	10
50,000-99,999	67	21	3
25,000-49,999	51	12	2
10,000-24,999	39	5	2
2,500-9,999	27	2	1
Under 2,500	12	2	1

the departments in any population category performed such services.

An estimated 16% of departments, employing 9% of all officers, were responsible for serving civil process. Departments serving fewer than 2,500 residents (21%) were the most likely to perform this function.

Detention facilities

Just 8% of local police departments, employing 14% of all officers, operated a jail during 1999 (table 16). No more than 19% of the departments in any population category operated a jail, a function most commonly handled by sheriffs' offices.

Sixteen percent of local police departments, employing 43% of all officers, operated a temporary holding (lockup) facility for overnight detention that was separate from a jail. The percentage of departments with a lockup ranged from 56% in the largest jurisdictions to 4% in the smallest.

Departments in the largest jurisdictions were also the most likely (75%) to have temporary holding cells not used for overnight detention. Just 6% of the departments in the smallest jurisdictions had them. Overall, 19% of departments, employing 47% of all officers, had this type of holding cell.

Table 15. Court-related functions of local police departments, by size of population served, 1999

Population served	Percent of agencies with primary responsibility to:		
	Execute arrest warrants	Provide court security	Serve civil process
All sizes	85%	26%	16%
1,000,000 or more	75%	31%	12%
500,000-999,999	83	12	13
250,000-499,999	74	11	7
100,000-249,999	79	15	4
50,000-99,999	83	20	6
25,000-49,999	91	26	10
10,000-24,999	92	32	7
2,500-9,999	87	27	15
Under 2,500	82	24	21

Table 16. Detention facilities of local police departments, by size of population served, 1999

Population served	Percent of agencies operating:		
	Jail	Lockup ^a	Holding cell ^b
All sizes	8%	16%	19%
1,000,000 or more	12%	56%	75%
500,000-999,999	8	29	50
250,000-499,999	15	24	44
100,000-249,999	19	28	37
50,000-99,999	16	35	42
25,000-49,999	19	42	42
10,000-24,999	12	36	39
2,500-9,999	9	17	24
Under 2,500	3	4	6

^aTemporary holding facility for overnight detention that is separate from a jail.
^bNot for overnight detention.

Traffic and vehicle-related functions

Nearly all local police departments had primary responsibility for enforcing traffic laws (99%) and investigating traffic accidents (98%) (table 17). Large percentages also handled traffic direction and control (87%), and parking enforcement (90%) duties.

Nearly half of departments provided school crossing services (47%), including about three-fifths of those serving 10,000 to 999,999 residents.

About 3 in 8 departments were responsible for enforcement of commercial vehicle laws. This included more than 3 in 5 departments serving 250,000 or more residents.

Special operations functions

Twenty-one percent of local police departments performed tactical operations, commonly associated with SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) teams (table 18). These departments employed 71% of all local police officers. All departments serving 500,000 or more residents performed SWAT operations, as did a majority of those serving 25,000 to 499,999 residents.

Table 17. Traffic and vehicle-related functions of local police departments, by size of population served, 1999

Population served	Percent of agencies with primary responsibility for:					
	Enforcement of traffic laws	Accident investigation	Traffic direction and control	Parking enforcement	School crossing services	Commercial vehicle enforcement
All sizes	99%	98%	87%	90%	47%	38%
1,000,000 or more	100%	100%	75%	56%	50%	69%
500,000-999,999	100	100	83	79	67	62
250,000-499,999	96	100	87	83	54	61
100,000-249,999	100	99	87	78	63	47
50,000-99,999	99	100	89	90	63	53
25,000-49,999	100	100	91	96	62	49
10,000-24,999	100	100	92	97	58	46
2,500-9,999	99	100	91	94	52	39
Under 2,500	98	96	81	85	37	33

An estimated 19% of departments, employing 37% of all officers, had responsibility for search and rescue operations. More than half of the departments serving a population of 500,000 or more performed this function.

Five percent of departments, employing 34% of all officers, were responsible for underwater recovery operations. This included a majority of the departments serving 500,000 or more residents.

Bomb disposal was handled by 3% of departments, including 88% of those serving 500,000 or more residents, and 76% of those serving a population of 250,000 to 499,999. Departments handling bomb disposal employed 42% of all officers.

Special public safety functions

Fifty-eight percent of departments were responsible for animal control services in their jurisdiction (table 19). This included about three-fifths of the departments serving fewer than 10,000 residents, and about half of those serving 10,000 to 99,999 residents. Departments handling animal control employed 38% of all officers.

Other special public safety functions handled by local police departments included civil defense (21%), emergency medical services (16%), and fire services (12%). Departments performing civil defense functions employed 13% of all officers, those handling emergency medical services 9%, and those providing fire services, 5%.

Table 18. Special operations functions of local police departments, by size of population served, 1999

Population served	Percent of agencies with primary responsibility for:			
	Bomb disposal	Search and rescue	Tactical operations (SWAT)	Underwater recovery
All sizes	3%	19%	21%	5%
1,000,000 or more	88%	56%	100%	56%
500,000-999,999	88	54	100	54
250,000-499,999	76	39	93	33
100,000-249,999	40	26	96	20
50,000-99,999	18	20	79	18
25,000-49,999	6	21	59	12
10,000-24,999	2	20	43	7
2,500-9,999	2	17	17	4
Under 2,500	1	19	7	3

Table 19. Special public safety functions of local police departments, by size of population served, 1999

Population served	Percent of agencies with primary responsibility for:			
	Animal control	Civil defense	Emergency medical services	Fire services
All sizes	58%	21%	16%	12%
1,000,000 or more	6%	19%	13%	0%
500,000-999,999	29	13	4	4
250,000-499,999	17	7	2	0
100,000-249,999	35	10	5	3
50,000-99,999	49	20	8	4
25,000-49,999	54	17	13	6
10,000-24,999	52	15	12	6
2,500-9,999	57	23	16	10
Under 2,500	63	22	19	17

Table 20. Local police departments with a community policing plan, by size of population served, 1999

Population served	Percent of agencies with a community policing plan		
	Total	Formal, written	Informal, unwritten
All sizes	65%	17%	48%
1,000,000 or more	94%	56%	37%
500,000-999,999	96	67	29
250,000-499,999	95	69	26
100,000-249,999	96	65	31
50,000-99,999	93	53	40
25,000-49,999	90	38	52
10,000-24,999	81	28	53
2,500-9,999	73	16	58
Under 2,500	50	9	40

Note: Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

Community policing plans of local police departments, 1999

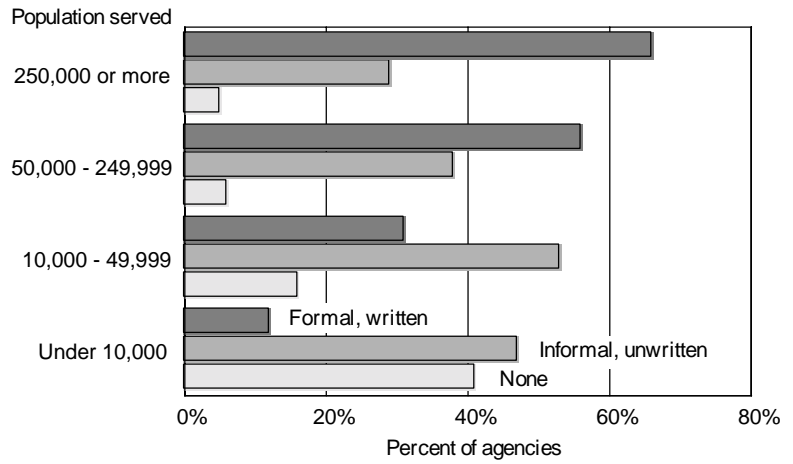


Figure 4

Community policing

Community policing is a philosophy that promotes and supports organizational strategies to address the causes and reduce the fear of crime and social disorder through problem-solving strategies and community partnerships. A fundamental shift from traditional reactive policing, community policing stresses the prevention of crime. Community policing supports and empowers front-line officers, decentralizes command, and encourages innovative problem solving. (See *Community Policing in Local Police Departments, 1997 and 1999*, BJS Special Report, February 2001, NCJ 184794.)

In 1999, 17% of local police departments, employing 45% of all officers, had a formal, written community policing plan (table 20). A majority of the departments serving 50,000 or more residents had a written plan, including about two-thirds of those serving a population of 100,000 to 999,999. Departments serving fewer than 2,500 residents (9%) were the least likely to have a written plan.

In each of the four major population categories, a majority of local police departments had either a formal, written community policing plan or an informal, unwritten plan (figure 4).

Departments serving fewer than 50,000 residents were more likely to have an unwritten plan than a formal, written one. Overall, 91% of all local police officers worked for a department with some type of community policing plan.

Community policing training

During the 2-year period ending June 30, 1999, 54% of all local police departments, employing 87% of all officers, trained at least some of their new officer recruits in community policing skills such as problem-solving and developing community partnerships (table 21).

Forty-one percent of departments, employing 67% of all officers, trained all new recruits in community policing. The larger the jurisdiction, the more likely a department trained all recruits in community policing, ranging from 95% of those serving 500,000 or more residents to 24% of those serving fewer than 2,500 residents.

Sixty-three percent of departments, employing 85% of all officers, trained at least some in-service officers during the 2-year period. Twenty-eight percent of departments, employing 32% of all officers, trained all of their in-service officers in community policing.

Table 21. Community policing training for new officer recruits and in-service officers in local police departments, by size of population served, 1999

Population served	Percent of agencies with community policing training*					
	New officer recruits			In-service sworn personnel		
	Total	All	Some	Total	All	Some
All sizes	54%	41%	14%	63%	28%	35%
1,000,000 or more	100%	94%	6%	81%	31%	50%
500,000-999,999	100	96	4	83	54	29
250,000-499,999	89	85	4	85	43	41
100,000-249,999	92	81	10	90	40	50
50,000-99,999	88	74	14	91	41	50
25,000-49,999	87	69	17	88	34	54
10,000-24,999	76	61	15	82	27	55
2,500-9,999	63	46	17	69	26	43
Under 2,500	35	24	11	49	28	21

Note: Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

*Eight or more hours during the 2-year period ending June 30, 1999.

Community policing personnel

Overall, 64% of local police departments, serving 87% of all local police officers, had full-time sworn personnel serving as community policing officers, community resource officers, community relations officers, or otherwise regularly engaged in community policing activities (table 22). As of June 30, 1999, an estimated 91,000, or 21%, of local police officers served in this capacity.

About 9 in 10 departments serving a population of 25,000 or more had full-time community policing officers. Those serving a population of 1 million or more employed about 1,700 such officers on average. Among departments serving fewer than 2,500 residents that had community policing officers, an average of 2 each were so designated.

The percentage of full-time sworn personnel designated as community policing officers was highest in the smallest jurisdictions (40%) (figure 5). Departments serving jurisdictions with 1 million or more residents had the next highest percentage C 28%. Percentages in other population categories ranged from 24% in those with 2,500 to 9,999 residents, to 13% in those with 250,000 to 999,999 residents.

Percent of local police officers designated as community policing officers, by size of population served, 1999

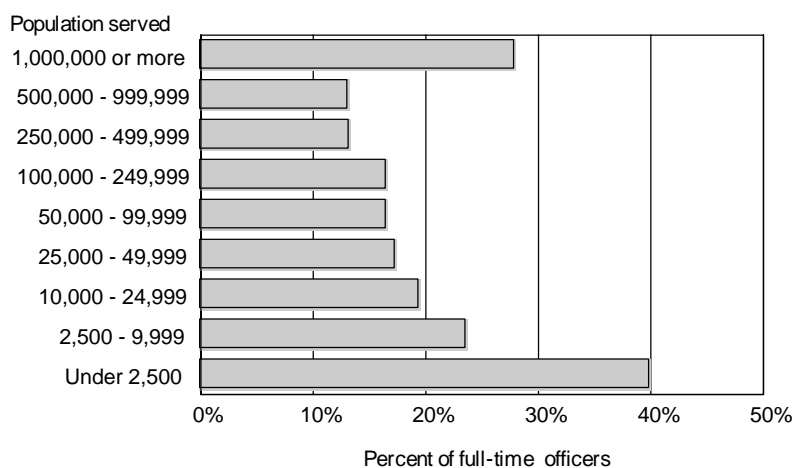


Figure 5

Thirty percent of local police departments, employing 62% of all officers, had full-time school resource officers during 1999 (table 23). These officers use a community policing approach to provide a safe environment for students and staff. In addition to handling calls for service within the school, they work closely with school administrators and staff to prevent crime and disorder by monitoring crime trends, problem areas, cultural conflicts, and other areas of concern.

As of June 30, 1999, local police departments had about 9,100 full-time sworn personnel assigned as school resource officers. A majority of the departments serving 10,000 or more residents had school resource officers. Among departments using them, the average number of school resource officers ranged from 66 in departments serving a population of 1 million or more, to 1 in those serving fewer than 2,500 residents.

Table 22. Community policing officers in local police departments, by size of population served, 1999

Population served	Full-time community policing officers		
	Percent of agencies using	Total number of officers	Average number of officers*
All sizes	64%	91,072	11
1,000,000 or more	100%	27,724	1,728
500,000-999,999	88	4,536	216
250,000-499,999	91	5,018	119
100,000-249,999	95	8,030	54
50,000-99,999	92	7,804	22
25,000-49,999	88	7,976	13
10,000-24,999	77	10,902	8
2,500-9,999	64	11,200	4
Under 2,500	54	7,880	2

*Excludes agencies that did not employ any full-time sworn community policing officers.

Table 23. School resource officers in local police departments, by size of population served, 1999

Population served	School resource officers		
	Percent of agencies using	Total number of officers	Average number of officers*
All sizes	30%	9,130	2
1,000,000 or more	56%	592	66
500,000-999,999	58	308	22
250,000-499,999	78	541	15
100,000-249,999	81	895	7
50,000-99,999	73	996	4
25,000-49,999	67	1,093	2
10,000-24,999	50	1,455	2
2,500-9,999	30	1,920	2
Under 2,500	15	1,330	1

*Excludes agencies that did not employ any full-time sworn school resource officers.

Community-oriented policies and programs

Forty-two percent of all local police departments, employing 78% of all local police officers, gave patrol officers responsibility for specific geographic areas or beats during 1999 (table 24). This included about 90% of the departments serving a population of 50,000 or more. Just 8% of departments, employing 43% of all officers, assigned cases to investigators by geographic area, although a majority of the departments serving a population of 100,000 or more did so.

Twenty-nine percent of departments, employing 48% of all officers, actively encouraged patrol officers to become involved in problem-solving projects. A majority of the departments serving a population of 25,000 or more had such a policy.

Eighteen percent of all departments, employing 33% of all officers, included problem-solving projects in the performance evaluation criteria for patrol officers. This included about half of the departments serving a population of 100,000 or more.

Table 24. Community-oriented policies for sworn personnel in local police departments, by size of population served, 1999

Population served	Geographic assignments		Patrol officer problem-solving projects	
	Patrol officers	Investigators	Actively encouraged	Included in evaluation
All sizes	42%	8%	29%	18%
1,000,000 or more	88%	69%	62%	44%
500,000-999,999	96	71	58	50
250,000-499,999	98	69	65	59
100,000-249,999	95	57	72	50
50,000-99,999	87	30	63	39
25,000-49,999	77	16	53	33
10,000-24,999	63	10	39	22
2,500-9,999	45	8	33	19
Under 2,500	26	3	18	11

During the 2-year period ending June 30, 1999, 25% of local police departments, employing 44% of all officers, formed partnerships with community groups, local agencies, or others through written agreements (table 25). This included nearly two-thirds of the departments serving 100,000 to 999,999 residents.

Twenty-four percent of departments, employing 68% of all officers, offered training to citizens on community policing topics such as community mobilization and problem-solving. A majority of departments serving 25,000 or more residents offered such training.

About 4 in 5 departments, including nearly all of those serving 10,000 or more residents, regularly met with community groups during the 2-year period ending June 30, 1999. Departments holding regular meetings employed 96% of all local police officers.

About 6 in 7 officers worked for a department that regularly met with school groups (85%) and neighborhood associations (84%) (figure 6). The percentages for other types of groups were as follows: business (78%), senior citizen (70%), domestic violence (66%), youth service (65%), tenant (59%), and religious (59%).

Table 25. Community policing activities of local police departments, by size of population served, 1999

Population served	Percent of agencies engaging in community policing activities		
	Community group meetings ^a	Problem-solving partnership ^b	Citizen training ^b
All sizes	79%	25%	24%
1,000,000 or more	100%	44%	87%
500,000-999,999	96	62	79
250,000-499,999	100	67	87
100,000-249,999	99	63	76
50,000-99,999	99	53	67
25,000-49,999	100	44	57
10,000-24,999	96	37	44
2,500-9,999	86	30	25
Under 2,500	65	14	10

^aDuring 1-year period ending June 30, 1999.

^bDuring 2-year period ending June 30, 1999.

Percent of local police officers employed by a department that met regularly with citizen groups to discuss crime-related problems, 1999

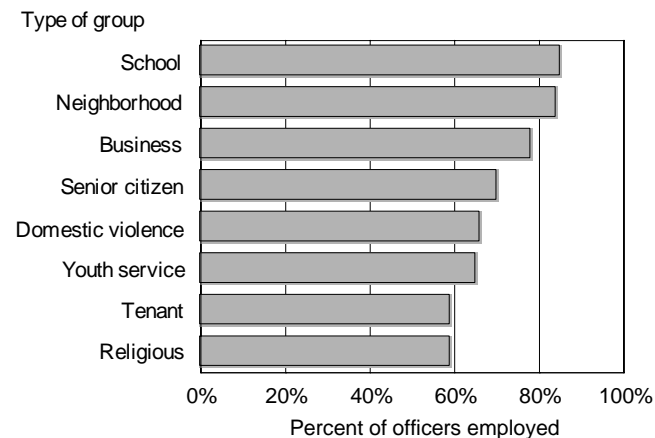


Figure 6

Citizen surveys

Nearly 3 in 10 local police departments, employing about half of all officers, surveyed citizens in their jurisdiction during the year ending June 30, 1999 (table 26). This included a majority of the departments serving a population of 25,000 or more.

Twenty-five percent of departments, employing 39% of all officers, surveyed citizens' about their satisfaction with police services. Eighteen percent of departments, employing 32% of all officers, surveyed citizens regarding their perception of crime problems. Eleven percent of departments, employing 22% of officers, surveyed citizens about their personal crime experiences.

A majority of departments conducting surveys used the data to provide information to officers (72%), evaluate program effectiveness (57%), or prioritize crime-related problems (52%) (figure 7). About two-fifths used the information for training officers (42%), formulating policy and procedures (42%), or allocating resources to targeted neighborhoods (39%). Sixteen percent used it to redistrict beats or reporting areas.

Citizen access to crime statistics

Seventy-three percent of local police departments, employing 92% of all local police officers, provided citizens with routine access to crime statistics or crime maps (table 27). This included more than 90% of departments serving 10,000 or more residents.

Departments were most likely to provide access to crime statistics at the city or county level (60% of departments employing 83% of all officers). An estimated 23% of departments, employing 54% of all officers, provided routine access to crime statistics by neighborhood.

Table 26. Surveying of citizens by local police departments, by size of population served, 1999

Population served	Percent of agencies that surveyed citizens during 12-month period ending June 30, 1999 regarding:			
	Any topic	Satisfaction with services	Perceptions of crime problems	Personal crime experiences
All sizes	28%	25%	18%	11%
1,000,000 or more	62%	56%	50%	37%
500,000-999,999	54	50	37	29
250,000-499,999	53	47	35	24
100,000-249,999	57	52	46	34
50,000-99,999	57	50	44	29
25,000-49,999	51	49	39	24
10,000-24,999	34	30	24	18
2,500-9,999	26	24	17	9
Under 2,500	22	19	11	6

Purposes for which local police departments used information collected in citizen surveys, 1999

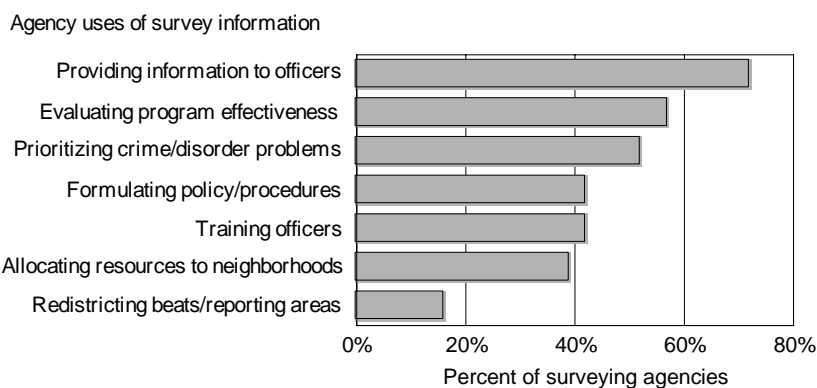


Figure 7

Table 27. Local police departments providing citizens with routine access to crime statistics or crime maps, by size of population served, 1999

Population served	Percent of agencies providing citizens with routine access to crime statistics or crime maps by:					
	Any level	County or city	Neighborhood	Street or block	Patrol beat	District or precinct
All sizes	73%	60%	23%	16%	14%	9%
1,000,000 or more	87%	81%	56%	37%	50%	81%
500,000-999,999	100	96	50	54	79	79
250,000-499,999	98	93	68	48	54	66
100,000-249,999	98	89	57	42	52	48
50,000-99,999	95	89	55	40	50	29
25,000-49,999	91	74	47	42	39	24
10,000-24,999	91	76	40	32	22	14
2,500-9,999	82	68	24	18	10	9
Under 2,500	58	47	11	5	7	3

Note: Neighborhood category includes apartment complexes. Other levels of statistics not included in table were available in some jurisdictions.

Sixteen percent of departments, employing 36% of all officers, made statistics available at the street or block level, and 14% of them, employing 38% of all officers, provided statistics by patrol beat. Just 9% of departments provided district or precinct crime statistics. However, most departments serving 250,000 or more residents did so, and departments providing such statistics employed 47% of all officers.

Ninety percent of the departments that provided citizens with routine access to crime statistics or crime maps made them available to those who inquired in person (figure 8). Just over half provided statistics in response to requests made by telephone (57%) or in writing (56%). About two-fifths of departments routinely published crime statistics in newspapers (40%) or agency reports (38%). Some provided access to statistics by fax (16%), radio (14%), newsletter (11%), television (11%), or the Internet (10%).

Computers and information systems

Administrative functions

All local police departments serving 25,000 or more residents, and 97% of those serving 2,500 to 24,999 residents, used computers for administrative purposes during 1999 (table 28). Just 1% of local police officers worked for a department not using computers.

Methods for accessing crime statistics provided to citizens by local police departments, 1999

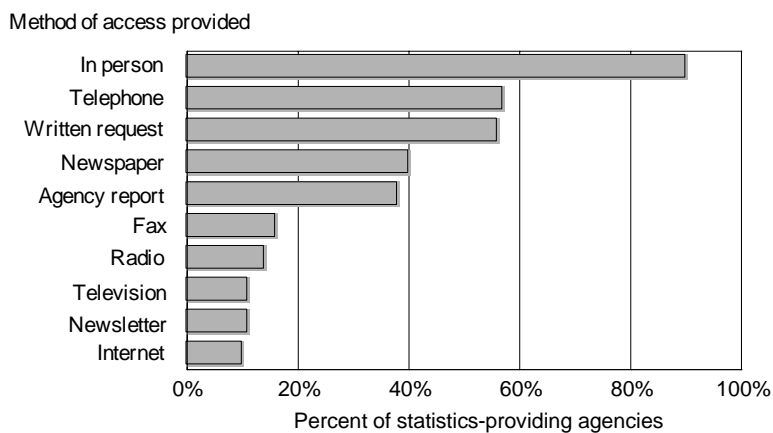


Figure 8

An estimated 78% of departments, employing 96% of all officers, used personal computers (PC's) in 1999. This was an increase over 1997 when 67% of departments, employing 93% of officers, used them. In 1999 all departments serving 250,000 or more residents, and 99% of those serving 25,000 to 249,999 residents, used PC's.

Twenty-four percent of departments, employing 59% of all officers, used mainframes during 1999. This was a decrease from 1997 when 37% of departments, employing 75% of all officers, used them.

Local police departments stored various types of administrative records in

computer files during 1999. Forty-six percent of them, employing 84% of all officers, had computerized personnel files (table 29). This included a majority of departments serving 2,500 or more residents and more than 90% of those serving a population of 100,000 or more.

Forty-four percent, employing 69% of all officers, had computerized inventory files. This included a majority of departments serving 10,000 or more residents.

An estimated 29% of departments, employing 68% of all officers, had computerized payroll files. This included a majority of departments serving 25,000 or more residents.

Table 28. Selected types of computers used by local police departments for administrative functions, by size of population served, 1999

Population served	Percent of agencies using each type of computer:				
	Any type	Personal	Main-frame	Mini	Server
All sizes	85%	78%	24%	11%	41%
1,000,000 or more	100%	100%	81%	81%	100%
500,000-999,999	100	100	83	54	100
250,000-499,999	100	100	68	46	94
100,000-249,999	100	99	48	41	93
50,000-99,999	100	100	57	33	84
25,000-49,999	100	99	44	27	87
10,000-24,999	98	93	37	18	83
2,500-9,999	97	87	27	12	54
Under 2,500	70	62	13	4	10

Table 29. Administrative records stored in a computerized format by local police departments, by size of population served, 1999

Population served	Percent of agencies with computerized files on:		
	Inventory	Payroll	Personnel
All sizes	44%	29%	46%
1,000,000 or more	87%	81%	100%
500,000-999,999	96	88	100
250,000-499,999	87	85	96
100,000-249,999	77	84	92
50,000-99,999	77	68	84
25,000-49,999	73	57	78
10,000-24,999	60	47	72
2,500-9,999	49	32	53
Under 2,500	30	15	25

Table 30. Local police departments using computer-aided dispatch, by size of population of served, 1999

Population served	Percent of agencies
All sizes	56%
1,000,000 or more	100%
500,000-999,999	100
250,000-499,999	98
100,000-249,999	98
50,000-99,999	96
25,000-49,999	85
10,000-24,999	70
2,500-9,999	44
Under 2,500	18

Note: Table excludes agencies not responsible for providing dispatch services.

Computer-aided dispatch

Among the approximately 5,000 local police departments with responsibility for dispatching calls for service (see table 11), more than half (56%) used computer-aided dispatch systems (table 30). This included all departments serving a population of 500,000 or more, and nearly all departments serving 50,000 to 499,999 residents.

The percentage of local police department dispatch systems that were computerized increased significantly from 1990 to 1999. For example, among departments that handled dispatch functions and served 250,000 or more residents, the percent with computer-aided dispatch rose from 88% to 99% (figure 9).

From 1990 to 1999, among departments serving 50,000 to 249,999 residents, the percentage with computerized dispatch increased from 72% to 97%; among those serving 10,000 to 49,999 residents, from 48% to 74%; and in jurisdictions with a population of less than 10,000, the percentage of dispatch systems that were computerized increased from 16% to 36%.

Percent of local police department dispatch systems that were computerized, by size of population served, 1990 and 1999

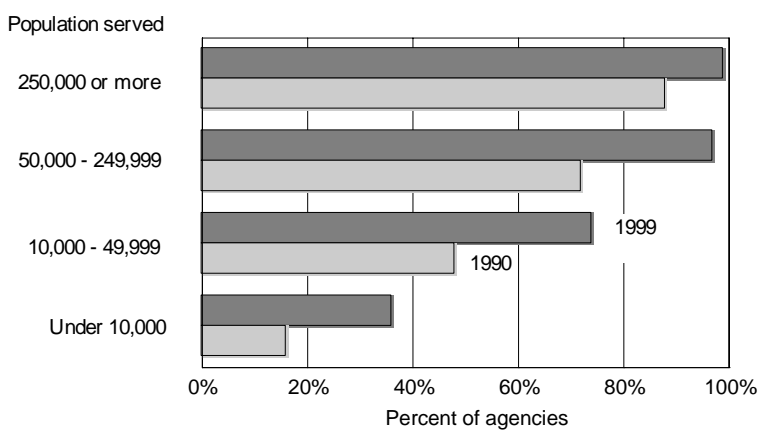


Figure 9

Table 31. Offender and suspect records stored in a computerized format by local police departments, by size of population served, 1999

Population served	Percent of agencies with computerized files on:			
	Arrests	Criminal histories	Summonses	Warrants
All sizes	70%	44%	28%	43%
1,000,000 or more	94%	87%	69%	87%
500,000-999,999	100	75	54	88
250,000-499,999	100	85	50	78
100,000-249,999	97	81	48	81
50,000-99,999	99	83	46	75
25,000-49,999	98	82	47	74
10,000-24,999	97	73	46	72
2,500-9,999	82	53	34	51
Under 2,500	47	20	14	21

Offender and suspect records

Seventy percent of local police departments had computerized arrest records in 1999 (table 31). This included nearly all departments serving a population of 10,000 or more, and about 4 in 5 departments serving a population of 2,500 to 9,999.

More than two-fifths of departments had computerized criminal history (44%) and warrant (43%) information. This included more than 70% of the departments in each population category of 10,000 or more, and about half of those serving 2,500 to 9,999 residents.

Just 28% of all departments had computerized summons records. However, about two-thirds of the departments serving a population of 1 million or more had them, as did about half of those serving 10,000 to 999,999 residents.

From 1990 to 1999 the percentage of departments with computerized information on arrests, criminal histories, warrants, and summonses increased substantially. Accordingly, the percentage of officers employed by a department storing these types of records in a computerized format also increased.

The percentage of local police officers working for a department with computerized arrest records increased from 81% in 1990 to 95% in 1999 (figure 10). Similar increases in computerization were observed for information pertaining to criminal histories (from 60% in 1990 to 79% in 1999), warrants (from 68% to 78%), and summonses (from 28% to 52%).

Investigations

Nearly half (45%) of all departments used computers for criminal investigation purposes other than word processing (table 32). This included about 9 in 10 departments serving a population of 100,000 or more, 8 in 10 departments serving a population of 25,000 to 99,999, and 7 in 10 departments serving 10,000 to 24,999 residents.

Departments using computers for criminal investigation purposes employed 80% of all local police officers in 1999. In 1990, 30% of departments, employing 71% of all officers, were using computers for criminal investigations.

Most departments maintained various types of computerized information related to the investigative process. For example, 69% of them, employing 90% of all officers, had computer files pertaining to incident reports. This included more than 90% of the departments serving 10,000 to 999,999 residents.

Population served	Percent of agencies
All sizes	45%
1,000,000 or more	94%
500,000-999,999	92
250,000-499,999	87
100,000-249,999	89
50,000-99,999	82
25,000-49,999	78
10,000-24,999	70
2,500-9,999	57
Under 2,500	21

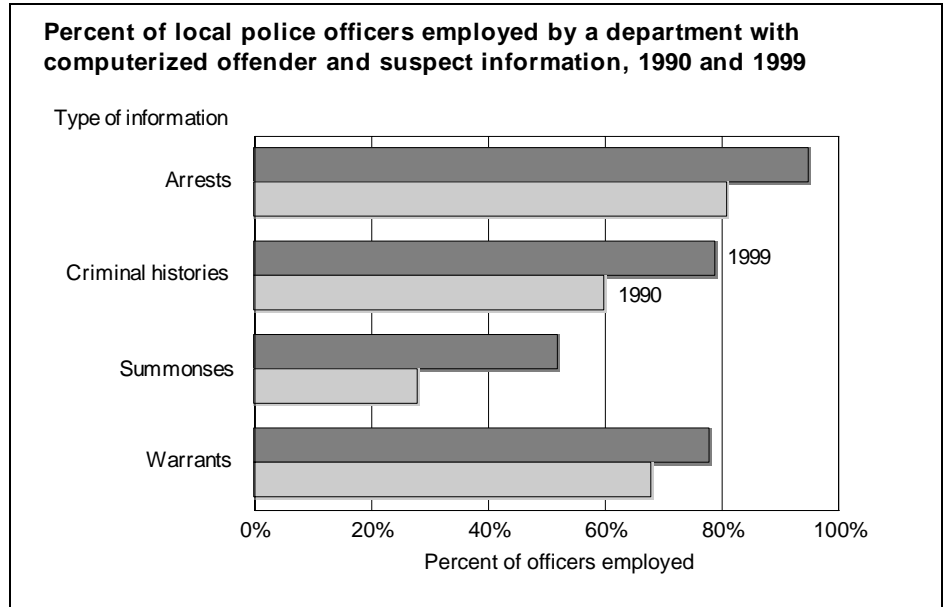


Figure 10

Sixty-two percent of departments, employing 73% of all officers, stored incident report narratives in a computerized format. This included about 3 in 4 departments serving a population of 100,000 to 999,999 or 2,500 to 49,999.

Just over half of all departments had computerized information on stolen property other than vehicles. This included at least 84% of the departments in each population category of 10,000 or more. Departments with computer files on stolen property employed 83% of all officers.

Forty-three percent of departments, employing 82% of all officers, had computer files containing evidence information. This included all departments serving a population of 1 million or more, and a large majority of those serving 10,000 to 999,999 residents.

Thirty-six percent of departments, employing 68% of all officers, had computer files containing field interview information. This included about 3 in 4 departments serving 50,000 or more residents, and about 3 in 5 departments serving a population of 10,000 to 49,999.

Population served	Percent of agencies with computerized files on:				
	Evidence	Field interviews	Incident reports	Incident report narratives	Stolen property
All sizes	43%	36%	69%	62%	53%
1,000,000 or more	100%	81%	81%	62%	87%
500,000-999,999	92	71	92	79	88
250,000-499,999	83	83	91	74	91
100,000-249,999	90	79	95	75	86
50,000-99,999	88	76	93	63	85
25,000-49,999	84	66	94	76	86
10,000-24,999	74	58	93	80	84
2,500-9,999	48	41	83	76	66
Under 2,500	21	18	47	45	28

Traffic and vehicle-related records

In 1999 most local police departments had computer files on traffic citations (60%) and accidents (54%) (table 34). More than 80% of those serving a population of 10,000 or more had these types of computerized information. Departments with computer files on traffic accidents employed 85% of all officers, and those with computerized traffic citation files, 66% of all officers.

About two-fifths (39%) of departments had computer files containing information on traffic stops, including more than three-fifths of those serving a population of 10,000 to 999,999. About half (52%) of all local police officers worked for a department that had computer records on traffic stops.

Forty-eight percent of all departments, employing 81% of all officers, had computer files on stolen vehicles. This included about 80% of the departments serving 10,000 or more residents.

Crime and calls for service records

Overall, 56% of departments, employing 91% of all officers, had computer records on calls for service (table 35). This included more than 90% of the departments serving 10,000 or more residents.

Table 34. Traffic and vehicle-related records stored in a computerized format by local police departments, by size of population served, 1999

Population served	Percent of agencies with computerized files on:					
	Driver's licenses	Stolen vehicles	Traffic accidents	Traffic citations	Traffic stops	Vehicle registration
All sizes	29%	48%	54%	60%	39%	22%
1,000,000 or more	44%	81%	94%	69%	37%	37%
500,000-999,999	54	88	92	63	63	33
250,000-499,999	57	91	85	78	69	54
100,000-249,999	54	90	86	78	68	54
50,000-99,999	55	82	88	82	65	45
25,000-49,999	52	83	90	86	66	42
10,000-24,999	45	79	84	82	62	36
2,500-9,999	34	61	64	71	44	29
Under 2,500	16	24	32	41	22	9

Just under half (46%) of all departments had computerized alarm records. These departments employed 80% of all officers. More than 80% of departments serving a population of 10,000 or more had alarm-related computer files.

Fifty percent of departments, employing 83% of all officers, had computerized incident-based crime data, including more than 80% of the departments serving a population of 10,000 or more.

About a third (34%) of departments, employing 53% of all officers, had computerized files related to the National Incident-Based Reporting System of the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program. About half (48%), employing 83% of all officers, had summary UCR computer files.

Crime analysis and crime mapping

In 1999, 38% of departments, employing 81% of all officers, used computers for crime analysis (table 36). A large majority of the departments serving 10,000 or more residents used computers for this function. About a fourth (23%) of departments, employing 63% of all officers, maintained linked files for crime analysis purposes.

Related to crime analysis efforts in local police departments is the use of crime mapping. In 1999, 32% of all departments, employing 74% of all officers, used computers for this purpose. This included a large majority of those serving a population of 50,000 or more.

Table 35. Crime and calls for service records stored in a computerized format by local police departments, by size of population served, 1999

Population served	Percent of agencies with computerized files on:				
	Alarms	Calls for service	Incident-based crime data	Uniform Crime Reports-NIBRS*	Uniform Crime Reports-Summary
All sizes	46%	56%	50%	34%	48%
1,000,000 or more	75%	94%	87%	31%	87%
500,000-999,999	92	96	96	42	100
250,000-499,999	91	100	85	50	93
100,000-249,999	88	97	86	58	89
50,000-99,999	91	96	83	57	83
25,000-49,999	85	96	80	58	83
10,000-24,999	81	90	80	56	78
2,500-9,999	55	70	61	45	60
Under 2,500	21	29	27	16	23

*National Incident-Based Reporting System.

Table 36. Use of computers for crime analysis and crime mapping by local police departments, by size of population served, 1999

Population served	Percent of agencies		
	Using computers for: Crime analysis	Crime mapping	With linked files for crime analysis
All sizes	38%	32%	23%
1,000,000 or more	94%	94%	81%
500,000-999,999	100	100	83
250,000-499,999	100	98	85
100,000-249,999	97	86	70
50,000-99,999	84	74	56
25,000-49,999	72	54	48
10,000-24,999	66	48	38
2,500-9,999	46	35	27
Under 2,500	15	17	8

Table 37. Use of computers for Internet purposes by local police departments, by size of population served, 1999

Population served	Percent of agencies with:	
	Internet access	Internet home page
All sizes	50%	18%
1,000,000 or more	94%	88%
500,000-999,999	96	100
250,000-499,999	98	85
100,000-249,999	93	78
50,000-99,999	85	63
25,000-49,999	82	47
10,000-24,999	70	36
2,500-9,999	55	17
Under 2,500	33	4

Internet

In 1999, 18% of departments, employing 63% of all officers, had an Internet home page (table 37). This included more than 80% of the departments serving 100,000 or more residents, and represented an increase over 1997 when 11% of departments, serving 49% of officers, had a home page.

Half of all departments, employing 83% of all officers, used computers for Internet access during 1999. This included more than 90% of departments serving 100,000 or more residents, and more than 80% of those serving 25,000 to 99,999 residents.

Use of computers in the field

A large majority of departments serving 25,000 or more residents used in-field computers or terminals during 1999 (table 38). Overall, 31% of departments, employing 73% of all officers, used them. Laptops were the type most commonly used with 22% of departments, employing 55% of all officers, using them.

About 1 in 6 departments used car-mounted computers (6%) or terminals (12%). This included about 5 in 6 departments serving a population of 500,000 or more. Departments using car-mounted terminals or computers employed 57% of all officers.

Table 38. Types of in-field computers or terminals used by local police departments, by size of population served, 1999

Population served	Percent of agencies using in-field computers or terminal							
	Any type	Car-mounted				Hand-held		
		Laptop computer	Either type	Com-puter	Ter-minal	Either type	Com-puter	Ter-minal
All sizes	31%	22%	17%	6%	12%	1%	--	1%
1,000,000 or more	87%	62%	81%	25%	75%	37%	12%	31%
500,000-999,999	88	62	83	33	71	17	17	8
250,000-499,999	89	69	65	20	50	13	9	4
100,000-249,999	86	57	65	28	41	14	4	12
50,000-99,999	72	51	53	20	38	6	2	4
25,000-49,999	66	43	46	20	29	4	1	3
10,000-24,999	51	35	31	13	20	1	0	1
2,500-9,999	33	24	17	5	12	1	--	1
Under 2,500	15	11	6	1	5	--	0	--

--Less than 0.5%.

Just 1% of departments used portable hand-held computers or terminals. Departments serving a population of 1 million or more (37%) were the most likely to use them. Overall, 17% of local police officers were employed by a department that used them.

Nationwide local police departments had 20 in-field computers or terminals per 100 officers as of June 30, 1999. Those serving 100,000 to 499,999 residents had the highest ratio, 30 per 100 (figure 11). The next highest ratio, 24 per 100, was among departments serving a population of either 500,000 to 999,999 or 50,000 to 99,999. The lowest ratio, 9 per 100, was in departments serving fewer than 2,500 residents.

In 1990, 5% of all departments, employing 31% of all officers, were using in-field computers or terminals. Since then significant growth in their use has occurred in all population categories (see cover graph).

From 1990 to 1999 among departments serving 250,000 or more residents, in-field computer use went from 56% to 88%; in departments serving 50,000 to 249,999 residents, from 31% to 76%; in departments serving 10,000 to 49,999 residents, from 9% to 55%; and in departments serving fewer than 10,000 residents, from 2% to 22%.

Number of in-field computers or terminals per 100 sworn officers in local police departments, by size of population served, 1999

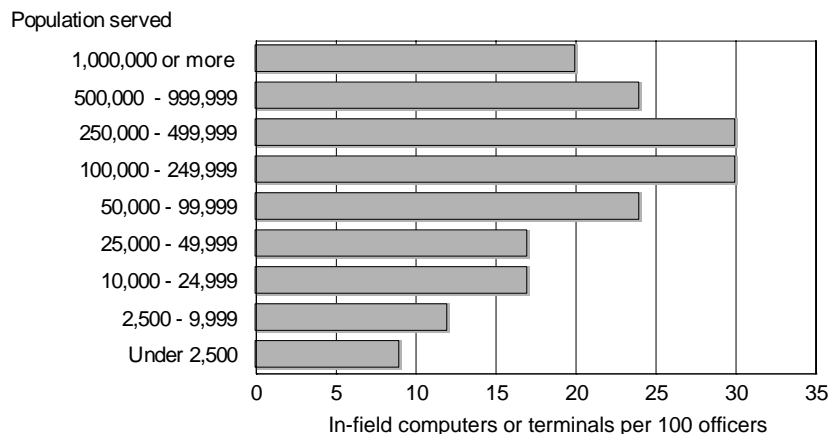


Figure 11

Table 39. Use of in-field computers for field reports and communications, by local police departments, by size of population served, 1999

Population served	Percent of agencies using in-field computers/terminals for:	
	Field reports	Communications
All sizes	20%	19%
1,000,000 or more	44%	87%
500,000-999,999	33	67
250,000-499,999	43	76
100,000-249,999	41	74
50,000-99,999	30	53
25,000-49,999	33	46
10,000-24,999	27	33
2,500-9,999	24	19
Under 2,500	13	7

Table 40. Computerized information accessible to in-field officers of local police departments, by size of population served, 1999

Population served	Types of information accessible via in-field computer:					
	Calls for service histories	Criminal histories	Driving records	Stolen property	Wanted suspects	Wanted vehicles
All sizes	11%	11%	18%	15%	21%	20%
1,000,000 or more	69%	62%	75%	69%	87%	87%
500,000-999,999	58	42	67	75	83	79
250,000-499,999	54	43	70	70	83	83
100,000-249,999	47	38	63	53	70	70
50,000-99,999	32	27	53	39	56	57
25,000-49,999	27	27	45	35	50	50
10,000-24,999	17	18	31	25	37	37
2,500-9,999	11	12	17	17	21	20
Under 2,500	4	5	8	6	9	9

In 1999, 20% of local police departments, employing 38% of all officers, used in-field computers or terminals to produce field reports (table 39). Nineteen percent of departments, employing 59% of all officers, used them for at least some in-field communications.

In about a fifth of departments, at least some officers could use in-field computers or terminals to access information on wanted suspects (21%) or vehicles (20%) (table 40). This included a majority of the departments serving 25,000 or more residents.

In 18% of departments, officers in the field could access driving records via computer. This included a majority of the departments serving a population of 50,000 or more. In 15% of departments, including a majority of those serving 100,000 or more residents, information on stolen property could be accessed with in-field computers.

In 11% of departments, in-field computers or terminals could be used to access criminal histories or information on prior calls for service at a particular location. Calls for service histories were available in a majority of the departments serving 250,000 or more residents.

About 3 in 5 local police officers worked in a department where information on wanted suspects (62%) was accessible

Percent of local police officers employed by a department in which patrol officers have direct access to information through in-field computers, 1999

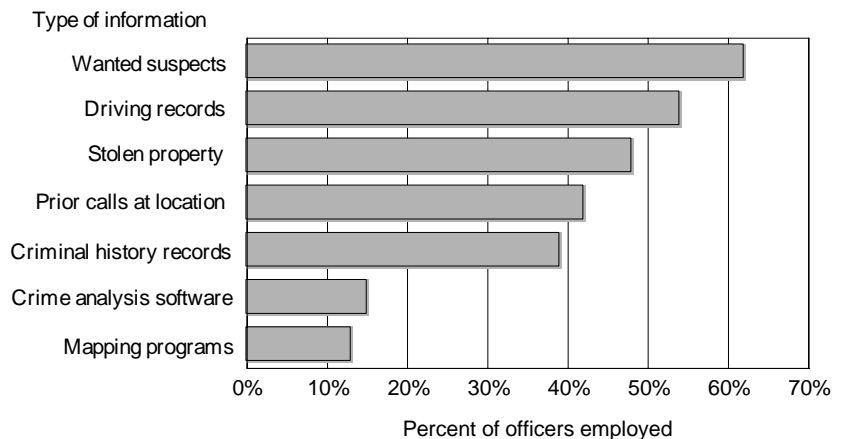


Figure 12

to at least some patrol officers via in-field computers (figure 12). About half worked in departments where information on driving records (54%) or stolen property (48%) was accessible. Approximately two-fifths worked in departments where in-field officers could access calls for service histories (41%) or criminal history records (39%).

In 14% of departments, employing 21% of all officers, computer media or data devices were used to transfer or download crime incident reports to a central information system. Three percent of departments, employing 8% of all officers, used telephone or wireless transmissions.

Table 41. Methods for transmitting criminal incident reports to a central information system in local police departments, by size of population served, 1999

Population served	Percent of agencies using:		
	Paper report	Computer/ data device	Phone/ wireless
All sizes	83%	14%	3%
1,000,000 or more	50%	12%	37%
500,000-999,999	75	17	8
250,000-499,999	91	2	7
100,000-249,999	80	10	11
50,000-99,999	85	11	5
25,000-49,999	75	16	9
10,000-24,999	73	23	4
2,500-9,999	79	18	3
Under 2,500	90	9	2

Note: Table excludes agencies not conducting criminal incident report transmissions.

Written policies and procedures

Many local police departments have written policies and procedures to guide officers through their work activities. About 9 in 10 departments had written policies or procedures on dealing with domestic disputes (table 42). This included at least 94% of the departments in each population category of 2,500 or more.

About 3 in 4 departments had some type of written policy pertaining to discretionary arrest powers (76%), including at least three-fourths of the departments in each population category of 2,500 or more.

About 3 in 4 departments had written policies or procedures pertaining to the handling of juveniles (76%), including about 9 in 10 departments serving 10,000 or more residents (table 43). A majority of departments also had written policies or procedures on responding to the mentally ill (58%).

Nearly all departments serving a population of 2,500 or more had written policies or procedures dealing with the use of deadly force and nonlethal force (table 44). More than 80% of the departments serving fewer than 2,500 residents did as well.

Ninety percent of departments had a written code of officer conduct and appearance, including all of those serving 25,000 or more residents (table 45). Eighty-four percent had written procedures on how to handle citizen complaints, including nearly all of those serving 10,000 or more residents.

Nationwide, nearly all local police officers were employed by a department with written policies or procedures on officer conduct and appearance (99%), use of deadly force (99%), handling of domestic disputes (97%), handling of citizen complaints (96%), and use of nonlethal force (96%) (figure 13).

Table 42. Written policies or procedures on discretionary arrest powers and domestic disputes in local police departments, by size of population served, 1999

Population served	Percent of agencies	
	Discretionary arrests	Domestic disputes
All sizes	76%	89%
1,000,000 or more	88%	100%
500,000-999,999	92	96
250,000-499,999	75	100
100,000-249,999	88	99
50,000-99,999	82	97
25,000-49,999	86	98
10,000-24,999	81	97
2,500-9,999	83	94
Under 2,500	69	81

Table 43. Written policies or procedures on handling special populations in local police departments, by size of population served, 1999

Population served	Percent of agencies		
	Homeless persons	Juveniles	Mentally ill persons
All sizes	30%	76%	58%
1,000,000 or more	50%	94%	94%
500,000-999,999	54	100	88
250,000-499,999	40	93	96
100,000-249,999	43	95	83
50,000-99,999	38	90	80
25,000-49,999	35	89	77
10,000-24,999	33	88	69
2,500-9,999	29	84	61
Under 2,500	29	65	47

Table 44. Written policies or procedures on officer use of force in local police departments, by size of population served, 1999

Population served	Percent of agencies	
	Deadly force	Nonlethal force
All sizes	94%	89%
1,000,000 or more	100%	94%
500,000-999,999	100	96
250,000-499,999	100	98
100,000-249,999	100	97
50,000-99,999	100	97
25,000-49,999	100	97
10,000-24,999	99	97
2,500-9,999	98	95
Under 2,500	88	81

Table 45. Written policies or procedures on conduct and appearance, maximum work hours, and handling of citizen complaints in local police departments, by size of population served, 1999

Population served	Percent of agencies		
	Citizen complaints	Conduct and appearance	Maximum work hours
All sizes	84%	90%	50%
1,000,000 or more	100%	100%	69%
500,000-999,999	100	100	75
250,000-499,999	98	100	71
100,000-249,999	99	100	73
50,000-99,999	97	100	64
25,000-49,999	96	100	66
10,000-24,999	95	99	56
2,500-9,999	89	96	53
Under 2,500	74	82	43

Percent of local police officers employed by a department with written policies or procedures, by subject area, 1999

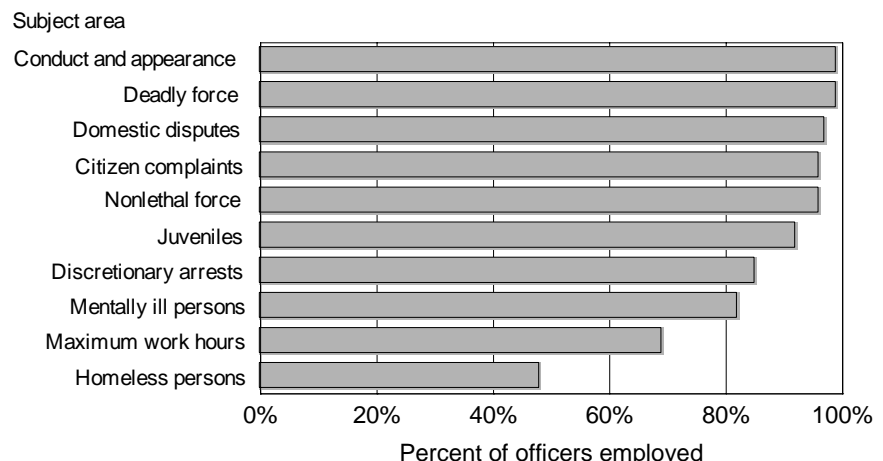


Figure 13

Methodology

The Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics (LEMAS) survey collects data from a nationally representative sample of the approximately 19,000 publicly funded State and local law enforcement agencies in the United States.

This report presents data from the 1999 survey describing local police departments in terms of their personnel, operations, community policing initiatives, computers and information systems, and written policies and procedures.

The 1999 LEMAS survey questionnaire was mailed to 3,319 State and local law enforcement agencies. The initial mailing of the questionnaire was conducted in June 1999, and, unless otherwise indicated, June 30, 1999, was used as the reference date for survey questions.

Allowing for the exclusion of certain types of special jurisdiction police, 895 law enforcement agencies in the U.S. with 100 or more sworn officers as of June 30, 1996 were included in the sample as self-representing (SR) agencies. This included 529 local police departments, 306 sheriffs' offices, the 49 primary State law enforcement agencies, and 11 special jurisdiction police agencies.

The self-representing (SR) agencies were supplemented by a nationally representative sample of agencies with fewer than 100 sworn officers. These nonself-representing (NSR) agencies were chosen using a stratified random sample with cells based on the type of agency (local police, sheriff, or special police), size of population served, and number of sworn officers. The 2,424 NSR agencies selected included 1,556 local police departments, 694 sheriffs' offices, and 174 special jurisdiction police agencies.

A total of 3,246 agencies responded to the 1999 LEMAS survey for a response rate of 97.8%. This included 883 SR agencies and 2,363 NSR agencies. The final database includes 2,052 local police departments, 967 sheriffs' offices, 178 special jurisdiction police departments, and the 49 primary State law enforcement agencies.

The base weight for all SR agencies is 1. For NSR local police departments, the base weights are determined by number of sworn officers employed as of June 30, 1996. For agencies with 0 to 6 sworn officers, the base weight is 15.55; for 7 to 13 officers, it is 9.65; for 14 to 23 officers, it is 7.09; for 24 to 39 officers, it is 4.95; for 40 to 62 officers, it is 3.38; and for 63 to 99 officers, the base weight is 2.14.

The final weight associated with every agency, both SR and NSR, is the product of the base weight, a factor that adjusted for changes in the universe since 1996, and a factor that adjusted for any nonresponding agencies in each cell.

Some responding agencies did not fully complete the LEMAS questionnaire. When an agency did not supply a response to an item, median value imputation or ratio imputation was used. Median value imputation uses the median value of an item reported by agencies in the same sample cell. Ratio imputation uses the median value of a ratio reported by agencies in the same sample cell.

Median value imputation was used to impute counts of facilities, reserve sworn officers, community service officers, and nonsworn volunteers. Ratio imputation was used to impute counts of employees and computer equipment. Every imputed item on the database has an indicator that the value has been imputed. Complete documentation regarding sampling procedures and nonresponse adjustments is available upon request.

Because the data from agencies with fewer than 100 sworn personnel were collected from a sample, the results are subject to sampling error. Statements of comparison in this report have been tested to ensure that observed differences between values are significant at 2 standard errors (the 95%-confidence level) or higher. The survey data are also subject to response and processing errors.