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## Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletin

# Census of State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies, 1992

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In 1992 State and local governments funded 17,360 police and sheriffs' departments, including 12,504 general purpose local police departments, 3,087 sheriffs' departments, 49 primary State police departments, and 1,720 special police agencies. These agencies employed approximately 603,000 full-time sworn officers with general arrest powers and 237,000 nonsworn civilian personnel.

Excluding officers in special police agencies, like those for airports, parks, transit systems, and universities, there were 22 full-time police and sheriffs' officers per 10,000 U.S. residents, a 7% increase from 1986.

These findings resulted from a census of the Nation's police and sheriffs' departments conducted for the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) in July 1992.

Other findings include the following:

- General purpose local police departments employed 476,193 persons on a full-time basis, including 373,024 full-time sworn officers, 61.8% of all police and sheriffs' officers nationwide.
- About 40% of employees working for sheriffs' departments nationwide were non-sworn civilian personnel, as were 22% of employees working for general purpose local police departments.
- Civilian employment in general purpose police and sheriffs' departments grew 27.6% from 1986 to 1992, about twice as much as that of sworn officers (13.3%).

Every 3 years, through the Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics (LEMAS) program, the Bureau of Justice Statistics provides the Nation a profile of State and local law enforcement agencies. The LEMAS program collects detailed information about staffing, resources, duties, and policies to describe the more than 17,000 agencies.

Beginning this month, law enforcement agencies complete their LEMAS questionnaires, and in the latter part of 1994, we will publish highlights of what they report. To have a complete listing of agencies for selecting the LEMAS sample, BJS also sponsors the census reported in this Bulletin.

- Excluding special police agencies, the total number of police and sheriffs' employees increased by about 17% from 1986 to 1992, including a 35% increase among sheriffs' departments.
- From 1986 to 1992, the number of general purpose police and sheriffs' officers per 10,000 U.S. residents increased by 7.1%, from 20.6 to 22.0. This included 3.5% more police officers and 20.8% more sheriffs' officers per 10,000 residents.
- Overall, there were 24 police and sheriffs' officers per 10,000 U.S. residents in 1992. This total included 15 local police officers, 5 sheriffs' officers, 2 State police officers, and 2 special police officers.

July 1993

The increasing number of employees of police and sheriff's departments enumerated in the 1986 and 1992 censuses varied by type of employee and agency. The count of civilian employees grew about twice as fast as that of sworn officers with arrest powers. Sheriffs' departments, usually responsible for operating local jails, had 28% more full-time officers and 48% more full-time civilian employees in 1992 than in 1986.

We thank the agencies that cooperated in reporting these data. A fuller description of the criminal justice community is made possible through their participation in BJS law enforcement statistical programs.

Lawrence A. Greenfeld  
Acting Director

- Pennsylvania had the highest number of general purpose local police departments (1,049), while Texas had the most sheriffs' departments (255).
- Police and sheriffs' departments in California employed slightly over 100,000 full-time personnel, more than any other State. The State of New York had the most full-time sworn officers, about 68,000.
- There were 38 full-time State and local sworn officers for every 10,000 residents in the State of New York. This was more than any other State, excluding the District of Columbia. West Virginia had the lowest number of State and local officers per 10,000 residents of any State (14).

- The size of local police departments ranged from about 29,000 full-time sworn officers working for the New York City Police Department to no full-time officers in 756 small-town departments.

- Sixty-eight police and sheriffs' departments employed 1,000 or more full-time officers. These departments employed nearly 1 in every 3 full-time officers in the Nation.

### The Directory Survey of Law Enforcement Agencies

To ensure an accurate sampling frame for its Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics (LEMAS) survey, the Bureau of Justice Statistics periodically sponsors a census of the Nation's State and local law enforcement agencies. This census, known as the Directory Survey, includes all police and sheriffs' departments that are publicly funded and employ at least one full-time or part-time sworn officer with general arrest powers. The most recent Directory Survey was conducted in July 1992. It was the second such census, with the first occurring in 1986.

As in 1986, the 1992 Directory Survey collected data on the number of sworn and nonsworn personnel employed by each agency, including both full-time and part-time employees. The pay period that included June 30, 1992, was the reference date for all personnel data. A 100% response rate provided a complete listing of the 17,360 State and local law enforcement agencies operating in the United States and the number of employees working for each agency.

### Employment by police and sheriffs' departments in 1992

Police and sheriffs' departments in the United States employed a total of 840,647 persons on a full-time basis as of June 30, 1992 (table 1). The total included 603,465 (71.8%) sworn officers with general arrest powers and 237,182 (28.2%) nonsworn civilian employees. These departments also employed 89,667 persons on a part-time basis, including 39,200 part-time sworn officers.

General purpose local police departments were the largest employer with 476,193 full-time employees in 1992. Of this total, 373,024, or 78.3%, were sworn officers. Sheriffs' departments reported 224,958 full-time employees, of which 136,090 (60.5%) were sworn officers. The 49 primary State police departments operating in each State except Hawaii employed 52,980 full-time officers (67.4%) and 25,590 nonsworn personnel (32.6%) for a total of 78,570 full-time State police employees nationwide.

Special police agencies employed 60,926 persons on a full-time basis in 1992,

including 41,371 (67.9%) full-time sworn officers. Included among special police agencies are both State and local agencies that have special geographic jurisdictions such as airport police, park police, transit police, public school police, college and university police, and housing police. Also included are agencies with special enforcement responsibilities such as those pertaining to natural resource conservation or alcoholic beverage control, and special investigative units such as those operated by prosecutors' offices. County constable offices in Texas are also classified as special police agencies.

Unlike their full-time counterparts, a majority (56.3%) of the part-time police and sheriffs' employees nationwide were civilian personnel. In both special police agencies and the 49 primary State police departments, about three-fourths of the part-time employees were nonsworn personnel. Civilian personnel comprised just over half (52.1%) of all part-time employees working for general purpose local police or sheriffs' departments.

**Table 1. Full-time and part-time employees in police and sheriffs' departments, by type of employee and type of agency, 1992**

Type of agency	Police and sheriffs' department employees					
	Full-time			Part-time		
	Total	Sworn	Nonsworn	Total	Sworn	Nonsworn
<b>Number</b>						
Total	840,647	603,465	237,182	89,667	39,200	50,467
General purpose police						
Local	476,193	373,024	103,169	57,486	27,552	29,934
State	78,570	52,980	25,590	807	211	596
Sheriff	224,958	136,090	88,868	17,288	8,172	9,116
Special police	60,926	41,371	19,555	14,086	3,265	10,821
<b>Percent</b>						
Total	100%	71.8%	28.2%	100%	43.7%	56.3%
General purpose police						
Local	100%	78.3%	21.7%	100%	47.9%	52.1%
State	100	67.4	32.6	100	26.1	73.9
Sheriff	100	60.5	39.5	100	47.3	52.7
Special police	100	67.9	32.1	100	23.2	76.8

Note: Figures are for pay period that included June 30, 1992. Special police category includes both State and local agencies.

**Employment by police and sheriffs' departments, 1992 versus 1986**

Complete employment data on special police agencies are not available for 1986, but overall employment by general purpose police and sheriffs' departments increased by 16.9% between 1986 and 1992 (table 2). During the same period, the U.S. population increased an estimated 5.8%.

Full-time civilian employment by general purpose police and sheriffs' departments increased by 27.6% between 1986 and 1992, about twice the rate of increase for sworn officers (13.3%). In 1992, 21.7% of full-time local police department employees were civilians compared with 20.5% in 1986, and the percentage of civilian personnel among State police department employees rose to 32.6% in 1992, compared with 31.8% in 1986. Among sheriffs' departments, 39.5% of the

employees were civilians in 1992, compared with 36.1% in 1986.

The total number of full-time employees working for general purpose local police departments increased by 48,011, or 11.2%, during the period 1986-92. Included in this increase were 32,491 additional full-time officers, (an increase of 9.5%), and 15,520 additional full-time civilian personnel (an increase of 17.7%).

Compared with 1986, the 78,570 employees working for State police departments represented a net gain of 6,501 full-time employees, or 9%. From 1986 to 1992, the number of full-time State police officers went up by 3,825, or 7.8%, and the number of full-time civilian State police employees rose by 2,676 or 11.7%.

Sheriffs' departments posted the largest overall employment gain between 1986

and 1992, adding 29,635 full-time officers (a 27.8% increase) and 28,813 full-time civilian employees (a 48% increase), for a total net gain of 58,448 full-time employees (a 35.1% increase).

When controlling for the 5.8% growth in the U.S. population from 1986 to 1992 by using a ratio of employees to residents, employment by general purpose police and sheriffs' departments expanded 10.5% — from 27.7 full-time employees per 10,000 U.S. residents in 1986 to 30.6 in 1992. The number of full-time sworn officers per 10,000 residents increased by 7.1%, from 20.6 in 1986 to 22.0 in 1992. The ratio of sheriffs' officers to residents increased 20.8%, about 6 times the increase for local police officers (3.5%).

The larger increases in employment by sheriffs' departments can be partly attributed to their greater responsibility for the operation of jails and the demand for more jail staff created by the Nation's expanding jail inmate population. During 1992, 81% of the Nation's sheriffs' departments operated at least one jail. This responsibility varied somewhat by State, but a majority of the sheriffs' departments in 34 States were responsible for jail operation. In contrast to the large percentage of sheriffs' departments responsible for jail operation, just 4% of all local police departments had primary responsibility for operating a jail during 1992.

BJS data collected in 1990 from police and sheriffs' departments employing 100 or more sworn officers showed that about 34% of the sheriffs' officers were classified as jail employees, while less than 1% of the local police officers were jail employees. Another 9% of the sheriffs' officers worked primarily in the area of court operations performing such duties as serving warrants and providing court security, compared with 0.2% of local police officers. The 1992 Directory Survey counts all sworn officers with general arrest powers and does not distinguish among these officers based on their job classification.

**Table 2. Full-time employees in general purpose police and sheriffs' departments, by type of employee and type of agency, 1992 and 1986**

Type of employee and agency	Number of employees					
	Total		Percent change	Per 10,000 residents		
	1992	1986		1992	1986	Percent change
<b>All full-time employees</b>						
<b>Total</b>	779,721	666,761	16.9%	30.6	27.7	10.5%
General purpose police						
Local	476,193	428,182	11.2%	18.7	17.8	5.1%
State	78,570	72,069	9.0	3.1	3.0	3.0
Sheriff	224,958	166,510	35.1	8.8	6.9	27.7
<b>Full-time sworn officers</b>						
<b>Total</b>	562,094	496,143	13.3%	22.0	20.6	7.1%
General purpose police						
Local	373,024	340,533	9.5%	14.6	14.1	3.5%
State	52,980	49,155	7.8	2.1	2.0	1.9
Sheriff	136,090	106,455	27.8	5.3	4.4	20.8
<b>Full-time civilian employees</b>						
<b>Total</b>	217,627	170,618	27.6%	8.5	7.1	20.5%
General purpose police						
Local	103,169	87,649	17.7%	4.0	3.6	11.2%
State	25,590	22,914	11.7	1.0	1.0	5.5
Sheriff	88,868	60,055	48.0	3.5	2.5	39.9

Note: Figures are for pay period that included June 30, 1992.

### State-by-State comparisons

A total of 17,360 agencies were included in the 1992 Directory Survey (table 3). In addition to the 49 primary State police departments, the census included 12,504 general purpose local police departments. County governments operated 60 of these local departments, and municipalities operated the rest.

The census also included 3,087 sheriffs' departments operated by counties and independent cities, and 1,720 special police agencies. Included in the latter category were 750 county constable offices in Texas, and 970 State and local agencies with special jurisdictions or special enforcement responsibilities.

In 1992 Pennsylvania had the most local police departments of any State (1,049), followed by Ohio (776), Illinois (748), Texas (633), New Jersey (488), Michigan (474), Missouri (463), and New York (463). In contrast, Hawaii had 4 local police departments, and Nevada had 14.

Since sheriffs' departments generally operate at the county level, the number in a State is largely determined by the number of counties. Accordingly, the State with the most counties, Texas, had the most sheriffs' departments (255). Other States with more than 100 sheriffs' departments included Georgia (159), Virginia (125), Kentucky (121), Missouri (112), Kansas (104), and Illinois (102). No sheriffs' departments were operating in Alaska, Hawaii, or the District of Columbia.

Excluding its 750 constable offices, Texas had 73 special police agencies, second only to California which had 93. The other States with more than 50 special police agencies were New York (57) and Pennsylvania (51).

**Table 3. Police and sheriffs' departments, by State and type of agency, 1992**

State	Number of agencies				
	Total	General purpose police		Sheriff	Special police
		Local	State		
All States	17,360	12,504	49	3,087	1,720
Alabama	377	285	1	67	24
Alaska	48	43	1	0	4
Arizona	102	75	1	15	11
Arkansas	277	186	1	74	16
California	493	341	1	58	93
Colorado	218	140	1	63	14
Connecticut	133	108	1	8	16
Delaware	42	33	1	3	5
District of Columbia	3	1	0	0	2
Florida	371	285	1	65	20
Georgia	540	343	1	159	37
Hawaii	6	4	0	0	2
Idaho	112	66	1	44	1
Illinois	894	748	1	102	43
Indiana	448	335	1	92	20
Iowa	428	321	1	100	6
Kansas	345	222	1	104	18
Kentucky	378	240	1	121	16
Louisiana	347	256	1	63	27
Maine	142	119	1	16	6
Maryland	124	78	1	24	21
Massachusetts	388	341	1	14	32
Michigan	579	474	1	84	20
Minnesota	456	359	1	87	9
Mississippi	297	189	1	82	25
Missouri	592	463	1	112	16
Montana	119	59	1	55	4
Nebraska	247	149	1	93	4
Nevada	35	14	1	16	4
New Hampshire	228	214	1	10	3
New Jersey	535	488	1	22	24
New Mexico	115	72	1	33	9
New York	578	463	1	57	57
North Carolina	458	332	1	100	25
North Dakota	134	76	1	53	4
Ohio	908	776	1	88	43
Oklahoma	410	312	1	77	20
Oregon	183	137	1	36	9
Pennsylvania	1,167	1,049	1	66	51
Rhode Island	48	39	1	4	4
South Carolina	255	188	1	46	20
South Dakota	171	102	1	66	2
Tennessee	326	211	1	95	19
Texas	1,712	633	1	255	823
Utah	127	84	1	29	13
Vermont	73	57	1	14	1
Virginia	327	167	1	125	34
Washington	252	202	1	39	10
West Virginia	228	158	1	55	14
Wisconsin	507	417	1	73	16
Wyoming	77	50	1	23	3

Note: Special police total for Texas includes 750 constable offices. The local police category includes consolidated police-sheriff departments.

California had 100,582 full-time police and sheriffs' department employees, 12% of the U.S. total and more than any other State (table 4). New York, with 85,177, had the second highest number of full-time police and sheriffs' employees of any State.

Other States with a large number of police and sheriffs' employees were Texas (64,247), Florida (54,011), and Illinois (46,189). The States with the fewest police and sheriffs' employees were Vermont (1,329), North Dakota (1,449), South Dakota (1,592), and Alaska (1,645).

Over 56,000 of the police and sheriffs' employees in New York worked for general purpose local police departments, more than in any other State. The other 4 States with more than 25,000 full-time local police employees included California (46,947), Texas (33,059), Illinois (30,971), and Florida (25,598). Five States had fewer than 1,000 full-time local police employees: North Dakota (674), Montana (733), Vermont (752), Wyoming (799), and South Dakota (804).

Four States had more than 10,000 sheriffs' department employees. California ranked first with 36,243, about a sixth of all sheriffs' department employees in the United States. Florida was second with 24,426, followed by Texas (19,077), and Illinois (10,817).

New York with 14,803 full-time special police employees was the only State with more than 10,000. California was second with 8,498 special police employees, and Texas (6,506) was third. About 2,000 of the Texas total were constable office employees.

**Table 4. Full-time employees in police and sheriffs' departments, by State and type of agency, 1992**

State	Total	Number of full-time employees			
		General purpose police		Sheriff	Special police
		Local	State		
All States	840,647	476,193	78,570	224,958	60,926
Alabama	12,517	7,295	1,281	3,172	769
Alaska	1,645	1,071	439	0	135
Arizona	13,243	7,178	1,611	4,196	258
Arkansas	6,823	3,283	679	1,828	1,033
California	100,582	46,947	8,894	36,243	8,498
Colorado	12,559	6,445	688	4,513	913
Connecticut	9,276	7,236	1,321	425	294
Delaware	2,006	1,047	687	40	232
District of Columbia	6,174	5,750	0	0	424
Florida	54,011	25,598	2,106	24,426	1,881
Georgia	24,516	12,524	1,900	8,381	1,711
Hawaii	3,478	3,384	0	0	94
Idaho	2,922	1,151	254	1,502	15
Illinois	46,189	30,971	3,300	10,817	1,101
Indiana	14,935	7,766	1,745	4,699	725
Iowa	6,374	3,476	459	2,175	264
Kansas	7,832	4,224	821	2,388	399
Kentucky	7,953	4,721	1,654	1,145	433
Louisiana	16,551	6,760	1,042	8,070	679
Maine	3,313	1,766	460	896	191
Maryland	16,871	10,156	2,400	2,546	1,769
Massachusetts	21,181	14,217	2,579	3,615	770
Michigan	26,396	15,636	2,913	6,882	965
Minnesota	10,171	5,506	723	3,466	476
Mississippi	6,689	3,633	838	1,768	450
Missouri	15,360	10,395	1,833	2,609	523
Montana	2,121	733	262	1,034	92
Nebraska	4,194	2,147	643	1,303	101
Nevada	4,993	3,175	459	1,142	217
New Hampshire	2,894	2,191	340	158	205
New Jersey	32,950	22,793	3,550	4,871	1,736
New Mexico	4,957	3,003	552	1,241	161
New York	85,177	56,406	4,684	9,284	14,803
North Carolina	19,633	9,805	1,602	7,109	1,117
North Dakota	1,449	674	199	503	73
Ohio	29,718	17,936	2,348	7,522	1,912
Oklahoma	9,554	6,028	1,406	1,736	384
Oregon	8,310	3,883	1,145	3,107	175
Pennsylvania	28,326	19,907	5,232	1,453	1,734
Rhode Island	2,891	2,456	203	125	107
South Carolina	10,099	4,323	1,193	3,423	1,160
South Dakota	1,592	804	169	603	16
Tennessee	16,349	8,204	1,543	5,927	675
Texas	64,247	33,059	5,605	19,077	6,506
Utah	4,833	1,882	395	1,709	847
Vermont	1,329	752	426	119	32
Virginia	21,454	10,529	2,206	6,550	2,169
Washington	12,733	6,246	2,074	4,090	323
West Virginia	3,912	1,527	734	1,373	278
Wisconsin	15,349	8,795	665	4,822	1,067
Wyoming	2,016	799	308	875	34

Note: Special police category includes both State and local agencies.  
Special police total for Texas includes 2,006 employees working for constable offices.  
Figures are for pay period that included June 30, 1992.

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Over 56,000 of the police and sheriffs' employees in New York worked for general purpose local police departments, more than in any other State. The other 4 States with more than 25,000 full-time local police employees included California (46,947), Texas (33,059), Illinois (30,971), and Florida (25,598). Five States had fewer than 1,000 full-time local police employees: North Dakota (674), Montana (733), Vermont (752), Wyoming (799), and South Dakota (804).

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New York with 14,803 full-time special police employees was the only State with more than 10,000. California was second with 8,498 special police employees, and Texas (6,506) was third. About 2,000 of the Texas total were constable office employees.

**Table 4. Full-time employees in police and sheriffs' departments, by State and type of agency, 1992**

State	Total	Number of full-time employees			Special police
		General purpose police		Sheriff	
		Local	State		
All States	840,647	476,193	78,570	224,958	60,926
Alabama	12,517	7,295	1,281	3,172	769
Alaska	1,645	1,071	499	0	135
Arizona	13,243	7,178	1,611	4,196	258
Arkansas	6,823	3,283	679	1,828	1,033
California	100,582	46,947	8,894	36,243	8,498
Colorado	12,559	6,445	688	4,513	913
Connecticut	9,276	7,236	1,321	425	294
Delaware	2,006	1,047	687	40	232
District of Columbia	6,174	5,750	0	0	424
Florida	54,011	25,598	2,106	24,426	1,881
Georgia	24,516	12,524	1,900	8,381	1,711
Hawaii	3,478	3,384	0	0	94
Idaho	2,922	1,151	254	1,502	15
Illinois	46,189	30,971	3,300	10,817	1,101
Indiana	14,935	7,766	1,745	4,899	725
Iowa	6,374	3,476	459	2,175	264
Kansas	7,832	4,224	821	2,388	399
Kentucky	7,953	4,721	1,654	1,145	433
Louisiana	16,551	6,760	1,042	8,070	679
Maine	3,313	1,766	460	896	191
Maryland	16,871	10,156	2,400	2,546	1,769
Massachusetts	21,181	14,217	2,579	3,615	770
Michigan	26,396	15,636	2,913	6,882	965
Minnesota	10,171	5,506	723	3,466	476
Mississippi	6,689	3,633	833	1,768	450
Missouri	15,360	10,395	1,833	2,609	523
Montana	2,121	733	262	1,034	92
Nebraska	4,194	2,147	643	1,303	101
Nevada	4,993	3,175	459	1,142	217
New Hampshire	2,894	2,191	340	158	205
New Jersey	32,950	22,793	3,550	4,871	1,736
New Mexico	4,957	3,003	552	1,241	161
New York	85,177	56,406	4,684	9,284	14,803
North Carolina	19,633	9,805	1,602	7,109	1,117
North Dakota	1,449	674	199	503	73
Ohio	29,718	17,936	2,348	7,522	1,912
Oklahoma	9,554	6,028	1,406	1,736	384
Oregon	8,310	3,883	1,145	3,107	175
Pennsylvania	28,326	19,907	5,232	1,453	1,734
Rhode Island	2,891	2,456	203	125	107
South Carolina	10,099	4,323	1,193	3,423	1,160
South Dakota	1,592	804	169	603	16
Tennessee	16,349	8,204	1,543	5,927	675
Texas	64,247	33,059	5,605	19,077	6,506
Utah	4,833	1,882	395	1,709	847
Vermont	1,329	752	426	119	32
Virginia	21,454	10,529	2,206	6,550	2,169
Washington	12,733	6,246	2,074	4,090	323
West Virginia	3,912	1,527	734	1,373	278
Wisconsin	15,349	8,795	665	4,822	1,067
Wyoming	2,016	799	308	875	34

Note: Special police category includes both State and local agencies.  
Special police total for Texas includes 2,006 employees working for constable offices.  
Figures are for pay period that included June 30, 1992.

The State of New York had the largest number of full-time State and local sworn officers, 68,208 (table 5). California ranked second with 65,797. Four other States had more than 25,000 full-time officers: Texas (41,349), Illinois (35,674), Florida (32,879), and New Jersey (26,777). Five States had fewer than 1,500 full-time State and local officers: Vermont (978), Alaska (1,057), North Dakota (1,060), South Dakota (1,145), and Montana (1,410).

General purpose local police departments in the State of New York employed 45,822 full-time officers, more than in any other State. California ranked second in the number of full-time local police officers employed with 33,191. The other States with more than 15,000 full-time local police officers were Illinois (24,988), Texas (24,576), New Jersey (19,221), Florida (18,037), and Pennsylvania (17,256).

California had 22,552 full-time sworn officers working for sheriffs' departments, nearly twice as many as Florida (11,805), the State that ranked second. Sheriffs' departments in Texas ranked third with 9,876 officers, followed by Illinois (7,845) and Louisiana (7,547).

Agencies operating in New York employed the most full-time special police officers of any State (13,334), nearly a third (32%) of all such officers in the United States. Agencies in Texas employed 4,108 special police officers, including 1,723 sworn constable office employees. Special police agencies in California employed 3,992 full-time officers. Other States with more than 1,000 special police officers were Florida (1,432), Pennsylvania (1,293), Maryland (1,280), Ohio (1,099), and New Jersey (1,062).

**Table 5. Full-time sworn officers employed by police and sheriffs' departments, by State and type of agency, 1992**

State	Number of full-time sworn officers				
	Total	General purpose police		Sheriff	Special police
		Local	State		
All States	603,465	373,024	52,980	136,090	41,371
Alabama	8,771	5,640	629	1,902	600
Alaska	1,057	677	260	0	120
Arizona	7,900	5,209	1,100	1,427	164
Arkansas	4,475	2,503	484	1,045	443
California	65,797	33,191	6,062	22,552	3,992
Colorado	8,726	4,787	493	3,042	404
Connecticut	7,839	6,068	905	418	248
Delaware	1,572	887	505	22	158
District of Columbia	5,213	4,889	0	0	324
Florida	32,879	18,037	1,605	11,805	1,432
Georgia	16,792	9,404	777	5,852	759
Hawaii	2,783	2,690	0	0	93
Idaho	2,157	921	192	1,032	12
Illinois	35,674	24,988	1,977	7,845	864
Indiana	10,038	5,942	1,097	2,439	560
Iowa	4,740	2,863	410	1,254	213
Kansas	5,631	3,193	604	1,542	292
Kentucky	6,088	3,804	960	1,044	280
Louisiana	14,379	5,548	714	7,547	570
Maine	2,267	1,399	332	367	169
Maryland	12,601	8,273	1,700	1,348	1,280
Massachusetts	16,014	12,097	2,070	1,264	593
Michigan	19,656	13,027	2,019	3,968	642
Minnesota	7,365	4,580	501	1,887	397
Mississippi	4,675	2,745	499	1,107	324
Missouri	11,256	7,921	883	2,061	391
Montana	1,410	568	200	595	47
Nebraska	3,084	1,720	502	769	93
Nevada	3,052	1,795	306	808	143
New Hampshire	2,139	1,717	250	104	68
New Jersey	26,777	19,221	2,572	3,922	1,062
New Mexico	3,420	2,092	425	792	111
New York	68,208	45,822	4,013	5,039	13,334
North Carolina	14,586	8,023	1,260	4,596	707
North Dakota	1,060	538	125	348	49
Ohio	20,929	14,668	1,292	3,870	1,099
Oklahoma	6,458	4,529	786	842	301
Oregon	5,495	2,782	905	1,691	117
Pennsylvania	23,700	17,256	4,075	1,076	1,293
Rhode Island	2,389	2,024	165	124	76
South Carolina	7,752	3,481	1,193	2,494	584
South Dakota	1,145	648	151	338	8
Tennessee	10,379	6,214	782	2,866	517
Texas	41,349	24,576	2,789	9,876	4,108
Utah	2,979	1,546	365	818	250
Vermont	978	594	285	78	21
Virginia	16,365	8,205	1,606	5,590	964
Washington	8,192	4,704	1,032	2,228	228
West Virginia	2,622	1,260	468	651	243
Wisconsin	11,642	7,184	498	3,357	603
Wyoming	1,210	584	157	448	21

Note: Special police category includes both State and local agencies. Special police total for Texas includes 1,723 officers working for constable offices. Figures are for pay period that included June 30, 1992.

**Table 6. Number of full-time sworn officers employed by police and sheriffs' departments per 10,000 residents, by State and type of agency, 1992**

State	Population in 1992	Number of full-time sworn officers per 10,000 residents				
		Total	General purpose police		Sheriff	Special police
			Local	State		
All States	255,082,000	24	15	2	5	2
Alabama	4,136,000	21	14	2	5	1
Alaska	587,000	18	12	4	0	2
Arizona	3,332,000	21	14	3	4	--
Arkansas	2,399,000	19	10	2	4	2
California	30,867,000	21	11	2	7	1
Colorado	3,470,000	25	14	1	9	1
Connecticut	3,281,000	23	18	3	1	1
Delaware	689,000	23	13	7	--	2
District of Columbia	589,000	89	83	0	0	6
Florida	13,488,000	24	13	1	9	1
Georgia	6,751,000	25	14	1	9	1
Hawaii	1,160,000	24	23	0	0	1
Idaho	1,067,000	20	9	2	10	--
Illinois	11,631,000	31	21	2	7	1
Indiana	5,662,000	18	10	2	4	1
Iowa	2,812,000	17	10	1	4	1
Kansas	2,523,000	22	13	2	6	1
Kentucky	3,755,000	16	10	3	3	1
Louisiana	4,287,000	34	13	2	18	1
Maine	1,235,000	18	11	3	3	1
Maryland	4,908,000	26	17	3	3	3
Massachusetts	5,998,000	27	20	3	2	1
Michigan	9,437,000	21	14	2	4	1
Minnesota	4,480,000	16	10	1	4	1
Mississippi	2,614,000	18	11	2	4	1
Missouri	5,193,000	22	15	2	4	1
Montana	824,000	17	7	2	7	1
Nebraska	1,60,000	19	11	3	5	1
Nevada	1,327,000	23	14	2	6	1
New Hampshire	1,111,000	19	15	2	1	1
New Jersey	7,789,000	34	25	3	5	1
New Mexico	1,581,000	22	13	3	5	1
New York	18,119,000	38	22	2	3	7
North Carolina	6,843,000	21	12	2	7	1
North Dakota	636,000	17	8	2	5	1
Ohio	11,016,000	19	13	1	4	1
Oklahoma	3,212,000	20	14	2	3	1
Oregon	2,977,000	18	9	3	6	--
Pennsylvania	12,009,000	20	14	3	1	1
Rhode Island	1,005,000	24	20	2	1	1
South Carolina	3,603,000	22	10	3	7	2
South Dakota	711,000	16	9	2	5	--
Tennessee	5,024,000	21	12	2	6	1
Texas	17,656,000	23	14	2	6	2
Utah	1,813,000	16	9	2	5	1
Vermont	570,000	17	10	5	1	--
Virginia	6,377,000	26	13	3	9	2
Washington	5,136,000	16	9	2	4	--
West Virginia	1,812,000	14	7	3	4	1
Wisconsin	5,007,000	23	14	1	7	1
Wyoming	466,000	26	13	3	10	--

Note: Special police category includes both State and local agencies.  
 Population figures are Census Bureau estimates as of April 1, 1992.  
 Figures are for pay period that included June 30, 1992.  
 Detail may not add to total because of rounding.  
 --Less than 0.5.

Nationwide, there were 24 State and local full-time sworn officers for every 10,000 residents including 15 local police officers, 5 sheriffs' officers, 2 State police officers, and 2 special police officers (table 6).

The District of Columbia, a wholly urban jurisdiction unlike any State, employed 83 local police officers per 10,000 residents. This was more than twice the number of State and local sworn officers per 10,000 residents in the highest ranking State, New York, which had 38 full-time sworn officers per 10,000 residents. Other States with more than 30 State and local full-time officers per 10,000 residents were New Jersey and Louisiana with 34 each, and Illinois with 31. West Virginia had 14 full-time officers per 10,000 residents, the lowest ratio of any State. The median for all States was 21 per 10,000.

New York and New Jersey, with 25 each, ranked highest among the States in terms of local police officers per 10,000 residents. Other States with 20 or more local police officers per 10,000 residents included Hawaii (23), Illinois (21), Massachusetts (20), and Rhode Island (20).

Louisiana, with 18, had the highest number of sheriffs' officers per 10,000 residents, followed by Idaho and Wyoming with 10 each. There were 7 special police officers per 10,000 residents in the State of New York, a higher ratio than in any other State.

### Size of police and sheriffs' departments

In the 1986 Directory Survey, the New York City Police Department was the largest State or local law enforcement agency in the country in 1992, with 35,573 full-time employees (table 7). This total included 28,812 full-time officers, more than twice as many as the next largest department, the Chicago Police, which had 12,605 full-time officers. Including nonsworn personnel, the Chicago Police employed 15,008 persons full time.

The other two agencies with more than 7,500 full-time officers and more than 10,000 full-time employees overall were the Los Angeles County Sheriff with 7,960 officers and 11,771 employees and the Los Angeles Police with 7,900 officers and 10,710 employees.

The only other State or local law enforcement agencies to employ more than 5,000 full-time officers were the Philadelphia Police (6,347) and the California Highway Patrol (6,062), the fifth and sixth largest in the Nation, respectively.

Two other agencies approached the 5,000-officer employment level: The Washington (DC) Metropolitan Police was the seventh largest agency with 4,889 full-time officers, and the Cook County (Illinois) Sheriff employed 4,801 officers, making it the eighth largest.

The New York City Transit Police, with 4,409 full-time officers, was the largest special police agency in the United States and the ninth largest law enforcement agency overall. The Houston Police, which employed 4,262 full-time officers, rounded out the top 10.

**Table 7. Twenty-five largest police and sheriffs' departments, ranked by number of full-time sworn officers, 1992**

State	Name of agency	Full-time sworn officers	Full-time employees
New York	New York City Police	28,812	35,753
Illinois	Chicago Police	12,605	15,008
California	Los Angeles County Sheriff	7,960	11,771
California	Los Angeles Police	7,900	10,710
Pennsylvania	Philadelphia Police	6,347	7,221
California	California Highway Patrol	6,062	8,894
District of Columbia	Washington Metropolitan Police	4,889	5,750
Illinois	Cook County Sheriff	4,801	5,620
New York	New York City Transit Police	4,409	4,766
Texas	Houston Police	4,262	6,038
Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania State Police	4,075	5,232
New York	New York State Police	4,013	4,684
Michigan	Detroit Police	3,852	4,463
Texas	Dallas Police	2,878	3,678
Maryland	Baltimore Police	2,822	3,352
Texas	Texas Department of Public Safety	2,789	5,605
Texas	Harris County Sheriff	2,731	3,223
New York	Nassau County Police	2,717	3,844
New York	New York City School Security	2,700	3,000
New Jersey	New Jersey State Police	2,572	3,550
Florida	Metro-Dade County Police	2,512	3,607
New York	New York City Housing Police	2,481	2,754
New York	Suffolk County Police	2,328	2,830
Massachusetts	Massachusetts State Police	2,070	2,579
Wisconsin	Milwaukee Police	2,063	2,566

Note: Figures are for pay period that included June 30, 1992.

Overall, 68 State or local law enforcement agencies employed more than 1,000 full-time officers in 1992, including 37 local police departments, 17 State police departments, 10 sheriffs' departments, and 4 special police agencies (table 8).

All 49 primary State police departments had at least 100 full-time officers, as did 253 (8.1%) sheriffs' departments, 469 (3.7%) local police departments, and 64 (3.7%) special police agencies.

The 835 State or local law enforcement agencies that employed 100 or more full-time officers in 1992 comprised 4.8% of all police and sheriffs' departments nationwide.

In contrast to the relatively small number of large agencies, over 10,000 of the police and sheriffs' departments employed fewer than 10 full-time sworn officers. About 3 in 5 (61%) local police departments employed fewer than 10 full-time officers. Included among these 7,627 small police departments were 1,602 (12.8% of all local police departments) that employed only 1 full-time officer, and 756 (6%) that relied solely on part-time officers.

A similar percentage of special police agencies (63.3%) employed fewer than 10 full-time officers. About 500 special police agencies (29.4%) employed just 1 full-time officer, and about 200 (11.7%) were comprised of part-time officers only.

About 2 in 5 (42.1%) sheriffs' departments employed fewer than 10 full-time officers. Forty-four of them, 1.4% of all sheriffs' departments, employed just 1 full-time officer, and 7 (0.2%) had no full-time officers.

**Table 8. Police and sheriffs' departments, by size and type of agency, 1992**

Number of full-time sworn officers	Type of agency				Special police
	Total	General purpose police		Sheriff	
		Local	State		
<b>Number of agencies</b>					
All sizes	17,360	12,504	49	3,087	1,720
1,000 or more officers	68	37	17	10	4
500-999	70	35	13	20	2
250-499	172	93	13	54	12
100-249	525	304	6	169	46
50-99	969	645	0	250	74
25-49	1,840	1,265	0	426	149
10-24	3,702	2,498	0	659	345
5-9	3,392	2,401	0	768	223
2-4	3,506	2,868	0	480	158
1	2,152	1,602	0	44	506
0	964	756	0	7	201
<b>Percent of agencies</b>					
All sizes	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
1,000 or more officers	.4%	.3%	34.7%	.3%	.2%
500-999	.4	.3	26.5	.6	.1
250-499	1.0	.7	26.5	1.7	.7
100-249	3.0	2.4	12.2	5.5	2.7
50-99	5.6	5.2	0	8.1	4.3
25-49	10.6	10.1	0	13.8	8.7
10-24	21.3	20.0	0	27.8	20.1
5-9	19.5	19.2	0	24.9	13.0
2-4	20.2	22.9	0	15.5	9.2
1	12.4	12.8	0	1.4	29.4
0	5.6	6.0	0	.2	11.7

Note: Special police category includes both State and local agencies on June 30, 1992. The local police category includes consolidated police-sheriff departments.

Police and sheriffs' departments that employed fewer than 10 officers accounted about 49,000 (5.8%) of all police and sheriffs' employees nationwide (table 9). Over 500,000 police and sheriffs' employees were employed by departments with at least 100 officers, and such departments accounted for nearly two-thirds of all full-time police and sheriffs' employees nationwide.

Compared with full-time officers, the majority of whom worked for departments with more than 100 officers, part-time sworn officers were more likely to be found in smaller agencies. Just 8.9% of the 39,200 part-time officers nationwide worked in departments with 100 or more full-time officers, while more than half (53.8%) worked in departments with fewer than 10 full-time officers.

The Nation's 68 largest police and sheriffs' departments, those with 1,000 or more full-time officers, employed over a quarter million persons on a full-time basis during 1992. They employed 191,194 full-time sworn officers, about a third (31.7%) of all State and local officers working nationwide. These large departments also employed about a fourth (25.7%) of all State and local civilian law enforcement employees.

Although smaller police and sheriffs' departments were more likely than large agencies to employ part-time sworn personnel, larger departments utilized part-time civilian employees to a greater degree. About 37% of part-time civilian law enforcement employees worked in departments with 100 or more officers, and 50% were employed by police and sheriffs' departments with 50 or more officers. About 15% were employed by agencies with fewer than 10 officers.

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**Table 9. Police and sheriffs' department employees, by size of agency and type of employee, 1992**

Number of full-time sworn officers	Type of employee					
	Full-time			Part-time		
	Total	Sworn	Nonsworn	Total	Sworn	Nonsworn
<b>Number of employees</b>						
All sizes	840,647	603,465	237,182	89,667	39,200	50,467
1,000 or more officers	252,210	191,194	61,016	6,446	158	6,288
500-999	74,664	49,933	24,726	3,769	490	3,279
250-499	85,145	59,397	25,748	4,465	837	3,628
100-249	117,001	80,670	36,331	7,579	2,018	5,561
50-99	93,332	66,402	26,930	9,048	2,785	6,263
25-49	87,962	63,145	24,817	12,176	4,316	7,860
10-24	81,529	57,550	23,979	17,440	7,489	9,951
5-9	32,233	22,596	9,637	12,151	7,626	4,525
2-4	13,918	10,421	3,497	9,880	7,568	2,312
1	2,586	2,132	434	3,359	2,847	512
0	67	0	67	3,354	3,066	288
<b>Percent of employees</b>						
All sizes	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
1,000 or more officers	30.0%	31.7%	25.7%	7.2%	.4%	12.5%
500-999	8.9	8.3	10.4	4.2	1.3	6.5
250-499	10.1	9.8	10.9	5.0	2.1	7.2
100-249	13.9	13.4	15.3	8.5	5.1	11.0
50-99	11.1	11.0	11.4	10.1	7.1	12.4
25-49	10.5	10.5	10.5	13.6	11.0	15.6
10-24	9.7	9.5	10.1	19.4	19.1	19.7
5-9	3.8	3.7	4.1	13.6	19.5	9.0
2-4	1.7	1.7	1.5	11.0	19.3	4.6
1	.3	.4	.2	3.7	7.3	1.0
0	--	0	--	3.7	7.6	.6

Note: Figures are for pay period that included June 30, 1992.  
--Less than 0.05%.