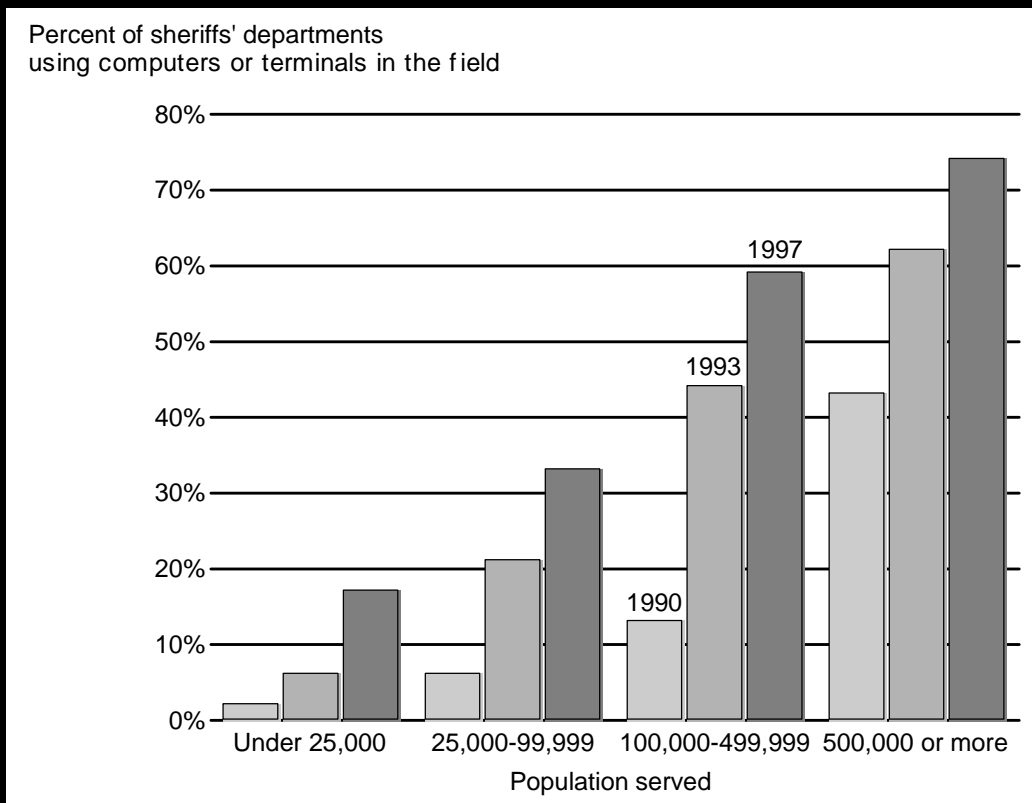




## Bureau of Justice Statistics

# Sheriffs' Departments 1997





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**Andrew L. Goldberg  
and Brian A. Reaves, Ph.D.**  
*BJS Statisticians*

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**U.S. Department of Justice**  
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Jan M. Chaiken, Ph.D.  
Director

Andrew L. Goldberg and Brian A. Reaves prepared this report. Timothy C. Hart provided statistical review. Tom Hester and Tina Dorsey edited the report. Jayne Robinson provided final production for printing.

Debra Cohen, Joseph B. Kuhns III, Tammy Rinehart, Karin Schmerler, and Meg Townsend of the Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) developed the community policing content of the 1997 LEMAS questionnaire. Funding for the community policing section of the questionnaire was provided by the COPS Office. Additional information on the COPS Office is available on the Internet at: <http://www.usdoj.gov/cops>.

The 1997 LEMAS data were collected and processed by the Governments Division of the Bureau of the Census under the supervision of Stephanie Brown and Stephen Owens. Census Bureau project staff included Carolyn Gates, Henrietta Herrin, Martha Haselbush, Martha Greene, and Patricia Torreyson. Sample selection and imputation procedures were done by Yukiko Ellis and Suzanne Dorinski of the Economic Statistical Methods and Procedures Division of the Census Bureau under the supervision of Carma Hogue.

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: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs>

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## Highlights

### Personnel

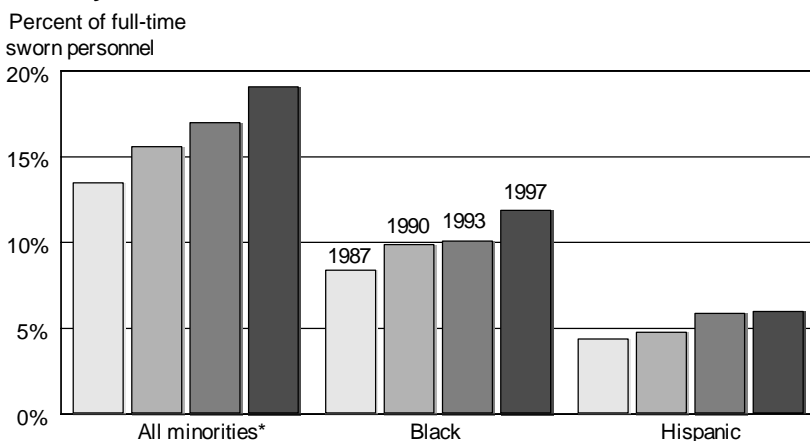
- As of June 1997, sheriffs' departments had an estimated 263,427 full-time employees, including about 175,000 sworn personnel. Total employment was up by an average 4.4% per year since 1993, compared to 3.1% per year from 1987 to 1993.
- Racial and ethnic minorities comprised 19% of full-time sworn officers in sheriffs' departments in 1997. This compared to 16.9% in 1993, 15.5% in 1990, and 13.4% in 1987.
- Nearly all officers worked for departments that used criminal record checks (99%), background investigations (98%), driving record checks (95%), and medical exams (92%) to screen applicants. Psychological (75%), aptitude (69%), and physical agility (59%) tests were also widely used.
- In 1997, 1% of departments required a 4-year degree of new deputy recruits and 7% a 2-year degree. Overall, 11% of departments required new deputy recruits to have completed at least some college course work in 1997, up from 7% in 1993.

- Field and classroom training requirements for new deputy recruits averaged more than 800 hours combined. Three-fourths of departments required deputies to complete in-service training as well, with a median annual requirement of 20 hours.

### Expenditures and pay

- Sheriffs' departments had total operating expenditures of \$13.1 billion during fiscal 1997, 10% more than in 1993 after adjusting for inflation. Expenditures averaged \$73,000 per sworn officer, and \$49 per resident.
- Starting salaries for deputies averaged about \$26,000, ranging from an average of \$19,400 in the smallest counties to \$30,200 in the largest. Nationwide, 48% of sheriffs' deputies worked for a department that authorized collective bargaining.

**Minority sheriffs' officers, 1987, 1990, 1993, and 1997**



\*Includes blacks, Hispanics, Asians, Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and Alaska Natives.

### Operations

- A large percentage of sheriffs' departments performed basic law enforcement functions such as providing routine patrol services (98%), responding to citizen calls for service (95%), investigating crimes (91%), and enforcing traffic laws (84%).
- Most sheriffs' departments had drug enforcement responsibilities (87%), and just over half of them, employing 80% of all officers, had drug asset forfeiture receipts during fiscal 1997. About a third had officers assigned full-time to a drug enforcement unit, and half had officers assigned to a multi-agency drug task force.
- In addition to traditional law enforcement duties, nearly all sheriffs' departments were responsible for performing court-related functions such as serving civil process (98%) and providing court security (95%). Eighty percent operated a jail.
- About 5 in 6 sheriffs' departments participated in a 9-1-1 emergency telephone system during 1997, compared to 4 in 6 during 1993. In 1997, 51% of departments had enhanced 9-1-1 systems (capable of pinpointing the source of a call automatically) compared to 36% in 1993.

### Community policing

- Thirty-four percent of sheriffs' departments serving a population of 250,000 or more had a formal written community policing plan. Overall, about 3 in 4 sheriffs' officers worked for a department with some type of community plan.
- Thirty-five percent of departments serving a population of 100,000 or more had a community policing unit with full-time personnel. Another 16% had personnel who were designated to perform community policing activities but were not part of a separate unit.
- During the 3-year period ending June 30, 1997, about half of sheriffs' departments trained at least some of their in-service officers (55%) and new officer recruits (47%) in community policing. Twenty-nine percent reported all new recruits received such training.
- About 5 in 6 sheriffs' departments met with community groups during the 12-month period ending June 30, 1997. More than a fourth had formed problem-solving partnerships through written agreements (29%).
- An estimated 38% of sheriffs' departments, employing 63% of all officers, had deputies assigned full-time as school resource officers. Nationwide, about 2,900 deputies worked as school resource officers during 1997.

## Equipment

- Ninety-five percent of sheriffs' departments, employing 98% of all sheriffs' officers, authorized the use of semiautomatic sidearms in 1997. These percentages represented increases over the 1993 figures of 82% and 91%.

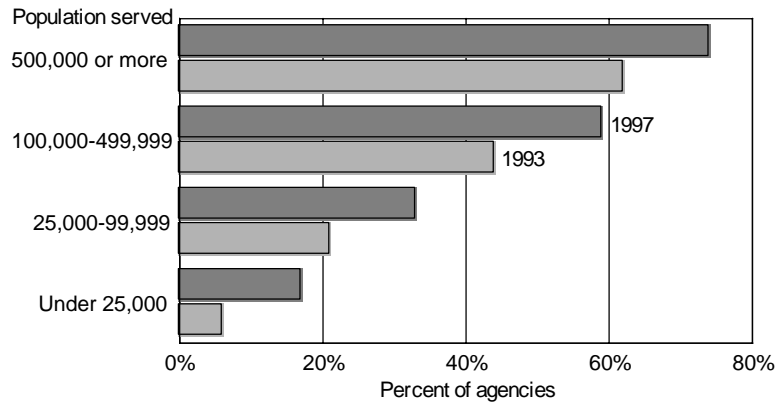
- In 1997 nearly all sheriffs' departments authorized the use of nonlethal weapons by officers. From 1993 to 1997, the percentage authorizing pepper spray increased from 56% to 87% while the percentage authorizing batons remained at about 80%.

- Thirty-nine percent of sheriffs' departments required all of their regular field officers to wear protective body armor while on duty in 1997, up from 30% in 1993.

- Nationwide, sheriffs' departments operated approximately 100,000 cars during 1997, or about 54 per 100 officers. About a third of these cars were unmarked.

- Nearly a third of sheriffs' departments were using boats in 1997, including about half of those serving a population of 50,000 or more. Small percentages used airplanes (4%) or helicopters (4%).

**Sheriffs' departments using in-field computers or terminals, 1993 and 1997**



## Computers and information systems

- Ninety-three percent of sheriffs' departments used computers in 1997, compared to 82% in 1993. In 1997, 29% of departments, employing 66% of all officers, used mobile computers or terminals in the field compared to 17% and 50% in 1993.

- In 1997, about 3 in 4 sheriffs' departments maintained computerized information on warrants (75%), arrests (74%) and incident reports (74%). About 3 in 5 had files on calls for service (60%), criminal histories (60%), and stolen property (59%).

- In nearly 1 in 8 departments, at least some officers could access vehicle and driving records by computer while in the field. This was the case in about half of the departments serving a population of 250,000 or more.

- About 7 in 8 sheriffs' departments transmitted criminal incident field data to a central information system through paper reports in 1997. The remainder used other methods such as laptop download, disk transfer, wireless transmission, or telephone lines.

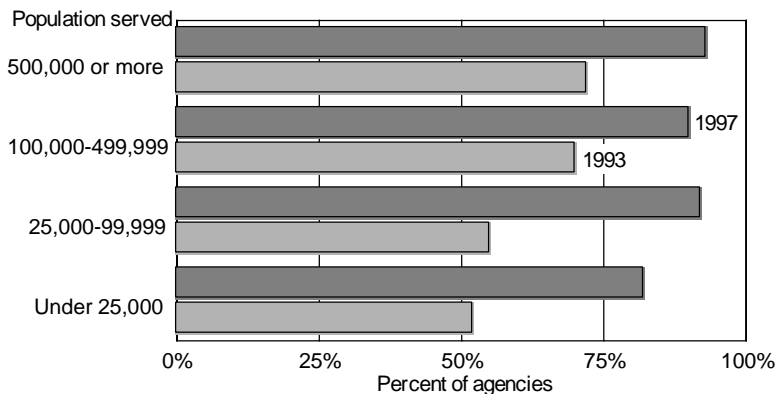
## Written policy directives

- Nearly all sheriffs' departments (93%) had a written policy on pursuit driving. Most (57%) limited vehicle pursuits according to specific criteria such as speed or offense. About 30% had a policy that left the decision to the officer's discretion. Five percent discouraged all vehicle pursuits.

- Ninety-one percent of sheriffs' departments, employing 99% of all officers, had a written policy on the use of deadly force. Eighty-four percent, employing 89% of all officers, had a policy on the use of nonlethal force.

Eighty-five percent of sheriffs' departments had a policy on handling domestic disputes. Most also had a policy on handling juveniles (83%) and mentally ill persons (67%).

**Sheriffs' departments authorizing the use of pepper spray by officers, 1993 and 1997**



## The LEMAS survey

During 1997, 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 the nearly 19,000 State and local law enforcement agencies operating nationwide. Previous LEMAS surveys were conducted in 1987, 1990, and 1993.

This report presents data from the 1997 survey describing the more than 3,000 sheriffs' departments and offices operating in the United States in terms of their personnel, expenditures and pay, operations, community policing initiatives, equipment, computers and information systems, and written policies. Comparisons are made with prior years where appropriate.

Sheriffs' departments are operated by county or independent city governments. Because sheriffs are typically elected officials, some agencies are known as offices. The term departments is used universally in this report as a matter of convenience.

The 1997 LEMAS survey questionnaire was mailed to 3,597 State and local law enforcement agencies, including all 968 agencies with 100 or more sworn officers (see Methodology for a description of the sample). The overall response rate was 94.9%. Among sheriffs' departments, 915 of 1,001 surveys were returned for a 91.4% response rate.

This report and its companion report (*Local Police Departments 1997* NCJ-173429), summarize data collected from agencies of all sizes. Detailed agency-by-agency tabulations from the 1997 LEMAS survey were previously published for agencies with 100 or more officers (see *Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics, 1997*, NCJ-171681).

**Table 1. Employment by State and local law enforcement agencies in the United States, 1997**

Type of agency	Number of agencies	Number of employees					
		Full-time			Part-time		
		Total	Sworn	Civilian	Total	Sworn	Civilian
Total	18,760	940,275	695,378	244,897	99,191	46,884	52,307
Local police	13,540	531,496	420,152	111,345	62,373	31,079	31,294
Sheriff	3,088	263,427	174,673	88,754	20,025	10,633	9,392
State police	49	82,261	54,206	28,055	895	70	825
Special police*	1,332	61,022	44,509	16,513	15,234	4,502	10,732
Texas constable	751	2,068	1,838	230	664	600	64

Note: Data are for the pay period that included June 30, 1997. Consolidated police-sheriff agencies are included under local police category. Table excludes agencies created since June 30, 1996. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

\*State and local agencies with a limited jurisdictional area or limited enforcement responsibilities.

## Personnel

As of June 30, 1997, sheriffs' departments had an estimated 263,427 full-time employees (table 1). They employed an additional 20,025 persons on a part-time basis. About 175,000, or 66%, of full-time sheriffs' department employees were sworn officers.

Sheriffs' departments employed a fourth of all State and local sworn officers nationwide. Their 88,754 nonsworn employees comprised about a third of all nonsworn State and local law enforcement employees.

There were about 39,000, or 17.4%, more full-time employees in sheriffs' departments in 1997 than in 1993. (figure 1). For all State and local law enforcement agencies, the increase in number of employees from 1993 to 1997 was about 107,000, or 12.8%.

When only sworn personnel are considered, employment by sheriffs' departments increased by 19,000, or 12.1%, from 1993 to 1997. Overall, the number of sworn personnel employed by State and local law enforcement agencies in 1997 was up by 68,000, or 10.9%, compared to 1993.

**Employment by State and local law enforcement agencies, 1987, 1990, 1993, and 1997**

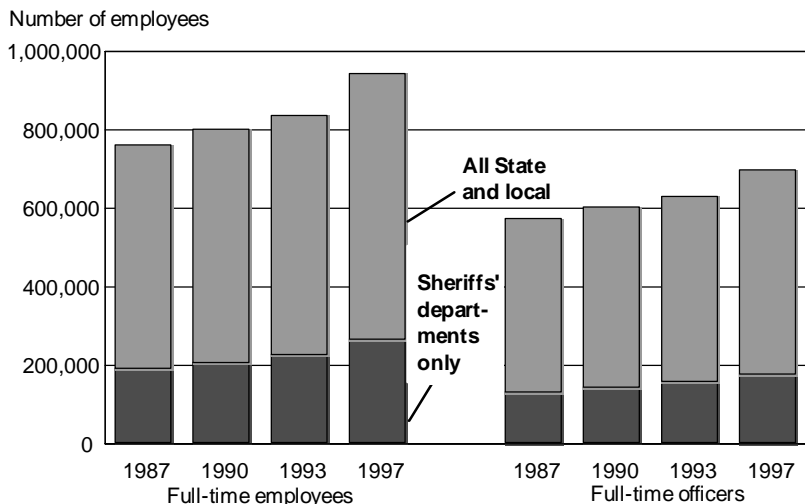


Figure 1

Nationwide, 363 sheriffs' departments employed at least 100 sworn personnel (11.8%), including 17 with 1,000 or more officers (0.6%) (table 2). Nearly 900 departments employed fewer than 10 officers (28.4%), including 35 with just one sworn officer (1.1%).

About a third of all full-time sheriffs' officers were employed by a department with 500 or more officers, and about two-thirds were employed by one with at least 100 officers. Sheriffs' departments that employed fewer than 10 officers accounted for 2.4% of all sheriffs' officers nationwide.

**Table 2. Sheriffs' departments, by number of sworn personnel, 1997**

Number of sworn personnel*	Agencies		Full-time sworn personnel	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	3,088	100.0%	174,673	100.0%
1,000 or more	17	0.6%	37,322	21.4%
500-999	33	1.1	21,377	12.2
250-499	83	2.7	27,605	15.8
100-249	230	7.5	32,447	18.6
50-99	348	11.3	21,151	12.1
25-49	539	17.5	17,622	10.1
10-24	958	31.0	12,912	7.4
5-9	539	17.4	3,269	1.9
2-4	304	9.8	932	0.5
1	35	1.1	35	--

Note: Detail may not add to total because of rounding.  
 \*Includes both full-time and part-time employees.  
 --Less than .5%.

**Twenty-five largest sheriffs' departments by number and function of full-time sworn personnel, 1997**

As of June 1997, the largest sheriff's department was the Los Angeles County (CA) Sheriff's Department with 8,021 full-time sworn personnel. About half of these officers were assigned to the area of law enforcement field operations, making it at least 4 times larger than any other law enforcement operation among sheriffs' departments. The agency had about 2,200 officers working in its jails and about 1,400 assigned to court-related duties. The agency also had about 4,500 full-time civilian employees.

Cook County (IL) operated the second largest sheriff's department; however, just 11% of its officers were assigned to law enforcement field operations. Just over half worked in jail-related positions, and slightly more than a third primarily performed court-related duties.

Among the 25 largest sheriffs' departments, 10 had more officers assigned to field operations than any other function, while 15 had the largest number assigned to jail operations.

County or equivalent	Full-time sworn personnel	Percent of officers by area of duty		
		Field operations	Jail operations	Court operations
Los Angeles Co. (CA)	8,021	49%	28%	18%
Cook Co. (IL)	5,600	11	53	36
Harris Co. (TX)	2,474	23	60	9
Broward Co. (FL)	1,906	47	52	0
San Diego Co. (CA)	1,861	46	42	0
Hillsborough Co. (FL)	1,743	47%	39%	4%
Palm Beach Co. (FL)	1,615	50	40	8
Pinellas Co. (FL)	1,425	41	43	12
Bexar Co. (TX)	1,315	19	68	9
Orange Co. (CA)	1,303	49	44	0
San Bernardino Co. (CA)	1,246	62%	28%	0%
Riverside Co. (CA)	1,179	71	16	10
Sacramento Co. (CA)	1,173	54	32	9
Fulton Co. (GA)	1,125	5	53	5
Orange Co. (FL)	1,117	86	0	8
Nassau Co. (NY)	1,018	5%	93%	0%
Hamilton Co. (OH)	951	21	48	5
Suffolk Co. (NY)	847	23	74	0
Travis Co. (TX)	818	26	69	0
Polk Co. (FL)	813	51	41	5
Alameda Co. (CA)	800	25%	53%	15%
Orleans Par. (LA)*	800	4	80	15
Wayne Co. (MI)	764	15	60	18
Monroe Co. (NY)	757	34	50	12
Hampden Co. (MA)	747	0	54	0

Note: Detail may not add to 100% because some functional areas were excluded from the table. The table excludes agencies from Clark County (NV) (1,709 full-time sworn) and Duval County (FL) (1,438 full-time sworn) because they are consolidated police-sheriff departments that serve as the police departments for metropolitan Las Vegas and Jacksonville, respectively. They are classified as local police in the LEMAS survey.  
 \*Data are for 1996.

Seventeen agencies had officers assigned to court operations, with the percentage ranging from 4% to 36%.

Although 51% of all sheriffs' departments served a jurisdiction with fewer than 25,000 residents, these departments employed just 10% of all sheriffs' officers nationwide (table 3). About half of all sheriffs' officers served a jurisdiction with 250,000 or more residents, including more than a fifth in jurisdictions with a population of 1 million or more.

On average, sheriffs' departments nationwide had 85 full-time employees including 57 sworn personnel (table 4). Sheriffs' departments in jurisdictions with a population of 1 million or more had an average of 1,916 full-time employees, including 1,226 sworn officers and 690 civilian employees. In contrast, sheriffs' departments in jurisdictions with fewer than 10,000 residents employed an average of 6 full-time sworn officers, and 3 full-time civilians.

#### Gender and race of officers

Of the estimated 174,673 full-time sworn personnel employed by sheriffs' departments in 1997, about 16% were women (table 5). The percentage of female officers varied slightly across population sizes, ranging from about 20% in jurisdictions with a population

of 500,000 to 999,999, to about 12% in jurisdictions with a population of under 25,000.

In 1997, 19% of full-time sheriffs' officers were members of a racial or

ethnic minority, with the percentage of minority officers higher than this in jurisdictions with a population of 500,000 or more.

**Table 3. Sheriffs' departments and full-time sworn personnel, by size of population served, 1997**

Population served	Agencies		Full-time sworn personnel	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All sizes	3,088	100%	174,673	100%
1,000,000 or more	31	1.0%	37,574	21.5%
500,000-999,999	60	1.9	24,287	13.9
250,000-499,999	110	3.6	24,348	13.9
100,000-249,999	291	9.4	32,991	18.9
50,000-99,999	379	12.3	20,274	11.6
25,000-49,999	641	20.7	18,245	10.4
10,000-24,999	859	27.8	12,553	7.2
Under 10,000	719	23.3	4,401	2.5

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

**Table 4. Average number of employees in sheriffs' departments, by size of population served, 1997**

Population served	Average number of employees					
	Full-time			Part-time		
	Total	Sworn	Nonsworn	Total	Sworn	Nonsworn
All sizes	85	57	29	6	3	3
1,000,000 or more	1,916	1,226	690	27	11	16
500,000-999,999	619	407	212	26	8	18
250,000-499,999	339	222	117	25	12	13
100,000-249,999	166	113	53	15	8	7
50,000-99,999	79	54	25	7	4	3
25,000-49,999	42	28	14	5	3	2
10,000-24,999	22	15	7	4	2	1
Under 10,000	9	6	3	2	1	1

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

**Table 5. Gender and race of full-time sworn personnel in sheriffs' departments, by size of population served, 1997**

Population served	Percent of full-time sworn employees who are:														
	Total			White			Black			Hispanic			Other*		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
All sizes	100%	84.4%	15.6%	81.0%	70.2%	10.8%	11.8%	8.0%	3.7%	5.9%	5.0%	.9%	1.3%	1.1%	.2%
1,000,000 or more	100%	82.8%	17.2%	67.1%	57.9%	9.3%	16.9%	11.4%	5.5%	13.5%	11.4%	2.1%	2.5%	2.2%	.3%
500,000-999,999	100	80.2	19.8	74.8	62.8	12.0	17.2	10.6	6.6	6.2	5.1	1.0	1.9	1.6	0.2
250,000-499,999	100	84.6	15.4	83.7	71.8	11.9	9.8	7.3	2.5	5.6	4.7	0.8	1.0	0.8	0.2
100,000-249,999	100	84.4	15.6	84.2	73.0	11.2	11.5	7.9	3.6	3.5	2.8	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.1
50,000-99,999	100	86.9	13.1	92.0	80.4	11.6	5.8	4.5	1.3	1.8	1.7	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.1
25,000-49,999	100	86.9	13.1	88.0	78.0	10.1	8.6	6.0	2.6	2.3	2.0	0.3	1.1	1.0	0.1
10,000-24,999	100	88.3	11.7	88.6	79.4	9.1	8.3	6.1	2.2	2.6	2.3	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.1
Under 10,000	100	88.1	11.9	93.2	82.1	11.2	2.2	2.0	0.2	3.7	3.3	0.4	0.9	0.7	0.2

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

\*Includes Asians, Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and Alaska Natives.



Blacks accounted for about 12% of all sheriffs' officers in 1997, with departments serving a population of 500,000 or more employing the highest percentage of black officers (17%). About 6% of sheriffs' officers nationwide were Hispanic, with departments serving a population of 1 million or more having the most Hispanic officers (13.5%).

In 1997 there were 27,216 female sheriffs' officers, about 4,600, or 20%, more than in 1993. During this time female representation among sheriffs' officers increased from 14.5% to 15.6% (figure 2). The number of sheriffs' officers who were members of a racial or ethnic minority in 1997 (33,181) represented an increase of about 7,000, or 26%, over 1993 levels. Minority representation increased from 16.9% to 19% during this time.

The estimated 20,588 full-time black officers employed by sheriffs' departments in 1997 represented an increase of about 5,000, or 32%, compared to 1993. This resulted in an increase in the percentage of officers who were black from 10% to 11.8%. There were an estimated 10,342 Hispanic officers employed by sheriffs' departments in 1997. This was 15% more than in 1993 (8,979). The percentage of sheriffs' officers represented by Hispanics in 1997 (5.9%) was about the same as in 1993 (5.8%).

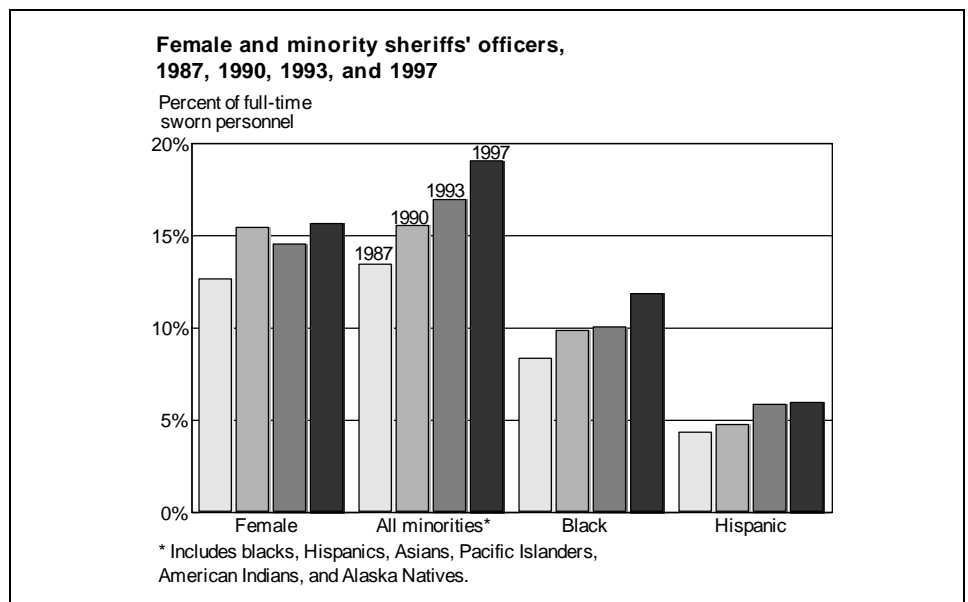


Figure 2

#### Screening of officer applicants

Sheriffs' departments employed a variety of screening methods when hiring new officers (table 6). Nearly all used interviews (98%), criminal record checks (96%), background investigations (93%), and driving record checks (90%). About three-fourths of departments used medical exams (73%), including about 90% of those serving 100,000 or more residents. About half used psychological screening (52%), including more than 80% of those serving 250,000 or more residents.

Just under half of all sheriffs' departments used drug tests (44%) and mental aptitude tests (43%) as screening devices. A majority of the departments serving a population of 50,000 or more residents used these methods.

About a third of departments used a physical agility test to screen officer applicants, including 89% of those serving 1 million or more residents. In contrast, just a third of the departments serving from 10,000 to 99,999 residents, and a fourth of those serving fewer than 10,000 residents did so.

**Table 6. Screening methods used in selection of new deputy recruits in sheriffs' departments, by size of population served, 1997**

Population served	Screening methods used to select new deputy recruits										
	Personal interview	Criminal record check	Back-ground investigation	Driving record check	Medical exam	Psycho-logical screen	Drug test	Written aptitude test	Physical agility test	Poly-graph exam	Voice stress analyzer
All sizes	98%	96%	93%	90%	73%	52%	44%	43%	35%	14%	2%
1,000,000 or more	100%	100%	96%	89%	96%	82%	89%	89%	89%	46%	4%
500,000-999,999	100	100	100	96	90	83	83	73	64	48	13
250,000-499,999	98	99	97	94	90	81	78	68	49	46	11
100,000-249,999	100	99	98	96	88	66	71	65	48	39	3
50,000-99,999	99	100	97	95	83	57	59	55	35	12	3
25,000-49,999	98	98	96	91	75	51	44	44	33	14	3
10,000-24,999	98	95	92	85	69	46	37	35	33	6	0
Under 10,000	96	91	86	87	60	41	23	28	26	5	1

Note: List of screening methods is not intended to be exhaustive.

**Education and training requirements**

Nearly all (97%) sheriffs' departments had an education requirement for new deputy recruits (table 7). The typical minimum requirement was a high school diploma or equivalent (86%). About 11% of departments had some type of college requirement, usually a 2-year degree (7%). Just 1% required new deputy recruits to have a 4-year college degree.

Eleven percent of sheriffs' officers nationwide were employed by a department that had some type of college requirement for new deputy recruits, compared to 7% in 1993.

On average, sheriffs' departments required 538 training hours of new deputy recruits, with about two-thirds of it in the classroom (table 8). Departments serving a population of 500,000 to 999,999 (1,003 hours) required more than twice as much as those serving a population of under 25,000.

When departments are weighted according to number of officers, it is estimated that the average new deputy recruit in 1997 was required to undergo more than 800 hours of training, with about three-fifths of it in the classroom.

**Table 7. Minimum educational requirement for new deputy recruits in sheriffs' departments, by size of population served, 1997**

Population served	Total with requirement	Percent of agencies requiring a minimum of:			
		High school diploma	Some college*	2-year college degree	4-year college degree
All sizes	97%	86%	3%	7%	1%
1,000,000 or more	96%	89%	3%	4%	0%
500,000-999,999	100	85	7	4	4
250,000-499,999	99	83	6	9	1
100,000-249,999	97	86	4	6	2
50,000-99,999	99	78	7	13	1
25,000-49,999	96	83	2	10	1
10,000-24,999	98	88	4	6	1
Under 10,000	94	90	1	3	0

Note: Detail may not add to total because of rounding.  
\*Non-degree requirements.

In addition to entry-level requirements, about three-fourths of sheriffs' departments required officers to complete in-service training. The median annual requirement was 20 hours.

From 1990 to 1997, the median number of training hours required of new deputy recruits increased in all population categories (figure 3). The largest increase was among departments serving 100,000 to 499,999 residents — from 496 hours to 680 hours; and among departments serving 500,000 or more residents — from 800 hours to 870 hours.

Six percent of sheriffs' departments, employing about a third of all sheriffs' officers, operated a training academy. Two-thirds of the departments serving 1 million or more residents did so, compared to less than 10% of those serving a population under 100,000.

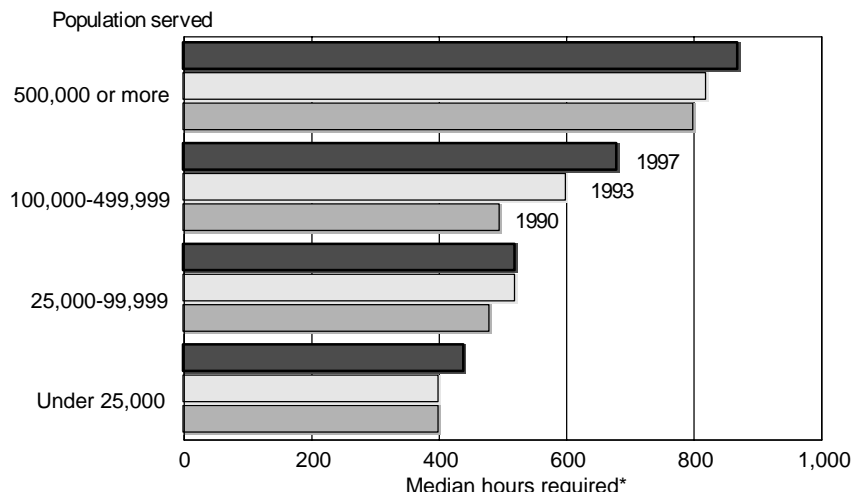
Population served	Percent with training academy
All sizes	6%
1,000,000 or more	68%
500,000-999,999	29
250,000-499,999	28
100,000-249,999	13
50,000-99,999	6
25,000-49,999	4
10,000-24,999	2
Under 10,000	1

**Table 8. Training requirements for new deputy recruits in sheriffs' departments, by size of population served, 1997**

Population served	Average number of hours required		
	Total	Class-room	Field
All sizes	538	365	173
1,000,000 or more	804	508	296
500,000-999,999	1,003	557	446
250,000-499,999	710	396	314
100,000-249,999	715	416	300
50,000-99,999	600	378	222
25,000-49,999	521	368	153
10,000-24,999	450	335	115
Under 10,000	441	332	109

Note: Average number of training hours excludes departments not requiring training.

**Median number of training hours required of new deputy recruits in sheriffs' departments, 1990, 1993 and 1997**



\* Agencies not requiring training were excluded.

Figure 3

## Expenditures and pay

### Operating expenditures

The total operating expenditure of sheriffs' departments during fiscal 1997 was about \$13.1 billion, 22% more than in 1993 (table 9). Controlling for inflation, the net increase in spending was 10%. (These figures do not include capital expenditures such as equipment purchases or construction projects). Sheriffs' departments accounted for about a fourth of the \$50.7 billion in total operating expenditures for State and local law enforcement agencies during fiscal 1997.

	Agency operating expenditures (in billions)	
	1997	1993
Total	\$50.7	\$41.9
Local police	\$29.2	\$24.3
Sheriff	13.1	10.7
State police	5.2	4.2
Special police	3.2	2.8

Nationwide, operating expenditures averaged about \$4.25 million per department for fiscal 1997, ranging from an average of about \$114 million for departments serving a population of 1 million or more, to \$342,000 among those serving fewer than 10,000 residents.

The overall operating cost per resident was \$49, with departments in jurisdictions with a population of less than 10,000 costing the most to operate, \$60 per resident.

Nationwide, sheriffs' departments cost an estimated \$73,000 per sworn officer to operate for fiscal 1997, ranging from \$93,300 per officer in jurisdictions with 1 million or more residents to about half that amount in jurisdictions with a population of 10,000 to 24,999.

When both sworn and nonsworn employees are included, the average operating expenditure for sheriffs' departments was \$48,000 per

employee for the year, with a high of about \$59,000 per employee in jurisdictions with 500,000 or more residents. Overall, employee salaries and benefits accounted for about \$4 of every \$5 in operating expenditures.

### Salaries

The overall average base starting salary for sheriffs was \$44,400 in 1997 (table 10). Starting salaries for sheriffs ranged from \$98,900 in jurisdictions with 1 million or more residents to \$31,300 in jurisdictions with a population of less than 10,000.

The average base starting salary offered by sheriffs' departments to entry-level deputies was about \$21,500 in 1997. This was 11% more than in 1993, but the net increase after controlling for inflation was just 0.2%.

Departments serving 50,000 or more residents had an average starting salary that was higher than the overall average, ranging from \$22,600 in those serving 50,000 to 99,999 residents to \$30,200 in those serving with 1 million or more residents. The average starting salary for deputies in departments serving a population of less than 10,000 was 10% below the overall average.

**Table 9. Operating expenditures of sheriffs' departments, by size of population served, 1997**

Population served	Operating expenditures, fiscal year 1997				
	Total	Per agency	Per sworn officer	Per employee	Per resident
All sizes	\$13,133,141,000	\$4,253,000	\$73,000	\$48,000	\$49
1,000,000 or more	\$3,522,793,000	\$113,638,000	\$93,300	\$59,600	\$47
500,000-999,999	2,208,152,000	36,803,000	90,000	58,500	52
250,000-499,999	1,955,313,000	17,776,000	78,200	50,700	49
100,000-249,999	2,358,132,000	8,104,000	69,000	46,600	52
50,000-99,999	1,227,626,000	3,239,000	58,400	39,400	46
25,000-49,999	998,220,000	1,557,000	51,800	34,800	44
10,000-24,999	617,107,000	718,000	45,800	30,300	43
Under 10,000	245,799,000	342,000	51,500	33,700	60

Note: Figures are for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1997, or the most recent fiscal year completed prior to that date. Figures do not include capital expenditures such as equipment purchases or construction costs. Computation of per officer and per employee averages include both full-time and part-time employees, with a weight of .5 assigned to part-time employees. Total and per agency figures are rounded to the nearest \$1,000, per officer and per employee figures to the nearest \$100.

**Table 10. Average base starting salary for selected positions in sheriffs' departments, by size of population served, 1997**

Population served	Average base starting salary, 1997			
	Entry-level deputy	Deputy after 1 year	Sergeant	Sheriff
All sizes	\$21,500	\$23,000	\$27,700	\$44,400
1,000,000 or more	\$30,200	\$32,700	\$43,700	\$98,900
500,000-999,999	27,200	29,900	38,900	78,100
250,000-499,999	25,800	28,200	37,700	73,100
100,000-249,999	24,000	25,600	31,800	60,600
50,000-99,999	22,600	24,300	28,700	51,000
25,000-49,999	21,400	22,900	27,300	44,400
10,000-24,999	20,100	21,700	25,200	38,600
Under 10,000	19,400	20,700	23,900	31,300

Note: Salary figures have been rounded to the nearest \$100. Computation of average salary excludes departments with no full-time employee in that position.

When departments are weighted according to number of officers, the estimated average base starting salary for entry-level deputies in 1997 was \$25,800. This increased by \$2,000 for those with 1 year of experience.

Salaries for the positions of sergeant or equivalent increased with jurisdiction size in a pattern similar to that for entry-level officers. Overall, the average starting salary for sergeants was \$27,700, ranging from \$43,700 in the largest jurisdictions to \$23,900 in the smallest jurisdictions. When departments are weighted according to size, the estimated average base starting salary for sergeants was \$35,300.

Except for the largest agencies, base starting salaries for entry-level officers were generally lower in sheriffs' departments than in comparably sized local police departments (figure 4). The greatest difference was found among agencies with at least 25 officers but fewer than 250 — more than \$5,000 per year on average.

Sheriffs' departments with at least 250 but fewer than 1,000 officers had starting salaries that averaged \$2,600 lower than local police departments; however, sheriffs' departments employing 1,000 or more sworn personnel offered a starting salary to entry-level officers that was similar to that found in local police departments.

### Special pay

Nationwide, 17% of all sheriffs' departments offered education incentive pay to qualifying officers, including over half of those serving a population of at least 250,000 residents (table 11). Most of the departments serving a population of 250,000 or more offered education incentive pay, and nearly half of all sheriffs' officers nationwide worked for a department that offered it.

**Average base starting salary for entry-level officers in sheriffs' departments and local police departments, by size of agency, 1997**

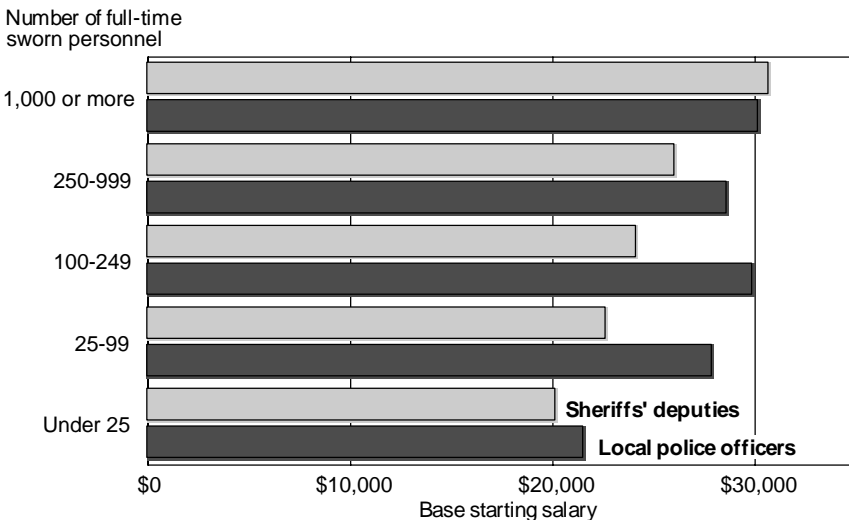


Figure 4

Hazardous duty pay was available in just 5% of all sheriffs' departments; however, about a third of the departments in jurisdictions with a population of 500,000 or more offered it. Nationwide, about a fourth of all sheriffs' officers were employed by a department that offered hazardous duty pay.

Nineteen percent of sheriffs' departments, employing 38% of all sheriffs' officers nationwide, offered merit pay to qualifying officers. More than half of the departments serving a population between 500,000 and

999,999 offered merit pay to officers compared to a tenth of those serving fewer than 10,000 residents.

Seventeen percent of all sheriffs' departments offered shift differential pay to their full-time officers. Half of the departments in jurisdictions with at least 1 million residents and about two-fifths of those serving 250,000 to 999,999 residents had shift differential pay. Nationwide about a third of all sheriffs' officers were employed by a department with shift differential pay.

**Table 11. Sheriffs' departments authorizing special pay for full-time sworn personnel, by size of population served, 1997**

Population served	Percent of agencies authorizing pay for:			
	Education incentive	Hazardous duty	Merit	Shift differential
All sizes	17%	5%	19%	17%
1,000,000 or more	57%	36%	29%	50%
500,000-999,999	54	31	54	37
250,000-499,999	54	15	39	43
100,000-249,999	33	11	36	31
50,000-99,999	30	6	23	21
25,000-49,999	15	2	15	21
10,000-24,999	10	4	16	11
Under 10,000	6	1	10	6

### Work-related policies

About three-fifths of sheriffs' departments, employing two-thirds of all officers, had a written policy pertaining to the maximum number of hours that officers can work (table 12). Departments serving a population of at least 250,000 but less than 1 million (78%) were the most likely to maintain such a policy.

Seventy-two percent of all departments, employing 90% of all officers, had a written policy on off-duty employment. More than 90% of the departments serving a population of 1 million or more or a population of 50,000 to 99,999 had such a policy, compared to about half of the departments serving a population of less than 10,000.

**Table 12. Work-related policy directives maintained by sheriffs' departments, by size of population served, 1997**

Population served	Percent of agencies with a written policy directive pertaining to:	
	Maximum work hours	Off-duty employment
All sizes	58%	72%
1,000,000 or more	61%	96%
500,000-999,999	78	88
250,000-499,999	78	90
100,000-249,999	63	78
50,000-99,999	59	94
25,000-49,999	53	75
10,000-24,999	58	71
Under 10,000	54	51

### Unions and collective bargaining

Thirty-eight percent of all sheriffs' departments authorized police union membership by their sworn personnel, including a majority of those in jurisdictions with 250,000 or more residents (table 13). Nationwide, about half of all sheriffs' officers were employed by a department that authorized them to belong to a police union.

Thirty percent of all departments, employing 38% of all officers nationwide, authorized membership in a nonpolice union. Seventy-four percent of all departments authorized officer membership in a police association. These departments employed 82% of all sheriffs' officers nationwide.

**Table 13. Officer membership organizations authorized by sheriffs' departments, by size of population served, 1997**

Population served	Percent of agencies authorizing membership in:		
	Police union	Non-police union	Police association
All sizes	38%	30%	74%
1,000,000 or more	72%	50%	79%
500,000-999,999	55	49	91
250,000-499,999	68	39	76
100,000-249,999	50	38	88
50,000-99,999	44	33	91
25,000-49,999	41	34	76
10,000-24,999	33	25	69
Under 10,000	27	24	61

Nationwide, 31% of all sheriffs' departments, employing 48% of all officers, authorized collective bargaining for sworn personnel (table 14). About two-thirds of the departments serving a population of 250,000 to 999,999 and three-fourths of those serving a population of 1 million or more authorized collective bargaining for officers. Just 1 in 6 departments in jurisdictions with fewer than 10,000 residents did so.

Nonsworn personnel in sheriffs' departments were slightly less likely to have collective bargaining rights than sworn employees. Overall, 26% of departments, employing 43% of all nonsworn personnel, authorized collective bargaining for such employees.

**Table 14. Collective bargaining authorized by sheriffs' departments, by size of population served, 1997**

Population served	Percent of agencies authorizing collective bargaining for:	
	Sworn employees	Nonsworn employees
All sizes	31%	26%
1,000,000 or more	75%	75%
500,000-999,999	65	50
250,000-499,999	67	49
100,000-249,999	41	39
50,000-99,999	38	32
25,000-49,999	33	27
10,000-24,999	26	23
Under 10,000	16	12

## Operations

### Patrol and response

Ninety-eight percent of sheriffs' departments provided routine patrol services in their jurisdiction during 1997 (table 15). Only in jurisdictions with 500,000 or more residents, did less than 90% of the departments have routine patrol responsibilities.

Typically, sheriffs' departments provide patrol and other law enforcement services to unincorporated areas of a county, and to incorporated areas not served by local police. Nationwide, 95% of all sheriffs' officers were employed by a department that provided routine patrol services.

Nearly all sheriffs' departments used automobiles (98%) for routine patrol. Eighteen percent of departments routinely used some form of marine patrol (18%), including about two-fifths of those serving a population of 250,000 or more. About 1 in 6 departments used foot patrols on a routine basis, while less than 1 in 10 used bicycles (6%), motorcycles (4%), or horses (2%) for routine patrol.

More than a third of sheriffs' departments provided foot patrol during special events although they did not perform such patrols on a routine basis. Horse (14%) and marine (12%) units were the next most likely types of patrol to be used during special events, but not on a routine basis.

Type of patrol	Percent of agencies using for special events only
Foot	37%
Horse	14
Marine	12
Bicycle	6
Motorcycle	5
Automobile	1

Ninety-five percent of sheriffs' departments reported they had primary responsibility for responding to citizen calls for service (table 16). The

percentage of departments that responded to service calls was 97% or higher in all population categories less than 100,000.

Three-fourths of sheriffs' departments had responsibility for dispatching calls for service to officers in the field, with departments serving a population of less than 25,000 the most likely to provide dispatch services.

### 9-1-1 emergency telephone system

In 1997, 84% of sheriffs' departments participated in an 9-1-1 emergency telephone system whereby one of their units could be dispatched as a result of a citizen call to 9-1-1 or its equivalent

(table 17). At least 70% of the departments in each population category were 9-1-1 participants in 1997, including about 90% of those serving 25,000 to 499,999 residents.

Three-fifths of sheriffs' department 9-1-1 systems were enhanced, capable of pinpointing the location of a caller automatically. More than two-thirds of departments serving a population of 100,000 to 499,999 had enhanced 9-1-1, compared to about a third of those serving a population of less than 10,000. This latter category was the only one where a majority of 9-1-1 systems used by sheriffs' departments were not enhanced.

**Table 15. Types of patrol used on a routine basis by sheriffs' departments, by size of population served, 1997**

Population served	Any type	Percent of agencies using each type of patrol on a routine basis:					
		Auto-mobile	Marine	Foot	Bicycle	Motor-cycle	Horse
All sizes	98%	98%	18%	16%	6%	4%	2%
1,000,000 or more	82%	79%	40%	18%	29%	36%	11%
500,000-999,999	83	83	37	24	33	31	9
250,000-499,999	95	95	41	9	15	24	5
100,000-249,999	91	91	26	16	8	9	1
50,000-99,999	98	97	32	12	16	4	4
25,000-49,999	100	100	19	14	4	2	1
10,000-24,999	99	99	14	18	2	1	1
Under 10,000	99	99	7	18	2	2	2

**Table 16. Calls for service functions of sheriffs' departments, by size of population served, 1997**

Population served	Percent of agencies with primary responsibility for:	
	Responding to calls for service	Dispatching calls for service
All sizes	95%	75%
1,000,000 or more	75%	68%
500,000-999,999	71	58
250,000-499,999	73	60
100,000-249,999	81	60
50,000-99,999	97	64
25,000-49,999	98	73
10,000-24,999	99	82
Under 10,000	100	83

**Table 17. Participation in a 9-1-1 emergency telephone system, by sheriffs' departments, by size of population served, 1997**

Population served	Percent of agencies participating in a 9-1-1 system		
	Total	Enhanced	Basic
All sizes	84%	51%	33%
1,000,000 or more	75%	50%	25%
500,000-999,999	70	53	17
250,000-499,999	93	69	24
100,000-249,999	91	70	21
50,000-99,999	92	63	29
25,000-49,999	88	62	26
10,000-24,999	82	45	37
Under 10,000	75	31	44

Note: Participating agencies are those whose units can be dispatched as a result of a call to 9-1-1. Some agencies were not responsible for responding to calls for service.

The 84% participation rate in 9-1-1 among sheriffs' departments in 1997 was a significant increase from 1993 when 65% of all sheriffs' departments were 9-1-1 participants, and twice the percentage of departments with 9-1-1 participation in 1990 (42%) (figure 5).

The half of sheriffs' departments participating in an enhanced 9-1-1 system in 1997 represented a sizable increase over 1993, when just over a third were participants, and was nearly 5 times the proportion reporting such a capability in 1990.

In 1997, 88% of all sheriffs' officers worked for a department with 9-1-1, and 66% worked for one with enhanced 9-1-1. The comparative percentages for 1993 were 79% and 60%, respectively.

#### Crime investigation

Overall, 91% of sheriffs' departments had primary responsibility for investigating at least some types of crimes. Eighty-seven percent had primary responsibility for investigating violent crimes such as murder, rape, robbery, or assault (table 18). Departments serving a population of less than 100,000 were more likely to be responsible for such investigations than those in larger jurisdictions.

Eighty-eight percent of sheriffs' departments had primary responsibility for

**Sheriffs' departments participating in a 9-1-1 emergency telephone system, 1987, 1990, 1993, 1997**

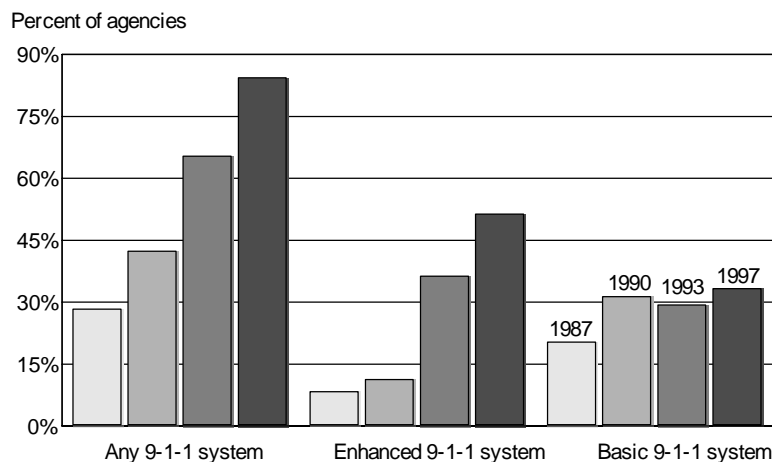


Figure 5

investigating property crimes such as burglary, larceny, or motor vehicle theft. As with violent crimes, departments serving fewer than 100,000 residents were the most likely to handle property crime investigations.

Seventy-two percent of sheriffs' departments were responsible for arson investigations, with those serving a population of less than 250,000 the most likely to handle such incidents.

Forty-two percent of sheriffs' departments were responsible for investigating environmental crimes, ranging from about half of those serving a population of less than 10,000 to about a fourth of serving 250,000 to 499,999 residents.

#### Investigative support functions

About two-thirds of sheriffs' departments were responsible for fingerprint processing (65%) (table 19). This included at least 61% of the departments in each population category.

Overall, few sheriffs' departments were responsible for providing crime lab services (6%) or conducting ballistics tests (2%). Departments in jurisdictions with a population of 1 million or more were the most likely to be responsible for these functions: 47% were responsible for crime lab services and 29% for ballistics testing.

**Table 18. Crime investigation functions of sheriffs' departments, by size of population served, 1997**

Population served	Percent of agencies with primary responsibility for investigating:				
	Violent crimes		Property crimes		Environmental crimes
	Homicide	Other*	Arson	Other**	
All sizes	87%	87%	72%	88%	42%
1,000,000 or more	71%	71%	50%	75%	32%
500,000-999,999	64	64	49	68	35
250,000-499,999	71	71	56	71	27
100,000-249,999	73	75	70	75	36
50,000-99,999	90	90	77	87	38
25,000-49,999	91	93	74	93	42
10,000-24,999	91	91	77	93	43
Under 10,000	86	86	70	89	51

\*Rape, robbery or assault.

\*\*Burglary, larceny/theft, or motor vehicle theft.

**Table 19. Investigative support functions of sheriffs' departments, by size of population served, 1997**

Population served	Percent of agencies with primary responsibility for:		
	Fingerprint processing	Crime lab services	Ballistics testing
All sizes	65%	6%	2%
1,000,000 or more	71%	47%	29%
500,000-999,999	68	26	18
250,000-499,999	77	34	9
100,000-249,999	63	18	4
50,000-99,999	70	6	1
25,000-49,999	64	3	1
10,000-24,999	66	3	1
Under 10,000	61	1	2

**Drug and vice enforcement**

An estimated 87% of all sheriffs' departments had primary responsibility for drug enforcement in their jurisdiction (table 20). More than 90% of departments in jurisdictions with a population of less than 25,000 were responsible for drug enforcement, compared to 59% of those in jurisdictions with 500,000 to 999,999 residents.

About half of all sheriffs' departments had primary vice enforcement responsibilities. A majority of the departments in jurisdictions with a population of 25,000 or more performed this function.

About a third of sheriffs' departments operated a special unit for drug enforcement with one or more full-time officers assigned (table 21). Three-fourths of departments serving a

**Table 20. Drug and vice enforcement functions of sheriffs' departments, by size of population served, 1997**

Population served	Percent of agencies with responsibility for the enforcement of:	
	Drug laws	Vice laws
All sizes	87%	49%
1,000,000 or more	79%	60%
500,000-999,999	59	53
250,000-499,999	78	57
100,000-249,999	79	59
50,000-99,999	79	59
25,000-49,999	88	54
10,000-24,999	92	44
Under 10,000	93	41

population of 1 million or more had a full-time drug enforcement unit, as did about half of the departments serving a population of 250,000 to 999,999. Departments serving a population of less than 10,000 (14%) were the least likely to have a full-time drug enforcement unit.

**Table 21. Special units for drug enforcement in sheriffs' departments, by size of population served, 1997**

Population served	Full-time unit for drug enforcement:		
	Percent of agencies	Number of full-time officers	
		Total	Average*
All sizes	32%	3,548	4
1,000,000 or more	75%	586	25
500,000-999,999	48	380	13
250,000-499,999	47	460	9
100,000-249,999	41	555	5
50,000-99,999	37	377	3
25,000-49,999	39	471	2
10,000-24,999	31	503	2
Under 10,000	14	217	2

\*Excludes agencies not having a unit with full-time officers.

The number of officers assigned full-time to drug enforcement units totaled over 3,500 nationwide. Another 900 were assigned on a part-time basis. Departments serving a population of 1 million or more assigned an average of 25 full-time officers each, compared to an average of 2 in those serving a population of less than 50,000.

**Drug testing of employees in sheriffs' departments, 1997**

About three-fifths of sheriffs' departments had some type of program that authorized the testing of regular field and patrol officers for illegal drug use. These departments employed 84% of all sheriffs' officers.

Departments serving a population of 100,000 or more were the most likely to have a drug testing program for officers, with percentages in these categories ranging from 77% to 87%. Departments serving a population of less than 10,000 (45%) were the least likely to test any officers for drug use.

In 23% of departments, employing 27% of all officers, all field/patrol officers were subject to drug testing. Twenty percent of departments, employing 35% of all officers, used a random selection method for choosing those to be tested.

A fourth of departments had a policy authorizing drug tests of officers suspected of using illegal drugs. These departments employed 42% of all sheriffs' officers.

Population served	Percent of agencies with drug testing of sworn or civilian employees							
	Any type of testing program		Mandatory (all are tested)		Random selection process		Use of drugs is suspected	
	Sworn	Civilian	Sworn	Civilian	Sworn	Civilian	Sworn	Civilian
All sizes	61%	54%	23%	18%	20%	16%	25%	25%
1,000,000 or more	86%	79%	32%	25%	25%	14%	46%	46%
500,000-999,999	77	68	16	24	22	9	61	48
250,000-499,999	87	64	35	27	16	4	39	30
100,000-249,999	83	73	31	24	24	15	40	42
50,000-99,999	71	64	29	27	21	16	27	23
25,000-49,999	65	55	26	18	23	18	26	26
10,000-24,999	56	48	21	15	21	18	20	21
Under 10,000	45	42	16	11	16	16	19	21

Note: Some agencies had more than 1 type of testing program. In this table, sworn category refers to regular/field patrol officers only.

Just over half of sheriffs' departments included civilian employees under some type of drug testing program. These departments employed about two-thirds of all nonsworn sheriffs' department personnel. About a third of departments had either mandatory drug testing (18%)

of nonsworn employees or used a random selection method (16%). A fourth of departments, employing 40% of all nonsworn employees, had a testing program that authorized testing of civilian employees who were suspected of using illegal drugs.



### Drug task force participation

In 1997 half of sheriffs' departments, employing two-thirds of all officers, assigned 1 or more officers to a multi-agency drug enforcement task force (table 22). About 2,900 officers were assigned full-time, and 1,100 on a part-time basis. The number of full-time task force officers ranged from 10 in departments serving 1 million or more residents to 1 in those serving fewer than 10,000 residents.

### Drug asset forfeiture

Just over half (54%) of all sheriffs' departments, employing four-fifths of all sheriffs' officers, had asset forfeiture receipts during the 12-month period ending June 1997 (table 23). A majority of departments serving a population of 25,000 or more, including nearly all of those serving 1 million or more residents, had drug asset forfeiture receipts. Collectively, sheriffs' departments received an estimated \$158 million in money, goods, and property from drug asset forfeiture programs.

The overall median amount received from asset forfeiture programs by sheriffs' departments in fiscal 1997 was \$10,000. By population category, median total receipts ranged from more than \$300,000 among departments serving a population of 1 million or more to \$3,000 among those serving fewer than 10,000 residents.

Sheriffs' departments received \$878 in money, goods, and property from drug asset forfeiture programs for every officer employed (figure 6). Departments with at least 50 but fewer than 250 full-time officers, received the most — more than \$1,500 per officer.

The largest departments (1,000 or more officers), and the smallest departments (fewer than 25 officers) had asset forfeiture receipts of about \$500 per officer. Departments with 250 to 999 officers had the lowest receipts per officer — about \$350.

**Table 22. Multi-agency drug enforcement task force participation of sheriffs' departments, by size of population served, 1997**

Population served	Multi-agency drug enforcement task force		
	Percent of agencies participating	Number of officers assigned full-time	
		Total	Average*
All sizes	50%	2,886	2
1,000,000 or more	61%	190	10
500,000-999,999	68	264	7
250,000-499,999	63	254	4
100,000-249,999	76	496	2
50,000-99,999	67	494	2
25,000-49,999	55	515	2
10,000-24,999	46	548	2
Under 10,000	27	124	1

\*Excludes agencies not having a unit with full-time officers.

**Table 23. Drug asset forfeiture program receipts of sheriffs' departments, by size of population served, 1997**

Population served	Percent of agencies with receipts*	Value of money, goods and property received*	
		Total	Median
All sizes	54%	\$158,103,400	\$10,000
1,000,000 or more	96%	\$23,174,900	\$328,700
500,000-999,999	77	8,834,700	99,000
250,000-499,999	68	9,825,700	71,000
100,000-249,999	64	34,642,300	28,000
50,000-99,999	71	35,429,400	17,600
25,000-49,999	61	30,392,200	17,200
10,000-24,999	47	14,125,800	4,000
Under 10,000	39	1,678,400	3,000

Note: Computation of median dollars excludes agencies that did not have drug asset forfeiture receipts.

\*During 12-month period ending June 30, 1997.

**Drug asset forfeiture receipts of sheriffs' departments, by size of agency, fiscal 1997**

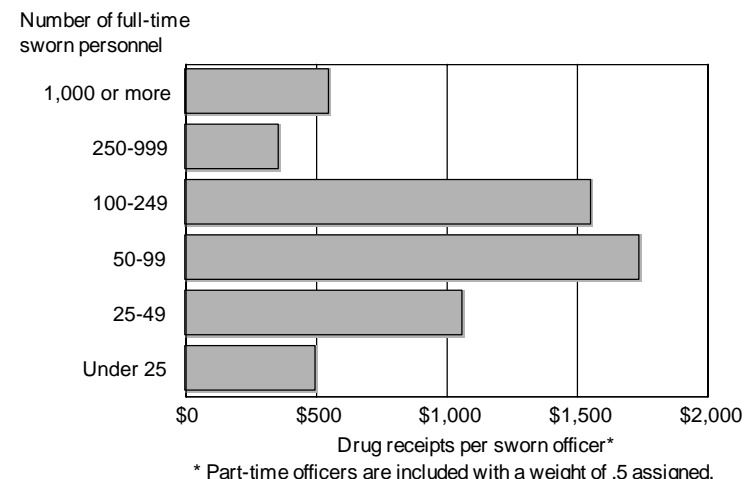


Figure 6

### Traffic and vehicle-related functions

About 5 in 6 sheriffs' departments were responsible for the enforcement of traffic laws (84%), and about three-fourths handled accident investigations (73%) (table 24). Approximately two-thirds (69%) were responsible for directing and controlling traffic.

At least 60% of the departments in each population category had traffic-related responsibilities, with departments in the smallest jurisdictions the most likely to handle these functions. Ninety-two percent of those serving a population of less than 10,000 were responsible for traffic enforcement. About 85% of these departments handled accident investigations and 76%, traffic direction and control.

About a third of sheriffs' departments had primary responsibility for parking enforcement; including about 4 in 10 departments serving a population of 250,000 or more residents. About 1 in 8 departments provided school crossing services.

### Court-related functions

To a much greater extent than their local police counterparts, sheriffs' departments were responsible for functions related to court operations (see box on page 14). Nearly all sheriffs' departments had primary responsibility for serving civil process (98%), executing arrest warrants (97%), and providing court security (95%) (table 25). Only in jurisdictions with a population of 1 million or more did fewer than 90% of the departments have responsibility for these functions.

At least 96% of the departments in each population category of less than 500,000 were responsible for serving civil process. Nationwide, 93% of all sheriffs' officers were employed by a department that handled process serving.

**Table 24. Traffic and vehicle-related functions of sheriffs' departments, by size of population served, 1997**

Population served	Percent of agencies with primary responsibility for:				
	Enforcement of traffic laws	Accident investigation	Traffic direction and control	Parking enforcement	School crossing services
All sizes	84%	73%	69%	32%	12%
1,000,000 or more	64%	64%	54%	36%	14%
500,000-999,999	68	53	57	44	15
250,000-499,999	67	55	58	42	17
100,000-249,999	70	59	64	33	15
50,000-99,999	86	72	70	26	15
25,000-49,999	87	72	66	30	13
10,000-24,999	83	72	72	24	8
Under 10,000	92	85	76	41	12

At least 98% of the sheriffs' departments in each population category under 100,000 were responsible for executing arrest warrants. Overall, 94% of all sheriffs' officers were employed by a department handled this function.

At least 94% of the departments in each population category in each of less than 1 million provided court security services. Ninety-two percent of all sheriffs' officers were employed by a department responsible for court security.

### Detention-related functions

Sheriffs' departments were also much more likely than local police departments to operate a jail. A jail is a locally administered confinement facility that holds inmates beyond arraignment, usually for more than 48 hours.

About 4 in 5 sheriffs' departments were operating at least one jail during 1997 (table 26). In jurisdictions with a population of 10,000 to 99,999, more than 4 in 5 sheriffs' departments operated a jail, a slightly higher proportion than in other population categories. Ninety percent of sheriffs' officers nationwide were employed by a department that operated one or more jails.

**Table 25. Court-related functions of sheriffs' departments, by size of population served, 1997**

Population served	Percent of agencies with primary responsibility to:		
	Serve civil process	Execute arrest warrants	Provide court security
All sizes	98%	97%	95%
1,000,000 or more	82%	82%	75%
500,000-999,999	91	94	98
250,000-499,999	96	90	94
100,000-249,999	98	91	95
50,000-99,999	97	99	96
25,000-49,999	99	98	94
10,000-24,999	98	98	94
Under 10,000	98	98	95

**Table 26. Jail facilities operated by sheriffs' departments, by size of population served, 1997**

Population served	Percent of agencies operating 1 or more jails
All sizes	80%
1,000,000 or more	79%
500,000-999,999	71
250,000-499,999	77
100,000-249,999	80
50,000-99,999	84
25,000-49,999	87
10,000-24,999	85
Under 10,000	67

Most of the 567,000 jail inmates held in the United States as of midyear 1997 were in jails administered by sheriffs' departments. The Nation's jail population increased by about 24% from 1993 to 1997.

Eighteen percent of sheriffs' departments operated at least 1 temporary holding facility for adults that was separate from a jail (table 27). The median of the maximum holding times for these facilities was 14 hours.

More than 60% of the departments in jurisdictions with a population of 250,000 or more were operating a temporary adult lockup facility. Less than a fifth of the departments serving a population of less than 100,000 had such a facility.

For adult lockup facilities, the median total capacity was 14 persons, ranging from 250 in jurisdictions with 1 million or more residents to 5 in jurisdictions with 25,000 to 49,999 residents. The total adult capacity of sheriffs' lockups nationwide was about 40,000.

**Table 27. Temporary lockup facilities operated by sheriffs' departments, by size of population served, 1997**

Population served	Agencies operating temporary holding (lockup) facilities			
	Adult		Juvenile	
	Percent with lockup	Median total capacity	Percent with lockup	Median total capacity
All sizes	18%	14	10%	4
1,000,000 or more	68%	250	28%	26
500,000-999,999	69	100	19	8
250,000-499,999	61	40	27	4
100,000-249,999	25	15	13	7
50,000-99,999	16	17	12	8
25,000-49,999	11	5	11	5
10,000-24,999	10	17	8	4
Under 10,000	17	8	8	2

Ten percent of sheriffs' departments had at least 1 juvenile lockup facility. Overall, the median total capacity of juvenile lockup facilities was 4 persons, with an median maximum holding time of 8 hours. Departments serving a

population of less than 25,000 (8%) were the least likely to operate a temporary lockup facility for juveniles. Nationwide, sheriffs' lockups for juveniles had a total capacity of 3,100.

**Comparing functions of sheriffs' and local police departments, 1997**

Like local police departments, a large majority of sheriffs' departments provide routine patrol services, respond to citizen calls for service, investigate crimes, and enforce traffic laws

Function	Percent of agencies	
	Sheriffs'	Local police
Routine patrol	98%	99%
Responding to calls for service	95%	100%
Crime investigation	91%	91%
Enforcement of traffic laws	84%	99%

Sheriffs' departments are much more likely than local police departments to perform court- and jail-related functions

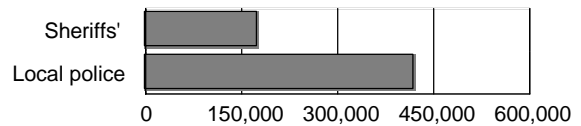
Function	Percent of agencies	
	Sheriffs'	Local police
Process serving	98%	14%
Court security	95%	21%
Jail operations	80%	12%

Sheriffs' departments are also more likely than local police departments to dispatch calls, process fingerprints, and perform search and rescue operations

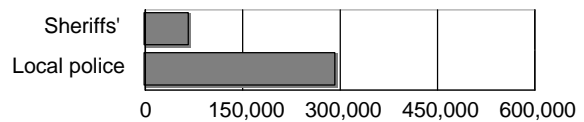
Function	Percent of agencies	
	Sheriffs'	Local police
Dispatching calls for service	75%	44%
Fingerprint processing	65%	46%
Search and rescue	58%	23%

About 4 in 10 sheriffs' deputies are regularly assigned to respond to calls for service compared to 7 in 10 local police officers.

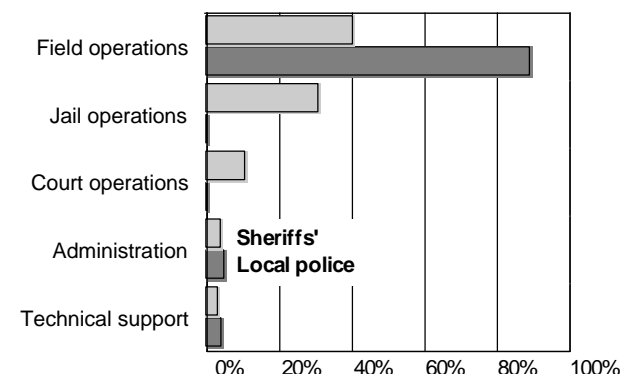
**Number of full-time sworn personnel**



**Number of uniformed officers regularly assigned to respond to calls for service**



**Percent of full-time officers assigned to each functional area in agencies with 100 or more sworn personnel**



Note: The graph does not show unspecified "other" functions.

### Special operations functions

A majority (58%) of sheriffs' departments had primary responsibility for search and rescue operations in their jurisdiction during 1997 (table 28). Departments performing search and rescue operations employed nearly two-thirds of all sheriffs' officers.

A third of sheriffs' departments were responsible for tactical, or Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) operations, including a majority of those serving a population of 50,000 or more. Departments performing tactical operations employed two-thirds of all sheriffs' officers.

About a fourth of all sheriffs' departments had responsibility for underwater recovery. This included half of departments serving a population of 1 million or more, and about two-fifths of those serving a population of at least 50,000 but less than 1 million.

Eight percent of sheriffs' departments handled bomb disposal in 1997. Half of the departments serving a population of 1 million or more residents, two-fifths of those serving 500,000 to 999,999 residents, and a third of those serving 250,000 to 499,999 residents had bomb disposal responsibilities.

### Special public safety functions

Another important area of responsibility for sheriffs' departments in 1997 involved the performance of special functions related to public safety. For example, about a third of departments had primary responsibility for animal control (table 29). This included about two-fifths of departments serving a population of less than 10,000, and about a third of those serving a population of 10,000 to 99,999.

**Table 28. Special operations functions of sheriffs' departments, by size of population served, 1997**

Population served	Percent of agencies with primary responsibility for:			
	Bomb disposal	Search and rescue	Tactical operations (SWAT)	Underwater recovery
All sizes	8%	58%	33%	27%
1,000,000 or more	50%	61%	64%	50%
500,000-999,999	40	46	64	40
250,000-499,999	34	49	60	40
100,000-249,999	25	54	57	41
50,000-99,999	5	53	52	42
25,000-49,999	5	58	40	30
10,000-24,999	2	62	20	22
Under 10,000	4	60	12	13

**Table 29. Special public safety functions of sheriffs' departments, by size of population served, 1997**

Population served	Percent of agencies with primary responsibility for:			
	Animal control	Civil defense	Emergency medical services	Fire services
All sizes	32%	20%	19%	8%
1,000,000 or more	11%	7%	7%	0%
500,000-999,999	9	15	18	0
250,000-499,999	16	15	16	3
100,000-249,999	14	14	8	5
50,000-99,999	31	17	12	1
25,000-49,999	34	15	16	4
10,000-24,999	34	22	24	12
Under 10,000	42	29	26	13

A fifth of all sheriffs' departments were responsible for civil defense functions, ranging from 29% of those serving fewer than 10,000 residents to 7% of those serving 1 million or more residents.

About a fifth of sheriffs' departments provided emergency medical services, including a fourth of those departments serving fewer than 25,000 residents. Eight percent of sheriffs' departments provided fire services in 1997. None of the departments in jurisdictions with 500,000 or more residents were responsible for providing fire services.

## 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 tactics and community partnerships. A fundamental shift from traditional reactive policing, community policing stresses the prevention of crime before it occurs. The implementation of a community policing plan supports and empowers front-line officers, decentralizes command, and encourages innovative problem solving.

In 1997 about 1 in 7 sheriffs' departments had a formally written community policing plan (table 30). About a third of departments serving 250,000 or more residents had a formally written plan, compared to less than a tenth of the departments in jurisdictions with fewer than 25,000 residents. Departments with a formal, written community policing plan employed 33% of all sheriffs' officers.

In all population categories, a majority of sheriffs' departments had either a formal, written community policing plan or an informal, unwritten plan (figure 7). About three-fourths of all sheriff's officers worked for a department with some type of community policing plan.

In the largest jurisdictions, about a third of the community policing plans were unwritten, and a third were formally written. As population size decreased, the proportion of plans that were informal increased. Nearly half of the departments serving fewer than 25,000 residents had no community policing plan, formally written or not.

### Community policing training

During the 3-year period ending June 30, 1997, nearly half of sheriffs' departments, employing three-fifths of all officers, trained at least some new officer recruits in community policing skills such as problem solving;

**Table 30. Sheriffs' departments with a formally written community policing plan, by size of population served, 1997**

Population served	Percent of agencies with community policing plan	
	Formal, written	Informal, unwritten
All sizes	14%	44%
1,000,000 or more	32%	43%
500,000-999,999	35	31
250,000-499,999	34	40
100,000-249,999	17	40
50,000-99,999	19	39
25,000-49,999	16	50
10,000-24,999	9	45
Under 10,000	7	45

Scanning, Analysis, Response, Assessment (SARA); and developing community partnerships (table 31). At least half of the departments in each population category of 25,000 or more trained some or all new officer recruits in community policing.

Nearly a third of departments trained all new recruits in community policing. More than two-fifths of the departments serving a population of 500,000 to 999,999 or 100,000 to 249,999 provided such training to all recruits.

A sixth of departments trained all in-service sworn personnel in community policing during the 3-year period ending June 30, 1997. More than half (55%) provided training in community policing to at least some in-service

**Table 31. Community policing training for new deputy recruits and in-service officers in sheriffs' departments, by size of population served, 1997**

Population served	Percentage of agencies that trained personnel for 8 or more hours in community policing*		
	Total	All	Some
<b>New deputy recruits</b>			
All sizes	47%	29%	17%
1,000,000 or more	50%	28%	21%
500,000-999,999	57	44	13
250,000-499,999	55	33	22
100,000-249,999	55	43	12
50,000-99,999	54	33	22
25,000-49,999	51	33	18
10,000-24,999	43	22	21
Under 10,000	37	25	12
<b>In-service sworn personnel</b>			
All sizes	55%	17%	38%
1,000,000 or more	75%	18%	57%
500,000-999,999	66	16	49
250,000-499,999	62	22	40
100,000-249,999	58	16	42
50,000-99,999	65	14	50
25,000-49,999	60	18	42
10,000-24,999	51	16	35
Under 10,000	46	18	28

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

\*During 3-year period ending June 30, 1997.

officers. These departments employed nearly three-fourths of all sheriffs' officers. Departments serving 1 million or more residents (75%) were the most likely to have trained at least some in-service officers in community policing.

**Community policing plans of sheriffs' departments, 1997**

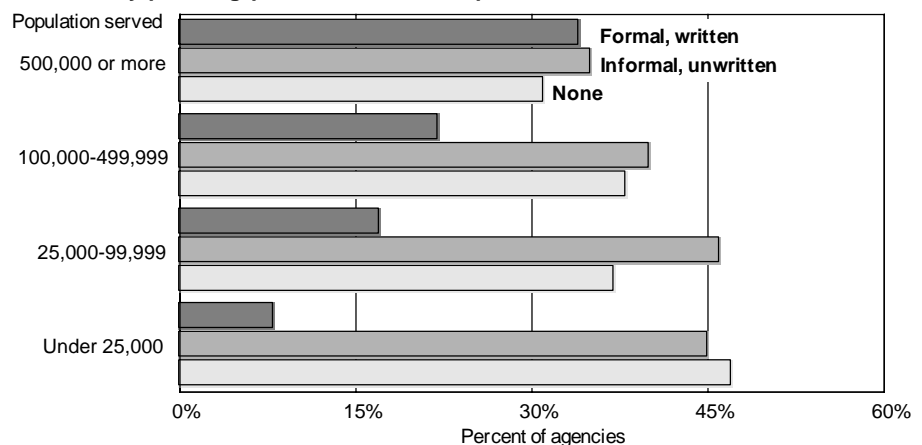


Figure 7

*Specially designated community policing personnel*

In 1997, 15% of sheriffs' departments, employing 45% of sheriff's officers nationwide, operated a community policing unit with 1 or more officers assigned full-time (table 32). More than half of the departments serving a population of 1 million or more residents had a full-time community policing unit. About two-fifths of the departments serving 250,000 to 999,999 residents had a full-time unit.

About a fifth of sheriffs' departments did not have a full-time community policing unit, but had designated certain personnel to perform community policing activities. Another sixth did not have a full-time unit or specially designated community policing personnel, but had established policies or procedures to address problems and tasks related to community policing. This was most likely to be the case in departments serving fewer than 10,000 residents (24%).

Nearly half (47%) of sheriffs' departments had no community policing unit, personnel, policies or procedures. This included a majority of the departments serving fewer than 10,000 residents, generally those serving the most rural areas.

Overall, a third of departments had full-time sworn personnel serving as community policing officers, whether as part of a separate unit or not (table 33). In some jurisdictions, these officers are known as community relations officers, community resource officers, or by some other name that reflects the community policing approach they employ. Nationwide, sheriffs' departments employed more than 3,600 community policing officers or their equivalent.

A majority of departments serving a population of 250,000 or more had full-time community policing officers. Those in jurisdictions with 1 million or more residents employed 25 such officers on average, while those serving fewer than 50,000 residents had an average of 2 each.

About 3 in 8 sheriffs' departments had full-time school resource officers (table 34). 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. Overall, sheriffs' departments had about 2,900 full-time sworn

personnel assigned as school resource officers in 1997.

Nearly two-thirds of the departments serving a population of 1 million or more had school resource officers, with an average of 11 each. Just a sixth of the departments serving a population of less than 10,000 had school resource officers, with an average of 1 such officer each.

**Table 33. Full-time community policing officers in sheriffs' departments, by size of population served, 1997**

Population served	Community policing officers		
	Percent of agencies using	Total number of officers	Average number of full-time sworn*
All sizes	33%	3,649	4
1,000,000 or more	60%	469	25
500,000-999,999	53	215	7
250,000-499,999	56	581	9
100,000-249,999	41	539	5
50,000-99,999	46	564	3
25,000-49,999	38	490	2
10,000-24,999	30	615	2
Under 10,000	15	175	2

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

**Table 34. Full-time school resource officers in sheriffs' departments, by size of population served, 1997**

Population served	School resource officers		
	Percent of agencies using	Total number of officers	Average number of full-time sworn*
All sizes	38%	2,897	2
1,000,000 or more	64%	223	11
500,000-999,999	46	195	7
250,000-499,999	54	304	5
100,000-249,999	60	689	4
50,000-99,999	44	360	2
25,000-49,999	46	538	2
10,000-24,999	35	419	1
Under 10,000	16	169	1

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

**Table 32. Sheriffs' departments operating a full-time community policing unit, by size of population served, 1997**

Population served	Total	Agency has community policing unit	Agency has no community policing unit			
			Total	Has specially designated personnel	Has related policies or procedures	No designated personnel, policies or procedures
All sizes	100%	15%	85%	21%	17%	47%
1,000,000 or more	100%	55%	45%	8%	8%	30%
500,000-999,999	100	40	60	20	7	32
250,000-499,999	100	39	61	25	6	30
100,000-249,999	100	30	70	13	13	43
50,000-99,999	100	17	83	25	13	45
25,000-49,999	100	19	81	23	17	42
10,000-24,999	100	11	89	25	17	47
Under 10,000	100	4	96	15	24	58

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

**Table 35. Community-oriented policies for sworn personnel in sheriffs' departments, by size of population served, 1997**

Population served	Geographic assignments		Patrol officer involvement in problem-solving projects	
	Patrol officers	Investigators	Actively encouraged	Included in evaluation
All sizes	50%	15%	19%	11%
1,000,000 or more	64%	54%	39%	21%
500,000-999,999	66	48	26	16
250,000-499,999	70	38	32	19
100,000-249,999	66	26	20	17
50,000-99,999	58	14	20	12
25,000-49,999	57	17	21	12
10,000-24,999	48	12	17	10
Under 10,000	32	7	14	6

*Community-oriented policies and programs*

Half of sheriffs' departments, employing three-fourths of all sheriffs' officers, gave patrol officers responsibility for specific geographic areas or beats (table 35). This included about two-thirds of the departments serving a population of 100,000 or more.

Just 15% of departments, employing 43% of all officers, assigned cases to investigators by geographic area, although about half of the departments serving a population of 500,000 or more did so.

About a fifth of sheriffs' departments, employing a third of all officers, actively encouraged patrol officers to become involved in problem-solving projects. The percentage of departments encouraging this activity ranged from 39% in the largest jurisdictions to 14% in the smallest. Eleven percent of departments, employing 24% of all officers, included problem-solving projects in the performance evaluation criteria for patrol officers.

Many sheriffs' departments maintained written policy directives to guide officers in dealing with special situations and populations in the community. For example, 85% of departments, employing 88% of all officers, had a written policy to guide officers in dealing with

**Table 36. Community-related written policy directives in sheriffs' departments, by size of population served, 1997**

Population served	Agencies with a written policy directive pertaining to:					
	Citizen complaints	Discretionary arrest powers	Domestic disputes	Homeless persons	Juveniles	Mentally ill persons
All sizes	72%	61%	85%	22%	83%	67%
1,000,000 or more	89%	60%	78%	22%	85%	79%
500,000-999,999	84	76	93	18	98	79
250,000-499,999	93	71	90	25	93	78
100,000-249,999	79	66	73	19	81	67
50,000-99,999	77	61	95	21	89	73
25,000-49,999	75	64	88	22	85	66
10,000-24,999	70	60	87	25	83	70
Under 10,000	62	53	77	22	78	58

domestic disputes (table 36). No less than 73% of the departments in any population category had a written policy for this type of situation. In special situations such as domestic disputes, some departments allow for officer discretion in making an arrest. About 3 in 5 departments, employing 2 in 3 officers, had some type of written policy pertaining to discretionary arrest power.

Eighty-three percent of departments, employing 91% of all officers, had a written policy pertaining to the handling of juveniles, and 67%, employing 75% of all officers, had one for dealing with mentally ill persons. Less than a fourth of departments had a policy for dealing with the homeless, with no more than 25% in any population category having such a policy.

Nearly three-fourths of sheriffs' departments had a written policy for handling citizen complaints, including about 9 in 10 departments serving a population of 250,000 or more.

About 3 in 10 sheriffs' departments enhanced their proactive role in solving community problems during the 12-month period ending June 30, 1997, by forming problem-solving partnerships with community groups, local agencies, or others through written agreements (table 37). This included about half of the departments serving a population of 250,000 or more, and at least a fifth of the departments in every other population category.

**Table 37. Community policing activities in sheriffs' departments, by size of population served, 1997**

Population served	Activities in year ending June 30, 1997			
	Community group meetings	Problem-solving partnership	Citizen training	Community substation
All sizes	82%	29%	23%	20%
1,000,000 or more	89%	57%	61%	60%
500,000-999,999	79	53	44	44
250,000-499,999	84	48	39	50
100,000-249,999	86	40	31	40
50,000-99,999	90	32	24	27
25,000-49,999	89	35	28	14
10,000-24,999	82	23	21	16
Under 10,000	69	20	11	8

Nearly a fourth of departments offered training to citizens on community policing topics such as community mobilization and problem solving during the 12-month period ending June 30, 1997. About three-fifths of the departments serving a population of 1 million or more offered such training.

A fifth of departments operated at least 1 community substation during the 12-month period ending June 30, 1997. This included three-fifths of the departments serving 1 million or more residents, and nearly half of those serving 100,000 to 999,999 residents.

About 5 in 6 departments met with community groups on a regular basis during the 12-month period ending June 30, 1997. These departments employed 91% of all sheriffs' officers. About three-fourths of all officers were employed by a department that met with neighborhood (78%) or school (76%) groups (figure 8). About two-thirds worked for a department that met with business groups (64%) and about half for one that met with youth service organizations (52%). Just under half were employed by departments meeting with advocacy (47%) or religious (45%) groups.

About a fourth of sheriffs' departments, employing two-fifths of all officers, used citizen surveys to obtain information during the year ending June 30, 1997 (table 38). This included about two-fifths of the departments serving 250,000 to 999,999 residents. Examples of survey topics included satisfaction with law enforcement services (18%), citizen perceptions of crime problems (15%), and personal crime experiences (10%).

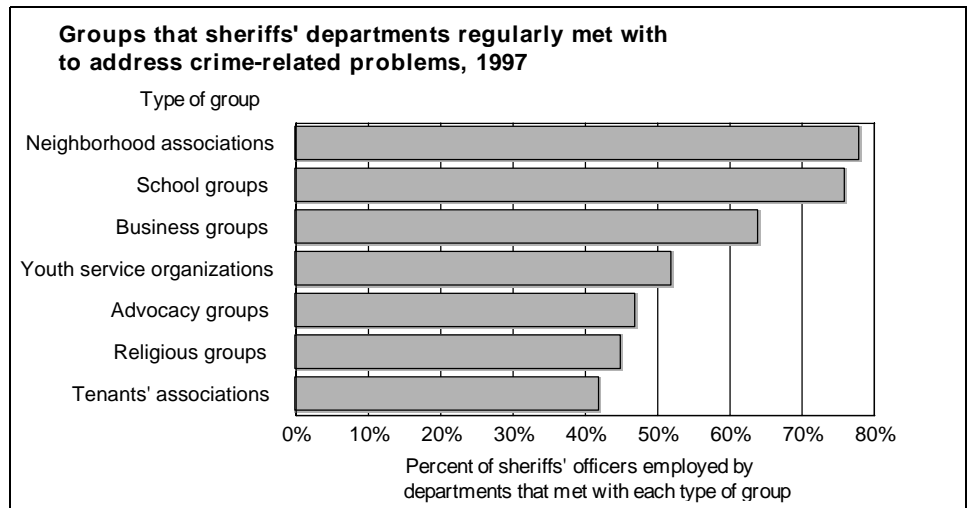


Figure 8

**Table 38. Surveying of citizens by sheriffs' departments, by size of population served, 1997**

Population served	Percent of agencies that surveyed citizens during 12-month period ending June 30, 1997 regarding:			
	Any topic	Satisfaction with services	Perceptions of crime problems	Personal crime experiences
All sizes	24%	18%	15%	10%
1,000,000 or more	32%	28%	29%	18%
500,000-999,999	38	34	29	20
250,000-499,999	43	35	30	18
100,000-249,999	30	29	21	10
50,000-99,999	24	20	20	14
25,000-49,999	29	20	18	10
10,000-24,999	22	13	13	8
Under 10,000	15	12	6	7

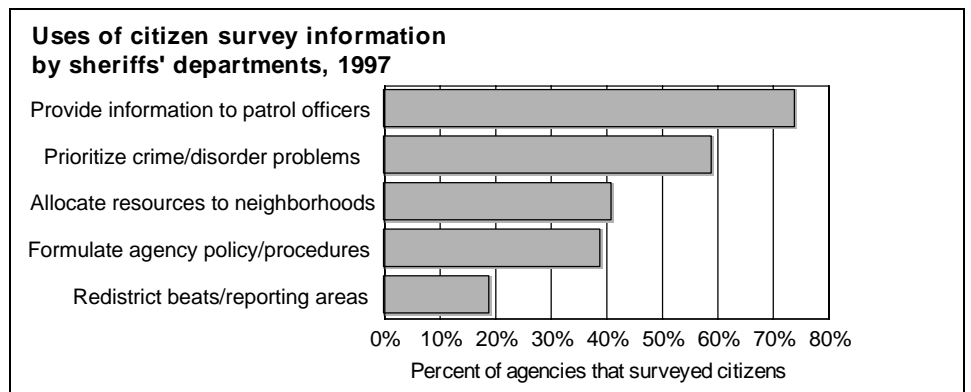


Figure 9

A majority of the departments conducting surveys used the data to provide information to officers (74%), and/or to prioritize crime-related problems (59%) (figure 9). About two-fifths of these departments used survey data

for resource allocation (41%) and the formulation of agency policy and procedures (39%). About a fifth used survey data for the redistricting of patrol beats or reporting areas.



*Citizen access to crime statistics*

About a third of sheriffs' departments, employing just over half of all officers, provided citizens in their jurisdiction with routine access to crime statistics and/or crime maps (table 39). Three-fifths of departments serving a population of 1 million or more provided citizens with routine access to crime statistics as did nearly half of those serving a population of at least 250,000 but less than 1 million. Just a fourth of the departments serving a population of less than 10,000 did so.

In most cases, departments provided access to crime statistics at the county or city level (33%). Small percentages of departments provided routine access to crime statistics by neighborhood (7%), patrol beat (6%), district or precinct (5%), or by street or block (4%). Departments serving 1 or million or more residents were the most likely to provide crime statistics at these more detailed levels.

As of June 1997, about 5 in 6 departments with routine access to crime statistics provided it to citizens who inquired in person (figure 10). About half made crime statistics available through the newspaper (54%) or telephone (51%), and a fourth through the use of radio. Other means through which departments made crime statistics available included television (14%), newsletters (14%), and the Internet (5%).

**Table 39. Sheriffs' departments providing citizens with routine access to crime statistics, by size of population served, 1997**

Population served	Percent of agencies providing routine citizen access to crime statistics by:					
	Any level	County or city	Neighborhood	Patrol beat	District or precinct	Street or block
All sizes	34%	33%	7%	6%	5%	4%
1,000,000 or more	60%	57%	25%	29%	32%	25%
500,000-999,999	46	42	20	18	11	22
250,000-499,999	48	44	19	18	17	15
100,000-249,999	34	34	15	17	12	9
50,000-99,999	43	41	6	5	4	2
25,000-49,999	35	35	8	8	5	4
10,000-24,999	32	32	7	2	3	2
Under 10,000	25	25	1	2	2	0

Note: Neighborhood category includes apartment complexes. Other levels of crime statistics not listed in table may have available to citizens in some jurisdictions.

**Methods by which citizens could routinely access crime statistics from sheriffs' departments, 1997**

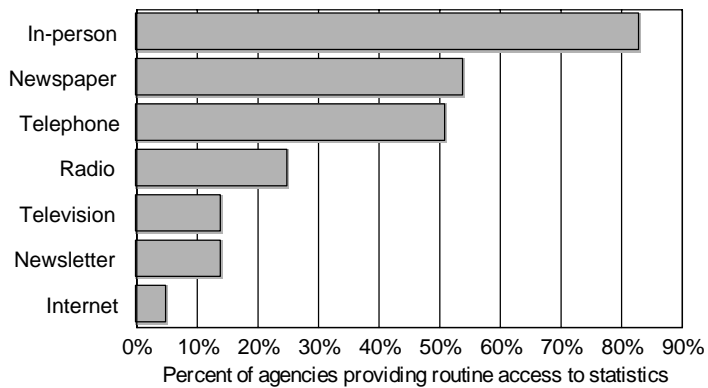


Figure 10

## Equipment

### Sidearms

In 1997, 95% of sheriffs' departments, employing 98% of all sheriffs' officers, authorized the use of some type of semiautomatic sidearm (table 40). These figures represent increases compared to 1993, when 82% of departments, employing 91% of all officers, authorized semiautomatics.

As in 1993, the 9mm semiautomatic was the most popular type of sheriffs' sidearm, with two-thirds of sheriffs' departments authorizing its use by officers. About three-fifths of departments authorized .40-caliber semiautomatic sidearms, and half the .45-caliber versions. Just under a fifth of departments authorized 10mm and .380-caliber semiautomatics.

Just over half (54%) of departments authorized the use of revolvers by officers, with .357-caliber (44%) and .38-caliber (28%) revolvers the types most commonly authorized.

A majority (64%) of sheriffs' departments supplied sidearms to officers, and another 4% provided a cash allowance to officers for the purchase of sidearms. About three-fourths of all sheriffs' officers were employed by a department that either supplied sidearms (71%) or provided a cash allowance for their purchase (5%).

### Body armor

In 1997, 48% of all sheriffs' departments required at least some of their regular field officers to wear protective armor while on duty (table 41). These agencies employed about half of all sheriffs' officers. Eighty-five percent of sheriffs' departments, employing 90% of all officers, supplied protective body armor to their regular field officers. An additional 4%, employing 8% of all officers, provided a cash allowance for armor.

**Table 40. Semiautomatic sidearms authorized for use by sworn officers in sheriffs' departments, by size of population served, 1997**

Population served	Percent of agencies authorizing semiautomatic sidearms					
	Any type	9mm	.40	.45	10mm	.380
All sizes	95%	66%	59%	49%	18%	18%
1,000,000 or more	89%	68%	46%	50%	14%	25%
500,000-999,999	92	61	58	35	11	18
250,000-499,999	99	74	48	36	19	30
100,000-249,999	96	63	59	42	19	16
50,000-99,999	98	64	71	51	20	16
25,000-49,999	98	70	66	57	23	21
10,000-24,999	94	69	57	54	17	19
Under 10,000	93	58	52	40	15	12

The percentage of sheriffs' departments requiring all regular field officers to wear body armor increased from 30% in 1993 to 39% in 1997. Such an increase was seen in all population categories (figure 11). The largest increase was in jurisdictions with 500,000 or more residents, where 45% of sheriffs' departments required all officers to wear armor in 1997, compared to 28% in 1993. The next largest increases occurred in jurisdictions with 25,000 to 99,999 residents (from 36% to 46%) and those with fewer than 25,000 residents (from 26% to 35%). The percentage of all sheriffs' officers employed by a department with such a policy increased from 35% in 1993 to 40% in 1997.

**Table 41. Body armor requirements for officers in sheriffs' departments, by size of population served, 1997**

Population served	Percent of agencies requiring field/patrol officers to wear body armor while on duty:		
	All Total	All officers	Some officers
All sizes	48%	39%	9%
1,000,000 or more	64%	60%	4%
500,000-999,999	50	37	13
250,000-499,999	51	34	17
100,000-249,999	55	42	13
50,000-99,999	59	52	8
25,000-49,999	52	43	9
10,000-24,999	47	39	8
Under 10,000	37	30	7

**Sheriffs' departments requiring all regular field officers to wear protective armor, 1990, 1993, and 1997**

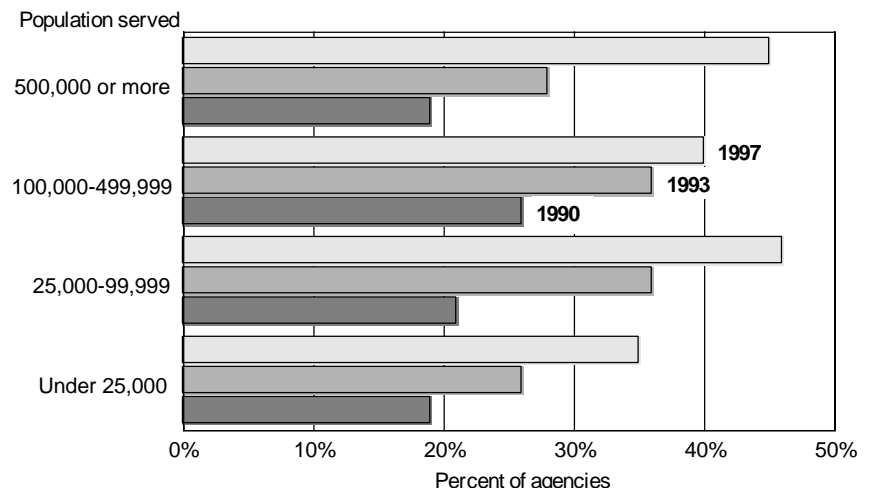


Figure 11

**Table 42. Types of nonlethal weapons authorized for personal use by sworn officers in sheriffs' departments, by size of population served, 1997**

Population served	Percent of agencies authorizing											
	Chemical agents — personal use				Batons				Other weapons/actions			
	Any type listed in survey	Pepper spray	CS	Tear gas	Any type listed in survey	Collapsible	Traditional	PR-24	Flash/bang grenade	Electrical devices <sup>a</sup>	Choke/carotid hold <sup>b</sup>	Capture net
All sizes	88%	87%	4%	3%	80%	59%	38%	36%	19%	13%	5%	1%
1,000,000 or more	93%	93%	4%	4%	96%	68%	64%	46%	68%	18%	36%	4%
500,000-999,999	94	93	13	5	100	75	42	56	66	24	13	4
250,000-499,999	92	92	3	9	93	75	40	58	56	28	8	5
100,000-249,999	90	89	3	3	89	70	39	47	40	19	11	--
50,000-99,999	96	95	4	--	85	68	35	35	33	7	4	0
25,000-49,999	92	90	5	3	78	58	38	33	23	9	2	1
10,000-24,999	88	87	4	4	80	57	36	37	8	13	4	0
Under 10,000	79	76	3	3	72	50	37	27	2	12	5	0

<sup>a</sup>Includes hand-held direct contact devices (such as stun gun) and hand-held stand-off devices (such as taser).

<sup>b</sup>Includes neck restraints.

--Less than 0.5%.

**Nonlethal weapons**

In 1997 nearly all sheriffs' departments authorized officers to use one or more types of nonlethal weapons. Chemical agents, such as pepper spray, were the type of nonlethal weapon most commonly authorized for personal use by officers (table 42). Eighty-seven percent of all departments authorized the use of pepper spray, with the lowest percentage among those serving a population of less than 10,000 (76%). Other types of chemical agents authorized by sheriffs' departments for personal use by officers included CS (4%) and tear gas (3%).

From 1993 to 1997 significant increases in the percentage of departments authorizing the use of pepper spray were recorded in all population categories (figure 12). In departments serving a population of 500,000 or more, 93% of departments authorized its use in 1997, compared to 72% in 1993. The increases in other population categories were as follows: 100,000 to 499,999 (from 70% to 90%); 25,000 to 49,999 (from 55% to 92%); under 25,000 (from 52% to 82%). In 1997 an estimated 90% of sheriffs' officers were employed by a department that authorized the use of pepper spray, compared to 64% in 1993.

The second most frequently authorized type of nonlethal weapon was the baton; authorized by 80% of all departments. Departments authorizing batons employed 92% of all officers. The collapsible baton (59%) was authorized by more departments than traditional (38%) or PR-24 (36%) batons.

Nationwide, about two-thirds of sheriffs' officers worked for a department that authorized them to use a collapsible baton (68%), and about half for a department that authorized the traditional (52%) or PR-24 (48%) baton.

About a fifth of sheriffs' departments authorized the use of flash/bang grenades, including a majority of those serving a population of 250,000 or more. About 1 in 8 departments, employing about a fourth of all officers, authorized the use of electrical devices, such as tasers or stun guns.

Just 5% of all departments authorized the use of carotid holds, choke holds, or neck restraints; however, more than a third of those serving a population of 1 million or more (36%) authorized officers to use these actions.

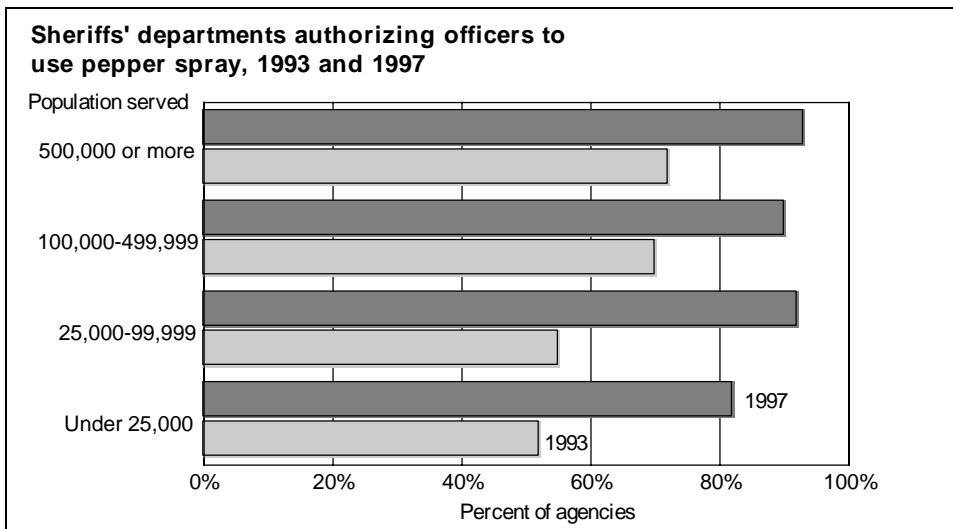


Figure 12

A large majority of sheriff's' departments had written policy directives pertaining to the use of force by officers (table 43). About 9 in 10 had a written policy on the use of deadly force, including all departments serving a population of 50,000 to 499,999. Departments with a deadly force policy employed 99% of all sheriffs' officers.

Eighty-four percent of all departments, employing 89% of all officers, had a written policy pertaining to the use of nonlethal force. Departments serving a population of less than 10,000 were the least likely to have a written policy on the use of force, lethal (77%) or nonlethal (69%).

#### Vehicles

Nationwide, sheriffs' departments operated 54 cars per 100 sworn personnel (table 44). By population category, the ratio of cars to officers ranged from 30 cars per 100 officers in jurisdictions with 1 million or more residents to 88 per 100 in jurisdictions with fewer than 10,000 residents.

About a third of the cars operated by sheriffs' departments were unmarked (35%). The percentage of cars that were unmarked ranged from more than 40% in jurisdictions with a population of 250,000 or more, to 19% in jurisdictions with a population of less than 10,000.

**Table 43. Written policy directives pertaining to officer use of force maintained by sheriffs' departments, by size of population served, 1997**

Population served	Percent of agencies with a policy directive pertaining to use of —	
	Deadly force	Nonlethal force
All sizes	91%	84%
1,000,000 or more	93%	78%
500,000-999,999	98	94
250,000-499,999	100	98
100,000-249,999	100	92
50,000-99,999	100	95
25,000-49,999	95	86
10,000-24,999	92	84
Under 10,000	77	69

**Table 44. Number of cars per officer in sheriffs' departments, by size of population served, 1997**

Population served	Number of cars per 100 officers*	Percent of cars that were unmarked
All sizes	54	35%
1,000,000 or more	30	47%
500,000-999,999	51	42
250,000-499,999	47	41
100,000-249,999	59	34
50,000-99,999	67	32
25,000-49,999	67	29
10,000-24,999	74	24
Under 10,000	88	19

\*Part-time officers are included with a weight of .5 assigned.

Eighty-eight percent of sheriffs' departments, employing 81% of all sheriffs' officers, allowed sworn personnel to take marked vehicles home (table 45). The percentage of departments allowing officers to take vehicles home ranged from 57% in jurisdictions with 500,000 or more residents to more than 90% in jurisdictions with a population of less than 25,000.

In a large majority of the sheriffs' departments that allowed marked vehicles to be taken home, officers were allowed only to drive their vehicle to and from work. Overall, about a fourth of departments allowed officers to operate a marked vehicle for personal errands, with those in jurisdictions with 1 million or more residents (4%) the least likely to have such a policy.

**Table 45. Vehicle use policies in sheriffs' departments, by size of population served, 1997**

Population served	Percent of agencies allowing officers to take marked vehicles home		
	Total	Personal use allowed	Personal use not allowed
All sizes	88%	23%	65%
1,000,000 or more	57%	4%	53%
500,000-999,999	57	20	37
250,000-499,999	73	16	57
100,000-249,999	80	25	55
50,000-99,999	81	21	59
25,000-49,999	89	26	64
10,000-24,999	93	21	73
Under 10,000	95	26	69

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

Fifty-seven percent of sheriffs' departments, employing 72% of all sheriffs' officers, maintained a restrictive pursuit driving policy (table 46). This type of policy restricts vehicle pursuits according to specific criteria such as type of offense or maximum speed. A restrictive policy was the most common type of vehicle pursuit policy in all population categories except the smallest.

Departments in jurisdictions with fewer than 10,000 residents were more likely to have a judgmental pursuit policy (48%), one that leaves pursuit decisions to the officer's discretion, than a restrictive policy (38%). Overall, 28% of departments, employing 15% of all officers, had a judgmental policy. Seven percent of departments, employing 6% of all officers, did not have a pursuit driving policy.

**Table 46. Pursuit driving policies of sheriffs' departments, by size of population served, 1997**

Population served	Agency's policy towards pursuit driving					
	Total	Restrictive	Judgmental	Discouragement	Other	No policy
All sizes	100%	57%	28%	5%	2%	7%
1,000,000 or more	100%	68%	14%	3%	0%	14%
500,000-999,999	100	63	5	7	9	15
250,000-499,999	100	66	12	10	4	8
100,000-249,999	100	67	16	5	5	7
50,000-99,999	100	68	19	4	4	5
25,000-49,999	100	68	18	6	1	6
10,000-24,999	100	55	30	6	1	8
Under 10,000	100	38	48	5	1	8

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

An estimated 31% of sheriffs' departments, employing 59% of all sheriffs' officers, operated at least 1 boat during 1997. This included about half of those serving a population of 50,000 or more (table 47). About a fourth of the departments in jurisdictions with a population of least 10,000 but less than 50,000 operated 1 or more boats.

Just 4% of all departments operated airplanes or helicopters; however, about 3 in 10 departments in jurisdictions with a million or more residents operated at least one airplane and about 4 in 10 operated a helicopter. About a third of sheriffs' officers were employed by a department with at least one airplane or helicopter.

**Table 47. Off-land vehicles operated by sheriffs' departments, by size of population served, 1997**

Population served	Percent of agencies operating		
	Boats	Fixed-wing aircraft	Helicopters
All sizes	31%	4%	4%
1,000,000 or more	57%	29%	39%
500,000-999,999	48	15	26
250,000-499,999	56	17	19
100,000-249,999	52	12	9
50,000-99,999	50	6	3
25,000-49,999	26	3	3
10,000-24,999	27	2	1
Under 10,000	15	0	0

### Animals

An estimated 46% of sheriffs' departments maintained 1 or more dogs for use in activities related to law enforcement (table 48).

A majority of the departments in each population category of 25,000 or more used dogs, compared to less than a fourth of those serving fewer than 10,000 residents. Nationwide, sheriffs' departments maintained about 3,000 dogs for activities related to law enforcement, and departments using dogs employed about three-fourths of all sheriffs' officers.

Just 3% of all sheriffs' departments used horses for law enforcement purposes, with those in jurisdictions with 1 million or more residents (22%) the most likely to be maintaining at least 1 horse. Sheriffs' departments collectively maintained approximately 670 horses, and those using horses employed 11% of all sheriffs' officers.

**Table 48. Animals maintained by sheriffs' departments, by size of population served, 1997**

Population served	Percent of agencies maintaining animals for law enforcement work	
	Dogs	Horses
All sizes	46%	3%
1,000,000 or more	75%	22%
500,000-999,999	69	11
250,000-499,999	74	11
100,000-249,999	60	5
50,000-99,999	67	4
25,000-49,999	54	3
10,000-24,999	40	0
Under 10,000	22	1

## Computers and information systems

### *Types of computers used for administrative functions*

An estimated 93% of all sheriffs' departments were using 1 or more types of computers for administrative purposes in 1997 (table 49), compared to 82% in 1993. Well over 90% of the departments in jurisdictions with 25,000 or more residents were using computers, including all departments serving a population of 250,000 to 499,999. The percentage of sheriffs' officers nationwide that were employed by a department using computers increased from 96% in 1993 to 99% in 1997.

In 1997 about three-fourths of sheriffs' departments used personal computers, compared with two-thirds in 1993. At least 90% of the departments in each population category of 50,000 or more used personal computers. Overall, sheriffs' departments using personal computers in 1997 employed 93% of all sheriffs' officers.

About three-fifths of all departments were using a mainframe computer in 1997 compared to just under half in 1993. More than 70% of the departments in each population category of 50,000 or more were using a mainframe in 1997. About two-fifths of the departments serving a population of under 10,000 used mainframe computers.

About 1 in 5 departments were using a minicomputer, including more than 3 in 5 departments serving a population of 500,000 or more. Departments using mainframes employed 81% of all officers in 1997, and those using minicomputers, 47%.

### *Computer functions*

Sheriffs' departments used computers for various administrative functions in 1997. For example, 82% of all departments, employing 91% of all officers,

**Table 49. Types of computers used by sheriffs' departments for administrative functions, by size of population served, 1997**

Population served	Percent of agencies using each type of computer:			
	Any type	Personal	Main-frame	Mini
All sizes	93%	76%	59%	21%
1,000,000 or more	93%	93%	86%	64%
500,000-999,999	92	90	77	62
250,000-499,999	100	92	88	50
100,000-249,999	98	93	76	33
50,000-99,999	99	92	72	31
25,000-49,999	95	75	62	22
10,000-24,999	91	69	56	13
Under 10,000	87	67	39	11

used computers for record-keeping (table 50).

About two-thirds of departments used computers for criminal investigations (65%), including 86% of those serving 250,000 to 499,999 residents. Departments using computers for investigations employed 81% of all officers.

Forty-six percent of all departments, employing 72% of all officers, utilized computers for dispatch. A majority of the departments serving a population of 25,000 or more used computer-aided dispatch.

Forty-three percent of departments used computers for crime analysis, including more than half of those serving 25,000 or more residents. Departments using computers for crime analysis employed

two-thirds of all officers. Nearly a sixth of departments used computers for crime mapping, including about half of those serving a population of 1 million or more.

Nearly a third of departments used computers to access the Internet, including a majority of those serving a population of 100,000 or more.

Thirty percent of sheriffs' departments used computers for fleet management and 25% used them for resource allocation. A majority of departments serving 250,000 or more residents used computers for these purposes.

For each of the functions included in the LEMAS survey, the percentage of sheriffs' departments that were using computers to perform that function was greater in 1997 than in 1993.

**Table 50. Selected functions of computers in sheriffs' departments, by size of population served, 1997**

Population served	Percent of agencies using computers for:							
	Record-keeping	Criminal investigations	Dispatch	Crime analysis	Internet access	Fleet management	Resource allocation	Crime mapping
All sizes	82%	65%	46%	43%	31%	30%	25%	15%
1,000,000 or more	85%	79%	78%	68%	79%	50%	54%	53%
500,000-999,999	81	68	60	55	55	59	55	35
250,000-499,999	93	86	71	51	62	58	56	23
100,000-249,999	85	76	64	57	54	45	44	26
50,000-99,999	91	80	52	53	42	42	32	22
25,000-49,999	89	72	52	52	28	32	24	16
10,000-24,999	80	58	40	36	24	23	18	12
Under 10,000	71	52	30	31	15	14	12	7

**Table 51. Types of computerized information files maintained by at least a third of sheriffs' departments, by size of population served, 1997**

Population served	Percent of agencies maintaining computerized information files on:														
	Warrants	Arrests	Incident reports	Calls for service	Criminal histories	Stolen property	Stolen vehicles	Personnel	Crimes, incident-based	Inventory	Traffic citations	Evidence	Crimes, summary	Summonses	Traffic accidents
All sizes	75%	74%	74%	60%	60%	59%	58%	47%	47%	45%	44%	44%	42%	41%	38%
1,000,000 or more	71%	79%	68%	68%	82%	50%	53%	82%	25%	72%	42%	68%	39%	28%	35%
500,000-999,999	84	83	75	60	75	53	51	81	42	61	58	55	42	48	44
250,000-499,999	92	83	80	77	81	64	55	83	49	68	48	63	54	50	41
100,000-249,999	87	78	77	73	71	64	61	69	41	60	50	62	46	45	41
50,000-99,999	89	88	81	76	67	64	57	57	56	60	56	55	57	56	52
25,000-49,999	82	82	84	68	59	67	64	47	52	44	45	51	43	51	43
10,000-24,999	74	71	72	54	57	61	61	44	47	40	41	38	41	39	31
Under 10,000	55	60	62	44	51	45	48	28	42	34	35	25	34	22	31

*Computerized files*

About three-fourths of sheriffs' departments were maintaining computerized files on warrants (75%), arrests (74%) and incident reports (74%) during 1997 (table 51). About three-fifths had computerized files on calls for service (60%), criminal histories (60%), stolen property (59%), and stolen vehicles (58%).

Other types of computerized information files maintained by at least a third of all sheriffs' departments in 1997 included personnel (47%), incident-based crime data (47%), inventory (45%), traffic citations (44%), evidence (44%), summary-based crime data (42%), summonses (41%), and traffic accidents (38%).

Less than a third of sheriffs' departments maintained the following types of computerized files during 1997: driver's license information (32%), payroll (32%), field interviews (31%), alarms (27%), vehicle registration (25%), and crime analysis (linked) (19%) (table 52).

About three-fourths of the departments serving a population of 250,000 or more had computerized payroll information. A majority of the departments in jurisdictions with a population of 1 million or more maintained computerized files on field interviews and alarms.

**Table 52. Types of computerized information files maintained by fewer than a third of sheriffs' departments, by size of population served, 1997**

Population served	Percent of agencies maintaining computerized information files on:					
	Drivers license information	Payroll	Field interviews	Alarms	Vehicle registration	Crime analysis (linked)
All sizes	32%	32%	31%	27%	25%	19%
1,000,000 or more	21%	75%	57%	57%	18%	36%
500,000-999,999	33	75	40	51	33	28
250,000-499,999	31	74	51	48	27	29
100,000-249,999	33	51	40	46	21	26
50,000-99,999	32	38	42	38	26	31
25,000-49,999	32	30	28	28	23	22
10,000-24,999	33	28	27	23	26	16
Under 10,000	29	14	24	11	25	10

**Sheriffs' officers employed by departments maintaining selected types of computerized information files, 1993 and 1997**

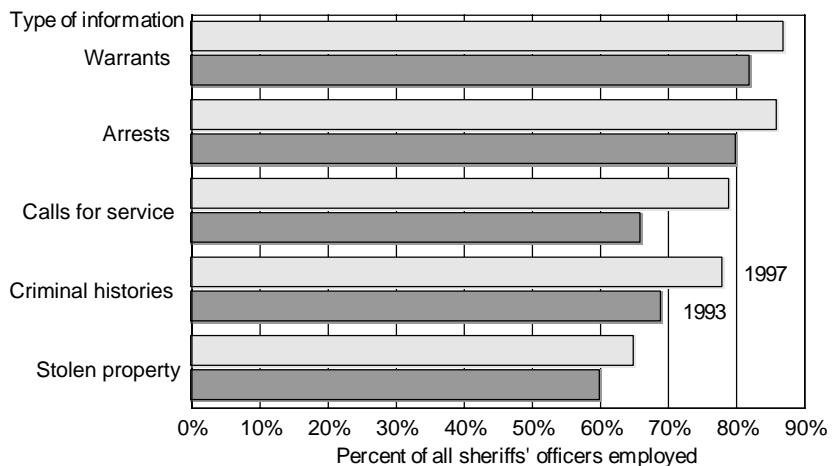


Figure 13

For each subject area covered by the LEMAS survey, sheriffs' officers were more likely to be employed by an agency that maintained that information in a computerized format in 1997 than in 1993 (figure 13). For example, the percentage of officers working for a department with computerized calls for

**Table 53. Use of Automated Fingerprint Identification Systems (AFIS), in sheriffs' departments, by size of population served, 1997**

Population served	Percent of agencies with AFIS ownership or remote access	
	Exclusive or shared ownership	Remote access terminal
All sizes	15%	9%
1,000,000 or more	68%	50%
500,000-999,999	59	53
250,000-499,999	54	47
100,000-249,999	30	20
50,000-99,999	16	14
25,000-49,999	11	3
10,000-24,999	10	6
Under 10,000	7	1

service information increased from 66% to 79%. The increases for selected other types of information were as follows: warrants (from 82% in 1993 to 87% in 1997) arrests (80% to 86%); criminal histories (69% to 78%); stolen property (60% to 65%).

Fifteen percent of sheriffs' departments, employing 53% of all sheriffs' officers, had either exclusive or shared ownership of an Automatic Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) that included a file of digitized prints (table 53). A majority of the departments serving a population of 250,000 or more had exclusive or shared ownership of an AFIS system, compared to 7% of those serving a population of less than 10,000.

Nine percent of sheriffs' departments used an AFIS terminal with access to a remote system. These departments employed 42% of all sheriffs' officers.

*Use of computers in the field*

Nearly a third of sheriffs' departments, employing two-thirds of all officers, were using in-field computers or terminals during 1997 (table 54). This included about three-fourths of the departments serving 250,000 or more residents.

**Table 54. Types of in-field computers or terminals used by sheriffs' departments, by size of population served, 1997**

Population served	Percent of agencies using in-field computer:				
	Any type	Laptop	Hand-held terminal	Car-mounted	
				Data terminal	Data computer
All sizes	29%	27%	1%	5%	2%
1,000,000 or more	79%	64%	11%	43%	11%
500,000-999,999	72	48	7	48	13
250,000-499,999	73	63	2	28	14
100,000-249,999	54	51	1	12	3
50,000-99,999	45	41	0	8	5
25,000-49,999	25	23	1	3	1
10,000-24,999	20	20	1	0	0
Under 10,000	13	13	0	1	1

Laptops were the most common type of in-field computer, used by about a fourth of departments. Departments using laptops employed half of all sheriffs officers.

Nearly half of departments serving a population of 500,000 were using car-mounted data terminals. Overall, 5% of departments, employing 31% of all officers, used them.

Smaller percentages of departments used car-mounted computers (2%) or hand-held terminals (1%). Departments using these technologies employed less than 10% of all officers.

The 29% of sheriffs' departments using in-field computers or terminals in 1997, was nearly twice the percentage in

1993 (17%), and nearly 6 times that in 1990. Likewise, the 66% of sheriffs' officers working for a department with in-field computers or terminals in 1997 was considerably higher than in 1993 (50%) and 1990 (28%).

From 1990 to 1997, increases in local police use of in-field computers and terminals occurred in jurisdictions of all sizes (figure 14). During this period, in-field computer use among departments serving 500,000 or more residents increased from 43% to 74%; among departments serving 100,000 to 499,999 residents, from 13% to 59%; among departments serving 25,000 to 99,999 residents, from 6% to 33%; and among departments serving fewer than 25,000 residents, from 2% to 17%.

**Sheriffs' departments using in-field computers or terminals, 1990, 1993 and 1997**

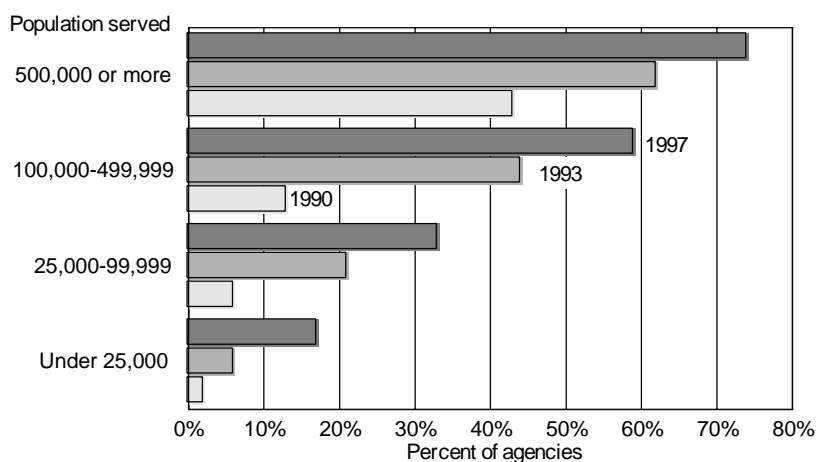


Figure 14



**Table 55. Use of in-field computers for reports and communications by sheriffs' departments, by size of population served, 1997**

Population served	Percent of agencies using in-field computers for:	
	Field reports	Communications
All sizes	25%	13%
1,000,000 or more	43%	32%
500,000-999,999	22	35
250,000-499,999	34	38
100,000-249,999	29	21
50,000-99,999	26	14
25,000-49,999	20	12
10,000-24,999	22	7
Under 10,000	29	11

A fourth of sheriffs' departments used in-field computers or terminals for writing incident reports, including more than two-fifths of those serving a population of 1 million or more (table 55). About an eighth used them for some of their in-field communications, including about a third of those serving 250,000 or more residents.

In nearly an eighth of sheriffs' departments at least some officers used in-field computers to access vehicle or driving records in 1997 (table 56). This included three-fifths of the departments serving a population of 1 million or more.

**Table 56. Computerized information accessible to in-field officers of sheriffs' departments, by size of population served, 1997**

Population served	Types of information accessible in the field:				
	Calls for service	Crime analysis fields (linked)	Criminal histories	Driving records	Vehicle records
All sizes	7%	2%	8%	11%	12%
1,000,000 or more	25%	4%	36%	61%	61%
500,000-999,999	26	11	39	46	53
250,000-499,999	17	5	27	46	46
100,000-249,999	16	6	14	20	21
50,000-99,999	13	2	10	17	16
25,000-49,999	7	1	8	9	11
10,000-24,999	3	1	4	5	5
Under 10,000	3	1	3	4	4

Eight percent of sheriffs' departments used in-field computers to access criminal histories, including more than a third of the departments serving 500,000 or more residents. Seven percent of departments used in-field computers to access calls for service information, including a fourth of those in jurisdictions with a population of 500,000 or more.

Eighty-seven percent of sheriffs' departments used paper reports to transmit criminal incident reports from the field to its central information system (table 57). All departments serving a population of 1 million or more residents used paper reports. More than 80% of the departments in each of the other population categories used paper reports.

Other methods used by sheriffs' departments for transmitting criminal incident reports from the field included computers and data devices (7%), and telephone or wireless transmissions (6%).

Ninety percent of sheriffs' departments, used paper reports to transmit traffic incident reports from the field. All departments serving a population of 500,000 to 999,999 used paper reports for traffic incidents.

Among the other methods of transmitting traffic incident reports to a central information system, computer and data devices were used by 5% of departments, and telephones or wireless transmissions by 4%.

**Table 57. Methods for transmitting criminal incident and traffic accident reports to the central information system in sheriffs' departments, by size of population served, 1997**

Population served	Criminal incidents				Traffic accidents			
	Total	Paper report	Computer/data device	Telephone/wireless	Total	Paper report	Computer/data device	Telephone/wireless
All sizes	100%	87%	7%	6%	100%	90%	5%	4%
1,000,000 or more	100%	100%	0%	0%	100%	96%	4%	0%
500,000-999,999	100	87	0	13	100	100	0	0
250,000-499,999	100	86	10	4	100	92	6	2
100,000-249,999	100	83	5	11	100	88	4	8
50,000-99,999	100	85	11	4	100	93	6	1
25,000-49,999	100	88	7	5	100	90	6	4
10,000-24,999	100	89	7	5	100	91	5	4
Under 10,000	100	86	7	6	100	88	6	6

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

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## 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 1997 survey describing the more than 3,000 sheriffs' departments operating in the United States in terms of their personnel, expenditures and pay, operations, community policing initiatives, equipment, computers and information systems, and written policies. Comparisons are made with prior years where appropriate. All sheriffs' departments are operated by either a county or independent city government.

The 1997 LEMAS survey questionnaire was mailed to 3,597 State and local law enforcement agencies. The overall response rate was 94.9%. Among sheriffs' departments, 915 of 1,001 surveys were returned for a 91.4% response rate.

All 968 State and local law enforcement agencies in the United States with 100 or more sworn officers (as reported in the 1996 BJS Census of State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies) received the full-length LEMAS survey questionnaire. This included 306 sheriffs' departments. These self-representing (SR) agencies were supplemented by a nationally representative sample of agencies with fewer than 100 sworn officers.

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 2,629 NSR agencies, including 695 sheriffs' departments, received 1 of 2 shorter versions of the questionnaire that was mailed to the SR agencies.

The initial mailing of the questionnaire was conducted in July 1997. The pay period containing June 15, 1997, was used as the reference date for personnel-related questions and June 30, 1997, for other questions. The data were collected by the Bureau of the Census for the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

After two followup mailings and additional telephone calls as needed, a final total of 3,412 agencies responded to the LEMAS questionnaire, including 909 SR agencies and 2,503 NSR agencies. The final database includes responses from 2,012 local police departments, 915 sheriffs' departments, 356 special jurisdiction police departments, 80 Texas constable offices, and the 49 primary State police departments.

The base weight for all SR agencies is 1. For NSR sheriffs' departments, it is 4. For NSR local police departments, the base weights are determined by number of sworn officers employed as reported in the 1996 BJS Census of State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies. 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.

Special police are similarly weighted based upon the number of sworn officers. For agencies with 0 to 9 officers, the base weight is 9.85; for 10 to 24 officers, it is 4.90; for 25 to 49 officers, it is 2.75; and for 50 to 99

officers, it is 1.52. The final weight associated with every agency, both SR and NSR, is the product of the base weight and a factor that adjusted for any nonresponding agencies in each cell. This agency nonresponse factor was based on number of sworn officers for SR agencies and on number of agencies for NSR agencies.

Some responding agencies did not fully complete the LEMAS questionnaire. When an agency did not supply a response to an item, a donor agency was randomly selected from responding agencies in the same sample cell. The donor agency's value for the item was placed into the nonresponding agency's response field with an indicator that the value had 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. All statements of comparison in this report have been tested to ensure that observed differences between values are significant at 2 standard errors (the 95-percent confidence level) or higher.

Data on the number of employees and on the amount of agency expenditures in this report are not comparable with figures based on the BJS Survey of Criminal Justice Expenditure and Employment series. In the latter, these data are presented by governmental function, whereas in the LEMAS survey, expenditures are classified by type of agency. For example, what might be attributed to sheriffs' departments in the LEMAS survey would be apportioned among various functions, such as police protection and corrections, in the expenditure and employment series. Also, the LEMAS figures for operating expenditures include employee benefits, but the figures from the expenditure and employment series do not.