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# Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletin

## A LEMAS Report

# State and Local Police Departments, 1990

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During 1990 nearly 17,000 publicly funded State and local law enforcement agencies were operating in the United States. This total included 49 general purpose State police departments and an estimated 12,288 general purpose local police departments. The remainder were sheriffs' departments and special police departments.

In July 1990 the Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics (LEMAS) program of the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) surveyed a nationally representative sample of law enforcement agencies. This report presents data from State and local police departments on expenditures, functions, personnel, salaries, training and educational requirements, equipment, computerization, programs, and policies.

Major findings include the following:

- During fiscal year 1990, local police departments had operating expenditures of \$20.6 billion and employed 460,000 persons on a full-time basis. About 79% of these employees were sworn officers.
- The 49 primary State police departments had operating expenditures of \$3.7 billion and employed 77,000 persons full time, 68% of them sworn officers.
- Most local police departments were small, with about half employing fewer than 10 sworn officers. About 91% of local police departments employed fewer than 50 officers, and 90% served a population of less than 25,000.

February 1992

The Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics (LEMAS) program, begun in 1987, provides a detailed portrait of the Nation's law enforcement agencies — their sworn and civilian personnel, hiring requirements, training, functions, expenditures, and equipment such as sidearms, body armor, and computers.

The findings of this Bulletin are based upon reports from State and local police departments that comprise over 60% of the agencies participating in LEMAS. A companion Bulletin on sheriffs' departments covers the same issues. We are confident that this information, which is collected only through exemplary cooperation by law enforcement agencies, is of great value to policymakers and criminal justice officials.

Steven D. Dillingham, Ph.D.  
Director

- Local police departments serving a population of 1 million or more employed a fifth of all local police officers, and departments serving 100,000 or more residents employed half of all officers.
- Among sworn personnel in local police departments 83.0% were white (non-Hispanic), 10.5% black (non-Hispanic), 5.2% Hispanic, and 1.3% were members of other minority groups. About 8.1% were women.

- In State police departments, 87.1% of the sworn employees were white (non-Hispanic), 7.5% black (non-Hispanic), 4.4% Hispanic, and 1% were other minorities. About 4.6% were women.

- About 6% of local police departments required new officer recruits to have at least some college education, including about 20% of departments serving a population of 250,000 or more. About 18% of State police departments had such a requirement.

- Local police departments serving under 2,500 residents required an average of around 400 hours of training for new officers. Local police departments serving a population of 100,000 or more and State police departments required an average of over 1,000 hours of training.

- Local police departments paid officers an average starting salary of about \$19,000, ranging from an average of \$15,900 in the smallest jurisdictions to \$26,600 in the largest. In State police departments, the average starting salary for new officer recruits was about \$22,800.

- About 73% of local police departments, employing 91% of all local police officers, authorized the use of one or more types of semiautomatic sidearms by their officers. About 80% of State police departments authorized such weapons.

- Approximately 24% of local police departments required all regular field and patrol officers to wear protective body armor while on duty. About 12% of State police departments had such a requirement.

## The LEMAS survey

The 1990 Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics (LEMAS) survey questionnaire was mailed to all 780 State and local law enforcement agencies with 100 or more sworn officers and to a sample of 2,338 agencies with fewer than 100 officers. Of the 3,118 agencies receiving the LEMAS questionnaire, 2,945 (94.5%) responded.

The survey used a sampling frame based on personnel data from the 1986 Directory Survey of Law Enforcement Agencies. (Please see *Methodology* for further discussion of sampling.) This was the second LEMAS survey. A similar survey was conducted in 1987 (*Profile of State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies, 1987*, BJS Bulletin, NCJ-113949).

This report and the companion BJS Bulletin *Sheriffs' Departments, 1990* (NCJ-133283) present the results of the 1990 LEMAS data collection. The local police departments included in this report are general purpose police departments operated by municipal or county governments. The State police departments are the primary general purpose agencies in all States except Hawaii, which does not have a State police department. Other police departments, such as those with jurisdiction limited to enforcement of wildlife conservation or liquor laws, parks, transit systems,

airports, college and university campuses, or school systems, have been defined as special police.

## Local police departments

During 1990 an estimated 16,961 State and local law enforcement agencies were operating in the United States (table 1). The estimated 12,288 general purpose local police departments accounted for about 72% of the total. Municipal governments operated almost all of the local police departments (over 99%). County police departments comprised less than 1% of all local police departments, although they employed about 7% of all local police officers.

The collective operating expenditure of local police departments during fiscal year 1990 was \$20.6 billion, about half the total for all State and local law enforcement agencies. This was 20% more than in 1987, when local police department expenditures were \$17.2 billion. These figures do not include capital expenditures such as equipment purchases and construction costs.

Local police departments were employing an estimated 460,000 persons full time and another 54,000 on a part-time basis as of June 30, 1990. About 363,000 (79%) of the full-time employees were sworn officers, representing 61% of all State and

local sworn personnel nationwide. Local police departments had approximately 97,000 full-time civilian employees, about 49% of all State and local civilian law enforcement employees nationwide.

The largest local police department was the New York City Police Department, which employed 33,363 persons on a full-time basis, including 25,655 sworn officers.

Although some local police departments were very large, most departments employed a small number of sworn officers (table 2). Nearly twice as many departments employed only 1 full-time or part-time sworn officer as employed 100 or more officers. About half of all local police departments employed fewer than 10 officers.

Three in four departments nationwide were serving a population of less than 10,000 (table 3). About 90% were serving populations of under 25,000. In contrast, less than 2% of all local police departments were serving a population of 100,000 or more, and less than 1%, a population of 250,000 or more.

Although most local police departments were in small towns, most local police officers were not. In 1990, half of all officers worked in jurisdictions with a population of 100,000 or more, and 1 in 5 officers were working for departments that served 1 million or more residents.

**Table 1. State and local law enforcement agencies in the United States, 1990**

Type of agency	All agencies*	Number of employees						Operating expenditures, fiscal year 1990
		Full-time			Part-time			
		Total	Sworn	Civilian	Total	Sworn	Civilian	
<b>Number</b>								
Total	16,961	793,020	595,869	197,151	76,044	35,384	40,660	\$41,550,270,000
Local police	12,288	459,891	363,001	96,890	53,705	24,533	29,172	\$20,585,981,000
Sheriff	3,093	203,974	141,418	62,556	16,406	9,192	7,214	9,137,209,000
Special police	1,531	51,825	39,078	12,747	5,129	1,549	3,580	8,137,543,000
State police	49	77,330	52,372	24,958	804	110	694	3,689,537,000
<b>Percent</b>								
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Local police	72.4%	58.0%	60.9%	49.1%	70.6%	69.3%	71.7%	49.5%
Sheriff	18.2	25.7	23.7	31.7	21.6	26.0	17.7	22.0
Special police	9.0	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.7	4.4	8.8	19.6
State police	.3	9.8	8.8	12.7	1.1	.3	1.7	8.9

Note: Local police and State police categories include only general purpose agencies. The special police category includes both State- and local-level agencies. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

\*Except for the State police, the number of agencies reported is an estimate from a weighted sample, not an exact enumeration.

**Table 2. Local police departments, by number of sworn personnel, 1990**

Number of sworn personnel	Departments	
	Number*	Percent
Total	12,288	100%
1,000 or more	38	.3%
500-999	34	.3
250-499	81	.7
100-249	356	2.9
50-99	575	4.7
25-49	1,495	12.2
10-24	3,279	26.7
5-9	2,910	23.7
2-4	2,561	20.8
1	959	7.8

Note: Table includes both full-time and part-time employees. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

\*See table 1 note on estimated number of agencies.

About 15% of all local police officers were employed by departments serving a population of less than 10,000.

Departments serving a population of 1 million or more employed an average

of nearly 7,000 full-time employees, including over 5,000 full-time sworn officers (table 4). Departments in the smallest towns (under 2,500 in population) employed an average of 3 full-time sworn officers. Because of the large number of small police

departments, the overall average number of full-time employees per department was relatively small — 30 for sworn employees and 8 for civilians.

In departments with 100 or more sworn officers, about 88% of the full-time officers were engaged in field operations (table 5). They provided direct services, such as patrol, responding to incidents, investigation, and special operations. About 6% of sworn employees were performing technical support services related to communications and dispatch, fleet management, training, and other areas that required technical expertise. Another 5% of full-time sworn employees worked in administrative positions, including jobs related to finance, personnel, and internal affairs. About 57% of civilian employees worked in the area of technical support, 20% in field operations, and 12% in administration.

The average annual operating expenditure for local police departments for fiscal year 1990 was about \$1.7 million, ranging from over \$334 million in departments serving a population of 1 million or more, to \$115,000 in those serving under 2,500 residents (table 6). Overall, employee salaries and benefits accounted for about \$6 of every \$7 in operating expenditures.

Nationwide, total local police department operating expenditures were about \$108 per resident served. Departments serving a population of 1 million or more cost the most to operate, about \$144 per resident.

Departments serving a population of 250,000 or more had the highest per-sworn-officer operating expenditure, about \$63,000. This was twice as much as the

**Table 3. Local police departments and full-time sworn personnel, by size of population served, 1990**

Population served	Departments		Full-time sworn personnel	
	Number*	Percent	Number	Percent
All sizes	12,288	100.0%	363,001	100.0%
1,000,000 or more	14	.1%	74,775	20.6%
500,000 - 999,999	29	.2	36,163	10.0
250,000 - 499,999	42	.3	30,862	8.5
100,000 - 249,999	137	1.1	37,330	10.3
50,000 - 99,999	344	2.8	40,651	11.2
25,000 - 49,999	702	5.7	40,342	11.1
10,000 - 24,999	1,672	13.6	47,640	13.1
2,500 - 9,999	4,095	33.3	40,515	11.2
Under 2,500	5,253	42.8	14,722	4.1

Note: Detail may not add to total because of rounding.  
\*See table 1 note on estimated number of agencies.

**Table 4. Average number of employees in local police departments, by size of population served, fiscal year 1990**

Population served	Average number of employees					
	Full-time			Part-time		
	Total	Sworn	Civilian	Total	Sworn	Civilian
All sizes	37	30	8	4	2	2
1,000,000 or more	6,810	5,341	1,468	226	—	226
500,000 - 999,999	1,611	1,254	357	63	1	62
250,000 - 499,999	968	742	226	49	2	48
100,000 - 249,999	357	273	84	25	1	24
50,000 - 99,999	153	118	34	17	4	13
25,000 - 49,999	73	58	15	8	2	6
10,000 - 24,999	36	29	7	4	2	2
2,500 - 9,999	12	10	2	4	3	1
Under 2,500	3	3	—	2	2	—

Note: Detail may not add to total because of rounding.  
— Less than 0.5.

**Table 5. Job classification of full-time personnel in large local police departments, 1990**

Job classification	Percent of full-time employees		
	Total	Sworn	Civilian
Total	100%	100%	100%
Field operations	72.8%	87.9%	19.8%
Technical support	17.3	5.9	57.2
Administration	6.8	5.2	12.3
Jail operations	1.2	.4	3.8
Court operations	.2	.2	.4
Other	1.7	.4	6.3

Note: Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Table excludes departments with fewer than 100 sworn personnel.

**Table 6. Operating expenditures of local police departments, by size of population served, fiscal year 1990**

Population served	Operating expenditures, fiscal year 1990			
	Per department	Per sworn officer	Per employee	Per resident
All sizes	\$1,675,000	\$54,900	\$42,300	\$108
1,000,000 or more	\$334,542,000	\$62,600	\$48,300	\$144
500,000 - 999,999	79,567,000	63,400	48,400	114
250,000 - 499,999	46,500,000	62,600	46,800	128
100,000 - 249,999	16,268,000	59,600	44,000	108
50,000 - 99,999	6,528,000	54,400	40,600	95
25,000 - 49,999	3,225,000	55,200	42,100	93
10,000 - 24,999	1,513,000	51,600	40,400	96
2,500 - 9,999	442,000	39,800	31,800	85
Under 2,500	115,000	31,500	27,400	95

Note: Figures are for fiscal year ending June 30, 1990, 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 includes both full-time and part-time employees, with a weight of 0.5 assigned to part-time employees.

per officer expenditure for departments serving a population of less than 2,500. Nationwide, local police departments cost about \$55,000 per officer to operate for the year.

### Operations

Nearly all local police departments reported having primary responsibility for basic law enforcement functions such as traffic enforcement (99%), accident investigation (96%), patrol and first response to incidents (94%), property crime investigation (94%), violent crime investigation (91%), and death investigation (86%) (table 7). Among departments serving a population of 500,000 or more, all reported having primary responsibility for each of these functions. Among all departments serving 2,500 or more residents, a minimum of 94% in each population category had primary responsibility for these six functions.

About 76% of all departments and 94% or more of the departments in each population category of 10,000 or more had primary responsibility for narcotics and vice enforcement.

Animal control was a responsibility of 43% of all local police departments (table 8). This function was concentrated in departments serving smaller populations: Only one department serving a population of 500,000 or more provided animal control services. Search and rescue operations (33%) and fingerprint processing (39%) were additional functions performed by more than 20% of departments overall. A majority of departments serving a population of 1 million or more performed the following functions: operating a training academy (93%), fingerprint processing (86%), search and rescue operations (64%), laboratory testing of substances (64%), and ballistics testing (64%).

About half of all local police departments participated in a 911 emergency telephone system during 1990 (table 9). This was a significant increase from 1987 when about a third of all departments participated. Increases in 911 system participation from 1987 to 1990 occurred in all population categories.

As in 1987, participation in a 911 system in 1990 was highest in jurisdictions of 100,000 or more, where about 95% of the departments participated. About 80% of departments serving a population from 25,000 to 99,999 were participating in 1990, compared with about 52% of the departments serving a population from 2,500 to 24,999. Approximately a third of departments serving a population of less than 2,500 participated in a 911 system in 1990. A department's lack of participation did not necessarily mean that citizens under its jurisdiction had no 911 service, because another agency could have provided it.

**Table 7. Functions for which at least half of local police departments had primary responsibility, by size of population served, 1990**

Population served	Percent of departments with primary responsibility for:							
	Traffic enforcement	Accident investigation	Patrol and first response	Property crime investigation	Violent crime investigation*	Death investigation	Narcotics and vice enforcement	Telephone/radio communications and dispatch
All sizes	99%	96%	94%	94%	91%	86%	76%	51%
1,000,000 or more	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	93%
500,000-999,999	100	100	100	100	100	100	96	81
250,000-499,999	100	100	100	100	97	97	100	83
100,000-249,999	100	99	99	99	99	99	99	84
50,000-99,999	100	100	100	100	100	100	98	80
25,000-49,999	99	98	100	95	96	95	94	84
10,000-24,999	100	98	97	98	100	97	94	85
2,500-9,999	100	99	96	97	98	94	83	56
Under 2,500	98	93	90	88	81	74	60	28

\*Includes investigation of rape, robbery, or serious assault.

**Table 8. Functions for which less than half of local police departments had primary responsibility, by size of population served, 1990**

Population served	Percent of departments with primary responsibility for:											
	Animal control	Fingerprint processing	Search and rescue	Emergency medical services	Court security	Civil defense	Civil process serving	Fire services	Jail operation	Training academy operation	Laboratory testing of substances	Ballistics testing
All sizes	43%	39%	33%	18%	18%	14%	10%	6%	5%	4%	3%	1%
1,000,000 or more	0%	86%	64%	21%	14%	21%	14%	0%	21%	93%	64%	64%
500,000-999,999	3	97	38	0	17	7	14	0	10	87	45	42
250,000-499,999	19	80	22	8	14	2	0	0	17	80	48	51
100,000-249,999	30	84	26	10	14	7	3	2	25	48	19	13
50,000-99,999	53	76	41	16	15	15	3	1	12	19	8	3
25,000-49,999	47	59	33	18	18	18	5	4	10	4	9	1
10,000-24,999	50	58	30	23	23	16	7	3	10	4	5	1
2,500-9,999	47	42	35	17	17	14	8	6	4	1	2	1
Under 2,500	38	23	31	17	15	12	13	8	2	2	1	1

Among local police departments participating in a 911 system, the proportion with an enhanced or expanded 911 system, which electronically locates the caller, increased substantially from 1987 to 1990. In 1987, about 22% of participating departments had enhanced capabilities; in 1990, about 38%.

About 29% of local police departments were operating one or more lockup facilities separate from a jail (table 10). Departments serving a population of under 2,500 (9%) were the least likely to be operating a lockup facility. While the average total lockup capacity for all departments was 8 persons, the capacity varied greatly with population size. Generally, the larger the population served, the larger the average lockup capacity. Departments serving a population of 1 million or more had an

average lockup capacity of 161, compared to an average of 5 for departments in jurisdictions of under 10,000.

**Sworn officers**

In 1990, 77.5% of full-time sworn officers in local police departments were white men (table 11). Officers in larger jurisdictions were less likely to be white men than those in smaller ones: About 65% of officers in departments serving a population of 250,000 or more were white men, compared to 87% of the officers working in jurisdictions of under 100,000. Overall, 92% of sworn officers were men, and 83% were white. Blacks had the largest minority representation, comprising 10.5% of all officers. Hispanic officers represented 5.2% of all sworn officers and other minorities such as Asians and American Indians, about 1.3%.

Compared to the 1987 full-time officer corps, that of 1990 had proportionately more minority group members. The percentage of black officers in 1990 (10.5%) represented a slight increase over the percentage in 1987 (9.3%). A similar increase occurred for Hispanic officers (5.2% versus 4.5%). Overall, minority group representation among local police officers increased from 14.6% in 1987 to 17% in 1990.

	1990		1987	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Total	100.0%	363,001	100.0%	355,290
Male	91.9%	333,598	92.4%	328,288
Female	8.1	29,403	7.6	27,002
Total	100.0%	363,001	100.0%	355,290
White	83.0%	301,291	85.4%	303,418
Black	10.5	38,115	9.3	33,042
Hispanic	5.2	18,876	4.5	15,988
Other	1.3	4,719	.8	2,842

The number of black officers employed by local police departments increased from 33,000 in 1987 to 38,000 in 1990. The number of Hispanic officers in 1990 was about 19,000, compared with 16,000 in 1987. Overall there were an estimated 61,710 members of racial and ethnic minorities employed as local police officers in 1990, about 10,000 more than in 1987. The number of white officers was estimated to have declined by about 2,000 from 1987 to 1990, resulting in an overall net gain of approximately 8,000 local police officers nationwide. Included in this increase were 2,400 additional female officers.

**Table 9. Local police department participation in 911 emergency telephone system, by size of population served, 1990 and 1987**

Population served	Percent of departments participating in 911 system					
	1990			1987		
	Total	Regular	Enhanced/expanded	Total	Regular	Enhanced/expanded
All sizes	48%	30%	18%	32%	25%	7%
1,000,000 or more	86%	29%	57%	77%	38%	38%
500,000-999,999	97	22	75	72	24	48
250,000-499,999	100	25	75	88	36	52
100,000-249,999	93	28	64	80	48	32
50,000-99,999	82	33	49	56	42	15
25,000-49,999	79	34	45	48	34	14
10,000-24,999	57	29	29	40	29	12
2,500-9,999	50	35	16	33	28	5
Under 2,500	34	26	0	20	16	4

Note: Participation is defined as the capability to dispatch a unit as the result of a call to 911. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

**Table 10. Operation of lockup facilities by local police departments, by size of population served, 1990**

Population served	Percent operating lockup(s)	Average total capacity
All sizes	29%	8
1,000,000 or more	71%	161
500,000-999,999	63	69
250,000-499,999	42	53
100,000-249,999	37	28
50,000-99,999	54	16
25,000-49,999	69	9
10,000-24,999	61	7
2,500-9,999	31	5
Under 2,500	9	5

Note: Only temporary holding or lockup facilities separate from a jail are included. Computation of average total capacity excludes departments not operating a lockup.

**Table 11. Characteristics of full-time sworn personnel in local police departments, by size of population served, 1990**

Population served	Total	Percent of full-time sworn employees							
		White		Black		Hispanic		Other	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
All sizes	100%	77.5%	5.5%	8.5%	2.0%	4.7%	.5%	1.2%	.1%
1,000,000 or more	100%	65.4%	7.0%	12.4%	4.2%	8.4%	1.5%	.9%	.1%
500,000-999,999	100	62.9	5.7	15.6	4.4	5.6	.5	5.0	.4
250,000-499,999	100	68.0	6.8	13.0	3.2	7.2	.7	1.0	.1
100,000-249,999	100	76.7	6.0	9.1	1.8	4.1	.4	1.9	.1
50,000-99,999	100	84.2	4.9	5.7	.8	3.4	.2	.7	—
25,000-49,999	100	85.8	4.4	5.6	.5	2.9	.1	.6	—
10,000-24,999	100	89.4	4.3	3.5	.3	2.1	.2	.3	.1
2,500-9,999	100	88.2	4.6	3.6	.4	2.6	—	.5	.1
Under 2,500	100	87.6	3.8	4.5	.2	2.4	.3	1.2	0

Note: "Black" and "white" categories do not include Hispanics. "Other" category includes American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Asians, and Pacific Islanders. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. —Less than 0.05%.

Nearly all (96%) local police departments had a formal education requirement for new officer recruits (table 12). The minimum educational requirement for 9 in 10 departments was completion of high school. About 6% of local police departments required education beyond high school, usually a 2-year college degree. Less than 0.5% of all departments required new officers to have a 4-year college degree.

In 92% of local police departments, employing 99% of all sworn officers, newly hired officers were required to complete formal training (table 13). About 98% of departments serving a population of more than 2,500 required training. Approximately 85% of departments in towns of under 2,500 had a training requirement.

An average of about 700 hours of classroom training was required by departments serving a population of 250,000 or more — twice the average number of hours for departments in jurisdictions with a population of under 2,500. The average number of required field training hours ranged from around 700 in departments serving a population of 250,000-499,999, to about 50 hours in jurisdictions of under 2,500.

The average base starting salary for an entry-level police officer in local police departments was \$18,910, an increase of 12% compared with 1987 (table 14). Departments in jurisdictions with 10,000 or more residents had an average starting salary that was higher than the overall average, ranging from \$21,630 (population of 10,000 to 24,999) to \$26,560 (population of 1 million or more). The average for departments serving a population of 2,500 to 9,999 was about the same as the overall average, and departments in jurisdictions under 2,500 in population paid an average of \$15,870, about \$3,000 below the overall average.

Across population categories, salaries for the positions of sergeant and chief of police had a pattern similar to that for entry-level officers. The average base starting salary for sergeants was \$25,420, with sergeants

in the largest jurisdictions starting at about \$40,000 on average, twice as much as in departments in the smallest jurisdictions. The average starting salary for police chief

in departments serving a population of 1 million or more was \$85,320, about 4 times as much as in departments serving a population of under 2,500.

**Table 12. Minimum educational requirement for new officer recruits in local police departments, by size of population served, 1990**

Population served	Total	Percent of departments					
		Without requirement	All with requirement	High school diploma	Some college*	2-year college degree	4-year college degree
All sizes	100%	4%	96%	90%	2%	4%	--
1,000,000 or more	100%	7%	93%	71%	21%	0%	0%
500,000 - 999,999	100	0	100	82	7	11	0
250,000 - 499,999	100	2	98	78	12	5	2
100,000 - 249,999	100	0	100	91	4	5	1
50,000 - 99,999	100	1	99	81	13	6	0
25,000 - 49,999	100	0	100	83	4	13	0
10,000 - 24,999	100	1	99	90	3	5	0
2,500 - 9,999	100	1	99	93	2	4	--
Under 2,500	100	7	93	89	1	2	0

Note: Detail may not add to total because of rounding.  
 --Less than 0.5%.  
 \*No degree requirement.

**Table 13. Training requirements for new officer recruits in local police departments, by size of population served, 1990**

Population served	Percent of departments requiring training	Average number of hours required		
		Total	Classroom	Field
All sizes	92%	543	402	141
1,000,000 or more	100%	1,266	774	492
500,000 - 999,999	100	1,086	678	408
250,000 - 499,999	100	1,408	722	686
100,000 - 249,999	99	1,137	595	542
50,000 - 99,999	100	926	495	431
25,000 - 49,999	100	820	458	362
10,000 - 24,999	99	665	451	214
2,500 - 9,999	96	536	413	123
Under 2,500	85	399	347	52

Note: Computation of the average number of training hours required excludes departments that did not require training.

**Table 14. Average base starting salary for selected positions in local police departments, by size of population served, 1990**

Population served	Average base starting salary, 1990		
	Entry-level officer	Sergeant	Chief of police
All sizes	\$18,910	\$25,420	\$30,240
1,000,000 or more	\$26,560	\$40,420	\$85,320
500,000 - 999,999	25,110	33,900	67,300
250,000 - 499,999	25,370	35,120	62,770
100,000 - 249,999	24,960	34,330	59,190
50,000 - 99,999	23,300	32,140	51,600
25,000 - 49,999	23,150	31,200	46,400
10,000 - 24,999	21,630	28,950	40,930
2,500 - 9,999	18,710	24,110	29,960
Under 2,500	15,870	19,960	20,610

Note: Average salaries are based on the minimum starting salary offered by a department and have been rounded to the nearest 10 dollars. Computation of average salary excludes departments with no full-time employee in that position.

About 70% of local police departments with 100 or more sworn officers authorized collective bargaining for employees in 1990. Some of these departments also authorized special pay for full-time sworn officers, such as the following:

Type of special pay authorized	Percent of large local police departments
Educational incentive	64%
Shift differential	42
Merit	32
Hazardous duty	28

### Equipment

About three-fourths of local police departments, employing about 91% of all sworn officers, authorized the use of some type

of semiautomatic sidearm (table 15). The 9mm semiautomatic was authorized by two-thirds of all departments.

All departments serving a population of 1 million or more, and more than 80% of the departments serving a population of 25,000 or more, authorized the 9mm. Other authorized types of semiautomatic weapons included the .45 (authorized in 27% of all departments), the 10mm (9%), the .380 (5%), and the .357 (4%).

One or more types of revolvers were authorized for use by officers in three-fourths of local police departments. The most common types of revolvers in use were the

.357, authorized by 60% of departments, and the .38, authorized by 46%.

Nonlethal weapons were authorized for use by 78% of all departments; these departments employed 91% of all sworn officers (table 16). Departments serving a population of under 25,000 were less likely to authorize the use of nonlethal weapons than were departments in larger jurisdictions. The most commonly authorized types of nonlethal weapons were impact devices, such as sidearm batons and soft projectiles (56%), and chemical agents such as tear gas and mace (51%).

**Table 15. Types of sidearms authorized for use by sworn officers in local police departments, by size of population served, 1990**

Population served	Percent of departments authorizing:											
	One or more types	Semiautomatic					Revolver					
		.357	.380	.45	9mm	10mm	One or more types	.357	.38	.45	9mm	10mm
All sizes	73%	4%	5%	27%	67%	9%	75%	60%	46%	8%	7%	3%
1,000,000 or more	100%	7%	14%	36%	100%	0%	93%	57%	86%	21%	7%	0%
500,000-999,999	97	0	10	24	93	3	96	50	88	3	4	0
250,000-499,999	98	2	14	36	98	5	92	58	85	18	10	2
100,000-249,999	93	6	18	44	81	8	79	45	70	14	9	4
50,000-99,999	91	7	13	26	88	7	71	55	59	12	11	4
25,000-49,999	88	2	3	39	82	7	69	53	50	9	5	0
10,000-24,999	85	2	5	34	76	8	64	52	42	8	6	2
2,500-9,999	80	5	5	28	75	9	72	62	44	8	10	3
Under 2,500	59	3	3	22	53	9	80	64	45	7	6	3

Note: Some departments may have authorized some types or calibers of sidearms not included in this table.

**Table 16. Types of nonlethal weapons authorized for use by sworn officers in local police departments, by size of population served, 1990**

Population served	Percent of departments authorizing:				
	One or more types	Impact devices	Chemical agents	Electrical devices	Restraining devices
All sizes	78%	56%	51%	17%	10%
1,000,000 or more	93%	93%	93%	36%	36%
500,000-999,999	100	84	97	31	24
250,000-499,999	97	85	75	37	29
100,000-249,999	98	78	70	25	27
50,000-99,999	91	67	63	16	13
25,000-49,999	92	77	70	11	17
10,000-24,999	85	63	55	15	12
2,500-9,999	79	57	50	17	9
Under 2,500	71	48	47	19	7

Note: Impact device category includes sidearm batons, soft projectiles, and rubber bullets. Chemical agent category includes tear gas and mace. Electrical device category includes tasers and stun guns. Restraining device category includes three-pole trips and capture nets, but not handcuffs.

**Table 17. Body armor policies for regular field operations officers in local police departments, by size of population served, 1990**

Population served	Percent of departments:					
	Supplying officers with armor or giving officers a cash allowance for armor			Requiring officers to wear armor while on duty		
	Total	All officers	Some officers	Total	All officers	Some officers
All sizes	65%	58%	7%	27%	24%	3%
1,000,000 or more	100%	86%	14%	50%	36%	14%
500,000-999,999	100	93	7	25	18	7
250,000-499,999	93	88	5	25	20	5
100,000-249,999	90	78	11	24	17	7
50,000-99,999	85	80	5	28	23	5
25,000-49,999	86	81	5	24	20	4
10,000-24,999	82	77	5	33	29	4
2,500-9,999	73	65	8	34	30	4
Under 2,500	48	42	6	20	18	2

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

Overall, about two-thirds of local police departments supplied at least some regular field officers with protective body armor or gave them a cash allowance to purchase it (table 17). All departments serving 500,000 or more residents supplied armor or gave a

cash allowance to at least some officers. About half of the departments serving a population of 1 million or more required some or all of the officers working in regular field operations to wear armor while on duty. Overall, about a fourth of local police

**Table 18. Cars per officer and percent of cars that were unmarked in local police departments, by size of population served, 1990**

Population served	Ratio of cars to sworn officers	Percent of cars that were unmarked
All sizes	.57	23%
1,000,000 or more	.43	51%
500,000-999,999	.53	38
250,000-499,999	.52	42
100,000-249,999	.55	44
50,000-99,999	.48	40
25,000-49,999	.49	39
10,000-24,999	.50	34
2,500-9,999	.50	26
Under 2,500	.65	12

departments required that protective body armor be worn by officers on duty for regular field operations.

Nationwide, there were about 4 police cars for every 7 sworn officers in local police departments (table 18). The ratio of cars to officers was highest in the smallest jurisdictions, with about 2 cars for every 3 officers. About a fourth (23%) of the cars operated by local police departments were unmarked. The percentage of unmarked cars was highest in departments serving a population of 1 million or more (51%) and lowest in departments serving a population of under 2,500 (12%).

About 40% of local police departments allowed sworn officers to take marked vehicles home (table 19). In about a third of these departments, off-duty officers were allowed to use the cars for personal purposes. Overall, about 1 in 8 local police departments allowed sworn officers to take a marked car home and to operate it off duty for personal use.

**Computers**

All local police departments serving a population of 50,000 or more reported using computers in 1990 (table 20). A majority of departments serving a population of 2,500 to 49,999 also reported computer usage. About a fourth of departments in jurisdictions of under 2,500 in population were using computers. Overall, 52% of all departments, employing 90% of all sworn officers, were using one or more types of computers.

The personal computer was the most commonly used type of computer, with use reported by 40% of all departments and by over 80% of departments in jurisdictions

**Table 19. Vehicle use policies for sworn officers in local police departments, by size of population served, 1990**

Population served	Total	Percent of departments not allowing officers to take vehicles home	Percent of departments allowing officers to take vehicles home		
			Total	Off-duty use allowed	Off-duty use not allowed
All sizes	100%	60%	40%	12%	28%
1,000,000 or more	100%	50%	50%	29%	21%
500,000-999,999	100	71	29	25	3
250,000-499,999	100	51	49	32	17
100,000-249,999	100	60	40	23	16
50,000-99,999	100	78	22	9	13
25,000-49,999	100	74	26	15	11
10,000-24,999	100	80	20	8	12
2,500-9,999	100	68	32	8	24
Under 2,500	100	44	56	15	41

Note: Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Table refers to marked vehicles only.

**Table 20. Types of computers used by local police departments, by size of population served, 1990**

Population served	Percent of departments using each type of computer						
	One or more types	Personal				Digital terminal	
		Personal	Mainframe	Mini	Laptop	Car-mounted	Hand-held
All sizes	52%	40%	20%	12%	3%	3%	--
1,000,000 or more	100%	100%	100%	71%	50%	50%	14%
500,000-999,999	100	97	92	75	50	43	3
250,000-499,999	100	100	93	67	36	48	10
100,000-249,999	100	94	79	54	27	19	4
50,000-99,999	100	86	69	48	18	12	4
25,000-49,999	95	82	57	43	8	5	1
10,000-24,999	84	63	38	21	6	3	0
2,500-9,999	61	44	17	11	1	2	0
Under 2,500	24	18	7	2	1	1	--

-- Less than 0.5%.

with a population of 25,000 or more. Although only 3% of all departments reported the use of car-mounted digital terminals, about 47% of departments serving a population of 250,000 or more were using such equipment.

Nearly half of all departments reported using computers for recordkeeping, including about 90% of all departments

serving a population of 25,000 or more (table 21).

Other computer functions reported by at least a fifth of all local police departments included criminal investigations (30%), crime analysis (25%), budgeting (23%), and dispatch (20%). A majority of departments serving 100,000 residents or more also used computers for fleet management and manpower allocation.

About a third of local police departments reported that they maintained computer files containing the following types of information: arrests (39% of all departments), calls for service (34%), traffic citations (34%), stolen property (32%), warrants (31%), criminal histories (30%), and Uniform Crime Reports (30%) (table 22). A majority of the departments serving a population of 10,000 or more were maintaining such files. A majority of departments serving a population of 100,000 or more were also maintaining computer files on payroll and personnel, departmental inventory, and evidence.

#### Programs and policies

Departments with 100 or more officers reported on the types of special units operated (table 23). Nearly all (98%) of these departments operated a special unit for community crime prevention; about 90%, units for drug education in schools and juvenile delinquency; and about 75%, units for child abuse and missing children. Other types of special units operated by a majority of large local police departments

**Table 21. Selected functions of computers in local police departments, by size of population served, 1990**

Population served	Percent of departments using computers for:							
	Record-keeping	Criminal investigations	Crime analysis	Budgeting	Dispatch	Fleet management	Manpower allocation	Jail management
All sizes	45%	30%	25%	23%	20%	14%	13%	3%
1,000,000 or more	100%	93%	93%	86%	71%	79%	71%	29%
500,000-999,999	97	92	100	82	89	85	77	21
250,000-499,999	95	93	95	75	87	70	63	17
100,000-249,999	87	83	84	81	81	56	58	19
50,000-99,999	89	78	72	61	65	40	46	11
25,000-49,999	91	66	67	59	59	37	29	10
10,000-24,999	75	52	50	37	40	31	23	5
2,500-9,999	51	33	25	23	17	12	14	1
Under 2,500	19	10	7	9	5	3	3	-

-Less than 0.5%.

**Table 22. Types of computerized information files maintained by local police departments, by size of population served, 1990**

Population served	Percent of departments maintaining computer files on:											
	Arrests	Calls for service	Traffic citations	Stolen property/vehicles	Warrants	Criminal histories	Uniform Crime Reports	Inventory	Evidence	Payroll/personnel	License registration	Summons
All sizes	39%	34%	34%	32%	31%	30%	30%	21%	20%	18%	15%	15%
1,000,000 or more	93%	79%	50%	86%	100%	71%	79%	71%	64%	100%	57%	21%
500,000-999,999	97	89	65	82	82	90	89	64	56	70	60	43
250,000-499,999	87	95	70	85	71	86	75	69	68	75	61	42
100,000-249,999	90	91	74	81	72	73	85	58	65	75	45	36
50,000-99,999	87	83	69	69	67	73	78	45	60	59	38	31
25,000-49,999	84	81	73	76	68	68	77	49	61	53	31	35
10,000-24,999	68	64	61	60	58	55	59	38	42	33	22	30
2,500-9,999	46	36	39	36	34	33	31	20	20	16	17	16
Under 2,500	14	11	12	10	10	10	8	8	4	6	5	5

**Table 23. Types of special units operated by large local police departments, 1990**

Type of special unit	Percent of large departments
Community crime prevention	98%
Drug education in schools	93
Juvenile delinquency	89
Child abuse	79
Missing children	74
Drunk drivers	64
Gangs	60
Prosecutor relations	54
Domestic violence	45
Repeat offenders	39
Bias-related crimes	36
Victim assistance	35

Note: Unit may be full-time or part-time. Table excludes departments with fewer than 100 sworn personnel.

dealt with drunk drivers (64%), gangs (60%), and prosecutor relations (54%).

Departments with 100 or more sworn officers also reported on the types of written policy directives maintained (table 24). The subject areas covered by the directives in these departments included the use of deadly force (over 99%), pursuit driving (99%), and codes of conduct and appearance (99%). More than 90% of local police departments reported having written policy directives pertaining to the handling of juveniles, off-duty employment of officers, citizen complaints, and domestic disturbances.

### State police departments

The 49 primary State police departments had a collective operating expenditure of approximately \$3.7 billion in fiscal year 1990, (table 1). This was 24% more than in 1987 and represented an average expenditure of about \$75 million per department, \$70,000 per sworn officer, and \$15 per resident.

**Table 24. Selected types of written policy directives maintained by large local police departments, 1990**

Subject area of directive	Percent of large departments
Use of deadly force	99%*
Pursuit driving	99
Code of conduct and appearance	99
Juveniles	95
Off-duty employment	95
Citizen complaints	95
Domestic disturbances	93
Mentally ill/handicapped persons	86
Strip searches	81
Use of confidential funds	79
Employee counseling	77
Private security firms	33
Homeless persons	30

Note: Table excludes departments with fewer than 100 sworn personnel.  
\*Rounded from 99.5%.

On June 30, 1990, these 49 departments employed more than 77,000 persons full time. About 52,000 (68%) of these employees were sworn officers, and about 25,000 (32%) were civilian employees.

Fourteen State police departments employed more than 1,000 full-time officers in 1990, and 65% of all full-time State police officers worked for one of these departments (table 25). The largest State police department was the California Highway Patrol, with 8,506 full-time employees, including 5,958 full-time sworn officers. The smallest, the North Dakota Highway Patrol, employed 115 full-time officers.

Most (90%) sworn employees in State police departments worked in field operations (table 26). About 6% had administrative positions, and 4% provided technical support services. In contrast, 74% of civilian employees worked in the area of technical support, with about 12% each in field operations and administration.

**Table 25. State police departments, by number of full-time sworn personnel, 1990**

Number of officers in department	Departments		Total full-time sworn personnel	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All sizes	49	100%	52,372	100%
1,000 or more	14	29%	33,841	65%
500-999	17	35	13,099	25
250-499	12	25	4,452	9
100-249	6	12	980	2

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

**Table 26. Job classification of full-time personnel in State police departments, 1990**

Job classification	Percent of full-time employees		
	Total	Sworn	Civilian
Total	100%	100%	100%
Field operations	64.6%	89.8%	11.5%
Technical support	26.5	4.1	73.6
Administration	7.7	5.8	11.5
Court operations	.1	.1	--

Note: Detail may not add to total because of rounding.  
--Less than 0.5%.

### Operations

All 49 State police departments reported primary responsibility for accident investigation and traffic enforcement (table 27). Forty-seven departments (96%) had primary responsibility for patrol and first response to incidents. A majority also were responsible for communications and dispatch (76%), narcotics and vice enforcement (69%), training academy operation (69%), fingerprint processing (59%), death investigation (55%), and crime investigation (51%). Although none of the State police departments operated a jail, about 1 in 8 were operating a temporary holding or lockup facility. The average capacity in departments with a lockup facility was 72.

**Table 27. Functions performed by State police departments, 1990**

Function	Percent of departments
Accident investigation	100%
Traffic enforcement	100
Patrol and first response	96
Communications and dispatch	76
Narcotics/vice enforcement	69
Training academy operation	69
Fingerprint processing	59
Death investigation	55
Property crime investigation	51
Violent crime investigation*	51
Ballistics testing	45
Laboratory testing of substances	45
Search and rescue operations	45
Emergency medical services	27
Lockup facility operation	12
Civil defense	12
Court security	4
Fire services	4
Civil process serving	4
Animal control	0
Jail operation	0

\*Includes investigation of rape, robbery, or serious assault.

In 1990 about two-thirds of the State police departments participated in a 911 emergency telephone system, compared with about half in 1987. About half of those participating in 1990 were using an enhanced system that could identify the location of incoming calls.

	Percent of departments participating in a 911 emergency system
Total	67%
Regular	31
Enhanced/expanded	37

### Sworn officers

In 1990, 95.4% of State police officers were men, and 83.1% were white men (table 28). About 1 in 8 State police officers were members of a minority group. Blacks (7.5%) and Hispanics (4.4%) had the largest minority representation. Other racial groups such as Asians and American Indians comprised 1% of State police officers. Overall, minorities comprised a greater proportion of State police officers in 1990 than 1987, 12.9% versus 11.2%.

From 1987 to 1990, the total number of full-time officers employed by the 49 State

police departments increased by nearly 1,900 — from 50,498 to 52,372. Much of this increase was accounted for by increased employment of women and minorities. The number of State police officers who were members of racial and ethnic minorities increased by about 1,100 during this time period, from 5,673 to 6,782. Approximately 2,400 female State police officers were employed in 1990, about 250 more than in 1987.

The minimum educational requirement for new officer recruits in 39 (80%) of the State police departments was a high school diploma (table 29). Four of the departments required at least a 2-year college degree, and another five required some college course work but had no formal degree requirement. One department indicated it had no formal educational requirement for new officers.

In all State police departments, new officer recruits were required to undergo extensive training. On average, the departments required about 400 hours of field training and about 700 hours of classroom training:

Type of training	Average number of hours required for State police recruits
Total	1,125
Field	393
Classroom	732

The average base starting salary for entry-level officers in State police departments in 1990 was \$22,780, an increase of 17% over the 1987 average. The average starting salaries for State police directors and sergeants were \$56,900 and \$30,100, respectively.

Position	Average starting salary for State police, 1990
Director	\$56,900
Sergeant	30,100
Entry-level officer	22,780

Some State police departments offered special pay to officers. Almost half of the departments offered shift differential pay (47%) or merit pay (41%) (table 30). Fewer departments offered hazardous duty pay (22%) or educational incentive pay (14%). As was the case in 1987, 24 (49%) of the State police departments authorized collective bargaining for employees in 1990.

Table 28. Characteristics of full-time sworn personnel in State police departments, 1990 and 1987

	1990						1987					
	Total		Male		Female		Total		Male		Female	
	Percent	Number										
Total	100%	52,372	95.4%	49,976	4.6%	2,396	100%	50,498	95.8%	48,354	4.2%	2,144
White	87.1%	45,590	83.1%	43,531	3.9%	2,059	88.7%	44,825	85.1%	42,986	3.6%	1,839
Black	7.5	3,928	7.1	3,707	.4	221	6.5	3,285	6.1	3,088	.4	197
Hispanic	4.4	2,315	4.2	2,224	.2	91	3.8	1,942	3.7	1,857	.2	85
Other	1.0	539	1.0	514	—	25	.9	446	.8	423	—	23

Note: Detail may not add to total because of rounding. "Black" and "white" categories do not include Hispanics. "Other" includes American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Asians, and Pacific Islanders.  
 --Less than 0.05%.

Table 29. Educational requirements for new officers in State police departments, 1990

Educational requirement	Percent of State police departments requiring
4-year college degree	0%
2-year college degree	8
Some college coursework	10
High school diploma	80

Table 30. Special pay and collective bargaining authorization in State police departments, 1990

	Percent of State police departments authorizing
Shift differential pay	47%
Merit pay	41
Hazardous duty pay	22
Education incentive pay	14
Collective bargaining	49%

## Equipment

Thirty-nine (80%) of the State police departments authorized one or more types of semiautomatic sidearms for use by sworn officers (table 31). Thirty-six (74%) of the departments authorized the 9mm semi-automatic, the most common sidearm.

Thirty-nine of the departments also authorized at least one type of revolver for use by sworn officers. The .357, authorized by 67% of the departments, was the revolver most frequently specified.

Forty-five (91%) of the State police departments authorized the use of one or more types of nonlethal weapons by sworn officers. Impact devices such as sidearm batons, soft projectiles, or rubber bullets were authorized for use in 32 (65%) of the departments, and chemical agents such as tear gas or mace were authorized in 30 (61%) of them.

All regular field operations officers were supplied protective body armor or a cash allowance to buy it in 38 (78%) of the State police departments. An additional 4 departments provided armor or the funds to purchase it to some of their officers.

**Table 31. Types of sidearms and nonlethal weapons authorized for use in State police departments, 1990**

	Percent of departments authorizing
<b>Sidearms</b>	
<b>Semiautomatic</b>	
One or more types	80%
.357	4%
.380	10
.45	27
9mm	74
10mm	18
<b>Revolver</b>	
One or more types	80%
.357	67%
.38	45
.45	10
9mm	12
10mm	4
<b>Nonlethal weapons</b>	
One or more types	91%
Impact devices	65%
Chemical agents	61
Restraining devices	25
Electrical devices	4

**Note:** Impact device category includes sidearm batons, soft projectiles, and rubber bullets. Chemical agent category includes tear gas and mace. Electrical device category include tasers and stun guns. Restraining device category includes three-pole trips and capture nets, but not handcuffs.

Nine (18%) of the departments required at least some regular field operations officers to wear protective body armor while on duty. In two-thirds of these departments, the policy applied to all officers working in field operations.

Body armor	Percent of State police departments
<b>Supply/allowance</b>	
All officers	78 %
Some officers	8
<b>Use required</b>	
All officers	12 %
Some officers	6

State police departments operated 98 police cars per 100 sworn officers. About 28% of the cars were unmarked.

	Number of cars per 100 sworn officers
Total	98
Marked	71
Unmarked	27

**Table 32. Computers in State police departments, 1990**

Type of computers used	Percent of departments
One or more types	100 %
Personal	98
Mainframe	92
Mini	55
Laptop	53
Car-mounted digital terminal	14
Hand-held digital terminal	2
<b>Function of computers</b>	
Record-keeping	98 %
Budgeting	90
Fleet management	76
Manpower allocation	61
Criminal investigations	59
Crime analysis	53
Dispatch	43
<b>Type of computerized information files</b>	
Inventory	88 %
Payroll/personnel	88
Traffic citations	78
Arrests	67
Criminal histories	67
License registration	65
Stolen property/vehicles	57
Uniform Crime Reports (UCR)	51
Warrants	51
Calls for service	39
Evidence	27
Summons	20

Forty-four (90%) of the State police departments allowed officers to take marked vehicles home. Eight of these departments also allowed off-duty officers to drive the cars for personal use.

	Percent of departments allowing officers to take marked vehicle home
Total	90%
Off-duty use allowed	16
Off-duty use not allowed	74

## Computers

All 49 of the primary State police departments were using computers in 1990, with the personal computer being the type most widely used (table 32). Only one department reported no use of personal computers. Most (92%) departments had exclusive or shared access to a mainframe computer, and a majority also reported use of a mini-computer (55%) or laptop computer (53%). Use of digital terminals was reported by some departments with the car-mounted type (14%) being more common than the hand-held variety (2%).

In 1990 State police departments most frequently cited recordkeeping (98%) and budgeting (90%) as computer functions. Computers were also used by many departments for fleet management (76%), manpower allocation (61%), criminal investigations (59%), crime analysis (53%), and dispatch (43%).

The most frequently reported type of computer files maintained by State police departments were departmental inventory (88%), payroll and personnel (88%), and traffic citations (78%). About two-thirds of departments also maintained computer files on arrests, criminal histories, and license registration. More than half of all departments kept files for stolen property (57%), Uniform Crime Reports (51%), and warrants (51%).

## Programs and policies

In 1990 about two-thirds of State police departments had special units for both drug education in schools and drunk drivers, and about half had a special unit for missing children (table 33). Other special units operated by at least 20% of the departments dealt with child abuse (27%), community crime prevention (27%), police-prosecutor relations (22%), and gangs (20%). Five (10%) of the departments did not operate any of the special units asked about in the survey.

All 49 State police departments had written directives pertaining to a code of conduct and appearance, off-duty employment, and the use of deadly force (table 34). Only one department did not have a directive pertaining to pursuit driving. A majority of departments also had written directives on citizen complaints (92%), employee counseling assistance (82%), the handling of juveniles (74%), use of confidential funds (61%), and the handling of mentally ill persons (53%).

**Table 33. Types of special units operated by State police departments, 1990**

Type of special unit	Percent of departments
Drug education in schools	69%
Drunk drivers	65
Missing children	51
Child abuse	27
Community crime prevention	27
Prosecutor relations	22
Gangs	20
Juvenile delinquency	14
Bias-related crimes	12
Domestic violence	10
Victim assistance	6

**Table 34. Written policy directives maintained by State police departments, 1990**

Subject area	Percent of departments
Code of conduct/appearance	100%
Off-duty employment	100
Use of deadly force	100
Pursuit driving	98
Citizen complaints	92
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## Methodology

The Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics (LEMAS) survey collects data from a nationally representative sample of the nearly 17,000 publicly funded State and local law enforcement agencies in the United States.

This report focuses on State and local police departments with "local police department" defined as a general purpose police department operated by a municipal, or county government. "State police department" is defined in this report as the primary general purpose State police agency operated in each State (except Hawaii, which does not have a State police department). Other police departments such as those with jurisdiction limited to enforcement of wildlife conservation or liquor laws, parks, transit systems, airports, college and university campuses, or school systems have been defined as special police and are not included in any tables except table 1.

All 780 State and local law enforcement agencies in the United States with 100 or more sworn officers (as reported in the 1986 Directory Survey of Law Enforcement Agencies) received the full-length LEMAS questionnaire. The 780 self-representing (SR) agencies were supplemented by a nationally representative sample of all agencies with fewer than 100 sworn officers. These nonself-representing (NSR) agencies were chosen using a stratified random sample with cells based on the type of agency (local police, sheriff, or special police), size of population served, and number of sworn officers. The 2,338 NSR agencies received a slightly abbreviated LEMAS questionnaire, which did not contain items about job classifications, residency requirements, special pay, collective bargaining, police membership organizations, special units, or written policy directives.

The initial mailing of the survey questionnaire was conducted in July 1990. The pay period containing June 15, 1990, was used as the reference date for personnel-related questions and June 30, 1990, 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 2,945 agencies responded to the LEMAS questionnaire, including 738 SR agencies and 2,207 NSR agencies. The overall response rate was 94.5%. The final database includes responses from 1,830 local police departments, 840 sheriffs' departments, 226 special police departments, and the 49 primary State police departments.

The base weight for all SR agencies is 1. For NSR local and special police departments, the base weight is 8.128, and for NSR sheriffs' departments it is 4.09857. 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 completely answer 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.

Data on the number of employees and on the amount of agency expenditures in this report are not comparable with other BJS reports, such as the 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 Expenditure and Employment figures do not.

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.

#### **How to order the dataset**

Data utilized in this report are available from the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data at the University of Michigan, P.O. Box 1248, Ann Arbor, MI 48106; 1-800-999-0960. The dataset is archived as Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics, 1990 (ICPSR 9749).

Brian Reaves, BJS statistician, wrote this report. Tom Hester edited it. Pheny Z. Smith provided statistical review. Michael W. Agopian, Lawrence A. Greenfeld, and Richard W. Dodge reviewed the publication. It was produced by Marilyn Marbrook, assisted by Betty Sherman, Jayne Pugh, and Yvonne Boston. Sample design, selection, and weighting were provided by David Hubble and Elizabeth Sweet of the Statistical Methods Division, Bureau of the Census. The data were collected and processed by Martha Greene, Linda Huang, Theresa Reitz, Ellen Rhodes, and Charlene Sebold of the Governments Division, Bureau of the Census.

February 1992, NCJ-133284

The Assistant Attorney General is responsible for matters of administration and management with respect to the OJP agencies: Bureau of Justice Assistance, Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Institute of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and Office for Victims of Crime. The Assistant Attorney General establishes policies and priorities consistent with the statutory purposes of the OJP agencies and the priorities of the Department of Justice.

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