

Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics Online

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Table 1.0001.2003

State and local law enforcement agencies and employees

By type of agency, United States, 2003^a

Type of agency	Number of agencies	Number of employees					
		Full-time			Part-time		
		Total	Sworn	Civilian	Total	Sworn	Civilian
Total	15,766	993,442	683,599	309,843	75,958	35,152	40,806
Local police	12,656	580,749	451,737	129,013	51,281	25,614	25,667
Sheriff	3,061	330,274	174,251	156,022	23,884	9,498	14,386
State police	49	82,419	57,611	24,808	793	40	753

Note: These data are from the 2003 Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics (LEMAS) survey and were collected for the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics and the Office of Community Oriented Policing by the Police Executive Research Forum. The LEMAS survey collects data from a nationally representative sample of publicly funded State and local law enforcement agencies in the United States. A total of 955 State and local law enforcement agencies with 100 or more sworn officers were included in the survey. For agencies with fewer than 100 sworn officers, a nationally representative sample was drawn. A stratified random sample based on type of agency (local police or sheriff), size of populations served, and number of sworn officers was used. A total of 2,859 agencies responded to the survey yielding a 90.6% response rate. The final database includes responses from 1,947 local police departments, 863 sheriffs' offices, and the 49 primary State police agencies. Hawaii does not have a State police agency. These data represent the nearly 13,000 local police departments and the more than 3,000 sheriffs' offices operating in the United States in 2003. These data, however, exclude State and local law enforcement agencies that serve special jurisdictional areas or have limited enforcement responsibilities. Data from agencies with fewer than 100 sworn personnel were derived from a sample and therefore are subject to sampling variation. The reference date for the survey was June 30, 2003.

A "local police" department was defined as a general purpose police department operated by a municipal, county, or tribal government. "Sheriffs" offices included were those operated by county or independent city governments. A "State police" department was defined as the general purpose State police agency operated by the State. "Sworn" employees are those with general arrest powers.

^aDetail may not add to total because of rounding.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Local Police Departments, 2003*, NCJ 210118 (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, 2006), p. 1, Table 1.