

Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics Online

<http://www.albany.edu/sourcebook/pdf/t100042002.pdf>

Table 1.0004.2002

Citizen complaints about police use of force in large law enforcement agencies

By type of agency, United States, 2002

Type of agency	Total	Per agency	Per 100 full-time sworn officers	Per 100 full-time sworn officers responding to calls for service
Total	26,556	33	6.6	10.9
Local agencies	25,816	35	7.5	12.9
Municipal police	22,238	45	9.5	15.4
Sheriffs' offices	2,815	13	3.4	7.1
County police	763	24	2.9	4.5
Primary State police agencies	740	15	1.3	1.7

Note: These data are from the 2003 Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics (LEMAS) survey sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) and the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS). The LEMAS survey collects data from a nationally representative sample of publicly funded State and local law enforcement agencies in the United States. Survey items relating to citizen complaints about police use of force were included on survey questionnaires sent to all State and local law enforcement agencies with 100 or more full-time sworn officers with 40 or more officers assigned to respond to calls for service. A total of 798 agencies met these criteria. For more information about LEMAS survey data and methodology, see Note, table [1.0001.2003](#).

Citizen complaints data must be interpreted with caution. Differences in how agencies receive, process, and record complaints can account for differences in the volume and rate of complaints across agencies. Also, the citizen's decision whether to file a complaint may be influenced by both citizen and agency characteristics, and other factors. The data presented in this table represent the number of officially recorded citizen complaints reported to BJS by large State and local law enforcement agencies (Source, p. 4).

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Citizen Complaints about Police Use of Force*, Special Report NCJ 210296 (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, June 2006), p. 2.