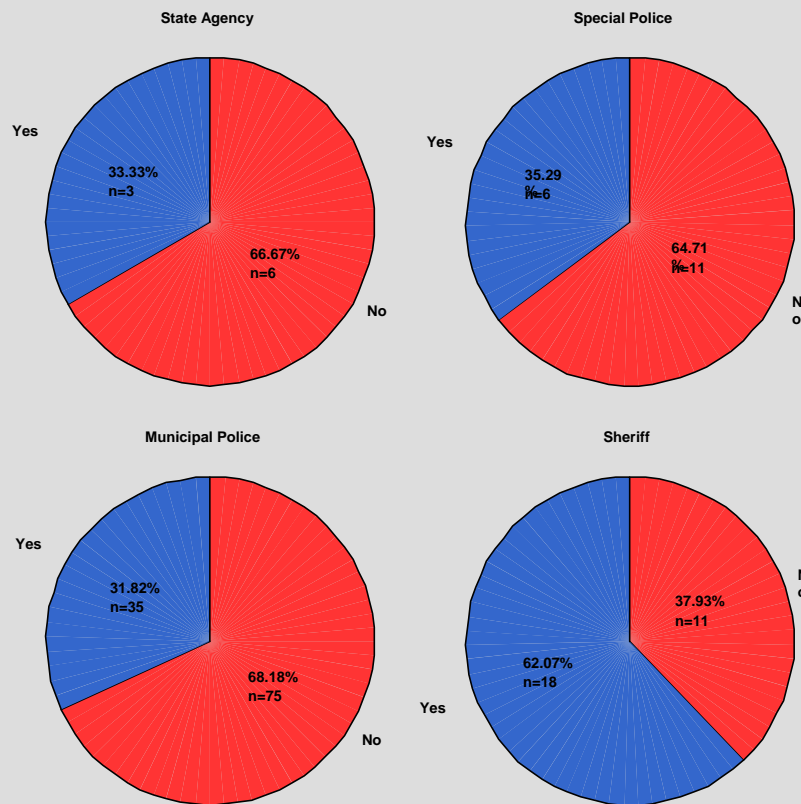




South Carolina Law Enforcement Census 2004

Highlights

Agencies Reporting Having Conducted Scenario-based Training for Responding to Weapons of Mass Destruction / Terrorist Threats



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Highlights

A Collaborative Research Project
Between the

Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice,
University of South Carolina

and the

South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

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Highlights

The South Carolina Law Enforcement Census, conducted since the early 1980s, solicits information from agencies regarding their personnel, budgets, salaries, equipment, and a variety of other key issues, from community policing to terrorism. This document presents highlights from the full report, which is available at <http://www.sccja.org> or <http://www.cas.sc.edu/crju/censusreport.html>

Personnel

In 2003, 171 of the approximately 290 (59%) law enforcement agencies contacted in South Carolina returned a completed survey. Most were municipal police departments (65%), followed by sheriffs' agencies (19%), special jurisdiction police (11%), and State law enforcement agencies (5%). Of the responding agencies only one was a county police department.¹

As of October 15, 2003, 169 agencies reported they employed 8,422 sworn

¹ Municipal agencies include city, town, and village police; special jurisdiction police include airport and college and university police.

Number and Percent of Responding Agencies, 2003

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid 1 Sheriff	32	18.7	18.7	18.7
2 County Police	1	.6	.6	19.3
3 Municipal Police	111	64.9	64.9	84.2
4 State Agency	9	5.3	5.3	89.5
5 Special Police	18	10.5	10.5	100.0
Total	171	100.0	100.0	

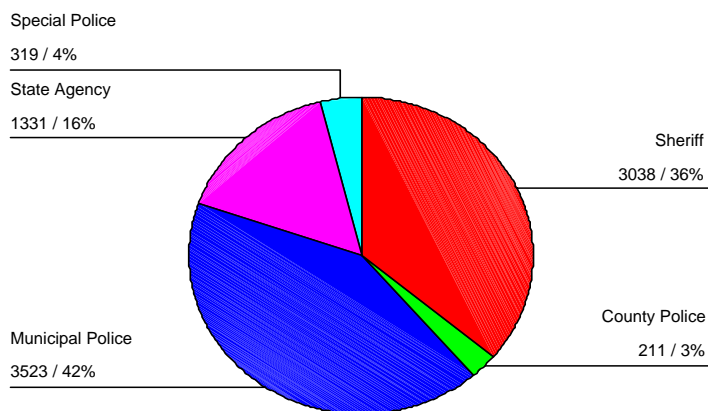
officers. The largest employers were municipal agencies, with 3,523 or 42% of the total, followed by sheriffs' (3,038; 36%), and state agencies (1,331; 16%).

These agencies reported hiring 1,042 new officers in 2002. Municipal agencies accounted for nearly half of the new hires (48%), sheriffs' offices accounted for 38%, special jurisdiction police accounted for 7%, and state agencies accounted

for 5%. The lone county police department hired 19 new officers in 2002 (2%).

Overall, 80% (135) of the agencies reported having a written policy for drug testing its employees, and 66% indicated they randomly drug tested employees. Most sheriffs' agencies reported that they conducted random drug tests (91%), whereas about two-thirds (67%) of municipal agencies reported doing so. Thirty-seven percent (37%) of

Number and Percent of Sworn Personnel by Agency Type



state agencies and 28% of special jurisdiction agencies indicated that they conducted random drug testing of employees. Nearly three-fourths (73%) of all agencies indicated that they drug tested applicants. Municipal police departments were most likely to do so (81%), followed by sheriffs' agencies (69%), special jurisdiction police (50%), and state agencies (38%). The one responding county police department reported that it did not conduct random drug tests of employees, but that new applicants were drug tested.

Approximately 90% of sheriffs' and municipal and special jurisdiction police agencies required new recruits to have a high school diploma or GED in 2003, whereas five or 63% of the state agencies required a two- or four-year college degree.

Sixty-nine percent (69%) of all agencies required new recruits to complete an average of 279 hours of field and classroom training beyond that provided by the state training academy. State and sheriffs' agencies were most likely to require additional training (78 and 73% respectively), followed by municipal

Minimum, Maximum, and Mean Entry-level Base Salary by Agency Type

Agency Type		Minimum	Maximum
Sheriff	Average	\$24,333	\$32,842
	Low	\$20,000	\$22,000
	High	\$29,843	\$47,368
County Police	Average	\$26,413	\$39,620
	Low	\$26,413	\$39,620
	High	\$26,413	\$39,620
Municipal Police	Average	\$22,946	\$29,697
	Low	\$17,000	\$17,000
	High	\$32,098	\$49,065
State Agency	Average	\$23,126	\$34,137
	Low	\$19,272	\$21,969
	High	\$25,608	\$40,108
Special Police	Average	\$23,632	\$36,731
	Low	\$21,359	\$21,679
	High	\$29,024	\$41,338

Minimum, Maximum, and Mean Agency Head Base Salary by Agency Type

Agency Type		Minimum	Maximum
Sheriff	Average	\$52,118	\$67,251
	Low	\$34,743	\$40,000
	High	\$72,678	\$104,000
County Police	Average	\$57,669	\$86,504
	Low	\$57,669	\$86,504
	High	\$57,669	\$86,504
Municipal Police	Average	\$40,210	\$54,864
	Low	\$21,000	\$20,800
	High	\$69,032	\$123,200
State Agency	Average	\$54,708	\$88,122
	Low	\$28,534	\$48,804
	High	\$78,587	\$116,617
Special Police	Average	\$38,832	\$61,427
	Low	\$25,000	\$32,000
	High	\$70,993	\$106,490

police departments (69%) and special jurisdiction police (61%).

In 2003, 20% of agencies required annual or semiannual fitness testing of officers. Thirty-four percent (34%) and 18% of sheriffs' and municipal departments, respectively, required testing, compared to only one state agency and two special jurisdiction departments.

Budget and Pay

In the fiscal year 2003, 141 responding agencies reported total operating budgets of \$503.1 million, ranging from a low of \$7,680 to a high of \$42.4 million. The average operating budgets for agencies of different sizes was as follows: small agencies (1-6 sworn personnel), \$195,523; moderately small agencies (7-18 sworn personnel),

\$624,796; medium-sized agencies (19-47 sworn personnel), \$1,975,603 and large agencies (48-878 sworn), \$10,311,854. Average budgets by agency type were: sheriffs' agencies, \$160.9 million; municipal departments, \$225.3 million; special jurisdiction police, \$15.5 million; and state agencies, \$89.3 million.

In 2003, minimum base annual salaries for entry-level law enforcement officers ranged from a low of \$17,000 to a high of about \$32,000, with an average of about \$23,290. County police reported the highest average minimum salary (\$26,413), followed by sheriffs' agencies (\$24,333), special jurisdiction police (\$23,632), state agencies (\$23,126), and municipal police (\$22,946).

Maximum base annual salaries ranged from a low of \$17,000 to just over \$49,000, with an average of \$31,250. The highest average maximum annual salary for entry-level officers was reported by county police (\$39,620), followed by special police (\$36,731), state agencies (\$34,137), sheriffs' agencies (\$32,842), and municipal police (\$29,697).

The average minimum base annual salaries increased with agency size. The average salary for the smallest agencies (1-6 sworn) was \$21,016. For agencies with 7-18 sworn the average was \$21,695; for those with 19-47 sworn it was \$23,716. The average minimum base annual salary for the largest agencies (48-878 sworn) was \$25,989.

For all agencies, the minimum base annual salaries for police chiefs, sheriffs, and directors ranged from a low of \$21,000 to a high of \$78,587, with an average minimum salary of \$42,281. Maximum base annual salaries ranged from \$20,800 to \$123,200, with an average of \$59,328. County police had the highest average minimum base salary (\$57,669), followed by state agencies (\$54,708), sheriffs' agencies (\$52,118), municipal police (\$40,210), and special police (\$38,832).

State agencies had the highest average maximum base salary (\$88,122) followed by county police (\$86,504), sheriffs' agencies (\$67,251), special police (\$61,427), and municipal police (\$54,864).

The average minimum base annual salaries for chiefs, sheriffs, and directors, increased with agency size. The average base annual salary for the smallest agencies (1-6 sworn) was \$31,484. For agencies with 7-18 sworn personnel the average was \$35,092; for those with 19-47 sworn personnel it was \$46,865, and for the largest agencies, with 48-878 sworn personnel, the average was \$58,436.

Mentally Ill Suspects

Just over half (56%) of all agencies had a policy regarding the handling of mentally ill suspects, and just under half (48%) provided training for their officers on handling mentally ill suspects.

Special police departments were most likely to provide such training (67%), followed by Sheriffs' agencies (63%), and municipal departments (46%). Only one of the responding eight state agencies provided training on the handling of mentally ill suspects, and the lone county police department reported that it does not provide training in this area.

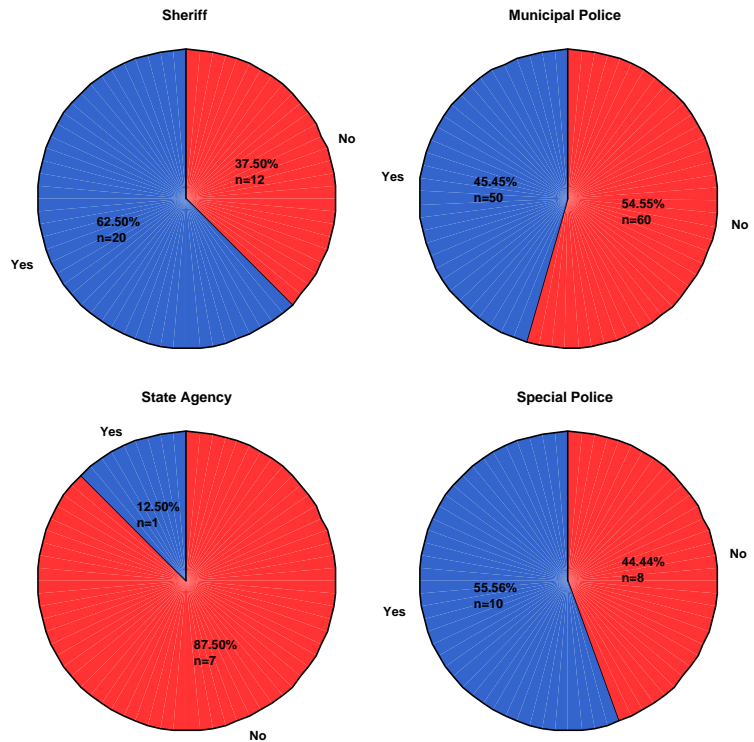
Operations

Virtually all (97%) law enforcement agencies engaged in patrol activities. Eighty five percent (85%) listed traffic enforcement as a primary function. Nearly half (49%) were responsible for court security, 28% for serving civil process, and 23% for jail operations. Twenty-six percent engaged in tactical or SWAT operations.

In 2003, 87% of the agencies participated in a 9-1-1 emergency system. This was highest for municipal agencies (95%), followed by sheriffs' departments (90%), and special jurisdiction police (72%). Only one state agency participated in a 9-1-1 system.

Statewide, nearly half (48%) of the agencies operated a specialized drug-enforcement unit. Sheriffs' departments were most likely to do so (97%), followed by municipal police departments (43%). Two state agencies operated such units. Although special jurisdiction police indicated that they did not operate specialized drug-enforcement units, 17% reported that they were part of a multi-agency drug-enforcement taskforce.

Agencies that Conducted Training on the Handling of Mentally Ill Suspects



Community Policing

In 2003, 69% (117) of the law enforcement agencies in South Carolina reported having a community policing plan. In 35% of these agencies the plan was formal and written. For the remaining agencies with a community policing plan (65%), that plan was informal. However, among all agencies, 75% reported they actively encouraged officers to engage in problem-solving projects.

Twenty-seven percent (27%) of the departments reported they trained citizens in some form of

community policing activity, while 48% formed some type of problem-solving partnership with a community group or other agency.

Eighty-four percent (84%) and 51% of sheriffs' and municipal agencies, respectively, used one or more school resource officers, as did the single responding county police department.

In 2003, both sheriffs' agencies and municipal departments were more likely to have informal community policing plans than formal, written plans.

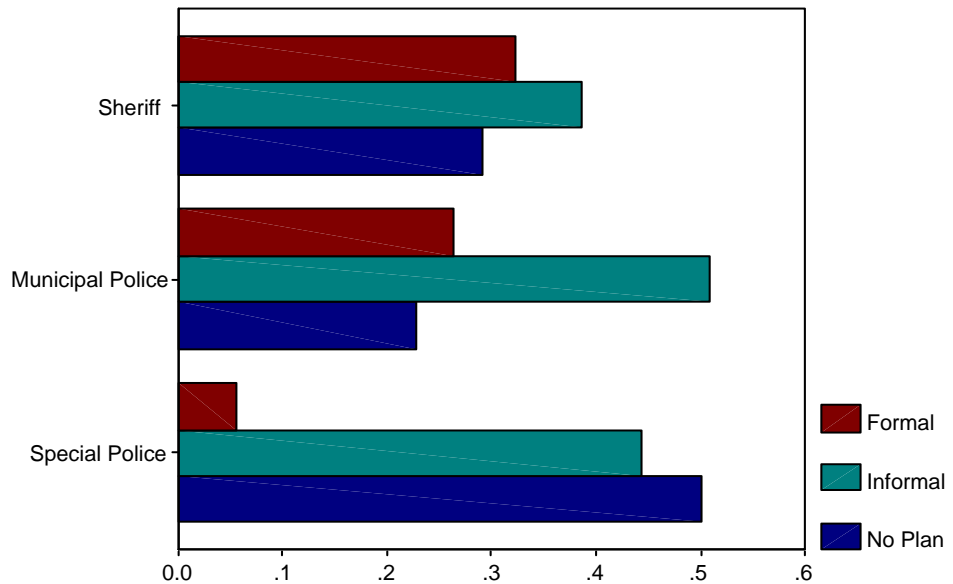
A slightly greater proportion of sheriffs' agencies than municipal police departments reported having a formal, written plan (32% and 26%, respectively). Special police forces were the least likely to have formal, written community policing plans (6%). Eight of the nine responding state agencies did not have a community policing plan, while the one with a plan indicated it was formal and written. The lone county police department reported that it did not have a plan in 2003.

Equipment

In 2003, 97% of all responding agencies reported they supplied their officers with semiautomatic sidearms. Regarding less-lethal weapons, 89% reported issuing a chemical agent, and 12% issued an electrical stun device.

Agencies reported operating 7,228 cars in 2003. Sixty-nine percent (5,018) were marked and 31% (2,262) were unmarked. Fourteen percent reported having car-mounted digital

Proportion of Agencies with Formal, Informal, or No Community Policing Plans



terminals, while 80% reported having in-car video cameras. Seventy-one percent of agencies allowed officers to take vehicles home.

Statewide, 11.3 % (19) of the agencies operated 89 motorcycles, and 65 agencies (38%) used bicycles.

Six agencies (4%) operated at least one plane, while 10 agencies (6%) operated one or more helicopters. Thirty two (19%) operated one or more boats.

Regarding animals, 8 agencies (5%) reported using one or more horses and 83 (49%) employed dogs for law enforcement purposes.

Computers and Information Technologies

Sixty-nine percent (118) of all agencies had a mainframe computer, 85% (145) used personal computers, and 46% (78) used laptops. Another 14% (24) reported using computers in cars, while 7% (12) used handheld computers. All but 2% of agencies (3) had internet access.

Forty-seven percent (80) of the responding agencies indicated they had crime mapping capabilities. Twenty-seven percent (45) reported they mapped calls for service to street address locations, 19% (32) mapped arrests to street

address locations, and 10% (17) mapped crime to beats or census tracts. Forty-nine percent (80) of the agencies made crime statistics or crime maps available to their officers, and 80% (133) indicated interest in geographic information systems training.

Terrorism

In 2003, 31% (52) of responding agencies had a written policy on terrorism response or prevention. State agencies were most likely to have a written policy (67%) followed by special police (56%), sheriffs' agencies (47%), and municipal departments (20%). The single county police department reported that it did not have a written policy.

Thirty-nine percent (64) indicated they requested funding for terrorism from federal sources, 28% (43) requested funding from state sources, and 14% (21) requested funding from city or county sources. Twenty-five agencies reported they received approximately \$2.8 million in funding for terrorism response equipment, while 92 agencies indicated they did not receive such funding (56 agencies did not report whether they did or did not receive funding).

Agencies with a Written Policy on Terrorism Response or Prevention

Agency Type		Frequency	Percent
1 Sheriff	0 No	16	53.3
	1 Yes	14	46.7
	Total	30	100.0
3 Municipal Police	0 No	87	79.8
	1 Yes	22	20.2
	Total	109	100.0
4 State Agency	0 No	3	33.3
	1 Yes	6	66.7
	Total	9	100.0
5 Special Police	0 No	8	44.4
	1 Yes	10	55.6
	Total	18	100.0

Sixteen agencies indicated that they received about \$273,500 in funding for terrorism response training, and 88 reported that they received no funding for training (67 agencies did not indicate whether or not they received funding). Thirty-seven percent of agencies indicated that they conducted scenario-based training where officers actually responded to hypothetical terrorist threats, including the use of weapons of mass destruction.