

Data Sources and Methodological Notes for Policing: By the Numbers

Published on May 27, 2026

This section provides data sources and methodological notes for the figures included in [Policing: By the Numbers](#), a statistical portrait long-term trends in policing in the United States. Sources are listed in the order the figures appear and include relevant definitions, adjustments, and limitations needed to interpret the data. When updated or revised data were released by the original source agencies, the most recent available estimates were used.

Police Agency Size and Composition

Figure 1. Full-Time, Sworn Law Enforcement Personnel, 1980-2024

Source:

- Kaplan, J. (2025). *Jacob Kaplan's concatenated files - Uniform crime reporting program data: Law enforcement officers killed and assaulted (LEOKA) 1960-2024*. Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research. <https://doi.org/10.3886/E102180V15>

Adjustments:

- Rates of sworn officers per 100,000 residents were calculated using population estimates reporting to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program.
- Rates of sworn officers per 1,000 Part I crimes were calculated by dividing the number of sworn officers by the total number of reported Part I index offenses (violent and property crimes) and scaling per 1,000 offenses.

Figure 2. Percent Change in Police Staffing From 2020-2025

Source:

- Police Executive Research Forum. (2025). *PERF survey shows police staffing increased slightly in 2024 but still lower than 2019*. <https://www.policeforum.org/trending5jul25>

Figure 3. Police Hiring Trends, 2019-2024

Source:

- Police Executive Research Forum. (2025). *PERF survey shows police staffing increased slightly in 2024 but still lower than 2019.*
<https://www.policeforum.org/trending5jul25>

Figure 4. Share of Female Officers in Local Police Agencies, 1980-2024

Source:

- Kaplan, J. (2025). Jacob Kaplan's concatenated files - Uniform crime reporting program data: Law enforcement officers killed and assaulted (LEOKA) 1960-2024. Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research.
<https://doi.org/10.3886/E102180V15>

Figure 5. Share of Officers in Local Police Agencies by Race, 1987-2020

Sources:

- 1987: Reaves, B. A. (1989). *Profile of state and local law enforcement agencies, 1987* (NCJ 113949). Bureau of Justice Statistics.
<https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/psllea87.pdf>
- 1990: Reaves, B. A. (1992). *State and local police departments, 1990* (NCJ 133284). Bureau of Justice Statistics. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/slpd90.pdf>
- 1993: Reaves, B. A. (1996). *Local police departments, 1993* (NCJ 148822). Bureau of Justice Statistics. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/Lpd93.pdf>
- 1997: Reaves, B. A. (2000). *Local police departments, 1997* (NCJ 173429). Bureau of Justice Statistics. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/lpd97.pdf>
- 2000: Hickman, M. J. & Reaves, B. A. (2003). *Local police departments, 2000* (NCJ 196002). Bureau of Justice Statistics.
<https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/lpd00.pdf>
- 2003: Hickman, M. J. & Reaves, B. A. (2006). *Local police departments, 2003* (NCJ 210118). Bureau of Justice Statistics.
<https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/lpd03.pdf>
- 2007: Reaves, B. A. (2010). *Local police departments, 2007* (NCJ 231174). Bureau of Justice Statistics. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/lpd07.pdf>
- 2013: Reaves, B. A. (2015). *Local police departments, 2013: Personnel, policies, and practices* (NCJ 248677). Bureau of Justice Statistics.
<https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/lpd13ppp.pdf>

- 2016: Hyland, S. & Davis, E. (2019). *Local police departments, 2013: Personnel* (NCJ 252835). Bureau of Justice Statistics. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/lpd16p.pdf>
- 2020: Goodison, S. E. (2022). *Local police departments personnel, 2020* (NCJ 305187). Bureau of Justice Statistics. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/media/68016/download>

Police Spending

Figure 6. State and Local Expenditures on Police, 1977-2023

Sources:

- 1977-2021: Urban Institute. (n.d.). *State and local finance data: Exploring the census of governments*. <https://state-local-finance-data taxpolicycenter.org/pages.cfm>
- 2022-2023: U.S. Census. (n.d.). *State and local government data by level of government: U.S. and states, 2017-2023*. [https://data.census.gov/table/GOVSTIMESERIES.GS00LF01?q=Local+Government+Finances&g=010XX00US,\\$0400000&nkd=GOVTYPE~001,time~2017:2018:2019:2020:2021:2022:2023](https://data.census.gov/table/GOVSTIMESERIES.GS00LF01?q=Local+Government+Finances&g=010XX00US,$0400000&nkd=GOVTYPE~001,time~2017:2018:2019:2020:2021:2022:2023)

Adjustments:

- Values were adjusted to 2023 dollars using the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and the following formula: $Year\ 2\ Price = Year\ 1\ Price \times (Year\ 2\ CPI / Year\ 1\ CPI)$.
 - o Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. (n.d.) *Consumer price index, 1913-2025*. <https://www.minneapolisfed.org/about-us/monetary-policy/inflation-calculator/consumer-price-index-1913->

Notes:

- 2022 values were revised in the updated 2023 Census data (and therefore differ from 2022 values provided on the Urban tool).
- Population denominators from the U.S. Census were used to calculate 2022 and 2023 per capita spending.

Police Contacts with the Public

Figure 7. Police-Initiated Contacts by Race, 2022

Source:

- Bureau of Justice Statistics. (2024). *Contacts between police and the public, 2022-Table 4* (NCJ 308847). <https://bjs.ojp.gov/document/cbpp22.pdf>

Note:

- Population denominators for residents aged 16 and older were obtained from Table 1.

Figure 8. Resident-Initiated Contacts by Race, 2022

Source:

- Bureau of Justice Statistics. (2024). *Contacts between police and the public, 2022-Table 11* (NCJ 308847). <https://bjs.ojp.gov/document/cbpp22.pdf>

Note:

- Population denominators for residents aged 16 and older were obtained from Table 1.

Figure 9. Rate of Police-Public Contacts by Race, 2015-2022

Source:

- Bureau of Justice Statistics. *Contacts between police and the public, YEAR*. Table 1. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/data-collection/police-public-contact-survey-ppcs>

Notes:

- Question wording and contact classifications vary slightly across survey years. Data from 2011 were not comparable to subsequent years and were omitted.
- Population denominators for residents aged 16 and older were drawn from Table 1 in each report.

Crime Reporting to Police

Figure 10. Share of Victimization Reported to the Police, 1993-2024

Source:

- Bureau of Justice Statistics. (n.d.). *National crime victimization survey data dashboard* (N-DASH). <https://ncvs.bjs.ojp.gov/Home>

Figure 11. Violent Victimization Reported to the Police by Race, 1993-2024

Source:

- Bureau of Justice Statistics. (n.d.). *National crime victimization survey data dashboard* (N-DASH). <https://ncvs.bjs.ojp.gov/Home>

Clearance Rates

Figure 12. Violent Crime, Property Crime, and Homicide Clearance Rates, 1995-2024

Sources:

- 1995-2019: Federal Bureau of Investigation. (n.d.). *Crime in the United States: Table 25- percent of offenses cleared by arrest or exceptional means.*
<https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s>
- 2020-2024: Federal Bureau of Investigation. (n.d.). *Crime in the United States: Table 25- percent of offenses cleared by arrest or exceptional means.*
<https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#/pages/downloads>

Notes:

- In 2016, clearance data are available in Table 17.
- Data were not available for 2021.

Officer-Involved Fatalities

Figure 13. Officer-Involved Civilian Fatalities by Data Source, 1999-2025

Sources:

- Centers for Disease Control. (2026). *National center for health statistics mortality data on CDC WONDER: Multiple causes of death data.*
<https://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd.html>
- Fatal Encounters. (n.d.). *Searches: Click here to download as CSV.*
<https://fatalencounters.org/view/person/>
- Federal Bureau of Investigation. (n.d.). *Crime in the United States, expanded homicide tables: Table 14-justifiable homicide, by weapon, law enforcement.*
<https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#/pages/downloads>
- Mapping Police Violence. (2026). *View the data.*
<https://airtable.com/appzVzSeINK1S3EVR/shroOenW19I1m3w0H>
- Washington Post. (2024). *Fatal force.*
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/investigations/police-shootings-database/>

Note:

- CDC data include deaths classified as "legal execution," "legal intervention involving firearm discharge," "legal intervention involving other specified means," and "legal intervention, means unspecified."

Figure 14. Officer-Involved Civilian Fatalities by Race and Ethnicity, 2013-2025

Source:

- Mapping Police Violence. (2026). *View the data*. <https://airtable.com/appzVzSeINk1S3EVR/shroOenW19I1m3w0H>

Figure 15. Officer-Involved Civilian Fatalities by Cause of Death, 2025

Source:

- Mapping Police Violence. (2026). *View the data*. <https://airtable.com/appzVzSeINk1S3EVR/shroOenW19I1m3w0H>

Officers Killed or Assaulted on the Job

Figure 16. Officers Fatally Assaulted on the Job, 1987-2024

Sources:

- 1987-1996: Federal Bureau of Investigation. (1997). *Law enforcement officers killed and assaulted, 1996*. <https://ucr.fbi.gov/leoka/1996>
- 1997-2000: Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2004). *Law enforcement officers killed and assaulted, 2003*. <https://ucr.fbi.gov/leoka/2003>
- 2001-2009: Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2011). *Law enforcement officers feloniously killed, 2001-2010*. <https://ucr.fbi.gov/leoka/leoka-2010/tables/table01-leok-feloniously-region-division-state-01-10.xls>
- 2010-2019: Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2020). *Law enforcement officers feloniously killed, 2010-2019*. <https://ucr.fbi.gov/leoka/2019/tables/table-1.xls>
- 2020-2024: Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2025). *Officers killed and assaulted in the line of duty, 2024: Special report*. <https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/resources/reports/Officers%20Killed%20and%20Assaulted%20in%20the%20Line%20of%20Duty%2C%202024%20Special%20Report.pdf>

Adjustments:

- Rates per 1,000 sworn law enforcement officers were created using the count of officers presented in Figure 1.
 - o Kaplan, J. (2025). *Jacob Kaplan's concatenated files - Uniform crime reporting program data: Law enforcement officers killed and assaulted (LEOKA) 1960-2024*. Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research. <https://doi.org/10.3886/E102180V15>

Figure 17. Officers Assaulted on the Job, 1987-2024

Sources:

- 1987-1996: Federal Bureau of Investigation. (1997). *Law enforcement officers killed and assaulted, 1996*. <https://ucr.fbi.gov/leoka/1996>
- 1997-2000: Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2004). *Law enforcement officers killed and assaulted, 2003*. <https://ucr.fbi.gov/leoka/2003>
- 2001-2009: Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2011). *Law enforcement officers assaulted, 2001-2010*. <https://ucr.fbi.gov/leoka/leoka-2010/tables/table67-leo-assaulted-time-by-number-percent-01-10.xls>
- 2010-2019: Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2020). *Law enforcement officers assaulted, 2010-2019*. <https://ucr.fbi.gov/leoka/2019/topic-pages/tables/table-82.xls>
- 2020-2024: Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2025). *Officers killed and assaulted in the line of duty, 2024: Special report*. <https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/resources/reports/Officers%20Killed%20and%20Assaulted%20in%20the%20Line%20of%20Duty%2C%202024%20Special%20Report.pdf>

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Public Opinion of Police

Figure 18. Confidence in the Police by Race, 1994-2025

Source:

- Data drawn from the "U.S. Confidence in Institutions" poll, hosted on the Gallup Analytics dashboard (subscriber access). For more information, see: <https://www.gallup.com/analytics/213617/gallup-analytics.aspx>

Figure 19. Satisfaction with Community's Relationship with Local Police, 2021-2024

Source:

- Brenan, M. (2025). *Racial divide on policing narrows 5 years after Floyd's death.* Gallup. <https://news.gallup.com/poll/690959/racial-divide-policing-narrows-years-floyd-death.aspx>

Figure 20. Belief that Local Police Treat “People Like Them” Fairly, 2021-2024

Source:

- Brenan, M. (2025). *Racial divide on policing narrows 5 years after Floyd's death.* Gallup. <https://news.gallup.com/poll/690959/racial-divide-policing-narrows-years-floyd-death.aspx>

Figure 21. Belief that Local Police Will Treat Them Respectfully, 2021-2024

Source:

- Brenan, M. (2025). *Racial divide on policing narrows 5 years after Floyd's death.* Gallup. <https://news.gallup.com/poll/690959/racial-divide-policing-narrows-years-floyd-death.aspx>