



UNIVERSITY OF
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South Carolina 2024 Law Enforcement Census

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Introduction¹

In the 1980s, the South Carolina legislature requested that the College of Criminal Justice (now the Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice) conduct yearly surveys on the state of law enforcement in South Carolina. Funded by the legislature, all law enforcement agencies in the State (i.e., a “census”) have been contacted annually since 1988. These surveys have gathered information on various agency characteristics, such as the number of civilian and sworn personnel employed, personnel demographics (sex, race, ethnicity), shift and salary schedules, training and operation budgets, equipment and technology, written policies, and so forth. These results have allowed law enforcement administrators across the state to compare their agencies to peer agencies on such factors.

Following discussions with the South Carolina Department of Public Safety and representatives from various law enforcement agencies in the early 2000s, it was decided to conduct two types of censuses. The traditional or “general” census would focus on agency characteristics and be conducted every three years. In other years, a “special topic(s)” survey on contemporary issues impacting law enforcement will be distributed, better assessing the needs of the law enforcement community and citizens of South Carolina. Special topics examined in off years have included gangs, less-lethal weapons and use of force, terrorism, immigration, officer-involved traffic collisions, body-worn cameras, officer health and wellness, and school resource officers. Reports on these and other topics are available on the Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice website here: [Census Reports](#).

The 2024 survey returned to the traditional format to provide the law enforcement community with updated information regarding agency characteristics. In addition, in collaboration with the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy SCCJA, the census survey was administered exclusively online (via Qualtrics software). In comparison to distributing the survey via mailings, the distribution of the survey via online software has provided important cost savings. For additional information on the methodology, see Appendix A. A copy of the survey instrument is provided in Appendix B.

Results

The results have been divided into seven main sections: Survey Response Rates, Agency Characteristics, Operations, Personnel Selection and Training, Operating Budgets & Salaries, Equipment, and Policies and Procedures. Note also that the Table of Contents is hyperlinked so that readers can easily jump to results that are of most interest.

Survey Response Rates

There was a total of 178 responses. However, after removing duplicates and incomplete submissions, we had an analytical sample of 102 responses.² The survey was distributed to 452 law enforcement entities, providing a total usable response rate of 22.5%.¹ We caution readers that the data presented below may not be representative of law enforcement in the State overall. Note that in the tables that follow, the report is generally based on the 102 agencies that responded to the survey; however, some tables report percentages for the agencies that reported such information.

¹ We thank SCCJA Director Lewis "Jackie" Swindler for his generous support and Major Lauren Fennell for her assistance with all aspects of the project.

² Agencies that completed over 50% of the survey were included in the analytic sample. Again, percentages throughout the report are based on the respondents who answered each question, and not always the 102 analytical sample.

SECTION I. AGENCY CHARACTERISTICS

This section presents information regarding the number of sworn and non-sworn personnel by agency type. Additional analysis is provided on the service coverage provided by agencies as defined by the number of officers per 1,000 residents for given jurisdictions. Table 1 below presents the distribution of the types of law enforcement agencies surveyed and the number and percentage that returned a survey.

Table 1. Number of responding agencies by agency type

Agency Type	Total Responding Agencies
Municipal	53
Sheriff	18
Other Agencies	31
All Agencies	102

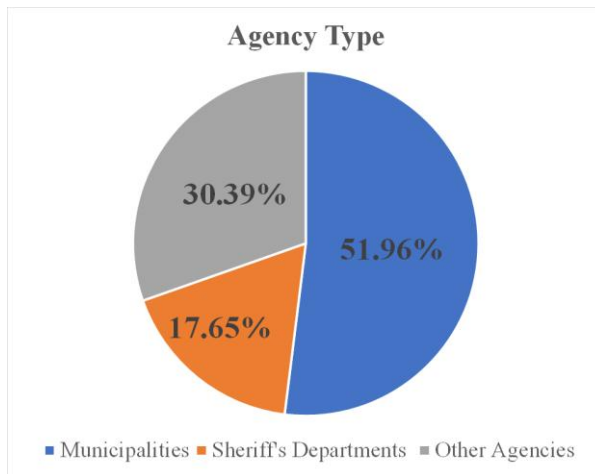


Figure 1. Agency characteristics

Our sample consists of 53 (52%) municipalities, 18 (18%) sheriff's departments, and 31 (30%) "other" agencies (total = 102 agencies). "Other" agencies consist of a mix of college/university campus police agencies, state law enforcement agencies, airport police agencies, and prosecutorial offices.

Table 2. Sworn personnel characteristics by agency type

Agency Type	Number of Reporting Agencies	Average Number of Full-time Sworn	Average Ratio of Male to Female sworn officers	Minimum and Maximum Number of Full-time Sworn
Municipal	53	22	16:5	1 – 165
Sheriff	18	100	76:18	9 – 304
Other Agencies	31	17	15:3	1 – 111
All Agencies	102	46	36:9	1 – 580

Table 2 above shows the minimum, maximum, and average number of sworn officers that were currently on board at the time of the survey, by agency type. The average number of officers employed by municipal agencies was about 22 officers, an average of about 100 officers is on board within sheriff's departments, and about an average of 17 officers on board within other agencies. Municipal agencies have an average of 16 male officers for every 5 female officers, while sheriff's offices have about 76 male officers for every 18 female officers. Other agencies report an average of 15 male officers for every 3 female officers. Overall, the total average ratio across all agencies is 36 male officers for every 9 female officers.

Respondents were also asked if their agency employs volunteer and internship positions. Of the responding agencies, 15 out of 53 (28.3%) municipalities, 10 out of 18 (55.6%) sheriff's departments, and 1 out of 31 (3.2%) other agencies reported employing volunteers. About 36% (19 of 53) of municipal agencies, 56% (10 of 18) sheriff departments, and 39% (12 of 31) other agencies reported employing interns. These numbers are not in a table and are reported in-text here.

SECTION II. OPERATIONS

Table 3. Functions agencies reported being primarily responsible for and/or performing regularly

Categories	Municipal (N= 53)		Sheriff (N= 18)		Other Agencies (N= 31)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Law Enforcement Function						
Responding to calls for service	50	94.3	17	94.4	20	64.5
Patrol Services	51	96.2	16	88.9	16	51.6
First Response to Criminal Incident	48	90.5	16	88.9	17	54.8
Drug Law Enforcement	40	75.4	16	88.9	8	25.8
Vice Law Enforcement	17	32.0	9	50.0	4	12.9
Criminal Investigations						
Death/Homicide Investigations	41	77.4	16	88.9	7	22.6
Other Violent Crime	40	75.5	16	88.9	10	32.3
Arson	24	45.3	12	66.7	5	16.1
Other Property Crime	46	86.8	16	88.9	23	74.2
Cyber Crime	21	39.6	15	83.3	2	6.5
Drug/Narcotics Investigations	43	81.1	15	83.3	11	35.5
Detention-Related						
Jail Operations	7	13.2	8	44.4	0	0.0
Facility Separate from Jail	3	5.7	3	16.7	0	0.0
Temporary Holding Cell	3	5.7	4	22.2	1	3.2
Inmate Transport	21	39.6	13	72.2	8	25.8
Traffic Function						
Traffic Law Enforcement	51	96.2	16	88.9	10	32.3
Traffic Direction/Control	48	90.6	14	77.8	14	45.2
Accident Investigation	50	94.3	4	22.2	12	38.7
Parking Enforcement	31	58.5	3	16.7	16	51.6
Commercial Vehicle Enforcement	5	9.4	1	5.6	2	6.5
Special Operations						
Bomb/Explosive Removal	2	3.8	2	11.1	0	0.0
Search & Rescue	17	32.1	10	55.6	5	16.1
SWAT	5	9.4	9	50.0	1	3.2
Underwater Recovery	3	5.7	0	0.0	0	0.0
Court-Related						
Execution of Arrest Warrants	45	84.9	16	88.9	11	35.5
Court Security	23	43.4	18	100.0	1	3.2
Serving Eviction Notices	2	3.8	16	88.9	1	3.2
Enforcing Child Protection Orders	29	54.7	15	83.3	5	16.1
Enforcing Child Support Orders	6	11.3	13	72.2	1	3.2

Table 3 above provides a comparison of the municipalities, sheriff’s departments, and other agencies that reported having primary responsibility for and/or regularly engaging in specific law enforcement functions. Large percentages of municipalities and sheriff’s departments (<75%) indicated they respond to calls for service, engage in patrol, respond to criminal incidents, and engage in drug enforcement. Sheriff’s departments are more likely than municipalities to engage in all types of investigations. Sheriff’s departments are also more likely to be involved in detention-related functions. A larger percentage of Sheriff’s departments, compared to municipal and other agencies, maintain jail operations overall. In terms of traffic functions, most sheriff’s departments and municipal agencies engage in traffic law enforcement (96.2% and 88.9%, respectively) and traffic control (90.6% and 77.8%). Municipal agencies, however, were generally more likely to engage in traffic functions, especially for accident investigations, parking enforcement, and commercial vehicle enforcement. Sheriff’s departments reported greater engagement in SWAT operations and search-and-rescue (50% and 55%, respectively).

Large percentages of other agencies (over 54%) indicated that they respond to calls for service, engage in patrol, and respond to criminal incidents regularly. In terms of criminal investigations, other agencies mainly reported being involved in “other property crime” investigations (74%), and less than half of other agencies reported being involved in (> 36%) in other forms of investigations (e.g., arson, cyber-crime, homicide, drug/narcotics). Regarding traffic functions, other agencies reported mainly participating in parking enforcement (51.6%) and traffic direction/control (45.2%). In terms of special operations and court-related tasks, other agencies were generally more likely to engage in search and rescue (16.1%) and execution of arrest warrants (35.5%) than other tasks, such as SWAT operations and enforcing child protection orders (3.2% and 16.1%, respectively).

Table 4. Patrol shift lengths by agency type

Shift Length	Municipal		Sheriff		Other Agencies		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
8-hour	9	17	0	0	16	51.6	25	24.5
10-hour	3	5.7	0	0	6	19.4	9	8.8
12-hour	41	77.4	18	100.0	11	35.5	70	68.6
Other	2	3.8	0	0	1	3.2	3	2.9

Note: Agencies were allowed to select more than one option.

Table 4 above reports the number and percentage of agency shift lengths by agency type. The majority of agencies (68.6%), regardless of agency type, use 12-hour shifts. In particular, all sheriffs’ departments and about 77% of municipalities reported using 12-hour shifts. Seventeen percent of municipalities and about 25% of other agencies use 8-hour shifts. Of the “other” shift lengths, municipal and other agencies reported anywhere from 6–7-hour shifts, 13–14-hour shifts, or 24-hour shifts with on-call investigators.

Table 5. Patrol shift rotation by agency type

Rotation	Municipal		Sheriff		Other Agencies	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Weekly	3	5.7	0	0.0	4	12.9
Monthly	10	18.9	6	33.3	4	12.9
Quarterly	1	1.9	0	0	0	0.0
Permanent (No Rotation)	31	58.5	7	38.9	20	64.5
Other	8	15.1	7	38.9	3	9.7

Note: Agencies were allowed to select more than one option.

Table 5 above presents patrol shifts by agency type. Across all agency types, agencies largely reported that their shifts do not rotate (permanent), followed by monthly rotations. Of the “other” shift rotations, some agencies reported shift rotations every four days, and six weeks.

Table 6. Calls for service by agency type in the past year

Type of Agency	N Agencies Reporting	Total Calls for Service	Range of Total Calls for Service		Average
			Minimum	Maximum	
Municipal	47	754,264	10	206,043	16,048
Sheriff	15	1,636,263	5,400	900,000	109,084
Other Agencies	27	179,052	0	69,107	6,632
Total	89	2,569,579	5,410	1,175,150	131,764

Table 6 above shows the minimum, maximum, and average number of calls for service that reporting agencies handle per year, by agency type. Across all responding agencies, over 2.5 million calls for service were received in the past year, with an average of over 131,000 calls received. Sheriff’s departments reported receiving the most average yearly calls compared to municipal and other agencies. Other agencies handle the lower average number of calls for service per year, while municipalities handle an average of about 750,000 calls for service per year.

Agencies were also asked if their jurisdiction participates in a 911 system (not reported in a table). Of the responding agencies, 49 out of 53 (92%) municipalities, 17 out of 18 (94%) sheriff’s departments, and 15 out of 31 (48%) other agencies reported their jurisdiction participating in a 911 system.

Table 7. Characteristics of SWAT teams

Type of SWAT Team	Municipal		Sheriff		Other Agencies	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Full-time	0	0.0	2	11.1	0	0.0
Part-time	9	17.0	12	66.7	2	6.5

Note: Agencies were allowed to select more than one option. Percentages are based on the number of agencies that responded to this question.

Table 7 shows the number and percentage of responding agencies that have a SWAT team and whether their SWAT teams are full- or part-time. About 11.1% of sheriff's departments reported full-time SWAT teams, which was the only reporting agency type that had full-time SWAT teams. About 17% of municipalities, 66.7% of sheriff's departments, and 6.5% of other agencies reported having part-time SWAT teams.

Table 8. School resource officers and specialized training by agency type

Type of Agency	N Agencies Reporting		Have Specialized Training for SROs	
	N	%	N	%
Municipal	23	43.4	22	95.7
Sheriff	16	88.9	16	100.0
Other Agencies	2	6.5	2	100.0
Total	41	40.2	40	97.6

Note: Agencies could select multiple options. Percentages are based on the number of agencies that responded to this question.

Table 8 above presents data on the number of reporting agencies that have a School Resource Officer (SRO) program and whether there is specialized training for SROs. Of the 53 responding municipal agencies, 23 (43.4%) reported that their agency provides SROs. Sixteen of the 18 (88.9%) responding sheriff's departments stated that they provide SROs, while 2 of the 31 (6.5%) other agencies responded that they provide SROs. Other than one of the 23 agencies (95.7%), all agencies reported having SROs providing specialized training to SROs. All sheriff departments and other agencies that reported having SROs provide specialized training for SROs.

Additionally, agencies were asked if they operate their own crime labs (not visualized in a table). About 4% (2 of 53) of municipalities, 22% (4 of 18) sheriff's departments, and 6% (2 of 31) other agencies responded that they operate their own crime lab. Of the 2 municipal agencies that operate their own crime labs, both use theirs for latent fingerprint analysis/comparison and other functions, with one agency reporting additional use for computer forensics. Of the 4 Sheriff's departments who operate their own crime lab, 25% use their crime labs for DNA analysis, 50% use theirs for latent fingerprint analysis/comparisons, 75% for ballistic analysis, 25% for drug analysis, and 75% for computer forensics. Some common reasons provided by other agencies as "other" functions indicated that their crime labs are for cell phone extractions and pesticide analyses.

Agencies were also asked if their agency has an in-house attorney and if there are counseling services available for their employees (not visualized in a table). About 35% (18 of 52) of municipal agencies, 38% (7 of 18) of sheriff's departments, and 74% (23 of 31) of other agencies indicated that they have an in-house attorney. About 83% of municipal agencies (44 of 53), 89% of sheriff's departments (16 of 18), and over 94% (29 of 31) other agencies provide counseling services (e.g., psychological, critical incident, etc.) to their employees

Table 9. Number of agencies reporting national and/or state accreditation by agency type

Accreditation	Municipal	Sheriff	Other Agencies
National	2	1	0
State	5	2	3
National & State	1	3	5
Neither	44	12	23

Table 9 above presents the number of responding agencies that reported earning national and state accreditation. About 15% of municipal agencies, 33% of sheriff's departments, and 26% of other agencies have either a

national accreditation, a state accreditation, or both a national and state accreditation. One of the most prominent reasons why agencies are not either nationally or state accredited is that obtaining accreditation is either too expensive or requires too many personnel to pursue. Another common reason given as to why agencies are not accredited is that they stated they are currently working on, and/or in the process of obtaining accreditation.

SECTION III. PERSONNEL SELECTION AND TRAINING

Agencies were asked about the minimum education attainment required (not visualized in a table). About 86.8% of municipal agencies, 94.4% of sheriff's departments, and 80.7% of other agencies require a high school degree. Of the respondents that require more than a high school degree, 3.2% of other agencies responded that a two-year college degree was required and 9.7% of other agencies responded that a four-year college degree was required. About 25% of all responding agencies do not require a degree.

Table 10. Types of screening techniques used by agency type

Screening Technique	Municipal		Sheriff		Other Agency	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Analytical Problem-Solving Assessment	22	41.5	7	38.9	7	22.6
Background Investigation	52	98.1	18	100	30	96.8
Driving history check	52	98.1	18	100	29	93.5
Mediation/Conflict management skills	5	9.4	0	0.0	0	0.0
Personal Inventory	15	28.3	4	22.2	4	12.9
Polygraph examination	13	24.5	11	61.1	4	12.9
Voice stress analyzer	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Written test	37	69.8	11	61.1	11	35.5
Assessment of understanding diverse cultural practices	4	7.5	1	5.6	1	3.2
Credit history check	36	67.9	16	88.9	18	58.1
Drug test	45	84.9	18	100	23	74.2
Personal interview	49	92.5	18	100	28	90.3
Physical agility test	33	62.3	14	77.8	9	29.0
Second language test	1	1.9	1	5.6	0	0.0
Volunteer/Community service history check	6	11.3	2	11.1	1	3.2
Other	4	7.5	0	0.0	6	19.4

Note: Respondents were allowed to select more than one option. Percentages are based on the number of agencies that responded to this question.

Table 10 above shows the types of screening techniques and criteria that responding agencies use to evaluate applicants. The most used screening techniques across all agency types are background investigations, driving history checks, and personal interviews. Other frequently used screening techniques across all agency types are drug tests, credit history checks, and physical agility tests. Polygraphs, analytical problem-solving assessments, and written tests are also commonly used. Of agencies that listed "other" for the criteria used to evaluate applicants, the most common criteria were psychological evaluation and additional physical testing.

Table 11. Additional training required by format by agency type

Type of Training	Municipal		Sheriff		Other Agency	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Pre-Academy Classroom Training	11	78.6	6	85.7	8	53.3
Pre-Academy Online Training	5	35.7	1	14.3	5	33.3
Post-Academy Classroom Training	9	64.3	3	42.9	8	53.3
Post-Academy Online Training	7	50.0	3	42.9	6	40.0

Note: Agencies were allowed to select more than one option. Percentages are based on the number of agencies that do require additional training.

Agencies were asked if they require additional training of new officer recruits beyond the state mandated 8-week course at the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy. Table 11 above reports the type of additional training required by responding agencies. Of the agencies that require additional training, about 79% of municipalities, about 86% of sheriff’s departments, and about 53% of other agencies require pre-academy classroom training. The second most common form of additional training across all agency types involved post-academy classroom training.

Table 12. Mandatory physical fitness test frequency by agency type

Test Frequency	Municipal		Sheriff		Other Agency	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
No Tests	44	83.0	11	61.1	21	67.7
Annually	6	11.3	2	11.1	6	19.4
Semi-Annually	1	1.9	1	5.6	1	3.2
Other	2	3.8	4	22.2	3	9.7
Total	53	100	18	100	31	100

Note: Percentages are based on the number of agencies that responded to this question.

Table 12 above shows the frequency with which physical fitness tests are required of officers, by agency type. Most agencies do not require physical fitness tests post-academy. However, of agencies that do require physical fitness tests, about 11% of municipal and sheriff agencies, and 19% of other agencies require annual physical fitness tests. Of the 9 agencies that listed “other” for the frequency of mandatory physical fitness tests, respondents mentioned that a mandatory physical fitness test is required for pre-employment, upon hire, and/or not required at all.

Table 13. Special pay incentives provided by agency type

Special Pay Incentives	Municipal		Sheriff		Other Agencies	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Education Incentive	12	54.5	4	80.0	8	50.0
Bilingual Ability	7	31.8	2	40.0	2	12.5
Hazardous Duty	1	4.5	1	20.0	2	12.5
Tuition Reimbursement	10	45.5	3	60.0	8	50.0
Field Training Officer (FTO)	9	40.9	4	80.0	5	31.3
Shift Differential	5	22.7	0	0.00	6	37.5
Military Service	6	27.3	2	40.0	2	12.5
Other	8	36.4	1	20.0	4	25.0
Total	22	41.5	5	27.8	16	51.6

Note: Agencies were allowed to select more than one option. Percentages are based on the number of agencies that responded to this question.

Table 13 above shows the special pay and/or incentives agencies report providing their officers/personnel. The most common iteration of special pay incentives among responding agencies (regardless of agency type) is education incentives (e.g., higher pay for higher education attainment). Tuition reimbursements, being a field training officer, and bilingual abilities were also common forms of special pay incentives across agency types. Municipal agencies reporting higher percentages of pay incentives for previous military service relative to sheriff’s departments and other agencies. Other agencies reported higher percentages than the other two agency types for shift differential for special pay. Of the 13 agencies that listed “other” for special pay incentives, some responses included special assignment for temporary duties, special assignment for on-call offender GPS monitoring/response, holiday bonuses, and the take-home vehicle program.

Table 14. Criteria for higher entry-level starting salaries

Special Pay Incentive	Municipal		Sheriff		Other Agencies	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Higher education	26	49.1	6	35.3	16	53.3
Law enforcement experience	44	83.0	12	66.7	24	77.4
Military experience	23	44.2	4	23.5	13	46.4
Total	53	100.0	18	100.0	31	100.0

Note: Agencies were allowed to select more than one option. Percentages are based on the number of agencies that responded to this question.

Agencies were surveyed to determine whether they consider certain criteria for increasing the starting pay of entry-level officers (Table 14). The most common criterion for an increased entry-level salary is previous law enforcement experience. Higher education attainment is considered a starting salary criterion in about 50% of municipal agencies, 35% of sheriff’s departments, and 53% in other agencies. Previous military experience is considered in 44% of responding municipal agencies, 24% of responding sheriff’s departments, and 46% of responding other agencies.

Agencies were also asked whether their agency has a reserve officers/deputy program and whether they have a youth cadet program (results not visualized in a table). About 40% of municipal agencies (21 of 53), 67% of

sheriff's departments (12 of 18), and no other agencies have a reserve officer/deputy program. About 9% of municipal agencies (5 of 53), 28% of sheriff's departments (5 of 18), and no other agencies have a youth cadet program.

SECTION IV. OPERATING BUDGETS AND SALARIES

Table 15. Minimum, maximum, and average budgets by agency type

Municipal Agencies				
	N Agencies	Min	Max	Average
Agency's total operating budget for the most recent fiscal year	34	\$1,800	\$12,500,000	\$1,764,930
Agency's total training budget for the most recent fiscal year	34	\$500	\$6,000,000	\$222,947
Amount paid for overtime in the most recent fiscal year	29	\$3000	\$800,000	\$102,131
Sheriff's Departments				
	N Agencies	Min	Max	Average
Agency's total operating budget for the most recent fiscal year	12	\$3,000,000	\$27,000,000	\$10,600,000
Agency's total training budget for the most recent fiscal year	12	\$2,000	\$77,540	\$32,217
Amount paid for overtime in the most recent fiscal year	11	\$30,000	\$1,191,000	\$275,203
Other Agencies				
	N Agencies	Min	Max	Average
Agency's total operating budget for the most recent fiscal year	17	\$23,000	\$49,100,000	\$5,164,814
Agency's total training budget for the most recent fiscal year	17	\$2,000	\$150,000	\$21,473
Amount paid for overtime in the most recent fiscal year	12	\$2,000	\$300,000	\$75,316

Table 15 above presents the minimum, maximum, and average operating and training budgets and overtime payment amounts. On average, sheriff's departments reported the highest average operating budget (\$10,600,000), municipal agencies reported the highest average training budget (\$222,947), and sheriff's departments reported the highest average overtime budget based on the past fiscal year (\$275,203) for the 2023 fiscal year. Municipal agencies reported the lowest average operating budget, and other agencies reported the lowest average training and overtime budgets.³

³ Salary by rank is not reported due to lack of reporting by agency type.

SECTION V. EQUIPMENT

Table 16. Agency supplies or gives cash allowance by equipment type by agency type

Agency Type & Equipment	Supplies	Cash Allowance	Both	Neither
Municipal (N=53)				
Primary Sidearm	44	0	0	3
Backup Sidearm	7	1	0	34
Body Armor	44	0	0	3
Uniform	43	2	0	2
Body Camera	44	0	0	3
ECD	40	0	0	4
Sheriff (N=18)				
Primary Sidearm	15	0	0	1
Backup Sidearm	5	0	0	10
Body Armor	14	0	0	1
Uniform	15	0	0	1
Body Camera	15	0	0	1
ECD	15	0	0	1
Other Agencies (N=31)				
Primary Sidearm	24	0	0	3
Backup Sidearm	5	0	0	17
Body Armor	25	0	0	2
Uniform	24	0	0	3
Body Camera	24	0	0	2
ECD	16	0	0	7

Note: Agencies were allowed to select more than one option.

Table 16 above shows the distribution of equipment that agencies either supply or provide cash allowances to officers. Nearly all municipal agencies supply officers with body armor (83%), uniforms (81%), body cameras (83%), primary sidearms (83%), and electronic control devices (ECDs) (75%), while only 7 (13%) provide backup sidearms for their officers. Sheriff's departments appear to supply most of the equipment to their officers, except for backup side arms. Other agencies provide primary sidearms (77%), body armor (81%), uniforms (77%), and body cameras (77%), while half of other agencies provide ECDs (52%) and only five agencies provide backup sidearms to their officers (16%).

Table 17. Sidearm calibers authorized by all SC agencies

Caliber	Primary Sidearm	Secondary Sidearm	Off-Duty Sidearm
10mm	3	8	20
9mm	57	35	42
.45 caliber	8	15	34
.40 caliber	30	18	39
.357 caliber	0	15	31
.380 caliber	1	17	30
Revolver (any caliber)	0	19	29
Other caliber	3	7	16
Total	47	16	28

Note: Respondents were allowed to select multiple options. Percentages are based on the number of agencies that responded to this question.

Table 17 above provides the frequency of the types of primary sidearms authorized by responding agencies. The most common firearm caliber South Carolina agencies authorized as their primary sidearm is 9mm (62.6% of agencies), 40 caliber (33.0%), and .45 caliber (8.8%). The most common firearm caliber authorized as secondary sidearms by South Carolina agencies are 9mm (38.5% of agencies), revolver (any caliber; 20.9% of agencies), and .40 caliber (19.8% of agencies). The most common firearm caliber authorized as off-duty sidearms by South Carolina agencies are 9mm (46.2% of agencies), .40 caliber (42.9% of agencies), and .45 caliber (37.4% of agencies).

Table 18. Firearm re-certification frequency by agency type

Re-certification Frequency	Municipal		Sheriff		Other Agencies	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Annually	31	64.58	11	68.75	13	44.93
Semi-annually	15	31.25	4	25.0	11	37.93
Quarterly	2	4.16	1	6.25	2	6.9
Other	0	0.00	0	0.0	3	10.35
Total	48	100.00%	16	100.00%	29	100.00%

Note: Percentages are based on the number of agencies that responded to this question.

Table 18 above displays the frequency with which agencies require officers to recertify firearm qualifications, by agency type. The majority of responding municipal agencies (65%) require annual re-certification, followed by semi-annual re-certification (31%). The majority of responding sheriff's departments require annual re-certification (69%), followed by semi-annual re-certification (25%). About 45% of responding other agencies require annual re-certification, and 38% of other agencies require semi-annual re-certification.

Table 19. Authorized less-lethal weapons/actions

Weapon Type/Action	Municipal (N=53)		Sheriff (N=18)		Other Agencies (N=31)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Impact Devices/Munitions						
Collapsible Baton	33	62.3	9	50.0	16	51.6
Blackjack/Slapjack	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Soft projectiles (e.g., bean bag)	10	18.9	12	66.6	0	0.0
Rubber Bullet	1	1.9	3	16.7	0	0.0
Chemical Agents						
Personal Issue OC Spray	38	71.7	11	61.1	17	54.8
Personal Issue CN/CS Gas	2	3.8	2	11.1	0	0.0
Other Devices						
Taser	44	83.0	16	88.9	15	48.4
High Intensity Light Source	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Flashbang Grenade	4	7.5	9	50.0	0	0.0
Neck Restraint (i.e., LVNR)	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other Devices/Agents	2	3.8	1	5.6	1	3.2

Note: Agencies were allowed to select more than one option.

Table 19 displays the types of less-lethal weapons authorized by responding agencies, categorized by agency type. Tasers are the most commonly authorized less-lethal weapon among municipal agencies (83%) and sheriff's departments (88.9%). Among other agencies, OC spray (54.8%) and collapsible batons (51.6%) are the most frequently authorized less-lethal weapons. OC spray (71.7%) and collapsible batons (62.3%) are also widely authorized by municipal agencies. Soft projectiles (e.g., bean bags) are permitted by 18.9% of municipal agencies, 66.6% of sheriff's departments, and 0% of other agencies. Other devices/agents' respondents mentioned were bola wraps and hobble restraints.

Respondents were also asked about the frequency with which officers are required to wear body armor (not visualized in a table). A majority of the responding municipal agencies (88.7%), sheriff's departments (83.3%), and other agencies (80.6%) reported that body armor is mandatory either all of the time or in certain circumstances for field or patrol officers. Respondents were asked whether their agency permits officers to take marked vehicles home (not visualized in a table). Approximately 89% of municipal agencies, 83% of sheriff's departments, and 48% of other agencies indicated that they allow officers to take vehicles home.

Table 20. Number of agencies using certain types of data technology in the field

Type of Digital Technology	Municipal		Sheriff		Other	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Mobile/Digital Data Terminal (MDT)	35	74.5	12	80.0	8	32.0
Tablet/Other Handheld Devices	10	21.3	2	13.3	11	44.0
Cell Phone	36	76.6	13	86.7	21	84.0
GPS Device (Handheld or Car)	16	34.0	7	46.7	10	40.0
Body Worn Cameras	45	95.7	14	93.3	22	88.0
Other	2	4.3	1	6.7	1	4.0

Note: Agencies were allowed to select more than one option. Percentages are based on the number of agencies that responded to this question.

Table 20 above shows the number and percentage of agencies using certain types of data and communication technology in the field. The majority of municipal agencies (96% and 77%), sheriff's departments (93% and 87%), and other agencies (85% and 81%) provide body-worn cameras and cell phones in the field, respectively. Mobile/digital data terminals GPS devices (handheld or car), and tablets were other commonly used technologies among responding agencies.

Table 21. Percentage of all agencies using computers for various functions

Functions	Percent (%)
Analysis of Community Problems	37.8
Automated Booking	20.0
Crime Investigations	64.4
Dispatch	43.3
Fleet Management	35.6
In-Field Communications	34.4
In-Field Report Writing	82.2
Inter-Agency Information Sharing	51.1
Internet Access	81.1
Personnel Records	41.1
Records Management	71.1
Resource Allocation	25.6
Crime Analysis	33.3
Traffic Stop Data Collection	66.7
Other	3.3

Note: Agencies were allowed to select more than one option. Percentages are based on the number of agencies that responded to this question.

Table 21 above presents the percentage of all three types of agencies that reported utilizing computers for different functions. About 82%, 81%, 71%, 67%, and 64% of responding agencies use computers for in-field report writing, internet access, records management, traffic stop data collection, and crime investigations,

Commented [CK1]: Are percents out of total number of agencies or number of agencies who answered the question? (Same as concern in table 13)

respectively. Other functions in which computers are commonly used include inter-agency information sharing (~51%), dispatch (~43%), and community problem analysis (~38%).

SECTION VI. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Table 22. Agencies that have K9 units and adopted philosophies

K-9 Units	Municipal		Sheriff		Other Agencies	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Has K9 Patrol Unit	8	17.0	13	81.3	2	6.9
	Philosophy Adopted					
Bark & Hold	4	7.5	3	16.7	0	0.0
Find & Bite	1	1.9	1	5.6	1	3.2
Both	2	3.8	9	50.0	0	0.0
Other	1	1.9	0	0.0	1	3.2

Table 22 above presents findings regarding canine (K9) units and associated strategies used regarding K9s. Agencies were asked if they have a K9 unit for apprehending suspects, to which 23 agencies responded yes. Next, respondents were asked which philosophy their agency uses to train canines for apprehension. Municipal agencies and sheriff's departments tended to adopt both a find & bite and bark & hold philosophy, while other agencies tended to adopt a find & bite philosophy. Of agencies that selected "other" uses for canines, reasons included for narcotics detection and explosives detection.

Table 23. Number of agencies with written policies on various topics

Written Policy	N Municipal	N Sheriff	N Other
Use of Deadly Force	47	16	26
Use of TASERS	45	16	17
Use of Pepper Spray	43	12	20
Off Duty Employment of Officers	40	15	19
Maximum Work Hours Allowed for Officers	24	7	13
Interacting with the Homeless	18	0	5
Interacting with Domestic Violence	39	13	10
Interacting with the Mentally Ill	42	13	13
Interacting with Juveniles	43	11	14
Mass Shootings	28	10	11
Motor Vehicle Pursuits	46	14	24
Foot Pursuits	32	9	14
Strip Searches	35	12	15
Racial Profiling	39	10	15
Citizen Complaints	43	14	19
Off Duty Conduct of Officers	43	14	21
Interacting with the Media	37	13	18
Employee Counseling Assistance	33	15	20

Note: Agencies were allowed to select more than one option.

Table 23 above shows the number of agencies that have formal written policies on various topics and policing behaviors. Deadly force, use of tasers, use of pepper spray, off-duty conduct of officers, motor vehicle pursuits, off-duty employment for officers, citizen complaints, and interacting with the media were behaviors that the majority (50%+) of responding agencies had formal written policies about. Dealing with homeless populations, mass shootings, and the maximum number of work hours officers are allowed to work tended to be the behaviors/phenomena in which many responding agencies do not have formal written policies.

Open-Ended Responses

At the end of every general census, respondents are asked about what issues/topics they would like to cover in future census efforts. Some of these areas can be covered either by special topics of the census or by independent studies. Below, we will bullet point some of the key themes from the open-ended responses that emerged.

- Recruitment and hiring methods for public safety agencies
- Officer recruitment and retention
- Recruitment bonuses and incentive programs
- Officers' reluctance to use force appropriately
- Grant writing participation (sworn staff, civilian specialists, or outside companies)
- Constitutional carry concerns
- Funding shortages and pay structures
- TECC training and medical programs
- Facial hair and tattoo policies
- State accreditation requirements
- Need for separate or tailored census for 9-1-1 centers
- Job functions of coroners and deputy coroners across the state
- Structural changes of whether to execute DT and PT at the Academy.

APPENDIX

APPENDIX A: Methodology

The South Carolina Law Enforcement Census is intended to survey primarily general-purpose law enforcement agencies (municipal, county, sheriffs' departments, and state) and some special jurisdiction police (e.g., campus police departments, state agencies) in South Carolina. To accomplish this goal, researchers from the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice partnered with the SCCJA to compile an up-to-date list of South Carolina law enforcement agencies and their accompanying contact information. After compiling the distribution list, the survey was developed and pilot tested by the USC team. After the final draft of the survey was validated by the USC team, the draft was sent to the SCCJA for feedback and approval for distribution. The survey was developed on Qualtrics, an online survey platform. The initial survey invitation was distributed on June 24, 2024, to 452 contacts. Five weekly reminder emails were distributed to those contacts who did not take the survey. Data collection concluded August 13, 2024.

APPENDIX B: Survey Instrument

****Note: The below survey was administered via Qualtrics and therefore the format does not mirror the appearance responding agencies viewed; however, the questions/choices are identical****

2024 SC Census

Introduction

Welcome to the 2024 South Carolina Law Enforcement Census. This year's survey is a collaborative effort between the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy and the University of South Carolina Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice. This survey focuses on general agency characteristics. Its purpose is to inform our law enforcement community about personnel, salaries, equipment, policies, and practices of peer agencies across the state. We ask that you provide as much complete and accurate information as possible. All information provided will be kept confidential. No individual or department will be linked to the responses provided. This year's Census is much shorter and streamlined than in years past and should take about 10 to 20 minutes. If answers are not readily available, provide your best estimates. If you have any questions regarding the survey, please call or e-mail Dr. Hunter Boehme (USC) at (803) 777-5808, boehme@mailbox.sc.edu or Major Lauren Fennell (SCCJA) at (803) 896-7746, LWFennell@sccja.sc.gov.

1. What is the name of the agency you work for?

2. What is the email address of the person filling out the survey?

3. Which category below best describes your agency type?

- Municipal or County Police Department
- Sheriff's Department/Office
- Department of Public Safety
- Other (Specify): _____

4. Enter the total number of current authorized sworn personnel employed by your agency.

	Sex		
	Total Sworn	Male	Female
Number of Sworn Personnel			

5. Enter the total number of authorized sworn personnel that your agency has the capacity to hire.

6. Enter the total number of current non-sworn personnel employed by your agency.

7. Enter the total number of non-sworn personnel that your agency has the capacity to hire.

8. Does your agency employ volunteer positions?

- Yes
- No

9. Does your agency employ internship positions?

- Yes
- No

10. What is the total population under which your agency's jurisdiction serves? If not sure, provide your best estimate.

11. What functions does your agency have primary responsibility for and/or perform on a regular basis? (Select all that apply).

- Responding to calls for service
- Patrol services
- First response to criminal incidents
- Drug law enforcement
- Vice law enforcement
- Traffic law enforcement
- Traffic direction/control
- Accident investigation
- Accident investigation
- Parking enforcement
- Commercial vehicle enforcement
- Death investigations (homicide, suicide, unknown death)
- Other violent crime (robbery, rape, assault)
- Arson
- Other property crimes
- Cybercrime
- Drug/Narcotic investigations
- Bomb/explosive disposal
- Search and rescue
- Special weapons and tactics (SWAT)
- Underwater recovery
- Jail operations (lockup or temporary holding)
- Facility separate from jail (for overnight detention)
- Temporary holding cell (for more than overnight detention)
- Inmate transport
- Execution of arrest warrants
- Court security
- Serving eviction notices
- Enforcing protection order
- Enforcing child support orders
- Full time SWAT/Critical Response Team
- Part time SWAT/Critical Response Team

12. What is the typical length of your patrol shifts (excluding overtime and unusual circumstances)? (Select all that apply).

- 8-hour shifts
 - 10-hour shifts
 - 12-hour shifts
 - Other (specify) _____
-

13. How often do your agency's patrol shifts rotate? (Select all that apply).

- Weekly
- Monthly
- Quarterly
- Shifts are permanent and do not rotate
- Other (specify) _____

14. Does your jurisdiction participate in a 911 system?

- Yes
 - No
-

15. In the past year, what was the total approximate number of calls for service your agency received? If not sure, provide your best estimate.

16. Does your agency provide school resource officers (SROs)?

- Yes
- No

16.1. If Yes, do SROs receive any specialized training for their duties as a SRO?

- Yes
 - No
-

17. Does your agency operate its own crime lab?

- Yes
- No

17.1. If Yes, indicate which analyses your lab conducts. (Select all that apply).

- DNA analysis
- Latent fingerprint analysis/comparison
- Ballistics analysis
- Drug analysis
- Computer forensics
- Other (Specify) _____

18. Does your agency have an in-house attorney (or legal counsel)?

- Yes
 - No
-

19. Are counseling services available for your personnel (e.g., psychological, critical incident, etc.)?

- Yes
- No

20. Indicate whether or not your agency is accredited by a national or state accrediting body:

- National
- State
- Both
- Neither

20.1. If you answered “neither” to national or state accreditation, what are the reason(s) for your agency not pursuing these efforts? (Select all that apply)

- Too expensive to pursue (e.g., fees and devoting personnel to the process)
- Does not add much value to our department
- Other (Specify) _____

21. What is the minimum education attainment required in your agency:

- No degree requirements
 - High school degree required
 - Two-year college degree (associates) required
 - Four-year college degree (bachelors) required
-

22. Indicate which of the following screening techniques your agency uses to select new officer recruits, other than those mandated by the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy. (Select all that apply)

- Analytical/problem solving assessment
 - Background investigation
 - Driving history check
 - Mediation/conflict management skills
 - Personality inventory
 - Polygraph examination
 - Voice stress analyzer
 - Written test
 - Assessment of understanding diverse cultural practices
 - Credit history check
 - Drug test
 - Personal interview
 - Physical agility test
 - Second language test
 - Volunteer/community service history check
 - Other (Specify) _____
-

23. Does your agency require any additional training of new officer recruits other than the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy basic certified training? (Exclude time with FTO).

- Yes
- No

23.1. If Yes, please select the additional type of training your agency requires (Select all that apply).

- Pre-academy classroom training
- Pre-academy online training
- Post-academy class training
- Post-academy online training

24. Indicate how often your agency conducts physical fitness tests for officers. (Select only one).

- N/A - No tests required
- Annually
- Semi-annually
- Other _____

Q25. Indicate the special pay/benefits your agency provides. (Select all that apply).

- Education incentive
- Bilingual ability
- Hazardous duty
- Tuition reimbursement
- F.T.O.
- Shift differential
- Military service
- Other (Specify) _____

26. Does higher education, previous law enforcement experience, or previous military experience affect entry-level officer starting salaries?

	Yes	No
Higher education	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Law enforcement experience	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Military experience	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

27. Does your agency have a reserve officer/deputy program?

- Yes
- No

28. Does your agency have a youth cadet program?

- Yes
- No

29. Enter your agency's total operating budget for the most recently completed fiscal year.

30. Enter your agency's total training budget for the most recently completed fiscal year.

31. How much did your agency pay for overtime during the most recently completed fiscal year?

32. Enter your agency's current average salary for the following full-time sworn positions (numerically):

	Average Salary
	Average

Chief, Sheriff, or Director	
Captain (or equivalent)	
Lieutenant (or equivalent)	
Sergeant (or equivalent)	
Patrol Officer	
Entry-level Officer (Starting Pay)	

33. Indicate whether your agency supplies and/or gives a cash allowance to its regular field/patrol officers for the following. (Select all that apply).

	Supplies	Cash Allowance	Both	Neither
Primary sidearm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Backup sidearm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Body armor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Uniform	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Body camera	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ECD (e.g., TASER)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

34. Indicate the types of sidearms that are authorized for use by your agency's field/patrol officers. (Select all that apply).

	Primary sidearm	Secondary sidearm	Off-duty sidearm
10 mm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9 mm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
.45	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
.40	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
.357	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
.380	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Revolver (any caliber)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other caliber	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

35. Indicate how often your agency conducts firearm recertifications. (Select only one).

- Annually
- Semi-annually
- Quarterly
- NA - Agency does not require firearm recertification
- Other _____

36. Indicate whether your agency's uniformed field/patrol officers are required to wear protective body armor while in the field.

- Required all the time
- Required only for special circumstances (e.g., serving search warrant)
- Not required

37. Which of the following less-lethal weapons/actions are authorized for use by your agency's officers? (Select all that apply).

- Collapsible baton
- Blackjack/slapjack
- Soft projective (e.g., bean bag)
- Rubber bullet
- Personal-issue OC (e.g., pepper spray)
- Personal-issue CN/CS gas
- Electronic control device (e.g., TASER)
- High intensity light source (e.g., laser dazzler)
- Flashbang grenade
- Neck restraint (e.g., LVNR)
- Other devices/agents _____

38. Does your agency allow patrol officers/deputies to take marked vehicles home?

- Yes
- No

39. Indicate whether your agency's field/patrol officers use any of the following types of computers or terminals while in the field. (Select all that apply).

- Mobile digital/data terminal (MDT)
- Tablet or other hand-held device
- Cell phone
- GPS device (hand-held or in car)
- Body Worn Cameras
- Other (Specify) _____

40. Indicate the functions for which your agency uses computers. (Select all that apply).

- Analysis of community problems
- Automated booking
- Crime investigators
- Dispatch
- Fleet management
- In-field communication
- In-field report writing
- Inter-agency information sharing
- Internet access
- Personnel records
- Records management
- Resource allocation
- Crime analysis
- Traffic stop data collection
- Other (Specify) _____

41. Does your agency have a canine (K-9) patrol unit for apprehending suspects?

- Yes
- No

41.1. If yes, which apprehension philosophy does your agency use to train its K9s?

- Bark and hold (e.g., detain)
 - Find and bite (e.g., handler)
 - Both
 - Other (Please specify): _____
-

42. Does your agency have written policy directives on the following? (Select all that apply).

- Use of deadly force/firearm discharge
- Use of TASERS
- Use of pepper spray
- Off-duty employment of officers
- Maximum work hours allowed for officers
- Dealing with homeless populations
- Dealing with domestic violence
- Dealing with the mentally ill
- Dealing with juveniles
- Mass shootings
- Motor vehicle pursuits
- Foot pursuits
- Strip searches
- Racial profiling
- Citizen complaints
- Off-duty conduct
- Interacting with the media
- Employee counseling assistance

43. Our goal every year is to cover issues and topics of concern to law enforcement agencies in South Carolina. Our previous census efforts have largely been shaped by comments from law enforcement leaders across the state and we would like to continue this practice. If there are issues or topics you think should be covered in future census efforts, please describe them below.
