

The Northwest CHSR employed the fewest law enforcement employees, 1,765 or 5.7 percent of the total, followed closely by the Central CHSR with 2,048 or 6.6 percent of the total. The Northwest CHSR reported the lowest number of personnel and police officers per 1,000 population, 1.86 and 1.57 respectively.

The Southeast CHSR reported the largest number of employees, 12,372 or 39.8 percent of the total, and the highest number of personnel and police officers per 1,000 population, 3.19 and 2.81 respectively. However, excluding Philadelphia County, which employs 63 percent of the law enforcement personnel in the Southeast CHSR, there were 1.88 total employees and 1.63 officers per 1,000 for the remaining population.

The Southwest CHSR, the second largest law enforcement employer, had 1.66 total employees and 1.43 officers per 1,000 population, excluding Allegheny County. Allegheny County, which includes the city of Pittsburgh, accounts for 61 percent of the law enforcement employees in the Southwest CHSR.

The Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) accounted for only 6.1 percent of the police officers in the Southeast CHSR and 19.1 percent of the officers in the Southwest CHSR, compared to 31.7 to 42.5 percent of the police officers in the four remaining rural CHSRs. In these CHSRs, full-time police officers would average one officer or less per 1,000 population without PSP protection.

Distribution of Law Enforcement Employees by Sex

Based on CHSR data, 81.5 percent of the reported 31,085 full-time employees were males, and 18.5 percent were females. Only 10.5 percent of police officers were women. However, during the past five years, female full-time officers have decreased by 2.9 percent, while their male counterparts have increased by 1.8 percent. Women have filled at least half of civilian positions for the past 30 years. This year, 63.1 percent of civilians were women.

Local police departments in Philadelphia and Allegheny Counties employed the largest numbers of female officers, 1,656 and 257 respectively. The Southeast CHSR and the Southwest CHSR reported the highest percentage of female officers in local police departments, 17.3 and 7.4 percent, respectively, while the Northeast CHSR had the lowest, 3.7 percent.