

The Northwest CHSR employed the fewest law enforcement employees, 2,400 or 6.8 percent of the total, followed closely by the Central CHSR with 2,696 or 7.7 percent of the total. The Northeast CHSR reported the lowest number of personnel and police officers per 1,000 population, 2.28 and 2.01 respectively.

The Southeast CHSR reported the largest number of law enforcement employees, 12,587 or 35.8 percent of the total, and the highest number of personnel and police officers per 1,000 population, 3.09 and 2.72 respectively. However, excluding Philadelphia County, which employs 60 percent of the law enforcement personnel in the Southeast CHSR, there were 2.00 total employees and 1.75 officers per 1,000 population for the remainder of the Southeast CHSR.

The Southwest CHSR, the second largest law enforcement employer, had 2.15 total employees and 1.88 officers per 1,000 population, excluding Allegheny County. Allegheny County, which includes the city of Pittsburgh, accounts for 56 percent of the law enforcement employees in the Southwest CHSR.

The Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) accounted for only 8.9 percent of the police officers in the Southeast CHSR and 25.4 percent of the officers in the Southwest CHSR, compared to 36.2 to 53.6 percent of the police officers in the 4 remaining rural CHSRs. In these rural CHSRs, full-time police officers would average 1 officer or less per 1,000 population without PSP protection.

Distribution of Law Enforcement Employees by Sex

Based on CHSR data, 82.2 percent of the reported 35,152 full-time employees were males, and 17.8 percent were females. Only 9.6 percent of police officers were women. During the past 5 years, female full-time officers have increased by .3 percent, while their male counterparts have increased by 3.4 percent. Women have filled at least half of the civilian positions for the past 37 years. In 2014, 61.9 percent of civilians were women.

Local police departments in Philadelphia and Allegheny Counties employed the largest numbers of female officers, 1,426 and 255 respectively. The Southeast CHSR and the Central CHSR reported the highest percentage of female officers in local police departments, 15.1 and 7.4 percent respectively, while the Northwest CHSR had the lowest, at 4.5 percent.