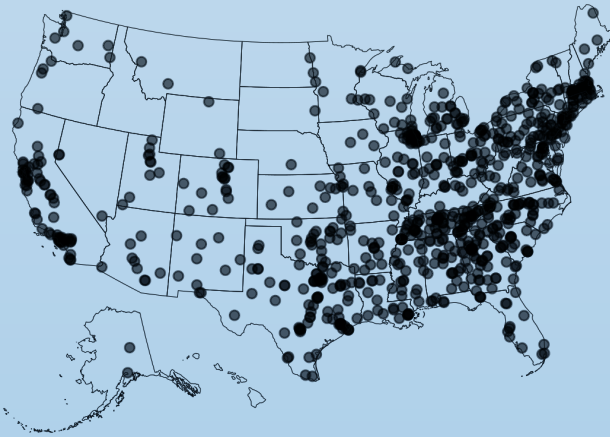## Key Facts

• Campus police departments (CPDs) are a unique type of law enforcement agency chartered by a state legislature and directed by an institution of higher education. Unlike campus security offices, CPDs employ sworn law enforcement officers with full powers of arrest and investigation. CPDs serve public and private colleges and often have jurisdiction beyond the borders of the campus they serve.

Campus Police Departments across the United States

Each dot represents a single campus police department reporting between 1980 and 2016. Darker areas represent overlapping departments.
SOURCES: FBI Uniform Crime Report.
U.S. Department of Education Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System.
897 campus police departments.

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• 877 campus police departments reported a total of 24,600+ employees to the FBI. The median department reported 17 employees. The number of CPDs, and the number of officers they employ, has been growing steadily since 1980.

• Of the 10 largest campus police departments by officers per student, 4 were private not-for-profit colleges. Overall, private not-for-profit colleges were less likely to report data, but 148 CPDs operating at private not-for-profit colleges reported data to the FBI.
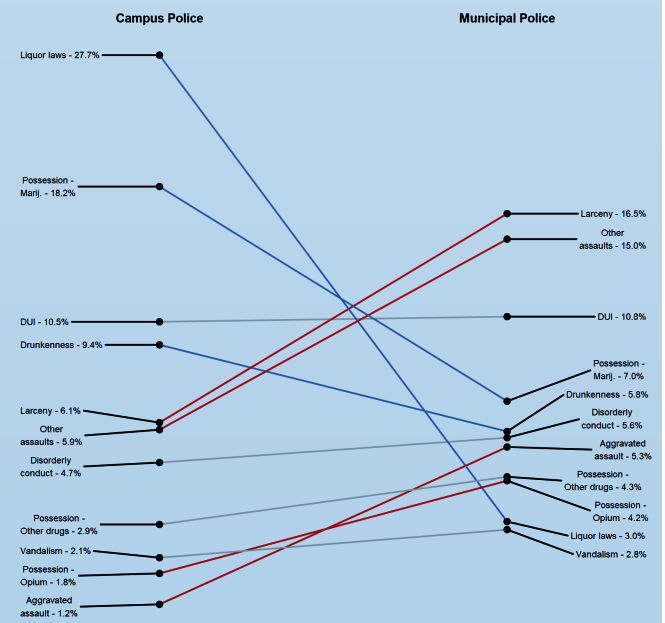
• Campus police departments made over 65,000 total arrests in the most recent year of data.

• Since reporting began, CPD arrests of black adults have annually increased. Recent reductions in total arrests are due to a sharp decrease in arrests of white adults.

• Arrest rates have held steady or slightly reduced for most offense categories since 1980. The exceptions are for marijuana possession and liquor laws: marijuana possession arrests are up and liquor law arrests are down.

• More than half of campus police arrests are for just three offense categories: liquor laws, marijuana possession, and driving under the influence (DUI). Arrests by city police are more diversified – it takes five categories to account for over half of municipal police's arrests.

Arrest Share by Offense for Campus and City Police

Campus Police

Liquor laws - 27.7%
Possession - Marij. - 18.2%
DUI - 10.5%
Drunkenness - 9.4%
Larceny - 6.1%
Other assaults - 5.9%
Disorderly conduct - 4.7%
Possession - Other drugs - 2.9%
Vandalism - 2.1%
Possession - Opium - 1.8%
Aggravated assault - 1.2%

Municipal Police

Larceny - 16.5%
Other assaults - 15.0%
DUI - 10.8%
Possession - Marij. - 7.0%
Drunkenness - 5.8%
Disorderly conduct - 5.6%
Aggravated assault - 5.3%
Possession - Other drugs - 4.3%
Possession - Opium - 4.2%
Liquor laws - 3.0%
Vandalism - 2.8%

CPD arrests are shown in the left panel for 417 campus police departments in 2016.
MPD arrests are shown in the right panel for 8,352 municipal police departments in 2016.
Large positive differences are in blue, large negative differences are in red. Minor differences in gray.
All offense categories that make up >1% of total arrests are shown except for the "all other offenses category."
SOURCE: FBI Uniform Crime Report. YEAR: 2016.

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About the Report

The report by Civilytics Consulting covers the history of campus police departments and provides updated information on where campus police departments are found, how big they are, what kind of arrests they make, and how they compare to municipal police departments. The full report features 20 figures and 8 tables and includes an online appendix with further detailed figures and tables. Visit www.civilytics.com to get the full report.

Further Resources

Does your community have a campus police department? How does your local CPD compare to national trends? Find the answers and what you can do with those answers today with the Campus Policing Toolkit!

The toolkit includes a dataset with the most current data on 837 campus police departments, a how-to guide for both interpreting the data and generating a community discussion, and detailed information about the data sources used. The Campus Policing Toolkit is free to the public and available today at www.civilytics.com/project/cpd-toolkit.

About Civilytics

Civilytics Consulting is a data science consulting firm founded in 2016. Civilytics serves clients at all levels of government in several sectors including K-12 education, higher education, policing, and taxation. Civilytics' work has previously appeared on the national radio program and podcast Reveal by the Center for Investigative Journalism.

The work to reinvigorate our democracy must begin at the local level where the public has the greatest control and barriers to collective action are the lowest. Civilytics is focused on building the tools communities need to understand and deliberate about the performance of their local governments.

Our mission: Building inclusive public analytics for government accountability

Together with you, Civilytics wants to change the way local governments are held accountable starting with policing.

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