

For Immediate Release:

September 26, 2024

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Newly Released 2023 CA DOJ Police Staffing Numbers Confirm California's Ongoing Shortage of Sworn Officers

Updated DOJ data shows persistence in dangerously low law enforcement staffing in rural counties

Sacramento, CA — Last month, the Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC) published a research brief on the current state of law enforcement staffing shortages in California. The brief highlighted first-of-its-kind research showcasing the inconsistent levels of law enforcement staffing across California, utilizing California Department of Justice (DOJ) data.

Since the research brief was published, the DOJ released [updated data](#) about the number of sworn law enforcement officers in each county. As such, PORAC has updated its [research brief](#) accordingly. Updates include:

- The average number of sworn law enforcement officials in non-rural areas decreased from 295 sworn officers per 100 square miles to 290 sworn officers.
- The average number of sworn law enforcement officers in rural areas has remained at just 6 sworn officers per 100 square miles – a staggering 2% of what staffing is in non-rural areas.
- San Benito and Mariposa counties went from having 0-4 officers per 100 square miles to 5-9 officers per 100 square miles.
- Madera and Lake counties went from having 5-9 officers per 100 square miles to 10-49 officers per 100 square miles.

While PORAC is pleased that a handful of rural counties have slightly increased their staffing levels, the average number of law enforcement officials in non-rural counties decreased and many counties still have woefully low staffing levels. This ongoing crisis continues to put the safety of all California communities at risk. PORAC continues to work with elected officials on both sides of the aisle to find practical, comprehensive solutions to the current overwhelming law enforcement staffing challenges plaguing departments across the state.

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About the Peace Officers Research Association of California:

The Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC) was incorporated in 1953 as a professional federation of local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. PORAC represents over 80,000 public safety members and over 955 associations, making it the largest law enforcement organization in California and the largest statewide association in the nation.