

Uniformed **Police Officers** who work in municipal police departments of various sizes, small communities, and rural areas have general law enforcement duties including maintaining regular patrols and responding to calls for service. They may direct traffic at the scene of a fire, investigate a burglary, or give first aid to an accident victim. In large police departments, officers usually are assigned to a specific type of duty. Many urban police agencies are becoming more involved in community policing—a practice in which an officer builds relationships with the citizens of local neighborhoods and mobilizes the public to help fight crime. Some police officers specialize in such diverse fields as chemical and microscopic analysis, training and firearms instruction, or handwriting and fingerprint identification. Others work with special units such as horseback, bicycle, motorcycle or harbor patrol, canine corps, or special weapons and tactics (SWAT) or emergency response teams.

Sheriffs and **Deputy Sheriffs** enforce the law on the county level. Sheriffs are usually elected to their posts and perform duties similar to those of a local or county **Police Chief**. **State Police Officers** (sometimes called **State Troopers** or **Highway Patrol Officers**) arrest criminals statewide and patrol highways to enforce motor vehicle laws and regulations. **Detectives** are plainclothes investigators who gather facts and collect evidence for criminal cases. Some are assigned to interagency task forces to combat specific types of crime.

Correctional Officers are responsible for overseeing individuals who have been arrested and are awaiting trial or who have been convicted of a crime and sentenced to serve time in a jail, reformatory, or penitentiary. They maintain security and inmate accountability in order to prevent disturbances, assaults, or escapes. Officers have no law enforcement responsibilities outside the institution where they work. Most correctional officers are employed in large regional jails or State and Federal prisons, watching over the approximately one million offenders who are incarcerated in Federal and State prisons at any given time.

Salary Information:

- Criminal Justice, Associate in Applied Science
\$44,000 Median Salary (Follow-up Study, Monroe Community College Graduates, 2008)
- **Police Officer wages for the Rochester, New York area:**
\$52,400 Median Salary (Career One Stop, 2008)
Correctional Officer:
\$41,340 Median Salary (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2008)

[*Salary varies based on education/advanced degree, work-experience & setting/location]

Additional Information:

- NY State: www.troopers.state.ny.us
- Rochester Police Department: www.rochesternypolice.com
- Monroe County Sheriff: www.monroecountysheriff.info

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