US FIRE DEPARTMENT PROFILE 2013

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November 2014

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Abstract
NFPA estimates there were approximately 1,140,750 local firefighters in the U.S. in 2013. Of the total number of firefighters 354,600 (31%) were career firefighters and 786,150 (69%) were volunteer firefighters. Most of the career firefighters (71%) worked in communities that protected 25,000 or more people. Most of the volunteer firefighters (95%) were in departments that protected fewer than 25,000 people. There are an estimated 30,052 fire departments in the U.S. Of these, 2,477 departments were all career, 1,971 were mostly career, 5,797 were mostly volunteer and 19,807 were all volunteer. In the U.S., 13,400 (44.6%) of departments provided EMS service, 5,050 departments (16.8%) provided EMS service and advance life support, and 11,600 (38.6%) of departments provide no EMS support.

Keywords: fire departments, firefighters, career, volunteer, EMS, fire stations, pumpers, aerial apparatus.

Acknowledgements
The authors would like to thank the fire departments who participated in this annual NFPA fire experience survey, and/or to the NFPA Fire Service Survey.

The authors would also like to thank the members of the NFPA staff who worked on the 2013 U.S. Fire Experience Survey, Frank Deely, John Conlon and Myles O’Malley for editing the survey form and making follow-up calls to fire departments, and Norma Candeloro for typing this report.

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The U.S. Fire Department Profile through 2013 Fact Sheet

There are \textbf{1,140,750} local firefighters in the United States
- \textbf{31\%} (354,600) are career firefighters.
- \textbf{69\%} (786,150) are volunteer firefighters.
- Firefighters in smaller (less than 25,000 people) communities are more likely to be volunteers.
- Departments protecting larger communities tend to have a higher proportion of firefighters in the age groups 30-39 and 40-49 than smaller communities.

\textbf{Firefighters in the U.S. by Age Group, 2013}

![Age Group Distribution]

\textbf{30,052} fire departments protected the United States in 2013
- All career \textbf{2,477}
- Mostly career \textbf{1,971}
- Mostly volunteer \textbf{5,797}
- All volunteer \textbf{19,807}

\textbf{U.S. Fire Departments by Type and Population Protected}

![Type and Population Distribution]

\textbf{Fire Department Provision of Emergency Medical Service 2011-2013 Annual Averages}

Provided EMS and Advanced Life Support, 45%
Provided EMS Service, 17%
Did not Provide EMS Service, 38%
Did not Provide EMS Service, 19%

\textit{U.S. Fire Department Profile, 11/14}
Fire Department Profile Infographic for 2013.
Firefighters

There were approximately 1,140,750 firefighters in the U.S. in 2013, according to estimates based on NFPA’s 2013 National Fire Experience Survey (Table 1). This is an increase of 1% from 2012 (Table 2).

Career firefighters include full-time uniformed firefighters regardless of assignments, e.g., suppression, prevention/inspection, administrative. For the purpose of this survey, career firefighters include public fire departments that protect people, their residences, and public buildings; they do not include career firefighters working in private fire brigades, or for state and federal agencies.

Volunteer firefighters include any active part-time (call or volunteer) firefighters. Active volunteers are defined as being involved in firefighting. Of the total number of firefighters, 354,600 (31%) were career firefighters, while 786,150 (69%) were volunteers.¹

Most career firefighters (71%) are in communities that protect 25,000 or more people. Most volunteer firefighters (95%) are in departments that protect fewer than 25,000 people. More than half of the volunteer firefighters are with small, rural departments that protect fewer than 2,500 people (Table 1).

Since 1986, the number of career firefighters in the U.S. has increased steadily from 237,500 in 1986 to 354,600 in 2013, an increase of 49% (Table 2, Figure 1). However, the rates of career firefighters per 1,000 people protected for mostly or all career departments have remained in a range of 1.64 to 1.76 career firefighters per 1,000 people protected (Table 2, Figure 1) during this period. Even though the number of career firefighters has increased, the number of people protected by career firefighters has also gone up as the population in the U.S. has increased.

¹Note that these results are based on a sample survey, and as a result there is a 95% confidence interval associated with each estimate. Based on the data reported by the fire departments responding to the 2013 National Fire Experience Survey, the NFPA is confident that the actual number of career firefighters falls between 348,100 to 361,100; and the actual number of volunteer firefighters falls between 763,650 to 808,650.
Table 1:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Protected</th>
<th>Career</th>
<th>Volunteer</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,000,000 or more</td>
<td>45,050</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>45,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500,000 to 999,999</td>
<td>35,500</td>
<td>8,200</td>
<td>43,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250,000 to 499,999</td>
<td>26,450</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>27,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100,000 to 249,999</td>
<td>53,850</td>
<td>1,900</td>
<td>55,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50,000 to 99,999</td>
<td>42,250</td>
<td>7,800</td>
<td>50,050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25,000 to 49,999</td>
<td>49,700</td>
<td>19,800</td>
<td>69,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,000 to 24,999</td>
<td>56,900</td>
<td>75,600</td>
<td>132,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,000 to 9,999</td>
<td>22,650</td>
<td>101,050</td>
<td>123,700</td>
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<tr>
<td>2,500 to 4,999</td>
<td>11,300</td>
<td>171,950</td>
<td>183,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 2,500</td>
<td>10,950</td>
<td>397,950</td>
<td>408,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>354,600</td>
<td>786,150</td>
<td>1,140,750</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Note the number of volunteer firefighters for communities of 25,000 or more and the number of career firefighters for communities of less than 10,000 may change considerably from year to year because of their small size and sample variability.

Population protected is based on resident population and not the daytime and seasonal...
Table 2:  
Number of Firefighters in the U.S., 1986-2013.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Aggregate Number</th>
<th>Aggregate Rate per 1,000 Population</th>
<th>Career Number</th>
<th>Career Rate per 1,000 Population</th>
<th>Volunteer Number</th>
<th>Volunteer Rate per 1,000 Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>1,045,950</td>
<td>4.35</td>
<td>237,500</td>
<td>1.73</td>
<td>808,200</td>
<td>7.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>1,060,000</td>
<td>4.36</td>
<td>243,200</td>
<td>1.73</td>
<td>816,800</td>
<td>8.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>1,040,750</td>
<td>4.25</td>
<td>252,500</td>
<td>1.77</td>
<td>788,250</td>
<td>7.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>1,020,700</td>
<td>4.12</td>
<td>250,600</td>
<td>1.75</td>
<td>770,100</td>
<td>7.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>1,025,650</td>
<td>4.11</td>
<td>253,000</td>
<td>1.73</td>
<td>772,650</td>
<td>7.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>1,033,600</td>
<td>4.09</td>
<td>261,800</td>
<td>1.73</td>
<td>771,800</td>
<td>7.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>1,058,300</td>
<td>4.14</td>
<td>253,000</td>
<td>1.72</td>
<td>805,300</td>
<td>7.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>1,055,050</td>
<td>4.09</td>
<td>259,650</td>
<td>1.73</td>
<td>795,400</td>
<td>7.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>1,073,600</td>
<td>4.12</td>
<td>265,700</td>
<td>1.76</td>
<td>807,900</td>
<td>7.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>1,098,850</td>
<td>4.18</td>
<td>260,850</td>
<td>1.70</td>
<td>838,000</td>
<td>7.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>1,081,800</td>
<td>4.07</td>
<td>266,300</td>
<td>1.74</td>
<td>815,500</td>
<td>6.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>1,079,050</td>
<td>4.03</td>
<td>275,700</td>
<td>1.73</td>
<td>803,350</td>
<td>7.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>1,082,500</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>278,300</td>
<td>1.70</td>
<td>804,200</td>
<td>7.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>1,065,150</td>
<td>3.90</td>
<td>279,900</td>
<td>1.69</td>
<td>785,250</td>
<td>6.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>1,064,150</td>
<td>3.86</td>
<td>286,800</td>
<td>1.64</td>
<td>777,350</td>
<td>7.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>1,078,300</td>
<td>3.85</td>
<td>293,600</td>
<td>1.70</td>
<td>784,700</td>
<td>7.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>1,096,900</td>
<td>3.77</td>
<td>296,850</td>
<td>1.67</td>
<td>800,050</td>
<td>7.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>1,100,750</td>
<td>3.76</td>
<td>305,150</td>
<td>1.71</td>
<td>795,600</td>
<td>6.88</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>1,136,650</td>
<td>3.82</td>
<td>313,300</td>
<td>1.68</td>
<td>823,350</td>
<td>7.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>1,140,900</td>
<td>3.81</td>
<td>316,950</td>
<td>1.74</td>
<td>823,950</td>
<td>7.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>1,148,800</td>
<td>3.81</td>
<td>323,350</td>
<td>1.74</td>
<td>825,450</td>
<td>7.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>1,148,850</td>
<td>3.81</td>
<td>321,700</td>
<td>1.73</td>
<td>827,150</td>
<td>7.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>1,148,100</td>
<td>3.81</td>
<td>335,900</td>
<td>1.72</td>
<td>812,150</td>
<td>7.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>1,103,300</td>
<td>3.57</td>
<td>335,150</td>
<td>1.66</td>
<td>768,150</td>
<td>6.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>1,100,450</td>
<td>3.54</td>
<td>344,050</td>
<td>1.69</td>
<td>756,400</td>
<td>6.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>1,129,250</td>
<td>3.60</td>
<td>345,950</td>
<td>1.67</td>
<td>783,300</td>
<td>6.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>1,140,750</td>
<td>3.61</td>
<td>354,600</td>
<td>1.70</td>
<td>786,150</td>
<td>6.46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The rates listed above are based on data reported to the NFPA, and do not reflect recommended rates or some defined fire protection standard.

Note that the rates per 1,000 people protected for career firefighters are based on population protected for departments that are comprised of all or mostly career firefighters, while the rates per 1,000 people protected for volunteer firefighters are based on population protected for departments that are comprised of all or mostly volunteer firefighters.
Figure 1: Number of Career Firefighters and the Rate per 1,000 People. Source: NFPA Annual Survey of Fire Departments for U.S. Fire Experience (1986-2013).
The number of volunteer firefighters declined in the late 1980s and late 1990’s, each time returning to the same level soon after. From 2005-2009, the number of volunteer firefighters was stable at a level slightly higher than any previously recorded other than in 1995. (Table 2, Figure 2). However in 2011-2013, the number of volunteers fluctuated and was in the range of 756,400 to 786,150. When the rates of volunteer firefighters per 1,000 people protected for mostly or all volunteer departments are examined, the rates show a downward trend and range from a high of 8.05 in 1987 to a low of 6.37 in 2011 per 1,000 population protected.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics for the 2009-2013 periods, there were on average 27,900 (9.3%) Hispanic or Latino career firefighters; 21,400 (7.1%) African-American career firefighters; 2142 (0.7%) Asian career firefighters and 11,100 (3.7%) female career firefighters.²

A good way to develop a sense of the size of departments relative to the population they protect is to examine the rate of firefighters per 1,000 population. Tables 3 and 4 provide the range of rates for career firefighters in departments protecting at least 10,000 people and for volunteer firefighters in departments protecting a population less than 25,000 people. It is important to note that the rates are based on data reported to the NFPA and do not reflect recommended rates or some defined fire protection standard.

Fire departments protecting communities of 10,000 people or more had median rates of career firefighters per 1,000 people of 1.00 to 1.37 (Table 3). However, ranges for departments varied considerably within community size and particularly for communities of 100,000 to 249,999, 50,000 to 99,999, and 25,000 to 49,999. Note that the rates for a particular size of community varied considerably. Departments face great variation in their specific circumstances and policies, including length of work week, unusual hazards, geographical dispersion of the community, and scope of services provided (e.g., whether the department handles emergency medical calls).

² Figures are from the Annual Averages Tables Employment and Earnings (2009-2013) Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington, D.C. These numbers can change considerably from year to year because of their small size and sample variability.
Figure 2: Number of Volunteer Firefighters and Rates per 1,000 People. Source: NFPA Annual Survey of Fire Departments for U.S. Fire Experience (1986-2013).
Table 3:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Protected</th>
<th>Low</th>
<th>Median</th>
<th>High</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,000,000 or more</td>
<td>0.54</td>
<td>1.23</td>
<td>1.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500,000 to 999,999</td>
<td>1.27</td>
<td>1.27</td>
<td>3.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250,000 to 499,999</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>1.24</td>
<td>2.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100,000 to 249,999</td>
<td>0.09</td>
<td>1.37</td>
<td>2.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50,000 to 99,999</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>1.30</td>
<td>3.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25,000 to 49,999</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>1.24</td>
<td>6.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,000 to 24,999</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>11.15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The rates listed above are based on data reported to the NFPA, and do not reflect recommended rates or some defined fire protection standard.

The rates of a particular size of community may vary widely because departments face great variation in their specific circumstances and policies including length of work week, unusual structural conditions, types of service provided to the community, geographical dispersion of the community, and other factors.

Career rates are shown only for communities with populations of 25,000 or more, where departments are comprised of all career or mostly career firefighters. Also some of these departments have some volunteers, who are not reflected in these figures.

The low and high values are the lowest and highest values by size of community. The median value is chosen so that half the departments had higher values, and half had lower.
Fire departments protecting less than 25,000 people had median rates of volunteer firefighters per 1,000 persons in the range of 1.29 to 20.00 (Table 4). This wide range in median rates for smaller communities reflects the minimum number of firefighters needed to staff a department regardless of community size. Volunteer firefighters are often available on a part-time basis only; it may take more of the volunteers to ensure an adequate response to each alarm. The median rate for volunteer firefighters increases as population protected increases.

Length of work week and its effect on rate of career firefighters per 1,000 population by size of community is provided in Table 5. Tables 6 and 7 provide median rates for career and volunteer firefighters by region and size of community.

Of the 1,140,750 firefighters, the age group accounting for the largest share of firefighters was the 30-39 group, 26.9% of all firefighters (Table 8, Figure 3). Many firefighters fell in the 40-49 age group (24.8%) and the 20-29 age group (20.3%). Firefighters age 50-59 accounted for a smaller share (17.3%), but still more than one-sixth of all firefighters. Few firefighters fell outside this combined range of 20 to 59 years old. Only 3.4% of firefighters were age 16 to 19, and another 7.3% were age 60 and over.

Age group patterns did vary somewhat by population of community protected (Table 9). Departments that protect less than 25,000 people, and are comprised mostly of volunteers, tended to have higher proportions of firefighters in the under 30 age group, while departments that protect 25,000 people or more, and are comprised mostly of career firefighters, had higher proportions of firefighters in the 30-39 and 40-49 age groups. Departments protecting less than 2,500 people had the highest percentage of firefighters age 50 and older.

When age group patterns by year are examined for the 1998-2013 period, there were slight changes over time (Figure 4). The 30-39 and the 40-49 age groups showed slight decreases over the period, while the 50-59 and 60 and over groups showed moderate increases over the period.
#### Table 4:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Protected</th>
<th>Low</th>
<th>Median</th>
<th>High</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10,000 to 24,999</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>1.29</td>
<td>22.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,000 to 9,999</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>3.60</td>
<td>23.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,500 to 4,999</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>7.32</td>
<td>20.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 2,500</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>20.00</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The rates listed above are based on data reported to the NFPA, and do not reflect recommended rates or some defined fire protection standard.

The rates of a particular size of community may vary widely because departments face great variation in their specific circumstances and policies including unusual structural conditions, types of service provided to the community, geographic dispersion of the community, and other factors.

Volunteer rates are shown only for communities under 25,000, where departments are comprised of all volunteer or mostly volunteers. Also, some of these departments, particularly those with population protected of 5,000 or more, have some career firefighters, who are not reflected in these figures.

The low and high values are the lowest and the highest values by size of community. The median value is chosen so that half of the departments had higher values, and half had lower.

*Because there are a minimum number of firefighters to form even a single company, smaller communities of under 100 people can have very high rates.
Table 5:
Career Firefighters per 1,000 People for All Career Departments by Work Week and Population Protected, 2011-2013.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Protected</th>
<th>Career Firefighters Per 1,000 People</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>40-45 Hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,000,000 or more</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500,000 to 999,999</td>
<td>2.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250,000 to 499,999</td>
<td>1.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100,000 to 249,999</td>
<td>1.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50,000 to 99,999</td>
<td>2.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25,000 to 49,999</td>
<td>2.05</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The rates listed above are based on data reported to the NFPA, and do not reflect recommended rates or some defined fire protection standard.

The rates of a particular size of community may vary widely because departments face great variation in their specific circumstances and policies including unusual structural conditions, type of service provided to the community, geographic dispersion of the community and other factors.

Career rates are shown only for communities over 25,000, where departments are comprised mostly of career firefighters.

*Insufficient data.
Table 6:
Median Rates of Career Firefighters per 1,000 People by Region and Population Protected, 2013.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Protected</th>
<th>Northeast</th>
<th>Midwest</th>
<th>South</th>
<th>West</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>250,000 or more</td>
<td>2.11</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>1.27</td>
<td>0.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100,000 to 249,999</td>
<td>2.14</td>
<td>1.37</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>1.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50,000 to 99,999</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>1.08</td>
<td>1.51</td>
<td>0.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25,000 to 49,999</td>
<td>1.81</td>
<td>0.94</td>
<td>1.60</td>
<td>1.02</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The rates listed above are based on data reported to the NFPA, and do not reflect recommended rates or some defined fire protection standard.

The rates of a particular size of community may vary widely because departments face great variation in their specific circumstances and policies including unusual structural conditions, types of service provided to the community, geographic dispersion of the community, and other factors.

Career rates are shown only for communities over 25,000, where departments are comprised mostly of career firefighters.

As defined by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, the four regions are:
### Table 7:
Median Rates of Volunteer Firefighters per 1,000 People by Region and Population Protected, 2013.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Protected</th>
<th>Northeast</th>
<th>Midwest</th>
<th>South</th>
<th>West</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10,000 to 24,999</td>
<td>1.80</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>0.70</td>
<td>1.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,000 to 9,999</td>
<td>4.34</td>
<td>3.76</td>
<td>2.86</td>
<td>2.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,500 to 4,999</td>
<td>7.78</td>
<td>7.63</td>
<td>6.00</td>
<td>5.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 2,500</td>
<td>18.48</td>
<td>21.63</td>
<td>16.10</td>
<td>23.43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The rates listed above are based on data reported to the NFPA, and do not reflect recommended rates or some defined fire protection standard.

The rates of a particular size of community department may vary widely because departments face great variation in their specific circumstances and policies including unusual structural conditions, types of service provided to the community, geographic dispersion of the community, and other factors.

Volunteer rates are shown only for communities under 25,000, where departments are comprised of mostly volunteers.

As defined by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, the four regions are:
Table 8:
Number of Firefighters in the U.S., by Age Group, 2013.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16-19</td>
<td>38,450</td>
<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-29</td>
<td>231,800</td>
<td>20.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-39</td>
<td>306,900</td>
<td>26.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-49</td>
<td>282,850</td>
<td>24.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-59</td>
<td>197,800</td>
<td>17.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 and over</td>
<td>82,950</td>
<td>7.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,140,750</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Figure 3: Number of Firefighters in the U.S. By Age Group, 2013. Source: NFPA Survey of Fire Departments for U.S. Fire Experience, 2013.
Table 9:
Age Profile of Firefighters by Size of Community, 2013.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size of Community Mostly Career Firefighters</th>
<th>Percent Firefighters under Age 30</th>
<th>Percent Firefighters Age 30-39</th>
<th>Percent Firefighters Age 40-49</th>
<th>Percent Firefighters Age 50 and up</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,000,000 or more</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
<td>36.4%</td>
<td>32.9%</td>
<td>21.9%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500,000 to 999,999</td>
<td>14.2%</td>
<td>26.1%</td>
<td>34.1%</td>
<td>25.6%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250,000 to 499,999</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
<td>31.5%</td>
<td>34.4%</td>
<td>21.2%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100,000 to 249,999</td>
<td>17.2%</td>
<td>30.7%</td>
<td>31.3%</td>
<td>20.9%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50,000 to 99,999</td>
<td>17.7%</td>
<td>31.9%</td>
<td>31.5%</td>
<td>18.9%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25,000 to 49,999</td>
<td>20.3%</td>
<td>30.7%</td>
<td>30.0%</td>
<td>19.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mostly Volunteer Firefighters</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,000 to 24,999</td>
<td>27.6%</td>
<td>29.0%</td>
<td>24.6%</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,000 to 9,999</td>
<td>30.8%</td>
<td>26.7%</td>
<td>21.8%</td>
<td>20.6%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,500 to 4,999</td>
<td>28.3%</td>
<td>25.6%</td>
<td>22.2%</td>
<td>23.9%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 2,500</td>
<td>24.1%</td>
<td>23.8%</td>
<td>21.6%</td>
<td>30.5%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 4: Percent of Firefighters in the U.S. by Age Group by Year. Source: NFPA Survey of Fire Departments, 2011-2013.
Fire Departments

There are an estimated 30,052 fire departments\(^3\) in the United States (Figure 5). Of these, 2,477 (8.2%) of departments are comprised solely of career firefighters\(^4\); and 19,807 (65.9%) of departments are comprised of all volunteer firefighters. An estimated 1,971 (6.6%) are mostly career, while 5,797 (19.3%) are mostly volunteer firefighters (Table 10).

Fire departments categorized as all career or mostly career represent 14.8% of all departments and protect 66.8% of the U.S. population, while departments categorized as mostly volunteer or all volunteer represent 85.2% of all departments and protect 33.2% of the U.S. population (Table 10).

The number of career or mostly career departments increased from 3,043 in 1986 to 4,448 in 2013, an increase of 46%, while the number of volunteer or mostly volunteer departments decreased from 26,787 in 1986 to 25,604 in 2013, a decrease of 4%.

The number of fire departments by size of community is provided in Table 11. Department type did vary considerably by population protected. For community sizes 25,000 and above, the percentage of departments classified as all career or mostly career ranged from 73 to 100%, while for community sizes less than 25,000, the percentage of departments classified as all volunteer or mostly volunteer ranged from 54 to 99% (Table 12).

---

3 A fire department is a public organization that provides fire prevention, fire suppression and associated emergency and non-emergency services to a jurisdiction such as a county, municipality, or organized fire district.

4 Department type is broken into four categories. All career departments are comprised 100% of career firefighters. Mostly career is comprised of 51 to 99% career firefighters, while mostly volunteer is comprised of 1 to 50% career firefighters. All volunteer departments are comprised 100% of volunteer firefighters.
Figure 5: Locations of fire departments by population protected.
**Table 10:**
Number of Departments and Percent of U.S. Population Protected by Type of Department.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Department</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Percent of U.S. Population Protected</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Career</td>
<td>2,477</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
<td>49.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mostly Career</td>
<td>1,971</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
<td>17.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mostly Volunteer</td>
<td>5,797</td>
<td>19.3%</td>
<td>17.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Volunteer</td>
<td>19,807</td>
<td>65.9%</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>30,052</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: NFPA Fire Service Inventory, and 2013 NFPA Survey of Fire Departments.

Type of department is broken into four categories. All career departments are comprised of 100% career firefighters. Mostly career is comprised of 51 to 99% career firefighters, while mostly volunteer is comprised of 1 to 50% career firefighters. All volunteer departments are comprised of 100% volunteer firefighters.
## Table 11:
Number of Fire Departments in the U.S., By Population Protected, 2013.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Protected</th>
<th>Number of Fire Departments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,000,000 or more</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500,000 to 999,999</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250,000 to 499,999</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100,000 to 249,999</td>
<td>268</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50,000 to 99,999</td>
<td>530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25,000 to 49,999</td>
<td>1,318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,000 to 24,999</td>
<td>3,567</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,000 to 9,999</td>
<td>4,384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,500 to 4,999</td>
<td>5,807</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>under 2,500</td>
<td>14,059</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>30,052</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Table 12:
Department Type by Population Protected, 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Protected</th>
<th>All Career</th>
<th>Mostly Career</th>
<th>Mostly Volunteer</th>
<th>All Volunteer</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,000,000 or more</td>
<td>80.0%</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500,000 to 999,999</td>
<td>77.8%</td>
<td>18.5%</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250,000 to 499,999</td>
<td>79.4%</td>
<td>14.7%</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100,000 to 249,999</td>
<td>87.6%</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50,000 to 99,999</td>
<td>69.0%</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25,000 to 49,999</td>
<td>48.1%</td>
<td>25.1%</td>
<td>22.3%</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,000 to 24,999</td>
<td>21.6%</td>
<td>24.7%</td>
<td>39.1%</td>
<td>14.6%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,000 to 9,999</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
<td>39.4%</td>
<td>45.2%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,500 to 4,999</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>26.5%</td>
<td>71.5%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 2,500</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
<td>93.1%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Departments</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
<td>19.3%</td>
<td>65.9%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Type of department is broken into four categories. All career departments are comprised of 100% career firefighters. Mostly career is comprised of 51 to 99% career firefighters, while mostly volunteer is comprised of 1 to 50% career firefighters. All volunteer departments are comprised of 100% volunteer firefighters.
Fire Department Apparatus and Stations

Estimates of the number of apparatus and stations in the United States for the 2011-2013 period indicate that there were 69,150 pumpers, 7,000 aerial apparatus, 76,300 other suppression vehicles (which includes pumpers less than 1,000 gpm, hose usage, brush vehicles, tanker, etc.) and 55,150 stations. Table 13 provides a breakdown of the average apparatus and station rates by community size\(^5\).

It is worth emphasizing what the rates in Table 13 really mean. The numbers reflect averages of apparatus and station rates per 1,000 people by population protected reported to the NFPA. They do not represent recommended rates or some defined fire protection standard.

The rates are higher for departments protecting smaller communities (under 25,000). This is because it takes a minimum number of apparatus and stations to operate a fire department regardless of the number of people protected. For instance, for a department protecting 1,000 people, you would expect according to Table 13 on the average 1.268 pumpers, 1.895 other suppression vehicles, .035 aerial apparatus, and 1.022 stations. The 1.022 stations per 1,000 people is the highest rate shown in Table 13, but for this community size it is equivalent to one station per department. Another way to put this is that for every 100 departments reporting 1,000 people, you would expect approximately 127 pumpers, 190 other suppression vehicles, 4 aerial apparatus, and 102 stations. For communities of 25,000 to 999,999, the rates tend to be quite similar: .034 - .109 pumpers per 1,000 people; and .010 - .067 other suppression vehicles; .013 - .021 aerial apparatus per 1,000 people, and .034 - .096 stations per 1,000 people.

Tables 14, 15, 16, and 17 display the frequency of occurrence of the number of pumpers, other suppression vehicles, aerial apparatus, and stations by size of community.

\(^5\)Note that these results are based on a sample survey, and as a result there is a 95% confidence interval associated with each estimate. Based on the data reported by fire departments responding to the NFPA Fire Service Survey (2011 -2013), the NFPA is confident that the actual number of pumpers falls between 69,850 and 72,150; aerial apparatus between 7,000 and 7,100; other suppression vehicles between 77,800 and 80,250.
Table 13:
Average Apparatus and Station Rates per 1,000 People by Community Size, 2011-2013.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Protected</th>
<th>Pumbers per 1,000 People</th>
<th>Other¹ Vehicles per 1,000 People</th>
<th>Aerial Apparatus per 1,000 People</th>
<th>Stations per 1,000 People</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,000,000 or more</td>
<td>.034</td>
<td>.010</td>
<td>.013</td>
<td>.034</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500,000 to 999,999</td>
<td>.056</td>
<td>.020</td>
<td>.014</td>
<td>.054</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250,000 to 499,999</td>
<td>.058</td>
<td>.025</td>
<td>.014</td>
<td>.057</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100,000 to 249,999</td>
<td>.067</td>
<td>.031</td>
<td>.014</td>
<td>.070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50,000 to 99,999</td>
<td>.083</td>
<td>.039</td>
<td>.015</td>
<td>.081</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25,000 to 49,999</td>
<td>.109</td>
<td>.067</td>
<td>.021</td>
<td>.096</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,000 to 24,999</td>
<td>.184</td>
<td>.135</td>
<td>.033</td>
<td>.149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,000 to 9,999</td>
<td>.319</td>
<td>.294</td>
<td>.036</td>
<td>.235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,500 to 4,999</td>
<td>.543</td>
<td>.751</td>
<td>.029</td>
<td>.347</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 2,500</td>
<td>1.268</td>
<td>1.895</td>
<td>.035</td>
<td>1.022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Average</td>
<td>.272</td>
<td>.327</td>
<td>.022</td>
<td>.215</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


These results reflect average apparatus and station rates per 1,000 people by population protected reported to the NFPA. They do not reflect recommended rates or some defined fire protection standard.

Other suppression vehicles include apparatus with pumps less than 1,000 gpm, hose wagons, brush fire vehicles, tankers, etc.
Table 14:
Pumpers (750 gpm or greater) by Community Size, 2011-2013.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Protected</th>
<th>No Pumpers</th>
<th>1 Pumper</th>
<th>2 Pumpers</th>
<th>3-4 Pumpers</th>
<th>5 or More Pumpers</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50,000 to 99,999</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>32.0%</td>
<td>57.4%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25,000 to 49,999</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
<td>21.9%</td>
<td>46.5%</td>
<td>25.9%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,000 to 24,999</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
<td>32.0%</td>
<td>48.6%</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,000 to 9,999</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>14.7%</td>
<td>44.7%</td>
<td>35.8%</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,500 to 4,999</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>23.0%</td>
<td>50.2%</td>
<td>23.5%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 2,500</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
<td>41.9%</td>
<td>38.4%</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Note that pumpers reported above had a capability of 1,000 gpm or greater. Note that many departments reported other fire suppression vehicles including apparatus with pumps less than 1,000 gpm, hose wagons, brush fire vehicles, tankers, etc.
Table 15:
Other Suppression Vehicles by Community Size, 2011-2013.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Protected</th>
<th>Percentage of U.S. Fire Departments With Other Suppression Vehicles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,000,000 or more</td>
<td>23.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500,000 to 999,999</td>
<td>19.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250,000 to 499,999</td>
<td>14.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Protected</th>
<th>Percentage of U.S. Fire Departments With Other Suppression Vehicles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100,000 to 249,999</td>
<td>19.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50,000 to 999,999</td>
<td>30.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25,000 to 49,999</td>
<td>30.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,000 to 24,999</td>
<td>24.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,000 to 9,999</td>
<td>17.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,500 to 4,999</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 2,500</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Other suppression vehicles include apparatus with pumps less than 1,000 gpm, hose wagons, brush fire vehicles, tankers, etc.
Table 16:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Protected</th>
<th>No Aerial Apparatus</th>
<th>1-5 Aerial Apparatus</th>
<th>6-9 Aerial Apparatus</th>
<th>10-19 Aerial Apparatus</th>
<th>20 or More Aerial Apparatus</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,000,000 or more</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>17.6%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>35.3%</td>
<td>47.1%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500,000 to 999,999</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>20.5%</td>
<td>25.6%</td>
<td>38.5%</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250,000 to 499,999</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
<td>63.9%</td>
<td>24.6%</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Protected</th>
<th>No Aerial Apparatus</th>
<th>1 Aerial Apparatus</th>
<th>2 Aerial Apparatus</th>
<th>3-4 Aerial Apparatus</th>
<th>5 or More Aerial Apparatus</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100,000 to 249,999</td>
<td>19.4%</td>
<td>22.3%</td>
<td>25.9%</td>
<td>21.5%</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50,000 to 99,999</td>
<td>31.1%</td>
<td>39.4%</td>
<td>22.0%</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25,000 to 49,999</td>
<td>38.3%</td>
<td>48.5%</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,000 to 24,999</td>
<td>49.4%</td>
<td>47.2%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,000 to 9,999</td>
<td>73.7%</td>
<td>25.5%</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,500 to 4,999</td>
<td>89.6%</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 2,500</td>
<td>96.3%</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 17:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Protected</th>
<th>1-5 Stations</th>
<th>6-9 Stations</th>
<th>10-19 Stations</th>
<th>20-29 Stations</th>
<th>30 or More Stations</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,000,000 or more</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>94.1%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500,000 to 999,999</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>17.9</td>
<td>76.9</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250,000 to 499,999</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>52.5</td>
<td>39.3</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100,000 to 249,999</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>43.3</td>
<td>40.1</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Protected</th>
<th>No Stations</th>
<th>1 Station</th>
<th>2 Stations</th>
<th>3 Stations</th>
<th>4 or More Stations</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50,000 to 99,999</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>14.6%</td>
<td>80.3%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25,000 to 49,999</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>13.4</td>
<td>23.5</td>
<td>27.4</td>
<td>35.8</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,000 to 24,999</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>45.1</td>
<td>30.6</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>10.7</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,000 to 9,999</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>69.6</td>
<td>20.3</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,500 to 4,999</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>78.1</td>
<td>16.4</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 2,500</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>86.3</td>
<td>10.7</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Emergency Medical Services

The level of emergency medical service (EMS) provided by fire departments by size of community protected for the 2011-2013 period is provided in Table 18. The larger the community, the more likely EMS service was provided. Nationwide, 13,400 (44.6%) departments provided EMS service without advanced life support, 5,050 (16.8%) departments provided EMS service and advanced life support, and 11,600 (38.6%) departments did not provide EMS service.

U.S. Expenditures on Local Fire Protection

Table 19 provides expenditures on local fire protection by governments, with and without adjustment for inflation. Note that these expenditures adjusted for inflation, have risen 172% from 1980 to 2011. Other municipal service costs like police protection have risen in a similar manner.

Fire protection costs rose 114% from 1986 to 2011 after adjusting for inflation, while the number of career firefighters increased 45%. Since chiefs of fire departments serving larger communities report problems with shrinking budgets or with level budgets combined with increasing responsibilities, this clear pattern of increasing fire department resources nationwide is difficult to interpret. Some of the factors possibly contributing to this increase in costs are (1) shrinkage of the work week for some departments, which results in a need to increase staffing and apparatus or to pay firefighters at overtime rates; (2) increased EMS responsibilities requiring increased staffing and, in some communities, a more frequent replacement of apparatus; and (3) costs of retirement and health benefits continuing to rise as they do for the general population.

---

6This is the result at least to some extent of the Fair Labor Standards Act being applied to municipal fire departments.
### Table 18:
Departments Providing Emergency Medical Service, by Community Size (Percent), 2011-2013.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Protected</th>
<th>No EMS</th>
<th>BLS</th>
<th>ALS</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,000,000 or more</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500,000 to 999,999</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>28.2%</td>
<td>71.8%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250,000 to 499,999</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>24.6%</td>
<td>73.8%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100,000 to 249,999</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>34.0%</td>
<td>63.2%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50,000 to 99,999</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>36.0%</td>
<td>56.8%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25,000 to 49,999</td>
<td>17.3%</td>
<td>36.3%</td>
<td>46.4%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,000 to 24,999</td>
<td>27.6%</td>
<td>40.8%</td>
<td>31.6%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,000 to 9,999</td>
<td>39.0%</td>
<td>42.8%</td>
<td>18.2%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,500 to 4,999</td>
<td>42.0%</td>
<td>46.1%</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>under 2,500</td>
<td>46.1%</td>
<td>47.8%</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nationwide</td>
<td>38.6%</td>
<td>44.6%</td>
<td>16.8%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


BLS refers to fire departments providing basic life support and ALS refers to fire departments providing advanced life support.
Table 19:
Direct Expenditures on Local Fire Protection.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Expenditures (in Billions)</th>
<th>Expenditures (in Billions) Adjusted for Inflation*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>$5.7</td>
<td>$16.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>$6.3</td>
<td>$16.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>$7.0</td>
<td>$17.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1983</td>
<td>$7.6</td>
<td>$18.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984</td>
<td>$8.2</td>
<td>$18.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>$8.5</td>
<td>$20.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>$9.6</td>
<td>$20.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>$10.5</td>
<td>$22.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>$11.8</td>
<td>$23.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>$11.9</td>
<td>$22.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>$13.2</td>
<td>$24.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>$13.8</td>
<td>$24.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>$14.4</td>
<td>$24.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>$15.4</td>
<td>$25.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>$16.1</td>
<td>$25.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>$17.0</td>
<td>$26.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>$17.7</td>
<td>$26.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>$19.4</td>
<td>$28.9</td>
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<td>1998</td>
<td>$20.3</td>
<td>$29.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>$21.3</td>
<td>$30.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>$23.1</td>
<td>$31.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>$25.0</td>
<td>$33.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>$26.0</td>
<td>$34.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>$28.4</td>
<td>$36.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>$30.7</td>
<td>$38.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>$34.2</td>
<td>$41.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>$34.2</td>
<td>$40.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>$36.8</td>
<td>$42.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>$39.7</td>
<td>$43.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>$40.3</td>
<td>$44.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>$42.6</td>
<td>$46.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>$42.3</td>
<td>$44.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012**</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Governments Division.

*Adjustments were made to 2014 dollars using the Consumer Price Index.
**2012 expenditures was not available at time of printing.
**Data Sources**


The annual fire experience survey is a sample survey of fire departments in the United States, which serves as the basis for making national estimates of the fire problem. The sample is stratified by the size of the community protected by the fire department. All U.S. fire departments that protect communities of 50,000 or more are included in the sample, because they constitute a small number of departments with a large share of the total population protected. For departments that protect less than 50,000 population, a sample was selected stratified by size of community protected. Survey returns in recent years have ranged from 2,700 to 2,900 departments annually. The survey also includes questions on the number of career and volunteer firefighters. The national projections are made by weighing sample results according to the proportion of total U.S. population accounted for by communities of each size.

The NFPA Fire Service Survey is a three year cycle survey which attempts to survey about one third of the states in the country each year. The survey includes questions on the number of career firefighters, the number of volunteer firefighters, length of work week, number of apparatus and stations, etc. In recent years the survey has had a response rate of between 13-16% from departments.