



## STATISTICAL BRIEF

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# National Law Enforcement Accountability Database, 2018–2023

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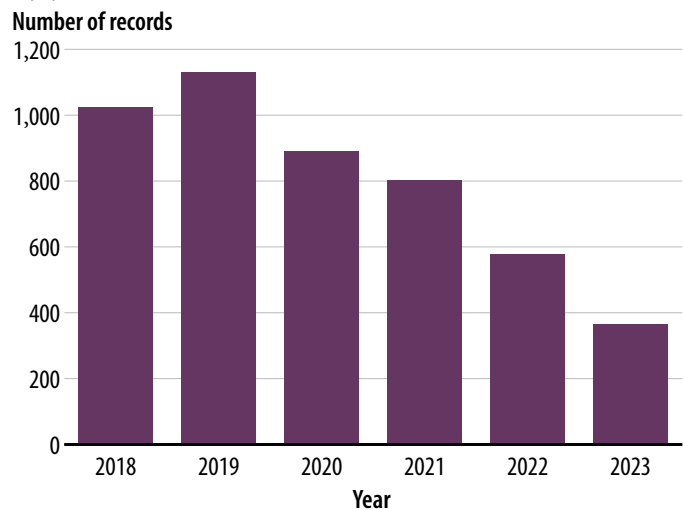
As of September 20, 2024, there were 4,790 records of federal officer misconduct covering the years 2018 to 2023 in the U.S. Department of Justice's National Law Enforcement Accountability Database (NLEAD; [figure 1](#)). A record includes a single federal law enforcement officer and a single qualifying incident. Qualifying incidents include criminal conviction, suspension of an officer's enforcement authorities related to misconduct, termination related to misconduct, resignation or retirement while under investigation for serious misconduct, and sustained complaints or records of disciplinary action based on findings of serious misconduct.<sup>1</sup> The number of records ranged from 365 in 2023 to 1,131 in 2019.<sup>2</sup>

This report provides statistics on the records in the NLEAD, the federal law enforcement officers included in the NLEAD, and the usage of the NLEAD. In Section 5 of Executive Order 14074, *Advancing Effective, Accountable Policing and Criminal Justice Practices To Enhance Public Trust and Public Safety*, the U.S. Attorney General was directed to establish the NLEAD to document instances of federal law enforcement officer misconduct and produce an annual report. (For detailed information,

<sup>1</sup>The NLEAD also tracks civil judgments related to official duties, and commendations and awards. As of September 20, 2024, there were no records of civil judgments in the NLEAD. Commendations and awards were excluded from analyses in this report. The NLEAD only collects commendations and awards if there is an instance of officer misconduct. It is not representative of all commendations and awards received by federal law enforcement officers. See *Methodology*.

<sup>2</sup>Year reflects the year the misconduct occurred. Only incidents that are considered final and adjudicated are submitted to the NLEAD. An incident does not need to have exhausted all appeals before being submitted to the NLEAD. There may be incidents of officer misconduct in later years that have not been fully adjudicated and therefore have not yet been submitted as a record to the NLEAD.

**FIGURE 1**  
Number of officer misconduct records in the National Law Enforcement Accountability Database by year, 2018–2023



Note: Excludes commendations and awards (N=91 records and N=72 officers), which are only included in the National Law Enforcement Accountability Database when an officer has a qualifying adverse event. See appendix table 2 for counts.

Source: Justice Management Division, National Law Enforcement Accountability Database, 2018–2023, pulled September 20, 2024.

see the *Establishing the National Law Enforcement Accountability Database* text box.)

The Justice Management Division was given responsibility for developing and maintaining the NLEAD, and the Bureau of Justice Statistics was given responsibility for producing the report. This is the first annual report and covers the NLEAD records for events occurring in calendar years 2018 to 2023 and usage of the NLEAD from January 1, 2024 to August 31, 2024.

## Terms and definitions

**Civil action**—Any action where a person complains of a wrongful act by a law enforcement officer relating to their official duties, and the action results in civil liability.

**Civil judgment**—The disposition of a civil action by any court of competent jurisdiction which creates a civil liability for the officer accused of wrongful acts.

**Commendations and awards**—Actions to recognize and reward individual or team achievements at the federal agency or component level that contribute to meeting organizational goals or improving the efficiency, effectiveness, and economy of the government or are otherwise in the public interest.

**Criminal conviction**—A judgment or any other determination of guilt of a criminal offense by a court of competent jurisdiction, whether entered upon a verdict or plea (including a plea of nolo contendere), that occurred during employment as a law enforcement officer, both on-duty or off-duty.<sup>3</sup>

**Disciplinary action**—Includes removals, demotions, suspensions, and reprimands of federal employees based on findings of serious misconduct.

**Resignation or retirement while under investigation for serious misconduct**—The employee resigned or retired after (1) being provided written notice of an investigation,

and the investigative process either did include or would have included an opportunity for the employee to be heard, or (2) a finding of serious misconduct was later made, regardless of whether the employee was provided written notice.

**Serious misconduct**—As defined by Executive Order 14074, includes excessive force, bias, discrimination, obstruction of justice, false reports, false statements under oath, theft, and sexual misconduct of a federal law enforcement officer.

**Suspension of a law enforcement officer's enforcement authorities**—Suspension of the ability for a law enforcement officer to perform law enforcement duties based upon a reassignment or position change to a non-law enforcement officer status.

**Sustained complaints or records of disciplinary action based on findings of serious misconduct**—Allegations of officer misconduct that are sustained through a completed official proceeding, such as an internal affairs or department disciplinary process. Includes findings made through an internal investigation by the Office of Inspector General, an internal affairs office, or equivalent office that serious misconduct occurred.

**Termination**—The involuntary separation of an employee from employment with a federal agency. Includes removal and dismissal.

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<sup>3</sup>Nolo contendere is Latin for "I do not wish to contend." The statement is a person's plea in a criminal case, indicating that they will not contest the charges, but will not admit or deny guilt.

## Establishing the National Law Enforcement Accountability Database

On May 25, 2022, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., issued Executive Order (EO) 14074 on *Advancing Effective, Accountable Policing and Criminal Justice Practices To Enhance Public Trust and Public Safety*. One goal of the EO was to “commit to new practices in law enforcement recruitment, hiring, promotion, and retention, as well as training, oversight, and accountability.”<sup>4</sup> To help accomplish this goal, Section 5 of the EO directed the U.S. Attorney General to establish the National Law Enforcement Accountability Database (NLEAD) as “a centralized repository of official records documenting instances of law enforcement officer misconduct as well as commendations and awards.”<sup>5</sup> The Justice Management Division was given responsibility for developing and maintaining the NLEAD, which was launched on December 18, 2023.<sup>6</sup>

Section 5 (b) specified the following types of records related to officer misconduct that should be included in the NLEAD:

- criminal convictions
- suspension of a law enforcement officer’s enforcement authorities (e.g., decertification)
- terminations
- civil judgments, including amounts (if publicly available), related to official duties
- resignations or retirements while under investigation for serious misconduct
- sustained complaints or records of disciplinary action based on findings of serious misconduct.

In addition, the NLEAD should include records on officer commendations and awards, as the U.S. Attorney General deems appropriate.

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<sup>4</sup><https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/05/31/2022-11810/advancing-effective-accountable-policing-and-criminal-justice-practices-to-enhance-public-trust-and>.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid.

<sup>6</sup><https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-launches-national-law-enforcement-accountability-database>.

The EO required establishing appropriate procedures to ensure the accuracy of records stored in the NLEAD, including by providing officers with notice of and access to their records. The EO also specified that officers be given fair opportunity to request amendment or removal of any information that is deemed inaccurate or is predicated on an official proceeding that lacked appropriate due process protections.

The EO directed the heads of federal law enforcement agencies to begin to submit information deemed appropriate for inclusion into the NLEAD within 60 days of its establishment (i.e., by February 16, 2024). To develop the NLEAD, the EO specified using federal records from U.S. Department of Justice databases; information held by other agencies and entities with agreements in place; publicly accessible and reliable sources of information (such as court records); and information submitted by state, tribal, local, and territorial law enforcement agencies, as appropriate.

In addition to specifying the data that should be supplied to the database, the EO outlined appropriate use of the NLEAD. Federal law enforcement agencies are directed to use the NLEAD, as appropriate and consistent with applicable law, in the hiring, job assignment, and promotion of federal law enforcement officers as well as state, tribal, local, and territorial law enforcement officers who participate in programs or activities that federal agencies control, such as joint task forces.

Lastly, the EO directed the U.S. Attorney General to publish on at least an annual basis a report that contains data from the NLEAD in a manner that does not jeopardize law enforcement officer anonymity due to the size of the agency or other factors. The Bureau of Justice Statistics was given responsibility for producing the annual report, and this is the first report summarizing the NLEAD data.

## Participating federal agencies

By September 20, 2024, all federal law enforcement agencies required to report to the NLEAD (N=90) and four agencies not required to but did so voluntarily submitted records or submitted documentation that they had zero qualifying incidents for all their officers for 2018–2023 (table 1). The Department of Homeland

Security had nine agencies and the Departments of the Interior and Justice each had eight law enforcement agencies submitting records for all officers to the NLEAD. Across all federal law enforcement agencies, 57% had qualifying incidents to submit to the NLEAD, and 43% submitted documentation that they had zero qualifying incidents for 2018–2023.

**TABLE 1**  
**Number and percent of federal law enforcement agencies that submitted records to the National Law Enforcement Accountability Database for all officers or had zero qualifying incidents, by department, 2018–2023**

Department <sup>a</sup>	Total		Provided records for all officers		Had zero qualifying incidents <sup>b</sup>	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	94	100%	54	57.4%	40	42.6%
Agriculture	3	100	1	33.3	2	66.7
Commerce	5	100	2	40.0	3	60.0
Defense	6	100	6	100	0	0.0
Energy	3	100	1	33.3	2	66.7
Health and Human Services	3	100	1	33.3	2	66.7
Homeland Security	9	100	8	88.9	1	11.1
Interior	8	100	7	87.5	1	12.5
Justice	8	100	6	75.0	2	25.0
Labor	2	100	1	50.0	1	50.0
State	2	100	2	100	0	0.0
Transportation	3	100	1	33.3	2	66.7
Treasury	6	100	4	66.7	2	33.3
Veteran Affairs	3	100	3	100	0	0.0
All other agencies <sup>c</sup>	33	100	11	33.3	22	66.7

<sup>a</sup>Includes departments with at least two eligible law enforcement agencies. Departments with one eligible law enforcement agency are included in the all other agencies category to better protect officer confidentiality.

<sup>b</sup>Agencies could either email to certify that they had no qualifying incidents or submit a “no records for submission” response to the National Law Enforcement Accountability Database (NLEAD).

<sup>c</sup>Includes 29 agencies required to report to the NLEAD: 23 Offices of Inspectors General (OIGs) outside the cabinet departments noted in the table and agencies within the Central Intelligence Agency, Environmental Protection Agency, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Tennessee Valley Authority, and U.S. Postal Service. Also includes four OIGs not required to report to the NLEAD but have done so voluntarily. Source: Justice Management Division, National Law Enforcement Accountability Database frame, 2024.

Eighty-three percent of agencies employing 1 to 50 law enforcement officers and 36% of agencies employing 51 to 250 law enforcement officers submitted documentation that they had zero qualifying incidents

in the NLEAD for 2018–2023 (table 2). During the same period, all agencies with more than 250 law enforcement officers had provided records to the NLEAD. (For a list of reporting agencies, see appendix table 1.)

**TABLE 2**  
**Number and percent of federal law enforcement agencies that provided records to the National Law Enforcement Accountability Database for all officers or had zero qualifying incidents, by number of law enforcement officers, 2018–2023**

Number of law enforcement officers	Total		Provided records for all officers		Had zero qualifying incidents <sup>a</sup>	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	94	100%	54	57.4%	40	42.6%
10,001 or more	4	100	4	100.0	0	0.0
1,001–10,000	10	100	10	100.0	0	0.0
251–1,000	14	100	14	100.0	0	0.0
51–250	28	100	18	64.3	10	35.7
1–50	36	100	6	16.7	30	83.3
Missing <sup>b</sup>	2	100	2	100.0	0	0.0

Note: The number of law enforcement officers is reported by the agency to the National Law Enforcement Accountability Database (NLEAD). Data not provided to the Justice Management Division were pulled from the Census of Federal Law Enforcement Officers, 2020. See *Methodology*.

<sup>a</sup>Agencies could either email to certify that they had no qualifying incidents or submit a response of “no records for submission” to the NLEAD.

<sup>b</sup>Officer counts for the Central Intelligence Agency Police and the Transportation Security Administration were not included due to security reasons.

Source: Justice Management Division, National Law Enforcement Accountability Database frame, 2024; and Bureau of Justice Statistics, Census of Federal Law Enforcement Officers, 2020.

## Number of incidents and officers

In 2018–2023, there were 4,790 incidents of officer misconduct and 4,011 federal law enforcement officers in the NLEAD (table 3). Of the more than 148,000 federal law enforcement officers in agencies covered by the NLEAD, the Departments of Homeland Security (65,150) and Justice (59,570) were responsible for 84% of officers. These departments accounted for 88% (4,206) of incidents in the NLEAD. Of the 13 departments with at least two law enforcement agencies, 69% had fewer than 100 incidents in the NLEAD.

There were 40 Offices of Inspectors General (OIGs) that employed approximately 3,490 law enforcement officers (table 4). Among the OIGs, 45% (18) reported incidents to the NLEAD for 2018–2023. These OIGs reported a total of 48 incidents and 37 law enforcement officers to the NLEAD.

**TABLE 4**  
Number of Offices of Inspectors General reporting to the National Law Enforcement Accountability Database, 2018–2023

	Number
Number of OIGs	40
Provided records for all officers	18
Had zero qualifying incidents	22
Employed law enforcement officers <sup>a</sup>	3,490
Incidents in the NLEAD <sup>b</sup>	48
Law enforcement officers in the NLEAD	37

Note: Includes four Offices of Inspectors General (OIGs) not required to report to the National Law Enforcement Accountability Database (NLEAD) but have done so voluntarily.

<sup>a</sup>Count has been rounded to the nearest 10. The number of law enforcement officers is reported by the agency to the NLEAD. Data not provided to the Justice Management Division were pulled from the Census of Federal Law Enforcement Officers, 2020. See *Methodology*.

<sup>b</sup>Excludes commendations and awards (N=11 records), which are only included in the NLEAD when an officer has a qualifying adverse event.

Sources: Justice Management Division, National Law Enforcement Accountability Database, 2018–2023, pulled September 20, 2024; Justice Management Division, National Law Enforcement Accountability Database frame, 2024; and Bureau of Justice Statistics, Census of Federal Law Enforcement Officers, 2020.

**TABLE 3**  
Number of law enforcement officers and incidents in the National Law Enforcement Accountability Database, by department, 2018–2023

Department <sup>a</sup>	Number of law enforcement officers (LEOs) <sup>b</sup>	Number of incidents	Number of LEOs with an incident <sup>c</sup>
Total	148,280	4,790	4,011
Agriculture	660	21	14
Commerce	350	:	:
Defense	4,160	104	88
Energy	360	:	:
Health and Human Services	730	:	:
Homeland Security	65,150	1,479	1,116
Interior	3,190	238	182
Justice	59,570	2,727	2,429
Labor	150	:	:
State	2,300	67	48
Transportation	130	:	:
Treasury	3,410	46	39
Veteran Affairs	4,600	44	43
All other agencies <sup>d</sup>	3,520	47	41

Note: Excludes commendations and awards (N=91 records and N=72 officers), which are only included in the National Law Enforcement Accountability Database (NLEAD) when an officer has a qualifying adverse event.

:Not shown. Number is below the minimum threshold (i.e., fewer than 10 cases).

<sup>a</sup>Includes departments with at least two eligible law enforcement agencies. Departments with one eligible law enforcement agency are included in the all other agencies category to better protect officer confidentiality.

<sup>b</sup>Counts have been rounded to the nearest 10. The number of law enforcement officers is reported by the agency to the NLEAD. Data not provided to the Justice Management Division were pulled from the Census of Federal Law Enforcement Officers, 2020. See *Methodology*. Officer counts for the Central Intelligence Agency Police and the Transportation Security Administration are missing due to security reasons.

<sup>c</sup>The total number of LEOs (4,011) reflects the number of unique LEOs in the NLEAD. There was one LEO that had an incident in two departments and is included in the totals for both those departments.

<sup>d</sup>Includes 29 agencies required to report to the NLEAD: 23 Offices of Inspectors General (OIGs) outside the cabinet departments noted in the table and agencies within the Central Intelligence Agency, Environmental Protection Agency, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Tennessee Valley Authority, and U.S. Postal Service. Also includes four OIGs not required to report to the NLEAD but have done so voluntarily.

Sources: Justice Management Division, National Law Enforcement Accountability Database, 2018–2023, pulled September 20, 2024; Justice Management Division, National Law Enforcement Accountability Database frame, 2024; and Bureau of Justice Statistics, Census of Federal Law Enforcement Officers, 2020.

## Type of incidents

In 2018–2023, 63% (3,031) of incidents in the NLEAD were for sustained complaints or records of disciplinary action based on findings of serious misconduct (table 5).

Termination related to misconduct accounted for 15% (737) of all incidents. Ten percent (481) of incidents were for resignation or retirement while under investigation for serious misconduct.

**TABLE 5**  
**Number and percent of incidents reported to the National Law Enforcement Accountability Database by type, 2018–2023**

Type of Incident	Number	Percent
Total	4,790	100%
Criminal conviction	311	6.5
Suspension of law enforcement officer's enforcement authorities related to misconduct	230	4.8
Termination related to misconduct	737	15.4
Resignation or retirement while under investigation for serious misconduct	481	10.0
Sustained complaints or records of disciplinary action based on findings of serious misconduct	3,031	63.3

Note: Excludes commendations and awards (N=91 incidents and N=72 officers), which are only included in the National Law Enforcement Accountability Database (NLEAD) when an officer has a qualifying adverse event. As of September 20, 2024, there were no civil judgments in the NLEAD.

Source: Justice Management Division, National Law Enforcement Accountability Database, 2018–2023, pulled September 20, 2024.

## Use of the National Law Enforcement Accountability Database

The U.S. Department of Justice established the National Law Enforcement Accountability Database (NLEAD) to strengthen hiring practices while protecting the safety, privacy, and due process rights of law enforcement officers who may be identified in the database. The NLEAD serves as a tool for the background investigation process and in connection with the hiring, job assignment, and promotion of federal law enforcement officers. The NLEAD allows authorized federal users operating in an official capacity to search for officer candidates. From January 1, 2024 to August 31, 2024, 100 federal agencies had authorized access to the NLEAD.<sup>7</sup> Among these agencies, 85% had at least one registered NLEAD user, and 58% conducted at least one search in the NLEAD (not shown in figure).<sup>8</sup>

A search can be conducted in the NLEAD for hiring, job assignment, or promotion purposes, as well as to determine if records have been uploaded successfully. Authorized users are allowed to search for more than one federal law enforcement officer in each query.<sup>9</sup> From January 1, 2024 to August 31, 2024, 9,985 searches were conducted on records in the NLEAD (figure 2). These queries were conducted for 9,362 unique federal law enforcement officers (not shown in figure).

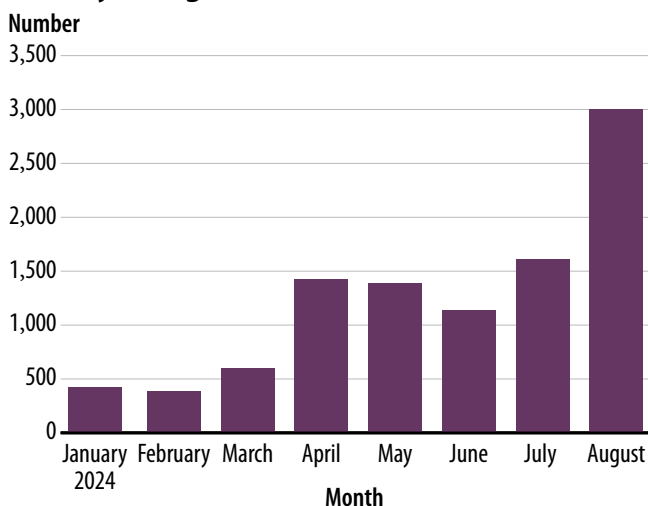
Once a query is submitted, a match results if an officer has a record in the NLEAD. Authorized users are provided

<sup>7</sup>The 100 agencies include the 94 federal law enforcement agencies eligible to report incidents to the NLEAD, 2 federal agencies that do not employ law enforcement officers per the NLEAD definition (the Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Government Publishing Office OIG), and 4 federal investigative service providers. See *Methodology*.

<sup>8</sup>Some agencies did not have registered users because another agency conducted investigative searches for them, and other agencies were working to obtain access to the NLEAD.

<sup>9</sup>For this report, each officer searched is counted as a separate valid search. For example, if three officers were searched on the same query, the Bureau of Justice Statistics counted it as three searches rather than one.

**FIGURE 2**  
Number of National Law Enforcement Accountability Database searches by month, January 1–August 31, 2024



Note: Based on 85 federal law enforcement agencies and other federal agencies with at least one authorized user. See appendix table 3 for counts.

Source: Justice Management Division, National Law Enforcement Accountability Database usage, January 1–August 31, 2024, pulled September 1, 2024.

the officer's identifiable information, date of incident, and type of incident, but users must contact the record-owning federal law enforcement agency to obtain the underlying details on the incident. (See *Methodology*.) Of the 9,985 searches conducted, 25 (0.25%) resulted in a cross-agency match, where the officer worked for a different federal law enforcement agency than the one conducting the search (not shown in figure).<sup>10</sup>

<sup>10</sup>Matches include duplicate officers that were searched multiple times by another federal agency. As of September 1, 2024, it was not possible to know if the search was conducted for hiring, job assignment, promotion, or confirmation of record entry. The Justice Management Division added this functionality after the data were pulled.



## Methodology

This report uses data from the U.S. Department of Justice’s National Law Enforcement Accountability Database (NLEAD), which is managed by the Justice Management Division (JMD). The NLEAD was officially launched on December 18, 2023, as a result of Section 5 in Executive Order (EO) 14074, *Advancing Effective, Accountable Policing and Criminal Justice Practices To Enhance Public Trust and Public Safety*. The NLEAD includes current and former federal law enforcement officers who have records related to one of the following categories of officer misconduct:

1. criminal convictions
2. suspension of a law enforcement officer’s enforcement authorities (e.g., decertification)
3. terminations related to misconduct
4. civil judgments, including amounts (if publicly available), related to official duties
5. resignations or retirements while under investigation for serious misconduct
6. sustained complaints or records of disciplinary action based on findings of serious misconduct.

Serious misconduct is defined as “excessive force, bias, discrimination, obstruction of justice, false reports, false statements under oath, theft, or sexual misconduct.”<sup>11</sup> If an officer has a record of misconduct in the NLEAD, an agency may also submit any commendations or awards occurring in the data retention period for that officer. For categories 1 to 4 and 6, only final and adjudicated matters are reported to the NLEAD (i.e., a process has been completed, such as a department disciplinary process, but appeals may not have been exhausted). For category 5, incidents are reported when an officer elects to leave a position after being notified of the investigation.

### Determining eligibility and unit response

All executive federal agencies employing at least one officer who is “authorized to make arrests and carry firearms and is employed by a governmental unit or subunit that is responsible for the prevention, detection, and investigation of crime or the apprehension of alleged offenders” are eligible to submit records to the NLEAD.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>11</sup><https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/05/31/2022-11810/advancing-effective-accountable-policing-and-criminal-justice-practices-to-enhance-public-trust-and>.

<sup>12</sup>Ibid.

JMD contacted 131 agencies to determine eligibility. Of these agencies, 41 were ineligible (i.e., duplicate agencies or agencies that did not have a law enforcement officer that met the NLEAD definition) or outside the authority of the EO (i.e., within a non-executive department). The remaining 90 agencies were eligible executive department law enforcement agencies. Four agencies that were outside the executive branch opted to voluntarily submit data on their qualifying law enforcement officers for a final total of 94 agencies. As of September 20, 2024, all 94 agencies had submitted incidents or communicated that they had no qualifying incidents for all officers for years 2018 to 2023.

Four federal agencies without qualifying law enforcement officers had access to NLEAD records due to their hiring authority. These agencies are referred to as investigative service providers. Additionally, it was later determined that the U.S. Department of Interior’s Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Government Printing Office’s Office of Inspector General did not have in-scope law enforcement officers but had access to the NLEAD database for hiring purposes. The NLEAD usage statistics provided in this report were based on the 94 NLEAD agencies and the 6 accessing only agencies, for a total of 100 federal agencies (see the *Use of the National Law Enforcement Accountability Database* text box).

### Data sources

**NLEAD records.** The NLEAD operates as a “pointer” system, which is a database model that indicates a record exists for a searched individual and points the person doing the query to the location of the record. The underlying details for the incident are not in the NLEAD database but are maintained by the agency that provided the basic record information. Participating federal law enforcement agencies submit only enough data to note that a record exists. Agencies are asked to provide the following on each incident: department acronym (e.g., DOJ, DOT), agency acronym (e.g., FBOP, FBI), officer identifying information (i.e., first and last name, social security number, and date of birth), job series, incident type, and incident date.<sup>13</sup>

Because the design of the NLEAD is focused on individual-level records, the database does not identify incidents involving more than one officer. Any linkages to an incident involving more than one officer would be maintained by the federal law enforcement agency submitting the basic record information.

<sup>13</sup>Job series is based on the Office of Personnel Management occupational series. See <https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/classification-qualifications/classifying-general-schedule-positions/occupationalhandbook.pdf>.

Prior to the NLEAD launching on December 18, 2023, all but one U.S. Department of Justice law enforcement agency had submitted 7 years of incidents (December 15, 2016 to December 15, 2023) for current and former officers or notified JMD that they had zero qualifying incidents. The other executive agencies were asked to submit 7 years of incidents by February 16, 2024. All but three agencies had submitted all qualifying incidents or submitted documentation that they had zero qualifying incidents by June 1, 2024. As of September 20, 2024, all agencies had submitted 7 years of incidents for all their officers.

Since February 2024, agencies have begun submitting quarterly updates that include 2024 incidents. The NLEAD is a dynamic database, meaning agencies can submit records at any time, records are processed within 24 hours of receipt, and the database updates daily. Once a record is more than 7 years old, it is removed from the searchable NLEAD database. Records from 2017 have started to drop out of the database due to the 7-year retention period. Therefore, this report focuses on incidents in calendar years 2018 to 2023 and was pulled on September 20, 2024.

**NLEAD usage.** The primary reason the NLEAD was developed was to help inform hiring, job assignment, and promotion decisions. To assess how agencies are using the NLEAD, JMD tracks user access and searches. JMD collects data on who conducted the search, when the query was conducted, and information on the officer if there is a match, including the record-owning department and agency, and number of records associated with the officer. Like the NLEAD, the usage database is dynamic and updates daily. Usage data for this report were pulled on September 1, 2024.

JMD provides a secure interface that allows federal agencies to search for an individual officer by name, social security number, and date of birth. Agencies can search for hiring, promotion, and job assignment matters or to determine if a record has been appropriately uploaded into the database. It is not possible to know the reason for a search in the NLEAD for usage through August 31, 2024. JMD added this functionality in September 2024.

In examining the data, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) determined that some users had conducted multiple searches on the same law enforcement officer within a short period of time ranging from a few minutes

to a few hours. To prevent overcounting based on duplicate searches of the same officer by the same agency, BJS identified officers that were searched more than once within an 8-hour time frame by the same agency. This correction resulted in the removal of 262 duplicate searches from the total search count (10,247), for a final search count of 9,985.

**NLEAD frame and law enforcement officer counts.** JMD provided BJS with a list of federal agencies that were contacted to participate in the NLEAD with details on their eligibility, if they were voluntarily submitting data, if they submitted documentation that they had zero qualifying incidents, and an estimated law enforcement officer count. Law enforcement officer counts for the agencies in this report were obtained through two sources. The primary source was provided by the federal law enforcement agency to JMD, which accounted for 86% of agencies. The count provided by agencies was primarily based on the actual officer count, but in some instances the funded number of officer positions was provided. These officer counts were provided in February to March 2024 and in September 2024. If an agency did not provide a law enforcement officer count, BJS used its 2020 Census of Federal Law Enforcement Officers (CFLEO) as a secondary source. The CFLEO provided actual officer counts in 2020 for 12% of NLEAD agencies. Officer counts for two agencies (Central Intelligence Agency Police and Transportation Security Administration) were not included due to security reasons.

### **BJS access**

JMD provided BJS access to a limited-variable version of the NLEAD and the usage database for the purposes of this report. Secure access was obtained through Amazon Web Services Athena using structured query language. An anonymous officer identifier was created so that BJS would not have access to personally identifiable information. For the NLEAD, BJS had access to some mandatory data fields (i.e., department and agency acronym, job series, incident type, and incident date), as well as a unique record identifier that was associated with each record. For the usage database, BJS was provided information on the department and agency conducting the search; search date and time; unique search ID number; and resulting department, agency, and number of records from the match.

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**APPENDIX TABLE 1****Number of officers for federal law enforcement agencies reporting to the National Law Enforcement Accountability Database, 2018–2023**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Number of law enforcement officers</b>
<b>Department of Agriculture</b>	
Forest Service, Law Enforcement and Investigations	251 to 1,000
Office of Inspector General	51 to 250
Office of Safety Security and Protection	50 or less
<b>Department of Commerce</b>	
Bureau of Industry and Security, Office Export Enforcement	51 to 250
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service	51 to 250
Office of Inspector General	50 or less
Office of the Secretary Executive Protection Unit	50 or less
Police Service Group	50 or less
<b>Department of Defense</b>	
Air Force, Office of Special Investigations	251 to 1,000
Army Criminal Investigation Division	251 to 1,000
National Security Agency Police Force	251 to 1,000
Naval Criminal Investigative Service	1,001 to 10,000
Office of Inspector General and Defense Criminal Investigative Service	251 to 1,000
Pentagon Force Protection Agency	251 to 1,000
<b>Department of Energy</b>	
National Nuclear Security Administration, Office of Secure Transportation	251 to 1,000
Office of Inspector General	51 to 250
Office of Special Operations	50 or less
<b>Department of Health and Human Services</b>	
Food and Drug Administration, Office of Criminal Investigations	51 to 250
National Institutes of Health Police	51 to 250
Office of Inspector General	251 to 1,000
<b>Department of Homeland Security</b>	
Customs and Border Protection	10,001 or more
Federal Emergency Management Agency	51 to 250
Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers, Office of Security and Professional Responsibility	50 or less
Headquarters	51 to 250
Immigration and Customs Enforcement	10,001 or more
Office of Inspector General	51 to 250
Transportation Security Administration	:
United States Coast Guard	51 to 250
United States Secret Service	1,001 to 10,000
<b>Department of the Interior</b>	
Bureau of Indian Affairs	251 to 1,000
Bureau of Land Management	251 to 1,000
Fish and Wildlife Service, National Wildlife Refuge System Law Enforcement	51 to 250
Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement	51 to 250
National Park Service Rangers	1,001 to 10,000
Office of Inspector General	51 to 250
Office of Law Enforcement and Security	50 or less
United States Park Police	251 to 1,000

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**APPENDIX TABLE 1 (continued)****Number of officers for federal law enforcement agencies reporting to the National Law Enforcement Accountability Database, 2018–2023**

Agency	Number of law enforcement officers
<b>Department of Justice</b>	
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives	1,001 to 10,000
Drug Enforcement Administration	1,001 to 10,000
Executive Office of United States Attorneys	50 or less
Federal Bureau of Investigation	10,001 or more
Federal Bureau of Prisons	10,001 or more
Office of Inspector General	51 to 250
Security and Emergency Planning Staff	50 or less
United States Marshals Service	1,001 to 10,000
<b>Department of Labor</b>	
Office of Inspector General	51 to 250
Office of Protective Operations	50 or less
<b>Department of State</b>	
Bureau of Diplomatic Security	1,001 to 10,000
Office of Inspector General	50 or less
<b>Department of Transportation</b>	
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Odometer Fraud Investigations	50 or less
Office of Inspector General	51 to 250
Office of the Secretary of Transportation Security Detail	50 or less
<b>Department of the Treasury</b>	
Bureau of Engraving and Printing	51 to 250
Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division	1,001 to 10,000
Office of Inspector General	50 or less
Special Inspector General for Pandemic Recovery	50 or less
Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration	251 to 1,000
United States Mint Police	251 to 1,000
<b>Department of Veterans Affairs</b>	
Office of Inspector General	51 to 250
Office of Security and Law Enforcement	51 to 250
Veterans Affairs Police Service	1,001 to 10,000
<b>Other law enforcement agencies</b>	
Central Intelligence Agency Police	:
Environmental Protection Agency, Criminal Investigations Division	51 to 250
National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Office of Protective Services	51 to 250
Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Office of Investigations	50 or less
Tennessee Valley Authority Police	51 to 250
U.S. Postal Inspection Service	1,001 to 10,000
<b>Other Offices of Inspectors General</b>	
Corporation for National and Community Service (AmeriCorps)	50 or less
Department of Education	51 to 250
Department of Housing and Urban Development	51 to 250
Environmental Protection Agency	50 or less
Export-Import Bank of the United States	50 or less
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation	51 to 250
Federal Housing Finance Agency	50 or less
General Services Administration	51 to 250
National Aeronautics and Space Administration	50 or less
National Archives and Records Administration	50 or less
National Science Foundation	50 or less
Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board	50 or less
Office of Personnel Management	50 or less
Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	50 or less

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**APPENDIX TABLE 1 (continued)****Number of officers for federal law enforcement agencies reporting to the National Law Enforcement Accountability Database, 2018–2023**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Number of law enforcement officers</b>
Railroad Retirement Board	50 or less
Securities and Exchange Commission	50 or less
Small Business Administration	51 to 250
Social Security Administration	51 to 250
Tennessee Valley Authority	50 or less
The Peace Corps	50 or less
The Smithsonian Institution	50 or less
U.S. Agency for International Development	50 or less
U.S. Postal Service	251 to 1,000
<b>Voluntary reporting agencies</b>	
Amtrak, Office of Inspector General	50 or less
Architect of the Capitol, Office of Inspector General	50 or less
Federal Reserve System, Office of Inspector General	50 or less
Library of Congress, Office of Inspector General	50 or less

Note: The number of law enforcement officers is reported by the agency to the National Law Enforcement Accountability Database (NLEAD). Data not provided to the Justice Management Division were pulled from the Census of Federal Law Enforcement Officers, 2020. See *Methodology*.

:Law enforcement count unknown due to security reasons.

Source: Justice Management Division, National Law Enforcement Accountability Database frame, 2024; and Bureau of Justice Statistics, Census of Federal Law Enforcement Officers, 2020.

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**APPENDIX TABLE 2****Counts for figure 1: Number of officer misconduct records in the National Law Enforcement Accountability Database by year, 2018–2023**

Year	Number
2018	1,024
2019	1,131
2020	890
2021	803
2022	577
2023	365
Total	4,790

Note: Excludes commendations and awards (N=91 records and N=72 officers), which are only included in the National Law Enforcement Accountability Database when an officer has a qualifying adverse event.

Source: Justice Management Division, National Law Enforcement Accountability Database, 2018–2023, pulled September 20, 2024.

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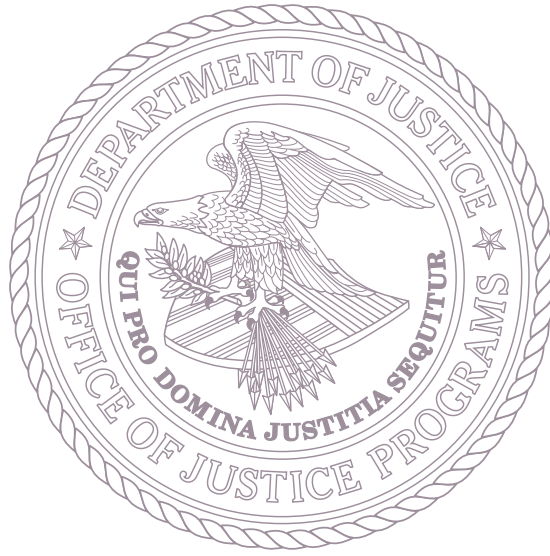
**APPENDIX TABLE 3****Counts for figure 2: Number of National Law Enforcement Accountability Database searches by month, January 1–August 31, 2024**

Month	Number
January	426
February	384
March	602
April	1,428
May	1,391
June	1,137
July	1,612
August	3,005
Total	9,985

Note: Based on 85 federal law enforcement agencies and other federal agencies with at least one authorized user.

Source: Justice Management Division, National Law Enforcement Accountability Database usage, January 1–August 31, 2024, pulled September 1, 2024.

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The Bureau of Justice Statistics of the U.S. Department of Justice is the principal federal agency responsible for measuring crime, criminal victimization, criminal offenders, victims of crime, correlates of crime, and the operation of criminal and civil justice systems at the federal, state, tribal, and local levels. BJS collects, analyzes, and disseminates reliable statistics on crime and justice systems in the United States, supports improvements to state and local criminal justice information systems, and participates with national and international organizations to develop and recommend national standards for justice statistics. Kevin M. Scott, PhD, is the acting director.

This report was written by Shelley S. Hyland, PhD. Charlotte Lopez-Jauffret, PhD, verified the report.

Kathryn A. Sweeney, PhD, and Maureen Stuart edited the report. Jeffrey Link produced the report.

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