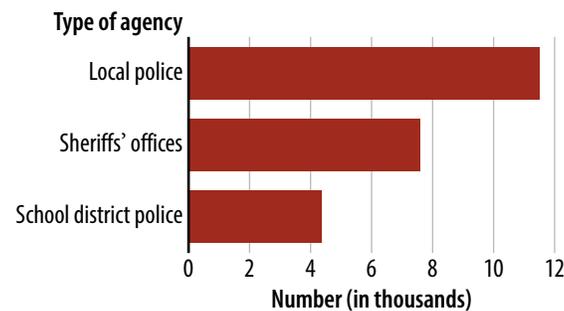# School Resource Officers, 2019–2020

Elizabeth J. Davis, *BJS Statistician*

At the end of the 2019–2020 school year, there were approximately 23,400 sworn school resource officers (SROs) in the United States (figure 1, table 1).[1] About 11,500 (49%) of these SROs were employed by local police departments, 7,600 (32%) were employed by sheriffs' offices, and 4,400 (19%) were employed by school district police departments.

Findings in this report are based on the 2019 Survey of Law Enforcement Personnel in Schools (SLEPS) SRO survey conducted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics. SLEPS had two target populations: law enforcement agencies that employed school resource officers and the SROs themselves. SLEPS employed a two-phase approach, first collecting data from all school district police departments and a nationally representative sample of local police departments

[1] SRO data collection began in December 2019 and remained open through early July 2020. The last completed SRO survey was received in May 2020. In 2020, schools across the country suspended or modified in-person classes in accordance with federal, state, and local guidance related to the risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. SRO staffing levels and responsibilities may have changed due to these modified procedures.

FIGURE 1
Number of sworn SROs, by type of agency, 2019–2020

Note: Agency denotes law enforcement agency. SRO denotes school resource officer. See table 1 for estimates and appendix table 1 for standard errors. See *Survey of Law Enforcement Personnel in Schools: Differences between the Law Enforcement Agency Survey and the School Resource Officer Survey* and *Methodology* for a discussion of the differences in SRO data between this report and *Law Enforcement Agencies that Employ School Resource Officers, 2019* (NCJ 305181, BJS, November 2022).
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Law Enforcement Personnel in Schools, 2019.

HIGHLIGHTS

- There were approximately 23,400 sworn SROs at the end of the 2019–2020 school year.

- About 69% of sworn SROs had responded to an incident in a classroom within the past 30 days.

- During the 2019–2020 school year, about 10% of sworn SROs spoke a language other than English that they found useful when interacting with students.

- Nearly 17% of sworn SROs reported that the school administration reviewed arrest-eligible offenses or that the SRO worked collaboratively with the administration prior to making an arrest decision during the 2019–2020 school year.

- About 54% of sworn SROs had arrested a student for drug possession within the past year.

- Almost 100% of sworn SROs usually carried a firearm when working in their primarily assigned school during the 2019–2020 school year.

- Nearly all sworn SROs received training on the use of deadly force (99%), the use of less-lethal force (99%), and de-escalation strategies (97%) at some point during their career.

- More than 90% of sworn SROs received training on handling juvenile offenders, mental health issues, and conflict resolution during their career.

and sheriffs' offices that employed sworn SROs.[2] The second phase of SLEPS data collection was an officer-level survey administered to a random sample of SROs from agencies that responded during the first phase of SLEPS. (See *Methodology*.) This report discusses SRO survey findings by the type of agency that employed SROs—local police departments, sheriffs' offices, and school district police—and by the size of the SRO program within these agencies.

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[2]Findings from the SLEPS agency survey are presented in *Law Enforcement Agencies that Employ School Resource Officers, 2019* (NCJ 305181, BJS, November 2022).

TABLE 1
Number and percent of sworn SROs, by type of agency, 2019–2020

Type of agency	Number	Percent
All sworn SROs	23,426	100%
Local police	11,498	49.1
Sheriffs' offices	7,572	32.3
School district police	4,356	18.6

Note: Agency denotes law enforcement agency. SRO denotes school resource officer. See appendix table 1 for standard errors. See *Survey of Law Enforcement Personnel in Schools: Differences between the Law Enforcement Agency Survey and the School Resource Officer Survey* and *Methodology* for a discussion of the differences in SRO data between this report and *Law Enforcement Agencies that Employ School Resource Officers, 2019* (NCJ 305181, BJS, November 2022).
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Law Enforcement Personnel in Schools, 2019.

Terms and definitions

Local police department—A general-purpose law enforcement agency, including municipal, county, and regional police departments. The Survey of Law Enforcement Personnel in Schools (SLEPS) data collection includes a nationally representative sample of local police departments with an SRO program.

School district police department—A law enforcement agency based within a school district with jurisdiction limited to schools within the district. The SLEPS data collection includes all school district police departments.

School resource officer (SRO)—In the SLEPS data collection, an SRO is defined as a sworn law enforcement officer who is assigned to work in any public K–12 school. In addition to law enforcement responsibilities, an SRO may also engage in mentoring and teaching activities at school. See the *SRO triad concept* text box on page 8 for more details on SRO roles.

Sheriffs' office—A general-purpose law enforcement agency, typically with jurisdiction over an entire county. The SLEPS data collection includes a nationally representative sample of sheriffs' offices with an SRO program.

SRO program—Refers to an agency's employment of one or more sworn law enforcement officers assigned to work in any public K–12 school. Some findings in this report refer to the size of the SRO program, which is the number of SROs employed by a law enforcement agency.

About 8 in 10 sworn SROs were males, and 6 in 10 were white males

About 83% of all sworn SROs were male, and 17% were female (table 2). In both local police departments and sheriffs' offices, 84% of SROs were male and 16% were female. In school district police departments, 81% of SROs were male and 19% were female. There were no statistically significant differences by agency type in the percentages of male SROs or female SROs.

Of all sworn SROs, 60% were white males, while black males and white females each accounted for about 10%. Hispanic males made up 8% of SROs, and males of another race made up about 5%. About 4% of sworn SROs were black females, 2% were Hispanic females, and less than 1% were females of another race.

A larger portion of sworn SROs in local police departments (63%) and sheriffs' offices (68%) than in school district police departments (38%) were white males. Black males made up a larger percentage of SROs employed by school district police departments (18%) than by sheriffs' offices (9%) or local police departments (8%). School district police departments (19%) employed a larger percentage of Hispanic male SROs than local police departments (7%) or sheriffs' offices (3%).

TABLE 2
Sex and race or ethnicity of sworn SROs, by type of agency, 2019–2020

Type of agency	Male					Female				
	Total	White[a]	Black[a]	Hispanic	Other[b]	Total	White[a]	Black[a]	Hispanic	Other[b]
All sworn SROs	83.2%	60.2%	10.3%	8.0%	4.7%	16.8%	10.4%	3.5%	2.0%	0.7%
Local police*	83.7	63.4	8.3	7.1	5.0	16.3	11.0	2.6	1.9	0.7 !
Sheriffs' offices	83.7	67.9	9.2	3.4 †	3.2	16.3	11.3	3.7	0.8 !	0.5 !
School district police	81.2	38.3 †	17.6 †	18.6 †	6.6 !	18.8	7.3 ‡	5.7 !	4.5 !	1.3 !

Note: Agency denotes law enforcement agency. Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. SRO denotes school resource officer. See appendix table 2 for standard errors.
*Comparison group.
†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.
‡Difference with comparison group is significant at the 90% confidence level.
! Interpret with caution. Estimate based on 10 or fewer sample cases, or coefficient of variation is greater than 50%.
[a]Excludes persons of Hispanic origin (e.g., "white" refers to non-Hispanic white persons and "black" refers to non-Hispanic black persons).
[b]Includes Asians, Native Hawaiians, and Other Pacific Islanders; American Indians and Alaska Natives; and persons of two or more races.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Law Enforcement Personnel in Schools, 2019.

Survey of Law Enforcement Personnel in Schools: Differences between the Law Enforcement Agency Survey and the School Resource Officer Survey

The Survey of Law Enforcement Personnel in Schools (SLEPS) had two target populations: law enforcement agencies (LEAs) that employed school resource officers (SROs) and the SROs themselves. To learn about these two different target populations, SLEPS employed a two-phase approach, first collecting data at the agency level and then at the SRO level. Given the different target populations, the two phases differed in scope and approach, which resulted in slightly different SRO estimates between the two collections.

SLEPS approach and goals

The first phase of the SLEPS data collection was the LEA survey, which the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) used to collect data from all school district police departments and a nationally representative sample of local police departments and sheriffs' offices that employed sworn SROs. The goal of the LEA survey was to collect information on SRO programs, including departmental policies and agreements with schools that guided the activities and training of SROs. The second phase was the SRO survey, which was an officer-level survey administered to a random sample of SROs from agencies that responded during the first phase. The goal of the SRO survey was to collect information from individual SROs about their background, their training, and the activities they performed while working in schools.

LEA survey

The SLEPS LEA survey asked agencies to provide the number of sworn officers primarily assigned to work in public K–12 schools as of September 1, 2019. Participating agencies were first asked to provide the total number of sworn SROs as of this date. In subsequent survey items, agencies were asked to break out the total number of sworn SROs in three separate ways: by sex, by race, and by Hispanic origin. This demographic information could come from the agency's existing administrative records or subjective observation of the person who completed the agency survey. Collecting the data in this aggregate manner is appropriate for administrative collections and reduces the burden on the agency to collect and report the information.

Participating agencies were asked to provide a roster of their SROs, from which BJS could select a sample of SROs to receive the SRO survey. About 76% of agencies that completed the LEA survey provided a roster. These combined LEA rosters accounted for about 66% of the SRO count that was reported in the LEA survey item. In addition, of those agencies that provided a roster, about 6% reported a different number of SROs in the LEA survey than on the LEA roster.

SRO survey

Using the SRO rosters provided by agencies during the LEA survey, BJS selected a certain percentage of SROs from each agency for participation in the SRO survey. (See *Methodology* for sampling rates). On the officer-level survey, SROs reported their sex, race(s), and Hispanic origin.

Data source differences and outcomes

During SRO data collection, it was determined that about 4% of the SROs included on the rosters were no longer eligible for the SRO survey. Between the time the agency completed its roster and the time of SRO data collection, these SROs had left the agency, had been reassigned, or had gone on extended leave.

Due to the different data sources, along with SRO attrition between when the agency completed its survey and roster and when the SRO survey was conducted, the overall SRO estimates and demographic characteristics differ slightly between the *Law Enforcement Agencies that Employ School Resource Officers, 2019* report and this report.

Law Enforcement Agencies that Employ School Resource Officers, 2019 presented an overall estimate of sworn SROs based on the total number reported in the LEA survey item. Additionally, the report presented sworn SRO demographics based on the aggregate demographic characteristics reported by the agency on its LEA survey.

Findings in this report are based on the SRO data collection, which consisted of self-reported data from each SRO. By collecting each of these items from each SRO, it is possible to present the cross-section of sex and race and Hispanic origin, which is not possible using the aggregate demographic characteristics on the LEA survey.

## More than half of all sworn SROs were ages 35 to 49

More than half (55%) of all sworn SROs were ages 35 to 49, more than a quarter (27%) were age 50 or older, and about a sixth (18%) were ages 18 to 34 (figure 2). A lower percentage of sworn SROs in school district police departments (11%) than in sheriffs' offices (22%) or local police departments (19%) were ages 18 to 34. A higher percentage of sworn SROs in school district police departments (38%) than in sheriffs' offices (26%) or local police departments (23%) were age 50 or older.

A quarter of sworn SROs had worked as an SRO for 1 to 2 years

A quarter (25%) of all sworn SROs had worked as an SRO for 1 to 2 years (table 3). About 14% of sworn SROs were in their first year at the time of the survey, while about 16% had been an SRO for more than 10 years. About 6% of sworn SROs in school district police departments were in their first year as an SRO, compared to more than twice that percentage in local police departments and sheriffs' offices (15% each). Nearly a third (31%) of sworn SROs in school district police departments had worked as an SRO for more than 10 years, more than twice the proportion in local police departments (13%) or sheriffs' offices (12%).
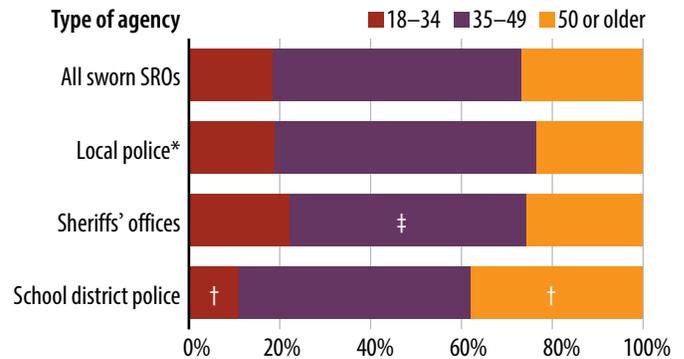
Age of sworn SROs, by type of agency, 2019–2020

Note: Agency denotes law enforcement agency. SRO denotes school resource officer. See appendix table 3 for estimates and standard errors.
*Comparison group.
†Significant difference from comparison group at 95% confidence level.
‡Significant difference from comparison group at 90% confidence level.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Law Enforcement Personnel in Schools, 2019.

TABLE 3
Years worked as a sworn SRO, by type of agency, 2019–2020

Type of agency	Less than 1 year	1–2 years	3–5 years	6–10 years	More than 10 years
All sworn SROs	13.5%	24.7%	25.5%	20.5%	15.8%
Local police*	15.2	25.6	28.9	17.5	12.8
Sheriffs' offices	15.0	28.0	22.3 †	23.0 †	11.7
School district police	6.4 †	16.5 †	21.8 ‡	24.4 ‡	30.8 †

Note: Agency denotes law enforcement agency. SRO denotes school resource officer. See appendix table 4 for standard errors.
*Comparison group.
†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.
‡Difference with comparison group is significant at the 90% confidence level.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Law Enforcement Personnel in Schools, 2019.

Three-quarters of SROs were certified by an SRO association

National and state SRO organizations offer training courses and programs designed to prepare law enforcement officers for working in a school setting. SROs may earn a certificate for successful completion of training through these organizations. Nearly a third of sworn SROs were certified only by a national SRO organization (32%) or by a state organization (33%), while a tenth were certified by both (10%) (table 4). SROs in local police departments (47%) were about twice as likely as SROs in sheriffs' offices (22%) and more than four times as likely as those in school district police departments (10%) to be certified only by a national SRO organization. A higher percentage of SROs in school district police departments (42%) or sheriffs' offices (41%) than in local police departments (25%) were certified only by a state SRO organization.

About 1 in 10 SROs spoke another language that they found useful when interacting with students

About 15% of all sworn SROs spoke a language in addition to English, and about 10% of all SROs found the other language useful when interacting with students (figure 3). A higher percentage of SROs in school district police departments (24%) than in local police departments (14%) or sheriffs' offices (11%) spoke another language.
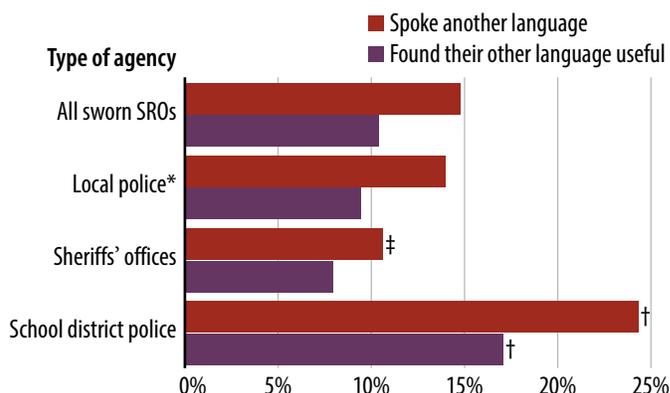
Note: Agency denotes law enforcement agency. School resource officers (SROs) were asked to report whether they spoke any language other than English and whether this other language was useful when interacting with students. See appendix table 6 for estimates and standard errors.
*Comparison group.
†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.
‡Difference with comparison group is significant at the 90% confidence level.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Law Enforcement Personnel in Schools, 2019.

TABLE 4
Percent of sworn SROs certified by a national or state SRO association, by type of agency, 2019–2020

Type of agency	Certified by national association[a]	Certified by state association[a]	Certified by both national and state association
All sworn SROs	31.9%	33.3%	10.1%
Local police*	46.9	25.2	10.8
Sheriffs' offices	21.8 †	40.8 †	12.7
School district police	9.9 †	41.7 †	4.1 !

Note: Agency denotes law enforcement agency. SRO denotes school resource officer. See appendix table 5 for standard errors.
*Comparison group.
†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.
! Interpret with caution. Estimate based on 10 or fewer sample cases, or coefficient of variation is greater than 50%.
[a]Excludes SROs who reported they were certified by both national and state associations.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Law Enforcement Personnel in Schools, 2019.

About 6 in 10 SROs were assigned to a single school

Overall, about 60% of sworn SROs were assigned to one school (table 5). Nearly a quarter (23%) of SROs were assigned to two to four schools, and 17% were assigned to five or more. About two-thirds of SROs in sheriffs' offices (67%) were assigned to one school, while a smaller proportion in local police departments (58%) and school district police departments (56%) were assigned to one school. SROs in school district police departments were more likely to be assigned to five or more schools (26%) than SROs in local police departments (16%) or sheriffs' offices (11%).

The larger the SRO program in local police departments, the more likely their sworn SROs were to be assigned to a single school. In local police departments, about 76% of SROs in departments with 10 or more SROs were assigned to one school, compared to 62% of SROs in departments with 5 to 9 SROs and 47% of SROs in departments with 1 to 4 SROs. SROs in local police departments or sheriffs' offices with programs of 1 to 4 SROs were about twice as likely to be assigned to five or more schools as SROs in programs with 5 to 9 SROs or 10 or more SROs.

TABLE 5
Number of schools to which sworn SROs were assigned, by type of agency and size of SRO program, 2019–2020

Type of agency and SRO program size	1 school	2–4 schools	5 or more schools
All sworn SROs	60.4%	23.0%	16.5%
Local police*	57.6%	26.0%	16.4%
10 or more SROs**	76.4	14.4	9.2
5–9	61.7 †	26.9 †	11.4
1–4	46.6 †	31.4 †	22.0 †
Sheriffs' offices	66.9% †	21.9% ‡	11.2% †
10 or more SROs**	75.2	15.2	9.7
5–9	69.6	22.4 ‡	8.0
1–4	41.1 †	40.0 †	18.9 †
School district police	56.5%	17.0% †	26.0% †
10 or more SROs**	61.9	10.0	27.4
5–9	48.3	31.7 !	20.0 !
1–4	37.6 !	30.0 !	32.5 !

Note: Agency denotes law enforcement agency. SRO denotes school resource officer. See appendix table 7 for standard errors.
*Comparison group for type of agency.
**Comparison group for SRO program size within type of agency.
†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.
‡Difference with comparison group is significant at the 90% confidence level.
! Interpret with caution. Estimate based on 10 or fewer sample cases, or coefficient of variation is greater than 50%.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Law Enforcement Personnel in Schools, 2019.

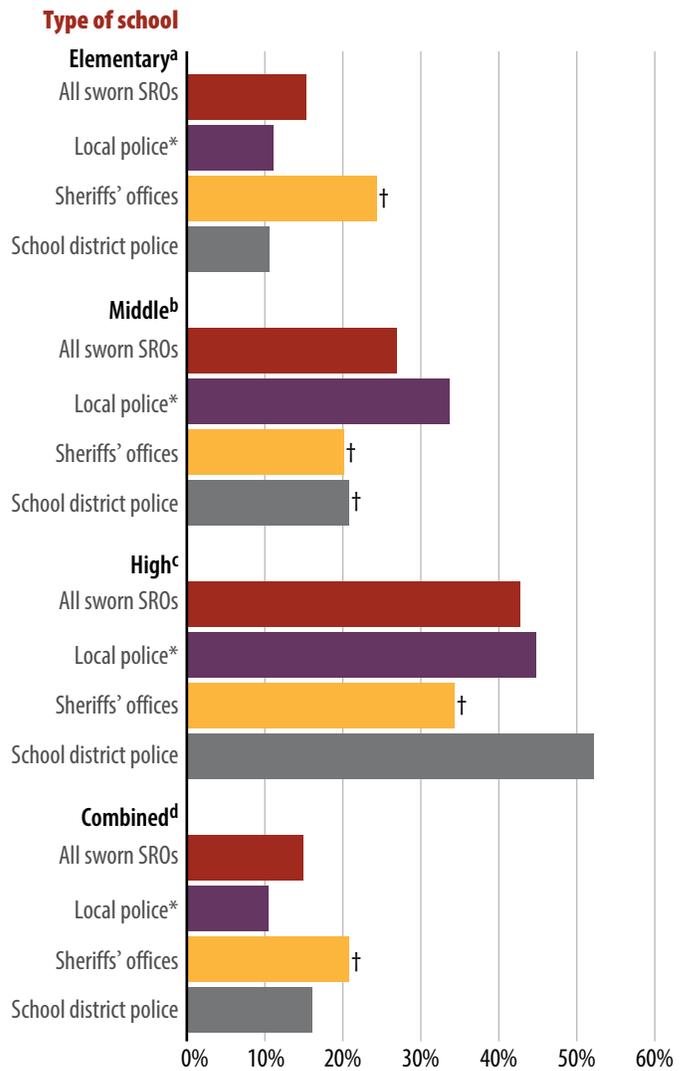**About 4 in 10 SROs were primarily assigned to a high school**

Of all sworn SROs, about 43% were primarily assigned to a high school, 27% to a middle school, 15% to an elementary school, and 15% to a combined school (figure 4). About 24% of SROs in sheriffs' offices reported that their primary assignment was at an elementary school, compared to 11% of those in local police departments or school district police departments. About 1 in 3 SROs in local police departments (34%) were primarily assigned to a middle school, compared to 1 in 5 SROs in sheriffs' offices (20%) or school district police departments (21%). More than half of SROs in school district police departments (52%) had a high school as their primary assignment, compared to a third of SROs in sheriffs' offices (34%).

SRO triad concept

The National Association of School Resource Officers developed the triad concept of school-based policing, which divides the responsibilities of school resource officers (SROs) into three main roles: teacher, informal counselor or mentor, and law enforcement officer. The 2019 Survey of Law Enforcement Personnel in Schools SRO survey was designed around this concept, asking SROs about specific activities and training topics that fell into each of the three roles. SROs were asked whether they had performed specific law enforcement, mentoring, and teaching activities as part of their SRO duties within the past 30 days before completing their survey.

Tables 6 and 7 and figures 5 and 6 in this report highlight various law enforcement activities performed by SROs based on the triad concept. Table 8 shows mentoring activities, and table 9 shows teaching activities. Table 13 highlights the law enforcement training topics of use of force and de-escalation strategies. Figure 7 displays training on law enforcement, prevention and planning, and social and behavioral topics that sworn SROs received at some point during their career.

Type of school to which sworn SROs were primarily assigned, by type of agency, 2019–2020

Note: Agency denotes law enforcement agency. School resource officers (SROs) were asked to report the type of school to which they were primarily assigned. If they were assigned to more than one school, they were asked to answer based on the school where they spend most of their time. If their time was split evenly between two or more schools, SROs were asked to answer based on the school they worked in most recently. See appendix table 8 for estimates and standard errors.
*Comparison group.
†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.
[a]The lowest grade is not higher than grade 3, and the highest grade is not higher than grade 8.
[b]The lowest grade is not lower than grade 4, and the highest grade is not higher than grade 9.
[c]The lowest grade is not lower than grade 9, and the highest grade is not higher than grade 12.
[d]Includes K–8, K–12, and other combined schools.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Law Enforcement Personnel in Schools, 2019.

About 7 in 10 SROs responded to incidents in the classroom

Nearly all sworn SROs (98%) reported that they had patrolled school facilities as part of their SRO duties within the past 30 days (table 6). About 9 in 10 (88%) had responded to calls for service on the school campus, and almost 7 in 10 (69%) had responded to incidents in the classroom.

Similar percentages of sworn SROs in local police departments (90%) or school district police departments (91%) had responded to calls for service on the school campus, while a smaller portion of SROs in sheriffs' offices (85%) had. There was no statistically significant difference in the percentage of SROs in school district police departments that responded to incidents in the classroom compared to those in local police departments or sheriffs' offices.

More than half of all sworn SROs had conducted searches (54%), interviewed a student in the absence of a parent or guardian (55%), and interviewed a student in the presence of a parent or guardian (59%) in the previous 30 days (figure 5). A larger portion of SROs in school district police departments (64%) than in local police departments (51%) or sheriffs' offices (55%) had conducted searches. A higher percentage of SROs employed by local police departments than by sheriffs' offices or school district police departments had interviewed a student, either in the absence or presence of a parent or guardian.

Recent investigative activities performed by sworn SROs, by type of agency, 2019–2020
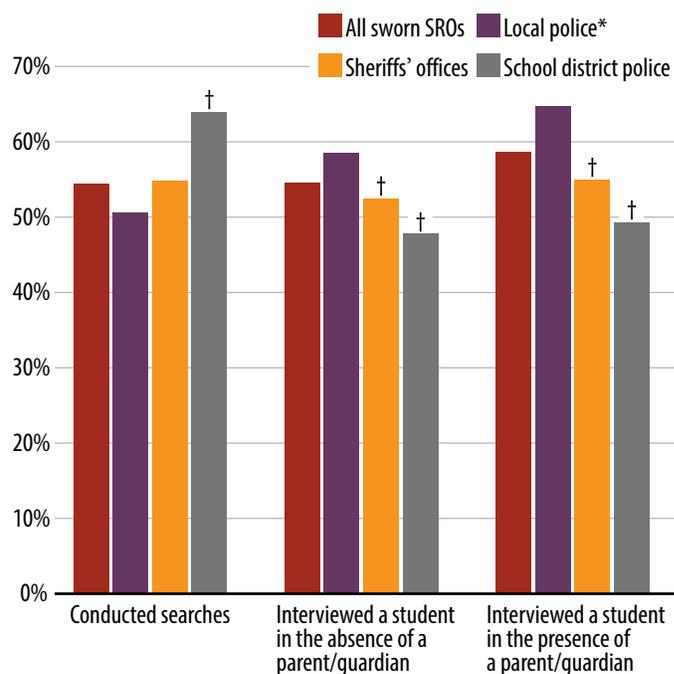
Note: Agency denotes law enforcement agency. School resource officers (SROs) were asked to report whether they had performed these activities on or around school grounds within the past 30 days. See appendix table 10 for estimates and standard errors.
*Comparison group.
†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Law Enforcement Personnel in Schools, 2019.

TABLE 6
Recent patrol and response activities performed by sworn SROs, by type of agency, 2019–2020

Type of agency	Patrolled school facilities	Responded to calls for service on the school campus	Responded to incidents in the classroom
All sworn SROs	97.8%	88.4%	68.5%
Local police*	98.3	89.6	65.0
Sheriffs' offices	98.9	84.8 †	74.0 †
School district police	94.5 ‡	91.3	68.4

Note: Agency denotes law enforcement agency. School resource officers (SROs) were asked to report whether they had performed these activities on or around school grounds within the past 30 days. See appendix table 9 for standard errors.
*Comparison group.
†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.
‡Difference with comparison group is significant at the 90% confidence level.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Law Enforcement Personnel in Schools, 2019.

About half of all SROs conducted campus security audits and monitored social media

About 83% of sworn SROs had conducted video surveillance of schools in the past 30 days (table 7). About half of all SROs had conducted security audits or assessments of school campuses (51%) or monitored social media (47%). About 45% of SROs had participated in crisis preparedness training or on a threat assessment team.

A lower percentage of sworn SROs in local police departments (78%) than in sheriffs' offices (85%) or school district police departments (92%) had conducted video surveillance. A higher percentage of SROs in local police departments (49%) or sheriffs' offices (51%) had monitored social media than in school district police departments (37%). There were no statistically significant differences by agency type in the percentages of SROs who had participated in crisis preparedness training or on a threat assessment team.

Close to half of all SROs confiscated drugs

Slightly less than half of all sworn SROs reported that they had confiscated drugs (45%) within the past 30 days (figure 6). Nearly 4 in 10 SROs had made an arrest (39%) or issued a criminal citation (37%) in the past 30 days. About 23% of SROs had confiscated a weapon.

Sworn SROs in school district police departments were the most likely to report confiscating drugs (60%), followed by SROs in local police departments (47%). A higher percentage of SROs in local police departments (41%) than in sheriffs' offices (35%) or school district police departments (29%) had issued criminal citations. A smaller portion of SROs in sheriffs' offices (32%) than in local police departments (41%) or school district police departments (45%) reported that they had made an arrest in the past 30 days.

FIGURE 6
Recent criminal enforcement activities performed by sworn SROs, by type of agency, 2019–2020
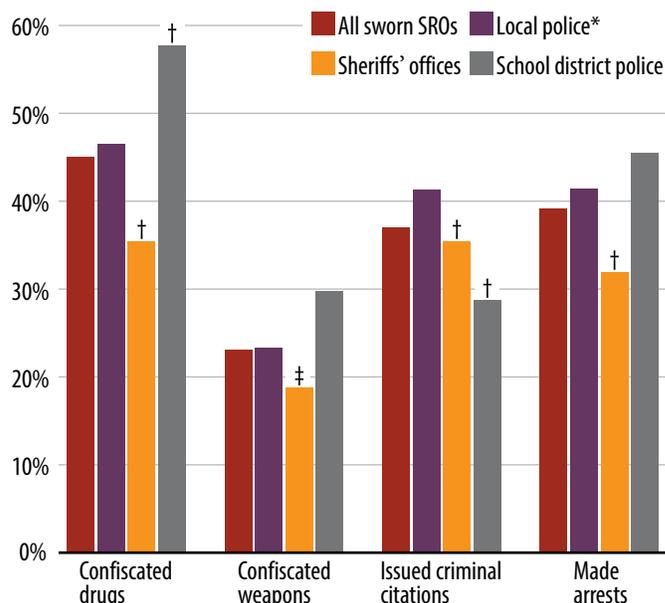
Note: Agency denotes law enforcement agency. School resource officers (SROs) were asked to report whether they had performed these activities on or around school grounds within the past 30 days. See appendix table 12 for estimates and standard errors.
*Comparison group.
†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.
‡Difference with comparison group is significant at the 90% confidence level.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Law Enforcement Personnel in Schools, 2019.

TABLE 7
Recent security activities performed by sworn SROs, by type of agency, 2019–2020

Type of agency	Conducted security audits/ assessments of school campuses	Conducted video surveillance/monitoring	Monitored social media	Participated in crisis preparedness training	Participated on a threat assessment team
All sworn SROs	51.2%	82.9%	47.2%	44.7%	45.0%
Local police*	46.9	78.3	48.7	47.0	44.2
Sheriffs' offices	57.6 †	84.6 †	50.7	42.8	49.1
School district police	51.4	92.1 †	36.8 †	41.8	39.8

Note: Agency denotes law enforcement agency. School resource officers (SROs) were asked to report whether they had performed these activities on or around school grounds within the past 30 days. See appendix table 11 for standard errors.
*Comparison group.
†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Law Enforcement Personnel in Schools, 2019.

Most SROs advised school staff, students, or families

About 85% of sworn SROs had advised school staff, students, or families, either one-on-one or in a group setting, in the past 30 days (table 8). Nearly half (46%) of all SROs had participated in positive school discipline. About a quarter of SROs had supervised or coordinated nonathletic extracurricular activities (25%) or intervened in truancy situations (25%). About 10% of SROs had coached athletic programs, and 7% had chaperoned field trips.

Similar percentages of sworn SROs in local police departments (87%) and sheriffs' offices (86%) had advised staff, students, or families, while a smaller percentage of SROs in school district police departments (78%) had engaged in this mentoring activity. A higher percentage of SROs in sheriffs' offices (49%) than in school district police departments (40%) had participated in positive school discipline. SROs in local police departments (28%) were more likely to have intervened in truancy situations than SROs in school district police departments (19%).

TABLE 8
Recent mentoring activities performed by sworn SROs, by type of agency, 2019–2020

Type of agency	Advised school staff/ students/families[a]	Coached athletic programs	Chaperoned field trips	Participated in positive school discipline[b]	Supervised/ coordinated nonathletic extracurricular activities	Engaged in truancy intervention
All sworn SROs	85.4%	9.9%	6.9%	46.3%	25.3%	25.5%
Local police*	87.5	10.1	8.1	46.8	24.2	28.5
Sheriffs' offices	86.3	13.7 ‡	7.6	49.2	31.0 †	24.7
School district police	78.4 †	2.7 !	2.5 !	39.7	18.2 ‡	18.9 †

Note: Agency denotes law enforcement agency. School resource officers (SROs) were asked to report whether they had performed these activities on or around school grounds within the past 30 days. See appendix table 13 for standard errors.
*Comparison group.
†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.
‡Difference with comparison group is significant at the 90% confidence level.
! Interpret with caution. Estimate based on 10 or fewer sample cases, or coefficient of variation is greater than 50%.
[a]Includes advising persons one-on-one or in a group.
[b]Includes PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports), such as using discipline to teach rather than punish, relationship-building, and implementing social-emotional programs.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Law Enforcement Personnel in Schools, 2019.

About half of all SROs engaged in conflict resolution

Nearly half of all SROs reported engaging in conflict resolution (49%) in the past 30 days. About half (49%) of all sworn SROs had administered special safety programs or provided classroom instruction (table 9). Special safety programs included educating students on drugs, legal issues, crime awareness, and distracted driving. SROs delivered classroom presentations or taught classes on topics such as criminal justice, civics or government, law, and search and seizure. More than a quarter (27%)

of SROs gave in-service presentations to school faculty or staff, and about 11% of SROs gave presentations to parent organizations.

About half of SROs in local police departments (52%) and sheriffs' offices (53%) had administered special safety programs or provided classroom instruction in the past 30 days, compared to a third of SROs in school district police departments (34%). About half of SROs in each agency type engaged in conflict resolution.

TABLE 9
Recent teaching activities performed by sworn SROs, by type of agency, 2019–2020

Type of agency	Administering special safety programs or providing classroom instruction[a]	Conflict resolution	Faculty/staff in-service presentations	Parent organization presentations
All sworn SROs	48.7%	49.4%	26.6%	10.7%
Local police*	51.5	50.0	29.4	13.1
Sheriffs' offices	52.8	50.8	24.9 ‡	9.4 †
School district police	34.4 †	45.4	22.2 ‡	6.4 !

Note: Agency denotes law enforcement agency. School resource officers (SROs) were asked to report whether they had performed these activities on or around school grounds within the past 30 days. See appendix table 14 for standard errors.
*Comparison group.
†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.
‡Difference with comparison group is significant at the 90% confidence level.
! Interpret with caution. Estimate based on 10 or fewer sample cases, or coefficient of variation is greater than 50%.
[a]The survey included the following examples for special safety programs: drugs, legal issues, crime awareness, and distracted driving. Providing classroom instruction was added to the administering special safety programs category because 1.9% of sworn SROs wrote in responses that they taught classes or delivered classroom presentations on various topics (e.g., criminal justice, civics or government, law, and search and seizure).
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Law Enforcement Personnel in Schools, 2019.

About 7 in 10 SROs reported that the school administration had no impact on their decision to arrest a student

Almost 7 in 10 (68%) sworn SROs reported that the decision to arrest a student was solely up to the SRO and that the school administration had no impact on their decision (table 10). About 17% of SROs reported that the school administration reviewed all arrest-eligible incidents and could provide input on the SRO's arrest decision, or that the SROs worked collaboratively with school administrators and other school staff to determine the best course of action. For about 13% of SROs, there was a memorandum of understanding or other agreement in place that specified situations in which the school could have influence over an SRO's arrest decision.

A larger percentage of sworn SROs in school district police departments (85%) and sheriffs' offices (68%) than in local police departments (62%) reported that the school administration had no impact on their decision to arrest a student. About 20% of SROs in local police departments reported that the school administration reviewed incidents or that SROs engaged in a collaborative process before making an arrest decision, compared to 16% of SROs in sheriffs' offices and 8% of SROs in school district police departments.

TABLE 10
Role of school administration in arrest decisions by sworn SROs, by type of agency, 2019–2020

Type of agency	No impact[a]	Specified in MOU[b]	Incident review by school administration/collaborative process[c]	Other role[d]
All sworn SROs	68.3%	13.3%	16.7%	1.5%
Local police*	62.1	16.2	20.4	1.0
Sheriffs' office	67.9 †	13.4	16.1 ‡	2.6 †
School district police	85.5 †	5.8 !	7.8 †	0.9 !

Note: Agency denotes law enforcement agency. Denominator excludes school resource officers (SROs) who indicated they do not have arrest powers in their assigned school (0.3%). See appendix table 15 for standard errors.
*Comparison group.
†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.
‡Difference with comparison group is significant at the 90% confidence level.
! Interpret with caution. Estimate based on 10 or fewer sample cases, or coefficient of variation is greater than 50%.
[a]Arrest decisions were made solely by the SRO or other sworn personnel.
[b]A memorandum of understanding (MOU) or other agreement specified situations where the school could have influence over an SRO's arrest decisions.
[c]The school administration reviewed all arrest-eligible incidents and could provide input regarding an SRO's arrest decision. Also includes write-in responses that indicated the SRO worked closely with school administration and staff to determine the best course of action.
[d]Includes SROs who indicated that the role of school administration in arrest decisions depended on the situation (0.7%), SROs who indicated they did not make arrests because of the age of students (0.2%), and other write-in responses that did not include enough information for categorization (0.5%).
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Law Enforcement Personnel in Schools, 2019.

More than half of all SROs had arrested a student for drug possession within the past year

More than half (54%) of all sworn SROs had arrested a student for drug possession within the past year (table 11). After drug possession, the most common offenses for which SROs had arrested students were fighting (45%) and disorderly conduct (41%). About a third of SROs had arrested students for threats against other students (35%); assault on school staff, faculty, security, or SROs (35%); or theft (31%).

A larger percentage of sworn SROs in school district police departments (69%) than in local police departments (55%) or sheriffs' offices (45%) reported arresting a student for drug possession in the past year. A higher percentage of SROs in school district police departments (54%) than in local police departments (33%) or sheriffs' offices (25%) had arrested a student for assault on school or security staff. SROs in school district police departments were twice as likely to have arrested a student for threats against faculty (37%) than were SROs in local police departments or sheriffs' offices (both 17%).

TABLE 11
Offenses for which sworn SROs arrested any student(s) during the past 12 months, by type of agency, 2019–2020

Offense	All sworn SROs	Local police*	Sheriffs' offices	School district police
Assault on school staff/ faculty/security/SROs	34.5%	33.3%	25.3% †	53.7% †
Disorderly conduct	41.0	42.0	37.7	44.3
Drug distribution	18.5	19.9	11.7 †	26.6 ‡
Drug possession	54.2	54.9	44.6 †	69.1 †
Electronic/social media crimes[a]	27.0	32.4	19.0 †	27.1
Failure to obey a police officer	12.3	11.2	9.5	20.0 †
Fighting	45.1	47.4	42.2 ‡	44.0
Theft	31.5	33.9	23.9 †	38.3
Threats against faculty	20.8	17.5	16.6	37.0 †
Threats against school facility	27.9	27.5	23.6	36.4 †
Threats against students	35.5	35.9	29.2 †	45.4 †
Weapon possession	26.1	27.4	21.0 †	31.3
Weapon use	3.2	4.2	0.9 !	4.4 !

Note: Agency denotes law enforcement agency. School resource officers (SROs) were asked to report whether they had arrested any student(s) during the past 12 months for the specified offenses. See appendix table 16 for standard errors.
*Comparison group.
†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.
‡Difference with comparison group is significant at the 90% confidence level.
! Interpret with caution. Estimate based on 10 or fewer sample cases, or coefficient of variation is greater than 50%.
[a]Includes cyberbullying, sexting, and other electronic or social media crimes.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Law Enforcement Personnel in Schools, 2019.

Nearly all SROs usually carried a firearm in school

Nearly all sworn SROs reported that they usually carried a firearm in their primarily assigned school (table 12). About 68% of SROs usually carried oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray or foam, 65% usually carried a conducted energy device, and 57% usually carried a baton or nightstick.

Sworn SROs in school district police departments were less likely to carry a conducted energy device (34%) than SROs in local police departments (71%) or sheriffs' offices (75%). SROs in school district police departments (70%) were more likely to carry a baton than those in local police departments or sheriffs' offices (both 54%).

There was no statistically significant difference in the percentage of SROs who usually carried OC spray or foam by the type of agency.

Nearly all SROs received training on use of force and de-escalation strategies

Nearly all sworn SROs received training on the use of deadly force, use of less-lethal force, and de-escalation strategies at some point during their career (table 13). About 95% of SROs with less than 1 year of tenure as a sworn law enforcement officer had received training on the use of deadly force and de-escalation strategies.

TABLE 12
Equipment sworn SROs usually carried in the school to which they were primarily assigned, by type of agency, 2019–2020

Type of agency	Firearm	OC spray/foam	Conducted energy device	Baton/nightstick
All sworn SROs	99.9%	67.9%	65.2%	57.1%
Local police*	99.9	67.8	70.7	54.0
Sheriffs' offices	100	67.2	74.9	54.5
School district police	100	69.4	33.8 †	70.1 †

Note: Agency denotes law enforcement agency. OC denotes oleoresin capsicum. SRO denotes school resource officer. See appendix table 17 for standard errors.
*Comparison group.
†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Law Enforcement Personnel in Schools, 2019.

TABLE 13
Percent of sworn SROs who received training on use of force and de-escalation, by tenure as a sworn law enforcement officer, 2019–2020

Tenure as a sworn law enforcement officer	Use of deadly force	Use of less-lethal force	De-escalation strategies
All sworn SROs	99.4%	98.7%	97.3%
More than 10 years*	99.4	98.6	97.4
6–10 years	99.3	98.6	97.0
3–5 years	99.7	99.7 †	96.5
1–2 years	100 †	98.4	100 †
Less than 1 year	95.3	100 †	95.3

Note: Refers to training that sworn school resource officers (SROs) received at any point during their career. Agency denotes law enforcement agency. See appendix table 18 for standard errors.
*Comparison group.
†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Law Enforcement Personnel in Schools, 2019.

More than 9 in 10 SROs had training in working with juvenile offenders, mental health issues, and conflict resolution during their career

More than 9 in 10 sworn SROs received training on procedures for handling juvenile offenders (95%), mental health issues (96%), or conflict resolution (91%) at some point during their career (figure 7). Nearly 9 in 10 SROs also reported that they had received training on crisis preparedness planning (89%), substance abuse recognition (88%), gangs (86%), or cultural sensitivity (86%). Almost two-thirds of SROs received training on working with students with disabilities (65%); trauma-informed practices (63%); child or adolescent psychology or development (62%); and mentoring staff, students, or families (62%). About 46% of all SROs received training in positive school discipline, and 38% received training on truancy intervention at some point during their career.

FIGURE 7
Percent of sworn SROs who received training on selected topics, 2019–2020
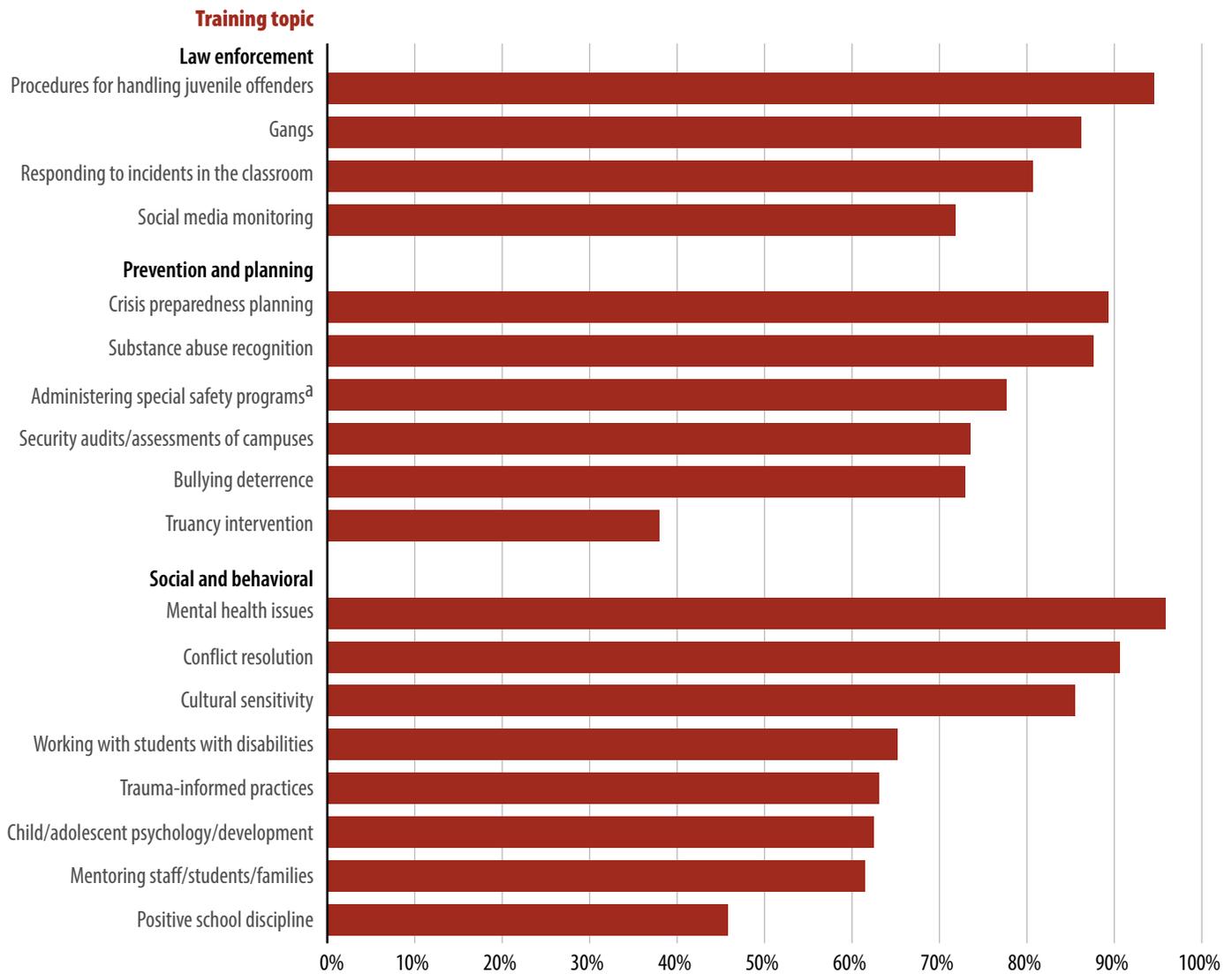
Note: Refers to training that sworn school resource officers (SROs) received at any point during their career. Agency denotes law enforcement agency. See appendix table 19 for estimates and standard errors.
aIncludes special safety programs on legal issues, crime awareness, and distracted driving.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Law Enforcement Personnel in Schools, 2019.

Methodology

The 2019 Survey of Law Enforcement Personnel in Schools (SLEPS) was a one-time data collection the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) developed to address gaps in national statistics on the characteristics of law enforcement agencies employing sworn school resource officers (SROs) and the characteristics and functions of the SROs themselves. SLEPS was part of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Comprehensive School Safety Initiative (CSSI). The CSSI, overseen by the National Institute of Justice, was a research-focused program authorized in the 2014 DOJ Appropriations Act (Public Law 113–76) with the purpose of increasing the safety of schools nationwide.

SLEPS employed a two-phase approach, first sending a law enforcement agency (LEA) survey to a nationally representative sample of LEAs. As part of the survey, agencies were asked to provide a roster of their officers working in schools. The roster asked for an SRO identifier (such as name or badge number) and for officer rank, sex, race, and ethnicity. If agencies did not want to provide SRO names or badge numbers, they were asked to provide an alias and maintain a list linking the aliases to their SROs. Agency rosters were used to draw a nationally representative sample of SROs for the second phase, which was an officer-level survey. The SRO surveys were sent to each agency's point of contact for distribution to the selected SROs. This report discusses findings only from the SRO survey. Findings from the LEA survey are discussed in *Law Enforcement Agencies that Employ School Resource Officers, 2019* (NCJ 305181, BJS, November 2022).

Survey overview

The sampling frame for the 2019 SLEPS SRO survey was based on sworn SRO rosters received during the first phase of SLEPS data collection, which was conducted with a sample of 2,026 law enforcement agencies.[3]

A total of 1,524 agencies completed the LEA survey, and 1,153 of those agencies provided an SRO roster. Five agencies that did not meet the completion threshold for the LEA survey provided a roster. The rosters from these 1,158 agencies were combined to develop an SRO frame, from which a sample of sworn SROs were selected to receive the SLEPS SRO survey.

Sample design and selection

The SRO sampling frame was stratified at three levels, representing groups of substantive interest for estimates. The first level separated sworn SROs employed by school-based agencies and non-school-based agencies. Within the non-school-based stratum, SROs were substratified by the type of agency by which they were employed, with separate strata for local police departments (municipal, county, and regional) and sheriffs' offices. SROs in local police departments and sheriffs' offices were further stratified by the number of SROs on their agency's roster.

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[3]See *Methodology* in *Law Enforcement Agencies that Employ School Resource Officers, 2019* (NCJ 305181, BJS, November 2022) for more information on the development of the agency frame and the selection of these agencies.

Local police departments and sheriffs' offices were stratified by size into the following groups: 1 SRO, 2 to 4 SROs, 5 to 9 SROs, 10 to 24 SROs, and 25 or more SROs. The 1 SRO and 2 to 4 SRO strata for both local police departments and sheriffs' offices were treated as certainty for sample selection. All SROs within the certainty strata were selected, while only a percentage of SROs in the noncertainty strata were selected. Table 14 shows the number of rosters received by strata and the SRO sampling percentage applied to each agency within the stratum.

Across the entire LEA data collection period, from September 2019 through February 2020, a total of 1,158 agencies provided an SRO roster for the SRO survey data collection (table 14). SRO data collection was divided into two waves, and wave assignment was based on the date that the agency submitted its SRO roster. Rosters received on or before October 31, 2019 were assigned to Wave 1. Rosters received November 1, 2019 through the end of LEA data collection in February 2020 were assigned to Wave 2.

Of the 1,158 agencies, 726 provided a roster before the Wave 1 cutoff date, and the compilation of these rosters resulted in a frame of 4,802 SROs. Wave 2 included 432 agencies, and the compilation of those rosters resulted in a frame of 4,062 SROs. In total, 8,864 SROs were listed in rosters across both waves.

TABLE 14
Sworn SRO frame counts and sampling rates, 2019–2020

Strata	All responding agencies		Wave 1		Wave 2		SRO sampling rate within agency
	Number of rosters	Number of SROs	Number of rosters	Number of SROs	Number of rosters	Number of SROs	
Total	1,158	8,864	726	4,802	432	4,062	~
School-based (K–12)	137	2,198	60	679	77	1,519	30.0%
Non-school-based, local police	607	3,328	409	2,132	198	1,196	~
1 SRO	191	191	135	135	56	56	100%
2–4 SROs	199	512	140	357	59	155	100
5–9 SROs	122	822	74	512	48	310	65.2
10–24 SROs	77	1,126	49	697	28	429	42.0
25 or more SROs	18	677	11	431	7	246	16.0
Non-school-based, sheriffs' offices	414	3,338	257	1,991	157	1,347	~
1 SRO	102	102	66	66	36	36	100%
2–4 SROs	128	357	80	218	48	139	100
5–9 SROs	87	597	51	353	36	244	70.0
10–24 SROs	67	974	41	601	26	373	31.0
25 or more SROs	30	1,308	19	753	11	555	10.8

Note: Agency denotes law enforcement agency. School-based agencies were not stratified by size and had an overall sampling rate of 30% per agency with a minimum selection of one school resource officer (SRO). To prevent unnecessary inflation of design effects because of correlation among SROs within agencies, a cap of 50 officers from any single agency was used.
~Not applicable.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Law Enforcement Personnel in Schools, 2019.

From the Wave 1 frame, 2,184 SROs were sampled (table 15). From the Wave 2 frame, 1,591 SROs were selected for the sample.

Survey invitations to Wave 1 SROs were mailed in December 2019, and data collection remained open through early July 2020. Mailouts to Wave 2 SROs were scheduled to begin in late March 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Wave 2 data collection was postponed to fall 2020. In late summer 2020, BJS conducted a roster verification effort to determine the accuracy of the previously collected SRO rosters and assess agency plans for the 2020–2021 school year. Based on the results of the verification effort, BJS canceled Wave 2 of the SRO data collection because many schools were set to begin the school year virtually, so there would not be SROs working in schools.

Of the 2,184 SROs selected for Wave 1 of the SRO survey, 92 were identified as ineligible during data collection because they no longer served as an SRO. These 92 had left the agency, been reassigned by the agency, or had gone on extended leave.

TABLE 15
Sworn SRO sample allocation, 2019–2020

Strata	Total	Wave 1	Wave 2
Total	3,775	2,184	1,591
School-based (K–12)	644	210	434
Non-school-based, local police	1,806	1,175	631
1 SRO	191	135	56
2–4 SROs	512	357	155
5–9 SROs	524	325	199
10–24 SROs	471	290	181
25 or more SROs	108	68	40
Non-school-based, sheriffs' offices	1,325	799	526
1 SRO	102	66	36
2–4 SROs	357	218	139
5–9 SROs	423	252	171
10–24 SROs	302	182	120
25 or more SROs	141	81	60

Note: The Wave 2 sample was selected, but the selected school resource officers (SROs) were not surveyed. Wave 2 data collection was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Law Enforcement Personnel in Schools, 2019.

SRO response rate

Data were collected using two self-administered modes: web and paper. The mode was based on the sworn SRO's preference. About 93% of SROs responded via the web survey.

Submitted surveys were considered complete if at least 60% of the questionnaire was filled out. A total of 1,696 SROs completed the SLEPS SRO questionnaire, for a response rate of 81.8% for Wave 1 SROs. With the cancellation of Wave 2 and treating all the Wave 2 SROs as nonrespondents, the overall response rate was 46%. To account for Wave 1 SRO nonresponse and the cancellation of Wave 2 data collection, a model-based weighting scheme was used. The final analytical weight was the product of agency nonresponse adjustments and SRO nonresponse adjustment. These adjustments were based on the agency's SRO count, the age of the agency's SRO program, SRO sex, SRO race, and whether the agency had a specific policy for SROs:

$$w_{Analysis; SRO} = w_{Samp; LEA} \times \alpha_{NR; LEA} \times \alpha_{Rost; LEA} \times w_{Samp; SRO} \times \alpha_{NR; SRO}$$

where—

$w_{Samp; LEA}$ = LEA sampling weight

$\alpha_{NR; LEA}$ = LEA Survey nonresponse adjustment weight

$\alpha_{Rost; LEA}$ = LEA roster nonresponse adjustment weight

$w_{Samp; SRO}$ = SRO sampling weight

$\alpha_{NR; SRO}$ = SRO nonresponse adjustment weight

$w_{Analysis; SRO}$ = SRO survey analysis weight.

Item nonresponse and imputation

Regardless of the type of agency by which a sworn SRO was employed or the size of the SRO program within their agency, all sampled SROs were asked to complete the 31-item SLEPS SRO questionnaire. No imputation was performed on missing items. Item missingness was low, with a maximum of 2% for the variables used in this report. Cases with missing values were included in the denominator.

Accuracy of the estimates

The accuracy of the estimates presented in this report depends on two types of error: sampling and nonsampling. Sampling error is the variation that may occur by chance due to the collection of a sample rather than a complete enumeration of all agencies. Nonsampling error can be attributed to many sources, such as the inability to obtain information about all cases in the sample, the inability to obtain complete and correct information from administrative records, and processing errors. The full extent of the nonsampling error is difficult to measure in any survey.

As measured by an estimated standard error, the sampling error varies by the size of the estimate and the size of the sample. Variance and standard error estimates for the 2019 SLEPS were generated using the IBM SPSS Complex Samples statistical software package. The Taylor linearization method for a "stratified without replacement" design was used for these calculations. The standard error computations account for various aspects of the SLEPS design, including stratification of data collection by type of law enforcement agency and SRO

program size and finite population sampling (without replacement) across the strata. (See the appendix tables for standard error estimates.)

Standard error estimates may be used to construct confidence intervals around the percentages in this report. For example, the 95% confidence interval around the percentage of SROs who responded to incidents in the classroom was 68.5% ± 1.96 × 1.34% (or approximately 65.9% to 71.2%). Standard error estimates may also be used to construct confidence intervals around numerical variables such as SRO counts. For example, the 95% confidence interval around the number of sworn SROs was approximately 23,426 ± 1.96 × 326 (or 22,787 to 24,065).

BJS conducted tests to determine whether differences in estimated numbers and percentages in this report were statistically significant once sampling error was taken into account. The primary test procedure was the Student's t-statistic, which tests the difference between two sample estimates. Caution is required when comparing estimates not explicitly discussed in this report.

APPENDIX TABLE 1
Standard errors for table 1: Number and percent of sworn SROs, by type of agency, 2019–2020

Type of agency	Number	Percent
All sworn SROs	326	~
Local police	246	1.05%
Sheriffs' offices	146	0.62
School district police	157	0.67

~Not applicable.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Law Enforcement Personnel in Schools, 2019.

APPENDIX TABLE 2
Standard errors for table 2: Sex and race or ethnicity of sworn SROs, by type of agency, 2019–2020

Type of agency	Male					Female				
	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Other	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Other
All sworn SROs	1.01%	1.42%	0.97%	0.92%	0.70%	1.01%	0.80%	0.53%	0.37%	0.25%
Local police	1.28	1.85	1.13	0.97	0.94	1.28	1.09	0.52	0.41	0.29
Sheriffs' offices	1.75	2.22	1.46	0.90	0.74	1.75	1.54	0.83	0.38	0.27
School district police	2.96	4.02	3.42	3.78	2.53	2.96	1.69	2.06	1.51	1.01

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Law Enforcement Personnel in Schools, 2019.

APPENDIX TABLE 3
Estimates and standard errors for figure 2: Age of sworn SROs, by type of agency, 2019–2020

Type of agency	Estimate			Standard error		
	18–34	35–49	50 or older	18–34	35–49	50 or older
All sworn SROs	18.4%	54.7%	26.9%	1.10%	1.45%	1.32%
Local police*	18.7	57.8	23.4	1.52	1.94	1.72
Sheriffs' offices	22.1	52.1 ‡	25.8	1.93	2.34	2.08
School district police	10.9 †	51.0	38.1 †	2.82	4.22	4.14

Note: Agency denotes law enforcement agency. SRO denotes school resource officer.
*Comparison group.
†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.
‡Difference with comparison group is significant at the 90% confidence level.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Law Enforcement Personnel in Schools, 2019.

APPENDIX TABLE 4
Standard errors for table 3: Years worked as a sworn SRO, by type of agency, 2019–2020

Type of agency	Less than 1 year	1–2 years	3–5 years	6–10 years	More than 10 years
All sworn SROs	0.95%	1.25%	1.22%	1.20%	1.11%
Local police	1.43	1.77	1.69	1.47	1.31
Sheriffs' offices	1.67	2.05	1.86	2.07	1.55
School district police	1.75	3.26	3.58	3.64	3.96

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Law Enforcement Personnel in Schools, 2019.

APPENDIX TABLE 5
Standard errors for table 4: Percent of sworn SROs certified by a national or state SRO association, by type of agency, 2019–2020

Type of agency	Certified by national association	Certified by state association	Certified by both national and state association
All sworn SROs	1.30%	1.34%	0.84%
Local police	1.97	1.53	1.07
Sheriffs' offices	1.83	2.29	1.61
School district police	2.32	4.26	2.19

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Law Enforcement Personnel in Schools, 2019.

APPENDIX TABLE 6
Estimates and standard errors for figure 3: Percent of sworn SROs who spoke another language and found it useful when interacting with students, by type of agency, 2019–2020

Type of agency	Estimate		Standard error	
	Spoke another language	Found their other language useful	Spoke another language	Found their other language useful
All sworn SROs	14.9%	10.5%	1.15%	0.95%
Local police*	14.1	9.5	1.40	1.05
Sheriffs' offices	10.7 ‡	8.0	1.53	1.34
School district police	24.5 †	17.2 †	4.05	3.53

Note: Agency denotes law enforcement agency. School resource officers (SROs) were asked to report whether they spoke any language other than English and whether this other language was useful when interacting with students.
*Comparison group.
†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.
‡Difference with comparison group is significant at the 90% confidence level.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Law Enforcement Personnel in Schools, 2019.

APPENDIX TABLE 7
Standard errors for table 5: Number of schools to which sworn SROs were assigned, by type of agency and size of SRO program, 2019–2020

Type of agency and SRO program size	1 school	2–4 schools	5 or more schools
All sworn SROs	1.36%	1.14%	1.05%
Local police	1.83%	1.57%	1.29%
10 or more SROs	2.93	2.29	1.67
5–9	3.26	2.99	2.07
1–4	2.58	2.36	2.10
Sheriffs' offices	2.01%	1.70%	1.34%
10 or more SROs	2.94	2.37	2.01
5–9	3.38	3.14	1.74
1–4	3.36	3.36	2.72
School district police	4.28%	3.47%	3.78%
10 or more SROs	4.56	2.69	4.15
5–9	10.47	10.74	8.91
1–4	13.29	11.59	15.49

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Law Enforcement Personnel in Schools, 2019.

APPENDIX TABLE 8
Estimates and standard errors for figure 4: Type of school to which sworn SROs were primarily assigned, by type of agency, 2019–2020

Type of agency	Estimate				Standard error			
	Elementary[a]	Middle[b]	High[c]	Combined[d]	Elementary	Middle	High	Combined
All sworn SROs	15.3%	26.9%	42.7%	14.9%	0.99%	1.29%	1.43%	1.04%
Local police*	11.1	33.7	44.7	10.5	1.10	1.91	1.92	1.17
Sheriffs' offices	24.3 †	20.1 †	34.3 †	20.8 †	2.08	1.88	2.21	1.76
School district police	10.6	20.8 †	52.2	16.0	2.52	3.30	4.27	3.47

Note: Agency denotes law enforcement agency. School resource officers (SROs) were asked to report the type of school to which they were primarily assigned. If they were assigned to more than one school, they were asked to answer based on the school where they spend most of their time. If their time was split evenly between two or more schools, SROs were asked to answer based on the school they worked in most recently.
*Comparison group.
†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.
[a]The lowest grade is not higher than grade 3, and the highest grade is not higher than grade 8.
[b]The lowest grade is not lower than grade 4, and the highest grade is not higher than grade 9.
[c]The lowest grade is not lower than grade 9, and the highest grade is not higher than grade 12.
[d]Includes K–8, K–12, and other combined schools.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Law Enforcement Personnel in Schools, 2019.

APPENDIX TABLE 9
Standard errors for table 6: Recent patrol and response activities performed by sworn SROs, by type of agency, 2019–2020

Type of agency	Patrolled school facilities	Responded to calls for service on the school campus	Responded to incidents in the classroom
All sworn SROs	0.44%	0.95%	1.34%
Local police	0.42	1.25	1.87
Sheriffs' offices	0.40	1.70	1.98
School district police	1.94	2.54	3.96

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Law Enforcement Personnel in Schools, 2019.

APPENDIX TABLE 10
Estimates and standard errors for figure 5: Recent investigative activities performed by sworn SROs, by type of agency, 2019–2020

Type of agency	Estimate			Standard error		
	Conducted searches	Interviewed a student in the absence of a parent/guardian	Interviewed a student in the presence of a parent/guardian	Conducted searches	Interviewed a student in the absence of a parent/guardian	Interviewed a student in the presence of a parent/guardian
All sworn SROs	54.4%	54.6%	58.7%	1.43%	1.43%	1.43%
Local police*	50.6	58.6	64.8	1.95	1.89	1.86
Sheriffs' offices	54.8	52.5 †	55.0 †	2.32	2.32	2.32
School district police	64.0 †	47.8 †	49.3 †	4.00	4.17	4.29

Note: Agency denotes law enforcement agency. School resource officers (SROs) were asked to report whether they had performed these activities on or around school grounds within the past 30 days.
*Comparison group.
†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Law Enforcement Personnel in Schools, 2019.

APPENDIX TABLE 11
Standard errors for table 7: Recent security activities performed by sworn SROs, by type of agency, 2019–2020

Type of agency	Conducted security audits/ assessments of school campuses	Conducted video surveillance/monitoring	Monitored social media	Participated in crisis preparedness training	Participated on a threat assessment team
All sworn SROs	1.44%	0.97%	1.43%	1.45%	1.44%
Local police	1.94	1.50	1.93	1.94	1.93
Sheriffs' offices	2.25	1.57	2.33	2.33	2.33
School district police	4.27	2.04	4.03	4.26	4.15

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Law Enforcement Personnel in Schools, 2019.

APPENDIX TABLE 12
Estimates and standard errors for figure 6: Recent criminal enforcement activities performed by sworn SROs, by type of agency, 2019–2020

	Estimate				Standard error			
Type of agency	Confiscated drugs	Confiscated weapons	Issued criminal citations	Made arrests	Confiscated drugs	Confiscated weapons	Issued criminal citations	Made arrests
All sworn SROs	45.0%	23.1%	37.0%	39.1%	1.43%	1.21%	1.38%	1.40%
Local police*	46.5	23.3	41.3	41.4	1.94	1.55	1.89	1.91
Sheriffs' offices	35.4 †	18.8 ‡	35.4 †	31.9 †	2.26	1.86	2.24	2.16
School district police	57.7 †	29.8	28.7 †	45.5	4.20	3.91	3.85	4.18

Note: Agency denotes law enforcement agency. School resource officers (SROs) were asked to report whether they had performed these activities on or around school grounds within the past 30 days.
*Comparison group.
†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.
‡Difference with comparison group is significant at the 90% confidence level.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Law Enforcement Personnel in Schools, 2019.

APPENDIX TABLE 13
Standard errors for table 8: Recent mentoring activities performed by sworn SROs, by type of agency, 2019–2020

Type of agency	Advised school staff/ students/families	Coached athletic programs	Chaperoned field trips	Participated in positive school discipline	Supervised/ coordinated nonathletic extracurricular activities	Engaged in truancy intervention
All sworn SROs	1.07%	0.88%	0.68%	1.45%	1.22%	1.21%
Local police	1.45	1.29	1.09	1.95	1.63	1.77
Sheriffs' offices	1.50	1.73	1.14	2.34	2.21	1.93
School district police	3.42	1.24	1.12	4.14	3.03	3.05

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Law Enforcement Personnel in Schools, 2019.

APPENDIX TABLE 14
Standard errors for table 9: Recent teaching activities performed by sworn SROs, by type of agency, 2019–2020

Type of agency	Administering special safety programs or providing classroom instruction	Conflict resolution	Faculty/staff in-service presentations	Parent organization presentations
All sworn SROs	1.44%	1.45%	1.26%	0.87%
Local police	1.95	1.94	1.71	1.24
Sheriffs' offices	2.33	2.32	2.10	1.41
School district police	4.05	4.30	3.51	2.23

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Law Enforcement Personnel in Schools, 2019.

APPENDIX TABLE 15
Standard errors for table 10: Role of school administration in arrest decisions by sworn SROs, by type of agency, 2019–2020

Type of agency	No impact	Specified in MOU	Incident review by school administration/collaborative process	Other role
All sworn SROs	1.27%	0.94%	0.99%	0.30%
Local police	1.85	1.38	1.53	0.30
Sheriffs' office	2.11	1.54	1.59	0.71
School district police	3.02	2.38	2.01	0.62

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Law Enforcement Personnel in Schools, 2019.

APPENDIX TABLE 16
Standard errors for table 11: Offenses for which sworn SROs arrested any student(s) during the past 12 months, by type of agency, 2019–2020

Offense	All sworn SROs	Local police	Sheriffs' offices	School district police
Assault on school staff/ faculty/security/SROs	1.39%	1.85%	2.06%	4.26%
Disorderly conduct	1.44	1.92	2.28	4.29
Drug distribution	1.14	1.57	1.45	3.68
Drug possession	1.43	1.96	2.33	3.82
Electronic/social media crimes	1.29	1.87	1.72	3.73
Failure to obey a police officer	1.06	1.33	1.40	3.68
Fighting	1.44	1.94	2.30	4.23
Theft	1.35	1.80	2.02	4.22
Threats against faculty	1.22	1.50	1.73	4.16
Threats against school facility	1.26	1.66	1.95	3.88
Threats against students	1.37	1.86	2.08	4.07
Weapon possession	1.28	1.67	1.89	4.10
Weapon use	0.56	0.84	0.38	1.90

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Law Enforcement Personnel in Schools, 2019.

APPENDIX TABLE 17
Standard errors for table 12: Equipment sworn SROs usually carried in the school to which they were primarily assigned, by type of agency, 2019–2020

Type of agency	Firearm	OC spray/foam	Conducted energy device	Baton/nightstick
All sworn SROs	0.06%	1.28%	1.40%	1.38%
Local police	0.12	1.67	1.94	1.89
Sheriffs' offices	0.00	2.10	2.09	2.27
School district police	0.00	3.81	4.01	3.82

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Law Enforcement Personnel in Schools, 2019.

APPENDIX TABLE 18
Standard errors for table 13: Percent of sworn SROs who received training on use of force and de-escalation, by tenure as a sworn law enforcement officer, 2019–2020

Tenure as a sworn law enforcement officer	Use of deadly force	Use of less-lethal force	De-escalation strategies
All sworn SROs	0.21%	0.34%	0.40%
More than 10 years	0.27	0.46	0.47
6–10 years	0.51	0.67	1.09
3–5 years	0.31	0.29	1.61
1–2 years	0.00	1.48	0.00
Less than 1 year	4.51	0.00	4.51

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Law Enforcement Personnel in Schools, 2019.

APPENDIX TABLE 19
Estimates and standard errors for figure 7: Percent of sworn SROs who received training on selected topics, 2019–2020

Training topic	Estimate	Standard error
Law enforcement		
Procedures for handling juvenile offenders	94.5%	0.61%
Gangs	86.2	0.88
Responding to incidents in the classroom	80.6	1.03
Social media monitoring	71.8	1.30
Prevention and planning		
Crisis preparedness planning	89.3%	0.88%
Substance abuse recognition	87.6	0.96
Administering special safety programs[a]	77.6	1.19
Security audits/assessments of campuses	73.5	1.26
Bullying deterrence	72.9	1.23
Truancy intervention	37.9	1.42
Social and behavioral		
Mental health issues	95.8%	0.54%
Conflict resolution	90.6	0.82
Cultural sensitivity	85.5	0.95
Working with students with disabilities	65.2	1.36
Trauma-informed practices	63.1	1.40
Child/adolescent psychology/development	62.5	1.43
Mentoring staff/students/families	61.5	1.38
Positive school discipline	45.8	1.44

Note: Agency denotes law enforcement agency. Refers to training that sworn school resource officers (SROs) received at any point during their career.
[a]Includes special safety programs on legal issues, crime awareness, and distracted driving.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Law Enforcement Personnel in Schools, 2019.
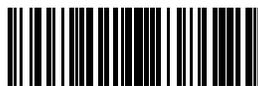
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