



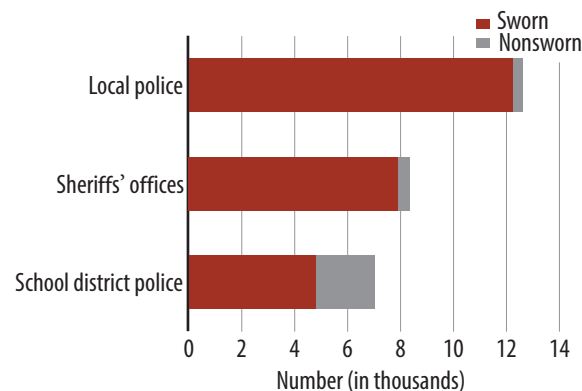
Law Enforcement Agencies that Employ School Resource Officers, 2019

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As of September 1, 2019, there were approximately 24,900 sworn school resource officers (SROs) employed by about 5,500 law enforcement agencies in the United States (figure 1, table 1). Of these agencies, about 200 also employed approximately 3,100 nonsworn personnel primarily assigned to schools (table 2). The majority of nonsworn personnel assigned to schools were employed by school district police departments.

Of all agencies that employed sworn SROs, almost three-quarters (73%) were local police departments, and these departments employed nearly half (49%) of all sworn SROs. Sheriffs' offices accounted for just over one-fifth (22%) of these agencies and employed about one-third (32%) of all sworn SROs. School district police departments made up 5% of agencies employing sworn SROs and accounted for 19% of all sworn SROs. Local police departments having an SRO program with 1 to 4 SROs employed 25% of all sworn SROs.

FIGURE 1
Number of personnel primarily assigned to public K–12 schools, by type of agency and sworn status, 2019



Note: See tables 1 and 2 for estimates and appendix tables 1 and 2 for standard errors.

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

HIGHLIGHTS

- About 5,500 law enforcement agencies employed a total of 24,900 sworn SROs in 2019.
- About 1 in 5 sworn SROs were female, and about 1 in 6 sworn SROs were black.
- About 9 in 10 agencies required SROs to inform school executive staff of an arrest of a student (91%) or staff member (89%) during school hours.
- Half of all agencies allowed SROs to interview students without parental permission.
- More than three-quarters (79%) of agencies specified the role of SROs in school discipline through policy or agreements with schools.
- Over 9 in 10 agencies required SROs to be trained in de-escalation strategies (93%) and nearly all agencies required training on the use of less-lethal (97%) and deadly force (98%).
- Ninety percent of agencies required SROs to receive training on mental health issues, and 80% required training on conflict resolution.
- About 82% of agencies required SROs to receive training on crisis preparedness planning, and nearly three-quarters (73%) required training on conducting security assessments of campuses.
- Nearly all agencies allowed SROs to carry an agency-issued firearm in schools (96%).

Findings in this report are based on 2019 Survey of Law Enforcement Personnel in Schools (SLEPS) agency survey conducted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). Data were collected from a nationally representative sample of local police departments and sheriffs' offices that employed sworn SROs and all school district police departments.¹ A random sample of SROs from these agencies was invited to participate in a separate survey, the SLEPS School Resource Officer (SRO) survey, in which they were asked about their daily activities,

training, and background. Findings from the SLEPS SRO survey will be covered in a separate report.

In the SLEPS data collection, an SRO was defined as a sworn law enforcement officer who is assigned to work in any public K–12 school. An 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. This report discusses findings by the type of agency and by the size of the SRO program within each type of agency.

¹Only agencies that employed sworn SROs were eligible for participation in SLEPS. The estimates presented here are not intended for comparison with all law enforcement agencies.

TABLE 1
Law enforcement agencies with sworn SROs, by type of agency and size of SRO program, 2019

Type of agency and SRO program size ^a	Agencies employing sworn SROs		Sworn SROs	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All agencies	5,541	100%	24,913	100%
Local police	4,055	73.2%	12,220	49.0%
1–4	3,510	63.3	6,174	24.8
5–9	379	6.8	2,438	9.8
10 or more	166	3.0	3,607	14.5
Sheriffs' offices	1,206	21.8%	7,905	31.7%
1–4	718	13.0	1,474	5.9
5–9	256	4.6	1,697	6.8
10 or more	232	4.2	4,734	19.0
School district police	279	5.0%	4,789	19.2%
1–4	113	2.0	260	1.0
5–9	61	1.1	401	1.6
10 or more	105	1.9	4,128	16.6

Note: See appendix table 1 for standard errors.

^aSRO program size is based on the number of sworn officers who were primarily assigned to work in public K–12 schools as of September 1, 2019.

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

TABLE 2
Law enforcement agencies with nonsworn employees primarily assigned to public K–12 schools, by type of agency, 2019

Type of agency	Number of agencies with sworn SROs	Number of agencies employing nonsworn employees ^a	Percent of agencies employing nonsworn employees ^a	Number of nonsworn employees ^a
All agencies	5,541	205	3.7%	3,081
Local police	4,055	63	1.6	399
Sheriffs' offices	1,206	24	2.0	423
School district police	279	117	42.0	2,259

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. See appendix table 2 for standard errors.

^aRefers to nonsworn employees primarily assigned to schools.

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

About 1 in 5 sworn SROs were female

In 2019, about 19% of sworn SROs were female (table 3). About 22% of sworn SROs in school district police departments were female, compared to 18% in local police departments and 17% in sheriffs' offices. Local police departments (22%) and school district police departments (23%) with larger SRO programs (10 or more SROs) had higher percentages of female sworn SROs than agencies with smaller SRO programs (1 to 4 or 5 to 9 SROs). There were no statistically significant differences in the percentage of female sworn SROs by size of the SRO program in sheriffs' offices.

About 1 in 6 sworn SROs were black

In 2019, about 78% of sworn SROs were white, 17% were black, and 2% were of other races (Asian, American Indian or Alaska Native, or Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander) (table 4). Slightly over 3% of sworn SROs were of unknown race(s). About 4 in 5 SROs employed by local police departments (78%) and sheriffs' offices (83%) were white, while about 70% of sworn SROs in school district police departments were white. About 17% of sworn SROs in local police departments and 13% of SROs in sheriffs' offices were black. Almost one-quarter (24%) of sworn officers in school district police departments were black.

TABLE 3
Sex of sworn SROs, by type of agency and size of SRO program, 2019

Type of agency and SRO program size ^a	Total	Male	Female
All agencies	100%	81.4%	18.6%
Local police*	100%	81.5%	18.5%
1-4**	100	82.4	17.6
5-9	100	84.6	15.4
10 or more	100	78.0	22.0 †
Sheriffs' offices	100%	83.5%	16.5% †
1-4**	100	85.1	14.9
5-9	100	83.9	16.1
10 or more	100	82.8	17.2
School district police	100%	78.0%	22.0% †
1-4**	100	84.9	15.1
5-9	100	83.1	16.9
10 or more	100	77.0	23.0 †

Note: See appendix table 3 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.

^aSRO program size is based on the number of sworn officers who were primarily assigned to work in public K-12 schools as of September 1, 2019.

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

TABLE 4
Race or Hispanic origin of sworn SROs, by type of agency and size of SRO program, 2019

Type of agency and SRO program size ^a	Race					Hispanic origin			
	Total	White	Black	Other ^b	Unknown	Total	Hispanic or Latino	Not Hispanic or Latino	Unknown
All agencies	100%	78.1%	17.0%	1.7%	3.2%	100%	13.0%	81.2%	5.8%
Local police*	100%	78.3%	16.5%	1.8%	3.4%	100%	8.4%	84.6%	7.0%
1-4**	100	87.8	9.0	1.6	1.6	100	6.9	89.4	3.7
5-9	100	81.2 ‡	14.6 †	2.2	2.1	100	8.9	87.3	3.8
10 or more	100	60.0 †	30.7 †	2.1	7.2 †	100	10.7 †	74.5 †	14.8 †
Sheriffs' offices	100%	82.8% †	13.5% †	1.2% †	2.5%	100%	5.7% †	88.0%	6.2%
1-4**	100	87.0	9.8	1.4	1.8	100	3.3	90.9	5.9
5-9	100	79.9 ‡	16.6 †	1.6	2.0	100	3.9	89.5	6.6
10 or more	100	82.6	13.6 †	1.0	2.8	100	7.1 †	86.6	6.2
School district police	100%	69.9% †	24.0% †	1.9%	4.2%	100%	36.6% †	61.1% †	2.2% †
1-4**	100	73.1	21.0	3.2	2.7	100	16.1	75.3	8.6
5-9	100	69.2	24.8	1.7	4.3	100	21.6 ‡	78.1	0.3 †
10 or more	100	69.8	24.1	1.9	4.2	100	39.4 †	58.5 †	2.0 †

Note: See appendix table 4 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. Sample size is below the minimum threshold or coefficient of variation is greater than 50%.

^aSRO program size is based on the number of sworn officers who were primarily assigned to work in public K-12 schools as of September 1, 2019.

^bIncludes American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander.

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

The percentage of black sworn SROs in local police departments with 10 or more SROs (31%) was more than 3 times the percentage of black sworn SROs in local agencies with 1 to 4 SROs (9%) and about twice the percentage of black sworn SROs in local agencies with 5 to 9 SROs (15%). There were no statistically significant differences in the race of sworn SROs by size in school district police departments.

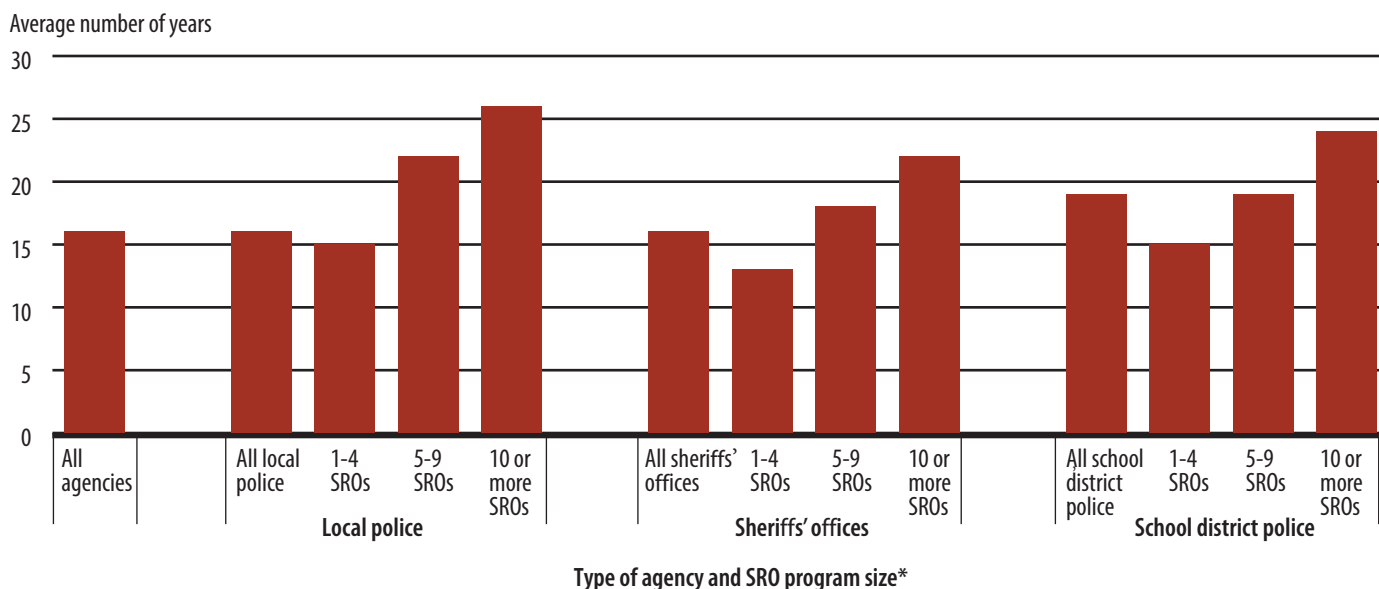
In 2019, 13% of sworn SROs were Hispanic. Over one-third (37%) of SROs in school district police departments were Hispanic, while about 8% of SROs in local police departments and about 6% of SROs in sheriffs' offices were Hispanic. For both local police departments and sheriffs' offices, those agencies with 10 or more SROs had higher percentages of Hispanic SROs than those with 1 to 4 SROs. The percentage of Hispanic SROs in school district police departments with 10 or more SROs (39%) was more than twice that of school district police departments with 1 to 4 SROs (16%).

The average age of SRO programs was 16 years

Agencies were asked to report the year in which they started assigning officers to public schools. Across all agencies that employed sworn SROs, as of 2019, the average age of SRO programs overall was 16 years (figure 2). On average, SRO programs in local police departments and sheriffs' offices began 16 years ago and those in school district police departments began 19 years ago.

Regardless of agency type, the larger the SRO program, the longer the agency reported having one. In local police departments, on average, SRO programs with 1 to 4 SROs were 15 years old, those with 5 to 9 SROs were 22 years old, and those with 10 or more SROs were 26 years old. In sheriffs' offices, on average, SRO programs with 1 to 4 SROs were 13 years old, those with 5 to 9 SROs were 18 years old, and those with 10 or more SROs were 22 years old. On average, programs in school district police departments with 1 to 4 SROs were 15 years old, those with 5 to 9 SROs were 19 years old, and those with 10 or more SROs were 24 years old.

FIGURE 2
Age of SRO programs, by type of agency and size of SRO program, 2019



Note: Includes a program age of zero for 45 agencies (0.8%) that had programs less than one year old because the program began during the reference year. See appendix table 5 for estimates and standard errors.

*SRO program size is based on the number of sworn officers who were primarily assigned to work in public K-12 schools as of September 1, 2019.

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

About 8 in 10 SRO programs received funding from the school districts they serve

Agencies were also asked to report the sources of funding for their SRO program. Overall, 79% of agencies reported that they received funding from the school districts served by the program (table 5). State or local grants or taxes were a source of funding for 10% of agencies, while less than 5% of agencies reported that they received federal grant funding for their SRO program.

Sheriffs' offices were more likely to report state or local grants or taxes (20%) as a funding source for their SRO program than local police departments (7%) and school district police departments (11%). School district police departments (8%) were the most likely to report a federal grant as a funding source for their program.

Local police departments with 1 to 4 SROs (7%) were less likely than those with 5 to 9 SROs (11%) or 10 or more SROs (12%) to report state or local grants or taxes as a

funding source. Sheriffs' offices with 1 to 4 SROs (74%) were also less likely than those with 5 to 9 (85%) or 10 or more (80%) to receive funding from the school district served by their program.

3 in 4 agencies typically assigned SROs on a permanent basis with no other assignments

In three-quarters (75%) of agencies, the majority of officers in the SRO program had no other assignment (i.e., they served only as an SRO), while in one-quarter (25%) of agencies, the majority of officers rotated to other assignments within the agency (table 6). Local police departments (27%) were more likely than sheriffs' offices and school district police departments (both 20%) to rotate officers to other assignments. In both local police departments and sheriffs' offices, those with 1 to 4 SROs were more likely to rotate the SROs to other assignments than those with 5 to 9 or 10 or more SROs.

TABLE 5
Funding sources for SRO programs, by type of agency and size of SRO program, 2019

Type of agency and SRO program size ^a	School district	Federal grant	State/local grant or tax ^b
All agencies	78.6%	4.3%	10.2%
Local police*	77.6%	4.3%	7.3%
1-4**	77.7	4.3	6.7
5-9	78.1	3.8!	10.8 ‡
10 or more	75.8	4.4!	12.0 †
Sheriffs' offices	77.5%	3.7%	19.8% †
1-4**	73.9	3.5!	17.3
5-9	85.3 †	2.7!	25.3 †
10 or more	79.8 †	5.4!	21.4
School district police	97.1% †	8.0% †	11.2% †
1-4**	96.3	6.2!	8.6!
5-9	97.7	11.3!	15.9!
10 or more	97.7	8.1!	11.3!

Note: See appendix table 6 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. Sample size is below the minimum threshold or coefficient of variation is greater than 50%.

^aSRO program size is based on the number of sworn officers who were primarily assigned to work in public K-12 schools as of September 1, 2019.

^bThe survey included a response option of state/local grant as a funding source. Thirteen agencies provided a write-in response that taxes were a funding source, and these responses were added to the state/local grant category.

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

TABLE 6
Type of SRO assignment, by type of agency and size of SRO program, 2019

Type of agency and SRO program size ^a	Total	Single permanent assignment ^b	Rotate to other assignments ^c
All agencies	100%	74.6%	25.4%
Local police*	100%	72.6%	27.4%
1-4**	100	70.2	29.8
5-9	100	87.8 †	12.2 †
10 or more	100	88.9 †	11.1 †
Sheriffs' offices	100%	79.8% †	20.2% †
1-4**	100	73.7	26.3
5-9	100	86.0 †	14.0 †
10 or more	100	91.7 †	8.3 †
School district police	100%	79.9% †	20.1% †
1-4**	100	80.2	19.8
5-9	100	79.7	20.3!
10 or more	100	79.7	20.3

Note: 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.

! Interpret with caution. Sample size is below the minimum threshold or coefficient of variation is greater than 50%.

^aSRO program size is based on the number of sworn officers who were primarily assigned to work in public K-12 schools as of September 1, 2019.

^bOnly serve as an SRO.

^cE.g., juvenile detective, routine patrol.

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

About 9 in 10 agencies required SROs to patrol school facilities and respond to incidents on campus and in classrooms

Agencies were asked if specific activities were required of their SROs and were asked to consider activities that were defined in internal departmental policy, found in formal agreements with schools or school districts, or expected by department executives. Almost all agencies indicated that they had policies, agreements, or expectations that their SROs would perform law enforcement functions in schools. Around 9 in 10 agencies reported that their SROs were expected to issue criminal citations (88%), make arrests (94%), patrol school facilities (94%), respond to calls for service on the school campus (95%), and respond to incidents in the classroom (91%) (table 7). Three-quarters of agencies required SROs to engage in crisis preparedness planning (75%) and conduct security audits or assessments of campus (75%). Half of all agencies required their SROs to monitor social media (50%).

Sheriffs' offices with 5 to 9 or 10 or more SROs were more likely than those with 1 to 4 SROs to require their SROs to engage in crisis preparedness planning, patrol

school facilities, respond to calls for service on campus, and conduct security audits of campus. School district police departments with 5 to 9 or 10 or more SROs were more likely to require their SROs to engage in crisis preparedness planning and make arrests than school district police departments with 1 to 4 SROs.

SRO Triad Concept

The National Association of School Resource Officers developed the triad concept of school-based policing. The triad concept divides the responsibilities of SROs into three main roles: teacher, informal counselor or mentor, and law enforcement officer. The SLEPS LEA survey was designed around the triad concept, asking agencies about specific activities and training topics that fall into each of these three roles. Agencies were asked whether their SROs were required to perform specific law enforcement, mentoring, and teaching activities while on duty. Tables 7 to 9 highlight required SRO activities based upon the triad concept. Figures 4 and 5 highlight required SRO training based upon the triad concept.

TABLE 7
Percent of agencies that required SROs to perform selected law enforcement activities, by type of agency and size of SRO program, 2019

Type of agency and SRO program size ^a	Patrolling school facilities	Responding to calls for service on the school campus	Responding to incidents in the classroom	Issuing criminal citations	Making arrests	Security audits/assessments of campuses	Crisis preparedness planning	Social media monitoring
All agencies	94.0%	95.5%	91.0%	88.4%	93.5%	75.4%	75.3%	49.5%
Local police*	94.3%	96.1%	91.1%	88.7%	93.5%	74.0%	73.3%	48.9%
1-4**	94.1	96.0	91.1	88.3	93.1	73.3	72.5	49.2
5-9	94.9	96.7	90.1	91.3	95.8‡	78.8	77.7	45.2
10 or more	96.4‡	97.2	92.4	91.1	96.5†	76.6	79.9†	51.6
Sheriffs' offices	92.1%‡	92.9%†	90.1%	88.6%	93.2%	77.9%‡	78.7%†	50.1%
1-4**	89.3	90.1	88.6	90.5	93.0	73.2	75.3	47.9
5-9	96.0†	96.8†	92.7‡	84.3†	92.1	85.4†	82.5†	50.8
10 or more	96.5†	97.3†	91.8	87.5	95.2	84.4†	85.1†	56.0†
School district police	98.1%†	98.1%†	94.8%†	82.6%†	95.6%‡	86.0%†	89.7%†	55.5%†
1-4**	98.8	97.5	93.8	79.0	92.6	83.9	83.9	53.1
5-9	97.7	100†	97.7†	90.9†	100†	86.3	95.4†	59.1
10 or more	97.5	97.6	94.1	81.6	96.3†	88.0	92.6†	56.1

Note: See appendix table 8 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.

^aSRO program size is based on the number of sworn officers who were primarily assigned to work in public K-12 schools as of September 1, 2019.

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

About 7 in 10 agencies required SROs to advise school staff, students, or families

Agencies varied in the extent to which they expected their SROs to engage in mentoring activities in the schools they served. About 70% of agencies required or expected SROs to advise school staff, students, or families, in either an individualized or group setting (table 8). Just over half of all agencies (52%) required SROs to intervene in cases of truancy, while about one-third (32%) required SROs to supervise or coordinate extracurricular activities outside of athletics in schools.

School district police departments (79%) were more likely than local police departments (70%) and sheriffs' offices (66%) to require SROs to advise school staff, students, or families. School district police departments (39%) and sheriffs' offices (36%) were more likely than local police departments (31%) to

require SROs to supervise or coordinate nonathletic extracurricular activities.

In local police departments, the percent of agencies that required SROs to serve in an advising role did not differ significantly by the size of the SRO program. Local police departments with 10 or more SROs were more likely than local police departments with 1 to 4 or 5 to 9 SROs to require SROs to coach athletic programs and less likely to require them to supervise or coordinate nonathletic extracurricular activities.

Sheriffs' offices with 1 to 4 SROs were less likely than sheriffs' offices with 5 to 9 or 10 or more SROs to require SROs to serve in an advising role, coach athletic programs, and supervise or coordinate nonathletic extracurricular activities. School district police departments with 1 to 4 SROs were more likely than those with 10 or more SROs to serve in an advising role, chaperone field trips, and intervene in cases of truancy.

TABLE 8
Percent of agencies that required SROs to perform selected mentoring activities, by type of agency and size of SRO program, 2019

Type of agency and SRO program size ^a	Advising school staff, students, or families ^b	Coaching athletic programs	Field trip chaperone	Supervising/ coordinating nonathletic extracurricular activities	Truancy intervention
All agencies	69.7%	8.9%	24.6%	32.4%	52.2%
Local police*	70.0%	8.5%	24.0%	30.9%	54.6%
1-4**	69.7	8.6	25.0	31.3	55.7
5-9	71.0	6.1	15.7 †	31.2	49.1
10 or more	73.9	13.3 †	21.0	23.1 †	44.1 †
Sheriffs' offices	66.3%	9.7%	26.1%	35.6% †	44.5% †
1-4**	62.4	7.1	23.2	31.4	45.4
5-9	70.2 ‡	13.8 †	33.6 †	39.5 ‡	44.4
10 or more	74.5 †	13.2 †	26.6	44.5 †	42.2
School district police	79.2% †	11.6% †	27.8% ‡	38.8% †	51.2%
1-4**	83.9	13.6	34.5	40.8	61.7
5-9	79.5	13.7 †	32.0	41.1	52.2 ‡
10 or more	73.8 †	8.2 †	18.1 †	35.4	39.2 †

Note: See appendix table 9 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. Sample size is below the minimum threshold or coefficient of variation is greater than 50%.

^aSRO program size is based on the number of sworn officers who were primarily assigned to work in public K-12 schools as of September 1, 2019.

^bE.g., one-on-one, in a group.

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

About 7 in 10 agencies required SROs to administer special safety programs

Most agencies, regardless of their type or size, required their SROs to engage in various teaching activities. Among agencies employing sworn SROs, about 71% required SROs to administer special safety programs in the schools they served (table 9). These programs addressed topics such as drug education, crime awareness, and distracted driving. Approximately two-thirds of agencies required SROs to give in-service presentations to staff (66%) and engage in conflict resolution (62%). Just under half of all agencies with SROs (48%) required SROs to deliver presentations to parent organizations.

Sheriffs' offices (61%) were the least likely to require SROs to give staff in-service presentations, while school district police departments (82%) were the most likely

to require SROs to give these presentations. School district police departments (61%) were more likely than local police departments (47%) and sheriffs' offices (46%) to require SROs to give presentations to parent organizations. There were no significant differences in the percentage of agencies that required SROs to administer special safety programs or engage in conflict resolution by agency type.

Sheriffs' offices with 10 or more SROs were more likely than those with 1 to 4 SROs to require SROs to engage in conflict resolution and give presentations to both staff and parent organizations. Similarly, school district police departments with 10 or more SROs were more likely than those with 1 to 4 SROs to require SROs to deliver presentations to staff and parent organizations.

TABLE 9
Percent of agencies that required SROs to perform selected teaching activities, by type of agency and size of SRO program, 2019

Type of agency and SRO program size ^a	Administering special safety programs ^b	Conflict resolution	Faculty/staff in-service presentations	Parent organization presentations
All agencies	70.8%	62.0%	66.3%	47.8%
Local police*	70.6%	62.7%	66.8%	47.5%
1-4**	70.7	62.7	66.4	46.7
5-9	70.4	63.3	73.6 ‡	57.0 †
10 or more	68.2	61.0	60.4 †	42.3
Sheriffs' offices	70.7%	59.0%	60.8% †	45.7%
1-4**	70.2	54.9	58.2	41.9
5-9	68.3	63.6 †	62.1	46.9
10 or more	74.7	66.8 †	67.2 †	56.3 †
School district police	73.9%	64.6%	82.4% †	61.0% †
1-4**	75.3	64.2	79.0	53.1
5-9	72.7	63.6	84.2	63.6 †
10 or more	73.1	65.5	85.0 †	68.2 †

Note: See appendix table 10 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.

^aSRO program size is based on the number of sworn officers who were primarily assigned to work in public K-12 schools as of September 1, 2019.

^bE.g., drugs, legal issues, crime awareness, and distracted driving.

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

About 8 in 10 agencies required SROs to inform school executives when searching or questioning a student

Across all agencies with SROs, more than 7 in 10 reported that their SROs were required to inform school executive staff when taking investigative actions, such as conducting a criminal investigation (74%), questioning a student during school hours (83%), searching a student (83%), or searching the premises (85%) (table 10). Local police departments were less likely to be required to inform school executives when questioning school

employees during school hours (77%) but more likely to be required to inform school executives about searching the premises (85%) than school district police departments (83% and 80%).

Local police departments with 1 to 4 SROs were more likely than local police departments with 10 or more SROs to require SROs to inform school executives about investigative actions. Conversely, sheriffs' offices with 1 to 4 SROs generally were less likely than sheriffs' offices with 10 or more SROs to require SROs to inform school executive staff of these actions.

TABLE 10
Actions requiring SROs to inform school executive staff, by type of agency and size of SRO program, 2019

Type of agency and RO program size ^a	Conduct criminal investigation	Question school employees during school hours	Question students during school hours	Search premises	Search student
All agencies	74.1%	77.7%	82.9%	84.6%	83.1%
Local police*	73.1%	77.3%	82.3%	84.7%	83.0%
1-4**	73.1	77.8	82.8	85.2	83.6
5-9	75.1	76.3	83.0	82.6	80.8
10 or more	67.4 †	69.0 †	71.0 †	79.4 †	75.0 †
Sheriffs' offices	77.3% ‡	78.1%	85.4% ‡	85.4%	83.8%
1-4**	75.3	75.8	85.1	84.8	82.5
5-9	75.7	78.1	83.4	83.0	83.7
10 or more	84.9 †	85.1 †	88.7	89.9 †	88.0 †
School district police	74.9%	82.7% †	79.7%	79.7% †	81.2%
1-4**	81.5	81.5	85.2	85.2	87.7
5-9	68.4 †	75.1	68.4 †	72.8 †	73.0 †
10 or more	71.5 †	88.4 †	80.3 ‡	77.7 †	78.9 †

Note: See appendix table 11 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.

^aSRO program size is based on the number of sworn officers who were primarily assigned to work in public K-12 schools as of September 1, 2019.

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

About 9 in 10 agencies required SROs to inform school executives of an arrest of a student or staff during school hours

Across all agencies with SROs, around 90% reported that their SROs were required to inform school executive staff of the arrest of a school employee or student during school hours (table 11). Generally, about 8 in 10 agencies reported that their SROs were required to inform school executive staff about their use of weapons or restraining students but not arresting them. About 83% of agencies reported that their SROs were required to inform school executive staff of the use of firearms, and 82% of agencies required SROs to inform school executives of the use of less-lethal equipment.

School district police departments (97%) were more likely than local police departments (88%) and sheriffs' offices (89%) to require their SROs to inform school staff about the arrest of a school employee during school hours. Sheriffs' offices and school district police departments (93%) were more likely than local police departments (90%) to require their SROs to inform school staff about the arrest of a student during school

hours. Local police departments (81%) were less likely than school district police departments (88%) to require SROs to inform school executives of the use of restraint on a student not resulting in an arrest.

Generally, local police departments with 1 to 4 SROs were more likely than those with 10 or more SROs to require SROs to inform school executives of their use of weapons and their actions toward students and school employees. Local police departments with 1 to 4 SROs were more likely than those with 10 or more SROs to require SROs to inform school executives of the use of firearms (82% compared to 76%), the use of less lethal equipment (81% compared to 76%), and the use of restraint on a student that does not result in arrest (82% compared to 74%).

School district police departments with 1 to 4 SROs were more likely than school district police departments with larger SRO programs (5 to 9 or 10 or more SROs) to be required to inform school executives of the arrest of a student during school hours, the use of restraint on a student that does not result in arrest, the use of less-lethal equipment, and the use of firearms.

TABLE 11
Direct or physical contact requiring SROs to inform school executive staff, by type of agency and size of SRO program, 2019

Type of agency and SRO program size ^a	Arrest of—		Restraint on student that does not result in arrest	Use of—	
	School employee during school hours	Student during school hours		Less-lethal equipment	Firearms
All agencies	88.9%	91.1%	82.0%	81.6%	82.8%
Local police*	88.3%	90.4%	81.3%	80.9%	82.1%
1–4**	88.7	90.2	81.8	80.9	82.1
5–9	86.5	93.9 ‡	79.9	82.6	85.2
10 or more	83.9 †	86.5 ‡	74.3 †	76.4 ‡	76.4 †
Sheriffs' offices	89.2%	93.0% ‡	83.2%	84.0%	84.0%
1–4**	87.5	92.3	82.7	83.1	83.2
5–9	88.4	90.7	82.9	84.0	83.2
10 or more	95.5 †	97.3 †	84.9	86.9	87.5 ‡
School district police	96.7% †	93.0% ‡	87.8% †	82.5%	88.2% †
1–4**	96.3	96.3	95.1	91.4	93.8
5–9	97.7	88.8 †	75.1 †	75.1 †	84.1 †
10 or more	96.5	91.8 †	87.3 †	77.3 †	84.5 †

Note: See appendix table 12 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.

^aSRO program size is based on the number of sworn officers who were primarily assigned to work in public K–12 schools as of September 1, 2019.

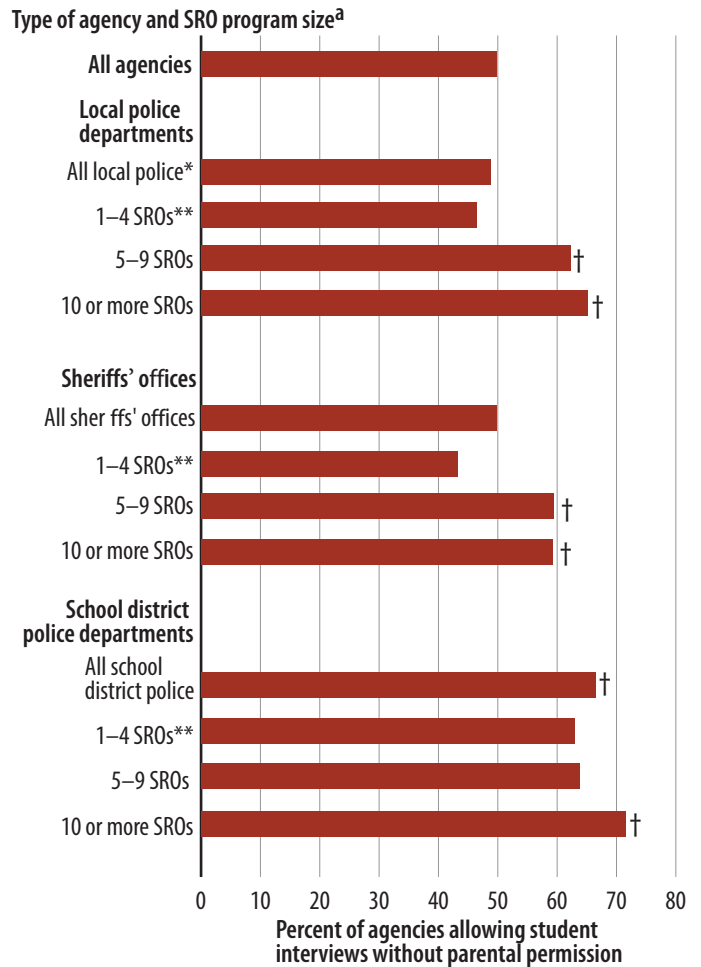
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Law Enforcement Personnel in Schools, 2019.

Half of all agencies allowed SROs to interview students without parental permission

Of all agencies employing sworn SROs, half (50%) of these agencies reported that their SROs were allowed to interview students when a parent or guardian was not present and without first obtaining permission from a parent or guardian, while the other half (50%) reported that SROs were not allowed to do so (figure 3). The percentages of local police departments (49%) and sheriffs' offices (50%) that allowed student interviews without permission were similar, but school district police departments (66%) were more likely to report that their SROs could interview students without first obtaining parental permission.

Local police departments with 1 to 4 SROs (46%) were less likely than local police departments with 5 to 9 (62%) and 10 or more SROs (65%) to be allowed to conduct student interviews without a parent present and without parental permission. Similarly, sheriffs' offices with 1 to 4 SROs (43%) were less likely than sheriffs' offices with larger SRO programs (5 to 9 or 10 or more SROs, both 59%) to allow these interviews. School district police departments with 10 or more SROs (72%) were more likely than school district police departments with smaller SRO programs (1 to 4 or 5 to 9 SROs) to allow student interviews without parental presence or permission.

FIGURE 3
Allowance of SRO interviews of students without a parent present without first obtaining parental permission, by type of agency and size of SRO program, 2019



Note: See appendix table 13 for estimates and 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.
^aSRO program size is based on the number of sworn officers who were primarily assigned to work in public K–12 schools as of September 1, 2019.
 Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Law Enforcement Personnel in Schools, 2019.

About 9 in 10 agencies specified the primary functions of SROs in schools through policy or agreements with schools

The SLEPS LEA survey provided agencies with a list of details and characteristics that may apply to their SRO program, such as following specific procedures or whether they had specific expectations of SROs. Agencies were asked to report whether these aspects were specified either in the agency’s internal policy or in a formal agreement between the agency and the school or school district served by the majority of the agency’s SROs. About 9 in 10 agencies specified the primary functions of SROs (91%), expectations for SROs when working with students (90%), and expectations regarding collaboration between school officials and SROs (91%) either in internal policy or in agreements with schools (table 12). About 6 in 10 agencies had procedures defined through policy or agreements that addressed resolving disagreements between school officials and SROs (61%), SRO use of firearms (63%), and SRO use of less-lethal equipment (59%).

School district police departments were the most likely to have an internal policy or agreement with the school on the use of firearms (95%) and less-lethal equipment (90%) by SROs. Sheriffs’ offices were more likely to have policies that address the use of firearms (68%) and the use of less-lethal equipment (64%) than local police departments (59% and 55%). Similar percentages of local police departments (70%) and sheriffs’ offices (71%) specified expectations regarding arrests and the issuance of citations by SROs, while a higher percentage of school district police departments (88%) specified these expectations in policy or agreements with schools.

Across a variety of procedural SRO program characteristics, local police departments with 1 to 4 SROs were generally less likely than local police departments with 5 to 9 or 10 or more SROs to specify these elements in internal agency policy or agreements with schools. Similarly, sheriffs’ offices with 1 to 4 SROs generally were less likely than sheriffs’ offices with 5 to 9 or 10 or more SROs to specify these procedural elements.

TABLE 12
Percent of agencies with procedural SRO program characteristics specified in internal policy or formal agreement with schools, by type of agency and size of SRO program, 2019

Type of agency and SRO program size ^a	Primary functions of SROs ^b	Use of—		Role of SROs with school discipline	Procedures for resolving disagreements between school officials and SROs	Expectations—		
		Less-lethal equipment	Firearms			For SROs when working with students	Regarding citations and arrests by SROs	Regarding collaboration between school officials and SROs
All agencies	91.4%	58.9%	62.8%	78.7%	60.5%	89.7%	71.2%	91.4%
Local police*	91.8%	55.3%	59.2%	78.3%	59.3%	89.3%	70.0%	91.3%
1–4**	90.9	53.9	58.0	77.0	57.8	88.7	68.2	90.2
5–9	96.0 †	61.4 ‡	65.3 ‡	85.2 †	65.4 ‡	92.7	80.5 †	97.6 †
10 or more	98.6 †	71.1 †	71.8 †	88.9 †	77.4 †	94.3 †	83.8 †	99.3 †
Sheriffs' offices	89.3%	64.2% †	67.5% †	78.0%	61.2%	89.5%	71.3%	91.6%
1–4**	84.4	59.7	62.7	76.6	58.0	86.8	65.8	90.2
5–9	95.2 †	70.4 †	75.3 †	79.6	63.3	93.1 †	79.2 †	92.2
10 or more	97.2 †	70.9 †	73.3 †	80.5	68.4 †	93.6 †	79.0 †	95.1 †
School district police	94.4% †	89.7% †	94.6% †	88.2% †	75.7% †	95.1% †	87.6% †	92.0%
1–4**	94.6	85.1	90.5	83.8	68.9	93.2	80.8	87.8
5–9	97.4	89.5	97.5 †	86.8	84.2 †	94.7	92.1 †	94.7 †
10 or more	92.6	94.7 †	97.3 †	93.6 †	78.2 †	97.4 †	92.2 †	94.8 †

Note: Denominator excludes agencies who indicated they did not have an SRO departmental policy and did not have any formal agreements with schools (0.7% of all agencies). See appendix table 14 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.

^aSRO program size is based on the number of sworn officers who were primarily assigned to work in public K–12 schools as of September 1, 2019.

^bE.g., law enforcement, teaching, mentoring/counseling.

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

Sheriffs' offices with 1 to 4 SROs were less likely than sheriffs' offices with 5 to 9 or 10 or more SROs to address the use of less-lethal equipment and the use of firearms through internal policy or agreements with schools. School district police departments with 1 to 4 SROs were less likely to address the use of firearms; procedures for resolving disagreements between school officials and SROs; and expectations regarding citations, arrests, and collaboration between school officials and SROs through policy or agreements than school district police departments with 5 to 9 or 10 or more SROs.

Over 8 in 10 agencies addressed SRO supervision through policy or agreements with schools

Over 8 in 10 agencies reported that their internal policy or agreement with schools addressed the supervision of SROs (85%), identified the responsibilities and duties of the school (83%), and described the goals of the SRO program (81%) (table 13). Over half of all agencies (57%) had an internal policy or agreement with schools that addressed a requirement of regular meetings between school officials and SROs.

Across a variety of administrative program characteristics, there were no statistically significant differences in the percentage of local police departments and sheriffs' offices that specified these elements in internal policy or agreements with schools. Generally, school district police departments were more likely than local police departments and sheriffs' offices to address the specified administrative SRO program characteristics through internal policy or agreements.

Local police departments with 1 to 4 SROs were less likely than local police departments with 5 to 9 or 10 or more SROs to specify various administrative elements in internal agency policy or agreements with schools. Similarly, sheriffs' offices with 1 to 4 SROs generally were less likely than sheriffs' offices with 5 to 9 or 10 or more SROs to specify administrative elements through policy or agreements with schools. Sheriffs' offices with 1 to 4 SROs were less likely than sheriffs' offices with 10 or more SROs to address SRO schedules (73% for offices with 1 to 4 SROs and 87% for offices with 10 or more SROs) through internal policy or agreements with schools. School district police departments with 1 to 4 SROs were less likely than those with 5 to 9 or 10 or more SROs to address the goals of the program and supervision of SROs through policy or agreements.

TABLE 13
Percent of agencies with administrative SRO program characteristics specified in internal policy or formal agreement with schools, by type of agency and size of SRO program, 2019

Type of agency and SRO program size ^a	Goals of the SRO program	Number of officers in SRO program	Requirement of regular meetings between school officials and SROs	Responsibilities/duties of school	Schedule that officers will spend at school ^b	Supervision or administrative control of SROs
All agencies	80.8%	64.0%	57.3%	83.0%	72.9%	85.1%
Local police*	80.5%	63.9%	57.1%	82.8%	71.6%	84.6%
1-4**	78.9	61.9	56.1	81.8	70.2	83.6
5-9	90.6 †	75.9 †	63.2 ‡	88.0 †	78.2 †	89.5 †
10 or more	89.6 †	76.7 †	63.5 †	90.7 †	85.9 †	93.0 †
Sheriffs' offices	80.3%	64.4%	55.6%	82.9%	75.0%	85.5%
1-4**	76.1	59.6	49.4	82.1	73.5	80.6
5-9	89.3 †	67.9 †	64.7 †	82.9	68.4	89.5 †
10 or more	82.8 †	74.3 †	63.9 †	85.4	86.7 †	95.3 †
School district police	88.1% †	64.9%	68.9% †	86.1% ‡	82.3% †	91.5% †
1-4**	82.4	62.1	66.2	86.5	78.4	86.5
5-9	97.4 †	65.8	65.8	86.8	89.5 †	94.8 †
10 or more	89.1 †	67.4	73.4 ‡	85.2	82.6	95.0 †

Note: Denominator excludes agencies who indicated they did not have an SRO departmental policy and did not have any formal agreements with schools (0.7% of all agencies). See appendix table 15 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.

^aSRO program size is based on the number of sworn officers who were primarily assigned to work in public K-12 schools as of September 1, 2019.

^bE.g., before the school day begins, the full school day.

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

About 3 in 10 agencies received input from schools when selecting SROs

In about 27% of all agencies with sworn SROs, schools or the school district provided input or recommendations for the selection of officers for the SRO program (table 14). Local police departments (28%) were more likely than sheriffs' offices (22%) but less likely than school district police departments (33%) to get input from schools or the school district when selecting SROs.

Local police departments (11%) were the least likely to select SROs through an external application process compared to sheriffs' offices (25%) and school district police departments (74%). There were no statistically significant differences in the percentages of local police departments and sheriffs' offices that selected SROs through nomination within the agency, an internal application process, or assignment to be an SRO as part of an officer's regular duty schedule.

Regardless of agency type, agencies with 1 to 4 SROs were the most likely to get input from schools or the school district when selecting SROs. Internal nominations were more likely to be used by local police departments with 1 to 4 SROs (28%) than by local police departments with 5 to 9 SROs (10%) or 10 or more SROs (22%). Local police departments with 1 to 4 SROs (78%) were less likely than local police departments with 5 to 9 (93%) or 10 or more SROs (92%) to select SROs through an internal application process. Sheriffs' offices with 10 or more SROs (17%) were less likely than sheriffs' offices with 1 to 4 (24%) and 5 to 9 SROs (25%) to assign officers to the SRO program as part of their regular duty schedule.

TABLE 14
SRO selection methods, by type of agency and size of SRO program, 2019

Type of agency and SRO program size ^a	Input from school/school district	Nomination within department	External application process	Internal application process	Assignment as part of regular duty schedule
All agencies	26.7%	26.7%	16.8%	77.5%	20.3%
Local police*	27.5%	26.4%	10.5%	79.9%	20.2%
1-4**	29.0	28.4	11.6	78.0	21.0
5-9	18.1 †	10.1 †	3.1 †	92.8 †	16.1
10 or more	18.1 †	22.0 †	4.3 †	92.4 †	12.3 †
Sheriffs' offices	22.4% †	30.1%	24.8% †	77.1%	22.9%
1-4**	26.1	28.8	19.2	73.2	24.0
5-9	17.7 †	34.7	26.5 ‡	74.5	25.1
10 or more	16.0 †	29.2	40.1 †	92.1 †	17.3 †
School district police	33.2% †	15.6% †	73.7% †	43.6% †	10.4% †
1-4**	49.4	12.3 †	76.5	32.1	6.2 †
5-9	32.4 †	20.9 †	83.6 ‡	41.7 †	16.0 †
10 or more	16.1 †	16.0	64.9 †	56.9 †	11.9 †

Note: See appendix table 16 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. Sample size is below the minimum threshold or coefficient of variation is greater than 50%.

^aSRO program size is based on the number of sworn officers who were primarily assigned to work in public K-12 schools as of September 1, 2019.

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

Over 9 in 10 agencies required training on de-escalation strategies

Agencies were asked about a variety of topics on which their sworn SROs were required to receive training. This included training that was provided to all sworn officers in the agency and training that was provided specifically for SROs. Following the SRO triad model, agencies were asked if their SROs were required to receive training on specific topics and activities within the areas of law enforcement, prevention and planning, and social and behavioral elements.

About 93% of agencies that employed SROs required training for their SROs on de-escalation strategies (table 15). School district police departments (96%) were more likely than local police departments (93%) and sheriffs' offices (91%) to require de-escalation training. Nearly all agencies required training on the use of the use of less-lethal force (97%) and the use of deadly force (98%). There were no statistically significant differences by agency type in the percentages that required training on the use of less-lethal or deadly force.

TABLE 15
Percent of agencies that required training on de-escalation and use of force, by type of agency, 2019

Type of agency	De-escalation strategies	Use of less-lethal force	Use of deadly force
All agencies	92.7%	96.8%	97.6%
Local police*	92.8	96.7	97.4
Sheriffs' offices	91.3	97.6	98.2
School district police	96.1 †	95.5	98.5

Note: See appendix table 17 for standard errors.

*Comparison group.

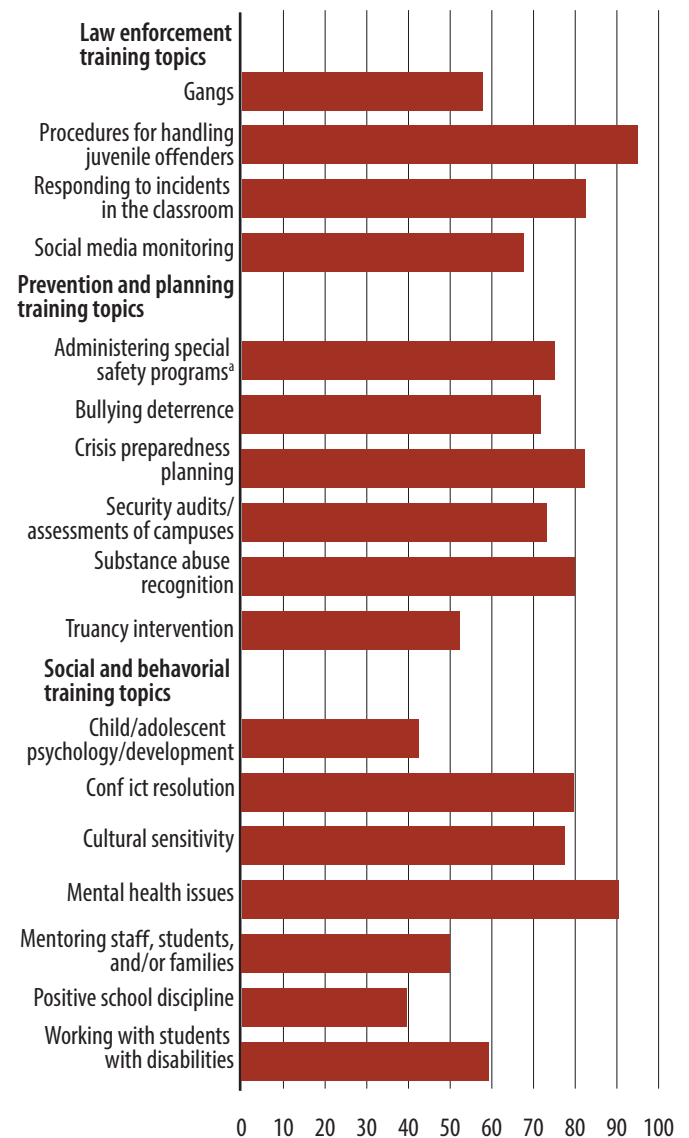
†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

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

Over 9 in 10 agencies required training on procedures for handling juvenile offenders

Nearly 6 in 10 agencies (58%) required that their SROs receive training related to gangs, with local police departments (54%) being less likely to require this type of training than sheriffs' offices (68%) and school district police departments (68%) (figure 4; appendix table 18). About 95% of agencies required training on procedures for handling juvenile offenders, with sheriffs' offices (93%) being the least likely to require such training.

FIGURE 4
Percent of agencies that required training on selected topics, 2019



Note: See appendix table 18 for agency estimates, estimates by agency type, standard errors, and comparisons by agency type.

^aE.g., drugs, legal issues, crime awareness, and distracted driving.

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

About 83% of agencies required training on responding to incidents in the classroom. School district police departments (85%) were more likely than local police departments (82%) to require this type of training. Just over two-thirds (68%) of agencies required that SROs receive training on social media monitoring, with no statistically significant differences by agency type.

About 8 in 10 agencies required training on crisis preparedness planning

About 82% of agencies required that their SROs receive training on crisis preparedness planning. Local police departments (81%) were less likely than sheriffs' offices (85%) and school district police departments (90%) to require training on crisis preparedness planning. About 73% of agencies required training on conducting security assessments of campuses. School district police departments (80%) were more likely than local police departments (72%) and sheriffs' offices (75%) to require that their SROs were trained to conduct campus security assessments.

Three-quarters of agencies (75%) required SROs to receive training on administering special safety programs such as drugs, legal issues, crime awareness, and distracted driving. Local police departments (74%) were less likely than sheriffs' offices (79%) and school district police departments (78%) to require this type of training for SROs. About 72% of agencies required SRO training on deterring bullying, with school district police departments being the most likely (80%) to require training on this topic.

About 80% of all agencies required that their sworn SROs receive training on recognizing substance abuse. There were no statistically significant differences by agency type in the percentages that required training on substance abuse recognition.

About 9 in 10 agencies required training on mental health issues

About 90% of agencies required SROs to receive training on mental health issues. Around 8 in 10 agencies required training on conflict resolution (80%) and cultural sensitivity (78%). About 6 in 10 agencies (59%) required training on working with students with disabilities, 5 in 10 agencies (50%) required training on mentoring, and about 4 in 10 agencies required training on child or adolescent development (42%) and positive school discipline (39%).

Sheriffs' offices (87%) were less likely than local police departments (91%) and school district police departments (93%) to require training on mental health issues. School district police departments were the most likely to require training on conflict resolution (88%) and cultural sensitivity (85%). School district police departments were also the most likely to require training on child and adolescent psychology or development (63%), mentoring (64%), positive school discipline (56%), and working with students with disabilities (78%).

In more than half of all agencies, SRO supervisors observed SROs at least several times a month

In more than one-quarter of agencies (28%), SRO supervisors visited schools to observe SROs at least once per week, and in about another one-quarter of agencies (26%), supervisors visited schools several times per month (table 16). Around 1 in 10 (11%) agencies reported that their SRO supervisors visited schools once a month to observe SROs. In 25% of agencies, SRO supervisors visited schools several times per year to observe SROs.

School district police departments were the most likely to report that their SRO supervisors visited schools at least once per week to observe SROs (74%) compared to local police departments (25%) and sheriffs' offices (30%). Local police departments (27%) and sheriffs' offices (24%) were similar in the extent they reported SRO supervisors visited schools several times per month,

while school district police departments (19%) were the least likely to report that their SRO supervisors visit schools several times per month to observe SROs.

SRO supervisors in local police departments with 1 to 4 SROs (22%) were less likely than SRO supervisors in local police departments with 5 to 9 (41%) or 10 or more SROs (54%) to visit schools at least once per week. The same pattern was observed in sheriffs' offices, with SRO supervisors in offices with 1 to 4 SROs (19%) less likely to visit schools at least once a week than SRO supervisors in offices with 5 to 9 (39%) and 10 or more SROs (57%).

In local police departments with 1 to 4 SROs (28%), SRO supervisors were more likely to visit schools several times a year than in local police departments with 5 to 9 (18%) or 10 or more SROs (12%). Similarly, in sheriffs' offices with 1 to 4 SROs (30%), SRO supervisors were more likely to visit schools several times per year compared to those in sheriffs' offices with 5 to 9 (20%) or 10 or more SROs (8%).

TABLE 16
Frequency of SRO supervisor visits, by type of agency and size of SRO program, 2019

Type of agency and SRO program size ^a	Total	At least once a week	Several times a month	Once a month	Several times a year	Once a year	Never	Other frequency
All agencies	100%	28.5%	25.9%	10.6%	24.8%	1.5%	5.3%	3.5%
Local police*	100%	25.1%	26.8%	11.2%	26.3%	1.2%!	5.7%	3.7%
1-4**	100	22.0	27.1	11.4	27.9	1.3!	6.5	3.8
5-9	100	41.4 †	27.2	10.9	18.3 †	0.0	0.0	2.2!
10 or more	100	54.0 †	20.2 †	6.4!	11.7 †	1.4!	0.7!	5.5!
Sheriffs' offices	100%	30.3% †	24.1%	10.8%	23.8%	2.7% †	5.0%	3.3%
1-4**	100	18.6	22.2	13.4	30.4	3.1!	7.7	4.6
5-9	100	39.1 †	26.3	8.8!	19.6 †	4.3!	2.0!	0.0
10 or more	100	56.6 †	27.7 ‡	4.8!	8.2 †	0.0	0.0	2.7!
School district police	100%	73.9% †	19.0% †	0.6%!	4.9%!	0.6%!	1.1%!	0.0%
1-4**	100	73.4	14.0!	1.6!	6.3!	1.6!	3.1!	0.0
5-9	100	74.5	18.6!	0.0	7.0!	0.0	0.0	0.0
10 or more	100	74.0	23.5 †	0.0	2.5!	0.0	0.0	0.0

Note: Denominator excludes 99 agencies (1.8%) for which the frequency of supervisory visits was unknown. Zero cases were observed in the sample for some responses. This does not mean there are zero cases in the overall population. See appendix table 19 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. Sample size is below the minimum threshold or coefficient of variation is greater than 50%.

^aSRO program size is based on the number of sworn officers who were primarily assigned to work in public K-12 schools as of September 1, 2019.

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

In nearly all agencies, SROs were allowed to carry an agency-issued firearm in schools

Nearly all local police departments (98%) and sheriffs' offices (97%) reported that their SROs were allowed to carry an agency-issued firearm on the school campus, compared to about two-thirds of school district police departments (68%) (table 17). School district police departments were less likely than local police departments and sheriffs' offices to allow SROs to carry other agency-issued weapons on the school campus, including conducted energy devices, batons, and oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray/foam.

School district police departments (32%) were more likely than local police departments (2%) and sheriffs' offices (3%) to have SROs who carried a firearm in

schools that was not issued by their agency. School district police departments were also more likely than local police departments and sheriffs' offices to have SROs who carried other non-agency-issued weapons, including conducted energy devices, batons, and OC spray/foam.

School district police (59%) were more likely than local police (28%) and sheriffs' office (38%) to have SROs who carried agency-issued handheld metal detector wands. School district police departments (52%) were less likely than local police departments (60%) and sheriffs' offices (62%) to have SROs who wore agency-issued body-worn cameras in schools.

TABLE 17
Percent of agencies with SROs allowed to carry selected equipment on campus, by issuance and type of agency, 2019

Equipment	Issued by agency				Not issued by agency			
	Total	Local police*	Sheriffs' offices	School district police	Total	Local police*	Sheriffs' offices	School district police
Firearm	96.2%	97.9%	97.1%	67.6% †	3.6%	1.9%	2.7%	31.9% †
Conducted energy device	87.4	89.5	91.7	38.3 †	3.8	3.3	3.9	10.8 †
Baton/nightstick	82.9	86.1	79.9 †	49.8 †	10.3	9.1	10.2	29.2 †
OC spray/foam	88.6	90.4	89.7	56.8 †	6.0	5.0	5.7	20.5 †
Hobble restraints	42.8	41.0	53.7 †	22.5 †	23.8	24.6	21.5	23.2
Handheld metal detector wand	31.6	27.9	37.5 †	58.9 †	46.5	49.1	44.0 †	18.7 †
Body-worn camera	59.7	59.6	62.1	52.0 †	20.3	20.2	21.5	17.7

Note: See appendix table 20 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.

Methodology

The 2019 Survey of Law Enforcement Personnel in Schools (SLEPS) agency survey was a one-time data collection developed to address gaps in national statistics on the characteristics of law enforcement agencies employing school resource officers (SROs) and the characteristics and functions of the SROs themselves. SLEPS was part of the 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 the Law Enforcement Agency (LEA) survey to a sample of law enforcement agencies and requesting a roster of their officers working in schools. Agency rosters were then used to draw a sample of school resource officers to receive the SRO survey. This report only discusses findings from the LEA survey. Findings from the SRO survey will be discussed in a separate report.

Survey overview

The sampling frame for the 2019 SLEPS LEA survey was derived from the 2018 Census of State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies (CSLLEA). The CSLLEA provides a complete enumeration of all publicly funded state, county, and local law enforcement agencies operating in the United States. The 2018 CSLLEA asked agencies to report the number of full-time sworn officers with general or full arrest powers who served as SROs or whose primary duties were related to safety in K–12 schools for the last pay period of the 2017–2018 school year. SLEPS targeted local police departments, sheriffs’ offices, and school-based agencies that employed one or more full-time sworn SROs. To create the SLEPS LEA sampling frame, BJS filtered the approximately 18,000 agencies in the 2018 CSLLEA down to the agency types of interest for SLEPS: municipal, county, and regional police departments (referred to in this report as local police departments); sheriffs’ offices; and school-based agencies.

In the case of missing SRO counts in the 2018 CSLLEA, the sampling frame was supplemented with SRO counts from the following sources, in priority order: the 2016 Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics (LEMAS) survey, the 2015 SLEPS verification calls, the 2014 CSLLEA, and the 2008 CSLLEA. The 2016 LEMAS was administered to a nationally representative

sample of approximately 3,500 general purpose law enforcement agencies. General-purpose law enforcement agencies include municipal, county, and regional police departments; most sheriffs’ offices; and primary state and highway patrol agencies.

The final SLEPS sampling frame consisted of 6,096 agencies. Of these agencies, 2,026 were sampled for the SLEPS LEA survey. The sample represented all local law enforcement agencies, sheriffs’ offices, and school-based agencies in the United States that employed one or more full-time sworn SROs.

Sample design and selection

The universe of SLEPS-eligible agencies was stratified at three levels representing groups of substantive interest for estimates. The first level separated school-based and non-school-based agencies. Within the non-school-based stratum, agencies were sub-stratified by agency type, with separate strata for sheriffs’ offices and local police departments (municipal, county, and regional). Police and sheriff’s office strata were further stratified by agency size as measured by the count of full-time sworn SROs they employed ([table 18](#)).

TABLE 18
LEA sample allocation

Strata	Estimated LEA population	Sampling rate	Sample size	Sample weight
Total	6,096	33.2%	2,026	
School-based (K–12)	299	100%	299	1.00
Non-school based, local police				
1 SRO	2,346	17.0%	399	5.88
2–4 SROs	1,573	17.0	268	5.87
5–9 SROs	342	48.2	165	2.07
10–24 SROs	112	97.3	109	1.03
25+ SROs	28	100	28	1.00
Non-school based, sheriffs’ offices				
1 SRO	485	54.0%	262	1.85
2–4 SROs	501	39.1	196	2.56
5–9 SROs	229	62.0	142	1.61
10–24 SROs	136	83.1	113	1.20
25+ SROs	45	100	45	1.00

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

The size stratification for local police departments and sheriffs' offices was as follows: 1 SRO, 2 to 4 SROs, 5 to 9 SROs, 10 to 24 SROs, and 25 or more SROs. There were three certainty strata: school-based agencies, local police departments with 25 or more SROs, and sheriffs' offices with 25 or more SROs. All agencies within the certainty strata were selected to receive the LEA survey while only a percentage of agencies in the noncertainty strata were selected.

Of the 2,026 agencies selected for the LEA survey, 162 were identified as ineligible during data collection because they no longer employed any officers who were primarily assigned to work in public K–12 schools.

The sampling weight for the three certainty strata was 1. For the noncertainty strata, the sampling weights were equal to each stratum's estimated agency population size divided by its agency sample size. For example, for sheriffs' offices with 1 SRO, the sampling weight for each of these agencies was $485/262 = 1.85$.

Agency response rate

Data were collected using two self-administered modes: web surveys and paper surveys. The mode was based on agency preference. About 96% of agencies responded via web survey.

Submitted surveys were considered complete if at least 60% of the questionnaire was filled out. A total of 1,524 agencies completed the SLEPS LEA questionnaire, for a response rate of 81.8%. Local police departments had a response rate of 84.3%, sheriffs' offices had a response rate of 81.5%, and school-based agencies had a response rate of 74.6%. An adjustment factor, using the expected SRO count from the sampling frame as a continuous predictor within the strata, was applied to account for agency nonresponse. The nonresponse adjustments were multiplied by the respective sampling weight to create the final analytical weight for each agency.

Item nonresponse and imputation

Regardless of agency type or size, all sampled agencies were asked to complete the 32-item SLEPS LEA questionnaire. No imputation was performed on missing items.

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, 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. (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 local police departments where SROs are required to inform school executive staff of searching a student was $83.0\% \pm 1.96 \times 0.95\%$ (or approximately 81.1% to 84.9%). 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 $24,913 \pm 1.96 \times 330$ (or 24,267 to 25,560).

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 figure 1: Number of personnel primarily assigned to public K–12 schools, by type of agency and sworn status, 2019 and table 1: Law enforcement agencies with sworn SROs, by type of agency and size of SRO program, 2019

Type of agency and SRO program size	Agencies employing sworn SROs		Sworn SROs	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All agencies	28	0.00%	330	0.00%
Local police	27	0.17	204	0.82
1–4	23	0.24	141	0.56
5–9	15	0.25	82	0.33
10 or more	2	0.03	123	0.50
Sheriffs' offices	7	0.15%	149	0.60%
1–4	6	0.11	43	0.17
5–9	4	0.07	36	0.14
10 or more	3	0.05	138	0.55
School district police	0.40	0.03%	212	0.85%
1–4	0.03	0.01	8	0.03
5–9	0.06	0.01	7	0.03
10 or more	0.40	0.01	212	0.85

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

APPENDIX TABLE 3

Standard errors for table 3: Sex of sworn SROs, by type of agency and size of SRO program, 2019

Type of agency and SRO program size	Male	Female
All agencies	1.13%	0.49%
Local police	1.50	0.78
1–4	2.35	1.22
5–9	3.11	1.11
10 or more	2.28	1.42
Sheriffs' offices	1.70%	0.59%
1–4	2.66	1.35
5–9	2.26	1.29
10 or more	2.59	0.75
School district police	3.50%	1.31%
1–4	2.71	1.48
5–9	2.40	1.20
10 or more	4.05	1.52

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

APPENDIX TABLE 2

Standard errors for figure 1: Number of personnel primarily assigned to public K–12 schools, by type of agency and sworn status, 2019 and table 2: Law enforcement agencies with nonsworn employees primarily assigned to public K–12 schools, by type of agency, 2019

Type of agency	Number of agencies with sworn SROs	Number of agencies employing nonsworn employees	Percent of agencies employing nonsworn employees	Number of nonsworn employees
All agencies	28	19	0.3%	398
Local police	27	18	0.4	248
Sheriffs' offices	7	5	0.4	237
School district police	0.40	4	1.6	201

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

APPENDIX TABLE 4

Standard errors for table 4: Race or Hispanic origin of sworn SROs, by type of agency and size of SRO program, 2019

Type of agency and SRO program size	Race				Hispanic origin		
	White	Black	Other	Unknown	Hispanic or Latino	Not Hispanic or Latino	Unknown
All agencies	1.12%	0.59%	0.13%	0.47%	0.65%	1.10%	0.63%
Local police	1.42%	0.90%	0.22%	0.78%	0.54%	1.57%	1.02%
1-4	2.34	1.06	0.39	0.45	0.91	2.39	0.75
5-9	3.07	1.48	0.43	0.91	1.01	3.52	1.52
10 or more	1.65	2.23	0.15	2.46	0.63	2.45	3.05
Sheriffs' offices	1.69%	0.78%	0.17%	0.77%	0.55%	1.79%	1.17%
1-4	2.89	1.40	0.41	0.71	0.72	3.02	1.41
5-9	2.62	1.75	0.51	0.64	1.09	2.97	1.73
10 or more	2.50	1.05	0.16	1.25	0.80	2.64	1.80
School district police	3.61%	1.57%	0.22%	0.58%	2.98%	2.85%	0.51%
1-4	3.06	2.34	0.89	1.16	2.39	3.04	2.15
5-9	2.68	2.46	0.39	1.16	2.27	2.92	0.18
10 or more	4.18	1.79	0.25	0.66	3.45	3.29	0.57

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

APPENDIX TABLE 5

Estimates and standard errors for figure 2: Average age of SRO programs, by type of agency and size of SRO program, 2019

Type of agency and SRO program size	Average number of years SRO program has been in place	
	Estimate	Standard error
All agencies	16 years	0.28 years
Local police	16 years	0.37 years
1-4	15	0.42
5-9	22	0.72
10 or more	26	0.47
Sheriffs' offices	16 years	0.30 years
1-4	13	0.44
5-9	18	0.63
10 or more	22	0.43
School district police	19 years	0.34 years
1-4	15	0.42
5-9	19	0.75
10 or more	24	0.64

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

APPENDIX TABLE 6**Standard errors for table 5: Funding sources for SRO programs, by type of agency and size of SRO program, 2019**

Type of agency and SRO program size	School district	Federal grant	State/local grant or tax
All agencies	1.17%	0.57%	0.74%
Local police	1.54%	0.76%	0.93%
1-4	1.74	0.86	1.04
5-9	3.02	1.74	2.22
10 or more	1.72	0.93	1.34
Sheriffs' offices	1.42%	0.63%	1.36%
1-4	2.11	0.91	1.84
5-9	2.58	1.17	3.24
10 or more	1.99	1.08	2.08
School district police	0.60%	0.95%	1.10%
1-4	1.12	1.43	1.67
5-9	1.20	2.55	2.95
10 or more	0.75	1.36	1.56

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

APPENDIX TABLE 7**Standard errors for table 6: Type of SRO assignment, by type of agency and size of SRO program, 2019**

Type of agency and SRO program size	Single permanent assignment	Rotate to other assignments
All agencies	1.26%	1.26%
Local police	1.67%	1.67%
1-4	1.91	1.91
5-9	2.56	2.56
10 or more	1.28	1.28
Sheriffs' offices	1.38%	1.38%
1-4	2.09	2.09
5-9	2.49	2.49
10 or more	1.49	1.49
School district police	1.42%	1.42%
1-4	2.37	2.37
5-9	3.23	3.23
10 or more	2.03	2.03

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

APPENDIX TABLE 8**Standard errors for table 7: Percent of agencies that required SROs to perform selected law enforcement activities, by type of agency and size of SRO program, 2019**

Type of agency and SRO program size	Patrolling school facilities	Responding to calls for service on the school campus	Responding to incidents in the classroom	Issuing criminal citations	Making arrests	Security audits/ assessments of campuses	Crisis preparedness planning	Social media monitoring
All agencies	0.66%	0.56%	0.80%	0.90%	0.70%	1.23%	1.24%	1.40%
Local police	0.86%	0.72%	1.05%	1.18%	0.92%	1.62%	1.64%	1.84%
1-4	0.98	0.82	1.19	1.34	1.06	1.85	1.86	2.09
5-9	1.36	1.09	2.24	2.15	1.25	3.01	3.37	3.85
10 or more	0.72	0.65	1.02	1.16	0.70	1.78	1.72	2.08
Sheriffs' offices	0.96%	0.93%	1.02%	1.09%	0.88%	1.41%	1.41%	1.69%
1-4	1.52	1.47	1.53	1.44	1.24	2.13	2.08	2.40
5-9	1.31	1.19	1.79	2.74	2.05	2.44	2.66	3.59
10 or more	0.94	0.81	1.35	1.65	1.09	1.81	1.79	2.53
School district police	0.48%	0.48%	0.78%	1.33%	0.73%	1.24%	1.09%	1.76%
1-4	0.66	0.93	1.43	2.42	1.56	2.19	2.19	2.97
5-9	1.20	0.00	1.20	2.32	0.00	2.77	1.69	3.96
10 or more	0.79	0.77	1.18	1.97	0.96	1.64	1.34	2.51

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

APPENDIX TABLE 9**Standard errors for table 8: Percent of agencies that required SROs to perform selected mentoring activities, by type of agency and size of SRO program, 2019**

Type of agency and SRO program size	Advising school staff, students, or families	Coaching athletic programs	Field trip chaperone	Supervising/ coordinating nonathletic extracurricular activities	Truancy intervention
All agencies	1.29%	0.78%	1.21%	1.30%	1.39%
Local police	1.69%	1.02%	1.59%	1.71%	1.83%
1-4	1.92	1.17	1.81	1.94	2.07
5-9	3.55	1.46	2.57	3.56	3.85
10 or more	1.86	1.39	1.69	1.70	2.07
Sheriffs' offices	1.61%	0.98%	1.48%	1.59%	1.68%
1-4	2.33	1.24	2.04	2.22	2.38
5-9	3.25	2.53	3.37	3.50	3.57
10 or more	2.19	1.76	2.32	2.54	2.54
School district police	1.41%	1.15%	1.59%	1.73%	1.74%
1-4	2.19	2.04	2.83	2.92	2.89
5-9	3.25	2.77	3.76	3.96	4.02
10 or more	2.22	1.37	1.95	2.43	2.48

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

APPENDIX TABLE 10**Standard errors for table 9: Percent of agencies that required SROs to perform selected teaching activities, by type of agency and size of SRO program, 2019**

Type of agency and SRO program size	Administering special safety programs	Conflict resolution	Faculty/staff in-service presentations	Parent organization presentations
All agencies	1.27%	1.36%	1.32%	1.40%
Local police	1.68%	1.78%	1.73%	1.84%
1-4	1.90	2.02	1.97	2.08
5-9	3.34	3.60	3.10	3.67
10 or more	1.97	2.06	2.06	2.04
Sheriffs' offices	1.55%	1.67%	1.66%	1.67%
1-4	2.21	2.39	2.38	2.36
5-9	3.31	3.47	3.45	3.59
10 or more	2.21	2.38	2.38	2.52
School district police	1.55%	1.69%	1.35%	1.72%
1-4	2.57	2.85	2.43	2.97
5-9	3.59	3.88	2.94	3.87
10 or more	2.23	2.40	1.78	2.35

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

APPENDIX TABLE 11**Standard errors for table 10: Actions requiring SROs to inform school executive staff, by type of agency and size of SRO program, 2019**

Type of agency and SRO program size	Conduct criminal investigation	Question school employees during school hours	Question students during school hours	Search premises	Search student
All agencies	1.24%	1.16%	1.05%	0.99%	1.04%
Local police	1.63%	1.53%	1.39%	1.31%	1.37%
1-4	1.85	1.73	1.57	1.48	1.55
5-9	2.89	2.99	2.66	2.67	2.76
10 or more	2.00	2.00	1.96	1.72	1.85
Sheriffs' offices	1.43%	1.43%	1.21%	1.21%	1.26%
1-4	2.08	2.07	1.73	1.74	1.84
5-9	2.97	2.96	2.60	2.61	2.57
10 or more	1.79	1.74	1.56	1.52	1.64
School district police	1.51%	1.35%	1.40%	1.40%	1.35%
1-4	2.31	2.31	2.11	2.11	1.95
5-9	3.74	3.48	3.73	3.58	3.56
10 or more	2.28	1.59	1.99	2.09	2.05

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

APPENDIX TABLE 12**Standard errors for table 11: Direct or physical contact requiring SROs to inform school executive staff, by type of agency and size of SRO program, 2019**

Type of agency and SRO program size	Arrest of—		Restraint on student that does not result in arrest	Use of—	
	School employee during school hours	Student during school hours		Less-lethal equipment	Firearms
All agencies	0.89%	0.82%	1.08%	1.10%	1.07%
Local police	1.17%	1.09%	1.43%	1.45%	1.41%
1–4	1.33	1.25	1.61	1.65	1.61
5–9	2.46	1.49	3.00	2.89	2.54
10 or more	1.65	1.50	1.88	1.82	1.82
Sheriffs' offices	1.08%	0.89%	1.27%	1.25%	1.25%
1–4	1.60	1.28	1.82	1.81	1.80
5–9	2.22	2.03	2.62	2.60	2.64
10 or more	1.01	0.81	1.82	1.71	1.68
School district police	0.63%	0.88%	1.11%	1.29%	1.11%
1–4	1.13	1.12	1.29	1.67	1.43
5–9	1.21	2.53	3.48	3.48	2.95
10 or more	0.91	1.37	1.66	2.12	1.83

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

APPENDIX TABLE 13**Estimates and standard errors for figure 3: Allowance of SRO interviews of students without a parent present without first obtaining parental permission, by type of agency and size of SRO program, 2019**

Type of agency and SRO program size	Interview allowed	
	Estimate	Standard error
All agencies	49.8%	1.40%
Local police*	48.7%	1.84%
1–4**	46.5	2.08
5–9	62.2 †	3.74
10 or more	65.1 †	2.01
Sheriffs' offices	49.8%	1.67%
1–4**	43.3	2.37
5–9	59.4 †	3.51
10 or more	59.3 †	2.54
School district police	66.4% †	1.68%
1–4**	62.9	2.87
5–9	63.7	3.87
10 or more	71.6 †	2.30

*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.

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

APPENDIX TABLE 14

Standard errors for table 12: Percent of agencies with procedural SRO program characteristics specified in internal policy or formal agreement with schools, by type of agency and size of SRO program, 2019

Type of agency and SRO program size	Primary functions of SROs	Use of—		Role of SROs with school discipline	Procedures for resolving disagreements between school officials and SROs	Expectations—		
		Less-lethal equipment	Firearms			For SROs when working with students	Regarding citations and arrests by SROs	Regarding collaboration between school officials and SROs
All agencies	0.82%	1.42%	1.41%	1.20%	1.41%	0.90%	1.32%	0.83%
Local police	1.06%	1.87%	1.85%	1.57%	1.85%	1.18%	1.74%	1.10%
1–4	1.23	2.13	2.11	1.80	2.11	1.35	1.99	1.27
5–9	1.21	3.72	3.58	2.55	3.58	2.05	2.60	0.95
10 or more	0.46	1.89	1.88	1.33	1.79	0.90	1.55	0.32
Sheriffs' offices	1.12%	1.65%	1.62%	1.45%	1.69%	1.09%	1.58%	0.97%
1–4	1.82	2.43	2.39	2.11	2.45	1.68	2.36	1.46
5–9	1.43	3.32	3.16	2.96	3.53	1.79	3.01	1.91
10 or more	0.84	2.32	2.26	2.03	2.38	1.26	2.07	1.10
School district police	0.82%	1.15%	0.86%	1.22%	1.58%	0.82%	1.24%	1.02%
1–4	1.41	2.22	1.82	2.30	2.88	1.56	2.47	2.03
5–9	1.39	2.65	1.33	2.94	3.16	1.95	2.35	1.94
10 or more	1.34	1.19	0.86	1.29	2.16	0.85	1.42	1.17

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

APPENDIX TABLE 15

Standard errors for table 13: Percent of agencies with administrative SRO program characteristics specified in internal policy or formal agreement with schools, by type of agency and size of SRO program, 2019

Type of agency and SRO program size	Goals of the SRO program	Number of officers in SRO program	Requirement of regular meetings between school officials and SROs	Responsibilities/duties of school	Schedule that officers will spend at school	Supervision or administrative control of SROs
All agencies	1.16%	1.39%	1.42%	1.10%	1.30%	1.06%
Local police	1.52%	1.82%	1.86%	1.44%	1.71%	1.39%
1–4	1.75	2.08	2.12	1.65	1.96	1.59
5–9	2.22	3.16	3.64	2.38	2.74	2.27
10 or more	1.37	1.69	2.01	1.14	1.37	1.07
Sheriffs' offices	1.38%	1.66%	1.70%	1.32%	1.53%	1.27%
1–4	2.11	2.43	2.48	1.92	2.21	1.96
5–9	2.21	3.42	3.46	2.73	3.44	2.31
10 or more	1.92	2.20	2.46	1.84	1.73	1.05
School district police	1.18%	1.76%	1.72%	1.27%	1.40%	1.04%
1–4	2.37	3.02	2.94	2.13	2.56	2.13
5–9	1.39	4.11	4.11	2.93	2.66	1.90
10 or more	1.59	2.44	2.30	1.83	1.96	1.12

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

APPENDIX TABLE 16**Standard errors for table 14: SRO selection methods, by type of agency and size of SRO program, 2019**

Type of agency and SRO program size	Input from school/school district	Nomination within department	External application process	Internal application process	Assignment as part of regular duty schedule
All agencies	1.26%	1.25%	0.91%	1.16%	1.14%
Local police	1.66%	1.65%	1.16%	1.51%	1.49%
1-4	1.89	1.88	1.33	1.73	1.70
5-9	2.73	1.92	1.08	1.97	2.79
10 or more	1.62	1.79	0.80	1.19	1.37
Sheriffs' offices	1.43%	1.56%	1.40%	1.46%	1.43%
1-4	2.11	2.18	1.89	2.12	2.05
5-9	2.70	3.44	3.21	3.24	3.06
10 or more	1.91	2.33	2.50	1.36	1.88
School district police	1.62%	1.28%	1.52%	1.71%	1.06%
1-4	2.97	1.96	2.52	2.78	1.43
5-9	3.81	3.31	3.02	4.01	2.97
10 or more	1.89	1.87	2.42	2.51	1.63

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

APPENDIX TABLE 17**Standard errors for table 15: Percent of agencies that required training on de-escalation and use of force, by type of agency, 2019**

Type of agency	Standard error		
	De-escalation strategies	Use of less-lethal force	Use of deadly force
All agencies	0.74%	0.52%	0.46%
Local police	0.97	0.68	0.61
Sheriffs' offices	0.99	0.53	0.46
School district police	0.70	0.77	0.46

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

APPENDIX TABLE 18

Estimates and standard errors for figure 4: Percent of agencies that required training on selected topics, 2019

	Estimate				Standard error			
	All agencies	Local police*	Sheriffs' offices	School district police	All agencies	Local police	Sheriffs' offices	School district police
Law enforcement training topics								
Gangs	57.8%	54.2%	67.7% †	68.4% †	1.39%	1.84%	1.59%	1.64%
Procedures for handling juvenile offenders	94.9	95.3	92.9 †	96.5	0.60	0.78	0.90	0.67
Responding to incidents in the classroom	82.5	82.0	83.6	85.5 ‡	1.09	1.43	1.26	1.24
Social media monitoring	67.6	67.0	69.4	68.4	1.31	1.73	1.56	1.64
Prevention and planning training topics								
Administering special safety programs ^a	75.0%	73.8%	78.6% †	77.9% ‡	1.23%	1.63%	1.41%	1.47%
Bullying deterrence	71.8	70.8	73.0	80.3 †	1.27	1.67	1.51	1.38
Crisis preparedness planning	82.3	80.9	85.0 †	90.5 †	1.11	1.47	1.23	1.04
Security audits/assessments of campuses	73.1	71.9	75.2	80.2 †	1.26	1.66	1.47	1.38
Substance abuse recognition	79.8	79.5	80.9	79.9	1.12	1.48	1.33	1.41
Truancy intervention	52.2	53.4	47.6 †	55.0	1.40	1.84	1.69	1.73
Social and behavioral training topics								
Child/adolescent psychology/development	42.4%	41.6%	40.3%	62.6% †	1.38%	1.81%	1.63%	1.71%
Conflict resolution	79.7	78.8	80.8	87.9 †	1.16	1.53	1.35	1.16
Cultural sensitivity	77.6	77.9	75.1	84.8 †	1.18	1.55	1.49	1.28
Mental health issues	90.4	91.4	86.6 †	92.6	0.82	1.07	1.19	0.95
Mentoring staff, students, and/or families	49.9	48.8	50.5	63.6 †	1.40	1.84	1.69	1.70
Positive school discipline	39.5	38.8	38.1	55.8 †	1.36	1.80	1.64	1.76
Working with students with disabilities	59.3	57.0	62.4 †	78.1 †	1.39	1.83	1.65	1.47

*Comparison group.

†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

‡Difference with comparison group is significant at the 90% confidence level.

^aE.g., drugs, legal issues, crime awareness, and distracted driving.

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

APPENDIX TABLE 19**Standard errors for table 16: Frequency of SRO supervisor visits, by type of agency and size of SRO program, 2019**

Type of agency and SRO program size	At least once a week	Several times a month	Once a month	Several times a year	Once a year	Never	Other frequency
All agencies	1.19%	1.26%	0.90%	1.26%	0.33%	0.68%	0.53%
Local police	1.55%	1.65%	1.18%	1.66%	0.41%	0.90%	0.70%
1-4	1.74	1.87	1.34	1.89	0.47	1.04	0.80
5-9	3.84	3.57	2.63	2.95	0.00	0.00	0.89
10 or more	2.15	1.70	1.09	1.45	0.47	0.34	1.00
Sheriffs' offices	1.44%	1.46%	1.09%	1.48%	0.57%	0.78%	0.62%
1-4	1.91	2.06	1.64	2.21	0.81	1.26	1.01
5-9	3.52	3.13	2.03	3.00	1.43	1.07	0.00
10 or more	2.56	2.34	1.08	1.40	0.00	0.00	0.83
School district police	1.85%	1.60%	0.37%	0.95%	0.37%	0.52%	0.00%
1-4	3.66	2.88	1.02	2.01	1.03	1.45	0.00
5-9	3.65	3.26	0.00	2.14	0.00	0.00	0.00
10 or more	2.41	2.33	0.00	0.86	0.00	0.00	0.00

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

APPENDIX TABLE 20**Standard errors for table 17: Percent of agencies with SROs allowed to carry selected equipment on campus, by issuance and type of agency, 2019**

Equipment	Issued by agency				Not issued by agency			
	Total	Local police	Sheriffs' offices	School district police	Total	Local police	Sheriffs' offices	School district police
Firearm	0.41%	0.52%	0.59%	1.62%	0.39%	0.50%	0.57%	1.61%
Conducted energy device	0.87	1.15	0.91	1.72	0.52	0.69	0.62	1.12
Baton/nightstick	0.99	1.29	1.36	1.73	0.83	1.08	1.03	1.60
OC spray/foam	0.85	1.11	1.04	1.71	0.64	0.83	0.79	1.42
Hobble restraints	1.37	1.81	1.68	1.44	1.22	1.62	1.39	1.49
Handheld metal detector wand	1.28	1.68	1.65	1.73	1.41	1.85	1.67	1.38
Body-worn camera	1.38	1.82	1.63	1.76	1.14	1.50	1.38	1.37

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



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. Alexis R. Piquero, PhD, is the director.

This report was written by Elizabeth J. Davis. Sean E. Goodison and Stephanie Mueller verified the report.

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