



Local Police Departments Personnel, 2020

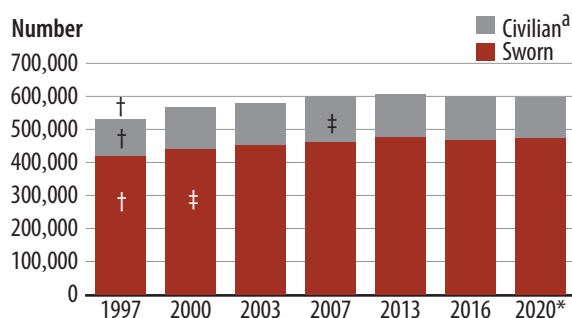
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As of December 31, 2020, more than 14,700 general-purpose law enforcement agencies in the United States employed about 708,000 full-time sworn officers and 348,000 full-time civilians. Local police departments accounted for about 80% (11,800) of the general-purpose agencies, employing nearly 67% (473,000) of full-time sworn personnel and 36% (126,000) of full-time civilian personnel (figure 1, table 1).¹

The total number of full-time personnel in local police departments increased nearly 13% from 1997 to 2020. The number of full-time sworn officers with general arrest powers also increased nearly 13%, from 420,000 in 1997 to 473,000 in 2020. The number of full-time civilians increased 24% from 1997 to 2007 (from 111,000 to

¹Civilian personnel include officers or deputies with limited or no arrest powers and nonsworn personnel.

FIGURE 1
Full-time personnel in local police departments,
1997–2020



Note: See table 1 for estimates and appendix table 1 for standard errors.

*Comparison year.

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

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

^aIncludes officers or deputies with limited or no arrest powers and nonsworn personnel.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics survey, 1997–2020.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Local police departments in the United States employed about 473,000 full-time sworn officers and 126,000 full-time civilian personnel in 2020.
- Almost half (46%) of all local police departments employed fewer than 10 full-time-equivalent sworn officers.
- In local police departments serving 250,000 or more residents, about 16% of police chiefs were female.
- About 14% of full-time sworn officers and 11% of first-line supervisors across local police departments were female.
- About 12% of full-time sworn officers in local police departments were black, and 14% were Hispanic.
- In local police departments serving 1 million or more residents, about 47% of full-time sworn officers were white and 30% were Hispanic.
- About 47% of chiefs of local police departments serving 250,000 or more residents were white, 38% were black, and 13% were Hispanic.
- Most local police departments serving 100,000 or more residents had specialized units or other designated personnel for sexual assault (94%), child abuse/endangerment (92%), and mental health/crisis intervention (79%).
- About a quarter (24%) of local police departments serving fewer than 100,000 residents and a third (32%) serving 100,000 or more implemented routine COVID-19 testing of officers.

138,000) but then decreased nearly 9% (from 138,000 to 126,000) between 2007 and 2020.

Findings in this report are based on the 2020 Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics (LEMAS) survey from the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). Conducted periodically since 1987, the LEMAS survey collects data on a range of topics from a nationally representative sample of general-purpose state and local law enforcement agencies. (See *Methodology*.) General-purpose law enforcement agencies include municipal, county, and regional police departments; most sheriffs' offices; and primary state and highway patrol agencies. They are distinct from special-purpose agencies, sheriffs' offices with jail and court duties only, and federal law enforcement agencies. Full-time sworn officers are those with general arrest powers. Employees who are regularly scheduled to work 35 or more hours per week are considered full-time.

This report uses selected variables from 2020 LEMAS data to describe personnel in local police departments. Local police departments include general-purpose law enforcement agencies such as municipal, county, and regional police departments, but exclude other types of general-purpose law enforcement agencies, such as sheriffs' offices and primary state and highway patrol agencies. For estimates of personnel in sheriffs' offices, see *Sheriffs' Offices Personnel, 2020* (NCJ 305200, BJS, November 2022).

About two-thirds of full-time sworn officers in general-purpose agencies worked for local police departments

In 2020, about 1,056,000 full-time personnel worked for general-purpose law enforcement agencies at the state, county, or local level (table 2). Of these personnel,

almost 57% worked for local police departments. Of the 708,000 full-time sworn officers employed across the country, about 67% worked for local police departments. Local police departments employed 36% of the 348,000 full-time civilian personnel. These departments also employed about 69% of the 86,000 part-time personnel in general-purpose law enforcement agencies. About 79% of full-time personnel and 48% of part-time personnel in local police departments were sworn officers.

TABLE 1
Full-time personnel in local police departments, 1997–2020

Year	Total	Sworn	Civilian ^a
1997	531,313 †	419,996 †	111,317 †
2000	565,644	440,770 ‡	124,874
2003	580,749	451,737	129,013
2007	601,027	463,147	137,880 ‡
2013	604,959	477,317	127,642
2016	599,548	468,274	131,274
2020*	598,620	473,102	125,518

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. See appendix table 1 for standard errors.

*Comparison year.

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

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

^aIncludes officers or deputies with limited or no arrest powers and nonsworn personnel.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics survey, 1997–2020.

TABLE 2
Personnel in general-purpose state and local law enforcement agencies, by type of agency, 2020

Type of agency	Number of agencies	Full-time personnel			Part-time personnel		
		Total	Sworn	Civilian ^a	Total	Sworn	Civilian ^a
Total	14,726	1,056,038	708,153	347,885	85,716	37,734	47,981
Local police	11,788	598,620	473,102	125,518	59,182	28,117	31,066
Sheriff's office ^b	2,889	364,533	173,899	190,634	25,267	9,400	15,867
Primary state	49	92,886	61,153	31,733	1,266	217	1,048

Note: Counts are as of December 31, 2020. Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. See appendix table 2 for standard errors.

^aIncludes officers or deputies with limited or no arrest powers and nonsworn personnel.

^bExcludes sheriffs' offices without primary law enforcement jurisdiction in the counties they serve.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics survey, 2020.

In 2020, almost 6% (684) of local police departments had 100 or more full-time-equivalent (FTE) sworn officers (table 3).² These departments employed 62% of all full-time sworn officers and 69% of all full-time civilian personnel in local agencies nationwide. Almost half (46%) of departments had fewer than 10 FTE sworn officers.

²The number of FTE sworn officers is the number of full-time sworn officers plus half the number of part-time sworn officers.

Half of local police officers were employed in jurisdictions with 100,000 or more residents

The distribution of local police departments by population served was similar to their distribution by agency size. While about 3% (338) of all departments served 100,000 or more residents in 2020, they employed 52% of all full-time sworn officers and 58% of all full-time civilian personnel (table 4). More than two-thirds (70%) of departments served fewer than 10,000 residents.

TABLE 3
Local police departments and full-time personnel, by size of agency, 2020

Size of agency ^a	Departments		Full-time sworn officers		Full-time civilian personnel ^b	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All sizes	11,788	100%	473,102	100%	125,518	100%
1,000 or more FTE sworn officers	45	0.4	152,552	32.2	43,930	35.0
500–999	52	0.4	37,517	7.9	10,430	8.3
250–499	104	0.9	36,106	7.6	10,401	8.3
100–249	482	4.1	69,216	14.6	21,583	17.2
50–99	849	7.2	56,226	11.9	14,544	11.6
25–49	1,585	13.4	53,513	11.3	13,190	10.5
10–24	3,302	28.0	47,247	10.0	8,751	7.0
5–9	2,856	24.2	16,016	3.4	2,198	1.8
2–4	1,983	16.8	4,284	0.9	386	0.3
1	529	4.5	426	0.1	104	0.1!

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. See appendix table 3 for standard errors.

! Interpret with caution. Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases, or coefficient of variation is greater than 50%.

^aSize of agency is based on the number of full-time-equivalent (FTE) sworn officers (i.e., the number of full-time sworn officers plus half the number of part-time sworn officers).

^bIncludes officers or deputies with limited or no arrest powers and nonsworn personnel.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics survey, 2020.

TABLE 4
Local police departments and full-time personnel, by size of population served, 2020

Size of population served	Departments		Full-time sworn officers		Full-time civilian personnel ^a	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All sizes	11,788	100%	473,102	100%	125,518	100%
1 million or more residents	15	0.1	101,372	21.4	30,710	24.5
500,000–999,999	35	0.3	51,572	10.9	14,038	11.2
250,000–499,999	60	0.5	39,193	8.3	11,534	9.2
100,000–249,999	228	1.9	55,868	11.8	17,121	13.6
50,000–99,999	461	3.9	52,697	11.1	14,967	11.9
25,000–49,999	948	8.0	55,292	11.7	14,098	11.2
10,000–24,999	1,824	15.5	54,729	11.6	12,783	10.2
2,500–9,999	3,982	33.8	46,994	9.9	8,347	6.7
2,499 or fewer	4,236	35.9	15,386	3.3	1,920	1.5

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. See appendix table 4 for standard errors.

^aIncludes officers or deputies with limited or no arrest powers and nonsworn personnel.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics survey, 2020.

Local police departments serving fewer than 10,000 residents had 2.8 FTE sworn officers per 1,000 residents on average

Local police departments serving 50,000 to 99,999 residents and those serving 100,000 to 249,999 residents employed an average of 1.6 FTE sworn officers per 1,000 residents (figure 2). Departments serving 1 million or more residents had 3.0 officers per 1,000 residents on average, while those serving fewer than 2,500 employed an average of 3.8 per 1,000.

Nearly 1 in 7 local police officers were female

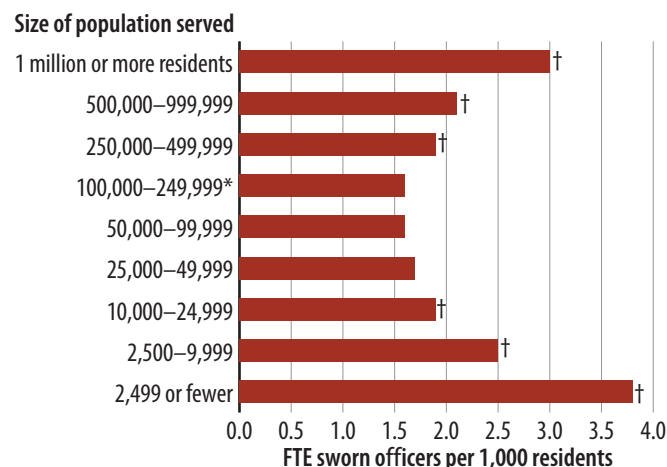
In 2020, almost 14% of full-time sworn officers in local police departments were female (table 5). Between 2016 and 2020, local police departments serving 25,000 to 249,999 residents or fewer than 10,000 residents had a statistically significant increase in the percentage of female officers they employed. There were no significant differences among local police departments serving 250,000 or more residents from 2016 to 2020.

The number of female officers in local police departments increased 51% from 1997 to 2020

Across local police departments, the percentage of full-time sworn officers who were female rose from 10% in 1997 to almost 14% in 2020 (figure 3). The estimated 63,000 female officers employed full time in 2020 represented a 51% increase from 1997. (See

appendix table 7.) The percentage of female officers employed full time in 2020 was not significantly different from the percentage in either 2016 or 2013.

FIGURE 2
Average number of full-time-equivalent sworn officers in local police departments per 1,000 residents, by size of population served, 2020



Note: See appendix table 5 for estimates and standard errors. FTE denotes full-time equivalent.

*Comparison group.

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

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics survey, 2020.

TABLE 5
Sex of full-time sworn officers in local police departments, by size of population served, 2016 and 2020

Size of population served	2016		2020*	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
All sizes	87.7%	12.3%	86.5%	13.5%
1 million or more residents	82.4	17.6	81.2	18.8
500,000–999,999	85.4	14.6	84.2	15.8
250,000–499,999	84.8	15.2	83.7	16.3
100,000–249,999	88.0	12.0 †	86.8	13.2
50,000–99,999	89.5	10.5 ‡	88.0	12.0
25,000–49,999	90.4	9.6 ‡	88.5	11.5
10,000–24,999	91.0	9.0	90.3	9.7
9,999 or fewer	92.7	7.3 †	91.5	8.5

Note: See appendix table 6 for standard errors.

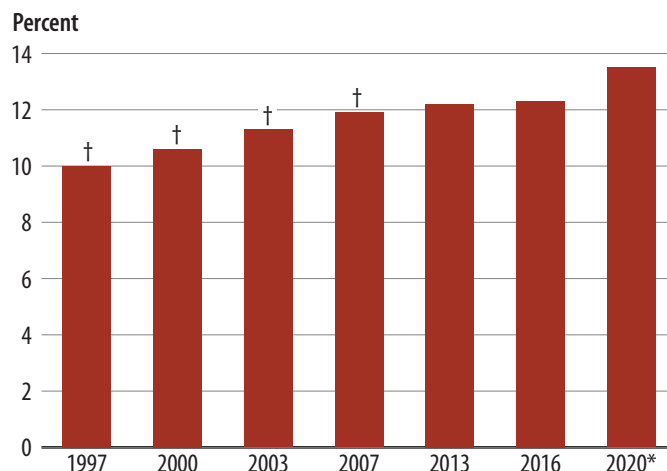
*Comparison year.

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

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

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics survey, 2016 and 2020.

FIGURE 3
Percent of full-time sworn officers in local police departments who were female, 1997–2020



Note: See appendix table 7 for estimates and standard errors.

*Comparison year.

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

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics survey, 1997–2020.

Nearly 1 in 3 local police officers were black, Hispanic, or another race in 2020

In 2020, about 69% of full-time sworn officers in local police departments were white, while nearly 30% were black, Hispanic, or another race (Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, American Indian or Alaska Native, or two or more races) (table 6). In jurisdictions with 25,000 to 49,999 residents or 100,000 to 499,999 residents, there was a statistically significant increase in the percentage of Hispanic officers between 2016 and 2020. White full-time officers accounted for a smaller

percentage of officers in 2020 than in 2016 within departments serving 100,000 to 249,999 residents.

The percentage of local police officers who were Hispanic increased from 8% in 1997 to 14% in 2020

Hispanic persons accounted for 14% of full-time sworn officers in local police departments in 2020, compared to 8% of officers in 1997 (table 7). Between 1997 and 2020, the percentage of local police officers across the nation who were white fell from 78% to 69%. About 4% of officers were Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific

TABLE 6
Race or Hispanic origin of full-time sworn officers in local police departments, by size of population served, 2016 and 2020

Size of population served	2016					2020*				
	White ^a	Black ^a	Hispanic	Other ^{a,b}	Unknown	White ^a	Black ^a	Hispanic	Other ^{a,b}	Unknown
All sizes	71.5%	11.4%	12.5%	3.6%	1.1%	68.6%	11.6%	14.2%	4.1%	1.4%
1 million or more residents	51.1	16.3	26.5	5.7	0.4	47.1	15.7	30.0	6.7	0.5
500,000–999,999	59.0	22.4	10.7	6.7	1.2	56.8	23.6	11.3	8.0	0.3
250,000–499,999	68.0	14.8	12.6 †	4.0	0.6	63.7	14.3	15.6	4.1	2.3
100,000–249,999	73.1 ‡	11.6	9.9 †	3.3	2.0	68.3	11.8	13.3	3.8	2.8
50,000–99,999	74.8	7.5	12.9	2.6	2.2!	74.2	7.6	12.0	2.4	3.7
25,000–49,999	86.8	6.1	5.2 †	1.3 †	0.6	81.8	6.9	8.0	2.1	1.2!
10,000–24,999	85.4	6.0	6.0	1.8	1.1!	84.1	6.1	6.8	1.8	1.2!
9,999 or fewer	87.3	4.6	5.4	1.7	0.9	85.7	6.2	5.3	2.2	0.7

Note: Details may not sum to 100% due to rounding. See appendix table 8 for standard errors.

*Comparison year.

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

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

! Interpret with caution. Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases, or coefficient of variation is greater than 50%.

^aExcludes persons of Hispanic origin (e.g., “white” refers to non-Hispanic white persons and “black” refers to non-Hispanic black persons).

^bIncludes Asians, Native Hawaiians or Other Pacific Islanders, American Indians or Alaska Natives, and persons of two or more races.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics survey, 2016 and 2020.

TABLE 7
Race or Hispanic origin of full-time sworn officers in local police departments, 1997–2020

Year	White ^a		Black ^a		Hispanic		Other ^{a,b}		Unknown	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1997	329,568	78.5% †	48,928	11.6%	32,666	7.8% †	8,835	2.1% †	~	~
2000	341,179	77.4 †	51,363	11.7	36,442	8.3 †	11,786	2.7 †	~	~
2003	345,147	76.4 †	52,792	11.7	41,068	9.1 †	12,729	2.8 †	~	~
2007	343,765	74.6 †	54,935	11.9	47,393	10.3 †	14,080	3.1 †	624	0.1%
2013	340,809	71.4	57,012	11.9	54,591	11.4 ‡	16,552	3.5	8,353	1.8
2016	331,096	71.5	52,617	11.4	57,959	12.5	16,528	3.6	4,891	1.1
2020*	320,926	68.6	54,344	11.6	66,468	14.2	19,236	4.1	6,728	1.4

Note: Prior to 2007, respondents to the Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics survey did not have the option to indicate “unknown” race for full-time sworn officers. Details may not sum to 100% due to rounding. See appendix table 9 for standard errors.

*Comparison year.

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

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

~Not applicable.

^aExcludes persons of Hispanic origin (e.g., “white” refers to non-Hispanic white persons and “black” refers to non-Hispanic black persons).

^bIncludes Asians, Native Hawaiians or Other Pacific Islanders, American Indians or Alaska Natives, and persons of two or more races.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics survey, 1997–2020.

Islander, American Indian or Alaska Native, or two or more races in 2020, up from 2% in 1997. In police departments serving 1 million or more residents in 2020, about 47% of officers were white and 30% were Hispanic. (See table 6.) The percentage of local police officers who were black remained about the same from 1997 to 2020, at 12%.

Hispanic males accounted for nearly 1 in 4 local police officers in jurisdictions with 1 million or more residents

In 2020, about 61% of full-time sworn officers in local police departments were white males (table 8). White females made up more than 7% of officers. Nearly 12% of officers were Hispanic males, and almost 3% were Hispanic females. The largest departments by population served (those serving 1 million or more residents) employed the highest percentages of Hispanic male officers (23%) and Hispanic female officers (7%). Across local police departments, about 9% of full-time sworn officers were black males and 3% were black females. Departments serving 500,000 to 999,999 residents employed the largest percentages of black male officers (18%) and black female officers (6%).

About 11% of first-line supervisors in local police departments were female

In 2020, an estimated 4% of local police chiefs in the United States were female (table 9). The percentage

of female chiefs was more than five times as high in departments serving 250,000 or more residents (16%) as in those serving fewer than 50,000 residents (3%).

Nationally, females accounted for about 9% of intermediate supervisors (those below chief and above sergeant or first-line supervisor) and almost 11% of first-line supervisors (sergeant or equivalent). The percentages of female first-line supervisors and intermediate supervisors were about twice as high in departments serving 250,000 or more residents (14% first-line and 15% intermediate) as in those serving fewer than 10,000 (6% first-line and 8% intermediate).

TABLE 9
Chiefs, intermediate supervisors, and first-line supervisors in local police departments who were female, by size of population served, 2020

Size of population served	Chief	Intermediate supervisor ^a	Sergeant/first-line equivalent
All sizes	3.6%	8.7%	10.9%
250,000 or more residents*	16.5	13.6	14.5
50,000–249,999	6.9 †	8.6 †	10.0 †
10,000–49,999	3.1 †	6.2 †	8.0 †
9,999 or fewer	3.3 †	6.5 †	7.8 †

Note: See appendix table 11 for standard errors.

*Comparison group.

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

^aIncludes positions below chief executive and above sergeant or first-line supervisor.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics survey, 2020.

TABLE 8
Sex and race or Hispanic origin of full-time sworn officers in local police departments, by size of population served, 2020

Size of population served	Male					Female				
	White ^a	Black ^a	Hispanic	Other ^{a,b}	Unknown	White ^a	Black ^a	Hispanic	Other ^{a,b}	Unknown
All sizes	61.2%	8.8%	11.5%	3.7%	1.2%	7.4%	2.8%	2.7%	0.4%	0.2%
1 million or more residents*	40.7	10.8	23.4	6.3	0.4	6.4	4.9	6.6	0.5	0.1
500,000–999,999	49.6	17.8 †	9.5 †	7.1	0.3	7.2	5.8	1.8 †	0.9 †	<0.05
250,000–499,999	54.6 ‡	11.0	12.7 †	3.6 †	1.8	9.1 †	3.3 ‡	2.9 †	0.5	0.5
100,000–249,999	60.3 †	9.4	11.1 †	3.3 †	2.6	7.9	2.4 †	2.2 †	0.5	0.2
50,000–99,999	66.5 †	6.2 †	9.9 †	2.1 †	3.3	7.7	1.4 †	2.1 †	0.3 †	0.4
25,000–49,999	73.3 †	5.6 †	6.8 †	1.9 †	1.0!	8.6 ‡	1.3 †	1.2 †	0.2 †	0.2!
10,000–24,999	77.0 †	4.9 †	5.8 †	1.6 †	1.0!	7.1	1.2 †	1.0 †	0.3!	0.2!
9,999 or fewer	79.1 †	5.3 †	4.5 †	1.9 †	0.6	6.5	0.8 †	0.8 †	0.3	0.1!

Note: Details may not sum to 100% due to rounding. See appendix table 10 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 is based on 10 or fewer sample cases, or coefficient of variation is greater than 50%.

^aExcludes persons of Hispanic origin (e.g., “white” refers to non-Hispanic white persons and “black” refers to non-Hispanic black persons).

^bIncludes Asians, Native Hawaiians or Other Pacific Islanders, American Indians or Alaska Natives, and persons of two or more races.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics survey, 2020.

About 20% of first-line supervisors in local police departments were black or Hispanic

Across all local police departments, 87% of police chiefs were white, 6% were black, 4% were Hispanic, and 4% were of other races (Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, American Indian or Alaska Native, or two or more races) (table 10). In departments serving 250,000 or more residents, 47% of chiefs were white, 38% were black, and 14% were Hispanic. In comparison, chiefs were more likely to be white and less likely to be black or Hispanic in agencies serving fewer than 250,000 residents.

About 79% of intermediate supervisors in local police departments nationwide were white, 10% were black, 7% were Hispanic, and 3% were of other races. In agencies serving 250,000 or more residents, 65% of intermediate supervisors were white, 16% were black,

13% were Hispanic, and 6% were of other races. As with police chiefs, a smaller percentage of intermediate supervisors were white and a larger percentage were black or Hispanic in departments serving 250,000 or more residents than in departments serving fewer than 250,000 residents.

Among all local police departments, about 75% of first-line supervisors were white, 10% were black, 10% were Hispanic, and 4% were of other races. In departments serving 250,000 or more residents, 62% of first-line supervisors were white, 15% were black, 16% were Hispanic, and 6% were of other races. A smaller percentage of first-line supervisors were white and a larger percentage were black, Hispanic, or other races in departments serving 250,000 or more residents than in those serving fewer than 250,000 residents, similar to findings for police chiefs and intermediate supervisors.

TABLE 10
Race or Hispanic origin of chiefs, intermediate supervisors, and first-line supervisors in local police departments, by size of population served, 2020

Size of population served	Chief				Intermediate supervisor ^a				Sergeant/first-line equivalent			
	White ^b	Black ^b	Hispanic	Other ^{b,c}	White ^b	Black ^b	Hispanic	Other ^{b,c}	White ^b	Black ^b	Hispanic	Other ^{b,c}
All sizes	87.2%	5.5%	3.8%	3.5%!	79.3%	9.6%	7.2%	2.8%	75.3%	9.9%	10.0%	3.8%
250,000 or more residents*	47.4	38.1	13.4	1.0	65.1	15.7	13.1	5.9	62.5	14.9	16.0	6.3
50,000–249,999	75.4 †	13.3 †	7.9 †	3.3 ‡	80.0 †	8.9 †	7.2 †	2.1 †	77.6 †	8.3 †	8.6 †	2.9 †
10,000–49,999	87.9 †	4.4 †	3.7 †	3.9 †	89.6 †	4.7 †	3.6 †	1.3 †	86.0 †	5.3 †	5.8 †	2.1 †
9,999 or fewer	88.5 †	4.8 †	3.3 †	3.4 †	82.9 †	9.4 †	4.1 †	1.6 †	84.7 †	7.8 †	5.1 †	2.0 †

Note: Excludes persons of unknown race. Details may not sum to 100% due to rounding. See appendix table 12 for standard errors.

*Comparison group.

! Interpret with caution. Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases, or coefficient of variation is greater than 50%.

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

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

^a Includes positions below chief executive and above sergeant or first-line supervisor.

^b Excludes persons of Hispanic origin (e.g., “white” refers to non-Hispanic white persons and “black” refers to non-Hispanic black persons).

^c Includes Asians, Native Hawaiians or Other Pacific Islanders, American Indians or Alaska Natives, and persons of two or more races.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics survey, 2020.

Local police departments' responses to COVID-19

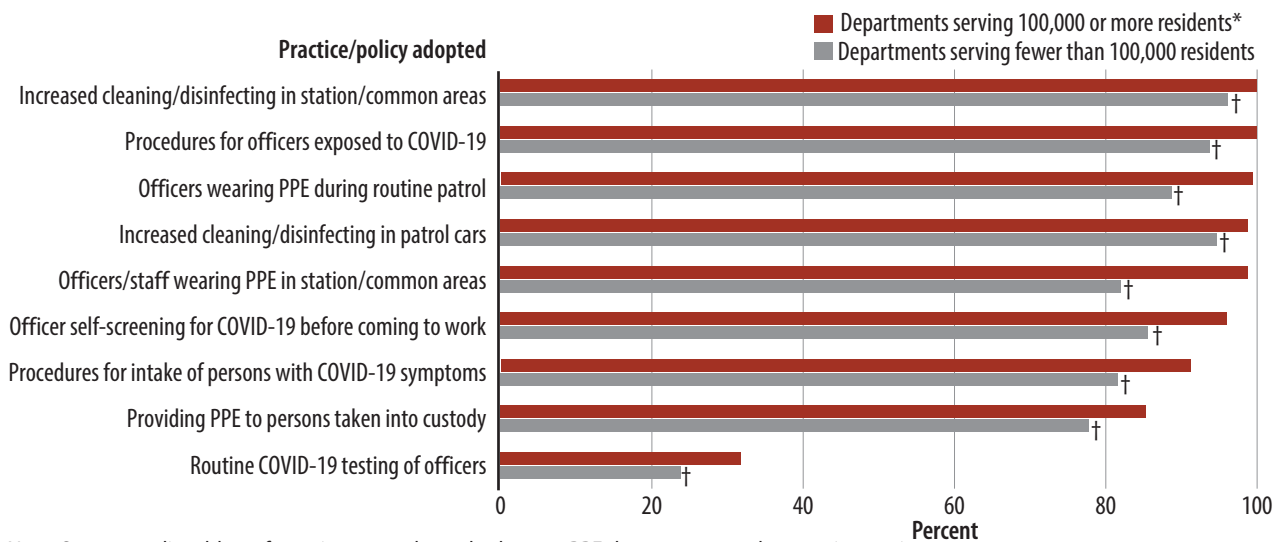
While most local police departments reduced operations in response to COVID-19, fewer than a third required routine COVID-19 tests of officers

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has affected numerous areas of society, including law enforcement personnel and operations. The 2020 Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics survey asked law enforcement agencies how they adapted to the pandemic and whether agencies experienced any COVID-19-related reductions in operations as of December 31, 2020.

In 2020, more than 9 in 10 local police departments serving larger populations (100,000 or more residents)

reported adopting practices and policies to address COVID-19, such as increased cleaning of common areas and patrol cars, officers wearing personal protective equipment (PPE), policies for officer self-screening for exposure to COVID-19, and procedures for taking persons with COVID-19 symptoms into custody (figure 4). Similarly, about 9 in 10 departments serving smaller populations (fewer than 100,000 residents) adopted COVID-19-related practices and policies. About 85% of departments in larger jurisdictions provided PPE to persons taken into custody, while 32% routinely tested officers for COVID-19. About a quarter (24%) of departments in smaller jurisdictions routinely tested officers for COVID-19.

FIGURE 4
Percent of local police departments that reported adopting practices or policies to address the COVID-19 pandemic, by size of population served, 2020



Note: See appendix table 13 for estimates and standard errors. PPE denotes personal protective equipment.

*Comparison group.

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

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics survey, 2020.

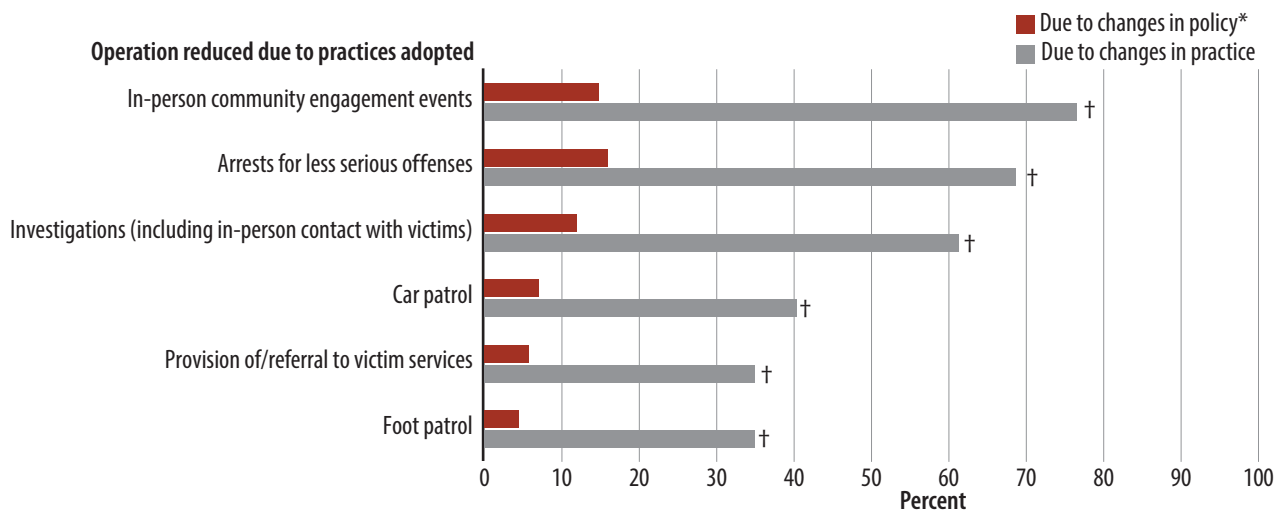
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Local police departments' responses to COVID-19 (continued)

Local police departments were more likely to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic with changes in practice than with changes in policy. About 77% of police departments reduced in-person community-engagement events as a matter of practice, compared to 15% that reduced them as a matter of policy (figure 5). About 69% of offices reported reductions in arrests for less serious offenses as a matter of practice, while 16% reduced them due to

changes in policy. Investigations were reduced in 61% of offices due to changes in practice but in 12% due to changes in policy. About 40% of local police departments reported reductions in car patrols as a matter of practice, compared to 7% as a matter of policy. The provision of or referral to victim services was reduced in 35% of offices due to changes in practice, compared to 6% due to changes in policy.

FIGURE 5
Percent of local police departments that reported a reduction in operations due to practices to address the COVID-19 pandemic, by size of population served, 2020



Note: See appendix table 14 for estimates and standard errors.

*Comparison group.

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

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics survey, 2020.

Most local police officers had operations roles, while most civilian personnel had support roles

In 2020, more than 6 in 10 full-time sworn officers had a primary job responsibility within patrol, both in police departments serving 100,000 or more residents (63%) and fewer than 100,000 residents (66%) (table 11). About 15% of officers in departments serving larger populations and 11% in departments serving smaller populations had detective or investigator roles. Overall, 91% of officers had operations roles in larger jurisdictions and 86% did so in smaller jurisdictions. An estimated 11% of officers in smaller jurisdictions primarily worked in

administration (such as chief executive, assistant, finance, human resources, internal affairs, or other administrative roles), while 5% of officers did so in larger jurisdictions.

About half of civilian personnel (52%) in larger jurisdictions and almost two-thirds (64%) in smaller jurisdictions worked in dispatcher, records clerk, crime analyst, crime lab technician, and other nonadministrative support roles. Across all local police departments, 1% to 4% of civilian personnel were involved with patrol, while 1% had detective or investigative responsibilities.

TABLE 11
Primary job responsibility of full-time personnel in local police departments, by size of population served, 2020

Primary responsibility	Full-time sworn officers in departments serving—		Full-time civilian personnel in departments serving—	
	100,000 or more residents*	Fewer than 100,000 residents	100,000 or more residents*	Fewer than 100,000 residents
Administration^a	4.7%	10.7% †	11.1%	12.8% †
Operations	90.5%	86.2%	22.8%	7.3% †
Patrol ^b	62.5	65.6	1.1	3.9 †
Detective/investigator	14.7	11.1 †	1.0	1.1
Other operations ^c	13.3	9.5 †	20.7	2.3 †
Support	3.7%	2.6% †	51.7%	63.7% †
Dispatcher	0.1	1.3 †	15.6	32.2 †
Other support ^d	3.6	1.3 †	36.1	31.5 †
Other responsibility^e	1.1%	0.6% ‡	14.5%	16.2%

Note: Details may not sum to 100% due to rounding. 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.

^aIncludes chief executive, assistant, finance, human resources, internal affairs, and other administrative roles.

^bIncludes patrol, field, police, traffic, and school-resource officer roles.

^cIncludes inspector, supervisor, special operations, and other operations roles related directly to law enforcement.

^dIncludes records clerk, crime analyst, crime lab technician, and other support roles not designated as administrative.

^eIncludes crossing guard, parking enforcement, and other roles not designated as operations or support roles.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics survey, 2020.

More than 2 in 5 local police departments employed bilingual or multilingual staff

In 2020, about 43% of local police departments had full-time bilingual or multilingual personnel (table 12). An estimated 49,000 full-time sworn officers and more

than 11,000 full-time civilian personnel in local police departments were bilingual or multilingual. The majority (68% to 92%) of departments serving 10,000 or more residents employed bilingual or multilingual staff, compared to fewer than a third (29%) of agencies serving fewer than 10,000 residents.

TABLE 12
Full-time personnel in local police departments who were bilingual or multilingual, by size of population served, 2020

Size of population served	Departments with bilingual/ multilingual staff		Bilingual/multilingual staff who were—			
	Number	Percent	Sworn officers		Civilian personnel	
			Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All sizes	5,108	43.3%	48,823	10.3%	11,418	9.1%
1 million or more residents	14	92.3	15,850	15.6	2,754	9.0
500,000–999,999	27	77.4	3,105	6.0	529	3.8
250,000–499,999	45	75.5	2,953	7.5	920	8.0
100,000–249,999	204	89.6	6,016	10.8	1,983	11.6
50,000–99,999	425	92.0	5,685	10.8	1,735	11.6
25,000–49,999	808	85.3	5,785	10.5	1,675	11.9
10,000–24,999	1,240	68.0	4,350	7.9	1,106	8.7
9,999 or fewer	2,345	28.5	5,078	8.1	715	7.0

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. See appendix table 16 for standard errors.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics survey, 2020.

The majority of departments serving 100,000 or more residents had specialized units, which were most common for traffic enforcement

Many local police departments had personnel designated to address specific crime-related problems. In some instances, these issues were addressed by a specialized unit with full-time personnel. Departments serving 100,000 or more residents were more likely than those serving fewer than 100,000 residents to have the personnel operating such units. In 2020, most departments serving larger populations (100,000 or more

residents) had either specialized units or other designated personnel to address traffic enforcement (98%), sexual assault (94%), and child abuse/ endangerment (92%) (table 13). More than 8 in 10 departments in larger jurisdictions also had personnel designated to address domestic violence (89%), gangs (87%), missing children (84%), and firearms (83%). Of departments serving smaller populations (fewer than 100,000 residents), more than a third had some type of designated personnel to address sexual assault (40%), child abuse/ endangerment (40%), and traffic enforcement (35%).

TABLE 13
Local police departments with personnel designated to address specific crime-related issues, by size of population served, 2020

Specific problem/task	Departments serving 100,000 or more residents with—			Departments serving fewer than 100,000 residents with—		
	Any designated personnel	Personnel assigned full time to specialized unit	Other designated personnel*	Any designated personnel	Personnel assigned full time to specialized unit	Other designated personnel*
Traffic enforcement	97.6%	91.6%	6.0%	35.3%	11.3%	24.1%
Sexual assault	94.3	75.2	19.1	39.9	7.5	32.5
Child abuse/endangerment	92.3	69.8	22.5	39.8	7.4	32.4
Domestic violence	89.3	68.8	20.5	29.5	5.5	24.0
Gangs	87.2	64.4	22.8	13.8	3.7	10.2
Missing children	83.6	50.3	33.2	23.6	4.2	19.4
Firearms	82.9	52.7	30.2	41.2	7.6	33.6
Cybercrimes	78.9	43.3	35.6	23.2	3.8	19.3
Impaired driving (DUI/DWI)	79.9	51.3	28.5	26.6	5.0	21.6
Terrorism/homeland security	79.2	44.3	34.9	14.6	2.0	12.6
Juvenile crimes	76.2	54.4	21.8	34.9	7.8	27.1
School safety	75.8	57.7	18.1	48.0	16.6	31.4
Human trafficking	73.5	38.3	35.2	12.9	1.2	11.7
Methamphetamine labs	62.4	32.9	29.5	15.0	4.1	10.8
Parking enforcement	55.6	39.4	16.2	24.9	7.7	17.2
Bias/hate crimes	55.6	16.2	39.4	17.8	1.4	16.4

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. See appendix table 17 for standard errors.

*Includes departments that did not have a specialized unit with full-time personnel but had designated personnel to address this problem or task.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics survey, 2020.

In 2020, agencies were more likely to have full-time personnel assigned to specialized units in larger jurisdictions than serving smaller ones. More than two-thirds of departments serving larger populations had specialized units for traffic enforcement (92%), sexual assault (75%), child abuse/endangerment (70%), and domestic violence (69%). Of departments serving smaller populations, 17% had a specialized school safety unit and 11% had a specialized traffic enforcement unit.

Most departments serving 100,000 or more residents had full-time specialized units for internal affairs, crime analysis, and community policing

The majority of local police departments serving larger populations (100,000 or more residents) had either specialized units or other designated personnel to address special operations (98%), internal affairs (97%), crime analysis (95%), community policing (91%), and

mental health/crisis intervention (79%) (table 14). In those departments, personnel were assigned full-time to internal affairs in 92% of agencies, crime analysis in 85%, and community policing in 75%. More than 9 in 10 departments in larger jurisdictions had some type of designated personnel for public relations (97%) and agency standards/accreditation (91%). More than half of departments serving larger populations had designated personnel to address homelessness (64%).

Among departments in smaller jurisdictions, 58% had specialized units or other designated personnel to address internal affairs and 45% had units or personnel to address public relations. Fewer than 11% had some type of designated personnel to address homelessness, approximately 2% of which had a specialized homelessness unit. About 11% of departments serving smaller populations had full-time personnel assigned to internal affairs or community policing.

TABLE 14
Local police departments with personnel designated to address specific functional areas, by size of population served, 2020

Specific functional area	Departments serving 100,000 or more residents with—			Departments serving fewer than 100,000 residents with—		
	Any designated personnel	Personnel assigned full time to specialized unit	Other designated personnel*	Any designated personnel	Personnel assigned full time to specialized unit	Other designated personnel*
Special operations (e.g., SWAT)	97.6%	63.1%	34.6%	32.6%	8.6%	24.0%
Internal affairs	97.3	91.9	5.4	58.4	10.8	47.6
Public relations	96.6	76.8	19.8	45.5	9.3	36.2
Crime analysis	94.9	84.5	10.4	27.7	6.1	21.6
Community policing	90.9	75.2	15.8	39.2	11.3	27.9
Agency standards/accreditation	90.6	63.8	26.8	45.7	9.2	36.4
Mental health/crisis intervention	78.9	48.0	30.9	27.8	5.5	22.3
Opioids	76.8	44.0	32.9	24.1	6.9	17.2
Research/planning	75.4	46.1	29.3	39.0	4.9	34.2
Victim assistance	69.5	47.6	21.8	24.2	6.4	17.8
Homelessness	64.1	35.6	28.5	10.5	2.2	8.2
Bomb/explosive disposal	54.7	33.6	21.1	4.4	0.7	3.7

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. See appendix table 18 for standard errors.

*Includes departments that did not have a specialized unit with full-time personnel but had designated personnel to address this functional area.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics survey, 2020.

Police departments serving 250,000 or more residents accounted for about 43% of all budgeted spending for local law enforcement in 2020

In 2020, nearly \$80 billion was budgeted for local police departments nationwide (table 15). The estimated 110 departments serving 250,000 or more residents in

2020 accounted for 43% of this funding. (See table 4.) These departments represented fewer than 1% of all local police departments but employed about 41% of all full-time sworn local officers. Police departments serving fewer than 10,000 residents had the smallest budget per FTE sworn officer (\$109,000).

TABLE 15
Annual operating budgets of local police departments, by size of population served, 2020

Size of population served	Total	Per department	Per FTE sworn officer ^a	Per FTE employee ^b	Per resident
All sizes ^c	\$79,256,048,850	\$6,881,407	\$162,690	\$126,161	\$337
1 million or more residents*	\$16,634,789,830	\$1,126,582,869	\$164,083	\$122,979	\$485
500,000–999,999	\$9,737,055,723	\$276,538,204	\$188,585	\$145,400	\$397
250,000–499,999	\$7,466,467,292	\$124,030,494	\$190,209	\$144,566	\$361
100,000–249,999	\$10,938,217,031	\$48,388,202	\$195,294	\$146,689	\$321 †
50,000–99,999	\$9,535,425,994	\$20,775,701	\$178,636	\$135,814	\$292 †
25,000–49,999	\$8,879,603,023	\$9,441,245	\$158,949	\$123,773	\$271 †
10,000–24,999	\$8,107,987,574	\$4,480,709	\$143,721	\$113,854	\$278 †
9,999 or fewer	\$7,956,502,383	\$998,034	\$108,656 †	\$91,877	\$299 †

Note: Data are for the fiscal year including December 31, 2020. Data exclude capital expenditures, such as equipment purchases and construction costs. See appendix table 20 for standard errors.

*Comparison group.

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

^aDenominator is the number of full-time-equivalent (FTE) sworn officers (i.e., the number of full-time sworn officers plus half the number of part-time sworn officers).

^bDenominator is the number of FTE employees (i.e., the number of full-time employees plus half the number of part-time employees).

^cData represent the overall averages for local police departments.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics survey, 2020.

Methodology

Conducted approximately every 4 years since 1987, the Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics (LEMAS) survey collects data on a range of topics from a nationally representative sample of state, county, and local law enforcement agencies. The methodology for the previous LEMAS surveys can be found on the BJS website.³ Results from these LEMAS surveys may be reproduced using the most current versions of the datasets available through the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data.⁴ Results using these data may differ from previously published tables due to minor revisions after publication.

Survey overview

The sample for the 2020 LEMAS survey was derived from the Law Enforcement Agency Roster (LEAR) database, a list of all publicly funded law enforcement agencies operating in the United States. The LEAR is compiled from a variety of sources, including the 2008, 2014, and 2018 Census of State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies (CSLLEA), in addition to the 2013 and 2016 LEMAS surveys. The LEAR undergoes periodic updates to capture newly created agencies and to remove closed agencies and agencies that are no longer in scope.

The full 2020 LEMAS sample included 3,499 state and local law enforcement agencies. The sample represented all general-purpose state and local law enforcement agencies in the United States with the equivalent of at least one full-time sworn officer, with separate samples drawn for local police departments and sheriffs' offices. General-purpose law enforcement agencies include municipal, county, and regional police departments; most sheriffs' offices; and primary state and highway patrol agencies. They are distinct from special-purpose agencies, sheriffs' offices with jail and court duties only, and federal law enforcement agencies. Full-time sworn officers are those with general arrest powers. Employees who are regularly scheduled to work 35 or more hours per week are considered full-time. All 49 primary state police agencies were included. Hawaii does not have a primary state police agency. Agencies serving special jurisdictions (such as tribal lands, schools, airports, or parks) or with special enforcement responsibilities (such as enforcing conservation or alcohol laws) were out of scope for the survey. Sheriffs' offices without primary law enforcement jurisdiction in the counties they served and

federal law enforcement agencies were also ineligible for the LEMAS survey. This includes sheriffs' offices with jail and court duties only.

After completing the 2020 LEMAS survey, if an agency did not report having at least one full-time-equivalent (FTE) sworn officer (either one full-time sworn officer or two part-time sworn officers) as of December 31, 2020, the agency was considered ineligible. After removing out-of-scope agencies, the final sample size for the survey was 3,462.

Consistent with previous LEMAS administrations, agencies with 100 or more FTE sworn officers were considered self-representing (SR) and included with certainty. Agencies with fewer than 100 FTE sworn officers were considered non-self-representing (NSR) and sampled to determine inclusion. The final sample included 1,079 SR agencies and 2,383 NSR agencies.

Agencies were further categorized by strata derived from SR classification and general-purpose agency type (either local police department, sheriff's office, or state police). The SR agencies included 669 local police departments, 361 sheriffs' offices, and 49 state law enforcement agencies. Overall, the NSR sample included 1,942 local police departments and 441 sheriffs' offices.

Sample design and selection

The 2020 LEMAS sample design included 2,631 local police departments among the full sample of 3,499 agencies. For the 2020 LEMAS, local police departments were defined as municipal or county-level police departments. During the survey's fielding, 20 local police departments were determined to be out of scope: One agency served special jurisdictions or had special enforcement responsibilities; 12 local police departments had closed or contracted out their law enforcement services to another agency; and 7 local police departments had either no sworn officers or one part-time sworn officer. After removing out-of-scope agencies, the final eligible sample of local police departments was 2,611.

Historically, the LEMAS sample has been selected as a stratified simple random sample by including all SR agencies and selecting simple random samples within the remaining strata to compile NSR agencies. Starting with the 2020 LEMAS survey, BJS altered its sampling process to reduce the burden on smaller agencies over time. NSR agencies were assigned a permanent random number (PRN) and sorted by PRN within strata. The PRN is a random number selected uniformly between 0 and 1.

³See <https://bjs.ojp.gov/data-collection/law-enforcement-management-and-administrative-statistics-lemas>.

⁴See <https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/NACJD/series/92>.

After sorting the frame by PRN, the first n_h agencies in each stratum were selected for the 2020 LEMAS survey, where n_h is the sample size for each stratum. The design-based weight for an agency in stratum h is defined as—

$$w_D = \frac{N_h}{n_h}$$

where—

N_h = number of agencies on the sampling frame in stratum h ,

n_h = number of sampled agencies in stratum h .

For future LEMAS surveys, PRNs from prior waves of data collection will be excluded. The sample will be selected using the remaining PRNs. Then, the next n'_h agencies in the stratum will be selected, where n'_h is the sample size for the stratum in the next survey. Future design-based sampling weights will be calculated as—

$$w_D = \frac{N'_h}{n'_h}$$

where—

N'_h = number of agencies on the sampling frame in stratum h , excluding PRNs used in prior waves,

n'_h = number of sampled agencies in stratum h for the next survey.

For the 2020 LEMAS survey, the base weight for all SR local police departments was 1.00 (table 16). For NSR departments, the base weights were calculated by dividing the number of agencies on the sampling frame within each stratum by the number of sampled agencies in the same stratum.

Agency response rate

Data were collected using two self-administered modes: web and paper surveys. Agencies chose the mode to use. Among local police departments, 88.6% responded via web and 11.4% submitted paper surveys.

Submitted surveys were considered complete if at least 60% of the questionnaire was filled out. A total of 2,075 local police departments completed their LEMAS questionnaires, for a response rate of 79.5% (table 17). This included 589 SR departments (88.0%) and 1,571 NSR departments (76.5%). An adjustment factor unique to each stratum was used to account for nonresponse. The nonresponse adjustments were multiplied by the respective base weight to create the final analytical weight for each stratum.

TABLE 16
Base weights, nonresponse adjustments, and final weights for local police departments, by stratum, 2020

Size of agency	Base weight	Nonresponse adjustment	Final weight
100 or more FTE sworn officers	1.00	1.14	1.14
50–99.5	5.72	1.20	6.84
25–49.5	5.72	1.25	7.15
10–24.5	5.72	1.24	7.09
5–9.5	5.73	1.30	7.47
2–4.5	5.72	1.51	8.66
1–1.5	5.74	1.52	8.69

Note: Size of agency is based on the number of full-time-equivalent (FTE) sworn officers (i.e., the number of full-time sworn officers plus half the number of part-time sworn officers).

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics survey, 2020.

TABLE 17
Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics survey response rates for local police departments, by size of agency, 2020

Size of agency	Response rate
All sizes	79.5%
100 or more FTE sworn officers	88.0
50–99.5	83.7
25–49.5	80.0
10–24.5	80.7
5–9.5	76.8
2–4.5	66.1
1–1.5	66.0

Note: Size of agency is based on the number of full-time-equivalent (FTE) sworn officers (i.e., the number of full-time sworn officers plus half the number of part-time sworn officers).

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics survey, 2020.

Imputation and data editing

For six local police departments that did not report the number of full-time sworn officers in the 2020 LEMAS survey, the number of full-time sworn officers they reported in the 2018 CSLLEA was used.

Multiple responses for overall operating budget were out of the expected range and edited using data acquired from public sources. Cases were examined if the ratio of operating budget and FTE sworn officers count was less than \$35,000 per officer or greater than \$400,000 per officer. These thresholds represented natural breaks in outlier ratio values covering approximately 10% of responding agencies. Also included in this review were agencies that either did not provide or were missing budget information in their 2020 LEMAS response, as their ratio would be less than \$35,000 per officer. The thresholds resulted in 299 agencies being reviewed. Public sources used to edit the budget data for 140 general-purpose agencies included agency and government budgets reported on public websites and prior survey data (from the 2016 LEMAS survey and 2018 CSLLEA).

Accuracy of estimates

The accuracy of the estimates presented in this report depends on two types of error: sampling and nonsampling error. 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 the administrative records, and processing errors. The full extent of the nonsampling error is difficult to measure in any survey.

Standard error is an important and minimum baseline indicator of the quality of estimates. Standard error is driven primarily by sample size. Variance and standard error estimates for the 2020 LEMAS survey were generated using the IBM SPSS statistical software package. The Taylor linearization method for a “stratified without replacement” design was used for these calculations. (See the appendix tables for estimates of standard errors.)

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 with bilingual or multilingual staff was $43.3\% \pm 1.96 \times 0.98\%$ (or approximately 41.4% to 45.2%).

Standard error estimates may also be used to construct confidence intervals around numerical variables such as personnel counts. For example, the 95% confidence interval around the number of full-time sworn officers was approximately $708,153 \pm 1.96 \times 17,417$ (or 674,017 to 742,290).

BJS conducted statistical significance testing based on the Student's t-statistic. A difference between two estimates is statistically significant if it exceeds a threshold. The threshold is based on the range of differences BJS would expect based on sampling error. All comparisons stated in this report reflect a statistically significant result. BJS encourages readers to exercise caution when carrying out statistical significance testing not included in this report.

APPENDIX TABLE 1**Standard errors for figure 1 and table 1: Full-time personnel in local police departments, 1997–2020**

Year	Total	Sworn	Civilian
1997	11,358	9,094	2,376
2000	7,026	5,356	1,854
2003	10,612	7,894	2,903
2007	13,225	9,384	4,048
2013	22,539	16,460	6,385
2016	21,923	15,833	6,343
2020	21,818	15,841	6,280

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics survey, 1997–2020.

APPENDIX TABLE 2**Standard errors for table 2: Personnel in general-purpose state and local law enforcement agencies, by type of agency, 2020**

Type of agency	Full-time personnel			Part-time personnel		
	Total	Sworn	Civilian	Total	Sworn	Civilian
Total	25,725	17,417	9,882	2,304	1,222	1,834
Local police	21,818	15,841	6,280	1,963	1,073	1,607
Sheriff's office	13,457	7,108	7,570	1,204	583	882
Primary state	2,155	1,369	955	54	15	51

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics survey, 2020.

APPENDIX TABLE 3**Standard errors for table 3: Local police departments and full-time personnel, by size of agency, 2020**

Size of agency	Departments		Full-time sworn officers		Full-time civilian personnel	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All sizes	~	~	15,841	~	6,280	~
1,000 or more FTE sworn officers	2	0.02%	15,942	3.37%	6,221	4.96%
500–999	3	0.02	1,874	0.40	587	0.47
250–499	3	0.03	1,224	0.26	392	0.31
100–249	16	0.13	1,829	0.39	498	0.40
50–99	29	0.24	1,891	0.40	838	0.67
25–49	43	0.36	1,560	0.33	685	0.55
10–24	62	0.52	1,120	0.24	444	0.35
5–9	72	0.61	476	0.10	222	0.18
2–4	66	0.56	196	0.04	81	0.06
1	43	0.37	43	0.01	54	0.04

~Not applicable.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics survey, 2020.

APPENDIX TABLE 4**Standard errors for table 4: Local police departments and full-time personnel, by size of population served, 2020**

Size of population served	Departments		Full-time sworn officers		Full-time civilian personnel	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All sizes	~	~	15,841	~	6,280	~
1 million or more residents	1	0.01%	15,616	3.30%	6,157	4.91%
500,000–999,999	2	0.02	3,444	0.73	981	0.78
250,000–499,999	3	0.02	1,976	0.42	621	0.49
100,000–249,999	8	0.07	1,449	0.31	522	0.42
50,000–99,999	30	0.26	2,392	0.51	779	0.62
25,000–49,999	55	0.46	2,955	0.62	932	0.74
10,000–24,999	77	0.65	2,461	0.52	779	0.62
2,500–9,999	105	0.89	1,528	0.32	457	0.36
2,499 or fewer	87	0.74	628	0.13	227	0.18

~Not applicable.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics survey, 2020.

APPENDIX TABLE 5**Estimates and standard errors for figure 2: Average number of full-time-equivalent sworn officers in local police departments per 1,000 residents, by size of population served, 2020**

Size of population served	Estimate	Standard error
All sizes	2.1	0.07
1 million or more residents	3.0 †	0.46
500,000–999,999	2.1 †	0.14
250,000–499,999	1.9 †	0.10
100,000–249,999*	1.6	0.04
50,000–99,999	1.6	0.08
25,000–49,999	1.7	0.09
10,000–24,999	1.9 †	0.09
2,500–9,999	2.5 †	0.08
2,499 or fewer	3.8 †	0.14

*Comparison group.

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

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics survey, 2020.

APPENDIX TABLE 6**Standard errors for table 5: Sex of full-time sworn officers in local police departments, by size of population served, 2016 and 2020**

Size of population served	2016		2020	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
All sizes	2.98%	0.65%	2.85%	0.69%
1 million or more residents	13.40	2.92	13.14	3.14
500,000–999,999	6.06	1.18	5.89	1.25
250,000–499,999	4.59	0.89	4.46	0.95
100,000–249,999	2.24	0.35	2.38	0.39
50,000–99,999	4.38	0.59	4.10	0.55
25,000–49,999	5.15	0.66	4.71	0.77
10,000–24,999	3.95	0.55	4.09	0.61
9,999 or fewer	2.24	0.41	2.09	0.36

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics survey, 2016 and 2020.

APPENDIX TABLE 7**Estimates and standard errors for figure 3: Percent of full-time sworn officers in local police departments who were female, 1997–2020**

Year	Estimate		Standard error	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1997	41,936	10.0% †	1,452	0.35%
2000	46,659	10.6 †	902	0.20
2003	51,166	11.3 †	1,419	0.31
2007	54,966	11.9 †	1,894	0.41
2013	58,144	12.2	2,996	0.63
2016	57,200	12.3	3,030	0.65
2020*	63,290	13.5	3,208	0.69

*Comparison year.

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

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics survey, 1997–2020.

APPENDIX TABLE 8

Standard errors for table 6: Race or Hispanic origin of full-time sworn officers in local police departments, by size of population served, 2016 and 2020

Size of population served	2016					2020				
	White	Black	Hispanic	Other	Unknown	White	Black	Hispanic	Other	Unknown
All sizes	1.86%	0.66%	1.02%	0.28%	0.16%	1.71%	0.65%	1.10%	0.32%	0.23%
1 million or more residents	8.30	2.71	4.61	1.13	0.11	7.64	2.69	5.05	1.33	0.08
500,000–999,999	4.24	2.48	1.03	1.15	0.33	4.08	2.58	1.13	1.39	0.06
250,000–499,999	3.71	1.50	0.95	0.29	0.13	3.57	1.16	1.33	0.29	0.40
100,000–249,999	1.89	0.63	0.35	0.26	0.28	1.79	0.62	0.48	0.26	1.17
50,000–99,999	3.73	0.35	1.28	0.43	1.09	3.73	0.32	0.90	0.18	1.36
25,000–49,999	5.04	0.53	0.68	0.16	0.17	4.59	0.69	1.01	0.23	0.64
10,000–24,999	3.81	0.79	0.79	0.34	0.60	3.92	0.94	0.85	0.21	0.67
9,999 or fewer	2.10	0.49	0.58	0.20	0.38	2.02	0.55	0.42	0.21	0.30

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics survey, 2016 and 2020.

APPENDIX TABLE 9

Standard errors for table 7: Race or Hispanic origin of full-time sworn officers in local police departments, 1997–2020

Year	White		Black		Hispanic		Other		Unknown	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1997	6,063	1.44%	1,697	0.40%	1,666	0.40%	425	0.10%	~	~
2000	3,567	0.81	1,043	0.24	1,094	0.25	467	0.11	~	~
2003	4,863	1.08	1,577	0.35	1,708	0.38	704	0.16	~	~
2007	5,652	1.23	2,115	0.46	2,554	0.55	723	0.16	63	0.01%
2013	8,650	1.81	3,261	0.68	4,389	0.92	1,236	0.26	684	0.14
2016	8,630	1.86	3,068	0.66	4,730	1.02	1,311	0.28	735	0.16
2020	7,987	1.71	3,054	0.65	5,132	1.10	1,518	0.32	1,097	0.23

~Not applicable.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics survey, 1997–2020.

APPENDIX TABLE 10

Standard errors for table 8: Sex and race or Hispanic origin of full-time sworn officers in local police departments, by size of population served, 2020

Size of population served	Male					Female				
	White	Black	Hispanic	Other	Unknown	White	Black	Hispanic	Other	Unknown
All sizes	1.50%	0.45%	0.84%	0.31%	0.21%	0.23%	0.21%	0.27%	0.03%	0.03%
1 million or more residents	6.68	1.79	3.86	1.30	0.06	0.98	0.90	1.24	0.07	0.02
500,000–999,999	3.57	1.88	0.96	1.23	0.05	0.53	0.71	0.18	0.17	0.01
250,000–499,999	3.06	0.85	1.10	0.26	0.30	0.53	0.32	0.25	0.04	0.12
100,000–249,999	1.58	0.48	0.41	0.23	1.06	0.23	0.15	0.08	0.03	0.11
50,000–99,999	3.39	0.26	0.73	0.17	1.19	0.39	0.08	0.20	0.02	0.18
25,000–49,999	4.10	0.56	0.86	0.21	0.53	0.61	0.17	0.18	0.06	0.11
10,000–24,999	3.62	0.71	0.77	0.18	0.56	0.44	0.26	0.14	0.07	0.12
9,999 or fewer	1.89	0.49	0.36	0.18	0.27	0.30	0.11	0.10	0.06	0.04

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics survey, 2020.

APPENDIX TABLE 11

Standard errors for table 9: Chiefs, intermediate supervisors, and first-line supervisors in local police departments who were female, by size of population served, 2020

Size of population served	Chief	Intermediate supervisor	Sergeant/first-line equivalent
All sizes	0.41%	0.42%	0.56%
250,000 or more residents	1.30	1.19	1.39
50,000–249,999	0.97	0.32	0.50
10,000–49,999	0.77	0.68	0.62
9,999 or fewer	0.52	0.82	0.79

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics survey, 2020.

APPENDIX TABLE 12

Standard errors for table 10: Race or Hispanic origin of chiefs, intermediate supervisors, and first-line supervisors in local police departments, by size of population served, 2020

Size of population served	Chief				Intermediate supervisor				Sergeant/first-line equivalent			
	White	Black	Hispanic	Other	White	Black	Hispanic	Other	White	Black	Hispanic	Other
All sizes	0.70%	0.50%	0.40%	0.40%	1.98%	0.54%	0.59%	0.29%	1.83%	0.53%	0.73%	0.32%
250,000 or more residents	1.80	1.70	1.20	0.40	6.08	1.44	1.94	0.95	4.70	1.15	1.89	0.83
50,000–249,999	2.20	1.40	1.50	1.30	2.42	0.42	0.38	0.17	2.44	0.35	0.56	0.25
10,000–49,999	1.50	0.90	0.90	0.90	3.44	0.69	0.58	0.28	2.82	0.99	0.70	0.26
9,999 or fewer	0.90	0.60	0.50	0.50	3.40	1.47	0.70	0.40	2.93	1.27	0.78	0.35

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics survey, 2020.

APPENDIX TABLE 13

Estimates and standard errors for figure 4: Percent of local police departments that reported adopting practices or policies to address the COVID-19 pandemic, by size of population served, 2020

Practice/policy adopted	Estimate		Standard error	
	Departments serving 100,000 or more residents*	Departments serving fewer than 100,000 residents	Departments serving 100,000 or more residents	Departments serving fewer than 100,000 residents
Increased cleaning/disinfecting in station/common areas	100%	96.2% †	0.00%	0.47%
Procedures for officers exposed to COVID-19	100	93.8 †	0.00	0.58
Officers wearing PPE during routine patrol	99.4	88.7 †	0.31	0.75
Increased cleaning/disinfecting in patrol cars	98.8	94.7 †	0.43	0.54
Officers/staff wearing PPE in station/common areas	98.8	82.0 †	0.43	0.90
Officer self-screening for COVID-19 before coming to work	96.0	85.6 †	0.57	0.83
Procedures for intake of persons with COVID-19 symptoms	91.2	81.6 †	1.13	0.91
Providing PPE to persons taken into custody	85.3	77.8 †	2.26	0.98
Routine COVID-19 testing of officers	31.8	23.8 †	2.53	0.99

Note: PPE denotes personal protective equipment.

*Comparison group.

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

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics survey, 2020.

APPENDIX TABLE 14**Estimates and standard errors for figure 5: Percent of local police departments that reported a reduction in operations due to policies or practices to address the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020**

Operation reduced due to practices adopted	Estimate		Standard error	
	Due to changes in policy*	Due to changes in practice	Due to changes in practice	Due to changes in practice
In-person community-engagement events	14.8%	76.5% †	0.78%	0.97%
Arrests for less serious offenses	16.0	68.7 †	0.82	1.06
Investigations (including in-person contact with victims)	11.9	61.3 †	0.72	1.10
Car patrol	7.0	40.4 †	0.57	1.11
Provision of/referral to victim services	5.8	35.0 †	0.53	1.09
Foot patrol	4.5	35.0 †	0.45	1.07

*Comparison group.

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

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics survey, 2020.

APPENDIX TABLE 15**Standard errors for table 11: Primary job responsibility of full-time personnel in local police departments, by size of population served, 2020**

Primary responsibility	Full-time sworn officers in departments serving—		Full-time civilian personnel in departments serving—	
	100,000 or more residents	Fewer than 100,000 residents	100,000 or more residents	Fewer than 100,000 residents
Administration	0.31%	0.23%	0.66%	0.43%
Operations	5.79%	0.77%	5.25%	0.73%
Patrol	4.02	0.61	0.07	0.55
Detective/investigator	0.86	0.16	0.05	0.14
Other operations	0.98	0.42	5.24	0.31
Support	0.35%	0.22%	2.55%	1.62%
Dispatcher	0.01	0.15	0.98	1.19
Other support	0.34	0.12	1.68	1.03
Other responsibility	0.22%	0.11%	1.85%	1.14%

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics survey, 2020.

APPENDIX TABLE 16

Standard errors for table 12: Full-time personnel in local police departments who were bilingual or multilingual, by size of population served, 2020

Size of population served	Departments with bilingual/multilingual staff		Bilingual/multilingual staff who were—			
	Number	Percent	Sworn officers		Civilian personnel	
			Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All sizes	115	0.98%	2,759	0.58%	628	0.50%
1 million or more residents	1	2.56	2,570	2.54	515	1.68
500,000–999,999	2	2.60	340	0.66	69	0.49
250,000–499,999	2	2.05	284	0.72	98	0.85
100,000–249,999	8	0.80	354	0.63	108	0.63
50,000–99,999	29	1.47	412	0.78	188	1.25
25,000–49,999	52	2.76	716	1.30	237	1.68
10,000–24,999	70	2.70	504	0.92	178	1.39
9,999 or fewer	106	1.24	374	0.60	86	0.83

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics survey, 2020.

APPENDIX TABLE 17

Standard errors for table 13: Local police departments with personnel designated to address specific crime-related issues, by size of population served, 2020

Specific problem/task	Departments serving 100,000 or more residents with—		Departments serving fewer than 100,000 residents with—	
	Personnel assigned full-time to specialized unit	Other designated personnel	Personnel assigned full-time to specialized unit	Other designated personnel
Traffic enforcement	1.06%	1.04%	0.63%	1.00%
Sexual assault	1.82	1.71	0.57	1.04
Child abuse/ endangerment	1.95	1.81	0.57	1.05
Domestic violence	1.97	1.75	0.49	0.97
Gangs	2.05	1.82	0.38	0.66
Missing children	2.16	2.04	0.44	0.88
Firearms	2.15	1.99	0.58	1.06
Cybercrimes	2.14	2.07	0.40	0.86
Impaired driving (DUI/ DWI)	2.15	1.96	0.48	0.94
Terrorism/homeland security	2.15	2.06	0.31	0.72
Juvenile crimes	2.14	1.79	0.56	1.00
School safety	2.12	1.67	0.78	1.06
Human trafficking	2.10	2.07	0.23	0.70
Methamphetamine labs	2.04	1.98	0.43	0.71
Parking enforcement	2.12	1.60	0.56	0.87
Bias/hate crimes	1.60	2.12	0.25	0.83

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics survey, 2020.

APPENDIX TABLE 18

Standard errors for table 14: Local police departments with personnel designated to address specific functional areas, by size of population served, 2020

Specific functional area	Departments serving 100,000 or more residents with—		Departments serving fewer than 100,000 residents with—	
	Personnel assigned full-time to specialized unit	Other designated personnel	Personnel assigned full-time to specialized unit	Other designated personnel
Special operations (e.g., SWAT)	2.06%	2.06%	0.57%	0.90%
Internal affairs	1.04	0.98	0.62	1.11
Public relations	1.77	1.73	0.60	1.10
Crime analysis	1.49	1.33	0.46	0.94
Community policing	1.82	1.58	0.62	1.04
Agency standards/ accreditation	2.06	1.92	0.58	1.10
Mental health/crisis intervention	2.16	2.00	0.51	0.94
Opioids	2.14	2.04	0.53	0.85
Research/planning	2.16	1.98	0.47	1.09
Victim assistance	2.16	1.79	0.52	0.88
Homelessness	2.07	1.96	0.31	0.62
Bomb/explosive disposal	2.05	1.77	0.16	0.41

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics survey, 2020.

APPENDIX TABLE 19

Standard errors for table 15: Annual operating budgets of local police departments, by size of population served, 2020

Size of population served	Total	Per department	Per FTE sworn officer	Per FTE employee	Per resident
All sizes	\$2,616,906,584	\$227,213	\$5,372	\$4,166	\$11
1 million or more residents	\$2,504,842,306	\$169,639,200	\$24,707	\$18,518	\$73
500,000–999,999	\$673,071,377	\$19,115,630	\$13,036	\$10,051	\$27
250,000–499,999	\$388,661,798	\$6,456,322	\$9,901	\$7,525	\$19
100,000–249,999	\$306,832,598	\$1,357,358	\$5,478	\$4,115	\$9
50,000–99,999	\$521,838,751	\$1,136,978	\$9,776	\$7,433	\$16
25,000–49,999	\$526,832,332	\$560,155	\$9,431	\$7,344	\$16
10,000–24,999	\$386,284,455	\$213,472	\$6,847	\$5,424	\$13
9,999 or fewer	\$424,098,821	\$53,197	\$5,792	\$4,897	\$16

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics survey, 2020.



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 Sean E. Goodison, PhD. Connor Brooks and Stephanie Mueller verified the report.

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