



# Sheriffs' Offices Personnel, 2020

Connor Brooks, *BJS Statistician*

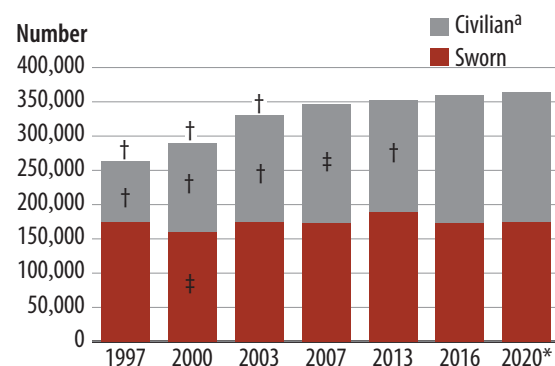
As of December 31, 2020, more than 14,700 general-purpose law enforcement agencies in the United States employed an estimated 708,000 full-time sworn officers and 348,000 full-time civilians. Sheriffs' offices made up 20% (2,900) of the general purpose agencies and employed 25% (174,000) of the full-time sworn officers and 55% (191,000) of the full-time civilian personnel (**figure 1, table 1**).<sup>1</sup>

From 1997 to 2020, the number of full-time personnel in sheriffs' offices increased 39%. The number of full-time civilian personnel in sheriffs' offices more than doubled, from 89,000 in 1997 to 191,000 in 2020. The number of full-time sworn officers in sheriffs' offices did not change from 1997 (174,000) to 2020 (174,000).

Findings in this report are from the 2020 Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics (LEMAS) survey from the Bureau

<sup>1</sup>Civilian personnel includes officers or deputies with limited or no arrest powers and nonsworn personnel.

**FIGURE 1**  
Full-time personnel in sheriffs' offices, 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.

<sup>a</sup>Includes 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

- Sheriffs' offices employed 174,000 full-time sworn officers and 191,000 full-time civilian personnel in 2020.
- More than three-quarters (76%) of sheriffs' offices employed fewer than 50 full-time-equivalent (FTE) sworn officers.
- About 14% of full-time sworn officers and 12% of first-line supervisors in sheriffs' offices were female.
- About 10% of full-time sworn officers in sheriffs' offices were black, and 14% were Hispanic.
- More than half (57%) of civilian staff in sheriffs' offices were assigned to jail-related duties.
- More than half (56%) of sheriffs' offices employed bilingual or multilingual staff.
- More than half (57%) of sheriffs' offices with 100 or more FTE sworn officers had full-time specialized units for special operations (e.g., SWAT) compared to 14% of smaller offices.
- About 73% of sheriffs' offices with 100 or more FTE sworn officers had personnel assigned full time to specialized units to address school safety, 28% had specialized units for mental health/crisis intervention, and 25% had specialized units for human trafficking.
- Sheriffs' offices reported a combined total budget of more than \$44 billion, with offices with fewer than 25 FTE sworn officers reporting an average budget of \$1.9 million.
- More than a third (34%) of sheriffs' offices with 100 or more FTE sworn officers implemented routine COVID-19 testing for officers.

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 sheriffs' offices. LEMAS data excludes sheriffs' offices that did not have primary law enforcement duties in their jurisdiction. For information on local police departments, see *Local Police Departments Personnel, 2020* (NCJ 305187, BJS, November 2022).

### About a quarter of full-time sworn officers in general-purpose law enforcement agencies worked in sheriffs' offices

In 2020, about 14,700 general-purpose state and local law enforcement agencies employed about 1,056,000 full-time personnel (table 2). Though sheriffs'

offices accounted for 20% of all general-purpose law enforcement agencies, they employed 35% of the full-time personnel in such agencies nationwide. Sheriffs' offices employed a quarter (25%) of the 708,000 full-time sworn officers in state and local general-purpose law enforcement agencies. Sheriffs' offices also employed more than half (55%) of the nearly 348,000 full-time civilian and limited-sworn personnel in general-purpose law enforcement agencies. Almost two-thirds (63%) of the 25,000 part-time personnel who worked in sheriffs' offices were civilian or limited-sworn personnel.

**TABLE 1**  
Full-time personnel in sheriffs' offices, 1997–2020

Year	Total	Sworn	Civilian <sup>a</sup>
1997	263,145 †	174,486	88,659 †
2000	289,135 †	159,528 ‡	129,608 †
2003	330,274 †	174,251	156,022 †
2007	346,337	172,241	174,096 ‡
2013	351,904	188,952	162,952 †
2016	359,843	173,354	186,489
2020*	364,533	173,899	190,634

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.

<sup>a</sup>Includes 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 <sup>a</sup>	Total	Sworn	Civilian <sup>a</sup>
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 <sup>b</sup>	2,889	364,533	173,899	190,634	25,267	9,400	15,867
Primary state <sup>c</sup>	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.

<sup>a</sup>Includes officers or deputies with limited or no arrest powers and nonsworn personnel.

<sup>b</sup>Excludes sheriffs' offices without primary law enforcement jurisdiction in the counties they serve.

<sup>c</sup>Hawaii does not have a primary state law enforcement agency.

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

### More than three-quarters of sheriffs' offices employed fewer than 50 full-time-equivalent sworn officers

In 2020, more than half (54%) of sheriffs' offices employed fewer than 25 full-time-equivalent (FTE) sworn officers (table 3).<sup>2</sup> About 1 in 10 (12%) employed 100 or more FTE sworn officers, and those offices employed nearly two-thirds (64%) of the full-time sworn officers who worked in sheriffs' offices. Offices employing fewer than 50 FTE sworn officers employed about 22% of all full-time sworn officers in sheriffs' offices.

Nearly a third (31%) of the 191,000 full-time civilian personnel who worked in sheriffs' offices worked in offices employing 500 or more FTE sworn officers. Sheriffs' offices employing fewer officers than the equivalent of 50 full-time sworn officers employed about 21% of the full-time civilian personnel in sheriffs' offices.

### About 1 in 7 full-time sworn officers in sheriffs' offices were female

In 2020, about 14% of full-time sworn officers in sheriffs' offices were female (table 4). In both 2016 and 2020, sheriffs' offices employing 500 or more FTE sworn officers employed a larger percentage of sworn female officers than offices employing fewer than 50 FTE sworn officers.

<sup>2</sup>The number of FTE personnel is the number of full-time personnel plus half the number of part-time personnel.

**TABLE 4**  
Sex of full-time sworn officers in sheriffs' offices, by size of office, 2016 and 2020

Size of office <sup>a</sup>	2016		2020*	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
All sizes	86.4%	13.6%	85.6%	14.4%
500 or more FTE sworn officers	82.5	17.5	82.2	17.8
250–499	83.8	16.2	84.9	15.1
100–249	86.7	13.3	85.5	14.5
50–99	87.8	12.2	86.6	13.4
25–49	91.4	8.6	89.2	10.8
24 or fewer	94.0	6.0 ‡	92.3	7.7

Note: See appendix table 4 for standard errors.

\*Comparison group.

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

<sup>a</sup>Size of office 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, 2016 and 2020.

**TABLE 3**  
Sheriffs' offices and full-time personnel, by size of office, 2020

Size of office <sup>a</sup>	Sheriffs' offices		Full-time sworn officers		Full-time civilian personnel <sup>b</sup>	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All sizes	2,889	100%	173,899	100%	190,634	100%
500 or more FTE sworn officers	38	1.3	50,811	29.2	58,581	30.7
250–499	78	2.7	26,410	15.2	29,361	15.4
100–249	241	8.3	34,798	20.0	37,619	19.7
50–99	347	12.0	23,520	13.5	24,396	12.8
25–49	635	22.0	21,330	12.3	21,705	11.4
24 or fewer	1,549	53.6	17,029	9.8	18,971	10.0

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

<sup>a</sup>Size of office 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).

<sup>b</sup>Includes officers or deputies with limited or no arrest powers and nonsworn personnel.

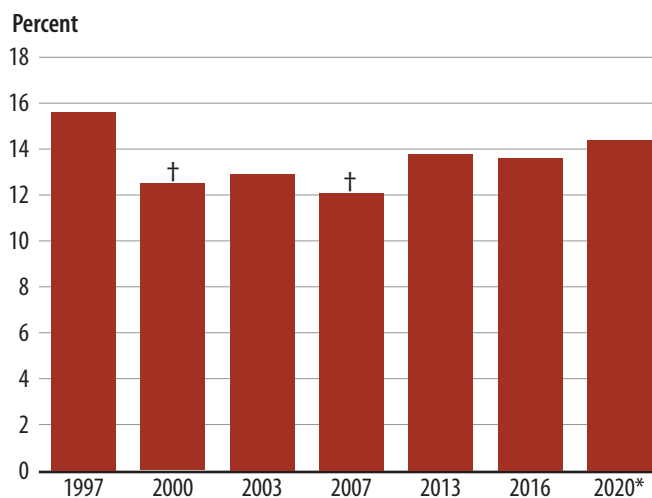
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics survey, 2020.

The percentage of full-time sworn officers who were female decreased from 1997 (16%) to 2020 (14%) (figure 2). From 2013 to 2020, the percentage of full-time sworn officers who were female did not change significantly.

### About 1 in 10 full-time sworn officers in sheriffs' offices were black

In 2020, about 71% of full-time sworn officers in sheriffs' offices were white, 14% were Hispanic, 10% were black, and 3% were of other races (Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, American Indian or Alaska Native, or two or more races) (table 5). Sheriffs' offices employing 500 or more FTE sworn officers employed larger percentages of full-time sworn officers who were Hispanic or of other races than smaller offices. In these offices, 52% of sworn officers were white, 29% were Hispanic, 13% were black, and 5% were of other races.

**FIGURE 2**  
Percent of full-time sworn officers in sheriffs' offices who were female, 1997–2020



Note: See appendix table 5 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.

**TABLE 5**  
Race or Hispanic origin of full-time sworn officers in sheriffs' offices, by size of office, 2016 and 2020

Size of office <sup>a</sup>	2016					2020*				
	White <sup>b</sup>	Black <sup>b</sup>	Hispanic	Other <sup>b,c</sup>	Unknown	White <sup>b</sup>	Black <sup>b</sup>	Hispanic	Other <sup>b,c</sup>	Unknown
All sizes	75.8% ‡	9.4%	10.5%	2.4%	1.8%	70.6%	9.7%	13.9%	3.1%	2.7%
500 or more FTE sworn officers	58.2	13.7	22.0	4.5	1.6	51.6	13.0	29.1	5.5	0.9
250–499	76.1	11.3	8.7 †	2.2	1.8	70.7	9.5	13.6	3.2	3.1
100–249	82.0	7.0	5.5	1.5	4.0	79.2	9.3	5.6	1.6	4.3
50–99	86.1	7.6	2.7	1.3	2.3 †	81.7	7.8	4.2	2.2	4.1 †
25–49	88.8	5.9	4.0	1.2	0.1 †	81.9	7.9	6.5	1.0	2.7 †
24 or fewer	90.2	4.1	4.3	1.0	0.4 †	84.1	5.8	5.2	2.1	2.9

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

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

<sup>a</sup>Size of office is based on total 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).

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

<sup>c</sup>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, 2016 and 2020.

**From 1997 to 2020, the percentage of full-time sworn officers in sheriffs' offices who were black decreased**

From 1997 to 2020, the percentage of full-time sworn officers in sheriffs' offices who were Hispanic more than doubled, from 6% to 14% (table 6). The number of officers who were Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, American Indian or Alaska Native, or of two or more races also more than doubled, from 2,200 in 1997 to 5,600 in 2020. The percentage of full-time sworn officers who were black decreased from about 12% in 1997 to 10% in 2020.

**About 1 in 4 full-time sworn officers in sheriffs' offices employing 500 or more FTE sworn officers were Hispanic males**

In 2020, about 62% of full-time sworn officers in sheriffs' offices were white males and 9% were white females (table 7). Sheriffs' offices employing 500 or more FTE sworn officers employed a smaller percentage of white males (44%) than smaller offices did. Offices with 500 or more FTE sworn officers employed a greater percentage of black females (4%) than offices employing fewer than 250 FTE sworn officers. Sheriffs' offices employing 500 or more FTE sworn officers employed larger percentages of officers who were Hispanic males (23%) and females (6%) than smaller offices did.

**TABLE 6**  
**Race or Hispanic origin of full-time sworn officers in sheriffs' offices, 1997–2020**

Year	White <sup>a</sup>		Black <sup>a</sup>		Hispanic		Other <sup>a,b</sup>		Unknown	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1997	141,365	81.0% †	20,555	11.8% †	10,319	5.9% †	2,246	1.3% †	~	~
2000	132,197	82.9 †	14,937	9.4	9,784	6.1 †	2,609	1.6 †	~	~
2003	141,525	81.2 †	17,473	10.0	12,007	6.9 †	3,247	1.9 †	~	~
2007	138,832	72.8	15,469	8.1 ‡	13,870	7.3 †	3,233	1.7 †	19,357	10.1%
2013	140,876	74.6	16,592	8.8	19,403	10.3	4,060	2.1 †	8,021	4.2
2016	131,997	75.8 ‡	16,457	9.4	18,337	10.5	4,255	2.4	3,175	1.8
2020*	128,428	70.6	17,744	9.7	25,250	13.9	5,630	3.1	4,961	2.7

Note: Prior to 2007, respondents to the Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics (LEMAS) 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 7 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.

<sup>a</sup>Excludes persons of Hispanic origin (e.g., “white” refers to non-Hispanic white persons and “black” refers to non-Hispanic black persons).

<sup>b</sup>Includes Asians, Native Hawaiians or Other Pacific Islanders, American Indians or Alaska Natives, and persons of two or more races. Beginning in 2013, the LEMAS survey included the option for respondents to indicate “two or more races” for law enforcement personnel.

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

**TABLE 7**  
**Sex and race or Hispanic origin of full-time sworn officers in sheriffs' offices, by size of office, 2020**

Size of office <sup>a</sup>	Male					Female				
	White <sup>b</sup>	Black <sup>b</sup>	Hispanic	Other <sup>b,c</sup>	Unknown	White <sup>b</sup>	Black <sup>b</sup>	Hispanic	Other <sup>b,c</sup>	Unknown
All sizes	62.0%	7.4%	11.3%	2.6%	2.3%	8.6%	2.3%	2.6%	0.5%	0.4%
500 or more FTE sworn officers*	44.0	9.3	23.3	4.7	0.8	7.6	3.7	5.8	0.8	0.1
250–499	61.2 †	7.1	11.1 †	2.7 †	2.8	9.5 ‡	2.4	2.4 †	0.5 ‡	0.3
100–249	68.8 †	7.1	4.7 †	1.4 †	3.5	10.3 †	2.2 ‡	0.9 †	0.2 †	0.8
50–99	71.4 †	6.1	3.3 †	1.8 †	3.9!	10.2	1.6 †	0.9 †	0.4!	0.3!
25–49	74.7 †	6.5	5.6 †	0.8 †	1.6!	7.1	1.4 †	0.9 †	0.2 †	1.1!
24 or fewer	77.6 †	5.4 †	4.6 †	1.8 †	2.9	6.5	0.4 †	0.6 †	0.2!	0.0

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

<sup>a</sup>Size of office 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).

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

<sup>c</sup>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.

### About 12% of first-line supervisors in sheriffs' offices were female

In 2020, about 1% of sheriffs, 10% of intermediate supervisors (those below chief or sheriff and above sergeants or first-line supervisors), and 12% of first-line supervisors in sheriffs' offices were female (table 8). Of all sheriffs' offices, those employing 250 to 499 FTE sworn officers had the largest percentage of female sheriffs (12%). Sheriffs' offices employing 500 or more FTE sworn officers employed a larger percentage of female intermediate supervisors (16%) than offices employing fewer than 250 FTE sworn officers.

### About 20% of first-line supervisors in sheriffs' offices were black or Hispanic

In 2020, about 87% of sheriffs were white, 6% were Hispanic, 4% were black, and 3% were of other races (Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, American Indian or Alaska Native, or two or more races) (table 9).

About 80% of intermediate supervisors in sheriffs' offices were white, 11% were black, 6% were Hispanic, and 1% were of other races. Sheriffs' offices employing 500 or more FTE sworn officers employed a larger percentage of Hispanic intermediate supervisors (14%) than smaller sheriffs' offices did.

About 76% of first-line supervisors in sheriffs' offices were white, 11% were Hispanic, 9% were black, and

2% were of other races. About 1 in 5 (21%) first-line supervisors in sheriffs' offices employing 500 or more FTE sworn officers were Hispanic, a larger portion than in smaller sheriffs' offices.

**TABLE 8**  
Sheriffs, intermediate supervisors, and first-line supervisors in sheriffs' offices who were female, by size of office, 2020

Size of office <sup>a</sup>	Sheriff	Intermediate supervisor <sup>b</sup>	First-line supervisor
All sizes	1.3%	10.3%	11.9%
500 or more FTE sworn officers*	3.4	16.2	14.2
250–499	11.7 †	11.9	13.3
100–249	2.7	10.2 †	12.9
50–99	0.8	10.0 ‡	10.4
25–49	1.5 †	7.4 †	6.3 †
24 or fewer	0.5 †	5.3 †	10.0

Note: See appendix table 9 for standard errors.

\*Comparison group.

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

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

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

<sup>a</sup>Size of office 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).

<sup>b</sup>Intermediate supervisors are those below chief or sheriff and above sergeant or first-line supervisor.

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

**TABLE 9**  
Race or Hispanic origin of sheriffs, intermediate supervisors, and first-line supervisors in sheriffs' offices, by size of office, 2020

Size of office <sup>b</sup>	Sheriff				Intermediate supervisor <sup>a</sup>					First-line supervisor				
	White <sup>c</sup>	Black <sup>c</sup>	Hispanic	Other <sup>c,d</sup>	White <sup>c</sup>	Black <sup>c</sup>	Hispanic	Other <sup>c,d</sup>	Unknown	White <sup>c</sup>	Black <sup>c</sup>	Hispanic	Other <sup>c,d</sup>	Unknown
All offices	87.0%	4.2%	5.6%	3.2%	79.7%	10.9%	5.9%	1.4%	2.1%	76.4%	8.7%	10.5%	2.3%	2.0%
500 or more FTE sworn officers*	82.8	6.9 †	10.3 †	0.0	69.1	13.1	14.0	3.2	0.6	61.7	12.1	21.0	4.5	0.8
250–499	78.3	10.0 †	10.0 †	1.7 †	81.6	9.9	6.0 †	1.3 †	1.2	78.3 ‡	9.8	8.5 †	1.8 †	1.6
100–249	84.6	11.6	3.3 †	0.5 †	83.2	9.7	3.9 †	0.8 †	2.4	82.3 †	8.7	4.6 †	1.4 †	3.1
50–99	90.6	3.1 †	0.4 †	5.9 †	84.0	9.7	2.1 †	0.9 †	3.3 †	82.1	6.5 ‡	5.6 †	0.9 †	4.9 †
25–49	88.6	4.1 †	4.3 †	3.0 †	83.6	12.1	3.4 †	0.6 †	0.3 †	87.5 †	4.3 †	7.3 †	0.9 †	0.0
24 or fewer	86.4	3.0 †	7.4	3.2 †	78.2	10.7	5.0 †	1.2 †	4.9 †	81.8 ‡	6.3	7.1 †	2.8	2.0 †

Note: Details may not sum to 100% due to rounding. The Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics (LEMAS) survey did not include an option for unknown race for sheriffs, but only for intermediate and first-line supervisors. 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%.

<sup>a</sup>Intermediate supervisors are those below chief or sheriff and above sergeant or first-line supervisor.

<sup>b</sup>Size of office 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).

<sup>c</sup>Excludes persons of Hispanic origin (e.g., “white” refers to non-Hispanic white persons and “black” refers to non-Hispanic black persons).

<sup>d</sup>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.

## Sheriffs' offices' responses to COVID-19

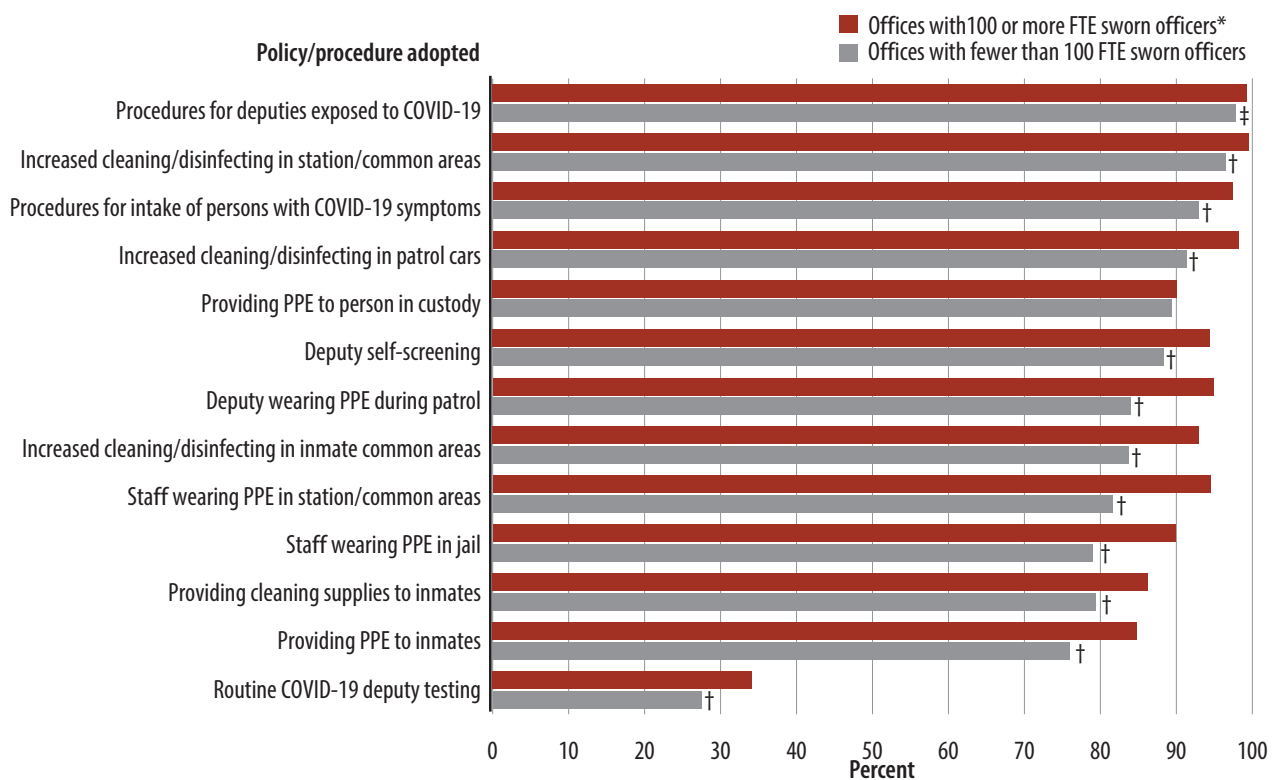
Most sheriffs' offices made adaptations in response to COVID-19, such as creating exposure procedures for deputies (98%) and wearing PPE during patrol (85%)

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, almost all sheriffs' offices employing 100 or more FTE sworn officers had increased cleaning or disinfecting in the station or common areas (99.6%), exposure procedures for deputies (99%), and intake procedures for symptomatic persons (97%) (figure 3). About 9 in 10 of these same offices had policies for officers wearing PPE during patrol and in station or common areas (95%), officer self-screening (94%), increased cleaning or

**FIGURE 3**  
Percent of sheriffs' offices that adopted selected policies and procedures to address COVID-19, by size of office, yearend 2020



Note: Size of office 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). PPE denotes personal protective equipment. See appendix table 11 for estimates and standard errors.

\*Comparison group.

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

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

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

*Continued on next page*

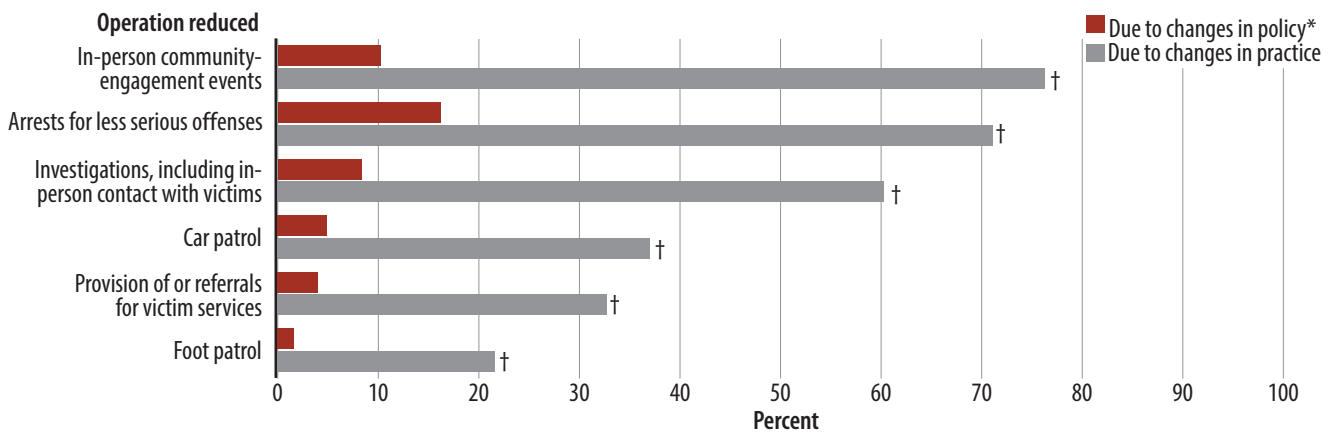
## Sheriffs' offices' responses to COVID-19 (continued)

disinfecting in inmate common areas (93%), providing PPE to persons taken into custody (90%), and staff wearing PPE in jail areas (90%). About a third (34%) of these offices instituted routine COVID-19 testing of deputies. Sheriffs' offices employing 100 or more FTE sworn officers were more likely than smaller offices to adopt all practices and policies detailed in this report except for providing PPE to persons taken into custody.

Sheriffs' offices were more likely to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic with changes in practice than with changes in policy. About 76% of sheriffs' offices reduced in-person community-engagement events as a matter

of practice, compared to 10% that reduced them as a matter of policy (figure 4). About 71% 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 60% of offices due to changes in practice but in 8% due to changes in policy. About 37% of sheriffs' offices reported reductions in car patrols as a matter of practice, compared to 5% as a matter of policy. The provision of or referral to victim services was reduced in 33% of offices due to changes in practice, compared to 4% due to changes in policy.

**FIGURE 4**  
Percent of sheriffs' offices that reported a reduction in operations due to changes in policy or practice as a result of COVID-19, 2020



Note: See appendix table 12 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.



**In sheriffs' offices, most sworn officers had operations roles and most civilian personnel had jail-related duties**

In 2020, about two-thirds (65%) of full-time sworn officers in sheriffs' offices were assigned to operations, the majority as deputies (47%), followed by detectives or investigators (11%) (table 10). About 15% of officers were

assigned to jail-related duties, 8% to court-related duties, and 2% to civil process duties. About 7% of full-time sworn officers had administrative responsibilities (such as sheriff or chief executive, assistant, finance, human resources, internal affairs, or other roles), while 3% worked primarily in support, including as dispatchers (1%).

**TABLE 10**  
**Primary job responsibility of full-time personnel in sheriffs' offices, by size of office, 2020**

Primary responsibility	Size of office <sup>a</sup>						
	All sizes	500 or more*	250–499	100–249	50–99	25–49	24 or fewer
<b>Full-time sworn officers</b>							
Administration <sup>b</sup>	6.7%	3.5%	4.2%	5.8% †	6.8% †	9.9% †	13.5% †
Operations	65.2	63.7	66.1	67.4	63.2	67.1	63.8
Deputy	47.4	45.3	44.4	46.1	47.3	51.8	52.5
Detective/investigator	11.1	10.6	12.8	12.4	11.5	11.1	7.8 †
Other operations <sup>c</sup>	6.7	7.7	9.0	8.9	4.3 †	4.3 †	3.5 †
Jail-related duties	14.7	18.4	14.7	13.1	18.6	10.3 ‡	10.3 ‡
Court-related duties	7.5	9.6	9.7	8.7	5.3 †	5.5 †	3.6 †
Civil process duties	2.3	0.8	2.2 †	2.7 †	2.6 †	3.3 †	3.8 †
Support	3.0	2.3	2.8	2.1	3.6	3.9	4.7 †
Dispatcher	1.4	0.1	0.7 †	0.6 †	2.0 †	2.7 †	4.2 †
Other support <sup>d</sup>	1.6	2.1	2.1	1.5 ‡	1.5	1.2!	0.5!
Other responsibility <sup>e</sup>	0.6	1.7	0.2 ‡	0.1 †	0.0 †	0.0!	0.4!
<b>Full-time civilian personnel<sup>f</sup></b>							
Administration <sup>b</sup>	9.7%	10.3%	7.3% ‡	9.1%	9.1%	11.0%	11.6%
Operations	5.6	10.9	4.6 †	2.8 †	2.4 †	3.0 †	2.9 †
Deputy	2.6	5.1	1.3 †	1.0 †	0.8!	1.9!	2.3 ‡
Detective/investigator	0.9	1.6	1.5	0.3 †	0.7 †	0.1!	0.3 †
Other operations <sup>c</sup>	2.1	4.2	1.7 †	1.5 †	0.9 †	0.9 †	0.2!
Jail-related duties	57.4	49.7	64.5 ‡	62.0 ‡	66.2	54.6	55.3
Court-related duties	3.6	5.3	1.9 †	2.7 †	2.3 †	3.5	4.0
Civil process duties	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.5	3.0	1.2
Support	20.4	19.2	18.4	21.2	18.2	23.5	24.2 ‡
Dispatcher	9.5	5.3	6.1	7.9 †	10.4 †	17.7 †	19.3 †
Other support <sup>d</sup>	10.9	13.9	12.3	13.3	7.8 †	5.9 †	4.9 †
Other responsibility <sup>e</sup>	1.8	3.2	1.9 ‡	1.1 †	0.3!	1.4!	0.8!

Note: Details may not sum to 100% due to rounding. Size of office 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). See appendix table 13 for standard errors.

\*Comparison group.

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

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

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

<sup>a</sup>Size of office 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 sworn officers).

<sup>b</sup>Includes chief executive or sheriff, assistant, finance, human resources, internal affairs, and other administrative roles.

<sup>c</sup>Includes inspector, supervisor, special operations, and other operations roles related directly to law enforcement.

<sup>d</sup>Includes records clerk, crime analyst, crime lab technician, and other support roles not designated as administrative.

<sup>e</sup>Includes crossing guard, parking enforcement, and other roles not designated as operations or support roles.

<sup>f</sup>Includes 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.

Most civilian personnel in sheriffs' offices were assigned to jail-related duties (57%), followed by support positions (20%), such as dispatcher (10%). About 10% of civilian personnel were assigned to administrative duties, 6% to operations, 4% to court-related duties, and 1% to civil process duties.

Sheriffs' offices employing 500 or more FTE sworn officers had a smaller percentage of sworn officers assigned to civil process duties (1%) than smaller offices did. Larger offices had a larger percentage of civilian personnel (including limited-sworn personnel) in operations (11%) than smaller offices did.

### More than half of all sheriffs' offices employed bilingual or multilingual staff

In 2020, about 56% of sheriffs' offices employed bilingual or multilingual full-time personnel (table 11). This included an estimated 15,000 sworn officers and 17,000 civilian personnel. Forty-two percent of sheriffs' offices employing 24 or fewer FTE sworn officers employed bilingual or multilingual staff.

**TABLE 11**  
**Full-time personnel in sheriffs' offices who were bilingual or multilingual, by size of office, 2020**

Size of office <sup>a</sup>	Offices with bilingual/multilingual staff		Bilingual/multilingual staff who were—			
	Number	Percent	Sworn officers		Civilian personnel <sup>b</sup>	
			Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All sizes	1,617	56.0%	15,357	8.8%	17,382	9.1%
500 or more FTE sworn officers	23	62.1	7,563	14.9	6,794	11.6
250–499	63	80.0	1,787	6.8	2,657	9.1
100–249	204	84.7	1,761	5.1	2,531	6.7
50–99	268	77.2	788	3.4	1,071	4.4
25–49	415	65.3	2,101	9.8	2,996	13.8
24 or fewer	645	41.6	1,358	8.0	1,334	7.0

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. See appendix table 14 for standard errors.

<sup>a</sup>Size of office 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).

<sup>b</sup>Includes 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.

**About 89% of sheriffs’ offices with 100 or more FTE sworn officers had personnel designated for school safety**

About 9 in 10 sheriffs’ offices with 100 or more FTE sworn officers had designated personnel to focus on sexual assault (90%) or school safety (89%) (table 12). About 8 in 10 of these larger offices had designated personnel focused on cybercrime (83%) or opioids (81%), while about 7 in 10 had designated personnel addressing domestic violence (74%), methamphetamine labs (71%), missing children (71%), gangs (69%), firearms (69%), or mental health or crisis intervention (66%). More than a third had designated personnel for bias or hate crimes (39%).

In some sheriffs’ offices, personnel were assigned full time to specialized units to focus on these issues. Three-quarters (73%) of offices with 100 or more FTE sworn officers had personnel assigned full time to specialized units for school safety in 2020, compared to 61% in 2016 (not shown in tables). Nearly half had personnel assigned full time to specialized units for child abuse (49%), opioids (49%), or domestic violence (46%). About 25% percent of offices with 100 or more FTE sworn officers had personnel assigned full time to specialized units for human trafficking.

**TABLE 12**  
**Sheriffs’ offices with personnel designated to address specific crime-related issues, by size of office, 2020**

Specific problem/task	Offices employing 100 or more FTE sworn officers with <sup>a</sup> —			Offices employing fewer than 100 FTE sworn officers with <sup>b</sup> —		
	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
Sexual assault	89.8%	51.0%	38.8%	51.2%	9.5%	41.7%
School safety	89.1	73.4	15.7	57.4	18.8	38.5
Child abuse/ endangerment	84.5	49.3	35.3	49.8	9.7	40.1
Cybercrime	82.8	38.7	44.2	26.1	2.6	23.5
Opioids	81.3	49.0	32.2	40.5	12.6	27.9
Domestic violence	74.3	46.1	28.2	34.7	6.6	28.2
Methamphetamine labs	71.0	43.7	27.4	38.5	9.6	28.8
Missing children	70.6	29.2	41.4	27.8	3.2	24.6
Gangs	69.2	28.8	40.4	15.7	3.5	12.2
Firearms	69.1	37.2	31.9	42.3	5.6	36.7
Mental health/crisis intervention	66.2	28.1	38.1	29.5	5.3	24.3
Impaired driving (DUI/DWI)	65.3	32.8	32.5	32.8	5.5	27.3
Juvenile crimes	65.2	31.9	33.3	33.7	4.6	29.1
Terrorism/homeland security	58.0	28.1	29.9	16.4	3.4	13.0
Human trafficking	56.3	25.2	31.1	14.9	0.8!	14.1
Bias/hate crimes	38.8	10.6	28.2	14.3	1.4!	12.8
Homelessness	28.5	11.3	17.2	6.6	0.0	6.6

Note: Size of office 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). Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. See appendix table 15 for standard errors.

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

<sup>a</sup>There were 357 (12%) sheriffs’ offices employing 100 or more FTE sworn officers, with a median number of 168 full-time equivalent sworn officers.

<sup>b</sup>There were 2,532 (88%) sheriffs’ offices employing fewer than 100 FTE sworn officers, with a median number of 19 full-time equivalent sworn officers.

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

**Almost all sheriffs’ offices with 100 or more FTE sworn officers had personnel designated to special operations (e.g., SWAT)**

In 2020, almost all sheriffs’ offices with 100 or more FTE sworn officers had personnel designated to special operations (97%), internal affairs (92%), or public relations (91%) (table 13). About three-quarters had personnel designated to address agency standards or accreditation (79%), community policing (78%), crime analysis (77%), or traffic enforcement (74%). About two-thirds had personnel designated for victim assistance (65%).

About 57% of sheriffs’ offices with 100 or more FTE sworn officers had personnel assigned full time to specialized units for special operations, compared to 14% of offices with fewer than 100 FTE sworn officers. About 7 in 10 (70%) sheriffs’ offices with 100 or more FTE sworn officers had personnel assigned full time to internal affairs units, compared to 1 in 10 (9%) sheriffs’ offices with fewer than 100 FTE sworn officers.

**TABLE 13**  
**Sheriffs’ offices with personnel designated to address specific functional areas, by size of office, 2020**

Specific functional area	Offices employing 100 or more FTE sworn officers with <sup>a</sup> —			Offices employing fewer than 100 FTE sworn officers with <sup>b</sup> —		
	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	97.1%	57.3%	39.8%	42.5%	14.1%	28.4%
Internal affairs	91.8	70.4	21.4	58.2	9.1	49.1
Public relations	91.2	60.3	30.9	45.3	4.0	41.3
Agency standards/ accreditation	79.3	48.5	30.8	40.6	7.2	33.4
Community policing	78.1	53.9	24.2	30.6	4.4	26.2
Crime analysis	77.1	54.9	22.3	21.2	3.5	17.7
Traffic enforcement	74.4	55.8	18.6	35.8	9.4	26.3
Victim assistance	65.2	42.6	22.6	30.8	8.2	22.6
Research/planning	60.0	23.0	37.0	32.0	2.0!	30.0
Bomb/explosive disposal	46.8	23.1	23.7	6.0	1.3!	4.7
Parking enforcement	26.6	12.0	14.6	8.3	1.3!	6.9

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

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

<sup>a</sup>There were 357 (12%) sheriffs’ offices employing 100 or more FTE sworn officers, with a median number of 168 full-time equivalent sworn officers.

<sup>b</sup>There were 2,532 (88%) sheriffs’ offices employing fewer than 100 FTE sworn officers, with a median number of 19 full-time equivalent sworn officers.

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

## Sheriffs' offices reported a combined budget of about \$44 billion

In 2020, the overall average budget per sheriff's office was about \$16 million, with a range of \$1.9 million average for offices employing fewer than 25 FTE sworn officers to \$479 million average for offices employing 500 or more (table 14). Offices employing 500 or more FTE sworn

officers had budgets totaling \$18 billion, making up 41% of the combined budgets of all sheriffs' offices. These largest offices accounted for about 30% of all the FTE sworn officers working in sheriffs' offices and had larger budgets per FTE sworn officer and per FTE employee than offices employing fewer than 250 FTE sworn officers.

**TABLE 14**  
**Annual operating budgets of sheriffs' offices, by size of office, 2020**

Size of office <sup>a</sup>	Total	Per office	Per FTE sworn officer <sup>b</sup>	Per FTE employee <sup>c</sup>
All sizes	\$44,366,793,546	\$15,804,542	\$248,416	\$117,632
500 or more FTE sworn officers*	\$18,118,628,533	\$479,402,054	\$353,371	\$162,897
250–499	\$7,396,953,412	\$94,596,311	\$275,236	\$128,310
100–249	\$8,205,524,379	\$34,209,969	\$231,367 †	\$110,684 †
50–99	\$4,500,279,016	\$12,963,505	\$185,776 †	\$90,549 †
25–49	\$3,377,324,435	\$5,535,108	\$151,521 †	\$74,812 †
24 or fewer	\$2,768,083,770	\$1,852,730	\$149,862 †	\$70,415 †

Note: Data are for the fiscal year including December 31, 2020. Data exclude capital expenditures, such as equipment purchases and construction costs. Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. See appendix table 17 for standard errors.

\*Comparison group.

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

<sup>a</sup>Size of office 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).

<sup>b</sup>Includes both full and part-time sworn officers, calculated as the number of sworn officers plus half the number of part-time sworn officers.

<sup>c</sup>Includes both full and part-time limited sworn and nonsworn personnel, calculated as the number of full-time personnel plus half the number of full-time personnel.

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.<sup>3</sup> 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.<sup>4</sup> 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 based on 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 819 sheriffs' offices, divided into seven strata based on the number of FTE sworn officers. During the survey fielding, 17 sheriffs' offices were determined to be out of scope. After removing out-of-scope agencies, the final eligible sample of sheriffs' offices was 802.

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, a new strategy was developed to reduce the burden on smaller agencies over time.

---

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

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

NSR agencies now have a very low probability of being selected in more than one of the next five waves of LEMAS administrations. 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. 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 used in 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.

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

For the 2020 LEMAS survey, the base weight for all SR sheriffs' offices was 1.00 (table 15). For NSR offices, the base weights were calculating 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 sheriffs' offices, 84.9% responded via web and 15.1% submitted paper surveys.

Submitted surveys were considered complete if at least 60% of the questionnaire was filled out. A total of 581 sheriffs' offices completed their LEMAS questionnaires, for a response rate of 72.4% (table 16). This included 277 SR offices (76.7%) and 304 NSR offices (68.9%). 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 15**  
Base weights, nonresponse adjustments, and final weights for sheriffs' offices, by stratum, 2020

Size of office	Base weight	Nonresponse adjustment	Final weight
100 or more FTE sworn officers	1.00	1.30	1.30
50–99.5	5.75	1.67	9.58
25–49.5	5.71	1.54	8.77
10–24.5	5.72	1.31	7.51
5–9.5	5.78	1.41	8.15
1–4.5	5.74	1.71	9.80

Note: Size of office 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 16**  
Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics survey response rates for sheriffs' offices, by size of office, 2020

Size of office	Eligible offices	Offices sampled	Offices responded	Response rate
Total	2,889	802	581	72.4%
100 or more FTE sworn officers	361	361	277	76.7
50–99.5	374	65	39	60.0
25–49.5	623	109	71	65.1
10–24.5	909	159	121	76.1
5–9.5	456	79	56	70.9
1–4.5	167	29	17	58.6

Note: Size of office 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 and Administrative Statistics survey, 2020.

## Imputation and data editing

For three sheriffs' offices 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 the 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 sheriffs' offices with bilingual or multilingual staff was  $56.0\% \pm 1.96 \times 2.3\%$  (or approximately 51.5% to 60.5%).

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 sheriffs' offices, 1997–2020**

Year	Total	Sworn	Civilian
1997	6,408	4,262	2,738
2000	5,044	2,719	2,843
2003	8,703	4,471	5,270
2007	9,268	4,237	5,553
2013	14,255	7,348	7,504
2016	13,694	6,905	7,640
2020	13,457	7,108	7,602

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	9,929	2,303	1,222	1,862
Local police	21,818	15,841	6,316	1,962	1,073	1,637
Sheriff's office	13,457	7,108	7,602	1,205	583	886
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: Sheriffs' offices and full-time personnel, by size of office, 2020**

Size of office	Sheriffs' offices		Full-time sworn officers		Full-time civilian personnel	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All sizes	~	~	7,108	~	7,602	~
500 or more FTE sworn officers	3	0.11%	7,238	4.16%	6,867	3.60%
250–499	4	0.15	1,498	0.86	2,265	1.19
100–249	16	0.56	1,903	1.09	1,903	1.00
50–99	29	1.01	2,000	1.15	3,433	1.80
25–49	38	1.32	1,437	0.83	2,045	1.07
24 or fewer	29	0.99	607	0.35	1,189	0.62

~Not applicable.

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

---

---

**APPENDIX TABLE 4****Standard errors for table 4: Sex of full-time sworn officers in sheriffs' offices, by size of office, 2016 and 2020**

Size of office	2016		2020	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
All sizes	3.61%	0.90%	3.16%	0.82%
500 or more FTE sworn officers	11.65	2.79	10.55	2.54
250–499	5.39	1.20	5.48	1.16
100–249	3.60	0.82	4.72	1.00
50–99	7.24	1.47	7.50	2.00
25–49	7.47	1.25	6.31	1.51
24 or fewer	4.17	0.64	3.31	0.81

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

---

---

**APPENDIX TABLE 5****Estimates and standard errors for figure 2: Percent of full-time sworn officers in sheriffs' offices who were female, 1997–2020**

Year	Estimate	Standard error
1997	15.6%	0.51%
2000	12.5 †	0.26
2003	12.9	0.41
2007	12.1 †	0.39
2013	13.8	0.70
2016	13.6	0.90
2020*	14.4	0.82

\*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 6****Standard errors for table 5: Race or Hispanic origin of full-time sworn officers in sheriffs' offices, by size of office, 2016 and 2020**

Size of office	2016					2020				
	White	Black	Hispanic	Other	Unknown	White	Black	Hispanic	Other	Unknown
All sizes	2.15%	0.85%	1.77%	0.31%	0.36%	1.76%	0.85%	1.81%	0.31%	0.53%
500 or more FTE sworn officers	6.76	2.32	5.55	0.96	0.67	5.40	2.21	5.82	0.86	0.23
250–499	5.14	1.30	1.07	0.27	0.71	4.74	1.09	1.65	0.64	0.85
100–249	3.60	0.55	0.68	0.17	0.82	4.31	1.39	0.47	0.13	0.74
50–99	7.12	2.47	0.72	0.29	1.65	7.68	2.71	1.06	0.84	3.02
25–49	7.50	1.67	1.35	0.30	0.10	6.31	2.27	2.37	0.26	2.06
24 or fewer	4.26	0.99	1.31	0.23	0.37	3.58	1.23	1.08	0.64	1.20

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

---

**APPENDIX TABLE 7****Standard errors for table 6: Race or Hispanic origin of full-time sworn officers in sheriffs' offices, 1997–2020**

Year	White		Black		Hispanic		Other		Unknown	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1997	3,147	1.80%	992	0.57%	669	0.38%	131	0.07%	~	~
2000	2,288	1.43	388	0.24	446	0.28	155	0.10	~	~
2003	3,277	1.88	681	0.39	958	0.55	249	0.14	~	~
2007	3,027	1.59	652	0.34	1,011	0.53	305	0.16	2,958	1.55%
2013	3,787	2.00	1,066	0.56	2,721	1.44	487	0.26	875	0.46
2016	3,742	2.15	1,480	0.85	3,091	1.77	537	0.31	625	0.36
2020	3,210	1.76	1,552	0.85	3,292	1.81	556	0.31	962	0.53

~Not applicable.

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

**APPENDIX TABLE 8****Standard errors for table 7: Sex and race or Hispanic origin of full-time sworn officers in sheriffs' offices, by size of office, 2020**

Size of office	Male					Female				
	White	Black	Hispanic	Other	Unknown	White	Black	Hispanic	Other	Unknown
All sizes	1.53%	0.60%	1.43%	0.25%	0.47%	0.35%	0.27%	0.39%	0.06%	0.13%
500 or more FTE sworn officers	4.61	1.46	4.57	0.74	0.20	0.83	0.78	1.26	0.12	0.03
250–499	4.05	0.75	1.34	0.54	0.81	0.74	0.37	0.34	0.10	0.06
100–249	3.80	1.08	0.42	0.13	0.57	0.68	0.33	0.07	0.02	0.20
50–99	6.87	2.05	0.88	0.57	2.93	1.69	0.67	0.27	0.29	0.13
25–49	5.75	1.83	2.11	0.21	1.07	0.91	0.47	0.31	0.09	1.02
24 or fewer	3.19	1.13	0.99	0.56	1.20	0.72	0.13	0.19	0.12	0.00

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

**APPENDIX TABLE 9****Standard errors for table 8: Sheriffs, intermediate supervisors, and first-line supervisors in sheriffs' offices who were female, by size of office, 2020**

Size of office	Sheriff	Intermediate supervisor	First-line supervisor
All sizes	0.41%	0.66%	0.92%
500 or more FTE sworn officers	1.64	2.40	2.31
250–499	2.00	1.17	1.25
100–249	0.60	1.10	1.01
50–99	0.26	2.27	4.00
25–49	1.41	1.63	1.51
24 or fewer	0.45	1.17	1.76

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

**APPENDIX TABLE 10**

**Standard errors for table 9: Race or Hispanic origin of sheriffs, intermediate supervisors, and first-line supervisors in sheriffs' offices, by size of office, 2020**

Size of office	Sheriff				Intermediate supervisor					First-line supervisor				
	White	Black	Hispanic	Other	White	Black	Hispanic	Other	Unknown	White	Black	Hispanic	Other	Unknown
All sizes	1.60%	0.90%	1.10%	0.88%	2.52%	1.35%	0.74%	0.18%	0.79%	2.64%	0.80%	1.53%	0.26%	0.65%
500 or more FTE sworn officers	3.39	2.27	2.73	0.00	7.80	2.09	3.09	0.65	0.18	7.38	2.03	5.15	0.80	0.27
250–499	2.57	1.87	1.87	0.80	6.07	1.70	0.70	0.19	0.48	5.60	1.68	1.06	0.35	0.61
100–249	3.51	3.55	0.66	0.26	5.12	1.91	0.67	0.11	0.88	3.56	1.34	0.53	0.16	0.96
50–99	4.38	2.61	0.18	3.63	10.26	3.13	0.66	0.48	2.69	11.10	2.21	1.86	0.41	3.93
25–49	3.53	2.22	2.29	1.83	9.55	5.36	2.00	0.37	0.27	9.23	1.55	3.51	0.46	0.00
24 or fewer	2.34	1.12	1.80	1.21	6.88	4.60	1.83	0.51	4.02	7.82	2.99	1.91	0.92	1.40

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

**APPENDIX TABLE 11**

**Estimates and standard errors for figure 3: Percent of sheriffs' offices that adopted selected policies and procedures to address COVID-19, by size of office, yearend 2020**

Policy/procedure adopted	Estimate		Standard error	
	Offices with 100 or more FTE sworn officers*	Offices with fewer than 100 FTE sworn officers	Offices with 100 or more FTE sworn officers	Offices with fewer than 100 FTE sworn officers
Procedures for deputies exposed to COVID-19	99.3%	97.8% ‡	0.25%	0.78%
Increased cleaning/disinfecting in station/common areas	99.6	96.5 †	0.18	1.02
Procedures for intake of persons with COVID-19 symptoms	97.4	92.9 †	0.47	1.40
Increased cleaning/disinfecting in patrol cars	98.2	91.4 †	0.40	1.51
Providing PPE to person in custody	90.1	89.4	0.96	1.66
Deputy self-screening	94.4	88.3 †	2.46	1.71
Deputy wearing PPE during patrol	94.9	84.0 †	0.68	1.94
Increased cleaning/disinfecting in inmate common areas	93.0	83.7 †	0.80	2.00
Staff wearing PPE in station/common areas	94.5	81.6 †	0.70	2.03
Staff wearing PPE in jail	89.9	79.0 †	2.46	2.15
Providing cleaning supplies to inmates	86.3	79.4 †	1.16	2.15
Providing PPE to inmates	84.8	76.0 †	2.45	2.31
Routine COVID-19 testing of deputies	34.1	27.5 †	1.99	2.42

Note: Size of office 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). PPE denotes personal protective equipment.

\*Comparison group.

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

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

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

**APPENDIX TABLE 12**

**Estimates and standard errors for figure 4: Percent of sheriffs’ offices that reported a reduction in operations due to changes in policy or practice as a result of COVID-19, 2020**

Operation reduced	Estimate						Standard error					
	Due to change in policy			Due to change in practice			Due to change in policy			Due to change in practice		
	All*	Offices with 100 or more FTE sworn officers	Offices with fewer than 100 FTE sworn officers	All	Offices with 100 or more FTE sworn officers	Offices with fewer than 100 FTE sworn officers	All	Offices with 100 or more FTE sworn officers	Offices with fewer than 100 FTE sworn officers	All	Offices with 100 or more FTE sworn officers	Offices with fewer than 100 FTE sworn officers
In-person community-engagement events	10.2%	11.3%	10.1%	76.3% †	86.9%	74.8%	1.40%	1.04%	1.59%	2.02%	1.13%	2.30%
Arrests for less serious offenses	16.2	14.6	16.4	71.1 †	65.6	71.9	1.71	1.20	1.94	2.11	2.49	2.38
Investigations, including in-person contact with victims	8.3	6.2	8.5	60.3 †	55.4	61.0	1.32	0.75	1.50	2.25	2.57	2.55
Car patrol	4.9	4.4	5.0	37.0 †	33.3	37.5	1.04	0.62	1.18	2.30	2.48	2.60
Provision of or referrals to victim services	4.0	2.9!	4.1	32.7 †	26.3	33.6	0.95	0.51	1.08	2.24	1.69	2.53
Foot patrol	1.6	2.9!	1.4!	21.6 †	25.3	21.1	0.52	0.51	0.59	1.92	2.45	2.17

Note: Size of office 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).

\*Comparison group.

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

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

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

**APPENDIX TABLE 13**

**Standard errors for table 10: Primary job responsibility of full-time personnel, by size of office, 2020**

Primary responsibility	Size of office						
	All sizes	500 or more	250–499	100–249	50–99	25–49	24 or fewer
<b>Full-time sworn officers</b>							
Administration	0.35%	0.67%	0.29%	0.52%	0.76%	1.99%	0.82%
Operations	1.98	7.75	3.90	3.25	5.92	4.67	2.52
Deputy	1.50	5.70	2.60	2.41	4.81	3.84	1.99
Detective/investigator	0.35	1.29	0.81	0.71	1.13	0.82	0.66
Other operations	0.31	0.99	0.72	0.42	0.88	0.85	0.54
Jail-related duties	1.29	3.99	1.68	1.09	4.54	2.53	1.99
Court-related duties	0.50	1.80	0.78	0.83	0.96	0.70	0.50
Civil process duties	0.22	0.11	0.19	0.18	0.52	1.19	0.93
Support	0.29	0.34	0.36	0.21	0.99	1.47	0.94
Dispatcher	0.21	0.04	0.17	0.13	0.76	1.00	0.88
Other support	0.14	0.31	0.25	0.16	0.45	0.61	0.25
Other responsibility	0.20	0.75	0.08	0.04	0.00	0.03	0.38
<b>Full-time civilian personnel</b>							
Administration	0.58%	1.57%	0.56%	0.88%	1.66%	1.79%	1.29%
Operations	0.59	1.76	0.45	0.34	0.96	1.07	0.93
Deputy	0.42	1.22	0.13	0.27	0.67	1.01	0.87
Detective/investigator	0.10	0.30	0.18	0.03	0.29	0.07	0.13
Other operations	0.27	0.83	0.23	0.20	0.35	0.40	0.13
Jail-related duties	2.72	5.99	6.27	3.99	13.39	6.64	8.15
Court-related duties	0.34	0.97	0.33	0.29	0.66	0.82	0.75
Civil process duties	0.17	0.18	0.14	0.09	0.41	1.34	0.24
Support	0.78	2.07	1.37	1.17	2.83	2.25	2.01
Dispatcher	0.43	0.65	0.61	0.59	2.12	1.96	1.65
Other support	0.54	1.60	0.93	0.81	1.37	0.99	0.87
Other responsibility	0.25	0.70	0.26	0.14	0.17	0.83	0.45

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

**APPENDIX TABLE 14**

**Standard errors for table 11: Full-time personnel in sheriffs' offices who were bilingual or multilingual, by size of office, 2020**

Size of office	Offices with bilingual/multilingual personnel		Bilingual/multilingual personnel who were—			
			Sworn officers		Civilian personnel	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All sizes	66	2.28%	1,741	1.00%	1,687	0.88%
500 or more FTE sworn officers	3	4.35	1,589	3.13	1,241	2.12
250–499	4	2.50	228	0.86	531	1.81
100–249	14	3.50	213	0.61	331	0.88
50–99	33	6.50	153	0.65	209	0.86
25–49	43	5.21	630	2.95	966	4.45
24 or fewer	54	3.33	284	1.67	245	1.29

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

**APPENDIX TABLE 15****Standard errors for table 12: Sheriffs' offices with personnel designated to address specific crime-related issues, by size of office, 2020**

Specific problem/task	Offices employing 100 or more FTE sworn officers with—			Offices employing fewer than 100 FTE sworn officers 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
Sexual assault	0.98%	2.61%	2.52%	2.48%	1.55%	2.54%
School safety	1.02	1.71	1.25	2.58	2.00	2.59
Child abuse/endangerment	2.44	2.53	2.82	2.49	1.56	2.58
Cybercrimes	1.31	2.16	2.75	2.28	0.83	2.21
Opioids	2.43	2.61	2.47	2.50	1.76	2.36
Domestic violence	2.45	2.58	2.45	2.52	1.31	2.40
Methamphetamine labs	2.46	2.70	1.73	2.46	1.56	2.35
Missing children	2.91	1.81	2.54	2.34	0.91	2.27
Gangs	2.47	1.79	2.74	1.93	0.99	1.75
Firearms	2.88	2.10	2.47	2.65	1.23	2.60
Mental health/crisis intervention	2.84	1.76	2.51	2.41	1.18	2.28
Impaired driving (DUI/DWI)	3.07	1.94	1.93	2.51	1.21	2.40
Juvenile crimes	2.49	2.47	2.48	2.48	1.11	2.39
Terrorism/homeland security	2.83	1.76	1.83	1.97	0.98	1.80
Human trafficking	2.70	1.65	2.47	1.89	0.39	1.86
Bias/hate crimes	2.52	1.00	2.45	1.87	0.67	1.79
Homelessness	1.78	1.04	1.31	1.32	0.00	1.32

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

**APPENDIX TABLE 16****Standard errors for table 13: Sheriffs' offices with personnel designated to address specific functional areas, by size of office, 2020**

Specific functional area	Offices employing 100 or more FTE sworn officers with—			Offices employing fewer than 100 FTE sworn officers 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	0.51%	2.30%	2.20%	2.26%	1.80%	2.31%
Internal affairs	2.45	3.24	3.05	2.49	1.50	2.63
Public relations	0.90	2.75	2.88	2.60	1.04	2.60
Agency standards/ accreditation	3.06	2.50	2.47	2.50	1.38	2.48
Community policing	1.52	2.58	2.44	2.40	1.10	2.34
Crime analysis	3.02	2.68	1.53	2.17	0.99	2.03
Traffic enforcement	3.37	2.75	1.38	2.53	1.53	2.38
Victim assistance	2.49	2.71	1.55	2.47	1.48	2.26
Research/planning	2.75	1.56	2.50	2.50	0.75	2.46
Bomb/explosive disposal	2.59	2.44	1.59	1.26	0.59	1.13
Parking enforcement	1.71	1.08	1.20	1.46	0.63	1.33

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

---

**APPENDIX TABLE 17****Standard errors for table 14: Annual operating budgets of sheriffs' offices, by size of office, 2020**

Size of office	Total	Per department	Per FTE sworn officer	Per FTE employee
All sizes	\$2,628,850,808	\$936,461	\$14,719	\$6,970
500 or more FTE sworn officers	\$2,645,302,051	\$56,770,573	\$51,592	\$23,783
250–499	\$480,118,924	\$3,180,824	\$17,865	\$8,328
100–249	\$386,005,808	\$1,662,748	\$10,884	\$5,207
50–99	\$465,817,435	\$955,398	\$19,229	\$9,373
25–49	\$335,404,488	\$399,921	\$15,048	\$7,430
24 or fewer	\$147,229,711	\$86,606	\$7,971	\$3,745

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 Connor Brooks. Elizabeth Davis and Stephanie Mueller verified the report.

Eric Hendrixson and Brigit Baron edited the report. Tina Dorsey produced the report.

November 2022, NCJ 305200



NCJ 305200

Office of Justice Programs  
Building Solutions • Supporting Communities • Advancing Justice  
[www.ojp.gov](http://www.ojp.gov)