

# 2018 Census of Law Enforcement Training Academies (CLETA)

Conducted by:  
Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice  
RTI International



Although completing basic academy training is an important step in a law enforcement officer's career, the features of these programs can vary significantly across the United States. Through the Census of Law Enforcement Training Academies (CLETA), the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) is able to describe the characteristics of basic academy training for new recruits for all local and state law enforcement academies in the United States.

The CLETA has been administered approximately every 5 years since 2002. **The next CLETA will begin administration in winter 2019.** BJS will send the CLETA survey to approximately 750 local and state law enforcement training academies. Data will be used to produce national estimates describing the basic training curricula, characteristics of trained recruits, and instructor qualifications of these academies.

## 2018 Census of Law Enforcement Training Academies Survey Content

- Types of training offered by the academy
- Types of agencies and positions for which basic training is provided
- Characteristics of the training personnel (e.g., sworn status, law enforcement experience, education)
- Academy resources (e.g., funding sources, equipment)
- Number of recruits starting and completing programs and number/reasons for not completing

In addition to providing a snapshot of the current state of basic law enforcement training, BJS will be able to compare the results of the 2018 CLETA with data from prior years to determine how training has changed over time. Results from the 2018 CLETA will be made available in 2020 to law enforcement personnel, researchers, lawmakers, and other stakeholders to facilitate nationwide discussions on law enforcement training.

CLETA is part of the Law Enforcement Core Statistics (LECS) program, a coordinated program of law enforcement agency surveys conducted by BJS. Also included in the LECS is the Census of State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies, the Law Enforcement Agency Management and Administrative Statistics (LEMAS) Core Survey, and a new series of supplemental LEMAS questionnaires on specialized topics such as body-worn cameras. BJS is working with RTI International and the Police Executive Research Forum to administer LECS surveys, including the 2018 CLETA.

## 2018 CLETA Survey Schedule

### Winter–Spring 2019

- BJS will send a letter inviting law enforcement training academy directors to participate in CLETA
- Academy directors can designate a point of contact to complete the survey
- RTI will provide directors and points of contact with access to the survey website to allow review of survey items and submission of data
- Training academies will send their data to RTI either online or using a paper questionnaire

### Summer–Fall 2019

- Data quality assessments
- Results will be processed and analyzed

### Spring 2020

- BJS will publish a report on the findings

For more information about CLETA, visit [bjslecs.org/CLETA2018](https://bjslecs.org/CLETA2018).

For additional information on the LECS suite of BJS data collection efforts, visit [bjslecs.org](https://bjslecs.org).

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