

2020 Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics (LEMAS) Core Survey

FAQs

Conducted by:
Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice
RTI International
Police Executive Research Forum

The Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics (LEMAS) core is a survey conducted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, approximately every four years. It is presently the most systematic and comprehensive source of national data on law enforcement. Approximately 3,500 local, county, and state general purpose agencies are randomly selected to participate in this survey. The next LEMAS core will begin administration in early 2021. The following presents some frequently asked questions we obtain from law enforcement agencies on the LEMAS.



What is the difference between the LEMAS core and LEMAS supplement?

The LEMAS is moving to a new core + topical supplement model. The LEMAS core will focus on long-term issues in policing revolving around staffing, strategies and tactics, and organizational structure and will be administered every four years. The LEMAS supplements will cover a single topic pertaining to specific issues in law enforcement and will change over time. The most recent LEMAS supplement was the 2018 Census of Law Enforcement Training Academies. The LEMAS core and supplements are critically important to understanding characteristics, policies, and procedures of law enforcement agencies across the country. If invited, you should complete the LEMAS core and LEMAS supplements.

What will I be asked to do?

The chief executive will be asked to designate a staff member to complete the survey (i.e., point of contact). The agency point of contact will be given information on how to access the online survey (or request a paper survey if desired). The website will be secure and will allow respondents to save and close the survey at any time. The survey can be reopened later to enter or edit responses until the final responses are submitted. Agencies will also be given a paper copy of the survey if they prefer to submit the survey by mail, email, or fax.

LEMAS

What information does the LEMAS core survey collect?

The LEMAS core collects important information on personnel, expenditures and pay, hiring and retention, equipment and operations, technology, and policies and procedures. This information is used to create national estimates for all law enforcement agencies in the United States.

Why is the LEMAS important?

The LEMAS is the only survey of general purpose law enforcement agencies that gathers nationally representative information about agencies on key factors like personnel, policies, and agency activities and trends over time. LEMAS data are widely used by researchers, policy makers, and law enforcement agencies to understand law enforcement at local, county, state, and national levels.



2021 LEMAS Core Survey Schedule

Winter 2021–Summer 2021

- BJS will send out a letter inviting law enforcement agency chief executives to participate in the LEMAS core survey
- Chief executives invited to participate in the LEMAS core survey will be asked to designate a point of contact who will complete the survey
- RTI will provide LEAs with access to the survey website and collect the survey data

Summer 2021–Summer 2022

- Results will be processed and analyzed
- BJS and RTI will draft a report on survey findings

Summer 2022–Spring 2023

- BJS will publish preliminary survey findings

For questions about the LEMAS core survey, contact:

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