

Prenotification Experiment in a Survey of Law Enforcement Agencies

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Disclaimer

The views and opinions expressed in this presentation are those of the speakers and do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of any entities they represent.

Project Background

- Census of State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies (CSLLEA)
 - Administered by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) every 4 years since 1986
 - Includes every publicly-funded government entity that employs at least one full-time equivalent sworn law enforcement officer (~20,000 agencies)
 - Typically begin data collection with an invitation letter and email (no prenotification)
 - Typically achieve 90% response rate
- 2022 CSLLEA Collection
 - RTI serves as data collection agent
 - September 20, 2022, through September 11, 2023

CSLLEA Questionnaire

- 8 questions
- 30-minute burden
- Multi-mode (Web, PAPI, Phone)
- Data collected include operating budgets, policing functions performed by the agency and the number of sworn and civilian personnel



2022 CENSUS OF STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

Acting as collection agent: RTI International

Please use this form to provide information on behalf of the following agency:

[XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX]

If the agency name printed above is incorrect, please call us at 1-866-309-4563.

Submit this form using one of the following four methods:

- Online: <https://bjslecs.org/CSLLEA2022>
- E-mail: csllea@rti.org
- Agency ID:
- Fax: 1-919-595-4701
- Password:
- Mail: Use the enclosed postage-paid envelope

Important:

If any of the following conditions applied to your agency as of June 30, 2022, you do not need to complete the entire questionnaire. Mark [X] the appropriate box below and return the survey using the return instructions in the box above.

- Agency no longer in existence
 → Enter date agency ceased operations:

Month	Day	Year		
- Agency contracted or outsourced all law enforcement services to the following agency
 → Enter the name of the agency providing contractual services:
- Agency employed only part-time officers and the total combined hours worked for these officers averaged less than 35 hours per week
- All the officers in the agency were unpaid volunteers
- All the officers in the agency were paid via fee-for-service and not salary
- Agency was private (i.e., not operated with funds from a state, local, special district, or tribal government)
- Agency was operated by the Federal government

Indicate who completed this form:

Name: Last Name First Name MI

Title:

Phone: Area Code Number Extension

Fax: Area Code Number

E-mail:

Agency Website:

NCIC-ORI: 9-digit

- Please retain a copy of your completed survey. Questionnaires completed online can be printed for your records.
- If you have any questions, call RTI toll-free at 1-866-309-4563, or send an e-mail to csllea@rti.org. When corresponding about this survey, please refer to the Agency ID number above.
- If you have any general comments or suggestions for improving the survey, please contact Elizabeth Davis of the Bureau of Justice Statistics by phone at 1-202-598-9782 or by e-mail at Elizabeth.Davis@usdoj.gov.

Burden Statement

Federal agencies may not conduct or sponsor an information collection, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information, unless it displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 32 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate, or any other aspects of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Director, Bureau of Justice Statistics, 810 Seventh Street, NW, Washington, DC 20531. The Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as amended (34 USC 10132), authorizes this information collection. Although this survey is voluntary, we urgently need your cooperation to make the results comprehensive, accurate, and timely. We greatly appreciate your assistance.

Experiment: Research Questions

- Will a prenote increase response rate?
- Is a prenote worth the cost?
- Will a prenote work in an establishment survey environment?

Experiment

- Experiment focused on local police and sheriff's offices (two largest agency types)
- Randomly selected 250 cases each from: small local police, large local police, small sheriff's offices and large sheriff's offices
- Prenote group received a letter 1 month before survey launch

Agency Type	Size (FTE) from Frame	Number on Frame	
		Control	Prenote
Local Police	All	12,220	500
	Large (FTE > 99.9)	401	250
	Small (FTE <= 99.9)	11,819	250
Sheriff's Office	All	2,563	500
	Large (FTE > 99.9)	134	250
	Small (FTE <= 99.9)	2,429	250
TOTAL		14,783	1,000

Prenotification Contents



CSLLEA
Bureau of Justice Statistics
U.S. Department of Justice
c/o RTI International
5265 Capital Boulevard
Raleigh, NC 27616
ATTN: Data Capture 0217162.000.003.003

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Justice Programs

Bureau of Justice Statistics

August 18, 2022

August 18, 2022

«TITLE» «NAME»
OR CURRENT CHIEF EXECUTIVE
« AGENCY_NAME »
« ADDRESS1 », « ADDRESS2 »
« CITY », « STATE » « ZIP »

Dear «Title» «Name»

I am pleased to announce that the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) is preparing to conduct the 2022 Census of State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies (CSLLEA). CSLLEA is the only systematic, national-level data collection providing a complete enumeration of the approximately 19,500 publicly funded law enforcement agencies in the U.S. It was last administered in 2018. The 2022 CSLLEA has been endorsed by the law enforcement community and a letter of support along with an informational flyer on the CSLLEA is enclosed.

In the next few weeks, our data collection agent for CSLLEA (RTI International) will send your agency an invitation to the 2022 collection. To designate a survey respondent and ensure this invitation reaches them, I encourage you to **log onto the CSLLEA website** (<http://www.bjslecs.org/csllea2022>) and confirm or update the contact information for your agency:

Username: <Username>

Password: <Password>

Please submit this information by September 1, 2022.

I appreciate that you may receive a number of data requests throughout the year, and I thank you for supporting for 2022 CSLLEA. If you have questions about CSLLEA, please contact the CSLLEA data collection team via phone or e-mail at 866-309-4563 or csllea@rti.org. If you have any general comments about this data collection, please contact Elizabeth Davis, the Bureau of Justice Statistics Program Manager, at 202-305-2667 or Elizabeth.Davis@usdoj.gov.

Sincerely,

Doris J. James
Acting Director
Bureau of Justice Statistics

Prenotification Contents

2022 Census of State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies (CSLLEA)

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



Law enforcement agencies (LEAs) face unique challenges in areas such as staffing, number and types of functions performed, and budget allocation. An important step to addressing these challenges is to understand how these issues may have changed over time and how LEAs are responding to changing demands. The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) will use the 2022 Census of State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies (CSLLEA) to provide critical information to practitioners, policy makers, researchers, and other stakeholders. Through the 2022 CSLLEA, LEAs will be asked to help build a complete enumeration of the Nation's state and local LEAs. This national roster of active publicly funded LEAs will also be used as a sampling frame for other collections.

BJS has administered the CSLLEA regularly since 1986. **The next CSLLEA will begin full administration in fall 2022.** The brief questionnaire will go to approximately 20,000 state and local LEAs. Data will be used to produce estimates describing the staffing and functions of these agencies by type and size.

CSLLEA Survey Content

During the 2022 CSLLEA survey, agencies will be asked questions on the following topics:

- Type of agency
- Operating budget
- Agency functions, including:
 - Patrol and response to calls for service
 - Criminal investigation
 - Traffic and vehicle-related enforcement
 - Detention of inmates
 - Providing services to courts
 - Forensic services
 - Public safety services
 - Task force participation
 - Other specialized functions
- Number of sworn and civilian personnel by full-time or part-time status
- Number of sworn officers by gender
- Number of full-time sworn officers by race



August 1, 2022

Dear Chief Executive:

The Bureau of Justice Statistics, working with RTI International, is fielding the 2022 Census of State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies (CSLLEA). Conducted periodically since 1986, the CSLLEA is the only systematic, national-level data collection providing a complete enumeration of publicly-funded law enforcement agencies in the U.S.

Recognizing the importance of this work, the nation's law enforcement community as represented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA), National Sheriffs' Association (NSA), Major County Sheriffs of America (MCSA), and the Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies (ASCIA) provide their full support of these efforts. These organizations recognize the importance of this national data collection and encourage their members and other law enforcement agency professionals to participate.

Your participation will help ensure that the 2022 CSLLEA is a success and that the results can be used by law enforcement, policy-makers, and researchers with confidence. We know that your staff have many responsibilities and limited time, but we hope that you will provide the requested information and contribute to this effort. No other data collection provides such a complete accounting of the functions and personnel of law enforcement agencies throughout the country.

We thank you in advance for your participation in this important study.

Sincerely,

Vincent Tahuci, Executive Director
International Association of Chiefs of Police

Lanza Cooper, Executive Director
Major Cities Chiefs Association

Jonathan F. Thompson, Executive Director
National Sheriffs' Association

Sheriff Dennis M. Lemma, President
Major County Sheriffs of America

Chief Mark Keel, President
Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies

Results: Response Rate

		Response Rate		
Agency Type	Size	Control Unweighted	Control Weighted	Prenote Unweighted
Overall		86.9%	89.6%	88.3%
Local Police	Large	94.8%	*	95.6%
	Small	86.7%	*	84.2%
Sheriff's Office	Large	90.2%	*	87.5%
	Small	86.7%	*	85.5%

No differences are statistically significant

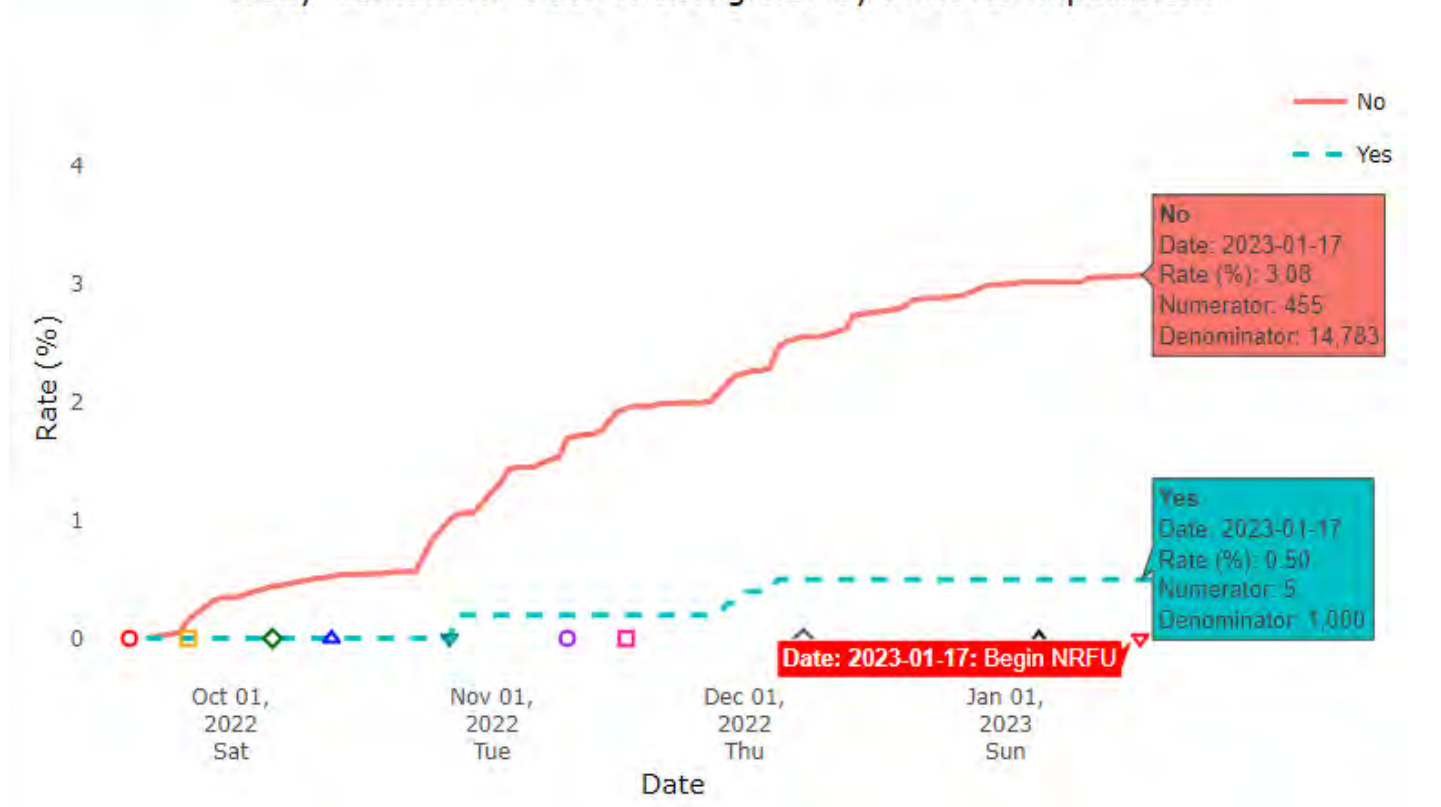
Results: Response Time

		Average Response Time	
Agency Type	Size	Control	Prenote
Overall		86 Days	80 Days
Police and Sheriff's Offices	Large	76 Days	73 Days
	Small	86 Days*	88 Days*

*p < 0.0001

Results: Ineligible Cases

Daily Cumulative Rate of Ineligibles by PreNote Experiment



Conclusions

- No significant effect on response rate
 - Large number of local police departments cancelled out any effect
- No significant improvement in response speed
- Did not weed out ineligible cases
- Smaller agencies were slower to respond regardless
- No efficiency gains
- Not worth the cost

Discussion

- Prenotifications may not be as effective in establishment surveys, or at least in surveys of this population.
- Why?
 - Perhaps the number of contacts is not as important as thought, or at least contacts prior to survey launch
 - So long as agency received the materials, it may not matter to whom they're addressed



Thank you

Contact: Ryan Weber | email: rweber@rti.org