

## B. Statistical Methods

### 1. Universe and Respondent Selection

The LESDC is designed to provide data on suicides and attempted suicides among the law enforcement community. According to the *LESDCA*, the following definitions are provided for LEA and LEO:

- LEA – “[A] Federal, State, Tribal, or local agency engaged in the prevention, detection, or investigation, prosecution, or adjudication of any violation of the criminal laws of the United States, a State, Tribal, or a political subdivision of a State;”
- LEO – “[A]ny current or former officer (including a correctional officer), agent, or employee of the United States, a State, Indian Tribe, or a political subdivision of a State authorized by law to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation, or prosecution of any violation of the criminal laws of the United States, a State, Indian Tribe, or a political subdivision of a State;”

These definitions create a more expansive list of occupations that make up the law enforcement community for the LESDC than for other UCR data collections. Thus, the LESDC will also include the following agency categories within the LESDC scope:

- Correctional Facilities
- Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) (911 Telecommunicators)
- Criminal Prosecutors and Adjudicators

Below is a table providing estimated counts of the number of agencies in each of the agency categories included in the LESDC. The information is based on the most current sources as listed in the footnotes.

<b>Agency Type</b>	<b>Number of Agencies</b>
LEAs	19,360 <sup>a</sup>
Correctional Facilities	3,212 <sup>b</sup>
PSAPs	5,293 <sup>c</sup>
Legal Systems (Courts)	35,852 <sup>d</sup>

The potential respondent universe includes any agencies that fit the definitions provided in the *LESDCA*. Due to this expansion of the collection scope, an exact count of potential respondents is not measurable. Based on current participation in the FBI’s UCR Program, it is estimated that there are 19,360 potential agencies that would be classified as “traditional” LEAs eligible to contribute some form of crime or law enforcement data to the FBI’s UCR Program. The other estimated counts

<sup>a</sup> FBI Active Agency Count.

<sup>b</sup> Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) Census of Jails, 2019.

<sup>c</sup> National 911 Program Annual Report, 2021 Data.

<sup>d</sup> Estimated based on NCIC ORI records and federal court survey data.

are drawn from participation metrics of other criminal justice programs. However, due to differences in methodology and requirements, these other programs and their scope may not be directly comparable to the LESDC. As the FBI's UCR Program moves forward with messaging and in subsequent years of collection, an accurate picture of the total universe of eligible agencies within the expanded scope will become clearer.

## 2. Procedures for Collecting Information

Participating LEAs will submit the details of an incident to the COLECT accessible through LEEP for all registered users. The LESDC is designed to collect all instances of suicide and attempted suicide from all eligible agencies within the law enforcement community as defined by the *LESDCA*. Thus, the FBI's UCR Program will not be utilizing special sampling methodology for the LESDC. The LESDC will also not implement estimation methodology, as the collection is designed to report the total number of suicides and attempted suicides reported by LEAs rather than an estimated national total.

## 3. Methods to Maximize Response

The FBI maximizes response rates through liaison with agencies and state programs. For the LESDC, the FBI's UCR Program developed a robust communications plan to message out the existence and utility of the LESDC to bring awareness to the mission and encourage participation from eligible agencies. The FBI's UCR Program also has dedicated staff available for assistance in submissions and training on the submission process. The mission of the LESDC is to acquire data on suicide and attempted suicide, establish guidelines for the collection, and publish LESDC data. Although the FBI's UCR Program makes every effort through its reviewing procedures, training practices, and information to ensure the validity of the data it receives, the accuracy of LESDC data will depend primarily on the adherence of each contributor to the established standards of reporting. Over the next several years of the

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<sup>e</sup> The FBI's UCR Program traditionally considers a LEA as any federal, state, county, local, tribal, or territorial agency that employs LEOs.

The FBI defines *LEO*\* according to the LEOKA definition which is as follows:

All local, county, state, and federal LEOs (such as municipal, county police officers, constables, state police, highway patrol, sheriffs, their deputies, federal LEOs, marshals, special agents, etc.) who are sworn by their respective government authorities to uphold the law and to safeguard the rights, lives, and property of American citizens. They must have full arrest powers and be members of a public governmental LEA, paid from government funds set aside specifically for payment to sworn police law enforcement organized for the purposes of keeping order and for preventing and detecting crimes, and apprehending those responsible.

*\*For this collection, Parole and Probation Officers, Corrections Officers, and Juvenile Detention Officers are not included.*

LESDC, the FBI's UCR Program will continue to review the reported data and pursue opportunities to conduct research on the collection coverage for the LESDC.

#### 4. Task Force and Testing

The FBI's UCR Program created a task force made up of members of the law enforcement (LE) community, including representatives from the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA), the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA), and tribal LE representatives. The task force also included representatives from BJS, academic experts in the fields of criminal justice and statistics, and SMEs on mental health and suicide events. The goal of the task force was to provide the FBI's UCR Program subject matter expertise and guidance on the issue of suicides among the LE community and to assist in the further development of the LESDC. Below is a list of major participants and organizations taking part in the LESDC task force.

##### FBI Task Force Contributors:

- FBI Executive Programs Instruction Unit
- FBI Employee Assistance Program
- FBI San Diego Field Office

##### External Task Force Contributors:

- Association of State UCR Programs
- Kentucky Statistical Analysis Center
- John Jay College of Criminal Justice
- ATF
- BH
- Public Safety Telecommunicator representative (To be determined)
- Department of Justice Executive Office for US Attorneys

##### Major LE Organizations:

- IACP
- MCCA
- NSA
- National Native American LE Association
- Tribal LE representative
- BJS

## Pilot Program Testing Procedures and Results

For the pilot, a sample of available LEAs as defined above in question one, were selected to participate in the cognitive interviews. As the universe of potential participants was refined, additional participants were added to cognitive interviews to achieve the final sample of 25 agencies. The selection criteria for the pilot sample reflected a purposive sample and represented a broad spectrum of agency characteristics, including agency size, agency type, and geographic location. Each participating agency was pre-screened for potential candidates which have experienced a past qualifying event for use in the usability testing and assessment of burden as detailed in the later stages of the pilot. All agencies selected for the pilot agreed voluntarily to participate in the pilot research.

The pilot began June 16, 2021, and continued through September 2021. The FBI's UCR Program's interviewers conducted cognitive interviews with all participating agencies as part of the pilot process. In addition, agencies with a past qualifying event were asked to participate in usability testing on the finalized version of the questionnaire. To meet the expectations to begin data collection on January 1, 2022, the pilot activities closed in sufficient time to provide public notice on the questionnaire, complete the implementation process, and provide burden estimates in September 2021.

The pilot was conducted in the manner outlined in the LESDC comprehensive testing plan. This plan was provided to OMB for the purpose of gaining approval for the pilot testing procedures. The results of this testing are outlined in the LESDC pilot report. The pilot report was delivered to OMB prior to the formal launch of the LESDC.

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