

County Law Enforcement and Immigration: A Survey

Arizona State University

Welcome to the County Law Enforcement and Immigration Survey. The purpose of this survey is to better understand current law-enforcement policies and practices related to persons in your county who may be unauthorized (undocumented or illegal) immigrants. The survey is being conducted by Arizona State University and John Jay College of Criminal Justice and should take about 20 minutes to complete. Your answers are strictly confidential as all identifiers will immediately be detached from the survey. All responses will be aggregated; no answers will be attributed or attached to any individual or jurisdiction.

For each question, mark the box beside the answer that best represents your opinion, belief or situation or circle the answer as appropriate to the question. For questions, contact Mike McLaen at Mike.McLaen@asu.edu or (480) 965-5032. Please return the completed questionnaire in the enclosed postage-paid, addressed envelope within 10 days.

1. First, we need to confirm that you are the correct person to answer the survey. Are you currently employed as a Sheriff or equivalent or acting as his or her designated representative?

- Yes
- No -----> **PLEASE DO NOT CONTINUE WITH THE SURVEY**
-

2. In your county, how is the sheriff normally selected? **Please choose one answer.**

- By the voters in an election
- Hired by the county governing board
- Hired by the county manager/administrator/executive
- Some other way
-

3. Counties vary in the responsibilities they give to the sheriff's office. Does your sheriff's office manage or have authority to run the county jail(s)?

- Yes
- No -----> **PLEASE SKIP TO QUESTION 8**
-

4. What is the capacity of your jail (in beds)? _____ beds

5. What percentage of your jail detainees do you estimate are unauthorized immigrants? _____%

6. Considering the resources required to manage prisoners (such as personnel, funding, health care, etc.), do unauthorized immigrants in your jail system tend to require:

- More resources than other prisoners
 - About the same amount of resources
 - Fewer resources than other prisoners
 - Not sure/don't know
-

7. Do you receive reimbursements from the federal government to defray the costs of detaining unauthorized immigrants?

- Yes, such reimbursements cover most or all of our costs of detaining unauthorized immigrants.
 - Yes, but such reimbursements cover less than half of our costs of detaining unauthorized immigrants.
 - No, we do not receive any such reimbursements from the federal government.
-

8. Aside from the jail function, does your sheriff's office have responsibility for patrols and investigations?

- Yes, we patrol in unincorporated areas AND within one or more incorporated municipalities (**PLEASE ANSWER QUESTION 9**)
 - Yes, we patrol in unincorporated areas of the county only (**PLEASE SKIP TO QUESTION 10**)
 - No, this sheriff's office does not have patrol responsibilities outside the jail system (**PLEASE SKIP TO QUESTION 10**)
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9. Is there a formal agreement that guides enforcement activities of your sheriff's office in incorporated communities that have their own police departments?

- YES, we have an agreement to generally stay out of those communities unless asked to work there (for example, via a contracting relationship).
- YES, we have an agreement under which we are free to enforce the law in those communities and routinely do so.
- NO, there is no agreement and we enforce the law in those communities.
- NO, there is no agreement and we generally stay out of those communities unless asked to intervene.
- OTHER (*Please describe*) _____

10. Next, we would like you to compare prevailing views within your sheriff's office to the views prevailing more generally in the county you serve. Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements by circling a number from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree).

	Strongly disagree					Strongly agree
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	
Unauthorized immigration is a controversial topic...						
a. among sheriff's deputies/officers-----	1	2	3	4	5	
b. in this county-----	1	2	3	4	5	
Victimization of immigrants is considered a significant problem...						
a. among sheriff's deputies/officers-----	1	2	3	4	5	
b. in this county-----	1	2	3	4	5	
People believe that it is relatively easy to determine who is in this country without authorization...						
a. among sheriff's deputies/officers-----	1	2	3	4	5	
b. in this county-----	1	2	3	4	5	
Gaining the trust of unauthorized immigrants is a priority...						
a. among sheriff's deputies/officers-----	1	2	3	4	5	
b. in this county-----	1	2	3	4	5	
Immigration enforcement is considered the responsibility of the federal government...						
a. among sheriff's deputies/officers-----	1	2	3	4	5	
b. in this county-----	1	2	3	4	5	
Issues surrounding unauthorized immigration are considered a drain on law-enforcement resources...						
a. among sheriff's deputies/officers-----	1	2	3	4	5	
b. in this county-----	1	2	3	4	5	

11. Which of the following statements most accurately reflects the views of your county government's elected officials (other than the sheriff)? **Choose the single best answer.**

- Most county elected officials would prefer our sheriff's office to be more engaged in immigration enforcement.
- Most county elected officials would prefer our sheriff's office to be less engaged in immigration enforcement.
- Most county elected officials are satisfied with our sheriff's office's current level of immigration enforcement.
- Most county elected officials are not interested in this issue.
- There is no solid majority among county elected officials.
- Not sure

12. Which of the following statements best describes the current position of your county's governing board on unauthorized immigration? **Choose the single best answer.**

- Our county government has openly declared this a "sanctuary" community for unauthorized immigrants who are not engaged in criminal activities.
- Our county government supports a policy (written or unwritten) of "don't ask-don't tell" regarding unauthorized immigrants living in or traveling through our jurisdiction unless they are involved in serious crime.
- Our county government has developed, or is developing, policies designed to encourage county law enforcement to participate with federal authorities in controlling certain kinds of crime associated with unauthorized immigration, e.g. human smuggling, human trafficking, drop houses.
- Our county government expects the sheriff's office to take a proactive role in deterring unauthorized immigration in all of our activities.
- Our county government has no official policy vis-à-vis unauthorized immigrants living in or traveling through our jurisdiction.
- Not sure

Next, we have some questions about your interactions with the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) branch of the federal Department of Homeland Security.

13. For the statements below, please answer Yes if the statement is true of your office's relationship with Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE), or No if it is not true.

a. We have a 287g Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that provides for federal training of some local officers/deputies and cooperation in investigations and arrests of unauthorized immigrants for civil immigration violations.

YES NO DON'T KNOW

b. We have a MOU to help manage unauthorized immigrants who have been incarcerated.

YES NO DON'T KNOW

c. We contact ICE when we are holding suspected unauthorized immigrants for criminal violations, but have no formal agreement.

YES NO DON'T KNOW

d. ICE officers are embedded in one or more of our units.

YES NO DON'T KNOW

e. We have remote consultations (by phone, electronic, or video connection) with ICE personnel to discuss specific cases involving unauthorized immigrants.

YES NO DON'T KNOW

f. We do not participate or assist in ICE immigration-enforcement activities.

YES NO DON'T KNOW

g. We considered, but ultimately decided against, any type of working relationship with ICE.

YES NO DON'T KNOW

Some questions about your office's policies relating to immigrants in your community follow.

18. Regardless of what sheriff's deputies/officers are instructed to do or are supposed to do, **what typically happens** when officers in your office encounter individuals who might be unauthorized immigrants in each of the following situations? **Circle your answers. If your deputies/officers do not have patrol or investigation duties outside the jail, please circle NA (Not Applicable) for items b through h.**

	<u>Check immigration status</u>	<u>Report to ICE</u>	<u>Both</u>	<u>Neither</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Not Applicable</u>
a. Booked into the jail	1-----	2-----	3-----	4-----	5-----	NA
b. Stopped for a traffic violation	1-----	2-----	3-----	4-----	5-----	NA
c. Arrested for a violent crime	1-----	2-----	3-----	4-----	5-----	NA
d. Arrested for a nonviolent crime (e.g., shoplifting, trespassing, speeding), assuming no previous criminal record	1-----	2-----	3-----	4-----	5-----	NA
e. Arrested for domestic violence	1-----	2-----	3-----	4-----	5-----	NA
f. Interviewed as a crime victim, complainant, or witness	1-----	2-----	3-----	4-----	5-----	NA
g. Detained for a parole violation or for failure to appear for a court date	1-----	2-----	3-----	4-----	5-----	NA
h. Interviewed as a possible victim of human trafficking	1-----	2-----	3-----	4-----	5-----	NA

19. Does your sheriff's office have a policy regarding interactions with immigrants? For example, do you have a protocol concerning when to inquire about immigration status and what to report?

- Yes, we have a written policy
- Yes, but our policy is not in written form
- No
- Don't know

20. Please indicate how influential each of the following groups or people were in formulating your office's practices and procedures regarding immigrants and immigration enforcement. **Circle a number from 1 (not at all influential) to 5 (very influential).**

	Not at all influential				Very influential	Don't Know <u>DK</u>
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	
a. Sheriff -----	1-----	2-----	3-----	4-----	5-----	6-----
b. Legal advisors in the sheriff's office -----	1-----	2-----	3-----	4-----	5-----	6-----
c. Command personnel from a specialized unit -----	1-----	2-----	3-----	4-----	5-----	6-----
d. County governing board -----	1-----	2-----	3-----	4-----	5-----	6-----
e. Prosecutor's or DA's office -----	1-----	2-----	3-----	4-----	5-----	6-----
f. Federal officials -----	1-----	2-----	3-----	4-----	5-----	6-----
g. State officials -----	1-----	2-----	3-----	4-----	5-----	6-----
h. Courts -----	1-----	2-----	3-----	4-----	5-----	6-----
i. Another sheriff or a municipal police department's policy -----	1-----	2-----	3-----	4-----	5-----	6-----
j. Professional organization(s) of sheriffs/police -----	1-----	2-----	3-----	4-----	5-----	6-----
k. Fraternal organizations of law enforcement officers -----	1-----	2-----	3-----	4-----	5-----	6-----
l. Organizations representing ethnic or racial groups or immigrants -----	1-----	2-----	3-----	4-----	5-----	6-----
m. Community group(s) opposed to unauthorized immigration -----	1-----	2-----	3-----	4-----	5-----	6-----

21. Has your office offered training for sheriff's deputies/officers specifically related to incidents or calls involving unauthorized immigrants?

- Yes **ANSWER QUESTION 22**
- No **SKIP TO QUESTION 23**
- Don't know **SKIP TO QUESTION 23**

22. About what percentage of deputies/officers has received this training? _____%

- Don't know

23. Does the ability to speak a second language count in favor of applicants and/or deputies/officers in your sheriff's office? (For example, extra pay for bilingual officers, or extra points for bilingual candidates seeking to be hired or promoted.)

YES NO DON'T KNOW

24. Does your sheriff's office... **(Circle your responses.)**

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
a. Accept Mexican consular ID cards (<i>matricula consular</i>), or other foreign IDs, as forms of identification under some circumstances? -----	1	2	3
b. Have personnel who are specifically assigned to identify and respond to cases of human trafficking or human smuggling? -----	1	2	3
c. Maintain a phone line for members of the immigrant community to confidentially report criminal activity? -----	1	2	3
d. Have enough officers proficient in foreign languages to work effectively in our immigrant communities and jails? -----	1	2	3
e. Have a written policy regarding racial profiling? -----	1	2	3
f. Use an automated database such as NCIC to check immigration status? -----	1	2	3

Now, we'd like to learn more about your community relations policies and practices.

25. How effective are the following strategies in helping your sheriff's office to maintain good community relations? **(Circle your responses.)**

	<u>Not used</u>	<u>Used, not effective</u>	<u>Used, moderately effective</u>	<u>Used, very effective</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
a. Foot patrols -----	1	2	3	4	5
b. Bike patrols -----	1	2	3	4	5
c. Regular neighborhood meetings -----	1	2	3	4	5
d. Telephone line for anonymous tips about crime -----	1	2	3	4	5
e. Regular visits to schools, churches and neighborhood organizations -----	1	2	3	4	5
f. Regular meetings with organizations that advocate for immigrants -----	1	2	3	4	5
g. Citizen access to crime statistics/crime maps -----	1	2	3	4	5
h. Community advisory committee or board -----	1	2	3	4	5
i. Public hearings on topics of community concern -----	1	2	3	4	5
j. Having officers proficient in foreign languages -----	1	2	3	4	5
k. Cooperation and coordination with non-governmental organizations -----	1	2	3	4	5

26. Please indicate the impact, if any, that each of the following groups has had on your office's ability to interact with local immigrants in the way you deem appropriate. **Circle your responses.**

	<u>Strong negative impact</u>	<u>Somewhat negative impact</u>	<u>No impact</u>	<u>Somewhat positive impact</u>	<u>Strong positive impact</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
a. Municipal police departments within your county	-----1-----	-----2-----	-----3-----	-----4-----	-----5-----	-----6-----
b. Neighboring counties' sheriff offices	-----1-----	-----2-----	-----3-----	-----4-----	-----5-----	-----6-----
c. State police	-----1-----	-----2-----	-----3-----	-----4-----	-----5-----	-----6-----
d. Federal law enforcement	-----1-----	-----2-----	-----3-----	-----4-----	-----5-----	-----6-----

27. For each of the following crimes, do you think that unauthorized immigrants in your county are more vulnerable, less vulnerable, or equally vulnerable **to become victims** as other residents? **Circle your responses.**

	<u>More</u>	<u>Less</u>	<u>Equally</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
a. Theft/robbery	-----1-----	-----2-----	-----3-----	-----4-----
b. Harassment/discrimination	-----1-----	-----2-----	-----3-----	-----4-----
c. Domestic violence	-----1-----	-----2-----	-----3-----	-----4-----
d. Other forms of violence and assault	-----1-----	-----2-----	-----3-----	-----4-----

28. For each of the following crimes, do you think that unauthorized immigrants in your county are more likely, less likely, or equally likely **to offend** as other residents? **Circle your responses.**

	<u>More</u>	<u>Less</u>	<u>Equally</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
a. Theft/robbery	-----1-----	-----2-----	-----3-----	-----4-----
b. Harassment/discrimination	-----1-----	-----2-----	-----3-----	-----4-----
c. Domestic violence	-----1-----	-----2-----	-----3-----	-----4-----
d. Other forms of violence and assault	-----1-----	-----2-----	-----3-----	-----4-----

29. How likely are immigrants in your county to contact law enforcement when they are **victims or witnesses** to crime, as compared with the general population?

- Much less likely
- Somewhat less likely
- Just as likely (the same)
- Somewhat more likely
- Much more likely
- Not sure

30. Are there any policies and/or practices in your office relevant to law enforcement-immigrant relationships that this survey did not address, or that you would like to tell us more about?

None/no other policies or practices

Lastly, a small number of questions for statistical purposes only. As a reminder, all of your answers are completely confidential. If you are not the Sheriff, please give answers as they pertain to the Sheriff.

31. How many sworn officers are in your sheriff's office? **Number of officers** _____

Not sure

32. Of the sworn officers in your sheriff's office, approximately what percentage are:

Please enter a percentage between 0 and 100 for each category.

African American/Black _____%

Asian or Pacific Islander _____%

Hispanic/Latino _____%

Non-Hispanic White/Caucasian _____%

Not sure

33. How long have you worked in law enforcement?

Enter number of years; round to nearest year _____

34. How long have you served as Sheriff in your county?

Enter number of years; round to nearest year _____

35. Are you... Male Female

36. In what year were you born? _____ **Enter year (YYYY)**

37. Which of the following best reflects your race or ethnicity? **Select all that apply.**

- African-American/Black
 - Asian or Pacific Islander
 - Caucasian/White
 - Hispanic/Latino
 - Native American
 - Other – **Please specify** _____
-

38. What was the last level of school that you completed?

- High school
 - Some college
 - Associate's degree
 - Bachelor's degree
 - Post-graduate
-

39. Please list the job title of the person who filled out this survey

Job Title _____

40. Would you like the survey results e-mailed to you? If so, please provide your e-mail address. (Your e-mail address will be used only for purposes of sending the survey results.)
(Please print clearly.)

E-mail address _____

Thank you very much for your participation.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is this study being conducted? State, county, and municipal police agencies may be assuming new law-enforcement responsibilities as localities focus more on immigration issues. This survey is designed to learn more about what county sheriff offices are actually doing and to share information about current practices.

What agencies are involved in this study? We are sending surveys to a sample of about 450 county sheriffs across the United States in counties with significant foreign-born populations. We are also conducting separate surveys of municipal police chiefs in both large and small communities.

Why is my participation important? Your participation is, of course, entirely voluntary. However, we need information from a wide range of law-enforcement agencies in order to provide a comprehensive picture of the role of local law enforcement in immigration control. If you are unable to answer certain questions, please answer the rest of the questions and return the survey. Your information is very important to us whether or not you can answer every question.

How will my confidentiality be protected? We will not identify, or reveal the specific responses of individuals or specific counties or cities.

Who can I contact for more information? If you have any questions about the confidentiality and protection of information from this survey, you can either contact Mike McLaen (Mike.McLaen@asu.edu) or the Chair of the Human Subjects Institutional Review Board through the ASU Research Compliance Office at (480) 965-6788.

Has law enforcement participated in the formation of this study? Law enforcement officials from about a dozen different agencies helped review this survey. Their input was important in formulating questions and helping us to better understand the issues from their perspective.