

# Local Police and Immigration: A Survey

Arizona State University

Welcome to the Police and Immigration Survey. The purpose of this survey is to better understand current policing policies and practices related to persons in your community 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](mailto:Mike.McLaen@asu.edu) or (480) 965-5032. Please return the completed questionnaire in the enclosed postage-paid, addressed envelope as soon as possible.

1. First, we need to confirm that you are the correct person to answer the survey. Are you currently employed as a chief of police or its equivalent, or acting as the chief's designated representative?

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

2. Next, we would like you to compare prevailing views in your police department to the views prevailing more generally in the local community 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>	
<b>Unauthorized immigration is a controversial topic...</b>						
a. in my department -----	1	2	3	4	5	
b. in this locality -----	1	2	3	4	5	
<b>Victimization of immigrants is considered a significant problem...</b>						
a. in my department -----	1	2	3	4	5	
b. in this locality -----	1	2	3	4	5	
<b>People believe that it is relatively easy to determine who is in this country without authorization...</b>						
a. in my department -----	1	2	3	4	5	
b. in this locality -----	1	2	3	4	5	
<b>Gaining the trust of unauthorized immigrants is a priority...</b>						
a. in my department -----	1	2	3	4	5	
b. in this locality -----	1	2	3	4	5	
<b>Immigration enforcement is considered the responsibility of the federal government...</b>						
a. in my department -----	1	2	3	4	5	
b. in this locality -----	1	2	3	4	5	
<b>Issues surrounding unauthorized immigration are considered a drain on law-enforcement resources...</b>						
a. in my department -----	1	2	3	4	5	
b. in this locality -----	1	2	3	4	5	

3. Which of the following statements most accurately reflects the views of your jurisdiction's elected officials?  
**Choose the single best answer.**

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

4. Which of the following statements best describes the current position of the local government of your jurisdiction on unauthorized immigration? **Choose the single best answer.**

- Our local government has openly declared this a "sanctuary" community for unauthorized immigrants who are not engaged in criminal activities.
  - Our local 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 local government has developed, or is developing, policies designed to encourage local 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 local government expects the police department to take a proactive role in deterring unauthorized immigration in all of our activities.
  - Our local government has no official policy vis-à-vis unauthorized immigrants living in or traveling through our jurisdiction.
  - Not sure
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**Next, we have some questions about your interactions with other law enforcement agencies and with the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) branch of the federal Department of Homeland Security.**

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5. How distant is the county jail from your jurisdiction?

- It is in our community
  - 5 miles or less
  - Over 5 miles but less than 25 miles away
  - Over 25 miles away
  - Not applicable
- 

6. What is the distance of your department from the nearest ICE-managed detention facility?

- 5 miles or less
- Over 5 miles but less than 25 miles away
- 25 – 50 miles away
- Over 50 miles away
- Don't know

7. Does the Sheriff's office in your county . . . *(Circle your responses)*

- a. Operate a jail facility ----- Yes----- No
  - b. Patrol within your jurisdiction under a written contract or agreement? ----- Yes----- No
  - c. Patrol within your jurisdiction although there is no formal agreement? ----- Yes----- No
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8. How often does the Sheriff's office in your county share information and resources with your department?

- Regularly
  - Occasionally
  - Rarely
  - Never
- 

9. For the statements below, please circle Yes if the statement is true of your department's relationship with the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) branch of the federal Department of Homeland Security, or No if it is not true.

a. We have a 287g Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that provides for federal training of some local police officers 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**

10. In deciding on your department's degree of involvement with ICE in immigration enforcement, how important were the following considerations? Circle a number from 1 (not at all important) to 5 (extremely important).

	Not important				Extremely important
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
a. Expense or resources necessary-----	1	2	3	4	5
b. Level of community support for such involvement-----	1	2	3	4	5
c. Concerns about public safety-----	1	2	3	4	5

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11. Which of these statements best describes the direction of your department's current communication with ICE?

- Useful information mostly flows from our department to ICE.
  - Useful information mostly flows from ICE to our department.
  - Useful information flows about equally both ways.
  - We have little or no communication with ICE.
  - Don't know
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12. How has your department's relationship with ICE changed over the past couple of years?

- It has improved
- It has stayed the same
- It has deteriorated/gotten worse
- Not sure/don't know/we have no relationship

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

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13. Regardless of what officers are instructed to do or are supposed to do, **what typically happens** when officers in your department encounter individuals who might be unauthorized immigrants in each of the following situations? **Circle your answers.**

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

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14. Does your department 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
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15. Please indicate how influential each of the following groups or people were in determining your department'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>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>DK</u>
a. Chief or commander and other high-level police officials	----- 1 -----	----- 2 -----	----- 3 -----	----- 4 -----	----- 5 -----	----- 6 -----
b. Local elected officials	----- 1 -----	----- 2 -----	----- 3 -----	----- 4 -----	----- 5 -----	----- 6 -----
c. Prosecutor's or DA's office	----- 1 -----	----- 2 -----	----- 3 -----	----- 4 -----	----- 5 -----	----- 6 -----
d. Legal advisors	----- 1 -----	----- 2 -----	----- 3 -----	----- 4 -----	----- 5 -----	----- 6 -----
e. Fraternal police organization(s)	----- 1 -----	----- 2 -----	----- 3 -----	----- 4 -----	----- 5 -----	----- 6 -----
f. Local police commission	----- 1 -----	----- 2 -----	----- 3 -----	----- 4 -----	----- 5 -----	----- 6 -----
g. Federal officials	----- 1 -----	----- 2 -----	----- 3 -----	----- 4 -----	----- 5 -----	----- 6 -----
h. State officials	----- 1 -----	----- 2 -----	----- 3 -----	----- 4 -----	----- 5 -----	----- 6 -----
i. Courts	----- 1 -----	----- 2 -----	----- 3 -----	----- 4 -----	----- 5 -----	----- 6 -----
j. Another police agency's policy	----- 1 -----	----- 2 -----	----- 3 -----	----- 4 -----	----- 5 -----	----- 6 -----
k. Organizations representing ethnic or racial groups or immigrants	----- 1 -----	----- 2 -----	----- 3 -----	----- 4 -----	----- 5 -----	----- 6 -----
l. Community group(s) opposed to unauthorized immigration	----- 1 -----	----- 2 -----	----- 3 -----	----- 4 -----	----- 5 -----	----- 6 -----

16. Has your department offered training for sworn officers specifically related to incidents or calls involving unauthorized immigrants?

- Yes      **ANSWER QUESTION 17**
- No        **SKIP TO QUESTION 18**
- Don't know **SKIP TO QUESTION 18**

17. About what percentage of officers has received this training? \_\_\_\_\_%

- Don't know

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

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

19. Does your department... *(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 your city's immigrant communities?-----	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

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Next, a few questions about day laborers. The term "day laborer" in this section refers to individuals who gather to seek manual labor jobs or other informal employment for the day.

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20. Which of the following best describes the day laborer situation in your community?

- Our community has one or more informal day labor hiring sites (on a sidewalk, in a parking lot, etc.).  
**ANSWER QUESTION 21**
- Our community has one or more organized, formal day labor hiring sites (publicly and/or privately funded).  
**ANSWER QUESTION 21**
- Our community does not have any day labor hiring sites. **SKIP TO QUESTION 22**
- Don't know **SKIP TO QUESTION 22**

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21. Does your department utilize any of the following strategies to control day labor activities? *Circle your responses.*

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
a. Contact ICE regarding immigration violations-----	1	2	3
b. Maintain a police presence at day labor hiring sites-----	1	2	3
c. Enforce one or more local or state ordinances (such as public nuisance or traffic ordinances)-----	1	2	3

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

22. How effective are the following strategies in helping your department 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

23. Please indicate the impact, if any, that each of the following groups has had on your department'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. Neighboring municipal police departments -----	1	2	3	4	5	6
b. County sheriff/county police -----	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



24. For each of the following crimes, do you think that unauthorized immigrants in your community 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

25. For each of the following crimes, do you think that unauthorized immigrants in your community 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

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

- Much less likely
- Somewhat less likely
- Equally likely
- Somewhat more likely
- Much more likely
- Not sure

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

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- None/no other policies or practices

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Lastly, a few questions for statistical purposes only. As a reminder, all of your answers are completely confidential. If you are not the chief/commander in your department, please give answers as they pertain to the Chief.

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28. How many sworn officers are in your department? \_\_\_\_\_ *Number of officers*

Not sure

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29. Of the sworn officers in your department, 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

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30. How long have you worked in law enforcement?

*Enter number of years; round to nearest year* \_\_\_\_\_

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31. How long have you served as Chief or Commander in your current department?

*Enter number of years; round to nearest year* \_\_\_\_\_

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32. Are you...  Male  Female

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33. In what year were you born? \_\_\_\_\_ *Enter year (YYYY)*

34. 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** \_\_\_\_\_
- 

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

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

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

Job Title \_\_\_\_\_

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37. 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 departments may be assuming new law-enforcement responsibilities as localities focus more on immigration issues. This survey is designed to learn more about what departments 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 local law-enforcement agencies across the United States in communities that have populations below 65,000 and are located in counties with significant foreign-born populations. We have recently conducted separate surveys of municipalities with larger populations and of county sheriff's offices.

**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 police 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 communities.

**Who can I contact for more information?** If you have any questions about the confidentiality and protection of information from this survey, you may either contact Mike McLaen ([Mike.McLaen@asu.edu](mailto: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 departments helped review this survey. Their input was important in formulating questions and helping us to better understand the issues from their perspective.