



Law Enforcement Suicide Data Collection



Task Force

The LESDC Task Force is comprised of the following national organizations and law enforcement representatives :

- Federal, state, local, and tribal agency representatives
- National Native American Law Enforcement Association
- Association of State Uniform Crime Reporting Programs
- International Association of Chiefs of Police
- Major Cities Chiefs Association
- National Sheriffs' Association
- Subject matter experts in the field of law enforcement mental health
- State Statistical Analysis Center Representative
- Executive Office for United States Attorneys
- The Bureau of Justice Statistics
- Blue H.E.L.P.
- Federal Bureau of Prisons

These representatives are instrumental in conceiving reporting requirements, data elements, and publication strategies and concepts.

“Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak. Courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen.”

—Winston Churchill

The Law Enforcement Suicide Data Collection (LESDC) Act was signed into law on June 16, 2020, and charges the Attorney General, acting through the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), to establish a data collection where law enforcement agencies may submit information about their officers who have died by or attempted to commit suicide for the purpose of compiling national statistics on these tragedies.

Scope

As established within the LESDC Act, the FBI will collect at least the following information for each current or former law enforcement officer who commits or attempts suicide:

- the circumstances and events that occurred before each suicide or attempted suicide;
- the general location of each suicide or attempted suicide;
- the demographic information of each law enforcement officer who commits or attempts suicide;
- the occupational category, including criminal investigator, corrections officer, line of duty officer, 911 dispatch operator, of each law enforcement officer who commits or attempts suicide; and
- the method used in each suicide or attempted suicide.

What Qualifies an Incident for Submission into the LESDC?

An incident will be applicable for submission if the following terms apply:

- The incident is submitted by a law enforcement agency, which is defined within the LESDC Act as “a federal, state, local, or tribal 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.”
- The subject of the incident is a law enforcement officer, which is defined within the LESDC Act as “any 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.”
- The incident occurred within a “state,” which is defined in the LESDC Act as “each of the several states, the District of Columbia, and any commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States.”

LESDC Data Elements

The LESDC includes (but is not limited to) the following data elements:

- Type of incident—suicide or attempted suicide

Administrative Data

- Originating agency identifier number (agency name and address information)
- Occupation of individual

Personal Data Relative to the Incident

- Age at time of suicide or attempted suicide
- Demographics
- Race (all that apply)
- Total law enforcement work experience
- Position status at time of incident
- Military veteran and branch of service
- Marital status and number of children

General Data Pertaining to the Incident

- Location of incident
- Type of location
- Manner of suicide or attempted suicide
- Was the incident a murder/suicide or attempted murder/suicide
 - If yes, how many victims and type of victims
- If applicable, type of notification left

Circumstances

- Incident information (potential factors known prior to incident)
- Individual self-reporting information (potential factors made known prior to incident)
- Agency awareness information (potential factors documented within the employing agency)
- Additional information

Wellness Policy and Training

- Health and wellness available to agency employees (as applicable)

Submission of Data

Agencies may begin submitting incident information to the LESDC on January 1, 2022, via the Law Enforcement Enterprise Portal at www.cjis.gov. Applicable incidents are those that occur on January 1, 2022, and after.

Submissions to the LESDC are voluntary unless state-specific legislation exists that mandates an agency to report applicable data.

Key Events:

June 2020

The LESDC Act was signed into law.

January 2021

The LESDC Task Force convened for the first in a series of meetings.

June 2021 – October 2021

The LESDC pilot study.

January 2022

The LESDC will begin collecting data from agencies nationwide.

June 2022

The FBI will publish the first LESDC report.

LESDC Reports

In accordance with the LESDC Act, the FBI will publish the first report in mid-2022—and annually thereafter—on the FBI's Crime Data Explorer website.

Contact Information

Attention: Crime and Law Enforcement Statistics Unit

Email: LESDC@fbi.gov

LESDC Phone: 304-625-5370