

When surveys are conducted at multiple levels that correspond to different stages of sample selection, the sample design must take into account multiple and sometimes competing goals. With The Survey of Law Enforcement Personnel in Schools (SLEPS), the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) seeks to measure the prevalence, roles, functions, and regular activities of police officers assigned to schools in the United States. Some measures (e.g. the infrastructure that supports officers in schools, training and hiring practices), are best addressed by the law enforcement agencies themselves while others (e.g. the roles of officers within schools and their interactions with schools and students) are best addressed by the officers. Because key measures must be collected both from the law enforcement agencies and the officers themselves, law enforcement agencies serve not only as the responding units for the agency-level sample, but also as primary sampling units for the officer-level sample. It is therefore important that the survey design balances efficiency for estimates at both levels. We discuss the development of the optimal sample design for SLEPS that balanced these competing goals to allow for precise estimates for both surveys.