



VALUES ACT

SENATE BILL 54
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2024

Rob Bonta, Attorney General
California Department of Justice
California Justice Information Services Division
Justice Data & Investigative Services Bureau
Criminal Justice Statistics Center

PURPOSE

This report publishes specified agency data on the arrests made by joint task forces. This data is collected by the California Department of Justice (DOJ) pursuant to the California Values Act.

BACKGROUND & DEFINITIONS

The California Values Act is codified in California Government Code section 7284 et seq., and was enacted by Senate Bill 54 (Chapter 495, Statutes of 2017). The Values Act defines the circumstances under which California law enforcement agencies (LEAs) may assist in the enforcement of federal immigration laws and participate in joint law enforcement task forces, and mandates that California LEAs report certain statistics to DOJ.

For these purposes, a “joint law enforcement task force” is defined as “at least one California LEA collaborating, engaging, or partnering with at least one federal law enforcement agency in investigating federal or state crimes” (Government Code section 7284.4, subdivision (g)). Therefore, there is no reporting requirement under these provisions unless one of the participants in the task force is a federal LEA. A joint law enforcement task force shall report task force activities to DOJ if a California LEA on the task force “has agreed to dedicate personnel or resources on an ongoing basis” when collaborating, engaging or partnering with at least one federal LEA. (Government Code section 7284.6, subdivision (c)(1)). An “ongoing basis” means more than one interaction with any federal, state, or local LEA on a task force to discuss task force operations. Accordingly, isolated interactions with a federal LEA are not subject to task force provisions or reporting requirements of the Values Act because the California LEA did not dedicate personnel or resources to the task force on an ongoing basis.

If multiple California LEAs participate in a joint law enforcement task force, only one California LEA, to be designated by the task force, shall submit the report on behalf of the task force. The number of arrests reported to DOJ under this provision shall include all known arrests made by federal LEAs that are participating in the task force.

The Values Act prohibits California LEAs from making or participating in arrests, investigations, interrogations, detaining persons, or detecting persons based on immigration enforcement, even as part of the task force, unless the arrest meets the conditions of Government Code section 7284.6, subdivision (b)(1).

STATUTORY REQUIREMENT FOR THIS REPORT

Government Code section 7284.6 subdivision (d) states:

The Attorney General, by March 1, 2019, and annually thereafter, shall report on the total number of arrests made by joint law enforcement task forces, and the total number of arrests made for the purpose of immigration enforcement by all task force participants, including federal law enforcement agencies. To the extent that disclosure of a particular item of information would endanger the safety of a person involved in an investigation, or would endanger the successful completion of the investigation or a related investigation, that information shall not be included in the Attorney General’s report. The Attorney General shall post the reports required by this subdivision on the Attorney General’s web site.

REPORTING PROCESS

California LEAs submit this data to the DOJ's Criminal Justice Statistics Center (CJSC). CJSC serves as the statewide repository for several data collections and works with the California LEAs as data owners to support their successful submissions. As data is submitted, CJSC is responsible for compiling and sharing the agency information it receives. While outreach is a top priority, there are some challenges that add complexity to the overall reporting process. Additional information is provided below.

Outreach Efforts

Effective January 4, 2018, all California LEAs were required to begin collecting this data pursuant to the Values Act for submission to DOJ beginning on January 4, 2019.

The reporting cycle for 2024, which commenced on January 4, 2025, represents the seventh year for this mandated data collection. For 2024, using the established contact list from 2018-2023, letters, emails, and phone calls to mandated reporting agencies began in December 2024, and continued through the reporting cycle. DOJ also issued an updated Information Bulletin on January 17, 2025, to remind agencies of their reporting responsibilities pursuant to the Values Act.

Reporting Challenges

Reporting challenges, include the:

- **Annual Timeline:** The Values Act requires DOJ to publish the annual report containing the prior calendar year's data by March 1st of each year. Therefore, all 730+ reporting LEAs report at the same time and all submissions received, reminder contacts, and data quality control efforts occur in a very short timeframe. Given the need to report a full year of data and the statutorily mandated publication date, DOJ requires the California LEAs to report no later than January 14, 2025, which only affords DOJ two weeks in January to make reminder calls, ensure all forms are received properly, quality control data, and produce a publication-ready report.
- **Completeness Relies on the Data Owners:** Because there is no list or registry of all joint task forces for comparison, DOJ reports information based on the submissions it receives from LEAs and cannot verify the completeness or accuracy of this data. California LEAs are the data owners. DOJ conducts outreach and quality control reviews, but ultimately California LEAs are responsible for the accuracy of their submissions.
- **Manual Processes:** Currently, reporting for this data set is a manual submission process. This adds complexity since DOJ must key-in the data received and there is not an automated validation process to streamline the review process.

TASK FORCE DATA

All identified California LEAs participated in reporting for 2024.

The total number of arrests reported by joint law enforcement task forces in 2024 was 18,085.

The total number of arrests reported for the purpose of immigration enforcement by task force participants in 2024 was 12.

