Law enforcement agencies can collect data in a variety of ways. The following methods can be used to gather baseline and follow-up information. Although many agencies may feel comfortable with independent data collection, including a research partner can be beneficial.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>METHOD</th>
<th>STRENGTHS</th>
<th>CONSIDERATIONS</th>
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</table>
| Law enforcement agency—Existing records and documents (policies and procedures, community demographics, crime data) | ◮ Low or no cost to assemble  
 ◮ Wide range of information available  
 ◮ May help identify outcomes or metrics for further evaluation | ◮ Might not include all needed information  
 ◮ Might not be current |
| Community partner agencies—Existing records and documents (policies and procedures, demographics of populations served, service data) | ◮ Low or no cost to assemble  
 ◮ Wide range of information available | ◮ Might not include all needed information  
 ◮ Might not be current  
 ◮ May have to repeat at multiple agencies to obtain comprehensive data  
 ◮ May be unable to release certain data due to legal or policy restrictions |
| Surveys (internal personnel, community partner agencies, community members, crime victims) | ◮ Anonymity of respondents may increase openness  
 ◮ May be conducted in different ways (online, by mail, by phone)  
 ◮ May be more efficient and cost-effective, especially online and app-based surveys  
 ◮ Feasible to conduct on a continuing basis  
 ◮ May provide information not usually available to law enforcement agencies | ◮ May benefit from researcher assistance to develop questions  
 ◮ May have a low response rate  
 ◮ May involve costs (e.g., printing, mailing, researcher fees)  
 ◮ Requires expertise to design, implement, and analyze data  
 ◮ Responses may be unrepresentative of the target population  
 ◮ May provide only aggregate or regional data |
| SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) Analysis | ◮ May elicit detailed feedback from a large group of stakeholders at one time  
 ◮ May help strengthen partnerships and identify collaboration opportunities | ◮ Requires a neutral, skilled facilitator  
 ◮ May be time-consuming |