



COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS

Federal, State, and Local Policing Perform the Same Duties

State and local governments are responsible for fighting ordinary crime. Local police departments patrol and respond to calls for service in communities. State police typically handle highways and many rural areas that lack a police department or sheriff's office. The duties of federal law enforcement vary according to the agency. Dozens of federal law enforcement agencies exist, including the Library of Congress Police, Defense Criminal Investigative

Service, and the FBI. For example, the FBI, a bureau in the Department of Justice, is responsible for law enforcement in the areas of domestic and international terrorism, counterintelligence, public corruption, civil rights, organized crime, white-collar crime, and cybercrime. The FBI is considered a national security and intelligence organization, not a national police force. A law enforcement agency is any agency empowered to enforce U.S. laws.