Federal Bureau of Investigation

UCR Program
Criminal Justice Information Services Division

Quarterly

Program News

Section 1— NIBRS Transition Updates and Resources

To assist with the transition from submitting Summary Reporting System (SRS) data to submitting National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) data, the *UCR Program Quarterly* will feature a new section, "NIBRS Transition Updates and Resources." This section will guide agencies step-by-step in the transition process and serve as a resource for transitioning agencies.

Countdown to NIBRS: Are you ready?

With the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program's retirement date for SRS set for January 1, 2021, law enforcement agencies are urged to start now and prepare for the implementation of NIBRS. For agencies that aren't already NIBRS-compliant, progress toward NIBRS implementation generally includes the following steps:

- ❖ Naming a NIBRS transition manager/UCR contact at the agency to work with the state UCR Program.
- ❖ Identifying necessary funding.
- ❖ Securing services for building or upgrading NIBRS-compliant systems.
- ❖ Mapping of local and state statutes to NIBRS offenses.
- ❖ Establishing a state technical specification (if the state collections require additional data elements).
- ❖ Beginning and completing the NIBRS certification process to comply with the *NIBRS Technical Specification,* Version 3.0, or newer.
- ❖ Submitting NIBRS data.

Given the work needed to convert an agency's records management system (RMS) from SRS to NIBRS, the 2018 calendar year is pivotal to allow an agency enough time to plan and secure resources to be ready by the January 1, 2021, deadline.

Potential funding sources

When it comes to paying for an RMS, some agencies secure funding through their budget process. However, when an agency cannot absorb the full cost, there are other options to consider, such as:

- ❖ Partnering with one or more jurisdictions in a region to share the cost of an RMS.
- ❖ Requesting the use of a larger agency's system for a nominal fee.
- ❖ Applying for grant money.

The Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program, which is administered through the Bureau of Justice Assistance, has funds available for a number of law enforcement initiatives, including the NIBRS transition. Information about eligibility requirements is available at www.bja.gov/jag.

Another grant opportunity is available through the National Crime Statistics Exchange (NCS-X) initiative, a joint effort between the FBI and the Bureau of Justice Statistics to provide funding for select state UCR Programs and 400 local agencies. Two solicitations are tentatively scheduled in 2018. Funding for the NCS-X initiative and all its solicitations ends in 2018. More information is available at www.bjs.gov/content/ncsx.cfm.

Planning and implementation support

The FBI's UCR Program can assist local, state, tribal, and federal agencies to achieve effective NIBRS reporting. FBI resources are available without charge and include readiness assessment, programming and technical support, data integration assistance, NIBRS training, outreach (including media and community education), and subject matter expertise to ensure an agency reaches certification. More information and assistance is available on the NIBRS' website at https://ucr.fbi.gov/nibrs-overview, by telephone at 304-625-9999, or by e-mail at UCR-NIBRS@fbi.gov.

Section 2— Message to Program Participants

Update on the National Use-of-Force Data Collection

The FBI launched a 6-month National Use-of-Force (UoF) Data Collection pilot study that concluded on December 31, 2017. Ninety-eight law enforcement agencies participated in the pilot study, and a status report has been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval. Once OMB approves the report, the FBI anticipates a nationwide collection will be launched in 2018.

Participation in the UoF Data Collection is voluntary. The data collection will promote transparency between law enforcement and the communities they serve by capturing UoF incidents that result in the death or serious bodily injury of a person, as well as when a law enforcement officer discharges a firearm at or in the direction of a person.

The FBI's UCR Program defines serious bodily injury as "bodily injury that involves a substantial risk of death, unconsciousness, protracted and obvious disfigurement, or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ, or mental faculty." This definition is based, in part, on 18 *United States Code* Section 2246 (4).

The FBI is aware of budget and time constraints already placed upon law enforcement agencies. To decrease financial and time burdens, the FBI developed two methods to submit UoF data. Agencies may use the UoF service on the Law Enforcement Enterprise Portal (LEEP) and enter applicable UoF incidents individually, or agencies may use bulk submissions, which allow submitters to manage multiple agencies simultaneously. Neither option requires any financial investment.

The FBI encourages all agencies and states to obtain LEEP accounts by going to www.cjis.gov to start the process.

Agencies with questions should visit www.fbi.gov/useofforce, send an e-mail to useofforce@fbi.gov, or call 304-625-9998.

Update on the UCR Tech Refresh

Currently, the FBI's UCR Program is preparing to deploy the UCR Tech Refresh (UCR-TR) System, which will improve the accuracy and timeliness of crime data collected and the delivery process. The system is designed to manage the acquisition, development, and integration of a new and

improved crime data collection. Once operational, the UCR-TR will replace the existing antiquated mainframe system with a more robust system and will provide:

❖ Enhanced data management tools for greater efficiency in data collection, processing, and maintenance of crime data.
❖ Automated processes to collect, ingest, and update existing data as necessary.
❖ Tailored reports on an as-needed basis.
❖ A streamlined publication process.
❖ The opportunity for contributors to submit monthly statistics.

The goal of the UCR-TR is to provide ease-of-use features, in-depth crime analysis capabilities, and integrated software tools that are not restricted to specific platforms. The interface is designed to:

❖ Improve service to UCR data contributors to provide greater transparency.
❖ Furnish immediate data error feedback and querying.
❖ Provide the capability to create and export customized reports in multiple electronic file formats that the agency can print out or save electronically.

Program staff have begun to transition state Programs from the UCR legacy system to the UCR-TR; this transition will provide data quality capability to ensure accuracy and reliability of data and will be able to impute and estimate data for missing values. The UCR-TR will run simultaneously with the existing mainframe computer until the transition is completed in September. (Please note that data for the 2017 editions of *Crime in the United States [CIUS], Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted [LEOKA], Hate Crime Statistics,* and *National Incident-Based Reporting System [NIBRS]* will come from the UCR Program's legacy system.)

UCR Program participants should expect to receive UCR-TR "Spotlight" e-mails detailing the enhancements of the system.

Agencies with questions about the transition from the UCR legacy system to the UCR-TR should send an e-mail to ucr@fbi.gov.

Updates to the Crime Data Explorer

The FBI implemented the Crime Data Explorer (CDE) on June 30, 2017, to give law enforcement, the media, academia, and the public the ability to easily search and display data within the UCR system. The CDE is a web-based platform to query, view, and make crime data available for

download. This technology perpetually changes the value of UCR data contributions through the program's ability to provide a more accurate and timely crime collection to the public.

The system is fully operational and remains stable. No major issues have been identified since its deployment, and it is anticipated that this modernization effort will continuously increase timeliness, accessibility, flexibility, and functionality of UCR. Since its deployment, the CDE has met its established goals: to make UCR crime statistics easier to access and understand; and to improve law enforcement's ability to manage resources, plan operations, and better protect the public. To date, analytical data have indicated a monthly increase in visits to the CDE, not only in the United States, but in India, the United Kingdom, Canada, France, Germany, Taiwan, Spain, Vietnam, and Brazil as well.

The CDE enables users to:
- ❖ Search, sort, and compare estimated state and national data as well as reported agency-level crime statistics from 1995 to the present by location, time, and type of crime.
- ❖ Access data by using a national map or various dropdown filters.
- ❖ View charts and graphs of specific demographics for NIBRS victim and offender data for agencies and states.
- ❖ Download selected reports, NIBRS data, and other bulk datasets.
- ❖ View NIBRS victim and offender demographics.

In addition, developers can use an application programming interface to make interactive applications to share large amounts of data in meaningful ways.

The CDE was recently updated to include significant changes to the way NIBRS charts and graphs are visually presented, police employment data (PED) was added, and the Downloads and Documentation page was improved. Updates and fixes to bugs in the system include:

- ❖ NIBRS demographics are now available at a yearly and aggregate level as opposed to only being viewable at an 11-year aggregate. This feature is available for all NIBRS agencies at an agency, state, and national level.
- ❖ More context has been added to the way charts and graphs are visually presented so users can understand the information with ease. This allows a user to obtain specific NIBRS data without having to use the bulk download files.
- ❖ In addition to crime statistics data, users can also view PED about a given location on every page. This allows users to view PED for an agency, state, or the nation based on the data range.
- ❖ The Downloads and Documentation page provides context to the dataset, such as the size of the download, the format of the data, an example of what is contained in the dataset, and when the dataset was created.

Other corrections include the appropriate counting of NIBRS offense counts based on the type of offense, repairs to the Glossary Term Lookup, and fixes to participation levels to exclude dormant agencies or agencies that are in a "covered by" status.

Users may access the CDE at www.fbi.gov/cde. Agencies with suggestions on improvements to the CDE should send an e-mail to ucr@fbi.gov.

Canvass for best practices in NIBRS

We'd like to hear from you! If your agency has any best practices for transitioning from SRS to NIBRS or any best practices for maintaining and managing a NIBRS repository, the FBI would like to compile this information to share with law enforcement agencies in the process of transitioning to NIBRS. This includes, but isn't limited to:

- ❖ NIBRS usage.
- ❖ Ensuring systems are up-to-date.
- ❖ Any other information that could benefit agencies.

Information about best practices for transitioning to NIBRS will appear in future editions of the *UCR Program Quarterly.* Agencies with questions should contact their state's representative in the Crime Statistics Management Unit (CSMU).

Update on the Quality Assurance Review

The CJIS Audit Unit (CAU) staff is continuing the pilot study of the Statistical Review as part of the Quality Assurance Review (QAR) process. The Statistical Review addresses areas of interest by the FBI's UCR Program office and provides flexibility to focus on specific areas.

The CAU staff will provide an assessment of the Statistical Review process at the fall 2018 Advisory Policy Board's (APB's) UCR Subcommittee meeting and at the next conference of state UCR Programs.

In a Statistical Review:

- ❖ The FBI's UCR Program staff identify two areas of interest to be reviewed as of October 1 of each triennial cycle.
- ❖ CAU auditors examine up to 400 incidents per each area selected and identify incidents to be reviewed using a simple random sample of the state's submissions.
- ❖ The state UCR Program obtains the reports identified for review, such as case files, officer narratives, and any additional information that the state wants to include to support the review.
- ❖ CAU auditors perform a QAR of the materials.
- ❖ The state UCR Program manager receives a copy of the draft report and is asked to respond within 60 days if CAU staff made any recommendations. The report is then reissued as the state QAR Findings Report and includes the response from the state, if applicable.

CAU staff remotely administer QARs only of state UCR Programs with law enforcement agencies that report data via NIBRS.

Details on the QAR process and a list of state UCR Programs that are scheduled for a QAR during fiscal year 2019 may be accessed from the CAU's Special Interest Group (SIG) page on LEEP by clicking on the:

- ❖ Browse/Search SIGs button
- ❖ By Access Type button and select Unrestricted from the dropdown menu
- ❖ CJIS logo
- ❖ General Information tab
- ❖ CJIS Audit Unit Information link
- ❖ UCR Quality Assurance Review link under Audit Information

Corrections to *UCR Program Quarterly* 18-1

Data collected via NIBRS

UCR Program Quarterly 18-1, dated February 2018, incorrectly stated that LEOKA data and UoF data will be collected only through NIBRS as of January 1, 2021. Although agencies will report LEOKA assault data through NIBRS, agencies will still need to submit the details of line-of-duty deaths and assaults with injuries via the 1-701 (*Analysis of Officers Feloniously Killed and Assaulted*) and 1-701a (*Analysis of Officers Accidentally Killed*) reports, which will be made available electronically in the coming months. In addition, agencies will still report UoF data via the UoF

portal application or bulk submission (current submission methods), not via NIBRS. When the UCR Program retires SRS, agencies will report data for hate crime, cargo theft, and human trafficking as part of their regular NIBRS submissions.

Incorrect wording of error message

If an agency submits data to the UCR Program via the SRS after the agency transitions to NIBRS, the agency will receive an error message. However, *UCR Program Quarterly* 18-1, dated February 2018, provided incorrect wording of that error message. If an agency submits SRS data after it transitions to NIBRS, the agency will receive an error message that states, RETA—RETA2051— SUMMARY DATA SUBMISSION RECEIVED FROM A NIBRS CONTRIBUTING AGENCY.

Contact information for hate crime data submissions

Effective March 31, agencies should send hate crime data submissions to ucrstat@leo.gov. Agencies with questions about hate crime data should send those questions to UCRHateCrime@fbi.gov.

New *CJIS Link* articles are available

❖ Learn how the National Data Exchange helped a Michigan officer link a suspect to multiple crimes and sent the suspect to trial.

❖ Discover how the Texas Department of Public Safety used the Next Generation Identification to solve a child pornography investigation and won the 2017 FBI Biometric Identification Award for its superior work.

❖ Read about Georgia's push to include agencies in the National UoF Data Collection.

❖ Find out how the Texas state UCR Program has implemented its transition from SRS to NIBRS well before the 2021 deadline.

Visit the *CJIS Link* webpage at www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/cjis-link to learn how the programs and services administered by the FBI's CJIS Division can help your agency fight crime.

Electronic availability of the *UCR Program Quarterly*

All editions of the *UCR Program Quarterly* are available via the UCR Program's SIG on LEEP.

To access the *UCR Program Quarterly* on the UCR Program's SIG:

- ❖ Click on the LEO SIG under the Service column.
- ❖ Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on the UCR logo.
- ❖ Click on the UCR Program Quarterly folder.

Users with questions concerning access to LEEP should contact the Online Services and Operations Unit by telephone at 304-625-5555.

Section 3— Clarification to Policy and Procedures

New file naming convention outlined

To ensure consistency in data submissions, enhance efficiency, and decrease the time to process submitted files from the states, effectively immediately, the FBI's UCR Program staff has implemented a new file naming convention for all flat file and Extensible Markup Language (XML) submissions. This file naming convention applies to all agencies—those that submit crime data via SRS and those that submit crime data via NIBRS.

The format of the file naming convention is: Submitter ID_4 digit year 2 digit month 2 digit day_submission format_additional information from the state_Series Number.

In the example TXUCR0001_20161122_NIBRS_Hate Crime_004:

The Submitter ID is TXUCR0001. This is a State Agency Identifier (SAI) number created as a result of the UCR Technical Refreshment. If an agency needs its SAI, staff from that agency should contact the respective state's representative in the CSMU.

The date in the example above is 20161122. This is the date the agency generated the submission, and it must be formatted as YYYYMMDD.

The submission format in the example above is NIBRS. The only two options for this field are SRS for Summary Reporting System or NIBRS for National Incident-Based Reporting System.

The additional information from the state in the example above is Hate Crime. Other possible options for this field include all offense types (e.g., cargo theft, arson, homicide, human trafficking, etc.).

The Series Number in the example above is 004. This is the number of the submission per year. For example, 001 will indicate the first submission of the year. The CSMU representative for each respective state will provide this number.

Agencies with questions about the file naming convention should contact their state's representative in CSMU.

Trainer talk

The CJIS Division supports the transition of all agencies to submit crime data via NIBRS. Because of this, effective October 1, 2016, CJIS Division trainers began focusing their efforts on NIBRS and are no longer providing live training on SRS. However, the UCR Program has furnished computer-based training on the basics of SRS, which is available on LEEP. In addition, the trainers will continue to answer SRS-related questions via e-mail and facsimile.

Each quarter, Trainer Talk features questions that the trainers from the FBI's UCR Program have received about classifying and scoring offenses in UCR. The trainers answer questions for both NIBRS and SRS. The information they provide is for UCR Program reporting purposes and may not reflect the manner in which an offender(s) is charged. When requesting the classification and scoring of incidents, law enforcement agencies and state program personnel are asked to provide the entire incident report so that the UCR trainers can provide the most accurate assessment. Agencies may submit incident reports by e-mail to UCRtrainers@leo.gov or by facsimile to 304-625-5599. Agency staff with questions should contact the trainers' e-mail at UCRtrainers@leo.gov.

Question

An individual went missing from Agency A's jurisdiction. He was found dead in Agency B's jurisdiction, and the medical examiner's office ruled the incident a homicide. The investigation has not proven an exact location of the murder. Should law enforcement in Agency A report the murder to the UCR Program, or should law enforcement in Agency B?

Answer

NIBRS agencies: Agency B should report the murder. If the investigation later reveals that the individual was killed in Agency A's jurisdiction and then left in Agency B's jurisdiction, then Agency B would delete the record, and Agency A would report the incident.

SRS agencies: Agency B should report the murder. If the investigation later reveals that the individual was killed in Agency A's jurisdiction and then left in Agency B's jurisdiction, then Agency B would unfound the record, and Agency A would report the incident.

Question

We had an incident where an individual set himself/herself on fire while in his/her home, killing his/her. The autopsy report ruled the incident as a suicide. The fire marshal concluded that the individual had poured gasoline throughout a bedroom in the home and lit the bedroom on fire. Should this be classified and scored as an arson?

Answer

NIBRS agencies: Yes. For UCR purposes, the agency should classify and score this incident as an Arson (Offense Code 200) and clear the incident exceptionally by the death of the offender. Because the individual committed suicide, the UCR Program does not collect information about the death.)

SRS agencies: Yes. The agency should classify and score this incident as an Arson on the *Monthly Return of Arson Offenses Known to Law Enforcement* report and clear the incident exceptionally by the death of the offender. Because the individual committed suicide, the UCR Program does not collect information about the death.

Section 4— Publication Updates and Notifications

Changes to the 2017 edition of *Crime in the United States*

Before the presentation of *CIUS, 2016,* the UCR Program staff analyzed web statistics to determine which tables users accessed the most. Through the analysis, the FBI identified several tables that were viewed a minimal number of times. As a result, the FBI's UCR Program staff published fewer tables in the 2016 edition of *CIUS* than in previous editions.

However, in response to feedback from the user community, the UCR Program has published the supplemental tables to C*IUS, 2016,* on the UCR page of the FBI's website. In addition, the staff reevaluated the publication and the format of *CIUS, 2017;* the 2017 edition of *CIUS* will follow the format of the 2015 edition of *CIUS* in terms of tabular data.

The FBI will present *CIUS, 2017,* in the fall of 2018. When the data are published in *CIUS, 2017,* the 2017 data will be updated on the CDE as well.

Changes to the publication of *Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted* data

To provide a more timely release of data, the FBI's UCR Program staff has modified the publication schedule for *LEOKA* and are publishing LEOKA data in three installments in 2018.

On May 10, the FBI's UCR Program staff presented tables and narratives of law enforcement officers feloniously and accidentally killed and statistics about federal officers killed and assaulted. The information was released in conjunction with Police Week.

In the summer, the FBI's UCR Program staff will release tables containing data about law enforcement officers who were assaulted, and in the fall, the FBI's UCR Program staff will release detailed assault data on law enforcement officers who were assaulted and injured with firearms, knives, or other cutting instruments.

All of the information will be available on the FBI's website at www.fbi.gov.

Updated NIBRS documents available online

The FBI's UCR Program staff has updated two NIBRS documents on the FBI's website to reflect changes to NIBRS that will take effect on January 1, 2019.

The documents are the *2019 National Incident-Based Reporting System User Manual,* Version 1.0, dated March 30, 2018, and the *2019 National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) Technical Specification,* Version 1.0, dated March 30, 2018. Both documents are available at https://ucr.fbi.gov/.

The *2019 National Incident-Based Reporting System User Manual,* Version 1.0, assists law enforcement agencies in reporting their crime statistics via NIBRS. In addition to other topics, the manual addresses NIBRS policies, the types of offenses reported, and guidelines for an agency to become certified to submit NIBRS data to the FBI.

The *2019 National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) Technical Specification,* Version 1.0, provides the technical information needed to program record management systems to report NIBRS data.