

May 9, 2016

TO: State Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program Managers

RE: The FBI's Transition to a National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS)-Only Data Collection

Recent events across the nation have underscored the importance of having informed conversations about policing and crime policy. The FBI has a longstanding tradition of collecting and providing crime statistics for transparency and accountability in policing through its UCR Program. However, the time for improvement and the need for more precise data has arrived. After careful consideration, the FBI plans to discontinue its Summary Reporting System (SRS) for crime statistics and fully transition the UCR Program to the data-rich National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) data collection. This transition is supported by the Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Advisory Policy Board (APB), the International Association of Chiefs of Police, Major Cities Chiefs Association, Major County Sheriffs' Association, and the National Sheriffs' Association, as well as the Executive Branch of our government. On February 9, 2016, I concurred with the APB recommendation:

“The FBI UCR Program will transition to a NIBRS-only data collection by January 1, 2021, and will evaluate the probability of achieving that goal on an annual basis. Federal, state, local, and tribal agencies unable to meet the five year transition and who have committed to transitioning to NIBRS will collaborate with the FBI CJIS to develop a transition plan and timeline for conversion.”

By transitioning to a NIBRS-only data collection over the next five years, the FBI will have faster access to more robust data that is necessary to show how safe our communities are and to help law enforcement officials and municipal leaders better allocate resources to prevent and combat crime in their jurisdictions. Through the NIBRS, law enforcement agencies can meet the critical elements of transparency and accountability.

Already, 31 percent of participating agencies report their UCR statistics via the NIBRS. In the last few years, the FBI and the Bureau of Justice Statistics have partnered to increase the number of NIBRS participants through the National Crime Statistics Exchange (NCS-X) initiative. Currently, the FBI and the NCS-X team are working with local and state agencies as well as other law enforcement organizations across the country to improve the way crime data is reported. The FBI understands this transition comes with a financial burden and is committed to helping state UCR programs and the 400 agencies identified through the NCS-X initiative to obtain necessary resources to transition to NIBRS.

The NIBRS is the pathway to richer crime statistics that can improve our ability to address the important issues we face today. As we move forward, the transition from the SRS to

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New UCR Project

New UCR Project

The Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division has chartered the FBI's New Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Project to manage the acquisition, development, and integration of a new and improved data collection system. This project is a top priority for the CJIS Division and the FBI UCR Program. The stated goal for this project is to improve the accuracy and timeliness of the crime data collection and delivery process. The national UCR Program plans to have the New UCR System fully operational in 2017. The New UCR Project will:

- Provide enhanced data management tools for greater efficiency in data collection, processing and maintenance of crime data.
- Provide automated processes.
- Provide tailored reports on an as-needed basis.
- Provide a streamlined publication process that will give users quicker access to the data.

In conjunction with the new UCR development, the National UCR Program staff is working to develop the Crime Data Explorer (CDE), which will provide a more efficient way of disseminating data to the user community. The CDE will be a web-based platform solution to query, view, and make crime data available for download. This new technology will perpetually change the UCR data contributions through the program's ability to provide a more accurate and timely crime collection to the American public. The CDE will allow users to interact with the national crime data in a more intuitive and easy manner.

New UCR Project Status—September 2016

The New UCR System has moved from a development status to Initial Operating Capability. Currently, the new system is ingesting data for seven pilot states with a goal to have all submitting states and agencies operational in the new system by January, 2017. The new system will run in parallel with the existing mainframe until achieving Final Operational Capability in calendar year 2017.

The Crime Statistics Management Unit has partnered with the General Services Administration's 18F Team to develop the National UCR Program CDE. Delivery of Phase I for this program is scheduled for March 2017.

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Publications

- Crime in the United States (<https://ucr.fbi.gov/ucr-publications>)
- Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted (LEOKA) (<https://ucr.fbi.gov/ucr-publications>)
- Hate Crime Statistics (<https://ucr.fbi.gov/ucr-publications#Hate>)- National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) (<https://ucr.fbi.gov/ucr-publications>)
- Cargo Theft (pdf) (<https://ucr.fbi.gov/cargo-theft-update>)- Human Trafficking (pdf) (<https://ucr.fbi.gov/human-trafficking>)

General Resources

- A Word About UCR Data (<https://ucr.fbi.gov/word>)
- UCR Statistics, Their Proper Use (pdf) (<https://ucr.fbi.gov/ucr-statistics-their-proper-use>)
- Data Quality Guidelines (<https://ucr.fbi.gov/data-quality-guidelines-new>)
- UCR Data Tool (<http://www.ucrdatatool.gov/>)
- UCR Program—Summary of Authorities (<https://ucr.fbi.gov/ucr-programsummary-of-authorities>)
- UCR Program Quarterly (<https://ucr.fbi.gov/ucr-program-quarterly>)
- State Program Bulletins and Newsletters (<https://ucr.fbi.gov/state-program-bulletins-and-newsletters/state-program-bulletins-and-newsletters>)(archives)
- UCR Program Contacts (<https://ucr.fbi.gov/contact-the-ucr-program>)
- State UCR Program Contacts (<https://ucr.fbi.gov/state-ucr-program-contacts-1>)
- UCR Quality Assurance Review (<https://ucr.fbi.gov/quality-assurance>)- Related Sites (<https://ucr.fbi.gov/ucr-related-sites>)

LEOKA Resources

- Overview (<https://ucr.fbi.gov/leoka-resources>)

NIBRS Resources

- NIBRS Overview (<https://ucr.fbi.gov/nibrs-overview>)

Recent Program Updates

- New Rape Definition (pdf) (<https://ucr.fbi.gov/recent-program-updates/reporting-rape-in-2013-revised>)
- New Rape Definition Frequently Asked Questions (pdf) (<https://ucr.fbi.gov/recent-program-updates/new-rape-definition-frequently-asked-questions>)- New Rape Fact Sheet (pdf) (<https://ucr.fbi.gov/new-rape-fact-sheet>)

Data Collections

- National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) (<https://ucr.fbi.gov/ucr-program-data-collections#National>)
- Summary Reporting System (SRS) (<https://ucr.fbi.gov/ucr-program-data-collections#Summary>)
- Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted (LEOKA) (<https://ucr.fbi.gov/ucr-program-data-collections#Law>)
- Hate Crime Statistics (<https://ucr.fbi.gov/ucr-program-data-collections>)
- Cargo Theft (<https://ucr.fbi.gov/ucr-program-data-collections#Cargo>)

Documentation

- Technical Specifications (<https://ucr.fbi.gov/technical-specifications>)
- User Manuals (<https://ucr.fbi.gov/user-manuals>)

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the NIBRS is crucial to our success in providing better, more meaningful national crime data.

Sincerely yours,

James B. Comey
Director