



Division of Criminal Justice Services

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

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Executive Deputy Commissioner

TO: All Crime Reporting Agencies
FROM: Adam Dean, Chief, New York State Crime Reporting Program
DATE: July 5, 2016
SUBJECT: UCR Program Transitioning to NIBRS-Only Data Collection

REPORTING ALERT: UCR PROGRAM TRANSITIONING TO NIBRS-ONLY DATA COLLECTION

In February 2016, the FBI announced that the UCR Program will transition from the Summary Reporting System (SRS) to the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) by January 1, 2021. The FBI Director James Comey formally announced these changes on June 10, 2016 in the attached letter.

What is Incident-Based Reporting (IBR)?

Incident-based reporting (IBR) is a streamlined way of submitting a police department's required crime reports. IBR replaces multiple reports with a single monthly computerized submission. Instead of summarizing key events, IBR captures specific incident details, including victim and offender demographics and relationships, the time of the day and location, weapons used, the nature of the victim injuries, property stolen or damaged, and whether an arrest occurred. Data are collected on all crimes recorded in an incident, not just the most serious offenses.

How will DCJS modify the New York State Crime Reporting Program to prepare for this transition?

Currently, the New York State Crime Reporting Program (NYSCRP) collects monthly crime data from 550 local reporting agencies with 280 agencies participating in New York State's IBR (NYSIBR) program. The NYSIBR Program is modelled after NIBRS and collects 54 of the 58 required data variables. DCJS has begun modifying the NYSIBR database and programming to incorporate the four missing data elements collected by NIBRS. Once completed, the NYSCRP will have the ability to accept the required NIBRS data elements from local crime reporting agencies, and forward that information on to the federal crime reporting program administered by the FBI.

Agencies currently engaged in records management system (RMS) re-design or modification should contact DCJS to ensure their proposed specifications will meet New York State and Federal IBR specifications.

What changes are required by local reporting agencies?

NYS Incident-Based Reporting (NYSIBR) agencies currently collect all but four of the NIBRS data variables. NYSIBR agencies will need to work with local RMS vendors to modify their user interface and submission file layout to collect and report the data elements that the NYSIBR program does not collect. DCJS will provide new technical specifications for the NYSIBR program that will include information on the layout of the four missing data elements as soon as they become available.

Summary based reporting (Traditional UCR) agencies will have to assess their records management system's current ability to collect and transmit NYSIBR data to DCJS. Summary UCR agencies interested in transitioning to NYSIBR should contact the DCJS Crime Reporting Unit for further information and assistance.

Please call the DCJS Crime Reporting Unit at (518) 485-7942 or email infonysucr@dcjs.ny.gov if you have any questions or to further discuss the FBI's commitment to the NIBRS transition.



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Office of the Director

Washington, D.C. 20535-0001

June 10, 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. But we need to get better.

After careful consideration, the FBI will discontinue its Summary Reporting System (SRS) for crime statistics and fully transition the UCR Program to the data-rich NIBRS data collection. On February 9, 2016, I concurred with the following Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Advisory Policy Board (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.”

This transition is supported by the CJIS 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.

Transitioning to a NIBRS-only data collection will happen over the next five years. Once complete, 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 and municipal leaders better allocate resources to prevent and combat crime. Through the NIBRS, law enforcement agencies can be more transparent and accountable to the communities they serve.

To: State Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program Managers
Re: The FBI's Transition to a National Incident-Based
Reporting System (NIBRS)-Only Data Collection

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 worked 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.

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 the NIBRS is crucial to our success in providing better, more meaningful national crime data. I'm grateful for your help.

Sincerely yours,



James B. Comey
Director