Since 1929, crime statistics in the United States have been generated from counts of the total number of offenses (murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, etc.), that are reported by law enforcement agencies (LEAs) to state or federal Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) programs. Today, nearly nine decades later, law enforcement executives and policy makers at all levels of government recognize the critical need for more detailed information about crime to develop effective programs and policies that improve public and officer safety, as well as enhance agency operations. In an effort to collect more detailed crime data, the FBI introduced reporting standards for the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) in 1991.

Most LEAs already collect detailed incident-level data—information about victim and offender characteristics, relationships, location of the incident, use of a weapon, seriousness of injuries, and more—for tactical and operational purposes. Over 6,000 LEAs currently report NIBRS data to the FBI, but nearly two-thirds of the remaining U.S. agencies have not adopted it. Moving crime reporting from summary-based offense counts to detailed incident-based data will provide law enforcement, policy makers, and the public with accurate, complete information about crimes and their circumstances.

The **National Crime Statistics Exchange (NCS-X)** initiative is part of a national movement to expand the number of agencies reporting NIBRS data to the FBI so that it can generate national crime statistics. The NCS X initiative is designed to recruit a sample of 400 additional agencies to report NIBRS through their state programs to the FBI. As part of this initiative, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) and the FBI are providing technical assistance and financial support to state UCR programs, and to select state and local LEAs, so that they may collect and report NIBRS data to the FBI.

NCS-X
National Crime Statistics Exchange

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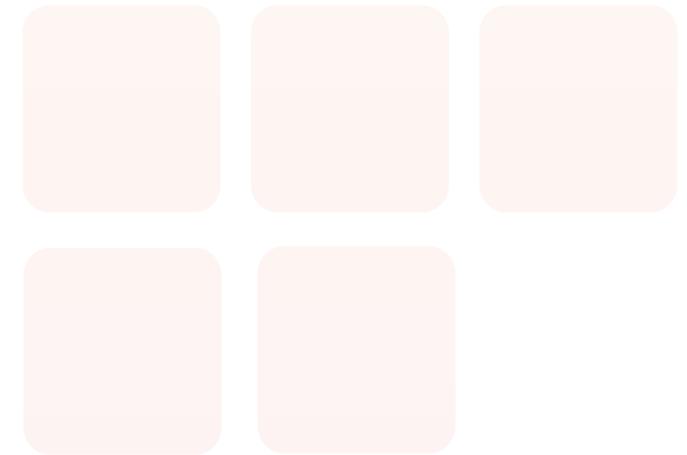Amy.Blasher@ic.fbi.gov
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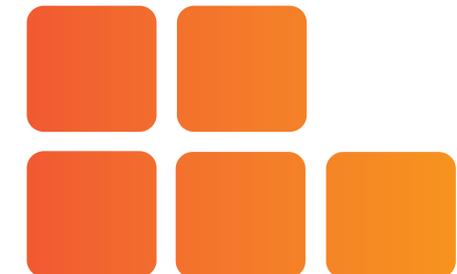## Visit: www.iacp.org/ncsx

www.bjs.gov/content/ncsx.cfm

National Crime Statistics Exchange (NCS-X)

The Evolution of Crime Reporting—From Summary to Incident-Based UCR

**Supported by
Bureau of Justice Statistics &
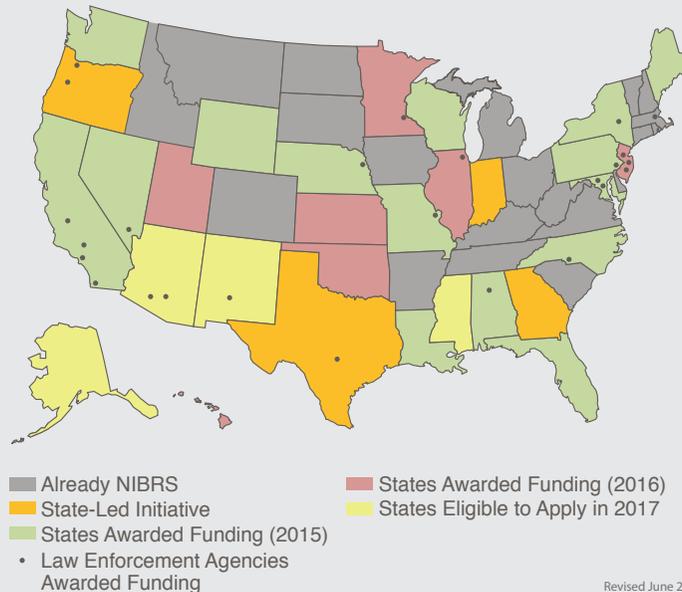Federal Bureau of Investigation**

What Activities Are Supported Through NCS-X?*

State UCR Programs: BJS and FBI are providing funding to state UCR programs to help them prepare for and support more LEAs reporting NIBRS data. Approximately 22 states have received NCS-X funding thus far to plan or implement new or expanded programs. Nearly every state is expected to participate by 2018. In addition to federal activities, several states have their own state-led initiatives.

Local & State LEAs: BJS and FBI have already funded 20 large LEAs in the NCS-X sample to assist them in transitioning to NIBRS reporting (including Chicago [IL] and Montgomery County [MD] police departments); additional agencies are expected to be funded as the NCS-X progresses. The NCS-X Implementation Team is also providing technical assistance to local agencies in planning their transition to NIBRS reporting, including conducting "readiness assessments" to help them identify the technical, administrative, and operational changes required for incident reporting.

Resources: The NCS-X team has developed a *State NIBRS Playbook* that describes the steps necessary for a state to transition to NIBRS, and it is in the process of developing a *Local Agency Playbook* that identifies the key steps for a local LEA agency to consider as it seeks to adopt NIBRS. The team has published articles on *lessons learned* and developed *Case Studies* describing local LEAs' experiences in transitioning to NIBRS. A *Media Kit* is also in development to help agencies engage local media, elected and appointed officials, and the general public in understanding the transition to incident-based reporting. The NCS-X Team is also available to provide onsite assistance as needed.

*Current as of June 2017

NCS-X Activities Across the United States

Already NIBRS
State-Led Initiative
States Awarded Funding (2015)
• Law Enforcement Agencies Awarded Funding
States Awarded Funding (2016)
States Eligible to Apply in 2017

Revised June 2017

All resources, including announcements for future funding opportunities, can be found at www.iacp.org/ncsx or www.bjs.gov/content/ncsx.cfm

"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 (Summary Reporting System) to the NIBRS is crucial to our success in providing better, more meaningful national crime data."

-Former FBI Director James Comey (June 10, 2016), letter to State Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program Managers

What Are the Benefits of NIBRS Participation for a State or Local LEA?

» NIBRS reflects how most agencies currently collect information about crime and enables them to provide details about the context of crime.

» NIBRS offers standardization and enables agencies to more easily share and analyze data and examine crime problems across jurisdictions.

» NIBRS edit checks ensure better-quality data.

» NIBRS will enable agencies to perform advanced crime analysis for strategic and tactical purposes, as well as research for planning and budgeting purposes at the state level.

» In an era when the public is calling for better information about policing, NIBRS provides increased transparency.

Will NIBRS Affect Crime Rates?

A 2013 FBI study showed that moving from UCR Summary to NIBRS reporting has little effect on crime rates. Additional research has shown that very few incidents (<8%) have more than one offense, so that removal of the hierarchy rule is unlikely to cause a big difference in reported crime statistics. A link to this article, and related articles, can be found at www.iacp.org/ncsx.