Welcome to the first edition of NCS-Xpress, a quarterly update on the National Crime Statistics Exchange (NCS-X). NCS-X represents a major step toward the FBI’s goal of transitioning all U.S. law enforcement agencies to reporting crime data to the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) by January 2021.

Funding for NCS-X Agencies Is Available in 2018

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) will release its final NCS-X solicitations in 2018. NCS-X funding is to establish or enhance, through improved automation, the capabilities of NCS-X agencies to report NIBRS data to their state UCR Programs or the FBI.

NCS-X staff will contact eligible agencies as funding opportunities become available. You may also consult the BJS Funding Opportunities page for up-to-date information on solicitations and the list of eligible NCS-X agencies.

Improving Crime Measurement and Reporting

• The Portland Police Bureau (OR) and Honolulu Police Department, both NCS-X agencies, were recently certified to report NIBRS data.

• In summer 2017, the Maine UCR Program successfully completed its NCS-X grant project to modernize its NIBRS data repository.

• Nearly all agencies reporting data to Washington State have transitioned to NIBRS.

• The Texas legislature set a statewide NIBRS transition deadline of September 2019. To date, 144 of its agencies have transitioned to NIBRS.

• In 16 states—Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Montana, New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia—100% of agencies that report UCR data do so in a NIBRS format.

Heading to Our Goal

The NCS-X Initiative seeks to convert 400 selected agencies to NIBRS. More than 30 agencies have transitioned and another 100 are in the process of transitioning. Of the 72 largest agencies with 750 or more full-time sworn officers, 40 have transitioned or are in the process of transitioning.

Announcements

• The NCS-X NIBRS Pre-Certification Tool is live! Agencies can use the tool to test their IBR data submission before beginning the certification process with their state UCR Program or the FBI. Open-source code is available on the BJS website. Updates planned for early 2018 include improved error descriptions and the ability to test XML submissions.

• The FBI launched the Crime Data Explorer, a data tool that allows easier access to crime data reported to NIBRS.

• Customizable presentation slides are available to highlight key details about transitioning to NIBRS.

• The FBI published an article about the evolution of crime data in the October issue of Police Chief magazine.

• NCS-X just released a document describing the Fort Worth Police Department’s transition to NIBRS. To access this summary, or to see descriptions and case studies of other agencies’ NIBRS transitions, visit the NCS-X website under the “Planning/Procurement” tab.
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