Newsbriefs from the WASPC CJIS Department October 2016

NIBRS Repository Replacement Project Moving Forward

As reported in our December 2015 and June 2016 news bulletins, the WASPC CJIS Department was awarded federal grant funds to replace our aging State UCR Program National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) repository. Since January, we have surveyed our stakeholders, issued a Request for Proposal (RFP), reviewed proposals and software from vendors, and selected a vendor. The chosen vendor is IBM Analytics and their product is called NIBRS COPLINK.

The first WASPC/IBM Project Team workshop was held on September 20th and 21st. Project team members will continue work on the customization of NIBRS COPLINK to meet the needs of the Washington State UCR Program. There will be a few changes to the repository which may affect local records management systems; agencies will be notified as soon as they are identified. The first notification was sent via our UCR/NIBRS listserve to all members and in an e-mail to records management system (RMS) vendors.

The notification sent via listserve and to the RMS vendors advised that a NIBRS update must be made in RMS software for implementation by (but not sooner than) January 1, 2017, on the Washington State Technical Specification for Data Element 8A-Bias Motivation, Data Values 61 and 62. Agencies must modify their records management system (RMS) to be in compliance with the FBI Technical Specification for these data values: 61 = Anti-Male and 62 = Anti-Female.

Washington State has been collecting the anti-gender bias motivation since the mid-1990s. With the implementation of NIBRS data collection, the Washington UCR Program assigned data values to accommodate NIBRS collection in 2007; however, the FBI did not begin collecting this bias motivation until 2013 and assigned values opposite of what Washington State had been using. Because the state UCR database software will be replaced in 2017, this is an opportunity to correct this work-around. Any submissions of the anti-gender bias motivation prior to 2017 will be confirmed for accuracy by the State UCR Program staff.

The anticipated timeframe for new State UCR/NIBRS repository to go live is September 2017. Training for users and contributors will be scheduled next year. ⚜

Agencies Must Notify State UCR Program of RMS Change

The State UCR Program works with local law enforcement agencies to be NIBRS-certified for submission to the state and FBI: For agencies that have never submitted NIBRS, this can be a three to six-month certification process; for agencies that are already certified and have been submitting NIBRS files, at least one month's file must be submitted for testing. It is preferable that the same file be submitted from the new system and the old system for comparison purposes to ensure the new system is performing as it should be. If dual submission is not possible, a file from the new RMS can be uploaded into our training database to ensure all the edits and validations are working properly.

Submission of test files protects the agency during the warranty period with an RMS vendor to confirm all deliverables meet the local, state, and federal technical specifications. Please be advised when your agency is considering a different RMS vendor: There is no vendor that is "FBI certified" in every state. Even though the vendor may have an RMS certified to submit to a state repository, they must certify with the state repository in each agency they install. Local agencies have local ordinances that must be mapped to FBI UCR offense codes and each state may have its own technical specification above and beyond the FBI technical specification. Please contact the State UCR Program at WASPC CJIS for more information when you are ready to upgrade your RMS. ⚜

Updates, Concerns, and Reminders

➢ Reminder of Forthcoming FBI Changes:

○ The FBI announced their deadline for the national transition from the Summary Reporting System (SRS) to NIBRS only is January 1, 2021. Washington State is 99% NIBRS already!

○ The collection of both the historical definition of Rape and the revised definition of Rape under the Summary Reporting System (SRS) will end as of January 1, 2017; the FBI will no longer collect and publish Rape data using the historical definition as of January 2017. This is not a problem for our agencies that submit crime statistics via NIBRS. For agencies submitting SRS, the State UCR Program will retain the historical (legacy) Rape offenses but they will not be forwarded to the FBI after December 31, 2016.

○ The FBI has been implementing their new UCR system and notifying the State UCR Programs that they will no longer correct data submissions as "work-around" solutions. Your agency may see more errors returned from the FBI if your records management system (RMS) is not validating for the following Error Numbers: 080, 197, 198, 199, 202, 490, 797, 798, and 799. Please contact your RMS vendor to confirm these edits are in place; refer to the FBI Technical Specification for details: https://ucr.fbi.gov/nibrs_technical_specification_version_3.0_pdf ✹

➢ Great Questions

○ If you are a member of our WUCR/NIBRS listserve, you may have noticed a new feature we started in August called "Great Questions". As explained in our first listserve e-mail with the Great Questions, one of the purposes of listserve is to share information among our law enforcement contributors and users. Daily, CJIS team members receive phone calls and e-mails asking for clarification or direction in reference to crime reporting so we decided to share information based on some of the great questions we receive from those contacts. The information is being sent in the interest of expanding everyone's knowledge about UCR-NIBRS … if one person is brave enough to ask the question, we figured others may be interested in the answer as well! The listserve membership is limited to law enforcement agencies only and to topics related to UCR-NIBRS; to apply, visit this link: http://mailman.listserve.com/listmanager/listinfo/wucr-nibrs ✹

➢ Submission Deadlines

○ If you're unsure about when to submit your NIBRS batch file, send your Summary Reports, or enter data directly into the NIBRS repository to meet the FBI reporting deadline, see the box below. ✹

WASPC
CJIS Department
3060 Willamette Dr NE
Lacey WA 98516
(360) 486-2380
cjis@waspc.org

State Reporting Deadline:
- **Preceding month's data is due by the 15th.**
- **If the 15th falls on the weekend or a holiday, the deadline is extended to the next business day.**

To locate the CJIS Department Programs on the new WASPC website, go to www.waspc.org:

1. Click on "Programs, Projects & Services"

2. Hover over "Crime Statistics (NIBRS)" to open the webpage options or click to find the repository links and staff contact information

3. Click on which page you'd like to visit: Statistics & Reports; Training, Manuals, & Reference; Sex Offender Document Imaging; or CJIS Newsletters & Listserve