

NIBRS Tip of the Month

Data Quality Reports

Data quality reports are sent to contributing agencies to confirm incident details that do not appear to follow the FBI definitions or guidelines or to validate data that are questionable. For example:

Illogical Property Description by Offense

- The property description for stolen and/or recovered property must be logical for the associated offense:
 - If the offense is "Motor Vehicle Theft", it is not logical for the property taken to be "Structure"
 - If the offense is "Larceny/Pocket-Picking", it is not logical for the property taken to be "Heavy Construction Equipment"
 - If the offense is "Theft from a Coin-Operated Machine", it is not logical for the property taken to be "Firearms"

Unknown Victim Information in a Group A Incident

- Typically, the victim information should be known. If an exact age cannot be determined, a four-character age range may be entered to approximate the victim's age.

Weapon Law Violations with Personal Weapons

- A Weapon Law Violation should contain a type of weapon such as firearm, cutting instrument, explosive, incendiary device, or other deadly weapons, not "Personal Weapons" (fist, hands, or feet).
- *See the accompanying Data Quality Reference Guide for more examples.*

