

# **NIBRS Tip of the Month**

## **Warnings versus Errors**

### **What is the difference between a Warning and an Error?**

**Warnings and Errors are both examples of data submission validation results that can occur while reporting in NIBRS. The fundamental difference between the two are:**

- **Warnings are alerts that something in the submission is questionable and the contributor should check to ensure the data are correct. If all is correct, you can ignore the warning.**
- **Errors are alerts that the NIBRS submission is violating a data validation edit and must be corrected.**

#### **What happens if nothing is changed?**

**An incident with a warning is counted in the crime statistics. An incident with an error is not included in the database or statistics.**



#### **For more information:**

**All Warning and Error codes and definitions are listed in the FBI NIBRS Technical Specification Manual.**