Newsbriefs from the WASPC CJIS Department
December 2015

WASPC Awarded Grant To Replace NIBRS Repository

In a March 2013 WASPC CJIS newsletter article, we announced that our State Program NIBRS repository vendor was upgrading our system from SQL technology to a .net platform and that the project plan estimated the upgrade would be completed by mid-May of that year. In our December 2013 newsletter, we advised we were still working with our vendor to fine-tune the functionality of their prototype; however, with the end-of-year data quality work starting, the repository upgrade would be deferred until after the annual report was complete in the spring.

In July 2014, we reported we were back on track with testing the vendor's repository prototype and CJIS team members continued testing the product through the fall until it was time to begin the end-of-year data quality work again. In December 2014, we received notification that the repository vendor had been acquired by another company; after that announcement, there has been no communication from our vendor regarding the upgrade.

Good news arrived the spring of 2015: The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) announced a grant funding opportunity for State Programs to either (1) implement a new state-level incident-based crime reporting program certified as capable of reporting data to the FBI's NIBRS, or (2) expand an existing state-level crime reporting program currently certified to report data to the FBI's NIBRS. Because our aging and failing state repository would not allow us to complete the expansion of our Summary to NIBRS transition of all agencies in the Great State of Washington, we qualified for the grant funding. In the fall of 2015, WASPC was awarded the grant funds we need to replace the State Program NIBRS repository!!

The Request for Proposal (RFP) is being prepared, a stakeholder survey to law enforcement agencies around the state will be available soon, and we expect the RFP to be released in the first quarter of 2016. This effort will truly enhance the NIBRS repository functionality and the report extraction capabilities. The funding was made available because of the FBI initiatives to modernize the national UCR Program and, due to recent events across the nation, there is recognition of the need to collect better and more informative data. If you would like more information on this grant, please visit the BJS National Crime Statistics Exchange (NCS-X) website: http://www.bjs.gov/content/ncsx.cfm

The WASPC CJIS team members are excited for this opportunity to improve the UCR submission process, data quality efforts, and report functions. We will keep you apprised of the replacement project progress and future training dates on our new and improved NIBRS repository. ☸

Updates, Concerns, and Reminders

➢ The end-of-year data quality e-mails were sent to many agencies during the week of December 7th. This year WASPC CJIS included a reference guide explaining why some of the data were questionable. We appreciate all your efforts to review and either verify or update data to ensure accuracy and completeness in preparation for the State and FBI annual crime reports. The deadline for correcting data and submitting missing 2015 reports is February 15, 2016. Thank you!!

➢ One of the most challenging year-end tasks for the WASPC CJIS team is the pursuit of supplemental information on incomplete incident submissions. Because of the high degree of attention given to offenses such as Homicide or other violent crimes, the State and FBI UCR Programs want to ensure any incomplete or incongruent data are reviewed carefully. If you have high profile cases that have not yet been completed, reported, or have errors, please take the time now to review and update the submissions before the February deadline.

➢ As of January 1, 2016, the FBI and State UCR Programs will begin collecting three (3) new Group A offenses: Animal Cruelty (UCR Code 720), Identity Theft (UCR Code 26F), and Hacking/Computer Invasion (UCR Code 26G). In addition, there are four (4) new data values for Data Element 12, Type of Criminal Activity and one (1) new data value for Data Element 9, Location Type. Details were sent on April 30 and on November 18, 2015, in a State UCR Program's listserv e-mail. The FBI published their updated Technical Specification, Version 2.1, to include information regarding these new data; the publication can be located on the FBI's website: https://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/ucr-program-data-collections#National

➢ The FBI Criminal Justice Services Division (CJIS) Advisory Policy Board (APB) met in early December 2015 to discuss several national statistical reporting issues. The FBI Director will review the APB's recommendations based on those discussions and if the recommendations are approved, the State UCR Programs will receive further instructions on the following issues:

- Discontinuation of data collection of historical Rape definition data via the Summary Reporting System by January 2017.

- Combining the Ex-Boyfriend and Ex-Girlfriend Relationship of Victim to Offender Code into one code = Ex-Relationship.

- Discontinuation of the Summary Reporting System by January 1, 2021; the FBI will accept NIBRS-only data after that date.

- Collection of Use of Force statistics on all non-fatal and fatal police officer-involved incidents.

  Remember: no decisions or specifications have been provided yet to the State UCR Programs on these topics; this is informational only. ⚙

"It is an unknown fact that 78% of all people believe everything they read … especially on the Internet." Benjamin Franklin

Information and Resources

➢ As of November 1, 2015, Snohomish County law enforcement agencies began submitting their UCR via NIBRS! Congratulations to all these agencies on their new regional records management system and the successful conclusion of their system replacement project! The State of Washington now has 234 agencies certified to submit NIBRS; 37 counties are 100% NIBRS certified.

➢ To subscribe to the State UCR Program's listserv, visit the website at http://mailman.listserve.com/listmanager/listinfo/wucr-nibrs. This discussion forum is for law enforcement personnel only.

➢ Please call CJIS at (360) 486-2380 before delivering archived sex offense case files; the office closes at 4:00pm. The beginning of the new year is a great time to review your retention schedule. Guidelines for submitting these files can be found on our website: http://www.waspc.org/sex-offense-document-imaging.

- Remember that once a case file is sent to WASPC, it is no longer available for public disclosure; we will release only to criminal justice agencies for the purpose of determining if a sex offender meets the criteria of a sexually violent predator, to the end-of-sentence review committee for the purpose of fulfilling its duties, or to the originating law enforcement agency if we are asked to "un-archive" the case file. Please do not refer citizens, victims, media, or prosecutors to us for copies of reports. (Reference RCW 40.14.070[2][b])

➢ If you have problems, issues, or questions related to your records management system (RMS), contact your local agency administrator or your RMS vendor Help Desk. For problems, issues, or questions regarding WASPC's NIBRS program or FBI UCR definitions, phone or e-mail WASPC CJIS (360) 486-2380 or cjis@waspc.org.

➢ There are two reports available in the Standard Reports section of the State NIBRS repository designed to assist agencies with accurate reporting. The "Activity Log" report provides a list of the number of submitted incidents and Group B arrests per month within a selected year; agencies are encouraged to use this report to verify they successfully submitted data for each month and to check for erroneous fluctuations in their data. The "Outstanding Errors and Incidents/Arrests Not Checked" report displays errors, regardless of the method of submission, as well as any incidents and arrests that were not "NIBRS Checked" using the Individual Incident Entry (IIE) method. ❈

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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