

# **NIBRS Tip of the Month**

## **Death by Drugs**

### **What is reported to NIBRS if an individual dies after taking drugs?**

- If the individual voluntarily consumed drugs and died either accidentally or by suicide, the offense is not reportable to NIBRS.
- If the individual is forced to consume the drugs and dies, it is a Murder or Non-Negligent Manslaughter offense.
- When an offender is charged with Homicide by Controlled Substance (RCW 69.50.415):
  - ◊ If the death of the victim was intentional, the offense is Murder/Non-Negligent Manslaughter.
  - ◊ If the death of the victim was unintentional, the offense is Negligent Manslaughter.
  - ◊ If the offender substituted or altered the controlled substance to increase lethality, the offense is Murder/Non-Negligent Manslaughter.

