

National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) Data Quality

The FBI Statistics Unit has identified issues and guidelines to assist NIBRS agencies in ensuring and improving data quality. Please keep these guidelines in mind when entering data or when training your staff.

Assault

Incidents of assault when there is no weapon (other than personal weapons) and no injuries to the victim should be categorized as a



**Simple
Assault**

Victim to Offender Relationship

Each relationship should identify the victim not the offender.

For Example: A son assaults his father. The Victim To Offender Relationship should be "Father".

Also, keep in mind the age differences. If the Victim is Father, the age of the victim should be appropriately older than the offender.

Ages

Too often, the age of the offender/arrestee is reported as “01” or “02”. This may be due to confusion with reporting the offender/arrestee sequence numbers.

Also, the age code of the offender/arrestee/victim is often reported as “99” instead of unknown “00”.



Burglary with Larceny

Burglary almost always includes some type of larceny offense.

However, burglary is defined in terms of the theft, and only the burglary is to be reported, not the accompanying larceny.

The exception to this is when a burglary occurred in a structure and a larceny also occurred outside of the structure.

Larceny - Shoplifting

The victim of a shoplifting is generally a business, not an individual.



Also, please be sure to properly classify Shoplift (23C) and not group it under Theft From a Building (23D). If merchandise is stolen, it should generally be considered a Shoplift.

Larceny-Theft of Radios/TVs/VCRs

If a radio, TV, or VCR is stolen from the back seat of a car, count it as a Theft From Motor Vehicle (23F).

If an installed radio is stolen from a car, count it as Motor Vehicle Parts or accessories (23G).

If items and auto parts are both stolen from the vehicle, report the offense resulting in the highest value.



Larceny – Theft from Coin-Operated Machine (23E)

Please be sure the property descriptions are reasonable. Generally, these should be food, drink, hygiene products, lottery tickets, cigarettes, etc.



Unreasonable property descriptions are: computer hardware, firearms, construction equipment, etc.

Vandalism/Destruction of Property

If a vehicle is vandalized, do not use a property description of “Vehicle Parts & Accessories”, instead the best property description is the vehicle.



Credit Card/ATM Fraud

- **Many incidents erroneously indicate Credit/Debit Cards as the property description of a Credit Card Fraud.**
- **This offense doesn't apply to the theft of a credit card but to the fraudulent use of the card.**
- **For a Credit Card Fraud, report the property acquired whether money, gas, etc.**

Incidents Occurring at Midnight

If the incident occurred on or between midnight and 0059, “00” (midnight) should be entered.

If the incident hour is unknown, either leave the hour as blank or estimate the time.



Incest

For an offense of incest, the relationship of victim to offender must be within the family.

It should not be acquaintance, friend, neighbor, etc.

For more information:

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