

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

NIBARS

ANNUAL TRANSITION PROGRESS REPORT



2016

NIBRS Annual Transition Progress Report for 2016

Chapter 418, Statutes of 2016 (Assembly Bill 2524), the OpenJustice Data Act of 2016, amended section 13010 of the Penal Code mandating the Department of Justice (DOJ) to report annually to the Legislature through 2019, the progress of California's transition from summary crime reporting to incident-based crime reporting, in alignment with the federal National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS).

13010.

(i) To evaluate, on an annual basis, the progress of California's transition from summary crime reporting to incident-based crime reporting, in alignment with the federal National Incident-Based Reporting System, and report its findings to the Legislature annually through 2019, pursuant to Section 9795 of the Government Code.

In 2016, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Director informed all state Statistical Analysis Centers (SAC) that the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program would be transitioning to a NIBRS-only data collection by January 1, 2021. Federal, state, local, and tribal agencies unable to meet this five-year transition and who have committed to transitioning to NIBRS would need to collaborate with the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services Division to develop a transition plan and timeline for conversion.

Accordingly, the Bureau of Justice Statistics' (BJS) created the National Crime Statistics Exchange (NCS-X), a program designed to generate nationally-representative incident-based data on crimes reported to law enforcement agencies (LEA). The NCS-X plans to leverage the FBI's NIBRS by recruiting a sample of 400 LEAs to supplement the existing NIBRS data. This would be achieved by providing the sample incident data to their state (or the federal) NIBRS data collection program. When data from these 400 agencies are combined with data from the more than 6,000 agencies that currently report NIBRS data to the FBI, BJS will be able to produce a representative national sample of crime that can be disaggregated by victim-offender characteristics, the circumstances of the event, victim-offender relationship, and other important elements of criminal events. California has 42 LEAs that will participating in the NCS-X along with the California DOJ.

As such, the DOJ, acting as California's SAC, has pursued an open-bid solicitation to engage with a consultant to determine the feasibility and costs associated with the DOJ implementing a statewide incident based reporting (IBR) system. The DOJ will ultimately produce a detailed implementation plan including a realistic timeline and the costs involved for California to implement an IBR system. This project is intended to enhance the current UCR system of summary data by expanding the reporting requirements which would ultimately assist the Legislature, policymakers, state and federal DOJ, and local agencies in combating crime and allocating appropriate resources.

As of July 1, 2017, the DOJ is reviewing and evaluating the responses to the open-bid solicitation and anticipates awarding a contract in the third quarter of 2017. Additionally, the DOJ's NIBRS Implementation Team has met with the BJS NCS-X project team several times to discuss overall strategies for LEA outreach and planning and participated in several of the NCS-X California LEAs kick-off conference calls.

