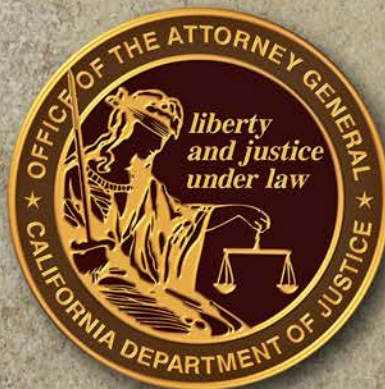


CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

NIBARS

ANNUAL TRANSITION PROGRESS REPORT



2017

NIBRS Annual Transition Progress Report for 2017

Background

Chapter 418, Statutes of 2016 (Assembly Bill 2524), the OpenJustice Data Act of 2016, amended section 13010 of the Penal Code mandating the California Department of Justice (DOJ) to annually report 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).

Penal Code section 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. Prior to this new federal directive, the United States Department of Justice, 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 (LEAs).

The NCS-X plans on leveraging the FBI's existing NIBRS by recruiting a sample of 400 LEAs to supplement the existing NIBRS data by providing their incident data to their state (or the federal) NIBRS data collection program. When data from these 400 agencies combine 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 be participating in the NCS-X along with the DOJ.

DOJ Activities in 2017

The DOJ, serving as California's SAC, procured a vendor to assist in developing a strategic implementation plan including a realistic timeline and the costs involved for California to implement an incident-based reporting (IBR) system. California is in a unique and challenging position in that funding through the NCS-X effort is only available for the state repository and the 42 NCS-X sample LEAs, yet California has over 730 reporting agencies who are unfunded and in various technological states. In order for California to successfully transition to NIBRS, all 730+ reporting agencies need to transition.

To gain information from the LEAs and determine where they are and their capacity for NIBRS transition, several surveys were administered. The survey responses indicate the biggest hurdles for LEAs to transition are time and the fiscal and personnel resources required to undergo this transition while still being able to maintain operations. Additionally, the DOJ interviewed 14 other state SACs and evaluated four possible repository solutions for California.

These efforts highlighted the need for California to tackle the statewide transition from a more holistic, strategic vantage point rather than by each LEA individually. In order to achieve statewide transition by 2021, the DOJ determined it was necessary to engage with the vendors who support the record management systems (RMS) LEAs use rather than having each agency transition independently. Since many of the RMS vendors encompass a larger footprint than what is included in the NCS-X 42 sample LEAs, the DOJ projects it can cover more ground with fewer resources using this strategy. For example, the RMS vendors represented in the NCS-X 42 sample LEAs are actually responsible for nearly two-thirds of the reporting LEAs within California. The DOJ is in the process of developing a strategy to work with the RMS vendors represented in the NCS-X project, to make the programming changes necessary to provide NIBRS services. While this approach could render the largest transition footprint in the least amount of time, there are still unresolved fiscal constraints at the local level to accomplish transition activities with the RMS vendors.

Current Activities

The DOJ is moving forward with submitting its application for implementation funding with BJS through the NCS-X project by the end of 2018. The DOJ has received preliminary funding approval and is in the process of preparing the formal application. Additionally, the DOJ is working through the project lifecycle analysis (PAL) and approval process in collaboration with the California Department of Technology. As part of the PAL process, the DOJ is preparing a procurement vehicle to obtain a state-level repository solution that will be able to accommodate the mandated California-specific data collections and will allow the State to meet the transition deadline.

