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Criminal Justice Information Services Division

Quarterly

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Section 1— Message to Program Participants

Update on the Uniform Crime Reporting Redevelopment Project

The national Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program staff plan to roll out the “New UCR” system in the spring of 2016. The initial phase will contain data from several states and will expand until all participants are included by the fall of 2017.

Once fully operational, the “New UCR” system will feature:

- ❖ A centralized, searchable data repository at the CJIS Division in Clarksburg, West Virginia
- ❖ The capability to receive data submissions in a modern data format
- ❖ An internal, Web-based interface for users to access data
- ❖ Hardware and software to support, integrate, and comply with CJIS systems

Benefits of the “New UCR” system are:

- ❖ Updated hardware and software for greater efficiency in data collection, processing, and dissemination
- ❖ Electronic error reports sent directly to state systems
- ❖ Specialized reporting on an as-needed basis
- ❖ A streamlined publication process that will give users quicker access to data

In conjunction with the “New UCR,” the national UCR Program staff is working to develop the Crime Data Explorer (CDE), which will be implemented in several phases. The CDE will be an enhanced data access tool which will give Internet users the ability to download published UCR data as well as monthly “in process” data for interim reporting. The concept development phase of the CDE is expected to begin in early 2016.

Users of the CDE will have:

- ❖ The ability to search past and present data directly from the UCR system
- ❖ Automated and customizable analytical tools
- ❖ A significantly enhanced publication of national UCR data
- ❖ Crime analysis and functions tailored to the public, law enforcement, and other users.

The UCR Program Management Office is formulating a questionnaire that will be sent to UCR stakeholders to identify the stakeholder’s functional requirements, update contact information, and request other material necessary to complete the project.

The FBI will continue to keep UCR Program stakeholders apprised of the status of the “New UCR” and the CDE. Agencies with questions should contact the national UCR Program staff by telephone at (304) 625-4830 or by e-mail at <CRIMESTATSINFO@ic.fbi.gov>.

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Electronic availability of the *UCR Program Quarterly*

The current and previous editions of the *UCR Program Quarterly* are available via the FBI's Internet site at <<http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/ucr-program-quarterly>> and the UCR Program's Special Interest Group (SIG) of the Law Enforcement Enterprise Portal (LEEP).

To access the *UCR Program Quarterly* on the UCR Program's SIG:

- ❖ Click on the Law Enforcement Online SIG icon under the Service column
- ❖ Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on the UCR logo
- ❖ Click on the UCR Program Quarterly folder

Users with questions concerning access to the LEEP should contact the Online Services and Operations Unit by telephone at (304) 625-5555.

Section 2— Clarification to Policy and Procedures

Reminder regarding Error 560 in the National Incident-Based Reporting System

Agencies are reminded that the national UCR Program staff has changed Error 560 for those agencies that submit data via the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS).

The error had been described in the *NIBRS Technical Specification, Version 1.1*, dated September 17, 2014, as “Segment Level 5 (Offender Segment) must contain a data value for at least one offender in Data Element 38 (Sex of Offender) that is not the same sex that is entered in Data Element 27 (Sex of Victim) when Data Element 6 (UCR Offense Code) is 11A = Rape or 36B = Statutory Rape.”

However, in an attempt to make definitions of the sex offenses in the NIBRS more gender neutral, the national UCR staff removed Error 560 as it applies to statutory rape. The national UCR Program staff has not removed the error as it applies to rape because the change would cause the lines between the offense classifications of rape and sodomy to blur.

The description of Error 560 has changed to “Segment Level 5 (Offender Segment) must contain a data value for at least one offender in Data Element 38 (Sex of Offender) that is not the same sex that is entered in Data Element 27 (Sex of Victim) when Data Element 6 (UCR Offense Code) is 11A = Rape.” The change will be included when the *NIBRS Technical Specification* is updated.

Agencies with questions should contact Alicia R. Wetzel in the Crime Statistics Management Unit by telephone at (304) 625-3513 or by e-mail at <alicia.wetzel@ic.fbi.gov>.

Trainer Talk

Each quarter, Trainer Talk features questions that the trainers from the national UCR Program have received about classifying and scoring offenses in the UCR Program. The trainers answer questions for both the NIBRS and the Summary Reporting System (SRS). The information they provide is for UCR Program reporting purposes and may not reflect the manner in which an offender(s) is charged. When requesting the classification and scoring of incidents, law enforcement agencies and state program personnel are asked to provide the entire incident report so that the UCR trainers can provide the most accurate assessment. Agencies may submit incident reports by e-mail to <UCRtrainers@leo.gov> or by facsimile to (304) 625-5599. Agency staff with questions should contact the trainers e-mail at <UCRtrainers@leo.gov>.

Question

A suspect robbed a convenience store. On the way out of the store, the suspect pushed an individual to the floor. The victim hit her head and died of a brain trauma. How should this incident be reported in the UCR Program?

Answer

For SRS reporting agencies: The agency should submit the incident to the national UCR Program as a criminal homicide—murder and nonnegligent manslaughter (1a) on the Return A report. According to page 28 of the *SRS User Manual, Version 1.0*, dated June 20, 2013, “As a general rule, any death caused by injuries received in a fight, argument, quarrel, assault, or commission of a crime is classified as Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter (1a).” In addition, the agency should submit details about the incident (age, sex, race, and ethnicity of the victim and offender, relationship of the victim to the offender, type of weapon used, etc.) on the Supplementary Homicide Report.

The agency would not report the convenience store robbery because of the Hierarchy Rule, which states that only the highest ranking Part I offense is counted (p.23, *SRS User Manual, Version 1.0*, dated June 20, 2013). Criminal homicide—murder and nonnegligent manslaughter is ranked higher than the offense of robbery; therefore, the agency would not report the robbery.

For NIBRS reporting agencies: The agency should report the incident as 09A = Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter and 120 = Robbery. Because the NIBRS does not have a Hierarchy Rule, the agency should report both offenses.

Question

Two individuals got into a fight. During the fight, one of them fell, hit his head, and died. The coroner classified the death as an accident. Should the agency report the incident to the national UCR Program, and if so, how?

Answer

For NIBRS and SRS reporting agencies: Yes, the agency should report this incident to the national UCR Program as a criminal homicide—nonnegligent manslaughter. “Agencies should report only offenses known to law enforcement, not the findings of a court, coroner, jury, or prosecutor...” (Page 11, *NIBRS User Manual, Version 1.0*, dated January 17, 2013), and “The findings of a coroner, prosecutor, grand jury, or court do not affect classifying or scoring, these are law enforcement statistics” (page 65, *SRS User Manual, Version 1.0*, dated June 20, 2013). Agencies are reminded that, as a general rule, any death caused by injuries received in a fight, argument, quarrel, assault, or commission of a crime should be classified as a murder and nonnegligent manslaughter. Therefore, NIBRS agencies should report the incident as a 09A = Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter, and SRS agencies should report the incident as a murder on the Return A report and complete the Supplementary Homicide Report.