



Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) “Technical Bundle 1” Errors and Warnings

In anticipation of commencing the UCR-Technical Refresh (UCR-TR) operations in June 2018, this Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) UCR Program Spotlight will concentrate on the Error Data Set (EDS) and Warning Data Set (WDS) reports. The focus of this communication is to point out some basic differences in these reports and establish expectations from contributors as the FBI UCR Program transitions to the UCR-TR.

Processing Differences

The UCR-TR allows the FBI UCR Program to continue to process submissions in parallel to preparing annual publications. With the UCR-TR, the FBI UCR Program will process every submission upon receipt, year round, so there is no need to hold data; the FBI UCR Program is equipped to receive data as soon as it is ready for submission.

Another difference stakeholder’s will notice upon deployment of UCR-TR is both the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) and Summary Reporting System (SRS) submitters will receive reporting correspondence from the FBI UCR Program on a regular basis. Each submission (SRS or NIBRS) will result in a system-generated error and warning reports. In addition to system-generated EDS and WDS reports sent on every submission, states and individual contributors will receive several other processing communications on a regular basis. Further description on these communications will follow in UCR Technical Bundle 2 Spotlight.

UCR Program Operational Cadence

The FBI UCR Program anticipates using the enhanced capabilities of UCR-TR to provide robust information back to stakeholders on a regular basis. Contributors will be able to correct errors, review warnings and outliers, and verify their data. This cadence will lead to timeliness improvements while maintaining high levels of data quality.

In June 2018, each submitter (state or individual contributor) will receive their first Errors Pending Report (EPR) and Warnings Pending Report (WPR), which will contain errors and warnings for all incidents ingested into the UCR-TR to date. Then, each time a submission is received, the new system will ingest the submission and automatically send an EDS and WDS containing errors and warnings associated with the submission. Both NIBRS and SRS contributors will receive automated EDS and WDS reports.

Please note errors prohibit an incident from being ingested into the system; however, warnings do not. It is the FBI UCR Program’s desire for each state to review their errors and warnings and work with contributing agencies to resubmit or correct, as necessary, in order to ensure the maximum amount of quality data is available for publication.

The FBI UCR Program understands this is more information than our stakeholders have received in the past, and the volume of error and warning information may be significant. It is our intent to provide this information regularly and, over time, help our contributors make good use of the products we provide. These products can undergo continuous refinement based upon feedback from state programs and contributing agencies.

NIBRS Errors and Warnings

Error: Software logic checks exist for each data element. When an incident does not pass all logic checks related to each segment, the system creates an error. Incidents with errors are not ingested into the UCR-TR system. Errors must be corrected and the incident resubmitted.

Warning: Software logic checks exist for each data element. When an incident is presented with data questionable in comparison to the normal reporting parameters, the system creates a warning. Incidents with warnings are ingested into the UCR-TR system. Warnings must be reviewed and either corrected or explained prior to publication.

SRS Errors and Warnings

Error: Software logic checks exist for each report type. When a report does not pass all associated logic checks, the system creates an error. Reports with errors are not ingested into the UCR-TR system. Errors must be corrected and the report resubmitted.

Warning: Software logic checks exist for each report type. When a report is presented with data that is questionable in comparison to the normal reporting parameters, the system creates a warning. Reports with warnings are ingested into the UCR-TR system. Warnings must be reviewed and either corrected or explained prior to publication.

Note: For our SRS submitters, data quality is a new UCR Program designation. Data quality issues for both SRS and NIBRS agencies will be provided in a data quality report. For our SRS contributors, these issues are essentially the subset of SRS warnings which have been designated as data quality issues in the UCR-TR. This change has been made to more closely align our SRS methodology with our NIBRS methodology.

Sample Error Data Set (EDS)

2018030000XXXXXXXXXXXX-XXXXX		0282018-02-01	CANNOT ADD ZERO REPORT - GROUP A INCIDENT ON FILE FOR THIS MONTH	MISSIN
20180300XXXXXXXXXXXX-XXXXX	4	35 404	INVALID DATA VALUE	MISSIN
20180300XXXXXXXXXXXX-XXXXX	3	620 306U	ERROR-DUPLICATE DATA VALUE	MISSIN
20180300XXXXXXXXXXXX-XXXXX	4	35 404	INVALID DATA VALUE	MISSIN
20180300XXXXXXXXXXXX-XXXXX	4	35 404	INVALID DATA VALUE	MISSIN
20180300XXXXXXXXXXXX-XXXXX	4	35 404	INVALID DATA VALUE	MISSIN
20180300XXXXXXXXXXXX-XXXXX	4	35 404	INVALID DATA VALUE	MISSIN
20180300XXXXXXXXXXXX-XXXXX	001	34 085001	EACH VICTIM MUST BE CONNECTED TO AT LEAST TWO OFFENDERS	MISSIN
20180300XXXXXXXXXXXX-XXXXX	38	560001	VICTIMS SEX CANNOT BE SAME FOR ALL OFFENDERS FOR OFFENSES OF RAPE	MISSIN
20180300XXXXXXXXXXXX-XXXXX	34	070	THE CORRESPONDING OFFENDER SEGMENT MUST EXIST	MISSIN
20180300XXXXXXXXXXXX-XXXXX	4	558	AT LEAST ONE OFFENDER MUST HAVE KNOWN VALUES	MISSIN
20180300XXXXXXXXXXXX-XXXXX	0	7 084	RECOVERED PROPERTY VALUE CANNOT BE GREATER THAN THE VALUE WHEN STOLEN	MISSIN

Sample Warning Data Set (WDS)

20180300XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX-XXXXXX	1	3	717	DQ1310	09	WARNING - CREDIT CARD/AUTOMATIC TELLER MACHINE FRAUD
20180300XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX-XXXXXX	1	3	717	DQ1310	09	WARNING - CREDIT CARD/AUTOMATIC TELLER MACHINE FRAUD
20180300XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX-XXXXXX	1	3	717	DQ1310	09	WARNING - CREDIT CARD/AUTOMATIC TELLER MACHINE FRAUD
20180300XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX-XXXXXX	1	3	717	DQ1310	09	WARNING - CREDIT CARD/AUTOMATIC TELLER MACHINE FRAUD
20180300XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX-XXXXXX	1	3	717	DQ1304	01	WARNING - LARCENY THEFT - AIRCRAFT
20180300XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX-XXXXXX	1	3	717	DQ1310	09	WARNING - CREDIT CARD/AUTOMATIC TELLER MACHINE FRAUD
20180300XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX-XXXXXX	1	3	717	DQ1310	09	WARNING - CREDIT CARD/AUTOMATIC TELLER MACHINE FRAUD
20180300XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX-XXXXXX	1	3	717	DQ1310	09	WARNING - CREDIT CARD/AUTOMATIC TELLER MACHINE FRAUD
20180300XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX-XXXXXX	1	3	717	DQ1310	09	WARNING - CREDIT CARD/AUTOMATIC TELLER MACHINE FRAUD
20180300XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX-XXXXXX	1	3	717	DQ1310	09	WARNING - CREDIT CARD/AUTOMATIC TELLER MACHINE FRAUD

The EPR and WPR reports will appear very similar to the EDS and WDS reports, the primary difference being that EDS/WDS are submission-centric and EPR/WPR will encompass multiple submissions.

Correcting and Explaining Data

The preceding sections define errors and warnings for both SRS and NIBRS. In addition, these sections also mention the need to explain, or correct data when requested by the FBI UCR Program. This section provides additional detail on the process the FBI UCR Program would like contributors to follow when making corrections, providing explanations, or asking questions.

When a contributor receives an error or warning the FBI UCR Program’s intent is the contributor will execute the following process quickly. The FBI UCR Program understands state program representatives must often reach out to agencies for information during this process.

- Report is generated and submitted to the contributing agency.
- Review each error and warning, conducting research as required to understand the issue.
- If it is determined, submitted data is incorrect, delete the incident or form and resubmit with updated, correct data on the next periodic submission.
- If, after research, the data causing the warning is believed to be accurate and correct, provide a brief explanation regarding the data via e-mail to the applicable FBI UCR Program representative.
- The FBI UCR Program is required to record these explanations in the UCR-TR system for future reference.
- If, after research, the error, warning, data quality question or outlier is not understood and clarification is required, e-mail questions or requests for assistance to the applicable FBI UCR Program representative.
- It is recommended each contributor bundle explanations and questions into a single document for return to the applicable FBI UCR Program representative as soon as practical (prior to the next periodic submission).
- Ensure each explanation or question is easily matched to the appropriate error, warning, data quality question or outlier.
- UCR Program representatives will review stakeholder explanations and questions and respond appropriately via e-mail or phone call as needed.

Upcoming:

UCR-TR Technical Bundle - Errors and warnings to include updates to the NIBRS Technical Specification, as well as, an explanation of SRS errors and warnings. Sample Data Quality and Outlier reports will be provided in future communications to include:

- Report - Several weeks after each submission, contributors will receive an analytical product for review. This product will consist of a number of components to include analysis of warnings, information on data quality questions, data outliers, and high profile incidents for verification (homicide, LEOKA, etc.).
- Outliers are submissions containing data identified as higher or lower than expected as compared to past agency submissions or monthly variations.
- Contributors will also receive EPRs twice each year, allowing them to review all year-to-date errors prohibiting data from being ingested into the system.