Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs

Criminal Justice Information Support ~ Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program

# Newsbriefs from the WASPC CJIS Department Februar

#### What's Been Happening ...

Since our last newsletter in March 2017, we have experienced many changes including, but not limited to:

- New State NIBRS Repository in 2018
- Transition from SRS to NIBRS Completed in 2018
- Pandemic Shutdown Changed Work Environments (2020)
- Release of NIBRS FBI Technical Specification Manuals (2018, 2020, and 2023)

In 2018, we went live with the current state repository, COPLINK NIBRS, and the last non-tribal law enforcement agency transitioned to NIBRS from the Summary Reporting System (SRS) ~ making us a 100% NIBRS submission state. The FBI gave states until January 2021 to move from SRS to NIBRS, so we were significantly ahead of their schedule!

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic changed how and where we worked. Fortunately, the CJIS staff were able to work from home; unfortunately, we were unable to give in-person training until virtual training was born. The FBI UCR trainers implemented virtual training on a regional basis and now, in 2024, they will begin nationwide virtual training more frequently. We will send training notices via our listserv when we receive their scheduled class dates through-out the year.

Since 2017, the FBI has released three updated versions of their NIBRS manuals. In 2018, changes were made to Cargo Theft offenses and to data values in the Offender Suspected of Using data element; Victim/ Offender Relationships for Property Crimes became mandatory, and; the definition of Negligent Manslaughter added the killing of another person associated with a DUI, distracted driving, and reckless driving fatalities.

In 2020, as federal agencies were being transitioned to NIBRS, the FBI added new offenses that can be submitted by federal and tribal agencies only. Our state repository has not yet included these new offenses but they will be available with our next release in 2024.

At the end of 2023, the FBI released the most current Technical Specification Manual, that includes updates to data values and error edits. This includes:

- Changing Anti-Mormon to Anti-Church of Jesus Christ in the bias motivations
- Allowing same sex victim and offender for Rape (removing error code 560)

*Please note:* The changes for the 2019 and 2023 technical specifications have not yet been updated in the state repository, COPLINK NIBRS. As soon as those updates have been made, you can begin submitting under the latest specifications. We will notify you when we are ready!

To access the latest FBI NIBRS Technical Specification and User Manuals, please visit their website at https://le.fbi.gov/ informational-tools/ucr/ucr-technicalspecifications-user-manuals-and-data-tools.



WASPC Building - Lacey, WA



## **Updates, Concerns, and Reminders**

#### > Sex Offense Case File Archiving

The details regarding what, how, and when to send sex offense case files to the WASPC CJIS Department are available on the CJIS webpage at www.waspc.org/sex-offense-document-imaging. We do accept physical audio and video recordings now for storage only.

If your agency has already converted the paper files to electronic images, the CJIS Department will accept a CD, flash drive, or you can upload the electronic files to our OneDrive. Please contact the CJIS Department to receive the link to our OneDrive.  $\clubsuit$ 

#### > Disclosure of Sex Offense Case Files

A sex offense case file sent to WASPC for permanent archiving is no longer considered a public record and is exempt from public disclosure. The CJIS Department will disseminate a copy of the record to a criminal justice agency only for the purpose of determining if a sex offender meets the criteria of a sexually violent predator or to the End-of-Sentence Review Committee for the purpose of fulfilling its duties. Please do not refer victims, witnesses, or prosecutors to us; however, we will send you a copy of your own file for secondary dissemination to them.

#### > NIBRS File Submission

The monthly submission of your NIBRS data should be sent by the 15th of the month for the preceding month; for example, the January incidents and prior submission adjustments should be submitted by February 15th. The name of the file should be your ORI and the month/year reflecting the incident date; for example: WA0400100.0124 would be the file name sent in February 2024.

When you upload your batch file to the COPLINK NIBRS repository, you should receive an e-mail acknowledging receipt. Please let us know if you do not receive a response.

### > When You Need to Contact the WASPC CJIS Department

The best method to contact us is via e-mail at cjis@waspc.org. Your e-mail is received by all three CJIS team members: Tonya, Brent, and Joan. Someone will respond as soon as possible! If you need to speak with someone directly, we will set up an appointment for a phone call.

