Federal Bureau of Investigation

UCR Program
Criminal Justice Information Services Division

Quarterly

Program News

> State Program managers are encouraged to share the information in this document with their local agencies.

Section 1— NIBRS Transition Updates and Resources

The FBI retired the Summary Reporting System on January 1, 2021

After years of effort and assistance from our law enforcement partners, the FBI retired the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program's Summary Reporting System (SRS) on January 1, 2021, in favor of the richer and more robust crime data collected via the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS).

More than 9,000 law enforcement agencies now submit crime data to the FBI via NIBRS. That is more than 55 percent of the nation's law enforcement agencies and represents approximately 50 percent of the nation's population.

Currently seven states—Alaska, California, Florida, Illinois, Maryland, New Jersey, and New Mexico—are developing NIBRS-certified systems. The FBI anticipates that every state not currently NIBRS certified will become NIBRS certified by the end of 2021.

The FBI continues to assist agencies with the move to NIBRS with resources that include programming and technical support, training, outreach, and subject matter expertise at no cost to law enforcement agencies.

For more information or assistance, agencies should contact the FBI's UCR Program Office at:

NIBRS website:	https://www.fbi.gov/services/cjis/ucr/nibrs
NIBRS e-mail:	UCR-NIBRS@fbi.gov
NIBRS contact:	304-625-9999
NIBRS training:	UCRtrainers@leo.gov

Section 2— Message to Program Participants

Data deadlines for 2021

Federal agencies, state UCR Program managers, and direct contributors should note the following deadlines for the FBI's Crime Statistics Management Unit (CSMU) to receive data. State Program managers should also inform their local agencies of these deadlines.

All federal agencies, state programs, and direct contributors must submit data by the established deadlines to be included in releases. Although data received after the deadlines will not be released in the current year's annual report(s), it will be included in the Crime Data Explorer (CDE), which will be updated before the next release cycle.

In addition, the quarterly data releases previously referred to as the *Preliminary Uniform Crime Reports* are now known as the *Quarterly Uniform Crime Reports*. Agencies are reminded that data releases are preliminary and are subject to change in subsequent releases.

All 2021 data releases will appear exclusively on the CDE. Previously released documents will continue to be available on the FBI's Internet site at www.fbi.gov.

Date	Information needed
March 15, 2021	Deadline to submit data for inclusion in the 2020 editions of *Crime in the United States (CIUS), Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted (LEOKA), Hate Crime Statistics,* and *NIBRS.*
	Federal agencies, state UCR Program managers, and direct contributors should note that:
	❖ *CIUS, 2020*—For federal agencies to be included in Table/Download 1, "Offenses Known to Law Enforcement," and for all other agencies to be included in Table/Download 8, "Offenses Known to Law Enforcement, by State by City," Table/Download 9, "Offenses Known to Law Enforcement by State by University and College," Table/Download 10, "Offenses Known to Law Enforcement by State by Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Counties," or Table/Download 11, "Offenses Known to Law Enforcement, by State, Tribal, and Other Agencies," CSMU **must** receive 12 months of complete data.
	❖ *LEOKA, 2020*—Federal and state totals presented regarding the number of officers assaulted will include only those law

	enforcement agencies for which CSMU receives **both officer assault data and police employee counts** for all 12 months. ❖ *Hate Crime Statistics, 2020*—The number of quarters in which an agency reported hate crime data will be released in Table/Download 13, "Hate Crime Incidents, per Bias Motivation and Quarter, by State, Federal, and Agency," and Table/Download 14, "Hate Crime Zero Data Submitted, per Quarter, by State and Agency." ❖ *NIBRS, 2020*—For federal agencies to be included in Offenses by Federal Agencies that Submitted NIBRS, and for all other agencies to be included in the Offense Type by Agency Tables/Downloads, CSMU **must** receive 12 months of complete NIBRS data, and the agency's data must have been published in Table/Download 8, "Offenses Known to Law Enforcement, by State by City," Table/Download 9, "Offenses Known to Law Enforcement by State by University and College," Table/Download 10, "Offenses Known to Law Enforcement by State by Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Counties," or Table/Download 11, "Offenses Known to Law Enforcement, by State, Tribal, and Other Agencies."
May 3, 2021	The data submission deadline for January–March 2021 data is **May 3, 2021.**
August 2, 2021	The data submission deadline for January–June 2021 data is **August 2, 2021.**
November 1, 2021	The data submission deadline for January–September 2021 data is **November 1, 2021.**
December 13, 2021	The deadline for the submission of police employee counts (as of October 31, 2021) is **December 13, 2021.**
December 31, 2021	The deadline for making changes to an agency's current reporting status, name, or address and for state Program managers to add new contributing agencies within the state is **December 31, 2021.**

Timetable for 2021 Uniform Crime Reporting data processes

The information below provides federal crime data submitters, state UCR managers, state Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) System Officers, and direct contributing agencies with pertinent and consistent information about the 2021 publication strategy. Deadlines for the National Use-of-Force Data Collection publication are not included in this timeline; FBI

staff will furnish National Use-of-Force Data Collection deadline information in a separate communication.

Contributors should note the following information and deadlines for submitting data to the CSMU of the FBI's CJIS Division. CSMU staff will use the data for inclusion in four quarterly releases and four annual publications: *LEOKA, CIUS, Hate Crime Statistics,* and *NIBRS.* All contributors are encouraged to submit data by established deadlines and ensure data are thoroughly reviewed and verified. If publication deadlines cannot be met, agencies should continue to forward data for storage in the UCR master data files and update on the CDE. State UCR Program managers are asked to inform their local agencies of the following information as necessary.

Please note, the quarterly releases (formerly known as the *Preliminary Uniform Crime Reports*) do not yet include federal data. In addition, 2021 data releases will appear exclusively on the CDE. Previously released publications will continue to be available on the FBI's Internet site at www.fbi.gov.

Date	Information
March	For annual publications, the FBI will send correspondence to data submitters: ❖ Requesting verification of any January–December 2020 crime totals indicating significant increases or decreases from the previous year's data, and/or verification of any high/low monthly offense counts during the 12-month period. ❖ Identifying any January–December 2020 data that have not been received. Data will be listed by agency and month. CSMU staff will share population estimates for agencies within each state via e-mail. **The data submission deadline for inclusion in the 2020 editions of *CIUS, LEOKA, Hate Crime Statistics,* and *NIBRS* is March 15, 2021. This deadline includes cargo theft and human trafficking data. Data received after the deadlines and questionable data will not be published in the current year's annual releases. However, the data may be updated on the CDE before the next release cycle.**

Notes:

❖ *CIUS, 2020*— For federal agencies to be included in Table/Download 1, "Offenses Known to Law Enforcement," and for all other agencies to be published in Table/Download 8, "Offenses Known to Law Enforcement, by State by City," Table/Download 9, "Offenses Known to Law Enforcement by State by University and College," Table/Download 10, "Offenses Known to Law Enforcement by State by Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Counties," or Table/Download 11, "Offenses Known to Law Enforcement, by State, Tribal, and Other Agencies," CSMU **must** receive 12 months of complete data.

❖ *LEOKA, 2020*—Federal and state totals presented regarding the number of officers assaulted will include only those law enforcement agencies for which CSMU receives **both officer assault data and police employee counts** for all 12 months.

❖ *Hate Crime Statistics, 2020*—The number of quarters in which an agency reported hate crime data will be released in Table/Download 13, "Hate Crime Incidents, per Bias Motivation and Quarter, by State, Federal, and Agency," and Table/Download 14, "Hate Crime Zero Data Submitted, per Quarter, by State and Agency."

❖ *NIBRS, 2020*— For federal agencies to be included in Offenses by Federal Agencies that Submitted NIBRS, and for all other agencies to be included in the Offense Type by Agency Tables/Download, CSMU **must** receive 12 months of complete NIBRS data, and the agency's data must have been published in Table/Download 8, "Offenses Known to Law Enforcement, by State by City," Table/Download 9, "Offenses Known to Law Enforcement by State by University and College," Table/Download 10, "Offenses Known to Law Enforcement by State by Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Counties," or Table/Download 11, "Offenses Known to Law Enforcement, by State, Tribal, and Other Agencies."

The FBI will release the *Quarterly Uniform Crime Report, January–December, 2020,* on the CDE.

April | For annual releases, the FBI will send correspondence to data submitters:

- ❖ Providing a list of incomplete agencies as well as January–December 2019 crime totals/*Return A* and *NIBRS Record Cards* for all law enforcement agencies that submitted 12 months of complete data.

For quarterly reporting, the FBI will send correspondence to data submitters:

- ❖ Requesting verification of any January–March 2021 crime totals indicating significant increases or decreases over the previous year's data, and/or verification of any high/low monthly offense counts during the 3-month period.
- ❖ Identifying any January–March 2021 data that have not been received. Data will be listed by agency and month.

May

Release of the first part of the *LEOKA, 2020,* data on the CDE.

The data submission deadline for release in the *Quarterly Uniform Crime Report, January–March, 2021,* is May 3, 2021. Data received after the deadline and questionable data will not be released. However, the data may be updated on the CDE during the next release cycle.

For annual releases, CSMU staff will:

- ❖ Review information for data quality and finalize data for the *CIUS*, *LEOKA*, *Hate Crime Statistics*, and *NIBRS* releases.
- ❖ Identify each state's 2020 violent crime and property crime counts for presentation in the annual releases.

June

Release of the *Quarterly Uniform Crime Report, January–March, 2021* on the CDE.

July

For quarterly releases, the FBI will send correspondence to data submitters:

- ❖ Requesting verification of any January–June 2021 crime totals indicating significant increases or decreases over the previous year's data, and/or verification of any high/low monthly offense count during the 6-month period.

❖ Identifying any January–June 2021 data that have not been received. Data will be listed by agency and month.

August

The data submission deadline for inclusion in the *Quarterly Uniform Crime Report, January–June, 2021,* release is August 2, 2021. Data received after the deadline and questionable data will not be included in the release. However, the data may be updated on the CDE during the next release cycle.

September

Release of *CIUS, 2020,* and the *Quarterly Uniform Crime Report, January–June, 2021,* on the CDE.

October

Release of the second part of *LEOKA, 2020,* data on the CDE.

CSMU staff will send requests for completion of information on 2021 police employee counts as of October 31, 2021. The deadline for this information is December 13, 2021.

For quarterly releases, the FBI will send correspondence to data submitters:
❖ Requesting verification of any January–September 2021 crime totals indicating significant increases or decreases over the previous year's data, and/or verification of any high/low monthly offense counts during the 9-month period.
❖ Identifying any January–September 2021 data that have not been received.

November

Release of *Hate Crime Statistics, 2020,* on the CDE.

The deadline for January–September 2021 data to be included in the release of the *Quarterly Uniform Crime Report, January–September, 2021,* is November 1, 2021. Data received after the deadline and questionable data will not be included in the release. However, the data may be updated on the CDE.

December

Release of *NIBRS, 2020,* and the *Quarterly Uniform Crime Report, January–September, 2021*, on the CDE.

> The deadline to make changes to an agency's current reporting status, name/address, or for adding new contributing agencies is **December 30, 2021.**

Information about the release of the *Quarterly Uniform Crime Reports*

As the FBI's UCR Program moves forward with more timely data releases, contributors are reminded to report data for each month by the end of the following month. For example, contributors should submit January data by the end of February. All contributors are encouraged to submit data in advance of established deadlines and ensure data are thoroughly reviewed and verified. Agencies should continue to forward data if deadlines are not met; the data will be included in future updates to the CDE. State UCR Program managers are asked to inform local agencies of the following information as necessary.

In addition, the quarterly data releases previously referred to as the *Preliminary Uniform Crime Reports* are now known as the *Quarterly Uniform Crime Reports.* Agencies are reminded that data releases are preliminary and are subject to change in subsequent releases.

Please note that federal data are not included in quarterly releases. In addition, 2021 *Quarterly Uniform Crime Reports* will be presented exclusively on the CDE. FBI systems will conduct all data quality checks before each quarterly release. The *Quarterly Uniform Crime Reports* are based on the following methodology:

- ❖ Tables/Downloads 1 through 3 provide percent changes in offense counts.
  - ❖ Table/Download 1 provides trend data by population group.
  - ❖ Table/Download 2 provides trend data by region.
  - ❖ Table/Download 3 provides national trend comparisons from the past 5 years.
- ❖ Table/Download 4 furnishes the Most-in-Population (MIP) agency-level offense data for agencies with populations of 100,000 inhabitants or more, listed individually by state.

  If the population of an MIP agency drops below 100,000 inhabitants, the FBI's UCR Program furnishes the data for the year the agency's population dropped below 100,000 and the next year. If the population remains below 100,000 inhabitants, the FBI's UCR Program no longer includes the agency's data in the download.

The current year of MIP data can be presented even if the previous year's data is incomplete. However, the previous year's data cannot be presented if the current year's data is incomplete.

The following table furnishes a quarter-by-quarter breakdown of the frequency of data submissions and the release of data:

Quarter	Dataset	Release dates of 2021 data
4 of 2020	**January–December, 2020** Monthly criteria: At least 50 percent of agencies that contribute data to the UCR Program, which covers at least 40 percent of the U.S. population. Agency must submit 6 or more common months of data for the current and previous year to provide a valid comparison.	March 2021
1 of 2021	**January–March, 2021** Monthly criteria: At least 50 percent of agencies that contribute data to the UCR Program, which covers at least 40 percent of the U.S. population. MIP city agency data must be complete for January–March of the current release year. Other agencies must submit 2 or more common months of data for the current and previous year to provide a valid comparison (e.g., agency submits January and February crime statistics for the current and previous year.)	June 2021
2 of 2021	**January–June, 2021** Monthly criteria: At least 50 percent of agencies that contribute data to the UCR Program, which covers at least 40 percent of the U.S. population. MIP city agency data must be complete for January–June of the current release year.	September 2021

	Other agencies must submit 3 or more common months of data for the current and previous year to provide a valid comparison.	
3 of 2021	**January–September, 2021** Monthly criteria: At least 50 percent of agencies that contribute data to the UCR Program, which covers at least 40 percent of the U.S. population. MIP city agency data must be complete for January– September of the current release year. Other agencies must submit 5 or more common months of data for the current and previous year to provide a valid comparison.	December 2021
4 of 2021	**January–December, 2021** Monthly criteria: At least 50 percent of agencies that contribute data to the UCR Program, which covers at least 40 percent of the U.S. population. MIP city agency data must be complete for January– December of the current release year. Other agencies must submit 6 or more common months of data for the current and previous year to provide a valid comparison.	Spring 2022

Three Group B Offenses have been eliminated

Effective January 1, 2021, three Group B offenses—90A = Bad Checks, 90E = Drunkenness (except Driving Under the Influence), and 90H = Peeping Tom—were eliminated from NIBRS due to a lack of arrest data for these offenses.

If an agency reports a 90A, 90E, or a 90H offense, the UCR Program's computer system will automatically change the offense to a 90Z = All Other Offenses. Agencies reporting these

offenses will not receive an error message. Agencies will not need to change their computer programming unless they want to eliminate the offenses in their databases as well.

This change was a result of the CJIS Advisory Policy Board (APB) meeting in December 2018, and the FBI Director approved this measure on May 5, 2019.

Uniform Crime Reporting data are now presented exclusively on the Crime Data Explorer

Agencies are reminded that, as of January 1, 2021, UCR data are released exclusively to the FBI's CDE at www.fbi.gov/cde. The traditional publications for 2019 and previous years will remain on www.FBI.gov for the foreseeable future.

Results of the December 2020 CJIS Advisory Policy Board meeting

The CJIS APB met virtually in December 2020 and recommended six UCR changes for approval. These changes are pending approval from the FBI Director. These changes include:

❖ Modification of the definition of rape in NIBRS and discontinuing the collection of the offenses of sodomy and sexual assault with an object.

❖ Addition of the case status of "unfounded" in NIBRS.

❖ Changing the Anti-Mormon bias type in the Hate Crime Data Collection to Anti-Church of Jesus Christ.

❖ Acceptance of the draft questionnaire needed to implement a 1-year pilot project to collect, report, and maintain statistics on suicides of federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement officers.

❖ Modification of the Police Employee collection to include the category of "unknown/unreported" for race and gender when law enforcement employees opt out of providing information and to modify existing gender information to include a nonbinary gender category.

❖ Changing the dates of release of UCR quarterly data.

Modification of the definition of rape in NIBRS and discontinuing the collection of the offenses of sodomy and sexual assault with an object

Currently, the NIBRS offense of 11A = Rape is defined as "the carnal knowledge of a person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity." (See page 39, *2019.2.1. National Incident-Based Reporting System User Manual,* September 30, 2020.)

The APB recommended modifying the definition of rape in NIBRS to "penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim." Adopting this definition of rape eliminates the need to collect information on the offenses of sodomy or sexual assault with an object.

Addition of the case status of "unfounded" in NIBRS

In the FBI's UCR Program, unfounded offenses are false or baseless complaints. This is an offense that initially comes to the attention of law enforcement, but law enforcement investigation determines that no crime actually occurred.

Currently, NIBRS does not permit an agency to report an incident as unfounded. Instead, agencies must delete the incident. However, agencies also delete incidents for other reasons. For example, to modify an incident, an agency may delete it and resubmit it with the modifications. The inability for agencies to mark offenses as "unfounded" in NIBRS creates skepticism about the appropriate use of exceptional clearances and deleted incidents for each agency.

Agencies use Data Element 4 (Cleared Exceptionally) to report incidents that were cleared by exceptional means. However, NIBRS does not currently provide a way for agencies to report the number of incidents and offenses that were determined to be unfounded.

The APB voted to allow for the collection of unfounded offenses within Data Element 7 (Offense Attempted/Completed) in the Offense Segment in NIBRS.

Changing the Anti-Mormon bias type in the Hate Crime Data Collection to Anti-Church of Jesus Christ

In 2015, the FBI's UCR Program added the bias type of Anti-Mormon to the Hate Crime Data Collection. In April 2018, the president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) issued new name guidelines and requested that the terms LDS and Mormon be discontinued.

The APB voted to accept this change in terminology, which will entail agencies to voluntarily change the computer programming of their records management systems. The FBI's UCR Program staff will incorporate this change in upcoming revisions to the *NIBRS Technical Specification,* the *NIBRS Extensible Markup Language (XML) Information Exchange Package Documentation (IEPD),* the *NIBRS User Manual,* and the *Hate Crime Data Collection Guidelines and Training Manual.*

Acceptance of the draft questionnaire needed to implement a pilot project to collect, report, and maintain statistics on suicides of federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement officers

In June 2020, the President of the United States signed the Law Enforcement Suicide Data Collection Act into law, which directs the FBI to establish a new data collection to better understand and prevent suicides among current and former law enforcement officers. The law gives the FBI 1 year to establish the new data collection and, after 2 years of collecting this data, requires the FBI to annually publish a report containing the collected information on the FBI's website.

The data collection must contain information on suicides and attempted suicides based on:
- ❖ The circumstances and events that occurred before each suicide or attempted suicide.
- ❖ The general location of each suicide or attempted suicide.
- ❖ The demographic information of each law enforcement officer who commits or attempts suicide.
- ❖ The method used in each suicide or attempted suicide.
- ❖ The occupational category—including criminal investigator, corrections officer, line-of-duty officer, or 911 dispatch officer—of each law enforcement officer who commits or attempts suicide.

The occupational categories to be collected under the Act are more expansive than the definition of law enforcement officer for the LEOKA Data Collection.

LEOKA's current definition of a law enforcement officer is "all local, county, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement officers (such as municipal, county police officers, constables, state police, highway patrol, sheriffs, their deputies, federal law enforcement officers, marshals, special agents, etc.) who are sworn by their respective authorities to uphold the law and to safeguard the rights, lives, and property of individuals. They must have statutory arrest powers and be members of a law enforcement agency organized and funded for the purposes of keeping order and for preventing and detecting crimes and apprehending those responsible."

The Law Enforcement Suicide Data Collection Act defines a law enforcement officer as "any current or former officer (including a correctional officer), agent, or employee of the United States, a State, Indian Tribe, or a political subdivision of a State authorized by law to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation, or prosecution of any violation of the criminal laws of the United States, a State, Indian Tribe, or a political State."

Traditionally, LEOKA collects data specific to professionals who meet the established definition of a law enforcement officer. The definition of a law enforcement officer as detailed in the Act also adds a requirement to collect the occupational category of corrections officers and 911 dispatchers. These additional requirements are outside the existing structure of the LEOKA Data Collection; therefore, law enforcement agencies and/or state UCR Programs should not experience any additional impacts because system enhancements or additional resources in reporting these instances are not necessary.

Upon implementation of the law, the following workflow will take effect:
- ❖ The officer's employing agency will submit information about the death to the applicable FBI field office serving that jurisdiction.
- ❖ FBI field offices will be responsible for providing official death notifications to the FBI's UCR Program via Executive Situation Reports and electronic communications.
- ❖ Once staff in the FBI's UCR Program receive notification of a suicide or attempted suicide, staff will establish a record within the LEOKA database.
- ❖ Staff in the FBI's UCR Program will contact the deceased officer's employing agency to provide information and assist the employing agency in accessing the collection questionnaire which will be available on the Law Enforcement Enterprise Portal (LEEP).

The APB approved the 8-page questionnaire that staff with the LEOKA Data Collection will use to gather the necessary data.

Modification of the Police Employee collection to include the category of "unknown/unreported" for race and gender when law enforcement employees opt out of providing information and to modify existing gender information to include a nonbinary gender category

The UCR Police Employee collection is an annual collection that includes details on the sworn or civilian status and sex or gender of law enforcement staff as of October 31 of the collection year. Data submission specifications for the UCR Police Employee collection are published on the UCR website at www.fbi.gov/services/cjis/ucr/data-documentation. (*Police Employee Technical Specification*, Version 1.7, dated November 15, 2018.)

The FBI's UCR Program uses data from the UCR Police Employee collection in two primary areas in the *CIUS* and *LEOKA* publications. The information presented in *CIUS* includes aggregate and agency-level information on the number of law enforcement officers and civilians in total and by sex or gender, as well as some aggregate law enforcement rates per 1,000 in population. In addition, LEOKA Data Collection staff use these data as a denominator to calculate the rates of law enforcement assaults that are presented in the annual *LEOKA* publications.

In its current format, the only options to capture the sex or gender of a law enforcement officer or a civilian employee is male or female. The current data collection does not include:

❖ An option for officers or employees to opt out of providing sex or gender information.
❖ A gender category of nonbinary.
❖ An option for officers or employees to opt out of providing race information.

According to the American Psychological Association (APA), gender expression is defined as an individual's presentation, including physical appearance, clothing choice and accessories, and behavior that communicates aspects of gender or gender role. Gender expression may or may not conform to a person's gender identity. The APA defines gender identity as one's sense of oneself as male, female, or transgender. Since gender identity is internal, a person's gender identity may not necessarily be visible to others.

However, the APB voted to add a category of "unknown/unreported" in the list of races, ethnicities, and gender expressions that allow for the recording of police employee counts when individuals opt out of providing that information. The APB also voted to add the category of "nonbinary" to the list of gender expressions available for reporting police employee counts.

Changing the dates of release of UCR quarterly data

Staff in the FBI's UCR Program were to release quarterly crime data on March 15, June 15, September 15, and December 15 of each calendar year. However, these dates fall on different days of the weeks in different years, including holidays and weekends (for example, March 15, 2020, was on a Sunday). The FBI typically does not release data on weekends, on holidays, or near the end of the workweek. The UCR Program staff asked APB members to approve changing the dates the UCR quarterly data are released to the third Monday of each March, June, September, and December. The APB approved this measure.

Trainer Talk

Each quarter, Trainer Talk features questions the trainers from the FBI's UCR Program have received about classifying offenses in UCR. The SRS was discontinued as of January 1, 2021. Therefore, this segment of the *UCR Program Quarterly* will no longer include questions or answers about how an SRS agency should classify an offense. However, agencies that submitted crime data via SRS may contact the UCR trainers at UCRtrainers@leo.gov for assistance in classifying offenses that occurred in 2020. The information the UCR trainers provide is for UCR Program reporting purposes only and may not reflect the charges filed against an offender(s).

When requesting assistance with the classification of offenses, the UCR trainers ask law enforcement agencies and state program personnel to provide the entire incident report so that UCR trainers can provide the most accurate assessment. Agencies may submit incident reports by e-mail to UCRtrainers@leo.gov. Agency staff with questions should contact the trainers' e-mail at UCRtrainers@leo.gov.

Question

Outside of a building, an individual breaks into a vending machine that only accepts credit/debit cards forms of payment. How should an agency report this?

Answer

Agencies should report a 23E Theft From Coin-Operated Machine or Device, which is defined as "a theft from a machine or device that is operated or activated by the use of coins" (page 34, *2019.2 NIBRS User Manual,* dated May 7, 2020). The *NIBRS User Manual* indicates that this offense includes machines or devices that accept paper money as well as those that accept coins. According to the UCR trainers, while the *NIBRS User Manual* does not explicitly state it, machines or devices operated or activated by electronic forms of payment should be included within this offense.

Electronic availability of the *UCR Program Quarterly*

All editions of the *UCR Program Quarterly* are available via the UCR Program's Special Interest Group (SIG) on LEEP and on JusticeConnect.

To access the *UCR Program Quarterly* on the UCR Program's SIG:
  ❖ Click on the LEO SIG 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 LEEP should contact the Data Sharing Services Unit by telephone at 304-625-5555.

To access the *UCR Program Quarterly* on JusticeConnect, you must have a LEEP account and be a member of the UCR Program community. To obtain a LEEP account, go to www.cjis.gov to apply. Once on LEEP, to apply to the UCR Program community, click on the magnifying glass and search for Uniform Crime Reporting Program. Scroll down and click on the UCR Program logo to request joining the community. Members of the UCR Program community should:

❖ Log onto the LEEP portal at www.fbi.gov/services/cjis/leep.

❖ Click on the JusticeConnect link and select I Agree under the terms and conditions.

❖ Select UCR Program Quarterly under the Publications and Files section.

Section 3— On the Audit Trail

NIBRS property description for reporting the vandalism of vehicles and structures

When law enforcement officers report the vandalism of a vehicle, including breaking a windshield or keying a car, they should use the code of the actual vehicle, i.e., 03 = Automobiles, 05 = Buses, 24 = Other Motor Vehicles, 28 = Recreational Vehicles, or 37 = Trucks. These codes represent a better property description than 38 = Vehicle Parts/Accessories. By using the actual vehicle type as the property description when a vehicle is vandalized, one makes a specific logical inference that *vehicle parts* of the automobile, truck, bus, recreational vehicle, or other motor vehicle were vandalized. When the property description is 38 = Vehicle Parts/Accessories, one cannot determine whether the vandalized parts and accessories were specifically from an automobile, truck, bus, or other motor vehicle. Therefore, reporting agencies should use the most specific vehicle description instead of the description of 38 = Vehicle Parts/Accessories.

The same logic applies when reporting vandalism of a structure. When officers report vandalism of a building, including damage to a door or breaking of a window, they should use the code of the actual structure. These codes are 29 = Structures—Single Occupancy Dwellings, 30 = Structures—Other Dwellings, 31 = Structures—Other Commercial/Business, 32 = Structures—Industrial/Manufacturing, 33 = Structures—Public/Community, 34 = Structures—Storage, and 35 = Structures—Other. These codes represent a better property description than 43 = Building Materials.