

# IOWA UCR PROGRAM UPDATE

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## ICRIME Development

ICRIME is available for agency use. The system is web-based and accessible via credentials provided by the Iowa UCR program. Through ICRIME, agencies may process crime data and generate reports. Agencies receive access after completing a [Letter of Interest for UCR Program Participation](#).

As part of the transition to a new state crime database, the Iowa UCR technical specification has changed. While agencies still report incident-based crime data, numerous revisions have been made to the technical specification. Agencies may now report crime using new data elements and values, such as the offense codes of 720=Animal Cruelty, 26F=Identity Theft, 26G=Hacking/Computer Invasion, 64A=Human Trafficking, Commercial Sex Acts, 64B=Human Trafficking, Involuntary Servitude, and 40C=Purchasing Prostitution. The [Iowa UCR Program User Manual](#) provides detailed information on the data elements and values.

All agencies are required to certify within ICRIME. An agency becomes certified when it achieves an error rate of less than four percent (4%) over three consecutive months. Agencies must maintain this level of accuracy to remain certified and may be asked to re-certify if they change submission methods or records management systems (RMS) vendors. Crime data from agencies that have not satisfied certification requirements may be excluded from state and national publications. Review the [Iowa UCR Program Policy Manual](#) for more information on the certification process.

As both the state's vendor and RMS vendors are working to finalize software updates, the monthly submission deadlines have been suspended. Agencies will receive information when the deadlines become effective.

## FBI NIBRS Training

The FBI is offering a virtual NIBRS training on June 8 through 10. It will include detailed instruction on classifying Group A offenses, Group B offenses, reporting incidents and arrests utilizing NIBRS data elements and values, practice scenarios, and activities.

Registration opens on May 3 at 3 pm Central and is limited to 275 individual logins across the entire country. Agencies that would like to participate should register as close to 3 pm as possible. If multiple people from the same agency would like to attend, please register only one person and share a computer. [Click here to register for virtual NIBRS Training](#).

## Rural Crime Research

The Iowa UCR program received a federal grant to research rural crime. The project focuses on agencies in "covered by" status that do not report directly to the state UCR program. The research includes a needs assessment of rural agencies and an analysis of rural crime.

In February, identified agencies received a survey to better understand their reporting status and needs. As a second step, the Iowa UCR program will be reaching out to all county sheriffs' offices within the state. Sheriffs' offices will be asked to identify the agencies for which they report crime data.

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## Error Data Sets (EDS)

Agencies have immediate access to errors and warnings within ICRIME. These generate automatically when a file is uploaded and are available under the Import File Error Log. Through the log, agencies may obtain detailed information on the errors and warnings, including the data value in error, error message, error description, and segment. An error data set (EDS) file is also emailed to the user following upload.

Since incidents/arrests with errors are rejected, agencies must correct errors within the RMS. The incident/arrest must then be re-submitted. When an incident/arrest contains a warning, but no error, it's accepted by ICRIME. Agencies should review warnings, as these typically indicate data quality issues. When necessary, agencies should correct and resubmit incidents/arrests with warnings. While ICRIME allows agencies to clear warnings that do not require correction, agencies should defer this action until submitting files in the production environment.

As ICRIME has more validations than the previous system, agencies may see more errors than they have in the past. There are numerous resources to help with errors and warnings. The [Iowa UCR Program User Manual](#) guides data entry, and the Iowa UCR Consolidated Errors and Warnings document provides information on all error and warning messages returned within ICRIME. These are available under "Resources" within ICRIME.

Agencies that report using the data entry forms also have access to real-time errors and warnings. Due to the intuitive nature of the forms, all errors are corrected before submission; no EDS is generated.

## Charge Code Table

To increase data quality, the state charge code table has been incorporated into ICRIME. Iowa CJIS maintains the table; an abridged version, specifically for UCR purposes, has been shared with RMS vendors.

The [abridged table](#) includes only those statutes that are reportable to the Iowa UCR program. It excludes repealed statutes, most traffic statutes, city ordinances, and sentencing enhancements. An error will generate within ICRIME if the submitted statute is not listed in the state charge code table.

The table also includes likely UCR offense codes. A warning will generate if the submitted offense code differs from what has been mapped within the table.

The state charge code table is an evolving resource and, as needed, will be updated to include new statutes and offense codes.

**As always, please contact me with any questions or concerns. I can be reached at [loynacha@dps.state.ia.us](mailto:loynacha@dps.state.ia.us) or (515) 725-6251.**

