IOWA UCR PROGRAM UPDATE

ICRIME Development

The state's vendor, Optimum Technology, is finalizing the development of ICRIME, with an anticipated completion date of September 30. The remaining development changes impact the Report Center and public portal.

The Report Center, already available within ICRIME, allows the Iowa UCR program and agencies to query data and create reports. The Iowa UCR program will use the public portal, a companion site to ICRIME, to publish data. It will replace static reports, allowing end-users to obtain crime statistics through a link on the Iowa Department of Public Safety website. When the public portal goes live, end-users will have access to 2016 through 2020 data. These data, also available in ICRIME, were processed in the legacy mainframe database using the old technical specification and migrated to the public portal.

As a final step in the development process, the Iowa UCR program must re-certify with the FBI - the Iowa UCR program may not submit 2021 crime data to the FBI until this occurs. The FBI requires re-certification whenever a state program enhances its existing system or changes its submission method. The Iowa UCR program has done both, as it has developed a new state crime database and will submit data to the FBI via extensible markup language (XML).

Once the Iowa UCR program achieves re-certification, certified agencies will move to the production environment. The Iowa UCR program will assist in this effort, using a phased approach that will take several weeks to complete. Upon processing data in the production environment, incidents/arrests will transmit to the FBI via XML, an automated process that ensures timely receipt of crime data and return of error data sets (EDS).

Data Quality Issues

Through the re-certification process, the FBI has asked the Iowa UCR program to address data quality issues. These stem from warnings generated in ICRIME. While ICRIME accepts incidents/arrests with warnings, agencies should always review these messages to identify potential data quality concerns.

Agencies should correct incidents/arrests if a review reveals illogical or inconsistent data. If the incident/arrest is accurate as entered, no changes are required. In the ICRIME user interface, agencies may identify warnings by an icon with a yellow triangle or by number. Please review the Consolidated Errors and Warnings document loaded into the Resources section of ICRIME for more information.

The two most common data quality issues identified through re-certification relate to warnings 1303 - Larceny with Burglary and 1310 - Credit Card/Automatic Teller Machine Fraud. Agencies should not report a separate larceny offense with a 220=Burglary/Breaking & Entering if associated with the unlawful entry of a structure. Similarly, agencies should not report the theft of a credit or debit card for 26B=Credit Card/Automated Teller Machine Fraud. The offense does not apply to the theft of a credit/debit card but its fraudulent use. If an offender steals a credit card, agencies should report the theft of the card with another offense (e.g., 23A=Pocket-picking, 23B=Purse Snatching, etc.).

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Agency Certification

Iowa Code § 692.15 mandates that all law enforcement agencies report monthly crime data and, with the transition to ICRIME, all agencies must certify. The Iowa UCR program and FBI will only publish data from certified agencies.

An agency achieves certification when it obtains an error rate of less than four percent over three consecutive months. Agencies must achieve the error rate in two attempts or less. Please keep in mind that some software allows only one export per month. It's critical that agencies meet the established criteria, as ICRIME rejects incidents/arrests with errors. The Iowa UCR Program Policy Manual provides additional information on the certification process. For all agencies, the process starts with a completed Letter of Interest for UCR Program Participation. Agencies should certify by **September 30, 2021**.

In certain instances, RMS vendor delays may impact timely certification. In these situations, agencies should work with their RMS vendors and, when necessary, the Iowa UCR program to develop a plan to certify as soon as possible.

Subaward Recipients

Through the UCR Technical Specification Subawards, the Iowa UCR program offered financial assistance to law enforcement agencies.

As the awards are made available through a federal National Crime Statistics Exchange (NCS-X) grant, agencies must achieve certification by **September 30, 2021**, the grant end date. To be reimbursed for software updates, subaward recipients must implement changes within their RMS, achieve certification, and provide required documentation (i.e., an invoice to the Iowa DPS and proof of payment).

Harassment Offenses

Offenses charged under Iowa Code Chapter 708.7 should be classified as 13C=Intimidation when the offender places the victim in reasonable fear of bodily harm through the use of threatening words and/or conduct but without displaying a weapon or subjecting the victim to actual physical attack. When a victim is not placed in fear but is annoyed, agencies should classify the offense as 90Z=All Other Offenses.

Regardless of the classification, the agency where the victim resides should report the offense - it's the receipt of the communication that indicates a crime has occurred. As the agency where the victim resides has jurisdiction, it should report the Group A offense of 13C=Intimidation once the offense is known to law enforcement, regardless of whether it makes an arrest. The agency where the victim resides should report the Group B offense of 90Z=All Other Offenses if it makes an arrest or issues a summons/citation.

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