National Incident-Based Reporting System

Addendum to the NIBRS Volumes:
Volume 1: ***Data Collection Guidelines***
Volume 2: ***Data Submission Specifications***
Volume 4: ***Error Message Manual***

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program's *State Program Bulletin* 99-2 dated June 23, 1999, announced that the FBI adopted five recommendations concerning the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) that were submitted and accepted through the Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Advisory Process. Recommendation 5 allowed agencies to treat several Group "A" offenses as if they were Group "B" offenses, reporting an incident number and the data elements that describe the arrestee and the circumstances of the arrest. However, this caused agencies to lose information that was critical to their efforts to conduct effective community policing. Additionally, implementing the recommendation created system incompatibilities between the local agencies' and the state Program's. Therefore, at its December 2001 meeting, the CJIS Advisory Policy Board voted to remove Recommendation 5 of the standards for easing NIBRS implementation as stated in *State Program Bulletin* 02-1 (March 2002). The following information is the revised *Addendum to the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) Volumes.*

Recommendation 1: Allow agencies to report as few as two victim-to-offender relationships per victim.

Approach for Recommendation 1: NIBRS edits have been adjusted to permit recording relationships for only two offenders for each victim of a Crime Against Person or a robbery. That is, reports showing three or more offenders in the Offender Segment will be rejected <u>only if fewer than two relationships</u> are reported for any victim. The requirement for information for all offenders, however, will be retained for the Offender Segment.

Should this method of reporting be adopted, reporting agencies should relate the two primary offenders for each victim. The choice of primary offenders should be based on their degree of involvement in the offense against the designated victim. Accomplices should be reported last even though they may be close relatives of the victims. The primary offenders may be different for each victim.

Modified Victim Segment Edit

38. A VICTIM MUST BE CONNECTED TO AT LEAST TWO OFFENDERS

When a victim is connected to a Crime Against Person or Robbery UCR Offense Code and there are multiple offenders submitted, at least two of the Offender Sequence Numbers (Data Element 36) must be entered in Data Element 34 (Offender Numbers to be Related). If all offenders are being connected to the victim and there are more than 10 offenders, use the 10 closest in relationship to the victim. In other words, if there were 15 offenders and 14 were neighbors and 1 was the brother, ensure that the brother was 1 of the 10 offenders entered. If all offenders are not being connected to the victim, reporting agencies should relate at a minimum the two primary offenders for each victim. The choice of primary offenders should be based on their degree of involvement in the offense against the designated victim. Accomplices should be reported last even though they may be close relatives of the victim. The primary offenders may be different for each victim.

(085)

Modified Error Number and Message

085 WHEN CONNECTED, EACH VICTIM MUST BE CONNECTED TO AT LEAST TWO OFFENDERS

When a victim is connected to a Crime Against Person or Robbery UCR Offense Code and multiple offenders are submitted, at least two Offender Sequence Numbers (Data Element 36) must be entered in Data Element 34 (Offender Numbers to be Related). In this case the victim segment does not show a relationship of at least two offenders when two or more offenders were submitted.

Recommendation 2: Allow agencies to impute the value of Location Type (Data Element 9) to individual offenses.

Recommendation 3: Allow agencies to impute the value of Bias Motivation (Data Element 8a) to individual offenses.

Recommendation 4: Allow agencies to impute the value of Offenders Suspected of Using (Data Element 8) to individual offenses.

Approach for Recommendations 2, 3, & 4: This is a policy clarification; therefore, no system changes to NIBRS are necessary. These recommendations address situations in which local records systems capture only one location or bias motivation per incident or those that capture offender alcohol/drug/computer usage only at the incident or offender level. In such situations, assigning the known value to each offense comprising an incident is permissible. Because illogical combinations can sometimes result from these types of imputations, agencies should be alert for invalid report values.