November 2018

National Crime Statistics Exchange

The National Crime Statistics Exchange (NCS-X) supports the transition of law enforcement crime reporting to the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). The NCS-X will result in nationally representative, incident-based crime data that can generate detailed estimates of the volume and characteristics of crimes known to law enforcement. These detailed data provide meaningful analytic information to law enforcement, policymakers, and criminal justice planners.

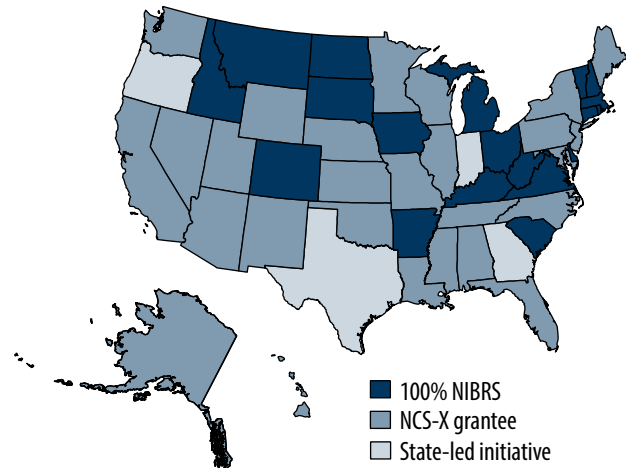## How does the NCS-X aim to improve national crime estimates?

The current coverage of NIBRS does not permit the production of reliable national estimates of reported crime. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has committed to transitioning to a NIBRS-only data collection by January 1, 2021. The NCS-X assists with accomplishing this goal by promoting more law enforcement agencies to adopt NIBRS.

While 100% NIBRS coverage would be ideal, national estimates from the NIBRS data can be produced sooner if existing data are supplemented by an additional scientifically selected sample of 400 agencies, including those covering the largest U.S. cities. The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) will assist the FBI and state programs in expanding NIBRS coverage to include the 400 sampled agencies.

Which organizations oversee this initiative?

BJS and the FBI oversee the NCS-X, with support from the Research Triangle Institute, International Association of Chiefs of Police, Police Executive Research Forum, Integrated Justice Information Systems Institute, and SEARCH-the National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics.

NCS-X state participation status

- 100% NIBRS
- NCS-X grantee
- State-led initiative

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Statistics Exchange, 2018.

How does the NCS-X help law enforcement agencies?

The NCS-X has developed a suite of how-to resources, including a playbook for transitioning to NIBRS and case studies of how other agencies have handled the transition. The NCS-X implementation team provides direct technical assistance and background materials, conducts on-site NIBRS readiness assessments, and develops agency-specific plans to transition to NIBRS.

Is financial support available?

NCS-X funding was available through December 2018. BJS made grants to state Uniform Crime Reporting Programs to handle the increased data flow and provided funding to local law enforcement agencies for changes to their technology infrastructure.

How can I find out more information?

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