Uniform Crime Reporting

Data Accuracy

As we near the end of the year, here are some key things to remember for Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR).

HB 4879 mandated the submission of NIBRS data monthly. The UCR program's goal is the collection of *timely* and *accurate* crime statistics. Local agencies should be ensuring, not only their monthly submissions are happening on time, but also that their data is accurate. There are multiple ways to verify your data is correct:

1. Submissions Errors
    a. 3-digit numeric codes, sometimes preceded by a 'T' (e.g., 056, 173, 220, T-221, T-935).
    b. Errors received when uploading or entering incidents are blocked and will not appear in the UCR database.
    c. **Ensure accuracy:** Local agencies will need to resolve the reporting issue and then resubmit that incident, until it is accepted (i.e., error free).

2. Submission Warnings
    a. 4-digit numeric codes, sometimes preceded by a 'T' (e.g., 1203, 1308, 1407, T-1872).
    b. Warnings indicate data in the incident is uncommon or may be misclassified and will need to be verified.
    c. **Ensure accuracy:** If corrections are needed, local agencies should update the incident and then resubmit.

3. DPS Data Quality Checks
    a. DPS follows up with agencies on data quality issues (i.e., data that varies from your normal reporting trends or scenarios that are very rare; needing to be doublechecked by the reporting agency).
    b. **Ensure accuracy: :** If corrections are needed, local agencies should update the incident and then resubmit.

Users can view their Errors and Warnings in the UCR system, under Report Center > Errors and Warnings Report.

For questions related to NIBRS, errors or warnings email NIBRS@dps.texas.gov or call (512) 424-2091.