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NEW ORLEANS POLICE MISCLASSIFY FORCIBLE RAPE CASES

The New Orleans Office of Inspector General today released a performance audit of the New Orleans Police Department's Uniform Crime Reporting process for forcible rapes for the three-year period June 1, 2010 through May 31, 2013.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Uniform Crime Report (UCR) is the official data on crime in the United States. The NOPD is among law enforcement agencies across the nation which voluntarily participates in the UCR Program by reporting data according to the FBI's quality guidelines.

The audit found that NOPD violated guidelines by misclassifying and not reporting to the UCR Program 41 of the 90 (46%) offenses tested. The audit concluded the NOPD violated the Louisiana Public Records Law, and also found NOPD internal policy violations including failure to corroborate signal and/or disposition changes with supporting documentation, failure to complete incident reports prior to end of shifts, lack of timely supervisor review of reports, and failure to remit evidence to Central Evidence & Property.

Forcible rape was selected for testing based on the FBI's 2012 crime statistics which showed forcible rape in New Orleans was 43% lower than the 24 other cities with the highest crime rates.

"By misclassifying the UCR data, the actual crimes that occurred were unknown to the public as well as law enforcement," stated Inspector General Ed Quatrevaux. "NOPD should ensure its officers are in compliance with its policies and procedures and do a better job of making sure crime data is reported accurately."

OIG will conduct an audit of NOPD Uniform Crime Reporting of Forcible Rapes each year for the foreseeable future.

The performance audit is attached to this press release.

Other reports issued by the Office of Inspector General can be viewed and downloaded from the website at <http://www.nolaoig.org>.

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