

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR Program) is a *voluntary* nationwide, cooperative statistical effort of city, county, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies reporting data on crimes brought to their attention. The FBI administers the UCR Program and continues to assess and monitor the nature and type of crime committed in the United States. The UCR Program's objective is to generate reliable information for use in law enforcement administration, operation, and management.¹

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) conducted a performance audit of the New Orleans Police Department's (NOPD) Uniform Crime Reporting process for the period June 1, 2010 through May 31, 2013. Robbery was selected for testing based on the FBI's 2012 published crime statistics. The data revealed that robbery in New Orleans was 46% lower than 24 other cities with the highest crime rates. This report is issued to offer recommendations concerning the NOPD's internal policies and procedures and the accuracy of its data reported to the UCR Program.

UCR data quality guidelines, published by the FBI, provided policy and procedural guidance to law enforcement agencies to maximize the quality, objectivity, utility, and integrity of the information. The NOPD violated these guidelines. The following conditions were noted:

- ❖ The NOPD misclassified 37% of the offenses tested to a miscellaneous offense rather than a robbery.
- ❖ The NOPD misclassified 40% of the offenses tested to miscellaneous offense instead of assigning a disposition of unfounded (UNF).
- ❖ The NOPD did not report all robberies with a disposition of unfounded (UNF) to the UCR Program.
- ❖ The NOPD did not report known robbery offenses when the victim refused to cooperate.
- ❖ The NOPD did not corroborate signal changes with supporting documentation.
- ❖ The NOPD did not submit evidence to Central Evidence & Property.

The recommendations in this report, if adopted, should improve the NOPD's internal controls over crime reporting as well as the reliability of its data reported to the UCR Program.

The NOPD was given an opportunity to challenge findings and provide additional data in an exit conference held on August 1, 2014; a normal practice for all exit conferences and reports issued by this office. Instead, the NOPD chose to voice challenges in its formal responses which could have been vetted prior to the release of the report.

Each challenge or objection posed by the NOPD in its formal response has been addressed below each finding.

Note: All responses from the NOPD in the body of this report are direct statements and have not been modified.

¹"Crime in the United States, 2009" U.S. Department of Justice - Federal Bureau of Investigation; September 2010. www.fbi.gov.
The City of New Orleans
Office of Inspector General

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Page 2 of 19

A Performance Audit of NOPD
UCR Reporting- Robbery