

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. Forcible Rape was selected for testing based on the FBI's 2012 published crime statistics. The data revealed that forcible rape in New Orleans was 43% lower than 24 other cities with the highest crime rates. This report is issued to offer recommendations and observations concerning the NOPD's internal policies and procedures and the accuracy of its data reported to the UCR Program. Similar conditions to those cited in this report were also identified by the United States Department of Justice².

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 46% of the offenses tested to sexual battery, miscellaneous offense or Unfounded (UNF) rather than forcible rape.
- The NOPD misclassified forcible rape offenses to miscellaneous offense instead of assigning a disposition of Unfounded (UNF).
- The NOPD UCR Specialist did not report the highest offense on the hierarchy list to the UCR Program for multiple-offense situations.
- The NOPD violated the Louisiana Public Records Law.
- The NOPD did not report all forcible rapes with a disposition of "Report to Follow" (RTF) and UNF to the UCR Program.
- The NOPD did not corroborate signal and/or disposition changes with supporting documentation.
- The NOPD did not complete incident reports prior to ending their tour of duty.
- The NOPD backdated police reports to a date prior to the date the reports were written.
- NOPD supervisors did not review incident and/or supplemental reports timely.
- The NOPD did not remit evidence to Central Evidence & Property.

¹"Crime in the United States, 2009" U.S. Department of Justice- Federal Bureau of Investigation; September 2010. www.fbi.gov.

² "Investigation of the New Orleans Police Department" U.S. Department of Justice- Civil Rights Division; March 2011. www.justice.gov. and "United States of America vs. City of New Orleans (Case 2:12-cv-01924-SM-JCW)" Consent Decree Regarding the New Orleans Police Department; July 2012.

In addition, the NOPD discontinued its practice of posting its quarterly UCR data on its website and the reporting of Part II arrest data to the UCR Program.

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.

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Note: All responses from the NOPD in the body of this report are direct statements. □