

SEARCH Resolution 93-14

Of the Membership Group of SEARCH, The National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics

July 14, 1993

Automated Incident-Based Reporting and Community-Based Policing

WHEREAS, the President has called for a national program of community-based policing;

WHEREAS, community-based policing has specific information needs and, in order to be effectively implemented, requires on-going research using incident-based offense and arrest data;

WHEREAS, automated, incident-based offense and arrest data have been, and continue to be, useful to local law enforcement agencies in conducting management and administrative research and have proven essential to effective decisionmaking;

WHEREAS, automated, incident-based offense and arrest data have been, and continue to be, useful to local law enforcement agencies in conducting detailed crime analysis which enables cost-efficient resource allocation and operationally effective interventions;

WHEREAS, automated, incident-based offense and arrest data properly reflect the inherently incident-based structure of police operations and recordkeeping practices;

WHEREAS, the data specifications of the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), and of many State UCR/NIBRS reporting programs, represent a sub-set of the data that are generally captured in local automated, incident-based offense and arrest reporting systems;

WHEREAS, local law enforcement agencies throughout the nation need continuing research, training, technical assistance, financial support, and program development designed to demonstrate the utility and aid the implementation of automated, incident-based offense and arrest reporting systems;

WHEREAS, implementation by local law enforcement agencies of automated, incident-based offense and arrest reporting systems will also facilitate data collection at the State and Federal levels, as a by-product of operational law enforcement information systems;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that SEARCH, The National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics, recommends that the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation each make a commitment on a priority basis to undertake programs to:

(More)

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- a) assist local law enforcement agencies in their acquisition and implementation of automated, incident-based records management systems that meet the operational needs of the local agency and are capable of reporting statistical data to State and Federal NIBRS reporting programs;
- b) document and demonstrate the benefits of automated, incident-based records management systems for law enforcement agencies, policy decisionmakers, researchers, and the general public;
- c) train local and state law enforcement administrators and researchers in a variety of research methodologies and analytic strategies that will demonstrate the administrative, management, community-based policing, and crime analytic capabilities of automated, incident-based offense and arrest data;
- d) support implementation, demonstration, technical assistance and research projects designed to expand the capabilities of incident-based offense and arrest reporting programs and better serve the needs of local, State and Federal users of the information; and
- e) facilitate continued coordination and communication among local law enforcement contributors and state and national reporting programs.

In the design of these programs, State and local law enforcement administrators, researchers, policy makers, and other users of the data should play an active role.