December 2003

Uniform Crime Reporting
State Program Bulletin 03-5

SECTION 1–MESSAGE TO PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

SECTION 2–PUBLICATION UPDATES AND MODIFICATIONS

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1.1   Data Submission Deadlines

State Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program managers should note the following deadlines for data to be received by the FBI's Crime Statistics Management Unit (CSMU) and share these deadlines with their local agencies.

December 19, 2003	Deadline for police employee counts as of October 31, 2003.
December 31, 2003	Deadline to review the population-by-county printouts sent recently by the CSMU and to make changes to an agency's current reporting status or to add new contributing agencies within the state. This date does not include submitting change of addresses.
February 20, 2004	Deadline for agencies submitting data to be included in the *Preliminary Annual Uniform Crime Report, 2003*. **For Most-in-Population agencies to be published in the** *Report,* **the CSMU must have received complete data for 12 months by this deadline.**
March 12, 2004	Deadline for submitting data to be included in *Crime in the United States, 2003*. **Data must be complete for 12 months.** This date is also the deadline for submitting statistics on officers assaulted and hate crime occurrences to be included in *Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted, 2003,* and *Hate Crime Statistics, 2003*.

1.2   Electronic Availability of the *State Program Bulletin*

The UCR Program's *State Program Bulletin* is available electronically in Corel WordPerfect and Microsoft Word formats. **State Program managers** who wish to receive the UCR *State Program Bulletin* via E-mail instead of receiving hard copies through the U.S. Postal Service should provide the FBI's Communications Unit (CU) with their E-mail address at: **cjis_comm@leo.gov** and indicate *State Program Bulletin* in the subject line of the E-mail. **Please note that whether the** *Bulletin* **is received electronically or in hard copy, it is the responsibility of the state UCR Program manager to disseminate the information as appropriate to your staff and local agencies.**

In order to serve our customers in the best manner possible, the national UCR Program would like to remind state Program managers to keep the CU informed of any changes in their E-mail addresses.

The current UCR *State Program Bulletin,* as well as previous editions, is also available via the Law Enforcement OnLine (LEO) Intranet at **www.leo.gov/special_topics/stats/stats_home.html** (under the Crime in the U.S.: Uniform Crime Reports Section). Users with questions concerning access to the LEO should contact the LEO Program Office at (202) 324-8833 (telephone) or Ms. Stacey C. Davis of the Advisory Groups Management Unit at (304) 625-2618 (telephone).

SECTION 2–PUBLICATION UPDATES AND MODIFICATIONS

2.1 *Age-Specific Arrest Rates and Race-Specific Arrest Rates for Selected Offenses, 1993–2001,* **Now Available Online and in Print**

The national Program recently published an updated special data presentation. Interested parties may access *Age-Specific Arrest Rates and Race-Specific Arrest Rates for Selected Offenses, 1993–2001,* in PDF or Excel via the Internet at <www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm> or request a hard copy by calling the FBI's CU at (304) 625-4995. Though the December 1993 edition of the publication that covers 1965–1992 is no longer in print, data users may access it online as well. In the future, the Program will annually update the document online.

2.2 **New Data Presentations Coming in the December Release of the** *Preliminary Semiannual Uniform Crime Report, January–June 2003*

The *Preliminary Semiannual Uniform Crime Report, January-June 2003,* will have a new look. The improved presentation is a result of the absence of the Crime Index and Modified Crime Index, which are temporarily being suspended as efforts continue to redefine those measurements. Data users will find displayed Violent Crime, including its associated offenses, and Property Crime, with its associated offenses. Additionally, the *Report* presented on the FBI's Internet site will include an interactive map that will display the Most-in-Population agencies.

Background
The national UCR Program has called into question the utility of what the Program currently calls the "Crime Index." This number has been typically used by many to rank agencies, a practice the national Program has always cautioned against. Because the Crime Index is simply an aggregate of seven of the eight Part I offenses, the Index is driven upward by larceny-theft, which comprises almost 60 percent of the total number. The Program presented its concerns to the UCR Subcommittee, who charged the Program to investigate and devise a better system. In September, the Bureau of Justice Statistics, on behalf of the FBI, sponsored a symposium attended by noted criminologists, sociologists, statisticians, and mathematicians to discuss the function of a crime index and whether the current index fulfills that function. There was general agreement that the problem was complex and required further research. However, the consensus was that the current Crime Index is ineffective, and a truer picture of the Nation's, a state's, or a locale's crime experience could be presented by disaggregating the total into Violent Crime and Property Crime. This was discussed at the 2003 conference of the Association of State UCR Programs; attendees agreed that the disaggregation would better serve their needs and better represent their crime data.

2.3 *Uniform Crime Reporting Handbook* **to Be Released in 2004**

The national Program is currently completing the revision of the *Uniform Crime Reporting Handbook* for summary reporting. State UCR Program managers should note that the national Program will send a communication early in 2004 regarding the publication's release.