



Uniform Crime Reporting *State Program Bulletin*

Data Submission Deadlines and Missing Month Reports

Two important dates for data submissions to the national Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program follow:

- 1) The deadline for submitting 1998 data for the Preliminary Annual Uniform Crime Report is **February 22, 1999**.
- 2) The deadline for submitting all 1998 data for inclusion in the 1998 edition of *Crime in the United States* is **March 18, 1999**.

Prior to the established March deadline, the FBI's UCR Program, Statistical Unit, will forward to state-level UCR Program managers missing month reports identifying the months for which data have not been received and two-year trends identifying those agencies reporting unusual percent changes by offense.

Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity

The *State Program Bulletin* dated November 30, 1998, discussed the new federal directive concerning classifying race and ethnicity data. The FBI realizes that this change could have considerable impact on the entire UCR Program. As such, the FBI's UCR Program is still reviewing its race and ethnicity data collection policies and forms with regard to compliance with the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) *Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity*. We are also continuing our discussions with the OMB requesting clarification and consideration in order to more effectively manage this change. Further information about revising the UCR forms to comply with the OMB's new standards for race and ethnicity will be provided as it becomes available.

Classification Clarification

Recently, an incident occurred in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in which two individuals became involved in a physical altercation. One of the individuals pulled a canister of mace from his pocket and sprayed his combatant in the face causing him severe discomfort. The victim fled the scene and sought medical attention which consisted of

cleansing the affected area.

The question is whether the use of mace against another person would constitute the offense of **Aggravated Assault**.

Uniform Crime Reporting Handbook, page 16, specifically defines Aggravated Assault as, “an unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury. This type of assault usually is accompanied by the use of a weapon or by means likely to produce death or great bodily harm.”

Black’s Law Dictionary, Sixth Edition, page 950, defines **Mace** as “Chemical liquid which, when sprayed in face of person, causes dizziness and immobilization.”

Black’s Law Dictionary, Sixth Edition, page 1593, defines **Weapon** as “An instrument of offensive or defensive combat, or anything used, or designed to be used, in destroying, defeating, threatening, or injuring a person.”

Uniform Crime Reporting Handbook, page 16, states, “on occasion, it is the practice of local jurisdictions to charge assailants in assault cases with assault and battery or simple assault even though a knife, gun, or other weapon was used in the incident. For Uniform Crime Reporting purposes, this type of assault is to be classified as **aggravated**.” (emphasis added)

Therefore, the correct classification for the scenario presented above would be **Aggravated Assault** because mace is considered a weapon.