Indiana Crime and
Justice Data Assessment

Key Informant Interview Findings

Report to the ICJI Research Division and the Indiana Crime and Justice Data Advisory Group

BACKGROUND

The Center for Criminal Justice Research (CCJR) at IUPUI has a long history of partnering with the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) to address critical issues related to Indiana's justice systems including: *crime prevention; drug and alcohol abuse associated with crime; law enforcement; sentencing and corrections;* and *traffic safety.* Beginning in June 2011, CCJR entered into a two-year partnership to assist ICJI in improving criminal justice programming and policy development in Indiana by serving as a research partner that will perform critical data collection and analytical tasks to address research priorities in key program areas. One of the priorities identified by ICJI was the need to assess and improve crime- and justice-related data collection and accessibility to ICJI, their subgrantees, and other partners.

The focus of the crime and justice data assessment currently underway is to identify priority data elements needed by ICJI program area directors, research staff, and subgrantees to make informed decisions in policy and program development and to operate more effectively and efficiently. CCJR is attempting to build upon the findings of the Indiana Data Exchange (IDEx) project, a statewide partnership facilitated by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) and designed to assist the state of Indiana in emerging as a national leader in the data-sharing landscape with the following goal in mind:

> …to enhance public safety services by sharing data across jurisdictions, among local, state, and federal public safety organizations.

Research tasks related to the crime and justice data assessment have been divided into four primary steps that will result in a series of summary reports and topical briefs:

1. Meeting with ICJI division directors
2. Conducting key informant interviews
3. Forming the crime and justice data advisory group
4. Administering crime and justice data survey

This report summarizes findings from key informant interviews conducted by CCJR researchers in the fall of 2011. These interviews enabled researchers to incorporate the perspectives of a diverse set of individuals from a variety of backgrounds in state and local government, nonprofit organizations, and private consulting firms. While these findings represent only a snapshot of the current crime and justice data-sharing environment in Indiana, participants provided valuable information to researchers on current Indiana data collection efforts, data needs and priorities, data sharing policies and procedures, and potential obstacles and incentives to building a statewide crime and justice data-sharing collaboration. These interviews, along with CCJR's initial planning meetings with ICJI division directors and the formation of the Crime and Justice Data Advisory Group, will inform the process going forward and serve as an essential step in completing a statewide crime and justice data assessment. The end goal is to develop a statewide crime and justice data collaboration that could emulate the nationally-recognized traffic safety records collaboration currently facilitated by ICJI.

KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW PROCESS
MEETING WITH ICJI DIVISION DIRECTORS AND STAFF

In October 2011, CCJR staff conducted a series of meetings with ICJI division directors and staff to seek their expertise in refining the data assessment research approach. ICJI staff assisted CCJR researchers by 1) identifying a set of priority data elements from the results of the IDEx ICJI agency assessment, 2) providing feedback on draft key informant interview questions, 3) recommending individuals to serve as key informant interviewees and advisory group members, and 4) offering insight on the role of the advisory group. Meeting attendees included:

- Josh Ross, Kate Kiser, and Christine Reynolds, Research Division (10/12/2011)

- Ryan Klitzsch and Kate Kiser, Traffic Safety (10/12/2011)

A research partnership between the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute and the Center for Criminal Justice Research

- Sharon Langlotz and Christine Reynolds, Victim Services (10/12/2011)

- Megan Compton, Kate Kiser, and Garrett Mason, Drug and Crime (10/19/2011)

- Ashley Barnett, Youth Services (10/19/2011)

CONDUCTING KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS

Key informant interviews were conducted in November and December, 2011. Key informants were selected based on the recommendations of ICJI division directors and research staff. The purpose of these interviews was to enable researchers to gain understanding from a diverse set of individuals representing a variety of backgrounds in state and local government, nonprofit organizations, and private consulting firms. Interviewees included representatives from current state agency data partners, local partner agencies/organizations, and a number of ICJI sub-grantees representing each of the four ICJI program areas. Following is a list of individuals who served as key informants to this process:

Traffic Safety

- Mike Medler, Toxicology Advisory Board

- Nils King, ICJI Traffic Records Coordinator

- Traffic records clerks:
    - o Misty Ituarte, Greenwood Police Department
    - o Jody Hollenbaugh, Whitley County Sheriff's Department
    - o Melissa Weathers (crime data collection), Greenwood Police Department

Victim Services

- Anita Carpenter, Indiana Coalition Against Sexual Assault

- Laura Berry Bearman, Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence

- Beth Stein, Jasper Crisis Intervention Connection

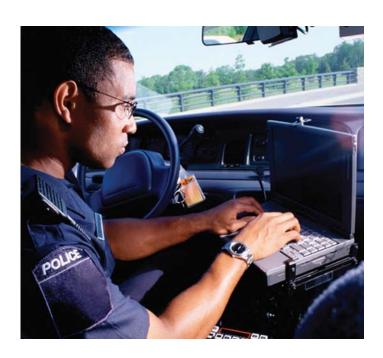- Caroline Fisher, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program (SANE)

Drug and Crime

- Major Doug Shelton, Indiana State Police (ISP)

- Major Larry Turner, ISP

- Steve Malone, Monroe County Drug Court and Community Corrections

- Aaron Garner, Department of Correction

Youth Services

- Jane Siegel, Judicial Center

- Bill Gottleib, Gottlieb & Wertz

- Tashi Teuschler, ICJI Disproportionate Minority Contact Coordinator

Multiple divisions

- Mary DePrez, Judicial Technology and Automation Committee (JTAC)

- Linda Moller, Floyd County Circuit Court Clerk (participated via conference call in meeting with Mary DePrez)

- Jason Hutchens, Indiana Department of Homeland Security, Indiana Data Exchange (IDEx) Project

- Steve Luce, Indiana Sheriffs' Association

- Mike Ward, Indiana Association of Chiefs of Police

FORMING THE CRIME AND JUSTICE DATA ADVISORY GROUP

A number of key informants were also asked to serve on the newly formed Crime and Justice Data Advisory Group. Advisory group members were selected based on their expertise working with crime and justice data to develop policies and programs to improve public safety throughout Indiana. A number of individuals were specifically selected for their extensive knowledge of the current practices, processes, and resources needed by local law enforcement agencies in their efforts to document and report criminal activities in their communities.

The primary role of this group is to provide feedback on the crime and justice data assessment research products at various stages of the project. The group will meet two to three times prior to June 2013, and will periodically be asked to react to research findings and to provide insight to ensure that a variety of perspectives and expertise are considered throughout the research process. Table 1 provides a list of individuals who have agreed to serve on the Crime and Justice Data Advisory Group:

INTERVIEW FINDINGS AND EMERGING THEMES REGARDING THE CURRENT CRIME AND JUSTICE DATA SHARING ENVIRONMENT

Key informants articulated a variety of perspectives on the current state of crime and justice data sharing in Indiana. Information shared by key informants is reported in broad terms to protect the confidentiality of interview participants. While no two organizations share the same data needs or data collection policies and procedures, all those interviewed recognize the need for improved crime and justice data reporting and sharing throughout the state. This being said, a number of individuals emphasized the need to recognize the structural differences that exist between organizations and to consider that a one-size-fits-all approach may not be ideal in addressing Indiana's data sharing needs. One of the common themes emerging from these interviews was the notion that there is a real need to improve accessibility to crime data across jurisdictions, and significant benefits could be realized through the implementation of a centralized crime reporting and information sharing system, as evidenced by other successful centralized data systems already in place in Indiana. Specifically, key informants identified Indiana Trial Court Technology data sets and the nationally recognized Indiana Traffic Records Collaboration as two areas where significant progress has been made in data collection and information sharing.

This section begins with a summary of key informant interview discussion topics and concludes with an examination of interview findings and emerging themes resulting from information gathered during the interview process. Themes are summarized based on the following categories:

1. Highlighted Indiana centralized data collection efforts
2. Potential benefits to improved information sharing
3. Potential obstacles to improved information sharing
4. Key issues in building a statewide crime and justice data-sharing collaboration

Table 1. Indiana Crime and Justice Data Advisory Group Members

Josh Ross, ICJI Research Division
Megan Compton, ICJI Drug and Crime
Ryan Klitzsch, ICJI Traffic Safety
Nils King, CJI Traffic Records Coordinator
Mike Medler, Indianapolis-Marion County Forensic Services Agency
Major Doug Shelton, Indiana State Police (ISP)
Major Larry Turner, ISP
Steve Malone, Monroe County Drug Court and Community Corrections
Jason Hutchens, Indiana Department of Homeland Security
Steve Luce, Indiana Sheriffs' Association
Dona Sapp, Center for Criminal Justice Research, IUPUI
Rachel Thelin, Center for Criminal Justice Research, IUPUI
Dr. Thomas D. Stucky, Center for Criminal Justice Research, IUPUI

Interview findings and themes will be used to target future research efforts, determine next steps in the research process, identify the crime and justice data survey population, and will also inform the development of the survey instrument.

KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW DISCUSSION TOPICS

Interview participants were prompted with a number of questions with the goal of gathering information on their experiences working with crime and justice data, as well as their perspectives on the current crime and justice data-sharing environment in Indiana. While participants were allowed flexibility to follow their own train of thought and to introduce topics of significance related to their own work experience, key informant discussions focused primarily on the following set of questions:

- What specific data sets do you use regularly in your work?

- Who is responsible for collecting and maintaining these data sets?

- Do you currently share data with others or request data from others?

- Do gaps exist in filling your data needs?

- How can we build upon the successes of current data collection and information sharing efforts?

- How would you recommend we build local agency/stakeholder buy-in to a centralized data collection and information sharing effort?

- What obstacles do you believe could limit or prevent local agencies/organizations from participating in a centralized data collection and information sharing effort?

- Whom do you view as essential partners in a centralized effort to collect, share, and utilize criminal justice data?

HIGHLIGHTED INDIANA CENTRALIZED DATA COLLECTION EFFORTS

Indiana Trial Court Technology

The Indiana Supreme Court, Division of State Court Administration's Judicial Technology and Automation Committee (JTAC) is committed to providing the judiciary with up-to-date technology and to developing a statewide case management system.

- **Odyssey Statewide Case Management System** – In Indiana, 401 courts handle more than 2 million cases a year, but information collected through various court systems has not, historically, been made accessible across jurisdictions to state and local entities in need of case-related data to effectively and efficiently conduct their work. Most existing case management programs solely focus on serving courts and are typically not connected to state and local law enforcement agencies and other organizations in need of case data. Initially launched in 2007, Odyssey is a cohesive case and financial management system currently deployed to 108 courts in 36 counties with a two-year waiting list on additional deployments. The Odyssey system provides a centralized, state-level configuration process, while also supporting the customization needs of participating entities to accommodate both state and local jurisdiction-specific rules and regulations. Federal funds have been secured to support statewide deployment of Odyssey, making it possible to provide the Odyssey program as well as any needed training to courts at no cost.

  One of the main benefits of Odyssey is that it allows users of Indiana trial court information (i.e., law enforcement agencies, policymakers, and state and federal agency representatives) to receive more complete and timely information. For example, a judge has the ability to access all criminal cases that a defendant has in all courts around the state. Additionally, Odyssey currently interfaces with other agencies and systems such as JTAC's Electronic Citation and Warning System (eCWS), resulting in a great reduction in needed staff hours previously required to separately enter traffic and ordinance violation data into various case management systems throughout the state.

- **Indiana Court Information Technology Extranet (INcite)** – JTAC was established by the Indiana Supreme Court in 1999, with a primary goal of automating court processes and integrating court systems throughout Indiana. In addition to developing the Odyssey statewide case management system, JTAC is continually developing and launching needed applications to work in tandem with Odyssey. To support these applications, JTAC created INcite, a secure extranet website, to serve as a single environment for hosting all of the web-based applications that JTAC currently provides or will provide in the future. Access to INcite is granted to appropriate state and local court and justice-related offices to foster sharing of information essential to the justice process. INcite currently includes:

  - BMV SR16-Filing Application

  - Department of Child Services Probation Program

  - Electronic Citation and Warning System Central Repository

  - Electronic Tax Warrants

  - Jury Management System

  - Jury Pool Export

  - Marriage License E-file System

  - Mental Health Adjudication

  - Online Court Statistics Reporting

  - Protection Order Registry

  - Protection Order Registry/Victim's Advocate

Indiana Traffic Records Collaboration

In 2005, the ICJI Traffic Safety Division (TSD), under the direction of the Indiana Governor's Council on Impaired and Dangerous Driving, established as one of its main priorities the creation of *an integrated traffic records system through a collaboration of all local, state, and federal entities responsible for motor vehicle safety.* After obtaining commitments from various state and local agencies with traffic safety missions, Indiana traffic safety partners planned and initiated a set of programs to develop a traffic records system that provides stakeholders with accurate and timely crash and traffic records data.

The TSD continued efforts to build on early successes in Indiana traffic collision reporting, and requested the assistance of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) in assembling a traffic records assessment team to review all components of the state's traffic records system during spring 2008. This team consisted of professionals with backgrounds and expertise in the following areas:

- Traffic enforcement and adjudication

- Professional engineering

- EMS/trauma data systems

- Crash reporting/reconstruction

- Licensing/vehicle registrations

The Indiana Traffic Records Coordinating Committee (TRCC), facilitated by the ICJI TSD adds new partners to this team on an ongoing basis, and the evolution and commitment of TRCC members has resulted in a number of spin-off projects (e.g., JTAC e-citation and court case management data systems, EMS/trauma electronic data systems, and BMV driver history data) that greatly enhance Indiana's ability to link and share traffic-related data.

In addition to new linkages with external data sets, improvements are continually planned to the crash records reporting system. Indiana's previous Vehicle Crash Reporting System, now known as the Automated Reporting Information Exchange System (ARIES), was initially developed in 2003. The Indiana State Police (ISP) are statutorily charged with the responsibility of maintaining a crash records database, and system opera-

tions are currently managed by Open Portal Solutions (OPS, a division of APPRISS Inc.). The agreement between ISP and OPS granted OPS the right to sell crash reports and data extracts to interested parties, including insurance companies and attorneys, as well as the general public. This means of contractor compensation enabled Indiana to implement a comprehensive, forward-looking crash records system at no cost to the State or its partners.

As of October 2011, 99 percent of the Indiana's law enforcement agencies were reporting crash records electronically through ARIES. ICJI and ISP are currently rolling out ARIES 5, with the goal of full implementation of this new version of ARIES by July 2012. With technical assistance provided by agencies including the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS), one of the key new features added in ARIES 5 is a point and click mapping application that will greatly improve the efficiency and accuracy of crash location reporting. Another new component in ARIES 5 is VIN Assist, a function that allows officers to auto-populate vehicle identification fields in a more efficient manner.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS TO IMPROVED INFORMATION SHARING

Key informants discussed a wide range of benefits to be realized by future efforts to improve information sharing among crime and public safety stakeholders throughout Indiana. Highlights of these discussions include:

- Law enforcement efforts to combat crime have been constrained for years by the fact that criminal activities do not naturally occur within predetermined jurisdictional boundaries. Improved connectivity and information sharing between state and local agencies would foster the development and implementation of cooperative law enforcement efforts across jurisdictions to address hot spots of criminal activity within a state or region.

- Existing technology infrastructure put in place to support current Indiana central data repositories (e.g., eCWS, ARIES, Odyssey, etc.) would not only support the adaptation of a centralized crime reporting system, but also would expedite the process of forming essential data linkages between these systems, enabling Indiana's criminal justice professionals to make informed, data-driven decisions.

- Implementing a federally recognized crime incident reporting system would likely improve Indiana's eligibility for millions of federal grant dollars that could be used to build law enforcement capacity to fight crime.

- Implementing a federally recognized crime incident reporting system (e.g., UCR, NIBRS, N-DEx) would enhance the ability of law enforcement to access information on criminal activity across state lines and in other regions of the country.

POTENTIAL OBSTACLES TO IMPROVED INFORMATION SHARING

Key informants included a number of seasoned practitioners who are very familiar with the political, bureaucratic, and financial constraints that may obstruct efforts to improve crime and justice information sharing. Interviewees identified the following potential obstacles to building a successful information sharing network:

- The wide variety of records management systems (RMS) and case management systems (CMS) currently used by local agencies for data collection and reporting create challenges in sharing information across jurisdictions.

- Many local agencies, particularly in small communities, are comfortable with their current vendors in records management and may be resistant to change. These agencies may also lack the technology and resources needed to convert to a centralized crime reporting system.

- A large information sharing effort such as this requires a "champion"—meaning an individual or a group of individuals with the authority to pursue the mission of creating an Indiana centralized crime reporting system and the ability to build support and enthusiasm for participation from the ground up.

KEY ISSUES IN BUILDING A STATEWIDE CRIME AND JUSTICE DATA-SHARING COLLABORATION

Individuals who served as key informants offered a variety of perspectives stemming from their ongoing collaborations with ICJI and through their work as representatives of current ICJI state agency data partners, local partner agencies/organizations, and a number of ICJI subgrantees representing each of the four ICJI program areas. Key informants identified the following set of issues for consideration when developing a successful statewide crime and justice data collaboration:

- **Legislative Support** – Unlike the ISP crash records system which is statutorily mandated, no recognized legislation currently exists in Indiana to support a statewide standardized crime reporting structure. Legislative support is typically a common characteristic of successful state crime reporting systems. IC 10-13-2 (http://www.in.gov/legislative/ic/code/title10/ar13/ch2.html) directs an established "criminal justice data division" to "use the most current equipment, methods, and systems for the rapid storage and retrieval of criminal justice data necessary for an effective criminal justice system within Indiana. One of the purposes outlined for crime data storage and retrieval is to inform the public and responsible governmental officials as to the nature of the crime problem, its magnitude, and its trend over time." IC 10-13-2 is currently untested and would require further exploration before being identified as a viable tool in establishing a statewide crime reporting system.

- **Funding** – Fiscal and budgetary constraints are a major barrier to large information technology initiatives, especially for local agencies in smaller communities. Any new initiative must be developed to minimize the financial burden placed on participating agencies.

- **Infrastructure** – While some local agencies do not have the infrastructure necessary to support large scale information sharing initiatives, significant progress has been made in this area as a result of collaborative efforts facilitated by agencies such as ICJI, ISP, and JTAC to build local agency participation by providing needed financial and technical support.

- **Training and Technical Support** – A technical assistance and training support system needs to be in place to ensure smooth implementation and maintenance of a statewide crime reporting system. Technical support must include a method to make needed changes to the system over time and the efficient deployment of future upgrades.

- **Education and Marketing** – Buy-in from local law enforcement and other participating organizations is essential to ensure the success of a centralized crime information sharing effort. An education and public awareness campaign is needed to inform agencies of potential benefits to their participation. This campaign should also include the creation of incentives to encourage law enforcement participation.

REVIEW OF CRIME DATA SYSTEMS

The complete, timely, and accurate reporting of data is widely known to greatly increase understanding of crime trends and problems. Key informants identified improvements to crime data reporting and information sharing as one of the primary tools available to assist agencies better target crime prevention efforts, more effectively address crime problems, and inform strategic resource allocation and coordination among agencies engaged in similar crime-fighting efforts. Key informants also indicated that being armed with such information, agencies could more effectively demonstrate the need to secure and allocate needed resources in response to crime. Data regarding rates and types of crime also assist states and local criminal justice organizations to attract needed federal funding to support improved program and policy development.

Within the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program, there are two well-known methods of collecting crime data: the traditional Summary reporting system and the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). More recently, the FBI has developed the Law Enforcement National Data Exchange (N-DEx), a new system designed to provide a national information sharing solution for fighting crime and terrorism. In spring 2012, ISP will pilot a new records management system (RMS) with the goal of improving ISP's capacity to report to the FBI systems noted above. ISP anticipates roll out to all ISP facilities throughout the state to be completed by early summer 2012.

UCR SUMMARY REPORTING SYSTEM

Developed in the 1920s to collect uniform, national crime data, the UCR Summary reporting program is the FBI's most widely used system today for recording crimes. There are two categories of crime information in the UCR Summary system. The first, offenses known to police, refers to crimes police believe have been committed through citizen reports, direct observations, and investigations. Offenses known comprise the number and type of criminal acts committed. Such offenses include only the most serious, frequent, and commonly reported crimes. The second category, crimes cleared by arrest, refers to situations where police have arrested a suspect for a reported crime. Offenses are cleared by arrest, or solved, when at least one person involved in the criminal act has been arrested.

Table 2. Differences between the UCR Summary Reporting System and NIBRS

	UCR/Summary reporting system	NIBRS
Offenses reported	Information is collected on eight crimes, known as Part I offenses	Extensive information on 46 crimes (Group A offenses) is collected
Multiple offenses	The "Hierarchy Rule" applies, where only the most serious offense committed during a single incident is reported.	All offenses reported
Crime categories	Two categories: • Crimes against persons (e.g., rape, murder, and aggravated assault) • Crimes against property (e.g., burglary and robbery)	Three categories: • Crimes against persons • Crimes against property • Crimes against society (e.g., drug or narcotic offenses)
Incident-level data	Provides total number of incidents	Provides information on each incident reported to police
Attempted versus completed	Does not differentiate between attempted and completed offenses	Each offense is designated whether attempted or completed
Arrests	Does not report arrests in specific incidents	Contains information about arrests in each incident
Weapons	Only recorded for cases of murder, robbery, and aggravated assault	All weapons data reported
Rape definition	Only female victims	Updated definition includes both male and female victims

There are a number of well-known limitations with the UCR Summary data. These are highlighted in Table 2.

Indiana does not have a centralized state collection program certified by the FBI. Individual law enforcement agencies in the state report crime data directly to the FBI. Indiana law does not currently mandate the collection of crime data, and the state is among three nationwide (along with Mississippi and New Mexico) that do not have state UCR programs. The standards for state UCR programs help ensure submission of consistent and comparable data, with regular and timely reporting. The FBI maintains criteria for state programs to be certified, including such factors as conformity to national UCR program standards and adequate staff and quality control procedures. The UCR Summary reporting program has evolved to some degree over time, including the development of NIBRS as discussed below. According to a September 2011 FBI publication, in 2013, another development involves all UCR submissions being transferred to an electronic interface. Paper submissions and PDF files will no longer be accepted. (UCR Program Continues to Adapt, Evolve, CJIS Link.)

NIBRS

In 1982, the FBI initiated a significant effort to revise the UCR Summary system, the result of which was NIBRS. As illustrated in the Table 1, many of the limitations associated with the UCR Summary system are absent in NIBRS. The primary difference between Summary reporting and NIBRS is that the unit of measurement is the criminal incident, as opposed to an offense within an incident. NIBRS provides incident-level information on 22 crime categories for 46 different offense types. Officers are required to report detailed information on multiple offenses, victims, and offenses, including demographic information on all persons as well as property involved. In this way, NIBRS provides more accurate, detailed, and meaningful crime data.

As of 2011, over 6,800 agencies nationwide report to NIBRS. This represents 43 percent of all law enforcement agencies, 28 percent of the U.S. population, and 27 percent of crime data collected by the UCR program. The FBI has certified 35 state UCR programs for NIBRS participation. (Report to the SEARCH Membership. July 21, 2011. Association of State UCR Programs, Inc.)

N-DEX

According to the FBI, "the vision of N-DEx is to enable the sharing of complete, accurate, timely, and useful information across jurisdictional boundaries and to provide new investigative tools that enhance the nation's ability to fight crime and terrorism."[1] N-DEx is a criminal justice information sharing system that links data across local, state, and federal systems. Participating N-DEx agencies are able to use analytical tools to detect relationships between people, vehicles/property, and crime characteristics in solving crime.

The following criminal justice data types are included in N-DEx: incident, case, arrest, booking, incarceration, probation, and parole. N-DEx began operating in early 2008 with the sharing of incident/case reports data. In July 2009, arrest, booking, and incarceration data were incorporated, and probation/parole data were added in early 2010. Since N-DEx inception, modifications and enhancements to increase analytical capabilities also have been made.

The system provides options for broad law enforcement agency participation, from those with automated records management systems (RMS) to those currently using paper-based systems. Any type of agency can participate in N-DEx, however, there are a number of requirements, including the following:

- Agencies must adhere to national standards for efficient sharing of data:
    - National Information Exchange Model (NIEM);
    - Law Enforcement Information Sharing Program (LEISP); and
    - Logical Entity Exchange Specification (LEXS).

- Agencies will be required to:
    - Sign an operational Memorandum of Understanding (MOU);
    - Identify and map data to the N-DEx Information Exchange Package Documentation (IEPD); and
    - Obtain Network Connectivity through an existing CJIS Wide-Area Network (WAN) or connect over the Law Enforcement Online (LEO).

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDED NEXT STEPS

As discussed earlier in this report, a common theme that emerged from these key informant interviews was a recognition of the need to improve accessibility to crime data across jurisdictions, and an acknowledgement that significant benefits could be realized through the implementation of a centralized crime reporting system. For this reason, it is recommended that the focus of the remaining crime and justice data assessment tasks be narrowed to priority data elements, in particular crime data, needed by ICJI and its subgrantees across all four ICJI divisions. This targeted focus on crime data would serve as an essential piece of the foundation needed to solidify a larger public safety information sharing initiative, such as the Indiana Data Exchange (IDEx) project, a developing statewide partnership facilitated by IDHS.

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[1] *N-DEx: Law Enforcement National Data* Exchange homepage: http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/n-dex/n-dex

According to a May 2007 report, *Timely and Accurate Data Reporting is Important for Fighting Crime*,[2] CCJR researchers found that Indiana was one of only three states that lack a centralized state crime data collection program certified by the FBI. Building on the successes of the model collaborative program in traffic records facilitated by ICJI, CCJR staff recommend a similar approach to assisting ICJI in building collaborative relationships, identifying obstacles, and in developing the incentives, infrastructure, and processes necessary to improving Indiana's crime data reporting. Remaining crime and justice data assessment tasks will inform future steps to building a successful statewide crime data sharing partnership.

Next steps identified in the crime and justice data assessment process include:

1. **Hold first meeting of Crime and Justice Data Advisory Group**

   Upon distribution of this document, Key Informant Interview Findings, to ICJI staff and advisory group members, CCJR staff will schedule the first meeting of the Crime and Justice Data Advisory Group. Advisory group members will be asked to react to the key informant interview findings and to provide insights on how to approach the next steps outlined in this report and to identify important issues to consider when completing these tasks.

2. **Key Indicators Report**

   CCJR researchers are currently utilizing information gathered through the IDEx state agency Data and Information Sharing Gaps and Needs Assessments (agency assessments) to address the specific data needs of ICJI. Researchers have also completed preliminary research on federally recommended key indicators, as well as model crime- and justice-related systems currently operating in other states. During the spring of 2012, CCJR will produce a key indicators report summarizing related research findings that will inform further prioritization of strategic ICII data elements as well as the administration of the Indiana Crime and Justice Data Survey.

3. **Crime and Justice Data Survey**

   Following one of the initial steps in building the traffic records collaboration, the crime and justice data survey population will primarily consist of representatives from local law enforcement agencies (i.e., municipal police departments and sheriffs). Results of the key informant interviews and the key indicator inventory will be used to design the crime and justice data survey instrument in an effort to further prioritize needed ICJI data elements, determine the feasibility of developing a collaborative, centralized approach to crime data reporting, and to gauge awareness of the state IDEx initiative. Survey findings will enable researchers to identify steps for improving accessibility and utilization of crime data, and more specifically, to document obstacles and identify incentives to local participation and collaboration in a statewide crime data sharing initiative.

   CCJR will produce periodic briefs and other research products highlighting key findings throughout the remainder of this project, and will continue working with ICJI division directors, research staff, and the Crime and Justice Data Advisory Group to ensure that remaining tasks are performed consistent with agreed upon ICJI crime and justice data goals and priorities.

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[2]**Stucky and Thelin,** *Timely and Accurate Data Reporting is Important for Fighting Crime*, **Center for Urban Policy and the Environment, IUPUI, 2007,** www.policyinstitute.iu.edu/criminal/publicationDetail.aspx?publicationID=464

CENTER FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESEARCH

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ICJI/CCJR RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

Over the past decade, CCJR has partnered with the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) to address critical issues related to Indiana's justice systems including: *crime prevention; drug and alcohol abuse associated with crime; law enforcement; sentencing and corrections;* and, *traffic safety;* including program assessments of 12 federal grant programs conducted by CCJR on behalf of ICJI between January 2006 and June 2008. In an effort to assist ICJI in improving criminal justice programming and policy development in Indiana, CCJR entered into a 2-year research partnership (beginning in June 2011) to perform critical data collection and analytical tasks in two broad research areas identified as priorities by ICJI. The scope of work includes 1) a review of best practices for all Victims Services division programs and primary program areas under ICJI's Drug and Crime Control division and Youth Services funding streams, and 2) a crime and justice data assessment that will serve as a first step in developing a statewide crime data collaboration that could emulate the nationally recognized traffic safety records collaboration facilitated by ICJI.

THE INDIANA CRIMINAL JUSTICE INSTITUTE

Guided by a Board of Trustees representing all components of Indiana's criminal and juvenile justice systems, the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute serves as the state's planning agency for criminal justice, juvenile justice, traffic safety, and victim services. ICJI develops long-range strategies for the effective administration of Indiana's criminal and juvenile justice systems and administers federal and state funds to carry out these strategies.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE

The Indiana University (IU) Public Policy Institute is a collaborative, multidisciplinary research institute within the Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA), Indianapolis. The Institute serves as an umbrella organization for research centers affiliated with SPEA, including the Center for Urban Policy and the Environment and the Center for Criminal Justice Research. The Institute also supports the Office of International Community Development and the Indiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (IACIR).

THE CENTER FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESEARCH

The Center for Criminal Justice Research, one of two applied research centers currently affiliated with the Indiana University Public Policy Institute, works with public safety agencies and social services organizations to provide impartial applied research on criminal justice and public safety issues. CCJR provides analysis, evaluation, and assistance to criminal justice agencies; and community information and education on public safety questions. CCJR research topics include traffic safety, crime prevention, criminal justice systems, drugs and alcohol, policing, violence and victimization, and youth.

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