NIBRS Errors and Warnings

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Objectives

Learn	Locate	Implement	Identify
Learn the difference between errors and warnings	Locate the errors within a NIBRS submission	Implement effective correction and prevention techniques on NIBRS Errors	Identify common NIBRS Warnings and ones that need to be reviewed

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NIBRS References

- NIBRS 2023.0 User Manual
  - This will have the NIBRS offense descriptions, data elements, and data values for submitting and correcting NIBRS errors

- 2019.2.1 NIBRS Technical Specifications
  - This will have a list of many of the common NIBRS errors and warnings
  - This will also include mandatory data elements for NIBRS offenses

- 2023 Texas Centric Technical Specifications and Error Codes
  - This will have a list of Texas Specific Errors (T-Errors including Segments 8 & 9)
  - Includes the Texas Sexual Assault Segment 9 reporting requirements

- Cargo Theft User Manual
  - The Cargo Theft User Manual was published by the FBI in 2013 and contains useful information about classifying Cargo Theft.

- Hate Crime Data Collection Guidelines and Training Manual
  - The Hate Crime User Manual contains useful information about classifying Hate Crimes.

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What is a NIBRS Error?

- A NIBRS error occurs when submitted data fails validation rules defined by the FBI and Texas DPS.

- Errors are generated after submission and returned in the Error/Warning Report.

- Errors help ensure data is valid, logical, and complete.

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Type of NIBRS Errors

NIBRS Errors:

- Incident is rejected and not counted in federal stats.
- Must be corrected and resubmitted.

NIBRS Warnings:

- Incident is accepted, but flagged for review
- May indicate data quality issues or inconsistencies.

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Errors: The first digit in the error indicates what segment line the error is on:

1= Administrative Segment*
2= Offense Segment
3= Property Segment
4= Victim Segment
5= Offender Segment
6= Arrestee Segment
7= Group B Arrest Segment
8= Texas Specific (Family Violence and Drug Seized)
9= Texas Specific (Sexual Assault)
0= Incident Formatting Error

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Learning Check #1

1. What is a NIBRS Error?
- A. An invalid incident
- B. The checks and balances of NIBRS incident data
- C. Must be corrected
- D. All the Above

Answer: D. All the Above

2. What is a NIBRS Warning?
- A. An invalid incident
- B. A data value check
- C. Must be corrected
- D. All the Above

Answer: B. A data value check

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Select Report Center >Click Reports>Select Errors and Warnings Report

How to Find Your NIBRS Errors & Warnings

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How to Find your NIBRS Errors

1. **Locates the NIBRS Errors and Warnings Report**
- After submitting a NIBRS file, download the NIBRS Errors and Warnings Report.

2. **Review the Report Details**
- Errors
- Description of the issue
- Incident Number
- Segment Affected (offense, property)

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How to Find your NIBRS Errors

3. Cross Reference the Error or Warning code
• FBI NIBRS Technical Specifications
• FBI NIBRS Manual

4. Correct the Error in RMS
• Open the listed incident in your Records Management System (RMS)
• Make the correction
• Re-export and re-submit

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NIBRS Common Errors

• Error 119 (Cargo Theft must be blank)
• Error 204 (Location Code)
• Error 387 (Drug offense and property description must match)
• Error 404/Error 085 (this error has multiple descriptions)
• Error 472 (One offender with unknown identifier(s) must be Relationship Unknown)
• Error 555 (Absolute Unknown Offender w/Known Unknown Offender)
• Error 558 (Cannot Exceptionally Clear with unknown offender)
• Error 604/Error 704 Invalid Data Value - (90A, 90H, 90E) 2019.1
• Error 751/056 Arrestee Sequence Number

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Error 119 - Cargo Theft must be blank, unless UCR Offense Code includes one of the following:

120 - Robbery	220 - Burglary/Breaking & Entering	23F - Theft From Motor Vehicle	23D - Theft From Building
210 - Extortion/Blackmail	23H - All Other Larceny	240 - Motor Vehicle Theft	26A - False Pretenses/Swindle/ Confidence Game
26B - Credit Card/Automated Teller Machine Fraud	510 - Bribery	270 - Embezzlement	26E - Wire Fraud
26G - Hacking	26F - Identity Theft	26C - Impersonation	

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Cargo Theft Quality Control

- Cargo Thefts will most likely **NOT** occur at a residence.

  - Reporting a Cargo Theft with the location code of 20 (residence) will result in a Quality Control check from DPS IBR staff.

  - Items stolen from or being delivered to a residence are not part of the supply chain or moving in commerce
    - i.e., Porch Pirating

*Agencies **MUST** indicate whether an incident is Cargo Theft or not, if and only if, it is one of the designated offenses as listed in the Cargo Theft Manual.

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Cargo Theft Myth - *The stealing of mail from a postal truck, a package from a porch, food from a restaurant driver or food delivery service is cargo theft.*

Deliveries from UPS, FedEx, to individuals or other businesses (flowers, pizza, electronics, appliances) to be cargo because they are outside of the supply chain.

NIBRS manual states:
"LEAs should consider thefts of goods being delivered to a business from UPS, FedEx, the U.S. Postal Service, etc., to be cargo until the items arrive at the business, or final distribution point. Once the business receives the items (i.e., personnel at the company sign for the goods), the goods are no longer considered cargo because they are outside of the supply chain.

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Error 204 – Location Type

The referenced data element must contain a valid data value when it is entered; blank is permissible on nonmandatory fields

01 = Air/Bus/Train Terminal
02 = Bank/Savings and Loan financial institutions
03 = Bar/Nightclub
04 = Church/Synagogue/Temple/Mosque
07 = Convenience Store
08 = Department/Discount Store
09 = Drug Store/Doctor's Office/Hospital
12 = Grocery/Supermarket
13 = Highway/Road/Alley/Street/Sidewalk
14 = Hotel/Motel/Etc.
17 = Liquor Store
18 = Parking/Drop Lot/Garage

19 = Rental Storage Facility
20 = Residence/Home
21 = Restaurant
23 = Service/Gas Station
37 = Abandoned/Condemned Structure
42 = Camp/Campground areas
55 = Shopping Mall
47 = Gambling Facility/Casino/Race Track
50 = Park/Playground
51 = Rest Area
52 = School – College/University
53 = School – Elementary/Secondary

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Error 387: Drug Equipment Violations

The property descriptions of Drugs (10) or Drug/Narcotics Equipment (11) are not matching the correct NIBRS offense code Drug Narcotic Violation (35A) and Drug Equipment Violations (35B).

Solution: The agency will need to add or change a drug offense or drug property description.
- If an agency reports Drug Narcotic Violation (35A), it will have to report Drugs (10) as the property type.
- If an agency reports Drug Equipment Violation (35B), it will have to report Drug Equipment (11).

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Error 404/085: Victim to Offender Relationship

Relationship of Victim to Offender is Mandatory when one of the offenses entered in Data Element 24 (Victim Connected to UCR Offense Code) is a Crime Against Person or a Crime Against Property.

- Scenario: An agency reported a Human Trafficking offense (64A and 64B), and the relationship is missing for both victims to the one offender.

- Solution: The agency needs to add the Relationship of Victim to Offender for Crime Against Person offenses

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Error 472: Relationship of Victim to Offender

If Age of Offender is 00 = Unknown

Sex of Offender is U = Unknown

Race of Offender is U = Unknown

Then Relationship of Victim to Offender must be RU = Relationship Unknown.

- Solution: Relationship code must be 'Relationship Unknown' if the number of offenders are known but their age, sex, race, and ethnicities are unknown.

This error does not apply to Absolute Unknown (00) when the victim or agency doesn't know if one or multiple offenders committed the offense (i.e., Burglary of a house).

Offender demographics and relationship are not required and must be left blank.

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Error 555: Unknown Value

• When multiple Offender Segments are submitted, none can contain a 00 = Unknown

• 00 indicates that the number of offenders is unknown.

Example: An agency submits an incident with an absolute unknown offender (00) along with two known offenders. The incident receives error 555.In this case, multiple offenders were submitted, but one of the segments contains the 00=Unknown value.)

Solution: Agency needs to remove the absolute unknown offender (00) since there are two known offenders in the incident.

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Error 558: Known Values

None of the Offender Segments contain all known values for Age, Sex, and Race.

When an Incident is cleared exceptionally (Data Element 4 contains an A through E), one offender must have all known values.

• Problem: Agencies cannot exceptionally clear an incident with an unknown offender or incomplete offender information.

• Agencies cannot answer YES to ALL four required questions for exceptional clearance
  • If you didn't identify the offender, you didn't answer question #1: The LEA investigation must have clearly and definitely established the identity of at least one offender

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Error 558 - Using N=Not Applicable, the agency is not able to answer **ALL FOUR** questions for Exceptional Clearance:

The LEA investigation must have clearly and definitely established the identity of at least one offender.	The LEA must have sufficient probable cause to support arresting, charging, and prosecuting the offender.
The LEA must know the exact location of the offender so they could make an arrest if circumstances did not prevent it.	There must be a reason outside the control of the LEA preventing the arrest, charging, and turning over for prosecution.

* Agency MUST answer YES to all four questions & provide a reason for the exceptional clearance

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Error 604/704 Invalid Data Value

Error 604: Arrestee Segment: Data Element Arrest Offense Code – Must be a valid offense code.

Error 704: Arrestee Segment: Data Element Arrest Offense – Must be a Group B offense code

The UCR Arrest Offense Code in the Arrestee Segment must contain a valid data value when it is entered; blank is permissible on non-mandatory fields.

EX: Agency reports a NIBRS Group B Arrest of 90A (Bad Checks); 90E (Drunkenness); 90H(Peeping Tom)

Solution: Agencies should convert these retired Group B Offense Codes as a 90Z- All Other Offenses.

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Error 751/056 - Arrestee Sequence Number

When a Group B Arrest Report has two or more arrestees, the individual segments comprising the report cannot contain duplicates.

In this case, two arrestee segments were submitted having the same entry in (Arrestee Sequence Number).

• Error should only be thrown when the action type is A = Add.
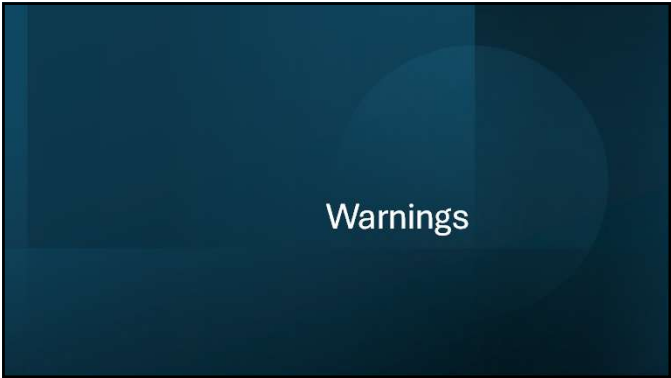
The (Arrest Transaction Number) is the number assigned by the reporting agency to an arrest report to identify it uniquely.

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Questions

?

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Warnings

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What is a NIBRS Warning?

Warnings indicate that the data may be incomplete, illogical, or unusual – but does not prevent the report from being accepted.

Purpose of Warnings:

Improve data quality and accuracy

Help agencies identify possible reporting mistakes

Encourage manual review of flagged incidents

Key Characteristics:

Not fatal – the report is still accepted

Agencies are encouraged to review and correct warnings if needed

Agencies should clear warnings in the DPS system if corrected and or verified.

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Common NIBRS Warnings

- Warning 1209 (Automatic Weapons)
- Warning 1220 (Bias must be 88=None)
- Warning 1226 (multiple incidents with bias other than 88=None)
- Warnings 1223 and 1225 (Offenses 11A and 11C associated with hate crime)
- Warning 1303 (Burglary contains larceny-theft)
- Warning 1310 (Credit card/automatic teller machine fraud)
- Warning 1312 (Larceny Theft 23F & 23G)
- Warning 1314 (Drug Equipment Violation)
- Warning 1316 (Drug Quantity Measurement)
- Warning 1342 (Property Value over $1 million)
- Warning 1407 (Unknown Victim demographics)
- Warning 1413 (Child/Parent Relationship)
- Warning 1441 (Victim Age)
- Warning 1501/1541 (Offender Age)
- Warning 1607 (Unknown Offender demographics)

Agencies should address and correct 'Yellow' warnings to ensure quality data reporting

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Warning 1209 Automatic Weapons

- This warning is triggered when an incident includes a weapon classified as an automatic firearm.

- An automatic firearm is any firearm that shoots, or is designed to shoot, more than one shot at a time by a single pull of the trigger without manual reloading.

- If the weapon was an automatic firearm, LEAs should add an A as a suffix to its weapon data value, e.g., 13A = Automatic Rifle.

* Do NOT include semi-automatic as an automatic weapon

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What is Hate Crime?

A committed criminal offense that is motivated, **in whole or in part**, by the offender's bias(es) against a race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender, or gender identity.

Hate Crimes are **not** separate, distinct crimes, but rather traditional offenses motivated by the offender's bias.

FBI Hate Crime Data Collection Guidelines and Training Manual

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What is Hate Crime?

Hate Crime is included in the monthly NIBRS flat file submission as part of a NIBRS offense

Bias Motivation: It does not matter if victim is a member of the protected group, just that the offender believes them to be and is motivated by their bias against the group

Facts/Investigation must support hate crime criteria

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Warning 1220 – Hate Crime Bias

A Hate Crime Bias Motivation was entered as 99=Unknown instead of using 88=NONE or another bias motivation code.

Why this warning occurs:
• 99 indicates that the bias is unknown, which conflicts with standard NIBRS guidelines, as it should be codes as 88=NONE if there's no bias, or a specific bias code if the crime is motivated by a bias.

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Warning 1220 - Proper Bias Motivation Codes

• 88 = None (Used when there is no bias motivation for the offense)

Valid Bias Codes Include:
• 12 – Anti-Black
• 32 – Anti-Hispanic or Latino
• 22 – Anti Catholic
• 61 – Anti-Male
• 71 – Anti-Transgender

What to do:
• Use 88 = NONE if no bias is present.
• Use valid bias codes if the crimes was bias motivated.

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Warning 1220 & 1226

*Agencies should make sure that their RMS system is not hardcoding or defaulting to 99=Unknown for hate bias motivation

Warning 1220 might be accompanied by Warning 1226

•UCR Offense Code has multiple offense segments associated with (Bias Motivation) other than "88" = None (no bias).

•Multiple offenses in an incident have hate bias of 99=Unknown instead of 88=None

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Warning 1223 & 1225

Warning 1223 - Incident reported with Offense Rape associated with Hate Crime

Warning 1225 - Incident reported with sexual assault with an object associated with Hate Crime

- Problem: 11A (Rape) and 11C (Sexual Assault with an Object) has a hate bias other than 88=None

- Solution: The agency should verify whether the sexual assault incident is a hate crime. If it is not a hate crime, the hate bias should be 88=None.

*Agencies should address and correct these warnings to accurately report hate bias incidents

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Warning 1303 Larceny with Burglary

Incident includes both a burglary offense and a larceny theft

- Offenses locally known as burglary (any degree); unlawful entry with intent to commit a larceny or felony; breaking and entering with intent to commit a larceny; housebreaking; and safecracking should be classified as burglary.

- Burglary is defined in terms of theft, therefore only the burglary is to be reported, not the accompanying Larceny

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Warning 1303 Scenario

EX: Homeowner reports a power tool stolen from inside their unlocked garage.
Agency reports offense as Larceny/Theft 23H All Other Larceny.

Why this matters: Entry into a structure with intent to steal = Burglary under NIBRS
- Forced entry is not required for burglary classification.
- This warning flags a possible misclassification.

Review: was there unlawful entry + theft intent?
- If yes: Recode as Burglary
- If no: Make note and retain 23H Larceny

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Warning 1310 Credit Card/ATM Fraud

This warning is issued when an offense of Credit Card/Automatic Teller Machine (ATM) Fraud is reported in an incident.

26B Credit Card/Automated Teller Machine Fraud The unlawful use of a credit/debit card, credit/debit card number, or automatic teller machine for fraudulent purposes. This offense does not apply to the theft of a credit/debit card but rather its fraudulent use.

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Warning 1310

Also, if a credit card is stolen and used later on, it's two incidents.

- i.e. Someone broke into the victim's vehicle and stole a purse with a credit card inside. Hours later, the victim receives a text notification of an unauthorized purchase.

- The victim reported both offenses to the police at one time. Although related, these are two separate incidents because of the separation of time and place (i.e. the theft occurred at a residence and the use occurred at a gas station).

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Warning 1312 LARCENY-THEFT 23F AND 23G - RADIOS/TVs/VCRs

There are several entries for Property Description 26 = Radios/TVs/ VCRs being reported.

- **23F = Theft From Motor Vehicle -** theft of articles from a motor vehicle
- Includes cameras, suitcases, apparel, packages, etc., that are not an integral part of the vehicle.

- **23G = Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts and Accessories -** theft of any part or accessory affixed to the interior or exterior of a motor vehicle necessary for its operation.

Includes thefts of motors, transmissions, radios, hubcaps and wheel covers, manufacturers' emblems, license plates, side-view mirrors, siphoned gasoline, built-in DVD players, mounted GPS devices, catalytic converter, tires on car, etc.

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Warning 1312 LARCENY-THEFT 23F AND 23G - RADIOS/TVs/VCRs

Scenario: A Theft from a Motor Vehicle (23F) was reported with Radios/TVs/VCRs/DVD Players (26), Tools (36), and Other Property (77) stolen.

- Solution: If a radio or an object was stolen and was attached to the vehicle, the agency should report the property as 38= Vehicle Parts/Accessories and may have to include Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts/Accessories (23G)

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Warning 1314 Drug Equipment Violation

Type Criminal Activity is reported as P = Possessing/Concealing with Type Property Loss 1 = None.

If drugs, weapons, or stolen property were possessed, update Property Loss Type to:

- 5 – Seized (commonly for drugs, weapons)
- 4 – Recovered (if stolen items were found)

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Warning 1316 Drug Quantity Measurements

Type Drug Measurement DU = Dosage Unit is being used for crack, cocaine, and marijuana.

A weight measurement like GM = Gram, KG = Kilogram, OZ = Ounce, or LB = Pound is used when reporting crack, cocaine, and marijuana.

*THC vape pens and other units would be classified under DU = Dosage Units

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Warning 1342 High Value $1,000,000 or greater

- A warning message is always produced when the value is $1,000,000 or greater.

- The agency is asked to check to see if the value entered was a data entry error, or if it was intended to be entered.

Example, if the value of a property is $12,000.99 but is inadvertently entered as $1,200,099 in the computer record sent to the FBI, the FBI will generate a warning message

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Warning 1342 FBI Quality Control Review

What agencies should do:

1. Review the Report:
- Confirm the reported stolen value aligns with the nature of the theft offense.

2. Verify the Value:
- Check if the stolen property value is accurate. Ensure the value is reasonable for the offense.

3. Correct if Necessary:
- If the value is too high or incorrect for the offense type, update & resubmit.

4. Document Decision:
- Document the reasoning if the high-value theft is legitimate and accurately reported.

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Warning 1407 Unknown Victim Information

- Incidents are being reported with unknown victim information in Age of Victim, Sex of Victim, and Race of Victim.

- If the agency cannot determine an exact age, the agency may enter an age range to approximate the victim's age. (5–10 yr)

*The age, sex, and race of victims provide important statistical information, and every effort should be made to collect this data

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Warning 1607 Unknown Offender Information

Offender Sequence Number is being reported as 01, 02, etc. with Unknown Offender Age, Sex of Offender, and Race of Offender.

If nothing is known about the offender(s) then "00" should be entered in Offender Sequence Number, and Data Elements 37 through 39 should be blank.

A witness saw two offenders fleeing the scene of a Burglary, but because the burglars were wearing ski masks, the witness could not determine their age, sex, or race.

The reporting agency should enter offender information for both offenders – Offender Sequence Number, that contain 01 and 02 and should report applicable data values in Age of Offender, Sex of Offender, and Race of Offender) for each offender.

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Warning 1607 Unknown Offender Information

Unknown Offender vs. Absolute Unknown Offender

An **Unknown Offender** is a counted offender (i.e., offender #1) with unknown age, sex, race, and ethnicity.

EX: At a bar, a male offender punched a male victim in the face and ran off. The victim states he was punched by a guy but didn't know anything else about the assailant. The offender is entered as unknown age, male (sex), unknown race, and ethnicity.

An **Absolute Unknown** (or 'No Offender') is an unseen and uncounted offender.

EX: A homeowner leaves their house for the weekend. When they come back, they discover their backdoor kicked in and various items were stolen. It's unknown how many offenders burglarized the house or what they looked like. The incident has an absolute unknown offender.

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How to Clear NIBRS Warnings

If you have checked the information that the warning is questioning and verified that it is correct, you can clear the warning in our system.
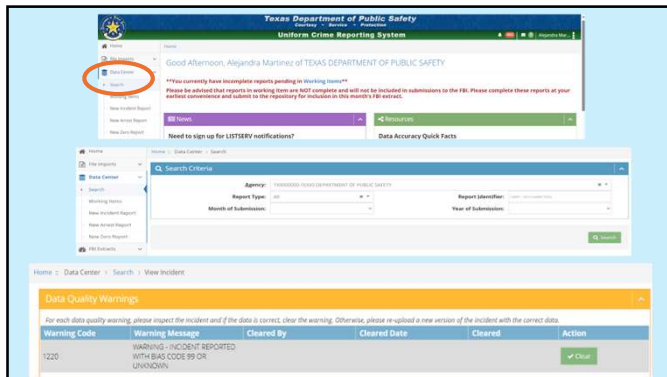
DO NOT clear a warning that has not been verified to be correct.

REMEMBER any warning related to a Bias Motivation must be corrected in your RMS and resubmitted to our UCR Repository. This will clear the warning.

NO corrections can be made in the UCR Repository. You must make those in your RMS and reupload.

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Learning Check #2

1. True/False: Agencies should address Hate crime related warnings

- True: Agencies should address and correct those warnings due to Texas Specific Reporting

2. True/False: All warnings must be double checked

- True: Agencies should double check all warnings, but not all warnings need to be corrected or addressed.

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Quality Control Checklist

- Are all mandatory segments present?

- Are relationships and age combinations logical?

- Are property loss codes appropriate to the offense?

- Are narratives reviewed to verify NIBRS coding accuracy?

- Are warnings reviewed for possible data improvements?

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Best Practices for Agencies

- Run pre-submission validations regularly
- Train record staff on offense/property/victim coding
- Conduct monthly error audits
- Use warnings to improve data quality, even if not required.
- Participate in NIBRS user group meetings
- Share best practices across jurisdictions.

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When In Doubt Check This Out

- NIBRS 2023.0 User Manual
  - This will have the NIBRS offense descriptions, data elements, and data values for submitting and correcting NIBRS errors

- 2023.0 NIBRS Technical Specifications
  - This will have a list of many of the common NIBRS errors and warnings and also includes mandatory data elements for NIBRS offenses

- 2023 Texas Centric Technical Specifications and Error Codes
  - This will have a list of Texas Specific Errors (Seg 8 & 9)
  - Includes the Texas Sexual Assault Segment 9 reporting requirements

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Summary

01
Agencies must correct NIBRS errors because the incident didn't migrate into the UCR system.

02
Agencies should double check all warnings but not all warnings need to be corrected or addressed.

03
A NIBRS Flat file is required to submit any NIBRS data corrections and changes.

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NIBRS & Other IBR Trainings

Crimes Against Persons	Crimes Against Property	Crimes Against Society	Group B Offenses	Hate Crimes
Cargo Theft	Texas Specific Reports	NIBRS Overview	Texas Specific or "T" Errors	Molly Jane's Law & ViCAP

LEEP Overview	NDEx Overview & Audit

Email the IBR Training at IBR.Training@dps.Texas.gov

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Uniform Crime Reporting

Texas Department of Public Safety

512-424-2091

NIBRS@dps.texas.gov

IBR.Training@dps.texas.gov

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