

The Texas DPS Data Broker is a system that facilitates submitting N-DEx and NIBRS data. Contributing agencies can submit either or both types of data through one system that validates submitted documents against the IEPD and uploads them to the appropriate location.

Definitions:

*** N-DEx - National Data Exchange**

"The N-DEx system is an unclassified national information sharing system that enables criminal justice agencies to search, link, analyze, and share local, state, tribal, and federal records. N-DEx is also a strategic investigative information sharing system that fills informational gaps and provides situational awareness."

*** UCR - Uniform Crime Reporting**

"The objective of the Uniform Crime Reporting program is to produce reliable crime statistics for law enforcement administration, operation, and management. This information is also available as a measure of the fluctuations in the type and volume of crime in Texas through the collection of data on the ten serious Index Crime Offenses."

*** NIBRS - National Incident Based Reporting System**

"Implemented to improve the overall quality of crime data collected by law enforcement, NIBRS captures details on each single crime incident—as well as on separate offenses within the same incident—including information on victims, known offenders, relationships between victims and offenders, arrestees, and property involved in crimes." All UCR submissions now use NIBRS.

*** Texas-specific NIBRS**

Texas has defined additional information for sexual assault, family violence, and drug offenses that must be included with NIBRS submissions, based on state-mandated reporting.

*** Flat file**

NIBRS data was formerly submitted to Texas UCR via a flat file, positional format. The new system uses NIEM XML. The term "flat file" refers to the old format.

*** Texas Data Broker**

A system created by Texas DPS to facilitate submitting data to N-DEx and NIBRS via XML submissions.

*** NIEM - National Information Exchange Model**

"The National Information Exchange Model (NIEM) is a common vocabulary that enables efficient information exchange across diverse public and private organizations." For the purposes of the Data Broker, NIEM is a framework for building an XML specification.

*** IEPD - Information Exchange Data Packet**

"An Information Exchange Package Documentation (IEPD) is a collection of NIEM artifacts. They define and describe the context, content, semantics, and structure of one or more implementable information exchanges." For the purposes of the Data Broker, the IEPD is the specific XML specification for an N-DEx or NIBRS submission.

*** ICD - Interface Control Document**

A document that describes how data is submitted to the Data Broker.

*** Citation**

Information gathered by an officer during a traffic stop.

Background:

N-DEx and NIBRS have historically been separate systems that each collect criminal incidents. N-DEx data was submitted to the FBI N-DEx program. NIBRS data was submitted to the FBI UCR Program via the Texas UCR Program. N-DEx has accepted submissions using NIEM XML for several years, while NIBRS has used a flat-file position-based format. NIBRS is transitioning to NIEM XML and N-DEx is now allowing NIBRS information to be included in a N-DEx submission so agencies can submit one document to be used for both programs. The NIBRS flat file submissions will continue to be accepted, with the NIBRS XML through the Data Broker being an additional submission option for agencies.

Texas Data Broker was introduced in 2021 to help Texas agencies submit to N-DEx and NIBRS by a single submission option (XML) that can contain data for both programs.

Data Broker Submission Process

Each of the following steps can be facilitated by documentation provided by N-DEx, NIBRS, and Texas Data Broker.

1. Determine which type of document your agency will be submitting:
 - a. N-DEx only
 - b. NIBRS only
 - c. N-DEx and NIBRS in separate documents
 - d. N-DEx and NIBRS in a combined document

Documentation

Information about N-DEx: <https://www.fbi.gov/services/cjis/ndex>

Information about NIBRS: <https://www.fbi.gov/services/cjis/ucr/nibrs>

Texas-specific NIBRS information:

<https://www.dps.texas.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ucr/documents/txtechspecerrorcodes.pdf>

2. Work with your IT department or vendor to generate documents that conform to format and rules described in the relevant IEPD(s) based on the type of document your agency will be submitting.

DPS provides support for questions about connecting to the Data Broker to submit documents. Before contacting DPS with questions, please ensure that you have thoroughly read the IEPD documentation and had the necessary policy and technical discussions between the agency and vendor or IT Department to determine the information you want to send and its source.

Documentation

N-DEx IEPD: <link to Texas version of the N-DEx IEPD>

The Texas Data Broker N-DEx IEPD is a set of documents that define the formatting and business rules for the N-DEx XML documents. Key documents are:

1. <README> - provides an overview of the process and identifies Texas-specific requirements.
2. N-DEx_MasterDocument.pdf - overview of the N-DEx IEPD
3. N-DEx_4.0_High_Level_Model.pdf - visual representation of the N-DEx document structure.
4. N-DEx_4.0_AppendixB_BusinessRules.xlsx - specific business rules for each data element.
5. N-DEx_4.0_CMW.xlsx - description of all N-DEx elements.
6. N-DEx_4.0_CodeTables.xlsx - lists of N-DEx codes.
7. iep-samples - a set of valid XML sample files to help illustrate the format.
8. base-xsd - the actual XML specification.

NIBRS IEPD: <link to Texas version of the NIBRS IEPD>

The Texas Data Broker NIBRS IEPD is a set of documents that define the formatting and business rules for the N-DEx XML documents. Key documents are:

1. Texas_Data_Broker_README.txt - provides an overview of the process and explains how to map Texas-specific requirements to the IEPD format.
2. NIBRS XML Frequently Asked Questions.pdf - contains useful information about how to convert from the flat file to the XML format.

3. NIBRS_2019_2_UML.pdf - contains a visual representation of the NIBRS hierarchy.
4. Flat File to IEPD Mapping with Texas-Specific.xlsx - defines how to map from the legacy flat file format to the XML format.
5. nibrs_CodesTables.xlsx - lists of NIBRS codes.

3. Recommend use of the XCOTA tool, provided by the FBI, to validate your processes, ensuring the documents you create conform to the format and business rules defined in the IEPD.

<link to XCOTA>

4. Submit a set of sample documents to be validated by Texas Data Broker and subsequently by the N-DEx and UCR programs.

Documentation:

<link to ICD>

<link to security key setup page>

5. Once your agency has been certified in the test environment, obtain a Texas Data Broker production account. Contact databroker@dps.texas.gov

6. Begin submitting documents. N-DEx documents will be shared with law enforcement agencies. NIBRS documents will be analyzed to generate statistics for law enforcement and public use.