



Statewide Crime Data Assessment

Indiana Crime Data Survey Findings, 2012

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





ICJI/CCJR Research Partnership

For more than a decade, the Indiana University Center for Criminal Justice Research (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.* On behalf of ICJI, CCJR conducted program assessments of 12 federal grant programs between January 2006 and June 2008. In an effort to further assist ICJI in improving criminal justice programming and policy development in Indiana, CCJR entered into a two-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 statewide justice data records assessment that will serve as a first step in developing a statewide crime and justice data collaboration that could emulate the nationally recognized traffic safety records collaboration facilitated by ICJI.

Indiana University Center for Criminal Justice Research

The Center for Criminal Justice Research (CCJR), 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.

Indiana University Public Policy Institute

The Indiana University Public Policy Institute is a collaborative, multidisciplinary research institute within the Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA). Established in the spring of 2008, 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 Indiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (IACIR).

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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 June 2011, CCJR entered a two-year partnership to assist ICJI in improving criminal justice programming and policy development in Indiana by serving as a research partner that would 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, with the end goal of developing a statewide crime and justice data collaboration that could emulate the nationally-recognized traffic safety records collaboration currently facilitated by ICJI.

In fall 2011, CCJR researchers conducted the first important task of the crime data assessment, a set of key informant interviews with 17 individuals from a variety of backgrounds in state and local government, non-profit organizations, and private consulting firms (Sapp & Thelin, 2011). Key informants identified improvements to crime data reporting and information sharing as one of the primary tools available to assist agencies to better target crime prevention efforts, more effectively address crime problems, inform strategic resource allocation, and improve coordination among agencies engaged in similar crime-fighting efforts. Key informants also indicated that being equipped with such information, agencies could more effectively demonstrate the need to secure and allocate needed resources in response to crime.

The next step of the crime data assessment focused on ICJI data needs. During this phase, CCJR researchers conducted an assessment of ICJI priority data needs and analyzed Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) uniform crime reporting (UCR) summary data by jurisdiction in Indiana (Thelin & Sapp, 2012). The UCR analysis was an update to analyses conducted by CCJR in 2007. Findings from the updated UCR analysis suggest that crime data reporting among most Indiana law enforcement agencies improved from 1998 to 2004, and again in 2010. In addition, the majority (over 80 percent) of the state's population resides in jurisdictions with at least some crime data reporting. Among both municipal police and county sheriff departments that serve jurisdictions with populations of 25,000 or greater, a substantial majority report data to the FBI. However, for agencies in smaller jurisdictions (populations less than 10,000), reporting is much lower. In addition, there have been occasions in which major jurisdictions (e.g., Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department in 2010) have failed to submit timely UCR information to the FBI. Despite measured improvements in UCR reporting, Indiana remains one of only three states in the nation that lacks a centralized state collection program certified by the FBI and without active legislation mandating crime data reporting.

The final step in the crime data assessment process was the administration of the Indiana Crime Data Survey of Local Law Enforcement Agencies (crime data survey). This report summarizes findings from the crime data survey. Survey findings provide a broad view of current law enforcement practices in collecting and reporting crime data, and more specifically, identifies both obstacles and incentives to local participation and collaboration in a statewide crime data sharing initiative.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

CCJR administered the crime data survey between November 2012 and January 2013. CCJR researchers designed and administered a web-based survey (see Appendix A) to assess local law enforcement perspectives on current practices in crime data collection, reporting, and information sharing in Indiana. The crime data survey population consisted of representatives of Indiana local law enforcement agencies (i.e., municipal police departments and sheriffs).

Researchers prepared an email invitation to request local law enforcement participation in the crime data survey. The email included a memo from Mary Allen, Executive Director of ICJI, explaining the purpose of the survey and encouraging agency participation. In an effort to further boost the survey response rate, respondents also received separate email communications from the Indiana Sheriffs' Association and the Indiana Association of Chiefs of Police urging them to participate.

The survey request email provided each respondent with a link to the online instrument and an individual, randomly assigned respondent ID number. This number was used solely for follow-up purposes to increase

response rates. Follow-up emails were sent out weekly to remind respondents to submit their surveys prior to the final survey close date of January 7, 2013. Respondents were assured that all individual responses would remain strictly confidential and that only aggregate data, not individual results, would be analyzed and reported.

Once all follow-up activities had been completed, CCJR staff downloaded the online database, converted and coded the data in IBM SPSS Statistics, version 20 format, and analyzed the survey data. Respondent IDs were eliminated from the data file to protect the identities of survey respondents. Discussions with ICJI staff during the early planning stages of this project led to the design of a survey instrument that would serve as an information gathering exercise where findings would be primarily for internal ICJI use and a select group of ICJI partners. For these reasons, as well as the limited size of the survey population, CCJR analyses include primarily univariate descriptive statistics for each question (e.g., frequency distributions or measures of central tendency as appropriate) and limited significance testing (e.g., comparisons of statistical differences among respondent groups), but do not include complex multivariate analyses or quantitative analyses of open-ended responses.

CRIME DATA SURVEY FINDINGS

Response Rates and Respondent Characteristics

The initial survey population consisted of two groups of law enforcement professionals totaling 348 potential respondents, and including 263 local police departments and 85 sheriffs. Upon closing the survey, researchers collected a total of 144 survey responses from 110 law enforcement agencies (see Appendix B); however, 6 responses were determined to be invalid due to the large number of incomplete answers to survey questions. Invalid responses were removed from the database, and researchers determined the final number of valid survey responses to be 138, resulting in an overall survey response rate of approximately 40 percent.

Tables 1 and 2 further illustrate characteristics of survey respondents. Among the 138 valid survey responses received, 95 were received from local police departments and 37 were received from sheriff agencies. The response rate among sheriffs (44 percent) was higher than that of local police departments (36 percent). One respondent selected other as the law enforcement agency type, and the agency type of five respondents

was *unknown* or *not reported*. When individual respondents were asked to identify their primary role within their agency, 82 percent (108 of the 132 who answered this question) identified themselves as *Chief/Sheriff/Executive Administrator*.

Crime Data and Information Sharing in Indiana

Several survey questions were included to assess current practices among local law enforcement agencies regarding crime data sharing. Ninety-nine percent of survey respondents reported that they need to access investigative information from other agencies or jurisdictions. When respondents were asked about the frequency of the need to obtain such information, 54 percent indicated they require access *weekly*, 26 percent *daily*, and 19 percent on a *monthly* basis (see Figure 1). Nearly all respondents (98 percent) reported that their agencies receive requests for investigative information from other agencies or jurisdictions. Nearly one-half of respondents (47 percent) indicated they receive these types of requests *weekly*, 17 percent *daily*, and roughly one-third *monthly*.

Table 1. Indiana Crime Data Survey respondent characteristics, by agency type

	Total survey population	Count of respondents	Valid % of survey population	Response rate
Total respondents	348	138	100.0	39.7
Agency type				
Agency type (known)	348	133		
Local police department	263	95	71.4	36.1
Sheriff	85	37	27.8	43.5
Other	na	1	0.8	na
Unknown/not reported	na	5	na	na

Source: Indiana Crime Data Survey of Local Law Enforcement Agencies, ICJI, 2012

Note: *Valid %* is defined as the percentage of *known* respondents in each category. *Unknown/not reported* responses are excluded.

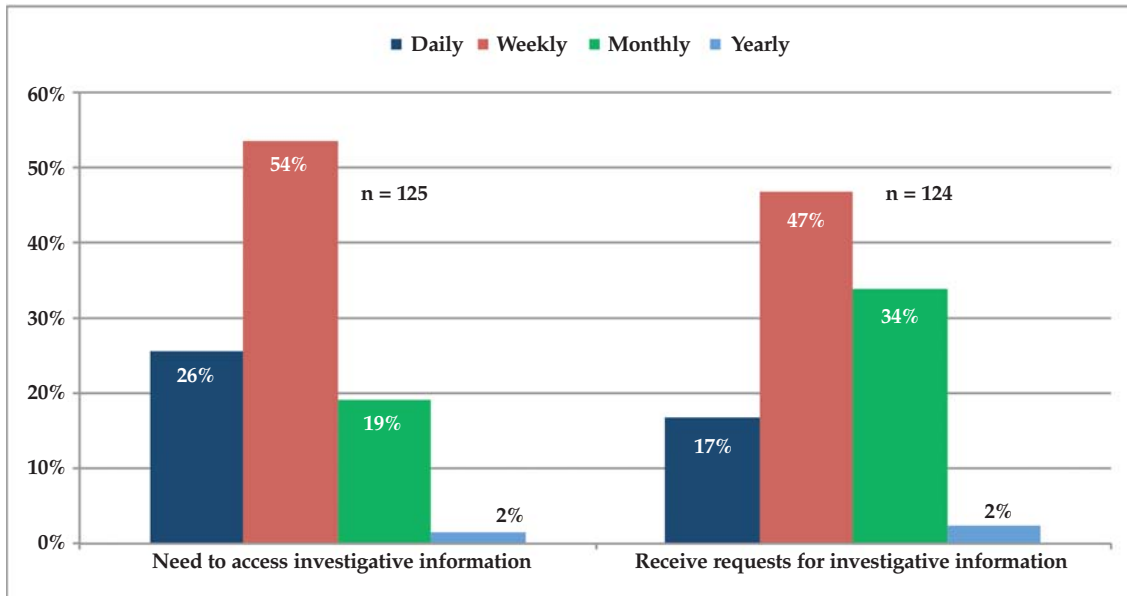
Table 2. Indiana Crime Data Survey respondent characteristics, by primary role

	Count of respondents	Valid % of survey population
Total respondents	138	100.0
Respondent's primary role		
Primary role (known)	132	
Chief/Sheriff/Executive Administrator	108	81.8
Mid-level manager/Supervisor	8	6.1
Investigate crimes (i.e., collect evidence, conduct interviews)	8	6.1
General law enforcement (i.e., patrol assigned areas, respond to calls)	1	0.8
Other	7	5.3
Unknown/not reported	6	na

Source: Indiana Crime Data Survey of Local Law Enforcement Agencies, ICJI, 2012

Note: *Valid %* is defined as the percentage of *known* respondents in each category. *Unknown/not reported* responses are excluded.

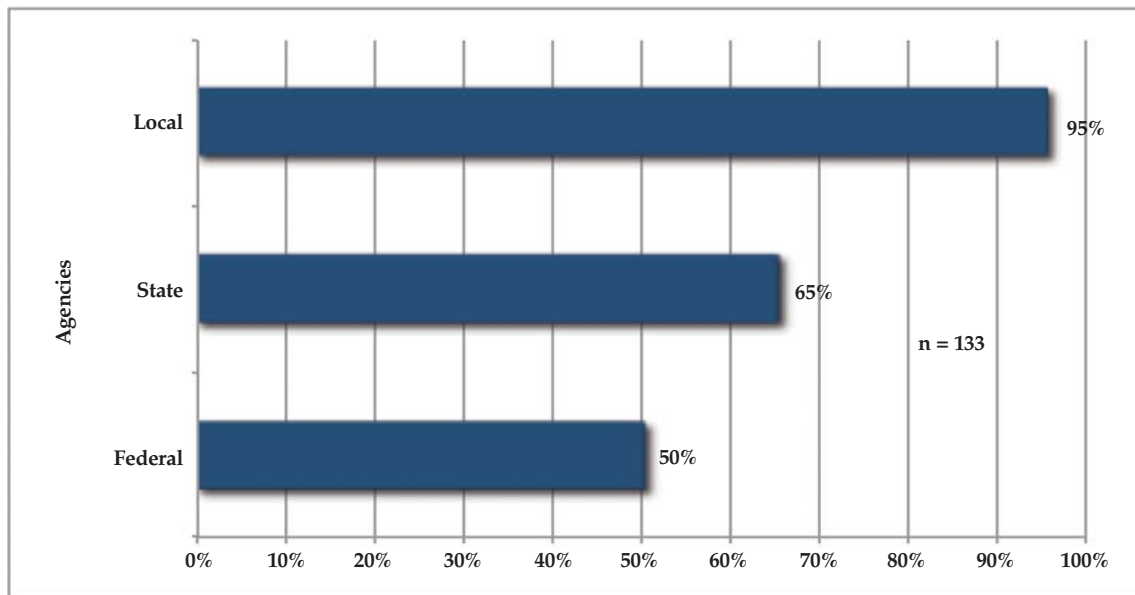
Figure 1. Percentage of survey respondents reporting how frequently they need to access and receive requests for investigative information from other agencies/jurisdictions



Source: Indiana Crime Data Survey of Local Law Enforcement Agencies, ICJI, 2012

Note: *n* reflects the number of respondents who answered the question.

Figure 2. Percentage of survey respondents reporting how frequently they need to access and receive requests for investigative information from other agencies/jurisdictions



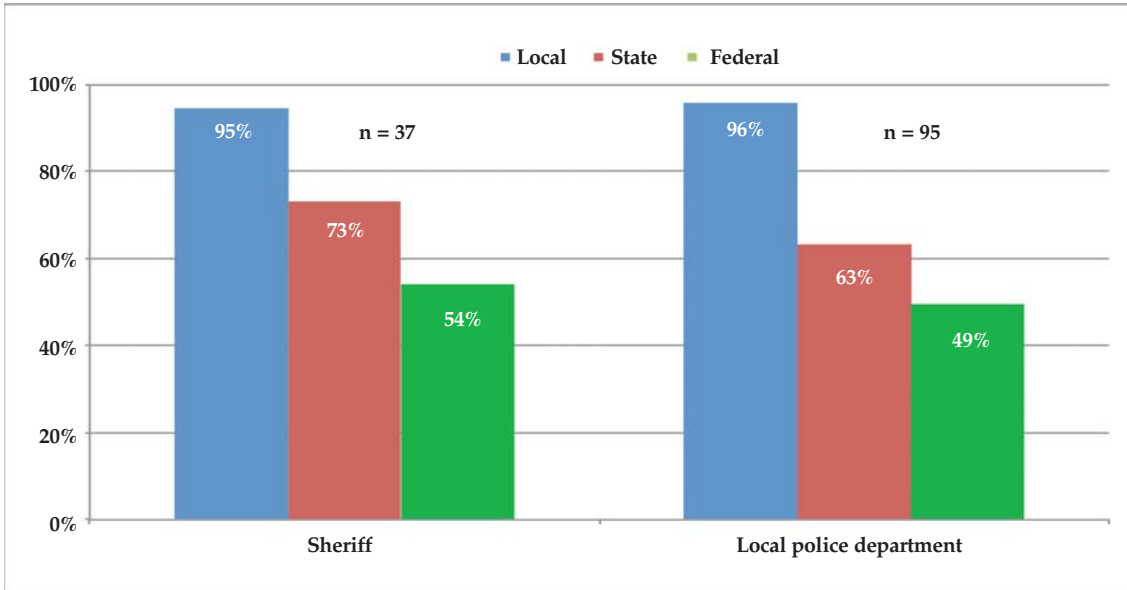
Source: Indiana Crime Data Survey of Local Law Enforcement Agencies, ICJI, 2012

Note: *n* reflects the number of respondents to the following question: *Does your agency ever receive requests for investigative information from other agencies/jurisdictions?*

The majority (95 percent) of survey respondents reported that requests for investigative information come from other *local agencies*, 65 percent from *state agencies*, and one-half from *federal agencies* (see Figure 2). As shown in Figure 3, among both sheriff and local police departments, most respondents (95 percent of sheriffs and 96 percent of local police) reported that they receive such requests from other local agencies. Seventy-three percent of sheriff departments indicated such requests

come from state agencies and 54 percent of sheriffs identified federal agencies. Rates among local police departments were slightly lower, with 63 percent reporting that requests come from state agencies and 49 percent specified federal agencies. Overall, sheriffs appear to receive and request information from state and federal agencies more frequently than local police departments.

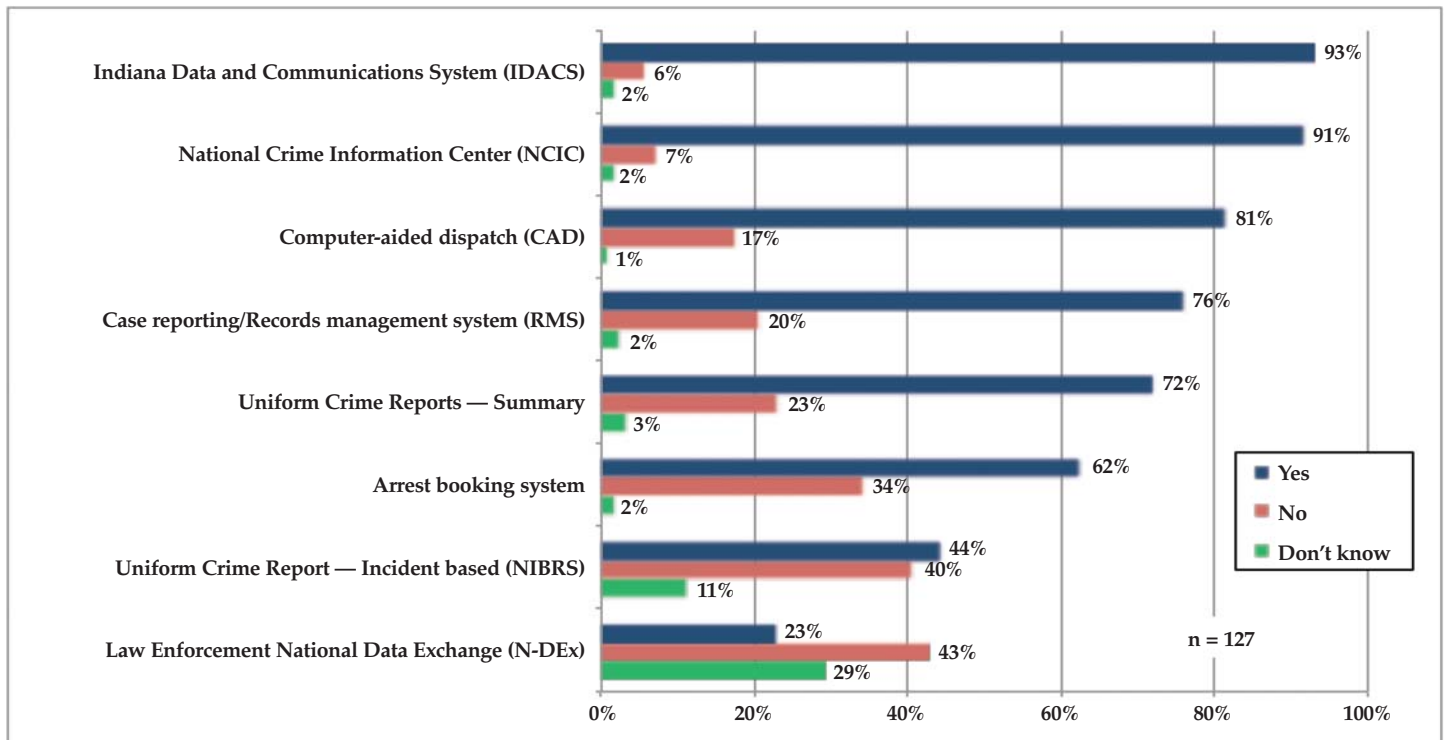
Figure 3. Percentage of survey respondents, by agency type, identifying agencies from which requests for investigative information/data originate



Source: Indiana Crime Data Survey of Local Law Enforcement Agencies, ICJI, 2012

Note: *n* reflects the number of respondents to the following question: *Does your agency ever receive requests for investigative information from other agencies/jurisdictions?*

Figure 4. Percentage of survey respondents reporting types of crime data reporting systems they maintain or participate in



Source: Indiana Crime Data Survey of Local Law Enforcement Agencies, ICJI, 2012

Note: *n* represents the highest number of responses for this series of questions. Some questions had fewer responses.

Current Indiana Crime Data and Incident Reporting Practices

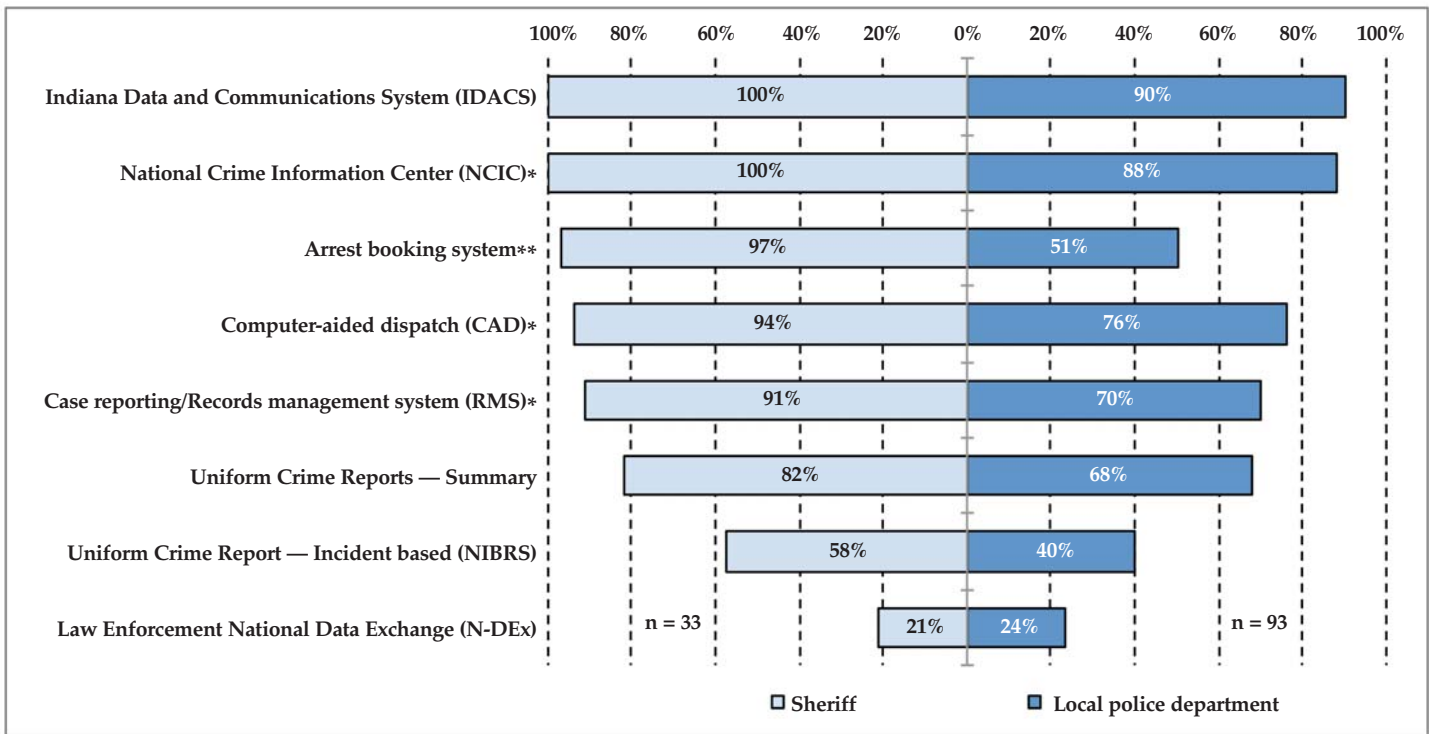
During the key informant interview phase of the crime data assessment, key informants identified improvements to crime data reporting and information sharing as one of the primary tools available to assist agencies to better target crime prevention efforts, more effectively address crime problems, and inform strategic resource allocation and coordination among agencies engaged in similar crime-fighting efforts. In response to this input from key informants, CCJR reviewed Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) crime data collection programs including Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR), National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), and Law Enforcement National Data Exchange (NDEx). In a recent report, CCJR researchers examined UCR reporting by Indiana law enforcement agencies. Findings from this analysis suggest the majority (over 80 percent) of the state’s population resides in jurisdictions with at least some crime data reporting (Thelin & Sapp, 2012).

Some survey questions were included to assess local law enforcement perspectives on current practices in crime data collection and reporting. When respondents were asked to report on the types of crime data reporting systems that they maintain or participate in, over 90 percent identified the *Indiana Data and Communications System (IDACS)* and roughly the same share of respondents specified the *National Crime Information Center (NCIC)* (see Figure 4). The majority of survey respondents specified *computer-aided dispatch systems* (81 percent), and 76 per-

cent indicated that they maintain *case reporting/records management systems (RMS)*. Nearly three-quarters of respondents reported participating in the *uniform crime reporting—summary program*. Less than one-half of respondents (44 percent) indicated their agencies participate in the *uniform crime reporting—incident-based (NIBRS)* and 40 percent reported that their agencies do not participate in NIBRS. Only 23 percent of respondents reported that they participate in the *Law Enforcement National Data Exchange system (N-DEx)*.

When considering the types of crime data reporting systems by agency type, sheriffs reported higher rates of participation than local police across seven of the eight systems the survey question included (see Figure 5). Over 90 percent of sheriffs reported maintaining or participating in *IDACS* (100 percent), *NCIC* (100 percent), an *arrest booking system* (97 percent), *CAD* (94 percent), and *RMS* (91 percent). The majority of local police respondents identify participation in these systems, but at lower rates. Eighty-two percent of sheriff’s departments report participating in the *UCR—summary program* and 68 percent of local police. With the *UCR—NIBRS program*, these rates dropped to 58 percent of sheriffs and 40 percent of local police. For *NCIC*, *CAD*, and *RMS*, the differences in responses between sheriffs and local police departments were found to be statistically significant at a 95 percent confidence interval ($p < .05$). For *arrest booking system*, the difference in responses between sheriffs and local police departments was found to be statistically significant at a 99.9 percent confidence interval ($p < .001$).

Figure 5. Percentage of survey respondents, by agency type, reporting types of crime data reporting systems they maintain or participate in



Source: Indiana Crime Data Survey of Local Law Enforcement Agencies, ICJI, 2012

Notes: *n* represents the highest number of responses for this series of questions. Some questions had fewer responses. One respondent to this question did not identify an agency type.

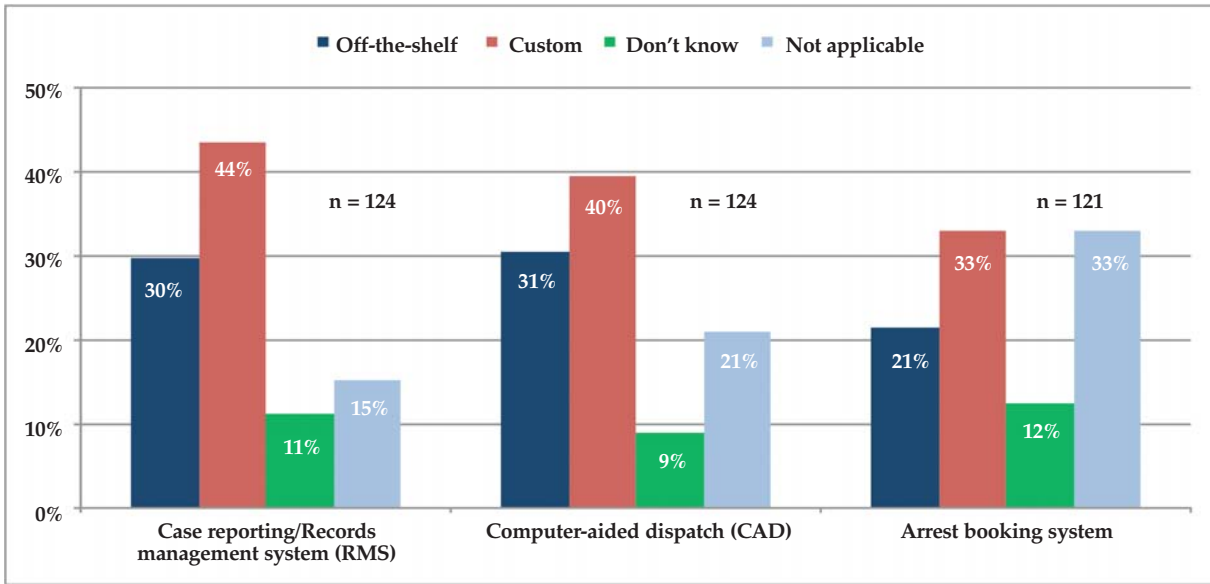
*Differences in responses between sheriffs and local police departments were found to be statistically significant at a 95% confidence level ($p < .05$).

**Differences in responses between sheriffs and local police departments were found to be statistically significant at a 99.9% confidence level ($p < .001$).

Figure 6 illustrates the percentage of survey respondents that report whether the crime data reporting systems they currently maintain or participate in—case reporting/records management system (RMS), computer-aided dispatch (CAD), and arrest booking system—were purchased off-the-shelf or custom developed for their agency. Survey respondents

reported that 44 percent of RMS were custom-developed and 30 percent were purchased off-the-shelf. Similarly, respondents indicated that 40 percent have invested in custom CAD systems and 31 percent have bought off-the-shelf systems.

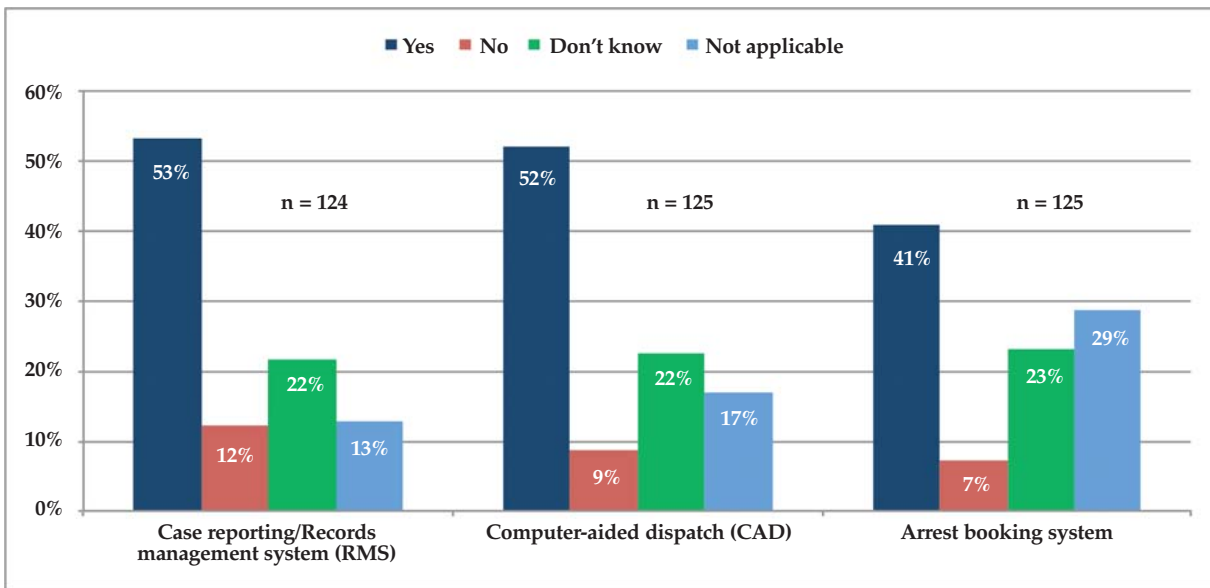
Figure 6. Percentage of survey respondents reporting whether crime data reporting systems they currently maintain or participate in were purchased off-the-shelf or custom developed for their agency



Source: Indiana Crime Data Survey of Local Law Enforcement Agencies, ICJI, 2012

Note: *n* reflects the number of respondents who answered the question.

Figure 7. Percentage of survey respondents reporting that systems they maintain or participate in adhere to national standards of efficient data sharing that would make them compatible with federal reporting system(s) such as UCR, NIBRS, and N-DEX



Source: Indiana Crime Data Survey of Local Law Enforcement Agencies, ICJI, 2012

Note: *n* reflects the number of respondents who answered the question.

SUMMARY OF NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR CRIME DATA REPORTING SYSTEMS

Broadly, national standards for sharing criminal justice data cover the collection and maintenance of complete, accurate, timely, and meaningful information. FBI standards for state UCR programs—both summary and NIBRS—help ensure submission of consistent and comparable data, along with regular and timely reporting. The FBI maintains several criteria for state programs to be certified, including such factors as conformity to national UCR program standards and adequate staff and quality control procedures. For more information, see Uniform Crime Reports Data Quality Guidelines, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice. This document is available at http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/data_quality_guidelines and was accessed February 14, 2013.

The aforementioned N-DEx system is a national criminal justice information sharing system that began operating in early 2008. The system links data across local, state, and federal systems. The following criminal justice data types are included in N-DEx: incident, case, arrest, booking, incarceration, probation, and parole. Participating N-DEx agencies are able to use analytical tools to detect relationships between people, vehicles/property, and crime characteristics in solving crime. 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 law enforcement agency can participate in N-DEx, however, there are a number of requirements, including adherence to national standards for efficient sharing of data under the following programs:

- National Information Exchange Model (NIEM) (<https://www.niem.gov/Pages/default.aspx>)
- Law Enforcement Information Sharing Program (LEISP) (<http://www.ise.gov/law-enforcement-information-sharing>)
- Logical Entity Exchange Specification (LEXS) (<http://lexs.codeplex.com/>)

Table 3. Crime data reporting systems vendors identified by survey respondents

System	Case reporting/Records management system (RMS)		Computer-aided dispatch (CAD)		Arrest booking system	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Spillman	20	23.0	24	30.8	20	24.4
Sungard OSSI	10	11.5	10	12.8	10	12.2
CISCO	9	10.3	8	10.3	9	11.0
Cushing Technologies	5	5.7	3	3.8	5	6.1
New World Systems	5	5.7	4	5.1	5	6.1
Emergitech	3	3.4	3	3.8	3	3.7
Logisys	3	3.4	3	3.8	3	3.7
Tiburon	3	3.4	3	3.8	3	3.7
Crime star	2	2.3	0	0.0	2	2.4
InterAct	2	2.3	2	2.6	2	2.4
Mobile Synch	2	2.3	2	2.6	2	2.4
VisionAire	2	2.3	2	2.6	2	2.4
In-house system	2	2.3	0	0.0	1	1.2
Other	16	18.4	13	16.7	13	15.9
unknown	3	3.4	1	1.3	2	2.4
Total systems identified	87	100.0	78	100.0	82	100.0

Source: Indiana Crime Data Survey of Local Law Enforcement Agencies, ICJI, 2012

Respondents also were asked whether the systems they maintain or participate in adhere to national standards of efficient data sharing (see text box for summary of national standards) that would make them compatible with federal reporting system(s) such as UCR, NIBRS, and N-DEx. Just over one-half of respondents indicated that their RMS (53 percent) and CAD systems (52 percent) are compatible with federal reporting systems. Forty-one percent reported that their arrest booking systems adhere to national data sharing standards (see Figure 7). Nearly one-quarter of respondents conveyed that they did not know whether their RMS, CAD, or arrest booking systems were compatible.

Respondents were asked to identify specific systems their agencies use to collect and maintain crime data. Table 3 demonstrates that local agencies work with systems developed by a variety of vendors. A few vendors were identified by several respondents. The most frequently mentioned vendors across RMS, CAD, and arrest booking systems were Spillman, Sungard Ossi, and CISCO.

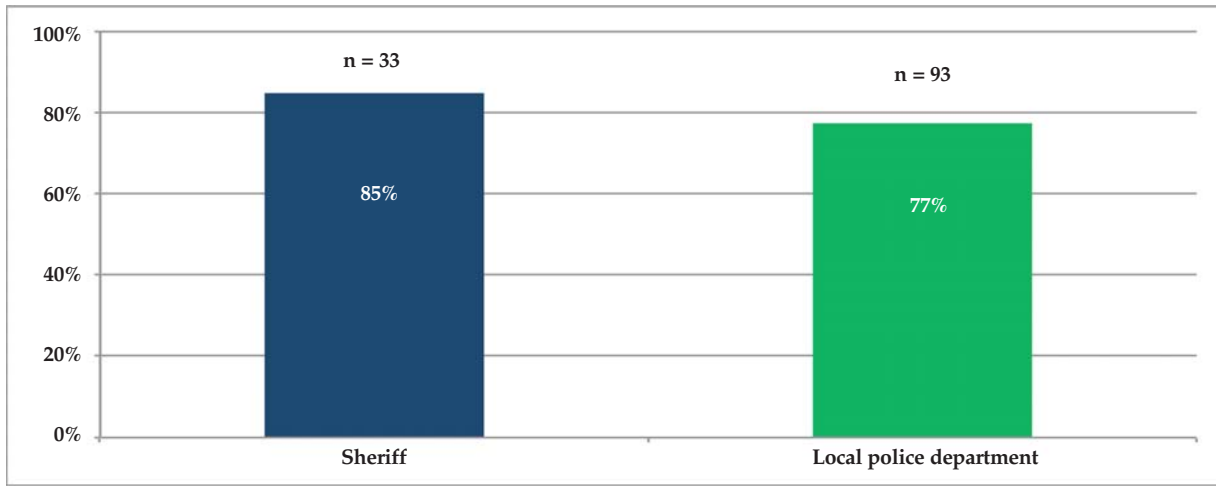
Roughly 8 of 10 law enforcement agencies reported that their field officers could prepare electronic reports or report data to a central repository in the field. When respondents were asked whether their agency

field/patrol officers use in-car computers, capable of preparing electronic reports in the field, 85 percent of sheriffs and 77 percent of local police departments that answered the question reported that they have this capability (see Figure 8). When measuring the capability of officers to prepare electronic reports in the field, differences in responses between sheriffs and local police departments were not found to be significant. Figure 9 illustrates that the majority of both sheriffs (82 percent) and local police (73 percent) also indicated that their field/patrol officers transmit reports to a central repository. When considering the transmission of

reports to a central repository, differences in responses between sheriffs and local police departments were not found to be significant.

Survey respondents were presented with a list of means by which criminal incident reports are primarily transmitted to their agency's criminal information system and shared with other systems (Figure 10). Sixty-four percent of respondents identified a web-based interface. Only one-tenth of respondents indicated email and another 10 percent identified paper reporting (by mail or fax).

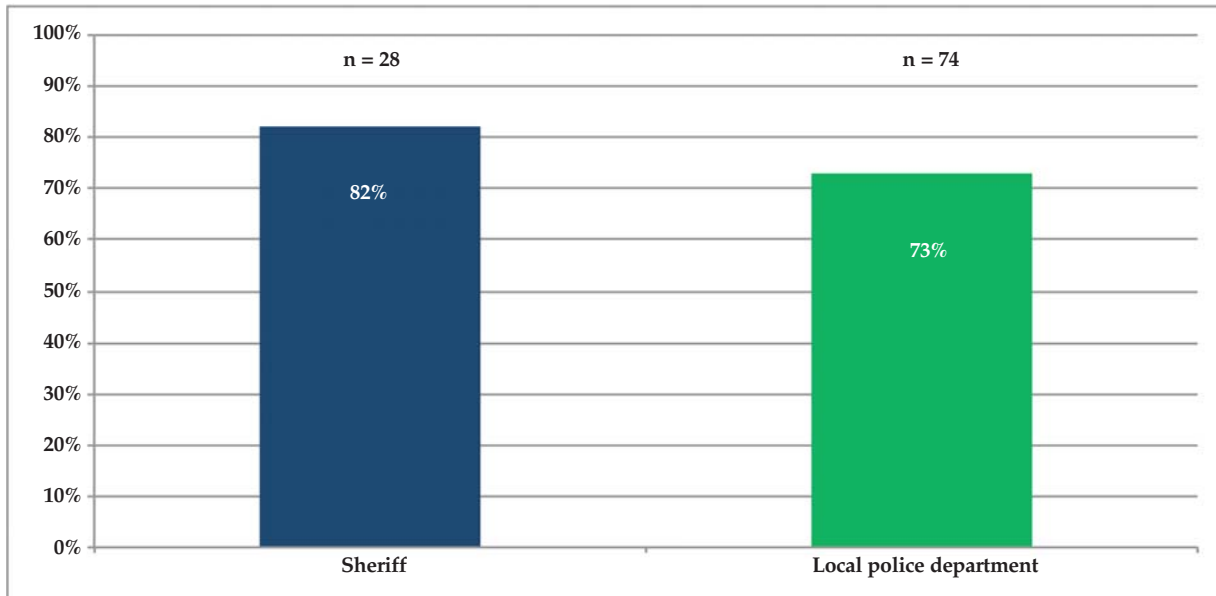
Figure 8. Percentage of survey respondents, by agency type, reporting that agency field/patrol officers use in-car computers, capable of preparing electronic reports in the field



Source: Indiana Crime Data Survey of Local Law Enforcement Agencies, ICJI, 2012

Notes: *n* reflects the number of respondents who answered the question. Differences in responses between sheriffs and local police departments were not found to be significant.

Figure 9. Percentage of survey respondents, by agency type, reporting that field/patrol officers transmit reports to a central repository



Source: Indiana Crime Data Survey of Local Law Enforcement Agencies, ICJI, 2012

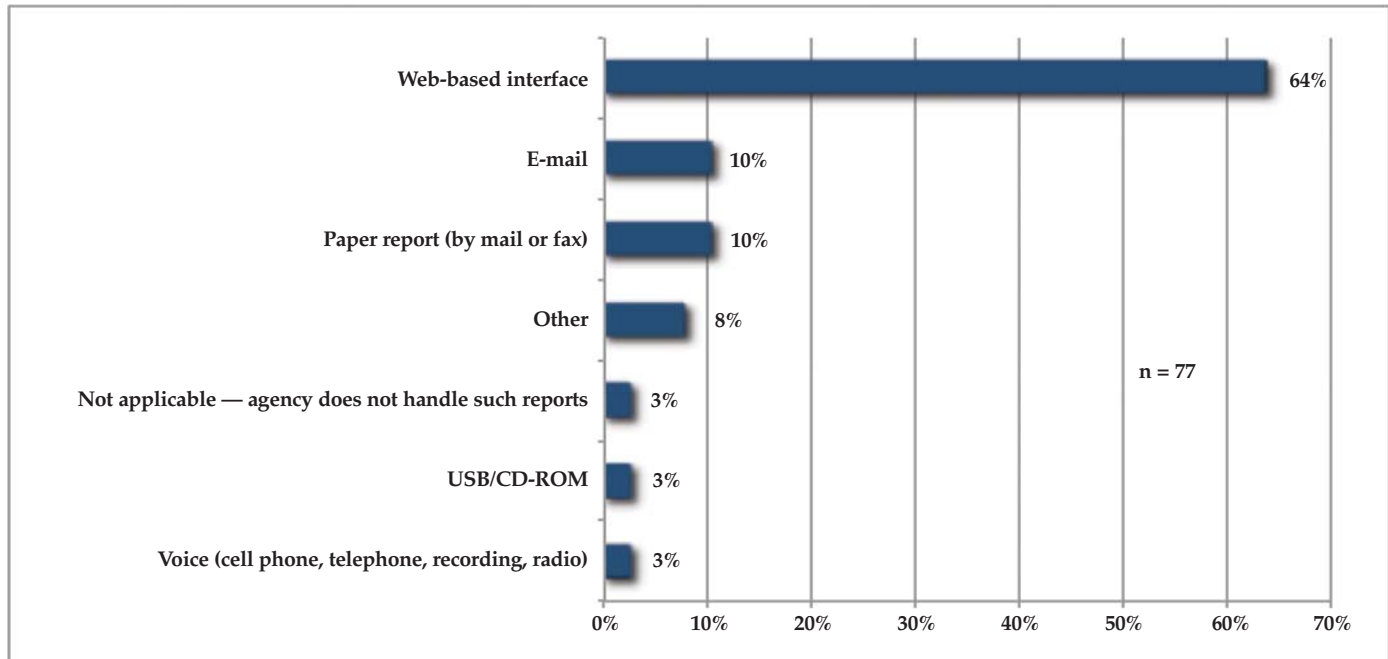
Notes: *n* reflects the number of respondents who answered the question. Differences in responses between sheriffs and local police departments were not found to be significant.

Attitudes about Centralized Data Reporting in Indiana

One goal of the survey was to measure local law enforcement awareness of and participation in current centralized electronic data reporting systems such as the Indiana State Police ARIES traffic collision report database and the Indiana Supreme Court, Judicial Technology and Automation Committee's Electronic Citation and Warning System (eCWS) central repository. When looking at respondents by agency type

(where known), 95 percent of local police departments and 89 percent of sheriffs indicated that their agency currently submits vehicle crash reports to the Indiana State Police (ISP) through the ARIES electronic data reporting system (Figure 11). Differences in responses between sheriffs and local police departments regarding ARIES were not found to be significant. Among those respondents who submit crash reports electronically to ISP, local agencies identified a number of benefits to submitting

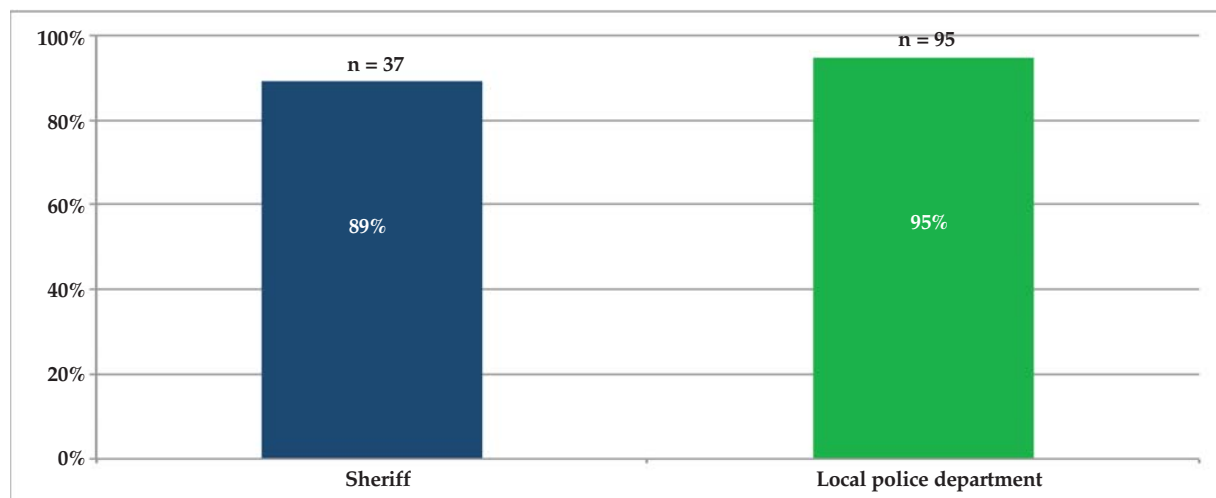
Figure 10. Percentage of survey respondents identifying how data from criminal incident reports are PRIMARILY transmitted to agency's central information system and shared with other systems



Source: Indiana Crime Data Survey of Local Law Enforcement Agencies, ICJI, 2012

Note: *n* represents the number of respondents who answered the question.

Figure 11. Percentage of survey respondents, by agency type, who currently submit vehicle crash reports to the Indiana State Police through the ARIES electronic data reporting system



Source: Indiana Crime Data Survey of Local Law Enforcement Agencies, ICJI, 2012

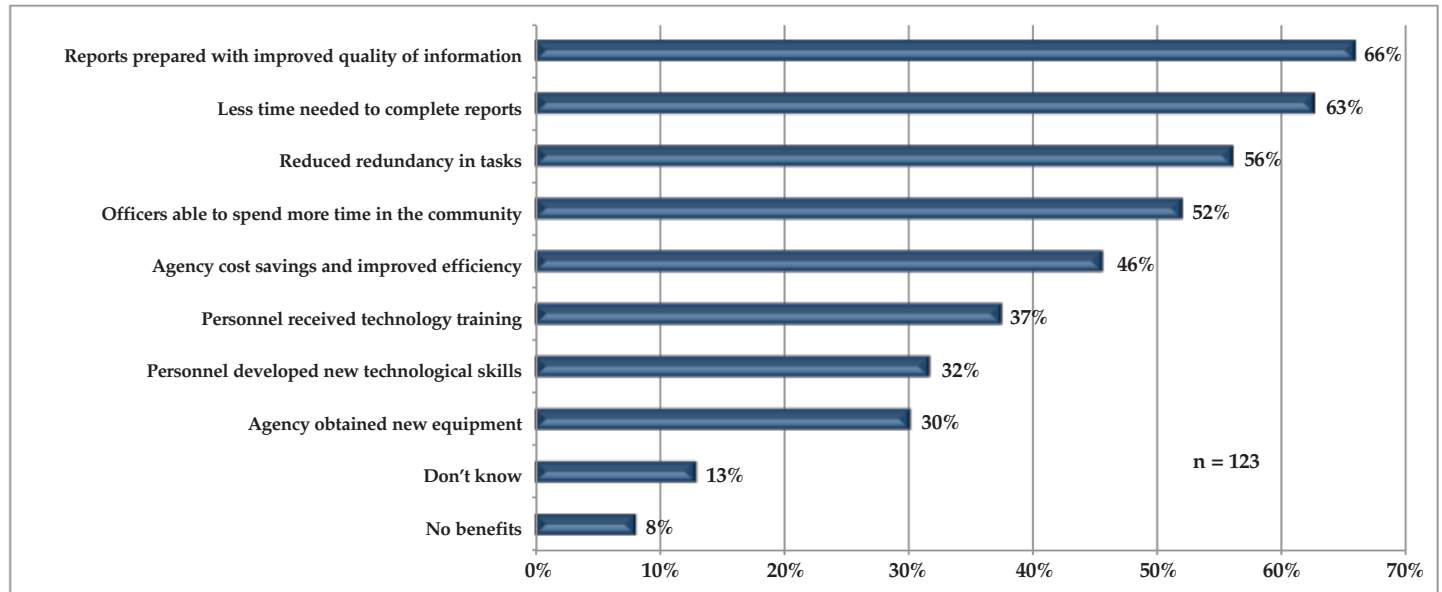
Note: *n* reflects the number of respondents who answered the question. Differences in responses between sheriffs and local police departments were not found to be significant.

data using the ARIES program (Figure 12). Two-thirds of respondents identified *reports prepared with improved quality of information*. A majority of respondents also identified *less time needed to complete reports* (63 percent), *reduced redundancy in tasks* (56 percent), and *officers able to spend more time in the community* (52 percent) as benefits to submitting crash reports through the ARIES system. Only 8 percent of respondents indicated they received *no benefits* from the ARIES program.

When respondents were asked about their willingness to participate in an Indiana centralized crime data repository, 76 percent of local police

departments and 65 percent of sheriffs answered yes, indicating a willingness to participate in such an initiative (Figure 13). Again, differences in responses between sheriffs and local police departments were not found to be significant. A considerable portion of respondents (32 percent of sheriffs and 21 percent of local police) answered *don't know* when asked about their willingness to participate in a centralized crime data reporting system. The large portion of respondents that expressed uncertainty about participating in such a system suggests a need for an education and information initiative to build awareness of the potential benefits to be gained from an Indiana crime data central repository.

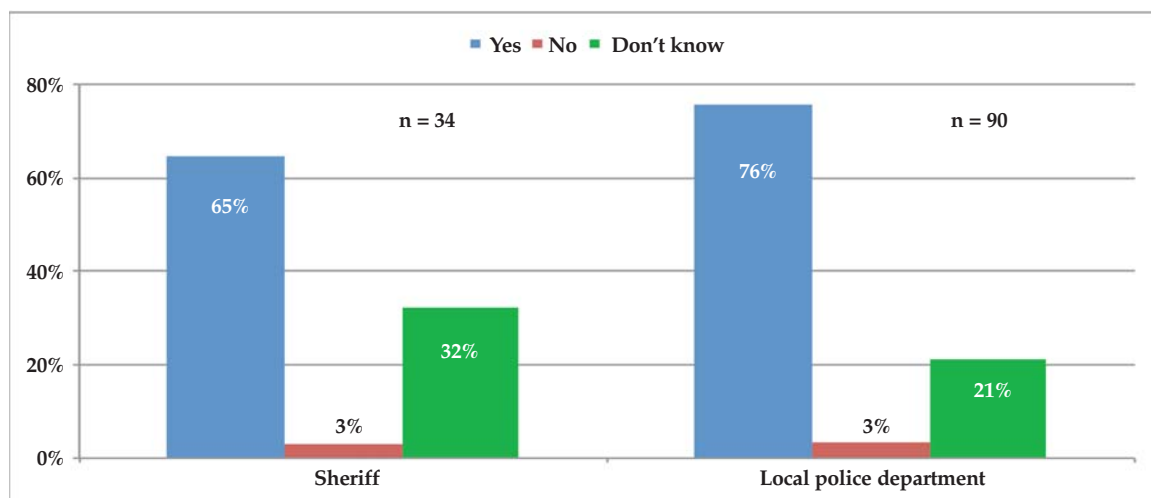
Figure 12. Reported benefits to participating in the statewide traffic records collaboration and submitting data through the Indiana State Police ARIES electronic data reporting system



Source: Indiana Crime Data Survey of Local Law Enforcement Agencies, ICJI, 2012

Note: *n* reflects the number of respondents who answered the question.

Figure 13. Percentage of survey respondents, by agency type, who reported a willingness to participate in an Indiana centralized crime data repository



Source: Indiana Crime Data Survey of Local Law Enforcement Agencies, ICJI, 2012

Notes: *n* reflects the number of respondents who answered the question.

Excludes respondents where agency type was unknown.

Differences in responses between sheriffs and local police departments were not found to be significant.

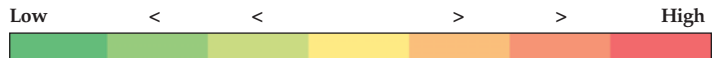
In addition to the level of uncertainty expressed regarding participation, respondents were presented with a list of potential obstacles that might prevent their agency from participating in a centralized crime data reporting system and asked to rate these obstacles by level of importance (Figure 14). Ninety-eight percent of respondents identified limited financial resources to invest in required technology and training as either very important (69 percent) or important (29 percent) as a potential obstacle. Both limited manpower and lack of necessary technology were determined to be very important or important as a potential obstacle to partic-

ipation by 85 percent of respondents. Participating law enforcement representatives were also presented with a list of potential benefits to participating in a centralized crime data reporting system and asked to rate these benefits by level of importance (Figure 15). Greater than 90 percent of respondents identified all of the potential benefits offered as either very important or important.

When respondents were asked about the types of assistance their agency would need in generating electronically reported crime data for a central repository, increased funding and access to training were the types of

Figure 14. Percentage of respondents identifying OBSTACLES to agency participation in a centralized crime data reporting program, by obstacle type and level of importance

	Very important	Important	Unimportant	Very unimportant	Not applicable
Limited financial resources to invest in required technology and training	69%	29%	2%	0%	0%
Limited manpower	37%	48%	15%	0%	1%
Lack of necessary technology—hardware or applications	42%	43%	10%	3%	3%
Lack of trained personnel	18%	56%	21%	1%	4%
Lack of available training	15%	56%	21%	1%	6%
Perception that such a system/technology is not important to our agency operations	10%	32%	34%	15%	10%
No perceived advantages of such a crime data reporting program for our agency	11%	30%	33%	15%	10%
Lack of interagency cooperation	12%	35%	34%	11%	10%
Other	16%	6%	3%	0%	75%




Source: Indiana Crime Data Survey of Local Law Enforcement Agencies, ICJI, 2012

Notes: Respondents who did not report a level of importance are excluded from percentage calculations. *n* reflects the number of respondents who answered the question.

Figure 15. Percentage of respondents identifying BENEFITS to agency participation in a centralized crime data reporting program, by benefit type and level of importance

	Very important	Important	Unimportant	Very unimportant	Not applicable
Improved collaboration with other law enforcement agencies	60%	34%	6%	0%	1%
Greater accessibility to investigative information and resources from other jurisdictions	64%	34%	3%	0%	0%
Improved efficiency in information gathering by reducing duplication of efforts across agencies/jurisdictions	61%	34%	4%	0%	0%
Greater access to technology, funding, and other resources from the state and federal levels	60%	34%	4%	0%	2%
Technological skill development and training opportunities for officers	50%	41%	7%	0%	2%
Other	18%	5%	5%	0%	73%



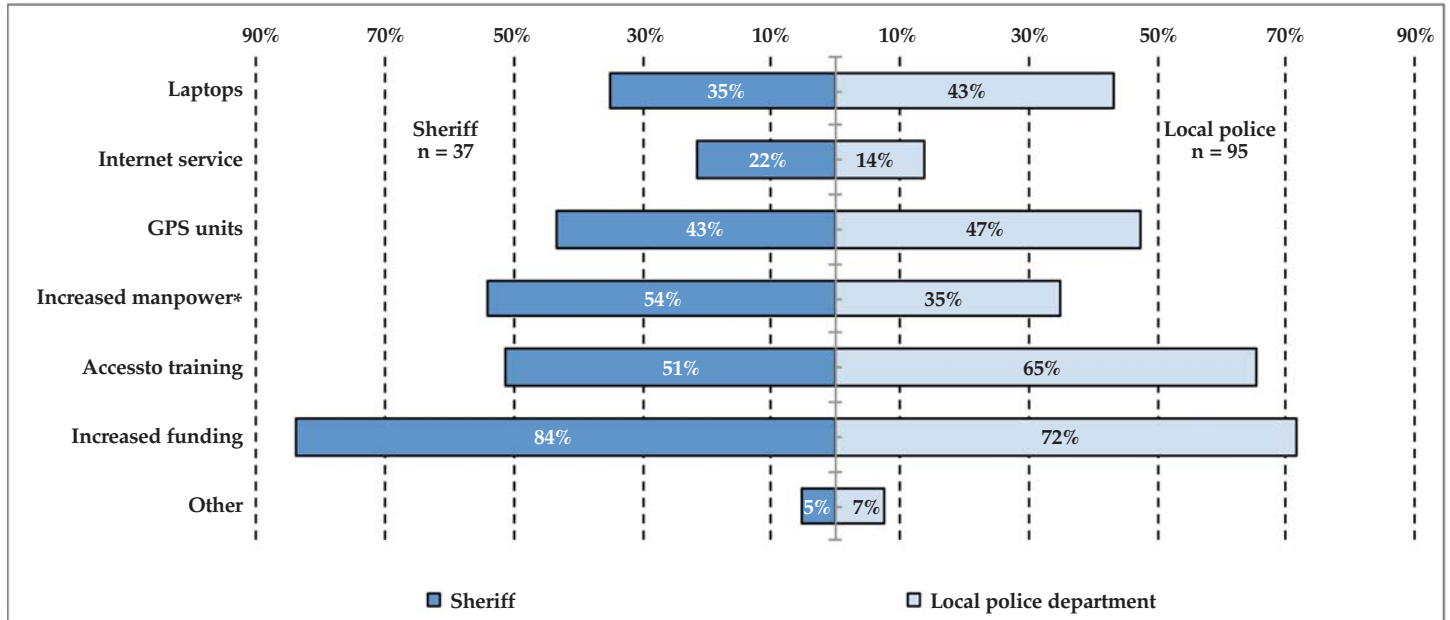
Source: Indiana Crime Data Survey of Local Law Enforcement Agencies, ICJI, 2012

Notes: Respondents who did not report a level of importance are excluded from percentage calculations. *n* reflects the number of respondents who answered the question.

assistance identified most often by respondents (Figure 16). Eighty-four percent of sheriffs and 72 percent of local police departments identified increased funding as a type of assistance their agency would need if they were to participate in a centralized crime data reporting system. Greater than 50 percent of sheriffs identified both access to training and increased manpower as types of assistance they would need in generating electronically reported crime data. For increased manpower, the differences in

responses between sheriffs and local police departments were found to be statistically significant at a 95 percent confidence interval ($p < .05$). For all other types of assistance needed, differences in responses between sheriffs and local police departments were not found to be significant.

Figure 16. Percentage of respondents reporting needed assistance in generating electronically reported crime data, by type of assistance and agency type



Source: Indiana Crime Data Survey of Local Law Enforcement Agencies, ICJI, 2012

Notes: *n* represents the highest number of responses for this series of questions.

*Differences in responses between sheriffs and local police departments were found to be statistically significant at a 95% confidence level ($p < .05$).

CONCLUSIONS

Indiana remains one of only three states in the nation that lacks a centralized state collection program certified by the FBI and without active legislation mandating crime data reporting (Thelin & Sapp, 2012). The Indiana Crime Data Survey gathered valuable input from survey respondents to assess local law enforcement perspectives on current practices in crime data collection, reporting, and information sharing in Indiana.

Survey results demonstrate that on a regular basis, the majority of sheriffs and local police departments share investigative information with other local agencies and receive requests for crime data from state and federal agencies. Overall, sheriffs appear to receive and request information from state and federal agencies more frequently than local police departments. Most local law enforcement agencies report maintaining or participating in several local and state crime data reporting systems. Survey results reflect lower rates of participation in federal systems.

When considering various crime data reporting systems by agency type, sheriffs reported higher rates of participation than local police across seven of the eight systems included in the survey question. For *NCIC*, *CAD*, *RMS*, and *arrest booking system*, the differences in responses between sheriffs and local police departments were found to be statistically significant. Additionally, only a slight majority of survey respondents convey that their systems adhere to national standards of efficient data sharing that enable compatibility with federal reporting systems. Survey findings show that local agencies do possess technological capacity of

preparing electronic reports in the field and most also transmit reports to a central repository.

Findings also suggest that most respondents have a history of reporting to one or more existing Indiana centralized electronic data reporting systems. A large majority of participating local police departments and sheriffs reported that their agency currently submits vehicle crash reports to the ISP through the ARIES electronic data reporting system, and identified a variety of benefits to submitting and accessing data using the ARIES program.

Respondents also reported a number of potential benefits to be realized from future participation in a centralized Indiana crime data reporting system, as well as potential obstacles that might prevent their agency from participating in such an initiative. For example, survey respondents reported that 44 percent of RMS were *custom-developed* for their agencies. It is possible that agencies that have invested a substantial portion of their limited resources to developing a custom program may be more resistant than others to transition to a centralized system without a guarantee of tangible benefits to be gained from participation. Overall, a majority of survey participants indicated a willingness to participate in an Indiana centralized crime data reporting system; however, the considerable portion of respondents that expressed uncertainty about participating in such a system suggests a need for an education and information sharing initiative to build awareness of the potential benefits to be gained from an Indiana crime data central repository.

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Appendix A and B

Appendix A: Indiana Crime Data Survey Instrument

Appendix A: Indiana Crime Data Survey Instrument

Welcome to the Indiana Crime Data Survey of Local Law Enforcement Agencies

The Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI), in partnership with the Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) Center for Criminal Justice Research (CCJR), developed the 2012 Indiana Crime Data Reporting Survey to assess local law enforcement perspectives on current practices in crime data collection, reporting, and information sharing in Indiana. The crime data survey population consists of representatives from local law enforcement agencies (i.e. municipal police departments, sheriffs, etc.). Survey findings will form an important basis for discussion as we develop recommendations for improving accessibility and utilization of crime data by law enforcement partners and other key stakeholders in Indiana.

CCJR researchers have been asked to administer the survey. The randomly assigned Respondent ID Number (provided to you in the survey request letter that you received from ICJI) will be used for follow-up efforts to increase response rates, but individual responses will remain strictly confidential. The list associating Respondent ID Numbers with names will be available only to CCJR researchers until the study is done, after which it will be destroyed. Only group data, not individual results, will be analyzed and reported. The survey is not difficult to complete and should not take more than 10-15 minutes of your time. Your input now will inform how data can best be shared and utilized to enact and implement effective law enforcement and criminal justice policies and programs for many years to come.

*** 1. Please enter your Respondent ID number:**

About your agency/organization

2. Which of the following best describes your agency/organization?

- Local police department
- Sheriff
- Other (please specify)

3. Which of the following best describes your role (primary responsibilities) within your agency/organization?

- Chief/Sheriff/Executive Administrator
- Mid-level manager/Supervisor
- Investigate crimes (i.e. collect evidence, conduct interviews, observe activities, prepare detailed reports, etc.)
- General law enforcement (i.e. patrol assigned areas, respond to calls for service, conduct traffic stops, issue citations, arrest suspects, etc.)
- Other (please specify)

4. Does your agency ever need to access investigative information from other agencies/jurisdictions?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

If you answered YES to question 4:

5. How frequently do you need to access investigative information from other agencies/jurisdictions?

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Yearly

Other (please specify)

6. Does your agency ever receive requests for investigative information from other agencies/jurisdictions?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

If you answered YES to question 6

7. How frequently does your agency receive request for investigative information from other agencies/jurisdictions?

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Yearly

Other (please specify)

8. From whom do these requests for investigative information/data originate? (Select all that apply)

- Federal agency(s)
- State agency(s)
- Local agency(s)

Other (please specify)

About Indiana crime data and incident reporting

9. Does your agency maintain or participate in any of the following types of crime data-related reporting system(s)?

	Yes	No	Don't know
Case reporting/Records management system (RMS)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Computer-aided dispatch (CAD)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Arrest booking system	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Uniform Crime Reports—Summary	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Uniform Crime Reports—Incident-based (NIBRS)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Indiana Data and Communications System (IDACS)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
National Crime Information Center (NCIC)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Law Enforcement National Data Exchange (N-DEX)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

10. If you currently maintain or participate in any of the following reporting systems, please indicate whether the system was purchased off-the-shelf or custom developed for your agency.

	Off-the-shelf	Custom	Don't know	Not applicable
Case reporting/Records management system (RMS)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Computer-aided dispatch (CAD)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Arrest booking system	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

11. If you currently maintain or participate in any of the following local reporting systems, do they adhere to national standards for efficient data sharing that would make them compatible with federal reporting system(s) such as UCR, NIBRS, and N-DEX?

	Yes	No	Don't know	Not applicable
Case reporting/Records management system (RMS)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Computer-aided dispatch (CAD)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Arrest booking system	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

12. If you currently maintain or participate in any of the following reporting system(s), please identify the name of the vendor for each reporting program.

Case reporting/Records management system (RMS)	<input type="text"/>
Computer-aided dispatch (CAD)	<input type="text"/>
Arrest booking system	<input type="text"/>

13. Do your agency field/patrol officers use in-car computers, capable of preparing reports in the field?

- Yes
 No
 Don't know

If you answered YES to question 13

14. Do the field/patrol officers transmit reports to a central repository?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

15. How are data from criminal incident reports **PRIMARILY transmitted to your agency's central information system and shared with other systems? (Please mark only **ONE** response.)**

- Web-based interface
- Paper report (by mail or fax)
- Voice (cell phone, telephone, recording, radio)
- USB/CD-ROM
- E-mail
- Not applicable—agency does not handle such reports
- Other (please specify)

Centralized crime data reporting in Indiana

16. Does your agency currently submit vehicle crash reports to the Indiana State Police through the ARIES electronic data reporting system?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know



17. How has your agency benefited from participating in the statewide traffic collaboration? (Please select ALL that apply)

- Less time needed to complete reports
- Reports prepared with improved quality of information
- Reduced workload by no longer re-entering data from paper reports
- Agency cost savings and improved efficiency
- Agency obtained new equipment
- Personnel received technology training
- Personnel developed new technological skills
- Officers able to spend more time in the community
- No benefits
- Don't know

Centralized crime data reporting in Indiana (continued...)

18. Currently, in Indiana, 99 percent of all Indiana traffic crash records are reported electronically to the Indiana State Police through ARIES. Would your agency be willing to participate in a similar program for crime data reporting?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

19. If NO or DON'T KNOW to question 18, what is the primary reason that you would be hesitant to participate?

20. Rank the following potential OBSTACLES to your agency participating in centralized crime data reporting program similar to the ARIES crash reporting system by level of importance.

	Very important	Important	Unimportant	Very unimportant	Not applicable
Limited financial resources to invest in required technology and training	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Limited manpower	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of necessary technology—hardware or applications	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of trained personnel	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of available training	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Perception that such a system/technology is not important to our agency operations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
No perceived advantages of such a crime data reporting program for our agency	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of interagency cooperation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

21. Other (please specify) from question 20:

22. Rank the following potential BENEFITS to your agency participating in centralized crime data reporting program similar to the ARIES crashing reporting system by level of importance.

	Very important	Important	Unimportant	Very unimportant	Not applicable
Improved collaboration with other law enforcement agencies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Greater accessibility to investigative information and resources from other jurisdictions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improved efficiency in information gathering by reducing duplication of efforts across agencies/jurisdictions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Greater access to technology, funding, and other resources from the state and federal levels	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Technological skill development and training opportunities for officers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

23. Other (please specify) from question 22:

24. What type of assistance does your agency need in generating electronically reported crime data? (Please select ALL that apply.)

- Laptops
- Internet service
- Local area network (LAN)
- GPS units
- Increased manpower
- Access to training
- Increased funding
- Other (please specify)

Federal and state reporting and information sharing systems

LAW ENFORCEMENT NATIONAL DATA EXCHANGE (N-DEX) PROGRAM

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." 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.

25. Are you or others in your agency aware of the Law Enforcement National Data Exchange (N-DEX) program?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

26. Is your agency currently reporting to the N-DEx program?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Federal and state reporting and information sharing systems

INDIANA DATA EXCHANGE (IDEx) INITIATIVE

The Indiana Data Exchange (IDEx) initiative is 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 goal OF enhancing public safety services in Indiana by sharing data across jurisdictions, among local, state, and federal public safety organizations.

27. Are you or others in your agency aware of the Indiana Data Exchange (IDEx) initiative?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

28. If you answered YES to question 27, are you or someone in your agency currently an active participant in the IDEx initiative?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Conclusion

Thank you for taking the Indiana Crime Data Survey of Local Law Enforcement Agencies.

Appendix B. Participating Law Enforcement Agencies

Agency Name	County	Agency Type
Columbus PD	Bartholomew	Police
By-State Drug Task Force	Benton	Drug Task Force
Benton County SD	Benton	Sheriff
Fowler PD	Benton	Police
Boone County SD	Boone	Sheriff
Zionsville PD	Boone	Police
Logansport PD	Cass	Police
Clarksville PD	Clark	Police
Clark County SD	Clark	Sheriff
Milltown PD	Crawford	Police
Daviess County SD	Daviess	Sheriff
Lawrenceburg PD	Dearborn	Police
St Leon PD	Dearborn	Police
Decatur County SD	Decatur	Sheriff
Greenburg PD	Decatur	Police
Westport	Decatur	Police
Butler PD	DeKalb	Police
Waterloo Marshal's Office	DeKalb	Marshal
Gaston PD	Delaware	Police
Eaton PD	Delaware	Police
Elkhart County SD	Elkhart	Sheriff
Georgetown PD	Floyd	Police
Floyd County SD	Floyd	Sheriff
Fountain County SD	Fountain	Sheriff
Covington PD	Fountain	Police
Franklin County SD	Franklin	Sheriff
Brookville PD	Franklin	Police
Fort Branch PD	Gibson	Police
Van Buren PD	Grant	Police
Marion PD	Grant	Police
Fairmount PD	Grant	Police
Converse PD	Grant (& Miami)	Police
Green County SD	Greene	Sheriff
Sheridan PD	Hamilton	Police
Carmel PD	Hamilton	Police
Noblesville PD	Hamilton	Police
Fishers PD	Hamilton	Police
Atlanta PD	Hamilton	Police
Fortville PD	Hancock	Police
McCordsville PD	Hancock	Police
Hancock County SD	Hancock	Sheriff
Corydon PD	Harrison	Police
Danville PD	Hendricks	Police
Avon PD	Hendricks	Police
Kokomo PD	Howard	Police
Jackson County SD	Jackson	Sheriff
Crothersville PD	Jackson	Police
Rensselaer PD	Jasper	Police
Jasper County SD	Jasper	Sheriff
Dunkirk PD	Jay	Police
Portland PD	Jay	Police
Jennings County SD	Jennings	Sheriff
Johnson County SD	Johnson	Sheriff
Bargersville PD	Johnson	Police
Franklin PD	Johnson	Police

Agency Name	County	Agency Type
Whiteland PD	Johnson	Police
New Whiteland PD	Johnson	Police
Vincennes PD	Knox	Police
Syracuse PD	Kosciusko	Police
Milford PD	Kosciusko	Police
La Porte PD	La Porte	Police
Long Beach PD	La Porte	Police
Shipshewana PD	LaGrange	Police
LaGrange County SD	LaGrange	Sheriff
Lake County SD	Lake	Sheriff
Highland PD	Lake	Police
Crown Point PD	Lake	Police
Anderson PD	Madison	Police
Lapel PD	Madison	Police
Speedway PD	Marion	Police
Butler University PD	Marion	Police
Beech Grove PD	Marion	Police
Marshall County SD	Marshall	Sheriff
Peru PD	Miami	Police
Bloomington PD	Monroe	Police
Monroe County SD	Monroe	Sheriff
Montgomery County SD	Montgomery	Sheriff
Crawfordsville PD	Montgomery	Police
Morgan County SD	Morgan	Sheriff
Mooreville PD	Morgan	Police
Noble County SD	Noble	Sheriff
Albion PD	Noble	Police
Cromwell PD	Noble	Police
Kendallville PD	Noble	Police
French Lick PD	Orange	Police
Burns Harbor PD	Porter	Police
Porter County SD	Porter	Sheriff
Porter PD	Porter	Police
Winchester PD	Randolph	Police
Ripley County SD	Ripley	Sheriff
Osgood PD	Ripley	Police
Osceola PD	Saint Joseph	Police
Shelbyville PD	Shelby	Police
Knox PD	Starke	Police
Fremont PD	Steuben	Police
Shelburn PD	Sullivan	Police
Switzerland County SD	Switzerland	Sheriff
Tippecanoe County SD	Tippecanoe	Sheriff
Tipton PD	Tipton	Police
Vanderburgh SD	Vanderburgh	Sheriff
Clinton City PD	Vermillion	Police
Vermillion County SD	Vermillion	Sheriff
Wabash County SD	Wabash	Sheriff
Boonville PD	Warrick	Police
Richmond PD	Wayne	Police
Wells County SD	Wells	Sheriff
Ossian PD	Wells	Police
Bluffton PD	Wells	Police
Wolcott PD	White	Police
Monticello PD	White	Police

Note: Some agencies submitted more than one response to the survey.

Statewide Crime Data Assessment

Indiana Crime Data Survey Findings, 2012

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