



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs

Presented by
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December 16, 2015

An Automated System for Transforming National Criminal History Records into Statistical Databases

for the
Panel on Improving Federal Statistics for Policy and Social Science Research
Using Multiple Data Sources and State-of-the-Art Estimation Methods

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine
2101 Constitution Avenue NW, Lecture Room
Washington, DC

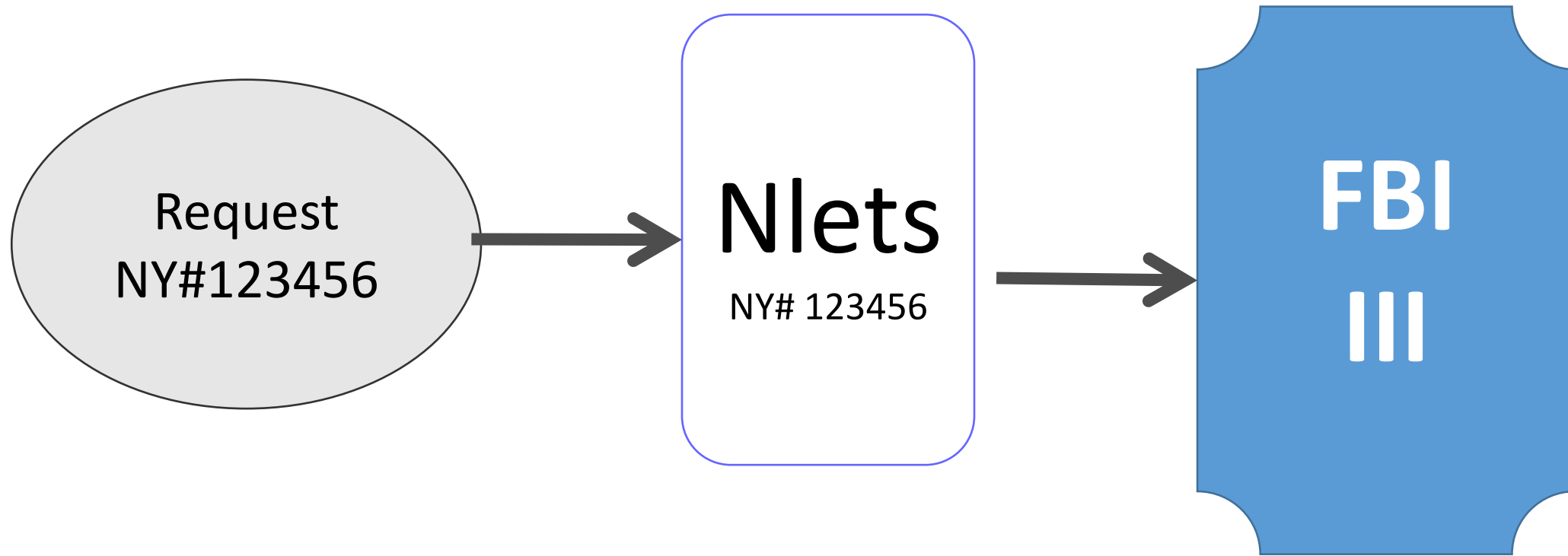


BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS

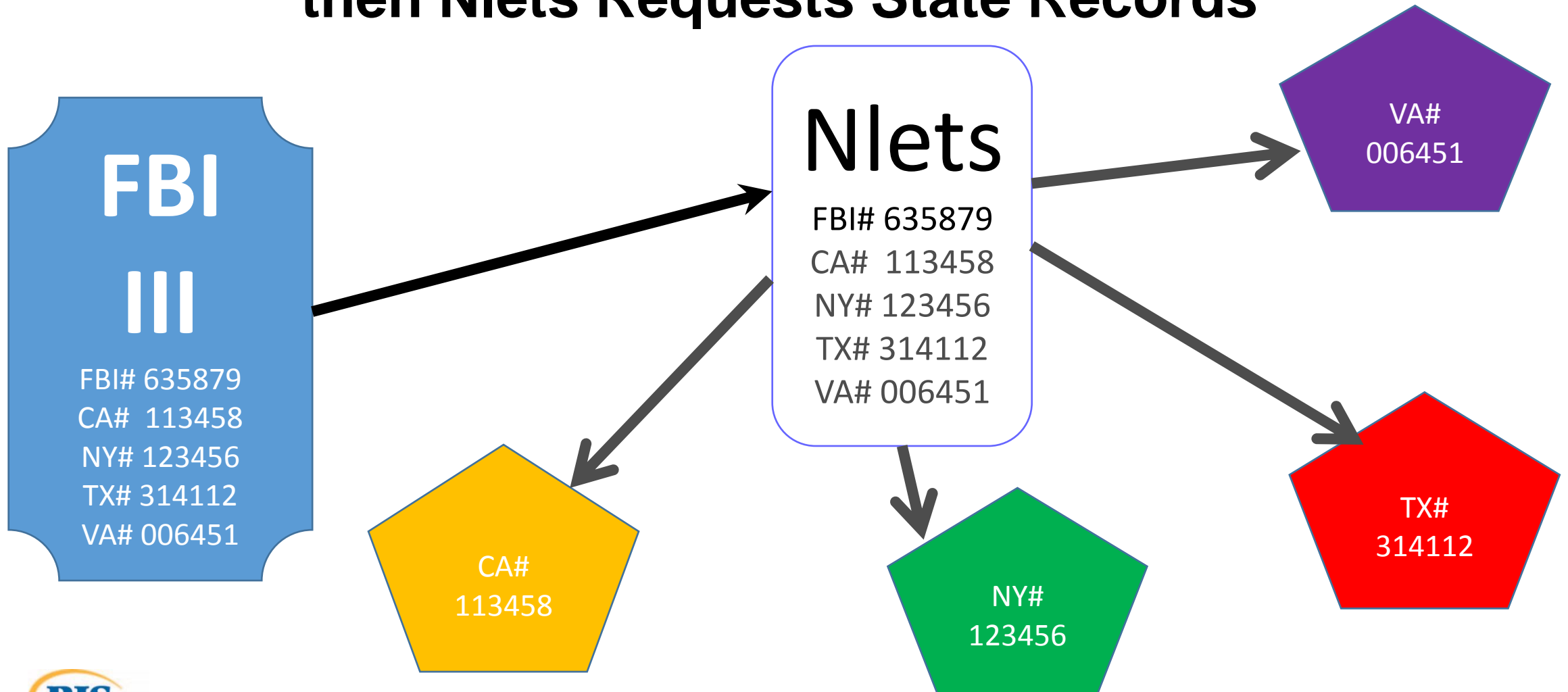
BJS Criminal History Record Research Program

- In 2008, BJS entered into a data sharing agreement with the FBI to directly access criminal history records through the Interstate Identification Index (III) via Nlets for data analysis purposes.
- The FBI's III is an automated pointer system that allows authorized agencies to determine whether any state repository has criminal history records on an individual.
- Nlets is a computer-based system that links together state, local and federal criminal justice agencies for the purpose of information exchange.

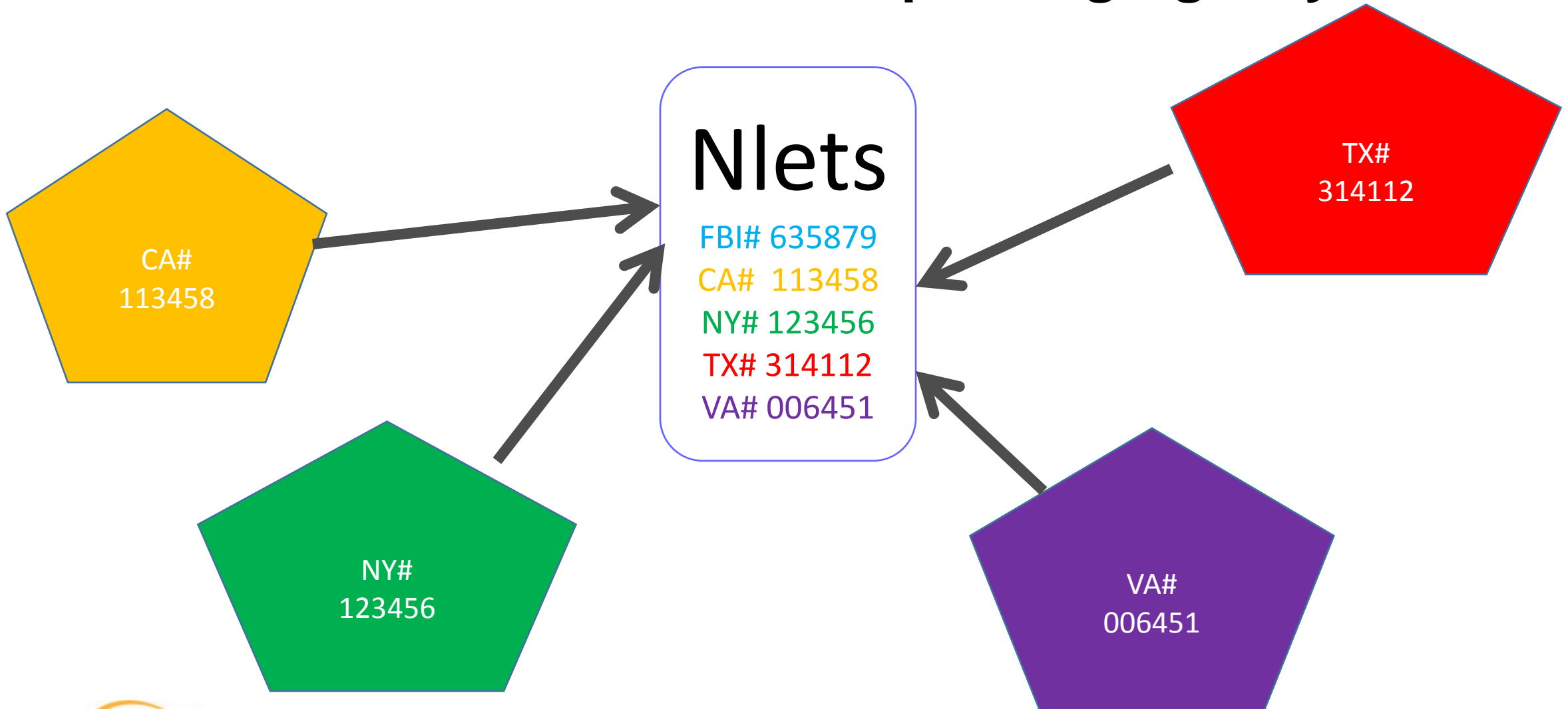
Simplified Description of III System: A Request for a Multi-State Criminal History Record (or Rap Sheet)



III Provides Federal Portion of Rap Sheet to Nlets along with the Person's State ID Numbers; then Nlets Requests State Records



State Repositories Return State-Specific Rap Sheets and Nlets Sends Set to Requesting Agency



Example of Rap Sheet Format in State A

NAME	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	STATE ID	XXXXXXXXXXXX
SSN	XXX-XX-XXXX	FBI NO.	XXXXXXXXXXXX
CITIZENSHIP	UNKNOWN		
BIRTH DATE	XXXX/XX/XX	BIRTH PLACE	XXXXXXXXXXXX
DECEASED	NO		
RACE	WHITE	SEX	FEMALE
ETHNICITY		SKIN TONE	
HEIGHT	5'05"	WEIGHT	165
HAIR	BROWN	EYES	BLUE
CRIMINAL HISTORY			
ARREST 1			
DOA	1992/10/25	DOO	
AGENCY	POLICE DEPARTMENT		
ARREST TYPE	ADULT	AGENCY CASE	XXXXXX
CHARGE 1		OFF STATUTE	6-3-404
SEVERITY	MIS		
COURT DISPOSITION			
DISP DATE	1992/10/27	DOCKET #	XXXXXX
OFF SEVERITY	MIS	OFF COUNT	1
VERDICT	CONVICTED	FELONY	NO
BRADY/IFS	CLEAR	VOTING	YES
SENTENCE	PROBATION		
FINE	\$100.00	RESTITUTION	\$85.00
SUSPENDED		VICTIM COMP	
MIN CONF		MAX CONF	
MIN PROB	180 DAYS	MAX PROB	ONE YEAR

Example of Rap Sheet Format in State B

NAME:	XXXXXXXXXXXX	DOB:	XX/XX/XXXX				
SID NUMBER:	XXXXXXXXXXXX	FBI NUMBER:	XXXXXXXXXXXX				
DOC NUMBER:	XXXXXXXXXXXX	SOC SEC	XXXXXXXXXXXX				

PERSON INFORMATION							

SEX	RACE	HEIGHT	WEIGHT	EYES	HAIR	PLACE OF BIRTH	CITIZENSHIP
M	B	600	160	BRO	BLK	XX	US
CRIMINAL HISTORY INFORMATION							

ARREST 1				DATE OF ARREST: 06/12/1991			

NAME USED:		XXXXXXXXXXXX					
CONTRIBUTING AGENCY:		POLICE DEPARTMENT					
LOCAL ID:		XXXXXXXXXXXX		PCN:		XXXXXXXXXXXX TCN: N/A	

ARREST OFFENSES				DISPOSITION			
09930 FAIL TO COMPLY				CONTRIBUTOR OR RESPONSIBLE AGENCY:			
CLASS UNKNOWN				MUNICIPAL COURT			
ORIGINATING AGENCY:				STATUS: DISPOSITION NOT RECEIVED			
POLICE DEPARTMENT							
OIN: XXXXXXX							
DISPO RESPONSIBILITY: COURT				CONTRIBUTOR OR RESPONSIBLE AGENCY:			
COURT CASE NO: XXXXXXX				SUPERIOR COURT			
COMMENT: BURGLARY				COURT CASE NO: XXXXXXX			
CLASS UNKNOWN				STATUS: GUILTY			
ORIGINATING AGENCY:				THEFT-3			
POLICE DEPARTMENT				RCW: 9-46-20			
OIN				MISDEMEANOR			
DISPO RESPONSIBILITY: COURT				STATUS DATE: 08/27/1991			
COURT CASE NO: XXXXXXX				SENTENCE: SENT. DESC.:			
				CHG 01: JAIL-15 DS/SUSPENDED			
				1 YR, SUPV-12 MOS			

Example of Rap Sheet Format in State C

NAME (S) :	XXXXXXXXXX	
FBI NUMBER	DPS NUMBER	
XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	
SOCIAL SECURITY	DRIVERS LICENSE	ID NUMBER
XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	
SEX	RACE	SKIN TONE
M	B	MED
HEIGHT	WEIGHT	DATE OF BIRTH
510	180	XX-XX-XXXX
HAIR COLOR	EYE COLOR	FINGERPRINT PATTERN
BLK	BRO	
PLACE OF BIRTH	CITIZEN	III CODE
TX	US	MULTI-STATE

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EVENT CYCLE 1

TRACKING NUMBER	XXXXXXXXXX
ARREST DATE	05-06-1995
TYPE	ADULT
AGENCY	0180000 - STATE POLICE

OFFENSE DATA

OFFENSE DATE	05-06-1995
OFFENSE	BURG
CITATION	PC 40.02 (a)
LEVEL & DEGREE	FELONY - 1ST DEGREE
DISPOSITION	HELD
REFERRED	DISTRICT ATTORNEY OFFICE

COURT DATA

COURT AGENCY	5TH DISTRICT COURT
COURT OFFENSE	BURGLARY OF HABITATION
CITATION	PC 30.02 (a)
LEVEL & DEGREE	FELONY - 1ST DEGREE
DISPOSITION	CONVICTED
DISPOSITION DATE	03-30-1996
SENTENCE DATE	03-30-1996



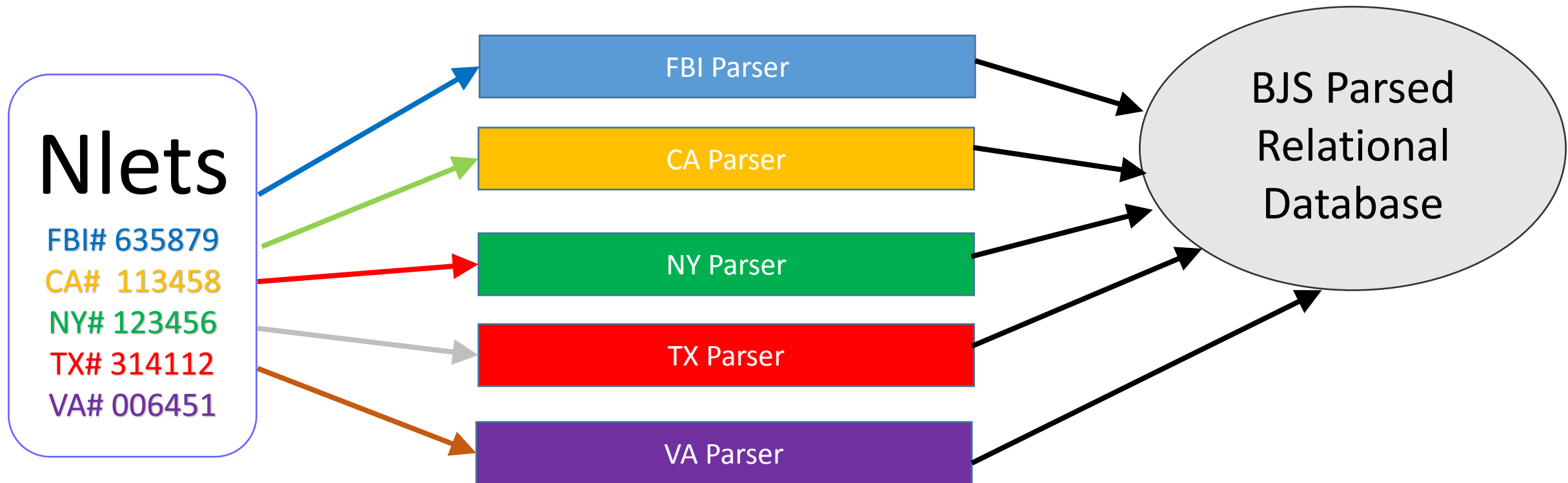
Rap sheet parsing programs

BJS partnered with Nlets to develop -

- A secure, automated system **to retrieve** large sets of multi-state criminal records on study cohorts
 - States respond automatically to III record requests over the Nlets network.
- Software programs **to parse** key data elements from rap sheets in every state
 - Collates the multi-state records into a uniform structure and produces a relational database.

State-Specific Parsing Programs At Nlets

Standardize Structure of Rap Sheet Information into a Relational Database with State-Specific Codes



Rap sheet fields in the uniform record layout

Subject segment

- BJS case number
- Name
- State identification number (SID)
- FBI identification number
- Date of birth
- Gender
- Race
- Social security number

Court/Sentencing segment

- Court disposition date
- Court name and ORI
- Statute number
- NCIC code
- Offense description
- Type of court disposition
- Sentences (prison, fine , etc.)

Arrest segment

- Date of offense
- Date of arrest
- Arresting agency name and ORI
- Statute number
- NCIC code
- Charge description
- Charge severity
- Arrest disposition
- Arrest disposition date

Supervision segment

- Supervision date (admission, release, etc.)
- Agency name and ORI
- Supervision description

Rap sheet standardization software

- BJS partnered with NORC at the University of Chicago to develop software system that reads every field in the parsed relational database and converts/recodes each entry to BJS code values.
- This software system utilizes a family of crosswalk files that records each unique field value(s) and its recode value.
- Each time a parsed database is passed through the standardization process a smaller percentage of fields are unknown to the system and must be added to the crosswalk libraries.
- Using the large library of crosswalk entries, NORC is working on an expert system to recommend recodes for unknown fields.

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