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
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)

Request NY#123456 → Nlets NY# 123456 → FBI III
III Provides Federal Portion of Rap Sheet to Nlets along with the Person’s State ID Numbers; then Nlets Requests State Records.

FBI: FBI# 635879, CA# 113458, NY# 123456, TX# 314112, VA# 006451

Nlets: FBI# 635879, CA# 113458, NY# 123456, TX# 314112, VA# 006451
State Repositories Return State-Specific Rap Sheets and Nlets Sends Set to Requesting Agency

Nlets
FBI# 635879
CA# 113458
NY# 123456
TX# 314112
VA# 006451

TX# 314112

CA# 113458

NY# 123456

VA# 006451

www.bjs.gov
Example of Rap Sheet Format in State A

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX</th>
<th>STATE ID</th>
<th>XXXXXXXXXXXX</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SSN</td>
<td>XXX-XX-XXXX</td>
<td>FBI NO.</td>
<td>XXXXXXXXXXXX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CITIZENSHIP</td>
<td>UNKNOWN</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIRTH DATE</td>
<td>XXX/XX/XX</td>
<td>BIRTH PLACE</td>
<td>XXXXXXXXXXXX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DECEASED</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RACE</td>
<td>WHITE</td>
<td>SEX</td>
<td>FEMALE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ETHNICITY</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEIGHT</td>
<td>5'05&quot;</td>
<td>WEIGHT</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAIR</td>
<td>BROWN</td>
<td>EYES</td>
<td>BLUE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CRIMINAL HISTORY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARREST 1</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DOA</td>
<td>1992/10/25</td>
<td>DOO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGENCY</td>
<td>POLICE DEPARTMENT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARREST TYPE</td>
<td>ADULT</td>
<td>AGENCY CASE</td>
<td>XXXXXXX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHARGE 1</td>
<td></td>
<td>OFF STATUTE</td>
<td>6-3-404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEVERITY</td>
<td>MIS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**COURT DISPOSITION**

| DISP DATE  | 1992/10/27           | DOCKET #   | XXXXXXX      |
| 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
NAME USED: XXXXXXXXXXXX
CONTRIBUTING AGENCY: POLICE DEPARTMENT
LOCAL ID: XXXXXXXXXXXX  PCN: XXXXXXXXXXXX  TCN: N/A

ARREST OFFENSES
| DISPOSITION |
| CONTRIBUTOR OR RESPONSIBLE AGENCY: |
| ORIGINATING AGENCY: |
| OIN: |
| DISPO RESPONSIBILITY: |
| COURT CASE NO: |
| COMMENT: |

09930 FAIL TO COMPLY  DISPOSITION NOT RECEIVED
CLASS UNKNOWN  MUNICIPAL COURT
ORIGINATING AGENCY:  POLICE DEPARTMENT
OIN: XXXXXXXX
DISPO RESPONSIBILITY: COURT
COURT CASE NO: XXXXXXX
COMMENT: BURGLARY

CLASS UNKNOWN  GUilty
ORIGINATING AGENCY:  SUPERIOR COURT
OIN  XXXXXXXX
DISPO RESPONSIBILITY: COURT
COURT CASE NO: XXXXXXX
COMMENT: THEFT-3

RCW: 9-46-20
MISDEMEANOR
STATUS DATE: 08/27/1991
CHG 01: JAIL-15 DS/SUSPENDED
1 YR, SUPV-12 MOS
Example of Rap Sheet Format in State C

NAME(S): XXXXXXX
FBI NUMBER DPS NUMBER
XXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXX
SOCIAL SECURITY DRIVERS LICENSE ID NUMBER
XXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXX
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

EVENT CYCLE 1
TRACKING NUMBER XXXXXXXX
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

Nlets
- FBI# 635879
- CA# 113458
- NY# 123456
- TX# 314112
- VA# 006451

FBI Parser
CA Parser
NY Parser
TX Parser
VA Parser

BJS Parsed Relational Database
Rap sheet fields in the uniform record layout

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject segment</th>
<th>Arrest segment</th>
<th>Court/Sentencing segment</th>
<th>Supervision segment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- BJS case number</td>
<td>- Date of offense</td>
<td>- Court disposition date</td>
<td>- Supervision date (admission, release, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Name</td>
<td>- Date of arrest</td>
<td>- Court name and ORI</td>
<td>- Agency name and ORI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- State identification number (SID)</td>
<td>- Arresting agency name and ORI</td>
<td>- Statute number</td>
<td>- Supervision description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- FBI identification number</td>
<td>- Statute number</td>
<td>- NCIC code</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Date of birth</td>
<td>- NCIC code</td>
<td>- Charge description</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Gender</td>
<td>- Charge severity</td>
<td>- Arrest disposition</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Race</td>
<td>- Arrest disposition date</td>
<td>- Arrest disposition date</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Social security number</td>
<td>- Arrest disposition date</td>
<td>- Supervision date</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Type of court disposition
- Sentences (prison, fine, etc.)
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.
Contact Information

Howard N. Snyder
Deputy Director
Bureau of Justice Statistics
Howard.Snyder@ojp.usdoj.gov
202-616-8305