



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs

Presented by

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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

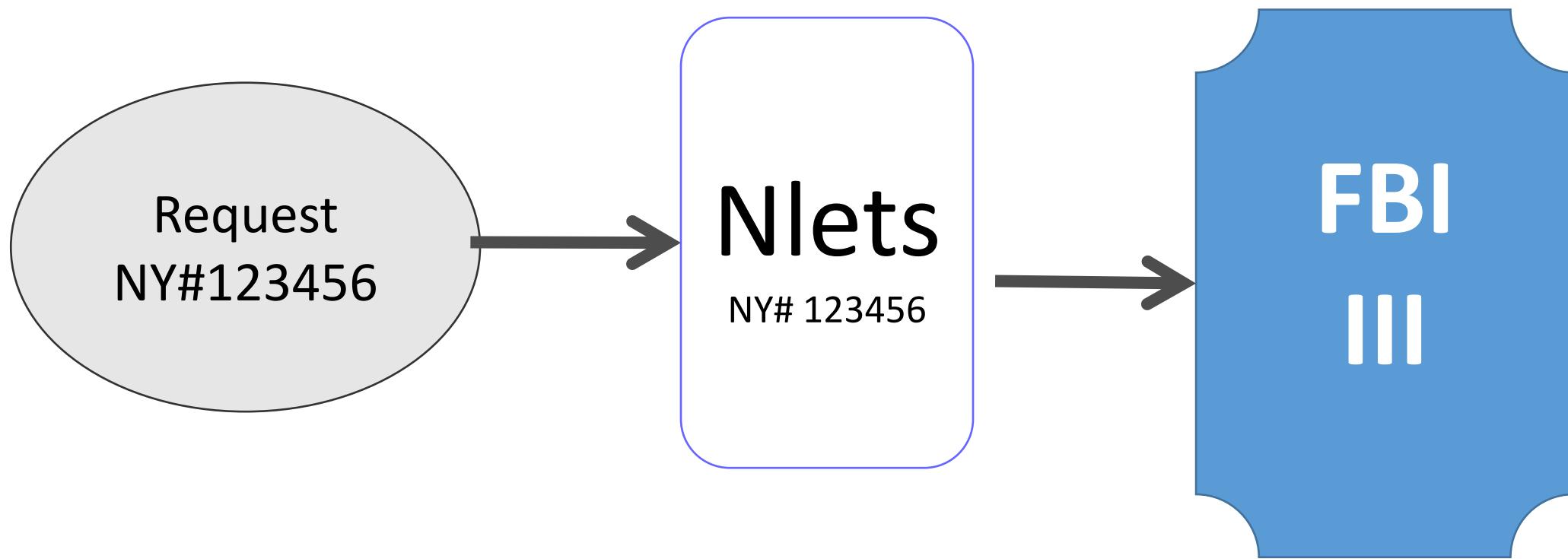


BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS

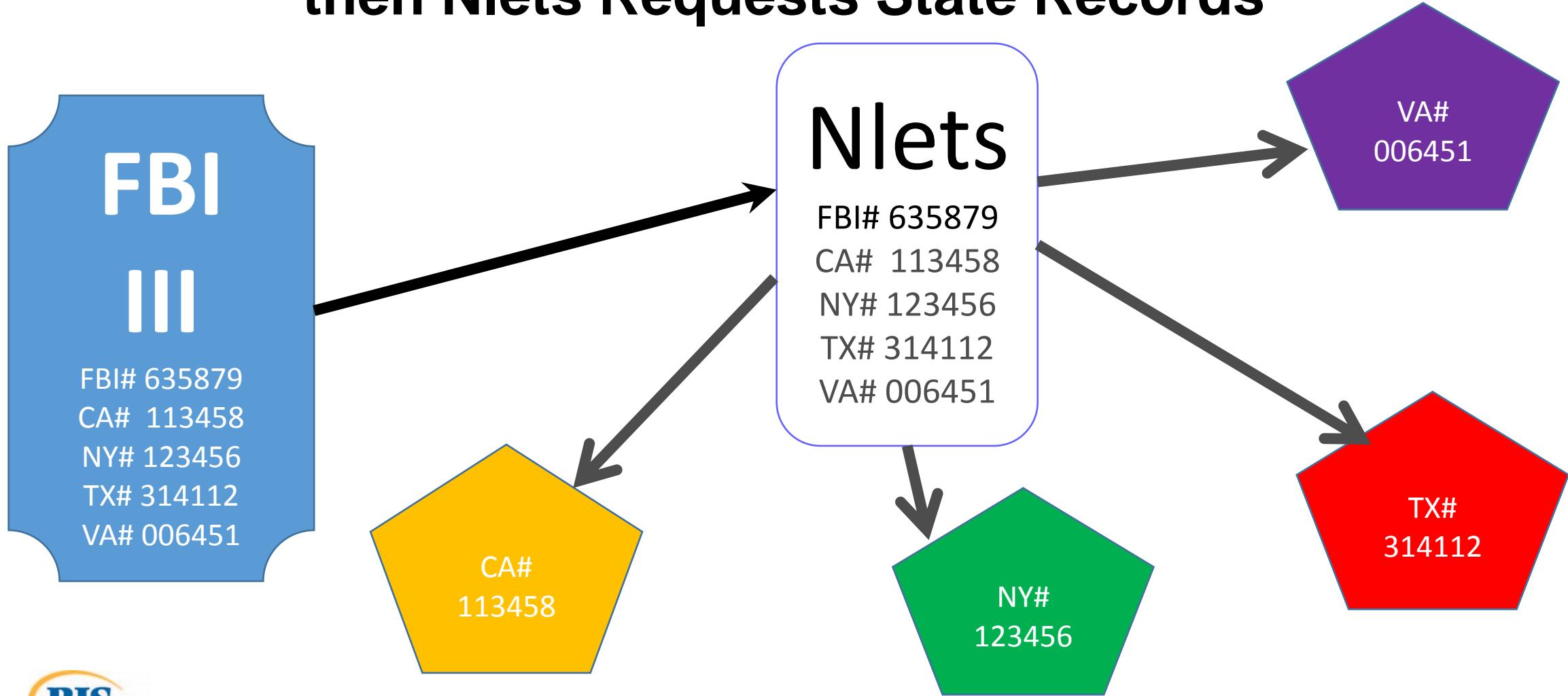
BJS Criminal History Record Research Program

- 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.

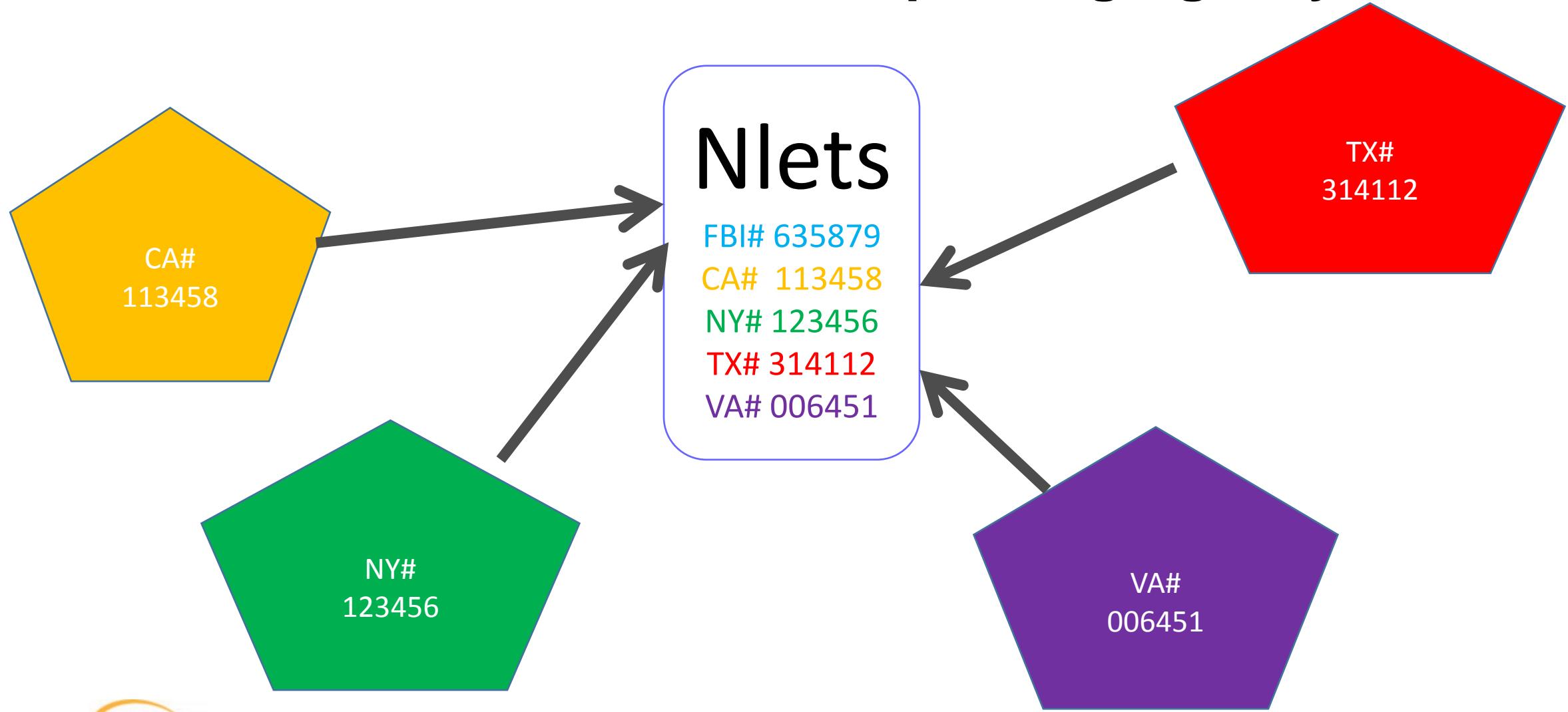
Simplified Description of III System: A Request for a Multi-State Criminal History Record (or Rap Sheet)



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	AGENCY CASE	XXXXXX
ARREST TYPE	ADULT	OFF STATUTE	6-3-404
CHARGE 1			
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 M	RACE B	HEIGHT 600	WEIGHT 160	EYES BRO	HAIR BLK	PLACE OF BIRTH XX	CITIZENSHIP 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				CONTRIBUTOR OR RESPONSIBLE AGENCY:			
OIN: XXXXXXXX	SUPERIOR COURT						
DISPO RESPONSIBILITY: COURT	COURT CASE NO: XXXXXX						
COURT CASE NO: XXXXXX	COMMENT: BURGLARY						
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: XXXXXX	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
=====		
=====		

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

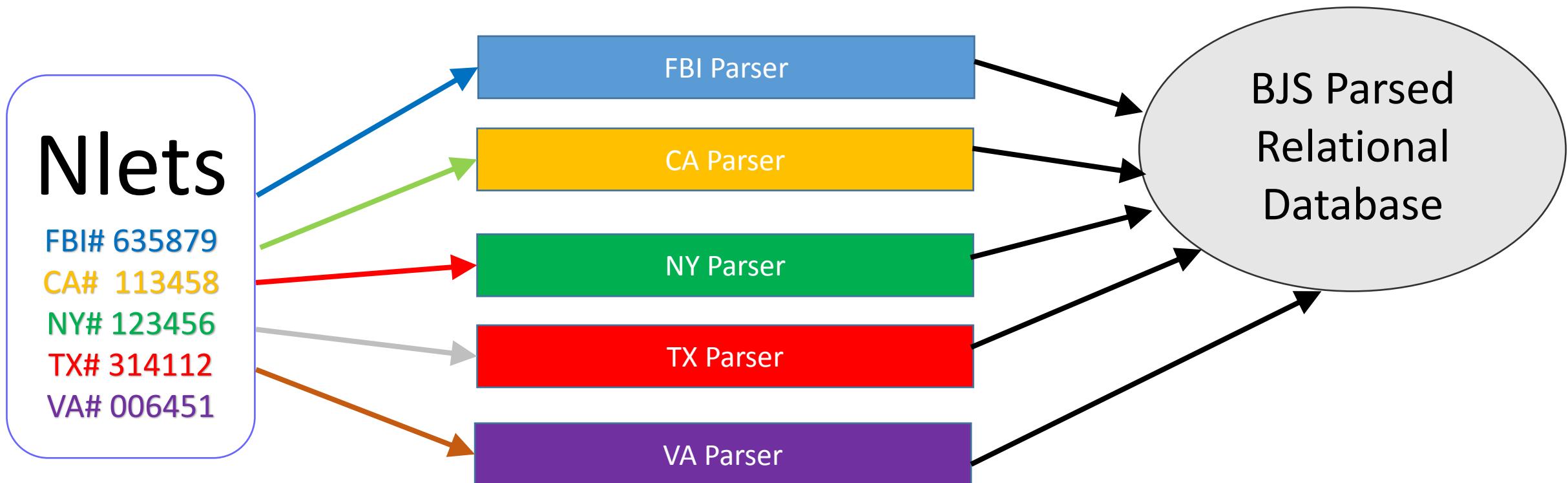
Rap sheet parsing programs

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.

Contact Information

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