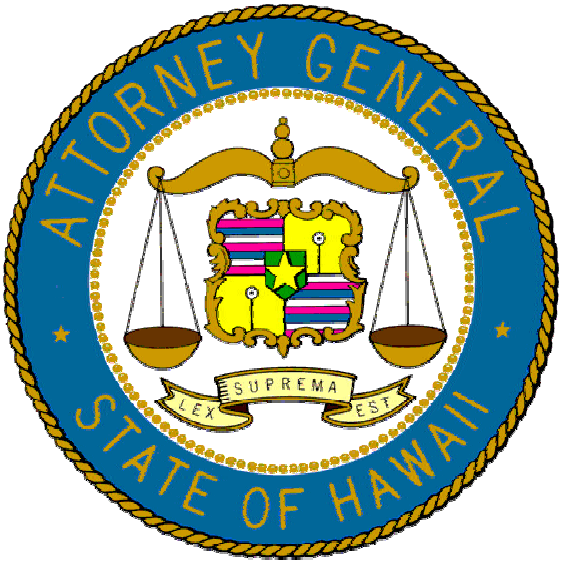
Developing a NIBRS-Compatible Homicide Database: A Multistate Pilot Test

Hawaii Test Site



Research & Statistics Branch
Crime Prevention & Justice Assistance Division
Department of the Attorney General

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Hawaii Test Site

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Section 1:
Background & Key Findings

Introduction

The purpose of this pilot study is to assess the feasibility of developing a nationwide homicide information system that would be used for both investigative and research purposes. The specific focus is on determining whether or not National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) guidelines for crime data could be used as the structure for the homicide information system, even for states and law enforcement agencies that do not otherwise report NIBRS data. The FBI administrates both the NIBRS and summary-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) programs, and all 50 states participate in one or the other. It is expected that NIBRS will eventually replace the much older UCR program.

This multistate project was funded by the national Justice Research and Statistics Association (JRSA) through a grant received from the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics. The other states participating in the project include Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Mexico, and Utah. Each participating state's federally-designated Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) for criminal justice information conducted the field research and prepared a similar report to be delivered to JRSA.

State SACs were invited to participate in the project with the objective of including a balanced mix of state population sizes, the use or non-use of NIBRS data, and comparatively large versus small annual homicide tallies. Hawaii's participation is based on being a small, non-NIBRS state with few homicides. An additional benefit to Hawaii's inclusion is that, due to its small number of police departments, complete statewide agency coverage was possible.

Although this report was prepared as a standalone publication for limited local distribution, it is primarily intended to be one of six such reports that will form the basis of a final report prepared by JRSA. As such, the Hawaii report does not provide an exhaustive examination of the issues that are included in the overall focus of the project.

Data Sources and Agency Information

Data on a total of 31 homicide incidents were collected from Hawaii's four county police departments. The data set was comprised of 27 "closed" cases (cleared by arrest or "exceptional means") reported during Calendar Year 2000 and 4 "open" cases (not cleared) reported during the first six months of 2001. These figures include all available Hawaii cases that meet the criteria specified for the study.

Investigators from all four departments enthusiastically supported the concept of a national homicide information system. The **City & County of Honolulu Police Department** (with approximately 2,400 employees serving a population of about 880,000 residents) provided 18 closed and no open cases for the study; the **Hawaii County Police Department** (530 employees serving 152,000 residents) provided 3 closed and 3 open cases; the **Maui County Police Department** (410 employees serving 132,000 residents) provided 2 closed and 1 open cases; and the **Kauai County Police Department** (160 employees serving 60,000 residents)

provided 4 closed and no open cases. The four departments are herein abbreviated HPD, HcPD, MPD, and KPD, respectively.

HPD and MPD each have an automated Records Management System (RMS); the other two departments do not. HPD and MPD are in the process of procuring a new RMS to replace existing systems that were implemented in the late-1980s. While HPD is in the actual implementation phase for their new RMS, MPD is negotiating for funds, assessing needs, and developing specifications for a formal Request For Proposals. Both departments are planning to transition to NIBRS once the State codes its criminal statutes for NIBRS and develops specifications for a customized, statewide incident-based reporting system. HcPD and KPD are seeking funds for an RMS, and are also interested in transitioning to NIBRS.

The project description also specified the inclusion of information from non-criminal justice data sources, such as medical examiners and/or coroners. Hawaii is perhaps somewhat unusual in that, for Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai counties, the respective Chief of Police is also officially the Medical Examiner. The Chiefs contract out the actual clinical work to various hospitals and practitioners. Due to this situation, there is no single agency or entity that could be contacted in these counties in order to request data and interviews.

The City & County of Honolulu does have its own Department of the Medical Examiner. Only interview data and representative copies of their standard report forms were obtained from this source, as the study period was insufficient to allow for the collecting of individual case data. However, copies of complete medical examiner reports appeared in some of the police files and were utilized in the study.

Methodology

Records Division personnel were contacted at each of the four police departments and asked to provide a master list of report numbers for homicides that were either: 1) reported during Calendar Year 2000 and subsequently cleared; or 2) reported during January through June of 2001 and remained open. With the exception of the Honolulu Police Department, the hard copy homicide report files were then pulled by records clerks, along with the files for any related offenses noted on each homicide report.

The procedure was slightly different at HPD, where the master list of homicide report numbers was first used to collect data from the automated Records Management System, while at the same time recording the case file numbers for any related offenses noted in the RMS. Data on the related offenses were then collected from the RMS prior to moving on to the next homicide. After a batch of RMS data had been collected, the researchers' next visit was spent collecting data from the hard copy files for those same cases. Thus, data collection in Honolulu was accomplished in alternating fashion between the RMS and hard copy files.

Another difference at HPD is that the lieutenant in charge of the Homicide Unit provided internal memoranda that present a short summary of each homicide case. Although these

summaries do not typically provide much information on any non-homicide victims/offenders/offenses within a homicide incident, they were very helpful for formulating an understanding of the circumstances surrounding each incident. This was important because the researchers collected the RMS data while working in the Criminal Investigation Division, and did not have access to the more informative hard copy files until relocating to the Records Division for the next visit.

At MPD, the other agency with an RMS, the electronic and hard copy data were reviewed more or less simultaneously for each case.

The researchers developed a "data source form" to complement each of the specific NIBRS report forms. These new forms consist of a row for each of the NIBRS data elements that were available for the Hawaii cases, and a column for each of the major data sources: RMS; hard copy police reports; official autopsy reports (contained in the police files, and differentiated from detectives' summaries of medical examiner reports); Supplemental Homicide Reports (or SHR, a standard Uniform Crime Reporting Program form); and "other" (primarily used either for the HPD Homicide Unit's internal memos, which are not contained in the regular case files, or for data that were purely deduced by the researchers).

A basic *SPSS* database was created that allowed a statistical analysis of the extent to which data availability varied by NIBRS report sections (i.e., offense, victim, or offender) and police data source. This enabled a detailed look at which NIBRS data elements were consistently missing as well as where and how specific data elements were located.

The order of preference for data sources used to complete the various NIBRS data elements was as follows: RMS; any type of standardized hard copy report (e.g., incident/arrest/autopsy reports); any other type of hard copy records (e.g., narrative text reports); SHR; and deduction. The completed data source forms only document the most preferred source that was used to complete a NIBRS data element, rather than identifying all of the sources than contained the same information. These forms also indicate when a data element was missing from a source where it could ordinarily be obtained, as well as the instances when contradictory information was provided by two or more data sources.

A key method used for this study, and one that is strongly recommended for any future research efforts, was the utilization of two researchers working in tandem to review and code each homicide case. This was effective in a very practical sense, as going back and forth between sorting through RMS screens or hard copy reports and filling out the NIBRS and data source documentation forms would have been a slow and awkward task for one person to complete. More important, however, is that the unfamiliar NIBRS protocol, frequent need for deduction when dealing with missing/vague/contradictory data, and inherently complex nature of many of the homicide incidents were often so confusing that the research benefited from "on-the-fly" discussions, debates, and refinements as to the best way to proceed.

Data collection required one full work day for two researchers on Kauai, two days each on Maui and Hawaii, and six visits totaling five work days on Oahu (Honolulu). Working as a team, the researchers spent about 80 total work hours collecting data, for an average of 2.6 hours per homicide incident. It is estimated that this average would increase by approximately 50 percent, to 3.9 hours, if specific guidelines and training were provided but only one person collected data on each incident.

Interview data were collected from homicide investigators, Uniform Crime Reporting Program and records personnel, and the Honolulu Medical Examiner. The interviews were conducted in person, except for the Medical Examiner and Kauai investigator interviews, which were conducted by telephone. The interviews were usually completed during short breaks in the data collection, and are not included in the time estimates provided in the previous paragraph.

Finally, it is acknowledged that as the research methods were refined over the course of the data collection, some inconsistencies may exist in the data. This was perhaps unavoidable given the pilot study approach combined with a short timeframe for conducting the study. Had more time been available, the researchers would have utilized their refined methods to recollect data on the initial cases.

Findings and Conclusions

Just over half (51 percent) of the NIBRS data elements for all 31 homicide incidents were completed by using either RMS or standardized police report information. An additional 12 percent of the elements were completed by reading narrative text documents, and 13 percent were completed through the use of deduction. Twenty-four percent of the NIBRS data elements were missing. Put another way, half of the data elements could be completed in a fairly straightforward manner, a quarter required considerable time and effort to complete, and the remaining quarter could not be completed at all.

Table 1 reveals the extent to which data elements could be completed for the three main sections of the primary NIBRS report form (offender, offense, and victim sections). The top half of the table represents NIBRS data elements that were obtained from standardized police report forms (RMS fields, incident or arrest reports, etc.), and the bottom half demonstrates the increase in data availability when the search was expanded to include reading narrative text documents (investigation reports, witness/suspect interview transcripts, etc.) and deducing data that did not explicitly appear in the police case files.

Figures 1 and 2 on pages 13-14 diagram two of the more complicated study cases and provide an illustrative aid for the following discussion. These figures required several hours of data collection and analysis, discussion, and deduction to chart out, and demonstrate the inherent complexity of an incident-based perspective on police crime data.

Table 1:
County Comparison of Data Availability for Primary NIBRS Report Forms

	NIBRS Report Section	HPD (n=18)	HcPD (n=6)	MPD (n=3)	KPD (n=4)
NIBRS data elements completed from standardized reports	*Offender*	55%	62%	70%	54%
	Offense	55%	50%	62%	44%
	Victim	55%	42%	48%	41%
NIBRS data elements completed from standardized reports, narrative text reports, or deduction	*Offender*	83%	92%	89%	81%
	Offense	79%	81%	86%	96%
	Victim	75%	68%	75%	79%

The principal conclusion of this report is that the process of retrospectively classifying non-NIBRS homicide data to NIBRS specifications is unexpectedly complicated, time consuming, and haphazard, particularly for homicide incidents that involve multiple victims, offenders, and/or related offenses. As a result, NIBRS is *not* recommended to use as a platform for a national homicide information system that non-NIBRS agencies could easily participate in. What follows is a detailed examination of some of the problems associated with using NIBRS in this fashion.

1.) Scant, unclear, and/or contradictory information on the relationship between victims, offenders, and offenses in existing police documentation makes it difficult to construct clear accounts of "who did what to whom." Even in best case scenarios, this sort of information can only be pieced together from multiple data sources, including detectives' narrative reports, witness/suspect interview transcriptions, and/or an assortment of documents that do not consistently appear in the case files, such as arrest reports, court filings, autopsy reports, and documents held as evidence.

2.) Given the chronological filing of documents within case files and the progressive nature of many homicide investigations, especially those for which an offender is not immediately arrested, it is necessary to read (or at least skim) nearly every document in a case file in order to complete NIBRS forms to the greatest extent possible. Many of the case files are several hundred pages long — one of the cases spanned 3,500 pages — and required an average of 2.6 hours per case for two researchers working together to review. As noted earlier, it is estimated that this figure would increase to almost 4 hours if formalized data collection guidelines and training were provided but only one person worked on each incident. It is unreasonable to expect that police departments would be willing or able to assign personnel to complete this sort of task, even with the relative infrequency of homicides in Hawaii.

3.) Records Management Systems actually proved to be a hindrance, rather than helpful, to the current study, as data that were first collected from an RMS had to later be verified, supplemented, and/or replaced by more complete and accurate information located in the hard copy files. As so much of the classifying and coding of Hawaii's homicide data for NIBRS relies on reading narrative reports, and as the report forms from which the RMS data are derived are included in the hard copy files, anyhow, it would have been more practical to simply forego the use of RMS data. Unfortunately, this suggests that any future effort to routinely collect NIBRS homicide data from non-NIBRS agencies would have to be done manually, rather than in an automated fashion.

4.) Many of the standardized data elements and codes in Hawaii are similar but not identical to those called for by NIBRS, frequently requiring the use of deduction to convert to NIBRS format, and often on a case-by-case basis. Examples of such data elements include Arrest Type, Offense Status, Resident Status, Forced Entry, Employment Status, and Weapons at Arrest. Even with the establishment of guidelines to contend with some of the more common incompatibilities, the inherent subjectivity in making many of these determinations jeopardizes the validity and reliability of NIBRS coding.

5.) The sheer complexity of NIBRS requires a great deal of preparedness in order to correctly code data. Indeed, it can take several years for an agency transitioning to NIBRS to develop the necessary conversion codes, edit checks, and the like that are necessary for producing "clean" data. Even with the NIBRS manual in hand, many of the rules and data elements (e.g., "MULT. CL. INDIC.") were difficult for the researchers to understand. It is doubtful that non-NIBRS police departments would, with only a minimum of training and effort, essentially be able to "do NIBRS" if even just for homicides.

6.) Related to the previous concern, the determination of which other offenses linked to a homicide report should be included as part of an overall incident is problematic. For example, offenses such as possession of drugs or stolen credit cards are often linked to a homicide report, but in some cases these were simply other offenses that the homicide offender(s) had recently been involved in. In other cases, the related offenses occurred when arrest warrants were served on the offenders, which sometimes took place several weeks after the homicide. For the former example, it required a substantial amount of time and consideration to infer how the various offenses were related to one another, and then to decide which of these offenses should be included as part of the NIBRS incident. For the latter example, the researchers were not familiar enough with the complexities of NIBRS to determine how "offenses-at-the-time-of-arrest" are supposed to be included in an incident if these offenses occurred after a considerable amount of time had passed since the homicide. In other words, while it is understood that an arrest is an integral part of an incident, it is unclear if "new" offenses that occur concurrently with an arrest for the initial offense should be considered part of the overall incident.

7.) Many specific codes that are relevant to homicides in Hawaii are either missing from the NIBRS data elements or lacking in some regard. Examples of these shortcomings include "Park"

and "Beach" missing from Location Code, "Child Abuse" and "Intimate Partner Violence" (versus the seemingly archaic "Lover's Quarrel") missing from Aggravated Assault/Homicide Circumstances, and the use of "Asian/Pacific Islander" as a single, overly broad code for Race. While the existing NIBRS codes could be contended with as-is, the interest in utilizing NIBRS homicide data in Hawaii would probably be greater if more pertinent codes were offered.

A key underpinning of these concerns is that the current study was, as mentioned earlier, based on a ***retrospective*** analysis of homicide data. Some of the problems could be mitigated if the police personnel who would be responsible for collecting and reporting NIBRS homicide data knew in advance the specific data elements and codes that are required. However, this approach would lead to another fundamental and possibly insurmountable difficulty: given that Hawaii's police departments collect data and organize case files in a manner that is often incongruent with NIBRS specifications, the introduction of a NIBRS-based homicide reporting system would require a major shift in current practices.

It is doubtful that non-NIBRS police departments would agree to redefine their existing data elements and/or add much more formalized delineations of the links between victims, offenders, and offenses, simply for the purpose of submitting data to a national homicide database. "Doing NIBRS" requires an enormous commitment of resources and dedication, and, even with a version of NIBRS that is focused strictly on homicides, it would be asking a lot of agencies to make such a commitment.

Even if a Hawaii agency chose to participate in such a program but mostly retained their existing procedures, it would nevertheless require that detectives (and possibly support personnel, for data entry) be fully trained for NIBRS coding. Given that complete, explicit documentation of the "who did what to whom" particulars does not currently exist for multiple offense/offender/victim situations—i.e., ***crimes are not conceptualized from an incident-based perspective***—the detectives would have to chart out this information after the fact, and as per the complicated NIBRS guidelines.

Another problem for either the police or the national program to contend with is that several data elements that are not currently included in Hawaii would have to be added to future homicide investigations or else go missing from Hawaii's contribution to the national program. An example is the data element Marital Status, for which data can occasionally be deduced from narrative text reports, but only if the offender was the victim's spouse, or if a spouse was interviewed as a witness, etc. (It cannot be deduced that someone is ***not*** married.) Thus, Marital Status would either have to be deleted from the data elements submitted by Hawaii, or the detectives would have to spend time collecting information that is often not relevant to the more pressing matter at hand, namely a homicide investigation. An even better example of this sort of problem is the Bias Motivation data element. Hawaii's hate crime statistics reporting program differs significantly from the FBI's national program in that it is based on prosecutor, rather than police data. Consequently, Hawaii's participation in a NIBRS-based homicide data reporting system would be dependent upon approval to submit "unknown" for Bias Motivation for all cases.

In sum, a formidable array of difficulties makes it unlikely that Hawaii's non-NIBRS police departments would be willing or able to participate in a complicated, NIBRS-based homicide information system. Existing investigation, data collection, and record keeping procedures at these departments do not lend themselves to a retrospective conversion to NIBRS, while, alternatively, the prospect of making major procedural changes and training efforts in order to "do NIBRS" from the front end seems unrealistic. It is thus recommended that the search for a suitable platform on which to build a national homicide information system be focused elsewhere.

The remainder of this report is structured to provide information specified by the Justice Research & Statistics Association.

Figure 1: Study Case #18-HPD18

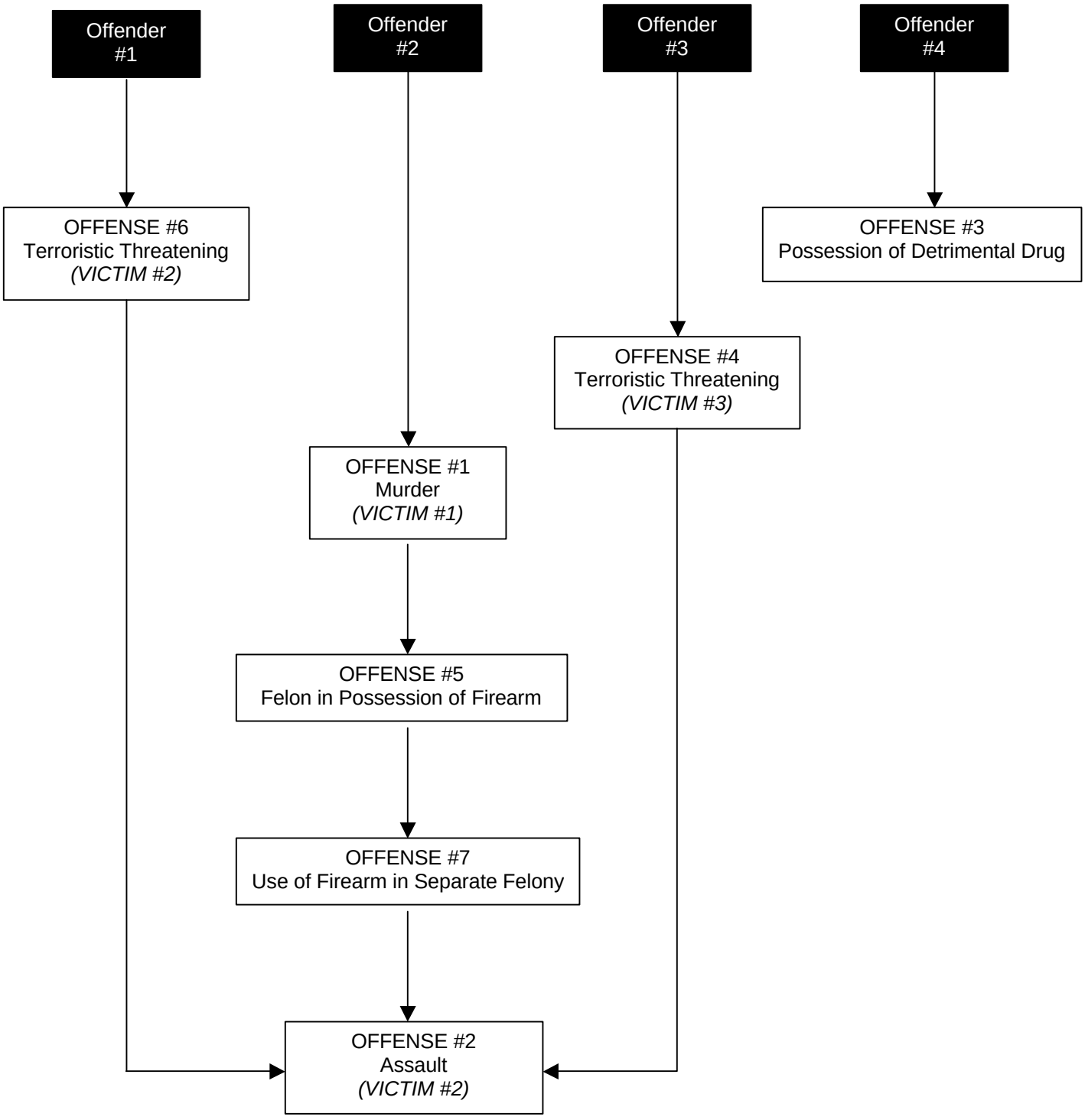
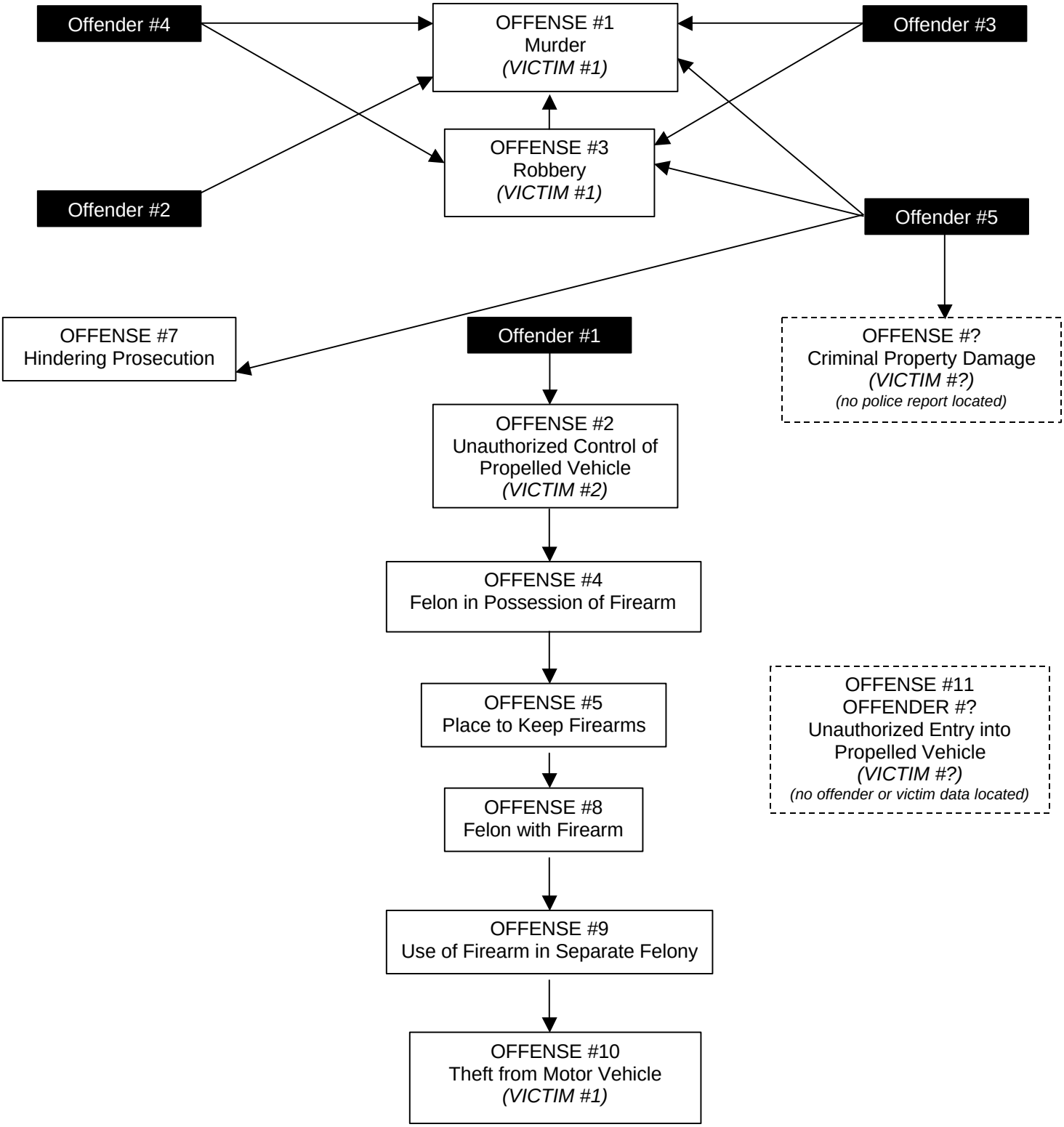


Figure 2: Study Case #19-HPD19



Section 2:
Interview Data[1]

[1] Note: The interview questions provided to the research team at the onset of the study were not constructed so as to fully capture the information that was subsequently requested shortly before preparing the final report. As a result, the sections on "Procedures for Updating Records," "Other Non-Criminal Justice Databases," and "Suicide Data" are not entirely compliant with the requested final report format.

Procedures for Updating Records

The procedures for updating records vary by county and by circumstance. The process may be different, for example, when reclassifying a suicide to a homicide or when arresting a second suspect after files have already been sent to the records division. Tables 2 and 3 detail the results of interviews from each county regarding their update procedures. Note that HcPD and KPD do not have RMS systems, thus RMS-related questions were not applicable to these agencies.

Table 2:
Responses from Records Clerks or UCR Officers
Regarding Procedures for Updating Records

	HPD	HcPD	MPD	KPD
How are records updated when an offense is upgraded to a homicide as a result of the victim dying?	The Criminal Investigation Division's (CID) Homicide Unit sends a supplemental reclassification report to the Records Division. Once there, the records clerks update the RMS and hard copy reports.	The Criminal Investigation Section sends supplemental reports to the Records Section, who then update the original reports by handwriting over the old information.	Records are updated upon notification by the CID, by way of a supplemental report submitted to Records and Identification Section report reviewers, who then pass it on to data entry staff for inputting to RMS. Records staff then file the hard copy supplemental with the original report.	Records are updated by the Investigative Services Division (ISD) submitting to the Records Division a supplemental report reclassifying the original offense to Murder. The Records Analyst will then review and record for UCR.
How are records updated when a homicide is unfounded? How reliably do these updates occur?	Same as above.	Same as above.	Same as above. The updates occur *reliably*, albeit not very *promptly*.	Same as above, although this situation has never occurred at KPD.

	HPD	HcPD	MPD	KPD
How do updates occur when an arrest is later made? How reliably do these updates occur?	An arrest report is generated by Central Receiving and sent to both CID and the Records Division. The Records Division will not update the RMS and hard copy files until CID has reviewed the arrest report and notified the Records Division that the information is correct.	An arrest report must be sent to the Records Section by the end of the current tour during which an arrestee is charged and/or released.	An arrest report linked to the original incident report number is submitted to the Records Section. These updates occur very reliably and promptly (w/in 24 hours).	When an arrest is made at a later date, the Records Analyst scores the arrest to the original classification. These kinds of updates occur frequently.
How long does is take for records updates to be processed?	Depending on caseloads, the Homicide Unit will take 1-7 days to submit reports to the Records Division, who then take 2-3 days to enter the data into the RMS plus another 2-3 days to file the hard copies.	Once received by the Records Section, an "arrest and charge" report is updated immediately; "arrest, no charge" takes up to 3 weeks. Reclassifications also take up to 3 weeks.	Updates take a total of 3-6 days once received by Records Section (1-2 days each for report reviewing, data entry, and filing).	It mainly depends on the workload and manpower availability at ISD, as the Records Analyst "is really on top of things." On average, the process takes about 3 weeks.
What Record Management System does the department use?	The present RMS is a mainframe-based system by PSW, and was implemented in 1989. A new RMS by Printrak (Motorola) is currently being implemented.	N/A (except a very limited Wang system, circa-1986)	MPD uses a Cobolt-based, Northrup-Grumman (formerly PRC) system that was implemented in the late-1980s. The department is in the initial stages of procuring a new $4-5 million RMS.	N/A

Interviewees:
Coreen Fujikawa, Records Division; Nathan Matsuoka and Mike Hagedorn, Information Technology Division (HPD)
Lt. Edwin Tanaka, Records Division (HcPD) - supervisor
Mary Wagner, Records & Identification Section (MPD) - supervisor
Estelle Furuike, Records Division (KPD) - supervisor

Table 3:
Responses from the State UCR Program Manager Regarding Procedures for Updating Supplemental Homicide Report (SHR) Data

	Department of the Attorney General
Do you collect or maintain information on suicides?	No.
What is the procedure used by localities to update information reported to SHR? For how long can updated information be reported? How long does it take to process updates?	The Uniform Crime Reporting Program neither requires nor provides for the updating of SHR data.
What is the procedure for updating homicide records in SHR when a case is later unfounded?	See above.

Interviewee:
Paul Perrone, Crime Prevention & Justice Assistance Division/Research & Statistics Branch, Department of the Attorney General - supervisor

Other Homicide Data

The Medical Examiner from the City & County of Honolulu does not have a specific database for homicides, but these data are included in a database compiled for all unattended deaths. The broad data categories in this system include cause of death, demographic, and other case-related and administrative information.

Medical Examiner data can be linked to police records through incident report numbers. This is only applicable to the City & County of Honolulu, however, as this is the only county in which an official, non-criminal justice database is systematically maintained. Due to the lack of time available for data collection, the researchers did not attempt to collect ME data.

Table 4 summarizes the interview data from Honolulu's Medical Examiner.

Table 4:
Responses from Non-Criminal Justice Database Managers

	Department of the Medical Examiner, City & County of Honolulu
What type of information is collected?	Data on manner (homicide/suicide/accident/undetermined) and cause (literally thousands possible) of death are reported, along with demographic and case/administrative data.
How are these data identified or reported? Are there forms for agencies to complete? If so, can we get a copy?	Three types of reports are completed: 1) Investigation Report (a standardized form with specific information pertaining to identification of the decedent, police involvement, morgue processing, record of pertinent dates and times in the investigation, etc.); 2) Autopsy Report (a mostly narrative report including sections on decedent information, findings, conclusion, immediate cause of death, manner of death, and completion of death certificate); and 3) Lab Report (various test results). Examples of each of these documents are included as appendices to this report. The Investigation Report is primarily for in-house use and is routinely shared only with the police and prosecutors. Broader sharing of these data is a policy decision that is handled on a case-by-case basis.
How do cases enter the system?	Deaths are reported to the Medical Examiner by the police, hospitals (if the decedent expired within 24 hours of admission or as the result of trauma), or at the discretion of private physicians.
What is used to identify each case?	A case number is automatically generated when entering a new case into the *DOS* system.
Are these data forwarded to a federal agency?	No.
Is a database maintained?	The current *DOS*-based system will be replaced by the end of the year with Quincy Technology's *Case Manager* system.
Are records updated? If so, how?	Cases are not submitted until they are finalized. On rare occasions, amended reports are sent to the police and prosecutors.
How long does it take for updates to be processed?	Updates are made immediately upon the verification of new information.
Are there confidentiality issues that would preclude the use of these data by criminal justice agencies?	Yes, although the Autopsy Reports are public records.
Do other agencies currently use/request copies of your data?	Other than the police and prosecutors, the Department of Health, University of Hawaii, et al. submit written requests that are considered on a case-by-case basis. The requesting agencies generally need to provide whatever staff and/or other resources are required for pulling files, coding data, etc.

Interviewee: Alicia Kamahele, private secretary, Department of the Medical Examiner, City & County of Honolulu

Suicide Data

Only one police department, HcPD, maintains an official suicide database. However, this is an internal Criminal Investigation Section database and is not a formal requirement of the county or department. The supervisor of HPD's Homicide Unit personally maintains an informal database on suicides. Finally, MPD and KPD simply retain hard copy records for a set number of years. As mentioned previously, the Medical Examiner for the City & County of Honolulu does maintain a database of all unattended deaths, which include but are not limited to suicides.

In general, suicide data are not reported to other agencies or groups. However, a general exception is that all child deaths in Hawaii, including suicides, are reported to the Department of Health's Child Death Review Committee.

The incorporation of suicide data into a NIBRS format would most likely encompass the same difficulty detailed in the retrospective fit of homicide data to NIBRS format. Since these data are compiled using established, non-NIBRS, procedures, it is expected that several data elements would be consistently missing from or otherwise incompatible with NIBRS standards.

Table 5 details the extent of the information collected regarding suicide from each of the four counties.

Table 5:
Responses from Homicide Investigators Regarding Suicide Data

	HPD	HcPD	MPD	KPD
What paperwork do you complete when a determination is made that a death was a suicide?	Criminal Investigation Division detectives investigate non-suspicious suicides and complete the standard incident reports. Homicide Unit detectives are brought in only if a case appears in any way suspicious. The Homicide Unit will typically wait to receive the Medical Examiner's report before launching a thorough investigation. If the case is determined to be a suicide, the Homicide Unit will submit their standard closing report (which will be less thorough than if the case were a homicide).	Undetermined death incidents are classified as "Coroner's Inquest." Upon the coroner's determination of a suicide, the Criminal Investigation Section (CIS) is notified, who then note in the daily bulletin that the death was a suicide and also send a supplemental reclassification report to the Records Section.	The standard incident report is completed, with the suicide noted in both the classification and narrative.	A standard incident report and death report are completed for suicides.
What happens to the completed reports? Are they maintained in files?	All reports are sent to the Records Division. The Homicide Unit lieutenant also maintains a personal/informal database of suicide cases.	The reports are sent to the Records Section, although the CIS maintains its own *MS Access*-based case management system.	Suicide reports are sent to the Records and Identification Section, where they are retained for 20 years. The Criminal Investigation Division independently retains suicide reports for three years. (Both divisions permanently retain homicide reports.)	The reports are sent to the Records Division, where they are retained in hard copy format.

	HPD	HcPD	MPD	KPD
Is information on suicides reported to anyone? If so, to whom and in what manner? *Note: Other than to Hawaii's Child Death Review Committee.*	No.	No.	No.	No.
Is anything about the above procedures different when a homicide is later ruled as a suicide, or vice-versa?	No, although the thoroughness of the initial investigation will be greater if a case is a homicide or suspicious suicide than if it's a non-suspicious suicide.	No.	No.	No.

Interviewees:
Lt. William Kato, Criminal Investigation Division/Homicide Unit (HPD) - supervisor
Lt. Derek Pacheco, Criminal Investigation Section (HcPD) - supervisor
Lt. Glenn Cuomo, Criminal Investigation Division/Crimes Against Persons Unit (MPD) - supervisor
Det. Marvin Rivera, Investigative Services Division (KPD)

Section 3:
Police Data

City & County of Honolulu Police Department

Data Organization

HPD case files typically contain information in order of the earliest to most recent documents. There are no subsections demarcating incident reports, arrest reports, court documents, investigator reports, medical examiner reports, or other records. Although the various document types are not located in a set position, they are easily distinguishable.

Completeness of Data

In sum, 50 percent of the required NIBRS data elements were obtained from standardized HPD reports (e.g., RMS screens, incident reports, arrest reports), and 23 percent were completed by reading narrative text reports (e.g., investigator reports, witness/suspect interview transcripts) or were deduced by the researchers. The remaining 27 percent of NIBRS data elements could not be completed.

As a general rule for all four police departments, it was more difficult to locate or deduce information for the supplemental NIBRS forms than it was for the primary NIBRS form[2].

Using all available data sources—standardized reports, narrative text documents, and deduction—the percentages of missing values for the primary NIBRS form sections include 17 percent for the offender section, 21 percent for the offense section, and 25 percent for the victim section.

The following individual NIBRS data elements were missing more than half the time: Forced Entry, Offender Used, Occupation, Ethnicity, and Resident Status. Some data elements were difficult to locate and required considerable time spent reading narrative text documents in order to locate or deduce the necessary information. The following data elements fit this category: Employment Status, Marital Status, Victim Injury, Arrest Type/Date/Location, Offense Status, and most information relating to the property section. See Table 6 for a complete breakdown of NIBRS data availability at HPD.

There is no single explanation for the missing data. Some of the data elements are simply not routinely collected at HPD. In other instances, generally available data elements could not be located for a specific case because the report on which the data would have been found, typically an arrest report, investigator's closing report, or autopsy report, was missing from the case file. Arrest reports in particular yielded a significant amount of information, but the presence of these reports was seemingly hit or miss. HPD explained that there was a major overhaul of the arrest report forms and state database that coincided with the study period.

[2] The term "primary NIBRS form" herein refers to the main, 2-page form that NIBRS requires to be completed for all incidents. "Supplemental NIBRS form" refers to any of the additional forms that are completed when an incident features multiple offenses, offenders, and/or victims.

During this transition period, many of the new forms were only being maintained in the database, and inclusion of hard copy printouts in the police files became irregular.

The researchers feel that there are additional values[3] that should be added to some of the data elements in order to yield richer and more meaningful information. Domestic violence and child abuse constituted 39 percent of the homicide circumstances for Honolulu, but there was no option for listing these as such in the Aggravated Assault/Homicide Circumstances field. Although it was possible to code these cases as "argument," "lover's quarrel," or "other circumstances," these are rather imperfect categories.

Additionally, the values for Race are too limited. First, this data element is missing one of the most basic requirements – the values are not exhaustive. The lack of an "other" category would necessarily mean a loss of information on the Race data element for a victim or offender whose race did not fit into one of the listed categories. Further, in a locale such as Hawaii, the category "Asian / Pacific Islander" is far too broad. The distinction between Filipino, Korean, or Japanese, for example, is as significant in Hawaii as is the distinction between Caucasian and African-American on the mainland.

Also, more categories, such as "beach" or "park," could be added to the Location data element. Although somewhat biased given that these data were collected in Hawaii, these types of settings are prevalent in other areas as well.

Furthermore, the lack of a "yes" or "no" option on data elements such as "Offender Used" makes it difficult to interpret a blank response. For example, do non-checked boxes on such a data element indicate that the offender did *not* use alcohol or drugs, or does it indicate that this information was unknown or simply not collected?

Other Issues

Issues concerning confidentiality did not affect the ability to collect the required information. The researchers were given complete access to the RMS as well as the hard copy files. Additionally, internal Homicide Unit memoranda were made available to aid the researchers in their data collection efforts.

[3] The suggested addition of values for the data elements also pertains to Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai Counties.

Table 6:
Information Sources Used to Complete NIBRS Data Elements,
City & County of Honolulu Police Department
(Percent)

Form Type	RMS	Standard-ized Reports	Narrative Reports	Deduced	Missing*	Not Applicable	Not Found*
Incident							
Time of Incident	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Date of Incident	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Except. Clear. Status	—	5.6	—	11.1	—	83.3	—
Except. Clear. Data	16.7	—	—	—	—	83.3	—
Offense							
Offense Status	—	—	—	100.0	—	—	—
Offender Used	—	55.6	5.6	—	—	—	38.9
Forced Entry	5.6	—	—	27.8	66.7	—	—
Offense Name	94.4	5.6	—	—	—	—	—
Address of Offense	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Location Code	94.4	—	5.6	—	—	—	—
Weapon Force	44.4	44.4	11.1	—	—	—	—
Type Criminal Activity	—	—	11.1	—	—	88.9	—
Location is Victim's / Offender's Place of Employ	—	—	11.1	11.1	—	77.8	—
Victim							
Employment Status	22.2	11.1	11.1	16.7	—	—	38.9
Marital Status	5.6	11.1	16.7	16.7	—	—	50.0
Occupation	61.1	16.7	5.6	—	—	—	16.7
Sex	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ethnicity	—	—	5.6	—	—	—	94.4
Race	94.4	—	5.6	—	—	—	—
Resident Status	—	—	5.6	5.6	—	—	88.9
Victim Type	88.9	—	—	11.1	—	—	—
Age Exact	83.3	5.6	5.6	—	5.6	—	—
Victim Injury	—	5.6	88.9	5.6	—	—	—
Agg. Assault / Homicide Circumstances	16.7	55.6	22.2	5.6	—	—	—
Relationship of victim to offender	22.2	61.1	—	5.6	11.2	—	—
Offender/Arrestee							
Marital Status	Only "suspect" info is available in HPD's RMS	38.9	22.2	11.1	—	—	27.8
Employment Status		27.8	11.1	33.3	—	—	27.8
Occupation		61.1	22.2	—	5.6	—	11.1
Arrest Type		38.9	33.3	16.7	—	11.1	—
Sex		88.9	5.6	5.6	—	—	—
Ethnicity		50.0	—	—	—	—	50.0
Race		88.9	5.6	—	—	—	5.6
Age Exact		94.4	5.6	—	—	—	—
Resident Status		5.6	5.6	27.8	—	—	61.1
Offense Name		100.0	—	—	—	—	—
Arrest Date		44.4	38.9	—	—	5.6	11.1
Weapons at Arrest		—	11.1	50.0	—	5.6	33.3
Arrest Location		38.9	50.0	—	—	5.6	5.6

Form Type	RMS	Standard-ized Reports	Narrative Reports	Deduced	Missing*	Not Applicable	Not Found*
Resident Address		72.2	16.7	—	11.1	—	—
Property							
Property Loss	—	33.3	—	33.3	—	33.3	—
Property Description	33.3	33.3	—	—	—	33.3	—
Quantity	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Description	—	33.3	33.3	—	—	33.3	—
Item Value	—	33.3	33.3	—	—	33.3	—
Recovery Date	—	33.3	—	—	—	33.3	33.3
Total # Stolen Vehicles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total # Recovered Vehicles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Value Loss	—	—	33.3	—	—	33.3	33.3
Total Value Recovered	—	—	33.3	—	—	33.3	33.3
Type Property Loss	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Property Description	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Drug Type	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whole Drug Quantity	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fractional Drug Quantity	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Drug Measurement	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Drug Type	—	—	33.3	—	—	66.7	—
Type Drug Measurement	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Offense Supplement							
Offense Status	—	—	3.8	84.6	—	—	11.5
Offender Used	—	19.2	3.8	3.8	—	—	73.1
Forced Entry	—	—	—	26.9	69.2	3.8	—
Offense Name	73.1	3.8	23.1	—	—	—	—
Address of Offense	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Location Code	73.1	—	26.9	—	—	—	—
Weapon Force	11.5	11.5	7.7	23.1	46.2	—	—
Type Criminal Activity	—	—	—	19.2	—	80.8	—
Location is Victim's / Offender's Place of Employ	7.7	—	—	15.4	—	—	76.9
Victim Supplement							
Employment Status	17.6	11.8	5.9	41.2	23.5	—	—
Marital Status	—	—	11.8	29.4	—	—	58.8
Occupation	41.2	17.6	5.9	23.5	11.8	—	—
Sex	94.1	5.9	—	—	—	—	—
Ethnicity	—	—	—	—	—	—	100.0
Race	88.2	—	—	—	11.8	—	—
Resident Status	—	—	—	—	—	—	100.0
Victim Type	88.2	—	—	11.8	—	—	—
Age Exact	82.4	17.6	—	—	—	—	—
Victim Injury	11.8	17.6	35.3	—	35.3	—	—
Agg. Assault / Homicide Circumstances	11.8	5.9	5.9	5.9	11.8	—	58.8
Relationship of victim to offender	29.4	5.9	11.8	11.8	41.2	—	—

Form Type	RMS	Standard-ized Reports	Narrative Reports	Deduced	Missing*	Not Applicable	Not Found*
Offender/Arrestee Supplement							
Marital Status	Only "suspect" information is available in HPD's RMS	55.6	—	—	—	—	44.4
Employment Status		—	11.1	55.6	—	—	33.3
Occupation		55.6	11.1	—	—	—	33.3
Arrest Type		11.1	55.6	—	—	33.3	—
Sex		66.7	33.3	—	—	—	—
Ethnicity		55.6	—	—	—	—	44.4
Race		66.7	—	—	—	—	33.3
Age Exact		66.7	22.2	—	—	—	11.1
Resident Status		—	—	55.6	—	—	44.4
Offense Name		22.2	77.8	—	—	—	—
Arrest Date		66.7	—	—	—	33.3	—
Weapons at Arrest		—	11.1	44.4	—	33.3	11.1
Arrest Location		33.3	33.3	—	—	33.3	—
Resident Address		77.8	—	—	—	—	22.2

Note: NIBRS data elements that were not applicable to any of this county's cases are not included in the table.

* The "Missing" column refers to data values that were missing for generally obtainable, standardized data elements. The "Not Found" column is used for data values that were not part of standardized data elements and could not be located by other means.

Hawaii County Police Department

Data Organization

HcPD's case files are exclusively in hard copy format and were provided by records personnel. Like HPD, the HcPD files are maintained in chronological order; the earliest documents are typically on top and the most recent documents appear at the end of each case file. The files are not broken into sections for specific document types.

Completeness of Data

Overall, 51 percent of the NIBRS data elements were located in standardized HcPD reports, 30 percent were found in narrative text documents or deduced by the researchers, and 19 percent could not be completed.

Using standardized reports, narrative text documents, and deduction, the percentages of missing values for the primary NIBRS form are as follows: 8 percent for the offender section, 19 percent for the offense section, and 32 percent for the victim section. While it is consistent with the other counties, the finding that offender data are easier than offense or victim data to capture at HcPD is somewhat suspect; given that three of the six HcPD homicides were open cases, the figures are based on a very small number of offenders.

The following individual data elements were missing at least half of the time: Forced Entry, Location Was Victim or Offender's Place of Employment, Ethnicity, Residential Status, Aggravated Assault/Homicide Circumstances, Type of Criminal Activity, and Marital Status (this element was missing over half of the time for victims only). Table 7 displays greater detail regarding the availability of NIBRS data elements at HcPD.

Many of the missing data elements are not included in HcPD's data collection protocol. In other instances, the data were, for whatever reason, not collected and/or recorded for a particular case.

Other Issues

Confidentiality issues did not affect the ability to collect the required information. The researchers were given full access to the case files.

Table 7:
Information Sources Used to Complete NIBRS Data Elements,
Hawaii County Police Department
(Percent)

Form Type	Standard-ized Reports	Narrative Reports	Deduced	Missing*	Not Applicable	Not Found*
Incident						
Time of Incident	100.0	—	—	—	—	—
Date of Incident	100.0	—	—	—	—	—
Offense						
Offense Status	16.7	—	83.4	—	—	—
Offender Used	33.3	—	—	16.7	—	50.0
Forced Entry	16.7	—	16.7	—	—	66.7
Offense Name	83.3	16.7	—	—	—	—
Address of Offense	83.3	16.7	—	—	—	—
Location Code	50.0	—	33.3	—	—	16.7
Weapon Force	83.3	16.7	—	—	—	—
Location is Victim's / Offender's Place of Employ	16.7	—	33.3	—	—	50.0
Victim						
Employment Status	50.0	—	33.3	—	—	16.7
Marital Status	—	—	33.3	—	—	66.7
Occupation	66.7	—	16.7	—	—	16.7
Sex	100.0	—	—	—	—	—
Ethnicity	—	—	—	—	—	100.0
Race	66.7	16.7	—	16.7	—	—
Resident Status	50.0	—	—	—	—	50.0
Victim Type	—	—	100.0	—	—	—
Age Exact	33.3	16.7	33.3	—	—	16.7
Victim Injury	33.3	50.0	—	—	—	16.7
Agg. Assault / Homicide Circumstances	50.0	—	—	—	—	50.0
Relationship of victim to offender	50.0	16.7	—	—	—	33.3
Offender/Arrestee Form						
Marital Status	75.0	25.0	—	—	—	—
Employment Status	50.0	25.0	25.0	—	—	—
Occupation	75.0	25.0	—	—	—	—
Arrest Type	75.0	—	—	—	25.0	—
Sex	75.0	25.0	—	—	—	—
Ethnicity	75.0	—	—	—	—	25.0
Race	75.0	25.0	—	—	—	—
Age Exact	75.0	25.0	—	—	—	—
Resident Status	—	—	50.0	—	—	50.0
Offense Name	75.0	25.0	—	—	—	—
Arrest Date	75.0	—	—	—	25.0	—
Weapons at Arrest	—	—	75.0	—	25.0	—
Arrest Location	25.0	25.0	25.0	—	25.0	—
Resident Address	50.0	25.0	—	—	—	25.0
Offense Supplement						
Offense Status	—	—	100.0	—	—	—
Offender Used	100.0	—	—	—	—	—

Form Type	Standard-ized Reports	Narrative Reports	Deduced	Missing*	Not Applicable	Not Found*
Forced Entry	—	—	50.0	—	—	50.0
Offense Name	100.0	—	—	—	—	—
Address of Offense	100.0	—	—	—	—	—
Location Code	100.0	—	—	—	—	—
Weapon Force	50.0	—	—	—	50.0	—
Type Criminal Activity	—	—	—	—	—	100.0
Location is Victim's / Offender's Place of Employ	50.0	—	50.0	—	—	—
Offender/Arrestee Supplement						
Marital Status	—	100.0	—	—	—	—
Employment Status	—	—	100.0	—	—	—
Occupation	—	100.0	—	—	—	—
Arrest Type	—	—	—	—	100.0	—
Sex	—	100.0	—	—	—	—
Ethnicity	—	—	—	—	—	100.0
Race	—	100.0	—	—	—	—
Age Exact	—	100.0	—	—	—	—
Resident Status	—	—	—	—	—	100.0
Offense Name	—	100.0	—	—	—	—
Arrest Date	—	—	—	—	100.0	—
Weapons at Arrest	—	—	—	—	100.0	—
Arrest Location	—	—	—	—	100.0	—
Resident Address	—	100.0	—	—	—	—

Note: NIBRS data elements that were not applicable to any of this county's cases are not included in the table.

* The "Missing" column refers to data values that were missing for generally obtainable, standardized data elements. The "Not Found" column is used for data values that were not part of standardized data elements and could not be located by other means.

Maui County Police Department

Data Organization

Maui County Police Department data were collected from both RMS and hard copy files; the researchers were able to review these data sources simultaneously. Generally speaking, the RMS at MPD contains more NIBRS-relevant data fields than does HPD's RMS. However, as with HPD, many of these fields are often left blank in the RMS and the data had to be located or deduced using hard copy records.

As with the other counties, MPD's case files are maintained in chronological order, with the oldest documents at the beginning and the most recent documents at the end of each case file. The files are not divided into subsections for various document types.

Completeness of Data

Approximately half (54 percent) of the required NIBRS data elements were located in standardized MPD reports, while 26 percent either appeared in narrative text reports or were deduced by the researchers. The remaining 20 percent of the data elements were missing.

Using all data sources (standardized reports, narrative text documents, and deduction), MPD's percentages of missing values for the primary NIBRS form include 11 percent for the offender section, 14 percent for the offense section, and 25 percent for the victim section.

The following NIBRS data elements were missing at least 50 percent of the time: Location Is Victim's/Offender's Place of Employment, Marital Status, Ethnicity, and Type of Criminal Activity. Table 8 provides further detail on NIBRS data availability at MPD.

Reasons for missing data are, again, not definitive, but seem related to whether or not the responding or investigating personnel collected the information. The data elements for the victim supplemental forms were especially difficult to obtain at MPD. However, two of the three victims represented in the supplemental forms were police officers who arrested a homicide suspect, and the third victim was a business that was vandalized in the same incident. In the case of the officers, their personal information (such as Age, Marital Status, Race, etc.) was possibly deemed irrelevant to the case.

Other Issues

Issues of confidentiality did not affect the ability to collect the required information; the researchers were given complete access to the necessary data and other information.

Table 8:
Information Sources Used to Complete NIBRS Data Elements,
Maui County Police Department
(Percent)

Form Type	RMS	Standard-ized Reports	Narrative Reports	Deduced	Missing*	Not Applicable	Not Found*
Incident							
Time of Incident	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Date of Incident	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Offense							
Offense Status	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Offender Used	—	—	—	—	100.0	—	—
Forced Entry	33.3	—	—	33.3	33.3	—	—
Offense Name	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Address of Offense	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Location Code	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Weapon Force	—	—	100.0	—	—	—	—
Type Criminal Activity	—	—	—	—	—	—	100.0
Location is Victim's / Offender's Place of Employ	—	—	—	33.3	—	—	66.7
Victim							
Employment Status	66.7	33.3	—	—	—	—	—
Marital Status	—	—	—	—	—	—	100.0
Occupation	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sex	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ethnicity	—	—	—	—	—	—	100.0
Race	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Resident Status	66.7	—	—	—	—	—	33.3
Victim Type	33.3	—	—	66.7	—	—	—
Age Exact	66.7	—	—	—	—	—	33.3
Victim Injury	—	—	100.0	—	—	—	—
Agg. Assault / Homicide Circumstances	—	—	66.7	33.3	—	—	—
Relationship of victim to offender	—	—	66.7	—	33.3	—	—
Offender/Arrestee							
Marital Status	—	66.7	—	—	—	—	33.3
Employment Status	66.7	—	—	33.3	—	—	—
Occupation	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arrest Type	—	33.3	33.3	—	—	33.3	—
Sex	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ethnicity	—	—	—	—	—	—	100.0
Race	66.7	—	33.3	—	—	—	—
Age Exact	66.7	33.3	—	—	—	—	—
Resident Status	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Offense Name	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arrest Date	—	66.7	—	—	—	33.3	—
Weapons at Arrest	—	—	—	66.7	—	33.3	—
Arrest Location	—	—	33.3	33.3	—	33.3	—
Resident Address	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Property							
Property Loss	—	—	100.0	—	—	—	—

Form Type	RMS	Standard-ized Reports	Narrative Reports	Deduced	Missing*	Not Applicable	Not Found*
Property Description	—	—	100.0	—	—	—	—
Quantity	—	—	100.0	—	—	—	—
Item Value	—	—	100.0	—	—	—	—
Total Value Loss	—	—	100.0	—	—	—	—
Offense Supplement							
Offense Status	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Offender Used	—	—	—	—	100.0	—	—
Forced Entry	—	—	—	66.7	33.3	—	—
Offense Name	91.7	8.3	—	—	—	—	—
Address of Offense	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Location Code	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Weapon Force	8.3	50.0	—	—	41.7	—	—
Type Criminal Activity	—	—	—	—	—	—	100.0
Location is Victim's / Offender's Place of Employ	—	—	—	91.7	—	—	8.3
Victim Supplement							
Employment Status	—	—	—	66.7	—	33.3	—
Marital Status	—	—	—	—	—	33.3	66.7
Occupation	—	—	66.7	—	—	33.3	—
Sex	—	—	66.7	—	—	33.3	—
Ethnicity	—	—	—	—	—	33.3	66.7
Race	—	—	—	—	66.7	33.3	—
Resident Status	—	—	—	—	66.7	33.3	—
Victim Type	33.3	—	66.7	—	—	—	—
Age Exact	—	—	—	—	66.7	33.3	—
Victim Injury	—	—	66.7	—	—	33.3	—
Agg. Assault / Homicide Circumstances	—	—	66.7	—	—	33.3	—
Relationship of victim to offender	—	—	—	66.7	—	33.3	—
Offender/Arrestee Supplement							
Marital Status	—	100.0	—	—	—	—	—
Employment Status	50.0	—	—	50.0	—	—	—
Occupation	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arrest Type	—	—	100.0	—	—	—	—
Sex	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ethnicity	—	—	—	—	—	—	100.0
Race	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age Exact	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Resident Status	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Offense Name	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arrest Date	—	100.0	—	—	—	—	—
Weapons at Arrest	—	—	—	—	—	—	100.0
Arrest Location	—	—	100.0	—	—	—	—
Resident Address	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	—

Note: NIBRS data elements that were not applicable to any of this county's cases are not included in the table.

* The "Missing" column refers to data values that were missing for generally obtainable, standardized data elements. The "Not Found" column is used for data values that were not part of standardized data elements and could not be located by other means.

Kauai County Police Department

Data Organization

The Kauai County Police Department does not have an RMS, thus all of the NIBRS data were extracted from hard copy case files provided by records personnel. As with the other counties, KPD's case files are maintained more or less chronologically, with the earliest documents on top and the latest documents at the end of each file.

Completeness of Data

Just under half (47 percent) of the required NIBRS data elements were obtained from standardized KPD reports. More than one-third (35 percent) of the elements were located in narrative text documents or deduced by the researchers, and almost one-fifth (18 percent) could not be completed.

Combining the major data sources of standardized reports, narrative text documents, and deduction, the percentages of missing values for the primary NIBRS form sections are as follows: 4 percent for the offense section, 19 percent for the offender section, and 21 percent for the victim section.

The following individual NIBRS data elements were missing at least half of the time at HPD: Marital Status, Ethnicity, and Resident Status (the offense and victim supplemental forms are not included in this figure because there was only one instance of each). However, these figures are computed on very small base numbers, probably rendering them non-definitive. Table 9 details the effort to complete NIBRS data elements at KPD.

As with the other counties, many of the missing NIBRS data elements are not part of the standard information collected or recorded by KPD. In other instances, the data elements are generally available but, for unknown reasons, missing for a particular case.

Other Issues

As was the case at the other departments, confidentiality issues did not impact the ability to collect the required information, and the researchers were given full access to the case files.

Table 9:
Information Sources Used to Complete NIBRS Data Elements,
Kauai County Police Department
(Percent)

Form Type	Standard-ized Reports	Narrative Reports	Deduced	Missing*	Not Applicable	Not Found*
Incident						
Time of Incident	100.0	—	—	—	—	—
Date of Incident	100.0	—	—	—	—	—
Except. Clear. Status	25.0	—	—	—	75.0	—
Except. Clear. Date	25.0	—	—	—	75.0	—
Offense						
Offense Status	—	—	100.0	—	—	—
Offender Used	25.0	25.0	—	—	—	50.0
Forced Entry	25.0	—	75.0	—	—	—
Offense Name	100.0	—	—	—	—	—
Address of Offense	75.0	—	25.0	—	—	—
Location Code	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	—	—
Weapon Force	50.0	50.0	—	—	—	—
Location is Victim's/ Offender's Place of Emply	—	25.0	50.0	—	—	25.0
Victim						
Employment Status	50.0	25.0	25.0	—	—	—
Marital Status	25.0	25.0	—	—	—	50.0
Occupation	75.0	—	—	—	—	25.0
Sex	75.0	25.0	—	—	—	—
Ethnicity	—	—	—	—	—	100.0
Race	100.0	—	—	—	—	—
Resident Status	—	—	25.0	—	—	75.0
Victim Type	—	—	100.0	—	—	—
Age Exact	75.0	25.0	—	—	—	—
Victim Injury	—	100.0	—	—	—	—
Agg. Assault / Homicide Circumstances	50.0	50.0	—	—	—	—
Relationship of victim to offender	50.0	50.0	—	—	—	—
Offender/Arrestee						
Marital Status	50.0	50.0	—	—	—	—
Employment Status	25.0	25.0	50.0	—	—	—
Occupation	50.0	25.0	25.0	—	—	—
Arrest Type	75.0	—	—	—	25.0	—
Sex	75.0	25.0	—	—	—	—
Ethnicity	—	—	—	—	—	100.0
Race	75.0	—	—	—	—	25.0
Age Exact	75.0	25.0	—	—	—	—
Resident Status	—	—	—	—	—	100.0
Offense Name	100.0	—	—	—	—	—
Arrest Date	75.0	—	—	—	25.0	—
Weapons at Arrest	—	25.0	50.0	—	25.0	—
Arrest Location	50.0	—	25.0	—	25.0	—
Resident Address	50.0	25.0	—	—	—	25.0
Offense Supplement						
Offense Status	—	—	100.0	—	—	—

Form Type	Standard-ized Reports	Narrative Reports	Deduced	Missing*	Not Applicable	Not Found*
Offender Used	—	100.0	—	—	—	—
Forced Entry	—	—	100.0	—	—	—
Offense Name	100.0	—	—	—	—	—
Address of Offense	100.0	—	—	—	—	—
Location Code	—	100.0	—	—	—	—
Weapon Force	—	100.0	—	—	—	—
Type Criminal Activity	—	—	—	—	—	100.0
Location is Victim's / Offender's Place of Employ	—	25.0	—	—	—	75.0
Victim Supplement						
Employment Status	—	—	100.0	—	—	—
Marital Status	—	—	—	—	—	100.0
Occupation	—	—	—	100.0	—	—
Sex	100.0	—	—	—	—	—
Ethnicity	—	—	—	—	—	100.0
Race	100.0	—	—	—	—	—
Resident Status	—	—	—	—	—	100.0
Victim Type	—	—	100.0	—	—	—
Age Exact	100.0	—	—	—	—	—
Victim Injury	—	100.0	—	—	—	—
Agg. Assault / Homicide Circumstances	—	100.0	—	—	—	—
Relationship of victim to offender	—	100.0	—	—	—	—

Note: NIBRS data elements that were not applicable to any of this county's cases are not included in the table.

* The "Missing" column refers to data values that were missing for generally obtainable, standardized data elements. The "Not Found" column is used for data values that were not part of standardized data elements and could not be located by other means.

List of Attachments

Attachment 1: Completed NIBRS Incident Forms
Attachment 2: Data Source Forms
Attachment 3: Police Report Forms and RMS Screens
Attachment 4: Honolulu Medical Examiner Report Forms

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, P.L. 101-336, this material is available in an altered format, upon request. If you require an altered format, please call the Department of the Attorney General, Crime Prevention and Justice Assistance Division, at (808) 586-1150.