

APPENDIX D

Data Use

REPORTING DATES

Data in this report includes all reported 2002 information as of March 13, 2003.

MICHIGAN LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

Total # of Agencies: 612

Agency Type:

Sheriff = 83

Michigan State Police = 1

Police Departments = 528

 Serve populations less than 1,000= 114

 Serve populations 1,000 – 4,999= 198

 Serve populations 5,000 – 9,999= 81

 Serve populations 10,000 – 19,999= 59

 Serve populations 20,000 – 29,999= 24

 Serve populations 30,000 – 39,999= 15

 Serve populations 40,000 – 49,999= 9

 Serve populations 50,000 – 59,999= 3

 Serve populations 60,000 – 69,999= 8

 Serve populations 70,000 – 79,999= 4

 Serve populations 80,000 – 89,999= 3

 Serve populations 90,000 – 99,999= 2

 Serve populations greater than 100,000= 8

Reporting System:

MICR = 566

UCR = 14

Report through another agency = 13

Nonreporting = 19

PROPER USE OF DATA

Users should note the following factors when analyzing changes in the volume and types of crimes: missing data, population density, urbanization, composition of the population, stability of the population, modes of transportation, economic conditions, cultural characteristics, family cohesiveness, climate, strength and policies of the criminal justice system, and crime reporting practices of the citizenry. When used properly, the data provided in this report can significantly contribute to management and planning activities at local, state, and federal levels, especially by state officials, law enforcement agencies, the legislature, and nonprofit organizations. Questions on the proper use of UCR statistics can be directed to the Crime Analysis Unit or the Uniform Crime Reporting Section of the Criminal Justice Information Center (contact information provided on page 1).

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MONTHS REPORTED

The months reported figure indicates the number of months that an agency submitted data to the state program. Data users should view this with caution, because a month of data does not necessarily indicate that an agency has reported all activity for that month. It should not be assumed that changes in data indicate an actual change in crime; it may be a change in reporting. Users should check with the individual departments or with the state program before assuming that changes are indicative of actual trends.

HATE CRIME STATISTICS

A Hate Crime or Bias Crime is a criminal offense committed against a person or property which is motivated, in whole or in part, by the offender's bias against a race, religion, ethnic/national origin, sexual orientation or disability group. Hate Crimes are not separate, distinct crimes, but rather traditional offenses motivated by the offender's bias. The Hate Crime statistics reported to the Michigan Uniform Crime Reporting program may have some reporting inconsistencies. The decision to classify an offense as a hate crime is left to the discretion of the responding law enforcement officer. It is believed that different interpretations of this definition have led to overreporting by some agencies and underreporting by others. For this reason, Hate Crime statistics should be used cautiously. In addition, the Other Bias category appears to be misunderstood by many reporting agencies. Consequently, all incidents reported as Other Bias have been removed.

MICR STATUS

Michigan Incident Crime Reporting (MICR) is Michigan's incident-based reporting system in which data are collected on each single crime occurrence. MICR provides data to the FBI through NIBRS. The National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) is the result of efforts by the FBI and various law enforcement organizations to improve and modernize the Uniform Crime Reporting program. The implementation of MICR is still progressing throughout Michigan. The majority of Michigan law enforcement agencies are now reporting through the new Michigan Incident Crime Reporting (MICR) system. In 2002, 92% of agencies, representing 81% of the population, submitted data through MICR. Additional information on the MICR program can be obtained by contacting the UCR Section (see contact information on page 1).

MICR CONVERSION

In order to make reporting from all sources consistent, MICR data must be converted back to the traditional UCR format. The MICR database was constructed to allow for such a conversion so that UCR's long-running trend analysis could continue. The majority of the data shown in this report is in UCR summary format. The MICR section of this report shows data as reported in the MICR format. Users should note that this data does not include all agencies in the state, and therefore are not an indication of the statewide crime picture.