

CHIEF OF DETECTIVES

NOTICE

April 21, 2021

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TO: All Concerned Personnel

FROM: Chief of Detectives

SUBJECT: REPORTING AND CALCULATION OF HOMICIDE STATISTICS FOR ANNUAL END-OF-YEAR HOMICIDE REPORT - EXPLAINED

This Notice aims to explain the mechanisms used and methodology for reporting and calculating homicide statistics used in the annual end-of-year homicide report produced by Detective Bureau (DB).

Other than investigative information related to each case, which comes from the assigned investigating officer, all statistical data, most notably total annual homicide counts, comes from the Application Development and Support Division (ADSD). The ADSD is the Department's authoritative entity responsible for producing crime data reported to the California Department of Justice (CA DOJ), which must conform to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) standards. The UCR requires data to be submitted based on when an incident becomes known to law enforcement (reporting date) versus when a crime occurred.

The UCR Summary Report System (SRS) User Manual states in part, "Agencies throughout the country participate in the FBI UCR Program and provide monthly summarized reports of ten Part 1 offenses **known to law enforcement** and reports on persons arrested." (SRS User Manual, 2013, p. 11, emphasis added).

Department data systems, notably the Crime Analysis Mapping Systems (CAMS), only report crimes based on their occurrence date, making results unsuitable for inclusion in the annual report or for public dissemination.

The following example illustrates a common occurrence and highlights the disparity in data reporting between ADSD and other data systems, such as CAMS.

Suppose a suspect assaulted an individual on December 29, 2020, who then dies on December 30, 2020, after being transported to the hospital. The assault is known to the Department from the initial date of occurrence, but not the death. On January 2, 2021, the hospital notifies the Department, which begins a homicide investigation. The initial assault is recorded, by investigators, as taking place on December 29, 2020, the date of death as December 30, 2020, but the date recorded for the homicide, reported to the CA DOJ, is January 2, 2021.

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Per UCR guidelines and how ADSD will report the example incident, it is a 2021 homicide because the reporting party made the death known to the Department after the new year. For monthly reporting purposes, the same logic applies if an incident occurs within the same year but across different months. The CAMS would report the example incident with a December 2020 date, depending on how an Area records clerk initially entered and coded the incident.


Additionally, each year the Los Angeles County Medical Examiner-Coroner (MEC) will likely classify deaths from prior years to homicides. When this happens, as with the previous example, ADSD will report the homicide as an occurrence for the calendar year when the MEC notifies the Department, regardless of the victim's actual date of death or date of the crime causing the victim's demise. Detective Bureau will identify and highlight these instances as reclassified cases for a specified calendar year versus actual homicide occurrences for the same year within the annual report.

Any Department entity disseminating homicide data from sources other than ADSD shall include a disclaimer indicating the information is unofficial, its origins, and the Department has not necessarily reported the data to the CA DOJ.

Direct any questions regarding this Notice to the Investigative Analysis Section, Detective Bureau, at (213) 486-7000.

APPROVED:


KRIS E. PITCHER, Deputy Chief
Chief of Detectives


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