

### Why We Conducted This Review

This report provides information on how crime statistics are reported by local law enforcement agencies (police departments, sheriffs' offices, and colleges/universities) to the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement (LCLE). LCLE reports these crime statistics to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) as part of the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) incident-based program. Reliable and complete data on crime is important for the administration and operation of law enforcement, to inform policy decisions, and to identify trends.

### What We Found

Overall, we found that local law enforcement agencies in the state face challenges in submitting crime data to the FBI UCR program as a result of changes to reporting requirements by the FBI. This report answered the following questions:

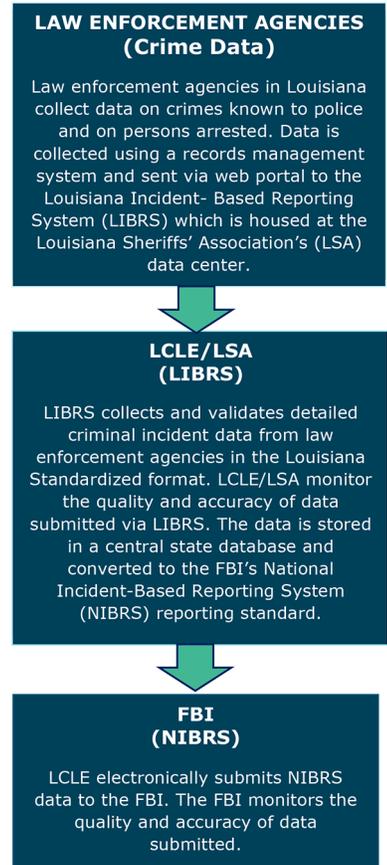
**1. How has the national crime reporting process changed, and how has this impacted how law enforcement agencies report information to LCLE and the FBI?**

In January 2021, the FBI began requiring more comprehensive crime data by transitioning to the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS), which captures more detailed information about each crime occurrence. As a result of this change in reporting requirements, national crime reporting to the UCR program decreased. Unlike some other states, Louisiana did not require agencies to submit NIBRS crime data prior to the federal requirement. To become LIBRS-certified by LCLE and have their data submitted to the FBI (NIBRS), law enforcement agencies in the state must send data that is substantially accurate and complete.

**2. How many law enforcement agencies in Louisiana reported their crime statistics to LCLE/FBI in 2022 and, for those agencies that did not, why?**

Approximately 256 (68.4%) of 374 local law enforcement agencies reported NIBRS crime data to the FBI in 2022. This includes agencies that report their crime data through another agency's records management system. Most agencies that did not report are actively working towards LIBRS certification. However, funding and resource constraints, the complexity of the NIBRS reporting process, and upgrading to a records management system that is LIBRS compliant are implementation challenges that have limited the number of agencies reporting NIBRS crime data. These mirror challenges faced by agencies across the nation. LCLE and LSA offer their assistance to law enforcement agencies to help transition to LIBRS/NIBRS reporting.

#### Louisiana Crime Data Reporting Process



**Source:** Prepared by the legislative auditor's staff using information from the FBI, LCLE, and LSA.