

Challenges and policy implications in developing a National Crime Classification system

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Government Agencies engaged in public safety and the administration of justice in the U.S.

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|---------|------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------|
| Federal | Federal Law Enforcement | Attorney General | U.S. Courts | Bureau of Prisons | |
| State | State Police/ Highway Patrol | Attorney General | Supreme Court | Prison | Parole |
| County | Sheriff/ Police | District Attorney | Superior Court | Jail | Probation |
| City | Police | Municipal Court | City Attorney | Fire | EMS |

National Organizations

- IACP—International Association of Chiefs of Police
- NCJA—National Criminal Justice Association
- NCSC—National Center for State Courts
- APPA—American Parole and Probation Association
- NDAA—National District Attorney's Association
- NACO—National Association of Counties
- NLC—National League of Cities
- NGA—National Governor's Association
- NCSL—National Conference of State Legislators

National Information Sharing

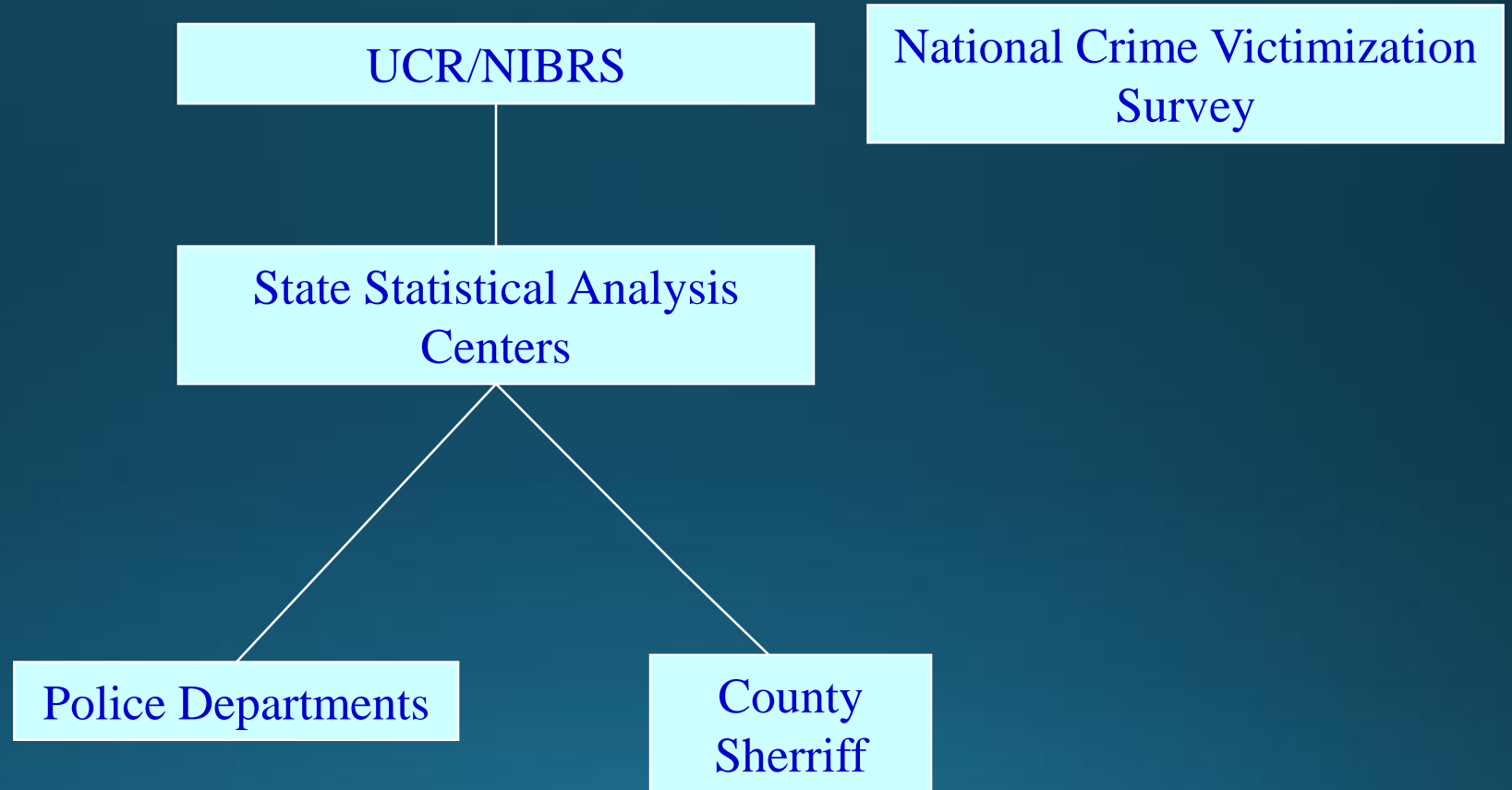
- NCIC—National Crime Information Center
- IAFIS—Integrated Automatic Fingerprint Identification System
- III—Interstate Identification Index
- NLETS—National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System
- HSIN—Homeland Security Information Network
- National Data Exchange

Statistical Reporting Layers

Federal

State

Local



Challenges in Crime Classification

- The legacy of the Uniform Crime Reporting system
- The basis of intervention—the penal code exclusion and limits
- The debate on ownership of crime categories
- The aversion to public disclosure
- Governance and the inclusion of all stakeholder interests
- The cost of modernization

Policy Implications

- Without the ability to disaggregate data, policy is not informed
- Crime classification based on statutes loses consistency as statutes change and prevents interdisciplinary research
- Crime classification should support research on intervention strategies and programs
- Measuring program effectiveness requires attribute analysis
- Crime can only be understood in a context

Crime classification must therefore be:

- Based on neutral definitions of events
- Designed in detail with meaningful and useful attributes
- Coherent in the context of other social systems and services
- Based on standard definitions and naming conventions
- Easy to change with the times
- Supportive of the full range of stakeholder needs

The Path to Better Decisions

