

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
City of Chicago



REPORT OF THE OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL:

***CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT
ASSAULT-RELATED CRIME STATISTICS
CLASSIFICATION AND REPORTING FOLLOW-UP INQUIRY***

MAY 2015

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Joseph M. Ferguson
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OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL *City of Chicago*

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May 5, 2015

To the Mayor, Members of the City Council, City Clerk, City Treasurer, and residents of the City of Chicago:

The City of Chicago Office of Inspector General (OIG) has completed a follow-up to its April 2014 audit of the Chicago Police Department's (CPD) classification and summary reporting for assault-related crimes in 2012. OIG concludes that CPD has implemented corrective actions related to the original audit findings.

The purpose of the 2014 audit was to determine if CPD accurately,

- classified assault-related crimes under CPD guidelines; and
- reported crime statistics in CompStat reports and Illinois Uniform Crime Reporting (I-UCR) submissions.

The audit found that CPD reported all required assault-related incidents in CompStat reports, but misclassified 3.1% of assault-related incidents, which was under the 10% rate that the Federal Bureau of Investigation Criminal Justice Information Services (FBI/CJIS) stated was acceptable for agencies participating in the UCR program.¹ We also found that CPD did not follow I-UCR rules, resulting in a 21% error rate in incident reporting and a 24% underreporting of victim offenses in the incidents sampled. Finally, we found that CPD incorrectly applied the I-UCR reporting rule regarding crimes against protected persons, thereby underreporting aggravated assaults and aggravated batteries to I-UCR by 5.7% and 3.2%, respectively.

Based upon those results, we recommended that CPD follow I-UCR guidelines for crimes against persons by counting each victim as a separate offense when reporting the number of offenses in its I-UCR submission to the State. We also recommended that CPD ensure all required incidents are included in future I-UCR submissions, including incidents which would remain aggravated regardless of the protected status of the victim, and that previous omissions of such incidents are corrected.

In March 2015, OIG inquired with CPD regarding the status of the corrective actions the Department committed to in response to OIG's audit and any other actions it may have taken. On the following pages we have summarized the four original audit findings and recommendations, as well as the Department's response to our follow-up inquiry.

¹ OIG did not evaluate whether the 10% error rate deemed acceptable by the FBI for participating agencies constituted an acceptable error rate for other users of crime statistics. Our reference to it therefore should not be construed as an endorsement, validation, or rejection of it.

Based on the Department's follow-up responses, OIG concludes that CPD has fully implemented the corrective actions it committed to in 2014. We thank the staff and leadership of CPD for their cooperation during the original audit and responsiveness to our follow-up inquiry.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Ferguson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Joseph M. Ferguson
Inspector General
City of Chicago

Follow-Up Results

In April 2015, the City of Chicago Office of Inspector General (OIG) followed up on an April 2014 audit of the Chicago Police Department's (CPD) assault-related crime statistics classification and reporting.² CPD responded by describing the corrective actions it has taken since receiving the original audit and provided supporting documentation. We have summarized the four findings, their associated recommendations, and the status of CPD's corrective actions below. OIG's follow-up inquiry did not observe or test implementation of the new procedures and thus makes no determination as to their effectiveness, which would require a new audit with full testing of the procedures.

FINDING 1: CPD Misclassified 3.1% of Assault-Related Incidents

OIG Recommendation: This finding did not identify systemic issues and CPD's misclassification rate was under the 10% rate that the FBI/CJIS Training & Advisory Process Unit states is acceptable for agencies participating in the UCR program. Therefore, no recommendation was made.

Status of Corrective Action: No corrective action necessary.

FINDING 2: CPD Reported All Required Assault-Related Incidents in CompStat Reports

OIG Recommendation: This finding did not identify concerns for correction, therefore no recommendation was made.

Status of Corrective Action: No corrective action necessary.

FINDING 3: CPD Did Not Follow the I-UCR Reporting Rule for Crimes Against Persons, Resulting in a 21% Error Rate in Incident Reporting and a 24% Underreporting of Victim Offenses in the Incidents Sampled

OIG Recommendation: We recommended that CPD follow I-UCR guidelines for crimes against persons by counting each victim as a separate offense when reporting the number of offenses in its I-UCR submission to the State.

Status of Corrective Action: **Implemented.** CPD reports having "completed an in-depth review of all aggravated assault and aggravated battery case reports, as

² The 2014 audit report is available on the OIG website: <http://chicagoinspectorgeneral.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/OIG-Crime-Stats-Audit.pdf>.

well as crimes based on the protected status of the victim, for the years 2012 and 2013.” CPD provided the revised totals for these crimes to the Illinois State Police, which is responsible for communicating the information to the FBI.

The Department also implemented a new policy (Bureau of Detectives Special Order 15-13) in November 2014 which addressed proper documentation and use of UCR codes and specific UCR codes for each victim listed on a report. CPD communicated the policy change at roll calls. Furthermore, the Department included training “dedicated to Homicide Reclassification & Victim Association in [CPD’s database]” for current detectives. Approximately 650 detectives have attended the training and CPD will continue the training until all detectives receive it. Finally, CPD provided the incoming class of new detectives with 13 hours of training on UCR guidelines, classifications and codes, as well as CPD’s internal codes.

FINDING 4:

CPD Incorrectly Applied the I-UCR Reporting Rule Regarding Crimes Against Protected Persons, Thereby Underreporting Aggravated Assaults and Aggravated Batteries to the I-UCR Program by 5.7% and 3.2%, Respectively

OIG Recommendation:

We recommended that CPD ensure all required incidents are included in future I-UCR submissions, including incidents which would remain aggravated regardless of the protected status of the victim, and that previous omissions of such incidents are corrected.

Status of Corrective Action:

Implemented. As noted in Finding 3 above, CPD revised its 2012 and 2013 totals for these crimes and submitted them to the I-UCR program.

In addition, in April 2014 CPD updated its Incident Reporting Guide and clarified the definitions of “incidents of battery to a police officer or protected employee, where no or minor injury was suffered.”

CITY OF CHICAGO OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

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To Report Fraud, Waste, and Abuse in City Programs	Call OIG's toll-free hotline 866-IG-TIPLINE (866-448-4754). Talk to an investigator from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday. Or visit our website: http://chicagoinspectorgeneral.org/get-involved/fight-waste-fraud-and-abuse/

MISSION

The City of Chicago Office of Inspector General (OIG) is an independent, nonpartisan oversight agency whose mission is to promote economy, efficiency, effectiveness, and integrity in the administration of programs and operations of City government. OIG achieves this mission through,

- administrative and criminal investigations;
- audits of City programs and operations; and
- reviews of City programs, operations, and policies.

From these activities, OIG issues reports of findings, disciplinary, and other recommendations to assure that City officials, employees, and vendors are held accountable for the provision of efficient, cost-effective government operations and further to prevent, detect, identify, expose, and eliminate waste, inefficiency, misconduct, fraud, corruption, and abuse of public authority and resources.

AUTHORITY

The authority to produce reports and recommendations on ways to improve City operations is established in the City of Chicago Municipal Code § 2-56-030(c), which confers upon the Inspector General the following power and duty:

To promote economy, efficiency, effectiveness and integrity in the administration of the programs and operations of the city government by reviewing programs, identifying any inefficiencies, waste and potential for misconduct therein, and recommending to the mayor and the city council policies and methods for the elimination of inefficiencies and waste, and the prevention of misconduct.