



Kansas Bureau of Investigation

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For Immediate Release
September 21, 2016

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Grant awarded to upgrade crime statistics database

TOPEKA – Today the Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI) announced it received a three year, \$577, 216 U.S. Department of Justice- Bureau of Justice Statistics grant which will be used to enhance the Kansas Incident Based Reporting System (KIBRS).

KIBRS is a statewide crime information database that collects and records crime occurrences. The KBI uses KIBRS to create its annual crime statistic reports. It has been operational for the past 23 years, without significant upgrades. This grant award will serve as the first step in overhauling KIBRS to increase its effectiveness.

“We are very excited for the opportunities that come with this grant award. A complete expansion of KIBRS will cost more than this grant provides, however we’re glad to be moving in the right direction,” KBI Director Kirk Thompson said.

KIBRS receives its crime data from all Kansas law enforcement agencies. However, due to the system’s outdated software technology, currently less than 40% of Kansas agencies report crime information electronically. Moreover, some agencies report crimes based on each criminal incident that occurred, and others submit only in summary form, summarizing the total number of incidents for a small number of crimes. The lack of uniformity in reporting limits the ability to draw reliable conclusions from KIBRS statistics.

The KBI has a vision for KIBRS that includes the ability to fully analyze and map crime trends and patterns in order to combat emerging threats in Kansas. However, due to current system limitations, this goal is several years from becoming reality.

These federal dollars will be put to use building a new system interface for direct incident reporting to KIBRS. It will also allow for new program components to aid Kansas law enforcement agencies with reporting. The KBI plans to closely collaborate with local law enforcement partners to improve KIBRS features.

“The criminal justice community needs KIBRS to deliver meaningful data that can guide public policy decisions and resource allocations,” Thompson said. “A fully functional KIBRS would satisfy that need, and serve as a valuable investigative tool to confront crime in Kansas.”

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