

# OIG IN BRIEF

## Why the OIG Did This Report

In May 2014, the OIG released an audit which revealed that the NOPD misclassified 46 percent of sex-crime related calls for service, reclassified rape offenses to a miscellaneous offense, and failed to complete incident and supplemental reports. These factors led NOPD to exclude rape offenses from the data reported to the FBI's UCR Program or to misclassify the rape data submitted to the UCR Program.

The OIG Investigations Division then conducted an inquiry into NOPD's documentation of sex crimes investigations by five detectives in the Special Victims Section and released its results in November 2014. Investigators found that 65 percent of the sex crime cases reviewed contained no documentation of any investigative efforts beyond the initial report. Investigators also observed that there was widespread failure to submit supplemental reports as well as discrepancies between NOPD reports and other factual documentation. Investigators found no effective supervision or review of case files.

Superintendent Michael Harrison acknowledged the problems within the NOPD and committed to correcting the deficiencies. In 2015, the OIG conducted an audit to determine if the NOPD improved its documentation and supervision and reported rape offense data to the UCR Program accurately.

*A report to the New Orleans Police Department, June 22, 2016.*

View [OIG report AD 15-0005](#). For more information contact Erica Smith at (504) 681-3210 or [esmith@nolaogig.gov](mailto:esmith@nolaogig.gov).

## ***New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) Documenting and Reporting of Rapes***

### **What the OIG Found**

***NOPD included documentation in 100 percent of case files, and all case files contained evidence of supervisory review.***

In 2015 NOPD implemented three policies: (1) Chapter 42.2 in the NOPD Operations Manual regarding Sexual Assault; (2) Sex Crimes Unit Standard Operating Guidelines; and (3) Special Victim's Section Signal Guidance. Collectively, these policies included detailed guidance on interviewing sex crime victims, collecting evidence, documenting the results of the investigation, and supervisory oversight.

Auditors reviewed information pertaining to sex-crime related calls for service received from October 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015. All case files contained an Investigative Case File Index, which provided NOPD officers with a list of documentation that should be included in each case file. NOPD officers included documentation in 100 percent of the case files, such as incident reports, supplemental reports, victim/witness statements, detective notes, medical and/or the Sexual Assault Nurse Examination reports, etc.

Auditors found that NOPD supervisors:

- Reviewed each Investigative Case File Index as evidenced by the supervisor's initials;
- Reviewed and approved all Unfounded cases as evidenced by the supervisor and commander's signatures; and
- Reviewed 98.7 percent of the case files within 30 days of the completion of the incident report.

***NOPD classified 99.4 percent of calls for service in accordance with the guidelines established in the UCR Handbook.***

Documentation and oversight were the first steps to ensure the NOPD had the information necessary to report rapes accurately. In addition to classifying 99.4 percent of calls for service in accordance with the guidelines established in the UCR Handbook, auditors found that the NOPD:

- Classified all calls for service in accordance with the Louisiana Revised Statutes;
- Reclassified (upgraded) 78 calls for service (50.6 percent) to an attempted or actual rape; and
- Did not reclassify any allegations of rape to a miscellaneous offense.

NOPD's willingness to implement change and the results of those changes were evident during the course of the audit. Not only did the NOPD develop and implement corrective policies, but it also adhered to those policies which significantly improved its documentation, oversight, and accountability. Complete and accurate rape reporting holds the NOPD accountable for its policing efforts and allows the NOPD and the public to be aware of the magnitude of rapes.