



NATIONAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE MODEL

## SUCCESS STORY

### State of Florida Department of Law Enforcement Criminal Justice Information Services

### NIEM Ensures Accurate Statewide Crime Reporting and Analysis

The State of Florida's Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) promotes public safety and strengthens domestic security by providing services in partnership with local, state, and federal criminal justice agencies to prevent, investigate, and solve crimes while protecting citizens and visitors.

FDLE's Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) is the central repository of criminal history records, providing statistical information regarding crime for use by policymakers and that which is of public interest. CJIS ensures the quality of the data and plays a major role in policy development for national sharing of criminal justice information with the FBI and other states.

Florida's legacy data collection, analysis, validation, and dissemination processes was a mixture of manual and automated activities performed by agency staff members requiring multiple, disparate information systems. The process depended on staff in about 500 agencies performing interdependent tasks in a timely and correct manner.

To mitigate the disparity in Florida's criminal justice data, CJIS built a structure that collects data on an event and/or a person. It starts from the point of a law enforcement call for service and continues to an arrest event and through the entire court process.

To lessen the reporting burden on state and local agencies, CJIS developed a NIEM XML schema for agencies to collect and share standardized, uniform criminal justice data. Standardization is essential reducing the work effort on the state and local agencies submitting data to FDLE, and in turn to national partners, such as the FBI.



NIEM standardized communications between Florida's Criminal Justice systems, providing the foundation for standardization of other criminal justice processes.

Florida's crime reporting and analysis is more timely and accurate. With each data submission in the NIEM XML format, data sharing is instantaneous, with automated, near real time validation to ensure data meets the system criteria.

Florida collects and share data using this automated process, with multiple criminal justice systems across the state – allowing more accurate data to be shared with the public. Ultimately, the entire Florida criminal justice process will be NIEM XML compliant.

To learn more visit [NIEM.gov](http://NIEM.gov)

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## NIEM Ensures Accurate Statewide Crime Reporting and Analysis

Using NIEM XML as the foundation, the overall data collection is broken into three main parts, each of which feeds data into a central repository via a NIEM XML submission.

The system's schema structure is written using NIEM exchanges which house criminal justice incident and event data structures and workforce and employee counts structures. Both exchanges work together to create the overall collection and provide Florida agencies with the blueprint for their local systems to communicate using the new statewide standard.

Over 800 data elements across multiple systems were reviewed, defined, and mapped in creating the system. Each data element is specifically defined to meet the needs of the host system and carry through to any other system that may call for that information.

The review of these data elements required research into each system that would use the data, communication with local agencies, meetings and approvals from a statewide oversight body, as well as review of a dozen documents, including thousands of lines of code to ensure accuracy of the structure. An example of this process is when an agency fills out an arrest affidavit on John Doe. The affidavit lists the specific charges by state statute that is mapped to the FIBRS Offense code. That statute and offense code combination is defined and categorized the same across the entire repository. The information moves from the arrest affidavit to the Florida Incident Based Reporting System (FIBRS). Ultimately, it is shared with the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) – the elements are defined the same for FIBRS and NIBRS.

Throughout the system's development, CJIS assisted many Florida agencies in the interpretation of the NIEM exchanges and offered guidance to contributing agencies and their vendors. As CJIS provided the technical documentation, additional explanations were provided -- in laymen terms -- to ensure that the technical documents make their way to the appropriate staff. CJIS plans to continue helping the agencies during this transition period through access to training materials and their subject matter experts.