FBI CDE
Dev Sprint 2 Learnings

Jan 4, 2017

18F

Who we spoke with...

18F and FBI team members conducted 1 hour guided interviews with with 4 research participants to better understand motivations and needs when accessing data from the Crime Data Explorer.

3

Data scientists

1

Open data expert

- **When do users want access to the API vs data downloads?**

- **What is an acceptable size for a data download?**

- **What are important details to include with data downloads?**

Key learnings

Expert analysts will use the **API** if they want to build something and **downloads** if they want a static data file.

Consumers want to **quickly scan the contents of a download** to understand what's included and then refer to documentation, such as a glossary of terms and a schema, to answer specific questions.

Users have confidence in the data when they know the source, methodology, and have access to a point of contact.

Key learnings

Experts expect files ranging from 1.5 – 2 gigs in size, but older versions of Excel truncate files with more than 65,536 rows. Continue to explore the best way to shape csv files.

The CDE needs to **clearly explain** what the different datasets are (**SRS, NIBRS**) and how they will be made available (in what **formats**).

Dynamic feedback about dataset usage, updates, and common questions would be valuable to users.

Overall, the direction of this section is on track. Testing helped us identify details to refine and improve.

Enter a keyword is confusing for users. Does it search the whole dataset or just title and description?

Data type descriptions are clear for novice users but not immediately discoverable. Definition titles and labels should match. Users would expect this to be the type of files available.

Use titles that clearly communicate the difference between these two types of documentation.

"Downloads" is confusing for people familiar with how the API works. It might be better to call these data downloads or data file downloads.

Triangle and color coding next to data type do not work. Seem like they should be accordions and red signifies an error.

Dataset descriptions are helpful for people who don't know which offenses the dataset contains.

Crime Data Explorer

Explorer   **Downloads & Documentation**   About

Downloads & Documentation

CRIME DATA API
Use our application programming interface (API) to search and export Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) data.

See API documentation

DOCUMENTATION
Download the latest user manuals, data declarations, and technical specifications for the Summary Reporting System (SRS) and National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS).

See UCR documentation

Datasets

Explore crime data from law enforcement agencies across the nation.

Filter

Enter a keyword

TYPE OF CRIME	DESCRIPTION	TYPE OF DATA ⓘ
Violent Crime 1960–2014	In the FBI's Unifo... (UCR) Program, v... composed of four... nonnegligent man... robbery, and aggr... crimes involve for...	
Homicide 1962–2014	This dataset inclu... murders and nonn... manslaughters ac...	
Rape 1960–2014	Sed ut perspiciatis unde omnis iste natus error sit voluptatem accusantium doloremque laudantium, totam rem aperiam, eaque ipsa quae ab illo inventore veritatis et quasi architecto beatae vitae dicta sunt explicabo.	▶ Crime trends (SRS) ▶ Incidents (NIBRS)
Robbery 1960–2014	Sed ut perspiciatis unde omnis iste natus error sit voluptatem accusantium doloremque laudantium, totam rem aperiam, eaque ipsa quae ab illo inventore veritatis et quasi architecto beatae vitae dicta sunt explicabo.	▶ Crime trends (SRS) ▶ Incidents (NIBRS)

SUMMARY DATA
Summary Reporting System (SRS) data focuses on aggregate totals, crime rates, and trends over time. It's useful to think of the counts in this dataset as minimums, as a large number of crimes go unreported, and law enforcement agencies share data with the FBI voluntarily.

INCIDENT DATA
National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) data includes reports from individual crime incidents, with details about the offender, victim, circumstance, time of day, location where the crime occurred, and related arrests. While this data is more detailed than Summary data, it is not necessarily a representation of crime in the U.S., because only 32% of law enforcement agencies report crimes to the FBI with NIBRS.

Users responded well to leading with a dataset description.

The interaction of the downloads section worked but it wasn't clear that timeframe is the right way to divide large files. It depends on the question users are trying to answer.

Data details give expert analysts confidence in the data. Users want a way to contact the FBI with questions or feedback.

Methodology is important to users when they make choices about how and when to use data.

"This is like a mini wikipedia page for the data."

Use titles that clearly communicate the difference between these two types of documentation.

Users found "Further reading" to be helpful in putting the data in context and understanding what is relevant or related to the data.

Crime Data Explorer

Explorer   **Downloads & Documentation**   About

← Back to downloads

DATASET

Violent Crime, 1960–2014

In the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program, violent crime is composed of four offenses: homicide and nonnegligent manslaughter, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Violent crimes involve force or a threat of force. This report includes violent crime rates and counts so you can see trends for the nation and individual states over time. The data presented in here reflects the Hierarchy Rule, which requires that only the most serious offense in a multiple-offense criminal incident be counted.

Downloads

Select a file to download from the options below.

Timeframe	File type		
2001–2015	CSV	Download	Results: 20,005 Rows / File size: 3MB
	CSV ✓		
	JSON		

DATA DETAILS	DESCRIPTION
Data type	Crime trends (SRS)
Years	1960-2014
Tags	Tags
Publisher	Criminal Justice Information Services Division, FBI
Last modified	March 2015
Release data	Release data
License	Open data

About the data

The FBI collects crime data through the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program.

Change in rape definition

Sed ut perspiciatis unde omnis iste natus error sit voluptatem accusantium doloremque laudantium, totam rem aperiam, eaque ipsa quae ab illo inventore veritatis et quasi architecto beatae vitae dicta sunt explicabo.

How these crimes are counted

Sed ut perspiciatis unde omnis iste natus error sit voluptatem accusantium doloremque laudantium, totam rem aperiam, eaque ipsa quae ab illo inventore veritatis et quasi architecto beatae vitae dicta sunt explicabo.

Estimations

Sed ut perspiciatis unde omnis iste natus error sit voluptatem accusantium doloremque laudantium, totam rem aperiam, eaque ipsa quae ab illo inventore veritatis et quasi architecto beatae vitae dicta sunt explicabo.

Further reading

| Rape Definition Fact Sheet
| FAQ About the Change in the UCR Definition of Rape
| NIBRS Rape vs.
| Summary Rape
| Bureau of Justice Statistics: Rape and Sexual Assault

- **Build core components of "explorer view" - basic visualizations & navigation of data**

- **Validate & refine design approach**

- **Begin developing content to support the data & schedule a workshop with CJIS to develop a longterm approach for content management**

- **Make decisions about file size to support as data downloads**