



NATIONAL CRIMINAL HISTORY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (NCHIP – AL 16.554)

NATIONAL INSTANT CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK SYSTEM ACT RECORD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (NARIP – AL 16.813):

DEFINITIONS AND QUESTIONS

The National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP) and the NICS Act Record Improvement Program (NARIP) work together to strengthen the nation's criminal justice information systems. The goal of these programs is to improve data accessibility and support data transmissions to national systems that will permit the immediate identification of persons who are prohibited from purchasing firearms, are subject to domestic violence protective orders, or are ineligible to hold positions of responsibility involving children, the elderly, or the disabled. Additionally, these programs address the gaps in criminal history, mental health, and related information available to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) that prohibit a person from purchasing or possessing a firearm under state and federal law. Both programs focus on improving the quality, completeness, and accuracy of criminal history, mental health, and protective order records submitted to national databases including the NICS and FBI systems (NGI, NFF, NCIC).

Through automation and technology upgrades, these programs enhance timeliness and dissemination by streamlining the flow of critical data from state, local, and tribal agencies to federal systems, reducing lag time between arrests, dispositions, and record availability. They also build program infrastructure and connectivity by expanding technical capacity and establishing seamless, interoperable networks across jurisdictions. Ultimately, both programs achieve the same long-term outcomes and impact: maximizing the volume and reliability of records available for background checks, ensuring accurate identification and rejection of prohibited persons from purchasing firearms, and supporting more informed public safety decisions that protect communities from gun violence and other threats.

The data collected through these performance measures are used to identify technical bottlenecks, advocate for continued program funding, and provide targeted technical assistance to grantees. Accurate reporting ensures the continued growth and success of national record improvement efforts.

PERFORMANCE AREA	DEFINITION/DIRECTION	PERFORMANCE MEASURE
DATA QUALITY AND COMPLETENESS		
Automated Criminal Records	The percentage of state or tribal records that are converted from manual to automated records.	Percentage of criminal history records that are automated.
NICS Record Availability	The percentage of complete state or tribal records (criminal history, domestic violence, mental health) available to the FBI's NICS.	Percentage of records made available to the NICS.
Juvenile Justice Reporting	Tracks the growth in juvenile justice records submitted to NICS that identify persons prohibited from firearms possession. This measure captures both the volume and percentage change in reporting to demonstrate program impact on filling critical data gaps.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total number of persons prohibited due to juvenile justice records reported to NICS during this reporting period. • Percentage increase in persons prohibited due to juvenile justice records reported to NICS compared to the baseline period (or prior reporting period for ongoing awards).
Prohibited Persons Reporting – DV	Tracks the growth in domestic violence and mental health records submitted to NICS that identify persons prohibited from firearms possession. This measure captures both the volume and rate of improvement in critical prohibitor categories.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total number of persons prohibited due to domestic violence records reported to NICS during this reporting period. • Percentage increase in persons prohibited due to domestic violence records reported to NICS compared to the baseline period (or prior reporting period).

PERFORMANCE AREA	DEFINITION/DIRECTION	PERFORMANCE MEASURE
Prohibited Persons Reporting – MH	Tracks the growth in domestic violence and mental health records submitted to NICS that identify persons prohibited from firearms possession. This measure captures both the volume and rate of improvement in critical prohibitor categories.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total number of persons prohibited due to mental health records reported to NICS during this reporting period. • Percentage increase in persons prohibited due to mental health records reported to NICS compared to the baseline period (or prior reporting period).
Prohibitive Record Growth	The total volume of records submitted regarding domestic violence, mental health, and juvenile justice.	Total number of new records submitted by category (Domestic Violence, Mental Health, and Juvenile Justice).
Record Accuracy	The percentage of records found to be error-free during quality assurance audits.	Percentage of records passing quality assurance audits.
INFRASTRUCTURE AND CONNECTIVITY		
Manual Record Conversion	The percentage of records converted from manual to automated to support more efficient background checks.	Percentage of records converted from manual to automated records.
FBI System Participation	The number of states and tribes participating in the FBI fingerprint capture, also known as the Next Generation Identification (NGI) and the National Fingerprint File (NFF).	Number of states and tribes participating in the FBI's NGI fingerprinting capture and NFF.
National System Access	The percentage of records accessible through the Interstate Identification Index (III) and National Crime Information Center (NCIC).	Percentage of records accessible through the III and NCIC.
NICS Indices Submissions	The number of records submitted by states and tribes specifically to the FBI's NICS Indices.	Number of records submitted by states and tribes to the NICS Indices.

PERFORMANCE AREA	DEFINITION/DIRECTION	PERFORMANCE MEASURE
System Participation	The number of localities and tribes participating in the FBI’s NGI, NFF, or III systems.	Number of participating localities and tribes.
Query Success	The percentage of background check queries that yield successful matches.	Percentage of successful system queries.
Infrastructure Upgrades	The number of new or establishment of upgraded identification technologies.	Number of technologies established or upgraded.
TIMELINESS AND DISSEMINATION		
Arrest/Disposition Reporting	The number of arrests and court dispositions reported to state repositories through various methods.	Number of arrests and court disposition records reported to state repositories.
Timely NICS Submissions	The percentage of records submitted to NICS within the required time frame after a prohibitive event occurs.	Percentage of records submitted to NICS within the required time frame after a prohibitive event.
Total NICS Records	The total number of records currently available in the NICS system.	Number of records currently available in the NICS.
Record Processing Time	The average amount of time it takes local, state, and federal agencies to process records from submission to availability in NICS.	Average record processing time (in days/hours) by agency level.
Disposition Matching	The percentage of arrest records that are matched to a final court disposition.	Percentage of arrests with matching court disposition records.
Submission Speed	The percentage of records submitted to NICS within the required time frame after a prohibitive event.	Percent of records submitted within the required time frame.
Processing Efficiency	The average number of days required to process and upload a record to the repository.	Average number of days to process records.

PERFORMANCE AREA	DEFINITION/DIRECTION	PERFORMANCE MEASURE
OUTCOMES AND IMPACT		
Firearm Rejection Rate	The number and percentage of firearm applications or transfers rejected based on NICS background check data.	Number and percentage of applications for firearm possession or transfers rejected from NICS background checks.
Record System Growth	Measures the growth in total records available in state repositories and national systems (NICS, III, NCIC) as a result of program activities. This outcome measure demonstrates the cumulative impact of automation, data conversion, and improved reporting processes.	<p><u>State Repository Growth:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total number of new or updated records added to the state repository during this reporting period. • Percentage increase in total state repository records compared to the baseline period (or prior reporting period). <p><u>National Systems Growth:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total number of new or updated records submitted to national systems (NICS, III, NCIC) during this reporting period. • Percentage increase in records submitted to national systems compared to the baseline period (or prior reporting period).

PERFORMANCE AREA	DEFINITION/DIRECTION	PERFORMANCE MEASURE
<p>Background Check Completion Efficiency</p>	<p>Measures the effectiveness of the background check system by tracking the percentage of NICS transactions that can be completed immediately versus those requiring extended research due to incomplete or missing data. A higher completion rate indicates improved data quality and timeliness.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of NICS background checks completed within the mandatory 3-business-day time frame. • Percentage of NICS background checks resolved as “Proceed” or “Denied” without requiring manual follow-up research.
<p>Systemic Accuracy</p>	<p>Determines whether improved quality and timeliness lead to fewer “delayed” or “undetermined” checks.</p> <p>“Undetermined” refers specifically to checks that could not be completed within the standard NICS time frame due to missing data.</p>	<p>Percent of reduction in “undetermined” background check results.</p>