

April 2009

# NIBRS Coding Scenarios

## Stolen Prescription Drugs

Issue: Proper coding of Stolen Prescription Drugs.

Scenario: An agency had a citizen report that someone had stolen their prescription drugs from their residence.

This could be coded two different ways depending on whether or not there was unlawful entry. If the victim lives in a house, apartment building, mobile home, etc. and someone unlawfully entered their home, it would be coded as "220 Burglary/Breaking & Entering". If the victim lives in a nursing home where an employee or visitor stole their prescription drugs, the offense would be coded to "23D Larceny - Theft From Building" as the offender had lawful access.

In both scenarios, you would also have the offense code of "35A Drug/Narcotic Violations". Keep in mind that when reporting the theft of the drugs that a dollar amount for that theft i.e. the prescription drugs (what it cost that person to get that prescription) are required. You do not report a value for the Drug/Narcotic Violations.

Note: When coding to Burglary/Breaking and Entering, using a key is considered forced entry. "A forced entry is where force of any degree or a mechanical contrivance of any kind (including a passkey or skeleton key) was used to unlawfully enter a building or other structure. An unforced entry is one where the unlawful entry was achieved without force through an unlocked door or window."

Reference: NIBRS Volume I: Data Collection Guidelines (blue cover), Burglary/Breaking and Entering, page 24; Drug/Narcotic Violations, pages 25-26; Larceny-Theft From Building, page 30; and Forced Entry, page 78.

**2009 NIBRS Classes Scheduled**  
**NIBRS I and NIBRS II – September 15 & 16, 2009**  
**NIBRS Coding Scenarios (1/2 Day) – September 17, 2009**



Please direct NIBRS questions to:  
**Brenda Manning**  
Criminal Statistical Analysis Center  
**605-773-6312**

