

The primary function of the Deaths in Custody Reporting Program (DCRP) is to collect data on inmate deaths occurring in the custody of local jails and state prisons. The DCRP is also responsible for collecting annual data on inmate custodial deaths for both types of agencies, plus population statistics of all adult population jails in the United States. The DCRP began in 2000 and required mandatory reporting until its authoring legislation expired in 2006; participation became voluntary beginning in 2007 through 2014. Historically, DCRP has allowed respondents to submit data across multiple modes: Web, paper, FAX, bulk data files, or by telephone. Historically, DCRP has enjoyed a high rate of item response, achieved across a fairly rigorous set of data entry edit checks (applied to on-screen entries and presented to the respondent before submission) and machine edit checks (applied to the agency's submission of all needed forms). Submissions failing one or more machine edit checks receive data quality follow-up (DQFU) contacts at the end of data collection (for reasons of efficiency). This effort involves telephone contacts and many labor hours. For the 2015 DCRP, a test of a modified DQFU process has been designed and implemented, whereby agencies are notified almost immediately of variables or sets of answers that may be deserving of respondent review and correction. We hypothesize that this may lead to an increased rate of self-correction by the agencies, throughout the data collection period, resulting in a lower level of effort during DQFU contacting. Our presentation will review the design parameters of the experiment, the impact on the user experience, and preliminary findings on the impact of this modified approach – e.g., cost, percentage of items resolved post-submission, time/speed of resolutions, and method of resolution (i.e., self-resolutions versus assisted ones).