



Law Enforcement Information Exchange



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

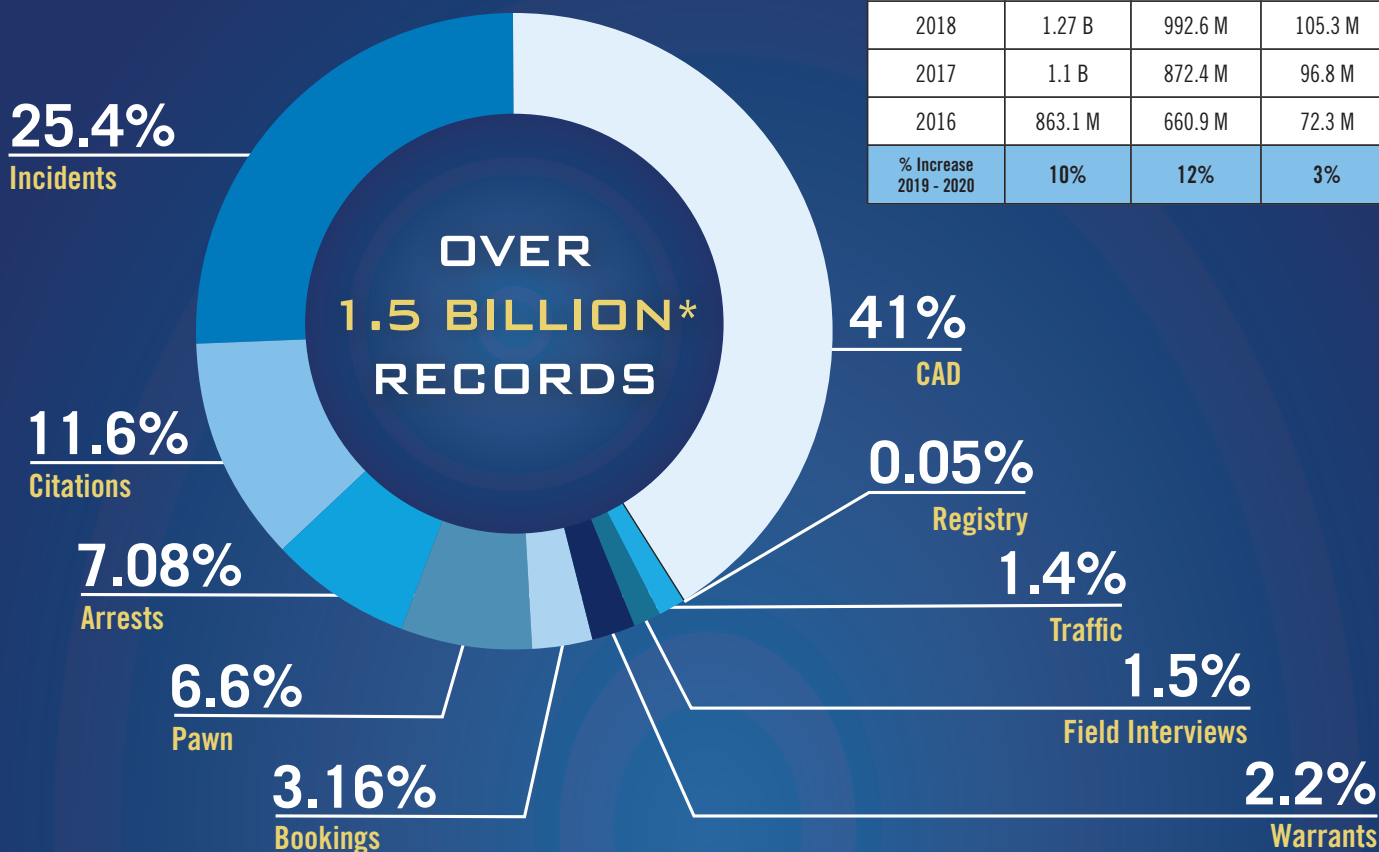


Welcome to the 2020 LInX Annual Report. This has been one of the most challenging years in our country's history. The impact to the law enforcement community, across all fronts, demonstrates the increased need for effective partnerships and robust information sharing. The LInX Program continues to provide a mission critical capability by enhancing interagency cooperation and overall operational effectiveness at all levels of participating agencies. The result is efficient investigative effort, more crimes solved, safer communities, and improved officer safety. The LInX Program moderately expanded in 2020 to 2,668 agencies and a new software release brings better functionality for those working to solve crime and the administrators managing the use of the system. The Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) remains committed to maintaining the overall LInX program and building on the existing relationships of LInX/D-DEX partner agencies and other regional/national information sharing programs.



DATA BY EVENT TYPE IN D-DEX/LINX

Year	Records	Narratives	Mugshots
2020	1.53 B*	1.21 B	115.1 M
2019	1.39 B	1.08 B	111.7 M
2018	1.27 B	992.6 M	105.3 M
2017	1.1 B	872.4 M	96.8 M
2016	863.1 M	660.9 M	72.3 M
% Increase 2019 - 2020	10%	12%	3%



LINX USAGE

Under the LInX information sharing model, each region establishes a LInX Governance Board and member agencies contribute information from their individual law enforcement records management systems. Using a standard web browser, the LInX system provides secure access to data provided by the participating county, municipal, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. The combined law enforcement data is integrated into LInX on a daily basis and provides information about incidents across all of the jurisdictions. Currently, under the 14 LInX Regions and D-DEX, there are over 1.5 BILLION records being shared. The ring chart outlines what types of law enforcement data is shared among the LInX member agencies.

There are over 44,500 active users from the LInX/D-DEX Regions. In the last year, these users ran about 125 million queries. We have seen continued increases in the use of LInX across all of the regions and many success stories have been submitted showing the innovative ways LInX is being used to protect lives, solve crimes, and save time and resources. Several of these success stories are highlighted in this report as these successes are a significant part of our funding determinations. The updated total D-DEX/LInX Partners Chart by year shows the progression of the number of agencies contributing data to LInX and D-DEX while showing significant incidents and notable events that occurred during this time period.

LINX SUCCESS

Officer Safety: LInX Helps Identify a Drug Target and Prevents an Undercover Officer from Being Discovered

A Sheriff's Office in North Carolina reported that during a drug investigation an undercover officer was provided a phone number to contact an unknown subject to arrange the delivery of drugs. A search in LInX revealed the phone number was used by a local subject during the booking process when they were recently arrested in a neighboring county. Once the subject was identified, the undercover officer was shown a picture and realized he had previous contact with the same subject in another operation. This information prevented the undercover officer from meeting the target and having the target identify him as law enforcement. They were able to send a different undercover officer to the meeting and continue the operation.

PIVOTING TO VIRTUAL TRAINING

The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic required a need to pivot to even more virtual LInX training. LInX online courses have been offered for many years for administration and refresher training. However, the two to four hour LInX end user course has been mostly held as hands-on in-person training. LInX staff around the country quickly worked together to expand appropriate online end user training in a secure virtual environment for their respective regions. Many of these regional training sessions include polls and tests throughout the course to ensure the attendees understand the content and have the opportunity to ask questions.

In 2020, the emphasis for the D-DEx program has been on user base expansion and the standardization of training across the Department of Defense (DoD) law enforcement community. A comprehensive review of the D-DEx system use resulted in an emphasis on refresher training. To meet the increased demand for training, the LInX Regions and D-DEx staff are also working together to expand availability and provide virtual training to users across the regions. It is a truly collaborative arrangement.



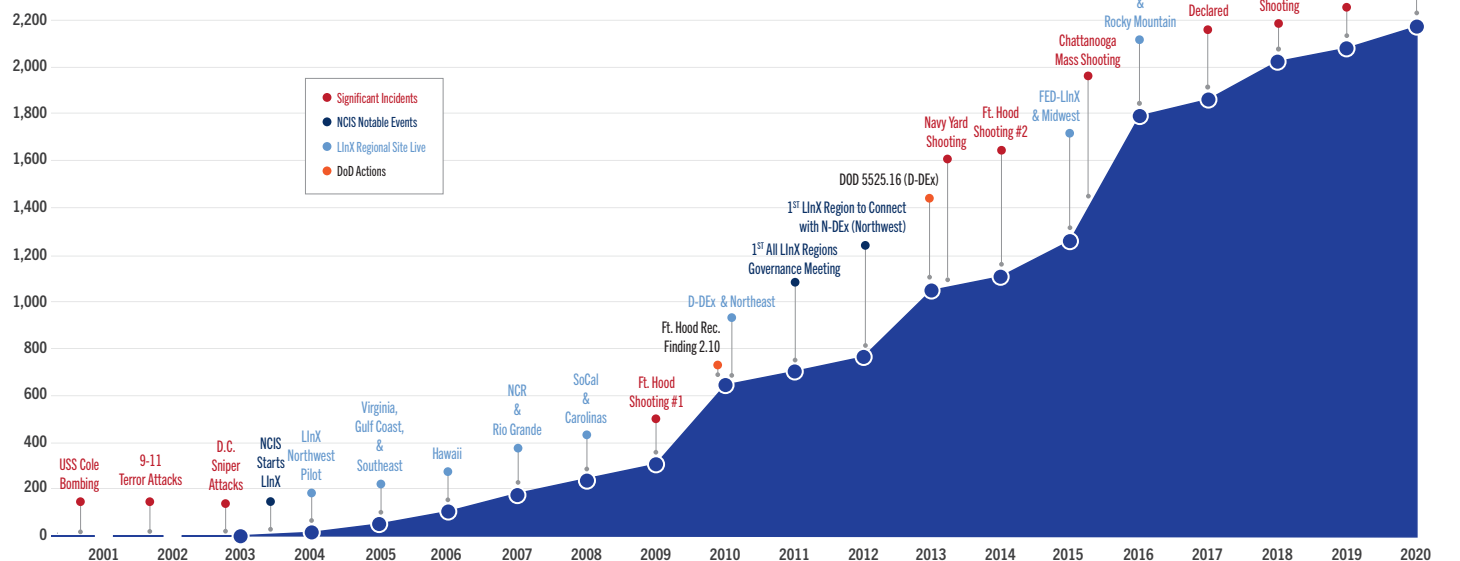
LInX CHANGES / EXPANSION

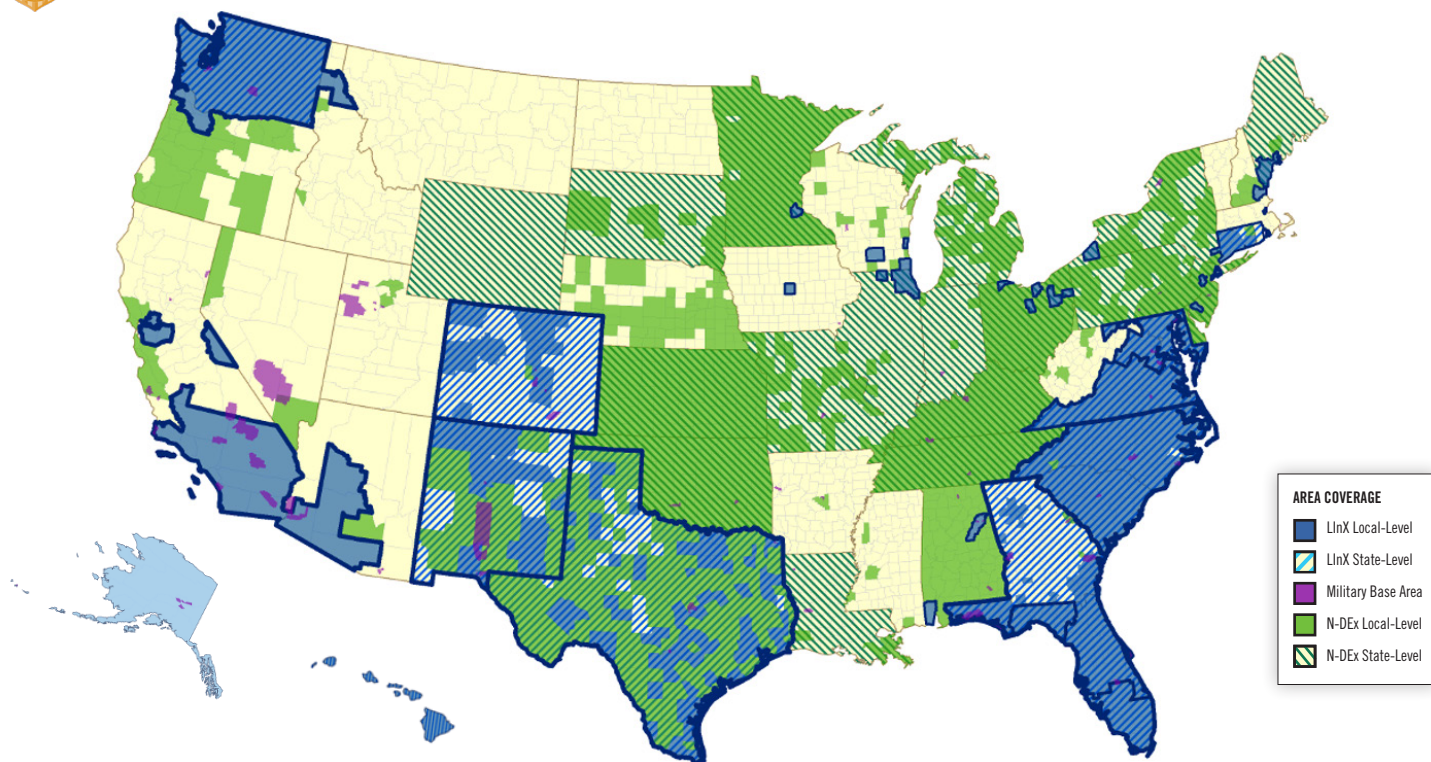
The LInX 6.2 software enhancements deployed in early fall 2020, have been in the works for a period of time. The upgrades are based on suggestions from the LInX/D-DEx user communities along with some analysis from the LInX program office observations of system use. These upgrades not only improve on the LInX user experience, but provide system administrators more tools to support the management of the system and their respective user community. The release includes geospatial-mapping enhancements that provide various overlays to better visualize LInX regions, event locations, and person addresses. Improvements in identity searches and free text search results will make it more intuitive for users to find and manage the ever-increasing amount of data. The LInX/D-DEx administrative enhancements include refined user access to allow for more complex user profiles required in D-DEx. System audit enhancements and other user reporting give administrators more flexibility in account oversight and management to reduce time and ensure compliance. A detailed description of release 6.2 is available for review and incorporated in upcoming training modules. LInX system improvements do not stop at version 6.2. We continue to listen and appreciate users' feedback.

The value and impact of information sharing systems, like LInX and D-DEx, are the agency participation and amount of data shared. LInX has grown well beyond the original footprint, while remaining focused on Department of Navy (DON) and DoD locations. The ability to add additional agencies to the LInX program is primarily determined by the availability of NCIS and DON funding. In many LInX regions, local and state funding, along with federal grant dollars allow for specific growth. As of this writing, there are approximately 2,668 LInX MOU signed agencies with approximately 2,178 sharing data. The sharing gap can be attributed to a number of factors, with the most prevalent being funding. Most, if not all, are reliant on NCIS to cover the cost to connect and share data with LInX. The wait list, combined with the cost associated with reconnecting agencies who upgrade or change Records Management Systems (RMS), limits expansion opportunities. The LInX PMO continuously evaluates the list and prioritizes by DON/DoD interest, RMS vendor costs and economies of scale along with regional law enforcement concerns. The majority of the NCIS resources are presently dedicated to support services such as system maintenance, software licensing, training and program management. It is important for agencies to ensure their connection and data feed to LInX stays active and include this connection/interface in their RFP and contracting process when upgrading or changing systems. More detailed information is provided within the LInX system auditing tools. While the LInX Regions and D-DEx would like to include all agencies into its partnership, it is imperative that agencies work with the Program Management Office to determine funding availability, priority level, and timeframe for data sharing capability. The increase in data availability benefits the national data sharing capability and is critical in keeping service members and families safe and protecting against threats to the nation's military infrastructure.

TOTAL D-DEx, LInX PARTNERS & AGENCIES

DATA CONTRIBUTORS BY YEAR





AREA COVERAGE

-  LinX Local-Level
-  LinX State-Level
-  Military Base Area
-  N-DEX Local-Level
-  N-DEX State-Level

PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships are a critical component in the success of LInX. Since the early days of the program, our federal partners have been active participants in regional governance and willingness to share data. Federal agency membership in LInX was originally managed at the regional level. The transient nature of federal personnel and the increased demand for LInX access resulted in the development of the FED-LInX region in 2015. In 2020 the LInX Program Office, in concert with the FED-LInX governance board, dedicated significant effort to reorganize overall account management and training of FED-LInX users. This has not only improved the FED-LInX user experience, but also allowed for more efficient growth. FED-LInX is now the fifth largest region in trained users (3,947) and fourth in total number of queries (14,358,329). Most of the federal agency data is shared via the FBI's National Data Exchange system (N-DEX) with a small number sharing directly with LInX. Users can query the N-DEX records as a neighborhood within the LInX interface or through direct trusted access via the N-DEX portal.

The LInX and N-DEX program management teams continue to collaborate on technical and policy related matters. This decade long partnership remains focused on the enhancement of data sharing for both the N-DEX and LInX user communities. Open discussion on system capabilities, use of data and strategic goals resulted in near term plans to increase the amount of LInX data shared with N-DEX, along with technical options to improve data display and accuracy. N-DEX provides users access to data from approximately 6,900 non-LInX agencies.

D-DEX has seen a significant growth in data contribution as agencies modernized their report writing systems, making them better equipped to share. In addition, there was an increase in the number of queries of the system and more success stories shared by D-DEX users.

LINX SUCCESS

D-DEX Search Helps Find Contact Information For A Victim's Mother In A Sexual Abuse Of A Minor Case

The NCIS Marine Corps West Field Office (MCWFO) reported they received a query from an Agent on a lead in another field office. Attempts to locate a phone number for a minor victim's mother had been unsuccessful. After checking numerous other databases, the user ran the search through D-DEX. They found a record from a southern California Sheriff's Office from a few days prior that contained information on the victim, and numerous family members. The Agent was able to quickly connect with the victim's mother soon after obtaining the information from D-DEX.



Law Enforcement Information Exchange

Check out the NCIS LInX/D-DEX Website at: WWW.NCIS.NAVY.MIL/Mission/Partnership-Initiatives/LInX-D-DEX

Contact us at: NCISLINX-DDEX@NCIS.NAVY.MIL