



Background

Due to a rapidly changing data processing environment, the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program and its partners within the law enforcement community recognized the need for a more detail-oriented crime data collection. The NIBRS was implemented in 1989 to improve the quantity and quality of crime data collected by law enforcement by capturing more detailed information on each single crime occurrence. It was designed for law enforcement at its request. The NIBRS does not require law enforcement to collect additional data, but simply to delineate and use data already being collected. The NIBRS provides a more comprehensive view of crime in the United States, and offers greater flexibility in data compilation and analysis.

What is NIBRS?

The NIBRS captures specific details about crimes and criminals through incident-based reporting. These details include the date, time, location, and circumstance of the incident. Additionally, characteristics of the victim and offender such as the age, sex, race, and ethnicity are collected along with information about their relationship; any involvement of weapons or drugs; details of property loss; whether the crime was motivated by bias; and if a computer was utilized to perpetuate certain types of crimes. Additionally, the NIBRS provides more robust information on officer assaults. Other enhancements to the NIBRS include collection of cargo theft data, human trafficking offenses, animal cruelty, expansion of the property and location codes, and redefining the race and ethnicity codes. When used to its full potential, the NIBRS identifies when and where crime occurs, what form it takes, and the characteristics of its victims and offenders.

The Value

The NIBRS enriches the quantity, quality, and timeliness of crime data collection by law enforcement, and improves the methodology used in compiling, analyzing, auditing, and publishing these crime statistics.

The vision for the NIBRS is to become the law enforcement community's standard for quantifying crime, further supporting the mission of the FBI UCR Program, which is "provides national crime data management standards and services to inform, educate, and strengthen communities through Uniform Crime Reporting."