



About the NIBRS

NIBRS is an incident-based reporting system managed by the FBI UCR Program which collects data on each single crime occurrence. The FBI designed NIBRS to generate data as a byproduct of local, state, and federal automated records systems. In 2013, the NIBRS collected data on each single incident and arrest within 23 crime categories made up of 49 specific crimes called Group A offenses. For each of the offenses coming to the attention of law enforcement, various facts about the crime are collected. In addition to the Group A offenses, there are 10 Group B offense categories for which only arrest data are reported.

The most significant difference between NIBRS and the traditional Summary Reporting System (SRS) is the degree of detail in reporting. In the traditional SRS reporting, law enforcement agencies tally the occurrences of eight Part I crimes. NIBRS is capable of producing more detailed, accurate, and meaningful data because it collects data about when and where crime takes place, what form it takes, and the characteristics of its victims and perpetrators. In order to obtain important data, specific categories or segments organize facts recorded and preserved about the incident. The vehicle used in recording these facts is a "data element." Data elements, given proper data values (much like answers to questions), provide information about a criminal incident and its associated victims, offenders, property, arrestees, etc.

The goals of the NIBRS are to enhance the quantity, quality, and timeliness of crime data collected by law enforcement and to improve the methodology used for compiling, analyzing, auditing, and publishing the collected crime data. The NIBRS offers law enforcement more comprehensive data than ever before available for management, training, planning, etc. A major advantage of NIBRS, beyond the increase in data collected, is the capability to break down and combine crime offense data into specific information. For example, an examination of the data determines whether a high robbery clearance rate is associated with more serious types of robberies, or if there are different age peaks in arrest rates for different racial groups, or if the average monetary loss associated with juvenile larceny arrestees differs from that associated with adult larceny arrestees.

NIBRS Participation

In 2013, LEAs participate in the NIBRS by submitting data to the FBI UCR Program either directly or through a state UCR Program. These agencies include one individual agency each in Alabama, Illinois, and Washington, D.C.; four individual agencies in Mississippi; as well as the state UCR Programs of the following 33 states: Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri,



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Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

But, participation in the NIBRS is not limited to state governments or direct-reporting agencies. It is possible for territorial, tribal, and federal agencies to also report in the NIBRS. UCR Programs gather crime information from the LEAs under their administration and forward the data to the FBI. These contributing agencies streamline the collection of NIBRS data from local LEAs, ensure consistency and comparability of data, and are able to provide a higher quality of service to the nation's law enforcement community. The UCR Programs function as liaisons between local agencies and the FBI. These UCR Programs, in most cases, also provide direct and frequent service to their participating LEAs, make information readily available, and help to streamline the FBI UCR Program NIBRS operations.

For historical information about NIBRS, see *About the UCR Program* in this publication.