



## Frequently Asked Questions About NIBRS Individual Agency Data

### **How come my town is not listed?**

About one third of all of the law enforcement agencies that participate in the Uniform Crime Reporting Program submit their data via the NIBRS. Questions concerning whether a particular agency reports their data through the NIBRS or the traditional Summary Reporting System may be referred to respective state UCR Programs. Contact information for state UCR Programs is available on the FBI's website at <<http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/state-ucr-program-contacts-1>>.

### **Our law enforcement agency reports crime via the NIBRS, but our data is not listed. Where is it?**

The agency-level data published in *NIBRS 2013* includes those agencies that submitted 12 complete months of NIBRS data and were published in *Crime in the United States, 2013*. The data of agencies that submitted 1-11 months of data or were not published in *Crime in the United States, 2013*, due to uncorrected underreported or overreported data submissions are included in the general tabulations but are not presented in the agency-level tables.

### **Does NIBRS make crime counts higher?**

The NIBRS is a more comprehensive accounting of crime occurring in a law enforcement agency's jurisdiction, whereas the traditional Summary Reporting System is an aggregate monthly tally of crime occurrences. When the FBI UCR Program studied several years of NIBRS data to examine the effect of agencies switching to NIBRS, most data stayed the same (particularly for single-offense incidents), and slight increases occurred for agencies that had several multiple-offense incidents. In such cases, all of the offenses in the incident were reported instead of only the most serious as was done in the Summary Reporting System. (The full study, *Effects of NIBRS on Crime Statistics*, in this publication provides more information.) Therefore, when law enforcement agencies switch from the Summary Reporting System to the NIBRS, it may appear crime counts have increased. The perception of increase is due to the greater level of reporting specificity in NIBRS data when compared to summary data.