Recent Changes to the NIBRS

This section provides the updated collection criteria that participating agencies used to submit NIBRS data to the FBI UCR Program in 2013. It includes information about the new and revised collection standards based on Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Advisory Policy Board (APB) and the U.S. Government’s Office of Management and Budget (OMB) policy mandates related to New Rape, Human Trafficking, Hate Crime Statistics, and Race and Ethnicity in addition to changes needed for the program’s New UCR system (i.e., the FBI UCR Program is modernizing its legacy mainframe-based UCR system to improve its ability to collect, analyze, and report on national crime statistics).

Revision of Sex Offenses

At the recommendation of the CJIS APB and with the approval of the FBI Director, the FBI UCR Program initiated the collection of rape data under a revised definition and removed the term “forcible” from the offense name in 2013. The changes bring uniformity to the offense in both the Summary Reporting System (SRS) and the NIBRS by capturing data (1) without regard to gender, (2) including penetration of any bodily orifice by any object or body part, and (3) including offenses where physical force is not involved. As a result of this decision, the program renamed the NIBRS sex offenses—Forcible Rape to Rape, Forcible Sodomy to Sodomy, and Forcible Fondling to Fondling. For more information about this change, refer to the resource document NIBRS Rape vs. SRS Rape in this publication.

Addition of Human Trafficking Offenses


Addition of Gender and Gender Identity Bias Categories

In response to the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009 (Shepard/Byrd Act), the FBI began accepting data on crimes motivated by gender (male and female) bias and gender identity (transgender and gender nonconforming) bias from contributors.
Revision of Sexual-Orientation Bias Types

Following the passage of the Shepard/Byrd Act, the FBI updated select sexual-orientation bias types at the recommendation of the CJIS APB and with input from the Hate Crime Coalition, a group of non-governmental organizations focused on improving the FBI’s data collection efforts with regard to Hate Crime. The sexual-orientation bias types were revised from Anti-Male Homosexual, Anti-Female Homosexual, Anti-Homosexual, Anti-Heterosexual, and Anti-Bisexual to Anti-Gay (Male); Anti-Lesbian; Anti-Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (Mixed Group); Anti-Heterosexual; and Anti-Bisexual.

Additional Bias Types per Offense

At the recommendation of the CJIS APB and with the approval of the FBI Director, the FBI UCR Program began permitting law enforcement agencies to report four additional bias types per offense instead of one.

Revision of Race and Ethnicity Categories

To comply with a directive from the OMB, the FBI UCR Program expanded its race categories and changed its ethnicity categories. The race categories were expanded from four (White, Black, American Indian or Alaskan Native, and Asian or Other Pacific Islander) to five (American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and White). The ethnicity categories changed from “Hispanic” and “Other Ethnicity/National Origin” to “Hispanic or Latino” and “Not Hispanic or Latino.”

Addition of Community Center

Following the passage of the Shepard/Byrd Act, the FBI added the location of Community Center at the recommendation of the CJIS APB and with input from the Hate Crime Coalition.

Relaxation of the NIBRS Time-Window Rule

In its work toward implementing the New UCR system, the FBI UCR Program relaxed the NIBRS standard of limiting data submissions to the current two-year time window. Since agencies can choose to continue to submit data using this standard, the program will accept the submissions; however, the program will no longer require time-window submissions once the program begins using the New UCR system.