Known Offenders

Through the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), law enforcement agencies report a separate set of offender data for each of the offenders (up to 99) involved in an incident whether or not an arrest has been made. In the UCR Program, the term "known offender" does not imply that the suspect's identity is known; rather, the term indicates that some aspect of the suspect was identified, e.g., age, sex, race, or ethnicity, thus distinguishing the individual from an unknown offender. Regardless of whether law enforcement reports specific offender data or declares that nothing is known about the "unknown offender," there must be at least one set of offender data connected to each specific offense in a crime incident.

The NIBRS offender segment, i.e., one of six components of an incident report, may contain information such as the offender's age, sex, race, and ethnicity. Beginning in 2013, the national UCR Program began collecting revised race and ethnicity data in accordance with a directive from the U.S. Government's Office of Management and Budget. The five race categories are White, Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. The ethnicity categories are "Hispanic or Latino" and "Not Hispanic or Latino."