



The Expansion of NIBRS

It has been suggested that information is the true currency of our modern age. Knowing—and using that knowledge for decision making, planning, and simple situational awareness—is vital to crime-related problem solving in our society. FBI Director James B. Comey recently commented to the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) at their conference in Chicago, “We face a data shortage on the violent crime front. We can’t tell you on a national level how many shootings there were in any particular city last weekend ...How can we address a rise in violent crime without good information? And without information every single conversation in this country about policing and reform and justice is uninformed and that is a very bad place to be.” Director Comey continued, “So I hope you will join me in getting us all to move to NIBRS [National Incident-Based Reporting System]. NIBRS is a way in which we can all collect data in a way that we can identify patterns, trends, and help us prevent crime and have thoughtful informed conversations at the national level.” (Watch the Director’s comments.)

Making the across-the-board implementation of NIBRS by law enforcement a priority reflects the FBI’s commitment to collecting deeper, more useful statistics that will provoke constructive discussion, measured planning, and informed policing. NIBRS, with its data-rich incident-based collection, can provide those statistics.

The UCR Program’s transition to NIBRS from the older Summary Reporting System requires the commitment of law enforcement agencies across the country. Influential organizations like the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the National Sheriffs’ Association, the Major Cities Chiefs Association, the Major County Sheriffs’ Association and the Advisory Policy Board (a collaborative board made up of law enforcement officials that makes recommendations to the FBI regarding their information services) have pledged their support for this important enhancement in crime data reporting.

Besides the increased efforts for complete NIBRS participation, other changes are on the horizon. In preparation for more, broader data collection, this publication has been enhanced to provide a better user experience. We have added an interactive NIBRS map that will help users find the data they are looking for, or just browse what is available in a new and more efficient way. We have simplified and improved explanations of how the data are collected and presented. We have provided a monograph, *Sex Offenses Reported via NIBRS in 2013*, which demonstrates the benefits of NIBRS data in allowing a more granular examination of a topic.

We will continue to refine this publication, present NIBRS data in new and useful ways, and, most importantly, listen to the feedback of our customers to set the course for future NIBRS data presentations.