Arrestees

Through the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program’s National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), law enforcement agencies (LEAs) report arrestee data for all persons apprehended for the commission of Group A and Group B offenses, except for justifiable homicide, which is not a crime. (The resource page for Crimes Against Persons, Property, and Society in this publication includes a listing of Group A and Group B offenses.) Arrestee data may be submitted via NIBRS in two ways: 1) as one of six segment types in a Group A Incident Report; and 2) as a separate Group B Arrest Report.

When arrestee data are submitted as part of the Group A Incident Report, they can include a Group A or Group B offense because the arrestee data are associated with the initial Group A offense(s) in the incident report. In addition, LEAs provide these data for each of the arrestees (up to 99) involved in each incident. However, when arrestee data are submitted through the Group B Arrest Report, they can include only Group B offenses. In both cases, the object of reporting arrestee data is to provide details about the person(s) arrested, not the charges lodged.

For example, a LEA may arrest a person for several charges in connection with the same incident; in this situation, the agency should report arrestee data only once for each arrestee connected to the incident. Likewise, if an agency arrests a person in connection with more than one incident for similar or different violations within a jurisdiction, the agency will report arrestee data for this person for each separate arrest.

LEAs report arrestee data for all persons processed by arrest, citation, or summons for committing an offense within the reporting jurisdiction including the following:

- Adults arrested and released without a formal charge, i.e., an arrest has occurred when a law enforcement officer detains an adult with the intention of seeking charges against the person for a specific offense(s) and a record is made of the detention.

- Juveniles taken into custody or arrested, but merely warned and released, without a charge by the LEA.

Whether submitted via the arrestee segment, one of six components of the Group A Incident Report, or through the Group B Arrest Report, arrestee data may contain information such as the arrestee’s age, sex, race, ethnicity, and resident status (of the reporting agency’s jurisdiction, not state or country). Beginning in 2013, the national UCR Program began collecting race and ethnicity data through revised categories 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.” In addition, the data may include the arrest type, a weapon type in the arrestee’s possession, and potentially the disposition of arrestees under 18 years of age.