



## Frequently Asked Questions about the NIBRS Data of Individual Agencies

### Why isn't our town listed?

About one-third of all of the law enforcement agencies that participate in the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program submit their data via the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). Questions concerning whether a particular agency reports their data through NIBRS or the traditional Summary Reporting System (SRS) should be referred to the agency's respective state UCR Program. Contact information for state UCR Programs is available on the FBI's Web site at <https://ucr.fbi.gov/state-ucr-program-contacts-1>.

### Our law enforcement agency reports crime data via NIBRS, but our data are not listed. Where are they?

The agency-level data published in *NIBRS, 2016*, includes only those agencies that submitted 12 complete months of NIBRS data and were published in *Crime in the United States, 2016*. Data from agencies that submitted less than 12 months of data are included in the general tabulations but are not presented in the agency-level tables. The same is true for agencies' data that were not published in *Crime in the United States, 2016* (due to under- or overreported data submissions).

### Does NIBRS increase crime counts?

NIBRS is a more comprehensive accounting of the crime occurring in a law enforcement agency's jurisdiction than the traditional SRS, which is an aggregate monthly tally of crime occurrences. When the FBI's UCR Program studied several years of NIBRS data to examine the effect of agencies switching to NIBRS, most crime counts were unchanged (particularly for single-offense incidents). 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 SRS. (The full study, *Effects of NIBRS on Crime Statistics*, in *NIBRS, 2014*, provides more information.) Therefore, when law enforcement agencies switch from the SRS to NIBRS, it may appear crime counts have increased. The perception of an increase is due to the greater level of specificity in NIBRS data when compared with SRS data.