



## Recent Developments in the UCR Program

Through its Crime Data Modernization Initiative, the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) aims to increase the reliability, accuracy, accessibility, and timeliness of crime data, as well as to expand the wide range of data collected. These efforts and the work of the Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Advisory Policy Board (APB) and the Criminal Justice Information System's Committees of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) have resulted in a number of changes during the last several years. Some of those changes are reflected in the way data are collected and processed, and others are more evident in the way users access the data. Still, some changes have not been fully implemented yet, and others are under development.

### UCR Program Priorities

Updates of the UCR Program's top priorities follow.

#### ***NIBRS Transition Update: Looking Toward 2021***

Data collected via the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) are the UCR Program's data standard, and by January 1, 2021, the FBI will transition to a NIBRS-only data collection. To help this effort, the FBI has intensified its engagement with law enforcement agencies across the nation. Specifically, the FBI has presented the benefits of NIBRS and called for support at several national law enforcement organizations, held conference calls with state UCR Program managers and CJIS systems officers, provided technical assistance, and held special NIBRS Train-the-Trainer sessions for state UCR Programs with limited or no NIBRS capability. It also made advancements through collaboration with tribal law enforcement agencies and those of institutions of higher education.

- Through its partnership with the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) on the National Crime Statistics Exchange (NCS-X) Initiative, the FBI and BJS are working to increase the number of law enforcement agencies reporting data to NIBRS. The NCS-X Initiative seeks to expand NIBRS into a nationally representative system of incident-based crime statistics by enrolling a sample of 400 scientifically selected law enforcement agencies to submit data to NIBRS. Combining data from

these 400 new NIBRS-reporting agencies with data from existing NIBRS contributors will allow BJS and the FBI to produce statistically sound, detailed national estimates of crimes known to law enforcement. NCS-X efforts have helped state UCR programs establish and expand their capacity to accept incident-based data from local law enforcement agencies and helped local agencies transition from summary-based to incident-based reporting. To date, UCR Programs in all 50 states have established or are establishing incident-based reporting programs. In addition, nearly 75 percent of the 400 NCS-X sampled agencies have transitioned or are transitioning to NIBRS.

- The *Uniform Federal Crime Reporting Act (UFCRA) of 1988* requires all federal departments and agencies that “routinely investigate complaints of criminal activity . . . report details about crime within their respective jurisdiction to the Attorney General in a uniform manner.” In fulfilling its participation as a federal contributor, the FBI began publishing SRS data in the special report *Federal Crime Data* for 2014 and 2015. With its 2016 publication, the FBI presented its data as well as those of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; and the U.S. Marshals Service in the NIBRS model. In 2017, the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Justice also contributed crime data to be published in the special report. The FBI has continued to provide assessments of data reporting capabilities for federal agencies and is implementing technical changes that will allow them to collect and submit NIBRS data before the 2021 cutover date. As of July 2018, 26 federal agencies were working with the FBI toward NIBRS compliance.

The UCR Program also amplified the transition message through the redesign of its UCR and NIBRS Web pages. In addition to being more visual and streamlining navigation, the pages host resources to educate all data users about the NIBRS transition and include updated user manuals, technical specifications, Information Exchange Package Documentation (IEPD), and data tools to assist with data certification.

The FBI remains committed to assisting all states and agencies in transitioning from SRS to NIBRS as the standard for reporting data to the UCR Program. For more information about the NIBRS transition, visit [www.fbi.gov/nibrs](http://www.fbi.gov/nibrs).

### ***Presenting Data via the Crime Data Explorer (CDE)***

Launched in 2017, the Crime Data Explorer (CDE) transforms the way the FBI presents UCR data. As a digital front door for UCR data online, the CDE provides views of estimated national and state data,

reported agency-level crime statistics, and graphs of specific variables from NIBRS data. In addition, bulk datasets are available for NIBRS (by state), SRS (with estimates), and specific topics like assaults on law enforcement officers, hate crime, and human trafficking. Because crime data is dynamic, the CDE's content and features are updated and expanded continually. Data users can access the CDE at [www.fbi.gov/cde](http://www.fbi.gov/cde).

### ***Launch of National Use-of-Force Data Collection***

Following a six-month pilot, the National Use-of-Force Data Collection became fully operational in January 2018. Through this collection, participating law enforcement agencies submit data about law enforcement personnel, subjects, and circumstances surrounding instances in which the use of force by a law enforcement officer resulted in a fatality or serious bodily injury to a person, or a firearm was discharged at or in the direction of a person. As of August 13, 2018, there were 3,839 law enforcement agencies enrolled in the collection in anticipation of a national launch.

### ***UCR-Technical Refresh (TR)***

Through the UCR-TR, the FBI is modernizing its information technology structure to improve the accuracy and timeliness of crime data, as well as the delivery process. By replacing the antiquated mainframe architecture with a more robust system and changing the UCR Program's approach to managing data, UCR-TR is moving to fully automated processes to collect and ingest data, as well as to update existing data as necessary. As a milestone in that process, the UCR Program began ingesting all 2018 data into the new system making 2017 data the last to be published from the legacy system. With the new system, enhanced, easy-to-use data management tools offer greater efficiency in data collection, processing, data error feedback, and query capabilities. These integrated software tools, which are not restricted to specific platforms, offers the FBI greater flexibility for crime analysis and the customization of data reports in multiple file formats. When fully operational, the UCR-TR's interface will improve the FBI's services to UCR data contributors and provide greater transparency as it helps streamline the UCR Program's internal process.

## **Enhancements and Developments**

Descriptions of the major programs enhancements and developments from 2016 through 2018, as well as descriptions of coming changes, follow.

### ***Application of Cargo Theft Indicator to Identity Theft and Hacking/Computer Invasion***

Per the recommendation of the CJIS APB, the cargo theft indicator will also apply to the fraud offenses of identity theft and hacking/computer invasion effective January 1, 2019. These offenses expand the list of those for which cargo theft data are collected from 13 to 15.

### ***Addition of Domestic and Family Violence Data***

Although NIBRS has collected the relationship of victims to their offenders for crimes against persons and robbery since its beginning, upcoming changes will specify domestic violence and family violence. The CJIS APB approved the definition of domestic and family violence as:

“The use, attempted use, or threatened use of physical force of a weapon; or the use of coercion or intimidation; or committing a crime against property by a current or former spouse, parent, or guardian of the victim; a person with whom the victim shares a child in common; a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; a person who is cohabiting with or has cohabited with the victim as a spouse, parent, or guardian; or by a person who is or has been similarly situated to a spouse, parent, or guardian of the victim.”

Starting January 1, 2019, the national UCR Program will begin using the NIBRS data value of domestic violence in place of lovers’ quarrel; it will also begin collecting a new NIBRS value for ex-relationship. Agencies that submit crime data via the SRS will not be affected until they transition to NIBRS.

### ***Expansion of Negligent Manslaughter Offenses in NIBRS to Include Impaired, Distracted, and Reckless Drivers***

Beginning January 1, 2019, the national UCR Program will begin collecting information regarding impaired and/or distracted vehicle and vessel operators in NIBRS. As approved by the CJIS APB, the expanded definition of negligent manslaughter is:

The killing of another person through negligence. This offense includes killings from hunting accidents, gun cleaning, children playing with guns and arrests associated with driving under the influence, distracted driving (using cell/smartphone), and reckless driving traffic fatalities.

Note: It does not include deaths of persons due to their own negligence, accidental deaths not resulting from gross negligence, or accidental traffic fatalities.

In addition, data elements have been modified to include handheld devices, vessels, and the circumstance of other negligent weapon handling to capture relevant details of fatalities resulting from impaired and/or distracted vehicle and vessel operators. These will also become effective on January 1, 2019.

Agencies who submit data via SRS were not affected.

### ***Discontinuance of Rape Data Using the Legacy Definition***

In 2016, the FBI Director approved the recommendation of the CJIS APB to discontinue the reporting of rape data using the UCR Program's legacy definition beginning in 2017. This followed the modification of the SRS definition for the offense of rape that began with the 2013 data collection, which did not affect agencies that submit rape data via NIBRS.

### ***Expanded Criteria for LEOKA***

In 2016, the FBI expanded the criteria for participation in the national Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted (LEOKA) Program to include military police, civilian police, and law enforcement officers with the Department of Defense (DoD) who are killed or assaulted while performing law enforcement functions or duties. This does not include deaths of officers who were in military combat or deployed-for-mission status. This includes DoD police and law enforcement officers who perform policing and criminal investigative functions while stationed (not deployed) on overseas bases, just as if they were based in the United States. The collection of these data began in 2016, and the FBI began publishing them in *LEOKA, 2016*, which was released in 2017.

### ***Bias Types Added for Ancestry and Religion***

Beginning in 2016, the FBI began collecting data for one ancestral bias type (Anti-Arab) and seven additional religious bias types (Anti-Mormon, Anti-Jehovah's Witness, Anti-Eastern Orthodox [Russian, Greek, Other], Anti-Other Christian, Anti-Buddhist, Anti-Hindu, and Anti-Sikh). These additions were also made in NIBRS. The first data collected in accordance with the changes were published in *Hate Crime Statistics, 2016*, which was released in 2017.

### ***Addition of Animal Cruelty Offenses, Two New Fraud Offenses, and a New Location Type***

In 2016, NIBRS began collecting animal cruelty data as well as the two new fraud offenses of identity theft and hacking/computer invasion. In addition, cyberspace was also added as a location type. The

cyberspace location type was included in *Hate Crime Statistics, 2016*, and in *NIBRS, 2016*, which also included the animal cruelty and the two new fraud offenses. Both publications were released in 2017.

## **The Role of UCR**

With the help of its law enforcement partners and through the shared management concept, the FBI administers the UCR Program to assess and monitor the nature and type of crime in the nation. For more information about the history of UCR, see [About the UCR Program](#).