



Frequently Asked Questions about the NIBRS Data of Individual Agencies

Why isn't our town listed?

About 40 percent of all 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 website at <https://www.fbi.gov/file-repository/ucr/state-ucr-program-contacts.pdf/view>.

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, 2017*, includes only those agencies that submitted 12 complete months of NIBRS data and were published in *Crime in the United States, 2017*. 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 not published in *Crime in the United States, 2017* (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. In addition to eliminating the SRS Hierarchy Rule which collects only the most serious offense in an incident, NIBRS captures up to 10 offenses per incident and specifies more offense categories than SRS. A study of 2014 NIBRS data showed the loss of additional data for 10.6 percent of criminal incidents that involved multiple offenses when the data were converted from NIBRS to SRS. The conversion resulted in a 2.1 percent decrease in figures for crime captured in SRS. Because of its broader accounting of crime, NIBRS establishes a new baseline that more precisely captures the picture of reported crime in a community. The study "Effects of NIBRS on Crime Statistics" can be found at https://ucr.fbi.gov/nibrs/2014/resource-pages/effects_of_nibrs_on_crime_statistics_final.pdf.