



# A VIEW THROUGH NIBRS: DRUG DATA in 2017

## More with NIBRS

The National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) of the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program collects incident information about victims, offenders, arrestees and other characteristics for 24 offense categories with 52 offense types. Such details are collected for the drug/narcotic offenses, comprised of drug/narcotic violations and drug equipment violations. Because these offenses are considered crimes against society, meaning they represent society's general prohibitions against such activities, drug/narcotic offenses are reported with the victim type as society, not an individual. Details collected through NIBRS include:

- offender age, sex, race, and ethnicity
- date and time of day in which the incident occurred
- whether the offense was attempted or completed
- location of the offense
- type of associated criminal activity (e.g., sale or possession)
- whether the offense was cleared.

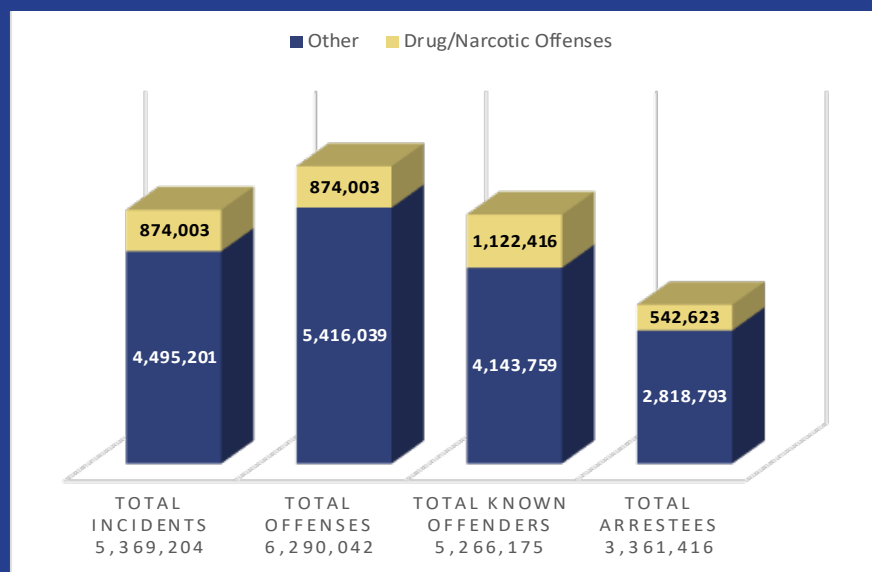
NIBRS also captures the types of drugs or narcotics seized in an incident, the amounts present, and whether an offender was suspected of using drugs or alcohol during the commission of an offense. By comparison, the traditional Summary Reporting System collects offense reports on 10 indicator crimes, which do not include drug/narcotic offenses. Both systems capture arrestee data on drug offenses.

As more law enforcement agencies change their crime data submission methods to NIBRS, the FBI's UCR Program will be able to provide a more detailed perspective of crime across the nation. Of the 16,655 agencies that participated in the UCR Program in 2017, 6,998 agencies submitted NIBRS data. These NIBRS contributors represented 42.0 percent of participating agencies and covered 33.0 percent of the population served by law enforcement agencies that submitted data to the UCR Program. Because the UCR Program does not yet account for incomplete NIBRS data or missing data from agencies that do not report via NIBRS, the data should not be interpreted as a definitive statement of the level of offenses for the nation as a whole. Rather, the data offer context for the crimes documented and those who committed them.

## Drug/Narcotic Offenses Reported via NIBRS<sup>1</sup>

A brief look at drug/narcotic offenses as a whole illustrates the expansive data NIBRS offers, particularly offender data and the ways NIBRS can link data elements to answer multifaceted questions about crimes. Nearly 5.4 million criminal incidents were reported via NIBRS in 2017, and 16.3 percent (874,003) of those incidents involved at least one drug/narcotic offense, totaling 13.9 percent of all NIBRS offenses. Of the 5,266,175 known offenders (meaning an aspect of an individual is known, not their identity), 21.3 percent were connected to drug/narcotic offenses. Of the 3,361,416 arrestees reported through NIBRS, 16.1 percent were arrested for drug/narcotic offenses.

**Figure 1: Incidents, Offenses, Known Offenders, and Arrestees  
Total and Drug/Narcotic Offenses Reported via NIBRS in 2017**



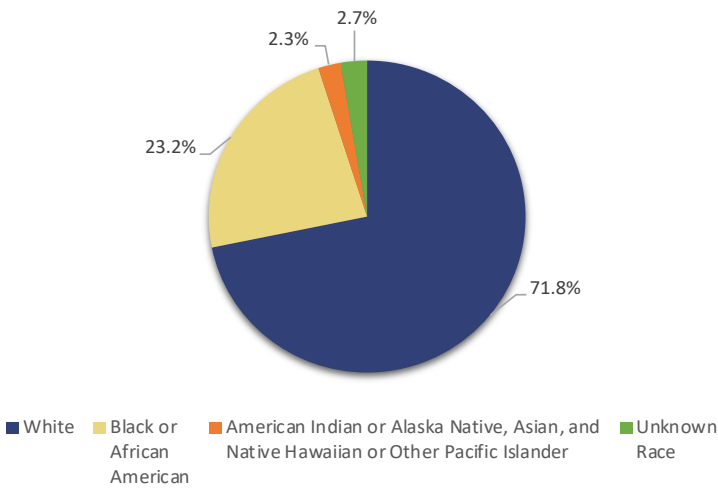
## Offenders and Arrestees of Drug/Narcotic Offenses

With the added benefit of NIBRS' offender data, law enforcement and the public know more about who is committing drug/narcotic offenses.

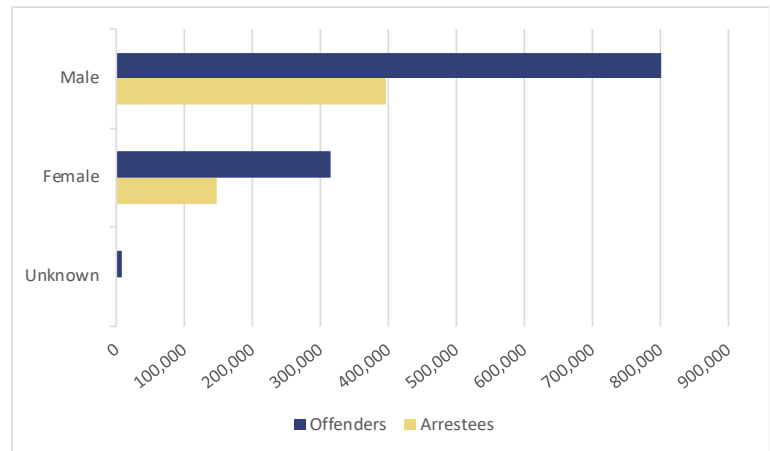
<sup>1</sup>See the data declaration page at the end of this report for an explanation of the data used for this presentation.

When considering the reported race of offenders, the majority (71.8 percent) of known offenders were White, 23.2 percent were Black or African American, and 2.3 percent were of other races. The race was unknown for 2.7 percent of reported known offenders. (This breakdown does not include offenders for which no attributes [i.e., age, sex, race, or ethnicity] were known.) The percentages were very similar for arrestee data, with White at 69.9 percent, Black or African American at 25.1 percent, other races at 2.2 percent, and unknown at 2.8 percent.

**Figure 2: Race of Known Offenders**  
Drug/Narcotic Offenses Reported via NIBRS in 2017



**Figure 3: Sex of Known Offenders and Arrestees**  
Drug/Narcotic Offenses Reported via NIBRS in 2017



**Figure 4: Age of Known Offenders and Arrestees**  
Drug/Narcotic Offenses Reported via NIBRS in 2017



By gender, male offenders of drug/narcotic offenses out-numbered female offenders by a ratio of nearly 2.5 to 1. Males accounted for 71.4 percent of drug/narcotic offenders, and females accounted for 28.1 percent. The sex of 0.6 percent of drug/narcotic offenders was unknown.

Individuals aged 16-25 years old accounted for 39.0 percent of offenders and 39.3 percent of arrestees of drug/narcotic offenses.

Those aged 26-35 accounted for 30.9 percent of offenders and 31.0 percent of arrestees.

**Sex and Race of Known Offenders and Arrestees**  
Drug/Narcotic Offenses Reported via NIBRS in 2017

	Sex			Race					
	Male	Female	Unknown	White	Black or African American	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	Unknown
<b>Offenders</b>	800,877	314,909	6,630	805,633	260,630	17,688	8,018	297	30,170
<b>Arrestees</b>	396,597	146,026	NA	379,237	136,202	7,903	3,834	149	15,298

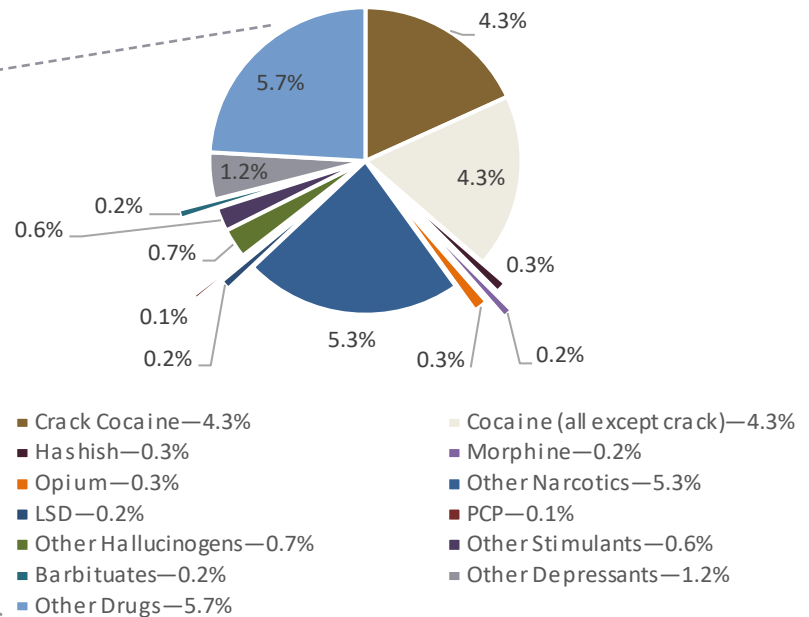
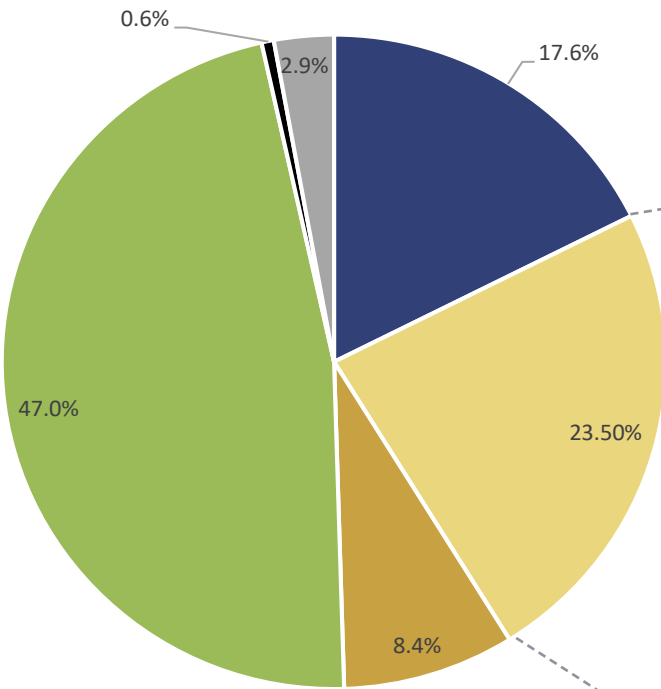
Beyond the actual drug/narcotic offenses and demographics of offenders and arrestees, NIBRS collects other data related to the use and involvement of drugs/narcotics in crime.

### Incidents Involving Drug/Narcotic Seizures

In NIBRS, law enforcement may specify up to three types of drugs when reporting an offense. Of the 663,743 seizures that occurred in 594,625 reported incidents, 47.0 percent were of marijuana, 17.6 percent were of amphetamines/ methamphetamines, and 8.4 percent were of heroin. The remaining percentages of seizures were of other drugs categories as shown here.

**Figure 5: Drugs/Narcotics Seized**  
**Drug/Narcotic Offenses Reported via NIBRS in 2017**

- Amphetamines/ Methamphetamines—17.6%
- Heroin—8.4%
- Over 3 Drug Types—0.6%
- Other Categories—23.5%
- Marijuana—47.0%
- Unknown Type Drug—2.9%



### MORE FACTS<sup>1</sup>:

- For those incidents involving a drug/narcotic offense, 99.7 percent were **completed** and 0.3 percent were **attempted**.
- Of the 704,043 drug/narcotic offenses cleared, 98.4 percent were **cleared by arrest** and 1.6 percent were **cleared by exceptional means**.
- When considering the **type of location** of drug/narcotic offenses, more than half (51.6 percent) occurred on a highway/road/alley/street/sidewalk, 17.5 percent happened at a residence/home, and 8.9 percent at a parking/drop lot/garage. Another 18.5 percent of drug/narcotic offenses occurred at other specified locations, and 3.6 percent were reported with the location type other (unspecified)/unknown.

<sup>1</sup> For an explanation of bolded terms, see the data declarations of this report and the source tables used for this section.

### Offenders' Suspected Use of Drugs/Narcotics or Alcohol in the Commission of Crime

When law enforcement collects offense data in NIBRS, they can indicate whether any of the offenders in the incident were suspected of consuming alcohol or using drugs/narcotics during or shortly before the incident, or using computer equipment to perpetrate the crime. For each offense, law enforcement can report up to three types of activity or indicate no activity was applicable for the offense.

For the purpose of this report, only the breakdowns for offenders' suspected use of drugs/narcotics or alcohol are shown in relation to the 6,290,042 offenses reported via NIBRS. Of these offenses, 9.2 percent were reported with the offenders' suspected use of drugs/narcotics, and 3.8 percent involved the offenders' suspected use of alcohol. When considering offense categories, drugs/narcotics were used shortly before or during the commission of 54.3 percent of drug/narcotic offenses, 12.4 percent of weapon law violations, and 11.6 percent of human trafficking offenses reported via NIBRS. Offenders' suspected use of alcohol was reported with 10.8 percent of assault offenses, 9.2 percent of kidnapping/abduction offenses, and 7.9 percent of sex offenses.

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## DATA DECLARATION

The FBI collected these data through the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS).

### General Comments

The tables and figures in this report include data only from those agencies that submitted their crime statistics via NIBRS in 2017. It does not include estimations for agencies that did not submit NIBRS or incomplete submissions.

For the purpose of this report, offense data is based on the drug/narcotic offense category as a whole rather than the individual offense types of drug/narcotic violations and drug equipment violations that comprise it. The definition of drug/narcotic offenses captured in NIBRS follows.

**Drug/Narcotic Offenses**—*The violation of laws prohibiting the production, distribution, and/or use of certain controlled substances and the equipment or devices utilized in their preparation and/or use.*

### Data Sources

All of the data in this report is available from the tables in *NIBRS, 2017*, as specified below unless otherwise noted.

#### Introduction and Drug/Narcotic Offenses Reported Via NIBRS (text)

Number of Agencies and Population Covered, Enrolled, Participation Status, and Method of Data Submission by Population Group, 2017

#### Figure 1: Incidents, Offenses, Known Offenders, and Arrestees; Drug/Narcotic Offenses Reported via NIBRS in 2017

- Incidents, Offenses, Victims, and Known Offenders by Offense Category, 2017
- Arrestees, Age Category by Arrest Offense Category, 2017

#### Figure 2: Race of Known Offenders, Drug/Narcotic Offenses Reported via NIBRS in 2017

- Offenders, Race by Offense Category, 2017

#### Figure 3: Sex of Known Offenders and Arrestees, Drug/Narcotic Offenses Reported via NIBRS in 2017

- Offenders, Sex by Offense Category, 2017
- Arrestees, Sex by Arrest Offense Type, 2017

#### Figure 4: Age of Known Offenders and Arrestees, Drug/Narcotic Offenses Reported via NIBRS in 2017

- Offenders, Age by Offense Category, 2017
- Arrestees, Age by Arrest Offense Type, 2017

#### Sex and Race of Known Offenders and Arrestees, Drug/Narcotic Offenses Reported via NIBRS in 2017 (table)

- Offenders, Sex by Offense Category, 2017
- Offenders, Race by Offense Category, 2017
- Arrestees, Sex by Arrest Offense Type, 2017
- Arrestees, Race by Arrest Offense Type, 2017

#### More Facts (text)

- Number of Offenses Completed and Attempted by Offense Category, 2017
- Incidents Cleared by Offense Category, 2017
- Crimes Against Society Offenses, Offense Category by Location, 2017

#### Figure 5: Drugs/Narcotics Seized, Drug/Narcotic Offenses Reported via NIBRS in 2017

- Incidents with Drugs/Narcotics Seized by Suspected Drug Type, 2017
- Additional information concerning this figure follows:
  - Law enforcement may report up to 3 suspected drug/narcotic types within 17 data values for each seizure in a drug/narcotic Violation. When more than three types of drugs are involved, the two most important drugs (determination based on the Quantity, value, and deadliness of the drugs/narcotics) should be reported, and the third drug type will contain an "X" to indicate more than three drug/narcotic types were reported.
  - The UCR Program counted the number of times each drug/narcotic type was seized where the offense was a drug/narcotic violation. These numbers include both attempted and completed incidents.

For more information about the data used in constructing the referenced source tables, see **Methodology** in *NIBRS, 2017*.