



*By now, most data users are aware the FBI—at the recommendation of the Criminal Justice Information Services Advisory Policy Board and with the support of major law enforcement organizations—will transition to collecting Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) data only through the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) by January 1, 2021. Through the rich details collected by law*

*enforcement, NIBRS offers a better understanding of crime. Not only does the UCR Program's transition to a NIBRS-only data collection affect members of the law enforcement community who report crime data, but it also affects data users whether they are the general public, the media, academia, or researchers. In addition to NIBRS offering more detailed data, it will also make UCR data more comprehensive, accessible, and timely.*

### Preparing the Way

The FBI is taking many steps to help ensure agencies have the information and resources available to make the move to NIBRS. In 2018, the FBI has supported the NIBRS transition through the following activities:

- Held teleconferences with each of the 50 states' Criminal Justice Information Services Systems Officers and, when possible, State UCR Program Managers to assess local agency readiness.
- Published a number of NIBRS transition articles highlighting the differences between reporting methods and sharing the transition stories of different types and sizes of law enforcement agencies.
- Improved its web presence to educate law enforcement and data users about the transition and the benefits of NIBRS.
- Dedicated resources to help agencies with implementation through Information Technology Integration Specialists.
- Provided NIBRS briefings to major association conferences.
- Provided training to multiple state UCR Programs and local agencies, and released 14 computer-based supplemental tutorials for local, state, tribal, and federal agencies transitioning to NIBRS. Additionally, the FBI hosted a NIBRS Train-the-Trainer event to equip state and federal UCR programs to provide training within their states and hosted the first UCR training webinar.
- Continued support of the National Crime Statistics Exchange initiative between the FBI and the Bureau of Justice Statistics to increase NIBRS participation by offering funding assistance to 400 identified agencies, including 72 large agencies.

### Meeting the Transition Goal for NIBRS 2021

With just two years left until the UCR Program becomes a NIBRS-only data collection, many state UCR Programs and law enforcement agencies across the nation are busy laying the groundwork to meet the deadline/goal. Some states are already 100 percent NIBRS. Other states have a NIBRS-certified state agency with some agencies submitting NIBRS and others submitting via the Summary Reporting System. Still other states are just beginning implementation or planning.



## Uniform Crime Reporting Program National Incident-Based Reporting System

---

Each agency's role in this modernization of crime data will greatly benefit the quantity and quality of NIBRS data from its respective state and make the NIBRS dataset as a whole more powerful and more representative of all regions of the nation. Through its continuous outreach and liaison with states, the FBI has learned more about the successful transitions of some agencies, as well as the challenges and obstacles for others. State agencies are using a number of approaches in implementing NIBRS, including publishing their transition plans on their state web sites for their local agencies and the communities they serve. Others have enacted legislation to make NIBRS a requirement for their law enforcement agencies. Some local agencies are banding together to share resources and a few states are offering data portals to help agencies overcome budgetary constraints. The FBI continues to urge any local, state, tribal, and federal agencies who have not yet started preparing for the implementation of NIBRS to make a commitment in 2019.

### **The NIBRS Advantage**

When fully implemented, NIBRS will produce valid statistics with superior data quality and allow for national, regional, and local estimates. The expanded data collection will offer the FBI and its contributing agencies the ability to identify and address evolving crime issues, gain context at the national level, and provide facts to inform perception and planning.