



## Countdown to NIBRS' Richer Data: 01.01.2021

As the January 1, 2021, deadline approaches to make the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program's data standard, the FBI continues to assist state UCR Programs and law enforcement agencies in their transition, providing technical and programmatic resources. The move to the NIBRS-only data collection will offer law enforcement, government officials, and other data users richer details about crime victims, offenders, and offenses; better context to help understand crime occurrences; and a more comprehensive view of crime in the United States.

In 2018, 7,283 law enforcement agencies, whose jurisdictions covered more than 117.1 million U.S. inhabitants, submitted NIBRS data to the UCR Program. These agencies accounted for 43.7 percent of the 16,659 law enforcement agencies that submitted data to the UCR Program in 2018. When compared with participation data from 2017, the number of law enforcement agencies that participated in the UCR Program via NIBRS in 2018 increased 4.1 percent. By population coverage, the number of U.S. inhabitants served by agencies that reported UCR data via NIBRS in 2018 increased 10.9 percent over the population covered by NIBRS agencies in 2017.

Currently 38 state UCR Programs are certified to submit NIBRS data (i.e., the FBI has tested the states' data and has found them to be consistent with the UCR Program's standards for NIBRS). In these states, local agencies submit NIBRS data to the FBI through their respective certified state UCR Programs. In addition, some local agencies within the 12 states that are not yet NIBRS-certified submit data directly to the FBI; however, the FBI considers this a temporary measure as the goal is for all state UCR Programs to become NIBRS-certified and support NIBRS submissions from agencies within their respective states. Besides state and local agencies, the FBI is focused on NIBRS transition activities with federal and tribal agencies as well as the Department of Education and national associations to encourage participation from college and university police departments.



*"Data from the NIBRS is a game-changer in the future of law enforcement. Agencies are using the incident-based data for investigating, justifying the need for additional personnel, determining where to strategically place patrols, and much, much more."*

**UCR Program Manager Dale King,  
Tennessee Bureau of Investigation**

As a result of the transition efforts of the FBI and collaborative efforts with national law enforcement organizations and the Bureau of Justice Statistics, state UCR Programs have reported that thousands of additional law enforcement agencies have committed to become NIBRS contributors by January 1, 2021. The FBI expects the number of NIBRS participants to increase exponentially as agencies fulfill their commitments to transition and the deadline draws near.

The transition to the richer, NIBRS-only data standard will provide greater context at the national level to allow the FBI and its contributing agencies to identify and address evolving crime issues. NIBRS collects data about victims, known offenders, and relationships for offenses reported in 52 categories, as well as 10 additional categories for which only arrest data is collected. Not only can NIBRS data help drive both crime perception and resource planning, but it can also assist with providing a more precise narrative and countering misconceptions about the scope, type, and nature of crime.

## **Resources**

- Information about the NIBRS transition: [www.fbi.gov/nibrs](http://www.fbi.gov/nibrs)
- UCR publications: [www.fbi.gov/ucr/publications](http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/publications)
- Crime Data Explorer: [www.fbi.gov/cde](http://www.fbi.gov/cde)