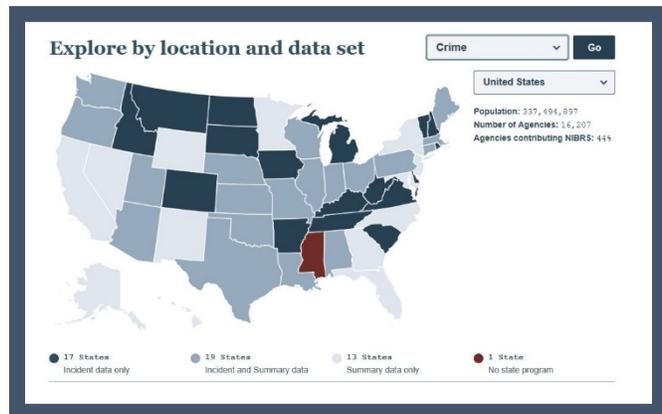




FBI Improves UCR Data Collection

To improve the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program's delivery of **reliable, accurate, accessible, and timely crime statistics**, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is enhancing the way we present crime statistics to our data contributors and consumers. The most significant upcoming changes affect the frequency of data releases, the way the national program publishes data online, and the availability of greater specificity within the overall UCR data collection. During this pivotal time in the UCR history, the FBI will provide periodic updates to maintain transparency in keeping the UCR data contributors and consumers abreast of these changes.



June 2020: Quarterly UCR Data Releases Begin on the CDE



The [Crime Data Explorer \(CDE\)](#) is the FBI's digital front door for crime data and provides the UCR Program with the ability to release crime data in a more timely manner. As recommended by the Criminal Justice Information Services Advisory Policy Board and approved by the FBI Director, crime data from the UCR Program will be available within the CDE on a quarterly basis, starting with January–March 2020 data.

Therefore, the UCR Program will begin releasing quarterly data in June 2020 with subsequent releases to follow in September 2020, December 2020, and March 2021. The quarterly releases subsequent to June will contain cumulative data for six months, nine months, and twelve months, respectively. Data pushes to the CDE will continue on a quarterly cycle thereafter. These quarterly releases will provide a more accurate accounting of crime as all contributors move to submitting their data on a monthly basis.

Initially, quarterly releases of crime statistics will be similar in concept to the *Preliminary Semiannual Uniform Crime Report*. They will consist of national trend tables by population group and region, as well as offense data for agencies with resident populations of 100,000 or more. The FBI's UCR Program will conduct all data quality checks to ensure the data released to the CDE meets the same high-quality standards as all publications released by the FBI's UCR Program. As the collection shifts from a combination of data from the Summary Reporting System (SRS) and the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) to a NIBRS-only data collection, the UCR Program will expand the scope of data released.

Note: *The first release of quarterly data to the CDE (i.e., January-March 2019 data released in June 2020) will precede the annual publication of 2019 data (tentatively September 2020). Several factors will contribute to this new dynamic, including dataset size, complexity, and volume of quality checks which must be resolved. Because law enforcement agencies may continue to update NIBRS submissions after quarterly publications to the CDE, there may be inconsistencies between the data initially published for an agency and future updates.*



Fall 2020: Last *Crime in the United States* Tables Released on www.fbi.gov

In addition to offering consumers more timely crime data through more frequent releases, the CDE also allows users to interact with and download crime data in a more modern, dynamic manner. The more customized user experience of the CDE has afforded the FBI's UCR Program the ability to transition from publishing the traditional, annual static tables of *Crime in the United States* on www.fbi.gov/ucr to exclusively releasing crime data via the CDE.

In 2020, the FBI will publish the last set of SRS static tables as the traditional report, *Crime in the United States*, using 2019 data on www.fbi.gov/ucr. Thereafter, the FBI will release all UCR data on the CDE. As part of this migration in 2018, the FBI began coordinating the publication of annual SRS and NIBRS data on the CDE with the release of *Crime in the United States, 2017*, on www.fbi.gov/ucr. The FBI will continue to publish data in both venues for 2018 data to be released in 2019, and 2019 data to be released in 2020. This will allow for a two-year transition period for the UCR Program stakeholders to familiarize themselves with the CDE, prior to the discontinuation of the static tables being released to www.fbi.gov/ucr.

January 1, 2021: National UCR Program Transitioning to NIBRS

As requested by our national law enforcement partners, the FBI is moving to a NIBRS-only data collection and ceasing the collection of the SRS data. The transition to the NIBRS allows law enforcement agencies to submit more details on a single incident and separate offenses within the same incident, including information about victims, known offenders, victim/offender relationships, arrestees, and property involved in offenses.

Since 2018, the FBI has intensified its marketing and engagement efforts to encourage law enforcement agencies to submit their crime data via NIBRS. This has resulted in state UCR Programs reporting to the FBI that more than 4,500 agencies have now committed to transitioning to the NIBRS by January 1, 2021. As these agencies transition, the NIBRS participation will increase. The FBI anticipates the most significant increase in participation to occur in 2020 and 2021.

The more frequent publication of the UCR data through the CDE and other presentations will help contributors and data users identify and address evolving crime issues within our communities and gain a greater context of crime at a national level. Not only can the NIBRS data help drive both crime perception and resource planning, it can also assist with providing a more precise narrative and the ability to counter misconceptions about the scope, type, and nature of crime in the United States.

While the FBI's UCR Program looks to expand its publication of the NIBRS data to gain a broader look at crime, it will continue to release annual national crime estimates and trends comparable to those contained in *Crime in the United States*. Stakeholders can expect an annual press release containing highlights of the data to maintain the annual snapshot in time as well as traditional tables available via data download, allowing users the ability to view the UCR data in historic formats, complementing the more comprehensive NIBRS data.

Resources

www.fbi.gov/ucr

www.fbi.gov/CDE

www.fbi.gov/nibrs