



**Crime Data are valuable and can be used to:**

- \* *Formulate public policy*
- \* *Evaluate and assess existing programs*
- \* *Justify new programs*
- \* *Identify needed statutory changes*
- \* *Develop grant funding requests*

**Uses of crime data**

*UCR - The Uniform Crime Report*  
*SRS - Summary Reporting System*  
*NIBRS - National Incident Based Reporting System*  
*CJIS - Criminal Justice Information Services*  
*IACP - International Association of Chiefs of Police*  
*NSA- National Sheriffs Association*  
*MCCA - Major City Chiefs Association*  
*MCSA - Major County Sheriffs Association*

**Acronyms for today's presentation**

**FBI has historically tracked crime using 3 systems;**

- \* *UCR SRS*
- \* *Supplemental Homicide Report*
- \* *NIBRS*

*While the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) - focused on victimization with their National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)*

**MAJOR SOURCES OF CRIME DATA IN THE UNITED STATES**

**FBI UCR SRS**

*The terms SRS and UCR have historically (but incorrectly) been used interchangeably. They are not the same.*

**UCR is a large data system**  
**SRS is a mechanism of that data system**

**UCR SRS –**

*Clearance rate: the number of crimes solved divided by the number of crime reported*

**A measure of law enforcement effectiveness based on arrests and not judicial outcomes**

**UCR SRS** - Only crimes reported to law enforcement are included

A significant number of crimes are not reported to law enforcement and thus do not get counted by the FBI.

**UCR SRS –**

*Hierarchy Rule:* — requires agencies to report only the most serious offense per incident; therefore, they do not report lower-listed offenses in multiple-offense incidents.

i.e. during an armed robbery the robber murders the clerk. UCR SRS counts this as one murder

**UCR SRS** – Because statutes vary by state, the FBI creates **strict definitions** of the various crimes and agencies must evaluate and then classify each case

The burglary statute in Wyoming may not be identical to burglary statutes in other states

**UCR Part 1 Index Crimes:** Murder, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Arson, Burglary, and Larceny/Theft

**Crime rates:** refer to the number of crimes per 100,000 population

Transition to NIBRS Timeline

**1970s:** The law enforcement community called for a study to expand the UCR SRS

**1982:** the study began involving FBI and BJS

**1985:** “Blue print for the future of the UCR Program” published

**1986:** FBI tasked with developing NIBRS

**1987:** South Carolina began a pilot of NIBRS prototype

**1988:** National UCR Conference endorses *NIBRS concept*

**1991:** NIBRS is created

**1991:** NIBRS is created That was a long time ago



**2011:** NIBRS 2011 first published data reported by 5,880 agencies (approximately 32% of all UCR agencies)

**2015:** Sunset of UCR SRS is announced for 1-1-2021

**2016:** CJIS Advisory Board announced NIBRS only deadline of 1-1-2021

**2018:** State of Wyoming received FBI NIBRS certification

**2020:** Deadline not pushed back due to COVID because departments were already years into the transition by early 2020

**2021 NIBRS replaces SRS**

### ***What is the advantage of the NIBRS over the UCR?***

*NIBRS provides a more comprehensive view of crime in Wyoming and the United States, and offers greater flexibility in data compilation and analysis.*

Source: 30 Questions and answers about NIBRS transition – DOJ FBI October 2018

### **Are local and state agencies required by law to participate in NIBRS?**

“As is the case with the UCR Program in general, federal law does not mandate local and state participation in NIBRS. Local and state agency participation in NIBRS is voluntary. However, states and agencies may be required by state or local law to participate.”

Source: 30 Questions and answers about NIBRS transition – DOJ FBI October 2018

### **What happens if a department does not make the transition to NIBRS?**

*Agencies that choose not to participate will not have their data included in the nationwide statistics. Agencies that receive funding based on UCR participation, may lose that funding. As of January 1, 2021 Justice Assistance Grant Applications will accept only data in NIBRS format.*

Source: 30 Questions and answers about NIBRS transition – DOJ FBI October 2018

### How long does it take to transition to NIBRS?

*A typical agency may take about one year to fully transition.*

*However, since many states have either already transitioned to NIBRS or put a transition plan into motion, the time it takes to transition may be less than it previously was.*

Source: 30 Questions and answers about NIBRS transition – DOJ FBI October 2018

### Do rural states lag behind in transitioning to NIBRS?

*NO, based on 2013 data submissions, the FBI has certified 33 states to report data via the NIBRS. Of the 33 certified states, 15 states (Arkansas, **Colorado**, Delaware, **Idaho**, Iowa, Michigan, **Montana**, New Hampshire, **North Dakota**, South Carolina, **South Dakota**, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia) submit **all** their crime data via the NIBRS.*

SOURCE: 30 Questions and answers about NIBRS transition US DOJ FBI – October 2018

*What is the most significant difference between NIBRS and the traditional UCR Summary Reporting System?*

**8 or 52**

*NIBRS collects **more robust data** and details of crime, making it a more effective tool for policy makers, analysts, and the general public to truly understand crime and make informed decisions about how to address the problem.*

Source: 30 Questions and answers about NIBRS transition – DOJ FBI October 2018

**An example:** *UCR SRS can tell us how many rapes occurred and how many arrests there were for rape sorted by age, sex, race, and ethnicity of the person arrested within a jurisdiction.*

Source: 30 Questions and answers about NIBRS transition – DOJ FBI October 2018

### In comparison:

*NIBRS can tell us how many rapes occurred, the age, sex, race and ethnicity of the victims, the offenders (if known) and any persons arrested for rape; the date time and locations of those rapes; connections to any other offenses that may have occurred in those incidents; and whether or not the offenses were bias motivated.*

Source: 30 Questions and answers about NIBRS transition – DOJ FBI October 2018

All NIBRS submissions must meet the FBI's technical specifications.



Avoid GIGO – garbage in / garbage out

Agencies can collect even more detailed data than NIBRS requires but must remove the extra data elements before submission

<https://www.fbi.gov/services/cjis/ucr/nibrs>

#### The Benefits of NIBRS



## Sources and Reference Documents

- 30 Questions and Answers About UCR / NIBRS Transition  
<https://www.fbi.gov/file-repository/ucr/30-faqs-about-nibrs-transition-oct-2018.pdf>
- NIBRS 101 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RcR-RwHcscE>
- NIBRS: THE FUTURE OF U.S. CRIME DATA By Jeffrey Fisher, Writer-Editor, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Crime Data Modernization Team, Clarksburg, West Virginia  
<https://www.theiacp.org/sites/default/files/all/no/NIBRSTheFutureofUSCrimeDataOct2017.pdf>
- National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) - <https://www.fbi.gov/services/cjis/ucr/nibrs>