



Frequently Asked Questions About the NIBRS Data of Individual Agencies

Why isn't our town listed?

A total of 62.1 percent of all law enforcement agencies that participated in the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program in 2020 submitted their data via the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). Questions concerning whether a particular agency reported their data through NIBRS or the traditional Summary Reporting System (SRS) should be referred to the agency's respective state UCR Program. Contact information for state UCR Programs is available on the FBI's website at <https://www.fbi.gov/file-repository/ucr/state-ucr-program-contacts.pdf/view>.

Our law enforcement agency reports crime data via NIBRS, but our data are not listed. Where are they?

To be published among the agency-level statistics in *NIBRS*, both of the following criteria must be met:

- The agency must have submitted 12 months of complete NIBRS data for the reporting year.
- The agency's NIBRS data must have been converted and published with the *Crime in the United States* release for the same reporting year.

Agency-level statistics will not be published in *NIBRS* if either of the following circumstances occur:

- The agency submitted 12 months of NIBRS data, but some of the data were found to be overreported or underreported during the quality control check.
- The agency submitted less than 12 months of NIBRS data.

With the exception of federal agencies, all agencies' NIBRS submissions—regardless of the number of months reported—are included in the general tabulations. The data of federal agencies that submitted their data via NIBRS are included in the U.S. table and provided in a separate federal table. (Other data for federal agencies is available in Federal Crime Data, which was published with *Crime in the United States*.)

How does NIBRS affect crime counts?

NIBRS is a more comprehensive accounting of the crime occurring in a law enforcement agency's jurisdiction than the traditional SRS, which is an aggregate monthly tally of crime occurrences. In addition to eliminating the SRS Hierarchy Rule, which collects only the most



serious offense in an incident, NIBRS captures up to 10 offenses per incident and specifies more offense categories than SRS.

A study of 2014 NIBRS data showed the loss of additional details for 10.6 percent of criminal incidents that involved multiple offenses when the data were converted from NIBRS to SRS. The conversion resulted in a 2.1 percent decrease in figures for crime captured in SRS. Because of its broader accounting of crime, NIBRS establishes a new baseline that more precisely captures the picture of reported crime in a community.