



NIBRS Offense Definitions

The definitions developed for the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) are not meant to be used for charging persons with crimes. To the contrary, they are simply a way of categorizing or organizing the crimes committed throughout the United States. State statutes must be very specific in defining crimes so that persons facing prosecution will know the exact charges being placed against them. Conversely, the definitions used in NIBRS must be generic to not exclude varying state statutes relating to the same types of crimes.

Accordingly, the offense definitions in NIBRS are based on common-law definitions found in *Black's Law Dictionary*, as well as those used in the *Summary Reporting System (SRS) User Manual* and the Uniform Offense Classifications for the National Crime Information Center. Since most state statutes are also based on common-law definitions, even though the specifics may vary, most crimes should fit into a corresponding NIBRS offense classification.

If a state statute for an offense includes additional offenses that do not fit the NIBRS offense definition, the nonconforming offenses are reported according to the NIBRS offense classifications. For example, some states have larceny statutes that include the crime of embezzlement. When embezzlements are perpetrated within these states, the offenses must be reported to NIBRS as embezzlements, not larcenies.

Note: Only federal and tribal agencies may report NIBRS offenses denoted with an asterisk.

Group A Offenses

Animal Cruelty—Intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly taking an action that mistreats or kills any animal without just cause, such as torturing, tormenting, mutilation, maiming, poisoning, or abandonment. Included are instances of duty to provide care, e.g., shelter, food, water, care if sick or injured; transporting or confining an animal to fight with another; inflicting excessive or repeated unnecessary pain or suffering, e.g., uses objects to beat or injure an animal. This definition does not include proper maintenance of animals for show or sport; use of animals for food, lawful hunting, fishing, or trapping.



Arson—To unlawfully and intentionally damage, or attempt to damage, any real or personal property of another person or entity by fire or incendiary device.

Assault Offenses—An unlawful attack by one person upon another.

Aggravated Assault—An unlawful attack by one person upon another wherein the offender uses a dangerous weapon or displays it in a threatening manner, or the victim suffers obvious severe or aggravated bodily injury, or where there was a risk for serious injury/intent to seriously injure. [This includes a]pparent broken bones, loss of teeth, possible internal injury, severe laceration, or loss of consciousness.

Simple Assault—An unlawful physical attack by one person upon another where neither the offender displays a dangerous weapon, nor the victim suffers obvious severe or aggravated bodily injury involving apparent broken bones, loss of teeth, possible internal injury, severe laceration, or loss of consciousness.

Intimidation—To unlawfully place another person in reasonable fear of harm through the use of threatening words and/or other conduct, without displaying a dangerous weapon or subjecting the victim to an actual physical attack.

Bribery—The offering, giving, receiving, or soliciting anything of value (e.g., a bribe, gratuity, or kickback) to sway the judgment or action of a person in a position of trust or influence.

Burglary/Breaking & Entering—The unlawful entry into a building or some other structure to commit a felony or a theft.

Commerce Violations

Import Violations*—To knowingly or willfully defraud the United States by smuggling, importing, or clandestinely introducing merchandise that should have been invoiced, received, bought, sold, or facilitate the transportation, the concealment, or sale of such merchandise after importation.

Export Violations*—To knowingly or willfully defraud the United States by smuggling, exporting, or clandestinely distributing merchandise that should have been invoiced, received, bought, sold, or facilitate the transportation, the concealment, or sale of such merchandise after exportation.

Federal Liquor Offenses*—The unlawful production (using an unregistered still), transportation (without proper bill of lading), receipt, distribution, or smuggling of



distilled spirits on which federal tax has not been paid. Acting as a distiller, a winery, or a wholesaler of distilled spirits, wine, or malt beverages without a federal permit.

Federal Tobacco Offenses*—The unlawful possession and/or distribution of contraband tobacco products; including any quantity of cigarettes in excess of 10,000 or other tobacco products if the cigarettes/products bear no evidence of the payment of applicable state taxes in the state where the cigarettes are found. Engaging in interstate commerce in tobacco products without registering with, and reporting to, the federal government and applicable state tax administrators.

Wildlife Trafficking*—The poaching or other illegal taking of protected or managed species and the illegal trade in wildlife and their related parts and products.

Counterfeiting/Forgery—The altering, copying, or imitating of something, without authority or right, with the intent to deceive or defraud by passing the copy or thing altered or imitated as that which is original or genuine, or the selling, buying, or possession of an altered, copied, or imitated thing with the intent to deceive or defraud.

Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property—(except Arson) To willfully or maliciously destroy, damage, deface, or otherwise injure any public or private property without the consent of the owner or the person having custody or control of it.

Drug/Narcotic Offenses—The violation of laws prohibiting the production, distribution, and/or use of certain controlled substances and the equipment or devices utilized in their preparation and/or use.

Drug/Narcotic Violations—The unlawful cultivation, manufacture, distribution, sale, purchase, use, possession, transportation, or importation of any controlled drug or narcotic substance.

Drug Equipment Violations—The unlawful manufacture, sale, purchase, possession, or transportation of equipment or devices utilized in preparing and/or using drugs or narcotics.

Embezzlement—The unlawful misappropriation by an offender to his/her own use or purpose of money, property, or some other thing of value entrusted to his/her care, custody, or control.

Espionage*—The act of obtaining, delivering, transmitting, communicating, or receiving national security or national defense information with an intent, or reason to believe, that the



information may be used to the injury of the United States or to the advantage of any foreign nation.

Extortion/Blackmail—To unlawfully obtain money, property, or any other thing of value, either tangible or intangible, through the use or threat of force, misuse of authority, threat of criminal prosecution, threat of destruction of reputation or social standing, or through other coercive means.

Fraud Offenses—(except Counterfeiting/Forgery) The intentional perversion of the truth for the purpose of inducing another person or other entity in reliance upon it to part with something of value or to surrender a legal right.

False Pretenses/Swindle/Confidence Game—The intentional misrepresentation of existing fact or condition or the use of some other deceptive scheme or device to obtain money, goods, or other things of value. Only includes fraud offenses that do not fit any of the definitions of the specific subcategories of fraud.

Credit Card/Automated Teller Machine Fraud—The unlawful use of a credit/debit card, credit/debit card number, or automatic teller machine for fraudulent purposes.

Impersonation—Unlawfully representing one's position and acting in the character or position to deceive others and thereby gain a profit or advantage or enjoy some right or privilege.

Welfare Fraud—The use of deceitful statements, practices, or devices to unlawfully obtain welfare benefits.

Wire Fraud—The use of an electric or electronic communications facility to intentionally transmit a false and/or deceptive message in furtherance of a fraudulent activity.

Identity Theft—Wrongfully obtaining and/or using another person's personal data (e.g., name and date of birth, Social Security number, driver's license number).

Hacking/Computer Invasion—Gaining access to another person's or institution's computer software, hardware, or networks without authorized permissions.

Money Laundering*—The process of transforming the profits of a crime into a legitimate asset.



Fugitive Offenses*

Harboring Escapee/Concealing from Arrest*—To harbor or conceal any person for whose arrest, a warrant or process has been issued, so as to prevent the fugitive's discovery and arrest, after having notice or knowledge that a warrant or process has been issued for the fugitive's apprehension.

Flight to Avoid Prosecution*—To knowingly leave the jurisdiction where charges were filed with intent to avoid prosecution, custody, confinement, or to avoid giving testimony in any criminal proceedings.

Flight to Avoid Deportation*—To knowingly leave the jurisdiction with intent to avoid deportation.

Gambling Offenses—To unlawfully bet or wager money or something else of value; assist, promote, or operate a game of chance for money or some other stake; possess or transmit wagering information; manufacture, sell, purchase, possess, or transport gambling equipment, devices, or goods; or tamper with the outcome of a sporting event or contest to gain a gambling advantage.

Betting/Wagering—To unlawfully stake money or something else of value on the happening of an uncertain event or on the ascertainment of a fact in dispute.

Operating/Promoting/Assisting Gambling—To unlawfully operate, promote, or assist in the operation of a game of chance, lottery, or other gambling activity.

Gambling Equipment Violations—To unlawfully manufacture, sell, buy, possess, or transport equipment, devices, and/or goods used for gambling purposes.

Sports Tampering—To unlawfully alter, meddle in, or otherwise interfere with a sporting contest or event for the purpose of gaining a gambling advantage.

Homicide Offenses—The killing of one human being by another.

Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter—The willful (nonnegligent) killing of one human being by another.

Negligent Manslaughter—The killing of another person through gross negligence.

[This includes] killings resulting from hunting accidents, gun cleaning, children playing with guns, and traffic accidents associated with driving under the influence, distracted driving (using a cell/smartphone), and reckless driving traffic fatalities.



Justifiable Homicide (Not a Crime)—The killing of a perpetrator of a serious criminal offense by a law enforcement officer in the line of duty, or the killing, during the commission of a serious criminal offense, of the offender by a private individual.

Human Trafficking Offenses—The inducement of a person to perform a commercial sex act, or labor, or services, through force, fraud, or coercion.

Human trafficking has also occurred if a person under 18 years of age has been induced, or enticed, regardless of force, fraud, or coercion, to perform a commercial sex act.

Human Trafficking, Commercial Sex Acts—Inducing a person by force, fraud, or coercion to participate in commercial sex acts, or in which the person induced to perform such act(s) has not attained 18 years of age.

Human Trafficking, Involuntary Servitude—The obtaining of person(s) through recruitment, harboring, transportation, or provision, and subjecting such persons by force, fraud, or coercion into involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery (not to include commercial sex acts).

Immigration Violations*

Illegal Entry into the United States*—To attempt to enter the U.S. at any time or place other than as designated; or eludes examination/inspection by immigration officers.

False Citizenship*—Falsely and willfully representing oneself to be a citizen of the United States.

Smuggling Aliens*—To knowingly assist, abet, or aid another person to enter, or try to enter, the United States illegally.

Re-entry after Deportation*—The act of entering, attempting to enter, or being found in the United States after being removed, excluded, deported, or has departed the United States while an order of removal exclusion or deportation is outstanding.



Kidnapping/Abduction—The unlawful seizure, transportation, and/or detention of a person against his/her will or of a minor without the consent of his/her custodial parent(s) or legal guardian.

Larceny/Theft Offenses—The unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property from the possession or constructive possession of another person.

Pocket-picking—The theft of articles from another person's physical possession by stealth where the victim is not immediately aware a theft occurred.

Purse-snatching—The grabbing or snatching of a purse, handbag, etc., from the physical possession of another person.

Shoplifting—The unlawful taking of goods or merchandise exposed for sale by a person (other than an employee).

Theft From Building—The unlawful taking of items from within a building which is either open to the general public or to which the offender has legal access.

Theft From Coin-Operated Machine or Device—The unlawful taking of items from a machine or device that is operated or activated by the use of coins.

Theft From Motor Vehicle—(except Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts or Accessories) The unlawful taking of articles from a motor vehicle, locked or unlocked.

Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts or Accessories—The unlawful taking of any part or accessory affixed to the interior or exterior of a motor vehicle in a manner which would make the item an attachment of the vehicle or necessary for its operation.

All Other Larceny—All thefts which do not fit any of the Larceny/Theft or specific subcategories identified in UCR.

Motor Vehicle Theft—The theft of a motor vehicle.

Pornography/Obscene Material—The violation of laws or ordinances prohibiting the manufacture, publishing (publication), distributing (distribution), sale, purchase, or possession of sexually explicit material deemed legally obscene.

Prostitution Offenses—To unlawfully engage in or promote sexual activities for anything of value.

Prostitution—To engage in commercial sex acts for anything of value.



Assisting or Promoting Prostitution—To solicit customers or transport persons for prostitution purposes; to own, manage, or operate a dwelling or other establishment for the purpose of providing a place where prostitution is performed; or to otherwise assist or promote prostitution.

Purchasing Prostitution—To purchase or trade anything of value for sex acts.

Robbery—The taking of anything of value from the control, custody, or care of another person by force or threat of force and/or by putting the victim in fear of immediate harm.

Sex Offenses—Any sexual act directed against another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent.

Rape—(except Statutory Rape) The carnal knowledge of a person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is unable to give consent because of his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity.

Sodomy—Oral or anal sexual intercourse with another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is unable to give consent because of his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity.

Sexual Assault With An Object—To use an object or instrument to unlawfully penetrate, however slightly, the genital or anal opening of the body of another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is unable to give consent because of his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity.

At the recommendation of the Criminal Justice Information Services Advisory Policy Board, the UCR Program replaced the Sex Offense of Fondling with Criminal Sexual Contact.

~~**Fondling**—The touching of the private body parts of another person for the purpose of sexual gratification, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is unable to give consent because of his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity. [Strikethrough denotes former offense.]~~

Beginning with the 2023 data, Criminal Sexual Contact is being collected and published using the following definition.

Criminal Sexual Contact—The intentional touching of the clothed or unclothed body parts without the consent of the victim for the purpose of sexual degradation, sexual gratification, or sexual humiliation. [It includes] the forced touching by the victim of the



actor's clothed or unclothed body parts, without consent of the victim for the purpose of sexual degradation, sexual gratification, or sexual humiliation.

This includes instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of age or incapacity due to temporary or permanent mental or physical impairment or intoxication for the purpose of sexual degradation, sexual gratification, or sexual humiliation.

Incest—Nonforcible sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law.

Statutory Rape—Nonforcible sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent.

Failure to Register as a Sex Offender*—To fail to register or keep current a registration as required by state and federal laws.

Stolen Property Offenses—Buying, receiving, possessing, selling, concealing, or transporting any property with the knowledge that it has been unlawfully taken, as by burglary, embezzlement, fraud, larceny, robbery, etc.

Treason*—Whoever, owing allegiance to the United States, levies war against them or adheres to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort within the United States or elsewhere.

Weapon Law Violations

Weapon Law Violations—The violation of laws or ordinances prohibiting the manufacture, sale, purchase, transportation, possession, concealment, or use of firearms, cutting instruments, explosives, incendiary devices, or other deadly weapons.

Violation of National Firearms Act of 1934*—To manufacture, import, sell, purchase, transfer, possess, or transport in interstate commerce, a firearm knowing it has the characteristics or features of a short-barreled rifle or shotgun, machine gun, silencer, destructive device, or any other weapon as defined at 26 USC § 5845(a) in violation of the provisions of the National Firearms Act (generally non-tax paid, unregistered).

Weapons of Mass Destruction*—To knowingly violate the federal law prohibiting the unlawful use, attempted use, conspiracy to use, or use of interstate travel or facilities in furtherance of the use of a weapon of mass destruction as defined by federal law.

Explosives*—To knowingly violate the federal law prohibiting the manufacture, importation, sale, purchases, transfer, possession, unlawful use, intra or interstate



transportation, or improper storage of any chemical compound mixture the primary or common purpose of which is to function by explosion including explosive materials or any explosive bomb, rocket, grenade, missile, or similar device, or any incendiary bomb or grenade, fire bomb, or “Molotov cocktail.”



Group B Offenses

Bond Default*—The failure to appear in court without a satisfactory excuse, after bond has been set.

Curfew/Loitering/Vagrancy Violations—The violation of a court order, regulation, ordinance, or law requiring the withdrawal of persons from the streets or other specified areas; prohibiting persons from remaining in an area or place in an idle or aimless manner; or prohibiting persons from going from place to place without a visible means of support.

Disorderly Conduct—Any behavior that tends to disturb the public peace or decorum, scandalize the community, or shock the public sense of morality.

Driving Under the Influence—Driving or operating a motor vehicle or common carrier while mentally or physically impaired as the result of consuming an alcoholic beverage or using a drug or narcotic.

Family Offenses, Nonviolent—Unlawful, nonviolent acts by a family member (or legal guardian) that threaten the physical, mental, or economic well-being or morals of another family member and that are not classifiable as other offenses such as assault, incest, and statutory rape.

Federal Resource Violations*—To unlawfully and intentionally damage or destruct national resources including those protected under any Act intended to preserve or protect the nation's environmental, natural, cultural, or historically significant resources.

Liquor Law Violations—(except Driving Under the Influence) The violation of laws or ordinances prohibiting the manufacture, sale, purchase, transportation, possession, or use of alcoholic beverages.

Perjury*—To knowingly or intentionally communicate or certify an untruth through testimony, declaration, deposition, or certificate before a competent tribunal, officer, or person in which a law of the United States authorizes an oath to be administered.

Trespass of Real Property—To unlawfully enter land, a dwelling, or other real property.

All Other Offenses—All crimes that are not Group A offenses and not included in one of the specifically named Group B crime categories listed previously.

For additional information about these offenses, see *2023.0 NIBRS User Manual (06/30/2023)*, which is available on the FBI's UCR website.



Additional Crime Occurrences Collected via NIBRS

In addition to criminal offenses, the details captured via NIBRS provide law enforcement and other data users with information to help understand specific types of criminal occurrences.

Hate Crime—Traditional offenses motivated in whole or in part by the offender’s bias against a particular race/ethnicity/ancestry, religion, disability, gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted Data—Incidents in which law enforcement officers are specified as victims of homicide and assault offenses.

Cargo Theft—The criminal taking of any cargo including, but not limited to, goods, chattels, money, or baggage that constitutes, in whole or in part, a commercial shipment of freight moving in commerce, from any pipeline system, railroad car, motor truck, or other vehicle, or from any tank or storage facility, station house, platform, or depot, or from any vessel or wharf, or from any aircraft, air terminal, airport, aircraft terminal or air navigation facility, or from any intermodal container, intermodal chassis, trailer, container freight station, warehouse, freight distribution facility, or freight consolidation facility. For purposes of this definition, cargo shall be deemed as moving in commerce at all points between the point of origin and the final destination, regardless of any temporary stop while awaiting transshipment or otherwise.

Domestic and Family Violence—The use, attempted use, or threatened use of physical force of a weapon; or the use of coercion or intimidation; or committing a crime against property by a current or former spouse, parent, or guardian of the victim; a person with whom the victim shares a child in common; a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; a person who is cohabiting with or has cohabited with the victim as a spouse, parent, or guardian; or by a person who is or has been similarly situated to a spouse, parent, or guardian of the victim.