



## Media Kit for the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) and National Crime Statistics Exchange (NCS-X) Initiative

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## National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) & National Crime Statistics Exchange (NCS-X) Initiative

*Exciting changes are under way in how crime is counted and reported in the United States*

### History and Rationale

Since the 1930s, law enforcement agencies have reported monthly aggregate counts of crime and arrests to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Summary Program. The program counts 10 major crime types (called Part I crimes) but provides virtually no other details about the context of crimes (such as offender and victim demographics, victim-offender relationship, location and weapon). UCR data have served as the basis for discussing national crime trends in the U.S. and are also the most common metric by which most local law enforcement agencies measure themselves. In recent years, there has been an increased demand at national, state and local levels for more detailed crime data than the Summary Reporting System (SRS) data can provide to facilitate informed discussions about crime in the U.S. and pressing issues facing law enforcement. At regional and state levels, more-detailed crime data would allow for a better understanding of crime patterns in surrounding jurisdictions and statewide. Because of this increased demand for more accurate and detailed crime statistics, the FBI plans to retire Summary reporting and transition to a NIBRS-only collection by January 1, 2021.

Although the majority of law enforcement agencies already collect detailed incident-based crime data for their own use, most have not reported these detailed data to the state and national levels. Incident-based crime reporting promises richer data regarding the nature of crime and law enforcement's response and will greatly expand analytic capabilities at the local, state and federal levels.

Two key efforts are under way to help address this need:

- » The expansion of the FBI's NIBRS, which provides a standardized system for law enforcement agencies to report detailed incident-based crime data to their states and ultimately to the FBI
- » The NCS-X Initiative, a joint effort by the Bureau of Justice Statistics and the FBI to add 400 specific agencies to NIBRS so that national estimates of crime can be generated even before the national transition to NIBRS is complete

### What Is the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS)?

NIBRS is an incident-based reporting system that collects data on each single crime occurrence. Information on incidents, offenses, victims and known offenders for 52 specific crimes in 24 major offense categories are included in these data. NIBRS produces more detailed, accurate and meaningful statistics because data are collected on when and where crime occurs, what form it takes and what characteristics its victims and perpetrators have. Additionally, it offers a statistical dataset that provides an analysis of the attributes of crime, correlates crimes with other demographic factors and offers a source of information on a variety of factors affecting crime rates. Ultimately, NIBRS will improve the detail and overall quality of crime data, which will help law enforcement and communities around the country use resources more strategically and effectively.

The vision for NIBRS is for it to become the law enforcement community's standard for quantifying crime, further supporting the mission of the FBI UCR Program to generate reliable information for use in law enforcement administration, operation and management. The national transition to NIBRS is supported by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, Major Cities Chiefs Association, Major County Sheriffs' Association and National Sheriffs' Association.

### What Is the National Crime Statistics Exchange (NCS-X) Initiative?

The NCS-X Initiative is a joint effort by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) and the FBI's Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division to strategically expand the number of law enforcement agencies reporting crime data to NIBRS.

- » 400 scientifically identified agencies will be added to the 6,900 agencies already reporting to NIBRS.
- » The 72 largest law enforcement agencies in the U.S. are included; large agencies have traditionally been underrepresented in NIBRS.
- » The NCS-X will provide a nationally representative system of incident-based crime statistics on the way to the national transition to NIBRS.
- » National estimates of crime in NIBRS can be disaggregated by victim-offender characteristics, the circumstances of the event, victim-offender relationship and other important elements of criminal events.
- » Nationally representative NIBRS data will increase the nation's ability to monitor, respond to and prevent crime.

An NCS-X Executive Steering Committee comprising BJS and FBI leadership provides overall direction to the initiative. The NCS-X also has an implementation team — made up of experts at BJS, FBI-CJIS, RTI International, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Police Executive Research Forum, the Integrated Justice Information Systems Institute and the National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics (SEARCH) — to assist states and NCS-X sampled agencies in their transition to incident-based reporting. The NCS-X team is providing several planning and implementation support services, including assessing agencies' current ability to report NIBRS data, identifying barriers or gaps in reporting capabilities, developing cost and feasibility guidelines for NIBRS implementation and providing technical assistance and resource guides to assist the transition.

To date, BJS, through funding provided by the FBI, has provided almost \$30 million in grants to

- » UCR Programs in 21 states to develop or enhance the state programs' capacity to collect detailed incident-based crime data from police agencies throughout the state and
- » 16 of the largest local law enforcement agencies to support their transition to their states' incident-based crime reporting systems.

### For More Information:

NIBRS Official Website: <https://ucr.fbi.gov/nibrs-overview>

NCS-X Website: <https://www.bjs.gov/content/ncsx.cfm> See also: <http://www.theiacp.org/ncsx>

## NIBRS and NCS-X: Frequently Asked Questions

### Overall Program

#### What is NIBRS?

A: The National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) is an incident-based reporting system that collects data on each single crime occurrence. Information on incidents, offenses, victims and known offenders for 52 specific crimes in 24 major offense categories are included in these data. The NIBRS produces more detailed, accurate and meaningful statistics than are currently available because data are collected on when and where crime occurs, what form it takes and what characteristics are known about its victims and perpetrators.

#### What is the difference between NCS-X and NIBRS?

A: The NCS-X Initiative is a strategic effort to increase the number of agencies that participate in NIBRS so that detailed national estimates of crime may be generated using the NIBRS dataset. As the FBI pushes to make NIBRS the single national standard for crime reporting, NCS-X is the initial step in transitioning law enforcement agencies to NIBRS.

#### Why can't national estimates of crime and criminality be derived from data from the current agencies that report to NIBRS?

A: According to the FBI, when NCS-X began in 2012, about 90% of NIBRS participating agencies served jurisdictions of fewer than 250,000 residents, and more than 60% served jurisdictions of fewer than 25,000 residents. Producing a national estimate of crime known to law enforcement using NIBRS data will require increasing participation among law enforcement agencies in large cities and metropolitan counties. The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) has determined that if a sample of 400 specific law enforcement agencies, including the largest in the nation, would agree to become NIBRS data reporters, their data could be combined with data from the current 6,900 NIBRS participants to generate statistically sound, detailed national estimates of crime known to law enforcement.

#### How were the 400 law enforcement agencies selected to be in the NCS-X sample?

A: NCS-X is an effort to expand the FBI's NIBRS into a nationally-representative system of incident-based crime statistics by recruiting a sample of 400 additional law enforcement agencies to submit data to the system. A list was compiled of all law enforcement agencies that did not participate in NIBRS as of 2011 but did submit data to the UCR Summary Reporting System. That list was divided into groups based on the number of sworn officers in each agency in 2011 and the type of government with which the agency was associated — state, county or township, municipal, tribal, or other. Agencies were randomly selected from each of these groups, such that when their crime data are added to crime data from the agencies that already reported NIBRS in 2011, statistically sound national estimates of crime could be generated. The largest agencies — those with more than 750 sworn officer personnel and representing large resident populations — were all selected to be in the sample.

#### Can states that are already 100% transitioned to NIBRS participate in NCS-X?

A: The experiences and insight of states with 100% NIBRS participation will be valuable to other states moving to NIBRS reporting. The NCS-X team would like to highlight, among other things, the challenges that 100% reporting states overcame during implementation of NIBRS, as well as innovative analyses being conducted using NIBRS data.

### Who is the NCS-X team?

A: The NCS-X initiative is supported by a group of professionals collectively referred to as the NCS-X implementation team. The team can provide technical assistance to state UCR Programs or NCS-X sample law enforcement agencies that are seeking to transition to NIBRS. Besides the BJS, the group includes representation from RTI International, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics (SEARCH), the Integrated Justice Information Systems Institute and the Police Executive Research Forum. It is also supported by the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services Division.

### What is a state UCR Program, and how can I contact the one in my state?

A: A UCR Program is associated with each state except for Mississippi. A state UCR Program is usually responsible for gathering UCR data from law enforcement agencies in its state, processing it to check for accuracy and passing it along to the FBI. To find the name and contact information for the UCR Program in your state, e-mail [crimestatsinfo@ic.fbi.gov](mailto:crimestatsinfo@ic.fbi.gov) or call 304-625-4830.

### Crime Statistics

#### Can participating in NIBRS make my area's crime rate increase?

A: Crime is reported differently under the NIBRS standard than under the UCR Summary Reporting System. The Summary UCR uses a hierarchy rule that counts only the most serious offense in an incident, even if multiple offenses were committed. The NIBRS standard does not employ the hierarchy rule, so agencies can link multiple offenses within a single crime incident. A 2014 FBI study of this issue showed that removing the hierarchy rule does not have a large impact on crime rates, particularly crime rates for the most serious crime types. A copy of this article is available at [https://ucr.fbi.gov/nibrs/2014/resource-pages/effects\\_of\\_nibrs\\_on\\_crime\\_statistics\\_final.pdf](https://ucr.fbi.gov/nibrs/2014/resource-pages/effects_of_nibrs_on_crime_statistics_final.pdf). Agencies can always apply the hierarchy rule to NIBRS data to make accurate comparisons to past years' crime rates under Summary UCR, and many state UCR Programs can provide assistance in doing so. The NCS-X team is developing educational materials, and its research partners are conducting additional analysis to help explain the various ways crime can be counted.

#### Will transitioning to NIBRS increase certain categories of crime statistics within our community? If so, why?

A: As described above, the removal of the hierarchy rule allows agencies to report all crime in a jurisdiction, including lesser offenses. The highest offense category (homicide) should not change when an agency transitions from UCR Summary to NIBRS. Lesser categories of crime may see slight increases. However, as indicated in the FBI report cited above, removing the hierarchy rule does not have a large impact on crime rates for the remaining lesser crimes.

#### Does the NCS-X initiative have any materials or information that can be used to explain this transition to our local leaders and community?

A: The NCS-X initiative has developed information for the public, elected and appointed officials and other community members. The implementation team is also available to assist agencies in creating individualized materials for their jurisdictions.



## Funding

### How much NCS-X funding is available, and are the solicitations competitive?

A: BJS, in conjunction with the FBI, released a series of solicitations for NCS-X sample agencies of various sizes and for state UCR Programs in 2015, 2016 and 2017. Additional federal funding is expected to be available to assist other agencies in the NCS-X sample to transition to NIBRS.

### Will the NCS-X initiative provide technical support to sampled law enforcement agencies to help them participate in NIBRS?

A: Pending availability of funds, BJS, in concert with the FBI, will provide technical support to agencies and states that agree to participate in the NCS-X. Additional incentives for agency participation include a web-based analytics platform that participating agencies can use to analyze their incident-based data, as well as training for crime analysts.

### Can NCS-X funding be used to buy a new records management system (RMS) or mobile computers?

A: NCS-X funding can be applied toward many activities to support an agency's transition to NIBRS. If a new RMS or mobile computers are critical to successfully reporting NIBRS data, then funding a portion of the RMS transition or mobile computer network that is related to NIBRS may be considered.

### Is NCS-X funding available for all remaining law enforcement agencies to make the NIBRS transition by 2021?

A: NCS-X funding can be made available only to the 400 NCS-X sample law enforcement agencies and UCR Programs in those states. Additional funding options may be available for remaining agencies, including the use of their local and state funding, as well as potential use of funding from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants Program. Finally, funding may also be raised by working with agencies that have a shared RMS.

## Technical Issues

### Will all local police agencies need a new RMS?

A: Agency needs are expected to vary considerably regarding the transition to NIBRS. Some agencies are already collecting NIBRS elements in a NIBRS-compliant RMS, making a transition to NIBRS reporting straightforward; other agencies may be collecting only some of the required NIBRS data elements; and some agencies may not have an RMS at all.

### How does the NIBRS transition affect data quality in police investigative reports?

A: If the agency does not already enforce edit rules at the point of entry, transitioning to NIBRS is expected to improve the overall quality of the data contained in police incident reports.

## Operational Concerns

### Why is this change necessary?

A: Improved data on crime and criminality is a critical need in the U.S. to understand the overall health, welfare and safety of our communities. Better data that is accurate and meaningful, such as what is available through NIBRS, will help law enforcement agencies and policymakers understand how best to target scarce resources and will give the public a better overall measure of the health and safety of their communities.

### How will this affect the local agency's records staff and operation?

A: The impact of an agency's transition to NIBRS on its staff and operations will vary depending on an agency's current business practices and use of records staff for data cleaning, as well as on the expectations of patrol officers when they file incident reports.

### Will extensive training be required for all local officers?

A: Whether officers require training and how much training is needed will also vary. The amount of training required is expected to be correlated with how well an agency's current RMS system captures NIBRS elements and with current agency expectations on the quality of the data being entered in its incident reports.

## National Crime Statistics Exchange Initiative

### How will participating in NIBRS benefit a local agency's operational needs?

A: In today's environment of open access to data, NIBRS provides a national standard for crime reporting to which local agencies can point when interacting with elected officials, the media and the public. The editing and validation checks built into the NIBRS reporting standard provide agencies with higher quality and more accurate incident-based data. The additional data collected through NIBRS also provides the context that agencies need to understand crime problems internally and help explain crime problems and trends to their constituents. Finally, agencies collecting NIBRS data can track crimes based on the attributes of the crime incident, not just on the limited number of crime types captured by the standard UCR Part I crimes (such as homicide and sexual assault). For example, NIBRS will allow an agency to talk about gangs, drugs and firearm crimes at a level of detail not possible with summary UCR data.

### Where can I find information about upcoming events?

Information related to upcoming events about NIBRS is at <https://ucr.fbi.gov/nibrs-overview>. More information on events related to the NCS-X initiative can be found at [www.iacp.org/ncsx](http://www.iacp.org/ncsx) or <https://www.bjs.gov/content/ncsx.cfm>.

### NIBRS Questions

#### Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

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### NCS-X Questions

#### Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS)


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## National Crime Statistics Exchange Initiative

### Examples of Recent NIBRS-Related Stories Published by News Media

Articles Cited in Reverse Chronological Order



**New system will help submit crime data to state agencies**

RHONDA SCHULTE Aug 14, 2017

A new computer system may soon provide Cody police with a more effective and efficient way to submit crime data to state and federal agencies.

The State of Wyoming, with FBI approval, establishes policies and procedures for the Wyoming Repository where crime data is stored and shared. Last year the State selected the Cody Police Department as one of the first in the state to transition to the more sophisticated Wyoming State Incident Based Reporting System.

Under the new system, definitions for offenses are expanded to include more accurate details of the crimes. It also tracks the correlation between offenses, property, victims, offenders and the person arrested. Having access to these types of details within a centralized system could better allow police to foresee trends and prevent crime in Cody.

By consent agenda action July 6, city council members gave the Cody Police Department authority to upgrade software needed to implement the new system. The council also authorized city staff to apply for a \$60,000 National Crime Statistics Exchange grant offered by the U.S. Bureau of Justice to cover costs.

When the federal grant is awarded, Cody police will switch to a new special data collections and statistical studies record-keeping system.

"The City of Cody [will] greatly benefit from switching to the Wyoming IBRS," reads a project narrative. "The police department will be able to track many more complexities of the crimes being committed within the city and be able to establish a plan of action to resolve the crime issues in a much more efficient way."

No local match is needed, nor would the police department need to hire more employees for the new program. If funding is awarded, the proposed transition would start Jan. 2, 2018.

"New system will help submit crime data to state agencies"

Aug. 14, 2017 • Cody, Wyo.

*Demonstrates how to report a local law enforcement agency's changing to NIBRS reporting*

[http://www.codyenterprise.com/news/local/article\\_153909b0-8124-11e7-98d3-cf25d066373c.html](http://www.codyenterprise.com/news/local/article_153909b0-8124-11e7-98d3-cf25d066373c.html)

**Overall crime in Denver down slightly in first few months of 2017, but some outliers**

BY: Mike Miller  
POSTED: 4:03 PM, Apr 19, 2017  
TAG: denver | denver police | crime | denver police department



DENVER – Crime in Denver dropped slightly in the first three months of 2017, but there was a notable increase in thefts from vehicles and reports of aggravated assaults.

The city of Denver compiles dynamic lists of reported crimes that fit both Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) definitions and definitions from the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS).

Crime based on UCR standards was down by 2.4 percent in Jan.-March

"Overall crime in Denver down slightly in first few months of 2017, but some outliers"

April 19, 2017 • Denver

*Demonstrates how to present UCR Summary and NIBRS data simultaneously*

<http://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/crime/overall-crime-in-denver-down-slightly-in-first-few-months-of-2017-but-some-outliers>

**Police to switch reporting system**

By Thomas Huth-Johnson NewsPressNow Jan 22, 2017



The St. Joseph Police Department is planning to switch to an incident-based reporting system that should make crime analysis more accurate.

The National Incident-Based Reporting System, or NIBRS, is a system used by law enforcement agencies for collecting and reporting data on crimes.

Police Chief Chris Connolly announced the change at last week's release of crime statistics press conference. Connolly said he is encouraged about the system going forward.

"We've put a lot of efforts on looking at different strategies, getting different agencies involved as well as literally having strategy sessions about every six to eight weeks where we actually sit

"Police to switch reporting system"

Jan. 22, 2017 • St. Joseph, Mo.

*Demonstrates how to report the change when local police move from UCR Summary data to NIBRS data*

[http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local\\_news/police-to-switch-reporting-system/article\\_76d0c80f-5216-56d8-bdf4-23f6ca065ffb.html](http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/police-to-switch-reporting-system/article_76d0c80f-5216-56d8-bdf4-23f6ca065ffb.html)



## National Crime Statistics Exchange Initiative



### Obama: Justice reform depends on better data

By Matt Leonard Jan 05, 2017

As he prepares to leave office, President Barack Obama has written an [article](#) on the president's role in criminal justice reform. Part of the president's responsibility, the piece said, is promoting data-driven solutions.

In the article published by the Harvard Law Review, Obama pointed to the White House's Data-Driven Justice Initiative and Police Data Initiative as examples of how his administration has worked to increase data gathering for criminal justice reform.

When the [Data-Driven Justice Initiative](#) to reduce unnecessary jail stays was announced in June 2016, there were 67 states, cities or counties that agreed to join the program. It identified people who could be better treated outside of jail, trained police and first responders to better treat mental health crises and encouraged the use of pretrial risk assessment tools.

There are 11 million people in county jails who spend an average of 23 days incarcerated; only 5 percent of those individuals are ultimately convicted and sentenced to time in prison. White House Senior Advisor Valerie Jarrett, who cited those statistics in a press call prior to the article's publication, said such data makes you "ask yourself whether you should be reforming bail systems. So many people end up in jail because they can't make bail."

Those risk assessment tools came under fire when [media outlets](#) and [court officials](#) looked into their effectiveness. Although the tools were designed to change the approach to pretrial incarceration that jailed low-risk offenders who were unable to pay bail, an investigation by ProPublica, found racial biases in the software that assigned higher risk scores to black defendants.

"Obama: Justice reform depends on better data"

Jan. 5, 2017

*This article, directed to public-sector IT managers, underlines the need for better data in criminal justice.*

<https://gcn.com/articles/2017/01/05/obama-criminal-justice-reform.aspx>

### Crime statistics in Spokane will be more detailed under new collection method, but year-to-year comparisons will be hard

Thu, Oct 20, 2016, 5:17 a.m.



Spokane Police Captain Grant Arnold presents crime statistics information during the first public CompStat meeting, Feb. 17, 2016, at the Fire Training Center. (Don Peltz/The Spokesman-Review)

By Rachel Alexander  
rachel@spokesman.com  
(509) 459-8408

Twitter Facebook Email RSS

The robbery happens something like this: A man enters a store and points a gun at the cashier, demanding money. On his way out the door, he punches a bystander in the face and then gets into a scuffle with the officer who arrives to arrest him.

Until a few weeks ago, the whole incident would count as one robbery. Now, it will be counted as three crimes: one robbery and two assaults.

"Crime statistics in Spokane will be more detailed under new collection method, but year-to-year comparisons will be hard"

Oct. 20, 2016 • Spokane, Wash.

*Presents the pros and cons of a NIBRS reporting system for a local agency and its community*

[http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2016/oct/20/crime-statistics-in-spokane-will-be-more-detailed-/](http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2016/oct/20/crime-statistics-in-spokane-will-be-more-detailed/)

### FBI will overhaul tracking report, add missing crimes

Karin Johnson, USA TODAY Published 5:01 p.m. ET April 2, 2015 | Updated 5:59 p.m. ET April 2, 2015



(Photo: Michael Thomas, EPA)

WASHINGTON — The FBI is in the midst of a major overhaul of its signature tracking program that for more than eight decades has been regarded as the most reliable measure of crime in the USA.

Federal authorities are attempting to convert hundreds of law enforcement agencies to an alternate reporting system that would account for perhaps scores of offenses that have never been recorded in the bureau's annual summary of crime in the USA, part of its Uniform Crime Report.

Assistant FBI Director Stephen Morris, who oversees the bureau's crime data collection functions, said there is no estimating the number of "lost" offenses because of the "summary" nature of the current reporting structure. "You don't know what you don't know," Morris said in an interview with USA TODAY.



HOW MANY HOURS DO YOU PLAY TENNIS? Special rate life insurance for tennis players. #HealthIQ. [Learn More](#)

"FBI will overhaul tracking report, add missing crimes"

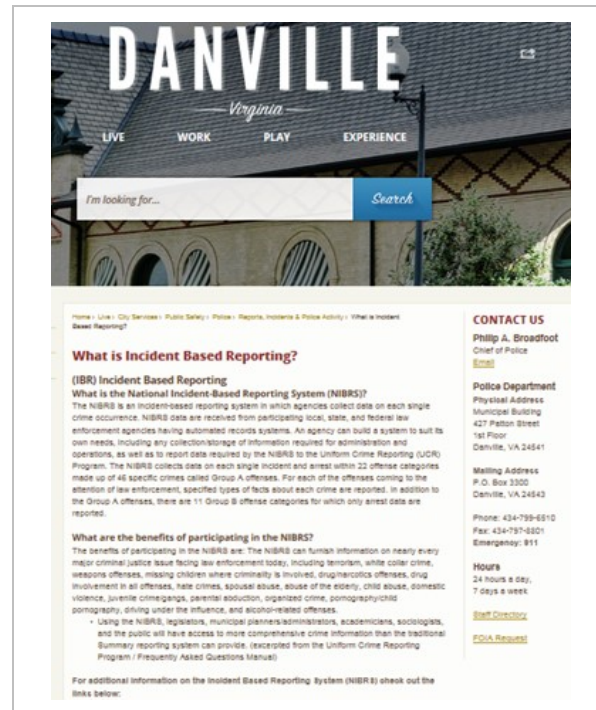
April 2, 2015

*Details the FBI's overhaul of its crime reporting and mentions the NIBRS transition*

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2015/04/02/fbi-crime-report/70393428/>

## National Crime Statistics Exchange Initiative

### Example of Explanation of Incident-Based Reporting by Jurisdictions



Danville, Virginia, explains Incident-Based Reporting to its citizens on its Web page  
<http://www.danville-va.gov/1667/What-is-Incident-Based-Reporting>

## PULL QUOTES FOR NIBRS/NCS-X

"Policymakers at all levels of government are demanding high quality, detailed information they can trust and use. Once a sufficient number of law enforcement agencies transition to NIBRS, federal policymakers will have the information they need to identify crime trends, as well as the localities in need.... In all, NIBRS will provide a new level of detail about America's crime problem, ... detail that will dismiss misperceptions, document the real patterns of crime in the U.S., and support the information needs of 21<sup>st</sup> Century policymakers."

—Howard Snyder, PhD, Assistant Director,  
Bureau of Justice Statistics, March 2017

"NIBRS is the pathway to richer crime statistics that can improve our ability to address the important issues we face today. As we move forward, the transition from the [Summary Reporting System] to the NIBRS is crucial to our success in providing better, more meaningful national crime data."

—Former FBI Director James Comey, in a letter to  
State Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program Managers  
regarding the FBI's transition to a NIBRS-only data collection,  
June 10, 2016

"NIBRS is a way in which we can collect data that will identify patterns, trends, and help us prevent crime and have thoughtful informed conversations at the national level. And we also must have a better system to collect information around officer-involved shootings, which we can use to tell ourselves there are problems here, there's improvement here, and to inform national discussions."

—Former FBI Director James Comey, in a speech to the  
International Association of Chiefs of Police,  
Chicago, October 24, 2015

"NIBRS will provide you more information on who, what, when, and where and sometimes why of a crime. NIBRS will give you more comprehensive and accurate data."

—Annie Gainous Thompson,  
Crime Analyst Program Manager, Fairfax County (Va.)  
Police Department, in a post to the electronic mailing list of the  
International Association of Crime Analysts, Oct. 11, 2016

"As more law enforcement agencies submit their data to NIBRS, the overall picture of criminal activity in communities and the United States will improve."

—Captain Dick Reed, Seattle Police Department  
[with coauthors Lissy and Strom],  
"Importance of Quality, Timely and Detailed Incident Data:  
Lessons from the Seattle Police Department," *The Police  
Chief*, June 2014, pp. after 74–75.

Retrieved from  
<http://www.policchiefmagazine.org/importance-of-quality-timely-and-detailed-incident-data-lessons-from-the-seattle-police-department/?ref=b7ba563aabc30cda68a28f901f4b6ab9>

"We worked with the [records management system] vendor who was already NIBRS compliant and now use the web portal provided by the state to submit NIBRS/MIBRS Data. The process and workflow efficiencies are much easier for report submission options."

—Sergeant Joy Colmar, Kansas City (Mo.)  
Police Department, 2016

Using NIBRS, legislators, municipal planners/administrators, academicians, sociologists, and the public will have access to more comprehensive crime information than the traditional summary reporting system can provide.”

—Chief Chet Epperson (Retired), Rockford (Ill.)  
Police Department,  
presentation to Illinois agencies in the  
NIBRS sample, April 29, 2014

“NIBRS data are used in the mapping and analysis of crime patterns in the city of Fort Worth. These statistical reports are used to drive the discussion at Compstat meetings as members of the FWPd address the causes of crime in their community.”

—Fort Worth (Texas) Police Department,  
NIBRS transition case study, 2017

“The change to automated NIBRS edit checks also benefits officers, supervisors, crime analysts, and records staff in reducing the amount of time spent cleaning and correcting data, or simply making data more accessible.”

—NIBRS Transition Report: Montgomery County  
Police Department, Gaithersburg, Maryland, May 2017

“According to FWPd personnel, the transition to NIBRS has created a richer information resource for the department to meet the needs of the public, community leaders, and citizens as they all work toward improving their city.”

—Fort Worth (Texas) Police Department,  
NIBRS transition case study, 2017

“Enhancements to the [records management system] system that directly resulted from the move to become compliant with the federal NIBRS program are improving the quality, accuracy, and completeness of the crime data used by the agency to track, diagnose, and treat crime problems in the county.”

—NIBRS Transition Report: Montgomery County  
Police Department, Gaithersburg, Maryland, May 2017

## Recent Research Using NIBRS Data: Annotated List

The inherent richness of crime data from the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) allows for in-depth analysis that can be used in meaningful ways to better understand crime and criminality, make policy decisions and deploy scarce resources. NIBRS data are available to both researchers and the public. This selection of several publications that used NIBRS data show the variety that is possible, from what general trends are evident in crime to how crime may adversely affect special populations (e.g., specific racial/ethnic groups, the elderly) and law enforcement personnel.

### General Crime Research

**Addington, L. (2015).** Research adventures with ‘kinda big’ data: Using NIBRS to study crime. In M. D. Maltz & S. K. Rice (Eds.), *Envisioning criminology* (pp. 157–163). Cham, Switzerland: Springer International Publishing. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-15868-6>

Highlights the importance and relevance of incident-based data in the wake of interest in mining big data.

**Addington, L. A. (2006).** Using National Incident-Based Reporting System murder data to evaluate clearance predictors. *Homicide Studies*, 10, 140–152. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1088767905285439>

One limitation of the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program’s Supplementary Homicide Report (SHR) is its failure to indicate whether a particular murder has been cleared. As a result, researchers using the SHR must rely on proxy measures to study clearance at the national level. NIBRS enables law enforcement agencies to report incident-level clearance information. This article provides an initial examination of the NIBRS murder clearance data to evaluate clearance predictors and to assess the validity of the proxy clearance measures previously used with the SHR.

**Messner, S. F., McHugh, S., & Felson, R. B. (2004).** Distinctive characteristics of assaults motivated by bias. *Criminology*, 42, 585–618. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1745-9125.2004.tb00530.x>

How are assaults motivated by bias similar to (and different from) other types of assaults? This article’s analyses are based on NIBRS data, pooled across 11 states. The authors found evidence suggesting that offenders motivated by racial and ethnic bias were more likely than conventional offenders to be using drugs and alcohol during the crime and more likely to seriously injure the victim. The risks of bias crime victimization (relative to the risk of assault victimization generally) were similar for blacks and other racial minorities.

**Chilton, R. (2004).** Regional variation in lethal and nonlethal assaults. *Homicide Studies*, 8, 40–56. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1177%2F1088767903256461>

NIBRS data were used to evaluate aspects of recent “culture of violence” theories. The results called into question the existence of a pervasive White code of honor in Southern cities, but the situation was less clear for some Southern counties. Furthermore, in both the North and the South, for cities with populations of more than 50,000, Black homicide offender rates were much higher than White homicide offender rates for the same cities. Although these high Black offender rates do not, in themselves, provide support for the existence of a widespread “Black code of the streets,” they do suggest that the factors and situations that produce these rates are not uniquely Southern. At a minimum, this examination of race-specific violent offender rates for cities and the areas outside those cities indicates the limitations of a focus on regional differences in overall state-level rates of victimization.



**Faggiani, D., & McLaughlin, C. (1999). Using National Incident-Based Reporting System data for strategic crime analysis. *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, 15, 181–191.**  
<https://doi.org/10.1023/A:1007574805500>

NIBRS offers considerable usefulness to frontline law enforcement for strategic crime analysis. This paper discussed the utility of NIBRS for identifying local and regional trends in narcotics-related offenses. The authors selected four localities from the 1997 Virginia NIBRS data to examine trends in the sale, distribution and possession of narcotics and to demonstrate that NIBRS provides significantly more incident-related detail than had previously been available. Neighboring communities can use NIBRS to compare information on emerging crime patterns and criminal enterprises that extend beyond local boundaries. Enhancing local reporting compliance and ensuring the quality of the data set will allow NIBRS to be used by larger entities as well as criminal justice researchers for policy development and planning.

### Protecting Law Enforcement Officers

**Barrick, K., Strom, K., & Richardson, N. (2017). Individual and situational influences on injurious assaults against the police. *Policing: An International Journal of Police Strategies & Management*, 40, 11–25.** <https://doi.org/10.1108/PIJPSM-07-2016-0116>

This study used NIBRS data to examine the individual and situational factors that predict injurious assaults against law enforcement. Initiating an arrest, one-officer vehicle type, and incidents occurring on highways/roads were all more likely to result in injurious assaults against the police. Other predictors of injury included officer and offender demographics as well as the time the incident took place.

### Special Populations Research

**Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. (2014, November). *Eight benefits of NIBRS to victim service providers* [website] (NCJ #248480). Retrieved from** <https://www.ovc.gov/pubs/NIBRS/index.html>

Crime victim services must be designed with a clear understand of who is being victimized and by whom, details that NIBRS provides but the UCR Summary does not.

**Cooper, A. (2012, December). Violent sexual assault of females reported by law enforcement in Virginia, 2000–2009. Prepared for the Bureau of Justice Statistics.**

This report used detailed NIBRS data to analyze sexual assaults in Virginia.

**Roberts, A., & Lyons, C. J. (2011). Hispanic victims and homicide clearance by arrest. *Homicide Studies*, 15, 48–73.** <http://dx.doi.org/10.1177%2F1088767910397278>

The victim-devaluing perspective of homicide clearance argues that police favor higher–social status victims by allocating greater investigative effort to their cases. Previous studies have measured social status with a two-part race variable, but the increasing U.S. Hispanic population requires the extension of homicide clearance research beyond these traditional divisions (White vs. Black, White vs. non-White, or non-Hispanic White vs. racial/ ethnic minority). Using 2000–2007 homicide data from agencies that report the victim’s ethnicity to NIBRS, the current study examined the impact of victim’s race/ethnicity on homicide clearance by arrest by a three-part measure (non-Hispanic White, non-Hispanic Black, or Hispanic). When other incident characteristics were controlled for, homicides with Hispanic victims were less likely to result in arrest than those with non-Hispanic White or non-Hispanic Black victims.

**Chu, L. D., & Krauss, J. F. (2004). Predicting fatal assault among the elderly using the National Incident-Based Reporting System crime data. *Homicide Studies*, 8, 71–95.**  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1177%2F1088767903262396>

Elderly people are susceptible to violent crime and injury because of their increased frailty, their heightened fear of crime, and their own and others' perception of their vulnerability. Nevertheless, in the U.S., elderly people have relatively low victimization rates. The authors developed a logistic model to predict survival after assault, tracking various demographic and interpersonal factors for both elderly people and the general population. Five years of data were obtained from NIBRS. The elderly have a higher risk of death from assault than younger age groups, but for both younger and older victims there is evidence of an excessively high risk of fatality in both felony-related and firearm-related assaults. Assaults involving family member or other known persons were also associated with a higher fatality risk than incidents involving strangers. The authors suggest primary and secondary prevention strategies and issues to consider for future research.

## Example: Press Release Announcing NIBRS Transition



Posted on 08/22/2017

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### MCP Transitions to New Crime Data Reporting System

The Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD) is changing its crime measurement and data reporting to the federal government. Earlier this year, the MCPD began reporting details about its individual crime incidents in the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)'s National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). Through last year, MCPD reported its crime data following the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Summary guidelines, where only total counts of specific incident classifications are reported.

NIBRS provides a higher level of detail on crime than the current UCR Summary system, which has been in use since 1929. There are approximately 6,600 law enforcement agencies in the United States currently reporting under NIBRS. The FBI and Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) have jointly funded 21 large police agencies and multiple states to support transitions to the new crime data collection system through the National Crime Statistics Exchange (NCS-X) program. It is part of a broader effort endorsed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation to have all law enforcement agencies across the nation report NIBRS data by 2021.

In 2016, the Maryland State Police was awarded a grant under NCS-X, to plan its transition so that it may expand its capacity to collect detailed incident-based crime statistics from all Maryland agencies. The NCS-X project is intended to create a NIBRS national representative crime sample that includes many of the police departments serving the largest populations, such as Montgomery County.

MCP Transitions to New Crime Data Reporting System

Aug. 22, 2017

Montgomery County Police Department, Gaithersburg, Md.

<http://www.mymcpnews.com/2017/08/22/mcp-transitions-to-new-crime-data-reporting-system/>