Bureau of Justice Statistics

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Bureau of Justice Statistics

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U.S. Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Criminal Justice Information Services Division

NIBRS Estimation Summary

AUGUST 2022

Purpose

- To generate national estimates of crime known to law enforcement based on data reported to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program via the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS).

Program highlights

BJS and the FBI formed a partnership to expand the number of law enforcement agencies reporting crime data to NIBRS through funding, training, and technical assistance. This partnership has advanced NIBRS and has:

- Provided approximately $120M in direct funding to state crime reporting programs and local law enforcement agencies.

- Developed the methods and procedures to produce national, regional, and state-level crime estimates, for initial release in Fall 2022.

- Established a suite of technical assistance tools to help agencies successfully implement NIBRS reporting.

NIBRS reporting has greatly expanded through the joint BJS-FBI efforts

- Joint efforts have doubled the number of law enforcement agencies reporting to NIBRS.

- All 50 states are certified for NIBRS.

- Two-thirds of the U.S. population are covered by NIBRS-reporting agencies—the number more than doubled between 2012 and 2022.

The outlook for large law enforcement agencies is better than anticipated, with some caveats

- Of the approximately 85 cities with a population of 250,000 or more, 62 report NIBRS data.

- The population coverage for large cities reporting NIBRS data went from 9.4 million persons in 2012 to 37.3 million persons in 2022.

- Many of the largest agencies have already transitioned to NIBRS, including Chicago, Dallas, Houston, San Diego City and County, Minneapolis, St. Louis City and County, Boston, Philadelphia, Atlanta, and Baltimore.

- Those large agencies join others that have been reporting for several years—Detroit, Memphis, Nashville, Seattle, Cincinnati, and Portland, among others.

- The two largest agencies in the United States— the New York City Police Department and Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD)—have not yet transitioned. LAPD is working with the State of California to make the transition.

10 states have seen significant growth in NIBRS reporting in the past 6 years

State	NIBRS population coverage		State	NIBRS population coverage	
	2016	**2021**		**2016**	**2021**
Texas	16%	98%	Minnesota	1%	100%
Georgia	0%	81%	Nevada	0%	100%
North Carolina	0%	95%	Mississippi	6%	59%
Indiana	4%	78%	Hawaii	0%	73%
Missouri	13%	96%	Wyoming	0%	78%

NIBRS Estimation will enable the Department of Justice to greatly improve the nation's understanding of crime and public safety

- NIBRS captures detailed data about the characteristics of criminal incidents, such as information on a broader array of offenses; types and amount of property lost; demographics of victims, offenders, and persons arrested; and what type of weapon, if any, was used in the incident.

- NIBRS allows law enforcement to report information about every offense within an incident, rather than just the most serious offense, as was historically done.

- NIBRS collects information on a wider range of offenses that more accurately reflects the types of crime encountered by police agencies, including animal cruelty, intimidation, identify theft, and drug and weapon offenses.

Information on hate crime incidents will improve under NIBRS

- The Jabara-Heyer NO HATE Act requires the Department of Justice to assist law enforcement with implementing NIBRS, to better understand the nature of hate crimes that occur in local communities.

- Hate crime data under NIBRS will include information not only on the type of bias, but also detailed information about:

  » Where the hate crime occurred.
  » The characteristics of the victim or victims involved.
  » If a weapon was present during the crime.
  » Any injuries sustained by the victim or victims.
  » If the police made an arrest after the incident.

- Over time, this detailed information about bias crimes can be used to develop evidence-based intervention and prevention strategies to help mitigate the devastating effects of hate crime on communities.

NIBRS Estimation will use well-established estimation techniques, jointly developed by BJS and the FBI

The statistical methodology will produce reliable estimates of crime with their associated margins of error. The methods are designed to:

- Estimate for nonreporting agencies—agencies that did not report to NIBRS at all and agencies that reported some data but not for the entire year.

- Account for missing or unknown information within a reported incident, where appropriate.

- Express statistical measures of confidence in each estimate—a measure of how well the estimated value of an indicator (such as the number of aggravated assaults) represents the population value.

- Assess the reliability of estimates—when uncertainty in an estimate is deemed too high, the estimate may be withheld from publication.

NIBRS Estimation will produce crime statistics that are accurate and informative

When the FBI publishes crime statistics for 2021, those statistics will be based solely on data submitted by state and local law enforcement agencies to NIBRS. *The 2021 crime estimates will continue to serve as a reliable and accurate source of information about crime known to law enforcement*. BJS and the FBI are confident that the federal government, Congress, law enforcement stakeholders, and the general public can rely on data from the FBI as a source of critical information about crime, public safety, and the health and wellness of our communities, now and into the future.