



NIBRS vs. Summary Crime Reporting

Minnesota law enforcement agencies on Jan. 1, 2021, changed how they report information about crimes in their jurisdiction. This change – from high level summary information to more specific and detailed information – was required by the FBI.

How has crime reporting changed?

The new crime reporting system is called NIBRS, or the National Incident-Based Reporting System. Until now, local law enforcement agencies had provided crime information using the Summary Reporting System. Here is some information about how these two systems differ.

Summary Reporting

- Data is collected on 10 crimes.
- For incidents involving multiple criminal acts, the most serious crime is reported.
- Data includes crimes against people and property.
- Limited victim, offender and relationship information is collected.

NIBRS Reporting

- Data is collected on 52 crimes.
- For incidents involving multiple criminal acts, all crimes are reported.
- Data includes crimes against people, property and society (i.e. drug or narcotic offenses).
- Detailed victim, offender, and relationship information is collected.

Key facts about NIBRS

- **NIBRS will have better data.** NIBRS has more thorough data that will help law enforcement target their resources to fight crime more effectively. This will help make communities safer.
- **Law enforcement, researchers and the public will still have access to long-term trends.** The FBI will convert the NIBRS data back into the SRS format specifically for long-term trend analysis. This will offer researchers and the public an “apples to apples” comparison.
- **NIBRS will improve community response to crime.** Knowing more about crimes, their victims and perpetrators will help other emergency response, victim advocates and resource organizations better prevent, plan for and respond to emergency situations.
- **Crime rate changes.** Some agencies may see small differences in certain crime rates. This reflects crimes that were happening before but were not being counted. See the example below.

Examples of how crime data will change with NIBRS

- There’s an incident where the victim was robbed, murdered and their home burned down.
 - Summary Reporting – The murder is counted.
 - NIBRS Reporting – The murder, robbery and arson are counted.
- There’s an incident where a family pet has intentionally been poisoned.
 - Summary Reporting – The incident is not reported (data on animal cruelty is not included).
 - NIBRS Reporting – The animal cruelty incident is reported.

When can we see the new data?

The 2020 Uniform Crime Report containing summary data will be published in July 2021. After that the public will obtain current NIBRS crime information using the Minnesota Crime Data Explorer (in development now).