

Since 1929, crime statistics have typically been generated from counts of the total number of offenses (murder, rape, robbery, burglary, etc.), which are reported by law enforcement agencies (LEAs) monthly or annually to either the state or the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. Today, nearly nine decades later, policy makers recognize that they need more detailed data about crime to develop thoughtful policies that protect the public and improve public safety. Most LEAs already collect incident-level detail—including offender and victim demographics, relationships, location of the incident, whether a weapon was involved, and more—to use for tactical and operational purposes, but they have not been sharing it for purposes of reporting crime statistics. Moving crime reporting from summary-based offense counts to detailed incident-based data will provide law enforcement, policy makers, and the public with accurate information about crimes and their circumstances.

The **National Crime Statistics Exchange (NCS-X)** Initiative is part of a national movement to expand the number of LEAs reporting crime data to the FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). NCS-X seeks to transition a sample of 400 LEAs from across the country, including all of the largest agencies, to NIBRS, in order to use NIBRS data to generate national crime statistics. Through the NCS-X Initiative, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) and the FBI are providing technical assistance and financial support to state UCR programs and to local and state LEAs included in the NCS-X sample to collect and report NIBRS data.



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NATIONAL CRIME STATISTICS EXCHANGE (NCS-X)

AN EVOLUTION IN CRIME REPORTING: MOVING FROM SUMMARY TO INCIDENT-BASED UCR



What Activities Are Being Supported Through NCS-X?*

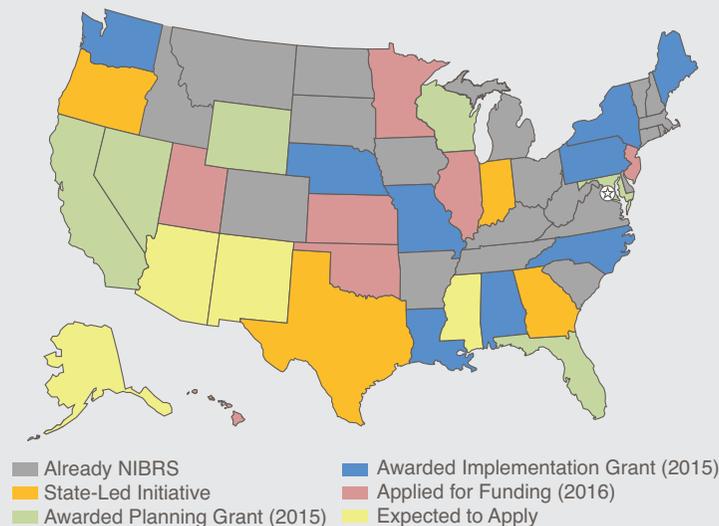
State UCR Programs: BJS and FBI are providing funding to state UCR programs so that they can prepare for and support more LEAs in their states to participate in NIBRS. Approximately 20 states have received NCS-X funding to plan or implement new or expanded programs. Several states also have state-led initiatives.

Local & State LEAs: The NCS-X initiative has made resources available to assist agencies in conducting “readiness assessments” to help them determine the technical, administrative, or operational changes needed to participate in NIBRS. To date, BJS and FBI have funded 25 agencies (through grants or as pilot sites) to allow them to take the necessary steps to transition to NIBRS. Funded agencies have included the Chicago, Montgomery County (MD), and Dallas Police Department.

Resources: The NCS-X team has developed a *State NIBRS Playbook* that describes the steps necessary for a state to transition to NIBRS, and it is in the process of developing a *Local Agency Playbook* that describes the steps for a local LEA agency to consider as it seeks to become NIBRS certified. The team has published articles on *Lessons Learned* and developed *Case Studies* describing local LEAs’ experiences in transitioning to NIBRS. It has also developed a *Media Kit* for engaging the press, as well as elected and appointed officials, and is open to conducting presentations as necessary.

All resources, including announcements for future funding opportunities, can be found at www.iacp.org/ncsx or www.bjs.gov/content/ncsx.cfm

Status of NCS-X Activities Across the U.S.*



Will NIBRS Affect Crime Rates?

A 2013 FBI study showed that moving from UCR Summary to NIBRS reporting has little effect on crime rates. Additional research has shown that very few incidents (<8%) have more than one offense, so that removal of the hierarchy rule is unlikely to cause a big difference in reported crime statistics. A link to this article, and related articles, can be found at www.iacp.org/ncsx.

What Are the Benefits of NIBRS Participation for a State or Local LEA?

- » NIBRS reflects how most agencies currently collect information about crime and enables them to provide details about the context of crime.

- » NIBRS offers standardization and enables agencies to more easily share and analyze data and examine crime problems across jurisdictions.
- » NIBRS edit checks ensure better-quality data.
- » NIBRS will enable agencies to perform advanced crime analysis for strategic and tactical purposes, as well as research for planning and budgeting purposes at the state level.
- » In an era of better information about policing, NIBRS provides increased transparency.



How Does NCS-X Fit With FBI’s Crime Data Modernization Effort?

FBI Director James Comey strongly supports improving our nation’s crime statistics. NCS-X is the first step in this national transition to NIBRS.

The International Association of Chiefs of Police, National Sheriffs’ Association, Major Cities Chiefs Association, and Major County Sheriffs’ Association have also expressed their support for this effort.