CJIS

Criminal Justice Information Support
Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program
National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS)

NIBRS in Washington State

Background

- The Washington State Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program was activated in October 1979 and began the collection of monthly Summary Reports from contributing law enforcement agencies in January 1980.
- In December 2006, Washington State was certified by the FBI to officially collect and submit National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) data.
- In January 2008, based on a 2007 advisory committee recommendation, the WASPC Executive Board made the decision and set the goal date for agencies to convert from Summary Reports to NIBRS by January 1, 2012.
- Due to a number of agencies involved in records management system (RMS) upgrades and replacements during 2011, the Executive Board agreed to grant extensions to agencies that could not meet January 2012 deadline.
- The Washington State UCR Program includes both NIBRS and Summary Reports submission but, eventually, will be 100% NIBRS.

What Is Reported

- Once a law enforcement agency is approved to submit using the NIBRS method of submitting crime statistics, it no longer submits via the Summary Reports method.
- NIBRS divides offenses into two (2) classifications designated as Group A (Incident) and Group B (Arrest).
- All offenses are classified on the basis of the law enforcement investigation in accordance with FBI UCR guidelines and offense definitions and are not necessarily identical to the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) definitions.
- Because UCR identifies and tallies *law enforcement* contact, offense classifications are not based on filings of the prosecutor, court, medical examiner, jury, or other judicial or subsequent findings.

Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs

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The Differences Between NIBRS and Summary Reports

- In NIBRS, there are twenty-four (24) Group A offense categories made up of fifty (50) offenses; in Summary Reports, there are only eight (8) Part I offenses.
- All crimes committed within the same incident by the same person or group of persons, without a significant time or space interval separating them, are reported in NIBRS; in Summary Reports, the hierarchy rule allows only the most serious offense that occurred within a crime incident to be counted.
- NIBRS collects more comprehensive detail and the data within an incident are related to facilitate report generation for crime analysis; details are minimal in Summary Reports and the data are not related.

How To Use NIBRS Data

- The *2012 Crime In Washington* report was the first annual publication with the majority of data submitted from Washington law enforcement agencies using NIBRS; however, some agencies are still submitting Summary Reports statistics so the data had to be separated in the publication.
- Any report will be a "snapshot" based on what is in the state repository database as of that date; with NIBRS, there are no "fixed" statistics because law enforcement agencies update their incidents as new information becomes available.
- The state repository data should not be compared to FBI reports which are published later this year; even though Washington State forwards the NIBRS crime data to the FBI, the FBI converts the data to Summary Reports and the offenses are counted differently.
- The data displayed per agency should <u>not</u> be used to compare to other agencies or compile "rankings" of cities and counties as there are several variables which contribute to crime in a particular jurisdiction, including the demographics, economic, cultural make-up of the population, the local industrial, economic base, its dependence upon neighboring jurisdictions, the transportation system, its economic dependence on non-residents (such as tourists, shoppers, or other day-time visitors), and its proximity to military installations, correctional facilities, universities, colleges, or state hospitals.
- Crime rate is based on a specific crime category or crime grouping, such as violent crimes, and is adjusted for variances in population by indicating the number of offenses for each 1,000 persons.
  (Population/1000 = x; Crime Category/x = Crime Rate)