

**Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs  
Criminal Justice Information Support (CJIS) Department  
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The Criminal Justice Information Support (CJIS) Department is the central repository for statewide Summary Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) and the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). This is a collective effort on the part of city, county, tribal, state, and federal law enforcement agencies to portray a statewide and nationwide view of crime. Washington State has approximately 240 reporting agencies that provide monthly crime offense and arrest information to the CJIS Department. Although it is a voluntary program, 98% of the state's population is represented by this crime data. The data are presented in our annual report, Crime in Washington, for the purposes of trend analysis, research, and public awareness. The CJIS Department forwards the data to the FBI for inclusion in the Crime in United States report.

### **Summary UCR**

Summary reporting is currently the most common method used for reporting crime data in Washington State. It consists of eight (8) specific offenses that are serious in nature and occur with sufficient frequency to be able to develop comparative trends. Arrest information is collected through this program, as is information on assaults against officers, homicide circumstances, and arson information. The eight offenses are criminal homicide, forcible rape, robbery, assault, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle, and arson. An additional twenty-one (21) offenses are collected in the arrest data.

### **NIBRS**

The National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) is a more comprehensive collection of crime data than Summary UCR. By January 1, 2012, NIBRS will replace Summary UCR by all agencies in Washington State. NIBRS includes twenty-two (22) offense categories made up of forty-six (46) specific crimes. Additional offenses are collected in the arrest data. The data are not just a count of offense types but also contains information on the incident, location type, property stolen, victim, offender/arrestee, and weapon involved.

Crime mapping is available to agencies submitting NIBRS. Crime mapping is a key component of crime analysis and policing providing a tool to visualize and analyze crime incident patterns and the identification of "hot spots". Mapping improves information dissemination, evaluation and administration by informing officers and investigators of crime incident location, making resource allocation decisions, evaluating interventions, informing residents about crime activity and changes in their community, and identifying repeat calls-for-service.

There are two (2) options available for NIBRS reporting, both requiring use of the Internet:

1. The first option is accomplished through direct data entry using the NIBRS Individual Incident Entry feature. There is no cost to your agency and no RMS vendor involvement. This option is suited for agencies with less than fifty (50) incidents per month.

2. The second option requires your records management system (RMS) be NIBRS-compliant and able to create a batch file for upload to the NIBRS repository. There is no cost to your agency for the file upload; however, you must work with your RMS vendor to develop the file and upload ability.

Either option will require your agency become certified to submit NIBRS. The certification process includes mandatory training (provided by WASPC staff), three (3) consecutive months of data with a sustained error rate of less than 4%, and six (6) months or less of dual-reporting of NIBRS and Summary UCR data for the purpose of statistical comparison.

### **Domestic Violence**

Domestic violence offenses are collected as mandated by the Washington State Legislature. These are not separate offenses but, because of the nature of the relationship of those involved, these offenses are further categorized for analysis. The offenses collected are limited to: homicide, forcible rape, robbery, assault, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, arson, and violation of protection/no-contact orders.

### **Hate Crime**

Like domestic violence offenses, hate crimes are not distinct, separate offenses. They are traditional offenses that are motivated in whole, or in part, by the offender's bias. The motivations are specific and include biases against race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, ethnic or nation origin, and gender. The offenses collected are limited to: murder, forcible rape, robbery, assault, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, arson, intimidation, and vandalism. Data collected in the hate crime program is forwarded to the federal level at the FBI.

### **Full-Time Law Enforcement Employee Counts**

Every year, the CJIS Department sends the Law Enforcement Employees form out to each law enforcement agency in the state. The form provides the department with counts of full-time commissioned officers and civilian employees paid from law enforcement funds. Response to this form each year is 100% without fail. This data are forwarded to the FBI.

### **Sex Offender Document Imaging**

Enacted by legislation in 1999, RCW 40.14.070 mandates permanent retention of case files for sexually violent offenses. WASPC is the centralized "archive" of closed cases for more than fifty (50) law enforcement agencies. The centralized location relieves agencies records-keeping and the turn-around time for a request is about thirty (30) minutes. Each year, there are over 200 requests for case files from criminal justice agencies within and out-of-state for the purpose of determining if a sex offender met the criteria of a sexually violent predator and the end-of-sentence review committee for the purpose of fulfilling its duties. Approximately one-third of the requests come from out-of-state.