

The Washington Uniform Crime Reporting Program
Criminal Justice Information Support
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WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF SHERIFFS & POLICE CHIEFS

Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) 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 WUCR Department. Although it is a voluntary program, 98% of the state's population is represented by UCR data. This data is presented in our annual report, Crime in Washington, for the purposes of trend analysis, research, and public awareness. The data is also forwarded on to the FBI for inclusion in the Crime in United States report.

The UCR Program is made up of the following categories:

UCR – Summary Reporting

Summary reporting is currently the most common method used for reporting crime data in Washington State. It consists of eight specific offenses that are serious in nature and occur with sufficient frequency to be able to develop comparative trends. Arrest information is also collected through this program, as is information on assaults against officers, homicide circumstances, and arson information. The data that is collected from summary reporting is a basic but useful count of offenses, not detailed incident data as in NIBRS. The eight offenses are: criminal homicide, forcible rape, robbery, assault, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle, and arson. There are an additional 21 offenses collected in the arrest data.

UCR – NIBRS

National Incident-Based Reporting is a more comprehensive collection of crime data than is Summary reporting. NIBRS data is designed to be a by-product of the local law enforcement agencies' records management systems and is submitted to the State UCR Program electronically. The data includes 22 offense categories made up of 46 specific crimes. Additional offenses are collected in the arrest data. The data is not just a count of offense types but also contains information on the incident, location type, property stolen, victim, offender/arrestee and weapon involved.

WASPC has just recently installed a NIBRS State Repository and testing with the FBI will be underway in early 2006. To ensure that the data from the new system is accurate, the error rate of the data must be under four percent for three consecutive months and pass trend analysis for six months. Once WASPC has passed these tests, the state system will be certified and we can begin certifying the individual agencies in a similar process.

Domestic Violence

Domestic violence offenses are collected as mandated by the Washington State Legislature. These are not separate offenses from those collected in UCR summary reporting 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 UCR 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 that are paid from law enforcement funds. Response to this form each year is 100% without fail. This data is forwarded to the FBI.