The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCC), National Sheriffs’ Association (NSA), and Major County Sheriffs’ Association (MCSA) recognize the need to modernize nationwide crime reporting and related data.

The Uniform Crime Reporting Program established in 1929, is in need of modernization and in recent years has been gradually transitioning from the Summary Reporting System (SRS) to the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS).

Over 6,500 agencies already regularly report to NIBRS representing 34 states (16 of which are complete NIBRS reporters).

It is recognized that the current FBI UCR Program does not collect data that adequately reflects modern crime and related activities nor does it share crime reporting and related data on a real time basis in the manner of transparency expected by the nation’s law enforcement agencies and citizens we serve.

The FBI National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) provides information on most criminal justice issues facing law enforcement today: white collar crime, weapons offenses, drug/narcotics offenses, drug involvement in all crimes, hate crimes, domestic and familial abuse, elder abuse, juvenile crime/gangs, parental abduction, organized crime, pornography, animal abuse,
driving under the influence, and alcohol-related offenses.

The NIBRS provides specific details on crime which includes data about the victims, offenders, property, and arrests along with elements for each offense.

The NIBRS improves the ability for law enforcement agencies to better address their constituencies’ concerns regarding crime in their communities and how to allocate resources more effectively.

Agencies using the NIBRS will find similarities in crime fighting problems across neighboring jurisdictions, track offense trends to define and develop crime prevention strategies, provide the status of public safety within jurisdictions, and have data that provides a better opportunity of studying crime and criminal behavior.

The NIBRS provides a more comprehensive view of crime in the United States and offers greater flexibility in data compilation and analysis.

Some funding for the transition to the NIBRS-only data collection has been identified for states without NIBRS capability and for 400 sampled agencies identified as part of the National Crime Statistics Exchange (NCS-X) initiative, a partnership between the Bureau of Justice Statistics and the FBI.

We actively support the goal of a 5 year planned retirement of the UCR Summary Reporting System and a planned transition to a NIBRS-only collection system, with a three year re-assessment of the progress of the transition.

We also support the efforts of the Crime Indicators Working Group (CIWG), working in conjunction with the FBI CJIS Advisory Policy Board (APB), to concurrently develop additional data to be collected that will more adequately reflect modern crime elements and related activities.

The IACP, MCC, NSA, and MCSA, representing the leadership of the nation’s law enforcement community, strongly believe that these issues are critical to the success of modern law enforcement and look forward to working with the FBI, BJS, and others to reach these goals.