



NIBRS Certification Requirements

Effective January 1, 2021, data collected via the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) will be the data standard for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. However, the FBI UCR Program must certify state UCR Programs, federal, state, and tribal law enforcement agencies before they are permitted to submit NIBRS data for inclusion in the FBI UCR Program database and for publication. To be NIBRS-certified means the data submitted during the NIBRS certification process was consistent with the FBI UCR Program standards.

To become certified, federal, state, and tribal agencies and state UCR programs must submit incident-based data for six consecutive months and meet the following criteria:

- Provide evidence its NIBRS reporting system is compatible with the FBI UCR Program's system and follows NIBRS technical specifications. The FBI UCR Program ensures that the local agency or state reports each of the 58 data elements along with each of the 52 offense categories.
 - For federal and tribal agencies:
 - Must report 59 data elements (1 additional data element specific to federal and tribal agencies).
 - Must report 71 offense categories (19 additional offenses specific to federal and tribal agencies).
- Demonstrate its ability to meet deadlines, respond to queries and requests, and update and correct submissions as requested by the FBI UCR Program in a timely manner.
- Sustain an error rate of 4 percent or less for three separate, consecutive data submissions. The FBI UCR Program defines the error rate as the number of rejected reports over the number of reports submitted. A full list of errors is included in the *NIBRS Technical Specification*. The error rate is not applied to Extensible Markup Language (XML) submissions.
- Submit logical and consistent data. The FBI UCR Program measures logic by the percentage of Group A Incident Report submissions containing an error.
- Submit data submissions that are statistically reasonable as a whole (in comparison to national trends). The FBI UCR Program requires at least six consecutive months of data for statistical reasonableness review; the FBI UCR Program reviews data in both NIBRS format and data that were converted to the Summary Reporting System. The FBI UCR Program evaluates aggregate data submissions in terms of data trend, volume, and monthly fluctuations.
- Demonstrate the state program, federal, state, or tribal agency can report Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted data, cargo theft data, hate crime data, zero reports (for smaller contributors), Group B arrests, and all new initiatives.

Agencies and state programs must comply with, at a minimum, version 3.0 of the *NIBRS Technical Specification*. The FBI UCR Program suggests that agencies submit NIBRS data using XML, if possible. Guidance on submitting data via XML is available in the NIBRS XML Information Exchange Package Documentation (IEPD).

Once an agency (federal, state, or tribal) or state has been NIBRS certified, it must maintain its data quality standards and an error rate of 4 percent or less. If an agency or state makes significant enhancements or replaces its records management system, it must go through the NIBRS certification process again to become recertified.

The NIBRS Technical Specification and the IEPD are available online at <https://www.fbi.gov/services/cjis/ucr/data-documentation>. Agencies with questions about the certification process should contact ucr-nibrs@fbi.gov.