

Pitfalls of Ranking

In the past, crime data has been used to compile rankings of individual jurisdictions and institutions of higher learning. These crude and/or incomplete analyses have often created misleading perceptions which adversely affect geographic entities and their residents. The FBI has a long-standing policy against ranking cities, counties, states and universities/colleges on the basis of crime data alone.

Locales should not be ranked because there are many factors that cause the nature and type of crime to vary from place to place. NIBRS statistics include only jurisdictional figures along with reported crime, clearance or arrest data. Rankings ignore the uniqueness of each locale. All jurisdictions are affected in some degree by:

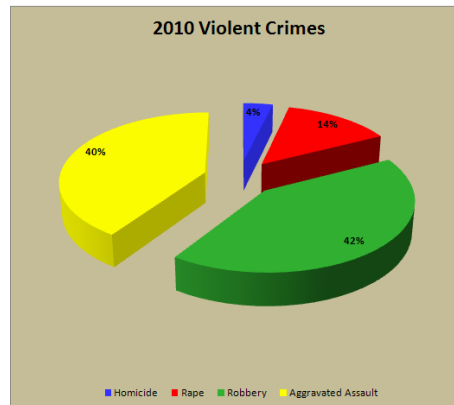
- Population density and degree of urbanization of the locality and surrounding area
- Variations in composition of population
- Number of residents vs. the "policing population," i.e., residents plus daily commuters, transients, tourists, shoppers, etc.
- Economic conditions
- Modes of transportation and highway systems
- Cultural conditions
- Family conditions with respect to divorce and family cohesiveness
- Climate
- Effective strength of law enforcement agencies
- Administrative and investigative emphases of law enforcement
- Policies of other components of the criminal justice system, i.e., prosecutorial, judicial, correctional, and probational

The attitudes of a jurisdiction's citizenry toward crime and the crime reporting practices of its residents are known to have an effect on the number of crimes coming to the attention of law enforcement.

Because of concerns regarding proper use of NIBRS data the Gulfport Police Department cautions and, in fact, strongly discourages data users against using rankings to evaluate locales or the effectiveness of their law enforcement departments.

When will data be available?

The Gulfport Police department publishes a crime report quarterly that, upon review, is posted directly on our website at "www.gulfport-ms.gov/police/."



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"Building a safer Gulfport together"
"Police Helping People"



Gulfport Police Department

National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS)



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NIBRS and the Gulfport Police Department

History

In 2010 the Gulfport Police Department became the first law enforcement agency in the state of Mississippi certified by the FBI to report crime statistics using the **National Incident Based Reporting System or NIBRS**. This allows for a more timely reporting method that is software driven and reported directly to the FBI. Based on this the Gulfport Police Department will be using NIBRS for all future crime reporting.

This Transition to NIBRS represents a great advancement from the **Uniform Crime Reporting** or UCR method which has remained virtually unchanged since the program was instituted by the FBI in 1930. As jurisdictions switch from UCR to NIBRS many have expressed concern about the effects incident-based reporting will have on crime statistics. Under UCR agencies only reported the most serious index offense per incident of crime (the Hierarchy rule.) As an example; if there was an incident where an individual broke into a house and assaulted the resident prior to stealing their car this would have only been counted in the Assault category. Using NIBRS this particular example would lead to three separate incidents (or crimes) being reported, one in each category of Assault, Burglary and Auto Theft. (It should be noted that incidents involving this many reportable crimes are outside of the norm and would therefore not have that significant of an effect on the overall numbers.)

The advantage of NIBRS is the “real-time” reporting capability. When a NIBRS report is completed it contains information that has been reconciled up to that point. Therefore if a report that was completed last week is compared to a report completed today, there may be some differences. NIBRS is constantly being updated by developing investigations as well as other pertinent information to give a more transparent representation of crime statistics.

Accompanying any NIBRS report will be a date that indicates the date the data was acquired. This indicates that the data is good for that date only and any subsequent reports may show discrepancies based on developing investigations. NIBRS reporting is a fluid method of crime reporting. It is changing as new information is developed and therefore the statistics are subject to change.

Who Reports?

All law enforcement agencies as well as colleges and universities report crime statistics monthly to the FBI. This information is compiled and published yearly by the FBI.

What is Incident Based Reporting?

Incident based reporting views crime and all of its components as an “incident.” In order to obtain important data, facts recorded and preserved about the incident are organized into specific categories or segments. The vehicle used for recording these facts is a “data element.” Data elements provide information about crime and its involvement with victims, offenders, property, arrestees, etc.

What is NIBRS?

NIBRS is an incident based reporting system designed to collect data on every single crime occurrence and on each incident and arrest within the occurrence. The most significant difference between NIBRS and the traditional UCR system is the degree of detail in the reporting. Unlike the UCR system that collects only eight Part I crimes, NIBRS collects 22 crime categories made up of 47 specific crimes called Group A offenses. Additionally, arrests are reported for 11 Group B offense categories. Under the old summary UCR program only the most serious offense was reported. In NIBRS up to 10 offenses can be reported in an incident, providing a more accurate picture of crime. Because of the differences between UCR summary data and NIBRS data, any cross-comparisons would provide inaccurate results in trend analysis.

Group A Offenses

- Arson
- Assault
- Bribery
- Burglary/Breaking and Entering
- Counterfeiting/Forgery
- Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property
- Drug/Narcotic
- Embezzlement
- Extortion/Blackmail

- Fraud
- Gambling
- Homicide
- Kidnapping/Abduction
- Larceny/Theft
- Pornography/Obscene Material
- Prostitution
- Robbery
- Sex Offenses, Forcible
- Sex Offenses, Non-forcible
- Stolen Property
- Weapon Law Violations

Group B Offenses

- Bad Checks
- Curfew/Loitering/Vagrancy Violations
- Disorderly Conduct
- Driving Under the Influence
- Drunkenness
- Family Offenses, Nonviolent
- Liquor Law Violations
- Peeping Tom
- Runaway
- Trespass of Real Property
- All Other Offenses

