

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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NIBRS

NATIONAL INCIDENT BASED REPORTING SYSTEM

Missouri and NIBRS Compliancy

As a police agency in the State of Missouri, you experience many challenges. Unfortunately, changes in how you provide services to your community are part of those challenges.

In June 2016, the FBI announced that the federal Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program would transition from the Summary Reporting System (SRS) to the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) starting January 1, 2021. They also mandated that submission of an agency's NIBRS data would be done electronically.

Why did the FBI retire the SRS program?

- The simple answer is that SRS has been around since the days of Bonnie and Clyde, Baby Face Nelson, and Prohibition. That's when the FBI began data collection from local agencies. With data from SRS, agencies reported crimes using the SRS Hierarchy Rule, that only captured one crime per incident.
- The more detailed answer is that NIBRS eliminates the Hierarchy Rule. By doing this, NIBRS captures more offenses per incident, with up to 10 offenses per incident using 52 offenses, plus 10 additional offenses for which

only arrests are reported. This will dramatically improve data collection and more realistically reflect criminal activity being committed in local communities.

In addition to a more detailed look at the types of offenses being committed, NIBRS collects several important details. Incident date and time, whether offenses were attempted or completed, relationships between victims and offenders, demographic information, gang activity, and expanded victim types, are some of those details. A further expansion of offenses includes identity theft, computer hacking, and crimes that were not in the original SRS. Collecting these new data points will help the Bureau of Justice Statistics and other advocacy groups gather more meaningful statistics to promote discussion, better planning and, ultimately, better policing.

One concern which has been voiced is that the NIBRS collection method of reporting all crimes associated with an incident will result in higher crime statistics within an agency. While initially true that agencies may see an increase in some categories of crime, remember that these crimes were still being committed previously, they just weren't being reported using SRS.

To avoid the perception of an apparent increase in crime rates, it is suggested that police administrators familiarize themselves with the benefits of NIBRS, how NIBRS differs from SRS, and how NIBRS provides a more transparent and complete understanding of crime.

The mandate to move to NIBRS has created challenges for agencies in the State of Missouri who were not previously NIBRS reporting:

- Purchasing new, or upgrading current, Records Management Software (RMS), to support NIBRS submissions
- Selecting an RMS that is also Missouri Incident Based Reporting System (MIBRS) compliant
- Determining the cost of RMS programs and training
- Establishing a records management process capable of capturing NIBRS data
- Training or retraining officers and staff on new NIBRS reporting requirements
- Attaining NIBRS certification for the agency
- Implementing the new NIBRS-compliant solution in a timely manner

RMS programs are commercially available records management solutions. To become NIBRS-

compliant, the programs have mapped state statutes and offenses to match their reportable NIBRS offense codes. RMS programs also collect data points that NIBRS wants, such as victim, relationship, weapons, or many other categories of information that are needed. The programs then complete an error check for the incident report, rejecting reports that do not include the necessary data points.

At the end of the reporting period, RMS programs then submit the NIBRS/MIBRS report to the appropriate agency. In the State of Missouri MIBRS information is reported to the Missouri State Highway Patrol since 2001, when Missouri instituted UCR reporting on a statewide basis. This information is then forwarded to the FBI for use in national crime statistics.

Currently, there are numerous NIBRS- and MIBRS-compliant RMS programs available for agencies to use. However, cost is a concern. In response, the State of Missouri partnered with the St. Louis County Police Department, and The REJIS Commission, via a State Grant to build CARE (Computer Assisted Report Entry).

CARE is the only NIBRS-compliant program created specifically for the State of Missouri. Developed by the St. Louis County Police Department as their in-house records management and report writing solution, CARE has been used by them since 1984. Under the State Grant, CARE is now being offered to agencies across the State of Missouri as their NIBRS solution.

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In addition to being NIBRS-compliant, CARE includes investigative tools that provide officers access to data on people, vehicles, addresses, and more while maintaining data security. Crime data can be exported via Excel into Google mapping to analyze crime trends, thus helping agencies allocate resources.

Case workflow can be managed within CARE using the Case Management tools, and information can be shared with other CARE police departments, under guidelines established by each agency. Additionally, CARE has been certified as NIBRS/MIBRS compliant, meaning the agency does not have to get certification to submit NIBRS.

The move to NIBRS is mandatory, and may have already caused many headaches within your agency since its implementation in January. However, the end result of moving to NIBRS will result in better reporting of incidents, a more thorough understanding of crime that is occurring in your city, and compliance with FBI mandates.

For more information on CARE, contact The REJIS Commission at (314) 535-1950. For information on Records Management programs, download the "Standard Functional Specifications for Law Enforcement Records Management Systems (RMS)" guide from the Bureau of Justice Assistance website at bja.ojp.gov.

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