

# Department of Public Safety

## Uniform Crime Reporting



# Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR)

The Department of Public Safety is required to report crime statistics under AS12.62.130

There are two different types of UCR data formats:

- **Summary Reporting System (SRS)—1930's**
  - Currently used in Alaska
  - Summarized view of an incident with minimal reporting elements
- **National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS)—1980's**
  - FBI move to only accept NIBRS data by January 1, 2021
  - Federal grants being rewritten to require NIBRS reporting specifically

# UCR Reporting Formats

## Summary Reporting System (SRS)

- **Only 9 offense types reportable when they are known to law enforcement**
  - Murder, Rape, Robbery, Assault, Burglary, Larceny, Motor Vehicle Theft, Arson, Human Trafficking Commercial Sex Acts/Involuntary Servitude
  - Hierarchy Rule dictates only reporting the most severe of these offenses, regardless if other offenses occurred during the incident
  - Victim/Suspect information only collected for murder
  - Relationship information only collected for murder
  - Limited information collected on location, date/time, property types, etc.

# UCR Reporting Formats

## National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS)

- **Currently 24 offense types reportable when they are known to law enforcement**
  - All of the SRS offenses plus Animal Cruelty, Bribery, Forgery, Vandalism, Drug Offenses, Embezzlement, Extortion, Fraud, Gambling, Kidnapping, Pornography, Prostitution, Sex Offenses (in addition to Rape), Stolen Property, and Weapons Law Violations
  - Additional data elements collected:
    - Date, time, and location of offense
    - Victim/suspect demographics and relationships
    - Alcohol/drug information related to the offense
    - Domestic violence related offenses

# Sample UCR Report

A 28 year old female is invited to a party at a friends home, and decides to work together with three other party attendees to subsequently assault the friend, punching her repeatedly in the face, and stealing her wallet. They then exit the party, stealing the friend's truck, and purchasing gas and food with the friend's credit card. No arrests are made.

- **SRS:** this would be reported as a Strong-Arm Robbery of a Residence with the wallet and the vehicle listed as stolen property.
- **NIBRS:** this would be reported as a Strong-Arm Robbery of a Residence along with at least one report of Fraud (depending on how many locations the card was used), and one report of Motor Vehicle Theft. The value of the wallet and truck, along with what was purchased using the credit card, would be listed. The relationship between the suspects and the victim would be listed, and the demographics for each suspect would be listed, along with an indication if the offenders were suspected of using drugs/alcohol. Any injury to the victim would be listed, and the financial institution for the credit card would also be listed as a victim. A location would be listed for each offense reported.

# Transitioning to NIBRS

- Provides data at national and state levels needed to better understand the nature of crime, criminality and victimization, which allows policymakers to make informed decisions
- Policing is in the national spotlight and we lack data to address citizens' concerns about policing and criminality
- We live in an information age:
  - Improved technology allows for crime reporting beyond summary tally sheets
  - Citizens expect accurate and timely crime data to support public policy decisions



# NIBRS Benefits

- **Provide context to better understand crime**
  - Responsive to citizens concerns with increased transparency and accountability
  - Additional detail may help with making policy decisions and resource allocation
- **Standardized data structure for incident-level data**
  - Identify emerging trends in violent crime, crimes against the elderly, residential burglaries, domestic violence, and many others
  - Explore the nature and changing characteristics of offenders over time across a broad spectrum of incidents
- **Evaluate policing strategies**

# NIBRS Challenges

- NIBRS has over 500 edits that each incident must pass, checking both data format and reasonableness
  - Errors at the incident level must be resolved prior to an agency being able to submit a monthly report
  - Warnings must be reviewed to ensure data quality and reasonableness
- Only 24 offense categories, but 52 specific crimes reportable when known to law enforcement (see attachment 'Effects of NIBRS on Crime Stats')
- Continually being updated at the national level; more data will be collected moving forward (3 new offenses in the last 2 years)



# Alaska Records Management System (ARMS)

- The Department of Public Safety implemented a robust records management system (ARMS) in 2012
  - Limited staff to review the data; three user support personnel assigned to compile and submit monthly data for AST in addition to providing statewide user support for ARMS and the Traffic and Criminal Software (TraCS) application
  - No staff time to learn, review, test, and vet NIBRS programming changes
  - No additional training or assistance provided to other agencies using ARMS on UCR reporting

# Other Agencies and UCR

AST is the only sizeable\* agency without UCR staff

- Anchorage Police Department has 9\*\*
  - 22,267 Reported Part I Offenses for 2016
- Fairbanks Police Department has 2.5
  - 1,941 Reported Part I Offenses for 2016
- Wasilla Police Department has 1
  - 639 Reported Part I Offenses for 2016
- Juneau Police Department has 3\*\*
  - 2,464 Reported Part I Offenses for 2016

\*AST had 6,778 Reported Part I Offenses for 2016

\*\*May be increasing staff to accommodate NIBRS transition

# Benefits of UCR Staff for NIBRS

- Subject matter experts able to address training needs related to case management for the agency
  - data quality checks on incidents with regular and consistent review;
  - more complete data entry allows for more timely and accurate data analysis and reporting
- Less time for sworn personnel to write a case report
  - administrative staff to complete data entry requirements based on officer's report
  - Estimating 30 minutes of time saved on the roughly 7,000 current reportable SRS offenses for AST equates to 3,500 hours of sworn personnel time; NIBRS would increase this number significantly due to the more extensive number of data elements and larger number of reportable offenses

# Questions

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# Federal Receipt Authority

Department of Public Safety

And

Alaska Court System

## Bureau of Justice Assistance Available Funds

