

Animal Cruelty Data Reporting in NIBRS

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The FBI's National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS)

- FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program started collecting summary based data 1930.
 - Seven major offenses; collected data on lesser offenses if person charged
 - Hierarchy rule- ranks the crimes in order of severity and only accepts the most severe
- 1989 updated system to allow for more detailed analysis-National Incident Based Reporting System
 - Incident based
 - Dropped hierarchy rule; can report up to 10 criminal offenses per incident

NIBRS (cont'd)

- 18,000 law enforcement agencies in U.S.
- State Uniform Crime Reporting Program (Association of State Uniform Reporting Programs)
- Reporting is voluntary, however, there are inducements
- In 2016 the FBI started collecting animal cruelty crime incident data in NIBRS

The process to add animal cruelty

- Prior to 2016, animal cruelty crime was coded as a 90Z offense, which was a catchall grouping of minor crimes, including spitting, scalping tickets, and loitering.
- Impossible to track animal cruelty crime with 90Z because the data in this category could not be disaggregated.
- In 2002, with a new Congress in Washington, D.C. an effort began to lobby the FBI to include animal cruelty crimes as a separate category

The process, continued

- Congressional inquiry
- Developing coalitions with domestic violence groups, law enforcement, and child welfare
- Adding language to an Appropriations Bill of Congress requiring FBI to issue a report
- Meeting with officials from the Criminal Justice Information Services, FBI
- Submitting a formal proposal to the Advisory Policy Board, FBI
- National Sheriff's Association's active involvement

February 1, 2016

 Twitter  Facebook  Email

Tracking Animal Cruelty

FBI Collecting Data on Crimes Against Animals



Acts of cruelty against animals are now counted alongside felony crimes like arson, burglary, assault, and homicide in the FBI's expansive criminal database.

On January 1, the Bureau's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) began collecting

Elements of the process

- Preparation
 - Integrated presentation of empirical literature on “the link”
 - Familiarization with UCR and NIBRS history, structure of FBI
 - Develop strategy
- Organizing
 - Gaining support from other groups, such as domestic violence, child welfare
 - Support from law enforcement, i.e., the National Sheriff’s Association
- Persistence
- Encountering FBI personnel who were animal lovers
- More persistence

FBI definition of animal cruelty

- Intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly taking an action that mistreats or kills any animal without just cause, such as torturing, tormenting, mutilation, maiming, poisoning, or abandonment. Included are instances of duty to provide care, e.g., shelter, food, water, care if sick or injured; transporting or confining an animal in a manner likely to cause injury or death; causing an animal to fight with another; inflicting excessive or repeated unnecessary pain or suffering, e.g., uses objects to beat or injure an animal. This definition does not include proper maintenance of animals for show or sport; use of animals for food, lawful hunting, fishing or trapping.

NIBRS animal cruelty incident coding

- Animal cruelty in Group A crimes (murder, arson, burglary, extortion)
- Animal cruelty crime incidents
 - 720
 - A (neglect)
 - I (intentional)
 - F (fighting)
 - S (animal sexual abuse)
- Can select up to three sub-categories of animal cruelty (A, I, F, S)
- Crime against Society

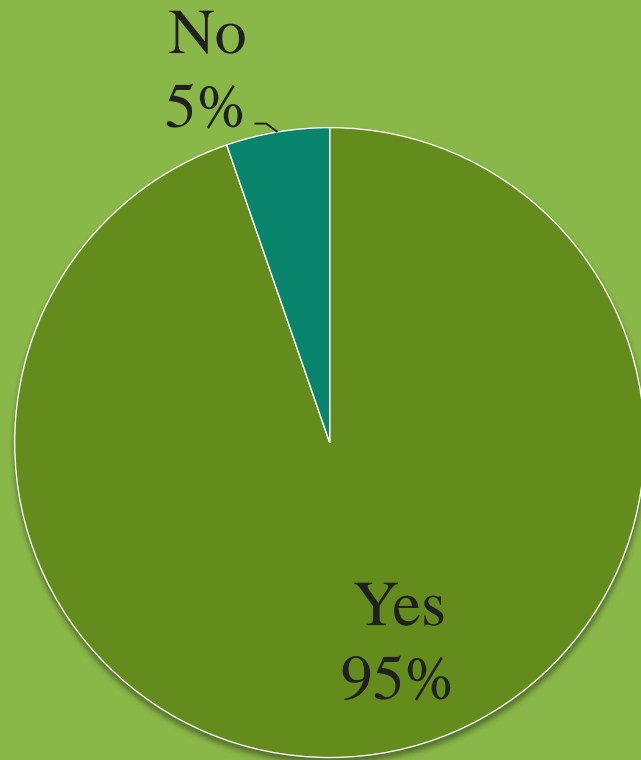
NIBRS 101

- NIBRS is “incident” based, meaning if there is a complaint, there is an incident
 - There may not be an arrest
 - There may not be an investigation
 - There may not be an offender found at the scene
- The “complainant” can be a law enforcement officer, an animal services officer, or a citizen
- Any age reported; juvenile adjudication different
- For accurate reporting, every animal cruelty incident needs to be reported to NIBRS

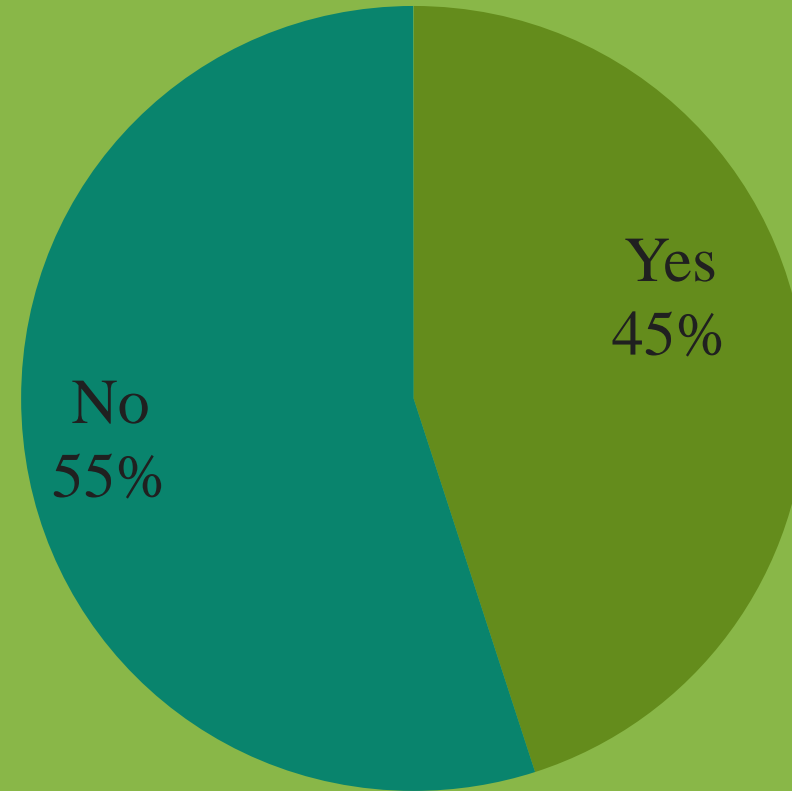
The challenge

- FBI notifies law enforcement of addition of animal cruelty to NIBRS
- Only law enforcement agencies can report NIBRS data to the FBI
- Approximately 13,000 animal service workers in the U.S.
- Approximately one-half of animal services agencies are associated with an LEA
- Survey of animal service agencies

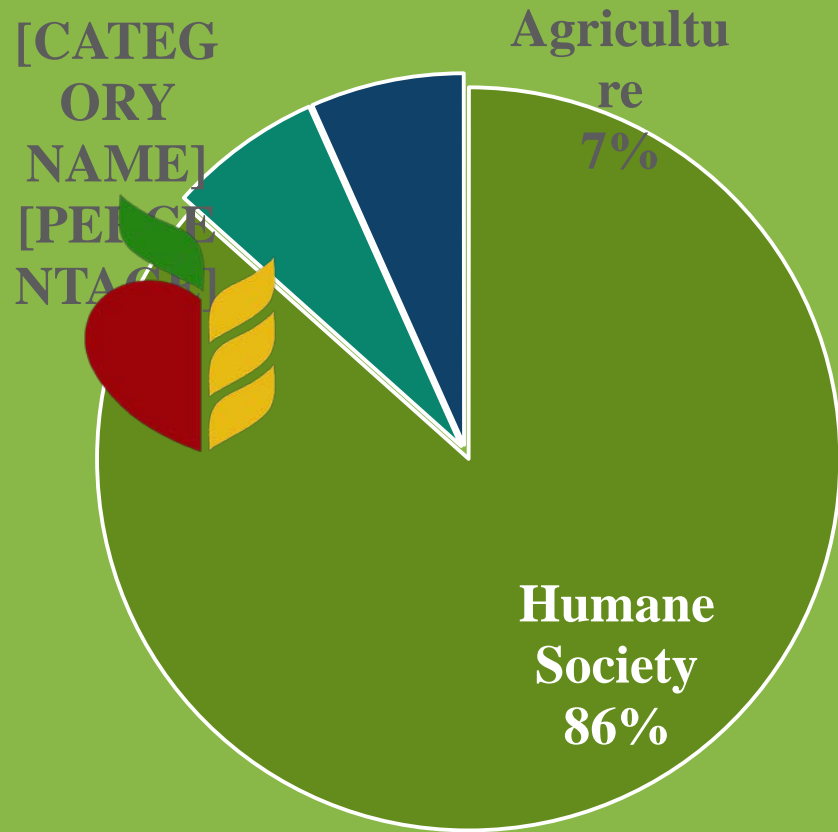
Are your officers usually called first to investigate a suspected case of animal cruelty?



Is your agency located within Law Enforcement?



Where non-law enforcement are located



Effort to reach non law-enforcement animal service agencies

- Only 52 data elements can be reported through NIBRS to FBI
- Each state's Incident Based Reporting form is different
- At state level, those data elements not accepted by FBI are screened out at the UCR state level
- Not all of the 52 elements are to be reported when offense is animal cruelty
- Almost all LEAs now use electronic submission
- Each LEA autonomous; different RMS, software, etc.

Columbus Ohio

- Meeting with Head of Ohio, UCR Program, Head of Humane Society Columbus, two representatives from sheriff's department and two representatives from Columbus PD
- Use online reporting link of Columbus PD?
- Need for adaptation
- Resistance
- Next steps?

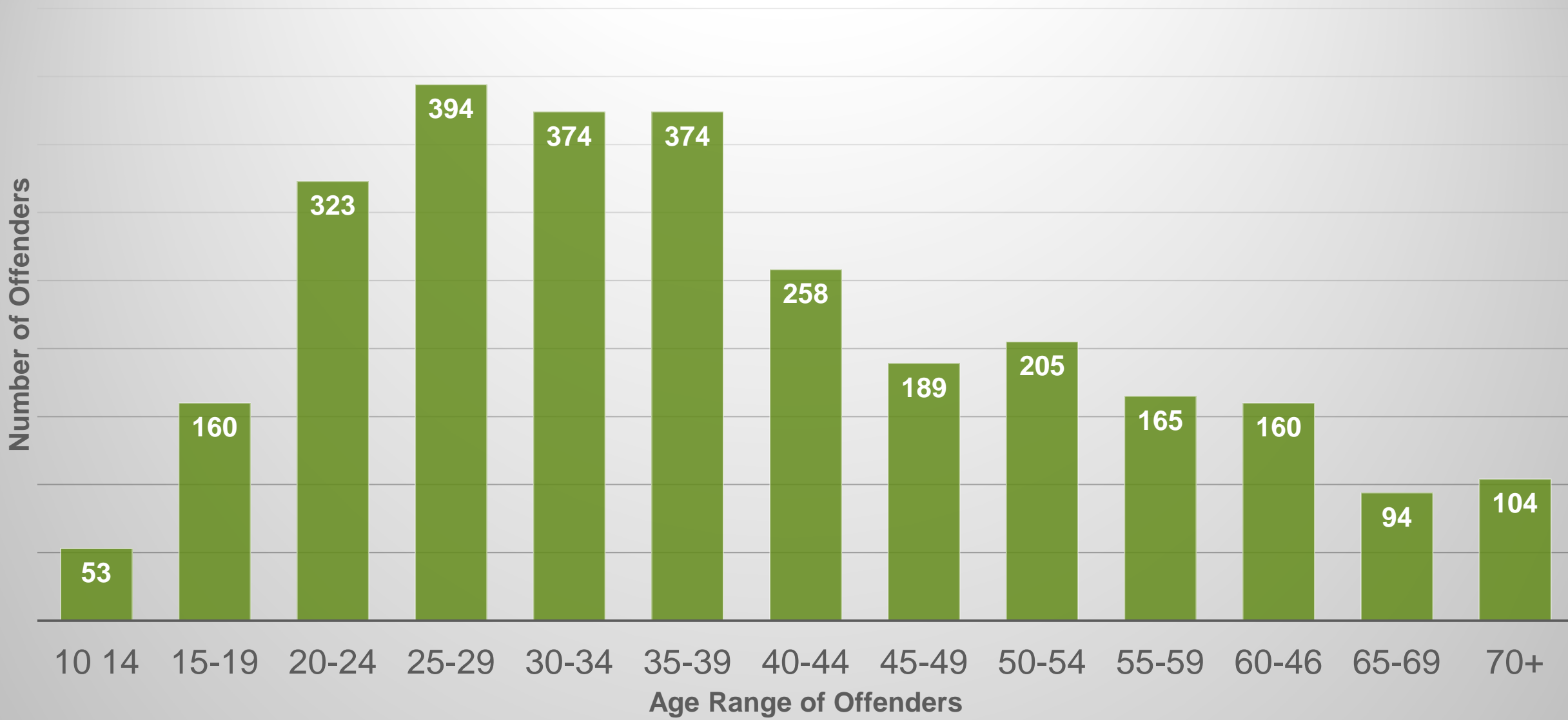
How can statistics help?

- NIBRS captures details on each crime incident, e.g. information on offenders, location of incident, co-occurring offenses, if arrested, types of weapons involved.
- NIBRS intended to become the law enforcement community's standard for quantifying crime, aiding law enforcement and communities to use resources more strategically and effectively.
- What neighborhoods have more animal cruelty crimes? What types of animal cruelty crimes? What age groups are participating? In what locations are we most likely to find animal cruelty crimes, e.g., homes, vacant lots, fields, etc?

Animal cruelty offenses by gender

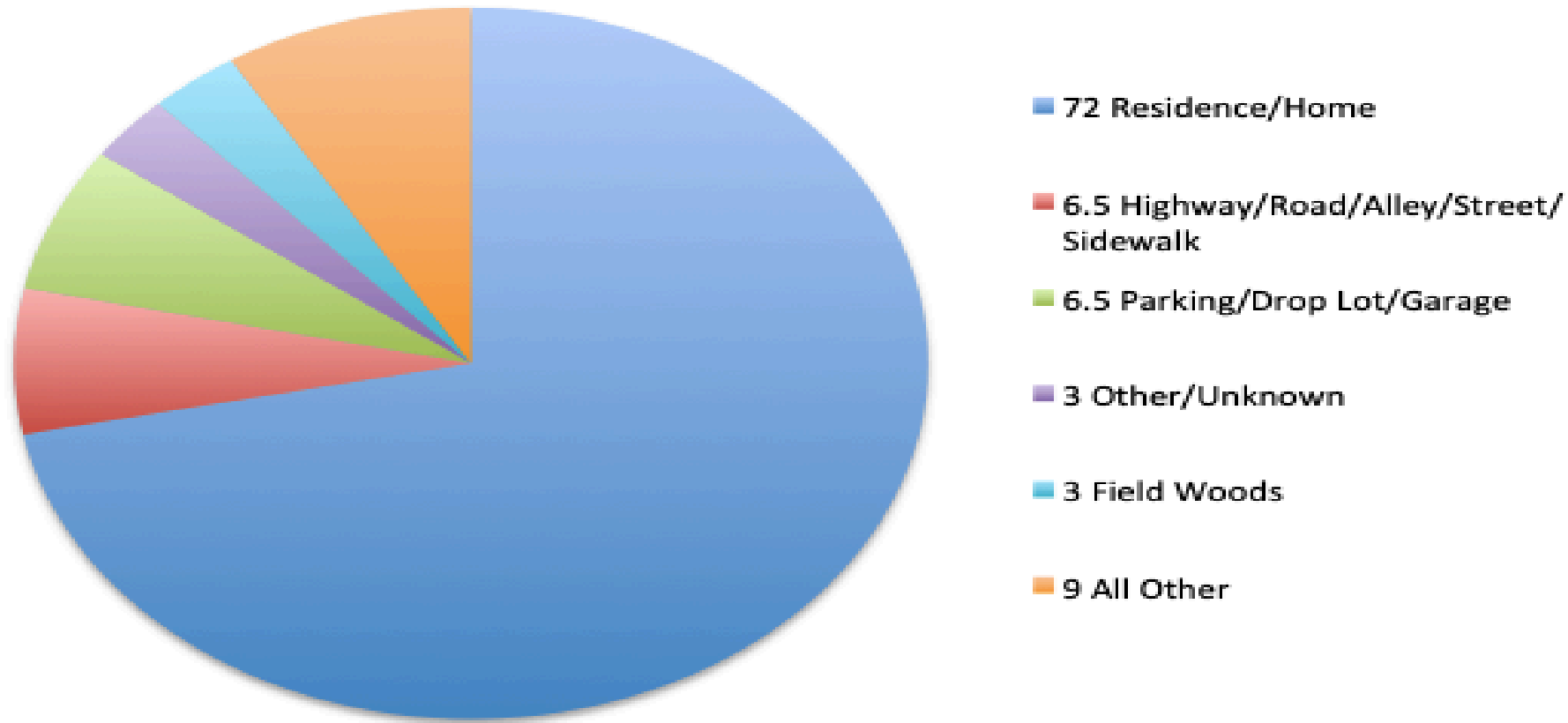
	A	AI	I	F	S
Female	37%	33%	15%	27%	9%
Male	44%	56%	56%	61%	76%
Unknown	6%	0	10%	8%	0
Blank	13%	11%	19%	4%	15%

Age of Animal Cruelty Offenders



Location of animal cruelty crimes

Animal Cruelty by Location for 2017



Arrest rates by offense

Offense	% cleared by arrest
Animal cruelty	28.1%
Assault	41.2%
Burglary	11%
Destruction/Vandalism	14%
Robbery	14%

Offenses by Race

American Indian or Alaska Native; Asian; Native

Hawaiian or Pacific Islander; Unknown

Offense Type	White	Black
Assault	65%	30%
Homicide	44%	53%
Burglary	69%	27%
Robbery	41%	55%
Animal Cruelty	81%	16%
Vandalism	70%	25%
Weapons Law Violations	51%	45%

Scorecard for states reporting NIBRS

- Tennessee
- Kentucky
- Colorado

Tennessee – Offenses by subcategories

TOTAL	A (neglect)	AI (neglect & intentional)	I (intentional)	S (sexual assault)	F (fighting)
491	270	6	205	7	3
%	54.9%	--	41.7%	--	--

Colorado - 2017

- 219 NIBRS reporting law enforcement agencies in CO, covering population of 5,575,629
- 526 case of animal cruelty
- 12 agencies reported 10 or more cases; the remaining agencies reported none or less than 10.

Animal cruelty in Colorado

CITY	POPULATION	ANIMAL CRUELTY OFFENSES
Aurora	368,000	151
Denver	706,000	30
Lafayette	28,939	15
Lakewood	156,000	31
Westminster	115,000	64

Resources for law enforcement & ACOs

- National Law Enforcement Center on Animal Abuse
- Roll call videos
- Webinars
- Law Enforcement Training
 - Ashley Mauceri <amauceri@humanesociety.org>
- Association of Prosecuting Attorneys
 - Annual training conference
- Animal Welfare Institute
 - Organizing ACO/Law Enforcement training in states
 - Facilitating implementation of NIBRS animal cruelty



NIBRS Website

www.fbi.gov/nibrs



Enhanced to ensure the timely and reliable collection of law enforcement NIBRS system data on each major crime incident... as well as on repeat offenses within the same incident... including all incidents on crimes, known offenders, victimizations, incident dates, case numbers, and agency incident numbers. Unlike data reported through the UCR Program's Annual Summary Reporting System (SRS), law enforcement monthly sub-reporting NIBRS data is not subject to the ability to provide information and other benefits that are not available for SRS data.

As announced by uniform crime reporting agencies, the FBI is making substantial investments in NIBRS to help ensure NIBRS compliance rates and data collection growth over the next several years. The FBI is currently conducting a pilot program for NIBRS data collection in 2021. The pilot program will include the following: (1) the National Crime Data Center (NCDC) will be providing technical assistance to law enforcement agencies for the pilot of transitioning to NIBRS; (2) the FBI will be providing technical assistance to law enforcement agencies for the pilot of transitioning to NIBRS; (3) the FBI will be providing technical assistance to law enforcement agencies for the pilot of transitioning to NIBRS.

The FBI is committed to ensuring the continued expansion of the NIBRS system. The FBI is currently conducting a pilot program for NIBRS data collection in 2021. The pilot program will include the following: (1) the National Crime Data Center (NCDC) will be providing technical assistance to law enforcement agencies for the pilot of transitioning to NIBRS; (2) the FBI will be providing technical assistance to law enforcement agencies for the pilot of transitioning to NIBRS; (3) the FBI will be providing technical assistance to law enforcement agencies for the pilot of transitioning to NIBRS.



The Benefits of NIBRS

<p>Provides greater accuracy in reporting outcomes</p>	<p>Provides more detailed information</p>	<p>Helps you control the quality of your data</p>	<p>Provides greater analytic flexibility</p>
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NIBRS is Superior to SRS

Compared to the UCR's SRS, NIBRS provides a more accurate, more detailed, and more reliable picture of crime in the United States. NIBRS data is collected on a monthly basis, while SRS data is collected on an annual basis. NIBRS data is also more detailed than SRS data, providing information on each major crime incident, including the date, time, and location of the incident, as well as the identity of the offender and the victim. NIBRS data is also more reliable than SRS data, as it is collected directly from law enforcement agencies, rather than through a third-party reporting system. NIBRS data is also more accurate than SRS data, as it is collected on a monthly basis, allowing for more timely reporting of crime trends. NIBRS data is also more detailed than SRS data, providing information on each major crime incident, including the date, time, and location of the incident, as well as the identity of the offender and the victim. NIBRS data is also more reliable than SRS data, as it is collected directly from law enforcement agencies, rather than through a third-party reporting system. NIBRS data is also more accurate than SRS data, as it is collected on a monthly basis, allowing for more timely reporting of crime trends.

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