

How will this affect crime trends?

It is not meaningful to compare Summary data to IBR data. Not all of these variables can be identified or measured, compounding the error in the results.

We strongly discourage trying to compare the IBR data to any data previously released or converting IBR data to Summary data. The data sets are not comparable due to the number of types of crimes reported and the fact that multiple offenses are reported in one incident.

The Rhode Island State Police will focus statewide crime reports on data received from law enforcement based on the Incident Based Reporting System and not the Summary Based Crime Reporting system. It is our position that the Summary Based Crime Reporting system is antiquated and does not portray an accurate count of crime.

Therefore, we will focus our statistical analysis reports based on the Incident Based Reporting system.

What are the pitfalls of ranking?

In the past, some law enforcement agencies and researchers compiled rankings of individual jurisdictions. This information can create misleading perceptions, which adversely affect geographic entities and their residents. Jurisdictions should not be ranked because there are many factors that cause the nature and type of crime to vary from place to place. Rankings ignore the uniqueness of each jurisdiction. All jurisdictions are affected in some degree by:



- Density and size of the community population.
- Variations in composition, particularly to youth concentration.
- Economic status, including job availability, median income, and poverty level.
- Stability of population with respect to residents' mobility, commuting factors, and other transient factors.
- Modes of transportation and highway system.
- Cultural conditions, such as educational, recreational, and religious characteristics.
- Effective strength of the law enforcement agencies.
- Attitude of the public toward law enforcement problems.
- Climate, including seasonal weather conditions.
- Cooperation of adjoining and overlapping police agencies.
- The administrative and investigative efficiency of the local law enforcement agency, including the degree of adherence to crime reporting standards and guidelines.

What are the major differences between IBR and the Summary?

IBR collects information on up to 10 offenses occurring in the same incident. The Summary system applies a hierarchy rule and only collects information on the most serious offense occurring in an incident and drops the others. Information is only reported on 8 crimes in the Summary system.

By design, IBR measures different aspects of crime than the Summary System. Where Summary measures the overall number of incidents for a Part I crime, IBR measures both the overall number of incidents and the occurrence of each type of crime within every incident.

When is crime data published?

The annual publication, *Crime in Rhode Island*, is traditionally released by the State UCR Unit in April. Crime data is available on the Rhode Island State Police web site www.risp.state.ri.us. Detailed crime reports are sent to the Department of Health, Medical Examiners Office and the Attorney General's Office for additional analysis.

Reports are based on a "snapshot" of the IBR database frozen in time and do not reflect the continual updating of the live database by contributing agencies.

Rhode Island State Police

Colonel Steven G. O'Donnell
Superintendent, Rhode Island State Police
Commissioner, Department of Public Safety



Rhode Island Incident Based Reporting System

Caveat on Data Usage

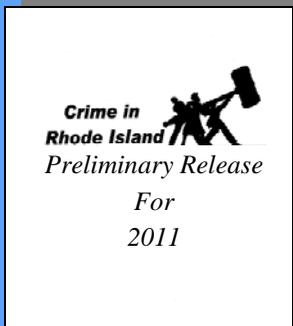
**Rhode Island State Police
Uniform Crime Reporting Unit
311 Danielson Pike
North Scituate, RI 02857**

Verification Process

Uniformity and accuracy of crime data collected under this program is of primary concern. With the receipt of reports covering all reporting jurisdictions within the State of Rhode Island, the problems of attaining uniformity are readily apparent.

It is standard operating procedure to perform edit checks, quality control checks, reasonableness checks, prepare preliminary reports and administer a statewide mail-in audit.

Prior to compiling *Crime in Rhode Island*, an annual *Preliminary Release* is distributed to each reporting jurisdiction based on the submission of UCR statistics. Each jurisdiction is requested to examine this release and notify the UCR Unit should any discrepancies appear.



Regardless of the extent of the statistical verification process used by the UCR Unit, the accuracy of the data assembled under this program depends on the sincere effort exerted by each contributor to meet the necessary standards of report.

History

The Rhode Island State Police began extensive implementation of the Rhode Island Incident Based Reporting (IBR) system in January 2005 with the financial support of the Crime Identification Technology Act (CITA) Grant, which was awarded to the Rhode Island State Police by the Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics to assist in upgrading our criminal justice information system.

In June 2005, the FBI certified the Rhode Island Incident Based Reporting system as compliant with their stringent standards for certification in the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS). This is the preferred method of collecting crime data and enforces a higher degree of accuracy and richer information.

Prior to this time, the state standard of collecting and managing crime data consisted of a paper-based Summary Based Crime Reporting system, which was the “old” national standard of collecting crime data. However, recognizing the need for an enhanced crime reporting system a more efficient method was developed nationwide – National Incident Based Reporting System.

What is IBR?

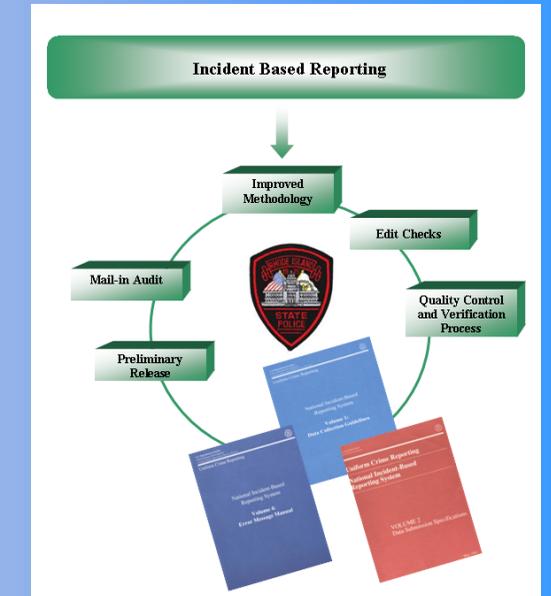
Incident Based Reporting views a crime and all of its components as an “incident.” In order to obtain important data, facts recorded and preserved about the incident are organized into specific categories or segments. The vehicle used for recording these facts is a “data element.” Data elements provide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

IBR is designed to collect data on every single crime occurrence and on each incident within the occurrence. The most significant difference between IBR and the traditional Summary Based Crime Reporting system is the degree of detail in reporting. Unlike the Summary system that collects only 8 Part I crimes, IBR 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 system only the most serious offense was reported. In IBR up to 10 offenses can be reported in an incident, providing a more accurate picture of crime. Because of the differences between the Summary system and Incident Based, any cross-comparisons would provide inaccurate results in trend analysis.

IBR Goals and Utilization

The goals of IBR are to enhance the quantity, quality, and timeliness of crime data collection by law enforcement and to improve the methodology used for compiling, analyzing, auditing and publishing crime data. A major advantage of IBR is the capability to break down and combine crime offense data into specific information.



The integrity and reliability of data-based analysis and reporting depend, in large part, on the quality of the underlying data captured by each law enforcement agency.