

Bureau of Justice Information and Analysis Wisconsin Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program



WISCONSIN INCIDENT-BASED REPORTING FACT SHEET

What is WIBRS?

The Wisconsin Incident-Based Reporting System (WIBRS) is part of a nationwide program to enhance the quantity, quality, and timeliness of crime data collected by the law enforcement community. Participating agencies electronically submit files with detailed information on offenses and arrests from their records management system, in lieu of summary-based Uniform Crime Reports.

How is WIBRS different from summary-based reporting?

Summary-based reporting (SBR) provides only a monthly count of offenses and arrests by category, while incident-based reporting includes additional details that are highly valuable to crime analysis. Data collected include characteristics of each offense, victim, offender, property, and related information. SBR is also based on a hierarchy rule where only the most severe offense in an incident is reported. For example, if an incident involves a motor vehicle theft, forcible rape and murder, only the murder is reportable under SBR. For the same incident, all three offenses would be reported under WIBRS. Incident-based reporting expands on the original summary-based system by increasing the number of major crimes from eight to 50.

Who participates in WIBRS?

The Wisconsin Incident-Based Reporting System (WIBRS) is growing steadily as part of the state's efforts to transition all Wisconsin agencies to incident-based reporting. Here are some key figures as of October 2014:

- **124** participating agencies, including:
 - **97** active Certified WIBRS agencies
 - **27** agencies in WIBRS testing status
- **41%** of Wisconsin's population is covered by incident-based reporting
- **3** largest cities in Wisconsin utilize incident-based reporting: Milwaukee PD, Madison PD, and Green Bay PD
- **162%** increase in the number of active Certified WIBRS agencies since 2008

How is WIBRS beneficial to law enforcement agencies?

- Detail on individual crime incidents such as offenses, offenders, victims, property, weapons, victim-offender relationship, and arrests can be collected and analyzed
- The IBR system is designed to collect specific information about each criminal offense that occurred in an incident, rather than just the most serious
- Strategic and tactical crime analyses can be made at the local and regional levels
- Additional crime categories, such as Crimes Against Society, can be tracked
- Additional offenses such as human trafficking, fraud, kidnapping, and weapon offenses are collected in WIBRS
- Details such as drug type and quantity are available with drug offenses
- Academia can conduct more robust research on local criminal justice issues
- Participation in WIBRS enables a law enforcement agency to provide an expanded accounting of the status of public safety within the jurisdiction

How can my agency start reporting WIBRS data electronically?

Law enforcement agencies follow a simple 6-step certification process to become WIBRS Certified.

1. Letter of interest
2. Pretesting of the agency's records management system and statute tables
3. Test data submissions
4. Data validation
5. Error corrections
6. Certification

For more details on the certification process, please visit the Justice Statistics section on our website: <https://wilenet.org>

Who can I talk to if I have questions?

If you have questions about the Wisconsin Incident-Based Reporting program, please contact the BJIA - Statistical Analysis Center at:

statsanalysis@doj.state.wi.us