Crime in the United States

1998

Uniform Crime Reports

Printed Annually
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20535

Advisory:
Criminal Justice Information Systems Committee,
International Association of Chiefs of Police;
Criminal Justice Information Services Committee,
National Sheriffs' Association;
Criminal Justice Information Services Advisory Policy Board

For sale by Superintendent of Documents
U.S. Government Printing Office, Mail Stop: SSOP, Washington, D.C. 20402-9328

ISBN 0-16-048756-0

FOREWORD

For nearly seven decades, local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies have reported crime statistics to the national Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. As the twenty-first century approaches, the Program continues working diligently to maintain the accuracy and credibility of the statistics received from participating agencies across the Nation. Detailed and timely submissions of data from monthly reports or individual crime incident records enable the UCR Program to compile a reliable set of statistics that can be used to help understand and combat crime.

The UCR Program continues its commitment and support towards the full implementation of the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). Through its progressive, automated collection methods, NIBRS offers a wealth of crime information which has never before been available, taking crime reporting into the next century. As NIBRS becomes the standard of UCR, it will provide a more comprehensive national perspective of the characteristics, elements, volume, diversity, and complexity of reported crime.

The significant challenge of reducing crime requires commitment from all law enforcement agencies. The evolution of the UCR Program continues to bring about improvements that will provide additional information to the criminal justice community, government agencies, researchers, students, and others. Helping to prepare law enforcement agencies to meet daily challenges, this publication exists as one weapon in the fight against crime.