

**“JUST
THE
FACTS”**



MTIBRS Training & Technical Assistance

MTIBRS? What do we collect and when...

NIBRS/MTIBRS is not new

- ▶ Uniformed Crime Reporting (UCR) started by the IACP (International Association of Police Chiefs) in the 1920s
- ▶ 1930 legislation granted responsibility to the Attorney General/FBI
- ▶ National Incident-Based Crime Reporting (NIBRS) created in 1989 to replace summary Uniformed Crime Reporting
- ▶ 2021 NIBRS replaces summary UCR reporting
- ▶ Montana has been one of 16 states reporting 100% NIBRS since 2004

Montana has crime reports using this data dating back to 1972 on our website.

So, what do I submit and when?

▶ Bond Book table coded for your records system

- ▶ An offense is considered NIBRS reportable if it has a MTIBRS code in the bond book table and the offense should be what was determined on the *initial* citation or booking
- ▶ Lesser offenses: unless you cite or make an arrest for offenses such as Disorderly Conduct, DUI, etc, the incident's information will not be reported, as these lesser offenses are strictly arrest based
- ▶ Some Citations *are* Arrests (in a sense), i.e. Cite & Release on Disorderly Conduct charge
- ▶ Incidents should be submitted and approved as soon as possible after the incident
- ▶ Do not wait for court proceedings or even a conviction to submit the report
- ▶ Continue to update incident as needed


- KW – Kelly Carrington (Carbon CTY) and Travis McElderry from Ravalli County worked with MBCC folks to determine that the best way to assist officers in mapping to the right MTIBRS code was to use the MCA statutes published in the Bond Book schedule. Including the surcharge bond amounts would help agencies with jail management systems.
- JH – in regard to lesser offenses, unless you cite or make an arrest for offenses such as Disorderly Conduct, DUI, etc, the incident's information will not be reported – and this brings up another issue, what about those fish we cite and release on some of these lesser offenses? Well, some of these cites are arrests – so make sure that your RMS is recording it as such, a vendor that will go unnamed, struggled with this issue and many arrests were going unreported.
- JH- While you can continue to update the incident as needed, according to the FBI, “agencies should update a report only if the change would substantially alter the report's statistical significance.”
- HW – It is surprising that some of the highest profile incidents aren't reported. This is where the funding is. Rehashing the same point as before. This actually can make a difference for the officer, it just takes time.

Why should I care...it's just data right?

- ▶ UCR data is used as part of a formula for Federal funds
- ▶ Funds can be used for safety equipment, training and even hiring personnel
- ▶ Your time is not wasted - your frustration is understood
- ▶ Sometimes it's not your responsibility to fix things

- KW - Particularly JAG funds but also for funds such as the 2.4 million the state received for COVID funds – legislation and funding – laws sometimes come with money
- JH – 2nd bullet - So, you might be thinking, okay, that's great, but how does this affect me, as a patrol officer out in the field? The data you enter with each incident allows us to have a better understanding of what is happening out there. While our understanding of data doesn't happen overnight, in time it can provide us with little hints here and there on what we can do better, not just within law enforcement but as a society. Your data has a butterfly effect as it's used to formulate grants and other funding, which often provide training for law enforcement and other community resources. And speaking of funding, my old agency, Livingston PD was a recipient of what's known as a COP Grant, years ago. These Federal grants assist agencies with funding salaries for an officer position, for sometimes several years. Without crime data, LPD would have been unable to justify that they in fact, needed additional manpower due to call volume. And since I mentioned the word "crime data....."
- 3rd bullet – HW - time is money- As officers, we had/have always complained about the workload per officer. There are also constant complaints about equipment, training time, and special assignments being cut. While proper reporting won't solve everything, it is one step officers can take to better their own situation.
 - JH – We're cops, we like to solve problems, we like to fix stuff. But sometimes, it isn't your responsibility! If you're struggling with errors within your incident, REACH OUT! We don't know what we don't know and we're a team. But it is OUR job at the state to help mitigate any problems related to NIBRS. You guys have enough on your plate.

We look forward to hearing from you.

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