

INTRODUCTION

The Illinois Uniform Crime Reporting Program

The Illinois Uniform Crime Reporting (I-UCR) Program was developed in 1971 and implemented on January 1, 1972. The Illinois State Police was given the responsibility to act as the central repository for crime statistics. Reporting crime statistics is mandated by Chapter 20 of the Illinois Compiled Statutes, 2630/8.

2630/8. Crime Statistics. The Department shall be a central repository and custodian of crime statistics for the State and it shall have all power incident thereto to carry out the purposes of this Act, including the power to demand and receive cooperation in the submission of crime statistics from all units of government.

Reporting agencies submit data on a monthly basis to the I-UCR Program. Participating jurisdictions include villages, municipalities, counties, colleges, universities, park districts, railroads, forest preserves, hospitals, and other miscellaneous agencies throughout Illinois.

Index Crime offenses, Index Crime arrests, and drug crime arrests are required to be reported by local law enforcement agencies. In April 1996, the Illinois State Police began the collection of additional crime statistics mandated by state and federal statutes. These include Domestic Related Offenses, Attacks Against School Personnel, and Hate Crimes. Crimes Against Children are also reported voluntarily to the I-UCR Program.

In 2010, the I-UCR Program transitioned to Index Crime reporting guidelines compliant with the Federal Uniform Crime Reporting Program. Not all previously participating reporting agencies have successfully transitioned to the revised reporting guidelines. Crime statistics submitted by agencies failing to adhere to the revised reporting guidelines were not accepted, and are not represented in this publication, impacting both county-wide and state-wide totals. Additional information regarding the revised reporting guidelines and subsequent Program impact is provided in detail on Page 6 through Page 8.

NOTE: The 2011 statistics represent data submitted as of February 23, 2012. The 2012 statistics represent data submitted as of November 18, 2013.

Crime Statistics Interpretation Consideration

When comparing the crime statistics of one agency to those of another, many factors should be taken into consideration before drawing conclusions. Some conditions affecting the type and volume of crime are:

- Whether or not the reporting agency adhered to the revised offense definitions and applied revised scoring principles in the compilation of index crime statistics
- Population density and degree of urbanization
- Variations in composition of the population, particularly youth concentration
- Stability of population with respect to residents' mobility, commuting patterns, and transient factors
- Modes of transportation and highway system
- Economic conditions, including median income, poverty level, and job availability
- Cultural factors and educational, recreational, and religious characteristics
- Family conditions with respect to divorce and family cohesiveness
- Climate
- Effective strength of law enforcement agencies
- Administrative and investigative emphases of law enforcement
- Citizens' attitudes toward crime
- Crime reporting practices of citizens

Guard against direct agency-to-agency comparisons when analyzing I-UCR statistics. Such comparisons could be misleading unless demographic differences between jurisdictions are taken into account. Every community has unique social, ethnic, and economic factors which may affect its crime statistics. These dissimilarities may bias the results of any comparative analysis between agencies. The state of crime within a jurisdiction is complex and cannot always be defined based on statistics alone, as it might be when comparing one agency to another. The definition of jurisdiction itself may vary between agencies, as evidenced by railroad agencies and state agencies whose jurisdictions are comprised of non-geographical areas.

In addition, uniform crime reporting statistics reflect "offenses known to police." In other words, these crime counts and rates only reflect information on crimes reported to police, not necessarily all crimes that occurred. Propensity to report a crime varies by the type of crime and the individual characteristics of the victim. For more information, see the *National Crime Victimization Survey*, administered by the United States (U.S.) Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

In general, the decision to use any indicator for analysis purposes must be made with care. The statistical indicators presented within this publication have utility for law enforcement administrators; however, they must be used with caution. No single indicator is sufficient for thorough crime analysis. Instead, decisions law enforcement administrators are called upon to make require a multifaceted, analytical approach.

I-UCR Reporting Agencies

Of the 1,000 plus law enforcement agencies in Illinois, 751 agencies reported 2012 statistics. The remaining agencies failed to report Index Crime statistics using submission protocol, submitted statistics non-compliant to reporting guidelines, or reported through an intermediary agency (sheriff's office, police department, etc.).

Agency Type	2012
Municipalities	582
Sheriffs' Offices	96
Colleges & Universities	39
State Agencies	5
Railroads	9
Park Districts	10
Forest Preserves	4
Other Agencies	6
TOTAL	751

The Crime Index/Crime Rate

A majority of the offense and arrest statistics in this publication focus primarily on what are known as Index Crimes. The eight crime categories that make up this index provide an indication of the extent serious crime occurs in the jurisdiction, region, or state. Three of the eight Index Crime categories collected are crimes against persons including criminal homicide, forcible rape, and aggravated battery/aggravated assault. The five remaining categories are crimes against property including robbery, burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson.

The Illinois Uniform Crime Reporting (I-UCR) Program's **crime index** translates into the number of offenses reported within the eight Index Crime categories as defined by the Federal UCR Program.

Criminal Homicide - The willful (non-negligent) killing of one human being by another.

Forcible Rape - The carnal knowledge of a female, forcibly and against her will; attempts are included.

Robbery - The taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody, or control of a person or persons by force or threat of force or violence and/or putting the victim in fear; attempts are included.

Aggravated Battery/Aggravated Assault - An unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury. This type of assault is usually accompanied by the use of a weapon or by means likely to produce death or great bodily harm. It is not necessary that an injury results from the attack when a weapon is used that could cause great personal injury; attempts and attempted criminal homicide are included.

Burglary - The unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or a theft; attempts are included.

Theft - The unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property from the possession of another; attempts are included.

Motor Vehicle Theft - The theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle.

Arson - Any willful or malicious burning or attempt to burn, with or without intent to defraud, a dwelling house, public building, motor vehicle or aircraft, or personal property of another; attempts are included.

The **crime rate** indicates the prevalence of crime occurring across a given population. It is generally defined as the total number of Index Crimes per 100,000 inhabitants and is calculated as follows:

$$\frac{\text{Index Crime Count} \times 100,000}{\text{Jurisdictional Population}} = \text{Crime Rate}$$

The jurisdictional population can be that of a city, town, village, county, or state.

The **percent change** indicates the increase or decrease of the volume of statistics reported

$$\frac{\text{Current Total} - \text{Previous Total}}{\text{Previous Total}} \times 100 = \text{Percent Change}$$

Index Crime Offense Classification

In 2010, the I-UCR Program transitioned and became compliant with the Federal UCR Program's reporting guidelines. This transition significantly impacted the classification and scoring procedures agencies use in compiling Index Crime statistics.

Offenses occurring within a crime incident must first be classified into the appropriate category as defined by the Federal UCR Program. The definitions for the eight Index Crime categories can be found on Page 6. The definitions do not, in all cases, mirror Illinois Compiled Statutes (ILCS) offense definitions. It is critical for an agency to review the definitions prior to submitting statistics to ensure only offenses meeting the definition are reported. This will avoid the potential to both over and under report offenses. The text below highlights the definition changes in three of the eight Index Crime categories and how these changes are expected to impact 2010 and subsequent years' statistics. There was no change to the definitions of Criminal Homicide, Robbery, Burglary, Theft, and Motor Vehicle Theft.

Forcible Rape (Previously Criminal Sexual Assault) - Carnal knowledge is defined as "the act of a man having sexual bodily connections with a woman; sexual intercourse." The previously collected offenses of sodomy, criminal sexual assault with an object, statutory rape, sexual relations within families, indecent solicitation of a child or adult, and sexual exploitation of a child are no longer reported. **Impact:** Statistics have the potential to decrease as compared to the 2009 and previous reporting years based on the revised definition.

Aggravated Battery/Aggravated Assault - The ILCS allows battery and assault offenses to be elevated to aggravated based on who the victim was (police officer, correctional officer, fireman, private security officer, teachers, emergency medical technicians, disabled persons, persons age 60 years or older, and pregnant victims); where the incident took place (public way, public property, or sports or entertainment arenas when events are scheduled); or if the assailant conceals his identity (hooded, robed, or masked). If the battery or assault offense is elevated to aggravated based ONLY on one of the criteria above, the offense is not classified as aggravated and should not be reported. **Impact:** Statistics have the potential to decrease as compared to the 2009 and previous reporting years based on the revised definition.

Arson - The ILCS stipulates that the value of damaged property must be \$150.00 or more for an offense to be classified as an arson. The revised definition requires the reporting of any willful malicious burning or attempt to burn property as an arson without regard to the value of the property. **Impact:** Statistics have the potential to increase as compared to the 2009 and previous reporting years based on the revised definition.

Burglary and Theft - There were no changes to the definition for either offense category. Historically, vehicle burglaries have been classified and reported as thefts. Many agencies were incorrectly classifying and reporting vehicle burglaries in the burglary category. The development of more detailed reporting guidelines coupled with a statewide training initiative resulted in a better understanding of the definition of burglary. **Impact:** Burglary statistics have the potential to decrease as compared to the 2009 and previous years reporting year. Theft statistics have the potential to increase as compared to the 2009 and previous reporting years.

Index Crime Offense Classifications

Once offenses in a crime incident have been classified, agencies are tasked with scoring or counting the number of offenses having occurred. The correct method of scoring offenses incorporates the application of the Hierarchy Rule, Crimes Against Persons versus Crimes Against Property scoring rules, the Hotel Rule, and Separation of Time and Place Rule. Each of these scoring rules will have an impact by decreasing the number of offenses reported.

Hierarchy Rule

The order in which the Index Crime categories are listed on Page 6 is significant, establishing the hierarchy order. Criminal homicide is ranked as the highest offense in the hierarchy order and arson is ranked the as the lowest offense. If several offenses are committed within one incident, it is referred to as a multi-offense incident. The Hierarchy Rule requires that when a multi-offense incident has occurred, the agency must identify which of the offenses is the highest in the hierarchy order and report only that offense. The other offenses in the multi-offense incident are not reported. Motor vehicle theft and arson are exceptions to the Hierarchy Rule.

In instances where a motor vehicle theft is reported along with an additional theft in a multi-offense incident, the motor vehicle theft is the only offense reported with no regard for the Hierarchy Rule. This exception only applies when motor vehicle theft and theft alone are the only offenses reported in a multi-offense incident.

If the offense of arson occurs in a multi-offense incident, the reporting agency must report the arson and then apply the Hierarchy Rule to the remaining offenses to determine which offense is the highest in the hierarchy order. Both the arson and the highest-ranking offense must be reported.

Crimes Against Persons - Crimes Against Property

Categorizing an offense as a crime committed against a person or committed against property is the next step in scoring offenses. Criminal homicide, forcible rape, and aggravated battery/aggravated assault are crimes against persons. For these categories, one offense is scored for each victim. The number of offenders involved in the incident is irrelevant. Robbery, burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson are crimes against property. For robbery and theft, one offense is scored for each distinct operation or attempt, regardless of the number of victims or offenders. For burglary, motor vehicle theft, and arson, each offense is scored independently.

Hotel Rule

Burglaries of hotel or motel rooms, lodging houses, spas, resorts, or other places where lodging is the main purpose are scored differently than other burglaries. If a number of rooms are burglarized over the same time frame, the burglaries are scored as one offense.

Separation of Time and Place

Separation of time and place means that the time interval between same offenses and the distances between locations where they have occurred are insignificant. Offenses must have occurred during an unbroken time frame and at the same or adjoining locations. In these cases the offenses are reported as a single offense. This rule is applied to the property crimes of theft and robbery only. It is not applied to crimes against persons, or the remaining crimes against property of burglary, motor vehicle theft, or arson.

Index Crime and Drug Offense Arrest Data

Historically, arrest data has not represented a 'clearance rate' for a specific law enforcement agency, a county, or for the state of Illinois as compared to the number of Index Crime offenses reported. Due to a variety of circumstances, an offense may be administratively or exceptionally cleared with no arrest. An example is an incident where a suspect commits a homicide and then commits suicide. An arrest cannot be made; however, the incident is noted as cleared by one of the two aforementioned means.

Additionally, there are numerous guidelines that must be adhered to when reporting Index Crime arrests. The following guidelines, though not inclusive, represent a majority of the critical arrest reporting guidelines.

- Agencies report one arrest for each individual suspect arrested for a specific Index Crime offense, regardless of how many cases of the same offense may be cleared. Example: A suspect is arrested for six residential burglaries occurring over a four month period. Only one arrest for burglary is submitted.
- The Hierarchy Rule must be applied. If a suspect is arrested for multiple Index Crime offenses having occurred within a single incident, an arrest is submitted only for the most serious offense. Example: A suspect is arrested for home invasion and second degree murder. The only arrest submitted is the arrest for second degree murder.
- Arrest data is submitted for the month in which the arrest occurred, not for the month in which the offense occurred and was subsequently reported. An offense may have occurred in November 2011, and an arrest not made until May of the following year. The Index Crime offense is submitted and reflected in the 2011 report, and the associated arrest is submitted and reflected in the 2012 report.
- The guidelines governing the submission of Drug Offense arrests differ from Index Crime arrest reporting guidelines. Agencies submit the number of offenses in each drug category where an arrest has been made. One suspect may be arrested for possession of cannabis, possession of a controlled substance, and possession of drug paraphernalia. An arrest in each of the three categories is submitted.

Due to the complexity of Index Crime arrest reporting guidelines, individual agency arrest statistics are not provided to prevent use of the data in an attempt to arrive at a clearance rate. Index Crime arrest data is, however, compiled for each county, and the state of Illinois. Drug Offense arrest statistics are similarly compiled.

