



## **Section 5**

### **NIBRS Data**

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## Explanation of NIBRS

The NIBRS program is designed to replace the Summary Uniform Crime Reporting System that has been utilized since Arkansas started collecting crime data in the 1970's. The NIBRS system collects considerably more information than the summary method and as a result supplies an abundance of useful data for multiple end users. NIBRS captures specific details about the event, such as the time, date, location, and circumstance of the incident; the age, sex, and race of the victim and offender as well as information about their relationship; any involvement of weapons or drugs; details of property loss; and whether the crime was motivated by bias. Computer use in the perpetration of certain crimes is also captured.

The following scenario illustrates the difference in the degree of reporting through the Summary system and NIBRS.

*At approximately 8 p.m. on December 23, 1999, two young males approached a 28-year-old Asian female in a parking garage. The first man, who was black, held the woman at knifepoint, reached for her purse, and demanded her jewelry. The female, unwilling to cooperate with the robber, tried to hold on to her purse. A brief struggle ensued during which the second male, a white man, began laughing and pulled a gun. The white male then grabbed the woman, threw the purse at the black male, and said, "I'll have her!" After the second man raped the woman, both men fled the scene, leaving her in the parking garage. Under the Summary system, the national program would count the above incident as one occurrence of rape. The value of the victim's lost property would be reported separately, although the robbery would not be recorded. No other information would be collected unless there were subsequent arrests. Under NIBRS, by contrast, both the robbery and the rape would be counted, and information would be collected about all of the critical elements of the event such as the age, sex, and race of the victim and any known information about the offenders' age, sex, and race as well as the fact that the attackers were strangers. Additionally, information about the location of the attack, the type and value of lost property, and the date and time the incident occurred would be entered into the system.*

The following section only consists of law enforcement agencies that have reported crime data in NIBRS format. As a result, an individual agency's data presented under this section may vary significantly from that in Section 3. As mentioned above, NIBRS counts every offense within a single occurrence, therefore producing larger amounts of reportable data than that collected by Summary format.