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# Crime in Arkansas 2003

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## **Dedication**

This report is dedicated to all law enforcement officers endeavoring to uphold the laws and serve the people of Arkansas. Without their support and cooperation, this publication and the resulting overview of crime would not be possible.

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## Table of Contents

<b>SECTION 1 - The Uniform Crime Reporting Program in Arkansas</b> .....	<b>5</b>
Background .....	6
Purposes of the Arkansas UCR Program .....	7
Reporting Procedures .....	7
Description of Current Data .....	8
<b>SECTION 2 - Crime Summary</b> .....	<b>9</b>
Crime Summary .....	10
<b>SECTION 3 - Value of Stolen and Recovered Property</b> .....	<b>11</b>
Value Stolen by Offense .....	12
<b>SECTION 4 - Arrest Data</b> .....	<b>13</b>
Age of Persons Arrested .....	14
<b>SECTION 5 - Arkansas Incident - Based Crime Reporting System</b> .....	<b>17</b>
Overview .....	18
Collection Method .....	18
Advantages .....	19
NIBRS in Arkansas .....	20
Acknowledgments .....	21



# **Section 1**

# **Uniform Crime Reporting**

## Background

The national Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program began more than 70 years ago. In 1930, Congress authorized the FBI to collect crime statistics from local police departments. All information came from reports that law enforcement agencies routinely compile for their own efficient administration. From the beginning, the primary motive behind UCR was to provide law enforcement statistics for use by law enforcement agencies.

To gain an overall picture of crime on the national level, data is collected on certain offenses that become known to law enforcement. Of all offenses, eight were selected to make up what is called the "Crime Index". These eight offenses were selected because of their seriousness, frequency of occurrence, and likelihood of being reported to police. The eight are murder and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft and arson.

For nationwide uniformity in the reporting of data, a set of standard definitions were written for specific criminal acts. This standardization was necessary to overcome the variation in definitions from state to state. Reporting agencies are required to submit their data in accordance with the UCR definition of offenses. Because of the variance in punishment for the same offenses in different states, it is not possible to distinguish between felony or misdemeanor crimes under the UCR program.

In the 1970's, the FBI transferred responsibility for data collection to state-operated UCR programs. Arkansas assumed this responsibility in 1974. With a state UCR program, data is more readily available for use by the state, and the FBI no longer collects data directly from individual law enforcement agencies within a state. Compiled information from all reporting agencies is forwarded by the state program to the national program. State programs also provide more direct and frequent contact with local agencies, assuring more completeness and quality of reported information.

## Purposes of the Arkansas UCR Program

Data collected in the UCR program provides a picture of reported crime in Arkansas. While there are many purposes, the primary goals are:

- To collect, verify, and analyze information on crime reported to law enforcement agencies in Arkansas.
- To provide data back to law enforcement administrators for use in operational planning and assessments.
- To give an overview of crime, its magnitude and trends, and to provide this information to the Governor, the Legislature, and to the general public.
- To develop base data and statistics to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and performance of the Arkansas criminal justice system.
- To provide the FBI with complete UCR data to include in the national crime reports.

## Reporting Procedures

A good record-keeping system is necessary for the effective operation of any law enforcement agency. These record systems are the source of statistics on crime. Most of the data reported in Arkansas is by a "summary" reporting procedure. Law enforcement agencies are responsible for compiling their own crime figures and submitting them once a month to ACIC. ACIC provides the agencies with training in scoring and classifying of offenses and in procedures for reporting data.

On a monthly basis, law enforcement agencies submit a summary of the number of offenses made known to them during the month. This count is taken from the complaints received by the agency from victims, other sources or as discovered by officers. The number of "actual offenses known" are reported to ACIC without regard to whether anyone was arrested for the crime, any stolen property was recovered, or any other restrictive consideration. Law enforcement agencies also report the total number of these crimes which they clear by either arrest or exceptional means. To supplement the offense information, data is also reported on the value of property stolen and recovered, circumstances surrounding homicides, additional information concerning assaults on police officers, and other pertinent information. In addition to offense information, reports on the number of persons arrested on all criminal offenses are also collected. These reports provide age, sex and race information, with the adult and juvenile arrests separated. Names of the individuals arrested are not included in the UCR program.

## Description of Current Data

In 2002, the Arkansas Crime Information Center Supervisory Board mandated a change in crime data reporting; moving the state from summary reporting to incident based reporting. The implementation date was January 1, 2003.

The new reporting system increases the amount of crime data collected and requires electronic submission to ACIC. The complexity of this project required ACIC to provide a software solution to many smaller to medium sized departments for the collection of this data. Other departments, using their own records management systems, were required to update their systems to accept incident based data.

2002, 2003, and 2004 are transition years resulting in the statewide installation of new software; upgrading hardware, and on-going training. During this transition period many departments are unable to maintain dual reporting systems. This results in ACIC receiving less data than in the previous years. Therefore, the 2003 statistics are published with the understanding they may not have the reliability of previous data; however, this should improve as more agencies begin their incident based reporting. This was not an issue that was unexpected, but merely a result of the needed transition.

# **Section 2**

## **Crime Summary**

## Crime Summary 2002 - 2003

### Crime Index

Offense	2002	2003	Percent Change
<b>Violent Crime</b>	10,449	11,666	11.6%
Murder	138	161	16.7%
Forcible Rape	711	849	19.4%
Robbery	2,212	2,160	-2.4%
Aggravated Assault	7,388	8,496	15.0%
<b>Property Crime</b>	93,960	95,709	1.9%
Burglary	21,117	23,022	9.0%
Theft	66,135	66,384	0.4%
Motor Vehicle Theft	6,234	5,761	-7.6%
Arson	474	542	14.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>104,409</b>	<b>107,375</b>	<b>2.8%</b>

### Arrests

Offense	2002	2003	Percent Change
Juvenile	15,211	13,217	-13.1%
Adult	168,430	150,024	-10.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>183,641</b>	<b>163,241</b>	<b>-11.1%</b>

### Property

Type	2002	2003	Percent Change
Stolen	\$107,064,281	\$96,392,307	-10.0%
Recovered	\$39,735,841	\$30,829,252	-22.4%

# **Section 3**

## **Value of Stolen and Recovered Property**

## Value of Property Stolen by Offense 2003

Offense	Number	Value
<b>Murder</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>\$3,603</b>
<b>Rape</b>	<b>849</b>	<b>\$571</b>
<b>Robbery</b>		
Highway	500	\$368,831
Commercial House	308	\$259,555
Service Station	33	\$37,610
Convenience Store	97	\$27,780
Residence	418	\$405,560
Bank	34	\$42,850
Miscellaneous	770	\$197,388
<b>Robbery Total</b>	<b>2,160</b>	<b>\$1,339,574</b>
<b>Burglary</b>		
<i>Residence Total</i>	<i>14,724</i>	<i>\$15,284,023</i>
Night	4,600	\$3,811,975
Day	7,762	\$8,480,187
Unknown	2,362	\$2,991,861
<i>Non-Residence Total</i>	<i>8,298</i>	<i>\$7,802,891</i>
Night	3,484	\$2,905,803
Day	3,687	\$3,632,071
Unknown	1,127	\$1,265,017
<b>Burglary Total</b>	<b>23,022</b>	<b>\$23,086,914</b>
<b>Theft</b>		
Pocket Picking	285	\$60,281
Purse Snatching	194	\$43,779
Shoplifting	8,136	\$708,532
From Motor Vehicles	12,537	\$6,050,125
Motor Vehicle Parts	5,696	\$2,248,945
Bicycles	1,627	\$365,537
From Buildings	7,363	\$6,565,153
Coin-Operated Machines	394	\$101,729
All Other	30,152	\$21,634,396
<b>Theft Total</b>	<b>66,384</b>	<b>\$37,778,477</b>
<b>Motor Vehicle Theft</b>	<b>5,761</b>	<b>\$34,183,168</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>98,337</b>	<b>\$96,392,307</b>

# **Section 4**

# **Arrest Data**

## Age of Persons Arrested 2003

Offenses	Under 10	10-12	13-14	15	16	17	Total Under 18
<b>Index Offenses</b>							
Murder	0	0	0	2	4	6	12
Forcible Rape	0	2	9	2	14	13	40
Robbery	3	1	11	16	13	37	81
Aggravated Assault	27	36	70	64	75	96	368
Burglary	36	54	144	103	116	128	581
Theft	43	206	647	506	595	599	2,596
Motor Vehicle Theft	19	25	68	72	70	76	330
Arson	1	8	3	0	2	5	19
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>952</b>	<b>765</b>	<b>889</b>	<b>960</b>	<b>4,027</b>
<b>Other Offenses</b>							
Manslaughter by Negligence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-Aggravated Assault	48	89	241	212	222	217	1,029
Forgery/Counterfeiting	11	1	6	5	8	38	69
Fraud	89	0	1	7	11	30	138
Embezzlement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stolen Property: Buying Receiving, Possessing	9	8	28	14	27	46	132
Vandalism	10	73	85	67	71	69	375
Weapons: Carrying, Possession, etc.	7	37	62	45	45	50	246
Prostitution & Commercialized Vice	2	0	1	1	0	3	7
Sex Offenses (except Forcible Rape & Prostitution)	2	4	16	10	12	3	47
Gambling	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Offenses Against Family & Children	0	3	4	7	7	4	25
Driving Under the Influence	56	0	2	11	48	116	233
Liquor Laws	18	3	26	44	81	130	302
Drunkenness	36	1	15	37	95	133	317
Disorderly Conduct	13	99	345	285	243	240	1,225
Vagrancy	0	5	32	23	35	39	134
All Other (except Traffic)	199	127	423	408	656	1,017	2,830
Suspicion	0	0	0	0	6	5	11
Curfew & Loitering Law Violations	3	18	109	118	151	164	563
Runaways	2	53	133	112	147	96	543
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>1,529</b>	<b>1,406</b>	<b>1,865</b>	<b>2,401</b>	<b>8,227</b>
<b>Narcotics-Sale/Manufacture</b>							
Opium or Cocaine	0	0	0	0	1	6	7
Marijuana	3	2	19	9	10	16	59
Synthetic Narcotics	1	0	2	2	2	9	16
Other Dangerous Non-Narcotic Drugs	4	0	4	2	6	5	21
<b>Sale/Manufacture Subtotal</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>103</b>
<b>Narcotics-Possession</b>							
Opium or Cocaine	2	0	1	4	9	8	24
Marijuana	33	12	72	91	147	255	610
Synthetic Narcotics	4	0	6	5	4	11	30
Other Dangerous Non-Narcotic Drugs	28	8	32	34	42	52	196
<b>Possession Subtotal</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>860</b>
<b>Total Drug Arrests</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>963</b>
<b>Total Arrests</b>	<b>709</b>	<b>875</b>	<b>2,617</b>	<b>2,318</b>	<b>2,975</b>	<b>3,723</b>	<b>13,217</b>

## Age of Persons Arrested 2003

18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65 & Over	Total 18 & Over
5	11	9	13	7	11	10	30	24	13	12	10	4	2	4	1	166
11	8	13	10	13	14	8	43	36	40	25	16	9	4	2	1	253
74	52	45	41	43	37	23	111	99	72	65	21	9	4	2	2	700
117	114	139	147	147	166	135	626	509	407	361	228	118	74	31	23	3,342
254	214	157	144	109	111	81	369	241	215	180	96	39	7	1	3	2,221
783	616	504	443	418	391	269	1,159	1,032	1,046	869	522	247	96	46	46	8,487
28	21	24	25	20	23	18	66	44	48	32	15	13	2	1	0	380
7	5	1	4	3	3	3	16	7	11	22	3	1	3	1	1	91
<b>1,279</b>	<b>1,041</b>	<b>892</b>	<b>827</b>	<b>760</b>	<b>756</b>	<b>547</b>	<b>2,420</b>	<b>1,992</b>	<b>1,852</b>	<b>1,566</b>	<b>911</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>15,640</b>
2	2	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	11
281	267	289	337	329	315	308	1,183	1,003	866	745	466	210	99	41	38	6,777
65	93	98	102	115	101	106	383	299	226	159	89	29	14	4	3	1,886
236	440	520	656	711	776	675	2,742	2,598	2,013	1,484	994	527	238	187	122	14,919
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
85	74	72	59	48	33	32	147	123	134	95	65	24	11	11	0	1,013
96	84	80	57	46	56	34	155	106	64	71	49	16	7	5	7	933
70	75	81	72	78	59	65	230	165	140	138	88	35	21	7	9	1,333
5	8	5	5	9	8	11	55	61	92	87	43	18	6	3	0	416
18	7	10	7	17	11	10	56	46	42	41	38	28	4	7	8	350
1	0	0	1	1	2	3	5	3	11	8	2	3	5	4	4	53
18	23	34	47	42	47	38	171	159	142	95	49	29	9	8	3	914
358	436	531	542	524	546	509	1,836	1,589	1,483	1,504	1,135	590	326	149	134	12,192
302	299	222	79	68	66	52	163	129	175	150	139	76	33	22	19	1,994
334	362	382	446	419	417	371	1,311	1,178	1,353	1,511	1,223	564	262	122	80	10,335
226	172	184	194	175	142	142	441	318	308	259	193	92	33	17	14	2,910
57	40	36	37	37	25	28	84	72	91	95	57	48	11	6	5	729
2,229	3,108	3,331	3,731	3,643	3,581	3,305	11,868	9,466	8,114	6,512	3,846	1,732	764	357	330	65,917
16	9	7	6	7	2	5	18	17	15	11	7	3	1	0	1	125
1	2	2	1	1	0	3	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	15
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>4,401</b>	<b>5,501</b>	<b>5,884</b>	<b>6,379</b>	<b>6,271</b>	<b>6,189</b>	<b>5,697</b>	<b>20,854</b>	<b>17,334</b>	<b>15,272</b>	<b>12,965</b>	<b>8,485</b>	<b>4,024</b>	<b>1,844</b>	<b>950</b>	<b>777</b>	<b>122,827</b>
15	16	18	17	28	37	22	81	60	59	43	32	17	7	0	1	453
26	21	36	31	28	26	23	86	45	40	30	20	15	6	1	1	435
11	14	22	20	32	24	30	134	124	115	105	52	16	11	7	1	718
7	16	14	18	23	24	14	79	80	70	62	23	18	5	4	0	457
<b>59</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2,063</b>
34	43	44	40	46	49	50	143	104	84	97	75	23	14	7	2	855
479	423	399	360	315	269	255	757	510	419	348	184	66	35	8	7	4,834
35	60	73	55	43	48	53	201	203	176	154	68	22	8	2	2	1,203
103	107	129	118	114	102	111	452	404	382	329	159	58	18	13	3	2,602
<b>651</b>	<b>633</b>	<b>645</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>1,553</b>	<b>1,221</b>	<b>1,061</b>	<b>928</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>9,494</b>
<b>710</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>659</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>579</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>1,933</b>	<b>1,530</b>	<b>1,345</b>	<b>1,168</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>11,557</b>
<b>6,390</b>	<b>7,242</b>	<b>7,511</b>	<b>7,865</b>	<b>7,660</b>	<b>7,524</b>	<b>6,802</b>	<b>25,207</b>	<b>20,856</b>	<b>18,469</b>	<b>15,699</b>	<b>10,009</b>	<b>4,699</b>	<b>2,140</b>	<b>1,080</b>	<b>871</b>	<b>150,024</b>



# **Section 5**

## **Arkansas Incident - Based Crime Reporting System**

## Overview

In 1985, the FBI introduced the National Incident-Based Crime Reporting System (NIBRS) to improve the statistical reporting and analysis capabilities of the law enforcement community. The specifications for NIBRS are the result of a collaborative effort between the FBI and local, state, and national criminal justice agencies and professional organizations. To ensure that it fulfills its purpose, NIBRS has adopted the following goals:

1. To enhance the quantity, quality, and timeliness of crime statistical data collected by the law enforcement community.
2. To improve the methodology used for compiling, analyzing, auditing, and publishing the collected crime data.

The most prominent difference between Summary reporting and NIBRS is the degree of detail in reporting. In IBR systems, law enforcement agencies maintain a database of the details of each single crime occurrence that are reported to them. Depending upon the design of the particular system, the information collected can include details about the incident location, offense(s), offender(s), victim(s), property, and arrestee(s). In UCR reporting, most local law enforcement agencies provide a monthly summary of offense and arrest counts for certain offense categories to their state UCR systems, which are in turn reported to the FBI.

## Collection Method

NIBRS data are designed to be generated as a by-product of local, state, and federal automated records systems. Thus, an agency can build a system to suit its own needs, including any collection/storage of information required for administrative and operational purposes, in addition to reporting data required by NIBRS to the national UCR Program. NIBRS collects data on each single incident and arrest within 22 offense categories made up of 46 specific crimes called *Group A Offenses*. For each of the offenses coming to the attention of law enforcement, specified types of facts about each crime are collected. In addition to the *Group A Offenses*, there are 11 *Group B Offense* categories for which only arrest data are reported.

The following offense categories, known as *Group A Offenses*, are those for which extensive crime data are collected in NIBRS:

1. Arson
2. Assault Offenses-Aggravated Assault, Simple Assault, Intimidation
3. Bribery
4. Burglary/Breaking and Entering
5. Counterfeiting/Forgery
6. Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property
7. Drug/Narcotic Offenses-Drug/Narcotic Violations, Drug Equipment Violations
8. Embezzlement
9. Extortion/Blackmail
10. Fraud Offenses-False Pretenses/Swindle/Confidence Game, Credit Card/Automatic Teller Machine Fraud, Impersonation, Welfare Fraud, Wire Fraud
11. Gambling Offenses-Betting/Wagering, Operating/Promoting/Assisting Gambling, Gambling Equipment Violations, Sports Tampering

12. Homicide Offenses-Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter, Negligent Manslaughter, Justifiable Homicide
13. Kidnapping/Abduction
14. Larceny/Theft Offenses-Pocket Picking, Purse Snatching, Shoplifting, Theft from Building, Theft from Coin-Operated Machine or Device, Theft from Motor Vehicle, Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts or Accessories, All Other Larceny
15. Motor Vehicle Theft
16. Pornography/Obscene Material
17. Prostitution Offenses-Prostitution, Assisting or Promoting Prostitution
18. Robbery
19. Sex Offenses, Forcible-Forcible Rape, Forcible Sodomy, Sexual Assault with an Object, Forcible Fondling
20. Sex Offenses, Nonforcible-Incest, Statutory Rape
21. Stolen Property Offenses (Receiving, etc.)
22. Weapon Law Violations

The following eleven additional offense categories, known as *Group B Offenses*, are those for which only arrest data are reported.

1. Bad Checks
2. Curfew/Loitering/Vagrancy Violations
3. Disorderly Conduct
4. Driving Under the Influence
5. Drunkenness
6. Family Offenses, Nonviolent
7. Liquor Law Violations
8. Peeping Tom
9. Runaway
10. Trespass of Real Property
11. All Other Offenses

## Advantages

Law enforcement is a public service and requires a full accounting from an agency's commissioner, chief, or director for the administration of that agency and the status of public safety within its jurisdiction. Full participation in NIBRS will provide statistics to enable a law enforcement agency to fulfill this responsibility. NIBRS has the capability of furnishing information on nearly every major criminal justice issue facing law enforcement today, including terrorism, white collar crime, weapons offenses, missing children where criminality is involved, drug/narcotics offenses, drug involvement in all offenses, hate crimes, spouse abuse, abuse of the elderly, child abuse, domestic violence, juvenile crime/gangs, parental kidnapping, organized crime, pornography/child pornography, driving under the influence, and alcohol-related offenses. The data will be available from all levels of law enforcement-federal, state, and local-aggregated at the level and in the manner which best meets the needs of the data user. Through NIBRS, legislators, municipal planners/administrators, academicians, penologists, sociologists, and the general public will have access to more detailed and accurate crime information than the summary system can provide.

The benefits of incident-based reporting include:

- Data collection is not restricted to a limited number of offense categories.
- Offense definitions can meet local, state, and national reporting needs.
- Detail on individual crime incidents (offenses, offenders, victims, property, and arrests) can be collected and analyzed.
- Arrests and clearances can be linked to specific incidents or offenses.

- All offenses in an incident can be recorded and counted, unlike the current situation with the hierarchy rule in the FBI Uniform Crime Reports.
- Additional crime scoring categories, such as Crimes Against Society, can be created.
- Distinctions can be made between attempted and completed crimes.
- Linkages can be established between variables for examining interrelationships between offenses, offenders, victims, property, and arrestees.
- Detailed crime analyses can be made within and across law enforcement jurisdictions.
- Regional law enforcement agencies can share information easily.
- Strategic and tactical crime analyses can be made at the local and regional levels.

## **NIBRS in Arkansas**

As of September 2002, 23 states were certified by the FBI as NIBRS compliant, 18 states were engaged in testing with the FBI, and 10 states were in the developmental phase. Within each state, the number of reporting agencies varies. Law enforcement agencies with an existing incident-based reporting system can modify their systems to satisfy NIBRS requirements. Alternatively, agencies that implement NIBRS can expand its capabilities to meet internal agency requirements and still be NIBRS compliant.

Arkansas was the 19th state to be NIBRS certified. In 2002, the ACIC Supervisory Board determined that crime statistics must be reported according to NIBRS standards in Arkansas beginning no later than January, 2003. In an effort to provide assistance to local agencies, a *NIBRS Users' Group* has been established. The purpose of this group is to bring local officials together to discuss common problems and issues, as well as to assist those agencies that are in the transition stage of moving from summary UCR reporting to NIBRS reporting.

To help coordinate this inter-agency sharing of ideas, a more formal *NIBRS Steering Committee* was established which include the following members:

Chief Larry James (Co-Chair)  
*University of Central Arkansas Police Department*

Asst. Chief Rick Hoyt (Co-Chair)  
*Fayetteville Police Department*

Joey Potratz  
*Arkansas Sheriffs' Association*

Sheriff Ron Ball  
*Hot Spring County Sheriff's Office*

Capt. Grady Russell  
*Sherwood Police Department*

Capt. Glenn Greenwood  
*Texarkana Police Department*

Ptl. David Stiles  
*Texarkana Police Department*

Helen Greenwell  
*Texarkana Police Department*

Dr. Jeff Walker  
*University of Arkansas at Little Rock*

Lt. Gary Crain  
*University of Arkansas Police Department*

Chris Bentley  
*University of Central Arkansas Police Department*

Sean Maddan  
*Statistical Systems, Inc.*

## **Acknowledgments**

Information for this section was gathered from the following sources. Additional materials are available at their noted web site links.

### **Association of State Uniform Crime Reporting Programs**

*<http://www.asucrp.org>*

### **Federal Bureau of Investigation**

*<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr.htm>*

### **Justice Research and Statistics Association**

*<http://www.search.org/>*

### **Search - The National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics**

*<http://www.search.org/>*

