

Criminal Justice Agency Data



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UCR



- **Uniform Crime Reports (UCR)**
 - Produces annual counts of crimes known to the police.
 - Police give data to the FBI
 - FBI published and maintains data
 - Definitions are uniform & specific
 - Most widely publicized source of crime statistics
 - ~97% population is covered

- **Summary Reporting System (SRS)**
 - The data produced are aggregate counts of offenses, with no other information.

UCR Part I Crimes



- Murder
 - Non-negligent manslaughter
 - Forcible rape
 - Robbery
 - Aggravated assault
- Violent Crimes**
- Burglary
 - Larceny/theft
 - Motor vehicle theft
 - Arson
- Property Crimes**

UCR Part I Crimes



- Selected because:
 - Most likely to be reported to police
 - Easy to establish when the crime has occurred
 - Occur in geographic (defined) area
 - Occur with enough frequency to allow for comparison
 - All serious crimes in nature

- Arson – Added in 1979

- Rape – definition changed in 2012

UCR Part II Crimes



- “Less Serious” offenses
 - Ex. Simple Assaults, Forgery/Counterfeiting, Embezzlement/Fraud, Receiving Stolen Property, Weapon Violations, Prostitution, Sex Crimes, Crimes Against Family/Child, Narcotic Drug Laws, Liquor Laws, Drunkenness, Disturbing the Peace, Disorderly Conduct, Gambling, DUI and Moving Traffic Violations.

Uniform Crime Reports (UCR)

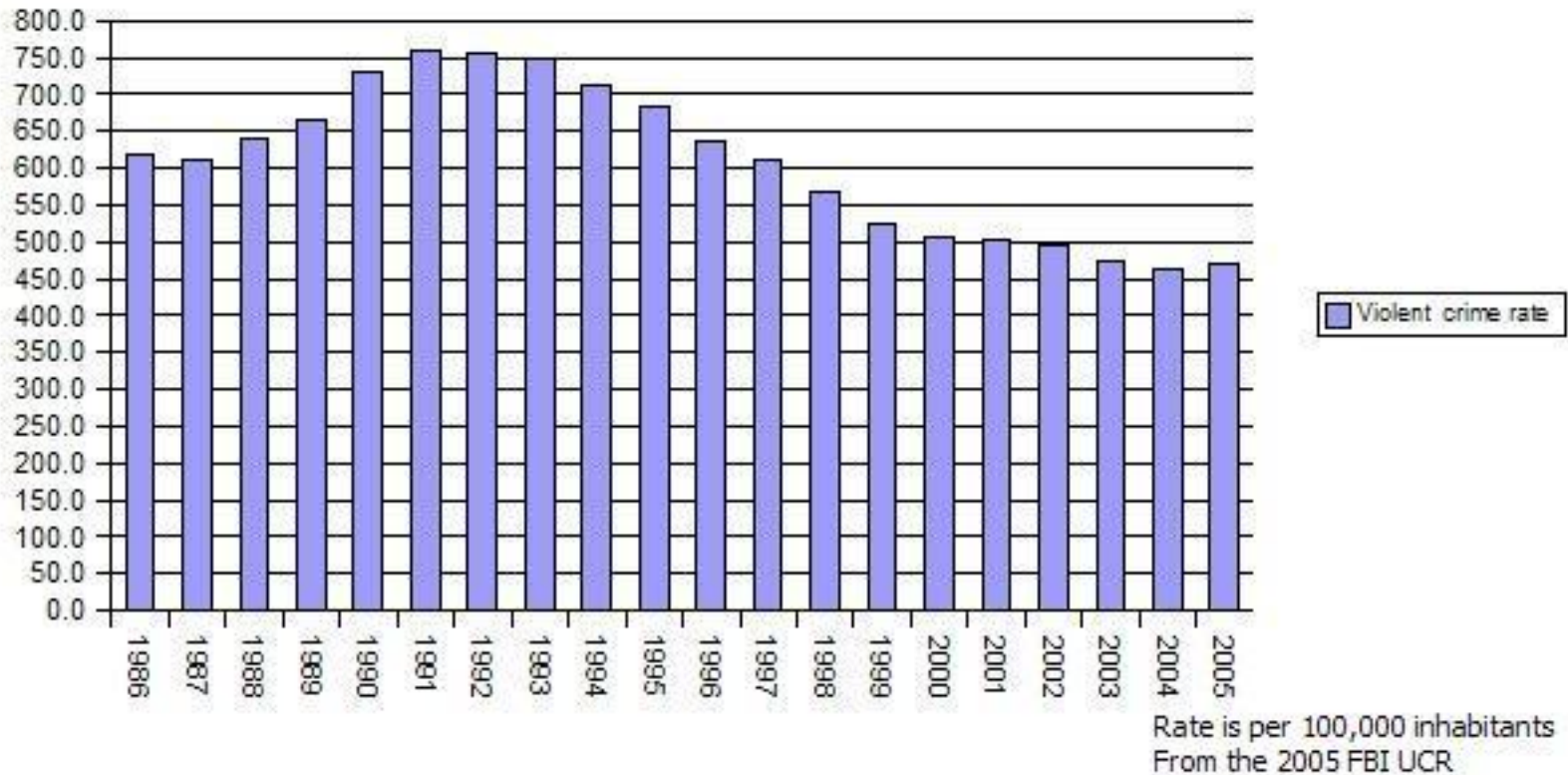


- **Validity and Reliability**
 - Does not include crimes *not* reported to police.
 - **Hierarchy Rule:** Only counts most serious crime in a given incident.
 - Definitions and record keeping vary from state to state, agency to agency.
 - Have to assume:
 - Citizens report crime, police verify and investigate (or arrest), agency accurately reports.

Uses of UCR



- US Violent Crime Rates by Year



NIBRS



- **National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS)**
 - Incident-based crime data reported to the FBI by local agencies.

- **Potentially contains...**
 - Agency Information
 - Offense Information
 - Victim Information
 - Offender/Suspect Information
 - Arrestee Information

NIBRS



NIBRS was designed to address 4 major problems:

1. National statistical reporting only covers a small number of crimes
2. The UCR only records the most serious charge in the crime incident
3. The UCR lacks information about incidents to support more than minimal reporting and research activities
4. Unable to do individual-level research on the crime incident

Much, much more information about offenses than UCR:

- Where the crime took place (crime mapping)
- What crimes took place (avoids hierarchy rule)
- Case outcome
- Characteristics of victims and offenders

NIBRS



- **Group A Offenses**

- Incident-level data on all reported offenses
- 22 Offense categories – 46 specific crimes
- More serious offenses (e.g., assault offenses, homicide offenses, sex offenses...)
- Detail on offenses, offenders, victims, property, arrestees

- **Group B Offenses**

- Only included if individual arrested
- Less serious offenses (e.g., bad checks, drunkenness)

NIBRS



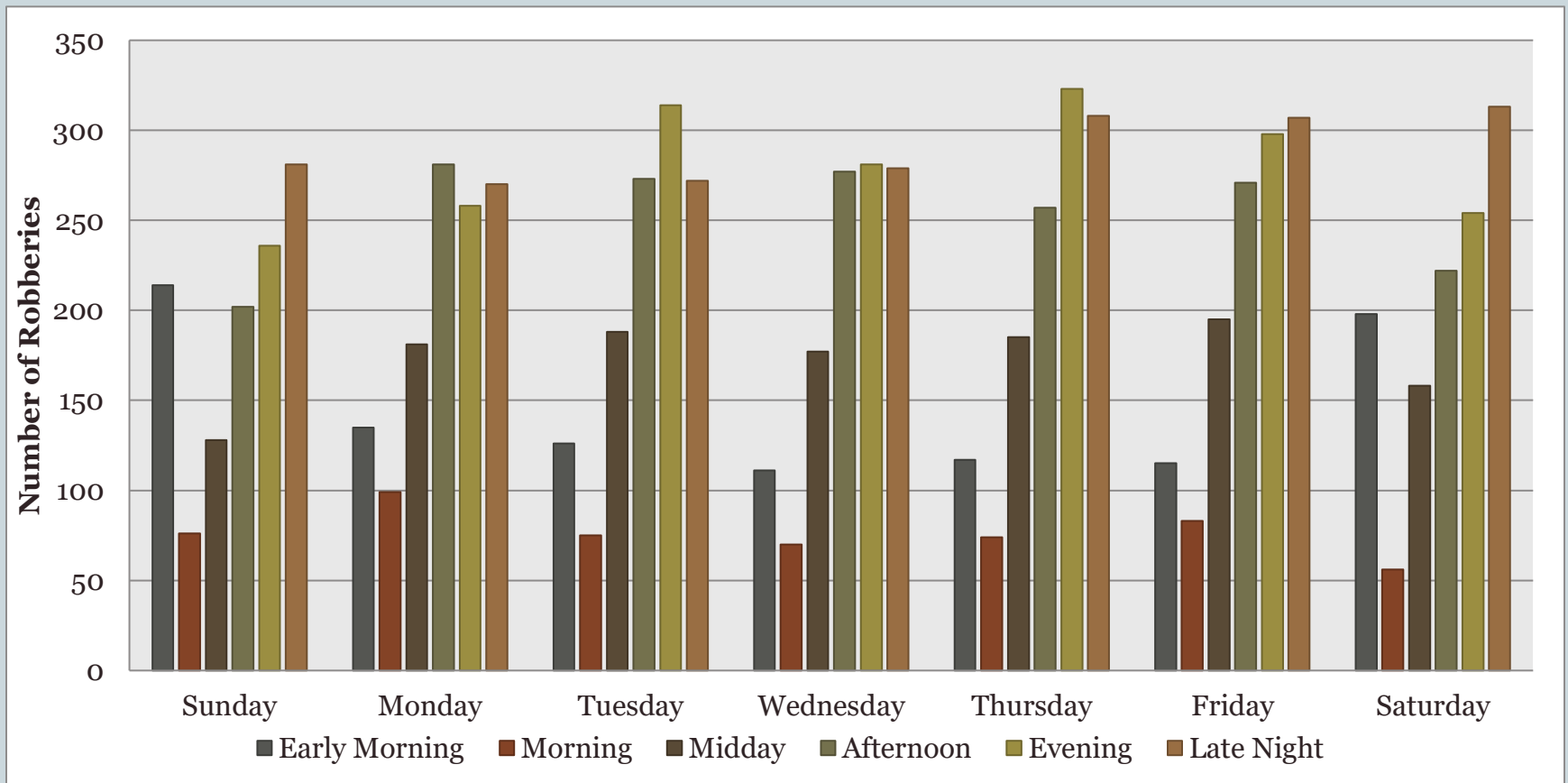
- **Validity and Reliability**
 - Complex file structure (difficult to analyze).
 - Inconsistency in data quality and coverage.

- **Variation in reporting**
 - No departments from Florida, California, and New York participate
 - These are states with the highest frequency of crime
 - Only 37 states reported data to NIBRS in 2018
 - 17 of these states submit *all* their data
 - [Link for states & participating agencies](#)
 - [Map of participating agencies](#)

Use of NIBRS



- Frequency of Robbery by Weekday and Time of Day



NIBRS 2021



- Agencies are transitioning to NIBRS
 - Goal for 2021
- Initiative to make NIBRS the standard
 - <https://ucr.fbi.gov/nibrs/2017/resource-pages/preparing.pdf>
- NIBRS Website
 - <https://www.fbi.gov/services/cjis/ucr/nibrs#Overview>

Victimization Surveys



- **Crime Victimization Survey:** Collecting data on crime by asking questions to respondents about their experiences being victimized.
- **Dark Figure of Crime:** The unknown amount of crime that never comes to the attention of police.

Victimization Surveys



- **National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)**
 - Started in 1973, run by the U.S. Census Bureau
 - **Four primary goals**
 - Develop detailed information about the victims and consequences of crime on a national level.
 - Estimate number and nature of crime not reported to police.
 - Provide estimates of prevalence of certain types of crime.
 - Permit comparisons of victimization over time.
 - **Individual-level data**
 - Experience, characteristics, and outcomes of victimization.

National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)



- **Survey Design**

- Sample of 49,000 households (~ 100,000 individuals)
 - Shows importance of sampling
- Each household surveyed every 6 months for 3.5 years (7 surveys)
- **Recall Bias:** When survey respondents give inaccurate data because of faulty memory.
- Only residents 12 and older
- Captures only personal and property crimes against households

National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)



- Validity and Reliability
 - Assumptions made for the NCVS to be valid
 - Respondents report victimizations they experienced, even if they didn't report it to the police
 - Respondents give accurate answers

NACJD



- **National Archive of Criminal Justice Data**
 - <https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/content/NACJD/index.html>
- Archive of datasets available for public use
 - Collected by various research teams for various projects