



## Update to LEDS System Users

**From: Chris Brown, Superintendent Oregon State Police  
Craig Prins, Executive Director Oregon Criminal Justice Commission**

This letter is to inform Oregon Uniform Crime Reporting (OUCR) Program users about changes to reporting data for 2009. In January 2009, the Oregon State Police made the transition from the old Oregon-National Incident Based Reporting System (O-NIBRS) repository to our new system and repository due to a system upgrade.

In making this change, we discovered data tabulation problems between the updated and former system that resulted in differences between reports for 2008 and 2009 respectively. The old repository was 15-year-old technology, which limited the system's ability to allow for the correct modification of data by the submitting agency after the initial entry of the report to the LEDS system. This problem was not discovered by OSP until the transition to the new system was complete and reporting began.

The records affected were limited to entries modified from previously entered records that were erroneously duplicated by the system as new crimes within the old O-NIBRS system. This created an increase in the total number of crimes reported following the modifications to the records for that year. The anomaly is limited to a small number of records reported to the OUCR Program since the majority of records reported are never modified.

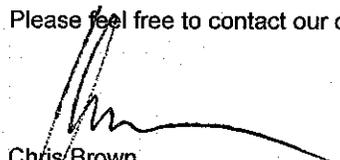
In consideration of the old O-NIBRS system's limitations, the data reported into the new system, 2009 and forward, should not be directly compared to 2007 or older data for consistency and accuracy. However, in order to make an accurate data comparison between 2008 and 2009, the 2008 data from the former system was reprocessed through the new repository. The purpose was to create an apples to apples comparison that more clearly demonstrated how the technology upgrade would affect future reporting.

In conclusion, the referenced comparison confirms that crime in Oregon has decreased. Initially, by using 2008 data processed through the old O-NIBRS system and data for 2009 processed through the new system, overall crime showed a decrease of 7.9% from 2008 to 2009. However, after processing the data for both 2008 and 2009 through the same, new system, the overall decrease was actually 6.5%. This change will not apply to all agencies reporting to the OUCR Program, only those that made modifications to previously reported records (2008 and before) in the old O-NIBRS system.

The O-NIBRS system is an incident-based reporting system that collects data under different parameters and as such, report's statistical information that is different from the FBI UCR reports, which are based on criminal hierarchy reporting, focused on the most serious offense per criminal episode. Both systems have advantages but the reports cannot be compared. This is again a case of apples and oranges. The changes would have only negligible, if any, effect on Oregon's FBI UCR because of the much larger number of crimes reported to the FBI for the entire state.

The good news is that working in collaboration with our partners; we identified and addressed a problem that will increase the quality and accuracy of Oregon's statistical criminal reporting data.

Please feel free to contact our offices with any questions.

  
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