



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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Criminal Activity

What is meant by “Type of Criminal Activity”?

“Type of Criminal Activity” information indicates the type of involvement of the offender for certain offenses. There can be up to three criminal activities listed. Criminal activity is a conditional element and only mandatory for certain offenses.

What are the criminal activity types?

The Types of Criminal Activity are:

- Buying/Receiving
- Distributing/Selling
- Operating/Promoting/Assisting
- Transporting/Transmitting/Importing
- Cultivating/Manufacturing/Publishing
- Exploiting Children
- Possessing/Concealing
- Using/Consuming

What offenses require a criminal activity?

Agencies should report the criminal activity of the offender(s) in the following offenses:

- 250 Counterfeiting/Forgery
- 280 Stolen Property Offenses
- 35A Drug/Narcotic Violations
- 35B Drug Equipment Violations
- 39C Gambling Equipment Violations
- 370 Pornography/Obscene Material
- 520 Weapon Law Violations



Data Elements

What is a data element and why are they important?

Data elements describe the characteristics of an incident. These elements are used to describe the victims, offenders, arrestees, and circumstances of an offense.

Are data elements mandatory?

Some data elements are mandatory; others are conditional, meaning the data values are collected only when certain conditions within the incident are met.

How many data elements are there?

There are 59 data elements used in NIBRS, including Washington State specific elements:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. ORI Number | 26. Age (of Victim) |
| 2. Incident Number | 27. Sex (of Victim) |
| 2A. Cargo Theft Indicator | 28. Race (of Victim) |
| 3. Incident Date/Hour | 29. Ethnicity (of Victim) |
| 4. Cleared Exceptionally Indicator | 30. Resident Status (of Victim) |
| 5. Exceptional Clearance Date | 31. Aggravated Assault/Homicide Circumstances |
| 6. UCR Offense Code | 32. Additional Justifiable Homicide Circumstances |
| 7. Offense Attempted or Completed | 33. Type of Injury |
| 8. Offender(s) Suspected of Using | 34. Offender Number(s) to be Related |
| 8A. Bias Motivation | 35. Relationship(s) of Victim to Offender(s) |
| 9. Location Type | 36. Offender Sequence Number |
| 10. Number of Premises Entered | 37. Age (of Offender) |
| 11. Method of Entry | 38. Sex (of Offender) |
| 12. Type of Criminal Activity or Gang Information | 39. Race (of Offender) |
| 13. Type of Weapon or Force Involved | 39A. Ethnicity (of Offender) |
| 14. Type of Property Loss, Recovery, Seizure, etc. | 40. Arrestee Sequence Number |
| 15. Property Description | 41. Arrest Transaction Number |
| 16. Value of Property | 42. Arrest Date |
| 17. Date Recovered | 43. Type of Arrest |
| 18. Number of Stolen Motor Vehicles | 44. Multiple Arrestee Segments Indicator |
| 19. Number of Recovered Motor Vehicles | 45. UCR Arrest Offense Code |
| 20. Suspected Drug Type | 46. Arrestee Was Armed With |
| 21. Estimated Drug Quantity | 47. Age (of Arrestee) |
| 22. Type of Drug Measurement | 48. Sex (of Arrestee) |
| 23. Victim Sequence Number | 49. Race (of Arrestee) |
| 24. Victim Connected to UCR Offense Code(s) | 50. Ethnicity (of Arrestee) |
| 25. Type of Victim | 51. Resident Status (of Arrestee) |
| 25A. Type of Activity (Officer)/Circumstances | 52. Disposition of Arrestee Under Age 18 |
| 25B. Assignment Type (Officer) | 53. Domestic Violence Indicator |
| 25C. ORI Other Jurisdiction (Officer) | |



Error Codes

What if the batch error report doesn't appear after uploading a monthly submission?

After uploading the monthly submission, wait at least 5 to 10 minutes (or more depending on file size) prior to checking for the batch error report. If no batch error report is found, contact the WASPC CJIS department to assist; please **don't** upload the batch file again.

What does the error code "Zero_Exist" mean?

The error code "Zero_Exist" means there had been a zero report uploaded to the database previously and the notation needs to be removed prior to data submission. Contact the WASPC CJIS Department to remedy this issue.

How can the error codes be interpreted? Is there a list of error codes available?

Error codes are organized in an orderly fashion. Each error lists the *case number*, a brief *description* of the error, the *federal error code*, and the *sequence* number where the error is located.

For example, the Incident and Group A Arrest Reports:

Incident And Group A Arrest Reports with Errors			
Case Number	Description	Federal Error Code	Sequence

Locate the segment where error is located by the following list:

<u>Federal Error Codes</u>	<u>Location</u>
001 – 088	Structure of the Incident
090 – 094	Zero Report Segment
101 – 177	Administrative/Incident Segment
201 – 269	Offense Segment
301 – 392	Property Segment
401 – 481	Victim Segment
501 – 560	Offender Segment
601 – 671	Arrestee Segment
701 – 761	Group B Arrest Only

For more information, see the FBI NIBRS Technical Specifications Manual:

http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/nibrs_technical_specification_version_1.0_final_04-16-2012.pdf



Do “rejected” cases need to be fixed?

Yes, all rejected cases should be fixed monthly. However, unlike the batch error report messages, the rejected messages do not go away once you have fixed and resubmitted them.

Is there a way to see if there are outstanding errors for the year?

Yes, log into the repository database and click on the “Standard Report” button. Under the Standard Reports, there is an option for “Outstanding Errors and Incidents/Arrests Not Checked” in blue. Click on this option (make sure the pop-up blocker is disabled), enter the year, and click the “Run” button. A list of outstanding errors will appear; if the record is blank, there are no outstanding errors.

Gang Activity

What offenses require the “Gang Information” notation?

Aggravated Assault	Murder and Non-Negligent Manslaughter
Forcible Fondling	Negligent Manslaughter
Forcible Rape	Robbery
Forcible Sodomy	Sexual Assault with an Object
Intimidation	Simple Assault
Kidnapping/Abduction	

What are the allowed entries for Gang Information?

Juvenile Gang:	Membership is predominantly juvenile (under age 18)
Other Gang:	Membership is predominantly age 18 or older
None/Unknown:	Not Gang-Related or Membership Unknown

What is a reason for receiving Gang Information errors?

Reporting of Gang Information was optional in Washington State prior to January 1, 2012. Check with your records management system (RMS) vendor to ensure they have made the updates to reflect the data element is now mandatory.

Do all of the members of a juvenile gang have to be less than 18 years old?

No, the FBI and state repository follow the criteria as defined by the National Institute of Justice:



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• The group has three or more members, generally aged 12-24.
• Members share an identity, typically linked to a name, and often other symbols.
• Members view themselves as a gang, and they are recognized by others as a gang.
• The group has some permanence and a degree of organization.
• The group is involved in an elevated level of criminal activity.

For more information, see the National Institute of Justice official definitions:

<http://www.nij.gov/topics/crime/gangs-organized/gangs/definitions.htm>

Injury to Victims

Should only the most serious types of injury the victim sustains be submitted?

For each victim, up to five (5) types of injuries can be submitted, such as broken bones, severe lacerations, possible internal injuries, etc.

Can there be an Aggravated Assault without the victim sustaining an injury?

Yes; the type of injury would be submitted as “None” with an indication a weapon was used in the incident. For example, a threat to harm or kill with a knife would be Aggravated Assault and the weapon involved in the incident would be “Knife/Cutting Instrument”.

Why would a type of injury be indicated for the “people” victims of a Robbery if the main victim is a financial institution or store?

The victims of Robbery include not only the entities (businesses, financial institutions, etc.) from whom property was taken, but also those persons toward whom the robber directed force or threat of force. Therefore, although the primary victim in a bank robbery would be the financial institution, the teller towards whom the robber pointed a gun and made the demand should also be reported as a victim and could possibly sustain injury in the incident.

Weapons Involved

What type of weapon is indicated if the offender only uses hands during an Assault?

The weapon type would be “Personal Weapons” whenever there is any “hands-on” contact, such as hitting, biting, kicking, pushing/shoving, etc.



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How specific does the submission need to be when indicating a firearm is used?

If the type of firearm is known, indicate the appropriate type, such as handgun, rifle, shotgun, etc. If the specific type is not known, use “Firearm-Type Not Stated”. If the firearm shoots, or is designed to shoot, more than one shot a time by a single pull of the trigger, without manual reloading, also indicate it is an “automatic” weapon.

Can more than one type of weapon be indicated in an incident?

Yes; up to three (3) types of weapons can be indicated per offense.

Is a paintball gun classified as a firearm?

No; firearms are classified as weapons that fire a projectile by force of explosion, i.e., handguns, rifles, shotgun, etc., but not “BB”, pellet, or gas-powered guns. A paintball gun is a gas-powered gun.