



NIBRS TRANSITION PRESS RELEASE TEMPLATE

Proactively providing information about your agency's transition to the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) will help stakeholders understand the transition and how it benefits your agency and the community. Agencies can communicate with crime data stakeholders through a press release. When developing your press release, make sure to address the five critical topics emphasized in the sample text below.

Date

For immediate release

[AGENCY NAME] IS IMPROVING CRIME MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

DESCRIBE WHAT IS CHANGING.

[Agency name] is proud to begin participating in the FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). As the new national data collection standard, NIBRS captures details on victims, known offenders, relationships between victims and offenders, arrestees, property, and drugs involved in crimes for up to 10 offenses within an incident, representing a substantial shift in the way [Agency name] reports crime.

EXPLAIN WHY THE CHANGE IS NECESSARY.

[Agency name] is changing how information on victimization and offending is collected and reported in order to meet federal data standards, improve operations, and better inform the public about the nature of crime in [Jurisdiction name]. NIBRS data provide the detailed, accurate, and meaningful information needed about crime.

COMMUNICATE WHEN THE CHANGE IS HAPPENING.

[Agency name] will begin reporting NIBRS-compliant crime data to the [State UCR Program] for submission to the FBI on [date]. [Agency name] is making it a priority to do our part and support the national transition to NIBRS.

DESCRIBE HOW THE CHANGE WILL AFFECT THE COMMUNITY.

Transitioning to NIBRS will enable [Agency name] to give context to specific public safety problems. With this change, officers will be able to provide the community with in-depth information about victimization and offending.

EMPHASIZE THE BENEFITS OF CHANGE.

NIBRS collects information on nearly every major criminal justice issue facing law enforcement, including weapons offenses, drug offenses and drug involvement in all offenses, gangs, domestic violence, child and elder abuse, hate crimes, white collar crime, and terrorism. The additional detailed crime incident data are captured in a standardized format, which provides greater analytic capability and makes NIBRS a superior crime reporting standard.

Please cite this product as follows: Gardner, A., & Aagaard, B. (2020, December). *NIBRS Transition Press Release Template*. National Crime Statistics Exchange (NCS-X) Initiative Technical Assistance and Implementation Project. Available at https://www.theiacp.org/sites/default/files/NCSX_NIBRS_Press_Release_Template.pdf.