

The Illinois Uniform Crime Reporting (I-UCR) Program was directed in March 2009 to revise the program reporting guidelines to achieve compliance to the Federal Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. The resulting revisions to the guidelines were implemented in January for the 2010 reporting year. The revisions significantly impacted the classification and scoring procedures Illinois law enforcement agencies use in compiling the eight major offense categories known as Index Crimes.

When reporting Index Crimes, offenses must be classified into the appropriate category as defined by the Federal UCR Program. The Index Crime category definitions do not, in all cases, mirror ILCS offense definitions. Agencies must review the category definitions to ensure all offenses required are reported, and to avoid over reporting offenses within a category that do not meet the criteria. Below highlights the changes in each of the eight major offense categories and how these changes are expected to impact statistics in 2010 and subsequent years.

Criminal Homicide

Offenses: Drug Induced Homicide was added as a collectable offense in addition to First and Second Degree Murder.

Impact: Insignificant, little or no impact on statistics as compared to previous years.

Forcible Rape (Previously Criminal Sexual Assault)

Offenses: Only offenses where a female was forcibly raped against her will are reported. Previously, all Aggravated Criminal Sexual Assault, Criminal Sexual Assault, Forcible Sodomy, Predatory Criminal Sexual Assault of a Child, and Criminal Sexual Assault With an Object offenses were collected under the category of Criminal Sexual Assault.

Impact: Significant. Due to the narrow definition of the Federal UCR Program, offenses previously reported are no longer collected. Statistics are expected to decrease based on definition alone.

Robbery

Offenses: No change to offenses previously collected.

Impact: None, no impact on statistics as compared to previous years.

Aggravated Battery/Aggravated Assault

Offenses: No change to offenses previously collected; however, battery and assault offenses elevated to aggravated based on who the victim was, where the incident took place, if the assailant was hooded, if the victim was 60 years of age, disabled, or pregnant alone are not collected.

Impact: Significant. Not all states have provisions for elevating a battery or assault to aggravated based on the factors identified above. To ensure statistics compiled nationwide are uniform, Illinois agencies are directed to limit reporting to offenses where there was intent to cause serious injury, or a weapon was used or object used as a weapon, or the resulting injury was or could have been serious in nature. Statistics are expected to decrease based on definition alone.

Burglary

Offenses: No change to offenses previously collected; however, detailed guidelines and training efforts afforded to agencies have heightened the awareness that the definition of burglary limits the classifying of incidents to those involving the unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or a theft. Vehicle burglaries are not collected in this category and have historically been reported in the Theft category.

Impact: Moderate. Statistics are expected to decrease based on a greater understanding to exclude vehicle burglaries from this category.

Theft

Offenses: No change to offenses previously collected; however, detailed guidelines and training efforts afforded to agencies have heightened the awareness to classify vehicle burglaries in this category, as well as to report gasoline thefts from self-service gas stations which often went unreported in previous years.

Impact: Moderate. Statistics are expected to increase based on a greater understanding to include vehicle burglaries and thefts of gasoline.

Motor Vehicle Theft

Offenses: No change to offenses previously collected.

Impact: None, no impact on statistics as compared to previous years.

Arson

Offenses: Any willful malicious burning or attempt to burn property is to be reported as arson. Criminal Damage to Property under \$150 where real or personal property is damaged by means of fire or explosive is now classified as arson, along with the previously collected offenses of arson and aggravated arson.

Impact: Significant. The ILCS stipulates that the value of damaged property must be \$150 or more for an offense to be classified as arson. The Federal UCR Program definition does not have this requirement and all willful or malicious attempts to burn or attempt to burn property must be classified as arson. Statistics are expected to increase based on definition alone.

Once offenses in an incident have been classified, agencies are tasked with scoring or counting the number of offenses. The correct method of scoring offenses is dependent upon which of the two types of crimes have been reported, crimes against persons or crimes against property, and application of the Hierarchy Rule, Hotel Rule, and Separation of Time and Place Rule where applicable.

Crimes Against Persons (Criminal Homicide, Forcible Rape, Aggravated Battery/Aggravated Assault)

One offense is counted for each victim. The number of offenders involved in the incident is irrelevant.

Crimes Against Property (Robbery, Burglary, Theft, Motor Vehicle Theft, Arson)

One offense is counted for each distinct operation, regardless of the number of victims or offenders. The exception is in the case of motor vehicle theft for which one offense is counted for each stolen vehicle.

Impact: Unknown. These two scoring principles were intact in previous years' guidelines; however, heightened awareness through detailed guidelines and training afforded agencies may increase compliance.

Hierarchy Rule

There is significance to the order in which offenses are listed, with Criminal Homicide being ranked the highest in the hierarchy and arson being ranked the lowest. If several offenses are committed within one incident, it is referred to as a multi-offense incident. The revised I-UCR Program guidelines require the application of the Hierarchy Rule when scoring multi-offense incidents. The Hierarchy Rule requires that when more than one offense has occurred within a single incident, the agency must identify which of the offenses is the highest on the hierarchy list and score and report only that offense after applying the scoring principle of Crimes Against Persons or Property detailed above. The other offense(s) in the multi-offense incident are not reported.

Impact: Significant, with decreases expected in categories on the lower end of the hierarchy list. It must be noted that several hundred Illinois agencies were incorrectly applying the Hierarchy Rule in previous years. This scoring principle will not impact those agencies' statistics for the 2010 reporting year.

Hotel Rule

Burglaries of hotel or motel rooms, lodging houses, resorts, spas, or other places where lodging is the main purpose are scored differently depending on the following circumstances. If a number of units are burglarized over the same time frame, the burglaries are to be reported as a single offense. This same scoring principle is applied to reporting burglaries of a number of apartments in an apartment house, offices of a number of commercial firms in a business building, rooms in a college dormitory, or duplex units.

Impact: Moderate with an expected decrease in the number of burglaries reported after application of this scoring rule.

Separation of Time and Place Rule

Same time and place means that the time interval between offenses and the distances between locations where they occurred are insignificant. The offenses must have occurred during an unbroken time frame and at the same or adjoining locations, and in these cases the offenses are reported as a single offense. The exception to this rule is burglaries where a separate structure is entered with each incident. Each burglary must be scored independently.

Impact: Significant, with decreases most dramatically expected in the Theft category after applying this scoring principle to vehicle burglary incidents.

Both the revised classifying and scoring principles will impact the statistics collected in 2010 and future years through the Illinois Uniform Crime Reporting Program. Due to the significance of the impact, *Crime in Illinois 2010* will not provide a two-year comparison of 2009 and 2010 statistics; however, the 2011 publication will reinstate the two-year comparison format. More detailed information concerning the I-UCR Program can be found on the program's website: <http://www.isp.state.il.us/crime/ucrhome.cfm>