



Message from the Director

No complex problem can be solved without careful study, and the problem of crime requires valid statistics in order for it to be measured, analyzed, and ultimately decreased in any meaningful way. For over seven decades, the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program has provided data to all who are concerned about crime and its consequences to our Nation's citizens. In addition, UCR data have often been key factors in the allocation of law enforcement resources dedicated to combat crime. Although the police chief, sheriff, city administrator, or other leader may not ask specifically for UCR statistics, they do ask, "How many?" or, "Where is this occurring?" or even, "What kinds of weapons are being used?" These are the types of questions that the FBI's UCR data answer not only for law enforcement but also for various government entities and their interest groups, community developers, researchers, the media, and even private citizens.

Since 1930, the FBI's UCR Program has been the primary source for providing a picture of crime in the United States. Today, the FBI's UCR staff continues to provide these statistics in efficient and more up-to-date media so that those who study crime—whether extensively or casually—can have at their disposal the most comprehensive information available to better understand this complex subject. In its second year as a Web-only publication, this edition of *Crime in the United States* provides navigable files and downloadable information that make accessing specific data easier. The format of *Crime in the United States, 2006*, has been altered slightly so that finding specific tables is quicker; however, the same valuable information that the UCR data users rely on are still there.

FBI staff members who distribute UCR data are privileged to speak with many members of law enforcement and other entities who use these statistics to try to understand the scope of crime in the Nation, in their states, and in their communities. The FBI is proud to support those who labor to protect the Nation's citizens by offering a picture that experts can study in order to understand the true nature of the problem of crime and, as a result, produce solutions or improve current methods of combatting it.