



## Data Use

### REPORTING DATES

Data in this report includes all reported 2014 information as of April 9, 2015.

**MICHIGAN LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES** - Total number of active police agencies: 578

*Agency Type:*

Sheriff = 83

Michigan State Police = 1

Police Departments = 494

### **PROPER USE OF DATA**

Users should note the following factors when analyzing changes in the volume and types of crimes: missing data, population density, urbanization, composition of the population, stability of the population, modes of transportation, economic conditions, cultural characteristics, family cohesiveness, climate, strength and policies of the criminal justice system, and crime reporting practices of the citizenry.

When used properly, the data provided in this report can significantly contribute to management and planning activities at local, state, and federal levels, especially by state officials, law enforcement agencies, the legislature, and nonprofit organizations. Questions on the proper use of Michigan Incident Crime Reporting (MICR) statistics can be directed to the MICR Unit of the Criminal Justice Information Center at (517) 241-1875.

### **MONTHS REPORTED**

The *months reported* figure indicates the number of months that an agency submitted data to the state program. Data users should view this with caution, since a month of data does not necessarily indicate that an agency has reported all activity for that month. It should not be assumed that changes in data indicate an actual change in crime; it may be a change in reporting. Users should check with the individual departments or with the state program before assuming that changes are indicative of actual trends.

### **HATE CRIME STATISTICS**

A Hate Crime or Bias Crime is a criminal offense committed against a person or property which is motivated, in whole or in part, by the offender's bias against a race, religion, ethnic/national origin, sexual orientation or disability group. Hate Crimes are not separate, distinct crimes, but rather traditional offenses motivated by the offender's bias. The Hate Crime statistics reported to the Michigan Incident Crime Reporting program may have some reporting inconsistencies. The decision to classify an offense as a hate crime is left to the discretion of the responding law enforcement officer. It is believed that different interpretations of this definition have led to over-reporting by some agencies and under-reporting by others. For this reason, Hate Crime statistics should be used cautiously. In addition, the Other Bias category cannot be verified and consequently all incidents reported as Other Bias have been removed.

### **MICR STATUS**

MICR is Michigan's incident-based reporting system in which data is collected on each single crime occurrence. The National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) is the result of efforts by the FBI and various law enforcement organizations to improve and modernize the Uniform Crime Reporting program. In 2005, all Michigan law enforcement agencies were required to start submitting their crimes using the MICR system. Additional information on the MICR program can be obtained by contacting the MICR Unit at (517) 241-1704.