Baton Rouge Police Department
Crime Incident Disclaimer

The Crime Incident data located on the Open Data BR website depicts a reasonably accurate snapshot of the locations of certain types of crimes reported to the Baton Rouge Police Department over the time period referenced in the "about" section of this data set or filtered view.

In simple terms, a computer program searches all the police reports entered into our system each day and looks for certain statute violations. Once those particular violations are identified, the locations of the crimes are then extracted and interfaced with the Open Data BR site. The data is automatically updated daily via this automated process. As is the case with any automated statistical reporting, however, the process is not perfect. Quicker posting speed inevitably means sacrificing the degree of accuracy that comes with more extensive review and verification. In addition, crimes will not appear as part of this data set immediately when they're reported, but rather once the report is entered into the department's computer system and validated by the responding officer's supervisor, which may take several days.

While this data is classified and reported in accordance with initial investigative police reports to be consistent with the standards used to compile our official Uniform Crime Reports (submitted monthly to the FBI), they do not reflect our official crime statistics and should never be represented as such. The City of Baton Rouge's official crime statistics are subjected to additional scrutiny and review while being compiled and therefore take longer to publish. They can be found on our UCR pages. By Uniform Crime Report standards, if a single incident includes multiple violations of criminal laws, only the most serious offense is counted. This is known as the hierarchy rule. Based on this rule, if a single incident includes several criminal violations, those may appear as multiple crimes in the data set, even though they all resulted from the same incident. For example, if someone robs a business, burglarizes a storage building, and then steals a car to escape, it will appear as three different crimes in the data set – a robbery, a burglary and an auto theft – but it would only be counted as one crime (the most serious one) in subsequent UCR statistics.

Location information is provided for all incidents except for sexual assaults, which is redacted prior to entering the Open Data BR system in order to protect the anonymity and privacy of victims of the alleged assault. The types and numbers of crimes reflected by the data are based on actual police reports, and categorized by the initial responding officer. If that officer misclassifies the type of crime, or if the wrong date or any other inaccurate

information is inadvertently entered into the initial report, it could cause the data to be inaccurate. There may occasionally be errors due to the way the investigating officer enters the street name of where the offense occurred (e.g., North Boulevard vs. North Street, South 16th vs. North 16th, etc.).

Finally, please be advised that there may occasionally be changes in the relevant statutes, as enacted by the legislature, that may expand or narrow the elements of certain crimes, or even create whole new crimes. By reading this disclaimer, you understand the data you are viewing does not represent official crime statistics and may be subject to certain inaccuracies.