

# BATON ROUGE POLICE DEPARTMENT



9000 Airline Highway  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70815

## Baton Rouge Crime Incident Data Disclaimer

The crime incident data located on the Open Data BR website depicts a reasonably accurate snapshot of the locations of crimes reported to the Baton Rouge Police Department (BRPD). The **Baton Rouge Crime Incident** dataset includes daily crime incident records dating back to January 1, 2021. All crime incidents prior to this date are available by accessing the **Legacy Baton Rouge Crime Incident** dataset on Open Data BR. These datasets are separate due to a system conversion that occurred at the end of 2020 which resulted in a new format, coding, and records management framework for BRPD crime incidents.

Reported crimes are entered into the BRPD records management system (RMS) by the responding officer. The Baton Rouge Crime Incident dataset is updated daily with all crime incident records that were entered into the RMS and approved through the prior day. Additional data associated with each incident record such as the council district, Census block group, and crime prevention district in which an incident occurred are populated using the City-Parish's geographic information system (GIS). Location information is provided for all incidents except for those involving sexual assault, domestic violence, human trafficking, and juveniles which is redacted prior to entering the Open Data BR portal to protect the anonymity and privacy of victims of the alleged assault. The incident types and number of crimes reflected in the data are based on actual police reports and categorized by the initial responding officer. If that officer mis-classifies the type of crime, or if the wrong date or any other mistaken information is inadvertently entered into the officer's 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 16<sup>th</sup> vs. North 16<sup>th</sup>, etc.). If any errors are found and corrected, the data in Open Data BR will be updated on the day following approval by the corresponding BRPD supervisor. As is the case with any automated reporting, the process is not perfect. Posting these reports too quickly can result in sacrificing the degree of accuracy that comes with more extensive internal reviews.

As of January 1, 2021, the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) replaced Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) as the national crime data collection program for the FBI. While the Baton Rouge Crime Incident data is classified and reported in accordance with initial investigative police reports to be consistent with NIBRS standards which are used to compile our official monthly submittal to the FBI, the data does 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 while being compiled and therefore take longer to publish. Official crime stats can be found on our web page at <https://www.brla.gov/2486/DataStatistics>. By National Incident Based Reporting System 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 and based on this rule, if a single incident includes several criminal violations those may appear as multiple crimes in the dataset even though each 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 records in the Baton Rouge Crime Incident dataset – a robbery, a burglary, and an auto theft – whereas it would only be counted as one crime (the most serious one) in subsequent NIBRS statistics.

Finally, there may occasionally be changes in relevant statutes, as enacted by the Louisiana Legislature that may expand or narrow the elements of certain crimes, or even create new offenses or crime categories. By reading this disclaimer, you understand and acknowledge that the Baton Rouge Crime incident data you are viewing does not represent official crime statistics and may be subject to certain inaccuracies.