Figure 2.1 ■ Timeline of Crime Reporting, 1790–Present

1790
Department of Justice (DOJ) created and in part charged with measuring crime in the United States. No action was made toward fulfilling its charge of measuring crime until decades later.

1871
National Police Convention held in St. Louis, Missouri. Social scientists and police officials call for the need to create a crime statistics program in the United States.

1929–1930
The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program was approved in 1929 and launched in 1930. At this time, the effort was managed by the IACP and gathered information on seven standardized offense definitions.

1790 1845 1860 1875 1920 1935

1850
Earliest documented call for a uniform crime reporting system.

1927
Following many years of discussions, the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) convened the Committee on Uniform Crime Records. This committee was charged with designing a system to gather uniformly defined crime data across the nation with the goal of collecting reliable crime statistics.

1930–1935
At the request of the IACP, the Bureau of Investigation (the precursor to the FBI) assumed responsibility for the UCR. Its role was to collect, publish, and archive uniform crime data for the nation.

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