



Department of Public Safety
Vermont Crime Information Center
45 State Drive
Waterbury, VT 05671-1300

2021 VERMONT CRIME REPORT

The 2021 Vermont Crime Report is made available by the Vermont Crime Information Center at the Department of Public Safety. The report contains an analysis of crimes reported by law enforcement agencies throughout the State of Vermont during calendar year 2021. Crimes reported to state police, municipal police, sheriff departments, and other state law enforcement agencies are summarized in the report.

Changes to the annual crime report summary effective in 2021:

- The FBI shifted the data collection for three Group B offenses (Bad Checks, Drunkenness, and Peeping Tom) into various existing Group A and Group B offenses (i.e., Frauds, Disorderly Conduct, and Stalking).

As noted in the 2020 Vermont Crime Report, statistics for that year were meaningfully affected by the pandemic and its effects on reported offenses. Any comparisons to 2020 data should keep that in mind.

Total Crime

The Crime Report indicates that the total number of reported Group 'A' and Group 'B' crimes in 2021 decreased by 1.96% from 2020.

Group 'A' crimes are considered crimes that are more serious and are counted whenever a complaint is received by law enforcement. Group 'B' crimes are a group of less serious crimes, which are only reported when an arrest is reported.

In 2021, reported Group 'A' crimes increased by 8.78% when compared to 2020; it should be noted the Group 'A' reported offenses are down 1.7% from 2019. The most notable increases reported were Forcible Sodomy, up 61.54% to 21 offenses; Forcible Fondling, up 25% to 95 offenses; Burglary/Breaking & Entering, up 15.6% to 1,178 offenses; and Larceny/Theft offenses, up 10.25% to 7,357 offenses.

Reported Group 'B' offenses decreased by 32.4% in 2021; this is the second consecutive decrease. Reported Group 'B' offenses are down approximately 51% from 2019. Part of the decrease in 2021 is based on the FBI stopped collecting data specifically on Bad Checks, Drunkenness, and Peeping Tom offenses. Bad Checks are being collected under Fraud offenses (Group 'A' offenses); Drunkenness is being collected under Disorderly Conduct (Group 'B' offense); Peeping Tom is being collected under Stalking (which is collected within intimidation, a Group 'A' offense). Of the total decrease for 2021, the largest offenses with decreases were Disorderly Conduct and Driving Under the Influence. Disorderly conduct decreased by 74.71%, with 443 fewer offenses

reported than in 2020. Driving under the influence decreased by 26.12%, with 509 fewer offenses reported than in 2020.

Crimes Against Persons

Reported crimes committed against persons decreased 1.86% from 2020. Reported Murder (Nonnegligent Manslaughter) decreased 50% from 14 to 7; meanwhile, Negligent Manslaughter had a reported increase of 50% (up to 6 reports in 2021). Two other offenses of note, for crimes against persons, with reported decreases were Kidnapping (down 22.5%) and Non-Forcible Sex offenses (down 14%). Forcible Sex offenses increased, in 2021, by 10%: Forcible Rape increased by 2%, Forcible Fondling increased by 25%, Forcible Sodomy increased by 62%, and Sexual Assault With an Object increased by 100%.

Based on reported data, 3,829 individuals were victims of crimes against persons in Vermont in 2021; 1,124 of those were victims of violent crime as per the FBI's definition (Murder, Manslaughter, Robbery, Forcible Rape, and Aggravated Assault). Of those 1,124 victims, 23.5% were acquaintances and 21.9% were boyfriend/girlfriend. 60.6% of victims of violent crimes were women. Men and women in the age group 20 – 29 (306 victims) and 30-39 (305 victims) were more frequently the victims of violent crime than any other age group; these two age groups accounted for 51.6% of the victims of violent crime in Vermont in 2021. Victims over the age of 70 were the least likely to be victims of violent crime. In 63.5% of violent crimes where the defendant/victim relationship information was known, the defendant was an acquaintance, intimate partner, or a family member of the victim. This number decreased approximately 2.7% from 2020. In approximately 90% of the crimes against persons offenses, the victim received either no injuries or minor injuries; this is a 2% decrease from 2020. Dangerous weapons, including firearms, were used in 15.2% of violent crimes; this number is up 2.2% from 2020. Approximately 59% of violent crimes in Vermont occurred in residences, this is a decrease of 6%, from 2020, for these types of incidents. Highways, alleys, streets, & sidewalks were the second most frequent locations for violent crimes, in 2021, at 15%.

Violent crime offenses, involving domestic violence (incidents involving intimate partners) that were reported to the state UCR program increased by 8.17% during 2021. Most domestic violence, as defined by the FBI, offenses reported involved Aggravated Assault.

Crimes Against Society

Crimes against society, not including drug offenses, were down 2.85% from 2020. Most notably, Prostitution decreased by 53.33%: down to 7 reported offenses in 2021 from the 15 offenses reported in 2020. This is the second consecutive year where Prostitution has decreased.

Human Trafficking decreased in 2020; however, in 2021 it significantly increased by 300%, up to 4 reported offenses compared to the 1 reported offense in 2020. The other offense, with a reported increase for societal crimes, is Weapons Law Violations: up 25%, to 101 reported offenses in 2021. It is worth noting, this is only 2 reports lower than 2019.

Property Crime

Overall reported property crime in Vermont increased by 12% in 2021. Residences remain the top target at 37.5%. Most of the reported residential burglaries are continuing to occur during the daytime. Burglary/Breaking & Entering increased, in 2021, by 15.6%: this is an increase of 159 reported offenses.

Motor Vehicle Thefts increased by 70.5% in 2021, this was an additional 194 reported offenses in 2021. Destruction of Property/Vandalism reports increased by 14.3%, this was an additional 423 reported offenses in 2021. Stolen Property increased by 17.65% (+27 reports) and Larceny/Theft increased by 10.25% (+684 reports) in 2021, when compared to reported offenses in 2020.

The only property crime, with a reported decrease of offenses in 2021, was Bribery: down 100% from 1 reported offense in 2020 to 0 reported offenses in 2021. With the significant increase of reported property crime, as stated in the beginning of the summary, in 2020 the State was in a State of Emergency which led to a considerable amount of the population staying at home.

In Vermont the total property loss in 2021, due to criminal activity, reported to law enforcement agencies statewide was \$11,101,261 a \$3,356,200 increase from 2020. For comparison, due to the State of Emergency in 2020, the total value of property loss in 2021 is \$334,025 higher than the reported property value loss in 2019 (the year before the pandemic). Property values are determined in accordance with the FBI's 'Guidelines for Property Valuation' found in the NIBRS Manual, page 107.

Drug Crime

Reported drug offense crimes, in total, have decreased for the fourth consecutive year. Since 2017 total drug offenses have decreased by 36.13%: down from 1,921 reported offenses in 2017 to 1,227 reported offenses in 2021.

Drug/Narcotic reported offenses have also decreased for the fourth consecutive year. Since 2017 Drug/Narcotic reported offenses have decreased by 33.47%: down from 1,754 reported offenses in 2017 to 1,167 incidents in 2021. This trend is accredited to the decriminalization of Marijuana in 2018; Marijuana reported offenses have decreased 76.63% since 2017 (down to 118 reported offenses in 2021 from 505 reported offenses in 2017).

Drug Equipment Violations decreased 1.6% in 2021: down to 60 reports.

The most notable increases in drug types were Crack Cocaine and Other Drugs (which includes fentanyl currently). In 2022 Crack Cocaine increased by 35 reported offenses, this is a 17.4% increase. Other Drugs was reported 171 times in 2022, this was an increase of 36 offenses or 26.7%. This is most likely due to this category including fentanyl until the FBI creates a separate category for the reporting of fentanyl.

The most notable decreases in drug reported offenses (by quantity, not percentage) were Marijuana and Cocaine. In 2022 – Marijuana decreased by 27 reported offenses (-18.6%) and Cocaine decreased by 15 reported offenses (-7%). Cocaine has decreased for two consecutive years.

National and Regional Comparisons

In order to gauge the level and types of violent crimes occurring across the nation, the FBI has developed the Violent Crime Index. The Index is based on a sample of the violent crimes in a state. The Index only includes the number of Murders, Robberies, Aggravated Assaults, and Rapes. The Violent Crime Index in Vermont indicated an increase of 6.44% based upon definitions utilized in this calculation.

The FBI has also developed a Property Crime Index, which is comprised of the number of Burglaries, Thefts, and Motor Vehicle Thefts reported in a jurisdiction. The Property Crime Index in Vermont reported an increase of 12.02% from 2020.

Due to the FBI transitioning from allowing SRS and NIBRS data to be submitted to only NIBRS data being allowed to be submitted, in 2021 there was too low of participation for the UCR team to be able to produce national level tables; therefore, the percent of change for the Northeast and for the national level are not available for comparison.

Any differences in what the FBI publishes and what is seen in Vermont's report is due to the publication date of the FBI's data and the extraction of data date that was used for this report.

Federal Bureau of Investigations Crime Data Explorer

Interested readers can access the complete 2021 Vermont Crime Report by accessing the Crime Data Explorer website at <https://crime-data-explorer.fr.cloud.gov/> and selecting Vermont on the map or by using the drop-down menu. Over sixteen years of crime data are now available on the website.

Crime Data Explorer makes it easy for the public to view standard crime reports and maps. Crime Data Explorer reports contain information on the time and day when crimes occur, crime location type, the amount of property crime loss, victim injuries, bias motivation, statistical information on the age, gender, and race of both victims and defendants and other crime circumstance data of interest to the public, law enforcement, public administrators, legislators, and researchers.