

2007 VERMONT CRIME REPORT RELEASED: TOTAL CRIME DOWN BY 3%

The 2007 Vermont Crime Report was released today by the Vermont Crime Information Center at the Department of Public Safety. The Report contains an analysis of crime reported to law enforcement agencies throughout the State of Vermont during calendar year 2007. Crimes reported to state police, municipal police, sheriff departments, and other state law enforcement agencies are analyzed in the Report. Crime statistics are arranged statewide, by county, and by town.

Total Crime

The Crime Report indicates that the total number of reported Group "A" and Group "B" crimes in 2007 decreased by 3% from 2006. The decrease is a reversal from last year's increase of 5.7%.

In 2007, total Group "A" crimes decreased by 2.25%. Group "A" crimes are the more serious crimes and are counted whenever a complaint is received by law enforcement. Group "A" crimes against persons decreased by 1.5%, crimes against property decreased by 2.3% and crimes against society decreased by nearly 2.7%. Group "B" crimes decreased by 5.25%. Group B Crimes are a group of eleven less serious crimes which are only reported when an arrest is made.

Violent Crime

In order to gauge the level and types of violent crimes occurring across the nation, the FBI has developed the Violent Crime Index. This Index is based on the number of murders, forcible rapes, robberies and aggravated assaults reported in a jurisdiction. Preliminary figures reported by the FBI indicate that the National Violent Crime Index showed a decrease of 1.4% from 2006. The Violent Crime Index for the Northeast decreased by 5.4% from 2006. The Vermont Violent Crime Index saw a decrease of 9%. Last year the Vermont Violent Crime Index saw an increase of 12.2%.

Homicides statewide were down from 13 victims in 2006 to 12 victims in 2007. Forcible rapes decreased by 17% from 175 statewide to 146. Robberies decreased by 29% from 112 in 2006 to 80 in 2007. In 2007, aggravated assaults decreased by 2% from 500 statewide to 488. Aggravated assaults involve very serious or life threatening injuries usually inflicted with some type of weapon.

Approximately 4,300 individuals were victims of violent crimes in Vermont in 2007; forty-seven of the victims were law enforcement officers. Fifty-three percent of victims of violent crimes were women. Men and women in the age group 21- 29 were more frequently the victims of violent crime than any other age groups. Men and women over the age of 50 years old were the least likely to be victims of violent crime. In nearly 93% of violent crimes where defendant/victim relationship information was known the defendant was either an acquaintance, intimate partner, or family member of the victim. In approximately 97% of the violent crime incidents the victim received either no injuries or minor injuries. Dangerous weapons including

firearms were used in nearly 8% of violent crimes. Approximately 65% of violent crime in Vermont occurs in residences which makes the home the most frequent location for violent criminal incidents. Highways and roads are the second most frequent location for violent crime. There were no significant changes in violent crime victimization statistics between 2006 and 2007.

Domestic Violence incidents involving intimate partners increased by approximately 7% from 903 in 2006 to 963 in 2007. The vast majority of domestic violence crimes involve simple assaults (75%) and aggravated assaults (19%).

Property Crime

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. Preliminary figures from the FBI indicate that the National Property Crime Index was down by 2.1% from 2006. The Northeast reported nearly a 2.9% decline in 2007. The Vermont Property Crime Index declined by less than 1%.

While burglary in Vermont was down by 7% from 2006, theft was up by 1%, and motor vehicle theft increased by 2%.

In Vermont the total property loss in 2007 due to criminal activity reported to law enforcement agencies statewide was \$23 million, up more than \$1.4 million from 2006 – nearly a 7% increase. The increases in crime losses were due to a limited number of burglary and fraud cases where the losses were over \$50,000 per incident. Theft is the most costly property crime accounting for losses of over \$9 million in 2007. Burglary was second accounting for \$4.8 million in losses

Drug Crime

There were 3,008 drug crimes reported in 2007, down 2.7% from 2006.

More than 1,818 (63%) of drug crime incidents in 2007 involved marijuana. Cocaine and Crack Cocaine cases amounted to 11% of the drug crimes. Amphetamine and Methamphetamine cases constituted less than 1% of drug cases. Except for marijuana cases which increased by 3.4%, most other types of drug cases saw a decrease between 2006 and 2007.

Vermont Crime On-Line

Interested readers can access the complete 2007 Vermont Crime Report by using Vermont Crime On-Line from the Department of Public Safety's web page at www.dps.state.vt.us. Eleven years of crime data are now available on the web site.

Vermont Crime On-Line makes it easy for the public to view standard crime reports or to create their own custom reports instantly on-line. Vermont Crime On-Line reports 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