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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**2010 VERMONT CRIME REPORT RELEASED:  
TOTAL CRIME DROPS FOR SECOND YEAR**

The 2010 Vermont Crime Report was released today by the Vermont Criminal 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 2010. 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 2010 decreased by 11.1% from 2009.

In 2010, Group "A" crimes decreased by 9.4% when compared to 2009 while Group "B" crimes decreased by 17.4%. Group "A" crimes are the more serious crimes and are counted whenever a complaint is received by law enforcement. Group "B" crimes are a group of eleven less serious crimes which are only reported when an arrest is made. An overall decrease in the number of crimes against property (-2,342) was the primary cause for the decrease along with crime against persons (-328) and crime against society (-124).

**Crime Against Persons**

Overall crime against persons decreased by 8.5% from 2009 and was driven primarily by a decrease in simple assaults and robberies. Simple assaults decreased by 7.0% from 2,374 to 2,207 while robberies decreased 34.8% from 112 to 73. Similarly aggravated assaults also decreased by 3.6% from 503 to 485.

Though the overall number of Crimes Against Persons decreased during 2010, some categories remained level or increased in 2010. Murders statewide remained the same between 2009 and 2010 with 7 victims. Forcible Sex Offenses increased by 2.6% from 234 to 240.

Slightly more than 3,900 individuals were victims of crimes against persons in Vermont in 2010; 67 of the victims were law enforcement officers. Fifty-five percent of victims of crimes against

persons were women. Men and women in the age group 21- 29 were more frequently the victims of violent crime than any other age group. Men and women over the age of 50 years old were the least likely to be victims of violent crime. In 93% of crimes against persons where defendant/victim relationship information was known the defendant was an acquaintance, intimate partner or family member of the victim. In approximately 96% of the violent crime incidents the victim received either no injuries or minor injuries. Dangerous weapons including firearms were used in 8% of crimes against persons. Approximately 60% of crimes against persons in Vermont occurred in residences which makes the home the most frequent location for these types of incidents. Highways and roads are the second most frequent location for crimes against persons (15%).

Domestic Violence incidents involving intimate partners decreased in by approximately 7% with 1,009 incidents taking place during 2009 and 934 taking place in 2010. The vast majority of domestic violence crimes involve simple assaults (69.1%) and aggravated assaults (19.1%).

### **Property Crime**

Property crime in Vermont decreased by 10.4% in 2010. The decrease was fueled primarily by decreases in larceny/theft (down 7.5% from 2009) and destruction of property/vandalism (down 18.2% from 2009). Other forms of property crime such as arson decreased slightly as well.

Residences were the targets in 72.5% of burglaries. In 49% of the cases no forced-entry was required by burglars to enter the target buildings. Additionally 49% of residential burglaries occurred between 8:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M.

Much of the decrease in thefts was fueled by decreases in shoplifting (-17.1%) and larceny other (-34.6%). Other categories which saw decreases from 2009 include pickpocketing (-15.9%), stolen property (-14.4%), theft from a motor vehicle (-2.5%) and motor vehicle theft (-4.7%). Discount and department stores were the most frequent targets for shoplifting incidents at 37.6%, followed by grocery stores at 26.1%, specialty stores at 11.6% and convenience stores at 10.5%. The most common monetary assessments of shoplifting incidents involved values of less than \$25 at 33.7% and values between \$25 - \$99 at 36.9%. The most commonly stolen item during 2010 was money at 15%. Other commonly stolen items included consumable goods (7.9%), purses/wallets (7.6%), vehicle parts and accessories (6.8%) and computer hardware and software (6.7%).

In Vermont the total property loss in 2010 due to criminal activity reported to law enforcement agencies statewide was over \$21 million, up more than \$1.5 million from 2009. Theft accounts for the largest single monetary loss at over \$8 million followed by burglary at over \$4 million and destruction of property/vandalism at \$2.5 million.

### **Drug Crime**

Drug crime decreased 7.6% from 3,459 incidents in 2009 to 3,195 incidents in 2010.

In 2010, approximately 2,014 drug crime incidents involved marijuana (60.9%). Cocaine and crack cocaine cases accounted for 9.9% of reported drug crimes. Amphetamine and methamphetamine cases constituted less than 1% of drug cases.

Most drug related categories remained relatively unchanged from 2009 to 2010 with two notable exceptions. Marijuana related arrests decreased by 10.3% during 2010 by a count of 2,014

from 2,246 during 2009. The Other Drug categories (other narcotics, other depressants, other stimulants and other hallucinogens) showed an overall increase of 5% over 2009 (515 to 541). Some examples of drugs that may be classified in the 'other' categories include (but are not limited to) Ecstasy and various prescription drugs such as Oxycodone and Valium. Incidents in other drug categories (including Morphine, Opium, Barbiturates and LSD) showed little change from 2009.

### **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. Figures reported by the FBI indicate that the National Violent Crime Index showed a decrease of 6.0% from 2009. The Violent Crime Index for the Northeast decreased by 0.6%. The Violent Crime Index in Vermont similarly indicated a decrease of 2.6% 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. Figures from the FBI indicate that the National Property Crime Index was down by 2.7% from 2009. The Northeast reported a decrease of 0.3% from 2009. The Property Crime Index in Vermont similarly decreased by 4.9% for the same time period. In all cases the significant drop in larceny/theft incidents during 2010 is the primary cause for such a significant change.

### **Vermont Crime On-Line**

Interested readers can access the complete 2010 Vermont Crime Report by accessing the Vermont Criminal Information Center website at [vcic.vermont.gov](http://vcic.vermont.gov) and selecting the *Vermont Crime On-Line* Link. Thirteen 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 and maps or to create their own custom reports and maps 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.

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