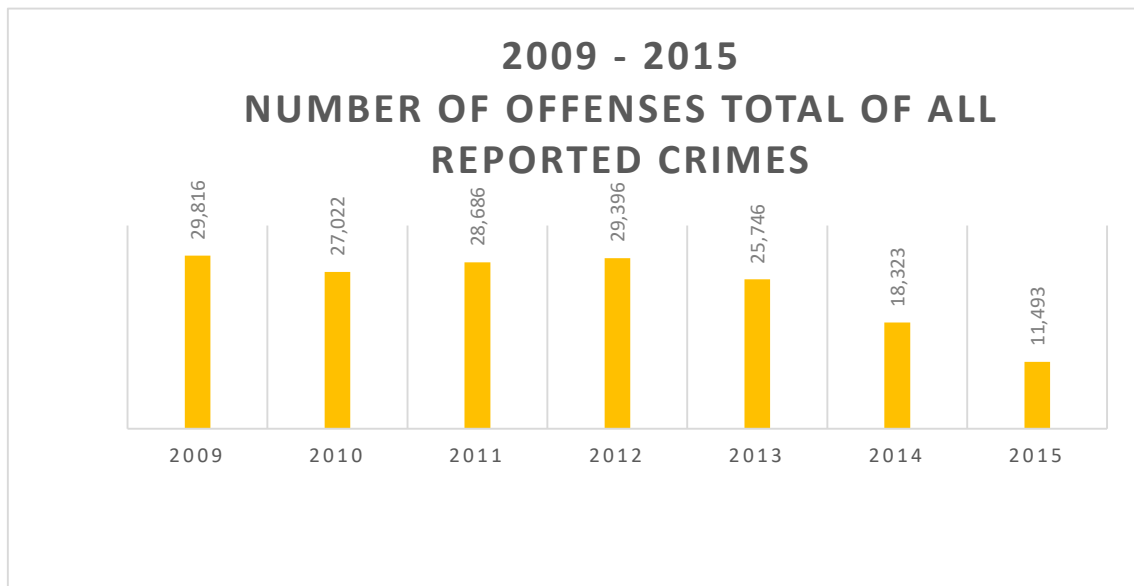


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## 2015 VERMONT CRIME REPORT SUMMARY

The 2015 Vermont Crime Report has been made available by the Vermont Crime Information Center at the Department of Public Safety. The report contains an analysis of crime reported by law enforcement agencies throughout the State of Vermont during calendar year 2015. Crimes reported to state police, municipal police, sheriff departments, and other state law enforcement agencies are summarized in the report. Crime statistics are arranged statewide, by county, and by town.

Please note, with a new reporting system initially introduced to several larger Vermont law enforcement agencies in 2011 and 2012, and then by additional agencies spanning 2013 – 2015, these time periods show what would appear to be a decline in many crime categories. While improvements in capturing data are continually being made, many of the crimes in 2015 could appear to be increasing; however, this may be misleading as the lower numbers were due to lack of accurate data being captured in the past year. The charts below afford a view of the crime categories as reported to the state program for the last seven years since the new reporting management system (RMS) was introduced.



### **Total Crime**

The Crime Report indicates that the total number of reported Group “A” and Group “B” crimes in 2015 decreased by 25.5% from 2014.

In 2015, reported Group “A” crimes decreased by 35.6% when compared to 2014 while reported Group “B” crimes increased by 1.2%. Group “A” crimes are considered 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. Of the Group “B” crimes there was a noted increase in Liquor Law Violations by 20.2%.

## **Crimes Against Persons**

Reported crimes committed against persons increased by 10.8% from 2014. Reported Aggravated Assault increased by 5.2% from 445 to 468 and reported Forcible Rape crimes increased 41.3% from 109 to 154. Additionally, reported Forcible Fondling crimes increased by 8.3% from 72 to 78.

Of crimes against persons there was a notable increase in Intimidation offenses of 42.8%.

The overall number of crimes against persons reported to the state program increased during 2015 the two most notable are; Robbery increasing from 87 to 162; however, reported Murder remained the same at 11 incidents. These numbers are the Homicides reported to the Vermont Crime Information Center and may differ from what has been reported to law enforcement agencies.

Based on reported data 3,303 individuals were victims of crimes against persons in Vermont in 2015; 87 of the victims were law enforcement officers. Fifty-four 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 60 years old were the least likely to be adult victims of violent crime. In 82% 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 11% of crimes involving a victim. Approximately 58% of crimes against persons in Vermont occurred in residences, which makes the home the most frequent location for these types of incidents. Highways or roads and commercial locations are the second most frequent locations for crimes against persons.

Domestic violence incidents involving intimate partners that were reported to the state program increased by approximately 21% with 874 incidents during 2015 versus 720 in 2014. The majority of domestic violence crimes involve simple assaults (70.5%) and aggravated assaults (17.7%).

For reported Crimes Against Persons the 2015 increase is highly suspected to be the results of upgrades made to the new reporting software and the numbers are now more accurately reflected than they were in the previous year.

## **Property Crime**

Overall reported property crime in Vermont decreased by 43.5% in 2015. This decrease could be due in large part to the new reporting system now used by a number of law enforcement agencies. Residences were the targets in 74.2% of reported burglaries. In 38% of the reported cases no forced-entry was required by burglars to enter the target buildings. The majority of the reported residential burglaries occurred between 8:00 A.M. and 8:59 A.M.

Larceny/Theft saw a reported decrease during 2015 and this may be due in large part to the previously mentioned new reporting system. Within this category decreases were most notable in Larceny Other (63.5%), Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts and Accessories (42.5%) and Pickpocketing (56.3%). Discount and Department Stores were the most frequent targets for shoplifting incidents at 40.3%, followed by grocery stores at 24.6%, convenience stores at 12.5% and specialty stores at 8.8%. The most common monetary assessments of shoplifting incidents involved values of \$500-\$4999 attributing to 50.8%. The highest percentage of reported stolen property (36.4%) was classified as Other. Some commonly stolen items included Clothes/Furs (6.1%), Consumable Goods (4.5%), Money (8.1%) and Merchandise (4.3%).

In Vermont the total property loss in 2015 due to criminal activity reported to law enforcement agencies statewide was \$9,146,825.00 an over \$1 million decrease from 2014. Reported Theft accounts for the largest single monetary loss at \$3,737,925 million, followed by burglary at \$2,967,858 million and destruction of property/vandalism \$1,722,424 million.

The decrease noted above is in likelihood due to the new reporting software not capturing all the property crimes.

## **Drug Crime**

Reported Drug crime decreased 50.9% from 2072 incidents in 2014 to 1017 incidents in 2015. In 2015 there was a notable decrease in Marijuana reported crimes, reported incidents dropped from 922 to 276, a 70.1% difference. This drop coincides with the decriminalization of Marijuana which may account for the decrease.

Other major categories of drug crimes include a reported decrease in Cocaine (44.4%), and in heroin (21.8%). Unknown Drug types reported constituted less than 12.6% of drug cases.

Reported incidents involving over three drug types showed a decreased for the second year by 54.5% during 2015. There was also a 26.2% drop in the reported incidents involving 'other' drugs. 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.

## **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 an increase of 3.9% from 2014. The Violent Crime Index for the Northeast decreased by .9%. The Violent Crime Index in Vermont indicated a decrease of 19.2% 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 decreased by .02% from 2014. The Northeast reported a decrease of 5.2% from 2014. The Property Crime Index in Vermont decreased by 7.7% for the same time period.

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

Interested readers can access the complete 2015 Vermont Crime Report by accessing the Vermont Crime Information Center website at [vcic.vermont.gov](http://vcic.vermont.gov) and selecting the Vermont Crime On-Line Link. Over fifteen years of crime data are now available on the website.

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.