



Department of Public Safety  
**Vermont Crime Information Center**  
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2017 VERMONT CRIME REPORT

The 2017 Vermont Crime Report is made available by the Vermont Crime Information Center (VCIC) 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 2017. 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 2017:

- VCIC is no longer our previous vendor for data analysis; therefore, some data sets are no longer available to VCIC for statistical reporting in the same format:

For crimes against persons:

1. Data on types of domestic violence.
2. Domestic violence counts by victim.

Note: VCIC is still reporting victim-offender relationship counts.

For crimes against property:

1. Burglary force or no force used.
2. Shoplifting counts by location.
3. Shoplifting by value
4. Larceny by type
5. Property value by offense type

Please note, with improvements to the record management systems and with the start of concentrated training at the supervisory level, there is a more accurate accounting of the crimes reported in 2017.

### **Total Crime**

The Crime Report indicates that the total number of reported Group 'A' and Group 'B' crimes in 2017 increased by 12.21% from 2016.

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 2017, reported Group 'A' crimes increased by 13.88% when compared to 2016. Reported crimes against property were 4.1% higher than 2016. Group 'B' crimes increased by 13.96%. There were notable decreases in reported Drunkenness (down 100%) and Peeping Tom (down 66.67%) arrests compared to 2016. The FBI is looking at removing these two offenses as they are more often being reported more as a Disorderly Conduct offense for the Drunkenness and a Stalking offense for the Peeping Tom.

Of the Group 'B' crimes there was a decrease in Bad Checks, down 18%, and an increase in Liquor Law Violations, by 15.38%. Arrests for Runaways and Curfew Violations are no longer being collected by the FBI.

### **Crimes Against Persons**

Reported crimes committed against persons increased by 20.51% from 2016. Reported Forcible Rape crimes increased 83.09% from 136 to 249 and reported Aggravated Assault increased by 15.37% from 553 to 638 while Negligent Manslaughter decreased by 66.7% from 3 to 1. 2017 saw an increase of 49.31% in Intimidation offenses reported, up from 217 to 324. This is a direct result of additional training at agencies supervisory level on assault definitions. Additionally, reported Kidnapping/Unlawful Restraint crimes decreased 2.08% from 96 to 94. Of Crimes Against Persons, there was a notable increase in Sex Offenses – Non Forcible of 180%, this is also a direct result of additional training at agencies at the supervisory level on NIBRS definitions.

The overall number of crimes against persons reported to the state program increased during 2017 (increased by 20.51%), the increase of these crimes could be due in large part to the continued trainings held to educate on NIBRS definitions of offenses and the necessity of timely reporting.

Based on reported data 3,633 individuals were victims of crimes against persons in Vermont in 2017; 1,004 of those were victims of violent crime as per the FBI's definition (Murder, Manslaughter, Robbery, Forcible Rape, and Aggravated Assault). Of those 1,004 victims, 24% were acquaintances and 19.8% were boyfriend/girlfriend. 62% of victims of violent crimes were women. Men and women in the age group 20 – 29 (321 victims) were more frequently the victims of violent crime than any other age group; this age group accounted for 28.8% of the victims of violent crime in Vermont in 2017. Victims over the age of 70 were the least likely to be victims of violent crime. In 63.4% of violent crimes where the defendant/victim relationship information was known, the defendant was an acquaintance, intimate partner, or family member of the victim. This number is down approximately 15% from 2016. In 94% of the reported crimes against persons offenses, the victim received either no injuries or minor injuries. Dangerous weapons, including firearms, were used in 28% of crimes involving a victim. Approximately 62% of violent crime offenses in Vermont occurred in residences, which makes the home the most frequent location for these types of incidents. Highways, alleys, streets, & sidewalks continue to be the second most frequent locations for crimes against persons at approximately 14%.

### **Property Crime**

Overall reported property crime in Vermont increased by 6.8% in 2017. Residences remain the top target at 45.77%. Most of the reported residential burglaries occurred during the daytime. Burglary/Breaking & Entering increased, in 2017, by 21.5%: that is an increase of 348 reported offenses.

Larceny/Theft saw a decrease of (0.2%) reported incidents during 2017. Within this category, decreases are most notable in Pickpocketing (25%) and Larceny-Other (4.9%). There was a notable increase in Stolen Property up 288.5%. The highest amount of reported stolen property was classified as Miscellaneous \$2,889,314.00. The second highest being reported Theft of Motor Vehicles \$1,615,158.00; the reported recovered was highest for this same offense with \$800,503.00 recovered.

In Vermont the total reported property loss in 2017 due to theft, known to law enforcement agencies statewide, was \$8,088,911.00 a \$1,044,717 decrease from 2016. 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, increased by 10.4%: up from 1,740 reported offenses in 2016 to 1,921 reported offenses in 2017.

Drug/Narcotic reported offenses increased 12.5% from 1,559 incidents in 2016 to 1,754 incidents in 2017. In 2017, the largest increase was Barbiturates reported incidents: up from 1 to 6, an increase of 500%. There was also a notable increase in Morphine reported crimes: reported incidents went from 3 to 9, an increase of 200%. Also, there was a notable decrease of 30.3% in reported Meth/Amphetamines incidents: decreased from 33 to 23.

Other major categories of drug crimes include a reported decrease in Opium (6.1%), Heroin reported a decrease of (0.06%) and Unknown Drug types reported a decrease of (86.7%) of drug cases.

Reported incidents involving Over Three Drug Types showed an increase of 62.5% during 2017, up from 8 in 2016 to 13 in 2017. There was also a 109.1% increase in the reported incidents involving Other Hallucinogens.

There was a slight decrease in Drug Equipment violations reported, down 7.7%: from 181 to 167. This may be due to the change in Marijuana laws and officers not reporting the seized drug equipment in these incidents.

## **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 0.2% from 2016. The Violent Crime Index for the Northeast decreased by 3.6% from 2016. The Violent Crime Index in Vermont indicated an increase of 27.57% 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 had decrease of 3% from 2016. The Northeast reported a decrease of 3% from 2016. The Property Crime Index in Vermont reported an increase of 6.8% from 2016.

### **Federal Bureau of Investigations Crime Data Explorer**

Interested readers can access the complete 2017 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.