



Department of Public Safety
Vermont Crime Information Center
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2019 VERMONT CRIME REPORT

The 2019 Vermont Crime Report is 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 2019. Crimes reported to state police, municipal police, sheriff departments, and other state law enforcement agencies are summarized in the report.

Please note, with continued improvements to the record management systems and the ongoing concentrated training at the supervisory level, there is a more accurate accounting of the crimes reported in 2019.

Total Crime

The Crime Report indicates that the total number of reported Group 'A' and Group 'B' crimes in 2019 increased by 6.44% from 2018.

In 2019, reported Group 'A' crimes increased by 8.18%; when compared to 2018 the most notable increase was reported Larcenies at 7,484, up from 6,494 reported in 2018. The second largest increase was reported Assaults up 12.1%: 3,455 reported in 2019, up from 3,082 in 2018. Reported Group 'B' crimes increased by 4.03%. This increase was seen in more arrests in the Disorderly Conduct and Trespass offense categories.

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. Of the Group 'B' crimes the only decrease was Bad Checks down to 39 from 57 in 2018.

Crimes Against Persons

Reported crimes committed against persons increased 10.48% from 2018. Reported Negligent Manslaughter increased 500%, from 1 to 6, and reported Kidnapping increased by 50%, from 76 to 114, this was a result of training regarding holding someone against their will in domestic situations. Forcible Rape decreased by 10.65% from 291 to 260. Additionally, reported Intimidation offenses increased 25.38% from 390 to 489 reported offenses.

Based on reported data 4,007 individuals were victims of crimes against persons in Vermont in 2019; 1,180 of those were victims of violent crime as per the FBI's definition (Murder, Manslaughter, Robbery, Forcible Rape, and Aggravated Assault). Of those 1,180 victims, 26.33% were acquaintances. 62.15% of victims of violent crimes were women. Men and women in the age group 20 - 29 were more frequently the victims of violent crime than any other age group. Victims

over the age of 70 were the least likely to be victims of violent crime. In 70.2% of crimes against persons where defendant/victim relationship information was known the defendant was an acquaintance, intimate partner or family member of the victim. This number increased approximately 2% from 2018. In approximately 91% of the crimes against person offenses, the victim received either no injuries or minor injuries. Dangerous weapons, including firearms, were used in 30.28% of crimes involving a victim; this number is up 6.3% from 2018. Approximately 65% of violent crimes in Vermont occurred in residences, this is an increase of less than 1%, from 2018, for these types of incidents. Highways, alleys, streets, & sidewalks, at 13%, were the second most frequent locations for crimes for violent crimes to be committed.

Violent crime offenses, involving domestic violence (incidents involving intimate partners) that were reported to the state UCR program increased by 18.82% during 2019. Most domestic violence, as defined by the FBI, offenses reported involved Aggravated Assault.

Crimes Against Society

Crimes against society, not including drug offenses, increased 9.73% in 2019. Most notably Prostitution offenses increased 767%: from 3 reported offenses in 2018 to 26 reported offenses in 2019. Human Trafficking offenses increased by 50%: from 4 reported offenses in 2018 to 6 reported offenses in 2019. The Human Trafficking and Prostitution numbers are increasing due to more training and investigations being conducted for these offenses.

The only decrease in reported offenses, for crimes against society, was Animal Cruelty: down to 42 reported cases in 2019, from the 44 reported in 2018.

Property Crime

Overall reported property crime in Vermont decreased by 0.69% in 2019. Residences remain the top target at 36.6%. Most of the reported residential burglaries are continuing to occur during the daytime.

Burglaries saw a slight decrease of reported incidents during 2019 down 12.75%, which is 190 less reported offenses. The only other offense to see a decrease in reported offenses was Larceny/Theft; these offenses decreased by 6.5% which is 520 less offenses in 2019 than 2018.

Within this category, increases are most notable in Extortion/Blackmail, up approximately 82%: from 11 reported offenses in 2018 to 20 reported offenses in 2019. This increase could be due to training on NIBRS offenses and definitions. There was a notable increase in Arson, as well; up to 52 offenses from 44 in 2018, an 18.2% increase.

In Vermont the total property loss in 2019 due to criminal activity reported to law enforcement agencies statewide was \$10,767,236 a \$1,988,377 increase from 2018. 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 offenses, in total, have decreased for the second consecutive year. Since 2017 total drug offenses have decreased 23.35%: down from 1,921 reported offenses in 2017 to 1,415 reported in 2019.

Drug/Narcotic reported offenses have also decreased for the second consecutive year. Since 2017 Drug/Narcotic offenses have decreased by 22.6%: down from 1,754 reported offenses in 2017 to 1,357 reported offenses in 2019. This trend is accredited to the decriminalization of Marijuana in 2018; Marijuana reported offenses have decreased 700% since 2017 (down to 151 reported offenses in 2019 from 505 reported offenses in 2017).

With the decriminalization of Marijuana, Drug Equipment Violations also decreased by 69.15%: from 188 reports in 2018 to 58 reports in 2019. Marijuana reported offenses decreased by 205 in 2019: 57.58% fewer reported incidents than in 2018. Heroin, which accounted for 25% of the drug offenses, also saw a decrease in reported offenses: down 3.89% or 18 offenses from 2018.

The most notable decreases in drug types were Morphine and Barbiturates both down 100% from 2018. The most notable increases in drug types were Amphetamines/Methamphetamines at 59.09% and Over 3 Drug Types at 42.86%.

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 0.6% from 2018. The Violent Crime Index for the Northeast 0.6% from 2018. The Violent Crime Index in Vermont indicated an increase of 10.89% 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 decrease of 4.1% from 2018. The Northeast reported a decrease of 6.2% from 2018. The Property Crime Index in Vermont reported an increase of less than 10.85% from 2018.

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 2019 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.