



Department of Public Safety  
**Vermont Crime Information Center**  
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2020 VERMONT CRIME REPORT

The 2020 Vermont Crime Report is made available by the Vermont Crime Information Center at the Department of Public Safety. The report contains an analysis of crimes reported by law enforcement agencies throughout the State of Vermont during calendar year 2020. Crimes reported to state police, municipal police, sheriff departments, and other state law enforcement agencies are summarized in the report.

*Please note, when making comparisons to 2020 data – the State, Country, and the world went into a lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic in March of 2020. Law enforcement was limiting exposure to the general public, borders between countries were closed to non-essential traffic, the State was in a declared State of Emergency, and the general public was working from home or not working, sheltering in place, and quarantining or distancing themselves from others for the safety of all.*

### **Total Crime**

The Crime Report indicates that the total number of reported Group ‘A’ and Group ‘B’ crimes in 2020 decreased by 14.98% from 2019.

In 2020, reported Group ‘A’ crimes decreased by 9.63% when compared to 2019 the most notable decrease was reported Burglaries/Breaking & Entering: decreased from 1,300 in 2019 to 1,019 in 2020. The second largest decrease was reported Forcible Sex offenses, decreasing by 14.58%: down to 328 from 384 in 2019. Reported Group ‘B’ crimes decreased by 27.21%. This decrease was seen, most notably, in the decreased reporting of Bad Checks: down by 82.05%.

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 ‘A’ crimes, the only two reported offense increases were noted in Robbery (up 1.41%) and Intimidation (up 1.02%). Of the Group ‘B’ crimes, there were only decreased reports.

### **Crimes Against Persons**

Reported crimes committed against persons decreased 6.19% from 2019. Reported Murder (Nonnegligent Manslaughter) increased 16.67% from 12 to 14; meanwhile, Negligent Manslaughter had a reported decrease of 33.33% (down to 4 reports in 2020). The only other two offenses, for crimes against persons, with reported increases were Robbery and Intimidation (as stated above).

Based on reported data, 3,759 individuals were victims of crimes against persons in Vermont in 2020; 1,068 of those were victims of violent crime as per the FBI's definition (Murder, Manslaughter, Robbery, Forcible Rape, and Aggravated Assault). Of those 1,068 victims, 25.1% victims were acquaintances and 20.3% were boyfriend/girlfriend. 59.14% of victims of crimes against persons were women. Men and women in the age group 20 – 29 (319 victims) and 30-39 (267 victims) were more frequently the victims of violent crime than any other age group; these two age groups accounted for 54.66% of the victims of violent crime in Vermont in 2020. Victims over the age of 70 were the least likely to be victims of violent crime. In 66.2% of violent crimes, where the defendant/victim relationship information was known, the defendant was an acquaintance, intimate partner, or a family member of the victim. This number increased approximately 10% from 2019. In approximately 92% of the crimes against persons offenses, the victim received either no injuries or minor injuries; this is a 1% increase from 2019. Dangerous weapons including firearms were used in 13% of crimes involving a victim; this number is down 17.2% from 2019. Approximately 65% of crimes against persons, in Vermont, occurred in residences; this the same, for these types of incidents, as in 2019 (less than a 1% increase from 2018). Highways, alleys, streets, & sidewalks, at 14%, were the second most frequent locations for crimes against persons.

Violent crime offenses, involving domestic violence (incidents involving intimate partners) that were reported to the state UCR program increased by 8.6% during 2020. Most domestic violence, as defined by the FBI, offenses reported involved Aggravated Assault.

### **Crimes Against Society**

Crimes against society, not including drug offenses, were down 12.77% from 2019. Most notably, Human Trafficking decreased by 83.33%: down to 1 reported offense in 2020 from the 6 offenses reported in 2019. Prostitution decreased significantly, by 42.31%, in 2020: down to 15 reported offenses compared to the 26 reported in 2019. The only offense, for societal crimes, with a reported increase was Pornography/Obscene Materials: up 6.67%, from 105 offenses reported in 2019 to 112 offenses reported in 2020.

### **Property Crime**

Overall reported property crime in Vermont decreased by 9.89% in 2020. Residences remain the top target at 40.6%. Most of the reported residential burglaries are continuing to occur during the daytime.

Embezzlement saw a significant decrease of 38.61%, from 101 reported offenses in 2019 to 62 reported offenses in 2020. Extortion/Blackmail also saw a significant decrease of 35%, from 20 reported offenses in 2019 to 13 in 2020. The last decrease of significance to note is Burglary/Breaking & Entering with a decrease of 21.62%, with 281 fewer reported offenses in 2020. With the significant decrease in reported property crime, as stated in the beginning of the summary, the State was in a State of Emergency which led to a considerable amount of the population staying home.

In Vermont the total property loss in 2020, due to criminal activity, reported to law enforcement agencies statewide was \$7,745,061 a \$3,022,175 decrease from 2019. 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, have decreased for the third consecutive year. Since 2017 total drug offenses have decreased by 35.24%: down from 1,921 reported offenses in 2017 to 1,244 reported offenses in 2020.

Drug/Narcotic reported offenses have also decreased for the third consecutive year. Since 2017 Drug/Narcotic reported offenses have decreased by 32.55%: down from 1,754 reported offenses in 2017 to 1,183 incidents in 2020. This is mainly due to the decriminalization of Marijuana in 2018; Marijuana reported offenses have decreased 71.29% since 2017 (down to 145 reported offenses in 2020 from 505 reported offenses in 2017).

Drug Equipment Violations reported, however, did see an increase of 5.2% in 2020; this is a contrast from the 69.15% decrease reported in 2019.

The most notable increases in drug types were Morphine and Barbiturates, both of which were down 100% (to zero reported incidents) in 2019. In 2020 Morphine was reported 4 times and Barbiturates were reported 2 times. Other significant reported drug offense increases, in 2020, were Over 3 Drug Types increased by 30%, other drugs increased by 40.6%, and Unknown Drug Type increased by 50%.

The most notable decreases in drug reported offenses (by quantity, not percentage) were Crack Cocaine, Heroin, and Cocaine. In 2020 – Crack Cocaine decreased by 77 reported offenses (-27.7%), Heroin decreased by 67 reported offenses (-15.1%), and Cocaine decreased by 57 reported offenses (-21.4%).

## **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 5% from 2019. The Violent Crime Index for the Northeast increased 4.7% from 2019. The Violent Crime Index in Vermont indicated a decrease of 5.71%, 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 7.8% from 2019. The Northeast reported a reported an increase of 0.8% from 2019. The Property Crime Index in Vermont reported an increase of 9.89% from 2019.

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 2020 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.