



Department of Public Safety  
**Vermont Criminal Information Center**  
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## **2011 VERMONT CRIME REPORT SUMMARY**

The 2011 Vermont Crime Report has been made available 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 2011. 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 2011 increased by 6.5% from 2010.

In 2011, Group "A" crimes increased by 6.2% when compared to 2010 while Group "B" crimes increased by 8.0%. 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 increase in the number of crimes against property (1,422) was the primary cause for the increase along with crime against persons (321) and Group "B" crimes (547).

### **Crime Against Persons**

Overall crime against persons increased by 9.1% from 2010 and was driven primarily by an increase in simple assaults, aggravated assaults and robberies. Simple assaults increased by 9.3% from 2,207 to 2,412 while robberies increased 34.2% from 73 to 98. Similarly aggravated assaults also increased by 17.5% from 485 to 570.

Though the overall number of Crimes Against Persons increased during 2011, some categories remained level or decreased in 2011. Intimidations decreased statewide by 5.0% from 381 to 362 and Forcible Sex Offenses decreased by 0.4% from 240 to 239.

Slightly more than 4,300 individuals were victims of crimes against persons in Vermont in 2011; 93 of the victims were law enforcement officers. Forty-six 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 adult victims of violent crime. In 94% 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 9% 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 increased by approximately 14% with 1,068 incidents taking place during 2011 and 934 taking place in 2010. The vast majority of domestic violence crimes involve simple assaults (66.2%) and aggravated assaults (20.0%).

## **Property Crime**

Overall property crime in Vermont increased by 7.1% in 2011. The increase was fueled primarily by increases in burglary (up 17.7% from 2010) and larceny/theft offenses (up 5.3% from 2010). Other forms of property crime such as arson and counterfeiting/forgery increased slightly as well.

Residences were the targets in 71.6% of burglaries. In 50% 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 increase in thefts was fueled by increases in larceny-other (10.2%) and motor vehicle theft (24.2%). Other categories which saw increases from 2010 include pickpocketing (8.1%), stolen property (23.3%) and theft of motor vehicle parts (46.2%). However, shoplifting (-2.5%) and purse snatching (-6.7%) decreased between 2010 and 2011. Discount and department stores were the most frequent targets for shoplifting incidents at 36.0%, followed by grocery stores at 27.6%, convenience stores at 14.1% and specialty stores at 11.3%. The most common monetary assessments of shoplifting incidents involved values of less than \$25 at 31.8% and values between \$25 - \$99 at 39.3%. The most commonly stolen item during 2011 was money at 14.9%. Other commonly stolen items included consumable goods (9.0%), purses/wallets (7.8%), vehicle parts and accessories (7.2%) and computer hardware and software (6.3%).

In Vermont the total property loss in 2011 due to criminal activity reported to law enforcement agencies statewide was almost \$22 million, up almost \$1 million from 2010. Theft accounts for the largest single monetary loss at over \$9 million followed by burglary at over \$6 million and destruction of property/vandalism at \$3.4 million.

## **Drug Crime**

Drug crime decreased 2.6% from 3,195 incidents in 2010 to 3,112 incidents in 2011.

In 2011, approximately 2,062 drug crime incidents involved marijuana (63.5%). Cocaine and crack cocaine cases accounted for 8.6% of reported drug crimes. Amphetamine and methamphetamine cases constituted less than 1% of drug cases.

Most drug related categories remained relatively unchanged from 2010 to 2011 with two notable exceptions. Heroin related arrests increased by 29.5% during 2011 by a count of 123 from 95 during 2010. The Other Drug categories (other narcotics, other depressants, other stimulants and other hallucinogens) showed an overall decrease of 20% over 2010 (541 to 433). 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, Barbiturates and LSD) showed little change from 2010.

## **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 3.8% from 2010. The Violent Crime Index for the Northeast decreased by 1.4%. The Violent Crime Index in Vermont indicated an increase of 3.3% 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 0.5% from 2010. The Northeast reported an increase of 0.3% from 2010. The Property Crime Index in Vermont similarly increased by 2.1% for the same time period. In all cases the change in larceny/theft incidents during 2011 is the primary cause for the reported change.

## **Vermont Crime On-Line**

Interested readers can access the complete 2011 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. Fifteen 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.