



Department of Public Safety  
Vermont Crime Information Center  
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## **2012 VERMONT CRIME REPORT SUMMARY**

The 2012 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 to law enforcement agencies throughout the State of Vermont during calendar year 2012. 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 2012 increased by 2.5% from 2011.

In 2012, Group "A" crimes increased by 2.5% when compared to 2011 while Group "B" crimes also increased by 2.5%. 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.

### **Crime Against Persons**

Overall crime against persons decreased by .8% from 2011 and was driven primarily by a decrease in aggravated assaults and forcible rape. Aggravated assaults decreased by 3.5% from 570 to 550 while forcible rape decreased 20.1% from 144 to 115. Additionally kidnapping also decreased by 17.4% from 86 to 71.

Though the overall number of crimes against persons decreased during 2012, some categories remained level or increased in 2012. Robberies increased statewide by 13.3% from 98 to 111 and Forcible Fondling increased by 23.5% from 81 to 100.

Slightly more than 4,300 individuals were victims of crimes against persons in Vermont in 2012; 115 of the victims were law enforcement officers. Fifty-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 95% 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 97% 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 64% 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 (12%).

Domestic violence incidents involving intimate partners decreased by approximately 9% with 973 incidents taking place during 2012 and 1,068 taking place in 2011. The majority of domestic violence crimes involve simple assaults (72.3%) and aggravated assaults (17.0%).

### **Property Crime**

Overall property crime in Vermont decreased by .1% in 2012. This decrease was fueled primarily by changes in Destruction of Property/Vandalism (decrease from 4,898 to 4,711) and burglary (increase from 3,757 to 3,892). Other forms of property crime such as arson and fraud offenses increased slightly as well.

Residences were the targets in 74.4% of burglaries. In 51% of the cases no forced-entry was required by burglars to enter the target buildings. Additionally 51% of residential burglaries occurred between 8:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M.

Overall larceny/theft remained relatively stable with a .1% increase during 2012. Within this category increases were noted in shoplifting (16.9%), larceny-other (15.6%), and stolen property (4.8%). Concurrently, decreases were noted in the categories of theft from a building (-19.4%), theft from a motor vehicle (-13.8%), and motor vehicle theft (-17.8%). Discount and department stores were the most frequent targets for shoplifting incidents at 33.1%, followed by grocery stores at 27.2%, convenience stores at 15.3% and specialty stores at 13.9%. The most common monetary assessments of shoplifting incidents involved values of less than \$25 at 31.3% and values between \$25 - \$99 at 37.7%. The most commonly stolen item during 2012 was money at 11.1%. Other commonly stolen items included consumable goods (6.8%), purses/wallets (6.2%), vehicle parts and accessories (5.0%) and computer hardware and software (5.0%).

In Vermont the total property loss in 2012 due to criminal activity reported to law enforcement agencies statewide was over \$22 million, up slightly from 2011. Theft accounts for the largest single monetary loss at \$9.6 million followed by burglary at \$5.6 million and destruction of property/vandalism at \$3.8 million.

### **Drug Crime**

Drug crime decreased 24.8% from 3,112 incidents in 2011 to 3,884 incidents in 2012. In 2012, approximately 2,416 drug crime incidents involved marijuana (60.3%). Other major categories of drug crimes include heroin (6.2%), cocaine and crack cocaine (8.0%) and other narcotics (8.9%). Amphetamine and methamphetamine cases constituted less than 1% of drug cases.

Several drug related categories remained relatively unchanged from 2011 to 2012 with several notable exceptions. Heroin related incidents increased by 100.8% during 2012 by a count of 247 from 123 during 2011. The Other Drug categories (other narcotics, other depressants, other stimulants and other hallucinogens) showed an overall decrease of 40.4% over 2011 (608 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, Opium, Barbiturates and LSD) showed little change from 2011.

### **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 .7% from 2011. The Violent Crime Index for the Northeast decreased by 1.2%. The Violent Crime Index in Vermont indicated an increase of 3.5% 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 increased by 0.7% from 2011. The Northeast reported a decrease of 1.2% from 2011. The Property Crime Index in Vermont similarly decreased by 3.5% for the same time period.

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

Interested readers can access the complete 2012 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 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.