



Department of Public Safety  
Vermont Crime Information Center  
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## 2013 VERMONT CRIME REPORT SUMMARY

The 2013 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 and submitted to the state program during calendar year 2013. 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 2013 decreased by 9.6% from 2012.

In 2013, reported Group "A" crimes decreased by 12.4% when compared to 2012 while reported Group "B" crimes increased by 1.2%. Group "A" crimes are considered 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 reported crimes against persons decreased by 12.1% from 2012 and was driven primarily by a reported decrease in Robberies, Forcible Sodomy and Sex Assaults with an Object. Reported Aggravated Assault decreased by 11.5% from 550 to 487 while reported Forcible Rape crimes decreased 1.7% from 115 to 113. Additionally reported Forcible Fondling crimes decreased by 27% from 100 to 73. These decreases may be due in large part to the introduction of the new reporting systems introduced by some law enforcement agencies.

Though the overall number of crimes against persons reported to the state program decreased during 2013, some categories remained level or reported an increase in 2013. Incidents of reported Murder increased statewide from 7 to 10 and reported Kidnapping increased from 71 to 78.

Slightly more than 3,734 individuals were victims of crimes against persons in Vermont in 2013; 70 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 60 years old were the least likely to be adult victims of violent crime. In 95% of the crimes that were reported 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 reported violent crime incidents the victim received either no injuries or minor injuries. Dangerous weapons including firearms were used in 9% of reported crimes against persons. Approximately 72% of reported crimes against persons in Vermont occurred in residences which makes the home the most frequent location for these types of incidents. Highways and roads and commercial locations are the second most frequent locations for crimes against persons.

Domestic violence incidents involving intimate partners reported to the state program decreased by approximately 13% with 849 incidents taking place during 2013 and 973 taking place in 2012. The majority of domestic violence crimes involve Simple Assaults (71.5%) and Aggravated Assaults (17.5 %).

### **Property Crime**

Overall incidents of reported property crime in Vermont decreased by 12.9% in 2013. This decrease may be due in large part to the introduction of the new reporting systems introduced by some law enforcement agencies. Residences were the targets in 78% of reported Burglaries. In half of the cases no forced-entry was required by burglars to enter the target buildings. Almost 75% of residential Burglaries occurred between 8:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M.

Larceny/Theft saw a reported decrease during 2013 and this decrease may also be due in large part to the introduction of the new reporting systems introduced by some law enforcement agencies. Within this category reported increases were noted in Shoplifting (7.6%), Theft from Coin Operated (25%), and Stolen Property (13.3%). Discount and department stores were the most frequent targets for shoplifting incidents at 34.8%, followed by grocery stores at 25.1%, convenience stores at 14.1% and specialty stores at 10%. The most common monetary assessments of reported shoplifting incidents involved values of \$1 - \$99 attributing to 69.3%. The highest percentage of reported stolen property (22.5%) was classified as other during 2013, followed up by money at 10.3%. Other commonly stolen items included consumable goods (7.6%), purses/wallets (6.0%), computer hardware and software (5.7%), and vehicle parts and accessories (4.8%).

In Vermont the total property loss in 2013 due to criminal activity reported to law enforcement agencies statewide was \$20,550,340, an almost \$1.6 million decrease from 2012. The decrease may be attributed to the introduction of the new reporting systems introduced to some agencies. Theft accounts for the largest single monetary loss at just over \$8.1 million, followed by Burglary and Arson both at just below \$5 million and Destruction of Property/Vandalism just below \$2.2 million.

### **Drug Crime**

Drug crime decreased 7.3% from 3,884 incidents reported in 2012 to 3,600 reported incidents in 2013. This decrease may be due in large part to the introduction of the new reporting systems introduced by some law enforcement agencies. In 2013, approximately 2,044 reported drug crime incidents involved marijuana (56.6%). Other major categories of drug crimes include a marked reported increase in heroin (97.6%), and a reported decrease in cocaine (24.3%) and barbiturates (75%). Amphetamine/methamphetamine and other hallucinogens reported cases constituted less than 1% of drug cases.

Over 3 drug types per reported incident increased during 2013 to 16 from 8 during 2012. Crack cocaine also showed a reported 14.2% increase by a count of 201 from 176 during 2012. 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.

### **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 reported decrease of 4.4% from 2012. The Violent Crime Index for the Northeast decreased by 4.3%. The Violent Crime Index in Vermont indicated a decrease of 19.2% 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 4.1% from 2012. The Northeast reported a decrease of 2.5% from 2012. The Property Crime Index in Vermont similarly decreased by 11.4% for the same time period.

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

Interested readers can access the complete 2013 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.