



Department of Public Safety  
Vermont Crime Information Center  
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## **2014 VERMONT CRIME REPORT SUMMARY**

The 2014 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 2014. 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.

Please note, a number of agencies changed reporting systems during the period in question and this may have led to fewer incidents being reported to the state program. Thus the decreases in crime listed below may reflect underreporting to the state program rather than actual decreases in criminal incidents.

### **Total Crime**

The Crime Report indicates that the total number of reported Group "A" and Group "B" crimes in 2014 decreased by 23.9% from 2013. These decreases may be due in large part to the introduction of new reporting systems introduced by a number of agencies.

In 2014, reported Group "A" crimes decreased by 28.8% when compared to 2013 while reported Group "B" crimes decreased by 7.3%. 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. Of the Group "B" crimes there was a noted increase in Trespass of Real Property by 5.9%.

### **Crimes Against Persons**

Reported crimes committed against persons decreased by 18.2% from 2013. Reported Aggravated Assault decreased by 17.7% from 487 to 401 and reported Forcible Rape crimes decreased 5.3% from 113 to 107. Additionally reported Forcible Fondling crimes decreased by 11% from 73 to 65.

The overall number of crimes against persons reported to the state program decreased during 2014 to include; Kidnapping decreased from 78 to 67 and reported Murder decreased statewide from 10 to 9. These numbers are the reported Homicides to Vermont Crime Information Center and may differ from what has been reported to Law Enforcement agencies.

3,040 individuals were victims of crimes against persons in Vermont in 2014; 71 of the victims were law enforcement officers. Fifty-nine 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 84% 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 7.8% of crimes involving a victim. Approximately 58% 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 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 15% with 719 incidents taking place during 2014 and 849 taking place in 2013. The majority of domestic violence crimes involve simple assaults (67.2%) and aggravated assaults (14.7%).

### **Property Crime**

Overall reported property crime in Vermont decreased by 28.1% in 2014. This decrease may be due in large part to the introduction of new reporting systems introduced by a number of agencies. Residences were the targets in 58% of reported burglaries. In 42% of the reported cases no forced-entry was required by burglars to enter the target buildings. The majority of the reported residential burglaries occurred between 8:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M.

Larceny/Theft saw a reported decrease during 2014 and this may be due in large part to the introduction of new reporting systems introduced by some agencies. Within this category decreases were most notable in Theft from Coin Operated (80%), Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts and Accessories (57.3%) and Motor Vehicle Theft (45.9%). Discount and Department Stores were the most frequent targets for shoplifting incidents at 33.4%, followed by grocery stores at 26.1%, convenience stores at 13.3% and specialty stores at 11.4%. The most common monetary assessments of shoplifting incidents involved values of \$100-\$499 attributing to 41.1%. The highest percentage of reported stolen property (21.9%) was classified as Merchandise (items or goods that are exposed

or held for sale) during 2014. Other commonly stolen items included Clothes/Furs (7.9%), Consumable Goods (4.2%), Purses/Wallets (4.7%) and Computer Hardware (3.6%).

In Vermont the total property loss in 2014 due to criminal activity reported to law enforcement agencies statewide was \$10,968,802 an over \$9.5 million decrease from 2013. The decrease may be attributed to the introduction of new reporting systems introduced by some agencies. Reported Theft accounts for the largest single monetary loss at \$4,844,900 million, followed by burglary at \$2.487 million and destruction of property/vandalism just over \$1.5 million.

### **Drug Crime**

Reported Drug crime decreased 42.4% from 3,600 incidents in 2013 to 2,072 incidents in 2014. In 2014, approximately 922 drug crime incidents involved marijuana (54.9%). Other major categories of drug crimes include a reported increase in Cocaine (5.5%), and a reported decrease in heroin (16.2%). Barbiturates and Opium reported cases constituted less than 1% of drug cases.

Over 3 drug types per reported incident decreased by 31.3% during 2014 by a count of 11 from 16 during 2013. 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 decrease of 4.4% from 2012. This number is directly affected by the new reporting systems that were introduced by several Vermont agencies in 2013. 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 .02% from 2013. The Northeast reported a decrease of 5.2% from 2013. The Property Crime Index in Vermont similarly decreased by 7% for the same time period.

## **Vermont Crime On-Line**

Interested readers can access the complete 2014 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.