

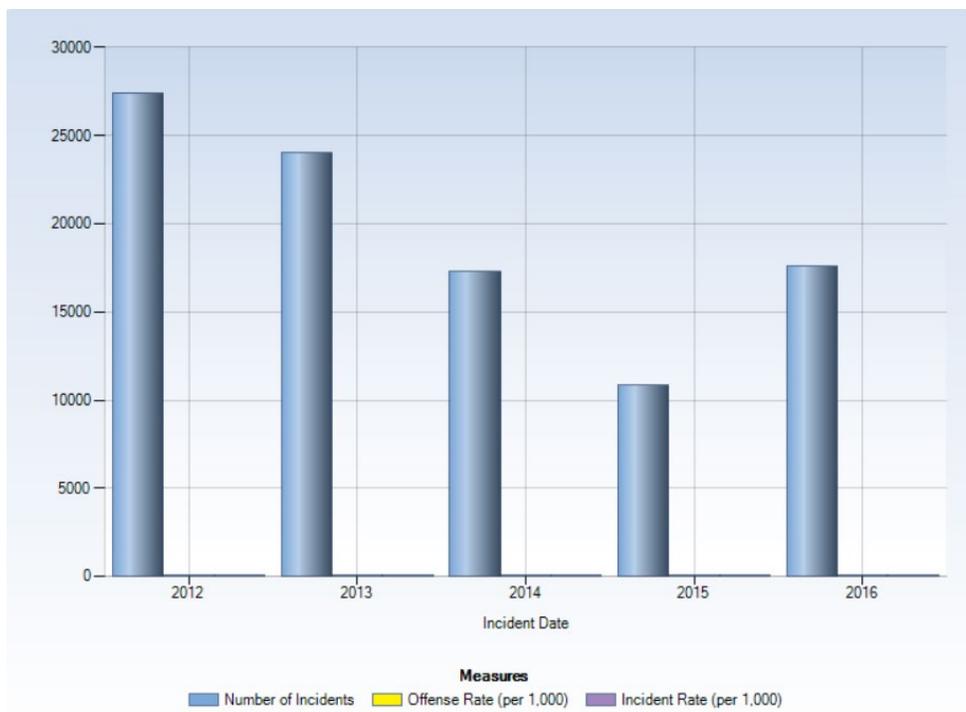


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Vermont Crime Information Center
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2016 VERMONT CRIME REPORT SUMMARY

The 2016 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 by law enforcement agencies throughout the State of Vermont during calendar year 2016. Crimes reported to state police, municipal police, sheriff departments, and other state law enforcement agencies are summarized in the report. Crime statistics are arranged statewide, by county, and by town.

Please note, with a new reporting system initially introduced to several larger Vermont law enforcement agencies in 2011 and 2012, and then by additional agencies spanning 2013 – 2015, these time periods show what would appear to be a decline in many crime categories. While many improvements in capturing data are being made, many of the crimes in 2016 could appear to be increasing; however, this may be misleading as the lower numbers were due to lack of accurate data being captured in the past year. The charts below afford a view of the crime categories as reported to the state program for the last seven years since the new reporting management system (RMS) was introduced.



Total Crime

The Crime Report indicates that the total number of reported Group “A” and Group “B” crimes in 2016 increased by 28.1% from 2015.

In 2016, reported Group “A” crimes increased by 62.3% when compared to 2015 and reported Group “B” crimes increased by 3.4%. 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 eleven less serious crimes, which are only reported when an arrest is made. Of the Group “B” crimes there was a noted increase in Bad checks by 8.7% and Trespass of Real Property by 7.6%.

Crimes Against Persons

Reported crimes committed against persons increased by 1.8% from 2015. Reported Aggravated Assault increased by 18.2% from 468 to 553 and reported Forcible Rape crimes decreased 11.7% from 154 to 136. Additionally, reported Forcible Fondling crimes decreased 12.8% from 78 to 68.

Of crimes against persons, there was a notable increase in Sex Assault with an Object of 50%.

The overall number of crimes against persons reported to the state program increased during 2016 the two most notable are; Kidnapping increasing from 66 to 96, and Murder increasing from 11 to 14. The increases in both of these crimes could be due in large part to trainings held to educate on definitions of Offenses and the necessity of timely reporting.

Based on reported data 3,354 individuals were victims of crimes against persons in Vermont in 2016; 141 of the victims were law enforcement officers. This increase is due to the capturing of assaults on Law Enforcement personnel via the RMS systems. Fifty-three percent of victims of crimes against persons were women; this is down 1% from 2015. Men and women in the age group 21- 29 were more frequently the victims of violent crime than any other age group. Victims under the age of 10 years old were the least likely to be victims of violent crime. In 79% of crimes against persons where defendant/victim relationship information was known the defendant was an acquaintance, intimate partner or family member of the victim. This number is down 3% from 2015. In approximately 97% of the violent crime incidents, the victim received either no injuries or minor injuries. Dangerous weapons including firearms were used in 8.82% of crimes involving a victim; this number is down 2.18% from 2015. Approximately 54% of crimes against persons in Vermont occurred in residences, which makes the home the most frequent location for these types of incidents. Highways or roads and commercial locations are the second most frequent locations for crimes against persons.

Domestic violence incidents involving intimate partners that were reported to the state program increased by approximately 1.25% with 905 incidents during 2016 versus 874 in 2015. The majority of domestic violence crimes involve simple assaults (66.1%) and aggravated assaults (19.1%).

Property Crime

Overall reported property crime in Vermont increased by 84.6% in 2016. This increase is due in large part to the updates to the newer reporting system that is now used by a number of law enforcement agencies. Residences remain the top target at 73.1% and of the reported burglaries, 56% reported forced-entry, which requires the burglars to enter the target buildings by damaging a point of entry to gain access. The majority of the reported residential burglaries are occurring between 12N and 4:00P.M.

Larceny/Theft saw a marked increase of reported incidents during 2016, due in large part to the previously mentioned newer reporting system and the updates done to capture more of the NIBRS data required by the FBI. Within this category, increases are most notable in Larceny/Other 186.4%, Theft of Coin-Operated 150% and Pickpocketing 128.6%. Discount and Department Stores were the most frequent targets for shoplifting incidents at 33.4%, which is a decrease of (6.9%) from 2015, followed by grocery stores at 25.2%, convenience stores at 13.4% and specialty stores at 12.3%. The most common monetary assessments of shoplifting incidents involved values of \$500-\$4999 attributing to 42.8%. The highest percentage of reported stolen property 21.7% was classified as Merchandise. Some commonly stolen items included Bicycles 2.8%, Money 8.2% and Tools 5.4%.

In Vermont the total property loss in 2016 due to criminal activity reported to law enforcement agencies statewide was \$9,703,815.00 a \$556,990.00 increase from 2015. Reported Theft accounts for the largest single monetary loss at \$6,086,613.00 million, followed by burglary at \$2,209,302.00 million and destruction of property/vandalism \$1,925,425.00 million.

The increases noted above is due to the updates to the newer reporting software now capturing most of the property crimes.

Drug Crime

Reported Drug crime increased 71.1% from 1017 incidents in 2015 to 1740 incidents in 2016. In 2016, there was a notable increase in Crack/Cocaine reported crimes; reported incidents went from 50 to 162, a 224.0% difference, and Meth/Amphetamines increase from 10 to 35, a 205.0% increase. The biggest increase was Opium reported incidents up from 1 to 8, a 700% increase.

Other major categories of drug crimes include a reported decrease in Morphine (25.0%), and in Unknown Drug types reported a decrease of (7.9%) of drug cases.

Reported incidents involving over three drug types showed an increase of 100.0% during 2016, up from five in 2015 to ten in 2016. There was also a 112.2% increase in the reported incidents involving Heroin. 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 an increase of 4.1% from 2015. The Violent Crime Index for the Northeast decreased by (1.2%). The Violent Crime Index in Vermont indicated an increase of 32.4% 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 decrease of (1.3%) from 2015. The Northeast reported a decrease of (4.4%) from 2015. The Property Crime Index in Vermont increased by 17.0% for the same time period.

Vermont Crime On-Line

Interested readers can access the complete 2016 Vermont Crime Report by accessing the Vermont Crime Information Center website at vcic.vermont.gov and selecting the Vermont Crime On-Line Link. Over sixteen years of crime data are now available on the website.

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.