

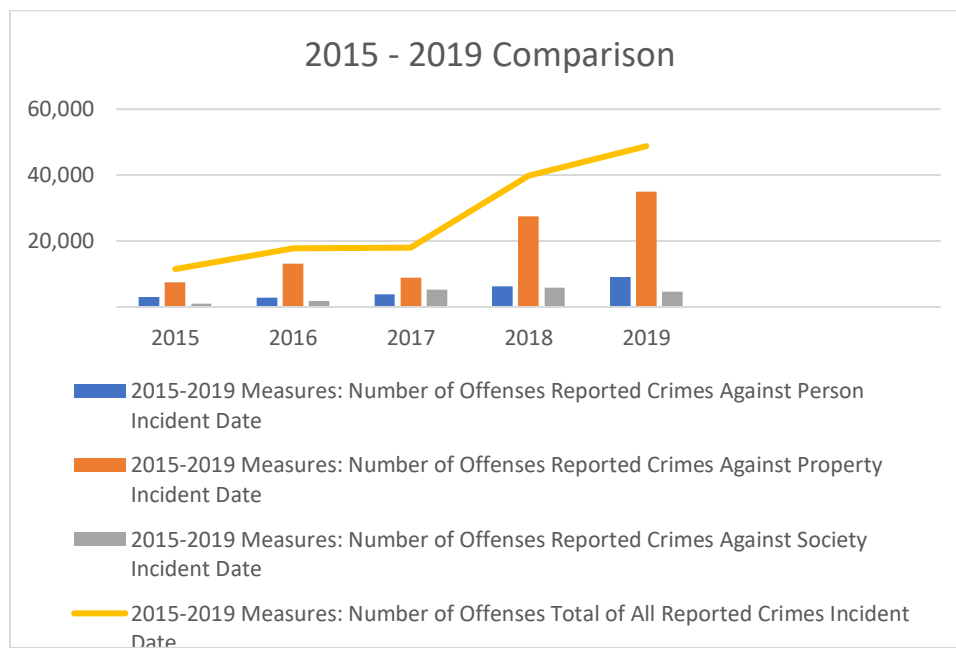


Department of Public Safety  
**Vermont Crime Information Center**  
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## 2019 VERMONT CRIME REPORT SUMMARY

The 2019 Vermont Crime Report is 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 2019. Crimes reported to state police, municipal police, sheriff departments, and other state law enforcement agencies are summarized in the report.

Please note, with improvements to the record management systems and with the start of concentrated trainings at the supervisory level there is a more accurate accounting of the crimes reported in 2019.



### Total Crime

The Crime Report indicates that the total number of reported Group 'A' and Group 'B' crimes in 2019 increased by 54.3% from 2018. This increase is a direct result of continued training at agencies supervisory level on how to classify offenses. At these trainings, timely validation of incidents was also emphasized for more accurate data reporting.

In 2018, reported Group 'A' crimes increased by 121.4% when compared to 2017 with notable increases of reported Forcible Sexual Offenses 429 up from 128 reported in 2017, and reported

Larcenies increased from 8832 up from 3800 in 2017. Reported Group 'B' crimes increased by 13%. This increase was seen in more arrests in the All Other Offenses category. This category increase can be attributed to training held for the Fish and Wildlife Division on better reporting of their arrests.

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 noted increases in Bad checks by 25% and Trespass of Real Property by 15%. Two other notable increases were in reporting of DUI 13.5% and All other offenses arrest 18.2%.

### **Crimes Against Persons**

Reported crimes committed against persons increased by 65% from 2017. Reported Forcible Rape crimes increased 303% from 67 to 270 and reported Aggravated Assault decreased by (41.2%) from 1124 to 661 while reported Simple Assaults decreased by (2%) from 2158 to 2115. Additionally, reported Intimidation offenses increased 162% from 150 to 393 a direct result of supervisory level trainings on definition of offenses. Of crimes against persons, there was a notable increase in reported Sodomy crimes of 700% from three to twenty-four.

The overall number of crimes against persons reported to the state program increased during 2018, the increase of these crimes could be due in large part to the continued supervisory level trainings held to educate on definitions of offenses and the necessity of timely reporting.

Based on reported data 6320 individuals were victims of crimes against persons in Vermont in 2018; 164 of the victims were law enforcement officers. This increase is due to training emphasis on capturing of assaults on Law Enforcement personnel via the RMS systems. Fifty One percent of victims of crimes against persons were women; this is up 28% from 2017. 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 ten years old were the least likely to be victims of violent crime. In 18% 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 56% from 2017. In approximately 93% of the violent crime incidents, the victim received either no injuries or minor injuries. Dangerous weapons including firearms were used in 1.22% of crimes involving a victim; this number is down 16.08% from 2017. 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 or roads and Drug Stores are the second most frequent locations for crimes against persons.

Domestic violence incidents involving intimate partners that were reported to the state program increased to 1549 during 2018 versus 909 in 2017. Most domestic violence crimes involve simple assaults 54.2% and aggravated assaults 22.7%.

### **Property Crime**

Overall reported property crime in Vermont increased by 58.2% in 2018. Residences remain the top target at 35.5% and of the reported burglaries 100% reported forced entry, which requires the burglars to enter the target buildings by damaging a point of entry to gain access. Most of the reported residential burglaries are occurring between Noon and 4:00 P.M.

Larceny/Theft saw a marked increase of reported incidents during 2018. Within this category, increases are most notable in Destruction of Property/Vandalism 251.3% and Fraud offenses 66.1%. There was a notable decrease in Arson to 41 down from 64 in 2017. Discount and Department Stores continue to be the most frequent targets for shoplifting incidents at 38.6%, followed by grocery stores at 23.9% up 5% from 2017. Convenience stores at 14.1% were up 7.6% from 2017. The most common monetary assessments of shoplifting incidents involved values of \$0 - \$25 attributing to 34.6%. The highest percentage of reported stolen property 14.5% was classified as Other Property. Some commonly stolen items included Bicycles 5.1% almost double from 2017, Vehicle parts and Accessories 5.1% and Clothes and Furs at 4.1%.

In Vermont the total property loss in 2018 due to criminal activity reported to law enforcement agencies statewide was \$26,264,846 a \$20,919,392.00 increase from 2017. Property values are determined in accordance with the FBI's 'Guidelines for Property Valuation' found in the NIBRS Manual, page 107. Reported Burglaries account for the largest single monetary loss at \$13,741,328.00 million, followed by Larcenies at \$6,812,725.00 million and destruction of property/vandalism \$4,712,095.00 million.

The increases in 2018 Property crimes can primarily be attributed to the continued supervisory level training and improvements in one RMS' capability to more accurately capture property crimes.

## **Drug Crime**

Reported Drug offense crimes decreased (11.2%) to 1706 incidents from 1921 incidents in 2017. In 2018, there was a notable increase in other drug reported crimes; reported incidents went from 104 to 289, a 177.9% difference, and Meth/Amphetamines increase from 23 to 88, a 282.6% increase. The biggest increase was PCP reported incidents up from 0 to 9.

Other major categories of drug crimes include a reported decrease in LSD (30%), Heroin reported an increase of 43.9% and Unknown Drug types reported an increase of 100% of drug cases.

Reported incidents involving over three drug types showed an increase of 130.8% during 2018, up from thirteen in 2017 to thirty in 2018. There was also a 153.99% increase in the reported incidents involving Crack Cocaine.

## **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 (0.2%) from 2016. The Violent Crime Index for the Northeast decreased by (3.6%). The Violent Crime Index in Vermont indicated an increase of 21.5% 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 decrease of (3.3%) from 2017. The Northeast reported a decrease of (4.4%) from 2017. The Property Crime Index in Vermont decreased by (14%) for the same time period.

The differences in what the FBI publishes and what is seen in Vermont's report is due to the publication date of the FBI's data and the extraction of data date that was used for this report.

### **Federal Bureau of Investigations Crime Data Explorer**

Interested readers can access the complete 2018 Vermont Crime Report by accessing the Crime Data Explorer website at <https://crime-data-explorer.fr.cloud.gov/> and selecting Vermont on the map or by using the drop-down menu. Over sixteen years of crime data are now available on the website.

Crime Data Explorer makes it easy for the public to view standard crime reports and maps. Crime Data Explorer reports contain 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.