



188 Harvest Lane
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Vermont Intelligence Center

VIC Case: 23-VIC-00460 || **Date:** October 2023

Requestor: Vermont State Police

Statistical/Research Report

Vermont Juvenile Offender & Victim Statistics

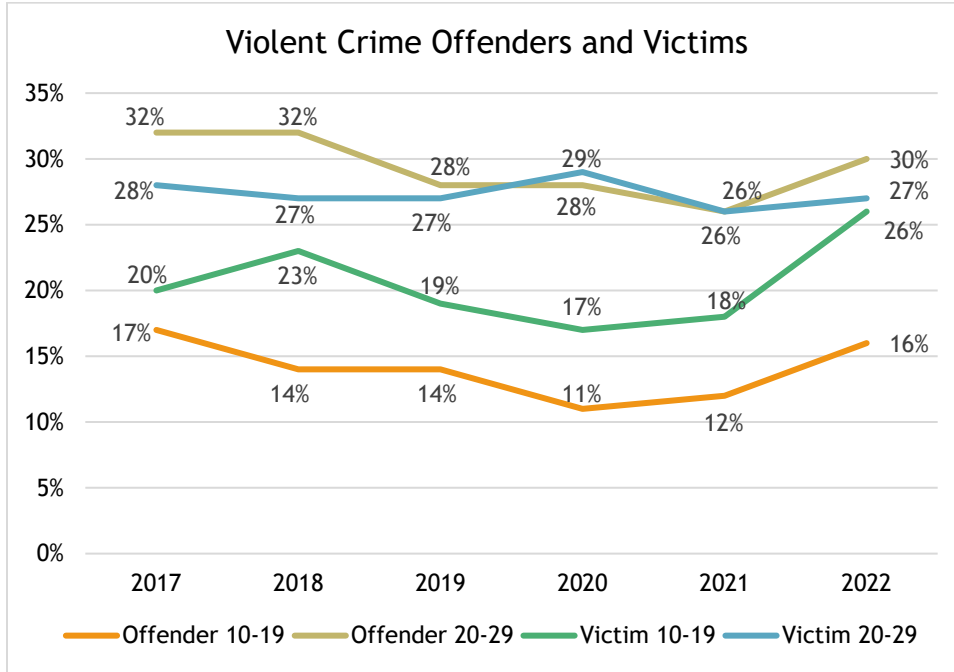
Uniform Crime Reporting

According to [UCR](#) methodology, violent crime incidents include homicide, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. In the years listed below, between 86 and 90 Vermont law enforcement agencies reported incidents to UCR.

Year	Offender 10-19	Offender 20-29	Victim 10-19	Victim 20-29
2017 1,019 incidents 957 offenders 1,096 victims	162 16.9%	302 31.6%	219 20.0%	311 28.4%
2018 1,037 incidents 990 offenders 1,131 victims	142 14.3%	313 31.6%	262 23.2%	308 27.2%
2019 1,143 incidents 1,104 offenders 1,276 victims	156 14.1%	314 28.4%	245 19.2%	349 27.4%
2020 1,062 incidents 999 offenders 1,144 victims	109 10.9%	281 28.1%	193 16.9%	334 29.2%
2021 1,148 incidents 1,100 offenders 1,253 victims	135 12.3%	281 25.5%	220 17.6%	323 25.8%
2022 1,312 incidents 1,275 offenders 1,447 victims	201 15.8%	385 30.2%	376 26.0%	384 26.5%



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Analysis: Juvenile involvement in violent crime in Vermont was trending downward from 2018 to 2020. Between 2021 and 2022, the percent of violent crime involving juvenile offenders (10-21) and juvenile victims (10-21) have increased. Based on gun violence data run by the VIC, these are very likely to increase further in 2023.

Law Enforcement Responses to Suspected Opioid Overdoses

Year	18 and Under* (Fatal / Non-Fatal)	18 and Under (total)	% of year's total	19-21 (Fatal / Non-Fatal)	19-21 (total)	% of year's total
2019	3 / 5	8	1.3%	0 / 20	20	3.3%
2020	1 / 5	6	0.9%	2 / 17	19	3.0%
2021	2 / 6	8	0.9%	5 / 15	20	2.4%
2022	1 / 10	11	1.2%	2 / 16	18	1.9%
2023 (through Sept. 23, 2023)	1 / 3	4	0.5%	2 / 11	13	1.5%

*Note: Does not include infants and toddlers. Only includes those who intentionally ingested substances.

Analysis: No significant changes shown in the time frame analyzed. Note that the opioid epidemic in Vermont has grown increasingly serious during this period, which may skew the percentage of total figures. Overdoses are more likely among the 19–21-year range than the 18 and under range. However, between 19-21 are trending down in recent years, and 18 and under are more consistent and/or trending up in recent years. Over the last three years, the average age of opioid overdose patients with law enforcement response was 38, and the data shows that the majority of people in the state suffering from opioid use disorder are in their 30s or 40s. This may be due to a variety of factors, such as increased public awareness, especially at a younger age. It should be noted that while users are less likely to be 21 and younger, traffickers may not be showing the same trend. With many of Vermont’s recent drug-involved firearm homicides, an increasing number of victims and offenders are from out of state and are in their early 20s.



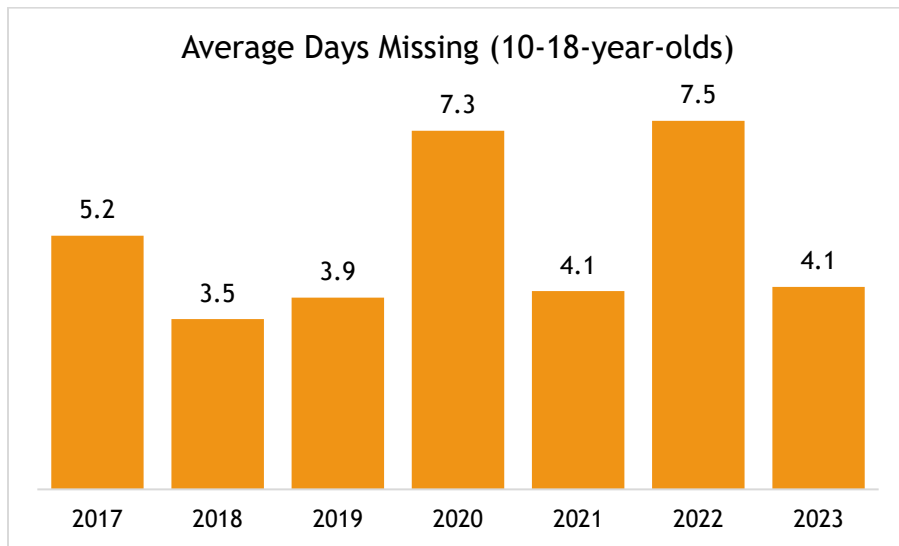
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Overdose Data Methodology: the VIC Drug Monitoring Initiative (DMI) monitors Vermont’s law enforcement records management system (RMS) with established criteria to report out on instances where law enforcement is called to respond to an opioid-related accidental overdose. They may respond in partnership with other first responders, such as fire and EMS personnel; however, cases in which only fire or EMS personnel respond, and law enforcement does not (either is not required to or is not the closest option) will not be included in this dataset. Further, intentional overdoses and overdoses not suspected to be caused at least in part by an opioid are not included in this dataset. The analysis is based on first responder impressions of a situation and may be subject to change.

Missing Persons

VIC Missing Person data is based on cases that result in National Crime Information Center (NCIC) missing person entry only.

Year	Missing Persons 10-18	% of Total Year’s MPs	Missing Persons 19-21	% of Total MPs
2017	406	75.0%	17	3.1%
2018	337	71.5%	11	2.3%
2019	307	74.2%	15	3.3%
2020	254	65.6%	5	1.3%
2021	326	69.8%	12	2.5%
2022	349	71.1%	13	2.6%
2023 (through October 2, 2023)	237	65.6%	9	2.5%



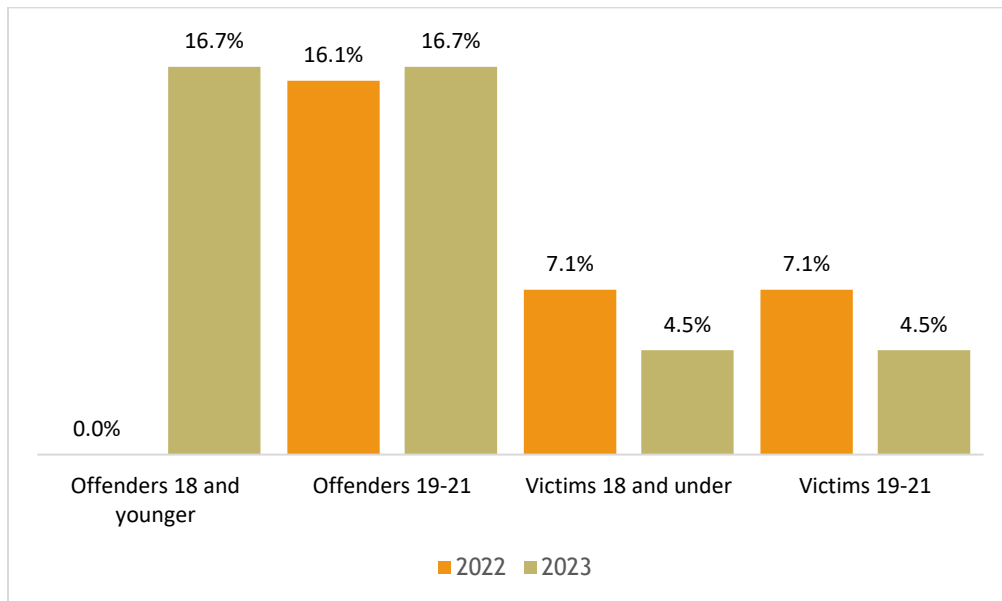
Analysis: No significant deviations. The percentage of missing 10–18-year-olds likely decreased during COVID-19 due to children being home more. The percentage likely decreased, as in the last few years we have seen a simultaneous increase in missing adults and elderly.



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Gun Violence (gunshot wounds reported, fatal and non-fatal injuries) – note these are based on cases with known victim and/or offender details, not total case count by type.

Year	Offenders 18 and under	Offenders 19-21	Victims 18 and under	Victims 19-21
2022	0 0%	5 16.1%	3 7.1%	3 7.1%
2023 (through Sept. 28)	2 16.7%	2 16.7%	1 4.5%	1 4.5%



Analysis: the VIC began maintaining gun violence data in 2022, so there is a limited window to analyze for changes and trends. 2023 data is based only upon cases that have confirmed offenders, and there are several open new and unsolved at this time. However, the numbers do show an increase in the percent of offenders under the age of 18, and between the ages of 19 and 21.

Gun Violence Data Methodology: The VIC monitors Vermont’s law enforcement RMS with established criteria to report out on gun violence incidents within the State of Vermont. By utilizing 13 key word searches, analysts review all case reports to determine if a firearm was present during a violent encounter. The incidents are categorized into four groups, one of which is gun shot wounds reported (reports of a firearm used to wound another person, including firearm homicides). Note that several homicides occurred in Vermont in October 2023, which are not reflected in this report.



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Gang Activity/Other Anecdotal Trends Among Juveniles:

While Vermont does not have a gang statute, there are groups in the state that closely resemble widely accepted, national-level gang definitions. For example, according to the National Gang Center and [National Institute of Justice](#), researchers accept the following criteria for classifying groups as youth gangs:

- The group has three or more members, generally aged 12-24.
- Members share an identity, typically linked to a name, and often other symbols.
- Members view themselves as a gang, and they are recognized by others as a gang.
- The group has some permanence and a degree of organization.
- The group is involved in an elevated level of criminal activity.

Two groups of youth in Chittenden County each have several members, they share colors and symbols, and they recognize one another as members, especially when acknowledging members of the opposing group. They have leadership and organization and are involved in an elevated level of criminal activity. While members of the two groups are not solely responsible for the recent increase in vehicle thefts, thefts from vehicles, and vandalism of vehicles throughout the state, they are suspected to be responsible for a large portion of it. Members of these groups have stolen and vandalized several vehicles per night, often eluding law enforcement, intentionally driving recklessly, crashing vehicles, and causing serious public safety concerns. The members are known to be armed with firearms and some have been recruited by older individuals to participate in the illicit drug trade. Many members are between the ages of 13 and 17, with a smaller portion over the age of 20. Their involvement in vehicle-related crime has cost Vermonters hundreds of thousands of dollars, if not millions of dollars, in 2023 alone (the exact figure has not been calculated as formal documentation from insurance companies is not always included in law enforcement reports and many of the theft cases remain unsolved).

An example of one member (anonymized): 14-year-old with 117 involvements with Vermont law enforcement:

- The subject was reportedly given a firearm and cocaine and fentanyl to sell by a 21-year-old involved in the illicit drug trade in Burlington, VT. Otherwise, the subject has had four other involvements referencing drug use (mainly marijuana until recently).
- The subject has been a suspect in 23 cases in which a vehicle was stolen, or items were stolen from a vehicle. Some cases involved several vehicles.
- The subject has been *confirmed* to be involved in 19 cases in which a vehicle was stolen, or items were stolen from a vehicle. For example, the subject has been located operating stolen vehicles, riding as a passenger in stolen vehicles, and the subject has crashed a stolen vehicle with other juveniles in it. In some of these cases, the juvenile received a juvenile citation and was released to their father. In most, the subject was not charged.
- The subject has been in at least ten altercations with their father with law enforcement response, many of which were physical. However, the subject was not placed in DCF custody until very recently.
- The subject has been entered into NCIC as missing only twice. The subject's father reported several times that he does not report his child missing because his child frequently runs away and returns when they want to.
- The subject has had 14 involvements where they exhibited violent behavior (fights with other juveniles, destruction of property, etc.).
- The subject has had six involvements where a firearm was referenced (some later found to be BB guns or water guns, but without orange markings and often brandished as if real).