

**Vermont Crime Analysis Using
National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) Data
Top Five Crimes by County**



Submitted to:

Vermont Department of Public Safety

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Introduction

As part of Crime Research Group's (CRG) stakeholder engagement process associated with the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) data-driven Vermont Crime Analysis project, CRG's law enforcement partners asked: "How do our agencies spend our time? And to what offenses do we respond?" This report seeks to use NIBRS data to help Vermont's state, county, and municipal policing agencies answer those questions. This report will delve into the most common reported offenses within the state and the individual counties, which law enforcement agencies respond to the reported crimes, and the distribution of the offenses in individual counties.

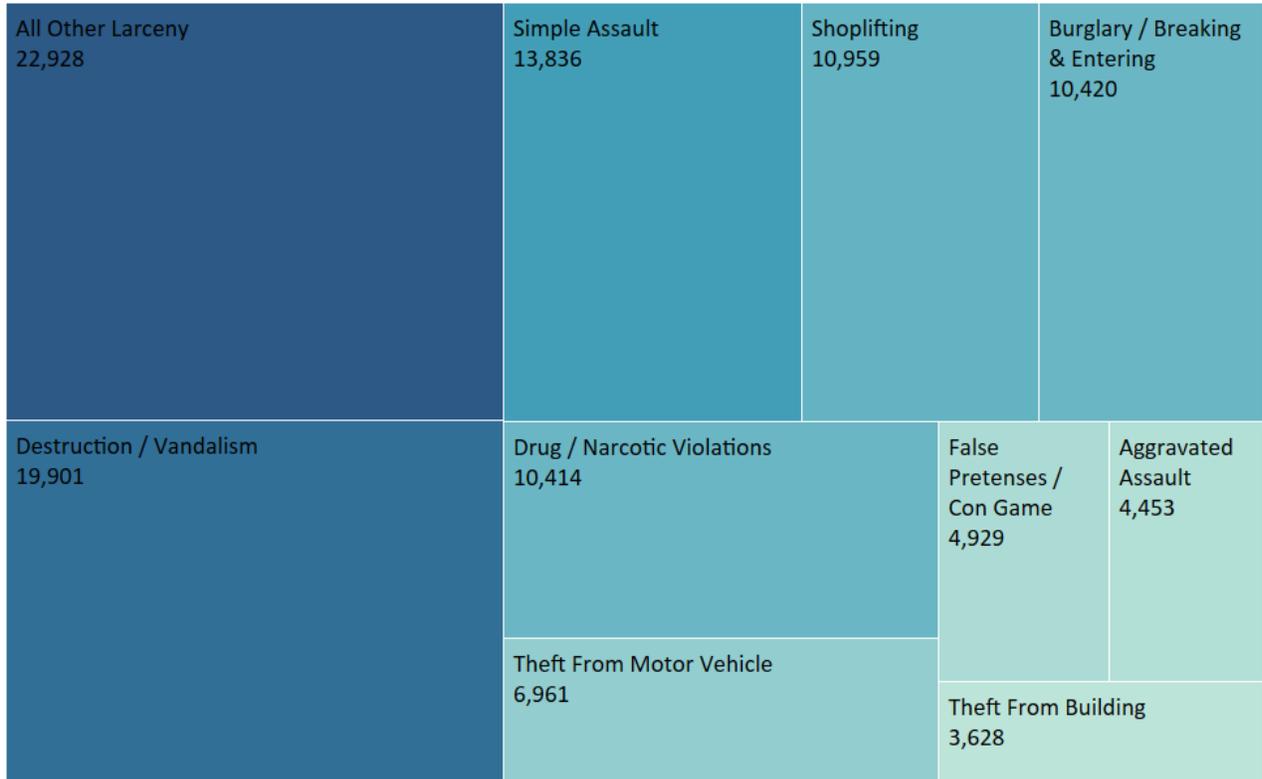
Given that most of Vermont is comprised of rural areas, an aggregate view of the data on offenses committed in the state might be skewed by more urbanized areas like Burlington. As such, this report will examine the top five offenses reported in each county and will include a list of the top ten crimes. A county-level examination can help inform how law enforcement agencies and policymakers develop strategies to address each jurisdiction's particular needs.

This report by no means describes all the incidents to which law enforcement responds. NIBRS data captures crimes while quality of life incidents such as noise complaints, issues with animals, and suspicious activity, etc., are not captured in NIBRS data. Once Vermont law enforcement are all using the new computer aided dispatch/records management system (CAD/RMS), the quality-of-life incidents will be available for a more comprehensive review as to how law enforcement spends their time.

Top Ten Offenses - Statewide

Between 2015 and 2020 in Vermont, there were 126,006 total offenses reported in NIBRS. Figure 1 below visualizes the ten most reported criminal offenses in Vermont from 2015-2020. The top 10 offenses committed statewide comprised 86.05% (108,429) of all offenses.

Figure 1. Top 10 Offenses Statewide by Type of Offense



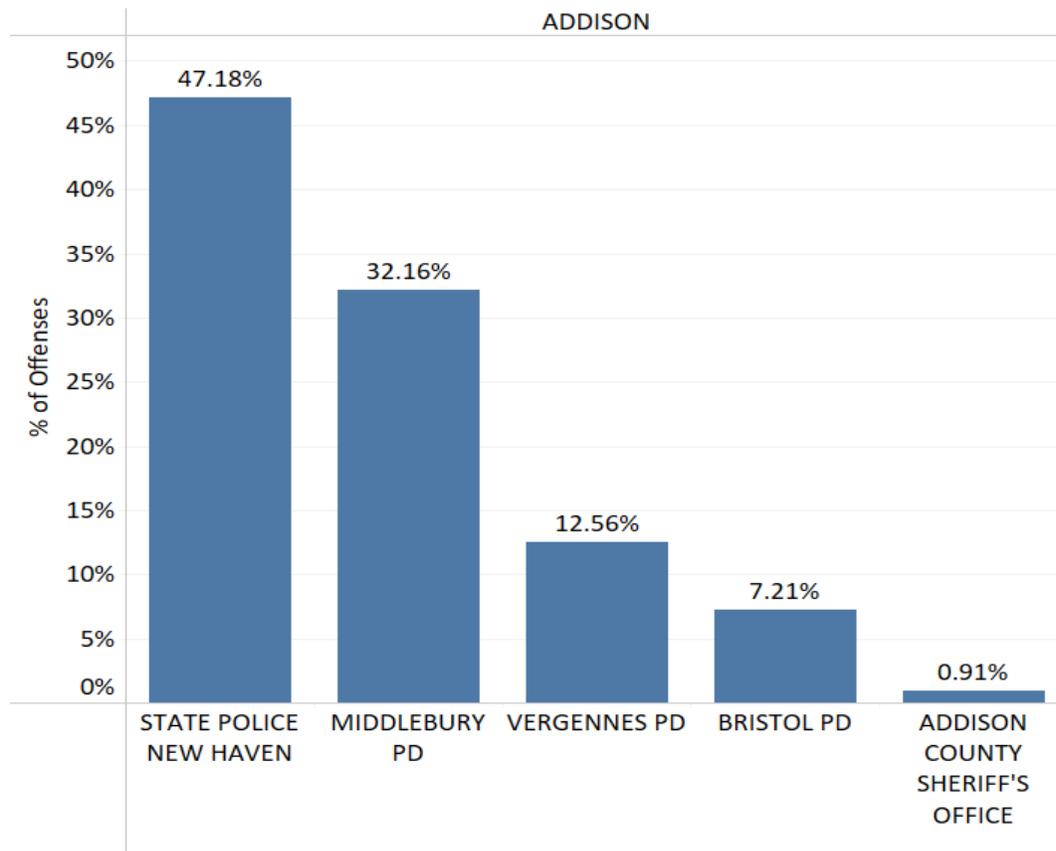
All Other Larceny	22,928	18.20%
Destruction / Vandalism	19,901	15.79%
Simple Assault	13,836	10.98%
Shoplifting	10,959	8.70%
Burglary / Breaking & Entering	10,420	8.27%
Drug / Narcotic Violations	10,414	8.26%
Theft From Motor Vehicle	6,961	5.52%
False Pretenses / Con Game	4,929	3.91%
Aggravated Assault	4,453	3.53%
Theft From Building	3,628	2.88%

Top Five Offenses – By County

Addison County

Addison County is a rural area served by the Vermont State Police (VSP) New Haven, Middlebury Police Department, Vergennes Police Department, Bristol Police Department, and the Addison County Sheriff's Office. Of note, nearly half of the county's offenses are reported by VSP (47.18%) and roughly one-third (32.16%) are reported by Middlebury Police Department (see Figure 2). The county's smaller agencies responded to the remaining balance of reported offenses at the following rates: Vergennes Police Department (12.56%), Bristol Police Department (7.21%), and Addison County Sheriff (0.91%).

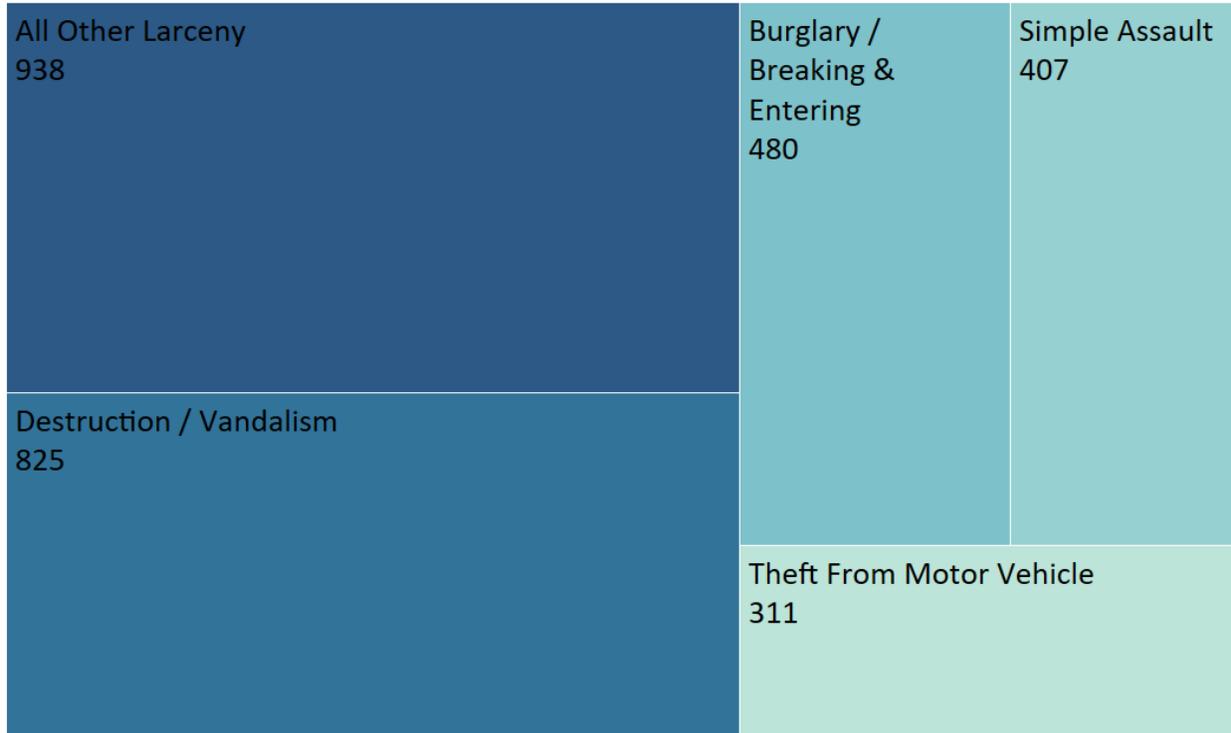
Figure 2. Addison County Offenses by Reporting Agency



A total of 4,301 offenses were reported by law enforcement agencies serving Addison County. Figure 3 below shows that the top five offenses reported by Addison County agencies include: all other larceny (829 / 19.27%), destruction/ vandalism (748 / 17.39%), burglary/breaking and entering (418 / 9.72%),

simple assault (357 / 8.30%), and theft from motor vehicles (278 / 6.46%). These five offenses accounted for 61.15% of all offenses reported by Addison County law enforcement. Of note, neither shoplifting nor drug/narcotic violations are in the top five crimes, somewhat diverging from Vermont’s numbers.

Figure 3. Addison County’s Top Five Offenses

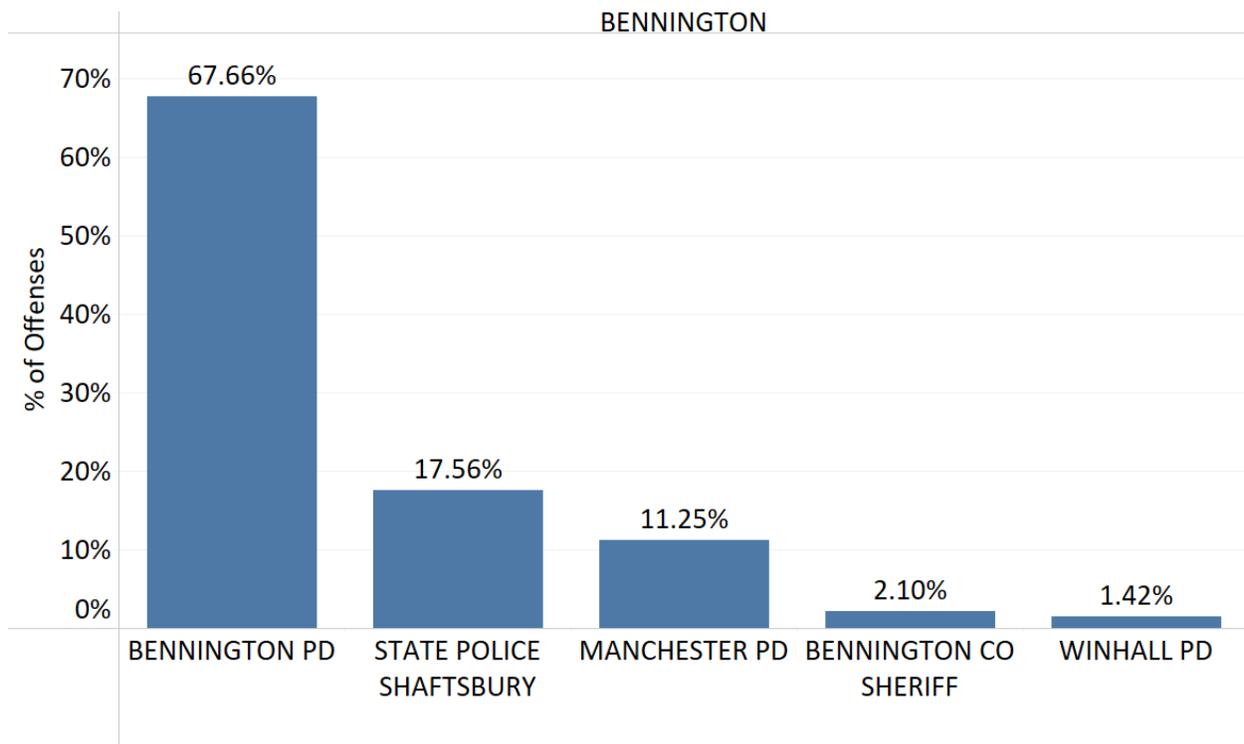


ADDISON	Offense	Count	Percentage
	All Other Larceny	938	19.34%
	Destruction / Vandalism	825	17.01%
	Burglary / Breaking & E..	480	9.90%
	Simple Assault	407	8.39%
	Theft From Motor Vehi..	311	6.41%
	False Pretenses / Con ..	279	5.75%
	Drug / Narcotic Violati..	216	3.96%
	Intimidation	194	4.45%
	Shoplifting	192	4.00%
	Theft From Building	163	3.36%

Bennington County

Bennington County, located in the southwest corner of Vermont, is served by the VSP Shaftsbury, Bennington Police Department, Manchester Police Department, Winhall Police Department, and the Bennington County Sheriff. As demonstrated below, more than two-thirds of the county's offenses are reported by Bennington Police Department (67.66%), while VSP Shaftsbury (17.56%) and Manchester PD (11.25%) account for most of the remaining balance. (See Figure 4).

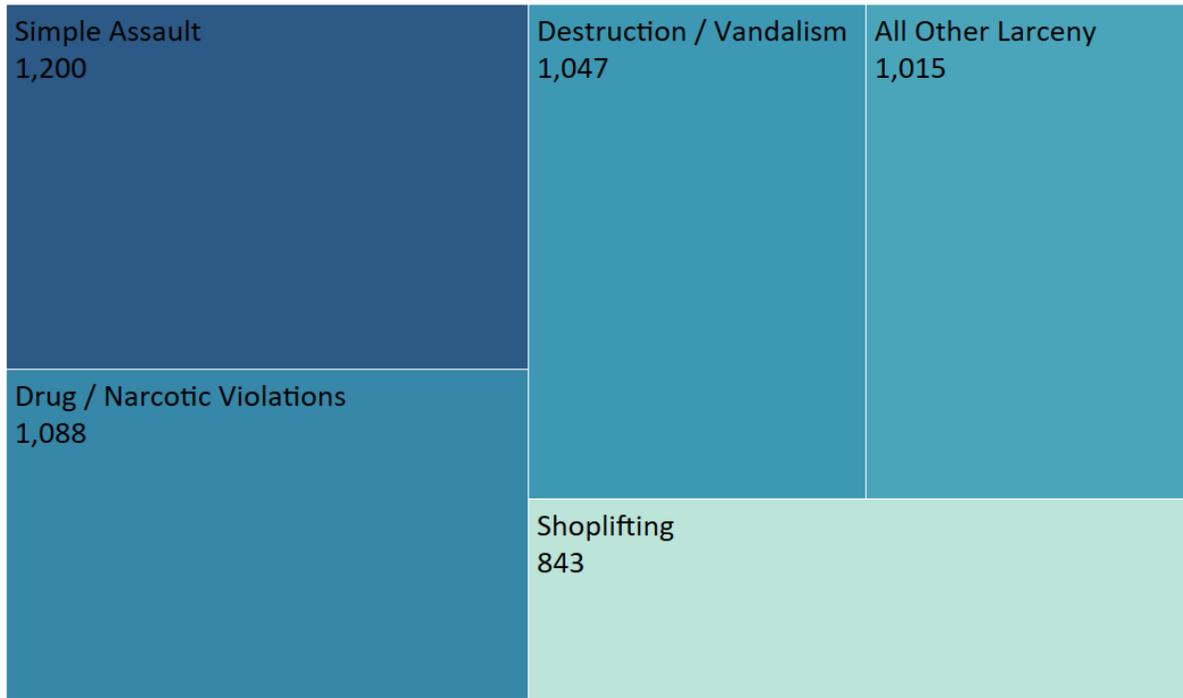
Figure 4. Bennington County Offenses by Reporting Agency



A total of 8,427 offenses were reported by law enforcement agencies serving Bennington County. Figure 5 below shows that the top five offenses reported by Bennington County agencies include: simple assault (1,200 / 14.24%), drug / narcotic violations (1,088 / 12.91%) destruction/ vandalism (1,047 / 12.42%), all other larceny (1,015 / 12.04%), and shoplifting (843 / 10.00%). These five offenses accounted for 61.62% of all offenses reported by Bennington County law enforcement. The data reflect that Bennington County is an outlier within the state as it pertains to the distribution of reported criminal offenses. As demonstrated in the data, the number one reported crime is simple assault while the number two reported offense is drug / narcotic violations. The town of Bennington, as the county's population center, plays a significant role in the reporting of the

county’s overall criminal offenses. While we cannot hypothesize why the town and county simple assault numbers are an outlier in the state, this fact should be of interest to law enforcement agencies and policymakers in the region.

Figure 5. Bennington County’s Top Five Offenses

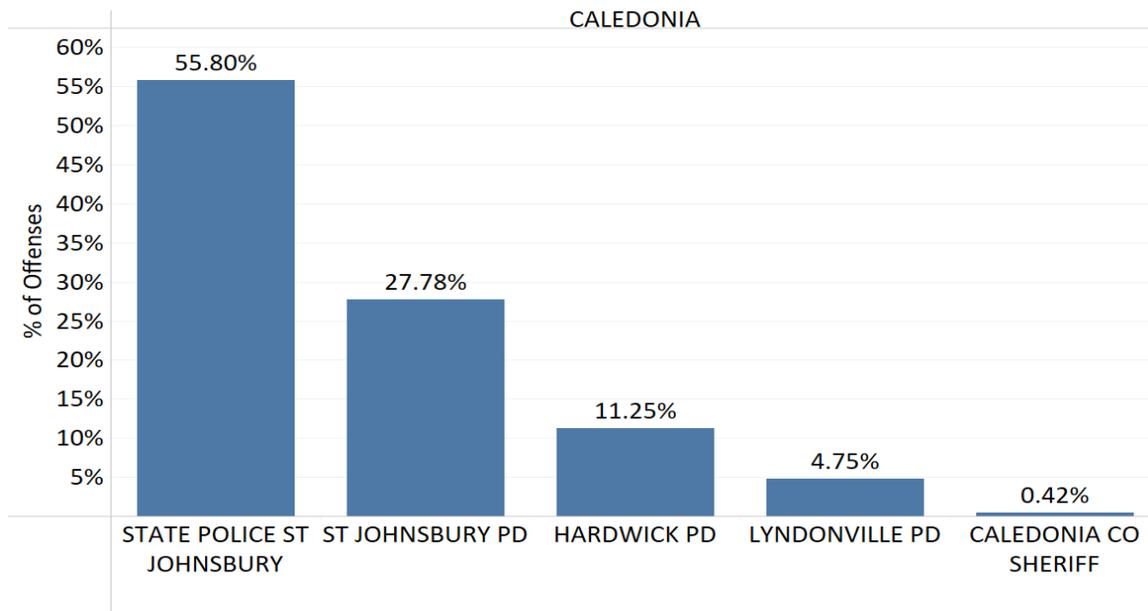


Simple Assault	1,200	14.24%
Drug / Narcotic Violations	1,088	12.91%
Destruction / Vandalism	1,047	12.42%
All Other Larceny	1,015	12.04%
Shoplifting	843	10.00%
Burglary / Breaking & Entering	654	7.76%
False Pretenses / Con Game	533	6.32%
Theft From Building	401	4.76%
Theft From Motor Vehicle	370	4.39%
Aggravated Assault	277	3.29%

Caledonia County

Caledonia County, along with Essex and Orleans Counties, comprise some of the most rural areas of Vermont and are known collectively as the Northeast Kingdom. Similar to the dynamic exhibited in other rural counties, Caledonia is served to a large extent by VSP St. Johnsbury barracks and is further served by the following municipal law enforcement agencies: St. Johnsbury Police Department, Hardwick Police Department, and Lyndonville Police Department, as well as the Caledonia County Sheriff. As reflected in Figure 6 below, more than half of the county’s offenses are reported by VSP St. Johnsbury (55.80%), while St. Johnsbury Police Department, which serves the county’s largest community, accounts for 27.78% of the county’s reported offenses.

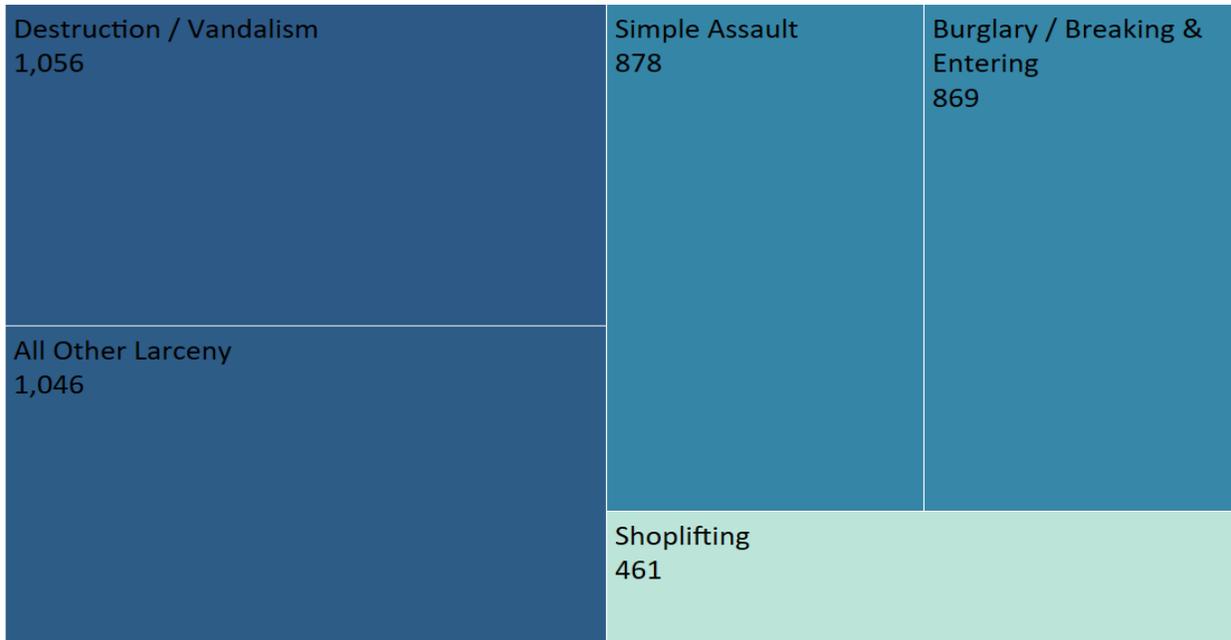
Figure 6. Caledonia County Offenses by Reporting Agency



A total of 6,711 offenses were reported by law enforcement agencies serving Caledonia County. Figure 7 below reflects that the top five offenses reported by Caledonia County agencies include: destruction/ vandalism (1,056 / 15.74%), all other larceny (1,046 / 15.59%), simple assault (878 / 13.08%), burglary / breaking & entering (869 / 12.95%), and shoplifting (461 / 6.87%). These five offenses accounted for 64.22% of all offenses reported by Caledonia County law enforcement. Additionally, though burglary/breaking & entering is the fourth most common offense, it plays an

outsized role within the county, especially when compared to the statewide rate of 8.27%, possibly due to the dearth of police resources in the county’s lightly populated areas.

Figure 7. Caledonia County’s Top Five Offenses

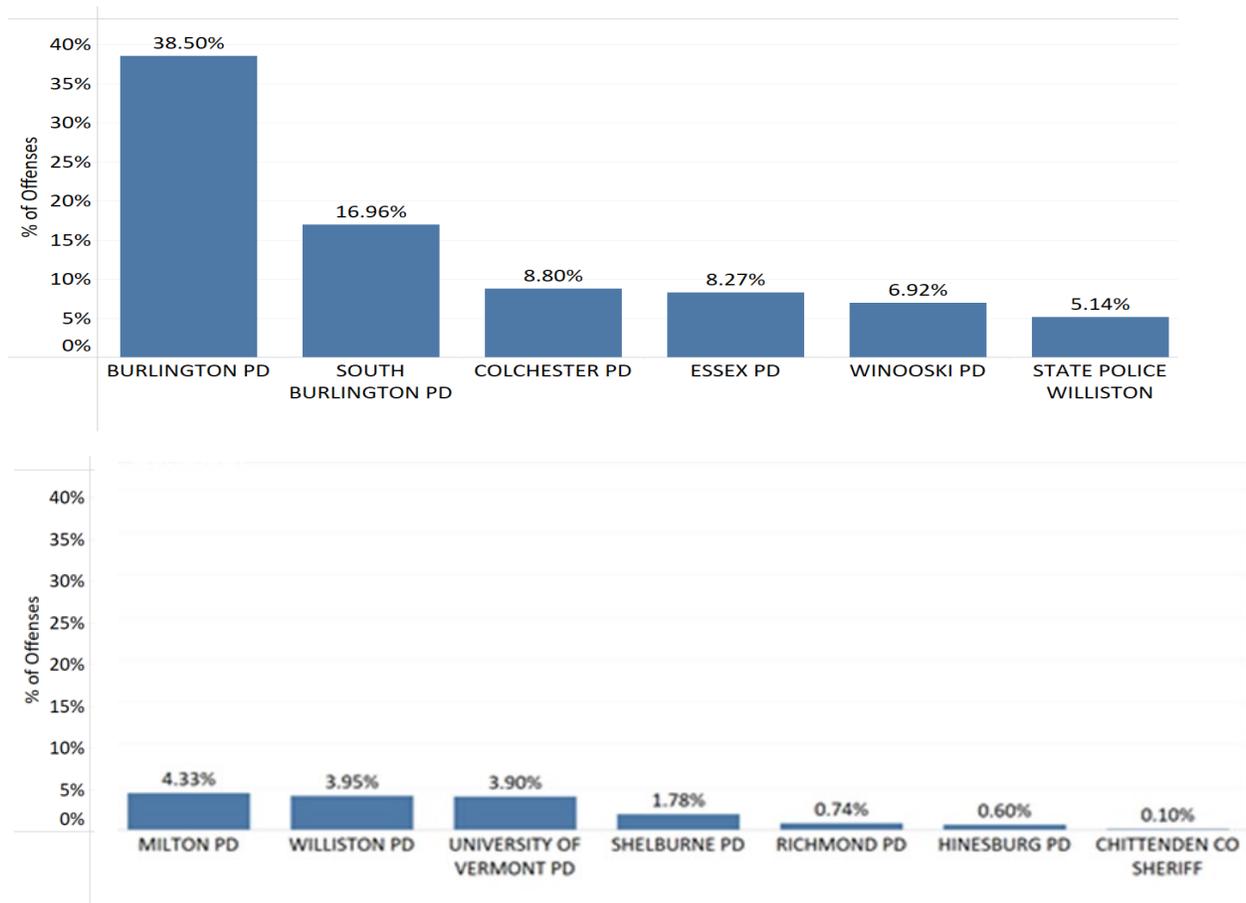


CALEDONIA	Offense	Count	Percentage
	Destruction / Vandalism	1,056	15.74%
	All Other Larceny	1,046	15.59%
	Simple Assault	878	13.08%
	Burglary / Breaking & Entering	869	12.95%
	Shoplifting	461	6.87%
	Drug / Narcotic Violations	379	5.65%
	Theft From Motor Vehicle	297	4.43%
	Aggravated Assault	264	3.93%
	False Pretenses / Con Game	248	3.70%
	Theft From Building	239	3.56%

Chittenden County

Included in Chittenden County is the urbanized area (UA) core of Burlington-South Burlington, Vermont’s only Metropolitan Statistical Area,¹ therefore, the data will reflect criminal offenses related to densely populated and commercially vibrant spaces. Offenses reported to Burlington Police Department, serving the state’s largest municipality by far, account for 38.50% of Chittenden County’s total reported offenses, followed by South Burlington Police Department at 16.96%. The three municipal law enforcement agencies serving Colchester, Essex, and Winooski combined account for nearly one-quarter of the county’s reported offenses, while the remaining eight agencies (including VSP at 5.14%) respond to a combined 20.54% of Chittenden County’s total offenses. (See Figure 8).

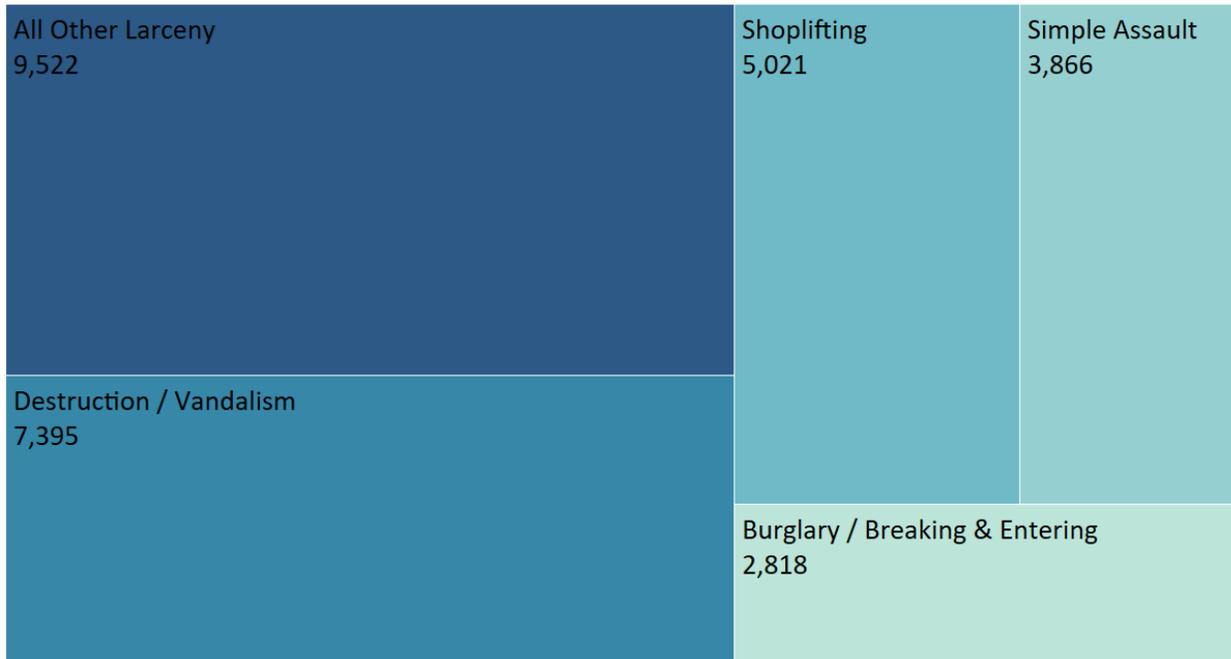
Figure 8. Chittenden County Offenses by Reporting Agency



¹ [Metropolitan Statistical Areas have at least one urbanized area of 50,000 or more population, plus adjacent territory that has a high degree of social and economic integration with the core as measured by commuting ties. OMB BULLETIN NO. 20-01, March 6, 2020](#)

A total of 41,831 offenses were reported by law enforcement agencies serving Chittenden County. As seen in Figure 9 below, the top five offenses reported to Chittenden County agencies include: all other larceny (9,522 / 22.77%), destruction/ vandalism (7,395 / 17.69%), shoplifting (5,021 / 12.01%), simple assault (3,866 / 9.25%), and burglary/breaking and entering (2,818 / 6.74%). These five offenses accounted for 68.45% of all offenses reported by Chittenden County law enforcement. In fact, the state’s data for all other larceny and shoplifting are to a degree driven by Chittenden County’s numbers. To that point, Vermont’s statewide data show that 26.90% of all offenses are made up of all other larceny and shoplifting combined, while Chittenden County’s data reflect that 34.78% of its activity is attributable to all other larceny and shoplifting.

Figure 9. Chittenden County’s Top Five Offenses

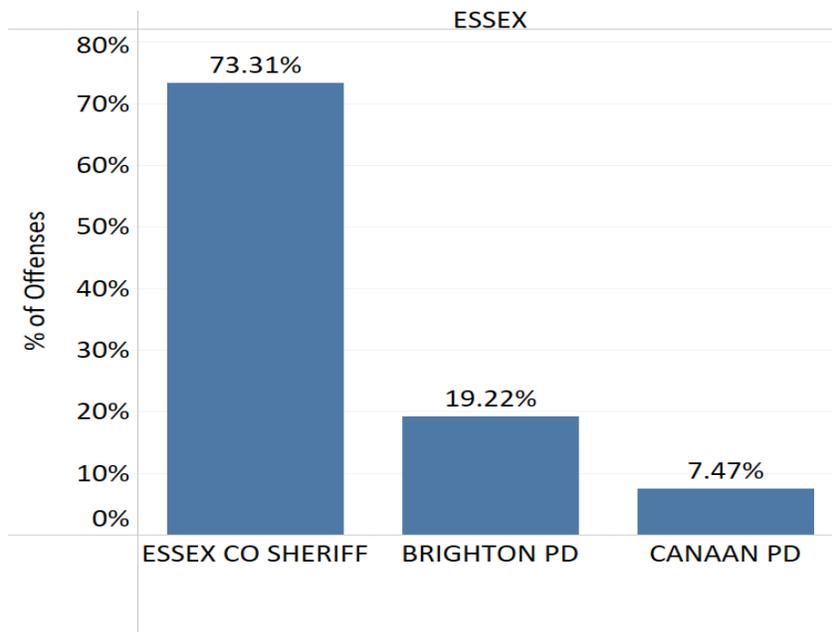


CHITTENDEN	Offense Category	Count	Percentage
	All Other Larceny	9,522	22.77%
	Destruction / Vandalism	7,395	17.69%
	Shoplifting	5,021	12.01%
	Simple Assault	3,866	9.25%
	Burglary / Breaking & Entering	2,818	6.74%
	Theft From Motor Vehicle	2,646	6.33%
	Drug / Narcotic Violations	2,068	4.95%
	False Pretenses / Con Game	1,472	3.52%
	Aggravated Assault	1,316	3.15%

Essex County

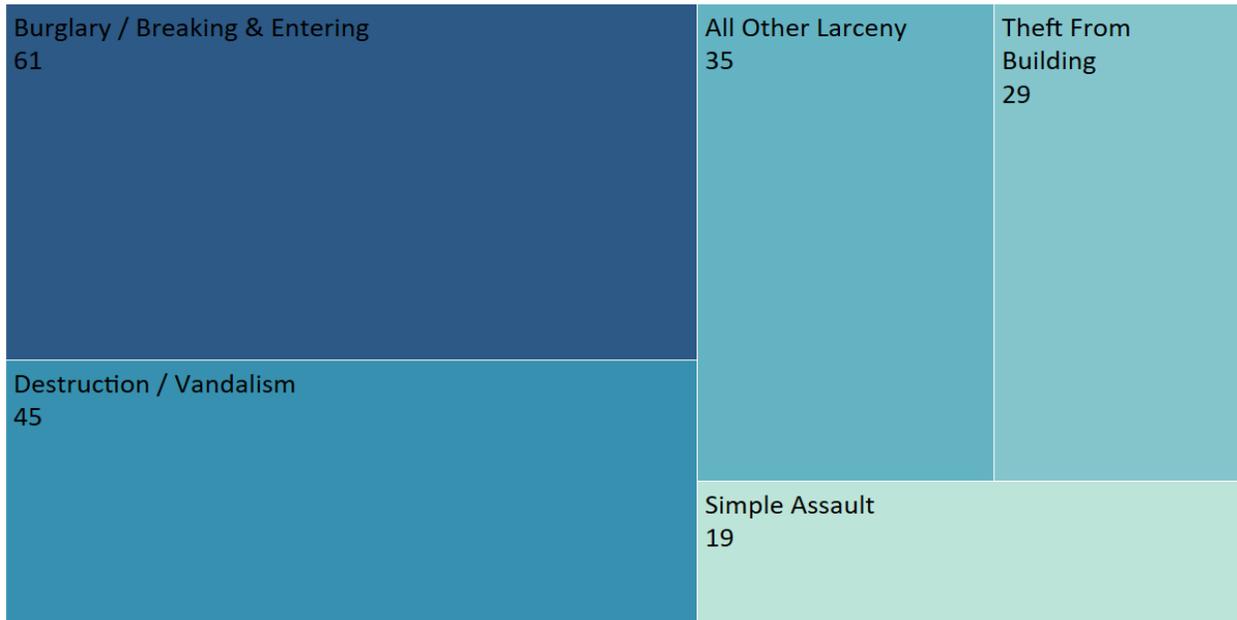
Essex County rests in the Northeast Kingdom of the state and its small dataset reflects both a lack of law enforcement coverage and the low-reported offense numbers of a sparsely populated area. It is the least populated county in Vermont and likewise has the lowest population density of all counties in the state. Compared with counties with greater population density and with the state's overall numbers, Essex County is served by the Vermont State Police (VSP), the Essex County Sheriff, Brighton Police Department, and Canaan Police Department. Essex County is covered by VSP Derby and VSP St. Johnsbury, both located outside of the county, and because town of incident is not captured in NIBRS data there is no way to determine their response rate. Given that fact, the data do demonstrate that, as a rural county with no substantive communities, nearly three-quarters of the county's offenses are responded to by Essex County Sheriff at 73.31%. (Figure 10).

Figure 10. Essex County Offenses by Reporting Agency



Though only 281 total offenses were reported to Essex County's law enforcement agencies, the data demonstrate an overall prevalence of burglary/breaking & entering, the top offense, (61 / 21.71%), Destruction/Vandalism (45 / 16.01%), and Theft from Buildings (29 / 10.32%). These crimes, though small in number, appear to be endemic to rural areas of the state. The other two top five offenses are all other larceny (35 / 12.46%), and simple assault (19 / 6.76%). These five top offenses account for 67.26% of Essex County's total reported offenses.

Figure 11. Essex County's Top Five Offenses

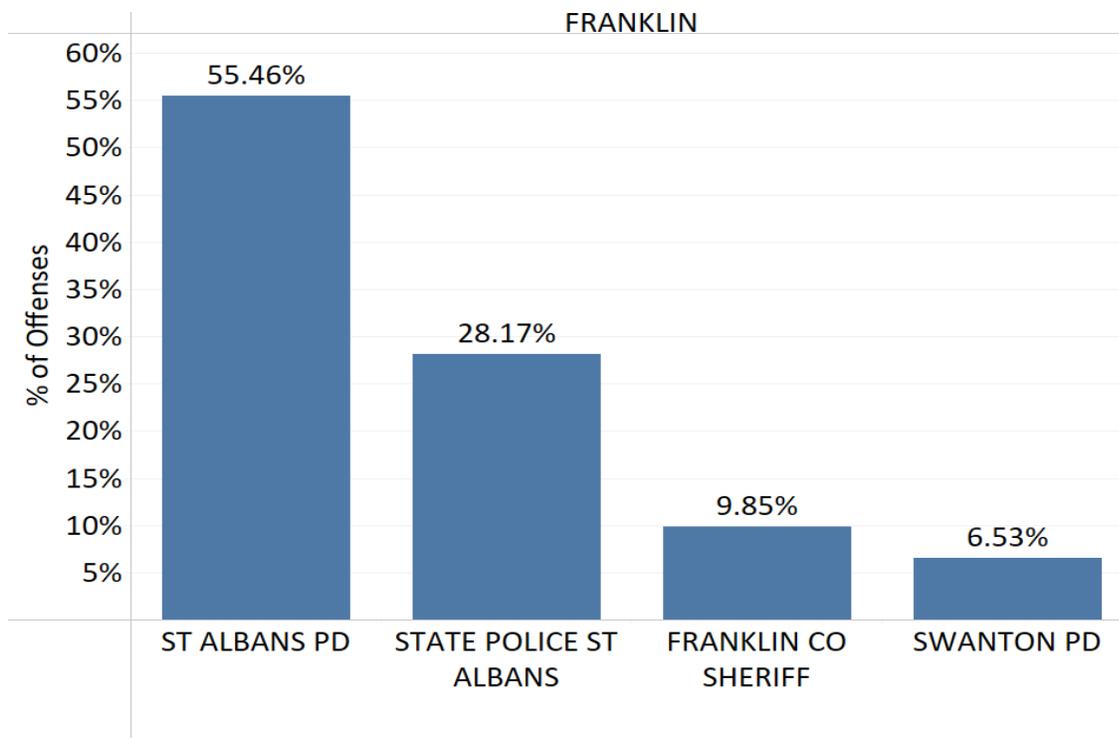


ESSEX	Burglary / Breaking & Entering	61	21.71%
	Destruction / Vandalism	45	16.01%
	All Other Larceny	35	12.46%
	Theft From Building	29	10.32%
	Simple Assault	19	6.76%
	False Pretenses / Con Game	16	5.69%
	Theft From Motor Vehicle	11	3.91%
	Drug / Narcotic Violations	10	3.56%
	Intimidation	10	3.56%
	Fondling	8	2.85%

Franklin County

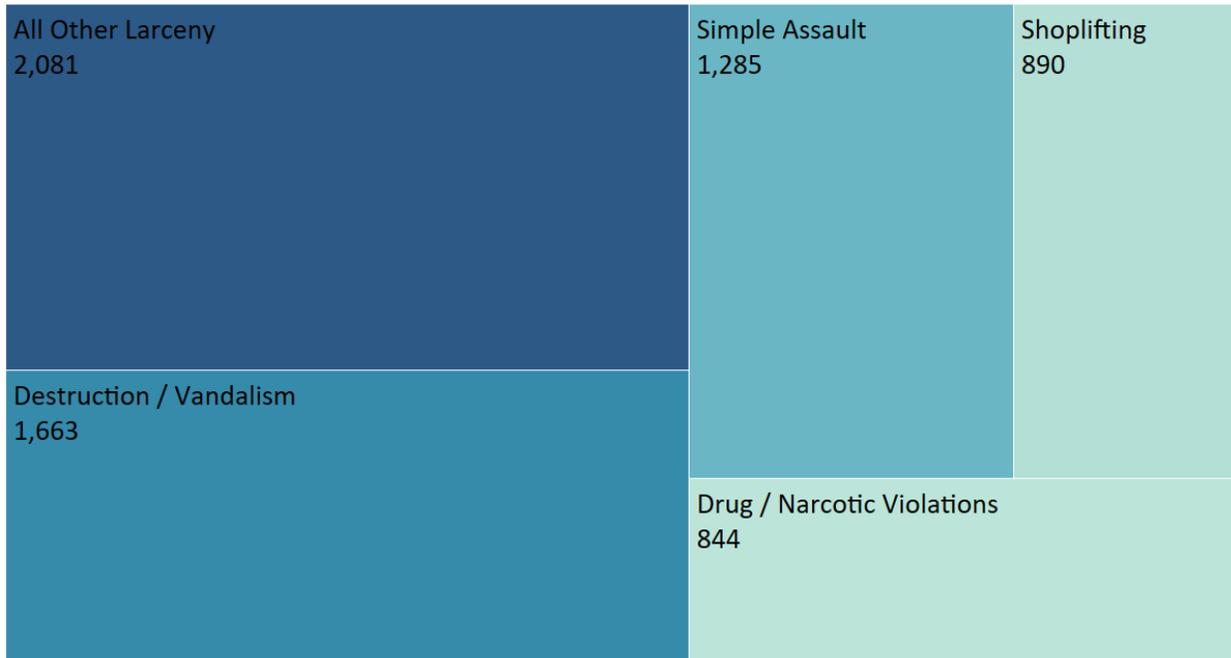
Though Franklin County is technically part of Vermont’s Metropolitan Statistical Area, it is a relatively rural county and includes the City of St. Albans, from which the reported offenses drive the numbers for the county. This dynamic is evidenced by the fact that more than half of the offenses reported to the county’s law enforcement agencies are responded to by St. Albans Police Department (55.46%), followed by VSP at 28.17%, with the Franklin County Sheriff (9.85%) and Swanton Police Department (6.53%) rounding out the four agencies serving the county. (Figure 12 below.)

Figure 12. Franklin County Offenses by Reporting Agency



Franklin County’s data closely reflect the statewide distribution for all other larceny (2,081 / 19.91% within the county), and Destruction/Vandalism offenses (1,663 / 15.91%), the data reflect that for Simple Assault 1,245 / 12.29%), Shoplifting (890 / 8.52%), and Drug/Narcotic Violations (844 / 8.08%). Of the county’s 10,452 total offenses, those for simple assault, shoplifting, and drug/narcotic violations are overwhelmingly reported by St. Albans Police Department as compared to other law enforcement agencies, further demonstrating the outsized role of the agency serving the largest municipality in an otherwise somewhat rural county.

Figure 13. Franklin County's Top Five Offenses

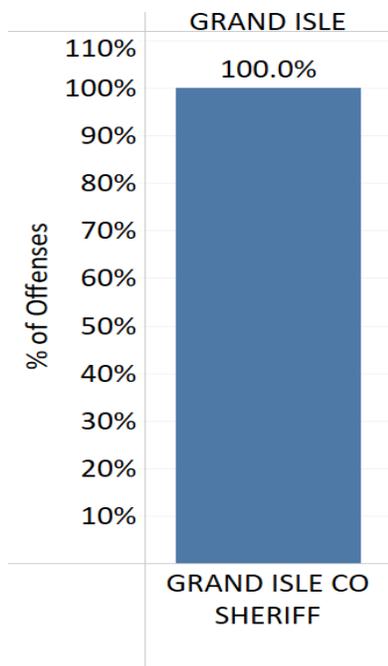


FRANKLIN	Offense	Count	Percentage
	All Other Larceny	2,081	19.91%
	Destruction / Vandalism	1,663	15.91%
	Simple Assault	1,285	12.29%
	Shoplifting	890	8.52%
	Drug / Narcotic Violations	844	8.08%
	Burglary / Breaking & Entering	743	7.11%
	False Pretenses / Con Game	431	4.12%
	Theft From Motor Vehicle	420	4.02%
	Aggravated Assault	388	3.71%
	Intimidation	340	3.25%

Grand Isle County

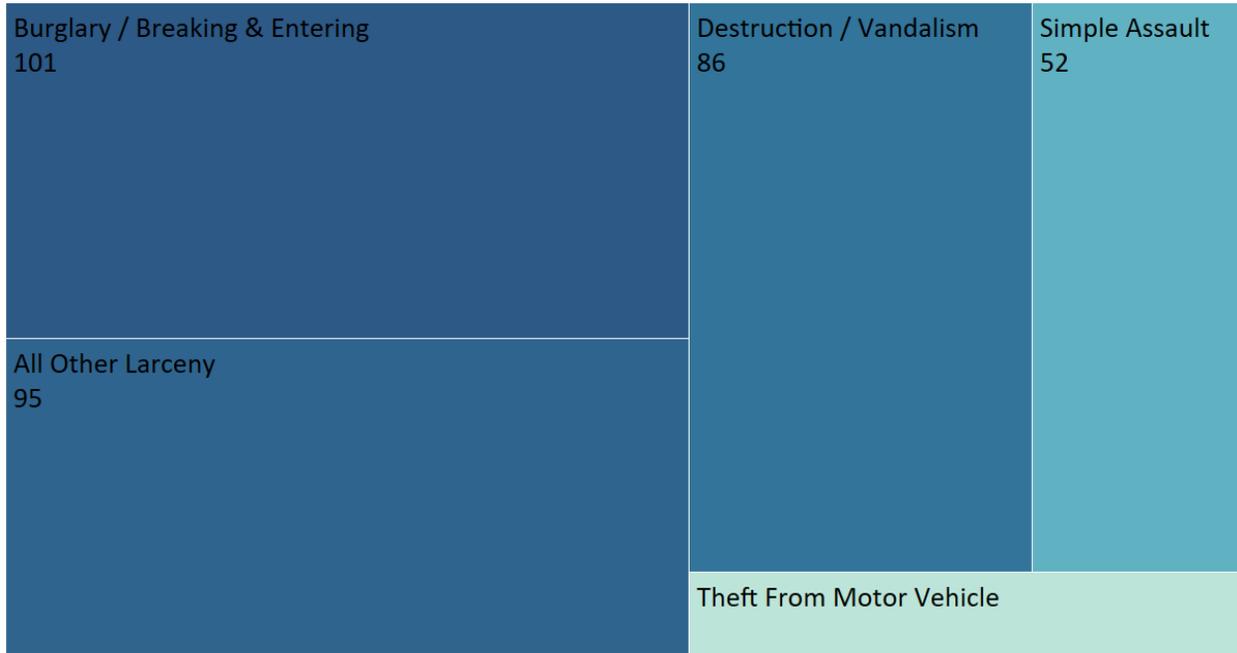
The extremely rural nature of Grand Isle County, its low population (second least populous county), and low population density (also second lowest in Vermont) demonstrates similar patterns to Essex County, especially with its small numbers of reported offenses and the prevalence of the crimes endemic to an area with few law enforcement resources. While all NIBRS data for Grand Isle are accounted for in the Grand Isle Sheriff's Department, it should be noted that VSP responds to offenses in the county, but because town of incident is not captured in NIBRS data, VSP level of activity cannot be determined.

Figure 14. Grand Isle County Offenses by Reporting Agency



Of the 501 offenses reported within Grand Isle County, Figure 15 below demonstrates that of the top five crimes, burglary / breaking & entering is the top offense (101 / 20.16%), followed by all other larceny (95 / 18.96%), destruction / vandalism (86 / 17.17%), and simple assault (52 / 10.38%). These four offenses account for two-thirds of all Grand Isle County offenses (66.67%), and when theft from motor vehicle (20 / 3.99%) is included, the top five offenses account for 70.66% of reported crimes. As with rural Essex County, the rate of burglary / breaking & entering is well above the statewide rate of 8.27%.

Figure 15. Grand Isle County's Top Five Offenses

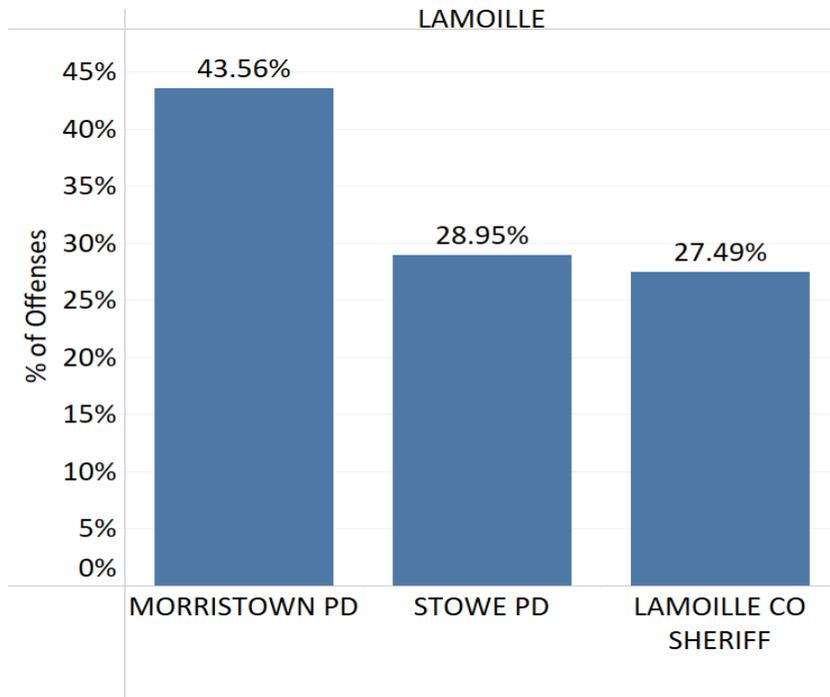


GRAND ISLE	Burglary / Breaking & Entering	101	20.16%
	All Other Larceny	95	18.96%
	Destruction / Vandalism	86	17.17%
	Simple Assault	52	10.38%
	Theft From Motor Vehicle	20	3.99%
	Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts	19	3.79%
	Drug / Narcotic Violations	17	3.39%
	Shoplifting	15	2.99%
	Aggravated Assault	15	2.99%
	Theft From Building	13	2.59%

Lamoille County

Lamoille County is a geographically isolated area with two population centers in Stowe and the Morrystown/Morrisville region. Lamoille County is the third least populous Vermont county but reflects an average population density and follows similar offense patterns to the state as a whole. It is served by Morrystown Police Department (43.56%), Stowe Police Department (28.95%), the Lamoille County Sheriff (27.49%), and VSP which has no barracks in the county, and therefore, the VSP reports cannot be determined for Lamoille County. As with Essex and Grand Isle Counties, data may be impacted by the fact that VSP is responding to some calls for service.

Figure 18. Lamoille County Offenses by Reporting Agency



A total of 3,005 offenses reported by law enforcement agencies serving Lamoille County. Figure 17 below reflects that the top five offenses reported within the county include: all other larceny (785 / 26.12%), destruction/ vandalism (490 / 16.31%), simple assault (404 / 13.44%), drug / narcotic violations (270 / 8.99%), and shoplifting (207 / 6.89%). These five offenses accounted for 71.75% of all offenses reported to Lamoille County law enforcement.

Figure 17. Lamoille County's Top Five Offenses

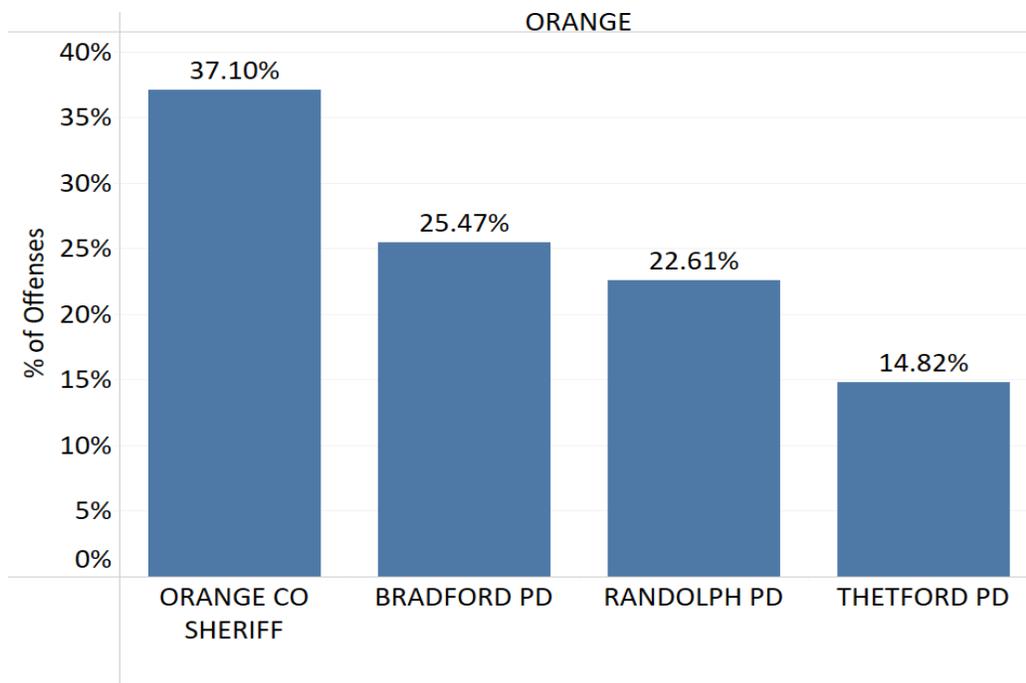


Offense	Count	Percentage
LAMOILLE All Other Larceny	785	26.12%
Destruction / Vandalism	490	16.31%
Simple Assault	404	13.44%
Drug / Narcotic Violations	270	8.99%
Shoplifting	207	6.89%
Theft From Motor Vehicle	128	4.26%
Burglary / Breaking & Entering	128	4.26%
Aggravated Assault	108	3.59%
False Pretenses / Con Game	90	3.00%
Credit Card / ATM Fraud	59	1.96%

Orange County

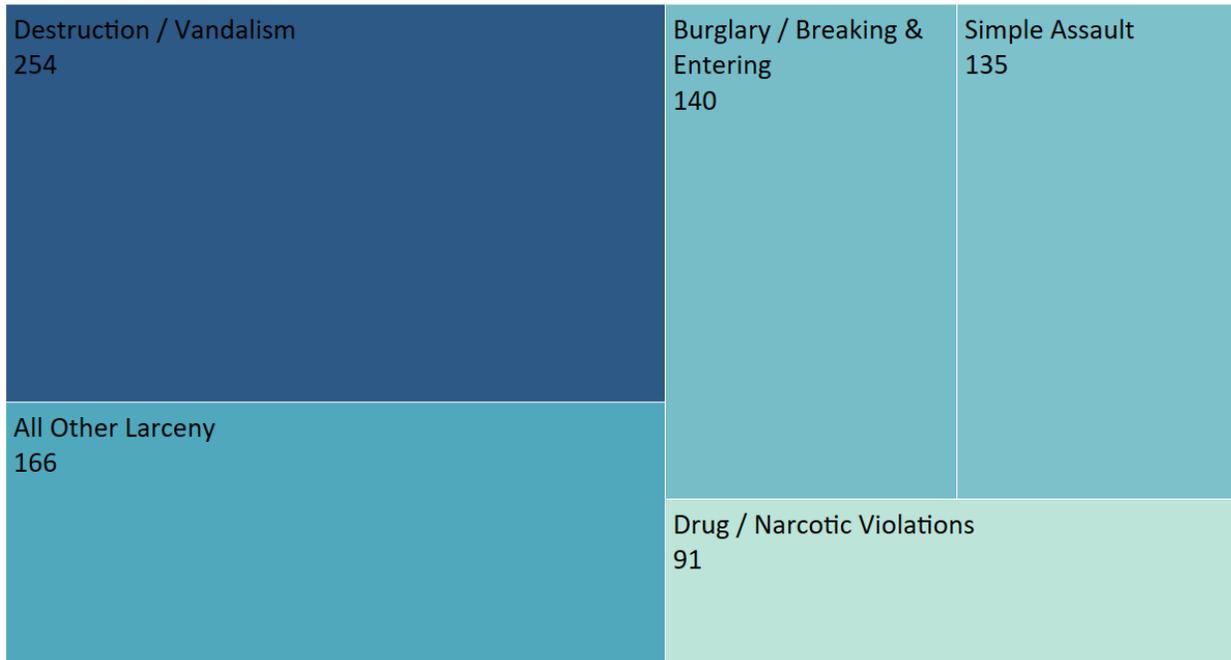
Orange County is a lightly populated region served by several small police departments, as well as the VSP (which does not appear in the data include in Figure 18), and its rural nature is reflected in the Orange County's Sheriff's accounting for 37.10% of the county's total reported offenses. The county's small municipal law enforcement agencies account for the remaining reported offenses at: Bradford Police Department (25.47%), Randolph Police Department (22.61%), and Thetford Police Department (14.82%).

Figure 18. Orange County Offenses by Reporting Agency



Orange County's relatively small number of reported offenses (1,306) reflect a similar distribution of criminal activity to other less populated, rural counties like Essex and Grand Isle Counties. Destruction/vandalism (254 / 19.46%) and burglary / breaking & entering (140 / 10.73%), which collectively account for 30.19% of the total offenses, while all other larceny (166 / 12.72%), simple assault offenses (135 / 10.34%, and drug / narcotic violations (91 / 6.97%) round out the top five offenses within the county, which collectively equal 60.23% of Orange County's reported offenses during the study period (Figure 19 below).

Figure 19. Orange County’s Top Five Offenses

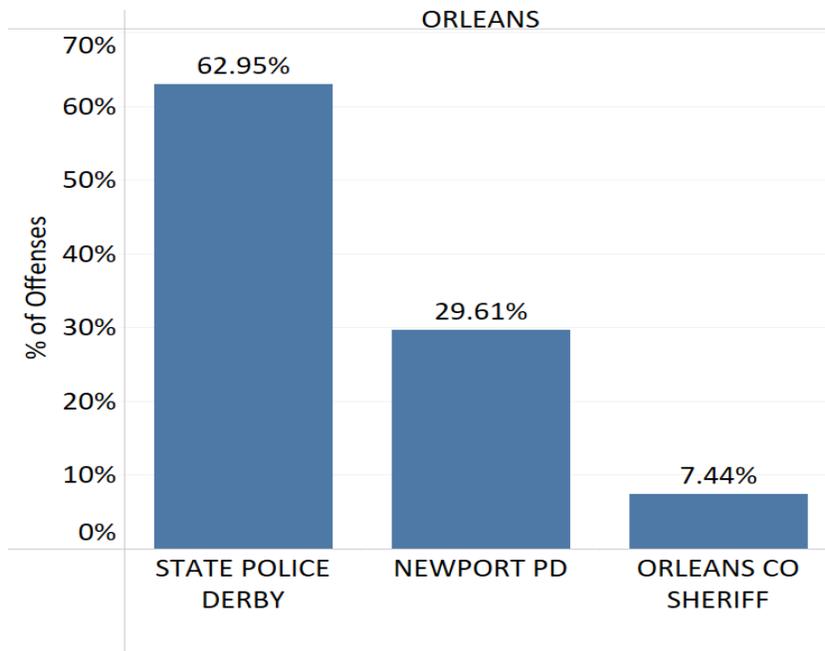


ORANGE	Offense	Count	Percentage
	Destruction / Vandalism	254	19.46%
	All Other Larceny	166	12.72%
	Burglary / Breaking & Entering	140	10.73%
	Simple Assault	135	10.34%
	Drug / Narcotic Violations	91	6.97%
	Theft From Motor Vehicle	77	5.90%
	Theft From Building	65	4.98%
	Drug Equipment Violations	52	3.98%
	Intimidation	51	3.91%
	False Pretenses / Con Game	50	3.83%

Orleans County

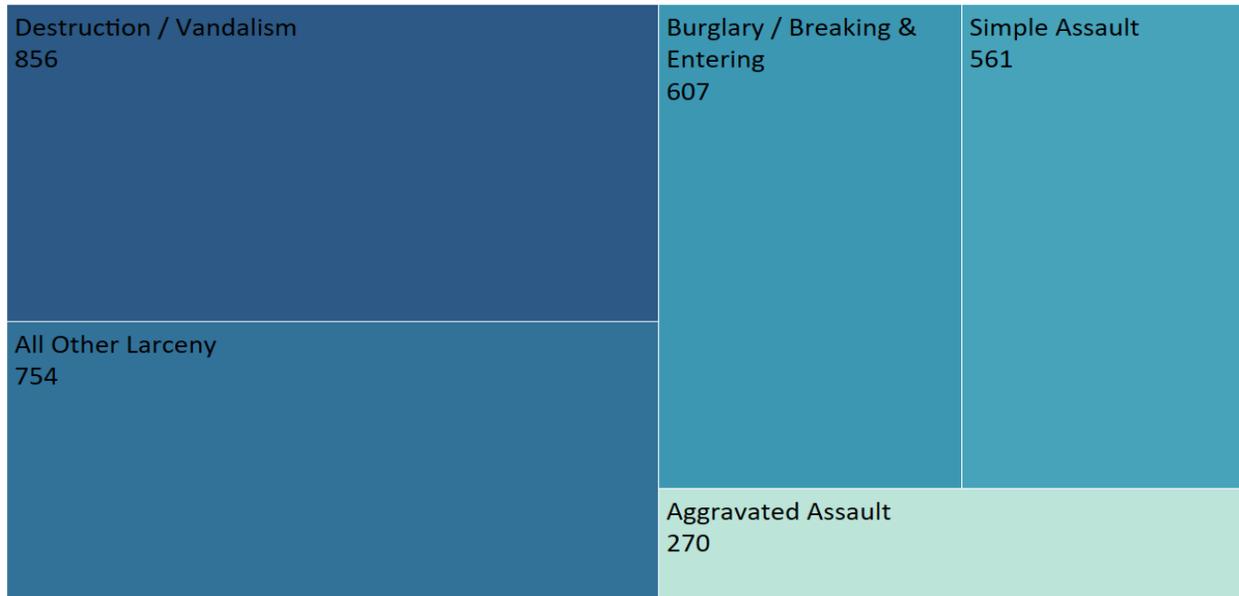
Orleans County, the third “member” of the rural Northeast Kingdom, (along with Essex and Caledonia Counties), is the fourth least populous Vermont county and third least densely populated. As evidenced by Figure 20 below, it is served predominantly by Vermont State Police (VSP), which responded to 62.95% of the county’s reported offenses, the Orleans County Sheriff (7.44%), and the City of Newport’s municipal police department, which, as the agency serving the Orleans County’s largest population center, accounts for 29.61% of the county’s crime response

Figure 20. Orleans County Offenses by Reporting Agency



While the two most common offenses, destruction/vandalism (856 / 19.71%) and all other larceny (754 / 17.37%) align with overall state numbers, Orleans County’s reports of burglary/breaking & entering, the third most common crime at 13.98%, is well above Vermont’s overall rate for burglary/breaking & entering, which sits at 8.27%. Simple assault (561 / 12.92%) and aggravated assault (270 / 6.22%) round out the top five most common offenses. Figure 21 below shows that the five most common crimes accounted for 70.20% of all offenses demonstrating the role Orleans County’s rural nature plays in its distribution of reported crimes, as does its relatively small number of total offenses (4,343).

Figure 21. Orleans County's Top Five Offenses



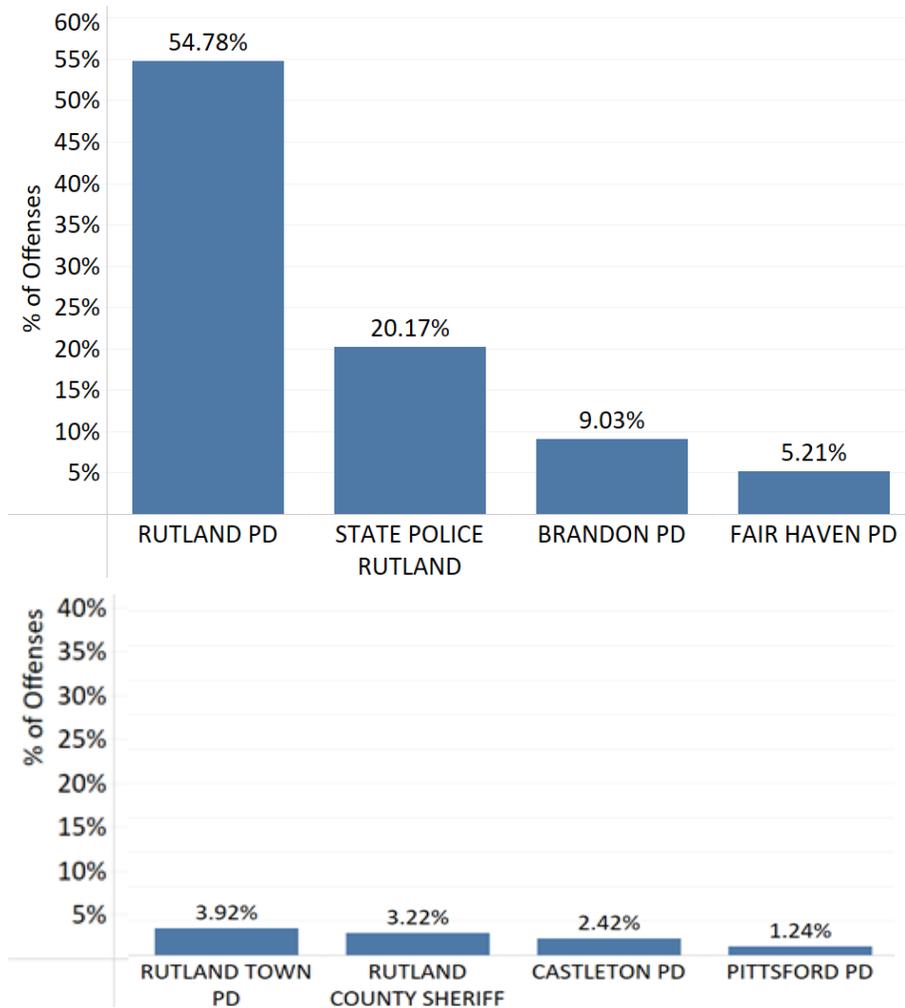
ORLEANS	Offense	Count	Percentage
	Destruction / Vandalism	856	19.71%
	All Other Larceny	754	17.37%
	Burglary / Breaking & Entering	607	13.98%
	Simple Assault	561	12.92%
	Aggravated Assault	270	6.22%
	Drug / Narcotic Violations	212	4.88%
	Theft From Motor Vehicle	192	4.42%
	Shoplifting	191	4.40%
	Theft From Building	120	2.76%
	Motor Vehicle Theft	108	2.49%

Rutland County

Rutland County is home to nine law enforcement agencies, with Rutland City Police Department reporting on 54.78% of the county's total offenses and VSP Rutland reporting on 20.17%.

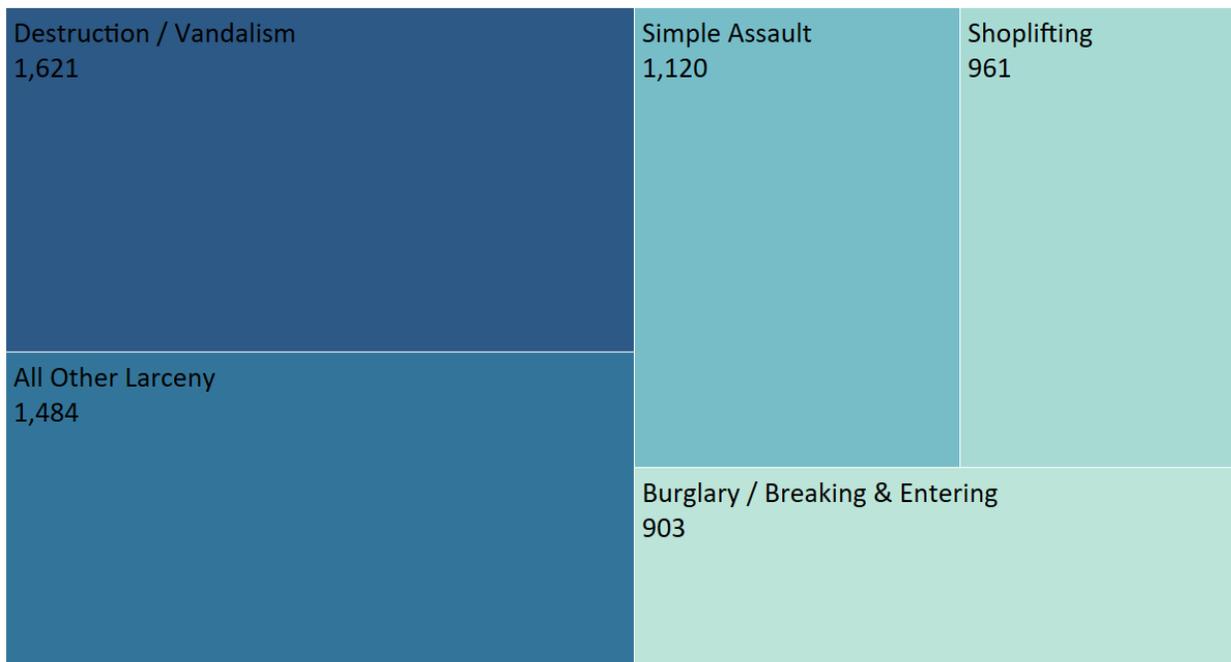
Combined, those two agencies account for 74.96%, or nearly three-quarters, of all reported criminal activity within Rutland County, followed by Brandon Police Department, which responded to 9.03% and Fair Haven Police Department at 5.21%. The county's remaining four agencies responded to a combined 10.80% of its reported offenses.

Figure 22. Rutland County Offenses by Reporting Agency



Rutland County, with the fourth highest county population and the fourth most densely populated county, closely reflects the overall statewide characteristics and distribution of reported crime. Of its 10,073 offenses reported to law enforcement agencies serving Rutland County, the top five offenses in Figure 23 below represent 60.45% of the total reported crimes in the county over the study period. These include destruction/ vandalism (1,621 / 16.09%), all other larceny (1,484 / 14.73%), simple assault (1,120 / 11.12%), shoplifting (961 / 9.64%), and burglary/breaking and entering (903 / 8.96%).

Figure 23. Rutland County’s Top Five Offenses

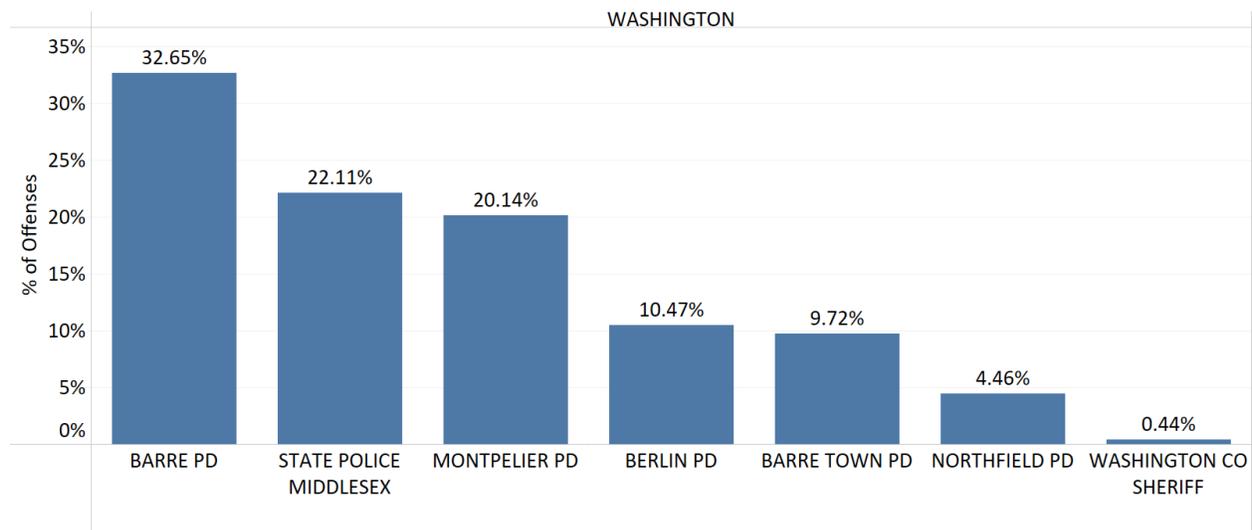


RUTLAND	Offense	Count	Percentage
	Destruction / Vandalism	1,621	16.09%
	All Other Larceny	1,484	14.73%
	Simple Assault	1,120	11.12%
	Shoplifting	961	9.54%
	Burglary / Breaking & Entering	903	8.96%
	Theft From Motor Vehicle	662	6.57%
	Drug / Narcotic Violations	538	5.34%
	Theft From Building	495	4.91%
	Aggravated Assault	495	4.91%
	False Pretenses / Con Game	334	3.32%

Washington County

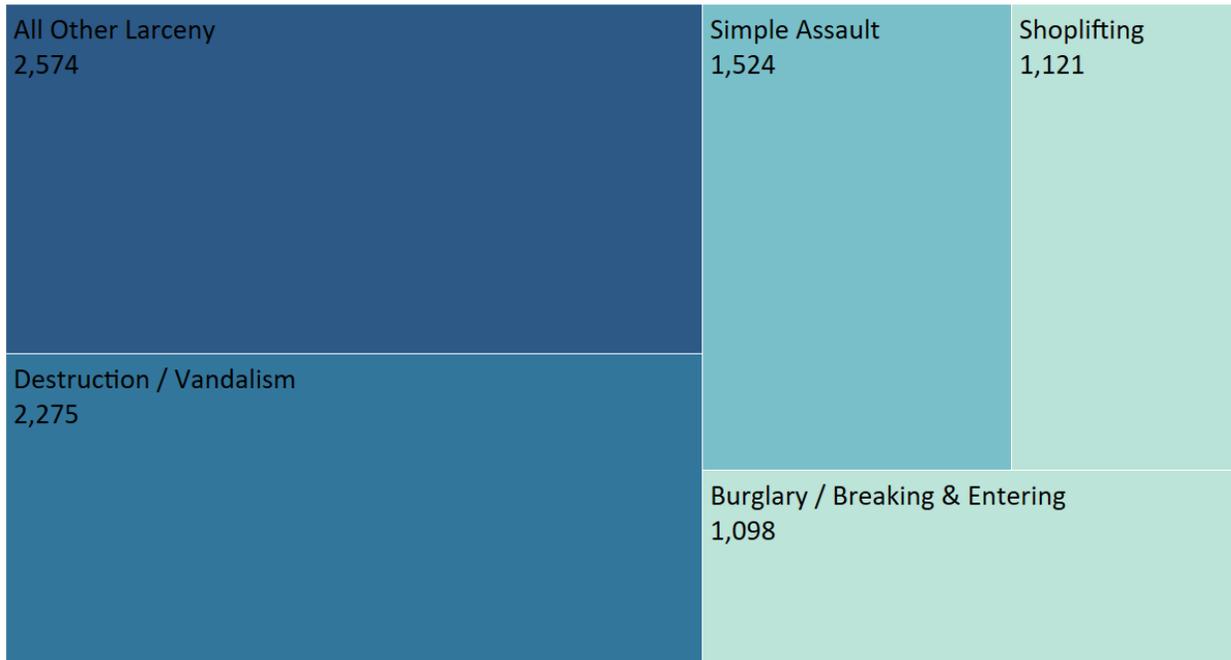
Washington County is served by five municipal law enforcement agencies: Barre City Police Department responds to 32.65% of the offenses, Montpelier Police Department to 20.14%, Berlin Police Department to 10.47%, Barre Town Police Department responds to 9.72%, and Northfield Police Department (4.46%). Additionally, it is more broadly served by VSP (22.11%) while the Washington County Sheriff plays a nominal role at 0.44%.

Figure 24. Washington County Offenses by Reporting Agency



Like both Chittenden and Rutland Counties, Washington County is somewhat reflective of Vermont’s overall reported criminal activity, offense trends, and distribution. As demonstrated in Figure 25 below, the top five offenses reported to Washington County agencies include: all other larceny (2,574 / 19.86%), destruction/ vandalism (2,275 / 17.55%), simple assault (1,524 / 11.76%), shoplifting (1,121 / 8.65%), and burglary/breaking and entering (1,098 / 8.47%). These five offenses accounted for 66.29% of all offenses responded to by Washington County law enforcement. It is important to note that Washington County NIBRS data include VSP Headquarters numbers which reflect 2,190 Drug/Narcotic Violations for this time period. These offenses are attributed to VSP barracks located in the town of Middlesex /Washington County but the reported offenses occurred throughout the state and were therefore removed from Washington County’s numbers.

Figure 25. Washington County's Top Five Offenses

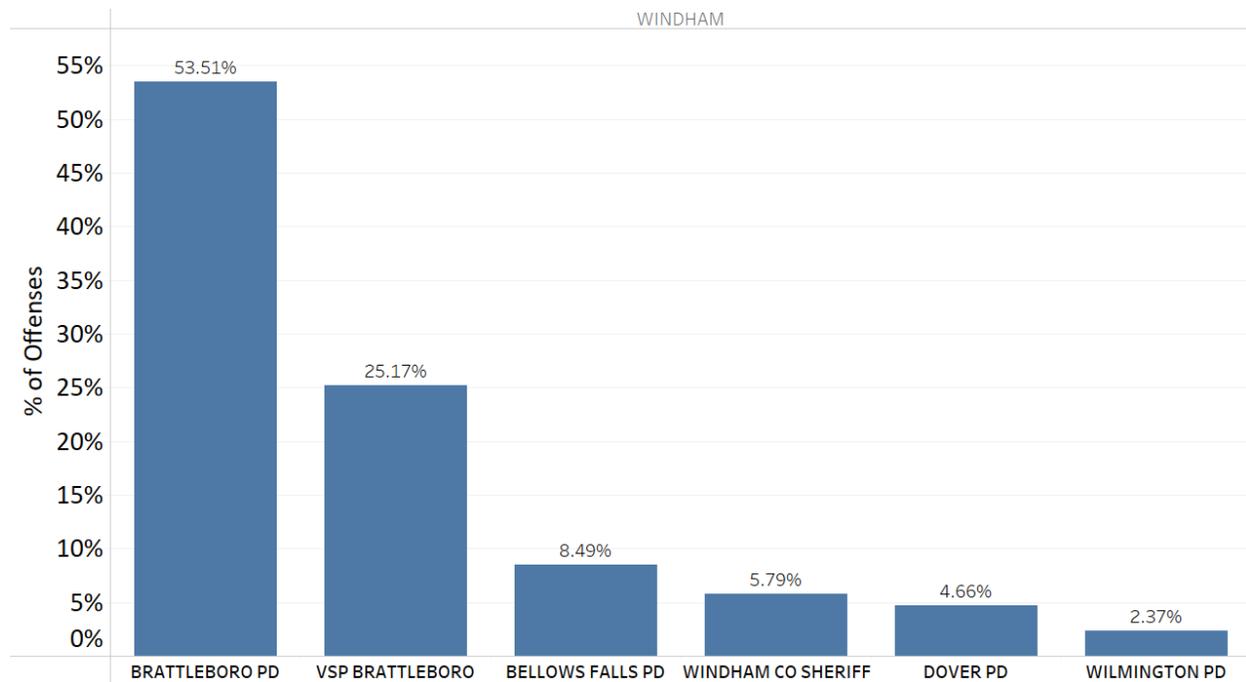


WASHINGTON	Offense	Count	Percentage
	All Other Larceny	2,574	19.86%
	Destruction / Vandalism	2,275	17.55%
	Simple Assault	1,524	11.76%
	Shoplifting	1,121	8.65%
	Burglary / Breaking & Entering	1,098	8.47%
	Theft From Motor Vehicle	636	4.91%
	False Pretenses / Con Game	611	4.71%
	Drug / Narcotic Violations	500	3.86%
	Aggravated Assault	452	3.49%
	Theft From Building	421	3.25%

Windham County

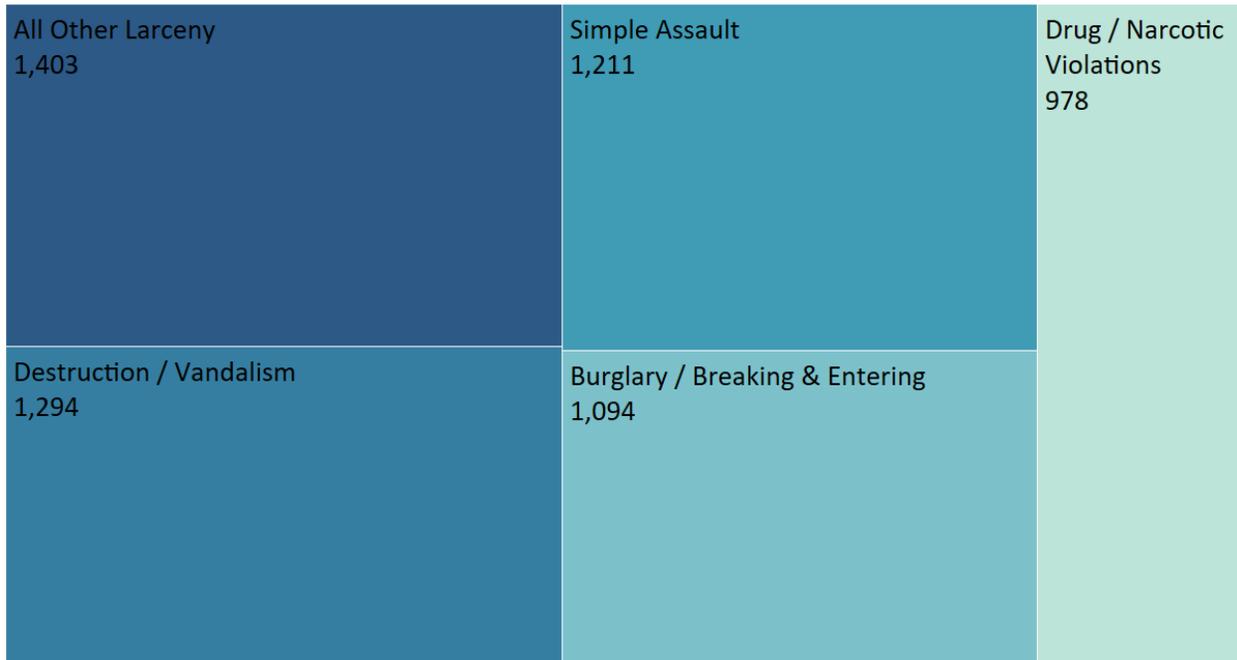
Like other counties served by a large municipal police department that also have a robust VSP presence, Windham County's data somewhat reflect the state's data as a whole. Brattleboro Police Department accounted for over half of the county's offense data at 53.51%, Windham County was served by VSP Brattleboro (25.17%) over the study period. Together, Brattleboro Police Department and VSP Brattleboro reports total 78.68% of all reported criminal activity, followed by Bellows Falls Police Department, (8.49%), Windham County Sheriff (5.79%), Dover Police Department (4.66%), and Wilmington Police Department (2.37%). (See Figure 26).

Figure 26. Windham County Offenses by Reporting Agency



A total of 10,489 offenses were reported to law enforcement agencies serving Windham County. Figure 27 below shows that the top five offenses reported by Windham County agencies include: all other larceny (1,403 / 13.38%), destruction/ vandalism (1,294 / 12.34%), simple assault (1,211 / 11.55%), burglary/breaking and entering (1,094 / 10.43%), and drug / narcotic violations (978 / 9.32%). These five offenses accounted for 57.02% of all offenses reported by Windham County law enforcement.

Figure 27. Windham County’s Top Five Offenses

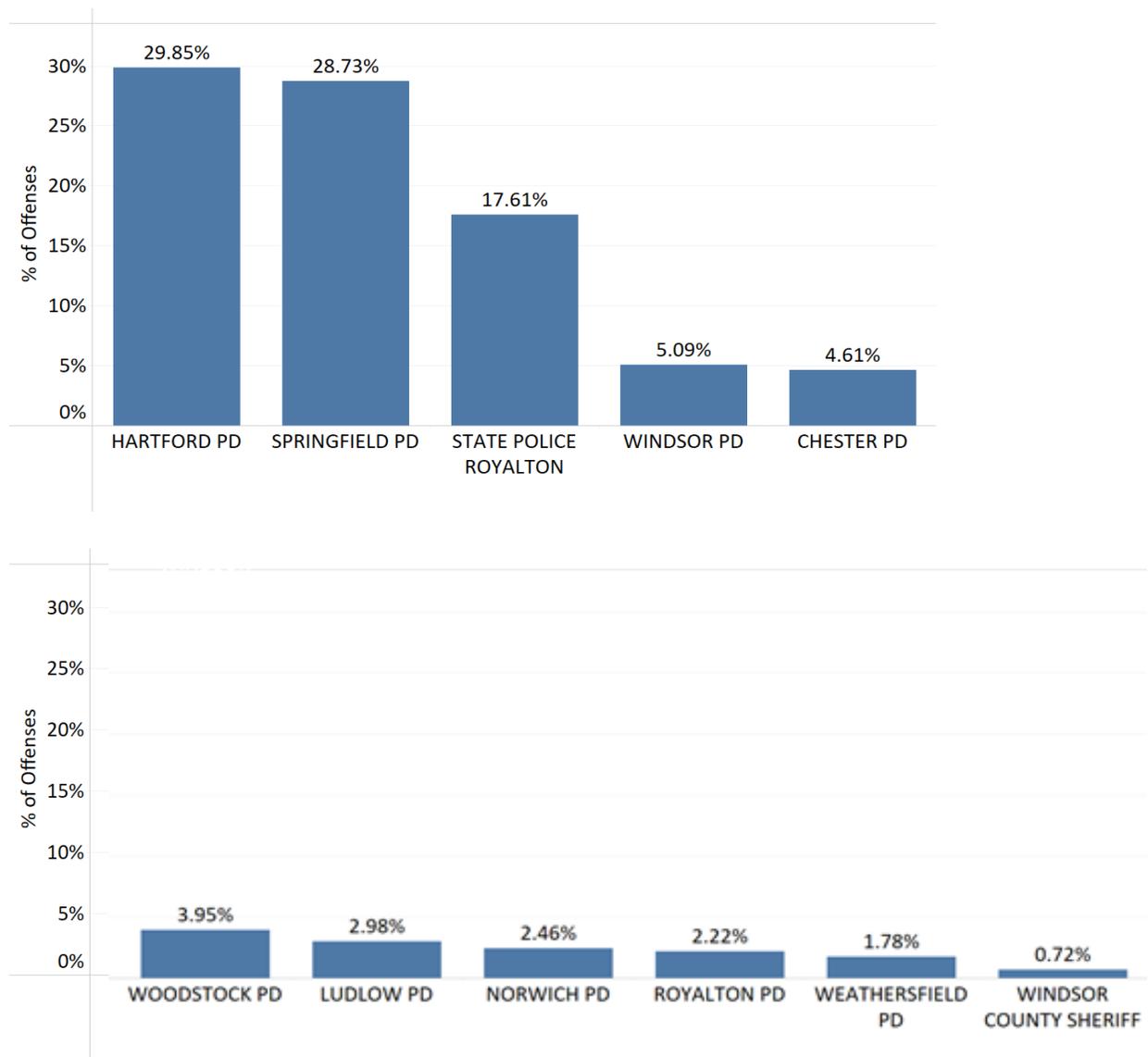


WINDHAM	All Other Larceny	1,403	13.38%
	Destruction / Vandalism	1,294	12.34%
	Simple Assault	1,211	11.55%
	Burglary / Breaking & Entering	1,094	10.43%
	Drug / Narcotic Violations	978	9.32%
	Theft From Motor Vehicle	834	7.95%
	Shoplifting	687	6.55%
	Theft From Building	629	6.00%
	False Pretenses / Con Game	422	4.02%
	Aggravated Assault	330	3.15%

Windsor County

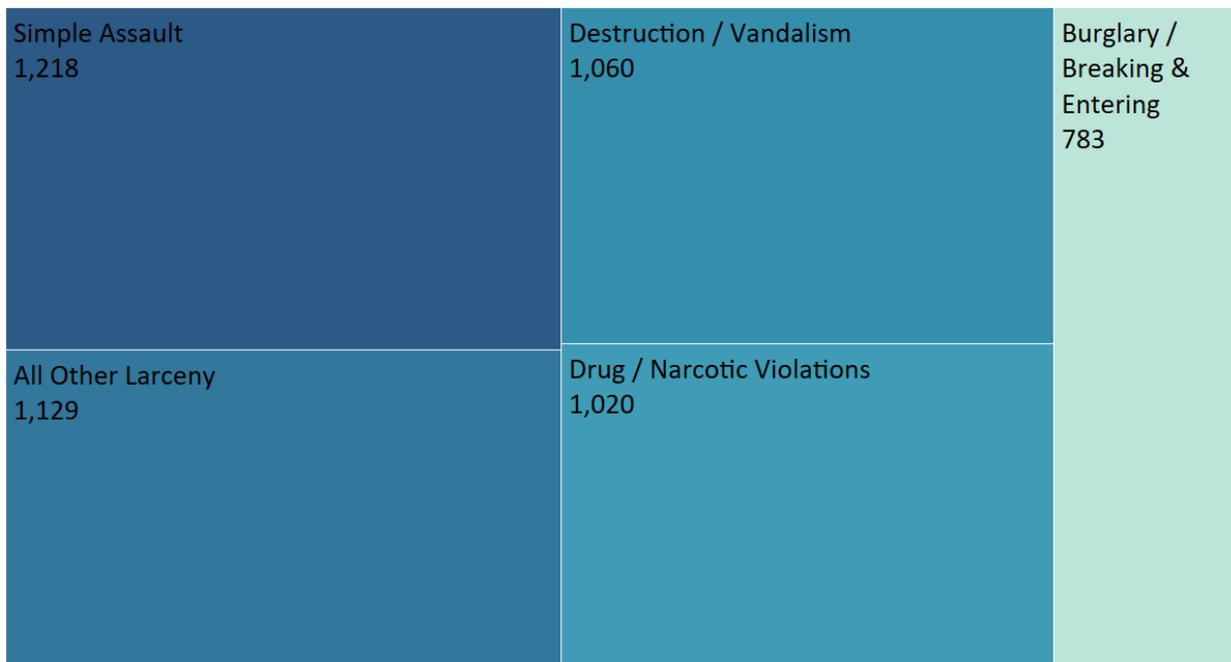
Windsor County is served by eleven law enforcement agencies, with Hartford Police Department (29.85%) and Springfield Police Department (28.73%) accounting for 58.58% of the county's total reported offenses. Additionally, VSP Royalton reported on 17.61% of Windsor County crimes during the study period, followed by Windsor Police Department (5.09%), Chester Police Department (4.61%), followed by the six remaining agencies which total 14.10% of the county's total offenses. (Figure 28 below).

Figure 28. Windsor County Offenses by Reporting Agency



A total of 8,659 offenses were reported to the eleven law enforcement agencies serving Windsor County, and similar to Bennington County, it appears to be an outlier in the state regarding the prevalence of simple assault crimes. Simple assault represents the largest number of offenses at 1,218, accounting for 14.07% of the all crimes. These are followed by: all other larceny (1,129 / 13.04%), destruction/ vandalism (1,060 / 12.24%), drug / narcotic violations (1,020 / 11.78%), and burglary/breaking and entering (783 / 9.04%). These five top offenses account for 60.18% of the county’s total offenses.

Figure 29. Windsor County’s Top Five Offenses



WINDSOR Simple Assault	1,218	14.07%
All Other Larceny	1,129	13.04%
Destruction / Vandalism	1,060	12.24%
Drug / Narcotic Violations	1,020	11.78%
Burglary / Breaking & Entering	783	9.04%
Theft From Motor Vehicle	389	4.49%
Aggravated Assault	378	4.37%
Drug Equipment Violations	357	4.12%
Shoplifting	343	3.96%
False Pretenses / Con Game	341	3.94%

Conclusion

While much can be understood by analyzing the top five to ten offenses that occur statewide and within each county, further insights can be gained through the examination of the data as broken down by more rural versus less rural counties and by reviewing those offenses which appear as outliers when compared to the overall state trends and distribution.

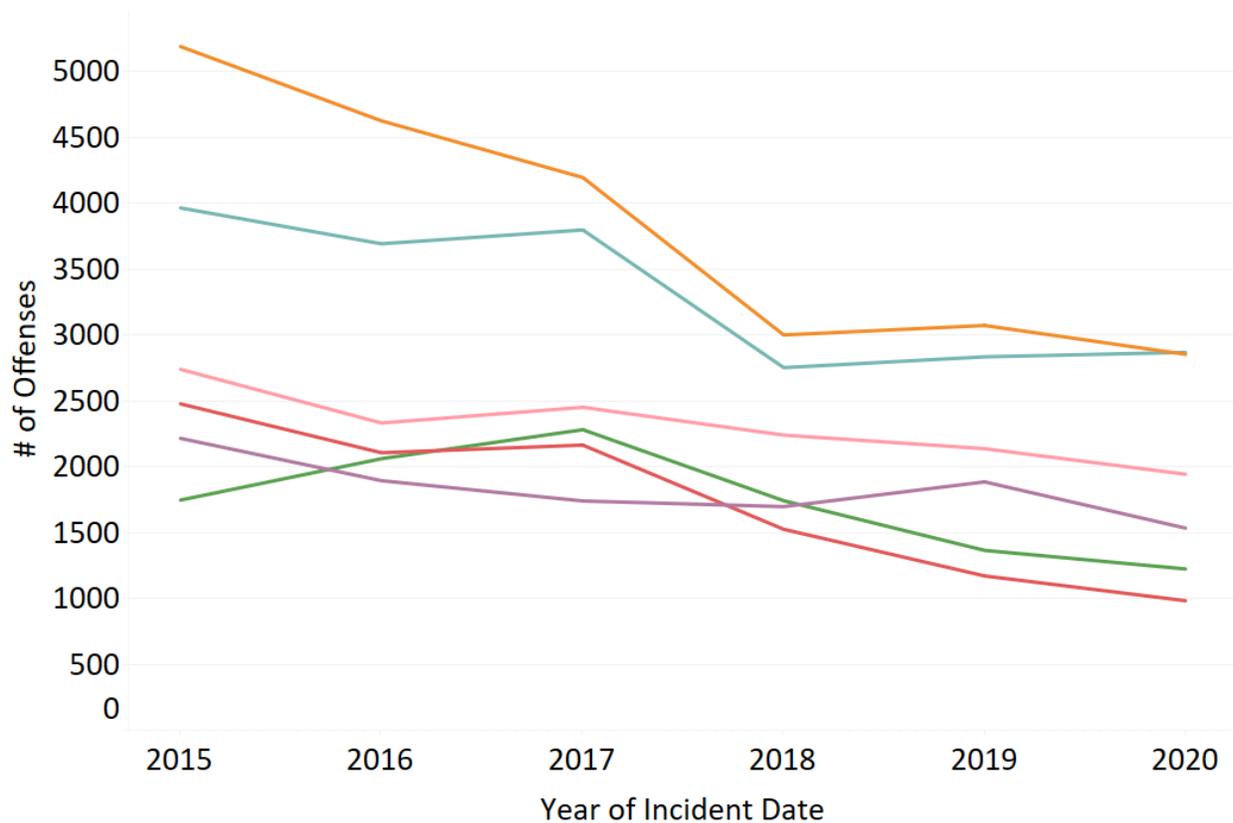
As stated previously, Vermont's overall trends and distribution of reported offenses are reflective of those counties and municipalities with the greatest numbers of reported crimes. To that point, the counties that have the greatest population densities and "urbanized" core municipalities somewhat mirror the distribution of top five reported offenses in the state specifically, as well as the top ten generally. These counties include Chittenden, Washington, Franklin, Rutland, Windham, and Lamoille.

Those counties that are more rural in nature with the smaller population bases and reflect lesser population densities have greater than statewide-average rates of reported burglary/breaking and entering and theft from-vehicles and buildings, and fewer reports of shoplifting. These six counties include Essex, Grand Isle, Orleans, Orange, Addison, and Caledonia. Additionally, neither Bennington nor Windsor Counties fall into any discernable pattern as their individual county numbers demonstrate that each of their top offenses are simple assault. Policy makers and law enforcement agency leaders should be mindful of this fact and possibly respond with greater in-depth review of those cases.

While there is comparatively less difference across all counties for destruction/vandalism, the more rural counties generally experience greater ratios of destruction/vandalism than their more populous neighbors. Understandably, the reverse is true for shoplifting, where the more densely populated and commercially vibrant counties experience greater ratios than less commercially based counties. Additionally, though Bennington and Windsor Counties' data reflect that simple assault offenses are the most commonly reported crimes, Windham, Caledonia, and Orleans County agencies responded to reports of simple assault at a greater rate than comparable counties. Drug/narcotic violations reflect significant differences across county lines, with no correlation to population density, urbanity, rurality, or geographic location within the state.

Finally, Figure 30 below demonstrates the year-to-year trends for the top six reported offenses, reflecting that across all included offenses, reported criminal activity has been declining through the 2015-2020 time period. This fact holds true even as the numbers are reviewed pre-2020, when Covid-19 may have influenced criminal activity.

Figure 30. Statewide Trending - Top Six Reported Offenses



Offense Name

- All Other Larceny
- Destruction / Vandalism
- Simple Assault
- Shoplifting
- Burglary / Breaking & Entering
- Drug / Narcotic Violations