

# Virginia State Police



## Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division Newsletter

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	Page
UCR - Crime in Virginia	1-3
UCR - Group A Offenses	2
UCR - Group B Offenses	2
UCR – Crime Trends	3
UCR – Cargo Theft	4
UCR - Year-End Crime and Arrest Data	4
VCIN – NLETS	5
VCIN – New Format Though the NLETS Network	5
VCIN – Mental Health Records	6
VCIN – Mexican Commercial Driver Data Service	6

### UCR Highlights

#### Crime in Virginia

The 2014 Crime in Virginia annual report was released June 5<sup>th</sup>. The current as well as many previous reports may be viewed on the State Police website [www.vsp.virginia.gov](http://www.vsp.virginia.gov) under “Forms & Publications,” “Publications,” “Crime in Virginia.” This detailed document provides rates and occurrences of crimes committed in towns, cities and counties across the Commonwealth. The report lists criminal offenses by reporting agency, arrests by jurisdiction, as well as presenting information where a law enforcement officer was killed and assaulted (LEOKA) and when bias motivation (hate crime) was associated with an offense.

We appreciate the ongoing effort from all contributing agencies to help ensure their data are as complete and accurate as possible. Data quality is particularly important because these data are the official figures for both state and national crime statistics. They are used by criminal justice personnel, policymakers and the public to better understand the nature and extent of crime issues.

For 2014, statewide violent crimes (murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault) declined 1.0 percent compared to the previous year. Property crimes such as burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle thefts decreased 5.8 percent during this period of time. Motor vehicle theft continued to experience a larger decrease with a 9.3 percent reduction last year. Drug and narcotics violations increased 2.5 percent compared to the previous year. Marijuana accounted for approximately 61.4 percent of all drug arrests that occurred during 2014.

# UCR Highlights

## Crime in Virginia - Continued

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### Group A Arrests

Using the table below, there was an overall decrease in arrests between 2013 and 2014, of 4.5 percent. Adult arrests decreased during this period of time (-4.3 percent), while juvenile arrests decreased (-6.5 percent).

### Group B Arrests

Between 2013 and 2014, adult arrests decreased 7.2 percent. Juvenile arrests experienced a larger decrease for the same period of time (-8.6 percent).

### Group A Arrests and Group B Arrests

There were a total of 305,648 arrests in 2014, compared to 325,504 arrests in 2013, representing a decrease of 6.1 percent.

ARRESTS	2014		2013	
	Adult	Juvenile	Adult	Juvenile
<b>Group A</b>	121,228	12,223	126,695	13,070
<b>Group B</b>	160,805	11,392	173,278	12,461
<b>TOTAL (Adult &amp; Juvenile)</b>	305,648		325,504	

**UCR Highlights****Crime in Virginia - Continued**

The table below compares reporting years 2008 through 2014 for each Group A offense.

**Crime Trends**  
**Rate Per 100,000 Population**

<b>Group A Offense*</b>	<b>Number 2014</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
Murder/Non-negligent Manslaughter*	<b>337</b>	4.05	3.84	3.86	3.77	4.61	4.43	4.75
Kidnapping/Abduction*	<b>1,449</b>	17.40	18.15	18.17	18.22	20.18	23.44	27.33
Forcible Sex Offenses*	<b>4,949</b>	59.44	59.17	62.22	63.04	62.25	60.63	67.69
Robbery	<b>4,313</b>	51.80	55.14	57.77	67.32	70.99	80.19	96.36
Aggravated Assault*	<b>9,464</b>	13.66	110.12	111.75	109.19	120.32	125.80	134.33
Simple Assault/ Intimidation*	<b>88,398</b>	1061.67	1111.69	1184.68	1229.47	1271.09	1247.50	1270.37
Arson	<b>848</b>	10.18	11.43	15.26	14.41	15.42	16.63	18.86
Extortion/Blackmail	<b>181</b>	2.17	1.74	1.51	1.40	1.90	1.48	1.80
Burglary	<b>22,635</b>	271.85	318.39	351.33	375.94	378.61	396.33	408.66
Larceny	<b>131,414</b>	1578.30	1657.04	1719.87	1784.59	1849.06	1920.66	1976.38
Motor Vehicle Theft	<b>7,542</b>	90.58	100.70	108.06	118.77	129.91	145.27	169.40
Counterfeiting/Forgery	<b>6,331</b>	76.04	72.72	83.00	87.37	89.25	94.78	93.27
Fraud	<b>33,910</b>	407.26	364.81	342.03	321.62	307.00	310.95	314.58
Embezzlement	<b>2,757</b>	35.57	33.38	32.37	35.05	33.75	36.87	46.90
Stolen Property	<b>2,962</b>	15.77	17.03	16.39	17.96	19.41	22.39	23.59
Damage/Vandalism	<b>60,250</b>	723.61	754.54	856.20	912.64	971.05	1055.03	1189.99
Drug/Narcotic Offenses	<b>56,083</b>	673.57	696.12	676.90	625.57	591.35	570.27	593.67
Non-forcible Sex Offenses*	<b>189</b>	2.27	2.29	2.39	2.61	2.55	2.71	2.96
Pornography	<b>1198</b>	14.39	12.74	8.72	8.44	7.75	7.03	5.95
Gambling	<b>53</b>	0.64	0.59	0.78	1.93	1.04	1.46	0.76
Prostitution	<b>1293</b>	15.53	12.37	12.13	11.73	12.36	14.51	9.22
Bribery	<b>21</b>	0.25	0.29	0.32	0.31	0.40	0.29	0.37
Weapon Law Violations	<b>8,889</b>	106.76	108.00	110.54	111.92	112.72	117.31	133.01

\*Crime counts are number of victims for offenses against a person and number of offenses for all other offenses.

## UCR Highlights – Continued

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### Cargo Theft

Cargo theft is the theft of items while they are in transit as part of a commercial shipment, and must be in the supply chain. Cargo theft is not considered an offense by itself; cargo theft is required to be reported if an incident includes at least one of the following offense:

- Robbery
- Extortion/Blackmail
- Burglary
- Theft From Building
- Theft From Motor Vehicle
- All Other Larceny
- Motor Vehicle Theft
- False Pretenses
- Credit Card Fraud
- Impersonation
- Wire Fraud
- Embezzlement
- Bribery

Elements in the determination of whether cargo theft has occurred or not is that it must be: a 'commercial shipment' and 'in the supply chain'. If you can say 'yes' to **both** of these and the offense was one mentioned above, you can have confidence that this was a case of cargo theft.

Since the state Program began collecting its cargo theft in 2011, accurate reporting has been problematic for many agencies. In a recent request from the FBI, as well as to gain a better understanding of the extent of the problem, all agencies who submitted cargo thefts in 2014 were asked to review their incidents that were coded 'YES' - indicating that the reported offense involved cargo theft. Initially, agencies were notified and asked to review a total of 783 incidents and respond back to us whether the incidents were truly cargo theft or not. Of the 775 incidents that were reviewed by agencies, only 41 incidents (approximately 6%) were correctly submitted as cargo theft. The vast majority – that is approximately 94% of the incidents that were initially coded as cargo theft were incorrect. Until agencies are more careful with their data submissions, these types of errors will continue to occur. The UCR/IBR website is a source of important information to help resolve many of these types of issues. In addition, staff members are also available to answer any questions you may have whether it involves cargo theft or any other IBR related topic.

### 2014 Year-end Crime and Arrest Data

As in past years, all reporting agencies were required to submit 2014 year-end crime and arrest data by the end of March. Year-end data is published in the annual state publication Crime in Virginia, as well as the national FBI publication Crime in the United States. If any 2014 data files have not been submitted and/or if any unresolved errors are not corrected and resubmitted by the established deadline, the data are not included in these publications. Submission and correction of these errors is important because what is sent to the State becomes the official crime statistics for your agency. We realize that there are always unforeseen circumstances beyond the reasonable control of any one agency. Nevertheless, undercounts, overcounts, as well as, incorrect submissions will have serious and damaging effects on the accuracy of these crime data. All agencies should continue to be mindful of timely monthly submissions and data quality issues as they are both directly tied to 599 funding.

## **Virginia Criminal Information Services (VCIN)**

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### **National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (NLETS)**

NLETS was established in 1966. The mission of NLETS is to provide, within a secure environment, an international justice telecommunications capability and information services that will benefit to the highest degree, the safety, the security, and the preservation of human life and the protection of property. NLETS will assist those national and international government agencies and other organizations with similar missions that enforce or aid in enforcing local, state, or international laws or ordinances. Their vision is to continue to be the premier provider of the network, system, and services that will support and encourage a totally standardized, integrated international justice system. Acting primarily as a network provider and, to the degree required, a data warehouse, NLETS will endeavor to serve every stratum of the justice and public safety communities.

NLETS is an information sharing system that is available to law enforcement agencies and support services to justice-related computer programs. It provides secure information exchange between states, local, and federal agencies and support services to justice-related computer programs. Users include all U.S. states and territories, federal agencies with a justice mission, and certain international agencies. The primary operational site for the network is housed in Arizona, with a secure backup site located in the East Central United States. Information exchange is voluntary and includes information such as motor vehicle registrations, driver's data, Interpol warrants, Canadian "Hot File" records, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) databases, and state criminal history records. Nearly 90 million messages are sent each month.

### **New Format through the NLETS Network**

A new inquiry format has been released through the NLETS, in conjunction with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) that will allow agencies to inquire on the railroad crossing identification number. The purpose of the Railroad Crossing transaction is to obtain pertinent information related to a railroad crossing, such as location and emergency contact phone numbers. Inquiries are based upon a Railroad Crossing Identification number that is up to 20 characters long and is alphanumeric.

The response will include information on the location of the crossing, including geospatial coordinates, the operating company and other emergency contact phone numbers, and details about the crossing itself. This resource enables access to real-time data to NLETS members via their secure NLETS connections. All valid law enforcement and criminal justice agency ORIs are authorized to run the transaction, and any information obtained via the NLETS system may be used only for criminal justice purposes.



## **Virginia Criminal Information Services (VCIN) - Continued**

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### **Mental Health Records**

The 2015 Virginia General Assembly passed Senate Bill 1264 amended Virginia Code §19.2-389 allowing Virginia Law Enforcement officers access to involuntary admission and incapacity information in the Virginia Mental Health Files. In order to facilitate compliance with this new law, VCIN operators are to use a VAQH message key with a purpose code "F" to obtain information on involuntary admissions.

When viewing a VCIN reply from the Virginia Mental Health Files, it is important to remember that these files are name based, and not fingerprint based, as you are accustomed to when viewing criminal history files. The response is based on comparison of requestor furnished information against data contained in the files of the Virginia State Police Criminal Records exchange only, and does not preclude the existence of other records contained in other state or federal records. Responses are considered criminal history information and can only be disseminated in accordance with §19.2-389, Code of Virginia, and is considered part of a criminal history record as defined by §19.2-389. An audit trail of all secondary dissemination of these records should be maintained.

### **Mexican Commercial Driver Data Service**

Access to Mexican commercial driver data over the NLETS network has been restored due to a partnership with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). The system was tested during 2014 and went into pilot production with the commercial enforcement division of the Kentucky State Police. After a few minor issues, the new service went into the live production.

Users can send driver's license queries (DQ), driver's history queries (KQ) and registration queries (RQ) to destination code MX, which will return the appropriate commercial driver data.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact the NLETS Operation Center at 1-800-528-4020 or [helpdesk@nlets.org](mailto:helpdesk@nlets.org).

