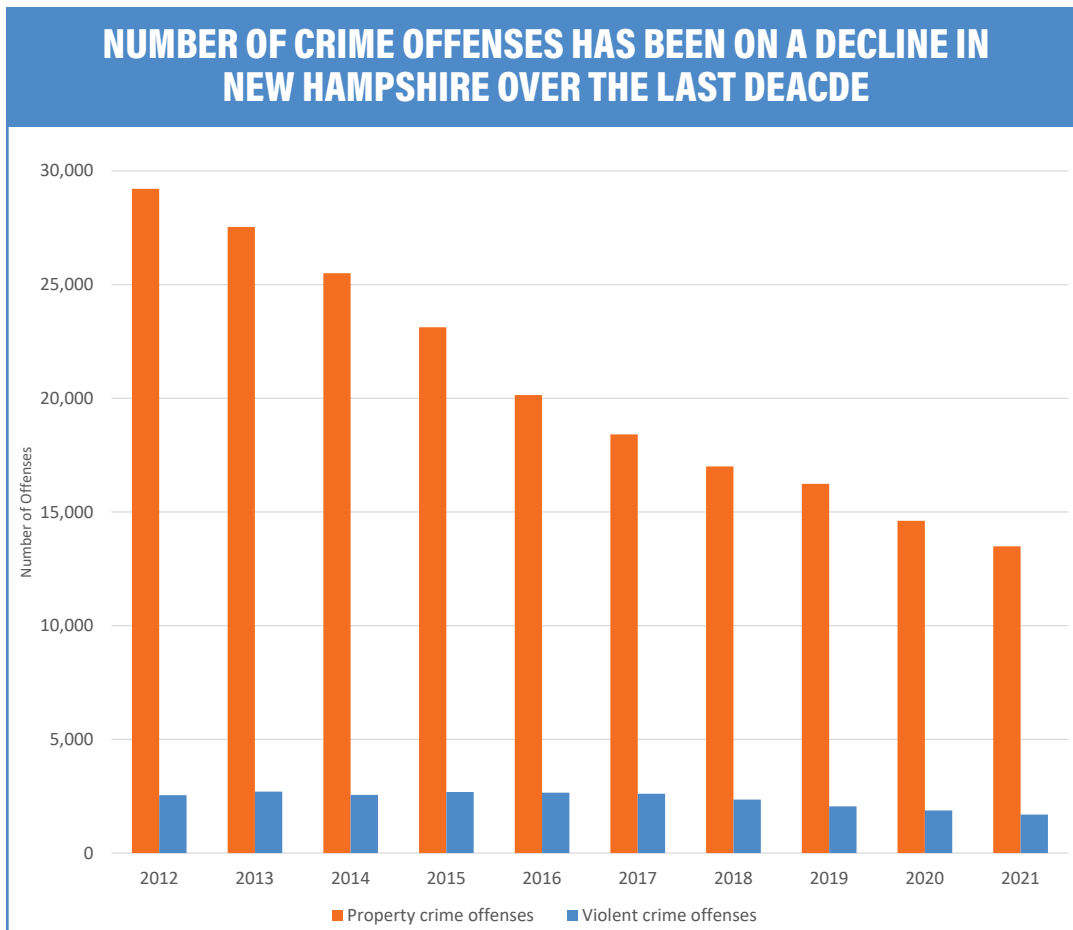


CRIME & CRASHES

In early spring 2022, a retired couple, Steve and Wendy Reid, went for their usual afternoon walk along the nature trail abutting the apartment complex where the couple lived. They did not return home that afternoon and their bodies were later found in the woods. Their autopsies determined that they were shot to death. It took about six months before the police arrested the presumed killer, Logan Clegg, in a public library in Burlington, Vermont.¹

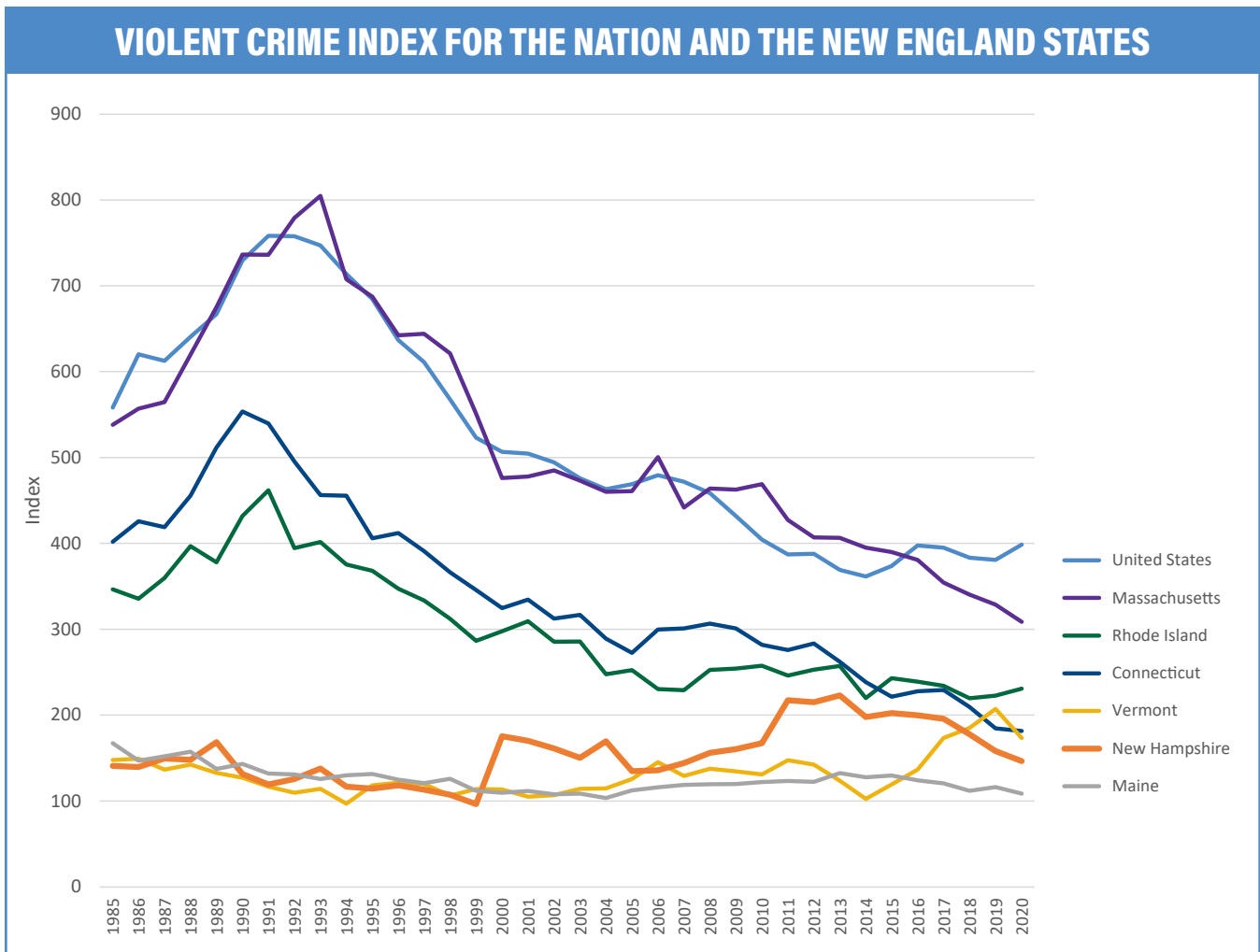
This “high profile” double murder made many residents wonder – Is it safe to go for a walk in my neighborhood or go for a hike on a nearby recreational trail? After all, this heinous crime happened in broad daylight! The reason why this double homicide in spring of 2022 resonated and lingered on the minds of many residents in New Hampshire, is that because such a crime is in staunch opposition to the image of the Granite State as a very safe place to live.²

<p>Violent Crime</p> <p>Offenses of murder and nonnegligent manslaughter (homicide), rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.</p>	<p>Property Crime</p> <p>Offenses of burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson.</p>
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Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, Crime Data Explorer

1 Callery, Tim "Date set for Logan Clegg trial as defendant waives arraignment in killings of Concord couple." WMUR. Jan 30, 2023. Accessed on March 6, 2023 at <https://www.wmur.com/article/concord-new-hampshire-couple-killed-logan-clegg-30/42706310>
 2 "Safest states 2023". New Hampshire ranked third after Vermont and Maine. Accessed on March 6, 2023 at <https://worldpopulationreview.com/state-rankings/safest-states>



Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, Crime Data Explorer

How does this violent crime incident reflect on trends of crime statistics in New Hampshire? When evaluating the crime data for New Hampshire over the last decade, total number of crime offenses actually declined substantially. According to data from the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Program,³ violent crime offenses in New Hampshire peaked at about 2,700 offenses in 2013 and dropped to just below 1,700 in 2021. The number of property crime offenses declined from above 29,300 reported offenses in 2011 to about 15,200 reported offenses in 2021.

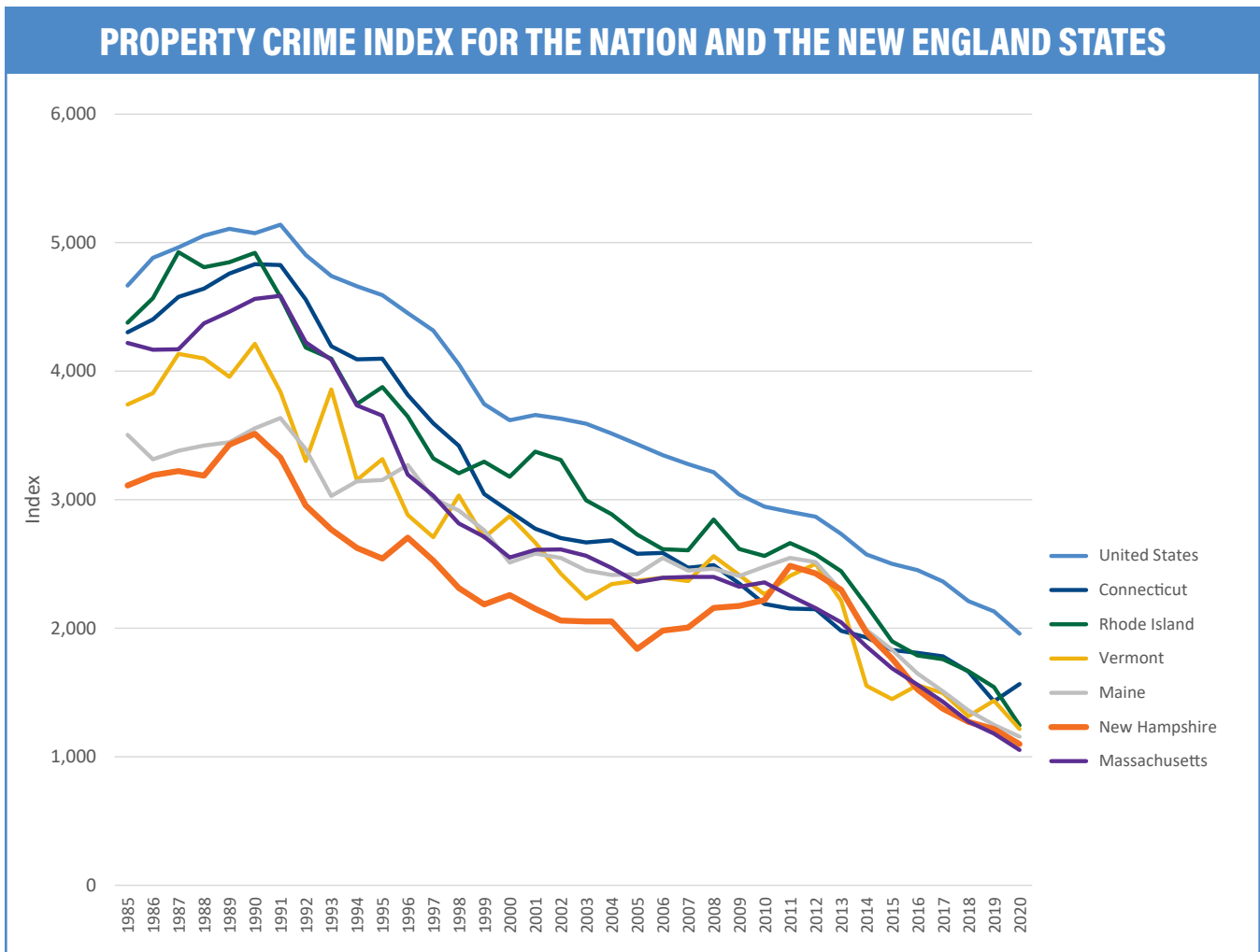
In 2021, the FBI began exclusively collecting data using a new reporting system, which allows more comprehensive and detailed reporting of crime

incidents. The National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) includes detailed data on 52 different offenses, plus arrest-only data on ten more offenses, including violent crimes, property crimes, and individual crimes such as animal cruelty, kidnapping, bribery, narcotics, gambling, and fraud. The reporting system includes details like demographics, location, gang involvement, or computer use in crimes. Information about these offenses were not reported under the previous crime reporting system.

Overall, New Hampshire and New England states generally rank as places with low levels of crime in comparison with other parts of the nation.⁴ Indexed crime data is not available for 2021 (see description

³ Crime data for New Hampshire are derived from National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) reports voluntarily submitted to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

⁴ Data consideration: "The data found on the Crime Data Explorer [Uniform Crime Reporting (URC) Program] represents reported crime, and is not an exhaustive report of all crime that occurs. It's important to consider the various factors that lead to crime activity and crime reporting in a community before interpreting the data. Without these considerations the available data can be deceiving. Factors to consider include population size and density, economic conditions, employment rates, prosecutorial, judicial, and correctional policies, administrative and investigative emphases of law enforcement, citizens' attitudes toward crime and policing, and the effective strength of the police force." <https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#>



Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, Crime Data Explorer

Unavailable Statistics for 2021

Data users have relied on aggregate crime data collected and published by the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) under the Summary Reporting System (SRS). That system’s aggregate counts provided snapshots of crime and served the law enforcement community and the public well since 1930. However, the FBI recognized the need for more robust crime data and has transitioned from traditional aggregate statistics provided by SRS to the more comprehensive information collected under the **National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS)**.

Between 2016 and 2020, both SRS and NIBRS could be used by law enforcement agencies to report crime data. Beginning in 2021, NIBRS was the only method to report crime data, although not all law enforcement agencies have begun using NIBRS. Enough 2021 data was not reported that data cannot reliably be compared across years, so no crime index data is available for 2021.

of the new crime reporting system transition). Both violent crime and property crime indexes (rate per 100,000 population) have fallen nationally and in most New England states since the early nineties. The violent crime index for New Hampshire and Vermont did see increases since the 1990's, though from very low levels, and the violent crime rate in New Hampshire has fallen since 2013.

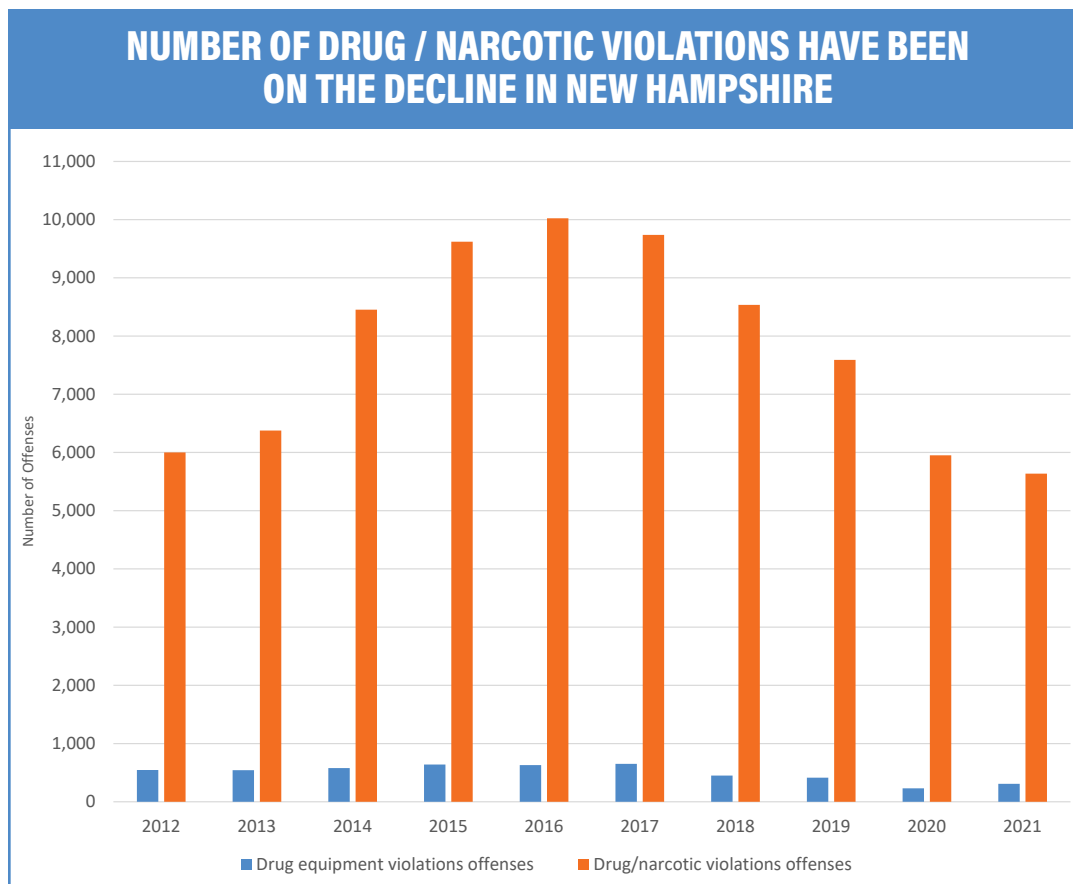
Fentanyl - Overdoses on the Rise

Though New Hampshire has a low crime rate, one major concern is the increase in the availability of illicit drugs. Over the past decade, one of the largest societal problems has been the opioid crisis. The deadly outcomes of this crisis have been elevated due to the prevalence of illicit drugs tainted with fentanyl.

The Governor created a public awareness campaign titled "No Safe Experience" to alert residents, with a special focus on youth and families, of the dangers and prevalence of fentanyl in any

pill not prescribed by a medical provider. "The bottom line is that fentanyl is now in all different types of substances, whether that be cocaine, methamphetamine, fake pills, or vape cartridges – assume it is in anything and everything," said Governor Chris Sununu.⁵

Data from U.S Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) laboratory testing show that the majority of fentanyl-laced pills contained a level that was potentially lethal.⁶ Another indication of the serious negative effects of fentanyl in New Hampshire is that 2022 was the worst year for overdose deaths since 2017, and in the majority of the 434 confirmed overdose deaths, fentanyl was involved.⁷ The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services also released a warning about a heightened presence of the animal tranquilizer xylazine, found added to illicit street drugs such a heroin and fentanyl. The mixture of xylazine with heroin and fentanyl increases the risk of overdose and death.⁸



Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, Crime Data Explorer

5 Governor Sununu Announces "No Safe Experience" PSA Campaign. Press Release January 12, 2023. <https://www.governor.nh.gov/news-and-media/governor-sununu-announces-no-safe-experience-psa-campaign>

6 Ibid.

7 Lynch, Troy, "New figures show 2022 was worst year for overdose deaths in New Hampshire since 2017." WMUR. <https://www.wmur.com/article/new-hampshire-overdose-deaths-2022/42921460>

8 NH DHHS Warns of Dangerous, Non-Opioid Animal Tranquilizer. NH DHHS Press Release. February 16, 2023. <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/news-and-media/nh-dhhs-warns-dangerous-non-opioid-animal-tranquilizer>

As a consequence of this complex landscape of drug supply, two bills filed in the New Hampshire House of Representative aim to decriminalize drug checking equipment. Advocates for the substance abuse community believe that testing strips can save lives, however, New Hampshire law enforcement, though “sympathetic” to the mission of testing illicit drugs, have concerns about the equipment being used by drug traffickers to determine potency.⁹

The National Incident-Based Reporting System lists two crime statistics related to the opioid pandemic: drug/narcotic violations and drug equipment violations. Data from the last ten years show that the number of offenses for both drug violations and drug equipment violations have been declining since 2016. This could indicate a decline in the usage of illicit drugs, yet the deadly implications of fentanyl have not slowed down.

What is a Hate Crime?

Nationally, hate crimes have been at the center of several recent criminal cases, such as the shooting at a grocery store in a predominantly Black area of Buffalo in May 2022. During the pandemic, an increased number of crime incidents against Americans of Asian descent was observed. In late February 2023, there was an incident in Portsmouth, NH involving hateful graffiti at eight businesses and a temple.¹⁰ The FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Program collects statistics on hate crimes such as these.

According to the FBI, there were 34 reported cases for New Hampshire in 2021,¹² a 79 percent increase from 2020 of 19 reported incidents. A forum was held on February 9, 2023, organized by Jane Young, United States Attorney for the District of New Hampshire and New Hampshire Attorney General John Formella, in order to have a dialogue about the implication of hate crimes on New Hampshire’s communities. This forum was the first of a series of community hate crime forums. The forums are “designed is to engage local and federal law enforcement, advocacy groups and community members in discussions about preventing and responding to hate crimes in New Hampshire.”¹³

While law enforcement leaders stressed the importance of reporting hate-based actions, the victims of hate crimes noted that due to the lack of minorities in local law enforcement workforce, it can be hard for the authorities to fully understand the implications of a hate crime and bias among the minority communities in New Hampshire.¹⁴

Though hate crime statistics in New Hampshire might not seem large in numbers, the Attorney General added that preventing hate crimes is a top priority for law enforcement in New Hampshire.¹⁵

– Annette Nielsen

14

The FBI defines a hate crime as a committed criminal offense which is motivated, in whole or in part, by the offender’s bias(es) against a race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender, or gender identity.¹¹

9 Barndollar, Hadley, “Fentanyl is killing Granite Staters. But the tools to test for it are illegal,” February 17, 2023. New Hampshire Bulletin. <https://newhampshirebulletin.com/2023/02/17/fentanyl-is-killing-granite-staters-but-the-tools-to-test-for-it-are-illegal/>

10 Lenahan, Ian, “Portsmouth pushes back on overnight wave of hateful graffiti targeting Temple, businesses,” February 21, 2023. Portsmouth Herald. <https://www.seacoastonline.com/story/news/local/2023/02/21/portsmouth-nh-pushes-back-hateful-graffiti/69927174007/>

11 Federal Bureau of Investigation Crime Data Explorer. <https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#/pages/explorer/crime/hate-crime>

12 Data for New Hampshire is available since 1994. The number of reported cases range from 1 to 49.

13 Feingold, Jeff, “U.S. attorney, AG team up on series of community hate crime forums,” January 12, 2023. NH Business Review. <https://www.nhbr.com/u-s-attorney-ag-team-up-on-series-of-community-hate-crime-forums/>

14 Bookman, Todd, “At hate crime forum, leader stress importance of reporting, while victims ask for more action,” February 9, 2023. NHPR. <https://www.nhpr.org/nh-news/2023-02-09/at-forum-on-hate-crimes-leaders-stress-importance-of-reporting-while-victims-ask-for-more-action>

15 Feingold, op.cit.

CRIME OFFENSES	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total crime offenses	21,025	19,354	18,288	16,488	15,182
Annual percent change	-7.8%	-7.9%	-5.5%	-9.8%	-7.9%
Violent crime offenses	2,611	2,353	2,050	1,875	1,691
Annual percent change	-1.7%	-9.9%	-12.9%	-8.5%	-9.8%
Property crime offenses	18,414	17,001	16,238	14,613	13,491
Annual percent change	-8.6%	-7.7%	-4.5%	-10.0%	-7.7%

Total Crime Index (Rate per 100,000 population)					
United States	2,757.8	2,593.2	2,511.4	2,356.7	N/A
New Hampshire	1,570.0	1,448.5	1,374.5	1,245.3	N/A
Connecticut	2,010.1	1,871.5	1,616.9	1,746.7	N/A
Maine	1,629.3	1,471.2	1,363.8	1,264.8	N/A
Massachusetts	1,781.9	1,613.9	1,509.3	1,362.0	N/A
Rhode Island	1,993.3	1,885.2	1,764.2	1,476.3	N/A
Vermont	1,668.7	1,500.1	1,644.3	1,390.4	N/A

Violent Crime Index (Rate per 100,000 population)					
United States	394.9	383.4	380.8	398.5	N/A
New Hampshire	195.7	177.6	158.1	146.4	N/A
Connecticut	229.2	209.6	184.6	181.6	N/A
Maine	120.6	112.0	116.1	108.6	N/A
Massachusetts	354.3	340.3	328.7	308.8	N/A
Rhode Island	234.2	219.8	222.7	230.8	N/A
Vermont	173.3	185.0	207.2	173.4	N/A

Property Crime Index (Rate per 100,000 population)					
United States	2,362.9	2,209.8	2,130.6	1,958.2	N/A
New Hampshire	1,374.3	1,270.9	1,216.4	1,098.9	N/A
Connecticut	1,780.9	1,661.9	1,432.3	1,565.1	N/A
Maine	1,508.7	1,359.2	1,247.7	1,156.2	N/A
Massachusetts	1,427.6	1,273.6	1,180.6	1,053.2	N/A
Rhode Island	1,759.1	1,665.4	1,541.5	1,245.5	N/A
Vermont	1,495.4	1,315.1	1,437.1	1,217.0	N/A

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, ELMI Analysis. Last Update 3/7/2023

AUTO INSURANCE CLAIMS LOSS - PERSONAL AND COMMERCIAL	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total Claims (\$ millions)	\$595.0	\$593.9	\$620.3	\$499.9	\$589.6
Annual percent change	8.7%	-0.2%	4.4%	-19.4%	17.9%
Personal Claims (\$ millions)	\$505.6	\$518.4	\$534.0	\$430.2	\$528.0
Annual percent change	5.1%	2.5%	3.0%	-19.4%	22.7%
Percent Personal	85.0%	87.3%	86.1%	86.1%	89.6%
Commercial Claims (\$ millions)	\$89.4	\$75.6	\$86.3	\$69.7	\$61.6
Annual percent change	34.8%	-15.5%	14.2%	-19.2%	-11.6%

Source: New Hampshire Insurance Department. Last Update 3/7/2023

CRIMINAL ARRESTS	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total Arrests	48,884	46,923	46,201	35,554	32,486
Annual percent change	2.3%	-4.0%	-1.5%	-23.0%	-8.6%
Total Drug Abuse Violations	7,987	6,682	5,909	4,382	3,594
Annual percent change	-6.1%	-16.3%	-11.6%	-25.8%	-18.0%
Total DUI Offenses	4,886	5,102	5,346	3,919	3,596
Annual percent change	-1.1%	4.4%	4.8%	-26.7%	-8.2%
Juvenile Total	3,585	3,337	3,348	2,313	1,915
Annual percent change	-0.6%	-6.9%	0.3%	-30.9%	-17.2%
Total Drug Abuse Violations	516	353	345	205	145
Annual percent change	-20.0%	-31.6%	-2.3%	-40.6%	-29.3%
Total DUI Offenses	37	30	34	36	24
Annual percent change	-14.0%	-18.9%	13.3%	5.9%	-33.3%

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, ELMi Analysis. Last Update 3/7/2023

STATE PRISON POPULATION	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number of sentenced prisoners in state and federal prisons ^a	2,750	2,745	2,691	2,352	2,127
New Hampshire's incarceration rate	203	202	197	170	152
Number of sentenced male prisoners	2,524	2,519	2,463	2,168	1,979
Number of sentenced female prisoners	226	226	228	184	148
Sentenced prisoners admitted	1,338	1,309	1,292	884	863
Sentenced prisoners released	1,409	1,335	1,339	1,246	1,088
Adults on Probation	3,914	3,916	3,659	2,723	
Adults on Parole	2,436	2,367	2,251	1,882	
U.S. incarceration rate (federal and state jurisdiction)	442	431	419	357	350
State jurisdiction incarceration rate	391	381	371	315	307
Federal jurisdiction incarceration rate	51	50	48	43	43

^a Sentenced prisoners are the number of inmates on December 31st sentenced for more than one year.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics. Last Update 3/7/2023

TRAFFIC CRASHES	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total crashes reported ^b	36,681	34,174	33,592	25,895	28,092
Annual percent change	22.8%	-6.8%	-1.7%	-22.9%	8.5%
Seat belt use	67.6%	76.4%	70.7%	72.4%	75.5%
Fatal motor vehicle crashes	98	134	90	98	106
Fatal motor crashes as a share of total	0.27%	0.39%	0.27%	0.38%	0.38%
Number of fatalities	102	147	101	104	118
Number of alcohol-impaired driving fatalities ^c	27	48	37	75	39
Percent of alcohol-impaired driving fatalities ^c	27%	33%	37%	72%	33%
Fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles	0.75	1.07	0.73	0.87	

^b Reported crashes and injuries involving \$1,000 or more in property or injury damages.

^c Based on a highest driver Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) of 0.8 g/dL (grams per deciliter) or higher.

Source: NH Department of Safety, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Last Update 3/7/2023

Prepared by: New Hampshire Employment Security, Economic and Labor Market Information Bureau

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