



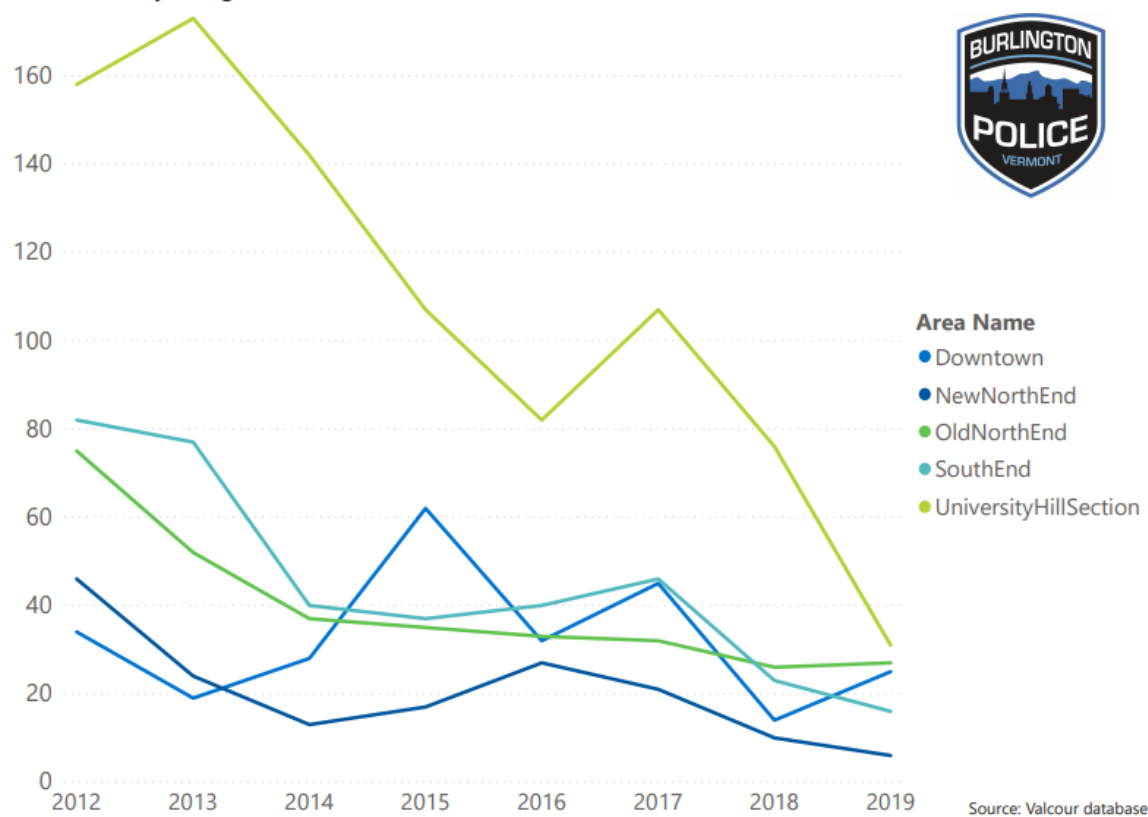
**POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF BURLINGTON**

MEDIA RELEASE

Burglary down 30 percent last year (2018 to 2019), and 73 percent since 2012

Burglary is a highly invasive crime. Victims frequently speak of a sense of violation and vulnerability, in addition to the loss of property or sentimental items. The Burlington Police Department (BPD) takes this crime very seriously, and has made concerted efforts to address it.

Incidents by Neighborhood



From 2018 to 2019, burglaries were down 30 percent in Burlington (from 149 in 2018 to 105 in 2019). In Burlington's C Area, which includes the northern Hill section and the University of Vermont and which frequently experiences the highest volume of this crime, burglaries were down 59 percent (from 76 in 2018 to 31 in 2019). Over the past several years, the drop has been even more precipitous, plunging 73 percent from 395 citywide in 2012 to this year's low of 105.

Information is preliminary and subject to change.

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The BPD has worked hard to achieve these results, with and for our neighbors. We attribute our success to the following factors:

- Timely intelligence about suspected burglaries
- Rapid response by patrol officers and the immediate involvement of other applicable department resources
- Effective tactics, including deploying personnel who are specially trained in evidence collection such as fingerprints and DNA and determining whether there may be linked crimes or crime patterns
- Relentless follow through on cases, including leveraging strong partnerships with other agencies to maximize information sharing
- Open communication and partnership with the State's Attorney's office to prosecute cases that ensure criminals are held accountable for their actions

In Chittenden County, many burglaries are committed by a small number of frequent recidivists. Accordingly, detectives cultivate deep knowledge of those individuals' modus operandi to develop leads. Preventing that small number of burglars from committing additional crimes can have, and has had, an outsize effect. The BPD also fosters increased community awareness via outreach such as door flyers, social media, and press releases. Finally, the proliferation of affordable home-security tools such as video cameras and other anti-theft technologies has helped prevent crimes and helped build strong cases when crimes occur.

Chief of Police Jennifer Morrison said, "The multi-year drop in burglaries is unprecedented. The men and women of BPD take crime-fighting seriously, and we'll keep striving to improve how we do it to keep our community safe."

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