

Virginia State Police

Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division Newsletter

July 2021

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CJIS Division

2021 CJIS Special Olympics Participation (Torch Run)



This year the Department participated in two Torch Runs; on June 9th and June 12th. Several members of CJIS made the 1.2 mile run at the Three Lakes Park location. The Department uses participation to assist fundraising for Unified Champion Schools and the Healthy Athletes Program. Both organizations are affiliated with the Special Olympics. The fundraising efforts help provide assistance to disadvantaged individuals.

BRS

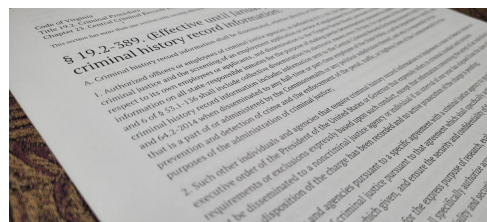
What's in a name?

The acronym "AFIS" has often caused confusion and been misstated as the name of the section (Automated Fingerprint Identification Section). In 2020, the Live Scan Unit was absorbed into the AFIS section. Over the next five to ten years, we anticipate expanding the capabilities of the BRS section to include additional biometric records, such as the capture of iris images and the mapping of hand veins. Recognizing this trend, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) adopted the name Biometrics Services Section (BSS) for their unit responsible for iris capture, voice pattern analysis, and palm prints. In an effort to keep with the future of biometrics, AFIS has been renamed to Biometric Records Section (BRS).

CARE

A name to match the mission

The Non-Criminal Justice section has changed to the Civil & Applicant Records Exchange (CARE) and is now an independent section, separate from the Central Criminal Records Exchange (CCRE). CARE conducts criminal record searches for non-criminal justice entities and/or individuals for employment purposes. The record searches are conducted pursuant to VA Code § [19.2-389](#).



Criminal record searches are conducted to ensure suitability for employment in such environments as: licensed homes for adults, (Dominion Energy), district homes for adults, day care centers for children and adults, nursing homes, volunteers/employees of child welfare agencies, foster/adoptive cases, private security, employment by certain school boards, and visas/international travel, etc. The service the Exchange provides reflects the serious approach lawmakers, people of the Commonwealth, criminal justice practitioners, and employers maintain to determine if an individual has a criminal record.

CCRE

Dissemination of misdemeanor offenses under §18.2-248.1: Distribution or possession with intent to sell, give or distribute marijuana.

Beginning July 1, 2021, the Virginia State Police, Central Criminal Records Exchange (CCRE) will begin to restrict the dissemination of §[18.2-248.1](#) Code of Virginia, misdemeanor distribution of marijuana information, that was reported to the CCRE. This is in addition to the limits on dissemination of §[18.2-250.1](#), misdemeanor possession of marijuana, that began on November 20, 2020.

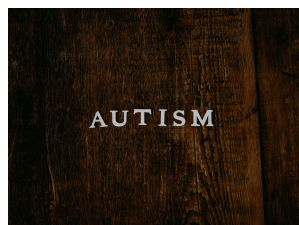


Virginia law enforcement agencies will still have access to misdemeanor possession or distribution of marijuana arrest and disposition information for criminal justice purposes; however, the information will not be accessible for certain non-criminal justice employment background checks or law enforcement agencies outside of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Dissemination limitations related to §[18.2-250.1](#) misdemeanor possession of marijuana, and §[18.2-248.1](#) misdemeanor distribution of marijuana, can be found under § 19.2-389.3. Marijuana possession; limits on dissemination of criminal history record information; prohibited practices by employers, educational institutions, and state and local governments; penalty.

VCIN

Autism Alerts

Beginning July 1, 2021, our Virginia Missing Child with Autism Alert Program will be renamed the Virginia Missing **Person** with Autism Alert Program.



House Bill 2216 renames the Virginia Missing Child with Autism Alert Program to the Virginia Missing Person with Autism Alert Program. This name change also includes an expansion allowing the Alert to apply to any missing person with autism, regardless of age. The bill defines "a missing person with autism" as any person (i) whose whereabouts are unknown; (ii) who has been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder as defined by the Code of Virginia; and (iii) whose disappearance poses a credible threat to the safety and health of the person. This Act amends and reenacts §§ [52-34.13](#), [52-34.14](#), and [52-34.15](#) of the Code of Virginia.

DART

Not just crime data anymore

The Data Analysis and Reporting Team (DART), formerly known as the Uniform Crime Reporting Section (UCR) has undergone quite an expansion. DART is responsible for the collection of multiple data collections concerning crime and law enforcement within the Commonwealth of Virginia. Throughout the last year, data collections captured by DART have increased significantly as the Virginia Department of State Police strives to be a data-driven agency. DART now collects law enforcement related data such as involuntary detention and stop data, crime data, photo speed monitoring data, and use of force-officer involved shooting data for use by the public, legislators, academia, and the media.

COMMUNITY POLICING

UNIFORM CRIME REPORTING - INCIDENT BASED REPORTING

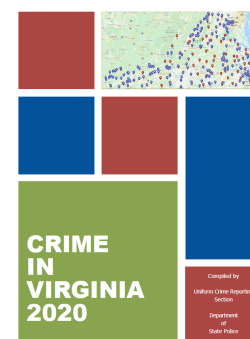
USE OF FORCE & OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING

PHOTO SPEED MONITORING

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY & VENDOR INFORMATION

Crime In Virginia 2020

The “2020 Crime in Virginia” annual report was released June 7, 2021. The current, as well as previous reports, may be viewed on the State Police website at https://www.vsp.virginia.gov/Crime_in_Virginia.shtm. This detailed document provides rates and occurrences of crimes committed in towns, cities, and counties across the Commonwealth.



- The number of reported homicides increased from 428 to 528 (23.4%). Victims and offenders tended to be younger males; 45.1% of homicide victims were men between 18 and 34 and 52.7% of offenders were men between 18 and 34. Nearly half (49.2%) of all homicides occurred at a residence/home.
- Drug arrests decreased by more than a third (36.7%) with the largest percentage decrease in the under 18 age group (48.6%). The number of reports of drugs seized decreased for nearly all drug types, especially marijuana (31.7%), due in part to decriminalization of possessing less than 1 ounce of the drug effective July 1, 2020.



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

Offense Type	2020 Count	2020 Crime Rate	2019
Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter	528	6.15	5.01
Forcible Sex Offenses	4,679	54.49	68.58
Aggravated Assault	12,331	143.60	130.34
Robbery	2,964	34.52	41.49

Crime counts are measured as the number of victims for the crimes listed above. The crime rate is based on crime counts per 100,000 population.

Community Policing Data Collection

The Community Policing Act data collection is well underway. As of May 25, 2021 data capturing reason for stop, result of stop, and demographic information has been collected for close to 700,000 traffic stops.

During the 2020 Special Session I expansions were created to capture all investigatory stops, widening the scope to individual and pedestrian temporary detentions. Effective July 1, 2021, the DART Section began the collection of all investigatory stop data. In addition to a broader capture of data, new data elements have been incorporated. The new data elements are as follows:

- Person Type
- Individual or Driver English-Speaking
- Physical Force Used by Officer
- Physical Force Used by Subject

On Thursday, June 10th, members of the Virginia House of Delegates accepted an invitation to see the culmination of their efforts concerning both House Bill 1250 of the 2020 Session and Senate Bill 5030 of the 2020 Special Session I. Secretary of Public Safety, Brian Moran, Delegate Torian and Delegate Aird, along with Colonel Settle, Command Staff, CJIS-DART, Department of Criminal Justice Services, and Office of the Attorney General personnel met to discuss the new Open Data Portal currently housing the data collected for the Community Policing Act. The Community Policing Act data portal was well received and much discussion occurred about possible improvements and the goals of the data collection. This is one of many initiatives to foster a better relationship between law enforcement and the citizens of the Commonwealth.



The Virginia Open Data Portal for Community Policing Data can be found at the following link:

<https://data.virginia.gov/stories/s/rden-cz3h>

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