

Vermont earns a C- for its civil forfeiture laws:

- Higher bar to forfeit in limited cases: Weak conviction provision falls short of criminal forfeiture (see page 41). It does not require conviction of the owner, only of “a person,” and it does not apply if the person has agreed to forfeiture to avoid criminal charges. Once the conviction provision is satisfied, property must be linked to the crime by clear and convincing evidence.
- Poor protections for the innocent: Third-party owners must prove their own innocence to recover seized property.
- Large profit incentive: 45% of forfeiture proceeds go to law enforcement.

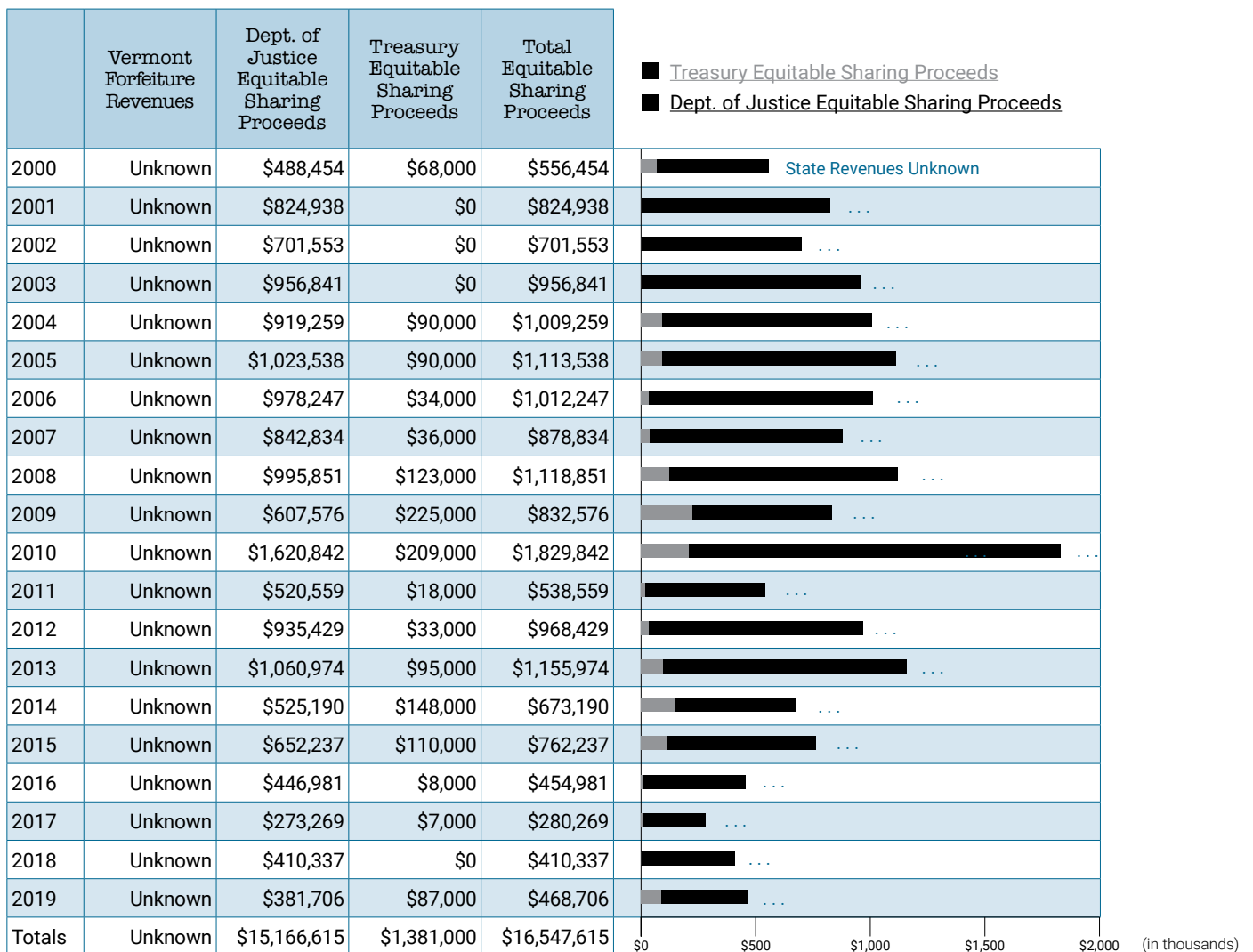
Recent Reforms

- None.

State and Federal Forfeiture Revenues, 2000–2019

Between 2000 and 2019, Vermont law enforcement agencies generated more than \$16 million in forfeiture revenue from federal equitable sharing. Vermont ranks 12th for its participation in the Department of Justice’s equitable sharing program. The state does not prevent state and local agencies from using equitable sharing to circumvent state forfeiture law.

At least \$16 million
in federal forfeiture revenue
2000–2019



All revenue figures include both civil and criminal forfeitures. Revenues are not adjusted for inflation.

Vermont's Forfeiture Transparency and Accountability Report Card

Tracking Seized Property	B+	Accessibility of Forfeiture Records	D
Accounting for Forfeiture Fund Spending	F	Penalties for Failure to File a Report	F
Statewide Forfeiture Reports	F	Financial Audits of Forfeiture Accounts	F

For full transparency and accountability grades, visit www.ij.org/TransparencyReportCards.

Forfeitures Under Vermont Law: Key Facts

Median Value



Vermont does not report property-level data necessary to calculate median forfeiture value.

Property Types

UNKNOWN

Vermont does not report the types of property forfeited.

Civil vs. Criminal

UNKNOWN

Vermont does not report whether forfeitures are processed under civil or criminal forfeiture law.

Expenditures

UNKNOWN

Vermont does not report how forfeiture funds are spent.

Data Notes

Records obtained from the Vermont State Treasurer were sparse and unusable. Equitable sharing data are from DOJ's and Treasury's annual forfeiture reports.