

## DESCRIPTION

Maltreatment not only disrupts children's current development but, if not addressed appropriately, can also have long-term consequences on their development, health and well-being.<sup>1</sup> Child maltreatment can negatively impact communities, schools, the economy, and future generations through the transmission of maltreatment from one generation to the next.<sup>1</sup> Minnesota Statutes recognize six types of maltreatment: neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, mental injury, emotional harm, medical neglect and threatened injury.<sup>2</sup> Once a report of maltreatment is received, child protection staff review the information and determine if the alleged maltreatment meets the statutory threshold. If it does, staff "screen-in" the maltreatment report for assessment or investigation.

## HOW WE ARE DOING

Local child protection agencies across Minnesota received 75,624 reports of child maltreatment in 2016-an 11.2 percent increase over 2015.<sup>3</sup> There were 26 child deaths and 36 life-threatening injuries resulting from maltreatment in 2016 in the state.<sup>1</sup> In 2016, there were 3,300 unique Ramsey County children in screened-in maltreatment reports.<sup>3</sup> Most children were ages birth to two, followed by children six to eight. Just over 37 percent of children were African-American, 4.4 percent were American Indian, 13.3 percent were Asian, 28.8 percent were white, 13.4 percent were two or more races. Hispanic/Latino children of any race made up 11.3 percent of screened-in reports. Neglect was the most common maltreatment type (63.3 percent) in Ramsey County in 2016 followed by physical abuse (33.7 percent) and sexual abuse (12.5 percent).<sup>3</sup>

## BENCHMARK INDICATOR

Minnesota performance standards:<sup>4</sup>

- 1) Percentage of alleged victims who were seen in face-to-face visits within the time limit. Target: 100%
- 2) Percent of children who had a subsequent maltreatment report within 12 months. Target: Under 15.2%

## DISPARITIES

Racial disparities in child maltreatment reporting have persisted in Minnesota many years. As of 2016, American Indian children were 5.2 times more likely to be involved in a child protection assessment/ investigation than white children while children who identify with two or more races and African-American children were both about three times more likely.<sup>1</sup>

## RISK FACTORS

Risk factors for child maltreatment include the age and number of children in the family, special needs of children, the mental health of caregivers, low socio-economic status, rural residence, race/ethnicity of children, family structure and family stressors.<sup>5</sup> Parental alcohol and substance use is a known risk factor for child maltreatment.<sup>6</sup>

## Information to note

- Ramsey County had the second highest rate of child maltreatment in the 7-county Metro in 2016.
- There are large racial disparities related to child maltreatment.

<sup>1</sup> Harvard Center on the Developing Child. InBrief. <https://46y5eh11fhgw3ve3ytpwxt9r-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/inbrief-adversity-1.pdf>. Accessed May 29, 2018.

<sup>2</sup> 2017 Minnesota Statutes 626.556. <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=626.556>. Accessed May 29, 2018.

<sup>3</sup> Minnesota Department of Human Services. Minnesota's Child Maltreatment Report 2016. <https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfservlet/Public/DHS-54081-ENG>. Published October 2017. Accessed May 29, 2018.

<sup>4</sup> Minnesota Department of Human Services. Child Welfare Dashboard. <https://mn.gov/dhs/partners-and-providers/news-initiatives-reports-workgroups/child-protection-foster-care-adoption/child-welfare-data-dashboard/>. Accessed May 29, 2018.

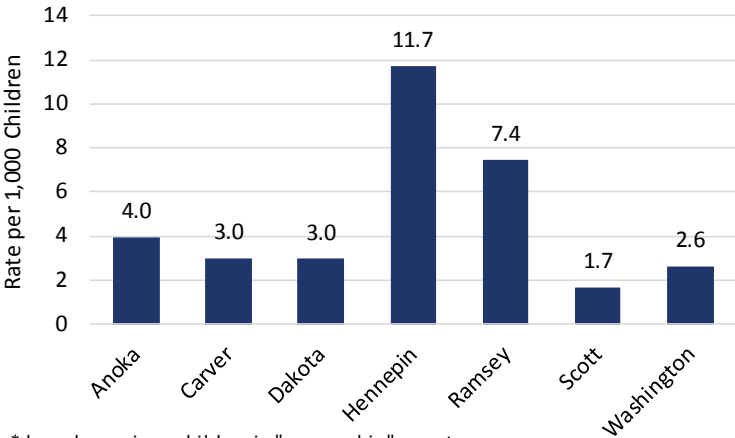
<sup>5</sup> Fourth national incidence study of child abuse and neglect. National Incidence Study of Child Maltreatment (NIS4) [https://ncwwwi.org/files/Cultural\\_Responsiveness\\_\\_Disproportionality/NIS-4\\_Executive\\_Summary.pdf](https://ncwwwi.org/files/Cultural_Responsiveness__Disproportionality/NIS-4_Executive_Summary.pdf). Accessed May 2018.

<sup>6</sup> Children's Bureau. Parental drug use as child abuse. 2015. <https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/drugexposed.pdf>. Accessed May 29, 2018.

## WHAT RAMSEY COUNTY GOVERNMENT IS DOING

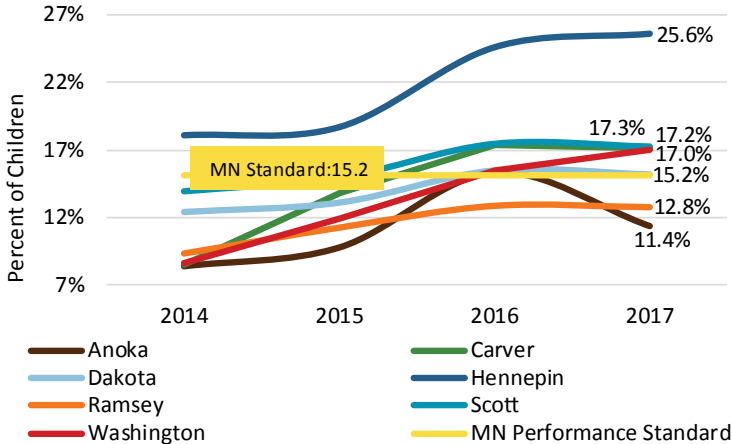
Ramsey County takes protection of children very seriously. The County Board’s strategic priorities include advancing racial and health equity, building economic prosperity for County residents and enhancing the continuum of care for youth and families which should all contribute to reducing child maltreatment. Ramsey County continues to make timely response to child protection reports a high priority and is working to increase services and supports available to families. The County is also continuing efforts to identify and reduce racial disparities while children and families are receiving County services.

Rate of Child Maltreatment\* by Metro County, 2016



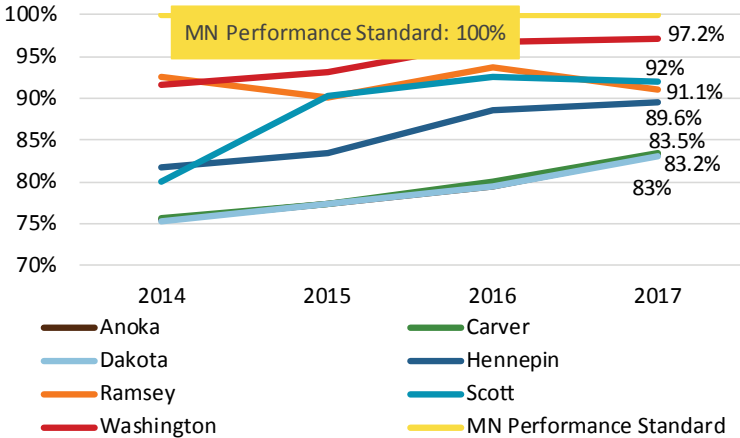
\* based on unique children in "screened-in" reports  
Source: Minnesota Department of Human Services.<sup>7</sup>

Children with a Subsequent Maltreatment Report Within 12 Months by Metro County



Source: Minnesota Department of Human Services.<sup>8</sup>

Alleged Victims of Child Maltreatment with a Face to Face Visit Within Time-Limit Specified in State Statute by Metro County



Source: Minnesota Department of Human Services.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Source: Minnesota Department of Human Services. Minnesota’s Child Maltreatment Report 2016.

<sup>8</sup> Source: Minnesota Department of Human Services. Child Welfare Dashboard. <https://mn.gov/dhs/partners-and-providers/news-initiatives-reports-workgroups/child-protection-foster-care-adoption/child-welfare-data-dashboard/>. Accessed May 29, 2018.