

Out-of-Home Placement - Youth

DESCRIPTION

Children are placed in out-of-home care when a child protective services worker and a court have determined that it is not safe for the child to remain at home, because of a risk of maltreatment, including neglect and physical or sexual abuse. Arrangements include non-relative foster homes, relative foster homes (also known as “kinship care”), group homes, institutions, and pre-adoptive homes.

Because of their history, children in foster care are more likely than other children to exhibit high levels of behavioral and emotional problems. They are also more likely to be suspended or expelled from school, and to exhibit low levels of school engagement and involvement with extracurricular activities. Children in foster care are also more likely to have received mental health services in the past year, to have a limiting physical, learning, or mental health condition, or to be in poor or fair health.¹ One study found that almost 60 percent of young children (ages two months to two years) in foster care were at a high risk for a developmental delay or neurological impairment.² Nearly half of children in foster care, according to another study, had had four or more “adverse family experiences”- potentially traumatic events that are associated with multiple poor outcomes in childhood and adulthood.³

HOW WE ARE DOING

There were 829 Ramsey County children who were removed from their homes in 2017 (6.6 per 1,000 children).⁴ This was the highest rate among metro counties. Similarly, from 2014 to 2016, Ramsey County had the highest rates of children in care among all metro counties.⁵ Ramsey County meets the federal standard for children removed from their homes to be reunited with their family or in a permanent home within 12 months but disparities exist. In 2016, Ramsey County African-American children removed from their homes were most likely to achieve permanency within 12 months (65%) and American Indian children were least likely to achieve permanency (33%) and fell below the federal standard. Asian, white, Hispanic/Latino and multi-racial children met the standard. In 2015 American Indian children achieved permanency 38% of the time and were again below the federal permanency standard.⁵

BENCHMARK INDICATOR

Federal standards expect that all children removed from their homes be in a permanent home within 12 months (usually by reunification or adoption).¹

U.S. Target: 40.5% or greater

DISPARITIES

Ramsey County children of color are overrepresented in the out-of-home placement system compared to the number in the general population. African- American/black children were almost twice as likely to be in out-of-home care than their white counterparts during 2014-2016.⁵

(continued on next page)

Information to note

- Ramsey County has the highest rates of children in out-of-home care in the metro area.
- In Ramsey County during 2014-2016, there were almost twice the number of black children in out-of-home care than their white counterparts.

¹Kortenkamp K, Ehrle J. The well-being of children involved with the child welfare system: A national overview. The Urban Institute. 2002; Series B, No. B-43. http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/310413_anf_b43.pdf. Published January 15, 2002. Accessed May 2018.

²Vandiver S, Chalk R, Moore K. Children in foster homes: How are they faring? Trends Child. 2003;2003-23. <https://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/FosterHomesRB.pdf>. Published December 1, 2003. Accessed May 2018.

³Bramlett MD, Radel LF. Adverse family experiences among children in nonparental care, 2011-2012. National Health Statistics Reports. 2014; 74, 1-8. <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhsr/nhsr074.pdf>. Published May 7, 2014. Accessed May 2018.

⁴Minnesota 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 2018.

⁵Minnesota Department of Human Services. Child Welfare Reports and Out-of-home Care and Permanency Reports.

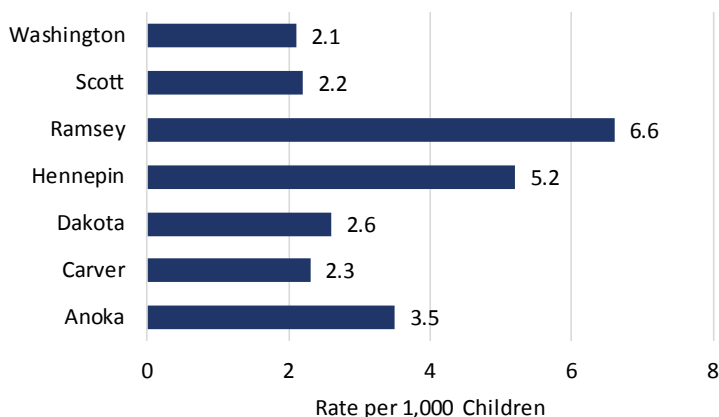
RISK FACTORS

Risk factors for out-of-home placement include the age and number of children in the family, special needs of children, the presence of alleged perpetrators in the household and the capacity of caregivers to provide a safe environment.

WHAT RAMSEY COUNTY GOVERNMENT IS DOING

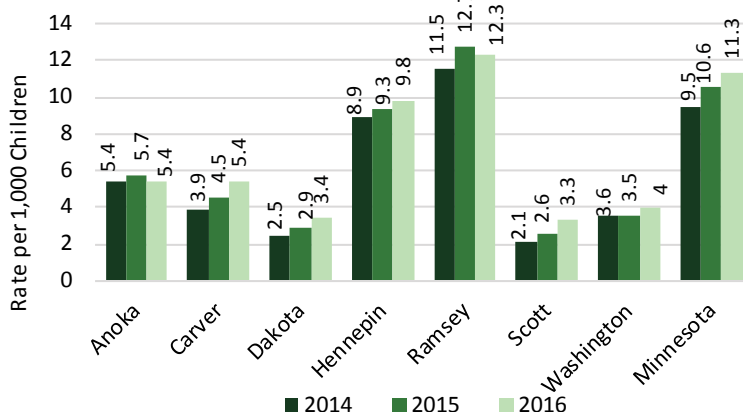
Ramsey County is focusing on ways to safely decrease entries into our child welfare system and to increase timely exits from care.

Rates of New Out-of-Home Placements by Metro County, 2017



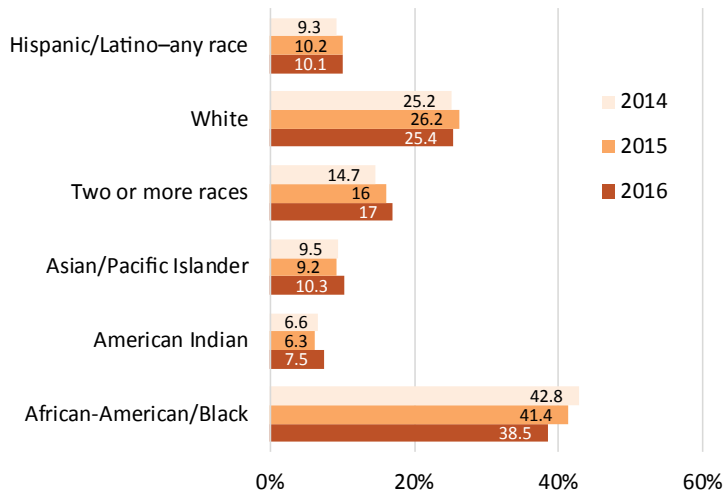
Source: Minnesota Department of Human Services.⁶

Rates of All Out-of-home Placements by Metro County and Minnesota



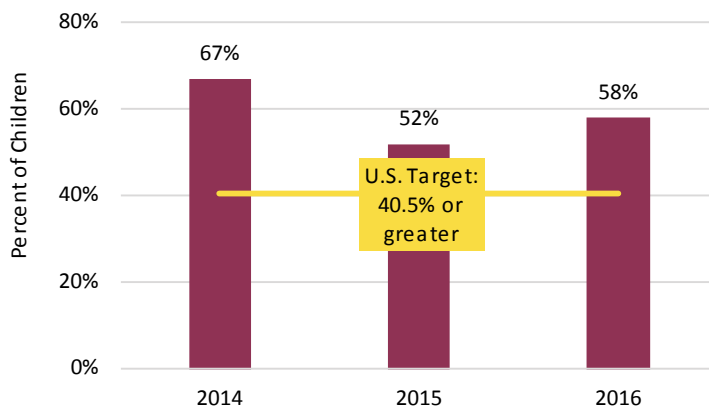
Source: Minnesota Department of Human Services.⁷

Children in Out-of-Home Care, Ramsey County



Source: Minnesota Department of Human Services.⁷

Children in Placement Who Are Reunited With Family or Placed in Permanent Homes Within 12 Months, Ramsey County



Source: Minnesota Department of Human Services.⁸

⁶ Minnesota Department of Human Services. Child Welfare Dashboard.

⁷ Department of Human Services. Child Welfare Reports.

⁸ Minnesota Department of Human Services Child and Family Service Review. <https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-54081a-ENG>. Accessed May 23, 2018.