# data and trend analysis **Crime**



Crime and violence experienced by individuals living in a community is an important public health issue. People can be exposed to violence in many ways. They may be victimized directly, witness violence or property crimes in their community, or hear about crime and violence from other residents. Violence can lead to premature death or cause non-fatal injuries. People who survive violent crime endure physical pain and suffering and may also experience mental distress and reduced quality of life.

# Crime

# DESCRIPTION

Crime and high rates of incarceration impose tremendous costs on society, with lasting negative effects on individuals, families and communities.<sup>1</sup> Rates of crime in the U.S. have been falling steadily, but still constitute a serious economic and social challenge. At the same time, the incarceration rate in the U.S. is so high that policymakers question whether, for nonviolent criminals, the social costs of incarceration exceed the social benefits.<sup>1</sup> Public spending on fighting crime—including the costs of incarceration, policing, and judicial and legal services—as well as private spending by households and businesses is substantial. There are also tremendous costs to the victims of crime, such as medical costs, lost earnings, and an overall loss in quality of life. Crime also stymies economic growth. Crime can induce citizens to migrate; economists estimate that each nonfatal violent crime reduces a city's population by approximately one person, and each homicide reduces a city's population by seventy persons.<sup>1</sup> Elevated rates of crime and incarceration directly work against long-term prosperity and economic growth, marginalizing individuals, devastating affected communities and perpetuating inequality.<sup>1</sup> Exposure to crime can cause feelings of being unsafe, mental distress and reduced quality of life, along with the possible physical effects of being a direct victim.<sup>2</sup>

#### HOW WE ARE DOING

Crime rates in Ramsey County have been dropping for years and are near historic lows. In 2017, there was a serious crime rate of 3,414 offenses per 100,000 residents, while in 2000 the rate was 5,267 per 100,000 population. There were 20,790 serious crime offenses in Ramsey County during 2017.<sup>3</sup> When asked about how feelings of being safe from crime within communities, 36.1 percent of Ramsey County residents reported feeling "very safe" and 14.7 percent responded with "somewhat unsafe" or "not at all safe" in 2014.<sup>4</sup>

#### DISPARITIES

Low-income individuals are more likely than higher-income individuals to be victims of crime. Most criminal offenders are younger than age 30. Disadvantaged youth engage in riskier criminal behavior.<sup>1</sup> In the U.S. there is nearly a 70 percent chance that an African-American man without a high school diploma will be imprisoned by his mid-30s.<sup>1</sup> In 2017, Minnesotans of color were nearly three times more likely to be charged with a serious crime than their white peers.<sup>3</sup>

#### **RISK FACTORS**

Criminal behavior starts mainly during early adolescence and is overwhelmingly an adolescent/early adult phenomenon.<sup>5</sup> Traditional criminological theories are concerned with biological factors, developmental experiences and/or social forces that create the criminal offender.<sup>6</sup> The occurrence of crime is understood largely as an expression of the offender's acquired deviance, which may be a function of events that occurred many years beforehand.<sup>6</sup> A more recent view is that crime is concentrated around "crime opportunities" and other environmental features that facilitate criminal activity and that given the right circumstances, most people are capable of illegal conduct. Crime occurs when residents feel isolated and anonymous and believe that they have no stake in their neighborhood.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Metro SHAPE Adult Health Survey 2014. Ramsey County Data Book. https://www.ramseycounty.us/sites/default/files/ Open%20Government/Public%20Health%20Data/ramsey\_county\_metro\_SHAPE\_2014\_survey.pdf. Accessed July 2018. <sup>5</sup> Thornbury P. ed. Advances in Criminological Theory: Developmental Theories of Crime and Delinquency. New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Publishers; 2017.

<sup>6</sup>Wortley R, Townsley M. eds. Environmental Criminology and Crime Analysis. 2nd ed. New York, NY: Routledge; 2017.



- Serious crime includes homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, arson and human trafficking.
- There were 20,790 instances of serious crime in 2017 in Ramsey County, most occurring in Roseville, followed by Maplewood and St. Paul.
- Ramsey County has the highest serious crime rate in Minnesota.

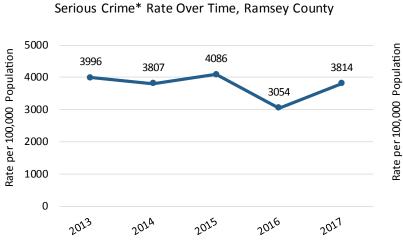
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Kearney S, Harris B, Jácome E, Parker L. Ten economic facts about crime and incarceration in the United States. Brookings Institute. 2014. https://www.brookings.edu/research/ten-economic-facts-about-crime-and-incarceration-in-the-united-states/. Published May 1, 2014. Accessed July 2018.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Crime and Violence. Healthy People 2020. https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/social-determinants-health/interventions-resources/crime-and-violence. Accessed July 2018.

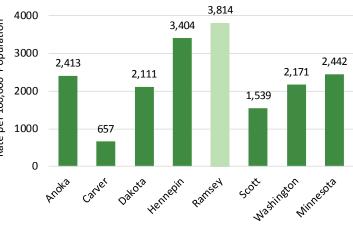
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Criminal Justice Data Reporting. Minnesota Department of Public Safety. https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/bca/bca-divisions/ mnjis/Pages/uniform-crime-reports.aspx. Accessed July 2018.

### WHAT RAMSEY COUNTY GOVERNMENT IS DOING

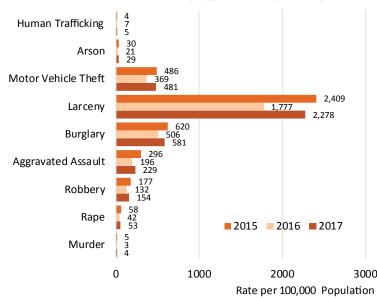
The Ramsey County Attorney's Office partners with law enforcement, neighborhood non-profits and community leaders, and youth to improve justice in our community. Some of the initiatives that have undertaken to improve public safety and quality of life for our residents are: combatting sex trafficking; participation in the East Metro Crime Prevention Coalition, free gun lock distribution, a GPS Technology Initiative for domestic violence victims, a Safe Summer Initiative in neighborhoods, assistance to veterans in the criminal justice system, participation in the Community Task Force on Safe Schools, and improving prevention and responses to sexual violence victims through the Start by Believing campaign.



Serious Crime\* Rate by Metro County, 2017



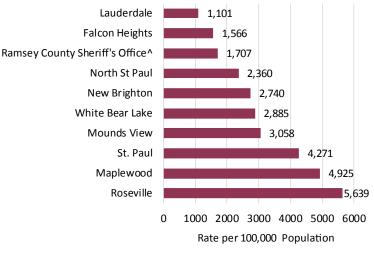
Source: Minnesota Department of Public Safety.<sup>7</sup>



Serious Crime Rate by Type, Ramsey County

Source: Minnesota Department of Public Safety.<sup>7</sup>

#### Serious Crime\* Rate by City, Ramsey County, 2017



<sup>^</sup> The Sheriff's Office provides law enforcement services to Arden Hills, Little Canada, North Oaks, Shoreview, Vadnais Heights and White Bear Township. Source: Minnesota Department of Public Safety.<sup>7</sup>

Source: Minnesota Department of Public Safety.<sup>7</sup>

\*Serious crime includes murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, arson, human trafficking.

<sup>7</sup> Minnesota Department of Public Safety. Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. Criminal Justice Data Reporting. https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/bca/bca-divisions/mnjis/Pages/ uniform-crime-reports.aspx. Accessed July 2018.

# Crime - Domestic Violence

#### DESCRIPTION

Domestic violence (also called intimate partner violence, domestic abuse or relationship abuse) is a pattern of behaviors used by one partner to maintain power and control over another partner in an intimate relationship.<sup>1</sup> Domestic violence includes behaviors that physically harm, arouse fear, prevent a partner from doing what they wish or force them to behave in ways they do not want. It includes the use of physical and sexual violence, threats and intimidation, emotional abuse and economic deprivation. Many of these different forms of domestic violence/abuse can be occurring at any one time within the same intimate relationship. Domestic violence does not look the same in every relationship because every relationship is different. But one thing most abusive relationships have in common is that the abusive partner does many different things to have more power and control over their partner. In Minnesota in 2017, there were 19 women killed by a former or current intimate partner, with five additional lives taken due to being either a bystander or family member that was killed alongside the victim.<sup>2</sup> Convicting someone of domestic violence can be the difference between them getting treatment or not and whether or not they can get a gun.

#### HOW WE ARE DOING

Annually, over 5,700 battered women and their children receive direct services from Saint Paul and Ramsey County Intervention, a community organization founded in 1985 to assist victims of domestic violence. Additionally, 9,000 more call for support, information and referrals on the 24-hour crisis line.<sup>3</sup> In 2017, there were 740 cases for orders for protection for domestic abuse in the Ramsey County court system and an additional 408 for harassment. In 2016, 64 percent of domestic abuse cases presented by law enforcement were charged in court<sup>4</sup>, and of those 87 percent of the offenders were found guilty.<sup>5</sup> In 2016, a rate of 60.8 visits per 100,000 Ramsey County residents were treated at an emergency department or hospital for battering and child maltreatment.<sup>6</sup> Among Ramsey County 8th, 9th and 11th grade students, 7.4 percent reported violent behavior between parents or other adults within their home.<sup>7</sup>

#### DISPARITIES

Ramsey County American Indian students and students of multiple races reported the highest percentage of violence between parents or adults at home in 2016.<sup>5</sup>

#### **RISK FACTORS**

Domestic violence does not discriminate. Anyone of any race, age, sexual orientation, religion or gender can be a victim – or perpetrator – of domestic violence. It can happen to people who are married, living together or who are dating. It affects people of all socioeconomic backgrounds and education levels.<sup>1</sup>

The most common indicators of potential perpetrators are low socio-economic status, underemployment, prior criminal history, abused or witness of abuse as a child, substance abuse, mental disorders and/or an attitude that violence is acceptable.<sup>7</sup> Warning signs of (continued on back)

c42fbb6692914f35a647c28344278da1.pdf. Accessed August 2018.

<sup>7</sup> Minnesota Student Survey. Minnesota Department of Education. http://w20.education.state.mn.us/MDEAnalytics/DataTopic. jsp?TOPICID=242. Accessed August 2018.



- In 2017, there were 740 cases for orders for protection for domestic abuse brought to court in Ramsey County and an additional 408 for harassment.
- There were 14 women killed by a former or current intimate partner in the metro area in 2017.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>What is Domestic Violence? The National Domestic Violence Hotline. http://www.thehotline.org/is-this-abuse/abuse-defined/. Accessed August 2018.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>2017 Femicide Report. Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women. http://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/f4bdb8\_

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>The St. Paul & Ramsey County Domestic Abuse Intervention Project. http://stpaulintervention.org/mission.html#q. Accessed August 2018.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Domestic Abuse Charging Rate- Performance Measurement. Ramsey County Attorney's Office. https://openperformance. ramseycounty.us/stories/s/mcvv-b78z. Accessed August 2018.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Domestic Abuse Conviction Rate. Ramsey County Attorney's Office. https://openperformance.ramseycounty.us/stat/goals/ yd5x-b3bg/p2gb-equf/4j88-d4hg. Accessed August 2018.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Hospital Treated Injury. Minnesota Department of Health. MIDAS. http://www.health.state.mn.us/injury/midas/injury/index. cfm. Accessed August 2018.

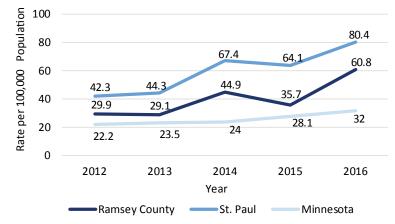
abuse becoming lethal may include; the victim trying to leave the abuser, presence of threats to kill the victim, abuser has access to firearms, and the abuser has a history of violence.<sup>8</sup>

### WHAT RAMSEY COUNTY GOVERNMENT IS DOING

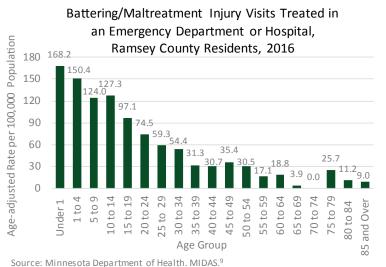
Ramsey County takes domestic violence seriously and aggressively prosecutes domestic assaults to hold the offender accountable and protect victims from future violence, and to send a message to our community that domestic abuse is a

crime and will not be tolerated. Minnesota law allows for gualified domestic violence-related offense charges to be enhanced if the offender has past conviction(s) within 10 years of the new offense. The Ramsey County Attorney's Office measures the outcomes of domestic abuse related cases to see if there are more convictions and fewer dismissals or lesser charges to see if offenders are being held accountable for their actions. Ramsey County is proud to be a member of the Partnership for Domestic Abuse Service (PDAS), a collaborative of 18 county government and nonprofit partners whose mission is to "identify, create, and sustain innovative responses that assure a future free of domestic violence." PDAS operates Bridges to Safety, the domestic abuse service center that serves victims at the Ramsey County Courthouse/Saint Paul City Hall in downtown Saint Paul.

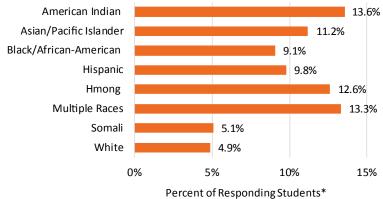
### Battering/Maltreatment Injury Visits Treated in an Emergency Department or Hospital



Source: Minnesota Department of Health. MIDAS.9



#### Students Reporting Violence Between Parents or Other Adults at Home, Ramsey County, 2016



\* Students could identify as more than one race/ethnicity Source: Minnesota Department of Education. Minnesota Student Survey.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Predictive Indicators of Domestic Violence. Domestic Shelters. https://www.domesticshelters.org/domestic-violence-articles-information/predictive-indicators-of-domestic-violence#.WuoYRpch02w. Published April 14, 2015. Accessed August 2018.

<sup>9</sup>Source: Minnesota Department of Health. MIDAS. http://www.health.state.mn.us/injury/midas/injury/index.cfm. Accessed August 2018.

<sup>10</sup> Source: Minnesota Student Survey. Minnesota Department of Education. http://w20.education.state.mn.us/MDEAnalytics/DataTopic.jsp?TOPICID=242. Accessed August 2018.



# Crime - Incarceration and Legal Supervision of Adults

### DESCRIPTION

The American criminal justice system holds almost 2.3 million people in 1,719 state prisons, 102 federal prisons, 1,852 juvenile correctional facilities, 3,163 local jails, and 80 Indian Country jails as well as in military prisons, immigration detention facilities, civil commitment centers, state psychiatric hospitals, and prisons in the U.S. territories.<sup>1</sup> Since about the year 2000 the total prison population increased by 14% in the U.S. A majority (56%) of people under the control of the American criminal justice system are on probation. Despite receiving little public attention, probation is a significant component of each state's criminal justice system.<sup>2</sup> People who are in jail end up facing consequences beyond incarceration itself, including lost wages, worsened physical and mental health, and possible loss of custody of children, a job, or a place to live.<sup>3</sup>

#### HOW WE ARE DOING

In 2017, the Ramsey County Correctional Facility (a 556-bed facility, housing both males and females who have received a sentence from the court for up to one year) served 4,188 inmates. In addition to housing Ramsey County offenders, Dakota County contracts with Ramsey County to board its female offenders. Since 2013, the number of admissions to RCCF has decreased by 8 percent. Most admissions in 2017 (42 percent) were people age 25-34. Black men made up 45 percent of the 2,018 male admissions and black females made up 29 percent of the 405 Ramsey County female admissions. Over the past five years, the percentage of female admissions has increased (39 percent in 2013 versus 48 percent in 2017). There were 11,677 adults on active supervision (probation or supervised release) served by Ramsey County Community Corrections, a decrease of 21 percent since 2013. Over the past five years, adults have been on probation for a longer duration. In 2013, 33 percent of adults removed from probation were open more than two years. In 2017, 43 percent were open for more than two years.

#### DISPARITIES

Race is a defining characteristic of the criminal justice system. People of color are dramatically overrepresented in prisons and jails. These racial disparities are particularly stark for blacks, who make up 40% of the incarcerated population in the U.S. despite representing only 13% of U.S residents.<sup>1</sup> Recent research suggests that much of the black-white disparity in the imposition of prison sentences is attributable to the manner in which dark-skinned blacks are treated. The study found that dark-skinned blacks were especially likely to receive unconditional prison sentences even when legal factors were controlled. "The most novel finding [was that] overall, whites with features that are more typically associated with blacks – darker skin tone and more Afrocentric facial features – are treated more punitively."<sup>4</sup>

#### **RISK FACTORS**

Poverty, in particular, perpetuates the cycle of incarceration, while incarceration itself leads to greater poverty.<sup>5</sup> Estimates report that nearly 40% of all crimes are directly attributable to poverty and the vast majority (80%) of incarcerated individuals are low-income.



- During 2017, 45% of male admissions to the Ramsey County Correctional Facility were African-American men.
- Since 2013, the number of adults on probation or supervised release has decreased by 21%.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Wagner P, Sawyer W. Mass incarceration: the whole pie 2018. Prison Policy Initiative. 2018. https://www.prisonpolicy.org/ reports/pie2018.html. Published March 14, 2018. Accessed July 2018.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Rabury B, Wagner P. Correctional control: incarceration and supervision by state. Prison Policy Initiative. 2016. https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/50statepie.html. Published June 1, 2016. Accessed July 2018.

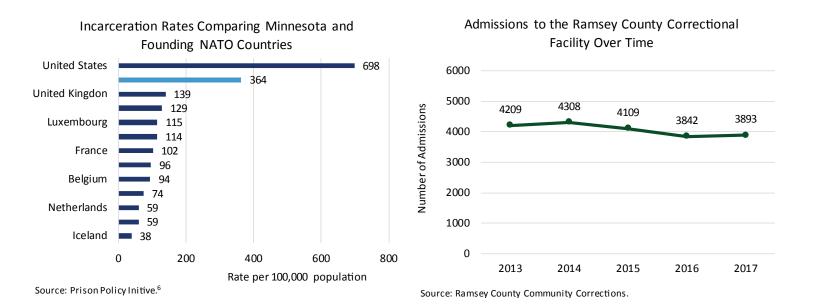
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Subramanian R, Delaney R, Roberts S, Fishman N, McGarry P. Incarceration's front door: The misuse of jails in America. Vera Institute. 2015. https://www.vera.org/publications/incarcerations-front-door-the-misuse-of-jails-in-america. Published February 2015. Updated July 29, 2015. Accessed July 2018.

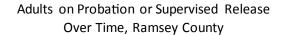
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> King R, Johnson B. A punishing look: skin tone and afrocentric features in the halls of justice. American Journal of Sociology. 2016;122(1):90-124. doi:10.1086/686941.

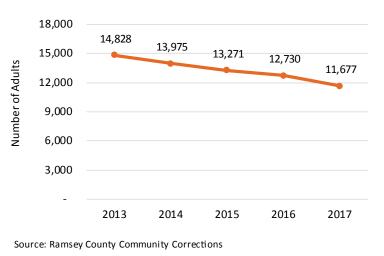
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> deVuono-powell S, Schweidler C, Walters A, Zohrabi A. Who pays? The true cost of incarceration on families. Ella Baker Center, Forward Together, Research Action Design. 2015. http://whopaysreport.org/executive-summary/. Published September 2015. Accessed July 2018.

#### WHAT RAMSEY COUNTY GOVERNMENT IS DOING

Ramsey County Community Corrections is exploring ways to increase the success of probationers in the community and reduce the use of confinement which disproportionately impacts communities of color in Ramsey County. Community Corrections has partnered with the Robina Institute at the University of Minnesota Law School and the Second Judicial District to review and reform probation revocation rates and processes in order to increase rates of successful completion of probation and reduce probation revocations. In addition, recognizing the intersection of race, poverty and criminal justice, Ramsey County Community Corrections has reduced the probation supervision fee from \$300 to \$150 for clients monitored at lower intensity at the Probation Reporting Center.







<sup>6</sup> Wagner P, Sawyer W. States of Incarceration: The Global Context 2018. Prison Policy Initiative. https://www.prisonpolicy.org/global/2018.html. Accessed July 2018.



# Crime - Sex Trafficking

### DESCRIPTION

Human trafficking believed to be the third-largest criminal activity in the world, is a form of human slavery. It involves both U.S. citizens and foreigners alike, and has no demographic restrictions.<sup>1</sup> Here in this country, people are being bought, sold, and smuggled like modern-day slaves, often beaten, starved, and forced to work as prostitutes or to take jobs as migrant, domestic, restaurant, or factory workers with little or no pay. Over the past decade, human trafficking has been identified as a heinous crime which exploits the most vulnerable in society.<sup>1</sup> Sex trafficking is defined in federal law as a commercial sex act induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age.<sup>2</sup> The FBI collects trafficking offense data on both Human Trafficking-Commercial Sex Acts and Human Trafficking-Involuntary Servitude through the Uniform Crime Reporting program from local law enforcement.<sup>3</sup>

#### HOW WE ARE DOING

There were 25 arrests for trafficking in Ramsey County during 2017, down from 42 arrests in 2016. The crime rate for trafficking rose steadily from 2014 (the first year of data collection) to 2016 and then dropped in 2017 to 5 per 100,000 population.

#### DISPARITIES

Collecting statistics on sex trafficking is particularly difficult because of the hidden nature of trafficking activities. Although the majority of labor trafficking victims are undocumented, the majority of sex trafficking victims in the U.S. are U.S. citizens.<sup>4</sup> In a 2014 Urban Institute study that looked at the economics of sex trafficking, of the traffickers interviewed the majority overwhelmingly believed that trafficking white women would make them more money but trafficking black women would land them less jail time if caught. Most of the traffickers interviewed had trafficked women and girls of different races since having a variety of products to sell was good for business.<sup>5</sup>

#### **RISK FACTORS**

Practitioners report that traffickers often target individuals who have previous experiences of psychological trauma, histories of family violence or child sex abuse, drug dependency, homelessness, and social isolation. Individuals with limited economic resources—minors and individuals with limited educational opportunities, work opportunities or family support—are also at a heightened risk of trafficking.<sup>6</sup>

#### WHAT RAMSEY COUNTY GOVERNMENT IS DOING

Over the past several years Ramsey County has taken a leading role in Minnesota – and even nationwide – in combating a previously hidden but major problem: the sexual exploitation, including the sex trafficking, of children. County leaders helped catalyze a new state law, the Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Youth Act of 2011, which ensures that young people who are sexually exploited/trafficked are treated as victims, not perpetrators. Saint Paul – Ramsey County Public Health's SOS program has taken the lead on reviewing (continued on next page)



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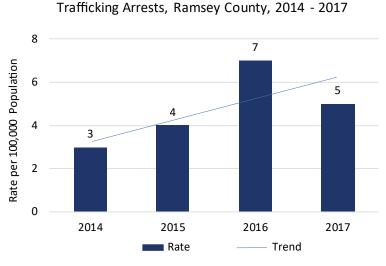
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> What We Investigate: Human Trafficking/Involuntary Servitude. FBI. https://www.fbi.gov/investigate/civil-rights/human-trafficking. Accessed July 2018.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Chapter 78-Trafficking Victims Protection. United States Code. http://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?path=/prelim@title22/ chapter78&edition=prelim. Accessed July 2018.

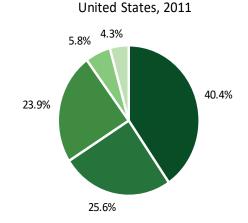
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Human Trafficking in the Uniform Crime Reporting Program. FBI. https://ucr.fbi.gov/human-trafficking. Accessed July 2018. <sup>4</sup> Human Trafficking. The National Center for Victims of Crime. http://victimsofcrime.org/docs/ncvrw2013/2013ncvrw\_stats\_ humantrafficking.pdf?sfvrsn=0. Accessed July 2018.

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Dank M, Khan B, Downey PM, et al. Estimating the size and structure of the underground commercial sex economy in eight major US cities. The Urban Institute. 2014. https://www.urban.org/research/publication/estimating-size-and-structure-underground-commercial-sex-economy-eight-major-us-cities/view/full\_report. Published March 12, 2014. Accessed July 2018.
<sup>6</sup> Carpenter A, Gates J. The nature and extent of gang Involvement in sex trafficking in San Diego county. U.S. Department of Justice. 2016. https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/249857.pdf. Accessed July 2018.

the practices of medical facilities that encounter sexually exploited/trafficked victims. The Ramsey County Sheriff's Office convened a countywide law enforcement team to collaborate on sex trafficking cases, which often cross jurisdictional lines. In 2017 a Ramsey County Sexually Exploited Youth Leadership team was formed to develop a county-wide protocol that encompasses a victim-centered, comprehensive, systemic response so the community can come together to effectively combat the sexual exploitation/trafficking of children. This group is currently working on developing a protocol by tailoring the statewide model protocol to the specific resources and needs in Ramsey County.



Source: Minnesota Department of Public Safety Uniform Crime Reports.<sup>7</sup>



Sex Trafficking Victims by Race/Ethnicity,

Black or African American White Hispanic or Latino Other Asian

Source: Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Minnesota Department of Public Safety. Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. Uniform Crime Reports. https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/bca/bca-divisions/mnjis/Pages/uniform-crime-reports.aspx. Accessed July 2018.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, Trafficking in Persons Report 2012, (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of State, 2012), 361, accessed October 15, 2012, http://www.state.gov/ documents/organization/192598.pdf.



# Crime - Unlawful Conduct Among Youth

# DESCRIPTION

Although the U.S. still leads the industrialized world in the rate at which it locks up young people, the youth confinement rate in the U.S. is rapidly declining. The juvenile justice system is based on the premise that adolescents and adults have different needs and capacities. Adolescents are still developing mentally, physically and emotionally, as they are forming their identities. As a result, juveniles who break the law should be treated differently than adults who do. Most juveniles in U.S. residential placement are there because of delinquency. The other 5 percent have committed status offenses (behaviors that are illegal for underage persons but not for adults, such as running away and truancy) as their most serious offense. For youth under court supervision, reoffending rates remain unacceptably high.<sup>1</sup> Rearrest rates for youth on probation are 50 percent or greater in many states, while two-thirds of incarcerated youth are rearrested within two years of release. Resources invested in community supervision and services have not consistently produced the desired measurable improvements in youth outcomes, particularly for youth of color who continue to experience persistent disparities and worse outcomes compared to their white peers.<sup>2</sup>

In Minnesota juvenile courts have jurisdiction over youth under age 18 who engage in unlawful conduct, with certain exceptions. In contrast to the adult courts, juvenile proceedings are not criminal proceedings designed to determine criminal responsibility and punishment, but rather they are civil proceedings designed to protect the child from the consequences of his or her own conduct, develop individual responsibility for unlawful behavior, rehabilitate him or her, and at the same time promote public safety.<sup>3</sup>

#### HOW WE ARE DOING

Between 2013-2017, there was a 16 percent decrease in admissions to Ramsey County's Juvenile Detention Center (JDC), and a 20 percent decrease in the number of individual youth admitted. Most admissions (75 percent) each year were males. Over the past five years, the average time spent at the JDC has been 9-11 days. In 2017, Ramsey County's Boys Totem Town (BTT) facility served 60 boys. Since 2013 there has been a 65 percent decrease in admissions to BTT. In 2017, 841 Ramsey County youth were served by county probation staff, and 55 percent were black. Over the past five years approximately 50 percent of youth in the system were on probation for six months or less.<sup>4</sup>

#### DISPARITIES

An assumption made, often erroneously, is that racial disparities exist because youth of color commit more crime than white youth.<sup>5</sup> While data suggest white youth and youth of color may have different rates of offending for some crimes, the levels of disparity observed are too great to be explained by differences in youth offending patterns alone.<sup>6</sup> Furthermore, once youth of color are in the system, research reveals they receive harsher consequences than white youth with similar offenses and criminal histories.<sup>7</sup> Black youth,

<sup>3</sup> Minn. Stat. § 2608.001, subd. 2. http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hrd/issinfo/cr-juvjst.aspx?src=33. Accessed July 2018. <sup>4</sup> Ramsey County Community Corrections 2016 Fact Sheets. Ramsey County. https://www.ramseycounty.us/sites/default/files/ Departments/2016%20Community%20Corrections%20Fact%20Sheets.pdf. Published April 2017. Accessed July 2018. <sup>5</sup> Center for Juvenile Justice Reform. Racial and ethnic disparity and disproportionality in child welfare and juvenile justice: A compendium. Center for Juvenile Justice Reform. 2009. http://cjjr.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/ RacialandEthnicDisparity\_January2009.pdf. Published January 2009. Accessed July 2018.

<sup>6</sup> Huizinga D, Thornberry T, Knight K, Lovegrove P. Disproportionate minority contact in the juvenile justice system: A study of differential minority arrests/referral to court in three cities. 2007. https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/grants/219743.pdf. Accessed July 2018.

<sup>7</sup> And justice for some: Differential treatment of youth of color in the justice system. National Council on Crime and Delinquency. 2007. https://www.nccdglobal.org/publications/and-justice-for-some-differential-treatment-of-youth-of-color-in-the-justice-system. Published January 2007. Accessed July 2018.



- Black youth, ages 10-17, make up 19% of Ramsey County's youth population but accounted for 65% of detention admissions in 2017.
- Since 2013, the number of Ramsey County youth on probation has decreased by 26%.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Sickmund M, Sladky TJ, Kang W, Puzzanchera C. Easy Access to the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement. EZACJRP. https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezacjrp/. Updated June 1, 2017. Accessed July 2018.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Weber J, Umpierre M, Bilchik S. Transforming juvenile justice systems to improve public safety and youth outcomes. Center for Juvenile Justice Reform. 2018. http://cjjr.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Transforming-Juvenile-Justice-Systems-to-Improve-Public-Safety-and-Youth-Outcomes.pdf. Published May 2018. Accessed July 2018.

ages 10-17, make up 19 percent of Ramsey County's youth population but accounted for 65 percent of detention admissions in 2017.8 Racial disparities continue to exist and while the number of youth of color admitted to detention has declined, the percentage of youth of color continues to represent a significant majority of detention admissions.

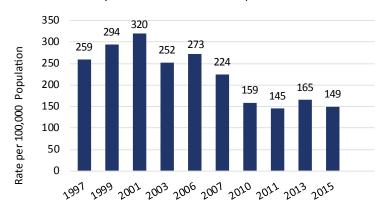
#### **RISK FACTORS**

Youths' likelihood of engaging in delinquency and other problem behaviors are typically organized into the following domains: Individual (e.g., biological and psychological dispositions, attitudes, values, knowledge, skills, problem behaviors); Peer (e.g., norms, activities, attachment); Family (e.g., function, management, bonding, abuse/violence); School (e.g., bonding, climate, policy, performance); and Community (e.g., bonding, norms, resources, poverty level, crime).<sup>9</sup>

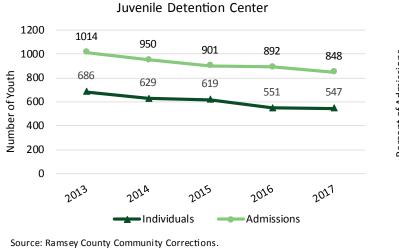
# WHAT RAMSEY COUNTY GOVERNMENT IS DOING

In 2014, Ramsey County began reform work with the Annie E. Casey Foundation called the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI), to reduce reliance on out-ofhome placement for court-involved youth. Out-of-home placements have a deeply troubling track record including high rates of recidivism, exorbitant costs, reduction in health and safety, and poor outcomes in youth development. By intentionally applying JDAI's approach through data-driven decision making, stakeholder collaboration, increasing community-based alternatives to placement and a laser focus on reducing racial and ethnic disparities in our juvenile justice system, Ramsey County can substantially reduce reliance on incarceration and out-of-home placement without sacrificing public safety.

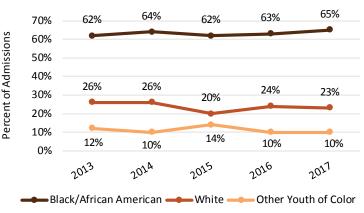
Youth Residing in Juvenile Detention, Correctional, and/or Residential Facilities, Minnesota



Source: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.<sup>10</sup>



#### Admissions to the Ramsey County Admissions to the Juvenile Detention Center,



**Ramsey County** 

<sup>8</sup> Ramsey County Community Corrections 2016 Fact Sheets. Ramsey County. https://www.ramseycounty.us/sites/default/files/Departments/2016%20Community%20 Corrections%20Fact%20Sheets.pdf. Published April 2017. Accessed July 2018.

<sup>10</sup> Source: Sickmund M, Sladky TJ, Kang W, Puzzanchera C. (2017) "Easy Access to the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement." https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezacjrp/. Accessed July 2018.



Source: Ramsey County Community Corrections.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Risk Factors for Delinquency. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. 2015. https://www.ojjdp.gov/mpg/litreviews/Risk%20Factors.pdf. Updated December 2015. Accessed July 2018.