2017 Ramsey County and Minnesota Local Government Performance Measures Report

Ramsey County participates in the Minnesota Council on Local Results and Innovation's comprehensive performance measurement system for cities and counties. This program encourages local governments to publish and compare information on their activities. The data items were selected from a list provided by the state. Many of the items in the state system are included in the performance measurement process that the county began in the 1990s.

Additional data is available through the county's Open Data Portal at ramseycounty.us/opendata.

Public Safety: Crime rates (per 100,000 people)	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Part I Crimes (Serious Crimes	4,235	3,930	3,738	3,356	3,489
Part II Crimes (Other Crimes)	2,004	3,878	3,731	3,903	3,680
Total	6,239	7,808	7,469	7,259	7,200
The uniform crime statistics program is a standard way of comparing crime patterns across jurisdictions. The increase in the Part II crimes between 2012 and 2013 is due to public safety agencies including information on more categories of crime.					

Public Works: Pavement conditions	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Average pavement condition rating for county roads	58	59	61	62	61
Pavement conditions affect driver safety and convenience. Every segment of roads is examined and rated regularly using a standardized system developed by MnDOT. The results are used to plan and implement county maintenance operations efficiently. (Maximum points=100)					

Public Health, Social Services: Low birth weights, all births	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Percent of all live births with weight < 2500 grams	7.2%	7.3%	7.3%	7.3%	7.2%
Babies born weighing less than 2500 grams (5lb. 8 oz.) have greater health risks than babies born at a higher birth weight. These risks include a range of poor health outcomes, including death before their first birthday. Reducing poor birth outcomes will reduce health care costs, decrease use of social services programs and increase family wellbeing.					

Environment: Recycling percentage	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Percent mixed municipal solid waste (MSW) recycled	41.1%	50.4%	52.5%	55.1%	55.0%
Recycling is critical for reducing the impact of waste on the environment.					

Property Records, Evaluation, Assessment: Assessment ratios	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Residential assessment ratio	99.3	98.1	94.6	96.2	96.4
Apartment assessment ratio	103.7	99.2	95.1	91.2	91.4
Commercial assessment ratio	100	96.3	96.3	101.4	98.6
Assessment ratios are part of the Minnesota Department of Revenue annual analysis of the accuracy of property value assessments. These are ratios of assessed values to market sales. Assessors are required to have ratios between 90 and 105 percent. (If values are less than 100, the assessed values tend to be lower than market sales. Values over indicate that assessed values tend to be more than market sales.)					

Elections: Accuracy of post-election audit	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Percent of ballots counted accurately -- post-election review	99.80%	**	99.94%	**	100.00%
After elections, the results of ballot counting are reviewed to determine the accuracy of the counting process; 99.5 percent is the minimum accuracy required by the state. (** State-county elections are not conducted in odd-numbered years.)					

Veterans Services: Benefits received by veterans	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Federal pension and disability benefits for veterans and survivor	$52.62 million	$60.85 million	$70.61 million	$68.63 million	$72.97 million
The county's Veterans Services department provides assistance and counseling and acts as an advocate for veterans, their dependents and survivors who are entitled to federal and state benefits.					
Value of VA Medical Care Services, which includes state of the art Primary and Specialty Care as well as many programs and services.	$61.45 million	$75.50 million	$81.61 million	$86.61 million	$84.92 million
Veterans Services assists veterans with enrollment in the VA Medical Care System. VA Medical Care Veterans Services advocates and refers veterans to programs and services provided within the VA Medical Care System.					

Parks & Recreation: Visits (per 1,000 residents)	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Ramsey County Regional Parks (visits per 1,000 population)	18,812	20,372	20,263	16,380	14,929
Saint Paul Regional Parks (visits per 1,000 population)	33,569	31,886	31,528	31,257	30,196
The Ramsey County and Saint Paul park systems both include regional parks that provide recreation services to county residents and visitors. Economics – such as changing gas prices and cautious household spending patterns – and changing demographics have resulted in more people recreating closer to home. This includes increased use of parks and recreational facilities.					

Libraries: Visits (per 1,000 residents)	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Ramsey County Library (Physical visits per 1,000 population)	7,912	7,464	6,967	6,808	6,666
Saint Paul Public Library (Physical visits per 1,000 population)	8,021	7,120	6,514	7,194	7,313
Ramsey County Library (Virtual visits per 1,000 population)	*8,673*	*8,818*	*9,020*	*8,886*	*8,647*
Ramsey County is home to two public library systems: Ramsey County and Saint Paul. Traditionally, physical visits to a library is a measure of services. The use of digital library materials is becoming more common and Ramsey County is using a measure of virtual visits to track new patterns.					

Budget, Financial: Bond ratings	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Standard & Poor's Ratings Services	AAA	AAA	AAA	AAA	AAA
Moody's Investor Services	Aaa	Aaa	Aaa	Aaa	Aaa
Rating agencies examine a county's financial and management characteristics in order to rate whether the bonds will be safe investments.					

More information:
- MN Office of the State Auditor Local Innovation & Performance Measures Program: www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=20130214.000

Data sources:
- *Crime Rates: MN DPS, Uniform Crime Reports (2012-Table 46, 2013-Table 46, 2014-Table 48, 2015-Tables 312 & 38, 2016-MN BCA REPORT 2016 UCR-County All Offense Data); American Community Survey Populations Estimates, 1 year, Table B01003.*
- *Low Birth Rate Births: National Center for Health Statistics, Vital Statistics through the National Health Rankings, WONDER Data System*
- *Park Use: Visits to Regional Parks, Annual Use Estimates of the Metropolitan Regional Parks System, Metropolitan Council Population Estimates*
- *Library Use: MN Public Library Annual Report Worksheets, Ramsey County Budgets; Metropolitan Council Population Estimates Program*
- *All other measures: Ramsey County Performance Measures in Proposed Budgets or departmental data*
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