

Violence



Key Facts about Violence

In general, Dakota County is very safe. Homicide rates are low and the rate of determined child maltreatment is below Minnesota and the metro area. Reported incidents of sexual violence have decreased; however, many incidents go unreported. Dakota County students generally feel safe going to and from school and at school, and many school violence and bullying indicators have decreased; however, as adolescents increase their use of electronic media, the opportunity for online bullying and victimization increases. More 12th graders are concerned about illegal gang activity.

**Community
Health
Profiles**

Dakota
COUNTY

Violence is a serious public health problem in the United States. From infants to the elderly, it affects people in all stages of life. In 2009, more than 17,000 people in the United States were victims of homicide. The number of violent deaths tells only part of the story; many more survive violence and are left with permanent physical and emotional scars. Violence also erodes communities by reducing productivity, decreasing property values, and disrupting social services.

Homicide and assaults

- From 2000 to 2009, there were 50 deaths of Dakota County residents due to homicide. The homicide rate was lower than the rate for Minnesota and the metro in the period 2005-2009.
- There were 159 aggravated assaults reported to law enforcement in Dakota County in 2009.
- There were 601 non-fatal, assaultive injuries to county residents that required an emergency room visit or hospitalization in 2009.
- Persons ages 15-24 have the highest rate of assaultive injuries, and males have a higher rate than females.

Maltreatment

- In 2009, 274 Dakota County children were determined to have been maltreated. Types of abuse included: neglect (68 percent), physical abuse (20 percent), and sexual abuse (14 percent).
- The rate of determined child maltreatment in Dakota County children was below the rate for Minnesota and the metro in 2009.
- In 2003, the National Research Council estimated that between one and two million Americans aged 65 and older were harmed by a caretaker in either an institutional or domestic setting.
- Many cases of abuse or neglect are not reported to police or social services.

Intimate partner violence

- Three percent of Minnesota women 18-44 reported being physically assaulted by a current or former intimate partner in the previous year (2004).
- Fourteen percent of Dakota County 12th grade girls and eight percent of 9th grade girls reported in 2010 that they had ever been physically hurt by a significant other.

Violence at school

- The percentage of students in 6th, 9th, and 12th grades who said that they hit or beat up another person at least once in the past 12 months dropped sharply from 1992 to 2010.
- In 2010, nearly one-half (48 percent) of 6th graders reported being pushed, shoved, or grabbed in the previous year. This percentage decreased from 1995 to 2010.

Sexual violence

- From 2003-2007, there were 281 visits by Dakota County residents to emergency rooms or hospitals for treatment of injuries due to sexual violence.
- There were 69 rapes reported in 2009 to Dakota County law enforcement. The rate generally decreased between 2003 and 2009.
- In 2010, four percent of 6th graders and five percent of 9th and 12th graders reported being touched sexually or being forced to touch someone else sexually (non-family member).

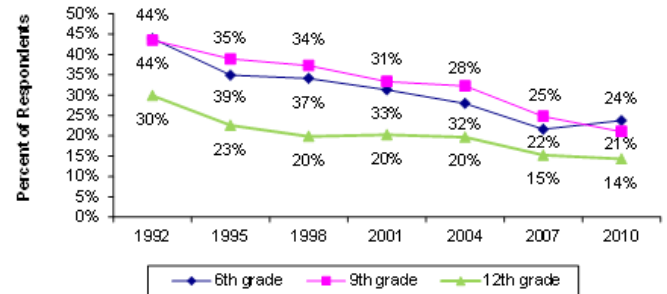
Internet safety

- 32 percent of online teens in the U.S. have been a victim of online harrassment (2007). Twenty-six percent have been harrassed via their cell phone (2010).
- A 2009 survey of Internet safety found that 93 percent of teens 12-17 go online. Among that group, 73 percent use social networking sites.
- Twenty-nine percent of Dakota County 9th graders and 32 percent of 12th graders reported being online six or more hours per week. About half of 9th and 12th graders reported phone use or text messaging six or more hours per week.

Destructive and antisocial behavior

- In 2010, 11 percent of Dakota County 6th and 12th graders and 14 percent of 9th graders reported that they have damaged or destroyed property in the previous year. These percentages generally decreased in all grades from 1992 to 2010.
- In 2010, four percent of Dakota County 6th graders, six percent of 9th graders and seven percent of 12th graders reported carrying a weapon on school property in the previous month. These percentages generally decreased in all grades from 1995 to 2010.

Students Who Hit or Beat Up Another Person At Least Once in the Past 12 Months Dakota County, 1992-2010



Source: Minnesota Student Survey Interagency Team, Minnesota Student Survey

Harassment and bullying at school

- Twenty-four percent of Dakota County 6th graders, 18 percent of 9th graders and 15 percent of 12th graders reported having been threatened by another student in the previous year (2010). These percentages generally decreased or remained stable in all grades from 1995 to 2010.
- Twenty-six percent of Dakota County 12th graders, 37 percent of 9th graders, and 52 percent of 6th graders reported that they were made fun of or teased by another student in the past 30 days (2010).

School safety

- More than 95 percent of Dakota County students felt safe going to and from school and more than 93 percent felt safe at school (2010).
- The percent of Dakota County students who feel that illegal gang activity is a problem slightly decreased or remained stable from 2007 to 2010 for 6th and 9th graders and increased for 12th graders.

About this Community Health Profile

For more information about the Dakota County Community Health Assessment and Action Planning (CHAAP) process, contact: Melanie Countryman, Epidemiologist (melanie.countryman@co.dakota.mn.us or 651-554-6131).

For more information:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention www.cdc.gov
- MN Department of Health www.health.state.mn.us
- MN Department of Human Services www.dhs.state.mn.us
- MN Center Against Violence & Abuse www.mincava.umn.edu
- National Domestic Abuse Hotline www.ndvh.org

www.DakotaCounty.us/PublicHealth

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