



Community Health Profile

VIOLENCE

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 2021, more than 26,000 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.

KEY FACTS

In general, Dakota County is very safe. Homicide rates are low and the rate of alleged child maltreatment is below Minnesota overall.

Most Dakota County students 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.

Aggravated assaults have decreased.

Reported incidents of sexual violence have generally decreased since 2021, but many incidents go unreported.

Homicide and assaults

- From 2012 to 2021, there were 76 deaths of Dakota County residents due to homicide. The homicide rate was lower than the rate for Minnesota in the period 2018-2021.
- There were 514 aggravated assaults reported to law enforcement in Dakota County in 2023. The number decreased from 2021 to 2023.
- There were 655 assaultive injuries to county residents that required an emergency room visit or hospitalization in 2022.

Maltreatment

- In 2021, 1,509 Dakota County children were alleged to have been maltreated, including those who went through a family assessment or an investigation. Types of abuse in reported cases included: neglect (66 percent), physical abuse (26 percent), and sexual abuse (13.5 percent).
- Many cases of abuse or neglect are not reported to police or social services.

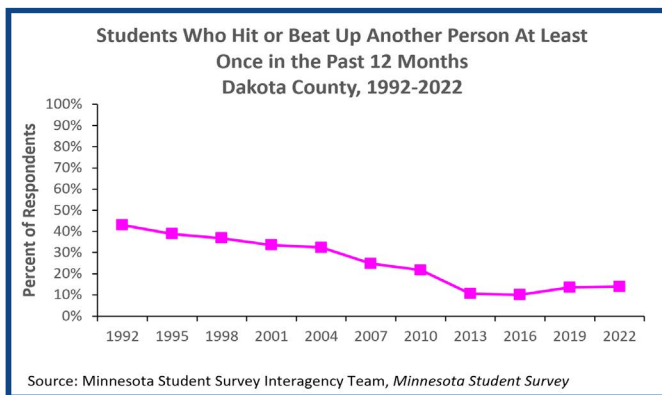
Interpersonal Violence

- In 2022, 951 injuries to county residents due to child or adult abuse required an emergency room visit or hospitalization.
- In 2022, five percent of Dakota County 8th, seven percent of 9th graders, and six percent of 11th graders reported that they ever experienced physical violence and six percent of 9th graders and 12 percent of 11th graders said that they ever experienced sexual violence from an intimate partner.



Violence at school

- The percentage of students in 9th grade who said that they hit or beat up another person at least once in the past 12 months dropped sharply from 1992 to 2016, but increased from 2016 to 2022.



- In 2022, 15 percent of 5th graders, 18 percent of 8th graders, 11 percent of 9th graders, and six percent of 11th graders reported being pushed, shoved, slapped, hit or kicked during the past 30 days.

School safety

- Nearly 95 percent of Dakota County students felt safe going to and from school and nearly 89 percent felt safe at school (2022).

Harassment and bullying at school

- 22.5 percent of Dakota County 5th graders, 16 percent of 8th graders, 12 percent of 9th graders and seven percent of 11th graders reported that another student threatened to beat them up during the past 30 days (2022).
- Twenty-six percent of 5th graders, 31 percent of 8th graders, 25 percent of 9th graders and 21 percent of 11th graders reported being harassed or bullied for their personal appearance during the past 30 days (2022).

Destructive and antisocial behavior

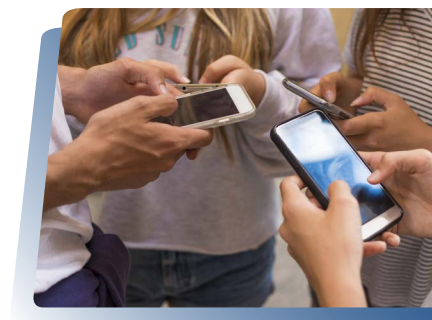
- In 2022, 17 percent of 8th graders, 13 percent of 9th graders, and 14 percent of 11th graders reported that they had damaged or destroyed property in the previous year.
- In 2022, 11 percent of 8th graders, 13 percent of 9th graders and 16.5 percent of 11th graders reported that they had taken something from a store without paying for it in the past year.

Sexual violence

- There were 114 rapes reported in 2023 to Dakota County law enforcement. The number generally decreased from 2021 to 2023.
- In 2022, six percent of Dakota County 8th and 9th graders and nine percent of 11th graders reported being pressured, tricked or forced to do something sexual or have something done sexually to them against their wishes (non-family member).

Internet safety

- In 2022, 23 percent of Dakota County 5th graders, 16 percent of 8th graders, 15 percent of 9th graders, and 10 percent of 11th graders reported that they had been bullied one or more times in the past month through texting, Instagram, Snapchat, or other social media.



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 mn.gov/dhs
- MN Center Against Violence & Abuse www.cehd.umn.edu/ssw/centers/mincava

The Dakota County Public Health Department is accredited by the national Public Health Accreditation Board.

For more information about the Dakota County community health assessment, email public.health@co.dakota.mn.us or call 651.554.6100.

