



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 2017, more than 19,000 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 increased since 2008.

Reported incidents of sexual violence have generally increased since 2013, but many incidents go unreported.

Homicide and assaults

- From 2008 to 2017, there were 58 deaths of Dakota County residents due to homicide. The homicide rate was lower than the rate for Minnesota in the period 2013-2017.
- There were 361 aggravated assaults reported to law enforcement in Dakota County in 2017. The rate decreased from 2013 to 2017; but, it remains significantly higher than it was in 2008.
- There were 680 non-fatal, assaultive injuries to county residents that required an emergency room visit or hospitalization in 2016.
- Persons ages 20-29 have the highest rate of assaultive injuries, and females have a higher rate than males.

Maltreatment

- In 2017, 2,143 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 (67 percent), physical abuse (28 percent), and sexual abuse (10 percent).
- The rate of determined victims in Dakota County was below the rate for Minnesota in 2017.
- Many cases of abuse or neglect are not reported to police or social services.

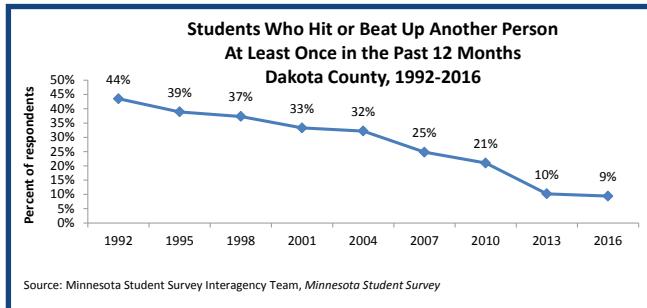
Intimate partner Violence

- In 2016, 36 injuries to county residents due to intimate partner violence required an emergency room visit or hospitalization. These injuries were most common in women aged 25–29.
- In 2018, 10.5 percent of female college students in Minnesota reported that they experienced intimate partner violence within the past 12 months.



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.



- In 2016, 23 percent of 5th graders, 12 percent of 8th graders, 8.5 percent of 9th graders, and five percent of 11th graders reported being pushed, shoved, slapped, hit or kicked during the past 30 days.

School safety

- More than 95 percent of Dakota County students felt safe going to and from school and more than 91 percent felt safe at school (2016).

Harassment and bullying at school

- Sixteen percent of Dakota County 5th graders, 12 percent of 8th graders, nine percent of 9th graders and five percent of 11th graders reported that another student threatened to beat them up during the past 30 days (2016).
- Nineteen percent of 5th graders, 20 percent of 8th graders, 18 percent of 9th graders and 15 percent of 11th graders reported being harassed or bullied for their size or weight during the past 30 days (2013).

Destructive and antisocial behavior

- In 2016, 12 percent of Dakota County 5th, 9th and 11th graders and 11 percent of 8th graders reported that they had damaged or destroyed property in the previous year.
- In 2016, four percent of Dakota County 5th graders, seven percent of 8th graders, nine percent of 9th graders and 13 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 120 rapes reported in 2017 to Dakota County law enforcement. The rate generally increased from 2013 to 2017, but dropped from 2016 to 2017.
- In 2016, three percent of Dakota County 8th, 9th and 11th graders reported being touched sexually or being forced to touch someone else sexually (non-family member).

Internet safety

- A 2018 national survey of teen Internet usage found that 89 percent of teens are online almost constantly or several times a day and 97 percent of teens use social networking sites.
- In 2016, 14 percent of Dakota County 5th graders, 15 percent of 8th graders, 13 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 email, chat rooms, instant messaging, websites, or texting.



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 <https://mn.gov/dhs/>
- MN Center Against Violence & Abuse <https://www.devex.com/organizations/minnesota-center-against-violence-and-abuse-mincava-20046>

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.

