Violence

Key facts about Violence

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 2009. Reported incidents of sexual violence have generally increased since 2006, but many incidents go unreported.

Homicide and assaults

- From 2006 to 2015, there were 47 deaths of Dakota County residents due to homicide. The homicide rate was lower than the rate for Minnesota and the metro area in the period 2011-2015.
- There were 334 aggravated assaults reported to law enforcement in Dakota County in 2015. From 2009 to 2011, the rate increased by 148 percent. It decreased from 2011 to 2015; but, it remains significantly higher than it was in 2009.
- There were 560 non-fatal, assaultive injuries to county residents that required an emergency room visit or hospitalization in 2014.
- Persons ages 15–24 have the highest rate of assaultive injuries, and males have a higher rate than females.

Maltreatment

- In 2015, 1,624 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 (71 percent), physical abuse (24 percent), and sexual abuse (nine percent).
- The rate of alleged child maltreatment in Dakota County children was below the rate for Minnesota in 2015.
- In 2014, there were 1,531 reports of suspected maltreatment of vulnerable adults in Dakota County. Types of abuse in reported cases included: financial exploitation (18 percent), caregiver neglect (41 percent), self-neglect (26 percent), emotional/mental abuse (eight percent), and physical abuse (eight percent).
- Many cases of abuse or neglect are not reported to police or social services.

Intimate partner violence

- In 2014, 50 injuries to county residents due to intimate partner violence required an emergency room visit or hospitalization. These injuries were most common in women aged 20–39.
- In 2015, 11 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.

  ![Graph of Students Who Hit or Beat Up Another Person At Least Once in the Past 12 Months Dakota County, 1992-2016](image)

  Source: Minnesota Student Survey Interagency Team, Minnesota Student Survey

- In 2016, 23 percent of 5th graders, 12 percent of 8th graders, eighth 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 145 rapes reported in 2015 to Dakota County law enforcement. The rate generally increased from 2006 to 2015, with a 78 percent increase from 2014 to 2015.

- 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 2012 national survey of teen Internet usage found that 95 percent of teens are online and 81 percent of online teens use social networking sites. Since 2006, the amount of personal information that teens share on social networking sites has increased.

- 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.

About this Community Health Profile

For more information about the Dakota County community health assessment, 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](http://www.cdc.gov)
- MN Department of Health [www.health.state.mn.us](http://www.health.state.mn.us)
- MN Department of Human Services [www.dhs.state.mn.us](http://www.dhs.state.mn.us)
- MN Center Against Violence & Abuse [www.mincava.umn.edu](http://www.mincava.umn.edu)