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**NEWS RELEASE**

**2012 DAKOTA COUNTY JUVENILE PROSECUTION STATISTICS RELEASED**

**OVERVIEW**

Dakota County Attorney James Backstrom has released statistics for 2012 involving **juvenile prosecutions** handled by his Office. **These statistics do not reflect the total number of crimes involving juveniles occurring in Dakota County, but reflect the number of charges filed against juveniles within this jurisdiction.** (These statistics also do not reflect the total number of criminal incidents occurring, as more than one juvenile can be charged in a single incident, and a number of crimes occurring in 2012 remain under investigation by law enforcement agencies.) In Minnesota County Attorneys prosecute all crimes committed by juveniles (youth 10-17 years old) including felonies, gross misdemeanors, misdemeanors and some petty misdemeanors. Backstrom pointed out the following highlights:

- The total number of **juvenile offenders** charged<sup>1</sup> with all levels of crimes in Dakota County increased from 1,334<sup>2</sup> in 2011 to **1,498** in 2012 (an increase of almost 12%).
- The number of **juvenile offenders** charged with felony-level crimes decreased from 192 in 2011 to **134** in 2012.

**2012 INCREASE/DECREASE IN JUVENILES CHARGED (BY CITY)**

The following reflects the number of juveniles charged with all levels of crimes based upon referrals from individual cities and the Dakota County Sheriff's Office:

Apple Valley **increased** from 210 to **297**  
Burnsville **increased** from 179 to **182**  
Dakota County Sheriff **decreased** from 154 to **139**  
Eagan **increased** from 169 to **184**  
Farmington **decreased** from 69 to **61**  
Hastings **increased** from 63 to **97**  
Inver Grove Heights **increased** from 68 to **106**  
Lakeville **decreased** from 153 to **141**  
Mendota Heights **decreased** from 29 to **13**  
Rosemount **decreased** from 62 to **53**  
South St. Paul **increased** from 97 to **121**  
West St. Paul **increased** from 75 to **88**

## OVERALL INCREASE IN JUVENILES PROSECUTED

Backstrom said for the first year since 2002 Dakota County has experienced an increase in the overall number of juveniles prosecuted for all levels of criminal acts (1,498 juveniles charged in 2012 up from 1,334 in 2011). Backstrom emphasized that most of the charges filed were for misdemeanor level offenses, increasing from 1,072 juveniles charged in 2011 to 1,249 in 2012 (an increase of almost 17%).

## JUVENILES CHARGED WITH FELONY OFFENSES

Backstrom said the number of juveniles charged with a felony in 2012 decreased to 134 (compared to 192 in 2011). This is significantly less than our peak of 420 juveniles charged with a felony in 2001. (See attached chart of juvenile felony offenders for the last ten years.) *Backstrom stated: "We have seen a steady decrease in the number of juveniles charged with felonies each year in Dakota County, which is remarkable given our size and growth over the years. I am proud of the partnerships we have developed and the great work being done in our schools, police departments and community organizations. We have also implemented a number of prevention and early intervention programs. I believe this commitment to addressing youth problems quickly and proactively is directly reflected in the decline we have experienced in the last decade in the numbers of juveniles charged with crimes in our community."*

## JUVENILE CRIMES OF VIOLENCE

In 2012 there were 356 **juveniles charged with violent offenses**<sup>3</sup> in Dakota County. (See attached chart of juvenile violent crime charges in Dakota County over the last decade.) Backstrom said the most common violent crime committed by juveniles was misdemeanor assault, which went from 226 offenses charged in 2011 to 235 in 2012. Violent crimes of all levels of crime include (homicide and kidnapping were 0):

Assault	264
Dangerous weapons	37
Sex offenses	34
Robbery	15
Terroristic threats	6

Details of the juvenile cases charged by the Dakota County Attorney's Office in 2012 are broken down on the attached charts by type of crime and jurisdiction. In addition to the three statistical charts, attached are three separate charts that cover trends in overall juvenile delinquency prosecutions, juvenile violent crime charges and juvenile dangerous weapons charges. This information is also available on the Dakota County Attorney's Office Annual Crime Statistics website at: <http://www.co.dakota.mn.us/LawJustice/CrimeReports/Pages/default.aspx> .

**If you have any questions, contact James Backstrom at 651-438-4440.**

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<sup>1</sup> Criminal charges are not evidence of guilt. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

<sup>2</sup> An individual may be charged with more than one felony offense in one behavioral incident.

<sup>3</sup> Violent juvenile offenses include all levels of homicide, attempted homicide, assault, offenses involving dangerous weapons, kidnapping, robbery, sex offenses and terroristic threats. The statistics in this section reflect the number of juvenile offenders. A juvenile offender may be charged with more than one offense in a single behavioral incident.

## 2012 JUVENILE FELONY-LEVEL CHARGES

OFFICE OF DAKOTA COUNTY ATTORNEY  JAMES C. BACKSTROM COUNTY ATTORNEY 1560 HIGHWAY 55 HASTINGS, MN 55033-2392 651-438-4438	TOTAL FELONY CHARGES <sup>1</sup>	Burglary/Trespassing-Related	Sex-Related	Drug-Related <sup>2</sup>	Robbery	Dangerous Weapons	Assault-Related	Criminal Damage to Property	Stolen Property	Motor Vehicle Theft/Tampering	Terroristic Threats	Theft Related	Forgery-Related	Fleeing	Public Safety/Misconduct/Nuisance
Apple Valley	34	8	3	6	8	3	2	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	0
Burnsville	17	0	1	2	1	0	4	4	0	1	1	1	1	0	1
Dakota County Sheriff	8	2	0	2	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Eagan	33	9	7	2	4	0	3	4	0	1	1	1	1	0	0
Farmington	7	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0
Hastings	13	9	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Inver Grove Heights	8	0	1	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Lakeville	19	3	6	4	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	1	0	1	0
Mendota Heights	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Agencies	8	0	2	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rosemount	6	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
South St. Paul	7	1	1	1	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
West St. Paul	6	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

<sup>1</sup> A juvenile may have multiple charges for the same incident. Numbers in all categories include charges of attempts to commit the crime.

<sup>2</sup> Drug-related are reported under the city in which the offense occurred. The Drug Task Force includes representatives from the Apple Valley, Burnsville, Eagan, Farmington, Hastings, Inver Grove Heights, Lakeville, Mendota Heights, Rosemount, Savage, South St. Paul and West St. Paul Police Departments and the Dakota County Sheriff's Office.

## 2012 JUVENILE GROSS MISDEMEANOR-LEVEL CHARGES

OFFICE OF DAKOTA COUNTY ATTORNEY  JAMES C. BACKSTROM COUNTY ATTORNEY 1560 HIGHWAY 55 HASTINGS, MN 55033-2392 651-438-4438	TOTAL GROSS MISDEMEANOR CHARGES <sup>1</sup>	Obstructing Legal Process	Assault-Related	Theft-Related	Sex-Related	Burglary/Trespassing-Related	Dangerous Weapons	Criminal Damage to Property	Harassment/Stalking	Arson	Public Safety/Misconduct/Nuisance	Forgery-Related	Perjury/Defamation/False Impersonation	Contributing to Delinquency/CHIPS	Traffic-Related	Abuse/Neglect of Minor	Stolen Property
Apple Valley	19	3	1	2	6	4	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Burnsville	13	3	1	2	0	1	2	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
Dakota County Sheriff	19	2	13	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Eagan	15	4	2	1	5	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Farmington	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hastings	12	2	0	1	0	6	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Inver Grove Heights	6	2	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Lakeville	19	2	0	2	1	0	1	4	5	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1
Mendota Heights	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Agencies	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rosemount	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
South St. Paul	15	2	1	4	0	0	3	2	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
West St. Paul	3	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

<sup>1</sup> Numbers in all categories include charges of attempts to commit the crime.

## 2012 JUVENILE PETTY OR MISDEMEANOR-LEVEL CHARGES

OFFICE OF DAKOTA COUNTY ATTORNEY  JAMES C. BACKSTROM COUNTY ATTORNEY 1560 HIGHWAY 55 HASTINGS, MN 55033-2392 651-438-4438	TOTAL MISDEMEANOR CHARGES	Disorderly Conduct-Related	Theft-Related	Assault-Related	Petty Offenses <sup>2</sup>	Criminal Damage to Property	Obstructing Legal Process	Offenses by Minors	Burglary/Trespassing-Related	Stolen Property	Motor Vehicle Theft/Tampering	Traffic-Related	Fleeing	Harassment/Stalking	Ordinance Violation/Non-weapon	Dangerous Weapons	Public Safety/Misconduct/Nuisance	DNR, Game & Fish	Alcohol-Related Traffic	Sex-Related	Drug-Related	Arson	Contribute to Delinquency/CHIPS
	Apple Valley	305	124	46	36	22	10	11	6	7	11	5	10	2	5	1	6	0	0	2	1	1	0
Burnsville	199	25	80	2	12	6	14	4	7	7	10	2	2	4	3	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
Dakota County Sheriff	156	60	3	45	2	24	1	3	0	0	1	1	3	0	2	1	4	2	1	3	0	0	0
Eagan	181	41	37	35	16	6	4	5	9	7	7	4	6	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Farmington	58	23	9	3	12	1	1	4	0	0	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hastings	97	18	16	24	5	10	3	1	7	1	2	6	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Inver Grove Heights	125	44	8	22	10	4	6	2	8	1	1	3	4	2	2	4	0	3	0	1	0	0	0
Lakeville	152	29	17	30	21	2	3	19	3	2	1	2	6	2	9	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1
Mendota Heights	14	3	2	5	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Other Agencies	13	0	5	1	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rosemount	51	20	5	7	6	2	2	0	1	3	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
South St. Paul	133	51	13	22	11	5	4	7	6	4	3	0	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
West St. Paul	94	15	47	8	4	0	9	0	1	1	2	0	2	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	1578	453	288	240	124	71	58	51	50	38	35	33	31	18	18	17	8	7	6	6	4	3	1

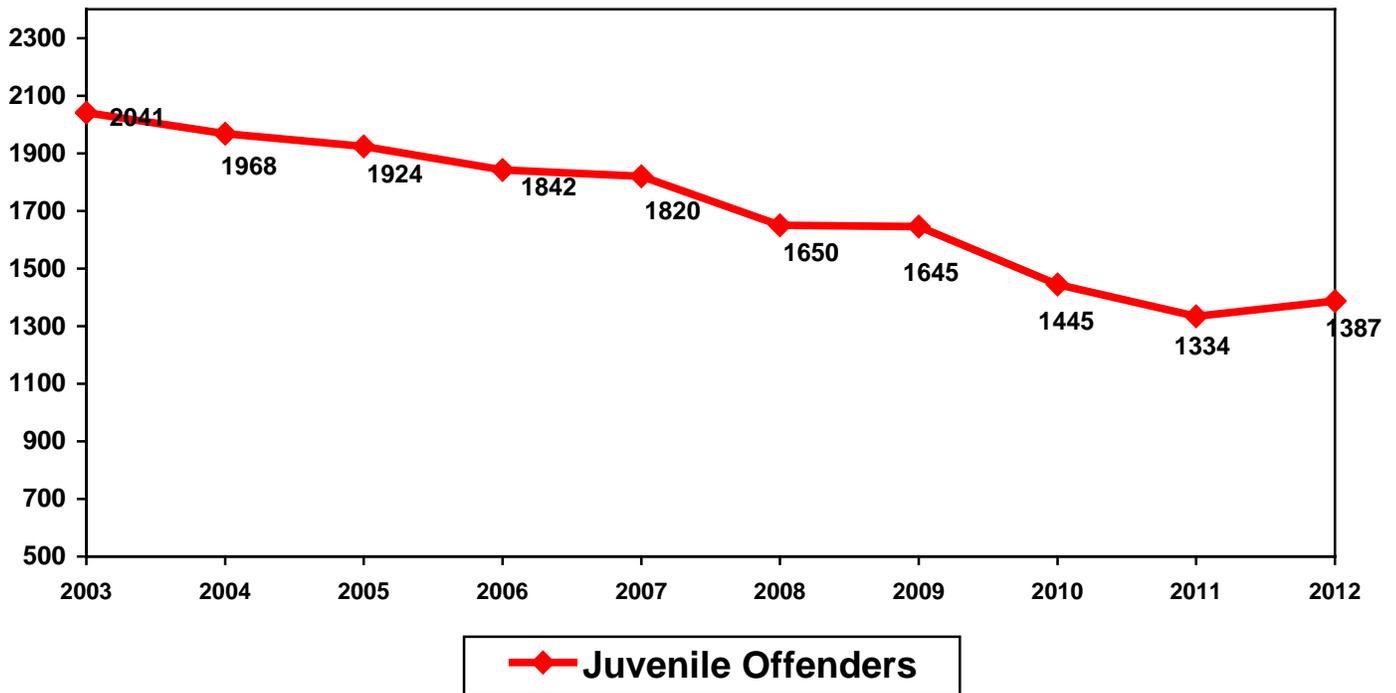
<sup>1</sup> Numbers in all categories include charges of attempts to commit the crime.

<sup>2</sup> Petty offenses may include ordinance and traffic violations. Some petty misdemeanor offenses are handled by a city attorney.

# Juvenile Offenders

## All Levels of Juvenile Offenses Charged

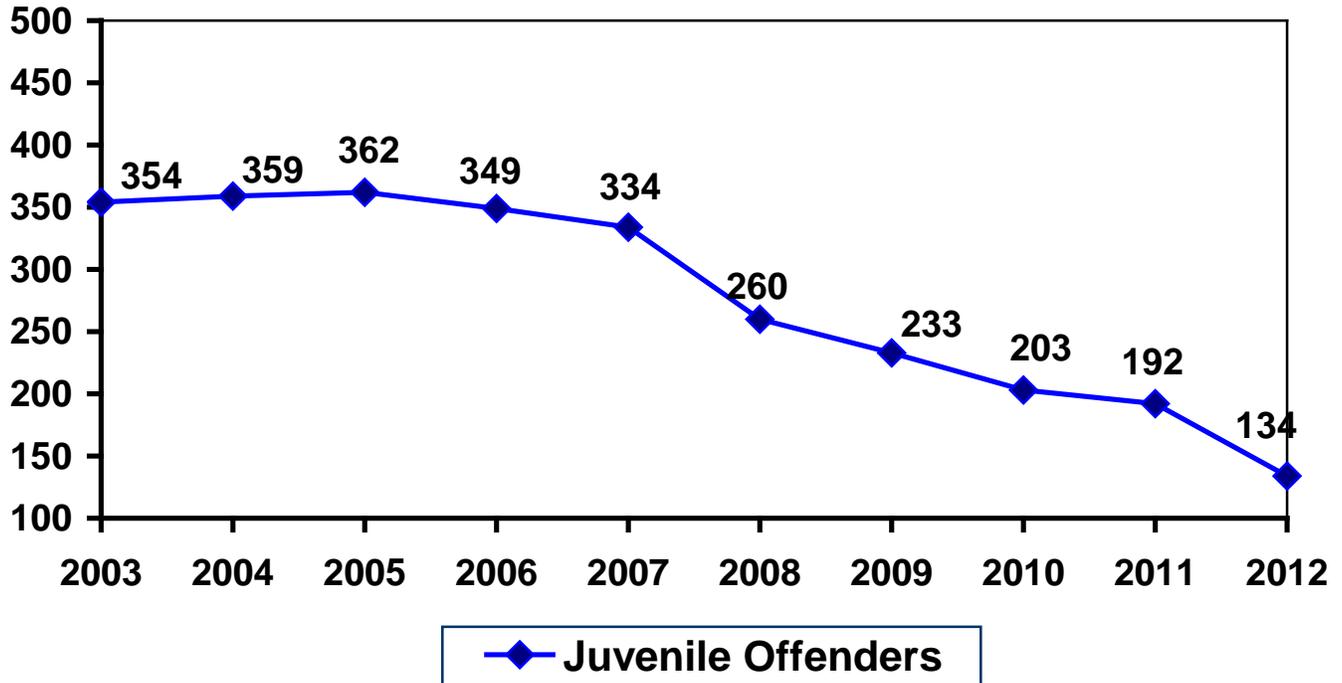
### 2003-2012



These include some petty misdemeanors and all misdemeanors, gross misdemeanors and felonies committed by youth under the age of 18 in Dakota County.

**Compiled by James C. Backstrom, Dakota County Attorney**

# Juvenile Offenders Felony Level Offenses 2003-2012



This includes felonies committed by youth under the age of 18 in Dakota County.

Compiled by James C. Backstrom, Dakota County Attorney