

### **Gun Violence**

- Between 2010 and 2014 in Rhode Island, 15% of the 94 injury deaths of children under age 20 were the result of firearms. Of these, 64% were among youth ages 18 to 19, 21% were among youth ages 15 to 17, and 14% were among children age 14 or younger.
- Between 2010 and 2014 in Rhode Island, there was one youth under age 20 who committed suicide using a firearm.
- In Rhode Island between 2010 and 2014, there were 189 emergency department visits and 59 hospitalizations of children and youth for gun-related injuries.

### **Youth Violence**

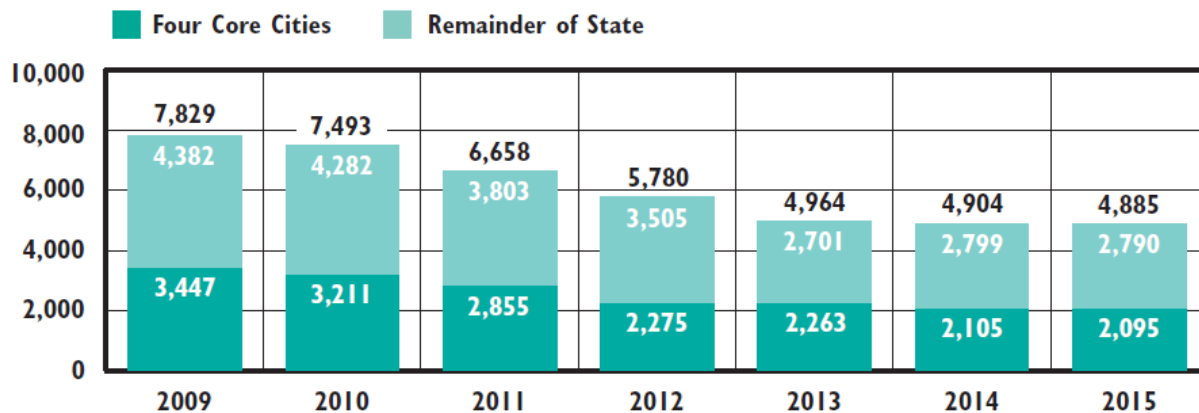
- Juveniles made up 11% of all violent crime arrests in the U.S. in 2012. The Rhode Island juvenile arrest rate for serious violent crimes was 128 per 100,000 youth ages 10 to 17, compared to the U.S. rate of 187 per 100,000 youth ages 10 to 17 in 2012.
- In 2014 in Rhode Island, there were 476 juvenile arrests for assault offenses and 110 juvenile arrests for weapons offenses. In 2015, violent crimes made up 5% of the 4,885 juvenile offenses referred to Rhode Island Family Court.
- In Rhode Island in 2015, 6% of high school students reported not going to school due to safety concerns and 16% had been bullied at school in the past year. Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth, youth with disabilities, and youth with low grades are more likely to report being threatened or injured and to miss school due to feeling unsafe.
- In 2015, 9% of high school students in Rhode Island reported that they had physically hurt on purpose by someone they were dating or going out with in the previous year. In 2015 in Rhode Island, 21% of middle school students reported having embarrassing pictures or rumors spread about them on the internet or through text message, and 12% were harassed or bullied on a social networking site.

### **Teen Deaths**

- Of the 100 teen deaths between 2010 and 2014, 32 were due to unintentional injuries, 27 were due to intentional injuries, 27 were due to disease, 8 were due to unintentional overdose, and 6 were of unknown causes. Of the intentional injuries, 15 were suicides and 12 were homicides.
- Six (46%) of the teen drivers who died in motor vehicle crashes in Rhode Island between 2010 and 2014 had been drinking and two teen fatalities occurred with adult drivers who had been drinking.
- According to the *2015 Rhode Island Youth Risk Behavior Survey*, 18% of Rhode Island high school students reported that during the month before the survey they rode in a vehicle driven by someone who had been drinking, and 6% reported that they never or rarely wore a seatbelt while riding in a car driven by someone else.

Rhode Island Family Court

Juvenile Wayward/Delinquent Offenses Referred to Rhode Island Family Court, 2009-2015

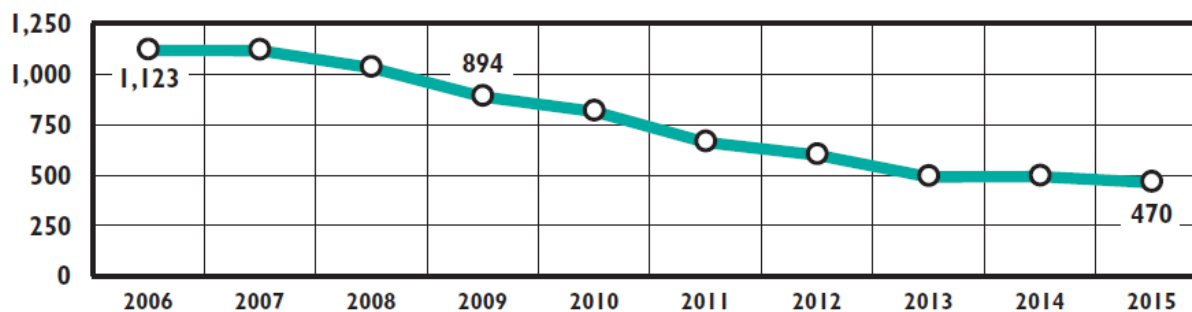


- The number of children and youth referred to Family Court for wayward and delinquent offenses declined 43% between 2009 and 2015, from 4,825 to 2,770. During the same period, the number of juvenile offenses declined by 38%, from 7,829 to 4,885.
- In 2015 in Rhode Island, 24% of juvenile offenses referred to Family Court were committed by youth from Providence, 19% were committed by youth from the other three core cities, and 57% were committed by youth living in the remainder of the state
- Most youth referred to Rhode Island Family Court during 2015 had never been previously referred – 18% had been referred once before and 20% at least twice before.
- Juvenile courts have a wide range of options for handling juvenile offenders, including restitution, community service, revocation of driving privileges, counseling, substance abuse treatment, and probation. In 2015 in Rhode Island, 20% of all cases referred to Family Court were diverted instead of proceeding to a formal court hearing.
- The Rhode Island Family Court administers several alternatives to traditional court hearings, including the Truancy Court and the Juvenile Drug Court. In 2015, 1,353 juveniles were referred to the Truancy Court by schools. In 2015, 53 juveniles who were diverted to the Juvenile Drug Court pre-adjudication.
- In 2015, the Attorney General's Office filed 20 (19 discretionary and one mandatory) motions to waive jurisdiction to try juveniles as adults. Five youth were waived voluntarily, three were waived after a hearing, three waiver motions were amended to certification after the youth pled to an adult sentence, and eight were pending at the end of 2015.
- A juvenile in Rhode Island also may be “certified,” allowing the Family Court to sentence the juvenile beyond age 19. There was one certification filed in 2015 (which resulted in a certification).

### Rhode Island Training School

- The Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) operates the Rhode Island Training School for Youth, the state's secure facility for adjudicated youth and youth awaiting trial.

### Youth in the Care and Custody of the Rhode Island Training School, Calendar Years 2006-2015



- Between 2006 and 2015, the annual total number of youth in the care and custody of the Training School declined from 1,123 to 470. Some of this decline is due to the cap that was placed on the population at the Training School in July 2008 of 148 boys and 12 girls on any given day. The population further declined by 47% between 2009 and 2015.
- Of the 470 youth, 21% were admitted at least twice in 2015, and 6% three or more times.
- On December 31, 2015, there were 136 youth in the care or custody of the Training School, 84 of who were physically at the Training School.
- In 2015, a total of 470 youth were in the care or custody of the Training School, down from 500 in 2014. Of these, 24% resulted in stays of two days or less, 32% resulted in stays of three days to two weeks, and 44% were there more than two weeks.
- During 2015, the average age for youth at the Training School was 15.9 years. During 2015, there were no children age 10 or under held at the Training School, eight children ages 11-12, 70 youth ages 13-14, 231 youth ages 15-16, and 206 youth ages 17-19. Rhode Island is one of 12 states that has no statutory minimum age for holding children in secure confinement and no minimum age of delinquency jurisdiction.
- On January 2, 2016, there were 516 youth on the DCYF probation caseload.
- In 2010, the rate at which states hold youth in secure confinement reached a 35-year low, with almost every state reducing the number and percentage of youth held in secure facilities. Even as incarceration has decreased, crime has fallen sharply over the past decade as juvenile justice systems have utilized more effective intervention strategies.

### Risk Factors for Youth at the Training School

- Thirty-three (7%) of the 470 youth in the care or custody of the Training School during 2015 had at some point in their childhood been victims of documented child abuse or neglect.
- In 2015, 173 youth (128 males and 45 females) received mental health services at the Training School for psychiatric diagnoses other than conduct disorders and substance abuse disorders.
- During 2015, 33 youth graduated from high school while serving a sentence at the Training School (25 earned a GED and eight graduated with a high school diploma). An additional 30 youth received post-secondary education services at the Training School in 2015.

### Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Juvenile Justice

- Youth of color are disproportionately more likely than White youth to have contact with juvenile justice systems in the U.S. and in Rhode Island.

### Safety Outcomes, by Race and Ethnicity, Rhode Island

	WHITE	HISPANIC	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	ALL RACES
<b>Youth at the Training School*</b> (per 1,000 youth ages 13-18)	2.6	10.0	20.2	3.0	12.4	5.5
<b>Children of Incarcerated Parents</b> (per 1,000 children)	9.3	16.4	80.7	4.0	28.5	14.8
<b>Children in Out-of-Home Placement</b> (per 1,000 children)	6.5	13.0	19.8	3.6	15.6	9.3

Sources: *Youth at the Training School* data are from the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families, Rhode Island Training School, Calendar Year 2015. *Children of Incarcerated Parents* data are from the Rhode Island Department of Corrections, September 30, 2015 and reflect the race of the incarcerated parent (includes only the sentenced population). *Children in Out-of-Home Placement* data are from the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families, RICHIST Database, December 31, 2015. Population denominators used for *Youth at the Training School* are youth ages 13-18 by race from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010, SF1. Population denominators used for *Children of Incarcerated Parents* and *Children in Out-of-Home Placement* are the populations under age 18 by race from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010, SF1.

### ***Homeless Youth***

- An estimated 47 single youth ages 18-20 and 125 young adults ages 21-24 received emergency shelter services through the adult emergency shelter system in Rhode Island in 2015, compared to 97 18-20 year-olds and 266 21-24 year-olds in 2014.
- In 2014, the National Runaway Switchboard handled 148 crisis-related calls regarding youth ages 21 and under who were homeless, runaways or at risk of homelessness in Rhode Island.
- On December 31, 2015, there were 36 youth in the care of the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families between the ages of 12 and 18 who were classified as unauthorized absences/runaways (AWOL), 13 of whom were male and 23 of whom were female. These youth were AWOL from either foster care or juvenile justice placements.

### ***Teens Not in School and Not Working***

- Between 2010 and 2014, an estimated 3,879 (6%) youth ages 16 to 19 were not in school and not working in Rhode Island. Of the youth who were not in school and not working, 44% were females and 56% were males. Fifty-six percent of these youth were high school graduates and 44% had not graduated from high school.
- Education has a positive impact on the likelihood of finding and maintaining employment. Between 2010 and 2014, the unemployment rate for Rhode Island adults ages 25 to 64 with a bachelor's degree or higher was 4%, compared with 16% for those with less than a high school diploma.