

Gun Violence

- Between 2011 and 2015 in Rhode Island, 12% of the 97 injury deaths of children under age 20 were the result of firearms. Of these, 58% were among youth ages 18 to 19, 25% were among youth ages 15 to 17, and 17% were among children age 14 or younger.
- Between 2011 and 2015 in Rhode Island, there were two youth under age 20 who committed suicide using a firearm.
- In Rhode Island between 2011 and 2015, there were 168 emergency department visits and 61 hospitalizations of children and youth for gun-related injuries.

Youth Violence

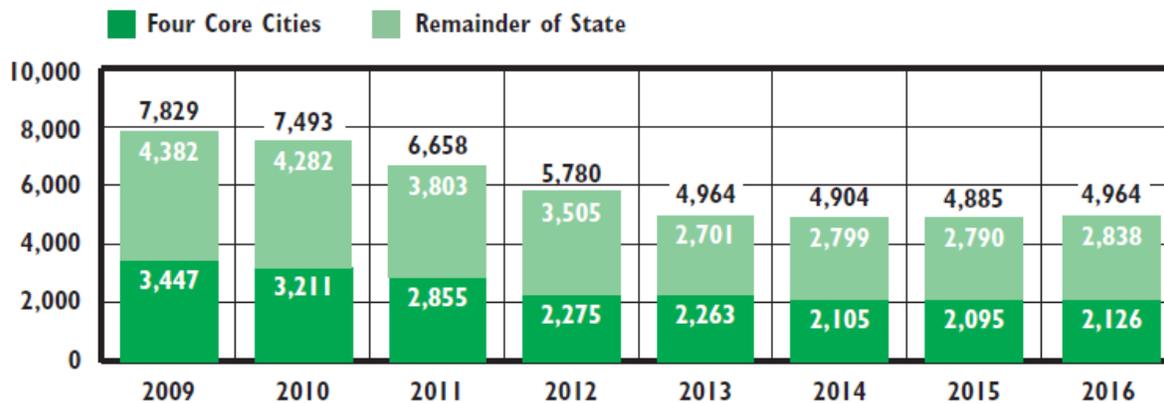
- Juveniles made up 12% of all violent crime arrests in the U.S., a record low, in 2012. The Rhode Island juvenile arrest rate for serious violent crimes was 128 per 100,000 youth ages 10-17, compared to the U.S. rate of 187 per 100,000 youth ages 10-17 in 2012.
- In 2015 in Rhode Island, there were 469 juvenile arrests for assault offenses and 79 juvenile arrests for weapons offenses. In 2016, violent crimes made up 5% of the 4,964 juvenile offenses referred to Rhode Island Family Court.
- In Rhode Island in 2015, 6% of high school students (7% of males and 5% of females) reported not going to school due to safety concerns. 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 in Rhode Island, 21% of middle school students (30% of females and 12% of males) and 12% of high school students (15% of females and 10% of males) reported being electronically bullied.

Teen Deaths

- Of the 97 teen deaths between 2011 and 2015, 35 were due to unintentional injuries, 27 were due to intentional injuries, 26 were due to disease, seven were due to overdose, and two were of unknown causes.
- Five (25%) of the teen drivers who died in motor vehicle crashes in Rhode Island between 2011 and 2015 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, 2009-2016

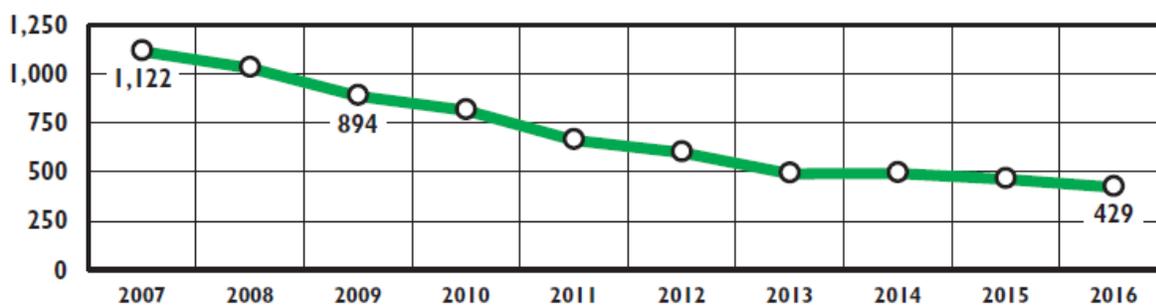


- The number of children and youth referred to Family Court for wayward and delinquent offenses declined 45% between 2009 and 2016, from 4,825 to 2,634. The number of juvenile offenses fell by 38% since 2009, from 7,829 to a low of 4,885 in 2015 before increasing slightly to 4,964 in 2016.
- In 2016 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 (62%) youth referred to Rhode Island Family Court during 2016 were referred for the first time, while 17% had been referred once before and 21% 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 2016 in Rhode Island, 21% 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 2016, 1,324 juveniles were referred to the Truancy Court by schools, down from 1,353 in 2015. In 2016, 88 juveniles who committed drug offenses of had highlighted drug issues were diverted to the Juvenile Drug Court pre-adjudication, up from 53 in 2015.
- In 2016, the Attorney General's Office filed 11 (10 discretionary and one mandatory) motions to waive jurisdiction to try juveniles as adults. Of the discretionary waiver motions, three youth were waived voluntarily, one was waived after a hearing, three waiver motions were denied, and three were pending before the Family Court at the end of 2016. A juvenile in Rhode Island also may be "certified," allowing the Family Court to sentence the juvenile beyond age 19. There were four certification filed in 2016 (all of which resulted in 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 2007-2016



- Between 2007 and 2016, the annual total number of youth in the care and custody of the Training School declined from 1,122 to 429. 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 52% between 2009 and 2016.
- Of the 429 youth, 21% were admitted at least twice in 2016, and 8% three or more times.
- On December 31, 2016, there were 114 youth in the care or custody of the Training School, 62 of who were physically at the Training School.
- In 2016, a total of 429 youth were in the care or custody of the Training School, down from 470 in 2015. In 2016, 57% stayed less than two weeks, 21% stayed two weeks to five months, 15% stayed six to eleven months, 7% stayed one to two years, and 1% stayed longer than one year.
- During 2016, the average age for youth at the Training School was 15 years. During 2016, there were no children age 10 or under held at the Training School, three children ages 11-12, 74 youth ages 13-14, 217 youth ages 15-16, and 180 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 3, 2017, there were 444 youth on the DCYF probation caseload (387 males and 57 females).
- 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

- During 2016, 21 youth graduated from high school while serving a sentence at the Training School (16 earned a GED and five graduated with a high school diploma). An additional 48 youth received post-secondary education services at the Training School during the 2016 academic year.
- Seventeen (4%) of the 429 youth in the care or custody of the Training School during 2016 had at some point in their childhood been victims of documented child abuse or neglect.
- In 2015 (the most recent year for which data are available), 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.

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. Minority youth, especially Black youth, are disproportionately represented at every stage of the juvenile justice system. Youth of color are more likely to be arrested, formally charged in court, placed in secure detention, and receive harsher treatment than White youth.

Safety Outcomes, by Race and Ethnicity, Rhode Island

	WHITE	HISPANIC	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	ALL RACES
Youth at the Training School (per 1,000 youth ages 13-18)	3.7	9.3	21.7	2.3	17.4	5.5
Children of Incarcerated Parents (per 1,000 children)	10.5	23.6	85.1	4.2	34.7	17.1
Children in Out-of-Home Placement (per 1,000 children)	6.1	11.8	17.7	1.2	12.9	8.6

Sources: *Youth at the Training School* data are from the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families, Rhode Island Training School, Calendar Year 2016. *Children of Incarcerated Parents* data are from the Rhode Island Department of Corrections, September 30, 2016 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, 2016. 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 and Runaway Youth

- In 2014, 44 single youth ages 18-20 and 144 young adults ages 21-24 received emergency shelter services through the adult emergency shelter system in Rhode Island, compared to 47 18-20 year-olds and 125 21-24 year-olds in 2015.
- In 2015, the National Runaway Safeline handled 93 crisis-related calls and online crisis chats regarding youth ages 21 and under who were homeless, runaways, or at risk of homelessness in Rhode Island, down from 148 in 2014.
- On December 31, 2016, there were 36 youth in the care of the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families between the ages of 13 and 19 who were classified as unauthorized absences/runaways (AWOL), 17 females and 19 males, the same total number as last year. These youth were AWOL from either foster care or juvenile justice placements.

Teens Not in School and Not Working

- Between 2011 and 2015, an estimated 4,039 (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, 56% were males and 44% were females. Fifty-five percent of these youth were high school graduates and 45% had not graduated from high school.
- Education has a positive impact on the likelihood of finding and maintaining employment. Between 2011 and 2015, the unemployment rate for Rhode Island adults ages 25 to 64 with a bachelor's degree or higher was 3.6%, compared with 10.3% high school graduates and 14.6% for those with less than a high school diploma.