

Gun Violence

- Between 2012 and 2016 in Rhode Island, 8% (8) of the 96 injury deaths of children and youth under age 20 were the result of firearms. There was one youth under age 20 who committed suicide using a firearm over this time period.
- In Rhode Island between 2012 and 2016, there were 170 emergency department visits and 47 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 to 17, compared to the U.S. rate of 187 per 100,000 youth ages 10 to 17 in 2012.
- In 2016 in Rhode Island, there were 447 juvenile arrests for assault offenses and 123 juvenile arrests for weapons offenses. In 2017, violent crimes made up 10% (274) of the 2,704 juvenile offenses referred to Rhode Island Family Court.
- In Rhode Island in 2017, 7% of high school students (6% of males and 7% of females) reported not going to school due to safety concerns.
- In 2017 in Rhode Island, 21% of middle school students (31% of females and 13% of males) and 14% of high school students (17% of females and 11% of males) reported being electronically bullied.

Teen Deaths

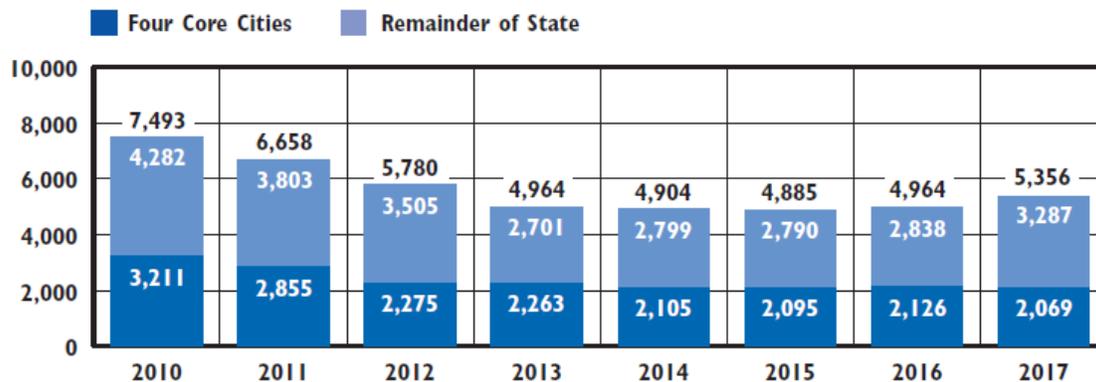
- Of the 90 teen deaths in Rhode Island between 2012 and 2016, 37 were due to unintentional injuries, 24 were due to intentional injuries (16 suicides and eight homicides), 20 were due to disease, eight were due to overdose, and one was of other or unknown cause.
- Four (40%) of the teen drivers who died in motor vehicle crashes in Rhode Island between 2012 and 2016 had been drinking and two teen fatalities occurred with adult drivers who had been drinking.

Child Deaths

- Between 2012 and 2016, 26 Rhode Island children ages one to 14 died as a result of injury. Suffocation, motor vehicle crashes, and drowning were the leading causes of child deaths due to injury in Rhode Island during this time period.

Rhode Island Family Court

Juvenile Wayward/Delinquent Offenses Referred to Rhode Island Family Court, 2010-2017



- The number of juvenile offenses fell by 29% since 2010, from 7,493 to a low of 4,885 in 2015, before increasing to 5,356 in 2017. The number of children and youth referred to Family Court for wayward and delinquent offenses declined 37% between 2010 and 2017, from 4,288 to 2,704.
- In 2017 in Rhode Island, 22% of juvenile offenses referred to Family Court were committed by youth from Providence, 17% were committed by youth from the other three core cities, and 61% were committed by youth living in the remainder of the state.
- Most (64%) youth referred to Rhode Island Family Court in 2017 were referred for the first time, while 18% had been referred once before and 18% had been referred 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 2017 in Rhode Island, 45% of all cases referred to Family Court were diverted instead of proceeding to a formal court hearing, up from 21% in 2016.
- The Rhode Island Family Court administers several alternatives to traditional court hearings, including the Truancy Court and the Juvenile Drug Court. In 2017, 1,264 juveniles were referred to the Truancy Court by schools, down from 1,324 in 2016. In 2017, 110 juveniles who committed drug offenses or had highlighted drug issues were diverted to the Juvenile Drug Court pre-adjudication, up from 88 in 2016.
- In 2017, the Attorney General's Office filed 13 (seven discretionary and six mandatory) motions to waive jurisdiction to try juveniles as adults. Of the discretionary waiver motions, two were waived voluntarily and five remain pending before the Family Court at the end of 2017. A juvenile in Rhode Island also may be "certified," allowing the Family

Court to sentence the juvenile beyond age 19. There were four certification motions filed in 2017 (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 in detention awaiting trial.
- Between 2008 and 2017, the annual total number of youth in the care and custody of the Training School at any point in the year declined from 1,037 to 379. 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 58% between 2009 and 2017.
- Of the 379 youth who were in the care or custody of the Training School at some point during 2017, 20% were admitted at least twice in 2017, and 3% were admitted three or more times.
- On December 31, 2017, there were 88 youth in the care or custody of the Training School, 41 of whom were physically at the Training School.
- Of the youth discharged from the Training School in 2017, 57% stayed less than two weeks, 17% stayed two weeks to five months, 19% stayed six to eleven months, 7% stayed one to two years, and 1% stayed longer than two years.
- During 2017, the average age for youth at the Training School was 16 years. During 2017, there were no children age 10 or under held at the Training School, five children ages 11-12, 66 youth ages 13-14, 191 youth ages 15-16, and 142 youth ages 17-18. 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, 2018, there were 438 youth on the DCYF probation caseload (385 males and 53 females).

Risk Factors for Youth at the Training School

- During 2017, 23 youth graduated from high school while serving a sentence at the Training School (21 earned a GED, and two graduated with a high school diploma). An additional 25 youth received post-secondary education services at the Training School during the 2017 academic year.
- Three percent of the youth in the care or custody of the Training School during 2017 had at some point in their childhood been victims of documented child abuse or neglect.
- In 2017, 149 youth (119 males and 30 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, 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	9.1	21.0	0.8	12.4	4.5
Children of Incarcerated Parents (per 1,000 children)	6.4	17.0	74.0	5.7	29.4	14.6
Children in Out-of-Home Placement (per 1,000 children)	6.1	13.5	14.4	1.3	12.9	9.6

Sources: *Youth at the Training School* data are from the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families, Rhode Island Training School, Calendar Year 2017. *Children of Incarcerated Parents* data are from the Rhode Island Department of Corrections, September 30, 2017 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, 2017. 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, and PCT12K.

Homeless and Runaway Youth

- In 2017, Rhode Island conducted a pilot *Youth Point in Time Count* to determine the number of youth who were homeless on a single night in July. The *2017 Youth Point in Time Count* identified 80 young adults ages 18 to 24 and five youth under age 18 experiencing homelessness.
- In 2017, 184 single young adults ages 18 to 24 received emergency shelter services though the adult emergency shelter system in Rhode Island, compared to 188 18 to 24 year-olds in 2016.
- In 2016, the National Runaway Safeline handled 75 crisis phone 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 93 in 2015.

- On December 31, 2017, there were 45 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), 22 females and 23 males. These youth were AWOL from either foster care or juvenile justice placements.

Teens Not in School and Not Working

- Between 2012 and 2016, an estimated 3,604 (5.8%) youth ages 16 to 19 in Rhode Island were not in school and not working. Of the youth who were not in school and not working, 56% were males and 44% were females. Fifty-three percent of these youth were high school graduates and 47% had not graduated from high school.
- Education has a positive impact on the likelihood of finding and maintaining employment. Between 2012 and 2016, the unemployment rate for Rhode Island adults ages 25 to 64 with a bachelor's degree or higher was 3.4%, compared with 9.7% for high school graduates and 12.8% for those with less than a high school diploma.