

Child and Teen Deaths

- In 2017, Rhode Island's child and teen death rate for children ages one to 19 was 16 per 100,000 children and teens, which was a small increase from 2016. Rhode Island's child and teen death rate is the lowest in the nation.
- Between 2014 and 2018, 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 in Rhode Island during this time period.
- Between 2014 and 2018 in Rhode Island, 58% of the 60 teen deaths caused by injury were unintentional. Twenty-eight percent of all teen injury deaths involved motor vehicles.
- Two (18%) of the teen drivers who died in motor vehicle crashes in Rhode Island between 2014 and 2018 had been drinking, and three teen fatalities occurred with adult drivers who had been drinking.
- Nationally, depression and suicide among adolescents have increased in recent years. In 2018 in Rhode Island, the number of both emergency department visits (306) and hospitalizations (250) after a suicide attempt for teens ages 13 to 19 more than doubled since 2014.

Youth Violence

- In 2018, the number of juvenile arrests for violent crimes made up 6% of the total number of juvenile arrests in the U.S., a record low.
- In 2018 in Rhode Island, there were 537 juvenile arrests for assault offenses and 81 juvenile arrests for weapons offenses. In 2018, violent crimes made up 5% (209) of the 4,630 juvenile offenses referred to Rhode Island Family Court.
- In Rhode Island in 2019, 8% of high school students reported not going to school due to safety concerns.
- In 2019 in Rhode Island, 20% of middle school students (27% of females and 15% of males) and 13% of high school students (17% of females and 9% of males) reported being electronically bullied.

Gun Violence

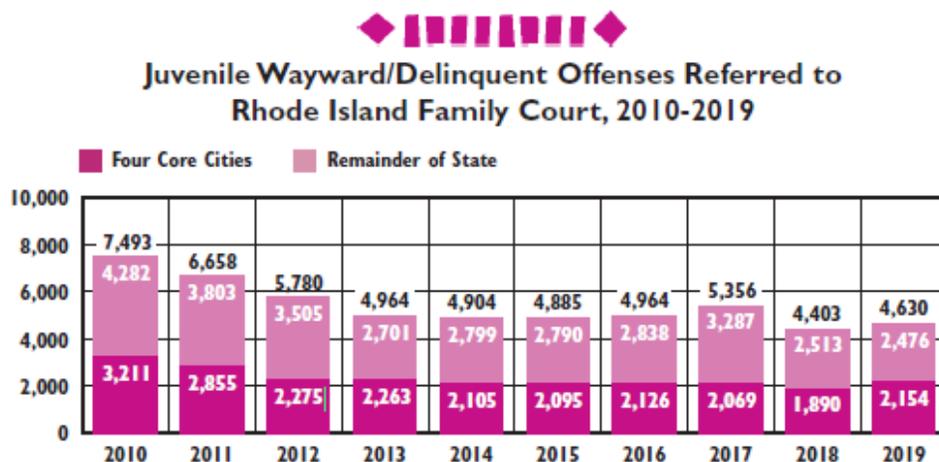
- Between 2014 and 2018 in Rhode Island, eight (9%) of the 86 injury deaths of children and youth under age 20 were the result of firearms. There were four youth under age 20 who committed suicide using a firearm over this time period.
- In Rhode Island between 2014 and 2018, there were 153 emergency department visits and 36 hospitalizations of children and youth for gun-related injuries.

Homeless and Runaway Youth

- In 2018, Rhode Island conducted the second annual *Youth Point in Time Count* to assess the number and characteristics of youth with experiences of current, former, or potential housing instability or homelessness. The *2018 Youth Point in Time Count* identified 173 young adults ages 14 to 24 experiencing current, former, or potential housing instability, 67 of whom were currently homeless.
- In 2019, 144 single youth ages 18 to 24 stayed in emergency shelters and transitional housing programs (not including domestic violence shelters) in Rhode Island, compared to 256 18- to 24-year-olds in 2018.
- In 2017, the National Runaway Safeline handled 64 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 75 in 2016.
- On December 31, 2019, there were 37 youth in the care of the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families between the ages of 13 and 20 who were classified as absent from care (formerly called AWOL), 12 females and 25 males. These youth were absent from either foster care or juvenile justice placements.

Youth Referred to Family Court

- The number of juvenile offenses has fallen by 38% since 2010, from 7,493 to a low of 4,630 in 2019. The number of children and youth referred to Family Court for wayward and delinquent offenses declined 40% between 2010 and 2019, from 4,288 to 2,588.



Source: Rhode Island Family Court, 2010-2019 Juvenile Offense Reports.

- In 2019 in Rhode Island, 24% of juvenile offenses referred to Family Court were committed by youth from Providence, 23% were committed by youth from the other three core cities, and 54% were committed by youth living in the remainder of the state.

Youth Safety Indicators

Rhode Island is one of 29 states that has no statutory minimum age for holding children in secure confinement and no minimum age of delinquency jurisdiction.

- On January 2, 2020, there were 380 youth on the DCYF probation caseload (334 males and 46 females).

Racial and Ethnic Disparities

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)	1.1	5.9	14.7	0.8	5.0	3.0
Children of Incarcerated Parents (per 1,000 children)	6.7	15.3	46.6	1.7	33.1	12.2
Children in Out-of-Home Placement (per 1,000 children)	6.1	12.7	17.9	2.3	6.4	7.2

Sources: Youth at the Training School data are from the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families, Rhode Island Training School, Calendar Year 2019. Children of Incarcerated Parents data are from the Rhode Island Department of Corrections, September 30, 2019 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, 2019. Population denominators used for Youth at the Training School are youth ages 13 to 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.

- Rhode Island's juvenile justice system disproportionately places Black, Hispanic, and Native American youth at the Rhode Island Training School compared to their White and Asian peers.

Children Witnessing Domestic Violence

- In Rhode Island in 2017 (the most recent year for which data are available), there were 5,647 domestic violence incidents that resulted in arrests, down less than one percent from 5,673 incidents in 2016. Children were reported present in 27% (1,501) of incidents in 2017.
- During 2019, Rhode Island's statewide network of six domestic violence shelters and advocacy programs provided services to 10,134 individuals, including 601 children (up from 8,514 and 556, respectively, in 2018).
- In 2019, 191 children and 214 adults spent a total of 23,965 nights in domestic violence shelters. During 2019, 77 children and 63 adults lived in domestic violence transitional housing (longer-term private apartments for victims of domestic violence) for a total of 33,063 nights.

Teens Not in School and Not Working

- Between 2014 and 2018, an estimated 3,176 (5.2%) 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-eight percent of these youth were high school graduates, and 42% had not graduated from high school.
- Education has a positive impact on the likelihood of finding and maintaining employment. Between 2014 and 2018, the unemployment rate for Rhode Island adults ages 25 to 64 with a bachelor's degree or higher was 2.7%, compared with 7.8% for high school graduates and 9.4% for those with less than a high school diploma.