

2011 Rhode Island Kids Count Factbook: Youth Indicators

Teens Not in School and Not Working

- ◆ Between 2007 and 2009, an estimated 4,576 (7%) 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, 41% were females and 59% were males. Forty-two percent of these youth were high school graduates and 58% had not graduated from high school.

Disconnected Youth

- ◆ In Rhode Island, youth at risk of being disconnected include youth in foster care, youth involved in the juvenile justice system, teen parents and Rhode Island youth who have dropped out of high school.
 - ◆ In Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2010, 108 youth aged out of foster care to emancipation never having gained permanent placement through reunification, adoption, or guardianship.
 - ◆ A total of 821 youth ages 12 to 21 (81% male and 19% female) were in the care or custody of the Training School at some point during 2010, down from 894 in 2009.
 - ◆ During 2010, there were 885 births to teen mothers under age 20 in Rhode Island.
 - ◆ During the 2009-2010 school year, 2,314 students in 7th through 12th grade dropped out of or stopped attending Rhode Island public schools.

Homeless Youth

- ◆ One hundred and twenty single youth ages 18 to 20 and 344 young adults ages 21 to 24 received emergency shelter services through the adult emergency shelter system in Rhode Island in 2010, up from 60 and 130, respectively, in 2009
- ◆ In 2010, the National Runaway Switchboard handled 98 crisis-related calls regarding youth ages 21 and under who were homeless, runaways or at risk of homelessness in Rhode Island. Nationally, 50% of callers to the Switchboard in 2010 were youth and the other half were friends, family and other adults.
- ◆ On December 31, 2010, there were 62 youth in the care of the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families who were classified as unauthorized absences/runaways (AWOL) from either foster care or juvenile justice placements.

Rhode Island Family Court

- ◆ During 2010 in Rhode Island, 4,288 youth (5% of Rhode Island youth between the ages of 10 and 17) were referred to Family Court for 7,493 wayward and delinquent offenses, down from 4,825 youth and 7,829 offenses in 2009, and continuing a downward trend over the last three years.
- ◆ In 2010 in Rhode Island, 25% of juvenile offenses referred to Family Court were committed by youth from Providence, 24% were committed by youth from the other five core cities and 51% were committed by youth from the remainder of the state.

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- ◆ Nineteen percent of juveniles referred to Rhode Island Family Court in 2010 had been referred once before and 24% had been referred at least twice before.
- ◆ Between September 1, 2009 and June 30, 2010, 1,757 juveniles were referred to the Truancy Court by schools.
- ◆ In 2010, 227 juveniles who committed drug offenses or had highlighted drug issues were diverted to the Juvenile Drug Court pre-adjudication.
- ◆ In 2010, there were 26 Juvenile Hearing Boards in Rhode Island that served 27 of Rhode Island's cities and towns. Twelve communities in Rhode Island did not have Juvenile Hearing Boards (Bristol, Central Falls, Exeter, Jamestown, Little Compton, New Shoreham, North Providence, North Smithfield, Richmond, South Kingstown, Tiverton and Woonsocket). Comprised of volunteer community members, these Boards permit the diversion of juveniles accused of status offenses or misdemeanors. Sanction options in this process include but are not limited to community service, restitution and counseling. A total of 564 cases were heard before Rhode Island Juvenile Hearing Boards in 2010.
- ◆ In 2010, the Attorney General's Office filed 32 (six mandatory and 26 discretionary) motions to waive jurisdiction to try juveniles as adults, up from 17 in 2009. A juvenile in Rhode Island may also be "certified," allowing the Family Court to sentence the juvenile beyond age 19 if there is otherwise an insufficient period time in which to accomplish rehabilitation. There was one discretionary certification in 2010, and 2 were pending as of February 2011. While the child is a minor, the sentence is served at the Training School. The youth can be transferred to an adult facility upon reaching age 19, if the court deems it appropriate.

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 residential detention facility for adjudicated youth and youth awaiting trial.
- ◆ A total of 821 youth (81% male and 19% female) were in the care or custody of the Training School at some point during 2010, down from 894 in 2009. On January 1, 2011, there were 259 youth in the care or custody of the Training School, 121 of whom were physically at the Training School.
- ◆ Of the 821 youth who were in the care or custody of the Training School at some point during 2010, 25% (207) were admitted at least twice in 2010, and 4% (36) were admitted to the Training School three or more times in 2010.
- ◆ On January 4, 2011, there were 982 youth on the DCYF probation caseload.

Risk Factors for Youth at the Training School

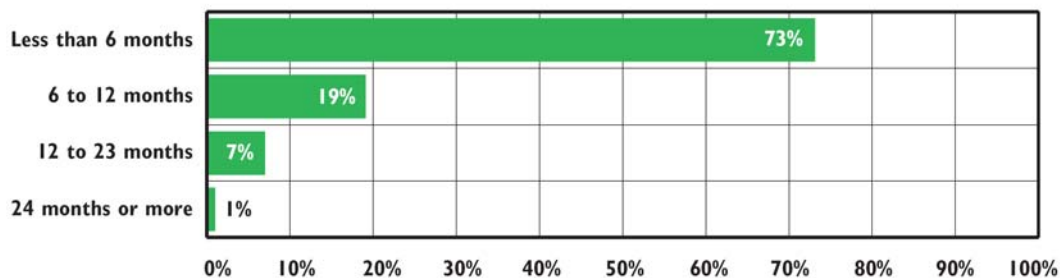
- ◆ **History of Child Abuse and Neglect:** Fifty-eight (22%) of the 259 youth in the care or custody of the Training School on January 1, 2011 had at some point in their childhood been victims of documented child abuse or neglect.

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- ◆ **Behavioral Health Needs:** In 2010, 146 adjudicated youth were prescribed psychiatric medications for psychiatric diagnoses other than conduct disorders and substance abuse disorders.
- ◆ **Educational Attainment:** Of the 878 youth in 7th through 12th grade who received educational services at the Training School during 2010, 171 (19%) received special education services. During 2010, 62 youth graduated from high school while serving a sentence at the Training School (46 received a GED and 16 graduated with a high school diploma). An additional 100 youth received post-secondary education services at the Training School in 2010.

Length of Stay at the Training School

**Discharges From the Rhode Island Training School,
by Length of Time in Custody, Calendar Year 2010**



- ◆ In 2010, there were 976 admissions to detention at the Training School that did not lead to adjudications to the Training School or Temporary Community Placements (TCP). Of these, 23% resulted in stays of two days or less, 32% resulted in stays of three days to two weeks, and 45% resulted in stays of more than two weeks.
- ◆ Fifty of the 52 unadjudicated youth in detention on December 31, 2010 had been there for more than two months; many youth who stay in detention for long periods of time are waiting for waivers to the adult system.

Youth Violence

- ◆ In 2008, the Rhode Island juvenile arrest rate for serious violent crimes was 186 per 100,000 youth ages 10 to 17 compared to the U.S. rate of 306 per 100,000 youth.
- ◆ In 2009 in Rhode Island, there were 734 juvenile arrests for assault offenses and 150 juvenile arrests for weapons offenses, a decline of 10% and 7%, respectively, from 2008.
- ◆ In 2010, violent crimes made up 5% (340) of the 7,493 juvenile offenses referred to Rhode Island Family Court.¹³
- ◆ During the 2007-2008 school year, 12% of Rhode Island public high school students reported experiencing violence at school.
- ◆ In Rhode Island in 2009, 7% 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,

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bisexual and transgender youth, youth with disabilities and youth with low grades (Ds and Fs) in Rhode Island are more likely than their peers to report being threatened or injured at school and to miss school because they felt unsafe.

- ♦ Relationship violence is also an issue faced by Rhode Island youth. In 2009, 11% of high school students in Rhode Island reported that they had been hit, slapped or physically hurt by their boyfriend or girlfriend in the previous year.
- ♦ Cyberbullying is the willful and repeated cruelty inflicted by sending or posting harmful material online or through a cell phone. Cyberbullied youth may experience feelings of depression, suicidal thoughts, school failure and avoidance and school violence. In 2010 in Rhode Island, 11% of middle school students reported being cyberbullied.
- ♦ In Rhode Island between 2005 and 2009, there were 51 gun-related hospitalizations of youth ages 15 to 19 and 25 deaths of youth ages 15 to 19 attributed to firearms.

Teen Deaths

- ♦ Of the teen deaths between 2005 and 2009, 33 (23%) were due to disease, 39 (27%) were due to intentional injuries, 68 (47%) were due to unintentional injuries, one (1%) was due to undetermined injury and five (3%) were of unknown causes. Of the intentional injuries, 23 were homicides and 16 were suicides (2 females and 14 males).
- ♦ Seven (39%) teen drivers who died in motor vehicle crashes between 2005 and 2009 had been drinking and nine (38%) teen passengers who died had been drinking.
- ♦ According to the *2009 Rhode Island Youth Risk Behavior Survey*, 23% of Rhode Island public high school students reported that during the month before the survey they rode in a vehicle driven by someone who had been drinking, and 13% reported that they never or rarely wore a seatbelt when riding in a car driven by someone else.

Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Juvenile Justice

Disproportionate Minority Contact in Juvenile Justice Systems

	% OF TOTAL CHILD POPULATION 2007- 2009	% OF JUVENILES DETAINED BY POLICE 2009	% OF JUVENILE OFFENSES REFERRED TO FAMILY COURT, 2010	% OF JUVENILES WHO PASSED THROUGH THE TRAINING SCHOOL, 2010	% OF JUVENILES ADJUDICATED TO THE TRAINING SCHOOL, DEC. 31, 2010	% OF JUVENILES ON PROBATION JAN. 4, 2011
White	74%	53%	52%	39%	40%	43%
Black	8%	25%	21%	26%	27%	22%
Asian	3%	2%	1%	2%	6%	3%
Native American	1%	<1%	NA	1%	2%	1%
Multi-Racial	4%	NA	NA	5%	2%	4%
Other/ Unknown	10%	<1%	11%	28%	23%	27%
Hispanic	19%*	19%	15%	29%*	31%*	23%*

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- ◆ Youth of color are disproportionately more likely than White youth to have contact with juvenile justice systems in Rhode Island.
 - ◆ Black youth made up 27% of youth adjudicated to the Training School despite making up 8% of the child population.
 - ◆ Hispanic youth made up 29% of youth who passed through the Rhode Island Training School in 2010, while they were 19% of the state's child population.