

2010 Rhode Island Kids Count Factbook: Youth Indicators

Teens Not in School and Not Working

- ◆ Between 2006 and 2008, an estimated 4,323 (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, 48% were females and 52% were males. Forty-five percent (45%) of these youth were high school graduates and 55% percent 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 high school dropouts.
 - ◆ In Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2009, 151 youth aged out of foster care without ever having gained a permanent placement through reunification, adoption, or guardianship.
 - ◆ During 2009, 894 youth ages 12 to 22 were in the care or custody of the Rhode Island Training School.
 - ◆ During 2009, there were 1,049 births to teen mothers under age 20 in Rhode Island, 594 of whom did not have a high school diploma.
 - ◆ During the 2008-2009 school year, 2,917 students dropped out of Rhode Island public schools.

Homeless Youth

- ◆ Sixty single youth ages 18 to 20 and 130 young adults ages 21 to 24 received emergency shelter services through the adult emergency shelter system in Rhode Island in 2009.
- ◆ In 2009, the National Runaway Switchboard handled 193 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 2009 were youth and the rest were friends, family, and other adults.
- ◆ On December 31, 2009, there were 69 youth in the care of the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families who were classified as unauthorized absences or runaways (AWOL).

Rhode Island Family Court

- ◆ During 2009 in Rhode Island, 4,825 youth (4% of Rhode Island youth between the ages of 10 and 17) were referred to Family Court for 7,829 wayward and delinquent offenses, down from 5,242 youth and 8,790 offenses in 2008.
- ◆ In 2009 in Rhode Island, 27% 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 49% were committed by youth from the remainder of the state.

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- ◆ Fifteen percent of juveniles referred to Rhode Island Family Court in 2009 had been referred once before and 10% had been referred at least twice before.
- ◆ In 2009, 2,021 juveniles were referred by schools to the Truancy Court and 297 juveniles who committed drug offenses or had highlighted drug issues were diverted to the Juvenile Drug Court.
- ◆ In 2008, there were 30 Juvenile Hearing Boards in Rhode Island that served 32 of Rhode Island's cities and towns. The Providence Juvenile Hearing Board was not active in 2008, and seven communities in Rhode Island did not have Juvenile Hearing Boards (Jamestown, Little Compton, New Shoreham, North Providence, Richmond, South Kingston and Tiverton). 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 789 cases were heard before Rhode Island Juvenile Hearing Boards in 2008.
- ◆ In 2009, the Attorney General's Office filed 17 motions to waive jurisdiction to try juveniles as adults (four mandatory and 13 discretionary waivers), down from 28 in 2008. 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 2009. 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.

The Rhode Island Training School

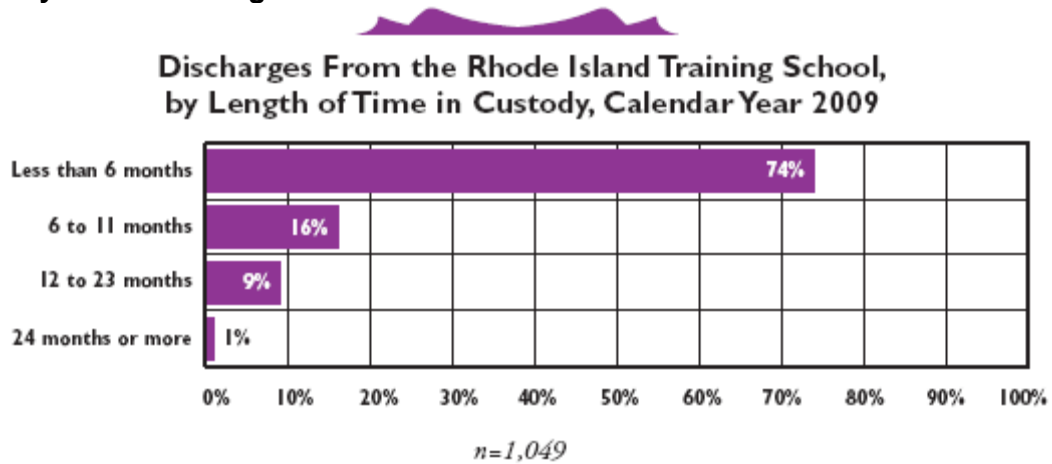
- ◆ The Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) operates the Rhode Island Training School for Youth, the state's residential detention facility for adjudicated youth and youth awaiting trial.
- ◆ A total of 894 youth (82% male and 18% female) were in the care or custody of the Training School at some point during 2009, down from 1,084 in 2008. On January 1, 2010, there were 275 youth in the care or custody of the Training School, 110 of whom were physically at the Training School.
- ◆ Of the 894 youth who were in the care or custody of the Training School at some point during 2009, 20% (183) were admitted at least twice in 2009, and 3% were admitted to the Training School three or more times in 2009.
- ◆ On January 4, 2010, there were 1,102 youth on the DCYF probation caseload.

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Risk Factors for Youth at the Training School

- ◆ **History of Child Abuse and Neglect:** Almost one-third (31%) of the 275 youth in the care or custody of the Training School on January 1, 2010 had at some point in their childhood been victims of documented child abuse or neglect.
- ◆ **Behavioral Health Needs:** In 2009, 92 youth at the Training School were prescribed psychiatric medications for psychiatric diagnoses other than conduct disorders and substance abuse disorders.
- ◆ **Educational Attainment:** Of the 787 youth in 7th through 12th grades who received educational services at the Training School during 2009, 193 (25%) received special education services. During 2009, 62 youth graduated from high school while serving a sentence at the Training School (57 received a GED and five graduated with a high school diploma). An additional 66 youth received post-secondary education services at the Training School in 2009.

Length of Stay at the Training School



Source: Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families, RICHIST, 2009. Total discharges (1,049) are higher than the total number of youth who passed through the Training School (894) due to some youth being detained and/or adjudicated and then discharged from the Training School more than once in 2009.

- ◆ Of all admissions to detention at the Training School in 2007, 73% resulted in stays of seven days or less. Of these short admissions, 24% led to adjudication to the Training School or Temporary Community Placements (TCP), while the remainder resulted in release.
- ◆ In 2008, 29% of admissions to detention at the Training School that did not lead to adjudications to the Training School or Temporary Community Placements (TCP) resulted in stays of two days or less, 43% resulted in stays of three days to two weeks, and 28% resulted in stays of more than two weeks.
- ◆ Five of the 17 unadjudicated youth in detention on January 1, 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.

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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 2008 in Rhode Island, there were 819 juvenile arrests for assault offenses and 161 juvenile arrests for weapons offenses.
- ◆ In 2009, violent crimes made up 5% (359) of the 7,829 juvenile offenses referred to Rhode Island Family Court.
- ◆ 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, 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.
- ◆ In Rhode Island between 2004 and 2008, there were 46 gun-related hospitalizations of youth ages 15 to 19 and 22 deaths of youth ages 15 to 19 attributed to firearms

Teen Deaths

- ◆ Of the teen deaths between 2004 and 2008, 39 (25%) were due to disease, 39 (25%) were due to intentional injury, 72 (47%) were due to unintentional injuries, one (1%) was due to undetermined injuries, and two (1%) were of unknown causes. Of the intentional injuries, 20 were homicides and 19 were suicides (3 females and 16 males).
- ◆ Twenty-six percent of the Rhode Island teen drivers who died in motor vehicle crashes between 2004 and 2008 had been drinking and 38% of the teen passengers who died had also 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.

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Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Juvenile Justice

Disproportionate Minority Contact in Rhode Island

	% OF TOTAL CHILD POPU- LATION 2006- 2008	% OF JUVENILES DETAINED BY POLICE 2008	% OF JUVENILE OFFENSES REFERRED TO FAMILY COURT, 2009	% OF JUVENILES WHO PASSED THROUGH THE TRAINING SCHOOL, 2009	% OF JUVENILES ADJUDICATED TO THE TRAINING SCHOOL, JAN. 1, 2010	% OF JUVENILES ON PROBATION JAN. 4, 2010
White	74%	54%	44%	41%	31%	44%
Black	7%	26%	18%	29%	35%	25%
Asian	3%	2%	2%	3%	4%	3%
Native American	1%	<1%	NA	1%	<1%	1%
Multi-Racial	4%	NA	NA	3%	3%	3%
Other/ Unknown	11%	<1%	24%	23%	27%	24%
Hispanic	19%*	17%	12%	30%*	32%*	28%*

Sources: *Child Population by race* is from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2006-2008. *Police Detentions* are from the Juvenile Detention Data Summaries submitted by Rhode Island Police Departments to the Rhode Island Justice Commission, 2008. *Family Court referrals* are from the Rhode Island Family Court, 2009. *Passed through the Training School* are from the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF), 2009. *Adjudicated to the Training School* are point-in-time data from DCYF for January 1, 2010. *Probation* are point-in-time data from DCYF for January 4, 2010. *Hispanics in these columns are also included in other racial categories.

- ◆ Youth of color are disproportionately more likely than White youth to have contact with juvenile justice systems in Rhode Island.
 - ◆ Black youth are more likely to be adjudicated to the Training School than White youth, despite making up 7% and 74% of the state's child population, respectively.
 - ◆ Hispanic youth made up 30% of youth who passed through the Training School in 2009, while they were 19% of the state's child population.