



Youth Violence Prevention

October 22, 2014

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Measures in regular text are “influence” level. *These measures are high-level measures that the department wants to impact with its work. Measures in italics are “supporting” measures. They can add context to the influence level measures, represent the programmatic or operational activities of the department, or be the direct outcomes of the department’s work.*

Over Arching Blueprint Indicators and Performance Measures

Introduction

Violence involving young people is a critical issue for the City of Minneapolis. From 2002 to 2011, homicide was the leading cause of death among Minneapolis residents age 15-24 years, accounting for 39 percent of deaths in this age group. As a result of a peak in juvenile homicides and violent crime the City of Minneapolis took action through the implementation of a multi-faceted, multi-sector, multi-year plan entitled **Blueprint for Action: Preventing Youth Violence** Launched in 2008. The Blueprint takes a public health approach, is population-based, and treats violence as an epidemic, such as tuberculosis, polio or cancer. The public health approach promotes strategies that reduce factors that put people at risk for experiencing violence and that increase factors that protect people or buffer them from risk.

In 2012, Minneapolis was invited to join the National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention, a program developed by the Federal Department of Justice. The National Forum is a network of cities and federal agencies that work together, share information, and build local capacity. The National Forum's strategic planning process provided the framework for engaging community partners, collecting and sharing relevant data and information, and revising the Blueprint. The 2013 Blueprint sets forth five goals:

- Foster violence-free social environments
- Promote positive opportunities and connections to trusted adults for all youth
- Intervene with youth and families at the first sign of risk
- Restore youth who have gone down the wrong path
- Protect children and youth from violence in the community

The Blueprint is a community-driven, grassroots response to the issue of youth violence. The goals are a framework under which many programs, services, and efforts coalesce. This collaborative, multi-level approach integrates programming that is designed to serve diverse populations.

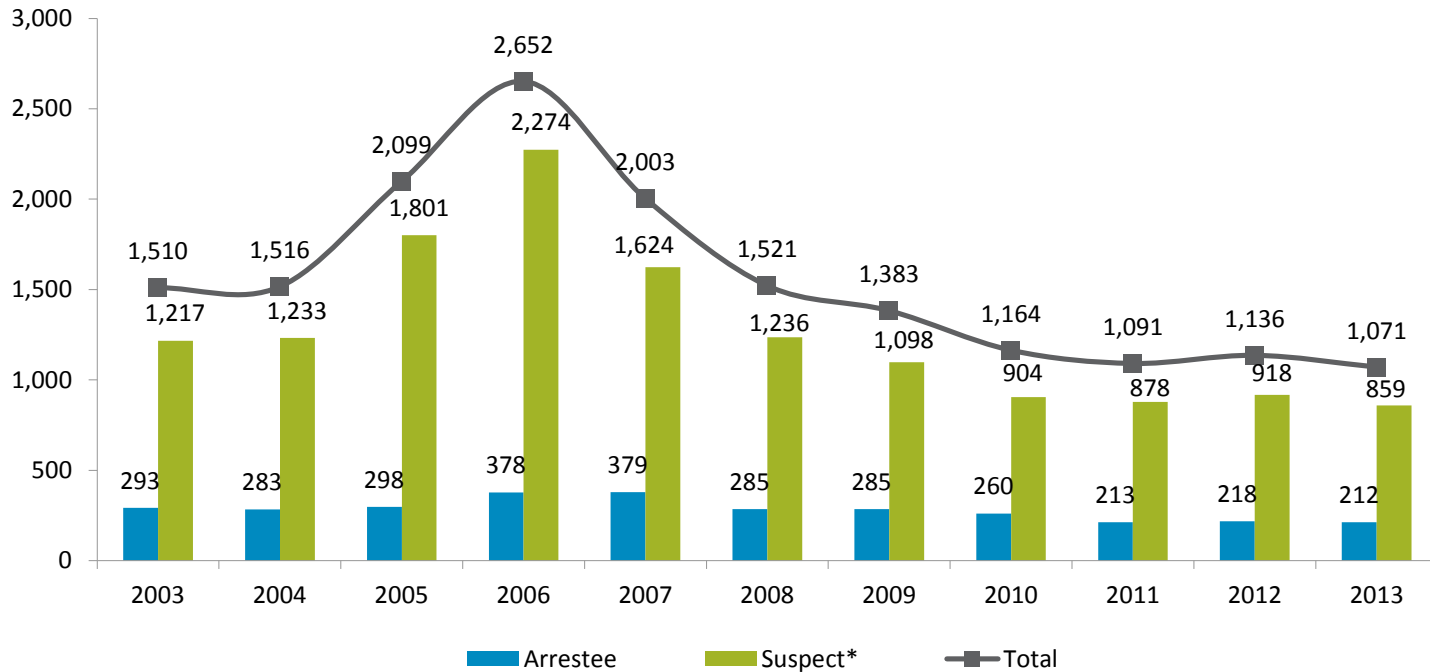
In conjunction with guidance from the Youth Violence Prevention Executive Committee, the Minneapolis Health Department coordinates the efforts of the many partners who are implementing parts of the Blueprint, including the Minneapolis Police Department, Minneapolis Public Schools, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Hennepin County, and community-based youth-serving organizations. During the past five years, Minneapolis has seen significant progress in the galvanization of these stakeholders and the development of new and enhanced activities to reduce youth violence.

Given the complexity of the youth violence problem conducting surveillance on a wide variety of measures is important. These measures capture current conditions as well as the City's progress on reducing the risks of youth violence and increasing the supports that protect youth from violence. Dramatic improvements have occurred since 2006. Despite this progress, Minneapolis youth continue to both perpetrate and be victimized by violence.

2014 and Beyond

The subsequent pages of this report highlight some of the key youth violence prevention outcomes we are tracking and the report is organized by the five goals (noted above) and related programmatic efforts.

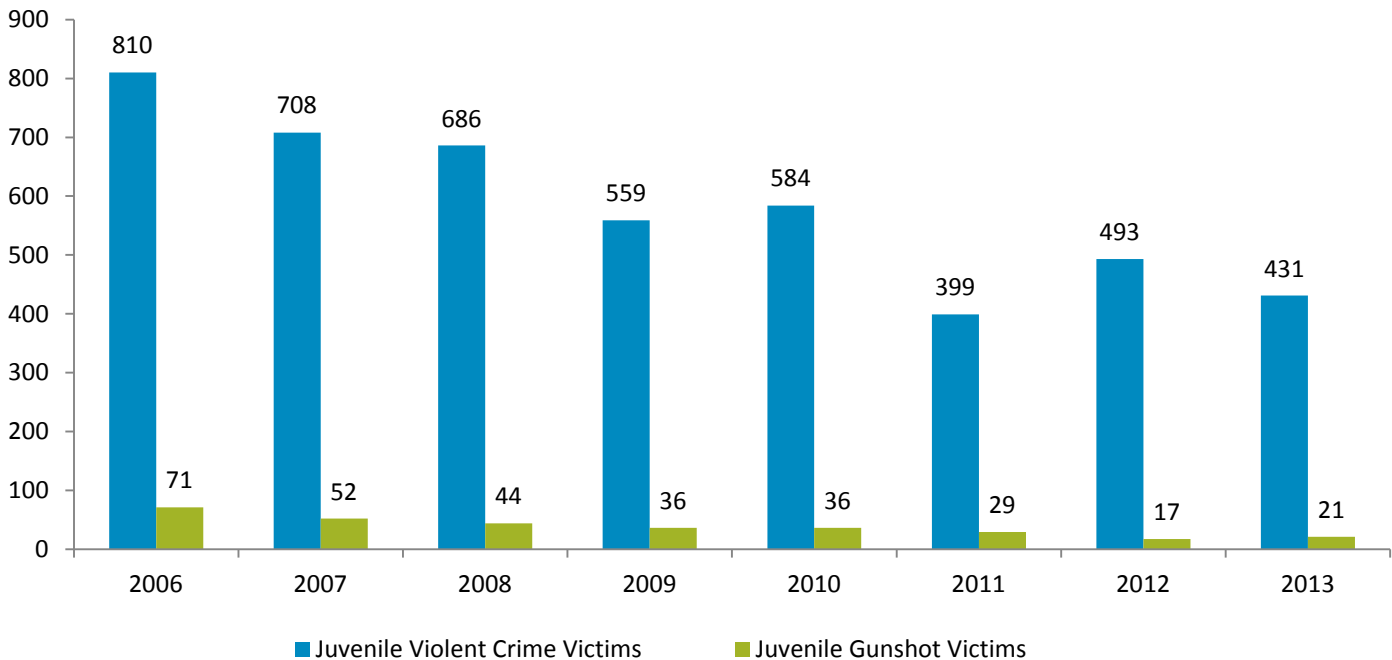
Juveniles Involved in Violent Crime (Arrestees and Suspects*)



Note: *Information from Computer Assisted Police Reporting System (CAPRS) queries where the beginning Suspect Age is listed between 1 and 17. (Example: The victim identified the suspect as being 16-25 years of age, CAPRS shows the event age as 16, and this would be counted as a juvenile suspect.)

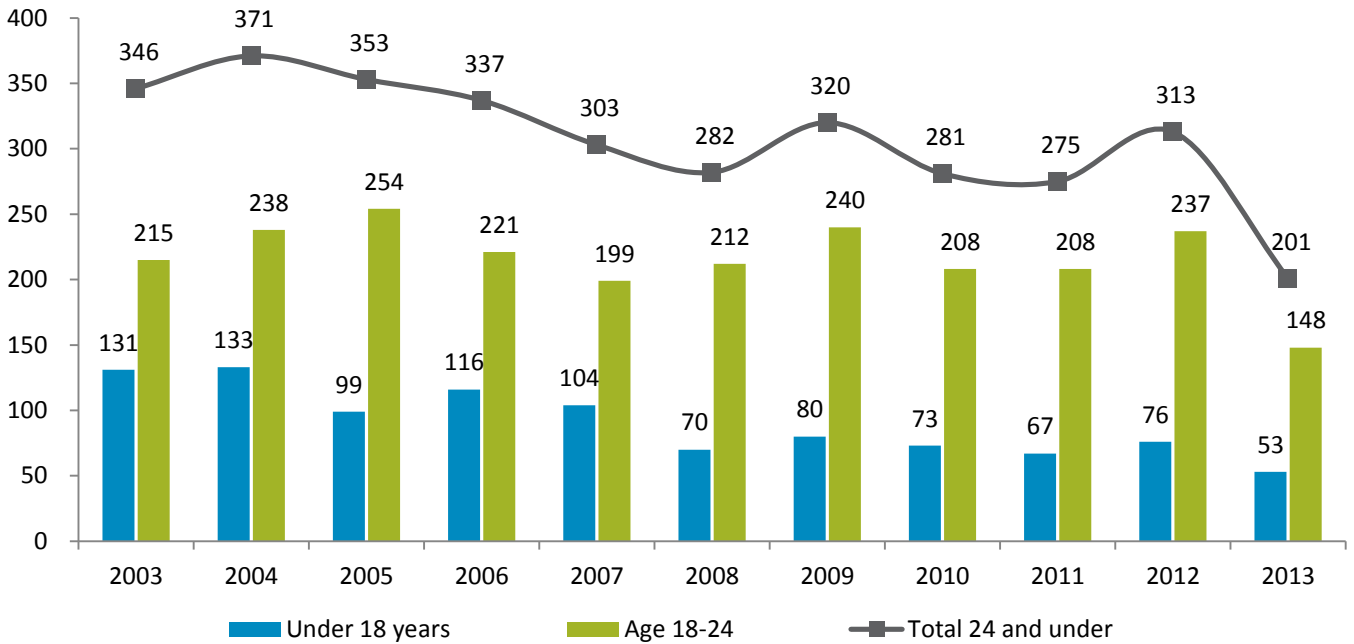
Source: Minneapolis Police Department

Juvenile Violent Crime Victims and Gunshot Victims



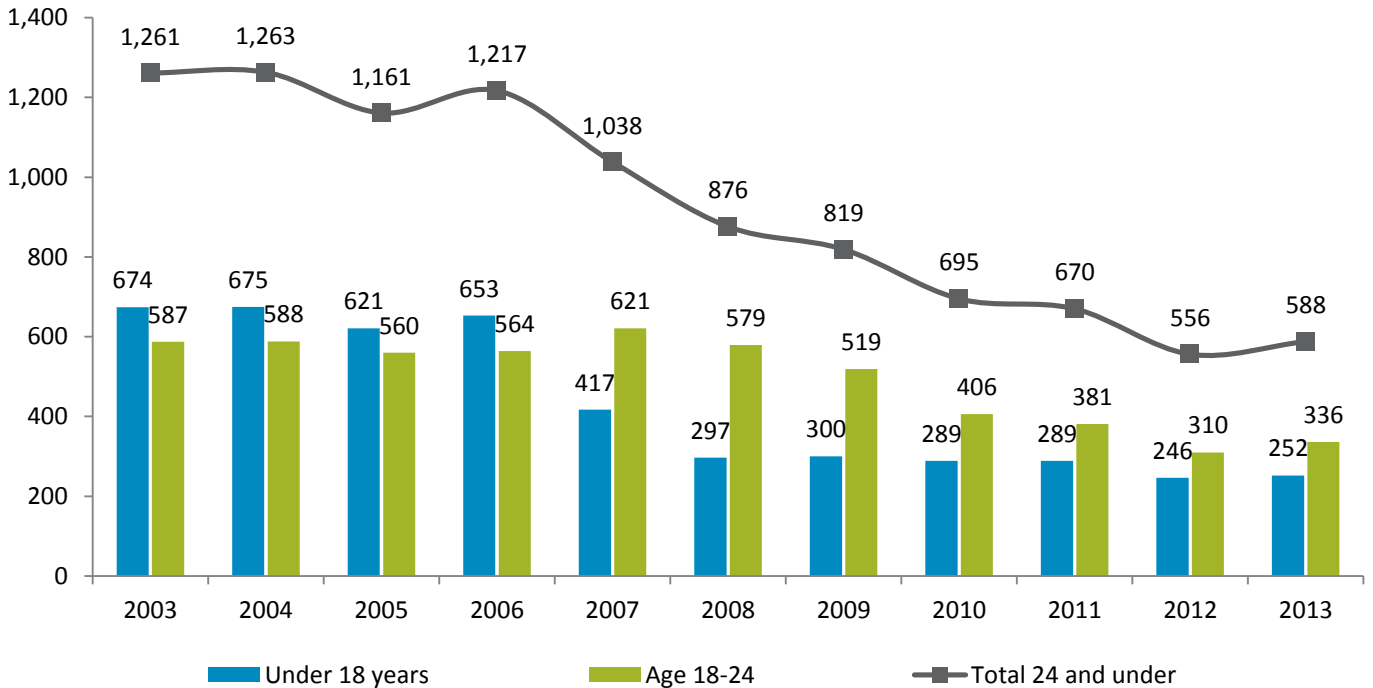
Source: Data Juvenile Gunshot Victim: CAPRS - Major or Minor Gunshot Victim (SQL query) includes event age and victim role.

Aggravated Assault Arrests of Juveniles and Young Adults



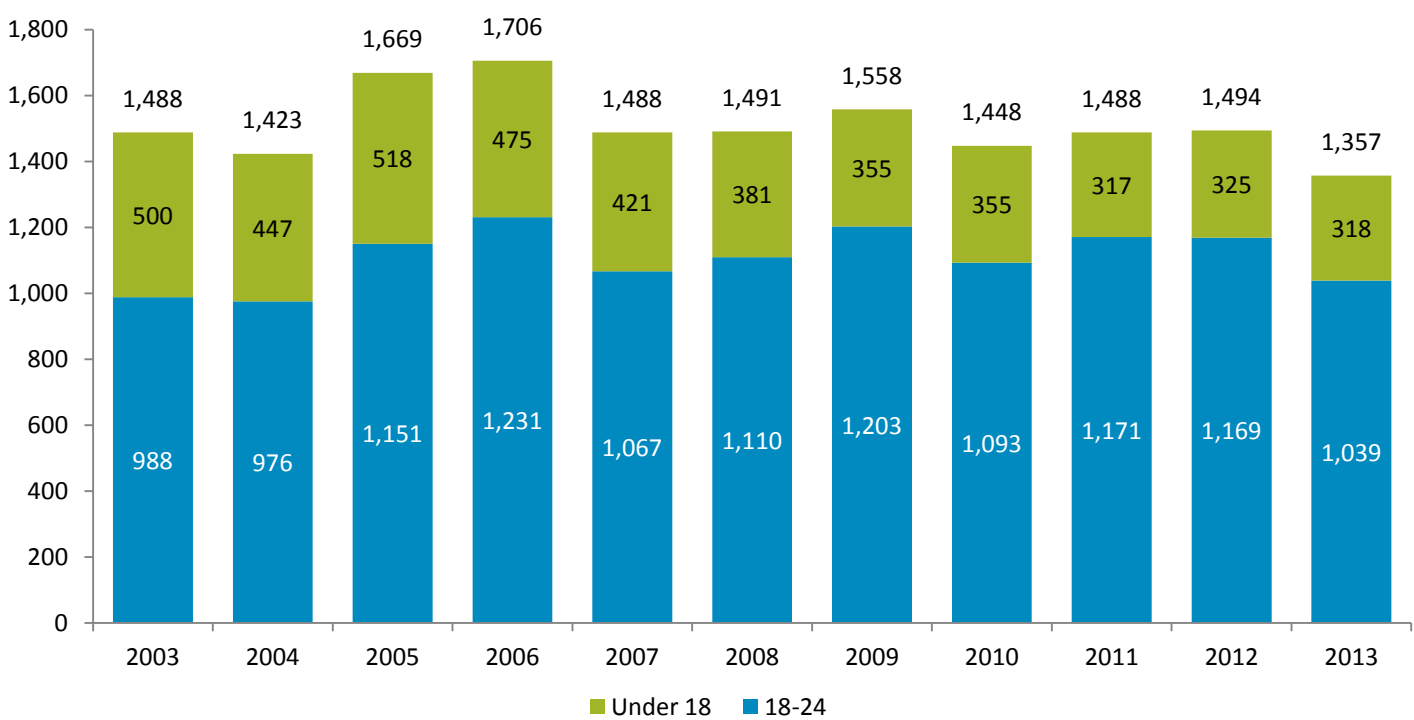
Source: Minneapolis Police Department

Simple Assault Arrests of Juveniles and Young Adults



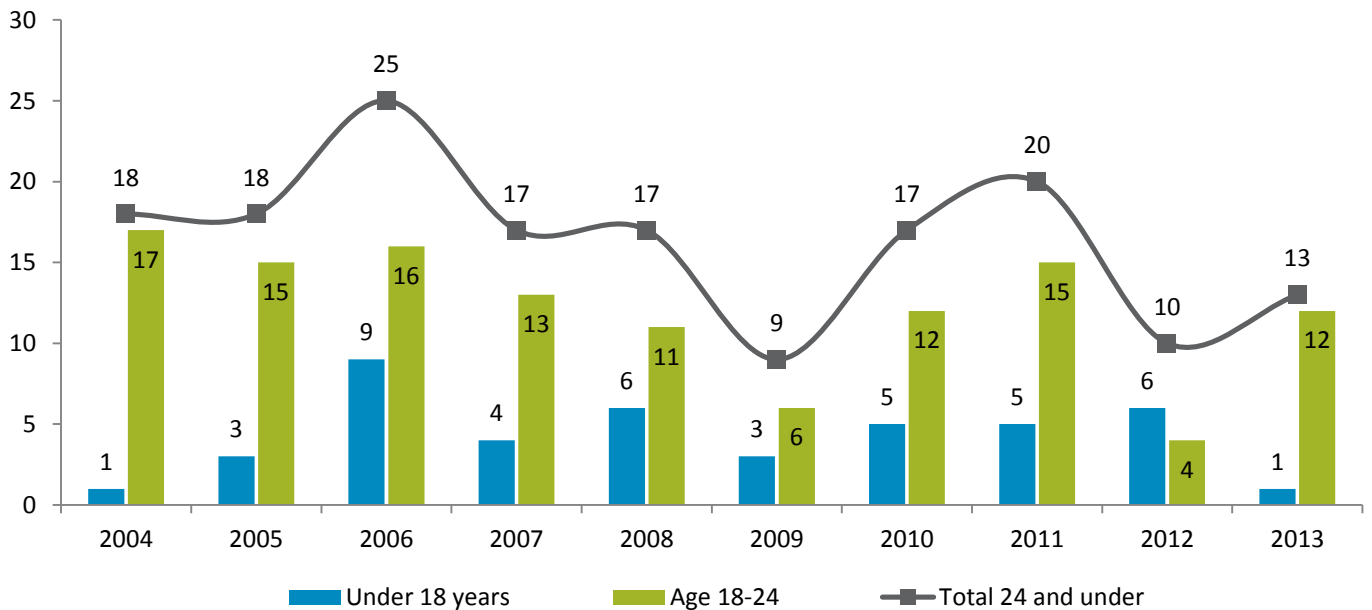
Source: Minneapolis Police Department

Youth Injuries Due to Assaults



Source: Minnesota Hospital Association

Homicides of Juveniles and Young Adults Occurring in Minneapolis



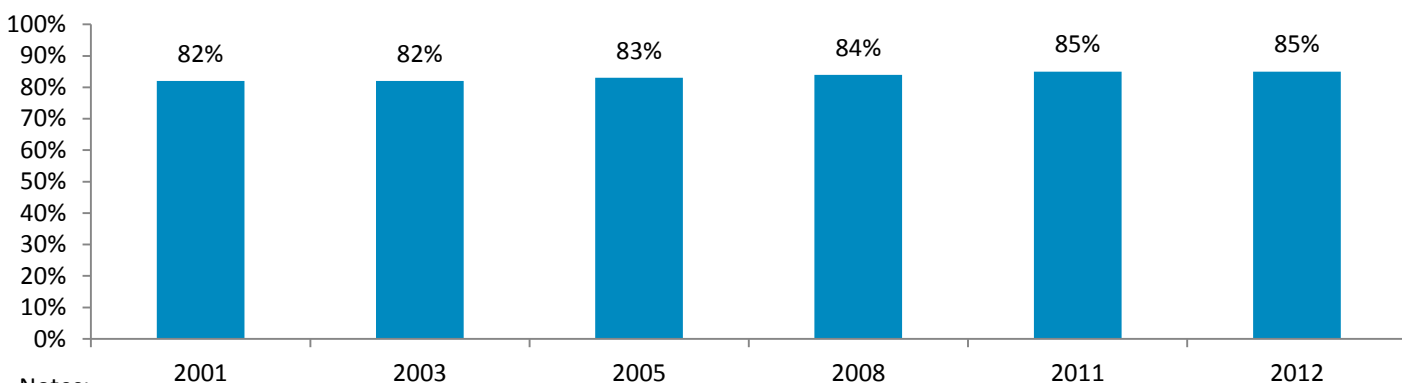
Notes:

- 1) This includes deaths of juveniles by homicide within Minneapolis city limits.
- 2) The juvenile homicide for 2013 is from a shooting which occurred in 1986. The Medical Examiner ruled in 2013 that his death was the result of a homicide, and due to Unified Crime Report (UCR) Guidelines the death must be reported in the year that the individual died.

Source: Minneapolis Police Department Vital Statistics

Goal One: Foster Violence-free Social Environments

City-wide Perceptions of Neighborhood Safety



Notes:

- 1) Percent of Residents who "Agree" or "Strongly Agree" with the statement "My Neighborhood Is a Safe Place to Live"
- 2) For comparison between survey years, the difference must be four percentage points or higher before they should be considered real changes in population sentiment.

Source: 2012 Minneapolis Resident Survey

Why is this goal important?

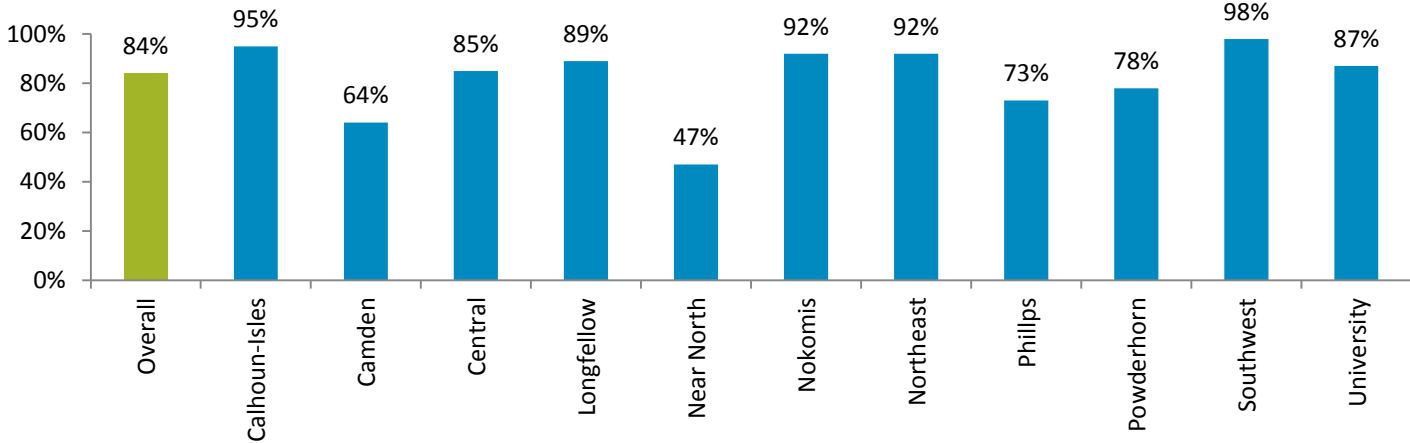
Sustainable progress toward ending youth violence requires addressing social environments. To generate progress, efforts to address social environments must employ a broad, multi-systemic approach that is implemented through a variety of strategies including communication, a focus on community and institutional climates, and policy change. Positive institutional environments and climates not only provide safe spaces free from violence, but they also foster social and emotional learning and the development of beneficial relationships between youth and adult role models. Healthy and productive social and emotional climates lead to increased youth engagement, interaction, and empowerment, which are fundamental components for fostering long-term sustainable changes in social environments.

Perception of safety is an important component of the well-being of community members and neighborhoods. Though by many measures violent crime has decreased in Minneapolis since 2006, public perception does not always match that reality. Graffiti, litter, and neglected buildings and public spaces can contribute to perceptions that neighborhoods are unsafe, exacerbate fears of victimization, and contribute to increased criminal activity. Changing community perceptions of violence must be accompanied by corresponding changes reflected in policy. The approach in Minneapolis to preventing youth violence depends on strong grassroots, community-based efforts, but the effectiveness of that work can be greatly enhanced if legislators and policymakers are informed and influenced through advocacy and agenda setting.

What will it take to make progress?

Research has demonstrated that long-term public education campaigns on violence prevention, family education, alcohol and drug prevention, and gun safety are effective strategies to help prevent delinquency. Researchers also agree that involving youth and developing community consensus around these values are essential to an effective public education process. A well-designed public education campaign can make a positive impact on public opinion and be a cost-effective way of providing critical information to a large number of people. For example, it can enhance community understanding about the nature and value of the juvenile justice system. It can educate all members of the community about effective prevention and intervention strategies. It can also help communities identify and access local resources and can inform policymakers of proven options for effective juvenile justice at all levels. Beyond public awareness and education, there are additional key livability issues that contribute to overall quality of life for our neighborhoods that also impact perceptions. Further work should be done to address the intersections between perceptions of safety and neighborhood livability issues.

Perceptions of Safety, by Community Planning District, 2012

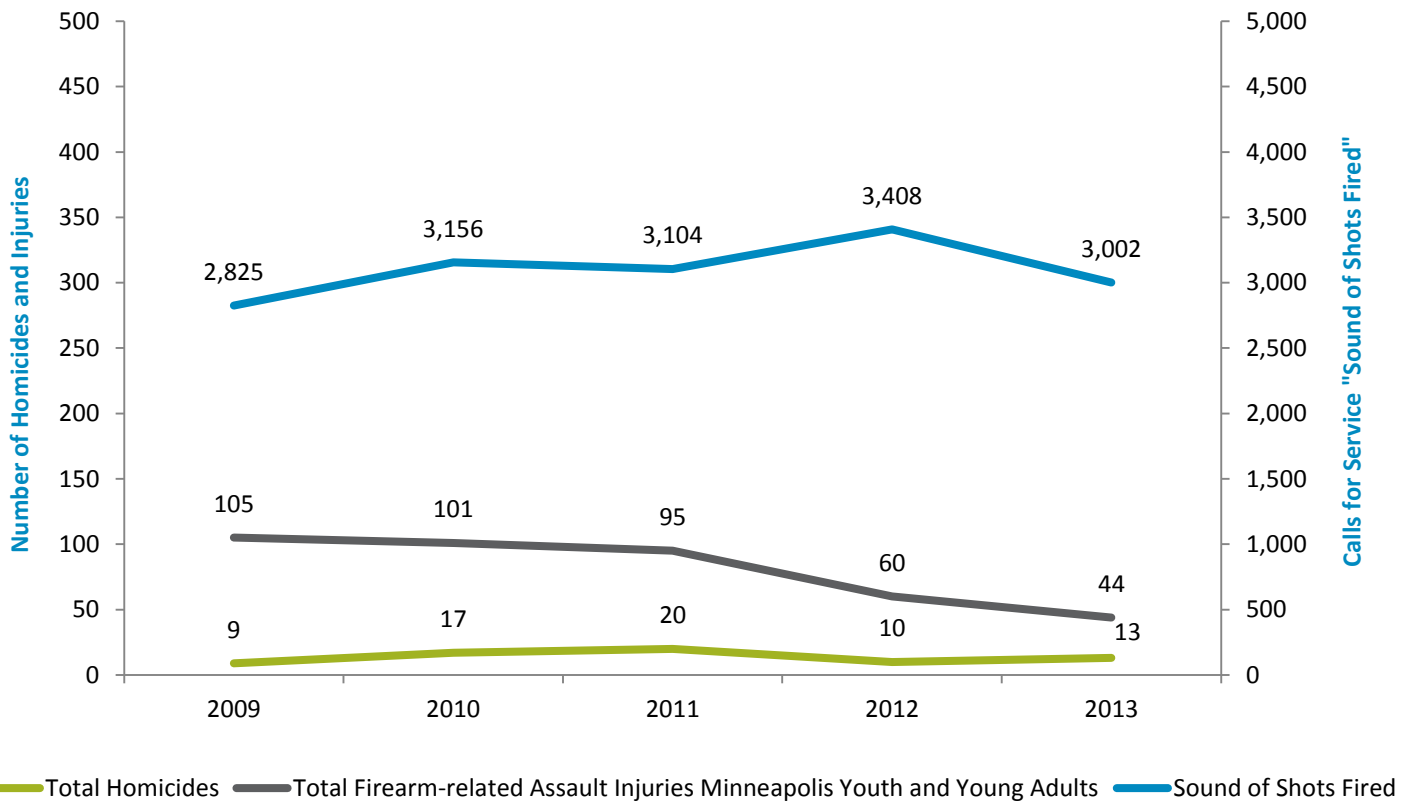


Notes:

- 1) Percentage of residents who "agree" or "strongly agree" with the statement, "My neighborhood is a safe place to live."
- 2) Based on sample size, the margin of error for community planning districts is between ±7 and ±10 percent for community planning districts.

Source: 2012 Minneapolis Resident Survey

Reported Shots Fired*, Youth Injuries & Homicides

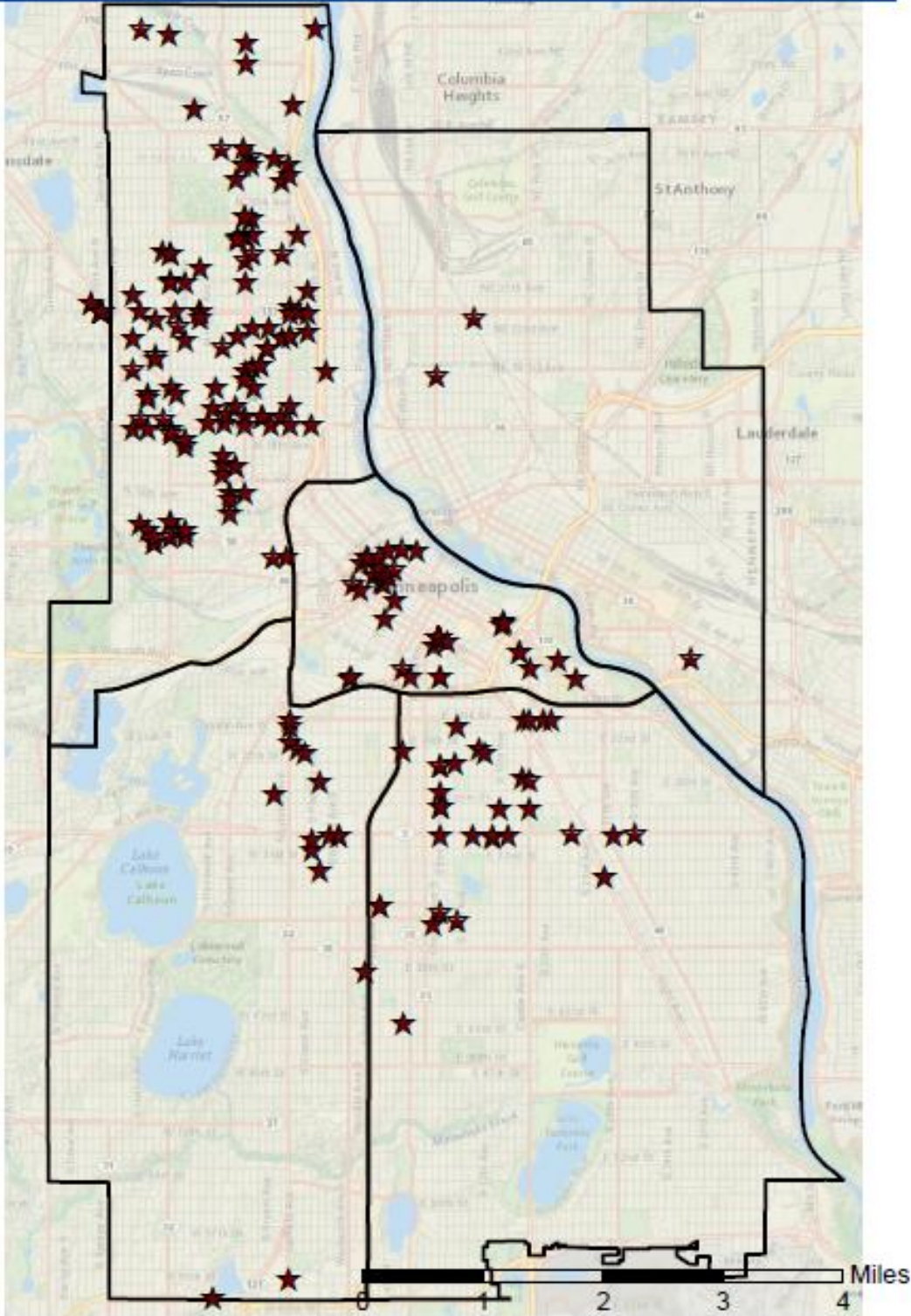


Note: *Report of "Sound of Shots Fired" is based on citizens calling in and may result in multiple calls for the same incident. Total number of calls of "Sound of Shots Fired" has been updated to reflect only the calls for service for "Sound of Shots Fired" and does not include those for Shot Spotter Activations.

Source: Minneapolis Police Department and MN Hospital Association; includes hospital in-patient and out-patient visits



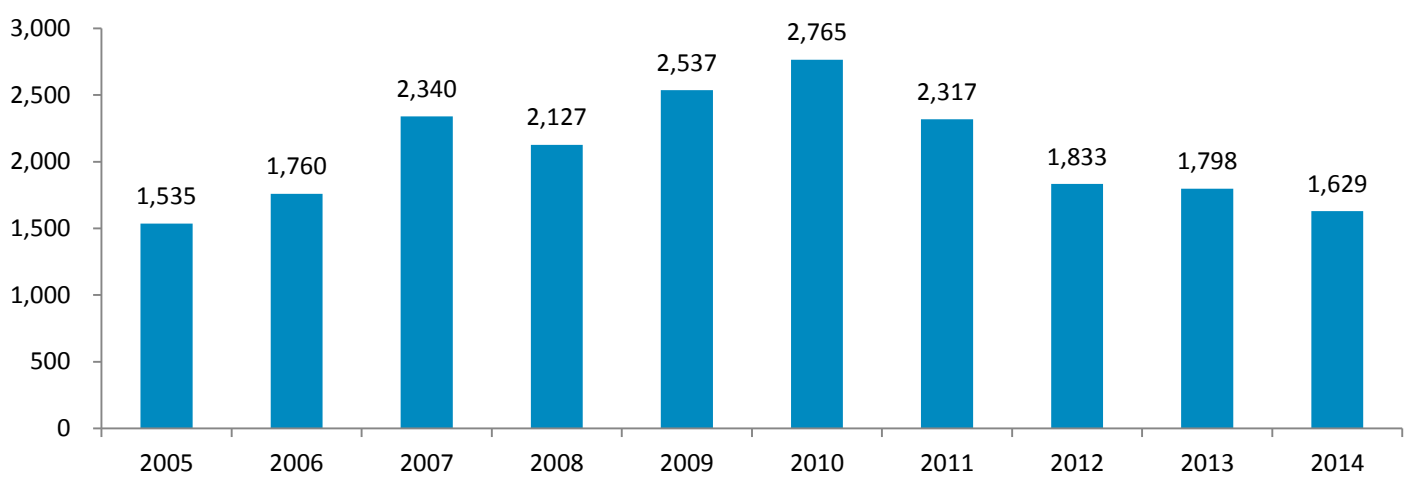
MINNEAPOLIS POLICE DEPARTMENT Shooting Calls in 2013



★ Each icon represents a 911 Shooting call or report from the CAD system in which a police officer is assigned and responded. Not every call results in a verified shooting, assault, or violence after further investigation.

**Goal Two: Promote Positive
Opportunities and Connections to
Trusted Adults for All Youth**

City of Minneapolis Employment and Training Summer Youth Placements (STEP-UP)



Source: City of Minneapolis Employment and Training Database

Why is this goal important?

Research shows that young people who have access to caring adults have a better chance of succeeding and are more likely to make positive choices. Connection to a caring adult can include professional youth work, teaching, parenting and traditional mentoring but more often than not it is simply an understanding by adults that their interactions with young people have an effect. Knowing this and being intentional about positive, caring interactions whether at work, on the street, in businesses, in faith communities, or at home will make a difference for young people whether you know it or not. The City has limited programming in this area, but through the work of the City of Minneapolis Employment and Training there is meaningful work going on.

A substantial body of literature finds that summer employment during high school creates short- and long-term positive impacts on students' employability, wages and earnings, especially among those who do not go on to complete substantial post-secondary education. Employers make connections with and help shape the diverse workers of the future.

STEP-UP is the City's primary youth employment strategy. STEP-UP's mission is to *Prepare youth for success in the workforce by offering quality work and training experiences* and strives to see that all Minneapolis youth are work ready. To achieve this, STEP-UP focuses on youth development through training and work experience and on economic development by identifying economic sectors with projected employer demand. This approach is key to developing a competitive pool of talent that will attract companies and help existing companies expand.

Along with summer employment programs, City of Minneapolis Employment and Training and AchieveMpls, a close partner on the STEP-UP youth employment program, offer year round employment programs. For many youth employment is not simply a summer activity; school year programming allows some youth to enhance their workplace talent, while for others, adding needed income for the individual's and/or family's economic and social stability.

Research shows that afterschool programs like those funding through the Youth Coordinating Board, are uniquely positioned to help our youth, our communities, our businesses, and our city tackle these

challenges. It has also shown that students who do not participate in extracurricular activities are more likely to use drugs and more likely to become teen parents than are students who spend one or more hours per week in extracurricular activities. Research has shown that students who are not engaged in weekly activities may be more likely to engage in antisocial behaviors, such as vandalism, theft and fights. Lack of adult supervision between the time that students are sent home and the time that parents arrive home from work is among multiple contributing factors to juvenile delinquency.

What will it take to make progress?

Research from the Harvard Family Research Project shows that afterschool programs make a positive impact when they have the resources they need to ensure that youth have access to and sustained participation in programs, sites have intentional programming and trained staff, and programs are connected to families, community organizations, and schools.

Unfortunately, Minnesota has lost nearly 1/3 of consistent, dedicated, and substantial source of funding for afterschool programs in the last six years. The most recent survey of Minnesota youth and families shows that 32% of youth (K-12) are responsible for taking care of themselves after school, 33% of youth would participate in an afterschool program if it were available to them, and 56% of parents struggle occasionally or often to find activities for their children to do.

The Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board (YCB) is in Year 3 of developing a citywide network to support the afterschool field. When implemented in Minneapolis we will have a shared citywide management information system, coordinated professional training, a continuous quality improvement system, and a teen and parent program finder (What's Up 612!) improving access to existing programs and resources.

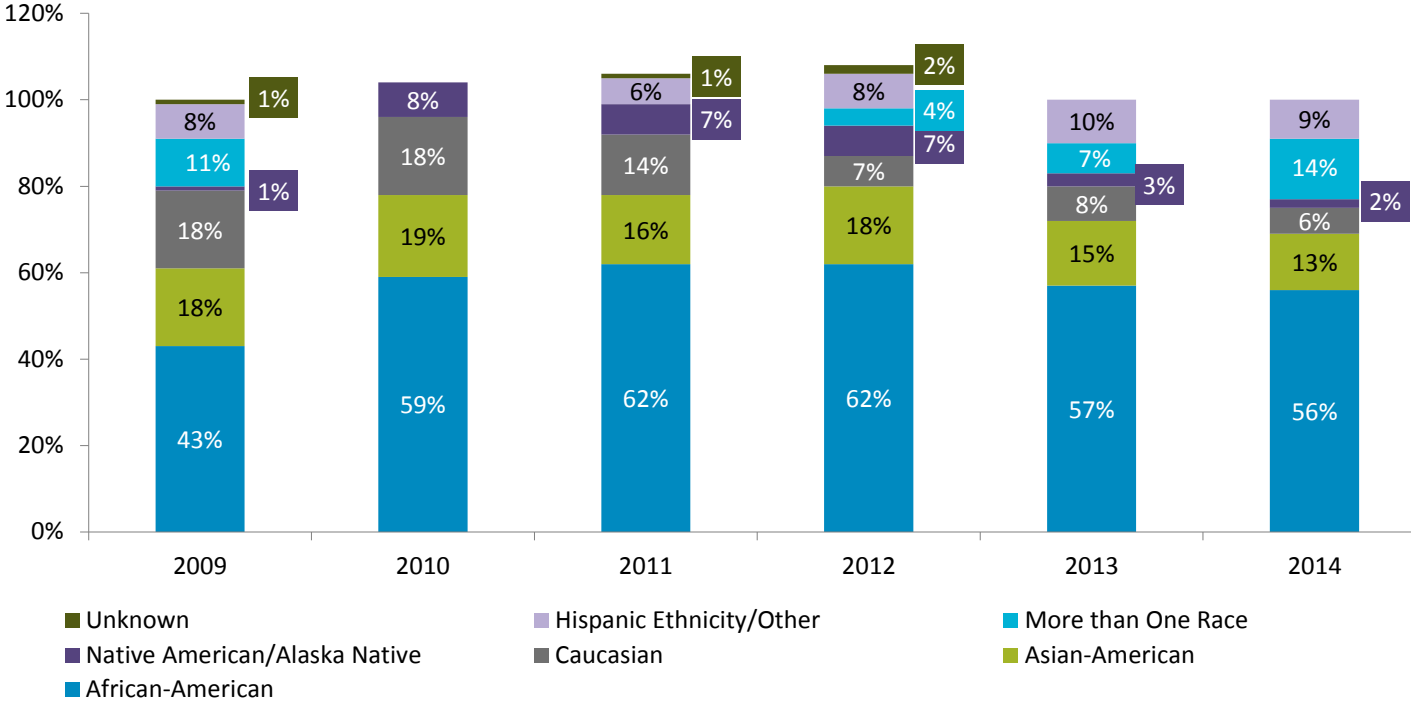
For over a decade federal support provides City of Minneapolis Employment and Training the ability to offer youth with year round employment placements. This program increases youth long-term employability by enhancing educational, occupational and leadership skills. Youth must be economically disadvantaged and have at least one of the following at-risk barriers to be eligible for services: basic skills deficient, school dropout, homeless, runaway or foster child, disabled, pregnant or parenting, offender and requires additional assistance to complete an educational program or secure and hold employment.

Participants set individualized employment and educational goals with guidance from their case manager. Services available are grouped around four major themes: 1) Improving educational achievement (including tutoring, dropout prevention strategies and post-secondary transition); 2) Preparing for and succeeding in employment (paid and unpaid work experience and internships); 3) Supporting youth (providing adult mentoring, 12 month follow-up and support services; and 4) Services intended to develop the potential of young people as citizens and leaders (leadership development opportunities).

Youth outcomes include education and work readiness skill enhancement, attainment of high school diploma or GED, enrollment into post-secondary or advanced training, maintaining employment at 90 and 180 days, and securing industry specific occupational credentials.

There are a variety of factors that go into young people believing they can turn to an adult at school when needed. Among the most important are having good resources for children who need assistance – mental health counseling, chemical dependency counseling, clothes, food, shelter, etc. Strong community and school leadership creating schools and communities of support are also critical. Additionally, diverse and varied community resources and activities for children, young people and their families are also important.

STEP-UP Participants, by Race

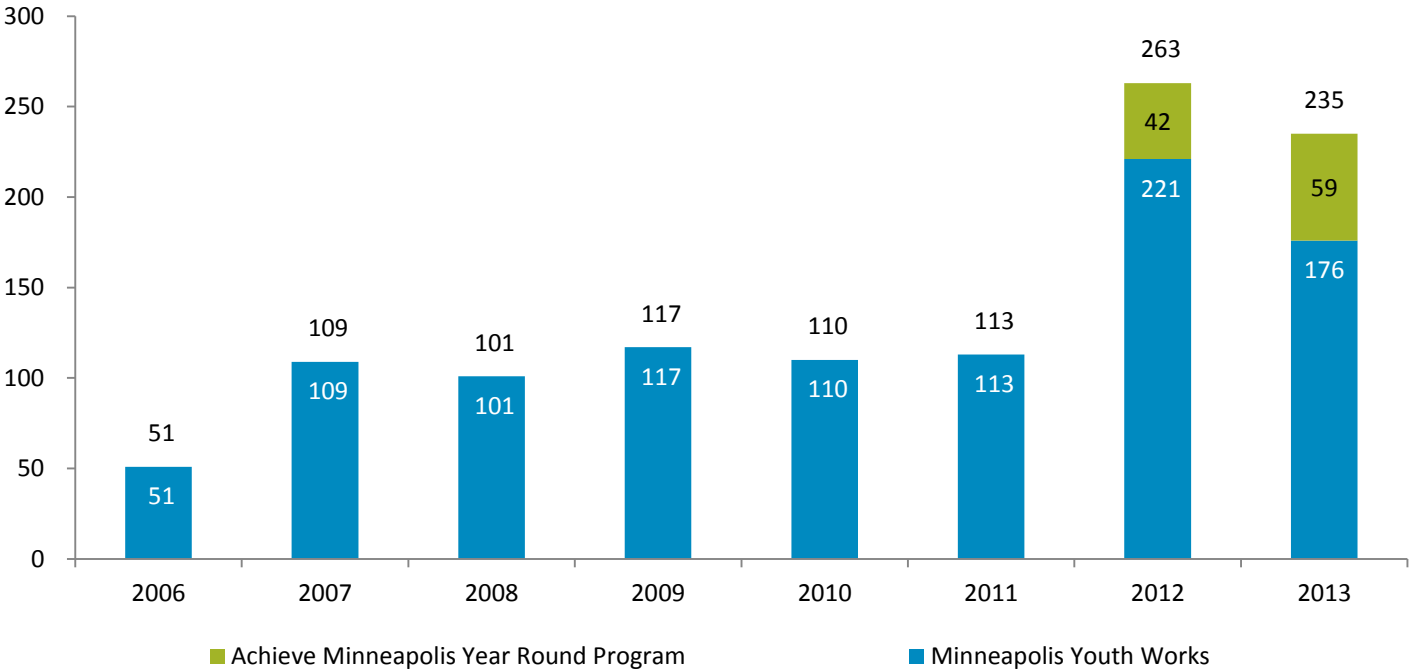


Notes:

- 1) Totals can exceed 100 percent, because participants can respond with more than one race.
- 2) In 2014, more youth used the option to select multiple options this year, so this number has nearly doubled.

Source: Minneapolis Employment and Training Database

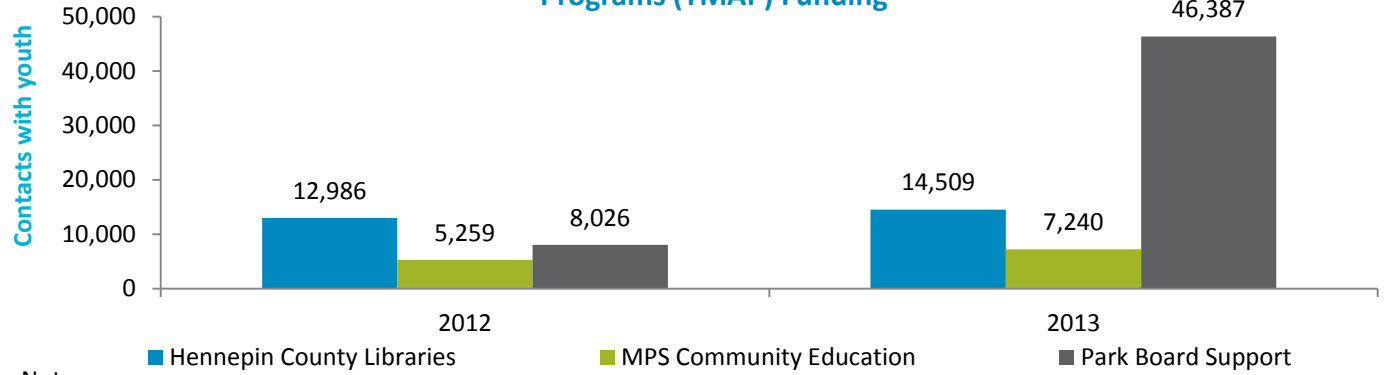
Job Placements and Internships



Note: AchieveMpls Year Round Program was implemented in Fall 2012.

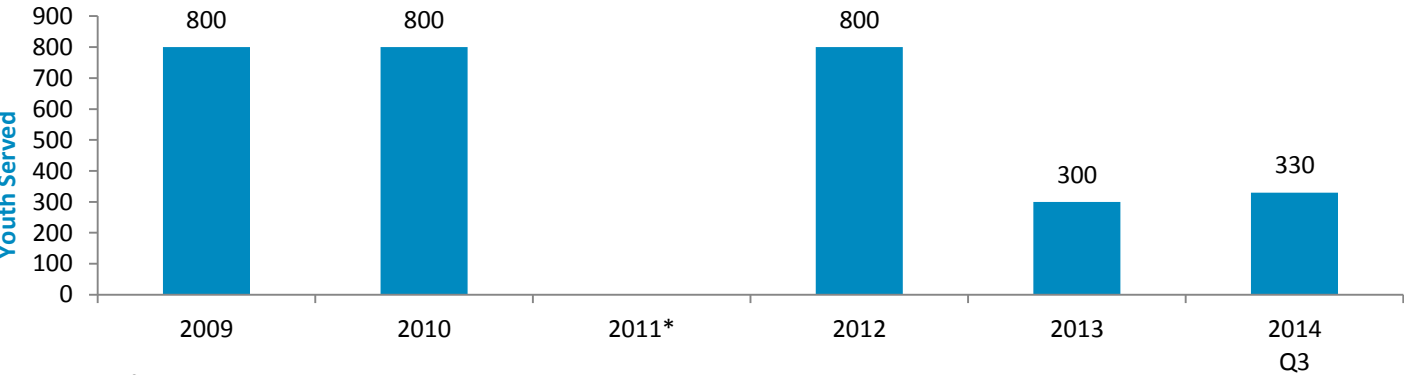
Source: CPED; Workforce Development

Unique Contacts with Youth at Programs Receiving Youth in Minneapolis Afterschool Programs (YMAP) Funding



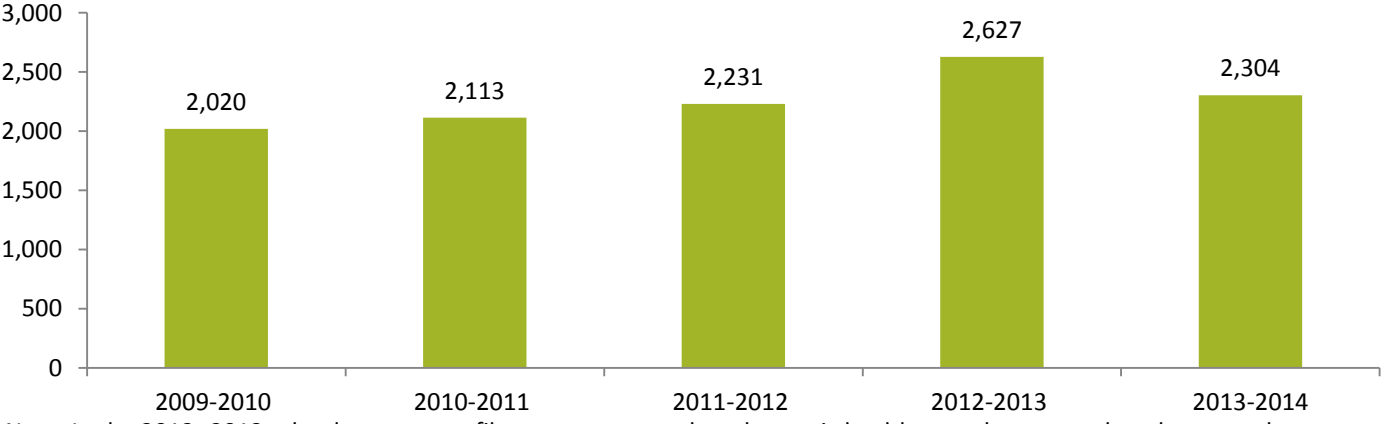
Notes:
 1) Hennepin County Libraries refers to a Homework Helper Program in Minneapolis Libraries
 2) MPS Community Education refers to the after school tutoring, youth leadership development, art and cultural activities
 3) Park Board support refers to outreach efforts of Minneapolis Park Board to increase participation of youth in park programs.
 Source: Youth Coordinating Board

Youth Served through the Minneapolis Police Activities League (PAL) Programming



Note: Data for the 2011 is not available.
 Source: IRS form 990

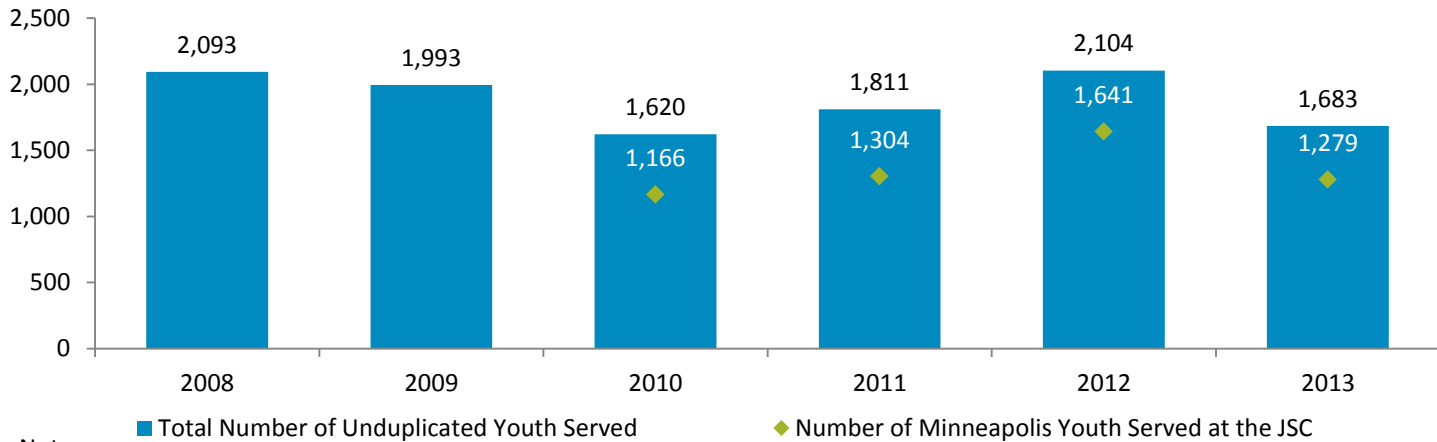
Number of Youth Served through Minneapolis School Based Clinic Program



Note: In the 2012 -2013 school year, paper files were converted to electronic health record systems, thus there may be some duplication in the number of students served.
 Source: Minneapolis Health Department

Goal Three: Intervene with Youth and Families at the First Sign of Risk

Total Number of Unduplicated Youth and Minneapolis Youth Served at the Juvenile Service Center (JSC)



Notes:

1) Minneapolis youth numbers are not available prior to 2010.

2) This data represents the total number of unduplicated youth served at the JSC after a law enforcement pickup for curfew violation, truancy violation, or low level offense.

Source: *The Link*

Why is this goal important?

A critical component of preventing youth violence is early intervention at the point youth first exhibit signs they are at risk for involvement with violence. In Minneapolis the following are the areas of focus:

Curfew, truancy, and low-level offenses

Curfew and truancy violations are important risk indicators. Research has shown that youth who commit these violations are more likely to drop out of school, exhibit delinquency, and abuse drugs. In addition, because they spend more time away from school and home, youth who are truant or out late at night may be more likely to perpetrate or become a victim of a violent crime. Similarly, youth who commit low-level offenses such as theft, disorderly conduct, or others may be on a pathway for later delinquency and criminal activity.

Family and sexual violence

Family and sexual violence cannot be overlooked when addressing youth violence. Screening for and responding to trauma is important in order to prevent repeated victimization of youth who experience physical or sexual abuse. And, because an untreated victim can often become a perpetrator, effective screening and response is necessary to short-circuit any potential long-term cycle of violence.

Victims of community violence

To ensure a safe and healthy community for all Minneapolis youth it is important to intervene early with potential victims and perpetrators of community violence. Victimization increases the risk for both subsequent victimizations and perpetration. Involvement with the juvenile justice system can cause significant collateral consequences that can lead to a lifetime struggle with inequity. Programming specifically tailored toward potential victims and perpetrators can help reduce the risk of involvement with violence.

Additional Narrative on Next Page...

Community-based programming for at-risk youth

Some youth who are at risk of becoming victims or perpetrators of violence tend to be disconnected and may exhibit other factors that put them at risk. These youth may not always be reached by less targeted prevention and intervention efforts. Supporting community-based programming targeted at disconnected youth is an important facet of the City’s work to ensure that meaningful interventions occur.

What will it take to make progress?

Curfew, truancy, and low-level offenses

The Juvenile Supervision Center (JSC) is one of the City’s primary opportunities to intervene with youth at the first sign of risk. The JSC provides supervision and referral services to youth ages 10-17 who are picked up by law enforcement officers in Minneapolis and first ring suburbs for truancy, curfew, and low-level offenses that do not meet the admission criteria of the Hennepin County Juvenile Detention Center. The JSC, operated by The Link (a community-based non-profit) is open 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. Youth brought to the JSC are assessed for risk factors and needs, reconnected with their families and, when appropriate, connected to community and government resources to help address the needs that may have contributed to their risky behavior.

Repeat visitors to the Juvenile Supervision Center and youth with more significant needs can participate in the Juvenile Supervision Center’s aftercare case management services. Through case management services youth receive long-term, one-to-one support to better address their myriad community-based needs. Case management services focus on decreasing high risk behavior, achieving school success, and increasing connections to social supports. To further decrease high-risk behavior and rate of JSC return, the JSC as an intervention tool shall continue to increase its overall effectiveness.

Family and sexual violence

Minneapolis School Based Clinic Staff have been trained to administer a dating violence screening tool developed by the National Organization Futures without Violence.

The local iteration of the screening tool and program is called Project Connect. The goal of Project Connect is to screen all students that visit the Minneapolis School Based Clinics for signs of abuse in relationships and address any questions the student may have. The Minneapolis School Based Clinics promote and educate around the meaning of healthy and safe relationships and work to ensure that students understand the signs of an abusive relationship. Depending on individual needs and experiences staff will connect youth with additional resources when appropriate.

During the 2013-2014 school year Minneapolis School Based Clinic staff had 1,624 encounters with youth that included a sexual violence screening. In the future, this school based clinic program will continue to work directly with students to educate them on what constitutes abusive relationships and provide them with sexual violence screening.

Victims of street or community violence

In 2014 the Health Department launched a pilot of the Inspiring Youth program and contracted with Tubman as the community-based service provider. Inspiring Youth provides prevention and early intervention services to youth who are at risk of involvement with victimization by and/or perpetration of violence. Voluntary services are provided through intensive, individualized one-to-one support for identified youth and their families and engagement in supplemental group offerings. Services are intended to reduce risk factors for involvement with violence while increasing protective factors. This occurs through: academic support; mentorship; access to resources, positive pro-social activities, support groups, and mental health counseling; a focus on self-image and self-esteem; and support around healthy relationships.

Additional Narrative on Next Page...

The program utilizes a trauma-informed, strengths-based, culturally responsive Positive Youth Development Approach. Services include goal planning, weekly contact, ongoing skill development, engagement in positive activities, coordination of support systems, and support for family and household needs.

Since the launch of Inspiring Youth the referral base has been expanded to include youth who are involved with the Minneapolis Police Department’s Juvenile Diversion program. The Health Department, the Police Department, and community partners recognized a significant opportunity to use Inspiring Youth to complement MPD Diversion’s restorative justice programming. Many youth participating in diversion face significant risk factors for involvement with violence and have deeper needs that may not get addressed simply through a restorative justice intervention. Through this partnership the restorative justice diversion providers will make all youth participating in diversion aware of the voluntary opportunity to receive additional support through Inspiring Youth. The restorative justice service providers have been trained by Tubman staff on how to communicate the opportunity, and Tubman youth workers are available for meetings throughout the diversion process as requested by youth.

With Inspiring Youth currently in a pilot phase data collection and evaluation efforts are in progress. The Health’s Department’s Research and Evaluation Division is assisting with outcome evaluation design, measurement, and analysis. Tools have been created that seek to incorporate both quantitative and qualitative measures in an effort to measure an increase in protective factors and decrease in risk factors. The results of this pilot phase are to be incorporated into the program in the future.

Community-based programming for at-risk youth

The Health Department trains youth serving community-based providers on use of the BUILD curriculum as a targeted intervention tool. The BUILD curriculum provides youth with opportunities to learn positive decision-making, goal setting, and conflict resolution in order to help them resist the lure of street gangs and violence. The Health Department has provided numerous community-based organizations with the training and resources necessary to carry out this intervention. In addition, the Health Department has worked with the community to create culturally specific tip sheets to better meet the needs of the City’s diverse community. To make progress the Health Department will continue to provide the necessary training and resources for carrying out this intervention, and continue to stay culturally aware of the needs of the community.

Number of Providers Trained and Number of Youth Who Receive the Broader Urban Involvement and Leadership Development (BUILD) Training

	2013		2014 thru Q3	
	Individuals	Organizations /Sites	Individuals	Organizations /Sites
Number of providers trained on BUILD	52	21	29	7
Number of Youth receiving BUILD	59	3*	59	9**

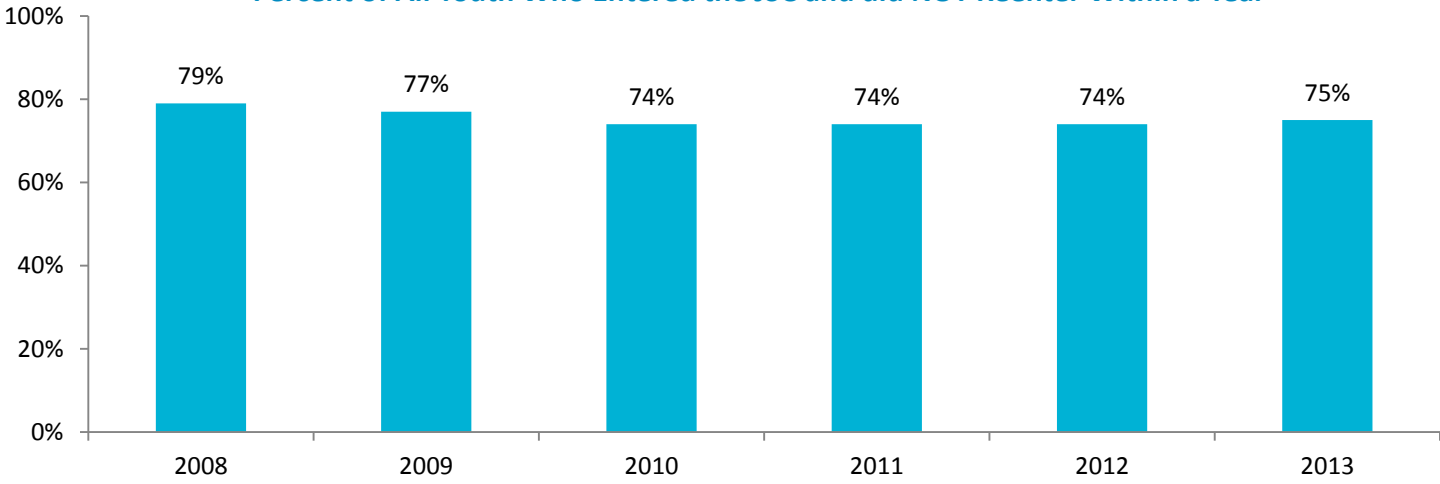
* 2013 sites included: Emerge North 4, Pillsbury United Communities-Oak Park Center, Division of Indian Work/American Indian Math Project

** 2014 sites included: Pillsbury United Communities - Oak Park Center, Urban Arts Academy, Oasis of Love, Emerge - North 4, Lutheran Social Services, BUILD Leaders (Sumner Library, North Regional Library , Emerge Villages, North Commons)

Source: Minneapolis Health Department

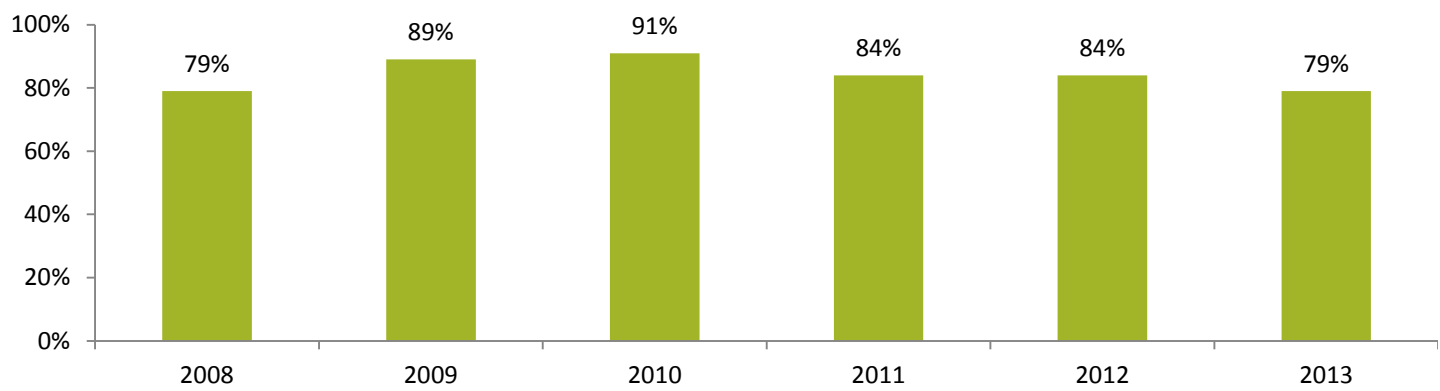
Additional Data on Next Page...

Percent of All Youth Who Entered the JSC and did NOT Reenter Within a Year



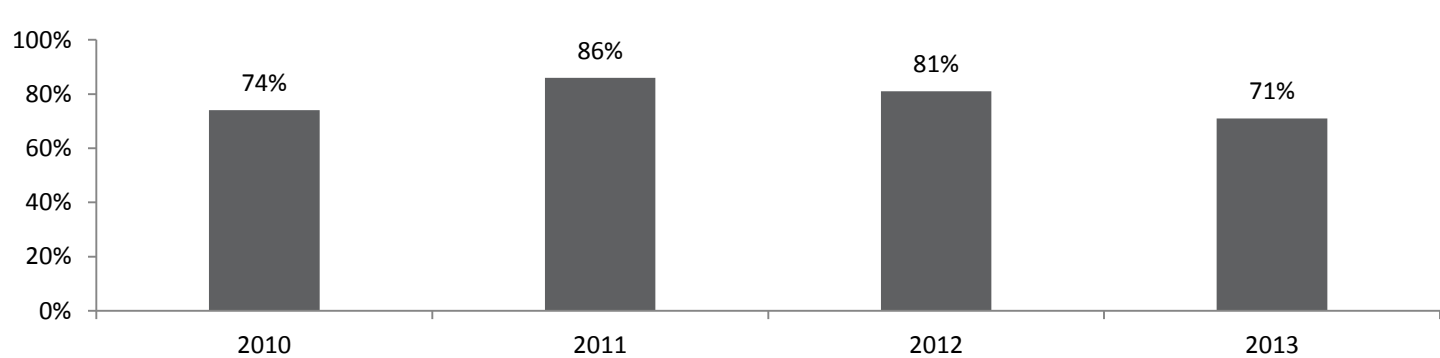
Source: The Link

Percent of All Youth Engaged in Case Management Who did NOT Reenter JSC within Six Months



Source: The Link

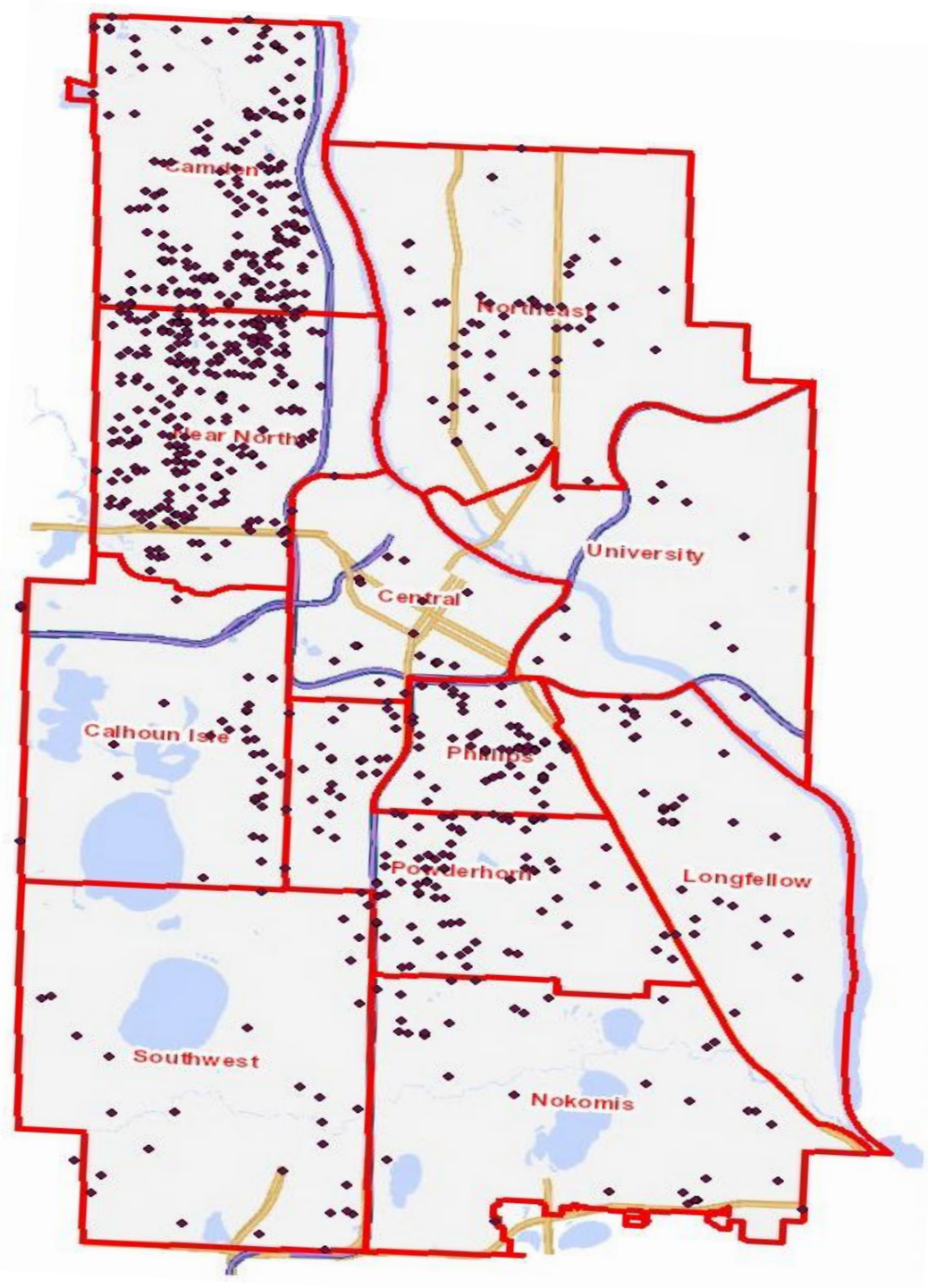
Percent of All Youth Engaged in Case Management Who Decreased High Risk Behavior* Following JSC Visit



Note: High risk behavior includes being picked up for curfew or committing a low level offense, as well as being charged with a felony.

Source: The Link

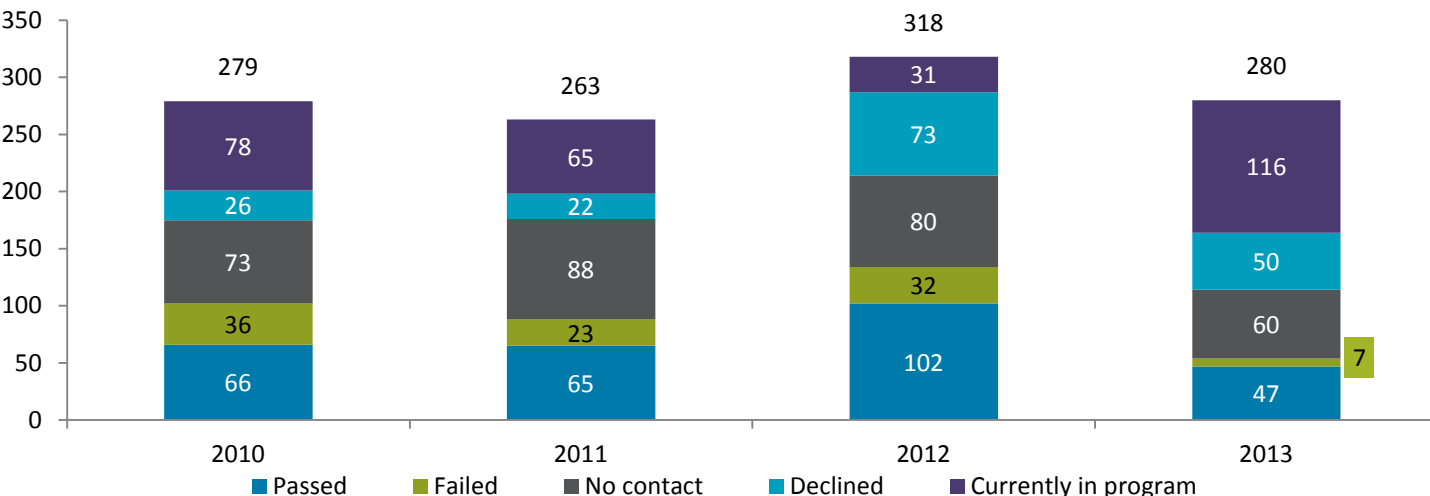
Juvenile Service Center Encounters among Minneapolis Residents 6/1/2013 – 5/31/2014 (by Community)



Source: The Link, TIGER File, Minneapolis GIS
Created by Minneapolis Health Department, Research and Evaluation Division

Goal Four: Restore Youth Who Have Gone Down the Wrong Path

Outcomes of Juveniles Offered the Opportunity to Participate in Diversion Program



Source: Minneapolis Police Department

Why is this goal important?

Youth who have become involved with the juvenile justice system can change their trajectory with the help of supportive services and opportunities. Although ensuring accountability is a fundamental component of working with system-involved youth, providing additional services is an important facet of diverting them from further criminal behavior and helping to prevent deeper involvement in the juvenile justice system. Reviewing the numbers of youth who do not continue to commit crimes after receiving services from certain agencies will help us evaluate which activities are the most effective in this population.

Youth who have been reported as missing or have been identified as a runaway (see page. 26) are of particular concern due to their increased risk of sexual exploitation. According to a recent study conducted by the Women’s Foundation of Minnesota, 50 percent of girls who are sexually trafficked have been identified as runaways. The average age that a youth begins being sexually trafficked is 12-14. These figures serve as an example of the high risk that youth face when they leave their parental home and have no safe alternative place to stay. The Twin Cities have been identified by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (F.B.I.) as one of 13 cities with a high incidence rate of child prostitution. The State of Minnesota is making a serious effort to address the issue of sexually exploited youth and has passed legislation to ensure that youth who have been sexually trafficked will be treated as victims of a crime rather than perpetrators.

According to the Safe Harbor Law, as of August of 2014 children under the age of 16 alleged to have engaged in conduct which would, if committed by an adult, be considered prostitution will no longer be considered delinquent. This law also creates a mandatory first time diversion for any 16-17 year old who has been exploited in prostitution. In addition to the changing the legal ramifications for youth exploited by prostitution, the Safe Harbor Law includes a state wide program called “No Wrong Door”. “No Wrong Door” works to ensure that youth serving agencies are able to identify youth that are victims of sex trafficking. The program also provides services and housing through regional navigators throughout the state to youth who have been identified as victims of sex trafficking. Minneapolis is a part of the Western Metro service areas for the “No Wrong Door” program. The Link, a strong community based agency serves as the Regional Navigator for Minneapolis and the other the surrounding areas as it pertains to accessing “No Wrong Door” programming.

Additional Narrative on Next Page...

What will it take to make progress?

MPD works with the Hennepin County Attorney's office to divert juveniles who do not meet our criteria, through their Operation de Novo. This program connects youth to community-based services and restorative justice programs. Increasing collaborative activities between the City, Hennepin County and youth serving agencies helps to improve outcomes and programs for youth who are involved with the juvenile justice system. The Minneapolis Juvenile Outreach and Diversion Unit will continue to offer the following programs.

Minneapolis Police Diversion Program

In collaboration with youth serving agencies, Hennepin County and other City departments, MPD has recently refined and rejuvenated its Juvenile Diversion program. A sergeant with training in juvenile services has been assigned to review current cases to determine if the juvenile involved in the case should be diverted out of the Hennepin County Court system to work with the MPD led diversion programs. If the youth does not successfully complete the program, the case is returned to the Hennepin County Attorney's office for review of formal charges. The youth involved in this program are low level offenders with little to no criminal history.

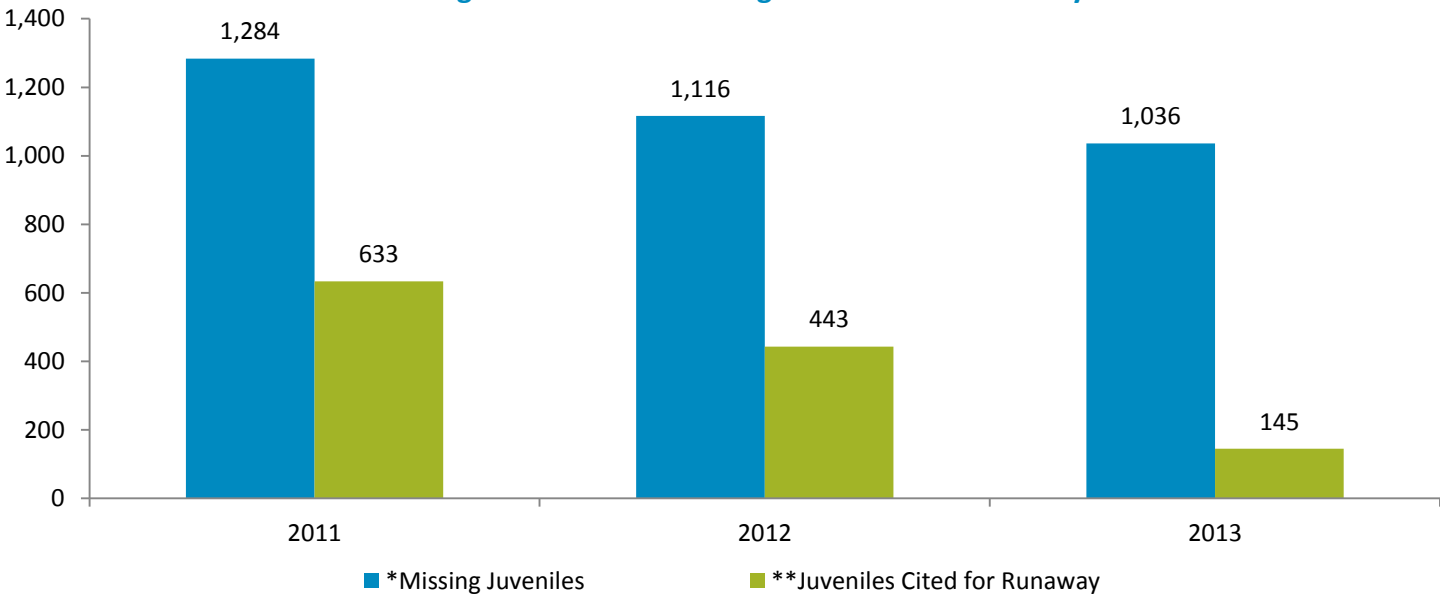
Juvenile Diversion is a program geared to first-time, misdemeanor offenders. The purpose of the program is to offer juvenile offenders an alternative to the traditional juvenile justice system in an effort to change behavior and avoid the formal charges. To do this, The MPD Juvenile Division Partners with 12 non-profit organizations who specialize in youth related issues.

Special Crimes Investigation Division

The Minneapolis Police Department has changed how it investigates the sex trafficking and sexual assault of children. The Minneapolis Police Department Sex Crimes Unit is responsible for the investigation of "Sex Trafficking" cases involving both juvenile and adults victims. This provides investigative resources with expertise in the area of sexual assault. Recognizing the vulnerabilities of missing and runaway youth, the Missing Juvenile Investigations Team has also been combined with the Juvenile Trafficking Team (in the Sex Crimes Unit) to provide avenues of cross communication to identify youth victims. The Missing Juvenile Investigative team partners with Hennepin County Human Services and Public Health (HSPH) to form the Absenting Youth Project. This program is dedicated to identifying, rescuing, and offering services to missing and runaway youth.

The Crimes Against Children Unit will continue to use a holistic approach to identifying, investigating, and helping at risk youth victims and their families. This new unit will continue with the overall goal of identifying early warning signs with troubled youth before they become victims or suspects of more serious crimes.

Crimes Against Children: Missing Juveniles and Runaways



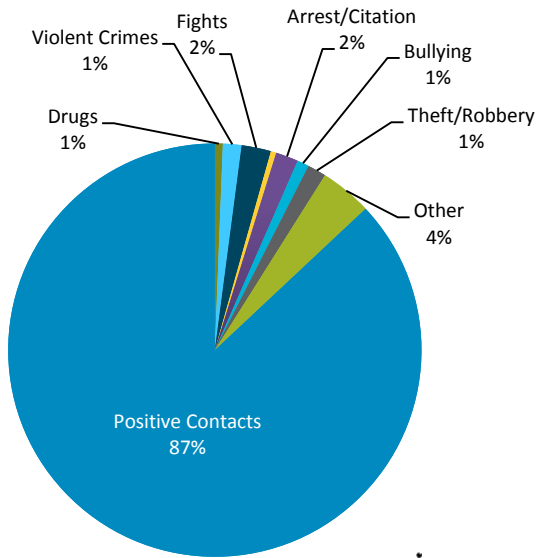
Note:

- 1) *Juvenile who was reported as missing, this number reflects those who were reported missing and is not an indicator of whether or not they were found.
- 2) **Juvenile who was arrested and/or cited for being a runaway. These numbers may be duplicated in the Missing Juveniles totals.

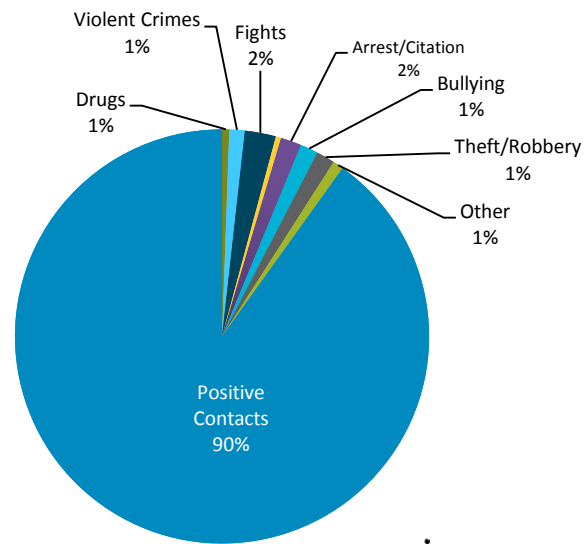
Source: Minneapolis Police Department

**Goal Five: Protect Children and
Youth from Violence in the
Community**

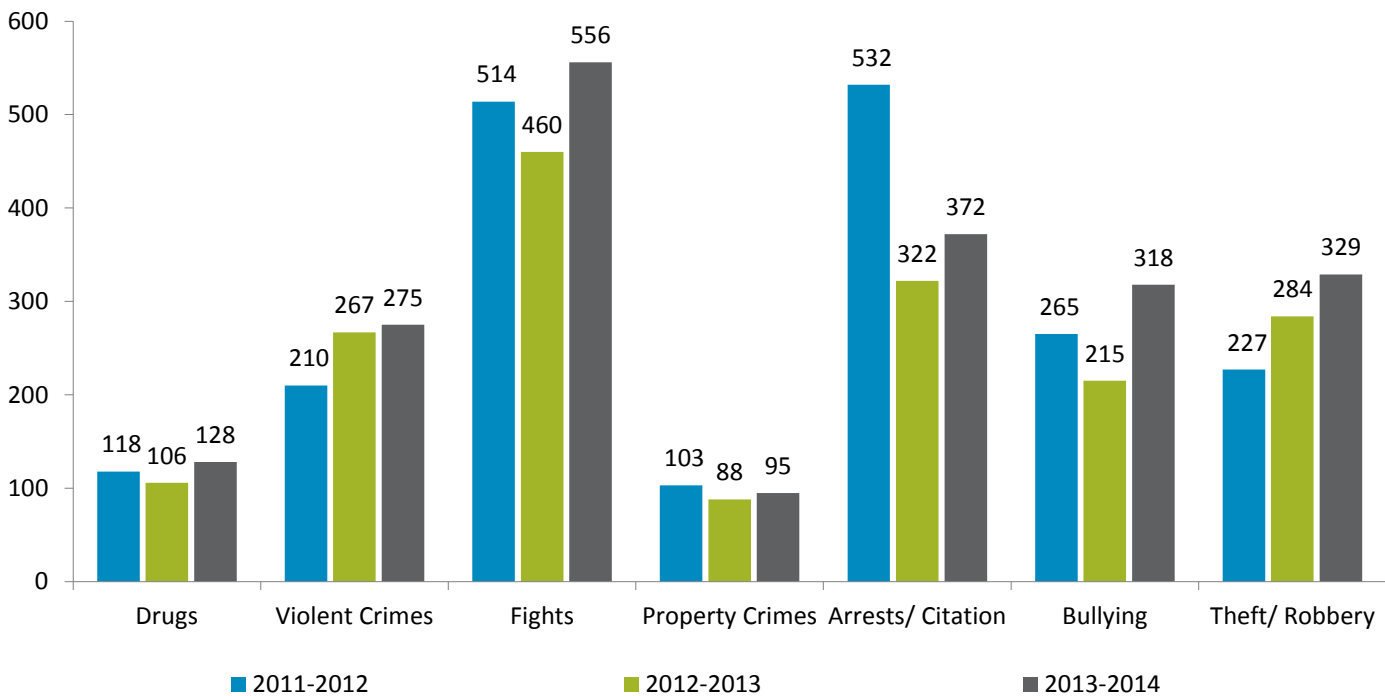
Comparison of SROs' Positive Contacts to All Other Activity, 2012-2013



Comparison of SROs' Positive Contacts to All Other Activity, 2013-2014



School Resource Officer Enforcement Contacts with Students



Note: Inconsistencies in self reported data limit the significance in any year to year comparisons.

1) Violent Crimes: Weapons, Criminal Sexual Conduct, and Assault

2) Property Crimes: Vandalism and Damage to Property

3) Positive Contacts: Classroom activities, criminal incidents that do not result in an arrest (e.g., a warning) and other non-enforcement contacts

4) Other: Terroristic Threats, Missing Persons, Code Red/Yellow, Assist Other Police, Status Offenses, Criminal Incidents No Arrest and Health and Welfare

Source: MPS Research, Evaluation & Assessment Department

Additional Narrative on Next Page...

Why is this goal important?

Law enforcement plays a critical role in ensuring the safety of youth, families, and the greater community. The Minneapolis Police Department accomplishes this through multiple approaches, including relationship building, role modeling, and by using an enforcement-centered response to youth crime. Positive relationships between law enforcement and youth are a crucial component of safe, violence-free communities. Having School Resource Officers (SROs), situated in schools, plays a critical role in bridging the gap between youth and police. Coordination of effective law enforcement response to youth crime is necessary to maintain safe communities. Successful enforcement reduces the amount of violence occurring with communities. The illegal possession of guns is strongly associated with youth crimes, and guns are involved in the majority of youth homicides. Gun violence can destroy families and communities, and the presence of illegally obtained guns is a significant public safety threat.

What will it take to make progress?

The Juvenile Outreach and Diversion Unit oversees two of the major programs that aim to protect children and Youth from violence in the community here in Minneapolis. Through the School Resource Officer program, the Minneapolis Police Juvenile Outreach and Diversion Unit has sought to decriminalize school behavior issues and work with MPD partners to offer more positive alternatives. Tracking Student Contact data is a new endeavor and we will continue to work to provide consistency in data entry. Programs and strategies for achieving this goal are outlined below.

The Minneapolis School Resource Officer Program (SRO)

The School Resource Officers Program is a function of the MPD Juvenile Outreach and Diversion Unit. The SROs are assigned to and stationed within Minneapolis Public Schools buildings throughout the city. The SROs and the school administration form a very unique partnership within each school. The SRO is present in the school to act as a role model and mentor on a daily basis to ensure the safety of the students and staff. During extended breaks from school within the school year, officers partner with probation officers on details and assist in the public libraries.

Safe Routes

Safe Routes to School (SR2S) is a movement to support and promote walking and biking to school. SR2S programming is developed locally at individual school sites and is supported by the technical assistance and resources offered by the interagency SR2S work group, which is facilitated by district SR2S staff and includes representatives from a variety of district and city departments. City of Minneapolis Public Works, Minneapolis Police Department, and the Department of Health bring unique expertise and provide critical support. School Safety Patrol, a program coordinated by the SROs in partnership with MPS, not only aims to improve safety but also fosters leadership and good citizenship qualities in young people. Additionally, SR2S seeks to utilize resources such as MPD's Traffic Enforcement, precinct squad cars and SROs to partner with other city and school resources to strengthen neighborhood safety and deepen community relations.

Other Juvenile Outreach and Diversion Unit Programs

Bike Cops for Kids

This program has been operating for several years and was founded by SROs themselves. Using donations from foundations and other outside organizations, the officers spend all day riding bicycles in specifically- selected, distressed neighborhoods. Using the donated funds, The “Bike Cops” purchase bicycle helmets to hand out to kids in those neighborhoods. The helmet is used not only to increase safety and lessen childhood injuries, but as a method to approach and develop a conversation with the youth. The program offers Minneapolis youth an opportunity to meet police officers in a positive way. Officers also have a limited number of bicycles they can give to children who are “caught” wearing the bike helmets later in the summer.

Downtown Improvement District

SROs join the efforts in the downtown area to engage youth in a positive manner for the benefit of all citizens.

Summer Fitness Camp

SROs with the assistance and support of PAL provide daily programming to Minneapolis youth over the summer school break. This program offers safe activities for Minneapolis Youth, while offering an opportunity for MPD to mentor these young people by providing positive interactions with police officers.

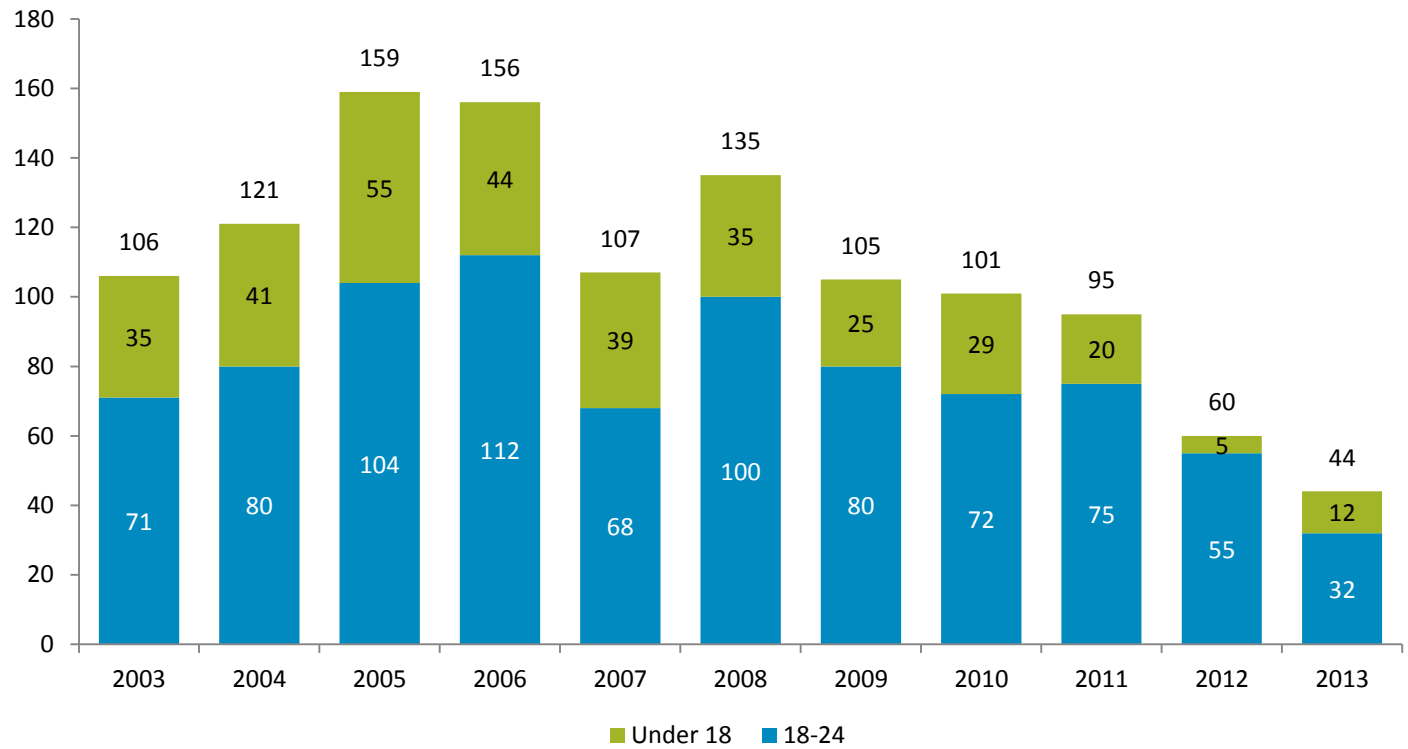
Police Activities League (PAL)

Keeping kids engaged in positive activities with good role models and mentors increases the likelihood that a child will grow up to become a healthy contributing member of society. PAL works with kids while school is out of session to give them a safe healthy place to go and grow. PAL is a non-profit that is staffed with police personnel and community volunteers that provide positive influences on kids. Activities include: football, soccer, volleyball, and fieldtrips to water parks, libraries, fitness camps and many more. During summer months when is school out of session, the need to keep kids active and engaged in positive activities increases substantially. SROs are added to the staffing levels of PAL to enhance resources available to youth in Minneapolis and increase relationship building opportunities between youth and SROs.

Minneapolis Youth Leadership Academy (PAL sponsored event)

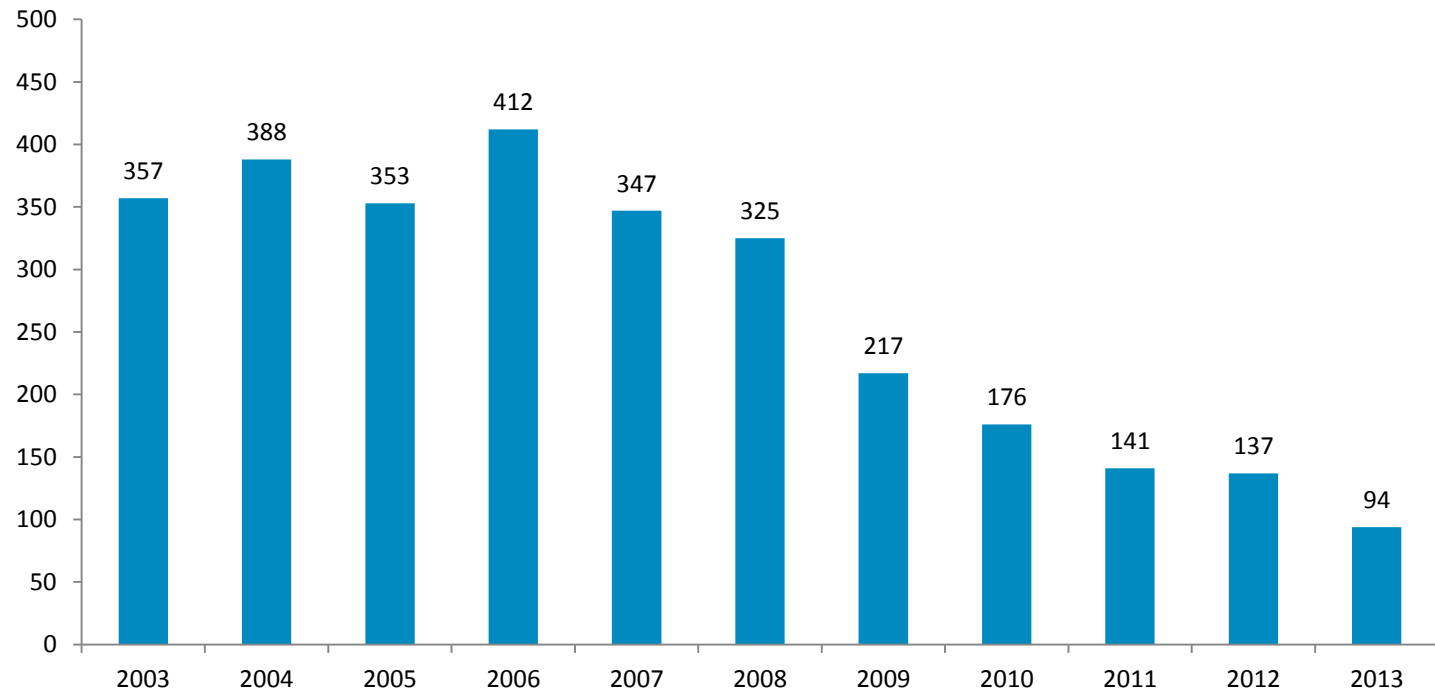
Members of the Police Activities League worked in conjunction with St. Cloud Police Department to bring 20 Minneapolis youth to Camp Ripley for a week long leadership academy. PAL, Minneapolis Police Department, Minneapolis Fire Department and other outside organizations provided skills training and mentorship to these young individuals to bring back to the community.

Firearm-related Assault Injuries of Minneapolis Youth and Young Adults



Source: Minnesota Hospital Association

Number of Arrests Involving Firearms Possession, Age 10-24



Note: Information from Computer Assisted Police Reporting system (CAPRS) queries where the beginning Arrest age is listed between 1 and 17

Source: Minneapolis Police Department