



Grand Rapids Juvenile Offense Index

Data Brief

This report provides a baseline and seven-year descriptive trend analysis of juvenile offenses and incidents in Grand Rapids. This report identifies frequency and rates of juvenile crime/delinquency and incidents; it is based on Grand Rapids Police Department Reports: 2006-2012 (inclusive). Data in this report include offenses and incidents recorded by the Grand Rapids Police Department that meet the following criteria: (1) youth who were residents of Grand Rapids; (2) offenses and incidents that occurred within the Grand Rapids city limits; and (3) offenses that occurred during the calendar years 2006-2012.

Offenses/incidents were divided into three categories: (1) Juvenile Criminal Offenses that resulted in an arrest (such as crimes against other persons and property); (2) Status Offenses (such as curfew violations and reported runaways) that were formally recorded through a police report; and (3) Family Domestic Incidents in which a family conflict resulted in police response at the residence of a juvenile. Family Domestic Incidents do not involve arrests or formal juvenile justice processing of youth. Furthermore, Family Domestic Incidents cannot be attributed specifically to the juvenile residing at the residence where police were called for service.

HIGHLIGHTS

44%
DECLINE

More than a **44 percent decline** in unique youth arrests and status offenses within Grand Rapids between 2006 and 2012.

- More than a 40 percent decline in unique youth involved in crime offenses between 2006 and 2012.
- More than a 46 percent decline in unique youth involved in status offenses between 2006 and 2012.

30%
DECLINE

More than a **30 percent decline** in reported juvenile crime offenses within Grand Rapids between 2006 and 2012.

58%

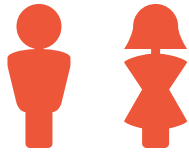
58 percent of formal police processing of juveniles between 2006 and 2012 involved crime offenses.



TIME of DAY

After-school and mid-evening hours remain prime times for youth offenses.

Juvenile offenses/incidents occur most often right after school between **two and four p.m.** and between **seven and nine p.m.**



AGE

Juvenile involvement in crime and status offenses increases dramatically between the **ages of 12 and 14** across all seven years of the study.

- Over **89 percent** of crime and status offenses occur between the ages of **13 and 16**.
- At the age of **13** that data revealed rapid increases in involvement within the Crime and Status offense categories.

The number of juveniles who had formal contact with police with regard to Crime, Status Offenses, or Family Domestic Incidents declined significantly between **2006** and **2012** (1,784 in 2006 to 1,091 youth in 2012).

- There were 2,258 unique offenses in 2006; over 62 percent were recorded as crimes.
- There were 1,567 unique offenses in 2012; just over 57 percent were recorded as crimes.

Most common offenses recorded for juveniles were **Disorderly Conduct, Assault, and Retail Fraud** (in their respective order), with just **under half (48.65%)** of the offenses committed and recorded by the Grand Rapids Police Department during this time period in these categories.

It should be noted that the U.S. Census indicated there were **25,398 youth between the ages of eight and 16** residing in Grand Rapids in 2000; in 2010 the population estimate of youth between the ages of eight and 16 residing in Grand Rapids was 21,120.

The decrease in the number of youth residing in Grand Rapids between 2000 and 2010 is not sufficient to explain the decrease in the number of unique offenders and offenses between 2006 and 2012.

CONCLUSION

The data presented in this report shows a decrease in the number of youth involved in offenses and incidents along with an overall decrease in the number of offenses and incidents between 2006 and 2012 in Grand Rapids. Criminal Offenses declined between 2006 and 2012; however they still exceeded the number of Status Offenses and Family Domestic Incidents combined across all years. Juvenile offenses/incidents occur most often after school – between two and four p.m. – and between seven and nine p.m.

The age of onset across offenses and incidents begins at the age of ten and steadily increases through the age of 13. At the age of 13, there is a rapid increase in involvement within the Crime and Status offense categories.

This report was prepared on behalf of the Our Community's Children and the Grand Rapids Police Department by the Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy's Community Research Institute.


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