



# Youth Violence Prevention

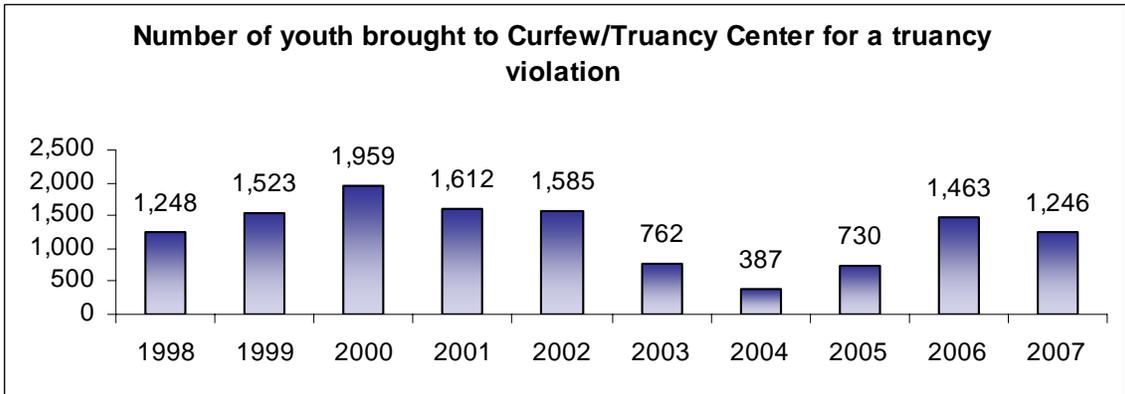
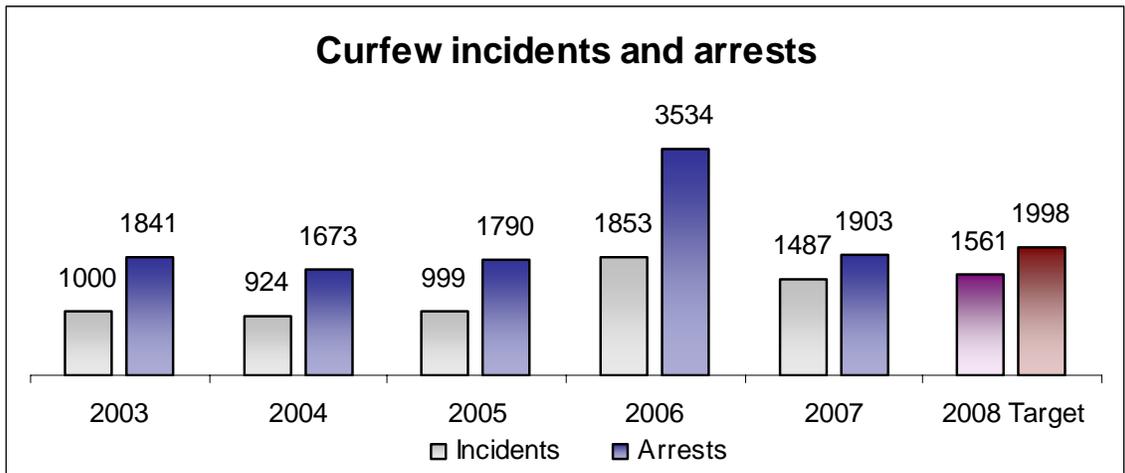
February 19, 2008

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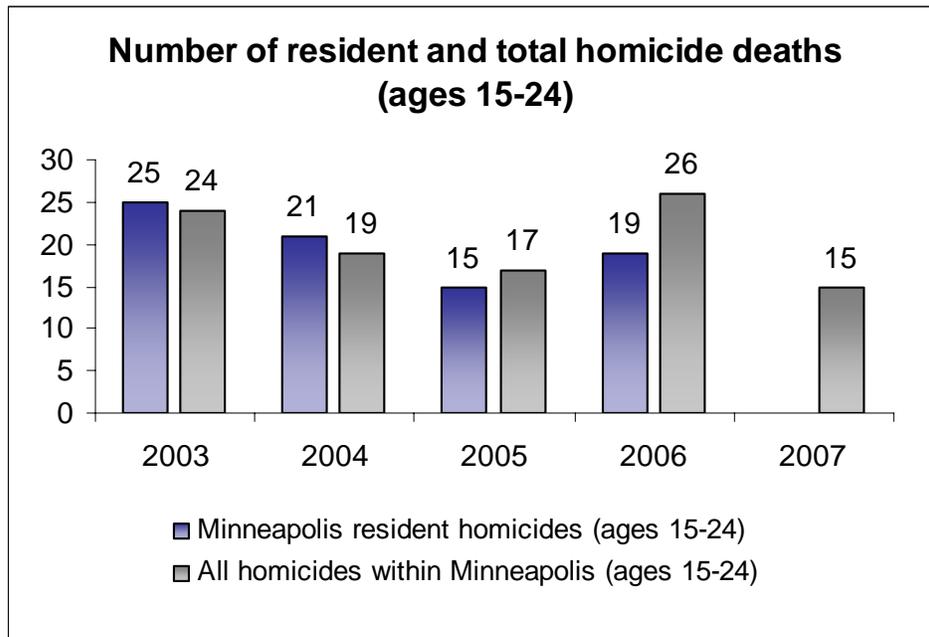


**Why is this measure important?**

Curfew arrests are important because they work toward ensuring juveniles are not on the street and potentially in danger, and it also reduces the ability for a juvenile to commit a crime if they are inside their home.

**What will it take to make progress?**

Ongoing focus by precinct officers to be diligent in handling juveniles who are committing a curfew violation. Collaboration with the curfew/truancy center is also important.



**Why is this measure important?**

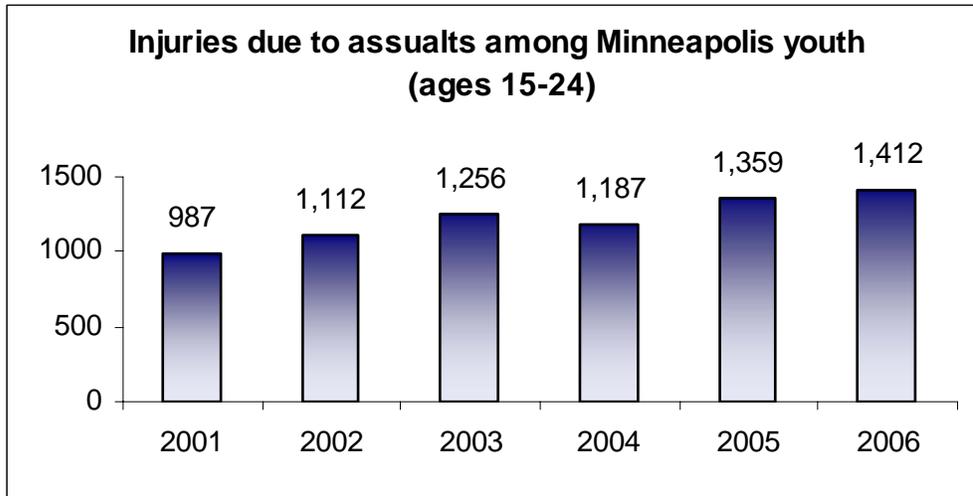
Besides the obvious tragedy of life lost at a young age, youth violence has a traumatic impact on the entire community. Furthermore, gang violence begets more violence, so it is critically important to intervene early with youth. From a public health perspective, violence is a form of intentional injury which is preventable.

**What will it take to make progress?**

Reducing youth violence will require increased efforts to engage youth, particularly disaffiliated young men, in activities that increase their skills and self-efficacy and expose them to positive role models and promising futures. A community wide commitment to reducing youth violence, increasing public civility and supporting parents of teens are strategies under development.

Our overall strategy is to combat juvenile crime on all levels. Good investigations hold offenders accountable. The Juvenile Crime Apprehension Team (JCAT) seeking those with warrants also helps hold offenders accountable, not to mention keeping them from re-offending. Conducting home visits to the Top 10 Offenders and Probationers sends a message as well. This is all being balanced with a prevention strategy through the Juvenile Supervision Center and the Mayor’s “Blueprint for Action”. MPD Diversion, soon to begin will focus on reconnecting youth with community-based organizations. This has the over-arching goal of reducing detention rates and reducing the impact on the juvenile justice system while increasing school attendance. This program will focus on youth in high-risk neighborhoods who are showing signs of violent tendencies





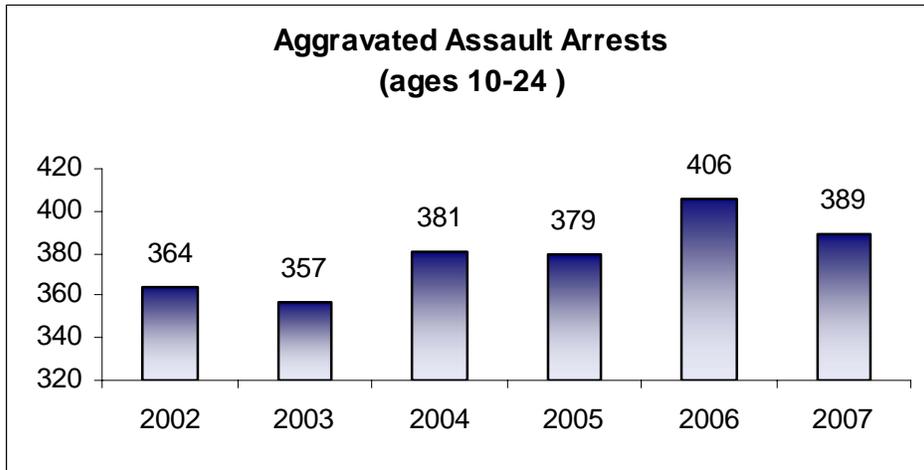
Source: MN Hospital Association (including hospital in-patient, out-patient, and Emergency Room visits)

### **Why is this measure important?**

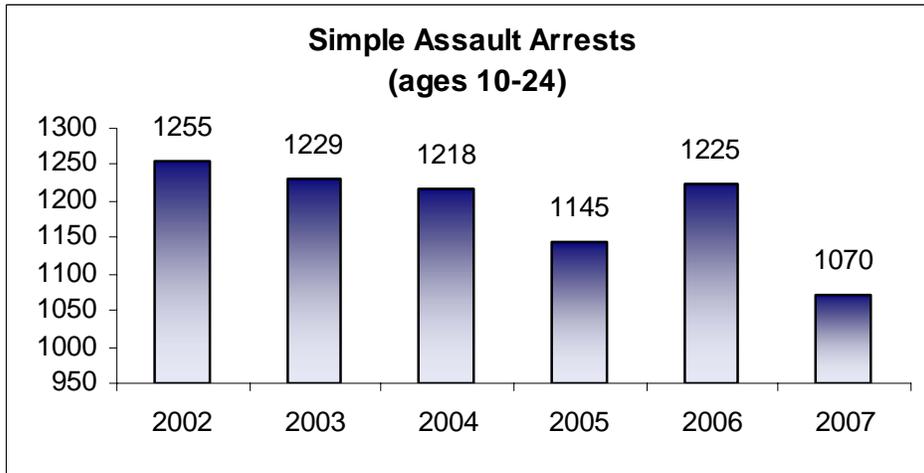
Injury due to assault is a measure of violence which is preventable. Injuries can be caused by fists, blunt instruments, knives, guns, or other types of weapons. Resulting complications can vary from short-term injuries to lifetime disability to fatalities. Depending on the nature of the injury, the effects can be expensive in terms of life changes for individuals and healthcare costs for society. Because an injury assault may precipitate a retaliatory cycle of violence, outreach to a hospitalized individual offers an opportunity for intervention to interrupt this cycle.

### **What will it take to make progress?**

Reducing injuries due to assaults will require strong and sustained commitment from families, community agencies, schools, and government to engage youth in adopting a violence-free lifestyle. Outreach efforts need to address the environmental and social needs of high-risk youth.



Source: Minneapolis Police Department



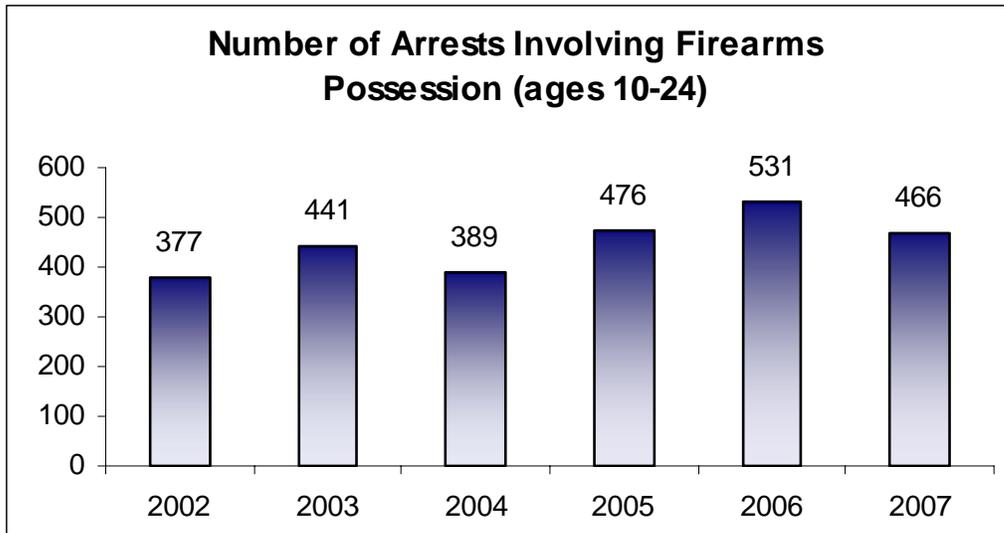
Source: Minneapolis Police Department

**Why is this measure important?**

Violent crimes are the most personal and dangerous crimes and effect the community’s perception of safety. Reducing the number of these dangerous crimes being committed by juveniles will increase the safety of the city and perhaps prevent the commission of more of violent crimes.

**What will it take to make progress?**

A comprehensive focus on gangs and the most active and youngest members.



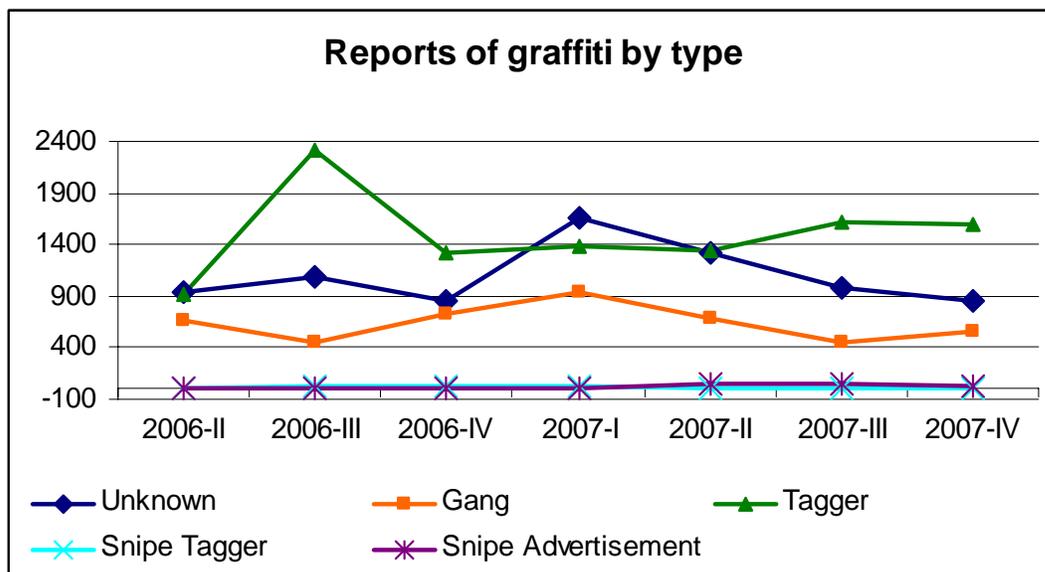
Source: Minneapolis Police Department

**Why is this measure important?**

Regardless of the number of guns on the street, this measure indicates officers are seizing an alarming number of weapons from juveniles. This is significant as guns are the primary weapon used in many homicides, robberies and aggravated assaults. Many of the people who are carrying guns are felons and arresting them with a gun in their possession carries an automatic federal prison sentence.

**What will it take to make progress?**

Many collaborative efforts are necessary to significantly reduce the number of guns on the street. The Weapons Unit, in partnership with Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) is charging a record number of possession cases.



**Why is this measure important?**

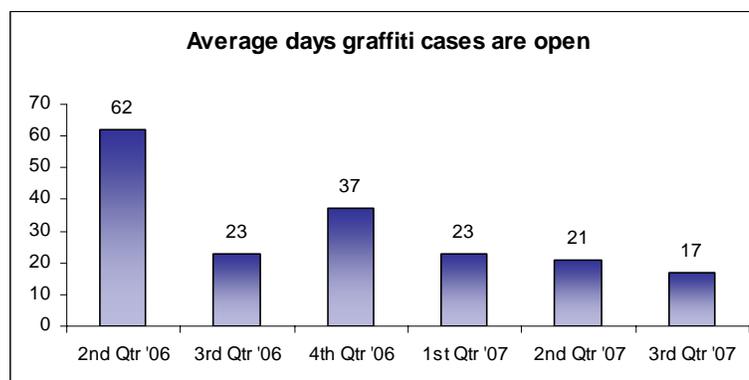
This measure is important because graffiti vandalism is a crime. The chart above reports the number of graffiti reports by type. The chart below identifies the average number of days graffiti cases are open in 311. Currently, we have a 20 day SLA to clean up graffiti.

**What will it take to reduce the number of graffiti complaints?**

As with other crimes, cooperative efforts between the police, citizens, the courts and Clean City efforts will be required to reduce graffiti incidents.

**Why aren't more graffiti service requests resolved?**

A graffiti case is completed when the City either has abated the graffiti or handed the case off to another entity, such as the U.S. Postal Service, Xcel Energy, and MnDOT who are responsible for abating graffiti on their property. However, it is very difficult to know when or if the graffiti on these properties is abated.



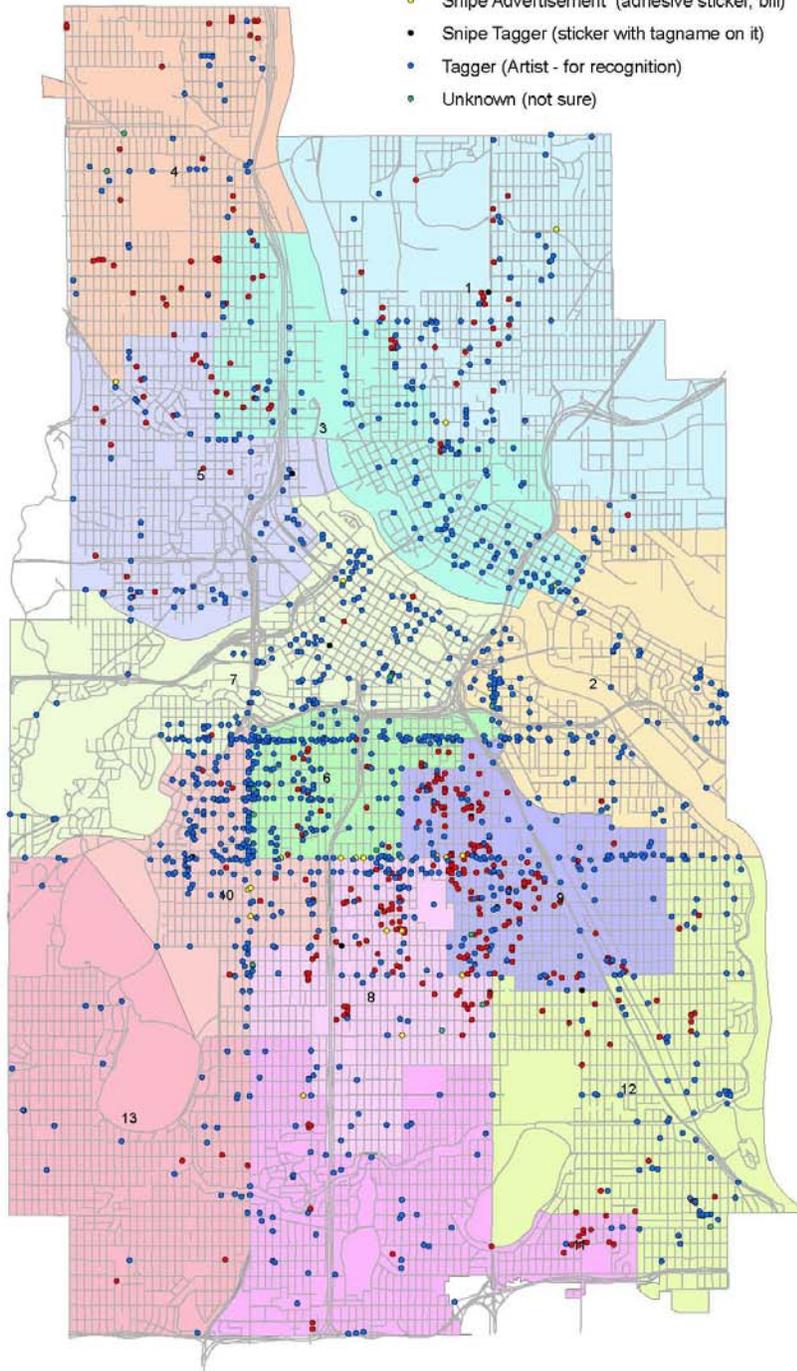
*Example of geographic distribution of graffiti cases from 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter in 2007 is on the next page.*

# City of Minneapolis 3rd Quarter 2007 Graffiti Incidents



## Graffiti Type

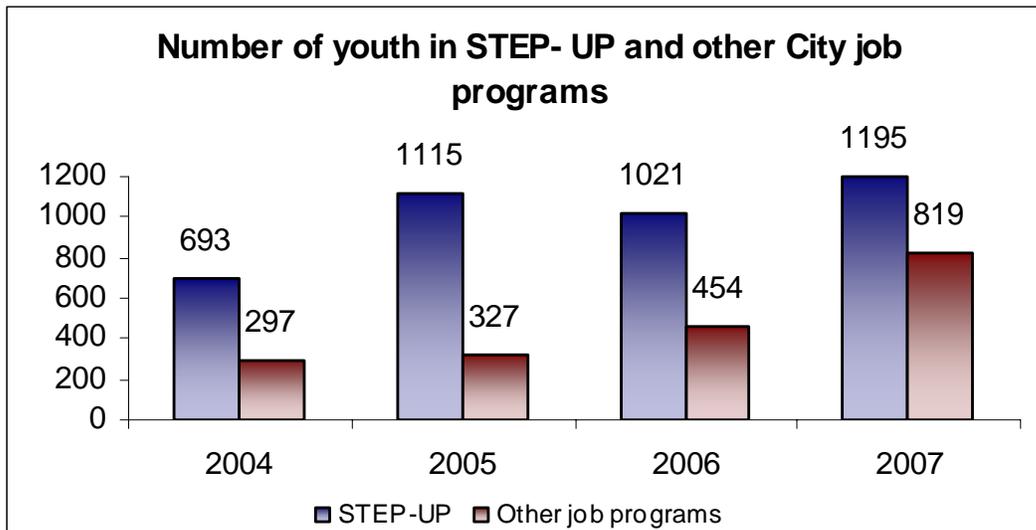
- Gang (gang symbols used)
- Snipe Advertisement (adhesive sticker, bill)
- Snipe Tagger (sticker with tagname on it)
- Tagger (Artist - for recognition)
- Unknown (not sure)



Data plotted represents 2107 Graffiti incidents cleaned in the 3rd Quarter of 2007.

Not plotted are duplicate cases, already cleaned graffiti, not found, MN/DOT, and Hennepin County cases.

Map created by Public Works, Management Services.



Source: CPED

### **Why is this measure important?**

#### ***STEP-UP***

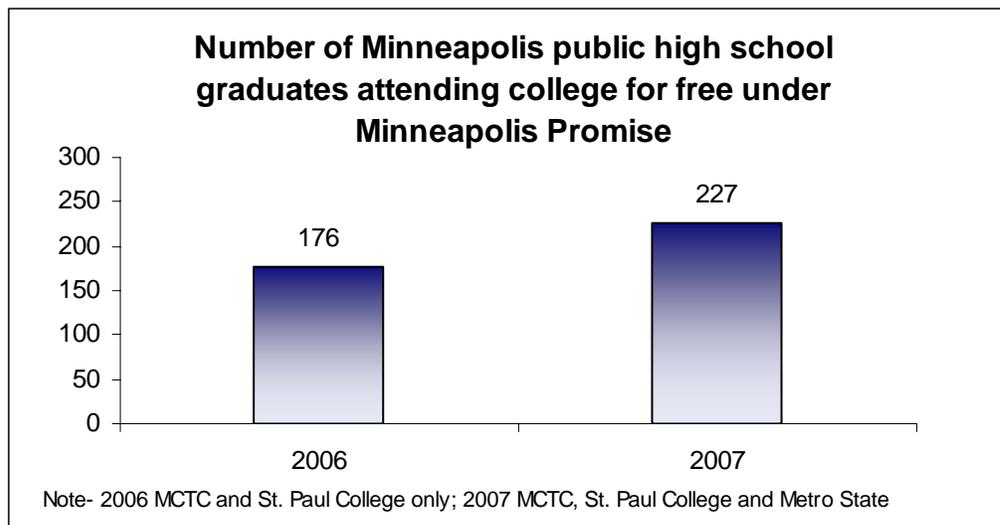
Recruits, trains and places youth, ages 14-21, in paid summer jobs with local employers and community based organizations following work readiness training.

#### ***Other City sponsored job programs***

State and federal funds allow the city to provide hundreds of other youth, ages 14-21, with summer employment opportunities. Projects such as StreetWerks, Mpls Park and Recreation's Teen TeamWorks, Hennepin County's Probation House, the Construction Career Coalition's Under Construction, YouthCARE's Community Stars and Minneapolis Public Schools Year Round WIA program to serve youth with disabilities, were just a few of the projects to ably provide employment and training services.

### **What will it take to make progress?**

Continued support by the Mayor, STEP-UP Corporate Champions and all participating employers.



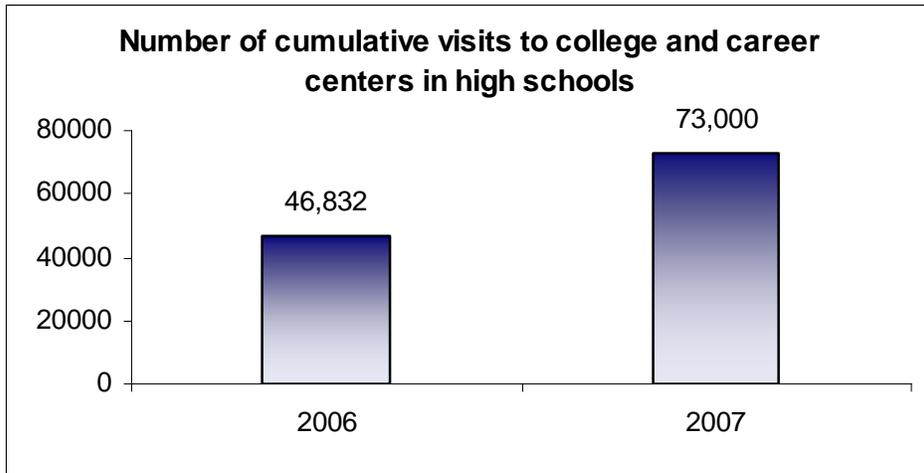
Source: Minneapolis Community and Technical College

### **Why is this measure important?**

The **Power of YOU program** provides two years of college tuition free for qualifying Minneapolis and Saint Paul high school graduates, who are also residents of either city. Participating colleges are; MCTC, Saint Paul College and Metropolitan State University. **The University of Minnesota Founders Free Tuition program** combines federal, state and University grants to cover 100% of tuition and fees for eligible students. Three-hundred and twenty additional Minneapolis high school graduates participated in this program in 2006 and 2007.

### **What will it take to make progress?**

During the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of this 5 year demonstration project, it is obvious that the project is committed to continued growth. Key to this is legislative change that provides 2 yrs of higher education for free, continued private sector, community and public support, as well as growth in the area of recruitment efforts. Other areas to consider are; strengthening relationships with high schools and providing more help to students with personal issues and living expense needs. Finally, addressing the inadequate preparation for college challenge that was exposed as well as the decline in participant academic performance following first term must be addressed.



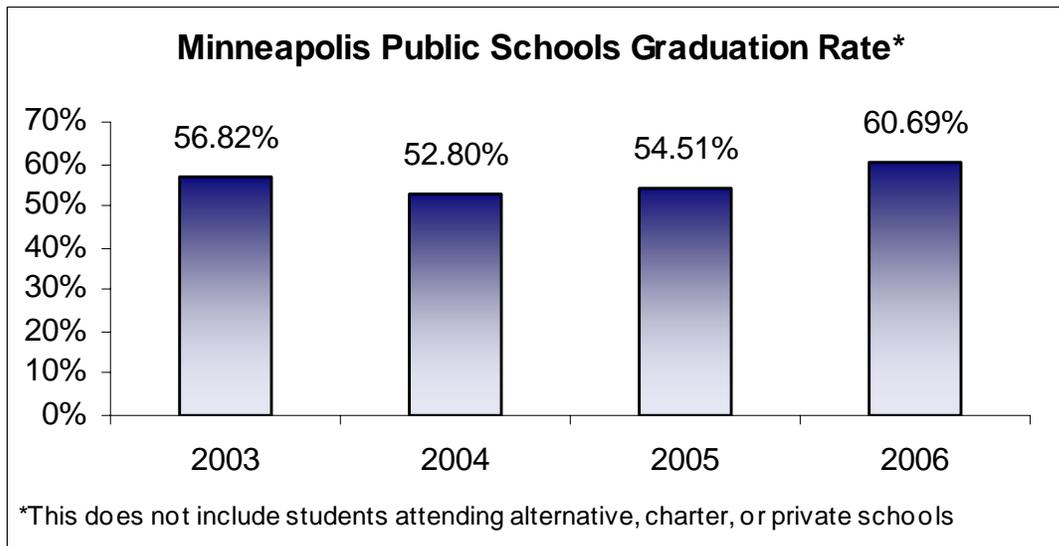
Source: Achieve Minneapolis; best estimate

**Why is this measure important?**

Achieve! Career and College Centers help Minneapolis high school youth develop a life plan to succeed, using technology, counseling, information, mentoring and motivation.

**What will it take to make progress?**

Consistent funding sources that will allow for centers to be operational, continued partnerships with post-secondary institutions, parent volunteers and the business community, as well as enhanced relationships with parks, libraries and other youth serving entities so that youth hear the same transition message from all sources.



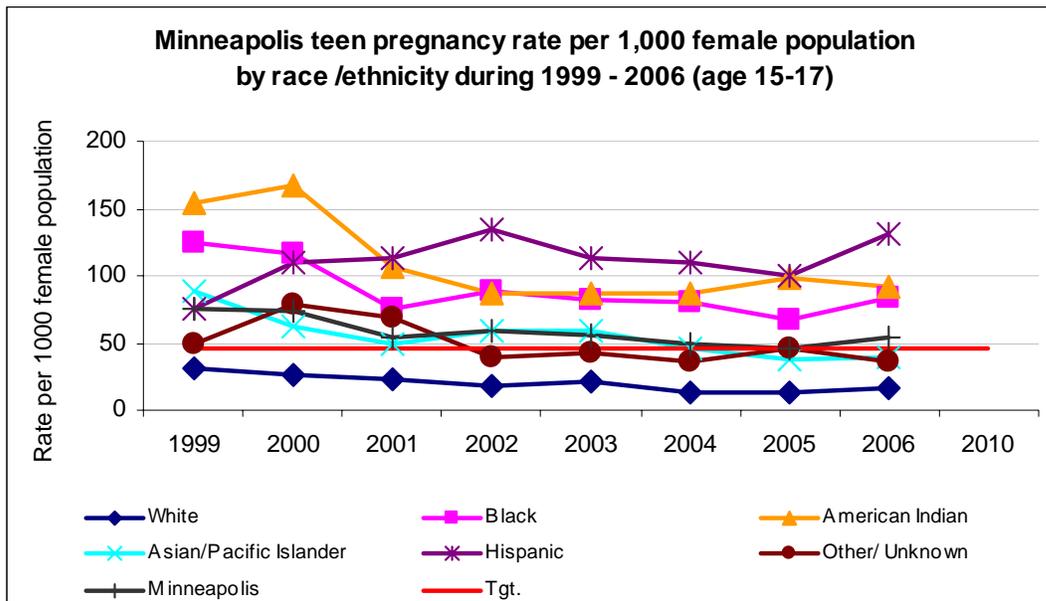
Source: Minneapolis Board of Education

### **Why is this measure important?**

Increased graduation rates and overall higher levels of educational attainment are associated with better public safety outcomes than places that have lower educational outcomes. Research has shown that education increases patience and cultivates an aversion to risk-taking. This may be due in part to heightened social bonds, responsibilities, or expectations to stay on a positive course. High school graduation also serves as an important benchmark in the process of transition to adulthood and has a “normalizing effect” on the individual and leads to formation of more positive social networks. Furthermore, high school graduation correlates with increased access to desirable job markets, thus higher potential wage earnings, and an increase in critical thinking skills that serve to steer young people away from impulsive, harmful behavior.

### **What will it take to make progress?**

Efforts should be made on several levels to help young people finish high school. Most obviously, education must be seen as a long-term investment. While this strategy may not necessarily bring about immediate changes, it will create *lasting* changes for communities in terms of more economically healthy communities, increased civic involvement and lower crime. In addition, family-, individual-community-, and school-based models or strategies to reduce school drop out should be adopted and implemented. Lastly, we must all bombard our young people with messages encouraging them to pursue their education.



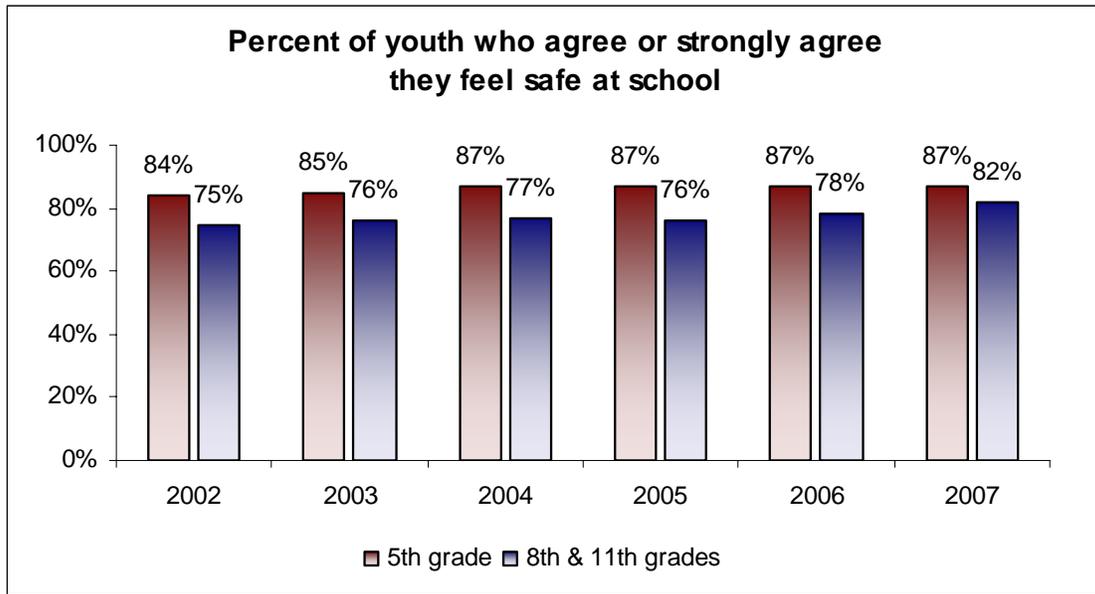
Source: Health and Family Support

### Why is this measure important?

Pregnancy during adolescence increases the likelihood that a mother will not complete high school and that her children will be raised in poverty. The children of a teenage mother are at higher risk for being underweight at birth and much more likely to exhibit behavioral problems than children of older mothers.

### What will it take to make progress?

Teens who value education, are involved in school and community activities, and believe in the possibility of a bright future are less likely to engage in sexual relationships at a young age, and are more careful about using contraception when they initiate sexual activity. To reduce teen pregnancy, it is essential that young people receive accurate information about reproductive health and have access to confidential medical care.



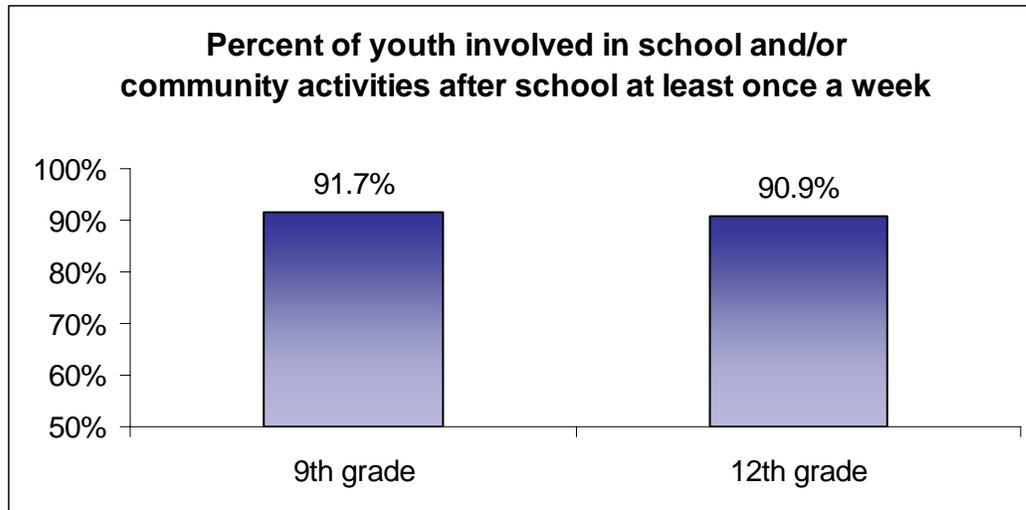
Source: Minneapolis Public Schools Survey, 2007

### **Why is this measure important?**

Schools are an important environment for youth, a place where they spend a significant portion of their day. Youth who feel safe in their school environment, they are more likely to attend school and succeed academically than those who do not feel safe.

### **What will it take to make progress?**

Improving classroom management skills and empowering teachers to provide a nurturing and caring environment in schools and classrooms can increase students' perceptions of safety. Increased interaction between law enforcement and schools is needed to increase in-school safety as well as safety on school grounds and in surrounding neighborhoods.



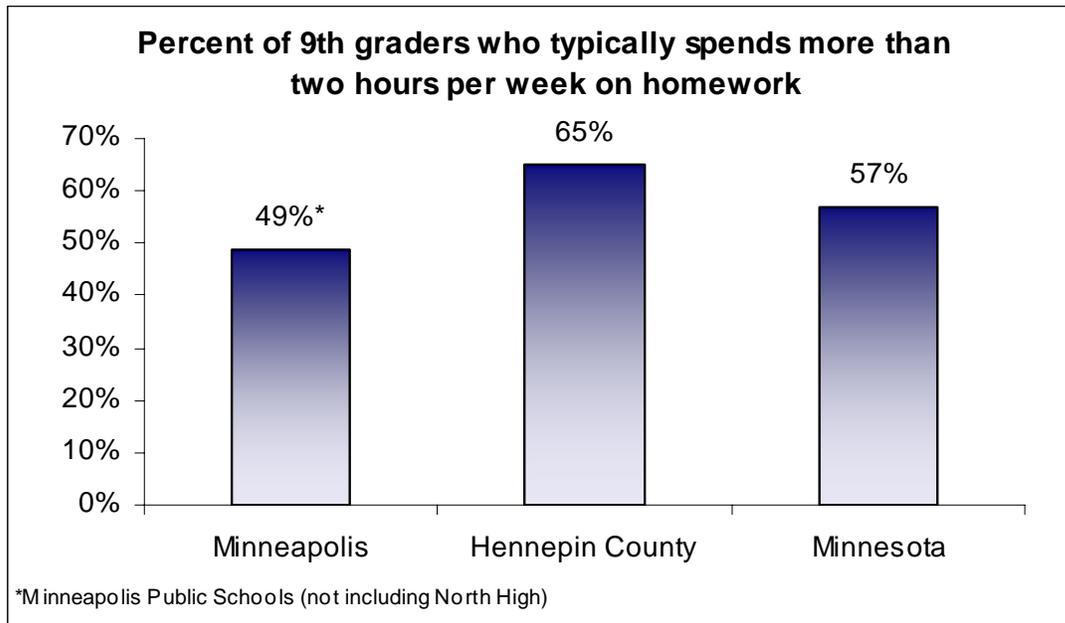
Source: Minnesota Student Survey, 2007

### **Why is this measure important?**

Research has shown that students who spend no time in extracurricular activities, such as those offered in after-school programs, 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. The Minnesota Student Survey of Minneapolis Public School students shows that those not engaged in weekly activities were more likely to engage in antisocial behaviors, such as vandalism, theft, and fights. Beyond simply offering a safe haven, after-school and community programs offer children and youth opportunities to learn new skills such as conflict resolution, prepare for a successful career, improve grades and develop relationships with caring adults. These skills can be critical in helping youth develop in positive ways.

### **What will it take to make progress?**

Increasing involvement in out-of-school time activities involves addressing the barriers to participation by young people and the challenges faced by providers/organizations in offering quality opportunities. Young people identified these 3 key barriers to participation: 1) having other responsibilities at home (caring for younger siblings, needing to earn money to help the family budget), 2) lack of safe transportation to programs/opportunities; and 3) not knowing what is available. Providers identified a need for help with: 1) collecting information and marketing what's available to both adults and youth; 2) safe transportation for youth; 3) collaboration across public and private programs, including joint planning and making the maximum use of buildings; and 4) attention to quality standards for both staff and programs.



Source: Minnesota Student Survey, 2007

### **Why is this measure important?**

Students who spend time on homework are more likely to be engaged with their school, interested in academic achievement, and less likely to be involved in violence. A smaller percentage of Minneapolis students spend at least 2 hours on homework than students in Hennepin County and the State overall.

### **What will it take to make progress?**

Parents, teachers, and mentors will need to work collaboratively to help students develop improved study habits and an attachment to school. Community agencies providing culturally-appropriate after-school care and activities will need to be involved in increasing homework time.

## **Appendix (measures without data):**

### **Indicator: Home visits to kids on probation**

MPD Juvenile investigators will resume working with the Hennepin County Probation on their home visits for kids on probation. This was done during 2007 using overtime but the program was put on hold because of the department's budget shortages. At that time we focused on juveniles in the Gun Program as part of the Minneapolis Anti-Violence Initiative (MAVI). Soon, night juvenile investigators will be accompanying juvenile probation officers while on duty. This will also be part our MPD's contribution to the Mayor's Youth Violence campaign and the "100 Day Action Plan".

#### **Why is this measure important?**

It is important to make sure that juveniles on probation are complying with the terms of their release. Complying with the terms of probation can indicate that a juvenile is willing make changes in order to stay out of the criminal justice system. If they are not in compliance, probation officers are able to arrest them.

#### **What will it take to make progress?**

Collaborative efforts with Hennepin County Probation and regular monitoring of youth on probation.

### **Indicator: Home visits to top 10 juveniles by precinct**

The Intelligence Sharing and Analysis Center(ISAC) unit is developing a list for each precinct of the juveniles most involved in crime in each precinct. Our hope is to have precinct officers and possible a juvenile investigator to visit the homes and families of these juveniles in anticipation that this attention will decrease the youth's involvement in crime. This will also be part of the department's contribution to the Mayor's Youth Violence campaign and the "100 Day Action Plan".

#### **Why is this measure important?**

We hope that these visits will result in fewer crimes being committed by these youth.

#### **What will it take to make progress?**

Information provided by ISAC and effective communication by the MPD with the juveniles involved in crimes and their families. Positive activities and employment for youth.

### **Indicator: Juveniles diverted**

Working with Project deNovo in the Hennepin County Attorney's office we will be able to determine who many juveniles in the justice system were connected to community-based services and restorative justice programs that helped them to avoid committing more crimes.

**Why is this measure important?**

By 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.

**What will it take to make progress?**

Collaborative activities with a variety of youth-serving agencies. Monitoring the progress of each person referred for services.