

# Community Safety



## Community Safety Subcommittee

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*"Those who serve in Public Safety, law enforcement, firefighters, and emergency medical services belong to a long line of stewardship who ensure the foundation that each and every citizen's quality of life is built upon."*

*Martin Skibba, Chief of Police  
City of Stevens Point  
Police Department*

# Community Safety Section Summary

## Strengths and Progress

- In 2016, Portage County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) received the Gold Standard Award from the American Heart Association Mission Lifeline for their delivery of timely treatment to heart attack patients.
- In 2017, Portage County established a Drug Court to address crimes related to drug use in Portage County.
- More than 89% of LIFE Survey respondents indicate that they feel safe in Portage County and 60.7% believe the crime rate is low.
- Clearance rates for crime in Portage County are consistently higher than the state average, indicating that law enforcement is effective in solving property and violent crimes in our community.
- The violent crime rate dropped 13% in Portage County from 2012 to 2015.
- Portage County's property and violent crime rates are significantly lower than the state and national averages.
- Non-violent offenses account for the vast majority of juvenile arrests in Portage County which is consistent with the state of Wisconsin as a whole.

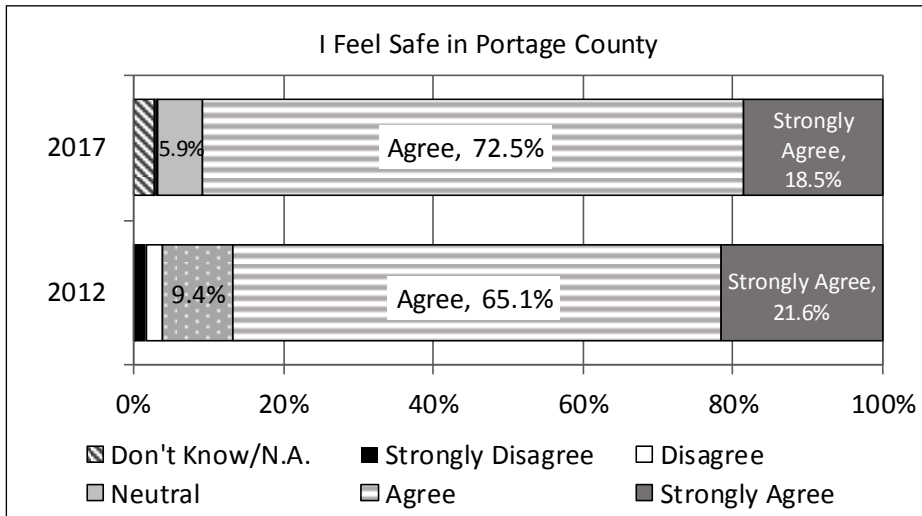
## Challenges and Opportunities to Improve

- There has been a rise in delinquency referrals to Portage County Health and Human Services for youth ages 12 and under. This is often a result of the youth's aggressive behavior stemming from mental health-related issues which require law enforcement intervention to safely resolve.
- Many sexual assault victims report it is a frequent experience to be blamed by one or more persons in their support system for what they have experienced. This is one cause for the underreporting of this crime.
- Elders are less likely to report abuse as many do not want to get a family member or caregiver in trouble.
- The cost of alcohol related crashes accounts for 16% of the total economic loss in Wisconsin due to motor vehicle crashes.
- The number of persons arrested for drug offenses (drug possession, manufacturing or delivery) was at its highest level in recent years (2015 and 2016).

## Opportunities for Action

<b>For Individuals</b>	Develop an understanding of the root causes of interpersonal violence within our communities. Take an active role in reporting violence and other crimes you observe in our communities. Volunteer as a mentor, tutor, or with groups that support the wellbeing of our community's youth.
<b>For Organizations</b>	Partner with Public Safety to increase the awareness of interpersonal violence and promote the need to report this inappropriate and illegal behavior. Collaborate with existing resources to educate individuals on effective violence and crime prevention programs within our communities.
<b>For the Community</b>	Promote partnerships among Public Safety and the citizens that Emergency Medical Services, Fire, and Law Enforcement protect. Seek out successful crime reduction programs as models for crime prevention techniques. Encourage community family events that do not include alcohol. Continue collaborative efforts to develop intervention and treatment options addressing alcohol and drug abuse, implement community culture change, and prioritize public policy.

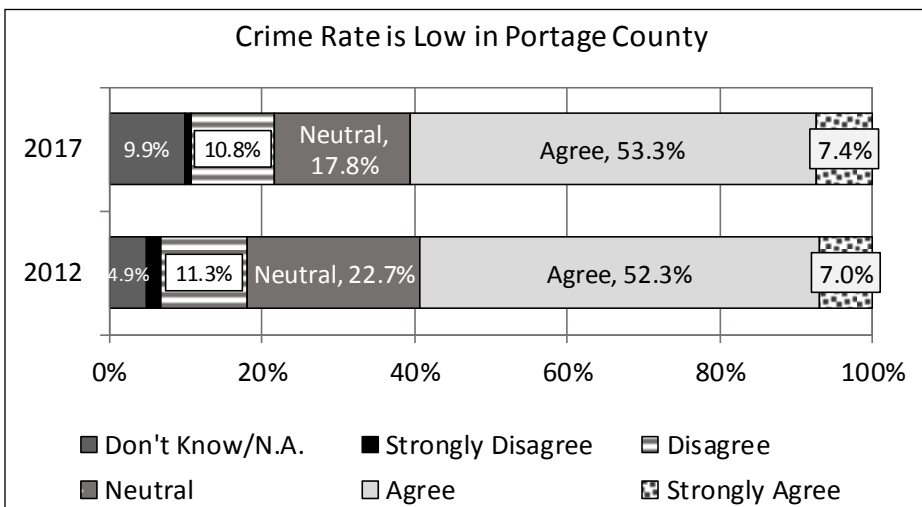
**Key Measure:** 2017 LIFE in Portage County Community Survey  
 Respondents' Perception of Sense of Safety in Portage County, 2012 & 2017



### DATA HIGHLIGHTS

- According to the 2017 LIFE in Portage County Community Survey, a majority of respondents agreed that they feel safe in Portage County (91.0%) and that the crime rate is low (60.7%).
- Based on analysis of the 2017 LIFE in Portage County Community Survey results, the following are the top five potential public safety concerns that respondents agreed were a problem in Portage County:
  1. Texting & Driving (81.1%)
  2. Drinking & Driving (71.0%)
  3. Illegal Drug Use (67.3%)
  4. Binge Drinking (64.4%)
  5. Bullying (50.6%)

**Key Measure:** 2017 LIFE in Portage County Community Survey  
 Respondents' Perception of the Crime Rate in Portage County, 2012 & 2017



### COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES

The extent to which county residents feel safe in their areas of residence and in their community is an important measure of public safety. If people feel safe in their community, they are more likely to partake in community activities, commerce, and general societal life. The data gathered by this survey indicates residents in Portage County feel safe in the community. The perception of public safety has remained fairly consistent the past 5 years, with slightly more respondents in 2017 indicating that they feel safe in Portage County and feel the crime rate is low than in 2012. In addition, when asked what respondents

liked best about Portage County, one of the most frequently cited responses was the sense of safety and low crime rate.

Furthermore, the detail gathered by the LIFE Community Survey gives the community a measure on which to focus to improve the overall public perception of safety, a key initial element in planning for improvement.

### SOURCES

- LIFE in Portage County Community Survey (2012 & 2017) Question 1

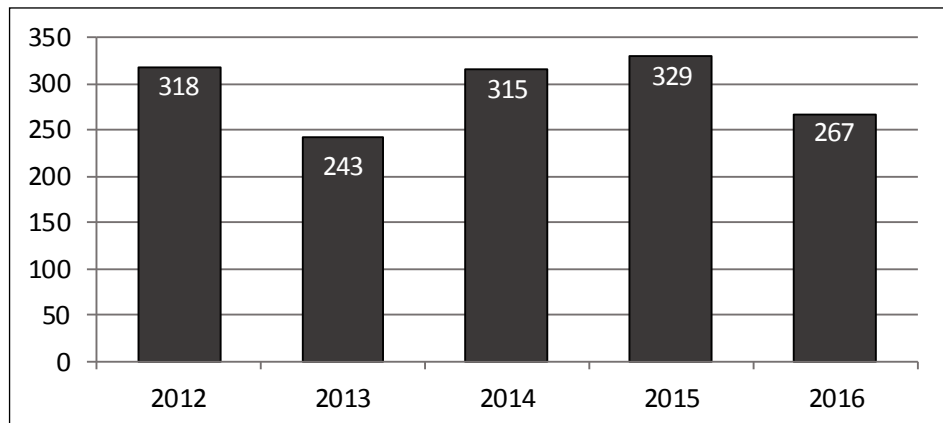
## DATA HIGHLIGHTS

- A 2010 federal study showed Wisconsin as the state having the highest rate of driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs, with 23.7% of respondents indicating they had operated a motor vehicle while impaired.
- In the 2017 LIFE Community Survey, 70.9% of respondents felt drinking and driving is a problem in Portage County and 5.6% of respondents said that in the past 30 days they operated a motorized vehicle after consuming two or more drinks of alcohol in an hour. Binge drinking was also identified as a problem by 65.4% of respondents.
- Wisconsin is the only state where Operating While Intoxicated as a first offense is not a criminal offense.
- The Wisconsin Department of Transportation reported that in 2015, 28,790 people in Wisconsin were arrested for Operating While Intoxicated, and of those people, nearly 24,000 were convicted of drunken driving offenses.
- In 2014, the Portage County District Attorney's Office (DA) filed 196 felony drug charges in 79 individual cases. In 2015, the DA's Office filed 339 felony drug charges in 117 individual cases.
- In the 2017 LIFE Community Survey, 69.9% of respondents felt illegal drug use is a problem in Portage County.

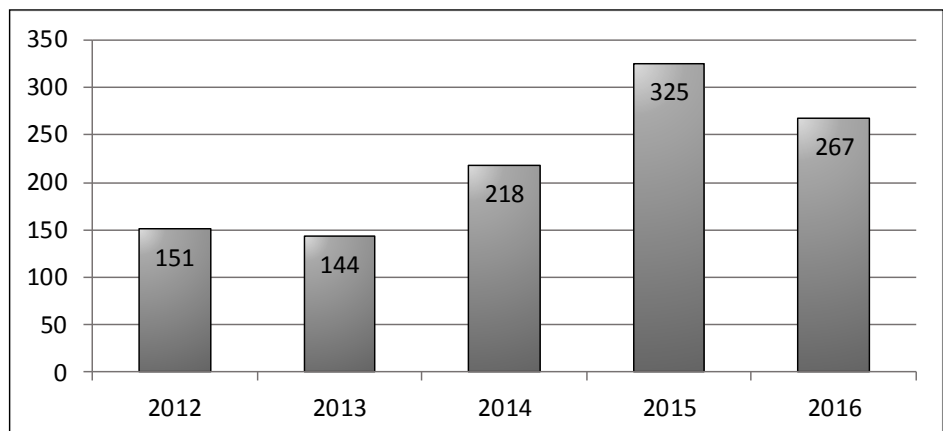
## SOURCES

- **Portage County Sheriff's Office, Stevens Point Police Department and Plover Police Department Data Management Systems**
- **Portage County Clerk of Courts**
- **Wisconsin Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Information**  
<https://www.doj.state.wi.us/dles/bjia/ucr-arrest-data>
- **Wisconsin Department of Transportation**  
<http://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/safety/education/drunken-driv/default.aspx>

**Key Measure:** Number of Persons Arrested in Portage County for Operating While Intoxicated, Including Drug Impairment & OWI Injury, 2012-2016



**Key Measure:** Number of Persons Arrested for Drug Offenses in Portage County: Drug Possession, Manufacture, or Delivery, 2012-2016



## COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES

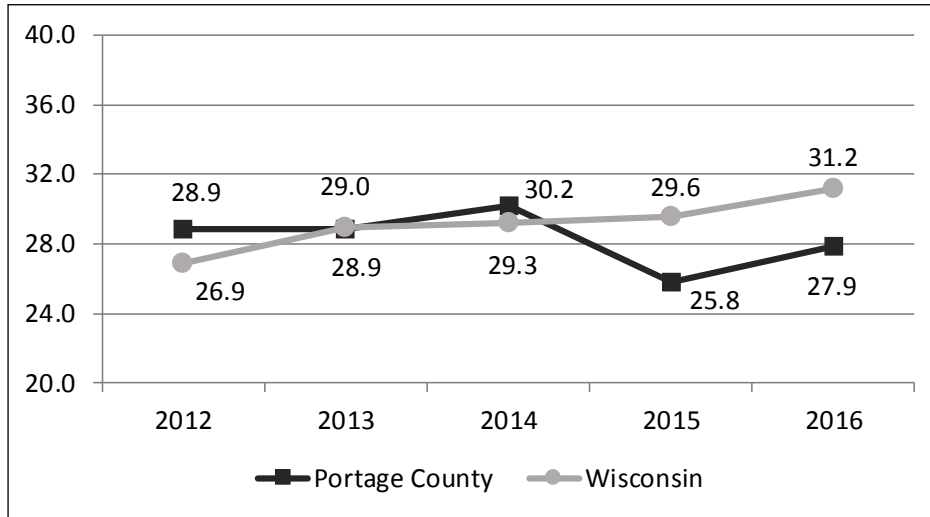
According to the 2013 Wisconsin Traffic Crash Facts Report authored by the Wisconsin DOT, there were 68 car crashes in Portage County where the driver had been drinking. In those 68 crashes, 35 people were injured and 4 people were killed. The report also noted that in 2013, 158 car crash reports were filed (statewide) in which drug use was reported. Of the 158 total reports, 147 crashes were fatal to a person involved in the car crash.

The Wisconsin DOT also estimated alcohol-related crashes cost Wisconsin nearly \$400 million in 2015. The cost of alcohol-related crashes accounts for 16% of the total economic loss in Wisconsin due to motor vehicle crashes.

As a direct result of the increased amount of drug and drug-related cases in the criminal justice system, Portage

County implemented a Drug Court. The Wisconsin Department of Justice has increased grant funding as a result of the opioid epidemic in Wisconsin. Portage County's Drug Court is funded through a Department of Justice Grant and tax levy. The Drug Court serves high risk and high need individuals whose felony charges are drug-related. The Drug Court has a capacity of 20 adult Portage County residents and is an alternative to a prison sentence. Drug Court provides intensive judicial and community supervision and accountability as well as substance abuse treatment.

**Key Measure:** Rate of Traffic Crashes per 1,000 Licensed Drivers, Portage County and Wisconsin, 2012-2016



### COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES

Over the years, measured crashes have remained fairly consistent in Portage County. In 2010 there were 1,500 crashes reported with 341 people injured. Figures from 2016 show a total of 1,197 crashes, and 279 injuries reported. A category that increased noticeably was crashes that occurred in work zones. In 2010, only 8 crashes occurred in work zones compared to 36 crashes in work zones in 2016.

Many positive factors play a role in reducing traffic crashes. Some of these include better road design, traffic control measures, better signage, increased enforcement presence, and public education programs. Agencies that contributed to these reduced crashes in Portage County include the Portage County Sheriff's Office, Stevens Point Police Department, Plover Police Department, and Wisconsin State Patrol.

Recreational vehicles are not commonly thought about as it relates to crashes. No fatalities occurred in Portage County in 2016 related to ATV's, snowmobiles or boat crashes in 2016. However, Wisconsin reported 22 ATV, 9 snowmobile and 21 boat related fatalities in 2016 due to crashes.

The category that showed the most noticeable decrease was deer-related crashes with 153 fewer crashes that occurred in 2016.

FACTORS IN CRASHES IN PORTAGE COUNTY (2016)	
Speed	246
Deer	241
Alcohol	51
Hit & Run	97
Motorcycles	17
Work Zone	36
Bicycle	19
Pedestrian	10
School Buses	7

The category that showed the greatest measurable increase in traffic crashes was speed, with an increase of 76 crashes in 2016 over the 170 crashes in 2010.

In 2013, 83% of drivers in Wisconsin used safety belts which was lower than the national average of 86%. Safety belt use is the most effective way to reduce the risk of being injured when involved in a crash.

### DATA HIGHLIGHTS

- According to the 2017 LIFE in Portage County Survey, texting and driving is a safety concern on Portage County roadways. Of Portage County residents surveyed, 53.6% agree that texting and driving is a problem, while 28.4% of Portage County residents strongly agree that it is a problem.
- Another factor that contributes to vehicle crashes is drinking and driving. The 2017 Portage County LIFE Survey shows that 70.9% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that drinking and driving is a problem. These responses are a clear sign Portage County residents understand the seriousness of drinking and driving.
- The reduction of crashes related to alcohol from 92 in 2010 to 51 in 2016 reflects the response to increased enforcement, education, and community awareness over the past five years in Portage County.

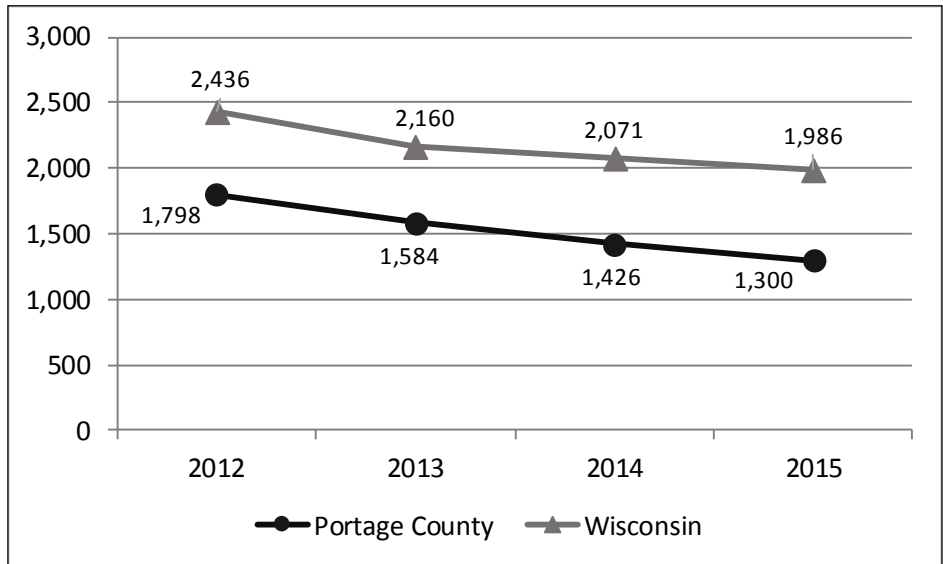
### SOURCES

- **Wisconsin Department of Transportation**  
2016 Wisconsin Traffic Crash Facts <http://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/safety/education/crash-data/crashfacts.aspx>
- **Final Year Crash Statistics by County**  
<http://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/about-wisdot/newsroom/statistics/final-county.aspx>
- **2016 Department of Natural Resources Crash Facts**  
<http://dnr.wi.gov>
- **2017 LIFE in Portage County Community Survey**

DATA HIGHLIGHTS

- Burglary offenses in Portage County went down 37% from 2010 to 2015.
- Arson offenses went down 50% in Portage County from 2010 to 2015, and decreased by 28% statewide.
- Motor vehicle thefts in Portage County remained constant from 2010 to 2015 with 20 vehicles stolen in 2010 and 2015.
- Overall property crimes decreased in Portage County by 28% between 2010 and 2015 while Wisconsin experienced a 19% decrease in property crimes between 2010 and 2015.
- According to the 2017 LIFE in Portage County Community Survey, 32% of respondents agreed that burglary (home and personal property) was a problem in Portage County, and 35.2% agreed that theft (business and retail) was a problem in Portage County.
- In 2016, Portage County law enforcement agencies took reports totaling over \$425,865 in property loss due to theft.

**Key Measure:** Property Crime Rate per 100,000 People, Portage County and Wisconsin, 2012-2015



**Key Measure:** Reported Property Crimes in Portage County & Wisconsin, 2015

Property Crime	2010		2015	
	Portage County	Wisconsin	Portage County	Wisconsin
Burglary	217	26,394	135	19,562
Theft	1,031	107,012	759	83,470
Motor Vehicle Theft	20	8,105	20	11,115
Arson	6	676	3	483
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,274</b>	<b>142,187</b>	<b>917</b>	<b>114,630</b>

COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES

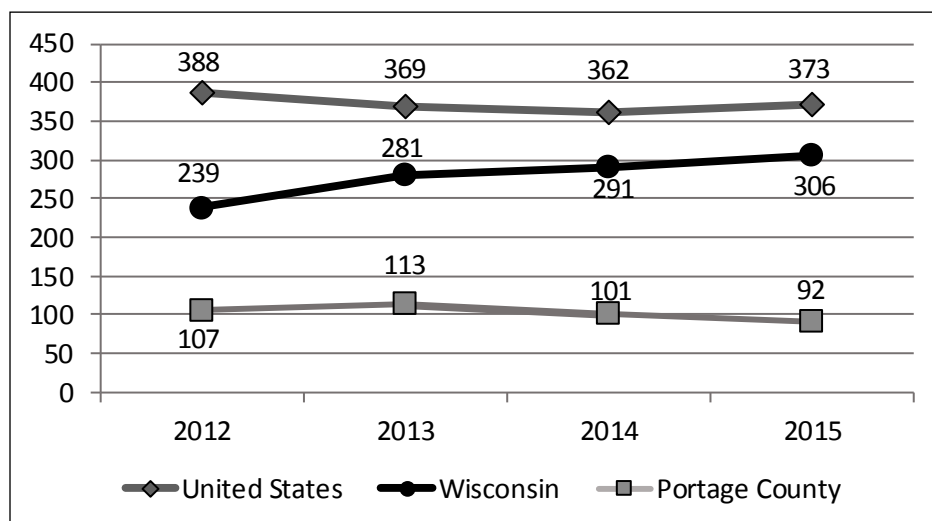
Property crime focuses on four offenses: burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. The object of theft offenses is the taking of money or property without force or the threat of force against the victim. Local law enforcement feels that theft and burglary occurrences are good lead indicators of safety within the community.

Property crime continued to decrease from 2006 to 2015 in both Wisconsin and Portage County. Portage County continues to have a property crime rate lower than the state average. The overall property crime rates continues to decline due to significant decreases in arson, theft, and burglary. Lower property crime rates help people perceive their community as a safer place to live.

SOURCES

- **Federal Bureau of Investigation Crime Statistics**  
<https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2015/crime-in-the-u.s.-2015>
- **Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance**  
<https://www.doj.state.wi.us/dles/bjia/ucr-arrest-data>
- **2017 LIFE in Portage County Community Survey**

**Key Measure:** Violent Crime Rate per 100,000 People, Portage County, Wisconsin, & United States, 2012-2016



**Key Measure:** Number of Offenses in Portage County by Type, 2012-2016

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	TOTAL
Aggravated Assault	57	62	47	54	60	280
Murder	0	1	1	1	1	4
Rape	14	12	15	9	15	65
Robbery	4	5	8	1	6	24
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>373</b>

### COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES

The violent crime rate is composed of murder, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault. Violent crimes by definition involve force or threat of force against the victim.

All violent crime rates in Portage County continue to be significantly below the state and national averages, making Portage County a safer than usual place to live. In Portage County in 2005, the violent crime rate per 100,000 people was nearly 200; in 2015 the violent crime rate dropped to 92. In the 2017 LIFE Community Survey, 91% of respondents reported feeling safe in Portage County and 60.7% of respondents felt the crime rate was low in Portage County.

The most recent Crime in Wisconsin Report (2012) states violent crime has increased by 11.2% in Wisconsin. The largest increase was in murders. There were 139 murders in 2011 and 166 in 2012. Aggravated assaults comprise the greatest percentage of all four violent crimes and in 2012, aggravated assaults

made up 62% of all violent crimes in Wisconsin. Portage County follows the state's trend in that aggravated assaults comprise the greatest percentage of the violent crimes. In 2015, aggravated assaults comprised 83% of the four violent crimes. According to the Crime in Wisconsin Report, 41% of all aggravated assaults are committed with the assailant's personal weapon, such as hands or fists.

### DATA HIGHLIGHTS

- Portage County is in the Wisconsin Department of Justice's Northcentral region. The region has the lowest violent crime rate of all five regions. The Southeast region had the highest rate (488) and the Northcentral region's rate was 120.
- Beginning in 2012, violent crimes in Wisconsin reversed a three year downward trend. The Wisconsin Department of Justice reported that this may be part of a Midwestern trend as violent crimes have increased by 1.3% in the Midwest.
- According to the Crime in Wisconsin report, rape is an underreported crime and it is estimated only 27% of rapes are reported to law enforcement. This is due to many factors including a victim's willingness to report the crime and the victim's comfort with law enforcement. Nationally the clearance rate by arrest is 41.7%; however the clearance by arrest rate is 60% in Wisconsin.

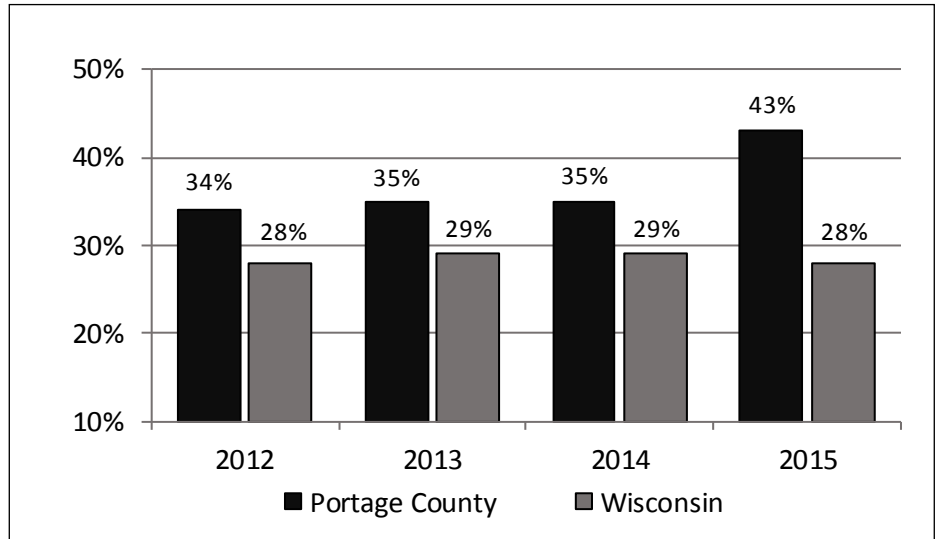
### SOURCES

- **Federal Bureau of Investigation Crime Statistics**  
<https://www.fbi.gov/news/pressrel/press-releases/fbi-releases-2015-crime-statistics>
- **Wisconsin Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics Crime and Arrests**  
<https://www.doj.state.wi.us/dles/bja/ucr-offense-data>
- **Crime in Wisconsin Report**  
<https://wilenet.org/html/justice-programs/programs/justice-stats/library/crime-and-arrest/2012-crime-in-wi.pdf>
- **Wisconsin Violent Crime Rates**  
<http://www.disastercenter.com/crime/wicrime.htm>

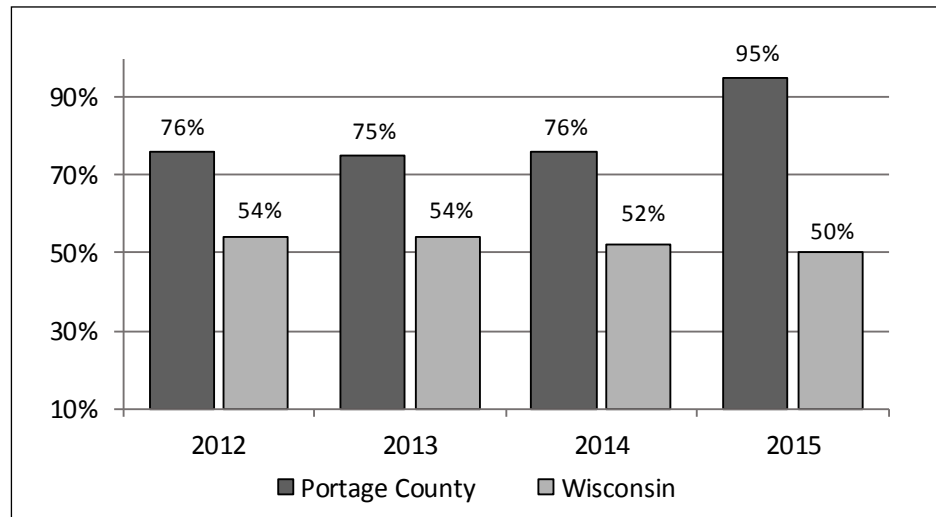
DATA HIGHLIGHTS

- Solved crimes defined: An offense is considered cleared when at least one person involved in the commission of the offense has been arrested, charged, and turned over to the court for prosecution.
- From 2012 through 2015, Portage County's average clearance rate for property crimes was 36.8% compared to the statewide average of 28.5%. Property Crime is a category of crime that includes burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft and arson.
- From 2012 through 2015 Portage County's average clearance rate for violent crimes was 80.5% compared to the statewide average of 52.5%. Violent crime is a category of crime that includes murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault.
- Police agencies reporting for Portage County include Stevens Point Police Department, Portage County Sheriff's Department, Plover Police Department, and the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

**Key Measure:** Property Crime Clearance Rates Percentages Portage County and Wisconsin, 2012-2015



**Key Measure:** Violent Crime Clearance Rate Percentages, Portage County and Wisconsin, 2012-2015



COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES

Although each incident is different and no single measure can predict whether a crime will or will not be solved, clearance rates represent the ability of law enforcement to solve crime. Rates vary among different types of crime due to the nature of the offense. For instance, crimes like burglary and theft tend to lack witnesses. However, evidence often is present in violent crimes like aggravated assault. This leads to lower clearance rates for burglary and theft than for aggravated assault. Though each crime has distinct facts and evidence related to it, law enforcement must focus well trained investigators and appropriate

technology to increase the chances of identifying the suspects and bring closure to the victims involved.

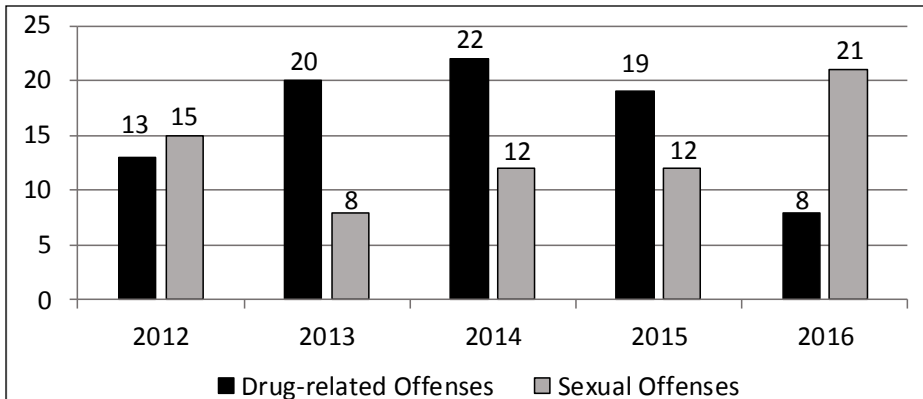
The higher clearance rates in Portage County compared to Wisconsin's overall clearance rate demonstrate the effectiveness of law enforcement in solving crimes in our community and impact the high percentage of residents who believe that Portage County is a safe place to live.

SOURCES

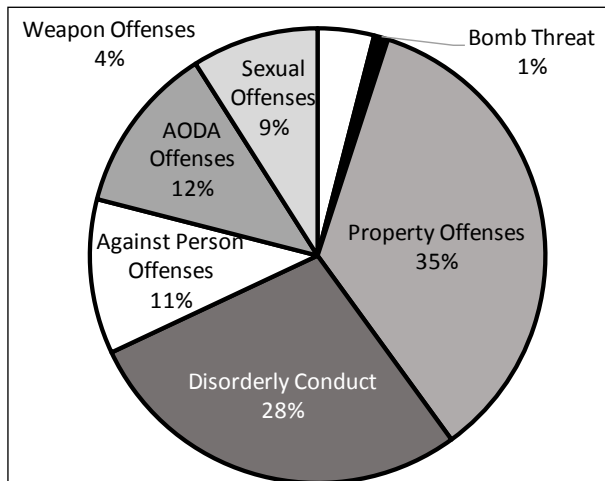
- **Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance**  
Wisconsin Justice Data Portal  
<https://sac.oja.wisconsin.gov/sacapps/jdp.aspx>



**Key Measure:** Number of Delinquency Referrals for Drug-Related Offenses and Sexual Offenses, 2012-2016



**Key Measure:** Juvenile Delinquency Referrals in Portage County by Type, 2012-2016



### COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES

The Juvenile Justice Code, Ch. 938 of the Wisconsin Statutes, is intended to “promote a juvenile justice system capable of dealing with the problem of juvenile delinquency, a system which will protect the community, impose accountability for violations of law and equip juvenile offenders with competencies to live responsibly and productively” Ch. 938.01(2).

Youth under age 17 are referred by Law Enforcement to Portage County Health and Human Services (PCHHS) for allegations of delinquency and are assigned a juvenile court worker. This worker provides recommendations to the District Attorney about how each case should be handled, including whether or not court action is necessary, and then assists with the provision of

any necessary services for the youth and their family.

From 2012 through 2016, while the total number of delinquency referrals remained stable, there was an alarming rise in delinquency referrals for youth ages 12 and under. These pre-teen youth accounted for 21% of all delinquency referrals during that 5-year span. These referrals often resulted from a youth’s aggressive behavior stemming from mental health-related issues which required law enforcement intervention to safely resolve.

In Wisconsin, 17-year-olds are subject to the adult criminal justice system. There continues to be a national movement for states to raise this age limit based on research on human brain development and other factors.

### DATA HIGHLIGHTS

- Between 2012 and 2016, 80% of the 759 delinquency referrals received were male, and 20% were female. In addition, 80% of offenses were committed by Caucasian youth, with the remaining 20% of offenses committed by youth of African American, Hispanic, Native American or Asian descent.
- Property offenses and disorderly conduct offenses accounted for 63% of the total offenses during this time frame.
- Non-violent offenses account for the vast majority of juvenile arrests in Portage County which is consistent with the State of Wisconsin as a whole.
- Portage County delinquent youth are screened by an evidence-based assessment tool. In this report period, 62% were assessed as being low risk, 31% were at moderate or moderate-high risk, and only 7% were at high risk of reoffending.
- At times, delinquent youth require an out-of-home placement, including foster homes, group homes, residential care centers, and correctional facilities. From 2012 to 2016 there were 7 youth from Portage County placed in correctional facilities and a daily average of 3.25 Portage County youth residing in the Portage County Juvenile Detention Center.

### SOURCES

- **Portage County Health and Human Services**  
Juvenile Justice Statistical Database
- **Juvenile Justice Geography, Policy, Practice and Statistics**  
[www.jjgps.org/jurisdictional-boundaries](http://www.jjgps.org/jurisdictional-boundaries)

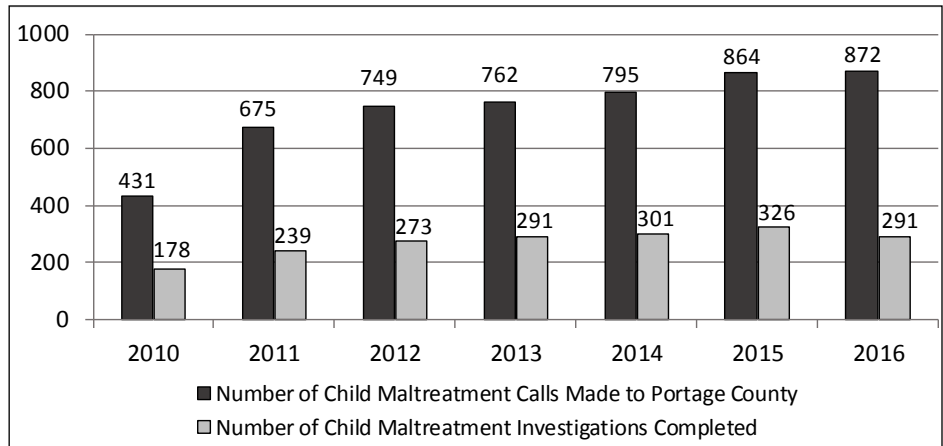
## DATA HIGHLIGHTS

- Neglect is the most frequent form of substantiated maltreatment in Portage County and Wisconsin.
- In 2015, 19.4% of all reports investigated by Portage County were substantiated for maltreatment. In 2015 the statewide average of substantiated reports was 12%. Substantiation means the report of abuse or neglect was confirmed by a preponderance of evidence.
- At the end of the first quarter of 2017, 107 children were in out-of-home care in Portage County.
- The Portage County Access Line receives and documents all reports of child abuse and neglect made to the county.
- From 2010 to 2016, the number of calls placed to the Portage County Access line increased by 102%.
- From 2010 to 2015, the number of child maltreatment investigations completed in Portage County increased by 83%. In 2016, investigations fell by 10.7%.
- The average child victimization rate for the State of Wisconsin in 2015 was 3.6 victims per 1,000 children.

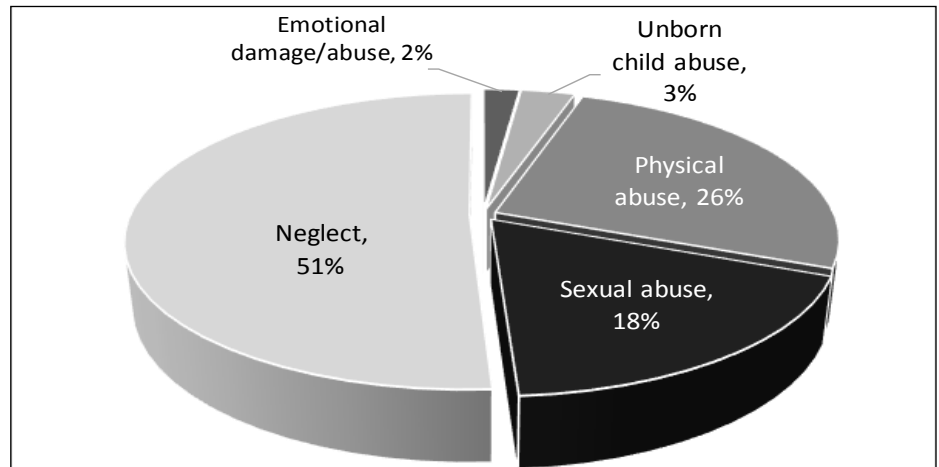
### County Comparisons

Portage County	6.6
Wood County	5.3
Marathon County	4.9
Waushara County	3.8
Milwaukee County	3.4
Waupaca County	2.5

**Key Measure:** Number of Child Maltreatment Calls Made and Child Maltreatment Investigations Completed in Portage County, 2010-2016



**Key Measure:** Portage County Child Maltreatment by Type, 2016



## COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES

All children need a safe, nurturing home for optimal development. Children who are subjected to maltreatment are more likely to experience physical and emotional health concerns as well as social, cognitive and behavioral problems. Research shows that children who have been abused and neglected have both immediate and long-term costs for hospitalization, mental health treatment, educational support and legal intervention.

Mandatory child abuse and neglect reporting laws require professionals to report abuse. Community members are encouraged to report when they believe a child has been abused, threatened with abuse, injured, or is unsafe to either the Portage County Health and Human Services or directly to Law Enforcement. In Portage County, Child Protective Services and Law Enforcement work

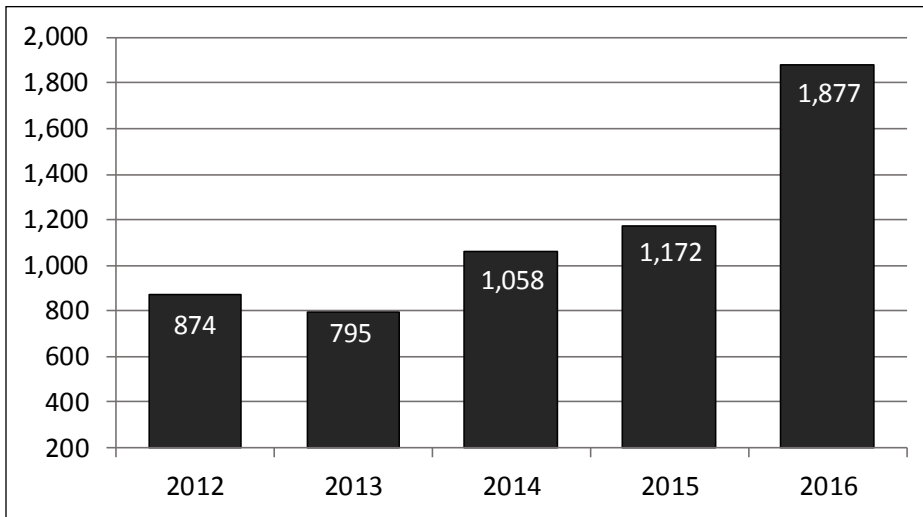
together to intervene in suspected cases of child maltreatment. The Portage County Multi-Disciplinary Team meets regularly to review cases of child maltreatment in an effort to improve practice, intervention and legal response to child abuse.

The Child Protective Services system promotes keeping children in their homes with their families whenever possible, as long as safety can be assured. If children are not able to remain safely in their homes, every effort is made to place children with family members or in a local foster home. Active and ongoing recruitment of local foster homes plays an important part in helping children stay connected to their families and the community in the event that out of home care is necessary.

## SOURCES

- **Portage County Social Services (CPS database CY2010-2016)**  
[www.co.portage.wi.us/hhsd/](http://www.co.portage.wi.us/hhsd/)
- **State of Wisconsin-Division of Children and Families, CY 2014 & CY 2015 Child Abuse and Neglect Report (Appendix G, H & L)**  
<http://dcf.wi.gov>

**Key Measure:** Family Crisis Center Domestic Abuse Programs Number of Client Contacts from Shelter and Outreach, 2012-2016



### COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES

Domestic abuse, dating violence, and stalking are significant problems everywhere and that includes Portage County. Besides being a crime, the impact of these forms of violence on our community is widespread and pervasive. Victims and survivors experience pain, suffering and negative impacts to all forms of health from physical to emotional to financial.

Domestic abuse and dating violence is more than physical injury and can include different tactics that threaten safety. Rather than a single act of violence, it is a continuing behavior of exhibiting power and control over another and often involves using intimidation, emotional abuse, isolation, privilege, financial abuse, coercion and threats using children, and minimizing/denying/blaming the victim for the abuse. Stalking includes an abuser acting in such a way to intentionally create a fear of harm or death for the victim or survivor. Abuse can happen to anyone regardless of gender, income, race/ethnicity, age, ability, sexual orientation, or any identity.

Reported incidents are not an exhaustive indicator of the prevalence of the problems of interpersonal violence. There are myriad reasons for why individuals remain in abusive relationships. These include physical, emotional, mental, and financial safety risks that leaving presents a victim/

survivor. The most dangerous and lethal time is when the abuser becomes aware they are losing their power and control, typically immediately after a victim/survivor has left the relationship or the abuser becomes aware of plans to leave. If the abuser has access to lethal means including firearms, the risk of injury and death is amplified. When a victim/survivor chooses to leave, the barriers can be staggering: lack of anonymity, transportation, housing, isolation, shame, or fear of leaving shared children with the abuser.

We cannot recognize abusers by how they look or act in public. Most violence occurs in the private spaces, by people known to us. Risk reduction of violence is focused on being in respectful relationships, supports health boundary setting and encourages personal development of their partner. While many people will not report the crimes of interpersonal violence, research supports that the more contacts a victim has with a domestic abuse advocacy agency, the better improved their safety becomes.

The 2016 increase in domestic abuse contacts data from CAP Services indicates an increased readiness for victims to access advocacy services and is not necessarily an indicator of an increase in domestic abuse incidences.

### DATA HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2015, 58 lives were claimed as a result of domestic violence in Wisconsin. Over one third of the victims of intimate partner-related homicide were killed after the relationship ended or when one person in the relationship was taking steps to leave the relationship, showing that leaving doesn't equate to safety. Roughly 43% of deaths happened in rural communities.
- Between 2012 and 2016, The Family Crisis Center provided shelter 100% days each year. The average stay in 2010 was 17 days; the average stay in 2016 was 37 days. In 2016, 138 victims of domestic abuse stayed at the FCC.
- According to the LIFE Community Survey, 53% agreed or strongly agreed that there are services available for victims of domestic abuse. Approximately 37% of respondents agreed that domestic abuse is a problem in Portage County; only 8.2% responded that they did not believe it is a problem.

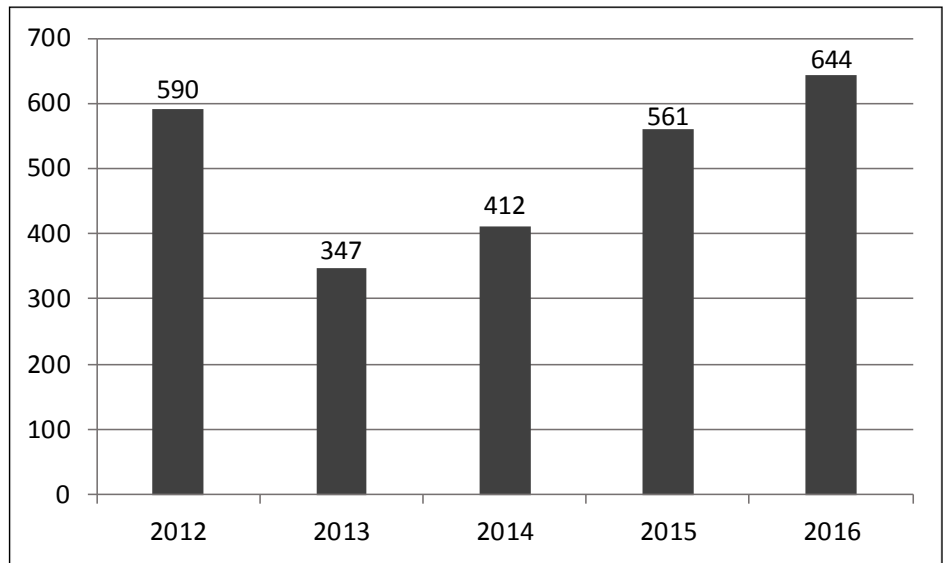
### SOURCES

- **U.S. Department of Justice**  
<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/jr000250.pdf>
- **National Coalition Against Domestic Violence**  
<https://ncadv.org/files/Domestic%20Violence%20and%20Stalking%20NCADV.pdf>
- **Aggression and Violent Behavior**  
<http://www.biscmi.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Evaluating-Batterer-Programs-CDC-summary-fin.pdf>
- **National Domestic Violence Hotline**  
<http://www.thehotline.org/resources/statistics/>
- **End Domestic Abuse Homicide Reports**  
<http://www.endabusewi.org/homicide-reports/>

DATA HIGHLIGHTS

- According to the 2017 LIFE in Portage County Community Survey, 26.9% of respondents agreed that sexual assault is a problem in Portage County, while 12.5% disagreed that it is a problem.
- The lifetime cost of rape is \$122,461 per victim.
- Of U.S. internet users, roughly 10.4 million (4%) Americans aged 15 and older have been threatened with or experienced the posting of explicit images without their consent.
- In the state of Wisconsin between 2006 and 2010, 11-15 year olds experienced the highest rate of sexual victimization, while 16-20 year olds had the highest rate of offending. Also, 91% of the offenders were male and 2/3 of sexual assaults occurred in the victims' or offenders' homes.

Key Measure: Sexual Assault Victim Services Contacts-CAP Services, 2012-2016



COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES

Sexual abuse and assault involves unwanted touch or contact that results in sexual gratification of an assailant. Frequently sexual assault and abuse can involve a lack of consent, coercion or threat of or use of additional physical force. There are many myths around sexual assault that focus on blaming victims for being victimized instead of holding the perpetrators accountable. Sexual abuse and assault are motivated by the desire to have power and control over another person. Many victims report that they are blamed by one or more persons in their support system for what they have experienced. The effect of victim blaming is to reduce accountability for perpetrators and continue a culture in which it is acceptable to sexually assault, abuse and harass others.

Sexual assault can happen to anyone of any background or identity. National statistics indicate that 1 in 3 or 1 in 4 are sexually assaulted by the age of 18. Adults have the choice to report a crime or not. While the majority of assaults are reported by women, there are significant barriers for men and individuals who are gender non-conforming to report the crime. It is believed that the statistics around who is impacted by sexual assault are actually much higher than indicated.

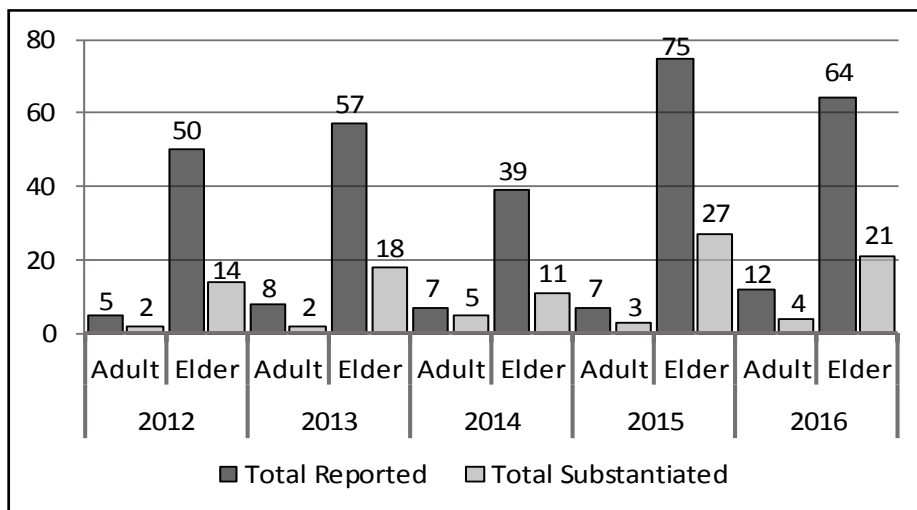
Sexual abuse and assault are challenging crimes to capture as there are significant barriers to reporting the crime for victims of sexual violence. Another form of sexual violence can include the use of technology without consent to share sexually explicit images or videos. As technology evolves, so does the need to engage in safety planning, informed consent, and updating of laws.

We all know someone who has experienced sexual assault. In addition to the physical and emotional burden of sexual assault on individuals victimized, there are significant financial burdens to society in healthcare costs, criminal justice costs, advocacy services, impacts on employers, and more. Always obtain clear and legal consent for sexual contact or intercourse from a prospective partner for everyone's safety. You can and should avoid harming others. Nobody needs to be alone when facing the impacts of sexual assault and abuse. CAP Services' Family Crisis Center provides welcoming and confidential support.

SOURCES

- **Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault**  
[http://www.wcasa.org/file\\_open.php?id=33](http://www.wcasa.org/file_open.php?id=33)
- **National Sexual Violence Resource Center**  
Talking Points  
[http://www.nsvrc.org/sites/default/files/nsvrc\\_talking-points\\_lifetime-economic-burden\\_o.pdf](http://www.nsvrc.org/sites/default/files/nsvrc_talking-points_lifetime-economic-burden_o.pdf)  
Press Release  
<http://www.nsvrc.org/news/news-field/new-report-shows-4-us-internet-users-have-been-victim-revenge-porn>
- **2017 LIFE in Portage County Community Survey**

**Key Measure:** Portage County Number of Reported Cases of Elder Abuse and Abuse of Adults-at-Risk, 2012-2016



Type of Abuse	Adults-at-Risk (18-25)	Elder (60+)
Self-Neglect	2	31
Financial Exploitation	4	15
Neglect by Others	1	7
Emotional Abuse	0	6
Physical Abuse	1	1
Sexual Abuse	0	1
Treatment without Consent	0	0
Unreasonable Confinement or Restraint	0	0
Other	4	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>63</b>

### COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES

Adults-at-risk are adults between 18 and 59 who have a physical or cognitive impairment that substantially impairs their ability to care for their needs and who are at risk of or who have experienced neglect, self-neglect, or financial exploitation. An elder adult-at-risk is an adult age 60 or older who has experienced or is at risk of experiencing abuse, neglect, self-neglect, or financial exploitation.

Types of abuse for adults and elders include: physical, emotional, or sexual abuse; financial exploitation; neglect or self-neglect; abandonment; treatment without consent; and unreasonable confinement or restraint.

Self-neglect is the most common issue reported for elder adults-at-risk, with financial exploitation coming in second for elders. Financial exploitation rises in a poor economy and with an increasing aging population. People with physical and/or cognitive limitations are

vulnerable to abuse and neglect. Individuals who are dependent upon others for daily living, handling finances, or transportation are at greatest risk, as this gives others a tremendous amount of control over the lives of these individuals.

For every one case reported to authorities, about five more go unreported. Elders are less likely to report abuse as many do not want to get a family member or caregiver in trouble. Some elders fear for their safety, while others do not have the financial resources and/or housing they need. Medical conditions and disabilities may make living on their own difficult or impossible.

### DATA HIGHLIGHTS

- In Portage County, self-neglect is the most common abuse issue for elder adults-at-risk 60 years and older (49.2% of all cases). Whereas, for adults-at-risk, ages 18-59, financial exploitation was the most common issue (33.3% of all cases).
- Financial exploitation is the second highest form of abuse for elder adults-at-risk (23.8%).
- Of the reported abuse cases in 2016, for adults-at-risk, 33.3% of the reports were substantiated. For elder adults-at-risk, 32.8% were substantiated.
- For both age groups, relatives make up the largest share of alleged abusers (66.7% for adults-at-risk, and 60.0% for elder adults-at-risk).
- In Wisconsin in 2016, there were 5,831 reports of abuse and neglect of elders, an increase of 27.6% from 2012.
- The state total in 2016 for adults-at-risk, ages 18-59, was 2,468, a 14.5% increase over 2013. The state total for elders in 2016 was 8,031, a 27.5% increase over 2013.
- The increased number of reports signals improved communication about adults-at-risk abuse between law enforcement, health care professionals, and social service agencies.
- Elders and adults-at-risk are vulnerable populations in Portage County and should never endure any form of abuse, neglect, or exploitation. If concerns are noted, call Portage County Protective Services staff for assistance.

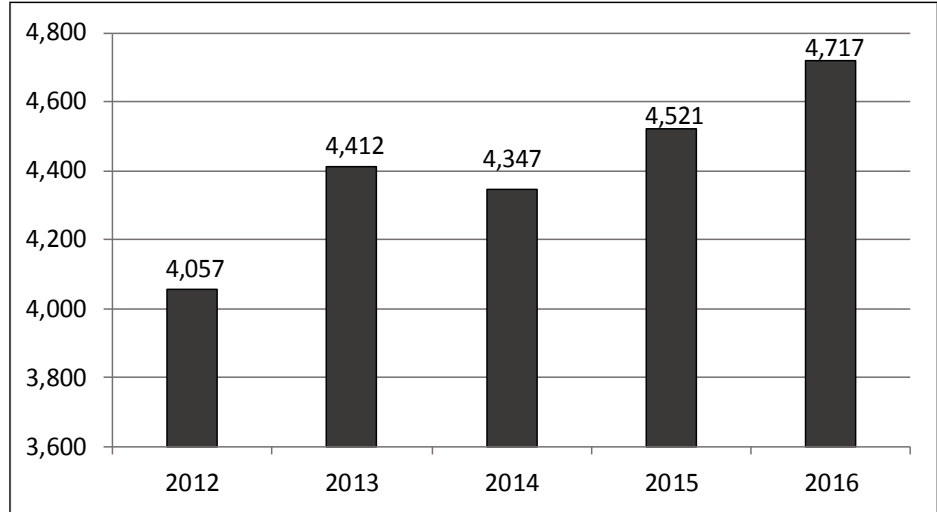
### SOURCES

- WITS Statistical Summary Report for Elder Adults-at-Risk Age 60+ Portage County Report Year 2016, as of 4/01/17
- WITS Statistical Summary Report for Adults-at-Risk Age 18-59 Portage County Report Year 2016, as of 4/01/17

DATA HIGHLIGHTS

- Portage County has three ambulance services that provide pre-hospital care in Portage County: Amherst Fire District Ambulance, Stevens Point Fire Department, and United Emergency Medical Response (formerly known as Higgins Ambulance Service).
- The data recorded represent Amherst Fire District Ambulance and Stevens Point Fire Department.
- As of January 2017, there were approximately 425 total ambulance services in Wisconsin who respond to emergency (911) calls and/or provided training, interfacility transfers or intercepts, or else were satellite stations of other ambulance providers.
- There are 11 Fire Departments in Portage County: 9 are volunteer, 1 is a full-time career department, and 1 is a combination.

Key Measure: Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Responses, 2012-2016



COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES

Fire departments and prehospital care providers most often are in the midst of tragic life changing events, providing the highest level of response to urgent situations.

The fire service in Portage County is a cohesive unit that endeavors to provide the best service possible. This unified environment is fostered by a resolute Portage County Chief’s Association, providing exceptional service to the county. All fire services within the county have committed to a county-wide Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) designated as the MABAS 110 Division. MABAS is a mutual aid measure that may be used for deploying fire, rescue, special operations, hazmat, and emergency medical service in a multi-jurisdictional and/or multi-agency response. MABAS can be used when a community is impacted by incidents such as major structure fires, school shooting incidents, mass evacuations, wide-scale flooding, tornadoes, wild land fires, hazardous material spills, terrorist attacks, and mass-casualty accidents. The fire departments in Portage County work together to provide their communities the following services: water rescue, ice rescue, confined space rescue, high angle rescue, collapse rescue, trench rescue, vehicle extrication, hazmat, fire suppression, fire investigation, fire prevention and Emergency Medical Service (EMS).

The City of Stevens Point, Village of Plover, Village of Whiting and Town of Hull all have an Automatic Aid

Agreement, commonly referred as “Metro Fire,” to jointly respond to structure fires.

Portage County has an aggressive Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system that provides first-rate prehospital care for its citizens. There are 13 Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) groups: 11 based within the individual communities and two that are industrial based. The EMR groups are alerted to the emergency by dispatch simultaneously with the ambulance service and respond by providing initial care for the patient. Portage County has three ambulance services that provide transport: Stevens Point Fire Department, Amherst Fire District and United Emergency Medical Response. All three of these services provide Advanced Life Support (ALS) care. Stevens Point Fire and Amherst Ambulance in cooperation with Portage County have a committed Quality Management Program for the ambulance services that monitors the quality of pre-hospital care.

In 2013, the Portage County and City of Stevens Point Dispatch centers merged to create a single Communications Center for all of Portage County. The communication center, fire departments and EMS providers of Portage County work together to provide emergency services that are efficient and effective, which afford our community the response that is expected when “911” is called.

SOURCES

- 2016 Portage County EMS Annual Report <https://www.wisconsinems.com/ems-for-the-general-public/wisconsin-ems-statistics/>