

2024



Community **Action**
Head Start



COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT

"Relations are sometimes awkward as the old ethnicities bump their aging dispositions against the new, forgetting that own grandparents spoke English strangely, dressed in odd clothes, and ate food that astonished and sometimes repulsed their neighbors"

BILL HOLM



Sonia Gass CAPRW
Executive Director

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who participated in the community strength and needs assessment. It has been a fantastic journey to learn more about our community and how CAPRW can continue to be responsive to the needs of our community. I hope that this report provides a blueprint for how we can better come together to support each other and our community.

Nicolee Mensing Head Start
Senior Director



The Head Start Program Performance Standards require that each Head Start program conduct an extensive community strengths and needs assessment every five years, with an annual update. The CAPRW Head Start team takes pride in fulfilling this requirement because it allows us to take an in-depth look at our community to ensure the program we are operating meets the needs of children and families in Ramsey County. We are proud to operate a high-quality Head Start program that continues to evolve to meet the changing needs in our community.

We know, and have continued to learn through this year's community needs assessment how wonderfully diverse our community is. You will see this reflected throughout this report. You will also find detailed information about rates of poverty throughout Ramsey County, the availability of early childhood and social service programming and other economic factors affecting families with young children.

I am grateful to the team of staff and community partners who led the months-long community needs assessment process. Your hard work and dedication will ensure our program is positioned to continue to meet the needs of children and families in Ramsey County.

People of Minnesota

7000 BCE

First evidence of humans in Minnesota

5000 BCE

Burial Mounds erected with influence from Mexican Civilizations

1000 CE

Dakota People moved to Minnesota

1600 CE

Ojibwe People moved to Minnesota

Ramsey County - Modern History

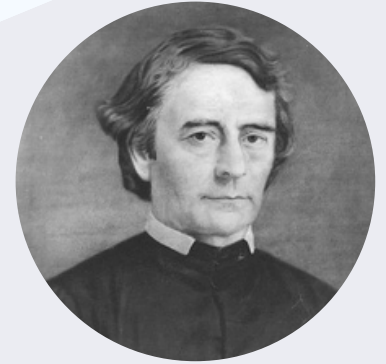
Founded on October 27th, 1849, Ramsey County, Minnesota, has undergone a transformative journey in recent history. Transitioning from its rural roots, the county has embraced urbanization as a defining trend. Post-World War II, an influx of population accompanied urban growth, boosted by improved infrastructure and transportation networks. At its heart, Saint Paul, the county seat of Ramsey County and state capital, evolved into a vibrant center of culture, commerce, and governance, marked by contemporary architectural landmarks.

Diversity became a hallmark as Ramsey County welcomed waves of immigrants, enriching its social fabric. Institutions dedicated to education and healthcare expanded, solidifying its appeal as a place of opportunity.

Overcoming challenges such as urban blight and socio-economic disparities, the county rallied around revitalization efforts, fostering more inclusive and resilient communities.

In the 21st century, Ramsey County seamlessly integrated into the digital age, emerging as a hub for technology, healthcare, and education. Amid rapid urban expansion, a strong commitment to environmental sustainability and thoughtful urban planning remained integral.

Today, Ramsey County stands as a testament to adaptability and growth. Its neighborhoods, united by a shared vision of a thriving future, embody the essence of modern urban life, while its journey encapsulates the dynamic spirit of the American narrative.



Father Lucien Galtier was a pivotal figure in Minnesota's history, known for establishing the first Catholic church in the region, named after Saint Paul. His efforts laid the foundation for the city of St. Paul's growth and development, shaping the cultural and religious landscape of the area.

Ramsey County - Location

Ramsey County is strategically situated in the heart of the Twin Cities metropolitan area, making it a pivotal presence in the state of Minnesota. Bordered by prominent counties such as Hennepin, Dakota, Washington, and Anoka, Ramsey County finds itself at the nexus of regional connectivity. This county encompasses a dynamic landscape, including all 13 cities within its boundaries and a portion of an additional 4 cities, accompanied by a solitary township.

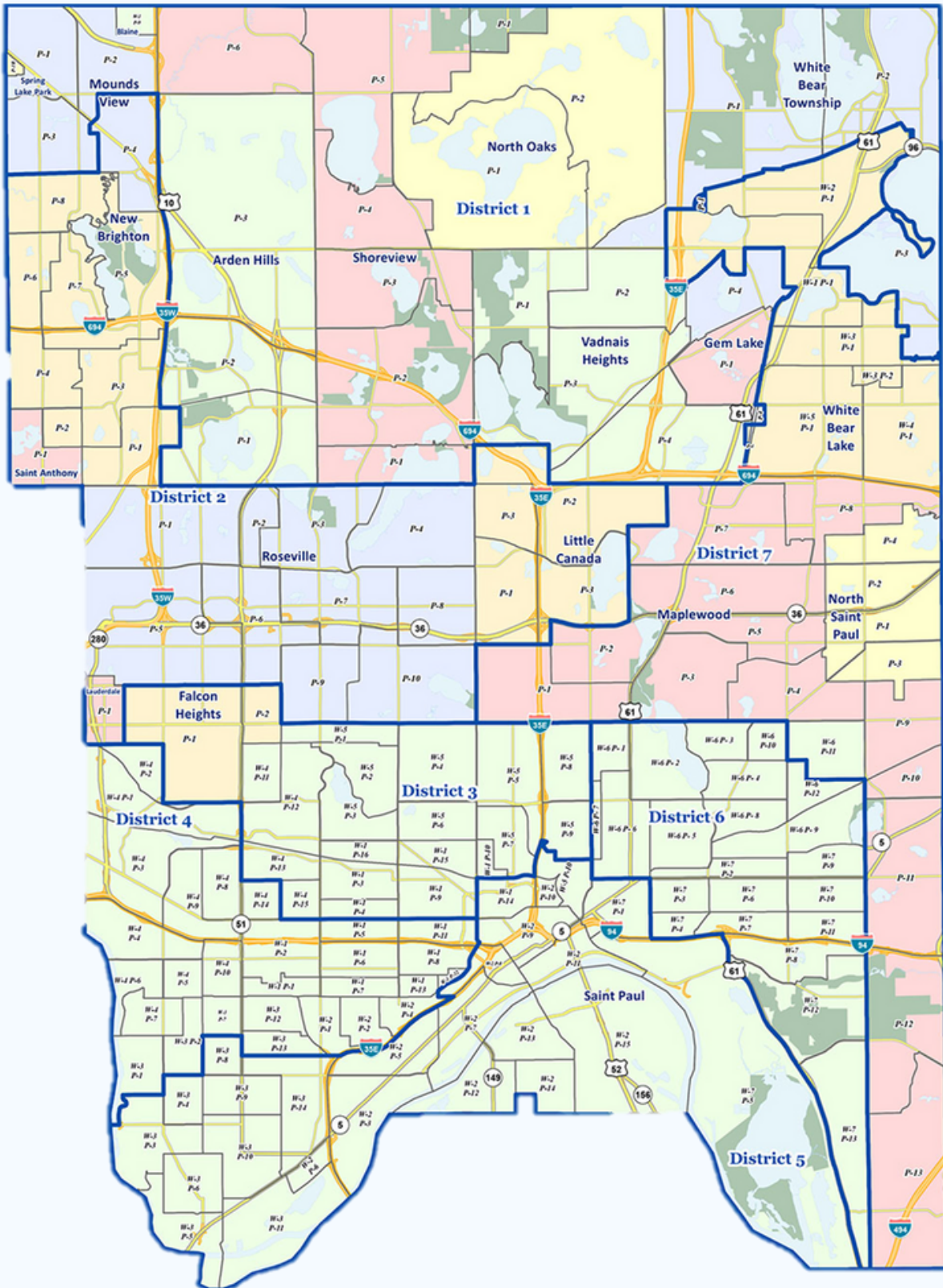
While it might be the smallest county in Minnesota in terms of land area, Ramsey County defies expectations by ranking as the second-most populous county in the state. This unique characteristic speaks to its role as a vibrant hub of cultural, economic, and social activity.

At its heart lies the city of Saint Paul, which not only serves as the county seat, but also holds the distinction of being the state capital of Minnesota. This dual significance underscores Ramsey County's central importance in the administrative and political spheres. In essence, Ramsey County stands as a testament to the interplay between urban development and regional influence, encapsulating the essence of a bustling, interconnected metropolitan region.



Ramsey County - Map

2024



Ramsey County - Cities

St. Paul, stands as Minnesota's capital and acts as a cultural, political, and economic nucleus. Known for its historical landmarks, modern skyline, and diverse neighborhoods, St. Paul embodies the county's dynamic spirit.

Roseville, a bustling suburb, boasts a mix of residential and commercial spaces, including the Rosedale Center, a prominent shopping destination. Maplewood combines residential tranquility with commercial growth, contributing to the county's economic landscape. The picturesque city of White Bear Lake offers scenic waterfront views and a thriving arts scene, while Shoreview emphasizes its green spaces and community engagement.

New Brighton focuses on family-friendly amenities, and Arden Hills offers a balance of residential charm and natural beauty. Falcon Heights is known for hosting the Minnesota State Fairgrounds and the University of Minnesota's St. Paul campus.

City	Population	Area (square miles)
St. Paul	302,285	56.2
Roseville	34,730	13.9
Maplewood	40,814	16.8
White Bear Lake	24,377	8.6
Shoreview	26,866	12.0
New Brighton	22,763	7.0
Arden Hills	10,000	9.6
Falcon Heights	5,500	2.0

Sister Cities

Sister cities are partnerships between two cities, often from different countries, aimed at fostering cultural exchange, mutual understanding, and cooperation. These relationships promote cross-cultural interactions, educational exchanges, and economic collaboration, enhancing global connections and diplomatic ties at the local level.

St. Paul Sister Cities:

- Eldoret, Kenya
- Ibaraki City, Japan
- Manzanillo, Mexico
- Neuss, Germany
- Shenyang, China
- Villa El Salvador, Peru

Ramsey County - Population

520,835

Total Population

203,382

Total Households



	Total Population	Children Under 5	High School Graduate	Bachelor's Degree
White	380,243	21,200	97%	53%
Black/African American	82,350	9,252	85%	22%
American Indian/Alaska Native	10,407	1,124	No Data Available	No Data Available
Asian	90,055	9,089	75%	27%
Other/Bi/Multiracial	22,845	2,057	77%	30%

65,549 Foreign Born Population



*2010 ACS Data

Ramsey County - Poverty

Ramsey County reports 13.8% of the population living below the federal poverty line. This does not include the vulnerable population that hover just above the 100 percent poverty level. Almost 30% of the population in Ramsey County live under 200% of poverty level. This means that 3 out of 10 people in Ramsey County are considered poor or vulnerable to poverty.

Factors contributing to poverty

Income Disparities

Education Disparities

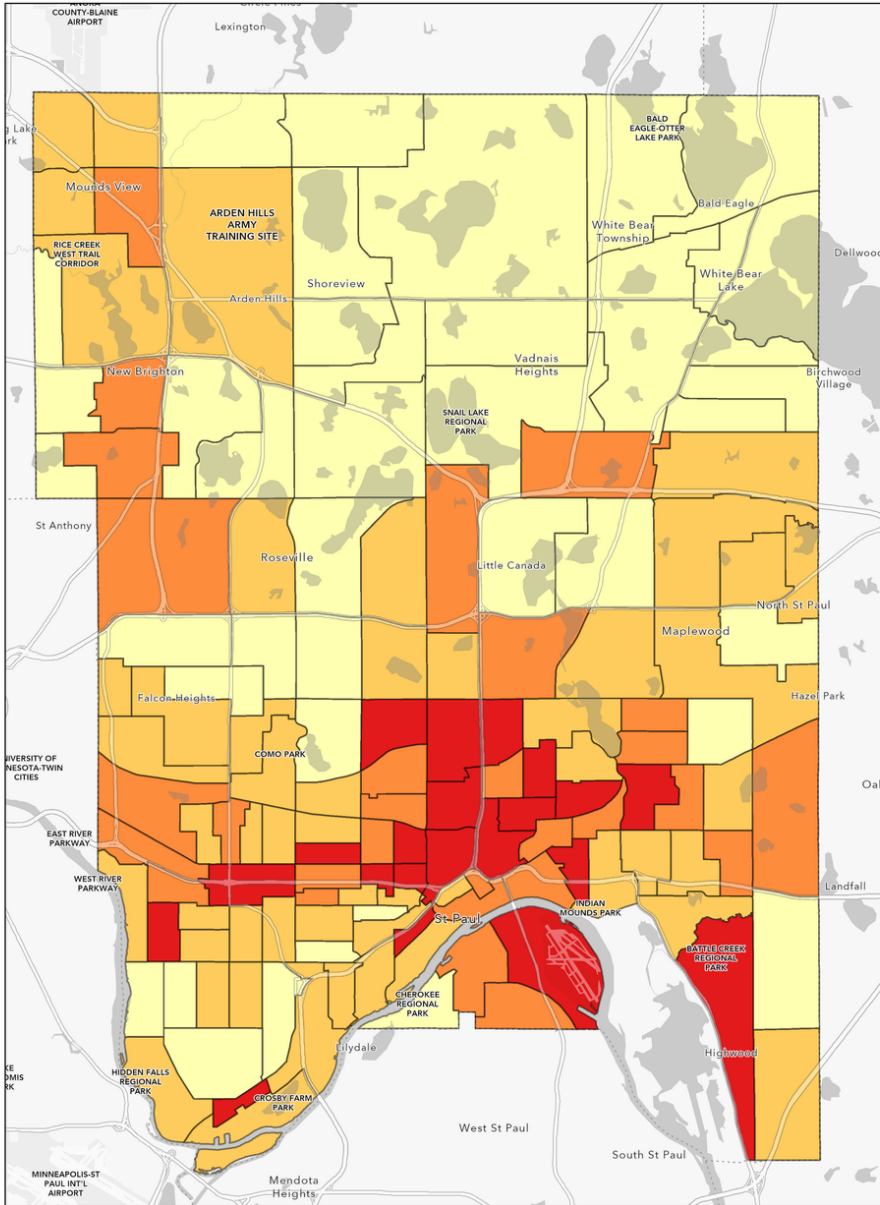
Unemployment

Housing Affordability

City	Total Population	Population Living in Poverty	Percentage of Population Living in Poverty
St. Paul	302,285	53,088	17.6%
Maplewood	40,814	4,201	10.3%
Roseville	34,730	2,445	7%
New Brighton	22,763	2,421	10.6%
Mounds View	13,148	1,434	10.9%
White Bear Lake	24,377	1,430	5.9%
Shoreview	26,866	1,118	4.2%
Little Canada	10,694	1,112	10.4%
North St. Paul	12,340	1,165	9.4%
Vadnais Heights	12,923	845	6.5%

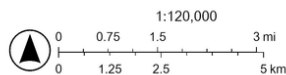
Ramsey County - Poverty Map

Ramsey County Poverty Heat Map 2023



8/28/2023

Tract	 > 7 - 15	 > 15 - 25	 > 25 - 45	Other
	 0 - 7			



Metropolitan Council, MetroGIS, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, MET/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA

The Ramsey County Poverty Heat Map shows areas in terms of level of poverty. While the areas with lower poverty rates are denoted by lighter color, areas that are dark red denote high poverty rates. The map is used by the Head Start program to identify the pockets of poverty and to plan the geographic locations of the Head Start centers. It must be noted that currently, most of the active Head Start centers are in areas of extreme poverty. Some pockets of poverty could reach to more than 45% population living under 100 percent poverty.

Ramsey County - Children & Poverty

Children under 5 years of age are not immune to poverty. A significant portion of these young children bear the weight of economic hardships. This unspoken struggle, hidden behind playground laughter and innocent eyes, has profound implications for their early development and future prospects. **In Ramsey County, a staggering 23% of children under 5 experience poverty.**



City	Total Number of Children Ages 0-5	Children 0-5 Experiencing Poverty	Poverty Percentage
St. Paul	20,552	5,570	27.1%
Maplewood	2,755	377	13.7%
Roseville	2,166	94	4.3%
New Brighton	1,717	374	21.8%
Mounds View	1,270	174	13.7%
White Bear Lake	1,488	166	11.2%
Shoreview	1,603	65	4.1%
Little Canada	603	54	9.0%
North St. Paul	1,270	285	22.4%
Vadnais Heights	728	75	10.3%

Ramsey County - Poverty & Head Start

Head Start Eligibility

Foster Children

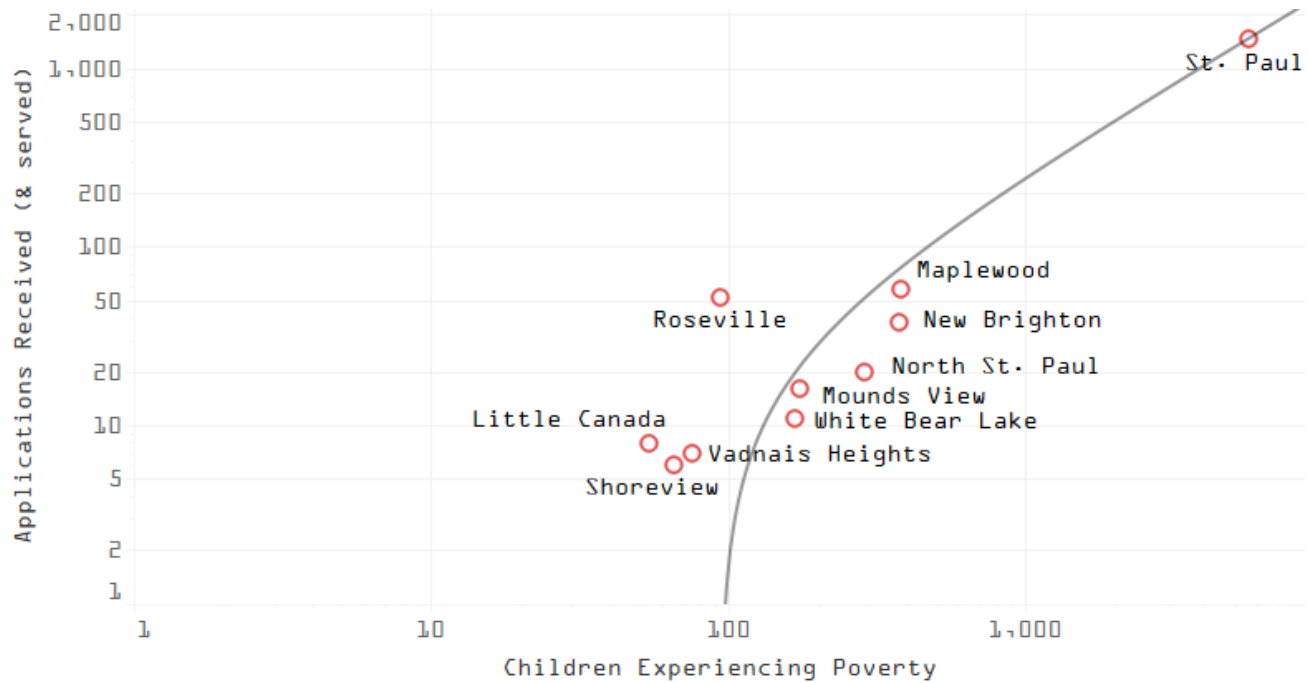
Homeless Children

Household Income below 100% poverty

Household receiving public assistance

City	Children 0-5 Experiencing Poverty	Children 0-5 Experiencing Poverty Percentage	Served by Head Start in Program Year 22-23	Total Applications at Head Start
St. Paul	5,570	27.1%	952	1,488
Maplewood	377	13.7%	38	59
Roseville	94	4.3%	32	53
New Brighton	374	21.8%	25	38
Mounds View	174	13.7%	7	16
White Bear Lake	166	11.2%	3	11
Shoreview	65	4.1%	3	6
Little Canada	54	9.0%	5	8
North St. Paul	285	22.4%	15	20
Vadnais Heights	75	10.3%	6	7

Ramsey County - Poverty & Head Start



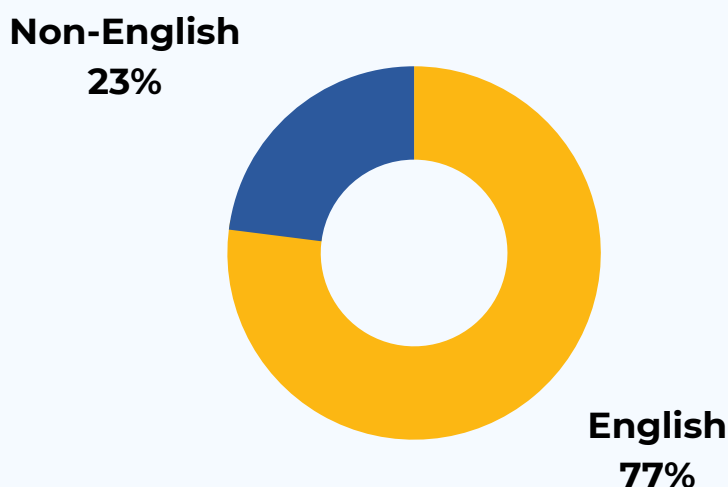
The above graph shows the proportions of population of children ages 0-5 experiencing poverty in each city in Ramsey County and number of children applying to the Head Start program. While the participation of children within different cities is dependent on various factors like availability of Head Start centers, availability of transportation etc., the graph does highlight the areas where Head Start has some opportunities. The trend line is heavily governed by the children living in St Paul that diminishes the effects of other smaller cities. Nevertheless, despite this “Saint Paul Effect” if cities are showing lower proportions then it is suggested that the program looks into the underlying variables of lower number of applications from Roseville, Little Canada, Vadnais Heights, and Shoreview.

In general, the graph represents cities that under represent the participants (cities on the left of the line) and optimally represent the participants (right of the line)

Ramsey County - Languages

Beyond English, Ramsey County proudly hosts an array of languages spoken by its diverse population. These languages are both a reflection of the heritage brought by immigrants and refugees and a testament to the vibrant multiculturalism found in the county. The chart below shows that of the total population in Ramsey County, 77% speak English as their primary language and 23% speak a language other than English as their primary language.

Primary Language Spoken by Ramsey County Residents



Language is one of the contributing factors to poverty. The ability to speak English in United States governs one's job opportunities and their potential to advance. It may also impact one's financial literacy and their ability to navigate through financial systems to plan better for future. **The American Community Survey 2021 estimates, the rate of poverty among English-only speakers was 10% as opposed to Non-English speakers who experienced poverty percentage of 21%.** Likewise the level of educational attainment is also impacted by the ability to speak English. **While only 4% of the English-only speakers had less than high school degree, 26% of non-English speakers fell into the category. On the contrary, while 47% of English-only speakers attained a bachelor's degree or higher, only 31.1% of non-English speakers attained such educational levels.**

There are more than 40 languages spoken by CAPRW Head Start families which not only demonstrates the deep penetration of Head Start into non-English communities but also places a huge level of responsibility to serve a population which may be completely different culturally, and socially.

Ramsey County - Languages

Languages Spoken by CAPRW Head Start Families by Year

17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24
American Sign Language	American Sign Language	American Sign Language	Amharic	Amharic	Amharic	American Sign Language
Amharic	Amharic	Amharic	Arabic	Arabic	Arabic	Amharic
Arabic	Anuak	Anuak	Bengali	Bengali	Bengali	Arabic
Bengali	Arabic	Arabic	Bosnian	Bosnian	Burmese	Bengali
Bosnian	Bengali	Bosnian	Burmese	Burmese	Cambodian	Burmese
Burmese	Bosnian	Bosnian	Cambodian	Chin	Chinese	Cambodian
Chinese	Burmese	Burmese	Chin	Chinese	Czech	Chinese
Efik (Nigerian)	Chinese	Chin	Chinese	Czech	Dari	Chinese
English	Efik (Nigerian)	Chinese	Czech	Dari	Efik (Nigerian)	Dari
French	English	Creole	Efik (Nigerian)	Efik (Nigerian)	English	Efik (Nigerian)
Hmong	Fillipino	Efik (Nigerian)	English	English	Ethiopian	English
Japanese	French	English	French	French	French	French
Karen	Hmong	Ethiopian	Hindi	Hausa	Hmong	Hmong
Karenni	Karen	French	Hmong	Hindi	Igbo	Igbo
Kiswahili	Karenni	Hindi	Igbo	Hmong	Karen	Karen
Korean	Kiswahili	Hmong	Karen	Igbo	Karenni	Karenni
Native American Languages	Korean	Igbo	Karenni	Karen	Kiswahili	Khmer
Nepali	Lao	Karen	Kiswahili	Karenni	Korean	Kiswahili
Oromo	Native American Languages	Karenni	Korean	Kiswahili	Korean	Korean
Other	Nepali	Kiswahili	Lao	Korean	Nepali	Malay
Portugese	Oromo	Korean	Native American Languages	Korean	Nepali	Malay
Somali	Other	Native American Languages	Nepali	Nepali	Oromo	Mon
Spanish	Portugese	Nepali	Oromo	Other	Other	Nepali
Swahili	Somali	Oromo	Other	Pashto	Pashto	Oromo
Tibetan	Spanish	Other	Russian	Somali	Somali	Other
Tigrinya	Swahili	Portugese	Somali	Spanish	Spanish	Pashto
Unspecified	Tagalog	Somali	Spanish	Swahili	Swahili	Persian
Vietnamese	Tibetan	Spanish	Swahili	Tibetan	Tibetan	Russian
Yoruba	Tigrinya	Swahili	Tigrinya	Tigrinya	Tigrinya	Somali
	Twi	Tagalog	Turkish	Turkish	Tingar	Soninke
	Unspecified	Tibetan	Unspecified	Urdu	Turkish	Spanish
	Vietnamese	Tigrinya	Urdu	Vietnamese	Twi	Swahili
		Twi	Vietnamese		Urdu	Tibetan
		Unspecified	Yoruba		Vietnamese	Tigrinya
		Vietnamese			Yoruba	Tingar
						Turkish
						Twi
						Ukrainian
						Urdu
						Vietnamese
						Yoruba

Head Start applicants In the last 7 years



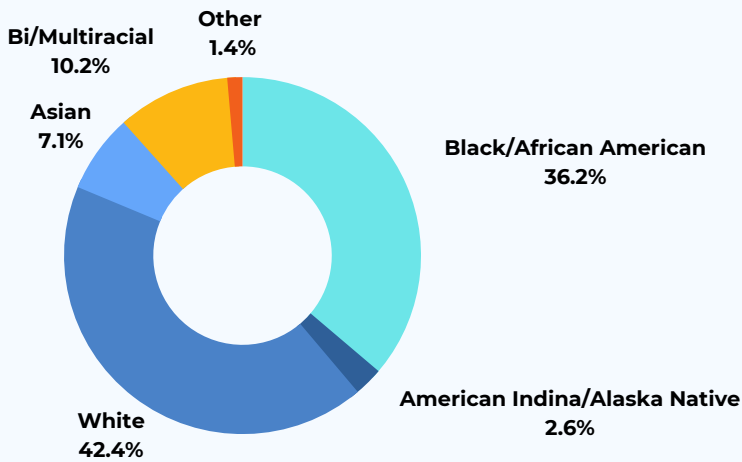
54% Non-English Speaking Families

46% English-only Speaking Families

Ramsey County - Foster Care/ Out-of-Home Placement

In Ramsey County, there were 1,077 children in Foster/Out-of-home Placements in 2021. Out of this, more than 35% (381) were children between the ages 0-5.

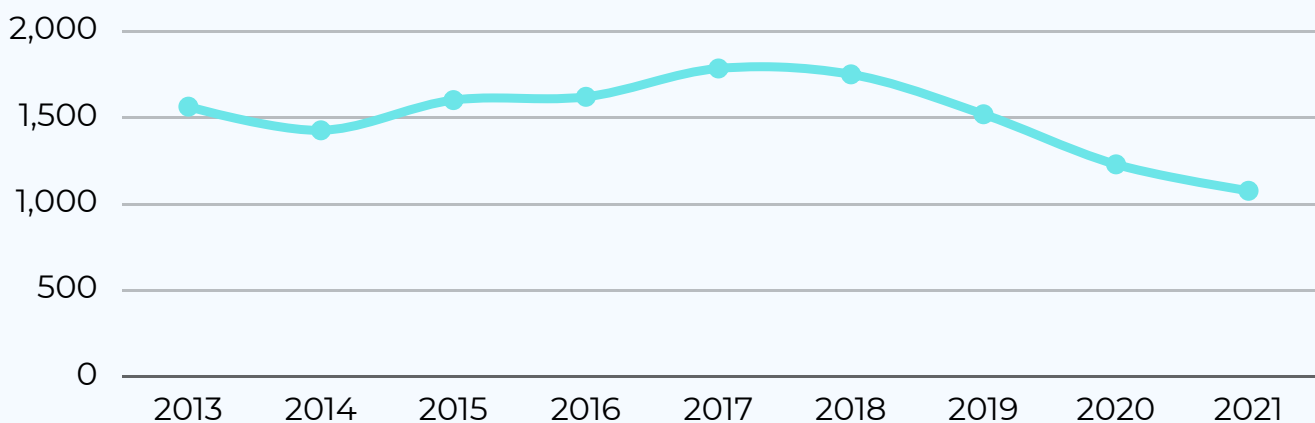
Racial Distribution of Children in Foster Care in Ramsey County



A large number of children moved out of foster care in 2021. In Ramsey County, 503 children found a permanent home in 2021. While 43 of these children were placed within 1-7 days of entering foster care, 167 children took more than 36 months to find a permanent home.



Number of Children in Foster Care in Ramsey County (by year)

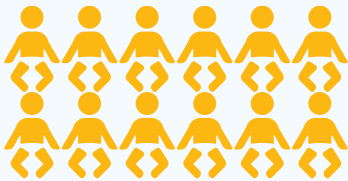


Ramsey County - Homelessness

1,668
2022 PIT
Count

What is Point-in-time Count

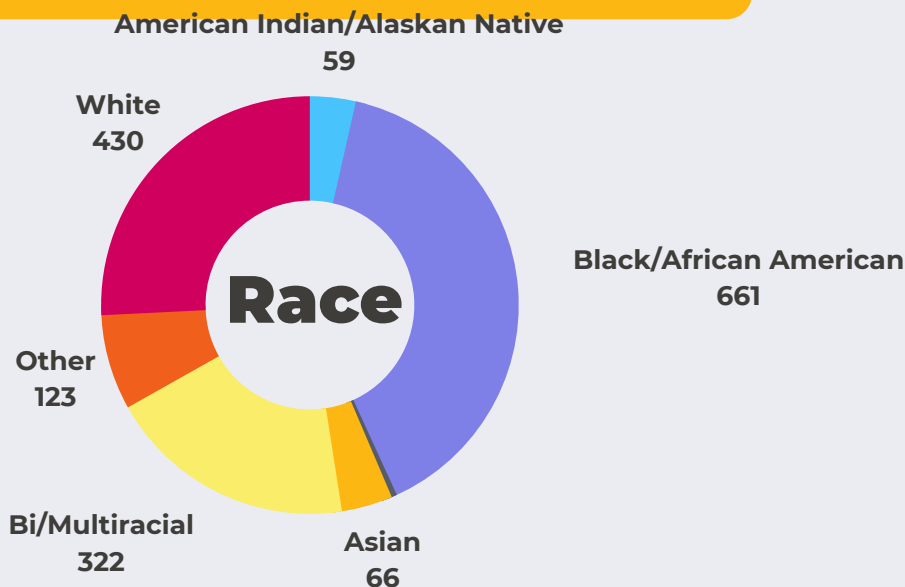
The "Point-in-Time Count" in Minnesota refers to a specific initiative related to counting and understanding homelessness in the state of Minnesota, USA. The Point-in-Time (PIT) Count is an annual effort conducted across the United States as part of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) requirements. It involves counting the number of people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January.



311
Children
under 18



Homelessness by Race



Ramsey County - Homelessness

Organization Name	Beds for HH w/ Children	Beds for HH w/ Children only	Beds for HH w/o Children	PIT Count
Archdiocese of St. Paul & Minneapolis	65	0	803	791
St. Paul Public Housing Agency	389	0	239	628
Amherst H. Wilder Foundation	287	0	17	297
Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities	50	0	279	269
Hearth Connection	165	0	188	268
Metro HRA	77	0	131	208
Solid Ground	218	0	2	197
Project for Pride in Living	178	0	20	162
Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota	169	25	18	159
YWCA of St. Paul	187	0	8	146

There are **52 organizations in Ramsey County that provide shelter services** to the people experiencing homelessness. The table above summarizes some of the statistics of the organizations with the highest point-in-time count.

There are a few organizations that are critical to Head Start since they provide shelter only to the families with children. They are: Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, Ain Dah Yung Center, 180 degrees, Salvation Army, and Tubman. There are 31 more organizations that accept families with children. These 52 organizations have a combined capacity of over 6000 beds and as many as 19 of these operate at 100% or near 100% capacity.



RICHARD M. SCHULZE FAMILY FOUNDATION SAINT PAUL OPPORTUNITY CENTER located at 422 Dorothy Day Place

Ramsey County - Economy

Average Annual Payout

The Average Annual Payout for the purpose of this assessment is the average amount of money an employee gets paid in a specific industry. It is calculated by dividing the annual payroll amount in the industry by total number of employees working in that industry.

The three Industries with the least Average Annual Payout in Ramsey County are Accommodation & Food Services, Educational Services, and Retail Trade. These three industries payout just above the annual salary at the minimum wage salary i.e. \$22,568.

While individuals may have a job in these industries, they may be critically underemployed if they are taking care of children or any other non-earning household member.

**Accommodation
& Food Services**

\$24,137

**Educational
Services**

\$32,232

Retail

\$33,309

**Average Annual
Payout**

Largest Employers

In 2022, the Healthcare and Social Assistance Industry employed almost 60,000 employees making it the largest employer in Ramsey County. The average annual payout in this industry was \$54,000

Largest Healthcare Employers in Ramsey County:

Fairview Health Services, Allina Health, HealthPartners, Regions Hospital, Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare, Cerenity Senior Care, Canvas Health, Hamm Clinic, PrairieCare, Nystrom & Associates, Ebenezer, Accra, Hamline Midway Elders, DARTS, Tubman, Guild Incorporated.

Ramsey County - Economy

Population 16 years & over in Labor Force



Out of 25 people residing in Ramsey County, only 17 are in labor force, and 16 are employed

The Unemployment Rate in Ramsey County is 3.7% among population 16 years and over



Population Below Poverty Level

The unemployment rate among people below poverty level is 12.7%

Median Income

\$70,518

By Race

White \$78,794

Black/African American \$43,834

Asian \$76,478

AI/AN \$25,558

Other Races \$71,460

Hispanic \$67,712

	General Population	Population Living in Poverty
Employed	279,826	17,287 (6%)
Unemployed	13,745	3,559 (26%)

Child Care Cost Burden

According to the County Health Rankings & Roadmaps (CHR&R), Child Care Cost Burden is the percentage of median household income for a household with 2 children. Child Care costs can rival rent or mortgage payments, placing a heavy strain on family finances. The dilemma is not merely about the direct costs of child care or preschool; it also involves hidden costs like transportation, meals, and additional fees. This burden can be particularly daunting for low- and middle-income families, often forcing them to make tough decisions about their careers, work hours, or even whether it's financially viable for one parent to stay at home.

In Ramsey County, the current Child Care Cost burden is 30% meaning the average household spends 30% of its income on child care.

Minnesota, like many other states in the United States, offers various **child care assistance programs** to support families in managing the cost of childcare and ensuring that children have access to quality early education. These programs are designed to help low- and moderate-income families afford childcare services while promoting workforce participation and child development.

Public Funding for Child Care in Ramsey County

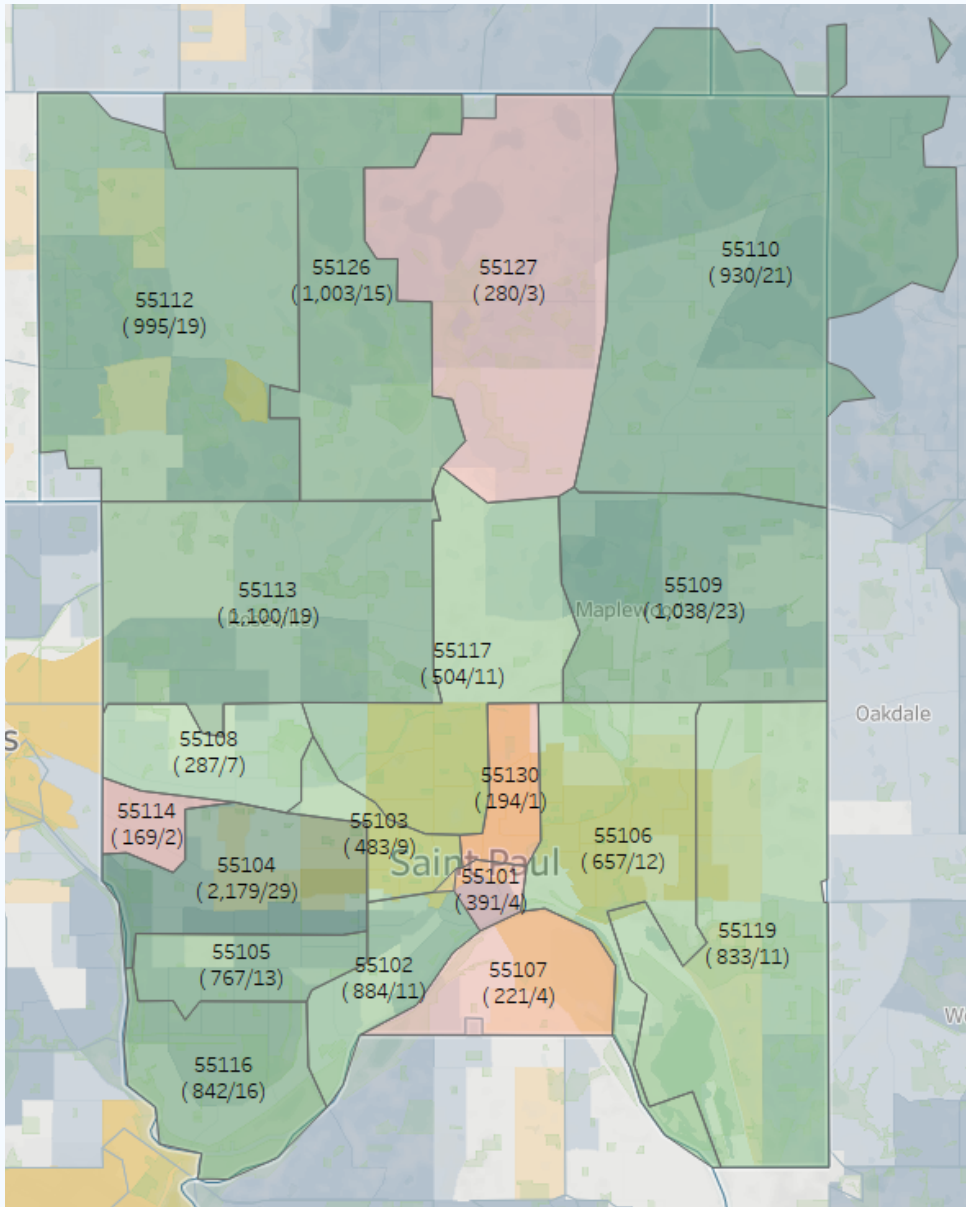
Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)

Early Learning/ Pathway Scholarships

Head Start and Early Head Start

Voluntary PreK and School Readiness Plus

Ramsey County - Child Care Map



The heat map to the left show the currently active licensed Child Care centers and their capacities by ZIP code in Ramsey County. Superimposed on top of heat map is the per-capita-income (darker green indicates higher income zip codes and shades of red indicate lower income zip codes). The map clearly indicates that areas where per capita income is low also have fewer child care centers and overall capacity.

Ramsey County has a total of 232 active licensed child care centers with an overall capacity of almost 14,000; out of which 101 centers serve Infants , 122 serve Toddlers, and 205 serve Preschool.

Ramsey County - Early Childhood Education

Voluntary PreK and School Readiness Plus

The **Minnesota Department of Education's** Voluntary Pre-K and School Readiness Plus programs are early childhood education initiatives designed to prepare young children for success in school. These programs focus on providing high-quality early learning experiences to children in Minnesota. While the Voluntary PreK program serves only 4-year old children, School Readiness Plus program is intended for children ages birth to 4. In Ramsey County, these programs are provided through public school districts

St Paul Public Schools 1510

North St Paul Public Schools 278

Mounds View Public Schools 100

Roseville Public Schools 74

White Bear Lake Public Schools 70

2,032

Total Capacity

Head Start and Early Head Start

1,141

Total Capacity

In addition to the voluntary PreK and School Readiness Plus, the Head Start program provides high quality early childhood education services along with other social services that a family experiencing poverty or other social needs.

Ramsey County - Child Care

According to the Children's Defense Fund Minnesota, a total of 5,504 children (0-19) received Child Care Assistance (CCAP)

Early Learning/ Pathway Scholarships

Pathway I scholarships

Pathway I scholarships are awarded directly to families who meet eligibility requirements. Pathway I scholarship funds are paid to the early childhood program that the family chooses. The program must be participating in the Parent Aware Quality Rating and Improvement System

Pathway I Scholarships are funded through the Minnesota Department of Education and in Ramsey County are administered through Think Small (a local child care resource and referral agency).

Number of Pathway I Scholarship Recipients by Age Group

Pathway I Programs	Centers
One Star	2
Two Stars	1
Three Stars	11
Four Stars	887

	FY 2022	FY 2023
Infants	119	102
Toddlers	345	361
Preschool	626	597
Total	1,090	1,060

Recipients of Pathway II Scholarships	Awarded
Head Start/Early Head Start	\$691,140
North Saint Paul Schools	\$248,311
St Paul Public Schools	\$1,768,654
Roseville Public Schools	\$153,650
Mounds View Public Schools	\$119,685
White Bear Lake Schools	\$68,916

Pathway II scholarships

Pathway II scholarships are awarded to families through an eligible Four-Star Parent Aware Rated program that has been granted Pathway II funds. Pathway II scholarships are paid directly to the early childhood program that awarded the scholarship. A total of 632 children received Pathway II scholarship during FY 2022

Number of Pathway II Scholarship Recipients by Type

	Family Child Care	Child Care Center	Head Start	School Based
Pathway I	109	703	92	16
Pathway II	25	189	112	309
Total	134	892	204	325

Ramsey County - Home Visiting

Home Visiting programs in Ramsey County are designed to provide assistance, education, and support to families in their homes. Below is the list of home visiting programs offered within Ramsey County.

Family Wellness Program

Early Head Start

Lead & Healthy Homes

Maternal Early Childhood Sustained Home Visiting

Parents as Teachers (PAT)

Teen Parent Program

Eligibility

Apart from the Early Head Start program, the eligibility criteria of home visiting programs in Ramsey County is:

- First and second time pregnant women.
- Pregnant or parenting teens 19 years or younger.
- First and second time parents up to three months postpartum.
- Families with children up to three years of age with special developmental concerns who desire assistance with additional health and/or early childhood resources.

For Early Head Start eligibility, please see Head Start Eligibility

In 2021, a total of 518 families received services from one of the home visiting programs in Ramsey County



Ramsey County - Early Childhood Special Education

Early Childhood Special Education

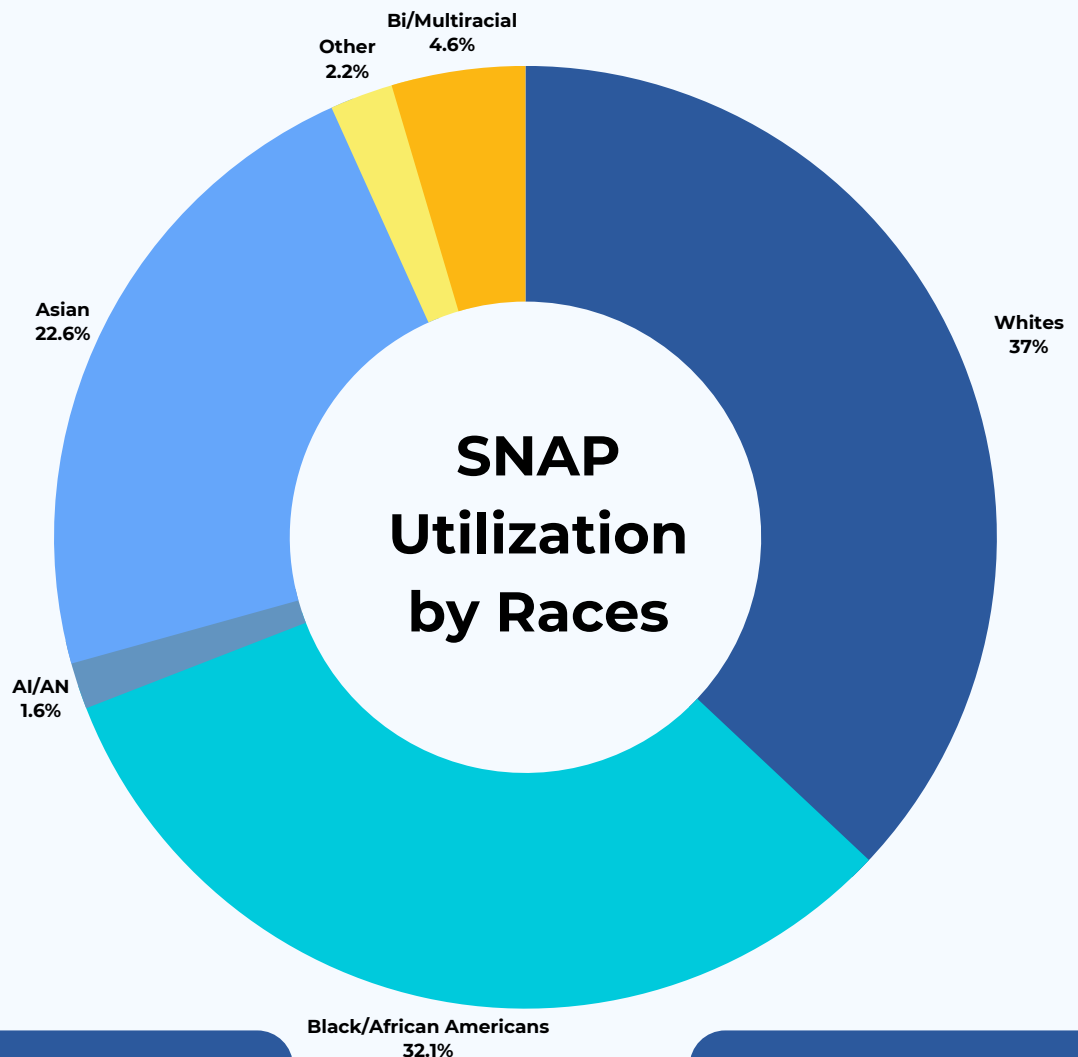
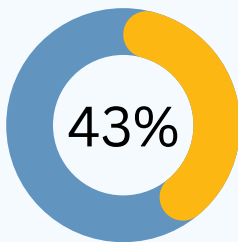
The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) oversees Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) programs, ensuring that children with disabilities or developmental delays receive tailored services. MDE collaborates with local districts to provide assessments, individualized plans, and support to help young learners thrive, fostering inclusive and equitable educational opportunities. The chart below provides data from MDE about the types of disabilities and the number of children in each age group diagnosed with each disability.

Disability	Child Age					
	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6
Autism Spectrum Disorders	0	3	41	66	88	140
Deaf-Blind	0	0	1	0	3	2
Deaf\Hard of Hearing	21	10	15	20	17	23
Developmental Cognitive Disabilities: Severe-Profound	0	0	0	0	0	8
Developmental Delay	232	463	558	452	547	483
Emotional or Behavioral Disorders	0	0	0	7	8	23
Other Health Impaired	0	0	1	2	2	16
Physically Impaired	2	0	3	7	11	9
Severely Multiply Impaired	0	0	1	2	5	4
Specific Learning Disabilities	0	0	0	0	2	8
Speech Language Impaired	0	0	54	160	244	302
Traumatic Brain Injury	0	0	0	0	0	0
Visually Impaired	1	1	0	3	0	3

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), a critical federal initiative administered by the USDA, provides essential support to low-income Americans by offering financial assistance for the purchase of nutritious food, helping combat hunger and enhance overall well-being. SNAP recipients receive benefits based on factors such as income, household size, and expenses, distributed through EBT cards for grocery purchases. During crises like the COVID-19 pandemic, SNAP played a pivotal role, assisting millions in accessing essential nutrition, supporting around 42 million Americans in 2020 alone.

In Ramsey County, only 46% of people experiencing poverty are receiving SNAP benefits.



SNAP Participation	
Age Group	Participants
Under 1	1,358
1 -2 Years	2,698
2-3 Years	2,845
3-4 Years	2,978
4-5 Years	3,201
5-6 Years	3,244

Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

CACFP (Child and Adult Care Food Program) in Minnesota, administered by the Minnesota Department of Education, provides nutritious meals to eligible children and adults in care settings. It supports their well-being through balanced nutrition.

Reimbursement Rates

Category	Breakfast	Lunch and Supper	Snack
A	\$2.28	\$4.545 (\$4.25 + \$0.295)	\$1.17
B	\$1.98	\$4.145 (\$3.85 + \$0.295)	\$0.58
C	\$0.38	\$0.695 (\$0.40 + \$0.295)	\$0.10

In 2023, a total of 20,027 children received subsidized or free meal through CACFP program in Minnesota

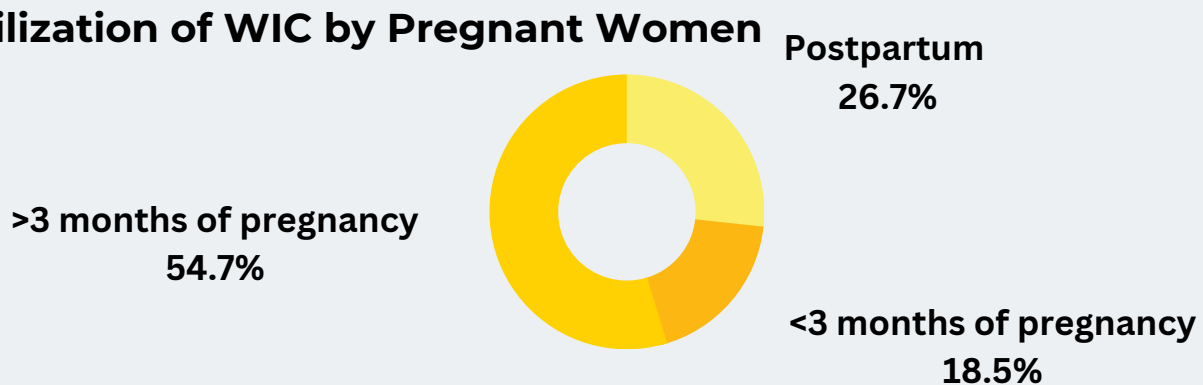
Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program in Ramsey County provides nutrition education, healthy foods, and support to eligible pregnant women, new mothers, infants, and young children. WIC is a federally funded program aimed at improving the health and nutrition of low-income individuals and families. **Infants Enrollment into the WIC program in Ramsey County is 52% of eligible participants**

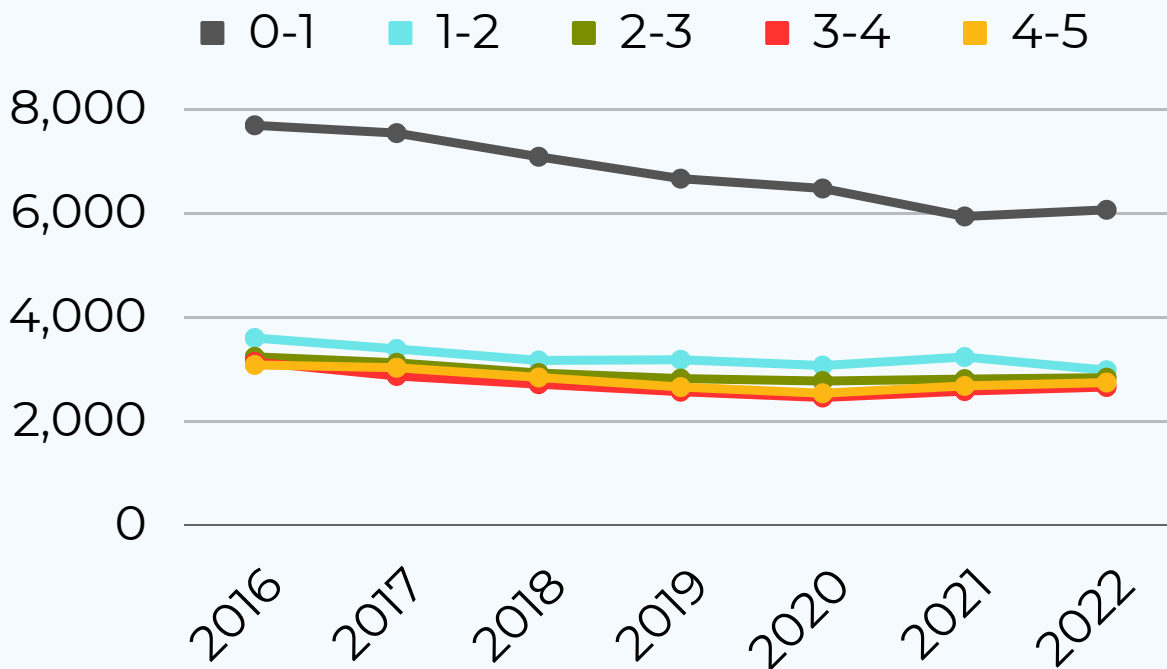
Eligibility

- Women that are pregnant.
- Women that have had a baby in the last 6 months.
- Women breastfeeding a baby less than 12 months old.
- Families with children up to the age 5.
- Many working families qualify for WIC.
- WIC is not welfare.
- Families that receive Medical assistance, food support (SNAP), MFIP or free or reduced school lunch, head start, fuel assistance can also qualify for WIC.
- If your household doesn't meet the income guidelines listed in the WIC Income Guidelines, but your household includes a pregnant woman, a woman who has recently had a baby, or a child up to the age of five, you may be Presumptively Income Eligible.

Utilization of WIC by Pregnant Women



Ramsey County - Nutrition



WIC utilization rates are **declining** with time and it can be attributed to many factors. Some of them are listed below:

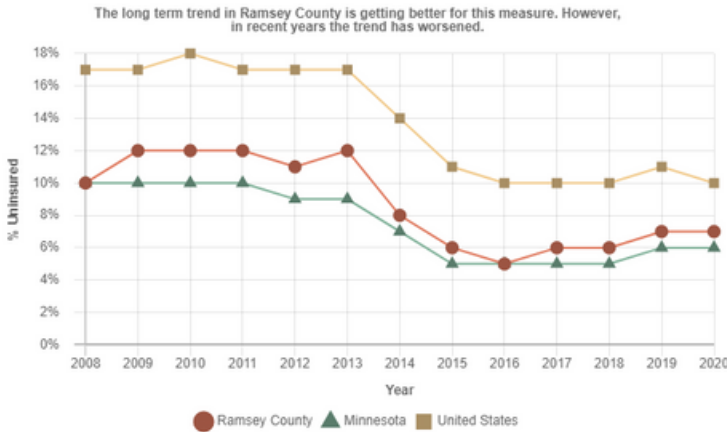
- **Awareness and Outreach:** Reduced awareness of the WIC program or a lack of effective outreach efforts can lead to eligible individuals and families not enrolling or re-enrolling in the program.
- **Administrative Barriers:** Administrative hurdles, such as complicated enrollment processes, documentation requirements, or time-consuming clinic visits, can discourage participation.
- **Stigma:** Some individuals may avoid participating in government assistance programs, including WIC, due to the stigma associated with receiving benefits.
- **Immigration Concerns:** Fear of immigration-related consequences, including concerns about public charge rules, may deter eligible immigrant families from enrolling or using WIC services.
- **Language and Cultural Barriers:** Limited English proficiency or cultural differences may hinder some individuals from seeking or accessing WIC services.

Ramsey County - Health Insurance

Health Insurance

Insurance plays a significant role as a determinant of healthcare access, influencing an individual's ability to obtain necessary medical services and treatments. **The underinsurance rates in Ramsey County have declined over the years but recently shows a slight increase** indicating a need to promote health insurance education among people who do not have enough coverage or no coverage at all. **The current uninsured rate in Ramsey County is 7%**, which is higher than the State average of 6%.

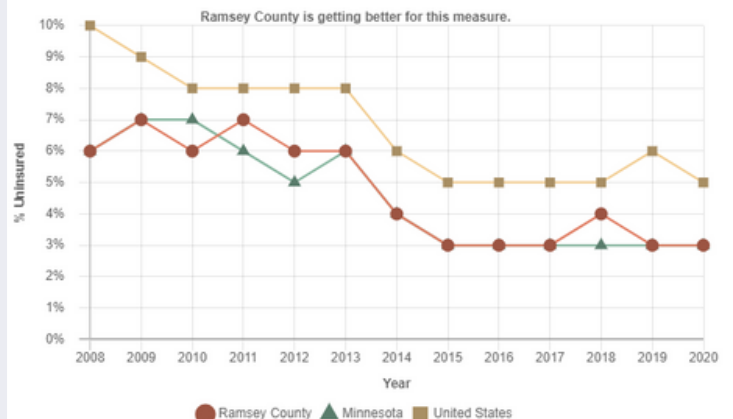
Uninsured in Ramsey County, MN County, state and national trends



Health Insurance among children

Unfortunately in Ramsey County, 3% of children under 19 years of age do not have health insurance. The percentage has decreased however, compared to previous decade. When children lack health insurance, parents may delay seeking medical care due to concerns about costs. This delay can result in minor health issues escalating into more serious conditions that require extensive and expensive treatments. Poor health can directly affect a child's ability to learn and succeed in school. Uninsured children are more likely to miss school days due to preventable illnesses, which can lead to educational disparities and hinder their overall development.

Uninsured children in Ramsey County, MN County, state and national trends



Ramsey County - Health Access

Primary Physician Ratio

The primary physician ratio refers to the number of primary care physicians available per capita or a specific number of people. It's a key metric used to assess the availability and accessibility of primary care services in a particular region, country, or healthcare system. Similar to Primary Physician Ratio, there is Dentists' Ratio and Mental Health Provider ratio that can further help understand health care access

	Ramsey County	Minnesota	United States
Primary Physicians	890:1	1,110:1	1,310:1
Dentists	1,080:1	1,310:1	1,380:1
Mental Health	200:1	320:1	340:1

Ramsey County - Fertility Rates

Pregnancy Rates

Pregnancy rates refer to the prevalence of pregnancies within a specific population or demographic group during a given timeframe. These rates are typically expressed as a ratio, often per 1,000 women of reproductive age. Pregnancy rates are crucial indicators of reproductive health and family planning. High pregnancy rates can indicate limited access to family planning services or inadequate sex education, while low rates may reflect improved contraception usage or delayed childbearing.

The pregnancy rates in Ramsey County are 72.3 per 1,000 population of women ages 15-44 years, which is slightly higher than that in the State (66.2)

Abortion Rates

12.7 per 1,000

Fetal Death Rates

5 per 1,000 live births

Teen Birth & Pregnancy Counts

Pregnancy Counts

339 per 1,000

Teen Birth Counts

220 per 1,000

Some other Birth Characteristics

In 2020, **Total number of unmarried new mothers in Ramsey County was 3,041 or almost 15% of all the unmarried new mothers in the State.** Approximately 1,000 new births did not have a documented father.

During the same year, a high number of new mothers were smokers. **Ramsey County ranks second in the state in terms of smoking mothers with 305 new mothers actively smoking.**

Smoking during pregnancy poses severe risks to both the mother and the developing fetus. It increases the chances of preterm birth, low birth weight, and birth defects. Maternal smoking can also harm fetal lung and brain development.



Ramsey County - Mortality Rates

Mortality Rates

Mortality rates are numbers that tell us how many people have died within a certain group or area over a specific time. They help us understand how many deaths are happening in a particular population. We use two types of mortality rates for our analysis: Infant Mortality Rate and Child Mortality Rate.



Infant Mortality Rate

Death among children less than 1 year of age per 1,000 live births

Infant Mortality Rate in Ramsey County is 6 per 1,000 live births

Infant Mortality Rate among **Black/African American residing in Ramsey County is 12 per 1,000 live births**, followed by **Asians at 9 per 1,000 live births** and a significant difference among **Whites experiencing 3 infant deaths per 1,000 live births**. This strongly indicates identifying the Black/African American and Asian Families and ramping up targeted awareness campaigns promoting infant health with those communities.

Child Mortality Rate

Death among residents less than 18 years of age per 100,000 population

Child Mortality Rate in Ramsey County is 50 per 100,000 population, highest among the metropolitan counties in Minnesota

Similar to the Infant Mortality Rate, the Child Mortality rate among **Black/African Americans is the highest and alarming 80 deaths per 100,000 population**

Preterm, Low Birth Weight, and Very Low Birth Weight

Preterm birth occurs when a baby is born before completing 37 weeks of pregnancy, often leading to health complications.

In 2020, there were 519 Preterm births, second highest in MN.

Low birth weight (LBW) typically refers to babies born weighing less than 2,500 grams (5.5 pounds). **Very low birth weight (VLBW)** describes infants born weighing less than 1,500 grams (3.3 pounds). LBW and VLBW babies may face increased health risks and often require specialized medical care due to their fragile conditions.

In 2020, there were 445 LBW and 67 VLBW births in Ramsey County

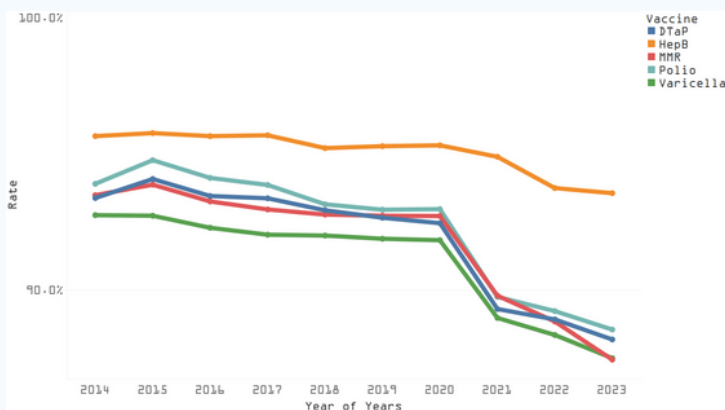
Prenatal Care Utilization

Prenatal care utilization refers to the extent to which pregnant individuals receive healthcare during pregnancy. Adequate and timely prenatal care is essential for monitoring fetal development, managing maternal health, and preventing complications. Low utilization can lead to adverse outcomes for both mother and baby, emphasizing the importance of early and regular prenatal care.

Prenatal care utilization rates in Ramsey County are 77% which is lower than the State average (80%). In terms of adequacy of prenatal care, **a staggering 14% received inadequate prenatal care** compared to 10% in the State.

Ramsey County - Immunizations

Early childhood immunizations are vital for protecting children from potentially life-threatening diseases. These vaccines, administered in infancy and early childhood, help build a strong immune system response to pathogens like measles, polio, and whooping cough. They not only shield children from severe illness but also contribute to community immunity, preventing outbreaks. Immunizations are safe, rigorously tested, and a cornerstone of public health. Timely vaccination schedules, as recommended by healthcare providers, ensure that children receive these critical shots, offering them a healthier start in life and safeguarding the broader population from preventable diseases.



The chart shows a decline in kindergarten immunizations rate over last 10 years. The only vaccination above a 90% mark is Hepatitis B, while others struggle to cross the mark. Assuming the medical and religious exemptions to be a constant, this presents an urgent need for preschool programs to facilitate vaccination drives and promote the importance of immunization among families.

Ramsey County - Climate

Ramsey County, Minnesota, experiences a continental climate characterized by distinct seasons and a notable temperature range. Summers in Ramsey County are warm and occasionally humid, with **average high temperatures in the mid-80s Fahrenheit (29-31°C)**. Winters are cold and snowy, with **average lows dipping into the teens Fahrenheit (-9 to -7°C)**. Snowfall is significant, contributing to a picturesque winter landscape.

Spring and fall serve as transitional periods with mild temperatures, making them favorable for outdoor activities. Spring sees the gradual warming of temperatures, while fall is marked by vibrant foliage as the region prepares for winter.

Precipitation is spread fairly evenly throughout the year, with the majority occurring as rain during the warmer months and as snow during winter. Thunderstorms are common during the summer, often accompanied by rainfall.

Ramsey County's climate is influenced by its northern latitude and proximity to the Great Lakes. It experiences occasional cold snaps during the winter due to Arctic air masses. Conversely, warm, moist air from the Gulf of Mexico can lead to muggy conditions in summer.

While this overview provides a general understanding of Ramsey County's climate, local variations in weather patterns can occur due to factors such as topography and urban heat islands. It's advisable to consult local weather forecasts for accurate and up-to-date information when planning activities or making weather-related decisions in the area.

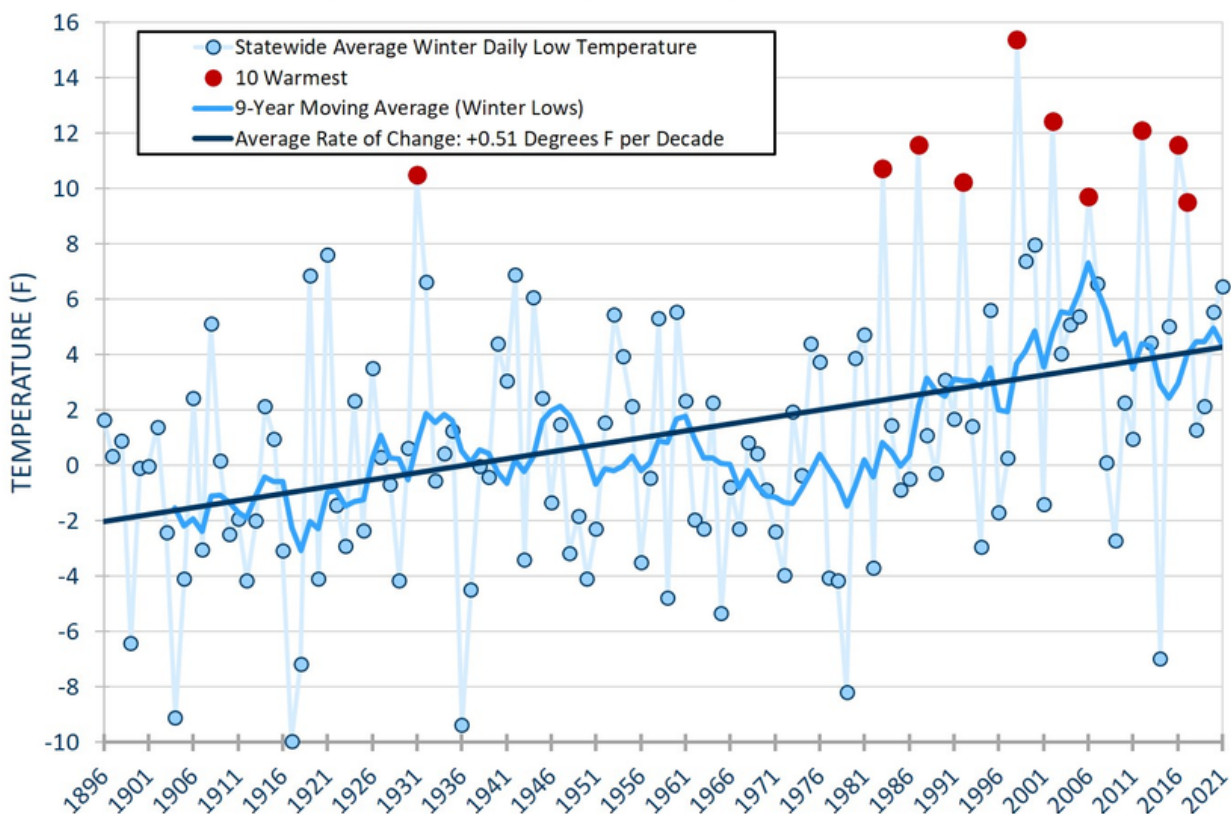
Climate Predictions

Over the span of 1895 to 2020, Minnesota has experienced a warming trend of 3.0 degrees Fahrenheit along with an average increase of 3.4 inches in annual precipitation. While the warming and increased precipitation have been evident since 1895, the most significant changes have unfolded in recent decades. Notably, since 1970, almost all years have been marked by warmer, wetter, or both conditions compared to 20th century averages. Notably, the highest combined warmest and wettest years on record, the top ten of them, occurred between 1998 and 2020. **These observed changes are anticipated to persist throughout the 21st century**, despite natural yearly climate variations.

Ramsey County - Climate Trend

The majority of Minnesota's observed temperature increase has occurred during its coldest periods. Throughout the entire historical record dating back to January 1895, the rise in average daily minimum temperatures has been more than twice the rate of average daily maximum temperatures. Additionally, **winter temperatures (December through February) have increased 2-3 times faster than those in summer (June through August)**. Particularly in recent decades, the rate of winter warming has accelerated significantly. From 1970 to 2021, average daily winter low temperatures rose more than 15 times faster than average daily summer high temperatures. Instances of **temperatures reaching -35°F in northern Minnesota and -25°F in the southern region have dropped by up to 90%**. While occasional severe cold spells will still occur, Minnesota no longer experiences the same level of extreme cold as before. **This long-term trend of decreasing cold extremes is highly likely to persist.**

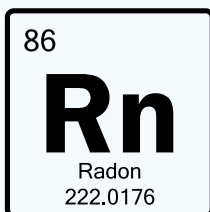
**Minnesota Average Winter Daily Minimum Temperatures
(December through February, 1896-2021)**



Ramsey County - Pollution

Average Fine Particle Concentration (PM 2.5)

PM2.5, or fine particle concentration, is a key air quality indicator. These tiny particles, with diameters of 2.5 micrometers or less, can deeply penetrate the lungs and bloodstream. Primarily from combustion sources, they pose health risks, particularly respiratory and cardiovascular issues. Monitoring and reducing PM2.5 levels are vital for public health, guiding air quality advisories and pollution control efforts to ensure cleaner air and community well-being. The **most recent 3-year average of PM2.5 was 7.6 mg/cubic meter** which makes Ramsey County meet the outdoor air quality standards set by EPA.



Radon Pollution

Radon is a hazardous indoor air pollutant, a colorless, odorless radioactive gas that can infiltrate homes and increase the risk of lung cancer. Regular testing and mitigation, like ventilation and sealing, are essential for reducing this health threat in indoor environments. Public awareness and proactive measures are crucial to address this hidden danger.

Between 2010-2020, Ramsey County tested 88.5 properties per 10,000 and more than 65% tested for >2 picocuries per liter and 30% tested for >4 picocuries per liter. EPA suggests interventions if the radon levels are more than 4 picocuries per liter in a property.

Ramsey County - Flora & Fauna

Ramsey County boasts a diverse and captivating array of flora and fauna. This county, with its unique blend of urban and natural landscapes, offers a haven for a wide variety of plant and animal species, making it a must-visit destination for nature enthusiasts and conservationists alike.

Flora



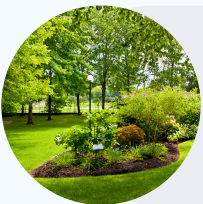
Woodlands and Forests: The county is dotted with woodlands and forests, including native species like oak, maple, birch, and pine trees.



Prairies and Grasslands: Pockets of native prairie grasses, wildflowers, and sedges. These provide critical habitats for numerous insects & birds.

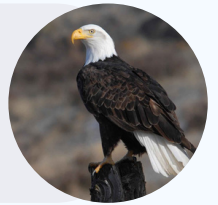


Wetlands and Lakes: Wetlands support aquatic vegetation like water lilies and cattails. These ecosystems provide homes for countless aquatic species.



Urban Gardens and Parks: County is adorned with beautifully manicured gardens and parks, displaying a wide range of ornamental plants.

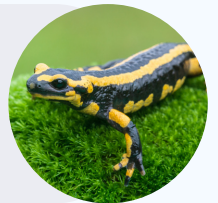
Fauna



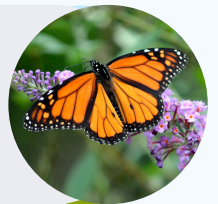
Birdlife: Bald eagles, northern cardinals, and migratory birds grace the skies.



Mammals: White-tailed deer, raccoons, foxes, and squirrels adapt even in urban settings.



Amphibians and Reptiles: Wetlands harbor frogs, salamanders, garter snakes, and painted turtles.



Insects and Butterflies: Monarch butterflies, bees, and dragonflies contribute to ecosystems.

Preserving Native Flora

Ramsey County's native flora is a living tapestry of colors, textures, and ecological significance. Local authorities and conservation groups are committed to restoring and preserving native plant species through various strategies:

Restoration Projects: Efforts to restore native habitats, such as prairies and wetlands, help reintroduce indigenous plant species, providing a haven for wildlife.

Invasive Species Control: Invasive plant species threaten the balance of local ecosystems. Dedicated removal and control initiatives prevent these species from overpowering native plants.

Urban Greening: Urban areas are transformed with native plant installations, promoting biodiversity and supporting pollinators like bees and butterflies.

The conservation efforts in Ramsey County have already begun yielding positive results. Native plants are regaining their foothold, and animal populations are finding secure spaces to thrive. These initiatives not only protect local biodiversity but also contribute to the overall health of ecosystems, water quality, and air purity.

With the increasing impact of urbanization and environmental changes, the conservation of these precious natural resources has become more crucial than ever. Ramsey County has taken dedicated steps to ensure the preservation and protection of its unique ecosystem.

Protecting Wildlife

The diverse fauna of Ramsey County faces challenges due to habitat loss and human interaction. To safeguard the county's wildlife, several conservation measures have been implemented:

Habitat Preservation: Protected areas, such as parks and reserves, provide safe havens for wildlife to thrive without disturbance.

Awareness and Education: Public education campaigns inform residents about coexisting with wildlife and protecting their habitats.

Wildlife Rehabilitation: Injured or orphaned animals are cared for and rehabilitated by specialized organizations, ensuring their survival.

Ramsey County - Public Transport

While transportation is often taken for granted, it's a critical lifeline that connects individuals to employment, education, healthcare, and social opportunities. However, not everyone in Ramsey County has equal access to this lifeline. Low-income communities, people with disabilities, and marginalized groups often face barriers to accessing reliable and affordable transportation options.



Of all the people experiencing poverty and who are also employed, only 7% use Metro Transit for their work commute.



Eligibility

Individuals with income levels at or below 50% of the Area Median Income (AMI)

Individuals with income levels at or below 185% of Federal poverty guidelines

Transit Assistance Program

The Transit Assistance Program (TAP) is designed to make public transit more affordable for people with lower incomes. TAP provides a reduced fare pass on a Go-To Card. It allows customers to use a bus or train for just \$1 per ride – even during rush hour – including a 2½ hour transfer. That's at least a 50% discount.



Ramsey County - Crime

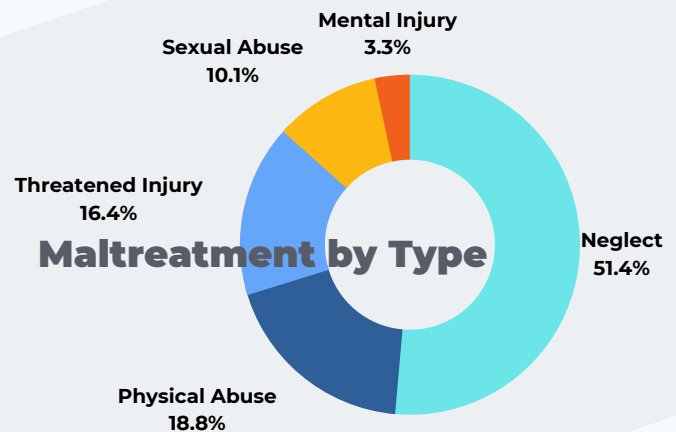
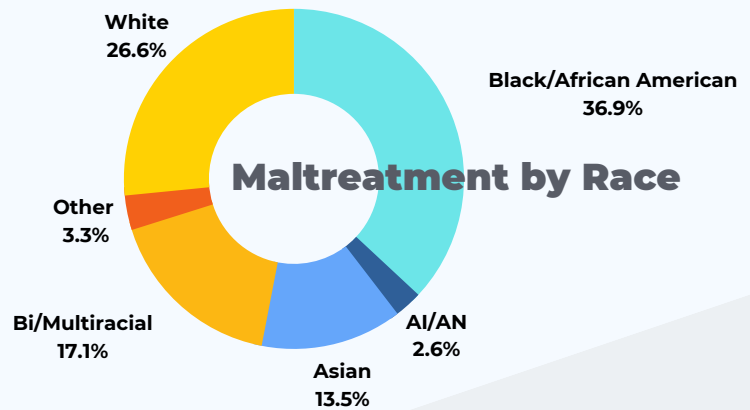
Crime by Neighborhood



Increased crime in a neighborhood can lead to fear, reduced property values, decreased quality of life, limited economic opportunities, and strained community relationships. It can also harm children by causing fear, trauma, and disrupted routines. Their emotional development may suffer, affecting their long-term well-being, potentially leading to behavioral issues and hindering their ability to form healthy relationships and excel academically in the future.

Child Abuse/Maltreatment

Ramsey County accounted for 8% of all the reported child maltreatment in Minnesota. **In 2021, the County received 6,006 reports of maltreatment, out of which 3,388 or 56% were screened-in.** This makes a child maltreatment prevalence rate of 25.1 per 1,000 children.



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2024

Thank you.

