

PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS – YELLOWSTONE COUNTY

FACT SHEET - April 30, 2018

Violent crime has increased 34.5% in MT from its low 2010 through 2016.¹ *FBI Uniform Crime Reports.*

In 2017, Billings had 540 violent crimes, including 2 murders, 81 rapes, 97 robberies and 360 aggravated assaults. That is an increase of 75% since 2010. *Billings Police Department.*

In 2017, Yellowstone County had 71 violent crimes, including 2 murders, 15 rapes, 4 robberies and 50 aggravated assaults. That is an increase of 58% since 2013. *Yellowstone County Sheriff's Office.*

Methamphetamine offenses in MT grew 313% from 2012 through 2016. *MT Board of Crime Control, Crime in MT 2016.*

MT Division of Criminal Investigation meth cases more than tripled since 2010 to 232 in 2016. Meth cases account for 54% of all cases. *MT Department of Justice, Substance Abuse in MT, September 2017.*

The MT Department of Justice Forensic Science Division Toxicology laboratory in 2011 received 73 methamphetamine positive DUI cases and in 2016 received 301, and in 2011 received 20 meth postmortem cases and in 2016 received 72. The percentage of positive urine meth cases received by the lab from the Department of Corrections increased from 10% in 2009 to 51% in 2016. *2016 Annual Toxicology Report.*

High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Task Force commanders in MT ranked meth as the most prevalent drug in the state in 2016 and its availability as “high”, and reported that individuals on meth are more likely to be involved in violent crime.

In MT in 2015, child abuse and neglect case filings increased 125% from 1030 in 2010 to 2321. Thirty percent of all child abuse placements with CFS have meth use indicated. *Substance Use in MT, AID MT, MT Department of Justice, August 2017.*

The Yellowstone County Attorney's Office handled 173 abuse and neglect cases in 2011 and 531 in 2016, 266 of which were related to methamphetamine. *Meth Abuse Overwhelms Law Enforcement, Court Across the State, Lawmakers Told, Missoulian, February 18, 2017.*

From 2010 to 2014, total charges for the nearly 110,000 emergency room visits with a primary or secondary diagnosis of substance use totaled \$796 million. *Substance Use in MT, AID MT, MT Department of Justice, August 2017.*

Rimrock Foundation in Billings has a Medicaid wait list of almost 200 for substance abuse treatment. *Rimrock Foundation, April 27, 2018.*

Ninety-three percent of Montanans with substance abuse disorders don't get treatment. *The Meth Effect: ERs Emerge as Front Line in Meth War (citing data from the National Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration), Missoulian, June 1, 2017.*

¹ In 2013, the definition of rape was expanded in the Uniform Crime Reports to permit an “apples to apples” comparison, the legacy definition of rape was used in 2014 – 2016 in calculating this increase.