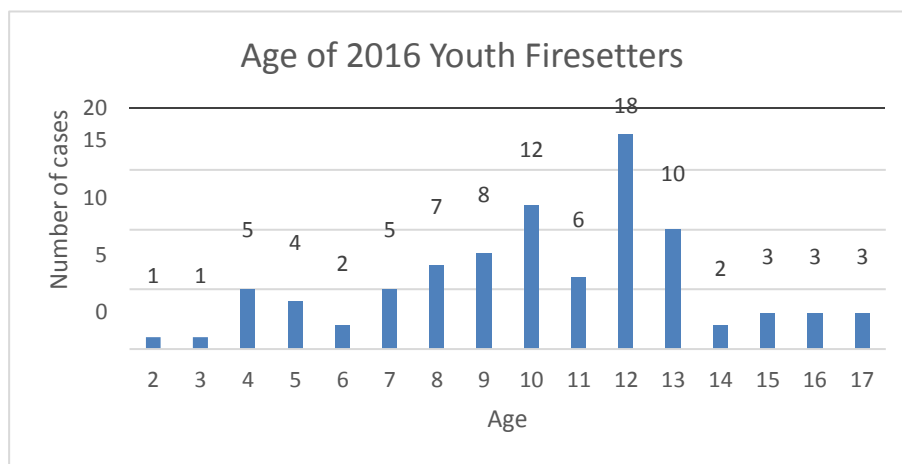


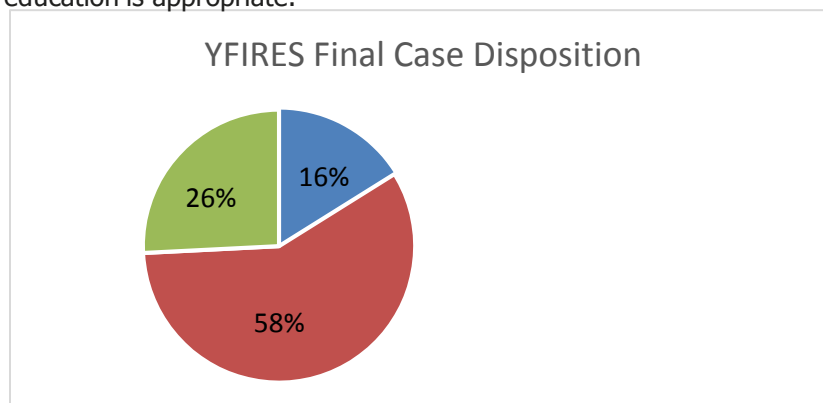
2016 youth set fires

The Minnesota fire service reported 160 youth-set fires in 2016. These fires were identified by simply searching for “age as a factor” and “playing with heat source” as contributing factors. Fires that were not identified as youth-set by these means were not counted. The Youth Fire Intervention Repository and Evaluation System (YFIRES) identified another seven cases not included in the Minnesota Fire Incident Reporting System. As you can see in the cart below, 12-year-olds followed by 10-year-olds and 13-year-olds start the most fires. This small sample of data is similar to the results found in the State Fire Marshal Division five-year report from 2011–2015. These numbers make it clear that middle school-aged kids still need fire prevention messaging. If we can teach kids in this age range about fire science they may be less likely to experiment by actually starting fires.

One of our recent cases involves a youth, older than 18, going through the intervention process. This individual has a learning disability, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder and a host of other mental disorders. He is going into 12th grade, however his mother says he has a learning level of a 15-year-old. The local fire and police departments are working with Jerrod Brown and the county attorney to have this individual charged so that he will go through the intervention process. The intention is not that he spend time in jail, but he will be required to go through the program, including getting the mental health care he so desperately needs. Since he has reached biological adulthood, he decided to quit going to counseling and soon will get back in.



It is encouraging that more than half of the youth firesetting cases entered into YFIRES received fire science educational intervention. Another 16 percent received intervention but mental health or juvenile justice took the lead for intervention services. Of the 26 percent not seen by the program, some firesetters may not have been charged for the fire. Those not charged are not required to go through the youth fire intervention program, and may choose to abstain. Others may simply have not confessed to starting the fire. Youth Fire Intervention Program Manager Sarah Mann goes the extra mile for the non-mandatory cases and provides fire science education to the firesetter’s class without singling them out and educates the entire school when it is appropriate and her schedule allows. All kids, whether they are starting fires or not, can benefit from fire science education. However, kids at high risk of repeating the dangerous behavior can benefit from other professional disciplines taking the lead on intervention and letting us know when fire science education is appropriate.



■ Referral to intervention Services ■ Fire Service Education ■ Not Seen By Program

Fire Prevention Week infographic

Introduce your community to this year's (FPW) theme: Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out! with the FPW [infographic](#). This colorful visual includes easy-to-follow illustrations outlining seven steps for practicing an escape plan. The infographic is available in both English and Spanish and you can personalize it with your department logo. Place the infographic on your website, blog or other social media sites. The infographic can be used as an introduction to other FPW materials that provide additional details about the escape planning theme, including the [Prevent Fire in Your Home Booklet](#) and the Fire Prevention Week Kids' [Activity Posters](#).

**Every Second Counts:
Plan 2 Ways Out!**
Fire Prevention Week | Oct. 8-14, 2017

How fast does fire move? Very fast. You could have less than 2 minutes to get out safely once the smoke alarm sounds.

7 steps to practicing your escape plan

- 1** Draw a map of your home. Include all doors and windows.
- 2** Find two ways out of every room.
- 3** Make sure doors and windows are not blocked.
- 4** Choose an outside meeting place in front of your home.
- 5** Push the test button to sound the smoke alarm.
- 6** Practice your drill with everyone in the home.
- 7** Get outside to your meeting place.

For more information about escape planning, visit:
www.usfa.fema.gov and www.firepreventionweek.org.

Click here to add your logo

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