

Data Summary: Rail-Related Injuries for Minneapolis—St. Paul

This data summary details rail-related injuries occurring between 2011 and 2020 in Minneapolis—St. Paul. The full profile, including data figures and county-level incident maps, can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/SKWMSPRailProfile>.

Overview

- 68 rail-related injuries occurred in Minneapolis—St. Paul between 2011 and 2020, for an average of 7 injuries per year. The number of injuries in 2020 was 30% lower than in 2011 (7 and 10).
- Ramsey County had the most injuries (34%), followed by Anoka (25%), Hennepin (25%), Washington (6%), Dakota (6%), and Scott (4%) counties.
- Children ages 0 to 19 years accounted for 26% of injuries.
- Most injuries (94%) involved trains or other on-track equipment while 6% did not involve on-track equipment.
- Injuries were more often the result of trespassing¹ incidents (60%) than railroad crossing² incidents (40%). Moreover, 37% of trespassing incidents were fatal compared to 15% of railroad crossing incidents.
- Railroad crossing and trespassing injuries were most frequent between 12:00 PM and 5:59 PM.

Railroad Crossing Circumstances¹

- Those injured in railroad crossing incidents were most often motor vehicle occupants (78%).
- Going through or around the gates was the reported activity most often associated with injury at railroad crossings among highway users (33%).
- Most (63%) railroad crossing injuries occurred when the weather was clear and 33% occurred during cloudy weather.

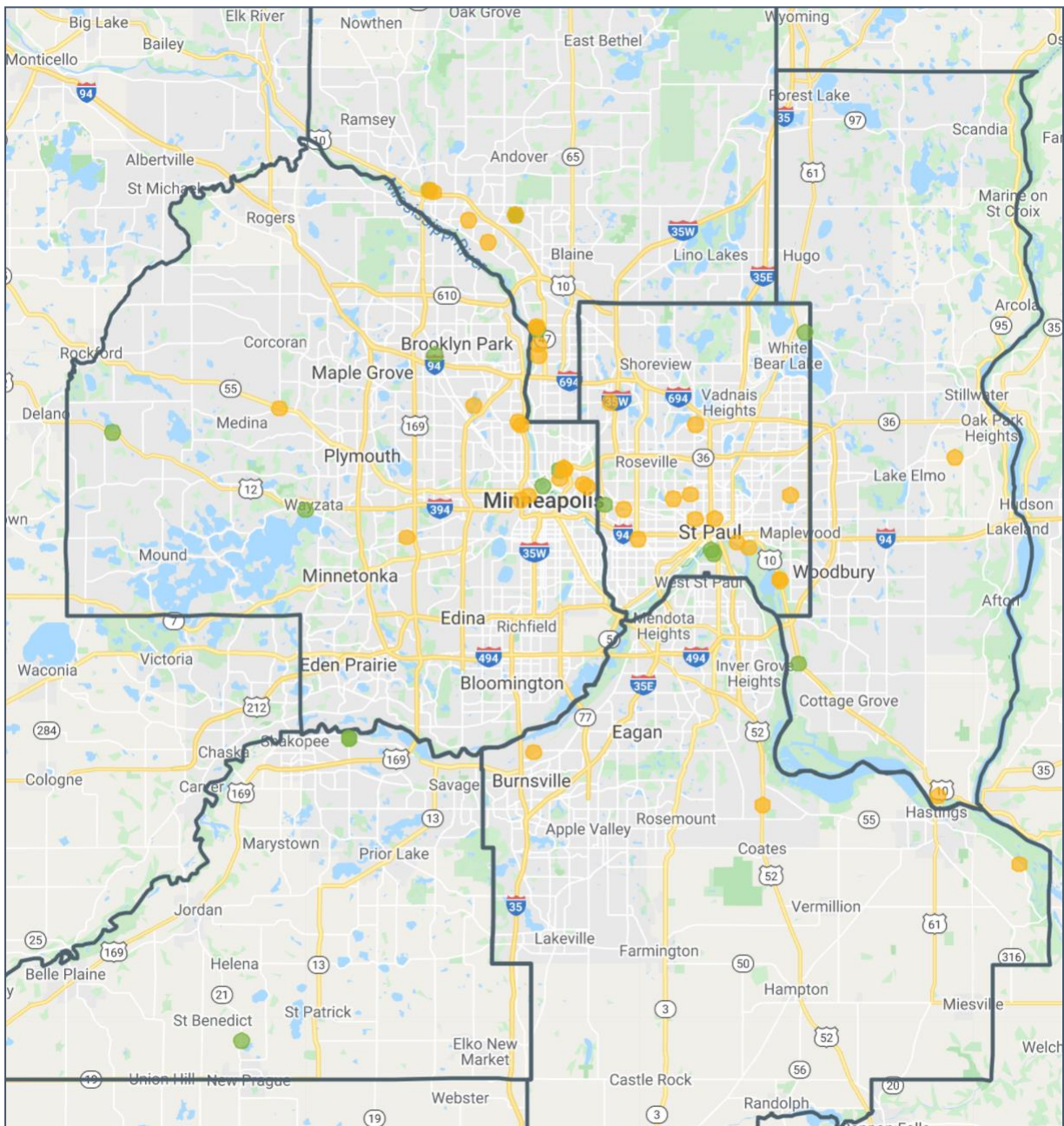
Trespassing Circumstances²

- 68% of trespassers who were injured were struck by on-track equipment. Of those, 46% were reported as on the tracks at the time of impact, 29% were beside the tracks, and 25% were between the tracks. Of those struck on, beside, or between the tracks, 52% were standing, sitting, or lying down and 36% were walking at the time of impact.

¹ Trespassing injuries occur when a person is injured while on private railroad property without permission. They are most often pedestrians taking a shortcut across or along tracks, but also include loiterers and those engaging in recreational activities such as hunting or jogging.

² Railroad crossing injuries are when a person or highway user is struck by a train while attempting to cross at a designated crossing where tracks intersect a roadway or walkway at the same level.

Rail-Related Injuries by Incident Type; Ramsey, Anoka, Hennepin, Washington, Dakota and Scott Counties, MN



● Railroad crossing injury ● Trespassing injury

The full report and other rail safety resources for families, educators and community partners can be downloaded from the Safe Kids Rail Safety Station online hub at safekids.org/RailSafetyStation.

