



Board Workshop / Discussion Agenda

15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55102
651-266-9200

November 18, 2025 - 10:30 a.m.

Courthouse Room 220

WORKSHOP

1. Safe and Strong University Avenue Initiative Workshop

[2025-393](#)

Sponsors: Safety and Justice



Board Workshop / Discussion

Request for Board Action

15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55102
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Item Number: 2025-393

Meeting Date: 11/18/2025

Sponsor: Safety and Justice

Title

Safe and Strong University Avenue Initiative Workshop

Attachment

1. Presentation



Safe and Strong University Ave Initiative



Agenda

- About Safe and Strong Initiative
- Metro Transit Police Department (MTPD)
- Ramsey County Attorney's Office
- St. Paul Police Department (SPPD)
- Ramsey County Sheriff's Office (RCSO)
- Ramsey County Departments
 - Public Health Department
 - Social Services Department
- Next Steps

About the Safe and Strong University Avenue Initiative

Collaborative Focused Intervention Model:

Joint effort led by Metro Transit Police Department (PD)'s Homeless Action Team (HAT) to strengthen community wellbeing through coordinated outreach and focused enforcement.

Core Focus: Early intervention, harm reduction, and connection to supportive services in public spaces.

Approach: Weekly on-site outreach bringing public health, mental health, and community partners together for direct engagement.





Metro Transit Police Department

Ramsey County Workshop Presentation

Prepared by MTPD Interim Chief of Police Joe Dotseth



Safe and Strong University Avenue Workgroup



Three Areas of Program Focus

- Focused Enforcement
- Connecting those to services
- County/City Attorney and Court support



Metro Transit Police Department

Metro Transit Police Department, St. Paul Police Department, Ramsey County Sheriff's Office, and Ramsey County announce Safe and Strong University Avenue initiative

The Metro Transit Police Department and multiple partner agencies today unveiled a new, collaborative initiative focused on improving conditions along University Avenue and on the METRO Green Line.

The Safe and Strong University Avenue initiative brings together law enforcement, service providers, and city and county prosecutors in an unprecedented collaboration.

Participating agencies include the Metro Transit Police Department, Saint Paul Police Department, Saint Paul Office of Neighborhood Safety, Saint Paul City Attorney, Ramsey County Sheriff's Office, Ramsey County Attorney, Ramsey County Safety and Justice, and Ramsey County Public Health.

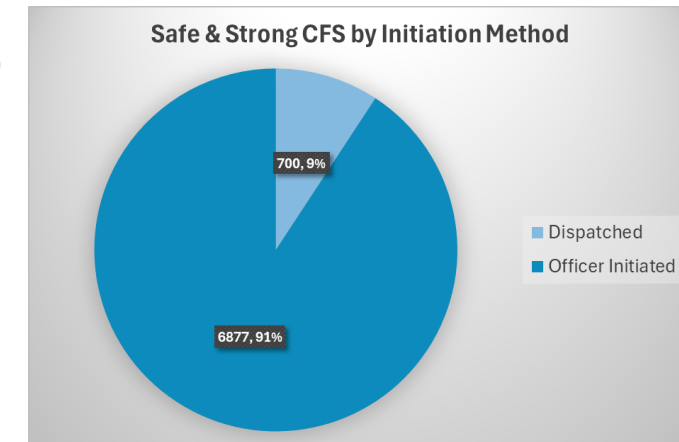


- Collaboration between police, service providers, prosecutors
- MTPD Homeless Action Team outreach
 - Shelter, treatment referrals
 - Distribution of basic supplies
 - Ramsey County Public Health
- Whole Community approach to public safety
- Policing as a service
- Visible presence in the community



"We continue to show up and so do they."

- **1,312 HAT contacts – All Received Services/Supplies (May 28–Sept 24)**
 - 18 Assisted into Shelters
 - 23 Benefit Referrals
 - 37 Narcan Rescue Kits
 - Personal Hygiene Kits
 - Kits with Water, Food & Snacks
 - 96 Wound Care Kits
 - 66 Low-Cost ID Forms
 - Treatment Referrals
 - Bus Passes
 - 21 Releases to work with HAT
- **5,633 Directed patrols (May 28 – Sept 24)**
- **6,877 Officer Initiated Calls for Service (CFS) (May 28 – Sept 24)**
- **24 Arrests, 32 Citations (May 28 – Sept 24)**
- **Call for Service Breakdown (May 28 – Sept 24)**
 - CFS: 90.76% of all CFS were Officer Initiated
 - 9.24% of all CFS were Dispatched



- Serious crime is down on the entire Metro Transit network
- MTPD's East Command serious crime is down while pro-active officer work is up
- Positive community meeting feedback
- Homeless Action Team connections
- Better collaboration between police and public health
- Framework for success identified



- Single point person to lead and collaborate
- More time is needed to make connections and collaborate
- MTPD Homeless Action Team is working with Ramsey County Public Health on intensive case management pilot project
- MTPD/Ramsey County Sheriff/Ramsey County Attorney will be working on pilot project in and around the Capital
- This is the new norm between police/public safety (MTPD/SPPD/RCSO)



Ramsey County Attorney's Office



Office of the Ramsey County Attorney

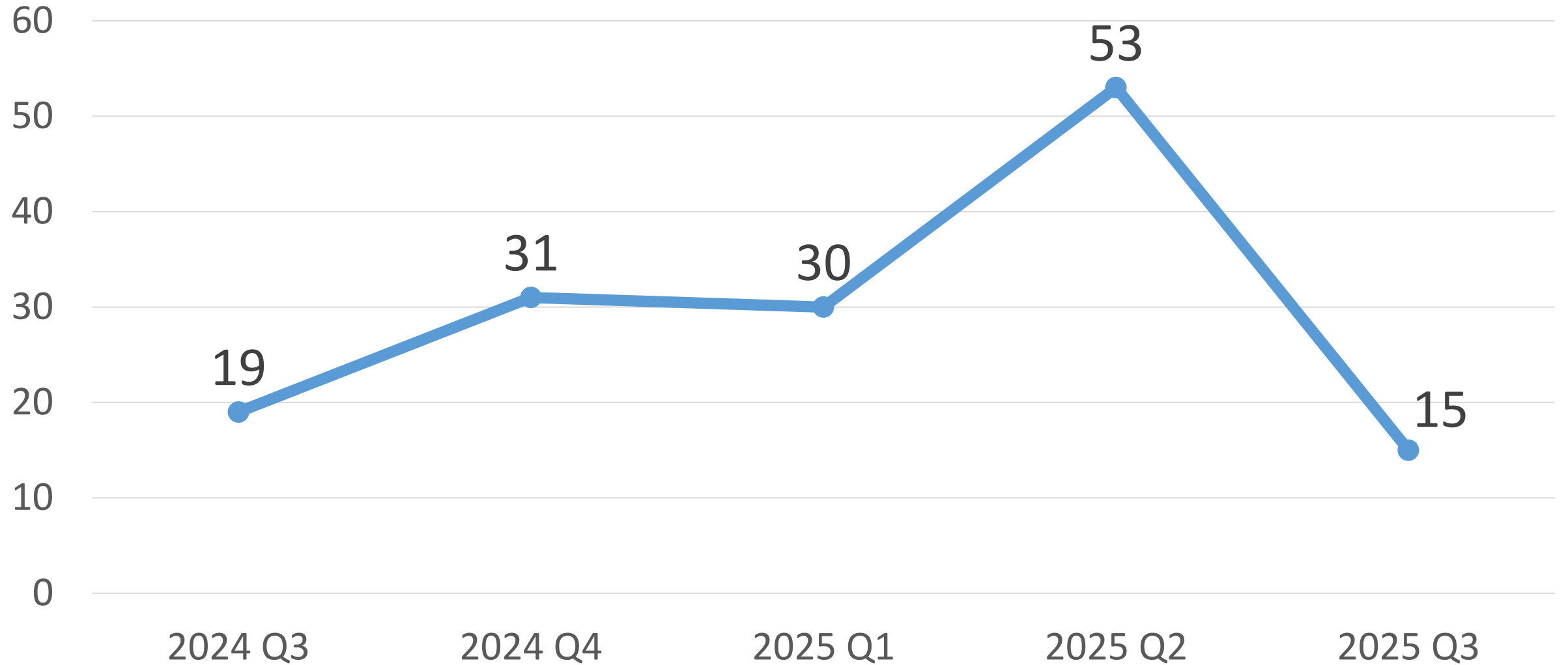
John J. Choi, County Attorney

University Corridor Data

Q3 2024 to Q3 2025



Number of University Corridor Referrals, by Arrest Date, Q3 2024-Q3 2025





Top 10 Lead Charges on University Corridor Referrals

Lead Charge	Number of Referrals
Drug Possession/Sale	65
Weapon Possession	15
Assault - Felony	12
Burglary	7
Domestic Assault/Abuse	7
Threats of Violence/Terroristic Threats	6
Simple Robbery	5
Theft	5
Receiving Stolen Property	3
Murder	3

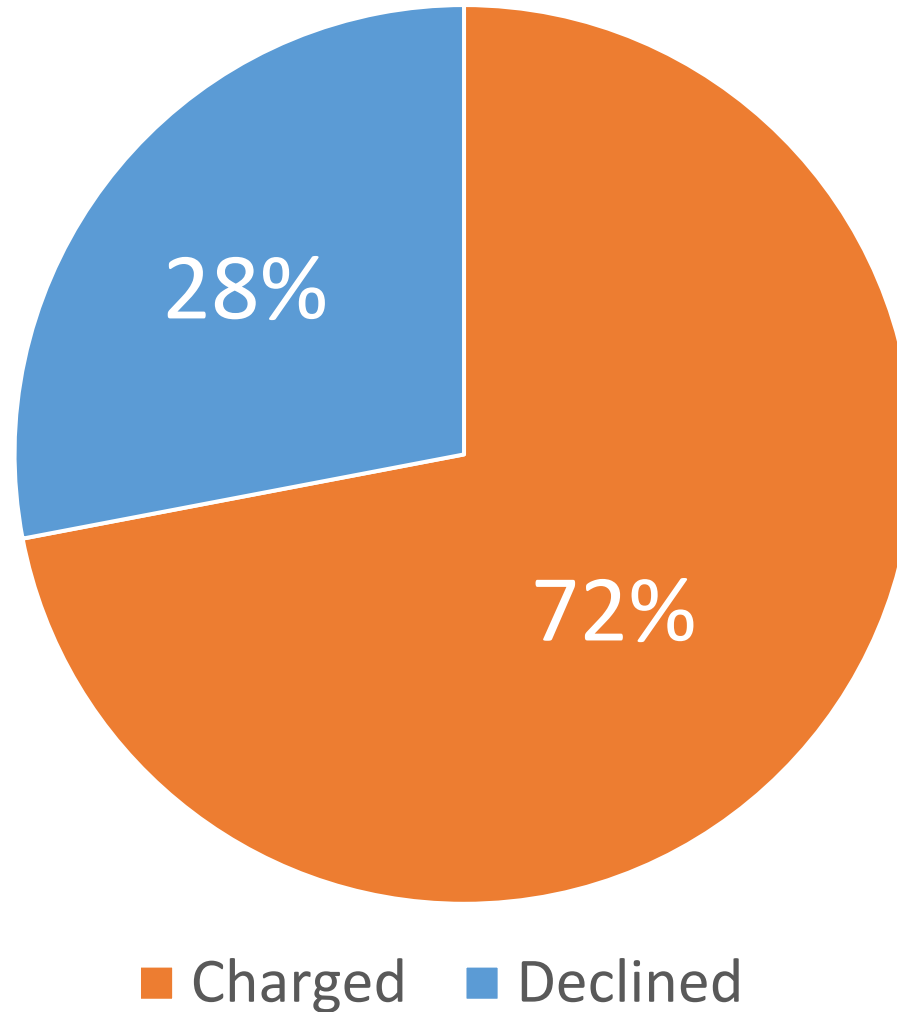


University Corridor Referrals by Police Department

Police Departments	Number of Referrals
SPPD	84
MTPD	60
RCSO	2
University of Minnesota Police Department	2

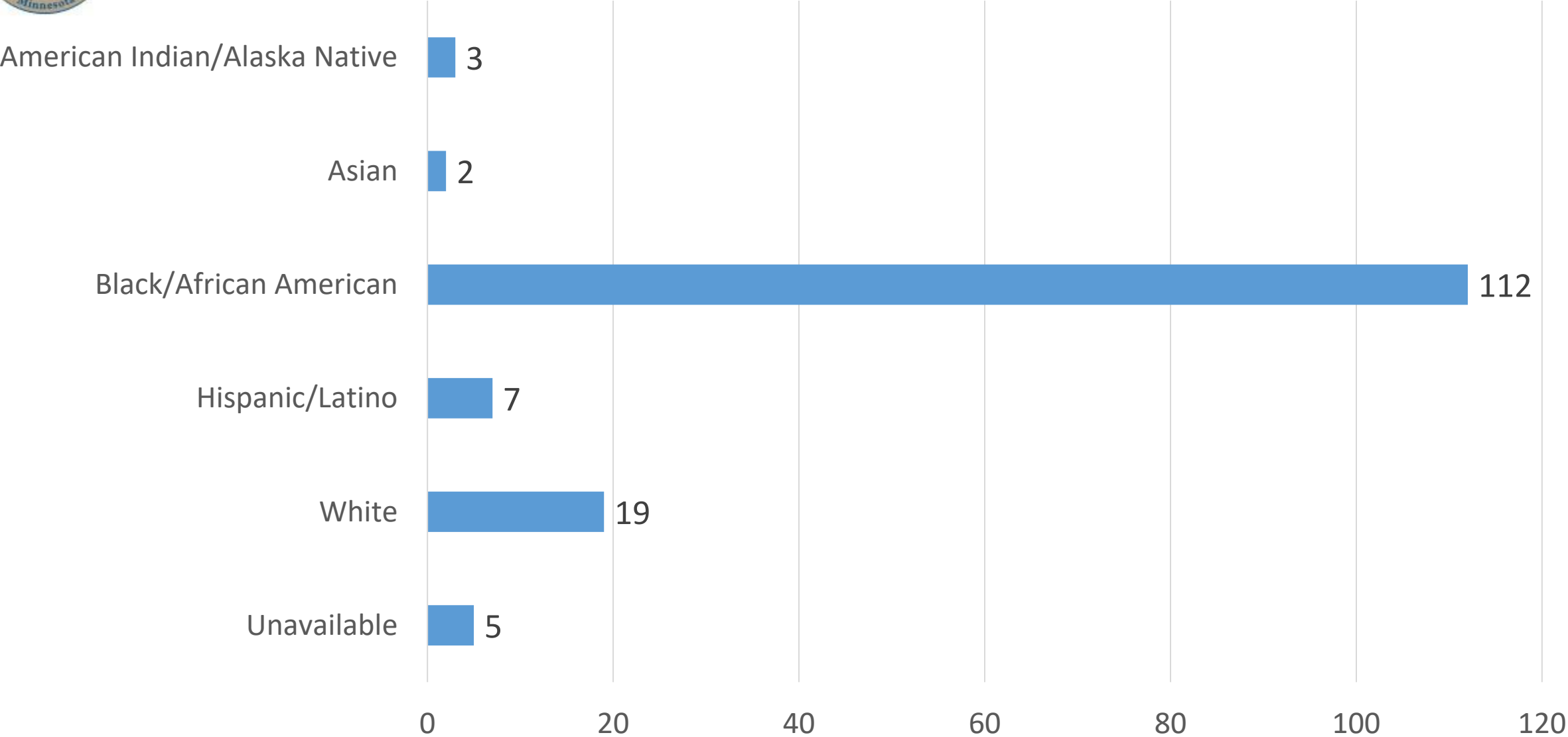


Percent of Adult University Corridor Cases Charged



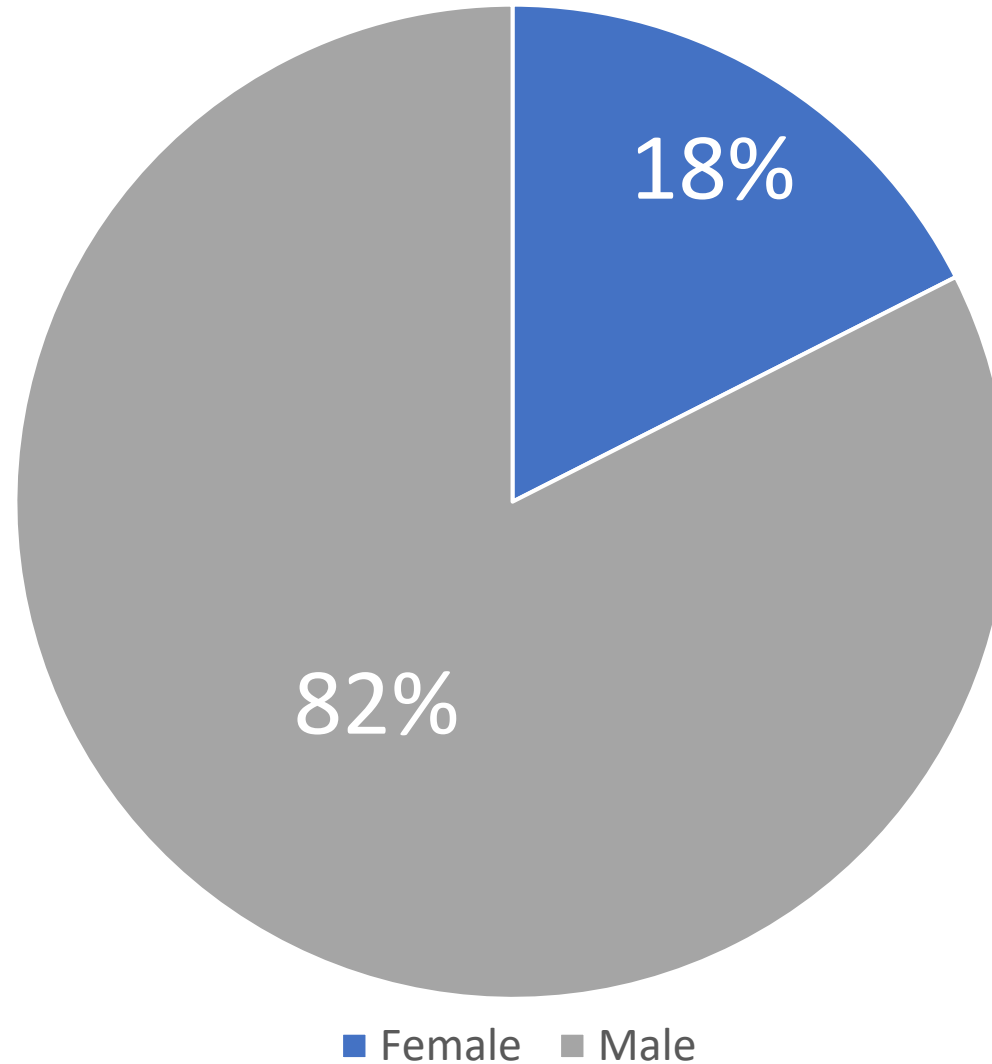


Racial Demographics of University Corridor Referrals





Gender Demographics of University Corridor Referrals



Saint Paul Police Department (SPPD)

Saint Paul Police Department

Presenters

- Axel Henry, Police Chief
- Tim Flynn, Deputy Police Chief

Ramsey County Sheriff's Office

Ramsey County Sheriff's Office

Presenter

- Darin McDonald, Inspector

Ramsey County Departments

Appropriate Responses Initiative (ARI) Public Health Responders (PHRs)

- Harm reduction focus
- Provide health education on substance use disorder resources, harm reduction, and overdose prevention
- Distributing supplies: naloxone/Narcan, drug testing strips, wound care, and period packs
- Connecting individuals to appropriate services such as provide referrals to Clinic 555, for our Syringe Service Program and sexual health services and Open Cities Health Center located on University Avenue.

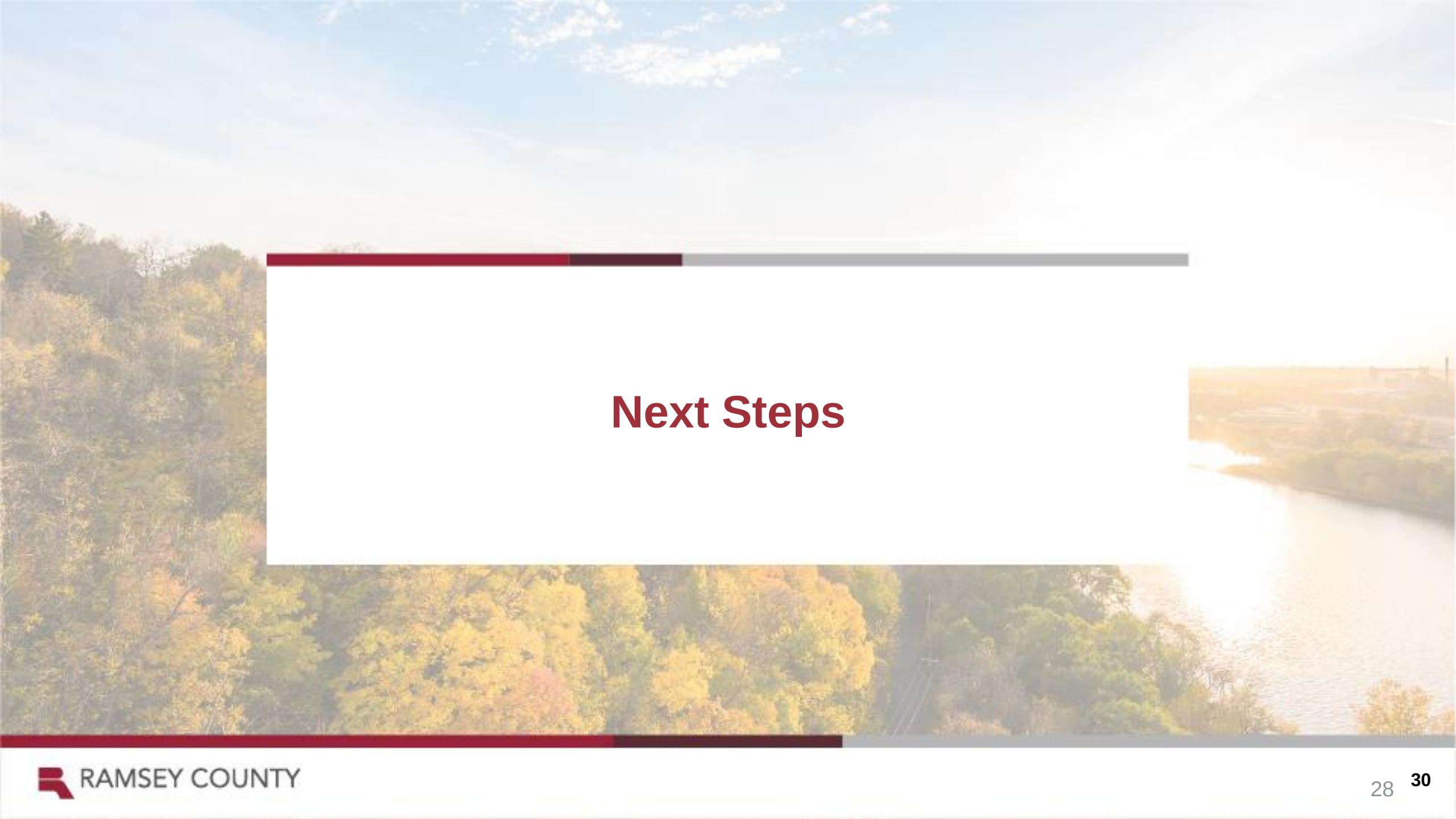
Total Community Member Connections 707≈

Supplies	Total
Narcan	21
Wound Kits	93
Feminine Hygiene	163
Hygiene Kit	110

April 2025-September 2025

Social Services Department

- Behavioral health focused response
- Connecting residents to mental health care and building relationships
- Helping individuals navigate systems
- Making referrals to appropriate services such as shelter, treatment, therapy, psychiatry, and case management

The background of the slide features a scenic landscape. On the left, a dense forest of trees with yellow and orange autumn foliage covers a hillside. On the right, a wide river flows, reflecting the bright light of the sun, which is positioned low on the horizon, creating a strong lens flare effect. A large, white rectangular box is centered over the image, containing the text "Next Steps".

Next Steps

