

## TECHNICAL NOTES

### GENERAL INFORMATION

The indicators in this report are based on information drawn from a variety of independent data sources, including national surveys of students, teachers, and principals, and data collections from federal departments and agencies, including the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Center for Education Statistics, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Each data source has an independent sample design, data collection method, and questionnaire design or is the result of a universe data collection. Universe data collections include a census of all known entities in a specific universe (e.g., all deaths occurring on school property). Readers should be cautious when comparing data from different sources. Differences in sampling procedures, populations, time periods, and question phrasing can all affect the comparability of results. For example, some questions from different surveys may appear the same, but were asked of different populations of students (e.g., students ages 12–18 or students in grades 9–12); in different years; about experiences that occurred within different periods of time (e.g., in the past 30 days or during the past 12 months); or at different locations (e.g., in school or anywhere).

The following is a description of data sources, accuracy of estimates, and statistical procedures used in this report.

### SOURCES OF DATA

This section briefly describes each of the datasets used in this report: the School-Associated Violent Deaths Surveillance Study, the Supplementary Homicide Reports, the Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System Fatal, the National Crime Victimization Survey, the School Crime Supplement to the National Crime Victimization Survey, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, the Schools and Staffing Survey, and the School Survey on Crime and Safety. Directions for obtaining more information are provided at the end of each description. Figure A.1 presents some key information for each of the datasets used in the report, including the survey year(s), target population, response rate, and sample size. The wording of the interview questions used to construct the indicators are presented in figure A.2. (Figures appear at the end of appendix A.)

#### ***School-Associated Violent Deaths Surveillance Study (SAVD)***

The School-Associated Violent Deaths Surveillance Study (SAVD) is an epidemiological study developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Justice. SAVD seeks to describe the epidemiology of school-associated violent deaths, identify common features of these deaths, estimate the rate of school-associated violent deaths in the United States, and identify potential risk factors for these deaths. The surveillance system includes descriptive data on all school-associated violent deaths in the United States,

including all homicides, suicides, and unintentional firearm-related deaths where the fatal injury occurred on the campus of a functioning elementary or secondary school, while the victim was on the way to or from regular sessions at such a school, or while attending or on the way to or from an official school-sponsored event. Victims of such events include nonstudents as well as students and staff members. SAVD includes descriptive information about the school, event, victim(s), and offender(s). The SAVD Surveillance System has collected data from July 1, 1992, through the present.

SAVD uses a four-step process to identify and collect data on school-associated violent deaths. Cases are initially identified through a search of the Lexis/Nexis newspaper and media database. Then police officials are contacted to confirm the details of the case and to determine if the event meets the case definition. Once a case is confirmed, a police official and a school official are interviewed regarding details about the school, event, victim(s), and offender(s). A copy of the full police report is also sought for each case. The information obtained on schools includes school demographics, attendance/absentee rates, suspension/expulsions and mobility, school history of weapon-carrying incidents, security measures, violence prevention activities, school response to the event, and school policies about weapon carrying. Event information includes the location of injury, the context of injury (while classes were being held, during break, etc.), motives for injury, method of injury, and school and community events happening around the time period. Information obtained on victim(s) and offender(s) includes demographics, circumstances of the event (date/time, alcohol or drug use, number of persons involved), types and origins of weapons, criminal history, psychological risk factors, school-related problems, extracurricular activities, and family history, including structure and stressors.

One hundred five school-associated violent deaths were identified from July 1, 1992–June 30, 1994 (Kachur et al. 1996). A more recent report from this data collection identified 253 school-associated violent deaths between July 1, 1994–June 30, 1999 (Anderson et al. 2001). Other publications from this study have described how the number of events changes during the school year (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 2001), the source of the firearms used in these events (Reza et al. 2003), and suicides that were associated with schools (Kauffman et al. 2004). The interviews conducted on cases between July 1, 1994 and June 30, 1999 achieved a response rate of 97 percent for police officials and 78 percent for school officials. Data for subsequent study years are preliminary and subject to change. The SAVD data are considered preliminary until interviews with school and law enforcement officials have been completed. The details learned during the interviews can occasionally change the classification of a case. For additional information about SAVD, contact:

Jeff Hall  
Division of Violence Prevention  
National Center for Injury Prevention and Control  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Mailstop K60  
4770 Buford Highway NE  
Atlanta, GA 30341  
Telephone: (770) 488-4648  
E-mail: [jhall2@cdc.gov](mailto:jhall2@cdc.gov)

### ***Supplementary Homicide Reports (SHR)***

The Supplementary Homicide Reports (SHR), which are a part of the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program, provide incident-level information on criminal homicides including situation (number of victims to number of offenders); the age, sex, and race of victims and offenders; types of weapons used; circumstances of the incident; and the relationship of the victim to the offender. The data are provided monthly to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) by local law enforcement agencies participating in the FBI's UCR program. The data include murders and non-negligent manslaughters in the United States from January 1976–December 2004; that is, negligent manslaughters and justifiable homicides have been eliminated from the data. Based on law enforcement agency reports, the FBI estimates that 561,412 murders were committed from 1976 to 2004. Agencies provided detailed information on 574,574 victims and 640,722 offenders.

About 91 percent of homicides are included in the SHR. However, adjustments can be made to the weights to correct for missing reports. Estimates from the SHR used in this report were generated by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) using a weight developed by BJS that reconciles the counts of SHR homicide victims with those in the UCR for the 1992 through 2004 data years. The weight is the same for all cases for a given year. The weight represents the ratio of the number of homicides reported in the UCR to the number reported in the SHR. For additional information about SHR, contact:

Communications Unit  
Criminal Justice Information Services Division  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Module D3  
1000 Custer Hollow Road  
Clarksburg, WV 26306  
Telephone: (304) 625-4995  
E-mail: [cjis\\_comm@leo.gov](mailto:cjis_comm@leo.gov)

### ***Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System Fatal (WISQARS™) Fatal***

WISQARS Fatal provides mortality data related to injury. The mortality data reported in WISQARS Fatal come from death certificate data reported to the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Data include causes of death reported by attending physicians, medical examiners, and coroners. It also includes demographic information about decedents reported by funeral directors, who obtain that information from family members and other informants. NCHS collects, compiles, verifies, and prepares these data for release to the public. The data provide information about what types of injuries are leading causes of deaths, how common they are, and who they affect. These data are intended for a broad audience—the public, the media, public health practitioners and researchers, and public health officials—to increase their knowledge of injury.

WISQARS Fatal mortality reports provide tables of the total numbers of injury-related deaths and the death rates per 100,000 U.S. population. The reports list deaths according to cause (mechanism) and intent (manner) of injury by state, race, Hispanic origin, sex, and age groupings. For more information on WISQARS Fatal, contact:

National Center for Injury Prevention and Control  
Mailstop K59  
4770 Buford Highway NE  
Atlanta, GA 30341-3724  
Telephone: (770) 488-1506  
E-mail: [ohcinfo@cdc.gov](mailto:ohcinfo@cdc.gov)  
Internet: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars>

### ***National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)***

The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), administered for the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics by the U.S. Census Bureau, is the nation's primary source of information on crime and the victims of crime. Initiated in 1972 and redesigned in 1992, the NCVS collects detailed information annually on the frequency and nature of the crimes of rape, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated and simple assault, theft, household burglary, and motor vehicle theft experienced by Americans and their households each year. The survey measures crimes reported to police as well.

Readers should note that in 2003, in accordance with changes to the Office of Management and Budget's standards for the classification of federal data on race and ethnicity, the NCVS item on race/ethnicity was modified. A question on Hispanic origin is followed by a question on race. The new race question allows the respondent to choose more than one race and delineates Asian as a separate category from Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. Analysis conducted by the Demographic Surveys Division at the U.S. Census Bureau shows that the new race question had very little impact on the aggregate racial distribution of the NCVS respondents, with one exception. There was a 1.6 percentage point decrease in the percent of respondents who reported themselves as White. Due to changes in race/ethnicity categories, comparisons of race/ethnicity across years should be made with caution.

The indicator from NCVS related to nonfatal teacher victimization at school has been discontinued. Because of sample cuts to the NCVS and declining victimization rates, the survey's capacity to provide useful estimates of teacher victimization has diminished, especially for disaggregated subcategories of teacher characteristics. The indicator has been determined to no longer be an adequate measure of teacher victimization.

The number of NCVS eligible households in 2004 was about 46,200. They were selected using a stratified, multistage cluster design. In the first stage, the primary sampling units (PSUs), consisting of counties or groups of counties, were selected. In the second stage, smaller areas, called Enumeration Districts (EDs), were selected from each sampled PSU. Finally, from selected EDs, clusters of four households, called segments, were selected for interview. At each stage, the selection was done proportion-

ate to population size in order to create a self-weighting sample. The final sample was augmented to account for housing units constructed after the decennial Census. Within each sampled household, U.S. Census Bureau personnel interviewed all household members age 12 and older to determine whether they had been victimized by the measured crimes during the 6 months preceding the interview.

The first NCVS interview with a housing unit is conducted in person. Subsequent interviews are conducted by telephone, if possible. About 74,300 persons age 12 and older are interviewed every 6 months. Households remain in the sample for 3 years and are interviewed seven times at 6-month intervals. The initial interview at each sample unit is used only to bound future interviews to establish a time frame to avoid duplication of crimes uncovered in these subsequent interviews. After their seventh interview, households are replaced by new sample households. The NCVS has consistently obtained a response rate of over 90 percent at the household level. The completion rates for persons within households were about 86 percent. Thus, final response rates were about 78 percent in 2004. Weights were developed to permit estimates for the total U.S. population 12 years and older. For more information about the NCVS, contact:

Katrina Baum  
Victimization Statistics Branch  
Bureau of Justice Statistics  
U.S. Department of Justice  
810 7th Street NW  
Washington, DC 20531  
Telephone: (202) 307-5889  
E-mail: [katrina.baum@usdoj.gov](mailto:katrina.baum@usdoj.gov)  
Internet: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs>

### ***School Crime Supplement (SCS)***

Created as a supplement to the NCVS and codesigned by the National Center for Education Statistics and Bureau of Justice Statistics, the School Crime Supplement (SCS) survey was conducted in 1989, 1995, 1999, 2001, 2003, and 2005 to collect additional information about school-related victimizations on a national level. This report includes data from the 1995, 1999, 2001, 2003, and 2005 collections. The 1989 data are not included in this report as a result of methodological changes to the NCVS and SCS. The survey was designed to assist policymakers as well as academic researchers and practitioners at the federal, state, and local levels so that they can make informed decisions concerning crime in schools. The SCS asks students a number of key questions about their experiences with and perceptions of crime and violence that occurred inside their school, on school grounds, on a school bus, or on the way to or from school. Additional questions not included in the NCVS were also added to the SCS, such as those concerning preventive measures used by the school, students' participation in after school activities, students' perceptions of school rules, the presence of weapons and gangs in school, the presence of hate-related words and graffiti in school, student reports of bullying and reports of rejection at school, and the availability of drugs and

alcohol in school, as well as attitudinal questions relating to fear of victimization and avoidance behavior at school.

In all SCS survey years, the SCS was conducted for a 6-month period from January–June in all households selected for the NCVS (see discussion above for information about the NCVS sampling design and changes to the race/ethnicity item made for 2003 onward). It should be noted that the initial NCVS interview is included in the SCS data collection. Within these households, the eligible respondents for the SCS were those household members who had attended school at any time during the 6 months preceding the interview, were enrolled in grades 6–12, and were not home schooled. The age range of students covered in this report is 12–18 years of age. Eligible respondents were asked the supplemental questions in the SCS only after completing their entire NCVS interview.

The prevalence of victimization for 1995, 1999, 2001, 2003, and 2005 was calculated by using NCVS incident variables appended to the 1995, 1999, 2001, 2003, and 2005 SCS data files. The NCVS type of crime variable was used to classify victimizations of students in the SCS as serious violent, violent, or theft. The NCVS variables asking where the incident happened and what the victim was doing when it happened were used to ascertain whether the incident happened at school. For prevalence of victimization, the NCVS definition of “at school” includes in the school building, on school property, or on the way to or from school. Only incidents that occurred inside the United States are included.

In 2001, the SCS survey instrument was modified from previous collections in three ways. First, in 1995 and 1999, “at school” was defined for respondents as in the school building, on the school grounds, or on a school bus. In 2001, the definition for “at school” was changed to mean in the school building, on school property, on a school bus, or going to and from school. This change was made to the 2001 questionnaire in order to be consistent with the definition of “at school” as it is constructed in the NCVS and was also used as the definition in 2003 and 2005. Cognitive interviews conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau on the 1999 SCS suggested that modifications to the definition of “at school” would not have a substantial impact on the estimates.

Second, the SCS questions pertaining to fear and avoidance were changed for the 2001 SCS survey. In 1995, 1999, 2003, and 2005, students were asked if they were fearful or avoidant because they thought someone would “attack or harm” them. In 2001, students were asked if they were fearful or avoidant because they thought someone would “attack or threaten to attack” them. In the 1999 and 2001 SCS, students were asked to exclude times they were at school or going to or from school in the question about fear away from school. In 2003 and 2005, when asked about fear away from school, students were asked to exclude times they were at school; however, in these years the definition of “at school” included going to and from school. These changes should be considered when making comparisons across survey years.

Third, the SCS question pertaining to gangs changed beginning with the 2001 SCS. The introduction and definition of gangs as well as the placement of the item in the questionnaire changed in the 2001 SCS. Because of these changes, the reader should be cautioned not to compare results from 2001 onwards (presented in this report) with estimates of gang presence in 1995 and 1999 (presented in previous editions of this report).

In 2005, the SCS instrument was modified again. In this year, the SCS question(s) pertaining to bullying changed. In 1999, 2001, and 2003, students were asked a single bullying question. The 2005 SCS included a series of questions about bullying. Because of substantive changes in questionnaire wording, comparisons between the 2005 SCS bullying indicator and all other survey years should be made with caution.

Total victimization is a combination of violent victimization and theft. If the student reported an incident of either violent or theft victimization or both, he or she is counted as having experienced “total” victimization. Serious violent crimes include rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault. Violent crimes include serious violent crimes and simple assault. Theft includes purse snatching, pick pocketing, all burglaries, attempted forcible entry, and all attempted and completed thefts except motor vehicle thefts.

A total of 9,728 students participated in the 1995 SCS, 8,398 in 1999, 8,374 in 2001, 7,152 in 2003, and 6,297 in 2005. In the 2005 SCS, the household completion rate was 91 percent. In the 1995, 1999, 2001 and 2003 SCS, the household completion rates were 95 percent, 94 percent, 93 percent, and 92 percent, respectively; and the student completion rates were 78 percent, 78 percent, 77 percent, and 70 percent, respectively. For the 2005 SCS, the student completion rate was 62 percent.

Thus, the overall unweighted SCS response rate (calculated by multiplying the household completion rate by the student completion rate) was 74 percent in 1995, 73 percent in 1999, 72 percent in 2001, 64 percent in 2003, and 56 percent in 2005. Response rates for most survey items were high—typically over 95 percent of all eligible respondents. The weights were developed to compensate for differential probabilities of selection and nonresponse. The weighted data permit inferences about the eligible student population who were enrolled in schools in 1995, 1999, 2001, 2003, and 2005.

Due to the low unit response rate in 2005, a unit nonresponse bias analysis was commissioned. There are two types of nonresponse: unit and item nonresponse. Unit response rates indicate how many sampled units have completed interviews. Because interviews with students could only be completed after households had responded to NCVS, the unit completion rate for SCS reflects both the household interview completion rate and the student interview completion rate.

Nonresponse can greatly affect the strength and application of survey data by leading to an increase in variance as a result of a reduction in the actual size of the sample and

can produce bias if the nonrespondents have characteristics of interest that are different from the respondents. Furthermore, imputation, a common recourse to nonresponse, can lead to the risk of underestimating the sampling error if imputed data are treated as though they were observed data.

In order for response bias to occur, respondents must have different response rates and responses to particular survey variables. The magnitude of unit nonresponse bias is determined by the response rate and the differences between respondents and nonrespondents on key survey variables. Although the bias analysis cannot measure response bias since SCS is a sample survey and we do not know how the population would have responded, the SCS sampling frame has four key student or school characteristic variables for which data is known for respondents and nonrespondents: sex, race/ethnicity, household income, and urbanicity, all of which are associated with student victimization. To the extent that there are differential responses by respondents in these groups, nonresponse bias is a concern.

The analysis of unit nonresponse bias found evidence of bias for the race, household income, and urbanicity variables. White, non-Hispanic and Other, non-Hispanic respondents had higher response rates than Black, non-Hispanic, and Hispanic respondents. Respondents from households with an income of \$35,000–49,999 and \$50,000 or more had higher response rates than those from households with incomes of less than \$7,500, \$7,500–14,999, \$15,000–24,999, and \$25,000–34,999. Respondents who live in urban areas had lower response rates than those who live in rural or suburban areas. Although we cannot assess the extent of nonresponse bias, weighting adjustments, which corrected for differential response rates, should have reduced the problem. For more information about SCS, contact:

Kathryn A. Chandler  
National Center for Education Statistics  
1990 K Street NW  
Washington, DC 20006  
Telephone: (202) 502-7486  
E-mail: [kathryn.chandler@ed.gov](mailto:kathryn.chandler@ed.gov)  
Internet: <http://nces.ed.gov/programs/crime>

### ***Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)***

The National School-Based Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) is one component of the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS), an epidemiological surveillance system developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to monitor the prevalence of youth behaviors that most influence health.<sup>1</sup> The YRBS focuses on priority health-risk behaviors established during youth that result in the most significant mortality, morbidity, disability, and social problems during both youth and adulthood. This report uses 1993, 1995, 1997, 1999, 2001, 2003, and 2005 YRBS data.

---

<sup>1</sup> For more information on the YRBSS methodology, see Brener et al. (2004).

The YRBS uses a three-stage cluster sampling design to produce a nationally representative sample of students in grades 9–12 in the United States. The target population consisted of all public and private school students in grades 9–12 in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The first-stage sampling frame included selecting primary sampling units (PSUs) from strata formed on the basis of urbanization and the relative percentage of Black and Hispanic students in the PSU. These PSUs are either large counties or groups of smaller, adjacent counties. At the second stage, schools were selected with probability proportional to school enrollment size.

Schools with substantial numbers of Black and Hispanic students were sampled at relatively higher rates than all other schools. The final stage of sampling consisted of randomly selecting within each chosen school at each grade 9–12 one or two intact classes of a required subject, such as English or social studies. All students in selected classes were eligible to participate. Approximately 16,300, 10,900, 16,300, 15,300, 13,600, 15,200, and 13,900 students participated in the 1993, 1995, 1997, 1999, 2001, 2003, and 2005 surveys, respectively.

The overall response rate was 70 percent for the 1993 survey, 60 percent for the 1995 survey, 69 percent for the 1997 survey, 66 percent for the 1999 survey, 63 percent for the 2001 survey, 67 percent for the 2003 survey, and 67 percent for the 2005 survey. NCES standards call for response rates of 85 percent or better for cross-sectional surveys, and bias analyses are required by NCES when that percentage is not achieved. For YRBS data, a full nonresponse bias analysis has not been done because the data necessary to do the analysis are not available. The weights were developed to adjust for nonresponse and the oversampling of Black and Hispanic students in the sample. The final weights were constructed so that only weighted proportions of students (not weighted counts of students) in each grade matched national population projections. Where YRBS data are presented, accurate national population projections are provided from the *Digest of Education Statistics, 2002 and 2005* (U.S. Department of Education 2003, 2006).

State level data were downloaded from the Youth Online: Comprehensive Results web page (<http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/yrbss/>). Each state and local school-based YRBS employs a two-stage, cluster sample design to produce representative samples of students in grades 9–12 in their jurisdiction. All except a few state and local samples include only public schools, and each local sample includes only schools in the funded school district (e.g., San Diego Unified School District) rather than in the entire city (e.g., greater San Diego area).

In the first sampling stage in all except a few states and districts, schools are selected with probability proportional to school enrollment size. In the second sampling stage, intact classes of a required subject or intact classes during a required period (e.g., second period) are selected randomly. All students in sampled classes are eligible to participate. Certain states and districts modify these procedures to meet their individual needs. For example, in a given state or district, all schools, rather than a sample of schools, might be selected to participate. State and local surveys that have a scientific

cally selected sample, appropriate documentation, and an overall response rate greater than or equal to 60 percent are weighted. The overall response rate reflects the school response rate multiplied by the student response rate. These three criteria are used to ensure that the data from those surveys can be considered representative of students in grades 9–12 in that jurisdiction. A weight is applied to each record to adjust for student nonresponse and the distribution of students by grade, sex, and race/ethnicity in each jurisdiction. Therefore, weighted estimates are representative of all students in grades 9–12 attending schools in each jurisdiction. Surveys that do not have an overall response rate of greater than or equal to 60 percent and do not have appropriate documentation are not weighted and are not included in this report.

In 2005, a total of 40 states and 21 districts had weighted data. In sites with weighted data, the student sample sizes for the state and local YRBS ranged from 942 to 9,708. School response rates ranged from 72 to 100 percent, student response rates ranged from 61 to 93 percent, and overall response rates ranged from 60 to 85 percent.

Readers should note that reports of these data published by the CDC do not include percentages where the denominator includes less than 100 unweighted cases. However, NCES publications do not include percentages where the denominator includes less than 30 unweighted cases. Therefore, estimates presented here may not appear in CDC publications of YRBS estimates and are considered unstable by CDC standards.

In 1999, in accordance with changes to the Office of Management and Budget’s standards for the classification of federal data on race and ethnicity, the YRBS item on race/ethnicity was modified. The version of the race and ethnicity question used in 1993, 1995, and 1997 was:

- How do you describe yourself?
- A. White - not Hispanic
  - B. Black - not Hispanic
  - C. Hispanic or Latino
  - D. Asian or Pacific Islander
  - E. American Indian or Alaskan Native
  - F. Other

The version used in 1999, 2001, 2003, and in the 2005 state and local surveys was:

- How do you describe yourself? (Select one or more responses.)
- A. American Indian or Alaska Native
  - B. Asian
  - C. Black or African American
  - D. Hispanic or Latino
  - E. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
  - F. White

In the 2005 national survey, race/ethnicity was computed from two questions: 1) “Are you Hispanic or Latino?” (response options were “yes” and “no”), and 2) “What is your

race?" (response options were "American Indian or Alaska Native," "Asian," "Black or African American," "Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander," or "White"). For the second question, students could select more than one response option. For this report, students were classified as "Hispanic" if they answered "yes" to the first question, regardless of how they answered the second question. Students who answered "no" to the first question and selected more than one race/ethnicity in the second category were classified as "More than one race." Students who answered "no" to the first question and selected only one race/ethnicity were classified as that race/ethnicity. Race/ethnicity was set to missing for students who did not answer the first question (176 cases) or for students who answered "no" to the first question but did not answer the second question (48 cases).

The questions used in 1999, 2001, 2003, and 2005 result in the possibility of respondents marking more than one category. While more accurately reflecting respondents' racial and ethnic identity, the new item cannot be directly compared to responses to the old item. Brener, Kann, and McManus (2003) found that allowing students to select more than one response to the race/ethnicity question on the YRBS had only a minimal effect on reported race/ethnicity among high school students. CDC is examining the effect of using a two-question format to assess race/ethnicity in the 2005 national YRBS.

For additional information about the YRBS, contact:

Laura Kann  
Division of Adolescent and School Health  
National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Mailstop K-33  
4770 Buford Highway NE  
Atlanta, GA 30341-3717  
Telephone: (770) 488-6181  
E-mail: [lk1@cdc.gov](mailto:lk1@cdc.gov)  
Internet: <http://www.cdc.gov/yrebs>

### ***Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS)***

This report draws upon data on teacher victimization from the Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS), which provides national- and state-level data on public schools and national- and affiliation-level data on private schools. The 1993–94, 1999–2000, and 2003–04 SASS were collected by the U.S. Census Bureau and sponsored by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). SASS consists of four sets of linked surveys, including surveys of schools, the principals of each selected school, a subsample of teachers within each school, and public school districts. In 1993–94, there were two sets of teacher surveys, public and private school teachers. In 1999–2000, there were four sets of teacher surveys, public, private, public charter, and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) school teachers. In 2003–04, there were three sets of teacher surveys, public (including public charter), private, and BIA. For this report, BIA and public charter schools are included with public schools.

The public school sampling frames for the 1993–94, 1999–2000, and 2003–04 SASS were created using the 1991–92, 1997–98, and 2001–02 NCES Common Core of Data (CCD) Public School Universe Files, respectively. In SASS, a school was defined as an institution or part of an institution that provides classroom instruction to students; has one or more teachers to provide instruction; serves students in one or more of grades 1–12 or the ungraded equivalent and is located in one or more buildings. It was possible for two or more schools to share the same building; in this case they were treated as different schools if they had different administrations (i.e., principals). Since CCD and SASS differ in scope and their definitions of a school, some records were deleted, added, or modified in order to provide better coverage and a more efficient sample design for SASS. Data were collected by multistage sampling, which began with the selection of schools.

This report uses 1993–94, 1999–2000, and 2003–04 SASS data. Approximately 10,000 public schools and 3,300 private schools were selected to participate in the 1993–94 SASS, 11,100 public schools (9,900 public schools, 100 BIA-funded schools, and 1,100 charter schools) and 3,600 private schools were selected to participate in the 1999–2000 SASS, and 10,400 public schools (10,200 public schools and 200 BIA-funded schools) and 3,600 private schools were selected to participate in the 2003–04 SASS. Within each school, teachers selected were further stratified into one of five teacher types in the following hierarchy: (1) Asian or Pacific Islander; (2) American Indian, Aleut, or Eskimo; (3) teachers who teach classes designed for students with limited English proficiency; (4) teachers in their first, second, or third year of teaching; and (5) teachers not classified in any of the other groups. Within each teacher stratum, teachers were selected systematically with equal probability. In 1993–94, approximately 57,000 public school teachers and 11,500 private school teachers were sampled. In 1999–2000, 56,300 public school teachers, 500 BIA teachers, 4,400 public charter school teachers, and 10,800 private school teachers were sampled. In 2003–04, 52,500 public school teachers, 700 BIA teachers, and 10,000 private school teachers were sampled.

This report focuses on responses from teachers. The overall weighted response rate for public school teachers in 1993–94 was 88 percent. In 1999–2000, the overall weighted response rates were 77 percent for public school teachers, and 86 and 72 percent for BIA and public charter school teachers, respectively (which are included with public school teachers for this report). In 2003–2004, the overall weighted response rates were 76 percent for public school teachers and 86 percent for BIA-funded school teachers (who are included with public school teachers). For private school teachers, the overall weighted response rates were 80 percent, 67 percent, and 70 percent in 1993–94, 1999–2000, and 2003–04, respectively. Values were imputed for questionnaire items that should have been answered but were not. For additional information about SASS, contact:

Kerry Gruber  
National Center for Education Statistics  
1990 K Street NW  
Washington, DC 20006  
Telephone: (202) 502-7349  
E-mail: [kerry.gruber@ed.gov](mailto:kerry.gruber@ed.gov)  
Internet: <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/sass>

### ***School Survey on Crime and Safety (SSOCS)***

The School Survey on Crime and Safety (SSOCS) was conducted by NCES in the winter and spring of the 2003–04 school year. SSOCS focuses on incidents of specific crimes and offenses and a variety of specific discipline issues in public schools. It also covers characteristics of school policies, school violence prevention programs and policies, and school characteristics that have been associated with school crime. The survey was conducted with a nationally representative sample of regular public primary, middle, high, and combined schools in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Special education, alternative and vocational schools, schools in the territories, and schools that taught only prekindergarten, kindergarten, or adult education were not included in the sample.

The sampling frame for the 2004 SSOCS was constructed from the public school universe file created for the 2003–04 Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS) from the 2001–02 NCES Common Core of Data (CCD) Public School Universe File. The CCD is an annual national database of all public K–12 schools and school districts. Certain types of schools were excluded from the CCD Public School Universe File in order to meet the sampling needs of SASS, including those in the outlying U.S. territories,<sup>2</sup> overseas Department of Defense schools, newly closed schools, home schools, and schools with high grades of kindergarten or lower. Additional schools were then excluded from the SASS frame to meet the sampling needs of SSOCS, including; local education agencies that appear to be schools, special education, vocational, or alternative schools, department of defense schools, Bureau of Indian Affairs schools, ungraded schools, and “intermediate units”<sup>3</sup> in California and Pennsylvania. The sample was stratified by instructional level, type of locale (e.g., city, urban fringe, etc.), and enrollment size. Within the primary strata, schools were also sorted by geographic region and by percentage of minority enrollment. The sample was then allocated to the primary strata in rough proportion to the square root of the total sum of individual enrollments of schools within the stratum. A total of 3,743 schools were selected for the study. In March 2004, questionnaires were mailed to school principals, who were asked to complete the survey or to have it completed by the person most knowledgeable about discipline issues at the school. A total of 2,772 schools completed the survey. The weighted overall response rate was 77.2 percent, and weighted item nonresponse rates ranged from 0–33.3 percent. A nonresponse bias analysis was conducted on the nine items with weighted item

<sup>2</sup> “U.S. outlying areas” include the following: America Samoa, Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

<sup>3</sup> These are generally schools specializing in special education, alternative education, or juvenile halls.

nonresponse rates above 15 percent, and minimal bias was detected. Weights were developed to adjust for the variable probabilities of selection and differential nonresponse and can be used to produce national estimates for regular public schools in the 2003–04 school year. For information on the 1999–2000 iteration, see *Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2005*. For more information about the School Survey on Crime and Safety, contact:

Kathryn A. Chandler  
National Center for Education Statistics  
1990 K Street NW  
Washington, DC 20006  
Telephone: (202) 502-7486  
E-mail: [kathryn.chandler@ed.gov](mailto:kathryn.chandler@ed.gov)  
Internet: <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/ssocs>

## ACCURACY OF ESTIMATES

The accuracy of any statistic is determined by the joint effects of nonsampling and sampling errors. Both types of error affect the estimates presented in this report. Several sources can contribute to nonsampling errors. For example, members of the population of interest are inadvertently excluded from the sampling frame; sampled members refuse to answer some of the survey questions (item nonresponse) or all of the survey questions (questionnaire nonresponse); mistakes are made during data editing, coding, or entry; the responses that respondents provide differ from the “true” responses; or measurement instruments such as tests or questionnaires fail to measure the characteristics they are intended to measure. Although nonsampling errors due to questionnaire and item nonresponse can be reduced somewhat by the adjustment of sample weights and imputation procedures, correcting nonsampling errors or gauging the effects of these errors is usually difficult.

Sampling errors occur because observations are made on samples rather than on entire populations. Surveys of population universes are not subject to sampling errors. Estimates based on a sample will differ somewhat from those that would have been obtained by a complete census of the relevant population using the same survey instruments, instructions, and procedures. The standard error of a statistic is a measure of the variation due to sampling; it indicates the precision of the statistic obtained in a particular sample. In addition, the standard errors for two sample statistics can be used to estimate the precision of the difference between the two statistics and to help determine whether the difference based on the sample is large enough so that it represents the population difference.

Most of the data used in this report were obtained from complex sampling designs rather than a simple random design. The features of complex sampling require different techniques to calculate standard errors than are used for data collected using a simple random sampling. Therefore, calculation of standard errors requires procedures that are markedly different from the ones used when the data are from a simple random sample. The Taylor series approximation technique or the balanced repeated replica-

tion (BRR) method was used to estimate most of the statistics and their standard errors in this report. Figure A.3 lists the various methods used to compute standard errors for different datasets.

Standard error calculation for data from the National Crime Victimization Survey and the School Crime Supplement was based on the Taylor series approximation method using PSU and strata variables available from each dataset. For statistics based on all years of NCVS data, standard errors were derived from a formula developed by the U.S. Census Bureau, which consists of three generalized variance function (gvf) constant parameters that represent the curve fitted to the individual standard errors calculated using the Jackknife Repeated Replication technique. The formulas used to compute the adjusted standard errors associated with percentages or population counts can be found in figure A.3.

The coefficient of variation ( $C_v$ ) represents the ratio of the standard error to the mean. As an attribute of a distribution, the  $C_v$  is an important measure of the reliability and accuracy of an estimate. In this report, the  $C_v$  was calculated for all estimates, and in cases where the  $C_v$  was at least 30 percent the estimates were noted with a ! symbol (interpret data with caution). In cases where the  $C_v$  was greater than 50 percent, the estimate was determined not to meet reporting standards and was suppressed.

## STATISTICAL PROCEDURES

The comparisons in the text have been tested for statistical significance to ensure that the differences are larger than might be expected due to sampling variation. Unless otherwise noted, all statements cited in the report are statistically significant at the .05 level. Several test procedures were used, depending upon the type of data being analyzed and the nature of the statement being tested. The primary test procedure used in this report was the student's  $t$  statistic, which tests the difference between two sample estimates, for example, between males and females. The formula used to compute the  $t$  statistic is as follows:

$$t = \frac{E_1 - E_2}{\sqrt{se_1^2 + se_2^2}} \quad (1)$$

where  $E_1$  and  $E_2$  are the estimates to be compared and  $se_1$  and  $se_2$  are their corresponding standard errors. Note that this formula is valid only for independent estimates. When the estimates are not independent (for example, when comparing a total percentage with that for a subgroup included in the total), a covariance term (i.e.,  $2 * se_1 * se_2$ ) must be added to the denominator of the formula:

$$t = \frac{E_1 - E_2}{\sqrt{se_1^2 + se_2^2 + 2 * se_1 * se_2}} \quad (2)$$

Once the  $t$  value was computed, it was compared with the published tables of values at certain critical levels, called alpha levels. For this report, an alpha value of .05 was used, which has a  $t$  value of 1.96. If the  $t$  value was larger than 1.96, then the difference between the two estimates is statistically significant at the 95 percent level.

A linear trend test was used when differences among percentages were examined relative to ordered categories of a variable, rather than the differences between two discrete categories. This test allows one to examine whether, for example, the percentage of students using drugs increased (or decreased) over time or whether the percentage of students who reported being physically attacked in school increased (or decreased) with their age. Based on a regression with, for example, student's age as the independent variable and whether a student was physically attacked as the dependent variable, the test involves computing the regression coefficient ( $b$ ) and its corresponding standard error ( $se$ ). The ratio of these two ( $b/se$ ) is the test statistic  $t$ . If  $t$  is greater than 1.96, the critical value for one comparison at the .05 alpha level, the hypothesis that there is a linear relationship between student's age and being physically attacked is not rejected.

Some comparisons among categories of an ordered variable with three or more levels involved a test for a linear trend across all categories, rather than a series of tests between pairs of categories. In this report, when differences among percentages were examined relative to a variable with ordered categories, Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was used to test for a linear relationship between the two variables. To do this, ANOVA models included orthogonal linear contrasts corresponding to successive levels of the independent variable. The squares of the Taylorized standard errors (that is, standard errors that were calculated by the Taylor series method), the variance between the means, and the unweighted sample sizes were used to partition the total sum of squares into within- and between-group sums of squares. These were used to create mean squares for the within- and between-group variance components and their corresponding  $F$  statistics, which were then compared with published values of  $F$  for a significance level of .05. Significant values of both the overall  $F$  and the  $F$  associated with the linear contrast term were required as evidence of a linear relationship between the two variables.

**Figure A.1. Descriptions of data sources and samples used in the report**

Data source	Target population	Year of survey	Response rate (%)	Sample size
School-Associated Violent Deaths Surveillance Study (CDC)	Population of school-associated violent deaths in the United States between July 1, 1992, and June 30, 2005. Data collected from two sources: a school official and a police official.	1992–ongoing	78 (Schools) <sup>1</sup>	N/A
Supplementary Homicide Reports (FBI)	Population of criminal homicides in the United States from January 1976–December 2004.	1992–2004	91	N/A
Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System™ Fatal (CDC)	Death certificate data reported to the National Center for Health Statistics.	1992–2003	100	N/A
National Crime Victimization Survey (BJS)	A nationally representative sample of individuals 12 years of age and older living in households and group quarters.	1992–2004 (Annual) 2004	78	About 74,300
School Crime Supplement (BJS/NCES)	A nationally representative sample of students ages 12–18 enrolled in public and private schools during the 6 months prior to the interview.	1995 1999 2001 2003 2005	74 <sup>2</sup> 73 <sup>2</sup> 72 <sup>2</sup> 64 <sup>2</sup> 56 <sup>2</sup>	9,700 8,400 8,400 7,200 6,300
National Youth Risk Behavior Survey (CDC)	A nationally representative sample of students enrolled in grades 9–12 in public and private schools at the time of the survey.	1993 1995 1997 1999 2001 2003 2005	70 <sup>2</sup> 60 <sup>2</sup> 69 <sup>2</sup> 66 <sup>2</sup> 63 <sup>2</sup> 67 <sup>2</sup> 67 <sup>2</sup>	16,300 10,900 16,300 15,300 13,600 15,200 13,900
State Youth Risk Behavior Survey (CDC)	Representative samples of students in grades 9–12 in each state. All except a few state samples include only public schools.	2003 2005	60–90 <sup>2</sup> 61–93 <sup>2</sup>	1,000– 9,300 900– 9,700

NOTE: See notes at end of figure.

Figure A.1. Descriptions of data sources and samples used in the report—Continued

Data source	Target population	Year of survey	Response rate (%)	Sample size
Schools and Staffing Survey (Teacher Survey) (NCES)	A nationally representative sample of public and private school teachers from grades K–12.	1993–1994	88 (Public) <sup>3</sup>	57,000
			80 (Private) <sup>3</sup>	11,500
		1999–2000	77 (Public) <sup>3</sup>	56,300
			67 (Private) <sup>3</sup>	10,800
			86 (BIA) <sup>3</sup>	500
			72 (Public Charter) <sup>3</sup>	4,400
		2003–2004	76 (Public) <sup>3</sup>	52,500
			70 (Private) <sup>3</sup>	10,000
86 (BIA) <sup>3</sup>	700			
School Survey on Crime and Safety (NCES)	A nationally representative sample of regular public elementary, middle, and secondary schools.	1999–2000	70 <sup>2</sup>	2,300
		2003–2004	77 <sup>2</sup>	2,800

<sup>1</sup> The interviews conducted on cases between July 1, 1994, and June 30, 1999 achieved a response rate of 97 percent for police officials and 78 percent for school officials. Data for subsequent study years are preliminary and subject to change.

<sup>2</sup> Unweighted response rate.

<sup>3</sup> Overall weighted response rate.

NOTE: Sample sizes are rounded to the nearest 100.

Figure A.2. Wording of survey questions used to construct indicators

Chapter, Indicator, and Survey	Questions	Response categories
<b>Nonfatal Student Victimization</b>		
<i>Indicator 2. Incidence of Victimization at School and Away From School</i>		
National Crime Victimization Survey <sup>1</sup> (Screen Questionnaire)	<p>I'm going to read some examples that will give you an idea of the kinds of crimes this study covers. As I go through them, tell me if any of these happened to you in the last 6 months. That is, since (date). Was something belonging to you stolen, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Things that you carry, like luggage, a wallet, purse, briefcase, book</li> <li>Clothing, jewelry, or calculator</li> <li>Bicycle or sports equipment</li> <li>Or did anyone attempt to steal anything belonging to you?</li> </ul> <p>(Other than any incidents already mentioned,) since (date) were you attacked or threatened or did you have something stolen from you</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At work or school</li> <li>Or did anyone attempt to attack or attempt to steal anything belonging to you from any of these places?</li> </ul> <p>(Other than any incidents already mentioned,) has anyone attacked or threatened you in any of these ways (exclude telephone threats):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>With any weapon, for instance, a gun or knife</li> <li>With anything like a baseball bat, frying pan, scissors, or stick</li> <li>By something thrown, such as a rock or bottle</li> <li>Include any grabbing, punching, or choking</li> <li>Any rape, attempted rape, or other type of sexual attack</li> <li>Any face to face threats</li> <li>Or any attack or threat or use of force by anyone at all?</li> <li>Please mention it even if you are not certain it was a crime.</li> </ul> <p>People often don't think of incidents committed by someone they know. (Other than any incidents already mentioned,) did you have something stolen from you or were you attacked or threatened by (exclude telephone threats):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Someone at work or school?</li> </ul> <p>Incidents involving forced or unwanted sexual acts are often difficult to talk about. (Other than any incidents already mentioned,) have you been forced or coerced to engage in unwanted sexual activity by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Someone you didn't know before</li> <li>A casual acquaintance</li> <li>Or someone you know well?</li> </ul>	<p>Yes/No; if yes, what happened? If yes, how many times?</p> <p>Yes/No; if yes, what happened? If yes, how many times?</p> <p>Yes/No; if yes, what happened? If yes, how many times?</p> <p>Yes/No; if yes, what happened? If yes, how many times?</p> <p>Yes/No; if yes, what happened? If yes, how many times?</p>

NOTE: See notes at end of figure.

Figure A.2. Wording of survey questions used to construct indicators—Continued

Chapter, Indicator, and Survey	Questions	Response categories
National Crime Victimization Survey <sup>1</sup> (Incident Report)	Where did this incident happen?	In own home or lodging/Near own home/At, in, or near a friend's/relative's/neighbor's home/ Commercial places/Parking lots/ garages/School/Open areas, on street or public transportation/Other
	What were you doing when this incident (happened/started)?	Working or on duty/On the way to or from work/On the way to or from school/On the way to or from other place/Shopping, errands/Attending school/Leisure activity away from home/Sleeping/Other activities at home/Other
<i>Indicator 3. Prevalence of Victimization at School</i>		
School Crime Supplement <sup>1</sup>	Derived from NCVS Screen Questionnaire and Incident Report (see information for Indicator 2).	
<i>Indicator 4. Threats and Injuries With Weapons on School Property</i>		
Youth Risk Behavior Survey	During the past 12 months, how many times has someone threatened or injured you with a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club on school property?	0 times/1 time/2–3 times/4–5 times/6–7 times/8–9 times/10–11 times/12 or more times
<b>Nonfatal Teacher Victimization</b>		
<i>Indicator 5. Teachers Threatened With Injury or Attacked by Students</i>		
Schools and Staffing Survey <sup>1</sup>	Has a student from this school threatened to injure you in the past 12 months?	Yes/No
	Has a student from this school physically attacked you in the past 12 months?	Yes/No

NOTE: See notes at end of figure.

**Figure A.2. Wording of survey questions used to construct indicators—Continued**

Chapter, Indicator, and Survey	Questions	Response categories
<b>School Environment</b>		
<i>Indicator 6. Violent and Other Incidents at Public Schools and Those Reported to the Police</i>		
School Survey on Crime and Safety <sup>1</sup>	<p>Please provide the number of incidents your school recorded during the 2003–2004 school year for the offenses listed below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rape or attempted rape</li> <li>Sexual battery other than rape (include threatened rape)</li> <li>Robbery (taking things by force) with a weapon</li> <li>Robbery (taking things by force) without a weapon</li> <li>Physical attack or fight with a weapon</li> <li>Physical attack or fight without a weapon</li> <li>Threats of physical attack with a weapon</li> <li>Threats of physical attack without a weapon</li> <li>Theft/larceny (taking things over \$10 without personal confrontation)</li> <li>Possession of firearm/explosive device</li> <li>Possession of knife or sharp object with intent to harm</li> <li>Distribution of illegal drugs</li> <li>Possession or use of alcohol or illegal drugs</li> <li>Vandalism</li> </ul>	Total number of recorded incidents/ Number reported to police or other law enforcement
<i>Indicator 7. Discipline Problems Reported by Public Schools</i>		
School Survey on Crime and Safety <sup>1</sup>	<p>To the best of your knowledge, how often did the following types of problems occur at your school?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Student racial tensions</li> <li>Student bullying</li> <li>Student verbal abuse of teachers</li> <li>Widespread disorder in classrooms</li> <li>Student acts of disrespect for teachers</li> <li>Gang activities</li> <li>Cult or extremist group activities</li> </ul>	Happens daily/Happens at least once a week/Happens at least once a month/Happens on occasion/Never happens
<i>Indicator 8. Students' Reports of Gangs at School</i>		
School Crime Supplement <sup>1</sup>	Are there any gangs at your school?	Yes/No/Don't know
<i>Indicator 9. Students' Reports of Drug Availability on School Property</i>		
Youth Risk Behavior Survey	During the past 12 months, has anyone offered, sold, or given you an illegal drug on school property?	Yes/No

NOTE: See notes at end of figure.

Figure A.2. Wording of survey questions used to construct indicators—Continued

Chapter, Indicator, and Survey	Questions	Response categories
<i>Indicator 10. Students' Reports of Being Called Hate-Related Words and Seeing Hate-Related Graffiti</i>		
School Crime Supplement <sup>1</sup>	During the last 6 months, has anyone called you a derogatory or bad name at school having to do with your race, religion, ethnic background or national origin, disability, gender, or sexual orientation? We call these hate-related words.	Yes/No
	Were any of the hate-related words related to....	Yes/No/Don't know
	Your race?	
	Your religion?	
	Your ethnic background or national origin (for example people of Hispanic origin)?	
	Any disability (by this I mean physical, mental, or developmental disabilities) you may have?	
	Your gender?	
	Your sexual orientation?	
	During the last 6 months, have you seen any hate-related words or symbols written in school classrooms, school bathrooms, school hallways, or on the outside of your school building?	Yes/No
<i>Indicator 11. Bullying at School</i>		
School Crime Supplement <sup>1</sup>	Now I have some questions about what students do at school that make you feel bad or are hurtful to you. We often refer to this as being bullied. You may include events you told me about already. During the last 6 months, has any other student bullied you? That is, has another student...	Made fun of you, called you names, or insulted you/Spread rumors about you/Threatened you with harm/ Pushed you, shoved you, tripped you, or spit on you/Tried to make you do things you did not want to do, for example, give them money or other things/Excluded you from activities on purpose/Destroyed your property on purpose/None of the above
	During the last 6 months, how often did (this thing/these things) happen to you?	Once or twice in the last 6 months/ Once or twice a month/Once or twice a week/Almost every day/ Don't know

NOTE: See notes at end of figure.

Figure A.2. Wording of survey questions used to construct indicators—Continued

Chapter, Indicator, and Survey	Questions	Response categories
	Did (this event/these events) occur ...	In the school building (for example in a classroom, hallway, or gymnasium)/Outside on school grounds/On a school bus/Somewhere else
	What were the injuries you suffered as a result of being pushed, shoved, tripped, or spit on?	None/Bruises or swelling/Cuts, scratches, or scrapes/Black eye/Bloody nose/Teeth chipped or knocked out/Broken bones/Internal injuries/Knocked unconscious/Other
<b>Fights, Weapons, and Illegal Substances</b>		
<i>Indicator 12. Physical Fights on School Property and Anywhere</i>		
Youth Risk Behavior Survey	During the past 12 months, how many times were you in a physical fight?	0 times/1 time/2 or 3 times/4 or 5 times/6 or 7 times/8 or 9 times/10 or 11 times/12 or more times
	During the past 12 months, how many times were you in a physical fight on school property?	0 times/1 time/2 or 3 times/4 or 5 times/6 or 7 times/8 or 9 times/10 or 11 times/12 or more times
<i>Indicator 13. Students Carrying Weapons on School Property and Anywhere</i>		
Youth Risk Behavior Survey	During the past 30 days, on how many days did you carry a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club?	0 days/1 day/2 or 3 days/4 or 5 days/6 or more days
	During the past 30 days, on how many days did you carry a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club on school property?	0 days/1 day/2 or 3 days/4 or 5 days/6 or more days
<i>Indicator 14. Students' Use of Alcohol on School Property and Anywhere</i>		
Youth Risk Behavior Survey	During the past 30 days, on how many days did you have at least one drink of alcohol?	0 days/1 or 2 days/3 to 5 days/6 to 9 days/10 to 19 days/20 to 29 days/all 30 days
	During the past 30 days, on how many days did you have at least one drink of alcohol on school property?	0 days/1 or 2 days/3 to 5 days/6 to 9 days/10 to 19 days/20 to 29 days/all 30 days

NOTE: See notes at end of figure.

Figure A.2. Wording of survey questions used to construct indicators—Continued

Chapter, Indicator, and Survey	Questions	Response categories
<i>Indicator 15. Students' Use of Marijuana on School Property and Anywhere</i>		
Youth Risk Behavior Survey	During the past 30 days, how many times did you use marijuana?	0 times/1 or 2 times/3 to 9 times/ 10 to 19 times/20 to 39 times/40 or more times
	During the past 30 days, how many times did you use marijuana on school property?	0 times/1 or 2 times/3 to 9 times/ 10 to 19 times/20 to 39 times/40 or more times
<b>Fear and Avoidance</b>		
<i>Indicator 16. Students' Perceptions of Personal Safety at School and Away From School</i>		
School Crime Supplement <sup>1</sup>	How often are you afraid that someone will attack or harm you at school?	Never/Almost never/Sometimes/ Most of the time
	How often are you afraid that someone will attack or harm you on the way to and from school?	Never/Almost never/Sometimes/ Most of the time
	Besides the times you are at school, how often are you afraid that someone will attack or harm you?	Never/Almost never/Sometimes/ Most of the time
<i>Indicator 17. Students' Reports of Avoiding School Activities or Specific Places in School</i>		
School Crime Supplement <sup>1</sup>	During the last 6 months, that is, since _____, 1st, 2004, did you stay away from any of the following places because you thought someone might attack or harm you there? The entrance into the school Any hallways or stairs in school Parts of the school cafeteria Any school restrooms Other places inside the school building	Yes/No
	Did you avoid any extra-curricular activities at your school because you thought someone might attack or harm you?	Yes/No
	Did you avoid any classes because you thought someone might attack or harm you?	Yes/No
	Did you stay home from school because you thought someone might attack or harm you at school, or going to or from school?	Yes/No

NOTE: See notes at end of figure.

Figure A.2. Wording of survey questions used to construct indicators—Continued

Chapter, Indicator, and Survey	Questions	Response categories
<p><b>Discipline, Safety, and Security Measures</b></p>		
<p><i>Indicator 18. Serious Disciplinary Actions Taken by Public Schools</i></p>		
School Survey on Crime and Safety <sup>1</sup>	<p>During the 2003–2004 school year, how many students were involved in committing the following offenses, and how many of the following disciplinary actions were taken in response?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use/possession of a firearm/explosive device</li> <li>Use/possession of a weapon other than a firearm</li> <li>Distribution, possession, or use of illegal drugs</li> <li>Distribution, possession, or use of alcohol</li> <li>Physical attacks or fights</li> <li>Insubordination</li> </ul>	<p>Total students involved in recorded offenses (regardless of disciplinary action)/Removals with no continuing school services for at least the remainder of the school year/ Transfers to specialized schools for disciplinary reasons/Out-of-school suspensions lasting 5 days or more, but less than the remainder of the school year/Other disciplinary action (e.g., suspension less than 5 days, detention, etc.)</p>
<p><i>Indicator 19. Safety and Security Measures Taken by Public Schools</i></p>		
School Survey on Crime and Safety <sup>1</sup>	<p>During the 2003–2004 school year, was it a practice of your school to do the following?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Require visitors to sign or check in</li> <li>Control access to school buildings during school hours (e.g., locked or monitored doors)</li> <li>Control access to school grounds during school hours (e.g., locked or monitored gates)</li> <li>Require students to pass through metal detectors each day</li> <li>Require visitors to pass through metal detectors</li> <li>Perform one or more random metal detector checks on students</li> <li>Use one or more random dog sniffs to check for drugs</li> <li>Perform one or more random sweeps for contraband (e.g., drugs or weapons), but not including dog sniffs</li> <li>Require clear book bags or ban book bags on school grounds</li> <li>Require students to wear badges or picture IDs</li> <li>Require faculty and staff to wear badges or picture IDs</li> <li>Use one or more security cameras to monitor the school</li> </ul>	<p>Yes/No</p>

NOTE: See notes at end of figure.

Figure A.2. Wording of survey questions used to construct indicators—Continued

Chapter, Indicator, and Survey	Questions	Response categories
<i>Indicator 20. Students' Reports of Safety and Security Measures Observed at School</i>		
School Crime Supplement <sup>1</sup>	<p>Does your school take any measures to make sure students are safe? For example, does the school have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Security guards or assigned police officers?</li> <li>Other school staff or other adults supervising the hallway?</li> <li>Metal detectors?</li> <li>Locked entrance or exit doors during the day?</li> <li>A requirement that visitors sign in?</li> <li>Locker checks?</li> <li>A requirement that students wear badges or picture identification?</li> <li>One or more security cameras to monitor the school?</li> <li>A code of student conduct, that is, a set of written rules or guidelines that the school provides you?</li> </ul>	Yes/No/Don't know

<sup>1</sup> Readers should note that this table reflects the most recent version of the NCVS (2004), SSOCS (2004), SASS (2004), and SCS (2005) instruments. Survey items shown here may have changed from past NCVS, SSOCS, and SCS collections. Please see *Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2005* for previously published survey questions.

<sup>2</sup> Estimates of teacher victimizations include crimes occurring to teachers at school (location), or at the worksite (location), or while working (activity). For thefts, activity was not considered, since thefts of teachers' property kept at school can occur when teachers are not present.  
 SOURCE: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), 1992–2004. U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, School Crime Supplement (SCS) to the National Crime Victimization Survey, various years, 1995–2005. U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, School Survey on Crime and Safety (SSOCS), 2004. U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS), "Public School Teacher Questionnaire," 1993–94, 1999–2000, and 2003–04; "Charter School Questionnaire," 1999–2000; and "Bureau of Indian Affairs Teacher Questionnaire," 1999–2000 and 2003–04. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS), various years, 1993–2005.

Figure A.3. Methods used to calculate standard errors of statistics for different surveys

Survey	Year	Method of calculation																																																								
National Crime Victimization Survey	1992 to 2004	<p>Standard errors of crime level data and aggregated crime rates per 1,000 persons were calculated using three generalized variance function (gvf) constant parameters (denoted as <i>a</i>, <i>b</i>, and <i>c</i>) and formulas published in the Methodology Section of <i>Criminal Victimization in the United States—Statistical Tables</i> (NCJ184938) on the Bureau of Justice Statistics website: <a href="http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/cvusst.htm">http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/cvusst.htm</a>.</p> <p>The formula used to calculate standard errors (<i>q</i>) of crime level data (<i>x</i>) is:</p> $\sqrt{ax^2 + bx + cx^{3/2}}$ <p>where <i>x</i> is the estimated number of crimes of interest, and <i>a</i>, <i>b</i>, and <i>c</i> are gvf constant parameters.</p> <p>The formula used to calculate standard errors of aggregated crime rates per 1,000 persons (<i>r</i>) is:</p> $\sqrt{br(1000 - r)/y + cr(\sqrt{1000r} - r)/\sqrt{y}}$ <p>where <i>r</i> is the aggregate crime rate (i.e., 1000*total crimes/total population), <i>y</i> is the aggregated base population, and <i>b</i> and <i>c</i> are gvf constant parameters. The three gvf constant parameters associated with the specific years are:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>a</th> <th>b</th> <th>c</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1992</td><td>-0.00013407</td><td>4,872</td><td>3.858</td></tr> <tr><td>1993</td><td>-0.00007899</td><td>2,870</td><td>2.273</td></tr> <tr><td>1994</td><td>-0.00006269</td><td>2,278</td><td>1.804</td></tr> <tr><td>1995</td><td>-0.00006269</td><td>2,278</td><td>1.804</td></tr> <tr><td>1996</td><td>-0.00006863</td><td>2,494</td><td>1.975</td></tr> <tr><td>1997</td><td>0.00016972</td><td>2,945</td><td>2.010</td></tr> <tr><td>1998</td><td>0.00001297</td><td>2,656</td><td>3.390</td></tr> <tr><td>1999</td><td>-0.00026646</td><td>2,579</td><td>2.826</td></tr> <tr><td>2000</td><td>-0.00011860</td><td>2,829</td><td>2.868</td></tr> <tr><td>2001</td><td>-0.00011330</td><td>2,803</td><td>2.905</td></tr> <tr><td>2002</td><td>-0.00028000</td><td>2,852</td><td>2.701</td></tr> <tr><td>2003</td><td>-0.00029301</td><td>3,059</td><td>2.872</td></tr> <tr><td>2004</td><td>-0.00067069</td><td>2,932</td><td>1.758</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	a	b	c	1992	-0.00013407	4,872	3.858	1993	-0.00007899	2,870	2.273	1994	-0.00006269	2,278	1.804	1995	-0.00006269	2,278	1.804	1996	-0.00006863	2,494	1.975	1997	0.00016972	2,945	2.010	1998	0.00001297	2,656	3.390	1999	-0.00026646	2,579	2.826	2000	-0.00011860	2,829	2.868	2001	-0.00011330	2,803	2.905	2002	-0.00028000	2,852	2.701	2003	-0.00029301	3,059	2.872	2004	-0.00067069	2,932	1.758
Year	a	b	c																																																							
1992	-0.00013407	4,872	3.858																																																							
1993	-0.00007899	2,870	2.273																																																							
1994	-0.00006269	2,278	1.804																																																							
1995	-0.00006269	2,278	1.804																																																							
1996	-0.00006863	2,494	1.975																																																							
1997	0.00016972	2,945	2.010																																																							
1998	0.00001297	2,656	3.390																																																							
1999	-0.00026646	2,579	2.826																																																							
2000	-0.00011860	2,829	2.868																																																							
2001	-0.00011330	2,803	2.905																																																							
2002	-0.00028000	2,852	2.701																																																							
2003	-0.00029301	3,059	2.872																																																							
2004	-0.00067069	2,932	1.758																																																							
School Crime Supplement	1995, 1999, 2001, 2003, and 2005	Standard errors of percentage and population counts were calculated using the Taylor series approximation method using PSU and strata variables.																																																								

**Figure A.3. Methods used to calculate standard errors of statistics for different surveys**  
**—Continued**

Survey	Year	Method of calculation
Youth Risk Behavior Survey	1993, 1995, 1997, 1999, 2001, 2003, and 2005	Taylor series approximation method using PSU and strata variables available from the dataset.
Schools and Staffing Survey	1993–1994, 1999–2000, and 2003–2004	Balanced repeated replication method using replicate weights available from the dataset.
School Survey on Crime and Safety	1999–2000 and 2003–2004	Jackknife replication method using replicate weights available from the dataset.