

# Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2006

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December 2006

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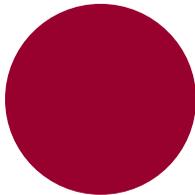
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Our nation's schools should be safe havens for teaching and learning, free of crime and violence. Any instance of crime or violence at school not only affects the individuals involved but also may disrupt the educational process and affect bystanders, the school itself, and the surrounding community (Henry 2000).

For parents, school staff, and policymakers to address school crime effectively, they must possess an accurate understanding of the extent and nature of the problem. However, without collecting data, it is difficult to adequately gauge the scope of crime and violence in schools given the large amount of attention devoted to isolated incidents of extreme school violence. Ensuring safer schools requires establishing good indicators of the current state of school crime and safety across the nation and periodically monitoring and updating these indicators. This is the aim of *Indicators of School Crime and Safety*.

This report is the ninth in a series of annual publications produced jointly by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Institute of Education Sciences (IES), in the U.S. Department of Education and the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) in the U.S. Department of Justice. This report presents the most recent data available on school crime and student safety. 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 BJS, NCES, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The most recent data collection for each indicator varied by survey, from 2003–04 to 2005. Each data source has an independent sample design, data collection method, and questionnaire design or is the result of a universe data collection. All comparisons described in this report are statistically significant at the .05 level. In 2005, the unit response rate for the School Crime Supplement did not meet NCES statistical standards; therefore, interpret the 2005 data from *Indicators 3, 8, 10, 11, 16, 17, and 20* with caution. Additional information about methodology and the datasets analyzed in this report may be found in appendix A.

This report covers topics such as victimization, fights, bullying, disorder, weapons, student perceptions of school safety, teacher injury, and drugs and alcohol. Indicators of crime and safety are compared across different population subgroups and over time. Data on crimes that occur outside of school grounds are offered as a point of comparison where available.

### KEY FINDINGS

In the 2004–05 school year, an estimated 54.9 million students were enrolled in prekindergarten through grade 12 (U.S. Department of Education forthcoming). Preliminary data on fatal victimizations show youth ages 5–18 were victims of 28 school-associated violent deaths from July 1, 2004, through June 30, 2005 (21 homicides

and 7 suicides) (*Indicator 1*). In 2004, students ages 12–18 were victims of about 1.4 million nonfatal crimes at school, including about 863,000 thefts<sup>5</sup> and 583,000 violent crimes<sup>6</sup> (simple assault and serious violent crime)—107,000 of which were serious violent crimes (rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault) (*Indicator 2*). These figures represent victimization rates of 33 thefts and 22 violent crimes, including 4 serious violent crimes, per 1,000 students at school in 2004. Some of these indicators document that student safety has improved. The victimization rate<sup>1</sup> of students ages 12–18 at school<sup>2</sup> declined from 73 victimizations per 1,000 students in 2003 to 55 victimizations in 2004.<sup>3</sup> However, other aspects of crime have not improved. The number of homicides of school-age youth ages 5–18 at school was higher in 2004–05 than in 2000–01 (21 vs. 11 homicides), but remained below the number of homicides of school-age youth for most years in the 1990's.<sup>4</sup> Violence, theft, drugs, and weapons continue to pose problems in schools. In 2005, 25 percent of students in grades 9–12 reported that drugs were made available to them on school property and 8 percent of students were threatened or injured with a weapon on school property in the previous 12 months. The following section presents key findings of the report.

### ***Violent Deaths***

- From July 1, 2004, through June 30, 2005, there were 21 homicides and 7 suicides of school-age youth (ages 5–18) at school (*Indicator 1*). Combined, this number translates into about 1 homicide or suicide of a school-age youth at school per 2 million students enrolled during the 2004–05 school year.

### ***Nonfatal Student Victimization***

- In 2004, students ages 12–18 were victims of about 1.4 million nonfatal crimes at school, including about 863,000 thefts and 583,000 violent crimes—107,000 of which were serious violent crimes (rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault) (*Indicator 2*).
- In 2004, students ages 12–18 were more likely to be victims of theft at school than away from school (*Indicator 2*). That year, 33 thefts per 1,000 students occurred at school and 27 thefts occurred away from school (*Indicator 2*).
- Total crime and theft victimization rates for students both at school and away from school were lower in 2004 than 2003 (*Indicator 2*). In 2003, there were 73 victimizations per 1,000 students at school, compared with 55 victimizations in 2004. Theft victimization at school declined from 45 victimizations per 1,000 students in 2003 to 33 victimizations of students in 2004.

<sup>1</sup> The victimization rate is based on the number of thefts, violent crimes, or serious crimes per 1,000 students.

<sup>2</sup> See appendix B for a detailed definition of “at school.”

<sup>3</sup> Data in this report are not adjusted by the number of hours that youths spend on school property versus the number of hours they spend elsewhere.

<sup>4</sup> Data from 1999–2005 are preliminary and subject to change.

<sup>5</sup> Theft includes purse snatching, pick pocketing, all burglaries, attempted forcible entry, and all attempted and completed thefts except motor vehicle thefts. Theft does not include robbery in which threat or use of force is involved.

<sup>6</sup> Violent crimes include serious violent crimes and simple assault.

- Away from school, total crime and violent crime victimization rates for students also decreased between 2003 and 2004 (*Indicator 2*). In 2003, there were 60 victimizations per 1,000 students away from school, compared with 48 victimizations in 2004. Violent victimization declined from 32 victimizations per 1,000 students in 2003 to 21 victimizations in 2004.
- In 2005, 4 percent of students ages 12–18 reported being victimized at school during the previous 6 months: 3 percent reported theft, and 1 percent reported violent victimization (*Indicator 3*). Less than half of a percent of students reported serious violent victimization.
- Between 2003 and 2005, the percentage of students reporting victimization declined (from 5 to 4 percent), as did the percentage reporting theft (from 4 to 3 percent); there were no measurable declines in the percentages reporting violent and serious violent crime during the same period (*Indicator 3*).
- In 2005, 10 percent of male students in grades 9–12 reported being threatened or injured with a weapon on school property in the past year, compared with 6 percent of female students (*Indicator 4*).
- Hispanic students were more likely than White students to report being threatened or injured with a weapon on school property in 2005 (10 vs. 7 percent) (*Indicator 4*).

### ***Threats and Attacks on Teachers***

- In 2003–04, teachers' reports of being threatened or attacked by students during the previous 12 months varied according to their school level (*Indicator 5*). Secondary school teachers were more likely than elementary school teachers to have been threatened with injury by a student (8 vs. 6 percent). However, elementary school teachers were more likely than secondary teachers to report having been physically attacked (4 vs. 2 percent).
- Ten percent of teachers in central city schools reported in 2003–04 that they were threatened with injury by students, compared with 6 percent of teachers in urban fringe schools and 5 percent in rural schools (*Indicator 5*). Five percent of teachers in central city schools were attacked by students, compared with 3 percent of teachers in urban fringe and 2 percent in rural schools.
- Public school teachers were more likely than private school teachers to have been threatened (7 vs. 2 percent) or physically attacked (4 vs. 2 percent) by students in school (*Indicator 5*). Among teachers in central city schools, those in public schools were at least five times more likely to be threatened with injury than their colleagues in private schools (12 vs. 2 percent) and at least four times more likely to be physically attacked (5 vs. 1 percent).

## ***School Environment***

- The percentage of public schools experiencing one or more violent incidents increased between the 1999–2000 and 2003–04 school years, from 71 to 81 percent (*Indicator 6*). Both primary schools and high schools had lower rates of violent crimes per 1,000 students than middle schools. In 2003–04, there were 28 violent crimes per 1,000 students in both primary schools and high schools, compared with 53 violent crimes in middle schools.
- In 2003–04, 2 percent of public schools reported daily or weekly occurrences of racial tensions among students and 27 percent reported daily or weekly student bullying (*Indicator 7*). With regard to other frequently occurring discipline problems in public schools (those occurring at least once a week), 11 percent of principals reported student verbal abuse of teachers, 3 percent reported widespread disorder in classrooms, and 19 percent reported student acts of disrespect for teachers. About 17 percent of public schools reported undesirable gang activities and 3 percent reported undesirable cult or extremist activities.
- The prevalence of frequently occurring discipline problems was related to school enrollment size in the 2003–04 school year (*Indicator 7*). In general, principals in large schools were more likely to report discipline problems than principals in small schools. Thirty-four percent of principals at schools with 1,000 or more students reported student acts of disrespect for teachers at least once per week, compared with 21 percent of those at schools with 500–999 students, 17 percent of those at schools with 300–499 students, and 14 percent of those at schools with less than 300 students.
- In 2005, 24 percent of students ages 12–18 reported that there were gangs at their schools (*Indicator 8*). Students in urban schools (36 percent) were more likely to report the presence of gangs at their school than suburban students (21 percent) and rural students (16 percent).
- The percentage of students reporting the presence of gangs increased from 21 to 24 percent between 2003 and 2005 (*Indicator 8*). The percentage of students at urban schools reporting the presence of gangs at school increased from 31 to 36 percent during this period.
- In 2005, one-quarter of all students in grades 9–12 reported that someone had offered, sold, or given them an illegal drug on school property in the past 12 months (*Indicator 9*).
- Eleven percent of students ages 12–18 reported that someone at school had used hate-related words against them, and more than one-third (38 percent) had seen hate-related graffiti at school in 2005 (*Indicator 10*).
- In 2005, 28 percent of students ages 12–18 reported having been bullied at school during the last 6 months (*Indicator 11*). Of these students, 58 percent said that the bullying had happened once or twice during that period, 25 percent had experienced bullying

once or twice a month, 11 percent reported having been bullied once or twice a week, and 8 percent said they had been bullied almost daily.

- Of those students who reported bullying incidents that involved being pushed, shoved, tripped, or spit on (9 percent), 24 percent reported that they had sustained an injury<sup>7</sup> during the previous 6 months as a result (*Indicator 11*). While no measurable differences were found by sex in students' likelihood of reporting a bullying incident in 2005, among students who reported being bullied, males were more likely than females to report being injured during such an incident (31 vs. 18 percent).

### ***Fights, Weapons, and Illegal Substances***

- In 2005, 36 percent of students in grades 9–12 reported they had been in a fight anywhere, and 14 percent said they had been in a fight on school property during the previous 12 months (*Indicator 12*). In the same year, 43 percent of males said they had been in a fight anywhere, compared with 28 percent of females, and 18 percent of males said they had been in a fight on school property, compared with 9 percent of females.
- Nineteen percent of students in grades 9–12 in 2005 reported they had carried a weapon anywhere, and about 6 percent reported they had carried a weapon on school property during the previous 30 days (*Indicator 13*). Males were two times more likely than females to carry a weapon—either anywhere or on school property—in all survey years (1993–2005). In 2005, for example, 10 percent of males carried a weapon on school property, compared with 3 percent of females, and 30 percent of males carried a weapon anywhere, compared with 7 percent of females.
- In 2005, 43 percent of students in grades 9–12 consumed at least one drink of alcohol anywhere, and 4 percent consumed at least one drink on school property during the previous 30 days (*Indicator 14*). Hispanic students (8 percent) were more likely to use alcohol on school property than White, Black, or Asian students (4, 3, and 1 percent, respectively).
- Twenty percent of students in grades 9–12 in 2005 reported using marijuana anywhere during the past 30 days, and 5 percent reported using marijuana on school property during this period (*Indicator 15*). At school, Hispanic students (8 percent) and American Indian students (9 percent) were more likely to report using marijuana than White or Black students (4 and 5 percent, respectively).

### ***Fear and Avoidance***

- In 2005, approximately 6 percent of students ages 12–18 reported that they were afraid of attack or harm at school, and 5 percent reported that they were afraid of attack or harm away from school (*Indicator 16*). The percentage of students who reported that they were afraid of being attacked at school (including on the way to and from school) decreased

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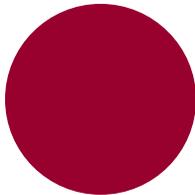
<sup>7</sup>Injury includes bruises or swelling; cuts, scratches, or scrapes; black eye or bloody nose; teeth chipped or knocked out; broken bones or internal injuries; knocked unconscious; or other injuries.

from 12 to 6 percent between 1995 and 2001; however, no difference was detected in the percentage of students who feared an attack away from school between 1999 and 2005.

- Black and Hispanic students were more likely than White students to fear for their safety regardless of location in 2005 (*Indicator 16*). Nine percent of Black students and 10 percent of Hispanic students reported that they were afraid of being attacked at school (including on the way to and from school), compared with 4 percent of White students. Away from school, 7 percent of Black students, 6 percent of Hispanic students, and 4 percent of White students reported that they were afraid of an attack.
- In 2005, 6 percent of students ages 12–18 reported that they had avoided a school activity or one or more places in school in the previous 6 months because of fear of attack or harm: 2 percent of students avoided a school activity, and 4 percent avoided one or more places in school (*Indicator 17*). Consistent with most previous years, students in urban areas in 2005 were the most likely to avoid places in school: 6 percent of urban students reported that they had done so, compared with 4 percent of suburban and rural students.

### ***Discipline, Safety, and Security Measures***

- About 46 percent of public schools took at least one serious disciplinary action against students—including suspensions lasting 5 days or more, removals with no services (i.e., expulsions), and transfers to specialized schools—for specific offenses during the 2003–04 school year (*Indicator 18*). Of those serious disciplinary actions, 74 percent were suspensions for 5 days or more, 5 percent were removals with no services, and 21 percent were transfers to specialized schools.
- Four percent of all public schools took one or more serious disciplinary actions in response to students' use or possession of a firearm or explosive device in 2003–04 (*Indicator 18*). Students' use or possession of weapons other than firearms resulted in at least one serious disciplinary action in 17 percent of schools.
- In 2003–04, 83 percent of public schools controlled access to school buildings by locking or monitoring doors during school hours, and 36 percent controlled access to school grounds with locked or monitored gates (*Indicator 19*). Nearly all public schools required visitors to sign or check in when entering the school building (98 percent), while few schools required either students or visitors to pass through metal detectors regularly (1 percent each).
- The vast majority of students ages 12–18 reported that their school had a student code of conduct (95 percent) and a requirement that visitors sign in (93 percent) in 2005 (*Indicator 20*). Metal detectors were the least observed security measure, with 11 percent of students reporting their use at their school.



## FOREWORD

*Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2006* provides the most recent national indicators on school crime and safety. Some of these indicators document that student safety has improved. For example, the victimization rate of students ages 12–18 at school declined from 73 victimizations per 1,000 students in 2003 to 55 per 1,000 students victimizations in 2004. However, other aspects of crime have not improved. For example, the number of homicides of school-age youth ages 5–18 was higher in 2004–05 than 2000–01 (21 vs. 11 homicides), but the number remained below most years during the 1990's. In 2004, students ages 12–18 were victims of about 583,000 violent crimes and 863,000 crimes of theft at school. In 2005, 25 percent of students in grades 9–12 reported that drugs were made available to them on school property and 8 percent of students were threatened or injured with a weapon on school property in the previous 12 months.

The information presented in this report is intended to serve as a reference for policymakers and practitioners so that they can develop effective programs and policies aimed at violence and school crime prevention. Accurate information about the nature, extent, and scope of the problem being addressed is essential for developing effective programs and policies.

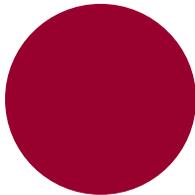
This is the ninth edition of *Indicators of School Crime and Safety*, a joint publication of the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) and the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). This report provides detailed statistics to inform the nation about current aspects of crime and safety in schools.

The 2006 edition of *Indicators* includes the most recent available data, compiled from a number of statistical data sources supported by the federal government. Such sources include results from a study of violent deaths in schools, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; the National Crime Victimization Survey and School Crime Supplement to the survey, sponsored by the BJS and NCES, respectively; the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and the Schools and Staffing Survey and School Survey on Crime and Safety, both sponsored by NCES.

The entire report is available on the Internet. The Bureau of Justice Statistics and the National Center for Education Statistics continue to work together in order to provide timely and complete data on the issues of school-related violence and safety.

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National Center for Education Statistics

**Jeffrey L. Sedgwick**  
*Director*  
Bureau of Justice Statistics



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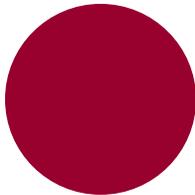
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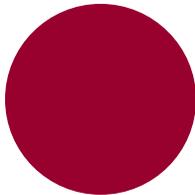
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## CONTENTS

	<b>Page</b>
Executive Summary .....	iii
Foreword .....	ix
Acknowledgments .....	x
List of Tables .....	xii
List of Figures .....	xix
Introduction .....	1
Violent Deaths .....	5
1. Violent Deaths at School and Away From School .....	6
Nonfatal Student Victimization .....	9
2. Incidence of Victimization at School and Away From School .....	10
3. Prevalence of Victimization at School .....	14
4. Threats and Injuries With Weapons on School Property .....	16
Threats and Attacks on Teachers .....	19
5. Teachers Threatened With Injury or Attacked by Students .....	20
School Environment .....	23
6. Violent and Other Incidents at Public Schools and Those Reported to the Police ....	24
7. Discipline Problems Reported by Public Schools .....	28
8. Students' Reports of Gangs at School .....	30
9. Students' Reports of Drug Availability on School Property .....	32
10. Students' Reports of Being Called Hate-Related Words and Seeing Hate-Related Graffiti .....	34
11. Bullying at School .....	36
Fights, Weapons, and Illegal Substances .....	39
12. Physical Fights on School Property and Anywhere .....	40
13. Students Carrying Weapons on School Property and Anywhere .....	42
14. Students' Use of Alcohol on School Property and Anywhere .....	44
15. Students' Use of Marijuana on School Property and Anywhere .....	46
Fear and Avoidance .....	49
16. Students' Perceptions of Personal Safety at School and Away From School .....	50
17. Students' Reports of Avoiding School Activities or Specific Places in School .....	52
Discipline, Safety, and Security Measures .....	55
18. Serious Disciplinary Actions Taken by Public Schools .....	56
19. Safety and Security Measures Taken by Public Schools .....	58
20. Students' Reports of Safety and Security Measures Observed at School .....	60
References .....	63
Supplemental Tables .....	67
Standard Error Tables .....	115
Appendix A. Technical Notes .....	159
Appendix B. Glossary of Terms .....	187



## LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
<b>Supplemental Tables</b>	
1.1. Number of school-associated violent deaths, homicides, and suicides of youth ages 5–18, by location: 1992–2005 .....	68
1.2. Number of school-associated violent deaths of students, staff, and nonstudents, by type: 1992–2005 .....	69
2.1. Number of student-reported nonfatal crimes against students ages 12–18 and rate of crimes per 1,000 students, by location and year: 1992–2004 .....	70
2.2. Number of student-reported nonfatal crimes against students ages 12–18 at school and rate of crimes per 1,000 students, by selected student characteristics: 2004 .....	71
2.3. Number of student-reported nonfatal crimes against students ages 12–18 away from school and rate of crimes per 1,000 students, by selected student characteristics: 2004 .....	72
3.1. Percentage of students ages 12–18 who reported criminal victimization at school during the previous 6 months, by type of victimization and selected student and school characteristics: Various years, 1995–2005 .....	73
4.1. Percentage of students in grades 9–12 who reported being threatened or injured with a weapon on school property during the previous 12 months, by selected student and school characteristics: Various years, 1993–2005 .....	75
4.2. Percentage of students in grades 9–12 who reported being threatened or injured with a weapon on school property during the previous 12 months, by state: 2003 and 2005 .....	76
5.1. Percentage and number of public and private school teachers who reported that they were threatened with injury by a student from school during the previous 12 months, by urbanicity and selected teacher and school characteristics: 1993–94, 1999–2000, and 2003–04 .....	77
5.2. Percentage and number of public and private school teachers who reported that they were physically attacked by a student from school during the previous 12 months, by urbanicity and selected teacher and school characteristics: 1993–94, 1999–2000, and 2003–04 .....	79

<b>Table</b>	<b>Page</b>
5.3. Percentage and number of public school teachers who reported that they were threatened with injury by a student from school during the previous 12 months, by state: 1993–94, 1999–2000, and 2003–04 .....	81
5.4. Percentage and number of public school teachers who reported that they were physically attacked by a student from school during the previous 12 months, by state: 1993–94, 1999–2000, and 2003–04 .....	82
6.1. Percentage of public schools experiencing and reporting incidents of crime that occurred at school, number of incidents, and the rate per 1,000 students, by type of crime: 1999–2000 and 2003–04 .....	83
6.2. Percentage of public schools experiencing incidents of crime that occurred at school, number of incidents, and the rate of crimes per 1,000 students, by selected school characteristics: 2003–04 .....	85
6.3. Percentage of public schools reporting incidents of crime that occurred at school to the police, number of incidents, and the rate of crimes per 1,000 students, by selected school characteristics: 2003–04 .....	87
7.1. Percentage of public schools that reported selected discipline problems that occurred at school, by frequency and school characteristics: 2003–04 .....	89
8.1. Percentage of students ages 12–18 who reported that gangs were present at school during the previous 6 months, by urbanicity and selected student and school characteristics: 2001, 2003, and 2005 .....	91
9.1. Percentage of students in grades 9–12 who reported that drugs were made available to them on school property during the previous 12 months, by selected student and school characteristics: Various years, 1993–2005 .....	92
9.2. Percentage of students in grades 9–12 who reported that drugs were made available to them on school property during the previous 12 months, by state: 2003 and 2005 .....	93
10.1. Percentage of students ages 12–18 who reported being targets of hate-related words and seeing hate-related graffiti at school during the previous 6 months, by selected student and school characteristics: Various years, 1999–2005 .....	94
10.2. Percentage of students ages 12–18 who reported being targets of hate-related words at school during the previous 6 months, by selected student and school characteristics: 2005 .....	95
11.1. Percentage of students ages 12–18 who reported selected bullying problems at school during the previous 6 months, by selected student and school characteristics: 2005 .....	96

<b>Table</b>	<b>Page</b>
11.2. Percentage of students ages 12–18 who reported being bullied at school during the previous 6 months, by location of bullying, injury, and selected student and school characteristics: 2005 .....	97
11.3. Percentage of students ages 12–18 who reported selected bullying problems at school during the previous 6 months and percentage distribution of the frequency of bullying reports, by selected student and school characteristics: 2005 .....	98
12.1. Percentage of students in grades 9–12 who reported having been in a physical fight during the previous 12 months, by location and selected student and school characteristics: Various years, 1993–2005 .....	99
12.2. Percentage of students in grades 9–12 who reported having been in a physical fight during the previous 12 months, by location and state: 2003 and 2005 ....	100
13.1. Percentage of students in grades 9–12 who reported carrying a weapon at least 1 day during the previous 30 days, by location and selected student and school characteristics: Various years, 1993–2005 .....	101
13.2. Percentage of students in grades 9–12 who reported carrying a weapon at least 1 day during the previous 30 days, by location and state: 2003 and 2005 .....	102
14.1. Percentage of students in grades 9–12 who reported using alcohol during the previous 30 days, by location and selected student and school characteristics: Various years, 1993–2005 .....	103
14.2. Percentage of students in grades 9–12 who reported using alcohol during the previous 30 days, by location and state: 2003 and 2005 .....	104
15.1. Percentage of students in grades 9–12 who reported using marijuana during the previous 30 days, by location and selected student and school characteristics: Various years, 1993–2005 .....	105
15.2. Percentage of students in grades 9–12 who reported using marijuana during the previous 30 days, by location and state: 2003 and 2005 .....	106
16.1. Percentage of students ages 12–18 who reported being afraid of attack or harm during the previous 6 months, by location and selected student and school characteristics: Various years, 1995–2005 .....	107
17.1. Percentage of students ages 12–18 who reported avoiding school activities or one or more places in school during the previous 6 months because of fear of attack or harm: Various years, 1995–2005 .....	108

<b>Table</b>	<b>Page</b>
17.2. Percentage of students ages 12–18 who reported avoiding one or more places in school during the previous 6 months because of fear of attack or harm, by selected student and school characteristics: Various years, 1995–2005 .....	109
18.1. Number and percentage of public schools that took a serious disciplinary action, number of serious actions taken, and percentage distribution of serious actions, by type of action and type of offense: 2003–04 .....	110
19.1. Percentage of public schools that used selected safety and security measures, by school characteristics: 2003–04 .....	111
20.1. Percentage of students ages 12–18 who reported selected security measures at school: Various years, 1999–2005 .....	113

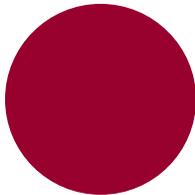
**Standard Error Tables**

S2.1. Standard errors for the number of student-reported nonfatal crimes against students ages 12–18 and rate of crimes per 1,000 students, by location and year: 1992–2004 .....	116
S2.2. Standard errors for the number of student-reported nonfatal crimes against students ages 12–18 at school and rate of crimes per 1,000 students, by selected student characteristics: 2004 .....	117
S2.3. Standard errors for the number of student-reported nonfatal crimes against students ages 12–18 away from school and rate of crimes per 1,000 students, by selected student and school characteristics: 2004 .....	118
S3.1. Standard errors for the percentage of students ages 12–18 who reported criminal victimization at school during the previous 6 months, by type of victimization and selected student and school characteristics: Various years, 1995–2005 .....	119
S4.1. Standard errors for the percentage of students in grades 9–12 who reported being threatened or injured with a weapon on school property during the previous 12 months, by selected student and school characteristics: Various years, 1993–2005 .....	121
S4.2. Standard errors for the percentage of students in grades 9–12 who reported being threatened or injured with a weapon on school property during the previous 12 months, by state: 2003 and 2005 .....	122
S5.1. Standard errors for the percentage and number of public and private school teachers who reported that they were threatened with injury by a student from school during the previous 12 months, by urbanicity and selected teacher and school characteristics: 1993–94, 1999–2000, and 2003–04 .....	123

<b>Table</b>	<b>Page</b>
S5.2. Standard errors for the percentage and number of public and private school teachers who reported that they were physically attacked by a student from school during the previous 12 months, by urbanicity and selected teacher and school characteristics: 1993–94, 1999–2000, and 2003–04 .....	125
S5.3. Standard errors for the percentage and number of public school teachers who reported that they were threatened with injury by a student from school during the previous 12 months, by state: 1993–94, 1999–2000, and 2003–04 .....	127
S5.4. Standard errors for the percentage and number of public school teachers who reported that they were physically attacked by a student from school during the previous 12 months, by state: 1993–94, 1999–2000, and 2003–04 .....	128
S6.1. Standard errors for the percentage of public schools experiencing and reporting incidents of crime that occurred at school, number of incidents, and the rate per 1,000 students, by type of crime: 1999–2000 and 2003–04 ...	129
S6.2. Standard errors for the percentage of public schools experiencing incidents of crime that occurred at school, number of incidents, and the rate of crimes per 1,000 students, by selected school characteristics: 2003–04 .....	130
S6.3. Standard errors for the percentage of public schools reporting incidents of crime that occurred at school to the police, number of incidents, and the rate of crimes per 1,000 students, by selected school characteristics: 2003–04 .....	132
S7.1. Standard errors for the percentage of public schools that reported selected discipline problems that occurred at school, by frequency and school characteristics: 2003–04 .....	134
S8.1. Standard errors for the percentage of students ages 12–18 who reported that gangs were present at school during the previous 6 months, by urbanicity and selected student and school characteristics: 2001, 2003, and 2005 .....	136
S9.1. Standard errors for the percentage of students in grades 9–12 who reported that drugs were made available to them on school property during the previous 12 months, by selected student and school characteristics: Various years, 1993–2005 .....	137
S9.2. Standard errors for the percentage of students in grades 9–12 who reported that drugs were made available to them on school property during the previous 12 months, by state: 2003 and 2005 .....	138
S10.1. Standard errors for the percentage of students ages 12–18 who reported being targets of hate-related words and seeing hate-related graffiti at school during the previous 6 months, by selected student and school characteristics: Various years, 1999–2005 .....	139

<b>Table</b>	<b>Page</b>
S10.2. Standard errors for the percentage of students ages 12–18 who reported being targets of hate-related words at school during the previous 6 months, by selected student and school characteristics: 2005 .....	140
S11.1. Standard errors for the percentage of students ages 12–18 who reported selected bullying problems at school during the previous 6 months, by selected student and school characteristics: 2005 .....	141
S11.2. Standard errors for the percentage of students ages 12–18 who reported being bullied at school during the previous 6 months, by location of bullying, injury, and selected student and school characteristics: 2005 .....	142
S11.3. Standard errors for the percentage of students ages 12–18 who reported selected bullying problems at school during the previous 6 months and percentage distribution of the frequency of bullying reports, by selected student and school characteristics: 2005.....	143
S12.1. Standard errors for the percentage of students in grades 9–12 who reported having been in a physical fight during the previous 12 months, by location and selected student and school characteristics: Various years, 1993–2005 .....	144
S12.2. Standard errors for the percentage of students in grades 9–12 who reported having been in a physical fight during the previous 12 months, by location and state: 2003 and 2005 .....	145
S13.1. Standard errors for the percentage of students in grades 9–12 who reported carrying a weapon at least 1 day during the previous 30 days, by location and selected student and school characteristics: Various years, 1993–2005 .....	146
S13.2. Standard errors for the percentage of students in grades 9–12 who reported carrying a weapon at least 1 day during the previous 30 days, by location and state: 2003 and 2005 .....	147
S14.1. Standard errors for the percentage of students in grades 9–12 who reported using alcohol during the previous 30 days, by location and selected student and school characteristics: Various years, 1993–2005 .....	148
S14.2. Standard errors for the percentage of students in grades 9–12 who reported using alcohol during the previous 30 days, by location and state: 2003 and 2005 .....	149
S15.1. Standard errors for the percentage of students in grades 9–12 who reported using marijuana during the previous 30 days, by location and selected student and school characteristics: Various years, 1993–2005 .....	150

<b>Table</b>	<b>Page</b>
S15.2. Standard errors for the percentage of students in grades 9–12 who reported using marijuana during the previous 30 days, by location and state: 2003 and 2005 .....	151
S16.1. Standard errors for the percentage of students ages 12–18 who reported being afraid of attack or harm during the previous 6 months, by location and selected student and school characteristics: Various years, 1995–2005 .....	152
S17.1. Standard errors for the percentage of students ages 12–18 who reported avoiding school activities or one or more places in school during the previous 6 months because of fear of attack or harm: Various years, 1995–2005 .....	153
S17.2. Standard errors for the percentage of students ages 12–18 who reported avoiding one or more places in school during the previous 6 months because of fear of attack or harm, by selected student and school characteristics: Various years, 1995–2005 .....	154
S18.1. Standard errors for the number and percentage of public schools that took a serious disciplinary action, number of serious actions taken, and percentage distribution of serious actions, by type of action and type of offense: 2003–04 .....	155
S19.1. Standard errors for the percentage of public schools that used selected safety and security measures, by school characteristics: 2003–04 .....	156
S20.1. Standard errors for the percentage of students ages 12–18 who reported selected security measures at school: Various years, 1999–2005 .....	158



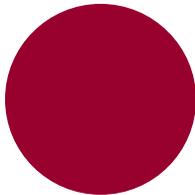
## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Page
A. Nationally representative sample surveys used in this report.....	3
1.1. Number of homicides and suicides of youth ages 5–18, by location: 2003–04 .....	7
1.2. Number of homicides and suicides of youth ages 5–18 at school: 1992–2005 .....	7
2.1. Rate of student-reported nonfatal crimes against students ages 12–18 per 1,000 students, by type of crime and location: 1992–2004 .....	11
2.2. Rate of student-reported nonfatal crimes against students ages 12–18 at school per 1,000 students, by type of crime and selected student characteristics: 2004 .....	12
2.3. Rate of student-reported nonfatal crimes against students ages 12–18 away from school per 1,000 students, by type of crime and selected student characteristics: 2004 .....	13
3.1. Percentage of students ages 12–18 who reported criminal victimization at school during the previous 6 months, by type of victimization: Various years, 1995–2005 .....	15
4.1. Percentage of students in grades 9–12 who reported being threatened or injured with a weapon on school property during the previous 12 months, by sex: Various years, 1993–2005 .....	17
4.2. Percentage of students in grades 9–12 who reported being threatened or injured with a weapon on school property during the previous 12 months, by grade: 2005.....	17
5.1. Percentage of public and private school teachers who reported that they were threatened with injury or that they were physically attacked by a student from school during the previous 12 months: 1993–94, 1999–2000, and 2003–04....	21
5.2. Percentage of public and private school teachers who reported that they were threatened with injury or that they were physically attacked by a student from school during the previous 12 months, by urbanicity and school sector: 2003–04 .....	21

<b>Figure</b>	<b>Page</b>
6.1. Percentage of public schools experiencing and reporting incidents of crime that occurred at school and the rate per 1,000 students, by type of crime: 2003–04 .....	25
6.2. Percentage of public schools experiencing and reporting incidents of crime that occurred at school, by type of crime and school level: 2003–04 .....	26
6.3. Percentage of public schools experiencing and reporting incidents of crime that occurred at school, by type of crime and urbanicity: 2003–04 .....	27
7.1. Percentage of public schools reporting selected discipline problems that occurred at school, by school level: 2003–04 .....	29
8.1. Percentage of students ages 12–18 who reported that gangs were present at school during the previous 6 months, by urbanicity: Various years, 2001–2005 .....	31
8.2. Percentage of students ages 12–18 who reported that gangs were present at school during the previous 6 months, by urbanicity and race/ethnicity: 2005...	31
9.1. Percentage of students in grades 9–12 who reported that drugs were made available to them on school property during the previous 12 months, by sex: Various years, 1993–2005.....	33
9.2. Percentage of students in grades 9–12 who reported that drugs were made available to them on school property during the previous 12 months, by race/ethnicity: 2005.....	33
10.1. Percentage of students ages 12–18 who reported being targets of hate-related words and seeing hate-related graffiti at school during the previous 6 months, by selected student and school characteristics: 2005 .....	35
11.1. Percentage of students ages 12–18 who reported selected bullying problems at school during the previous 6 months, by type of bullying: 2005.....	37
11.2. Percentage of students ages 12–18 who reported being bullied at school during the previous 6 months, by location of bullying and injury: 2005 .....	37
12.1. Percentage of students in grades 9–12 who reported having been in a physical fight during the previous 12 months, by location and sex: Various years, 1993–2005 .....	41
12.2. Percentage of students in grades 9–12 who reported having been in a physical fight during the previous 12 months, by location and grade: 2005 .....	41

<b>Figure</b>	<b>Page</b>
13.1. Percentage of students in grades 9–12 who reported carrying a weapon at least 1 day during the previous 30 days, by location and sex: Various years, 1993–2005 .....	43
13.2. Percentage of students in grades 9–12 who reported carrying a weapon at least 1 day during the previous 30 days, by location and race/ethnicity: 2005.....	43
14.1. Percentage of students in grades 9–12 who reported using alcohol during the previous 30 days, by location and sex: Various years, 1993–2005 .....	45
14.2. Percentage of students in grades 9–12 who reported using alcohol during the previous 30 days, by location and grade: 2005.....	45
15.1. Percentage of students in grades 9–12 who reported using marijuana during the previous 30 days, by location and sex: Various years, 1993–2005 .....	47
15.2. Percentage of students in grades 9–12 who reported using marijuana during the previous 30 days, by location and grade: 2005.....	47
16.1. Percentage of students ages 12–18 who reported being afraid of attack or harm during the previous 6 months, by location: Various years, 1995–2005.....	51
16.2. Percentage of students ages 12–18 who reported being afraid of attack or harm during the previous 6 months, by location and race/ethnicity: 2005.....	51
17.1. Percentage of students ages 12–18 who reported avoiding school activities or one or more places in school during the previous 6 months because of fear of attack or harm: Various years, 1995–2005 .....	53
17.2. Percentage of students ages 12–18 who reported avoiding one or more places in school during the previous 6 months because of fear of attack or harm, by selected student and school characteristics: 2005 .....	53
18.1. Percentage distribution of serious disciplinary actions taken by public schools for specific offenses, by type of action: 2003–04 .....	57
18.2. Percentage of public schools that took a serious disciplinary action for specific offenses, by type of offense: 2003–04 .....	57
19.1. Percentage of public schools that used selected safety and security measures, by school level: 2003–04.....	59
20.1. Percentage of students ages 12–18 who reported selected security measures at school: Various years, 1999–2005.....	61

<b>Figure</b>	<b>Page</b>
Appendixes	
A.1. Descriptions of data sources and samples used in the report .....	175
A.2. Wording of survey questions used to construct indicators .....	177
A.3. Methods used to calculate standard errors of statistics for different surveys .....	185



## INTRODUCTION

Our nation's schools should be a safe haven for teaching and learning free of crime and violence. Even though students are less likely to be victims of a violent crime at school<sup>1</sup> than away from school (*Indicators 1 and 2*), any instance of crime or violence at school not only affects the individuals involved but also may disrupt the educational process and affect bystanders, the school itself, and the surrounding community (Henry 2000). For both students and teachers, victimization at school can have lasting effects. In addition to experiencing loneliness, depression, and adjustment difficulties (Crick and Bigbee 1998; Crick and Grotpeter 1996; Nansel et al. 2001; Prinstein, Boergers, and Vernberg 2001; Storch et al. 2003), victimized children are more prone to truancy (Ringwalt, Ennett, and Johnson 2003), poor academic performance (Wei and Williams 2004), dropping out of school (Beauvais et al. 1996), and violent behaviors (Nansel et al. 2003). For teachers, incidents of victimization may lead to professional disenchantment and even departure from the profession altogether (Karcher 2002).

For parents, school staff, and policymakers to effectively address school crime, they need an accurate understanding of the extent, nature, and context of the problem. However, it is difficult to gauge the scope of crime and violence in schools given the large amount of attention devoted to isolated incidents of extreme school violence. Measuring progress toward safer schools requires establishing good indicators of the current state of school crime and safety across the nation and periodically monitoring and updating these indicators; this is the aim of *Indicators of School Crime and Safety*.

### PURPOSE AND ORGANIZATION OF THIS REPORT

*Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2006* is the ninth in a series of reports produced by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) and the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) since 1998 that present the most recent data available on school crime and student safety. The report is not intended to be an exhaustive compilation of school crime and safety information, nor does it attempt to explore reasons for crime and violence in schools. Rather, it is designed to provide a brief summary of information from an array of data sources and to make data on national school crime and safety accessible to policymakers, educators, parents, and the general public.

*Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2006* is organized into sections that delineate specific concerns to readers, starting with a description of the most serious violent crimes. The sections cover Violent Deaths at School; Nonfatal Student Victimization; Threats and Attacks on Teachers; School Environment; Fights, Weapons, and Illegal Substances; Fear and Avoidance; and Discipline, Safety, and Security Measures. Each section contains a set of indicators that, taken together, aim to describe a distinct aspect of school crime and safety. Where available, data on crimes that occur outside of

<sup>1</sup> See appendix B for a detailed definition of "at school."

school grounds are offered as a point of comparison.<sup>2</sup> Supplemental tables for each indicator provide more detailed breakouts and standard errors for estimates. A glossary of terms and references section appear at the end of the report.

This year's report contains updates for all indicators and the expansion of two existing indicators, *Indicator 5* on threats to and injuries of teachers and *Indicator 11* on bullying. In response to requests for state-level information, tables showing available state-level estimates have been added to *Indicator 5*. These estimates have been added for the past three survey years. *Indicator 11* looks at seven types of bullying, where reported incidents of bullying took place in school, whether any injuries were sustained as a result of being bullied, and the frequency of bullying incidents among students who were bullied.

The indicator related to nonfatal teacher victimization at school has been discontinued. Because of sample cuts to the National Crime Victimization Survey (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.

Also found in this year's report are references to recent publications relevant to each indicator that the reader may want to consult for additional information or analyses. These references can be found in the "For more information" sidebars at the bottom of each indicator.

## DATA

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 universe data collections from federal departments and agencies, including BJS, NCES, 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.

The combination of multiple, independent sources of data provides a broad perspective on school crime and safety that could not be achieved through any single source of information. However, readers should be cautious when comparing data from different sources. While every effort has been made to keep key definitions consistent across indicators, differences in sampling procedures, populations, time periods, and question phrasing can all affect the comparability of results. For example, both *Indicators 19* and *20* report data on select security and safety measures used in schools. *Indicator 19* uses data collected from a stratified random sample of principals about safety and security practices used in their schools during the 2003–04 school year. *Indicator 20*, however,

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<sup>2</sup> Data in this report are not adjusted to reflect the number of hours that youths spend on school property versus the number of hours they spend elsewhere.

uses data collected from 12- through 18-year-olds in a rotated panel design of households. These students were asked whether they observed selected safety and security measures in their school in 2005, but they may not have known if, in fact, the security measure was present. In addition, different indicators contain various approaches to the analysis of school crime data and, therefore, will show different perspectives on school crime. For example, both *Indicators 2* and *3* report data on theft and violent crime at school based on the National Crime Victimization Survey and the School Crime Supplement to that survey, respectively. While *Indicator 2* examines the number of incidents of crime, *Indicator 3* examines the percentage or prevalence of students who reported victimization. Figure A provides a summary of some of the variations in the design and coverage of sample surveys used in this report.

Several indicators in this report are based on self-reported survey data. Readers should note that limitations inherent to self-reported data may affect estimates (Cantor and Lynch 2000). First, unless an interview is “bounded” or a reference period is established, estimates may include events that exceed the scope of the specified reference period. This factor may artificially increase reports because respondents may recall events outside of the given reference period. Second, many of the surveys rely on the respondent to “self-determine” a condition. This factor allows the respondent to define

**Figure A. Nationally representative sample surveys used in this report**

Survey	Sample	Year of survey	Reference time period	Indicators
<b>National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)</b>	Individuals age 12 or older living in households and group quarters	1992–2004 Annually	Incidents occurring during the calendar year <sup>1</sup>	2
<b>School Crime Supplement (SCS) to the National Crime Victimization Survey</b>	Students ages 12–18 enrolled in public and private schools during the 6 months prior to the interview	1995, 1999, 2001, 2003, and 2005	Incidents during the previous 6 months	3, 8, 10, 11, 16, and 17
			Not specified	20
<b>School Survey on Crime and Safety (SSOCS)</b>	Public primary, middle, and high school principals <sup>2</sup>	1999–2000 and 2003–04	1999–2000 and 2003–04 school year	6, 7, 18, and 19
<b>Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS)</b>	Public and private school K–12 teachers	1993–94, 1999–2000, and 2003–04	Incidents during the previous 12 months	5
<b>Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS)</b>	Students enrolled in grades 9–12 in public and private schools at the time of the survey	1993, 1995, 1997, 1999, 2001, 2003, and 2005	Incidents during the previous 12 months	4, 9, and 12
			Incidents during the previous 30 days	13, 14, and 15

<sup>1</sup> Respondents in the NCVS are interviewed every 6 months and asked about incidents that occurred in the past 6 months.

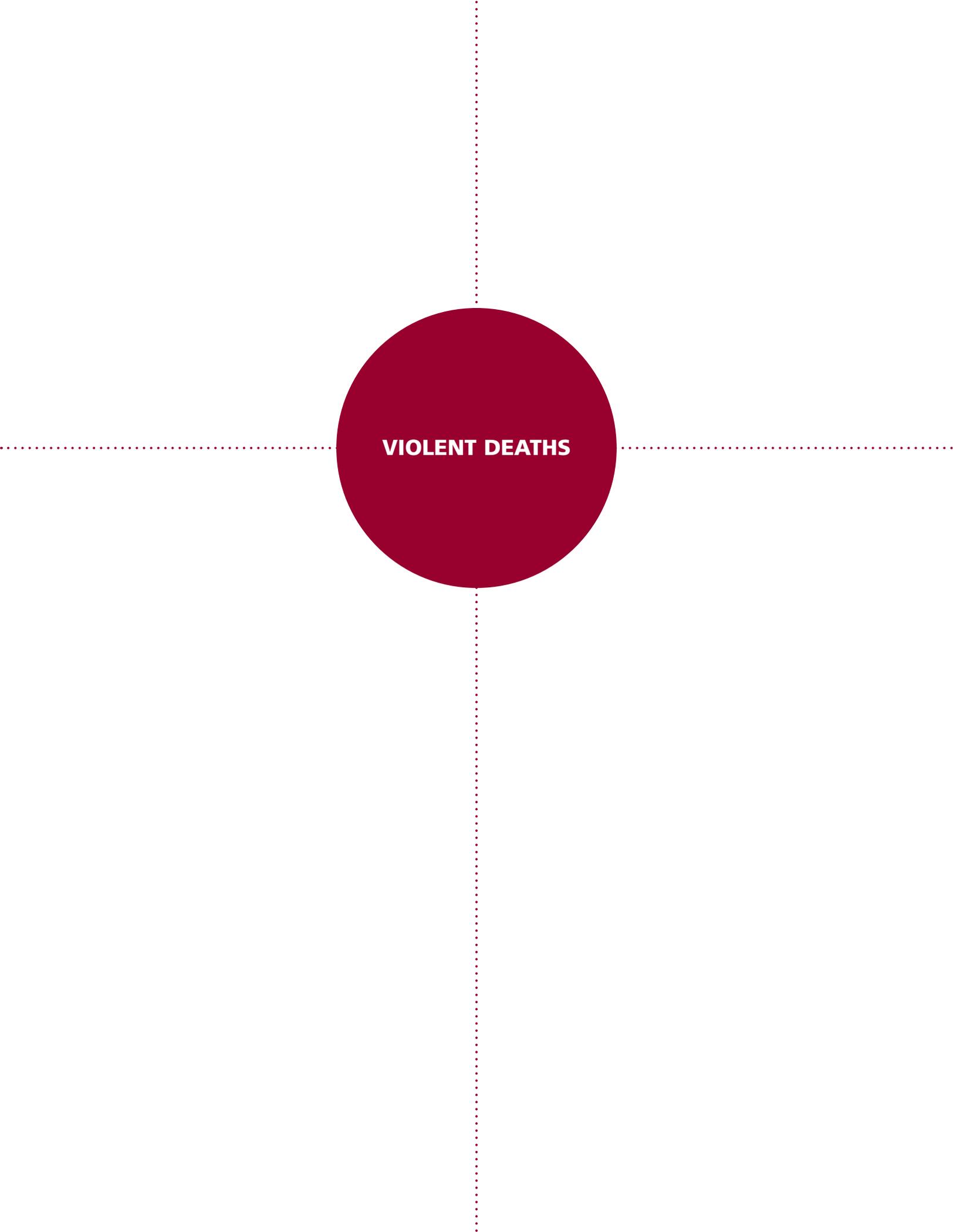
<sup>2</sup> Either school principals or the person most knowledgeable about discipline issues at school completed the SSOCS questionnaire.

a situation based upon his or her own interpretation of whether the incident was a crime or not. On the other hand, the same situation may not necessarily be interpreted in the same way by a bystander or the perceived offender. Third, victim surveys tend to emphasize crime events as incidents that take place at one point in time. However, victims can often experience a state of victimization in which they are threatened or victimized regularly or repeatedly. Finally, respondents may recall an event inaccurately. For instance, people may forget the event entirely or recall the specifics of the episode incorrectly. These and other factors may affect the precision of the estimates based on these surveys.

Data trends are discussed in this report when possible. Where trends are not discussed, either the data are not available in earlier surveys or the wording of the survey question changed from year to year, eliminating the ability to discuss any trend. Where data from samples are reported, as is the case with most of the indicators in this report, the standard error is calculated for each estimate provided in order to determine the “margin of error” for these estimates. The standard errors of the estimates for different subpopulations in an indicator can vary considerably and should be taken into account when making comparisons. Some estimates and standard errors have been revised from those provided in earlier editions of *Indicators of School Crime and Safety* and other previously published reports. Throughout this report, in cases where the standard error was at least 30 percent of the associated estimate, the estimates were noted with a “!” symbol (interpret data with caution). In cases where the standard error was greater than 50 percent of the associated estimate, the estimate was suppressed. See appendix A for more information.

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. Linear trend tests were 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 who reported using drugs increased (or decreased) over time or whether the percentage of students who reported being physically attacked in school increased (or decreased) with age. When differences among percentages were examined relative to a variable with ordered categories (such as grade), analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used to test for a linear relationship between the two variables.

Appendix A of this report contains descriptions of all the datasets used in this report and a discussion of how standard errors were calculated for each estimate.



**VIOLENT DEATHS**

## VIOLENT DEATHS AT SCHOOL AND AWAY FROM SCHOOL

*The number of homicides of youth ages 5–18 at school was higher in 2004–05 than 2000–01 (21 vs. 11 homicides), but remained lower than most years during the 1990's.*

Violent deaths at schools are rare but tragic events with far-reaching effects on the school population and surrounding community (Small and Dressler-Tetrick 2001). From July 1, 2004, through June 30, 2005, there were 48 school-associated violent deaths in elementary and secondary schools in the United States (tables 1.1 and 1.2). In this indicator, a school-associated violent death is defined as “a homicide, suicide, legal intervention (involving a law enforcement officer), or unintentional firearm-related death in which the fatal injury occurred on the campus of a functioning elementary or secondary school in the United States.” Victims of school-associated violent deaths include students, staff members, and others who are not students. Deaths that occurred while the victim was on the way to or from regular sessions at school, or while the victim was attending or traveling to or from an official school-sponsored event, were also considered school-associated violent deaths. To enable comparisons of homicides and suicides at school and away from school, data were drawn from a number of sources. Data for school-associated violent deaths from the 1999–2000 through 2004–05 school years are preliminary.

From July 1, 2004, through June 30, 2005, there were 21 homicides and 7 suicides of school-age youth (ages 5–18) at school (table 1.1).<sup>3</sup> Combined, this number translates into about 1 homicide or suicide of a school-age youth at school per 2 million students enrolled during the 2004–05 school year.<sup>4</sup> The most recent data available for the total number of homicides of school-age youth are from the 2003–04 school year (figure 1.1 and table 1.1), at which time there were 1,437 homicides. In the 2003 calendar year, there were 1,285 suicides of school-age youth.<sup>5</sup> In each school year, youth were over 50 times more likely to be murdered and almost 150 times more likely to commit suicide when they were away from school than at school.

Between July 1, 1992, and June 30, 1999, no consistent pattern of increase or decrease was observed in the number of homicides at school (figure 1.2 and table 1.1). During this period, between 28 and 34 homicides of school-age youth occurred at school in each school year. However, the number of homicides of school-age youth at school declined between the 1998–99 and 1999–2000 school years from 33 to 13 homicides. Between the 2000–01 and 2004–05 school years, the number of homicides of school-age youth at school increased from 11 to 21. While the absolute number of homicides of school-age youth at school has varied, the percentage of youth homicides occurring at school remained at less than 2 percent of the total number of youth homicides over all survey years. Between the 1992–93 and 2004–05 school years, from one to nine school-age youth committed suicide at school each year, with no consistent pattern of increase or decrease.

*This indicator has been updated to include revisions to previously published data and new data for 2002 onward.*



*For more information:*

*Tables 1.1 & 1.2*

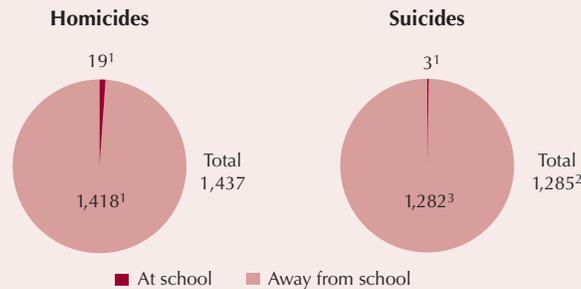
*Anderson et al. 2001*

<sup>3</sup> Between July 1, 2004, and June 30, 2005, there were 48 student, staff, and nonstudent school-associated violent deaths, including 37 homicides, 9 suicides, and 2 legal interventions (table 1.2).

<sup>4</sup> The total projected number of students enrolled in prekindergarten through 12th grade during the 2004–05 school year was 54,593,000 (U.S. Department of Education 2006).

<sup>5</sup> Data on suicides away from school are available only by calendar year, whereas data on suicides and homicides at school and homicides away from school are available by school year.

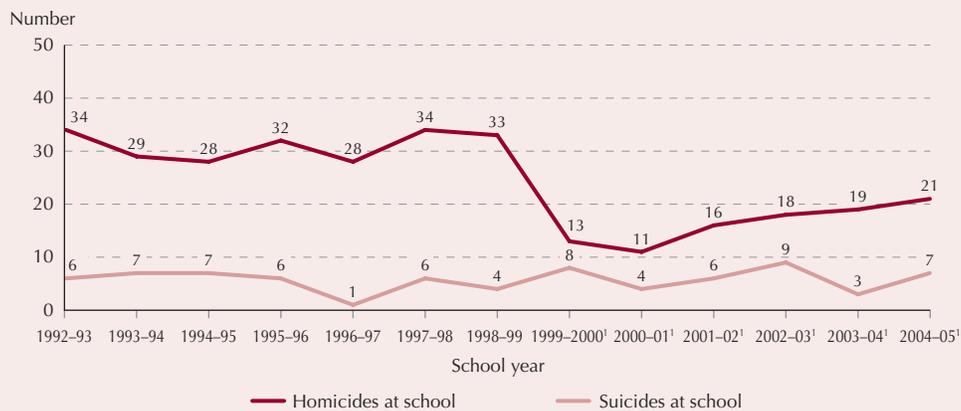
**Figure 1.1. Number of homicides and suicides of youth ages 5–18, by location: 2003–04**



<sup>1</sup> Youth ages 5–18 from July 1, 2003, through June 30, 2004. Data are preliminary and subject to change.  
<sup>2</sup> Youth ages 5–18 in the 2003 calendar year. Data are preliminary and subject to change.  
<sup>3</sup> This number approximates the number of suicides away from school. Use caution when interpreting this number due to timeline differences.  
 NOTE: “At school” includes on school property, on the way to or from regular sessions at school, and while attending or traveling to or from a school-sponsored event. Due to missing data for suicides for the 2004–05 school year, this figure contains data for the 2003–04 school year.

SOURCE: Data on homicides and suicides of youth ages 5–18 at school and total school-associated violent deaths are from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 2003–04 School-Associated Violent Deaths Surveillance Study (SAVD), partially funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools, previously unpublished tabulation (May 2006); data on total suicides of youth ages 5–18 are from the CDC, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System Fatal (WISQARS™ Fatal) (2006), retrieved July 2006 from <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars>; and data on total homicides of youth ages 5–18 for the 2003–04 school year are from the Supplementary Homicide Reports (SHR) collected by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and tabulated by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, preliminary data (July 2006).

**Figure 1.2. Number of homicides and suicides of youth ages 5–18 at school: 1992–2005**



<sup>1</sup> Data are preliminary and subject to change.  
 NOTE: Includes homicides and suicides of youth ages 5–18 at school from July 1, 1992, through June 30, 2005. “At school” includes on school property, on the way to or from regular sessions at school, and while attending or traveling to or from a school-sponsored event.

SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 1992–2005 School-Associated Violent Deaths Surveillance Study (SAVD), partially funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools, previously unpublished tabulation (May 2006).

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**NONFATAL STUDENT  
VICTIMIZATION**

## INCIDENCE OF VICTIMIZATION AT SCHOOL AND AWAY FROM SCHOOL

*Between 1992 and 2004, the victimization rates for students ages 12–18 generally declined both at school and away from school.*

Theft and violence at school and while going to and from school can lead to a disruptive and threatening environment, physical injury, and emotional stress, and can be an obstacle to student achievement (Elliott, Hamburg, and Williams 1998). Data from the National Crime Victimization Survey show that students ages 12–18 were victims of about 1.4 million nonfatal crimes (theft plus violent crime) while they were at school and about 1.3 million crimes while they were away from school in 2004 (table 2.1).<sup>6</sup> These figures represent victimization rates of 55 crimes per 1,000 students at school, and 48 crimes per 1,000 students away from school (figure 2.1).

Between 1992 and 2004, the victimization rates for students ages 12–18 generally declined both at school and away from school; this pattern held for the total crime rate as well as for thefts,<sup>7</sup> violent crimes,<sup>8</sup> and serious violent crimes<sup>9</sup> (table 2.1). At school, total crime and theft victimization rates for students were lower in 2004 than in 2003. For example, the victimization rate of students ages 12–18 at school declined from 73 victimizations per 1,000 students in 2003 to 55 such victimizations in 2004. Theft victimization at school declined from 45 victimizations per 1,000 students in 2003 to 33 such victimizations of students in 2004. Away from school, total crime and violent crime victimization rates were lower in 2004 than in 2003. There were 48 victimizations per 1,000 students away from school in 2004, compared with 60 victimizations in 2003. Violent victimization away from school declined from 32 victimizations per 1,000 students in 2003 to 21 victimizations in 2004.

Students ages 12–18 were more likely to be victims of theft at school than away from school in most years between 1992 and 2004. In 2004, students were victims of 863,000 crimes of theft at school and 706,000 crimes of theft away from school. This translates into 33 thefts per 1,000 students at school, compared with 27 thefts per 1,000 students away from school. From 1992 to 1997, the victimization rates for violent crime were generally lower at school than away from school; however, there were no measurable differences in these rates in the years between 1998 and 2004, except in 2000, when victimization rates at school were lower. The rates for serious violent crime were lower at school than away from school in each survey year from 1992 to 2004. In 2004, students ages 12–18 were victims of 4 serious violent crimes per 1,000 students at school compared with 9 serious violent crimes per 1,000 students away from school.

In 2004, the victimization rates for students ages 12–18 varied according to certain student characteristics. Older students (ages 15–18) were less likely than younger students (ages 12–14) to be victims of crime at school, but the reverse was true for the likelihood of crime away from school (figures 2.2 and 2.3 and tables 2.2 and 2.3). Females had a lower rate of violent victimization at school and a lower rate of serious violent victimization away from school than males, but no measurable gender differences were found in the rates of theft at and away from school.

*This indicator has been updated to include 2004 data.*



*For more information:*

*Tables 2.1, 2.2, & 2.3*

*Catalano 2006*

<sup>6</sup> “Students” refers to persons ages 12–18 who reported being in any elementary or secondary grade at the time of the survey. An uncertain percentage of these persons may not have attended school during the survey reference period. These data do not take into account the number of hours that students spend at school or away from school.

<sup>7</sup> Theft includes purse snatching, pick pocketing, all burglaries, attempted forcible entry, and all attempted and completed thefts except motor vehicle thefts. Theft does not include robbery in which threat or use of force is involved.

<sup>8</sup> Violent crimes include serious violent crimes and simple assault.

<sup>9</sup> Serious violent crimes include rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault.

**Figure 2.1. Rate of student-reported nonfatal crimes against students ages 12–18 per 1,000 students, by type of crime and location: 1992–2004**



<sup>1</sup> Serious violent crimes are also included in violent crimes.  
 NOTE: Serious violent crimes include rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault. Violent crimes include serious violent crimes and simple assault. Total crimes include violent crimes and theft. "At school" includes inside the school building, on school property, or on the way to or from school. Population sizes for students ages 12–18 are 23,740,000 in 1992;

24,558,000 in 1993; 25,327,000 in 1994; 25,715,000 in 1995; 26,151,000 in 1996; 26,548,000 in 1997; 26,806,000 in 1998; 27,013,000 in 1999; 27,169,000 in 2000; 27,380,000 in 2001; 27,367,000 in 2002; 26,386,000 in 2003; and 26,372,000 in 2004.  
 SOURCE: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), 1992–2004.

**Figure 2.2. Rate of student-reported nonfatal crimes against students ages 12–18 at school per 1,000 students, by type of crime and selected student characteristics: 2004**



! Interpret data with caution.

‡ Reporting standards not met.

<sup>1</sup> Serious violent crimes are also included in violent crimes.

NOTE: Serious violent crimes include rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault. Violent crimes include serious violent crimes and simple assault. Total crimes include violent crimes and theft. "At school" includes

inside the school building, on school property, or on the way to or from school. Population size for students ages 12–18 is 26,372,000 in 2004. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), 2004.

**Figure 2.3. Rate of student-reported nonfatal crimes against students ages 12–18 away from school per 1,000 students, by type of crime and selected student characteristics: 2004**



<sup>1</sup> Interpret data with caution.

<sup>1</sup> Serious violent crimes are also included in violent crimes.

NOTE: Serious violent crimes include rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault. Violent crimes include serious violent crimes and simple assault. Total crimes include violent crimes and theft. "At school" includes

inside the school building, on school property, or on the way to or from school. Population size for students ages 12–18 is 26,372,000 in 2004. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), 2004.

## PREVALENCE OF VICTIMIZATION AT SCHOOL

*In 2005, some 4 percent of students ages 12–18 reported being victimized at school during the previous 6 months. About 3 percent reported theft, 1 percent reported violent victimization, and less than half of a percent of students reported serious violent victimization.*

Theft is the most frequent type of nonfatal crime in the United States (U.S. Department of Justice 2006). Data from the School Crime Supplement<sup>10</sup> to the National Crime Victimization Survey show the percentage of students ages 12–18 who reported criminal victimization at school during the previous 6 months. In 2005, some 4 percent of students ages 12–18 reported being victimized at school during the previous 6 months. About 3 percent reported theft,<sup>11</sup> 1 percent reported violent victimization<sup>12</sup> (figure 3.1 and table 3.1), and less than half of a percent of students reported serious violent victimization.<sup>13</sup>

Overall, the percentage of students ages 12–18 who were victimized at school during the previous 6 months decreased between 1995 and 2005 from 10 to 4 percent. For each type of victimization, the percentage of students reporting victimization decreased between 1995 and 2005 (figure 3.1 and table 3.1). Between the most recent survey years (2003 and 2005), the percentage of students reporting victimization declined from 5 to 4 percent, and the percentage reporting theft declined from 4 to 3 percent. There were no measurable changes in the percentages reporting violent and serious violent crime during this period.

In 2005, the prevalence of victimization varied somewhat according to student characteristics. Male students were more likely than female students to report being victims of violent crime at school (2 vs. 1 percent), but no measurable gender differences were detected in the likelihood of reporting theft (3 percent each). There were also no measurable differences in the percentages reporting victimization across grades. Further, in 2005, no measurable differences were detected in the percentages of White, Black, or Hispanic students who reported victimization, theft, or violent victimization. Students in urban schools were more likely to report victimization (5 percent) and theft (4 percent) than students in rural schools (3 and 2 percent, respectively). However, no other measurable differences were observed by urbanicity.

*This indicator has been updated to include 2005 data.*



*For more information:*

*Table 3.1  
Addington et al.  
2002*

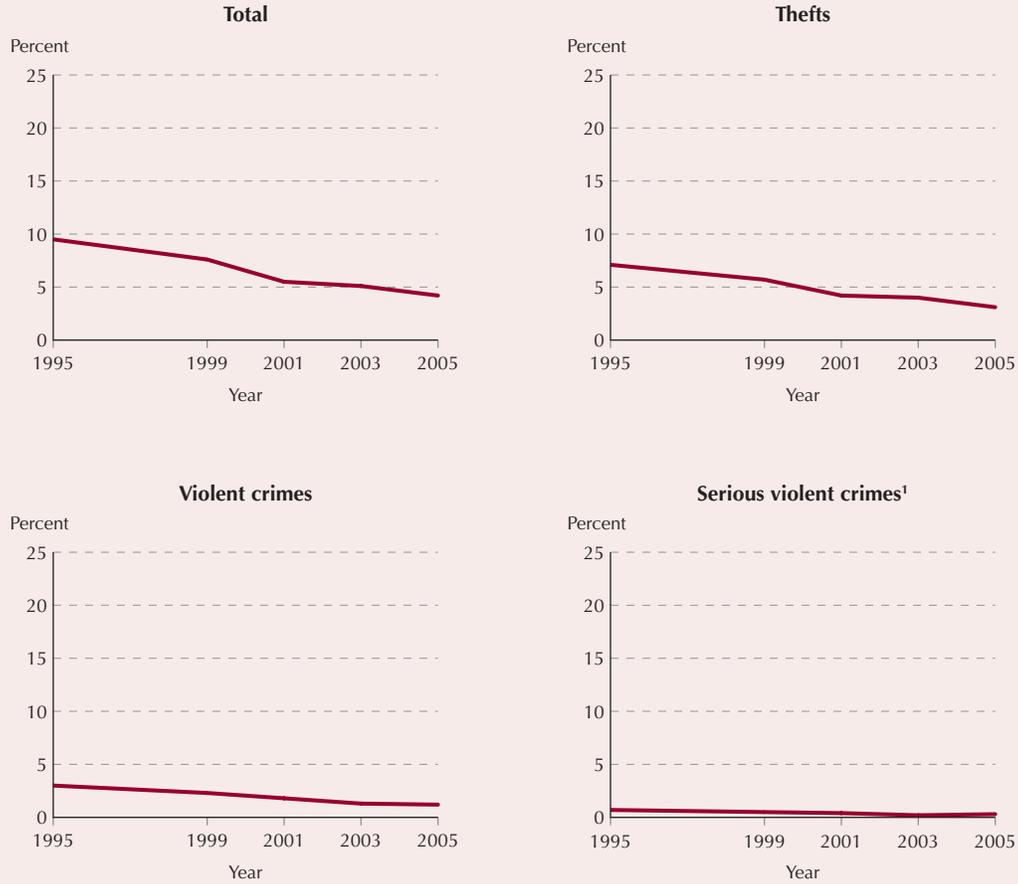
<sup>10</sup> In 2005, the unit response rate for this survey did not meet NCES statistical standards; therefore, interpret the data with caution. For more information, please see appendix A.

<sup>11</sup> Theft includes purse snatching, pick pocketing, all burglaries, attempted forcible entry, and all attempted and completed thefts except motor vehicle thefts. Theft does not include robbery in which threat or use of force is involved.

<sup>12</sup> Violent crimes include serious violent crimes and simple assault.

<sup>13</sup> Serious violent crimes include rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault.

**Figure 3.1. Percentage of students ages 12–18 who reported criminal victimization at school during the previous 6 months, by type of victimization: Various years, 1995–2005**



<sup>1</sup> Serious violent crimes are also included in violent crimes.

NOTE: Theft includes purse snatching, pick pocketing, all burglaries, attempted forcible entry, and all attempted and completed thefts except motor vehicle thefts. Theft does not include robbery in which threat or use of force is involved. Serious violent crimes include rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault. Violent crimes include serious violent crimes and simple assault. Total crimes include violent crimes and theft. "At school" includes the school building, on school property, on a school bus, and, from 2001

onward, going to and from school. In 2005, the unit response rate for this survey did not meet NCES statistical standards; therefore, interpret the data with caution. For more information, please see appendix A. Population sizes for students ages 12–18 are 23,325,000 in 1995; 24,614,000 in 1999; 24,315,000 in 2001; 25,684,000 in 2003; and 25,811,000 in 2005. SOURCE: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, School Crime Supplement (SCS) to the National Crime Victimization Survey, various years, 1995–2005.

## THREATS AND INJURIES WITH WEAPONS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

*The percentage of students who were threatened or injured with a weapon has fluctuated between 7–9 percent in all survey years from 1993 through 2005.*

Every year, some students are threatened or injured with a weapon while they are on school property. The percentage of students victimized in this way provides an important measure of how safe our schools are and how their safety has changed over time. In the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, students in grades 9–12 were asked whether they had been threatened or injured with a weapon on school property during the 12 months preceding the survey. In 2005, some 8 percent of students reported being threatened or injured with a weapon, such as a gun, knife, or club, on school property (table 4.1). The percentage of students who were threatened or injured with a weapon fluctuated between 1993 and 2005 without a clear trend. In all survey years from 1993 through 2005, between 7–9 percent of students reported being threatened or injured in this way.

The likelihood of being threatened or injured with a weapon on school property varied by student characteristics. In each survey year, males were more likely than females to report being threatened or injured with a weapon on school property (figure 4.1 and table 4.1). In 2005, some 10 percent of male students reported being threatened or injured in the past year, compared with 6 percent of female students. In each survey year, students in lower grades were generally more likely to report being threatened or injured with a weapon on school property than those in higher grades (figure 4.2 and table 4.1). Eleven percent of 9th-graders reported that they were threatened or injured with a weapon on school property in 2005, compared with 9 percent of 10th-graders and 6 percent of 11th- and 12th-graders.

Students' likelihood of being threatened or injured with a weapon on school property varied by race/ethnicity in 2005. Hispanic students were more likely than White students to report being threatened or injured with a weapon on school property (10 vs. 7 percent). However, no measurable differences were found in the percentages of Black and White students or Black and Hispanic students who reported being threatened or injured in this way.

In 2005, student reports of being threatened or injured with a weapon on school property varied among states for which data were available. Among states, the percentage of students with such reports ranged from 5 to 12 percent (table 4.2).

*This indicator has been updated to include 2005 data.*



*For more information:*

*Tables 4.1 & 4.2*

*Eaton et al. 2006*

**Figure 4.1. Percentage of students in grades 9–12 who reported being threatened or injured with a weapon on school property during the previous 12 months, by sex: Various years, 1993–2005**



NOTE: “On school property” was not defined for survey respondents. Population sizes from the *Digest of Education Statistics, 2005* (NCES 2006-030) for students in grades 9–12 are 13,093,000 students in 1993; 13,697,000 in 1995; 14,272,000 in 1997; 14,623,000 in 1999; 15,061,000 in 2001; 15,723,000 in 2003; and 16,286,000 (projected) in 2005.

SOURCE: 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 4.2. Percentage of students in grades 9–12 who reported being threatened or injured with a weapon on school property during the previous 12 months, by grade: 2005**



NOTE: “On school property” was not defined for survey respondents. Population size from the *Digest of Education Statistics, 2005* (NCES 2006-030) for students in grades 9–12 is 16,286,000 (projected) in 2005.

SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS), 2005.

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**THREATS AND  
ATTACKS ON  
TEACHERS**

## TEACHERS THREATENED WITH INJURY OR ATTACKED BY STUDENTS

*In 2003–04, teachers in central city schools were more likely than their peers in urban fringe or rural schools to report being threatened with injury or physically attacked.*

Students are not the only victims of intimidation or violence in schools. Teachers are also subject to threats and physical attacks, and students from their schools sometimes commit these offenses. In the Schools and Staffing Survey, teachers were asked whether they had been threatened with injury or physically attacked by a student from their school in the previous 12 months. A smaller percentage of teachers reported they were threatened with injury by a student from their school in 2003–04 (7 percent) than in 1993–94 and 1999–2000 (12 and 9 percent, respectively; figure 5.1 and table 5.1). Teachers were also less likely in 2003–04 than in 1993–94 to report having been physically attacked (3 vs. 4 percent; figure 5.1 and table 5.2).

Teachers in central city schools were consistently more likely to be threatened with injury or physically attacked than teachers in urban fringe or rural schools between 1993–94 and 2003–04 (figure 5.2 and tables 5.1 and 5.2). For example, in 2003–04, some 10 percent of teachers in central city schools were threatened with injury by students, compared with 6 percent of teachers in urban fringe schools and 5 percent of teachers in rural schools. Five percent of teachers in central city schools were attacked by students, compared with 3 percent of teachers in urban fringe and 2 percent of teachers in rural schools.

In 2003–04, gender differences in the victimization of teachers were apparent (tables 5.1 and 5.2). Although a larger percentage of male than female teachers reported having been threatened with injury (9 vs. 6 percent), female teachers were more likely than their male counterparts to have been physically attacked (4 vs. 3 percent).

In 2003–04, teachers' reports of being threatened or attacked by students varied according to the level of their school. Secondary school teachers were more likely than elementary school teachers to have been threatened with injury by a student (8 vs. 6 percent; table 5.1). However, elementary school teachers were more likely than secondary school teachers to report having been physically attacked (4 vs. 2 percent; table 5.2).

Public school teachers were more likely than private school teachers to have been threatened with injury (7 vs. 2 percent) or physically attacked (4 vs. 2 percent) by students in school (figure 5.2 and tables 5.1 and 5.2). Among teachers in central city schools, those in public schools were at least five times more likely to be threatened with injury than their colleagues in private schools (12 vs. 2 percent) and at least four times more likely to be physically attacked (5 vs. 1 percent).

Public school teachers' reports of being threatened with injury or physically attacked varied among states. In 2003–04, the percentage of public school teachers who reported being threatened in the previous 12 months ranged from 4 to 18 percent (table 5.3), and the percentage who were physically attacked ranged from 1 to 7 percent (table 5.4).

*This indicator has been updated to include 2003–04 data.*



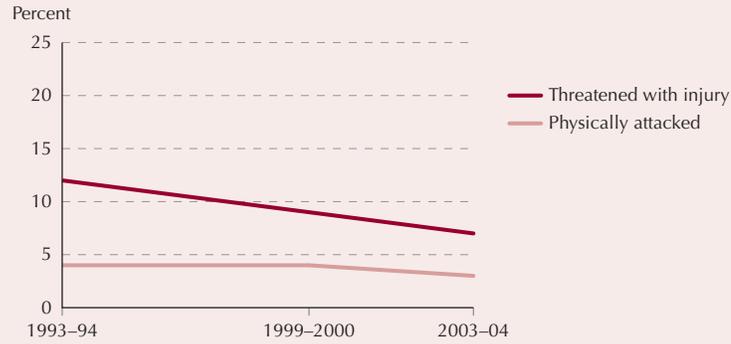
*For more information:*

*Tables 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, & 5.4*

*Appendix B for definitions of school levels*

*Strizek et al. 2006*

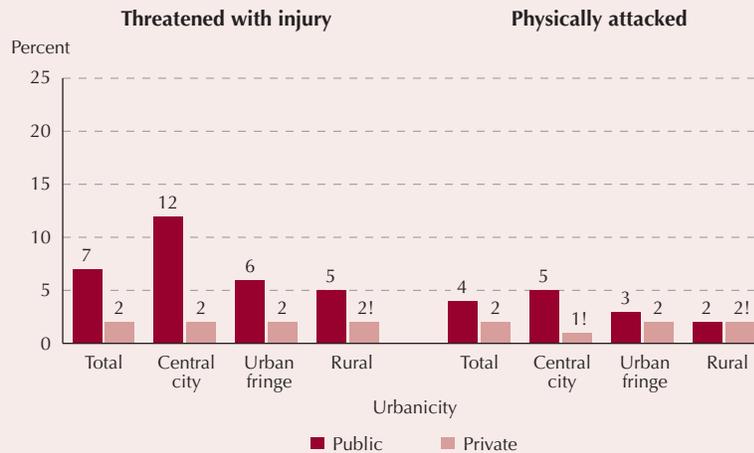
**Figure 5.1. Percentage of public and private school teachers who reported that they were threatened with injury or that they were physically attacked by a student from school during the previous 12 months: 1993–94, 1999–2000, and 2003–04**



NOTE: Teachers who taught only prekindergarten students are excluded. Population sizes for teachers are 2,930,000 in 1993–94; 3,452,000 in 1999–2000; and 3,704,000 in 2003–04. Figures were revised and may differ from previously published data.

SOURCE: 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; “Private 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.

**Figure 5.2. Percentage of public and private school teachers who reported that they were threatened with injury or that they were physically attacked by a student from school during the previous 12 months, by urbanicity and school sector: 2003–04**



! Interpret data with caution.

NOTE: Teachers who taught only prekindergarten students are excluded. The public sector includes public, public charter, and Bureau of Indian Affairs school teachers. Population size for teachers is 3,704,000 in 2003–04.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS), “Public School Teacher Questionnaire,” 2003–04; “Private School Teacher Questionnaire,” 2003–04; and “Bureau of Indian Affairs Teacher Questionnaire,” 2003–04.

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**SCHOOL  
ENVIRONMENT**

## VIOLENT AND OTHER INCIDENTS AT PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND THOSE REPORTED TO THE POLICE

*The percentage of public schools experiencing one or more violent incidents increased between the 1999–2000 and 2003–04 school years from 71 to 81 percent.*

This indicator presents the percentage of schools that experienced one or more specified crimes, the total number of these crimes reported by schools, and the rate of crimes per 1,000 students. These data are also presented for the crimes that were reported to the police. In the School Survey on Crime and Safety, public school principals were asked to provide the number of serious violent incidents,<sup>14</sup> violent incidents,<sup>15</sup> thefts valuing \$10 or greater, and other incidents that occurred at their school, as well as the number of these incidents reported to the police. In 2003–04, some 88 percent of public schools responded that one or more incidents of these crimes had taken place (including violent, theft, and other crimes), amounting to an estimated 2.1 million crimes (table 6.1). This figure translates into a rate of 46 crimes per 1,000 students enrolled in 2003–04. During the same year, 65 percent of schools reported an incident of one of the specified crimes to the police amounting to about 764,400 crimes—or 16 crimes per 1,000 students enrolled.

The percentage of public schools experiencing one or more violent incidents increased between 1999–2000 and 2003–04 from 71 to 81 percent. In 2003–04, 18 percent of schools experienced one or more serious violent incidents, 46 percent experienced one or more thefts, and 64 percent experienced another type of crime (figure 6.1 and table 6.1). Forty-four percent of public schools reported at least one violent incident to police, 13 percent reported at least one serious violent incident to police, 31 percent reported at least one theft to police, and 50 percent reported one of the other specified crimes to police.

The prevalence of violent incidents at public schools and those reported to the police varied by school level (figure 6.2 and tables 6.2 and 6.3). Primary schools were the least likely to experience any violent incident: 74 percent of primary schools did so, compared with 94 percent of middle schools and 96 percent of high schools. Similar relationships were observed for serious violent incidents and those violent and serious violent incidents that were reported to the authorities. However, when looking at the rate of violent crimes per 1,000 students, both primary schools and high schools had lower rates than middle schools. In 2003–04, there were 28 violent crimes per 1,000 students in both primary schools and high schools, compared with 53 such violent crimes in middle schools. Regardless of school level, there were no more than two serious violent crimes per 1,000 students enrolled in 2003–04.

When examining violent incidents by the location of public schools, city schools were more likely than urban fringe schools to experience violent incidents (figure 6.3 and table 6.2). Eighty-eight percent of city schools had one or more violent incidents, compared with 80 percent of urban fringe schools.

<sup>14</sup> Serious violent incidents include rape, sexual battery other than rape, physical attack or fight with a weapon, threat of physical attack with a weapon, and robbery with or without a weapon.

<sup>15</sup> Violent incidents include serious violent incidents plus physical attacks or fights without a weapon and threats of physical attacks without a weapon.

*This indicator has been updated to include 2003–04 data.*

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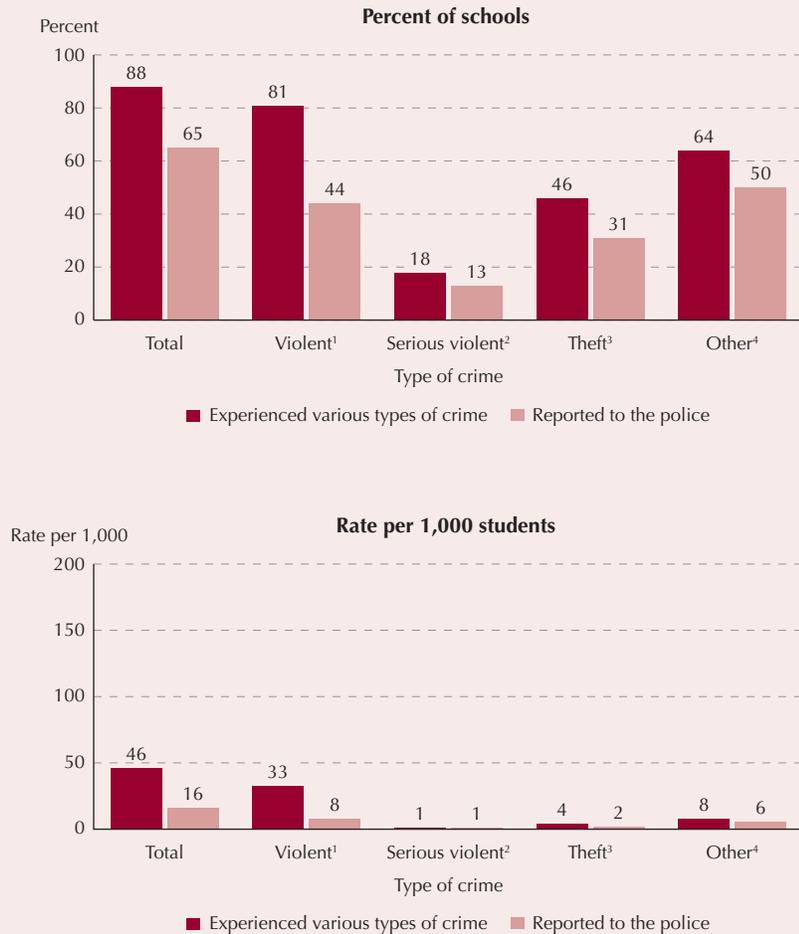
*For more information:*

*Tables 6.1, 6.2, & 6.3*

*Appendix B for definitions of school levels and urbanicity*

*Miller 2003 revised*

**Figure 6.1. Percentage of public schools experiencing and reporting incidents of crime that occurred at school and the rate per 1,000 students, by type of crime: 2003–04**



<sup>1</sup> Violent incidents include rape, sexual battery other than rape, physical attack or fight with or without a weapon, threat of physical attack with or without a weapon, and robbery with or without a weapon. Serious violent incidents are also included in violent incidents.

<sup>2</sup> Serious violent incidents include rape, sexual battery other than rape, physical attack or fight with a weapon, threat of physical attack with a weapon, and robbery with or without a weapon.

<sup>3</sup> Theft/larceny (taking things over \$10 without personal confrontation) was defined for respondents as “the unlawful taking of another person’s property without personal confrontation, threat, violence, or bodily harm. Included are pocket picking, stealing purse or backpack (if left unattended or no force was used to take it from owner), theft from a building, theft from a motor vehicle or motor vehicle parts or accessories, theft of bicycles, theft from vending machines, and all other types of thefts.”

<sup>4</sup> Other incidents include possession of a firearm or explosive device, possession of a knife or sharp object, distribution of illegal drugs, possession or use of alcohol or illegal drugs, or vandalism.

NOTE: Either school principals or the person most knowledgeable about discipline issues at school completed the SSOCS questionnaire. “At school” was defined for respondents to include activities that happen in school buildings, on school grounds, on school buses, and at places that hold school-sponsored events or activities. Respondents were instructed to respond only for those times that were during normal school hours or when school activities or events were in session, unless the survey specified otherwise. Population size is 80,500 public schools.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, School Survey on Crime and Safety (SSOCS), 2004.

**Figure 6.2. Percentage of public schools experiencing and reporting incidents of crime that occurred at school, by type of crime and school level: 2003–04**



<sup>1</sup> Violent incidents include rape, sexual battery other than rape, physical attack or fight with or without a weapon, threat of physical attack with or without a weapon, and robbery with or without a weapon. Serious violent incidents are also included in violent incidents.

<sup>2</sup> Serious violent incidents include rape, sexual battery other than rape, physical attack or fight with a weapon, threat of physical attack with a weapon, and robbery with or without a weapon.

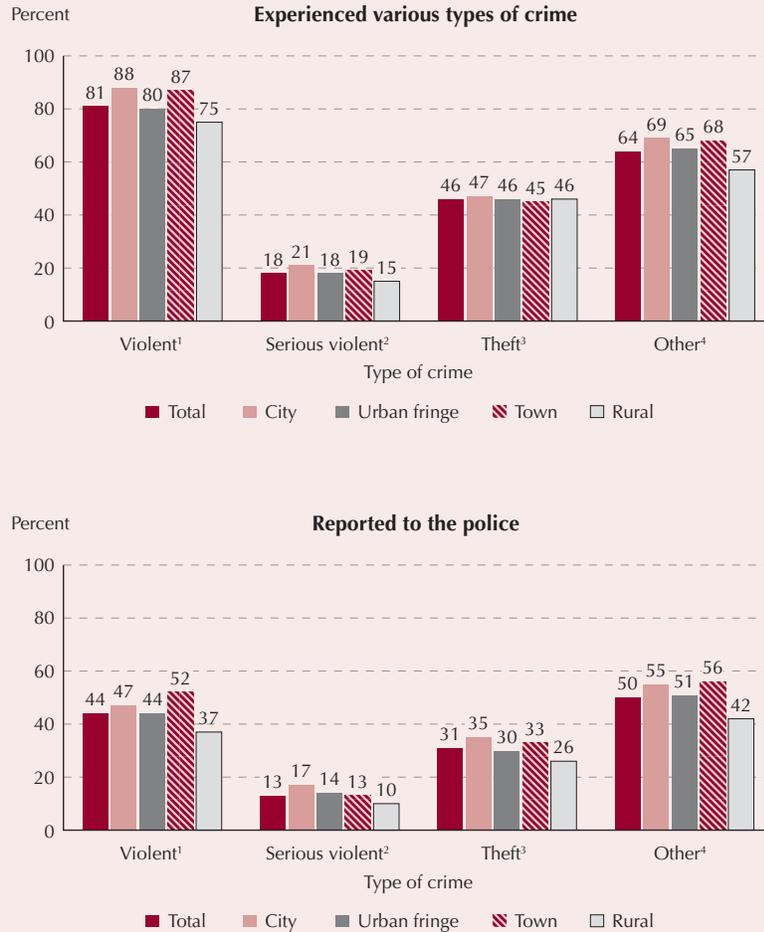
<sup>3</sup> Theft/larceny (taking things over \$10 without personal confrontation) was defined for respondents as “the unlawful taking of another person’s property without personal confrontation, threat, violence, or bodily harm. Included are pocket picking, stealing purse or backpack (if left unattended or no force was used to take it from owner), theft from a building, theft from a motor vehicle or motor vehicle parts or accessories, theft of bicycles, theft from vending machines, and all other types of thefts.”

<sup>4</sup> Other incidents include possession of a firearm or explosive device, possession of a knife or sharp object, distribution of illegal drugs, possession or use of alcohol or illegal drugs, or vandalism.

NOTE: Either school principals or the person most knowledgeable about discipline issues at school completed the SSOCS questionnaire. Primary schools are defined as schools in which the lowest grade is not higher than grade 3 and the highest grade is not higher than grade 8. Middle schools are defined as schools in which the lowest grade is not lower than grade 4 and the highest grade is not higher than grade 9. High schools are defined as schools in which the lowest grade is not lower than grade 9. Combined schools include all other combinations of grades, including K–12 schools. “At school” was defined for respondents to include activities that happen in school buildings, on school grounds, on school buses, and at places that hold school-sponsored events or activities. Respondents were instructed to respond only for those times that were during normal school hours or when school activities or events were in session, unless the survey specified otherwise. Population size is 80,500 public schools.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, School Survey on Crime and Safety (SSOCS), 2004.

**Figure 6.3. Percentage of public schools experiencing and reporting incidents of crime that occurred at school, by type of crime and urbanicity: 2003–04**



<sup>1</sup> Violent incidents include rape, sexual battery other than rape, physical attack or fight with or without a weapon, threat of physical attack with or without a weapon, and robbery with or without a weapon. Serious violent incidents are also included in violent incidents.

<sup>2</sup> Serious violent incidents include rape, sexual battery other than rape, physical attack or fight with a weapon, threat of physical attack with a weapon, and robbery with or without a weapon.

<sup>3</sup> Theft/larceny (taking things over \$10 without personal confrontation) was defined for respondents as “the unlawful taking of another person’s property without personal confrontation, threat, violence, or bodily harm. Included are pocket picking, stealing purse or backpack (if left unattended or no force was used to take it from owner), theft from a building, theft from a motor vehicle or motor vehicle parts or accessories, theft of bicycles, theft from vending machines, and all other types of thefts.”

<sup>4</sup> Other incidents include possession of a firearm or explosive device, possession of a knife or sharp object, distribution of illegal drugs, possession or use of alcohol or illegal drugs, or vandalism.

NOTE: Either school principals or the person most knowledgeable about discipline issues at school completed the SSOCS questionnaire. “At school” was defined for respondents to include activities that happen in school buildings, on school grounds, on school buses, and at places that hold school-sponsored events or activities. Respondents were instructed to respond only for those times that were during normal school hours or when school activities or events were in session, unless the survey specified otherwise. Population size is 80,500 public schools. SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, School Survey on Crime and Safety (SSOCS), 2004.

## DISCIPLINE PROBLEMS REPORTED BY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*The prevalence of frequently occurring discipline problems was related to school size in the 2003–04 school year. In general, principals in large schools were more likely to report discipline problems than principals in small schools.*

The existence of discipline problems in a school may contribute to an environment that facilitates school violence and crime (Miller 2003 revised). In the School Survey on Crime and Safety, school principals were asked how often certain disciplinary problems happen in their schools. This indicator examines the daily or weekly occurrence of student racial tensions, bullying, verbal abuse of teachers, widespread classroom disorder, and acts of disrespect for teachers in public schools. It also looks at occurrences of gang and cult activities, and due to the severe nature of these incidents, presents all reports of gang and cult activities during the 2003–04 school year.

Two percent of public schools reported racial tensions among students on a daily or weekly basis and 27 percent reported that student bullying took place daily or weekly during the 2003–04 school year (figure 7.1 and table 7.1). With regard to other frequently occurring discipline problems in public schools (those occurring at least once a week), 11 percent of principals reported student verbal abuse of teachers, 3 percent reported widespread disorder in classrooms, and 19 percent reported student acts of disrespect for teachers. Some 17 percent of public schools reported undesirable gang activities and 3 percent reported undesirable cult or extremist activities. Public school reports of student racial tensions were lower in 2003–04 than in 1999–2000 (2 vs. 3 percent), as were any reports of cult or extremist group activities (3 vs. 7 percent; data not shown, see DeVoe et al. 2005).

Discipline problems reported by public schools varied by school characteristics. For example, middle schools were more likely than primary schools to report various types of discipline problems (figure 7.1 and table 7.1). Middle schools were also more likely than high schools to report daily or weekly incidences of student bullying (42 vs. 21 percent) and student acts of disrespect for teachers (32 vs. 26 percent). During the school year, high schools were more likely than both middle and primary schools to report gang activity (41 vs. 31 and 8 percent, respectively) and more likely than middle schools to report extremist cult activity (13 vs. 6 percent).

The prevalence of frequently occurring discipline problems was related to school enrollment size. In general, principals in large schools were more likely to report discipline problems than principals in small schools. Thirty-four percent of principals at schools with 1,000 or more students reported student acts of disrespect for teachers at least once a week, compared with 21 percent of schools with 500–999 students, 17 percent of schools with 300–499 students, and 14 percent of schools with less than 300 students.

Schools where 20 percent or fewer of the students were eligible for free or reduced-price lunch were less likely to report student bullying, verbal abuse of teachers, widespread disorder in the classroom, acts of disrespect for teachers, and undesirable gang activities than schools where more students were eligible. Schools where 50 percent or more of the students were eligible for free or reduced-price lunch were generally more likely to report discipline problems than schools where fewer students qualified, except for student racial tensions, bullying, and cult activities.

*This indicator has been updated with 2003–04 data.*



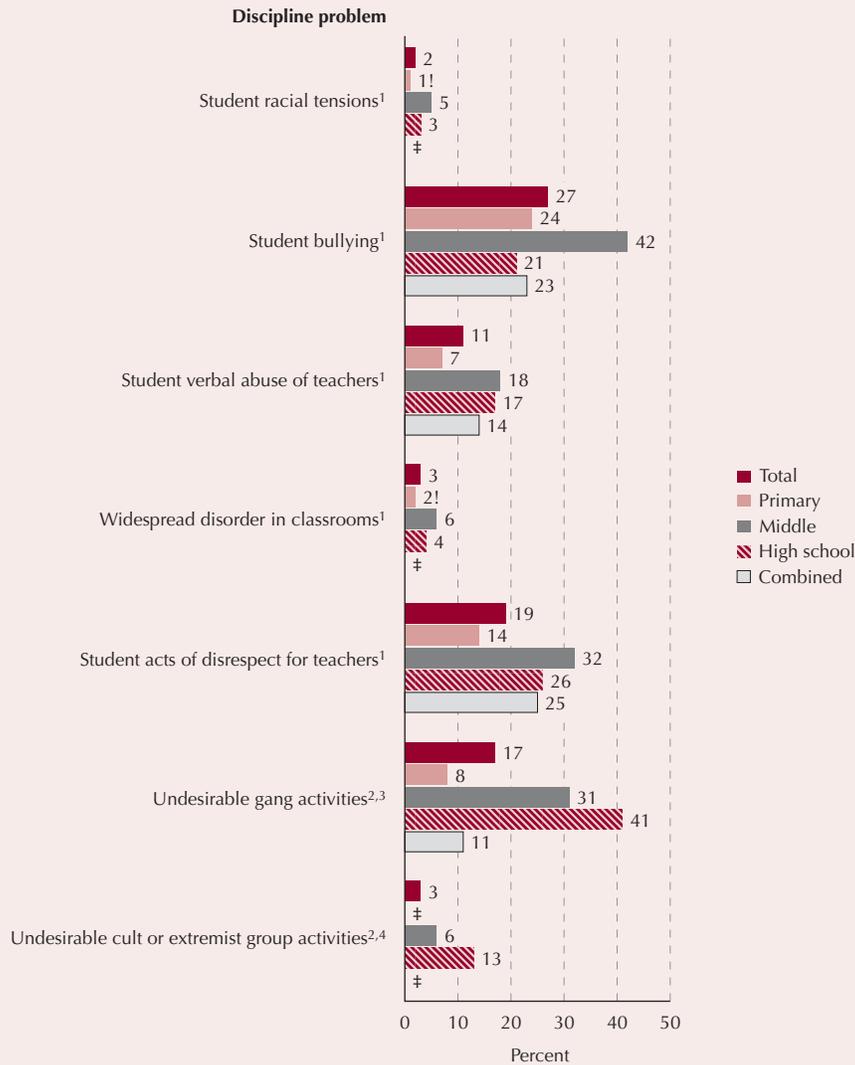
*For more information:*

*Table 7.1*

*Appendix B for definitions of school levels*

*Miller 2003 revised*

**Figure 7.1. Percentage of public schools reporting selected discipline problems that occurred at school, by school level: 2003–04**



<sup>1</sup> Interpret data with caution.

‡ Reporting standards not met.

<sup>1</sup> Includes schools that reported the activity happens either once a week or daily.

<sup>2</sup> Includes schools that reported the activity has happened at all at their school during the school year.

<sup>3</sup> A gang was defined for respondents as “an ongoing loosely organized association of three or more persons, whether formal or informal, that has a common name, signs, symbols or colors, whose members engage, either individually or collectively, in violent or other forms of illegal behavior.”

<sup>4</sup> A cult or extremist group was defined for respondents as “a group that espouses radical beliefs and practices, which may include a religious component, that are widely seen as threatening the basic values and cultural norms of society at large.”

NOTE: Either school principals or the person most knowledgeable about discipline issues at school completed the SSOCS questionnaire. Primary schools are defined as schools in which the lowest grade is not higher than grade 3 and the highest grade is not higher than grade 8. Middle schools are defined as schools in which the lowest grade is not lower than grade 4 and the highest grade is not higher than grade 9. High schools are defined as schools in which the lowest grade is not lower than grade 9. Combined schools include all other combinations of grades, including K–12 schools. “At school” was defined for respondents to include activities that happen in school buildings, on school grounds, on school buses, and at places that hold school-sponsored events or activities. Respondents were instructed to respond only for those times that were during normal school hours or when school activities or events were in session, unless the survey specified otherwise. Population size is 80,500 public schools.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, School Survey on Crime and Safety (SSOCS), 2004.

## STUDENTS' REPORTS OF GANGS AT SCHOOL

*The percentage of students reporting the presence of gangs at school increased from 21 to 24 percent between 2003 and 2005.*

Gangs are organized groups often involved in drugs, weapons trafficking, and violence. Such gangs at school can be disruptive to the school environment because their presence may incite fear among students and increase the level of school violence (Laub and Lauritsen 1998). In the School Crime Supplement<sup>16</sup> to the National Crime Victimization Survey, students ages 12–18 were asked if gangs were present at their school during the previous 6 months.

In 2005, some 24 percent of students reported that there were gangs at their schools (figure 8.1 and table 8.1). Students in urban schools were more likely to report the presence of gangs at their school than suburban students and rural students (36 vs. 21 and 16 percent, respectively). No measurable difference was found between suburban and rural students in their likelihood of reporting gang presence.

The total percentage of students who reported the presence of gangs at school increased from 21 percent in 2003 to 24 percent in 2005. Similarly, the percentage of students at urban schools who reported that gangs were present at school also increased during this period from 31 to 36 percent. No measurable change was found for the percentage of suburban or rural students reporting gang presence during this period.

Hispanic and Black students were more likely than White students to report gangs in their schools in 2005 (38 and 37 percent, respectively, vs. 17 percent; figure 8.2 and table 8.1). This pattern held among students in both urban and suburban schools. Between 2003 and 2005, reports of gangs increased among both Black students (29 vs. 37 percent) and White students (14 vs. 17 percent). No measurable change was detected in the percentage of Hispanic students reporting the presence of gangs between 2003 and 2005.

Students in public schools were more likely to report the presence of gangs than were students in private schools regardless of the school's location (table 8.1). In 2005, some 25 percent of students in public schools reported that there were gangs in their schools, compared with 4 percent of students in private schools.

In 2005, there were no measurable differences between males and females in the extent to which they reported gang presence in their schools, with the exception of males at suburban schools, who were more likely to report gang presence than females (22 vs. 19 percent). Between 2001 and 2005, the percentage of male students reporting the presence of gangs increased (from 21 to 25 percent), as did the percentage of suburban males reporting gang activity (from 19 to 22 percent). In the same time period, the percentage of urban females reporting gang activity also increased from 26 to 34 percent.

*This indicator has been updated to include 2005 data.*

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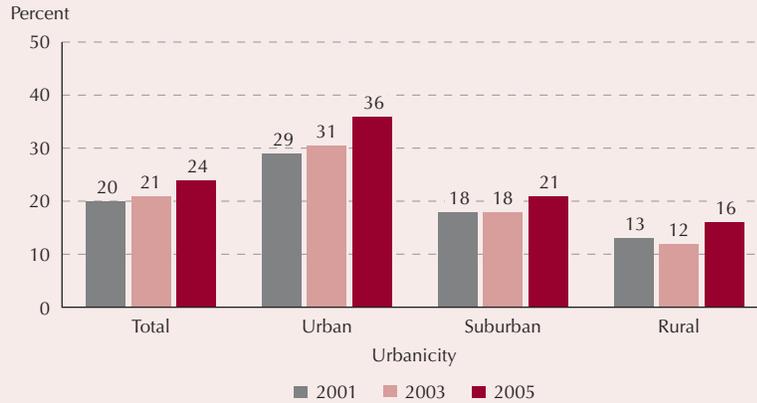
*For more information:*

*Table 8.1*

*Addington et al. 2002*

<sup>16</sup> In 2005, the unit response rate for this survey did not meet NCES statistical standards; therefore, interpret the data with caution. For more information, please see appendix A.

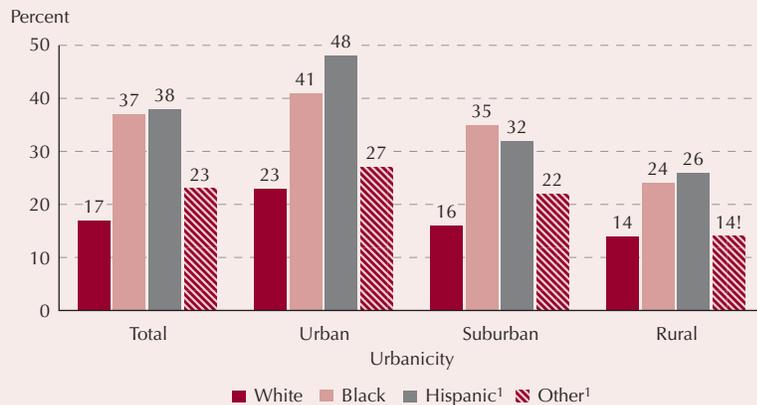
**Figure 8.1. Percentage of students ages 12–18 who reported that gangs were present at school during the previous 6 months, by urbanicity: Various years, 2001–2005**



NOTE: All gangs, whether or not they are involved in violent or illegal activity, are included. “At school” includes the school building, on school property, on a school bus, or going to and from school. In 2005, the unit response rate for this survey did not meet NCES statistical standards; therefore, interpret the data with caution. For more information, please see appendix A. Population sizes for students ages 12–18 are 24,315,000 in 2001; 25,684,000 in 2003; and 25,811,000 in 2005.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, School Crime Supplement (SCS) to the National Crime Victimization Survey, various years, 2001–2005.

**Figure 8.2. Percentage of students ages 12–18 who reported that gangs were present at school during the previous 6 months, by urbanicity and race/ethnicity: 2005**



<sup>1</sup> Interpret data with caution.

<sup>1</sup> Other includes American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian or Pacific Islander, and more than one race. For this report, non-Hispanic students who identified themselves as more than one race were included in the Other category. Respondents who identified themselves as being of Hispanic origin are classified as Hispanic, regardless of their race.

NOTE: All gangs, whether or not they are involved in violent or illegal activity, are included. “At school” includes the school building, on school property, on a school bus, or going to and from school. In 2005, the unit response rate for this survey did not meet NCES statistical standards; therefore, interpret the data with caution. For more information, please see appendix A. Population size for students ages 12–18 is 25,811,000 in 2005.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, School Crime Supplement (SCS) to the National Crime Victimization Survey, 2005.

## STUDENTS' REPORTS OF DRUG AVAILABILITY ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

*In 2005, one-quarter of all students in grades 9–12 reported that someone had offered, sold, or given them an illegal drug on school property in the past 12 months.*

The availability of drugs on school property has a disruptive and corrupting influence on the school environment (Nolin et al. 1997). In the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, students in grades 9–12 were asked whether someone had offered, sold, or given them an illegal drug on school property in the 12 months before the survey. In 2005, some 25 percent of students in grades 9–12 reported that drugs were made available to them on school property (table 9.1). There was no measurable change in the percentage of students who reported that drugs were offered, sold, or given to them at school between 2003 and 2005.

Males were more likely than females to report that drugs were offered, sold, or given to them on school property in each survey year from 1993 to 2005 (figure 9.1 and table 9.1). For example, in 2005, some 29 percent of males reported that drugs were available, compared with 22 percent of females. No measurable differences were detected in the percentage of students who reported that drugs were made available to them according to grade level in 2005.

The percentages of students who reported having illegal drugs offered, sold, or given to them on school property differed across racial/ethnic groups (figure 9.2 and table 9.1). Specifically, in 2005, Hispanic students were more likely than Asian, Black, American Indian, and White students to report that drugs were made available to them (34 vs. 16–24 percent). Although it appears that Pacific Islander students were more likely than Hispanic students to report that drugs were made available to them, the difference was not found to be statistically significant.

In 2005, student reports of the availability of drugs on school property varied among states for which data were available. Among states, the percentage of students who reported that drugs were available to them at school ranged from 16 to 39 percent (table 9.2).

*This indicator has been updated to include 2005 data.*

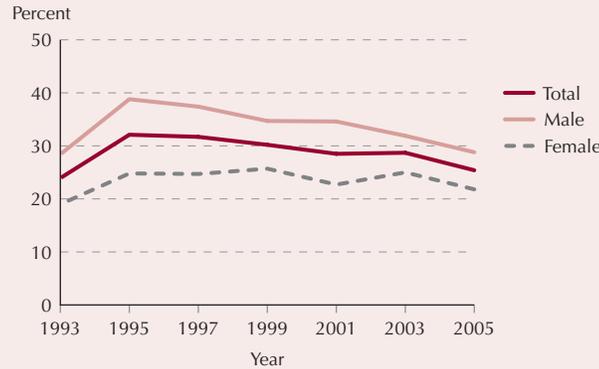


*For more information:*

*Tables 9.1 & 9.2*

*Eaton et al. 2006*

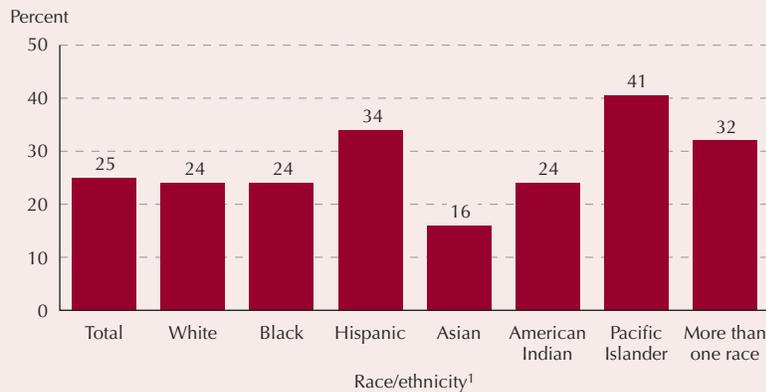
**Figure 9.1. Percentage of students in grades 9–12 who reported that drugs were made available to them on school property during the previous 12 months, by sex: Various years, 1993–2005**



NOTE: “On school property” was not defined for survey respondents. Population sizes from the *Digest of Education Statistics, 2005* (NCES 2006-030) for students in grades 9–12 are 13,093,000 students in 1993; 13,697,000 in 1995; 14,272,000 in 1997; 14,623,000 in 1999; 15,061,000 in 2001; 15,723,000 in 2003; and 16,286,000 (projected) in 2005.

SOURCE: 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 9.2. Percentage of students in grades 9–12 who reported that drugs were made available to them on school property during the previous 12 months, by race/ethnicity: 2005**



<sup>1</sup> American Indian includes Alaska Native, Black includes African American, Pacific Islander includes Native Hawaiian, and Hispanic includes Latino. Respondents who identified themselves as being of Hispanic origin are classified as Hispanic, regardless of their race.

NOTE: “On school property” was not defined for survey respondents. Population size from the *Digest of Education Statistics, 2005* (NCES 2006-030) for students in grades 9–12 is 16,286,000 (projected) in 2005. SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS), 2005.

Indicator  
10

## STUDENTS' REPORTS OF BEING CALLED HATE-RELATED WORDS AND SEEING HATE-RELATED GRAFFITI

*In 2005, some 11 percent of students ages 12–18 reported that someone at school had used hate-related words against them, and more than one-third (38 percent) had seen hate-related graffiti at school.*

In the 2005 School Crime Supplement<sup>17</sup> to the National Crime Victimization Survey, students ages 12–18 were asked if someone at school had called them a derogatory word having to do with their race, ethnicity, religion, disability, gender, or sexual orientation and if they had seen hate-related graffiti during the previous 6 months. With regard to hate-related words, students were also asked to specify the characteristic to which the word was directed.

In 2005, some 11 percent of students ages 12–18 reported that someone at school had used hate-related words against them (figure 10.1 and table 10.1). Five percent of students reported that the hate-related words concerned their race, 3 percent reported that the words were related to their ethnicity, about 2 percent each reported that the words concerned their religion or gender, and 1 percent each reported that the words were related to their disability or sexual orientation (table 10.2). Students were also asked if they had seen hate-related graffiti at their school—that is, hate-related words or symbols written in classrooms, bathrooms, hallways, or on the outside of the school building (figure 10.1 and table 10.1). Some 38 percent of students saw hate-related graffiti at school.

Students' experiences of being called specific types of hate-related words in 2005 differed according to their sex and race/ethnicity (table 10.2). Females were more likely to report gender-related hate words than were males (3 vs. 1 percent) while male students were more likely than female students to report hate words related to both race (5 vs. 4 percent) and ethnicity (3 vs. 2 percent). White students were less likely to report race-related hate words than were Black and Hispanic students as well as students whose racial/ethnic group was categorized as "Other" (3 percent of White students vs. 7 percent of Black students, 6 percent of Hispanic students, and 9 percent of Other students).

In 2005, measurable differences were found in students' reports of being called hate-related words and seeing hate-related graffiti according to the urbanicity and sector of their schools (figure 10.1 and table 10.1). Suburban students were less likely than both urban students (9 vs. 12 percent) and rural students (9 vs. 15 percent) to report being called a hate-related word. Public school students were more likely than their private school counterparts to report being called a hate-related word (12 vs. 7 percent) and seeing hate-related graffiti (39 vs. 18 percent).

*This indicator has been updated to include 2005 data.*



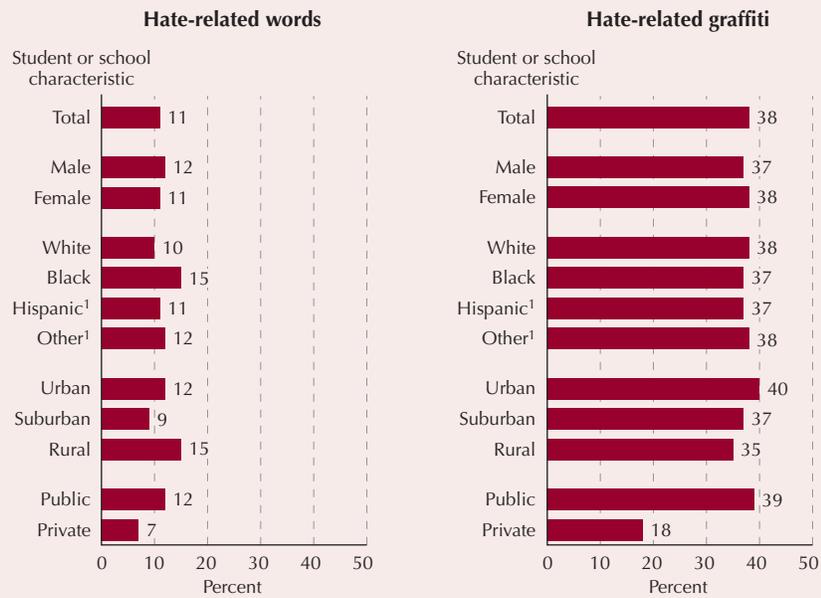
*For more information:*

*Tables 10.1 & 10.2*

*Addington et al.  
2002*

<sup>17</sup> In 2005, the unit response rate for this survey did not meet NCES statistical standards; therefore, interpret the data with caution. For more information, please see appendix A.

**Figure 10.1. Percentage of students ages 12–18 who reported being targets of hate-related words and seeing hate-related graffiti at school during the previous 6 months, by selected student and school characteristics: 2005**



<sup>1</sup> Other includes American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian or Pacific Islander, and more than one race. For this report, non-Hispanic students who identified themselves as more than one race were included in the Other category. Respondents who identified themselves as being of Hispanic origin are classified as Hispanic, regardless of their race.

NOTE: "At school" includes the school building, on school property, on a school bus, or going to and from school. Hate-related refers to derogatory terms used by others in reference to students' personal characteristics. In 2005, the unit response rate for this survey did not meet NCES statistical standards; therefore, interpret the data with caution. For more information, please see appendix A. Population size for students ages 12–18 is 25,811,000 in 2005.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, School Crime Supplement (SCS) to the National Crime Victimization Survey, 2005.

## BULLYING AT SCHOOL

*In 2005, about 28 percent of 12- to 18-year-old students reported having been bullied at school during the last 6 months.*

Both bullying and being bullied at school are associated with key violence-related behaviors, including carrying weapons, fighting, and sustaining injuries from fighting (Nansel et al. 2003). In the 2005 School Crime Supplement<sup>18</sup> to the National Crime Victimization Survey, students ages 12–18 were asked if they had been bullied at school during the previous 6 months.<sup>19</sup>

In 2005, about 28 percent of students reported having been bullied at school during the last 6 months (figure 11.1 and table 11.1). Nineteen percent of students said that they had experienced bullying that consisted of being made fun of; 15 percent reported being the subject of rumors; and 9 percent said that they were pushed, shoved, tripped, or spit on (figure 11.2 and table 11.1). Of those students who had been bullied, 79 percent said that they were bullied inside the school, and 28 percent said that they were bullied outside on school grounds (figure 11.2 and table 11.2). Of the students in 2005 who reported being bullied during the previous 6 months, 53 percent said that they had been bullied once or twice during that period, 25 percent had experienced bullying once or twice a month, 11 percent reported being bullied once or twice a week, and 8 percent said that they had been bullied almost daily (table 11.3).

White and Black students (30 and 29 percent) were more likely than Hispanic students to report being bullied in 2005 (22 percent; table 11.1). White students were also more likely than students of Other racial/ethnic groups to report being bullied (30 vs. 25 percent), and to report that they were the subject of rumors than were Hispanic students and students of Other racial/ethnic groups (16 vs. 12 percent).

In general, grade level was inversely related to students' likelihood of being bullied: as grade level increased, students' likelihood of being bullied decreased (table 11.1). In 2005, about 37 percent of 6th-graders, 28 percent of 9th-graders, and 20 percent of 12th-graders reported that they had been bullied at school. Students in public schools were more likely to report bullying incidents than were their private school counterparts (29 vs. 23 percent).

Of those students who reported bullying incidents that involved being pushed, shoved, tripped, or spit on (9 percent), 24 percent reported that they had sustained an injury<sup>20</sup> as a result (table 11.2). While no measurable differences were found by sex in students' likelihood of reporting a bullying incident in 2005, among students who reported being bullied, males were more likely than females to report being injured during such an incident (31 vs. 18 percent).

*This indicator has been updated with 2005 data.*

• • •

*For more information:*

*Tables 11.1, 11.2, & 11.3*

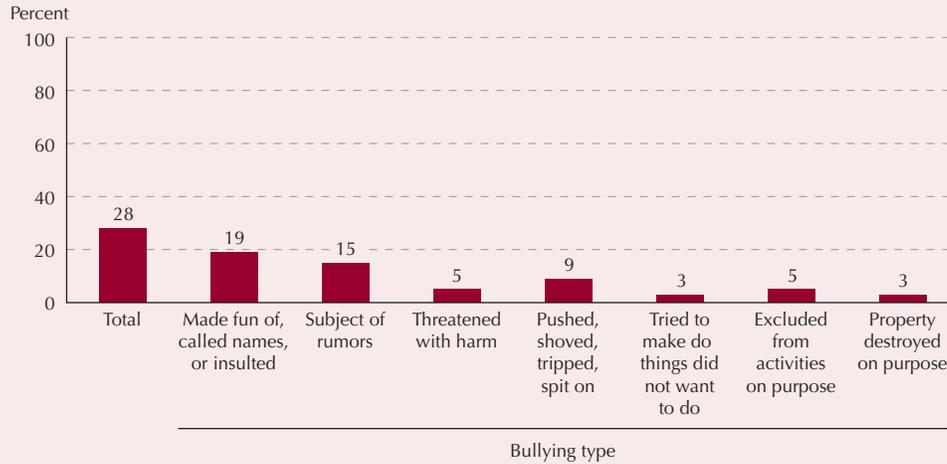
*DeVoe and Kaffenberger 2005*

<sup>18</sup> In 2005, the unit response rate for this survey did not meet NCES statistical standards; therefore, interpret the data with caution. For more information, please see appendix A.

<sup>19</sup> In 2005, the questionnaire wording for the School Crime Supplement to the National Crime Victimization Survey was modified with regard to bullying. In the 1999, 2001, and 2003 surveys, students were simply asked whether they had been bullied in the previous 6 months, while the 2005 iteration posed a series of questions on bullying and provided respondents with more examples of bullying behavior. Bullying includes being made fun of; subject of rumors; threatened with harm; pushed, shoved, tripped, or spit on; pressured into doing things did not want to do; excluded; or property destroyed on purpose.

<sup>20</sup> Injury includes bruises or swelling; cuts, scratches, or scrapes; black eye or bloody nose; teeth chipped or knocked out; broken bones or internal injuries; knocked unconscious; or other injuries.

**Figure 11.1. Percentage of students ages 12–18 who reported selected bullying problems at school during the previous 6 months, by type of bullying: 2005**

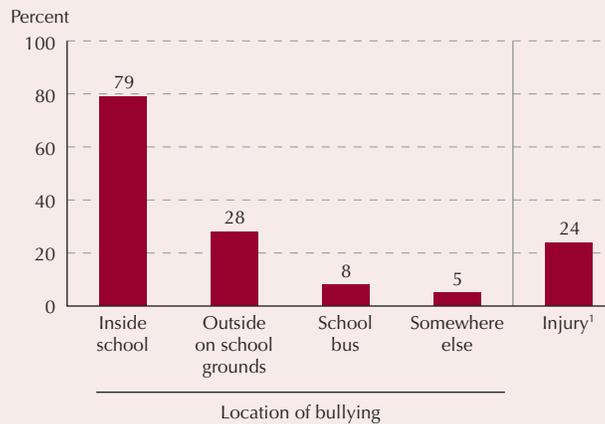


NOTE: “At school” includes the school building, on school property, on a school bus, or going to and from school. Types of bullying do not sum to total because students could have experienced more than one type of bullying. In 2005, the unit response rate for this survey did not meet NCES statistical standards; therefore, interpret the data with caution. For more

information, please see appendix A. Population size for students ages 12–18 is 25,811,000 in 2005.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, School Crime Supplement (SCS) to the National Crime Victimization Survey, 2005.

**Figure 11.2. Percentage of students ages 12–18 who reported being bullied at school during the previous 6 months, by location of bullying and injury: 2005**



<sup>1</sup> Injury includes bruises or swelling; cuts, scratches, or scrapes; black eye or bloody nose; teeth chipped or knocked out; broken bones or internal injuries; knocked unconscious; or other injuries. Only students who reported that their bullying incident constituted being pushed, shoved, tripped, or spit on were asked if they suffered injuries as a result of the incident.

NOTE: “At school” includes the school building, on school property, on a school bus, or going to and from school. In 2005, the unit response rate for

this survey did not meet NCES statistical standards; therefore, interpret the data with caution. For more information, please see appendix A. Population size for students ages 12–18 is 25,811,000 in 2005. Location totals may sum to more than 100 because students could have been bullied in more than one location.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, School Crime Supplement (SCS) to the National Crime Victimization Survey, 2005.

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**FIGHTS,  
WEAPONS,  
AND ILLEGAL  
SUBSTANCES**

## PHYSICAL FIGHTS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY AND ANYWHERE

*The percentage of 9th- to 12th-grade students who reported being in a physical fight anywhere increased from 33 to 36 percent between 2003 and 2005.*

Schools where physical fights occur frequently may not be able to maintain a focused learning environment for students. Further, students who participate in fights on school property may have difficulty succeeding in their studies (Payne, Gottfredson, and Gottfredson 2003). In the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, students in grades 9–12 were asked about their general involvement in physical fights during the preceding 12 months (referred to as “anywhere” in this report) and their involvement in physical fights on school property. In 2005, some 36 percent of students in grades 9–12 reported being in a fight anywhere, and 14 percent said they had been in a fight on school property (table 12.1). Between 2003 and 2005, the percentage of students who reported being in a fight anywhere increased from 33 to 36 percent. However, there was no measurable change in the percentage of students who reported fighting on school property during the same period.

In all survey years, males were more likely than females to have been in a fight anywhere and on school property (figure 12.1 and table 12.1). In 2005, 43 percent of males said they had been in a fight anywhere, compared with 28 percent of females. In the same year, 18 percent of males said they had been in a fight on school property, compared with 9 percent of females. Between 2003 and 2005, the percentage of females who reported having been in a physical fight anywhere increased from 25 to 28 percent.

In 2005, students in lower grades were more likely to report being in fights than students in higher grades, both anywhere and on school property (figure 12.2 and table 12.1). In that year, 19 percent of 9th-graders, 14 percent of 10th-graders, 10 percent of 11th-graders, and 9 percent of 12th-graders reported being in a fight on school property. While it appears that students in most grades were more likely to report being in a physical fight in 2005 than in 2003, the only measurable increase found was for 9th-grade students anywhere: between 2003 and 2005, the percentage of 9th-graders who reported having been in a fight anywhere increased from 39 to 43 percent.

In 2005, the percentage of students engaging in fights varied according to their race/ethnicity. Specifically, Asian students were less likely than students from all other racial/ethnic groups to report being in a fight anywhere or on school property. Six percent of Asian students reported being in a fight on school property, compared with 12 to 24 percent of students from other racial/ethnic groups. Between 2003 and 2005, the percentage of Hispanic students who reported having been in a fight anywhere increased from 36 to 41 percent. During the same period, the percentage of Asian students who reported having been in a fight on school property declined from 13 to 6 percent.

In 2005, the percentage of students who reported being in a fight varied among states for which data were available. Among states, the percentages ranged from 24 to 37 percent for being in a fight anywhere, and from 8 to 16 percent for being in a fight on school property (table 12.2).

*This indicator has been updated to include 2005 data.*

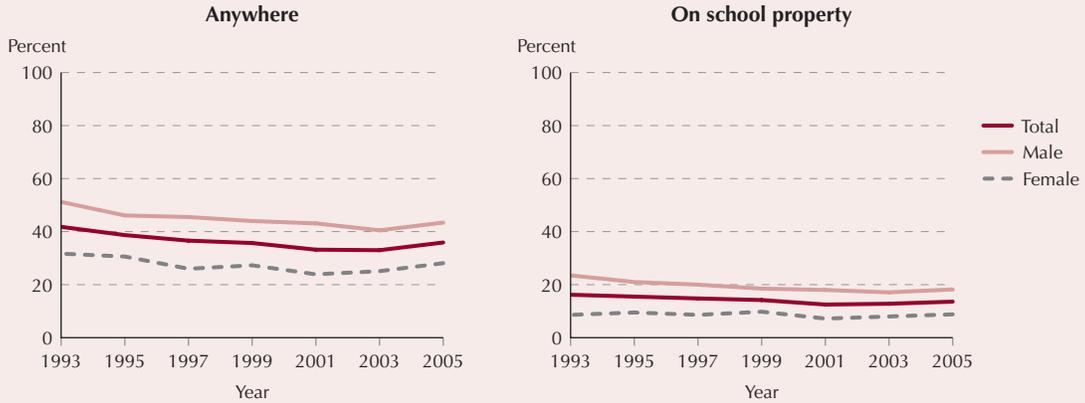


*For more information:*

*Tables 12.1 & 12.2*

*Eaton et al. 2006*

**Figure 12.1. Percentage of students in grades 9–12 who reported having been in a physical fight during the previous 12 months, by location and sex: Various years, 1993–2005**



NOTE: "On school property" was not defined for survey respondents. The term "anywhere" is not used in the YRBS questionnaire; students are simply asked how many times in the last 12 months they had been in a physical fight. Population sizes from the *Digest of Education Statistics, 2005* (NCES 2006-030) for students in grades 9–12 are 13,093,000 students in 1993;

13,697,000 in 1995; 14,272,000 in 1997; 14,623,000 in 1999; 15,061,000 in 2001; 15,723,000 in 2003; and 16,286,000 (projected) in 2005. SOURCE: 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 12.2. Percentage of students in grades 9–12 who reported having been in a physical fight during the previous 12 months, by location and grade: 2005**



NOTE: "On school property" was not defined for survey respondents. The term "anywhere" is not used in the YRBS questionnaire; students are simply asked how many times in the last 12 months they had been in a physical fight. Population size from the *Digest of Education Statistics, 2005* (NCES 2006-030) for students in grades 9–12 is 16,286,000 (projected) in 2005.

SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS), 2005.

## STUDENTS CARRYING WEAPONS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY AND ANYWHERE

*There was no measurable change in the percentage of students who carried a weapon at school between 1999 and 2005: about 6 percent did so in both years.*

The presence of weapons at school may interfere with teaching and learning by creating an intimidating and threatening atmosphere (Aspy et al. 2004). In the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, students were asked if they had carried a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club in the past 30 days (referred to as “anywhere” in this report) or had carried one of these weapons on school property in the past 30 days. In 2005, some 19 percent of students in grades 9–12 reported they had carried a weapon anywhere, and about 6 percent reported they had carried a weapon on school property (table 13.1).

The percentage of students who reported carrying a weapon anywhere declined from 22 to 18 percent between 1993 and 1997. However, subsequently, there was no measurable change in the percentage of students who reported carrying a weapon anywhere. Similar to the pattern for carrying a weapon anywhere, between 1993 and 1999, the percentage of students who reported carrying a weapon at school declined from 12 to 7 percent. However, there was no measurable change in the percentage of students who carried a weapon at school between 1999 and 2005.

When looking at the characteristics of students who reported carrying weapons, males were more than two times more likely than females to carry a weapon—either anywhere or on school property—in all survey years (figure 13.1 and table 13.1). In 2005, for example, some 10 percent of males carried a weapon on school property, compared with 3 percent of females, and 30 percent of males carried a weapon anywhere, compared with 7 percent of females.

In 2005, few differences were detected in the percentage of students who reported carrying weapons anywhere and on school property according to students’ race/ethnicity (figure 13.2 and table 13.1). Asian students were less likely than students from all other racial/ethnic groups, except Pacific Islanders,<sup>21</sup> to report carrying a weapon anywhere, but no measurable differences were detected among Black, White, and Hispanic students. Asian students were also less likely than students from all other racial/ethnic groups, except for Blacks, to report carrying a weapon on school property, but no differences were detected among Black, White, and American Indian students. Hispanic students were more likely than Black students to report carrying a weapon during the previous 30 days on school property in 2005 (8 vs. 5 percent). Between 2003 and 2005, the percentage of Hispanic students who reported doing so increased from 6 to 8 percent.

In 2005, the percentage of students who reported carrying a weapon varied among states for which data were available. Among states, the percentages ranged from 11 to 28 percent for carrying a weapon anywhere, and from 4 to 11 percent for carrying a weapon on school property (table 13.2).

*This indicator has been updated to include 2005 data.*

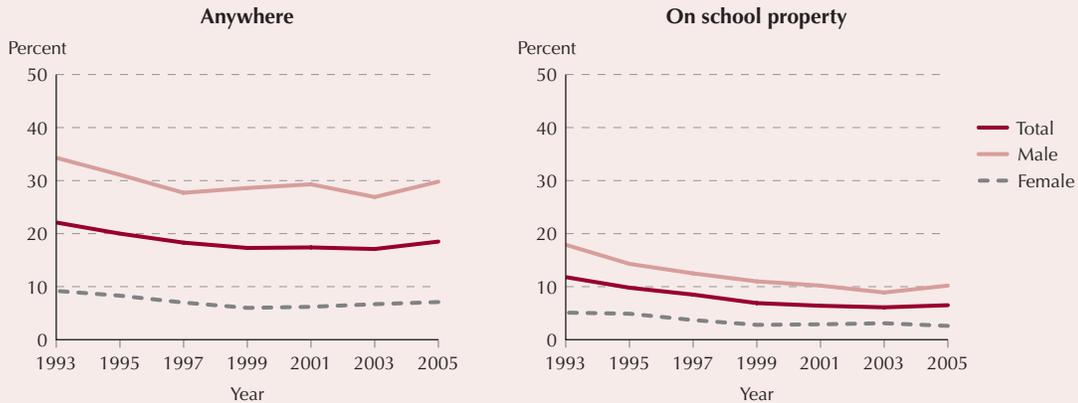


*For more information:*

*Tables 13.1 & 13.2  
Eaton et al. 2006*

<sup>21</sup> No observed measurable differences may be due to large standard errors.

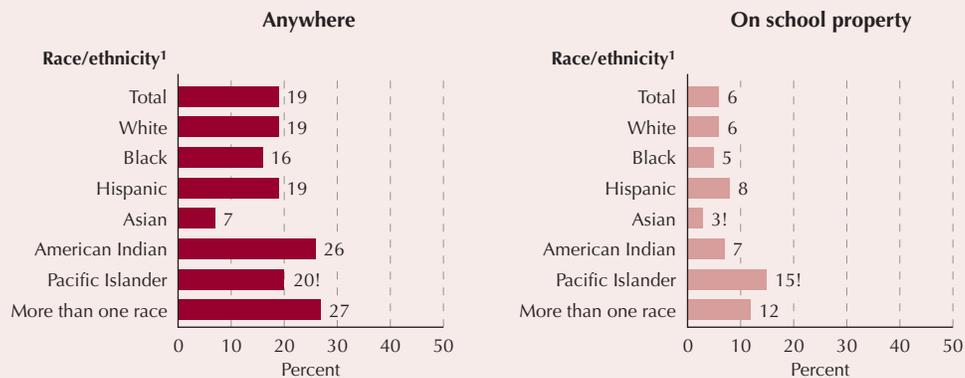
**Figure 13.1. Percentage of students in grades 9–12 who reported carrying a weapon at least 1 day during the previous 30 days, by location and sex: Various years, 1993–2005**



NOTE: "On school property" was not defined for survey respondents. The term "anywhere" is not used in the YRBS questionnaire; students are simply asked how many days they carried a weapon during the past 30 days. Population sizes from the *Digest of Education Statistics, 2005* (NCES 2006-030) for students in grades 9–12 are 13,093,000 students in 1993; 13,697,000

in 1995; 14,272,000 in 1997; 14,623,000 in 1999; 15,061,000 in 2001; 15,723,000 in 2003; and 16,286,000 (projected) in 2005. SOURCE: 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 13.2. Percentage of students in grades 9–12 who reported carrying a weapon at least 1 day during the previous 30 days, by location and race/ethnicity: 2005**



! Interpret data with caution.

<sup>1</sup> American Indian includes Alaska Native, Black includes African American, Pacific Islander includes Native Hawaiian, and Hispanic includes Latino. Respondents who identified themselves as being of Hispanic origin are classified as Hispanic, regardless of their race.

NOTE: "On school property" was not defined for survey respondents. The term "anywhere" is not used in the YRBS questionnaire; students are simply asked how many days they carried a weapon during the past 30 days. Population size from the *Digest of Education Statistics, 2005* (NCES 2006-030) for students in grades 9–12 is 16,286,000 (projected) in 2005. SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS), 2005.

## STUDENTS' USE OF ALCOHOL ON SCHOOL PROPERTY AND ANYWHERE

*In 2005, some 43 percent of students in grades 9–12 had at least one drink of alcohol anywhere, and 4 percent had at least one drink on school property in the 30 days before being surveyed.*

Students' illegal consumption of alcohol on school property may lead to additional crimes and misbehavior. It may also foster a school environment that is harmful to students, teachers, and staff (Fagan and Wilkinson 1998). In the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, students in grades 9–12 were asked whether they had consumed alcohol at all in the past 30 days (referred to as "anywhere" in this report) and if they had consumed alcohol on school property. In 2005, some 43 percent of students consumed at least one drink of alcohol anywhere, and 4 percent consumed at least one drink on school property (table 14.1). The percentage of students who reported drinking alcohol anywhere increased from 48 to 52 percent between 1993 and 1995 and then declined to 43 percent in 2005. No consistent pattern was detected in the percentage of students who reported consuming alcohol on school property between 1993 and 2005: over these years, the percentage fluctuated from 4 to 6 percent.

The likelihood of drinking alcohol varied by student characteristics including sex, grade level, and race/ethnicity. In 2005, males were more likely than females to report using alcohol on school property (5 vs. 3 percent), a difference not found in the percentage who reported drinking anywhere (figure 14.1 and table 14.1). In 2005, students in higher grades were more likely to report drinking alcohol anywhere than were students in lower grades. For example, 51 percent of 12th-graders reported using alcohol, compared with 36 percent of 9th-graders (figure 14.2 and table 14.1). However, no measurable difference was found across grade levels in students' likelihood of drinking alcohol on school property.

In 2005, Asian and Black students were less likely to report using alcohol anywhere than were American Indian, White, or Hispanic students. Twenty-two percent of Asian students and 31 percent of Black students reported using alcohol anywhere, compared with 46 percent of White students, 47 percent of Hispanic students, and 57 percent of American Indian students. In the same year, Hispanic students (8 percent) were more likely to use alcohol on school property than were White, Black, or Asian students (4, 3, and 1 percent, respectively).

In 2005, the percentage of students who reported drinking alcohol varied among states for which data were available. Among states, the percentages ranged from 16 to 49 percent for drinking alcohol anywhere, and from 2 to 9 percent for drinking alcohol on school property (table 14.2).

*This indicator has been updated to include 2005 data.*

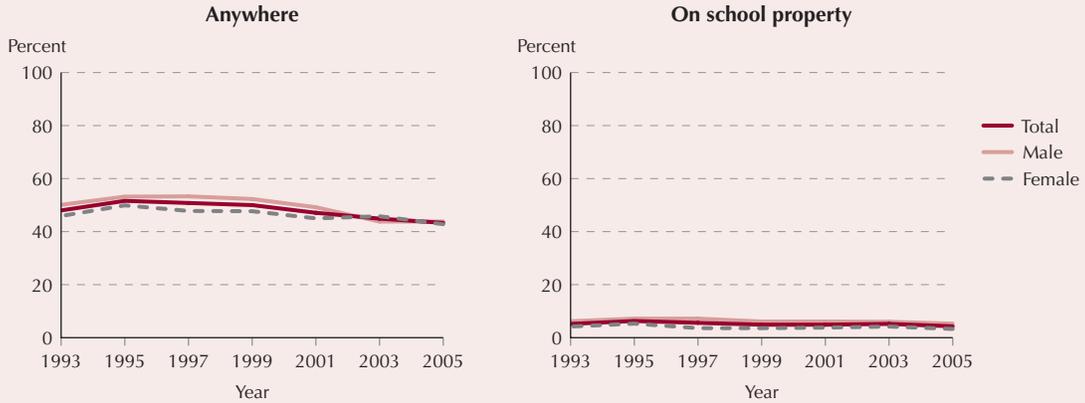


*For more information:*

*Tables 14.1 & 14.2*

*Eaton et al. 2006*

**Figure 14.1. Percentage of students in grades 9–12 who reported using alcohol during the previous 30 days, by location and sex: Various years, 1993–2005**



NOTE: “On school property” was not defined for survey respondents. The term “anywhere” is not used in the YRBS questionnaire; students are simply asked how many days did they have at least one drink of alcohol during the past 30 days. Population sizes from the *Digest of Education Statistics, 2005* (NCES 2006-030) for students in grades 9–12 are 13,093,000 students in 1993;

13,697,000 in 1995; 14,272,000 in 1997; 14,623,000 in 1999; 15,061,000 in 2001; 15,723,000 in 2003; and 16,286,000 (projected) in 2005. SOURCE: 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 14.2. Percentage of students in grades 9–12 who reported using alcohol during the previous 30 days, by location and grade: 2005**



NOTE: “On school property” was not defined for survey respondents. The term “anywhere” is not used in the YRBS questionnaire; students are simply asked how many days did they have at least one drink of alcohol during the past 30 days. Population size from the *Digest of Education Statistics, 2005* (NCES 2006-030) for students in grades 9–12 is 16,286,000 (projected) in 2005.

SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS), 2005.

Indicator  
**15**

## STUDENTS' USE OF MARIJUANA ON SCHOOL PROPERTY AND ANYWHERE

*In 2005, some 20 percent of students in grades 9–12 reported using marijuana anywhere during the past 30 days, and 5 percent reported using marijuana on school property.*

In the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, students in grades 9–12 were asked whether they had used marijuana at all during the past 30 days (referred to as “anywhere” in this report) and whether they had used marijuana on school property during this period. In 2005, some 20 percent of students in grades 9–12 reported using marijuana anywhere during the past 30 days, and 5 percent reported using marijuana on school property (table 15.1).

The percentage of students who reported using marijuana anywhere increased between 1993 and 1995 (from 18 to 25 percent), and in 1995, 1997, and 1999, roughly one-quarter of students reported using marijuana anywhere (between 25 and 27 percent). By 2005, however, the percentage of students who reported using marijuana anywhere had declined to 20 percent. The percentage of students who reported using marijuana on school property increased from 6 to 9 percent between 1993 and 1995 and then declined to 5 percent in 2001. No measurable change was found in the percentage of students who reported using marijuana during the past 30 days on school property between 2001 and 2005.

Both students' sex and grade level were associated with the use of marijuana among those in grades 9–12. Males were more likely than females to have reported using marijuana during the past 30 days in every survey year, both anywhere and on school property (figure 15.1 and table 15.1). For example, in 2005, some 6 percent of males and 3 percent of females reported using marijuana on school property. In that same year, 9th-grade students were less likely than 11th- and 12th-grade students to report using marijuana anywhere (figure 15.2 and table 15.1). While it appears that 9th-grade students were slightly more likely to report using marijuana on school property than were their peers in other grades, no measurable differences were detected in student reports of using marijuana on school property by grade level.

In 2005, Asian students were less likely than students from other racial/ethnic groups, except Pacific Islander students, to report using marijuana anywhere (7 vs. 17–30 percent of students in other racial/ethnic groups). American Indian students were more likely than students from other racial/ethnic groups, except Hispanic students, to report using marijuana anywhere (30 vs. 7–20 percent of students in other racial/ethnic groups). At school, Hispanic students (8 percent) and American Indian students (9 percent) were more likely to report using marijuana than were White or Black students (4 and 5 percent, respectively).

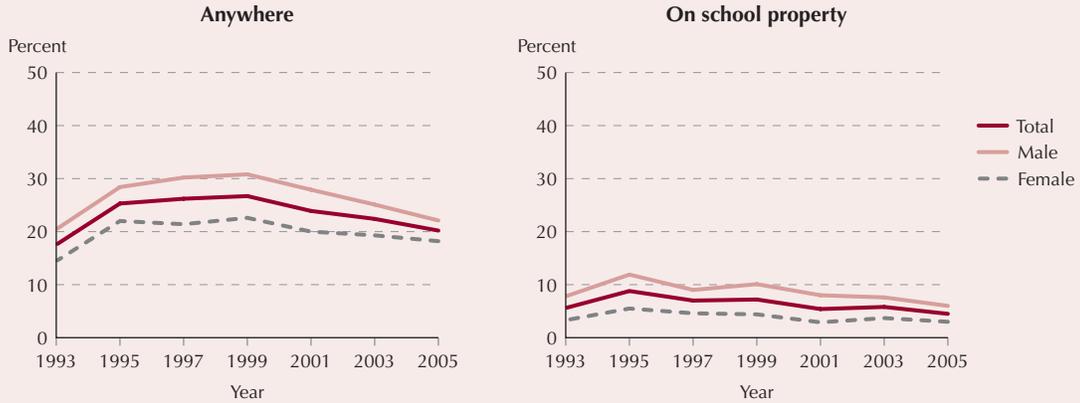
In 2005, the percentage of students who reported using marijuana varied among states for which data were available. Among states, the percentages ranged from 8 to 26 percent for using marijuana anywhere, and from 2 to 8 percent for using it on school property (table 15.2).

*This indicator has been updated to include 2005 data.*



*For more information:  
Tables 15.1 & 15.2  
Eaton et al. 2006*

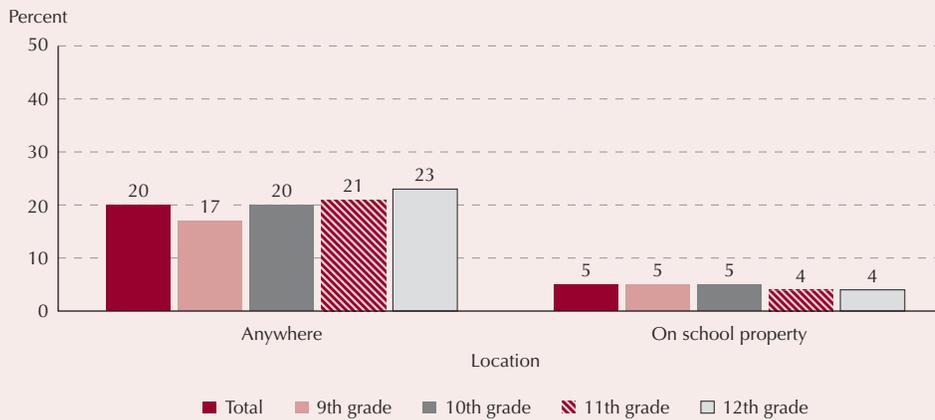
**Figure 15.1. Percentage of students in grades 9–12 who reported using marijuana during the previous 30 days, by location and sex: Various years, 1993–2005**



NOTE: “On school property” was not defined for survey respondents. The term “anywhere” is not used in the YRBS questionnaire; students are simply asked how many times during the past 30 days they used marijuana. Population sizes from the *Digest of Education Statistics, 2005* (NCES 2006-030) for students in grades 9–12 are 13,093,000 students in 1993; 13,697,000

in 1995; 14,272,000 in 1997; 14,623,000 in 1999; 15,061,000 in 2001; 15,723,000 in 2003; and 16,286,000 (projected) in 2005. SOURCE: 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 15.2. Percentage of students in grades 9–12 who reported using marijuana during the previous 30 days, by location and grade: 2005**



NOTE: “On school property” was not defined for survey respondents. The term “anywhere” is not used in the YRBS questionnaire; students are simply asked how many times during the past 30 days they used marijuana. Population size from the *Digest of Education Statistics, 2005* (NCES 2006-030) for students in grades 9–12 is 16,286,000 (projected) in 2005.

SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS), 2005.

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**FEAR AND  
AVOIDANCE**

## STUDENTS' PERCEPTIONS OF PERSONAL SAFETY AT SCHOOL AND AWAY FROM SCHOOL

*In 2005, as grade level increased, the percentage of students reporting fear of an attack at school or on the way to and from school decreased.*

School violence can make students fearful and affect their readiness and ability to learn, and concerns about vulnerability to attacks detract from a positive school environment (Scheckner et al. 2002). In the School Crime Supplement<sup>22</sup> to the National Crime Victimization Survey, students ages 12–18 were asked how often they had been afraid of attack “at school or on the way to and from school” and “away from school” during the previous 6 months.<sup>23</sup>

In 2005, approximately 6 percent of students ages 12–18 reported that they were afraid of attack or harm at school, and 5 percent reported that they were afraid of attack or harm away from school. There was no measurable change between 2003 and 2005 in the percentage of students reporting fear of attack or harm at or away from school (figure 16.1 and table 16.1). Consistent with findings from 1999 and 2001, students in 2005 were more likely to report being afraid of an attack at school than away from school. The percentage of students who reported that they were afraid of being attacked at school (including on the way to and from school) decreased from 12 to 6 percent between 1995 and 2001; however, no measurable difference was detected between 2001 and 2005. Similarly, there was no change in the percentage of students who feared such an attack away from school between 1999 and 2005.

Black and Hispanic students were more likely than White students to fear for their safety regardless of location in 2005 (figure 16.2 and table 16.1). Nine percent of Black students and 10 percent of Hispanic students reported that they were afraid of being attacked at school (including on the way to and from school), compared with 4 percent of White students. Away from school, 7 percent of Black students, 6 percent of Hispanic students, and 4 percent of White students reported that they were afraid of an attack. There was no measurable change between 2003 and 2005 in the percentage of students who feared for their safety in either location among White, Black, or Hispanic students.

In 2005, as grade level increased, students' fear of an attack at school or on the way to and from school decreased. In the same year, 10 percent of 6th-graders, 6 percent of 9th-graders, and 3 percent of 12th-graders feared for their safety at school or on the way to and from school.

School location was also related to students' fear of attack. In 2005, students in urban schools were more likely than students in suburban and rural schools to fear being attacked at school or on the way to and from school. Ten percent of students in urban schools feared being attacked at school, compared with 5 percent each of their peers in suburban and rural schools.

School sector was also related to students' fear of attack. In every survey year, students in public schools were more likely than students in private schools to fear being attacked at school. In 2005, about 6 percent of public school students feared being attacked at school, compared with 4 percent of private school students. While it appears that the public school students were generally more likely than their counterparts in private schools to fear being attacked away from school, these differences were not found to be statistically significant.

<sup>22</sup> In 2005, the unit response rate for this survey did not meet NCES statistical standards; therefore, interpret the data with caution. For more information, please see appendix A.

<sup>23</sup> For the 2001 survey, the wording was changed to “attack or threat of attack.” Includes students who reported that they sometimes or most of the time feared being victimized in this way.

*This indicator has been updated to include 2005 data.*

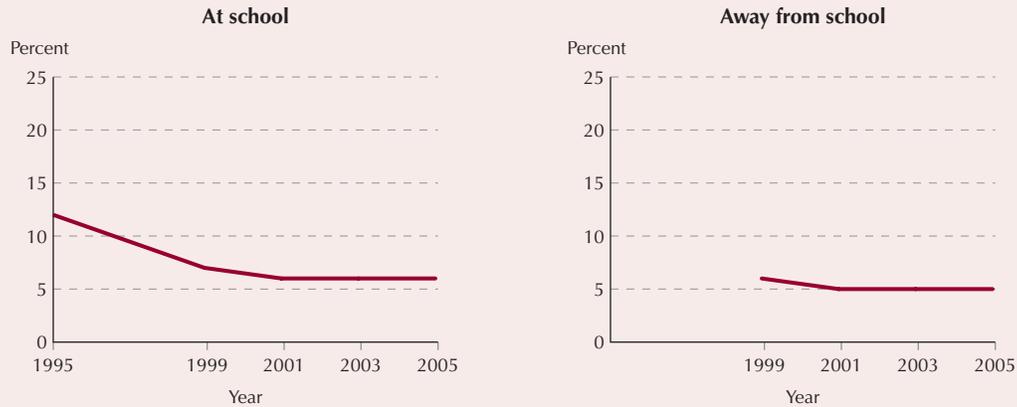


*For more information:*

*Table 16.1*

*Addington et al.  
2002*

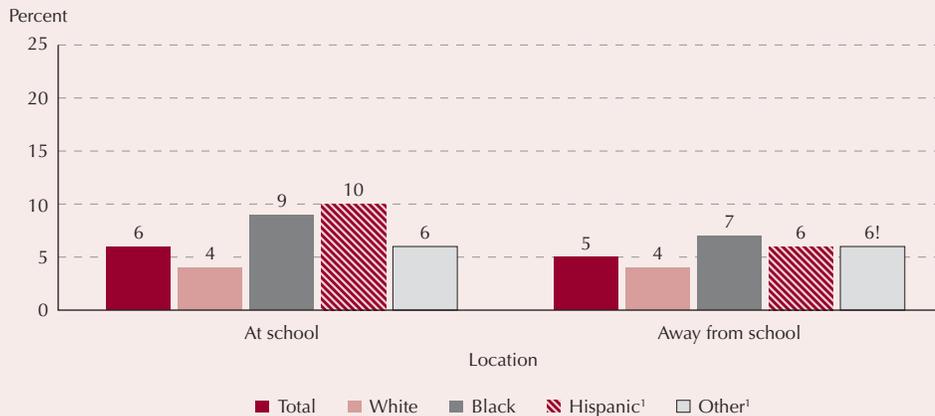
**Figure 16.1. Percentage of students ages 12–18 who reported being afraid of attack or harm during the previous 6 months, by location: Various years, 1995–2005**



NOTE: “At school” includes the school building, on school property, on a school bus, and, from 2001 onward, going to and from school. For the 2001 survey, the wording was changed from “attack or harm” to “attack or threat of attack.” Includes students who reported that they sometimes or most of the time feared being victimized in this way. Fear of attack away from school was not collected in 1995. In 2005, the unit response rate for this survey did not meet NCES statistical standards; therefore, interpret the data with cau-

tion. For more information, please see appendix A. Population sizes for students ages 12–18 are 23,325,000 in 1995; 24,614,000 in 1999; 24,315,000 in 2001; 25,684,000 in 2003; and 25,811,000 in 2005. SOURCE: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, School Crime Supplement (SCS) to the National Crime Victimization Survey, various years, 1995–2005.

**Figure 16.2. Percentage of students ages 12–18 who reported being afraid of attack or harm during the previous 6 months, by location and race/ethnicity: 2005**



<sup>1</sup> Interpret data with caution.

<sup>1</sup> Other includes American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian or Pacific Islander, and more than one race. For this report, non-Hispanic students who identified themselves as more than one race were included in the Other category. Respondents who identified themselves as being of Hispanic origin are classified as Hispanic, regardless of their race.

NOTE: “At school” includes the school building, on school property, on a school bus, or going to and from school. Includes students who reported

that they sometimes or most of the time feared being victimized in this way. In 2005, the unit response rate for this survey did not meet NCES statistical standards; therefore, interpret the data with caution. For more information, please see appendix A. Population size for students ages 12–18 is 25,811,000 in 2005.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, School Crime Supplement (SCS) to the National Crime Victimization Survey, 2005.

## STUDENTS' REPORTS OF AVOIDING SCHOOL ACTIVITIES OR SPECIFIC PLACES IN SCHOOL

*In 2005, some 6 percent of students ages 12–18 reported that they avoided school activities or one or more places in school because they thought someone might attack or harm them.*

School crime may lead students to perceive school as unsafe, and in trying to ensure their own safety, students may begin to skip school activities or avoid certain places within school (Schreck and Miller 2003). The percentage of students who avoid school activities and certain areas in school is a measure of their perceptions of school safety. In the School Crime Supplement<sup>24</sup> to the National Crime Victimization Survey, students ages 12–18 were asked whether they had avoided school activities or one or more places in school because they were fearful that someone might attack or harm them.<sup>25</sup> In 2005, some 6 percent of students reported that they had avoided a school activity or one or more places in school in the previous 6 months because of fear of attack or harm: 2 percent of students avoided a school activity, and 4 percent avoided one or more places in school<sup>26</sup> (figure 17.1 and table 17.1).

The percentage of students ages 12–18 who reported that they avoided school activities because they thought someone might attack or harm them there decreased from 3 to 2 percent between 1999 and 2001 and remained at about 2 percent through 2005 (figure 17.1 and table 17.1). Between 4 and 5 percent of students reported avoiding one or more places in school during the same period.

Students' reports of avoiding one or more places in school varied according to their race/ethnicity. In 2005, Black and Hispanic students (7 and 6 percent, respectively) were more likely than White students or those from some Other racial/ethnic background (4 and 3 percent, respectively) to report avoiding one or more places in school because they were afraid someone might attack or harm them (table 17.2). As in all previous survey years, no measurable difference was detected in the extent to which males and females avoided places in 2005.

Generally, grade level was inversely associated with students' likelihood of avoiding one or more places in school. Eight percent of 6th-graders avoided one or more places in school in 2005, compared with 1 percent of 12th-graders (figure 17.2 and table 17.2).

Consistent with most previous years, students in urban areas in 2005 were the most likely to avoid places in school: 6 percent of urban students reported that they had done so, compared with 4 percent of suburban and rural students. In addition, public school students were more likely than private school students to avoid places in school (5 vs. 1 percent).

*This indicator has been updated to include 2005 data.*



*For more information:*

*Tables 17.1 & 17.2*

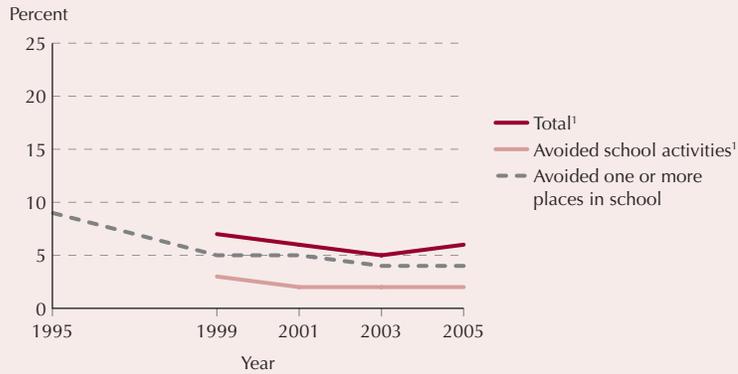
*Addington et al. 2002*

<sup>24</sup> In 2005, the unit response rate for this survey did not meet NCES statistical standards; therefore, interpret the data with caution. For more information, please see appendix A.

<sup>25</sup> For the 2001 survey, the wording was changed from "attack or harm" to "attack or threat of attack." See appendix A for more information.

<sup>26</sup> Avoided a school activity includes avoiding extracurricular activities, skipping class, or staying home from school. Places include the entrance, any hallways or stairs, parts of the cafeteria, restrooms, and other places inside the school building.

**Figure 17.1. Percentage of students ages 12–18 who reported avoiding school activities or one or more places in school during the previous 6 months because of fear of attack or harm: Various years, 1995–2005**



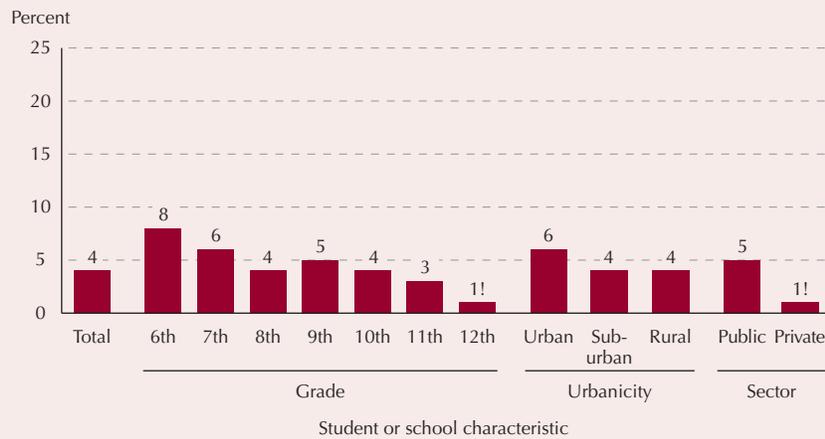
<sup>1</sup> Data for 1995 are not available.

NOTE: “Avoided school activities” includes skipped extracurricular activities, skipped class, or stayed home from school, and “avoided one or more places in school” includes the entrance, any hallways or stairs, parts of the cafeteria, restrooms, and other places inside the school building. For the 2001 survey, the wording was changed from “attack or harm” to “attack or threat of attack.” In 2005, the unit response rate for this survey did not meet

NCES statistical standards; therefore, interpret the data with caution. For more information, please see appendix A. Population sizes for students ages 12–18 are 23,325,000 in 1995; 24,614,000 in 1999; 24,315,000 in 2001; 25,684,000 in 2003; and 25,811,000 in 2005.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, School Crime Supplement (SCS) to the National Crime Victimization Survey, various years, 1995–2005.

**Figure 17.2. Percentage of students ages 12–18 who reported avoiding one or more places in school during the previous 6 months because of fear of attack or harm, by selected student and school characteristics: 2005**



! Interpret data with caution.

NOTE: Places include the entrance, any hallways or stairs, parts of the cafeteria, restrooms, and other places inside the school building. In 2005, the unit response rate for this survey did not meet NCES statistical standards;

therefore, interpret the data with caution. For more information, please see appendix A. Population size for students ages 12–18 is 25,811,000 in 2005.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, School Crime Supplement (SCS) to the National Crime Victimization Survey, 2005.

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**DISCIPLINE,  
SAFETY,  
AND SECURITY  
MEASURES**

Indicator  
**18**

## SERIOUS DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS TAKEN BY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*About 46 percent of public schools (approximately 36,800 schools) took a serious disciplinary action against a student for specific offenses during the 2003–04 school year. Of those disciplinary actions, 74 percent were suspensions lasting 5 days or more, 5 percent were removals with no services (i.e., expulsions), and 21 percent were transfers to specialized schools.*

Removing a student from school because of behavior problems stemming from crime and violence has a serious impact on the instruction of students. In the School Survey on Crime and Safety, public school officials were asked to report the number of disciplinary actions their schools took against students for specific offenses during the 2003–04 school year.

About 46 percent of public schools took at least one serious disciplinary action against a student—including suspensions lasting 5 days or more, removals with no services (i.e., expulsions), and transfers to specialized schools—for specific offenses during the 2003–04 school year (table 18.1). The offenses included physical attacks or fights; insubordination; distribution, possession, or use of alcohol; distribution, possession, or use of illegal drugs; use or possession of a weapon other than a firearm; and use or possession of a firearm or explosive device. Altogether, about 655,700 serious disciplinary actions were taken against students for these offenses in 2003–04. Of those actions, 74 percent were suspensions for 5 days or more, 5 percent were removals with no services, and 21 percent were transfers to specialized schools (figure 18.1 and table 18.1).

Four percent of all public schools took one or more serious disciplinary actions in response to students' use or possession of a firearm or explosive device (figure 18.2 and table 18.1). Students' use or possession of weapons other than firearms resulted in at least one serious disciplinary action in 17 percent of schools. Thirty-two percent of public schools took at least one serious disciplinary action for a physical attack or fight, and 22 percent responded to insubordination with a serious disciplinary action. Nine percent of all public schools took one or more serious disciplinary actions for students' distribution, possession, or use of alcohol, and 21 percent did so for the distribution, possession, or use of illegal drugs.

*This indicator has been updated with 2003–04 data.*

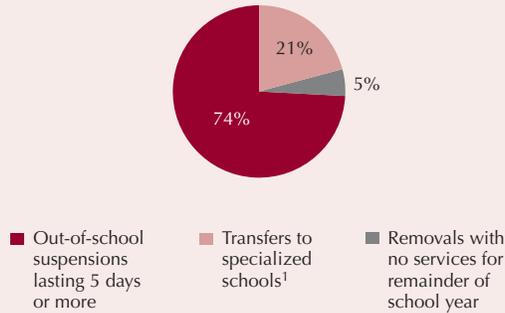


*For more information:*

*Table 18.1*

*Miller 2003 revised*

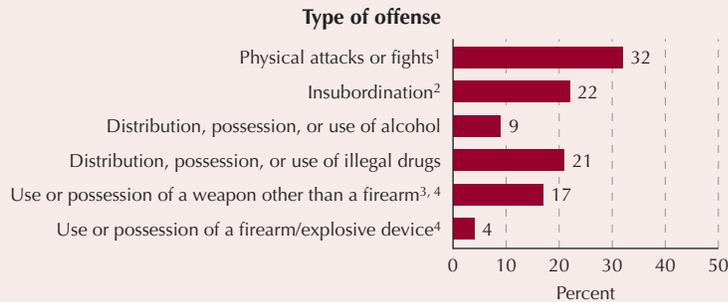
**Figure 18.1. Percentage distribution of serious disciplinary actions taken by public schools for specific offenses, by type of action: 2003–04**



<sup>1</sup> A specialized school was defined for respondents as “a school that is specifically for students who were referred for disciplinary reasons. The school may also have students who were referred for other reasons. The school may be at the same location as your school.”  
NOTE: Either school principals or the person most knowledgeable about discipline issues at school completed the SSOCS questionnaire. Serious disciplinary actions include removals with no continuing services for at least the remainder of the school year, transfers to specialized schools for

disciplinary reasons, and out-of-school suspensions lasting 5 or more days, but less than the remainder of the school year. Respondents were instructed to respond only for those times that were during normal school hours or when school activities or events were in session, unless the survey specified otherwise. Population size is 80,500 public schools. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.  
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, School Survey on Crime and Safety (SSOCS), 2004.

**Figure 18.2. Percentage of public schools that took a serious disciplinary action for specific offenses, by type of offense: 2003–04**



<sup>1</sup> Physical attacks or fights were defined for respondents as “an actual and intentional touching or striking of another person against his or her will, or the intentional causing of bodily harm to an individual.”  
<sup>2</sup> Insubordination was defined for respondents as “a deliberate and inexcusable defiance of or refusal to obey a school rule, authority, or a reasonable order. It includes but is not limited to direct defiance of school authority, failure to attend assigned detention or on-campus supervision, failure to respond to a call slip, and physical or verbal intimidation or abuse.”  
<sup>3</sup> A weapon was defined for respondents as “any instrument or object used with the intent to threaten, injure, or kill. Includes look-alikes if they are used to threaten others.”  
<sup>4</sup> A firearm or explosive device was defined for respondents as “any weapon that is designed to (or may readily be converted to) expel a projectile by the action of an explosive. This includes guns, bombs, grenades, mines, rockets,

missiles, pipe bombs, or similar devices designed to explode and capable of causing bodily harm or property damage.”  
NOTE: Either school principals or the person most knowledgeable about discipline issues at school completed the SSOCS questionnaire. Serious disciplinary actions include removals with no continuing services for at least the remainder of the school year, transfers to specialized schools for disciplinary reasons, and out-of-school suspensions lasting 5 or more days, but less than the remainder of the school year. Respondents were instructed to respond only for those times that were during normal school hours or when school activities or events were in session, unless the survey specified otherwise. Population size is 80,500 public schools.  
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, School Survey on Crime and Safety (SSOCS), 2004.

Indicator  
19

## SAFETY AND SECURITY MEASURES TAKEN BY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*In the 2003–04 school year, 28 percent of primary schools, 42 percent of middle schools, and 60 percent of high schools used one or more security cameras to monitor the school.*

Public schools use a variety of practices and procedures intended to promote the safety of students and staff. This indicator provides information on what types of safety and security measures schools use and how frequently they use them. In the School Survey on Crime and Safety, public school officials were asked about their school's use of such measures and procedures during the 2003–04 school year. Certain practices, such as locked or monitored doors or gates, are intended to limit or control access to school campuses, while others, such as metal detectors, security cameras, and drug sweeps, are intended to monitor or restrict students' and visitors' behavior on campus.

In the 2003–04 school year, some 83 percent of public schools controlled access to school buildings by locking or monitoring doors during school hours, and 36 percent controlled access to school grounds with locked or monitored gates (table 19.1). Nearly all public schools required visitors to sign or check in when entering the school building (98 percent), while few schools required either students or visitors to pass through metal detectors daily (1 percent each).

The use of security measures varied by school level. Primary schools were generally less likely than middle schools, and middle schools generally less likely than high schools, to report using most of these measures. About 48 percent of public schools required faculty and staff to wear badges or picture IDs, compared with 6 percent of schools that required students to do so (3 percent of primary schools, 11 percent of middle schools, and 16 percent of high schools; figure 19.1 and table 19.1). Six percent of public schools required clear book bags or banned book bags altogether, but the use of this specific practice also varied by school level, with 3 percent of primary schools, 13 percent of middle schools, and 9 percent of high schools using it. In the 2003–04 school year, some 28 percent of primary schools, 42 percent of middle schools, and 60 percent of secondary schools used one or more security cameras to monitor the school. About 13 percent of high schools reported performing one or more random metal detector checks on students, 59 percent reported using one or more random dog sniffs to check for drugs, and 28 percent reported performing one or more random sweeps for contraband, not including dog sniffs. In comparison, between 3 and 5 percent of primary schools reported using these security measures.

The use of these practices also varied by school size, location, and other school characteristics. For example, in 2003–04, schools with enrollments of 1,000 students or more were more likely than schools with smaller enrollments to use random dog sniffs to check for drugs (40 vs. 16–21 percent), random sweeps for contraband (24 vs. 8–14 percent), and security cameras to monitor the school (55 vs. 26–37 percent; table 19.1).

*This indicator has been updated with 2003–04 data.*



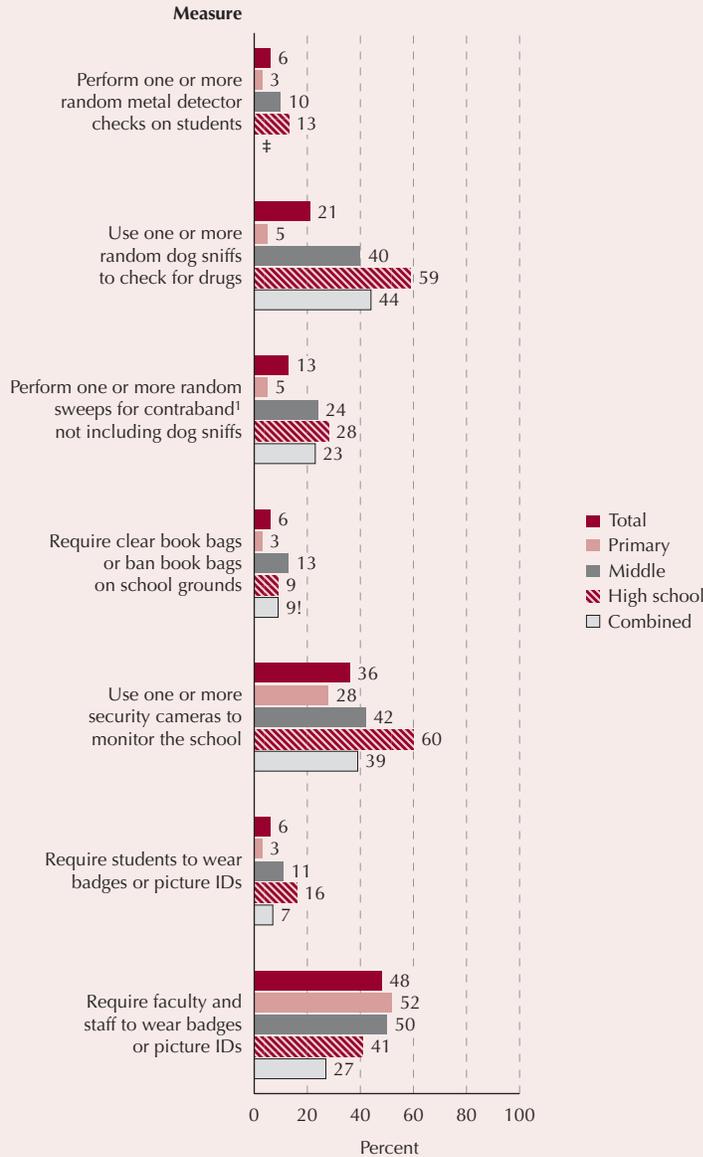
*For more information:*

*Table 19.1*

*Appendix B for definitions of school levels and urbanicity*

*U.S. Department of Education  
2004*

**Figure 19.1. Percentage of public schools that used selected safety and security measures, by school level: 2003–04**



<sup>1</sup> Interpret data with caution.

‡ Reporting standards not met.

<sup>1</sup> For example, drugs or weapons.

NOTE: Either school principals or the person most knowledgeable about discipline issues at school completed the SSOCS questionnaire. Primary schools are defined as schools in which the lowest grade is not higher than grade 3 and the highest grade is not higher than grade 8. Middle schools are defined as schools in which the lowest grade is not lower than grade 4 and the high-

est grade is not higher than grade 9. High schools are defined as schools in which the lowest grade is not lower than grade 9. Combined schools include all other combinations of grades, including K–12 schools. Respondents were instructed to respond only for those times that were during normal school hours or when school activities or events were in session, unless the survey specified otherwise. Population size is 80,500 public schools.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, School Survey on Crime and Safety (SSOCS), 2004.

Indicator  
20

## STUDENTS' REPORTS OF SAFETY AND SECURITY MEASURES OBSERVED AT SCHOOL

*The percentage of students who observed the use of security cameras at their schools increased from 39 to 58 percent between 2001 and 2005.*

Schools use a variety of measures to promote the safety of students, ranging from codes of student conduct to metal detectors. However, research suggests that aggressive use of some security measures in schools can alienate students, increase distrust and misbehavior among students, and disrupt the school environment by interfering with learning (Beger 2003). In the School Crime Supplement<sup>27</sup> to the National Crime Victimization Survey, students ages 12–18 were asked whether their school used certain security measures.<sup>28</sup> Security measures include metal detectors, locker checks, security cameras, security guards or police officers, adult supervision in hallways, badges or picture identification for students, a code of student conduct, locked entrance or exit doors during the day, and a requirement that visitors sign in. In 2005, nearly all (99 percent) students ages 12–18 observed the use of at least one of the selected security measures at their school (table 20.1).

In 2005, the vast majority of students ages 12–18 reported that their school had a student code of conduct (95 percent) and a requirement that visitors sign in (93 percent; figure 20.1 and table 20.1). Ninety percent of students reported observing school staff or other adult supervision in the hallway, and 68 percent reported the presence of security guards and/or assigned police officers. Between 53 and 58 percent of students reported locker checks, locked entrance or exit doors during the day, and security cameras at their schools. One-quarter of students reported that badges or picture identification were required. Metal detectors were the least observed of the selected safety and security measures: 11 percent of students reported the use of metal detectors at their school.

The percentage of students reporting the presence of many of the selected security measures increased between 2001 and 2005 (figure 20.1 and table 20.1). For example, the percentage of students who observed the use of security cameras at their schools increased from 39 to 58 percent during this period, and the percentage who reported that students were required to wear badges or picture identification increased from 21 to 25 percent. Between 1999 and 2005, there was also an increase in the percentage of students observing locked entrance or exit doors during the day (from 38 to 54 percent), the percentage reporting a visitor sign-in requirement (from 87 to 93 percent), and the percentage reporting the presence of security guards and/or assigned police officers (from 54 to 68 percent). No differences were detected in the percentage of students reporting locker checks or a code of student conduct in their schools across all survey years.

*This indicator has been updated to include 2005 data.*



*For more information:*

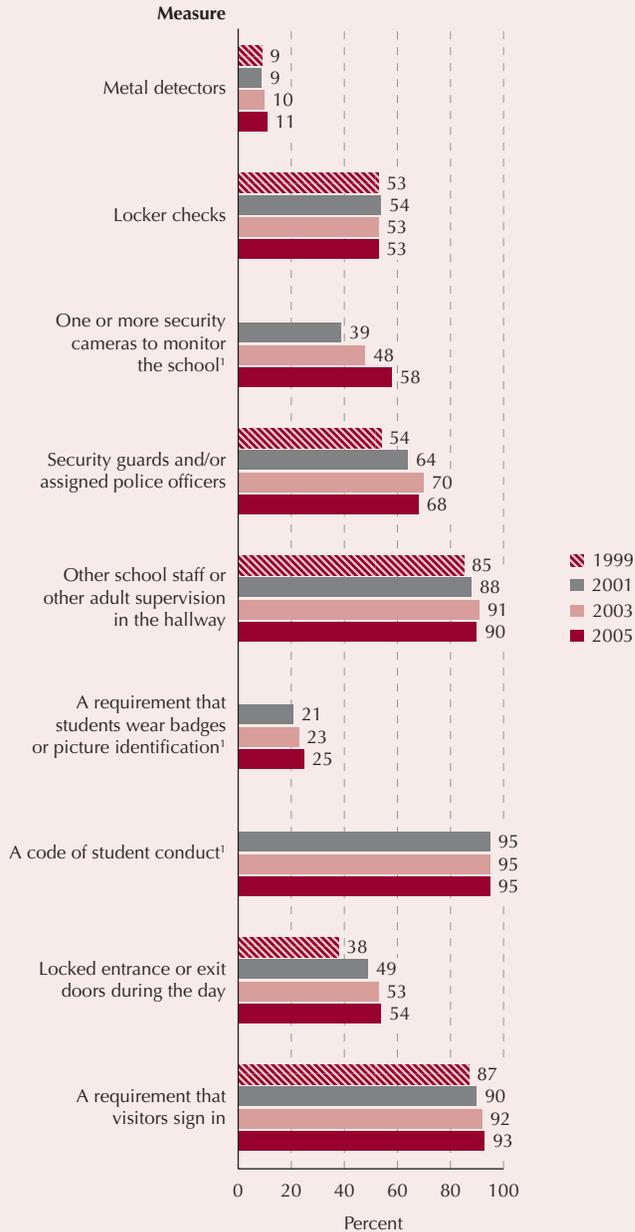
*Table 20.1*

*Addington et al.  
2002*

<sup>27</sup> In 2005, the unit response rate for this survey did not meet NCES statistical standards; therefore, interpret the data with caution. For more information, please see appendix A.

<sup>28</sup> Readers should note that this indicator relies on student reports of security measures and provides estimates based on students' awareness of the measure rather than on documented practice. See *Indicator 19* for a summary of the use of various security measures as reported by schools.

**Figure 20.1. Percentage of students ages 12–18 who reported selected security measures at school: Various years, 1999–2005**

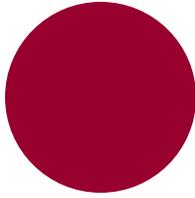


<sup>1</sup> Data for 1999 are not available.

NOTE: "At school" includes the school building, on school property, on a school bus, and, from 2001 onward, going to and from school. In 2005, the unit response rate for this survey did not meet NCES statistical standards; therefore, interpret the data with caution. For more information, please see

appendix A. Population sizes for students ages 12–18 are 24,614,000 in 1999; 24,315,000 in 2001; 25,684,000 in 2003; and 25,811,000 in 2005. SOURCE: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, School Crime Supplement (SCS) to the National Crime Victimization Survey, various years, 1999–2005.

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