

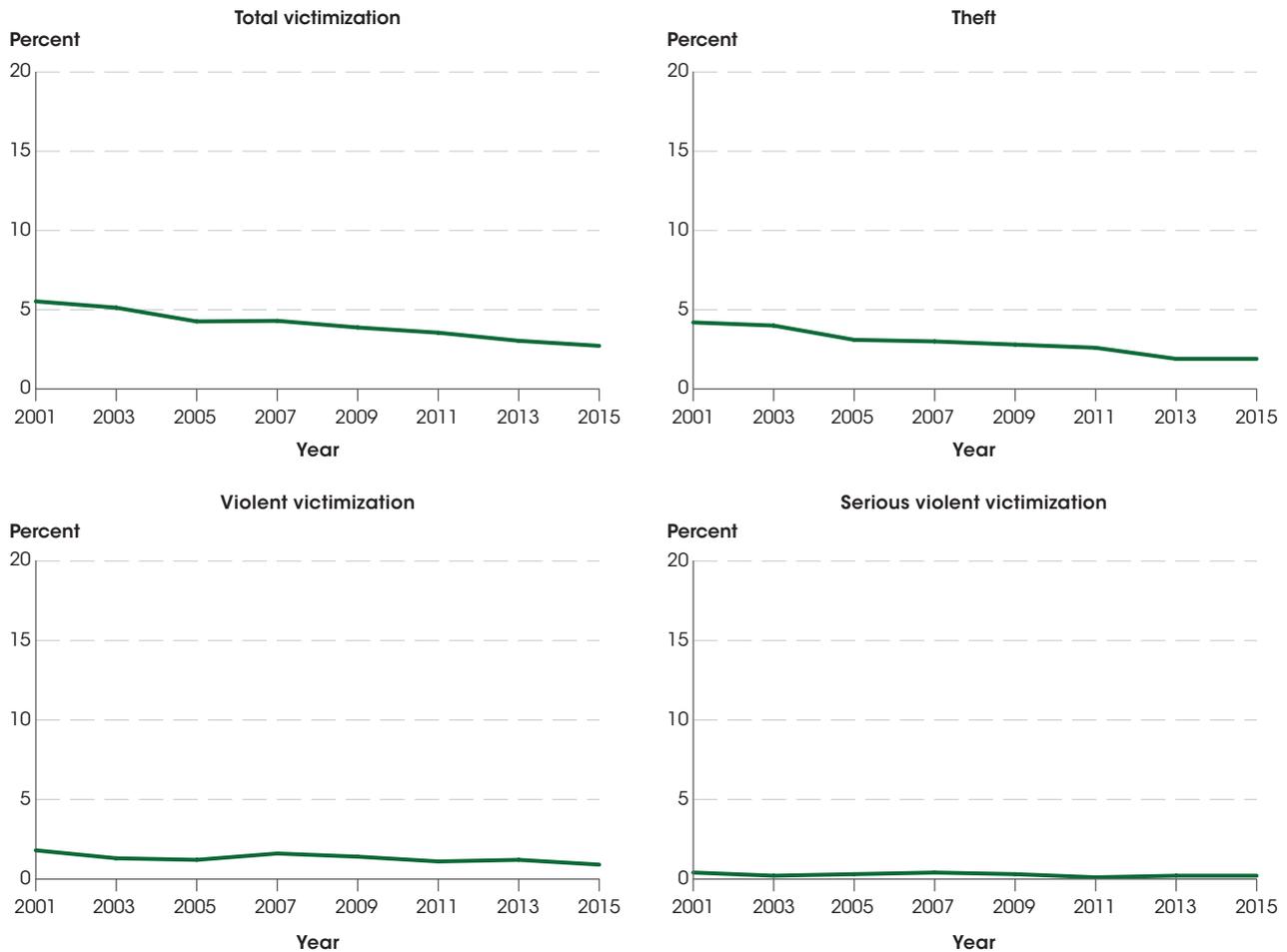
## School Crime and Safety

*Between 2001 and 2015, the percentage of students ages 12–18 who reported being victimized at school during the previous 6 months decreased overall (from 6 to 3 percent), as did the percentages of students who reported theft (from 4 to 2 percent) and violent victimization (from 2 to 1 percent).*

Responses to questions on the National Crime Victimization Survey combined with demographic data from the School Crime Supplement (SCS) provide information on the prevalence of victimization at school for students ages 12–18. In 2015, approximately 3 percent of students ages 12–18 reported being victimized at school<sup>1</sup> during the previous 6 months. About 2 percent

of students reported theft,<sup>2</sup> 1 percent reported violent victimization, and less than one-half of 1 percent reported serious violent victimization. Serious violent victimization includes rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault; violent victimization includes serious violent victimization as well as simple assault.

**Figure 1. Percentage of students ages 12–18 who reported criminal victimization at school during the previous 6 months, by type of victimization: Selected years, 2001 through 2015**



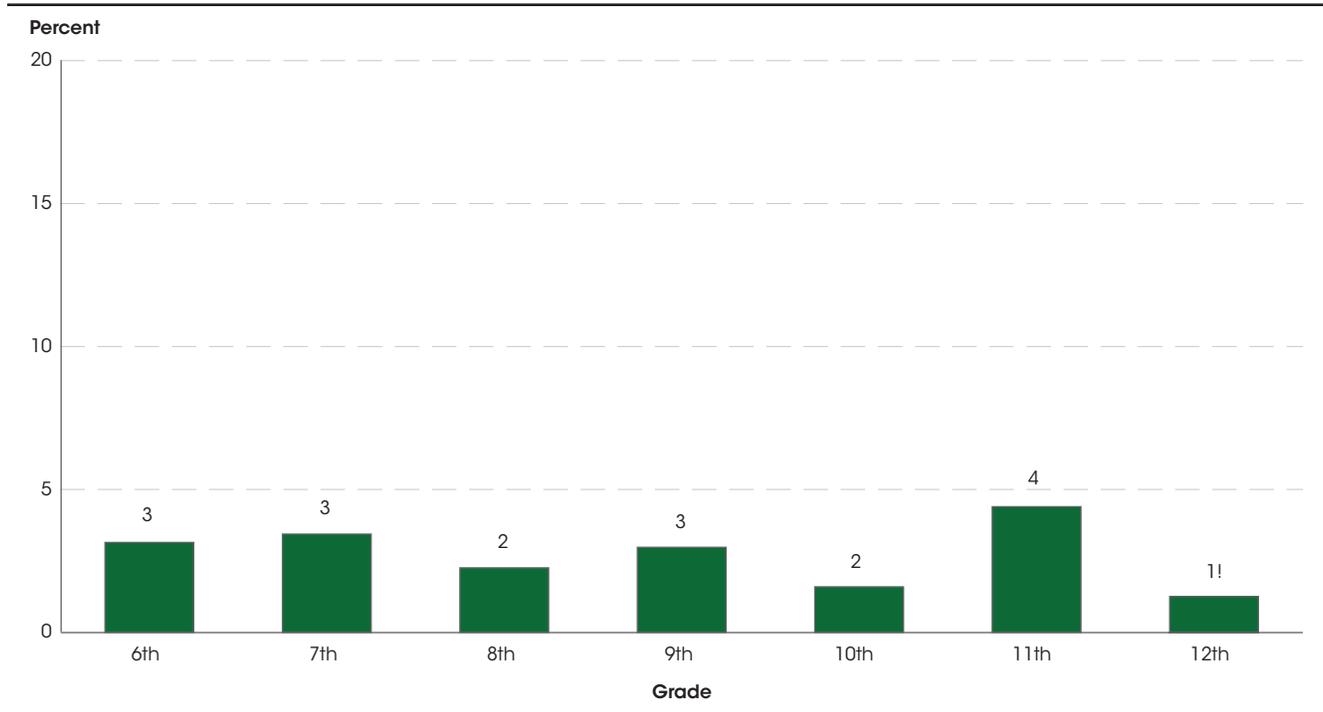
NOTE: "Total victimization" includes theft and violent crimes. "Theft" includes attempted and completed purse-snatching, completed pickpocketing, and all attempted and completed thefts, with the exception of motor vehicle thefts. "Theft" does not include robbery, which involves the threat or use of force and is classified as a serious violent crime. "Violent victimization" includes serious violent victimization as well as simple assault. "Serious violent victimization" includes the crimes of rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault. "At school" includes inside the school building, on school property, and on the way to or from school.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, School Crime Supplement (SCS) to the National Crime Victimization Survey, 2001 through 2015. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2016*, table 228.30.

Between 2001 and 2015, the percentage of students ages 12–18 who reported being victimized at school during the previous 6 months decreased overall (from 6 to 3 percent), as did the percentages of students who reported theft (from 4 to 2 percent) and violent victimization (from 2 to 1 percent). While there was no pattern of decline in the percentage of serious violent victimizations, the percentage in 2015 was lower than in 2001 (0.2 vs. 0.4 percent).

The percentage of students who reported being victimized at school decreased between 2001 and 2015 for both male (from 6 to 3 percent) and female students (from 5 to 3 percent), as well as for White (from 6 to 3 percent), Black (from 6 to 2 percent), and Hispanic students (from 5 to 2 percent). In addition, the percentage of students who reported being victimized decreased between 2001 and 2015 for most grades from 6 through 12, with the exception of grade 11.

**Figure 2. Percentage of students ages 12–18 who reported victimization at school during the previous 6 months, by grade: 2015**



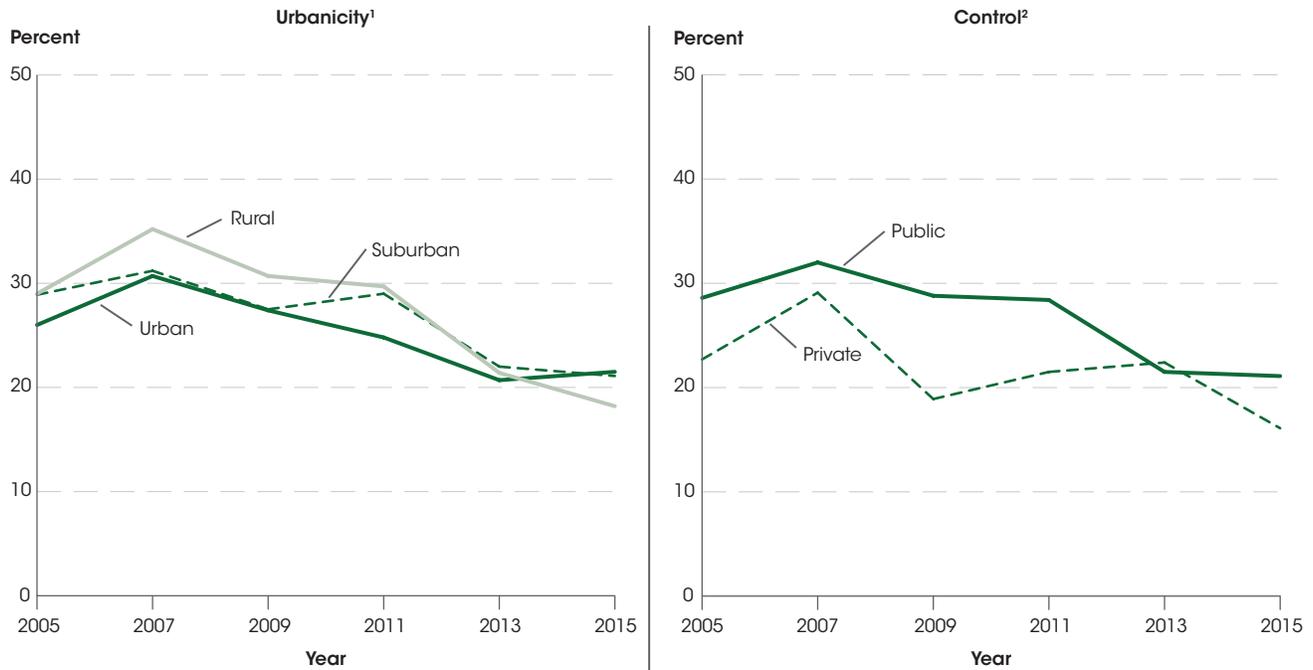
! Interpret with caution. The coefficient of variation (CV) for this estimate is between 30 and 50 percent.  
 NOTE: "Victimization" includes theft and violent crimes. "At school" includes inside the school building, on school property, and on the way to or from school. Although rounded numbers are displayed, the figures are based on unrounded estimates.  
 SOURCE: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, School Crime Supplement (SCS) to the National Crime Victimization Survey, 2015. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2016*, table 228.30.

In 2015, the percentage of students who reported being victimized at school during the previous 6 months was higher for 6th-, 7th-, and 9th-graders (3 percent each) as well as 11th-graders (4 percent) than for 12th-graders (1 percent). Also, a higher percentage of 7th- and 11th-graders reported being victimized at school than of 10th-graders (2 percent). The percentage of 8th-graders who reported being victimized at school was not measurably different from the percentages of students in the other

grades. No measurable differences were observed by sex or race/ethnicity in reports of victimization overall in 2015.

The SCS also includes a series of questions on student bullying. The 2015 SCS asked students ages 12–18 if they had been bullied at school during the school year.<sup>3</sup> Students were also asked about whether bullying had a negative effect on various aspects of their life.

**Figure 3. Percentage of students ages 12–18 who reported being bullied at school during the school year, by selected school characteristics: Selected years, 2005 through 2015**



<sup>1</sup> Refers to the Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) status of the respondent’s household as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau. Categories include “central city of an MSA (Urban),” “in MSA but not in central city (Suburban),” and “not MSA (Rural).” These data by metropolitan status were based on the location of households and differ from those published in *Student Reports of Bullying: Results From the 2015 School Crime Supplement to the National Crime Victimization Survey*, which were based on the urban-centric measure of the location of the school that the child attended.

<sup>2</sup> Control of school as reported by the respondent. These data differ from those based on a matching of the respondent-reported school name to the Common Core of Data’s Public Elementary/Secondary School Universe Survey or the Private School Survey, as reported in *Student Reports of Bullying: Results From the 2015 School Crime Supplement to the National Crime Victimization Survey*.

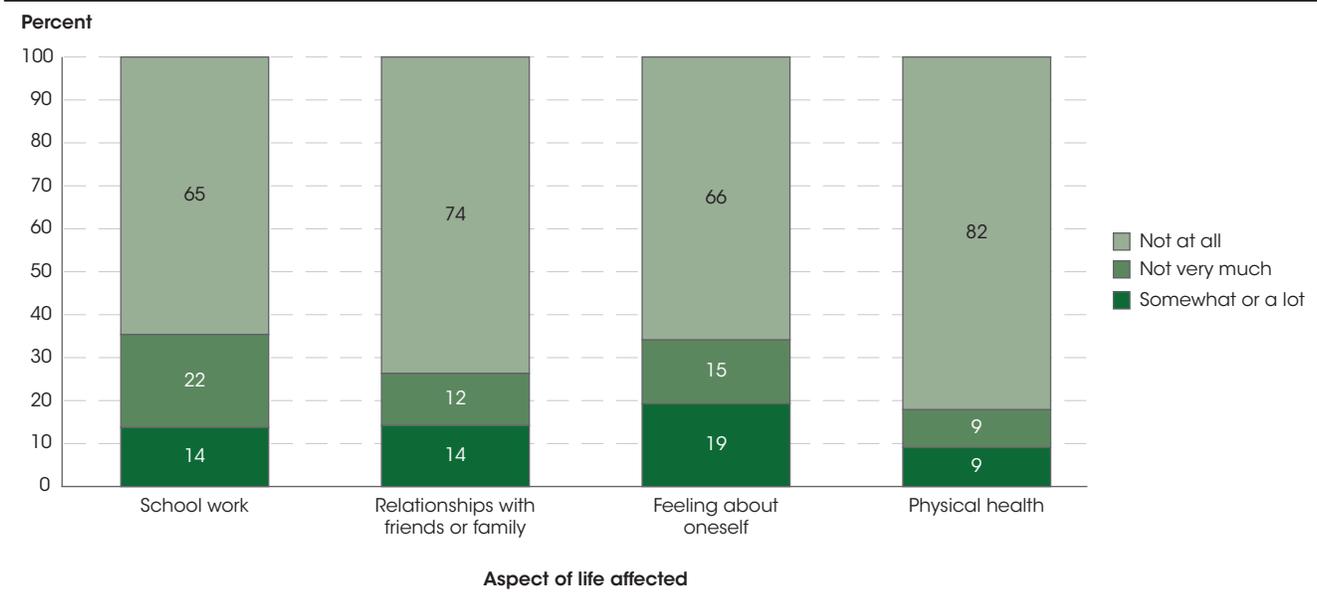
NOTE: Prior data are excluded from the time series due to a significant redesign of the bullying items in 2005. Students who reported being bullied are those who responded that another student had done one or more of the following: made fun of them, called them names, or insulted them; spread rumors about them; threatened them with harm; tried to make them do something they did not want to do; excluded them from activities on purpose; destroyed their property on purpose; or pushed, shoved, tripped, or spit on them. “At school” includes in the school building, on school property, on a school bus, and going to and from school.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, School Crime Supplement (SCS) to the National Crime Victimization Survey, 2005 through 2015. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2016*, table 230.40.

The percentage of students reporting being bullied at school during the school year decreased from 28 percent in 2005 to 21 percent in 2015.<sup>4</sup> However, there was no measurable difference between the percentages in 2013 and 2015. A declining trend between 2005 and 2015 in the percentage of students who reported being bullied at school was also observed for some of the student and school characteristics examined. For example, the percentage of male students who reported being bullied at school decreased from 27 percent in 2005 to 19 percent in 2015. During the same period, the percentage of students who reported being bullied at school decreased for students in both suburban (from 29 to 21 percent) and rural areas (from 29 to 18 percent), as well as for students in public schools (from 29 to 21 percent). However, similar to the findings for students overall, there were no measurable differences between the percentages in 2013 and 2015 by any of the student and school characteristics mentioned above.

In 2015, a higher percentage of female than of male students ages 12–18 reported being bullied at school during the school year (23 vs. 19 percent). Higher percentages of Black students (25 percent) and White students (22 percent) than of Hispanic students (17 percent) reported being bullied at school. A higher percentage of students in grade 6 (31 percent) than of students in grades 8 through 12 reported being bullied at school, where reports of bullying ranged between 15 and 22 percent. In addition, a higher percentage of 7th-graders (25 percent) than of 11th-graders (16 percent) and 12th-graders (15 percent) reported being bullied at school. The percentage was also higher for 8th-graders (22 percent) and 10th-graders (21 percent) than for 12th-graders. No measurable differences were observed in the percentage of students who reported being bullied at school for students from urban, suburban, and rural areas, or between those in public and private schools in 2015.

**Figure 4. Among students ages 12-18 who reported being bullied at school during the school year, percentage reporting that bullying had varying degrees of negative effect on various aspects of their life, by aspect of life affected: 2015**



NOTE: Students who reported being bullied are those who responded that another student had done one or more of the following: made fun of them, called them names, or insulted them; spread rumors about them; threatened them with harm; tried to make them do something they did not want to do; excluded them from activities on purpose; destroyed their property on purpose; or pushed, shoved, tripped, or spit on them. "At school" includes in the school building, on school property, on a school bus, and going to and from school. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.  
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, School Crime Supplement (SCS) to the National Crime Victimization Survey, 2015. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2016*, table 230.52.

In the 2015 SCS, students who reported being bullied at school during the school year were asked to indicate the extent to which bullying had a negative effect on various aspects of their life. About 19 percent of bullied students responded that bullying negatively affected how they felt about themselves either "somewhat" or "a lot." The percentage of bullied students responding that the negative effect bullying had on their relationships with

friends or family was either "somewhat" or "a lot" was the same as the percentage responding that the negative effect it had on their school work was either "somewhat" or "a lot" (14 percent). The percentage of bullied students who responded that the negative effect bullying had on their physical health was either "somewhat" or "a lot" was 9 percent.

**Endnotes:**

<sup>1</sup> "At school" includes in the school building, on school property, on a school bus, and going to and from school.

<sup>2</sup> "Theft" includes attempted and completed purse-snatching, completed pickpocketing, and all attempted and completed thefts, with the exception of motor vehicle thefts. Theft does not include robbery, which involves the threat or use of force and is classified as a violent crime.

<sup>3</sup> Students who reported being bullied are those who responded that another student had done one or more of the following: made fun of them, called them names, or insulted them; spread rumors about them; threatened them with harm; tried to make them do something they did not want to do; excluded them from activities on purpose; destroyed their property on purpose; or pushed, shoved, tripped, or spit on them.

<sup>4</sup> Prior data are excluded from the time series due to a significant redesign of the bullying items in 2005.

**Reference tables:** *Digest of Education Statistics 2016*, tables 228.30, 230.40, and 230.52

**Related indicators and resources:** *Indicators of School Crime and Safety*

**Glossary:** Locale codes, Private school, Public school or institution, Racial/ethnic group