

Youth Violence

Facts at a Glance

SUMMER 2008

Youth Violence

- In 2005, 5,686 young people ages 10 to 24 were murdered—an average of 16 each day (CDC 2008a).
- Homicide was the 2nd leading cause of death for young people ages 10 to 24 years old (CDC 2008a).
- Among 10 to 24 year-olds, 86% (4,901) of homicide victims were male and 14% (785) were female (CDC 2008a).
- Among homicide victims ages 10 to 24 years-old, 82% were killed with a firearm (CDC 2008a).

Health Disparities

- Among 10 to 24 year-olds, homicide is the leading cause of death for African Americans; the second leading cause of death for Hispanics and Asian/Pacific Islanders; and the third leading cause of death for American Indians and Alaska Natives (CDC 2008a).
- Homicide rates among non-Hispanic, African-American males 10-24 years of age (58.3 per 100,000) exceed those of Hispanic males (20.9 per 100,000) and non-Hispanic, White males in the same age group (3.3 per 100,000) (CDC 2008a).

Nonfatal Injuries Due to Violence

- In 2006, more than 720,000 young people ages 10 to 24 were treated in emergency departments for injuries sustained from violence (CDC 2008a).
- In 2005, of a nationally-representative sample of students in grades 9-12, 3.6% reported being in a physical fight one or more times in the previous 12 months that resulted in injuries that had to be treated by a doctor or nurse (CDC 2006b).

Violence-related Behaviors

In a 2007 nationally-representative sample of youth in grades 9-12 (CDC 2008b):

- 35.5% reported being in a physical fight in the 12 months preceding the survey; the prevalence was higher among males (44.4%) than females (26.5%).
- 18.0% reported carrying a weapon (gun, knife or club) on one or more days in the 30 days preceding the survey.
- 5.2% carried a gun on one or more days in the 30 days preceding the survey.
- Males were more likely than females to carry a weapon (28.5% versus 7.5%) on one or more days in the 30 days preceding the survey.
- Males were also more likely than females to carry a gun on one or more days in the 30 days preceding the survey (9.0% versus 1.2%).

School Violence

In a 2007 nationally representative sample of youth in grades 9-12:

- 12.4% reported being in a physical fight on school property in the 12 months preceding the survey.
- 16.3% of male students and 8.5% of female students reported being in a physical fight on school property in the 12 months preceding the survey.
- 27.1% of students reported having property stolen or deliberately damaged on school property.
- 5.5% did not go to school on one or more days in the 30 days preceding the survey because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to or from school.
- 5.9% reported carrying a weapon (gun, knife or club) on school property on one or more days in the 30 days preceding the survey.
- 7.8% reported being threatened or injured with a weapon on school property one or more times in the 12 months preceding the survey (CDC 2008b).



Youth Violence Facts at a Glance

Bullying

An estimated 30% of 6th to 10th graders in the United States were either a bully, a target of bullying, or both (Nansel et al. 2001).

School-associated Violent Deaths

- Less than 1% of all homicides and suicides among school-age youth occur on school grounds, on the way to or from school, or on the way to or from school-sponsored events (Anderson et al. 2001).
- From 1992-1999, perpetrators of school-associated homicides were nine times as likely as victims to have exhibited some form of suicidal behavior before the event, and were more than twice as likely as victims to have been bullied by their peers (Anderson et al. 2001).
- More than half of the incidents over this period were preceded by some signal, such as threats, notes, or journal entries that indicated the potential for the coming event (Anderson et al. 2001).
- Most of the events occurred during the transition times around the start of the school day, the lunch period, and at the end of the school day (Anderson et al. 2001).
- During the past seven years, 116 students were killed in 109 separate incidents—an average of 16.5 student homicides each year (CDC 2008).
- Rates of school-associated student homicides decreased between 1992 and 2006. However, they remained relatively stable in recent years. Rates were significantly higher for males, students in secondary schools, and students in central cities (CDC 2008).
- From 1999 to 2006, most school-associated homicides included gunshot wounds (65%), stabbing or cutting (27%), and beating (12%) (CDC 2008).

Juvenile Arrests

- Arrests of juveniles (under 18 years of age) for murder rose 3.4% in 2006 compared with 2005 data (FBI 2008).
- Persons under the age of 25 accounted for 52.0% of those arrested for murder and 64.8% of those arrested for robbery in 2006 (FBI 2008).

References

1. Anderson MA, Kaufman J, Simon TR, Barrios L, Paulozzi L, Ryan G, et al. School-associated violent deaths in the United States, 1994–1999. *Journal of the American Medical Association* 2001;286:2695–702.
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. School-associated student homicides—United States, 1992–2006. *MMWR* 2008; 57(02):33–6.
3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (a). Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) [Online]. (2005). National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (producer). [2008 April 10] Available from URL: www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars/default.htm.
4. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (b). Youth risk behavioral surveillance—United States, 2007. *MMWR* 2008;57 (No. SS–4).
5. Federal Bureau of Investigation (US). Crime in the United States, 2006. Washington (DC): Department of Justice; (2007). [2008 April 16]. Available from URL: www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm.
6. Nansel TR, Overpeck M, Pilla RS, Ruan WJ, Simons-Morton B, Scheidt P. Bullying behaviors among US youth: prevalence and association with psychosocial adjustment. *Journal of the American Medical Association* 2001;285(16):2094–100.

For more information, please contact:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Injury Prevention and Control
1-800-CDC-INFO • www.cdc.gov/injury • cdcinfo@cdc.gov