



Violence Prevention and

United States Students

What is the problem?

The 2007 national Youth Risk Behavior Survey indicates that among U.S. high school students:

Weapons

- 18% carried a weapon, such as a gun, knife, or club. (1)
- 5% carried a gun. (1)
- 6% carried a weapon, such as a gun, knife, or club, on school property. (1)
- 8% had been threatened or injured with a weapon, such as a gun, knife, or club, on school property. (2)

Physical Violence

- 36% were in a physical fight. (2)
- 4% were injured in a physical fight and had to be treated by a doctor or nurse. (2)
- 12% were in a physical fight on school property. (2)
- 10% were hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by their boyfriend or girlfriend. (3)

Security

- 6% did not go to school because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to or from school. (1)
- 27% had property, such as a car, clothing, or books, stolen or deliberately damaged on school property. (2)

What are the solutions?

Better health education • Violence prevention programs • Healthier school environments

What is the status?

The School Health Policies and Programs Study 2006 indicates that among U.S. high schools:

Health Education

- 69% required students to receive instruction on health topics as part of a specific course.
- 77% required students to receive instruction on violence prevention.
- 21% taught 16 violence prevention topics in a required health education course.

Violence Prevention Programs

- 9% had or participated in a safe-passages to school program.
- 30% had or participated in a program to prevent gang violence.
- 59% had or participated in a program to prevent bullying.

School Environment

- 80% used staff or adult volunteers to monitor school halls between classes.
- 62% used staff or adult volunteers to monitor school halls during classes.
- 73% maintained a "closed campus" where students are not allowed to leave school during the day, including during lunchtime.
- 10% required students to wear identification badges.
- 18% required students to wear school uniforms.
- 77% enforced a student dress code.

1. On at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey.
2. One or more times during the 12 months before the survey.
3. During the 12 months before the survey.

Where can I get more information? Visit www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth or call 800 CDC-INFO (800-232-4636).



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION





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