

Fact Sheet:

Violence Prevention

From CDC's 1994 School Health Policies and Programs Study (SHPPS)

About the School Health Policies and Programs Study (SHPPS)

SHPPS is a national survey periodically conducted to assess school health policies and programs at the state, district, school, and classroom levels. Results from the 1994 SHPPS were published in the Journal of School Health, Volume 65, Number 8, October 1995.

Violence Prevention Policy Characteristics and Environmental Measures

- ◆ 91% of districts and 90% of middle/junior and senior high schools had a written policy prohibiting violence.
- ◆ In 87% of districts, policies specifically addressed student fighting, and in 80% of districts, policies specifically addressed weapon possession and use.

Percentage of All Districts Requiring and Middle/Junior and Senior High Schools Implementing Specific Security Measures to Reduce Violence

Security Measures	Districts	Schools
Closed campus	45%	78%
Bag, desk, or locker checks	36%	61%
Prohibition of gang colors and symbols	22%	45%
Security guards	13%	23%
Metal detectors	10%	10%
Student identification checks	11%	16%
Prohibition of oversized clothes	6%	17%

Percentage of All States Recommending and All Districts Including Specific Statements, Rules, or Procedures in Policies Prohibiting Weapon Possession and Use

Statements, rules, or procedures	State	Districts
Descriptions of violations and possible consequences	53%	83%
Procedures for communicating the policy to students, staff, and parents/guardians	44%	57%
Procedures for implementing policy	32%	42%
Support for prevention education	40%	22%

- ◆ 38% of middle/junior and senior high schools gave students the opportunity to participate in peer mediation.



Violence and Suicide Prevention Education

Requirements

- ◆ 39% of states and 61% of districts required con-flict resolution/violence prevention education.
- ◆ 58% of middle/junior and senior high schools taught conflict resolution/violence prevention in a required course.
- ◆ 38% of states and 18% of districts required suicide prevention education.
- ◆ 58% of middle/junior and senior high schools taught suicide prevention education in a required course.
- ◆ 28% of teachers spent more than one class period on conflict resolution/violence prevention.
- ◆ 27% of teachers taught suicide prevention as a major topic.
- ◆ 17% of teachers spent more than one class period on suicide prevention education.

Teacher Training

During the two years preceding the survey:

- ◆ 80% of states and 34% of districts offered in-service training on conflict resolution/violence prevention.
- ◆ 39% of states and 18% of districts offered in-service training on suicide prevention.
- ◆ 36% of teachers* taught conflict resolution/violence prevention as a major topic.
- ◆ 14% of teachers received training on conflict resolution/violence prevention and 10% received training on suicide prevention.

Topics Taught

Percentage of Middle/Junior and Senior High School Teachers Teaching Specific Conflict Resolution/Violence Prevention and Suicide Prevention Topics	
Topic	Percentage of teachers teaching topic
How to handle stress in healthy ways	72%
How to settle conflicts without physical fighting	65%
What to do if someone is thinking about suicide	52%
Practicing skills for non-violent conflict resolution	39%
Practicing skills for stress management	39%

* SHPPS interviewed both teachers of courses that focused primarily on health education topics, and teachers of courses that included some health education content but focused primarily on another subject (e.g., biology).

For More Information

For additional information on SHPPS, contact the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Division of Adolescent and School Health, 4770 Buford Highway, NE, Mailstop K-33, Atlanta, GA 30341-3717, telephone 770-488-3257, <http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dash>