

**STATS 2001:
SELECTED SCHOOL VIOLENCE RESEARCH FINDINGS FROM 2001 SOURCES**

- Twelve - through 18-year-old students living in urban and suburban locales were equally vulnerable to serious violent crime at school. Away from school, however, urban students were more vulnerable to serious violent crime than were suburban students. (Indicators of School Crime and Safety 2001, U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Justice, 2001)
- Overall five percent of principals reported that gangs are a problem in their schools, and thirty-six percent reported a gang problem in the community. (Gang Problems and Gang Programs in a National Sample of Schools, Gottfredson Associates, Inc., 2001)
- The difference in percentages of urban students reporting gang participation does not appear very much higher than the percentages of suburban and rural students reporting participation. (Gang Problems and Gang Programs in a National Sample of Schools, Gottfredson Associates, Inc., 2001)
- More than fifty percent of all school-associated violent death events occurred during transition times during the school day -- either at the beginning or end of the day or during lunch-time. ("School-Associated Violent Deaths in the United States 1994-1999," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and U.S. Departments of Education and Justice, 2001; findings published by the Journal of the American Medical Association, 2001)
- Reports indicate that student homicide event rates are usually highest near the start of the fall and spring semesters, and the suicide event rates are highest during the spring semester. ("Temporal Variations in School-Associated Student Homicide and Suicide Events—United States 1992-1999," Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2001)
- Ninety-nine percent of the time a youth is killed in America, the murder occurs outside of school; youth were forty times as likely to be killed outside of school than inside school. (Schools and Suspensions: Self-Reported Crime and the Growing Use of Suspensions, Justice Policy Institute, 2001)
- Both the percentage of high school students who carried weapons on school property within the past thirty days and the percentage who engaged in physical fights on school property within the past twelve months fell between 1993 and 1999. (The Condition of Education 2001, National Center for Education Statistics, 2001)
- Youths aged 14 or 15 were more likely than 16 or 17 years olds to report being involved in serious fighting at school or work during the past year. (Youth Violence Linked to Substance Use, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 2001)
- For at least 9.5 million (60%) high school students and almost five million (30%) middle school students, "back to school" means returning to places where illegal drugs are used, kept and sold. (Malignant Neglect: Substance Abuse and America's Schools, National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, 2001)
- According to the latest poll, thirty-two percent of parents fear for their child's physical safety when the child is at school. Thirty-nine percent of parents with a child in grade six or higher are more likely to say they fear for their child's safety. Twenty-two percent of parents whose children are in grade five or lower fear for their child's safety. ("Parents Not Overly Concerned About School Environments for Their Children," Gallup News Service, 2001)

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- Bullying generally begins in the elementary grades, peaks in the sixth through eight grades, and persists into high school. (Addressing the Problem of Juvenile Bullying, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, 2001)
- Among students, homicide perpetrators were more than twice as likely as homicide victims to have been bullied by peers. (“School-Associated Violent Deaths in the United States 1994-1999,” Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and U.S. Departments of Education and Justice, 2001; findings published by the Journal of the American Medical Association, 2001)
- Overall, almost eleven percent of a representative sample of youth reported bullying others “sometimes,” and almost nine percent admitted to bullying others once a week or more. Experiencing bullying was reported with similar frequency, with almost nine percent bullied “sometimes” and just over eight percent bullied once a week or more. (“Bullying Behaviors Among US Youth,” Journal of the American Medical Association, 2001)
- Of a representative sample of youth, almost thirty percent reported some type of involvement in moderate or frequent bullying, as a bully, a target of bullying, or both. (“Bullying Behaviors Among US Youth,” Journal of the American Medical Association, 2001)
- Bullying was reported as more prevalent among males than females and occurred with greater frequency among middle school-aged youth than high school-aged youth. For males, both physical and verbal bullying was common, while for females, verbal bullying and rumors were more common. (“Bullying Behaviors Among US Youth,” Journal of the American Medical Association, 2001)
- Research shows that those who bully and are bullied appear to be at greatest risk of experiencing the following: loneliness; trouble making friends; lack of success in school; and involvement in problem behaviors such as smoking and drinking. (Addressing the Problem of Juvenile Bullying, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, 2001)
- Seventy-four percent of 8 - to 11-year-old students said teasing and bullying occur at their schools. (Talking With Kids About Tough Issues: A National Survey of Parents and Kids, Kaiser Family Foundation and Nickelodeon, 2001)
- Though recent studies show that as many as seventy-five percent of children have been victims of bullying during their school careers, about half of parents in this survey see bullying as no problem for their children. (Are We Safe?: The 2000 National Crime Prevention Survey, National Crime Prevention Council, 2001)
- Approximately seven percent of male and just under four percent of female secondary students reported that they had “belong[ed] to a gang that has a name and engages in fighting, stealing, or selling drugs” in the last 12 months. (Gang Problems and Gang Programs in a National Sample of Schools, Gottfredson Associates, Inc., 2001)
- Ninety-one percent of students who are not involved with gangs report that they expect to complete high school, yet only seventy-five percent of gang-involved youths expect to finish high school. (Gang Problems and Gang Programs in a National Sample of Schools, Gottfredson Associates, Inc., 2001)
- Nineteen percent of students in public schools reported that street gangs are present in their schools. (Indicators of School Crime and Safety 2001, U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Justice, 2001)

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- The rate of school-associated violent deaths for male students was more than twice as high as the rate for female students. (“School-Associated Violent Deaths in the United States 1994-1999,” Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and U.S. Departments of Education and Justice, 2001; findings published by the Journal of the American Medical Association, 2001)
- Thirty-eight percent of 8 - to 11-year-old students said threats of violence occur at their school. (Talking With Kids About Tough Issues: A National Survey of Parents and Kids, Kaiser Family Foundation and Nickelodeon, 2001)
- Forty-three percent of high school and thirty-seven percent of middle school boys believe it is okay to hit or threaten a person who makes them angry. Nineteen percent of the girls agree. (2000 Report Card: Report #1, The Ethics of American Youth: Violence and Substance Abuse: Data & Commentary, Josephson Institute of Ethics, 2001)
- A majority of young people who become violent during their adolescent years were not highly aggressive or “out of control” in early childhood, and the majority of children with mental and behavioral disorders do not mature into violence. (Youth Violence: A Report of the Surgeon General, Department of Health and Human Services, 2001)
- Africa-American and Hispanic males attending large inner-city schools that serve very poor neighborhoods faced -- and still face -- the greatest risk of becoming victims or perpetrators of a violent act at school. (Are We Safe?: The 2000 National Crime Prevention Survey, National Crime Prevention Council, 2001)
- Younger students (ages 12 through 14) were victimized at a higher rate than older students (ages 15 through 18) at school. (Indicators of School Crime and Safety 2001, U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Justice, 2001)
- Results from a nationally representative sample of high school students indicate that nearly twenty percent had seriously considered attempting suicide in the past twelve months. (“School-Associated Violent Deaths in the United States 1994-1999,” Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and U.S. Departments of Education and Justice, 2001; findings published by the Journal of the American Medical Association, 2001)
- Among 9th to 12th graders, suicidal thoughts and attempts were more common among youth from single-parent families. (Protecting Teens: Beyond Race, Income and Family Structure, University of Minnesota Department of Pediatrics, 2001)
- More than ten percent of our nation’s teens may be inclined toward violence, and more than two and one half percent of them could be considered dangerous, meaning they have both the propensity toward violence and the means to accomplish it. (Lethal Violence In Schools, Alfred University, 2001)
- Eighty-seven percent of teens said school shootings are motivated by a desire to “get back at those who have hurt them.” (Lethal Violence In Schools, Alfred University, 2001)
- At the middle and high school levels, physical attack or fight without a weapon was generally the most commonly reported crime. (Indicators of School Crime and Safety 2001, U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Justice, 2001)
- About thirteen percent of students ages 12 through 18 reported that someone at school had used hate-related words against them. (Indicators of School Crime and Safety 2001, U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Justice, 2001)

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- A study conducted of 37 violent incidents in schools found that the weapons of choice were firearms and that in nearly two-thirds of the incidents the attackers obtained the guns from their own home or that of a relative. (Where'd They Get Their Guns? An Analysis of the Firearms Used in High-Profile Shooting, 1963 to 2001, Violence Policy Center, 2001)
- Between 1974 and 1998, the rate at which America's students were suspended and expelled from schools almost doubled from slightly under four percent of students in 1974 to slightly under seven percent of students in 1998. (Schools and Suspensions: Self-Reported Crime and the Growing Use of Suspensions, Justice Policy Institute, 2001)
- Eighty-seven percent of students say their school offers counseling for troubled students, and sixty-seven percent say there are police officers or armed security guards at their school. (Could It Happen Here?: Poll Questions of School Violence, ABCNEWS/Good Morning America, 2001)
- Researchers examining the San Francisco Chronicle found more depictions of youth perpetrators than youth victims, despite crime data that show three crimes committed by adults against teens for every violent offense committed by youth under 18. (Off Balance: Youth, Race & Crime in the News, Building Blocks for Youth, 2001)
- More than fifty percent of 15 - to 17-year olds and almost a quarter of 12 - to 14-year olds know someone at their schools who sells drugs. (Malignant Neglect: Substance Abuse and America's Schools, National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, 2001)
- Adults were given a C- rating by teens on their efforts for "getting rid of gangs." (The Uhlich Report Card: America's Youth Grade Adults, Uhlich Children's Home of Chicago, 2001)
- Seventy-four percent of teens surveyed felt their teachers and administrators have taken all the necessary steps to help them feel safe and secure at school. (The State of Our Nation's Youth 2001, Horatio Alger Association, 2001)
- Thirty-nine percent of middle schoolers and thirty-six of high schoolers say they don't feel safe at schools. (2000 Report Card: Report #1, The Ethics of American Youth: Violence and Substance Abuse: Data & Commentary, Josephson Institute of Ethics, 2001)
- Twenty-five percent of parents identified improvement of physical security in and entering the school building as a factor that would make them feel more secure about their children at school. (Are We Safe?: The 2000 National Crime Prevention Survey, National Crime Prevention Council, 2001)
- Twenty-seven percent of teens felt lack of parental involvement was the biggest cause of school violence. (The State of Our Nation's Youth 2001, Horatio Alger Association, 2001)
- Most students say there are security measures in place at their school, and nearly two-thirds think their schools are doing enough to try to prevent violence. (Could It Happen Here?: Poll Questions of School Violence, ABCNEWS/Good Morning America, 2001)
- Ninety percent of teens reported having at least one family member they can confide in or talk to about things. (The State of Our Nation's Youth 2001, Horatio Alger Association, 2001)
- Twenty-two percent of the youth surveyed reported having strong relationships with five or more adults other than their parents. (Grading Grown-ups: American Adults Report On Their Real relationship With Kids, Lutheran Brotherhood and Search Institute, 2001)

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- In schools, interventions that target change in the social context appear to be more effective, on average, than those that attempt to change individual attitudes, skills, and risk behaviors. (Are We Safe?: The 2000 National Crime Prevention Survey, National Crime Prevention Council, 2001)