

NSSC Review of School Safety Research

The highlights presented in these survey summaries relate primarily to aspects of school safety and school climate. The studies may also contain additional information on other topics. Please contact the source agency directly for appropriate citations, copies of studies and answers to questions regarding the research.

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2006: Bureau of Justice Statistics
National Center for Education Statistics
Indicators of School Crime and Safety, 2006
www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/iscs06.htm

The rate of serious violent crime—rape, sexual assault, robbery and aggravated assault — at the nation's schools fell from six victimizations per 1,000 students in 2003 to four per 1,000 in 2004, according to the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) and the Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics.

From July 1, 2004, through June 30, 2005, preliminary reports show there were 21 homicides at school. During the previous year, 19 homicides occurred at school, according to preliminary data. In the most recent school year for which overall homicide data were available (2003 to 2004), homicides of school age children were about 50 times more likely to occur away from school than at school.

Serious violent victimization rates were lower at school than away from school for each survey year from 1992 through 2004. During the same time the violent crime rate at school dropped by 54 percent and thefts at school dropped by 65 percent. The violent crime rate went from 48 victimizations per 1,000 students 12 to 18 years old to 22 per 1,000 students. The theft rate dropped from 95 per 1,000 students in the same age group to 33 per 1,000.

During 2004, younger students (those from 12 to 14 years old) were more likely than older students (15 to 18 years old) to be crime victims at school, whereas older students were more likely than younger students to be victims of crimes away from school.

In 2005, 28 percent of students 12 to 18 years old reported being bullied at school during the six months prior to the survey. Of those students who reported being bullied, 24 percent reported that they had sustained an injury as a result of the incident. Among students in grades 9 through 12, 43 percent reported they drank alcohol at school or elsewhere and 4 percent reported drinking on school property during the 30 days prior to the 2005 survey. There were no measurable differences by grade levels of drinking alcohol on school property, but students in higher grades were more likely than students in lower grades to report drinking anywhere.

While the rate of violent victimization continues to fall, other aspects of safety in schools have not shown short-term improvement. During 2005, 24 percent of students reported that there were gangs at their schools, a 3 percent increase from 2003 (21 percent). Other school behavior measures, such as fighting at school, carrying a weapon and drinking remain at their 2003 levels. Some indicators show student safety has improved over the past decade. Between 1995 and 2005, the percentage of students who reported avoiding one or more places in school declined from 9 percent to 4 percent. Fourteen percent of students surveyed in 2005 reported having been involved in a physical fight on school property during the past 12 months, compared with 16 percent in 1993. Between 1993 and 2005, the percentage of students in grades 9 through 12 who reported carrying a weapon to school in the preceding 30 days declined from 12 percent to 6 percent.

During 2005, nearly all students 12 to 18 years old encountered at least one security measure at school. The percentage of students who observed the use of security cameras at their schools increased from 39 percent in 2001 to 58 percent in 2005. At the same time, 90 percent of all students reported seeing school staff members or other adult supervisors in the hallway, and 68 percent of students reported the presence of security guards or assigned police officers at their school.

2005: Bureau of Justice Statistics
National Center for Education Statistics
Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2005

Contact: Tom Snyder
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A joint effort by the Bureau of Justice Statistics and National Center for Education Statistics, this annual report examines crime occurring in school as well as on the way to and from school. It provides the most current detailed statistical information to inform the Nation on the nature of crime in schools. This report presents data on crime at school from the perspectives of students, teachers, principals, and the general population from an array of sources--the National Crime Victimization Survey, the School Crime Supplement to the National Crime Victimization Survey, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, the School Survey on Crime and Safety, and the School and Staffing Survey. Data on crime away from school are also presented to place school crime in the context of crime in the larger society.

Key findings:

- ✓ The violent crime victimization rate at school declined from 48 violent victimizations per 1,000 students in 1992 to 28 such victimizations in 2003. Even so, violence, theft, bullying, drugs, and weapons are still widespread.
- ✓ Students are twice as likely to be victims of serious violence away from school. In 2003, there were 12 such crimes per 1,000 students away from school and six crimes per 1,000 students at school. In the 2002-03 school year, there were 15 student homicides and 8 student suicides in the nation's schools, figures that translate to less than one homicide or suicide per million students.
- ✓ The rate of in-school thefts declined from 95 per 1,000 students in 1992 to 45 per 1,000 in 2003. The rate of thefts away from school also declined, from 68 per 1,000 students in 1992 to 28 per 1,000 in 2003.
- ✓ The proportion of students ages 12 to 18 who reported they skipped school or extracurricular activities or avoided specific places in school because they were fearful decreased from 7 percent in 1999 to 5 percent in 2003.
- ✓ The proportion of students who reported that schools lock entrance or exit doors during the day out of concern for student safety increased from 38 percent to 53 percent between 1999 and 2003.
- ✓ In 2003, 5 percent of students ages 12 to 18 reported being victimized at school during the previous six months: 4 percent reported theft, while 1 percent said they were victims of a violent crime.
- ✓ In 2003, 21 percent of students between 12 and 18 reported that street gangs were present at their school during the previous six months.
- ✓ In 2003, 33 percent of high school students reported having been in a fight anywhere, and 13 percent said they had been in a fight on school property during the preceding 12 months.
- ✓ In 2003, students in urban schools were twice as likely as students in rural and suburban schools to fear being attacked at school or on the way to and from school.

2005: National Center for Education Statistics
Student Reports of Bullying: Results from the 2001 School Crime Supplement to the National Crime Victimization Survey
Contact: **Kathryn A. Chandler**
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Using data from the 2001 School Crime Supplement (SCS) to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), this report examines the prevalence and nature of bullying as reported by students ages 12 through 18 in relation to student characteristics, school characteristics, and criminal victimization. In addition, the report explores other behaviors that were reported by the bullied student, such as fear, avoidance behavior, weapon carrying, and academic grades. This report examines student reports of being bullied by direct means only, by indirect means only, and by both direct and indirect means.

Key findings:

- ✓ Fourteen percent of students reported being the victims of bullying.
- ✓ Sex differences were not detected in most types of bullying.
- ✓ White, non-Hispanic students were more likely than Black, non-Hispanic students and Other, non-Hispanic students to report being.
- ✓ Younger students were more likely than older students to report being bullied.

- ✓ Differences were not detected between public and private school students' reports of being bullied at school.
- ✓ Students in schools where gangs were present were more likely to report being the victims of bullying.
- ✓ Fewer students reported bullying in schools with supervision by police officers, security officers, or staff hallway monitors.
- ✓ Victims of bullying were more likely than non-bullied students
 - to experience a criminal victimization at school.
 - to be afraid of being attacked at school and elsewhere
 - to avoid certain areas of the school and certain activities out of fear of an attack.
 - to report that they carried weapons to school and were engaged in physical fights.
- ✓ Of those students who reported lower grades, victims of bullying were more likely to report receiving D's and F's than their non-bullied counterparts.

2004: Bureau of Justice Statistics
 National Center for Education Statistics
Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2004
 Contact: **Thomas D. Snyder**
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A joint effort by the Bureau of Justice Statistics and National Center for Education Statistics, this annual report examines crime occurring in school as well as on the way to and from school. It provides the most current detailed statistical information to inform the Nation on the nature of crime in schools. This report presents data on crime at school from the perspectives of students, teachers, principals, and the general population from an array of sources--the National Crime Victimization Survey (1992-2002), the School Crime Supplement to the National Crime Victimization Survey (1995, 1999, 2001, and 2003), the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (1993, 1995, 1997, 1999, 2001, and 2003), the School Survey on Crime and Safety (2000) and the School and Staffing Survey (1993-94 and 1999-2000). Data on crime away from school are also presented to place school crime in the context of crime in the larger society.

Key Findings:

- ✓ From July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000, there were 32 school-associated violent deaths in the United States.
- ✓ The victimization rate for students ages 12–18 generally declined both at school and away from school between 1992 and 2002.
- ✓ The percentage of students in grades 9–12 who have been threatened or injured with a weapon on school property fluctuated between 1993 and 2003, but without a clear trend.
- ✓ Between 1993 and 2003, the percentage of students in grades 9–12 who reported being in a fight anywhere declined from 42 percent to 33 percent
- ✓ In 2003, 7 percent of students ages 12–18 reported that they had been bullied at school.
- ✓ In 1999–2000, 20 percent of all public schools experienced one or more serious violent crimes such as rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault.
- ✓ Annually, over the 5-year period from 1998 to 2002, teachers were the victims of approximately 234,000 total nonfatal crimes at school, including 144,000 thefts and 90,000 violent crimes (rape, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault).
- ✓ The percentage of students who reported being afraid of being attacked at school or on the way to and from school decreased from 12 percent in 1995 to 6 percent in 2001.
- ✓ Between 1993 and 2003, the percentage of students in grades 9–12 who reported carrying a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club on school property within the previous 30 days declined—from 12 percent to 6 percent.
- ✓ In 2003, 4 percent of students ages 12–18 reported that they had avoided one or more places in school.
- ✓ In 2003, 12 percent of students ages 12–18 reported that someone at school had used hate-related words against them.
- ✓ In 2003, 21 percent of students ages 12–18 reported that street gangs were present at their schools.

- ✓ In 1999–2000, 29 percent of public school principals reported that student bullying occurred on a daily or weekly basis and 19 percent reported that student acts of disrespect for teachers occurred at the same frequency.
- ✓ In 2003, 5 percent of students in grades 9–12 had at least one drink of alcohol on school property in the 30 days prior to the survey, and 45 percent of students had at least one drink anywhere; 22 percent reported using marijuana anywhere during the previous 30 days, and 6 percent reported using marijuana on school property.
- ✓ In 2003, 29 percent of students in grades 9–12 reported that someone had offered, sold, or given them an illegal drug on school property in the 12 months prior to the survey.

2005: National Association of School Resource Officers
School Safety Left Behind?
2004 NASRO National Survey of School-Based Police Officers
 Toll Free: (888) 31-NASRO

The National Association of School Resource Officers conducted a survey in July of 2004 of 758 school resource officers who attended NASRO's 14th Annual Conference in Phoenix, AZ. NASRO does not represent the survey to be academic scientific research.

Key findings:

- ✓ Over 78% of the survey respondents reported having taken a weapon away from a student on campus during the previous year.
- ✓ Over 37% of the officers stated that gang activity in their school or district had increased during the previous year. Only slightly more than 8% reported that gang activity in their schools actually decreased.
- ✓ Over 35% of SROs indicated that violent incidents on school buses had increased in their districts during the previous two years. Fewer than 13% of the respondents reported that violence incident aboard school buses had decreased during this time.
- ✓ Almost 55% of the school officers indicated that concerns regarding Internet-based crimes had increased in their school community during the previous two years.
- ✓ Over 92% of SROs believe that schools are "soft targets" for potential terrorist attacks.
- ✓ About 74% of SROs of SROS surveyed believed that their schools are inadequately prepared to respond to a terrorist attack.
- ✓ About half of the respondents said that emergency plans for their schools are not adequate.
- ✓ Over 66% of the SROs indicated that their emergency plans are not practiced on a regular or ongoing basis.

2002: **"Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2002"**
<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2003009>
 Bureau of Justice Statistics
 National Center for Education Statistics

This report presents data on crime at school from the perspectives of students, teachers, principals, and the general population from an array of sources--the National Crime Victimization Survey, the School Crime Supplement to the National Crime Victimization Survey, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, and the School and Staffing Survey. A joint effort by the Bureau of Justice Statistics and National Center for Education Statistics, the report examines crime occurring in school as well as on the way to and from school. Data for crime away from school are also presented to place school crime in the context of crime in the larger society

- ✓ In 2000, students were more than twice as likely to be victims of serious violent crime away from school than at school.
- ✓ In 2000, students ages 12 through 18 were victims of about 1.9 million total crimes of violence or theft at school. In that same year, students in this age range were victims of about 128,000 serious violent crimes at school (i.e., rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault).
- ✓ The total nonfatal victimization rate for students ages 12 through 18 generally declined between 1992 and 2000, from 144 per 1,000 students in 1992 to 72 per 1,000 students in 2000.

- ✓ Between 1995 and 2001, the percentage of students who reported being victims of crime at school decreased from 10 percent to 6 percent. This decline was due in large part to the decrease in the percentage of students reporting being victims of theft at school, which declined from 7 percent in 1995 to 4 percent in 2001.
- ✓ In 2001, 8 percent of students reported that they had been bullied at school in the last 6 months, up from 5 percent in 1999.
- ✓ Between 1993 and 2001, the percentage of students in grades 9 through 12 who were threatened or injured with a weapon on school property in the past 12 months remained relatively constant-between 7 and 9 percent.
- ✓ The percentage of students ages 12 through 18 who reported avoiding one or more places at school for their own safety decreased from 9 percent in 1995 to 5 percent in 1999 and 2001.

2002: National Center for Education Statistics
Are America's School Safe? Students Speak Out: 1999 School Crime Supplement
 Contact: Kathryn A. Chandler
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This report presents information from students regarding school crime and violence. The data presented in the report are from the 1999 School Crime Supplement to the National Crime Victimization Survey. Students between the ages of 12 and 18 are asked about experiencing criminal victimization, availability of drugs and alcohol, presence of street gangs, presence of weapons, experiencing hate-related words and graffiti, bullying, avoiding school, and fear of attending school.

Key findings:

- ✓ In 1999, 12.2 percent of students ages 12 through 18 reported experiencing any violent or property victimization at school in the previous 6 months.
- ✓ Students who reported the presence of street gangs at school were more likely to experience any violent or property victimization at school (18.4 percent) than those who did not report gang presence (10.8 percent).
- ✓ In 1999, most victimizations that occur at school to 12- through 18-year-olds were not reported to the police (88.3 percent). Of those that were not reported to police, the most common reason given for not reporting the incident was that it was reported to a teacher or other school official (37.2 percent).
- ✓ There were no differences detected in the rates of victimizations occurring in classrooms, hallways or stairwells, and bathrooms or locker rooms.
- ✓ In 1999, 36.9 percent of 12- through 18-year-old students reported that drugs were available at school and 20.2 percent of 12- through 18-year-old students reported that alcohol was available at school.
- ✓ Those students who reported the presence of street gangs at school were more likely to report that drugs and alcohol were available at their school than those who did not report gang presence.
- ✓ Approximately 34.8 percent of students reported that marijuana was available at their school. This was higher than the percentage reporting the availability of alcohol (20.2 percent), crack (13.4 percent), other forms of cocaine (12.0 percent), uppers/downers (15.5 percent), LSD (10.7 percent), PCP (6.4 percent), heroin (6.7 percent), or other drugs (4.4 percent).
- ✓ Student reports of the presence of street gangs at school dropped from 28.4 percent in 1995 to 17.3 percent in 1999.
- ✓ A very small percentage of 12- through 18-year-old students (0.3 percent) reported bringing a gun to school for protection in the 6 months prior to the interview. A larger percentage of students (1.5 percent) reported bringing any weapon to school for protection.
- ✓ Students who reported violent victimization at school were more likely to report bringing a weapon to school for protection. In 1999, 3.6 percent of students who experienced violent victimization and 3.9 percent who reported being bullied at school also reported bringing a weapon to school, compared to 1.4 percent who did not experience violent victimization and 1.4 percent who did not report being bullied.
- ✓ Fewer students reported knowing or seeing another student with a gun at school in 1999 than in 1995.
- ✓ In 1999, 13.2 percent of students reported being called a hate-related word at school.

- ✓ Approximately 36.3 percent of students reported seeing hate-related graffiti at school.
- ✓ In 1999, 5.1 percent of 12- through 18-year-old students reported that they were bullied at school during the past 6 months.
- ✓ Students in lower grades were more likely to be bullied than were those in higher grades. In 1999, 10.5 percent of 6th-graders reported being the victim of bullying compared to 1.2 percent of 12th-graders.
- ✓ Student reports of experiencing bullying at school were similar regardless of the presence of security measures such as security guards, staff hallway monitors, and metal detectors at the school.
- ✓ Very few students engage in avoidance behavior due to concern that someone might harm them. In 1999, 2.3 percent of students reported that they avoided school, 0.6 percent of students reported that they avoided class, and 0.8 percent of students reported that they avoided participating in extracurricular activities during the 6 months prior to the interview.
- ✓ In 1999, 5.3 percent of students reported that they feared being attacked or harmed while at school while 3.9 percent feared harm while traveling to and from school.
- ✓ Students who had experienced any victimization at school were more likely to fear being harmed at school (13.4 percent) than those who had not been victimized (4.2 percent). In addition, 7.7 percent of those who had been victimized reported fear while traveling to and from school, compared to 3.4 percent who had not been victimized.
- ✓ Students who had experienced bullying at school were also more likely to fear being attacked or harmed at school than those who did not (27.5 percent vs. 4.1 percent, respectively). Approximately 11.6 percent of students who reported being bullied also responded that they were fearful while traveling to and from school compared to 3.5 percent who had not been bullied.
- ✓ Students who were interviewed after the April 1999 shootings at Columbine High School were more likely to report fear of harm or attack at school (6.3 percent) than those interviewed before the incident (4.8 percent). Students reported similar levels of fear while traveling to and from school and outside of school after the incident as they did before.
- ✓ After the shootings at Columbine High School, students were more likely to report knowing another student who brought a gun to school than before (6.7 percent before vs. 9.0 percent after). Before the date of the Columbine incident, 2.4 percent of students reported actually seeing another student with a gun at school, compared to 3.6 percent afterward.

2001: Bureau of Justice Statistics
National Center for Education Statistics
Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2001
Contact: Kathryn A. Chandler
(202) 502-7486

This report presents data on crime at school from the perspectives of students, teachers, principals, and the general population from an array of sources--the National Crime Victimization Survey (1992-99), the School Crime Supplement to the National Crime Victimization Survey (1989, 1995 and 1999), the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (1993, 1995, 1997 and 1999), and the School and Staffing Survey (1993-94). A joint effort by the Bureau of Justice Statistics and National Center for Education Statistics, the report examines crime occurring in school as well as on the way to and from school. Data for crime away from school are also presented to place school crime in the context of crime in the larger society. The report provides the most current detailed statistical information to inform the Nation on the nature of crime in schools.

Key Findings:

- ✓ From July 1, 1998, through June 30, 1999, there were 47 school-associated violent deaths in the United States.
- ✓ Students ages 12 through 18 were more likely to be victims of nonfatal serious violent crime—including rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault—away from school than when they were at school.
- ✓ The percentage of students in grades 9 through 12 who have been threatened or injured with a weapon on school property has not changed significantly in recent years
- ✓ In 1996–97, 10 percent of all public schools reported at least one serious violent crime to the police or a law enforcement representative.

- ✓ Over the 5-year period from 1995 through 1999, teachers were victims of approximately 1,708,000 nonfatal crimes at school, including 1,073,000 thefts and 635,000 violent crimes (rape or sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault).
- ✓ Between 1995 and 1999, the percentages of students who felt unsafe while they were at school and while they were going to and from school decreased.
- ✓ Between 1993 and 1999, the percentage of students in grades 9 through 12 who reported carrying a weapon on school property within the previous 30 days fell from 12 percent to 7 percent.
- ✓ Between 1995 and 1999, the percentage of students ages 12 through 18 who avoided one or more places at school for fear of their own safety decreased, from 9 to 5 percent.
- ✓ In 1999, about 13 percent of students ages 12 through 18 reported that someone at school had used hate-related words against them.
- ✓ Between 1995 and 1999, the percentage of students who reported that street gangs were present at their schools decreased.
- ✓ In 1999, about 5 percent of students in grades 9 through 12 had at least one drink of alcohol on school property in the previous 30 days. Half of students (about 50 percent) had at least one drink anywhere during the same period.
- ✓ About one-quarter (27 percent) of students reported using marijuana anywhere in the last 30 days in 1999 and 7 percent reported using marijuana on school property.
- ✓ In 1999, about one-third of all students in grades 9 through 12 (between 30 and 32 percent) reported that someone had offered, sold, or given them an illegal drug on school property.

2001: **“Bullying Behaviors Among US Youth: Prevalence and Association With Psychosocial Adjustment”**
Journal of the American Medical Association, April 25, 2001
 Written by T. Nansel, M. Overpeck, R. Pilla, W. Ruan, B. Simons-Morton, P. Scheidt.

Nearly one third of U.S. students report they experience bullying, either as a target or as a perpetrator, according to survey of 15,686 public and private school students is among the first to document the prevalence of bullying in the U.S.

Overall, nearly 30 percent of the children reported that they had been involved in bullying. More than 16 percent said they'd been bullied at least occasionally during the current school term and 8 percent reported bullying or being bullied at least once weekly. Other significant findings include:

- ✓ Of the 30 percent who reported being involved in bullying, 13 percent reported that they had bullied other children while just over 10 percent said that they had been bullied. Approximately 6 percent of the children reported that they had, at different times, been bully and victim.
- ✓ The frequency of bullying was higher among 6th- through 8th-grade students than among 9th- and 10th-grade students.
- ✓ Children who said they were bullied reported more loneliness and difficulty making friends, while those who did the bullying were more likely to have poor grades and to smoke and drink alcohol, the survey found.

2001: National Center for Student Aspirations (NCSA)
The Students Speak Survey
 College of Education and Human Development
 University of Maine
www.studentaspirations.org/Student/SSS_Data/SSSD_Belonging.html.

In a nationwide web-based survey of nearly 70,000 students in grades 6-12, students voiced their perceptions on school climate. Survey data reveals that nearly 59 percent of the respondents report feeling safe at school and 44 percent believe that school rules are enforced fairly.

- ✓ 37 percent those surveyed said students show respect for one another.
- ✓ One-third agreed with the statement “students say things to hurt or insult me.”
- ✓ While 80 percent of the girls surveyed said it bothered them “when others are insulted or hurt verbally,” only 57 percent of the boys expressed a similar attitude.

- ✓ Fewer than half considered themselves positive role models for other students.
- ✓ Just over one-third said that students show respect toward teachers.

2001: Josephson Institute of Ethics
**"Report Card on the Ethics of American Youth 2000
 Report #1: Violence, Guns and Alcohol"**
www.charactercounts.org.

A majority of U.S. teens say they used violence in the past year, and one in five high school-age boys took a weapon to school, according to a recent survey administered nationally by randomly selected schools throughout the nation in 2000. The survey included responses from 15,877 middle and high school students. Results from the eight-year-old biennial survey did not change significantly from one taken in 1998. According to the findings of the survey:

- ✓ More than one in three students (39 percent of middle schoolers and 36 percent of high schoolers) said they don't feel safe at school.
- ✓ 43 percent of high school and 37 percent of middle school boys believed it is OK to hit or threaten a person who makes them angry. Nearly one in five (19 percent) of the girls agreed.
- ✓ An even higher percentage actually resorted to violence: 75 percent of all boys and over 60 percent of girls surveyed said they hit someone in the past 12 months because they were angry.
- ✓ More than one in five (21 percent) high school boys and 15 percent of middle school males took a weapon to school at least once in the past year.
- ✓ 60 percent of high school and 31 percent middle school boys said they could get a gun if they wanted to.
- ✓ 69 percent of high school and 27 percent of middle school boys said they could get drugs if they wanted to.
- ✓ 19 percent of high school and 9 percent of middle school boys admit they were drunk at school at least once in the past year.

2001: **The Empower Program**
 Sponsored by Liz Claiborne Inc
 Conducted by Knowledge Networks
www.empowered.org.

Teens' daily experiences with intimidation and physical abuse are largely ignored, with schools and parents offering little support, according to a recent national survey of 477 teens and 456 parents of teens. According to the poll's findings, intimidation and physical abuse are just typical parts of a school day for many American teenagers.

- ✓ Of the 14-17 year-olds surveyed, more than two-thirds report that there is a group of students at their school that sometimes or frequently intimidates others, often with no or few consequences.
- ✓ While many victims respond by isolating themselves, almost a third of respondents said victims usually plan ways to get back at the intimidators.
- ✓ Only a third of students believe the school penalizes students who engage in intimidation.
- ✓ Less than a third of victims report the behavior to someone at school.
- ✓ Nearly a quarter of the teens surveyed knew at least one student at their school who had been physically struck by a person they were dating.
- ✓ Only 8 percent of the parents surveyed knew of a student that had experienced such abuse.
- ✓ Seventy-eight percent said they would turn to a peer if confronted with a dating partner who was trying to control, insult, or physically abuse them.
- ✓ Only half of the teens say they would turn to their parents.
- ✓ Only 16 percent would speak with a teacher and 22 percent with a guidance counselor or school administrator.
- ✓ Only 16 percent of teens said that other students intercede when a fellow student is being intimidated or embarrassed. Similarly, when teens witness a peer being verbally abused by someone they are dating, they rarely if ever intervene. The most common reason cited was that teens simply don't know what to do.

2001: Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation
“When School is Out”
www.emkf.org
816/932-1000

Nearly 7.5 million children ages 5-14 are on their own in the morning and afternoon before and after the school bell rings. Nearly two-thirds of school-age children are in homes with working parents. Yet, very few communities have a comprehensive system of before- and after-school care for children. The result: millions of children are on their own, especially between the hours of 3 and 8 p.m., prime time for young people to engage in risky behavior. Statistics clearly show that rates of juvenile crime, drug use and experimentation with tobacco, alcohol and sex increase in the afternoon hours — when many children and youth are unsupervised.

2000: Alfred University
“Initiation Rites in American High Schools: A National Survey”
Conducted by Nadine C. Hoover and Norman J. Pollard
www.alfred.edu/news

In a national survey of 1,500 high school juniors and seniors conducted during April 2000 by researchers from Alfred University, students were asked about the nature of hazing and initiation rites in American schools. The survey found:

Hazing is prevalent among American high school students.

- 48 percent of students who belong to groups reported being subjected to hazing activities.
- 43 percent reported being subjected to humiliating activities.
- 30 percent reported performing potentially illegal acts as part of their initiation.

All high school students who join groups are at risk of being hazed.

- Both female and male students report high levels of hazing, although male students are at highest risk, especially for dangerous hazing.
- The lower a student's grade point average the greater their risk of being hazed.
- Almost every type of high school group had significantly high levels of hazing.
- Even groups usually considered safe haze new members. For example, 24 percent of students involved in church groups were subjected to hazing activities.

Hazing hurts children emotionally and physically.

- 71 percent of the students subjected to hazing reported negative consequences, such as getting into fights, being injured, fighting with parents, doing poorly in school, hurting other people, having difficulty eating, sleeping, or concentrating, or feeling angry, confused, embarrassed or guilty.

Hazing starts young and continues through high school and college.

- 25 percent of those who reported being hazed were first hazed before the age of 13.
- Dangerous hazing activities are as prevalent among high school students (22 percent) as among college athletes (21 percent).
- Substance abuse in hazing is prevalent in high school (23 percent) and increases in college (51 percent).

Adults must share the responsibility when hazing occurs.

- Students were most likely to be hazed if they knew an adult who was hazed.
- 36 percent of the students said that they would not report hazing primarily because “There's no one to tell,” or “Adults won't handle it right” (27 percent).

Students do not distinguish between “fun” and hazing.

- Only 14 percent said they were hazed, yet 48 percent said they participated in activities that are defined as hazing, and 29 percent said they did things that are potentially illegal in order to join a group.
- Most said they participated in humiliating, dangerous or potentially illegal activities as a part of joining a group because those activities are “fun and exciting.”

Based on the findings of this study, several areas of concern arose:

1. Students often felt adults condone hazing..
2. Students often do not see hazing as a problem.
3. Religious institutions face high levels of hazing themselves.
4. Students often see hazing as “fun and exciting.”
5. Hazing begins young and can continue throughout life.
6. Adults working with youth should keep in mind that hazing experiences go with the student throughout life.

2000: **Protecting Teens: Beyond Race, Income, and Family Structure**
 The National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health
 American Journal of Public Health. December 2000
www.peds.umn.edu/peds-adol

How teenagers perform in school, and the peers they hang out with after classes, have more influence than their race or family-income level on whether they will drink alcohol, smoke cigarettes, or carry weapons, a national study released November 30, 2000, suggests. Results from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health contradict the widely held view that race and income are the predominant influences.

Researchers analyzed an ongoing national survey—known as the “Add Health” study—of 10,000 black, white, and Hispanic students in grades 7-12 who attended 134 schools across the country. They found that more than one of every four students surveyed—which would mean a total of 5 million students in those grades—said they had carried a gun or knife in the past year. One of every 10 students said they drank alcohol on a weekly basis. One in five 7th and 8th graders said they’d had sexual intercourse, while two out of three of the 11th graders said they’d had sex.

Students, regardless of their race or gender, who said they had “frequent problems with their schoolwork” were more likely to use alcohol, smoke cigarettes, become violent, carry weapons, and attempt suicide.

The study shows that school performance—more than any other single factor—is a driving force in whether a young person becomes involved in drugs or violence. Confirming earlier studies, the researchers also found that students who spent a lot of time after school with their friends tended to be more likely to drink, smoke, have sex, and carry weapons than young people who spent their after-school hours in supervised settings.

2000: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance — United States, 1999
 MMWR Vol. 49 (SS-5), June 9, 2000
http://www2.cdc.gov/mmwr/mmwr_ss.html

Since 1991, the prevalence of many injury-related behaviors and sexual behaviors have improved among high school students throughout the United States, according to the 1999 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) report released June 2000 by CDC.

Too many high school students continue to practice behaviors that place them at risk for serious health problems. In the United States, nearly three fourths of all deaths among persons aged 10 to 24 result from only four causes: motor vehicle crashes (31 percent), other unintentional injuries (11 percent), homicide (18 percent), and suicide (12 percent).

Results from the YRBSS suggest that many high school students practice behaviors that may increase their likelihood of death from these causes — such as drinking and driving and carrying a weapon:

- ✓ Felt too unsafe to go to school – 2% to 16% (range is due to a five-fold or greater variation among the states)
- ✓ 33% rode with a driver during the 30 days preceding the survey who had been drinking alcohol.

- ✓ 17% carried a weapon during the 30 days preceding the survey.
- ✓ 36% were in a physical fight during the 12 months preceding the survey.
- ✓ 50% had at least one drink of alcohol during the 30 days preceding the survey.
- ✓ 32% had 5 or more drinks of alcohol on at least one occasion during the 30 days preceding the survey.
- ✓ 27% used marijuana during the 30 days preceding the survey.
- ✓ 4% used cocaine during the 30 days preceding the survey.
- ✓ 15% used inhalants during their lifetime.
- ✓ 9% used methamphetamines during their lifetime

The survey is administered every two years to scientifically selected samples of high school students throughout the United States. For the 1999 national YRBSS, 15,349 questionnaires were completed by students in grades 9-12. Parental permission was obtained, student participation was voluntary, and responses were anonymous. States could modify the YRBSS questionnaire to meet their needs.

2000: Bureau of Justice Statistics
"Criminal Victimization 1999—Changes 1998-99 with Trends 1993-99"
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs>.

The nation's violent crime rate fell by more than 10 percent during 1999, reaching its lowest level since the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) started measuring it in 1973. There were an estimated 28.8 million violent and property crimes during 1999, compared to 44 million such incidents counted in the first year of BJS's National Crime Victimization survey.

The BJS report indicates that every major type of personal and property crime measured decreased between 1993 and 1999. Persons 16-19 and 35-49 years old experienced violent crimes at rates lower than they did in 1998, the report said.

Property crime rates continued a 25-year downward trend, dropping 9 percent from 1998 to 1999 — from 217 per 1,000 households to 198 per 1,000 households.

2000: Bureau of Justice Statistics
 Education's National Center for Education Statistics
Indicators of School Crime and Safety 2000
<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2001017>

Crime in the nation's schools decreased during the last seven years, according to a report by the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics and the Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics. The report is the third in a series of annual reports from the Justice Department and the Department of Education and contains the most recent available data from a number of federally funded studies related to school crime and safety. Thus, the time periods covered by the different indicators vary.

- ✓ Between 1992 and 1998 violent victimization rates at schools dropped from 48 crimes per 1,000 students to 43 per 1,000.
- ✓ The percentage of students who said they were victims of crimes (including either theft or violent crimes) at school decreased between 1995 and 1999 from 10 percent to 8 percent.
- ✓ Between 1993 and 1997 students in grades 9 through 12 who reported carrying a gun, knife or other weapon on school property during the previous 30 days dropped from 12 percent to 9 percent, a 25 percent reduction.
- ✓ During 1998, students aged 12 through 18 were victims of more than 2.7 million crimes at school, including about 253,000 serious violent crimes (rape, sexual assault, robbery and aggravated assault). In comparison, there were 550,000 such serious crimes away from school.
- ✓ The new report indicates there were 60 violent deaths at school between July 1, 1997 and June 30, 1998, including 47 homicides, 12 suicides and 1 teenager killed by a police officer in the line of duty.
- ✓ Between 1993 and 1997, the percentage of 9th through 12th grade students who were threatened or injured with a weapon of any sort on school property remained constant between 7 and 8 percent.
- ✓ The percentage of those students who reported being in a physical fight on school property was unchanged during the same period.

- ✓ During the 1994-1998 period, teachers were the victims of 1,755,000 crimes at school, including 1,087,000 thefts and 668,000 serious violent crimes. This amounts to 83 crimes per 1,000 teachers annually.

2000: US Department of Education and the US Department of Justice
2000 Annual Report on School Safety
<http://www.ed.gov/offices/OESE/SDFS/publications.html>

Overall school crime continued to drop, consistent with a declining rate of crime against students outside of school, according to the third Annual Report on School Safety, released October 2000 by the Departments of Education and Justice.

In addition, the findings showed a steady and significant decline in the percentage of high school-aged students who reported carrying a weapon to school - 7 percent in 1999, down from 12 percent in 1993.

Highlights of the findings included:

- For students aged 12 to 18, overall school crime, including theft, rape, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault and simple assault, decreased by nearly a third to 101 school-related crimes per 1,000 students in 1998, compared to 144 crimes per 1,000 in 1992.
- Violent deaths at school are extremely rare. Thirty-four violent deaths were reported in 1998-99, compared to the high of 49 deaths reported in 1995-96.
- Fewer students are carrying weapons or engaging in physical fights. In 1998-99, states and territories expelled 3,523 students for bringing a firearm to school, down from 5,724 in 1996-97.
- The percentage of students reporting the presence of street gangs at their schools dropped to 17 percent in 1999 down from 29 percent reported in 1995.
- Students are less likely to be victims of violent crimes at school than away from school - but many still feel unsafe in school. Racial and ethnic groups differ in their perceptions of safety in school with a larger percentage of black and Hispanic students than whites fearing attacks.

2000: University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research
26th Annual Monitoring the Future Survey
Department of Health and Human Services
National Institute on Drug Abuse

Overall use of illicit drugs among teenagers remained unchanged from the previous year, according to the 26th annual Monitoring the Future Survey (MTF) released by the Department of Health and Human Services in December 2000.

The Monitoring the Future Survey, conducted by the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research and funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), at the National Institutes of Health, has tracked 12th graders' illicit drug use and attitudes towards drugs since 1975. In 1991, 8th and 10th graders were added to the survey. The 2000 survey surveyed over 45,000 students in 435 schools across the nation about lifetime use, past year use, past month use, daily use of drugs, alcohol, and cigarettes and smokeless tobacco.

The 2000 survey of drug use among 8th, 10th, and 12th graders found that illicit drug use, including the use of marijuana, generally remained unchanged in the last year. The survey marks the fourth year in a row that the use of any illicit drugs among teenagers has stayed level or declined in all categories: lifetime, past year and past month use.

The survey also found that cigarette use among teens dropped significantly, with past month use of cigarettes down from 17.5 percent to 14.6 percent among 8th graders and from 34.6 percent to 31.4 percent among 12th graders in the last year. Reductions in other categories of smoking also occurred among 8th, 10th, and 12th graders. Alcohol use remained largely unchanged.

For the second year in a row, there was an increase in the use of MDMA (ecstasy) among 10th and 12th graders, but for the first time, there was an increase in use among 8th graders. Past year use increased significantly among 8th graders from 1.7 percent to 3.1 percent and among 12th graders from

5.6 percent to 8.2 percent. Past year use increased among 10th graders, although not statistically significant, from 4.4 percent in 1999 to 5.4 percent in 2000.

Long-term Trends (seniors only)

- For past year prevalence, self-reported marijuana use by seniors peaked at 50.8 percent in 1979 and then declined to a low of 21.9 percent in 1992. Past year marijuana use then increased steadily to 38.5 percent in 1997. Since that time it has declined, although not significantly, to 36.5 percent in 2000.
- Daily smoking decreased from its peak level of 28.8 percent in 1977 to 21.3 percent in 1980 and then remained basically level for many years. During the early 1990s, increases were observed to a level of 24.6 percent in 1997, followed by a decrease in 1998 to 22.4 percent. The rate remained statistically unchanged in 1999 at 23.1 percent and declined significantly to 20.6 percent in 2000.
- "Binge drinking," defined as having five or more drinks in a row, at least once in the past two weeks reached its peak level in 1981 at 41.1 percent, declined substantially to a low of 27.5 percent in 1993, increased gradually to 31.5 percent in 1998, and has remained stable since then, ending at 30.0 percent in 2000.

2000: U.S. Department of Education
National Center for Education Statistics
Dropout Rates in the United States: 1999
NCES 2001-022
Written by P. Kaufman, J. Kwon, S. Klein, and C. Chapman

The National Center for Education Statistics annually reports on high school dropout and completion rates. 1999 is the most recent year for which data are available.

Event dropout rates for 1999 describe the proportion of youth ages 15 through 24 who dropped out of grades 10-12 in the 12 months preceding October 1999.

- ✓ Five out of every 100 young adults enrolled in high school in October 1998 left school before October 1999 without successfully completing a high school program. This estimate was similar to the estimates reported over the last 10 years, but lower than those reported in the early 1970s

Over the last decade, between 347,000 and 544,000 10th- through 12th-grade students left school each year without successfully completing a high school program. Status dropout rates represent the proportion of young adults ages 16 through 24 who are out of school and who have not earned a high school credential. Status rates are higher than event rates because they include all dropouts in this age range, regardless of when they last attended school.

- ✓ In October 1999, some 3.8 million young adults were not enrolled in a high school program and had not completed high school. These youths accounted for 11.2 percent of the 34.1 million 16- through 24-year-olds in the United States in 1999. As noted with event rates, this estimate is consistent with the estimates reported over the last 10 years, but lower than those reported in the early 1970s.

The high school completion rate represents the proportion of 18- through 24-year-olds who have completed a high school diploma or an equivalent credential, including a General Educational Development (GED) credential. In 1999, about 85.9 percent of all 18- through 24-year-olds not enrolled in high school had completed high school, a slight increase since the early 1970s.

2000: **The 32nd Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll
Of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools**
By Lowell C. Rose and Alec M. Gallup

Throughout the 32 editions of this poll, respondents have been asked to identify the most pressing educational problem with which the local public schools must deal. In a significant change, lack of financial support jumps to the top in this year's poll, while lack of discipline moves into second place. Issues involving overcrowding, fighting/violence/gangs, and drugs remain in the top five.

One question was asked to determine whether the support for "zero tolerance" policies for bringing weapons to school has wavered in light of publicity given to situations in which the policy seems to have resulted in unreasonable penalties. In 1997, when the question was first asked, 93 percent of those surveyed favored such policies. This year, support drops slightly, to 87 percent.

2000: U.S. Department of Education
Report on State Implementation of the Gun-Free Schools Act – Year: 1998-1999
Web site: <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OESE/SDFS/GFSA/>

The Gun-Free Schools Act (GFSA) requires that each state receiving federal funds under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act must have a state law that mandates all local educational agencies (LEAs) in the state to expel from school, for at least one year, any student found bringing a firearm to school. GFSA requires states to report information about the implementation of the act annually to the Secretary of Education. To meet this requirement, the Department of Education requires each state to submit an annual report and in August 2000, released data from the 1998-99 school year based on the state reports. The report is not designed to provide information regarding the rate at which students carry firearms to school. The data reported by the states concern disciplinary actions only. All of the information contained in the report should be interpreted with caution. Some states attached caveats and data notes to their data that should be considered when interpreting the data.

- 55 states reported that they expelled a total of 3,523 students from school for bringing a firearm to school.
- 57 percent of the expulsions by school level were students in high school, 33 percent were in junior high, and 10 percent were in elementary school.
- 59 percent of the expulsions reported by type of firearm were for bringing a handgun to school.; 12 percent of the expulsions were for bringing a rifle or shotgun to school, and 29 percent were for some other type of firearm (such as bombs, grenades, or starter pistols).
- 27 percent of expulsions were shortened to less than one year.
- 72 percent of shortened expulsions were for students who were not considered disabled.
- 44 percent of the expelled were referred to an alternative school or placement

1999: U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Justice
1999 Annual Report on School Safety
Web site: www.ed.gov/offices/OESE/SDFS/news.html.
Phone: 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

This is the second annual report prepared jointly by the U.S. Departments of Education (ED) and Justice (DOJ). The report includes descriptions of the planned activities of 54 communities that received the first round of Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative grants this summer. Descriptions and contacts for model programs based on research are provided in the report, including those that address violence prevention and drug, alcohol and tobacco use prevention. Key findings include:

- The overall school crime rates declined between 1993 and 1997 from about 155 school-related crimes for every 1,000 students ages 12 through 18 to about 102 crimes in 1997.
- The number of multiple victim homicides at schools increased from one such event in 1994-95 to five in 1997-98.
- In 1997, serious violent crime and theft rates were down from 1993 figures, both at school and away from school. Students ages 12 through 18 were more likely to be victims of serious violent crime away from school (24 of 1,000 students) than in school or traveling to or from school (8 of 1,000).
- Theft, while declining, accounted for 61 percent of all crime against students in 1997. In addition, most crimes against teachers were thefts.
- Between 1993 and 1997, there was a significant decrease in the percentage of high school students who carried a weapon (i.e., club, knife or gun) to school during the previous 30 days. In addition, an estimated 3,930 students were expelled for bringing a firearm to school in 1997-98, down from 5,724 the previous year. [The expulsion finding should be interpreted with caution as some states submitted data for all weapons and not just firearms in 1996-97.]

- Youth and school violence are also issues in other countries. While most 15-year-olds across several countries, including the U.S., had not been in a physical fight during the previous year, and most had not carried a weapon for self-defense in the previous month, the proportion who “always felt safe in school” in 1997-98 ranged widely from more than 50% in Norway to about 10% in the Czech Republic. Nearly 40% of U.S. 15-year-olds always felt safe.

1999: ***Weekly Reader and Character Counts!***

Contact: Forrest Stone (203) 705-3591

Web site: <http://www.charactercounts.org/>

Responses are part of a national survey on character issues taken during October last year by 27,098 fourth-, fifth- and sixth-grade readers of *Weekly Reader*. The survey, conducted in conjunction with CHARACTER COUNTS!, gauged student attitudes on the important attributes that encompass character, including trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. Key findings include:

- Fourth grade boys and girls say almost unanimously (99.1%) that they would try to persuade a friend to put back a pack of gum shoplifted from a store. By the time the students are in sixth grade the numbers have dropped to 87.2% for boys and 95.9% for girls.
- Again, students in fourth grade say almost unanimously that they would not accept answers from a classmate on an upcoming test (99.8% boys and 98.9% girls). By sixth grade those numbers have dropped to 87.3% for boys and 92.1% for girls.
- On a question that involves attributes of caring, almost all fourth graders say they would speak to a new kid who has moved into the neighborhood. By the time they are in sixth grade only 84.5% of the boys and 89.3% of the girls are willing to speak to the newcomer.
- On a question that involves both caring and citizenship, most fourth grade boys and girls say they would volunteer to visit elderly people at a nursing home (98.2% boys and 96.9% girls). By sixth grade that number drops to 63.4% of the boys and 81.5% of the girls.
- When asked if they would throw away a discarded soft-drink can on the sidewalk, almost all fourth graders (96.2% boys and 94.5% girls) say they would, but among the students in sixth grade, only 43.5% of the boys and 48.2% of the girls say they would pick up the can.

1999: *USA WEEKEND*

13th Annual Teen Survey

Web site: <http://www.usa.weekend.com>

This was a nationwide survey of students conducted in the fall by *USA WEEKEND* in partnership with *Teen People* magazine and *Channel One*, a TV news program for schools. The Survey was taken by 129,593 students in grades 6-12 from urban, suburban and rural schools, public and private. Respondents took the survey in *USA WEEKEND*, at the magazine’s web site, in *Teen People*, and through *Channel One*. Respondents were not polled at random but rather chose to respond. Key findings include:

- Almost 50% of the respondents reported having a gun in their home, and of those, more than half say they can get their hands on it
- Among respondents, 4 in 10 say a teen in their community could get a gun within a day
- About 50% of the respondents blame movies, video games, the Internet and TV for promoting violence among their peers.
- About 1 in 10 teens who responded to the survey admitted they have visited a hate or bomb-making site on the Internet (among boys, it’s one in eight).
- 4 in 10 respondents favor sending troubled students to alternative schools.
- Teaching students to handle and defuse anger and conflicts is favored by only about 1 in 5
- 1 in 5 say they want metal detectors in schools.
- 71% of responding students say that they personally feel safe from violence in school.
- 48% respond that the Columbine High School shooting “made me think, but it didn’t make me feel afraid.”
- 6 in 10 of those who responded to the magazine’s survey believe it is possible a violent event on the scale of Columbine could occur at their school.

1999: U.S. Department of Education

Report on State Implementation of the Gun-Free Schools Act – Year: 1997-1998

Web site: <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OESE/SDFS/GFSA/>

The Gun-Free Schools Act (GFSA) requires that each state receiving federal funds under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act must have a state law that mandates all local educational agencies (LEAs) in the state to expel from school, for at least one year, any student found bringing a firearm to school. GFSA requires states to report information about the implementation of the act annually to the Secretary of Education. To meet this requirement, the Department of Education requires each state to submit an annual report and in August 1999, released data from the 1997-98 school year based on the state reports. The report is not designed to provide information regarding the rate at which students carry firearms to school. The data reported by the states concern disciplinary actions only. All of the information contained in the report should be interpreted with caution. Some states attached caveats and data notes to their data that should be considered when interpreting the data.

- Overall, 56 states/territories reported under the GFSA for the 1997-98 school year. These states reported that they expelled a total of 3, 930 students from school for bringing a firearm to school. However, not all states reported data for all of their districts, and some states reported total expulsions for all weapons, not just firearms. Therefore, the figures reported by some states may either over- or underestimate the actual expulsions under the GFSA.
- 57% of the expulsions by school level were students in high school, 33% were in junior high, and 10% were in elementary school. These data were reported by school level in 53 states.
- 62% of the expulsions reported by type of firearm were for bringing a handgun to school. 7% of these expulsions were for bringing a rifle or shotgun to school, and 31% were for some other type of firearm (such as bombs, grenades, or starter pistols).
- 49 states reported on expulsions that were shortened to less than one year. In these states, 44% of expulsions were shortened to less than one year.
- 48 states reported on the disability status of students receiving shortened expulsions. In these states, 62% of shortened expulsions were for students who were not considered disabled.
- In the 48 states reporting data on alternative placements, 43% of the expelled students in these states were referred to an alternative school or placement.

1999: Justice Policy Institute and Children's Law Center

School House Hype: Two Years Later

Contact: Vincent Schiraldi/Jason Ziedenberg, Justice Policy Institute, 202/678-9282; Kim Brooks, Children's Law Center, 606/431-3313

Web site: <http://www.cjcj.org>

This report was released on April 12, 2000, jointly by the Justice Policy Institute and the Children's Law Center. The Justice Policy Institute is a research and public policy organization in Washington, DC. The Children's Law Center is a nonprofit legal service center in Kentucky dedicated to the protection of children's legal rights. The report draws on recently released data from the Centers for Disease Control, the National School Safety Center, the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Department of Justice and the Applied Research Center. The report also analyzes public opinion polling by the *Washington Post*, *USA Today*, the *Wall Street Journal* and the *CBS Evening News*. The researchers also conducted a separate analysis of case law concerning school liability. The research for *School House Hype: Two Years Later* was funded by a grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Key findings include:

- The number of school-associated violent deaths is small and not increasing. School-associated violent deaths decreased 40% from 1998 to 1999, from 43 down to 26 in a population of 52 million American students. In 1999, there was a one in 2 million chance of being killed in one of America's schools.
- Yet Americans' fears about school violence increased. Despite the declines in violence, 7 out of 10 Americans in recent surveys said they believed that a shooting was likely in their school, and Americans were 49% more likely to express fears of their schools in 1999 than in 1998.
- FBI arrest data indicate that there was a 56% decline in juvenile homicides from 1993 to 1998, and a 30% decline in overall juvenile crime. Nearly two thirds of poll respondents (62%) believe that juvenile crime is on the increase.

- 3.1 million youth in America were suspended or expelled from school in 1997, or nearly 6.8% of all students. This is up from 3.7% of students in 1974.

1999: Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans

State of Our Nation's Youth 1999

Contact: 99 Canal Center Plaza, Alexandria, VA 22314. Phone (703) 684-9444.

Web site: <http://www.horatioalger.com>.

This is a survey and analysis of the attitudes and plans of American teenagers as they head into the 1999-2000 school year. In this survey students are given the opportunity to express their opinions on relevant family, school, and social issues. NFO Research, a custom research firm, conducted the study via self-administered mail questionnaires. A four page booklet was mailed on April 22, 1999 to 2,250 individuals, with a 59% return rate. Key findings include:

- Proportion of students who always feel safe in their school dropped from 44% in 1998 to 37% in 1999, most noticeable in responses from public school students
- In 1998, 40% of public schools students always felt safe in their classroom, and dropped to 33% in 1999
- Only 35% of students in 1999 felt that teachers and administrators had taken all necessary steps for safety and security, but was 43% in 1998. Among private school students this number decreased from 64% in 1998 to 53% in 1999.
- Approximately 50% feel that the rules on student conduct are about right, while 18% feel they are too lax, and 30% say they are too strict.
- 4 out of 10 public and 23% of private school students indicated that the behavior of other students in their school definitely or somewhat interferes with their performance.

1999: National Crime Prevention Council and ADT Security Services, Inc.

Are We Safe? The 1999 National Crime Prevention Survey

Contact: 1700 K Street, NW, Second Floor, Washington, DC 20006-3817.

Phone: 202/466-6272

Web site: <http://www.ncpc.org>

This survey was conducted by the National Crime Prevention Council, and funded by ADT Security Services, Inc. A total of 702, twenty minute phone interviews were conducted between August 27 and September 7, 1999 during weekday evenings. The sampling method was Random Digit Sampling, and quotas were set to ensure that all racial and ethnic groups were represented. The goal of this survey is to help Americans learn how safe we believe we are, how much each of us is doing to prevent crime, and how much more each of us can do personally, in our homes, neighborhoods, and communities. Key findings include:

- 1 in 8 Americans is more fearful to walk alone in their own neighborhoods than they were last year.
- 75% of children have been subject to bullying while at school, yet 49% of parents did not recognize bullying as a problem.
- The nation's fear of crime, in general has significantly increased since 1998.
- There is a persistent level of worry, unease, and a high fear of crime that affects the daily lives of many, where they live, shop, and relax.
- Many adults are ready and willing to become more involved in their neighborhoods and communities.

1999: Public Agenda

Kids These Days '99: What Americans Really Think About the Next Generation

Web site: <http://www.publicagenda.org>

Kids These Days '99, is the second in a series of five surveys to be conducted by Public Agenda, funded by Ronald McDonald House Charities. The report is based on two national surveys: one with 1,005 adults (including 384 parents of children under 18) and one with 328 children aged 12 to 17. Key findings include:

- Most Americans describe children and teens in negative terms. 53% of the general public and 58% of parents surveyed described children and teens as lazy and spoiled, etc.

- Over 70% of parents and the general public characterized today's children & teens as rude, irresponsible, and wild.
- Almost 60% of teens, parents, and general public believe the next generation will not make America a better place.
- Approximately 30% of adults feel that kids are not learning values like honesty, respect, and responsibility.
- The public holds the parents responsible for how well their kids are doing, over 50% of the general public surveyed felt it is very common: for people to have children before they are ready to take responsibility for them, that couples break up easily instead of staying together for the kids sake, for parents to think that buying things for their children means the same thing as caring for them
- There is a positive attitude among teens, with over 50% responding that they can always trust their parents to be there for them, they can talk to them, and that they have friends who will also be there for them.

1998: The Justice Department's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency prevention
Juvenile Arrests 1998

OJJDP's Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse, Box 6000, Rockville, MD 20857; 1-800/638-8736, Web site: <http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org>. Key findings include:

- Forcible rape – down 25% from 1991 to 1998.
- Aggravated assault – down 20% from 1994 to 1998.
- Robbery – down 45% from 1995 to 1998, and now at its highest level since 1980.
- Burglary – down 22% from 1989 to 1998 and 50 % from 1980 to 1998.
- Larceny-theft – down 4% from 1989 to 1998.
- Motor vehicle theft – down 39% from 1989 to 1998.
- Arson – down 23% from 1994 to 1998, and now at its highest level since 1990.

1998: The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University
Back to School 1998-- The CASA National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse IV: Teens, Teachers and Principals

Contact Alyse Booth, 212/841-5260 or Bob Neuman 202/628-2075

Web site: <http://www.casacolumbia.org>

The CASA survey, funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, conducted by The Luntz Research Companies during May, June and July of 1998, surveyed 1,000 teen-agers age 12 to 17 and 824 teachers and 822 principals. Key findings include:

- Teens continue to rank drugs as the single most important problem facing people their age. 51% of high school students see school drug situation getting worse.
- Just more than 8% of 12-year-olds know a drug dealer at school; by the time they reach 17, more than half (56%) do.
- For the third straight year, the number of high school students who report that drugs are used, sold and kept at their schools has risen: from 72% in 1996 to 78% in 1998.
- More than a third (37%) of older teens (age 15-17) have personally seen drugs sold on school grounds, as have 16% of 12- to 14-year-olds.
- 84% of 12-year-olds would report a student using illegal drugs at school compared to only 31% of 16-year-olds and 37% of 17-year-olds. 80% of 12-year-olds would report a student selling illegal drugs; only 27% of 15- to 17-year-olds would.
- Nearly half of teens say parents never discussed dangers of drugs with them.

1998: Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System
Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance — United States, 1997
 as reported in *Morbidity and Mortality Report*, August 14, 1998
 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 Atlanta, GA 30333
 770/488-3259 (for single copies of this document)

Copies can be purchased from Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402-9325. 202/512-1800.

The 1997 national school-based survey is a component of the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System, which periodically measures the prevalence of priority health-risk behaviors among youth and young adults through comparable national, state and local surveys. This survey was conducted during February through May 1997, polling a representative sample of students in grades nine through 12 in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Nationwide:

- 4.0% of students missed at least one day of school during the 30 days preceding the survey because they felt unsafe at school or felt unsafe traveling to or from school.
- 8.5% of students carried a weapon on school property during the 30 days preceding the survey.
- 7.4% of students were threatened or injured with a weapon on school property during the 12 months preceding the survey.
- 14.8% of students had been in a physical fight on school property during the 12 months preceding the survey.
- 32.9% of students had property (e.g., car, clothing, books) stolen or deliberately damaged on school property during the 12 months preceding the survey.
- 18.3% of students reported they had carried a weapon (not necessarily to school) at least once during the 30 days preceding the survey.
- 5.9% of students carried a gun (not necessarily to school) during the 30 days preceding the survey.
- 36.6% of students reported that, during the 12 months preceding the survey, they had been in at least one physical fight.

1998: **Students' Reports of School Crime: 1989 and 1995**

National Center for Education Statistics
U.S. Department of Education
Washington, DC

Bureau of Justice Statistics
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, DC

This report focuses on data from the 1995 School Crime Supplement, an enhancement of the National Crime Victimization Survey. Data from the 1989 School Crime Supplement are also presented for comparison purposes. Both supplements were based on a nationally representative sample of approximately 10,000 students. Respondents were asked only about crimes at school (at school defined as in the school building, on school grounds, or on a school bus). Respondents were between the ages of 12 and 19; they had to have attended school at some time during the six months preceding their interviews.

- In 1989, 3.4% of students reported violent victimization at school and 12.2% reported property victimization at school. In 1995, 4.2% of students reported violent victimization at school and 11.6% reported property victimization at school. (Violent victimization was defined as physical attack or the taking of property from the student by force, weapon or threat. Property victimization was defined as theft of property from a student's desk, locker or other locations.)
- In 1989, 63.2% of students reported that marijuana, cocaine, crack or uppers/downers were available at school; in 1995, 65.3% of students that these drugs were available at school.
- In 1989, 15.3% of students reported the presence of street gangs at school; in 1995, 28.4% reported the presence of street gangs at school.
- In 1995, students were questioned about guns at school. (These questions were not asked in 1989.) Although less than one-half of 1% reported taking a gun to school, 5.3% reported seeing another student with a gun at school, and 12.7% reported knowing another student who brought a gun to school.

1998: National Center for Education Statistics

Violence and Discipline Problems in U.S. Public Schools: 1996-97
U.S. Department of Education
Washington, DC

This survey, conducted by Westat (Rockville, MD) for NCES, is based on a nationally representative sample of 1,234 regular public elementary, middle and high schools in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. (Special education, alternative or vocational schools, and schools that taught only pre-kindergarten,

kindergarten, kindergarten or adult education were not represented in the sample.) The survey collected data through the NCES Fast Response Survey System in the spring and summer of 1997.

- 10% of all public schools experienced one or more serious violent crimes (i.e., murder, rape or other sexual battery, suicide, physical attack or fight with a weapon, or robbery) that were reported to police or other law enforcement officials during the 1996-97 school year.
- Physical attacks or fights without a weapon led the list of reported crimes in public schools.
- 45% of elementary schools reported one or more violent incidents compared with 74% of middle schools and 77% of high schools.
- 4% of elementary schools reported one or more serious violent crimes compared with 19% of middle schools and 21% of high schools.
- 78% of schools reported having some type of formal violence prevention or violence reduction program.
- 2% of schools reported stringent security measures (full-time guard and daily or random metal detector checks); 11% reported moderate security measures (full-time guard, or part-time guard with restricted access to the school, or metal detectors with no guard); 84% reported a low level of security (restricted access to the school but no guards or metal detectors); and 3% reported that none of the security measures listed in the survey were used. (The seven security measures specifically listed in the survey were: visitors required to sign in; access to school grounds controlled; access to school building controlled; school campus closed for most students during lunch; students required to pass through metal detectors daily; random metal detector checks performed; schools conducted drug sweeps.)

1998: Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company
Milwaukee, WI

**Generation 2001: A Survey of the First College Graduating Class
of the New Millennium**

Louis Harris and Associates, Inc., 111 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10003

This survey, conducted on behalf of Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company by Louis Harris and Associates, Inc., is based on a random telephone survey of 2,001 first-year freshmen attending public and private four-year colleges and universities across the United States. Interviewing occurred between November 11, 1997, and January 12, 1998.

- Crime, violence and drugs are the leading disadvantages or special problems that respondents believed they would have to face that other generations before them did not have to face when they were the same age.
- There are clear differences between black students and white students regarding the current state of race relations in the United States. 48% of white students view the current state of race relations as positive and 52% as negative, while black students believe that things are negative (71%) rather than positive (28%). However, 72% of all students believed that it was at least somewhat likely that a person of color will be elected President of the United States within their lifetime.

1997: U.S. Department of Justice
Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 1997 Update on Violence
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
Washington, DC

This report is a compilation from numerous data sources.

- One-third of all murders of juveniles in the United States in 1995 occurred in 10 counties. The major cities in these counties are: Los Angeles; Chicago; New York; Detroit; Dallas; Houston; Phoenix; San Bernardino, Calif.; Philadelphia; and St. Louis.
- For every two youths (ages 0 to 19) murdered in 1994, one youth committed suicide.
- In 1994, the rate of violent victimization of juveniles (ages 12 through 17) was nearly three times that of adults.
- In 1995, 10% of high school students said they had carried a weapon (knife, gun or club) to school in the past 30 days. In the year prior to the survey, 8% of high school students reported being threat-

ened or injured with a weapon on school property. In the month prior to the survey, 5% of high school students said that they had stayed home from school at least one day due to because of feeling unsafe at school or traveling to and from school.

- Juveniles, even juvenile gang members, are most likely to commit violent crimes after school.

1997: Gallup Organization and *Phi Delta Kappan*
**29th Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes
Toward the Public Schools**
Gallup Organization: 609/924-9600
Phi Delta Kappan: 800/766-1156

The survey polled 1,517 adults (age 18 or older) between 3 June and 22 June, 1997.

- Respondents, who had no list from which to choose, cited the following answers in response to this open-ended question: "What do you think are the biggest problems with which the public schools in this community must deal?": lack of discipline, 15%; use of drugs, 14%; and fighting/violence/gangs, 12%.
- Regarding a zero-tolerance drug and alcohol policy in school (possession of any illegal drugs or alcohol would result in automatic suspension), 86% of respondents favored such a policy in the public schools.
- Regarding a zero-tolerance weapons policy in school (automatic suspension for any student found carrying a weapon of any kind), 93% of respondents favored such a policy in the public schools.

1997: Public Agenda
Different Drummers: How Teachers of Teachers View Public Education
The Public Agenda Foundation
6 East 39th Street
New York, NY 10016-0112
212/686-6610 phone
212/889-3461 fax
www.publicagenda.org

This study was based on a random telephone survey of 900 professors of education working in colleges and universities in the continental United States. Telephone interviews were conducted between July 9 and September 5, 1997, regarding teachers of teachers' opinions about knowledge, discipline and a love of learning.

- The following percentages of education professors considered these qualities "absolutely essential" to impart to prospective teachers: being life-long learners, 84%; being committed to teaching kids how to be active learners, 82%; having high expectations of all students, 72%; maintaining discipline and order in the classroom, 37%; stressing correct spelling, grammar and punctuation, 19%; and expecting kids to be neat, polite and on time, 12%.
- 52% of professors of education surveyed would like to see less reliance on prizes that reward good classroom behavior; 75% said that too many education students have trouble writing essays free of mistakes in grammar and spelling; 79% said that the general public has outmoded and mistaken beliefs about what good teaching means; 63 percent said that teacher education programs often fail to prepare teachers for the challenges of teaching in the real world; and 61 percent said that when a public school teacher faces a disruptive class, it probably means s/he has failed to make lessons engaging enough to the students.

1997: Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics
America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being
Washington, DC

This report draws on numerous data sources. The Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics fosters the coordination and collaboration of the collection and reporting of federal data on children and families.

- In 1994, almost 2.6 million youth ages 12 to 17 were victims of violent crimes. (Violent crimes were defined as simple and aggravated assault, rape and robbery [stealing by force or threat of violence].) Boys were more likely than girls to be victims of violent crimes, and black youth (male and female) were generally more likely than white youth to be victims of violent crimes.
- The percentages of Americans ages 18 to 24 with a high school diploma or an alternative credential such as a GED are as follows. For blacks, high school completion rates have increased from 75 percent in 1980 to 85 percent in 1995. For whites, high school completion rates were 88 percent in 1980 and 90 percent in 1995. For Hispanics, the high school completion rate of 63 percent in 1995 appears to have risen slightly since 1980, but these changes are not statistically significant.
- In 1996, about 9 percent of the nation's 16- to 19-year-olds were neither enrolled in school nor working. These "detached youth" are at increased risk, over time, for lower earnings and a less stable employment history than those youth who either stay in school and/or secure jobs.

1997: U.S. Department of Justice
Juvenile Arrests 1995
 Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
 Washington, DC

This bulletin summarizes arrest statistics of juveniles (youths under age 18). Findings are derived from data reported to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program.

- In 1995, juveniles were involved in 32% of all robbery arrests; 23% of all weapons arrests; 15% of all murder and aggravated assault arrests; and 13% of all drug arrests.

1997: Public Agenda
Getting By: What American Teenagers Really Think About Their Schools
 The Public Agenda Foundation
 6 East 39th Street
 New York, NY 10016-0112
 212/686-6610

This study was based on a national random telephone survey of over 1,300 high school students (grades nine through 12) between October 29 and November 20, 1996. Of the total sample, 1,000 were randomly selected public high school students and the remainder were an oversampling of African-American and Hispanic students plus 250 students in private schools. Findings from 12 focus groups with high school or junior high students are also included. The survey questioned students about actual daily experiences with teachers and classmates. Regarding themselves and their courses, teachers and discipline in their schools:

- 96% of public high school students said that doing well in school made them feel good about themselves, a finding equally valid across all racial groups.
- 66% of teenagers from all racial and economic groups said that their friends "look up" to classmates who do well in school; 19% said their friends "look down" on someone who gets good grades.
- 94% of all high school students said that learning basic reading, writing and math skills was "very important" by the time they finished high school; other things considered "very important" to learn in school were: good work habits (86%), the value of hard work (81%), values such as honesty and tolerance (78%), computer skills (75%), and how to deal with social problems like drugs and family breakdown (74%).
- 50% of public school students said too many students in their schools get away with being tardy and not doing their work compared with 35% of private school students.
- 50% of public school students said that schools do not challenge students to do their best compared with 19% of private school students.
- 76% of all students said that students should not graduate unless they demonstrated a good command of the English language; 74% said that schools should only pass students to the next grade when students have learned what is expected of them; and 73% said that students would learn more if standards are raised and consistently enforced.

- 42% of public school students complained that teachers do a bad job compared with 22% of private school students.
- 13% of public school students and 43% of private school students said their classmates were “very respectful” of teachers.
- 48% of public school students said that drugs and violence are serious problems in their schools compared to 22% of private school students.
- 71% of all high school students said there were too many disruptive students in their classes; 82% of all students said the disruptive students should be removed from regular classes to improve learning for the remainder.

1997 National Association of Elementary School Principals
National Poll
 1615 Duke Street
 Alexandria, VA 22314-3483
 703/684-3345 (Contact: June Million)

This national poll of 1,350 elementary school principals was conducted in March 1997. Most respondents were veteran principals who had been on the job between 10 and 20 years.

- Nine out of 10 principals said that tough discipline policies (including zero tolerance for weapons, harassment or drugs) were absolutely essential for keeping schools safe, despite an increase in student suspensions.
- Five out of 6 principals reported that they spent too much time dealing with disruptive, dangerous students. 78% criticized federal law for unreasonably limiting their ability to manage disruptive or dangerous special education children.
- 80% of principals said that special education programs were costly, but “essential” and “worth it.”
- Regarding school uniforms: 41% were pro-uniform; 31% were against uniforms; and 28% had no opinion on whether the benefits of uniforms outweighed the drawbacks.

1996: Educational Communications, Inc.
The 27th Annual Survey of High Achievers
 721 N. McKinley Road
 Lake Forest, IL 60045
 847/295-6650

The *Annual Survey of High Achievers* samples behavior trends and opinions and attitudes of 16- to 18-year-old high school students who have “A” or “B” averages. The following data is from the 1996 survey. Of the teen-agers surveyed:

- 29% knew someone who had brought a weapon to school, 19% knew of the presence of gangs at their school, and 12% felt unsafe at their own school.
- 26% had considered committing suicide, 4% had attempted suicide, 18% knew someone their own age who had committed suicide, and 41% knew another teen-ager who had attempted suicide.
- 79% said it was “easy, or not very difficult” for teen-agers to obtain alcohol; 77% said alcohol was very common at parties; 41% said they thought some of their friends had a problem with alcohol; and 10% drank alcoholic beverages regularly, at least once a month.
- 22% had been passengers in cars in which the driver had been drinking, and 10% had driven after drinking.
- 50% said that it was “easy, or not very difficult” to obtain drugs at their school, 45% said there was drug dealing at their school, and 36% said they thought some of their friends had a problem with drugs.

1996 University of Michigan Institute for Social Research
Monitoring the Future
 412 Maynard
 P.O. Box 1248
 Ann Arbor, MI 48106-1248

This annual survey tracks the use of alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs by eighth-, 10th- and 12th-graders. Begun in 1975, this is the 22nd in an annual series. Approximately 16,000 seniors in 144 public and private high schools in the continental United States completed self-administered questionnaires in the spring of 1996. The eighth-grade sample contained approximately 18,000 students in 152 schools, and the 10th-grade sample contained approximately 17,000 students in 139 schools. Also known as the National High School Senior Survey, the Monitoring the Future Study is funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse. Beginning in 1991, surveys of nationally representative samples of eighth- and 10th-graders have also been conducted annually.

- Of the high school seniors surveyed: 50.8% had used an illicit drug at least once (up from 48.4% in the 1995 survey); 24.6% had used an illicit drug within 30 days prior to the survey (up from 23.8% in the 1995 survey); 13% smoked a half-pack or more of cigarettes daily; and 50.8% had used alcoholic beverages within 30 days prior to the survey (down from 51.3% in the 1995 survey).
- Of the 10th-graders surveyed: 45.4% had used an illicit drug at least once (up from 40.9% in 1995); 23.2% had used an illicit drug within the 30 days prior to the survey (up from 20.2% in 1995); 9.4% smoked a half-pack or more of cigarettes daily; and 40.4% had used alcoholic beverages within 30 days prior to the survey (up from 38.8% in 1995).
- Of the eighth-graders surveyed: 31.2% had used an illicit drug at least once (up from 28.5% in 1995); 14.6% had used an illicit drug within the 30 days prior to the survey (up from 12.4% in 1995); 4.3% smoked a half-pack or more of cigarettes daily; and 26.2% had used alcoholic beverages within 30 days prior to the survey (up from 24.6% in 1995).

1996:

An Analysis of Juvenile Homicides:**Where They Occur and the Effectiveness of Adult Court Intervention**

Vincent Schiraldi

Center on Juvenile & Criminal Justice

2208 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave., SE

Washington, DC 20020

301/565-2009

Eric Lotke

National Center on Institutions & Alternatives

635 Slaters Lane, G-100

Alexandria, VA 22314

703/684-0373

This study examines where juvenile homicides occur finding that juvenile homicide is highly site-specific.

- Six states (California, Texas, Illinois, New York, Michigan, Florida) account for 56% of the country's juvenile homicide arrests.
- Four cities (Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, Detroit) account for 30% of the country's juvenile homicide arrests. These cities contain only 5.3% of the nation's juvenile population.

The authors found no statistical correlation between rates of transferring violent juvenile offenders to adult court and rates of juvenile homicide.

1996:

Educational Testing Service

Captive Students: Education and Training in America's Prisons

Paul E. Barton and Richard J. Coley

ETS Policy Information Center

Mail Stop 04-R, Rosedale Road

Princeton, NJ 08541-0001

609/734-5694

This January 1996 report combines two data sources to examine two issues: (1) the extent to which inmates in state and federal prisons can be considered students making up educational deficits before returning to a society and a labor market with little place for low levels of literacy, and (2) the effectiveness of educational approaches on post-release employment and recidivism.

The U.S. prison population has tripled since 1980 and threatens to overwhelm the capacity of the criminal justice system. The passage in certain states of sentence-enhancing laws will further crowd prisons and strain already burdened state budgets in the years to come. The bulk of more than 1 million prisoners are young adults, most of whom will return to society at some point. The question this report poses

is this: Do efforts to raise the literacy levels of prisoners ultimately generate benefits to the country in general:

The literacy score distributions among the prison population and the general U.S. adult population are as follows: On a scale of 1 to 5 (with 1 as the lowest level of literacy),

- More than three out of 10 prisoners scored at level 1, compared to one in five of all adults;
- Approximately one-third of prisoners performed at level 2, compared with one-fourth of all adults;
- Roughly one-fourth of prisoners scored at level 3, compared to nearly one-third of U.S. adults;
- About one in 20 prisoners scored at level 4, compared to between 15% and 17% of the general adult population; and
- Few prisoners attained level 5, while in the general adult population between 3% and 4% demonstrated such ability.

1996 The Metropolitan Life Survey of The American Teacher 1996
Students Voice Their Opinions on: Learning About Multiculturalism, Part IV
Louis Harris and Associates, Inc.
111 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10003
212/539-9600

This survey was conducted between December 19, 1995, and February 2, 1996, by Louis Harris and Associates, Inc. on behalf of Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. Public school students in grades seven through 12 completed questionnaires about their opinions on multicultural topics.

- More students (45%) feel that their schools place the *right* amount of emphasis on teaching multiculturalism than either too little (28%) or too much (11%) emphasis. However, when the latter two viewpoints are considered together (i.e., current emphasis is not the right amount), nearly as many are dissatisfied as they are satisfied (39% vs. 45%).
- When rating their teachers on how well they teach tolerance, less than half of students nationwide (44%) think their teachers do an average job of helping them be tolerant of others.

1996: The Metropolitan Life Survey of The American Teacher 1996
Students Voice Their Opinions on: Their Education, Teachers and Schools, Part II
Metropolitan Life Insurance Company
1 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10010-3690
212/578-6018

This survey was conducted between December 19, 1995, and February 2, 1996, by Louis Harris and Associates, Inc. A total of 2,524 public school students in grades seven through 12 completed questionnaires focusing on the quality of their schools, teachers and guidance counselors. The sample is projectable to the total national student population.

- Regarding the lack of basic skills among their peers, 60% of urban students, 45% of suburban students, and 52% of rural students consider that lack a very serious or somewhat serious problem in their schools.
- Teachers get high ratings for being knowledgeable on the subjects they teach (77%). However, only 39% of students think that teachers make learning interesting and only 27% of students think that teachers take an interest in students' personal/home lives.
- Overcrowded classrooms create problems for 45% of urban students, 34% of suburban students and 32% of rural students.
- Lack of specialized equipment in science labs, computer labs and gymnasiums is a very serious or somewhat serious problem according to 51% of urban students, 45% of suburban students and 48% of rural students.
- 68% of urban students, 77% of suburban students and 73% of rural students say that school does not provide enough interesting experiences (such as field trips, visiting guests, special events) outside the classroom.

1996: **Trends in Juvenile Violence: A Report to the United States Attorney General on Current and Future Rates of Juvenile Offending**

James A. Fox, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Criminal Justice
Northeastern University
Boston, Massachusetts 02115

This report arises from a briefing to U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno regarding the extent to which rates of juvenile homicide and other violent offenses can be expected to increase in the years ahead.

- From 1985 to 1994, the rate of murder committed by teen-agers ages 14 to 17 increased 172%. The rate of killing rose sharply for both black and white male teen-agers, but not for females.
- Guns, especially handguns, played a major role in the surge of juvenile murder. Since 1984, the number of juveniles killing with a gun has quadrupled, while the number of juveniles killing with all other types of weapons has remained virtually constant.
- The largest increase in juvenile homicide involves offenders who are friends/acquaintances of their victims.
- Even if the per-capita rate of teen homicide remains the same, the number of 14- to 17-year-olds who will commit murder should increase to nearly 5,000 annually.

1996: **Public Agenda**
Given the Circumstances: Teachers Talk About Public Education Today

The Public Agenda Foundation
6 East 39th Street
New York, NY 10016-0112
212/686-6610

This study was based on a national telephone survey of 1,164 public school teachers which was completed in December 1995. Of the total sample, 800 were randomly selected teachers from the fourth through the 12th grades and the remainder were an oversampling of black and Hispanic teachers. Findings from numerous focus groups with public school teachers, an additional national telephone survey of 237 teachers completed in May of 1995, and data about the general public's attitudes (drawn from two earlier surveys) are also included. The survey covered the topics of public school performance, order and discipline, and academics and higher standards. Regarding school order and discipline:

- 81% of teachers said that the worst-behaved students absorb the most attention in today's schools.
- 88% of teachers and 73% of the public thought that academic achievement would improve substantially if persistent troublemakers were removed from the class. 84% of teachers and 76% of the public thought that "permanently removing kids caught with drugs or weapons" would improve academic achievement.
- 80% of teachers and 73% of the public said that they would require students to remain on school grounds during lunch.
- 71% of Hispanic teachers, 61% of black teachers, 47% of white teachers, and 72% of the public said that drugs and violence were a problem in their schools.

1996 **The Metropolitan Life Survey of The American Teacher 1996**
Students Voice Their Opinions On: Violence, Social Tension and Equality Among Teens, Part I

Metropolitan Life Insurance Company
1 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10010-3690
212/578-6018

This survey was conducted between December 19, 1995 and February 2, 1996, by Louis Harris and Associates, Inc. A total of 2,524 public school students in grades seven through 12 completed questionnaires focusing on the social climate of their middle and high schools. The sample is projectable to the total national student population.

- Regarding social relations among students: Of the students who gave their teachers A's on treating students with respect, 60% said that students got along. Only 29% of students who felt that teachers did not treat students with respect said the same.
- Regarding social tension and violence in schools, students reported having very serious problems with: hostile or threatening remarks between different groups of students (25%); threats or destructive acts, other than physical fights (24%); turf battles between different groups of students (21%); physical fights between different groups of friends (26%); and gang violence (26%). Students who gave their teachers A's on treating students with respect and caring about students' futures reported fewer problems with social tension in their schools than did students who gave their teachers D's or F's.
- Students who believed teachers cared about students' futures, as opposed to students who gave teachers low marks on caring, expressed a higher degree of confidence that adults within their communities treated students from different economic backgrounds equally: teachers (65% vs. 18%); police officers (44% vs. 17%); local storekeepers (30% vs. 13%); and the courts (36% vs. 14%).

1995: National Crime Prevention Council
National Institute for Citizen Education in the Law
Between Hope and Fear: Teens Speak Out on Crime and the Community
711 G Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003
202/546-6644

Researchers (at Louis Harris and Associates, Inc. in New York) interviewed 2,023 students in public, private and parochial schools in grades seven - 12, using a nationally representative sample of students and a representative sample of urban school students. Interviews were conducted between October 5 and November 16, 1995. The purpose of this survey was to focus on "the effect of the awareness and fear of violence and crime on young people, and the loss of freedom that results." Of the students interviewed:

- 46% had made at least one change in daily routines because of concerns about personal safety and about crime and violence in their communities. From a list of eight possible options: 22% changed friends; 20% avoided particular parks or playgrounds; 13% changed the way they went to or from school; 12% carried a weapon (i.e., bat, club, knife, gun) to protect themselves; 12% got lower grades in school than they thought they otherwise would have; 11% stayed home from school or cut class; 10% found someone to protect them; 10% stopped attending a particular activity or sport.
- 29% said that they worried about being victimized in a drive-by shooting.
- 40% reported being in a physical fight in the past year with people the same age.
- 56% believed that friends should defend a person who is "dissed."
- 29% said that it was "very easy" to get illegal drugs in their neighborhoods; another 31% said that it was "somewhat easy or not very hard."
- Regarding factors that contribute to violence against teens, 61% of respondents blamed drugs, 53% cited lack of parental involvement, and 52% blamed peer pressure.

1995: National Center for Education Statistics
High School Students Ten Years After "A Nation At Risk"
Office of Educational Research and Improvement, U.S. Department of Education
Washington, DC
202/219-1651

First in a series of *Findings from the Condition of Education*, these newly available data were extracted from *The Condition of Education 1994*. Information documents progress of American high school students in the ten years since the publication of "A Nation At Risk."

- Fewer students dropped out of high school between 10th and 12th grade than in the previous decade. Dropout rate for 1980 sophomores was 11%; dropout rate for 1990 sophomores was 6%.
- Dropout rates for younger students were not encouraging. Of the students in the eighth grade in 1988, 7% dropped out of school before the end of their 10th-grade year. The most common reason

the students gave for dropping out was that they did not like school. Of the female dropouts between eighth and 10th grade, 31% dropped out because of pregnancy.

1995: National Center for Education Statistics
Crime in the Schools
extracted from *The Condition of Education 1995*
U.S. Department of Education
Washington, DC
202/219-1651

Data are 1993 victimization rates of high school seniors at school. Percentage of seniors reporting victimization, by type of victimization and race/ethnicity:

- Had something stolen: white, 41.6%; black, 46%
- Had property deliberately damaged: white, 25.8%; black, 26.3%
- Threatened with a weapon: white, 13.8%; black, 23.5%
- Threatened without a weapon: white, 23.8%; black, 22.3%
- Injured with a weapon: white, 4.3%; black, 6.4%
- Injured without a weapon: white, 11%; black, 11.5%

1995: Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System
Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance — United States, 1993
as reported in *Morbidity and Mortality Report*, March 24, 1995
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Atlanta, GA 30333
770/488-3259 (for single copies of this document)

The 1993 national school-based survey is a component of the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System, which periodically measures the prevalence of priority health-risk behaviors among youth and young adults through comparable national, state and local surveys. This survey was conducted during February through May 1993, polling a representative sample of students in grades nine through 12 in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Nationwide:

- 4.4% of students missed at least one day of school during the 30 days preceding the survey because they felt unsafe at school or felt unsafe traveling to or from school.
- 11.8% of students carried a weapon on school property during the 30 days preceding the survey.
- 7.3% of students were threatened or injured with a weapon on school property during the 12 months preceding the survey.
- 16.2% of students had been in a physical fight on school property during the previous 12 months.
- 32.7% of students had property (e.g., car, clothing, books) stolen or deliberately damaged on school property during the 12 months preceding the survey.
- 22.1% of students reported they had carried a weapon (not necessarily to school) at least once during the 30 days preceding the survey.
- 7.9% of students carried a gun (not necessarily to school) during the 30 days preceding the survey.
- 41.8% of students said that, during the past 12 months, they had been in at least one physical fight.
- During the 30 days preceding the survey, 48% of students had at least one drink of alcohol, and 30% of students had five or more drinks of alcohol on at least one occasion.
- During the 12 months preceding the survey, 24.1% of students seriously considered attempting suicide, 19% of students made a specific plan to attempt suicide, 8.6% of students reported that they actually attempted suicide, and 2.7% of students reported a suicide attempt that resulted in an injury, poisoning or overdose requiring medical treatment.

1994: National League of Cities
1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004
Contact: Randy Arndt 202/626-3158

Released in November 1994, this study surveyed 700 communities nationwide, including urban, suburban and rural areas.

- 80% of respondents said that violence was a serious problem in classrooms, hallways and playgrounds.
- 40% reported that violence in schools had increased noticeably over the past five years.
- 30% of suburban and rural school districts had experienced significant increases in violence.
- 25% of all the schools participating in the survey reported that in the previous year students had died or suffered injuries requiring hospitalization as a result of violence.
- 41% of big-city schools reported deaths or serious injury as a result of violence.
- 40% of the suburban communities and nonmetropolitan towns and cities said gangs were a factor in the violence in their schools

1994: The Metropolitan Life Survey of the American Teacher 1994
Violence in America's Schools: The Family Perspective
Metropolitan Life Insurance Company
1 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10010-3690
212/578-6018

This survey by Louis Harris and Associates, Inc. is based on interviews with a nationally representative sample of 1,000 parents of children (grades three through 12) attending public school and on interviews with public school students (grades three through 12). Interviews conducted between April 22 and May 19, 1994.

- A majority of parents and students believed their school provided a safe and secure environment in the school building.
- One-third of junior high and high school students believed their school had done only a fair or poor job of providing a safe environment in the school building.
- 58% of third- to 12th-grade students believed their school had, to some measure, a problem with vandalism such as graffiti or broken doors and windows.
- Two in 5 parents of high school students were worried (very or somewhat) about their child's safety while in school or going to and from school.
- In the month preceding the survey, a sizable proportion of public school students had had personal experiences with angry scenes or confrontations (44%) and physical fights (24%).
- Only one in 5 students (22%) would definitely tell a teacher if he or she knew about another student who had carried a weapon to school. Nearly half of all students said they would not report a student with a weapon because they were concerned about retaliation.

1994: MTV Networks and Garin-Hart Research Associates
Music Television
New York, NY

In December 1993, MTV and Garin-Hart Associates conducted a nationally representative telephone survey of 800 young adults between the ages of 16 to 29 focusing on the issue of violence. The poll, which has a margin of error of ± 3.5 percent, revealed:

- 44% of men surveyed claimed to own a gun.
- 48% of teenagers who did not own a gun had considered purchasing one in the next year.
- Two out of three high school students felt that they could easily obtain a gun.
- Drugs were considered the leading cause of violence (26%), followed by the economy/unemployment (20%), lack of moral values (16%), family unit breakdown (15%), and gangs (14%).
- The majority of young people felt that there was a major role for adults to play in counseling and encouraging kids toward nonviolence. Solutions suggested include: education/after-school activities (22%), increased law enforcement (21%), and teaching kids about drugs/violence (20%).

1994: Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio
Ohio Department of Mental Health

The Treu-Mart Fund
The Nord Family Foundation
Contact: Dr. Mark I. Singer
216/368-6176

Findings are based on a survey of 3,700 students in grades nine through 13 in four northeastern Ohio high schools and two high schools in Denver, Colorado.

- More than half the 1,228 students surveyed in two Cleveland inner-city schools had witnessed knife attacks or stabbing, and 68% had seen shootings
- In the two Denver schools, nearly 39% of the girls and 47% of the boys had witnessed knife attacks.
- More than one-third of the students surveyed in one small Ohio city had witnessed a knife attack or stabbing; 5% of the girls and 21% of the boys had been shot at or shot.
- 7% of girls surveyed in one Cleveland suburb had seen a knife attack and 6% had witnessed shootings. Among the boys, 8% had been victims of knife attacks and nearly 5% had been shot or shot at.
- Over half of the boys in the study said that they had slapped, hit or punched someone before being hit themselves.
- One in three male students said they had beaten someone in the past year.
- 25% of the Cleveland boys said they had shot at or shot someone.

1994: Council of the Great City Schools
Critical Educational Trends: A Poll of America's Urban School
1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 702
Washington, DC 20004
202/393-2427

The report is based on an August 1993 survey of the council's leadership. The council's members include superintendents and school board members of large urban districts. Results indicate that educators in the nation's urban schools are grappling with concerns that differ markedly from those of school leaders across the country.

- 82.7% of urban school leaders cited violence and gang-related activities as their top concern. Only 18% of educators overall said that violence/gang-related activity was their No. 1 issue (according to a 1993 *Phi Delta Kappan* national survey).
- 71.2% ranked parent involvement as one of the most pressing issues in education.

1994: National School Boards Association
Best Practices Series
Violence in the Schools: How America's School Boards Are Safeguarding Your Children
1680 Duke Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
703-838-6722

720 affiliate school districts responded to this survey.

- 82% of schools reported increasing violence over last 5 years.
- 60% of schools reported weapons incidents.
- Three-fourths of schools reported that their school had dealt with violent student-on-student attacks in the past year; 13% of schools reported a knifing or shooting.
- 15% of schools reported the use of metal detectors.
- Responding school districts reported using the following methods for dealing with violence: suspension (78%); student conduct/discipline code (76%); collaboration with other agencies (73%); school board policy (71%); alternative programs at schools (66%); staff development (62%); conflict resolution/mediation training/peer mediation (61%).

1993: National Institute of Justice
U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Gun Acquisition and Possession in Selected Juvenile Samples

Research In Brief, December 1993

Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse

1-800/638-8737

This study of juvenile possession of firearms is drawn from voluntary questionnaires anonymously completed by 835 male serious offenders incarcerated in 6 juvenile correctional facilities in 4 states and 758 male students in 10 inner-city schools near the facilities. Both students and inmates came from environments marked by crime and violence. Because the study focused on serious juvenile offenders and students from schools in high-risk areas, **the results are not generalized to the entire U.S. population.**

- 83% of inmates and 22% of the students had possessed guns.
- 55% of inmates carried guns all or most of the time in the year or two before being incarcerated; 12% of the students did so, with another 23% carrying guns now and then.
- The firearms of choice were high-quality, powerful revolvers, closely followed by automatic and semi-automatic handguns and then shotguns.
- Most of those surveyed thought it would be easy to acquire a gun. Only 13% of inmates and 35% of students said it would be a lot of trouble or nearly impossible.
- When asked how they would get a gun, 45% of the inmates and 53% of the students would “borrow” one from family or friends; 54% of the inmates and 37% of the students said they would get one “off the street.”

The main reason given for owning or carrying a gun was self-protection.

1993: *USA WEEKEND*
Contact: Leslie Ansley, Reporter
1000 Wilson Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22229

The results of this unscientific survey are based on the written answers of 65,193 sixth- through 12th-graders who responded individually or as classes to a questionnaire printed in the April 23-25, 1993 issue of *USA WEEKEND*, in the Classline Today teaching plan, and distributed by the National Association of Secondary School Principals. The results of the survey appeared in the August 13-15, 1993 issue of *USA WEEKEND*. Of the students who responded —

- Overall, 37% did not feel safe in school.
- 50% knew someone who switched schools to feel safer.
- 43% of public school students avoided school rest rooms; 20% avoided hallways; and 45% avoided the school grounds.
- 26% of girls and 49% of boys were hit/struck during the previous year at school.
- 27% of girls were harassed during the previous year.
- 63% said that they would learn more if they felt safer.
- 47% said that teachers spent at least half of the class time disciplining students.
- 55% of students in grades 10 through 12 knew that weapons were regularly carried to school.
- 79% said that violence was caused by “stupid things like bumping into someone.” Other causes of violence, in order, include: boyfriend-girlfriend disputes, outsiders, racism and gangs.
- 42% thought that the single best safety improvement would be to send “bad kids” to special schools

1993: Centers for Disease Control
Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report
Violence-Related Attitudes and Behaviors of High School Students —New York, 1992

A self-administered questionnaire was given to a representative sample of students in grades nine through 12 in the New York City Public Schools during June 1992. In addition to the following statistics, the survey also measured violence-related attitudes with regard to effective ways to avoid fights.

- 36.1% of the students reported being threatened with physical harm, and 24.7% were involved in a physical fight somewhere (including home, school and neighborhood).

- 21% of the students reported carrying a weapon such a gun, knife or club somewhere one or more days during the 30 days preceding the survey; 16.1% reported carrying a knife or razor, and 7% reported carrying a handgun.
- Rates for violent and potentially dangerous behaviors were substantially lower inside the school building and when going to or from school: being threatened, 14.4%; carrying a weapon, 12.5%; carrying a knife or razor, 10%; being involved in a physical fight, 7.7%; and carrying a handgun, 3.7%.
- Students who attended schools with metal detector programs (18%) were as likely as those who attended schools without metal detector programs to have carried a weapon somewhere but were less likely to have carried a weapon inside the school building (7.8% versus 13.6%) or going to and from school (7.7% versus 15.2%).

1993: Metropolitan Life Insurance Company
The Metropolitan Life Survey of The American Teacher, 1993: Violence in America's Public Schools
 Louis Harris and Associates, Inc.
 630 Fifth Avenue
 New York, NY 10111
 (212) 698-9600

This national survey polled 1,000 teachers and 1,180 students in grades three through 12 and 100 police officials during the fall of 1993.

- 23% of students and 11% of teachers had been victims of violence in and around schools.
- Boys were almost twice as likely as girls to have been victims of violence (a 30% victimization rate for boys compared to a 16% victimization rate for girls).
- About 22% of boys and 4% of girls said that they had carried guns or knives to school.
- 6% of boys and 1% of girls said that they had threatened someone with a knife or gun in or near school.

1993: Metropolitan Life Insurance Company
The Metropolitan Life Survey of The American Teacher, 1993: Teachers Respond to President Clinton's Educational Proposals
 Louis Harris and Associates, Inc.
 630 Fifth Avenue
 New York, NY 10111
 (212) 698-9600

This survey is based on interviews with a nationally representative sample of 1,000 teachers, conducted from January 25 through February 8, 1993.

- 60% of teachers thought that the federal government should consider putting more police officers on the streets in high-crime areas where schools are located.
- 54% of teachers said the government should hire more security personnel at violence-ridden schools.
- 86% of teachers thought that parents should be penalized through fines or some other mechanism if they allowed their child to be chronically truant.

A majority of teachers (54%) said that their highest priority in public education policy in the next few years should be strengthening parents' roles in their children's education.

1993: The Harvard School of Public Health
 The Joyce Foundation, Chicago, Illinois
A Survey of Experiences, Perceptions, and Apprehensions about Guns Among Young People in America
 The Joyce Foundation LH Research
 312/782-2464 212/332-2950

Between April 19 and May 21, 1993, 2508 students were surveyed in 96 public and private elementary, middle and senior high schools (grades six through 12).

- 15% said that they had carried a handgun on their person in the past 30 days, and 4% said that they had taken a handgun to school in the past year.
- 9% said that they had shot a gun at someone else.
- 11% said that they had been shot at by someone with a gun during the past year.
- 22% said that they would feel "safer" having a handgun on their person if they were going to be in a physical fight.
- 39% knew someone personally who had either been killed or injured by gunfire.
- 59% said that they could get a handgun, "if I wanted one." Two in three who knew where to get a handgun said that they could get one within a 24-hour period.

1993: National Rifle Association
Luntz Research and Strategic Services
Contact: Mike Dabadie
1000 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 950
Arlington, VA 22209
703/358-0080

The survey, conducted during June 1993 by a Washington-based political polling firm and commissioned by the National Rifle Association, was based on responses by 1,000 adults, 40 percent of whom had children under age 18 living with them.

- 31% of adults surveyed agreed that they worried about gun violence as they sent their children off to school.
- 20% of those surveyed said their children had expressed concerns about the presence of guns in their schools.
- 12% said their children were less eager to attend school because of their fears for physical safety.
- 11% said their children had reported seeing a handgun in school.

1993: Center to Prevent Handgun Violence
Kids Carrying Guns: Loopholes in State and Federal Firearms Laws
1225 Eye Street, NW, Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20005
202/289-7319

The Center's Legal Action Project reviewed state laws to determine if the states of Arizona, Kansas and Colorado were unique in permitting open possession of guns by minors. The study concentrated on handguns because of their high use in crime and their popular appeal to juveniles. Major findings include:

- Although many states limit the carrying of *concealed* weapons, the majority of states failed to ban the *open possession* of handguns by all persons under 21.
- Only 13 states and the District of Columbia directly prohibited all minors under 21 from openly carrying handguns.
- 15 states prohibited the open possession of handguns by those ages 17 and under but permitted open carrying by 18- to 20-year-olds, even though the murder arrest rate for 18- and 19-year-olds was higher than for any other age group.
- The remaining 22 states permitted the open carrying of handguns by some or all persons under 18.
- There is no federal prohibition on open carrying or possession of handguns by minors.

1992: *The Executive Educator* and Xavier University
The violence at your door
The Executive Educator
National School Boards Association
1680 Duke Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

(703) 838-6722

The Executive Educator's exclusive national survey was conducted by a research team from Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio. The study, which analyzed responses from 1,216 school executives, revealed their perceptions of violence in their own districts, in neighboring communities and in the nation at large. Administrators reported:

- Although the increase in violent acts in schools was widespread, it is generally considered highest in the Southeast.
- Low-achieving students were the most likely perpetrators of school violence.
- A lack of parental involvement contributed strongly to school violence.
- School violence had increased to a much greater degree in the nation as a whole than it had in their own districts. 97% of the respondents thought that school violence had increased across the nation in the past 5 years. Nearly two-thirds said that school violence in neighboring districts had increased in the last 5 years, and only about 40% thought violence had increased in their own districts in the past 5 years.
- The number of acts of violence committed by students had increased.
- Respondents predicted an increase in school violence during the next 2 years.

1991: Bureau of Justice Statistics
School Crime: A National Crime Victimization Survey Report
Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice
202/307-0784

Based on a nationally representative sample of more than 10,000 young people, interviewed from January through June 1989, who had attended public or private school any time during the six months preceding the survey. Responses referred to the six-month time period prior to the survey.

- More than 400,000 students ages 12 to 19 were estimated to have been victims of violent crimes at school.
- 7% of all students were property crime victims, and 2% were victims of violent crime — primarily simple assaults.
- An estimated 430,000 students (2% of all students) had at least once taken something to school to protect themselves from attack or harm. This “protection” included guns, knives, brass knuckles, razor blades, spiked jewelry and other objects capable of hurting an assailant.
- 15% of the students reported there were gangs in their schools.
- 16% said that a student had attacked or threatened a school teacher.
- 6% reported that they avoided places in or around the school property because they thought someone might attack or harm them.
- Among the students who said gangs were or might be found in their schools, 37% said gang members never fought at school, 19% said there were gang fights once or twice a year and 12% said there were gang fights at least once a week.

1991: Bureau of Justice Statistics
Teenage Victims: A National Crime Victimization Survey Report
Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice
202/307-0784

This report presents information on crimes of violence and theft collected by the National Crime Survey (NCS) from 1985 to 1988. The NCS obtains information about crimes, included those not reported to the police, from individuals ages 12 or older in a nationally representative sample of households.

- From 1985 to 1988, persons ages 12 to 19 were victims of 1.9 million crimes of theft annually. Teenagers were much more likely than adults to be victims of crimes of violence. On average, every 1,000 teenagers experienced 67 violent crimes each year, compared to 26 for every 1,000 adults age 20 or older.
- About one-half of all violent crimes and 63% of crimes of theft against teens ages 12 to 19 took place on the street, in a school building or on school property. Street crimes were three times more likely

than crimes in school buildings to have been committed by an offender with a weapon (37% versus 12%).

- Adolescents ages 12 to 15 were about twice as likely as older teens to experience crimes in a school building or on school property. About 37% of violent crimes and 81% of crimes of theft against younger teenagers occurred at school, compared with 17% of the violent crimes and 39% of the crimes of theft against older teens.
- Police reporting rates for violent crimes against teenagers were much higher for incidents that occurred on the street than for those at school. About 37% of violent crimes that occurred on the street were reported to the police, compared with 9% of violent crimes that took place in school buildings and 22% of those on school property.
- Many crimes that took place in school may not have been reported to the police because school officials had been notified and had resolved the incidents. For 37% of the violent crimes in school buildings and 32% of those on school property, the police were not called primarily because the crime was reported to someone else (compared to a 5% nonreported rate of street violent crimes).

1990: Center to Prevent Handgun Violence
Caught in the Crossfire: A Report on Gun Violence in Our Nation's Schools
1225 Eye Street, NW, Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20005
202/289-7319

The information from the report was abstracted from more than 2,500 school violence-related news stories recorded in newspapers across the nation during the four-year period between September 1986 and September 1990.

- At least 71 people — 65 students and 6 school employees — had been killed with guns at school; another 201 were severely wounded; and 242 individuals were held hostage at gunpoint.
- Shootings or hostage situations in schools had occurred in at least 35 states and the District of Columbia.
- Males were most frequently the offenders (93%) as well as the victims (76%).
- Schoolchildren ages 14 to 17 were most at risk of gun violence at school.
- Gun violence in schools occurred most often in hallways (25%) and in classrooms (19%).
- Gang or drug disputes were the leading cause of school gun violence (18%). Long-standing arguments (15%), romantic disagreements (12%), fights over material possessions (10%) and accidents (13%) were also common.

1987: American School Health Association
Association for the Advancement of Health Education
Society for Public Health Education
National Adolescent Student Health Survey

Approximately 11,000 eighth- and 10th-graders from a nationally representative sample of more than 200 public and private schools in 20 states participated in the study during the fall 1987.

- One-half of the boys and 28% of the girls were in at least 1 fight during the past year.
- One-third reported someone threatened to hurt them, 14% were robbed and 13% reported being attacked while at school or in a school bus.
- 41% of the boys and 24% of the girls reported they could obtain a handgun if they wanted one.
- 23% of the boys reported having carried a knife to school at least once during the past year; 7% said they carry a knife to school on a daily basis.
- 3% of the boys reported having carried a handgun to school at least once during the school year; 1% reported carrying a handgun on a daily basis.

1978: National Institute of Education
Violent Schools — Safe Schools: The Safe School Study Report to the Congress
Office of Educational Research and Improvement, U.S. Department of Education
Washington, DC 20208

This three-part study conducted in 1976-1977 combined a survey of principals from 4,000 public elementary and secondary schools nationwide; a survey of 642 public junior and senior high schools, which interviewed the principals, teachers and students; and an intensive, qualitative study of 10 schools selected because their previous problems of crime and violence had been dramatically reversed in short periods of time.

- Approximately 282,000 (1.3%) students were physically attacked in America's secondary schools each month. About 2.4 million (11%) had something stolen from them in a typical month.
- Almost 8% of urban junior and senior high school students missed at least one day of classes a month because they were afraid to go to school. 3% (600,000) reported that they are afraid most of the time.
- Nearly 5,200 of the nation's million secondary school teachers were physically attacked at school each month, about 1,000 of whom were seriously enough hurt to require medical attention. About 130,000 teachers had something stolen in a month's time. Around 6,000 teachers had something taken from them by force, weapons or threats.
- More than 25% of all schools were subject to vandalism in a given month. The average cost of an act of vandalism was \$81. 10% of schools were burglarized, at an average cost per burglary of \$183. The annual cost of school crime was estimated to be around \$200 million.
- Most offenses were committed by current students. Victims and offenders were generally of the same age and sex (usually male). In a majority of cases, victims and offenders were also of the same race. The chances of interracial violence were highest in schools where students of one race outnumbered those of another.