



**VIOLENCE PREVENTION COALITION OF GREATER LOS ANGELES**  
*A Project of Community Partners®*

**FACT SHEET: school Violence**

**UNITED STATES**

- ❖ About 46% of public schools (approximately 36,800 schools) took a serious disciplinary action against a student for specific offenses during the 2003–04 school year. Of those disciplinary actions, 74% were suspensions lasting 5 days or more, 5 percent were removals with no services (i.e., expulsions), and 21% were transfers to specialized schools.
- ❖ Grade level is inversely associated with students' likelihood of avoiding one or more places in school. Eight percent of 6th-graders avoided one or more places in school in 2005, compared with 1 percent of 12th-graders.
- ❖ In 2005, students in urban schools were more likely than students in suburban and rural schools to fear being attacked at school or on the way to and from school. 10% of students in urban schools feared being attacked at school, compared with 5 percent each of their peers in suburban and rural schools.

*Weapons and Fighting*

- ❖ Four percent of all public schools took one or more serious disciplinary actions (suspensions lasting 5 days or more, removals with no services (i.e., expulsions), and transfers to specialized schools) in response to students' use or possession of a firearm or explosive device.
- ❖ In 2005, some 8 percent of students reported being threatened or injured with a weapon, such as a gun, knife, or club, on school property.
- ❖ Hispanic students were more likely than White students to report being threatened or injured with a weapon on school property (10 vs. 7%).
- ❖ In 2005, some 19% of students in grades 9–12 reported they had carried a weapon anywhere, and about 6% reported they had carried a weapon on school property.
- ❖ Males were more than two times more likely than females to carry a weapon—either anywhere or on school property.
- ❖ The percentage of 9th- to 12th-grade students who reported being in a physical fight anywhere increased from 33 to 36% between 2003 and 2005.
- ❖ Between 2003 and 2005, the percentage of females who reported having been in a physical fight anywhere increased from 25 to 28%.

*Bullying*

- ❖ In 2005, about 28 percent of 12- to 18-year-old students reported having been bullied at school.
- ❖ In 2005, 19% of students said that they had experienced bullying that consisted of being made fun of; 15% reported being the subject of rumors; and 9% said that they were pushed, shoved, tripped, or spit on. Of those students who had been bullied, 79% said that they were bullied inside the school, and 28% said that they were bullied outside on school grounds.
- ❖ Of the students in 2005 who reported being bullied, 53% said that they had been bullied once or twice in 6 months, 25% had experienced bullying once or twice a month, 11% reported being bullied once or twice a week, and 8% said that they had been bullied almost daily.
- ❖ Among students who reported being bullied in 2005, males were more likely than females to report being injured during such an incident (31 vs. 18%).

(OVER)

- ❖ In 2005, some 11% of students ages 12–18 reported that someone at school had used hate-related words against them, and more than one-third (38 percent) had seen hate-related graffiti at school.

#### *Principals and Teachers*

- ❖ In 2003–04, 11% of principals reported student verbal abuse of teachers, 3% reported widespread disorder in classrooms, and 19% reported student acts of disrespect for teachers. Some 17% of public schools reported undesirable gang activities and 3% reported undesirable cult or extremist activities on a weekly basis.
- ❖ Although a larger percentage of male than female teachers reported having been threatened with injury (9 vs. 6%), female teachers were more likely than their male counterparts to have been physically attacked (4 vs. 3%).
- ❖ Public school teachers were more likely than private school teachers to have been threatened with injury (7 vs. 2%) or physically attacked (4 vs. 2%) by students in school.

#### *Violent Crime*

- ❖ In 2003–04, there were 28 violent crimes per 1,000 students in both primary schools and high schools, compared with 53 such violent crimes in middle schools. Regardless of school level, there were no more than two serious violent crimes per 1,000 students enrolled in 2003–04.
- ❖ The percentage of public schools experiencing one or more violent incidents increased between the 1999–2000 and 2003–04 school years from 71 to 81%.
- ❖ Students ages 12–18 were victims of about 1.4 million nonfatal crimes (theft plus violent crime) while they were at school and about 1.3 million crimes while they were away from school in 2004. This represents victimization rates of 55 crimes per 1,000 students at school, and 48 crimes per 1,000 students away from school.
- ❖ From July 1, 2004, through June 30, 2005, there were 48 school-associated violent deaths in elementary and secondary schools in the United States.
- ❖ In each school year, youth were over 50 times more likely to be murdered and almost 150 times more likely to commit suicide when they were away from school than at school.

*All above statistics are from "Indicators of School Crime and Safety," US Departments of Education and Justice, 2006.*

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