

Youth Violence

Facts at a Glance

2012

Youth Violence

- In 2010, 4,828 young people ages 10 to 24 were victims of homicide—an average of 13 each day.¹
- Homicide is the 2nd leading cause of death for young people ages 15 to 24 years old.¹
- Among homicide victims 10 to 24 years old in 2010, 86% (4,171) were male and 14% (657) were female.¹
- Among homicide victims ages 10 to 24 years old in 2010, 82.8% were killed with a firearm.¹
- Each year, youth homicides and assault-related injuries result in an estimated \$16 billion in combined medical and work loss costs.¹

Violence-related Behaviors

In a 2011 nationally-representative sample of youth in grades 9-12:

- 32.8% reported being in a physical fight in the 12 months preceding the survey; the prevalence was higher among males (40.7%) than females (24.4%).²
- 16.6% reported carrying a weapon (gun, knife or club) on one or more days in the 30 days preceding the survey; the prevalence was higher among males (25.9%) than females (6.8%).²
- 5.1% reported carrying a gun on one or more days in the 30 days preceding the survey; the prevalence was higher among males (8.6%) than females (1.4%).²

Health Disparities

- Among 10 to 24 year-olds, homicide is the leading cause of death for African Americans; the second leading cause of death for Hispanics; and the third leading cause of death American Indians and Alaska Natives.¹

- Homicide rates in 2010 among non-Hispanic, African-American males 10-24 years of age (51.5 per 100,000) exceeded those of Hispanic males (13.5 per 100,000) and non-Hispanic, White males in the same age group (2.9 per 100,000).¹

School Violence

In a 2011 nationally representative sample of youth in grades 9-12:

- 12% reported being in a physical fight on school property in the 12 months preceding the survey.²
- 16% of male students and 7.8% of female students reported being in a physical fight on school property in the 12 months preceding the survey.²
- 5.9% did not go to school on one or more days in the 30 days preceding the survey because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to or from school.²
- 5.4% reported carrying a weapon (gun, knife or club) on school property on one or more days in the 30 days preceding the survey.²
- 7.4% reported being threatened or injured with a weapon on school property one or more times in the 12 months preceding the survey.²

Nonfatal Injuries Due to Violence

- In 2011, 707,212 young people ages 10 to 24 were treated in emergency departments for injuries sustained from physical assaults.¹
- In 2011, of a nationally-representative sample of students in grades 9-12, 3.9% reported being in a physical fight one or more times in the previous 12 months that resulted in injuries that had to be treated by a doctor or nurse.

Youth Violence Facts at a Glance

Juvenile Arrests

- Juveniles (<18 years) accounted for 13.7% of all violent crime arrests and 22.5% of all property crime arrests in 2010.³
- In 2010, 784 juveniles (< 18 years) were arrested for murder, 2,198 for forcible rape, and 35,001 for aggravated assault.³

Bullying

In a 2011 nationally-representative sample of youth in grades 9-12:

- 20.1% reported being bullied on school property in the 12 months preceding the survey; the prevalence was higher among females (22.0%) than males (18.2%).
- 16.2% reported being bullied electronically (email, chat room, website, texting) in the 12 months preceding the survey; the prevalence was higher among females (22.1%) than males (10.8%).²

School-associated Violent Deaths

- During the 2009-2010 school year, 17 homicides of school-age youth ages 5 to 18 years occurred at school.⁴
- Approximately 1% of all youth homicides in 2008-2009 occurred at school, and the percentage of all youth homicides occurring at school has been less than 2% since the 1992-1993 school year.⁴
- There was approximately one homicide or suicide of a school-age youth at school per 2.7 million students enrolled during the 2009-2010 school year.⁴

References

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) [online]. (2010). [cited 2012 Oct 19] Available from www.cdc.gov/injury.
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3. Federal Bureau of Investigation. Crime in the United States 2010. Uniform Crime Reports. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, 2011. Available from www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2010/crime-in-the-u.s.-2010/index-page.
4. Robers S, Zhang J, Truman J, Synder TD. Indicators of School Crime and Safety, 2011. National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education, and Bureau of Justice Statistics, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. Washington, DC; 2010. Available from <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2012/2012002.pdf>.