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Indicators of School Crime and Safety, 2000

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FOREWORD

The national focus on school crime and safety continues to be of paramount importance. During the past year, overall levels of crime in school decreased, and students seem to feel more safe in school than they did in the last few years. Yet, violence and theft still mar the school experiences of many students and challenge parents, teachers, and school officials to respond.

Continued progress in improving the safety of our children entrusted to schools relies on having accurate information about the nature, extent, and scope of the problem. This report is intended to provide information that will assist in developing policies and/or programs to prevent and cope with violence and crime in schools.

This is the third edition of *Indicators of School Crime and Safety*, a joint effort by the Bureau of Justice Statistics and the National Center for Education Statistics. The report provides detailed statistical information to inform the nation on the current nature of crime in schools, and is a companion document to the *Annual Report on School Safety: 2000*. The *Annual Report* is a joint publication of the Departments of Education and Justice that provides an overview of the nature and scope of school crime and describes actions schools and communities can take to address this critical issue. The two reports respond to a 1998 request by President Clinton for an annual report card on school violence.

This edition of *Indicators* contains the most recent available data on school crime and safety drawn from a number of statistical series supported by the federal government. These data include results from a study of violent deaths in school, sponsored by the Department of Education and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the 1999 School Crime Supplement to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), which is conducted by the Census Bureau on behalf of our agencies.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics and National Center for Education Statistics continue to work towards providing more timely and complete data on the issue of school-related violence and safety. Not only is this report available on the Internet in its entirety, but individual indicators are updated there throughout the year as new data become available. The inclusion of detailed data from the full calendar year 1999 NCVS (this edition includes only selected statistics from January–June 1999) and from a new survey of school administrators on crime and victimization in the schools is planned for next year's edition of *Indicators*.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Schools should be safe and secure places for all students, teachers, and staff members. Without a safe learning environment, teachers cannot teach and students cannot learn. In fact, as the data in this report show, more victimizations happen away from school than at school.¹ In 1998, students were about two times as likely to be victims of serious violent crime away from school as at school (Indicator 2).

In 1998, students ages 12 through 18 were victims of more than 2.7 million total crimes at school (Indicator 2). In that same year, these students were victims of about 253,000 serious violent crimes at school (that is, rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault). There were also 60 school-associated violent deaths in the United States between July 1, 1997 and June 30, 1998—including 47 homicides (Indicator 1).

The total nonfatal victimization rate for young people declined between 1993 and 1998. The percentage of students being victimized at school also declined over the last few years. Between 1995 and 1999, the percentage of students who reported being victims of crime at school decreased from 10 percent to 8 percent (Indicator 3). This decline was due in part to a decline for students in grades 7 through 9. Between 1995 and 1999, the prevalence of reported victimization dropped from 11 percent to 8 percent for 7th graders, from 11 percent to 8 percent for 8th graders, and from 12 percent to 9 percent for 9th graders.

However, for some types of crimes at school, rates have not changed. For example, between 1993 and 1997, 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 constant—at about 7 or 8 percent (Indicator 4). The percentage of students in grades 9 through 12 who reported being in a physical fight on school property in the past 12 months also remained unchanged between 1993 and 1997—at about 15 percent (Indicator 5).

As the rate of victimization in schools has declined or remained constant, students also seem to feel more secure at school now than just a few years ago. The percentage of students ages 12 through 18 who reported avoiding one or more places at school for their own safety decreased between 1995 and 1999—from 9 to 5 percent (Indicator 14). Furthermore, the percentage of students who reported that street gangs were present at their schools decreased

¹The reader should be cautious in making comparisons between victimization rates on school property and elsewhere. These data do not take into account the number of hours that students spend on school property and the number of hours they spend elsewhere.

from 1995 to 1999. In 1999, 17 percent of students ages 12 through 18 reported that they had street gangs at their schools compared with 29 percent in 1995 (Indicator 16).

There was an increase in the use of marijuana among students between 1993 and 1995, but no change between 1995 and 1997. In 1997, about 26 percent of these students had used marijuana in the last 30 days (Indicator 19). Furthermore, almost one-third of all students in grades 9 through 12 (32 percent) reported that someone had offered, sold, or given them an illegal drug on school property—an increase from 24 percent in 1993 (Indicator 20).

Therefore, the data shown in this report present a mixed picture of school safety. While overall school crime rates have declined, violence, gangs, and drugs are still evident in some schools, indicating that more work needs to be done.

ORGANIZATION OF THE CURRENT REPORT

This report, the third in a series of annual reports on school crime and safety from the Bureau of Justice Statistics and the National Center for Education Statistics, presents the latest available data on school crime and student safety. The report repeats many indicators from the 1999 report but also provides updated data on fatal and nonfatal student victimization, nonfatal teacher victimization, students' perceptions of safety and the presence of gangs, and students' avoidance of places at school. In addition, it provides new data on students' reports of being the target of derogatory hate-related language and seeing hate-related graffiti at school.

The report is organized as a series of indicators, with each indicator presenting data on a different aspect of school crime and safety. It starts with the most serious violence. There are five sections to the report: Violent Deaths at School; Nonfatal Student Victimization—Student Reports; Violence and Crime at School—Public School Principal/Disciplinarian Reports; Nonfatal Teacher Victimization at School—Teacher Reports; and School Environment. Each section contains a set of indicators that, taken together, describe a distinct aspect of school crime and safety.

Rather than relying on data from a large omnibus survey of school crime and safety, this report uses a variety of independent data sources from federal departments and agencies including the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Center for Education Statistics, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Each data source has an independent sample design, data collection method, and questionnaire design, all of which may be influenced by the unique perspective of the primary funding agency. By combining multiple and independent sources of data, it is hoped that this report will present a more complete portrait of school crime and safety than would be possible with any single source of information.

However, because the report relies on so many different data sets, the age groups, the time periods, and the types of respondents analyzed can vary from indicator to indicator. Readers should keep this in mind as they compare data from different indicators. Furthermore, while every effort has been made to keep key definitions consistent across indicators, different surveys sometimes use different definitions, such as those for specific crimes and “at school.”² Therefore, caution should be used in making comparisons between results from different data sets. Descriptions of these data sets are located in appendix B of this report.

KEY FINDINGS

Some of the key findings from the various sections of this report are as follows:³

VIOLENT DEATHS AT SCHOOL

From July 1, 1997 through June 30, 1998, there were 60 school-associated violent deaths in the United States. Forty-seven of these violent deaths were homicides, 12 were suicides, and one was a teenager killed by a law enforcement officer in the line of duty (Indicator 1). Thirty-five of the 47 school-associated homicides were of school age children. By comparison, a total of 2,752 children ages 5 through 19 were victims of homicide in the United States from July 1, 1997 through June 30, 1998. Seven of the 12 school-associated suicides occurring from July 1, 1997 through June 30, 1998 were of school age children. A total of 2,061 children ages 5 through 19 committed suicide that year.

NONFATAL STUDENT VICTIMIZATION—STUDENT REPORTS

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 (Indicator 2). In 1998, students in this age range were victims of about 550,000 serious violent crimes away from schools, compared with about 253,000 at school.

- The percentage of students in grades 9 through 12 who have been threatened or injured with a weapon on school property⁴ has not changed significantly in recent years. In 1993, 1995, and 1997, about 7 to 8 percent of students reported being threatened or injured with a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club on school property in the past 12 months (Indicator 4).

²Readers should consult the glossary of terms in appendix C for the specific definitions used in each survey.

³All comparisons reported here were statistically significant at the 0.05 level. See appendix B for details on the methods used here.

⁴Definitions for “on school property” and “at school” may differ. See appendix C for specific definitions.

- In 1998, 12- through 18-year-old students living in urban, suburban, and rural locales were equally vulnerable to serious violent crime and theft at school. Away from school, however, urban and suburban students were more vulnerable to serious violent crime and theft than were rural students. (Indicator 2).
- Younger students (ages 12 through 14) were more likely than older students (ages 15 through 18) to be victims of crime at school. However, older students were more likely than younger students to be victimized away from school (Indicator 2).

VIOLENCE AND CRIME AT SCHOOL—PUBLIC SCHOOL PRINCIPAL/DISCIPLINARIAN REPORTS

In 1996–97, 10 percent of all public schools reported at least one serious violent crime to the police or a law enforcement representative. Principals' reports of serious violent crimes included murder, rape or other type of sexual battery, suicide, physical attack or fight with a weapon, or robbery. Another 47 percent of public schools reported a less serious violent or nonviolent crime (but not a serious violent one). Crimes in this category include physical attack or fight without a weapon, theft/larceny, and vandalism. The remaining 43 percent of public schools did not report any of these crimes to the police (Indicator 8).

- Elementary schools were much less likely than either middle or high schools to report any type of crime in 1996–97. They were much more likely to report vandalism (31 percent) than any other crime (19 percent or less) (Indicator 9).
- At the middle and high school levels, physical attack or fight without a weapon was generally the most commonly reported crime in 1996–97 (9 and 8 per 1,000 students, respectively). Theft or larceny was more common at the high school than at the middle school level (6 versus 4 per 1,000 students) (Indicator 9).

NONFATAL TEACHER VICTIMIZATION AT SCHOOL—TEACHER REPORTS

Over the 5-year period from 1994 through 1998, teachers were victims of 1,755,000 nonfatal crimes at school, including 1,087,000 thefts and 668,000 violent crimes (rape or sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault) (Indicator 10). This translates into 83 crimes per 1,000 teachers per year.

- In the period from 1994 through 1998, senior high school and middle/junior high school teachers were more likely to be victims of violent crimes (most of which were simple assaults) than elementary school teachers (38 and 60, respectively, versus 18 crimes per 1,000 teachers) (Indicator 10).

- In the 1993–94 school year, 12 percent of all elementary and secondary school teachers were threatened with injury by a student, and 4 percent were physically attacked by a student. This represented about 341,000 teachers who were victims of threats of injury by students that year, and 119,000 teachers who were victims of attacks by students (Indicator 11).

SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

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. In 1995, 9 percent of students ages 12 through 18 sometimes or most of the time feared they were going to be attacked or harmed at school. In 1999, this percentage had fallen to 5 percent. During the same period, the percentage of students fearing they would be attacked while traveling to and from school fell from 7 percent to 4 percent (Indicator 13).

- Between 1993 and 1997, 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 9 percent (a 25 percent reduction) (Indicator 12).
- 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, this percentage represented 1.1 million students (Indicator 14).
- Between 1995 and 1999, the percentage of students who reported that street gangs were present at their schools decreased. In 1995, 29 percent of students reported gangs being present in their schools. By 1999, this percentage had fallen to 17 percent (Indicator 16).
- In 1997, about 51 percent of students in grades 9 through 12 had at least one drink of alcohol in the previous 30 days. A much smaller percentage (about 6 percent) had at least one drink on school property during the same period (Indicator 18).
- There was an increase in the use of marijuana among students between 1993 and 1995, but no change between 1995 and 1997. About one quarter (26 percent) of ninth graders reported using marijuana in the last 30 days in 1997. However, marijuana use on school property did not increase significantly between 1993 and 1995, nor between 1995 and 1997 (Indicator 19).
- In 1995 and 1997, almost one-third of all students in grades 9 through 12 (32 percent) reported that someone had offered, sold, or given them an illegal drug on school property. This was an increase from 1993 when 24 percent of such students reported that illegal drugs were available to them on school property (Indicator 20).

- In 1999, about 13 percent of students ages 12 through 18 reported that someone at school had used hate-related words against them. That is, in the prior 6 months someone at school called them a derogatory word having to do with race/ethnicity, religion, disability, gender, or sexual orientation. In addition, about 36 percent of students saw hate-related graffiti at school (Indicator 15).

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Foreword	iii
Executive Summary	v
Acknowledgments	xi
List of Tables	xv
List of Figures	xxi
Violent Deaths at School.....	1
1. Violent deaths at school and away from school.....	2
Nonfatal Student Victimization—Student Reports.....	3
2. Victimization of students at school and away from school.....	4
3. Prevalence of students being victimized at school	8
4. Prevalence of students being threatened or injured with a weapon on school property.....	9
5. Prevalence of students involved in physical fights on school property	11
6. Prevalence of students being bullied at school.....	13
7. Prevalence of students having property stolen or deliberately damaged on school property	14
Violence and Crime at School—Public School Principal/Disciplinarian Reports.....	17
8. Crimes reported to the police.....	18
9. Specific crimes reported to the police	20
Nonfatal Teacher Victimization at School—Teacher Reports	23
10. Nonfatal teacher victimization at school	24
11. Prevalence of teachers being threatened with injury or attacked by students.....	26
School Environment.....	27
12. Prevalence of students carrying weapons on school property.....	28
13. Students’ perceptions of personal safety at school and when traveling to and from school.....	30
14. Students’ reports of avoiding places in school.....	32
15. Students’ reports of being called hate-related words and seeing hate-related graffiti	34
16. Students’ reports of gangs at school.....	35
17. Public school principals’ reports of discipline problems at school	37
18. Prevalence of students using alcohol	38
19. Prevalence of students using marijuana	40
20. Prevalence of students reporting drugs were made available to them on school property.....	42

	Page
Supplemental Tables	45
Standard Error Tables	89
Appendix A. School Practices and Policies Related to Safety and Discipline	133
Appendix B. Technical Notes	147
Appendix C. Glossary of Terms	169

LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
2.1. Number of nonfatal crimes against students ages 12 through 18 occurring at school or on the way to or from school, by type of crime and selected student characteristics: 1992 to 1998	47
2.2. Number of nonfatal crimes against students ages 12 through 18 occurring at school or on the way to or from school per 1,000 students, by type of crime and selected student characteristics: 1992 to 1998.....	50
2.3. Number of nonfatal crimes against students ages 12 through 18 occurring away from school, by type of crime and selected student characteristics: 1992 to 1998.....	53
2.4. Number of nonfatal crimes against students ages 12 through 18 occurring away from school per 1,000 students, by type of crime and selected student characteristics: 1992 to 1998	56
3.1. Percentage of students ages 12 through 18 who reported criminal victimization at school during the previous 6 months, by type of victimization and selected student characteristics: 1995 and 1999.....	59
4.1. Percentage of students in grades 9 through 12 who reported being threatened or injured with a weapon on school property during the last 12 months, by selected student characteristics: 1993, 1995, and 1997.....	60
5.1. Percentage of students in grades 9 through 12 who reported having been in a physical fight in the last 12 months, by selected student characteristics: 1993, 1995, and 1997	61
6.1. Percentage of students ages 12 through 18 who reported being bullied at school during the previous 6 months, by gender and selected student characteristics: 1999.....	62
7.1. Percentage of students in grades 9 through 12 who reported having their property stolen or deliberately damaged on school property during the last 12 months, by selected student characteristics: 1993, 1995, and 1997.....	63
8.1. Percentage of public schools that reported one or more criminal incidents to police, by seriousness of the incident, urbanicity, and selected school characteristics: 1996–97	64
8.2. Number of public schools that reported one or more criminal incidents to police, by seriousness of the incident, urbanicity, and selected school characteristics: 1996–97	65
8.3. Number of criminal incidents occurring in public schools reported to police, by seriousness of the incident, urbanicity, and selected school characteristics: 1996–97	66
8.4. Number of criminal incidents reported to police per 1,000 public school students, by seriousness of the incident, urbanicity, and selected school characteristics: 1996–97	67

Table	Page
9.1. Percentage of public schools that reported one or more incidents of serious violent crime to police, by type of incident, urbanicity, and selected school characteristics: 1996–97	68
9.2. Percentage of public schools that reported one or more less serious violent or nonviolent criminal incidents to police, by type of incident, urbanicity, and selected school characteristics: 1996–97.....	69
9.3. Number of public schools that reported one or more incidents of serious violent crime to police, by type of incident, urbanicity, and selected school characteristics: 1996–97	70
9.4. Number of public schools that reported one or more less serious violent or nonviolent criminal incidents to police, by type of incident, urbanicity, and selected school characteristics: 1996–97	71
9.5. Number of serious violent criminal incidents occurring in public schools reported to police, by type of incident, urbanicity, and selected school characteristics: 1996–97	72
9.6. Number of less serious violent or nonviolent criminal incidents occurring in public schools reported to police, by type of incident, urbanicity, and selected school characteristics: 1996–97	73
9.7. Number of serious violent criminal incidents reported to police per 1,000 public school students, by type of incident, urbanicity, and selected school characteristics: 1996–97	74
9.8. Number of less serious violent or nonviolent criminal incidents reported to police per 1,000 public school students, by type of incident, urbanicity, and selected school characteristics: 1996–97	75
10.1. Number of nonfatal crimes against teachers and average annual number of crimes per 1,000 teachers at school, by type of crime and selected teacher characteristics: Aggregated from 1994 to 1998...	76
11.1. Percentage and number of teachers who reported that they were threatened with injury or that they were physically attacked by a student during the past 12 months, by urbanicity and selected teacher and school characteristics: 1993–94 school year	77
12.1. Percentage of students in grades 9 through 12 who reported carrying a weapon on school property at least 1 day in the past 30 days, by selected student characteristics: 1993, 1995, and 1997	78
12.2. Percentage of students in grades 9 through 12 who reported carrying a weapon at any time at least 1 day in the past 30 days, by selected student characteristics: 1993, 1995, and 1997.....	79
13.1. Percentage of students ages 12 through 18 who reported fearing being attacked or harmed at school or on the way to and from school during the previous 6 months, by selected student characteristics: 1989, 1995, and 1999.....	80
14.1. Percentage of students ages 12 through 18 who reported that they avoided one or more places in school during the previous 6 months, by selected student characteristics: 1989, 1995, and 1999.....	81
15.1. Percentage of students ages 12 through 18 who reported being targets of hate-related words or who saw hate-related graffiti at school during the previous 6 months, by selected student characteristics: 1999	82

Table	Page
16.1. Percentage of students ages 12 through 18 who reported that street gangs were present at school during the previous 6 months, by selected student characteristics: 1989, 1995, and 1999	83
17.1. Percentage and number of public schools that reported that 1 or more of 17 discipline issues was a serious problem in their school, by urbanicity and selected school characteristics: 1996–97	84
18.1. Percentage of students in grades 9 through 12 who reported using alcohol in the last 30 days, by selected student characteristics: 1993, 1995, and 1997	85
19.1. Percentage of students in grades 9 through 12 who reported using marijuana in the last 30 days, by selected student characteristics: 1993, 1995, and 1997	86
20.1. Percentage of students in grades 9 through 12 who reported that drugs were made available to them on school property during the last 12 months, by selected student characteristics: 1993, 1995, and 1997	87

Standard Error Tables

S2.1. Standard errors for table 2.1: Number of nonfatal crimes against students ages 12 through 18 occurring at school or on the way to or from school, by type of crime and selected student characteristics: 1992 to 1998	91
S2.2. Standard errors for table 2.2: Number of nonfatal crimes against students ages 12 through 18 occurring at school or on the way to or from school per 1,000 students, by type of crime and selected student characteristics: 1992 to 1998	94
S2.3. Standard errors for table 2.3: Number of nonfatal crimes against students ages 12 through 18 occurring away from school, by type of crime and selected student characteristics: 1992 to 1998	97
S2.4. Standard errors for table 2.4: Number of nonfatal crimes against students ages 12 through 18 occurring away from school per 1,000 students, by type of crime and selected student characteristics: 1992 to 1998	100
S3.1. Standard errors for table 3.1: Percentage of students ages 12 through 18 who reported criminal victimization at school during the previous 6 months, by type of victimization and selected student characteristics: 1995 and 1999	103
S4.1. Standard errors for table 4.1: Percentage of students in grades 9 through 12 who reported being threatened or injured with a weapon on school property during the last 12 months, by selected student characteristics: 1993, 1995, and 1997	104
S5.1. Standard errors for table 5.1: Percentage of students in grades 9 through 12 who reported having been in a physical fight in the last 12 months, by selected student characteristics: 1993, 1995, and 1997	105
S6.1. Standard errors for table 6.1: Percentage of students ages 12 through 18 who reported being bullied at school during the previous 6 months, by gender and selected student characteristics: 1999	106

Table	Page
S7.1. Standard errors for table 7.1: Percentage of students in grades 9 through 12 who reported having their property stolen or deliberately damaged on school property during the last 12 months, by selected student characteristics: 1993, 1995, and 1997	107
S8.1. Standard errors for table 8.1: Percentage of public schools that reported one or more criminal incidents to police, by seriousness of the incident, urbanicity, and selected school characteristics: 1996–97	108
S8.2. Standard errors for table 8.2: Number of public schools that reported one or more criminal incidents to police, by seriousness of the incident, urbanicity, and selected school characteristics: 1996–97.....	109
S8.3. Standard errors for table 8.3: Number of criminal incidents occurring in public schools reported to police, by seriousness of the incident, urbanicity, and selected school characteristics: 1996–97.....	110
S8.4. Standard errors for table 8.4: Number of criminal incidents reported to police per 1,000 public school students, by seriousness of the incident, urbanicity, and selected school characteristics: 1996–97	111
S9.1. Standard errors for table 9.1: Percentage of public schools that reported one or more incidents of serious violent crime to police, by type of incident, urbanicity, and selected school characteristics: 1996–97.....	112
S9.2. Standard errors for table 9.2: Percentage of public schools that reported one or more less serious violent or nonviolent criminal incidents to police, by type of incident, urbanicity, and selected school characteristics: 1996–97.....	113
S9.3. Standard errors for table 9.3: Number of public schools that reported one or more incidents of serious violent crime to police, by type of incident, urbanicity, and selected school characteristics: 1996–97.....	114
S9.4. Standard errors for table 9.4: Number of public schools that reported one or more less serious violent or nonviolent criminal incidents to police, by type of incident, urbanicity, and selected school characteristics: 1996–97.....	115
S9.5. Standard errors for table 9.5: Number of serious violent criminal incidents occurring in public schools reported to police, by type of incident, urbanicity, and selected school characteristics: 1996–97.....	116
S9.6. Standard errors for table 9.6: Number of less serious violent or nonviolent criminal incidents occurring in public schools reported to police, by type of incident, urbanicity, and selected school characteristics: 1996–97.....	117
S9.7. Standard errors for table 9.7: Number of serious violent criminal incidents reported to police per 1,000 public school students, by type of incident, urbanicity, and selected school characteristics: 1996–97.....	118
S9.8. Standard errors for table 9.8: Number of less serious violent or nonviolent criminal incidents reported to police per 1,000 public school students, by type of incident, urbanicity, and selected school characteristics: 1996–97.....	119

Table	Page
S10.1. Standard errors for table 10.1: Number of nonfatal crimes against teachers and average annual number of crimes per 1,000 teachers at school, by type of crime and selected teacher characteristics: Aggregated from 1994 to 1998.....	120
S11.1. Standard errors for table 11.1: Percentage and number of teachers who reported that they were threatened with injury or that they were physically attacked by a student during the past 12 months, by urbanicity and selected teacher and school characteristics: 1993–94 school year	121
S12.1. Standard errors for table 12.1: Percentage of students in grades 9 through 12 who reported carrying a weapon on school property at least 1 day in the past 30 days, by selected student characteristics: 1993, 1995, and 1997	122
S12.2. Standard errors for table 12.2: Percentage of students in grades 9 through 12 who reported carrying a weapon at any time at least 1 day in the past 30 days, by selected student characteristics: 1993, 1995, and 1997	123
S13.1. Standard errors for table 13.1: Percentage of students ages 12 through 18 who reported fearing being attacked or harmed at school or on the way to and from school during the previous 6 months, by selected student characteristics: 1989, 1995, and 1999.....	124
S14.1. Standard errors for table 14.1: Percentage of students ages 12 through 18 who reported that they avoided one or more places in school during the previous 6 months, by selected student characteristics: 1989, 1995, and 1999	125
S15.1. Standard errors for table 15.1: Percentage of students ages 12 through 18 who reported being targets of hate-related words or who saw hate-related graffiti at school during the previous 6 months, by selected student characteristics: 1999.....	126
S16.1. Standard errors for table 16.1: Percentage of students ages 12 through 18 who reported that street gangs were present at school during the previous 6 months, by selected student characteristics: 1989, 1995, and 1999.....	127
S17.1. Standard errors for table 17.1: Percentage and number of public schools that reported that 1 or more of 17 discipline issues was a serious problem in their school, by urbanicity and selected school characteristics: 1996–97	128
S18.1. Standard errors for table 18.1: Percentage of students in grades 9 through 12 who reported using alcohol in the last 30 days, by selected student characteristics: 1993, 1995, and 1997	129
S19.1. Standard errors for table 19.1: Percentage of students in grades 9 through 12 who reported using marijuana in the last 30 days, by selected student characteristics: 1993, 1995, and 1997	130
S20.1. Standard errors for table 20.1: Percentage of students in grades 9 through 12 who reported that drugs were made available to them on school property during the last 12 months, by selected student characteristics: 1993, 1995, and 1997.....	131

Table	Page
Appendix Tables	
A1. Percentage of public schools that reported that they have a zero tolerance policy for various specified student offenses, by selected school characteristics: 1996–97	135
A2. Percentage of public schools that reported that students were required to wear school uniforms, by selected school characteristics: 1996–97	136
A3. Percentage of public schools that reported that they use various types of security measures at their schools, by selected school characteristics: 1996–97	137
A4. Percentage of public schools that reported various levels of police or other law enforcement representatives' presence during a typical week, by selected school characteristics: 1996–97.....	138
A5. Percentage of public schools that reported formal school violence prevention or reduction programs or efforts, by selected school characteristics: 1996–97	139
A6. Number and percentage of schools in which specified disciplinary actions were taken against students, total number of actions taken, and percentage of specific disciplinary actions taken against students, by type of infraction: 1996–97	140
A7. Standard errors for table A1: Percentage of public schools that reported that they have a zero tolerance policy for various specified student offenses, by selected school characteristics: 1996–97.....	141
A8. Standard errors for table A2: Percentage of public schools that reported that students were required to wear school uniforms, by selected school characteristics: 1996–97	142
A9. Standard errors for table A3: Percentage of public schools that reported that they use various types of security measures at their schools, by selected school characteristics: 1996–97.....	143
A10. Standard errors for table A4: Percentage of public schools that reported various levels of police or other law enforcement representatives' presence during a typical week, by selected school characteristics: 1996–97.....	144
A11. Standard errors for table A5: Percentage of public schools that reported formal school violence prevention or reduction programs or efforts, by selected school characteristics: 1996–97	145
A12. Standard errors for table A6: Number and percentage of schools in which specified disciplinary actions were taken against students, total number of actions taken, and percentage of specific disciplinary actions taken against students, by type of infraction: 1996–97	146
B1. Descriptions of data sources and samples used in the report	158
B2. Wording of survey questions used to construct indicators.....	159
B3. Methods used to calculate standard errors of statistics for different surveys.....	166

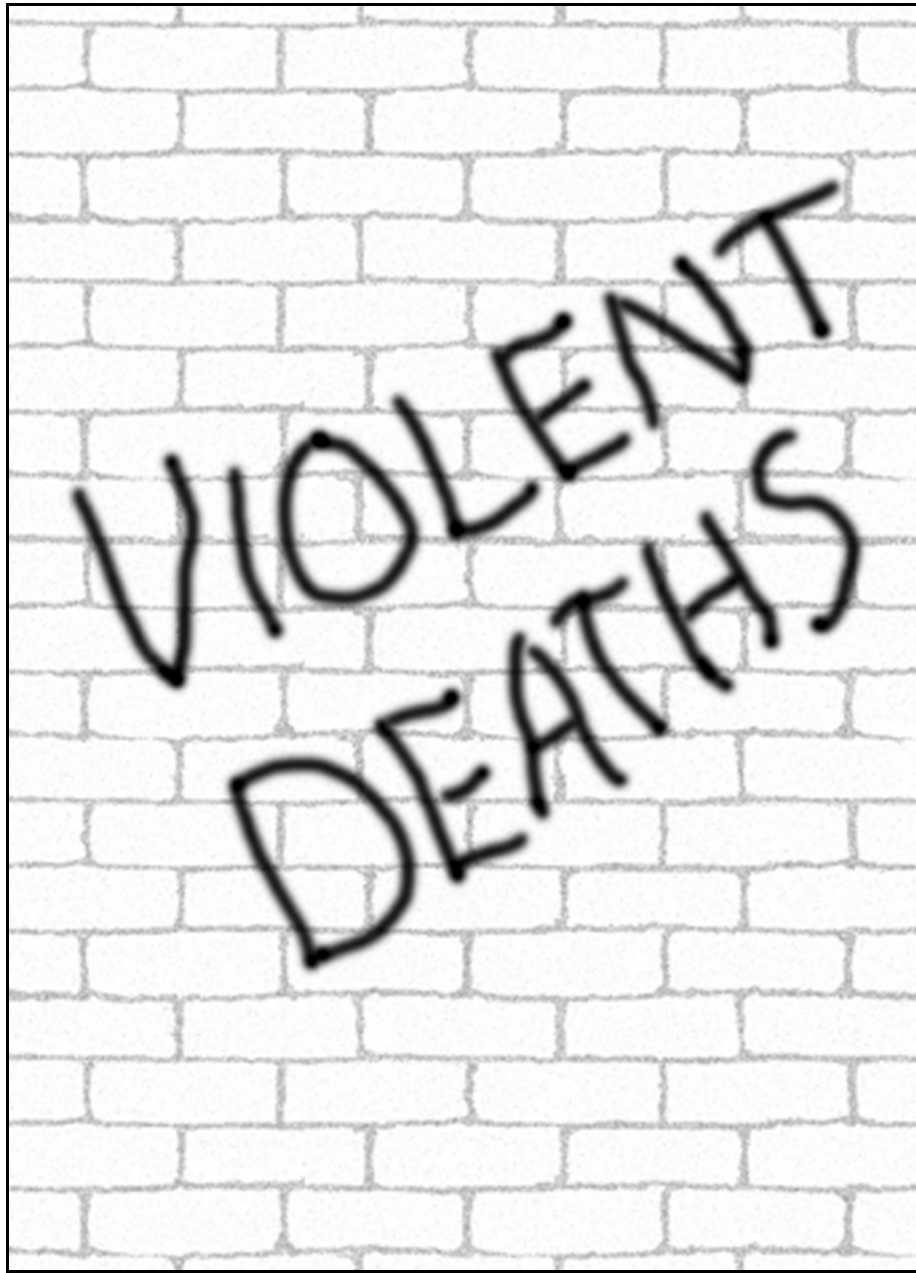
LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Page
1.1. Number of murders and suicides of students at school and of youth ages 5 through 19 away from school: 1997 to 1998	2
2.1. Number of nonfatal crimes against students ages 12 through 18 per 1,000 students, by type of crime and location: 1992 to 1998	5
2.2. Number of nonfatal crimes against students ages 12 through 18 occurring at school or going to or from school per 1,000 students, by type of crime and selected student characteristics: 1998.....	6
2.3. Number of nonfatal crimes against students ages 12 through 18 occurring away from school per 1,000 students, by type of crime and selected student characteristics: 1998	7
3.1. Percentage of students ages 12 through 18 who reported criminal victimization at school during the previous 6 months, by grade level: 1995 and 1999	8
4.1. Percentage of students in grades 9 through 12 who reported being threatened or injured with a weapon on school property during the last 12 months, by gender: 1993, 1995, and 1997	9
4.2. Percentage of students in grades 9 through 12 who reported being threatened or injured with a weapon on school property during the last 12 months, by grade: 1993, 1995, and 1997	10
4.3. Percentage of students in grades 9 through 12 who reported being threatened or injured with a weapon on school property during the last 12 months, by race/ethnicity: 1993, 1995, and 1997	10
5.1. Percentage of students in grades 9 through 12 who reported having been in a physical fight in the last 12 months, by gender: 1993, 1995, and 1997	11
5.2. Percentage of students in grades 9 through 12 who reported having been in a physical fight in the last 12 months, by grade: 1993, 1995, and 1997	12
6.1. Percentage of students ages 12 through 18 who reported being bullied at school during the previous 6 months, by grade level and gender: 1999	13
7.1. Percentage of students in grades 9 through 12 who reported having their property stolen or deliberately damaged on school property during the last 12 months, by gender: 1993, 1995, and 1997	14
7.2. Percentage of students in grades 9 through 12 who reported having their property stolen or deliberately damaged on school property during the last 12 months, by grade: 1993, 1995, and 1997	15
8.1. Percentage distribution of public schools according to types of crimes reported to police: 1996–97.....	18
8.2. Percentage of public schools that reported one or more criminal incidents to police and number of incidents reported per 1,000 students, by seriousness of crimes, instructional level, and urbanicity: 1996–97	19

Figure	Page
9.1. Percentage of public schools that reported one or more criminal incidents to police, by type of crime and instructional level: 1996–97	20
9.2. Number of crimes per 1,000 public school students, by type of crime, instructional level, and urbanicity: 1996–97.....	21
10.1. Average annual number of nonfatal crimes against teachers at school per 1,000 teachers, by type of crime and selected characteristics: Aggregated from 1994 to 1998.....	25
11.1. Percentage of teachers who reported that they were threatened with injury or that they were physically attacked by a student from school during the past 12 months, by urbanicity and control: 1993–94 school year	26
12.1. Percentage of students in grades 9 through 12 who reported carrying a weapon at least 1 day in the past 30 days, by gender: 1993, 1995, and 1997	28
12.2. Percentage of students in grades 9 through 12 who reported carrying a weapon at least 1 day in the past 30 days, by grade: 1993, 1995, and 1997	29
13.1. Percentage of students ages 12 through 18 who reported fearing being attacked or harmed at school during the previous 6 months, by race/ethnicity: 1989, 1995, and 1999	31
13.2. Percentage of students ages 12 through 18 who reported fearing being attacked or harmed on the way to and from school during the previous 6 months, by race/ethnicity: 1989, 1995, and 1999	31
14.1. Percentage of students ages 12 through 18 who reported that they avoided one or more places in school during the previous 6 months, by race/ethnicity: 1989, 1995, and 1999.....	33
14.2. Percentage of students ages 12 through 18 who reported that they avoided one or more places in school during the previous 6 months, by urbanicity: 1989, 1995, and 1999.....	33
15.1. Percentage of students ages 12 through 18 who reported being targets of hate-related words or who saw hate-related graffiti at school during the previous 6 months, by gender and race/ethnicity: 1999 ..	34
16.1. Percentage of students ages 12 through 18 who reported that street gangs were present at school during the previous 6 months, by control of school: 1989, 1995, and 1999	35
16.2. Percentage of students ages 12 through 18 who reported that street gangs were present at school during the previous 6 months, by urbanicity: 1989, 1995, and 1999	36
16.3. Percentage of students ages 12 through 18 who reported that street gangs were present at school during the previous 6 months, by race/ethnicity: 1989, 1995, and 1999	36
17.1. Percentage of public schools that reported that 1 or more of 17 discipline issues was a serious problem in their school, by instructional level and urbanicity: 1996–97.....	37
18.1. Percentage of students in grades 9 through 12 who reported using alcohol in the last 30 days, by gender: 1993, 1995, and 1997.....	38

Figure	Page
18.2. Percentage of students in grades 9 through 12 who reported using alcohol in the last 30 days, by grade: 1993, 1995, and 1997.....	39
19.1. Percentage of students in grades 9 through 12 who reported using marijuana in the last 30 days, by gender: 1993, 1995, and 1997.....	41
19.2. Percentage of students in grades 9 through 12 who reported using marijuana in the last 30 days, by grade: 1993, 1995, and 1997.....	41
20.1. Percentage of students in grades 9 through 12 who reported that drugs were made available to them on school property during the last 12 months, by gender: 1993, 1995, and 1997.....	42
20.2. Percentage of students in grades 9 through 12 who reported that drugs were made available to them on school property during the last 12 months, by grade: 1993, 1995, and 1997.....	43
20.3. Percentage of students in grades 9 through 12 who reported that drugs were made available to them on school property during the last 12 months, by race/ethnicity: 1993, 1995, and 1997.....	43

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Violent Deaths at School

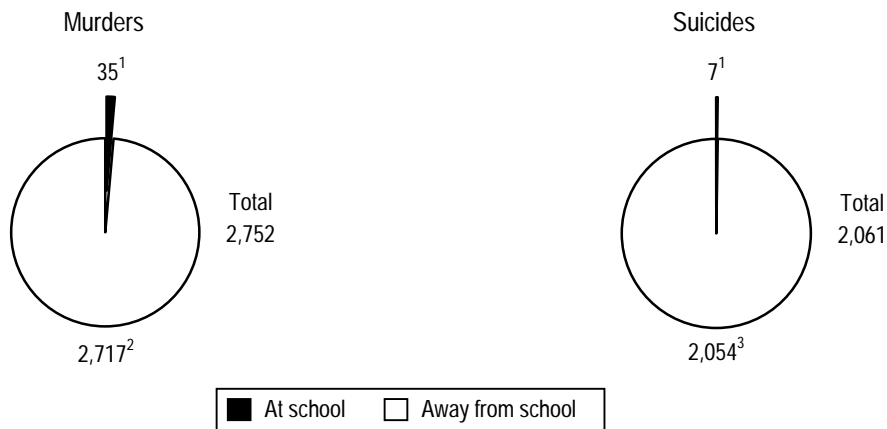
1. Violent deaths at school and away from school*

Violent deaths are tragic events that affect not only the individuals and their families directly involved but also everyone in the schools where they occur. Violent deaths at school receive national attention; accurate data on the magnitude of this problem are important.

- From July 1, 1997 through June 30, 1998, there were 60 school-associated violent deaths in the United States.¹ Forty-seven of these violent deaths were homicides, 12 were suicides, and one was a teenager killed by a law enforcement officer in the line of duty.
- Thirty-five of the 47 school-associated homicides were of school age children. There were a total of 2,752 homicides of children ages 5 through 19 occurring from July 1, 1997 through June 30, 1998.
- Seven of the 12 school-associated suicides occurring between July 1, 1997 through June 30, 1998 were of school age children. There were a total of 2,061 suicides of children ages 5 through 19 occurring that calendar year.

*The data reported here are new.

Figure 1.1.—Number of murders and suicides of students at school and of youth ages 5 through 19 away from school: 1997–1998



¹Student murders and suicides at school, July 1, 1997 to June 30, 1998.

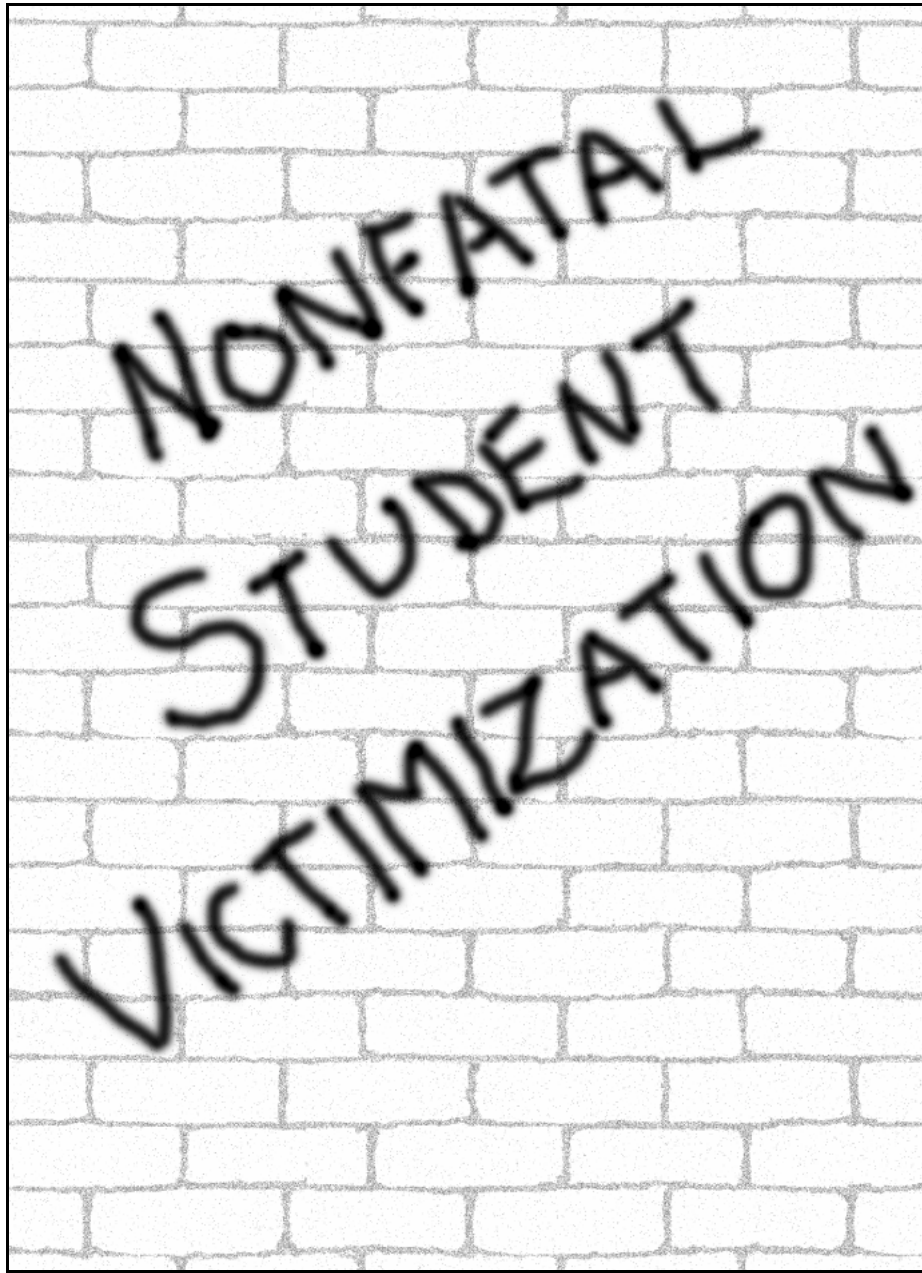
²Murders of youth ages 5 through 19 away from school, July 1, 1997 to June 30, 1998.

³Suicides of youth ages 5 through 19 away from school, during calendar year, 1998.

NOTE: "At school" includes on school property, on the way to or from school, and while attending or traveling to or from a school-sponsored event.

SOURCE: Special tabulation using preliminary data from the School Associated Violent Deaths Study, 1997–1998; Special tabulation using the FBI Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1997 and 1998; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, Vital Statistics of the United States, 1997 and 1998.

¹See glossary for definition of school-associated violent deaths.



**Nonfatal Student Victimization—
Student Reports**

2. Victimization of students at school and away from school*

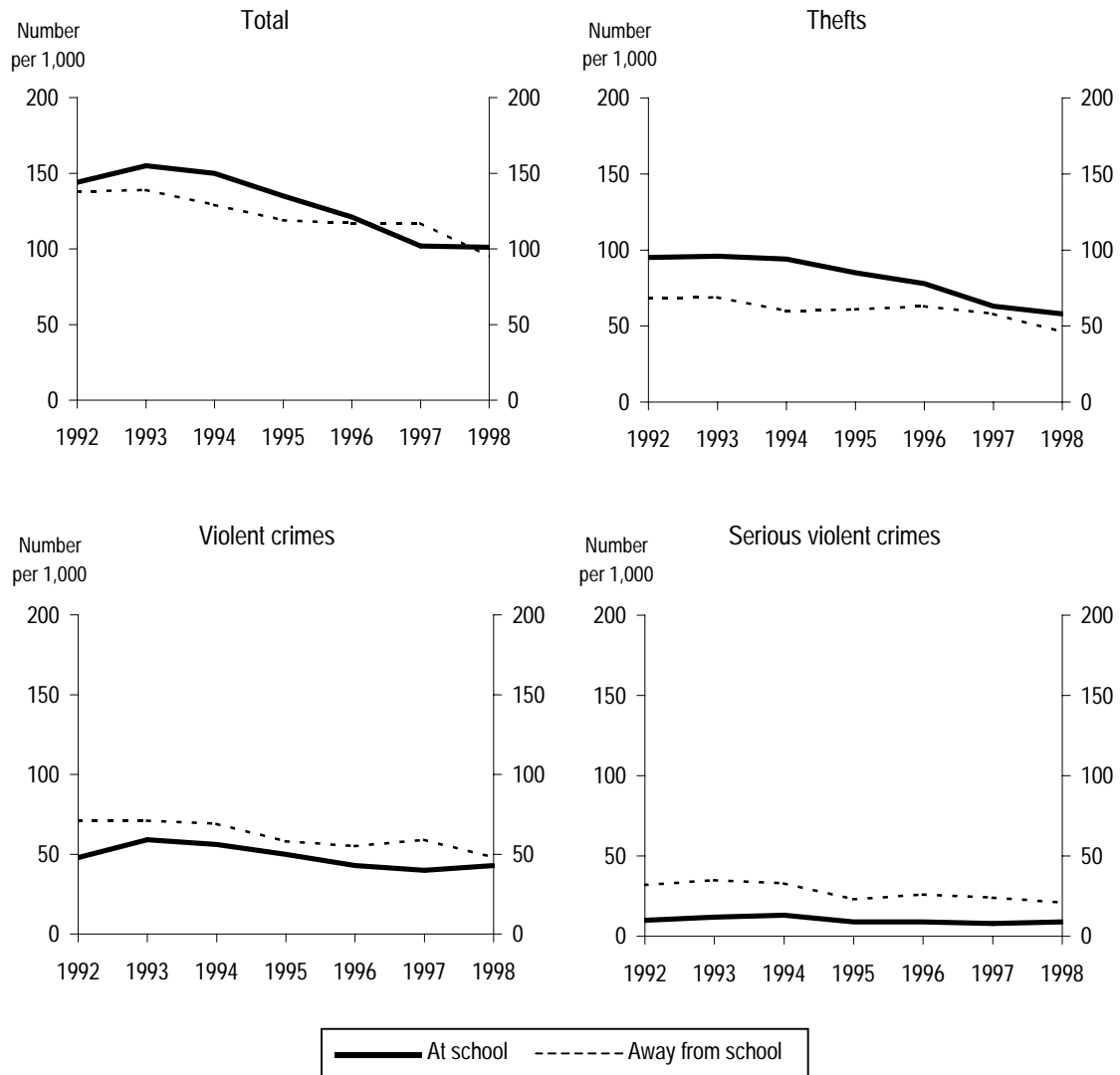
The amount of crime committed in the nation's schools continues to be a concern. While crime has decreased in recent years, theft and violence at school and to and from school can lead to disruptive and threatening environments reducing student performance.

*This indicator has been updated to include 1998 data.

- Students ages 12 through 18 experienced fewer nonfatal serious violent crimes (that is, rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault) when they were at school than away from school. In 1998, students in this age group were victims of about 253,000 such crimes at school, and about 550,000 away from school (tables 2.1 and 2.3). The victimization rate for serious violent crime was about the same at school from 1992 to 1998 and declined from 1992 to 1998 away from school (figure 2.1 and tables 2.2 and 2.4).
- Students ages 12 through 18 were victims of about 1.2 million nonfatal violent crimes (that is, serious violent crime plus simple assault) at school, and about 1.3 million away from school in 1998 (tables 2.1 and 2.3). There was a decline in the victimization rate between 1992 and 1998 at school as well as away from school (from 48 to 43 and from 71 to 48 per 1,000 students ages 12 through 18, respectively) (figure 2.1 and tables 2.2 and 2.4). During most of this period, the victimization rates for nonfatal violent crime were generally lower at school than away from school.²
- Students ages 12 through 18 were more likely to be victims of theft at school than away from school each year between 1992 and 1998, except for 1997. In that year, about the same number of thefts occurred at and away from school. In 1998, about 1.6 million thefts occurred at school (58 percent of all crimes at school), and about 1.2 million away from school (49 percent of all crimes away from school) (tables 2.1 and 2.3). The victimization rate declined for thefts at school between 1992 and 1998 as it did for thefts away from school during this period (figure 2.1 and tables 2.2 and 2.4).
- Considering total nonfatal crime (theft plus violent crime), 12- through 18-year-old students were victims of about 2.7 million crimes while they were at school in 1998, and about 2.5 million away from school (tables 2.1 and 2.3). These represent victimization rates of 101 crimes per 1,000 students at school, and 95 crimes per 1,000 students away from school (figure 2.1 and tables 2.2 and 2.4).
- In 1998, the rates for serious violent crimes and theft were about the same for males and females at school, but higher for males than females away from school (figures 2.2 and 2.3 and tables 2.2 and 2.4).
- In 1998, 12- through 18-year-old students living outside urban areas were just as vulnerable to serious violent crime and theft at school as were urban students (figure 2.2 and table 2.2). Away from school, urban and suburban students were more vulnerable to serious violent crime and theft than were rural students (figure 2.3 and table 2.4).
- Younger students (ages 12 through 14) were more likely than older students (ages 15 through 18) to be victims of crime at school. However, older students were more likely than younger students to be victimized away from school (figures 2.2 and 2.3 and tables 2.2 and 2.4).

²The reader should be cautious in making comparisons between victimization rates on school property and elsewhere. These data do not take into account the number of hours that students spend on school property and the number of hours they spend elsewhere.

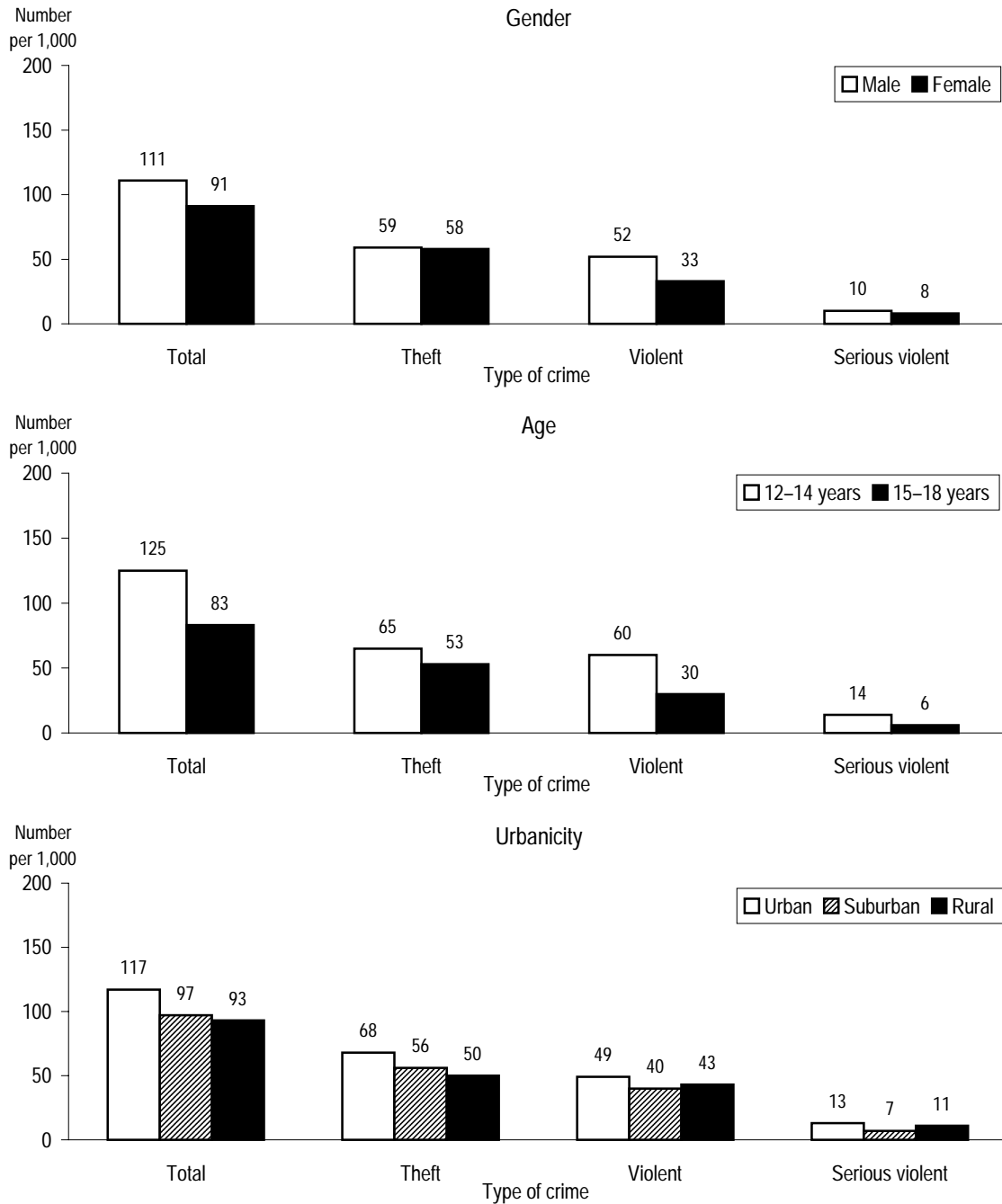
Figure 2.1.—Number of nonfatal crimes against students ages 12 through 18 per 1,000 students, by type of crime and location: 1992 to 1998



NOTE: Serious violent crimes include rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault. Violent crimes include serious violent crimes and simple assault. Total crimes include violent crimes and theft. "At school" includes inside the school building, on school property, or on the way to or from school.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 1992 to 1998.

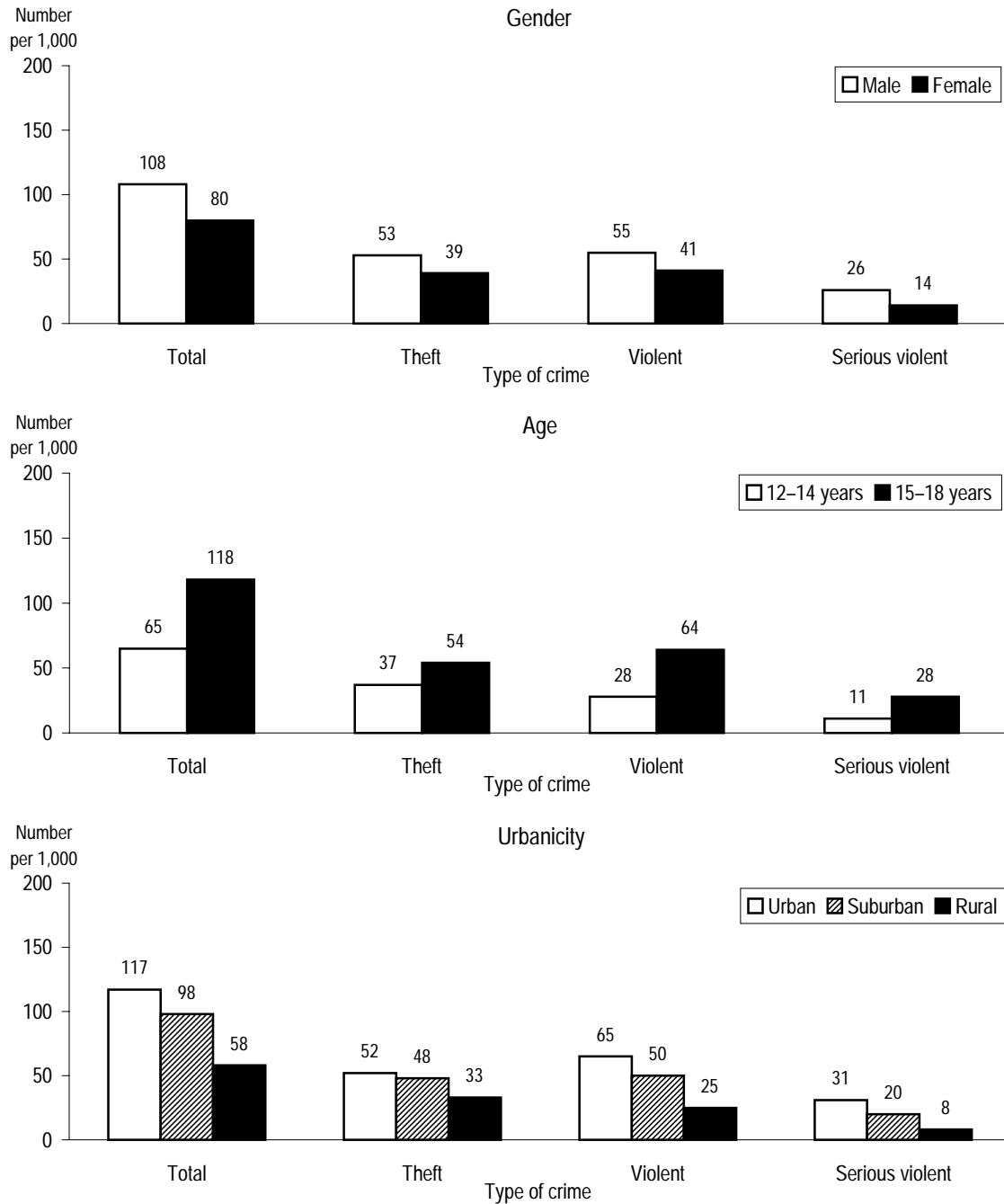
Figure 2.2.—Number of nonfatal crimes against students ages 12 through 18 occurring at school or going to or from school per 1,000 students, by type of crime and selected student characteristics: 1998



NOTE: Serious violent crimes include rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault. Violent crimes include serious violent crimes and simple assault. Total crimes include violent crimes and theft. "At school" includes inside the school building, on school property, or on the way to or from school. Detail may not add to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 1998.

Figure 2.3.—Number of nonfatal crimes against students ages 12 through 18 occurring away from school per 1,000 students, by type of crime and selected student characteristics: 1998



NOTE: Serious violent crimes include rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault. Violent crimes include serious violent crimes and simple assault. Total crimes include violent crimes and theft. Detail may not add to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 1998.

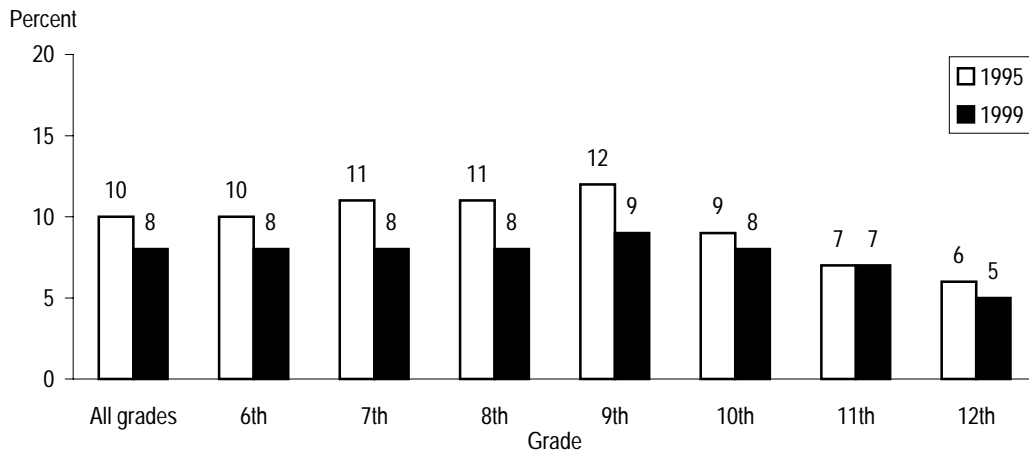
3. Prevalence of students being victimized at school*

Some of the crimes committed against students involve violence, while others involve their property. Presenting information on the prevalence of victimization for students helps clarify what percentage of students are affected by different types of crime.

*The data reported here are new.

- In 1999, a smaller percentage of students ages 12 through 18 reported being victims of nonfatal crimes (including either theft or violent crimes) at school during the previous 6 months than in 1995 (10 percent and 8 percent, respectively)(figure 3.1 and table 3.1). About 7 percent in 1995 were victims of theft compared with 6 percent in 1999. Also, 3 percent of students in 1995 reported being victims of violence at school compared with 2 percent in 1999.
- The decline in the prevalence of victimization between 1995 and 1999 was due in part to a decline for students in grades 7 through 9 (figure 3.1 and table 3.1). Between 1995 and 1999, the prevalence of reported victimization dropped from 11 percent to 8 percent for 7th graders, from 11 percent to 8 percent for 8th graders, and from 12 percent to 9 percent for 9th graders. During the same period, the prevalence of victimization remained relatively constant for 6th, 10th, 11th, and 12th graders.
- In both 1995 and 1999, public school students were more likely to report having been victims of violent crime during the previous 6 months than were private school students (table 3.1). Public school students were also more likely than private school students to report being victims of theft at school in 1995, but equally likely to experience theft in 1999.

Figure 3.1.—Percentage of students ages 12 through 18 who reported criminal victimization at school during the previous 6 months, by grade level: 1995 and 1999



NOTE: This figure presents the prevalence of total victimization, which is a combination of violent victimization and theft. "At school" means in the school building, on school property, or on the way to or from school. (See Technical Notes in appendix B for further information.)

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, School Crime Supplement to the National Crime Victimization Survey, January–June 1995 and 1999.

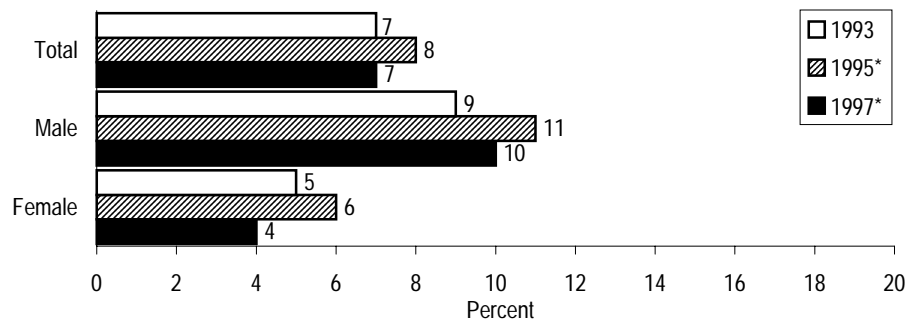
4. Prevalence of students being threatened or injured with a weapon on school property*

Every year, some students are threatened or injured with a weapon while they are on school property. The percentages of students victimized in this way provide an important measure of how safe our schools are and how this is changing over time.

*This indicator repeats information from the 1999 *Indicators of School Crime and Safety* report.

- The percentage of students in grades 9 through 12 who were threatened or injured with a weapon on school property in the 12 months before the survey has remained constant in recent years. In 1993, 1995, and 1997, about 7 to 8 percent of students reported being threatened or injured with a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club on school property in the past 12 months (figure 4.1 and table 4.1).
- In each survey year, males were more likely than females to report being threatened or injured with a weapon on school property (figure 4.1 and table 4.1). For example, in 1997, 10 percent of males reported being threatened or injured in the past year, compared with 4 percent of females. Moreover, the percentage of females who reported being threatened or injured declined slightly over the period—from about 5 percent in 1993 to 4 percent in 1997.
- Of 9th through 12th graders, those students in lower grades were more likely to be threatened or injured with a weapon on school property than were students in higher grades (figure 4.2 and table 4.1). For example, in 1993, 9 percent of 9th graders reported being threatened or injured, compared with 6 percent of 12th graders. The comparable percentages in 1997 were 10 percent for 9th graders and 6 percent for 12th graders.
- There were few racial/ethnic differences in the percentages of students being threatened or injured with a weapon on school property in the 12 months in each year (figure 4.3 and table 4.1). About the same percentage of students from each racial/ethnic group reported being threatened or injured.³

Figure 4.1.—Percentage of students in grades 9 through 12 who reported being threatened or injured with a weapon on school property during the last 12 months, by gender: 1993, 1995, and 1997



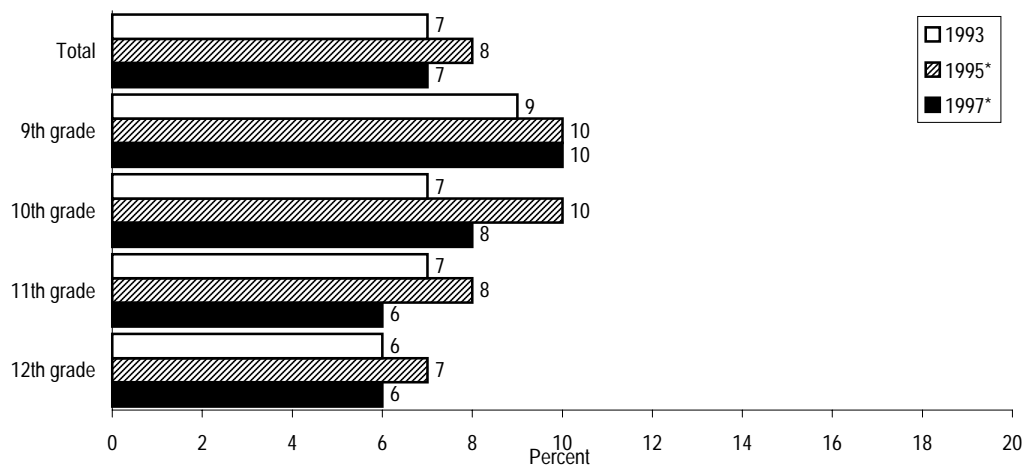
*The response rate for this survey was less than 70 percent and a full nonresponse bias analysis has not been done to date.

NOTE: "On school property" was not defined for survey respondents.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Health Interview Survey—Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 1993, 1995, and 1997.

³While there appear to be large differences among racial/ethnic groups, these differences are associated with large standard errors, making these estimates somewhat unreliable, and the differences are not statistically significant.

Figure 4.2.—Percentage of students in grades 9 through 12 who reported being threatened or injured with a weapon on school property during the last 12 months, by grade: 1993, 1995, and 1997

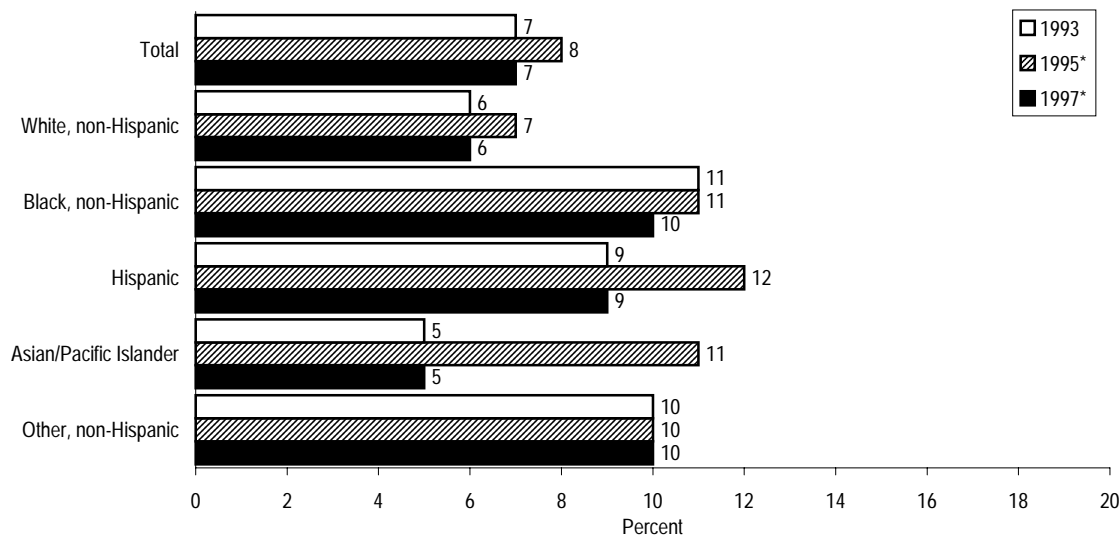


*The response rate for this survey was less than 70 percent and a full nonresponse bias analysis has not been done to date.

NOTE: "On school property" was not defined for survey respondents.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Health Interview Survey—Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 1993, 1995, and 1997.

Figure 4.3.—Percentage of students in grades 9 through 12 who reported being threatened or injured with a weapon on school property during the last 12 months, by race/ethnicity: 1993, 1995, and 1997



*The response rate for this survey was less than 70 percent and a full nonresponse bias analysis has not been done to date.

NOTE: "On school property" was not defined for survey respondents.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Health Interview Survey—Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 1993, 1995, and 1997.

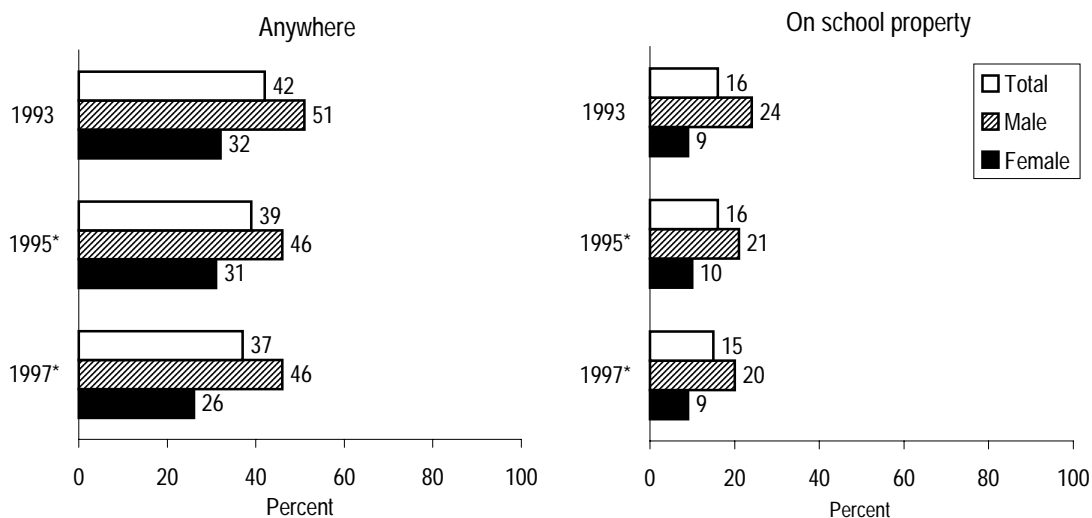
5. Prevalence of students involved in physical fights on school property*

Schools where there are numerous physical fights may not be able to maintain a focused learning environment. Students who are constantly involved in fights on school property cannot be ready to learn.

*This indicator repeats information from the 1999 *Indicators of School Crime and Safety* report.

- In 1997, about 15 percent of all students in grades 9 through 12 said that they had been in a physical fight on school property in the last 12 months (figure 5.1 and table 5.1). In that same year, 37 percent reported that they had been in a physical fight in any location (including on school property).
- The percentage of students who reported being in a fight anywhere declined slightly from 1993 to 1997—from 42 percent in 1993 to 37 percent in 1997 (figure 5.1 and table 5.1). However, the percentages of students who reported fighting on school property across these years were similar.
- Males were more likely than females to have been in a fight anywhere and on school property (figure 5.1 and table 5.1). In 1997, 46 percent of males said they had been in a fight in the last 12 months, and 20 percent said they had been in a fight on school property. In that same year, about 26 percent of females reported they had been in a fight, and 9 percent said they had been in a fight on school property.
- Of 9th through 12th graders, those students in lower grades reported being in more fights than students in higher grades anywhere and on school property (figure 5.2 and table 5.1). For example, in 1997, 21 percent of 9th graders reported that they were in a fight on school property in the last 12 months; in contrast, 10 percent of 12th graders were in fights on school property.

Figure 5.1.—Percentage of students in grades 9 through 12 who reported having been in a physical fight in the last 12 months, by gender: 1993, 1995, and 1997

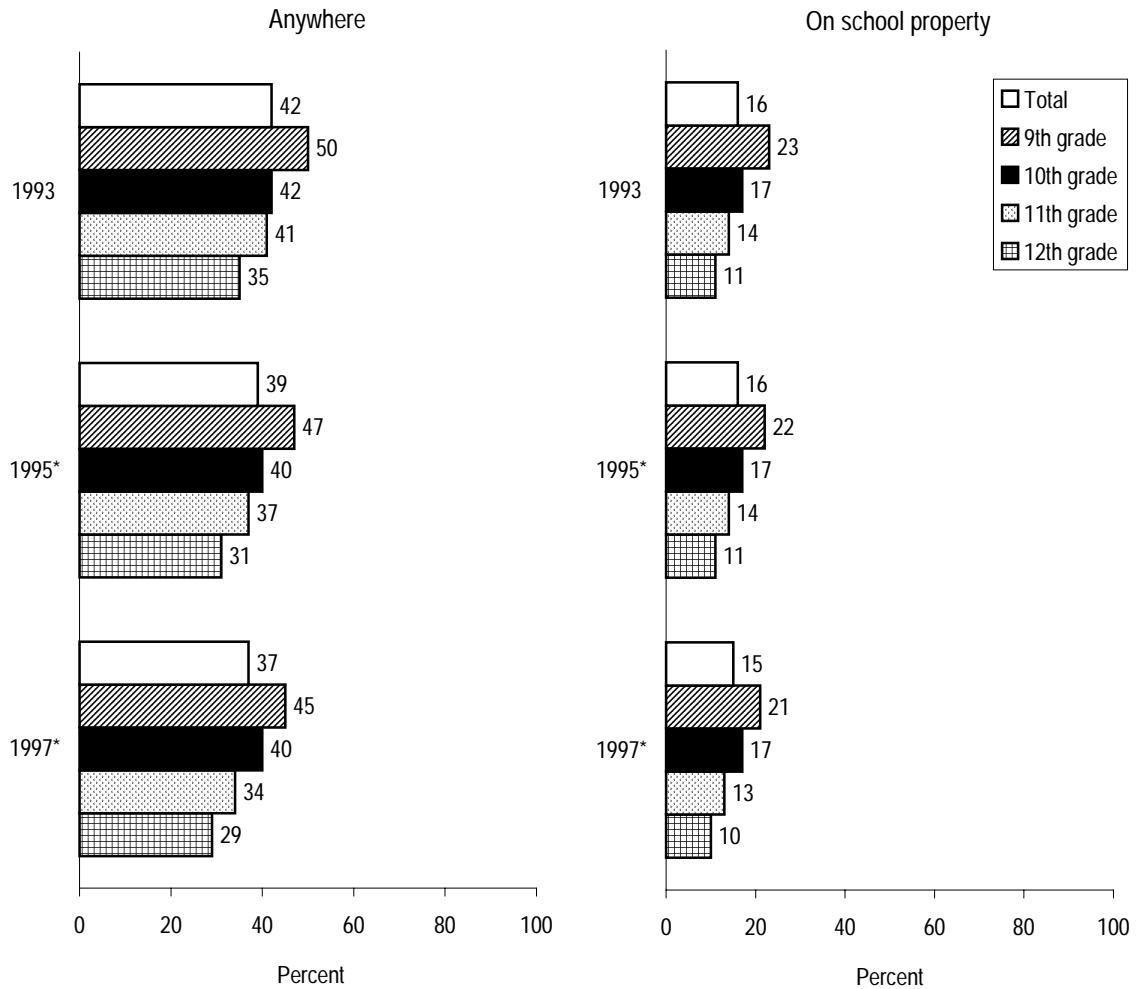


*The response rate for this survey was less than 70 percent and a full nonresponse bias analysis has not been done to date.

NOTE: "On school property" was not defined for survey respondents.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Health Interview Survey—Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 1993, 1995, and 1997.

Figure 5.2.—Percentage of students in grades 9 through 12 who reported having been in a physical fight in the last 12 months, by grade: 1993, 1995, and 1997



*The response rate for this survey was less than 70 percent and a full nonresponse bias analysis has not been done to date.

NOTE: "On school property" was not defined for survey respondents.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Health Interview Survey—Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 1993, 1995, and 1997.

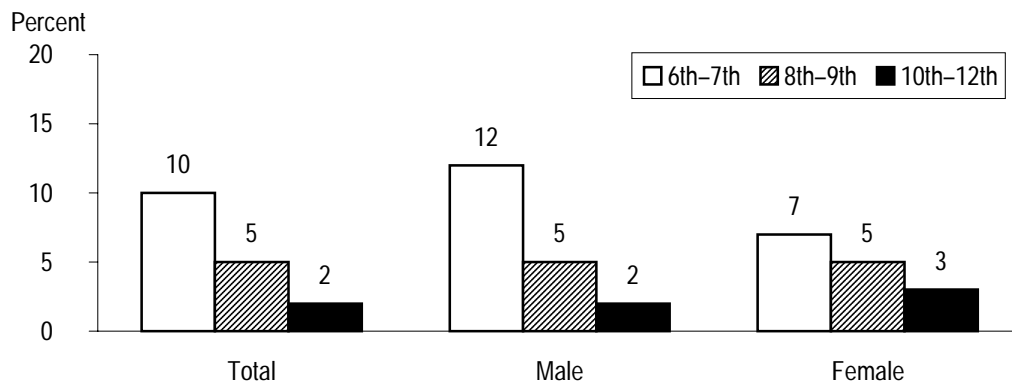
6. Prevalence of students being bullied at school*

Bullying contributes to a climate of fear and intimidation in schools. Students ages 12 through 18 were asked if they had been bullied (that is, picked on or made to do things they did not want to do) at school.

*The data reported here are from a different source than the data presented for this indicator in earlier editions.

- In 1999, about 5 percent of students ages 12 through 18 reported that they had been bullied at school in the last 6 months (table 6.1). In general, females were as likely as males to report being bullied.
- Males were more likely to be bullied in grades 6 and 7 than were females (12 percent versus 7 percent respectively), while there was little difference in the percentage of males and females being bullied in the other two grade levels (table 6.1 and figure 6.1).
- There were few differences among racial/ethnic groups in the percentage of students who reported being bullied (table 6.1). The exception was that white and black students were more likely to report being victimized by bullies than were students of other, non-Hispanic origin. About 2 percent in this group, which includes Asians, Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and Alaskan Natives, reported being bullied, compared with about 5 percent of white and 6 percent of black students.
- Students in lower grades were more likely to be bullied than students in higher grades (table 6.1 and figure 6.1). About 10 percent of students in grades 6 and 7 reported being bullied, compared with about 5 percent of students in grades 8 and 9 and about 2 percent in grades 10 through 12.

Figure 6.1.—Percentage of students ages 12 through 18 who reported being bullied at school during the previous 6 months, by grade level and gender: 1999



NOTE: "At school" means in the school building, on the school grounds, or on a school bus.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, School Crime Supplement to the National Crime Victimization Survey, January–June, 1999.

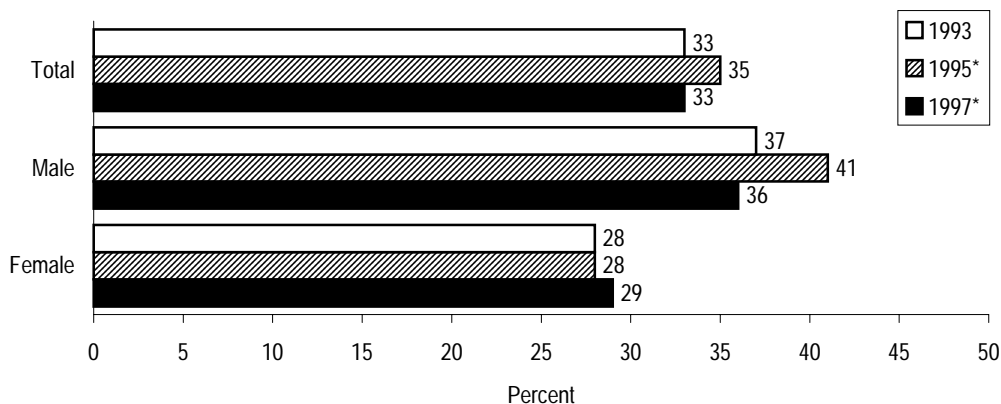
7. Prevalence of students having property stolen or deliberately damaged on school property*

One way that students are victimized at school is by having their personal property stolen or deliberately damaged. While less harmful than attacks on students themselves, such crimes have financial consequences and can divert students' attention from their studies as well as contribute to perceptions of schools as unsafe places.

*This indicator repeats information from the 1999 *Indicators of School Crime and Safety* report.

- It is relatively common for students to have something stolen or damaged on school property. In 1997, about one-third of all students in grades 9 through 12 said that someone stole or deliberately damaged their property, such as their car, clothing, or books, on school property during the last 12 months (figure 7.1 and table 7.1). This proportion was similar in 1993 and 1995.
- Generally, males were more likely than females to report being victims of theft or deliberate property damage on school property. In 1993, 1995, and 1997, about 28 percent of females reported being victimized, compared with 37 percent of males in 1993, 41 percent in 1995, and 36 percent in 1997 (table 7.1).
- Students in lower grades were more likely than students in higher grades to report having something stolen or deliberately damaged at school (figure 7.2 and table 7.1). For example, in 1997, 37 percent of 9th graders had something of theirs damaged or stolen, compared with 28 percent of 12th graders.

Figure 7.1.—Percentage of students in grades 9 through 12 who reported having their property stolen or deliberately damaged on school property during the last 12 months, by gender: 1993, 1995, and 1997

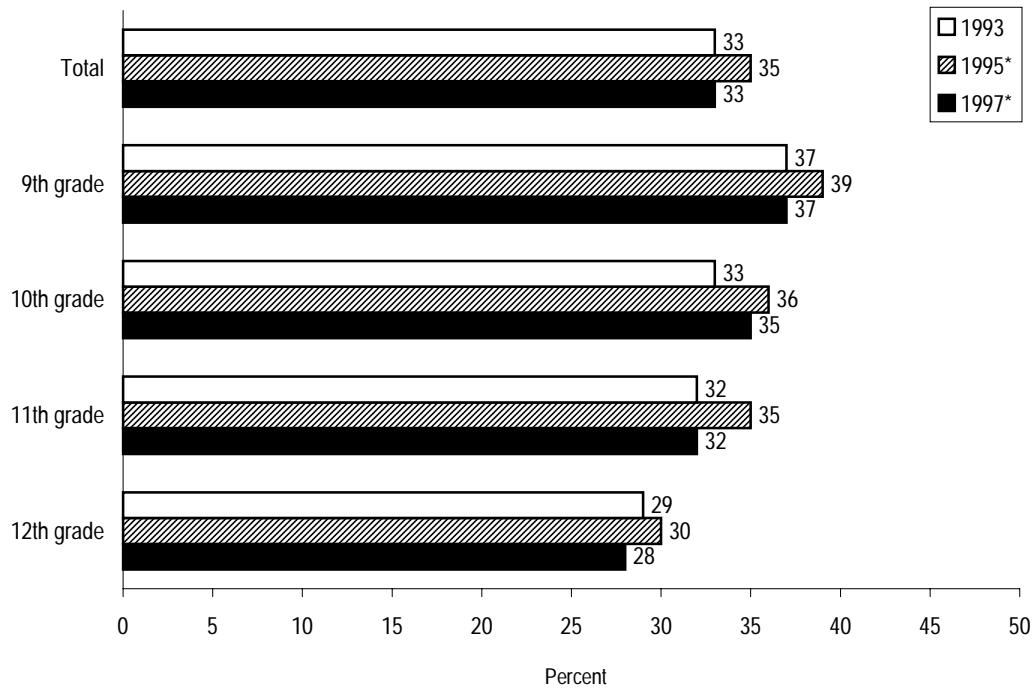


*The response rate for this survey was less than 70 percent and a full nonresponse bias analysis has not been done to date.

NOTE: "On school property" was not defined for survey respondents.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Health Interview Survey—Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 1993, 1995, and 1997.

Figure 7.2.—Percentage of students in grades 9 through 12 who reported having their property stolen or deliberately damaged on school property during the last 12 months, by grade: 1993, 1995, and 1997



*The response rate for this survey was less than 70 percent and a full nonresponse bias analysis has not been done to date.

NOTE: "On school property" was not defined for survey respondents.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Health Interview Survey—Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 1993, 1995, and 1997.