

## What is The School Survey on Crime and Safety (SSOCS)?

The School Survey on Crime and Safety is a national survey of elementary and secondary public school principals that collects information on school safety, including the frequency of school crime and violence, disciplinary actions, and school practices related to the prevention and reduction of crime. SSOCS is one of the nation's primary sources of school-level data on crime and safety. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), it has been administered three times since 1999 to nationally representative samples of schools and will be conducted again in the spring of the 2007-08 school year. Your school has been selected to participate in this new wave of data collection.

## Why is SSOCS important?

To address school crime, parents, school staff, and policymakers must understand the extent and nature of the problem. SSOCS is designed to provide measures of crime and safety in the nation's public schools. Some findings from the 2005-06 school year:

- 7,300 schools reported that at least one of their students was threatened with a physical attack with a weapon;
- About twice as many middle schools reported that student bullying occurred at school daily or weekly (43 percent) as did high schools or primary schools; and
- Around 40 percent of schools drilled students on a written plan describing procedures to follow in case of a shooting,

83 percent of schools drilled students on a written plan for natural disasters, and 28 percent of schools drilled students on a written plan for chemical, biological, or radiological threats or incidents.

## What topics are covered in the questionnaire?

- School policies and programs concerning crime and safety;
- Student and teacher involvement in efforts to prevent or reduce school violence;
- Frequency and types of disciplinary actions such as expulsions, transfers, and suspensions for selected offenses; and
- Frequency and types of crimes at school, including rape, sexual battery, physical attack, robbery, theft, and vandalism.



## Why was my school selected?

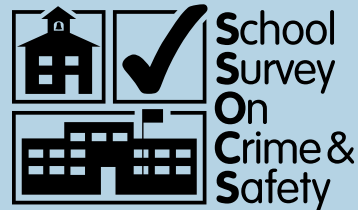
There are more than 80,000 public schools in the U.S. and only a small proportion can be surveyed at one time. Your school was selected to represent schools similar to yours from across the nation. Your participation is important so the results represent the diversity of America's public schools.

## Do individual school data remain confidential?

To protect the identification of individual cases, all direct identifiers, as well as any information that might lead to identification of your school, are omitted or modified in the public-use dataset. Any effort to determine the identity of a school by data users is prohibited by law. All responses that relate to or describe identifiable characteristics may be used only for statistical purposes, except as provided for in the Patriot Act (P.L. 107-056, Section 508). Violations are subject to Class E felony charges of a fine up to \$250,000 and/or a prison term up to 5 years.

## Where can I find more information about SSOCS?

To see reports, publications, and other information on the SSOCS, please visit the SSOCS website at <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/SSOCS>. Recent reports and public-use data can be ordered free of charge from ED Pubs online at <http://www.edpubs.org> or by calling 1-877-4-ED-PUBS, while supplies last.



# The School Survey on Crime and Safety (SSOCS)



National Center for Education Statistics  
Institute of Education Sciences

1990 K Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20006-5651

[nces.ed.gov](http://nces.ed.gov)  
202-502-7300

[www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)



[ies.ed.gov](http://ies.ed.gov)

**ies** NATIONAL CENTER FOR  
EDUCATION STATISTICS  
Institute of Education Sciences