

# the condition of education 2007



## INDICATOR 36

# School Violence and Safety

The indicator and corresponding tables are taken directly from *The Condition of Education 2007*. Therefore, the page numbers may not be sequential.

Additional information about the survey data and supplementary notes can be found in the full report. For a copy of *The Condition of Education 2007*, visit the NCES website (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2007064>) or contact ED PUBs at 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

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# School Characteristics and Climate

## School Violence and Safety

*Between 1992 and 2004, the rate of nonfatal crime against students ages 12–18 at school declined 62 percent.*

Theft and violence that occur at school<sup>1</sup> can lead to a disruptive and threatening environment, physical injury, and emotional stress (Elliot, Hamburg, and Williams 1998). To measure the frequency of theft and violence in our nation's schools, this indicator examines nonfatal crime rates per 1,000 students, ages 12–18, from 1992 through 2004. Nonfatal crime includes theft and all violent crime; all violent crime includes serious violent crimes (rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault) and simple assault.

From 1992 through 2004, the rate of nonfatal crime against students at school declined 62 percent (from 144 to 55 crimes per 1,000 students) (see supplemental table 36-1). During the same time period, the rate of crimes against students at school declined 65 percent for theft (from 95 to 33 crimes per 1,000 students) and 54 percent for violent crimes (from 48 to 22 crimes per 1,000 students). Between 2003 and 2004, the rate of nonfatal crime against students ages 12–18 at school declined 25 percent (from 73 to 55 crimes per 1,000 students). The rate of thefts against students at school

declined 27 percent during the same time period (from 45 to 33 crimes per 1,000 students).

From 1992 through 2004, the rates for serious violent crime were lower when students were at school than when they were away from school. However, students were generally more likely to be victims of theft at school than away from school.

In 2004, a higher percentage of middle school-age students (ages 12–14) than high school-age students (ages 15–18) were victims of crime at school (64 vs. 46 crimes per 1,000 students) (see supplemental table 36-2). In contrast, middle school-age students were less likely to be victims of crime away from school than were high school-age students (34 vs. 61 crimes per 1,000 students). Differences were also found by students' household location. The rates of violent crime at school were higher for urban students than for suburban students. Furthermore, rates of violent crime away from school, especially serious violent crime, were also higher for urban students than suburban students. However, rural students experienced higher rates of theft away from school than urban or suburban students.

<sup>1</sup> "At school" includes inside the school building, on school property, or on the way to and from school.

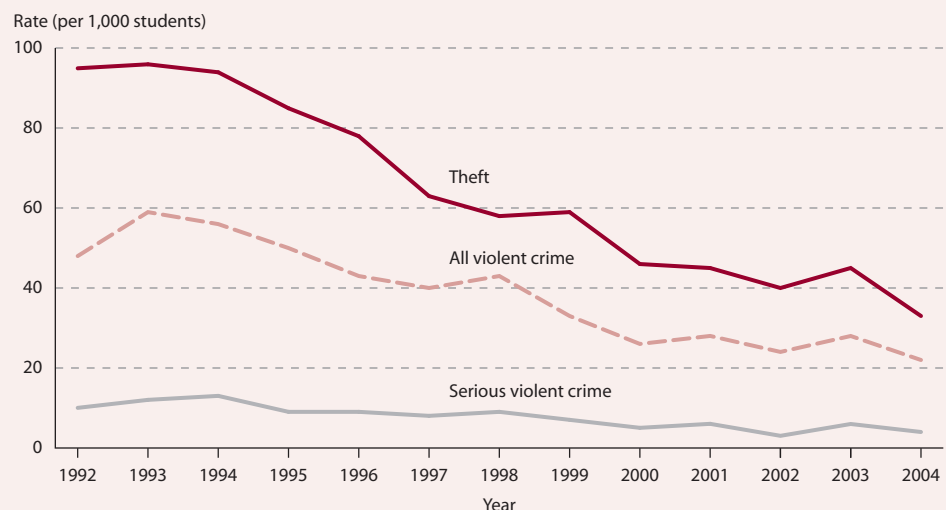
SOURCE: Dinkes, R., Cataldi, E.F., Kena, G., and Baum, K. (2006). *Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2006* (NCES 2007-003/NCJ 214262), table 2.1, data from U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, School Crime Supplement (SCS) to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), 1992–2004.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
Supplemental Notes 1, 3  
Supplemental Tables 36-1,  
36-2

Elliott, Hamburg, and  
Williams 1998

**TRENDS IN VICTIMIZATION: Rate of nonfatal crime against students ages 12–18 at school or on the way to or from school per 1,000 students, by type of crime: 1992–2004**



## School Violence and Safety

**Table 36-1. Rate of nonfatal crime against students ages 12–18 at school and away from school per 1,000 students, by type of crime: 1992–2004**

Location and year	Total	Theft	Violent crime	
			All violent crime	Serious violent crime
<b>At school</b>				
1992	144	95	48	10
1993	155	96	59	12
1994	150	94	56	13
1995	135	85	50	9
1996	121	78	43	9
1997	102	63	40	8
1998	101	58	43	9
1999	92	59	33	7
2000	72	46	26	5
2001	73	45	28	6
2002	64	40	24	3
2003	73	45	28	6
2004	55	33	22	4
<b>Away from school</b>				
1992	138	68	71	32
1993	139	69	70	35
1994	129	60	69	33
1995	119	61	58	23
1996	117	62	55	26
1997	117	58	59	24
1998	95	46	48	21
1999	78	39	39	18
2000	74	40	34	14
2001	61	33	28	11
2002	55	29	26	11
2003	60	28	32	12
2004	48	27	21	9

NOTE: Total nonfatal crime includes violent crime and theft. Violent crime includes serious violent crime and simple assault. Serious violent crime includes rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault. "At school" includes inside the school building, on school property, or on the way to or from school. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. See *supplemental note 3* for more information about the National Crime Victimization Survey. SOURCE: Dinkes, R., Cataldi, E.F., Kena, G., and Baum, K. (2006). *Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2006* (NCES 2007-003/NCJ 214262), table 2.1, data from U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, School Crime Supplement (SCS) to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), 1992–2004.

## School Violence and Safety

**Table 36-2. Rate of nonfatal crime against students ages 12–18 at school and away from school per 1,000 students, by type of crime and selected student characteristics: 2004**

Student characteristic	At school				Away from school			
	Total	Theft	Violent crime		Total	Theft	Violent crime	
			All violent crime	Serious violent crime			All violent crime	Serious violent crime
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>9</b>
Sex								
Male	57	31	27	4	52	28	24	11
Female	52	35	17	4	43	25	18	6
Age								
12–14	64	34	30	5	34	18	16	7
15–18	46	31	15	3!	61	35	26	10
Race/ethnicity <sup>1</sup>								
White	60	35	25	5	52	30	22	8
Black	60	34	26	4!	57	21	36	19
Hispanic	39	27	12	‡	30	22	8!	‡
Other	38	29	10!	‡	39	22	17!	‡
Location								
Urban	62	33	28	6!	49	22	28	13
Suburban	51	33	17	4	43	25	18	6
Rural	57	30	27	‡	60	40	20	9!
Household income								
Less than \$15,000	45	16	29	‡	45	23	22	13!
\$15,000–29,999	41	21	21	‡	91	45	45	15
\$30,000–49,999	50	32	18	‡	16	9	7!	3!
\$50,000–74,999	84	44	41	8!	74	39	35	14
\$75,000 or more	62	44	18	4!	32	23	9	3!

! Interpret data with caution (estimates are unstable).

‡ Reporting standards not met (too few cases).

<sup>1</sup> Other includes Asian, Pacific Islander, and American Indian (including Alaska Native). Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity.

NOTE: Total nonfatal crime includes violent crime and theft. Violent crime includes serious violent crime and simple assault. Serious violent crime includes rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault. "At school" includes inside the school building, on school property, or on the way to or from school. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. See *supplemental note 3* for more information about the National Crime Victimization Survey.

SOURCE: Dinkes, R., Cataldi, E.F., Kena, G., and Baum, K. (2006). *Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2006* (NCES 2007-003/NCJ 214262), tables 2.2 and 2.3, data from U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, School Crime Supplement (SCS) to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), 2004.

## School Violence and Safety

**Table S36-1. Standard errors for the rate of nonfatal crime against students ages 12–18 at school and away from school per 1,000 students, by type of crime: 1992–2004**

Location and year	Total	Theft	Violent crime	
			All violent crime	Serious violent crime
<b>At school</b>				
1992	7.2	5.8	4.0	1.7
1993	5.7	4.4	3.4	1.4
1994	4.9	3.8	2.9	1.3
1995	4.6	3.6	2.7	1.0
1996	4.6	3.6	2.6	1.0
1997	4.3	3.3	2.6	1.0
1998	4.8	3.3	3.1	1.7
1999	4.3	3.4	2.4	1.0
2000	3.8	3.0	2.1	0.8
2001	3.9	2.9	2.2	0.9
2002	3.5	2.7	2.0	0.7
2003	3.5	2.7	2.3	1.0
2004	3.0	2.3	2.0	0.8
<b>Away from school</b>				
1992	7.1	4.8	4.9	3.2
1993	5.4	3.7	3.7	2.5
1994	4.5	3.0	3.2	2.1
1995	4.3	3.0	2.9	1.8
1996	4.5	3.2	2.9	1.9
1997	4.7	3.2	3.2	2.0
1998	4.8	3.3	3.1	1.7
1999	3.9	2.6	2.6	1.7
2000	3.9	2.8	2.5	1.5
2001	3.5	2.5	2.2	1.3
2002	3.2	2.2	2.1	1.3
2003	3.1	2.0	2.5	1.4
2004	2.8	2.0	2.0	1.2

SOURCE: Dinkes, R., Cataldi, E.F., Kena, G., and Baum, K. (2006). *Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2006* (NCES 2007-003/NCJ 214262), table S2.1, data from U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, School Crime Supplement (SCS) to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), 1992–2004.

## School Violence and Safety

**Table S36-2. Standard errors for the rate of nonfatal crime against students ages 12–18 at school and away from school per 1,000 students, by type of crime and selected student characteristics: 2004**

Student characteristic	At school				Away from school			
	Total	Theft	Violent crime		Total	Theft	Violent crime	
			All violent crime	Serious violent crime			All violent crime	Serious violent crime
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>1.2</b>
Sex								
Male	4.1	2.9	3.0	1.1	3.9	2.8	2.8	1.9
Female	4.0	3.2	2.4	1.1	3.6	2.7	2.5	1.4
Age								
12–14	4.4	3.2	3.3	1.3	3.2	2.3	2.3	1.5
15–18	3.6	3.0	2.2	0.9	4.2	3.1	3.0	1.8
Race/ethnicity								
White	3.9	2.9	2.7	1.1	3.6	2.7	2.5	1.5
Black	7.2	5.3	5.2	2.0	7.0	4.2	6.1	4.4
Hispanic	5.2	4.3	3.1	†	4.5	3.8	2.6	†
Other	8.7	7.5	4.7	†	8.7	6.6	6.2	†
Location								
Urban	5.6	4.0	4.1	1.8	5.0	3.2	4.0	2.7
Suburban	3.7	2.9	2.3	1.0	3.4	2.5	2.3	1.3
Rural	6.6	4.7	4.9	†	6.8	5.5	4.2	2.8
Household income								
Less than \$15,000	8.0	4.8	7.0	†	7.9	5.6	6.0	4.6
\$15,000–29,999	6.1	4.3	4.7	†	9.1	6.4	7.0	4.0
\$30,000–49,999	6.0	4.8	3.9	†	3.3	2.5	2.4	1.6
\$50,000–74,999	8.4	6.0	6.4	2.8	7.8	5.7	5.8	3.7
\$75,000 or more	5.9	5.0	3.4	1.6	4.2	3.5	2.3	1.3

† Not applicable.

SOURCE: Dinkes, R., Cataldi, E.F., Kena, G., and Baum, K. (2006). *Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2006* (NCES 2007-003/NCJ 214262), tables S2.2 and S2.3, data from U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, School Crime Supplement (SCS) to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), 2004.