

**Table 77.—Opinions of public school teachers, law enforcement officials, and public school students about why students carry weapons to school: 1998–99**

Reasons students carry weapons to school	Percent of teachers	Percent of law enforcement officials	Percent of students <sup>1</sup>
1	2	3	4
To impress friends/be accepted by peers .....	46	25	60
For protection/self defense/fear going to and from school .....	38	59	49
For protection/self defense/fear in school .....	24	53	34
For self-esteem/to feel powerful or important .....	19	27	59
Used for hunting/regular daily equipment/culturally accepted .....	9	5	—
Because they want to hurt someone .....	7	11	32
Forgot to leave at home .....	3	5	1
To intimidate/threaten/frighten .....	2	3	—
Because friends carry weapons .....	2	—	33
Anger/frustration/fear .....	2	—	—
Gang-related .....	1	—	—
Part of work equipment/used as tool .....	—	—	1
They don't carry weapons .....	—	—	( <sup>2</sup> )
Other (specify) .....	6	5	7
Don't know .....	2	3	—

<sup>1</sup> Grades 7–12 only.

<sup>2</sup> Response was less than 0.5 percent.

—No responses.

SOURCE: Metropolitan Life/Louis Harris Associates, Inc., The Metropolitan Life Survey of The American Teacher, 1999, "Violence In America's Public Schools: Five Years Later." (This table was prepared August 1999.)