

**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. Even though crime has decreased in recent years, theft and violence at school and while going to and from school still can lead to disruptive and threatening environments, reducing student performance.

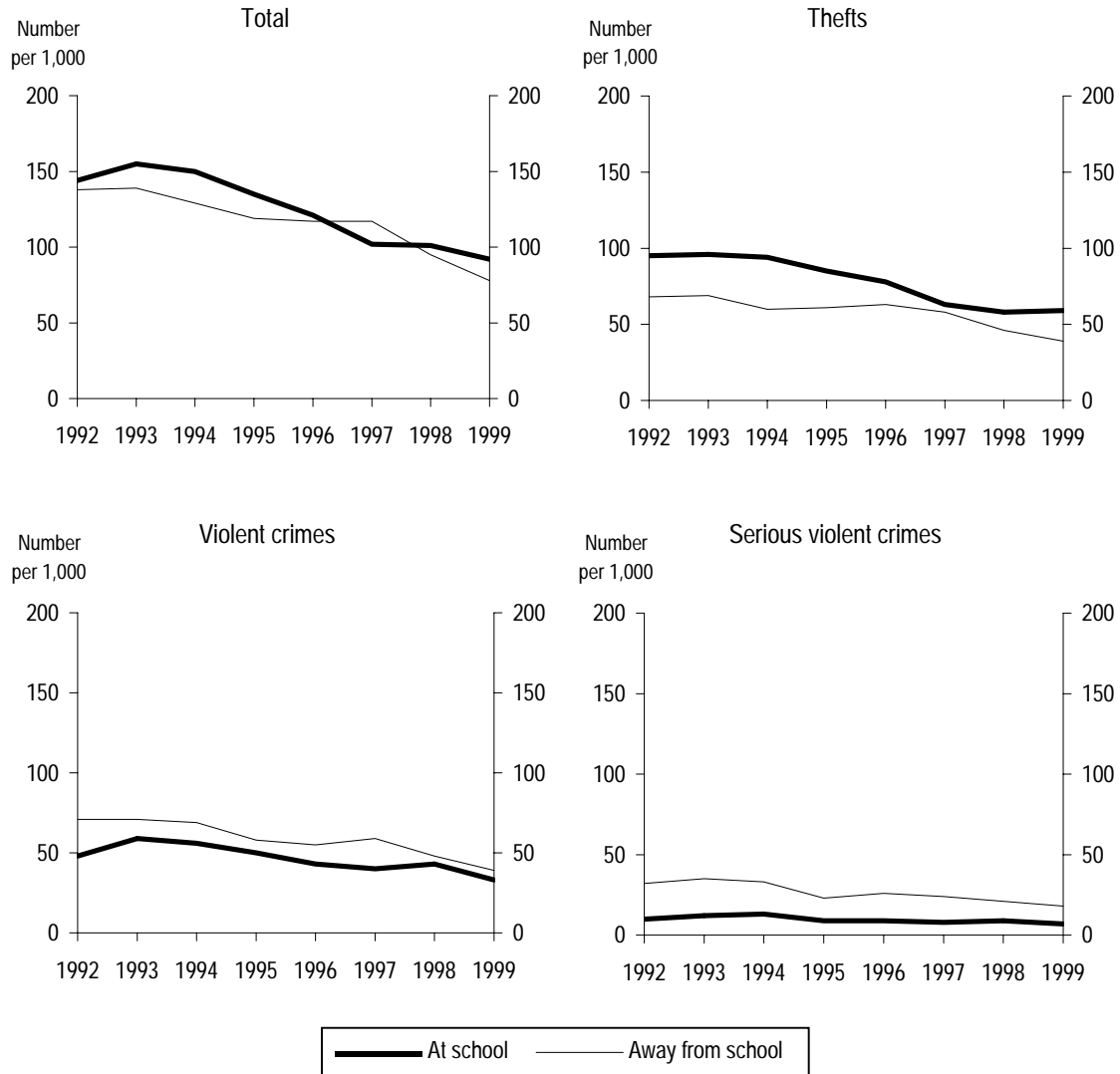
*This indicator has been updated to include 1999 data.

- 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.² In 1999, students in this age group were victims of about 186,000 such crimes at school, and about 476,000 away from school (tables 2.1 and 2.3). The victimization rate for serious violent crime at school and away from school generally declined from 1992 to 1999 (figure 2.1 and tables 2.2 and 2.4).
- Students ages 12 through 18 were victims of about 880,000 nonfatal violent crimes (that is, serious violent crime plus simple assault) at school, and about 1.1 million away from school in 1999 (tables 2.1 and 2.3). There was a general decline in the violent victimization rate between 1992 and 1999 at school as well as away from school (from 48 to 33 and from 71 to 39 per 1,000 students ages 12 through 18, respectively) (figure 2.1 and tables 2.2 and 2.4). For each year from 1992 through 1997, the victimization rates for nonfatal violent crime were lower at school than away from school but these rates were similar in 1998 and 1999.³
- Students were more likely to be victims of theft at school than away from school for most years between 1992 and 1999. In 1999, about 1.6 million thefts occurred at school (64 percent of all crimes at school), and about 1.0 million occurred away from school (50 percent of all crimes away from school) (tables 2.1 and 2.3). The victimization rate declined for thefts at school between 1992 and 1999 as it did for thefts away from school during this period (figure 2.1 and tables 2.2 and 2.4).
- Considering nonfatal crime (theft plus violent crime), students were victims of about 2.5 million crimes while they were at school in 1999, and about 2.1 million away from school (tables 2.1 and 2.3). These represent victimization rates of 92 crimes per 1,000 students at school, and 78 crimes per 1,000 students away from school (figure 2.1 and tables 2.2 and 2.4).
- In 1999, the rates for serious violent crimes 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 the same year, rates of theft were similar for males and females both at school and away from school.
- In 1999, students living in urban and suburban areas experienced serious violent crime at school at similar rates (figure 2.2 and table 2.2). Away from school, urban students were more vulnerable to serious violent crime than were suburban students, and suburban students were more likely to experience serious violent victimization than were rural students (figure 2.3 and table 2.4). However, student vulnerability to theft in 1999 was similar in urban, suburban, and rural areas both at and away from school (figures 2.2 and 2.3 and tables 2.2 and 2.4).
- Younger students (ages 12 through 14) were victimized at a higher rate than older students (ages 15 through 18) at school (figures 2.2 and 2.3 and tables 2.2 and 2.4). However, older students were more likely than younger students to be victimized away from school.

²“Students” refers to persons 12 through 18 years of age who have attended any grade equal to or less than high school. An uncertain percentage of these persons may not have attended school during the survey reference period.

³These data do not take into account the number of hours that students spend at school and the number of hours they spend away from school.

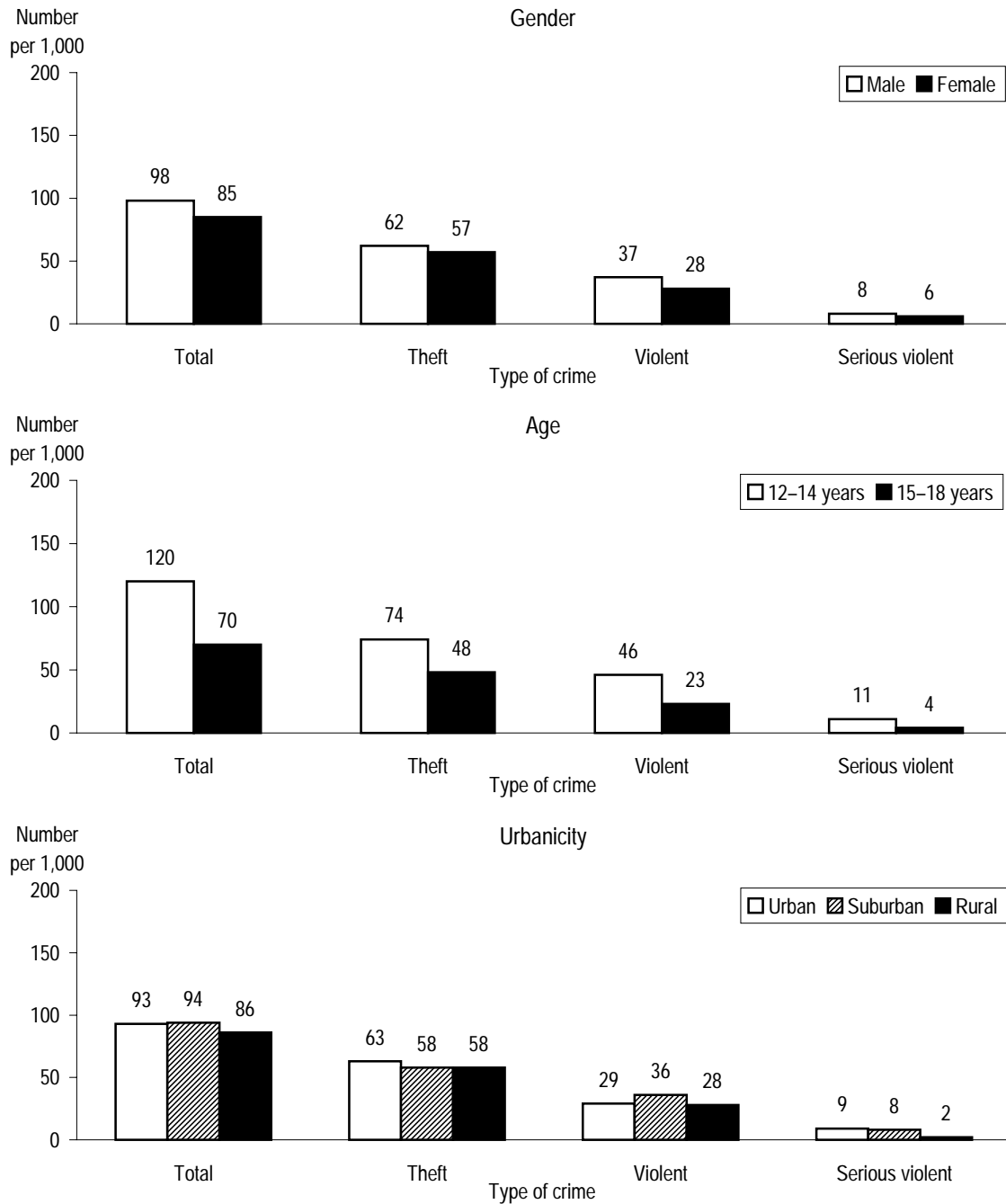
Figure 2.1.—Number of nonfatal crimes against students ages 12 through 18 per 1,000 students, by type of crime and location: 1992 to 1999



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 1999.

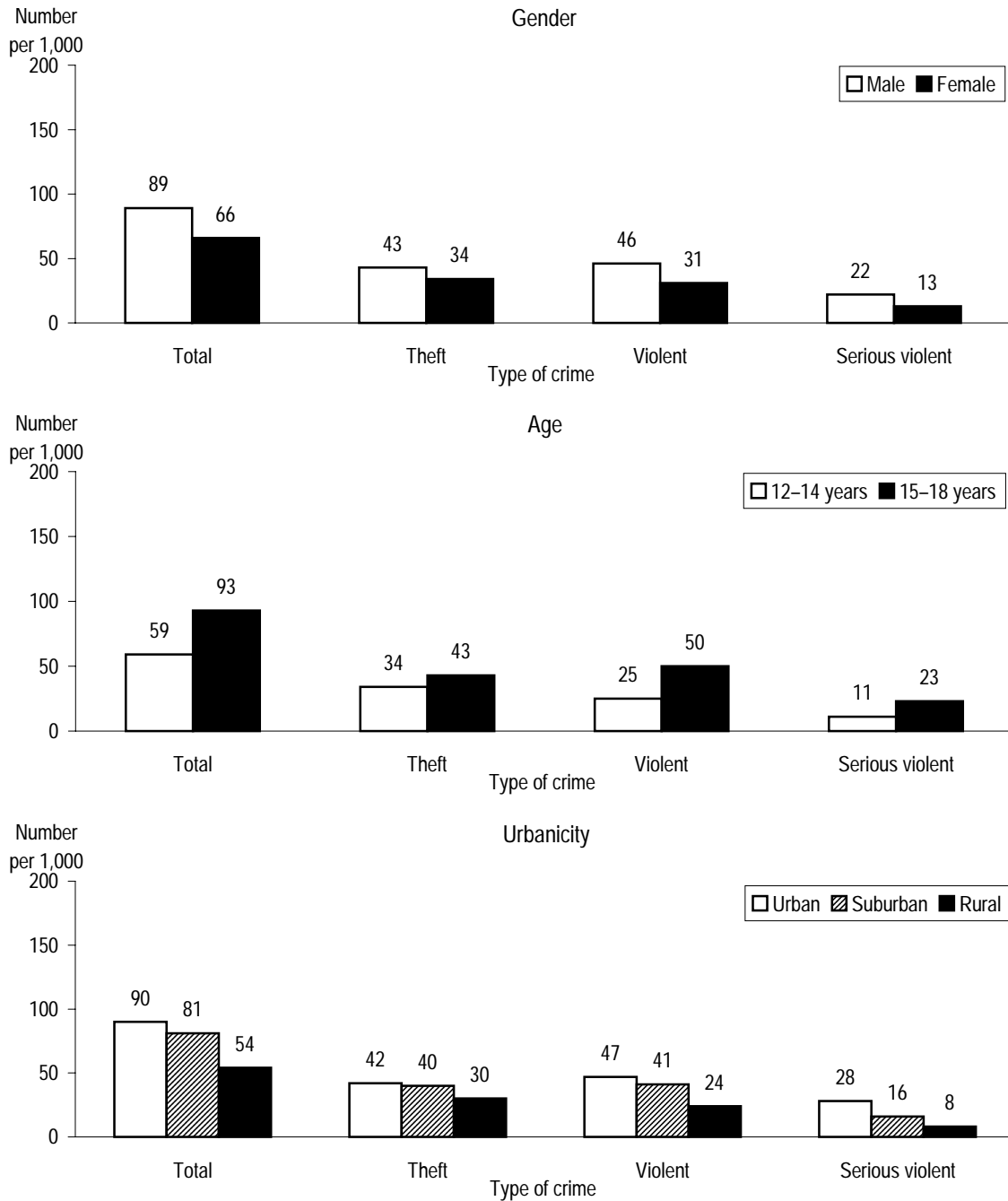
Figure 2.2.—Number of nonfatal crimes against students ages 12 through 18 occurring at school or going to or from school per 1,000 students, by type of crime and selected student characteristics: 1999



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, 1999.

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: 1999



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, 1999.

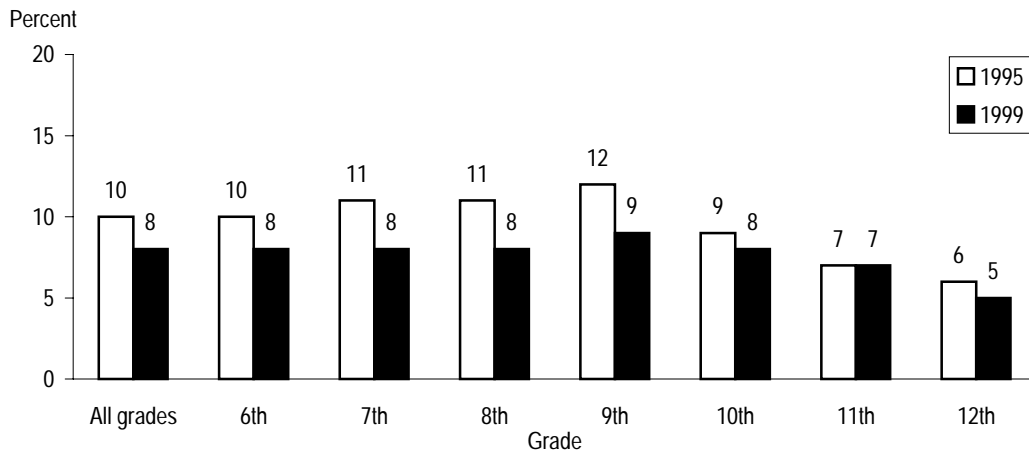
3. Prevalence of students being victimized at school*

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.

*This indicator repeats information from the 2000 Indicators of School Crime and Safety report.

- 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.

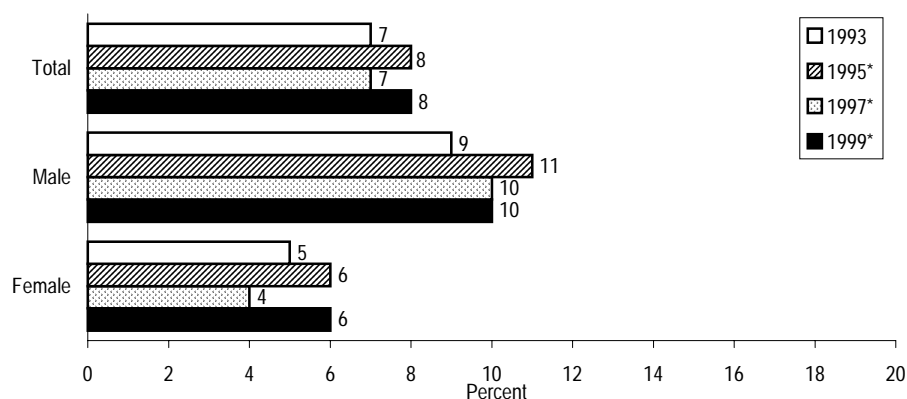
4. Prevalence of students being threatened or injured with a weapon on school property*

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 has been updated to include 1999 data.

- 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 (figure 4.1 and table 4.1). In 1993, 1995, 1997, and 1999, 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 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 1999, 10 percent of males reported being threatened or injured in the past year, compared with 6 percent of females.
- Of 9th through 12th grade students, 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 in all survey years (figure 4.2 and table 4.1).
- There were no racial/ethnic differences in the percentages of students being threatened or injured with a weapon on school property in 1999 (table 4.1).⁴

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, 1997, and 1999



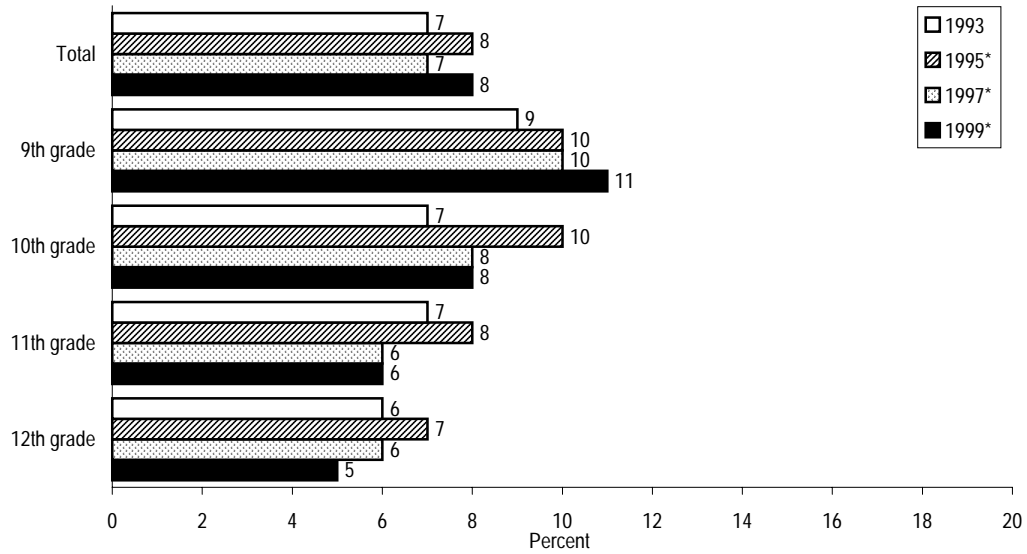
*The response rate for this survey was less than 70 percent and a full nonresponse bias analysis has not been done to date.

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

SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS), "Youth Risk Behavior Survey" (YRBS), 1993, 1995, 1997, and 1999.

⁴While there appear to be large differences among racial/ethnic groups, these differences are associated with large standard errors and 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, 1997, and 1999



*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: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS), "Youth Risk Behavior Survey" (YRBS), 1993, 1995, 1997, and 1999.

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

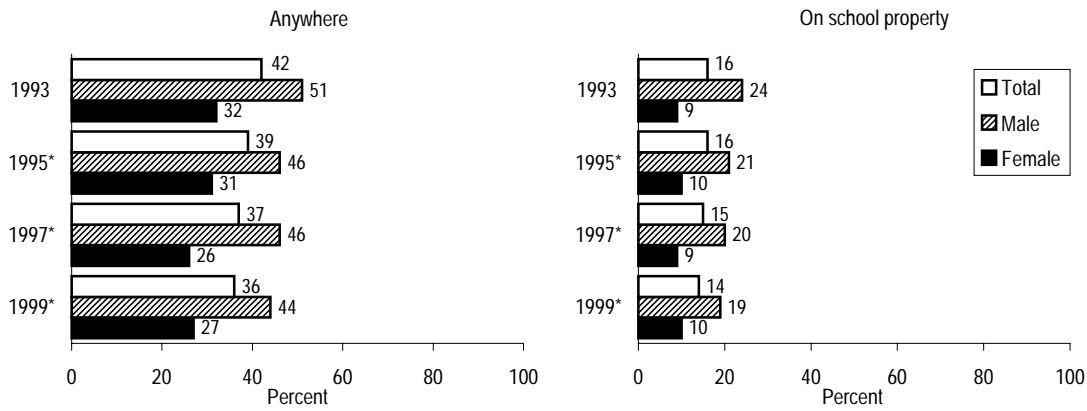
Schools where there are numerous physical fights may not be able to maintain a focused learning environment. Students who are constantly involved in fights on school property cannot be ready to learn.

*This indicator has been updated to include 1999 data.

- In all years, students were more likely to report being in a fight anywhere⁵ than to report being in a fight on school property in the last 12 months (figure 5.1 and table 5.1). In 1999, 36 percent of students in grades 9 through 12 reported that they had been in a physical fight anywhere. In that same year, about 14 percent of all students said that they had been in a physical fight on school property.
- The percentage of students who reported being in a fight anywhere declined from 1993 to 1999—from 42 percent in 1993 to 36 percent in 1999 (figure 5.1 and table 5.1). Similarly, the percentages of students who reported fighting on school property for these years also declined, from 16 percent in 1993 to 14 percent in 1999.
- In all survey years, 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 1999, 44 percent of males said they had been in a fight anywhere, and 19 percent said they had been in a fight on school property. In that same year, about 27 percent of females reported they had been in a fight anywhere, and 10 percent said they had been in a fight on school property.
- Of 9th through 12th grade students, those in lower grades reported being in more fights than students in higher grades anywhere and on school property in all survey years (figure 5.2 and table 5.1).
- In 1999, Asian students were less likely than students from other racial/ethnic backgrounds to report being in a fight anywhere (23 percent for Asian students compared to 33 to 51 percents for all other students) (table 5.1). In addition, they were less likely to report being in a fight on school property than black or African American, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, and Hispanic or Latino students (10 percent compared to 19, 25, and 16 percent, respectively).

⁵The term “anywhere” is not used in the YRBS questionnaire. Rather, students are simply asked how many times in the last 12 months they had been in a physical fight.

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, 1997, and 1999

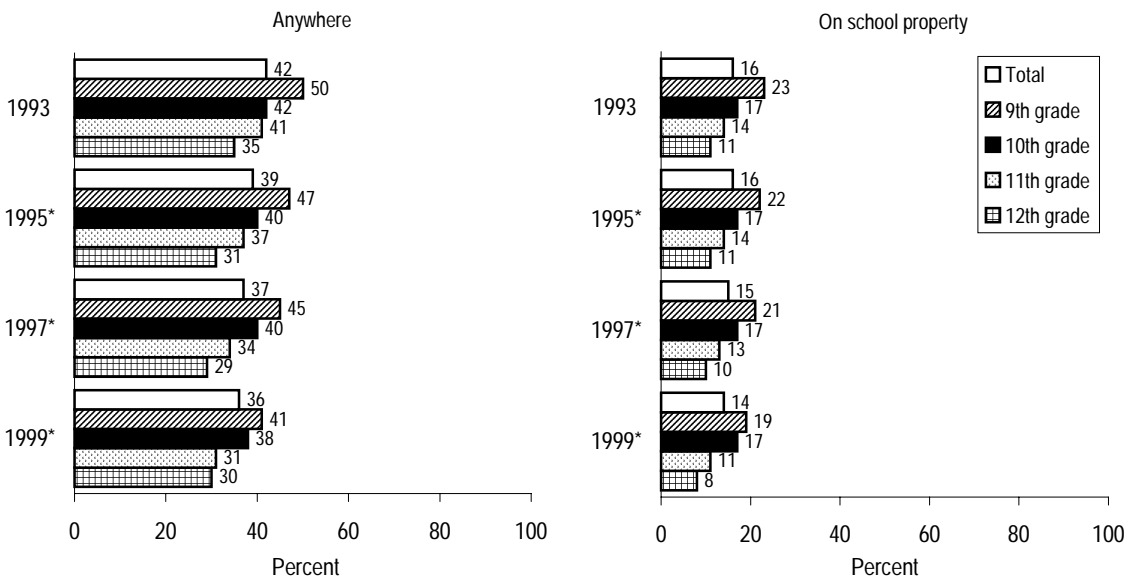


*The response rate for this survey was less than 70 percent and a full nonresponse bias analysis has not been done to date.

NOTE: "On school property" was not defined for survey respondents. The term "anywhere" is not used in the YRBS questionnaire. Rather, students are simply asked how many times in the last 12 months they had been in a physical fight.

SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS), "Youth Risk Behavior Survey" (YRBS), 1993, 1995, 1997, and 1999.

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, 1997, and 1999



*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. The term "anywhere" is not used in the YRBS questionnaire. Rather, students are simply asked how many times in the last 12 months they had been in a physical fight.

SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS), "Youth Risk Behavior Survey" (YRBS), 1993, 1995, 1997, and 1999.

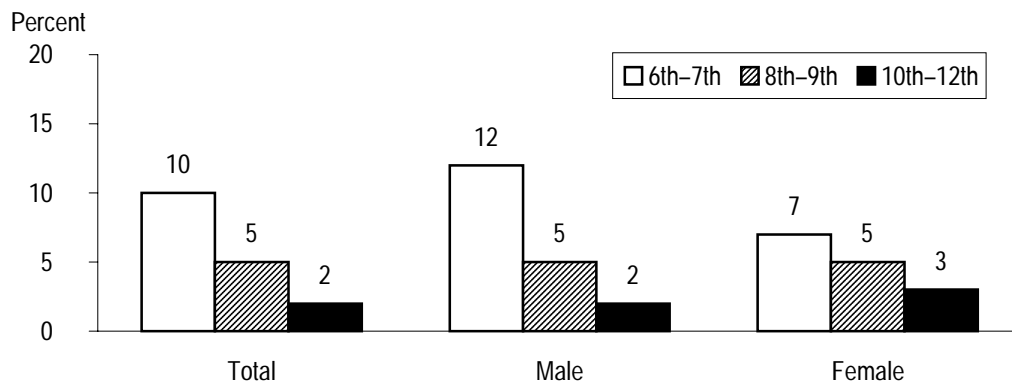
6. Prevalence of students being bullied at school*

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.

*This indicator repeats information from the 2000 Indicators of School Crime and Safety report.

- 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.

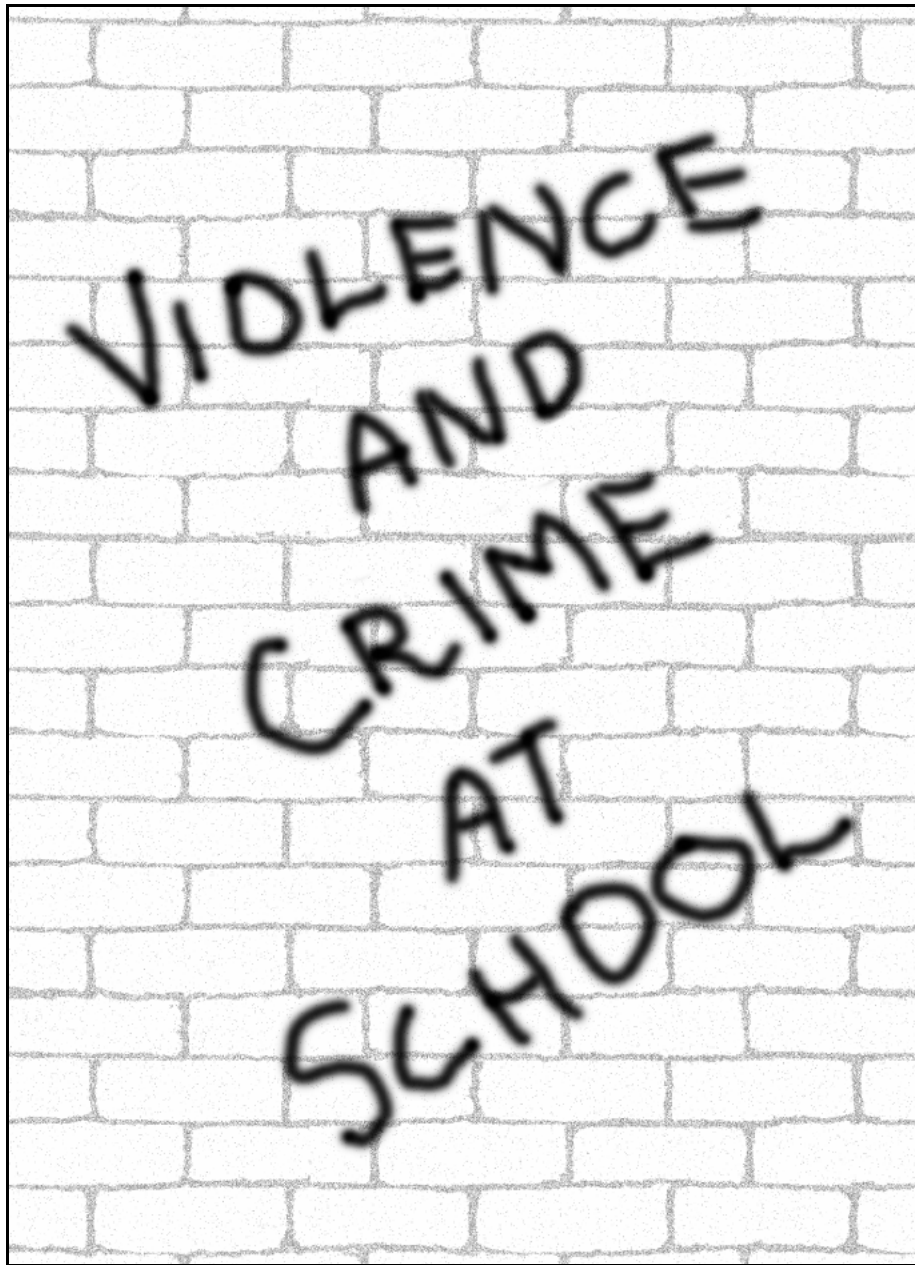
Figure 6.1.—Percentage of students ages 12 through 18 who reported being bullied at school during the previous 6 months, by grade level and gender: 1999



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.

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**Violence and Crime at School—
Public School Principal/Disciplinarian Reports**

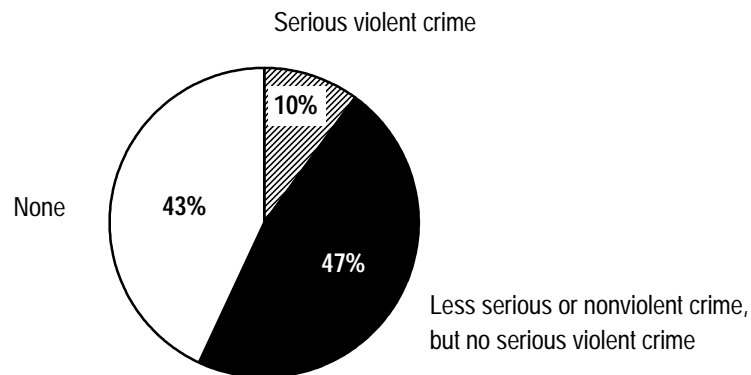
7. Crimes reported to the police*

The number of crimes that principals indicated they reported to police or other law enforcement representatives is a useful measure of the occurrences of serious crimes in the nation's schools. The percentage of schools reporting crimes provides an indication of how widespread crime is, while the number of crimes reported provides information on the magnitude of the problem.

*This indicator repeats information from the 2000 Indicators of School Crime and Safety report.

- In 1996–97, 10 percent of all public schools reported at least one serious violent crime to a law enforcement representative (figure 7.1 and table 7.1). Another 47 percent of public schools reported a less serious violent or nonviolent crime (but not a serious violent one). The remaining 43 percent of public schools did not report any of these crimes to the police.
- The vast majority of crimes reported by public schools were of the less serious violent or nonviolent type in 1996–97 (402,000 out of the 424,000 total crimes reported to the police) (table 7.3).
- The percentage of schools reporting crimes was similar at the middle and high school levels (figure 7.2 and table 7.1). At each level, about 20 percent of the schools reported at least one serious violent crime, and about 55 percent reported at least one less serious violent or nonviolent crime, but no serious violent crime in 1996–97.
- The numbers of reported incidents per 1,000 students were similar for middle and high schools for both serious violent and less serious violent and nonviolent crimes (figure 7.2 and table 7.4). For both types of crimes, there was a lower rate at the elementary level than at the middle or high school levels.
- The percentage of schools reporting at least one serious violent crime was much higher in cities (17 percent) than in towns (5 percent) or rural areas (8 percent) during 1996–97 (figure 7.2 and table 7.1).

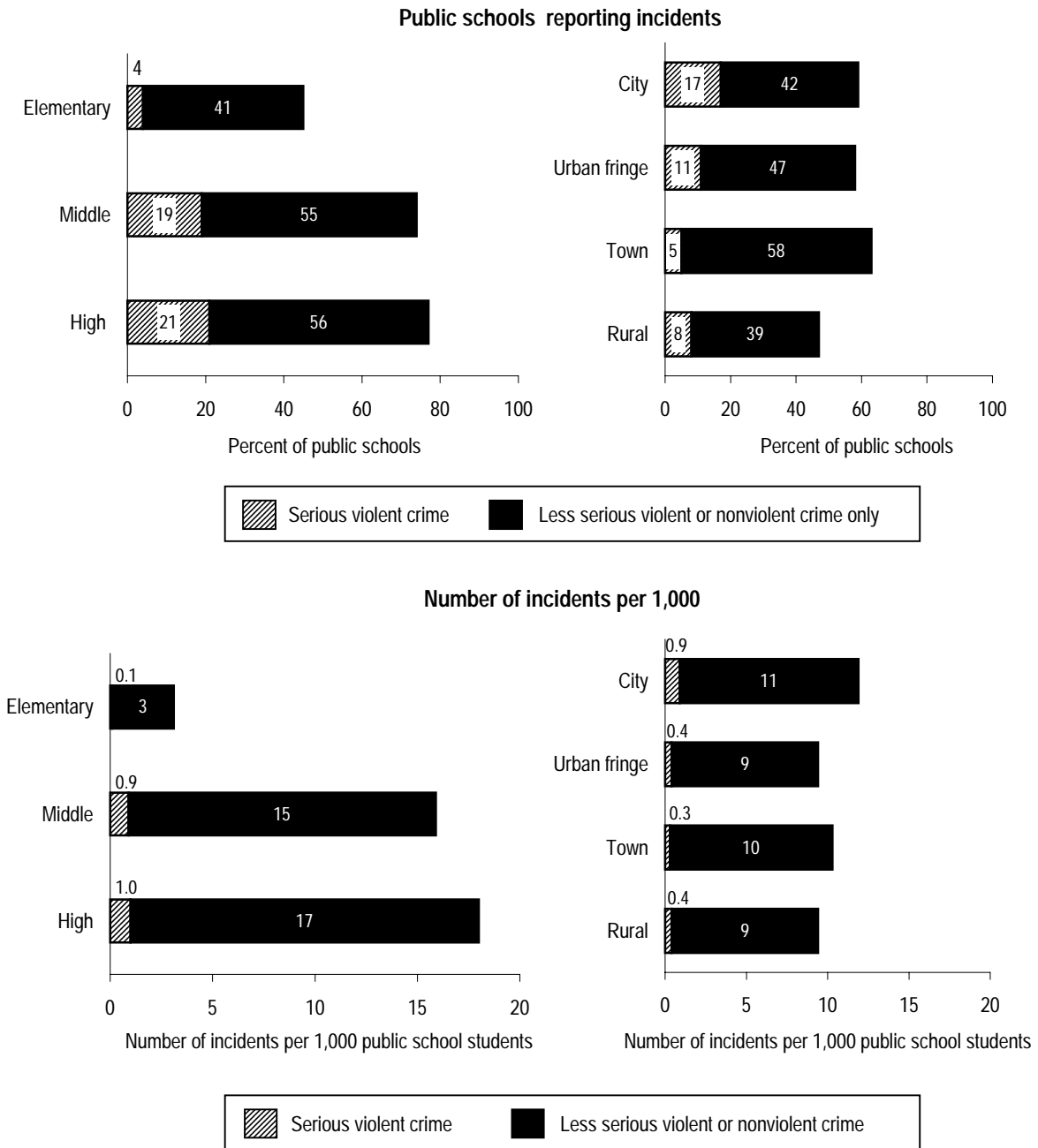
Figure 7.1.—Percentage distribution of public schools according to types of crimes reported to police: 1996–97



NOTE: Serious violent crimes include murder, rape or other type of sexual battery, suicide, physical attack or fight with a weapon, or robbery. Less serious or nonviolent crimes include physical attack or fight without a weapon, theft/larceny, and vandalism. Schools were asked to report crimes that took place in school buildings, on school buses, on school grounds, and at places holding school-sponsored events.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Fast Response Survey System, "Principal/School Disciplinarian Survey on School Violence," FRSS 63, 1997.

Figure 7.2.—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



NOTE: Serious violent crimes include murder, rape or other type of sexual battery, suicide, physical attack or fight with a weapon, or robbery. Less serious or nonviolent crimes include physical attack or fight without a weapon, theft/larceny, and vandalism. Schools were asked to report crimes that took place in school buildings, on school buses, on school grounds, and at places holding school-sponsored events.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Fast Response Survey System, "Principal/School Disciplinarian Survey on School Violence," FRSS 63, 1997.

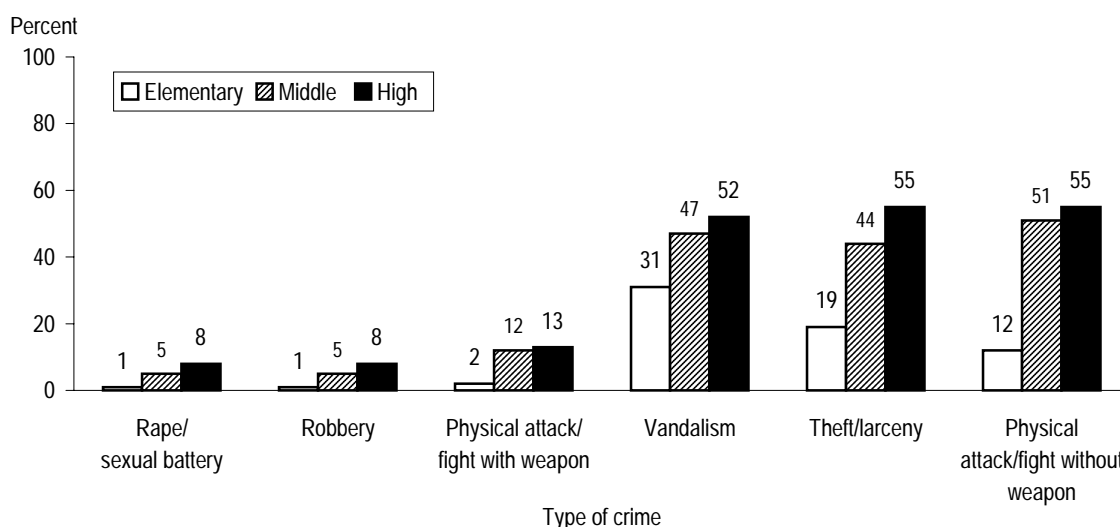
8. Specific crimes reported to the police*

Data on the prevalence of specific types of crimes add detail to the more general discussion of serious violent crimes and less serious violent and nonviolent crimes. Each type of crime affects students and schools differently.

*This indicator repeats information from the 2000 Indicators of School Crime and Safety report.

- About one-half (44 to 55 percent) of all public middle and high schools reported incidents of vandalism, theft or larceny, and physical attacks or fights without weapons to the police or other law enforcement representatives in the 1996–97 school year (figure 8.1 and table 8.2). Considerably smaller percentages of public middle and high schools reported the more serious violent crimes of rape or other type of sexual battery (5 and 8 percent, respectively); robbery (5 and 8 percent); or physical attack or fight with a weapon (12 and 13 percent) (table 8.1).
- Elementary schools were much less likely than either middle or high schools to report any of the types of crime described here in 1996–97 (figure 8.1 and tables 8.1 and 8.2). They were much more likely to report vandalism (31 percent) than any other crime (19 percent or less).
- In 1996–97, physical attack or fight without a weapon was generally the most commonly reported crime at the middle and high school levels (9 and 8 per 1,000 public school students, respectively) (figure 8.2 and table 8.8). Theft or larceny was more common at the high school than the middle school level (6 versus 4 per 1,000 students).
- Overall, there was relatively little variation by urbanicity in the crime rates at school discussed here during the 1996–97 school year (as measured by the number of crimes reported per 1,000 public school students) (figure 8.2 and tables 8.7 and 8.8).

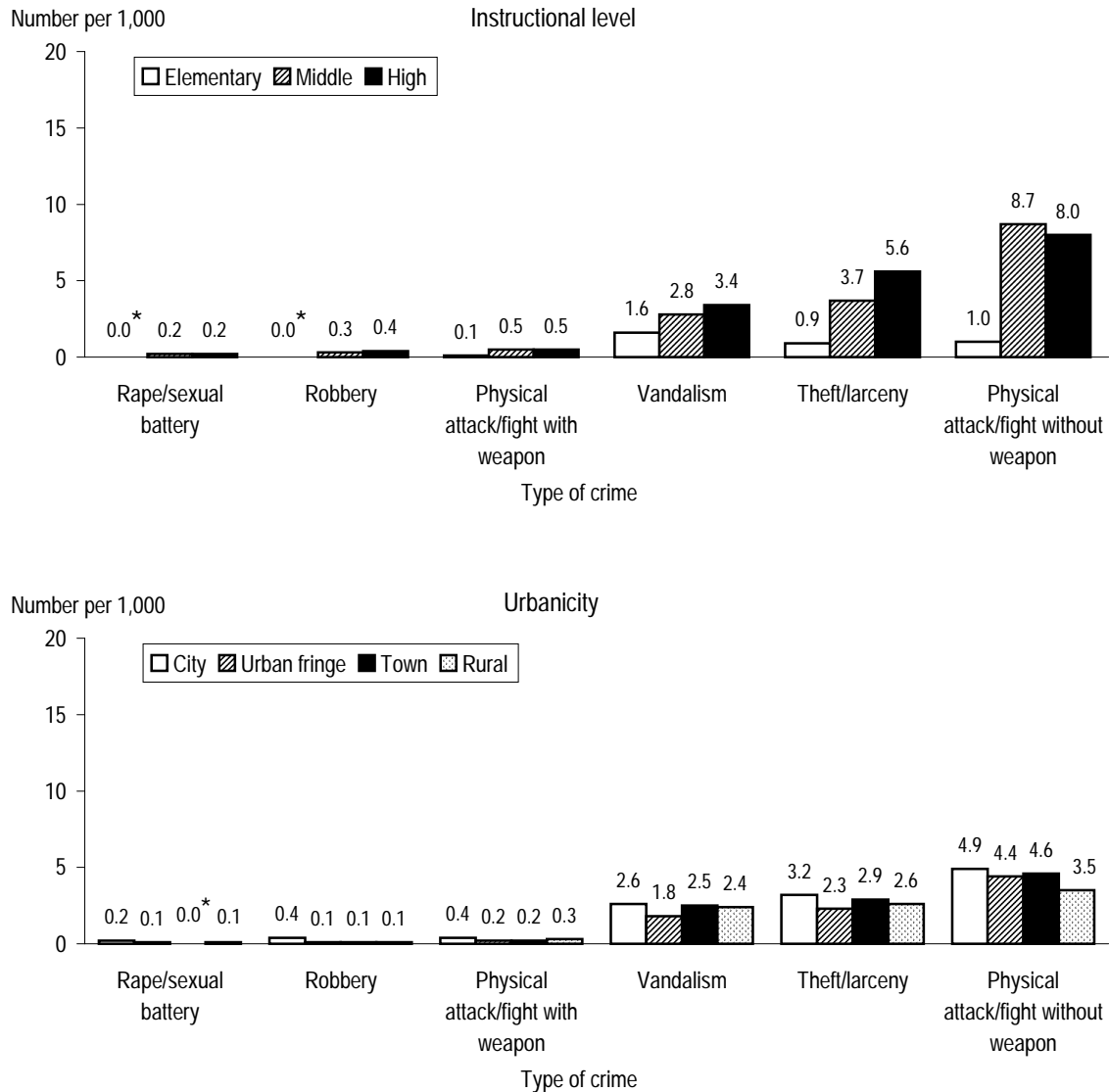
Figure 8.1.—Percentage of public schools that reported one or more criminal incidents to police, by type of crime and instructional level: 1996–97



NOTE: Examples of weapons are guns, knives, sharp-edged or pointed objects, baseball bats, frying pans, sticks, rocks, and bottles. Schools were asked to report crimes that took place in school buildings, on school buses, on school grounds, and at places holding school-sponsored events.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Fast Response Survey System, "Principal/School Disciplinarian Survey on School Violence," FRSS 63, 1997.

Figure 8.2.—Number of crimes per 1,000 public school students, by type of crime, instructional level, and urbanicity: 1996–97



*Less than 0.05.

NOTE: Examples of weapons are guns, knives, sharp-edged or pointed objects, baseball bats, frying pans, sticks, rocks, and bottles. Schools were asked to report crimes that took place in school buildings, on school buses, on school grounds, and at places holding school-sponsored events.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Fast Response Survey System, "Principal/School Disciplinarian Survey on School Violence," FRSS 63, 1997.

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