



# Violence Prevention and

## Massachusetts Students

### What is the problem?

The 2007 Massachusetts Youth Risk Behavior Survey indicates that among high school students:

#### Weapons

- 15% carried a weapon, such as a gun, knife, or club. (1)
- 3% carried a gun. (1)
- 5% carried a weapon, such as a gun, knife, or club, on school property. (1)
- 5% had been threatened or injured with a weapon, such as a gun, knife, or club, on school property. (2)

#### Physical Violence

- 28% were in a physical fight. (2)
- 4% were injured in a physical fight and had to be treated by a doctor or nurse. (2)
- 9% were in a physical fight on school property. (2)
- – were hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by their boyfriend or girlfriend. (3)

#### Security

- 5% did not go to school because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to or from school. (1)
- 21% had property, such as a car, clothing, or books, stolen or deliberately damaged on school property. (2)

### What are the solutions?

Better health education • Violence prevention programs • Healthier school environments

### What is the status?

The 2006 Massachusetts School Health Profiles indicates that among middle schools and high schools:

#### Health Education

- 52% required students to take two or more health education courses.
- 78% tried to increase student knowledge on violence prevention in a required health education course.
- 76% tried to improve student conflict resolution skills, such as techniques to resolve interpersonal conflicts without fighting in a required health education course.
- 61% had a lead health education teacher who received staff development during the past two years on violence prevention.

#### Violence Prevention Programs

- 6% had or participated in a safe-passages to school program.
- 22% had or participated in a program to prevent gang violence.
- 68% had or participated in a program to prevent bullying.

#### School Environment

- 85% used staff or adult volunteers to monitor school halls during and between classes.
- 100% required visitors to report to the main office or reception area upon arrival.
- 90% maintained a "closed campus" where students are not allowed to leave school during the day, including during lunchtime.
- 31% routinely conducted locker searches.
- 12% required students to wear identification badges.
- 56% used security or surveillance cameras, either inside or outside the school building.
- 54% used police, school resource officers, or security guards during the regular school day.

1. On at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey.
  2. One or more times during the 12 months before the survey.
  3. During the 12 months before the survey.
- Data not available.

Where can I get more information? Visit [www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth](http://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth) or call 800 CDC-INFO (800-232-4636).



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