



Violence Prevention and

District of Columbia Students

What is the problem?

The 2007 District of Columbia Youth Risk Behavior Survey indicates that among high school students:

Weapons

- 21% carried a weapon, such as a gun, knife, or club. (1)
- 8% carried a gun. (1)
- 7% carried a weapon, such as a gun, knife, or club, on school property. (1)
- 11% had been threatened or injured with a weapon, such as a gun, knife, or club, on school property. (2)

Physical Violence

- 43% were in a physical fight. (2)
- 10% were injured in a physical fight and had to be treated by a doctor or nurse. (2)
- 20% were in a physical fight on school property. (2)
- 17% were hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by their boyfriend or girlfriend. (3)

Security

- 14% did not go to school because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to or from school. (1)
- 27% 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 District of Columbia School Health Profiles indicates that among middle schools and high schools:

Health Education

- 54% required students to take two or more health education courses.
- 62% tried to increase student knowledge on violence prevention in a required health education course.
- 69% tried to improve student conflict resolution skills, such as techniques to resolve interpersonal conflicts without fighting in a required health education course.
- 55% had a lead health education teacher who received staff development during the past two years on violence prevention.

Violence Prevention Programs

- 34% had or participated in a safe-passages to school program.
- 68% had or participated in a program to prevent gang violence.
- 45% had or participated in a program to prevent bullying.

School Environment

- 87% 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.
- 93% maintained a "closed campus" where students are not allowed to leave school during the day, including during lunchtime.
- 68% routinely conducted locker searches.
- 66% required students to wear identification badges.
- 100% used security or surveillance cameras, either inside or outside the school building.
- 100% 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.

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



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

