

Fact Sheet

Violence Prevention

From CDC's School Health Policies and Programs Study (SHPPS) 2000

About SHPPS

SHPPS is a national survey periodically conducted to assess school health policies and programs at the state, district, school, and classroom levels. Results from SHPPS 2000 are published in the *Journal of School Health*, Volume 71, Number 7, September 2001.

School Policy and Environment

- 46.9% of states, 97.1% of districts, and 97.8% of schools have a policy prohibiting physical fighting by students.
- 98.0% of states, 99.1% of districts, and 96.1% of schools have a policy prohibiting weapon possession or use by students.
- 28.6% of states, 62.5% of districts, and 64.9% of schools have a policy prohibiting gang activities.

- 83.7% of states and 68.7% of districts provided model policies to schools on violence prevention during the two years preceding the study.

Health Education

During the two years preceding the study:

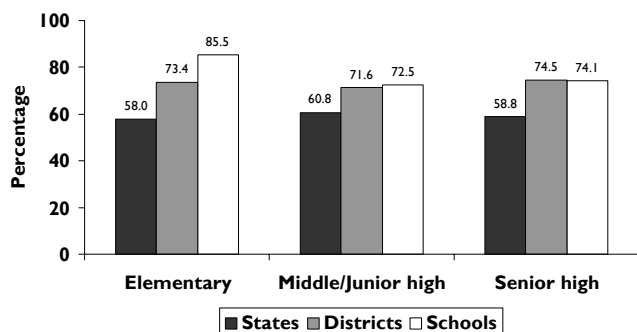
- 88.2% of states and 62.1% of districts provided funding for or offered staff development on violence prevention education to health education teachers.
- 49.4% of elementary school classes, 47.3% of required health education courses in middle/junior high schools, and 47.7% of required health education courses in senior high schools had a teacher who received staff development on violence prevention education.

Percentage of Schools at Each Level with Policies to Keep the Environment Safe, Secure, and Productive, by Type of Policy

Type of policy	Elementary schools	Middle/junior high schools	Senior high schools
Assign staff or volunteers to monitor bathrooms	60.4	57.4	59.3
Assign staff or volunteers to monitor halls	69.5	76.5	81.9
Have uniformed police	5.9	19.2	30.1
Implement a role model program ¹	49.4	42.3	43.5
Require students to wear school uniforms	21.3	27.5	10.4
Routinely check bags, desks, or lockers	18.0	37.5	44.7
Use metal detectors	3.3	10.0	10.0
Use surveillance cameras	12.3	21.0	24.2

¹Program in which family or community members serve as role models or mentor students, such as the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program.

Percentage of States, Districts, and Schools Requiring Violence Prevention Education, by School Level



- Elementary school teachers who provided violence prevention education spent a median of 5 hours per school year teaching the topic, middle/junior high school teachers spent a median of 4 hours, and senior high school teachers spent a median of 5 hours.

Percentage of Schools Teaching Topics and Skills Related to Violence Prevention in at Least One Required Class or Course, by Topic and Skill

	All schools	Elementary schools	Middle/junior high schools	Senior high schools
Topic				
Anger management	91.8	94.9	85.9	88.4
Bullying	91.2	96.3	88.0	72.6
Dating violence	62.2	N/A ¹	52.2	82.7
Gun safety	45.7	54.3	33.6	27.4
Personal safety (e.g., dealing with strangers)	87.0	96.4	74.7	66.2
Pro-social behaviors ²	95.5	98.5	90.9	90.3
Sexual assault	60.5	N/A	52.3	77.4
Skill				
Communications skills to avoid violence	97.2	97.8	94.4	99.4
Decision-making skills to avoid violence	97.5	98.4	96.1	95.6
Goal-setting skills to avoid violence	91.5	95.1	84.0	88.8
Techniques to avoid interpersonal conflicts and fights	94.6	96.0	92.8	91.4

¹Data not available—question not asked at this level.

²Such as cooperation, praise, or showing support for others.

For additional information on SHPPS, contact the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Division of Adolescent and School Health, 4770 Buford Highway, NE, Mailstop K-33, Atlanta, GA 30341-3717, telephone 888-231-6405, <http://www.cdc.gov/shpps>.