

School violence not only has a direct impact on students, but also on educators, parents, and the entire community. This report analyzes the most recent data available on school crime and student safety. The latest in a series of annual publications produced jointly by the Bureau of Justice Statistics and the National Center for Education Statistics, the report details victimization, teacher injury, bullying and cyber-bullying, school conditions, fights, weapons, availability and student use of drugs and alcohol, student perceptions of personal safety at school, and criminal incidents at postsecondary institutions. The information was drawn from a variety of federal data sources, including national surveys of students, teachers, principals, colleges, and universities.

Are schools safe for students?

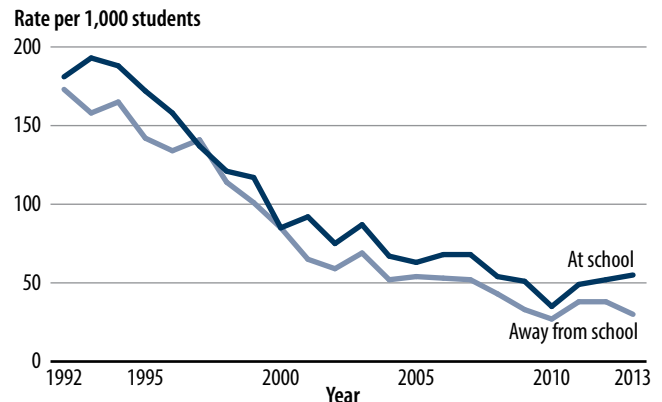
In 2013, approximately 3% of students ages 12 to 18 reported being victimized at school during the previous 6 months. Two percent of students reported theft, 1% reported violent victimization, and less than 0.5% reported serious violent victimization (rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault). Between 1992 and 2012 (the most recent data available), less than 2% of the total number of youth homicides (15 of 1,199 youth homicides) occurred at school.

Also in 2013, a greater number of students ages 12 to 18 experienced nonfatal victimizations (theft and violent crime) at school than away from school. A total of 55 nonfatal victimizations per 1,000 students occurred at school, while 30 victimizations per 1,000 students occurred away from school. The rate of violent victimization was also greater at school (37 per 1,000) than away from school (15 per 1,000).

What are schools doing to keep students safe?

Nearly all students ages 12 to 18 observed at least one security measure at their school in 2013. More than 95% of students reported that visitors were required to sign in, 90% said school staff or other adults supervised the hallway, 77% observed one or more security cameras at school, and 76% said entrance or exit doors were locked during the day.

Rate of total nonfatal victimization against students ages 12–18 per 1,000 students, by location: 1992–2013



Note: See figure 2.1 in the report

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), 1992–2013.

During the 2009–10 school year, 43% of schools reported the presence of one or more security staff at least once a week. Additionally, 28% percent of schools said security staff routinely carried a firearm.

What is the school environment like for students?

In 2013, 3% of students ages 12 to 18 reported that they were afraid of being attacked or harmed at school or on the way to and from school. Two percent of students reported avoiding at least one school activity or class, and 4% reported avoiding one or more places in school during the previous year because they feared attack or harm.

About 12% of students said gangs were present at their school in 2013, with a greater percentage in urban areas. More than 1 in 5 students said they were bullied at school, and 7% said they were cyber-bullied during the 2012–13 school year. Between 1993 and 2013, the percentage of students who reported carrying a weapon on school property in the preceding 30 days declined—from 12% to 5%.

The full report (*Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2014*, NCJ 248036, BJS web, July 2015), related documents, and additional information about the Bureau of Justice Statistics can be found at www.bjs.gov.

