

# Youth Violence

*Facts At A Glance*

*SUMMER 2007*

## Youth Violence

- In 2004, 5,292 young people ages 10 to 24 were murdered—an average of 15 each day (CDC 2007a).
- Homicide was the 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of death for young people ages 10 to 24 years old (CDC 2007a).
- Among 10 to 24 year-olds, 85% (4518) of homicide victims were male and 15% (774) were female (CDC 2007a).
- Among homicide victims ages 10 to 24 years-old, 81% were killed with a firearm (CDC 2007a).

## Health Disparities

- Among 10 to 24 year-olds, homicide is the leading cause of death for African Americans, the second leading cause of death for Hispanics, and the third leading cause of death for American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Asian/Pacific Islanders (CDC 2007a).
- Homicide rates among non-Hispanic, African-American males 10-24 years of age (53.1 per 100,000) exceed those of Hispanic males (20.1 per 100,000) and non-Hispanic White males in the same age group (3.3 per 100,000) (CDC 2007a).

## Nonfatal Injuries Due to Violence

- In 2005, more than 721,000 young people ages 10 to 24 were treated in emergency departments for injuries sustained from violence (CDC 2007a).
- In 2005, of a nationally-representative sample of students in grades 9-12, 3.6% reported being in a physical fight one or more times in the previous 12 months that resulted in injuries that had to be treated by a doctor or nurse (CDC 2006b).

## Violence-related Behaviors

In a 2005 nationally-representative sample of youth in grades 9-12 (CDC 2006b):

- 35.9% reported being in a physical fight in the 12 months preceding the survey; the prevalence was higher among males (43.4%) than females (28.1%).
- 18.5% reported carrying a weapon (gun, knife or club) on one or more days in the 30 days preceding the survey.
- 5.4% carried a gun on one or more days in the 30 days preceding the survey.
- Males were more likely than females to carry a weapon (29.8% versus 7.1%) on one or more days in the 30 days preceding the survey.
- Males were also more likely than females to carry a gun on one or more days in the 30 days preceding the survey (9.9% versus 0.9%).

## School Violence

In a 2005 nationally representative sample of youth in grades 9-12:

- 13.6% reported being in a physical fight on school property in the 12 months preceding the survey.
- 18.2% of male students and 8.8% of female students reported being in a physical fight on school property in the 12 months preceding the survey.
- 29.8% of students reported having property stolen or deliberately damaged on school property.
- 6.0% did not go to school on one or more days in the 30 days preceding the survey because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to or from school.
- 6.5% reported carrying a weapon (gun, knife or club) on school property on one or more days in the 30 days preceding the survey.
- 7.9% reported being threatened or injured with a weapon on school property one or more times in the 12 months preceding the survey (CDC 2006b).



# Youth Violence Facts At A Glance

## Bullying

An estimated 30% of 6th to 10th graders in the United States were either a bully, a target of bullying, or both (Nansel et al. 2001).

## School-associated Violent Deaths

- Less than 1% of all homicides and suicides among school-age youth occur on school grounds, on the way to or from school, or on the way to or from school-sponsored events (Anderson et al. 2001).
- From 1992-1999, perpetrators of school-associated homicides were nine times as likely as victims to have exhibited some form of suicidal behavior before the event and were more than twice as likely as victims to have been bullied by their peers (Anderson et al. 2001).
- More than half of the incidents over this period were preceded by some signal, such as threats, notes, or journal entries that indicated the potential for the coming event (Anderson et al. 2001).
- Most of the events occurred during the transition times around the start of the school day, the lunch period, and at the end of the school day (Anderson et al. 2001).

## Juvenile Arrests

- In 2005, persons under the age of 25 comprised 44.5% of all persons arrested for violent crime and 53.9% of all persons arrested for property crime in the U.S. (FBI 2007).
- Persons under the age of 25 accounted for 49.6% of those arrested for murder and 62.0% of those arrested for robbery in 2005 (FBI 2007).

## References

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