

## **Violence**

(Weapons, Harassment, Physical Fighting)

Adolescents can experience violence along a continuum that may begin with verbal harassment and advance into physical acts of violence. Violence affects the quality of life of those who experience it and those who witness the acts. Violence towards female adolescents in the form of sexual coercion is also a growing concern.

Although school shootings have attracted much attention and public concern recently, the data support that the vast majority of America's schools are safe. Of all homicides and suicides among those 5-19 years of age, less than 1 percent occur in or around school grounds or on the way to or from school. <sup>6</sup>

- Homicide is the second-leading cause of death among all youth aged 15-24. <sup>4</sup>
- School-associated violent deaths represent less than 1 percent of all homicides and suicides that occur among school-aged children. <sup>7</sup>
- More than 50 percent of all school-associated violent death events occurred during transition times during the school day – either at the beginning or end of the day or during lunch time. <sup>7</sup>
- Youth aged 12-17 are nearly three times more likely than adults to be victims of serious violent crimes. <sup>8</sup>
- Firearm-related homicide and firearm-related suicide accounted for 39 percent and 58 percent, respectively, of all firearms-related deaths in 2000. <sup>9</sup>
- Unintentional firearm-related fatalities are a critical problem among children and young adults in the United States. <sup>9</sup>
- Firearms markedly elevate the severity of the health consequences of violent behavior. <sup>10</sup>
- One in seven students has been in a physical fight on school property. <sup>11</sup>
- Physical fighting is an antecedent for many injuries, fatal and non-fatal. <sup>12</sup>
- Nearly 60 percent of students report at least one episode of dating violence. <sup>13</sup>

### **HP 2010 Objectives:**

15-32: Reduce homicides to no more than three people per 100,000.

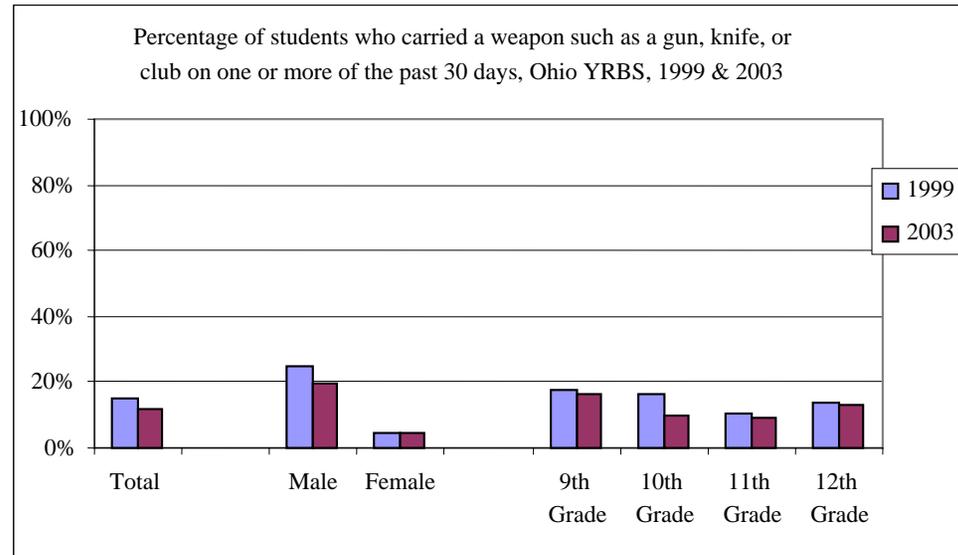
15-38: Reduce physical fighting among adolescents to no more than 32 percent.

15-39: Reduce weapon carrying by adolescents on school property to no more than 4.9 percent.

## • Violence: Weapon Carrying

### Q12 During the past 30 days, on how many days did you carry a weapon such as a gun, knife or club?

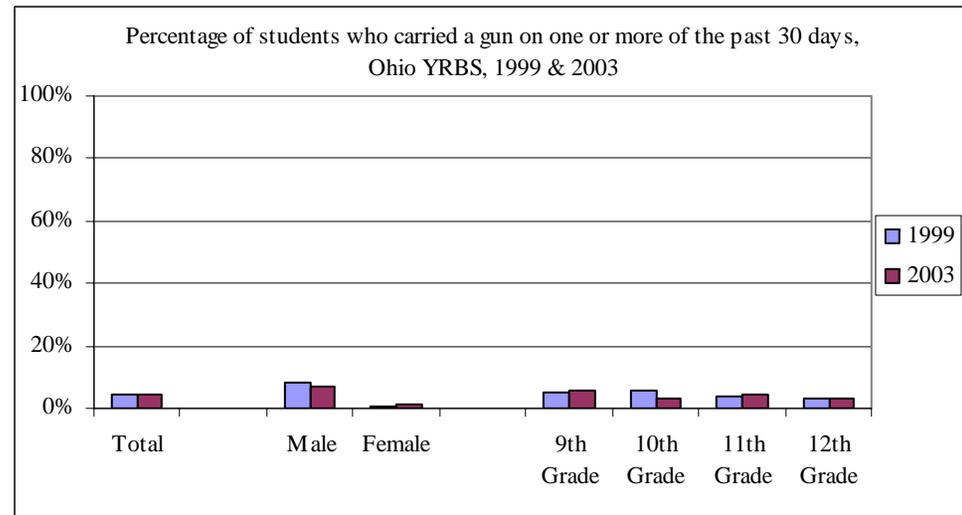
- **Most students do not carry weapons.**
  - In 2003, 12 percent of students report carrying a weapon such as a gun, knife or club on one or more of the past 30 days.
  - Significantly more males (20 percent) than females (5 percent) report carrying a weapon.
  - There are no significant differences in carrying a weapon by grade level.
- **There are no significant differences in weapon carrying between 1999 and 2003.**



● **Violence: Weapon Carrying--Guns**

**Q13 During the past 30 days, on how many days did you carry a gun?**

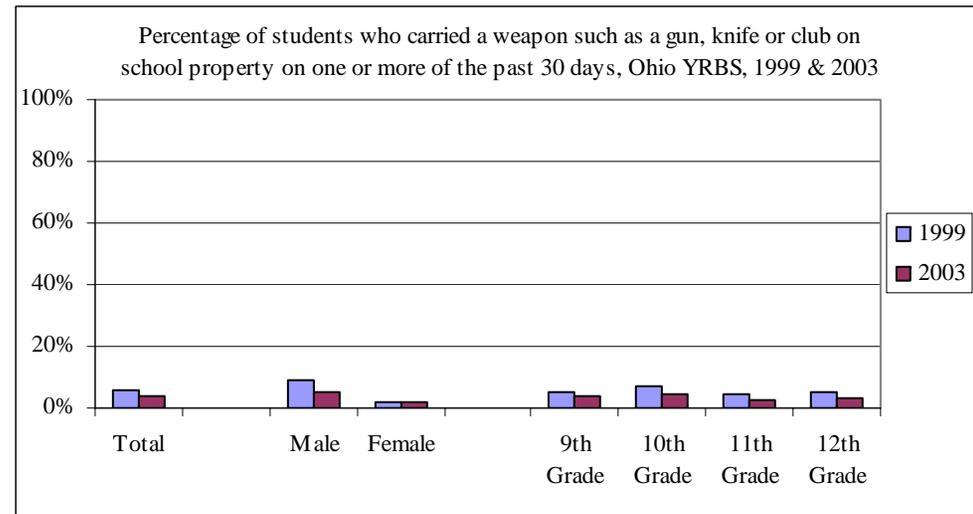
- **Most students do not carry a gun.**
  - In 2003, 4.3 percent of students report carrying a gun on one or more of the past 30 days.
  - Significantly more males (7.2 percent) than females (1 percent) report carrying a gun.
  - There are no significant differences in carrying a gun by grade level.
- **There are no significant differences in carrying a gun between 1999 and 2003.**



## • Violence: Weapon Carrying--School Property

**Q14 During the past 30 days, on how many days did you carry a weapon such as a gun, knife or club on school property?**

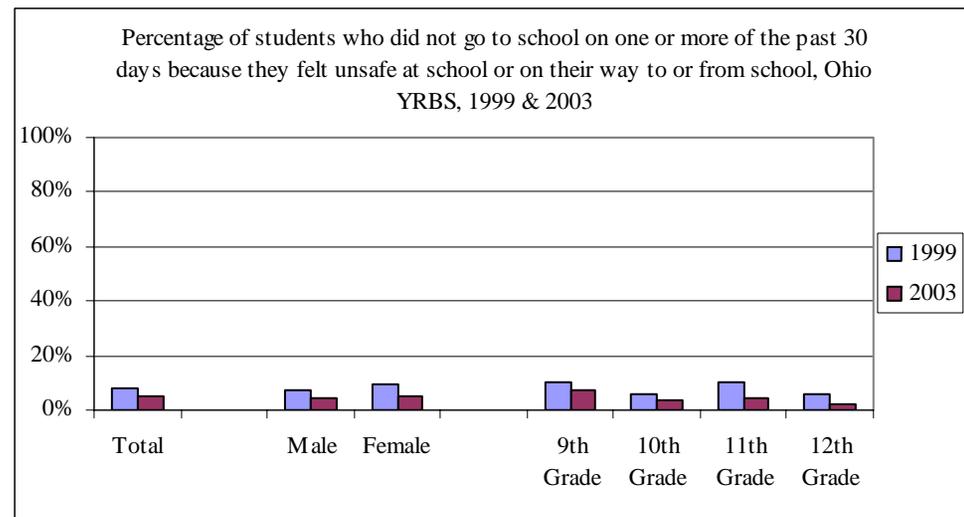
- **Most students do not carry a weapon on school property.**
  - In 2003, 3.6 percent of students report carrying a weapon on school property on one or more of the past 30 days.
  - There are no significant differences in weapon carrying on school property between males and females or by grade level.
- **There are no significant differences in weapon carrying on school property between 1999 and 2003.**



● **Violence: Feeling Safe on School Property**

**Q15 During the past 30 days, on how many days did you not go to school because you felt you would be unsafe at school or on your way to or from school?**

- **Most students feel safe at school or on their way to and from school.**
  - In 2003, 4.9 percent of students report not going to school on one or more of the past 30 days because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to or from school.
  - There are no significant differences in feeling safe between males and females.
  - Significantly more ninth graders (7.4 percent) than 12<sup>th</sup> graders (2.1 percent) report not going to school because of feeling unsafe.
  
- **There are no significant differences in feeling safe between 1999 and 2003.**

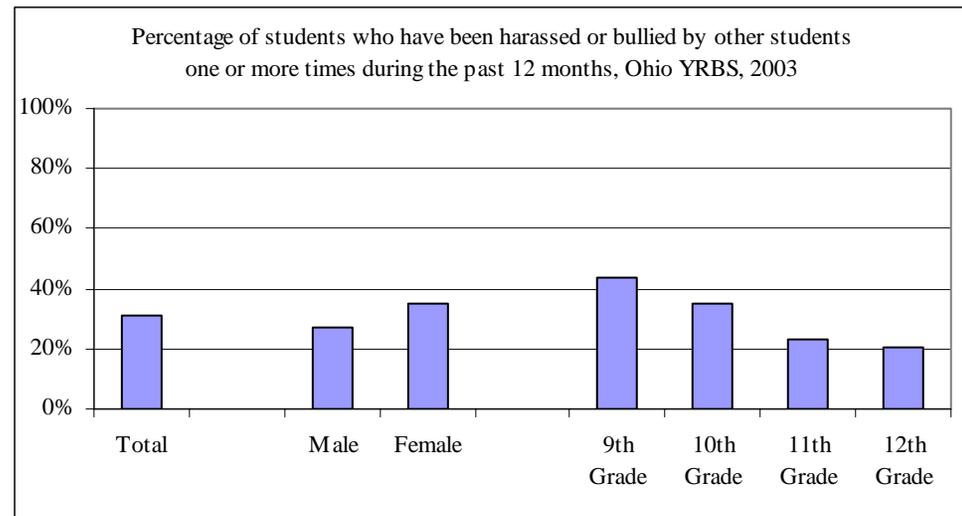


● **Violence: Harassment or Bullying on School Property**

**Q16 During the past 12 months, how many times have you been harassed or bullied by other students?**

● **Approximately one third of students are harassed or bullied by other students.**

- In 2003, 31 percent of students report being harassed or bullied by other students one or more times during the past 12 months.
- There are no significant differences in being harassed or bullied between males and females.
- Significantly more ninth (44 percent) and 10<sup>th</sup> (35 percent) graders report having been harassed or bullied by other students than 12<sup>th</sup> (20 percent) graders.

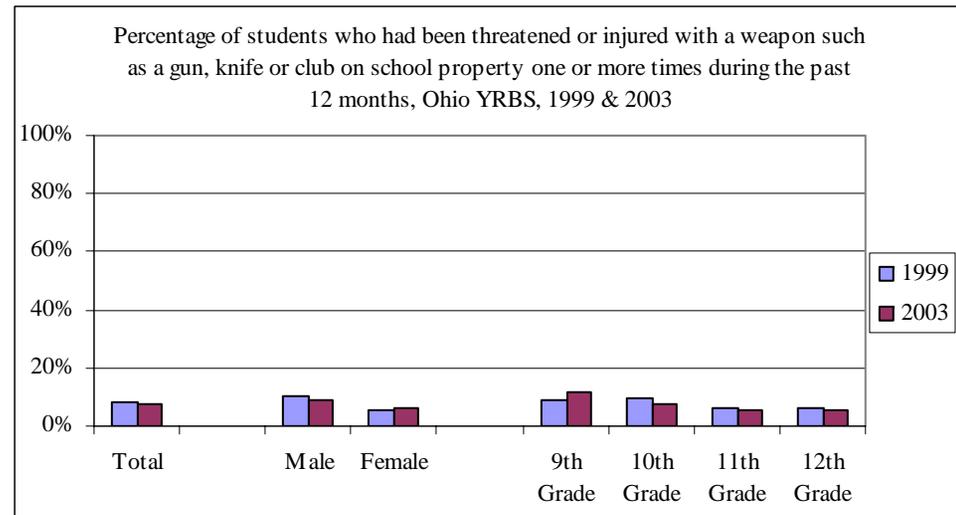


● **This question was not asked in 1999.**

● **Violence: Threatened by a Weapon on School Property**

**Q17 During the past 12 months, how many times has someone threatened or injured you with a weapon such as a gun, knife or club on school property?**

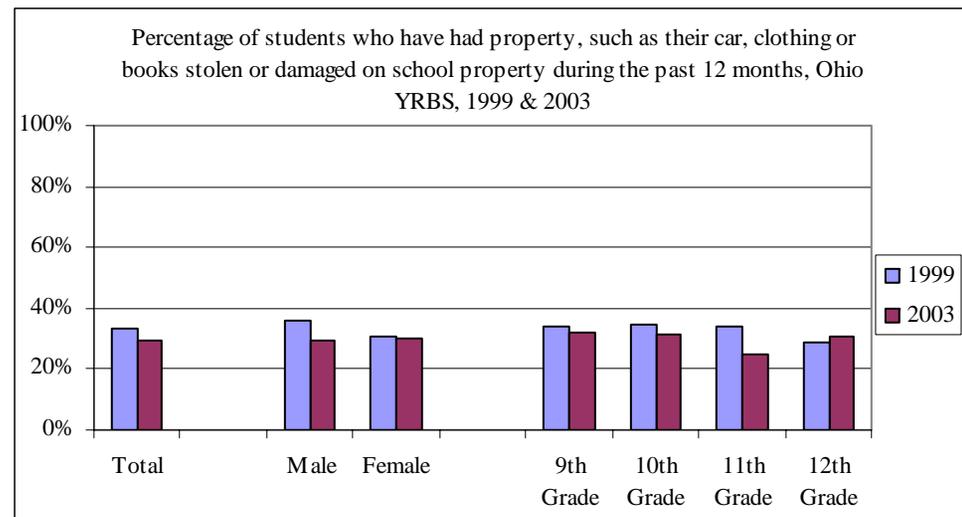
- **Most students are not threatened or injured with a weapon on school property.**
  - In 2003, 7.7 percent of students report being threatened or injured with a weapon on school property one or more times during the past 12 months.
  - There are no significant differences in having been threatened or injured with a weapon between males and females or by grade level.
- **There are no significant differences in being threatened or injured with a weapon between 1999 and 2003.**



● **Violence: Property Stolen/Damaged on School Property**

**Q18 During the past 12 months, how many times has someone stolen or deliberately damaged your property such as your car, clothing or books on school property?**

- **One-third of students have property stolen or deliberately damaged on school property.**
  - In 2003, 33 percent of students report having had property stolen or damaged on school property one or more times during the past 12 months.
  - There are no significant differences in having had property stolen or deliberately damaged between males and females or by grade level.
- **There are no significant differences in having property stolen or deliberately damaged on school property between 1999 and 2003.**



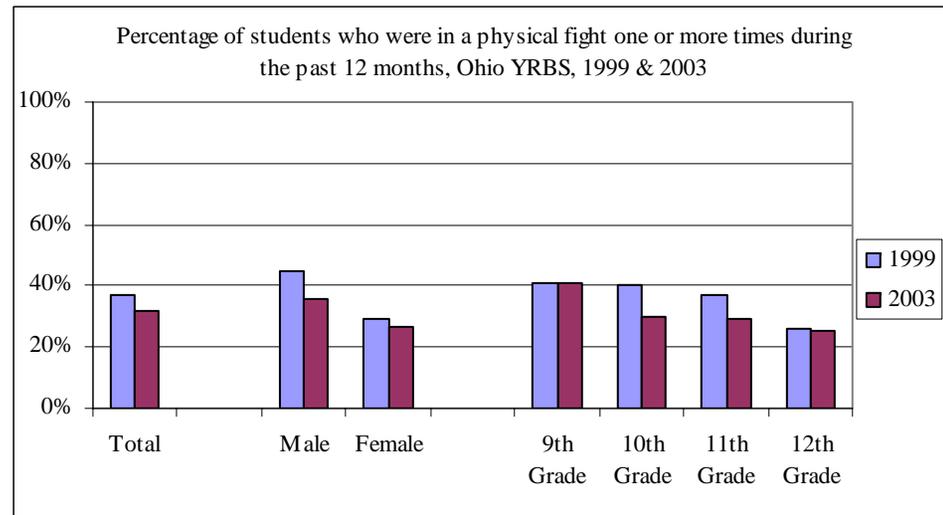
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- **Violence: Physical Fighting**

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**Q19 During the past 12 months, how many times were you in a physical fight?**

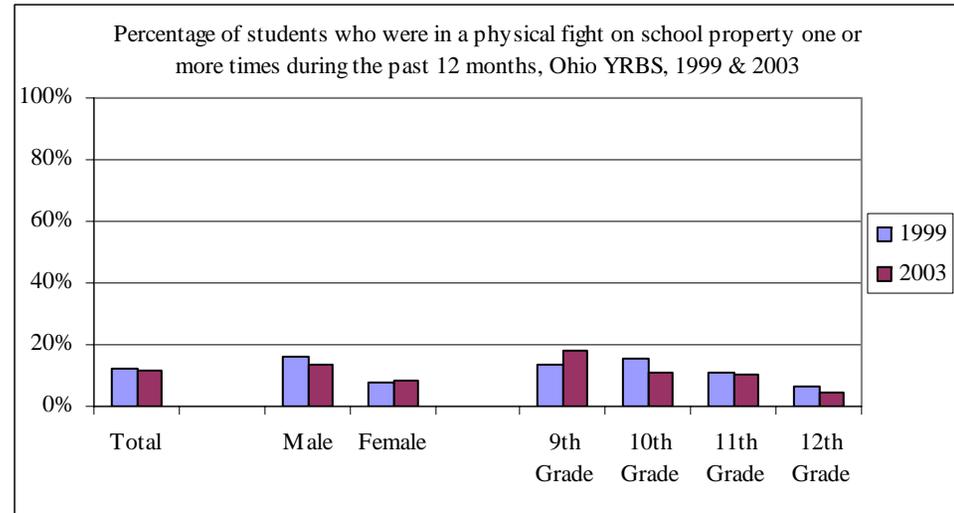
- **Almost one-third of students are involved in physical fighting.**
  - In 2003, 32 percent of students report having been in a physical fight one or more times during the past 12 months.
  - There are no significant differences in physical fighting between males and females or by grade level.
- **There are no significant differences in physical fighting between 1999 and 2003.**



## ● Violence: Physical Fighting on School Property

### Q20 During the past 12 months, how many times were you in a physical fight on school property?

- **Most students do not fight on school property.**
  - In 2003, 11 percent of students report being in a physical fight on school property one or more times during the past 12 months.
  - There are no significant differences in physical fighting on school property between males and females.
  - Significantly more ninth graders (18 percent) than 12<sup>th</sup> graders (5 percent) report fighting on school property.
- **There are no significant differences in physical fighting on school property between 1999 and 2003.**



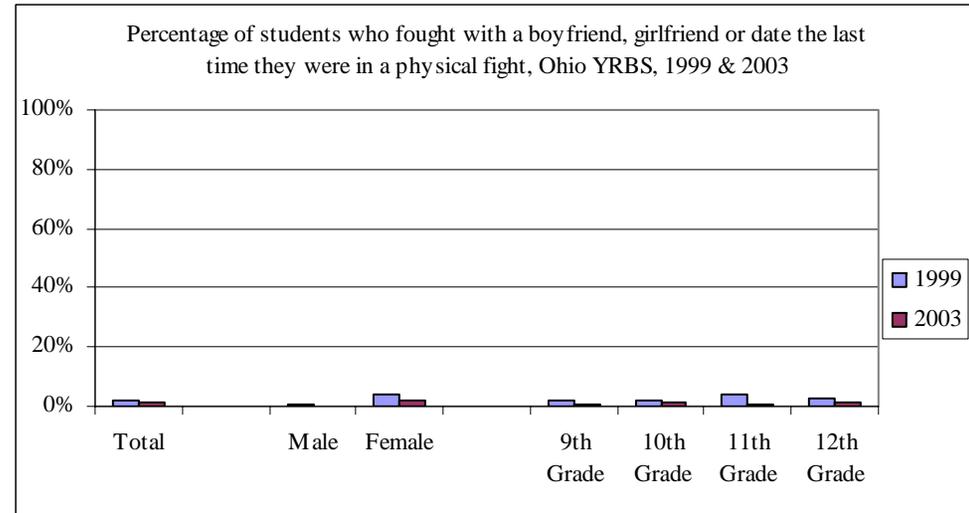
## ● Violence: Physical Fighting--Date

### Q21 The last time you were in a physical fight, with whom did you fight?

- **Few students fight with a boyfriend, girlfriend or date.**

- In 2003, 1.2 percent of students report fighting with a boyfriend, girlfriend or date the last time they were in a physical fight.
- Significantly more females (2.2 percent) than males (0.2 percent) report being in a physical fight with a boyfriend, girlfriend or date the last time they were in a fight.
- There are no significant differences in fighting with a boyfriend, girlfriend or date by grade level.

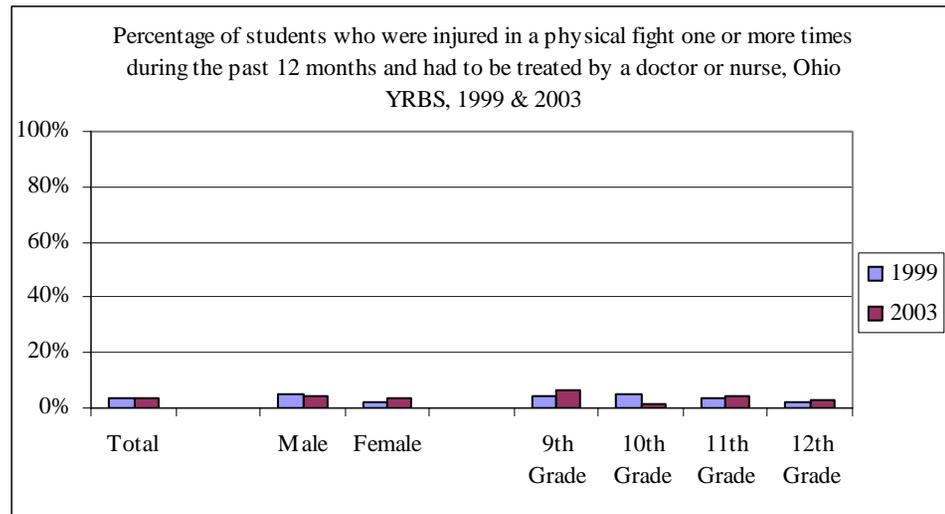
- **There are no significant differences in fighting with a boyfriend, girlfriend or date between 1999 and 2003.**



● **Violence: Physical Fighting--Injury**

**Q22 During the past 12 months, how many times were you in a physical fight in which you were injured and had to be treated by a doctor or nurse?**

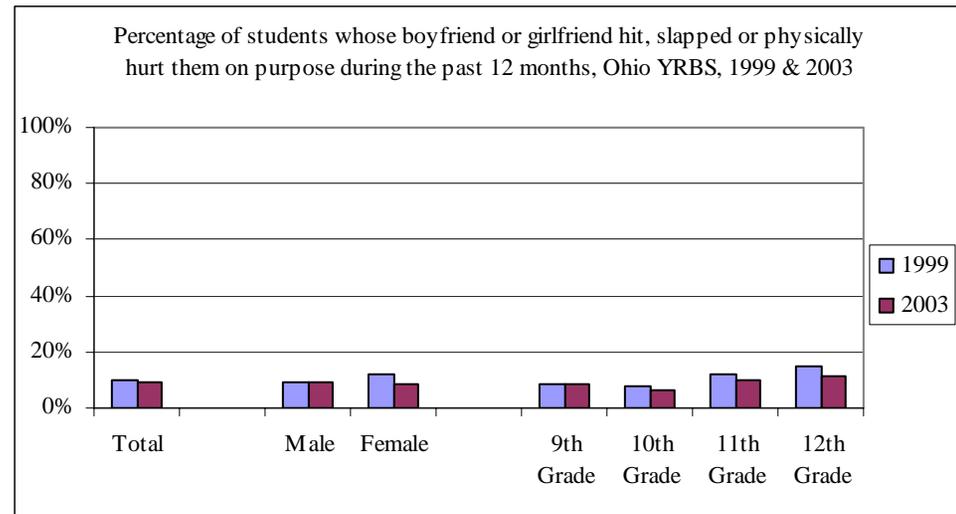
- **Few students are treated by a doctor or nurse for an injury resulting from a physical fight.**
  - In 2003, 3.9 percent of students report having to be treated by a doctor or nurse due to an injury from a physical fight one or more times during the past 12 months.
  - There are no significant differences in treatment of injuries due to a physical fight between males and females or by grade level.
- **There are no significant differences in being treated by a doctor or nurse due to an injury obtained in a physical fight between 1999 and 2003.**



## ● Violence: Physical Fighting--Boyfriend or Girlfriend

**Q23 During the past 12 months, did your boyfriend or girlfriend ever hit, slap or physically hurt you on purpose?**

- **Few students have been slapped, hit or physically hurt by a boyfriend or girlfriend.**
  - In 2003, 9.0 percent of students report their boyfriend or girlfriend hitting, slapping or physically hurting them on purpose during the past 12 months.
  - There are no significant differences in being physically hurt on purpose by a boyfriend or girlfriend between males and females or by grade level.
- **There are no significant differences in being hit, slapped or physically hurt on purpose by a boyfriend or girlfriend between 1999 and 2003.**



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- **Violence: Forced to Have Sexual Intercourse**

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**Q24 Have you ever been physically forced to have sexual intercourse when you did not want to?**

- **Few students are physically forced to have sexual intercourse.**
  - In 2003, 8.1 percent of students reported having been physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to.
  - There are no significant differences in being physically forced to have sexual intercourse between males and females or by grade level.
- **This question was worded differently in 1999.**

