

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 one percent occurs in or around school grounds or on the way to or from school.⁴

- Homicide is the second-leading cause of death among all youth aged 15-24.⁵
- 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.⁶
- Youth are twice as likely as adults to be victims of serious violent crimes.⁷
- Firearm-related homicide and firearm-related suicide accounted for 40 percent and 57 percent, respectively, of all firearm-related deaths in 2002.⁸
- Unintentional firearm-related fatalities also are a critical problem among children and young adults in the United States.⁸
- Nationally, nearly one in eight students has been in a physical fight on school property.⁹
- Nationally, 9 percent of students report being victims of dating violence.⁹
- Physical fighting can lead to serious injury and even death.¹⁰

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.