Children, youth, and teens experience high levels of victimization. Crimes against young people include abuse, neglect, and homicide, and a majority of children and adolescents have experienced some form of physical assault in their lifetimes. Teenagers, in particular, experience high levels of assault, maltreatment, and property victimization. Large percentages of children, youth, and teens are also regularly exposed to physical and emotional violence in their homes, schools, and neighborhoods. Schools are more aware than other authorities about child victimization, especially because more crimes are committed against children at school than outside of school.

- Of children age 0 to 17 years in 2011, 41.2 percent were physically assaulted in the previous 12 months.¹
- Of the U.S. population of 14- to 17-year-olds, 69.7 percent had been assaulted, 56.6 percent had experienced a property victimization (including robbery), 41.2 percent had been maltreated, and 27.4 percent had been sexually victimized at some point in their lifetime.²

![Lifetime Victimization of Teens, Ages 14—17, By Type, 2011](chart)

![Child Maltreatment by Type of Abuse, 2010](chart)

- In 2011, of children age 0 to 17, 0.0 percent of males and 0.3 percent of females were sexually victimized by a caregiver, 4.5 percent of males and 2.9 percent of females were physically abused by a caregiver, and 6.9 percent of males and 6.0 percent of females had experienced neglect by a caregiver in the previous year.³
- At some point in their lifetime, 54.5 percent of children and adolescents (age 0 to 17) experienced some form of physical assault, 24.6 percent were victims of physical intimidation (i.e., physical bullying), 51.8 percent were victims of relational aggression (i.e., emotional bullying),⁴ and 10.3 percent were victims of assault with a weapon.⁵
- In 2010, just under one-half (45 percent) of all child victims of maltreatment were white, 22 percent were African American, and 21 percent were Hispanic.⁶
- In 2010, child protective services found approximately 754,000 children were victims of maltreatment (abuse and neglect). Children age 0 to 3 years account for 34 percent of child maltreatment victims.⁷ Parents are the perpetrators of child maltreatment in 81 percent of the cases.⁸
- During 2010, 62 percent of child maltreatment victims experienced neglect, 14 percent were physically abused, 7 percent were sexually abused, 6 percent were psychologically maltreated, and 2 percent were medically neglected. In addition, 8 percent of child victims experienced other types of maltreatment.⁹
- In 2010, an estimated 1,560 children died as a result of maltreatment. Forty-eight percent of these children were under a year old. Seventy-nine percent of child fatalities were caused by the child’s parents, and 29 percent of fatalities were caused by the mother alone.¹⁰

² Ibid., 616-18.
³ Ibid., 617.
⁴ Finkelhor et al. used the terms physical intimidation and relational aggression instead of the more common terms of physical and emotional bullying because the latter terminology requires a “power imbalance” in the victim-perpetrator relationship. Ibid., 616.
⁵ Ibid.
⁷ Ibid.
In 2011, data showed that more crimes committed against students age 12 to 18 occurred at school (49 victimizations per 1,000 students) rather than away from school (38 victimizations per 1,000 students). This same population experienced 1.25 million non-fatal crimes at school.\textsuperscript{11}

Authorities often knew about nonphysical victimizations that occur in school, such as relational aggression (51.5 percent) and property theft (46.8 percent), or types of victimization that leave signs a teacher in a classroom or a doctor in the course of a medical examination might detect, such as neglect (47.8 percent).\textsuperscript{12}

School officials were aware of 42.3 percent of child victimizations cases, while police were aware of only 12.7 percent and medical personnel were aware of only 1.8 percent.\textsuperscript{13}

In 2011, 32.8 percent of high school students had been in a physical fight one or more times during the previous 12 months, and about 3.9 percent had been in a fight in which they were injured and had to be treated by a nurse or doctor.\textsuperscript{14}

In 2011, 9.4 percent (1,187) of all homicide victims were children and youth under 18 years of age. Of total homicides, 6.4 percent (813) were males under the age of 18, and 2.9 percent (371) were females under the age of 18. (The sex of three victims was unknown.) Of homicide victims under the age of 18 whose race was known, 47.1 percent (559) were black and 48.2 percent (572) were white. (The race of 56 victims was either “other” or “unknown.”)\textsuperscript{15}

In 2011, of the 1,187 children under 18 years of age who were murdered, 16.5 percent (196) were infants under age one, 25.4 percent (301) were children 1 to 4 years of age, 7.1 percent (84) were children 5 to 8 years of age, 5.5 percent (65) were children 9 to 12 years of age, 25.3 percent (300) were youth 13 to 16 years of age, and 20.3 percent (241) were teens age 17 to 18.\textsuperscript{16}

In 2011, 22.4 percent of children stated they witnessed an act of violence in their homes, schools, and communities within the previous year and 3.4 percent stated they had indirect exposure to violence.\textsuperscript{17} Of children surveyed, 39.2 percent witnessed an act of violence and 10.1 percent stated they had indirect exposure to violence sometime during their lifetime.\textsuperscript{18} By comparison, 41.2 percent of children stated they were victims of a physical assault within the previous year, and 54.5 percent stated they were victims of a physical assault during their lifetime.\textsuperscript{19}

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• As of November 2012, 23 states and Puerto Rico had enacted legislation addressing the issue of children witnessing domestic violence. Thirteen states provide for enhanced penalties in domestic violence cases when a child is present. Four states require the perpetrator pay for any counseling needed by the child, two states mandate counseling for the offender, and one state requires—in cases where the noncustodial parent had committed domestic violence in the presence of a child—that child visitation be supervised for a period of one to two years.20

• In 2011, 8.2 percent of children under the age of 18 had witnessed a family assault in the previous 12 months and 20.8 percent had witnessed a family assault at some point in their lifetime.21

• In 2011, 29.8 percent of children were victims of an assault with no weapon or injury, 9.7 percent were victims of an assault with a weapon, 10.1 percent were victims of an assault with an injury, 5.6 percent experienced sexual victimization, and 13.8 percent experienced child maltreatment by a caregiver.22

• In 2011, approximately 85 percent of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or questioning (LGBTQ) high school students heard the word “gay” or “queer” in a negative connotation often or frequently while in school and over 91 percent reported they felt distressed because of this language.23

• In 2011, 38.3 percent of LGBTQ high school students reported being physically harassed (pushed or shoved) and 18.3 percent reported being physical assaulted (punched, kicked, injured with a weapon) because of their sexual orientation.24

22 Ibid., tables I-3.
24 Ibid., xiv-xv.