

SCHOOL AND CAMPUS CRIME

Victimizations occurring at school constitute an important subset of crime, given the amount of time that youth and adolescents spend there. This section is divided in two sub-sections: [School Crime](#), including primary and secondary schooling, and [Campus Crime](#), which reviews crimes occurring in the post-secondary setting. While schools generally are relatively safe places for youth and teens overall, victimization does occur and the risk varies by context. Adolescents, for example, experience more violent victimizations at school but more serious violent victimizations outside of school (see [Child, Youth, and Teen Victimization](#)). Victimizations occurring at school negatively affect students' physical and emotional well-being as well as their learning. The statistics represented in the [School Crime](#) section are drawn from several sources including the NCVS, data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and research studies focusing on particular groups of victims.

School Crime

While more victimizations overall occur at school, more serious violent victimizations occurred outside of school.

- Of youth ages 12 to 18 in 2012, 52.4 per 1,000 students were victimized at school: 28.8 per 1,000 students experienced some form of violent victimization, with 3.4 per 1,000 students experiencing serious violent victimization; and 23.6 per 1,000 students were victims of theft.¹
- Of youth ages 12 to 18 in 2012, 38.0 per 1,000 students were victimized away from school, 18.1 per 1,000 students experienced theft victimization, 20.0 per 1,000 students experienced a violent victimization, and 6.5 per 1,000 students experienced a serious violent victimization.²

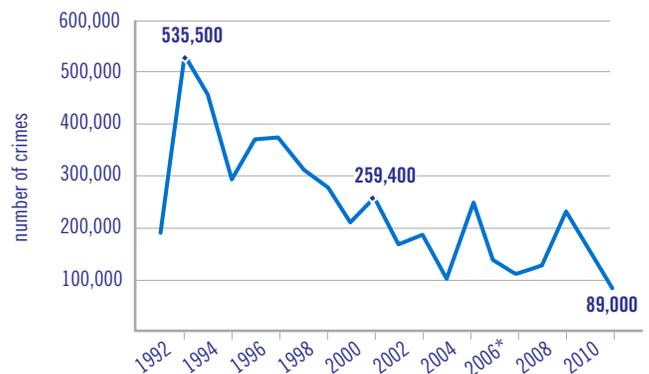
1 Simone Robers et al., *Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2013*, (Washington, DC: National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education, and Bureau of Justice Statistics, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, NCES 2014-042/NCJ 243299, 2014), Table 2.1, accessed June 10, 2014, http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d13/tables/dt13_228.20.asp.

2 Ibid. Table 2.2

Some form of non-fatal criminal violence occurs in nearly three-quarters of U.S. public schools; however, non-fatal serious violence at school is declining overall. Fatal school violence is extremely rare.

- Between 1992 and 2012, non-fatal victimizations at school decreased from 181 to 52 per 1,000 students.³

NON-FATAL SERIOUS VIOLENT CRIMES AT SCHOOL, AGES 12 – 18



*Note: Due to methodological changes in the 2006 survey, those estimates are not comparable with subsequent or prior years.

- In the 2009/2010 school year, 74 percent of all public schools recorded one or more violent crimes such as rape, sexual battery other than rape, robbery with or without a weapon, threat of physical attack with a weapon, or fight or physical attack with a weapon. Only 40 percent of all public schools reported any of these incidents to the police.⁴
- During the 2009/2010 school year, 91 percent of both middle and high schools reported violent incidents at school compared to 64 percent of elementary (primary) schools.⁵
- Students age 12 to 18 were victims of 89,000 non-fatal serious violent crimes at school in 2012, which was a 64.2 percent decrease from the number of serious violent crimes in 2001 and an 84.6 percent decrease from the peak in 1993.⁶

3 Ibid., iv.

4 Ibid., 29.

5 Ibid., 31.

6 Ibid., calculated from data in Table 2.1.

- Thirty-three percent of students in grades 9 through 12 in 2011 reported they had been in a physical fight anywhere at least one time during the previous 12 months compared to 42 percent in 1993. Twelve percent said they had been in a fight on school property during the previous 12 months, compared to 16 percent in 1993.⁷
- An estimated 3.9 percent of students who were injured in a physical fight had to be treated by a nurse or doctor.⁸
- For school-age youth (age 5 to 18) in the 2010/2011 school year, there were 11 homicides at school, or 0.8 percent of homicides for those age 5 to 18 occurred at school.⁹

Bullying is one of the most common forms of non-fatal victimization at school.

- Twenty-eight percent of students age 12 to 18 in 2011 reported being bullied at school during the school year.¹⁰
- In 2011, 18.5 percent of students who reported bullying problems at school indicated that it occurred at least once or twice a month.¹¹
- Of those who were bullied at school, 39.5 percent were reported to an adult.¹²
- Six percent of those who were bullied at school were injured.¹³

Cyber-bullying is also a problem.

- Nine percent of students age 12 to 18 in 2011 reported being cyber-bullied anywhere during the school year.¹⁴

- Of those who were cyber-bullied, 71.9 percent said it occurred once or twice a school year, 19.6 percent once or twice a month, 5.3 percent once or twice a week, and 3.1 percent almost every day.¹⁵
- Of those who were cyber-bullied, 26.1 percent notified an adult.¹⁶

Victimization against students related to sexual orientation and gender expression has gained growing attention.

- An estimated 9.1 percent of students age 12 to 18 in 2011 reported being a target of hate-related words at school. Of those 9.1 percent who had been targets of hate-related words, 4.5 percent were because of race, 2.8 percent were because of ethnicity, 1.4 percent were because of religion, 1.2 percent were because of disability, 1.4 percent were because of gender, and 1.3 percent were because of sexual orientation.¹⁷
- In a 2011 study that included youth in grades 6 through 12, 64 percent of lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT) respondents said they felt unsafe in school because of their sexual orientation, and 44 percent felt unsafe because of their gender expression.¹⁸
- Approximately 85 percent of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or questioning (LGBTQ) high school students in 2011 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.¹⁹
- Of LGBTQ students who had been harassed or assaulted at school, 60 percent did not report the incident to school officials, most commonly because they doubted anything would be done or believed the situation could become worse if reported.²⁰

⁷ Ibid., Table 13.1.

⁸ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 2011,” *Surveillance Summaries* 61, no. 4 (2012): 7-8, accessed October 20, 2014, <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/ss/ss6104.pdf>.

⁹ Ibid., *calculated using* Table 1.1.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid., Table 11.4.

¹² Ibid., Table 2.1

¹³ Ibid., Table 2.3

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Ibid., Table 3.1

¹⁶ Ibid., Table 3.1

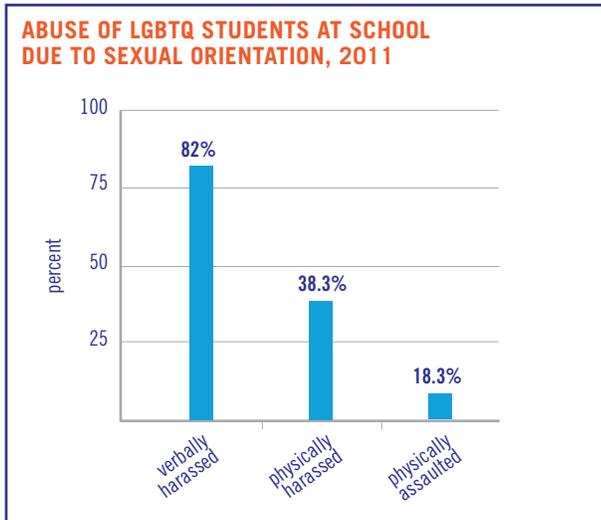
¹⁷ Ibid., Table 10.2.

¹⁸ Joseph Kosciw et al., *The 2011 National School Climate Survey: The Experiences of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Youth in Our Nation's Schools*, (New York, NY: Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network, 2012), Figure 1.10, accessed October 20, 2014, <http://glsen.org/sites/default/files/2011%20National%20School%20Climate%20Survey%20Full%20Report.pdf>.

¹⁹ Ibid., xiv.

²⁰ Ibid., Figure 1.18 and Table 1.1.

- Eighty-two percent of LGBTQ youth respondents in 2011 had been verbally harassed at school because of their sexual orientation, 38.3 percent had been physically harassed (e.g., pushed or shoved), and 18.3 percent had been physically assaulted because of their sexual orientation.²¹



In addition to victimization experiences, school climate characteristics such as presence of weapons, drugs, and gangs can create a negative learning environment.

- Seventeen percent of students in grades 9 through 12 in 2011 had carried a weapon in the previous 30 days. In the same year, about 5 percent of students had carried a gun.²²
- Of the 17 percent who reported carrying a weapon to school in 2011, 7.5 percent reported carrying a weapon 6 or more days in the past 30 days, 5.6 from 2 to 5 days, and 3.5 for 1 day.²³
- Of those who carried a weapon in the past 30 days, 17.3 percent were in the 9th grade, 16.6 percent were in the 10th grade, 16.2 percent were in the 11th grade, and 15.8 percent were in the 12th grade.²⁴

- In 2011, 7.4 percent of students in grades 9 through 12 reported having been threatened or injured with a weapon on school property. Of those who said they were threatened or injured, 3.1 percent said it occurred 1 time, 1.9 percent 2 or 3 times, 1.4 percent 4 to 11 times, and 1.0 percent 12 or more times.²⁵
- In 2011, 25.6 percent of students in grades 9 through 12—including 29.2 percent of males and 21.7 percent of females—reported that drugs had been made available to them on school property during the previous 12 months.²⁶
- Of those who reported drugs had been made available to them on school property in the previous 12 months, 23.7 percent were in the 9th grade, 27.8 percent were in the 10th grade, 27.0 percent were in the 11th grade, and 23.8 percent were in the 12th grade.²⁷
- In 2011, 17.5 percent of students age 12 to 18 reported that gangs were present at their schools. From 2001 to 2011, there was a 12.9 percent decrease in students reporting gangs present in their school. Moreover, from the peak reports of gangs in the school in 2005, there is a 27.7 percent decrease.²⁸

According to a national study on the historical trends of school violence between 1992 and 2010:

- Of those who are victims of homicide between the age 5 and 18, approximately two percent are killed on school grounds or on their way to school.²⁹
- Most school-associated violence is likely to occur before or after school and during lunch.³⁰
- Firearms used in school-associated homicides are usually obtained from the perpetrator's home or from friends or relatives.³¹

²¹ Ibid., 24–25.

²² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 2011," 55, Table 8.

²³ Simone Roberts et al., *Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2013*, Table 14.2.

²⁴ Ibid., Table 14.1.

²⁵ Ibid., Table 4.1.

²⁶ Ibid., Table 9.1.

²⁷ Ibid., Table 9.1.

²⁸ Ibid., *calculated from data in* Table 8.1.

²⁹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *School-Associated Violent Death Study*, (Atlanta, GA: 2014), accessed July 4, 2014, <http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/youthviolence/schoolviolence/savd.html>.

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Ibid.

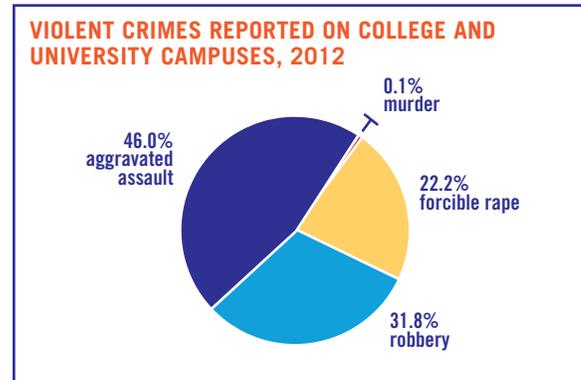
Campus Crime

While college campuses are relatively safe places, they are not immune to incidents of crime and violence. Acts of fatal violence are rare on campus. More common are violent crimes—by both known and unknown offenders—such as forcible rape,³² aggravated assault, and robbery.³³ Stalking is also a widespread but underreported crime on campuses, and national studies suggest that there are higher rates of stalking victimization among college-age women than among the general population.³⁴ Concerns over reporting and preventing rape and sexual assault in particular have led to greater focus by campus administrators and policy makers. The statistics represented in this section are drawn from FBI UCR data, which include reports from campus police as well as local and state law enforcement agencies, campus-specific data collected and reported as a result of the Clery Act,³⁵ and historical data that provide context for these crimes over time.

Data from the FBI showed:

- In 2012, 88,444 crimes were reported to college and university campus police. Of these reported crimes, 96.8 percent were property crimes, and 3.2 percent were violent crimes.³⁶

- Of the violent crimes reported on college and university campuses in 2012, 46.0 percent were aggravated assaults, 31.8 percent were robberies, 22.2 percent were forcible rapes, and 0.1 percent were murders or non-negligent manslaughters.³⁷
- Of property crimes reported on college and university campuses in 2012, 88.2 percent were larceny-thefts, followed by burglaries at 9.9 percent, motor vehicle thefts at 2.0 percent, and arson at 0.4 percent.³⁸



³² The FBI's definition of forcible rape changed in early 2012 but the changes were not implemented into crime statistics until January 2013. The data presented here use the old definition of forcible rape, "the carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will. Attempts or assaults to commit rape by force or threat of force are also included; however, statutory rape (without force) and other sex offenses are excluded." Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2012*, (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, 2012), Table 1, accessed October 7, 2014, <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2012/crime-in-the-u.s.-2012>. For more information about the FBI definition of rape, please see <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/recent-program-updates/new-rape-definition-frequently-asked-questions>.

³³ Diana A. Drysdale, William Modzeleski, and Andre B. Simons, *Campus Attacks: Targeted Violence Affecting Institutions of Higher Education*, (Washington, DC: U.S. Secret Service, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools, U.S. Department of Education; Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice, 2010), 1, 11, accessed October 7, 2014, <http://www.fbi.gov/stats-services/publications/campus-attacks/campus-attacks-pdf>.

³⁴ Bonnie S. Fisher, Francis T. Cullen, and Michael G. Turner, "Sexual Victimization of College Women," (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice, 2000).

³⁵ The Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act requires campuses to keep records and disclose all incidents of campus crime to the federal government. The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (VAWA) was signed into law on March 7, 2013, and amended parts of the Clery Act to require colleges and universities to compile statistics for additional crimes including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

³⁶ Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2012*, (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, 2013), *calculated from data in Table 9*, accessed July

- UCR data for hate and bias crimes are reported for school and college campuses combined, rather than distinguishing post-secondary college campuses from K-12 school locations. Hate and bias crime data for these combined locations indicate that incidents occurring at school and college campuses made up 8.3 percent of all hate and bias crimes reported in the United States in 2012.³⁹

4, 2014.

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2011*, *calculated from data in Table 9*, accessed July 4, 2014, http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2012/crime-in-the-u.s.-2012/tables/9tabledatadecpdf/table_9_offenses_known_to_law_enforcement_by_state_university_and_college_2012.xls.

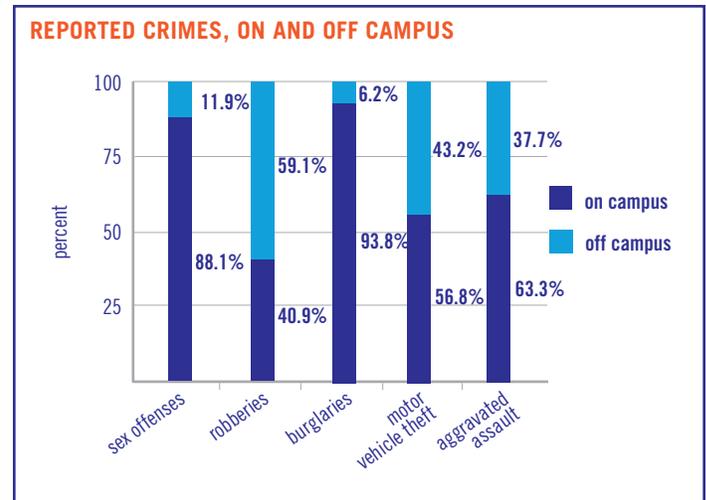
³⁹ Includes counts for "School/college," "School-college/university," and "School-elementary/secondary." Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Hate Crime Statistics, 2012*, *calculated from data in Table 10*, accessed July 4, 2014, http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/hate-crime/2012/tables-and-data-declarations/10tabledatadecpdf/table_10_incidents_bias_motivation_by_location_2012.xls.

School and Campus Crime

- Of the hate and bias crimes reported on school and college campuses in 2012, 52.0 percent were hate crimes based on race, 20.3 percent were hate crimes based on sexual orientation, 16.8 percent were hate crimes based on religion, 10.1 percent were hate crimes based on ethnicity, and 0.8 percent were hate crimes based on disability.⁴⁰

Clery Act reporting from 2012 showed:

- An estimated 81.6 percent of crimes reported to campus police in 2012 occurred on campus, and 18.3 percent occurred off campus.⁴¹
- Of aggravated assaults reported, 63.3 percent occurred on campus, and 37.7 percent occurred off campus.⁴²
- Of murders reported, 16 occurred on campus, and 21 occurred off campus.⁴³
- Of the sex offenses reported, 88.1 percent occurred on campus, and 11.9 percent occurred off campus.⁴⁴
- Of the robberies reported, 40.9 percent were on campus, and 59.1 percent were off campus. Of the burglaries, 93.8 percent were on campus, and 6.2 percent occurred off campus. Of motor vehicle thefts, 56.8 percent occurred on campus, while 43.2 percent were off campus.⁴⁵



According to a national study on the historical trends of institutions of higher education violence between 1909 and 2008:

- Suspects targeted one or more specifically named individuals in 73 percent of targeted violence incidents⁴⁶ on college and university campuses.⁴⁷
- A majority of incidents of targeted violence occurred on campus (79 percent), while approximately one-fifth were off campus.⁴⁸
- There were 272 targeted violence incidents on campuses between 1909 and 2008. Suspects caused 281 deaths and injured 247 individuals. Of the deaths, at least 190 were students, and at least 72 were employees. Of the injured, at least 144 were students, and at least 35 were employees.⁴⁹ ★

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ *The Handbook for Campus Safety and Security Reporting*, (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education, 2011), 1, accessed July 4, 2014, <http://www2.ed.gov/admins/lead/safety/handbook.pdf>. On-campus categories include "On campus" and "On-campus Student Housing Facilities." Off-campus categories include "Noncampus" and "Public Property." *The Campus Safety and Security Data Analysis Cutting Tool*, (U.S. Department of Education), based on calculations, accessed July 4, 2014, <http://ope.ed.gov/security>. For replication purposes: Group Search choices (Any Institution State or Outlying Area, Any Institution Enrollment, Any Type of Institution, Any Instructional Program, U.S. State or Outlying Area, Any Campus Style or Outlying Area).

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ Includes both forcible and non-forcible sex offenses. Ibid.

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ Targeted violence includes incidents in which the suspect targeted a specific institution of higher education student, employee, or facility/event, or a random student, employee, or facility/event because it matched the suspect's victim profile. Furthermore, the suspect employed or had the present ability to employ lethal force. For more information on the inclusion criteria, see page 8 of <http://www.publicsafety.ohio.gov/links/ohs-SchoolCampusAttacks0410.pdf>. Drysdale, Modzeleski, and Simons, *Campus Attacks*, 19.

⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ Ibid., 11, 17.