

# VIOLENCE AND SUICIDE

## Fact Sheet



**The Michigan Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)** is part of a nationwide surveying effort led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to monitor students' health risks and behaviors in six categories identified as most likely to result in adverse outcomes. These categories include: unintentional injury and violence, tobacco use, alcohol and other drug use, sexual behaviors that contribute to unintended pregnancy or disease, dietary behaviors, and physical inactivity.

Forty-three Michigan schools and 3,630 students participated in the 2001 YRBS. High response rates allow results of the 2001 YRBS to be generalized to all Michigan high school students.

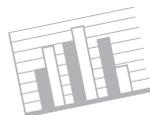


### Of Vital Concern

Approximately nine out of ten homicide victims in the United States are killed with a weapon of some type, such as a gun, knife, or club. Homicide is the second leading cause of death among all youth aged 15-24 (14.8 per 100,000) and is the leading cause of death among black youth aged 15-24 (54.7 per 100,000). During adolescence, homicide rates increase substantially. Among youth aged 5-14, the rate is a negligible 1.5 per 100,000, but it increases to 20.3 per 100,000 among youth aged 15-24. Firearms markedly elevate the severity of the health consequences of violent behavior. Firearm-related homicide and firearm-related suicide accounted for 44% and 51% respectively, of all firearm injury deaths in 1995. Unintentional firearm-related fatalities also are a critical problem among children and young adults in the United States. During 1996-1997, there were approximately 190,000 fights that did not include a weapon, 115,000 thefts, and 98,000 incidents of vandalism in U.S. schools. Nearly 70% of school districts prohibit students from possessing and using a weapon in the school building or on school grounds.

Suicide is the third leading cause of death among youth aged 15-24 and the second leading cause of death among white youth aged 15-24. The suicide rate for persons aged 15-24 has tripled since 1950 and in 1997 was 11.1 per 100,000.

For complete references, please log onto [www.emc.cmich.edu/yrbs/references.htm](http://www.emc.cmich.edu/yrbs/references.htm).

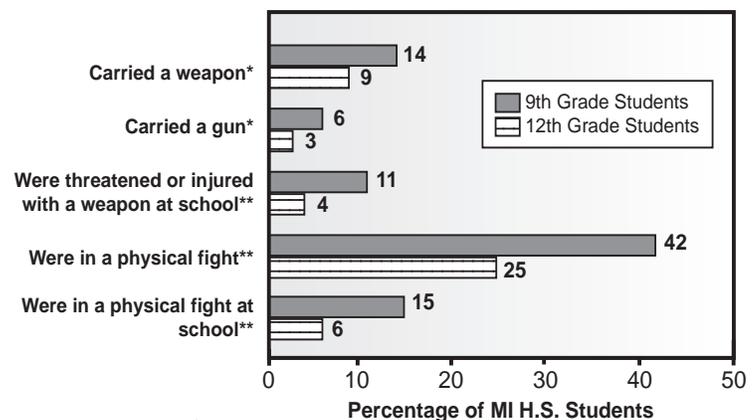


### 2001 Survey Results

- ◆ The majority of students had not experienced violence, such as fights and threats with weapons, especially on school property.
- ◆ Males were more likely to experience most forms of violence than females, and younger students were more likely to be involved in incidents involving weapons and fights than were older students (Figure 1).

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### Fights and Weapons by Grade



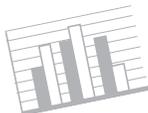
\* During the previous month<sup>1</sup>  
 \*\* During the previous year

<sup>1</sup> Previous month means the 30 days preceding the survey.

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### 2001 Survey Results (continued)

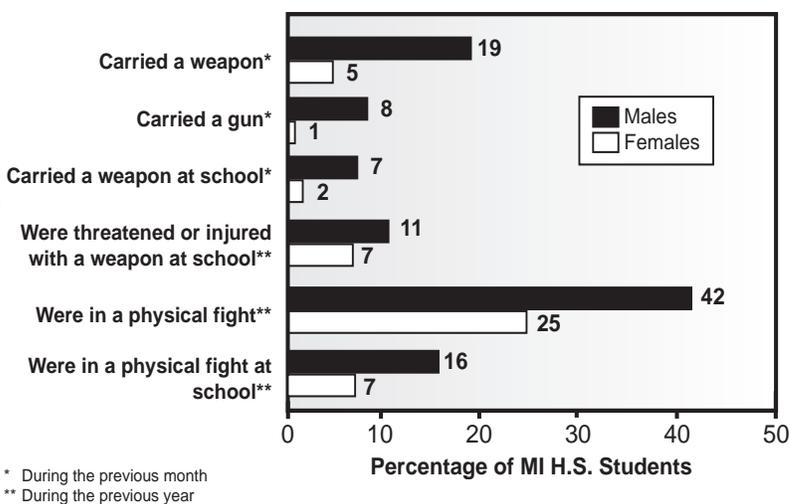


- ◆ Males were four times more likely than females to carry a weapon, three times more likely to carry a weapon on school property, and eight times more likely to carry a gun (Figure 2).
- ◆ Students who belong to a racial/ethnic minority were more than three times as likely as white students to have missed school recently because they did not feel safe (Figure 3).
- ◆ Three times as many ninth and tenth graders as twelfth graders had been threatened or injured with a weapon on school property.
- ◆ Males were nearly twice as likely as females and ninth graders nearly twice as likely as twelfth graders to have been in a physical fight in the previous year.
- ◆ Males were twice as likely as females and ninth graders twice as likely as twelfth graders to have been in a physical fight on school property.
- ◆ Ninth graders were twice as likely as eleventh graders to require treatment for an injury received in a fight.
- ◆ One in eight students had been physically hurt on purpose by a boyfriend or girlfriend. This was consistent for both sexes, all grades, and black and white students.

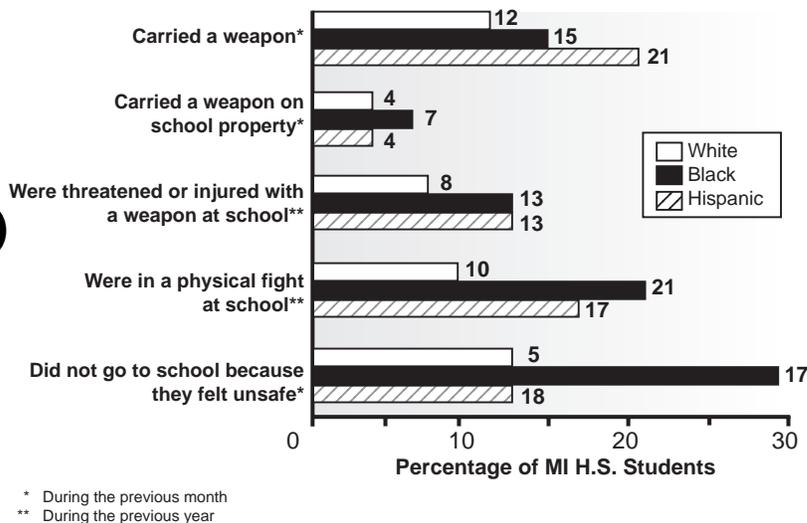
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### Fights and Weapons by Gender

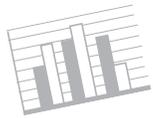


### Weapons and School Safety



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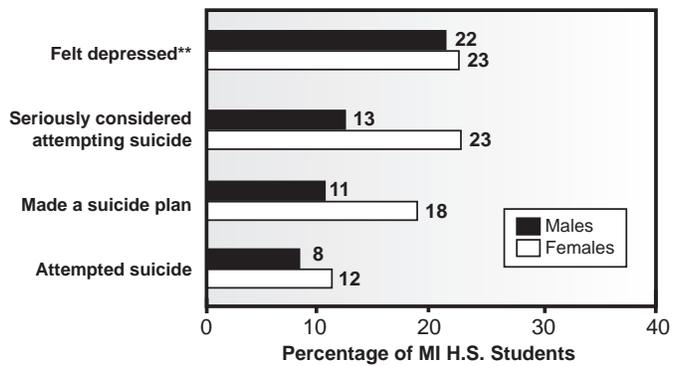


### 2001 Survey Results (continued)

- ◆ More females than males reported feeling depressed, considering suicide, and making a suicide plan (Figure 4).
- ◆ Hispanic students were nearly twice as likely as black students to consider suicide, and black students were nearly twice as likely as white students to attempt suicide.
- ◆ Ninth and tenth graders were nearly twice as likely as eleventh and twelfth graders to attempt suicide (Figure 5).

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#### Depression and Suicide\*



\* During the previous year  
 \*\* Felt so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that they stopped doing some usual activities

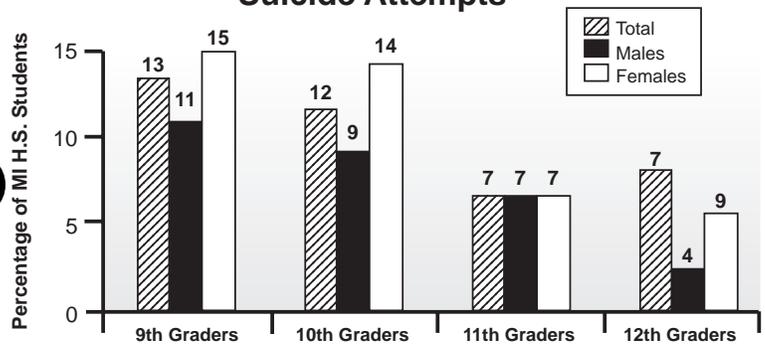
### Trends



Compared to 1997, high school students were significantly less likely to carry a weapon, carry a gun, and carry a weapon on school property.

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#### Suicide Attempts\*



\* During the previous year

#### Contact Information

Michigan Department of Education, Office of School Excellence, Learning Support Unit,  
 P.O. Box 30008, Lansing, Michigan 48909 Phone: 517-241-4284  
 Web: www.michigan.gov/mde

#### State of Compliance With Federal Law

The Michigan Department of Education complies with all Federal laws and regulations prohibiting discrimination, and with all requirements and regulations of the U. S. Department of Education.

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SURVEY QUESTION 	MI	GENDER		GRADE				RACE/ETHNICITY		
	01	M	F	9	10	11	12	White	Black	Hispanic
% of students who <b>carried a weapon</b> , such as a gun, knife, or club, on one or more of the past 30 days	13	19	5	14	14	11	9	12	15	21
% of students who <b>carried a gun</b> on one or more of the past 30 days	5	8	1	6	5	3	3	4	7	6
% of students who <b>carried a weapon</b> , such as a gun, knife, or club, on school property on one or more of the past 30 days	5	7	2	5	6	4	4	4	7	4
% of students who <b>did not go to school</b> on one or more of the past 30 days because they <b>felt unsafe</b> at school or on their way to or from school	7	7	8	9	8	5	5	5	17	18
% of students who had been <b>threatened or injured with a weapon on school property</b> one or more times during the past 12 months	9	11	7	11	11	8	4	8	13	13
% of students who were in a <b>physical fight</b> one or more times during the past 12 months	34	42	25	42	36	28	25	31	49	37
% of students who were <b>injured in a physical fight</b> and <b>had to be treated</b> by a doctor or nurse one or more times during the past 12 months	4	5	2	5	4	2	4	3	6	10
% of students who were in a <b>physical fight on school property</b> one or more times during the past 12 months	11	16	7	15	13	8	6	10	21	17
% of students who were ever hit, slapped, or <b>physically hurt on purpose</b> by their <b>boy-friend or girlfriend</b> during the past 12 months	12	12	12	10	11	14	14	12	12	17
% of students who ever <b>felt so sad or hopeless</b> almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that they <b>stopped doing some usual activities</b> during the past 12 months	27	22	33	26	29	27	27	26	29	36
% of students who seriously <b>considered attempting suicide</b> during the past 12 months	18	13	23	18	20	18	16	18	15	27
% of students who <b>made a plan</b> about how they would attempt <b>suicide</b> during the past 12 months	15	11	18	15	15	15	13	14	15	19
% of students who actually <b>attempted suicide</b> one or more times during the past 12 months	10	8	12	13	12	7	7	9	16	18
% of students whose <b>attempted suicide</b> during the past 12 months resulted in an injury, poisoning, or overdose that <b>had to be treated</b> by a doctor or nurse	4	4	3	5	4	2	2	3	4	8