



Trends in the Prevalence of Behaviors that Contribute to Violence

National YRBS: 1991–2011

The national Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) monitors priority health risk behaviors that contribute to the leading causes of death, disability, and social problems among youth and adults in the United States. The national YRBS is conducted every two years during the spring semester and provides data representative of 9th through 12th grade students in public and private schools throughout the United States.

1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	Changes from 1991–2011 ¹	Change from 2009–2011 ²
Carried a weapon on at least 1 day (for example, a gun, knife, or club during the 30 days before the survey)												
26.1 (23.7–28.5) ³	22.1 (19.8–24.6)	20.0 (18.8–21.4)	18.3 (16.5–20.2)	17.3 (15.4–19.3)	17.4 (15.5–19.5)	17.1 (15.4–19.0)	18.5 (16.9–20.2)	18.0 (16.3–19.8)	17.5 (16.1–19.0)	16.6 (15.4–18.0)	Decreased, 1991–1999 No change, 1999–2011	No change
Carried a gun on at least 1 day (during the 30 days before the survey)												
NA ⁴	7.9 (6.7–9.3)	7.6 (6.5–8.7)	5.9 (5.1–6.8)	4.9 (3.8–6.3)	5.7 (4.8–6.8)	6.1 (5.1–7.2)	5.4 (4.6–6.3)	5.2 (4.4–6.0)	5.9 (5.1–6.9)	5.1 (4.6–5.7)	Decreased, 1993–1999 No change, 1999–2011	No change
In a physical fight one or more times (during the 12 months before the survey)												
42.5 (40.0–45.0)	41.8 (39.8–43.8)	38.7 (36.5–40.9)	36.6 (34.7–38.7)	35.7 (33.4–38.1)	33.2 (31.8–34.7)	33.0 (31.1–35.1)	35.9 (34.3–37.4)	35.5 (34.0–37.1)	31.5 (30.1–32.9)	32.8 (31.5–34.1)	Decreased, 1991–2009 No change, 2009–2011	No change
Injured in a physical fight one or more times (injuries had to be treated by a doctor or nurse, during the 12 months before the survey)												
4.4 (3.6–5.3)	4.0 (3.2–5.0)	4.2 (3.6–4.8)	3.5 (3.0–4.1)	4.0 (3.3–4.8)	4.0 (3.6–4.5)	4.2 (3.4–5.3)	3.6 (3.2–4.0)	4.2 (3.7–4.7)	3.8 (3.3–4.3)	3.9 (3.4–4.4)	Decreased, 1991–2011	No change
Carried a weapon on school property on at least 1 day (for example, a gun, knife, or club during the 30 days before the survey)												
NA	11.8 (10.4–13.3)	9.8 (8.9–10.7)	8.5 (7.1–10.2)	6.9 (5.8–8.2)	6.4 (5.5–7.6)	6.1 (5.1–7.4)	6.5 (5.6–7.5)	5.9 (5.2–6.7)	5.6 (5.0–6.3)	5.4 (4.7–6.1)	Decreased, 1993–2003 No change, 2003–2011	No change
In a physical fight on school property one or more times (during the 12 months before the survey)												
NA	16.2 (15.1–17.5)	15.5 (13.9–17.2)	14.8 (13.6–16.2)	14.2 (13.0–15.5)	12.5 (11.5–13.5)	12.8 (11.3–14.4)	13.6 (12.5–14.7)	12.4 (11.5–13.4)	11.1 (10.0–12.2)	12.0 (11.3–12.8)	Decreased, 1993–2009 No change, 2009–2011	No change
Threatened or injured with a weapon on school property one or more times (for example, a gun, knife, or club during the 12 months before the survey)												
NA	7.3 (6.5–8.3)	8.4 (7.3–9.7)	7.4 (6.5–8.3)	7.7 (6.9–8.6)	8.9 (7.9–10.1)	9.2 (7.8–10.8)	7.9 (7.2–8.6)	7.8 (7.0–8.8)	7.7 (6.9–8.5)	7.4 (6.8–8.1)	No change, 1993–2003 Decreased, 2003–2011	No change
Did not go to school because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to or from school on at least 1 day (during the 30 days before the survey)												
NA	4.4 (3.7–5.2)	4.5 (3.8–5.3)	4.0 (3.4–4.7)	5.2 (4.0–6.8)	6.6 (5.7–7.7)	5.4 (4.7–6.3)	6.0 (4.9–7.4)	5.5 (4.7–6.3)	5.0 (4.3–5.7)	5.9 (5.1–6.9)	No change, 1993–2011	No change

1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	Changes from 1991–2011 ¹	Change from 2009–2011 ²
Bullied on school property (during the 12 months before the survey)												
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	19.0 (18.8–21.1)	20.1 (18.7–21.5)	NA	No change
Hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by their boyfriend or girlfriend (during the 12 months before the survey)												
NA	NA	NA	NA	8.8 (7.4–10.5)	9.5 (8.8–10.2)	8.9 (7.9–9.9)	9.2 (8.5–9.8)	9.9 (8.9–11.1)	9.8 (8.9–10.8)	9.4 (8.6–10.3)	No change, 1999–2011	No change
Ever physically forced to have sexual intercourse (when they did not want to)												
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	7.7 (6.9–8.7)	9.0 (7.5–10.7)	7.5 (6.7–8.3)	7.8 (7.0–8.8)	7.4 (6.7–8.3)	8.0 (7.3–8.8)	No change, 2001–2011	No change

¹ Based on trend analyses using a logistic regression model controlling for sex, race/ethnicity, and grade.

² Based on t-test analyses, $p < 0.05$.

³ 95% confidence interval.

⁴ Not available.

Where can I get more information? Visit www.cdc.gov/yrbss or call 800–CDC–INFO (800–232–4636).



National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention
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