

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. High response rates allow results of the 2007 YRBS to be generalized to all Michigan students in grades 9-12.



Of Vital Concern: The National Perspective

Homicide is the second leading cause of death among all youth aged 15 to 19 years (9.5 per 100,000) and is the leading cause of death among black youth aged 15 to 19 years (33.2 per 100,000). In 2003, 82% of homicide victims 15 to 19 years old were killed with firearms. Firearms intensify violence and increase the likelihood of fatality in a conflict. Of all violent deaths that occurred on school property between 1994 and 1999, 75% involved firearms. Nearly 100% of school districts have a policy prohibiting weapon possession or use by high school students on school property. In 2005, 19% of high school students had carried a weapon, 5% had carried a gun, and 7% had carried a weapon on school property on one or more of the 30 days preceding the survey.

Suicide is the third leading cause of death among youth aged 15 to 19. The suicide rate for persons aged 15 to 19 was 7.3 per 100,000 in 2003, down from a high of 10.9 per 100,000 in 1994. In 2005, 17% of high school students had seriously considered attempting suicide, 13% had made a plan about how they would attempt suicide, and 8% had actually attempted suicide one or more times during the 12 months preceding the survey. From 1991 to 2003, the percentage of high school students who seriously considered suicide decreased from 29% to 17%.

For complete references, please log onto www.emc.cmich.edu/yrebs.

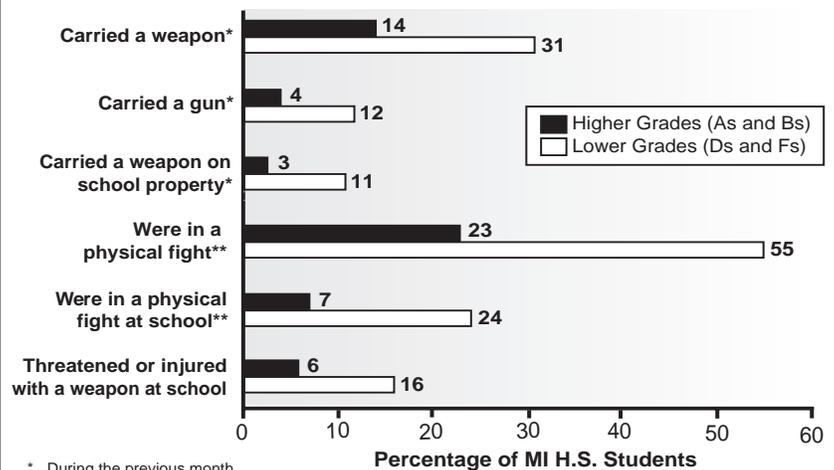


2007 Survey Results

- ◆ The majority of students had not **carried a gun** or **carried a weapon** of any kind **on school property**.
- ◆ The majority of students had not experienced violence, such as **fights resulting in injury** and **threats with weapons**, and had **not missed school due to feeling unsafe**.
- ◆ Students with low grades were more likely than students with higher grades¹ to experience violence on and off school property, including **carrying weapons** and **guns, fighting**, and being **threatened or injured** with a weapon (Figure 1).

1

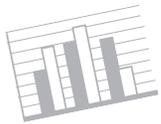
Fights and Weapons by Academics



¹ Self report grades earned in school are used to assess academic achievement with high grades representing students with mostly As and Bs, average grades with Cs, and low grades with mostly Ds and Fs.

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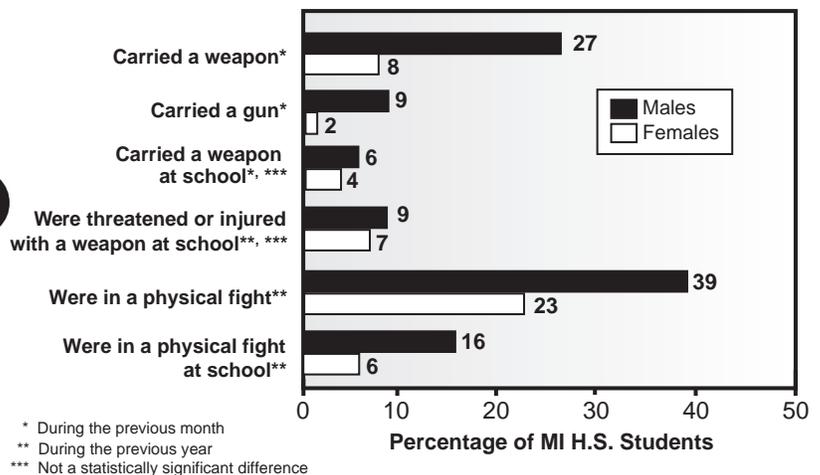


2007 Survey Results (continued)

- ◆ Males were three times more likely than females to **carry a weapon** and four times more likely to **carry a gun** (Figure 2).
- ◆ Black students were more likely than white students to have been in a **physical fight** on and off school property and three times more likely to have been in a **fight requiring treatment**. They were also twice as likely to carry a **weapon on school property** as well as **skip school** because they did not feel safe (Figure 3).
- ◆ Hispanic students were more likely than white students to **carry a gun** and to have been in a **physical fight**, on and off school property. They were also twice as likely to have been **threatened with a weapon** at school.
- ◆ Ninth graders were less likely than tenth graders to carry a **weapon on school property**.
- ◆ Males were more likely than females to have been in a **physical fight** and two times more likely to have been in a **fight at school** (Figure 2).

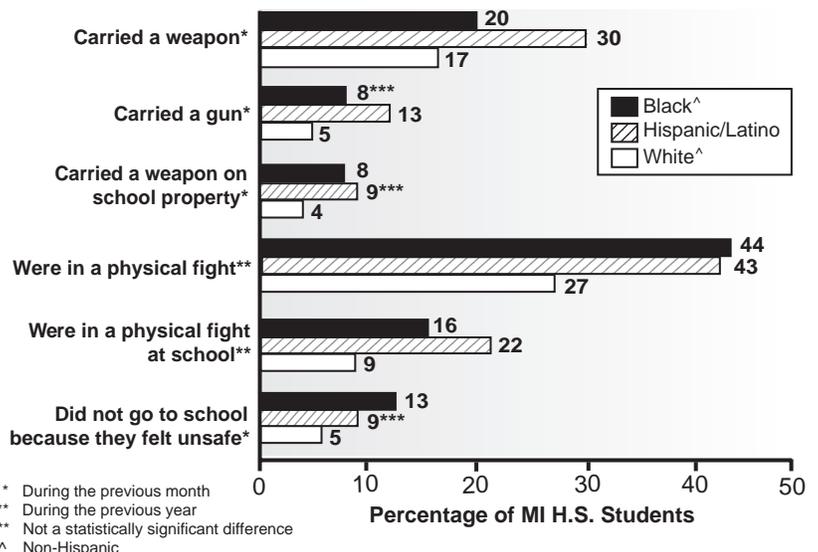
2

Fights and Weapons by Gender



3

Weapons and School Safety

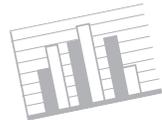


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2007 Survey Results (continued)

4

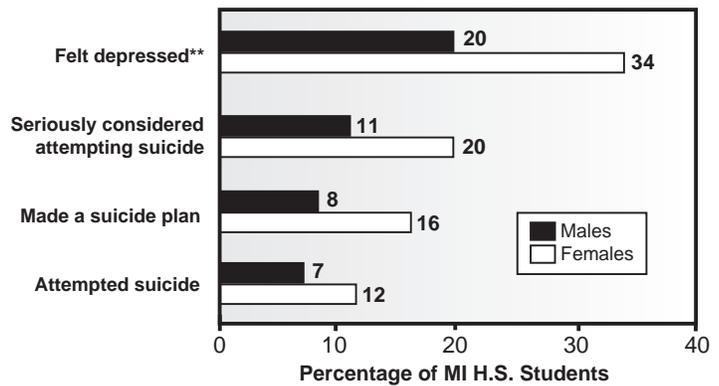


- ◆ One in nine students, regardless of gender, had been **physically hurt on purpose by a boyfriend or girlfriend**. However, more American Indian and Hispanic students than white students had been hurt by a boyfriend or girlfriend.
- ◆ One in four students reported **feeling depressed**,² and one in seven seriously **considered suicide** during the past year.
- ◆ More females than males reported feeling **depressed** as well as **considering** suicide, making a **plan** to commit suicide, and actually **attempting** suicide (Figure 4).
- ◆ Ninth grade students were twice as likely as twelfth grade students to have **planned** and **attempted suicide**.
- ◆ American Indian and Hispanic students were more likely to make a **plan** to attempt suicide than white students.
- ◆ Students with low grades were more likely than students with high grades to report **depression** and to have **considered suicide**. They were also twice as likely to have **attempted suicide** during the past year (Figure 5).

5

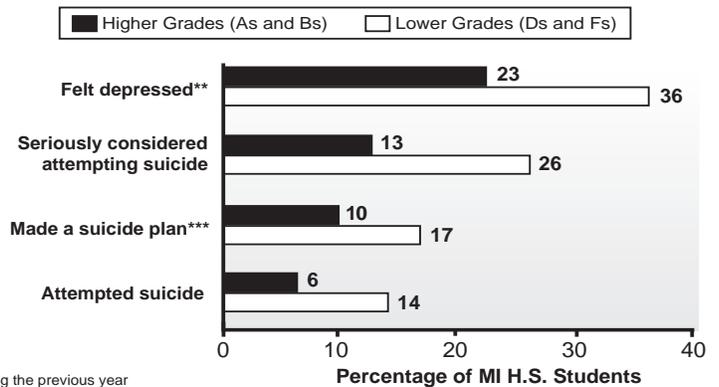
² *Feeling depressed* means feeling so sad or hopeless almost every day for more than two weeks in a row that they stopped doing some usual activities.

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

Depression and Suicide by Academics*



* 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
 *** Not a statistically significant difference

Trends



Since 1999, high school students are significantly less likely to **carry a weapon on school property** and **fight**, on and off school property. They are also less likely to **consider suicide** and **make a suicide plan**.

Contact Information
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 Web: www.michigan.gov/mde

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SURVEY QUESTION	MI	GENDER		GRADE				RACE/ETHNICITY			
	2007	M	F	9	10	11	12	American Indian	Black [^]	Hispanic/Latino	White [^]
% of students who carried a weapon , such as a gun, knife, or club, on one or more of the past 30 days	18	27	8	18	19	19	16	19	20	30	17
% of students who carried a gun on one or more of the past 30 days	6	9	2	5	6	7	5	3	8	13	5
% of students who carried a weapon , such as a gun, knife, or club, on school property on one or more of the past 30 days	5	6	4	3	6	6	4	2	8	9	4
% of students who did not go to school on one or more of the past 30 days because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to or from school	7	6	7	5	7	6	8	1	13	9	5
% of students who had been threatened or injured with a weapon on school property one or more times during the past 12 months	8	9	7	9	11	5	6	25	9	15	7
% of students who had property , such as a car, clothing, or books, stolen or deliberately damaged on school property during past 12 months	30	31	29	35	29	29	25	34	32	32	30
% of students who were in a physical fight one or more times during the past 12 months	31	39	23	32	35	29	24	52	44	43	27
% of students who were injured in a physical fight and had to be treated by a doctor or nurse one or more times during the past 12 months	3	4	2	3	4	3	3	7	6	6	2
% of students who were in a physical fight on school property one or more times during the past 12 months	11	16	6	13	14	10	7	21	16	22	9
% of students who were ever hit, slapped or physically hurt on purpose by their boy-friend or girlfriend during the past 12 months	12	13	12	10	11	15	15	28	12	23	12
% of students who ever felt so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that they stopped doing some usual activities during the past 12 months	27	20	34	29	27	26	24	44	27	38	26
% of students who seriously considered attempting suicide during the past 12 months	15	11	20	19	16	14	11	15	11	20	16
% of students who made a plan about how they would attempt suicide during the past 12 months	12	8	16	14	13	12	7	26	9	20	12
% of students who actually attempted suicide one or more times during the past 12 months	9	7	12	12	11	8	5	14	8	17	9
% of students whose attempted suicide during the past 12 months resulted in an injury, poisoning, or overdose that had to be treated by a doctor or nurse	3	2	3	3	2	3	2	1	1	6	3

[^]Non-Hispanic

For additional information on the YRBS results, please log on to www.michigan.gov/yrbs