

# 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 2005 YRBS to be generalized to all Michigan students in grades 9-12.



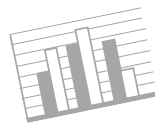
### Of Vital Concern: The National Perspective

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 to 19 years (9.4 per 100,000) and is the leading cause of death among black youth aged 15 to 19 years (32.7 per 100,000). Firearms intensify violence and increase the likelihood of fatality in a conflict. In 2001, 83% of homicide victims 15 to 19 years old were killed with firearms. In 2003, 6% of high school students reported carrying a gun. Nearly 100% of school districts have a policy prohibiting weapon possession or use by high school students on school property. A significant decrease occurred in weapon carrying among high school students on school property from 1993 to 2003. About 1.2 million thefts of student property occurred at school in 2001. In 2003, 5% of high school students felt unsafe at school or traveling to or from school. Also in 2003, 9% of high school students had ever experienced forced sex. Forced sexual intercourse has been associated with poorer physical and mental health among women.

Suicide is the third leading cause of death among youth aged 15 to 19. The suicide rate for persons aged 15 to 19 was 7.9 per 100,000 in 2001, down from a high of 10.9 per 100,000 in 1994. In 2003, 17% of high school students had made a specific plan to attempt suicide and 9% had attempted suicide one or more times in the past year. 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/yrbs](http://www.emc.cmich.edu/yrbs).

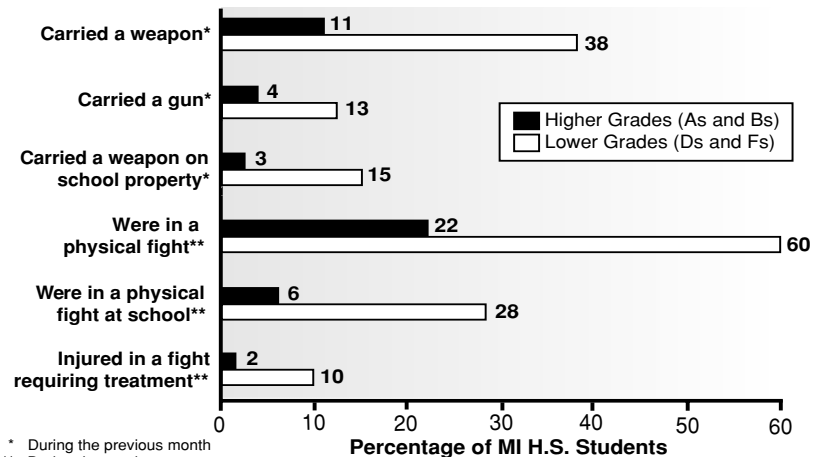


### 2005 Survey Results

- ◆ 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 grades<sup>1</sup> to experience violence in all forms, on and off school property including **carrying weapons** and **guns, fighting**, and **skipping school** due to feeling unsafe (Figure 1).

1

#### Fights and Weapons by Academics



\* During the previous month

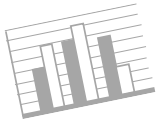
\*\* During the previous year

\*\*\* These percentages do not reflect statistically significant differences from other races.

<sup>1</sup> 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.

# VIOLENCE AND SUICIDE

## Fact Sheet

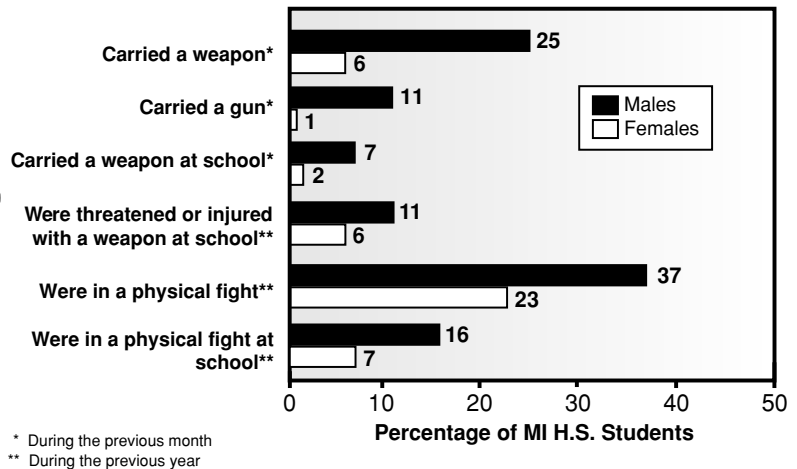


### 2005 Survey Results (continued)

- ◆ Males were more likely to experience most forms of violence than females. Males were four times more likely than females to **carry a weapon**, three times more likely to **carry a weapon on school property**, and eleven times more likely to **carry a gun** (Figure 2).
- ◆ Black students were more likely than white students to **carry a gun** and twice as likely to have been in a **physical fight**, on and off school property (Figure 3).
- ◆ Hispanic students were more likely than white students to have been in a **physical fight** on and off school property, as well as more likely to have had **personal property stolen or damaged** at school. They were also more likely to have **skipped school** recently<sup>2</sup> because they did not feel safe.
- ◆ Ninth graders were more likely than twelfth graders to have been in a **physical fight** and have **property stolen or damaged** at school.
- ◆ **At school**, males were more likely than females to have been in a **physical fight** and **threatened with a weapon** (Figure 2).

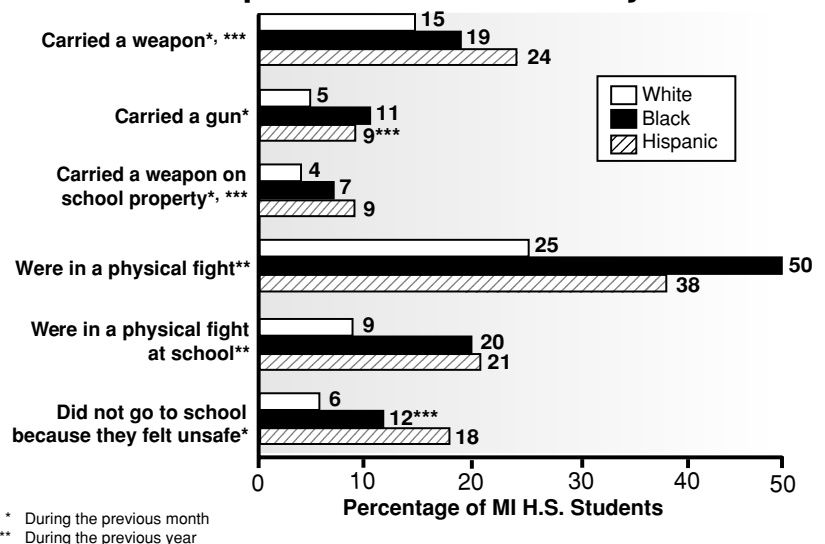
2

### Fights and Weapons by Gender



3

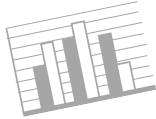
### Weapons and School Safety



<sup>2</sup> *Recently* means during the past 30 days.

# VIOLENCE AND SUICIDE

## Fact Sheet



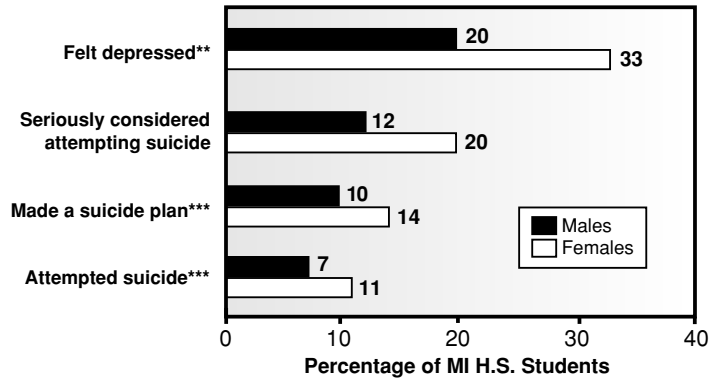
### 2005 Survey Results (continued)

- ◆ One in nine students, regardless of gender, had been **physically hurt on purpose by a boyfriend or girlfriend**. However, more black and Hispanic students than white students had been hurt by a **boyfriend or girlfriend**.
- ◆ One in four students reported **feeling depressed**,<sup>3</sup> and one in seven seriously **considered suicide** during the past year.
- ◆ More females than males reported feeling **depressed** and **considering suicide** (Figure 4).
- ◆ Students with low grades were twice as likely as students with high grades to report feeling **depressed**, **considering** and **planning suicide**, and nearly four times as likely to have **attempted suicide** during the past year (Figure 5).

<sup>3</sup> *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.

4

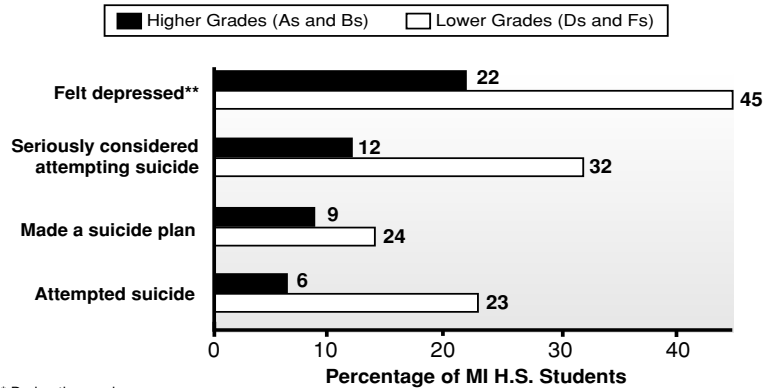
### Depression and Suicide\*



\* 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  
 \*\*\* These percentages do not reflect a statistically significant difference between genders.

5

### 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

## Trends



Compared to 1997, high school students were significantly less likely to **carry a weapon on school property**. They were also less likely to consider suicide and make a suicide plan.

#### Contact Information

Michigan Department of Education, Grants Coordination and School Support,  
 Coordinated School Health and Safety Programs  
 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. 10,000 pieces printed at \$48 each, total cost \$791.77.

#### Michigan State Board of Education

Kathleen N. Straus, President	John C. Austin, Vice President
Carolyn L. Curtin, Secretary	Marianne Yared McGuire, Treasurer
Nancy Danhof, NASBE Delegate	Elizabeth W. Bauer
Reginald M. Turner	Eileen Lappin Weiser

#### Ex-Officio

Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor  
 Michael P. Flanagan, Superintendent of Public Instruction

# VIOLENCE AND SUICIDE

## Fact Sheet



SURVEY QUESTION	MI	GENDER		GRADE				RACE/ETHNICITY			
	2005	M	F	9	10	11	12	Black	White	Hispanic	American Indian
% of students who <b>carried a weapon</b> , such as a gun, knife, or club, on one or more of the past 30 days	16	25	6	17	19	13	12	19	15	24	30
% of students who <b>carried a gun</b> on one or more of the past 30 days	6	11	1	6	8	3	7	11	5	9	6
% of students who <b>carried a weapon</b> , such as a gun, knife, or club, <b>on school property</b> on one or more of the past 30 days	5	7	2	3	6	5	4	7	4	9	7
% 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	7	7	8	7	6	12	6	18	14
% 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	6	10	9	8	6	11	8	14	18
% of students who had <b>property</b> , such as a car, clothing, or books, <b>stolen</b> or deliberately damaged on school property during past 12 months	31	33	28	38	30	29	23	36	29	47	32
% of students who were in a <b>physical fight</b> one or more times during the past 12 months	30	37	23	39	32	26	21	50	25	38	56
% 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	3	4	4	3	3	5	3	9	3
% 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	12	8	9	20	9	21	16
% of students who were ever hit, slapped or <b>physically hurt on purpose by their boyfriend or girlfriend</b> during the past 12 months	11	12	10	12	9	11	12	17	10	18	20
% 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	26	20	33	28	26	25	25	23	26	35	32
% of students who seriously <b>considered attempting suicide</b> during the past 12 months	16	12	20	16	18	15	14	12	16	20	31
% of students who <b>made a plan</b> about how they would attempt <b>suicide</b> during the past 12 months	12	10	14	15	13	12	9	11	12	16	30
% of students who actually <b>attempted suicide</b> one or more times during the past 12 months	9	7	11	11	9	10	6	9	9	11	15
% 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	3	3	4	3	3	3	4	3	3	2	0

For additional information on the YRBS results, please log on to [www.michigan.gov/yrebs](http://www.michigan.gov/yrebs)