

# Youth Violence

## Violence: What do we mean?



- violent crime (homicide, etc.)
- suicide
- fighting
- bullying
- sexual harassment
- child/adolescent abuse
- date/relationship violence
- gang-related violence

## Status Offenses



- truancy from school
- underage drinking
- buying cigarettes
- running away

## Violent Crime



## Violent Crime Index Offenses

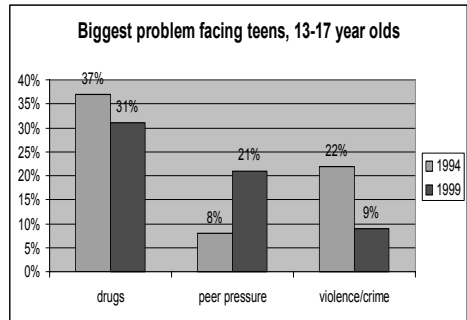
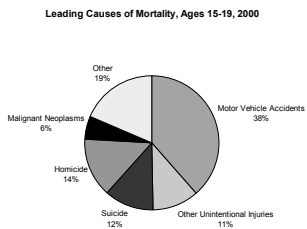


- murder
- rape
- aggravated assault
- armed robbery
- arson

## Data Sources

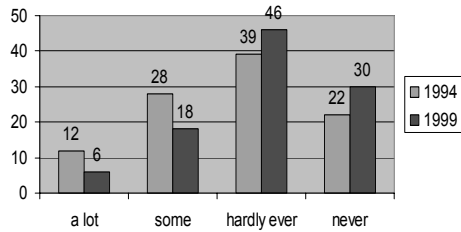


- Youth Risk Behavior Survey
- National Youth Gang Survey
- Uniform Crime Reports (UCR), FBI
- National Crime Victimization Survey, DOJ
- Health Behavior of School-aged Children Survey, National Institute for Child Health & Development & WHO (bullying)
- National School Climate Survey, 2001



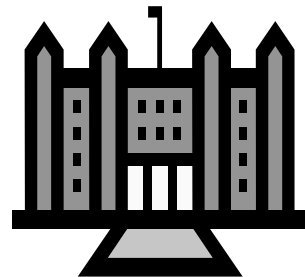
New York Times/CBS News Poll October 1999

**% 13-17 year olds who worry about being a crime victim, 1999**



N.Y. Times/CBS News, October 1999

**School Safety**

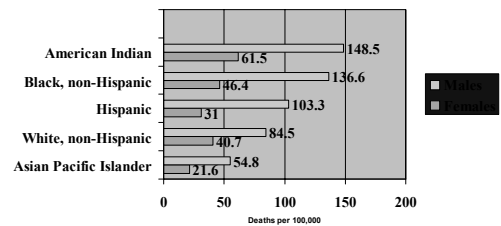


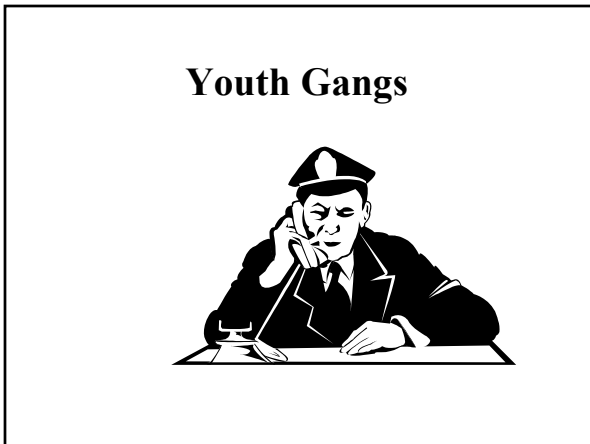
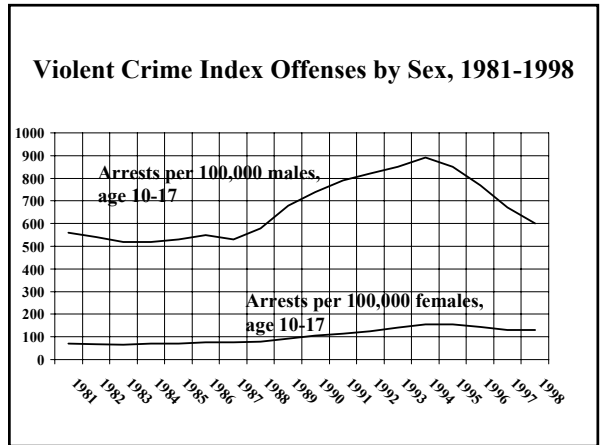
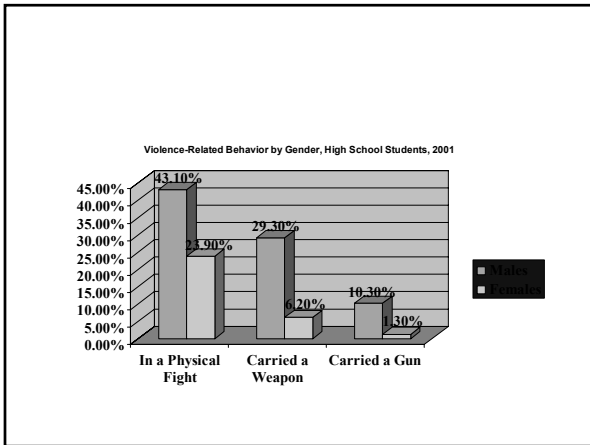
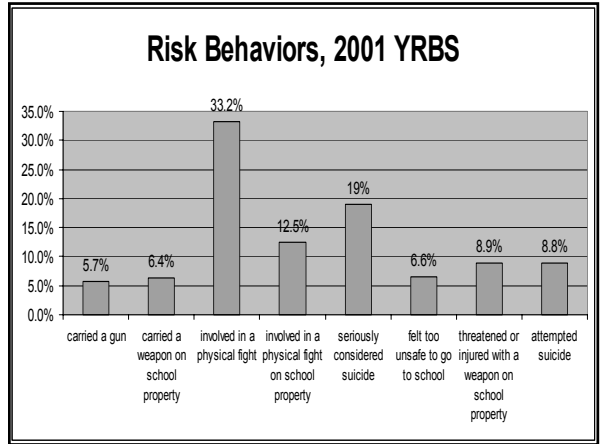
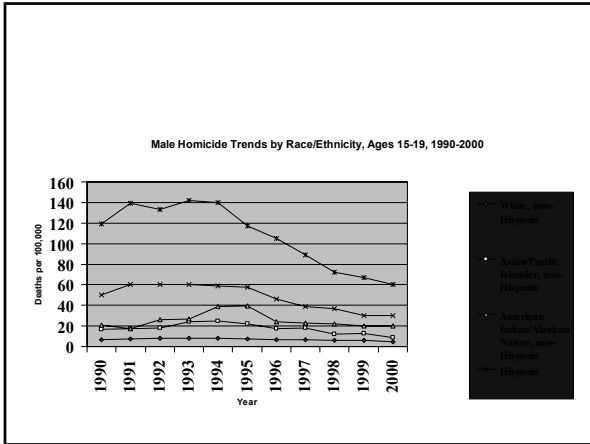
**Violent Schools: Myth or Reality?**



- schools among the safest places for children
- homicides in school rare: of 2,000 killings of children/year, 10 in or near schools
- 300 youth killed by guns elsewhere for one killed by gun at school
- % carrying gun/weapon to school declined 1996-2001
- most school crime is theft, not violent: 1% report being victim of a "serious" school crime

Mortality by Race/Ethnicity and Gender, Ages 15-19, 2000



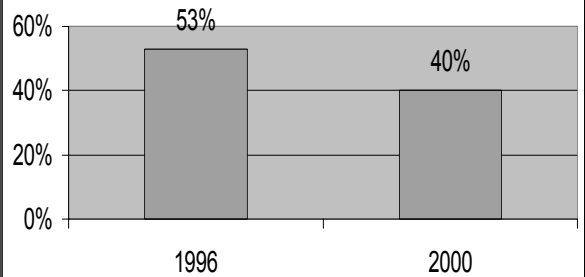


**Gangs: “a group of youths or young adults in your jurisdiction that you or other responsible persons in your community are willing to identify or classify as a ‘gang’”...National Youth Gang Center, OJJDP**

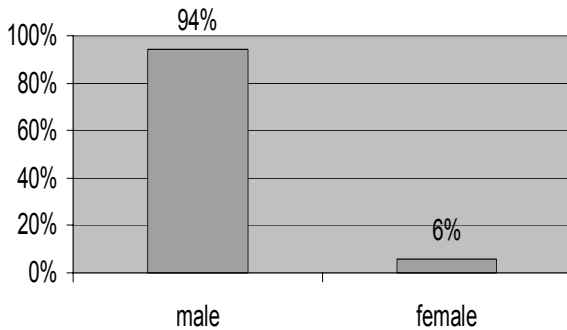
## Youth Gangs

- National Youth Gang Survey surveys 5,000 law enforcement agencies nationwide
- 40% jurisdictions report active youth gangs in 2000
- prevalence of active youth gangs varies by region: West (74% of jurisdictions) vs Northeast (31%)
- 42% youth gangs involved in street sale of drugs

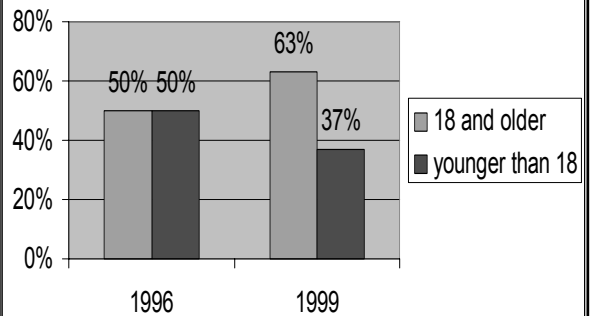
## % jurisdictions reporting active youth gangs, 1996 & 2000



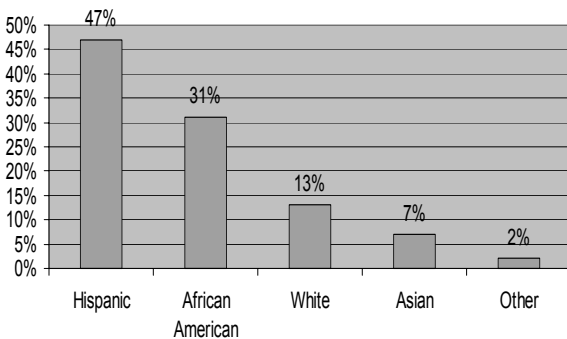
## Gender of Gang Members



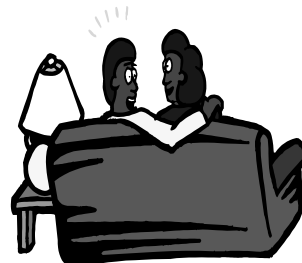
## Age of gang members



## Race/ethnicity of gang members, 1999



## Relationship/Dating Violence



## Dating Violence

the perpetration or threat of an act of violence by at least one member of an unmarried couple on the other member within the context of dating.

This violence encompasses any form of sexual assault, physical violence, and verbal or emotional abuse.

## Dating Violence

- Estimated prevalence of nonsexual dating violence:
  - 22% among male & female h.s. students
  - 32% among college students
- females more likely victims
- 80-90% of rapes on college campuses committed by someone victim knows
- characteristics of perpetrators: sexually aggressive male peers, heavy alcohol or drug use, dating violence normative, traditional sex roles, rape myths, family history of observing or experiencing abuse

## Safe Dates

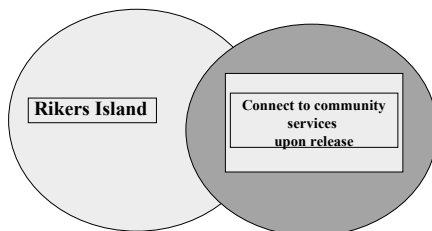
Foshee et al, AJPH 1998

- primary & secondary prevention
- 8th & 9th graders in rural North Carolina
- school: student theater; 10 session curriculum; poster contest to:
  - change dating violence norms
  - teach conflict management skills
  - normalize seeking help
- community: train professionals, crisis lines, support groups
- outcomes:
  - program students report less verbal, psychological, physical abuse than controls
  - program students more likely to endorse non-violence norms, have better communication skills & more favorable attitude towards seeking help

## Incarcerated Youth



## Health Link, Hunter College



Long-term case-management (“wrap around services”)

## Bullying



**A specific type of aggressive behavior:**

- intended to harm or disturb
- occurring repeatedly, over time
- powerful attacking less powerful



Takes many forms:

- threats
- physical harm
- rejection
- name calling
- teasing
- rumors
- take belongings



- 30% US middle school students “involved”:
  - 13% bullying
  - 11% being bullied
  - 6% both bullying & being bullied
- males bully/bullied more than females
- peaks in middle school
- bullying/being bullied associated with adjustment problems
- differences between those bullying & bullied
- successful interventions in Norway, England, South Carolina

**Critical Elements of Violence Prevention Programs**  
Dusenbury et al, Jnl of School Health, 1997

- family, peer, community components
- begin early, then reinforce (“no quick fixes”)
- developmentally tailored
- promote personal & social competencies
- interactive teaching techniques
- culturally competent
- staff training/supervision (fidelity)
- positive school climate, starting in classroom
- promote norms vs. violence, bullying



## Early Childhood Interventions



- Nurse Home Visitation Program (Olds, 1998)
- High/Scope Perry Preschool Project (Schweinhart & Weikart, 1993)
- Seattle Social Development Project (Hawkins & Catalano, 1999)

## Multisystemic Therapy

- youth “nested” in interconnected systems
- violent behavior maintained by problem transactions within/between systems (e.g. school & home)
- builds on strengths
- help parents deal with child’s behavior problems
- help parents build support network/access services they need
- masters level staff
- low caseloads
- 24/7 availability x 4 months
- 50 hours face-face
- effective reducing antisocial behavior of violent & chronic juvenile offenders

