



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs

School Safety Data Collections

Rachel E. Morgan, Ph.D.

Statistician

Victimization Statistics Unit

Bureau of Justice Statistics



BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS

Presented at NIJ meeting on State School Safety Issues – Santa Fe, NM – February 9 & 10, 2016

The Bureau of Justice Statistics and Office of Justice Programs

- The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) is the United States' primary source for criminal justice statistics.
- BJS' mission is to collect, analyze, publish, and disseminate information on crime, criminal offenders, victims of crime, and the operation of justice systems at all levels of government.
- BJS was first established on December 27, 1979 under the Justice Systems Improvement Act of 1979, Public Law 96-157 (the 1979 Amendment to the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, Public Law 90-351).
- BJS is a component of the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) in the U.S. Department of Justice.
- OJP provides innovative leadership to federal, state, local, and tribal justice systems, by disseminating state-of-the art knowledge and practices across America, and providing grants for the implementation of these crime fighting strategies.

Federal resources

- National Criminal Justice Reference Service (www.ncjrs.gov)
 - Sponsored by agencies within the Office of Justice Programs
 - Federally funded resource offering justice and drug-related information to support research, policy, and program development worldwide
 - Includes links to OJP publications, grant and funding opportunities
- Federal data collections focused on students, schools, school crime, and school safety
 - Sponsored by –
 - National Center for Education Statistics, Office of Postsecondary Education (U.S. Department of Education)
 - Bureau of Justice Statistics, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (U.S. Department of Justice)
 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services)

School safety data collections

- **U.S. Department of Education**

- Campus Safety and Security Survey
- Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC)
- *EDFacts*
- Fast Response Survey System (FRSS)
- High School Longitudinal Study of 2009 (HSL:09)
- School Survey on Crime and Safety (SSOCS)
- Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS)

- **U.S. Department of Justice**

- Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement (CJRP)
- National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)
- School Crime Supplement (SCS) to the NCVS
- Supplementary Homicide Reports (SHR)

- **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**

- The School-Associated Violent Deaths Study (SAVD)
- Web-Based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System Fatal (WISQARS Fatal)
- Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS)

Differences between the data collections

1. Population of persons v. sample of persons

- Population survey = collecting data from all persons in the population (e.g., WISQARS Fatal)
- Sample survey = collecting data from a subset of the population (e.g., NCVS)

2. Years of survey

- Varies based on the survey
- Some surveys are collected annually (e.g., NCVS, SHR), biennially (e.g., NCVS SCS), and others on a less routine basis (e.g., SSOCS, SASS)

3. Reference time period

- Reference period or time frame the survey specifies when asking about incidents
- Some surveys ask about incidents that occurred in the past 6 months (e.g., NCVS) and some ask about incidents that occurred during the school year (e.g., NCVS SCS, ED*Facts*, FRSS)

4. Information collected

- Each survey collects a variety of different information from respondents.
 - The NCVS collects information from individuals on nonfatal personal crimes and household property crimes both reported and not reported to police.
 - The YRBSS collects information on youth behaviors that may influence health.
 - The SSOCS collects crime and safety data from principals and school administrators in U.S. public schools.

Differences between the data collections

5. Key estimates produced

- Surveys are collecting different information from respondents, and therefore there are differences in the types of estimates that are produced.
 - The NCVS data can be used to estimate the number of victimizations (violent and theft) that occurred at and away from school in the U.S. The NCVS can also produce rates of victimization (violent and theft) per 1,000 persons ages 12-18 in the U.S.
 - The NCVS SCS data can be used to estimate the percentage of students ages 12-18 that experienced bullying (at school) and cyberbullying (anywhere) in the U.S.
 - The SSOCS data can be used to estimate the percentage of U.S. public schools that took disciplinary action against a student and the type of offense the student engaged in.

6. Data availability

- Many of these data collections are available for public-use and analysis through online data analysis tools through the sponsor's website or available for download and analysis through Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR).

7. Level of data

- Many of the surveys produce key estimates at the national level (e.g., NCVS, NCVS SCS, CJRP). The surveys may also produce estimates at the state (e.g., CRDC) or institution level (e.g., Campus Safety and Security Survey, ED*Facts*).

National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)

- **Respondents:** Sample; individuals ages 12 or older living in households and group quarters
- **Years of survey:** 1992-2014
- **Reference time period:** Interviews conducted during the calendar year (respondents are interviewed every 6 months and asked about incidents that occurred in the past 6 months)
- **Sponsor:** Bureau of Justice Statistics (U.S. Department of Justice)
- **Information collected on:** Nonfatal violent and property victimizations reported and not reported to police
- **Key estimates:** Incidence of victimization at school and away from school
- **Data availability:** Public-use data files available for download from ICPSR website and online data analysis tool on BJS website
- **Level of data:** National level

School Crime Supplement (SCS) to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)

- **Respondents:** Sample; students ages 12-18 enrolled in public and private schools during the school year (NCVS sample)
- **Years of survey:** 1995, 1999, and 2001-2013 biennially
- **Reference time period:** Incidents during the previous 6 months (1995, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2005); incidents during the school year (2007, 2009, 2011, 2013)
- **Sponsor:** National Center for Education Statistics (U.S. Department of Education) and Bureau of Justice Statistics (U.S. Department of Justice)
- **Information collected on:** School-related victimizations
- **Key estimates:** Prevalence of victimization; gangs; bullying/cyber-bullying; hate-related incidents; weapons; personal safety; avoiding school activities; and safety and security measures
- **Data availability:** Public-use data files available for download from ICPSR website
- **Level of data:** National level

Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement (CJRP)

- **Respondents:** Population; all youth assigned a bed in juvenile residential custody facilities
- **Years of survey:** 1997-2013 biennially
- **Reference time period:** Fourth Wednesday in October
- **Sponsor:** Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (U.S. Department of Justice)
- **Information collected on:** Characteristics of youth held in residential placement facilities
- **Key estimates:** Characteristics of the youth in residential facilities and characteristics of the facilities
- **Data availability:** Data analysis tool available on OJJDP website
- **Level of data:** National and state levels

Campus Safety and Security Survey

- **Respondents:** Population; all postsecondary institutions that receive Title IV funding (Clery Act)
- **Years of survey:** 2001-2014 annually
- **Reference time period:** Calendar year
- **Sponsor:** Office of Postsecondary Education (U.S. Department of Education)
- **Information collected on:** Campus safety and security; on-campus criminal offenses and arrests involving students, faculty, staff, and the general public; and reports on referrals for disciplinary action primarily with persons associated formally with the institution
- **Key estimates:** Criminal incidents at postsecondary institutions and hate crime incidents at postsecondary institutions
- **Data availability:** Data analysis tool available on OPE website
- **Level of data:** Institution, institutional enrollment size, type of institution, and instructional program

School Survey on Crime and Safety (SSOCS)

- **Respondents:** Sample; school principals (or the most knowledgeable person about discipline issues in the school) at public primary, middle, and high schools
- **Years of survey:** 1999-2000, 2003-04, 2005-06, 2007-08, and 2009-10
- **Reference time period:** 1999-2000, 2003-04, 2005-06, 2007-08, and 2009-10 school years
- **Sponsor:** National Center for Education Statistics (U.S. Department of Education)
- **Information collected on:** School crime, discipline, disorder, and programs and policies in U.S. public schools
- **Key estimates:** Number of violent and serious violent incidents occurring at school; number of incidents reported to police; disciplinary problems in school; and safety and security measures and procedures at school
- **Data availability:** Public-use data files available for download from NCES website
- **Level of data:** National level

Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS)

- **Respondents:** Sample; students enrolled in grades 9-12 in public and private schools
- **Years of survey:** 1991-2013
- **Reference time period:** Incidents during the previous 12 months and incidents during the previous 30 days
- **Sponsor:** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services)
- **Information collected on:** The prevalence of youth behaviors that most influence health
- **Key estimates:** Threats and injuries with weapons on school property; illegal drug availability on school property; bullying and cyberbullying; involvement in physical fights; weapon use; and alcohol and marijuana use
- **Data availability:** Data analysis tool available on CDC website
- **Level of data:** National, state, and large urban school district levels

Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC)

- **Respondents:** Population; all public schools
- **Years of survey:** 2000, 2004, 2006, 2009-10, and 2011-12
- **Reference time period:** School year
- **Sponsor:** U.S. Department of Education
- **Information collected on:** The enrollment of students in public schools in every state and some education services provided to those students
- **Key estimates:** Serious disciplinary actions taken by public schools
- **Data availability:** Data analysis tool available on OCR website
- **Level of data:** National and state levels

EDFacts

- **Respondents:** Population; all students in K-12 schools
- **Years of survey:** 2009-10 through 2013-14 annually
- **Reference time period:** Incidents during the school year
- **Sponsor:** National Center for Education Statistics (U.S. Department of Education)
- **Information collected on:** Prekindergarten through grade 12 performance data
- **Key estimates:** Illegal drug availability and drug-related discipline incidents; weapons on school property; use of alcohol and alcohol-related discipline incidents; and serious disciplinary actions by schools
- **Data availability:** Available for download from *EDFacts* website
- **Level of data:** State, district, and school levels

Fast Response Survey System (FRSS)

- **Respondents:** Sample; public primary, middle, and high schools
- **Years of survey:** 1975-2014
- **Reference time period:** School year
- **Sponsor:** National Center for Education Statistics (U.S. Department of Education)
- **Information collected on:** Key education issues at the elementary and secondary levels
- **Key estimates:** Violent and other criminal incidents at public schools; discipline problems reported by public schools; and safety and security measures taken by public schools
- **Data availability:** Public-use data files available on NCES website
- **Level of data:** National level

High School Longitudinal Study of 2009 (HSLs:09)

- **Respondents:** Sample; students enrolled in ninth grade in fall 2009
- **Years of survey:** 2009, 2012, and 2013
- **Reference time period:** Fall 2009, spring 2012, and fall 2013
- **Sponsor:** National Center for Education Statistics (U.S. Department of Education)
- **Information collected on:** Students' trajectories from the beginning of high school into postsecondary education, the workforce, and beyond
- **Key estimates:** Suspension and expulsion by student, family, and academic characteristics
- **Data availability:** Public-use data files available for download from NCES website
- **Level of data:** National level

Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS)

- **Respondents:** Sample; public and private school K-12 teachers
- **Years of survey:** 1987-88, 1990-91, 1993-94, 1999-2000, 2003-04, 2007-08, and 2011-12
- **Reference time period:** Incidents during the previous 12 months
- **Sponsor:** National Center for Education Statistics (U.S. Department of Education)
- **Information collected on:** Teacher demand; teacher and principal characteristics; teachers' and principals' perceptions of school climate and problems in their schools; compensation, hiring and retention practices; general conditions in schools; and basic characteristics of the student population
- **Key estimates:** Teachers threatened with injury or physically attacked by students, teachers' reports on school conditions
- **Data availability:** Restricted-use data files available from NCES website
- **Level of data:** National, regional, and state levels

Supplementary Homicide Reports (SHR)

- **Respondents:** Population; homicides reported to law enforcement agencies that participate in the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program
- **Years of survey:** 1980-2013
- **Reference time period:** July 1-June 30
- **Sponsor:** Federal Bureau of Investigation (U.S. Department of Justice)
- **Information collected on:** Incident-level information on criminal homicides, including situation type; the age, sex, and race of victims and offenders; weapon used; circumstances of the incident; and victim-offender relationship
- **Key estimates:** Total homicides of youth ages 5-18
- **Data availability:** Data analysis tool available on OJJDP website
- **Level of data:** National and state levels

The School-Associated Violent Deaths Study (SAVD)

- **Respondents:** Population; school-associated violent death victims
- **Years of survey:** 1992-2013
- **Reference time period:** July 1-June 30
- **Sponsor:** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services), U.S. Department of Education, and U.S. Department of Justice
- **Information collected on:** Epidemiology of school-associated violent deaths and identification of common features of these deaths
- **Key estimates:** The rate of school-associated violent deaths in the U.S. and identification of potential risk factors of these deaths
- **Data availability:** *Indicators of School Crime and Safety* annual report
- **Level of data:** National level

Web-Based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System Fatal (WISQARS Fatal)

- **Respondents:** Population; victims of homicide, suicide, and unintentional injury deaths by type of injury
- **Years of survey:** 1981-2012
- **Reference time period:** Calendar year
- **Sponsor:** National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (CDC, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services)
- **Information collected on:** Unintentional injuries, homicide, and suicide as leading causes of death, how common they are, and whom they affect
- **Key estimates:** Number of homicides and suicides of youth ages 5-18
- **Data availability:** Data analysis tool available on CDC website
- **Level of data:** National, regional, and state levels

Thank you!

Contact information

Rachel E. Morgan, Ph.D.

Rachel.Morgan@usdoj.gov



www.bjs.gov
