

Youth and Violence

- The percentage of youth who reported being in at least one physical fight during the past year decreased from 43% in 1991 to 33% in 2001 and 2003, before it increased to 36% in 2005.[\[93\]](#)
- Student weapon carrying in the preceding 30 days decreased from 26% in 1991 to 17% in 1999, where it remained until 2003. However, in 2005, the percentage of students carrying weapons increased to 18.5%. Nearly one-third of students who carry weapons carry guns; and approximately one-third of students who carried weapons over the preceding 30 days brought them onto school grounds.[\[94\]](#)
- Although the rates of serious crime involving 12 to 17 year old youth (homicide, rape, aggravated assault, and robbery) remain lower than their 1993 peaks of 44 victims per 1,000 youth and 52 offending juveniles per 1,000 youth, the rates fluctuated between 2001 and 2004. The serious crime victimization rate for youth was 15 per 1,000 youth in 2001, 11 per 1,000 youth in 2002, 18 per 1,000 youth in 2003, and 11 per 1,000 youth in 2004. Parallel figures for the serious crime offending rate among 12 to 17 year olds were 19 per 1,000 youth in 2001, 11 per 1,000 youth in 2002, 15 per 1,000 youth in 2003, and 14 per 1,000 youth in 2004.[\[95\]](#)
- The risk of violent neighborhood youth victimization increases by level of community disadvantage. The 20% of youth living in the least advantaged communities experience much higher risks for violent victimization than youth living in more advantaged communities, and the 10% of youth living in the most disadvantaged communities have the highest risk of neighborhood violence in the country 58 per 1,000 youth reported at least one incident of violence over the preceding 6 months, compared with the overall national rate

of 9 per 1,000 individuals for all Americans.^[96]

- Between 2002 and 2003, youth gangs were present in 96% of large cities with populations of 250,000 or more, in 91% of cities with populations between 100,000 and 249,999, and in 70% of cities with populations of 50,000 to 99,999. About 32% of towns with populations between 2,500 and 49,999 and only 14% of rural counties reported juvenile gang problems during this time period. In addition, about 60% of large cities with populations of at least 250,000 reported more than 30 operative gangs and estimated more than 1,000 individual juvenile gang members. Smaller cities reported fewer numbers of gangs and individual gang members. Almost 40% of large cities had 10 or more gang-related homicides per year between 2002 and 2003.^[97]
- Gang membership is one of the strongest independent predictors of youth violence.^[98]

^[93] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, op. cit.

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/SS/SS5505.pdf> 

^[94] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, op. cit.

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/SS/SS5505.pdf> 

^[95] Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics, op. cit.

^[96] Lauritsen, J.L. (November 2003). How Families and Communities Influence Youth Victimization. *Juvenile Justice Bulletin*. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. NCJ 201629. <http://virlib.ncjrs.org/JuvenileJustice.asp>

^[97] Egley, A. (June 2005). *Highlights of the 20022003 National Youth Gang Surveys*. OJJDP Fact Sheet (FS-200501). U.S. Department of Justice, Office of

Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

<http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/ojjdp/fs200501.pdf> 

[98] Hawkins, J.D., Herrenkohl, T.I., Farrington, D.P., Brewer, D., Catalano, R.F., & Harachi, T.W. (1998). A Review of Predictors of Youth Violence. In R. Loeber and D.P. Farrington (eds.), *Serious and Violent Juvenile Offenders: Risk Factors and Successful Interventions*, pp. 106-146. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications

Reproduced from www.findyouthinfo.gov