

Youth Violence Prevention Resources for K-12 Schools

Youth violence is a significant public health problem that affects thousands of young people each day.



During the 2017-18 school year, **80 percent of public schools** recorded that one or more incidents of violence, theft, or other crimes had taken place, amounting to **1.4 million incidents**.



In 2019, students ages 12-18 experienced **764,600 victimizations at school**, translating to a rate of 30 victimizations per 1,000 students at school.



In 2019, **5 percent of students ages 12-18** reported that they had been afraid of attack or harm at school.

Source: [Report on Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2020](#), National Center for Education Statistics

These incidents can have lasting effects on the physical, mental, and social health of young people as well as impact families, schools, and the broader community.

The factors that contribute to youth violence are complex and far-ranging and are often the culmination of months and years of individual experiences. Research shows that prevention efforts by teachers, administrators, parents, community members, and even students can reduce violence and improve the school environment.

Proactive measures to prevent school violence include:



fostering a positive school climate.



ensuring access to mental health support.



addressing bullying and cyberbullying.



implementing physical safety and security measures at schools.



promoting family environments that support healthy development.



creating protective community environments.



intervening to lessen harms and prevent future risk.

A comprehensive approach that simultaneously targets multiple risk and protective factors is critical to having a broad and continued impact on youth violence.



Resources

SchoolSafety.gov offers a variety of resources, programs, and tools school communities can use to prevent youth violence, including:

- [Addressing the Risk of Violent Behavior in Youth](#): This presentation helps teachers and school personnel identify common risk factors and warning signs associated with violent behaviors as well as strategies to effectively respond to situations of concern.
- [Averted School Violence \(ASV\) Database: 2021 Analysis Update](#): The ASV database collects information on school attacks – completed and averted – with the goal of mitigating and preventing future injuries in educational institutions. This report reflects an analysis of 170 averted attacks in the database and concludes that positive school environments that offer violence prevention programs, foster trust among students and staff, provide support to all students, and encourage early intervention are key to averting school attacks.
- [Averting Targeted School Violence: A U.S. Secret Service Analysis of Plots Against Schools](#): This report examines 67 recent plots to conduct a school attack that were averted and identifies key findings and commonalities across potential targeted violence incidents.
- [A Comprehensive Technical Package for the Prevention of Youth Violence and Associated Risk Behaviors](#): This technical package represents a select group of strategies based on the best available evidence to help communities and states sharpen their focus on prevention activities with the greatest potential to prevent youth violence and its consequences.
- [Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design \(CPTED\) and School Violence](#): This resource provides an overview of how CPTED, an approach that focuses on improving the design of the built environment to help reduce opportunities for disputes and violence and promote positive behavior, can be incorporated at schools.
- [Mitigating the Threat of School Violence as the U.S. “Returns to Normal” from the COVID-Pandemic and Beyond](#): This bulletin raises awareness of potential risk factors and indicators for targeted violence in schools, raises awareness of the likelihood that students may have been exposed to multiple risk factors during the COVID-19 pandemic, and provides resources to become an engaged bystander as part of a comprehensive local prevention framework.
- [Preventing School Violence](#): This webpage provides information on the issue and prevalence of youth and school violence and provides access to additional resources, technical packages, and articles on violence prevention.
- [Report on Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2020](#): This annual report presents data on crime at schools from the perspectives of students, teachers, principals, and the general population from an array of sources. It covers topics such as victimization, bullying, school conditions, fights, the presence of security staff at school, and student perceptions of personal safety at school.

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