

Violence & Safety at School

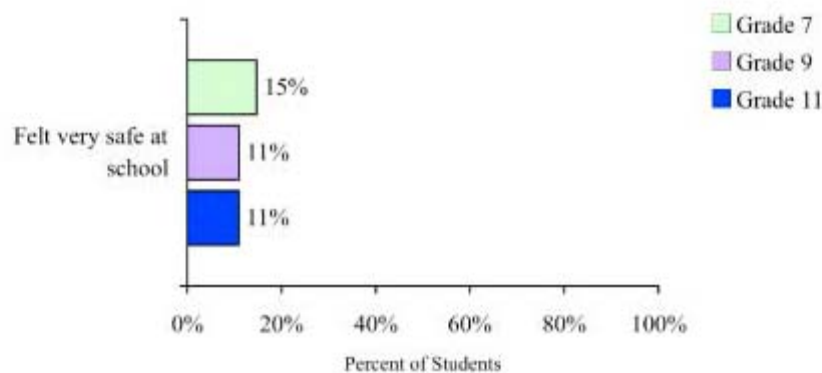
VIOLENCE AND SAFETY

The American public's highest concerns about youth are currently related to violence. Chart 6 shows students' answers to the question about how safe they feel at school. Chart 7 includes indicators of harassment, violence perpetration, and weapons possession at school. A safe school environment is necessary in order for students to succeed academically. Students who feel they belong to their school are also less likely to be involved in violent behavior at school.

Perceived Safety

The CHKS asks students how safe they felt in school. The need for safe schools does not mean just "violence-free," but safe, secure, and peaceful. Safety—both psychological and physical—is a basic need that must be met in order for students to succeed in school.

Chart 6. Percent of Students Who Feel Very Safe at School



Harassment

Harassment is a form of violent and abusive behavior that makes the person being harassed feel vulnerable, isolated, and afraid. This can lead to taking part in risk behaviors such as drug use. The CHKS asks students if they have been harassed at school in the past year because of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or disability.

Physical Fights

Fighting often comes before deadly violence among young people. The CHKS asks students about their frequency of involvement in physical fights at school in the past year. This is a measure of the overall scope of fighting behavior and does not differentiate between aggression and victimization. In practice, fighting is often mutual.

Violence-Related Behaviors and Experiences, and Protective Factors, , Two-Year Comparison

	Grade 7 %		Grade 9 %		Grade 11 %	
	Fall 2002	Fall 2004	Fall 2002	Fall 2004	Fall 2002	Fall 2004
Violence-Related						
<i>During the past 12 months at school, have you been...</i>						
been harassed because of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or disability?	43	34	29	31	43	33
in a physical fight?	34	32	24	29	22	19
afraid of being beaten up? (PI)	28	36	26	28	17	18
During the past 12 months on school property, did you carry any weapon (gun, knife, or club)?	23	14	12	20	16	15
How safe do you feel when you are at school? Very safe. (PI)	19	14	11	11	11	11
Have you ever belonged to a gang?	13	14	11	18	5	18
Protective Factors - High Level of External Assets at School						
Caring relationships with teacher or other adult (PI)	31	33	53	19	16	29
High expectations from teacher or other adult (PI)	45	44	44	28	11	30
Opportunities for meaningful participation at their school (PI)	18	9	47	12	35	15
Total School Assets (school connectedness) (PI)	29	26	53	20	19	22

(PI) = SDFSCA/TUPE performance indicator required by CDE for Local Education Agency Plans.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Table lists the results for all the seven Performance Indicators selected by CDE to monitor progress in reducing drug use and promoting protective factors, as required by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. In some cases, the wording of the elementary questions differ from the wording of the Performance Indicators, as shown in the Table.

Fifth Grade Results for SDFSCA/TUPE Performance Indicators Recommended by CDE

Performance Indicator	5th Grade %
Tobacco Use	
The Percentage of students that have ever used cigarettes	10%
Drug Use	
The percentage of students that have ever used marijuana*	3%
Safe Schools and Violence	
The percentage of students that feel very safe at school**	44%
Protective Factors	
The percentage of students that report high levels of caring relationships with a teacher or other adult at their school	58%
The percentage of students that report high levels of high expectations from a teacher or other adult at their school	58%
The percentage of students that report high levels of opportunities for meaningful participation at their school	18%
The percentage of students that report high levels of school connectedness at their school (Total School Assets)	53%

*Excludes students who answered "I don't know what marijuana is"

**Elementary students are asked how often they feel safe at school rather than how safe they felt, as in the secondary survey. This table reports those students who responded, "Yes, all of the time."

Protective Factors, Comparison to State
California Healthy Kids Survey

Table 3. Violence-Related Behavior and Experiences, and Protective Factors, with Comparison to 2003 State CSS and 2003 National YRBS

	7th Grade %		9th Grade %			11th Grade %		
	District	CSS	District	CSS	YRBS	District	CSS	YRBS
Violence-Related Behaviors and Experiences								
<i>During the past 12 months at school, have you....</i>								
been harassed because of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or disability?	34	27	31	24	~	33	23	~
been in a physical fight?	32	28	29	26	18	19	20	10
been afraid of being beaten up? (PI)	36	25	28	19	~	18	14	~
During the past 12 months on school property, did you carry any weapon (gun, knife, or club)?	14	9	20	10	~	15	12	~
How safe do you feel when you are at school? Very safe. (PI)	14	23	11	17	~	11	13	~
Ever belonged to a gang?	14	10	18	13	~	18	9	~
Protective Factors - High Level of External Assets at School								
Caring relationships with teacher or other adult (PI)	33	29	19	23	~	29	29	~
High expectations from teacher or other adult (PI)	44	42	28	34	~	30	37	~
Opportunities for meaningful participation at their school (PI)	9	18	12	16	~	15	17	~
Total School Assets (school connectedness)(PI)	26	34	20	28	~	22	26	~

(PI) = SDFSCA/TUPE performance indicator required by CDE for Local Education Agency Plans.

Secondary School Race & Ethnicity
California Healthy Kids Survey

CALIFORNIA *healthy kids* SURVEY

Washington Unified - Fall 2004

	Grade 7		Grade 9		Grade 11	
	Fall 2002	Fall 2004	Fall 2002	Fall 2004	Fall 2002	Fall 2004
Number of Students Surveyed	331	404	223	383	141	288
Percent of Students Participating	58%	70%	46%	82%	39%	78%
Gender (%)						
Males	49	48	43	48	53	44
Females	51	52	57	52	47	56
Race/Ethnicity* (%)						
American Indian or Alaskan Native	9	9	5	7	11	4
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	4	2	7	5	6	8
Asian	12	12	9	11	13	12
Black or African American	6	5	3	5	2	4
Hispanic or Latino/Latina	38	37	37	39	25	39
White or Caucasian (non-Hispanic)	27	31	39	31	48	37
Other	23	22	14	16	14	9
Selected more than one category	14	15	11	12	19	11

*Students that selected more than one category were counted in each category. Therefore, these columns may add up to more than 100%.