

Brener, Nancy D., Krug, Etienne G., Lowry, Richard, & Simon, Thomas R. (1999). Recent Trends in Violence-Related Behaviors Among High School Students in the United States. The Journal of the American Medical Association, 282(5), 440.

Purpose:

- To measure trends in nonfatal, violent behaviors among adolescents in the United States between the years 1991 and 1997.

Literature Review: Researchers analyzed data from the Youth Risk Behavior Surveys 1991, 1993, 1995, and 1997 to study the percentage of students. Fighting was dropped 14%, injuries in fights dropped 20%, and the percentage of carrying guns to school dropped 30%.

Methods:

- Sample: Nationally representative data from Youth Risk Behavior Surveys during the years of 1991, 1993, 1995, and 1997. Students in grades 9-12 in all 50 states and the District of Columbia in public and private high schools.
- Variables: carrying weapons to school, involved in physical fights on school property, being injured on school property due to physical fighting, not attending school because of fear, personal property has been damaged on school property, and threats on school property.
- Procedure: In 1991, 1993, 1995, and 1997 four surveys were given. Divided up into three stages. 1<sup>st</sup> stage primary sampling units (PSU) consisting of large counties or groups of smaller, adjacent counties. 2<sup>nd</sup> schools selected from the PSUs to ensure that racial or ethnic subgroups were large enough to analyze subgroup differences. Final stage was done at random and selected within each chosen school and in each of the four grades, one or two entire classes of a required discipline, such as English or social studies. Students in the selected classes were participants or qualified. The results from each survey year were individually coded. Surveys were done so as to protect the students' privacy. Questionnaire covered six areas:
  - 1) those that contributed to unintentional and intentional injuries,
  - 2) tobacco use,
  - 3) alcohol and other drug use,
  - 4) sexual behaviors that contribute to unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases,
  - 5) dietary problems, and
  - 6) physical activity.

Results/Conclusions:

- Males were more likely to engage in each of the behaviors rather than females.
- 9<sup>th</sup> graders were more likely to engage in the behaviors versus 12<sup>th</sup> graders.
- Relative to Whites, the Black and Hispanic students were more likely to engage in behaviors except two out of the ten.
- 1991 to 1997 there was a linear decrease in students carrying weapons, engaging in physical fights, or injuries due to physical fights.