

VIOLENCE

RESULTS FROM THE

OKLAHOMA YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY (YRBS) 2009

What is the problem?

The 2009 Oklahoma Youth Risk Behavior Survey results indicate that among public high school students:

Violence

- 19% carried a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club on one or more of the 30 days before the survey.
- 6% carried a gun on one or more of the 30 days before the survey.
- 31% were in a physical fight one or more times during the past 12 months.
- 4% were in a physical fight one or more times during the past 12 months in which they were injured and had to be treated by a doctor or nurse.
- 7% were ever hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by their boyfriend or girlfriend during the past 12 months.
- 6% had ever been physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to.

School Violence

- 6% carried a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club on school property on one or more of the 30 days before the survey.
- 4% did not go to school on one or more of the 30 days before the survey because they felt they would be unsafe at school or on their way to or from school.
- 6% had been threatened or injured with a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club on school property one or more times during the past 12 months.
- 13% were in a physical fight on school property one or more times during the past 12 months.
- 18% had been bullied on school property during the 12 months before the survey.

What is the status of Oklahoma Schools?

The 2008 Oklahoma School Health Profiles¹ report indicates that among high schools:

- 49% of schools had health education staff who worked with the school mental health or social services staff on health education activities during the school year.
- 70% of lead health education teachers received professional development on violence prevention.
- 66% of lead health education teachers would like to receive professional development in the area of emotional and mental health.
- 72% of lead health education teachers would like to receive professional development in the area of injury prevention and safety.

What are the solutions?

- Develop problem solving and conflict resolution skills among youth.
- Implement a bullying prevention program in schools and identify bullying “hot spots,” such as restrooms, buses, hallways during class changes, locker rooms, etc. Increase supervision by any school personnel in these areas as much as possible.
- Provide students with a safe way to anonymously report, such as a comment box, about any problems they may be having.
- Implement a dating violence prevention program to increase awareness about teen dating violence and provide students with a way to talk about any issues they may be experiencing.
- Assist schools with increasing parental involvement within the school and community, as there are positive impacts on youth with greater parental involvement and supervision.
- Encourage schools to participate in surveys, such as the YRBS, that assess risk-taking behaviors among youth.

1. Brener ND, McManus T, Foti K, Shanklin SL, Hawkins J, Kann L, Speicher N. *School Health Profiles 2008: Characteristics of Health Programs Among Secondary Schools in Oklahoma*. Atlanta: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 2009. Available at URL: <http://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/profiles/>

**For more information contact the Maternal and Child Health Service, MCH Assessment at (405) 271-6761
or visit URL: <http://yrbs.health.ok.gov>**