

District of Columbia 2010 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) Unintentional Injuries and Violence

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT? Unintentional injury and violence are the leading causes of death for people aged 1–44 years. Regardless of gender, race, or economic status, homicide is the second and suicide is the third leading cause of death for Americans aged 15–24 years.¹



The National Picture

National results from the 2009 YRBS² indicate:

- 9.7% of students rarely or never wore a seat belt when riding in a car driven by someone else
- 17.5% of students had carried a weapon on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey
- 5.0% of high school students did not go to school because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to or from school

Key Indicators for DC YRBS Percentage of DC students who	2007 High School	2010 High School*	2007 Middle School	2010 Middle School*
Had never or rarely wore a seat belt when riding in a car driven by someone else	11.3	10.9	10.5	10.3
Had carried a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • on one or more days in the past 30 days (High School) • in their lifetime (Middle School) 	21.5	18.9	33.8	22.4
Had been in a physical fight... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in the past 12 months (High School) • in their lifetime (Middle School) 	44.1	37.9	76.3	69.7
Had ever been hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by their boyfriend or girlfriend in the past 12 months	17.2	14.7	-	7.7
Had not gone to school because they felt it would be unsafe on one or more days... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in the past 30 days (High School) • in the past 12 months (Middle School) 	13.0	7.7	-	15.8
Carried a gun on one or more days in the past 30 days	7.6	7.5	-	-

*2010 DC YRBS results are population estimates derived using only DCPS student data. The 2007 data includes both DCPS and Public Charter Schools.

Effective Strategies and Best Practices in DC

- DC Department of Transportation's Safe Routes to School Program works to improve safety for students who walk and bike to school. <http://www.bikemap.com/dcsaferoutes/index.php>
- DC's Deputy Mayor for Education implements Second Step, an evidence-based violence prevention program in 15 selected DC schools, pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. Additionally, the DC Deputy Mayor for Education also implements evidence-based programs to train school officers and officials in strategies to intervene in violent and disruptive situations. <http://dme.dc.gov/DC/DME/About+DME/News+Room/Press+Releases/Fenty,+Reinoso+Announce+ICSIC+Training+Programs+for+Teachers>
- The Student Support Center conducts school safety audits with public charter schools to ensure school grounds, buildings, and hallways are safe for students. http://www.studentsupportcenter.org/what_we_do/
- The DCPS student discipline policy (DCMR Chapter 25) provides a step-by-step process to assure students, parents/guardians, schools and the school system that clear and consistent responses to addressing inappropriate behavior are being implemented. <http://dcps.dc.gov/DCPS/About+DCPS/Strategic+Documents/DCPS+Policies>

¹CDC. (2010, September 3). *Ten Leading Causes of Death and Injury*. Retrieved September 20, 2011, from Injury Prevention & Control: Data & Statistics: <http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/LeadingCauses.html>

²CDC. (2010). Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance-United States, 2009. *MMWR*, 59 (5), 1-148.