



Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 2014 National Report

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Chapter 2

Juvenile victims

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This chapter summarizes what is known about the prevalence and incidence of juvenile victimizations. It answers important questions to assist policy makers, practitioners, researchers, and concerned citizens in developing policies and programs to ensure the safety and well-being of children. How many children are abused and neglected? What are the trends in child maltreatment? How often are juveniles the victims of crime? How many children are victims of crime at school and what are the characteristics of school crime? When and where are juveniles most likely to become victims of crime? How many juveniles are murdered each year? How often are firearms involved in juvenile murders and who are their offenders? How many youth commit suicide?

Research has shown that child victimization and abuse are linked to problem behaviors that become evident later in life. So an understanding of childhood victimization and its trends

may lead to a better understanding of juvenile offending.

Data sources include child maltreatment data reported by the National Incidence Study of Child Abuse and Neglect and by the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System, and foster care and adoption information from the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System. Self-reported victimization data are presented from the National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence, the Bureau of Justice Statistics' National Crime Victimization Survey and its School Crime Supplement, the National Center for Education Statistics, and the Youth Risk Behavior Survey. Official victimization data is reported by the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Incident-Based Reporting System and its Supplementary Homicide Reporting Program. Suicide information is presented from the National Center for Health Statistics.

One child in every 25 in the United States is abused or neglected

The fourth cycle of the National Incidence Study of Child Abuse and Neglect collected data in 2005–2006

The National Incidence Study of Child Abuse and Neglect (NIS) reports information on children harmed or believed to be harmed by maltreatment. Child maltreatment includes physical, sexual, and emotional abuse, and physical, emotional, and educational neglect by a caretaker.

While the NIS does include children who were investigated by child protective services (CPS), it also represents children who were recognized as maltreated by a wide array of community professionals (called “sentinels”) who are generally mandated reporters.

Combining these data sources, the NIS describes both abused and neglected children who are in the official CPS statistics as well as those who were not reported to CPS or who were screened out of CPS investigations.

Most maltreated children were neglected

Although the overall rates of children either harmed or endangered by abuse or neglect have not changed, there has been a shift in the types of maltreatment experienced by children. All categories of abuse declined, but the rate of neglect, specifically emotional neglect, increased. This increase largely represents a dramatic increase in the rate of children exposed to domestic violence, which more than tripled from

2 children per 1,000 in 1993 to 7 children per 1,000 in 2005–2006.

Child maltreatment victims per 1,000 children:

Maltreatment type	NIS-3 (1993)	NIS-4 (2005–2006)
All maltreatment	41.9	39.5
All abuse	18.2	11.3
Physical	9.1	6.5
Sexual	4.5	2.4
Emotional	7.9	4.1
All neglect	29.2	30.6
Physical	19.9	16.2
Emotional	8.7	15.9
Educational	5.9	4.9

Note: Children who experienced multiple types of maltreatment are included in each applicable category.

Girls and children not enrolled in school have higher rates of sexual abuse

Girls were sexually abused at a rate of 3.8 per 1,000, compared with boys’ rate of 1.0 per 1,000. School-age children who were not enrolled in school were harmed or endangered by sexual abuse at a significantly higher rate than enrolled children: 2.9 per 1,000 non-enrolled school-age children compared with 1.8 per 1,000 enrolled children. The non-enrolled children were also physically neglected at a significantly higher rate: 19.3 per 1,000 non-enrolled children compared with 11.4 per 1,000 enrolled children.

Younger children have lower rates of physical and emotional abuse but higher rates of physical neglect

Age differences in maltreatment rates occur across both abuse and neglect categories. The youngest children (age 2 and younger) are physically and emotionally abused at significantly lower rates than children who are school-age (age 6 or older). Among the youngest, 3.7 per 1,000 are physically abused

There are several different types of child maltreatment

Child maltreatment occurs when a caretaker (a parent or parental substitute, such as a babysitter) is responsible for, or permits, the abuse or neglect of a child. The maltreatment can result in actual physical or emotional harm, or it can place the child in danger of physical or emotional harm. The following types of maltreatment were included in NIS-4:

Physical abuse includes physical acts that caused or could have caused physical injury to the child, including excessive corporal punishment.

Sexual abuse is involvement of the child in sexual activity either forcefully or without force, including contacts for sexual purposes, prostitution, pornography, or other sexually exploitative activities.

Emotional abuse refers to verbal threats and emotional assaults. It includes terrorizing a child,

administering unprescribed and potentially harmful substances, and willful cruelty or exploitation not covered by other types of maltreatment.

Physical neglect is the disregard of a child’s physical needs and physical safety, including abandonment, illegal transfers of custody, expulsion from the home, failure to seek remedial health care or delay in seeking care, or inadequate supervision, food, hygiene, clothing, or shelter.

Emotional neglect includes inadequate nurturance or affection, permitting maladaptive behavior, exposing the child to domestic violence or other maladaptive behaviors or environments, and other inattention to emotional or developmental needs.

Educational neglect includes permitting chronic truancy, failure to enroll, or other inattention to educational needs.

Two studies provide national data on child abuse and neglect

Congress mandates the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) and the National Incidence Study of Child Abuse and Neglect (NIS) in the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act. Both are sponsored by the Children's Bureau in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. They use different methods and data sources, apply different definitions, and are conducted on different timetables. The NCANDS uses a census methodology and provides annual data on all cases referred to CPS, showing whether CPS screened the referral in for an agency response and, if so, whether the case was investigated or received an alternative response other than investigation. In NCANDS, states use their own definitions of abuse and neglect and map their state codes into six categories by agreed-upon rules. The NIS uses a sampling methodology to represent the incidence of child abuse and neglect in the U.S. as recognized by mandated reporters, showing how many of these maltreated children receive a CPS investigation. It is conducted periodically, with only four cycles to date. The latest cycle, the NIS-4, collected data in 2005–2006. The NIS applies standardized definitions across all data sources, classifying maltreatment into 60 specific types that group into 8 general categories.

compared with 6.2 or more per 1,000 school-age children; 1.6 in 1,000 in the youngest age group are emotionally abused compared with 4.1 or more per 1,000 school-age children. In contrast, rates of physical neglect are

highest at younger ages, 16.3 or more per 1,000 of those ages 0–8, and decrease after age 8 to their lowest level of 8.7 per 1,000 among ages 15–17. Educational neglect rates are lowest among 3- to 5-year-olds, when children typically begin school (2.3 per 1,000) and increase to 7.5 per 1,000 by the time children are ages 9–11.

Black children have higher rates of maltreatment

Unlike previous NIS cycles, the NIS-4 found strong and pervasive race differences in the incidence of maltreatment. In most maltreatment categories, the rates of maltreatment for black children were significantly higher than those for white and Hispanic children.

Child maltreatment victims per 1,000 children, 2005–2006:

Maltreatment type	White	Black	Hispanic
All maltreatment	28.6	49.6	30.2
All abuse	8.7	14.9	9.4
Physical	4.6	9.7	5.9
Emotional	3.5	4.5	2.4
All neglect	22.4	36.8	23.0
Physical	12.2	17.9	9.9
Emotional	12.1	17.9	13.2

Note: Children who experienced multiple types of maltreatment are included in each applicable category.

Children with disabilities are maltreated at lower rates but suffer more serious harm from their maltreatment

Children with disabilities had significantly lower rates of experiencing any maltreatment, any abuse, or any neglect that harmed or endangered them. They had significantly lower rates of physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, physical neglect, and emotional neglect. However, when children with disabilities were maltreated, they were significantly more likely to be seriously

injured or harmed. They experienced serious injury or harm from maltreatment at a rate of 9.1 per 1,000 compared to a rate of 6.0 per 1,000 for children without a confirmed disability.

Less than half of maltreated children receive a CPS investigation

In the NIS-4, a minority of maltreated children (43%) received a CPS investigation; however, this was a significant increase from the investigation rate in the NIS-3 (33%). Even among children with the highest rate of CPS investigation, those sexually abused, CPS investigated only slightly more than one-half (56%). The remaining cases either were not reported to CPS or were reported but not investigated. Cases reported but not investigated may have received an alternative response from their local CPS agency where the family was assessed and provided services, but there was no formal investigation or finding of fault.

CPS would investigate or could provide an alternative response to over 90% of maltreated children if all were reported

A combined total of 92% of maltreated children either were investigated, would have been investigated if they had been reported, or might have received an alternative agency response if they were reported. The remaining 8% of maltreated children include both those who would not have received any CPS response and those whose cases could not be classified by the CPS screening criteria. These findings imply that CPS screening activities exclude only a small percentage of maltreated children from receiving CPS attention. The primary reason maltreated children are not investigated is that professionals who recognize their maltreatment do not report them to CPS.

Family characteristics relate to rates of maltreatment

Maltreatment rates vary in relation to the parents' employment and economic status

Children with an unemployed parent and those with no parent in the labor force have higher risk of experiencing maltreatment. Children with no parent in the labor force had the highest rate of abuse (15.2 per 1,000), 2 or more times higher than the rates for children of working parents (5.8 per 1,000) or with an unemployed parent (7.5 per 1,000). Neglect was significantly higher for children whose parents did not have steady work, either because they were unemployed or because they were not in the labor force: 46.4 per 1,000 children with no parent in the labor force were neglected, as were 35.0 children with an unemployed parent, compared with 12.8 children whose parents were steadily employed during the study year.

Indicators of economic status have consistently been the strongest predictors of maltreatment rates. The NIS-4 defined children to be in low socioeconomic status (SES) families if their household incomes were below \$15,000 per year, their parents did not graduate high school, or any household member participated in a poverty-related program, such as food stamps, subsidized school breakfasts or lunches, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, public housing, energy assistance, or public assistance. Children in low-SES families were at higher risk of all types of abuse and neglect. They were more than 5 times as likely to be maltreated in some way, 3 times as likely to be abused, and 7 times as likely to be neglected.

Children living with their two married biological parents have the lowest rates of maltreatment

Based on their family structure and living arrangement, the NIS-4 classified children into six categories: (1) living

with two married biological parents; (2) living with other married parents (not both biological but both having a legal parental relationship to the child, such as adoptive or step-parent); (3) living with two unmarried parents (biological); (4) living with one parent who had an unmarried partner (not the child's parent) in the household; (5) living with one parent who had no partner in the household; and (6) living with no parent. Children living with two married biological parents had the lowest rates of maltreatment, whereas children living with a single parent who had a cohabitating partner had the highest maltreatment rates.

Children in larger families have greater risk of physical and emotional abuse and neglect

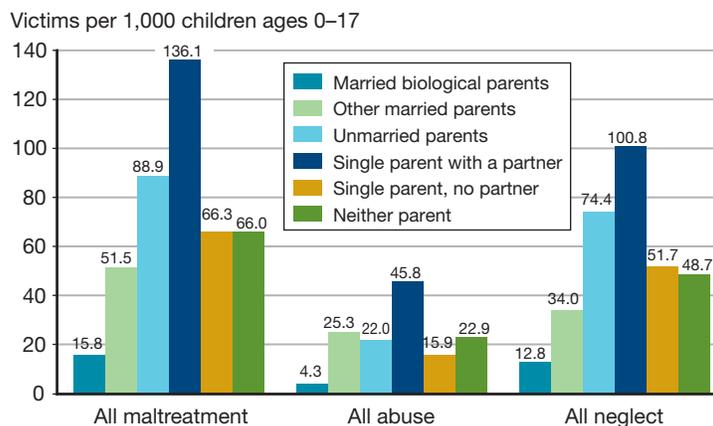
Maltreatment varied with family size. Children in larger households (four or more children) experienced physical neglect at rates more than 2 times that for households with only one or two children (31.1 per 1,000 vs. 13.3 and 10.0, respectively). A similar pattern

existed for emotional neglect; children in larger households experienced emotional neglect at a rate of 27.4, while households with one or two children experienced emotional neglect at lower rates (13.9 and 10.0, respectively). Rates of emotional abuse also increased as the number of children in the household increased; children in larger households had twice their rate of emotional abuse observed for "only" children (5.8 vs. 2.8). Similarly, the rate of physical abuse for children in larger households (7.8) was greater than the rates for children with households of one, two, or three children (6.6, 5.0, and 6.7, respectively).

Children in rural counties are at greater risk of neglect

The rate of physical neglect for rural children (33.1 per 1,000) is significantly higher than the rate for children in urban or major urban counties (15.0 or less). Rural children are also significantly more likely to experience emotional neglect (27.9) than urban or major urban children (16.9 or less).

Children's risk of maltreatment varied across family structure and living arrangements



Source: Authors' adaptation of Sedlak and Ellis' Trends in Child Abuse Reporting, in Korbin and Krugman's (Eds.), *Handbook of Child Maltreatment*.

Most abuse and neglect cases enter the child welfare system through child protective services agencies

What are child protective services agencies?

Child protective services (CPS) agencies are governmental agencies authorized to act on behalf of a child when parents are unable or unwilling to do so. In all states, laws require these agencies to receive referrals about cases of suspected child abuse or neglect, screen in those cases appropriate for a CPS agency response, conduct assessments or investigations of screened-in reports, offer rehabilitative services to families where maltreatment has occurred or is likely to occur, and remove children from the home when necessary for their safety.

Although the primary responsibility for responding to reports of child maltreatment rests with state and local CPS agencies, prevention and treatment of abuse and neglect can involve professionals from many disciplines and organizations in assisting with assessments and case management and providing services. Juvenile and family courts are always involved in the overall protective services system because of their critical role in the processing of cases when services must be mandated or children must be removed.

States vary in the way child maltreatment cases are handled and in their terminology that describes that processing. Although variations exist among jurisdictions, CPS and community responses to child maltreatment generally share a common set of decision points and can thus be described in a general way.

State laws require many professions to notify CPS of suspected maltreatment

Individuals likely to identify maltreatment are often those in a position to observe families and children on an ongoing basis. This may include educators, law enforcement personnel, social

services personnel, medical professionals, probation officers, daycare workers, mental health professionals, and the clergy, in addition to family members, friends, and neighbors. Professionals who come into contact with children as part of their jobs are generally required by law to notify CPS agencies of suspicions of child maltreatment. Some states require reporting by any person having knowledge of child maltreatment, including the general public.

CPS or law enforcement agencies usually receive the initial referral alleging abuse or neglect. The information provided varies but typically includes the identity of the child, information about the nature and extent of maltreatment, and information about the parent or other person responsible for the child. The initial report may also contain information identifying the individual suspected of causing the alleged maltreatment, the setting in which maltreatment occurred, other children in the same environment, and the identity of the person making the report.

CPS agencies “screen in” most referrals as reports to be investigated or assessed

CPS staff must determine whether the referral constitutes an allegation of abuse or neglect and how urgently a response is needed. If the intake worker determines that the referral does not constitute an allegation of abuse or neglect, the case may be closed. If there is substantial risk of serious physical or emotional harm, severe neglect, or lack of supervision, a child may be removed from the home under provisions of state law. Most states require that a court hearing be held shortly after an emergency removal to approve temporary custody by the CPS agency. In some states, removal from the home requires a court order.

Some referrals are out-of-scope for CPS and may be referred to other

agencies. Other referrals lack sufficient information to enable followup. For these and other reasons, CPS agencies “screen out” nearly two-fifths of all referrals. Once a referral is accepted or “screened in,” CPS may initiate an investigation or assessment of the alleged incident, or it may pursue an alternative response.

Many CPS agencies offer alternative responses for cases that do not meet standards for investigation. Alternative response is a non-investigative approach that allows CPS to respond to a referral that is determined to be “low risk” by offering services to the child and family to address their needs. The intent of alternative response is to prevent the family from becoming a “high-risk” case. This approach is also referred to as family assessment, and agencies who offer this approach as an alternative to traditional investigation are said to use a “dual track,” or to provide a differential response. When implementing an alternative response, CPS focuses on assessing the needs of the child and family and offering services as opposed to a formal investigation or finding of fault. The policies, practices, and availability of alternative response vary greatly across agencies.

Whether the agency investigates or uses another response, it must decide if action is required to protect the child. The CPS agency also determines if the family is in need of services and which services are appropriate. The initial investigation involves gathering and analyzing objective information from and about the child and family to determine if the allegations are substantiated, meaning that maltreatment occurred or the child is at significant risk of harm. Agencies generally decide this by the preponderance of evidence, or credible, reasonable evidence. CPS agencies may work with law enforcement and other agencies during this period. Caseworkers generally respond to reports of abuse and neglect within

2 to 3 days. All states require that investigations start in a timely manner, typically within 72 hours. Most require investigations to start immediately (2–24 hours), when there is reason to believe that a child is in imminent danger.

Following the initial investigation, the CPS agency decides whether the evidence substantiates the allegations. Should sufficient evidence not exist to support an allegation of maltreatment, additional services may still be provided if it is believed there is risk of abuse or neglect in the future. In a few states, the agency may determine that maltreatment or the risk of maltreatment is indicated even if sufficient evidence to conclude or substantiate the allegation does not exist. Agencies that use an alternative response system can make determinations other than substantiated, indicated, and unsubstantiated and may or may not classify the children receiving an alternative response as maltreatment victims.

CPS agencies assess child and family needs before developing case plans

Protective services staff attempt to identify the factors that contributed to the maltreatment and determine what services would address the most critical treatment needs. CPS staff then develop case plans in conjunction with other treatment providers and the family in an attempt to alter the conditions and/or behaviors resulting in child abuse or neglect. All states require a written case plan when a child is placed in out-of-home care, and many states also require a plan when a child and family are receiving any kind of in-home services. Together with other treatment providers, CPS staff implement the case plan for the family. If the family is uncooperative, the case may be referred for court action to mandate services.

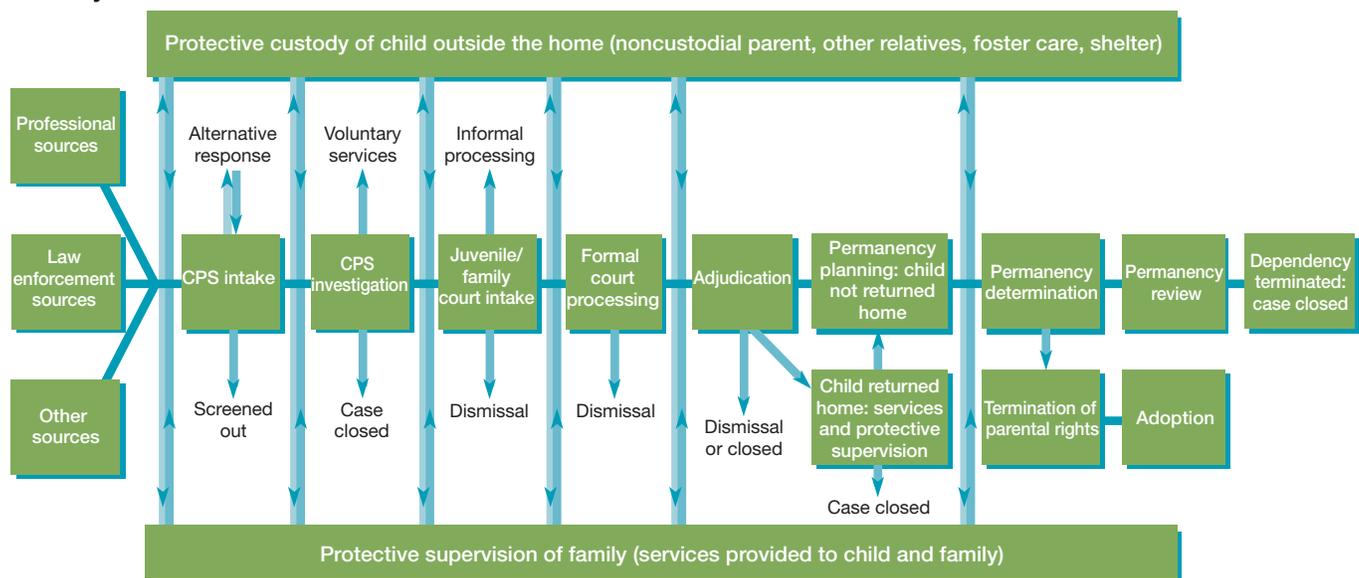
Protective services agencies are also responsible for evaluating and monitoring family progress

After the case plan has been implemented, protective services and other treatment providers evaluate and measure changes in family behavior and the conditions that led to child abuse or neglect, assess changes in the risk of maltreatment, and determine when services are no longer necessary. Case managers often coordinate the information from several service providers when assessing a case's progress.

CPS agencies provide preventive and postresponse services

Preventive services are targeted toward families with children at risk of maltreatment and are designed to improve caregivers' child-rearing competencies. Types of preventive services include respite care, parenting education, substance abuse treatment, home visits,

What are the stages of child maltreatment case processing in the child protective services and juvenile/family court systems?



Note: This chart gives a simplified view of caseflow through these systems. Procedures may vary among jurisdictions.

counseling, daycare, and homemaker help. CPS agencies offer postresponse (postinvestigation) services on a voluntary basis. Courts may also order services to ensure children's safety. Post-investigation services are designed to address the child's safety and are typically based on an assessment of the family's strengths, weaknesses, and needs. These services might include counseling, in-home family preservation services, foster care services, or other family-based or court services.

Some cases are closed without services after an investigation because the child is considered to be at low risk of harm. Other cases are closed when it has been determined that the risk of abuse or neglect has been eliminated or sufficiently reduced to a point where the family can protect the child from maltreatment without further intervention.

If it is determined that the family will not be able to protect the child, the child may be removed from the home and placed in foster care. The foster care unit in the larger child welfare agency will then assume case management and develop and monitor the family case plan. If the child cannot be returned home within a reasonable timeframe, parental rights may be terminated so that a permanent alternative can be found. The adoption unit in the child welfare agency will pursue a permanent placement for the child.

One option available to CPS is referral to juvenile court

Substantiated reports of abuse and neglect may not lead to court involvement if the family is willing to participate in the CPS agency's treatment plan. The agency may, however, file a complaint in juvenile court if it thinks the child is at serious and imminent risk of harm and an emergency removal (without parental consent) is warranted or if the parents are otherwise uncooperative.

In the case of an emergency removal, a preliminary protective hearing (shelter care hearing) is required. Ideally, the shelter care hearing would occur prior to removal from the home; however, states vary in their practices and regulations for shelter care hearings, and often the removal precedes the hearing.

If an emergency removal is not requested, the timing of court proceedings is more relaxed—often 10 days or more after the filing of court documents alleging child maltreatment. The juvenile court holds a preliminary hearing to ensure that the child and parent(s) are represented by counsel and determine whether probable cause exists, whether the child should be placed or remain in protective custody, the conditions under which the child can return home while the trial is pending, and the types of services (including visitation) that should be provided in the interim. At this stage, the parents may decide to cooperate, and the court may agree to handle the case informally.

Court hearings determine the validity of allegations and review case plans

If sufficient probable cause exists, the petition is accepted. The court will hold an adjudicatory hearing or trial to determine whether the evidence supports the maltreatment allegations and the child should be declared a dependent of the court.

If petition allegations are sustained, the court proceeds to the disposition stage and determines who will have custody of the child and under what conditions. The disposition hearing may immediately follow adjudication or may be scheduled within a short time period (typically no longer than 30 days). Although adjudication and disposition are separate and distinct decisions, the court can consider both at the same hearing. Preferred practice in many ju-

risdictions is to hold a bifurcated hearing where dispositional issues are addressed immediately after adjudication.

If the court finds that the child is abused or neglected, typical dispositional options address the basic issue of whether the child should be returned home and if not, where the child should be placed. Reunification services are designed to enable the child to return home safely—subject to specific conditions including ongoing case involvement and/or supervision by the agency. If the court decides that returning the child home could be dangerous, custody may be granted to the state child protective agency, the non-custodial parent or other relative, or foster care.

At the disposition hearing, the agency presents its written case plan, which addresses all aspects of the agency's involvement with the family. In many states, statutes require the court to approve, disapprove, or modify provisions contained in the plan. These include changes in parental behavior that must be achieved, services to be provided to help achieve these changes, services to be provided to meet the special needs of the child, terms and conditions of visitation, and the timelines and responsibilities of each party in achieving individual case plan objectives.

Juvenile courts often maintain case oversight responsibility beyond the disposition hearing

Although not all abuse and neglect cases come before the court, the juvenile court is playing an increasingly significant role in determining case outcomes. In the vast majority of instances, the court will keep continuing jurisdiction of the case after disposition and monitor efforts by the agency to reunify the family.

The Federal Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980 (Public Law

96–272) required greater judicial oversight of CPS agency performance. This legislation was passed in an attempt to keep children from being needlessly placed in foster care or left in foster care indefinitely. The goal of the legislation was to enable the child to have a permanent living arrangement (e.g., return to family, adoption, or placement with other relatives) as soon as possible. More recently, the Federal Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) of 1997 (Public Law 103–89) amended the federal foster care law to make safety and permanency the primary focus of the law. ASFA was enacted to remedy chronic problems with the child welfare system. The regulations went into effect in March 2000.

Courts routinely conduct review hearings to revisit removal decisions and assess progress with agency case plans both before and after a permanency plan has been developed. The court must also decide whether to terminate parental rights in cases involving children unable to return home. Courts maintain ongoing involvement until

the child either is returned home; placed in a permanent, adoptive home; or reaches the age of majority.

Federal law establishes permanency preferences

After the initial disposition (placement of the child, supervision of the child and family, and services delivered to the child and family), the court holds review hearings to assess the case service plan and determine if the case is progressing. After 12 months, during which time the child and family receive services and the family must comply with conditions set forth by the court, the court must make a permanency determination. The court considers five basic permanency choices:

1. Reunification with the family is the preferred choice.
2. Adoption is considered when family reunification is not viable (termination of parental rights is required).
3. Permanent legal guardianship (a judicially created relationship that

includes certain parental rights) is considered when neither reunification nor adoption is possible.

4. Permanent placement with a fit and willing relative is considered if reunification, adoption, and guardianship are not feasible.
5. Another planned permanent living arrangement (APPLA) may be found, but the agency must document “compelling reasons” why the other four choices are not in the best interests of the child.

APPLA placements may be independent living arrangements that include the child’s emancipation. Although ASFA doesn’t define these types of placements, they are nevertheless intended to be permanent arrangements for the child. APPLA placements are not foster care placements that can be extended indefinitely.

More recent federal legislation promotes permanency with additional strategies. The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 aims to improve outcomes for children in the child welfare system through supporting kinship and family connections, supporting older youth who are in out-of-home placements through transitional planning and education and training vouchers, and by requiring states to ensure the educational stability and coordinated health care of children in foster care.

In many states, the juvenile court will continue to conduct post-permanency review hearings at periodic intervals to ensure that the permanency plan remains satisfactory and that the child is safe and secure. This is in addition to any termination of parental rights, guardianship, and/or adoption finalization hearings that may be required to accomplish the selected permanency goal. The final action the court makes is to terminate the child’s status as a dependent and close the case.

The Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) establishes deadlines courts must meet in handling dependency cases

ASFA requirement	Deadline	Start date
Case plan	60 days	Actual removal
Reasonable effort to prevent child’s removal from the home	60 days	Actual removal
6-month periodic review	6 months	Foster care entry*
Permanency determination	12 months	Foster care entry*
Reasonable efforts to finalize permanency plan	12 months	Foster care entry*
Mandatory filing of a termination of parental rights petition	15 months†	Foster care entry*

* Foster care entry is the earlier of the date the court found the child abused or neglected or 60 days after the child’s actual removal from the home.

† A termination of parental rights petition must be filed when a child accrues 15 months in foster care within a 22-month period. Time when the child is on a trial home visit (or during a runaway episode) does not count toward the 15-month limit.

Source: Authors’ adaptation of Ratterman et al.’s *Making Sense of the ASFA Regulations: A Roadmap for Effective Implementation*.

In 2010, child protective services agencies received about 63,500 maltreatment referrals weekly

The National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System monitors child protective services caseloads

In response to the 1988 amendments to the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, the Children's Bureau in the U.S. Department of Health and

Human Services developed the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) to collect child maltreatment data from state child protective services (CPS) agencies. The Children's Bureau annually collects and analyzes both summary and case-level data reported to NCANDS. For 2010, 49 states, the District of Columbia,

and Puerto Rico reported case-level data on all children who received an investigation or assessment by a CPS agency. The case-level data provide descriptive information on cases referred to CPS agencies during the year, including:

- Characteristics of the referral of abuse or neglect made to CPS.
- Characteristics of the victims.
- Alleged maltreatments.
- Disposition (or findings).
- Risk factors of the child and the caregivers.
- Services provided.
- Characteristics of the perpetrators.

The National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System counts several different aspects of child maltreatment

Referral: Notification of the CPS agency of suspected child maltreatment. This can include more than one child. This is a measure of "flow" into the CPS system.

Report: A referral of child maltreatment that was accepted, or "screened in," for an investigation or assessment by a CPS agency.

Investigation: The gathering and assessment of objective information to determine if a child has been or is at risk of being maltreated and to determine the CPS agency's appropriate response. It generally results in a disposition as to whether or not the alleged report is substantiated.

Assessment: The process by which CPS determines if a child or other person involved in a report of alleged maltreatment needs services.

Alleged victim: Child about whom a report regarding maltreatment has been made to the CPS agency.

Alleged perpetrator: Person who is alleged to have caused or knowingly allowed the maltreatment of a child.

Victim: Child having a maltreatment disposition of substantiated, indicated, or alternative response.

Perpetrator: Person who has been determined to have caused or knowingly allowed the maltreatment of a child.

Substantiated: Investigation disposition that concludes that the allegation of maltreatment (or risk of maltreatment) was supported by or founded on state law or state policy. This is the highest level of finding by a CPS agency.

Unsubstantiated: Investigation disposition that determines that there is not sufficient evidence under state law to conclude or suspect that the child has been maltreated or is at risk of maltreatment.

Indicated: Investigation disposition that concludes that maltreatment cannot be substantiated under state law or policy, but there is reason to suspect that the child may have been maltreated or was at risk of maltreatment. Few states distinguish between substantiated and indicated dispositions.

Alternative response: CPS response to a report that focuses on assessing the needs of the family and providing services. This approach may or may not include a determination regarding the alleged maltreatment.

Court action: Legal action initiated by the CPS agency on behalf of the child. This includes authorization to place the child in foster care, filing for temporary custody or dependency, or termination of parental rights. As used here, it does not include criminal proceedings against a perpetrator.

In 2010, referrals were made to CPS agencies at a rate of 44 per 1,000 children

In 2010, CPS agencies in the U.S. received an estimated 3.3 million referrals alleging that children were abused or neglected. An estimated 5.9 million children were included in these referrals. This translates into a rate of 44 referrals for every 1,000 children younger than 18 in the U.S. population. This referral rate is similar to the referral rates each year since 2004.

Professionals were the most common source of maltreatment reports

Professionals who come into contact with children as a part of their occupation (e.g., teachers, police officers, doctors, childcare providers) are required by law in most states to notify CPS agencies of suspected maltreatment. Thus, professionals are the most common source of maltreatment reports (59%).

Percent of total maltreatment reports, 2010:

Source	Percent
Professional	59%
Law enforcement	17
Educator	16
Social services	12
Medical	8
Mental health	5
Child daycare provider	1
Foster care provider	1
Family and community	27
Relative, not parent	7
Parent	7
Friend or neighbor	4
Anonymous	9
Other*	14

* Includes alleged victims, alleged perpetrators, and sources not otherwise identified.

Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

CPS response times vary but average 3 days

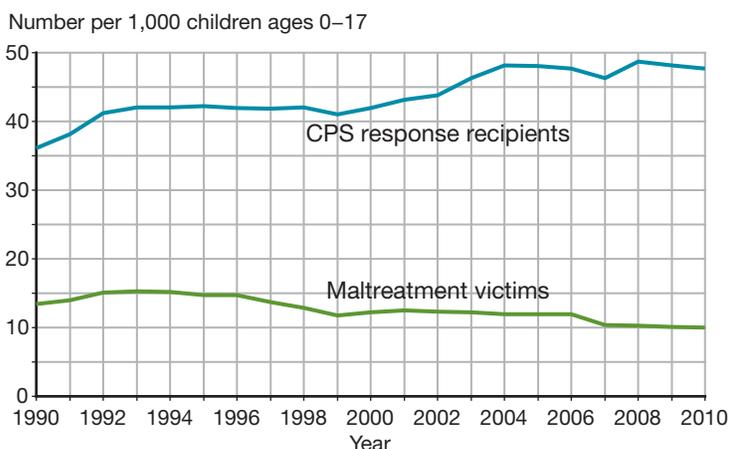
CPS agencies receive referrals of varying degrees of urgency; therefore, the time from referral to investigation varies widely. State response time standards also vary. Some states set a single standard and others set different standards depending on the priority or urgency of the case. Many specify a high-priority response as within 24 hours; some specify 1 hour. Lower priority responses range from 24 hours to several days. In 2010, the average response time for states that reported this information was 3.3 days.

CPS investigated or provided an alternative response to nearly two-thirds of referrals

In 2010, CPS agencies screened in 61% of all referrals received. Thus, CPS agencies conducted investigations or alternative responses for nearly 2 million reports in 2010.

Once a report is investigated or assessed and a determination is made as to the likelihood that maltreatment

Although the child maltreatment victimization rate decreased over the past decade, the child maltreatment response rate increased 14%



- In 2010, CPS responded to reports involving 3.6 million children, or 47.7 per 1,000 children ages 0–17 in the United States. These responses included formal investigations, family assessments, and other alternative responses.
- An estimated 754,000 children were found to be victims—about 21% of all children who received an investigation or assessment in 2010.
- In 2010, the national rate of maltreatment victimization was 10.0 victims per 1,000 children ages 0–17.

Note: A child was counted as a recipient of a CPS response (investigation or alternative response) each time he or she was involved in a response. A child was counted as a victim each time he or she was found to be a victim of maltreatment.

Source: Authors' adaptation of the Children's Bureau's *Child Maltreatment 2010*.

occurred or that the child is at risk of maltreatment, CPS assigns a finding to the report—known as a disposition. States' dispositions and terminology vary but generally fall into the following categories: substantiated, indicated, alternative response (victim and non-victim), and unsubstantiated (see the box on the previous page).

Most subjects of reports are found to be nonvictims

Of children who were the subject of at least one report of maltreatment, most were found to be nonvictims: 58.2% had dispositions of unsubstantiated, 9.1% had dispositions of no

alleged maltreatment, and 8.5% had dispositions of alternative response nonvictims. One-fifth of children who were the subject of at least one report were found to be victims of maltreatment. The most common disposition for victims of maltreatment was substantiated (19.5%), followed by indicated (1%) and alternative response victim (less than 1%).

The average CPS investigator handled about 67 reports in 2010

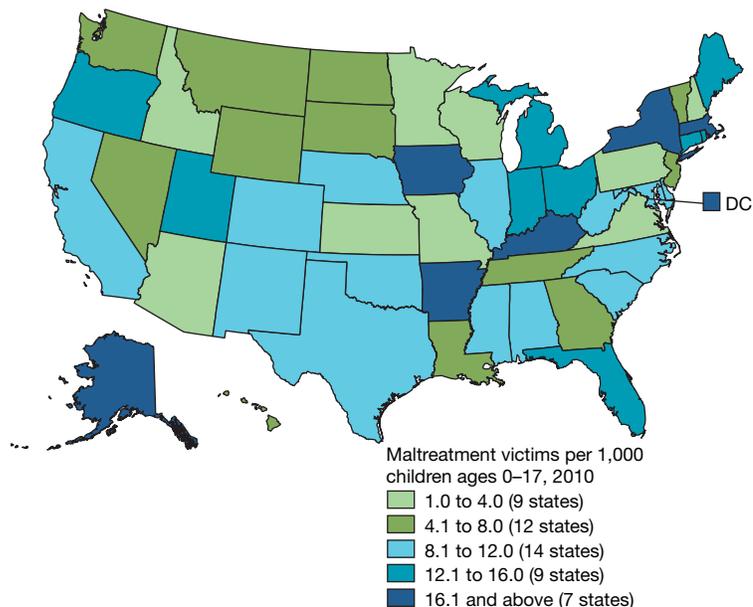
In most sizable jurisdictions, different CPS personnel perform screening and investigation functions. In smaller agencies, one staff person may perform

both functions. In 2010, the average yearly number of investigations or assessments per investigation worker was 67. Among states with specialized screening and investigation workers, the investigation workers outnumbered the screening workers nearly 5 to 1. Even in locations with specialized personnel, CPS staff typically perform numerous other activities, and some CPS workers may be responsible for more than one function.

Neglect was the most common type of maltreatment for victims in 2010

Many children were the victims of more than one type of maltreatment, but if categories of maltreatment are considered independently, 78% of victims experienced neglect (including medical neglect), 18% were physically abused, 9% were sexually abused, 8% were emotionally or psychologically maltreated, and 10% experienced other forms of maltreatment such as threats of harm, abandonment, and congenital drug addiction. Forty-two states and the District of Columbia reported that more than 50% of victims experienced neglect.

State child maltreatment victimization rates varied considerably in 2010



- State-level child maltreatment victimization rates ranged from a low of 1.3 per 1,000 children ages 0–17 to a high of 20.1.
- Over half of states had child maltreatment victimization rates lower than 10 per 1,000 children ages 0–17.

Note: A child was counted as a victim each time he or she was found to be a victim of maltreatment.

Source: Authors' adaptation of the Children's Bureau's *Child Maltreatment 2010*.

Rates of child maltreatment victimization varied across demographic groups

Girls' victimization rate was slightly higher than the rate for boys

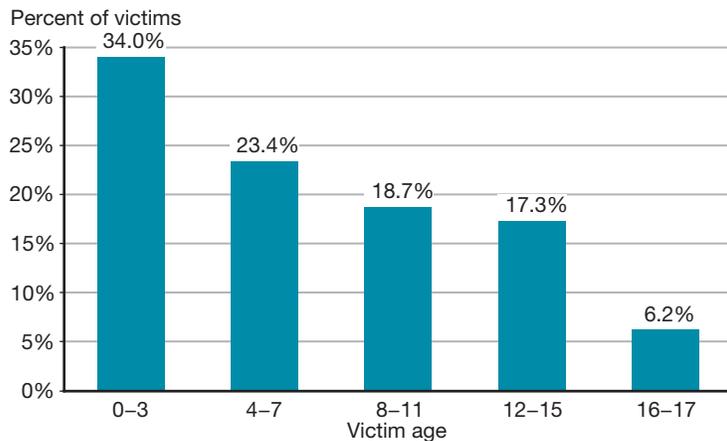
Just over 51% of victims of child maltreatment in 2010 were female. The victimization rate for girls was 9.7 per 1,000 girls younger than age 18, and the rate for boys was 8.7 per 1,000 boys younger than age 18.

Most victims of child maltreatment are white

In 2010, most victims of child maltreatment were white (44.8%), followed by black (21.9%) and Hispanic (21.4%). Children of multiple races (3.5%), American Indian/Alaska Natives (1.1%), and Asian/Pacific Islanders (1.1%) accounted for a substantially smaller proportion of victims.

Black children had the highest child maltreatment victimization rate (14.6 per 1,000). The rate for black children was 1.9 times the rate for white children (7.8). Although in total they accounted for less than 5% of child maltreatment victims, children of multiple races, American Indian/Alaska Natives, and Pacific Islanders all had victimization rates greater than 10.

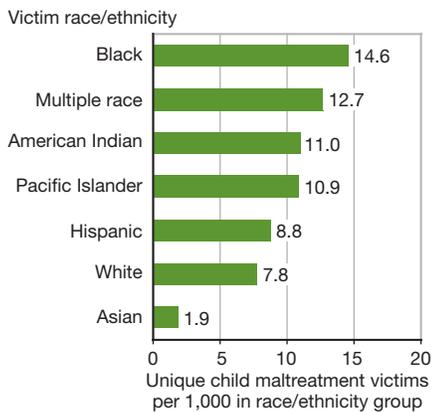
One third of victims of child maltreatment in 2010 were younger than age 4



- Children younger than age 1 accounted for 13% of victims, and 1-year-olds, 2-year-olds, and 3-year-olds each accounted for 7% of victims.
- The rate of maltreatment victimization is inversely related to age—the youngest children had the highest rate of maltreatment.
- Infants younger than age 1 were victimized at a rate of 20.6 per 1,000 children. The victimization rate steadily decreased by age: 11.9 for age 1, 11.4 for age 2, 11.0 for age 3, 9.7 for ages 4-7, 8.0 for ages 8-11, 7.3 for ages 12-15, and 5.0 for ages 16-17.

Note: A child was counted as a victim each time he or she was found to be a victim of maltreatment.

Source: Authors' adaptation of the Children's Bureau's *Child Maltreatment 2010*.



The overwhelming majority of child maltreatment perpetrators are parents of the victims

There were more than 510,000 known perpetrators in 2010

Child maltreatment is by definition an act or omission by a parent or other caregiver that results in harm or serious risk of harm to a child. Incidents where children are harmed by individuals who are not their parents or caregivers generally do not come to the attention of child protective services agencies, but rather would be handled by law enforcement.

In 2010, the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) identified 510,824 unique perpetrators of child maltreatment. A perpetrator was counted once, regardless of the number of children the perpetrator was associated with maltreating or the number of records associated with a perpetrator.

Women are overrepresented among maltreatment perpetrators

Compared with their share of the population (51%), women are overrepresented among child caregivers. Within families, mothers usually are the primary caregivers, and women far outnumber men in caregiver occupations. Women account for more than 95% of childcare providers and 98% of preschool and kindergarten teachers. They also make up more than 89% of health-care support occupations. In 2010, females made up more than half of maltreatment perpetrators (54%).

The vast majority of perpetrators were young adults. More than two-thirds (68%) of perpetrators were between the ages of 20 and 39.

Profile of maltreatment perpetrators, 2010:

Perpetrator age	Percentage of perpetrators
Total	100%
Younger than 20	6
20–29	36
30–39	32
40–49	16
50 and older	7
Unknown	2

Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

Nearly half of perpetrators were white (49%), one-fifth were black, and one-fifth were Hispanic. This distribution is similar to the race profile of victims of child maltreatment.

Profile of maltreatment perpetrators, 2010:

Perpetrator race/ethnicity	Percentage of perpetrators
Total	100%
White	49
Black	20
Hispanic	19
Amer. Indian/Alaska Native	1
Asian/Pacific Islander	1
Multiple race	1
Unknown/missing	9

Biological parents are the most common perpetrators of abuse and neglect

The majority of perpetrators (81%) were parents. Of the parental perpetrators, most were biological parents (84%), 4% were stepparents, and less than 1% were adoptive parents.

Profile of maltreatment perpetrators, 2010:

Relationship to victim	Percentage of perpetrators
Total	100%
Parents	81
Other relative	6
Unmarried partner of parent	4
Professional*	1
Other**	4
Unknown	3

* Professional includes adults who care for children as part of their employment duties, such as child daycare providers, foster parents, and group home staff, as well as other professionals.

** Other includes scout leaders, sports coaches, clergy members, friends, neighbors, and legal guardians.

Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

Most perpetrators were associated with only one type of maltreatment

More than half of perpetrators (62%) were associated with neglect only, including medical neglect. The second greatest proportion of perpetrators was reported to have caused only physical abuse (10%). Only 15% of perpetrators committed more than one type of maltreatment to a child in a specific record.

Profile of maltreatment perpetrators, 2010:

Type of maltreatment	Percentage of perpetrators
Total	100%
Neglect	61
Physical abuse	10
Sexual abuse	6
Psychological abuse	3
Medical neglect	1
Other	4
Two or more types	15

Reported child maltreatment fatalities typically involve infants and toddlers and result from neglect

The youngest children are the most vulnerable child maltreatment victims

Although children younger than 1 year old were just 13% of all maltreatment victims in 2010, they accounted for 48% of maltreatment fatalities. Similarly, children younger than 4 were 34% of all victims but 79% of maltreatment fatalities.

Profile of maltreatment victims, 2010:

Victim age	Fatalities	All victims
Total	100%	100%
Younger than 1	48	13
1	14	7
2	12	7
3	6	7
4-7	11	23
8-11	4	19
12-17	6	24

Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

Several factors make infants and toddlers younger than 4 particularly vulnerable, including their dependency, small size, and inability to defend themselves.

Boys had the highest maltreatment fatality rate in 2010

Boys had a maltreatment fatality rate of 2.51 deaths per 100,000 boys of the same age in the population. For girls, the rate was 1.73 per 100,000. Although most victims of maltreatment fatalities were white (44%), black children and multiracial children had the highest fatality rates, 3.91 and 3.65 per 100,000, respectively. These rates are more than double the fatality rate for white children (1.68 per 100,000).

Mothers were the most common perpetrators in child maltreatment fatalities

Nearly 1 in 3 maltreatment fatalities resulted from neglect alone. Physical abuse accounted for 23% of fatalities, and 40% of fatalities resulted from multiple forms of maltreatment in combination.

Mothers were involved in 61% of maltreatment fatalities. Fathers were involved in 41% of maltreatment fatalities.

Profile of fatality perpetrators, 2010:

Relationship to victim	Percent
Total	100%
Mother alone	29
Mother and other than father	9
Mother and father	22
Father alone	17
Father and other than mother	2
Nonparent	13
Unknown	8

Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

Most maltreatment fatality victims were previously unknown to the CPS agency

Most child maltreatment fatalities involved families without a recent history with CPS. Of all child maltreatment fatalities, 12% involved children whose families had received family preservation services from a CPS agency in the previous 5 years and 1% involved children who had been in foster care and reunited with their families in the previous 5 years.

The number of children in foster care has decreased 29% since 1999

AFCARS data track trends in foster care and adoption

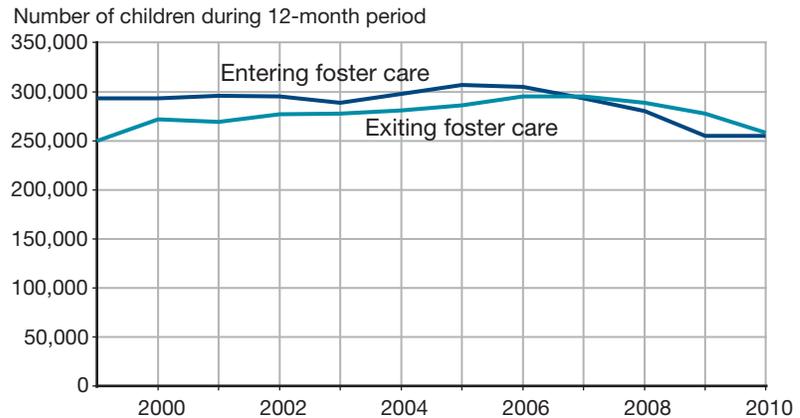
Foster care is defined in federal regulations as 24-hour substitute care for children outside their own homes. Foster care settings include, but are not limited to, family foster homes, relative foster homes (whether payments are being made or not), group homes, emergency shelters, residential facilities, childcare institutions, and preadoptive homes.

Under federal regulation, states and tribal Title IV-E agencies are required to submit data semi-annually to the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS), which collects case-level information on all children in foster care for whom state child welfare agencies have responsibility. AFCARS also collects data on children who are adopted under the auspices of state public child welfare agencies, as well as information on foster and adoptive parents. Data are reported for 12 months as of September 30th of each year.

Nearly half of all children entering foster care were younger than 6

Children younger than 1 were the single age that accounted for the greatest share of children entering foster care—16% in 2010. Children between the ages of 1 and 5 were 31% of foster care entries in 2010, making them the largest age group of children entering foster care (of 5-year age groupings for children ages 1–20). Prior to 2005, the 11–15 age group made up the greatest share of youth entering foster care. The median age of children who entered foster care in 2010 was 6.7 years and the average age was 7.7 years. Logically, the average age of the standing foster care population is greater than the average age of children entering foster care. The median age of children in foster care in 2010 was 9.2 years and the average age was 9.4 years.

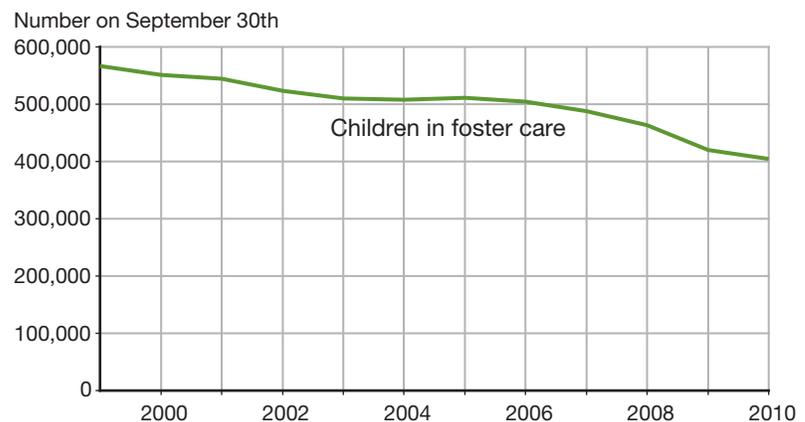
Both foster care entries and exits have decreased in recent years



- In 2010, the number of children who exited foster care was almost exactly same as the number of children entering care.
- The number of children entering foster care has decreased 17% since its peak in 2005 of 307,000. The number of youth exiting foster care has also decreased and is down 13% since its peak in 2007 of 295,000.

Source: Authors' adaptation of the Children's Bureau's (U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services) *The AFCARS Report: Final Estimates for FY 1998 through FY 2002 and Trends in Foster Care and Adoption (FFY 2002–FFY 2012)*.

The number of youth in foster care has decreased steadily since 1999



- An estimated 405,000 children were in foster care on September 30, 2010, a 29% decrease from the 1999 peak of 567,000 and a 20% decrease in the past 5 years.
- Along with the drop in the number of children in foster care, child welfare agencies reported the number of children served during the year has also decreased.

Source: Authors' adaptation of the Children's Bureau's (U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services) *The AFCARS Report: Final Estimates for FY 1998 through FY 2002 and Trends in Foster Care and Adoption (FFY 2002–FFY 2012)*.

Age profile of children entering foster care:

Age	2000	2005	2010
Total	100%	100%	100%
Younger than 1	13	15	16
1–5	24	28	31
6–10	20	18	18
11–15	30	27	23
16–20	11	11	12

Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

Minority youth are over-represented in foster care

In 2010, racial and ethnic minorities accounted for 44% of the U.S. population ages 0–20. In comparison, 58% of children in foster care in 2010 were minority youth. While the proportion of racial and ethnic minorities in the general U.S. population has grown over the past decade, the proportion of minority youth in foster care has remained relatively stable.

Race/ethnicity profile of children, 2010:

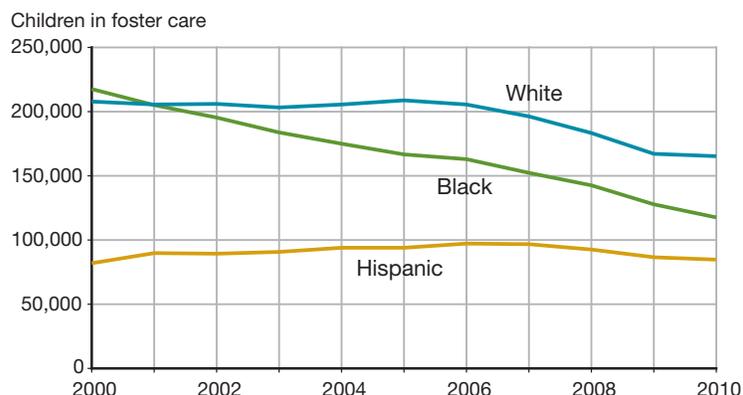
Race/ethnicity	Foster care	U.S. population
Total	100%	100%
White	41	56
Minority	58	44
Black	29	15
Hispanic	21	23
American Indian	2	1
Asian/Pacific Islander	1	5

Notes: Youth of Hispanic ethnicity can be of any race. Minority figures include children of two or more races that are not detailed. Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

Half of children in foster care on September 30, 2010, entered before July 2009

On September 30, 2010, half of children in foster care had been in care for at least 14 months. This is down from the median time in both 2005 (15.5 months) and 2000 (19.8 months).

The number of black non-Hispanic youth in foster care decreased 46% from 2000 to 2010



- On September 30, 2000, 217,615 black youth were in foster care. This number decreased to 117,610 in 2010. While the total number of youth overall in foster care dropped 27% from 2000 to 2010, black youth made up two-thirds of this decrease.

Source: Authors' adaptation of the Children's Bureau's (U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services) *The AFCARS Report: Final Estimates for FY 1998 through FY 2002* and *The AFCARS Report: Preliminary Estimates for the years 2003–2010*.

Profile of children in foster care:

Length of stay in foster care	2000	2005	2010
Total	100%	100%	100%
Less than 1 mo.	4	5	5
1–5 months	16	20	21
6–11 months	15	17	19
12–17 months	12	12	13
18–23 months	9	9	9
24–35 months	13	12	12
3–4 years	15	11	11
5 years or more	17	14	11

Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

Reunification was the permanency goal for most foster care children

In 2010, over half of children in foster care (51%) had a permanency goal of reunification with their parents and one quarter had a goal of adoption. The proportion of children without a

permanency goal changed substantially from 2000 to 2010. In 2000, 17% of children in foster care did not yet have permanency goals; by 2010, the figure had dropped to 5%.

Profile of children in foster care:

Permanency goal	2000	2005	2010
Total	100%	100%	100%
Reunification with parent(s)	41	51	51
Adoption	21	20	25
Guardianship	3	3	4
Live with other relative(s)	4	4	4
Long-term foster care	8	7	6
Emancipation	6	6	6
Goal not yet established	17	8	5

Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

The most common outcome for children exiting foster care was reunification with their parents

Although the most common outcome, the proportion of foster care exits resulting in reunification has decreased since 1999

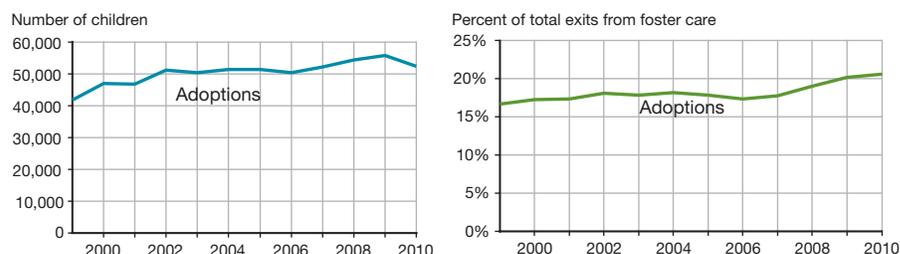
More than half of children who exit foster care are reunified with their parents or primary caretakers; however, the frequency of this outcome has decreased in the past decade. In 1999, an estimated 58% of children exiting foster care were reunified with their parents or primary caretakers; by 2010, this figure dropped to 51%. The second most common outcome for youth exiting foster care in 2010 was adoption (21%). Other outcomes for children include living with other relatives, emancipation, guardianship, transfer to another agency, and running away, all of which accounted for less than a third of exits.

Most children adopted from foster care were adopted by their foster parents

Most children adopted from foster care (53%) in 2010 were adopted by foster parents. About one-third (32%) were adopted by relatives, and the remaining 15% were adopted by nonrelatives. The proportion of children adopted by relatives in 2010 (32%) was greater than in 2005 (25%) and 2000 (21%).

The family structure of adoptive families has remained almost unchanged since AFCARS data collection began in 1998. Married couples adopt the majority of children adopted from foster care (67%), followed by single females (28%). The remaining 5% of children were adopted by unmarried couples and single males.

In 2010, a total of 52,340 children were adopted from foster care—a 26% increase from the number in 1999



- The proportion of children exiting foster care to adoption has steadily increased, from 17% in 1999 to 21% in 2010, despite a decrease in the number of total exits from foster care.
- Adoption requires the termination of parental rights. On September 30, 2010, an estimated 64,084 children in foster care had their parental rights terminated.

Source: Authors' adaptation of the Children's Bureau's (U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services) *The AFCARS Report: Final Estimates for FY 1998 through FY 2002; Trends in Foster Care and Adoption (FFY 2002–FFY 2012)*; and *The AFCARS Report: Preliminary Estimates* for the years 2003–2010.

For the past decade, over half of children adopted from foster care were minority youth

The proportion of minority youth in foster care on September 30, 2010 (58%), was similar to the proportion of minority youth adopted in 2010 (55%). The median age of children adopted out of foster care has decreased over the past decade from 6.3 in 2000, to 5.6 in 2005, and 5.2 in 2010.

Profile of adopted children:

Characteristic	2000	2005	2010
Gender	100%	100%	100%
Male	50	51	51
Female	50	49	49
Race	100%	100%	100%
White	38	43	43
Black	38	30	24
Hispanic	15	18	21
Age	100%	100%	100%
Less than 1	2	2	2
1–5	45	51	54
6–10	36	28	27
11–15	16	16	14
16–20	2	3	3

Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

Reunification was the most common outcome for children exiting foster care

Of the children exiting foster care in 2010, 128,913 were reunited with their parents and 52,340 were adopted. Compared with prior years, a smaller proportion of children were reunited with their parents upon exit from foster care and a greater share were adopted.

Profile of children exiting foster care:

Outcome	2000	2005	2010
Total	100%	100%	100%
Reunification with parent(s)	57	54	51
Adoption	17	18	21
Live with other relative(s)	10	11	8
Emancipation	7	9	11
Guardianship	3	4	6
Transfer to other agency	3	2	2
Runaway	2	2	1

Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

Youth in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems were found to have worse outcomes than other youth

Youth involved in both child protection and juvenile justice systems present challenges

Practitioners and policymakers are recognizing the overlap of child welfare and juvenile justice systems. For example, maltreated children, first in the child welfare system, break the law and enter the juvenile justice system. On the other hand, offenders in the juvenile justice system are found to be maltreated at home. Some families have histories with both systems over several generations. Agencies face duplication of services when program dollars are increasingly scarce. Recognizing and better responding to these youth can improve public safety.

A growing body of research shows that youth involved in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems present an extraordinary range of challenges compared with youth who are only involved in one system. These challenges generally include earlier onset of delinquent behavior, poor permanency outcomes, substantially higher out-of-home placement rates, more detention stays and frequent placement changes, and overall higher offending rates.

Youth who move between the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, often are involved in both concurrently and are disproportionately girls and minorities.

For example, findings from a study in Seattle, Washington, included the following.

- Two-thirds of youth referred for an offense during the year had experienced some form of child welfare involvement.
- The likelihood of at least some history of child welfare involvement is greater for youth with prior offender referrals.
- 6 in 10 youth referred as first-time offenders had at least some history of child welfare involvement.
- 9 in 10 youth previously referred for an offense had at least some history of child welfare involvement.
- First-time offenders with records of multisystem involvement have much higher recidivism rates than youth without child welfare involvement.
- Youth with an extensive history of child welfare involvement were referred for an offense three times as often as youth with no child welfare involvement.
- Youth with no child welfare history were less likely to be referred for a new offense within 2 years (34%) than youth with extensive child welfare involvement (70%).
- Greater proportions of females and minority youth were found among youth with more extensive histories of child welfare involvement.

System integration can improve outcomes for youth

The Center for Juvenile Justice Reform recently reported data from its Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM) showing improved outcomes for dually involved youth subject to CYPM practices. The CYPM involves jurisdictions implementing specific multisystem practices to reduce the “crossover” of youth from one system to the other. The study compared similar non-CYPM youth to youth subject to CYPM practices and found:

- CYPM youth were more likely to show improvements in mental health.
- The percentage of CYPM youth experiencing academic or behavioral problems decreased over time.

- Contact with family and parents and involvement in extracurricular activities increased for CYPM youth.
- CYPM youth were more likely to be dismissed or receive diversion and less likely to receive probation supervision or placement in corrections.

Youth may have various involvement in the two systems

Various terms are used to describe youth who come into contact with both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, including multi-system youth, crossover youth, dual-jurisdiction youth, and dual-status youth. The Robert F. Kennedy Children’s Action Corps recommends the following definitions.

Dual-status youth: The overarching term to describe youth who come into contact with both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems and occupy various statuses in terms of their relationship to the two systems defined below.

Dually identified youth: Youth who are currently involved with the juvenile justice system and have a history in the child welfare system but no current involvement.

Dually involved youth: Youth who have concurrent involvement (diversionary, formal, or both) with both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

Dually adjudicated youth: Youth who are concurrently adjudicated in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems (i.e., both dependent and delinquent).

Source: Author’s adaptation of Wiig and Tuell’s *Guidebook for Juvenile Justice & Child Welfare System Coordination & Integration: A Framework for Improved Outcomes, 3rd Edition*.

More than half of youth in the United States have been exposed to violence in the past year

The NatSCEV documents the incidence and prevalence of children's exposure to violence

The National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence (NatSCEV) is a nationally representative sample of more than 4,500 youth ages 17 and younger designed to capture the incidence and prevalence of children's exposure (direct and indirect) to violence. Youth ages 10–17 and caregivers of youth

younger than 9 were interviewed in 2008 to document exposure to violence during the past year and over their lifetime. The NatSCEV delineates several categories of violence: conventional crime (e.g., kidnapping, robbery, and theft), child maltreatment, peer and sibling victimization, sexual victimization, witnessing and indirect victimization, school violence and threats, and Internet violence and victimization.

Reported exposure to violence varied by type of violence

Overall, 61% of youth surveyed had been either victims of or witnesses to violence in the past year. The percentage of youth reporting exposure varied by type of violence. Nearly half (46%) of youth surveyed reported being victims of an assault in the past year. One in four youth were victims of robbery, vandalism, or theft. Approximately 10%

Boys were more likely to be the victim of assaults; girls were more likely to experience sexual victimization

Type of violence	Percentage exposed to violence in the past year							
	Youth ages 0–17			Age of youth				
	All	Male	Female	0–1	2–5	6–9	10–13	14–17
Assaults and bullying								
Any physical assault	46.3%	50.2%	42.1%	17.9%	46.0%	55.6%	49.8%	46.9%
Assault with injury	10.2	12.7	7.7	0.8	5.6	7.5	13.4	18.8
Assault, no weapon or injury	36.7	38.9	34.4	17.4	38.6	47.5	37.3	32.4
Bullying	13.2	16.7	12.8	NA	19.1	21.5	10.7	8.0
Teasing or emotional bullying	19.7	20.6	23.5	NA	13.5	30.4	27.8	15.8
Property victimization								
Any property victimization	24.6	28.1	27.0	NA	27.8	30.1	24.8	27.6
Robbery (nonsibling)	4.8	6.4	4.2	NA	7.6	5.1	5.1	3.7
Vandalism (nonsibling)	6.0	7.2	6.2	NA	5.2	6.3	6.7	8.6
Theft (nonsibling)	6.9	7.8	7.8	NA	2.3	5.2	10.4	13.0
Sexual victimization								
Any sexual victimization	6.1	4.8	7.4	NA	0.9	2.0	7.7	16.3
Sexual assault	1.8	1.3	2.3	0.0	0.4	0.8	1.4	5.3
Sexual harassment	2.6	1.4	4.4	NA	0.0	0.2	5.6	5.6
Maltreatment								
Any maltreatment	10.2	9.7	10.6	2.2	8.1	7.8	12.0	16.6
Physical abuse	4.4	4.3	4.4	0.6	3.5	2.7	5.2	7.9
Psychological/emotional	6.4	5.5	8.8	NA	4.5	4.5	7.3	12.1
Witness to violence								
Witness any violence (excludes indirect)	25.3	26.1	24.6	10.5	13.8	13.7	33.0	47.6
Witness family assault	9.8	9.0	10.7	7.6	9.6	6.4	11.0	10.1
Witness assault in community	19.2	20.4	17.9	NA	5.8	8.5	27.0	42.2
Exposure to shooting	5.3	5.4	5.1	1.9	2.2	3.1	7.2	10.2

■ Maltreatment victimization increased with age: youth ages 14–17 were twice as likely to report maltreatment as were youth ages 2–5.

NA: Violence type not applicable to age group.

Source: Authors' adaptation of Finkelhor et al.'s Violence, Abuse, and Crime Exposure in a National Sample of Children and Youth, *Pediatrics*.

of youth witnessed an assault within their family and nearly one-fifth (19%) witnessed assault in their community.

More than one-fifth of youth report being bullied at some point in their lifetime

The NatSCEV separates bullying into three subcategories: physical bullying, emotional bullying, and Internet harassment. For all ages, 13% of youth reported being physically bullied in the past year, and 22% reported physical bullying in their lifetime. Both physical and emotional bullying were most likely among youth ages 6–9, while Internet harassment was more common in older youth ages 14–17. Boys reported higher rates of physical bullying, and girls were more likely to report Internet harassment.

One in 10 youth reported being sexually victimized in their lifetime

Overall, 6% of youth surveyed had been sexually victimized in the past year. Reports of this type of victimization increased with age and were more common among youth ages 14–17 (16%) than any other age group in the past year. Girls were more likely than boys to report sexual victimization—nearly 1 in 8 girls (12%) reported sexual victimization in their lifetime.

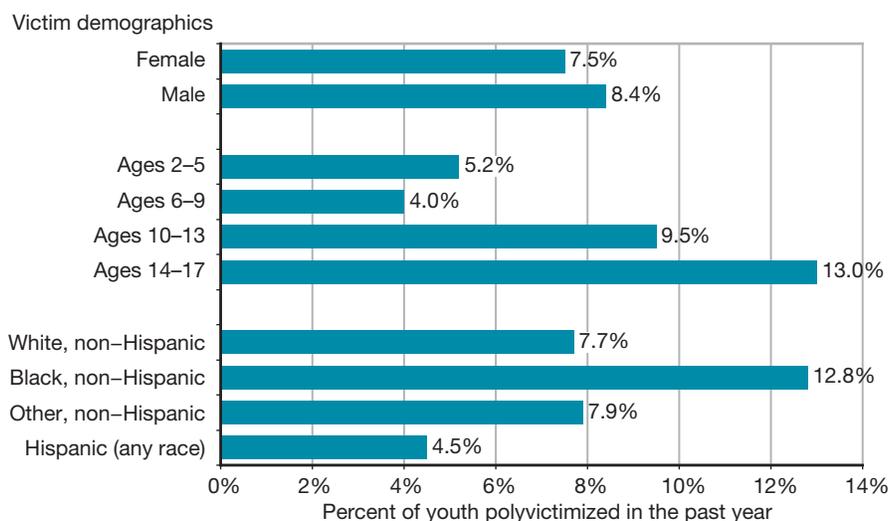
The NatSCEV also collected information on maltreatment by an adult caregiver, such as physical, psychological, or emotional abuse, neglect, custodial interference, or family abduction. Eighteen percent (18%) of youth reported experiencing some kind of maltreatment in their lifetime.

Maltreatment was highest among youth ages 14–17, as nearly one-third (32%) of these youth reported some form of maltreatment in their lifetime. Girls were more likely to report psychological or emotional abuse than were boys.

The NatSCEV also surveyed youth about indirect victimization or exposure to violent acts upon others. Indirect victimization includes events such

as an assault on a friend or family member, theft or burglary, exposure to shootings, or exposure to war or ethnic conflict. One quarter (25%) of youth surveyed said they had witnessed violence during the past year, and as much as 38% had witnessed violence against another person in their lifetime. Boys were more likely to witness violence in the community; however, there was no gender difference for witnessing family violence.

Polyvictimization is the exposure to multiple victimizations from various types of violence or abuse



- Past-year polyvictimization rates were highest among youth ages 14–17 (13.0%) and non-Hispanic black youth (12.8%).
- Within the previous year, 38% of youth were directly polyvictimized—these youth experienced 7 or more types of victimization. The lifetime incidence of direct polyvictimization was 64%.
- Boys accounted for more than half (54%) of all child polyvictims, and two-fifths (41%) were youth ages 14–17.

Source: Authors' adaptation of Finkelhor et al.'s Polyvictimization: Children's Exposure to Multiple Types of Violence, Crime, and Abuse, *OJJDP Bulletin*.

The serious violent victimization rate of youth ages 12–17 in 2010 was less than one-quarter the rate in 1994

NCVS tracks crime levels

Since 1973, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) has used the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) to monitor the level of violent crime in the U.S. NCVS gathers information on crimes against persons ages 12 and older from a nationally representative sample of households. NCVS is critical for understanding the volume and nature of crimes against juveniles ages 12–17 as well as trends in these crimes. A major limitation, however, is that crimes against youth younger than age 12 are not captured.

Juveniles are more likely than adults to be victims of violence

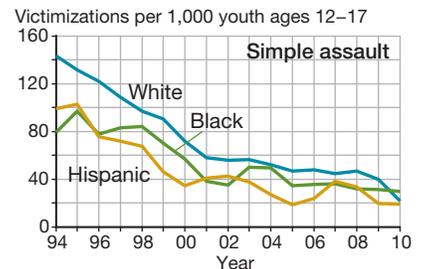
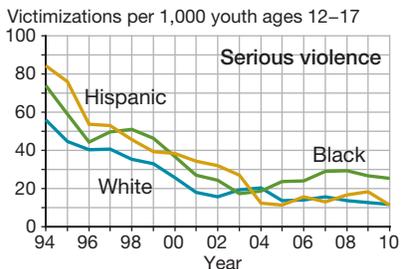
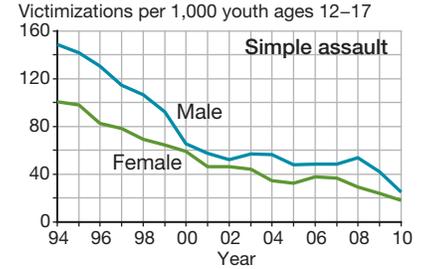
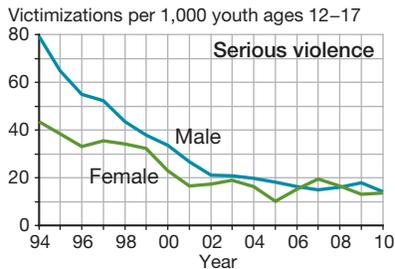
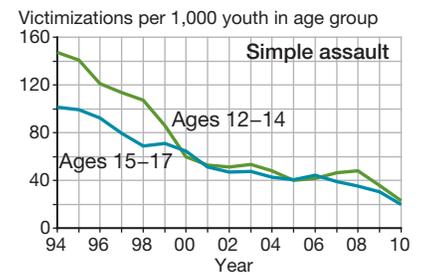
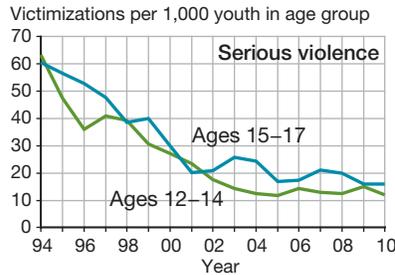
NCVS monitors nonfatal violent victimizations (i.e., the crimes of rape, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault). A 2012 BJS report summarized NCVS data for the years 1994–2010 to document trends in nonfatal violent victimizations of youth ages 12–17. The report found that youth experienced relatively high levels of violent crimes during the mid-1990s but their rate of victimization had declined substantially through 2010.

On average from 1994 through 2010, youth ages 12–17 were about 2.2 times more likely than adults (i.e., ages 18 and older) to be victims of a serious* violent crime. That means, in 2010, in a typical group of 1,000 youth ages 12–17, 14 experienced serious violent victimizations, compared with about 7 persons ages 18 and older. Similarly, on average, youth were 2.6 times more likely than adults to be victims of a simple assault.

In 1994, youth ages 12–17 experienced comparable rates of serious violence committed by strangers and

* Serious violence refers to rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault.

Between 1994 and 2010, victimization rates for serious violence and simple assault declined for all youth



- Most of the decline in both serious violence and simple assault victimization rates took place between 1994 and 2002. During this period, the rate of serious violence against youth ages 12–17 fell 69% and simple assault fell 61%, compared with 27% and 56%, respectively, between 2002 and 2010.
- The relative decline in simple assault victimization rates between 1994 and 2010 was the about the same for male (83%) and female (82%) youth, while the decline in the serious violence rate for males (82%) outpaced that of females (69%).
- Among race/ethnicity groups, black non-Hispanic youth had the highest rates of serious violence and simple assault in 2010. Black non-Hispanic youth were more than twice as likely to be victims of serious violence in 2010 as were white non-Hispanic or Hispanic youth and at least 30% more likely to be victims of simple assault.

Source: Authors' adaptation of White and Lauritsen's *Violent Crime Against Youth, 1994–2010*.

nonstrangers (28.2 vs. 32.4 per 1,000). Between 1994 and 2010, the rate of serious violent crimes committed by strangers declined 84% while the rate for nonstrangers declined 73% so that, by 2010, the rate of serious violence committed by nonstrangers was twice the rate committed by strangers (8.9 vs. 4.5). In 2010, the rate of simple assault committed by nonstrangers was 1.5 times the rate committed by strangers, compared with 2.4 in 1994.

Male and female youth were equally likely to be victims of serious violence in 2010

In 1994, male juveniles were nearly twice as likely to be victims of serious violence as were females (79.4 per 1,000 vs. 43.6 per 1,000, respectively). However, following the relatively larger decline in the serious violence victimization rate among male juveniles (down 82%, compared with 69% for females), the difference in victimization rates for male and female youth was nearly erased by 2010 (14.3 vs. 13.7, respectively). In contrast, 2010 victimization rates for simple assault showed greater gender disparity, as male youth were 36% more likely to be victimized than females (24.8 vs. 18.2).

The rates of serious violence against male and female youth committed by a nonintimate partner were higher than the rates committed by an intimate partner, and female youth were more likely to be victimized by an intimate partner than were males. The same pattern held true for victims of simple assault.

Between 1994 and 2010, rates of serious violence against youth that involved a weapon (e.g., firearm, knife, or club) decreased by 80% (from 40.7 per 1,000 to 8.1). During the same time period, violent crime resulting in serious injuries (broken bones, concussions, or gunshot or stab wounds) declined 63% (from 3.6 to 1.3).

Serious violence committed against youth declined for all locations

In 2010, youth living in urban areas were at greater risk (19.1 per 1,000 youth) of serious violence than youth in suburban (11.7) or rural (12.6) areas. Between 1994 and 2010, the rate of serious violence against juveniles declined 81% in suburban areas, 76% in urban areas, and 72% in rural areas. Youth living in urban areas were also at greater risk (25.2) of simple assault than youth in suburban (22.0) or rural (14.0) areas. The rate of simple assaults decreased at least 80% for each area between 1994 and 2010.

The rate of serious violence at school declined by nearly two-thirds (63%) between 1994 and 2010 and the rate committed in nonschool locations (e.g., parks, playgrounds, or a residence) declined 83%. By 2010, the rate of serious violence at school (6.6) was comparable to the rate at nonschool locations (7.4). Simple assault rates decreased at a similar pace for both school and nonschool locations during the period (81% for school and 85% for nonschool).

In 2010, youth ages 12–17 were at greatest risk of both serious violence and simple assault during the after-school hours of 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. During this time period, youth were 11 times more likely to be victims of either a serious violent act or a simple assault than the period from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Declines in serious violence were similar for white, black, and Hispanic youth

Over the 1994–2010 period, the rate of serious violence declined for all race/ethnicity groups, but the decline was greater for Hispanic youth (87%) than for white non-Hispanic (79%) and black non-Hispanic (66%) youth.

However, in 2010, the rate of serious violence against black youth (25.4) was twice the rate of white (11.7) and Hispanic (11.3) youth. In comparison, black youth in 1994 were 30% more likely to experience serious violence than their white counterparts but 12% less likely than Hispanic youth. The increasing disparity in rates of serious violence against black youth and youth of other racial or ethnic groups is primarily associated with patterns of change that occurred from 2002 to 2010. Specifically, rates of serious violence against white youth and Hispanic youth generally declined throughout the 1994–2010 period, but the rate for black youth declined through 2002 and then increased through 2010. The 2010 simple assault rates for black non-Hispanic youth (29.9) also were higher than those for white non-Hispanic (21.5) and Hispanic (19.0) youth.

Declines in serious violence were similar for juveniles and adults

From 1994 to 2010, rates of serious violence against youth declined across all crime types, a pattern that was replicated among adult victims. During this period, rates of serious violence against youth and adults experienced similar declines (77% and 73%, respectively). Similarly, rates of simple assault victimization decreased (83% for juveniles and 71% for adults).

Serious violent victimization rate (per 1,000 in age group):

Offense	Juveniles		Adults	
	1994	2010	1994	2010
Serious violence	62.0	14.0	24.1	6.5
Rape/sexual assault	7.0	2.2	3.3	1.0
Robbery	20.1	4.7	6.7	2.1
Aggravated assault	34.8	7.1	14.1	3.3
Simple assault	125.2	21.6	43.3	12.8

Between 1994 and 2010, youth victimization rates for rape/sexual assault declined 68%, robbery declined 77%, and aggravated assault declined 80%.

In 2010, students were safer in school and on their way to and from school than they were in 1992

Crimes against juveniles fell substantially between 1992 and 2010 both in and out of school

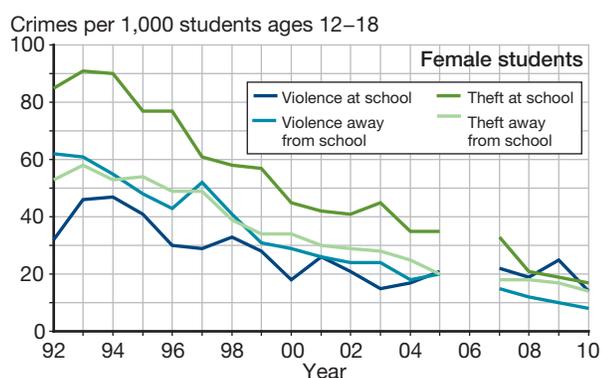
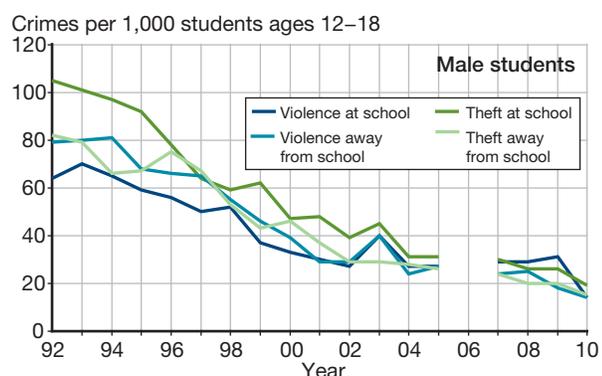
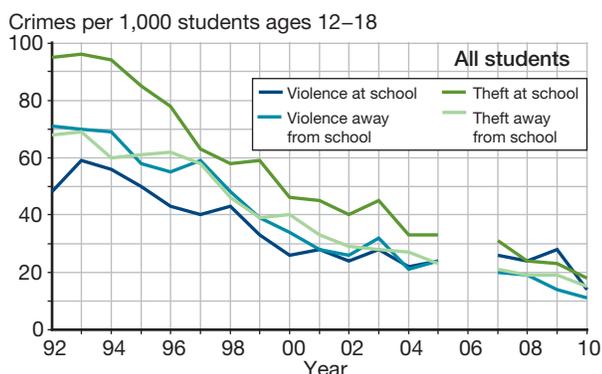
For more than 2 decades, a joint effort by the National Center for Education Statistics and the Bureau of Justice Statistics has monitored the amount of nonfatal crime that students, ages 12–18, experience when they are in (or on their way to and from) school and when they are away from school. Findings indicate that, between 1992 and 2010, the rates of violent crime and theft each declined substantially both in and away from school.

In 2010, more nonfatal victimizations (theft and violent crime) were committed against students ages 12–18 at school than away from school. Students at school experienced about 828,400 nonfatal victimizations, compared with about 652,500 away from school. These figures represent total crime victimization rates of 32 crimes per 1,000 students at school and 26 victimizations per 1,000 students away from school.

From 1992 to 2010, the rate of violent crimes against students ages 12–18 occurring away from school fell about 85% (from 71 victimizations per 1,000 to 11), while the violent crime rate in school fell about 70% (from 48 to 14). In 2010, these youth experienced roughly equal numbers of theft crimes in and out of school. From 1992 to 2010, the rate of theft against students ages 12–18 fell about 80% both in and out of school. For most of these years, the rate of theft at school was higher than the rate of theft away from school, but there were no measurable differences between these rates in either 2009 or 2010.

In 2010, students residing in urban and suburban areas had higher rates of violent victimization at school (18 and 14 per 1,000, respectively) than those residing in rural areas (7).

Both male and female students ages 12–18 experienced far fewer crimes of violence and theft in their schools in 2010 than in 1992



- Male and female students also experienced large declines in victimization outside of school between 1992 and 2010.
- In 2010, the violent crime and theft rates did not differ significantly for males and females either at or away from school.

Note: Due to changes in methodology, 2006 national crime victimization rates are not comparable to other years and cannot be used for trend comparisons. **Serious violent crimes** include sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault. **Violent crimes** include serious violent crimes plus simple assault.

Source: Authors' adaptation of National Center for Education Statistics' *Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2011*.

In 2011, about 1 in 5 students reported having been bullied at school and 1 in 6 reported having been cyberbullied

Nationwide, 20% of high school students said they were bullied at school in 2011

The 2011 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) found that 20% of high school students said they were bullied at school one or more times during the 12 months before the survey. The YRBS defines bullying as “when one or more students tease, threaten, spread rumors about, hit, shove, or hurt another student over and over again.” Regardless of grade level or race/ethnicity, females were more likely than males to be victims of bullying. Overall, a higher proportion of white students than black or Hispanic students were bullied at school. Bullying at school decreased as grade level increased.

Percent of students who report being bullied on school property in the past year:

Demographic	Total	Male	Female
Total	20.1%	18.2%	22.0%
9th grade	24.2	21.5	27.1
10th grade	22.4	20.4	24.6
11th grade	17.1	16.7	17.5
12th grade	15.2	13.4	17.2
White	22.9	20.7	25.2
Black	11.7	11.1	12.2
Hispanic	17.6	16.0	19.3

The prevalence of having been bullied at school ranged from 14% to 27% across state surveys (median: 20%) and from 10% to 20% across large urban school district surveys (median: 14%). The proportion of students who were bullied at school did not change from 2009 to 2011.

Hallways and stairwells are the most common locations of bullying at school

The School Crime Supplement (SCS) to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) collects data from students 12–18 years old and their reports of being bullied at school. “At school”

includes the school building, on school property, the school bus, or going to and from school. “Bullying” includes being made fun of; being the subject of rumors; being threatened with harm; being pressured into doing things they did not want to do; excluded from activities on purpose; having property destroyed on purpose; and being pushed, shoved, tripped, or spit on along with injury as a result of the incident.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics’ analysis of the SCS data, about 28% of students ages 12–18 reported being bullied at school during the 2009 school year. A higher percentage of females (20%) than males (13%) reported being the subject of rumors. However, a lower percentage of females (8%) than males (10%) reported being pushed, shoved, tripped, or spit on. Nearly 22% of all students who had been pushed, shoved, tripped, or spit on at school during the school year reported being injured.

Percent of students ages 12–18 bullied at school in 2009:

Bullying problem	Total	Male	Female
Total	28.0%	26.6%	29.5%
Made fun of	18.8	18.4	19.2
Rumors	16.5	12.8	20.3
Threatened	5.7	5.6	5.8
Pressured	3.6	4.0	3.2
Excluded	4.7	3.8	5.7
Property destroyed	3.3	3.4	3.2
Pushed	9.0	10.1	7.9

Bullying at school decreased for each bullying problem as grade level increased. A higher percentage of public school students (29%) than private school students (19%) reported being bullied at school.

Students who were bullied in 2009 also reported the location in which they had been victimized. A higher percentage of females (52%) than males

(44%) reported being bullied in the hallway or stairwell, while a lower percentage of females (21%) than males (27%) reported being bullied outside on school grounds.

Percent of students ages 12–18 bullied at school in 2009:

Bullying location	Total	Male	Female
Total	28.0%	26.6%	29.5%
In classroom	34.4	33.6	35.1
Hallway/ stairwell	48.2	44.3	51.9
Bathroom/ locker room	9.2	10.3	8.2
Cafeteria	6.5	5.3	7.7
Other school area	3.3	2.8	3.8
School grounds	24.2	27.1	21.4
School bus	6.5	7.1	5.9

Students from rural schools reported higher rates of being bullied in the hallway or stairwell (56%) than did students from urban schools (47%) and suburban schools (46%). In contrast, a higher percentage of students from urban schools (30%) than students from suburban schools (23%) and rural schools (18%) reported being bullied outside on school grounds.

Youth who are cyberbullied are often bullied in person as well

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) defines cyberbullying as bullying that takes place using electronic devices and equipment such as cell phones, computers, and tablets along with communication tools which include social media sites, text messaging, chatrooms, and websites. Often, victims do not know the identity of the bully or why they are being targeted.

Examples of cyberbullying include mean or threatening text messages or emails, rumors sent by email or posted on social networking sites, and

embarrassing pictures, videos, and fake profiles uploaded for the online audience to view, rate, tag, and discuss. Technology enables bullies to expand their reach and the extent of their harm. A large number of people can be involved in a cyber-attack on a victim, and the audience includes all who have access to cyberspace environments.

In 2011, 1 in 5 females were cyberbully victims—1 in 9 males were victims

In 2011, the YRBS found that, nationwide, 16% of students reported being cyberbullied during the past year through email, chat rooms, instant messaging, websites, or texting. Regardless of grade level or race/ethnicity, females were more likely than males to be victims of cyberbullying. Overall, the prevalence of cyberbullying was

higher among sophomores than among students at all other grade levels.

Percent of students who were cyberbullied in the past year:

Demographic	Total	Male	Female
Total	16.2%	10.8%	22.1%
9th grade	15.5	8.9	22.6
10th grade	18.1	12.6	24.2
11th grade	16.0	12.4	19.8
12th grade	15.0	8.8	21.5
White	18.6	11.8	25.9
Black	8.9	6.9	11.0
Hispanic	13.6	9.5	18.0

The prevalence of having been cyberbullied ranged from 12% to 22% across state surveys (median: 16%) and from 8% to 16% across large urban school district surveys (median: 11%).

In 2009, 6% of students responding to the SCS reported being cyberbullied anywhere during the school year. Females reported being cyberbullied at a higher percentage than males overall and by type of cyberbullying problem.

Percent of students cyberbullied anywhere in 2009:

Cyberbullying problem	Total	Male	Female
Total	6.0%	4.9%	7.2%
Hurtful information on Internet	2.0	1.1	2.9
Subject of harassing instant messages	1.8	1.1	2.5
Subject of harassing text messages	3.0	2.0	4.0

In 2009, about 9% of students were targets of hate-related words—29% saw hate-related graffiti at school

The 2009 SCS collected data on students' reports of being targets of hate-related words and seeing hate-related graffiti at school. Higher percentages of black and Hispanic students (11% each) reported being targets of hate-related words than white students (7%). Higher percentages of Hispanic

students (32%) than white students (28%) reported seeing hate-related graffiti. A lower percentage of white students (2%) reported being called a hate-related word regarding their race, compared with 8% each of black and Hispanic students. Also, 1% of white students reported being called a hate-related word regarding their ethnicity, compared with 4% of black and 7% of Hispanic students.

In 2009, 23% of public schools reported daily or weekly bullying among their students

The School Survey on Crime and Safety collects data from public school principals about the occurrence of certain disciplinary problems at their schools. In the 2009–2010 school year, 23% of public schools reported that student bullying occurred on a daily or weekly basis.

Percent of schools reporting discipline problems occurring by students:

Discipline problem	Percent
Problems occurred daily or at least once a week:	
Ethnic tension	2.8%
Bullying	23.1
Cyberbullying	8.0
Sexual harassment	3.2
Verbal abuse of teachers	4.8
Classroom disorder	2.5
Other disrespect of teachers	8.6
Sexual harassment based on sexual orientation	2.5
Problems ever occurred:	
Gang activity	16.4
Cult activity	1.7

A greater percentage of city schools (27%) than either rural (21%) or suburban (20%) schools reported that bullying occurred at least once a week. For public schools, 8% reported that cyberbullying had occurred daily or at least once a week at school or away from school.

Victims of cyberbullying are likely to report:

- Being bullied in person
- Being afraid or embarrassed to go to school
- Skipping school
- Academic failure
- Low self-esteem
- Health problems
- Alcohol and drug use
- Family problems
- Delinquent behavior
- Suicidal thoughts or actions

Source: Authors' adaptation of U.S. Department of Health and Human Services online information, available at www.stopbullying.gov.

Nearly 1 in 4 serious violent crime victims known to law enforcement is a juvenile

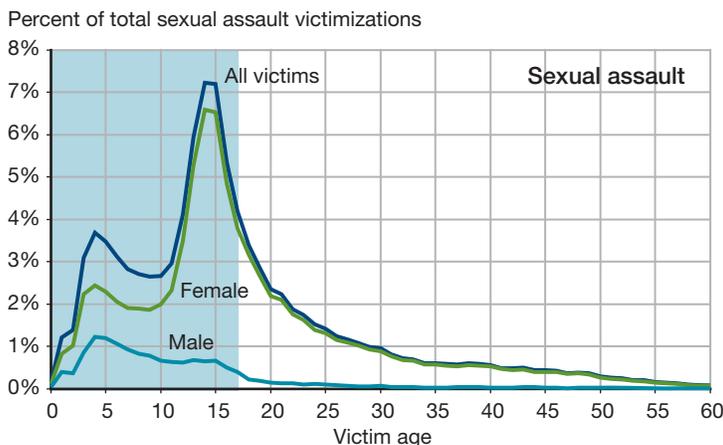
Juvenile victims are common in violent crimes handled by law enforcement

Not all crimes committed are reported to law enforcement. Those that are reported can be used to produce the portrait of crime as seen by the nation's justice system. As noted earlier, based on the FBI's Supplementary Homicide Reports, 10% of all persons murdered in 2010 were under age 18 and 30% of these murdered juveniles were female. No other data source with comparable population coverage characterizes the victims of other violent crimes reported to law enforcement. However, data from the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) covering incidents in 2009 and 2010 capture information on more than 710,000 serious violent crime (murder, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault) victims known to law enforcement agencies in 35 states and the District of Columbia. The number of reporting agencies and proportion of the state reporting varied by state; however, from these data an arguably representative description of violent crime victims can be developed.

Sexual assault victims accounted for nearly two-thirds of the juvenile victims of serious violent crime known to law enforcement

NIBRS data indicate that 23% of the victims of serious violent crime reported to law enforcement agencies in 2009 and 2010 were juveniles—persons under age 18. More specifically, juveniles were the victims in 10% of murders, 64% of sexual assaults, 10% of robberies, and 15% of aggravated assaults. Of all juvenile victims of serious violent crime, less than one-half of 1% were murder victims, 11% were robbery victims, 36% were victims of aggravated assault, and 53% were victims of sexual assault.

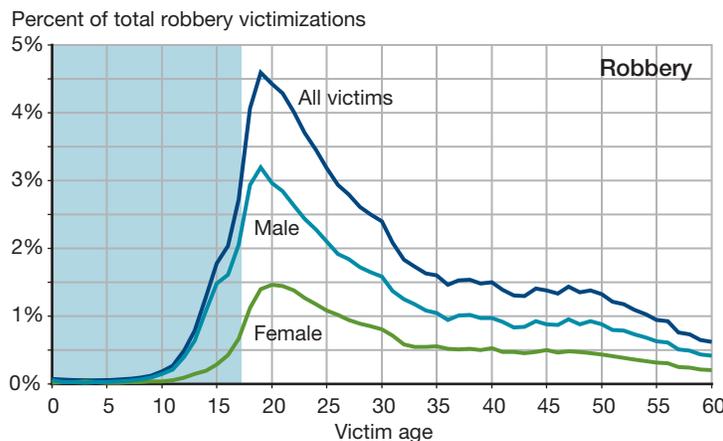
The modal age for sexual assault victims was age 14 for female victims and age 4 for male victims



- Female juvenile victims of sexual assault outnumbered male juvenile victims by 4 to 1.
- In sexual assaults reported to law enforcement, 61% of female victims and 84% of male victims were younger than age 18.

Source: Authors' analyses of the FBI's *National Incident-Based Reporting System: Extract Files* for the years 2009 and 2010 [machine-readable data files].

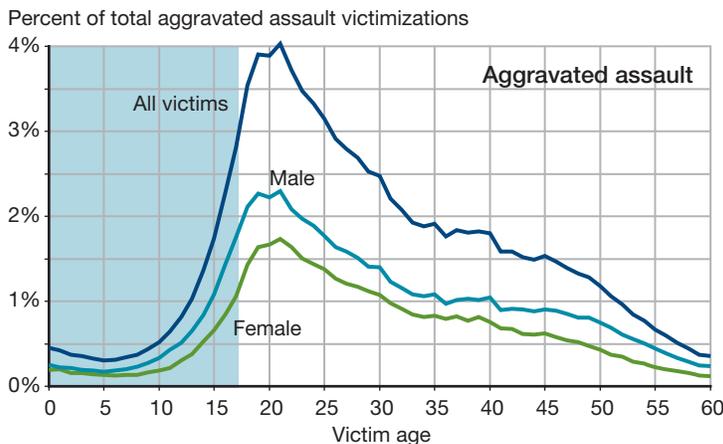
The number of robbery victims known to law enforcement increased with age through the juvenile years, peaking at age 19



- Persons younger than age 18 accounted for 12% of all male robbery victims and 7% of female robbery victims.

Source: Authors' analyses of the FBI's *National Incident-Based Reporting System: Extract Files* for the years 2009 and 2010 [machine-readable data files].

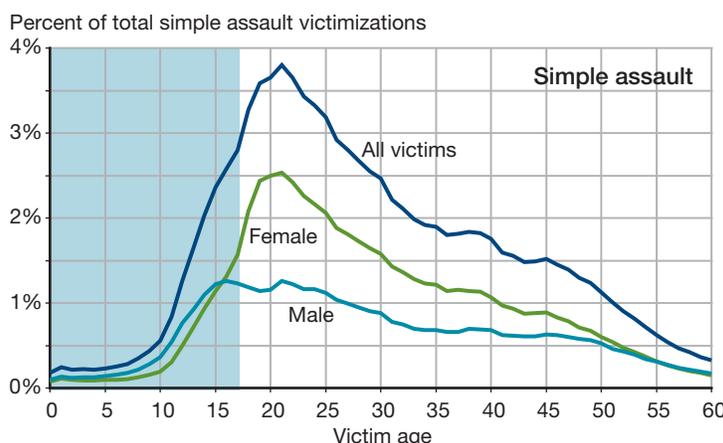
Unlike the pattern for simple assault, more males than females were victims of aggravated assault at each victim age



- In aggravated assaults reported to law enforcement, 16% of male and 14% of female victims were under age 18.

Source: Authors' analyses of the FBI's *National Incident-Based Reporting System: Extract Files* for the years 2009 and 2010 [machine-readable data files].

Until age 15, more simple assault victims were male; however, at age 19, twice as many females as males were simple assault victims



- Female victims outnumber male victims until age 50.
- In simple assaults reported to law enforcement, a greater proportion of male victims than female victims were under age 18 (22% vs. 13%).

Source: Authors' analyses of the FBI's *National Incident-Based Reporting System: Extract Files* for the years 2009 and 2010 [machine-readable data files].

Sexual assault accounted for nearly 3 in 4 female juvenile victims and 1 in 4 male juvenile victims of serious violence

The majority (59%) of the juvenile victims of serious violent crimes known to law enforcement in 2009 and 2010 were female. Victims under age 18 accounted for 29% of all female victims of serious violent crime but only 18% of all male victims. The types of serious violence committed against male and female juvenile victims differed. For juvenile female victims, 73% of the serious violent crimes were sexual assaults, 23% were aggravated assaults, and just 4% were robberies. In contrast, for juvenile male victims, 54% of crimes were aggravated assaults, 20% were robberies, and 25% were sexual assaults.

Among both male and female juvenile victims of sexual assault, forcible fondling was the most common offense.

Offense profile of juvenile sexual assault victims, 2009–2010:

Offense	Male	Female
Sex offense	100%	100%
Forcible rape	5	35
Forcible sodomy	30	5
Sex assault with an object	4	5
Forcible fondling	62	55

Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding

More than one-third of the juvenile victims of serious violence were younger than 12

NIBRS data for 2009 and 2010 show that 17% of the juvenile victims of serious violent crime were younger than 6, 21% were ages 6–11, 25% were ages 12–14, and 37% were ages 15–17. Victims younger than 12 represented 54% of all juvenile murder victims, 47% of juvenile sexual assault victims, and 33% of juvenile aggravated assault victims.

As juveniles age, offenders who violently victimize them are less likely to be family members

Offenders in juvenile victimizations are likely to be adults

Analyses of the 2009 and 2010 NIBRS data files provide an understanding of the offenders who victimize juveniles in violent crime incidents known to law enforcement. Although these data may not be nationally representative, the NIBRS sample, which includes incidents involving 430,000 juvenile victims of violent crime (murder, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault), is large enough to give credence to patterns derived from NIBRS data.

Based on NIBRS data, an adult (i.e., a person over age 17) was the primary offender against 53% of all juvenile victims of violent crime known to law enforcement in 2009 and 2010. Adult offenders were more common in juvenile murders (84%), sexual assaults (65%), and aggravated assaults (62%) and less common in juvenile robberies (52%) and simple assaults (47%).

The proportion of adult offenders in juvenile victimizations varied with the juvenile's age. In general, the proportion was greater for the youngest juveniles (under age 6) and the oldest juveniles (ages 15–17) than for those between ages 6 and 14. This pattern held for juvenile murder, aggravated assault, simple assault, and robbery (although robbery of the youngest juveniles was very rare). The pattern was different for sexual assaults of juveniles (the proportion of adult offenders generally increased with victim age). Due in part to these age and offense variations, female juvenile violent crime victims were more likely than male victims to have an adult offender.

Assaults of juvenile females are more likely to involve family members than are assaults of juvenile males

Victim-offender relationship by offense	Offender relationship profile						
	Age of victim					Victim ages 0–17	
	0–17	0–5	6–11	12–14	15–17	Male	Female
Violent crime	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Family	32	64	44	24	22	28	35
Acquaintance	60	31	50	68	67	61	60
Stranger	8	5	6	8	10	11	6
Sexual assault	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Family	39	60	53	28	21	45	38
Acquaintance	57	39	45	68	73	52	58
Stranger	4	1	2	5	6	2	4
Robbery	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Family	1	*	2	1	0	1	2
Acquaintance	34	*	32	37	35	35	33
Stranger	65	*	66	62	65	64	66
Aggravated assault	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Family	32	63	42	26	20	28	37
Acquaintance	54	27	47	63	63	56	52
Stranger	14	10	11	12	17	16	10
Simple assault	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Family	30	69	40	24	25	28	33
Acquaintance	64	26	55	70	69	64	63
Stranger	6	4	5	6	7	7	4

■ In crimes known to law enforcement, the youngest juveniles (under age 6) are far more likely than the oldest juveniles (ages 15–17) to be assaulted by a family member: sexual assault (60% vs. 21%), aggravated assault (63% vs. 20%), and simple assault (69% vs. 25%).

* Too few victims in sample to obtain reliable percentage.

Notes: Violent crime includes murder, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault. Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

Source: Authors' analyses of the FBI's *National Incident-Based Reporting System: Extract Files* for the years 2009 and 2010 [machine-readable data files].

Across violent crimes, juvenile males are more likely to be victimized by a juvenile offender than are juvenile females

Offense	Percentage of victimizations involving juvenile offenders						
	Age of victim					Victim ages 0–17	
	0–17	0–5	6–11	12–14	15–17	Male	Female
Violent crime	47%	18%	46%	61%	45%	53%	41%
Sexual assault	35	38	43	36	23	47	32
Robbery	48	10	57	66	42	52	34
Aggravated assault	38	6	38	56	39	42	32
Simple assault	53	8	49	69	51	57	48

Source: Authors' analyses of the FBI's *National Incident-Based Reporting System: Extract Files* for the years 2009 and 2010 [machine-readable data files].

Violent crimes with juvenile victims are most common after school

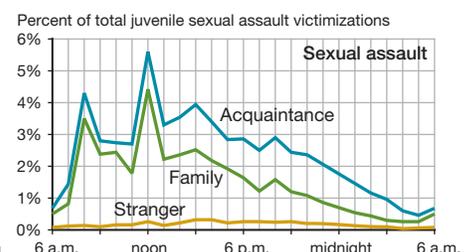
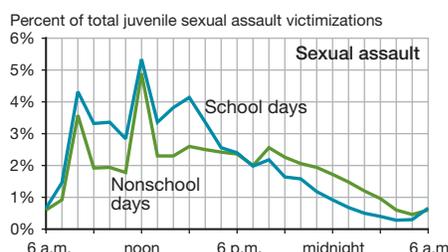
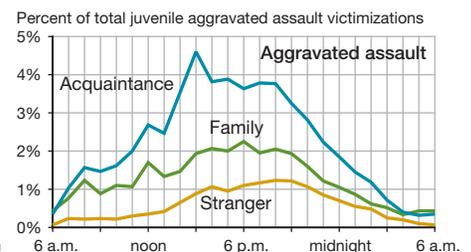
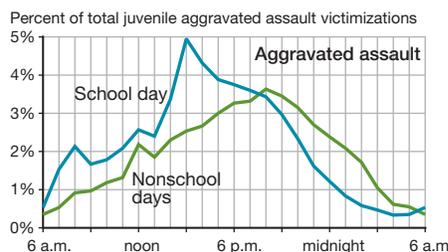
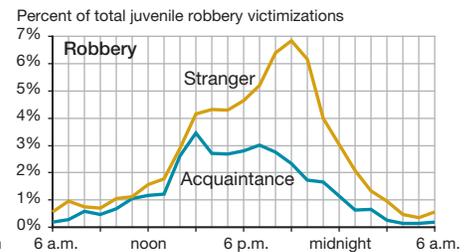
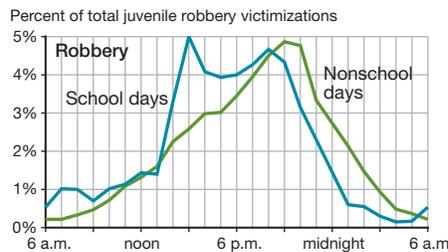
The risk of violence varies over a 24-hour period

To understand the nature of juvenile victimization, it helps to study when different types of crimes occur. To this end, the authors analyzed the FBI's NIBRS data for the years 2009 and 2010 to study the date and time of day that crimes known to law enforcement occurred. Confirming prior analyses, the daily timing of violent crimes (i.e., murder, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault) differed for juvenile and adult victims. In general, the number of violent crimes with adult victims increased hourly from morning through the evening hours, peaking around 10 p.m. In contrast, violent crimes with juvenile victims peaked at 3 p.m., fell to a lower level in the early evening hours, and declined substantially after 8 p.m.

The 3 p.m. peak reflected a unique situational characteristic of juvenile violence and was similar for both male and female victims. This situational component was clarified when the hourly patterns of violent crimes on school and nonschool days were compared. For adult victims, the school- and nonschool-day patterns were essentially the same. On nonschool days, the juvenile victimization pattern mirrored the general adult pattern, with a peak in the late evening hours. But on school days, the number of juvenile violent crime victimizations peaked in the afterschool hours between 3 and 4 p.m.

Based on violent crimes reported to law enforcement, juveniles were more than twice as likely to be victimized between 3 and 4 p.m. on school days as in the same time period on nonschool days (i.e., weekends and the summer months). On school days, juveniles were twice as likely to be the

The timing of violent crimes with juvenile victims differs on school and nonschool days and varies with the victim's relationship to the offender

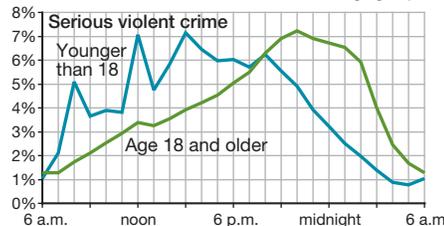


- Sexual assaults with juvenile victims followed a similar pattern on school and nonschool days, marked by mealtime peaks on both days. Unlike the timing of other violent crimes, sexual assaults exhibit a noon peak.
- Time-of-day patterns of robberies with juvenile victims increase steadily on nonschool days, reaching a peak between 9 and 10 p.m. On school days, however, robberies involving juvenile victims show an afterschool peak.
- Unlike robbery offenders, sexual assault and aggravated assault offenders who are strangers to their juvenile victims are far less common than offenders who are acquaintances or family members.
- Sexual assaults by acquaintances or family members are most common at 8 a.m. and noon (i.e., mealtimes) and in the hour after school (3 p.m.).
- For all violent crimes against juveniles, crimes by acquaintances peak in the hour after school, while crimes by strangers peak around 8 p.m.

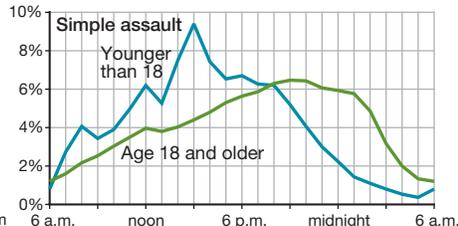
Source: Authors' analyses of the FBI's *National Incident-Based Reporting System: Extract Files* for the years 2009 and 2010 [machine-readable data files].

The timing of crime with juvenile victims differs from that of crimes with adult victims

Percent of total serious violent victimizations in age group



Percent of total simple assault victimizations in age group



- The afterschool peak in juvenile victimizations is found in serious violent crimes as well as simple assaults, while the adult patterns increase steadily through 9 and 10 p.m.

Note: Serious violent crimes include murder, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault.

Source: Authors' analyses of the FBI's *National Incident-Based Reporting System: Extract Files* for the years 2009 and 2010 [machine-readable data files].

victims of violence in the 4 hours between 3 and 7 p.m. as they were in the 4 hours between 8 p.m. and midnight.

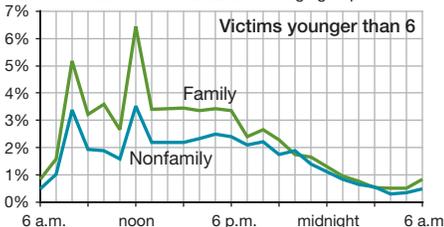
Peak hours for juvenile victimization varied with victim age. Violence against older juveniles (ages 15–17) was most common between the hours of 2 and 5 p.m., with a slight peak between 8 and 10 p.m. Violent crimes against juvenile victims ages 6–14 showed a clear peak in the afterschool hour (3 p.m.). For younger victims (under age 6), the peaks were at 8 a.m. and noon.

The timing of juvenile violence is linked to offender characteristics

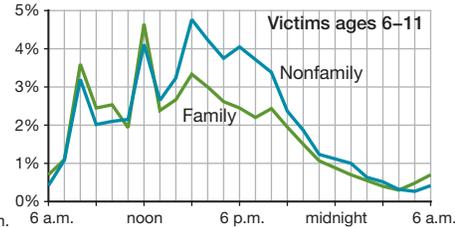
It is informative to consider when various types of offenders victimize juveniles. When the offenders of juvenile victims are divided into three classes (i.e., family members, acquaintances, and strangers), different timing patterns emerge. Most violent offenders were acquaintances of their juvenile victims. The timing of violent crimes by acquaintances reflected the afterschool peak, indicating the importance this time period (and probably unsupervised interactions with other juveniles) has for these types of crimes. Violent crimes by family members were most frequent at noon and in the hours between 4 and 7 p.m., although, unlike crimes committed by an acquaintance, there was no obvious 3 p.m. peak. Violent crimes committed by strangers showed no obvious peak but were relatively frequent during the 3–9 p.m. period.

The mealtimes of 8 a.m. and noon, children younger than age 6 are at high risk of violent victimization by both family and nonfamily offenders

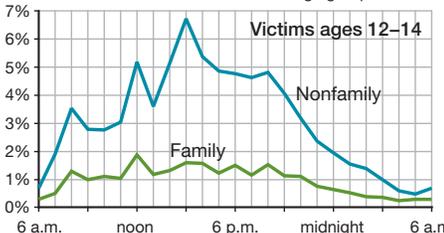
Percent of total violent victimizations in age group



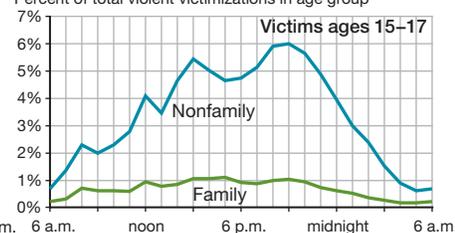
Percent of total violent victimizations in age group



Percent of total violent victimizations in age group



Percent of total violent victimizations in age group



- The afterschool peak in victimizations for juveniles ages 6–17 is a result of crimes committed by nonfamily members.
- The timing of violent crimes with juvenile victims ages 15–17 reflects a transition between the pattern of younger teens (with the afterschool peak) and adults (with the 9 p.m. peak).

Note: Violent crimes include murder, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault.

Source: Authors' analyses of the FBI's *National Incident-Based Reporting System: Extract Files* for the years 2009 and 2010 [machine-readable data files].

More than half of violent crimes with juvenile victims occur in a residence

The location of juvenile violence varies with crime and victim age

A portrait of violence against juveniles requires an understanding of where these crimes occur. The NIBRS data capture locations of crimes reported to law enforcement agencies. Data from 2009 and 2010 show that the location of violent crime against juveniles varies with the nature of the crime and the age of the victim.

Overall, 55% of violent crimes with a juvenile victim occurred in a residence, 19% occurred outdoors, 8% in a commercial area, and 18% in a school. Most assaults occurred in a residence—83% of sexual assaults, 53% of aggravated assaults, and 48% of simple assaults—while more than half (56%) of robberies occurred outdoors.

Location profile of juvenile victimizations, 2009 and 2010:

Location	Sexual assault	Robbery	Aggravated assault
Total	100%	100%	100%
Residence	83	19	53
Outdoors	6	56	29
Commercial	4	19	9
School	7	6	10

Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

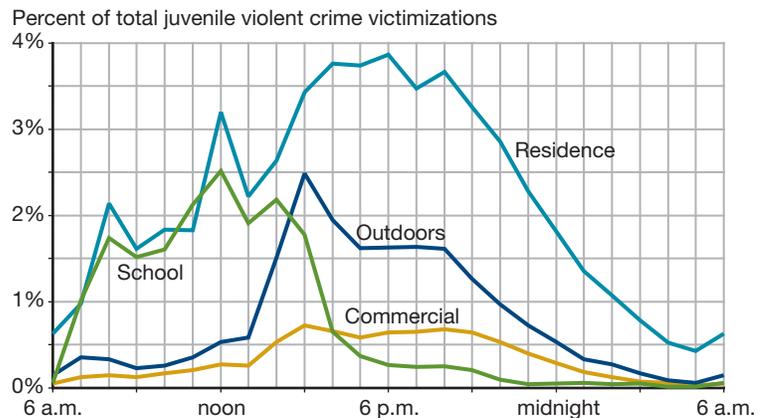
The location of juvenile violence varied with victim age. For example, 84% of violence against victims under age 6 occurred in residences, compared with 48% of crimes with victims ages 15–17. Compared with other juveniles, victims ages 12–14 had the largest proportion of crimes committed in schools.

Location profile of juvenile victimizations, 2009 and 2010:

Location	Under age 6	Ages 6–11	Ages 12–14	Ages 15–17
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%
Residence	84	67	45	48
Outdoors	8	15	20	23
Commercial	6	5	6	11
School	2	12	28	19

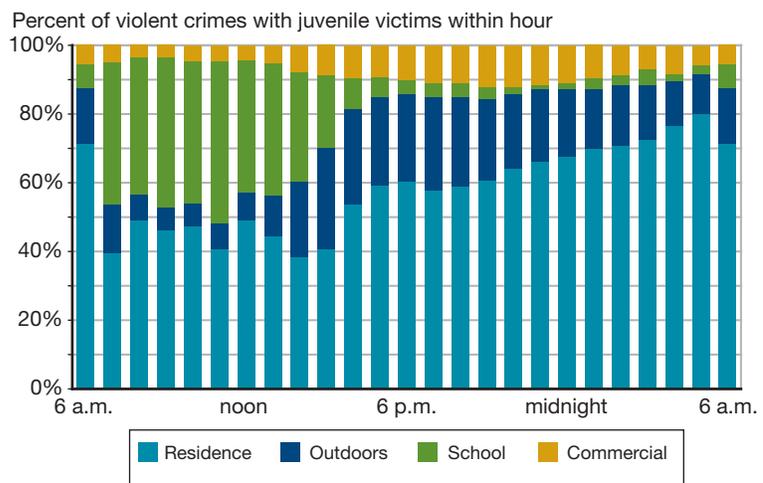
Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

Violent crime with juvenile victims peaked in residences between the hours of 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.



- Violent victimization of juveniles outdoors exhibited a distinct peak at 3 p.m., while victimizations in commercial areas were relatively high from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The proportion of juvenile victimizations occurring outdoors remained relatively constant between 3 and 11 p.m.



Note: The detailed NIBRS coding structure of location can be simplified for analyses into four general locations: a residence (the victim's, the offender's, or someone else's); the outdoors (streets, highways, roads, woods, fields, etc.); schools (including colleges); and commercial areas (parking lots, restaurants, government buildings, office buildings, motels, and stores).

Source: Authors' analyses of the FBI's *National Incident-Based Reporting System: Extract Files* for the years 2009 and 2010 [machine-readable data files].

On average, between 2001 and 2010, about 1,600 juveniles were murdered annually in the U.S.

Homicide is one of the leading causes of juvenile deaths

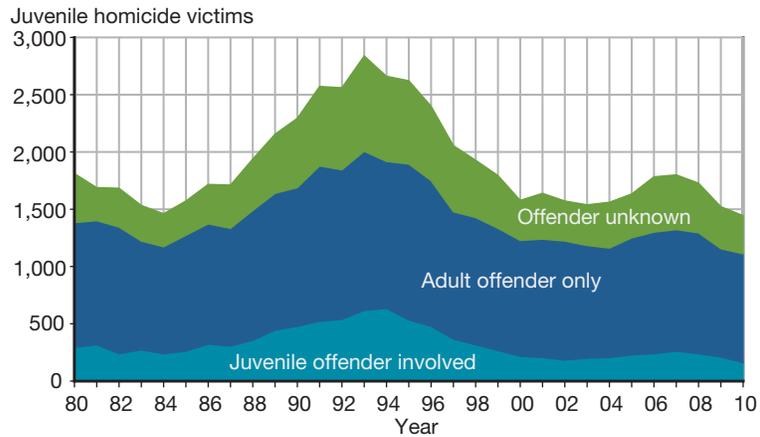
The National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) reports that homicide was the fourth leading cause of death for children ages 1–11 in 2010. Only deaths caused by unintentional injury, cancer, and congenital anomalies were more common for these young juveniles. That same year, homicide was the third leading cause of death for juveniles ages 12–17, with the more common causes of death being unintentional injury and suicide.

The FBI and NCHS maintain detailed records of murders

The Federal Bureau of Investigation’s (FBI’s) Uniform Crime Reporting Program asks local law enforcement agencies to provide detailed information on all homicides occurring within their jurisdictions. These Supplementary Homicide Reports (SHR) contain information on victim demographics and the method of death. Also, when known, SHR captures the circumstances surrounding the death, the offender’s demographics, and the relationship between the victim and the offender. Although not all agencies report every murder every year, for the years 1980 through 2010, the FBI received SHR records on more than 90% of all homicides in the U.S.

For 2010, the FBI reported that law enforcement identified the offender in 69% of murders nationwide, which means that for many of these crimes, the offenders remain unknown. Based on SHR data from 1980 through 2010, an offender was not identified by law enforcement in 22% of the murders of persons under age 18, in 31% of the murders of adults, and in 30% of murders overall.

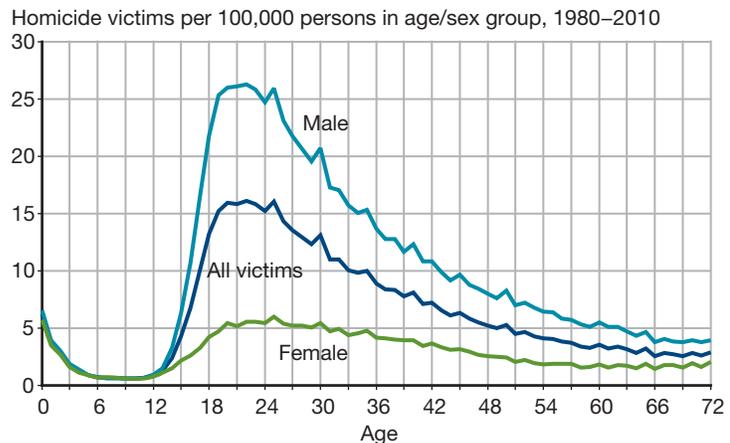
The number of juvenile homicide victims in 2010 was 49% below the peak year of 1993 and near the level of the mid-1980s



- Between 1980 and 2010, juvenile offenders participated in 1 of every 4 homicides of juveniles in which the offenders were known to law enforcement. In about one-fifth of the juvenile homicides in which juvenile offenders participated, adult offenders were also involved.
- Between 2001 and 2010, there were 16,240 homicide victims—an average of 1,600 per year, compared with an annual average of 2,300 in the previous 10-year period.

Source: Authors’ analyses of the FBI’s *Supplementary Homicide Reports* for the years 1980 through 2010 [machine-readable data files].

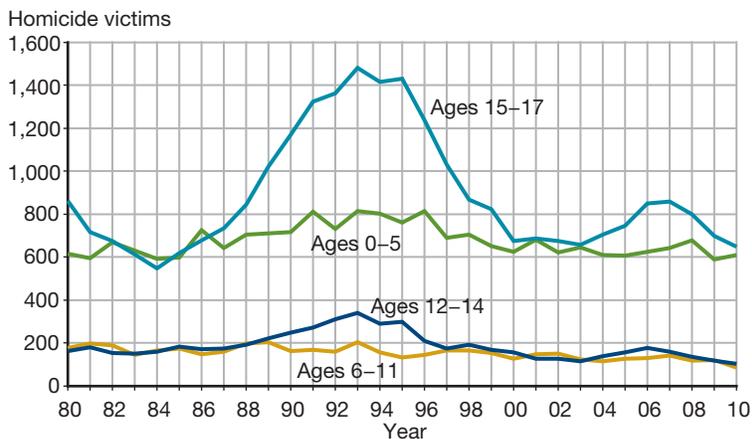
Between 1980 and 2010, the likelihood of being a murder victim peaked for persons in their early twenties, although for females, the first year of life was almost as dangerous



- Until their teen years, boys and girls were equally likely to be homicide victims.

Source: Authors’ analyses of the FBI’s *Supplementary Homicide Reports* for the years 1980 through 2010 [machine-readable data files].

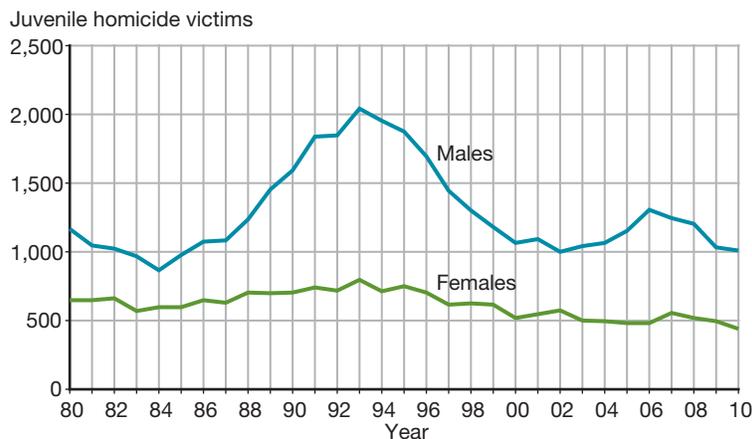
The large increase in juvenile homicides between 1984 and 1993 and the subsequent decline were nearly all attributable to changes in homicides of older juveniles



- Murder is most common among the oldest and the youngest juveniles. Of the estimated 1,450 juveniles murdered in 2010, 42% were under age 6, 6% were ages 6–11, 7% were ages 12–14, and 45% were ages 15–17.

Source: Authors' analyses of the FBI's *Supplementary Homicide Reports* for the years 1980 through 2010 [machine-readable data files].

In terms of gender, the large increase in juvenile homicides between 1984 and 1993 and the subsequent decline were nearly all attributable to changes in homicides of male juveniles



- Unlike the number of male victims, the annual number of juvenile females murdered was relatively stable between 1980 and 2010. Males accounted for 85% of the growth in juvenile homicide victims between 1984 and 1993 and 82% of the decline between 1993 and 2002.

Source: Authors' analyses of the FBI's *Supplementary Homicide Reports* for the years 1980 through 2010 [machine-readable data files].

Within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) maintains the National Vital Statistics System. This system receives reports on homicides from coroners and medical examiners. Between 2000 and 2010, annual estimates of juvenile homicides by NCHS tend to be about 14% higher than those from the FBI. The reasons for this difference are unclear but are probably related to inconsistent reporting and/or to differences in definitions, updating procedures, and/or imputation techniques.

A critical aspect of this report is the delineation of patterns among victim and offender characteristics. Because the NCHS data do not capture offender information, the discussion that follows is based on the FBI's SHR data.

The likelihood of being murdered in 2010 was at its lowest level since the mid-1960s

According to FBI estimates, a historically low 14,750 murders occurred in the U.S. in 2010. When compared with trends since 1980, the number of murders in the U.S. was relatively stable between 1999 and 2010, with the 2010 FBI estimate about 5% below the estimate for 1999—when the FBI estimated that 15,500 persons were murdered.* Before 1999, 1969 is the most recent year with as few murders as reported in 2010.

However, the U.S. population grew 53% between 1969 and 2010. So, although the number of murders in 1969 and 2010 was about the same, the murder rate in 2010 was actually about 30% lower than in 1969. Before

* The 3,047 victims (9 of whom were under age 18) of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, are not in the counts of murder victims.

1999, the most recent year with a murder rate comparable to 2010 (4.7 murders/100,000 persons in the U.S. population) is 1963. This means the probability that a U.S. resident would be murdered was less in 2010 than in nearly all of the previous 47 years.

In 2010, on average, 4 juveniles were murdered daily in the U.S.

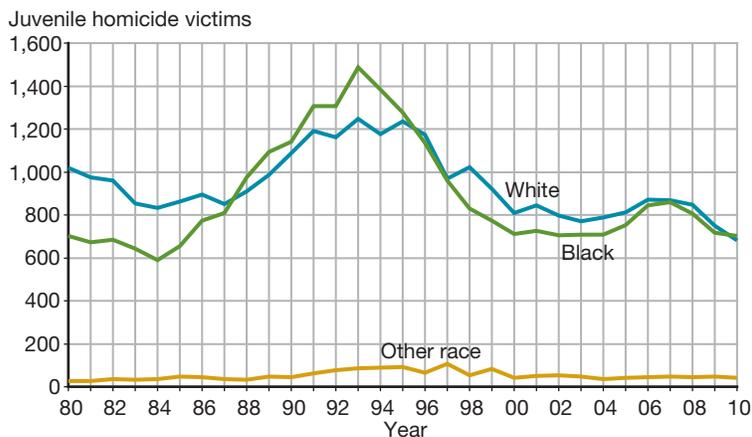
An estimated 1,450 persons under age 18 were murdered in the U.S. in 2010—10% of all persons murdered that year. Three of every 10 (30%) of these juvenile murder victims were female. More than 4 in 10 (42%) of these victims were under age 6, less than 1 in 10 (6%) were ages 6–11, less than 1 in 10 (7%) were ages 12–14, and more than 4 in 10 (45%) were ages 15–17.

Nearly half (49%) of juvenile murder victims in 2010 were black, 47% were white, and 3% were either American Indian or Asian. Given that white youth constituted 76% of the U.S. resident juvenile population in 2010 and black youth 17%, the murder rate for black youth in 2010 was nearly 5 times the white rate. This disparity was seen across victim age groups and increased with victim age.

Homicides per 100,000 juveniles in age group, 2010:

Victim age	White	Black	Black to white rate ratios
0–17	1.2	5.7	4.7
0–5	2.0	5.2	2.6
6–11	0.4	0.7	2.7
12–14	0.5	2.2	4.0
15–17	2.2	18.9	8.6

Between 1984 and 1993, while the number of homicides of white juveniles increased 50%, homicides of black juveniles increased 150%



- Black youth accounted for about 16% of the juvenile population between 1980 and 2010 but were the victims in 47% of juvenile homicides during the 31-year period.
- The disparity between black and white juvenile murder rates reached a peak in 1993, when the black rate was 6 times the white rate. The relatively greater decline in black juvenile homicides between 1993 and 1999 (down 48%, compared with a 26% decline for whites) dropped the disparity in black-to-white homicide rate to 4-to-1. The disparity increased since 1999, approaching 5-to-1 in 2010.

Source: Authors' analyses of the FBI's *Supplementary Homicide Reports* for the years 1980 through 2010 [machine-readable data files].

Of the 58,900 juveniles murdered between 1980 and 2010, most victims under age 6 were killed by a parent, while parents were rarely involved in the killing of juveniles ages 15–17

Offender relationship to victim	Age of victim					Victim ages 0–17	
	0–17	0–5	6–11	12–14	15–17	Male	Female
Offender known	67%	82%	60%	62%	58%	65%	71%
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Parent/stepparent	21	51	24	6	2	17	31
Other family member	4	5	8	6	3	4	6
Acquaintance	31	23	18	37	38	33	28
Stranger	10	2	10	13	16	12	7
Offender unknown	33	18	40	38	33	35	29

- Over the 31-year period, strangers were involved in at least 10% of the murders of juveniles. This figure is probably greater than 10% because strangers are likely to account for a disproportionate share of crimes in which the offender is unknown.
- Female victims were far more likely than male victims to have been killed by a parent/stepparent or other family member.

Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

Source: Authors' analyses of the FBI's *Supplementary Homicide Reports* for the years 1980 through 2010 [machine-readable data files].

Between 1980 and 2010, 4 of every 5 murder victims ages 15–17 were killed with a firearm

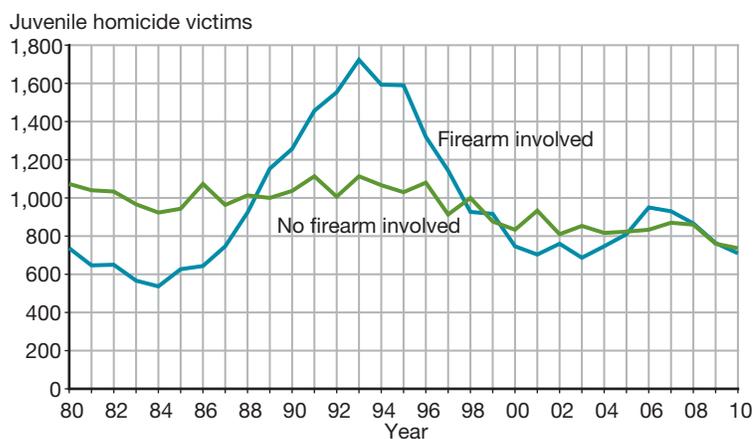
Trends in the number of juvenile homicides are tied to homicides involving firearms

Nearly half (49%) of all juveniles murdered in 2010 were killed with a firearm, 20% were killed by the offender's hands or feet (e.g., beaten/kicked to death or strangled), and 13% were killed with a knife or blunt object. The remaining 18% of juvenile murder victims were killed with another type of weapon, or the type of weapon used was unknown.

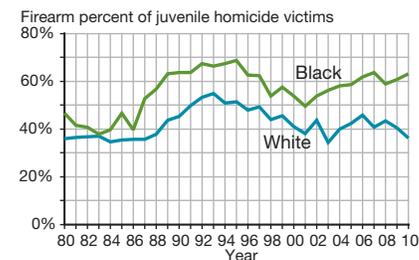
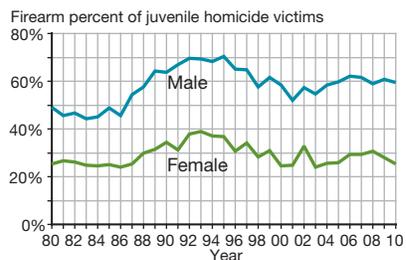
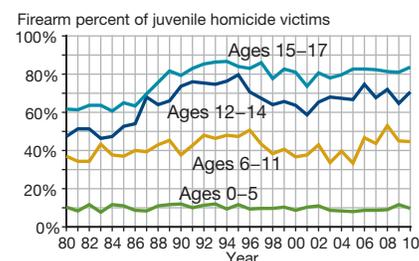
Firearms were used less often in the killings of young children. In 2010, firearms were used in 14% of murders of juveniles under age 12 but in 82% of the murders of juveniles ages 12–17. In 2010, a greater percentage of black than white juvenile murder victims were killed with a firearm (63% vs. 36%). In 2010, firearms were used more often in the murders of juvenile males (59%) than in the murders of juvenile females (25%).

Between 1980 and 2010, the deadliest year for juveniles was 1993, when an estimated 2,840 were murdered. During this 31-year period, the early 1990s included a relatively large proportion of juveniles killed with a firearm; about 60% of juvenile homicide victims were killed with a firearm each year from 1992 to 1995. In fact, across the period, the annual number of juveniles murdered by means other than a firearm generally declined—a remarkable pattern when compared with the large increase and subsequent decline in the number of firearm-related murders of juveniles. Except for killings of young children and killings of juveniles by family members, murder trends in all demographic segments of the juvenile population between 1980 and 2010 were linked primarily to killings with firearms.

The growth in the number of juveniles murdered using a firearm that began in 2003 was reversed between 2006 and 2010 as the number fell 25% over the past 4 years



The proportion of homicides committed with firearms differed with victim demographics



- Between 1980 and 2010, large changes in the use of firearms was more apparent in the murders of older juveniles than of adults.
- The proportions of firearm-related murders of male and female juveniles showed similar growth and decline patterns over the period.
- Although firearms were involved in a greater proportion of black juvenile homicides than white, trends in the proportion of firearm-related homicides were similar for the racial groups.

Source: Authors' analyses of the FBI's *Supplementary Homicide Reports* for the years 1980 through 2010 [machine-readable data files].

Young children are killed by family members—older juveniles by acquaintances

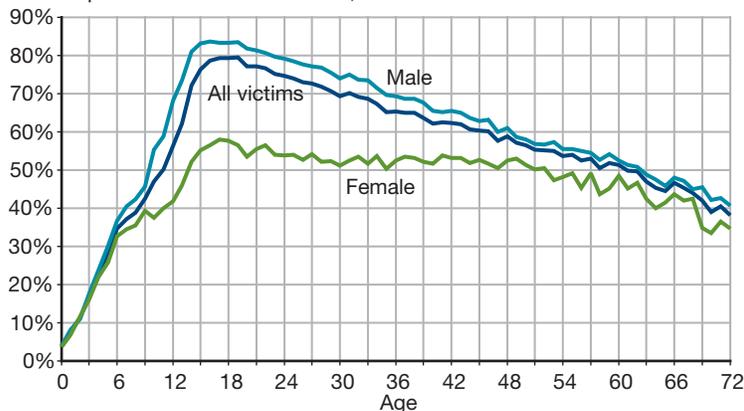
In the 2010 SHR data, the offender information is missing for 21% of juvenile murder victims either because the offender is unknown or because the information was not recorded on the data form. The proportion of unknown offenders in 2010 generally increased with victim age: ages 0–5 (7%), ages 6–11 (5%), ages 12–14 (26%), and ages 15–17 (36%).

Considering only murders in 2010 for which the offender is known, a stranger killed 2% of murdered children under age 6, while family members killed 70% and acquaintances 28%. Older juveniles were far more likely to be murdered by nonfamily members. Four percent (4%) of victims ages 15–17 were killed by family members, 32% by strangers, and 64% by acquaintances.

Differences in the characteristics of the murders of juvenile males and juvenile females are linked to the age profiles of the victims. Between 1980 and 2010, the annual numbers of male and female victims were very similar for victims at each age under 13. However, older victims were disproportionately male. For example, between 1980 and 2010, 84% of murdered 17-year-olds were male. In general, therefore, a greater proportion of female murder victims were very young. So, while it is true that female victims were more likely to be killed by family members than were male victims (51% vs. 33%), this difference goes away within specific age groups. For example, between 1980 and 2010, for victims under age 6, 68% of males and 69% of females were killed by a family member.

Between 1980 and 2010, 16- and 17-year-old murder victims were among the most likely to be killed with firearms, regardless of gender

Firearm percent of homicide victims, 1980–2010



- Boys and girls under age 5 were equally likely to be killed with a firearm. In the teen years, however, boys were considerably more likely to be killed with a firearm: 83% of boys ages 14–17 were killed with a firearm, compared with 56% of females in the same age group.

Source: Authors' analyses of the FBI's *Supplementary Homicide Reports* for the years 1980 through 2010 [machine-readable data files].

Of the 58,900 juveniles murdered between 1980 and 2010, half were murdered with a firearm

Weapon	Age of victim					Victim ages 0–17	
	0–17	0–5	6–11	12–14	15–17	Male	Female
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Firearm	50	10	42	66	78	60	30
Knife/blunt object	14	11	19	17	14	12	16
Personal*	19	48	11	5	2	16	28
Other/unknown	17	31	28	12	6	13	26

- Nearly half (48%) of murder victims under age 6 were killed by offenders using only their hands, fists, or feet (personal).
- More than three-fourths (78%) of all victims ages 15–17 were killed with a firearm.
- Juvenile male victims were twice as likely as juvenile female victims to be murdered with a firearm.

* Personal includes hands, fists, or feet.

Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

Source: Authors' analyses of the FBI's *Supplementary Homicide Reports* for the years 1980 through 2010 [machine-readable data files].

Persons ages 7–17 are about as likely to be victims of suicide as they are to be victims of homicide

Since the early 1990s, for every 1 juvenile female suicide there were more than 3 juvenile male suicides

Through its National Vital Statistics System (NVSS), NCHS collects information from death certificates filed in state vital statistics offices, including causes of death of juveniles. NVSS indicates that 22,900 juveniles ages 7–17 died by suicide in the U.S. between 1990 and 2010. For all juveniles ages 7–17, suicide was the fourth leading cause of death over this period, trailing only unintentional injury (113,200), homicide (29,800), and cancer (25,000)—with the numbers of homicide, cancer, and suicide deaths being very similar. Suicide was the third leading cause of death for males and the fourth for females ages 7–17.

Between 1990 and 2010, 78% of all juvenile suicide victims were male, with the annual proportion remaining remarkably stable over the period. Consequently, suicide trends were similar for juvenile males and females.

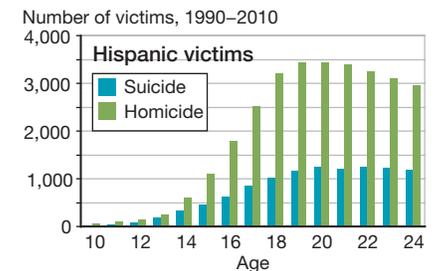
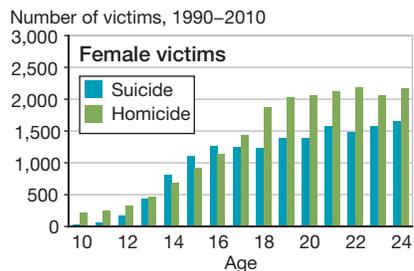
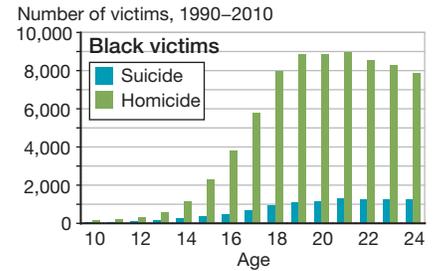
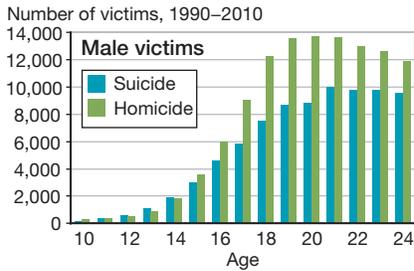
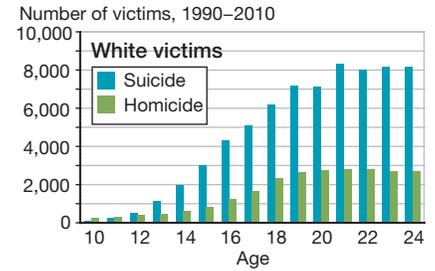
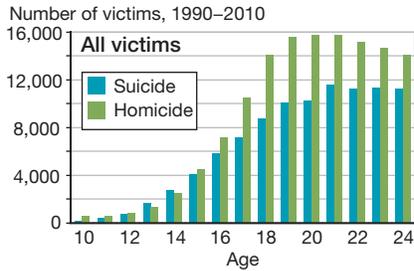
More than half (52%) of all juvenile suicides between 1990 and 2010 were committed with a firearm, 37% by some form of suffocation (e.g., hanging), and 6% by poisoning. The method of suicide differed for males and females, with males more likely than females to use a firearm and less likely to use poison.

Method of suicide by persons ages 7–17, 1990–2010:

Method	Male	Female
Total	100.0%	100.0%
Firearm	56.5	37.6
Suffocation	35.5	42.0
Poisoning	3.5	14.8
Other	4.2	5.6

Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding

Between 1990 and 2010, suicide was more prevalent than homicide for non-Hispanic white juveniles; the reverse was true for Hispanic juveniles and non-Hispanic black juveniles



■ Far more males than females ages 12–16 were victims of suicide or murder between 1990 and 2010. However, for each gender, the number of suicides was about the same as the number of murders. Both males and females ages 18–24 were far more likely to be victims of homicide than victims of suicide.

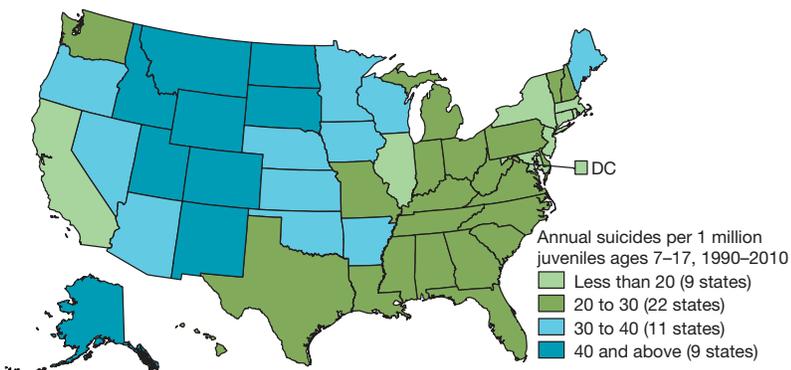
■ At each age between 12 and 24, suicide was more common than murder for non-Hispanic whites between 1990 and 2010, in sharp contrast to patterns for Hispanics and non-Hispanic blacks. More specifically, for every 10 white homicide victims ages 10–17, there were 26 suicide victims (a ratio of 10 to 26); the corresponding ratio was 10 to 2 for black juveniles and 10 to 4 for Hispanic juveniles.

Note: White victims and black victims are not of Hispanic ethnicity.

Source: Authors' analysis of National Center for Health Statistics' *WISQARS (Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System)* [interactive database system].

Between 1990 and 2010, juvenile suicide victims outnumbered juvenile murder victims in 27 states

State	Suicide rate 1990–2010	Suicide/homicide ratio	State	Suicide rate 1990–2010	Suicide/homicide ratio
U.S. total	24.9	0.77	Missouri	28.2	0.65
Alabama	26.0	0.69	Montana	61.9	3.58
Alaska	84.3	2.60	Nebraska	37.3	1.92
Arizona	37.1	0.98	Nevada	33.9	1.02
Arkansas	34.0	0.98	New Hampshire	28.9	*
California	17.4	0.37	New Jersey	11.9	0.60
Colorado	43.0	2.13	New Mexico	57.1	1.49
Connecticut	17.6	0.81	New York	14.4	0.45
Delaware	21.1	1.06	North Carolina	25.7	0.89
Dist. of Columbia	15.4	0.05	North Dakota	57.3	*
Florida	20.2	0.68	Ohio	24.7	1.18
Georgia	22.2	0.69	Oklahoma	34.6	1.12
Hawaii	21.5	*	Oregon	31.1	2.09
Idaho	54.0	5.46	Pennsylvania	23.4	0.93
Illinois	19.4	0.34	Rhode Island	15.2	0.76
Indiana	26.9	1.04	South Carolina	23.8	0.78
Iowa	32.0	3.34	South Dakota	67.6	7.20
Kansas	33.6	1.44	Tennessee	26.7	0.91
Kentucky	26.3	1.65	Texas	27.3	0.80
Louisiana	28.8	0.47	Utah	45.6	3.78
Maine	30.7	4.96	Vermont	26.8	*
Maryland	19.2	0.39	Virginia	25.3	0.96
Massachusetts	14.6	0.81	Washington	25.9	1.23
Michigan	25.6	0.71	West Virginia	29.1	1.71
Minnesota	31.5	2.31	Wisconsin	32.0	1.49
Mississippi	27.4	0.67	Wyoming	64.7	3.80



* Too few homicides to calculate a reliable ratio.

Note: The suicide rate is the average annual number of suicides of youth ages 7–17 divided by the average annual population of youth ages 7–17 (in millions). The suicide/homicide ratio is the total number of suicides of youth ages 7–17 divided by the total number of homicides of youth ages 7–17. A ratio of more than 1.0 indicates that the number of suicides was greater than the number of homicides.

Source: Authors' analysis of National Center for Health Statistics' *WISQARS (Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System)* [interactive database system].

American Indians have the highest juvenile suicide rate

Beginning with the 1990 data, NVSS distinguished fatalities by the victim's Hispanic ethnicity, enabling racial and ethnic comparisons of juvenile suicides. Between 1990 and 2010, the juvenile suicide rate for white non-Hispanic youth (i.e., suicides per million persons ages 7–17 in this race/ethnicity group) was 28.3. The suicide rates were substantially lower for Hispanic (17.3), black non-Hispanic (16.4), and Asian non-Hispanic (15.4) juveniles ages 7–17. In contrast, the suicide rate for American Indian juveniles (66.6) was more than double the white non-Hispanic rate and more than triple the rates for the other racial/ethnic groups.

The juvenile suicide rate declined since the mid-1990s

Following a period of relative stability through the mid-1990s, the juvenile suicide rate generally declined throughout the 2000s. By 2010, the overall rate fell 31% from its 1994 peak. This general pattern of decline was reflected in the trends of white, black, and Hispanic juveniles as well as males and females.

The proportion of juvenile suicides committed with a firearm peaked in 1994 at 69% and then fell so that, by 2010, less than half (37%) of juvenile suicides involved a firearm. Firearm-related suicides in 2010 were more common among male (43%) than female juveniles (21%), and suicides among white non-Hispanic juveniles were more likely to involve a firearm (44%) than were those of black non-Hispanic (26%) or Hispanic (26%) juveniles.

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