

Youth Violence Issues

Key Findings

In Allen County, 15% of the youth had carried a weapon in the past month and 4% indicated they brought it to school. 11% of youth had been threatened or injured by a weapon on school property.

Violence-Related Behaviors

- ◆ In 2009, 15% of all Allen County youth had carried a weapon (such as a gun, knife or club) in the past 30 days, increasing to 23% of males. 15% of high school youth carried a weapon (2007 YRBS reported 17% for Ohio and 18% for the U.S.)
- ◆ 4% of all youth had carried weapons to school in the past 30 days.
- ◆ 11% of all youth were threatened or injured with a weapon on school property.
- ◆ 5% of all youth did not go to school on one or more days because they did not feel safe at school or on their way to or from school, decreasing to 4% of high school youth. (2007 YRBS reported 4% for Ohio high school youth and 6% for U.S high school youth).
- ◆ 27% of all youth purposefully hurt themselves at least once by cutting, burning, scratching, hitting, or biting at some time in their life, increasing to 39% of females. 3% of youth had purposefully hurt themselves 40 or more times.
- ◆ 47% of all youth had been bullied in the past year. The following types of bullying were reported:
 - 38% were verbally bullied (teased, taunted or called you harmful names)
 - 22% were indirectly bullied (spread mean rumors about you or kept you out of a “group”)
 - 17% were physically bullied (you were hit, kicked, punched or people took your belongings)
 - 13% were cyber bullied (teased, taunted or threatened by e-mail or cell phone)
- ◆ In the past year, 31% of all youth had been involved in a physical fight; 18% on more than one occasion. 29% of Allen County high school youth had been in a fight. The 2007 YRBS reports 30% of Ohio high school youth had been in a physical fight and 36% of U.S. high school youth.
- ◆ 11% of all youth had been in a physical fight on school property, increasing to 14% of males.
- ◆ 7% of all youth considered themselves to be a member of a gang, increasing to 9% of males and 10% of those ages 14-16 years old.
- ◆ 12% of all youth reported a boyfriend or girlfriend hit, slapped, or physically hurt them on purpose in the past 12 months, while 19% reported being hit, slapped or physically hurt by an adult or caregiver.
- ◆ 7% of all youth were physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to decreasing to 6% of high school youth (2007 YRBS reported 10% for Ohio high school youth and 8% for the U.S. high school youth).

Facts Concerning Youth Violence

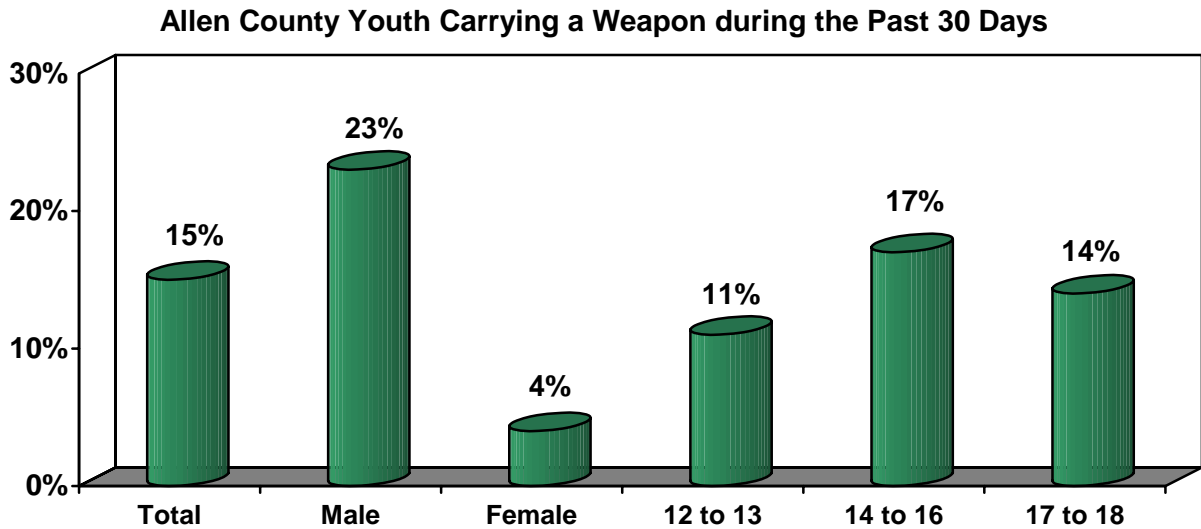
- ◆ Youth violence is defined by the CDC as “harmful behaviors that can start early and continue into young adulthood.”
- ◆ In 2005, 5,686 youth ages 10-24 were murdered, averaging 16 per day.
- ◆ Emergency rooms treated in excess of 720,000 youth ages 10-24 for violence-related injuries in 2006.
- ◆ Approximately 30% of kids (6th to 10th grade) reported being involved in bullying.

(Source: CDC, Understanding Youth Violence Fact Sheet, 2008)

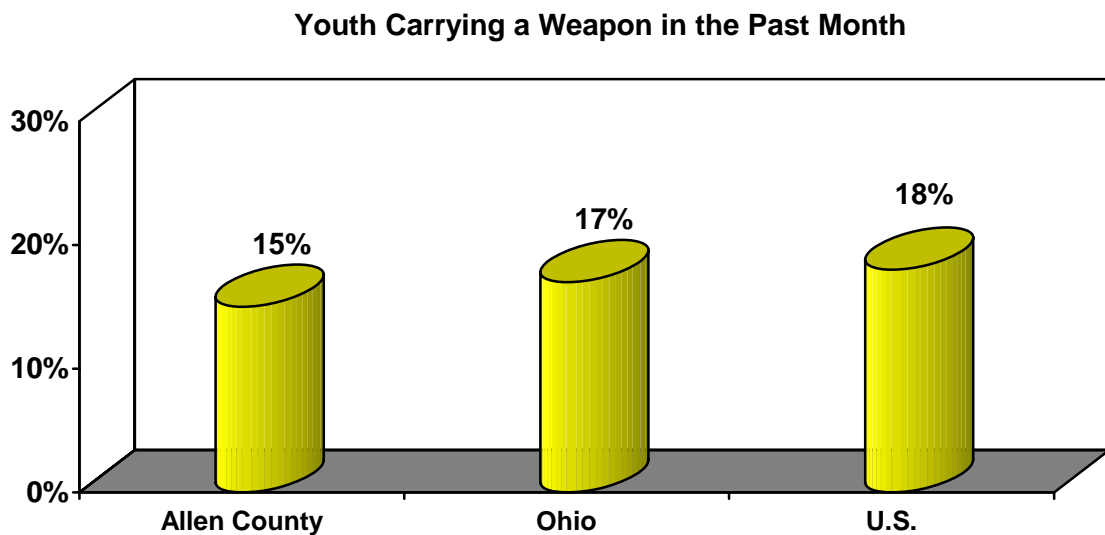
Youth Comparisons	Allen County 2009 (6 th -12 th)	Allen County 2009 (6 th -8 th)	Allen County 2009 (9 th -12 th)	Ohio 2007 (9 th -12 th)	U.S. 2007 (9 th -12 th)
Carried a weapon in past month	15%	13%	15%	17%	18%
Been in a physical fight in past year	31%	36%	29%	30%	36%
Did not go to school because felt unsafe	5%	5%	4%	4%	6%
Forced to have sexual intercourse	7%	10%	6%	10%	8%

Youth Violence Issues

The following graphs show Allen County youth carrying a weapon in the past 30 days and those involved in a physical fight in the past year. The graphs show the number of youth in each segment giving each answer (i.e., the first graph shows that 15% of all youth carried a weapon in the past 30 days, 23% of males and 4% of females).



Source: 2009 Allen County Health Risk and Community Needs Assessment

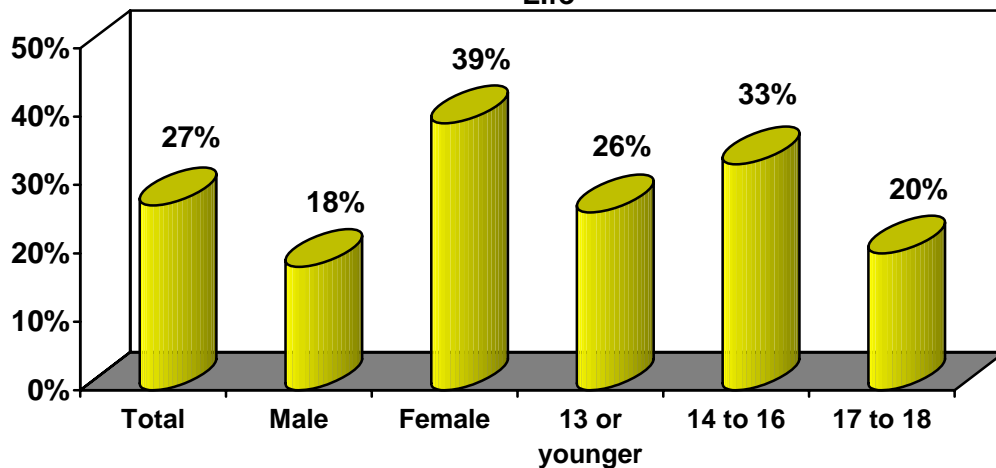


(Source: 2009 Allen County Assessment and 2007 YRBS)

Youth Violence Issues

The following graph shows Allen County youth who purposefully hurt themselves at some time in their life. The graphs show the number of youth in each segment giving each answer (i.e., the first graph shows that 27% of all youth hurt themselves at some time in their life, 18% of males and 39% of females).

Allen County Youth Who Purposefully Hurt Themselves During Their Life



Source: 2009 Allen County Health Risk and Community Needs Assessment

Types of Bullying Allen County Youth Experienced in Past Year

Youth Behaviors	Total	Male	Female	13 or younger	14-16 Years old	17 and older
Physically Bullied	17%	18%	17%	24%	18%	12%
Verbally Bullied	38%	34%	43%	46%	43%	29%
Indirectly Bullied	22%	17%	28%	26%	23%	18%
Cyber Bullied	13%	6%	21%	19%	12%	10%

Source: 2009 Allen County Health Risk and Community Needs Assessment

Key Risk Factors for Youth Violence

- ❖ Prior history of violence
- ❖ Poor family functioning
- ❖ Poverty in the community
- ❖ Drug, alcohol, or tobacco use
- ❖ Poor grades in school
- ❖ Association with delinquent peers

(Source: CDC, Understanding Youth Violence Fact Sheet, 2008)