

Youth Safety and Violence Issues

Key Findings

In 2005, two-fifths (40%) of Sandusky County high school youth self-reported that they always wore a seatbelt when riding in a car driven by someone else. In Sandusky County, 14% of the high school youth had carried a weapon in the past month and 4% indicated they brought it to school. In Sandusky County, 4% of high school youth had been threatened or injured by a weapon on school property and 24% had been involved in a physical fight in the past year. 7% of high school youth were forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to.

High School Personal Safety

- ◆ 40% of high school youth always wore a seatbelt when riding in a car driven by someone else.
- ◆ In the past 30 days, 24% of Sandusky County youth had ridden in a car driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol and 9% had driven a car themselves after they had been drinking alcohol.
- ◆ Just under three-fourths (74%) of high school youth never wore a helmet when riding a bike.

High School Violence-Related Behaviors

- ◆ In 2005, 14% of Sandusky County high school youth had carried a weapon (such as a gun, knife or club with exceptions if used for hunting cited), in the past 30 days. The 2003 YRBSS reports a prevalence rate of carrying a weapon for U.S. youth as 17%. Sandusky County high school youth most likely to have carried a weapon were current drinkers (66%) and/or current smokers (37%).
- ◆ 4% of Sandusky County high school youth had carried weapons to school in the past 30 days.
- ◆ 3% of high school youth had carried a gun in the past 30 days.
- ◆ 4% of Sandusky County youth had been threatened or injured by a weapon on school property and 2% stayed home from school at least one day in the previous month because they did not feel safe either at school or on their way to or from school.
- ◆ Over one-fifth (21%) of high school youth have had their property (such as a car, clothing, or books) stolen or deliberately damaged in the past year.
- ◆ In the past year, 24% of Sandusky County youth had been involved in a physical fight (the 2003 YRBSS reports a prevalence of 33% for the U.S.) and 12% reported being involved in a physical fight on more than one occasion. 3% were treated by a doctor.
- ◆ 9% of high school youth had been in a physical fight on school property.
- ◆ Sandusky County youth most likely to have been involved in a physical fight were current drinkers (54%), current smokers (47%), and those who had carried a weapon in the past 30 days (28%).
- ◆ 8% of high school youth were hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by their boyfriend or girlfriend.
- ◆ 7% of high school youth were forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to.

Middle School Personal Safety

- ◆ Over one-third (38%) of Sandusky County middle school youth always wore a seatbelt when riding in a car driven by someone else increasing to 42% of females compared to 32% of males.
- ◆ Three-fifths (60%) of middle school youth never wear a helmet when riding a bike and 59% never wore a helmet when rollerblading or skateboarding.

Middle School Violence-Related Behaviors

- ◆ 26% of middle school youth had carried a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club, increasing to 56% of males compared to 6% of females.
- ◆ Half (50%) of middle school youth had been in a physical fight and 3% had to be treated by a doctor.

Youth Violence in the U.S.

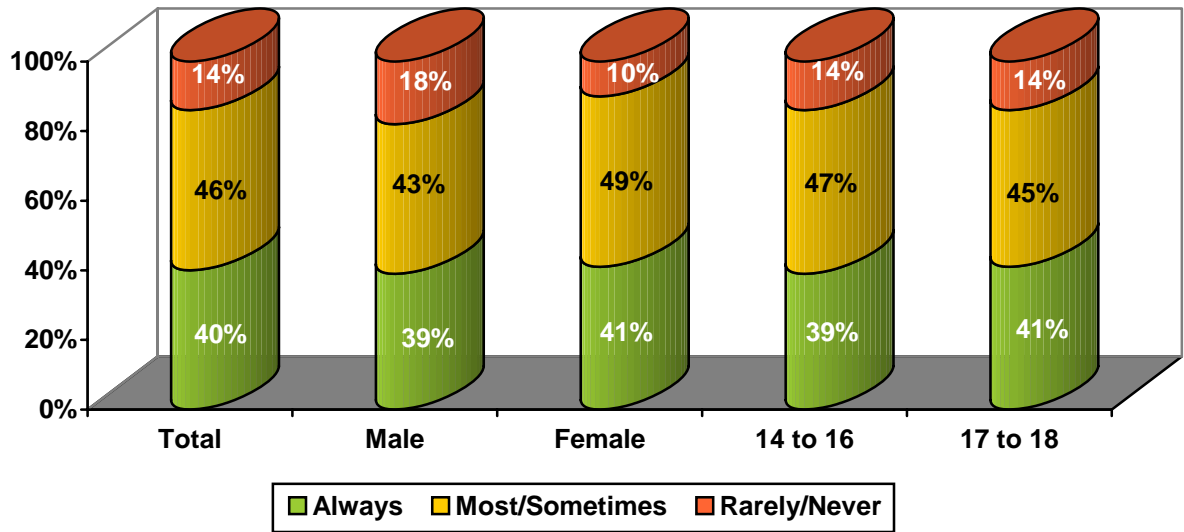
- ❖ In 2000, about 9% of all murders in the U.S. were committed by youth under age 18.
- ❖ About 15% of violent crime arrests in 2001 were committed by youth.
- ❖ One-third of high school students were in a physical fight in the past year.

(Source: CDC YRBS 2003, National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center www.safeyouth.org)

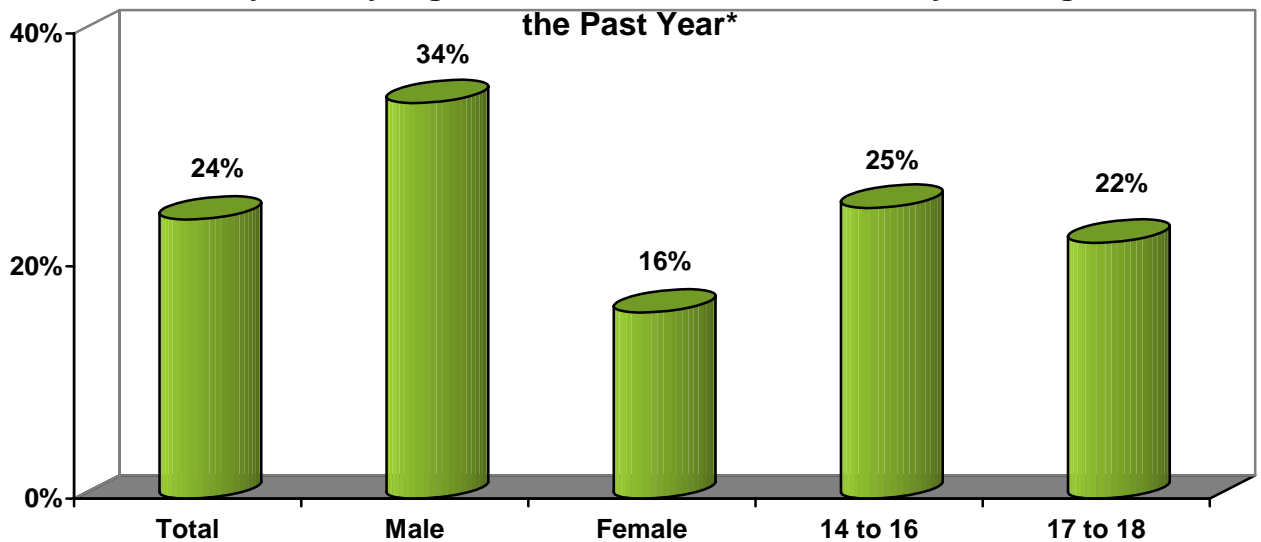
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The following graphs show Sandusky County high school youth seatbelt use and their involvement in physical fights. The graphs show the number of youth in each segment giving each answer (i.e., the first graph shows that 40% of all youth always wear a seatbelt, 46% wore one most or some of the time and 14% rarely or never wore a seatbelt).

Sandusky County High School Youth Seatbelt Use in the Past Month



Sandusky County High School Youth Involved in a Physical Fight in the Past Year*



**Respondents reporting being in a physical fight at least once in the past 12 months*