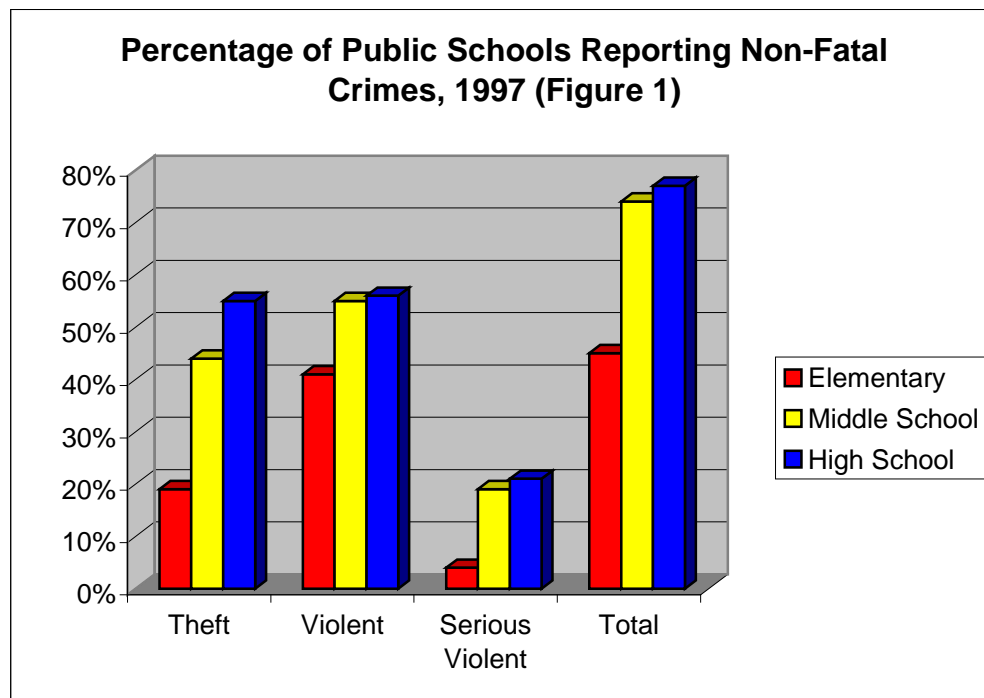


SSID Fact Sheet

Non-Fatal School Crimes

With the increase violence in schools, school safety issues have become a primary focus for school administrators, teachers, parents, and students. It is important for stakeholders to understand the prevalence of violence in today's schools in order to create plans and strategies to assist in the process of ensuring the safest learning environment possible. Figure 1 shows the percentage of 78,233 public schools that reported non-fatal crimes on school property in 1997 categorized by grade level. This could assist school districts in the decision making process for allocating resources to prevent an incident of school violence.



For clarification, the definition of a serious violent crime is rape, sexual battery, physical attack involving a weapon, and robbery. Violent crimes include all serious violent crimes along with physical attack not involving a weapon. Theft is defined as the unlawful taking or stealing of property or articles without the use of force, violence, or fraud.

Source: Violence and Discipline Problems in U.S. Public Schools, 1996-97

Safe Schools Initiative Division, 7723 Col. Glenn Road, Little Rock, AR 72204

This project is supported by Grant Number 2000-DD-VX-0026, awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. Points of view in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Dept. of Justice.

Published July 2002