

# SSID

## Fact Sheet What are the odds?

The untimely death of any child is distressing, and the deaths of children in our schools are both shattering and dramatic. Violence directed at any child in school deserves our attention and our best efforts to prevent any further violence. But, like any serious endeavor, reducing school violence calls for perspective, not panic.

The probability that any school age child will die this year from\*

Any cause	1 in 3,000
A traffic accident	1 in 8,000
Homicide, away from school	1 in 21,000
Suicide, away from school	1 in 28,000
Cancers	1 in 33,000
Accidental drowning	1 in 73,000
Heart disease	1 in 79,000
A firearm accident	1 in 200,000
Pneumonia or influenza	1 in 250,000
Bronchitis, Emphysema, or Asthma	1 in 260,000
Cerebro-vascular disease	1 in 390,000
Accidental fall	1 in 390,000
HIV	1 in 420,000
An act of nature, including lightning	1 in 780,000
Diabetes	1 in 850,000
Meningitis	1 in 1,300,000
Any adverse effect of medical care	1 in 1,300,000
Homicide at school	1 in 1,700,000

While the odds of a child being killed at school are indeed small, *any* school crime is too much. To provide youth with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in the future, school administrators, teachers, and parents must take precautions to ensure that the threat of violence doesn't interfere with their ability to provide a safe learning environment.

\* School age is here defined as 5 to 19 years of age.

Sources: These figures were calculated using 1997 values from the U. S. Census Bureau, the U. S. Dept. of Education, the U. S. Dept. of Justice, and the Centers for Disease Control, Injury Mortality Reports.

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