## Violence and Youth Health

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## This presentation is structured in three parts.

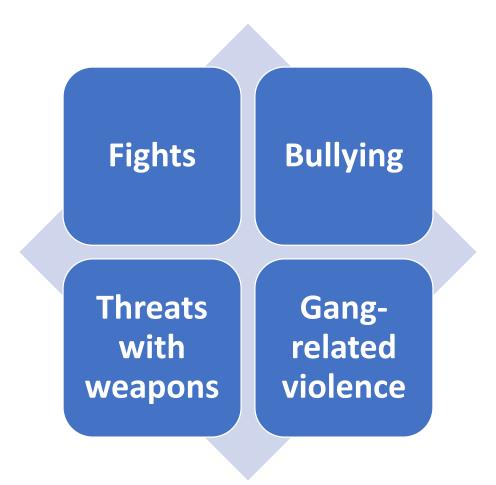


# Part One: Youth Violence



Courtesy: The peak

Youth violence typically involves young people hurting other peers who are unrelated to them and who they may or may not know well.





### Phone App Threat Caused East Bridgewater High School Lockdown

Police secured the building and monitored potential threats to students and faculty. Students are back in classes.

By Jimmy Bentley, Patch Staff | Nov 15, 2018 9:50 am ET | Updated Nov 15, 2018 11:50 am ET







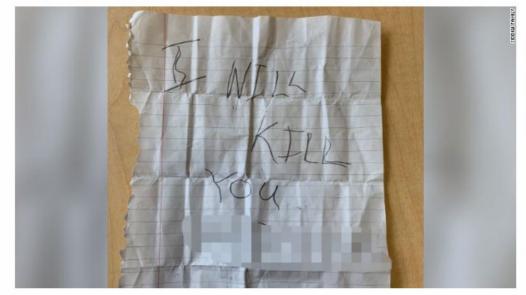
- EAST BRIDGEWATER, MA The lockdown at East Bridgewater High School Thursday morning happened because of a threat made on a phone app, Police Chief Scott Allen announced.
- The threat referenced the 1999 Columbine High School shooting, according to police.
- The threat was made through the school's anonymous tip app StopIt.
- The app lets students and faculty anonymously send messages to school administrators.
- East Bridgewater Police responded to the threat around 7:15 a.m., immediately after administrators received the threat.



### 'You're a terrorist,' says note sent to 10year-old Muslim schoolgirl in Massachusetts

By Lauren del Valle and Julia Jones, CNN

Updated 10:23 PM ET, Wed November 14, 2018



The second note, received by the fifth-grader on Tuesday. CNN obscured parts of this photograph to protect the victim's identity.

(CNN) - A 10-year-old Muslim girl found two threatening handwritten notes in her cubby in an elementary school west of Boston, and police are investigating the notes as a hate crime.

The first note came on Friday. Scrawled in pencil was: "You're a terrorist."

On Tuesday, the student found a second threatening note: "I will kill you."







#### More from CNN



Liam Hemsworth shares striking photo of his home in



Products that can help you have a lighter, healthier...

#### News & buzz



Magazine under fire over Serena Williams cover



Going to church in virtual



Youth violence kills and injures. In 2016, homicide was the 3rd leading cause of death for young people ages 10-24.

About 14 young people dead from homicide

Almost 1,400 treated in emergency departments for nonfatal assault-related injuries

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) [online] 2016; www.cdc.gov/injury

## 10 Leading Causes of Injury Deaths by Age Group Highlighting Violence-Related Injury Deaths, United States – 2016

	Age Groups										
Rank	<1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Total
1	Unintentional Suffocation 1,023	Unintentional Drowning 425	Unintentional MV Traffic 384	Unintentional MV Traffic 455	Unintentional MV Traffic 7,037	Unintentional Poisoning 14,631	Unintentional Poisoning 13,278	Unintentional Poisoning 13,439	Unintentional Poisoning 9,438	Unintentional Fall 29,668	Unintentional Poisoning 58,335
2	Homicide Unspecified 132	Unintentional MV Traffic 334	Unintentional Drowning 147	Suicide Suffocation 247	Unintentional Poisoning 4,997	Unintentional MV Traffic 7,010	Unintentional MV Traffic 5,075	Unintentional MV Traffic 5,536	Unintentional MV Traffic 5,397	Unintentional MV Traffic 7,429	Unintentional MV Traffic 38,748
3	Unintentional MV Traffic 88	Unintentional Suffocation 118	Unintentional Fire/Burn 78	Suicide Firearm 160	Homicide Firearm 4,553	Homicide Firearm 4,510	Suicide Firearm 3,873	Suicide Firearm 3,882	Suicide Firearm 4,067	Suicide Firearm 5,756	Unintentional Fall 34,673
4	Homicide Other Spec., Classifiable 63	Homicide Unspecified 114	Homicide Firearm 68	Unintentional Drowning 103	Suicide Firearm 2,683	Suicide Firearm 3,298	Homicide Firearm 2,555	Suicide Suffocation 2,112	Unintentional Fall 2,679	Unintentional Unspecified 5,021	Suicide Firearm 22,938
5	Unintentional Suffocation 60	Unintentional Fire/Burn 107	Unintentional Suffocation 35	Homicide Firearm 95	Suicide Suffocation 2,100	Suicide Suffocation 2,643	Suicide Suffocation 2,199	Suicide Poisoning 1,736	Suicide Poisoning 1,538	Unintentional Suffocation 3,631	Homicide Firearm 14,415
6	Undetermined Unspecified 38	Unintentional Pedestrian, Other 82	Unintentional Other Land Transport 24	Unintentional Other Land Transport 64	Unintentional Drowning 530	Undetermined Poisoning 855	Suicide Poisoning 1,144	Homicide Firearm 1,420	Suicide Suffocation 1,474	Unintentional Poisoning 2,458	Suicide Suffocation 11,642
7	Unintentional Drowning 38	Homicide Firearm 64	Unintentional Pedestrian, Other 18	Unintentional Fire/Burn 52	Suicide Poisoning 426	Suicide Poisoning 767	Undetermined Poisoning 788	Unintentional Fall 1,238	Unintentional Suffocation 792	Adverse Effects 2,028	Suicide Poisoning 6,698
8	Homicide Suffocation 19	Homicide Other Spec., Classifiable 64	Unintentional Firearm 16	Unintentional Suffocation 39	Homicide Cut/Pierce 340	Unintentional Drowning 463	Unintentional Fall 515	Undetermined Poisoning 929	Homicide Firearm 738	Unintentional Fire/Burn 1,150	Unintentional Suffocation 6,610
9	Adverse Effects 18	Unintentional Firearm 34	Unintentional Struck by or Against 15	Unintentional Poisoning 28	Undetermined Poisoning 289	Homicide Cut/Pierce 420	Unintentional Drowning 396	Unintentional Drowning 478	Undetermined Poisoning 707	Suicide Poisoning 1,070	Unintentional Unspecified 6,507
10	Unintentional Natural/ Environment 18	Unintentional Poisoning 34	Unintentional Other Transport 14	Unintentional Firearm 23	Unintentional Fall 199	Unintentional Fall 326	Homicide Cut/Pierce 350	Unintentional Suffocation 419	Undetermined Unspecified 625	Suicide Suffocation 859	Undetermined Poisoning 3,827

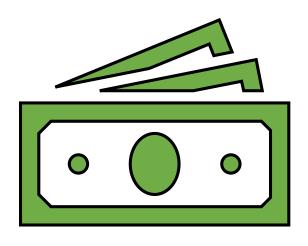
Data Source: National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), National Vital Statistics System.

Produced by: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, CDC using WISQARS™.





Youth homicides and nonfatal physical assault-related injuries result in <u>more</u> than \$21 billion annually in combined medical and lost productivity costs alone.

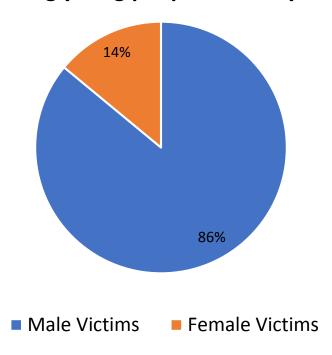




Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) [online] 2016; www.cdc.gov/injury

Based on a 2014 Web-based Injury Statistics Query Reporting System (WISQARS) data, there are 4,300 homicide victims aged 10 – 24. A yearly average of 12 per day. There are 6 times more male victims than females victims.

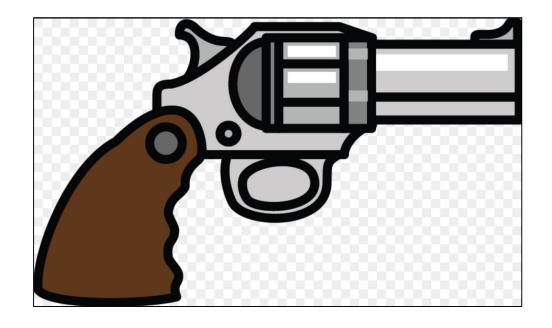
### Homicide among young people 10—24 years old of age



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) [online] 2014; www.cdc.gov/injury

In 2014, among the 4,300 homicide victims 10 - 24 years old, 86% were killed with a firearm.

Approximately 3,700 killed with a firearm.

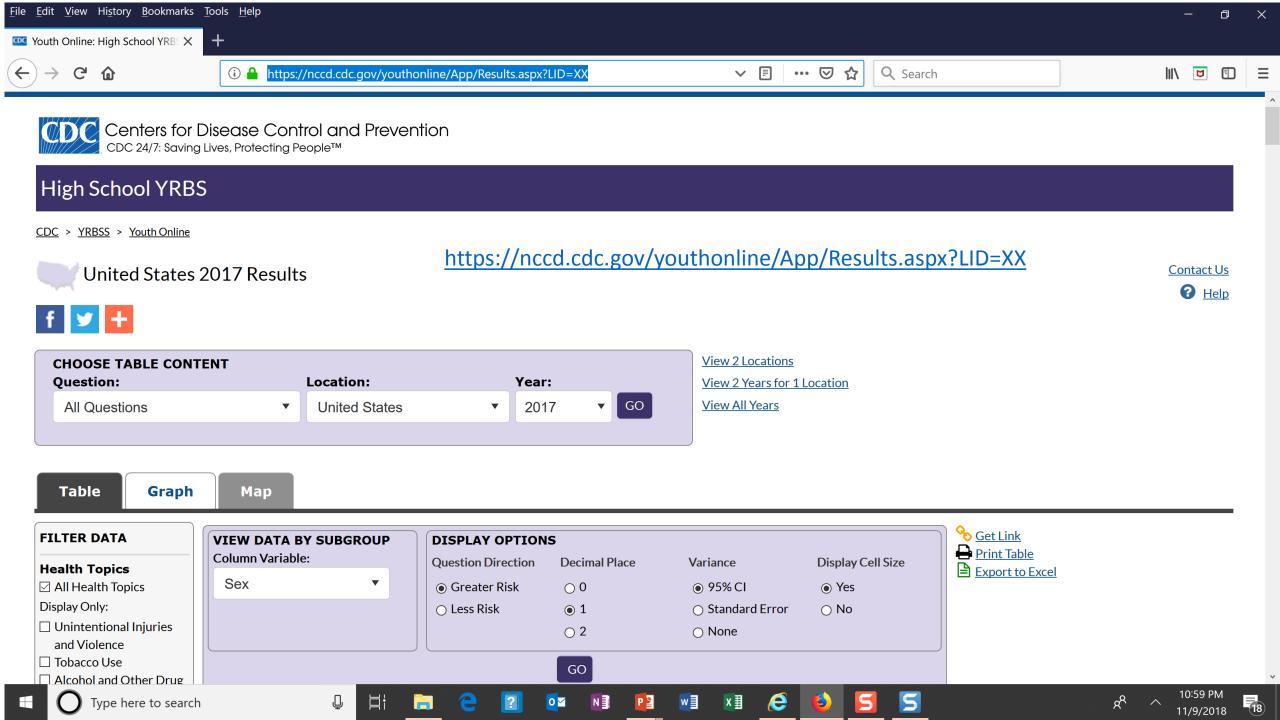




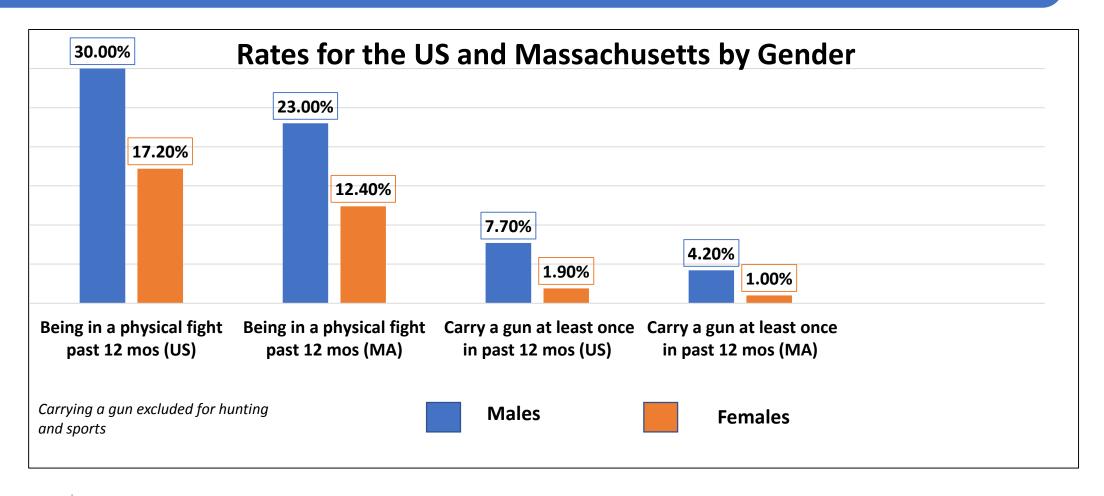


## The 2017 High School Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Nationwide Survey

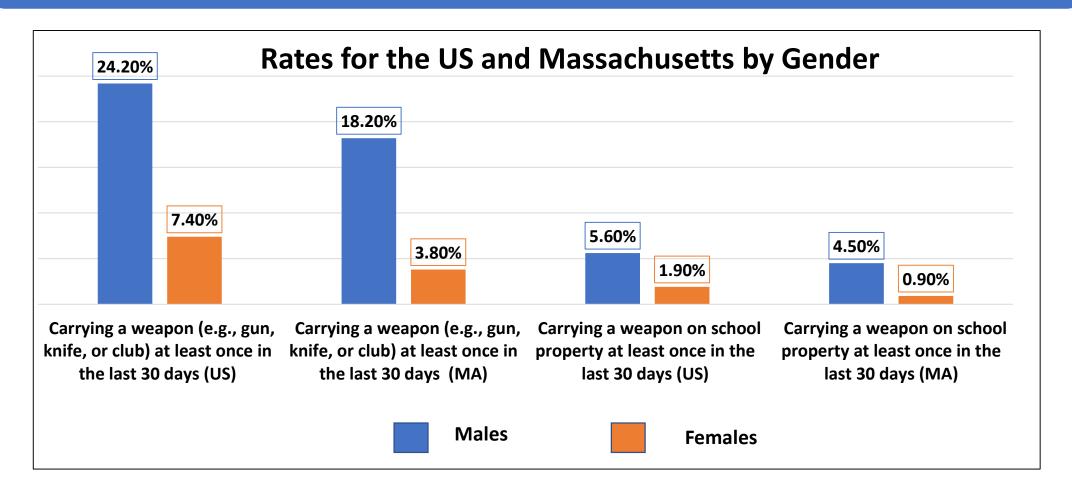
https://nccd.cdc.gov/youthonline/App/Default.aspx

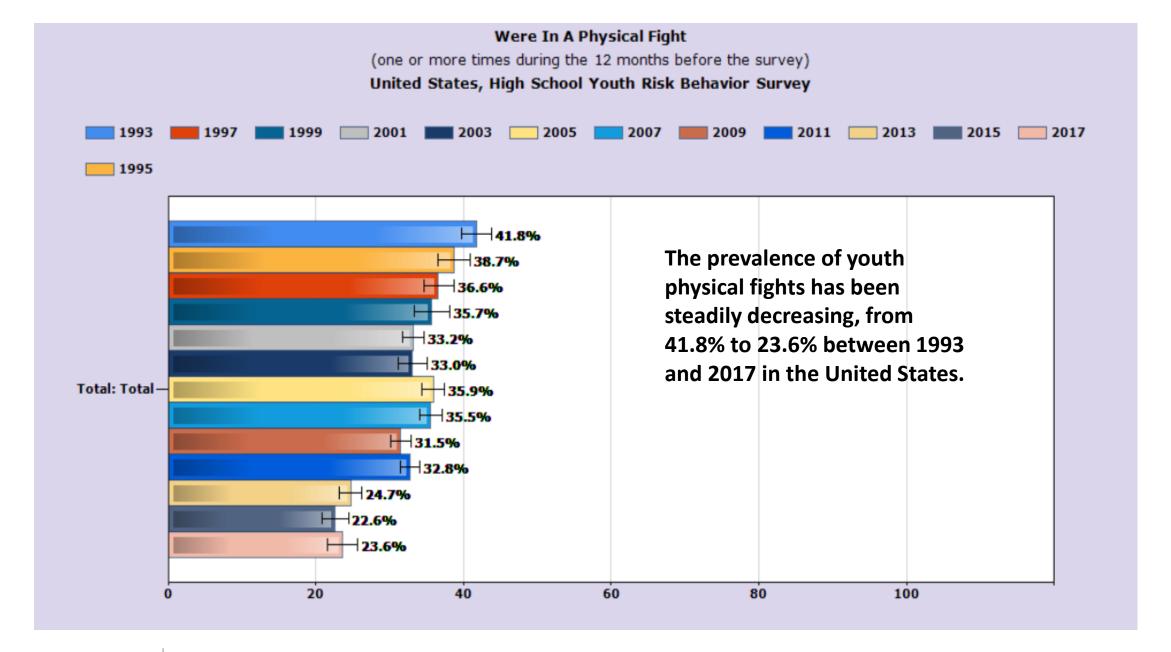


# In 2017, the <u>prevalence</u> of violence-related behaviors among youth in grades 9-12 was higher among males than females.

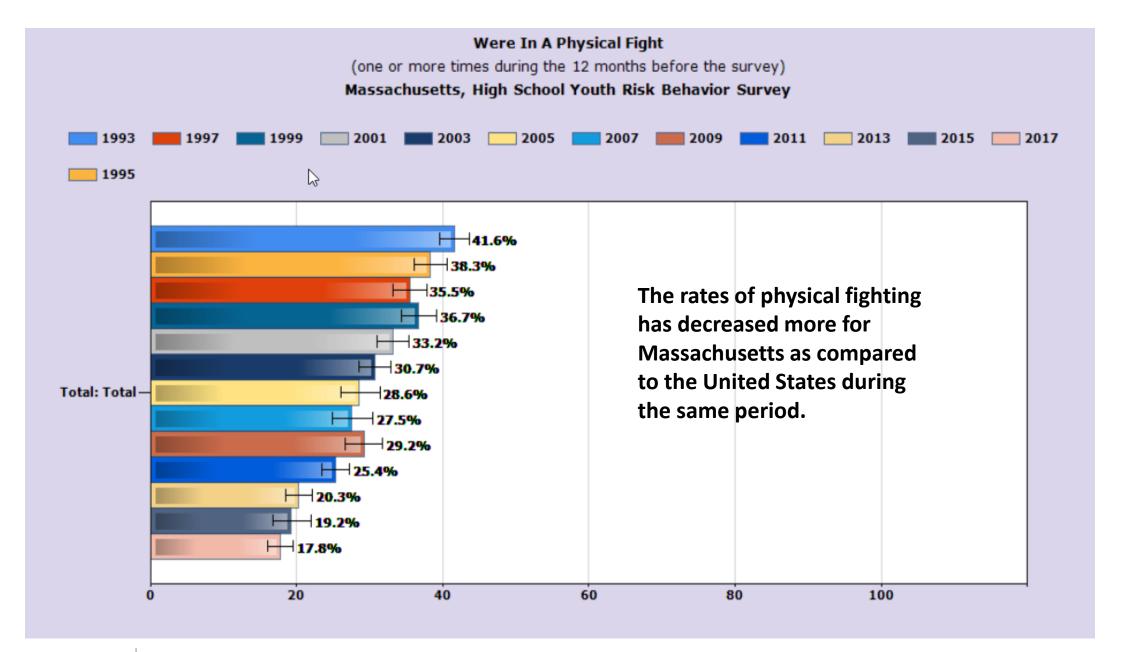


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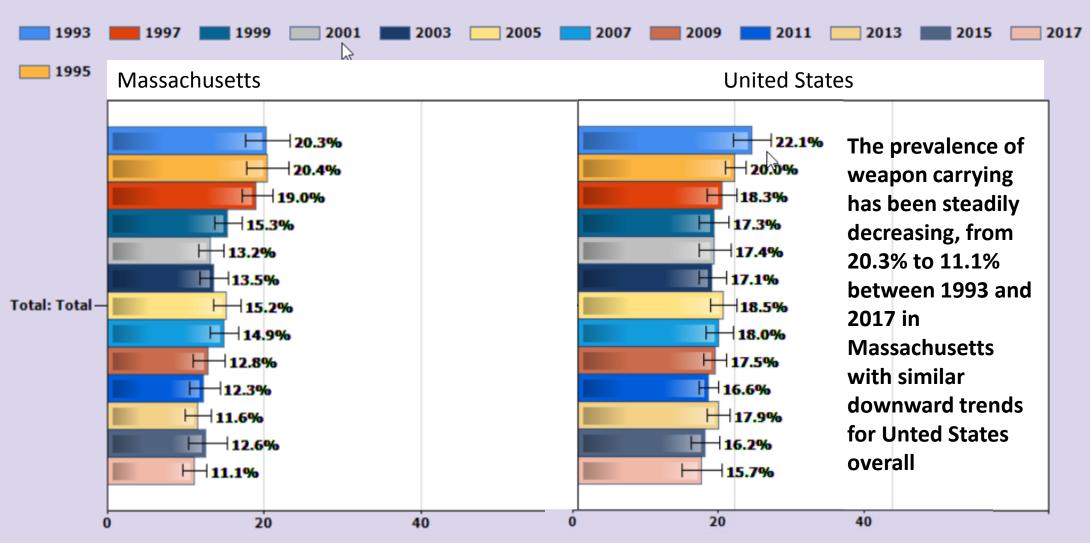




#### **Carried A Weapon**

(such as a gun, knife, or club, on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey)

#### Massachusetts, High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey

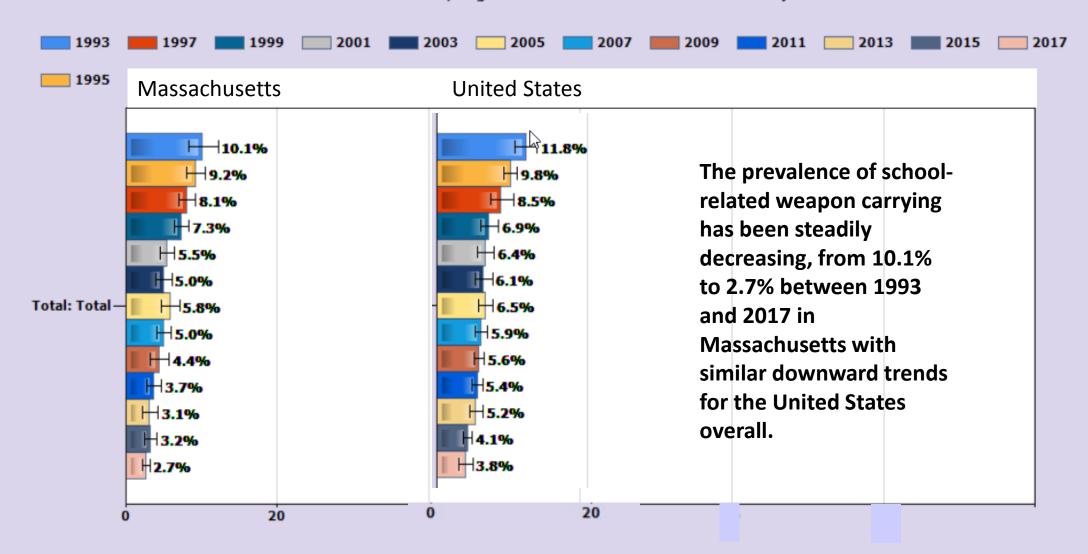




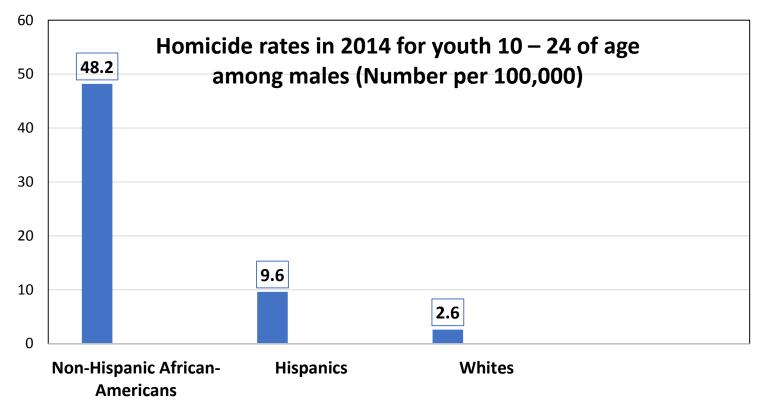
#### Carried A Weapon On School Property

(such as a gun, knife, or club, on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey)

#### Massachusetts, High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey



## In 2014, homicide was the <u>leading</u> cause of death for African Americans; the <u>second</u> for Hispanics; and the <u>third</u> for American Indians and Alaska Natives.



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) [online]. (2014) Available from www.cdc.gov/injury.

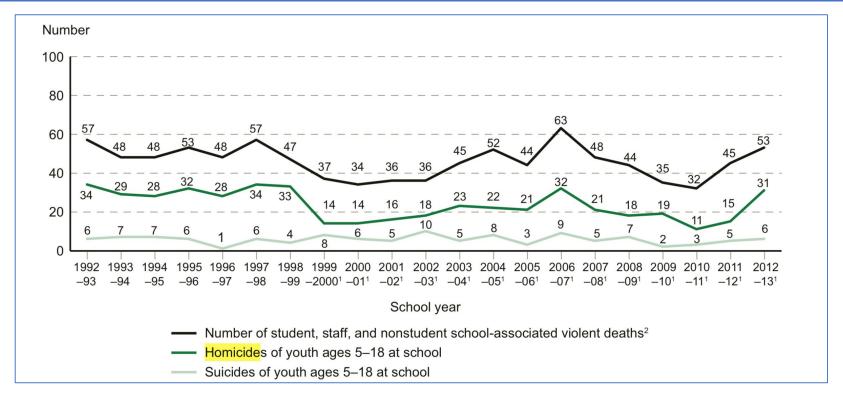
In the <u>last 30 days prior to the survey</u>, <u>5.6%</u> of the students did not go to school on one or more days because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to school.





Kann L, McManus T, Harris WA, et al. Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance — United States, 2015. <a href="https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/27280474">https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/27280474</a>

The absolute number of homicides of school-age youth at school varied across the years 1992 – 2013. However, the percentage of all youth homicide has been less than 3% for the same time period.



Zhang A, et al, Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2015, National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education, and Bureau of Justice Statistics. Available from <a href="http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/iscs15.pdf">http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/iscs15.pdf</a>.

In addition to deadly injuries, emergency departments also witness **non-fatal injuries** dues to violence.

In 2014, half a million young people aged 10 – 24 were treated in emergency departments for injuries sustained from physical assaults.



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Web- based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARSNational) [online]. (2014) . Available from www.cdc.gov/injury.

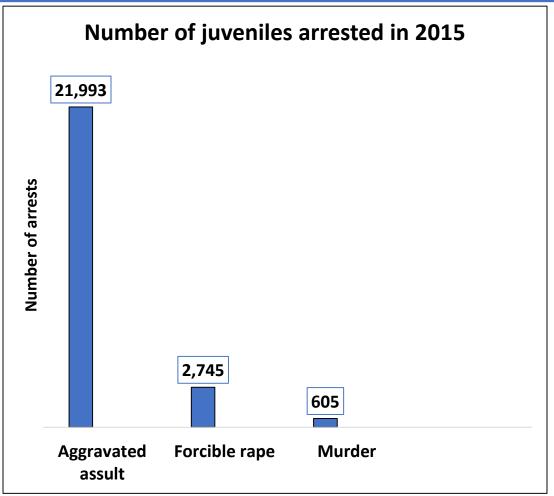
# Juveniles (under 18 years of age) accounted for 10.2% of all violent crime arrests and 14.3% of all property crimes arrests.





Courtesy: Can Stock Photo and World Arts Me Federal Bureau of Investigation. Crime in the United States 2015. Uniform Crime Reports. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, 2015. Available from https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-theu.s/2015/crime-in- the-u.s.-2015

# In 2015, the number of juveniles arrested for aggravated assault is leading followed by forcible rapes and murders.



Federal Bureau of Investigation. Crime in the United States 2015. Uniform Crime Reports. Department of Justice, 2015. Available from <a href="https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2015/crime-inthe-u.s-2015">https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2015/crime-inthe-u.s-2015</a>.

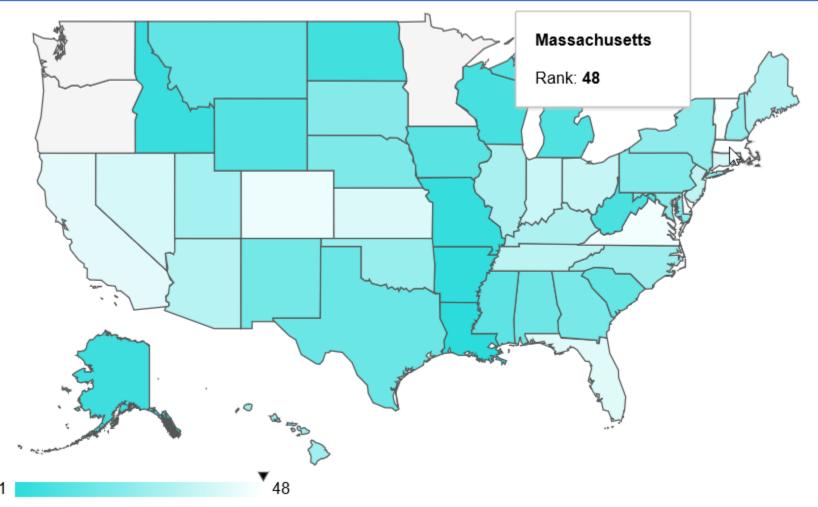


BULLYING: Besides the physical, emotional and psychological tolls it takes on victims, bullying produces adverse socioeconomic outcomes.

- The Association for Psychological Science recently <u>found</u> that those who are bullies, victims or both are *more likely to experience* poverty, academic failure and job termination in their adulthood than those who were neither.
- Affected individuals are more likely to commit crime and to abuse drugs and alcohol.
- According to a National Association of Secondary School Principals report, the average public school can incur more than \$2.3 million in lost funding and expenses as a result of lower attendance and various types of disciplinary actions.



# Some good news: Massachusetts has the lowest rates of bullying in the United States rated 48<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states and D.C. <sup>1</sup>





SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

1. Sep 6, 2018, Adam McCann, Financial Writer <a href="https://wallethub.com/edu/best-worst-states-at-controlling-bullying/9920/">https://wallethub.com/edu/best-worst-states-at-controlling-bullying/9920/</a>. Note - Due to data limitations the states of Minnesota, Oregon, and Washington were not included in the rankings.





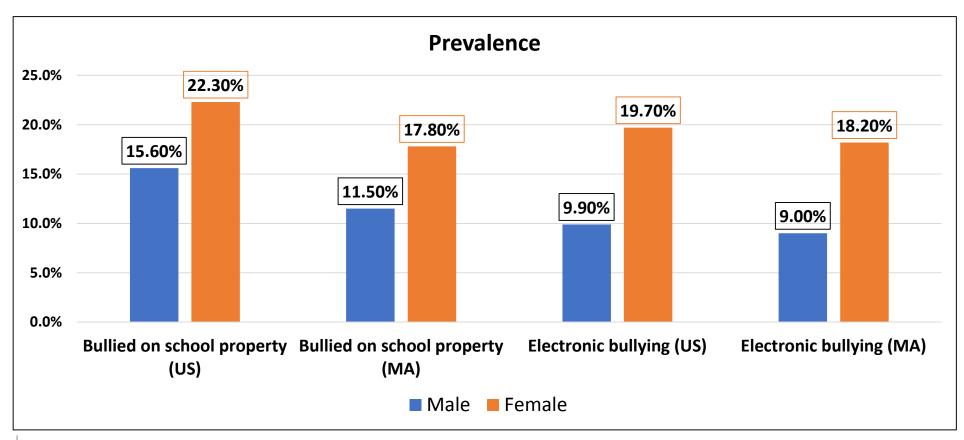
The 2017 Youth Behavior Risk Surveillance Survey: Youth in grades 9 – 12 reported **bullying on school property** as well "**electronic**" **bullying** (Email, chatroom, website, IM, texting)

Kann L, McManus T, Harris WA, et al. Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance — United States, 2015. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/27280474





In 2017, 19% of U.S. and 14.6% of Massachusetts students (grades 9 – 12) reported being bullied on school property in the <u>12 months prior to the survey</u>. The <u>prevalence</u> was about <u>1.5 higher among females than males</u>. Electronic bullying showed an even greater 2-fold relative risk for females.





# What are the opportunities for action?



The CDC's Preventing Youth Violence: Opportunities for Action identifies actions (in four categories) each of us can take to STOP youth violence before it starts.

Community leaders and members

**Public Health Professionals** 

Families, caregivers, and other adults

Young people

https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/youthviolence/pdf/Opportunities-for-Action.pdf



# What are the resources at the Federal Level?



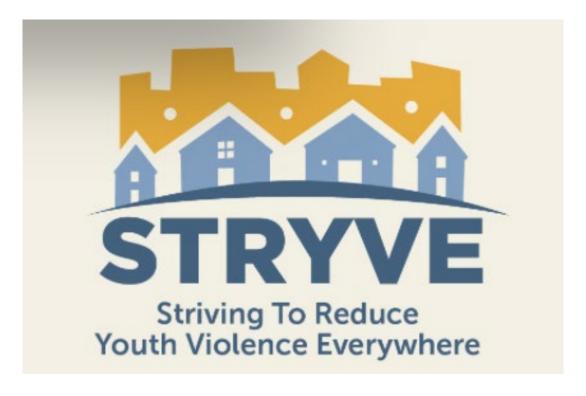
# The CDC <u>VetoViolence</u> provides training and tools designed specifically for prevention practitioners.



https://vetoviolence.cdc.gov



STRYVE: A set of interactive resources designed to help working groups customize their youth violence prevention work and track your efforts.



https://vetoviolence.cdc.gov/apps/stryve/



### The <u>UNITY RoadMap</u> is an interactive tool for learning about ways to effectively and sustainably prevent violence.





http://www.preventioninstitute.org/unity/general/unity-roadmap

## What resources do we have in Massachusetts?





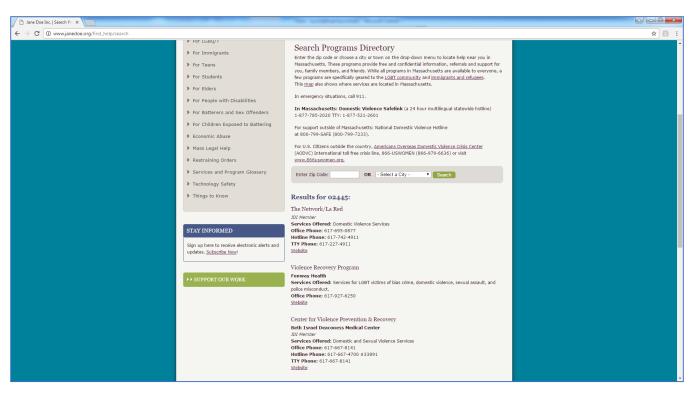


The Massachusetts Department of Health addresses youth violence using <u>primary</u> violence prevention and <u>secondary</u> violence prevention through positive youth development.

https://www.mass.gov/service-details/youth-violence-prevention-through-positive-youth-development



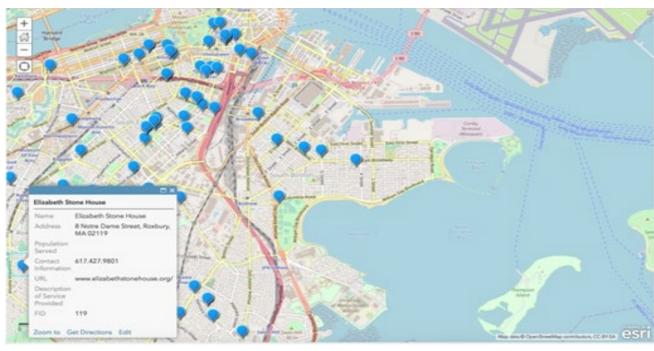
## Jane Doe Inc. offers an interactive service locator tool. One can search by zip code, or town.



http://www.janedoe.org/find help/search



### The Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health Web-Mobile App is being developed to crowdsource violence prevention services in Greater Boston.



Stay tuned ...

https://harvard-

cga.maps.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=ee4318ab5ff647838f8be930ca40ecab



# Any existing violence prevention activities in your health departments?



## Part Two: Cyberbullying



### "Cyberbullying is a systematic abuse of power which occurs through the use of information and communication technologies" (Slonje et al., 2013)



https://www.stopbullying.gov/cyberbullying/what-is-it/index.html

### The unique nature of cyberbullying can be captured by the following \*:



<sup>\*</sup> For a more comprehensive description, read "Cyberbullying." by Lucy R Betts.

### The digital world is a liberating environment.

"The digital world is a liberating environment for young people (Erdur-Baker, 2010). In the digital world, young people have unprecedented opportunities to express their identities."

Excerpt From: Lucy R. Betts. "Cyberbullying." iBooks.

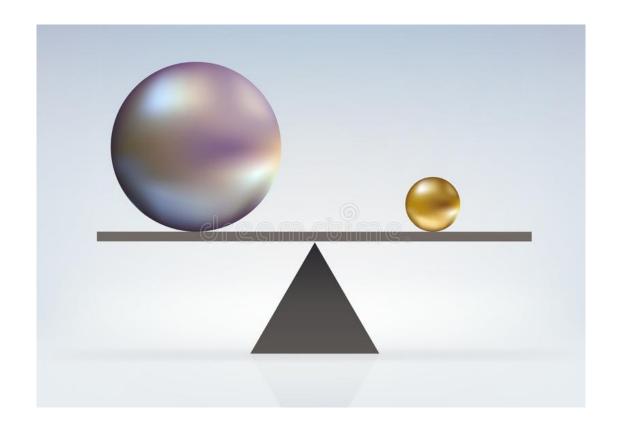


## Audience and visibility: Cyberbullying can potentially have a global audience due to the advances in technology.

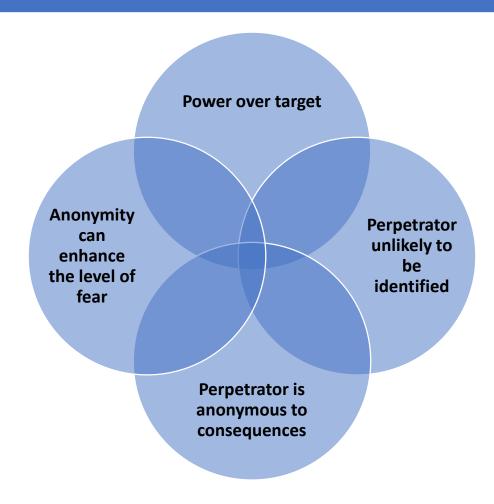
"The audience of cyberbullying, and consequently the scope of actions, are also potentially much greater than face-to-face bullying (Holladay, 2011; Tokunaga, 2010)."



<u>Power Balance</u>: The ability to remain anonymous can influence the power balance between the target and the perpetrator. Lucy R. Betts. "Cyberbullying", 2016.



### **Anonymity** plays an important role in cyberbullying. – Lucy R. Betts. "Cyberbullying", 2016.





2016 – In a nationally representative sample of 5,707 U.S. 12–17 years old middle and high school students, <u>34% of the students reported cyberbullying</u> victimization.

Approximately 2,000 students reported cyberbullying incidents

Cyberbullying Research Center, 2016. Available from https://cyberbullying.org/2016-cyberbullying-data

Mean or hurtful comments and rumors

Threaten to hurt me

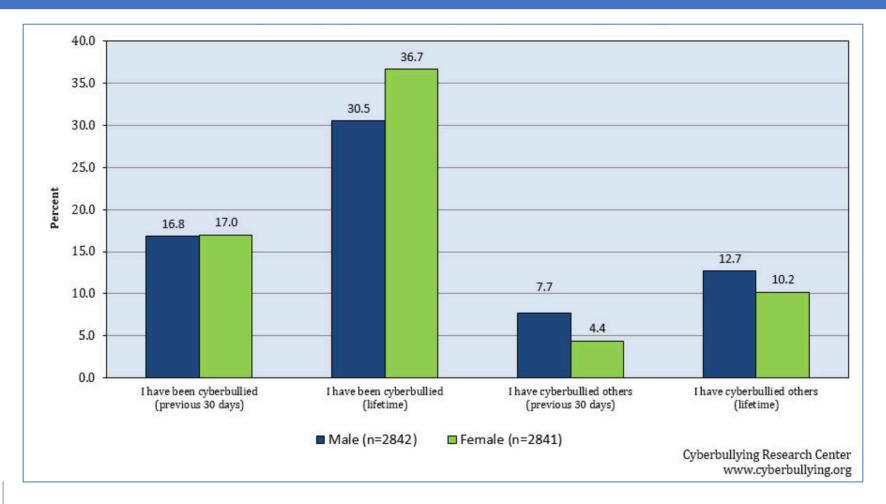
Pretended to be me

Posted a mean or hurtful picture

Created a mean or hurtful webpage about me

Posted mean or hurtful videos

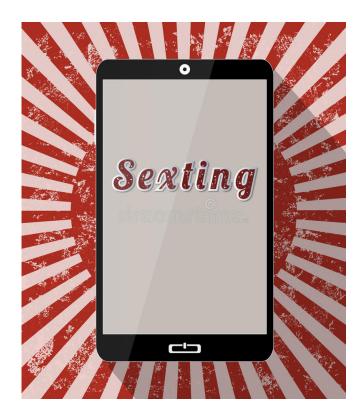
## 2016 – Nationally representative sample of 5,683 U.S. 12–17 years old. Cyberbullying by gender.





### What is Sexting?

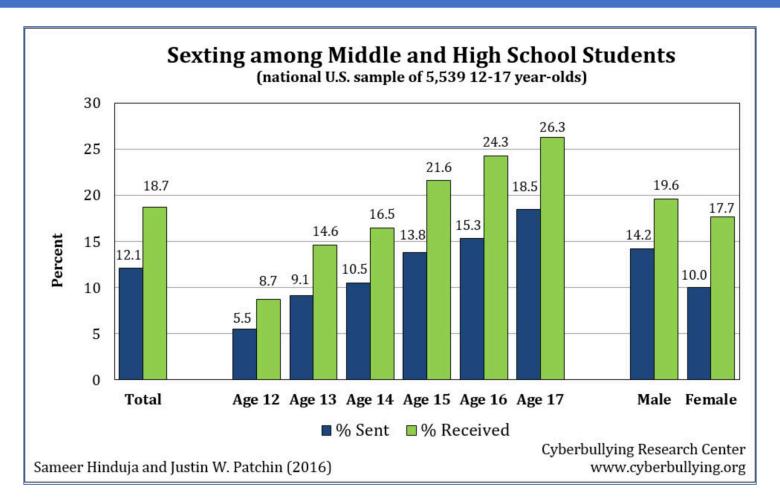
"Sexting" is the act of sending, receiving, or forwarding sexually explicit messages, photos, or images via cell phone, computer, or other digital device."



http://www.mass.gov/berkshireda/crime-awareness-and-prevention/sexting/sexting.html

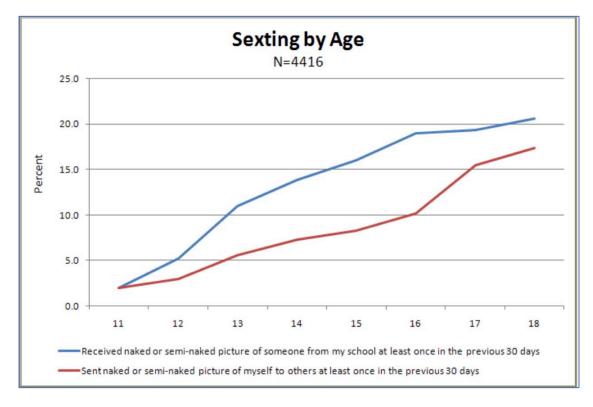


### 2016 – National U.S. sample of 5,539, 12—17 years old middle and high school students.





### An illustration of a growing trend based on a 2010 study. 4,416 randomly selected students 11 – 18 from a public school.



Sameer Hinduja, and Justin W. Patchin, Sexting: A brief guide for educators and parents. Available from <a href="https://cyberbullying.org/Sexting-Fact-Sheet.pdf">https://cyberbullying.org/Sexting-Fact-Sheet.pdf</a>



### A 2012 study in Texas highlights statistically significant (\*) gender differences in sexting behaviors.

7 Public high schools

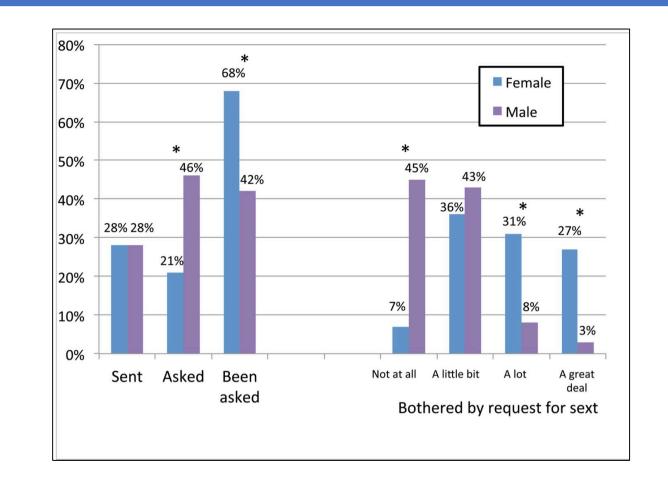
N = 948 high school students

Self reported history of dating, sexual behaviors, and sexting

Temple, Jeff R, "Teen sexting and its association with sexual behaviors".

Available from HHS Public Access

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3626288/





What does the law say about sexting?



Sexting is legal between consenting adults.

However, minors who exchange explicit contents (images or videos) are at risk of legal prosecution under the Child Pornography Law.

### Is it fair to apply these child pornography laws to kids who are caught sexting?



Brian Holoyda et al, "Trouble at teens' fingertips: Youth sexting and

the law", Special issue article, Wiley, 2017

DOI: 10.1002/bsl.2335 Available from

https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/bsl.2335

### The good news is that some states are reconsidering changing the law in a effort to include some language about sexting.

20 states have considered reducing the harshness sentencing by introducing laws that include terminology specific to "teen sexting."

Erin Polka, PHP Fellow "Teen Sexting," Public Health Post, Oct. 23, 2018. Available from <a href="https://www.publichealthpost.org/research/teen-sexting/">https://www.publichealthpost.org/research/teen-sexting/</a>

Hinduja and Patching, "State Sexting Laws: A Brief Review of State Sexting and Revenge Porn Laws and Policies", 2015. Available <a href="https://cyberbullying.org/state-sexting-laws.pdf">https://cyberbullying.org/state-sexting-laws.pdf</a>



### In Massachusetts, Sexting still falls under the Child Pornography Law.

"Sexting" may violate the laws of the Commonwealth that were established to keep our children safe.

The child pornography laws in Massachusetts are all felonies; they are quite serious, and there are no "lesser" charges (i.e. misdemeanors) that apply to this conduct.

**Berkshire County District Attorney** 

http://www.mass.gov/berkshireda/crime-awareness-and-prevention/sexting/sexting.html



In 2011, Jannis Wolak and team found that arrests of minors for child pornography were uncommon unless adults or "aggravating elements" (non-consensual or malicious use) were involved.

"Many of the youth sexting cases that come to the attention of police include aggravating circumstances that raise concerns about health and risky sexual behavior, although some cases were relatively benign. Overall, arrest is not typical in cases with no adults involved."

Wolak et al, "How Often Are Teens Arrested for Sexting? Data From a National Sample of Police Cases"

Pediatrics January 2012, Vol 129, Issue 1



#### What are the resources for parents and educators?



**Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center (MARC)** 



**Cyberbullying Research Center** 



Mass.Gov

The Official Website of the Attorney General of Massachusetts



## Part Three Evaluation of Community-Level Interventions



Countesy: carabinercomms.com

Empower Peace (EP) is a non-profit located in Boston. EP coordinates grassroots programs to educate and encourage young people to promote peace and cultural understanding.



http://empowerpeace.org/aboutus/index.html

### The Online4Good Academy is a program of Empower Peace.



"They [students] will learn to develop online social media campaigns that say no to hatred and prejudice, and that promote social good."

-- Empower Peace

http://www.online4good.com/index.html#whatis



In 2017, approximately 100 middle and high school students attended the Online4Good Academy in Boston, where they were taught <u>to</u> <u>develop social media campaigns promoting acceptance and tolerance</u>.





### Characteristics of the 22 schools participating in the one-day Online4Good Academy Training.

Characteristics	Frequencies/Descriptive statistics	
Geographic location	Northeast: 7 (31%)	
	Southeast: 6 (27%)	
	Western: 3 (14%)	
	Central: 3 (14%)	
	Boston: 3 (14%)	
Type of school	High schools: 10 (46%)	
	Mixed high school and middle school: 4	
	(18%)	
	Middle schools: 8 (36%)	
	Public schools: 18 (82%)	
	Private schools: 4 (18%)	
Median household income of the town	Mean = \$73,160 (SD=\$38,451)	
where the school is located	Median = \$69,829 Range (\$18,226 –	
	\$199,519)	
School diversity score (the probability that	Mean = 0.26 (SD=0.14)	
two randomly selected kids from the school	Median = 0.19 (Range=0.12 – 0.58)	
belong to two different races or ethnic		
groups)		
Percentage of student population being	Mean = 76% (SD=28%)	
white	Median = 87% (Range=2.5% - 98%)	



### Pre/Post intervention assessments with exposed/control groups

PRE-INTERVENTION (BASELINE) ASSESSMENT

Group A and Group B (Control)



#### **INTERVENTION**

Group A: Online4Good

Academy Training

Group B (Control): Emergency Preparedness

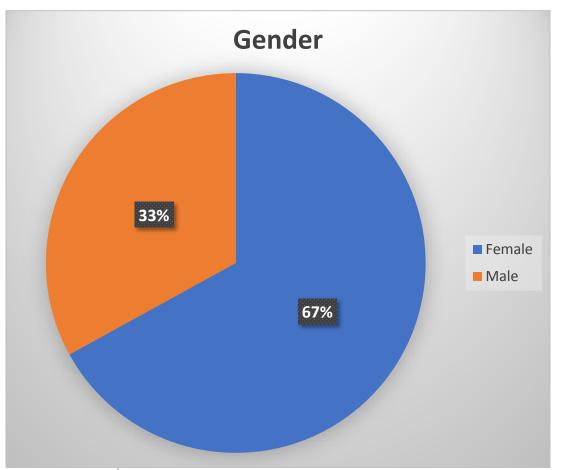


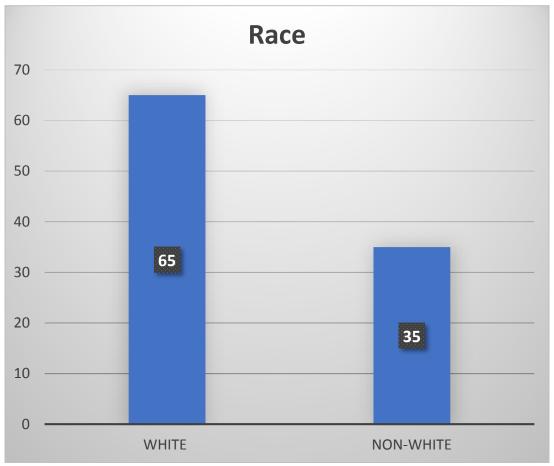
#### POST-INTERVENTION ASSESSMENT

Group A and Group B (Control)

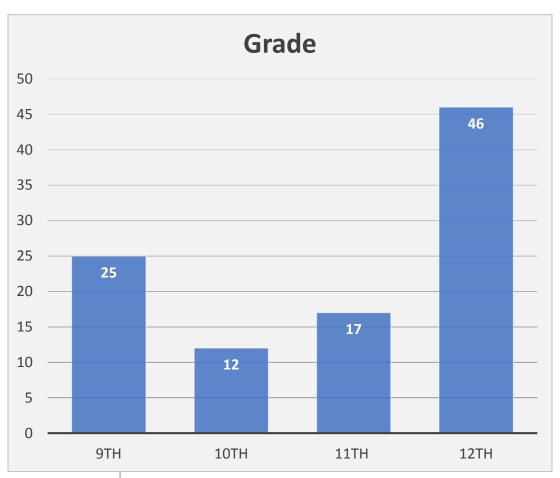
## Pre-intervention (Baseline) Results

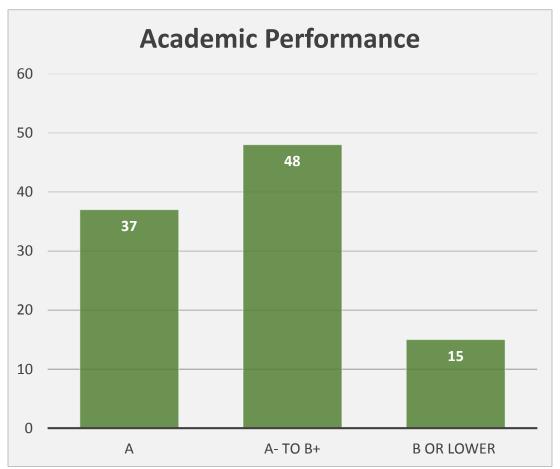
### In our sample of 196 high school students: Twice many females than males; Almost twice many Whites than non-Whites





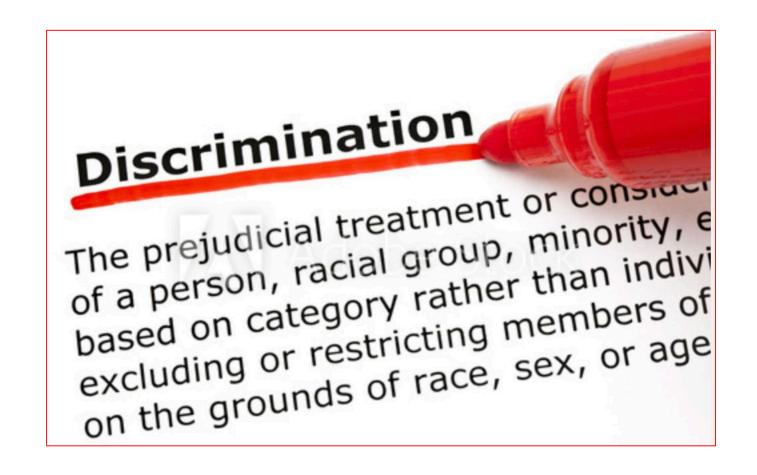
## Over 60% of the students were 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders; Most of the students were in the [A- and B+] range.





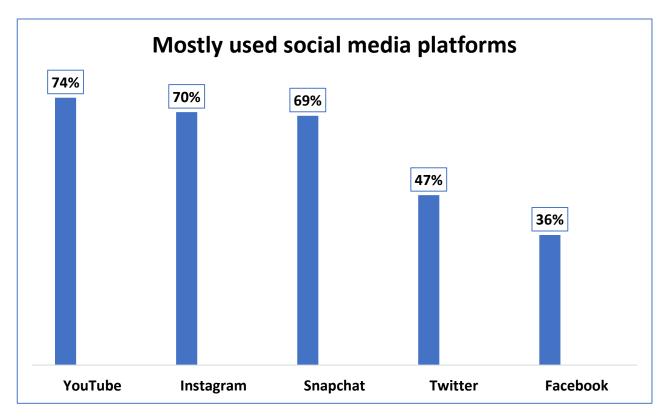


## 15% of the students experienced discrimination due to race/ethnicity.





### In our sample, <u>94%</u> of students reported to have a social media profile, <u>84%</u> use it <u>daily</u>, and <u>YouTube</u> is the <u>mostly</u> used platform.





### How do we define <u>Motivational Cultural Intelligence</u>, <u>Acceptance of Cultural Differences</u>, and <u>Empathic Awareness</u>?

**Motivational Cultural Intelligence** 

Active pursuit of learning about and functioning in multi-cultural environments

**Acceptance of Cultural Differences** 

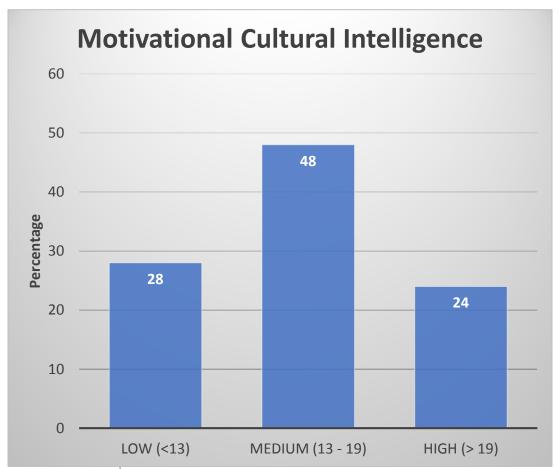
Passive acceptance and understanding and appreciation of different racialethnic cultural traditions

**Empathic Awareness** 

Acknowledgement of structural racism in society

Ang S, et al, Cultural Intelligence: Its Measurement and Effects on Cultural Judgment and Decision Making, Cultural Adaptation and Task Performance. Management and Organization Review. 2007;3(3):335-371. Wang, Y.-W., et al, The Scale of Ethnocultural Empathy: Development, validation, and reliability. Journal of Counseling Psychology, 50(2), 221-234.

72% of the students had at least a medium score in CI; The students are generally accepting of cultural differences.



For Acceptance of Cultural Differences, the average score was 18 on a scale of [0, 20]



### For Empathic Awareness scores, the data shows an even split!



	Low (< 13)	High ( >13)
Empathic Awareness Score of the students at baseline	50%	50%

16% of the students were <u>frequently</u> or <u>very frequently</u> exposed to <u>hate</u> messages.

Race

**Sexual orientation** 

Religion

**Gender identity** 

**Disability** 

**Political views** 

**Physical appearance** 



## The most frequent target of hate messages were: <u>race</u>, <u>sexual orientation</u>, <u>religion</u>, <u>gender identity</u>.

Race (54%)

**Sexual orientation (37%)** 

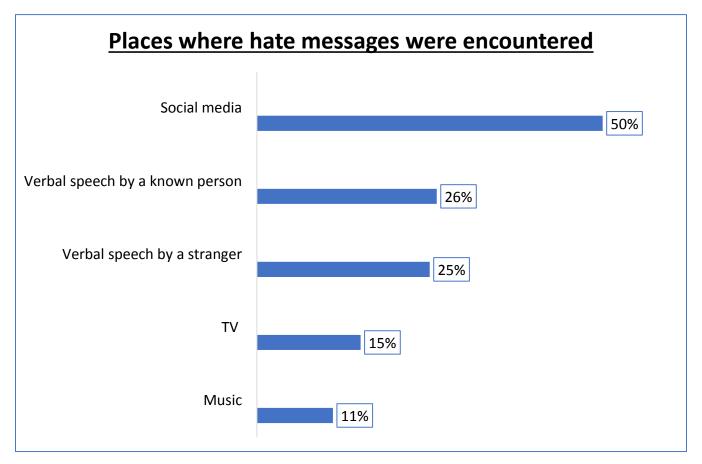
Religion (33%)

**Gender identity (22%)** 

Other targets included: disability, ethnicity, gender, political views, physical appearance (i.e. obesity), personality and poverty



### 50% reported to have encountered hate messages on social media.





According to teachers interviewed, the major concerns are: <u>discriminatory</u> <u>behaviors</u>, and the <u>lack of sustainability of some initiatives</u>.

"The things that they're exposed to...they're becoming so desensitized to ...things, like violence or things like that, that concerns me, that they don't think that's a big deal, whether it's fighting or the language."



### Summary

Youth Violence

Cyberbullying

Sexting

Resources available



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