

# Do individual school data remain confidential?

Your answers may be used only for statistical purposes and may not be disclosed or used in identifiable form for any other purpose except as required by law (20 U.S. Code, Section 9573). Your answers will be combined with those from others to produce summary statistics and reports. No individual data such as names or addresses will be reported. Any attempt on the part of a data user to identify a school or a specific respondent is prohibited by law and punishable with a fine of up to \$250,000 and/or a prison term up to 5 years.

# Where can I find more information about the SSOCS?

To see reports, publications, and other information on the SSOCS, please visit the SSOCS website at <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/SSOCS>.



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# The School Survey on Crime & Safety



# What is the School Survey on Crime & Safety?

The School Survey on Crime and Safety (SSOCS) is a national survey of elementary and secondary public schools. SSOCS collects information on school safety, including the frequency of school crime and violence, disciplinary actions, and school practices related to the prevention and reduction of crime. SSOCS is one of the nation's primary sources of school-level data on crime and safety. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), it has been administered five times since 1999 to nationally representative samples of schools and will be conducted again in the spring of the 2011–12 school year. Your school has been selected to participate in this new wave of data collection.

## Why is the SSOCS important?

To address school crime, parents, school staff, and policymakers must understand the extent and nature of the problem. SSOCS is designed to provide measures of crime and safety in the nation's public schools. Some findings from the 2009–10 school year:

- During the 2009–10 school year, the rate of violent incidents per 1,000 students was higher in middle schools (40 incidents) than in primary schools or high schools (21 incidents each).
- Some 25 percent of schools reported at least one incident of the distribution, possession, or use of illegal drugs, a higher percentage than that of the distribution, possession, or use of alcohol (14 percent of schools) or prescription drugs (12 percent of schools).
- A higher percentage of middle schools reported that student bullying occurred at school daily or at least once a week (39 percent) than did high schools or primary schools (20 percent each).
- A higher percentage of schools with 1,000 or more students involved students in resolving student conduct problems as a component of violence prevention programs (60 percent); compared to schools with lower enrollments (39 percent to 49 percent).

## Why was my school selected?

There are approximately 100,000 public schools in the United States and only a small portion can be surveyed at one time. Your school was selected to represent schools similar to yours from across the nation, and we are asking that the questionnaire be completed by the principal or the person most knowledgeable about school crime and policies to provide a safe environment at your school. Your participation is important so the results represent the diversity of America's public schools.

## What topics are covered in the questionnaire?

- School policies and programs concerning crime and safety;
- Student and teacher involvement in efforts to prevent or reduce school violence;
- Frequency and types of disciplinary actions such as expulsions and suspensions for selected offenses; and
- Frequency and types of crimes at school, including physical attack, robbery, theft, and vandalism.

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