In the United States, an estimated 50 million students are enrolled in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade and another 15 million students attend colleges and universities.

What Is School Violence?

School violence is a subset of youth violence. Violence is the intentional use of physical force or power, against another person, group, or community, with the behavior likely to cause physical or psychological harm. Youth Violence typically includes persons between the ages of 10 and 24, although pathways to youth violence can begin in early childhood.

Examples of Violent Behavior
- Bullying
- Fighting (punching, kicking, slapping, etc.)
- Weapon use
- Electronic aggression
- Gang violence

School Violence Occurs...
- On school property
- On the way to school
- On the school bus
- During a school-sponsored event
- On the way to or from a school-sponsored event

How Does School Violence Affect Health?

Deaths resulting from school violence are only part of the problem. Many young people experience nonfatal injuries. Some of these injuries are relatively minor and include cuts, bruises, and broken bones. Other injuries, like gunshot wounds and head trauma, are more serious and can lead to permanent disability.

Not all injuries are visible. Exposure to youth violence and school violence can lead to a wide array of negative health behaviors and outcomes, including alcohol and drug use and suicide. Depression, anxiety, and many other psychological problems, including fear, can result from school violence.

School Violence Statistics

- 7% of high school students were threatened or injured with a weapon at school at least once in the past year
- 1 out of 4 high school students was in at least one physical fight in the past year
- 1 out of every 5 high school students was bullied at school in the past year

CDC’s Prevention Approach

1. Define the problem
2. Identify risk and protective factors
3. Develop and test prevention strategies
4. Ensure widespread adoption

Sources:
- [CDC Violence Prevention Fact Sheet](https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/school_violence_fact_sheet-a.pdf)