

Fact Sheet

Accident* and Unintentional Injury Prevention

From CDC's School Health Policies and Programs Study (SHPPS) 2000

About SHPPS

SHPPS is a national survey periodically conducted to assess school health policies and programs at the state, district, school, and classroom levels. Results from SHPPS 2000 are published in the *Journal of School Health*, Volume 71, Number 7, September 2001.

School Policy and Environment

- 60.4% of states and 50.6% of districts provided model policies on accident or unintentional injury prevention to districts or schools during the two years preceding the study.
- 58.3% of states and 77.1% of districts have policies on the inspection or maintenance of playground facilities and equipment. During the 12 months preceding the study, 94.8% of elementary schools performed inspection and maintenance on their playground facilities and equipment.
- 90.0% of states and 89.9% of districts have policies on the protection of students and staff from environmental hazards such as asbestos, pesticides, or chemicals in labs and workshops. During the 12 months preceding the study, 94.4% of schools performed inspection and maintenance for these hazards.
- 82.0% of states and 80.0% of districts have policies on the inspection or maintenance of special classroom areas, such as chemistry labs, workshops, and art rooms. During the 12 months preceding the study, 80.8% of schools performed inspection and maintenance of these areas.

Percentage of States and Districts with Policies on Wearing Appropriate Protective Gear, and Percentage of Schools Requiring Students to Wear Appropriate Protective Gear When Engaged in Selected Activities

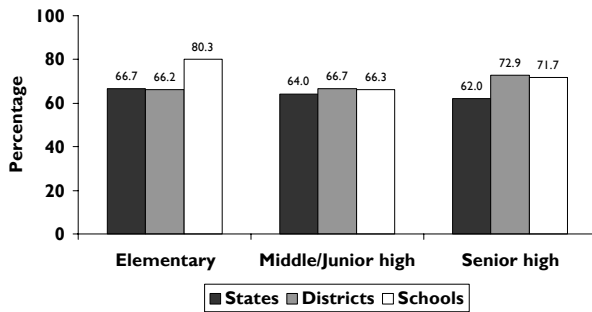
Activity	States with policies	Districts with policies	Schools requiring protective gear		
			Elementary schools	Middle/ junior high schools	Senior high schools
Interscholastic sports	38.3	73.4	N/A ¹	97.0	99.3
Intramural sports	17.0	40.8	86.3	88.7	91.2
Lab activities (photography, chemistry, biology, or other science classes)	84.0	85.6	82.2	97.0	99.5
Physical activities during physical education	18.4	45.0	74.0	78.7	85.5
Wood shop or metal shop	86.0	86.6	72.8	99.0	98.6

¹Data not available—question not asked at this level.

*Although the SHPPS 2000 questionnaires used the word "accident" because it is familiar to many people, public health officials prefer the word "injury" because it connotes the medical consequences of events that are both predictable and preventable.

Health Education

Percentage of States, Districts, and Schools Requiring Accident or Unintentional Injury Prevention Education, by School Level



- Among teachers of required health education, elementary school teachers who provided accident and injury prevention education spent a median of 5 hours per school year teaching the topic, middle/junior high school teachers spent a median of 4 hours, and senior high school teachers spent a median of 5 hours.

During the two years preceding the study:

- 39.6% of states and 40.0% of districts provided funding for or offered staff development on accident or unintentional injury prevention education to health education teachers.
- 22.9% of elementary school classes, 30.2% of required health education courses in middle/junior high schools, and 34.3% of required health education courses in senior high schools had a teacher who received staff development on accident or unintentional injury prevention education.

Percentage of Schools Teaching Topics and Skills Related to Accident or Unintentional Injury Prevention in at Least One Required Class or Course, by Topic and Skill

	All schools	Elementary schools	Middle/junior high schools	Senior high schools
Topic				
Fire safety	84.1	97.5	66.4	52.2
First aid or CPR	56.2	45.3	73.2	77.4
Road or transportation safety	79.8	87.1	64.3	72.7
Use of protective equipment for biking, skating, or other sports	86.1	91.4	81.9	67.9
Water safety	66.4	73.5	55.4	52.5
Skill				
Communication skills to avoid accidents	79.0	75.3	80.7	93.8
Decision-making skills to avoid accidents	94.5	96.9	89.8	91.5
Goal-setting skills to protect oneself from accidents	77.2	81.4	68.0	73.9
Resisting peer pressure that would increase risk of accidents	92.6	91.9	92.5	96.5

For additional information on SHPPS, contact the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Division of Adolescent and School Health, 4770 Buford Highway, NE, Mailstop K-33, Atlanta, GA 30341-3717, telephone 888-231-6405, <http://www.cdc.gov/shpps>.