



YOUTH VIOLENCE

The Problem

Youth violence is harmful behaviors that can start early and continue into young adulthood. These behaviors include a range of violent acts such as bullying, hitting or slapping that can cause emotional and physical harm. Other behaviors such as robbery and assault can lead to serious injury or even death.

The Numbers

- Nationally, 20 percent of high school students reported being bullied on school property in 2009.
- Almost six percent of high school students reported carrying a gun, knife or club to school in 2009.
- In 2004, over 750,000 youth were seen in emergency rooms for violence-related injuries.
- Nationally, homicide was the second leading cause of death for youth ages 10-24 in 2010.
- In Arkansas, homicide was the second leading cause of death for 15-24 year olds in 2007.
- Arkansas has one of the highest rates of teen dating violence. Over 14 percent of Arkansas teens report that they have been hit, slapped or physically hurt on purpose by their boyfriend or girlfriend.



What You Can Do

It is important to realize that youth violence is not an issue that will be solved by one group. Collectively working together with schools, families, community and government resources these injuries can be reduced by:

- Giving children consistent love and attention
- Modeling appropriate behaviors
- Making sure children do not have access to firearms
- Teaching children ways to avoid being victims of violent acts - stress personal safety

For More Information

- www.safeyouth.gov
- www.stopbullyingnow.gov



Statewide Injury Prevention Program

(501) 364-3400 or (866) 611-3445 • www.archildrens.org/injury_prevention

Sources: Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Southern California Center of Academic Excellence on Youth Violence Prevention in Collaboration with the University of Michigan Department of Emergency Medicine Injury Center