Nationally, about 1 in 15 teens ages 16 to 19 is a dropout. Fewer than two-thirds of 9th graders in Florida, Georgia, Louisiana and Nevada graduate from high school within four years with a regular diploma. There were almost 1.3 million juvenile arrests in 2006, and almost 93,000 juveniles are in residential placements.

Youths at Risk

| | Dror | oouts ¹ | Averaged Freshman Completion | Youth Unemployment | Juvenile | Juveniles in Residential |
|----------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | Number (2007) | Percent (2007) | Rate (2005-06) | Rate ² (2007) | Arrests ³ (2006) | Placement (2006) |
| Alabama | 1,752 | 9.8% | 66.2% | 16.8% | 11,577 | 1,752 |
| Alaska | 363 | 7.2 | 66.5 | 18.3 | 4,136 | 363 |
| Arizona | 1,737 | 9.9 | 70.5 | 14.1 | 50,744 | 1,737 |
| Arkansas | 813 | 6.7 | 80.4 | 16.8 | 11,389 | 813 |
| California | 15,240 | 6.5 | 69.9 | 18.0 | 231,735 | 15,240 |
| Colorado | 2,034 | 6.8 | 75.5 | 13.6 | 44,178 | 2,034 |
| Connecticut | 498 | 3.9 | 80.9 | 15.4 | 15,185 | 498 |
| Delaware | | 3.9 8.9 | | 10.8 | | |
| | 303 | | 76.3 | | 7,448 | 303 |
| District of Columbia | 339 | 7.8 | n/a | 29.2 | 437 | 339 |
| Florida | 7,302 | 8.5 | 63.6 | 13.4 | 121,173 | 7,302 |
| Georgia | 2,631 | 9.9 | 62.4 | 20.7 | 24,368 | 2,631 |
| Hawaii | 123 | 4.1 | 75.5 | 15.6 | 10,315 | 123 |
| Idaho | 522 | 7.5 | 80.5 | 12.6 | 14,339 | 522 |
| Illinois | 2,631 | 6.0 | 79.7 | 16.7 | 33,775 | 2,631 |
| Indiana | 2,616 | 6.6 | 73.4 | 15.1 | 27,770 | 2,616 |
| Iowa | 1,062 | 4.2 | 86.9 | 11.7 | 19,605 | 1,062 |
| Kansas | 1,053 | 4.4 | 78.4 | 15.7 | 10,036 | 1,053 |
| Kentucky | 1,242 | 7.8 | 77.6 | 23.1 | 8,746 | 1,242 |
| Louisiana | 1,200 | 10.0 | 59.5 | 13.7 | 22,355 | 1,200 |
| Maine | 210 | 4.7 | 76.6 | 14.4 | 7,765 | 210 |
| Maryland | 1,104 | 6.6 | 79.9 | 15.5 | 49,359 | 1,104 |
| Massachusetts | 1,164 | 5.5 | 79.5 | 12.7 | 17,862 | 1,164 |
| | | 5.4 | | | | |
| Michigan | 2,760 | | 73.6 | 19.6 | 44,002 | 2,760 |
| Minnesota | 1,623 | 3.0 | 86.2 | 13.6 | n/a | 1,623 |
| Mississippi | 444 | 8.0 | 63.5 | 18.9 | 11,802 | 444 |
| Missouri | 1,293 | 7.4 | 81.0 | 17.7 | 49,659 | 1,293 |
| Montana | 243 | 6.9 | 81.9 | 10.0 | n/a | 243 |
| Nebraska | 735 | 3.9 | 87.0 | 11.2 | 14,967 | 735 |
| Nevada | 885 | 11.2 | 55.8 | 16.3 | 20,725 | 885 |
| New Hampshire | 189 | 3.8 | 81.1 | 12.6 | 8,314 | 189 |
| New Jersey | 1,704 | 4.7 | 84.8 | 13.5 | 60,840 | 1,704 |
| New Mexico | 471 | 8.1 | 67.3 | 11.6 | 8,466 | 471 |
| New York | 4,197 | 5.5 | 67.4 | 17.6 | 48,209 | 4,197 |
| North Carolina | 1,029 | 7.7 | 71.8 | 14.7 | 44,691 | 1,029 |
| North Dakota | 240 | 1.8 | 82.2 | 8.0 | 6,769 | 240 |
| Ohio | 4,149 | 5.1 | 79.4 | 16.4 | 38,509 | 4,149 |
| Oklahoma | 924 | 7.6 | 77.8 | 11.6 | 20,192 | 924 |
| | | | 73.4 | 16.4 | | |
| Oregon | 1,254 | 7.1 | | | 24,723 | 1,254 |
| Pennsylvania | 4,323 | 5.5 | n/a | 15.2 | 106,572 | 4,323 |
| Rhode Island | 348 | 5.7 | 77.8 | 13.0 | 4,900 | 348 |
| South Carolina | 1,320 | 8.5 | n/a | 21.6 | 23,565 | 1,320 |
| South Dakota | 597 | 6.0 | 84.5 | 8.1 | 2,214 | 597 |
| Tennessee | 1,419 | 6.9 | 71.8 | 17.0 | 35,228 | 1,419 |
| Texas | 8,247 | 8.1 | 72.5 | 14.6 | 169,460 | 8,247 |
| Utah | 864 | 5.2 | 77.6 | 8.3 | 23,519 | 864 |
| Vermont | 54 | 3.7 | 82.4 | 13.5 | 1,645 | 54 |
| Virginia | 2,310 | 4.8 | 74.5 | 11.5 | 34,797 | 2,310 |
| Washington | 1,455 | 6.9 | 72.9 | 17.6 | 34,902 | 1,455 |
| West Virginia | 579 | 7.0 | 76.9 | 20.5 | 1,438 | 579 |
| Wisconsin | 1,347 | 4.2 | 87.5 | 15.3 | 103,275 | 1,347 |
| | 315 | 7.4 | 76.1 | 11.4 | 6,682 | 315 |
| Wyoming | 317 | | | | (a (a× / | |

n/a — data not available.

Sources: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 2007 American Community Survey, Table B14005; U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Public School Graduates and Dropouts from the Common Core of Data: School Year 2005–06* (August 2008), Table 1; U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Employment status of the civilian noninstitutional population by sex, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and detailed age, 2007 annual averages," at http://www.bls.gov/lau/ptable14full2007.pdf; U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States*, 2006 (September 2007), Tables 32 and 69; and U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, OJJDP Statistical Briefing Book, Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement Databook, at http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org/ojstatbb/cjrp/asp/Selection.asp. Calculations by Children's Defense Fund.

¹Youths ages 16-19 not enrolled who have not graduated from high school or received an alternate credential

² Youths ages 16-19

³ Data reporting incomplete for District of Columbia, Illinois, New York and Minnesota. No data reported for Montana.

The overall teen birth rate in the United States is 40.5 births per 1,000 females ages 15 to 19. Texas, New Mexico, Mississippi and the District of Columbia have the highest teen birth rates. The United States has a higher teen birth rate than any other industrialized nation.

Teen Birth Rates¹

| | 1990 | 1995 | 2000 | 2005 |
|----------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Alabama | 71.0 | 68.5 | 60.7 | 49.7 |
| Alaska | 65.3 | 54.5 | 49.0 | 37.3 |
| Arizona | 75.5 | 73.5 | 67.9 | 58.2 |
| Arkansas | 80.1 | 71.9 | 66.2 | 59.1 |
| California | 70.6 | 66.8 | 47.0 | 38.8 |
| Colorado | 54.5 | 52.3 | 51.3 | 42.6 |
| Connecticut | 38.8 | 38.6 | 31.1 | 23.3 |
| Delaware | 54.5 | 54.6 | 48.0 | 44.0 |
| District of Columbia | 93.1 | 85.2 | 53.2 | 63.4 |
| Florida | 69.1 | 60.2 | 51.1 | 42.4 |
| Georgia | 75.5 | 69.8 | 62.8 | 52.7 |
| Hawaii | 61.2 | 48.8 | 46.1 | 36.2 |
| Idaho | 50.6 | 48.7 | 42.9 | 37.7 |
| Illinois | 62.9 | 58.4 | 48.0 | 38.6 |
| Indiana | 58.6 | 56.6 | 49.1 | 43.2 |
| Iowa | 40.5 | 38.3 | 34.2 | 32.6 |
| Kansas | 56.1 | 52.0 | 46.1 | 41.4 |
| | 67.6 | 62.3 | | 49.1 |
| Kentucky | | | 55.1 | |
| Louisiana | 74.2 | 69.9 | 62.1 | 49.1 |
| Maine | 43.0 | 33.9 | 29.2 | 24.4 |
| Maryland | 53.2 | 47.2 | 41.3 | 31.8 |
| Massachusetts | 35.1 | 33.3 | 25.9 | 21.8 |
| Michigan | 59.0 | 49.1 | 40.2 | 32.5 |
| Minnesota | 36.3 | 32.5 | 30.1 | 26.1 |
| Mississippi | 81.0 | 79.2 | 70.1 | 60.5 |
| Missouri | 62.8 | 55.1 | 48.7 | 42.5 |
| Montana | 48.4 | 42.4 | 36.7 | 35.2 |
| Nebraska | 42.3 | 37.8 | 37.7 | 34.2 |
| Nevada | 73.3 | 73.4 | 63.0 | 50.1 |
| New Hampshire | 33.0 | 30.3 | 23.3 | 17.9 |
| New Jersey | 40.5 | 37.7 | 31.8 | 23.4 |
| New Mexico | 78.2 | 74.0 | 65.6 | 61.6 |
| New York | 43.6 | 42.2 | 33.2 | 26.5 |
| North Carolina | 67.6 | 63.0 | 58.6 | 48.5 |
| North Dakota | 35.4 | 32.9 | 27.3 | 29.7 |
| Ohio | 57.9 | 53.4 | 46.0 | 38.9 |
| Oklahoma | 66.8 | 63.7 | 59.7 | 54.2 |
| Oregon | 54.6 | 50.1 | 42.8 | 33.0 |
| Pennsylvania | 44.9 | 40.9 | 34.0 | 30.4 |
| Rhode Island | 43.9 | 39.8 | 33.6 | 31.4 |
| South Carolina | 71.3 | 62.8 | 58.0 | 51.0 |
| South Dakota | 46.8 | 40.9 | 38.1 | 37.5 |
| Tennessee | 72.3 | 66.6 | 59.5 | 54.9 |
| Texas | 75.3 | 75.6 | 68.9 | 61.6 |
| Utah | 48.5 | 40.9 | 38.3 | 33.4 |
| Vermont | 34.0 | 28.1 | 23.4 | 18.6 |
| Virginia | 52.9 | 48.4 | 40.9 | 34.4 |
| Washington | 53.1 | 48.0 | 39.2 | 31.1 |
| West Virginia | 57.3 | 52.7 | 46.5 | 43.4 |
| Wisconsin | 42.6 | 37.9 | 35.2 | 30.3 |
| Wyoming | 56.3 | 47.9 | 41.7 | 43.2 |
| United States | 59.9 | 56.0 | 47.7 | 40.5 |

 $^{^{1}\,\}mathrm{Number}$ of births to teens ages 15-19 per 1,000 females ages 15-19

Sources: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Center for Health Statistics, *National Vital Statistics Report*, Vol. 52, No. 12 (August 4, 2003), "Revised Birth and Fertility Rates for the 1990s and New Rates for Hispanic Populations, 2000 and 2001: United States," Table 10; and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Center for Health Statistics, *National Vital Statistics Report*, Vol. 56, No. 6 (December 5, 2007), Table 11.

About 1 in 6 teens ages 16 to 19 is unemployed. However, during the summer when most of them are not in school, fewer than half have jobs. This has been the case since 2002. The youth jobless rate has reached the highest rate in more than four decades.

Youth Unemployment and Joblessness

| | | Total unemployment rate | s ¹ | Youth jobless rate ² for July |
|------|-------------|-------------------------|----------------|---|
| | All Ages | Ages 16-19 | Ages 20-24 | Ages 16-19 |
| 1959 | 5.5% | 14.6% | 8.5% | 49.2% |
| 1960 | 5.5 | 14.7 | 8.7 | 47.4 |
| 1961 | 6.7 | 16.8 | 10.4 | 49.5 |
| 1962 | 5.5 | 14.7 | 9.0 | 48.0 |
| 1963 | 5.7 | 17.2 | 8.8 | 51.9 |
| 1964 | 5.2 | 16.2 | 8.3 | 50.8 |
| 1965 | 4.5 | 14.8 | 6.7 | 47.9 |
| 1966 | 3.8 | 12.8 | 5.3 | 44.0 |
| 1967 | 3.8 | 12.9 | 5.7 | 44.1 |
| 1968 | 3.6 | 12.7 | 5.8 | 44.7 |
| 1969 | 3.5 | 12.2 | 5.7 | 43.4 |
| 1970 | 4.9 | 15.3 | 8.2 | 45.5 |
| 1971 | 5.9 | 16.9 | 10.0 | 46.4 |
| 1972 | 5.6 | 16.2 | 9.3 | 44.8 |
| 1973 | 4.9 | 14.5 | 7.8 | 42.7 |
| 1974 | 5.6 | 16.0 | 9.1 | 43.0 |
| 1975 | 8.5 | 19.9 | 13.6 | 45.4 |
| 1976 | 7.7 | 19.0 | 12.0 | 43.4 |
| 1977 | 7.1 | 17.8 | 11.0 | 42.4 |
| 1978 | 6.1 | 16.4 | 9.6 | 39.9 |
| 1979 | 5.8 | 16.1 | 9.1 | 40.1 |
| 1980 | 7.1 | 17.8 | 11.5 | 42.2 |
| 1981 | 7.6 | 19.6 | 12.3 | 44.3 |
| 1982 | 9.7 | 23.2 | 14.9 | 47.9 |
| 1983 | 9.6 | 22.4 | 14.5 | 46.5 |
| 1984 | 7.5 | 18.9 | 11.5 | 43.3 |
| 1985 | 7.2 | 18.6 | 11.1 | 43.4 |
| 1986 | 7.0 | 18.3 | 10.7 | 43.3 |
| 1987 | 6.2 | 16.9 | 9.7 | 42.7 |
| 1988 | 5.5 | 15.3 | 8.7 | 40.4 |
| 1989 | 5.3 | 15.0 | 8.6 | 40.4 |
| 1990 | 5.5 | 15.5 | 8.8 | 43.6 |
| 1991 | 6.7 | 18.6 | 10.8 | 47.7 |
| 1992 | 7.4 | 20.0 | 11.3 | 48.0 |
| 1993 | 6.8 | 19.0 | 10.5 | 46.7 |
| 1994 | 6.1 | 17.6 | 9.7 | 46.0 |
| 1995 | 5.6 | 17.3 | 9.1 | 45.2 |
| 1996 | 5.4 | 16.7 | 9.3 | 46.0 |
| 1997 | 4.9 | 16.0 | 8.5 | 47.0 |
| 1998 | 4.5 | 14.6 | 7.9 | 45.3 |
| 1999 | 4.2 | 13.9 | 7.5 | 45.5 |
| 2000 | 4.0 | 13.1 | 7.1 | 46.5 |
| 2000 | 4.7 | 14.7 | 8.3 | 48.5 |
| 2001 | 5.8 | 16.5 | 9.7 | 52.3 |
| 2003 | 6.0 | 17.5 | 10.0 | 56.3 |
| 2003 | 5.5 | 17.0 | 9.4 | 56.1 |
| 2004 | 5.1 | 16.6 | 8.8 | 55.7 |
| 2006 | 4.6 | 15.4 | 8.2 | 55.1 |
| 2007 | 4.6 | 15.7 | 8.2 | 57.7 |
| 200/ | 1.0 | ± J+/ | 0.2 | 21 • 1 |

¹ Percent of the labor force unemployed

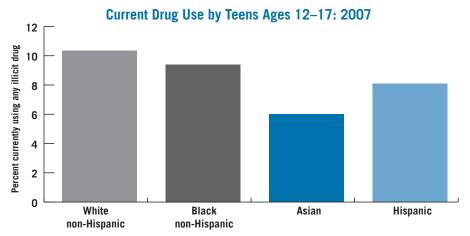
Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Calculations by Children's Defense Fund.

 $^{^2\,\}mbox{Percent}$ of the youth population ages 16-19 without a job

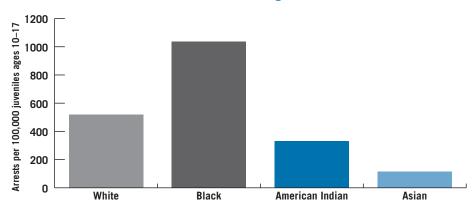
White, Black and Hispanic teens are about equally likely to use drugs, but Black juveniles are twice as likely as their White peers to be arrested for drug offenses and more than five times as likely to be in secure residential placement for drug offenses.

Drug Use and Drug-related Arrests and Incarceration Among Teens



Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2007 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, Table 1.20B, at http://oas.samhsa.gov/NSDUH/2k7NSDUH/tabs/Sect1peTabs1to46.htm.

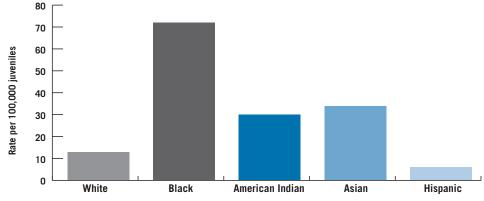
Arrests of Juveniles for Drug Offenses: 2006



Note: Arrest rates for Hispanics not available.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, developed by the National Center for Juvenile Justice, "Juvenile Arrest Rates by Offense, Sex, and Race (1980-2006)," at http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/ojstatbb/crime/excel/JAR_2006.xls.

Incarceration Rates of Juveniles for Drug Offenses: 2006



Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, "Offense Profile by Race/Ethnicity for United States, 2006," Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement Databook, at http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org/ ojstatbb/cjrp/asp/Offense_Race.asp>.

States spend on average 2.8 times as much per prisoner as per public school pupil. Nine states spend at least 4 times as much per prisoner as per pupil, but Utah has the worst ratio, spending almost eight times as much on prisoners as students.

Spending on Prisoners vs. Spending on Public School Students: FY 2003

| | Per prisoner cost | Per pupil cost | Ratio | |
|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------|--|
| Alabama | \$ 9,320 | \$ 6,300 | 1.5 | |
| Alaska | 36,240 | 9,870 | 3.7 | |
| Arizona | 18,222 | 6,282 | 2.9 | |
| Arkansas | 16,408 | 6,482 | 2.5 | |
| California | 28,914 | 7,552 | 3.8 | |
| Colorado | 23,108 | 7,384 | 3.1 | |
| Connecticut | 27,383 | 11,057 | 2.5 | |
| Delaware | 22,350 | 9,693 | 2.3 | |
| District of Columbia | _ | 11,847 | _ | |
| Florida | 20,236 | 6,439 | 3.1 | |
| Georgia | 15,644 | 7,774 | 2.0 | |
| Hawaii | 21,934 | 8,100 | 2.7 | |
| Idaho | 21,763 | 6,081 | 3.6 | |
| Illinois | 23,441 | 8,287 | 2.8 | |
| Indiana | 25,512 | 8,057 | 3.2 | |
| Iowa | 27,205 | 7,574 | 3.6 | |
| Kansas | 24,496 | 7,454 | 3.3 | |
| Kentucky | 21,096 | 6,661 | 3.2 | |
| Louisiana | 9,980 | 6,922 | 1.4 | |
| Maine | 37,687 | 9,344 | 4.0 | |
| Maryland | 23,649 | 9,153 | 2.6 | |
| Massachusetts | 52,637 | 10,460 | 5.0 | |
| Michigan | 28,260 | 8,781 | 3.2 | |
| Minnesota | 29,971 | 8,109 | 3.7 | |
| Mississippi | 10,309 | 5,792 | 1.8 | |
| Missouri | 17,921 | 7,495 | 2.4 | |
| Montana | 17,009 | 7,496 | 2.3 | |
| Nebraska | 19,035 | 8,074 | 2.4 | |
| Nevada | 16,496 | 6,092 | 2.7 | |
| New Hampshire | 27,948 | 8,579 | 3.3 | |
| New Jersey | 32,606 | 12,568 | 2.6 | |
| New Mexico | 33,557 | 7,125 | 4.7 | |
| New York | 27,785 | 11,961 | 2.3 | |
| North Carolina | 23,487 | 6,562 | 3.6 | |
| North Dakota | 27,543 | 6,870 | 4.0 | |
| Ohio | 26,538 | 8,632 | 3.1 | |
| Oklahoma | 8,825 | 6,092 | 1.4 | |
| Oregon | 25,441 | 7,491 | 3.4 | |
| Pennsylvania | 30,451 | 8,997 | 3.4 | |
| Rhode Island | 41,441 | 10,349 | 4.0 | |
| South Carolina | 15,415 | 7,040 | 2.2 | |
| South Dakota | 12,509 | 6,547 | 1.9 | |
| Tennessee | 13,227 | 6,118 | 2.2 | |
| Texas | 16,642 | 7,136 | 2.3 | |
| Utah | 37,567 | 4,838 | 7.8 | |
| Vermont | 42,625 | 10,454 | 4.1 | |
| Virginia | 19,046 | 7,822 | 2.4 | |
| Washington | 31,261 | 7,252 | 4.3 | |
| West Virginia | 36,594 | 8,319 | 4.4 | |
| Wisconsin | 26,846 | 9,004 | 3.0 | |
| Wyoming | 38,967 | 8,985 | 4.3 | |
| United States | 22,523 | 8,044 | 2.8 | |
| | | | | |

Sources: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Digest of Education Statistics 2005* (July 2006), Table 166; U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, State Government Finances: 2003, at http://www.census.gov/govs/ www/state.html>, extracted May 2006; and U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Prison and Jail Inmates at Midyear 2003* (May 2004), NCJ 203947, Table 2. Calculations by Children's Defense Fund.

Between 2004 and 2005, total firearm deaths of children and teens increased by 181, the first annual increase since 1994. Increases were recorded in 27 states. California had the largest number of firearm deaths of children and teens; Maine, Vermont, Hawaii and New Hampshire had the fewest.

Firearm Deaths of Children and Teens: 2003–2005

| | | T-1-1* | | | | ı | | Stt.d | | Accident | | Undetermined | | | |
|------------------------|-------|-----------|-----------|------|---------|------|------|----------|------|----------|------|--------------|------|--------|------|
| | | Total* | | | omicide | | | Suicide | | | | | | Intent | |
| | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
| Alabama | 59 | 52 | 64 | 34 | 31 | 39 | 17 | 16 | 17 | 7 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Alaska | 26 | 22 | 13 | 10 | 7 | 5 | 13 | 15 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Arizona | 64 | 76 | 102 | 38 | 43 | 62 | 21 | 25 | 35 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Arkansas | 27 | 16 | 46 | 11 | 8 | 17 | 9 | 4 | 23 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| California | 429 | 468 | 474 | 355 | 406 | 392 | 55 | 49 | 54 | 15 | 10 | 25 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| Colorado | 32 | 48 | 44 | 20 | 23 | 19 | 10 | 24 | 20 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Connecticut | 12 | 11 | 10 | 10 | 9 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Delaware | 10 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| District of Columbi | | 40 | 26 | 28 | 39 | 26 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Florida | 109 | 111 | 148 | 81 | 76 | 96 | 23 | 30 | 46 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| Georgia | 83 | 89 | 80 | 58 | 57 | 54 | 24 | 27 | 21 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Hawaii | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 13 | | | 4 | 3 | 5 | 9 | | 9 | | | | | | 0 |
| Idaho Illinois | 158 | 16 143 | 16 130 | 131 | 123 | 111 | 20 | 10 17 | 13 | 0 | 3 | 2 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | | | | | | 7 | | | | | |
| Indiana | 54 | 56 | 62 | 32 | 33 | 41 | 15 | 19 | 18 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Iowa | 12 | 16 | 15 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 11 | 13 | 10 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Kansas | 26 | 26 | 18 | 10 | 13 | 11 | 13 | 12 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Kentucky | 34 | 40 | 36 | 9 | 18 | 17 | 13 | 20 | 16 | 10 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| Louisiana | 88 | 88 | 110 | 57 | 54 | 67 | 22 | 25 | 30 | 8 | 8 | 12 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Maine | 9 | 10 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 10 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Maryland | 80 | 71 | 75 | 67 | 61 | 64 | 13 | 9 | 10 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Massachusetts | 22 | 32 | 27 | 17 | 26 | 26 | 5 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Michigan | 79 | 104 | 92 | 49 | 57 | 65 | 25 | 34 | 23 | 2 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 2 |
| Minnesota | 40 | 39 | 42 | 17 | 15 | 16 | 19 | 24 | 23 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Mississippi | 38 | 43 | 30 | 23 | 23 | 12 | 8 | 15 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 7 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Missouri | 53 | 61 | 73 | 32 | 38 | 44 | 18 | 21 | 16 | 1 | 2 | 10 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| Montana | 14 | 12 | 18 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 10 | 15 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Nebraska | 17 | 15 | 19 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 10 | 9 | 15 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Nevada | 27 | 27 | 34 | 13 | 18 | 20 | 12 | 7 | 14 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| New Hampshire | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| New Jersey | 36 | 48 | 45 | 35 | 41 | 40 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| New Mexico | 35 | 28 | 25 | 18 | 11 | 11 | 15 | 17 | 12 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| New York | 131 | 89 | 93 | 94 | 69 | 66 | 32 | 16 | 20 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| North Carolina | 100 | 70 | 91 | 59 | 40 | 58 | 33 | 22 | 26 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| North Dakota | 7 | 10 | 11 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Ohio | 75 | 80 | 118 | 49 | 46 | 78 | 21 | 28 | 28 | 5 | 5 | 12 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Oklahoma | 34 | 29 | 35 | 12 | 13 | 19 | 21 | 13 | 12 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| | 15 | 29 | 17 | 7 | 12 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 12 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Oregon Pennsylvania | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 130 | 132 | 138 | 81 | 87 | 99 | 41 | 39 | 32 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 3 |
| Rhode Island | 6 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| South Carolina | 50 | 44 | 41 | 36 | 19 | 24 | 10 | 18 | 12 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| South Dakota | 9 | 10 | 11 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tennessee | 58 | 73 | 77 | 32 | 30 | 48 | 19 | 29 | 22 | 6 | 10 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 0 |
| Texas | 244 | 236 | 264 | 146 | 144 | 164 | 85 | 79 | 84 | 10 | 10 | 13 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Utah | 25 | 15 | 10 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 18 | 11 | 7 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Vermont | 4 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Virginia | 83 | 76 | 79 | 58 | 50 | 54 | 22 | 21 | 22 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Washington | 48 | 49 | 44 | 17 | 18 | 20 | 25 | 27 | 21 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 2 |
| West Virginia | 14 | 12 | 19 | 7 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Wisconsin | 63 | 43 | 56 | 31 | 14 | 33 | 26 | 27 | 20 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Wyoming | 11 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| United States | 2,827 | 2,825 | 3,006 | | 1,804 | | 810 | 846 | 822 | 151 | 143 | 173 | 44 | 32 | 39 |

^{*}Total firearm deaths and homicide firearm deaths exclude firearm deaths by legal (police or corrections) intervention.

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, WISQARS, at http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars/, data accessed December 2005, January 2007, and February 2008. Calculations by Defense Fund.

These 10 states account for 1,669 firearm deaths or 55.5 percent of the total 3,006 deaths.

Largest Number of Firearm Deaths of Children and Teens: Top 10 States in 2005

| California | 474 |
|--------------|-----|
| Texas | 264 |
| Florida | 148 |
| Pennsylvania | 138 |
| Illinois | 130 |
| Ohio | 118 |
| Louisiana | 110 |
| Arizona | 102 |
| New York | 93 |
| Michigan | 92 |
| | |

In 2005, 3,006 children and teens were killed by firearms, the equivalent of 120 public school classrooms of 25 students each. More than half of these deaths were of White children and teens. Sixty-nine preschoolers were killed by firearms compared to 53 law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty.

Another 16,000 children and teens suffered non-fatal firearm injuries.

Firearm Deaths of Children and Teens: A Portrait (2005)

| | Under Age 1 | Ages 1-4 | Ages 5-9 | Ages 10-14 | Ages 15-19 | Total under age 20 |
|-------------------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|
| All Races | 7 | 62 | 62 | 273 | 2,602 | 3,006 |
| Accident | 1 | 22 | 15 | 37 | 98 | 173 |
| Suicide | 0 | 0 | 0 | 84 | 738 | 822 |
| Homicide | 6 | 37 | 44 | 143 | 1,742 | 1,972 |
| Undetermined intent | 0 | 3 | 3 | 9 | 24 | 39 |
| White | 4 | 33 | 31 | 178 | 1,378 | 1,624 |
| Accident | 0 | 10 | 6 | 31 | 67 | 114 |
| Suicide | 0 | 0 | 0 | 75 | 628 | 703 |
| Homicide | 4 | 23 | 24 | 63 | 668 | 782 |
| Undetermined intent | 0 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 15 | 25 |
| Black | 3 | 27 | 25 | 85 | 1,131 | 1,271 |
| Accident | 1 | 12 | 8 | 6 | 24 | 51 |
| Suicide | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 80 | 86 |
| Homicide | 2 | 13 | 16 | 73 | 1,019 | 1,123 |
| Undetermined intent | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 11 |
| American Indian, Alaska | 0 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 43 | 51 |
| Accident | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 4 |
| Suicide | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 20 | 22 |
| Homicide | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 19 | 23 |
| Undetermined intent | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Asian, Pacific Islander | 0 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 50 | 60 |
| Accident | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| Suicide | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 11 |
| Homicide | 0 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 36 | 44 |
| Undetermined intent | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Hispanic* | 2 | 7 | 8 | 39 | 558 | 614 |
| Accident | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 17 | 22 |
| Suicide | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 78 | 84 |
| Homicide | 1 | 6 | 7 | 31 | 457 | 502 |
| Undetermined intent | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 6 |

^{*}Persons of Hispanic origin can be of any race.

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, WISQARS, at http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars, accessed January 2008. Calculations by Children's Defense Fund.

Between 1979 and 2005, more than 104,000 children and teens were killed by firearms in the United States.

This is the equivalent of 4,177 classrooms of 25 students each.

Firearm Deaths of Children and Teens: 1979–2005

| | | | | | | | Race | /Hispanic (| Origin | |
|-------|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|--------|--------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | | | | | | | | American | | |
| | | | Manner | | | | | Indian, | Asian, | |
| | | | | | | | | Alaska | Pacific | |
| | Total | Homicide | Suicide | Accident | Unknown | Black | White | Native ¹ | Islander ¹ | Hispanic ² |
| 1979 | 3,710 | 1,651 | 1,220 | 726 | 113 | 929 | 2,700 | | | |
| 1980 | 3,749 | 1,743 | 1,214 | 689 | 103 | 944 | 2,739 | _ | _ | _ |
| 1981 | 3,589 | 1,660 | 1,213 | 604 | 112 | 944 | 2,569 | 49 | 27 | |
| 1982 | 3,332 | 1,498 | 1,207 | 550 | 77 | 811 | 2,450 | 55 | 23 | _ |
| 1983 | 2,962 | 1,238 | 1,150 | 504 | 70 | 739 | 2,155 | 42 | 25 | _ |
| 1984 | 3,030 | 1,289 | 1,114 | 552 | 75 | 716 | 2,238 | 44 | 32 | |
| 1985 | 3,169 | 1,322 | 1,256 | 519 | 72 | 850 | 2,241 | 42 | 36 | _ |
| 1986 | 3,349 | 1,513 | 1,293 | 472 | 71 | 938 | 2,337 | 43 | 31 | _ |
| 1987 | 3,400 | 1,573 | 1,281 | 467 | 79 | 1,117 | 2,199 | 28 | 54 | _ |
| 1988 | 3,974 | 1,953 | 1,387 | 543 | 91 | 1,458 | 2,405 | 76 | 53 | _ |
| 1989 | 4,384 | 2,367 | 1,380 | 567 | 70 | 1,694 | 2,563 | 50 | 76 | _ |
| 1990 | 4,935 | 2,852 | 1,476 | 541 | 66 | 2,047 | 2,753 | 47 | 87 | 748 |
| 1991 | 5,329 | 3,247 | 1,436 | 551 | 95 | 2,297 | 2,878 | 60 | 91 | 883 |
| 1992 | 5,353 | 3,336 | 1,426 | 501 | 90 | 2,359 | 2,834 | 55 | 105 | 924 |
| 1993 | 5,715 | 3,625 | 1,460 | 526 | 104 | 2,600 | 2,925 | 51 | 139 | 977 |
| 1994 | 5,793 | 3,579 | 1,565 | 512 | 137 | 2,559 | 3,024 | 75 | 135 | 993 |
| 1995 | 5,254 | 3,249 | 1,450 | 440 | 115 | 2,153 | 2,898 | 73 | 130 | 1,005 |
| 1996 | 4,613 | 2,836 | 1,309 | 376 | 92 | 1,976 | 2,475 | 64 | 98 | 817 |
| 1997 | 4,205 | 2,562 | 1,262 | 306 | 75 | 1,687 | 2,357 | 59 | 102 | 748 |
| 1998 | 3,761 | 2,184 | 1,241 | 262 | 74 | 1,416 | 2,197 | 60 | 88 | 661 |
| 1999 | 3,365 | 1,990 | 1,078 | 214 | 83 | 1,301 | 1,934 | 57 | 73 | 605 |
| 2000 | 3,012 | 1,776 | 1,007 | 193 | 36 | 1,149 | 1,762 | 44 | 57 | 568 |
| 2001 | 2,911 | 1,771 | 928 | 182 | 30 | 1,128 | 1,695 | 49 | 39 | 518 |
| 2002 | 2,867 | 1,830 | 828 | 167 | 42 | 1,112 | 1,639 | 52 | 64 | 581 |
| 2003 | 2,827 | 1,822 | 810 | 151 | 44 | 1,172 | 1,554 | 50 | 51 | 553 |
| 2004 | 2,825 | 1,804 | 846 | 143 | 32 | 1,149 | 1,568 | 57 | 51 | 574 |
| 2005 | 3,006 | 1,972 | 822 | 173 | 39 | 1,271 | 1,624 | 51 | 60 | 614 |
| Total | 104,419 | 58,242 | 32,659 | 11,431 | 2,087 | 38,516 | 62,713 | 1,333 | 1,727 | 11,769 |

¹ Data for American Indian/Alaska Native and Asian/Pacific Islander not available for 1979–1980.

Sources: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC WONDER, at http://wonder.cdc.gov/mortSQL.html, accessed December 2004; and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Control and Prevention, WISQARS, at http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars/, accessed December 2004, January 2006, December 2006 and January 2008. Calculations by Children's Defense Fund.

² Persons of Hispanic origin can be of any race. Hispanic data not available prior to 1990. For 1990 to 1996, a small number of states with small Hispanic populations did not include Hispanic identifiers in their reporting to the federal government.