

Personal Safety, Depression and Suicide

Seatbelt Use

Only 85.3% of rural youth in all age groups reported they always or mostly use a seat belt when riding in a car. 1.4% of the youth from age 12 to 17 reported they never use a set belt.

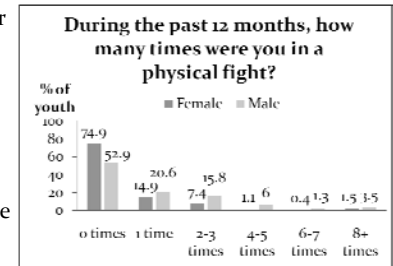
There is no significant difference in age as youth in all age groups have similar responses to wearing a seat belt when riding in a car.

Female youth are significantly more likely to always use a seat belt than male youth



Fighting

- ✓ 34% of youth had been involved in a physical fight over the past year.
- ✓ An average of 2.5% of youth in all age groups reported frequently fighting (8+ times) during the past year.
- ✓ Male youth are significantly more likely than female youth to have been involved in a physical fight in the past year. 25% of female youth were in a physical fight compared to 47% of male youth. Male youth were more likely to fight frequently with 3.5% reporting fighting 12+ times as compared to only 1.5% of female youth.



'Guys don't want to seem weak'

'Well a guy isn't going to call his friend if he's depressed, like a girl will call her friend and they'll talk or something.'

'Do you think, like men are allowed in our society, to express feelings like women are?'

'Not really.'

'They're allowed to, to girls, but if a guy sees another guy expressing his feelings it's kind of like, what's going on?'

- Conversation in Youth Focus Group

Male youth more likely to be threatened or injured

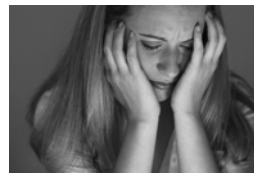
About 10% of youth from all age groups had been threatened or injured with a weapon during the past 12 months. There is a relationship between being threatened or injured with a weapon and age with older youth more likely to have been threatened or injured.

More male youth reported being threatened or injured than female youth. 13% of males experienced threats or injuries, almost double the female percentage of 6.9%

Females more likely to report sad feelings

Overall, about 14% of the youth responded they had experienced sad feelings to the extent that it affected their activities. There is however a significant difference between male and female youth and more than twice as many females (19.5%) report sad feelings to the extent that it affected their activities.

When youth reports of sad feelings were compared to other responses in the study and controlled for sex and age, sexually active females were more likely to report having sad feelings. In addition, youth who reported sad feelings generally rated their health as poorer



9% of youth consider suicide

Across all age groups, about 9% of youth report that they had seriously considered attempting suicide over the past year. There are no strong differences between youth of different ages and reported thoughts of suicide. However there is a significant difference in the responses between female and male youth with females almost three times more likely to report they have seriously considered attempting suicide than males. (12.8% vs. 4.5%). It is important to point out that although females are more likely to report thoughts of suicide, male youth are more likely to actually commit suicide. There are big differences between males and females as almost 77% of suicides by youth 15 to 19 are by male youth (Statistics Canada, 2006).

