

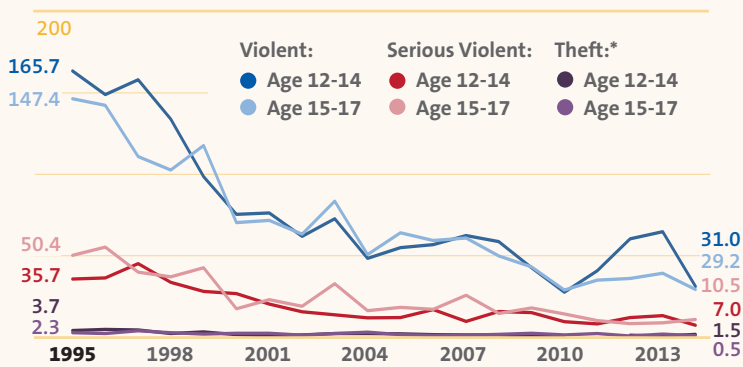
# Youth Victimization

Child, youth, and teen victimization is an important subset of crime. While children and youth are often victims of the same crimes as adults (e.g., theft, assault), they are also vulnerable to many other crimes including neglect, medical neglect, and psychological abuse. As a result of this and more stringent guidelines regarding data collection from minors, researchers often struggle to gather comprehensive data regarding childhood victimization.<sup>A</sup> Age and lack of independence both contribute to higher levels of vulnerability among children, and certain environments pose a greater threat than others. Childhood exposure to victimization increases the probability of experiencing future victimization as well as multiple forms of victimization (polyvictimization).<sup>B</sup> For more on youth victimization, see the *School and Campus Crime fact sheet* in this series.

## Trends

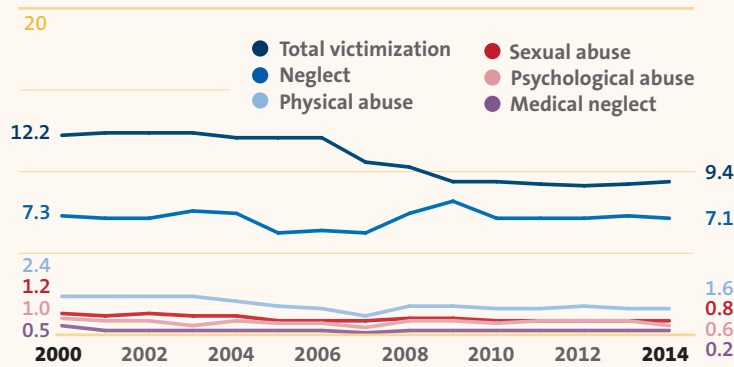
Since 1995, violent and serious violent victimization reported by adolescents age 12 – 18 has **decreased by about 80%**. Other forms of victimization, including physical and sexual abuse, have declined 55% and 57%, respectively. Neglect has declined 7%, medical neglect 51%, and psychological abuse 13%.<sup>C</sup>

**Victimization of Youth, Age 12-18, by Type of Victimization<sup>C</sup>**  
rate per 1,000 students



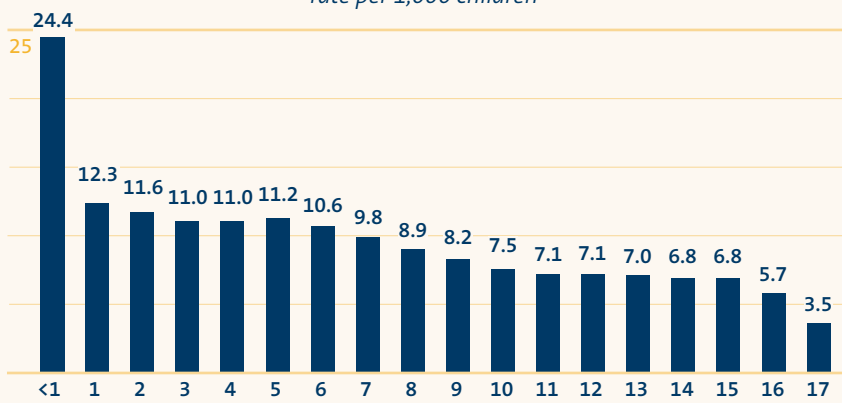
\*Theft estimates may be unreliable and should be interpreted with caution.

**Child Victimization<sup>D</sup>**  
rate per 1,000 students



In 2014, children **under one year old** accounted for **24% of child victimization**, and the average rate of victimization for this age group was **2.6x higher** than the rate of victimization for all children. The victimization rate for boys ages 1–5 was slightly higher (nearly 3%) than for girls. Similarly, the rate of victimization for girls ages 11–17 was 42% higher than the rate for boys the same age.<sup>E</sup>

**Victimization by Age<sup>E</sup>**  
rate per 1,000 children



### Did You Know?

**82.1%** of child fatality victims in 2014 were under **5 years old**.<sup>E</sup>

**12%** of child fatality victims received **family preservation services** within the previous 5 years.<sup>E</sup>

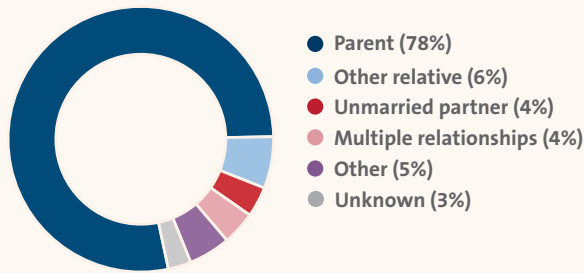
In 2014, **2/3 of children age 0-17** were exposed to some form of violence.<sup>B</sup>

In 2010, nearly **70%** of youth who were harassed online were girls.<sup>F</sup>

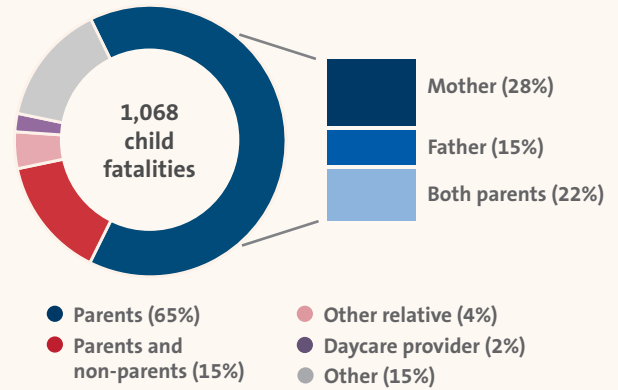
# Current Data on Youth Victimization

In 2014, **78% of child victimization perpetrators were parents** of the victim, and 79% of child fatalities were committed by at least one parent. Specifically, 28% of child fatalities were committed by the mother, 15% by the father, and 22% by both parents.<sup>E</sup>

Perpetrator Relationship to Victim<sup>E</sup>

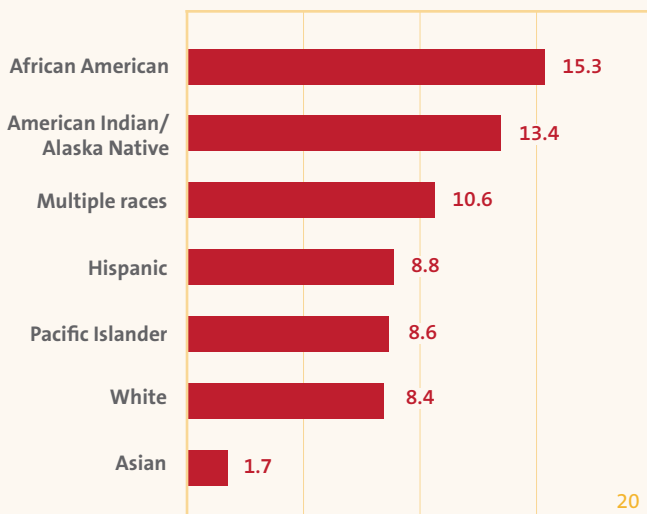


Fatalities by Relationship to Perpetrator<sup>E</sup>



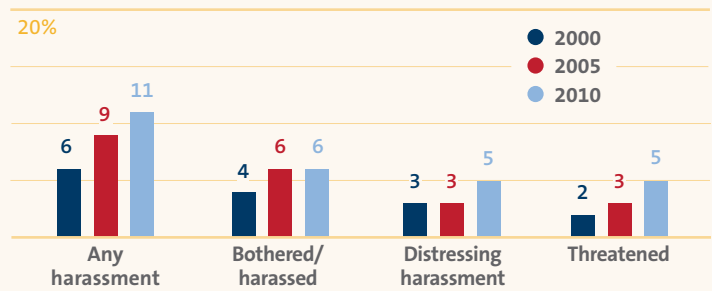
Compared to all measured races and ethnicities, African-American children are the most vulnerable to victimization, and Asian children are the least vulnerable. In 2014, the rate of victimization among African-American children was **82% higher** than the rate of victimization among white children, 74% higher than among Hispanic children, and 44% higher than children who identified as more than one race. The victimization rate for the second most vulnerable group, American Indian and Alaska Native children, was 60% higher than among white children, 52% higher than among Hispanic children, and 26% higher than among children of multiple races.<sup>E</sup>

Victimization by Race and Ethnicity<sup>E</sup>  
rate per 1,000 children



As of 2010, online youth victimization had doubled compared to 2000. While this increase may be partially related to increased online anonymity and associated reduced inhibitions, researchers also believe that more youth interactions (both positive and negative) have moved online.<sup>F</sup>

Online Victimization, Age 10-17<sup>F</sup>



## SOURCES

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- E Children's Bureau, *Child Maltreatment 2014*, (U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, 2016), <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2014.pdf>
- F Lisa M. Jones, Kimberly J. Mitchell, and David Finkelhor, "Online Harassment in Context: Trends from Three Youth Internet Safety Surveys," *Psychology of Violence* vol 3, 1(2013): 53-69