

## Unintentional/Intentional Injury & Violence

### What are the problems?

The 2011 Youth Risk Behavior Survey indicates the following health risk behaviors among 2011 Iowa high school students:

#### *Unintentional injury*

- 89% never or rarely wore a bicycle helmet (among those who rode a bicycle during 12 months before the survey);
- 24% rode one or more times, during the 30 days before the survey, in a car or other vehicle driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol;

#### *Violent behavior, weapons, and safety*

- 16% carried a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club on one or more of the 30 days before the survey;
- 6% were threatened or injured with a weapon on school property one or more times during the 12 months before the survey;

#### *Bullying*

- 23% were bullied on school property during the 12 months before the survey;
- 17% were electronically bullied during the 12 months before the survey;

#### *Suicide*

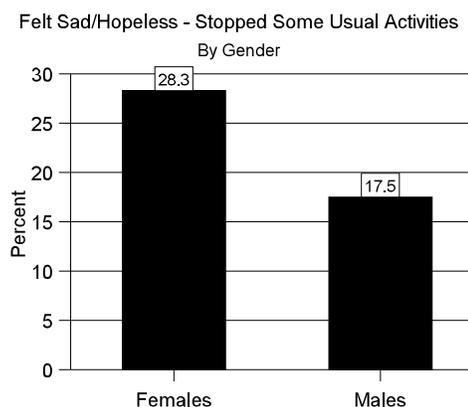
- 23% felt so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row, during the 12 months before the survey, that they stopped doing some usual activities;
- 15% seriously considered attempting suicide, during the 12 months before the survey;

### What are the solutions?

- Provide education on injury prevention and the importance of wearing a helmet while cycling.
- Implement a violence prevention program in schools and increase faculty/staff presence and/or cameras in various problem areas of the school.
- Provide students a safe, anonymous way to report problems and follow up with support for them.
- Support anti-bullying programs in schools, in accordance with the recently enacted state law.

### Females ...

were significantly more likely than males to indicate they were electronically bullied (via e-mail, chat rooms, texting, etc.) in the 12 months before the survey.



### Hispanics/Latinos ...

were significantly more likely than Caucasians/Whites to report that they had attempted suicide in the 12 months before the survey.

### Positive Trends ...

The percentage of 2011 Iowa high school students who engaged in many of these risky behaviors that could lead to unintentional injuries, violence, or suicide significantly and substantially decreased over the years 1997-2011. For example, the percentage who reported driving a car when they had been drinking alcohol went from 20.2% in 1997 to 10.5% in 2011.

<sup>1</sup> The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) was developed by the Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH), National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The data in this report are statistically weighted to represent all 2011 Iowa public high school students.