

## REPORTED INCIDENTS/ACTS OF SCHOOL VIOLENCE IN NORTH CAROLINA: 2000-2001

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction's **Annual Report on School Violence: 2000-2001** contains information reflecting reported incidents/acts of school violence in the state. North Carolina has been collecting data concerning incidents/acts of school violence since the 1993-1994 school year. In 1993, the North Carolina General Assembly and the State Board of Education required the reporting of such incidents/acts in fourteen categories:

- assault involving the use of a weapon
- assault resulting in serious personal injury
- assault on school personnel
- death by other than natural causes
- kidnapping
- possession of a controlled substance in violation of the law
- possession of a firearm
- possession of a weapon (not a firearm)
- rape
- robbery
- robbery with a dangerous weapon
- sexual assault
- sexual offense
- taking indecent liberties with a minor.

The **Annual Report on School Violence: 2000-2001** highlights the following:

- in 2000-2001, 7565 incidents/acts of school violence were reported to have occurred on North Carolina school property; this number reflects a five percent increase over the previous reporting year
- 6.08 reported incidents/acts per 1000 students occurred in 2000-2001; this reflects the reversal of a trend which began in 1994-1995 with 7.8 reported incidents/acts per 1000 students; in 1995-1996, 7.1 reported incidents/acts per 1000 students occurred; in 1996-1997, 6.8 reported incidents/acts occurred; in 1997-1998, 6.3 reported incidents/acts per 1000 students occurred; in 1998-1999, 6.2 reported incidents/acts per 1000 students occurred; and in 1999-2000, 5.98 reported incidents/acts per 1000 students occurred
- of the thirteen categories in which incidents/acts were reported (there were no reported deaths by other than natural causes), six categories reflected increases: possession of a weapon (not a firearm); possession of a controlled substance; assault resulting in serious injury; sexual assault; indecent liberties; kidnapping
- three categories (possession of a weapon (not a firearm); possession of a controlled substance; assault on school personnel) continued to reflect the highest numbers of reported incidents/acts; these categories reflect 88 percent of the incidents/acts reported
- seven categories (assault resulting in serious injury; sexual assault; assault involving the use of a weapon; possession of a firearm; sexual offense; robbery with a dangerous weapon; indecent liberties) contain moderate numbers of reported incidents/acts; these categories reflect almost 12 percent of the incidents/acts reported
- three categories (kidnapping; robbery with a dangerous weapon; rape) reflect low numbers of reported incidents/acts and one category (death by other than natural causes) contains no reported incidents/acts
- possession of a weapon (not a firearm) was the most reported incident/act with 2824 occurrences reflective of a 4 percent increase; this category has been the most reported category since 1997-1998; in 2000-2001, it reflected 37 percent of all incidents/acts
- possession of a controlled substance was the second most reported incident/act with 2803 occurrences reflective of a 12 percent increase; this category accounted for the greatest increase in reported incidents/acts; in 2000-2001, it reflected 37 percent of all incidents/acts
- assault on school personnel was the third most reported incident/act with 1060 occurrences reflective of a three percent decrease
- only one category possession of a firearm, reflects a continuous decline from the baseline year of 1993-1994; in 2000-2001, the number of reported possessions of firearms decreased by one incident/act from 87 to 86

The reported incidents/acts of school violence in North Carolina for 2000-2001 highlight that certain reported incidents/acts, possession of a weapon (not a firearm) and possession of a controlled substance, must be addressed. From the beginning of the reporting process, these two categories have dominated the reporting process. In 2000-2001, 74 percent of reported incidents/acts involved either possession of a weapon (not a firearm) or possession of a controlled substance. The message provided by their continued dominance is that more must be done to address the root causes associated with youth weapon carrying and drug use.