

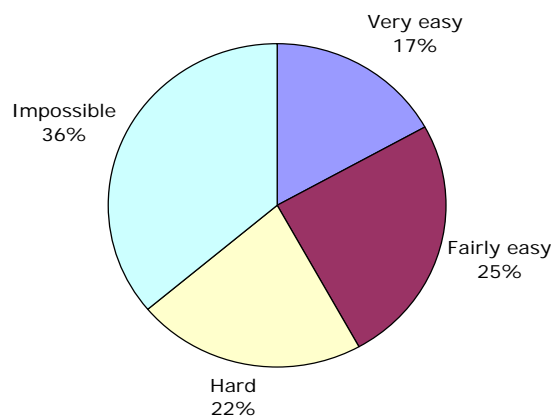


*What Kind of World Do You Want to Live in?
Results on Weapon Carrying from the Boston Youth Survey*

Gun Access

Forty-two percent of respondents (49% of boys vs. 37% of girls) said it would be very or fairly easy for them to get a gun. This does not represent any change from 2004.

How Easy is it or Would it be for You to Get a Gun?



Weapon Carrying

Thirty-one percent of respondents carried a knife in the previous 12 months. Six percent reported carrying a gun, a decline from eight percent in 2004.

	% Carried a knife (past 12 months)	% Carried a gun (past 12 months)
Total	31	6
Gender		
Boys	43	10
Girls	23	3
Years Lived in the U.S.		
U.S. born	36	6
Live in U.S. 5+ yrs.	14	3
Live in U.S. <5 yrs.	22	4
Grade Level		
9 th grade	30	5
10 th grade	29	4
11 th grade	36	6
12 th grade	28	7



(continued from previous page)

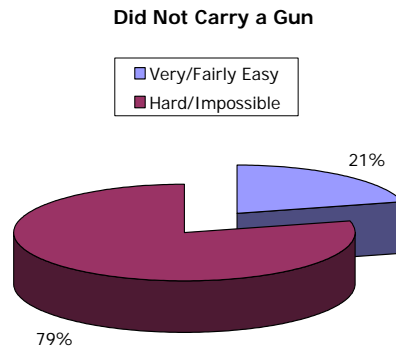
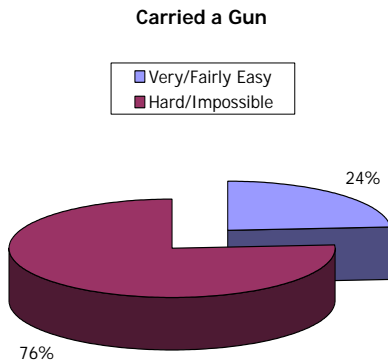
Reasons for Gun Carrying

Nearly a third of gun carriers carried because they felt unsafe in their neighborhood. While most gun carriers were male, the majority of those who said they were carrying a gun for someone else were female.

Reasons for Carrying a Gun	Percent
Felt unsafe in neighborhood	30%
Someone threatened to hurt me	28%
Carried it for someone else	26%
Felt unsafe at school	16%
Gave me power	16%
Peers/friends carried guns	10%

Do Kids Want to Carry Guns?

We asked students the following: “What kind of world would you like to live in: one where it is very easy, fairly easy, hard, or impossible for teens to get a gun?” Not only did we find that the vast majority prefer a world in which it was hard or impossible for them to get a gun, but this was true for gun carriers and non-gun carriers alike. Interventions to reduce youth access to guns may have widespread support among youth, even among those likely to be targeted by any such intervention.



The Boston Data Project

The Boston Data Project, a collaborative effort of the City of Boston's Office of Human Services and the Harvard Youth Violence Prevention Center, provides comprehensive data on youth well-being to the City of Boston. Our most recent projects include the Boston Youth Survey 2006 (BYS) and the Boston Neighborhood Survey 2006 (BNS).

The BYS is a biennial survey administered to a representative sample of high school students in Boston Public Schools. It covers topics including education, mental health, service use, exposure to violence, and nutrition and physical activity. There were 1,244 students in the 2006 BYS; 56% were girls, 53% were Black/African-American, 13% were White, and 30% were Hispanic/Latino.

The BNS is a biennial telephone survey of a random sample of Boston adults designed to provide rich information about life in Boston's neighborhoods, as well as respondents' participation in civic affairs and community activities. There were 1,707 adults in the 2006 BNS sample; 55% were female, 64% were White, 21% were Black/African-American, and 8% were Hispanic/Latino. More than one-fourth had children living with them (28%).

For more information on The Boston Data Project, visit our Web site <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/hyvp/>, or call Mary Vriniotis at 617.432.0085.