

The Ring of Valor: Bullying facts

Charles A. Smith, Ph.D.
Kansas State University

Fact Sheet #3

Overall, almost 11 percent of a representative sample of youth reported bullying others sometimes, and almost 9 percent admitted to bullying others once a week or more. Experiencing bullying was reported with similar frequency, with almost 9 percent bullied sometimes and just over 8 percent bullied once a week or more.

74 percent of 8 - to 11-year-old students said teasing and bullying occur at their schools and that it becomes even more pervasive as kids start high school. More than half said that bullying is a "big problem" at school.

The prevalence of bullying has increased. In 2001, 8 percent of students reported that they had been bullied at school in the last 6 months, up from 5 percent in 1999.

According to a National Association of School Psychologists report, 160,000 children in the United States miss school every day for fear of being bullied. Bullying creates a climate of fear and disrespect in schools.

In 1999–2000, public school principals were asked to report how often certain disciplinary problems occurred at their schools. 29 percent of public schools reported that student bullying occurred on a daily or weekly basis. 86 percent said, "other kids picking on them, making fun of them or bullying them" causes teenagers to turn to lethal violence in the schools.

Bullying generally begins in the elementary grades, peaks in the sixth through eight grades, and persists into high school. Kids who are socially isolated and have trouble making friends are more likely to be targets of bullying. Boys were more likely to say they had been bullied physically by boys (being hit, slapped, or pushed), while girls more frequently said they were bullied verbally and psychologically (through sexual comments or rumors).

According to a 2001 poll, 32 percent of parents (39 percent of parents with a child in grade six or higher) fear for their child's physical safety when the child is at school. Though recent studies show that as many as 75 percent of children have been victims of bullying during their school careers, about half of parents in this survey see bullying as no problem for their children.

At least 16 children every year in the United Kingdom choose death over being battered by their peers. In 1999, roughly one 1 of every 13 U.S. high school students reported making a suicide attempt in the previous 12 months—a rate that has tripled over the last 20 years.

Teenagers say revenge is the strongest motivation for school shootings 87 percent said shootings are motivated by a desire to "get back at those who have hurt them."

Those who bully and are bullied appear to be at greatest risk of experiencing the following: loneliness; trouble making friends; lack of success in school; and involvement in problem behaviors such as smoking and drinking.

People who were bullied as children are more likely to suffer from depression and low self esteem well into adulthood, and the bullies themselves are more likely to engage in criminal behavior later in life." Among students, homicide perpetrators were more than twice as likely as homicide victims to have been bullied by peers.



In this *Bullying* series:

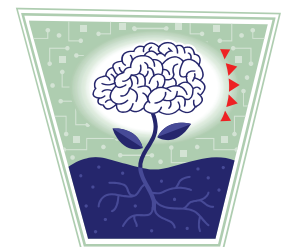
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