

Bullying Statistics

- Bullying is aggressive behavior that is intentional and that involves an imbalance of power or strength. Typically, it is repeated over time.
- Often, children are bullied not just once or twice but over and over.
- A child who is being bullied has a hard time defending himself or herself.
- Bullying is very common during the elementary and middle school years. In one study of fourth through sixth graders, 25% of students admitted to bullying another student often during the school term.
- Although school violence has declined 4% during the past several years, the incidence of behaviors such as bullying has increased by 5%.
- Children with disabilities or special needs may be at a higher risk of being bullied than other children.
- Being a victim of a bully can affect students' self-esteem and how they approach school.
- Children and youth are often reluctant to try to stop bullying because they are afraid of being bullied themselves, because they want to be part of a popular group, or because they simply are not sure how to help.
- Research indicates that children who are bullied tend to be more socially isolated than other children.
- These children may seem to be easy targets for bullying because they have few friends to help protect them. They also may be shy, sensitive, or insecure children.
- Boys who are bullied are often (though not always) physically weaker than their peers.
- Stresses of being bullied can interfere with student's engagement and learning in school.
- Children and youth who are bullied are more likely than other children to be depressed, lonely, anxious, have low self-esteem, feel unwell, and think about suicide.
- Adults are often unaware of bullying problems. In one study, 70% of teachers believed that teachers intervene "almost always" in bullying situations; only 25% of students agreed with this assessment.
- 25% of teachers see nothing wrong with bullying or putdowns and consequently intervene in only 4% of bullying incidents.
- Students often feel that adult intervention is infrequent and unhelpful and they often fear that telling adults will only bring more harassment from bullies.

Source: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Health Resources & Services Administration

