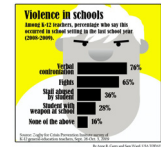


Statistics

Bullying



- American schools house approximately 2.1 million bullies and 2.7 million of their victims.¹
- More youth violence occurs on school grounds as opposed to on the way to school.²
- Among K-12 Teachers, the percentage who this occurs in school setting; 76% Verbal Confrontation, 65% Fights, 36% Staff abuse by student, 28% student with weapon at school.³
- Bullying in school tends to increase through elementary grades, peak in middle school, and drop off by the 11th and 12th grades.⁴
- 90% of all students in grades 4-8 reported being threatened and bullied in school.⁵
- About 22% of students in grades 4-8 reported academic difficulties as a result of peer abuse.⁶
- In a U.S. national study with youth in grades 6 - 10, almost 30% (more than 5.7 million) were involved in moderate or frequent bullying during the current school term, as a bully, victim, or both.⁷
- 282,000 students are physically attacked in secondary school each month.⁸
- Each day, 160,000 children in the United States stay home from school for fear of being bullied.⁹
- 864,000 students (5.4%) report staying home at least one day a month because they fear for their safety.¹⁰
- Every 7 minutes a child is bullied: Adult intervention-4%(Teacher), Peer intervention-11% (Friend/classmate), No intervention- 85%.¹¹



In a 2009 nationally-representative sample of youth in grades 9-12, the Center for Disease Control reports the following:

- 19.9% reported being bullied on school property in the 12 months preceding the survey; the prevalence was higher among females (21.2%) than males (18.7%).
- 11.1% reported being in a physical fight on school property in the 12 months preceding the survey; 15.1% of male students and 6.7% of female students.
- 5.0% did not go to school on one or more days in the 30 days preceding the survey because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to or from school.
- 7.7% reported being threatened or injured with a weapon on school property one or more times in the 12 months preceding the survey.
- 5.6% reported carrying a weapon (gun, knife or club) on school property on one or more days in the 30 days of the survey.

¹ Dan Olweus, researcher, journal article of the National School Safety Center

² <http://www.atriumsoc.org/pages/bullyingstatistics.html>

³ Zogby for Crisis Prevention Institute of K-12 general-education teachers, Sept. 26-Oct. 5, 2009

⁴ Banks, 2000; NRCSS, 1999

⁵ Hoover, Oliver & Hazler, 1992; Hoover, Oliver & Thompson, 1993

⁶ The Bully prevention Handbook, 1996

⁷ Vail, K. (1999, September). Words that wound. American School Board Journal, 37-40.

⁸ Nansel, T.R., Overpeck, M., Pilla, R.S., Ruan, W.J., Simons-Morton, B., & Scheidt P. (2001). Bullying behaviors among US youth: Prevalence and association with psychosocial adjustment. Journal of the American Medical Association, 285(16), 2094-2100.

⁹ Vail, K. (1999, September). Words that wound. American School Board Journal, 37-40

¹⁰ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2004

¹¹ <http://www.atriumsoc.org/pages/bullyingstatistics.html>

Statistics

Bullying and Bystanders



- Child bystanders were present in 85% or more of the bullying incidents in observation studies of children in playgrounds and classrooms.
- Between 80% and 90% of bystanders reported that watching bullying was unpleasant and made them feel uncomfortable. Many children also felt they should step in to help a child who was being bullied.
- Bystanders stood up for the victim only 10% to 19% of the time. Instead, bystanders acted as silent witnesses 54% of the time and joined the bullying with words or actions 21% of the time.
- Even when bystanders simply watched bullying without trying to stop it, they made things worse by providing an audience for the bully. Bullying lasted longer when more bystanders were present and when bystanders did nothing to stop it.
- When bystanders laughed at or cheered on bullying, they encouraged the bullying to continue.
- More than one-half the time, bullying stops within 10 seconds of a bystander stepping in to help.
- Adults are often not aware of bullying because it usually happens in areas with little or no adult supervision, such as bathrooms, hallways, playgrounds, cafeterias. However, even when adults directly witness bullying, they often overlook or minimize its harmful effects. In playground observations, adults intervened in only 4% of the bullying incidents they witnessed.

(From The Eyes on Bullying Toolkit: K. Storey, R. Slaby, M. Adler, J. Minotti, and R. Katz, Education Development Center, Inc.)

Bullying: Crime and Suicide (anger and despair)

- 18% of the children said they would join-in if their friends were bullying someone.¹
- Boy Bullies (in grades 6 – 9) were found to be 4 times more likely than their non-bullying peers to be convicted of at least one crime by the age of 24.²
- In 37 incidents of targeted school violence between 1974 and 2000, almost 3/4 of shooters reported being bullied, persecuted, threatened, attacked, or injured before the incident.³
- Children who bully and who also are bullied by peers (often referred to as “bully-victims”) have high levels of suicidal thoughts, and have attempted suicide.⁴
- Suicide is the third leading cause of death among 15- to 24-year olds (4,400 deaths per year).⁵
- Fifteen percent of high school students seriously considered suicide, 7% reported making at least one suicide attempt in the previous year⁶.
- Children as young as nine may think about suicide as a way to escape their bullies.⁷
- For every suicide, there are at least 100 suicide attempts.⁸
- Today, 6 children will commit suicide.⁹

¹ Whitney, I., & Smith, P. K. (1993). A survey of the nature and extent of bully/victim problems in junior/middle and secondary schools. *Educational Research*, 35, 3–25. Atlas, R., & Pepler, D. (1998). Observations of bullying in the classroom. *Journal of Educational Research*, 92, 1–86.

² Olweus, D. (1992). Bullying among schoolchildren: Intervention and prevention. In R. D. Peters, R. J. McMahon, & V. L. Quinsey (Eds.), *Aggression and violence throughout the life span* (pp. 100–125). London: Sage Publications.

³ Vossekuil, B., Fein, R. A., Reddy, M., Borum, R., Modzeleski, W. (2002, May). The final report and findings of the Safe School Initiative: Implications for the prevention of school attacks in the United States. U. S. Secret Service and U. S. Department of Education. Retrieved October 25, 2007, from http://www.secretservice.gov/ntac/ssi_final_report.pdf.

⁴ Stopbullying.gov, Community Action toolkit, 2012, p. 25.

⁵ Stopbullying.gov, Community Action toolkit, 2012, p. 25.

⁶ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

⁷ van der Wal, M. F., de Wit, C. A. M., & Hirasing, R. A. (2003). Psychosocial health among young victims and offenders of direct and indirect bullying. *Pediatrics*, 111, 1312–1317.

⁸ Stopbullying.gov, Community Action toolkit, 2012, p. 25.

⁹ Child Abuse Statistics by Ark of Hope for Children, <http://www.arkofhopeforchildren.org/issues/child-abuse-statistics-info>