



Peer Abuse Statistics

Peer Abuse has reached epidemic proportions in American schools and communities.

- Six out of 10 American teens witness abuse by peers at least once a day.
- For children in grades 6-10, nearly one in six – or 3.2 million – are victims of peer abuse each year and 3.7 million abuse their peers.

Peer Abuse is linked to prejudice and ignorance.

- Over the course of a year, nearly one-fourth of students across grades reported that they had been abused by peers on school property because of their race, ethnicity, gender, religion, sexual orientation or disability.
- Nearly one-third of middle schoolers have been the object of sexual jokes, comments or gestures. Another 15 percent have been abused by peers because of their religion or race.
- Studies show that gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (glbt) students are at disproportionate risk for peer abuse. They hear anti-gay slurs such as "homo", "faggot" and "sissy" about 26 times a day, or once every 14 minutes. More than 30 percent of glbt youth were threatened or injured at school in the last year alone.

Peer Abuse has serious physical and mental health consequences for youth.

- An estimated 160,000 children miss school every day out of fear of attack or intimidation by other students.
- One out of every ten students who drops out of school does so because of repeated peer abuse.
- Victims of peer abuse are more likely to suffer physical problems such as common colds and coughs, sore throats, poor appetite and night waking.
- Those who are abused by peers are five times more likely to be depressed and far more likely to be suicidal
- The effects of peer abuse can be long-lasting. By age 23, children who were bullied in middle school were more depressed and had lower self-esteem than their peers who had not been bullied.

Unchecked peer abuse can escalate to more serious violence.

- Harassment and peer abuse have been linked to 75 percent of school shooting incidents, including the fatal shootings at Columbine High School, near Littleton, Colorado and Santana High School, in Santee, CA.
- Suicide due to bullying behavior ("bullycide") is currently the third leading cause of death in the U.S. for adolescents.
- Nearly 60 percent of boys who researchers classified as bullies in grades 6-9 were convicted of at least one crime by the age of 24; 40 percent of them had three or more convictions by 24.
- Among boys who said they had bullied others at least once a week in school, more than half had carried a weapon in the last month, 39 percent were involved in frequent fighting and 46 percent reported having been injured in a fight.

SOURCE: The Respect for All Project, San Francisco, CA

PRIMARY RESOURCES OF RESPECT FOR ALL STATISTICS

- 2002 National Survey of Students Grades 5-12, Families and Work Institute
- National Crime Prevention Council, 2003
- Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, September 2003
- 2001-2002 California Student Survey
- National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center
- National Mental Health Association, 2002
- National Education Association, 1995
- Oklahoma Health Department, 2001
- Journal of the American Medical Association, 2003
- Dan Olweus, University of Bergen, Norway, 1993
- US Secret Service Report, May 2002
- National Institute of Health, 2003
- Centers for Disease Control, 2004

WHAT DOES BULLYING LOOK LIKE TODAY?

PHYSICAL

- Pushing and shoving
- Tripping
- Kicking
- Hitting, slapping
- Pinching

VERBAL

- Name-calling
- Teasing
- Threats
- Racist, sexist or bigoted remarks

RELATIONAL

- Intimidation
- Spreading rumors or lies
- Exclusion
- Coercion

From: *The Bully Free Classroom* by Allan L. Beane, Ph.D 1999 Free Spirit Press

CYBERBULLYING

- Instant messages
- Text messages
- Postings on social networking sites and blogs - photos, negative messages, etc.

BEHAVIORS KNOWN AS "BULLYING"

Bullying encompasses a broad spectrum of behaviors, none of which are "normal" or acceptable.

- Act like they rule the world
- Act rude
- Boss people around
- Break people's things
- Cheat
- Embarrass people
- Force people to hand over their money or possessions
- Gossip
- Haze people
- Humiliate people
- Ignore people
- Intimidate people
- Laugh at people
- Make obscene gestures
- Make racist or sexist comments
- Make people feel invisible
- Lie
- Make people do things they don't want to do
- Name call
- Pick on or attack people because of their race, religion, gender, family background, culture, etc.
- Push
- Refuse to talk to people
- Say nasty things about people
- Scare people
- Shove
- Steal
- Taunt
- Tell mean jokes
- Threaten
- Use physical violence
- Write nasty things about people
- Act mean
- Attack people
- Brag about being tough
- Carry weapons
- Damage people's things
- Frighten people
- Harass people
- Hit
- Hurt people's feelings
- Insult people
- Kick
- Make fun of people
- Make people feel helpless
- Make people feel inferior
- Leave people out
- Make people feel uncomfortable
- Pick on people that are different
- Put people down
- Reject people
- Say sarcastic things to people
- Scream
- Spread rumors
- Swear
- Tease
- Touch people in rude or abusive ways
- Use verbal taunts
- Yell

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LEVELS OF RELATIONSHIP & INFLUENCE

LEVEL ONE - Basic Positive Social Interaction

- By: smiling, waving, high 5, pat on the back, "how's your day?" "good to see you".

LEVEL TWO - Taking a Personal Interest

- By: initiating conversations and finding out their interests, family information, pets, favorites, goals and dreams, nicknames.

LEVEL THREE - Identifying, Acknowledging and Encouraging Young People's Gifts and Talents

- By: conversing with them, observing them, playing with them, looking closely at their work, listening to them, and by words of affirmation, writing notes, attending events, a pat on the back, etc. and listening.

LEVEL FOUR - Challenging Young People

- By: having high expectations, issuing challenges, helping them to set goals, using affirmations, checking in with them, etc.

LEVEL FIVE - Focusing on Building Specific Assets

- By: developing a plan for building specific external assets and working with them directly on key internal assets.

LEVEL SIX - Keep in Touch Over Time

- By: sending a card, a phone call, email, attending an event they are involved in, etc.

