

Bullying In Schools

COMPREHENSIVE DEFINITION

The repeated intimidation of others by the real or threatened infliction of physical, verbal, written, electronically transmitted, or emotional abuse, or through attacks on the property of another. It may include actions such as verbal taunts, name-calling and put downs, including ethnically-based or gender-based verbal put downs, and extortion of money or possessions.

GENERIC DEFINITION

A type of behavior intended to harm or disturb the victim.

THREE CATEGORIES OF BULLYING

1. **Direct Physical Bullying** – hitting, tripping, pushing or damaging property
2. **Direct Verbal Bullying** – name calling, insults, homophobic or racist remarks
3. **Indirect Bullying** – damaging someone’s reputation by spreading rumors, playing nasty jokes or “cyber” bullying

CYBER BULLYING

The use of the internet or technology devices to harass another person. For example, sending mean messages or threats to a person or spreading rumors online or through texts.

GENERAL PROFILE OF A BULLY

- Bullies are usually male and tend to be bigger than most kids.
- Bullies tend to be hot-tempered, impulsive and have low tolerance for frustration.
- Bullies tend to get into trouble more often and do poorly in school.
- Bullies are more likely to fight, drink and smoke than their peers.
- Parents of bullies tend to provide little emotional support, provide minimal supervision and little involvement in their child’s life.
- There appears to be a strong relationship between bullying and later criminality as an adult. One study found that 60% of those characterized as a bully in middle school had at least one criminal conviction by age 24 (Olweus, 2014).

GENERAL PROFILE OF SOMEONE WHO IS BULLIED

- Most tend to be physically weaker than their peers.
- Most tend to be anxious, insecure and generally have low self-esteem.
- These individuals rarely defend themselves.

BULLYING STATISTICS

(OLWEUS FINDINGS, 2013, 2014)

- Bullying begins in elementary school, peaks in middle school and falls off in high school. 90% of 4th - 9th graders reported that they were victims of some kind of bullying.
- There are about 2.7 million students being bullied each year by about 2.1 students.
- One third of students reported being bullied while at school.
- Of those who are bullied, 1 in 5 were bullied once or twice a month and 1 in 10 were bullied daily or several times a week.
- 39% of middle schoolers and 36% of high schoolers say they don't feel safe at school.
- 43% of middle and high school students avoid the bathroom due to fear of being harassed/assaulted.
- An estimated 1 in 10 students that missed school, did so due to a fear of being attacked by a bully.
- One out of every 10 high school dropouts does so because of repeated bullying.
- More than 1 in 3 students have experienced cyberthreats online.
- 25% of students say that teachers intervene in bullying situations, while 71% of teachers believe they always intervene in bullying situations.
- Over 25% of adolescents have been bullied repeatedly through their cell phones or on the internet

BULLYING FLOURISHES IN SCHOOLS WITH THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA

- There is a lack of adult supervision during lunches and breaks.
- Teachers and students are indifferent to bullying behavior.
- Consequences of bullying behavior are not consistently enforced.

THE LINK BETWEEN BULLYING AND SCHOOL SHOOTINGS

The FBI has been studying school shootings, trying to identify similarities between the shooters. There are several commonalities amongst almost all the shooters:

- The shooters are male.
- The shooters told someone what they planned on doing, sometimes even providing dates and times.
- The shooters played violent video games, sometimes as a way to train for the planned event.
- The shooters were seeking revenge for being teased, ridiculed or bullied by other students.

Other statistics of the link between bullying and school shootings:

- Harassment and bullying have been linked to 75% of school shootings, (U.S. Secret Service, 2012).
- Approximately 2/3 of school shooters felt persecuted, bullied or threatened at school, (Bowman, 2011).
- 87% of school shooters said that they were motivated by a desire to get back at those who hurt them, (Bureau of Justice, 2011).