

Bullying Prevention

What the Data Says About Bullying

Bullying is a common occurrence in most schools. According to the American Psychological Association, approximately 40% to 80% of school-age children experience bullying at some point during their school careers. Regardless of the grade level, socioeconomic environment, gender, religion, or sexual orientation, bullying can happen to anyone. However, various studies point out that students from lower socio-economic backgrounds are more bullied than students from higher socio-economic backgrounds. Most children experience bullying at some point in their academic careers. The following is a list of statistics that illustrate the severity of bullying within classrooms:

- 20-40% of bullying victims actually report being bullied
- 70% of middle school and high school students experience bullying in school
- 7-12% of bullies are habitual and pose a serious threat
- 5-15% of students are constantly bullied
- 27% of students are bullied because of their refusal to engage in common sexual practices
- 25% of students encourage bullying if not given proper education and support in anti-bullying techniques

Due to the low numbers of students who actually report incidents of bullying, teachers need to have a certain level of awareness that will thwart any potential problems. This awareness starts with understanding bullying.

Frequency of Bullying

There are two sources of federally collected data on youth bullying:

- The 2009 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) indicates that, nationwide, 20% of students in grades 9–12 experienced bullying.
- The 2008–2009 School Crime Supplement (National Center for Education Statistics and Bureau of Justice Statistics) indicates that, nationwide, 28% of students in grades 6–12 experienced bullying.

Sources: American Psychological Association, StopBullying.gov