



# STATISTICS ON BULLYING

ADL's A World of Difference® Institute

## BULLYING

**BULLYING** is the repeated actions or threats of action directed toward a person by one or more people who have or are perceived to have more power or status than their target in order to cause fear, distress or harm.

**20.2%** of students ages 12 to 18 years old reported being **BULLIED AT SCHOOL**



Musu et al. (2019)

### FORMS OF BULLYING/FREQUENCY

**13.4%** subject of **RUMORS**

**13.0%** Made fun of, **CALLED NAMES OR INSULTED**

**5.3%** **PUSHED**, shoved, tripped or spit on

**5.2%** **EXCLUDED** from activities on purpose

**3.9%** **THREATENED** with harm

**1.9%** **FORCED** to do things they didn't want to do

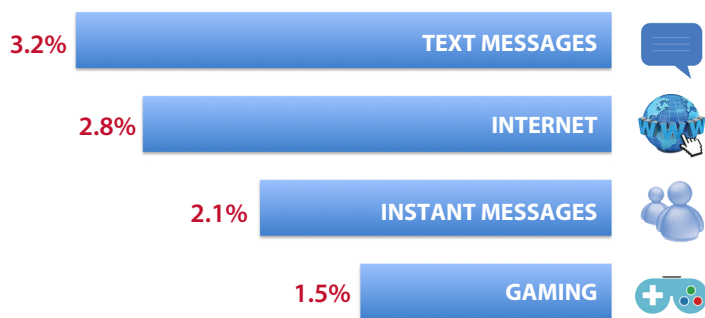
**1.4%** had property **DESTROYED**

## CYBERBULLYING

**CYBERBULLYING** is the intentional and repeated mistreatment of others through the use of technology, such as computers, cell phones and other electronic devices.

**36.5%** of students ages 12 to 17 years old reported being **CYBERBULLIED DURING THEIR LIFETIMES** *Hinduja and Patchin (2019)*

AGES 12 TO 18 BULLIED ONLINE



Hinduja and Patchin (2015)

**87%** WITNESSED OTHERS BEING CYBERBULLIED

Results of something that happened on a social network site:

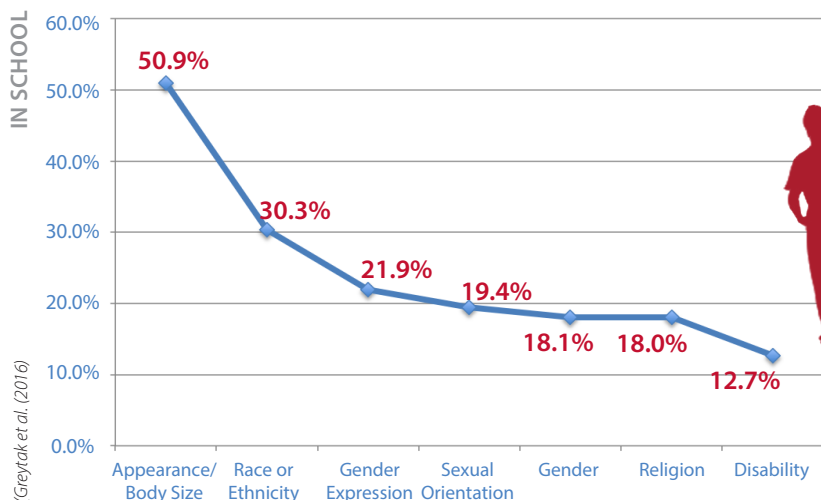
- **50%** involved in **argument** online
- **4%** reported online arguments led to **physical fight**

McAfee (2014)

**STUDENT AGGRESSORS: 14.8%** teens reported that they have **cyberbullied someone in their lifetime.**

Hinduja and Patchin (2019)

## IDENTITY-BASED HARASSMENT/ASSAULT



(Greytak et al., 2016)

**ON SOCIAL MEDIA:** Students were harassed because of their appearance/body size (72%), race or ethnicity (26%), religion (26%) and sexual orientation (22%).

McAfee (2014)

**48%** of 7th–12th grade students were **SEXUALLY HARASSED.**

Of these students 44% were sexually harassed in person and 30% electronically. Many experienced sexual harassment both in person and electronically (i.e., text, email, social networking site or other electronic means).

Hill and Kearl (2011)

Bullying based on sexual orientation **LGBTQ STUDENTS**

- 70.1%** verbally harassed
- 28.9%** physically harassed
- 12.4%** physically assaulted
- 62.2%** experienced LGBTQ-related discriminatory policies or practices

Kosciw et al. (2018)

# REPORTING

## OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TOLD NOBODY AT ALL

Not telling anyone is a trend that becomes more pronounced as students get older (21.5% in grades 3–5, 31.5% in middle school and 36% in high school). *Luxenberg, et al. (2015)*

**39%** BULLIED, NOTIFIED AN ADULT  
after a school incident

**23%** CYBERBULLIED, NOTIFIED AN ADULT  
after an online incident

*Luxenberg et al. (2015)*



### REASONS STUDENTS KEEP SILENT

- Negative messages about ‘tattling’ and ‘snitching’
- Fear of retaliation
- Don’t think adults will handle well (won’t get better, won’t do anything, etc.)

### ALLIES vs. BYSTANDERS

- 44% of students witnessing a bullying incident asked the aggressor to stop.
- 30% of students told an adult after witnessing another student being bullied.
- 80% of social media-using teens ages 12–17 say they have defended the victim.
- 79% of social media-using teens have told the other person to stop being mean and cruel.
- 44% of students who witnessed a bullying incident ignored it.
- 24% of students who witnessed an incident made fun of the victim.
- 90% of social-media using teens who have witnessed online cruelty say they have ignored mean behavior. 35% have done so frequently.
- 21% of social-media using teens reported joining in when witnessing online cruelty.

*Davis (2010) and Lenhart (2015)*

# IMPACT

## STUDENTS WHO REPORT BEING BULLIED AND CYBERBULLIED ARE MORE LIKELY TO:

- skip class
- skip school altogether
- avoid school activities
- engage in a physical fight



*Zhang, et al. (2016)*

### MAIN EFFECTS OF BULLYING

Students ages 9–16:	Target	Aggressor	Engaged in Both
Alcohol abuse	15.6%	29%	22.9%
Panic disorder	13.1%	5.8%	38.4%
Depression	10.2%	5%	21.5%
Anxiety	10.2%	9.1%	13.6%

*Copeland, et al. (2013)*

# TECHNOLOGY/USE

- 92% of teens (ages 13–17) go online daily
- 56% of teens go online several times a day
- 71% of teens use more than one social network site (Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat are the most popular social networking sites among teens)
- 90% of those teens with phones exchange texts. A typical teen sends and receives 30 texts per day
- 57% of teens have made a new friend online



*Lenhart (2015) and Lenhart et al. (2015)*

Parents encourage their child to use technology in an appropriate and responsible manner. Parents say they monitor/manage their child’s online experiences by:

- Checking which websites their teen has visited (65%)
- Checking teen’s social media profile (61%)
- Looking through their teens phone calls/messages (48%)
- Using parental controls for teen’s online activities (39%)
- Using parental controls to restrict cell phone use (16%)
- Using monitoring tools to track teen’s location with her/his cellphone (16%)
- Taking away teens cellphone or internet access privileges as punishment (65%)
- Frequently talking with their teen about appropriate and inappropriate content to share online (40%)

*Anderson (2016)*

### Sources:

Anderson, M. 2016. “Parents, Teens and Digital Monitoring.” DC: Pew Research Center.

Copeland, W.E., D. Wolke, A. Angold, and E.J. Costello. 2013. “Adult psychiatric outcomes of bullying and being bullied by peers in childhood and adolescence.” *JAMA Psychiatry* 70: 419-426.

Davis, S., and C. Nixon. 2010. “Youth Voice Research Project,” Preliminary results. PA: Penn State Erie, The Behrend College.

Greytak, E.A., J.G., Kosciw, C. Villenas, and N.M. Giga. 2016. *From Teasing to Torment: School Climate Revisited, A Survey of U.S. Secondary School Students and Teachers*. New York: Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network (GLSEN).

Hill, C., and H. Kearl. 2011. *Crossing the Line: Sexual Harassment at School*. DC: American Association of University Women.

Hinduja, S., and J. Patchin. 2019. Lifetime Cyberbullying Victimization Rates. Cyberbullying Research Center.

Kosciw, J. G., E. A. Greytak, A.D. Zongrone, C.M Clark, and N.L. Truong. 2018. “The 2017 National School Climate Survey.” New

York: Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network (GLSEN).

Lenhart, A. 2015. “Teen, Social Media and Technology Overview 2015.” DC: Pew Research Center.

Lenhart, A., A. Smith, M. Anderson, M. Duggan, and A. Perrin. 2015. “Teens, Technology and Friendships.” DC: Pew Research Center.

Luxenberg, H., S.P. Limber, and D. Olweus. 2015. *Bullying in U.S. Schools, 2014 Status Report*. Center City: Hazelden Publishing.

McAfee. 2014. *Teens and the Screen study: Exploring Online Privacy, Social Networking and Cyberbullying*. Santa Clara: McAfee, [www.mcafee.com/us/about/news/2014/q2/20140603-01.aspx](http://www.mcafee.com/us/about/news/2014/q2/20140603-01.aspx).

Musu, L., A., L. Zhang, K. Wang, Jizhi Zhang, and B.A. Oudekerk. 2019. *Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2018*. DC: National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education.

## adl.org/bullying

- Visit for more information on bullying.
- Download resources for educators, youth, parents and families.
- Be an Ally. Stop Bullying.



Anti-Defamation League  
Tel. 212-885-7700  
[education@adl.org](mailto:education@adl.org)  
[www.adl.org/education](http://www.adl.org/education)

© 2016 Anti-Defamation League