



# 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.

**22%** of students ages 12 to 18 years old reported being **BULLIED AT SCHOOL**

### FORMS OF BULLYING/FREQUENCY

**13.6%** Made fun of,  
**CALLED NAMES  
OR INSULTED**

**13.2%** subject of  
**RUMORS**

**6.0%** **PUSHED,**  
shoved, tripped or spit on

**4.5%** **EXCLUDED**  
from activities on purpose

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

**2.2%** **FORCED**  
to do things they didn't  
want to do

**1.6%** had property  
**DESTROYED**



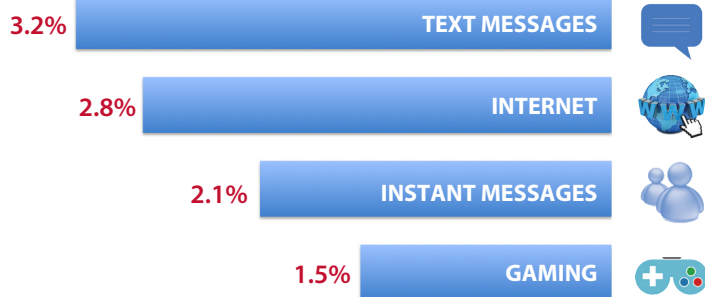
Zhang et al. (2016)

## CYBERBULLYING

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

**28%** of students ages 10 to 18 years old reported being **CYBERBULLIED DURING THEIR LIFETIMES** *Hinduja and Patchin (2015)*

AGES 12 TO 18 BULLIED ONLINE



**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)

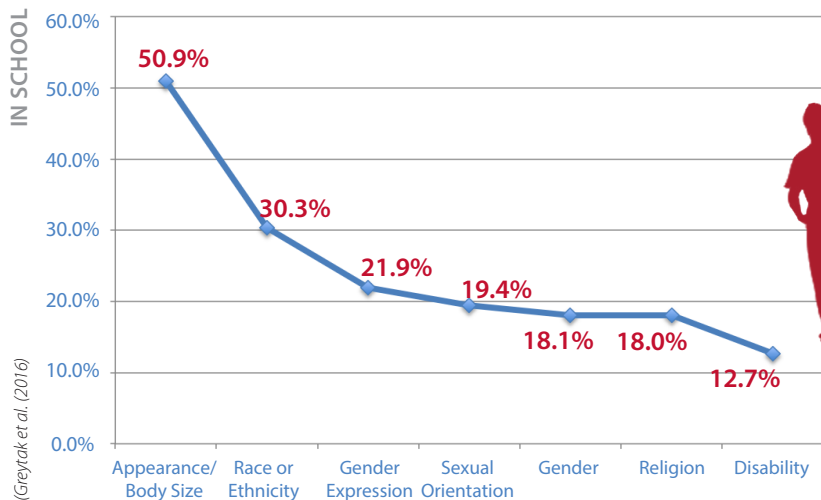
**STUDENT AGGRESSORS: 16.2%** teens reported that they have **cyberbullied someone in their lifetime.**

Hinduja and Patchin (2015)

Hinduja and Patchin (2015)

## IDENTITY-BASED BULLYING

**IDENTITY-BASED BULLYING** refers to any form of bullying related to the characteristics considered unique to a youth's identity, such as their race, religion, sexual orientation or physical appearance.



(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**

**74.1%** verbally harassed

**36.2%** physically harassed

**16.5%** physically assaulted

**55.5%** experienced LGBT-related discriminatory policies or practices

Kosciw et al. (2014)

## 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). *Olweus & Limber (2010)*

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

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

*Luxenberg et al. (2013)*



#### 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 (2011)*

## 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



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)*

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### adl.org/bullying

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



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