



The stats – Did you know?

Who/when/where/what

- Between 1 in 5 and 1 in 7 students report being bullied once a week or more¹.
- Around 62% of students with Autism Spectrum disorder report being bullied once a week or more².
- Bullying most often occurs in the last years of primary and the first couple of years at secondary school³.
- Males typically report being bullied more than females⁴.
- Children with positive relationships with their parents are less likely to bully⁵.
- Around 85% of bullying incidents happen within peer groups⁶.
- Generally verbal bullying such as name calling is the most common form of bullying⁷.
- Physical bullying is the least common and declines with age⁸.
- Students are more likely to experience bullying from individuals than groups⁹.
- Bullying often occurs when there is little or no supervision around¹⁰.
- Data from Kids Helpline shows that children 15-18 years old are more likely to experience continual harassment (13%) than younger children (7%)¹¹.
- Bullying is the fourth most common reason young people seek help from children's help services¹².

Impacts

- Children who are bullied are more likely to have higher levels of stress, anxiety, depression and illness¹³.
- People who bully are more likely to drop out of school, use drugs and alcohol and engage in criminal behaviour¹⁴.
- Young people who bully have a one in four chance of having a criminal record by the age of 30¹⁵.
- Positive and supportive school relationships between principals, teachers, students and parents can have a positive impact on reducing bullying¹⁶.



Cyberbullying:

- Research studies show great variations in the amount of cyberbullying. Eg for 2007 results fluctuated between 14%, 48% to 58% of young people who reported being cyber bullied.
- Cyberbullying is a recent phenomenon as such there are very few major research findings available. Most data collection so far has involved very small sample sizes and varying definitions for bullying and cyberbullying.
- There is disagreement amongst researchers, teachers and community members on the definition of what cyberbullying is.
- Clear definitions and clearly stated sample sizes are needed to assess validity and the significance of the findings.

(Campbell, M., 2008. *Cyberbullying: An old problem in a new guise*. Powerpoint presentation)

¹ Rigby, K. and Slee, P.T. (1999) Suicidal ideation among adolescent school children, involvement in bully/victim problems and perceived low social support *Suicide and Life-threatening Behavior*, 29, 119-130.

² Bottroff, V and Slee, P.T. (2008) *Developing Inclusive school Communities: Addressing bullying of students with an Autism Spectrum Disorder*, Powerpoint Presentation p23. <http://www.cheri.com.au/documents/bottroff.pdf>

³ Kids Help Line (2004) *Bullying*. Kids Help Line Infosheet. Available from www.kidshelp.com.au

⁴ Rigby, K. and Slee, P.T. (1999)

⁵ Rican, P., Klicperova, M. & Koucka, T. (1993). **Families of Bullies and Their Victims: A Children's View**. *Studia Psychologica*, 35(3), 261-266 and Rigby, K. (1993). **School children's perceptions of their families and parents as a function of peer relations**. *Journal of Genetic Psychology*, 154(4), 501-513

⁶ Atlas, R. & Pepler, D. (1997). *Observations of bullying in the classroom*. LaMarch Centre for Research on Violence and Conflict Resolution, York University and Craig, W.M. & Pepler, D.J. (1997). *Naturalistic observation of bullying and victimisation on the playground*. LaMarch Centre for Research on Violence and Conflict Resolution. York University. Unpublished report.

⁷ Rigby, K. and Slee, P.T. (1999)

⁸ Rigby, K. and Slee, P.T. (1999)

⁹ Rigby, K. and Slee, P.T. (1999)

¹⁰ Olweus, D. (1991) *Bully/victim problems among school children in Scandinavia*. In J.P. Myklebust & R. Ommundsen (Eds.), *Psykologprofesjonen mot år 2000*, Universitetsforlaget, Oslo and Pepler, D.J., Craig, W., O'Connell, P., Connolly, J., Atlas, R., Sidigdeilami, F., Smith, C. & Kent, D. (1997). *Prevalence of bullying and victimisation among Canadian elementary and middle school children*.

¹¹ Kids Help Line (2004)

¹² Kids Help Line (2004)

¹³ Cox, T. (1995). *Stress coping and physical health*. In A. Broome & S. Llewelyn (Eds.), *Health Psychology: Process and Application*. London: Singular Publication Group; Rigby, K. (1998). *The relationship between reported health and involvement in bully/victim problems among male and female secondary school students*.



Journal of Health Psychology, 3(4), 465-476; Rigby, K. (1999). *Bullying – no way! ... a commentary*. Educational Views, March 26.

¹⁴ Gottfredson, G. & Gottfredson, D. (1985). *Victimisation in Schools*. New York: Plenum

¹⁵ Huesmann, L.R., Eron, L.D., Lefkowitz, M. M. & Walder, L. O. (1984). *Stability of aggression over time and generations*. Developmental Psychology, (20), 1120- 1134

¹⁶ Olweus, D. (1987). *Bully/victim problems among school children in Scandinavia*. In J.P. Myklebust & R. Ommundsen (Eds.), *Psykologprofesjonen mot ar 2000*, Universitetsforlaget, Oslo.