

FACTS ABOUT BULLYING AND CYBERBULLYING



Nearly **one in three** students ages 12 to 18 reports being bullied at school. This includes being made fun of; the subject of rumors; pushed, shoved, tripped or spit on; threatened with harm; excluded on purpose; and made to do things they didn't want to do. (*Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2009, Institute of Education Sciences, Bureau of Justice Statistics*)

- ♥ An estimated **160,000 children** miss school every day due to fear of attack or intimidation by other students. (*National Education Association*)
- ♥ During the 2007–08 school year, **one in four** public schools reported that bullying occurred among students on a daily or weekly basis. Only **36 percent** of those bullied told a teacher or other adult. (*Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2009*)
- ♥ Victims of bullying are four times more likely to earn **failing grades** than their non-bullied peers. (*Reports of Bullying: Results From the 2001 School Crime Supplement to the National Crime Victimization Survey, National Center for Education Statistics*)
- ♥ **One in five teens** reports being cyberbullied through the use of computers, cell phones, and other electronic devices. Nearly one in five teens say they have cyberbullied others. Posting mean or hurtful comments and spreading rumors online were the most commonly reported types of cyberbullying. (*Cyberbullying Research Center*)
- ♥ Cyberbullied middle school students are more likely to consider **suicide** than their non-bullied peers. (*Cyberbullying Research Center*)
- ♥ In Washington State (where Committee for Children is headquartered), youth who are bullied are at increased risk for **using drugs and alcohol, depression, suicide, engaging in violent or unsafe behaviors, and having a lower quality of life**. Youth who bully are also at risk of depression and have lower academic achievement. (*Healthy Youth Survey, 2008*)
- ♥ The costs of bullying to schools and communities are substantial. Evidence suggests that students' victimization by bullying may have contributed to school shootings (Leary, Kowalski, Smith, and Phillips, 2003), prompting legislation to address school bullying in at least 15 states (Limber and Small, 2003). Although this is an excellent start, such efforts are likely to miss the mark unless they include comprehensive programs that are grounded in theory and empirical evidence (Furlong, Morrison, and Grief, 2003).

The nonprofit Committee for Children is the world's largest provider of educational programs that teach social and emotional skills and prevent bullying and sexual abuse. We help more than 9 million schoolchildren in 26 countries around the globe stay safe, respect themselves and others, succeed in school, and build a better world.

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