Bullying Facts

How common is bullying?
- Nationally, more than 25% of children ages 12-18 report having being bullied during the last school year. 1
- 16% of high school students report having been “cyberbullied,” or bullied over digital media, in the last year. 2
- Nearly 20% of students report being bullied two times a month or more. 3

Who is at risk of being bullied?
- 27% of females and 18% of males say they were bullied at school in the past year. 4
- More than 80% of lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgendered (LGBT) youth report being verbally harassed at school due to their sexual identity. 5
- Youth with physical or learning disabilities are more likely to be bullied at school (34%) than youth without disabilities (21%). 6

What are the consequences of bullying for the victim?
- 47% of children who are bullied (either at school or online) show depressive symptoms, compared to 13.6% of nonvictims.7
- Many students who are bullied show responses such as poor appetite, headaches, sleep disturbances, abdominal pain, and fatigue. 8

What are the consequences of bullying for the bully?
- Children who bully have lower academic achievement and a poorer perception of school climate than their non-bullying peers. 9
- Children who bully are almost twice as likely as non-bullies to be convicted of crimes later in life.10

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4 2012 MetroWest Adolescent Health Survey (MWAHS) for high school students, Education Development Center, Inc. and MetroWest Health Foundation. The MWAHS is a longitudinal census study of health and risk behaviors in 25 communities the MetroWest Boston region that has been monitoring cyberbullying since the MWAHS began in 2006; over 25,000 high school students were surveyed at the most recent administration in 2012.
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