

## Bullying Facts

### How common is bullying?

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

### Who is at risk of being bullied?

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

### 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.<sup>7</sup>
- Many students who are bullied show responses such as poor appetite, headaches, sleep disturbances, abdominal pain, and fatigue.<sup>8</sup>

### 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.<sup>9</sup>
- Children who bully are almost twice as likely as non-bullies to be convicted of crimes later in life.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Robers, S., Kemp, J., and Truman, J. (2013). Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2012 (NCES 2013-036/NCJ 241446). National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education, and Bureau of Justice Statistics, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. Washington, DC.

<sup>2</sup> Eaton, D. K., Kann, L., Kinchen, S., Shanklin, S., Flint, K. H., Hawkins, J., & ... Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, (2012). Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance--United States, 2011. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. Surveillance Summaries. Volume 61, Number 4.

<sup>3</sup> Olweus, D. & Limber, S. P. (November, 2010). What we are learning about bullying. Paper presented at the meeting of the International Bullying Prevention Association. Seattle, WA.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> Kosciw, J. G., Greytak, E. A., Bartkiewicz, M. J., Boesen, M. J., & Palmer, N. A. (2012). The 2011 National School Climate Survey: The experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth in our nation's schools.

<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> Eaton, D. K., Kann, L., Kinchen, S., Shanklin, S., Flint, K. H., Hawkins, J., & ... Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, (2012). Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance--United States, 2011. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. Surveillance Summaries. Volume 61, Number 4.

<sup>8</sup> Sansone R, Sansone L. Bully Victims: Psychological and Somatic Aftermaths. Psychiatry (Edgmont). 2008 June; 5(6): 62-64

<sup>9</sup> Nansel, T. R., Overpeck, M., Pilla, R. S., Ruan, W., Simons-Morton, B., & Scheidt, P. (2001). Bullying behaviors among US youth: Prevalence and association with psychosocial adjustment. JAMA: Journal Of The American Medical Association, 285(16), 2094-2100

<sup>10</sup> Farrington, D. P., & Ttofi, M. M. (2011). Bullying as a predictor of offending, violence and later life outcomes. Criminal Behaviour & Mental Health, 21(2), 90-98.