

HANDFUL O' STATISTICS.



These statistics were gleaned from two 2010-2011 studies through the Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center at Bridgewater State University in Bridgewater, Massachusetts.¹

- In-depth survey of 617 college freshman
- Survey of 21,000 children in grades 3-12 in a variety of communities across Massachusetts.

PLEASE NOTE: more detailed reports, papers, descriptions and discussions about these studies are available on our website. This document is just a snapshot of statistics.

FREQUENCY OF BULLYING AND CYBERBULLYING:

Overall, 46% of students reported that they had bullied or cyberbullied someone during high school.

More girls than boys reported being victims of either bullying and/or cyberbullying (51% versus 30%).

Overall, more girls reported being involved in some way (68% versus 55% for boys).

21% of boys reported being a cyberbully while in high school

16% of girls reported being a cyberbully while in high school

13% of boys reported being a bully while in high school

18% of girls reported being a bully while in high school

12% of boys and 12% of girls reported being BOTH a bully and a cyberbully while in high school ("Heavily involved" kids are both bullies and victims, and are involved both online and in school.)

By high school.....

8% of victims are victims of only-in-school-bullying

29% are victims of cyberbullying only

38% are victims of both

25% are victims of neither

#1 places for HS & MS: classroom & hallways

#1 place for ES: playground

¹ Principal Investigator: Elizabeth Englander, PhD, professor of Psychology and Director of the Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center. Website: www.marccenter.org. Citation for this document: Englander, E.K. (2011). *Handful O' Statistics. Research Report, Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center, Bridgewater State University, Bridgewater, Massachusetts.*

TYPES OF BULLYING REPORTED BY VICTIMS:

3% of victims reported being bullied physically

37% of victims reported being “laughed at cruelly”

39% of victims reported that others pointedly turned their “back on you repeatedly”

27% of victims reported that others “rolled their eyes at you repeatedly”

Most common types of cyberbullying:

29% of victims reported someone calling them a name (loser, stupid, etc.)

23% of victims reported someone posted a rumor about them

22% said someone posted something personal about them that they didn’t want revealed

20% said someone spread rumors about them using text messaging

At your HS, what percentage of adults intervened in....

Gateway behaviors – 33%

Obvious bullying behaviors – 61%

By High School, 73% of students who are cyberbullied report that they know who the cyberbully is (it’s *not* a stranger or some who is hiding behind anonymity).

Is it bullying of equal-power fighting?

Online, power structures shift. 45% of online bullying changes into equal-power fights.

Although many online incidents are termed “cyberbullying,” many are more consistent with equal-power fights. 46% of incidents were reported to be ONE-TIME incidents online (inconsistent with repeated bullying). Girls were more likely to characterize online incidents as repeated, and boys were more likely to characterize them as one-time.

REPORTING & TALKING:

Bystander reporting:

Only 7% of girls & 12% of boys said it “made it worse;” all others said it helped in SOME WAY – 34% & 28% said talking “just made them feel better”

Victim reporting:

5% of girls & 17% of boys said it “made it worse;” all others said it helped in SOME WAY – 34% & 28% said talking “just made them feel better”

Heavily involved kids were most likely to say that reporting made it worse – 12% of girls and 26% of boys.

CELL PHONE USAGE BY AGE, and ELECTRONIC USAGE DURING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:

46% of girls and 26% of boys said that they would feel anxious or pressured or both if they had no access to their cell phone for one hour.

20% of 3rd graders, 25% of 4th graders, and 39% of 5th graders own their own cell phones. Number rises to about 84% by MS and stays there through HS.

Over 90% of third graders interact with others online, primarily in games.

Overall, 15% of elementary school students in Grades 3-5 report being victims of cyberbullying. (13.6% in Grade 3; 15% in Grade 4; 18.9% in Grade 5)

SEXTING:

Overall, 36% of girls and 26% of boys reported having sent a nude pic. Of these, 50% of the girls and 38% of the boys said they sent it because they were pressured, coerced, blackmailed, or threatened.

Of the girls who were pressured, 94% were pressured by boyfriends or someone they wanted to date.

Of the boys who were pressured, 40% were pressured by friends and 60% were bullied, threatened, or tricked.

GENDER DIFFERENCES:

Girls were more than twice as likely as boys to text their friends for support following a minor issue with a friend (41% vs. 11% texted others; 48% vs. 22% texted the friend they were made at).

Following a minor issue that was texted around and “blew up” into a big fight, girls were three times as likely to report that the friendship was over for good (20% vs 7%). Girls were slightly more likely than boys to say that after a long time, they were able to be friends again (50% vs 37%). Boys were more likely to say that they just made up with their friends and the fight wasn’t prolonged (55% vs 38%).

Boys were most likely to report that they bully acquaintances (60%). Girls were most likely to say that they bully friends (85%). Both genders were LEAST likely to report that they bullied strangers (about 30% for each gender).

BEING DECEPTIVE WITH ELECTRONIC DEVICES:

40% of girls and 29% of boys said they delete texts off their cellphones before giving it to their parents to be “checked.”

80% of girls and 71% of boys reported that they texted or surfed late at night online during High School, when their parents thought they were asleep.