



# **Facts about Bullying and GLBT Youth**

## ***The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Youth Support Project***

### **How common is bullying?**

- , **Six out of ten teens witness bullying at least once a day.** Witnessing bullying often makes the witness feel helpless and fearful that he or she is the next target (*The Families and Work Institute*).
- , Over the course of one year, nearly **one-fourth of students reported that they had been harassed or bullied on school property** because of their race, ethnicity, gender, religion, sexual orientation, or disability. (*California Student Survey, 2001-2002*)
- , Gay lesbian, bisexual, and transgender **students hear anti-gay slurs about 26 times a day**, or every 14 minutes. (*National Mental Health Association, 2002*)
- , Homophobic bullying is frequently aimed at youth who do not conform to traditional gender roles or gender presentation

### **The impact of bullying**

- , **Twice as many children are bullied in the school environment than in any other location.** Unsurprisingly, bullying takes place where there is little or no adult supervision – in bathrooms, hallways, locker rooms, and on playgrounds. (*National Center for Education Statistics, 1995*)
- , **An estimated 160,000 children miss school every day** out of fear of attack or intimidation by other students. (*National Education Association, 1995*) GLBT students, who report much higher rates of school violence and harassment than heterosexual students, are more than twice as likely as their peers to skip school because they don't feel safe. (*Massachusetts Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2001*)
- , **One out of every 10 students who drops out of school does so because of repeated bullying.** (*Oklahoma Health Department, 2001*).
- , **Victims of bullying are more likely to suffer physical problems** such as common colds and coughs, sore throats, poor appetite, and night waking. (*Journal of the American Medical Association, 2003*)
- , **Harassment and bullying have been linked to 75% of school-shooting incidents**, including Columbine. (*U.S. Secret Service Report, May 2002*)

## Are anti-bullying programs effective?

- , “Programs that educate school communities about bullying and develop well-supported **anti-bullying policies reduce bullying by about 50%.**” (*European study presented at The Role of Schools in Crime Prevention Conference, 2002*)
- , “Rigorous evaluations of school violence prevention programs have all found prevention of bullying to be among the most effective programs for reducing school violence. Research has demonstrated that these **school-wide efforts have reduced incidents of bullying and diminished fighting by up to 50 percent.**” (*Report commissioned by Congress, the U.S. Departments of Education and Justice, and the U.S. Surgeon General, 2001*)
- , After starting an anti-bullying program that relied on parent volunteers who would work in the schools and interact with kids, a Georgia elementary school reported that **the vast majority of students - 92 percent - showed better behavior.** (*International Child and Youth Care Network, 2001*)

## More resources on bullying

- , **The GLBT Youth Support Project:** Offers training and technical assistance to providers and educators supporting GLBT youth and their families. Interrupting Homophobia trainings are available to schools and agencies that want to address anti-gay bullying and harassment. [www.hcsm.org/glys.htm](http://www.hcsm.org/glys.htm)
- , **Teaching Tolerance:** A program of the Southern Poverty Law Center that promotes respect for differences and appreciation of diversity in the classroom and beyond. The project offers free downloadable curricula and a magazine for educators, and organizes the annual Mix It Up At Lunch Day. [www.tolerance.org](http://www.tolerance.org)
- , **The No Name-Calling Week Coalition:** An annual week of educational activities aimed at ending name-calling of all kinds and providing schools with the tools and inspiration to launch an on-going dialogue about ways to eliminate bullying in their communities. [www.nonamecallingweek.org](http://www.nonamecallingweek.org)
- , **Stop Bullying Now:** Practical research-based strategies to stop bullying in schools. [www.stopbullyingnow.com](http://www.stopbullyingnow.com)
- , **Surgeon General’s Report on Youth Violence:** <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/youthviolence/toc.html>
- , **Don’t Suffer in Silence:** An anti-bullying program of the British Department of Education and Skills. [www.dfes.gov.uk/bullying/](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/bullying/)
- , **Anti-Bullying Center** (Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland): [www.abc.tcd.ie/](http://www.abc.tcd.ie/)

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