

Studies on the Impact of Bullying

Lesson 4, Student Resource 2

1. An estimated 160,000 children miss school every day out of fear of attack or intimidation by other students. (National Education Association, 1995)
2. One out of every 10 students who drops out of school does so because of repeated bullying. (Oklahoma Health Department, 2001)
3. Those who are bullied are five times more likely to be depressed and far more likely to be suicidal. (Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, September 2003)
4. Gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) students are at disproportionate risk for bullying and harassment. They hear anti-gay slurs such as "homo," "faggot," and "sissy" an average of 26 times a day, or once every 14 minutes. More than 30 percent of gay students were threatened or injured at school in the last year alone. (National Mental Health Association, 2002)
5. Harassment and bullying have been linked to 75 percent of school-shooting incidents, including the fatal shootings at Columbine High School near Littleton, Colorado, and Santana High School in Santee, California. (US Secret Service Report, May 2002)
6. The effects of any kind of bullying can be long-lasting. By age 23, children who were bullied in middle school were more depressed and had lower self-esteem than their peers who had not been bullied. (Dan Olweus, University of Bergen, Norway, 1993)
7. There is a growing trend towards children cyberbullying adults. An angry child may post unfavorable comments about a parent or teacher in order to retaliate for a perceived or real injury. A child might take revenge by posting the family's financial information or making up stories to ruin a teacher's reputation.