

Read It and Weep

Stats about Bullying

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) provided data on students who were bullied at school. The students ranged from 12–18 to years old. The

Have a Heart Exercise

Students participate in an exercise where they learn about words and heartbreak.

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/app/uploads/2013/11/Bullying-Heart-Exercise-for-Individuals-final.pdf>

results showed that over 20% of students reported being a target of bullying at school (NCES, 2017). The center provided rates on the different way students experienced bullying. A small number of students, 1.8% reported having their property destroyed. A slightly larger number of students, 3.9% experienced threats of harm. Thirteen percent of students reported having

rumors spread about them. The highest number came from students who reported being made fun of, called names or insulted (NCES, 2017). It is important to mention that the report included experiences, which occurred inside the school, on school property, the school bus as well as traveling to and from school.

The data from NCES illustrates that bullying continues to be an issue. Targets often experience social and verbal bullying. The impact of bullying is damaging and can leave both physical and emotional scars. Bullying targets often suffer

Three O'Clock High

(Amblin Entertainment, 1987)

14:09–18:31

American Teen

(57th and Irving Productions, 2008)

25:54–29:04

Unfriended

(Bazelevs Productions, 2014)

11:14:02–11:16:11

from depression, low academic performance, avoiding school, low self-esteem, and have trouble building and maintaining friendships. Bullies often select targets based on physical appearance, or a difference in speech or behavior (Bullyingnoway.gov, 2017). Vulnerable populations such as minorities and students who are or perceived to be Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered (LGBT) report more bullying incidents than their peers (Bullyingnoway.gov, 2017).

According to the National Center for Education Statistics 24.7% of African American students reported incidents of bullying, 17.2% for Hispanic students and 9% for Asian students. The number significantly increases for LGBT students. The data revealed that 74.1% of LGBT students were verbally bullied and 36.2% of LGBT students were physically bullied (National School Climate, 2013). The incidents of bullying lead to over half of self-identified or those perceived as LGBT students to feel unsafe attending schools. As mentioned earlier bullies tend to target those with differences particularly in physical or difference in speech. This makes students such as minorities who may look different due to their skin color, or have an accent. LGBT students may stand out if they do not adhere to traditional gender roles.

The information gathered from the National Center for Education Statistics reveals that many students can be at risk for being targets of bullying. One may wonder have these students always been at risk, or is this a recent phenomenon? Bullying has always been an issue in school but in recent years it has been pushed to the forefront. Our society has seen changes in how students interact, and communicate with each other. Before the age of technology, targets of bullies had the ability to escape once the school bell rang at 3:00. However, with the use of cellphone, computers, and videos uploads, targets of bullying can have their experiences shared and replayed by millions of people around the world.

Geography Club

(Enumerated Pictures, 2013)

48:37–50:03

Cursed

(Dimension Films, 2005)

2:39–4:29

Boys Don't Cry

(Fox Searchlight Pictures, 1999)

1:15:00–1:24:00

In recent years there has been a focus on bullying which occurs online. Students have the ability to take pictures, and record videos in school and upload them to social media. The students of today can log into their Twitter, Facebook, Youtube, and Snapchat channels and upload videos of the acts of bullying that occur inside the school walls. Prior to this technology parents, teachers and even student were not aware of an incident unless they were there to see it, or were told about the situation. Many students upload these videos in hopes of going viral, and possibly gaining Internet fame. We can all recall a time of hearing about a video posted online that gained media attention. Does anyone remember the Star Wars Kid? Fifteen year old Ghyslain Raza had a video released of him showing off his moves while pretending to be holding a lightsaber from *Star Wars*. The young man was bullied to the point he actually had to change schools. There have been countless videos of teens