

WHAT'S NEW WITH KIDS?

Bullying¹

June 2014

Nearly one in five students in grades 9 through 12 in Nevada were bullied on school property in academic year 2012-2013, according to the Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) 2013. A higher percentage of females reported having been bullied than males, 23.2 percent versus 16.0 percent. Amongst 9th through 12th graders, 9th graders were the most likely to have been bullied, and 12th graders were the least likely to have been bullied (Table 1). Students in the two largest counties in Nevada, Clark and Washoe, were less likely to report having been bullied than youth in rural counties. Of the racial/ethnic groups, American Indian/Alaska Native and white students were the most likely to have reported having been bullied.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention classify bullying into four types: (1) physical (e.g., hitting); (2) verbal (e.g., name calling), (3) damage to property (e.g., destroying a youth's property), and (4) relational (e.g., spreading false rumors by e-mail) (Gladden et al. 2014). Electronic or cyber bullying is a type of relational bullying. In academic year 2012-2013, 15.0 percent of Nevada students were electronically bullied through e-mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, websites or texting. Females were nearly three times as likely as males to have been electronically bullied, 21.6 percent compared to 8.2 percent (Table 2).

Bullying is not a new behavior. Research on it, however, is fairly recent in the United States. A 2001 study found that most of the research had been done in Europe and Australia (Nansel et al. 2001). Since then the behavior has been widely studied in the United States, and websites, videos, cartoons, and comics on bullying have proliferated.

One reason given for the increased attention to bullying is the school killings at Columbine, Colorado, in 1999. Garbarino, a researcher on adolescent bullying, believes that "Columbine changed how our society views school violence—or at least it should have. Columbine offered an opportunity to open our nation's eyes to the pain so many of our kids feel as they confront emotional violence at school" (*Bullying in American Schools*, 2008, p. xi).

Bullying must be taken seriously because the consequences can be severe. The Clark County District website recommends that parents should immediately contact their child's school principal, assistant principal, dean, or counselor if their child is bullied at school (Frequently Asked Questions). First, however, children must inform their parents about the bullying.

¹Bullying is defined as "... any unwanted aggressive behavior(s) by another youth or group of youths who are not siblings or current dating partners that involves an observed or perceived power imbalance and is repeated multiple times or is highly likely to be repeated. Bullying may inflict harm or distress on the targeted youth including physical, psychological, social, or educational harm" (Gladden, et al. 2014, p. 7).

References

Bullying in American Schools: A Social-Ecological Perspective on Prevention and Intervention, editors Dorothy L. Espelage and Susan M. Swearer, quote by James Garbarino, New York: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Inc., 2008, http://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=fqmPAAQBAJ&oi=fnd&pg=PP1&dq=Bullying+in+American+Schools:+A+Social-Ecological+Perspective&ots=CP1uABYscp&sig=3g1ujbdKrgPBc_ZOYwsC-9JAaWg#v=onepage&q=Bullying%20in%20American%20Schools%3A%20A%20Social-Ecological%20Perspective&f=false, as of 6/12/14.

Frequently Asked Questions, Clark County School District website, <http://ccsd.net/district/faq/>, as of 6/13/14.

Gladden, R.M., Vivolo-Kantor, A.M., Hamburger, M.E., & Lumpkin, C.D. *Bullying Surveillance Among Youths: Uniform Definitions for Public Health and Recommended Data Elements*, Version 1.0. Atlanta, GA; National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and U.S. Department of Education; 2014, <http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/bullying-definitions-final-a.pdf>, as of 6/12/14.

Nansel, Tonja R., Mary Overpeck, Ramani S. Pilla, W. June Ruan, Bruce Simons-Morton, and Peter Scheidt, 2001, "Bullying Behaviors among US Youth: Prevalence and Association with Psychosocial Adjustment," *Journal of the American Medical Association*, <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2435211/>, Vol. 285, No. 16, pp. 2094-2100.

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Table 1. Percentage of High School Students Who Were Bullied on School Property by Sex, Age, Grade, Race/Ethnicity, and Region--Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey: 2013

		Yes			No		
		Number	Percent*	C.I.** (95%)	Number	Percent*	C.I. ** (95%)
Overall Total	Total	846	19.6	(17.9-21.3)	3,022	80.4	(78.7-82.1)
Sex	Female	509	23.2	(20.7-25.6)	1,489	76.8	(74.4-79.3)
	Male	337	16.0	(13.7-18.2)	1,533	84.0	(81.8-86.3)
Age	14 years old or younger	104	21.9	(16.9-26.9)	295	78.1	(73.1-83.1)
	15 years old	233	21.4	(18.0-24.8)	721	78.6	(75.2-82.0)
	16 years old	235	21.7	(18.3-25.0)	878	78.3	(75.0-81.7)
	17 years old	170	15.3	(12.1-18.4)	737	84.7	(81.6-87.9)
	18 years old or older	105	17.6	(12.9-22.4)	395	82.4	(77.6-87.1)
Grade	9th grade	229	23.6	(19.9-27.2)	617	76.4	(72.8-80.1)
	10th grade	255	20.2	(17.1-23.2)	907	79.8	(76.8-82.9)
	11th grade	186	18.5	(15.0-21.9)	781	81.5	(78.1-85.0)
	12th grade	170	15.3	(12.0-18.5)	700	84.7	(81.5-88.0)
Race/ Ethnicity	Amerian Indian/Alaska Native	19	25.9	(12.3-39.6)	67	74.1	(60.4-87.7)
	Asian	23	21.7	(13.2-30.1)	97	78.3	(69.9-86.8)
	Black (African American)***	25	10.7	(5.5-15.8)	131	89.3	(84.2-94.5)
	White ***	421	23.5	(20.6-26.4)	1,265	76.5	(73.6-79.4)
	Hispanic/Latino	264	16.9	(14.3-19.4)	1,185	83.1	(80.6-85.7)
	Other/Multiple	68	22.3	(16.0-28.6)	220	77.7	(71.4-84.0)
Region	1: Carson City and Douglas	76	21.8	(17.4-26.2)	272	78.2	(73.8-82.6)
	2: Elko, White Pine, and Eureka	107	26.8	(22.3-31.4)	290	73.2	(68.6-77.7)
	3: Churchill, Humboldt, Pershing, and Lander	99	24.9	(20.6-29.2)	318	75.1	(70.8-79.4)
	4: Lyon, Mineral, and Storey	85	24.2	(19.6-28.7)	269	75.8	(71.3-80.4)
	5: Nye and Lincoln	52	24.9	(18.8-31.0)	153	75.1	(69.0-81.2)
	6: Washoe	209	21.6	(19.0-24.3)	776	78.4	(75.7-81.0)
	7: Clark	219	18.4	(16.2-20.6)	952	81.6	(79.4-83.8)

Note: A total of 3,928 students from 16 school districts in Nevada participated in the survey (Esmeralda County students attend high schools in the neighboring Nye County School District).

*Weighted row percent.

**95 percent confidence interval.

***Non-Hispanic.

Source: Office of Public Health Informatics and Epidemiology. Division of Public and Behavioral Health. *2013 Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Survey*. Carson City, Nevada. February 2014, available at: http://health.nv.gov/PUBLICATIONS/2013_Nevada_YRBS_Report_e_1.0_2014-02-13.pdf, as of May 30, 2014.

Table 2. Percentage of High School Students Who Were Electronically Bullied by Sex, Age, Grade, Race/Ethnicity, and Region--Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey: 2013

		Yes			No		
		Number	Percent*	C.I.** (95%)	Number	Percent*	C.I.** (95%)
Overall Total	Total	629	15.0	(13.5-16.5)	3,266	85.0	(83.5-86.5)
Sex	Female	457	21.6	(19.2-24.1)	1,549	78.4	(75.9-80.8)
	Male	172	8.2	(6.6-9.9)	1,717	91.8	(90.1-93.4)
Age	14 years old or younger	78	18.5	(13.7-23.3)	330	81.5	(76.7-86.3)
	15 years old	169	17.4	(14.1-20.6)	791	82.6	(79.4-85.9)
	16 years old	165	13.2	(10.6-15.9)	956	86.8	(84.1-89.4)
	17 years old	147	14.6	(11.5-17.8)	762	85.4	(82.2-88.5)
	18 years old or older	71	11.5	(7.7-15.4)	431	88.5	(84.6-92.3)
Grade	9th grade	161	19.1	(15.6-22.6)	694	80.9	(77.4-84.4)
	10th grade	187	14.8	(12.1-17.5)	983	85.2	(82.5-87.9)
	11th grade	139	13.1	(10.2-16.0)	834	86.9	(84.0-89.8)
	12th grade	140	12.8	(9.8-15.8)	734	87.2	(84.2-90.2)
Race/ Ethnicity	American Indian/ Alaska Native	15	25.7	(11.5-40.0)	70	74.3	(60.0-88.5)
	Asian	18	15.1	(7.8-22.4)	102	84.9	(77.6-92.2)
	Black (African American)***	19	10.5	(5.4-15.7)	142	89.5	(84.3-94.6)
	White***	322	17.7	(15.1-20.2)	1,376	82.3	(79.8-84.9)
	Hispanic/Latino	191	12.6	(10.4-14.9)	1,269	87.4	(85.1-89.6)
	Other/Multiple	49	15.7	(10.3-21.2)	239	84.3	(78.8-89.7)
Region	1: Carson City and Douglas	58	16.7	(12.8-20.7)	292	83.3	(79.3-87.2)
	2: Elko, White Pine, and Eureka	70	16.9	(13.1-20.8)	327	83.1	(79.2-86.9)
	3: Churchill, Humboldt, Pershing, and Lander	71	17.4	(13.7-21.2)	345	82.6	(78.8-86.3)
	4: Lyon, Mineral, and Storey	57	15.5	(11.7-19.3)	299	84.5	(80.7-88.3)
	5: Nye and Lincoln	34	16.1	(11.0-21.2)	170	83.9	(78.8-89.0)
	6: Washoe	167	16.9	(14.5-19.3)	835	83.1	(80.7-85.5)
	7: Clark	174	14.4	(12.4-16.4)	1,006	85.6	(83.6-87.6)

Note: A total of 3,928 students from 16 school districts in Nevada participated in the survey (Esmeralda County students attend high schools in the neighboring Nye County School District).

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