

# Bullying statistics

- More than one out of every five (20.8%) students report being bullied (**National Center for Educational Statistics, 2016**).
- The federal government began collecting data on school bullying in 2005, when the prevalence of bullying was around 28 percent (**U.S. Department of Education, 2015**).
- Rates of bullying vary across studies (from 9% to 98%). A meta-analysis of 80 studies analyzing bullying involvement rates (for both bullying others and being bullied) for 12-18 year old students reported a mean prevalence rate of 35% for traditional bullying involvement and 15% for cyberbullying involvement (**Modecki, Minchin, Harbaugh, Guerra, & Runions, 2014**).
- 33% of students who reported being bullied at school indicated that they were bullied at least once or twice a month during the school year (**National Center for Educational Statistics, 2016**).
- Of those students who reported being bullied, 13% were made fun of, called names, or insulted; 12% were the subject of rumors; 5% were pushed, shoved, tripped, or spit on; and 5% were excluded from activities on purpose (**National Center for Educational Statistics, 2016**).
- A slightly higher portion of female than of male students report being bullied at school (23% vs. 19%). In contrast, a higher percentage of male than of female students report being physically bullied (6% vs. 4%) and threatened with harm (5% vs. 3%; (**National Center for Educational Statistics, 2016**).
- Bullied students reported that bullying occurred in the following places: the hallway or stairwell at school (42%), inside the classroom (34%), in the cafeteria (22%), outside on school grounds (19%), on the school bus (10%), and in the bathroom or locker room (9%) (**National Center for Educational Statistics, 2016**).
- 43% of bullied students report notifying an adult at school about the incident. Students who report higher rates of bullying victimization are more likely to report the bullying (**National Center for Educational Statistics, 2016**).
- More than half of bullying situations (57%) stop when a peer intervenes on behalf of the student being bullied (**Hawkins, Pepler, & Craig, 2001**).
- School-based bullying prevention programs decrease bullying by up to 25% (**McCallion & Feder, 2013**).
- The reasons for being bullied reported most often by students include physical appearance, race/ethnicity, gender, disability, religion, sexual orientation (**National Center for Educational Statistics, 2016**).