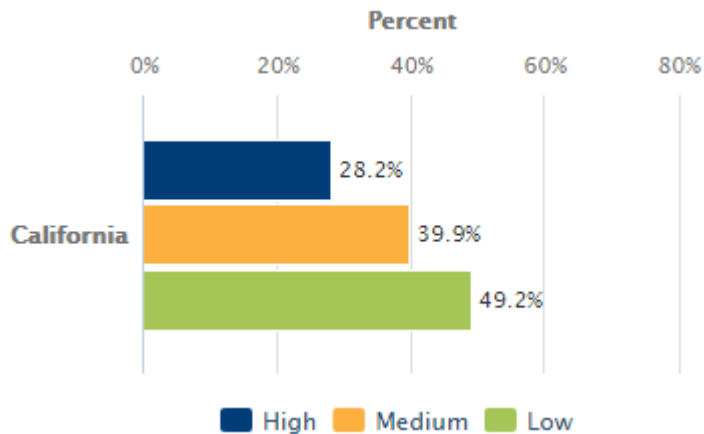


Student Bullying and Harassment in California

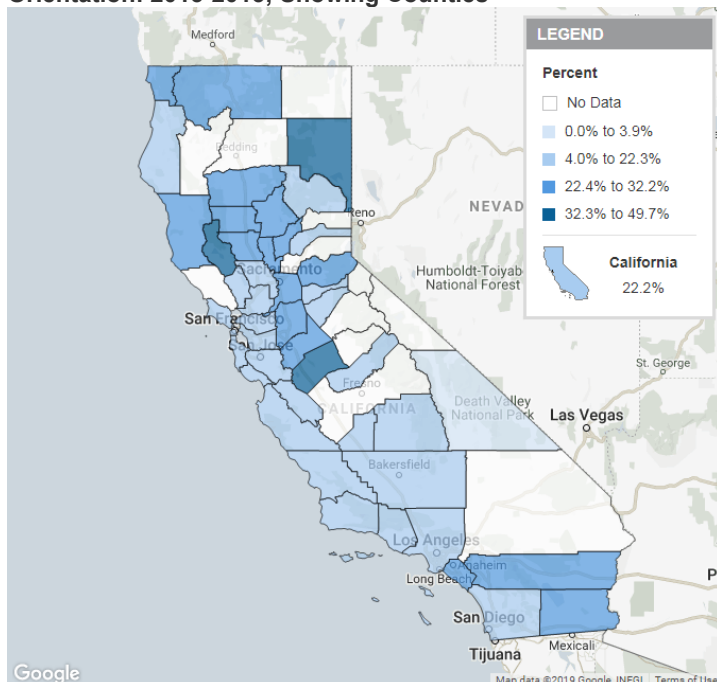
Students Who Were Bullied or Harassed for Any Reason in the Previous Year, by Level of School Connectedness: 2013-2015



Definition: Estimated percentage of public school students in grades 7, 9, 11, and non-traditional programs who were bullied or harassed at school for any reason in the previous year, by level of school connectedness (e.g., in 2013-2015, an estimated 49.2% of California students in grades 7, 9, 11, and non-traditional programs with low levels of school connectedness were bullied/harassed in the previous year).

Data Source: WestEd, *California Healthy Kids Survey*. California Department of Education (Jul. 2017).

Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Students Who Were Bullied or Harassed Four or More Times in the Previous Year on the Basis of Sexual Orientation: 2013-2015; Showing Counties



What It Is

On kidsdata.org, measures of bullying and harassment at school come from:

- Student reports of being bullied or harassed on school property in the previous year for any reason or for a bias-related reason (i.e., on the basis of a physical or mental disability, gender, race/ethnicity or national origin, religion, or sexual orientation)
- Student reports on the number of times in the previous year they were bullied or harassed at school on the basis of a disability, their gender, their race/ethnicity or national origin, their religion, and sexual orientation
- Student reports on the number of times in the previous year they were cyberbullied by other students
- School staff reports of the extent to which bullying or harassment among students is a problem at their school

Why This Topic Is Important

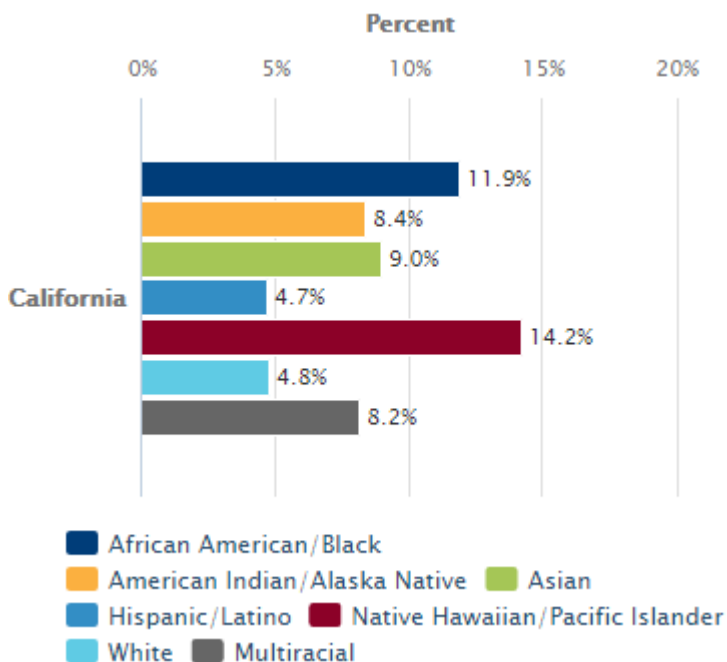
Bullying is considered a significant public health problem. National estimates indicate that between 20 and 30 percent of children and youth are bullied at school each year, with certain vulnerable groups at even higher risk, including students with disabilities and LGBTQ youth. This aggressive behavior, which may be physical, verbal, or social—and may occur in person or online—can have long-term harmful effects. In addition to the risk of physical injury, victims of bullying are at risk for depression, anxiety, suicidal behavior, physical health problems, substance abuse into adulthood, low academic achievement, and poor social and school adjustment.

Any involvement in bullying, whether as a bully, victim, or witness, is associated with negative outcomes. For example, youth who bully others are more likely to experience depression and engage in delinquent or suicidal behavior than non-bullies. In addition, those who report being both a victim and a bully have the highest risk of suicidal behavior among any group involved in bullying. It is important to note that bullying may not cause suicidal behavior, but it is one of several risk factors that appears to increase the chances of such behavior. Even youth who only witness bullying are more likely to report feelings of helplessness and other negative feelings than those who have not witnessed

Definition: Estimated percentage of public school students in grades 7, 9, 11, and non-traditional programs who were bullied or harassed at school in the previous year because they were gay or lesbian, or someone thought they were gay or lesbian, by number of occasions and sexual orientation (e.g., in 2013-2015, an estimated 22.2% of gay, lesbian, and bisexual students in grades 7, 9, 11, and non-traditional programs in California were bullied/harassed four or more times in the previous year because of sexual orientation).

Data Source: WestEd, *California Healthy Kids Survey*. California Department of Education (Jul. 2017).

Students Who Were Bullied or Harassed Four or More Times in the Previous Year on the Basis of Their Race/Ethnicity or National Origin: 2013-2015



Definition: Estimated percentage of public school students in grades 7, 9, 11, and non-traditional programs who were bullied or harassed at school in the previous year on the basis of their race/ethnicity or national origin, by number of occasions and race/ethnicity (e.g., in 2013-2015, an estimated 4.7% of Hispanic/Latino students in grades 7, 9, 11, and non-traditional programs in California were bullied/harassed four or more times in the previous year because of their race/ethnicity or national origin).

Data Source: WestEd, *California Healthy Kids Survey*. California Department of Education (Jul. 2017).

bullying. Further, the fear of being bullied or harassed may disrupt a child's ability to excel in school and life.

How Children Are Faring

According to 2013-2015 estimates, more than one in four California youth in grades 7, 9, 11, and non-traditional programs had been bullied or harassed at school in the previous year, and around one in five had been cyberbullied by other students. During the same period, school staff reports that bullying/harassment among students was a moderate or severe problem ranged from 24% of responses from elementary school staff to 45% of middle school staff reports. In each grade level, estimates of bullying and cyberbullying tended to be higher among girls than among boys in 2013-2015. Across all types of bullying and harassment, gay, lesbian, and bisexual students and those with low levels of school connectedness were more likely to be victimized than their straight and more connected peers.

When students are bullied or harassed at school, it is most often for reasons of bias (related to disabilities, gender, race/ethnicity or national origin, religion, or sexual orientation). In 2013-2015, an estimated 29% of 7th graders, 28% of 9th graders, 24% of 11th graders, and 22% of non-traditional students statewide were bullied or harassed in the previous year for one or more bias-related reasons. The prevalence of bias-related bullying/harassment varied widely depending on the reason for bias and the group affected. For example, bullying and harassment for reasons related to race/ethnicity or national origin were twice as common among African American/black (27%), Asian (25%), and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (29%) students when compared with their white counterparts (12%). Among students identifying as gay, lesbian, and bisexual, about half were bullied or harassed because they were, or were thought to be, gay or lesbian.

View references for this text and additional research on this topic:

<https://www.kidsdata.org/topic/71/bullying-and-harassment-at-school/summary>



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