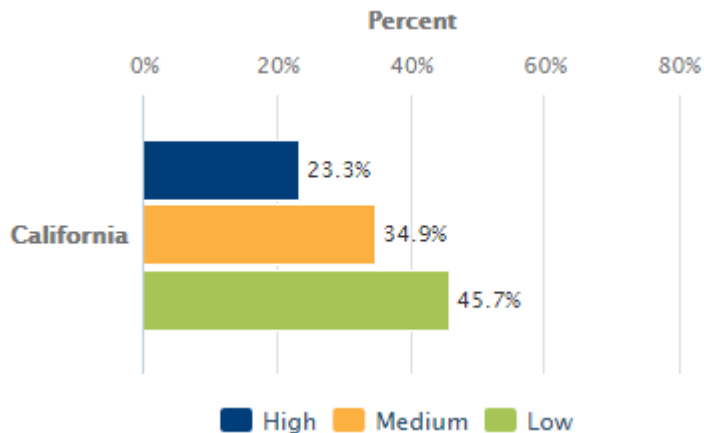


Student Bullying and Harassment in California

Students Who Were Bullied or Harassed for Any Reason in the Previous Year, by Level of School Connectedness: 2017-2019



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 2017-2019, 45.7% of California students in grades 7, 9, 11, and non-traditional programs with low levels of school connectedness had been bullied/harassed in the previous year).

Data Source: WestEd, *California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS)* & *Biennial State CHKS*. California Dept. of Education (Aug. 2020).

Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Students Who Were Bullied or Harassed Four or More Times in the Previous Year on the Basis of Sexual Orientation: 2017-2019; 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 12 months for any reason or for a bias-related reason
- 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, or 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.

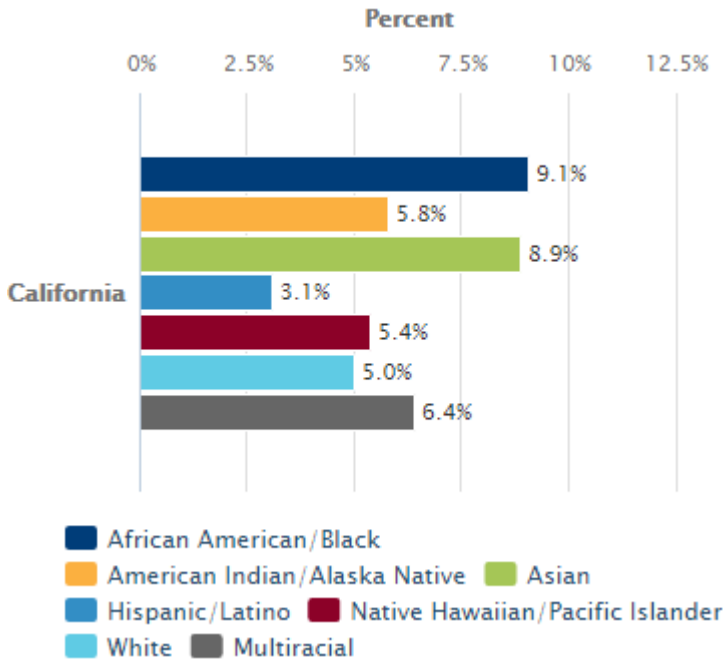
Any involvement in bullying, whether as a bully, victim, or witness, is associated with negative outcomes. Youth who bully others are more likely to experience depression and engage in delinquent and suicidal behavior than non-bullies, and those who report being both a bully and a victim are at even higher risk for suicidal behavior. Further, youth who only witness bullying are more likely to report feelings of helplessness and other negative feelings than those who have not witnessed bullying. Even 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 a 2017-2019 survey of California students, more than one in four youth in grades 7, 9, and 11 had been bullied or harassed at school in the previous year, and more than one

Students Who Were Bullied or Harassed Four or More Times in the Previous Year on the Basis of Race/Ethnicity or National Origin: 2017-

2019



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 race/ethnicity and number of occasions (e.g., in 2017-2019, 3.1% of Hispanic/Latino students in grades 7, 9, 11, and non-traditional programs in California had been 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 (CHKS)* & *Biennial State CHKS*. California Dept. of Education (Aug. 2020).

in five had been cyberbullied by other students. During the same period, school staff reports that bullying and harassment among students was a moderate or severe problem ranged from 20% of responses from elementary school staff to 44% of middle school staff reports, down from 28% and 52%, respectively, in 2011-2013. In each grade level, estimates of bullying and cyberbullying tend to be higher among girls than among boys. Across all types of bullying and harassment, gay, lesbian, and bisexual students and those with low levels of school connectedness are 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 2017-2019, an estimated 26% of California 7th graders, 23% of 9th graders, 22% of 11th graders, and 13% of non-traditional students had been bullied or harassed in the previous year for bias-related reasons. The prevalence of bias-related bullying and harassment varies widely depending on region, reason for bias, and group affected. For example, Asian youth statewide were more than twice as likely to have been bullied or harassed for reasons related to their race/ethnicity or national origin when compared with their Hispanic/Latino counterparts, according to 2017-2019 estimates. Among California youth identifying as gay, lesbian, and bisexual, almost half (44%) had been bullied or harassed because they were, or were thought to be, gay or lesbian, with county-level percentages ranging from 17% to more than 60% across regions with data.

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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