

Bullying and Harassment in California

Frequency of Reported Bullying for Any Reason in Past Year: 2008-2010

California	Percent			
	0 Times	1 Time	2-3 Times	4 or More Times
7th Grade	58.3%	15.7%	9.3%	16.8%
9th Grade	65.2%	11.6%	8.6%	14.5%
11th Grade	72.0%	9.0%	7.3%	11.6%
Non-Traditional	70.2%	8.2%	8.4%	13.2%

Definition: Percentage of students in grades 7, 9, 11, and non-traditional students reporting the number of times in the past 12 months they have been bullied at school for any reason. The grade levels included in school district-level data depend on the grades offered in each school district; for example, high school districts do not include 7th grade data. "Non-Traditional" students are those enrolled in [Community Day Schools](#) or [Continuation Education](#). According to [EdSource](#), nearly 10% of public school students in California are enrolled in these programs. **Data Source:** California Department of Education, California Healthy Kids Survey (WestEd). <http://www.wested.org/chks>

Students Who Have Not Been Bullied/Harassed Due to Their Race or National Origin in Past Year: 2008-2010

California	Percent	Range: 0 - 95%
African American/Black	74.9%	
Asian	75.8%	
Caucasian/White	88.7%	
Hispanic/Latino	84.7%	
Native American/Alaska Native	81.2%	
Pacific Islander	77.4%	
Multiethnic	80.2%	
Other	79.7%	

Definition: Percentage of students in grades 7, 9, and 11 reporting the number of times in the past 12 months they have been bullied at school because of their race or national origin, by race/ethnicity. The grade levels included in school district-level data depend on the grades offered in each school district; for example, high school districts do not include 7th grade data.

Data Source: California Department of Education, California Healthy Kids Survey (WestEd). <http://www.wested.org/chks>

WHAT IT IS

On kidsdata.org, measures of harassment and bullying come from the California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS) through a partnership with [WestEd](#), which developed and administers the CHKS, and the [California Department of Education](#). Indicators include: student reports of having been bullied on school property in the past year for [any reason](#) or for [any bias-related reason](#) (i.e., on the basis of gender, race/ethnicity or national origin, religion, sexual orientation, or a disability). In addition, kidsdata.org offers data on student reports of being bullied or harassed based on their [disability](#), [gender](#), [race or national origin](#), [religion](#), [sexual orientation](#), or [any other non-specified reason](#), each as separate indicators. These data are available by grade level (7th, 9th, 11th, and non-traditional students), gender, race/ethnicity, and level of connectedness to school. [School connectedness](#) is a summary measure that includes the following elements: being treated fairly, feeling close to people, feeling happy, feeling part of school, and feeling safe at school.

WHY THIS TOPIC IS IMPORTANT

Bullying and harassment can have both short and long term harmful effects on children and youth (1, 2). In addition to the risk of physical injury, research shows that victims of bullying are at higher risk of depression, suicidal ideation, and suicide attempts than those not involved in or exposed to bullying (1). They also are more likely to experience physical health problems and difficulties with academic performance and school engagement (3). Any young person can be bullied, but certain groups may be particularly susceptible. For instance, according to a 2009 national survey of middle and high school students, 9 out of 10 lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender youth reported experiencing some form of harassment at school the year before (4).

It is important to note that any involvement in bullying, either as a victim, witness, and/or as a bully, is related to negative outcomes (1, 2). In fact, youth who bully others also have increased rates of depression, suicidal ideation, and suicide attempts than those not involved in bullying behavior (1, 2). Bullies also are more likely to abuse alcohol or other drugs, engage in other risky behavior (e.g., early sexual activity), abuse others in intimate relationships, and engage in criminal activity as adults than

Frequency of Reported Bullying/Harassment Due to Sexual Orientation Among Males: 2008-2010

California	Percent			
	Male			
Grade Level	0 Times	1 Time	2-3 Times	4 or More Times
7th Grade	87.1%	5.0%	2.4%	5.5%
9th Grade	89.1%	3.8%	2.4%	4.7%
11th Grade	91.3%	2.9%	2.0%	3.8%
Non-Traditional	87.8%	5.0%	3.4%	3.9%

Definition: Percentage of students in grades 7, 9, 11, and non-traditional students reporting the number of times in the past 12 months they have been bullied at school because of their sexual orientation, by gender. The grade levels included in school district-level data depend on the grades offered in each school district; for example, high school districts do not include 7th grade data. "Non-Traditional" students are those enrolled in [Community Day Schools](#) or [Continuation Education](#). According to EdSource, nearly 10% of public school students in California are enrolled in these programs.

Data Source: California Department of Education, California Healthy Kids Survey (WestEd). <http://www.wested.org/chks>

Frequency of Reported Bullying/Harassment Due to Sexual Orientation Among Females: 2008-2010

California	Percent			
	Female			
Grade Level	0 Times	1 Time	2-3 Times	4 or More Times
7th Grade	89.8%	5.5%	2.3%	2.5%
9th Grade	91.0%	4.2%	2.3%	2.4%
11th Grade	93.5%	2.8%	1.8%	1.9%
Non-Traditional	89.1%	4.7%	3.1%	3.2%

Definition: Percentage of students in grades 7, 9, 11, and non-traditional students reporting the number of times in the past 12 months they have been bullied at school because of their sexual orientation, by gender. The grade levels included in school district-level data depend on the grades offered in each school district; for example, high school districts do not include 7th grade data. "Non-Traditional" students are those enrolled in [Community Day Schools](#) or [Continuation Education](#). According to EdSource, nearly 10% of public school students in California are enrolled in these programs.

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non-bullies (3). Youth who witness frequent bullying, perhaps because of their social environment, also are at increased risk for alcohol and drug use, depression, or anxiety (3). Further, the fear of being bullied or harassed can cause extreme anxiety and disrupt a child's ability to excel in school and life (3).

HOW CHILDREN ARE FARING

According to 2008-10 data, 42% of 7th graders, 35% of 9th graders, and 28% of 11th graders in California report being bullied or harassed at school at least once in the past year for any reason. The percentages of 7th grade girls and boys who reported being bullied at least once because of their race, sexual orientation, gender, religion, or disability has increased slightly since 2004-06, though the patterns are not as clear for 9th and 11th graders.

When youth are bullied or harassed at school, the most common specific reason cited is because of their race or national origin, with 19% of 7th graders, 17% of 9th graders, and 14% of 11th graders in 2008-10 reporting at least one bullying incident in the past year for this reason. Among African American/Black students, 25% said they had been bullied due to their race at least once in the past year, followed by 24% of Asian American and 23% of Pacific Islander students. Other reasons cited include sexual orientation (8-12% of students in grades 7, 9, and 11 citing one or more incidents at school in the past 12 months), gender (7-11%), religion (9-10%), disability (4-6%), and "any other reason" (15-27%).

Seventh-graders and non-traditional students (those enrolled in Community Day Schools or continuation programs) typically report more bullying or harassment than students in grades 9 and 11. Students who report feeling less connected to their schools more often report being bullied or harassed.

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

<http://www.kidsdata.org/data/topic/dashboard.aspx?cat=71#whatitis>



More Data: www.kidsdata.org

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Kids Data Offers Data for Every City, County, and School District in California

Race or National Origin as Reason for Bullying/Harassment (Grade Level: 7th Grade)

Grade Level: 7th Grade	Percent			
	0 Times	1 Time	2-3 Times	4 or More Times
Alameda County	78.2%	10.3%	5.3%	6.2%
Contra Costa County	78.8%	8.8%	5.4%	6.9%
Marin County	83.5%	6.9%	4.4%	5.2%
San Francisco County	74.0%	12.1%	5.9%	8.0%
San Mateo County	77.4%	9.8%	5.6%	7.1%
Santa Clara County	80.9%	8.9%	4.8%	5.4%

Definition: Percentage of students in grades 7, 9, 11, and non-traditional students reporting the number of times in the past 12 months they have been bullied at school because of their race or national origin.

Data Source: California Department of Education, California Healthy Kids Survey (WestEd). <http://www.wested.org/chks>

Sexual Orientation as Reason for Bullying/Harassment (Grade Level: 7th Grade)

Grade Level: 7th Grade	Percent			
	0 Times	1 Time	2-3 Times	4 or More Times
Alameda County	88.5%	5.0%	2.7%	3.7%
Contra Costa County	88.3%	5.4%	2.3%	4.0%
Marin County	88.5%	5.2%	2.2%	4.1%
San Francisco County	88.0%	5.3%	2.4%	4.3%
San Mateo County	88.3%	5.3%	2.5%	3.9%
Santa Clara County	89.0%	5.5%	2.2%	3.3%

Definition: Percentage of students in grades 7, 9, 11, and non-traditional students reporting the number of times in the past 12 months they have been bullied at school because of their sexual orientation.

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More Data: www.kidsdata.org

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Any Bias-Related Reason For Bullying/Harassment (Grade Level: 7th Grade; Number of Times: All)

Grade Level: 7th Grade	Percent			
	0 Times	1 Time	2-3 Times	4 or More Times
Alameda County	66.8%	14.3%	7.8%	11.1%
Contra Costa County	65.8%	13.9%	8.1%	12.2%
Marin County	67.2%	13.0%	8.5%	11.3%
San Mateo County	64.4%	14.5%	8.7%	12.4%
Santa Clara County	69.9%	12.9%	7.2%	9.9%

Grade Level: 7th Grade	Percent			
	0 Times	1 Time	2-3 Times	4 or More Times
Oakland Unified	70.0%	14.0%	7.1%	8.9%

Grade Level: 7th Grade	Percent			
	0 Times	1 Time	2-3 Times	4 or More Times
San Francisco Unified	65.6%	14.2%	7.5%	12.7%

Definition: Percentage of students in grades 7, 9, 11, and non-traditional students reporting the number of times in the past 12 months they have been bullied at school for any bias-related reason (i.e., on the basis of gender, race/ethnicity or national origin, religion, sexual orientation, or a disability). The grade levels included in school district-level data depend on the grades offered in each school district; for example, high school districts do not include 7th grade data. "Non-Traditional" students are those enrolled in [Community Day Schools](#) or [Continuation Education](#). According to [EdSource](#), nearly 10% of public school students in California are enrolled in these programs.

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