
T H E M I N N E S O T A
C O U N T Y A T T O R N E Y S
A S S O C I A T I O N

Topic: **Bullying and Harassment Prevention**

Bullying and harassment takes lots of forms and bullies keep bullying as long as it works – as long as it makes them feel more powerful. Many children and teens are bullies or victims of bullies, but the largest number of children and teens are **bystanders** – witnesses to bullying. **Bullying begins** in elementary school, peaks in middle school, and falls off in high school. It does not, however, disappear altogether. **Girls can be bullies too**, although bullying by girls is more likely to show up as spreading rumors, leaving people out of social events, teasing about clothes or boyfriends, or threatening to withdraw a friendship.

The Facts

- ⇒ 75% of children will be victimized at one point in their life by a bully.
- ⇒ Nearly 1 in every 6 middle school students is regularly harassed or attacked by a bully.
- ⇒ 160,000 children skip school every day because they fear being attacked or intimidated by other students.
- ⇒ Cyberbullying (repeated harm inflicted through the use of electronic media) is one of the fastest growing forms of bullying.
 - It is estimated that 42% of kids have been bullied online.
- ⇒ Bullying has lasting effects on everyone involved and some youth who are repeatedly targeted see suicide as their only escape.
- ⇒ One in six children who bully will have a criminal record before the age of 24.

Importance of Intervention

- ❖ Kids who are bullied need to be encouraged to report the behavior to an adult.
- ❖ Bullying rarely stops without adult intervention.
- ❖ The purpose of bullying intervention efforts is to identify the behavior early, before it escalates, and put a stop to it.

Resources

www.mcgruff.org
www.nssc1.org
www.colorado.edu

www.ncpc.org
www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov

Please consider presenting an important message of the consequences of this behavior to your local schools, community groups and parent organizations. For more information, or a copy of the article: “Bullying Prevention Is Crime Prevention” contact Dakota County Attorney James Backstrom at 651-438-4440.