

Friday, August 29, 2008

# BULLYING FACTS

## **Bullying Is Conduct That...**

- Adversely affects a student's ability to learn
- Involves repeated aggressive behavior against a weaker student
- Often involves hate words like *sissy*, *fag*, *shim*, *bitch*, *dyke*, or *whore*

## **Bullying Victims...**

- Avoid school, as many as 160,000 students a day.<sup>1</sup>
- And classmates agree that it hurts – about two-thirds of students 8-15 say bullying is a “big problem” for them<sup>2</sup>
- Are more common than you think—up to one-quarter of students complain of being frequently bullied<sup>3</sup>

## **Bullies May Target You If You're ...**

- A girl who likes sports, is aggressive in class, has a deep voice, or who doesn't act or dress feminine
- A boy who likes academics, throws “like a girl”, is small, or doesn't act or dress masculine enough
- Gay or your classmates think you're gay -- students are four times more likely to be bullied if they're perceived as gay or lesbian.
- Transgender or your classmates think you're transgendered -- LGBT students experience verbal assaults 26 times a day.<sup>5</sup>

## **Bullying Is A Cause in Most School Shootings...**

- 90%+ of recent school shootings involved boys who had been mercilessly humiliated and attacked

## **Bullies Are More Likely To....**

- Smoke and drink
- Fail academically
- Be troublemakers, and have criminal records –60% of boys who were bullies in middle school had at least one criminal conviction by 24; 40% had three or more convictions.

## **Both Male and Female Bullies...**

- Are likely to use verbal harassment – girls are more likely use social violence and ostracism while boys are more likely to use physical violence<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Source: *National Association of School Psychologists; Pollack, 1998*

<sup>2</sup> Source: *Kaiser Family Foundation*

<sup>3</sup> Source: *Melton et al, 1988; Nansel et al, 2001*

<sup>4</sup> Source: *National Institute of Mental Health*

<sup>5</sup> Source: *Kimmel, et al, 2003*

<sup>6</sup> Source: *Journal of the American Medical Association*

<sup>7</sup> Source: *Olweus Bullying Prevention Group*

<sup>8</sup> Source: *Olweus Bullying Prevention Group*