# **Bullying among New York City Youth**

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#### **Data Sources**

**National Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) 2011:** The national YRBSS is a self-administered, anonymous survey conducted in public and private high schools throughout the United States by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. For more information, visit http://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/yrbs/index.htm

**New York City Youth Risk Behavior Survey (NYC YRBS) 2011:** The NYC YRBS is a self-administered, anonymous survey conducted in NYC public high schools by the Health Department and the NYC Department of Education. For more survey details, visit <a href="https://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/episrv/episrv-youthriskbehavior.shtml">www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/episrv/episrv-youthriskbehavior.shtml</a>.

Analyses were restricted to youth in ninth through 12<sup>th</sup> grades, ages 13 years or older.

To access the related Epi Data Brief go to <a href="www.nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/epi/databrief37.pdf">www.nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/epi/databrief37.pdf</a>





## Table 1. Bullying victimization among youth, New York City and United States, 2011

Source: 2011 National High School Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System, 2011 New York City Youth Risk Behavior Survey

	New York City	United States		
	% bullied (95% Confidence Interval)	% bullied (95% Confidence Interval)		
School-bullied <sup>2</sup>	11.5 (10.4 – 12.8)	20.0 (18.6 – 21.4)		
Cyber-bullied <sup>3</sup>	10.7 ( 9.9 – 11.7)	16.1 (15.2 – 17.1)		
Bullied <sup>4</sup>	17.9 (16.6 – 19.3)	27.4 (25.8 – 29.0)		

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Bullying victimization is when one or more students tease, threaten, spread rumors about, hit, shove, or hurt another student over and over again. It is not bullying when two students of about the same strength or power argue or fight or tease each other in a friendly way.

95% confidence intervals are a measure of estimate precision. The wider the interval, the more imprecise the estimate.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>School-bullied: victimization on school property during the past 12 months.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Cyber-bullied: victimization through e-mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, Web sites, or texting during the past 12 months.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>Bullied: victimization at school and/or cyber-bullying, combined, during the past 12 months.



## Table 2. Bullying victimization among New York City youth, by selected demographic characteristics, 2011

Source: 2011 New York City Youth Risk Behavior Survey

	School-bullied <sup>2</sup>		Cyber-bullied <sup>3</sup>		Bullied <sup>4</sup>	
	% (95% Confidence Interval)	p-value	% (95% Confidence Interval)	p-value	% (95% Confidence Interval)	p-value
Sex						
Girls	11.7 ( 9.7 – 13.9)	referent	12.6 (10.9 – 14.5)	referent	19.4 (17.1 – 21.9)	referent
Boys	11.4 (10.1 – 12.9)	0.849	8.8 ( 7.9 – 9.9)	0.001	16.4 (14.7 – 18.2)	0.063
Grade						
9	14.2 (12.1 – 16.6)	referent	11.5 ( 9.9 – 13.2)	referent	20.7 (18.3 – 23.4)	referent
10	11.8 (10.1 – 13.7)	0.053	11.3 ( 9.8 – 12.9)	0.861	18.1 (16.2 – 20.3)	0.065
11	10.0 ( 8.1 – 12.2)	0.001	9.7 ( 7.6 – 12.3)	0.257	16.0 (13.5 – 19.0)	0.009
12	9.0 ( 8.0 – 10.1)	<0.001	10.2 ( 8.8 – 11.6)	0.134	15.7 (14.4 – 17.0)	<0.001
Race/ethnicity						
White, non-Hispanic	12.8 (10.3 – 15.6)	referent	13.4 (11.5 – 15.6)	referent	20.4 (17.9 – 23.2)	referent
Black, non-Hispanic	10.0 ( 8.5 – 11.8)	0.119	10.1 ( 8.9 – 11.5)	0.005	17.0 (15.0 – 19.1)	0.040
Hispanic	12.6 (10.6 – 14.8)	0.910	11.0 ( 9.6 – 12.6)	0.063	18.7 (16.5 – 21.1)	0.294
Asian, non-Hispanic	11.4 ( 9.2 – 14.0)	0.551	10.0 ( 7.4 – 13.3)	0.065	16.4 (13.3 – 20.0)	0.141
Sexual identity						
Lesbian, gay or bisexual	18.8 (15.3 – 22.8)	<0.001	19.1 (15.1 – 23.7)	<0.001	28.6 (23.9 – 33.7)	<0.001
Heterosexual	10.7 ( 9.5 – 12.0)	referent	9.9 ( 9.0 – 11.0)	referent	16.8 (15.4 – 18.3)	referent

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Bullying victimization is when one or more students tease, threaten, spread rumors about, hit, shove, or hurt another student over and over again. It is not bullying when two students of about the same strength or power argue or fight or tease each other in a friendly way.

95% confidence intervals are a measure of estimate precision. The wider the interval, the more imprecise the estimate.

A p-value is a measure of statistical significance. A p-value less than 0.05 means there is a significant difference between that group and the referent (comparison) group. Bold p-values are significant at the 0.05 level.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>School bullied: victimization on school property during the past 12 months.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Cyber-bullied: victimization through e-mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, Web sites, or texting during the past 12 months.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>Bullied: victimization at school and/or cyber-bullying, combined, during the past 12 months.



Table 3. Mental health, help-seeking behaviors, and bullying victimization among youth, New York City, 2011

Source: 2011 New York City Youth Risk Behavior Survey

	Overall Bullied <sup>2</sup>		Not bullied		
	%	%		%	
	(95% confidence	(95% confidence		(95% confidence	
	interval)	interval)	p-value	interval)	p-value
Persistent sadness <sup>3</sup>	26.8 (25.5 – 28.2)	45.8 (42.5 – 49.2)	<0.001	22.6 (21.1 – 24.1)	referent
Considered suicide <sup>4</sup>	11.3 (10.6 – 12.1)	24.0 (21.9 – 26.2)	<0.001	8.3 ( 7.6 - 9.1)	referent
Attempted suicide <sup>4</sup>	8.1 ( 7.2 - 9.0)	15.4 (13.6 – 17.4)	<0.001	6.2 ( 5.4 - 7.1)	referent
Injury with treatment among youth who reported attempted suicide <sup>5</sup>	30.2 (26.2 – 34.5)	31.4 (24.9 – 38.6)	0.675	29.3 (24.3 – 34.9)	referent
Self-harm <sup>6</sup>	17.5 (16.2 – 18.8)	31.8 (28.5 – 35.4)	<0.001	13.5 (12.3 – 14.8)	referent
Help-seeking from a professional 7	15.7 (14.4 – 17.0)	24.0 (21.6 – 26.6)	<0.001	13.9 (12.6 – 15.2)	referent

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Bullying victimization is when one or more students tease, threaten, spread rumors about, hit, shove, or hurt another student over and over again. It is not bullying when two students of about the same strength or power argue or fight or tease each other in a friendly way.

95% confidence intervals are a measure of estimate precision. The wider the interval, the more imprecise the estimate.

A p-value is a measure of statistical significance. A p-value less than 0.05 means there is a significant difference between that group and the referent (comparison) group. Bold p-values are significant at the 0.05 level.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Bullied: victimization at school and/or cyber-bullying (through e-mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, Web sites or texting), combined, during the past 12 months.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Persistent sadness: feeling so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that the student stopped doing some usual activities during the past 12 months.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>Considered suicide, attempted suicide: during the past 12 months.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>Injury refers to any injury, poisoning or overdose resulting from a suicide attempt that had to be treated by a doctor or nurse, among those who attempted suicide during the past 12 months.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup>Self-harm refers to purposely hurting oneself without wanting to die, such as cutting or burning oneself on purpose, during the past 12

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup>Help-seeking is trying to get help from a professional counselor, social worker or therapist for an emotional or personal issue that the student could not face alone, during the past 12 months.



### Table 4. Tobacco, alcohol and other drug use, and bullying victimization among youth, New York City, 2011

Source: 2011 New York City Youth Risk Behavior Survey

	Overall % (95% confidence	Bullied <sup>2</sup> % (95% confidence		Not bullied % (95% confidence	
	interval)	interval)	p-value	interval)	p-value
Smoking <sup>3</sup>	8.5 ( 7.4 – 9.6)	14.0 (11.8 – 16.4)	<0.001	7.2 ( 6.2 – 8.2)	referent
Drinking <sup>3</sup>	30.5 (28.6 – 32.4)	38.5 (35.1 – 42.0)	<0.001	28.6 (26.7 – 30.6)	referent
Binge drinking <sup>3</sup>	12.6 (11.5 – 13.7)	17.0 (14.7 – 19.5)	<0.001	11.4 (10.4 – 12.6)	referent
Marijuana use <sup>3</sup>	17.5 (16.3 – 18.8)	23.4 (20.6 – 26.6)	<0.001	16.0 (14.8 – 17.2)	referent
Prescription pain medication use (without a prescription) <sup>4</sup>	7.1 ( 6.2 – 8.0)	12.8 (10.8 – 15.1)	<0.001	5.3 ( 4.5 – 6.3)	referent

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Bullied: bullying victimization at school and/or cyber-bullying (through e-mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, Web sites or texting), combined, during the past 12 months.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Smoking, drinking, binge drinking and marijuana use refer to any use during the past 30 days. Binge drinking is consuming five or more drinks of alcohol in a row, within a couple of hours.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>Prescription pain medication use without a prescription refers to use during the past 12 months. Prescription pain medications include drugs such as OxyContin, Percocet, Vicodin, hydrocodone or oxycodone.



Table 5. Safety-related behaviors, missing school, and bullying victimization among youth, New York City, 2011

Source: 2011 New York City Youth Risk Behavior Survey

	Overall %	Bullied <sup>2</sup> %		Not bullied %	
	(95% confidence interval)	(95% confidence interval)	p-value	(95% confidence interval)	p-value
Carried any weapon <sup>3</sup>	8.9 (8.0 – 9.9)	15.9 (13.3 – 18.9)	<0.001	7.2 ( 6.4 – 8.0)	referent
Carried a gun <sup>3</sup>	2.2 (1.7 – 2.7)	4.1 ( 3.0 - 5.7)	<0.001	1.6 ( 1.2 - 2.0)	referent
Carried any weapon at school <sup>3</sup>	3.5 (3.0 – 4.1)	7.0 ( 5.7 – 8.6)	<0.001	2.5 ( 2.0 – 3.0)	referent
Threatened or injured with a weapon at school <sup>4</sup>	6.5 (5.7 – 7.4)	18.9 (16.1 – 21.9)	<0.001	3.3 ( 2.8 – 3.9)	referent
Missed school because of feeling unsafe to/from/at school <sup>5</sup>	8.2 (7.3 – 9.2)	18.9 (15.9 – 22.3)	<0.001	5.6 ( 4.9 – 6.4)	referent

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Bullied: bullying victimization at school and/or cyber-bullying (through e-mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, Web sites or texting), combined, during the past 12 months.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Carried any weapon (such as a gun, knife or club), carried a gun and carried any weapon at school refer to carrying one or more times in the past 30 days.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>Being threatened or injured with a weapon at school refers to experiences occurring one or more times in the past 12 months.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>Missing school because of feeling unsafe on the way to or from school or at school refers to experiences occurring one or more times in the past 30 days.