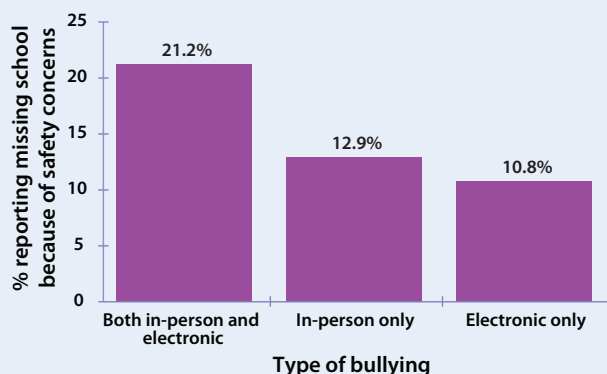


Bullying and Absenteeism: Information for State and Local Education Agencies

In the United States, bullying remains a serious problem among teens. Although associations between bullying and health risk behaviors are well-documented, research on bullying and education-related outcomes, such as school attendance, is limited.

CDC researchers used the 2013 national Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) to examine associations between bullying victimization and missing school because of safety concerns. Given increasing attention to electronic bullying, this study considered in-person bullying at school, electronic bullying, and the co-occurrence of both types of bullying.

Figure 1. Missing school because of safety concerns among U.S. high school students



What can education agencies do?

As state and local education agencies work to prevent bullying, they can:

- **Share this information.** By highlighting a potential education-related consequence of bullying, these data can help inform bullying prevention.
- **Address electronic bullying.** Even though electronic bullying may occur beyond school boundaries, this type of bullying may contribute to absenteeism.
- **Respond to co-occurring types of bullying.** Students experiencing multiple types of bullying may be more likely to miss school.
- **Partner with health professionals.** Because bullying is related to both health and education outcomes, there is opportunity for collaboration.

The findings reported in this info brief were published in: Steiner RJ, Rasberry CN. Brief Report: Associations between in-person and electronic bullying victimization and missing school because of safety concerns among U.S. high school students. *J Adolesc.* 2015;43:1-4.

What does the research say?

About one-quarter of high school students experienced bullying during the past 12 months. Among bullied students, 15.5% missed one or more days of school because of safety concerns during the past 30 days. This is equivalent to 600,000 of the more than 16 million enrolled secondary students in 2011-2012.^{1,2} Only 4.1% of students who had not been bullied missed school because of safety concerns.

Figure 1 indicates the percent of students who missed school among those who experienced each type of bullying. Students who experienced both types of bullying were between 5 and 6 times more likely to miss school because of safety concerns than those students who had not been bullied.



¹National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). Public School Enrollment. Updated May 2014. Accessed: March 6, 2015. Available at: http://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/indicator_cga.asp

²National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). Private School Enrollment. Updated January 2014. Accessed: March 6, 2015. http://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/indicator_cgc.asp

For more information, visit: www.cdc.gov/healthyouth