

Victorian Students: Bullying

Performance and Evaluation Division (PED) snapshot

September 2015

This fact sheet presents summary findings from the Victorian Student Health and Wellbeing Survey ('About You') first administered in 2014.



Almost half of Victorian students in Years 5, 8 and 11 (45 per cent) reported recent experience of bullying (being teased or called names, having rumours spread about them, being deliberately left out of things, or being physically threatened or actually harmed). This proportion declined as students progressed through school from 47 per cent in Year 5, to 44 per cent in Year 8 and 38 per cent in Year 11.



Girls were more likely to say they had experienced recent bullying (47 per cent compared with 43 per cent of boys).

Students who were recently bullied fared significantly worse on a range of outcomes:

- More than one in four (26 per cent) showed signs of depression or psychological distress, compared with just 6 per cent of students who were not bullied.
- Less likely to demonstrate psychological resilience (60 per cent compared with 82 per cent of students who were not bullied).
- More likely to have wagged school at least once in the last four weeks (31 per cent compared with 25 per cent).



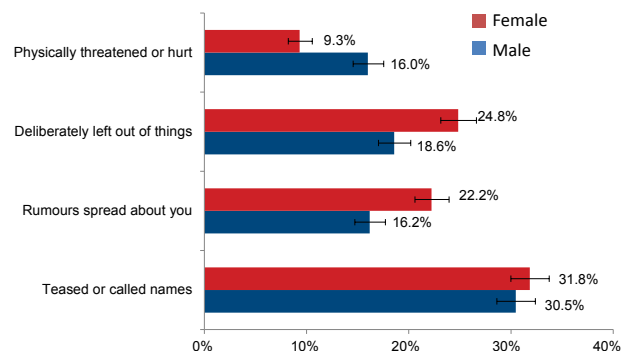
The most commonly reported form of bullying in the survey was being teased or called names (31 per cent).

Girls were more likely than boys to experience having rumours spread about them (22 per cent compared with 16 per cent), and being deliberately left out of things (25 per cent compared with 19 per cent).



Boys were more likely to have been physically threatened or actually harmed (16 per cent compared with 9 per cent).

Forms of bullying experienced by students recently, by gender, Victoria 2014



BULLY

Around one in seven students reported being bullied every day (15 per cent). Like bullying generally, this declined as students progressed through school, from 17 per cent in Year 5 to 14 per cent in Year 8, and 12 per cent in Year 11.

Boys and girls were roughly equally likely to be bullied every day (15 per cent of boys and 16 per cent of girls).



Around one in three students (29 per cent) reported experiencing cyber bullying in the last 30 days. Unlike general bullying, cyber bullying increased with year level, from 26 per cent in Year 5 to 33 per cent in Year 8, and 36 per cent in Year 11.

One in three girls experienced recent cyber bullying (33 per cent) compared with one in four boys (25 per cent).



The most commonly reported form of cyber bullying in the survey was being made fun of in a chat room (12 per cent of students).

About You was conducted across a sample of approximately 6,000 students from 264 Victorian schools in 2014. It was an anonymous voluntary population survey of Year 5, Year 8 and Year 11 students, undertaken with parental consent.

The About You instrument covers a wide range of outcome areas for young Victorians, including physical health and health risk behaviours, psychological/emotional wellbeing, perceived academic performance, school satisfaction and school and family relationships.

A key addition to the survey content was the direct measurement of students' height and weight from a subsample of around 1,500 students, which addresses a major data gap around obesity and overweight among Victorian children and young people at the state level.

More information: www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/bullystoppers