



Minnesota Crime Prevention Association's Crime Prevention Tips

The MCPA strives to bring current information regarding prevention topics to its members. Please use these prevention tips to promote safety to the citizens of your community. These tips are great for brochures, newsletters, e-mails, etc.

Topic: **Facts About Bullying and Harassment**

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.

Adults Need to Know

- ⇒ 160,000 children skip school every day because they fear being attacked or intimidated by other students.
- ⇒ The U.S. Department of Justice states that 37% of all students don't feel safe at school.
- ⇒ The National Institute of Health reports that a third of students in 6th to 10th grades nationwide experienced some kind of bullying.
- ⇒ 90% of 4th through 8th graders report being victims of bullying.
- ⇒ Students reported 71% of the teachers or other adults in the classroom ignored bullying incidents.
- ⇒ One in six children who bully will have a criminal record before the age of 24.
- ⇒ Although much bullying happens where adults cannot see or hear it, it also happens when adults are present. Often adults don't do anything to stop the bullying.
- ⇒ When asked, students uniformly expressed the desire that teachers intervene rather than ignore teasing and bullying.

Resources

www.mcgruff.org

www.ncpc.org

www.nssc1.org

www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov

www.colorado.edu