



CHILDHOOD RISK

Cyber Bullying

INDICATOR

Percent of youth who have been bullied online or electronically.

Numerator Number of students reporting "Yes"

Denominator High school youth (all grades)

DESCRIPTION

This metric asks about being bullied electronically, including being bullied through "e-mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, web sites, or texting". Bullying is defined as unwanted aggressive behavior(s), indicating a power imbalance. This question asks students, "During the past 12 months, have you ever been electronically bullied?"

IMPORTANCE

Bullying includes actions to exclude or isolate others, as well as physical, verbal, and, as is the case with social media, written attacks intended to hurt or instill fear. Students who are bullied tend to have higher rates of depression and anxiety, have more frequent physical complaints, experience less academic success, and exhibit worse personal outcomes, such as lower levels of self-esteem and higher levels of suicide ideation (Kowalski, 2014). Bullying often begins early and can continue from childhood into adolescence. Cyber bullying acknowledges the increasing presence of technology, along with the added impact of anonymity which may accompany cyber bullying (Thomas, 2014).

LIMITATIONS

- Low rates of school participation in the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) in 2015 prevented data from being statistically accurate, so there is no Wisconsin comparison in 2015; US 2017 rates have not yet been published.
- The following states are not included in the comparison: MN, AZ, CA, CO, IN, IA, MO, PA.
- This metric does not include in-person bullying.

ADDITIONAL ANALYSES

Wisconsin Analyses

Sexual Orientation	% of WI Children Experiencing Cyber Bullying
Gay, Lesbian, or Bisexual	30.8%
Heterosexual	16.4%

Wisconsin (continued)

Race/Ethnicity	% of WI Children Experiencing Cyber Bullying
Black	15.1%
Hispanic/Latino	17.6%
White	18.4%
Multiple Races	28.9%

YEAR:		WI: 2017/ US: 2015	
WI	US	Best	Worst
18.3%*	15.5%	11.6%	21.1%
		FL	ID
PAST YEAR:		2013	
WI	US		
17.6%*	14.8%		

* Indicates a statistically significant difference from the US value at $p < 0.05$.

SOURCE

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2017). Wisconsin 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey Summary Tables. Retrieved from <https://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/yrebs>. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2015). Youth Risk Behavior Survey [Data file]. Retrieved from nccd.cdc.gov/youthonline. Kowalski, R. M., Giumetti, G. W., Schroeder, A. N., & Lattanner, M. R. (2014). Bullying in the digital age: A critical review and meta-analysis of cyberbullying research among youth. *Psychological Bulletin*, 140(4), 1073. Thomas, H. J., Connor, J. P., & Scott, J. G. (2015). Integrating traditional bullying and cyberbullying: challenges of definition and measurement in adolescents—a review. *Educational psychology review*, 27(1), 135-152.