

Current Bullying Statistics in Ontario

The following statistics were taken from the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) 2011 Ontario Student Drug use and Health Survey (OSDUHS).

The Study:

The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health's Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey (OSDUHS) is the longest ongoing school survey of adolescents in Canada, and one of the longest in the world. The study has been conducted provincially every two years since 1977. A total of 9,288 students (62% of selected students in participating schools) in grades 7 through 12 from 40 school boards, 181 schools, and 581 classes participated in the 2011 OSDUHS, which was administered by the Institute for Social Research, York University. All data are based on self-reports derived from anonymous questionnaires completed in classrooms between October 2010 and June 2011.

This report describes mental health, physical health, and risk behaviours among Ontario students in 2011 and changes since 1991, where available. Although the OSDUHS began in 1977, most health and mental health indicators were first included in the survey in the early 1990s. Results are provided for two analytical groups of students: those in grades 7-12, and those in grades 7, 9, and 11 only. The first group is used to assess current behaviour and recent trends (1999-2011), and the second is used to assess long-term trends (1991-2011).

Since 1977, the sample design has divided Ontario into four regional strata based on the following boundaries: City of Toronto; Northern Ontario (Parry Sound District, Nipissing District and areas farther north); Western Ontario (Peel District, Dufferin County and areas farther west); and Eastern Ontario (Simcoe County, York County and areas farther east).

Bullying at School:

- Among students in grades 7 through 12, 28.6% (95% CI: 25.8%-31.5%) report being bullied at school since September. This represents about 288,000 students in Ontario.
- The most prevalent form of victimization is verbal (24.5%), while 2.6% are mainly bullied physically, and 1.4% are mainly victims of theft or vandalism.
- About 9.4% of students report being bullied on a daily or weekly basis, and about 17.9% are bullied monthly or less often.

- Females are more likely than males to report being bullied in any manner (31.3% vs. 25.8%, respectively). Females are more likely to be bullied verbally than males (29.5% vs. 19.6%, respectively), whereas males are more likely to be bullied physically than are females (4.4% vs. 0.9%, respectively). Both are equally likely to be victims of theft or vandalism (about 1% to 2%).
- There is significant grade variation, with students in grades 7 through 10 most likely to be bullied (about one-third) in any manner, while 12th-graders (21.5%) are least likely. Grade 7 and 8 students are the most likely to be bullied physically. These youngest grades are also most likely to be bullied on a daily/weekly basis (about 12% to 16%).
- Among the regions, Toronto students (21.6%) are the least likely to be bullied, compared with students in the other three regions (about 30%).

Bullying Perpetrators:

- Among all students, 20.7%(95%CI: 16.9%-25.2%) report bullying other students at school. This represents about 208,000 students in Ontario.
- The most prevalent form of bullying others is through verbal attacks (17.9%), followed by physical attacks (2.5%). Theft or damage to others' property is reported by less than 1% of students.
- About 4.6% of students report bullying others on a daily or weekly basis, and 16.2% report bullying others monthly or less often.
- Males(18.6%)and females(22.8%)are equally likely to report bullying others at school.
- There are no significant differences among the grades.
- There are no significant regional differences.

2003–2011 (Grades 7–12):

- The percentage of students reporting being bullied at school did not significantly change between 2009 (28.9%) and 2011 (28.6%), nor is the current estimate statistically significantly different from that seen in 2003 (32.7%). However, bullying victimization did significantly decline since 2003 among males, but not among females. The declining trend since 2003 is also significant among the youngest grade in our sample, the 7th-graders.

- There has been no significant change in reports about the main way students are bullied, or in the frequency of being bullied.
- Among the total sample, the percentage reporting bullying others in 2011 (20.7%) is not significantly different than the estimate from 2009 (25.1%), but is significantly lower than the estimate from 2003 (29.7%). Again, males show a decline overtime, but females do not.
- There has been no change in the main way students report bullying others, or in the frequency of bullying others.

Cyber-Bullying:

- Among students in grades 7 through 12, 21.6% (95% CI: 19.5%-24.0%) report being bullied over the Internet in the past year. This represents about 217,500 students in Ontario.
- Females are significantly more likely than males to report being a victim of cyber- bullying (28.0% vs. 15.2%, respectively).
- There are no significant differences among the grades.
- There is a significant regional difference, with students in the Western region (24.6%) most likely to report being a victim of cyber-bullying whereas students in Toronto are least likely (17.2%).

Source: http://www.camh.ca/en/research/news_and_publications/ontario-student-drug-use-and-health-survey/Documents/2011%20OSDUHS%20Docs/2011OSDUHS_Detailed_DrugUseReport_2.pdf