



## RESOLUTION

JULY 2009

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### **TITLE: BULLYING PREVENTION FOR SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

**WHEREAS**, 30% of students in grades 6 through 10 report moderate or frequent involvement in bullying, 13% as perpetrators, 10.6% as victims, and 6.3% as both.<sup>1</sup>

**WHEREAS**, about 32% of all teenagers who use the internet say they have been targets of a range of annoying and potentially menacing online activities – such as receiving threatening messages; having their private emails or text messages forwarded without consent; having an embarrassing picture posted without permission; or having rumors about them spread online<sup>10</sup>

**WHEREAS**, 18% of students in grades 6 through 8 report being cyber bullied at least once in the last couple of months; and 6% said it happened to them two or more times.<sup>8</sup>

**WHEREAS**, girls are more likely than boys to say that they have ever experienced cyber-bullying – 38% of on line girls report being bullied, compared with 26% of online boys.<sup>8, 10</sup>

**WHEREAS**, perpetrators of bullying are more likely to engage in risk-taking behaviors such as drinking alcohol and smoking.<sup>1</sup>

**WHEREAS**, 60% of those characterized as perpetrators in grades 6 through 9 receive at least 1 criminal conviction by age 24.<sup>2</sup>

**WHEREAS**, victims of bullying are more likely to suffer long-term negative psychosocial consequences including depression, lower self-esteem, and worsening school attendance and academic performance.<sup>3,4,5</sup>

**WHEREAS**, attackers in school violence such as shootings are more than twice as likely to report being bullied.<sup>6</sup>

**WHEREAS**, parents and professionals repeatedly fail to identify children and adolescents at risk of bullying.<sup>7</sup>

**WHEREAS**, school-based interventions implemented in Europe show reductions in bullying of up to 50%.<sup>2</sup>

**WHEREAS**, as of this writing, 39 states have passed bullying prevention laws.<sup>9</sup>

**Therefore, be it resolved that Safe States Alliance supports:**

- Collaboration of its state, territorial, and local members with all of the institutions that must address prevention and respond to the short- and long-term consequences of bullying including: law enforcement; mental health agencies; departments of education and juvenile justice; state and county medical associations; emergency medical services; public health programs; schools; faith-based organizations; and, parent and youth organizations;
- Dissemination and utilization of materials that will enable parents, teachers, students; schools, and communities to address bullying prevention in a comprehensive manner including education, training and policy development; and to achieve social change; and,
- Research on bullying behaviors and the development and evaluation of bullying prevention interventions and programming.

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<sup>1</sup> Nansel TR, Overpeck M, Pilla RS, Ruan WJ, Simons-Morton B, Scheidt P. Bullying Behaviors Among U.S. Youth: Prevalence and Association with Psychosocial Adjustment. *Journal of the American Medical Association* 2001; 285(16):2094-2100.

<sup>2</sup> Olweus D. *Bullying at School: What We Know and What We Can Do*. Cambridge, MA: Blackwell; 1993.

<sup>3</sup> Rigby K, Slee P. Suicidal ideation among adolescent school children, involvement in bully-victim problems, and perceived social support. *Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior* 1999; 29:119-130.

<sup>4</sup> Salmon G, James A, Smith DM. Bullying in school: self-reported anxiety, depression, and self-esteem in secondary children. *British Medical Journal* 1998; 317(1763):924-925.

<sup>5</sup> Sharp S. How much does bullying hurt? The efforts of bullying on the personal well-being and educational progress of secondary aged students. *Educational and Child Psychology* 1995; 12:81-88.

<sup>6</sup> Anderson M, Kaufman J, Simon T, Barrios L, Paulozzi L, Ryan G, et al. School-Associated Violent Deaths in the United States 2001; 286:2695-2702.

<sup>7</sup> Landau S, Milich R, Harris MJ. "You really don't know how much it hurts." Children's and pre-service teachers' reactions to childhood teasing. *The School Psychology Review* 2001; 30:329-343.

<sup>8</sup> Kowalski R, Limber SP, Scheck A, Redfearn M, Allen J, Calloway A, Farris J, Finnegan K, Keith M, Kerr S, Singer L, Spearman J, Tripp L, Vernon L. Electronic bullying among school-aged children and youth. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, Washington, DC. 2005.

<sup>9</sup> Take A Stand. Lend A Hand. Stop Bullying Now! Campaign. (2009). *State laws related to bullying among children and youth*. Retrieved February 6, 2009, from [www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov](http://www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov)

<sup>10</sup> From Pew <http://www.pewinternet.org/pdfs/PIP%20Cyberbullying%20Memo.pdf>

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