

Civic Minds

Date: Friday, May 13, 2016

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Article Title: **Extensive study calls school bullying public-health problem**

Section: NW Wednesday, B1

Vocabulary:

Look up the definition of **bystander**. Please write the definition and create a new sentence, using your own words.

“The report, ‘Preventing Bullying Through Science, Policy, and Practice,’ was released Tuesday and puts a significant focus on **bystanders**, who also are prone to serious consequences, including anxiety, depression and future delinquent behavior.”

Comprehension Questions

1. The schoolyard shove each morning. The taunt resulting in red-faced shame at lunch. The gossip whispered via text messages. Long viewed as merely an unpleasant part of growing up, bullying is now attracting federal attention. Why?
2. Nearly a third of all kids ages 5 to 18 experience some form of bullying. Define bullying and its physical effects?
3. An additional 7 to 15 percent of students are bullied in _____, which is more difficult for adults to monitor.
4. What are the groups with higher rates of bullying?
5. When does bullying behavior first show up?
6. What grades are typical peak bullying time frames?
7. What is the defining feature of bullying?
8. The report, “Preventing Bullying Through Science, Policy, and Practice,” was released Tuesday and puts a significant focus on bystanders. What are they prone to?
9. Sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, among other federal agencies, the 300-page report treats bullying with an urgency similar to what?
10. When was bullying first identified? In what year did it start receiving serious attention and a study was conducted?
11. When did the U.S. devote significant resources to the problem? Why?
12. Since then, all 50 states have adopted or revised laws to address school bullying, and the federal government has devoted more than \$_____ million to combating it.

Class Discussion Questions and Essay Prompts:

- Have you been bullied before? How did it make you feel?
- Did you feel physical symptoms such as those described in the article?
- Have you bullied another? Why? How did it make you feel?
- Is bullying a problem at your school?
- Is cyber-bullying happening at your school?

“Abdominal pain, sleep problems or damage to a child’s academic career — these are things we can’t ignore anymore. Kids have the right to go to school and get an education. If bullying interferes with that, it is interfering with one of their essential rights,” said Frederick Rivara, a professor of pediatrics and epidemiology at the University of Washington and Seattle Children’s hospital, who led the national group of scientists, educators and crime experts in studying existing research.

- Do you agree with Rivara’s statement? Why or why not?

“What we know about trauma is that when you feel powerless, it’s a source of secondary trauma,” she said. “We also know that when a bystander intervenes, bullying stops.”

- Have you been a bystander when someone else was being a bully? Did you step into help? Did you watch and say nothing? Why or why not?

Lastly, Rivara’s group issued a direct plea to the giants of social media. Publish anti-bullying policies on all social-media websites, it said, and help the federal government track this problem.

“In Seattle, especially,” Rivara added, “social-media companies have some responsibility.”

- Do you agree that social media companies have a responsibility in anti-bullying policies? Why or why not?

Essay

Yet results have been negligible. The most frequent response — zero-tolerance policies resulting in suspension or expulsion — may make things worse, added Rivara.

He and the committee are calling for the U.S. Department of Education to boost data-gathering through the Office for Civil Rights; create new evidence-based programs; and improve prevention training for all adults who work with children.

- Do zero tolerance policies work at your school? Why or why not?
- How can teachers and school administrators help decrease the amount of bullying at school?

Newspaper-related CBA activity: U.S. Policy

How the United States government interacts with the world affects people across the globe. Analyze and evaluate the causes and effects of US foreign policy on people in the United States and across the world.

- Using The Seattle Times e-edition, find an article from this week that deals with world politics or foreign policy.
- What are the main points of view from someone living in that particular country? How is that “view” similar and different than your own opinion, regarding the specific issue the article is discussing?
- Why is it important to study and learn about foreign policy? How does it help you understand the world we live in, using current issues and events?

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