

# By the numbers

## Bullying and school climate

Bryan Bullock, assistant editor

It's a sad truth, but a truth nonetheless: Bullying occurs at every school. It takes many forms — both physical and verbal — and it can happen in person, online and even via text message.

Whatever the form, bullying has the potential to make life overwhelming for victims. Studies show children and teens who are bullied are more likely to struggle academically; dislike school and miss classes; distrust peers and have problems making friends; experience declined mental and emotional health; and engage in violence and hurt themselves or others.

Amid the growing challenges of instant communication through smart phones and social media, schools across Ohio and the nation are stepping up stronger against bullying. It's a tough battle though. Bullying has always been around — and more than likely always will be — but awareness and prevention efforts can make a difference in a school. Here's a look at some sobering statistics about bullying and school climate. ■

Sources: National Center for Education Statistics, 2010; Ohio Department of Education; and U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2011

As many as  
**160,000**  
students may stay home on  
any given day because they  
are afraid of being bullied.



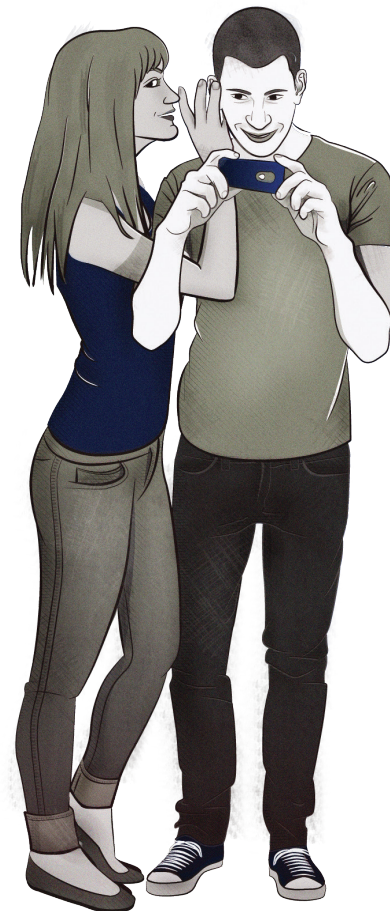
of students ages  
12 to 18 said they  
were cyberbullied.

**28%**

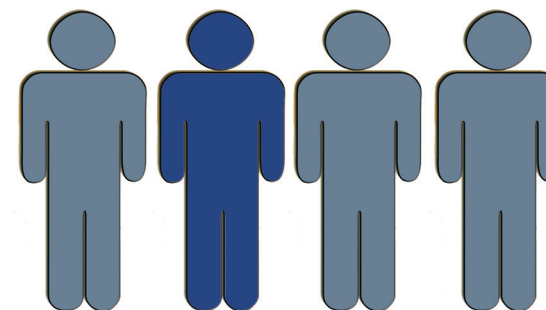
of students ages 12 to 18 said  
they were bullied at school.

Among those who said they were bullied,  
**only 36% said they reported it**  
to an adult at school.

Students who are bullied  
are **7x** more likely  
to be in a physical fight in school  
and **2x** more likely  
to bring a weapon to school.

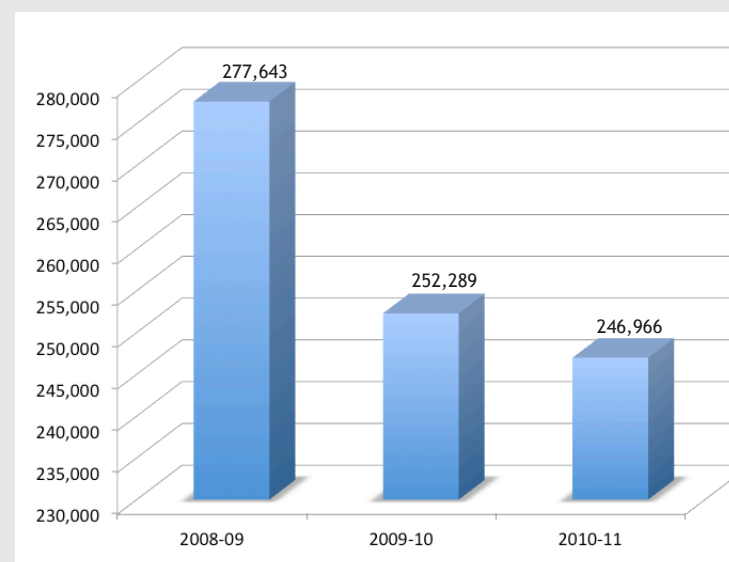


Among students in grades fifth  
through eighth, 26% of boys and  
24% of girls reported homophobic  
teasing directed at a friend.



## Stats from Ohio schools

### Incidents of disobedient/disruptive behavior



### Harassment/intimidation

