



E52 School Bullying Affecting America's School Children: A Look at Statistical Trends

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Learning Overview: After attending this presentation, attendees will understand bullying by school-aged children and the perceived psychological effects it has on victims, the perpetrator, and the community. The goal is to provide a statistical insight on bullies, their home life, and their effects.

Impact on the Forensic Science Community: This presentation will impact the forensic science community by offering insight into current statistical data collected from the 2018–19 and 2019–20 academic years for primary-level school administration and historical timelines over the past five years to showcase a trend in bullying and its effects.

Bullying in every form has continually received growing attention as the serious nature of violence perpetuates into extreme forms. Bullying has become more reliably recognized as empirical research is being conducted. This research has fixed its attention on the underlying characteristics and behaviors of both the school bully and their victim(s), and how professional school administrations recognize these traits. Two questions that attendees will be presented with are: (1) Are there any programs being utilized to counteract the ongoing problem of bullying or to prevent it from happening?; and (2) Is there a trend that can identified with bullying and is it possible for administration to step in without violating civil rights?

With more than 250 people dying in active shooter and mass casualty events since the Columbine shooting, there is a need to place these characteristics and behaviors into the framework of the situation in which they occur to expand the research and allow for the expatriation of more in-depth and inclusive educational, prevention, and intervention programs.¹ This research focuses on professional school administrators in southwestern Oklahoma to identify the signs of bullying and determine if current school bullying education, prevention, and intervention is successfully administered. If not, can there be a change implemented and what change should occur? A look into what programs should be available and funding possibilities to help assist the schools will also be explored.

The goal of this research and presentation is to provide forensic psychological insight to the warning signs and predispositions of bullies. This includes their home life, social habits, and school life to better understand what drives a bully to bully. Understanding motivation is essential since most past research concentrated on the bully after he/she commits the behavior instead of what causes them to act in such a manner.² In turn, this research should show a consistent statistical data trend to help identify triggers and warning signs that can be changed before the incident(s) occur and develop into a deadly scenario without violating civil rights and privacy to all individuals involved.

Reference(s):

1. Bonanno C.M., Levenson R.L. School shooters: History, current theoretical and empirical findings, and strategies for prevention. *SAGE Open*. 2014 Jan. doi:10.1177/2158244014525425.
2. DeCamp W., Newby B. From bullied to deviant: The victim-offender overlap among bullying victims. *Youth Viol Juv Justice*. 2015 Jan;13(1). doi:10.1177/1541204014521250.

Active Shooter, Forensic Psychology, Bullying