

# AMERICAN ACADEMY OF CHILD & ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY

## Fast Facts on School Bullying

- Children who are bullied experience real suffering that can interfere with their social and emotional development, as well as their academic performance.
- 30% of U.S. adolescents participate in bullying; 13% are bullies, 11% are victims, and 6% are both.
- Bullies identified by age 8 are six times more likely to be convicted of a crime by age 24, and five times more likely to end up with serious criminal records by age 30, if there is no intervention.
- Two-thirds of the teenagers involved in deadly shootings in schools say they were seriously bullied.
- Depression is one of the most common psychiatric disorders found in children and adolescents who are bullied, an illness which, if untreated, can interfere with a child's ability to function.
- Suicide was the 11<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death for individuals ages 15-24 in the U.S. in 2004.
- Suicidal feelings among children and adolescents who are bullied are common which is why parents, teachers and all adults must be vigilant in identifying and eliminating bullying.
- Bullying can contribute to other psychiatric disorders such as: post-traumatic stress disorder and anxiety disorder, all of which have serious lifelong effects.
- When communities and schools implement programs that deal specifically with aggression toward others, bullying markedly declines.
- 35 states have anti-bullying laws:  
Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia

