



# Bullying Statistics

## BULLYING IS A PROBLEM FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

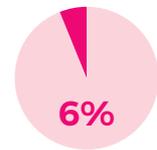
New Zealand has the second-highest rate of school bullying out of 51 countries (OECD, 2015).



While most secondary students **(87%) feel safe** at school all or most of the time...



...nearly **1 in 10** students have been **afraid** that someone would hurt or bother them in the past year ...



...and **6%** reported being **bullied** at school weekly or more often (Clark, 2013).



**4 out of 9**  
Year 9 students report experiencing bullying about weekly or monthly (Clark, 2013).



Just over a quarter of New Zealand 15-year olds report being bullied at least a few times a month (OECD, 2015).



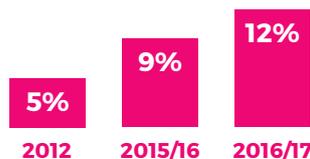
Just under 1 in 5 New Zealand students met the criteria for being described as frequently bullied (OECD, 2015).



Students aged between 9 and 18 reported that verbal abuse is the biggest bullying problem in schools (CensusAtSchool NZ, 2015).

**4x**

High school students who had been bullied weekly or more often were four times more likely to experience significant depressive symptoms than students who had been bullied infrequently or not at all (Clark, 2009).



The number of 15 to 24 year olds struggling with mental health issues has been steadily increasing (Ministry of Health, 2017).



The number of young people experiencing anxiety or depression has increased in the past year (Ministry of Health, 2017).



In the UK, school-based interventions to reduce bullying are estimated to result in £14.35 saved for each £1 spent (Campion, 2017).

## SOME YOUNG PEOPLE ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE TARGETED

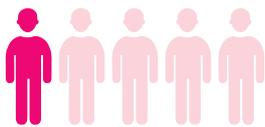
While all young people are potential targets of bullying, some groups can experience higher rates.

### Homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying

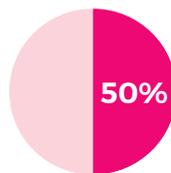
These terms refer to bullying based on a person's sexual orientation or gender identity. Young people who identify as LGBTQIA+, or are perceived to be part of the rainbow community, experience higher rates of bullying than students who do not. However, it is important to note that not all of these students will experience homophobic, biphobic or transphobic bullying.

LGBTI young people are resilient, have higher rates of volunteering and community engagement and are an important part of our community. Despite this, LGBTI young people are particularly vulnerable to experiencing homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying (Clark, 2013).

- The Youth12 national health and wellbeing survey of New Zealand secondary school students found:



Nearly one in five students who are same/both sex attracted, or are transgender or unsure of their gender identity, reported being bullied weekly at school, compared to 6% of their peers (Lucassen, 2014) and (Clark, 2014).



50% of transgender students had been hit or physically harmed on purpose in the last 12 months (Clark, 2014).



Four out of ten same/both-sex attracted students had been hit or physically harmed on purpose in the last 12 months (Lucassen, 2014).



Discrimination and social exclusion on the basis of sexuality or gender identity has been directly linked to an increased risk of depression, anxiety and suicidal thoughts for LGBTQIA+ young people (Adams, 2012).



The effects of homophobic and biphobic bullying at school can be lifelong, and can include lower educational attainment, lower income and lower wellbeing (Henrickson, 2008).