

***QUICK FACTS* for Prevention**

Similar to the cliché: 'A criminal doesn't have to look like one' – a seemingly innocent child can inflict irreversible damage by being a bully.

Mass shooting may be prevented during what is referred to as the *assessment stage* -- **80%** of workplace homicides are preceded by warning signs.

Harassment and bullying have been linked to **75%** of school shootings (Do Something.org). Among boys who bullied others at least one time per week, greater than half had carried a weapon to school in the past month (Groundspark.org).

Bullies are 4 times as likely to be convicted of crimes by age 24. According to the Dept. of Justice, **37 to 50%** of gang members are younger than 18, with gangs responsible for up to **80%** of all crimes.

An estimated **90%** of LGBTQ and **60%** of disabled youth are bullied.

Approximately **97%** of youth have access to the Internet, with over **66%** of 4th to 9th graders having Internet access in their bedrooms through a computer or smart phone. Statistics from i-SAFE found over half of adolescents and teens had been bullied online, with **10 to 20%** experiencing it regularly. About **1 in 5** teens have posted or sent sexually suggestive or nude pictures of themselves through social media.

According to the CDC, **22.5%** of high school bully targets experience suicide ideation. Yale School of Medicine reported a strong connection between bullying, being bullied and suicide (2010). About **30%** of all child suicides can be directly related to bullying (Hawker, Boulton, 2000).

40.9% of middle school bully targets are likely to intentionally harm themselves (CDC).

15% of school absences are directly related to the fear of being bullied (Nat'l Ed. Assoc.) Schools reporting high levels of bullying had dropout rates **29%** above the Virginia state average while schools with low levels of bullying had a dropout rates **28%** below.

Approximately **7%** of teachers report that they have been threatened with injury or physically attacked by a student from their school (Nat'l Center for Education Statistics). According to the Am. Psychological Assoc., **80%** of teachers surveyed were victimized at school at least once during the current school year.



Schools are increasingly being held legally responsible for the behavior of students if they should have known, or knew and didn't respond to reports or incidents of harassment.