

# Victimization

## Bullied | Teased

### Key Highlights

#### Bullied

- ▶ In 2019, high school students who experienced cyberbullying, were more likely to report feeling sad for 2 weeks or more (59.6%), current alcohol use (42.5%), suicidality (41.0%), purposely hurting themselves without wanting to die (36.4%), electronic vapor products use (35.5%) and current marijuana use (29.0%).
- ▶ LGBT students were significantly more likely than heterosexual students to experience any form of bullying and reported feeling sad for 2 weeks or more (71.3% vs 50.3%).
- ▶ Among those who reported being bullied, 31.3% reported that they considered attempting suicide, 24.5% made a suicide plan, 16.8% attempted suicide and 5.0% made an injurious suicide attempt.
- ▶ Compared to heterosexual students, LGBT students were significantly more likely to be bullied and to report current electronic vapor product use (32.4 vs 29.7%).

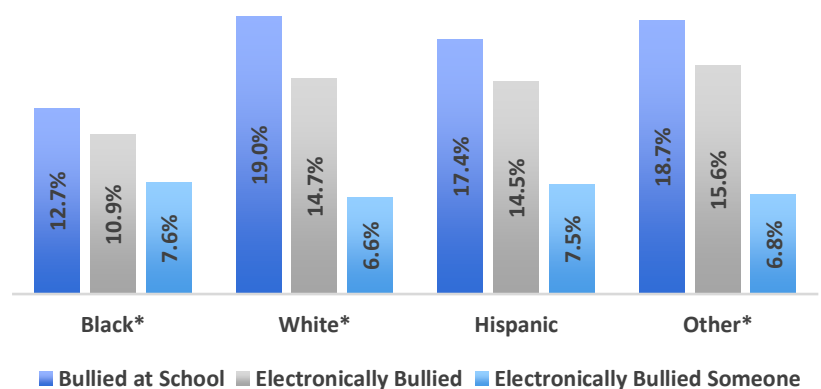
#### Teased

- ▶ Hispanic students (61.5%) were significantly more likely than NH Other (54.8%), NH White (50.8%), and NH Black students (42.9%) to experience any form of teasing and report feeling sad for 2 weeks or more.
- ▶ LGBT students were significantly more likely than heterosexual students to experience any form of teasing and to report purposely hurting themselves without wanting to die (53.2% vs 22.9%).
- ▶ NH White students (40.1%) were significantly more likely than Hispanic (36.4%), NH Other (31.1%), and NH Black students (19.7%) to experience any form of teasing and to report current alcohol use.

### Introduction

Bullying is a damaging behavior that impacts 1 in 5 adolescents in the U.S. The effects of bullying, in all forms, have severe immediate and long-term consequences.<sup>1</sup> According to the CDC, one in five U.S. high school students reported being bullied in 2018 with 15% of high schools reporting frequent bullying.<sup>2</sup> In 2019, 22.6% of Virginia high school students were victims of any form of bullying. Research has also showed that adolescents who bully others were just as likely to suffer from serious and long-lasting negative effects.<sup>3</sup> For example, Virginia high school students who electronically bullied someone were significantly more likely to experience any form of bullying themselves.

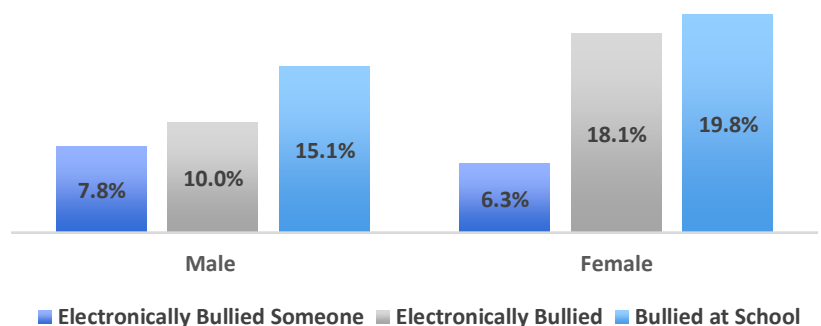
**Figure 1:** Percentage of Students who were victims of bullying on school property, electronically bullied and bullied someone by Race and Ethnicity, VYS, 2019



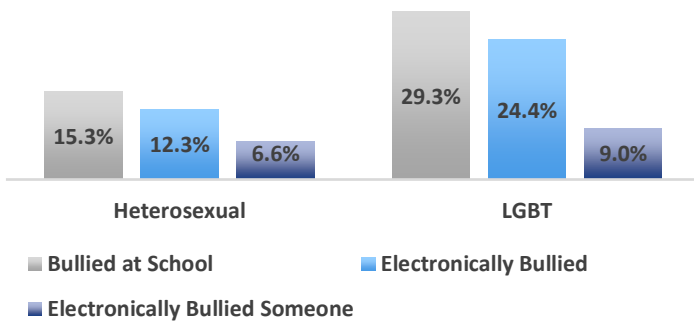
\*Non-Hispanic (NH)

Other = Asian\*, Multiple Races\*, All other Races\*

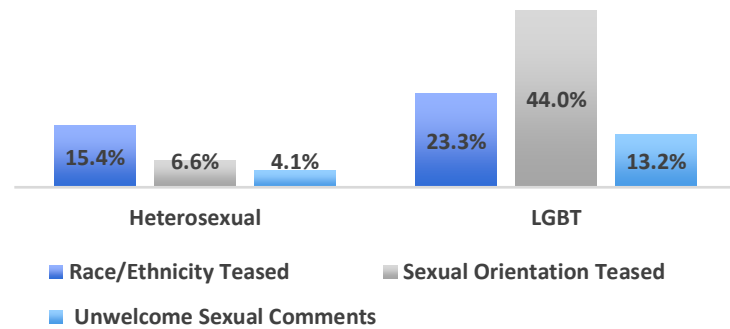
**Figure 2:** Percentage of Students who were victims of bullying on school property, electronically bullied and bullied someone by Sex, VYS, 2019



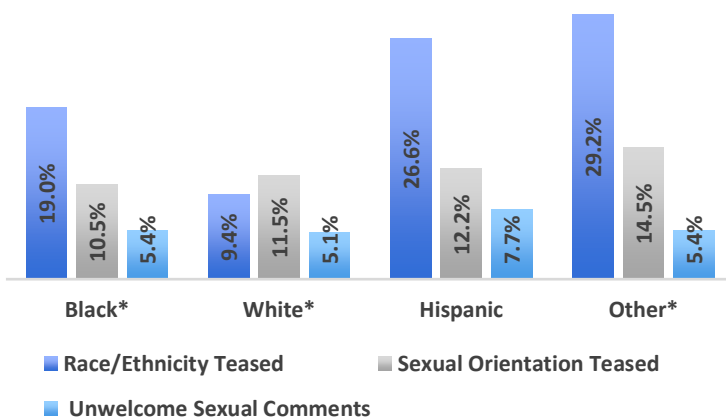
**Figure 3:** Percentage of Students who were victims of bullying on school property, electronically bullied and bullied someone by Sexual Orientation/Gender Identity, VYS, 2019



**Figure 6:** Percentage of Students who were victims of teasing because of their race/ethnicity, sexual orientation and received unwelcomed sexual comments by Sexual Orientation/Gender Identity, VYS, 2019

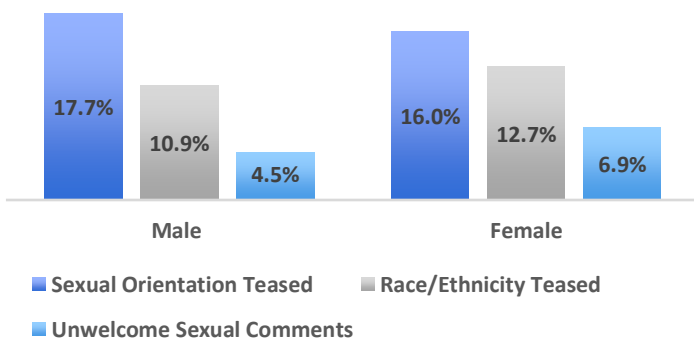


**Figure 4:** Percentage of Students who were victims of teasing because of their race/ethnicity, sexual orientation and received unwelcomed sexual comments by Race and Ethnicity, VYS, 2019



\*Non-Hispanic (NH)  
Other = Asian\*, Multiple Races\*, All other Races\*

**Figure 5:** Percentage of Students who were victims of teasing because of their race/ethnicity, sexual orientation and received unwelcomed sexual comments by Sex, VYS, 2019



**Table 1 :** Prevalence and Adjusted Odds Ratio (95% Confidence Interval) of bullying and teasing victimization by selected risk indicators, VYS, 2019

Risk Indicator	Percentage (%) <sup>*</sup>	Adjusted OR <sup>a</sup> (95% CI) <sup>b</sup>
<b>Bullied**</b>		
Mental Health <sup>c</sup>	54.9%*	3.3 (2.9 – 3.9)
Purposely hurt themselves without wanting to die <sup>d</sup>	33.2%*	4.0 (3.2 – 4.9)
Suicidality <sup>e</sup>	37.2%*	3.6 (3.0 – 4.4)
Current Alcohol Use <sup>f</sup>	36.1%*	2.0 (1.7 – 2.5)
Current Marijuana Use <sup>g</sup>	23.9%*	2.0 (1.6 – 2.4)
Current Electronic Vapor Use <sup>h</sup>	29.8%*	2.2 (1.8 – 2.6)
<b>Teased**</b>		
Mental Health <sup>c</sup>	52.2%*	3.2 (2.6 – 3.8)
Purposely hurt themselves without wanting to die <sup>d</sup>	32.2%*	4.2 (3.3 – 5.4)
Suicidality <sup>e</sup>	36.5%*	3.6 (2.9 – 4.5)
Current Alcohol Use <sup>f</sup>	33.2%*	1.9 (1.4 – 2.5)
Current Marijuana Use <sup>g</sup>	76.3%*	1.8 (1.5 – 2.2)
Current Electronic Vapor Use <sup>h</sup>	27.5%*	1.9 (1.6 – 2.4)

\*Statistically significant  
**a** = adjusted for race/ethnicity, sex and grade  
**b** = Please interpret confidence interval with caution: estimates that have a 95% confidence interval width exceeding 2 points or 1.2 times, indicate that this estimate has low precision  
**c** = significantly different (p<0.05) than students who did not feel sad or hopeless almost every day for >= 2weeks in a row.  
**d** = significantly different (p<0.05) than students who reported not purposely hurt themselves without wanting to die  
**e** = significantly different (p<0.05) than students who reported not experiencing any form of suicidality  
**f** = significantly different (p<0.05) than students who reported no current alcohol use  
**g** = significantly different (p<0.05) than students who reported no current marijuana use  
**h** = significantly different (p<0.05) than students who reported no current electronic vapor product use.

\*\*Example interpretation of Table 1: Nearly fifty-five percent of those who have been a victim of any form of bullying, reported feeling sad for 2 weeks or more.

## DEFINITIONS

- **Bullied:** high school students who reported any form of bullying such as bullied on school property or electronically (cyber) bullied (counting being bullied through texting, Instagram, Facebook, or other social media)
- **Gender Identity:** A sense of oneself as trans, genderqueer, woman, man, or some other identity, which may or may not correspond with the sex and gender one is assigned at birth.
- **Heterosexual:** A sexual orientation in which a person feels physically and emotionally attracted to people of a gender other than their own.
- **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT):**
  - **Lesbian:** Usually, a woman whose primary sexual and affectional orientation is toward people of the same gender.
  - **Gay:** A sexual and affectional orientation toward people of the same gender.
  - **Bisexual:** A person whose primary sexual and affectional orientation is toward people of the same and other genders, or towards people regardless of their gender.
  - **Transgender:** Identifying as transgender, or trans, means that one's internal knowledge of gender is different from conventional or cultural expectations based on the sex that person was assigned at birth.
- **Mental Health:** high school student who reported ever feeling so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that you stopped doing some usual activities.
- **Odds Ratio (OR):** represents the odds that an outcome will occur given a particular exposure, compared to the odds of the outcome occurring in the absence of that exposure.
  - Example: Students who experienced any form of teasing were 4.1 times as likely to report purposely hurting themselves without wanting to die.
- **Sexual Orientation:** an enduring emotional, romantic, sexual or affectional attraction or non-attraction to other people.
- **Suicidality:** high school students who reported any form of suicide ideation and behavior such as considered suicide, made a suicide plan, attempted suicide, and injurious suicide attempt.
- **Teased:** high school students who reported being teased because someone thought they were gay, lesbian, or bisexual, or because of their race or ethnic background.
- **Unwelcomed Sexual Comments:** high school students who reported another student most of the time or always made unwelcome sexual comments, jokes or gestures that made them feel uncomfortable on school property.

## REFERENCES

1. National Center for Education Statistics. "Bullying: Fast Facts." Accessed March 30, 2020. <https://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=719>
2. Kann, Laura et al. "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance - United States, 2017." Morbidity and mortality weekly report. Surveillance summaries (Washington, D.C.: 2002) vol. 67,8 1-114. 15 Jun. 2018, doi:10.15585/mmwr.ss6708a1\_ Accessed May 20, 2020.
3. Bureau of Justice Statistics, The National Education Association. "Indicators of School Crime and Safety." Accessed March 30, 2020, <http://voices.washingtonpost.com/answer-sheet/bullying/2010bullyvictimdata.html>.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please visit <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/virginia-youth-survey/> or contact [VYSrequest@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:VYSrequest@vdh.virginia.gov)