

## **English summary**

### **Extending the school grounds? Bullying experiences in cyberspace**

Juvonen, J. & Gross, E.F. (2008). Extending the school grounds? Bullying experiences in cyberspace. *Journal of School Health*, 78, 9, 496-505.

#### **STUDY OBJECTIVES**

Millions of students are affected by bullying and that appears as a national public health problem. Since electronic use and online communication increased rapidly, bullying has overtaken the school limits. The goal of the current study was to examine the overlap among targets of, and the resemblance between, in-school and online bullying among Internet-using youth. Furthermore, common assumptions concerning cyberbullying were tested by conducting an anonymous web-based survey with one thousand four hundred fifty-four 12- to 17-year-old adolescents.

#### **RESULTS**

The results showed that 72% of the respondents reported at least one cyberbullying incident within the past year. 85% of those respondents also experienced bullying in school. Name-calling and insults appeared to be the most frequent forms of bullying, in school as well as online. The investigation also suggested that the online incidents usually took place through instant messaging and that the repeated school-based bullying experiences increased the probability of repeated cyberbullying. Two thirds of the online bullying victims reported knowing who their bullies were, and half of those victims knew their aggressors from school. Cyberbullying as well as in-school bullying were independently associated with the increase of social anxiety. As 90% of the respondents reported not telling an adult about cyberbullying, a minority of them used digital tools to prevent further incidents.

#### **CONCLUSIONS**

The findings of this investigation showed implications in the establishment of school policies about cyberbullying, in parent education about the risks associated with online communication and also in youth strategy advice in preventing and dealing with cyberbullying.

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