

## HIGHLIGHTS

- 22% of high school students identified themselves as having a disability.
- Students with disabilities were more likely to be bullied in the past year as compared to students without disabilities.
- Girls with disabilities were at an increased risk for bullying when compared to boys.

This data brief hopes to shed light on this vulnerability to help policymakers, schools, providers, and parents focus their support, intervention, and policies to protect girls and students with disabilities who are most at-risk.

## IMPLICATIONS

- Youth with disabilities need targeted school and community programs to support and promote more positive school experiences.
- Connect students with disabilities to knowledgeable and supportive adults and peers.
- Anti-bullying interventions that ensure the integration of disability related issues.
- Professional development for teachers and administrators on disability issues.

## *If you suspect a child is being bullied:*

- Talk with the child about what they would like to see happen; If the child is being bullied, they need to have a voice in how the situation is handled.
- Report to the designated person at your building.
- Develop a plan for keeping the child safe, particularly during vulnerable times such as class breaks, lunch, and recess.
- If needed, make recommendations or referrals regarding activities or counseling options that are available for the child.
- Contact police or a school resource officer if the actions are criminal (assault, theft, serious threats, vandalism).


## RESOURCES


### Anti-Bullying and Violence:

- [tinyurl.com/SaferSchoolsOhio](http://tinyurl.com/SaferSchoolsOhio)
- [www.stopbullying.gov](http://www.stopbullying.gov)
- [www.ocali.org/bullying](http://www.ocali.org/bullying)

### Internet Safety:

- <http://www.isafe.org>
- <http://www.fosi.org>

 [nisonger.osu.edu/ODHP](http://nisonger.osu.edu/ODHP)

 [OhioDisabilityandHealthProgram](https://www.facebook.com/OhioDisabilityandHealthProgram)

 [@OhioDHP](https://twitter.com/OhioDHP)

ODHP is a partnership between The Ohio State University Nisonger Center, the Ohio Department of Health, the University of Cincinnati University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, and the Ohio Colleges of Medicine Government Resource Center.

# Disability and Bullying in Ohio

## Youth Data Brief

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# Ohio

## Disability & Health Program

# CBS NEWS

3/10/14



**Ohio students, teacher charged after police say disabled boy bullied in gym class**

## WHAT IS BULLYING?

The definition of bullying in Ohio was created in 2007 and amended in 2012 as:

*“Harassment, intimidation, or bullying” as any intentional written, verbal, electronic, or physical act that a student has exhibited toward another particular student more than once and the behavior both:*

A) causes mental/physical harm

B) sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for the other student

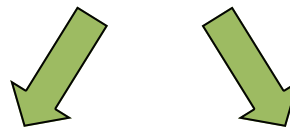
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Rates of bullying in school have been decreasing since 2005. However, tracking of electronic bullying in schools only began in 2011. At this time, it is too early to measure change in the rates of electronic bullying.

## YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY

- The 2013 Ohio Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) examines the relationship between risk populations and a number of health-risk behaviors.
- The YRBS is an anonymous and voluntary survey among random samples of high school students in 44 public and private high schools.
- 2013 was the first year it asked students to disclose whether they have a physical disability or long-term health problem and/or a long-term emotional problem or learning disability.

**Roughly 120,000 high school students in Ohio have a disability**



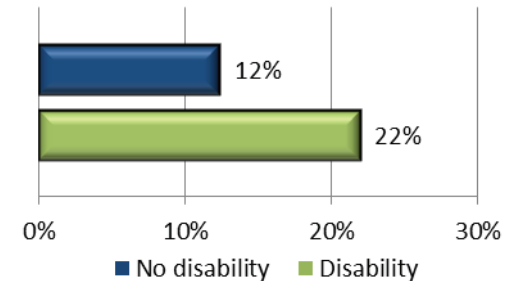
of students have a physical disability or long-term health problem



of students have a long-term emotional problem or learning disability

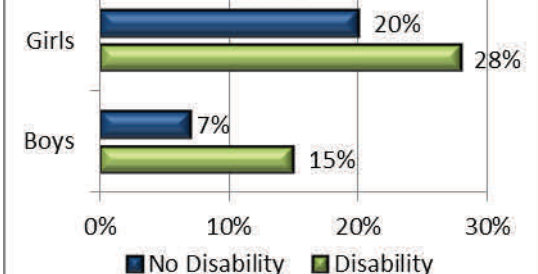
## BULLYING IN SCHOOL

### Students Bullied in School



- Students with disabilities are TWICE as likely to be bullied as students without disabilities.
- 26,000 high school students with disabilities are bullied each year.

### Students Bullied in School by Gender



- Girls are 2-3 times more likely to be bullied than boys.
- 16,000 high school girls with disabilities are bullied each year.

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