

FREEDOM FOUND

THE MUSICAL DRAMA

Bullying Fact Sheet

Freedom Found Productions, Inc

While violence and violent crimes have generally been decreasing in America, bullying has not.

Violence is against the law, while bullying generally isn't unless it crosses the line into harassment or assault.

Though violence is generally seen as an unacceptable type of behavior, more people accept bullying as a normal part of life.

Among teens, where violence and bullying are most common, violence is often linked to gangs, drugs, an impoverished neighborhood with fewer perceived opportunities, poor attachment to school, and poor academic accomplishment. Boys are much more likely to be involved in violence than girls. Bullying, on the other hand, is based on individuals, who may be boys or girls, but are often those who feel a need to be powerful and in control. Bullying targets may be students who do not know how to stand up to bullies.

School violence is often addressed by trying to reduce gang involvement, drug use, poor academic achievement, and anger management problems among students. Bullying requires different strategies. Other students may think bullying is normal or not know how to stand up to bullies, so education is an important prevention strategy for bullying, as is taking bullying seriously and instituting a zero-tolerance policy.

Despite their differences, there are strong links between bullying and violence. Both bullies and their targets are more likely to engage in other violent behavior. Victims generally suffer from depression and low self-esteem and may lash out violently at self or others, while bullies are more likely than others to engage in violent criminal behavior. Both violence and bullying can cause students to be afraid and to skip school.

Some common factors of that may contribute to bullying and violence are:

Severe physical punishments used at home

Lack of parental involvement

Lack of knowledge about positive ways to deal with problems

Addressing these problems with positive parenting and by teaching problem solving skills and anger management could help reduce violence and bullying among some teens.

2010

US DEATHS IN 2010 from suicide 39,518

ED visits for self inflicted injuries 713,000

National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey: 2010 Emergency Department Summary Tables, table 17

2012 FLORIDA ALL AGES

SUICIDE RATE 14.2/100,000

(2922 individuals)

2012 PINELLAS COUNTY ALL AGES

SUICIDE RATE 19.4/100,000

(197 individuals)

http://www.floridacharts.com/charts/DataViewer/DeathViewer/ten_year_report_OLAP.aspx?indnumber=0116&year=2012

2003 SUICIDE RATE IN FLORIDA 12.8/100,000

with 2,922 suicides (all ages), including an additional 628 Florida individuals lost in 2012

2003 SUICIDE RATE IN PINELLAS COUNTY 16.9/100,000

with 197 suicides (all ages), including an additional 29 individuals in 2012, for a loss of 197 County residents in 2012

http://www.floridacharts.com/charts/DataViewer/DeathViewer/ten_year_report_OLAP.aspx?indnumber=0116&year=2012

From 2010 to 2012

Florida lost 147 children ages 5 to 17 due to suicide for a rate of 1.7 and Pinellas County lost 8 children to suicide for a rate of 2.2

http://www.floridacharts.com/charts/DataViewer/DeathViewer/ten_year_report_OLAP.aspx?indnumber=0116&year=2012

From 2010 to 2012

Florida lost 161 children 5 to 17 due to homicide or rate of 1.8 and Pinellas County lost 6 children for a rate of 1.7

<http://www.floridacharts.com/charts/DataViewer/DeathViewer/DeathViewer.aspx?indNumber=0118>

What does freedom of speech mean?

Among other cherished values, the First Amendment of the US Constitution protects freedom of speech. However, our courts have ruled that Freedom of speech does not include the right to incite actions that would harm others.

To provoke anger, emotional pain, or violence in others is not simply freedom of speech.

<http://www.uscourts.gov/educational-resources/get-involved/constitution-activities/first-amendment/free-speech.aspx>

Resources for youth who have been targeted with cyberbullying

www.cyberbully411.org

Promoting

- 1) insight, intellect, and mutual respect over instinct and impulse for selfish ends,
- 2) empathy and dialogue over control, force, violence, and 3) peaceful coexistence, tolerance, and appreciation for diversity over careless misrepresentation or disrespectful ridicule of whatever another person or group passionately protects may reduce extremism and reactionary violence against self and others in mentally vulnerable individuals.

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