



YOUTH ABUSE, GANGS, & BULLYING

Snohomish County Facts

- Since 2008, the number of 10th graders reporting they experienced relationship violence has been reduced by almost 40%
- Over the last six years, 8th and 10th graders are finding it less and less okay to beat up a person who started a fight
- Across all grades, the number of students reporting being in a gang in the last year has dropped by nearly 36% since 2008
- Our 8th graders were more likely than other students in the state to answer that a significant other has hurt them on purpose six or more times in the last year

BULLYING	6TH GRADERS	8TH GRADERS	10TH GRADERS	12TH GRADERS
Been bullied past 30 days	29.5	29.1	24.0	17.1
Been cyber bullied past 30 days	~	12.2	12.5	12.6
Was in a physical fight 2 or more times in past year	11.2	12.7	11.5	9.0
Believes it is alright to beat people up if they started the fight	~	36.1	41.5	46.8
<i>Bullying is defined in the study as being both verbal or physical</i>				
GANGS	6TH GRADERS	8TH GRADERS	10TH GRADERS	12TH GRADERS
Carried a gun in the last 30 days*	~	4.6	4.8	4.6
Said they were a member of a gang in the past 12 months	~	5.7	5.4	5.0
<i>* Does not include for hunting</i>				
ABUSE	6TH GRADERS	8TH GRADERS	10TH GRADERS	12TH GRADERS
Boyfriend/girlfriend has limited your activities or threatened you in the past year	~	4.0	7.5	8.3
Boyfriend/girlfriend physically hurt you in past year	~	6.1	5.6	6.3
Ever been physically hurt on purpose by an adult	~	24.2	28.4	24.8
<i>~ Not asked of students in this grade</i>				

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Healthy Communities & Assessment

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YOUTH ABUSE & BULLYING: WHAT WE CAN DO

Washington State Healthy Youth Survey Facts

- Students participate across the state representing all 39 counties
- All 14 school districts in Snohomish County take part in the survey
- 75% of students across the four grades took the survey—that's 11,852 students!
- Questions ask about risk for injury, health outcomes, alcohol and drug use
- Results are used by communities to support youth and reduce risks

More info available at: www.askhys.net

PARENTS

- If you suspect a child is being bullied, intervene—respectfully. Let children know bullying is not acceptable.
- Inform your children as early as possible the impact their words can have on others.
- Teach your children how to behave in healthy romantic relationships and how to handle rejection. Abuse of any kind should not be tolerated.
- Let those being abused or bullied know it is not their fault.
- Demonstrate tolerance for others to set an example for your children.

SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS

- Ensure students are aware of their resources at school and ensure they feel comfortable going to your guidance counselor.
- Teach children from an early age how to handle romantic rejection and enforce on-campus harassment policies.
- Contact organizations like Domestic Violence Services of Snohomish County to teach healthy dating and anti-bullying workshops at your school.

GOVERNMENT

- A current bill has been proposed to add rules against bullying or discriminating against transgender individuals in schools and businesses.

The Snohomish Health District has indicated youth physical abuse as a target for their community health improvement plan. If you are interested in being an advocate for this topic, please contact Carrie McLachlan, MPA, Program Manager, Healthy Communities and Assessment at: cmclachlan@snohd.org or 425.339.8650

Participation by all of the Snohomish County school districts in the Healthy Youth Survey is extremely appreciated. School participation allows us to report on the current health status of our youth and track trends over time.

For more information about the Healthy Youth Survey, check out <http://www.askhys.net/> or to see Snohomish County Healthy Youth Survey Fact Sheets go to www.snohd.org.

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