

YOU SHOULD KNOW:

Children tell us that they respect and appreciate teachers and principals when they listen to all sides of a story before responding to a bullying incident.

Students look to parents and teachers for support when bullying occurs.

report by:
Amanda Cook,
assistant director of research,
and Charisse Nixon, Ph.D.,
director of research
and evaluation,
The Ophelia Project®



Question: Who reports bullying, how often do they report it, and to whom?

Relational Aggression

Students say they would report relational aggression “almost all the time” or “all the time” to one or more of the following people:

- a parent: **46%**
- a teacher: **33%**
- a friend: **32%**
- the principal: **10%**

Physical Aggression

Students say they would report physical aggression “almost all the time” or “all the time” to one or more of the following people:

- a teacher: **53%**
- a parent: **48%**
- the principal: **43%**
- a friend: **27%**

Students say they would report physical aggression to someone more often than they would report relational aggression:

- 70%** would tell someone if they saw physical aggression
- 47%** would tell someone if they saw relational aggression

Participants

1,882 students from 16 U.S. public and private schools participated in the study:

- 50%** were female, **50%** were male
- 55%** were in grades 3-5, **45%** were in grades 6-8
- 79%** were Caucasian, **8%** Hispanic, **2%** Asian American, **2%** African American, **1%** Native American, **8%** other

Data Collection

Students were asked to whom they would report relational aggression and physical aggression, and how often they would tell someone.

Relational aggression is described as students spreading lies, ignoring someone or purposefully leaving them out; physical aggression is described as students in a physical fight.

Gender and Grade Differences

Analyses of variance were conducted to test for gender and grade differences as they related to students reporting aggression. Grade effects were separated into elementary school (grades 3-5) and middle school (grades 6-8).

Results show that girls report both relational and physical aggression more often than boys.

Students in grades 3-5 report relational and physical aggression more often than students in grades 6-8.

