Anti-gay Bullying in Florida Middle and High Schools

About 34% of middle and high school students report using anti-gay words or jokes to tease others on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis.

About 27% of middle and high students report witnessing anti-gay physical harassment or bullying on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis.

Students who report hearing verbal slurs (‘faggot’, ‘dyke’, ‘That’s so gay,’) on a daily or weekly basis:

- Middle School Students: 62%
- High School Students: 81%

Students who report never or very rarely speaking up when someone is bullied with gender-based or anti-gay slurs:

- Middle School Students: 55%
- High School Students: 35%

Students report discomfort with or uncertainty about their comfort level towards people perceived as gay, lesbian or bisexual:

- Middle School Students: 52%
- High School Students: 19%

Students report discomfort with or uncertainty about their comfort level towards people perceived as transgender:

- Middle School Students: 77%
- High School Students: 44%

Key Takeaways

- As anti-gay bullying is prevalent by middle school, students could benefit from developmentally appropriate prevention education specifically addressing anti-gay and gender-related stigmas at earlier education levels, as well as middle and high school levels.

- This is the first study in Florida to compare anti-gay and gender-related bullying among public and private middle and high school students.

Reference


All descriptive statistics presented in this infographic are shown as raw, unweighted averages, rounded to whole numbers for ease of use. College cohort data is omitted. Infographic designed and reviewed by study authors May 2018.