

Offensive and violent behaviours among early teens: bullying

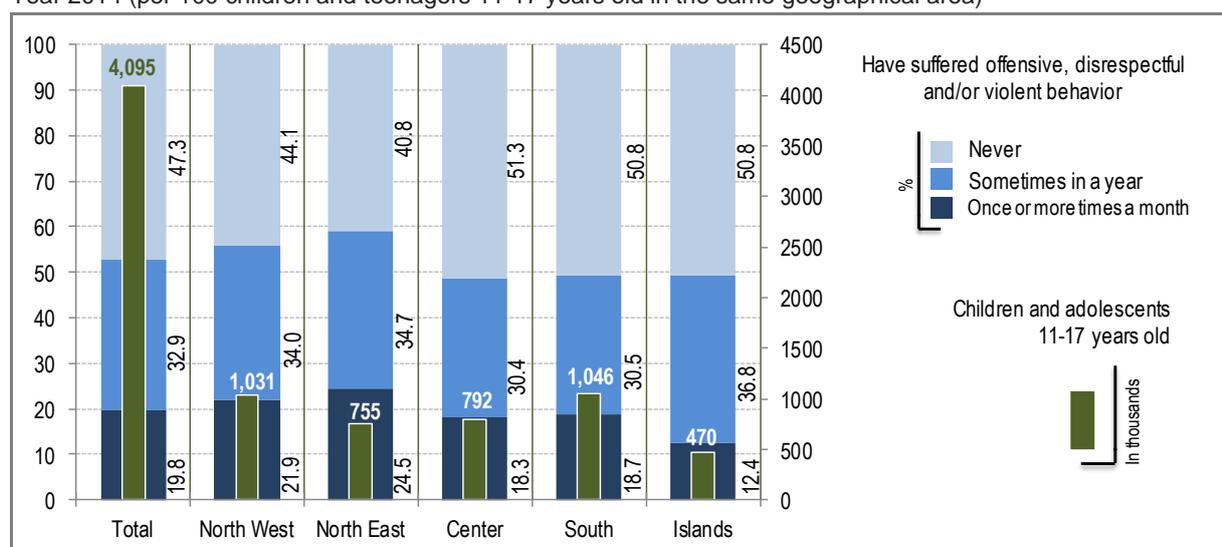
Year 2014

Depending on the frequency which characterizes aggressive episodes, one can distinguish between a singular episode of offense and repeated (at least several times a month) actions or threats of action directed toward a person by one or more people who have or are perceived to have more power or status than their target in order to cause fear, distress or harm. In the latter case, one can define the victim as “victim of bullying”.

Among early teens (aged 11-17 years) over 50.0% has suffered from offensive, disrespectful and/or violent episodes. Around a fifth percent (19.8%) has been victim of “bullyism” several times a month; 9.1% of these victims have suffered actions of bullying on a weekly basis.

FIGURE 1. FREQUENCY BY WHICH CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS 11-17 YEARS OLD HAVE SUFFERED OFFENSIVE BEHAVIOUR DURING THE LAST 12 MONTHS. REGIONAL BREAKDOWN

Year 2014 (per 100 children and teenagers 11-17 years old in the same geographical area)



Offensive, disrespectful and/or violent acts have been repeatedly suffered more by the adolescents aged 11-13 years (22.5%) than by those aged 14-17 years (17.9%); more by females (20.9%) than by males (18.8%).

The victims of assiduous bullying accounted for 23% of the adolescents aged 11-17 years in Northern Italy. Including also actions that have occurred sporadically (sometimes during a year) the bullied adolescents living in the North were over 57%.

Among the mobile phone and/or Internet users, 5.9% remarks he/she has received, repeatedly, vexatious acts by text message, e-mail, chat or on social networks. Cyber bullying victims were more present among females (7.1% related to females aged 11-17 years vs. 4.6% related to males).

The most common bullying acts consist of offenses by nicknames, swear words or insults (12.1%), derision for physical appearance and/or way of speaking (6.3%), defamation (5.1%), exclusion because of their views (4.7%).

Among the adolescents aged 11-17 years, 16.9% have been a bullying direct victim, in a *face to face* relationship between the victim and the bully; 10.8% have been a bullying indirect victim, without physical contact. Among girls the difference between the direct bullying and the indirect one was minimum (respectively 16.7% and 14%). On the contrary, among males, the direct forms (17%) were more than double than the indirect ones (7.7%).

Bullying victims were more frequent among those living in households with less than four members (12.2% every day or nearly) than among those living in households with more than four members (7.8% every day or nearly).

Among the young people aged 11-17, 23.6% of those who rarely meet their friends have been repeatedly bullied, compared to 18% corresponding to those who meet their friends every day.

Over 22% of students attending lower secondary school declared he/she has suffered bullying experiences at least sometimes a month. Among upper secondary school students, the ones attending general school (19.4%) were at the top, followed by those attending vocational schools (18.1%) and technical institutes (16%).

63.3% of children and adolescents have witnessed bullying acts. 26.7% remarked he/she has witnessed, several times a month, oppressive behavior by some children toward others.

To defend themselves from bullies, 65% of young people aged 11-17 (60.4% males and 69.9% females) considered appropriate to ask for help to parents; 41% considered appropriate to ask for help to teachers (37.4% males and 44.8% females).

For more details please refer to the Italian version

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