

DELIVERABLE 1 NUMBER 3
 REVIEW EXISTING DATA SOURCES
 IDENTIFY SERVICE/PROGRAM GAPS
 PROVIDE WRITTEN REPORT

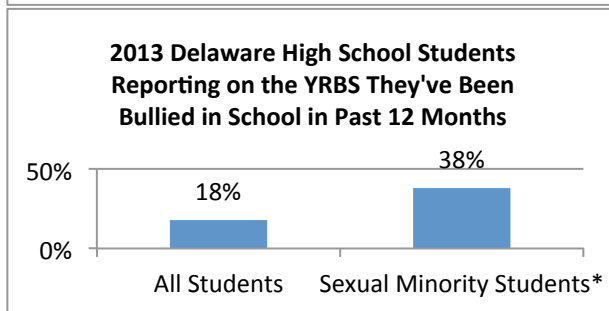
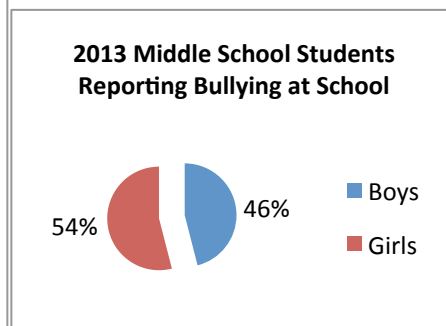
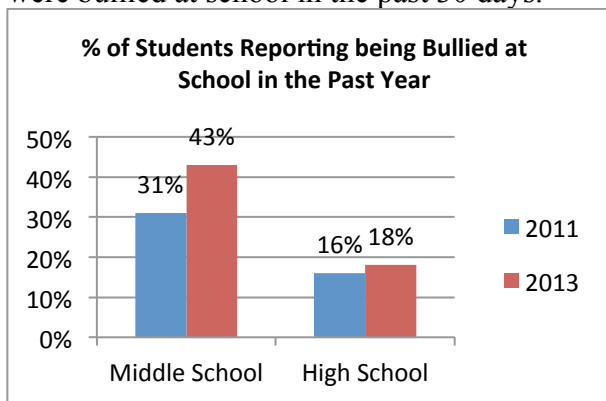
BULLYING REPORTED BY DELAWARE PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

PRESENTED TO LT. GOVERNOR MATT DENN & ATTORNEY GENERAL JOSEPH BIDEN, III

WHY A FOCUS ON BULLYING?

Studies have also concluded that bullying is widespread in U.S. schools: the National Center for Education Statistics has concluded that 28% of middle school aged children are bullied.¹

In Delaware, results from the 2013 Youth Risk Behavior Survey indicate that 18 percent of high school students report that they have been bullied on school property during the past 12 months (24% in 9th grade, 20% in 10th grade, 14% in 11th grade, and 14% in 12th grade). The YRBS is a Delaware version of the CDC survey done in more than 40 states every other year in odd numbered years. According to the 2013 Delaware School Survey, administered annually in non-self-contained classes in the 5th, 8th, and 11th grades (using age-appropriate surveys), the analyses of the 5th grade DSS indicated 23% of Delaware 5th graders (8260 surveyed) report they were bullied at school in the past 30 days.²



¹ *Student Victimization in U.S. Schools*, National Center for Education Statistics, 2011.

² *2013 Middle School and High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey and the 2013 Delaware School Survey*, University of Delaware Center for Drug and Alcohol Studies, 2013.

Delaware middle school students are more likely than high school students to report they have been bullied in the past year. This may be due to the fact that students who bully may also engage in other inappropriate behaviors and may no longer be attending school; the same may be true for the most victimized students – they may no longer be attending. More students saying they have been “bullied” in 2013 than in 2011 may be due to bullying education in the schools leading to more students recognizing specific behaviors as bullying. Girls are slightly more likely to report having been bullied, as are certain sub-populations, such as sexual minority students (those reporting homosexual or bisexual as their sexual orientation) and students reporting they have some kind of disability. Bullying does, however, affect students of all academic levels—those who excel as well as those who are struggling academically.³

According to the same 2013 reports, 14% of Delaware high school students reported being the victims of electronic bullying – through email, chat rooms, instant messaging, websites, or texting – in the past 12 months. Cyberbullying victimization was reported by 18% of high school girls and 9% of boys. Like in-person bullying, it is reported by students of all academic levels, with the strongest association being with students who are academically failing. Of the students who reported being bullied in person, almost half – 46% - also reported having been victims of cyberbullying in the past 12 months.

A problem this widespread, with demonstrated consequences for students’ academic achievement and overall well-being, deserves to be taken seriously by the state and by our schools.

According to the University of Delaware report from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 14% of high school students reported being victims of cyberbullying, while 19% of 8th graders did. Of high school students who were bullied at school, 46% were also cyberbullied. Among 8th graders, 36% of those who were bullied at school were also victims of cyberbullying, possibly reflecting fewer students at this grade level having access to electronics.⁴

Reporting to parents/guardians is also important because it could help them keep an eye out for other behaviors reported by students who have been victims of bullying, below, according to the UD study.

³ *2011 and 2013 Delaware Youth Risk Behavior Surveys and Delaware School Surveys*, University of Delaware Center for Drug & Alcohol Studies.

⁴ *2013 Middle School and High School Youth Risk Behavior Surveys*, University of Delaware Center for Drug and Alcohol Studies, 2013.

