

What are the Costs of Bullying?

Prepared for the San Diego Trauma
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Community



Health Costs

- headaches
- sleep problems
- anxiety & depression
- Increased suicide risk
- other psychosomatic symptoms



[1] ACES Connection, New Studies on Bullying, Gall, Katalin, April, 2014.

[2] Young-Shin Kim. (2008). Bullying and suicide - A review. International J Adolesc Med Health.

Your School District: Estimated Health Treatment Costs

\$2,835,000

Extrapolated San Diego Unified
135,000 students x \$21 annual cost.

- [3] Seigle, J., (2009). The Cost Benefit of Bullying Prevention, Highmark Foundation, page 8.
- Study: 3 years in 39 PA counties, 210,000 children. Found \$21 cost per child annually.
- Costs borne by families, health care organizations & insurance rate-payers.



School Costs (for one school)

Truancy/Low Attendance

\$21,600 loss [4] (sample school, thousand students)

Suspensions

\$17,400 [4] (cost)

Vandalism

\$15,200 [4] (cost)

Includes not just bullying but all school climate costs, including problems originating at home. Thus, the school climate costs estimated on this page are approximate estimates for bullying costs, which will be lower.

[4] Phillips, R. The Financial Cost of Bullying, Violence & Vandalism. *Slate*, February, 2011.

(School Climate Loss and Cost Calculator)



School Costs

Dropping Out

\$2,160,000 [4] (revenue loss, thousand students)

Mandatory Disciplinary Alternative Educational Placements (Continuation School)

\$25,000 [4] (cost)

Expulsions

\$75,400 [4] (costs and revenue losses)

Study includes not just bullying but all school climate costs.

[4] Phillips, R.



School Cost Savings

Cost Savings found in Pennsylvania bullying prevention program:

\$17 Million

Pennsylvania study identified benefits of bullying prevention programs, when those costs were solely attributable to school bullying. Conservative estimate of \$29 per student for middle and high schools.

[3] Seigle, J., (2009). The Cost Benefit of Bullying Prevention, Highmark Foundation, page 10.

Your School Costs due to School Climate problems, including bullying:

\$2,310,000

Includes not just bullying but all school climate costs, including problems originating at home. Thus, the school climate costs estimated on this page are approximate estimates for bullying costs.

4. Phillips, R. (2011). *School Climate Loss and Cost Calculator, assuming 1,000 students.*

Societal Costs of Bullying



Criminal Convictions

3X as likely, multiple convictions by early twenties

Drug & Alcohol Use

Higher self-reports of use

Justice System & Social Services

Taxpayers' cost

3. Seigle, J., (2009). The Cost Benefit of Bullying Prevention,, Highmark Foundation

Your child, costs of bullying: \$1.4 million, average per individual lifetime

- Both bullies & targets of bullying.
- More likely involved with the justice system and dependent on public assistance programs.
- Lower earning potential than those who do not experience bullying.
- Taxpayer costs to care for bullies is higher than care for the bullied. High lifetime costs to bullies and their families.

Who pays for societal costs?

- Families
- Communities
- Health care organizations/insurers
- The justice system
- The social service system
- Taxpayers
- Other costs not quantified by this research?
- Recommendation: Undertake a comprehensive survey of the literature on bullying cost analysis. Combine results of additional studies.



References

1. Gall, K., (2014). New Studies on Bullying, ACEs Connection.
<http://www.acesconnection.com/blog/new-studies-on-bully>
2. Young-Shin Kim, and Bennett Leventhal. (2008). Bullying and suicide - A review. International J Adolesc Med Health, 20(2), 133-54.
3. Seigle, J., (2009). The Cost Benefit of Bullying Prevention, Highmark Foundation.
https://www.highmarkfoundation.org/pdf/publications/HMK_Bullying%20Report_final.pdf
https://www.highmarkfoundation.org/initiatives/bullying_prevention/bullying_prevention_resources.shtml



References

4. Phillips, R. The Financial Cost of Bullying, Violence and Vandalism. *Slate*, February, 2011.

<http://community-matters.org/downloads/SLATE%20magazine.%20Financial%20Cost%20of%20Bullying.%20Violence%20and%20Vandalism%20Feb%202011.pdf>

To calculate your school's own annual losses and costs due to bullying, violence, and vandalism, download a free **School Climate Loss and Cost Calculator** at <http://community-matters.org/programs-and-services/calculator>

5. Wikipedia article. San Diego Unified School District. (Approx. 135K students.)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Diego_Unified_School_District