

Youth bullying

Health indicator report

Background

- The purpose of this health indicator report is to provide information about bullying among youth aged 12 to 17 in Halton Region.
- Bullying is characterized by acts of intentional harm, repeated over time, in a relationship where an imbalance of power exists.¹ It includes physical actions, verbal actions, and social exclusion.¹
- Youth who are bullied may experience poorer general health,² mental health,³ and health-related quality of life,⁴ and these effects may continue into adulthood.² Youth who bully others are at risk for substance misuse, academic problems, and violence into adulthood.⁵
- This health indicator report uses data from the Canadian Health Survey on Children and Youth (CHSCY).

Key findings

- In 2019, 71% of Halton youth aged 12-17 reported being bullied at least a few times in the past year.
- The most frequently reported types of bullying were:
 - Being made fun of, insulted, or called names
 - Having rumours spread by others
 - Being excluded from activities on purpose
- There were no statistically significant differences in youth bullying by sex, municipality, household income, parent education, or immigration status.



Experiencing bullying in the past year

Halton vs. Ontario

- In 2019, 71% of Halton youth aged 12-17 and 72% of Ontario youth aged 12-17 reported that they had been bullied at least a few times in the past year.



71%
of Halton youth

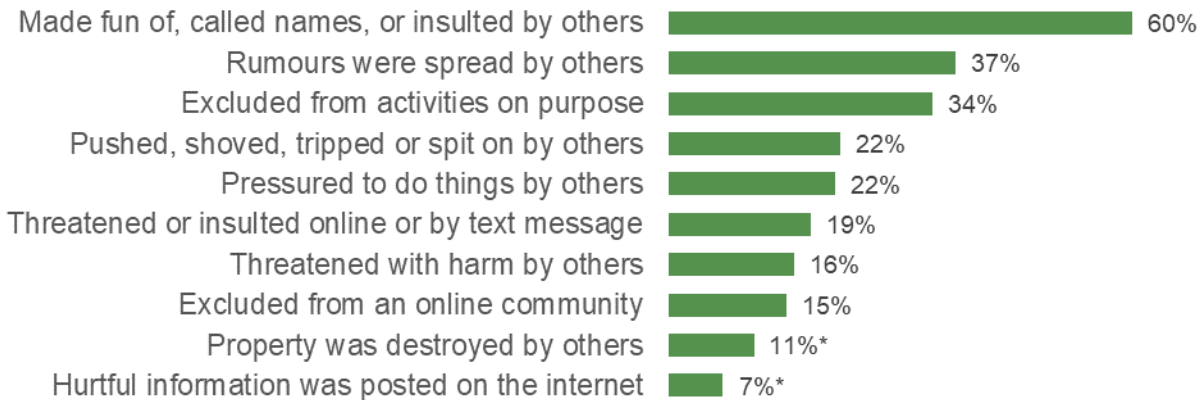


72%
of Ontario youth

Percentage of youth aged 12-17 who reported being bullied at least a few times in the past year, Halton Region and Ontario, 2019

Types of bullying

- In 2019, the most frequently reported types of bullying by Halton youth aged 12-17 were being made fun of, called names, or insulted; having rumours spread by others; and being excluded from activities on purpose.



Percentage of youth aged 12-17 who reported being bullied at least a few times in the past year, by type of bullying, Halton Region, 2019



Experiencing bullying in the past year

Sex

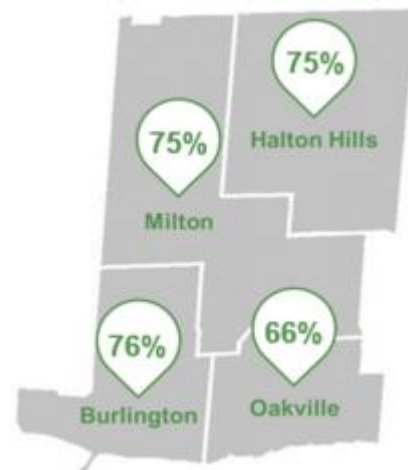
- In 2019, there were no statistically significant differences by sex in the percentage of youth aged 12-17 who reported that they had been bullied at least a few times in the past year.



Percentage of youth aged 12-17 who reported being bullied at least a few times in the past year, by sex, Halton Region, 2019

Municipality

- In 2019, there were no statistically significant differences by municipality in the percentage of youth aged 12-17 who reported that they had been bullied at least a few times in the past year.



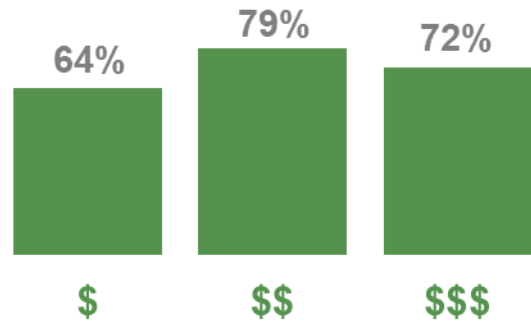
Percentage of youth aged 12-17 who reported being bullied at least a few times in the past year, by municipality, Halton Region, 2019



Experiencing bullying in the past year

Household income

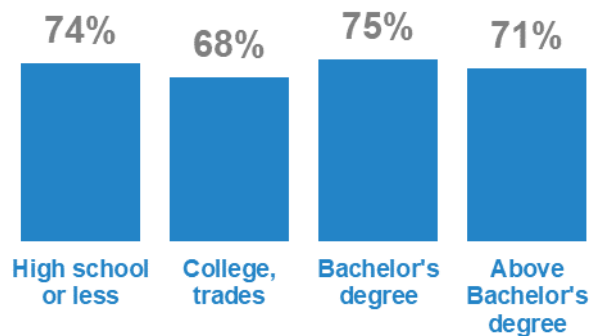
- In 2019, there were no statistically significant differences by household income in the percentage of youth aged 12-17 who reported that they had been bullied at least a few times in the past year.



Percentage of youth aged 12-17 who reported being bullied at least a few times in the past year, by household income, Halton Region, 2019

Parents' education

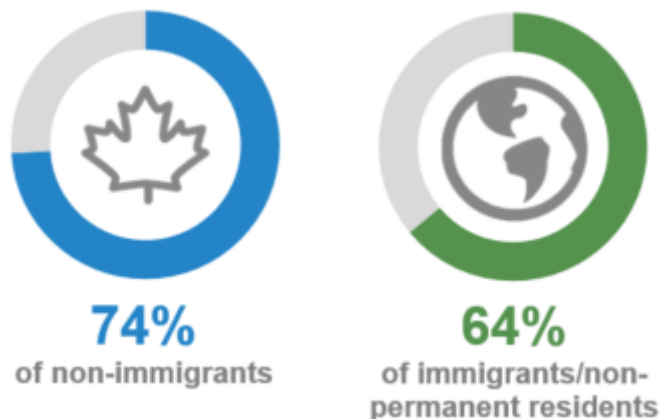
- In 2019, there were no statistically significant differences by parents' highest level of education in the percentage of youth aged 12-17 who reported that they had been bullied at least a few times in the past year.



Percentage of youth aged 12-17 who reported being bullied at least a few times in the past year, by parents' highest level of education, Halton Region, 2019

Immigrant status

- In 2019, there were no statistically significant differences by immigrant status in the percentage of youth aged 12-17 who reported that they had been bullied at least a few times in the past year.



Percentage of youth aged 12-17 who reported being bullied at least a few times in the past year, by immigrant status, Halton Region, 2019

About CHSCY

- The Canadian Health Survey on Children and Youth (CHSCY) explores issues that have an impact on the physical and mental health of children and youth. CHSCY is conducted by Statistics Canada.
- CHSCY is an occasional and voluntary survey that is designed to provide reliable estimates at the provincial level and across age groups. CHSCY was first conducted in 2019 and included 50,000 children and youth ages 1-17 from across Canada's provinces and territories, including 1,138 children and youth in Halton and 22,651 children and youth in Ontario.⁶ In 2019, CHSCY was administered as a cross-sectional survey, meaning that respondents were surveyed at a single point in time.⁶ In 2023, a longitudinal component is being added to the cross-sectional survey, and respondents from the previous cycle (2019) will be resurveyed to assess changes in health and well-being over time.⁷
- Two questionnaires were used to collect survey data. One questionnaire was administered to the Person Most Knowledgeable (PMK) about the selected child or youth aged 1 to 17.⁸ A separate questionnaire was administered directly to the selected youth aged 12 to 17.⁸ Youth aged 15 to 17 could be identified as their own PMK if they lived on their own or did not live with a parent.⁸
- For more information on CHSCY methodology and limitations, see the CHSCY Data Notes and Data Interpretation Guide at www.halton.ca/For-Residents/Public-Health/Health-Statistics.

Data notes

Data Source: Canadian Health Survey on Children and Youth [2019], Statistics Canada, Share File, Ontario MOHLTC

Estimates marked with an asterisk (*) should be interpreted with caution due to high variability.

References

1. Public Safety Canada. 2008. Bullying prevention: Nature and extent of bullying in Canada. Accessed June, 2023 from <https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsrcs/pblctns/bln-g-prvntn/blng-prvntn-eng.pdf>
2. Sigurdson JF, Wallander J, Sund AM. Is involvement in school bullying associated with general health and psychosocial adjustment outcomes in adulthood? *Child Abuse Negl* 2014;38:1607-17.
3. Stewart-Tufescu A, Salmon S, Taillieu T, et al. Victimization experiences and mental health outcomes among grades 7 to 12 students in Manitoba, Canada. *Int J Bullying Prev* 2021;3:1-12
4. Dubey VP, Kievisiene J, Rauckiene-Michealsson A, et al. Bullying and health-related quality of life among adolescents: A systematic review. *Children* 2022;9:766.
5. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2021. Fast fact: Preventing bullying. Accessed June, 2023 from <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/youthviolence/bullyingresearch/fastfact.html>
6. Statistics Canada. 2019. Canadian Health Survey on Children and Youth. Accessed May 2023. <https://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&Id=1215270>
7. Statistics Canada. 2023. Canadian Health Survey on Children and Youth. Accessed May 2023. <https://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=5233#a2>
8. Statistics Canada. 2020. 2019 Canadian Health Survey on Children and Youth (CHSCY): User Guide.

For more health indicator and health status reports, visit the Halton Health Statistics webpage at halton.ca.

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