

RISK FACTORS-TARGET

- Perceived as “being different” from peers
- Perceived sexual orientation
- Perceived ability/disability level
- Perceived socioeconomic status
- Poor social skills
- Socially isolated/few friends
- Overweight/underweight
- Many more....basic premise of “perceived difference”



CHARACTERISTICS-BULLY

- Aggressive or easily frustrated
- Have less parental involvement
- Experiencing issues at home
- Think badly of others
- Have difficulty following rules
- View violence positively
- Lacks empathy for others

WARNING SIGNS STUDENT MAY BE THE TARGET

- Unexplainable injuries
- Lost or destroyed clothing, books, possessions
- Frequent headaches, stomach aches or illnesses
- Changes in eating habits
- Difficulty sleeping
- Declining grades or interest in school
- Not wanting to go to school
- Sudden loss of friends
- Avoidance of social situations
- Decreased self-esteem
- Self-destructive behaviors

EFFECTS OF BULLYING

Kids Who are Bullied...

- Kids who are bullied can experience negative physical, school, and mental health issues.
- Kids who are bullied are more likely to experience:
 - Depression and anxiety, increased feelings of sadness and loneliness, changes in sleep and eating patterns, and loss of interest in activities they used to enjoy. These issues may persist into adulthood.

EFFECTS OF BULLYING (CONT.)

Kids Who are Bullied...

- Health complaints
- Decreased academic achievement—GPA and standardized test scores—and school participation. They are more likely to miss, skip, or drop out of school.
- A very small number of bullied children might retaliate through extremely violent measures. In 12 of 15 school shooting cases in the 1990s, the shooters had a history of being bullied.

EFFECTS OF BULLYING (CONT.)

Kids Who Bully Others...

- Kids who bully others can also engage in violent and other risky behaviors into adulthood. Kids who bully are more likely to:
 - Abuse alcohol and other drugs in adolescence and as adults
 - Get into fights, vandalize property, and drop out of school
 - Engage in early sexual activity
 - Have criminal convictions and traffic citations as adults
 - Be abusive toward their romantic partners, spouses, or children as adults

EFFECTS OF BULLYING (CONT.)

On Students that Witness Bullying Incidents

- Kids who witness bullying are more likely to:
 - Have increased use of tobacco, alcohol, or other drugs
 - Have increased mental health problems, including depression and anxiety
 - Miss or skip school