

FACTS About Harassment and Intimidation

Harassment is intentional and aggressive behavior that is repetitive and thrives on an imbalance in power or status between the harasser and the harassed.

How does harassment and intimidation affect young people?

- 75% have been called mean names or taunted.
- 38% have had lies or rumors spread about them.
- 30% have been socially excluded.
- 21% have been kicked, pushed, shoved or threatened.
- 13% have been targeted with racial or ethnic slurs.
- 10-15% of children report having been harassed or intimidated regularly.
- 8% have had property stolen or damaged.

Who are the harassers?

- Harassers are confident young people who seek power over others.
- They blame targets for the harassment and show little empathy toward those affected by their behavior.
- Harassment by boys involves more physical intimidation.
- Harassment by girls is characterized by social exclusion.

What is the impact?

- Being targeted by harassment and intimidation is associated with increased isolation, decreased self-esteem, depression and missing classes or school days.
- 85% of harassment and intimidation incidents occur in the presence of other peers.
- A majority of both harassers and bystanders feel that targets bring the mistreatment on themselves.
- Nearly one quarter of those who witness harassing incidents actively participate in the mistreatment of others out of fear of becoming a target or doing the wrong thing.

For more information, contact the King County Sexual Assault Resource Center 24-hour Resource Line at 1.888.99.VOICE or visit our website at www.kcsarc.org.