

# Bullying Among Students in Grades 7 to 12 in the NBPSDHU Region

## Methodology, Data Source and Limitations

The data presented in this report is from the Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey (OSDUHS) conducted by the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) and administered by the Institute for Social Research, York University. Its contents and interpretation are solely the responsibility of the author and do not necessarily represent the official view of the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health.

The data presented in this report was collected during the 2014/2015 school year, and when noted, for a combined sample of the 2010/2011 & 2014/2015 school years. It provides an update of substance use in Ontario youth, updating data that were previously reported in [The Health of Youth in the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit Region](#) (North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, 2012).

The survey was administered to students from grades seven through twelve enrolled in public and Catholic school systems (French and English). Excluded from this report are youth enrolled in private schools or home-schooled, those institutionalized for correctional or health reasons, and those schooled on native reserves, military bases, or in the remote northern region of Ontario. Data in this report has been presented for the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit (NBPSDHU), other northern regions in Ontario (excluding the NBPSDHU region) and Ontario. The NBPSDHU region sample includes 580 students from 19 regional schools within three school boards.

The term “significant” is used within this report to describe differences between health regions or groups that are statistically meaningful. Without statistical significance you cannot say with certainty that the differences are real, or simply due to chance. Sampling variability associated with each estimate is described using 95% confidence intervals (95% CI), which indicate the precision of the estimate. Confidence intervals were used to determine significant differences between estimates.

Estimates with a coefficient of variation (ratio of standard error to its estimate) equal to or higher than 33.3, or based on less than 50 responses were suppressed due to high sampling variability. Estimates were calculated using complex survey analysis in Stata 14.2 (StataCorp LP, College Station, TX).

## Definitions and Comparison Groups

### Aboriginal Identity

Only students who identified themselves as Aboriginal on the survey are included in this group. It is possible that some students did not self-identify, and are thus excluded from this group.

## Perceived Socio-Economic Status (SES)

Students were asked to identify where they thought their family would be on the socioeconomic status (SES) ladder, on a scale from 1 to 10, with 1 being “worst off”, and 10 being “best off”. Students who selected a rating of 1-6 were considered to be of low SES, while students who selected 7-10 were considered to be of high SES.

## Bullied at School

In 2014/15, about one of every three students (32.2%; 95% CI: 28.2, 36.6) in the Health Unit region reported being bullied at school since September 2014, similar to the percentage for students in other northern regions (26.6%; 95% CI: 22.5, 31.2) but significantly higher compared to students in Ontario (22.4%; 95% CI: 20.4, 24.6). This percentage has not changed between 2010/11 and 2014/15 school years in the Health Unit region or other northern regions, but has decreased significantly in Ontario.

For the Health Unit and other northern regions, data from 2010/11 & 2014/15 was combined to analyze those who reported being bullied since beginning of the school year among selected demographic subgroups (Tables 1 through 4). Significantly higher percentages of female students reported being bullied in other northern regions and Ontario, though this difference did not exist between male and female students in the Health Unit region. Significantly higher percentages of secondary students in the Health Unit region reported being bullied compared to secondary students in Ontario (Table 2).

Table 1. Percentage (95% CI) of Students Who Were Bullied at School at Least Once Since the Beginning of the School Year, by Gender and Region, 2010/11 & 2014/15 Combined (Health Unit region & Other Northern Regions) & 2014/15 (Ontario)

Gender	NBPSDHU Region	Other Northern Regions	Ontario
Males	25.8 (21.3, 30.8)	20.8 (16.8, 25.5)	18.8 (16.5, 21.4)
Females	31.4 (27.2, 36)	34.7 ‡ (28.0, 42.2)	26.2 ‡ (23.0, 29.7)

‡ Estimate is significantly different from males in the same region

Table 2. Percentage (95% CI) of Students Who Were Bullied at School at Least Once Since the Beginning of the School Year, by Grade Level and Region, 2010/11 & 2014/15 Combined (Health Unit region & Other Northern Regions) & 2014/15 (Ontario)

Grade Level	NBPSDHU Region	Other Northern Regions	Ontario
Grades 7 - 8	31.4 (25.8, 37.6)	30.8 (25.8, 36.3)	25.6 (20.2, 31.8)
Grades 9 - 12	27.8* (23.5, 32.5)	26.4 (22.1, 31.1)	21.2 (19.3, 23.3)

\* Estimate is significantly different from provincial estimate

Table 3. Percentage (95% CI) of Students Who Were Bullied at School at Least Once Since the Beginning of the School Year, by Aboriginal Identity & Region, 2010/11 & 2014/15 Combined (Health Unit region & Other Northern Regions) & 2014/15 (Ontario)

Aboriginal identity	NBPSDHU Region	Other Northern Regions	Ontario
Aboriginal	32.6 <sup>E</sup> (21.1, 46.6)	28.9 <sup>E</sup> (17.2, 44.3)	36.5 ‡ (26.6, 47.8)
Non-Aboriginal	27.9* (24.7, 31.3)	27.5 (24.0, 31.3)	22.1 (19.9, 24.3)

E Interpret with caution; the estimate is associated with high sampling variability

\* Estimate is significantly different from provincial estimate

‡ Estimate is significantly different from those who do not identify as Aboriginal, in the same region

Table 4. Percentage (95% CI) of Students Who Were Bullied at School at Least Once Since the Beginning of the School Year, by Perceived Socioeconomic Status and Region, 2010/11 & 2014/15 Combined (Health Unit region & Other Northern Regions) & 2014/15 (Ontario)

Perceived Socioeconomic Status (SES)	NBPSDHU Region	Other Northern Regions	Ontario
Low SES	34.8 (27.5, 42.8)	33.1 (26.2, 40.9)	27.6 ‡ (23.5, 32.1)
High SES	26.1 (21.6, 31.2)	25.5 (21.3, 30.2)	20.1 (17.9, 22.5)

‡ Estimate is significantly different from those with high perceived socioeconomic status, in the same region

## Bullied Others at School

In 2014/15, about 14.7% (95% CI: 10.1, 20.9) in the Health Unit region reported bullying others since the beginning of the school year, similar to the percentage for students in other northern regions (14.3%; 95% CI: 10.8, 18.7) and Ontario (12.4%; 95% CI: 10.9, 14.0). This percentage has not changed between 2010/11 and 2014/15 school years in the Health Unit region or other northern regions, but has decreased significantly in Ontario.

For the Health Unit and other northern regions, data from 2010/11 & 2014/15 was combined to analyze those who reported bullying others since the beginning of the school year, among selected demographic subgroups (Tables 5 through 8). The percentage of students who bullied others since the beginning of the school year did not differ significantly by gender, grade, or perceived socioeconomic status for students within the Health Unit region.

Table 5. Percentage (95% CI) of Students Who Bullied Others at Least Once Since the Beginning of the School Year, by Gender and Region, 2010/11 & 2014/15 Combined (Health Unit region & Other Northern Regions) & 2014/15 (Ontario)

Gender	NBPSDHU Region	Other Northern Regions	Ontario
<b>Males</b>	22.6 (17.2, 29.2)	19.4 (14.4, 25.6)	14.6 ‡ (12.2, 17.4)
<b>Females</b>	12.8 (9.4, 17.2)	15.8 (11.5, 21.3)	10.0 (8.3, 12.1)

‡ Estimate is significantly different from females in the same region

Table 6. Percentage (95% CI) of Students Who Bullied Others at Least Once Since the Beginning of the School Year, by Grade Level and Region, 2010/11 & 2014/15 Combined (Health Unit region & Other Northern Regions) & 2014/15 (Ontario)

Grade Level	NBPSDHU Region	Other Northern Regions	Ontario
<b>Grades 7 - 8</b>	16.6 <sup>E</sup> (11.0, 24.3)	15.1 (11.6, 19.4)	12.6 (9.8, 16.1)
<b>Grades 9 - 12</b>	18.2 (14.1, 23.1)	18.6 (13.6, 24.9)	12.3 (10.6, 14.2)

E Interpret with caution; the estimate is associated with high sampling variability

Table 7. Percentage (95% CI) of Students Who Bullied Others at Least Once Since the Beginning of the School Year, by Aboriginal Identity & Region, 2010/11 & 2014/15 Combined (Health Unit region & Other Northern Regions) & 2014/15 (Ontario)

Aboriginal identity	NBPSDHU Region	Other Northern Regions	Ontario
<b>Aboriginal</b>	12.6 <sup>E</sup> (6.9, 22.0)	F	22.1 <sup>E</sup> (14.0, 33.2)
<b>Non-Aboriginal</b>	18.6* (14.4, 23.8)	17.4 (13.5, 22.1)	12.1 (10.6, 13.8)

E Interpret with caution; the estimate is associated with high sampling variability

F Estimate suppressed; too unreliable to be released

\* Estimate is significantly different from provincial estimate

Table 8. Percentage (95% CI) of Students Who Bullied Others at Least Once Since the Beginning of the School Year, by Perceived Socioeconomic Status and Region, 2010/11 & 2014/15 Combined (Health Unit region & Other Northern Regions) & 2014/15 (Ontario)

Perceived Socioeconomic Status (SES)	NBPSDHU Region	Other Northern Regions	Ontario
<b>Low SES</b>	21.9 <sup>E</sup> (12.8, 35.0)	20.5 (14.7, 28.0)	13.5 (10.8, 16.7)

Perceived Socioeconomic Status (SES)	NBPSDHU Region	Other Northern Regions	Ontario
High SES	15.2 (11.1, 20.6)	16.6 (13.1, 20.8)	12.0 (10.5, 13.7)

E Interpret with caution; the estimate is associated with high sampling variability

## Cyberbullying

In 2014/15, about one of every four students (25.7%; 95% CI: 17.9, 35.5) in the Health Unit region reported being bullied through the internet in the previous 12 months, similar to the percentage for students in other northern regions (27.7%; 95% CI: 22.8, 33.2) and Ontario (19.8%; 95% CI: 18.0, 21.7). This percentage has not changed between 2010/11 and 2014/15 school years in the Health Unit region, other northern regions, or Ontario.

For the Health Unit and other northern regions, data from 2010/11 & 2014/15 was combined to analyze those who reported being bullied over the internet in the previous 12 months, among selected demographic subgroups (Tables 9 through 12). Three of every ten female students in the Health Unit region reported being cyberbullied in the previous 12 months, significantly higher compared to male students in the same region (Table 9). About three of every ten students with low perceived socioeconomic status reported being cyberbullied in the Health Unit region, higher than students with high perceived socioeconomic status. This difference was not statistically significant, however the overlap between confidence intervals is marginal.

Table 9. Percentage (95% CI) of Students Who Were Bullied Through the Internet At Least Once in the Previous 12 Months, by Gender and Region, 2010/11 & 2014/15 Combined (Health Unit region & Other Northern Regions) & 2014/15 (Ontario)

Gender	NBPSDHU Region	Other Northern Regions	Ontario
Males	15.4 <sup>E</sup> (9.8, 23.6)	15.9 (12.3, 20.4)	14.0 (12.4, 15.9)
Females	29.0 ‡ (24.3, 34.2)	34.8 ‡ (28.7, 41.5)	25.8 ‡ (22.5, 29.5)

E Interpret with caution; the estimate is associated with high sampling variability

‡ Estimate is significantly different from females in the same region

Table 10. Percentage (95% CI) of Students Who Were Bullied Through the Internet At Least Once in the Previous 12 Months, by Grade Level and Region, 2010/11 & 2014/15 Combined (Health Unit region & Other Northern Regions) & 2014/15 (Ontario)

Grade Level	NBPSDHU Region	Other Northern Regions	Ontario
Grades 7 - 8	17.5 <sup>A</sup> (14.3, 21.2)	28.1 (23.0, 33.9)	19.0 (15.3, 23.4)
Grades 9 - 12	18.2	24.0	20.1

Grade Level	NBPSDHU Region	Other Northern Regions	Ontario
	(14.1, 23.1)	(19.7, 28.8)	(18.2, 22.1)

<sup>Δ</sup> Estimate is significantly different from the estimate for students in other northern regions

Table 11. Percentage (95% CI) of Students Who Were Bullied Through the Internet At Least Once in the Previous 12 Months, by Aboriginal Identity & Region, 2010/11 & 2014/15 Combined (Health Unit region & Other Northern Regions) & 2014/15 (Ontario)

Aboriginal identity	NBPSDHU Region	Other Northern Regions	Ontario
<b>Aboriginal</b>	21.4 <sup>E</sup> (14.1, 31.0)	31.1 <sup>E</sup> (17.8, 48.4)	30.7 <sup>E ‡</sup> (21.5, 41.8)
<b>Non-Aboriginal</b>	22.0 (16.7, 28.4)	24.7 (21.2, 28.7)	19.5 (17.7, 21.5)

<sup>E</sup> Interpret with caution; the estimate is associated with high sampling variability

<sup>‡</sup> Estimate is significantly different from those who do not identify as Aboriginal, in the same region

Table 12. Percentage (95% CI) of Students Who Were Bullied Through the Internet At Least Once in the Previous 12 Months, by Perceived Socioeconomic Status and Region, 2010/11 & 2014/15 Combined (Health Unit region & Other Northern Regions) & 2014/15 (Ontario)

Perceived Socioeconomic Status (SES)	NBPSDHU Region	Other Northern Regions	Ontario
<b>Low SES</b>	30.9 (23.9, 38.8)	26.5 (20.5, 33.4)	22.2 (19.4, 25.3)
<b>High SES</b>	18.0 (13.2, 24.0)	25.1 (21.1, 29.6)	18.7 (16.2, 21.4)