For the 2014–2015 school year, 20.8 percent of students reported being bullied at school (data not shown in figures).\(^1\) This report examines these students’ experiences of bullying by repetition and power imbalance, two components of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) uniform definition of bullying\(^2\); and reviews the association of these components with students’ school work, relationships, physical health, and feelings about themselves.

The School Crime Supplement (SCS) to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) is a nationally representative sample survey of students ages 12 to 18. The SCS asks students whether they were bullied in the school building, on school property, on the school bus, or going to or from school. Specifically, it asks if they were made fun of, called names or insulted; if they were the subject of rumors or excluded from activities on purpose; if they suffered from physical attacks or had their property destroyed; or if they were threatened with any of the above. The SCS also asks students if bullying has had a negative effect on their school work, relationships with friends or family, how they feel about themselves, and physical health. For 2015, the SCS\(^3\) was updated to include measures of repetition and power imbalance, asking students who reported bullying at school if it at any time the bullying:

- Happened over and over or if they were afraid it would happen over and over (repetition).
- Was by someone who had more power or strength (power imbalance). For example: the person was bigger, more popular, had more money, or had more power in another way.

A greater proportion of middle school students who reported being bullied said the bullying included both repetition and power imbalance than students reporting being bullied in 9th and 12th grade (figure 1).

- In 2015, 21.7 percent of all students who reported being bullied in any way (or 4.5 percent of all students) reported bullying that met the uniform definition (included repetition and power imbalance).

Data in this report are from version 1 of the 2015 School Crime Supplement to the National Crime Victimization Survey, a nationally representative sample survey of students ages 12 through 18. To learn more about the survey, visit: [http://nces.ed.gov/programs/crime](http://nces.ed.gov/programs/crime). For questions about content or to download additional copies, go to: [http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch](http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch).
Among students reporting being bullied in any way, approximately one-third of 6th graders (32.0 percent), 7th graders (29.2 percent), and 8th graders (29.3 percent) reported bullying that met the uniform definition, greater percentages than 9th graders (15.9 percent) and 12th graders (12.5 percent).

Students who reported repetition and power imbalance were components of the bullying they experienced were also more likely to agree that the bullying had an impact on various aspects of their lives (figure 2).

A smaller percentage of students who reported bullying without repetition or power imbalance agreed or strongly agreed that bullying impacted their school work (4.1 percent), their relationships with family or friends (5.0 percent) and their feelings about themselves (4.3) than students reporting bullying with repetition, power imbalance, or both.

A greater percentage of students who reported that they experienced bullying with both repetition and power imbalance agreed or strongly agreed that bullying impacted their schoolwork (33.2 percent), their relationships with family or friends (31.2 percent), their feelings about themselves (44.3 percent), and their physical health (23.4 percent) than students reporting that only one of the components was included in the bullying they experienced (15.0, 16.5, 24.6 and 11.1 percent, respectively).

Endnotes

1Percentages of students who reported being bullied in any way by grade for the 2014-2015 school year: 6th (31.0 percent), 7th (25.1 percent), 8th (22.2 percent), 9th (19.0 percent), 10th (21.2 percent), 11th (15.8 percent), 12th (14.9 percent).
