

Negative health implications of bias-based harassment compared to general harassment



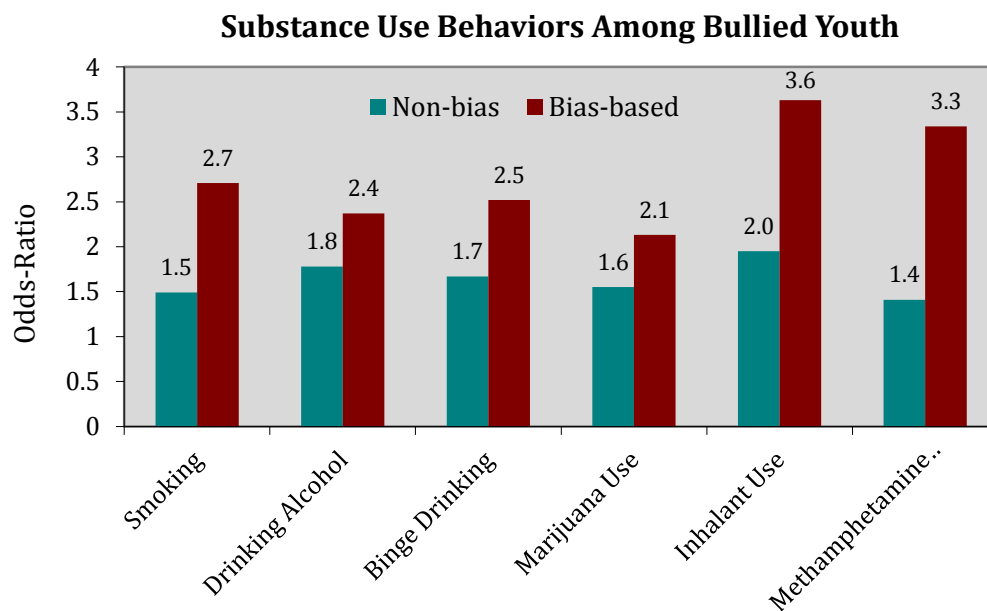
Nearly half of youth reported harassment. For over one-third of these youth it was based on sexual orientation, race, religion, gender, or disability.

Studies have shown that bias-based harassment is more strongly associated with compromised health than general harassment.

FINDING 1: Bias-harassed youth reported higher substance use than students who experienced general harassment.

Students who are bullied because of an actual or perceived minority status are more likely to engage in substance abuse behaviors compared to their peers who are bullied for non-bias reasons. These behaviors include:

- Smoking
- Drinking Alcohol
- Marijuana Use
- Binge Drinking
- Inhalant Use
- Methamphetamine Use



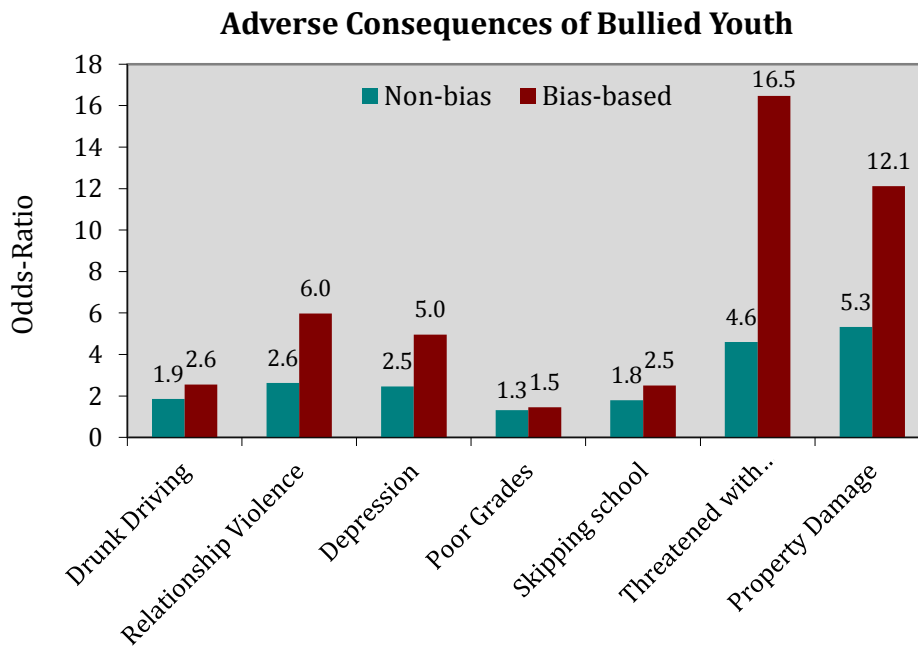
What does this chart mean?

Non-bias harassed youth are about 1.5 times more likely to smoke, compared to students who are not harassed. In comparison, bias-harassed youth are almost 2.7 times more likely to smoke.

FINDING 2: Bias-harassed youth reported more mental health risks than students who experienced general harassment.

Students who are bullied because of an actual or perceived minority status are at greater risk for a number of adverse consequences when compared to their peers who are bullied for non-bias reasons. These adverse consequences include the following:

- Drunk diving
- Relationship Violence
- Depression
- Grades of mostly Cs or below
- Skipping school
- Being threatened with a weapon



What does this chart mean?

Non-biased harassed students are 4.6 times more likely than their non-bullied peers to be threatened with a weapon. In comparison, bias-harassed youth are 16.5 times more likely to be threatened with a weapon.

Recommendations

- **Ensure that schools enact policies that explicitly address bias-based bullying and victimization.**
- **Support student organizations such as Gay-Straight Alliances and other diversity related clubs to support students who may feel marginalized due to disabilities, race, sexual orientation, gender, and religion.**
- **Partner with community organizations such as PFLAG, GLSEN, and NASP for training and programming.**
- **Celebrate diversity within the school community by openly acknowledging faculty and staff's eclectic personal histories, via bulletin boards, newsletters, events, etc.**

Source: Russell, S. T., Sinclair, K. O., Poteat, V. P., & Koenig, B. W. (in press). Adolescent health and harassment based on discriminatory bias. *American Journal of Public Health*.