

## Summary of Findings: CSN Bullying Prevention Environmental Scan

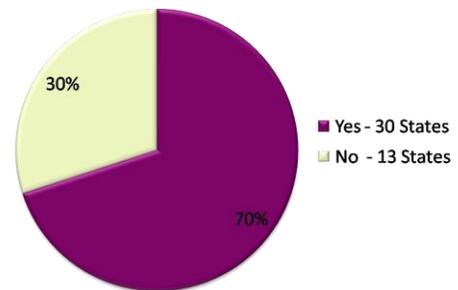
Public health departments are equipped to prevent bullying in large part because of their experience working with a broad range of state and local agencies, schools, community groups, families, and youth. As a field, public health manages complex issues that require sustained, multifaceted interventions/strategies and has the ability to adapt strategies to changing circumstances. Public health also appreciates the need to select and implement evidence-informed/promising practices, and it supports policy change that promotes a healthy and safe climate in schools.

In January 2011, CSN sent out a request to all 50 states and the District of Columbia Maternal and Child Health and Injury and Violence Prevention Directors for information about their state public health agency involvement in bullying prevention. The request consisted of a brief environmental scan with five questions. Forty-three states completed and returned the environmental scan. Forty of the 43 states that submitted the environmental scan have anti-bullying laws. Responses to the environmental scan questions are described below.

Thirty states reported that their state public health agency is involved in bullying prevention in their state, and 13 reported that it is not.

### **Question 1: Is your state public health agency involved in bullying prevention in your state?**

Thirty of the 43 states responding indicated that they were involved in bullying prevention. Based on an analysis of the environmental scan results, CSN identified five approaches that the 30 state public health agencies are using to help prevent bullying.



## Strategies State Public Health Agencies Are Using to Prevent Bullying

Strategy <sup>1</sup>	Number of States
Assess relevant state laws and policies related to bullying	3
Develop, implement, or evaluate interventions	8
Research, collect data, or disseminate information	7
Provide training and technical assistance to public health professionals, other professionals, and the general public	15
Facilitate collaboration between relevant organizations and professionals	9

<sup>1</sup>The number of states utilizing these strategies totals more than 30 because some states are implementing more than one strategy.



**Question 2: Please describe your role in bullying prevention in your state.**

The following provides an overview of the roles states are playing and examples of state activities. The number of states carrying out these roles totals more than 30 because some states play more than one role.

Roles Played by States	Number of States	Examples of State Activities
TA/Training, general education and dissemination of materials	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide education sessions to all schools.</li> <li>• Provide general consultation on bullying as a public health issue and distribute resources.</li> </ul>
Work in collaboration with other state agencies and school associations	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate on the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction's School Safety Committee.</li> <li>• Work with the Department of Education, the Attorney General's Office, the Department of Human Services, and community organizations to promote anti-bullying policies.</li> </ul>
Fund programs which include a bullying prevention component	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide funding for school-based sexual violence prevention initiative that includes bullying prevention education</li> <li>• The Sexual Violence Prevention and Education Program funded 15 schools to implement the Steps to Respect curriculum.</li> </ul>
Have a youth violence prevention initiative that includes bullying prevention efforts	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have youth violence prevention programs which directly or collaboratively address bullying and its connections to sexual violence, suicide, teen dating violence, homophobic violence and harassment.</li> <li>• The statewide suicide prevention initiative has referenced the correlation of bullying and suicide ideation in their awareness efforts.</li> </ul>
Work on an anti-bullying campaign	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct a campaign called "Injury Free Kids." This campaign has a website with fact sheets, prevention strategies, and additional resources.</li> <li>• Work in collaboration with several agencies to develop a campaign called, "Fear Stops Here: Students Against Bullying" for children in middle school.</li> </ul>



## Children's Safety Network

National Injury and Violence Prevention Resource Center

Roles Played by States	Number of States	Examples of State Activities
Bullying legislation - implementation/reviews /involved in passage	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in the implementation of bullying prevention legislation</li> <li>• Provide educational and informational support during the policy effort to pass the anti-bullying law.</li> </ul>
Work with the injury prevention state committee	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate the state coalition for injury prevention. One of the coalition's focus teams works on bullying prevention and education.</li> <li>• Work within the Injury Free Alliance to disseminate information and provide education on bullying.</li> </ul>
Identify evidence-based programs	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disseminate newly identified evidence-based and evidence-informed strategies through a website and newsletter.</li> <li>• Identify evidence-based programs and make recommendations to the community steering group for injury prevention.</li> </ul>
Write research papers and fact sheets	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write a research paper on bullying, using Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) data.</li> <li>• Create a website with fact sheets on bullying prevention.</li> </ul>
Hire someone specifically to address bullying prevention	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruit for a staff position dedicated to bullying prevention.</li> </ul>
Surveillance	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the Healthy Youth Survey to gather information relevant to school safety and bullying.</li> </ul>

*\* 1 state is planning on getting involved in bullying prevention work, and 5 states provided limited detail on their efforts.*

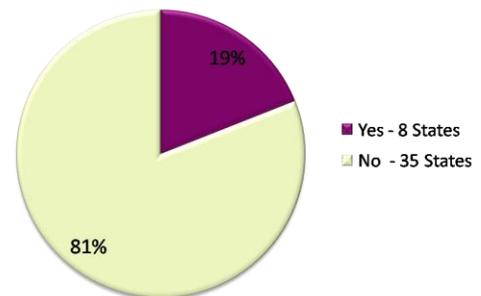
**Question 3: Who in the state public health agency is involved in bullying prevention in your state?**

Twenty-seven of the 30 states that said they are involved in bullying prevention provided information about who from the state public health agency participates in this work. For the most part, public health is involved in bullying prevention through either the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) or Injury and Violence Prevention (IVP) programs with 14 states indicating that one or the other of these programs is involved and 9 states indicating that both of these programs are involved. Four states reported that their state public health agency's involvement in bullying prevention is based in sexual violence prevention/Rape Prevention Education.

Who Is Involved in Bullying Prevention?	Number of States
The Injury and Violence Prevention and Maternal and Child Health programs working together	9
The Injury and Violence Prevention program	8
The Maternal and Child Health program, including school health, adolescent health, and coordinated school health	6
Sexual Violence Prevention/Rape Prevention Education	4

**Question 4: Do you have a state multi-agency bullying prevention task force/committee?**

Only eight states reported that their state has a multi-agency task force on bullying prevention.



**Question 5: Does your multi-agency bullying prevention task force/committee include representatives from the state?**

What Department?	Number of States
Both the Department of Health and the Department of Education	3
The Department of Education	2
The Department of Health	1
Neither the Department of Health nor the Department of Education	2

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CSN ([www.childrensafetynetwork.org](http://www.childrensafetynetwork.org)) is funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration's Maternal and Child Health Bureau (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services).

A project of the Education Development Center, Inc.



## Summary

Bullying prevention is an important public health issue and, based on the results of this environmental scan, 30 of the 43 states who responded are involved in bullying prevention at some level. State health departments are primarily involved in providing training and technical assistance for bullying prevention, although one state is in the process of hiring a staff person to focus on this issue. Maternal and Child Health and Injury and Violence Prevention programs are both engaged in bullying prevention with 23 states indicating that one or both of these programs participates these efforts.

However, the majority of states do not appear to have a multi-agency task force or committee on bullying prevention. In the eight states that do have a task force or committee, public health is involved only 50% of the time.

Consequently, there is still much work to be done to promote an understanding of bullying prevention as a public health issue, and especially to emphasize the importance of cross-agency task forces or committees which include public health. Public health is poised to play a major role in bullying prevention and surveillance as a result of its expertise in primary prevention and its connections with key stakeholders. To capitalize on this potential and to create a safe and healthy environment for all young people, our goal is to facilitate and support the involvement of all 50 state health departments in bullying prevention.

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