

RELATIONAL AGGRESSION IN SCHOOL & BEYOND

2018 Iowa Youth Survey

NAME CALLING

- In 2018, name calling and teasing were at their highest in Iowa middle schools. **43%** of 6th graders and **42%** of 8th graders experienced being called names, made fun of, or teased in a hurtful way at school.
- For Iowa 11th graders, **32%** experienced the same.



SEXUAL COMMENTS

- Sexual jokes, comments and gestures also peaked in the middle school grades, especially for Iowa female students. **More than one in five** 8th grade females experienced sexual jokes, comments or gestures at school in 2018.
- The problem persists into 11th grade with nearly the same number of female students experiencing the same. This compares to fewer than **1 in 10** 11th grade males.



FALSE RUMORS

- Eighth grade females bore the brunt of lies and false rumors in 2018. While **35%** of 6th graders experienced having other students tell lies, spread false rumors, and do other things to make others dislike them, the number jumped to **43%** for 8th grade females.
- For 11th graders, **38%** of females reported the same compared to **24%** of males.

PHYSICAL FIGHTS

- **19%** of 6th grade males were beaten up or fought with someone one or more times in the in 2019.
- The numbers decline for older students. **16%** of 8th grade males and **10%** of 11th grade males experienced the same.
- Roughly **10%** of females in any grade experienced physical fighting.

VIOLENCE AS PROBLEM SOLVING

- **Well over one-third** of 11th grade males held the belief that violence is an acceptable way to solve problems.
- **Nearly 1 in 5** verbally threatened to physically harm someone.

