

Parenting Education Network

The North Carolina Parenting Education Network (NCPEN) is working to build the field of parenting education in the state with a focus on partnerships between parents and child care providers, teachers, and parent educators. Working together, we can help each child reach his or her potential. NCPEN is an unfunded collaboration of parenting education organizations and agencies. For more information about NCPEN, see our web site at www.ncpen.org.

Student Bullying Widespread

adapted by Stephanie Moore, NCPEN Member

Amid growing concern over school violence, a nationwide study has found that bullying affects nearly one of every three U.S. children in sixth through 10th grades. Young students and boys were most likely to be affected.

The authors say their survey of 15,686 public and private school students is among the first to study U.S. The results show that not enough has been done to prevent what is often seen as an unpleasant rite of passage.

“It’s a problem that has been in a lot of ways ignored for quite a while,” said researcher Tonja Nansel of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the study’s lead author.

The 1998 survey, part of the U.S. contribution to a study of worldwide childhood health and behavior by the World Health Organization, appears in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Bullying has been implicated in recent school shootings, including the March slayings of two students in Santee, CA, and the 1999 massacre of 13 by two suicidal students at Colorado’s Columbine High School.

A growing number of schools across the country have adopted bullying intervention programs.

Nansel said efforts to address the

problem in the U.S. have been hampered by a pervasive attitude “that kids will be kids and this is just going to happen.”

The survey found that fighting was more common among both bullied and bullying children.

Overall, 30 percent of students in the survey reported occasional or frequent involvement as a victim and/or pepe-



trator in bullying — defined as verbal or physical behavior designed to disturb someone less powerful.

More than 16 percent said they’d been bullied at least occasionally during the current school term and 8 percent reported bullying or being bullied at least once weekly.

Children were bullied more frequently for their looks or speech than for race or religion, the survey found.

Children who said they were bullied reported more loneliness and difficulty making friends, while those who did the bullying were more likely to have poor grades and to smoke and drink alcohol, the survey found.

Other research has shown that people who were bullied as children are prone to depression and low self-esteem as adults, and that bullies are more likely to engage in criminal behavior.

Nansel said that school-based intervention programs can reduce violence by 30 percent to 50 percent.

To reduce bullying, schools need to involve all staff members, parents and even student bystanders, whose silence may suggest tacit approval.

For more information on the study referenced here, please visit: JAMA: <http://jama.ama-assn.org> or NICHD: <http://www.nichd.nih.gov>

Futures, Not Funerals

Parents, parent educators, school officials, and community members working together can be an effective way to prevent school violence. According to the National Crime Prevention Council, the crime rate can decrease by as much as 30 percent when a violence prevention initiative is a community effort.

Take action to safeguard your children and all children in your community from acts of violence. Kids need a future, not funerals is a serious message that needs to be shared.

Create an action team or committee

Form a special committee to organize a meeting or forum. Your committee may include parent educators, PTA members, educators, school officials, business and community leaders, and others who have a stake in safeguarding children against violence.

Identify priority issues

Identify the priority issues and needs of families and schools in your community. The focus of the forum could be to identify problems and possible solutions, evaluate current programs and services, identify needed programs and who could implement them to prevent violence.

Develop a plan/set goals

Set realistic goals for the forum. Identify what each organization can do and by when; plan for a follow-up meeting.

Identify stakeholders

Identify the stakeholders with an interest in participating in a forum. Identify the groups of citizens who have the ability to influence public action, opinion, policy decisions, or who have a stake in the outcome. Determine contact person for each group or organization to attend the forum.

Determine format/logistics of event

Determine the format of your forum. Will it be small, with only the leaders of organizations invited to attend? Or

will it be large, with a blanket community invitation issued? Begin to develop the forum agenda. Who will be invited to speak? How long will the forum last? Once the format and interest level have been determined, set a date, time, and place.

Secure support/commitments

For optimal success, have all participants identify the resources their groups will provide. Identify and secure all financial and material resources needed. When organizations commit to action steps, make sure there is someone identified to keep a record of those commitments.

Invite speakers/participants

Once you've identified potential speakers, invite them to the forum. Include an explanation of the focus of the forum, what the speaker should address, length of speech, and other details. Let speakers know who will be in the audience and ask if they have any audiovisual needs.

Plan publicity/media coverage

Develop a plan to publicize and promote awareness of the forum. Identify the most effective means to invite people to participate and attend. You can use community organizations' newsletters or mailing lists, newspaper articles and ads, radio PSAs or announcements, direct mail, posters or a combination of methods. Be sure to begin publicizing as soon as the event details are finalized. Begin media contacts two weeks in advance of the event. For press releases about the forum, cover the who, what, when, where, why, and how; make sure to include the name and phone number of a main contact or

spokesperson for the event.


Hold the event

Finalize plans for what should be achieved as a result of the forum. Develop an agenda for the event. Include questions to address, such as identifying problems and solutions, developing a plan, making commitments to put the plan into action, and defining how the results will be measured. Invite speakers to attend a brief pre-event meeting the day of the forum. Have your public relations team there early to meet the press and to welcome speakers and guests.

Evaluate efforts/follow up

Be sure to send thank-you notes to speakers and send follow-up information to the organizations involved, summarizing what happened and outlining the commitments or group's action plans. Make sure your own group is implementing the actions it agreed to. Begin work on setting up an evaluation meeting.

Remember working together can be the most effective way to prevent violence.

For more information visit the National PTA web site at: <http://www.pta.org/index.stm> 

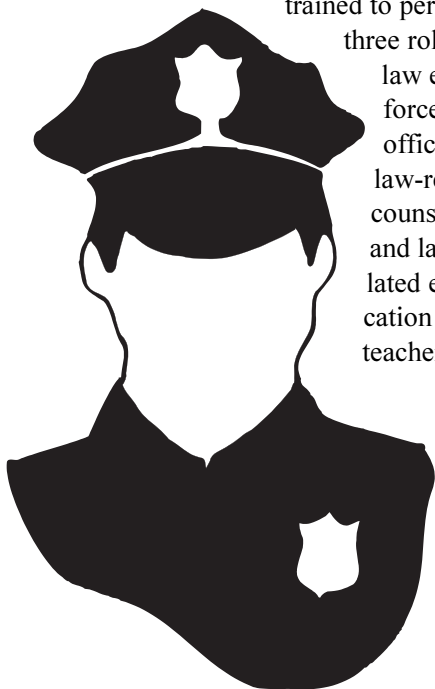


School Resource Officers Center For the Prevention of School Violence

There were 623 School Resource Officers working in North Carolina schools this year... more than ever before. The 2000-2001 total was more than twice the 243 SROs in North Carolina schools counted by the Center for the Prevention of School Violence in 1996.

The Center defines an SRO as "a certified law enforcement officer who is permanently assigned to provide coverage to a school or a set of schools. The SRO is specifically trained to perform three roles:

- law enforcement officer;
- law-related counselor;
- and law-related education teacher.



The SRO is not necessarily a DARE officer (although many have received such training), security guard, or officer who has been placed temporarily in a school in response to a crisis situation but rather acts as a comprehensive resource for his/her school."

In North Carolina 310 (77%) of the state's 402 high schools have SROs assigned exclusively to cover them, which means the SRO is not shared with another school. One hundred ninety three (53%) of the 365 middle schools have exclusive SROs.

Mounting anecdotal evidence, surveys of administrators and of stakeholders (students, parents, and staff) in schools where SROs work, the General Assembly's funding initiative and heightened concern about the security of schools help explain why the assignment of specially trained law enforcement officers to schools continues. The Center's involvement with SROs has also contributed to the increased use of the SRO approach as a means to prevent violence in schools across the state.

For more information about the Center for the Prevention of School Violence visit their web site at: www.cpsv.org.

SAFEchild

(Stop Abuse For Every child)

Volunteers Needed to Support and Strengthen Wake County Families

SAFEchild, a nonprofit child abuse prevention agency in Wake County, invites volunteers, who speak English and/or Spanish, to assist each week in one of the following programs:

- Mentoring new mothers
- Leading parent education groups
- Facilitating children's groups
- Sharing stories with children while their parents attend parent education classes
- Presenting an interactive child abuse prevention program to first grade students

- Presenting information to community groups about child abuse prevention

All volunteers receive support and training from the agency's professional staff.

Training begins Saturday, Aug 25, 2001

For more information please call: SAFEchild at 231-5800 or email safechild1@aol.com.

Lights, Camera, and Action! School Violence is on Trial

This is an inspiring courtroom drama that places a character, who represents school violence, on trial. In this video, the students gain an increased understanding of what school violence is and explore their responsibilities in its prevention. The one-hour video and accompanying guide are instructional tools that communicate directly with youth about issues that concern them Rated TP for thought provoking.

If you are interested in using this tool, call the Center for the Prevention of School

Violence at 1-800-299-6054.



Resource Highlight: Teaching Tolerance Magazine

Contributed by Stephanie Jones, Parent Educator, NCPEN member

"Teaching Tolerance" magazine is published biannually and offers free subscriptions to Educators.

With your free subscription, you'll receive:

- Practical techniques for teaching young people to respect and understand those who are different from themselves;
- A forum for teachers to share ideas that have worked for them in the classroom;
- Reviews of the best multicultural education resources available for teachers;
- Interviews with leading educators;
- Classroom activities for all age levels.

In the latest issue there is an offer for a free video and teaching kit. The offer is for a 40 minute video, student textbook and detailed lesson plans for "A Place at the Table: Struggles for Equality in America."

For more information contact Teaching Tolerance on the web at: www.tolerance.org

North Carolina Parenting Education Network

If you or your organization is interested in becoming a member of the North Carolina Parenting Education Network please visit our website at www.ncpen.org. or fill out the following information. If you are an individual wishing to subscribe to the North Carolina Parenting Education Network Newsletter without becoming a member you can fill out the following information.

Taken from the NCPEN bylaws:
Membership Dues - Each member of the association shall pay annual dues of ten (\$10.00) and organizational dues of twenty-five (\$25.00) dollars due and payable on July 1, of the calendar year. Nonpayment of dues, after one year, shall cause a member to be dropped from membership in the association. Benefits of membership include a 4 issues of the

NCPEN newsletters per year for individuals and 200 copies of 4 issues of the newsletters for organizations (or more for a fee). 📧



NCPEN Membership Application (Please print)

___ Individual membership (\$10.00)

Name _____

Mailing address _____

Phone Number _____ E-mail address _____

___ Organizational Membership (\$25.00)

Name of Organization _____

Number of parent educators in organization _____

Organizational website if applicable _____

Contact e-mail address _____

Mailing address (no PO boxes) _____

Mail to:

NCPEN

c/o Gina Wells, Treasurer
313 Chapanoke Road Ste.140
Raleigh, NC 27603

Make check or money order to:

North Carolina Parenting Education Network . Federal EIN 56-2223885