

My name is Ollie Gray IV and I live in Waterbury, Ct. I am a Sophomore Criminal Justice major and Forensic Psychology minor. My senior year of high school I received a text message of two elderly men engaging in a sexual act. I wasn't the first to see this message, my 9yr old sister happened to look at my phone prior to me realizing I had received a message. I did not want the message sent to me. Who does? My sister's innocence could've been in jeopardy I just prayed she wouldn't be scarred. This is just one example showing how easy someone can send and receive sexually provocative photos. Traditionally, peer harassment has been viewed as a face-to-face encounter between a bully and a victim in view of an audience of peers (Espelage & Swearer, 2003). A New method of peer harassment has surfaced known as cyber-harassment. The bullying is directed at a victim through the use of communication or information technology. With the growth of technology, Cyber bullying has become more prevalent over the past decade . A University of Calgary study of 432 Canadian students grades 7-9 reported that more than two thirds of students (69%) have heard of incidents of cyber-harassment, about one quarter (21%) have been harassed several times, and some students (3%) admitted engaging in this form of harassment. The reported consequences of falling victim to cyber harassment were sadness and anger.

In another study by the University of Calgary, 177 grade seven students (80 males and 97 females) were asked questions about cyber-harassment. 54% of the students were bully victims and over 25% of them had been cyber-bullied. More than half of the students knew someone being cyber-bullied. Over 40% of cyber-bully victims had no idea who cyber-bullied them. The high percentage of adolescents who had experiences of

cyberbullying suggests that cyberbullying is becoming an increasing problem for schools and society.

Bullying, cyberbullying and victimization are not mutually exclusive.

In the school bully group, 85% reported that they were also bully victims. 30% in this group were cyber bullies and 27.3% were victims. Most bullies were also bully victims themselves. If these categories are not mutually exclusive, as the research seems to suggest, that needs to be considered when developing intervention programs.

#### References

Beran, Li. (2005) Cyber-Harrassment: A Study of a New Method for and Old Behavior. Paper to be published at the *Journal of Educational Computing Research*

Li Qing. (April 2005). Cyberbullying in Schools: Nature and extent of Canadian adolescents' experience. Paper presented at the annual AERA (American Educational Research Association) Conference