Researchers find nationwide increase of bullying students with disabilities

Generated from News Bureau Press Release: Bullying Rates Remain Higher for Children with Disabilities, Even As They Mature

COLUMBIA - Bullying has been prevalent in schools for decades, but researchers found a slight increase in one specific group of students.

Researcher and assistant MU special education professor Chad Rose surveyed 6,500 students and found an increase in bullying against students with disabilities. These students were surveyed using a school climate survey that surveyed students over a three year period.

Over the past 10 years, studies of bullying in schools have been cross-sectional studies which survey students at one time point. This study differed by using a longitudinal design.

Rose along with his co-author, Nicholas Gage, studied how students with disabilities' experiences can change as they transition through school.

"Not only are they experiencing higher rates of victimization at one time point, they're experiencing higher rates of victimization over several time points, and that discrepancy isn't decreasing," Rose said.

Rose also said the students that are likely being victimized are kids with emotional behavior disorders and kids that lack social and communication skills. Rose and Gage found there are higher rates of bullying in elementary and high school, with a decrease in middle school.

"We try to make sure schools understand bullying happens in a developmental pattern," Rose said. "Bullying tends to be more physical at a young age and engage in more verbal as they start to develop a larger vocabulary, and then they engage in more social exclusion when they realize that can hurt just as bad as verbal or physical form of bullying."
Although this study found a definite increase in bullying among students with a disability, Rose said he is optimistic about the future for the schools and students.

"Schools need to make sure they have a clear protocol for supporting victims, a clear protocol for responding to alleged perpetration, and a clear protocol for protecting those bystanders," Rose said.

As of January 1, 2017, a new state law will go into effect. This legislation will require a "two-day 10-day period". This means schools will have two days to initiate an investigation and then 10 days to complete that investigation.

Rose hopes this new legislation will help train teachers and kids to know what to do, what to say, and who to tell.

"I think the biggest thing is students need to know what to do, what to say, who to tell, and schools need to make sure those people that have elected to represent bully prevention...know how to respond and the protocols in place are there to support students," Rose said.

Rose is currently working with four school districts in the Columbia area to support bullying prevention.

Children with Disabilities are Bullied at a Much Greater Rate than Other Children

Generated from News Bureau Press Release: Bullying Rates Remain Higher for Children with Disabilities, Even As They Mature

Watch the story: http://mms.tveys.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=333cd952-3dfd-409f-aa50-d77bf17a4c9c
MU fitness expert warns of traps, offers tips to avoid weight gain over holidays

Generated from News Bureau release: To Beat Holiday Weight Gain, Create a Plan Ahead of Time

An exercise and nutrition specialist from the Show Me State has suggestions for avoiding weight gain during the holidays.

Distractions such as travel and family obligations can present roadblocks to physical activity. But University of Missouri associate professor Steve Ball contends you can find time to exercise, even during events such as Black Friday.

“Don’t fight for the closest spot” said Ball. “Do yourself a favor and just park in the back of the parking lot. Lots of times you’ll beat people inside anyway, and you’ll get a few steps in. Over the long haul, these types of things can add up and make a difference.”

Ball says it’s also possible to avoid weight gain by paying attention to calories you take in and the calories you burn off. He thinks it’s important to remember that some exercise is always better than none while more is better than some, and too much exercise is difficult to get.

He thinks it’s important to avoid being sedentary, especially during the holidays. Ball says you can keep your fitness goals on track by finding ways to exercise during the holiday season. He notes exercise regimens can easily unravel due to holiday distractions. “It can be a good excuse to just avoid exercise altogether. If you miss one day, you miss two, you miss a week or two weeks, that can lead the whole program going down the drain.”

Ball says it’s important to realize that barriers exist to exercise over the holidays. He recommends planning in advance for a walk, run or workout in between family obligations.

According to Ball, there are dangers to using the holidays as a way to take a break from an exercise schedule. “When you go back to the gym eventually, it’s going to be much harder to get back to the level of fitness where you are right now, versus if you were just
to get back in there on Monday and start back with your exercise program, you’d be better off in the long run.”

Ball serves as the state fitness specialist for the MU Extension and is a nationally recognized expert on the subject.

Local law enforcement on active shooter/threat: "You need to have a plan in place"

Watch the story: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=7dd27007-db64-4593-9b01-8618769eb91b

Law enforcement in Mid-Missouri says it's imperative to have a plan in place in the event of an active shooter or threat.

In light of the attack on the Ohio State University campus, ABC 17 News spoke with Major Brian Weimer with the University of Missouri Police Department and Sergeant Scott White with the Missouri State Highway Patrol about the best way for an individual to respond.

"The number one thing is your survival. You need to do what you need to do to stay alive," Major Weimer says.

Ohio State University alerted students and staff about the attack on Twitter, adding that they should "run, hide or fight." Those are the same guidelines the Department of Homeland Security provides, and it's also the philosophy embraced by both the Missouri State Highway Patrol and University of Missouri Police Department.

"Run--it's more than just running, it's know where your exits are, visualize how to get out. Hide--blockade the door, block the door, lock the door shut off the lights, use your phone to get help. And fight, don't fight fair at all, use anything you can," Sergeant White explains.
While the attack at Ohio State happened on campus, Major Weimer says it's crucial for all residents in Mid-Missouri to have a plan in place.

"It has nothing to do with campuses, period. It can happen in malls, it can happen anywhere so you need to have a plan in place," Major Weimer says. "It's critical that students have established protocols with their parents and loved ones of how they would notify them in an emergency that they're safe and okay."

There are a number of resources on the University of Missouri website, as well as an active shooter video created by the university.

In the event of an emergency, Major Weimer says all the information they know--at that moment--will be posted on the MU Alert website.

**MUPD reacts to Ohio State car and knife attack**

Watch the story: [http://mms.tveys.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=b4e7dca8-33ef-4271-80aa-2641547e100c](http://mms.tveys.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=b4e7dca8-33ef-4271-80aa-2641547e100c)

COLUMBIA - An Ohio State University student plowed a car through the campus Monday and then got out and began stabbing people with a knife before being shot by police. Nine people were taken to the hospital.

**Major Brain Weimer with the University of Missouri Police Department told KOMU people need to be aware of what's going on so they can survive the situation if it happens to them.**

On November 21, MU held an emergency drill that involved the Columbia Fire Department, the Columbia Police Department, the Boone County Sheriff’s Department, the Office of Emergency Management, MU Health Care and the Boone County Fire District.
Weimer said that once all the information comes out on the Ohio State incident, they'll look at their current precautions and plans and evaluate them to see if there's something else that can be done.

"We also do a number of tabletop exercises and other things, but more importantly we do a lot of preventative things, such as the run hide fight video that's on our department's website in addition to training we do on campus to prepare our community for something like this," Weimer said.

Weimer said MU has procedures in place that are fluid and can be adapted and changed to whatever situation it is.

"Most importantly there's a lot of preventative stuff out there to make sure that the community is aware of what they need to do in this type of situation," Weimer said.


"They did a great job with the situation that was occurring there from what we've all heard at this time. Once again they'll probably evaluate things and have recommendations on things they may have done differently and what went really well for them," Weimer said.

Weimer said it's critical for everyone to be aware and prepared for these types of situations and these situations aren't only excluded to college campuses.

"Make sure you as a citizen have a plan in place and make sure you have a procedure in place to notify loved ones that you're okay," Wiemer said.

Weimer said if a situation like this were to occur on campus make sure to go to the MU alert website for information and not to tax the resources that are responding to the emergency situation.
MUPD looking for help identifying person in an investigation


COLUMBIA — The University of Missouri Police Department announced Monday it was looking for help in identifying a person in an on-going investigation.

Investigators didn't elaborate on what the possible investigation was.

Anyone with information is asked to call Detective Easley at (573)-884-3721.

Former bill sponsor has no plan yet for "campus carry"


JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. - A Missouri state senator said he has no plan yet to file legislation allowing guns on college campuses.
Senator Brian Munzlinger (R - Williamstown) told ABC 17 News he has not considered filing the same bill he did last session. It would have allowed concealed carry permit holders to bring their firearms on campus, with some state-approved exceptions.

A student at Ohio State University on Monday was shot and killed by campus police after the 18-year-old drove his car into a crowd, then attacked people with a knife.

Both Ohio and Missouri state law restrict the carrying of guns on college campuses. **Ohio State does allow permit holders to keep guns in their cars, but the University of Missouri does not allow it.** Attorney General Chris Koster is challenging that rule, after an MU law professor sued both the school and him over the campus' gun rules.

While his campus carry bill did not make it out of committee last session, Sen. Munzlinger said he was pleased with the reaction some schools had in response. He met with officials at both Missouri State and Southeast Missouri State to review different aspects of their security, and ensure it met with current state laws.

"It caused not only the University of Missouri, but a lot of other campuses across the state to look at their policy and look at their safety protocol," Munzlinger told ABC 17 News. Even though it didn't pass, it helped provide safety for the students that are on our campuses."

The Williamstown Republican also sponsored Senate Bill 656, which affected several different gun laws in the state, including the waiving of training and education to get a concealed carry permit beginning January 1. Munzlinger stressed the importance for people to still obtain training for any firearm and familiarity with state law, such as prohibited places to carry a weapon, such as college campuses.

Asked if he felt the loss of mandatory training to get a CCW permit would negatively affect people's understanding of the law, Munzlinger said he supported people's right to carry a firearm.

"They're still ultimately responsible," he said. "But I also believe in a person's right to protect themselves. Since, hopefully, they will be responsible for, it's up to them to know what Missouri's laws are."

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**University of Missouri mumps outbreak continues as case count reaches 73**
The mumps outbreak on the University of Missouri campus is continuing, with 73 cases diagnosed and more students reporting illness while on Thanksgiving break or seeking appointments Monday, Student Health Center Executive Director Susan Even said.

MU issued its first notice about the mumps outbreak on Nov. 2, when four cases had been diagnosed. So far, the disease does not appear to have spread beyond the campus.

The first case was diagnosed in August, Even said. Many have occurred among fraternity and sorority members, according to an alert from the health center.

Classes resumed Monday after a one-week break. A person who is infected with mumps can begin spreading the disease as many as seven days before and nine days after showing symptoms, with the highest incidence of transmission occurring two days before and five days after symptoms are present, according to an advisory issued Nov. 18 by the state Department of Health and Senior Services.

Whether the monthlong semester break, which begins Dec. 16, will be enough to end the outbreak is uncertain, Even said. An outbreak on the University of Illinois campus made 300 people ill and lasted more than a year, she said.

“To be honest, I just don’t think we know,” Even said. “We are talking with experts and consultants and schools that have been dealing with this.”

The number of people contracting mumps varies widely from year to year. There were fewer than 500 cases nationwide in 2012, while 2,879 cases have been reported through Nov. 5 this year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said.

Mumps begins with body aches, loss of appetite, fatigue, headache and low-grade fever, and can progress to swelling in the salivary glands, giving the disease its name. The disease can be spread by droplets expelled by coughing.

A vaccine, delivered in two doses, prevents the disease for about 88 percent of those exposed to infection. All the students who became ill had the recommended vaccination, MU spokesman Christian Basi said.

Techniques for controlling the disease are similar to other easily contracted illnesses. A health center advisory reminds students to cover coughs and sneezes, wash hands frequently, avoid sharing drinking or eating utensils and avoid exchanging saliva. If symptoms appear, “do not attend classes, work or social events during the five days you are contagious.”

The MU outbreak is the only large group of cases in the state, health department spokesman Ryan Hobart wrote in an email.

There are no confirmed cases in Columbia or Boone County outside the university, said Eric Stann, spokesman for the Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services. And so far, he said, the outbreak has not increased the demand for immunization.
“We have not seen an uptick in people seeking the vaccination,” Stann said.

The department provides immunizations at a cost based on insurance coverage, he said.

All MU students are required to have the two mumps vaccinations to register for classes, Even said. Fewer than 50 students asked for an exemption based on religious or philosophical grounds, she said.

How to Punish 'Student-on-Student Cheating'

NCAA orders Notre Dame to vacate two seasons of football wins after an athletic trainer completed course assignments for several players. University says punishment is too harsh.

The National Collegiate Athletic Association announced that the University of Notre Dame must vacate two years of football wins, including those from a season in which the team competed for a national title, after a student athletic trainer completed class assignments for several football players in nearly two dozen courses.

Notre Dame is appealing the penalty, however, arguing that the punishment is “unjustified,” as no university officials were involved in the academic misconduct.

“We believe that imposition of the vacation-of-records penalty without seriously underlying institutional misconduct will not primarily punish those responsible for the misconduct, but rather will punish coaches, student-athletes and indeed the entire institution who did nothing wrong, and with regard to this case, did everything right,” John Jenkins, president of Notre Dame, said in a statement. The university does not dispute the NCAA’s other sanctions stemming from the case, which include a $5,000 fine and one year of probation.

The crux of Notre Dame’s argument is that the athletic trainer was a student who just “happened to participate in the university’s student trainer program” at the time of the misconduct, not an employee who was trusted with the athletes’ academic or athletic success.

When Notre Dame officials became aware of the cheating, they suspended all of the players and later dismissed four of them, imposing grade changes in the affected courses. By changing the affected grades, the university retroactively declared the athletes ineligible, prompting the NCAA’s decision to vacate any wins in which the players participated. Vacating those records, Notre Dame
argues, constrains the institution’s “autonomy over student academic misconduct,” and “sends a disturbing message to the [NCAA] membership.”

According to the NCAA’s report, the university made this argument during the infractions process, as well. The association’s Division I Committee on Infractions disagreed.

“The institution advances the argument that purely academic decisions by an institution could be affected or influenced with the incentive to consider potential NCAA infractions ramifications as it shapes its honor code,” the panel wrote in its report. “The institution's obligation to report such instances exists regardless of any potential penalty consequences. Moreover, the panel, on behalf of the membership, is mindful that institutions should do the right thing regardless of whatever potential NCAA infractions penalties or consequences may result due to any purported academic misconduct. That academic misconduct may implicate potential NCAA violations or penalties does not mean that the NCAA somehow encroaches on purely academic determinations made by a member institution.”

According to the report, the university also argued that the punishment was “discretionary and should not be applied in this case.” While it’s true that vacating wins is not a mandatory punishment, the panel wrote, “prescribing vacation as a penalty in cases involving academic misconduct is historically consistent with the membership's bylaws.”

The NCAA pointed to several other instances in which an institution was ordered to vacate winning records after academic fraud occurred, including cases at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in 2016, Southern Methodist University and Syracuse University in 2015, and East Carolina University in 2011. (Academic fraud is also currently being investigated at the University of Missouri at Columbia, where The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported that a former tutor is charging that she took entire courses and exams for athletes.)

Many of those cases involved college officials, coaches or assistants, however. The East Carolina case, both Notre Dame and the NCAA acknowledged, was closest to the misconduct at the Notre Dame. East Carolina had several wins vacated after a student hired by the athletic department as an academic tutor committed academic fraud with four athletes.

Notre Dame argued that even these cases contain important distinctions -- namely that the student at East Carolina was an academic tutor, while the student at Notre Dame was an athletic trainer.

“However, neither the applicable bylaws nor official interpretations or educational columns make such a distinction,” the infractions panel wrote in its report. “The panel agrees with the institution that the East Carolina case is analogous to this
case, but is unpersuaded that a different result should obtain merely because one student was an academic tutor and the other was an athletic trainer. Both were institutional staff members at the time they committed their violations.”

David Ridpath, professor of sports administration at Ohio University and president of the Drake Group, an organization pushing for more emphasis on academics in college sports, said Notre Dame’s argument was “splitting hairs.”

“It doesn’t matter where the fraud comes from,” Ridpath said. “Athletic trainer, strength coach, academic tutor, whoever it may be, it’s academic fraud. I don’t see how you can honestly separate that out at the end of the day. It’s textbook academic fraud. Then again, so is the case at the University of North Carolina.”

In September, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill told the NCAA that it does not have the authority to punish the university for what is widely seen as the most egregious case of academic fraud in the history of intercollegiate athletics. For 18 years, some employees at UNC Chapel Hill knowingly steered about 3,000 students toward no-show “paper courses” that never met, were not taught by any faculty members and in which the only work required was a single research paper that received a high grade no matter the content.

UNC’s argument: the NCAA has no jurisdiction over assessing the quality of an institution’s courses, even when those courses were fake and involved more than 1,500 athletes.

For decades, the NCAA has laid out what counts as academic misconduct, clearly barring college employees from completing athletes’ course work for them, for example, and banning any “knowing involvement in arranging for fraudulent academic credit or false transcripts” for athletes. The association has punished Division I institutions at least 15 times for academic fraud in just the last decade, and half a dozen times in the past two years.

The association’s members are now debating what role the NCAA should continue to play in punishing academic fraud. Earlier this year, the NCAA’s Division I Council adopted new rules designed to update its academic integrity policies for the first time since 1983.

Colleges must now “maintain and adhere to written academic integrity policies that apply to the entire student body.” If a college breaks its own rules, the NCAA would consider that to be a case of academic misconduct. At the same time, the new rule redefines “impermissible academic assistance” as “academic conduct involving a staff member or booster that falls outside of a school’s academic misconduct policies, provides a substantial impact on the student-athlete’s eligibility and is not the type of academic assistance” generally available to all students.

UNC argues that its misconduct does not meet these parameters and that the case is “beyond the NCAA’s purview,” as it concerns “fundamental institutional,
not athletic, integrity.” In other words, it’s not the NCAA’s jurisdiction to determine how rigorous a course is. Notre Dame’s argument is similar, Ridpath said, in that it claims the fraud should be handled by the university as an honor code violation, not by the NCAA as an athletic issue, because the staff member who committed the fraud was still a student.

"It was student-on-student cheating," Brian Kelly, Notre Dame's head football coach, said during a news conference Tuesday, calling the sanction excessive. "There was nobody implicated. The NCAA agreed across the board with that finding. So we're going to appeal this."