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**News:** Leads

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WAREHAM

**Arrest made in New Hampshire attacks**

October 12, 2011

A 19-year-old man was arrested in Wareham Monday night on charges of stabbing a man to death and wounding two others in New Hampshire. Matthew Packer, a Nashua resident, was arrested at a relative’s house on Camardo Drive in Wareham, according to a statement by police and the New Hampshire attorney general. Packer is accused of stabbing Paul Frontiero, 27, outside Frontiero’s Nashua home on Spruce Street on Sunday, the statement said. Frontiero died of multiple stab wounds, including one to the heart, New Hampshire authorities said.

*boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2011/10/12/arrest\_made\_in\_new\_hampshire\_attacks/*

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**Fed grant targets childhood obesity in Mass.**

October 11, 2011

BOSTON—Massachusetts has received a $1.7 million grant from the federal government to launch pilot programs against child obesity in New Bedford and Fitchburg.

Gov. Deval Patrick's administration said Tuesday the project will focus on children from low-income families and will seek to create partnerships with schools, daycare centers and pediatricians. It will also include a social marketing campaign aimed at educating parents about nutrition and encouraging physical activity for their children.

Officials say they will evaluate the pilot programs in New Bedford and Fitchburg to determine the best way to institute child obesity prevention efforts statewide.

Massachusetts applied for the grant in conjunction with Harvard Medical School and Harvard School of Public Health.

*boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2011/10/11/fed\_grant\_targets\_childhood\_obesity\_in\_mass/*

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BOSTON

**Police identify victim of fatal shooting**

October 12, 2011

Boston police have identified the victim in a fatal Dorchester shooting early Monday as a 36-year-old Dorchester man who originally hailed from Ireland. Ciaran Conneely was from Galway, police said. Conneely was found shot at about 1:04 a.m. in the area of 20 Nahant Ave. He was pronounced dead at the scene. Neighbors told the Globe they were stunned by the shooting. They said the shooting followed the annual Irish Heritage Festival, which drew large crowds to Adams Corner earlier in the day.

*boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2011/10/12/police\_identify\_victim\_of\_fatal\_shooting/*

Others

*npr.org/sections/health-shots/2015/10/05/446059859/laws-to-stop-bullying-can-protect-teens-if-theyre-done-right*

**public health**

# Laws To Stop Bullying Can Protect Teens If They're Done Right

OCTOBER 05, 2015 3:02 PM ET LYNNE SHALLCROSS

There's good news from the front lines in the fight against bullying: anti-bullying laws can help reduce aggression, both online and in real life.

Bullying affects one out of every five U.S. high school students. But anti-bullying laws do make a difference, researchers reported Monday in JAMA Pediatrics – especially when those laws comply with guidelines from the U.S. Department of Education.

"It's kind of hard to believe, but about 15 years ago, we didn't have any anti-bullying laws," says Mark Hatzenbuehler, lead author of the study and an associate professor of sociomedical sciences at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health. "Now, all 50 states have some form of anti-bullying legislation. Even though there's been a lot of legislative activity around bullying, surprisingly there's been really little research on whether these laws are actually effective in reducing bullying."

Hatzenbuehler and his colleagues wanted to address that gap.

Looking at data from more than 60,000 high school students in 25 states, the researchers found that when a state's anti-bullying laws included at least one of 16 key components from the Department of Education, students in that state were 24 percent less likely to report being bullied and 20 percent less likely to report being cyberbullied.

In particular, three components of anti-bullying laws were tied to decreased bullying and cyberbullying: having a description of where and when the school has the authority to take action against bullying; having a clear definition of what constitutes bullying; and having a requirement that schools develop and implement their own local policies, possibly on a timeline.

Understanding which elements of anti-bullying legislation make the laws more effective or less effective paves the way for future studies into how to create effective laws. "One of the things we really need to understand is which specific components and in which combination are most effective," Hatzenbuehler says.

There was substantial variation in the reported rates of bullying and cyberbullying across states, ranging from 14.1 percent in Alabama to 26.7 percent in South Dakota.

Researchers controlled for state-level violent crime rates and historical bullying rates. But they couldn't control for the variation in how the laws were implemented in each school district, Hatzenbuehler says.

While the study was an important first step to show that the laws are working, Hatzenbuehler says that more research remains to be done, especially concerning how schools implement the laws. "[Laws] can be more or less effective depending on how strong implementation is," he says. "And so we need a lot more research to understand both facilitators but also barriers to the implementation of anti-bullying laws."

Going forward, Hatzenbuehler is hoping also to look at whether these laws protect the most vulnerable, including students in a sexual minority, those who are overweight or obese, and those with disabilities.

*bostonglobe.com/metro/2015/08/02/study-boston-area-teens-suggests-cyberbullying-rise/R4fQNCY13o4mrpe41dwagI/story.html*

**Cyberbullying on rise, particularly for teen girls, study says**

by Monica Disare, *Globe* correspondent, August 03, 2015

A study of more than 16,000 Boston-area high school students suggests cyberbullying is on the rise, most sharply with girls as victims and abetted by the prevalence of smartphones among teenagers.

The percentage of the students who said they experienced cyberbullying jumped from 14.6 percent to 21.2 percent over a six-year period ending in 2012, according to the study by the nonprofit Education Development Center. The study used self-reported health survey data from 17 unidentified schools west of Boston.

The percentage of girls reporting incidents involving bullying or harassment on forums such as websites and social networks shot up 10 percent, while incidents targeting boys increased 3 percent, according to the study. At the same time, reports of in-person bullying decreased by 3 percent over the period.

Specialists said the study, which will be published in September in the Journal of School Health, reflects the spread of technology that enables harassers to spread information quickly and often anonymously, and to target victims any time of the day.

“I am not surprised in the least that cyberbullying has gone up,” said Rusty Sullivan, the co-producer of the Boston vs. Bullies program, an antibullying program used in schools throughout Massachusetts. “Cellphones, the Internet, and everything that goes along with it is such a bigger part of kids’ lives today than it was 10 years ago.”

Increased cyberbullying “raises the stakes considerably” for bullying since the audience is virtually unlimited, Sullivan said. “Once the kid hits send, there’s no way to control it,” he said.

Shari Kessel Schneider, a project director at Waltham-based EDC and the lead author on the new study, agreed that the instantaneous nature of cellphones probably has contributed to the rise in cyberbullying. Websites that allow for anonymous posts, or messages that can disappear after they are sent, are also prime vehicles for dissemination, she said.

In 2010, Massachusetts passed a law heralded as one of the nation’s toughest antibullying statutes. It mandated antibullying training for faculty and students and required every school employee to report cases of bullying. Preventing cyberbullying, which is defined as “bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication,” was a key element of the bill.

It takes only one embarrassing photograph to constitute cyberbullying, whereas in the past bullying often took a pattern of repeated behavior, said Gershon Ben Keren, head instructor at the Situation Effective Protection System program in Boston, which helps people predict, identify, and avoid violence. The relative ease of cyberbullying may help explain its increase, Ben Keren said.

Gone are the days when a child could walk home, close his or her bedroom door, and escape being bullied, he said.

The study collected survey answers from four different years, beginning in 2006. It was funded by the MetroWest Health Foundation. Because the surveyed students hailed from the suburbs west of Boston, the report cautions that results may not be generalizable to other regions.

But the findings are consistent with other research, said Elizabeth Englander, a professor of psychology at Bridgewater State University and director of the Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center. She and other specialists said it is well known that cyberbullying disproportionately affects girls.

Girls tend to be more peer-focused than boys, and therefore more prone to forms of bullying such as exclusion and rumor spreading, said Jon Mattleman, director of Needham Youth Services.

“It tends to be very personal and very devastating,” said Mattleman, who called it “emotional, right to the core.”

The study also highlighted a reluctance by many youths to seek help. In 2012, only one-third of cyberbullying victims told an adult about their experiences. Girls were almost twice as likely to seek help than boys. When the teenagers did seek help, they more frequently sought someone outside of school.

Young adults are hesitant to involve parents because they think they will either overreact or take away their technology, Mattleman said.

Nonheterosexual teenagers reported higher instances of cyberbullying in the study. In 2012, 31.5 percent of youths who are members of sexual minorities — such as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transsexual — reported being cyberbullied, compared with 20.3 percent of heterosexual youths.

“Even today, after marriage equality, they are still marginalized by their peers and in their schools,” said Emily Greytak, director of research at the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network in Boston.

Greytak also noted the benefits of the Internet for LGBTQ youths, who go online for positive social support.

*boston.com/yourlife/articles/2006/01/24/the\_pornification\_of\_america/?page=full*

**The pornification of America**

From music to fashion to celebrity culture, mainstream entertainment reflects an X-rated attitude like never before

By Don Aucoin Globe Staff / January 24, 2006

Actors having real sex in art-house movies. Erstwhile child star Lindsay Lohan appearing barely clad on the cover of her new album. Teenage girls strolling down Main Street USA attired in "Porn Star" T-shirts. A bikini-wearing Jessica Simpson bumping and grinding in the music video for "These Boots Are Made for Walkin.' " College- age women flashing for the "Girls Gone Wild" video series with nonchalant exhibitionism.

Not too long ago, pornography was a furtive profession, its products created and consumed in the shadows. But it has steadily elbowed its way into the limelight, with an impact that can be measured not just by the Internet-fed ubiquity of pornography itself but by the way aspects of the porn sensibility now inform movies, music videos, fashion, magazines, and celebrity culture.

Even cooking shows on the Food Network the Food Network! contain distinct parallels with the cinematography, dialogue, and body language of pornography, according to an article wryly headlined "Debbie Does Salad" in the October issue of Harper's magazine.

Chances are the republic will survive gastro-porn. But on a more serious level, a growing number of critics are raising concerns about the way an X-rated atmosphere is making its way, in diluted but unmistakable form, into popular entertainment. "The standards and aesthetics of pornography have really infiltrated the mainstream culture," says Pamela Paul, author of "Pornified," which examines the role pornography plays in contemporary life. "It's not just that the culture has gotten sexier. It's that the culture is directly referencing pornography."

Of course, some of this is simply the eternal desire of the young to shock the old. And it's not exactly stop-the-presses material that sex sells. It always has for beer, for convertibles, for linoleum and it probably always will.

What is new and troubling, critics suggest, is that the porn aesthetic has become so pervasive that it now serves as a kind of sensory wallpaper, something that many people don't even notice anymore. The free-speech-versus-censorship debates that invariably surround actual pornography do not burn as hot when the underlying principles of porn are filtered more subtly into the mainstream. And those principles, critics say, often involve reducing women to subjugated sex objects while presenting men in dominant roles.

Braving the inevitable accusations of prudery which they reject critics such as Paul are sounding the alarm. They say the current hypersexualized climate distorts the attitudes of young people toward sex and relationships. In particular, they contend it has a damaging effect on the self-image of young women and girls, who are confronted with a culture that objectifies them while disguising it as female empowerment.

"We have an aging society and an adolescent culture," says Barbara Dafoe Whitehead, a social historian and author of "Why There Are No Good Men Left."

"It's the beer commercial writ large across every medium you can think of. We want to titillate 50-year-old men, but we've ended up demeaning young women, and sending them a message that what matters about you is the size of your breasts."

It seems to be a message that some young women have internalized. Paul, who interviewed more than 100 "pornography consumers" for her book, says she found that "the standards of pornography have become something that not only men but women see as totally acceptable. It's gone so mainstream it's barely edgy."

Yet some dispute the link between the growth of the pornography industry and the growth of mainstream depictions of sex. "I think Pamela Paul overstates the point," says Bryant Paul (no relation), who teaches telecommunications at Indiana University and has written about media images of sexuality.

"What we're talking about is more sexually explicit content; definitely, that's happened," says Bryant Paul. "But that's not just a function of more pornography. It's largely a function of the expansion of the media industry. We are just inundated with media messages, so what message makers have to do is come up with messages that are likely to get attention. The thing that is likely to get attention is sex. You could use fishing, but it's not going to be interesting to many people."

"You've seen this throughout history," he adds. "Every time a new medium comes around, there's an explosion of sexual content. It happened with books, it happened with movies, it happened with the VCR. And now the Internet allows it to happen to an even greater extent."

But the Internet is far from the only venue that does a thriving risque business. From the newsstands peek not just the usual randy suspects (Playboy, Hustler) but also general-interest "lad mags" such as Maxim, whose covers feature actresses and models in soft- core poses, surrounded by leering headline copy. Even august Harvard University and its neighbor across the Charles River, Boston University, have recently become home to student-run sex magazines. Video games such as Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas were found to contain sexually explicit scenes, and an audience-building buzz surrounded nonporn movies such as "The Brown Bunny" and "9 Songs" when it was learned that their actors had real, not simulated, on- screen sex. Howard Stern brought his own obsession with porn to a daily radio audience of millions, and HBO's "Sex and the City" accustomed TV viewers to racy sexual adventures.

The career of heiress Paris Hilton has prospered, not faltered, since a publicity whirlwind involving sex tapes, and actor Colin Farrell is embroiled in a lawsuit against a former girlfriend who allegedly is seeking to publicly distribute a sex video they made together. Such tapes, amateur porn of a sort, have so thoroughly permeated public consciousness that late-night TV host David Letterman recently did a hilarious "Top Ten Signs You're in a Bad Sex Video" (No. 6: "Plumber shows up to fix your leaky faucet . . . and then leaves."). When porn actress Jenna Jameson was on tour to promote her best-selling 2004 memoir, "How to Make Love Like a Porn Star," Pamela Paul notes, "12- and 13-year-old girls went up to her and told her she was their role model." Brazilian bikini waxes a staple of contemporary porn have grown increasingly popular.

But it is perhaps the world of popular music where the lines between entertainment and soft-core porn seem to have been most thoroughly blurred. It is now routine for female performers to cater to male fantasies with sex-drenched songs and videos. In "Pornified," Paul points out that hip-hop and rock stars such as Eminem, Kid Rock, Metallica, and Bon Jovi have featured porn actors in their music videos. "Trying to keep up, Britney Spears, Lil' Kim, and Christina Aguilera emulate porn star moves in their videos and live concerts," Paul writes.

All in all, perhaps it's not surprising that film producer Brian Grazer, who released a documentary last year about 1972's "Deep Throat," has labeled this an era of "porno chic."

In the view of Cynthia Eller, author of "Am I a Woman? A Skeptic's Guide to Gender," Madonna was "a pivotal figure" in this transformation of popular entertainment into something that often resembles soft-core porn. "I remember at the time being confused by this idea that acting like a porn star, acting out porn fantasies, was somehow empowering for women," says Eller.

She speculates that the current climate is partly "a backlash to feminism, a way of protecting male egos, and men insisting on retaining a power structure sexually if they can't retain it in areas of employment and parenting and so forth. It's a way to hang on to a male-dominated paradigm."

But Eller says there is plenty of blame to go around. She and Pamela Paul point also to a schism in the women's movement several decades ago. Some feminists campaigned against pornography, but others viewed that as tantamount to censorship, or did not want to be perceived as anti-men. It divided the women's movement, they say, at a moment when it could have decisively changed the national dialogue on pornography.

Eller also contends that the "conservative right, in its eagerness to keep sexuality forbidden, is really just stoking the fire of an appetite for porn, for naughtiness, for the whole lust for sexual transgression." She maintains that if conservative forces were to "give up their repressive game where sex is concerned," the mainstream manifestations of porn will lose their appeal to a lot of people.

Whether or not that happens, Paul hopes that porn's hold on the culture will eventually be weakened as the ramifications of its watered-down versions sink in.

"Our culture once glamorized cigarette smoking to a large extent. It was promoted by the medical establishment, the film industry, TV," she says. "But once the evidence of harm began to be disseminated by the government, and by schools and the private sector, the number of people who started smoking went down. My hope is that once people realize the negative effect that pornography has on individuals, their children, their wives, and society as a whole, there will be a mind-set shift."

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