

Bullying in School:

Large-scale interventions with the Olweus
Bullying Prevention Program (OBPP)

Prof Dan Olweus

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The OBPP is a multilevel, multi-component school-based program designed to reduce and prevent bullying and other antisocial behaviours in elementary and lower secondary schools. Over the past seven years, the program has been implemented in some 500 Norwegian comprehensive schools. Using an "extended selection cohorts design" (Olweus, 2005) and statistical multilevel techniques, the short-term and longer-term effects of the program have been evaluated in six large-scale studies with more than 40,000 students. Results have typically documented average reductions in the levels of bully/victim problems by 30-60 percent. Important evaluation results and experiences from this "social experiment" will be presented. (Info about program at www.hazelden.org/olweus.)

For more than 35 years, Dan Olweus, Research Professor of Psychology at the University of Bergen in Norway, has been involved in research and intervention work in the area of school bullying. In 1970, he started a research project that is now generally regarded as the first scientific study of bully/victim problems in the world. In the 1980's, he conducted the first systematic intervention study. For the past seven years, he has been the leader of a government-funded national initiative implementing the OBPP on a large-scale basis in Norwegian schools. His book *Bullying at School: What We Know and What We Can Do* (1993) has been translated into 16 different languages.

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