

The largest U.S doctors' group took a stand against school bullies, urging a far flung effort to change attitudes and asking colleagues to talk to younger patients who may be suffering in silence.

Research gleaned from previous studies presented to the American Medical Association's House of Delegates, which met in the U.S, concluded that roughly one out of 10 U.S school children are victims of bullying. Between 7 percent and 15 percent of children bully others, though some bullies are victims as well.

Persistent bullying has been cited in the cases of several perpetrators of school shootings in recent years, and many family physicians say intervention is needed.

The resolution called for the group to work with federal agencies, medical societies, mental health organisations, schools, and youth groups to create a national campaign against bullying.

It also urged doctors to monitor younger patients for psychiatric symptoms that may stem from being bullied. "Too many children are being terrorised at school or on the playground and remaining silent about it," said one physician.

On a different front, the AMA agreed to provide additional financial support to its nascent doctors union. The union, Physicians for Responsible Negotiation, sought additional funding to pay salaries and meet its costs in arguing two cases involving the right to represent doctors and nurses in front of the U.S National Labour Relations Board.

The union effort, begun in 1999, was aimed at countering the bargaining power of health maintenance organisations by collectivising doctors and other health care workers.

Is it true, false or not given?

Read the text again and write 'T' for true, 'F' for false and 'NG' for not given.

1. The victims are often traumatised in later life.
2. About 10% of U.S school children are bullied.
3. There is clear medical evidence that bullying is bad for your health.
4. Victims of bullying don't suffer any long-term problems.
5. The union efforts began in 1998.
6. Anti-bullying programs in school are common.
7. Some bullies are also bullied by other children.
8. The incidence of bullying in school has increased.
9. Victims of bullying sometimes stay silent.

Writing:

Imagine you bullied someone when you were younger, write a letter to this person and apologise. Describe the situation, say why you did it and how you feel about it now.

Answers

Vocabulary: 1. 2-g, 3-a, 4-h, 5-f, 6-d, 7-b, 8-e, 9-c
True/false/not given
1 NG, 2 T, 3 NG, 4 F, 5 F, 6 NG, 7 T, 8 NG, 9 T