

Survey of Parents and Teachers on Bullying in School

Prepared for National PTA
by MARC USA/Pittsburgh



Description of the Research

- Interviews conducted by telephone in August 2001.
- Nationwide random sample of more than 300 parents and more than 300 teachers.
- Parents with at least one K-6 child during the past school year.
- Teachers who taught at least one K-6 class during the past school year.

Bullying in School

- Parents and teachers were both asked whether they felt there was more bullying now than when they were in school.
- Parents were asked whether a child of theirs, and teachers whether a student of theirs, had ever been bullied at school.
- Both groups were asked what the causes were of bullying.
- Each group was asked what their own role should be in preventing or dealing with bullying.

**KEY FINDINGS:
BULLYING IN SCHOOL**

Key Findings: Bullying in School

- Similar percentages of parents and teachers report that bullying has increased, remained the same or declined since they were in school. 36% of the two groups together report an increase, while only 11% report a decline.
- 47% of the parents said a K-6 child of theirs had been bullied, while 77% of teachers said a K-6 student of theirs had been bullied. Both results indicate that bullying in school is fairly common.

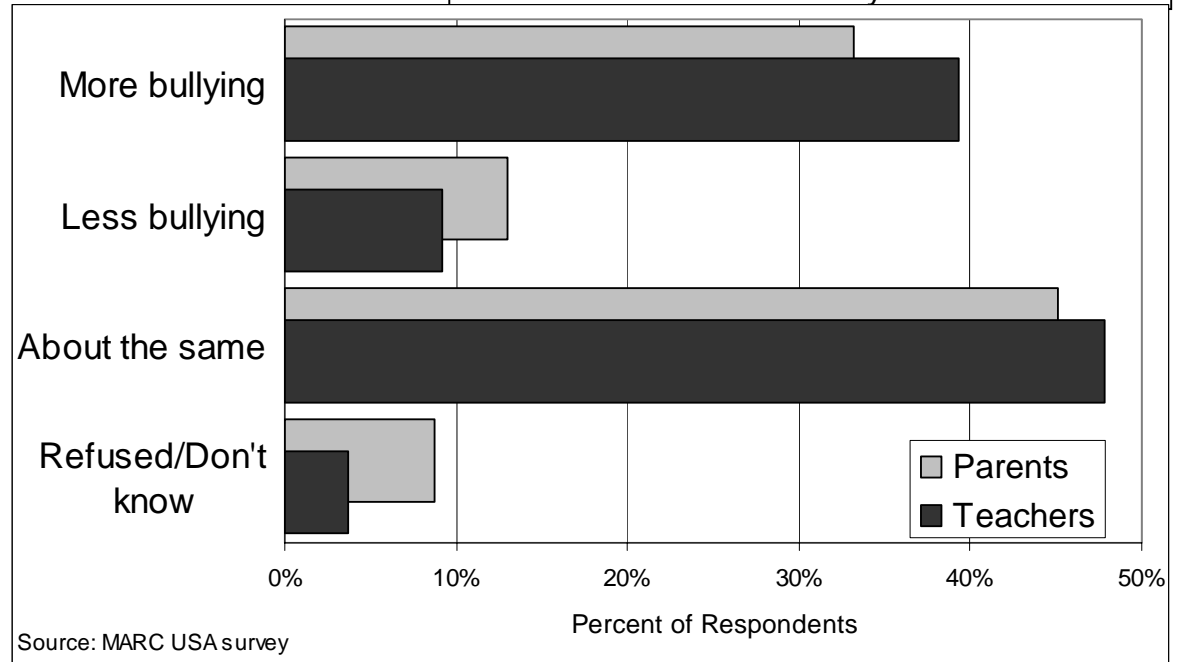
More Bullying?

Parents and teachers: As far as you can tell, do you think there is more bullying today than when you were in elementary school, less bullying, or is it about the same?

Similar percentages of parents and teachers report that bullying has increased, remained the same or declined since they were in school. Only 11% of the two groups together report a decline.

	Parents	Teachers
More bullying	33.1%	39.3%
Less bullying	13.0%	9.1%
About the same	45.0%	47.9%
Refused/Don't know	8.8%	3.7%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

Source: MARC USA survey



Your Child or Student Ever Bullied?

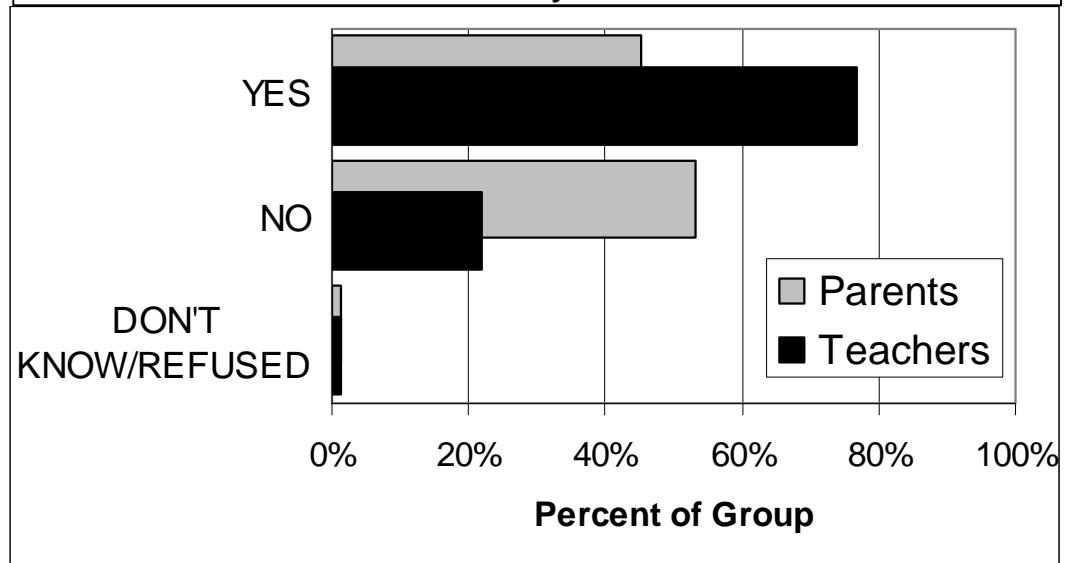
Parents: Has an elementary school age child of yours ever been bullied at school?

Teachers: Has an elementary school age student of yours ever been bullied at school?

47% of the parents said a K-6 child of theirs had been bullied, while 77% of teachers said a K-6 student of theirs had been bullied. Both results indicate that bullying in school is fairly common.

	Parents	Teachers
YES	45.3%	76.6%
NO	53.3%	21.9%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	1.4%	1.4%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

Source: MARC USA survey



Key Findings: Bullying in School

The five causes of bullying in school mentioned most often by both parents and teachers are:

- Low self-esteem/insecurity
- Learned behavior from parents
- Lack of parental involvement/attention
- Lack of discipline/punishment
- Child is different in some way

Parents: Causes of Bullying

Parents: What would you say are the most important causes of bullying in school?

Top five responses:

1. Lack of discipline/punishment
2. Low self-esteem/insecurity
3. Lack of parental involvement/attention
4. Learned behavior from parents
5. Child is different in some way

Teachers: Causes of Bullying

Teachers: What would you say are the most important causes of bullying in school?

Top five responses:

1. Low self-esteem/insecurity
2. Child is different in some way
3. Learned behavior from parents
4. Lack of parental involvement/attention
5. Lack of discipline/punishment

Key Findings: Bullying in School

Preventing or dealing with bullying:

- Parents see their role as involving pursuit of solutions with other parties, such as teachers, school administrators and parents of the bully.
- Teachers mainly see their role in terms of their own actions rather than pursuing solutions with others

Parents: Preventing Bullying

Parents: What do you think a parent's role should be in preventing or dealing with bullying?

Top five responses:

1. Discourage bullying behavior in own child
2. Pursue solutions with teacher
3. Pursue solutions with parents of bully
4. Pursue solutions with principal
5. Teach child methods of dealing with bully

Three of the four top items mentioned by parents involve pursuing solutions with other adults.

Teachers: Preventing Bullying

Parents: What do you think a teacher's role should be in preventing or dealing with bullying?

Top five responses:

Top five items mentioned by teachers involve their own actions rather than pursuing solutions with other adults.

1. Communication with children
2. Teach child methods of dealing with bully
3. Get involved in situation
4. Discipline bully
5. Teach children tolerance