Cyber Bullying Survey

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Funded by Bell

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CYBER BULLYING SURVEY: SCHOOL SUMMARY REPORT
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INTRODUCTION

The Internet has created a whole new world of social communications, particularly for young people whose use of e-mail, websites, instant messaging, web cams, chat rooms and text messaging is exploding worldwide. While these new tools of electronic communication are widely used for positive purposes, they can also be a means through which children and adolescents bully and are bullied by their peers. There is little existing research on cyber bullying. In response to this knowledge gap, we conducted a study on cyber bullying in order to gain an understanding of the nature and impact of online bullying. This research was generously funded by Bell.

In order to systematically examine the phenomenon of cyber bullying we administered a survey on cyber bullying of children and adolescents. Student participants in the study were drawn from schools within two school boards within the Greater Toronto Area; the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) and UJA Board of Jewish Education (BJE). Twenty-eight schools (18 secondary and 10 elementary/middle) in the Toronto District School Board participated and five schools (2 secondary and 3 elementary/middle) in the UJA Board of Jewish Education participated. A representative sample of children and adolescents in grades 6, 7, 10 and 11 was surveyed once we received parental consent and student assent.

The survey questionnaire was developed with the help of an advisory group, including personnel from both participating school boards and a number of other organizations. Two age-appropriate survey instruments (one for grades 6 & 7 and one for grades 10 & 11) were used to collect information on students' experiences with cyber bullying.

The survey used a random, multistage, stratified, and cluster sampling design in order to ensure heterogeneity of the sample, and to provide a more complete representation of the range of experiences related to cyber bullying. Within this design, all the classrooms within the grade range of the selected schools were chosen to complete the survey instrument.

In addition, a convenience sample of parents, teachers, educational assistants and school administrators was surveyed regarding their knowledge of and experience with cyber bullying of students. Surveys for parents were translated into the appropriate languages.

The information collected from these surveys will be instrumental in informing education, and intervention programs in order to prevent and intervene with cyber bullying.

STUDENT SURVEY

Student Demographics

- 2186 students participated in the study from 33 schools in the GTA
- 2038 students (93%) participated from 28 schools in Toronto District School Board (TDSB)
- 148 students (7%) participated from 5 schools in the UJA Board of Jewish Education (BJE)

Grades

Schools in Total

	# students	% students
Grade 6 & 7	1019	47%
Grade 10 & 11	1167	53%

Gender

Schools in Total

	# students	% students
Girls	1191	55%
Boys	987	45%

Place of Birth

Schools in Total

	# students	% students
In Canada	1351	66%
Outside Canada	692	34%

Primary Language Spoken at Home

Schools in Total

	# students	% students
English	1212	56%
Other	970	44%

Family Structure

Schools in Total

	# students	% students
Biological parents	1667	76%
Single parents	366	17%
Other	148	7%

Home Ownership Status

Schools in Total

	# students	% students
Owned	1363	63%
Rented	664	31%
Don't know	141	6%

Reported Grades

Schools in Total

	# students	% students
Mostly A's	992	43%
Mostly B's	995	46%
Mostly C's	237	11%

Use of Computers and Cell Phones

- 99% of total students have a computer in their home and 67% have 2 or more computers

- 2/3 (67%) of total students spend 2 or more hours a day on a computer

- 2/3 (65%) of total students communicate via the Internet with a friend once a day or more

- 29% of total students report playing Internet games once a day or more

How Long Information/Pictures Stay on the Internet

Schools in Total

	# students	% students
When I delete it	540	25%
Up to a year or more	207	10%
Forever	523	24%
Don't know	887	41%

Location of Home Computer

Schools in Total

	# students	% students
My bedroom	987	45%
Public space	1060	49%
Other	123	6%

- Web sites most frequently visited by students in total include: sites for homework (57%), social networking sites (54%), internet game sites (52%), and entertainment sites (42%)

- 1/3 (32%) of total students have given their passwords to a friend

- 1/2 (53%) of total students have a cell phone

- 55% of total students talk on cell phone once a day or more

- 38% of the students text message once a day or more

Experienced Being Cyber Bullied

- *In the past three months 21% of total students have been bullied online*
  Some of these students were bullied more than once. The frequencies of the following tables will therefore add up to the total number of bullying incidents rather than the total number of students.

Schools in Total

	# incidents	%
Was called names/made to feel bad	585	27%
Had rumours spread about them	470	22%
Had someone pretend to be them online	386	18%
Was threatened	230	11%
Was sent unwelcome sexual words/photos	205	10%
Was asked to do something sexual	181	9%
Had someone send their private picture to others	150	7%

How

Schools in Total

	# incidents	%
MSN Messenger	570	40%
Email	372	25%
Internet game sites	182	12%
Social networking sites	142	10%

By Whom

Schools in Total

	# incidents	%
A friend	973	36%
A student from school	590	22%
A stranger	342	13%
A student from another school	310	11%
Don't know	298	11%

How Did Students Feel

Schools in Total

	# incidents	%
Nothing, it didn't bother me	971	21%
Angry	744	16%
Embarrassed	373	8%
Sad	328	7%
Scared	240	5%

What Did Students Do

Schools in Total

	# incidents	%
Nothing	522	52%
Confronted the person	200	20%
Told a friend	130	13%
Told a parent	77	8%
Told a teacher	27	3%

Bullied Others

- ***In the past three months 35% of total students have bullied other kids online***
  Some of these students bullied others more than once. The frequencies of the following tables will therefore add up to the total number of bullying incidents rather than the total number of students.

Schools in Total

	# incidents	%
Called someone names/made them feel bad	473	22%
Pretended to be someone else online	295	14%
Spread rumours about someone	241	11%
Threatened someone	106	5%
Sent someone's private pictures to others	72	3%
Sent unwelcome sexual words/photos to others	49	2%

Watching Others Being Bullied

- *In the past three months 28% of total students watched someone being bullied online*

Schools in Total

	no	yes	% yes
Watched, but didn't participate	566	265	32%
Tried to get the person to stop	658	173	21%
Objected to the person bullying	716	115	14%
Left the online environment	736	95	11%
Joined in	757	74	9%
Tried to befriend the person being bullied	772	59	7%
Reported the bullying to someone	775	56	7%
Objected, but not to the person bullying	805	26	3%

Students' Views of Parents' Knowledge about Internet

Parental Supervision of Internet Use

Schools in Total

	# students	% students
No	1324	62%
Yes	512	24%
Don't know	307	14%

Feelings of Internet Safety

Schools in Total

	# students	% students
Very safe	1057	51%
Somewhat safe	923	44%
Not at all safe	94	5%

Views about Cyber Bullying

Reasons Students are Bullied Online

Schools in Total

	no	yes	% yes
Appearance	1761	222	11%
Race	1865	118	6%
Performance in school	1866	97	5%
Gender	1931	52	3%
Sexuality	1937	46	2%

Reasons Students Bully Online

Schools in Total

	no	yes	% yes
Appearance	1843	108	6%
Performance in school	1894	56	3%
Race	1895	57	3%
Performance in school	1894	56	3%
Sexuality	1911	29	2%
Gender	1930	40	2%

Seriousness of Cyber Bullying

Schools in Total

	# students	% students
It is serious	711	39%
It is not serious	473	26%
Don't know	638	35%

Link with Traditional Bullying

▪ 36% of students who bully/get bullied online report bullying/being bullied in real life
▪ 21% of students who were bullied online report being bullied in real life
▪ 26% of student who bullied others online report bullying others in real life.

PARENT SURVEY

156 parents participated in the study (convenience sample)

Demographics

- Sample consists of 76% women and 24% men

- Parent age: 30-39 (23%), 40-49 (64%) 50-59 (13%)

- 51% born in Canada

- 59% English is their first language

- 72% employed full time

Computer Use

- Time parents spend online in a week: 15% none, 45% 1-4hr, 22% 9hrs, 18% over 10hrs

- Time their child spends online in a week: 2% none, 39% 1-4 hr, 29% 5-9hr, 27% over 10hrs and 3% don't know

- Considers their level of expertise when using the Internet: 59% proficient or expertise, 26% minimally competent, 14%, novice,

- Considers their child's level of expertise when using the Internet: 76% proficient or expertise, 16% minimally competent, 4% novice, 5% don't know

Internet Safety

- Almost all of the parents (96%) discussed Internet safety with their children

- 89% feel they know some or a lot of what child does online

- Two thirds (66%) of time parents feel they can protect their child from what is on Internet

- One third (33%) of parents are concerned about how much time child spends on Internet

- Three quarters (73%) of parents have set limits on time children use the Internet

- 84% of parents feels their child follows their rules concerning the Internet

Cyber Bullying

- Almost all parents feel cyber bullying is a problem (94%)

- 84% feel their child would tell them if they were cyber bullied

- 18% say their child has been cyber bullied, 9% don't know

- 7% think their child has bullied others online, 17% don't know

- 77% of parents feel real life physical bullying and cyber bullying are equally serious

EDUCATORS (TEACHERS, TEACHERS AIDS, & PRINCIPALS) SURVEY

313 teachers participated in the survey (convenience sample)

Demographics

- 77% female and 27% male

- Age: 20-29 (14%), 30-39 (26%), 40-49 (31%), 50-59 (25%), 60 or older (4%)

- Sample consisted of teachers (87%), administrators (6%), educational assistants (2%), other (6%)

- 53% have taught for 10 years or more

Internet Safety

- 19% of teachers have felt threatened or harassed online

- 47% of teachers feel their ability is good at school to monitor and shelter students from inappropriate Internet material

Cyber Bullying

- 98% of teachers agree that cyber bullying is a problem

- This term, 74% of teachers have heard about more than one incident of cyber bullying

- Teachers' view of grade level participating in cyber bullying: 35% - Grades 4-7, 58% - Grades 8-10, 27% - Grades 11-12

- 33% of teachers felt students would tell them if they were cyber bullied, 37% of teachers have had a student tell them about a case of cyber bullying

- 54% of teachers think their students would tell a friend if they were cyber bullied

- 7% of teachers felt students would tell them if they were cyber bullying other students

- 40% of teachers think their students would tell a friend if they cyber bully other students

- 83% of teachers feel real life physical bullying and cyber bullying are equally serious