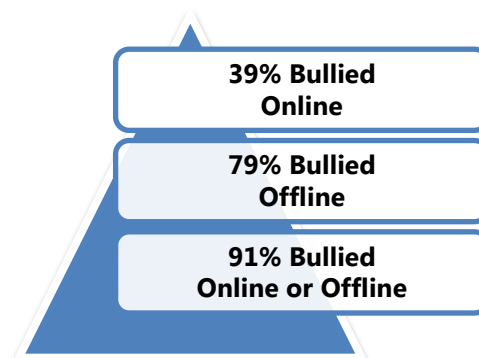


Online Bullying Among Youth 8-17 Years Old – Germany

Microsoft recently commissioned a study to understand the global pervasiveness of online bullying. While defined formally by some as cyberbullying¹, what is seen as cyberbullying can vary between different cultures, and even among different individuals. In addition, cyberbullying, as a term, is not recognized worldwide. To address this, the study explored the issue by asking children about negative experiences² they've had online—from their point of view (i.e., being called mean names, being teased, etc.). While such experiences may not be viewed as bullying by all who experience it, these behaviors may be considered by some as having potentially adverse effects.

39% (compared with a 25 country average of 37%) of children age 8-17 who responded to the survey say they have been subjected to a range of online activities that some may consider to be online bullying or to have adverse effects:

- ⇒ 26% - Mean or unfriendly treatment
- ⇒ 18% - Made fun of or teased
- ⇒ 20% - Called mean names



Knowledge & Concern

- Seventy-four percent say they know a lot or some about online bullying
- Sixty-four percent are very or somewhat worried about online bullying

Bullying

- Ninety-one percent report being bullied online and/or offline although most bullying is *offline*
- Sixteen percent admit to bullying someone else online; 43% admit to bullying someone else offline
- Those surveyed were:
 - Twice as likely (80% vs. 39%) to be bullied online if they bully someone else online
 - More likely (50% vs. 31%) to be bullied online if they spend more than 10 hours per week on the Internet

Steps Parents Take To Help Protect Children Online

According to the youth surveyed:

- Sixty-five percent of parents talk about online risks with them
- Fifty-three percent of parents monitor their use of the computer
- Sixty-eight percent of parents teach them online manners

¹ Defined by the Cyberbullying Research Center in Jupiter, Florida as the “willful and repeated harm inflicted through the use of computers, cell phones, and other electronic devices.”

² Online Bullying Definition: Q4. Which of these has ever happened to you at school, outside of school grounds, or on the Internet? Other children have been unfriendly or mean toward you on the Internet; Other children have made fun of you or teased you on the Internet; Other children have called you mean names on the Internet.

- Forty percent of parents ask them if they've been bullied online

School Policy & Education

According to the youth surveyed:

- Eighteen percent of schools they attended have formal policies that address online bullying
- Twenty-eight percent of schools provide education (for teachers: 13%, for parents: 13%, for students: 21%)

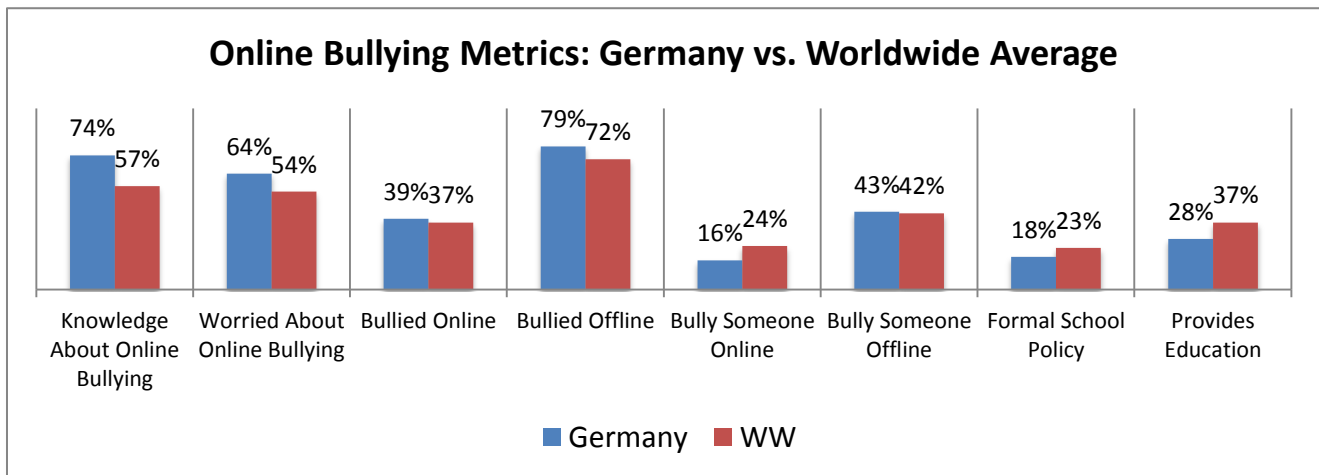
Demographics

According to the youth surveyed:

- Children 13-17 are more likely (49% vs. 28%) to be bullied online and to bully others (24% vs. 8%)
- Children 8-12 are more likely (84% vs. 75%) to be bullied offline
- Girls are more likely to be bullied online (44% vs. 34%)
- Boys are more likely to be a bully offline (51% vs. 35%) but girls are more likely to bully online (19% vs. 12%)
- Children 13-17 have greater knowledge (82% vs. 66%) about online bullying
- Youth surveyed say the type of help parents give them differs by age and gender:
 - Children 8-12 are monitored more closely (62% vs. 31%) and have stricter limits placed on their time online (55% vs. 31%)
 - Children 13-17 are more likely to be asked if they've been bullied online (48% vs. 38%) and be taught how to protect themselves online (43% vs. 32%)
 - Boys are more likely to be monitored (65% vs. 49%), and have their time limited (45% vs. 28%) than girls
 - Girls are more likely than boys to be asked if they've been bullied online (48% vs. 38%) and more likely to be taught how to deal with online bullying (46% vs. 32%)

Germany Compared to Rest of World

Germany has the eleventh highest reported incidence of online bullying among the twenty-five countries surveyed. Seven in 10 children know a lot or something about online bullying and 64% are worried about it. Bullying someone else online is below average (16% vs. 24%). German parents take a slightly above average number of steps to protect their children from online bullying (4.1 vs. 3.3). The presence of formal school policies and education for teachers, parents and students is below the worldwide average.



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