

Online Bullying Among Youth 8-17 Years Old – Russia

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.

49% (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:

- ⇒ 27% - Mean or unfriendly treatment
- ⇒ 20% - Made fun of or teased
- ⇒ 24% - Called mean names

**49% Bullied
Online**

**71% Bullied
Offline**

**86% Bullied
Online or Offline**

Knowledge & Concern

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

Bullying

- Eight-six percent report being bullying online and/or offline although most bullying is *offline*
- Thirty-three percent admit to bullying someone else online; 50% admit to bullying someone else offline
- Those surveyed were:
 - More likely (67% vs. 49%) to be bullying online if they harass someone else online
 - More likely (58% vs. 39%) to be bullying 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:

- Fifty-five percent of parents talk about online risks with them
- Fifty-two percent of parents monitor their use of the computer

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-nine percent of parents teach them online manners
- Twenty-six percent of parents ask them if they've been bullying online

School Policy & Education

According to the youth surveyed:

- Eleven percent of schools they attend have formal policies that address online bullying
- Twenty-five percent of schools provide education (for teachers: 8%, for parents: 6%, for students: 21%)

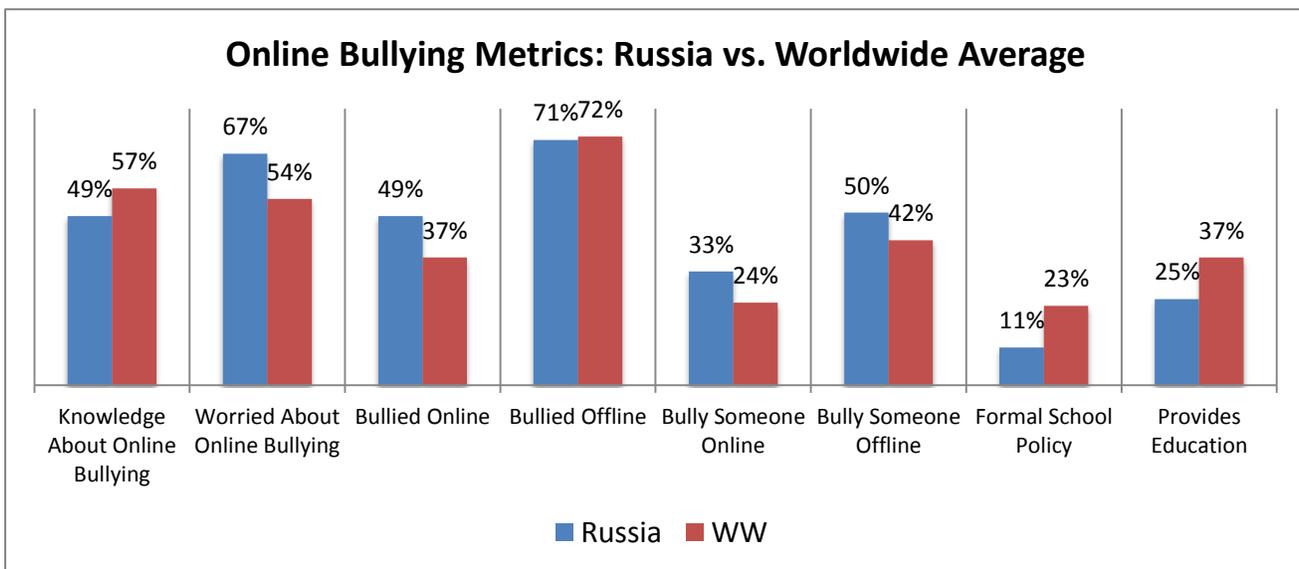
Demographics

According to the youth surveyed:

- Girls and boys experience similar online (40% vs. 41%) bullying rates. Girls (78% vs. 65%) and boys 8-12 (85% vs. 71%) are more likely to be bullying offline
- Girls are more likely to bully online than boys (39% vs. 27%)
- Boys claim to be more knowledgeable (55% vs. 44%) but are equally as concerned as girls (65% vs. 68%) about online bullying
- Children 13-17 are more knowledgeable than children 8-12 about online bullying (63% vs. 36%) but are equally concerned about it (69% vs. 65%)
- Youth surveyed say the type of help parents give them does not differ by age or gender except boys are more likely than girls to be taught not to harass others online (55% vs. 45%)

Russia Compared to Rest of World

Russia has the fifth highest rate of online bullying among the twenty-five countries surveyed. The number of children that report they've bullying someone else online or offline is significantly above average. Nearly half report knowing a lot or something about online bullying and almost seven in ten are very or somewhat concerned about it. Parents take an average number of steps to protect their children from online bullying (3.8 vs. 3.3). Russia is significantly below the worldwide average in providing formal school policies and educating teachers, parents and students about online bullying.



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