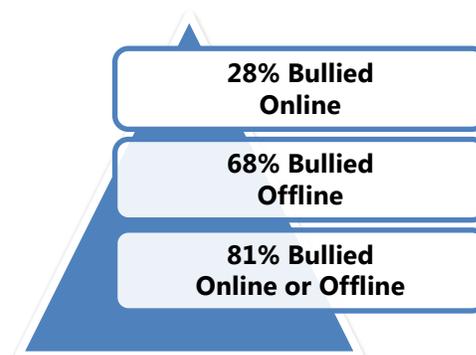


## Online Bullying Among Youth 8-17 Years Old – Qatar

Microsoft recently commissioned a study to understand the global pervasiveness of online bullying. While defined formally by some as cyberbullying<sup>1</sup>, 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 experiences<sup>2</sup> 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.

**28%** (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:

- ⇒ 10% - Mean or unfriendly treatment
- ⇒ 11% - Made fun of or teased
- 12% - Called mean names



### Knowledge & Concern

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

### Bullying

- Eight-one percent report being bullied online and/or offline although most bullying is *offline*
- Thirty-two percent admit to bullying someone else online; 44% admit to bullying someone else offline
- Those surveyed were:
  - More likely (39% vs. 28%) to be bullied online if they bully someone else online
  - Spending more than 10 hours online does not increase the chances of being bullied online (30% vs. 26%)

### Steps Parents Take To Help Protect Children Online

According to the youth surveyed:

- Thirty-nine percent of parents talk about online risks with them
- Forty-eight percent of parents monitor their use of the computer

<sup>1</sup> 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.”

<sup>2</sup> 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.

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

### School Policy & Education

According to the youth surveyed:

- Forty-one percent of schools they attend have formal policies that address online bullying
- Thirty percent of schools provide education (for teachers: 13%, for parents: 14%, for students: 16%)

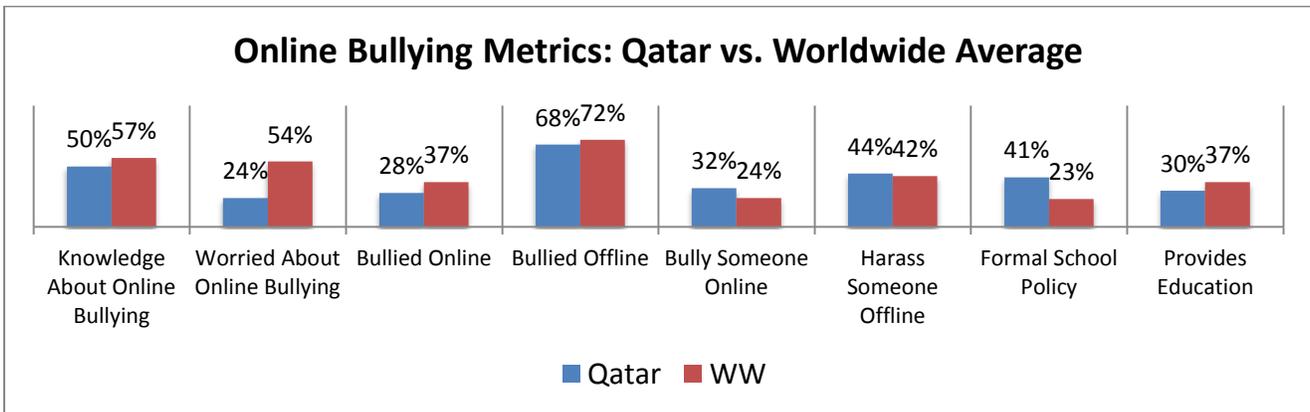
### Demographics

According to the youth surveyed:

- Girls and boys experience similar rates of online bullying (32% vs. 32%) although girls are more likely to be bullied offline (72% vs. 63%)
- Girls and boys are equally knowledgeable (49% vs. 50%) about online bullying but girls are more worried (34% vs. 15%)
- Children 8-12 are more likely to be bullied offline (77% vs. 58%)
- Children 13-17 are more likely to bully others offline (48% vs. 16%)
- Children 13-17 have more knowledge about (74% vs. 25%) and worry more about online bullying (36% vs. 13%)
- Youth surveyed say the type of help parents give differs by age and gender:
  - Children 13-17 (62% vs. 51%) and girls (56% vs. 46%) are more likely to have limits on their online time
  - Children 13-17 are more likely to be monitored (58% vs. 48%) and taught online manners (43% vs. 9%)
  - Boys are more likely to be taught online manners (31% vs. 21%)

### Qatar Compared to Rest of World

Qatar has the ninetennth highest rate of online bullying among the twenty-five countries surveyed. Five in ten children know a lot or something about online bullying while 24% are concerned about it which is less than half the worldwide average. Bullying someone else online is above average (32% vs. 24%). Parents are less likely to take steps to protect their children from online bullying (2.3 vs. 3.3). Qatar has a relatively high presence of formal school policies but is slightly below average in providing education to teachers, parents and students.



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