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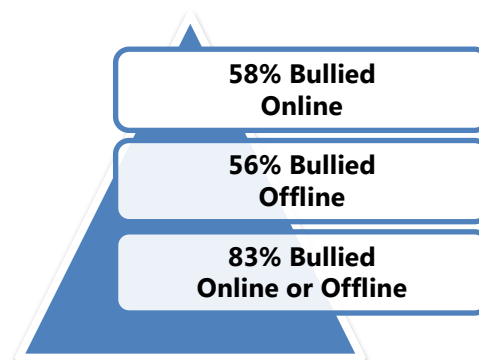Microsoft | Trustworthy Computing

Online Bullying Among Youth 8-17 Years Old – Singapore

Microsoft recently commissioned a study to understand the global pervasiveness of online bullying. While defined formally by some as cyberbullying[1], 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[2] 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.

58% *(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 <u>online</u> activities that some may consider to be online bullying or to have adverse effects:

- ⇨ 36% - Mean or unfriendly treatment
- ⇨ 30% - Made fun of or teased
- ⇨ 30% - Called mean names

58% Bullied Online

56% Bullied Offline

83% Bullied Online or Offline

Knowledge & Concern
- Sixty-four percent say they know a lot or some about online bullying
- Sixty-two percent are very or somewhat worried about online bullying

Bullying
- Eighty-three percent report being bullied online and/or offline. Singapore is one of only two countries (the other being China) where bullying is greater online than offline
- Forty-six percent admit to bullying someone else online; 43% admit to bullying someone else offline
- Those surveyed were:
  - More likely (67% vs. 58%) to be bullied online if they bully someone else online
  - More likely (69% vs. 41%) to be bullied online if they spend more than 10 hours per week online

Steps Parents Take To Help Protect Children Online
According to the youth surveyed:
- Forty-one percent of parents talk about online risks with them

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[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-one percent of parents monitor their use of the computer
- Thirty-nine percent of parents teach them online manners
- Twenty-nine percent of parents ask them if they've been bullied online

School Policy & Education
According to the youth surveyed:
- Twenty-three percent of schools they attend have formal policies that address online bullying
- Seventy percent of schools provide education (for teachers: 23%, for parents: 29%, for students: 58%)
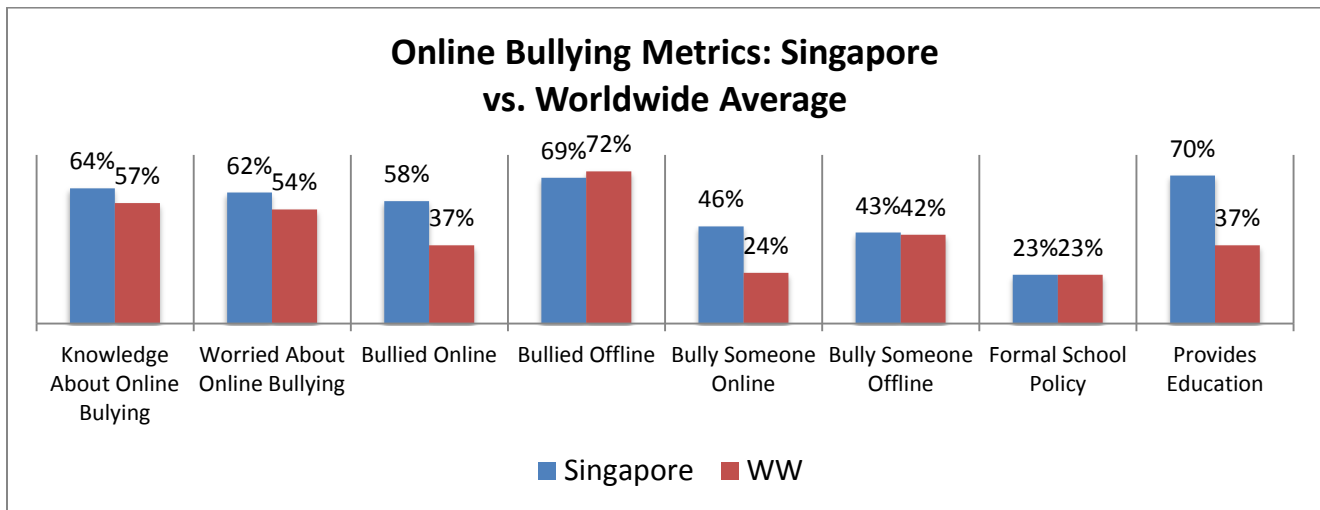
Demographics
According to the youth surveyed:
- Girls and boys experience similar online bullying rates (63%, 54%); it's higher offline for girls (64% vs. 47%)
- Girls and boys are equally concerned (63% vs.61%) about online bullying
- Girls and boys have equal knowledge about online bullying (64% vs. 65%), although older children are significantly more knowledgable (80% vs. 48%)
- Youth surveyed say the type of help parents give them differs by age - children 8-12 are more likely to:
    - Be monitored while online (54% vs. 29%)
    - Have limits set on their time online (45% vs. 23%)
    - Be taught online manners (45% vs. 23%)
    - Be taught how to protect themselves online (42% vs. 35%)
    - Be asked if they have been bullied online (34% vs. 24%)
    - Be taught how not to bully others online (37% vs. 26%)

Singapore Compared to Rest of World
Singapore has the second highest rate of online bullying behind only China among the twenty-five countries surveyed. More than six in ten children are both knowledgeable and concerned about online bullying. Parents take an average number of steps to protect their children from online bullying (3.4 vs. 3.3). Although Singapore has the strongest commitment to educating teachers, parents and students, it's overall rate of online bullying and bullying others online is very high.

Online Bullying Metrics: Singapore vs. Worldwide Average

	Singapore	WW
Knowledge About Online Bullying	64%	57%
Worried About Online Bullying	62%	54%
Bullied Online	58%	37%
Bullied Offline	69%	72%
Bully Someone Online	46%	24%
Bully Someone Offline	43%	42%
Formal School Policy	23%	23%
Provides Education	70%	37%