Bullying in the Basque Country

PRIMARY EDUCATION
Survey sample

- Students: 2851
- Schools: 88
- Conducted: February-March 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Students</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 P.E.</td>
<td>1505</td>
<td>52.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 P.E.</td>
<td>1346</td>
<td>47.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>2851</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Overall bullying rate: **5.8%**

6 behaviours were included: kicking, threatening to beat me up, making me give them money, trying to hurt me, trying to deface my property, trying to hit me. Incidents were noted if they happened *more than once* over the past week.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of behaviours</th>
<th>Students affected</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>2685</td>
<td>94.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>2851</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Victims. Bullying rate

- Primary mean
  - 5th PE: 5.5
  - 6th PE: 6.2
  - 1st SE: 5.51
  - 2nd SE: 4.33

- Second. mean
  - 3rd SE: 2.06
  - 4th SE: 2.35
More in 6th and more psychological intimidation

- The bullying rate goes up in the last years of Primary Education and drops in Secondary. The greatest incidence occurs in the 6th year of Primary.

- Studies showing data by year or age, for comparison purposes, are hard to come by. A study of English Primary schools puts the rate at 10% (Whitney & Smith 1993). Most studies combine Primary and Secondary.

- As we will see, psychological abuse is much more common than physical abuse in both Primary and Secondary Education, but it is harassment nonetheless.
Witness rates
(% often + always)

Frequency of incidents affecting others

The “hitting” rate is very different between Primary and Secondary Education.
## Victim rates

( % often + always)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Incident</th>
<th>Primary %</th>
<th>Secondary %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name-calling or making fun</td>
<td>8,4</td>
<td>5,5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insulting</td>
<td>7,1</td>
<td>4,5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gossiping</td>
<td>5,9</td>
<td>4,9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hitting</td>
<td>3,3</td>
<td>3,1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excluding</td>
<td>3,2</td>
<td>1,9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiding belongings</td>
<td>3,1</td>
<td>1,8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frightening with threats</td>
<td>2,4</td>
<td>1,6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ignoring</td>
<td>2,3</td>
<td>1,3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stealing belongings</td>
<td>1,8</td>
<td>1,4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defacing belongings</td>
<td>1,7</td>
<td>1,4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual harassment</td>
<td>1,1</td>
<td>0,6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forcing against will</td>
<td>1,0</td>
<td>0,4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threatening with sticks/ weapons</td>
<td>0,6</td>
<td>0,3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Name-calling, insulting and hitting are very different between Primary and Secondary Education.
Perpetrator rates (% often + always)

Frequency of incidents I cause

- Gossiping: PRIMARY 2.7, SECOND 4.4
- Insulting: PRIMARY 2.6, SECOND 3.2
- Name-calling or making fun: PRIMARY 1.8, SECOND 3.3
- Excluding: PRIMARY 1.5, SECOND 1.7
- Ignoring: PRIMARY 1.4, SECOND 2.7
- Hitting: PRIMARY 1.3, SECOND 1.0
- Defacing belongings: PRIMARY 0.4, SECOND 0.9
- Frightening with threats: PRIMARY 0.8, SECOND 1.0
- Hiding belongings: PRIMARY 0.6, SECOND 1.1
- Sexual harassment: PRIMARY 0.5, SECOND 0.6
- Threatening with weapons (sticks, knives, etc.): PRIMARY 0.5, SECOND 0.5
- Stealing belongings: PRIMARY 0.4, SECOND 0.5
- Forcing against will: PRIMARY 0.4, SECOND 0.4

In contrast, hitting, defacing belongings and excluding are more common among perpetrators in Primary Education.
Who does the bullying?

1. Group of boys: Primary (47%) Secondary (45%)

2. A boy: Primary (18%) Secondary (17%)

3. Boys and girls: Primary (13%) Secondary (17%)

Who has been picking on you CONTINUOUSLY SINCE THE SCHOOL YEAR BEGAN, a boy or a girl?
Where are the bullies?

1. In my class Primary (59%)
   Secondary (60%)

2. He/she is not in my class but is in my grade Primary (16%)
   Secondary (16%)

3. In an upper grade Primary (13%)
   Secondary (10%)
Where does bullying take place?

1. **On the playground**
   - Primary (42%)
   - Secondary (25%)

2. **In class**
   - Primary (17%)
   - Secondary (36%)

3. **Anyplace**
   - Primary (11%)
   - Secondary (10%)
Fear of going to school.

Have you been afraid to go to school?

- **Never**: 63.9%
- **Sometimes**: 31.6%
- **Often**: 3.3%
- **Almost every day**: 1.2%
Reasons

Why?

(Students who have never been afraid are not included)
Relationship with teachers

How do teachers treat you?

How do you feel teachers treat you and why?

- They treat me well: 83.6%
- They're too demanding: 6.6%
- They have something against me: 7.9%
- They tease me: 3%
- They insult me: 1.9%
- They physically harass me: 0.8%

How do the teachers treat you?

- Very well: 42.7%
- Average/well: 48.3%
- Well, but badly by a few: 15.5%
- Badly: 1.6%
- Very badly: 1.1%

Why do you feel this way?
Who do students talk to when they are victims of bullying?

Who do students talk to?
(percent of students who feel harassed)

- No one picks on me: 51.7%
- Friends: 46.7%
- Family: 60%
- Teachers: 18.4%
- Nobody: 14.3%
Who intervenes when harassment occurs?

Who intervenes when incidents occur?
(percent of students who feel harrased)
What do teachers do when harassment occurs?

- I don't know: 28
- Nothing because they don't realize: 8.5
- Some teacher/s intervene to stop it: 25
- Responsibilities are punished: 38.5
Victims. Bullying rate

Gender

Boys: 6.1
Girls: 5.5
What happens at schools? (according to principals)

(%often + always)

Things that happen to students at school according to principals

- Insulted
- Gossiped about
- Called names or made fun of
- Often excluded
- Belongings hidden
- Frightened with threats
- Regularly ignored
- Belongings defaced
- Hit
- Belongings stolen
- Forced to do things against their will
- Sexually harassed
- Threatened with weapons (sticks, knives, etc.)

The administration acknowledges that hitting, defacing of property and exclusion are more common in Primary than in Secondary Education.
Preventive intervention

(%often + always)

Type of intervention by schools when harassment occurs

- Teachers are encouraged to become involved in school organization
- Work on programmes aimed at coexistence, sharing experiences, etc
- More participatory methods are encouraged
- Training and coordination of teaching staff to better address relations with students and their families
- Draw up internal school regulations to define limits
- Participation in a range of programmes on coexistence

PRIMARY
SECOND.
How do schools react? (%often + always)

Intervention by schools when harassment occurs

- Discuss the matter privately with people involved: 93.2%
- Discuss the situation in class: 83.0%
- Discuss the situation with the family: 85.2%
- Immediate action is taken by administration: 55.7%
- Case referred to the Guidance Dept.: 72.8%
- Report written up: 66.7%
- External expert support is asked for: 14.8%
- Disciplinary action brought before School Board: 6.8%
- Responsibilities are expelled: 19.8%
- Incident is ignored: 1.1%
- Police called: 1.2%

Perpetrators are talked to more in Primary school and the subject is discussed in class.
Summary

- The bullying rate is 5.8%.
- Students in their 6th year of Primary Education suffer more harassment than in 5th. The rate goes down starting in 6th.
- 14.3% of victims among students don’t tell anyone.
- Percentages of peer harassment are higher as ‘witness’ than as ‘victim’ or ‘perpetrator’.
- The main perpetrators are “groups of boys” and most of them are in the same class as the victim.
- Bullying occurs mainly on the playground.
- Friends and family members intervene the most when harassment occurs.