

DEFINING BULLYING: A SPLIT- BALLOT SURVEY EXPERIMENT ACROSS THREE FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS

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BULLYING AS PRIORITY



President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama meet with a group of students and parents from the Conference on Bullying Prevention in the Oval Office, March 10, 2011. (Official White House Photo by Pete Souza)

DEFINING BULLYING - OLWEUS

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SOURCES OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES OF BULLYING

Source	Population	Definition	Year	Estimate	Agency Sponsor
School Crime Supplement	12 to 18 year olds	Now I have some questions about what students do at school that make you feel bad or are hurtful to you. We often refer to this as being bullied. You may include events you told me about already. During this school year, has any student bullied you?	2011	28%	Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, and Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics
Youth Risk Behavior Survey	High school students	The next two questions ask about bullying. Bullying is when one or more students tease, threaten, spread rumors about, hit, shove, or hurt another student over and over again. It is not bullying when two students of about the same strength or power argue or fight or tease each other in a friendly way.	2011	20%	Centers for Disease Control, Division of Adolescent and School Health, National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention
Health Behaviors in School-age Children	11, 13, and 15 year olds	Here are some questions about bullying. We say a student is BEING BULLIED when another student, or a group of students, say or do nasty and unpleasant things to him or her. It is also bullying when a student is teased repeatedly in a way he or she does not like or when he or she is deliberately left out of things. But it is NOT BULLYING when two students of about the same strength or power argue or fight. It is also not bullying when a student is teased in a friendly and playful way.	2010	11%	World Health Organization, Child and Adolescent Health Research Unit

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CDC UNIFORM DEFINITION

Olweus

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CDC

“Bullying is any unwanted aggressive behavior(s) by another youth or group of youths who are **not siblings or current dating partners** that involves an **observed or perceived power imbalance** and is **repeated multiple times or is highly likely to be repeated**. Bullying may inflict harm or distress on the targeted youth including physical, psychological, social, or educational harm” (Gladden et al. 2014: 7).



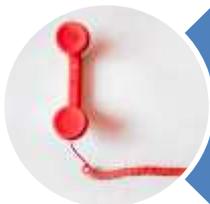
NCVS-SCS METHODS



Household is the sampling unit;
every person in the household is
interviewed



First interview is CAPI – face to
face

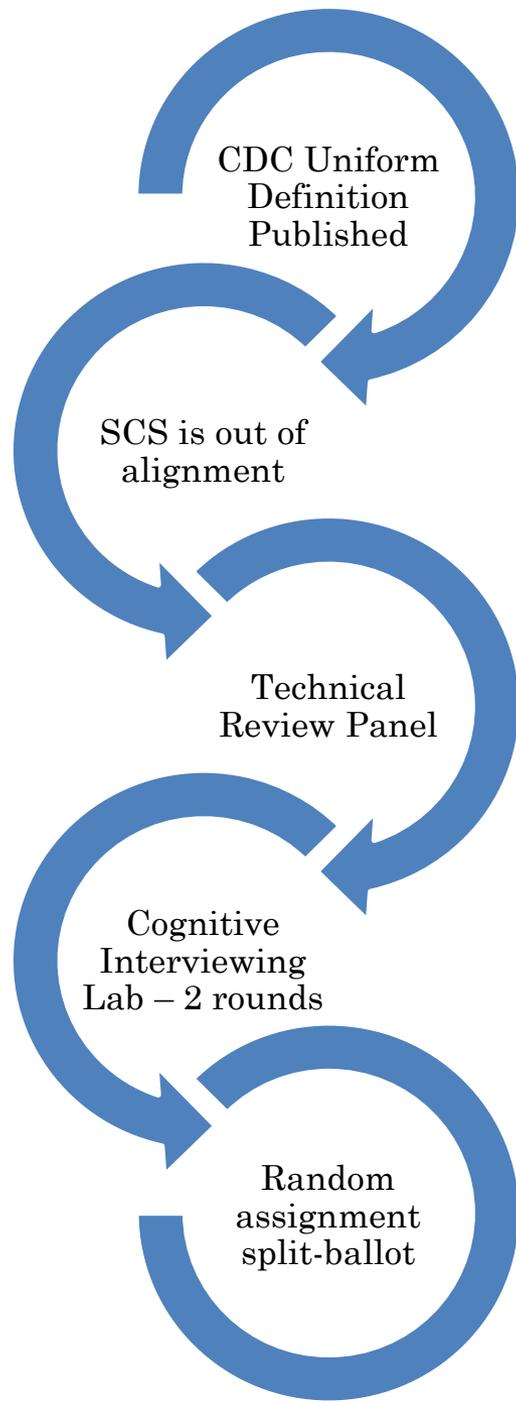


Subsequent interviews are CATI –
over the phone



Children ages 12 to 18 who live in
a sampled household are eligible
for SCS interview





IMPACT ON THE SCS

Three federal agencies worked together to develop, test, and implement new measures of bullying based on the CDC Uniform Definition:

- U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)
- U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census
- U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics



BULLYING OPERATIONALIZATIONS

“Control”

Now I have some questions about what students do at school that makes you feel bad or are hurtful to you. We often refer to this as being bullied. During this school year, has any student bullied you? That is, has another student....

- Made fun of you, called you names or insulted you, in a hurtful way?
- Spread rumors about you or tried to make others dislike you?
- Threatened you with harm?
- Pushed you, shoved you, tripped you, or spit on you?
- Excluded you from activities on purpose?
- Destroyed your property on purpose?
- Tried to make you do things you did not want to do, for example, give them money or other things?
- Excluded you from activities on purpose?

“Experimental”

Now I have some questions about bullying at school. Bullying happens when one or more students tease, threaten, spread rumors about, hit, shove or hurt another student. It is not bullying when students of about the same strength or power argue or fight or tease each other in a friendly way. Bullies are usually stronger, or have more friends or money, or some other power over the student being bullied. Usually, bullying happens over and over, or the student being bullied thinks it might happen over and over.

By this definition, have you been bullied at school, by another student, this school year?

Yes

No



BULLYING OPERATIONALIZATIONS

“Control Plus Follow-Up”

Now I have some questions about what students do at school that makes you feel bad or are hurtful to you. We often refer to this as being bullied. During this school year, has any student bullied you? That is, has another student....

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- Spread rumors about you or tried to make others dislike you?
- Threatened you with harm?
- Pushed you, shoved you, tripped you, or spit on you?
- Excluded you from activities on purpose?
- Destroyed your property on purpose?
- Tried to make you do things you did not want to do, for example, give them money or other things?
- Excluded you from activities on purpose?

When you were bullied this year, did it happen over and over, or were you afraid it would happen over and over?

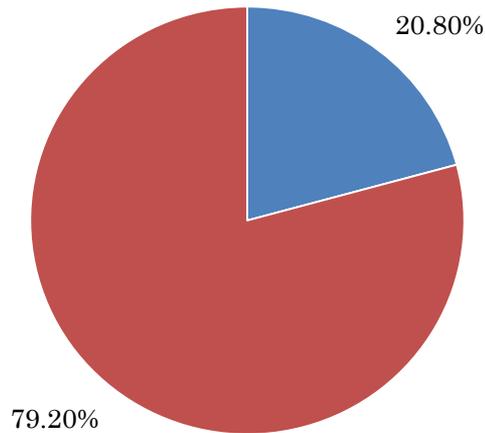
When you were bullied this school year, were you ever bullied by someone who had more power or strength than you? This could be because the person was bigger than you, was more popular, had more money, or had more power than you in another way?



RESULTS

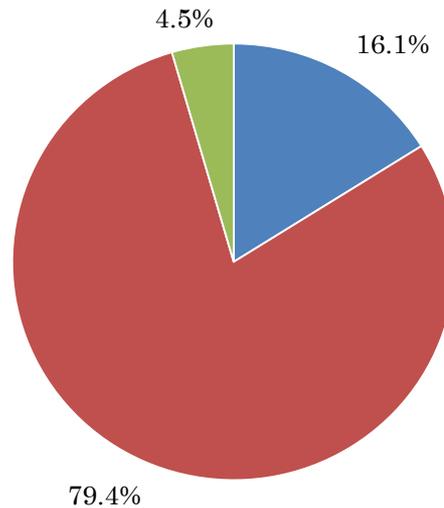
Control

During this school year, has any student bullied you? That is, has another student...



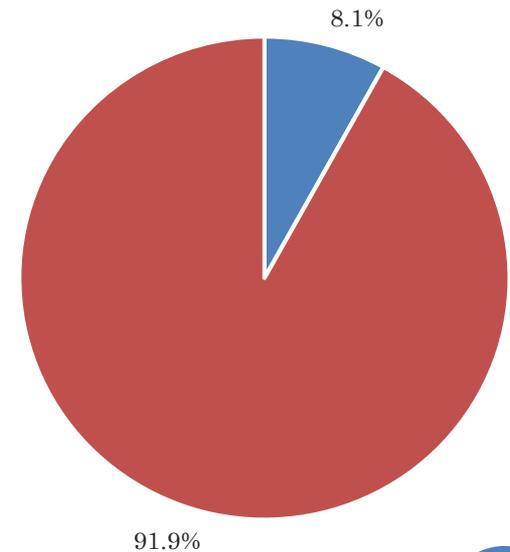
Control Plus Follow-Up

Bullied Control Group plus yes to both:
Repetition
AND
Power Imbalance



Experimental

By this definition, have you been bullied at school, by another student, this school year?



- Bullied
- Not bullied
- Bullied, yes to both follow-up questions



ESTIMATE COMPARISONS

Bullying Construct	Percentage of Students
SCS Control	20.8
SCS Control plus follow-ups	
Overall	20.6
Power imbalance	4.0
Repetition	3.5
Both	4.5
2015 YRBS	20.2
SCS Experimental	8.1



MOVING FORWARD

