

# Project Anti-Bully: Bullying in Middle Schools Year Two Survey

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## Abstract

**STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:** To learn more about the prevalence and types of, and actions taken by students with respect to, bullying (including cyberbullying) in the middle school years, with the ultimate goal of creating individually tailored school-based anti-bullying campaigns. **SUBJECTS USED:** 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders at 5 schools [Miami Beach, FL; Naples, FL; Palo Alto, CA (2 schools); Durham, NC] were surveyed between April and June of 2007. 8<sup>th</sup> graders from 3 of the original schools (Miami Beach, Naples and Palo Alto) were surveyed as 7<sup>th</sup> graders during the 2006 survey. **RESULTS:** Compared to the results of the 2006 surveys, there was an increase in the bullying that was seen at school ( $p < 0.05$ ), bullying was more of a problem for females ( $p < 0.001$ ), more females did nothing or ignored the bully ( $p = 0.008$ ) and males felt less safe at school ( $p = 0.042$ ). There were no differences in cyberbullying and the actions following it. **CONCLUSIONS:** Raising awareness of bullying and its potentially devastating effects for both victims and perpetrators is sorely needed. Students, school personnel, and parents could benefit from learning how to properly intervene in bullying situations.

## Methods

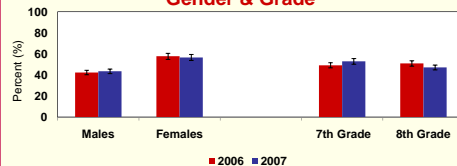
During the second year of the project, 631 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders were administered the 14-question CAPS *Middle School Bullying Survey*. The results of the 2007 surveys were compared with the 587 surveys from 2006.

Total # Surveys 2006 & 2007 = 1227

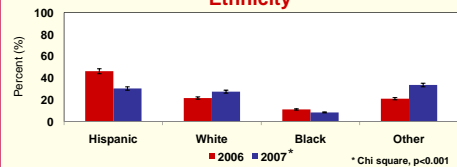
2006	2007	Total # Surveys
Miami Beach, FL 400	Miami Beach, FL 281	Miami Beach, FL 681
Naples, FL 22	Naples, FL 29	Naples, FL 51
Palo Alto, CA 107	Palo Alto, CA 239	Palo Alto, CA 346
Baltimore, MD 58	----	Baltimore, MD 58
----	Stanford, CA 46	Stanford, CA 46
----	Durham, NC 44	Durham, NC 44

## Demographics

### Gender & Grade

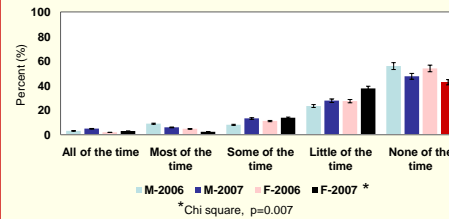


### Ethnicity

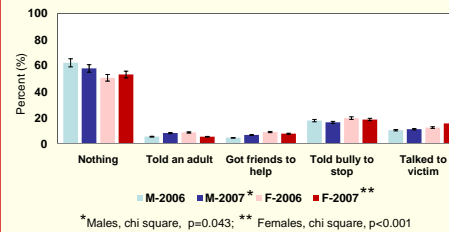


## Results

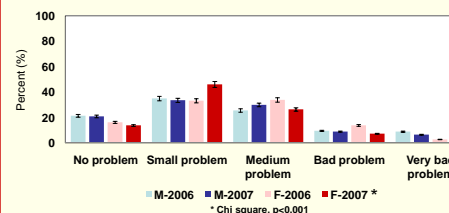
### How often have you been bullied at school?



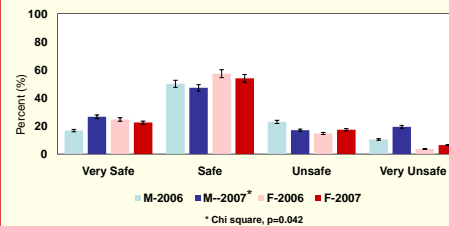
### How often do you see a kid bullied in your school?



### How bad is the problem with bullies in your school?

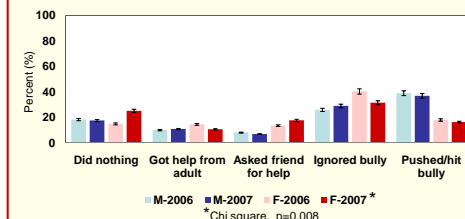


### How safe do you feel in school?

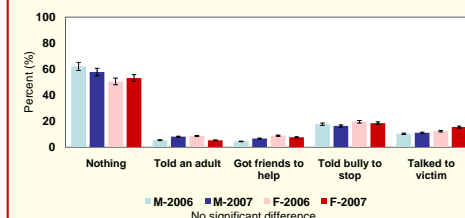


## Results

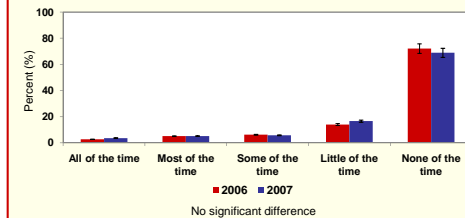
### If bullied at your school, what did you do?



### What did you do the last time you saw someone bullied?



### How often have you been the victim of a cyberbully?



## Conclusions

Students, teachers, school staff, and parents need anti bullying education. All schools should survey their students to find out what bullying activities are occurring in their school. Raising awareness of bullying and its potentially devastating effects is sorely needed.

## Background

In 2006, Project Anti-bully started a project to determine the prevalence of bullying in middle schools. Although bullying and victimization in the United States are first identified in elementary school, the problem becomes particularly acute, in terms of frequency and severity, in early adolescence. Yet our knowledge of bullies and victims and their peer affiliations during this period is limited. The 2005 suicide of a repeatedly cyberbullied student in a Florida middle school prompted the high school-aged authors of this paper to team up and consider ways to increase awareness of bullying in their former middle schools.