

FOR RELEASE DECEMBER 15, 2022

# Teens and Cyberbullying 2022

*Nearly half of U.S. teens have been bullied or harassed online, with physical appearance being seen as a relatively common reason why. Older teen girls are especially likely to report being targeted by online abuse overall and because of their appearance*

**BY** Emily A. Vogels

**FOR MEDIA OR OTHER INQUIRIES:**

Emily A. Vogels, Research Associate  
Monica Anderson, Associate Director  
Kelsey Beveridge, Communications Associate

202.419.4372

[www.pewresearch.org](http://www.pewresearch.org)

**RECOMMENDED CITATION**

Pew Research Center, December 2022, "Teens and Cyberbullying 2022"

## About Pew Research Center

Pew Research Center is a nonpartisan, nonadvocacy fact tank that informs the public about the issues, attitudes and trends shaping the world. It does not take policy positions. The Center conducts public opinion polling, demographic research, computational social science research and other data-driven research. It studies politics and policy; news habits and media; the internet and technology; religion; race and ethnicity; international affairs; social, demographic and economic trends; science; research methodology and data science; and immigration and migration. Pew Research Center is a subsidiary of The Pew Charitable Trusts, its primary funder.

© Pew Research Center 2022

## How we did this

Pew Research Center conducted this study to better understand teens' experiences with and views on bullying and harassment online. For this analysis, we surveyed 1,316 U.S. teens. The survey was conducted online by Ipsos from April 14 to May 4, 2022.

This research was reviewed and approved by an external institutional review board (IRB), Advarra, which is an independent committee of experts that specializes in helping to protect the rights of research participants.

Ipsos recruited the teens via their parents who were a part of its [KnowledgePanel](#), a probability-based web panel recruited primarily through national, random sampling of residential addresses. The survey is weighted to be representative of U.S. teens ages 13 to 17 who live with parents by age, gender, race, ethnicity, household income and other categories.

Here are the [questions used](#) for this report, along with responses, and [its methodology](#).

## Teens and Cyberbullying 2022

*Nearly half of U.S. teens have been bullied or harassed online, with physical appearance being seen as a relatively common reason why. Older teen girls are especially likely to report being targeted by online abuse overall and because of their appearance*

While [bullying](#) existed long before the internet, the rise of smartphones and social media has brought [a new and more public arena](#) into play for this aggressive behavior.

Nearly half of U.S. teens ages 13 to 17 (46%) report ever experiencing at least one of six cyberbullying behaviors asked about in a Pew Research Center survey conducted April 14-May 4, 2022.<sup>1</sup>

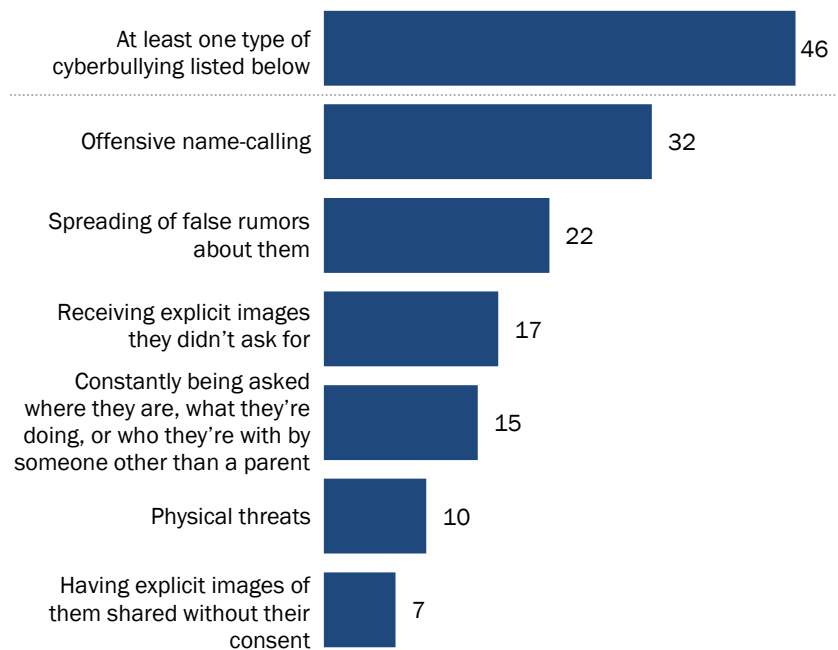
The most commonly reported behavior in this survey is name-calling, with 32% of teens saying they have been called an offensive name online or on their cellphone. Smaller shares say they have had false rumors spread about them online (22%) or have been sent explicit images they didn't ask for (17%).

Some 15% of teens say they have experienced someone other than a parent constantly asking them where they are, what they're doing or who they're with, while 10% say they have been physically threatened and 7% of teens say they have had explicit images of them shared without their consent.

In total, 28% of teens have experienced multiple types of cyberbullying.

### Nearly half of teens have ever experienced cyberbullying, with offensive name-calling being the type most commonly reported

*% of U.S. teens who say they have ever experienced \_\_\_ when online or on their cellphone*



Note: Teens are those ages 13 to 17. Those who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey conducted April 14-May 4, 2022.

"Teens and Cyberbullying 2022"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

<sup>1</sup> It is important to note that there are various ways researchers measure youths' experiences with cyberbullying and online harassment. As a result, there may be a range of estimates for how many teens report having these experiences. In addition, since the Center last polled on this topic in 2018, there have been changes in how the surveys were conducted and how the questions were asked. For instance, the 2018 survey asked about bullying by listing a number of possible behaviors and asking respondents to "check all that apply." This survey asked teens to answer "yes" or "no" to each item individually. Due to these changes, direct comparisons cannot be made across the two surveys.

### Defining cyberbullying in this report

This report measures cyberbullying of teens using six distinct behaviors:

- Offensive name-calling
- Spreading of false rumors about them
- Receiving explicit images they didn't ask for
- Physical threats
- Constantly being asked where they are, what they're doing, or who they're with by someone other than a parent
- Having explicit images of them shared without their consent

Teens who indicate they have personally experienced any of these behaviors online or while using their cellphone are considered targets of cyberbullying in this report. The terms “cyberbullying” and “online harassment” are used interchangeably throughout this report.

### Age and gender are related to teens' cyberbullying experiences, with older teen girls being especially likely to face this abuse

Teens' experiences with online harassment vary by age. Some 49% of 15- to 17-year-olds have experienced at least one of the six online behaviors, compared with 42% of those ages 13 to 14. While similar shares of older and younger teens report being the target of name-calling or rumor spreading, older teens are more likely than their younger counterparts (22% vs. 11%) to say someone has sent them explicit images they didn't ask for, an act sometimes referred to as [cyberflashing](#); had someone share explicit images of them without their consent, in what is also known as [revenge porn](#) (8% vs. 4%); or been the target of persistent questioning about their whereabouts and activities (17% vs. 12%).

## Older teen girls more likely than younger girls or boys of any age to have faced false rumor spreading, constant monitoring online, as well as cyberbullying overall

% of U.S. teens who say they have ever experienced \_\_\_ when online or on their cellphone

|             | Offensive name-calling | Spreading of false rumors about them | Receiving explicit images they didn't ask for | Constantly being asked where they are, what they're doing, or who they're with by someone other than a parent | Physical threats | Having explicit images of them shared without their consent | Any cyberbullying |
|-------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| U.S. teens  | 32                     | 22                                   | 17                                            | 15                                                                                                            | 10               | 7                                                           | 46                |
| Boys        | 31                     | 16                                   | 15                                            | 13                                                                                                            | 10               | 5                                                           | 43                |
| Girls       | 32                     | 29                                   | 19                                            | 17                                                                                                            | 10               | 8                                                           | 49                |
| White       | 35                     | 24                                   | 16                                            | 14                                                                                                            | 10               | 6                                                           | 48                |
| Black       | 29                     | 17                                   | 21                                            | 9                                                                                                             | 11               | 10                                                          | 40                |
| Hispanic    | 29                     | 21                                   | 19                                            | 21                                                                                                            | 10               | 7                                                           | 47                |
| Ages 13-14  | 29                     | 20                                   | 11                                            | 12                                                                                                            | 10               | 4                                                           | 42                |
| 15-17       | 34                     | 24                                   | 22                                            | 17                                                                                                            | 10               | 8                                                           | 49                |
| Boys 13-14  | 31                     | 15                                   | 11                                            | 12                                                                                                            | 10               | 3                                                           | 41                |
| 15-17       | 32                     | 16                                   | 18                                            | 13                                                                                                            | 10               | 7                                                           | 44                |
| Girls 13-14 | 25                     | 24                                   | 10                                            | 12                                                                                                            | 9                | 5                                                           | 41                |
| 15-17       | 36                     | 33                                   | 25                                            | 20                                                                                                            | 10               | 9                                                           | 54                |

Note: Teens are those ages 13 to 17. White and Black teens include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanic teens are of any race. Those who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey conducted April 14-May 4, 2022.

"Teens and Cyberbullying 2022"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

While there is no gender difference in having ever experienced online abuse, teen girls are more likely than teen boys to say false rumors have been spread about them. But further differences are seen when looking at age and gender together: 15- to 17-year-old girls stand out for being particularly likely to have faced any cyberbullying, compared with younger teen girls and teen boys of any age. Some 54% of girls ages 15 to 17 have experienced at least one of the six cyberbullying behaviors, while 44% of 15- to 17-year-old boys and 41% of boys and girls ages 13 to 14 say the same. These older teen girls are also more likely than younger teen girls and teen boys of any age to report being the target of false rumors and constant monitoring by someone other than a parent.

White, Black and Hispanic teens do not statistically differ in having ever been harassed online, but specific types of online attacks are more prevalent among certain groups.<sup>2</sup> For example, White teens are more likely to report being targeted by false rumors than Black teens. Hispanic teens are more likely than White or Black teens to say they have been asked constantly where they are, what they're doing or who they're with by someone other than a parent.

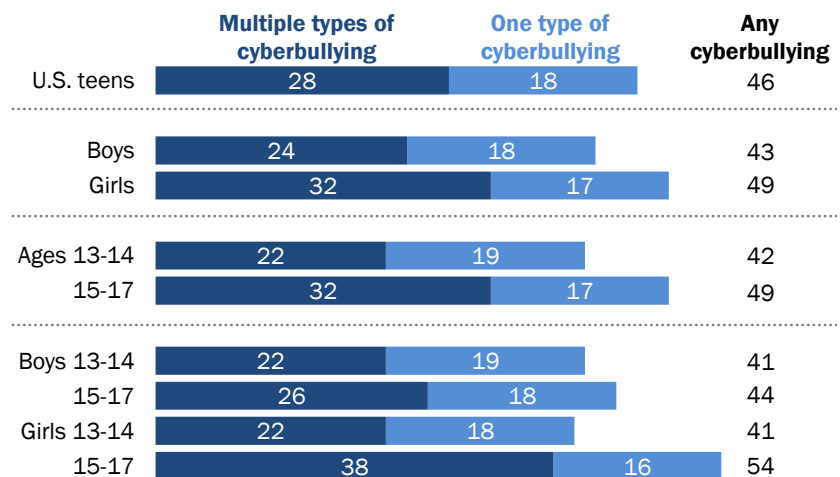
There are also differences by household income when it comes to physical threats. Teens who are from households making less than \$30,000 annually are twice as likely as teens living in households making \$75,000 or more a year to say they have been physically threatened online (16% vs. 8%).

Beyond those differences related to specific harassing behaviors, older teen girls are particularly likely to say they experience multiple types of online harassment. Some 32% of teen girls have experienced two or more types of online harassment asked about in this survey, while 24% of teen boys say the same. And 15- to 17-year-olds are more likely than 13- to 14-year-olds to have been the target of multiple types of cyberbullying (32% vs. 22%).

These differences are largely driven by older teen girls: 38% of teen girls ages 15 to 17 have experienced at least two of the harassing behaviors asked about in this survey, while roughly a quarter of younger teen girls and teen boys of any age say the same.

### Older teen girls stand out for experiencing multiple types of cyberbullying behaviors

% of U.S. teens who have experienced \_\_\_ when online or on their cellphone



Note: Teens are those ages 13 to 17. Please see the survey topline for a full list of cyberbullying experiences measured in this survey. Those who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey conducted April 14-May 4, 2022.

"Teens and Cyberbullying 2022"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Beyond demographic differences, being the target of these behaviors and facing multiple types of these behaviors also vary by the amount of time youth spend online. Teens who say they are online

<sup>2</sup> There were not enough Asian American teen respondents in the sample to be broken out into a separate analysis. As always, their responses are incorporated into the general population figures throughout the report.

almost constantly are not only more likely to have ever been harassed online than those who report being online less often (53% vs 40%), but are also more likely to have faced multiple forms of online abuse (37% vs. 21%).

These are some of the findings from a Pew Research Center online survey of 1,316 U.S. teens conducted from April 14 to May 4, 2022.

## Black teens are about twice as likely as Hispanic or White teens to say they think their race or ethnicity made them a target of online abuse

There are numerous reasons why a teen may be targeted with online abuse. This survey asked youth if they believed their physical appearance, gender, race or ethnicity, sexual orientation or political views were a factor in them being the target of abusive behavior online.

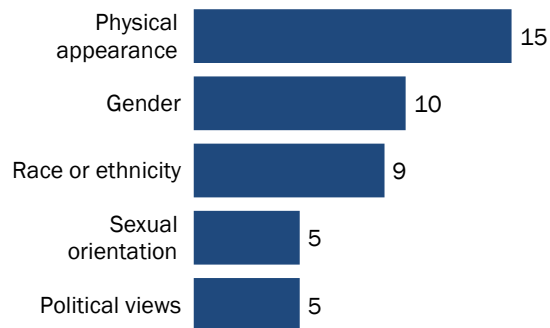
Teens are most likely to say their physical appearance made them the target of cyberbullying. Some 15% of all teens think they were cyberbullied because of their appearance.

About one-in-ten teens say they were targeted because of their gender (10%) or their race or ethnicity (9%). Teens less commonly report being harassed for their sexual orientation or their political views – just 5% each.

Looking at these numbers in a different way, 31% of teens who have personally experienced online harassment or bullying think they were targeted because of their physical appearance. About one-in-five cyberbullied teens say they were targeted due to their gender (22%) or their racial or ethnic background (20%). And roughly one-in-ten affected teens point to their sexual orientation (12%) or their political views (11%) as a reason why they were targeted with harassment or bullying online.

### Teens are more likely to think they've been harassed online because of the way they look than their politics

*% of U.S. teens who think they have personally experienced online harassment or bullying because of their ...*



Note: Teens are those ages 13 to 17. Please see the survey topline for a full list of cyberbullying experiences measured in this survey. Those who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey conducted April 14-May 4, 2022.

"Teens and Cyberbullying 2022"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

The reasons teens cite for why they were targeted for cyberbullying are largely similar across major demographic groups, but there are a few key differences. For example, teen girls overall are more likely than teen boys to say they have been cyberbullied because of their physical appearance (17% vs. 11%) or their gender (14% vs. 6%). Older teens are also more likely to say they have been harassed online because of their appearance: 17% of 15- to 17-year-olds have experienced cyberbullying because of their physical appearance, compared with 11% of teens ages 13 to 14.

Older teen girls are particularly likely to think they have been harassed online because of

their physical appearance: 21% of all 15- to 17-year-old girls think they have been targeted for this reason. This compares with about one-in-ten younger teen girls or teen boys, regardless of age, who think they have been cyberbullied because of their appearance.

A teen's racial or ethnic background relates to whether they report having been targeted for cyberbullying because of race or ethnicity. Some 21% of Black teens report being made a target because of their race or ethnicity, compared with 11% of Hispanic teens and an even smaller share of White teens (4%).

There are no partisan differences in teens being targeted for their political views, with 5% of those who identify as either Democratic or Republican – including those who lean toward each party – saying they think their political views contributed to them being cyberbullied.

## Black teens more likely than those who are Hispanic or White to say they have been cyberbullied because of their race or ethnicity

*% of U.S. teens who think they have personally experienced online harassment or bullying because of their ...*

|              | Physical appearance | Gender | Race or ethnicity | Sexual orientation | Political views |
|--------------|---------------------|--------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| U.S. teens   | 15                  | 10     | 9                 | 5                  | 5               |
| Boys         | 11                  | 6      | 10                | 4                  | 6               |
| Girls        | 17                  | 14     | 8                 | 5                  | 4               |
| White        | 15                  | 9      | 4                 | 6                  | 5               |
| Black        | 12                  | 13     | 21                | 3                  | 4               |
| Hispanic     | 15                  | 10     | 11                | 6                  | 6               |
| Ages 13-14   | 11                  | 9      | 7                 | 5                  | 5               |
| 15-17        | 17                  | 11     | 10                | 6                  | 5               |
| Rep/Lean Rep | 13                  | 8      | 6                 | 4                  | 5               |
| Dem/Lean Dem | 17                  | 13     | 12                | 7                  | 5               |

Note: Teens are those ages 13 to 17. Please see the survey topline for a full list of cyberbullying experiences measured in this survey. White and Black teens include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanic teens are of any race. Those who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey conducted April 14-May 4, 2022.

"Teens and Cyberbullying 2022"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

## Black or Hispanic teens are more likely than White teens to say cyberbullying is a major problem for people their age

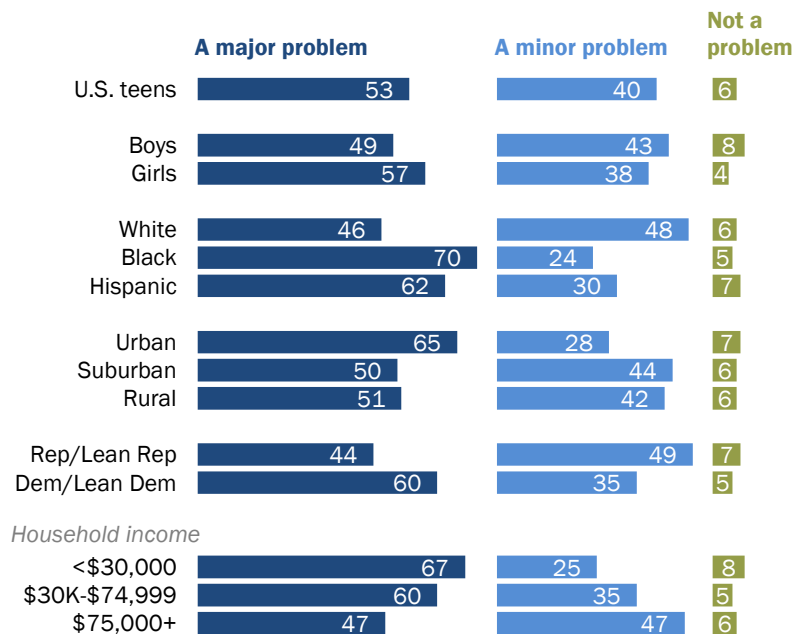
In addition to measuring teens' own personal experiences with cyberbullying, the survey also sought to understand young people's views about online harassment more generally.

The vast majority of teens say online harassment and online bullying are a problem for people their age, with 53% saying they are a major problem. Just 6% of teens think they are not a problem.

Certain demographic groups stand out for how much of a problem they say cyberbullying is. Seven-in-ten Black teens and 62% of Hispanic teens say online harassment and bullying are a major problem for people their age, compared with 46% of White teens. Teens from households making under \$75,000 a year are similarly inclined to call this type of harassment a major problem, with 62% making this claim, compared with 47% of teens from more affluent homes. Teen girls are also more likely than boys to view cyberbullying as a major problem.

### Black or Hispanic teens are far more likely than White teens to say online harassment and bullying are a major problem for people their age

% of U.S. teens who say online harassment and online bullying are \_\_\_ for people their age



Note: Teens are those ages 13 to 17. White and Black teens include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanic teens are of any race. Those who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey conducted April 14-May 4, 2022.

"Teens and Cyberbullying 2022"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Views also vary by community type. Some 65% of teens living in urban areas say online harassment and bullying are a major problem for people their age, compared with about half of suburban and rural teens.

Partisan differences appear as well: Six-in-ten Democratic teens say this is a major problem for people their age, compared with 44% of Republican teens saying this.

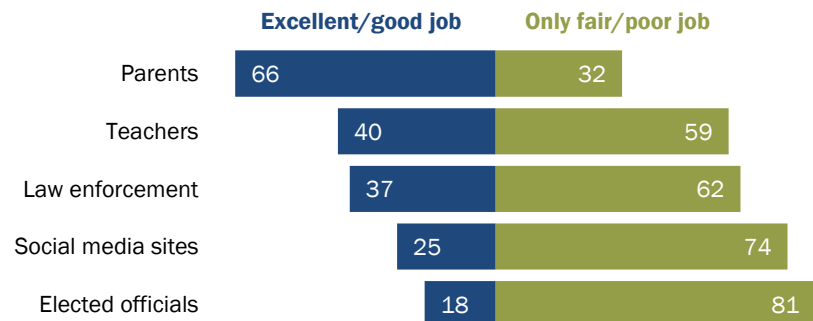
## Roughly three-quarters of teens or more think elected officials and social media sites aren't adequately addressing online abuse

In recent years, there have been [several initiatives](#) and [programs](#) aimed at [curtailing bad behavior](#) online, but teens by and large view some of those behind these efforts – including social media companies and politicians – in a decidedly negative light.

According to teens, parents are doing the best of the five groups asked about in terms of addressing online harassment and online bullying, with 66% of teens saying parents are doing at least a good job, including one-in-five saying it is an excellent job. Roughly four-in-ten teens report thinking teachers (40%) or law enforcement (37%) are doing a good or excellent job addressing online abuse. A quarter of teens say social media sites are doing at least a good job addressing online harassment and cyberbullying, and just 18% say the same of elected officials. In fact, 44% of teens say elected officials have done a poor job addressing online harassment and online bullying.

### Large majorities of teens think social media sites and elected officials are doing an only fair to poor job addressing online harassment

*% of U.S. teens who say each of the following are doing a(n) \_\_\_ when it comes to addressing online harassment and online bullying*



Note: Teens are those ages 13 to 17. Excellent/good job or only fair/poor job responses are combined. Those who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey conducted April 14-May 4, 2022.

"Teens and Cyberbullying 2022"

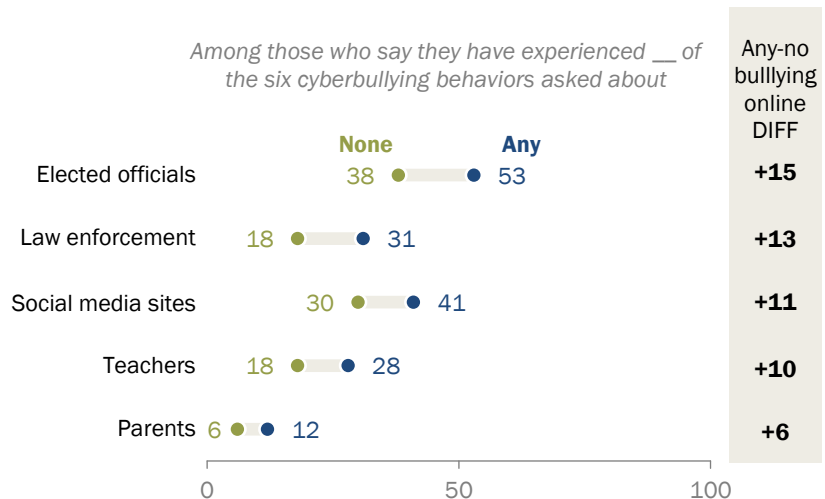
PEW RESEARCH CENTER

## Teens who have been cyberbullied are more critical of how various groups have addressed online bullying than those who haven't

Teens who have experienced harassment or bullying online have a very different perspective on how various groups have been handling cyberbullying compared with those who have not faced this type of abuse. Some 53% of teens who have been cyberbullied say elected officials have done a poor job when it comes to addressing online harassment and online bullying, while 38% who have not undergone these experiences say the same (a 15 percentage point gap). Double-digit differences also appear between teens who have and have not been cyberbullied in their views on how law enforcement, social media sites and teachers have addressed online abuse, with teens who have been harassed or bullied online being more critical of each of these three groups. These harassed teens are also twice as likely as their peers who report no abuse to say parents have done a poor job of combatting online harassment and bullying.

### Teens who have been cyberbullied are more likely to think groups like politicians, police, social media companies are failing at curtailing online harassment

% of U.S. teens who say each of the following are doing a **poor job** when it comes to addressing online harassment and online bullying



Note: Teens are those ages 13 to 17. Please see the survey topline for a full list of cyberbullying experiences measured in this survey. All differences shown in the DIFF column are statistically significant. The DIFF values shown are based on subtracting the rounded values in the chart. Those who did not give an answer or who gave other responses are not shown.

Source: Survey conducted April 14-May 4, 2022.  
"Teens and Cyberbullying 2022"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Aside from these differences based on personal experience with cyberbullying, only a few differences are seen across major demographic groups. For example, Black teens express greater cynicism than White teens about how law enforcement has fared in this space: 33% of Black teens say law enforcement is doing a poor job when it comes to addressing online harassment and online bullying; 21% of White teens say the same. Hispanic teens (25%) do not differ from either group on this question.

## Large majorities of teens believe permanent bans from social media and criminal charges can help reduce harassment on the platforms

Teens have varying views about possible actions that could help to curb the amount of online harassment youth encounter on social media.

While a majority of teens say each of five possible solutions asked about in the survey would at least help a little, certain measures are viewed as being more effective than others.

Teens see the most benefit in criminal charges for users who bully or harass on social media or permanently locking these users out of their account. Half of teens say each of these options would help a lot in reducing the amount of harassment and bullying teens may face on social media sites.

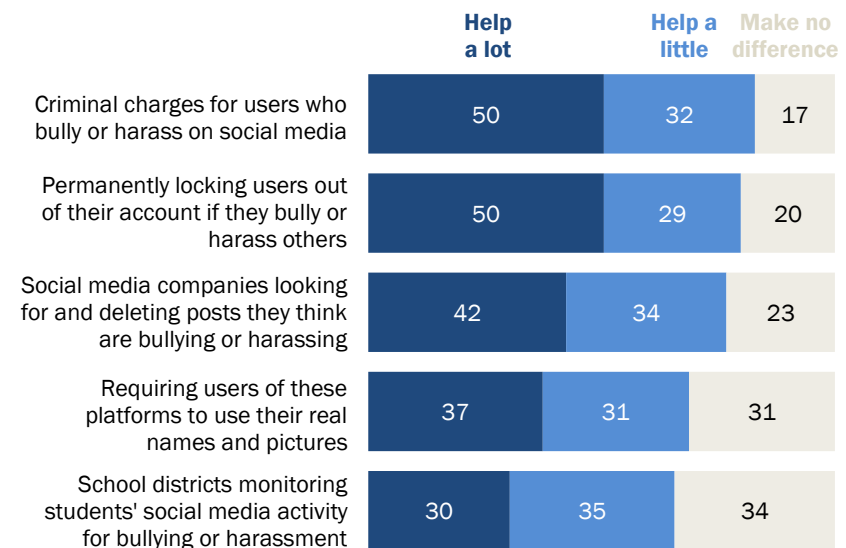
About four-in-ten teens think that if social media companies looked for and deleted posts they think are bullying or

harassing (42%) or if users of these platforms were required to use their real names and pictures (37%) it would help a lot in addressing these issues. The idea of forcing people to use their real name while online has long existed and been heavily debated: Proponents see it as a way to hold bad actors accountable and keep online conversations [more civil](#), while detractors believe it would do little to solve harassment and could even [worsen it](#).

Three-in-ten teens say school districts monitoring students' social media activity for bullying or harassment would help a lot. Some school districts already use [digital monitoring software](#) to help them identify worrying student behavior on [school-owned devices](#), [social media](#) and [other online](#)

### Half of teens think banning users who bully or criminal charges against them would help a lot in reducing the cyberbullying teens may face on social media

% of U.S. teens who say each of the following would \_\_\_ in reducing the amount of harassment and bullying that teens may face on social media



Note: Teens are those ages 13 to 17. Those who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey conducted April 14-May 4, 2022.

"Teens and Cyberbullying 2022"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

platforms. However, these programs have been met with criticism regarding privacy issues, mixed results and whether they do more harm than good.

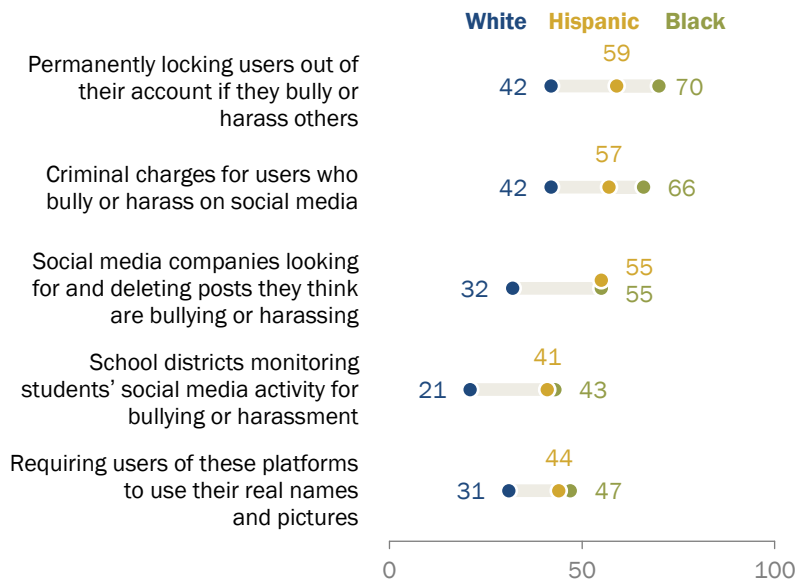
Having personally experienced online harassment is unrelated to a teen's view on whether these potential measures would help a lot in reducing these types of adverse experiences on social media. Views do vary widely by a teen's racial or ethnic background, however.

Black or Hispanic teens are consistently more optimistic than White teens about the effectiveness of each of these measures.

Majorities of both Black and Hispanic teens say permanently locking users out of their account if they bully or harass others or criminal charges for users who bully or harass on social media would help a lot, while about four-in-ten White teens express each view.

### Black or Hispanic teens more optimistic than White teens about the effectiveness of five potential solutions to curb online abuse

*% of U.S. teens who say each of the following would **help a lot** in reducing the amount of harassment and bullying that teens may face on these sites*



Note: Teens are those ages 13 to 17. White and Black teens include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanic teens are of any race. Those who did not give an answer or who gave other responses are not shown.  
Source: Survey conducted April 14-May 4, 2022.  
"Teens and Cyberbullying 2022"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

In the case of permanent bans, Black teens further stand out from their Hispanic peers: Seven-in-ten say this would help a lot, followed by 59% of Hispanic teens and 42% of White teens.

## Acknowledgments

This report is a collaborative effort based on the input and analysis of the following individuals. Find related reports online at [pewresearch.org/internet](https://www.pewresearch.org/internet).

### Primary researchers

Emily A. Vogels, *Research Associate*

### Research team

Lee Rainie, *Director, Internet and Technology Research*

Monica Anderson, *Associate Director, Research*

Colleen McClain, *Research Associate*

Michelle Faverio, *Research Analyst*

Risa Gelles-Watnick, *Research Assistant*

Olivia Sidoti, *Research Assistant*

Andrew Perrin, *Former Research Analyst*

### Editorial and graphic design

Margaret Porteus, *Information Graphics Designer*

David Kent, *Senior Copy Editor*

### Communications and web publishing

Kelsey Beveridge, *Communications Associate*

Haley Nolan, *Communications Manager*

Sara Atske, *Associate Digital Producer*

Janakee Chavda, *Assistant Digital Producer*

In addition, the project benefited greatly from the guidance of Pew Research Center's methodology team: Courtney Kennedy, Andrew Mercer, Dorene Asare-Marfo, Ashley Amaya and Arnold Lau. This project also benefited from feedback by Juliana Horowitz and Justin Nortey of Pew Research Center, as well as former Pew Research Center staff Ruth Igielnik and Nick Bertoni. The Center gained invaluable advice in developing the questionnaire from Amanda Lenhart, program director of health and data research at the Data & Society Research Institute, and Bobby Duffy, professor of public policy and director of The Policy Institute at King's College London.

## Methodology

The analysis in this report is based on a self-administered web survey conducted from April 14 to May 4, 2022, among a sample of 1,316 dyads, with each dyad (or pair) comprised of one U.S. teen ages 13 to 17 and one parent per teen. The margin of sampling error for the full sample of 1,316 teens is plus or minus 3.2 percentage points. The survey was conducted by Ipsos Public Affairs in English and Spanish using KnowledgePanel, its nationally representative online research panel.

The research plan for this project was submitted to an external institutional review board (IRB), Advarra, which is an independent committee of experts that specializes in helping to protect the rights of research participants. The IRB thoroughly vetted this research before data collection began. Due the risks associated with surveying minors, this research underwent a full board review and received approval (Pro00060166).

KnowledgePanel members are recruited through probability sampling methods and include both those with internet access and those who did not have internet access at the time of their recruitment. KnowledgePanel provides internet access for those who do not have it and, if needed, a device to access the internet when they join the panel. KnowledgePanel's recruitment process was originally based exclusively on a national random-digit-dialing (RDD) sampling methodology. In 2009, Ipsos migrated to an address-based sampling (ABS) recruitment methodology via the U.S. Postal Service's Delivery Sequence File (DSF). The Delivery Sequence File has been estimated to cover as much as 98% of the population, although some studies suggest that the coverage could be in the low 90% range.<sup>3</sup>

Panelists were eligible for participation in this survey if they indicated on an earlier profile survey that they were the parent of a teen ages 13 to 17. A random sample of 5,580 eligible panel members were invited to participate in the study. Responding parents were screened and considered qualified for the study if they reconfirmed that they were the parent of at least one child ages 13 to 17 and granted permission for their teen who was chosen to participate in the study. In households with more than one eligible teen, parents were asked to think about one randomly selected teen and that teen was instructed to complete the teen portion of the survey. A survey was considered complete if both the parent and selected teen completed their portions of the questionnaire, or if the parent did not qualify during the initial screening.

Of the sampled panelists, 1,607 (excluding break-offs) responded to the invitation and 1,316 qualified, completed the parent portion of the survey, and had their selected teen complete the

---

<sup>3</sup> AAPOR Task force on Address-based Sampling. 2016. ["AAPOR Report: Address-based Sampling."](#)

teen portion of the survey yielding a final stage completion rate of 29% and a qualification rate of 82%.<sup>4</sup> The cumulative response rate accounting for nonresponse to the recruitment surveys and attrition is 1%. The break-off rate among those who logged on to the survey (regardless of whether they completed any items or qualified for the study) is 37%.

Upon completion, qualified respondents received a cash-equivalent incentive worth \$10 for completing the survey.

Panelists were assigned to take the survey in batches. Email invitations and reminders were sent to panelists according to a schedule based on when they were assigned this survey in their personalized member portal, shown in the table below. The field period was closed on May 4, 2022, and thus no further email contacts past the invitation were sent for the final set of panelists.

### Invitation and reminder dates

|                 | Panelists assigned<br>April 14, 2022 | Panelists assigned<br>April 15, 2022 | Panelists assigned<br>April 29, 2022 |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Invitation      | April 17, 2022                       | April 18, 2022                       | May 2, 2022                          |
| First reminder  | April 20, 2022                       | April 21, 2022                       |                                      |
| Second reminder | April 23, 2022                       | April 24, 2022                       |                                      |
| Third reminder  | April 26, 2022                       | April 27, 2022                       |                                      |

### Weighting

The analysis in this report was performed using a teen weight. A weight for parents was also constructed, forming the basis of the teen weight. The parent weight was created in a multistep process that begins with a base design weight for the parent, which is computed to reflect their probability of selection for recruitment into the KnowledgePanel. These selection probabilities were then adjusted to account for

### Weighting dimensions

| Variable                          | Benchmark source                                             |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Age x Gender                      | 2021 March Supplement of the Current Population Survey (CPS) |
| Race/Ethnicity                    |                                                              |
| Census Region                     |                                                              |
| Metropolitan Status               |                                                              |
| Education (Parents only)          |                                                              |
| Household Income                  |                                                              |
| Household Income x Race/Ethnicity |                                                              |
| Total Household Size              |                                                              |
| Language proficiency              | 2019 American Community Survey (ACS)                         |

Note: Estimates from the ACS are based on noninstitutionalized adults.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

<sup>4</sup> The 1,316 qualified and completed interviews exclude seven cases that were dropped because respondents did not answer one-third or more of the survey questions.

the probability of selection for this survey, which included oversamples of Black and Hispanic parents. Next, an iterative technique was used to align the parent design weights to population benchmarks for parents of teens ages 13 to 17 on the dimensions identified in the accompanying table to account for any differential nonresponse that may have occurred.

To create the teen weight, an adjustment factor was applied to the final parent weight to reflect the selection of one teen per household. Finally, the teen weights were further raked to match the demographic distribution for teens ages 13 to 17 who live with parents. The teen weights were adjusted on the same teen dimensions as parent dimensions with the exception of teen education, which was not used in the teen weighting.

Sampling errors and tests of statistical significance take into account the effect of weighting. Interviews were conducted in both English and Spanish.

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

The following tables show the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

| <b>Group</b>        | <b>Unweighted<br/>sample size</b> | <b>Weighted<br/>percentage</b> | <b>Plus or minus ...</b> |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Teens (ages 13-17)  | 1,316                             |                                | 3.2 percentage points    |
| Boys                | 686                               |                                | 4.4 percentage points    |
| Girls               | 596                               |                                | 4.7 percentage points    |
| White, non-Hispanic | 599                               |                                | 4.5 percentage points    |
| Black, non-Hispanic | 138                               |                                | 9.2 percentage points    |
| Hispanic            | 407                               |                                | 6.0 percentage points    |
| Ages 13-14          | 504                               |                                | 5.1 percentage points    |
| 15-17               | 812                               |                                | 4.1 percentage points    |
| Rep/Lean Rep        | 542                               | 42                             | 5.0 percentage points    |
| Dem/Lean Dem        | 666                               | 50                             | 4.4 percentage points    |

Note: This survey includes oversamples of Black and Hispanic respondents. Unweighted sample sizes do not account for the sample design or weighting and do not describe a group's contribution to weighted estimates. See the sections above for details.

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER**

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request.

### Dispositions and response rates

The tables below display dispositions used in the calculation of completion, qualification and cumulative response rates.<sup>5</sup>

| <b>Dispositions</b>                                    |             |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Total panelists assigned                               | 5,580       |
| Total study completes (including nonqualified)         | 1,607       |
| Number of qualified completes                          | 1,316       |
| Number of study break-offs                             | 949         |
| <b>Study Completion Rate (COMPR)</b>                   | <b>29%</b>  |
| <b>Study Qualification Rate (QUALR)</b>                | <b>82%</b>  |
| <b>Study Break-off Rate (BOR)</b>                      | <b>37%</b>  |
| <b>Cumulative response rate calculations</b>           |             |
| Study-Specific Average Panel Recruitment Rate (RECR)   | 8.4%        |
| Study-Specific Average Household Profile Rate (PROR)   | 58.5%       |
| Study-Specific Average Household Retention Rate (RETR) | 80.9%       |
| <b>Cumulative Response Rate</b>                        | <b>1.4%</b> |

© Pew Research Center, 2022

<sup>5</sup> For more information on this method of calculating response rates, see Callegaro, Mario & DiSogra, Charles. 2008. "Computing response metrics for online panels." Public Opinion Quarterly 72(5). pp. 1008-1032.

## Topline questionnaire: Teens Survey

2022 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S TEENS SURVEY  
 APRIL/MAY 2022  
 FINAL TOPLINE  
 APRIL 14-MAY 4, 2022  
 TEENS AGES 13-17 N=1,316

THE QUESTIONS PRESENTED BELOW ARE PART OF A LARGER SURVEY CONDUCTED ON THE IPSOS KNOWLEDGEPANEL. OTHER QUESTIONS ON THIS SURVEY HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY RELEASED.

NOTE: ALL NUMBERS ARE PERCENTAGES UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. THE PERCENTAGES LESS THAN 0.5% ARE REPLACED BY AN ASTERISK (\*). ROWS/COLUMNS MAY NOT TOTAL 100% DUE TO ROUNDING.

|                       |                    |                                                |
|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------------------|
|                       | <b>Sample size</b> | <b>Margin of error at 95% confidence level</b> |
| U.S. teens ages 13-17 | 1,316              | +/- 3.2 percentage points                      |

### ASK ALL:

OHPROB How much of a problem do you think online harassment and online bullying are for people your age?

April 14-May 4, 2022

|    |               |
|----|---------------|
| 53 | Major problem |
| 40 | Minor problem |
| 6  | Not a problem |
| *  | No answer     |

### ASK ALL:

OH2 How good of a job are each of the following groups doing when it comes to addressing online harassment and online bullying? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

|    |                                            | <u>Excellent</u> | <u>Good</u> | <u>Only fair</u> | <u>Poor</u> | <u>No answer</u> |
|----|--------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|
| a. | Social media sites<br>April 14-May 4, 2022 | 3                | 22          | 38               | 35          | 1                |
| b. | Elected officials<br>April 14-May 4, 2022  | 2                | 16          | 36               | 44          | 1                |
| c. | Law enforcement<br>April 14-May 4, 2022    | 6                | 31          | 38               | 24          | 1                |
| d. | Parents<br>April 14-May 4, 2022            | 20               | 47          | 24               | 9           | 1                |
| e. | Teachers<br>April 14-May 4, 2022           | 7                | 33          | 36               | 23          | 1                |

**ASK ALL:**

TOH3 Thinking about your experiences online or on your cellphone, which of the following, if any, has ever happened to you personally? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

|                                                                                                                                            | Yes, this has<br>happened to me<br>online or on my<br><u>cellphone</u> | No, this has not<br>happened to me<br>online or on my<br><u>cellphone</u> | No<br><u>answer</u> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| a. Been called offensive names<br>April 14-May 4, 2022                                                                                     | 32                                                                     | 67                                                                        | 1                   |
| b. Been threatened with physical harm<br>April 14-May 4, 2022                                                                              | 10                                                                     | 89                                                                        | 1                   |
| c. Had someone spread false rumors about you<br>April 14-May 4, 2022                                                                       | 22                                                                     | 77                                                                        | *                   |
| d. Had someone share explicit images of you<br>without your consent<br>April 14-May 4, 2022                                                | 7                                                                      | 93                                                                        | 1                   |
| e. Had someone send you explicit images you did<br>not ask for<br>April 14-May 4, 2022                                                     | 17                                                                     | 82                                                                        | 1                   |
| f. Had someone, other than a parent, constantly<br>ask where you were, who you were with or<br>what you were doing<br>April 14-May 4, 2022 | 15                                                                     | 84                                                                        | 1                   |

**ASK IF YES TO ANY IN OH3 (TOH3a-f=1) [N=621]:**

TIDENTITY Do you think any of these experiences were a result of your... **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

|                                                | <u>Yes, were a result of this</u> | <u>No, were not a result of this</u> | No<br><u>answer</u> |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| a. Gender<br>April 14-May 4, 2022              | 22                                | 78                                   | *                   |
| b. Physical appearance<br>April 14-May 4, 2022 | 31                                | 68                                   | *                   |
| c. Sexual orientation<br>April 14-May 4, 2022  | 12                                | 88                                   | *                   |
| d. Political views<br>April 14-May 4, 2022     | 11                                | 89                                   | *                   |
| e. Race or ethnicity<br>April 14-May 4, 2022   | 20                                | 80                                   | *                   |

**TIDENITY BASED ON ALL TEENS:**

|    |                                             | <u>Yes, were a<br/>result of this</u> | <u>No, were not<br/>a result of this</u> | <u>No<br/>answer</u> | <u>Did not report being<br/>harassed online</u> |
|----|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| a. | Gender<br>April 14-May 4, 2022              | 10                                    | 36                                       | *                    | 54                                              |
| b. | Physical appearance<br>April 14-May 4, 2022 | 15                                    | 32                                       | *                    | 54                                              |
| c. | Sexual orientation<br>April 14-May 4, 2022  | 5                                     | 41                                       | *                    | 54                                              |
| d. | Political views<br>April 14-May 4, 2022     | 5                                     | 41                                       | *                    | 54                                              |
| e. | Race or ethnicity<br>April 14-May 4, 2022   | 9                                     | 37                                       | *                    | 54                                              |

**ASK ALL:**

TOHCONS When thinking about harassment and bullying on SOCIAL MEDIA, do you think the following would help reduce the amount of harassment and bullying that teens may face on these sites... **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

|    |                                                                                                                          | <u>Would<br/>help a lot</u> | <u>Would help<br/>a little</u> | <u>Would make<br/>no difference</u> | <u>No answer</u> |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| a. | Criminal charges for users who bully or harass on social media<br>April 14-May 4, 2022                                   | 50                          | 32                             | 17                                  | 1                |
| b. | Permanently locking users out of their account if they bully or harass others<br>April 14-May 4, 2022                    | 50                          | 29                             | 20                                  | *                |
| c. | Social media companies looking for and deleting posts they think are bullying or harassing<br>April 14-May 4, 2022, 2022 | 42                          | 34                             | 23                                  | *                |
| d. | Requiring users of these platforms to use their real names and pictures<br>April 14-May 4, 2022                          | 37                          | 31                             | 31                                  | 1                |
| e. | School districts monitoring students' social media activity for bullying or harassment<br>April 14-May 4, 2022           | 30                          | 35                             | 34                                  | 1                |