Table 27.—Teachers' perceptions about serious problems in their schools, by type and control of school: 1990–91 and 1993–94

Problem area	Percent of teachers indicating item is a serious problem									
	Public school teachers					Private school teachers				
	1990–91	1993–94				1990–91	1993–94			
	Total	Total	Elementary schools	Secondary schools	Combined schools	Total	Total	Elementary schools	Secondary schools	Combined schools
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Student tardiness	11.2	10.5	6.3	18.3	7.8	3.4	2.6	1.8	4.3	2.6
Student absenteeism	14.1	14.4	7.2	27.1	15.0	2.6	2.2	0.8	5.2	2.7
Teacher absenteeism	1.6	1.5	1.3	1.9	2.0	0.7	0.8	0.7	1.2	0.9
Students cutting class	4.6	5.1	1.3	11.9	4.6	0.7	0.7	0.2	2.4	0.7
Physical conflicts among students	6.5	8.2	7.8	8.6	8.1	1.1	1.5	0.9	2.1	2.1
Robbery or theft	3.4	4.1	3.0	5.8	3.6	0.8	0.8	0.4	1.4	1.1
Vandalism of school property	5.4	6.7	5.2	9.0	5.9	0.9	1.2	0.9	2.0	1.2
Student pregnancy	6.4	7.3	1.1	18.4	10.1	0.3	0.4	0.2	1.1	0.4
Student use of alcohol	8.2	9.3	1.6	23.1	14.2	2.4	3.1	0.3	11.0	2.7
Student drug abuse	4.2	5.7	1.0	14.2	7.1	0.5	1.3	0.2	4.0	1.4
Student possession of weapons	1.2	2.8	1.2	5.6	2.7	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.6	0.3
Verbal abuse of teachers	7.5	11.1	8.6	14.8	14.3	1.7	2.3	0.7	2.8	4.4
Student disrespect for teachers	13.0	18.5	15.3	23.6	20.3	2.9	3.4	2.2	4.2	4.7
Students dropping out	6.3	5.8	1.2	14.1	7.7	0.2	0.6	0.3	1.3	0.7
Student apathy	20.6	23.6	15.6	38.0	28.9	4.1	4.5	2.2	9.7	5.1
Lack of academic challenge	5.7	6.5	4.2	10.4	9.9	1.3	1.5	1.0	2.5	1.6
Lack of parental involvement	25.4	27.6	23.0	34.5	35.5	4.3	4.0	2.8	7.1	4.7
Parental alcoholism/drug abuse	12.0	13.1	12.9	12.3	18.7	2.2	2.6	1.6	4.2	3.4
Poverty	17.1	19.5	20.8	15.9	26.8	2.0	2.7	2.2	3.2	3.0
Racial tension	3.8	5.1	4.0	6.7	5.5	0.7	0.9	0.6	1.7	0.8
Students come unprepared to learn	—	28.8	24.3	36.0	30.9	—	4.1	2.6	7.6	4.6

—Data not available.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, "Schools and Staffing Survey," 1990–91 and 1993–94. (This table was prepared September 1996.)