

**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

—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.)