

Table 72. Teachers' perceptions about serious problems in their schools, by control and level of school: 1993–94 and 1999–2000

Problem area	Percent of teachers indicating item is a serious problem									
	Public school teachers					Private school teachers				
	1993–94	1999–2000				1993–94	1999–2000			
		Total	Total	Elementary schools	Secondary schools		Combined schools	Total	Total	Elementary schools
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Student tardiness	10.5	10.2 (0.22)	6.5 (0.31)	17.4 (0.37)	8.4 (0.45)	2.6	2.9 (0.21)	2.0 (0.20)	4.7 (0.56)	3.2 (0.42)
Student absenteeism	14.4	13.9 (0.26)	7.9 (0.36)	25.3 (0.39)	15.8 (0.90)	2.2	2.5 (0.22)	0.8 (0.13)	5.8 (0.72)	3.3 (0.48)
Teacher absenteeism	1.5	2.2 (0.10)	1.8 (0.15)	3.1 (0.16)	2.4 (0.23)	0.8	0.8 (0.11)	0.4 (0.13)	1.1 (0.23)	1.1 (0.27)
Students cutting class	5.1	4.7 (0.12)	0.9 (0.10)	12.3 (0.33)	5.2 (0.42)	0.7	0.8 (0.12)	0.4 (0.10)	1.9 (0.51)	0.9 (0.22)
Physical conflicts among students	8.2	4.8 (0.19)	5.2 (0.28)	3.8 (0.18)	6.3 (0.71)	1.5	1.0 (0.18)	0.6 (0.13)	1.2 (0.41)	1.5 (0.38)
Robbery or theft	4.1	2.4 (0.11)	1.9 (0.15)	3.3 (0.15)	2.9 (0.26)	0.8	0.9 (0.11)	0.5 (0.11)	2.0 (0.36)	0.8 (0.18)
Vandalism of school property	6.7	3.4 (0.15)	2.7 (0.21)	4.8 (0.23)	4.2 (0.50)	1.2	0.7 (0.11)	0.7 (0.15)	0.9 (0.23)	0.6 (0.17)
Student pregnancy	7.3	3.7 (0.12)	0.4 (0.07)	9.9 (0.31)	6.5 (0.52)	0.4	0.4 (0.09)	0.2 (0.07)	1.3 (0.45)	0.2 (0.10)
Student use of alcohol	9.3	7.4 (0.14)	0.8 (0.08)	19.9 (0.34)	12.9 (0.76)	3.1	3.1 (0.16)	0.3 (0.08)	12.3 (0.66)	2.4 (0.32)
Student drug abuse	5.7	6.0 (0.11)	0.8 (0.08)	15.9 (0.26)	11.1 (0.79)	1.3	1.8 (0.14)	0.3 (0.08)	6.9 (0.68)	1.3 (0.21)
Student possession of weapons	2.8	0.8 (0.06)	0.4 (0.07)	1.5 (0.10)	1.6 (0.24)	0.3	0.3 (0.06)	0.2 (0.07)	0.6 (0.28)	0.2 (0.09)
Verbal abuse of teachers	11.1	—	—	—	—	2.3	—	—	—	—
Student disrespect for teachers	18.5	17.2 (0.34)	14.6 (0.49)	22.0 (0.40)	20.9 (1.10)	3.4	3.8 (0.31)	2.2 (0.30)	5.4 (0.74)	5.3 (0.56)
Students dropping out	5.8	4.6 (0.11)	0.8 (0.09)	11.5 (0.28)	9.2 (0.72)	0.6	0.5 (0.10)	0.2 (0.07)	1.2 (0.47)	0.5 (0.18)
Student apathy	23.6	20.6 (0.30)	13.8 (0.43)	33.5 (0.43)	29.4 (1.02)	4.5	4.3 (0.29)	1.9 (0.25)	9.3 (0.79)	5.3 (0.55)
Lack of academic challenge	6.5	—	—	—	—	1.5	—	—	—	—
Lack of parental involvement	27.6	23.7 (0.36)	21.1 (0.56)	28.3 (0.46)	31.1 (0.80)	4.0	3.4 (0.30)	1.9 (0.26)	5.3 (0.79)	4.5 (0.56)
Parental alcoholism/drug abuse	13.1	—	—	—	—	2.6	—	—	—	—
Poverty	19.5	19.2 (0.43)	20.4 (0.61)	16.5 (0.39)	25.6 (1.02)	2.7	2.1 (0.21)	1.7 (0.26)	3.2 (0.62)	2.1 (0.37)
Racial tension	5.1	—	—	—	—	0.9	—	—	—	—
Students come unprepared to learn	28.8	29.5 (0.36)	26.6 (0.54)	34.9 (0.43)	35.8 (1.05)	4.1	4.9 (0.36)	2.7 (0.29)	10.2 (0.96)	5.5 (0.65)

—Not available.

NOTE: Standard errors appear in parentheses.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS), "Public Teacher Questionnaire," 1993–94 and 1999–2000. "Private Teacher Questionnaire," 1993–94 and 1999–2000, and "Charter Teacher Questionnaire," 1999–2000." (This table was prepared July 2002.)