

Experiences of bullying and discrimination: Evidence from the Born in Bradford Age of Wonder Study 2023 - 24

Overview

The Born in Bradford Age of Wonder study is one of the largest, most comprehensive longitudinal research studies with teenagers in the UK. This executive summary presents findings on teenagers' experiences of bullying. The research is based on data collected across the 2023/2024 academic year.

Methodology Note

Quantitative component:

We surveyed pupils in academic years 8-10 (ages 12-15) across 25 secondary schools in Bradford. Schools provided demographic data; participants completed self-report questionnaires using validated measures.

Qualitative component:

Semi-structured interviews and group discussions with 106 adolescents, recruited through community organisations and social media.

Data were analysed thematically.

Sample characteristics

61% living in the most deprived quintile of neighbourhoods nationally

Pakistani British **40%**

White British **35%**

Other **25%**

Significance of Research

Bullying is a key early risk factor for mental health issues — preventing it could ease future pressure on services.

Existing intervention evidence is limited for diverse UK communities; **this cohort offers data infrastructure** for further research on this topic.

Findings show a need to **strengthen schools' responsiveness** to bullying, adopting nuanced, community-informed approaches.

Key Findings

Bullying

In-person bullying

Overall

29%



Girls

32%



Boys

26%

1/3



Bullying rates are one-third lower in Pakistani British than in White British adolescents

Online bullying

Overall

14%



Boys

=



Girls

= 14%

Young people report bullying but see limited school action:



I have moved schools twice because of bullying.

12-year-old White British girl



Bullied for, since I can remember. Nothing's ever done about it.

14-year-old White British boy

Discrimination:

27%

Called insulting names

16%

Others acted as though you were not intelligent

12%

Excluded from activities by peers

11%

Been threatened

11%

Others acted as though they were afraid of you

10%

Others expected less of you than others your age

8%

Received poor service in a shop/ restaurant

7%

Discouraged from joining a club

7%

Others assumed your English was poor

6%

Hassled by staff in a shop

4%

Hassled by police



Discrimination rates are higher among minority ethnic groups outside largest established communities (neither White British nor Pakistani British)