



Bullying: An Exploration of Faculty Experiences and Perceptions

By April Falzone, Janet Ross and Laneya Winney

Introduction...why bullying?

- **National attention over the past decade**
- **Increasing number of incidences reported**
- **Extreme violent acts**



Bullying...what is it?

- Bullying is an act that is done on purpose.
- Bullies use their power (physical size, age, social status, computer skills, etc.) to threaten, harass, or hurt others.
- A person is bullied when he or she is exposed, repeatedly and over time, to negative actions on the part of one or more other persons, and he or she has difficulty defending him or herself.
- Bullying can happen to one person or a group of people. Bullying is often displayed in four basic ways: physical, verbal, indirect, and cyber bullying.
- Bullies can have a wide-ranging impact on the students they bully, students who observe bullying, and the overall climate of the school and community.
- Students who are bullied often experience long term effects such as: depression, low self-esteem, health problems, poor grades, and suicidal thoughts.

Prevalence

- Bullying may vary greatly between schools and school districts, however it remains prevalent.
- Students from all ages and grade levels are often exposed to the ripple-effect bullying can create.
- The most common forms of bullying victimization are verbal teasing and intimidation being estimated to affect 15% to 20% of the U.S. population.
- Another study reported that 88% of students were witnesses of other students being bullied.
- Recently there has been increased interest in social networking through the internet use, such as Facebook or MySpace and texting resulting in another opportunity for harassing and bullying to occur.

Purpose of Research Study

- **Descriptive Study**
- The purpose of this research was to explore how the teachers, staff, para professionals, counselors, and social workers of Carey Jr. high perceive the current anti-bullying program that has been implemented.
- Explore differences in opinions and or perceptions about bullying based on experience with students who have been bullied or with implementing the anti-bullying program.
- Information provided in the on-line survey gave us a contextual understanding of how the anti-bullying program is perceived.

Study Design

- **Population sample: Staff @ Carey JHS**



CJHS Stats

Student body = 1036

Administrators = 4

Certified teaching staff = 83

- **We chose an online survey for ease of access**
- **Yes/No, open ended & Likert scale**



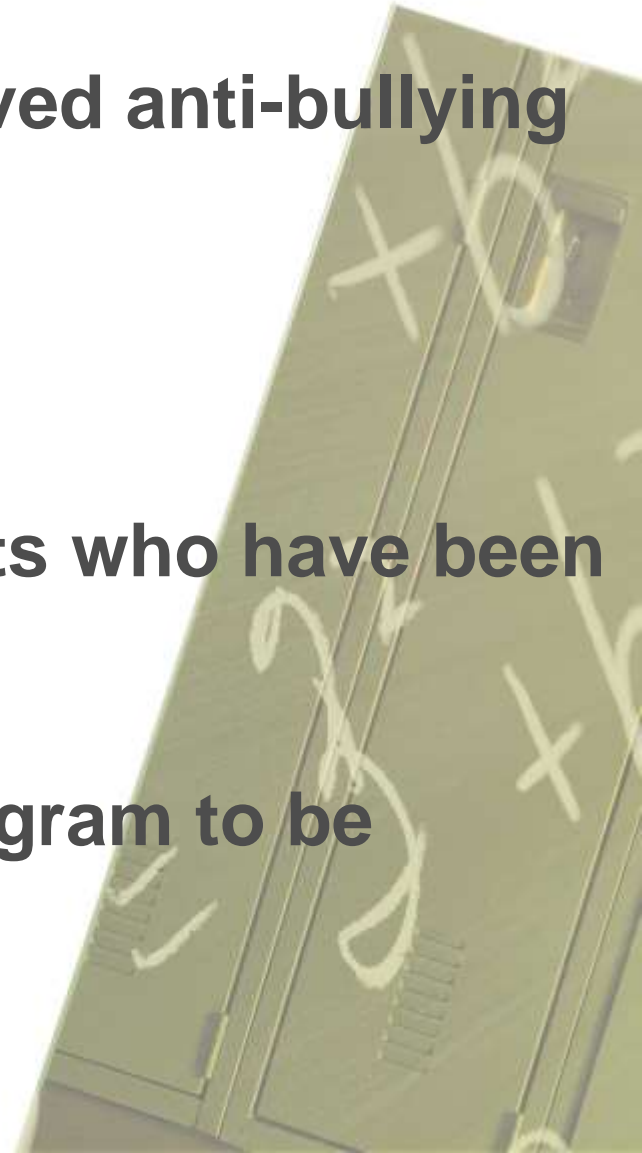
Participant Data

- **A CJHS staff member sent out the survey invitation email**

- **17 staff members took the survey**
16 female, 1 male (reflective of staff demographics)

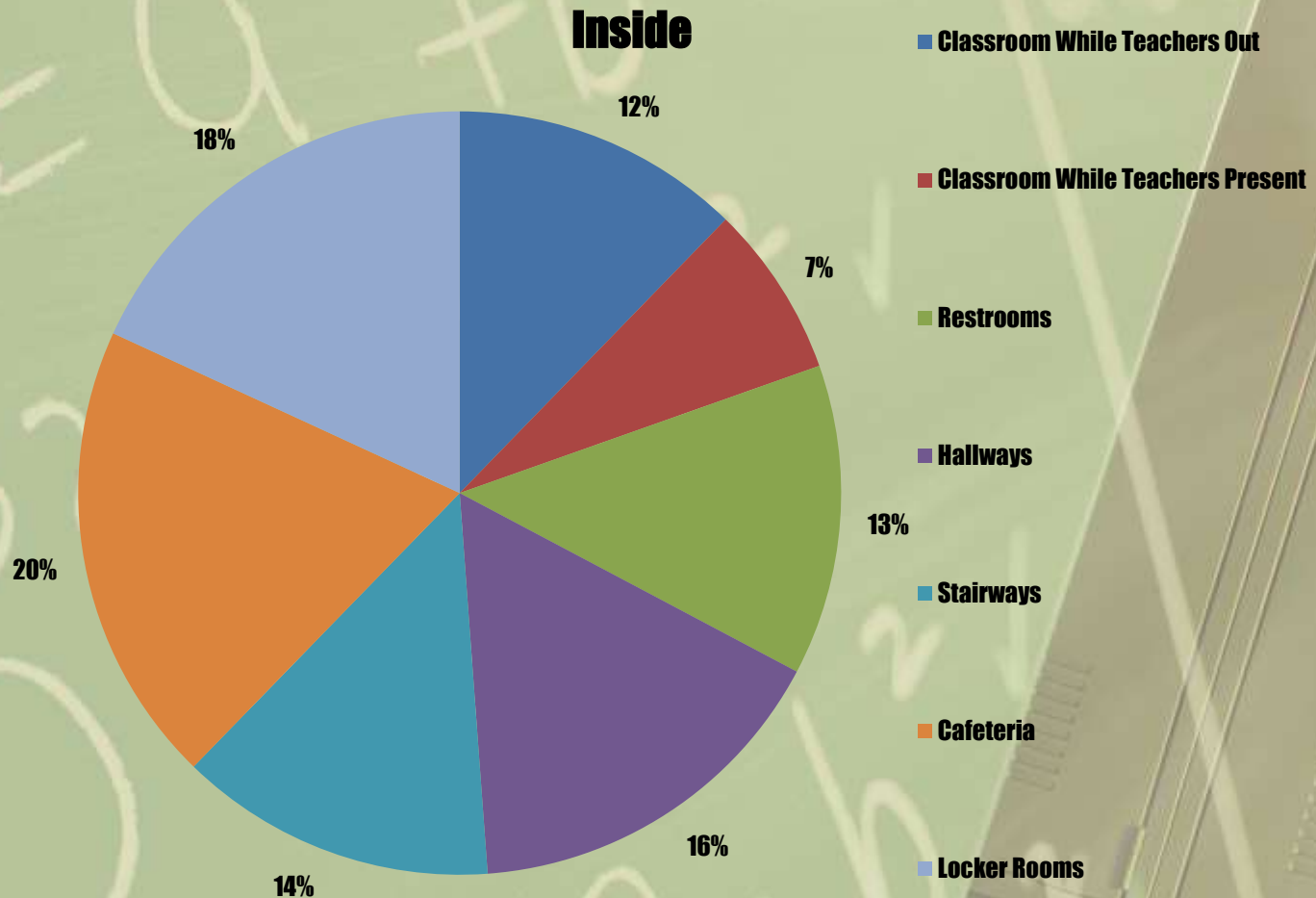
Results

- Majority of participants have received anti-bullying training since working in schools
- Half would like additional training
- Majority have worked with students who have been bullied
- **83%** do not believe the current program to be effective



Results Cont.

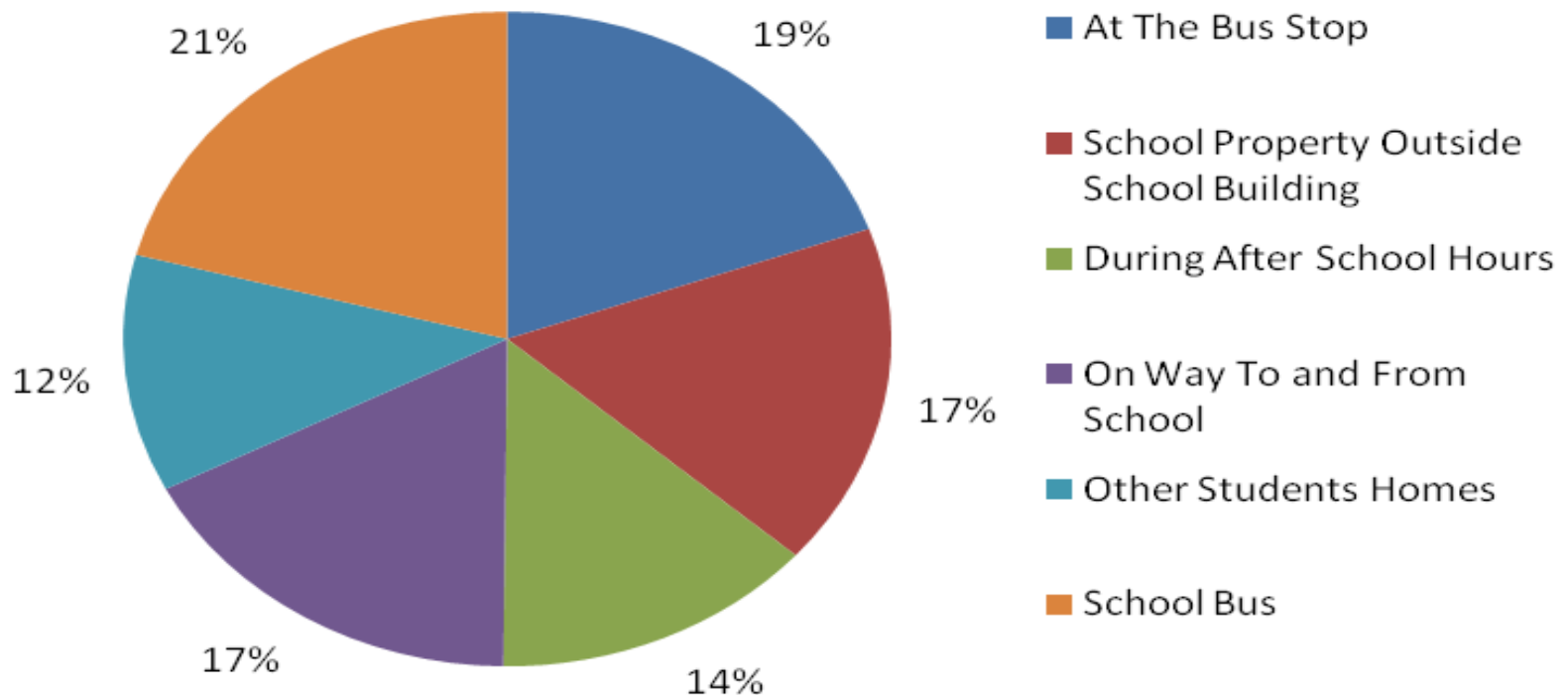
A lot of bullying is happening inside the school



Results Cont.

And a lot of bullying is happening outside the school as well.

Outside



Discussion

"Safety and security don't just happen, they are the result of collective consensus and public investment. We owe our children, the most vulnerable citizens in our society, a life free of violence and fear."

-Nelson Mandela



References

Whitted, K. & Dupper, D. (2005). Best practices for preventing or reducing bullying in schools. *Children & Schools*, (27)3, 167-175