

Table 73.—Teachers' perceptions about serious problems in their schools, by type and control 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 | Secondary schools | Combined schools |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| Student tardiness | 10.5 | 10.2 (0.2) | 6.5 (0.3) | 17.4 (0.4) | 8.4 (0.5) | 2.6 | 2.9 (0.2) | 2.0 (0.2) | 4.7 (0.6) | 3.2 (0.4) |
| Student absenteeism | 14.4 | 13.9 (0.3) | 7.9 (0.4) | 25.3 (0.4) | 15.8 (0.9) | 2.2 | 2.5 (0.2) | 0.8 (0.1) | 5.8 (0.7) | 3.3 (0.5) |
| Teacher absenteeism | 1.5 | 2.2 (0.1) | 1.8 (0.2) | 3.1 (0.2) | 2.4 (0.2) | 0.8 | 0.8 (0.1) | 0.4 (0.1) | 1.1 (0.2) | 1.1 (0.3) |
| Students cutting class | 5.1 | 4.7 (0.1) | 0.9 (0.1) | 12.3 (0.3) | 5.2 (0.4) | 0.7 | 0.8 (0.1) | 0.4 (0.1) | 1.9 (0.5) | 0.9 (0.2) |
| Physical conflicts among students | 8.2 | 4.8 (0.2) | 5.2 (0.3) | 3.8 (0.2) | 6.3 (0.7) | 1.5 | 1.0 (0.2) | 0.6 (0.1) | 1.2 (0.4) | 1.5 (0.4) |
| Robbery or theft | 4.1 | 2.4 (0.1) | 1.9 (0.2) | 3.3 (0.2) | 2.9 (0.3) | 0.8 | 0.9 (0.1) | 0.5 (0.1) | 2.0 (0.4) | 0.8 (0.2) |
| Vandalism of school property | 6.7 | 3.4 (0.2) | 2.7 (0.2) | 4.8 (0.2) | 4.2 (0.5) | 1.2 | 0.7 (0.1) | 0.7 (0.2) | 0.9 (0.2) | 0.6 (0.2) |
| Student pregnancy | 7.3 | 3.7 (0.1) | 0.4 (0.1) | 9.9 (0.3) | 6.5 (0.5) | 0.4 | 0.4 (0.1) | 0.2 (0.1) | 1.3 (0.5) | 0.2 (0.1) |
| Student use of alcohol | 9.3 | 7.4 (0.1) | 0.8 (0.1) | 19.9 (0.3) | 12.9 (0.8) | 3.1 | 3.1 (0.2) | 0.3 (0.1) | 12.3 (0.7) | 2.4 (0.3) |
| Student drug abuse | 5.7 | 6.0 (0.1) | 0.8 (0.1) | 15.9 (0.3) | 11.1 (0.8) | 1.3 | 1.8 (0.1) | 0.3 (0.1) | 6.9 (0.7) | 1.3 (0.2) |
| Student possession of weapons | 2.8 | 0.8 (0.1) | 0.4 (0.1) | 1.5 (0.1) | 1.6 (0.2) | 0.3 | 0.3 (0.1) | 0.2 (0.1) | 0.6 (0.3) | 0.2 (0.1) |
| Verbal abuse of teachers | 11.1 | — | — | — | — | 2.3 | — | — | — | — |
| Student disrespect for teachers | 18.5 | 17.2 (0.3) | 14.6 (0.5) | 22.0 (0.4) | 20.9 (1.1) | 3.4 | 3.8 (0.3) | 2.2 (0.3) | 5.4 (0.7) | 5.3 (0.6) |
| Students dropping out | 5.8 | 4.6 (0.1) | 0.8 (0.1) | 11.5 (0.3) | 9.2 (0.7) | 0.6 | 0.5 (0.1) | 0.2 (0.1) | 1.2 (0.5) | 0.5 (0.2) |
| Student apathy | 23.6 | 20.6 (0.3) | 13.8 (0.4) | 33.5 (0.4) | 29.4 (1.0) | 4.5 | 4.3 (0.3) | 1.9 (0.3) | 9.3 (0.8) | 5.3 (0.6) |
| Lack of academic challenge | 6.5 | — | — | — | — | 1.5 | — | — | — | — |
| Lack of parental involvement | 27.6 | 23.7 (0.4) | 21.1 (0.6) | 28.3 (0.5) | 31.1 (0.8) | 4.0 | 3.4 (0.3) | 1.9 (0.3) | 5.3 (0.8) | 4.5 (0.6) |
| Parental alcoholism/drug abuse | 13.1 | — | — | — | — | 2.6 | — | — | — | — |
| Poverty | 19.5 | 19.2 (0.4) | 20.4 (0.6) | 16.5 (0.4) | 25.6 (1.0) | 2.7 | 2.1 (0.2) | 1.7 (0.3) | 3.2 (0.6) | 2.1 (0.4) |
| Racial tension | 5.1 | — | — | — | — | 0.9 | — | — | — | — |
| Students come unprepared to learn | 28.8 | 29.5 (0.4) | 26.6 (0.5) | 34.9 (0.4) | 35.8 (1.1) | 4.1 | 4.9 (0.4) | 2.7 (0.3) | 10.2 (1.0) | 5.5 (0.7) |

—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.)