

# **Who feels bullied most? Differences and similarities between adolescents with congenital or acquired facial difference**

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- **QoL is a multidimensional construct**
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- **“Social relationships are widely acknowledged to be a critical determinant of quality of life.” (Rapley 2003)**
  - **Teasing and bullying can have significant social, emotional and behavioural consequences.**
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- **Appearance-related teasing and bullying are an issue for all teenagers who are sensitive about their appearance.**
    - **69% 10 yr olds; 58% 15 yr olds with craniofacial difference. (Emerson & Rumsey 2003)**
    - **51% of mainstream 11-17 yr olds; 75% of 11-13 yr olds. (Lovegrove 2002)**
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# Boys' body worries

## exposed!

It's not just us girls who worry about our bodies. Boys get the bod blues too. Turn over to find out what bugs these boys about their bits...



# Participants... UK sample

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- 54 adolescents (aged 11-18) with cleft lip (Great Ormond Street Hospital, London and Frenchay Hospital, Bristol)
  - 20 adolescents with moderate to severe acne (Bristol Royal Infirmary)
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# **In the last 30 days, how often have you...**

- Been bullied?
- Heard other people say something about how your face looks?
- Been teased about how your face looks?
- Got into a fight with anyone because of how your face looks?

# Bullying clearly defined for participants

- **A student is being bullied when another student, or group of students, say or do nasty or unpleasant things to him or her. It is also bullying when a student is teased repeatedly in a way he or she doesn't like. It is NOT bullying when two students of about the same strength quarrel or fight.**

# Have you been bullied in the last 30 days?

- 64%... I have not been bullied
- 11%... Bullied once
- 14%... 2-3 times
- 4%... Once a week
- 7%... Several times a week

Conclusion...36% reported one or more incidences of bullying (increased risk of adverse social, emotional or behavioural difficulties)

# Do adolescent and parental views concur on frequency of bullying?

- Correlation between mothers and adolescents 0.79 (strong relationship)
- Correlation between fathers and adolescents... 0.69 (also strong)

**Conclusion - adolescent concerns about frequency of bullying recognised**

# How often did you get into a fight with anyone because of how your face looks?

- 84%... Never
- 11%... Almost never
- 5%... Sometimes

OVERALL... 16% of teenagers got into fights with varying frequency

# Do adolescent and parental views concur on outright fights about facial difference?

- Correlation between mothers and adolescents.. 0.49 (moderate agreement)
- Correlation between fathers and adolescents... 0.15 (virtually no agreement)

**Conclusion... The detail of adolescent concerns not recognised by parents?**

# Have you heard other people say something about how your face looks?

- 43%... Never
- 23%... Almost never
- 30% ... Sometimes
- 4%... Once a week...

**OVERALL... 57% experienced  
unwelcome comments by others**

# Do adolescent and parental views concur on negative comments?

- Correlation between mothers and adolescents... 0.29 (low correlation)
- Correlation between fathers and adolescents... 0.07 (not correlated)

**Conclusion... parents may not recognise this possible source of social distress**

# How often were you teased about how your face looks?

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- 63%... Never
- 22%... Almost never
- 10%... Sometimes
- 5%... Fairly often

**OVERALL... 37% experienced some teasing**

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# Do adolescent and parental views concur on frequency of teasing about face?

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- Correlation between mothers and adolescents... 0.50 (moderate correlation)
- Correlation between fathers and adolescents... 0.37 (low correlation)

Conclusion... 'Teasing' may not be discussed so openly with parents

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# Differences and similarities between youth with congenital or acquired conditions...

## Have you been bullied?

- Congenital sample: 17 out of 54 say Yes (31%)
- Acquired sample: 1 out of 20 say Yes (5%)

Conclusions... Those with congenital conditions report more frequent bullying

# Differences and similarities between parents with congenital or acquired conditions...

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Telephone conversations before the questionnaires:

- Parents of adolescents with cleft lip
- Parents of adolescents with acne

Conclusions... Two very different responses to consent to participate

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# Qualitative Data from Youth with Acquired conditions...

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Telephone conversations *after* the questionnaires with 20 acne patients...

- *“Has acne made your life more difficult in any way?”*
- 85% reported bullying/teasing
- *“I’ve had a lot of abuse about my spots”*

**Conclusion... Using a time reference with bullying may not provide an adequate picture for youth with acne**

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# Quantitative and qualitative data...

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- Quantitative data

- Can be completed with less time input from researcher/HCP
- Provides group data

- Qualitative data

- Time consuming to transcribe & analyse
  - Provides individualized data
  - Can be used to inform quantitative data
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# Overall conclusions from quantitative data...

- 36% reported bullying in last month
- Bullying reported more frequently by those with congenital difference
- 37% teased
- 16% got into fights
- 57% experienced unwelcome comments
- Concordance between parental and adolescent reports variable

# Issues:

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- **Great demand for standardised measures of adjustment and well being**
  - **Careful thought re capturing individual experiences**
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- **Quantitative measures should not be used instead of face to face assessment in clinical settings**
  - **Ideally, a combination of standardised measures and qualitative data should be used**
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Thank you