Student Bullying and Perceptions of Power Imbalance

Students who are bullied usually perceive those who bully them as being more powerful in some way.

The Scope
20 percent of students ages 12-18 reported being bullied at school during the school year in 2017.

Common Types of Power Imbalance in Bullying
Peer influence is the most reported type of perceived power imbalance. Over half of students bullied reported those who bullied them had the ability to influence what other students thought of them.

Type of power imbalance reported among students being bullied at school:
- Peer Influence: 56%
- Popularity: 50%
- Physical Power: 40%
- Money: 31%

Peer Influence and School Type
Percentage of students bullied who reported that those who bullied them had peer influence, or the ability to influence what other students thought about them:
- Private School Students: 72%
- Public School Students: 55%

Physical Power and Geography
Percentage of students bullied who reported that those who bullied them had more physical power:
- Urban Areas: 46%
- Suburban Areas: 38%

Money and Race
Percentage of students bullied who reported that those who bullied them had more money:
- White Students: 34%
- Black Students: 24%