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Principal violence alarming

**BY JOSEPHINE TOVEY
AND BENJAMIN PREISS**

AUSTRALIAN school principals experience physical violence at more than six times the rate of the general population, according to a new study.

The latest Principal Health and Wellbeing Survey by Monash University, released yesterday, found alarmingly high levels of violence and intimidation reported towards principals.

Many principals contacted by Fairfax Media said the findings came as little surprise.

The national survey of more than 2000 principals found 38 per cent received a threat of violence in the preceding year, compared with 8 per cent of the general population. Twenty-seven per cent reported experiencing actual physical violence, compared with just 4 per cent of the general population.

Parents were more likely to be the perpetrator of threats of violence but students were just as likely to be the perpetrator of actual violence.