

Results of the 2010 Student Substance Use and Safety Survey

HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL REPORT

Description of Survey

The federal Title IV Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities grant requires annual needs assessment and evaluation of substance use and safety issues. Consequently, each year a self-report student survey of substance use and school safety is administered to a random, representative sample of AISD students. The survey is used to track student knowledge, attitudes, and self-reported behavior over time. In the Spring of 2010 a sample of 8,162 students in grades 6-12 submitted valid responses to the district's annual survey of substance use and safety issues, yielding a response rate of 70%.¹ Selected item results are attached. These results should be shared with the campus Positive Behavior Support (PBS) team, Campus Advisory Council, and others involved in campus safety planning efforts for your school.

How should sample data be interpreted?

When it is not feasible to survey an entire population, samples are used instead. However, when a sample is used to make inferences about a population the results must be interpreted with caution. For example, although 87% of a sample may select a particular survey response, this does not necessarily mean 87% of the entire population feels the same way. To interpret the sample data cautiously, we have used the following information to construct an interval that describes the range within which the result for the AISD High School and Middle School population is likely to fall:

- Population size: In this case, the number of students in AISD High Schools and Middle Schools.
- Sample size: In this case, the number of survey respondents from AISD High Schools and Middle Schools.
- Desired level of confidence: In this case, 95%.

The 95% confidence interval is commonly used, indicating that you can be 95% confident that the true population result will fall within the constructed interval.

How should confidence intervals be used to interpret Substance Use and Safety Survey data?

Based on the All High School sample of 3,569 students and population enrollment of 19,057, the confidence interval for All High School is + and – 1.5%.

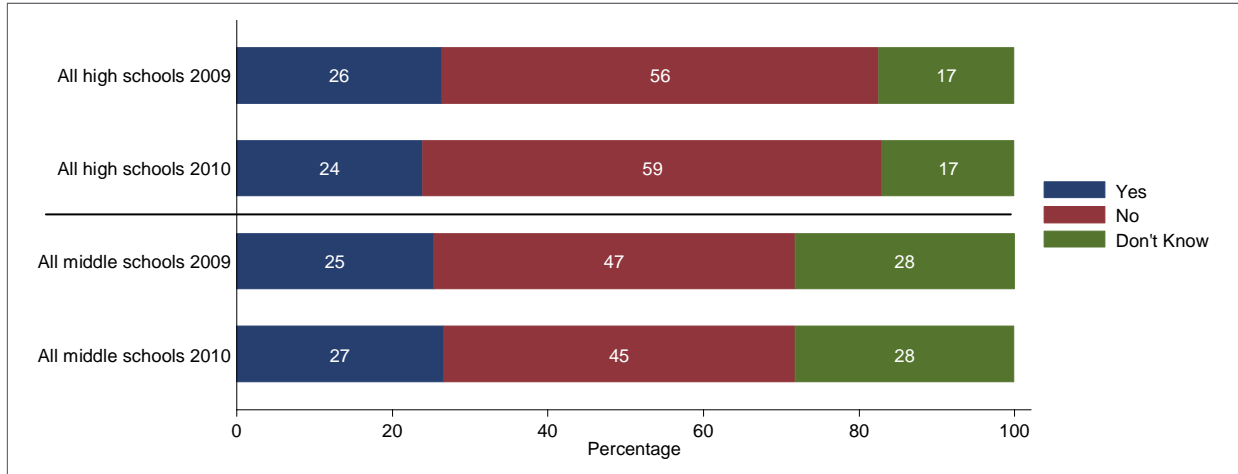
Based on the All Middle School sample of 4,593 students and population enrollment of 15,719, the confidence interval for All Middle School is + and – 1%.

To make inferences about the population using the sample data, the results should be interpreted with the computed confidence interval above (i.e., either 1.5 percentage points or 1 percentage point for High Schools & Middle Schools, respectively) on each side of the sample statistics. For example, 28% of respondents at the middle school level indicated that their friends belonged to gangs (see Q16, p.9). Applying the confidence interval (i.e., adding and subtracting 1%) to the 28% yields a range of 27% - 29%. Therefore, you can be 95% confident that somewhere between 27% - 29% of all students at the middle school level would indicate that their friends belonged to a gang. Apply the same logic to both years to determine if there was a significant change. Continuing with the example above, if the ranges do not overlap you can be 95% certain that a change took place in the population. For example for Middle Schools, the 2010 range is 27% to 29% and the 2009 range is 34% to 36%. Since they do not overlap, you can be 95% confident that fewer students in the AISD middle school population had friends that belonged to a gang in 2010.

¹ A total of 8,521 surveys were returned to the Department of Program Evaluation from an original sample of 11,593 students. Of those returned, 359 surveys were removed from analysis due to invalid responses.

RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS AND ITEMS THAT ADDRESS BOTH SUBSTANCE USE AND SAFETY

Q22: Do one or both of your parents usually attend school sponsored open houses, PTA meetings or other school events?



23: During this school year, have you brought any of the following items to school?

	All high schools 2008-2009	All high schools 2009-2010	Δ^*	All middle schools 2008-2009	All middle schools 2009-2010	Δ^*
Illegal drugs	11%	10%	-1	7%	6%	-1
Knives	8%	8%	0	8%	6%	-2
Tobacco	9%	8%	-1	4%	4%	0
Prescription drugs	7%	6%	-1	5%	5%	0
Alcohol	6%	5%	-1	4%	4%	0
Gun	3%	2%	-1	3%	3%	0
Other weapons	6%	5%	-1	6%	6%	0
None of the above	79%	79%	0	85%	87%	2

Note. Percentages may sum to more than 100% because respondents were allowed to choose multiple items.
 Δ^* represents percentage point change from 2008-2009 to 2009-2010. Negative numbers indicate a decrease in percentage of students bringing those items to school. For high schools, the absolute value of $\Delta \geq 3$ percentage points and for middle schools, the absolute value of $\Delta \geq 2$ percentage points would be significant.

Q26: Of the following, which do you consider to be the most serious problem on your campus?

	All high schools 2008-2009	All high schools 2009-2010	Δ^*	All middle schools 2008-2009	All middle schools 2009-2010	Δ^*
Marijuana use	31%	34%	3	15%	17%	2
Alcohol use	7%	5%	-2	1%	1%	0
Tobacco use	3%	2%	-1	2%	1%	-1
Prescription drug use	4%	3%	-1	4%	5%	1
Student fighting and physical aggression	14%	12%	-2	33%	29%	-4
Student harassment, threats, and intimidation	6%	6%	0	13%	13%	0
Student vandalism, criminal mischief	4%	4%	0	3%	2%	-1
Student weapon possession	4%	3%	-1	6%	5%	-1
Violence or threats toward staff	2%	1%	-1	2%	2%	0
None of these are serious problems on my campus	27%	28%	1	21%	25%	4

* Δ represents percentage point change from 2008-2009 to 2009-2010. Negative numbers indicate a decrease in perceived problems at campuses. For high schools, the absolute value of $\Delta \geq 3$ percentage points and for middle schools, the absolute value of $\Delta \geq 2$ percentage points would be significant.

Q7. During this school year, have you received any information on drugs, alcohol, or violence from any of the following school sources?

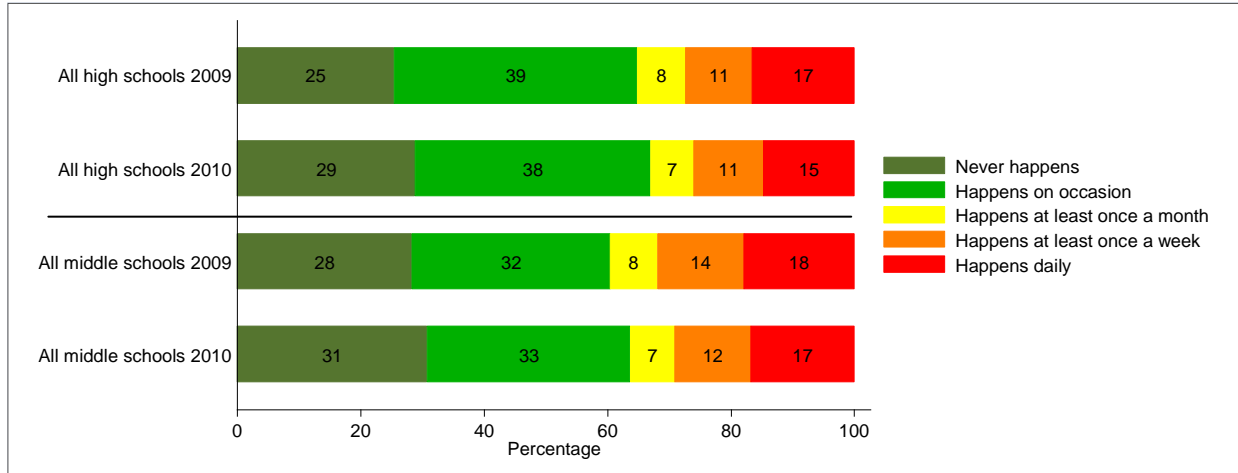
	All high schools 2008-2009	All high schools 2009-2010	Δ^*	All middle schools 2008-2009	All middle schools 2009-2010	Δ^*
Advisory/seminar class	49%	42%	-7	36%	48%	12
Health class	40%	40%	0	36%	36%	0
Science class	29%	27%	-2	57%	50%	-7
Another class	35%	33%	-2	45%	44%	-1
Special school event about tobacco, drugs, alcohol, or violence	30%	26%	-4	38%	33%	-5
Guidance counselor	12%	11%	-1	28%	24%	-4
Student support group meetings at school	13%	11%	-2	15%	13%	-2
Other school source not mentioned above	19%	19%	0	23%	22%	-1
None of the above	18%	22%	4	9%	11%	2

Note. Percentages may sum to more than 100% because respondents were allowed to choose multiple items.

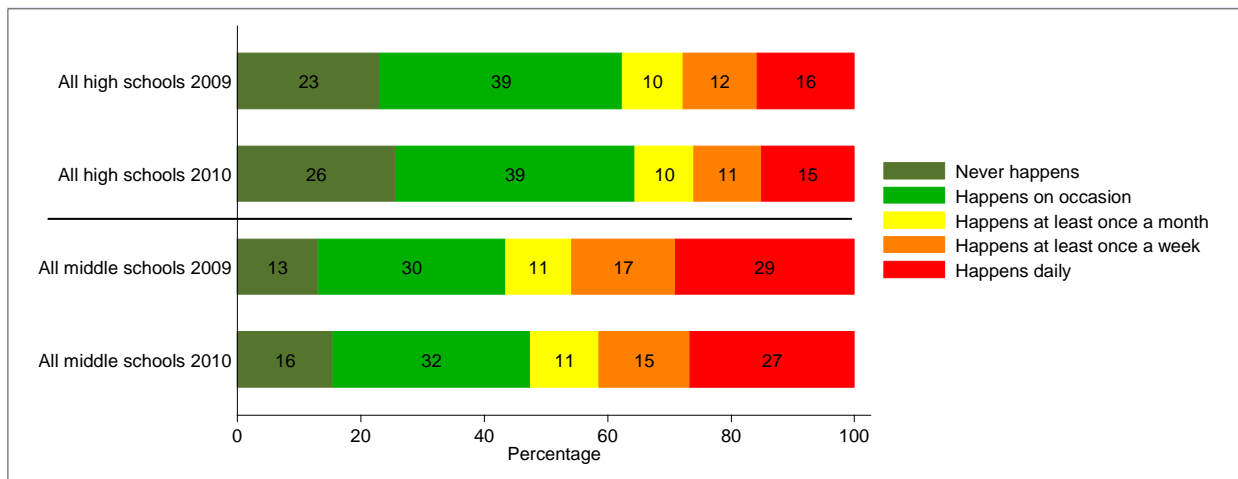
* Δ represents percentage point change from 2008-2009 to 2009-2010. Positive numbers indicates an increase in percentage of students reporting receiving information from that source. For high schools, the absolute value of $\Delta \geq 3$ percentage points and for middle schools, the absolute value of $\Delta \geq 2$ percentage points would be significant.

SCHOOL SAFETY ITEMS

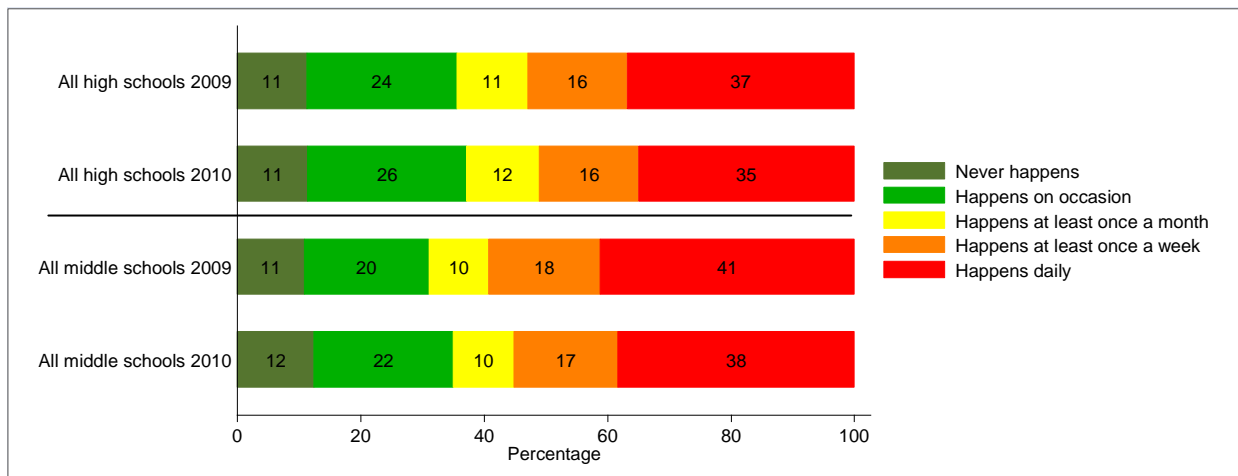
Q15a: How often does racial tension occur at your school?



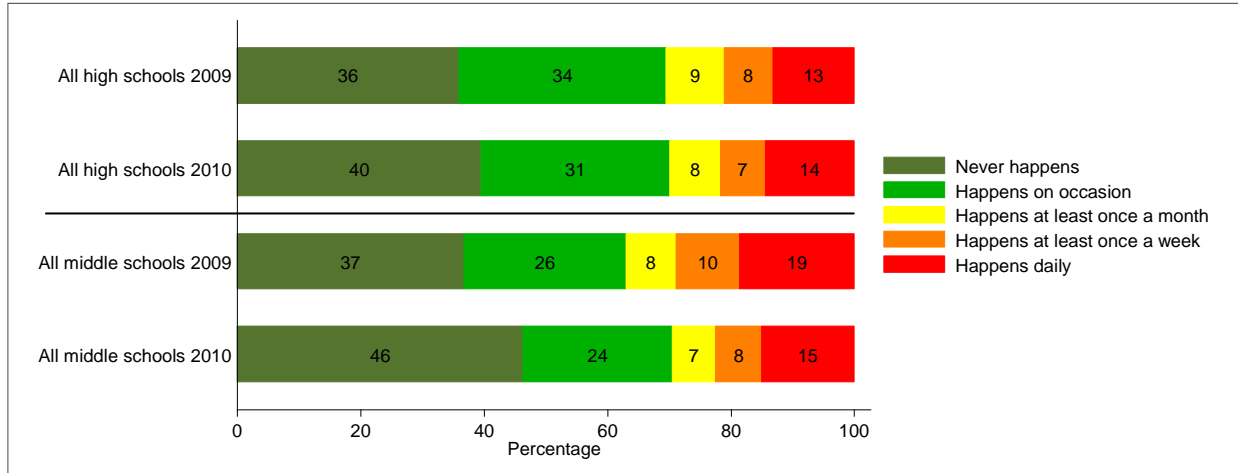
Q15b: How often does student bullying occur at your school?



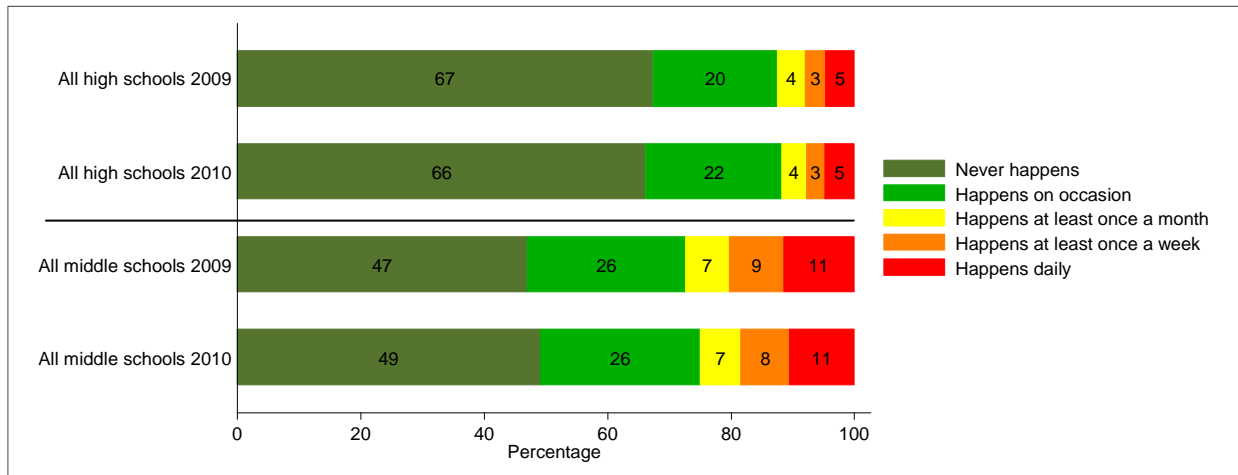
Q15c: How often do acts of disrespect for teachers occur at your school?



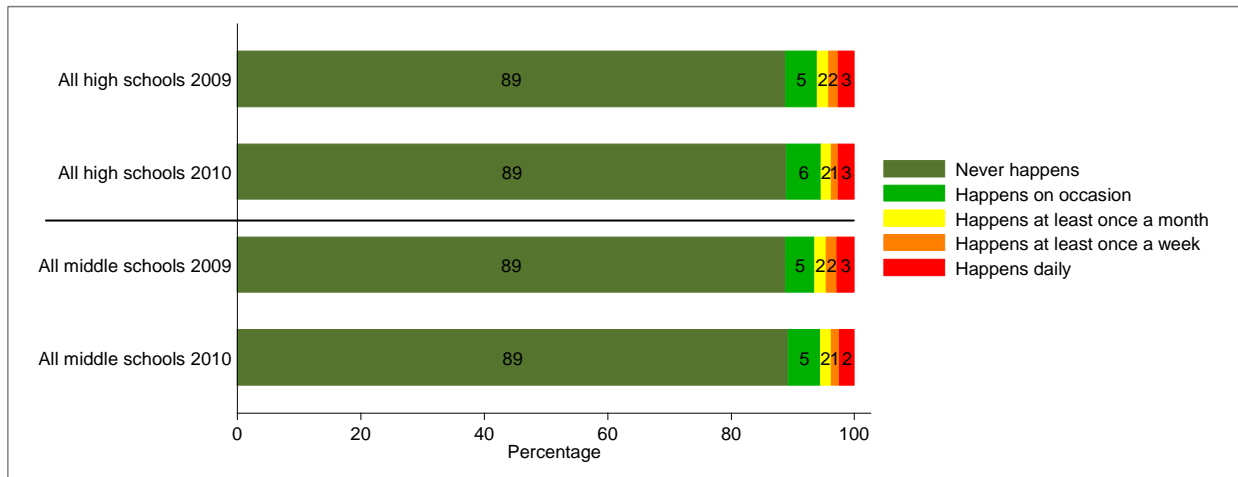
Q15d: How often do gang activities occur at your school?



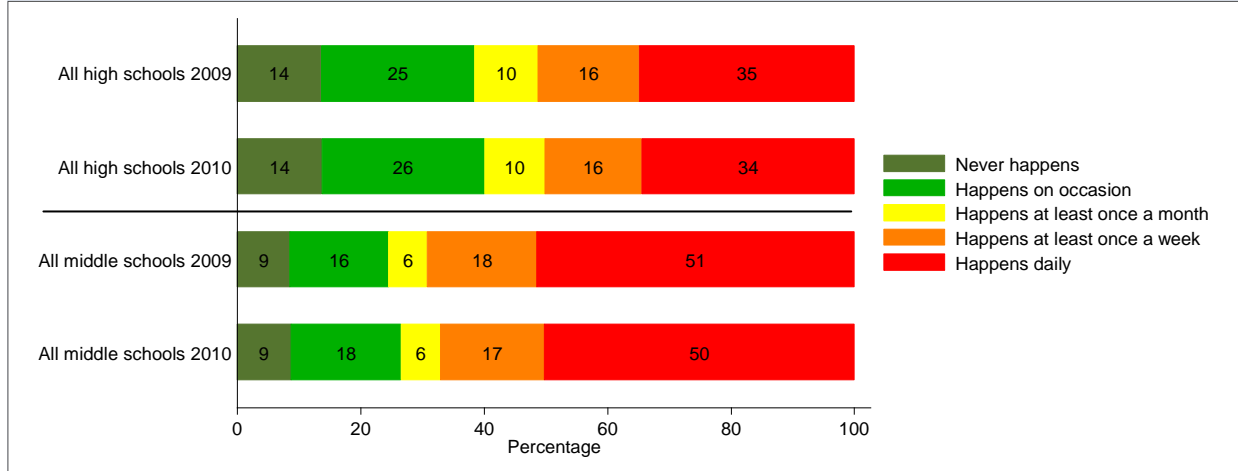
Q15e: How often have you experienced any type of bullying at your school?



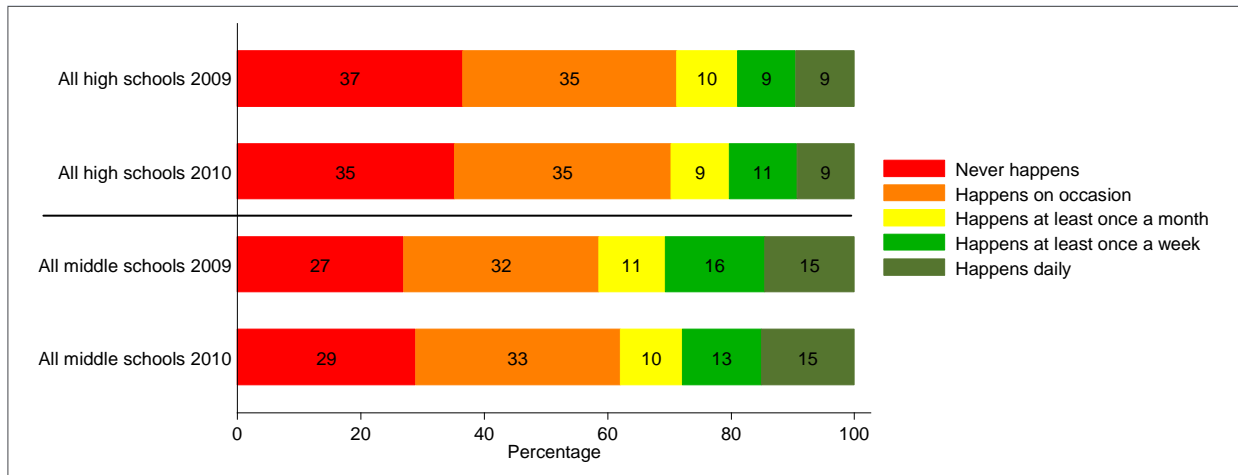
Q15f: How often were you absent because you did not feel safe on the way to/from school?



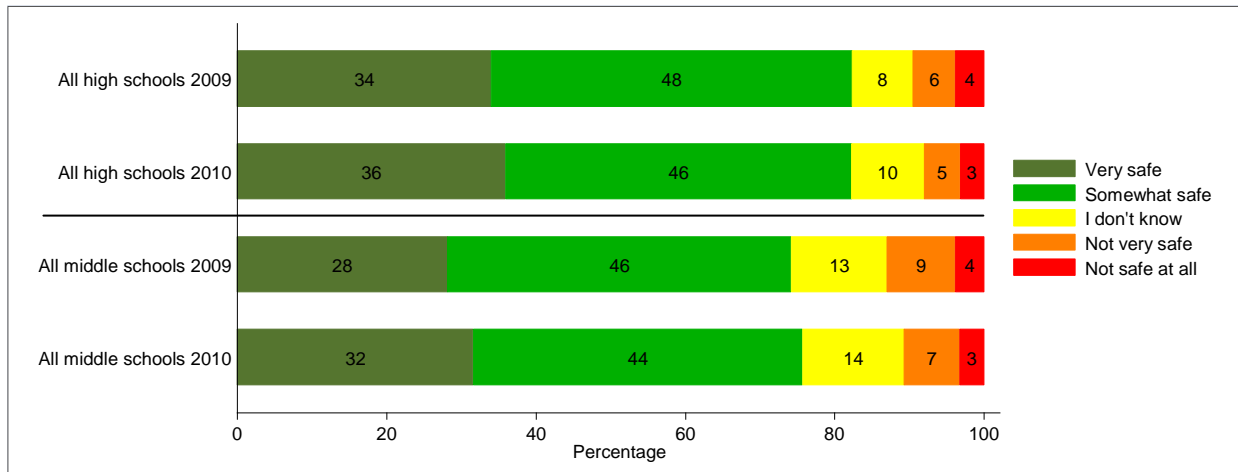
Q15g: How often does your teacher have to interrupt class to deal with student misbehavior?



Q15h: Do teachers or staff give you praise or rewards for good behavior?



Q8: How safe do you feel when you are at school?



Q9: During the last month, did you miss one or more school days due to any of the following reasons?

	All high schools 2008-2009	All high schools 2009-2010	Δ^*	All middle schools 2008-2009	All middle schools 2009-2010	Δ^*
Was sick	59%	59%	0	55%	57%	2
Had to do something with family	35%	37%	2	26%	25%	9
Was too tired	36%	35%	-1	20%	20%	0
Wanted to hang out with friends	21%	21%	0	9%	9%	0
Didn't have a way to get to school	16%	15%	-1	11%	10%	-1
Didn't get along well with teachers	11%	11%	0	9%	9%	0
Didn't feel safe at school	6%	4%	-2	5%	5%	0
Didn't feel safe on the way to/from school	5%	4%	-1	4%	5%	1
Other reason	41%	38%	-3	31%	30%	1
None	18%	19%	-1	26%	26%	0

Note. Percentages may sum to more than 100% because respondents were allowed to choose multiple items.

* Δ represents percentage point change from 2008-2009 to 2009-2010. Negative numbers indicates a decrease in percentage of students missing school for that reason. For high schools, the absolute value of $\Delta \geq 3$ percentage points and for middle schools, the absolute value of $\Delta \geq 2$ percentage points would be significant.

Q11: During this school year, have you experienced any of the following types of bullying at school?

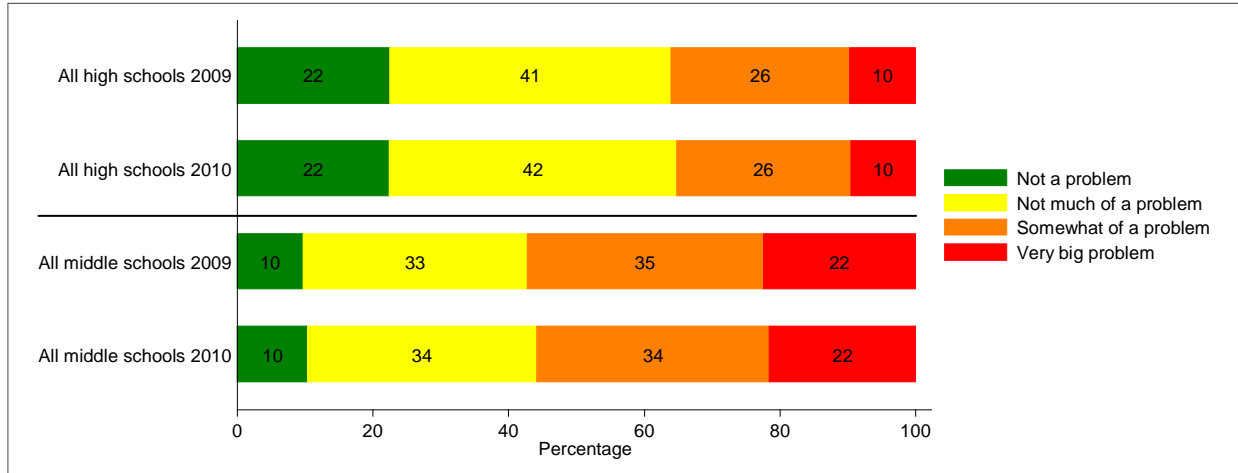
	All high schools 2008-2009	All high schools 2009-2010	Δ^*	All middle schools 2008-2009	All middle schools 2009-2010	Δ^*
Verbal	26%	25%	-1	41%	39%	-2
Social	26%	25%	-1	35%	33%	-2
Physical	12%	12%	0	29%	25%	-4
Racial or ethnic harassment	19%	17%	-2	22%	19%	-3
Sexual harassment	12%	11%	-1	14%	12%	-2
Intimidation	9%	8%	-1	11%	11%	0
Written	6%	5%	-1	11%	9%	-2
Cyber bullying♣	N/A	8%	N/A	N/A	9%	N/A
None	54%	56%	2	37%	40%	3

Note. Percentages may sum to more than 100% because respondents were allowed to choose multiple items.

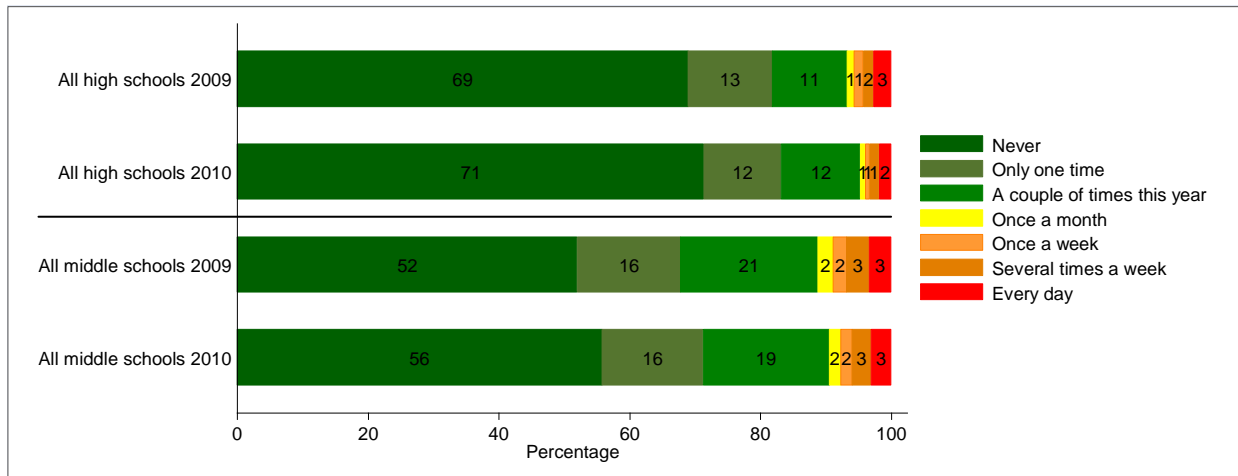
* Δ represents percentage point change from 2008-2009 to 2009-2010. Negative numbers indicates a decrease in the percentage of students experiencing that type of bullying. For high schools, the absolute value of $\Delta \geq 3$ percentage points and for middle schools, the absolute value of $\Delta \geq 2$ percentage points would be significant.

♣ Cyber bullying was not asked in the 2008-2009 survey.

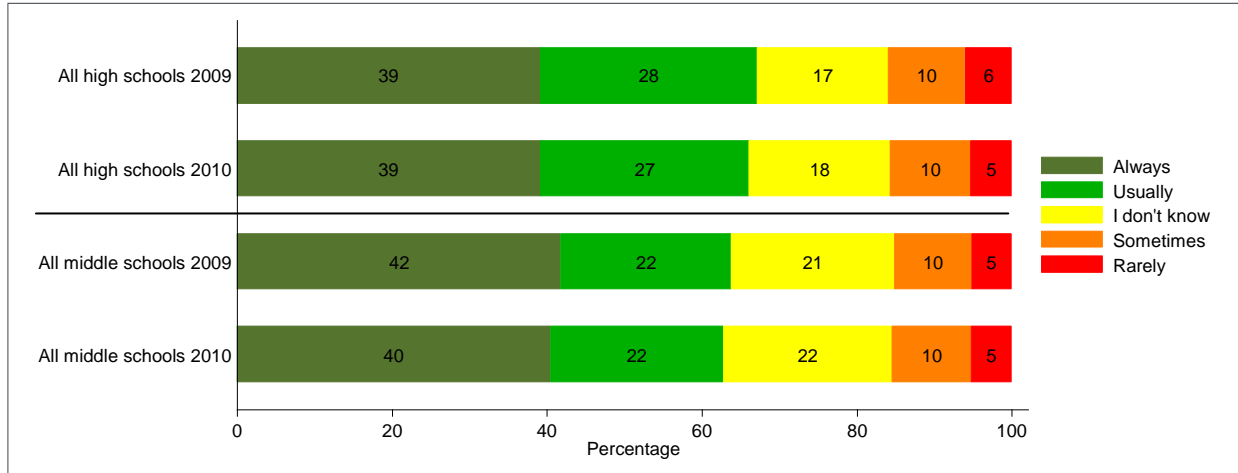
Q12: How big a problem do you think bullying is at your school?



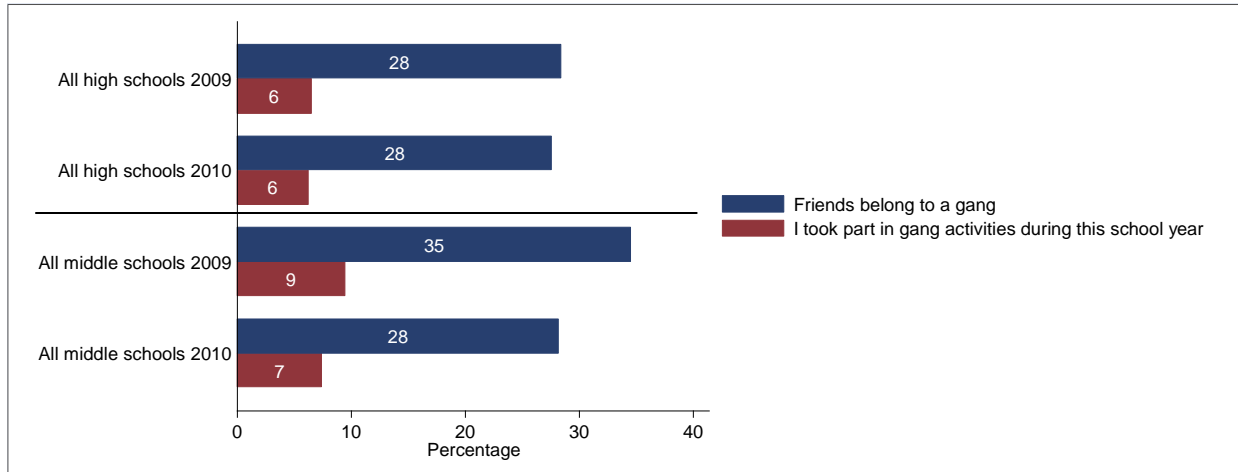
Q10: During this school year, how often have you or your close friends been physically harmed or threatened with physical harm by another student at your school?



Q14: Are school rules about verbal or physical assaults or fighting enforced by school staff?



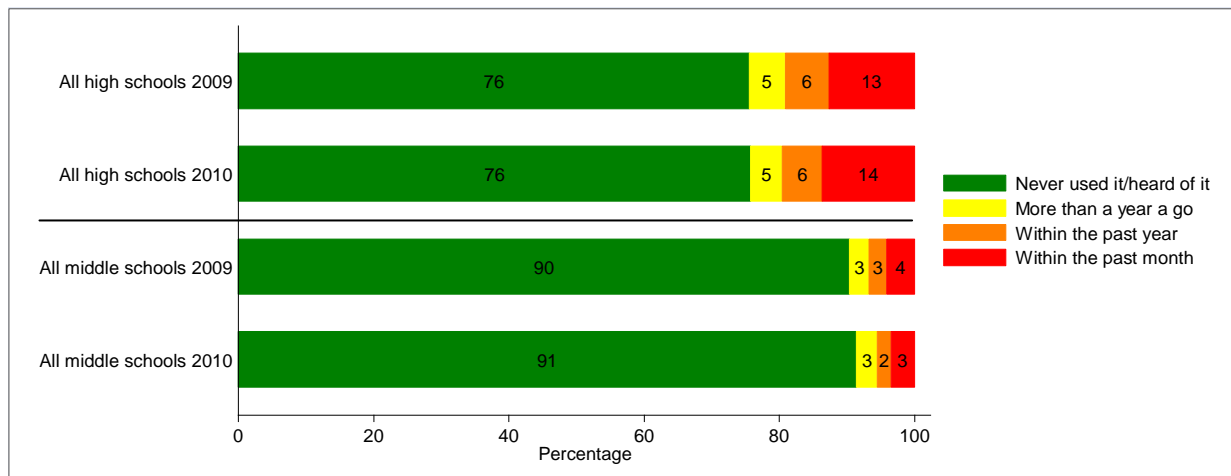
Q16-Q17: Do any of your friends belong to a gang? During this school year, did you take part in any gang activities?



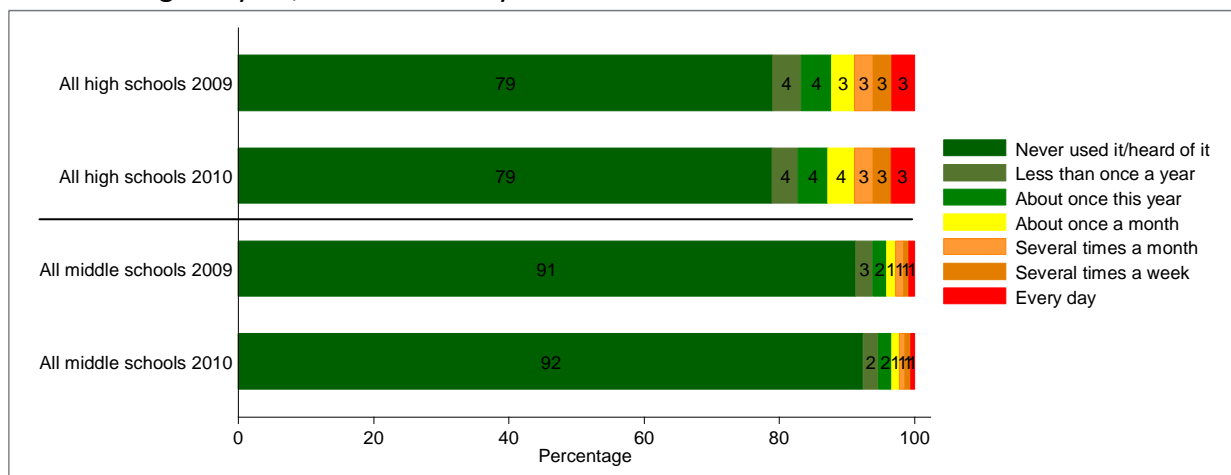
SUBSTANCE USE ITEMS

TOBACCO:

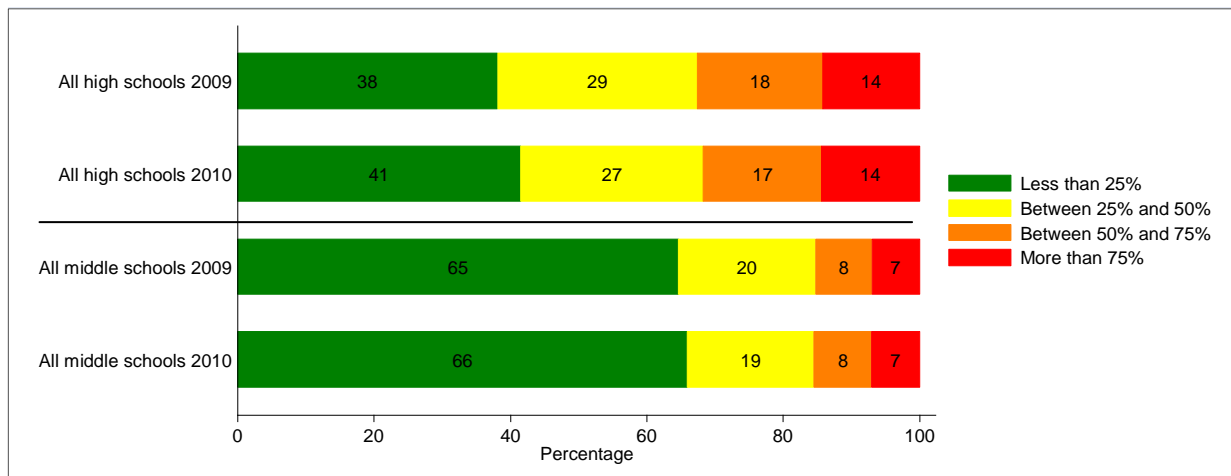
Q18A: What is the most recent you have used Tobacco?



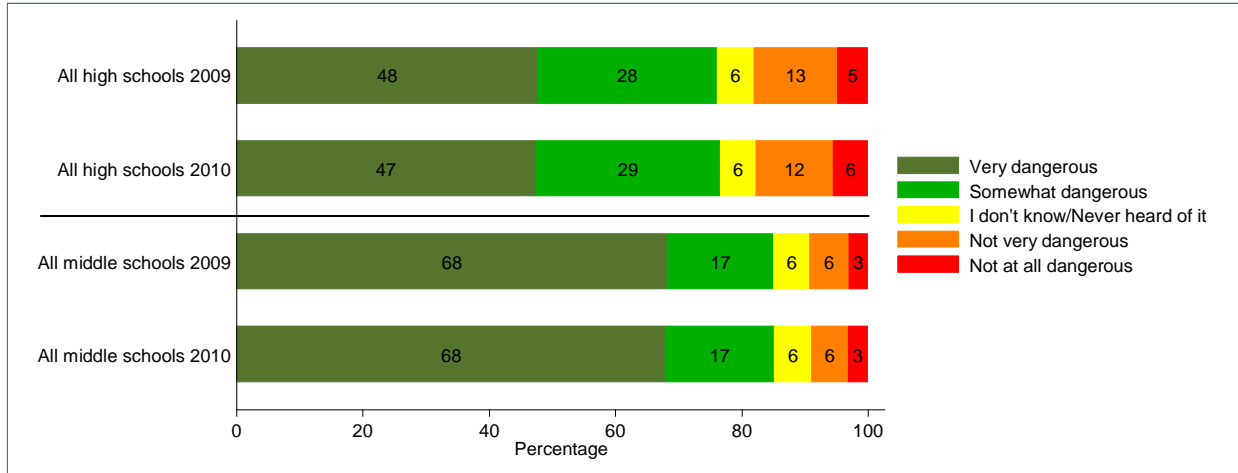
Q21a: During this year, how often did you use Tobacco?



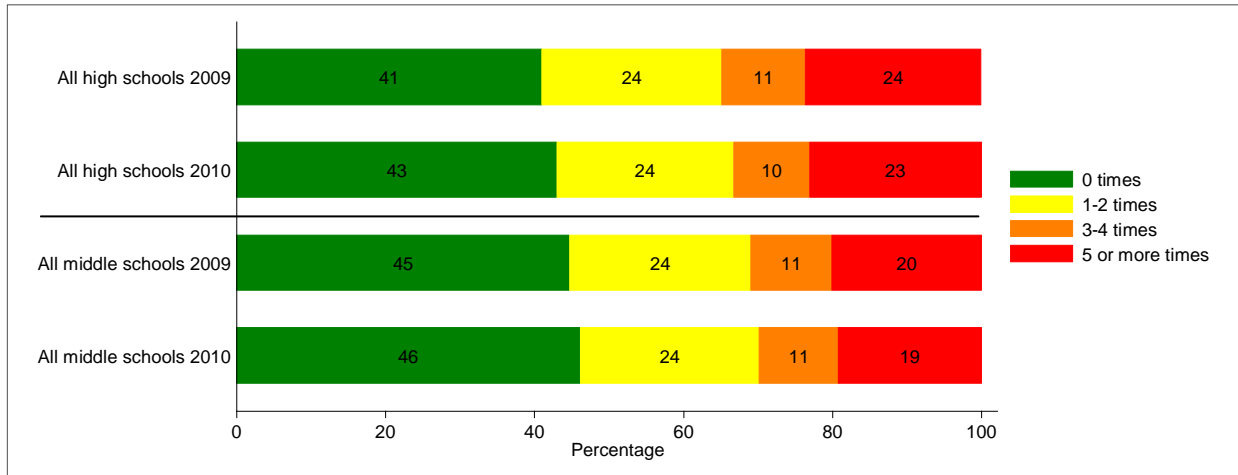
Q29a. Within the past month, how many kids at your school do you think have used tobacco?



Q27a: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use Tobacco?

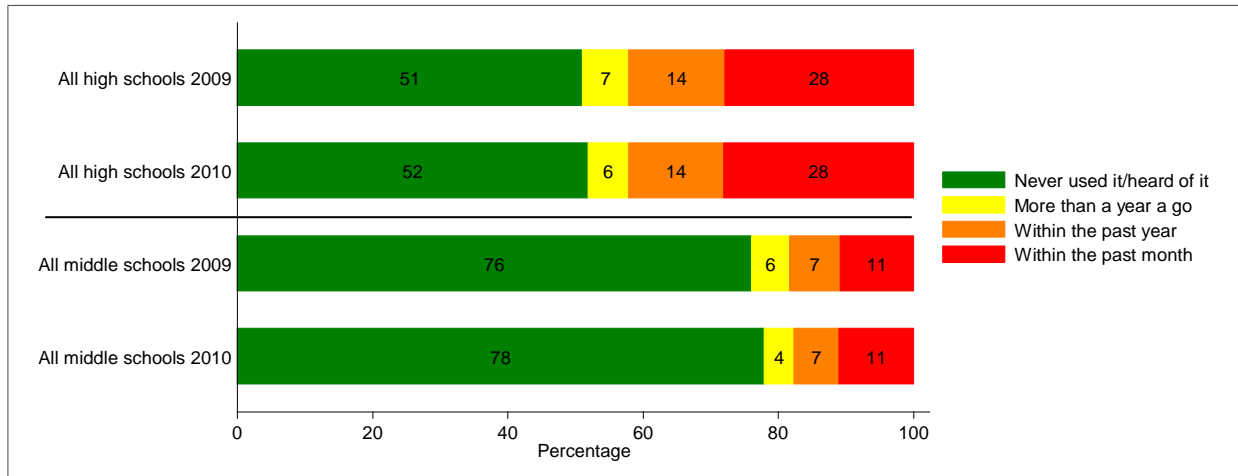


Q28g. During the school year, how many times have you experienced advertisements (TV, radio, billboard, magazine, internet, etc.) for tobacco products?

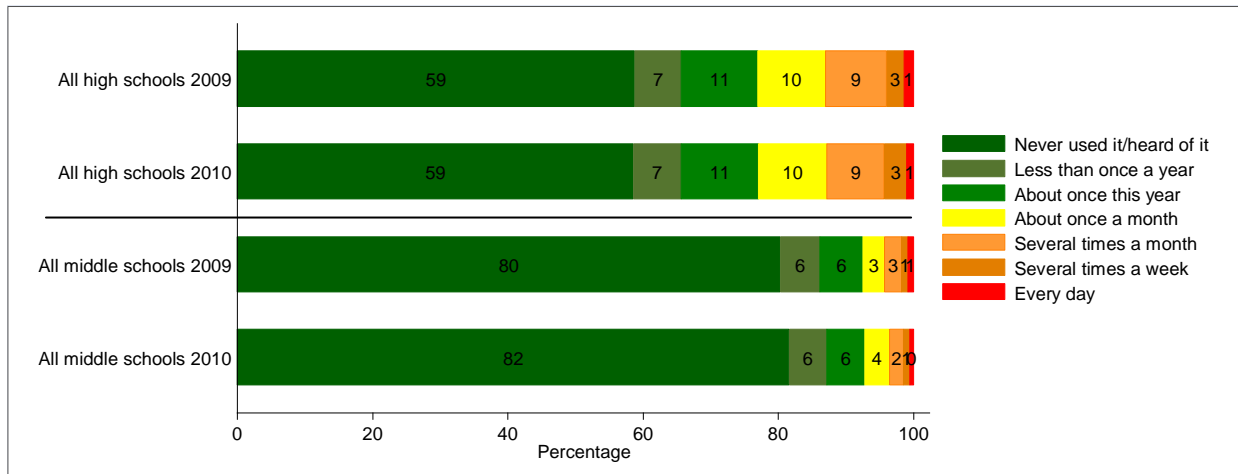


ALCOHOL:

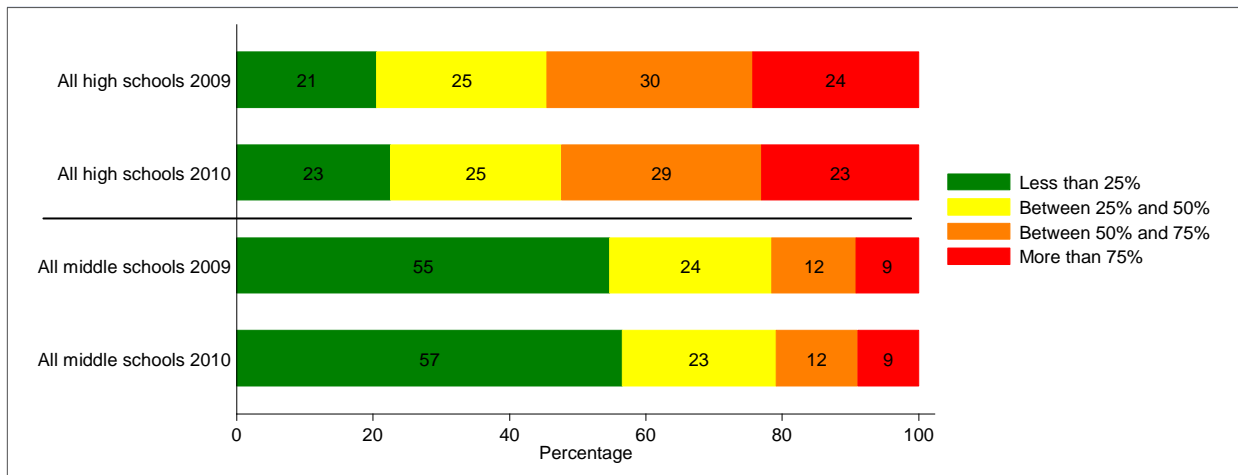
Q18B: What is the most recent you have used Alcohol?



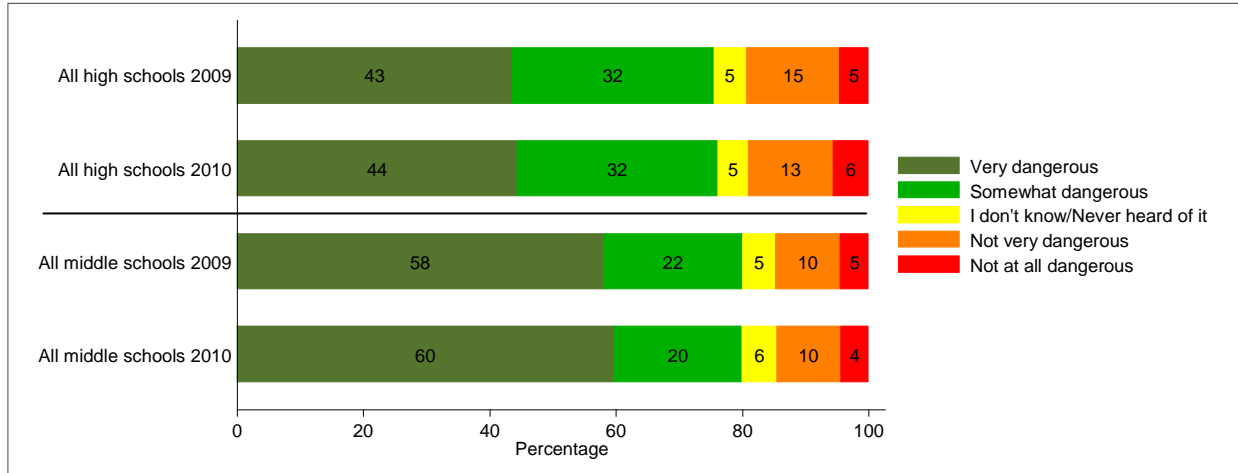
Q21b: During this year, how often did you use Alcohol?



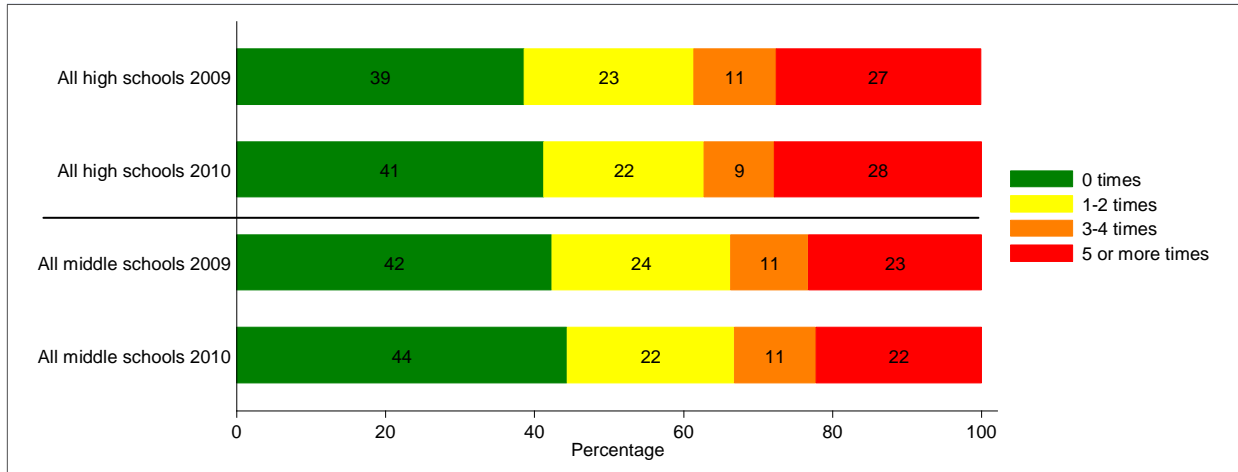
Q29b. Within the past month, how many kids at your school do you think have used alcohol?



Q27b: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use Alcohol?

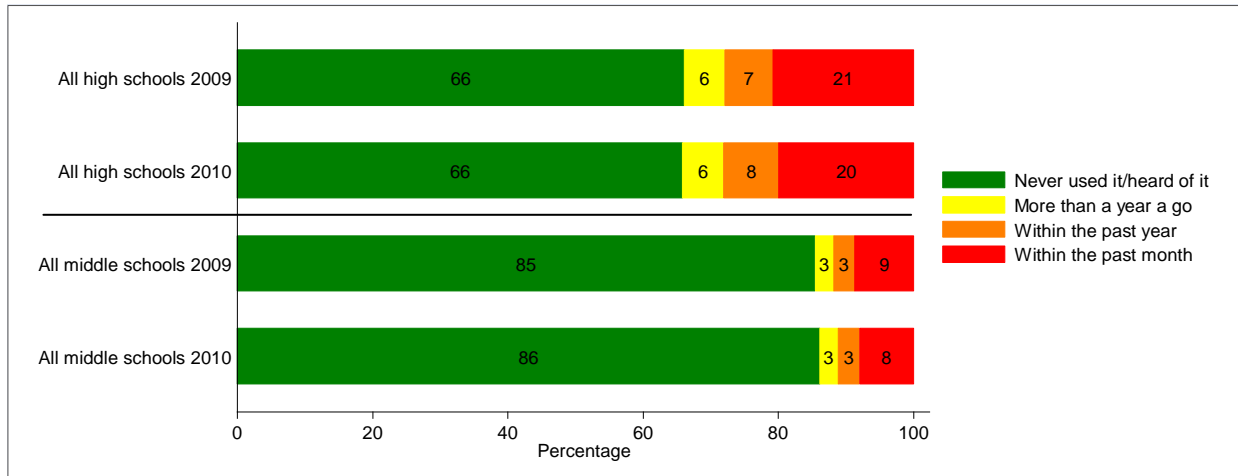


Q28f. During the school year, how many times have you experienced advertisements (TV, radio, billboard, magazine, internet, etc.) for alcohol products?

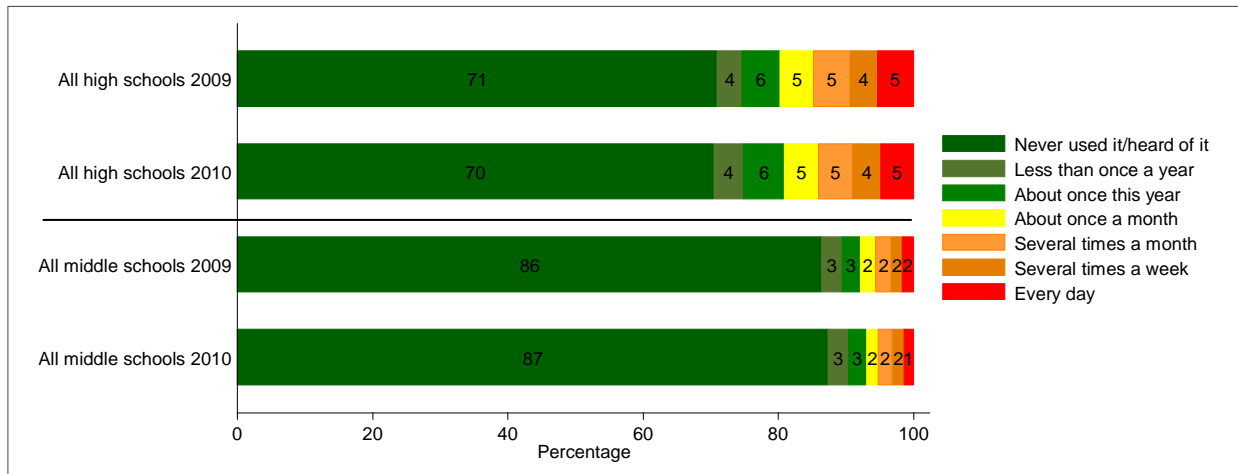


MARIJUANA:

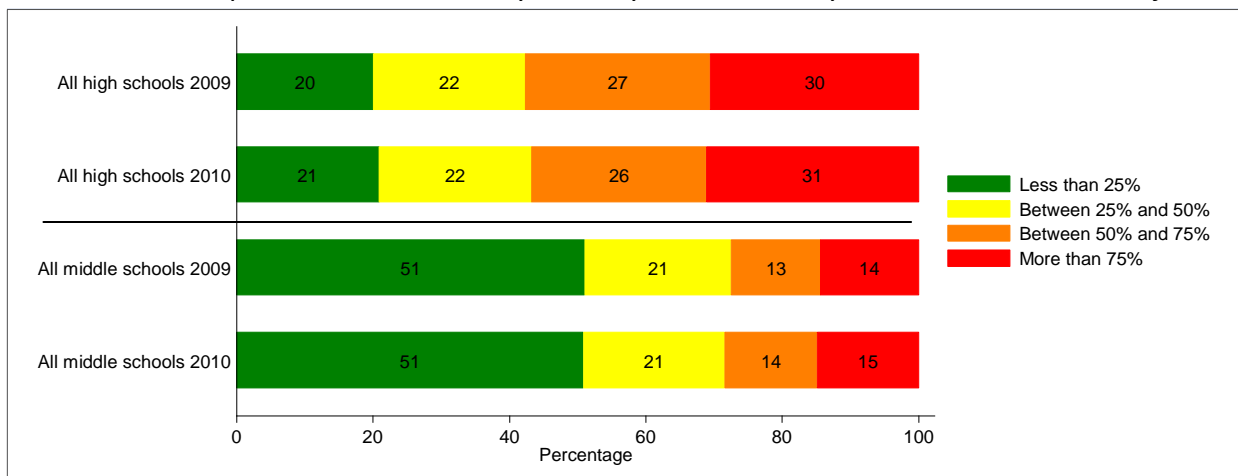
Q18c: What is the most recent you have used Marijuana?



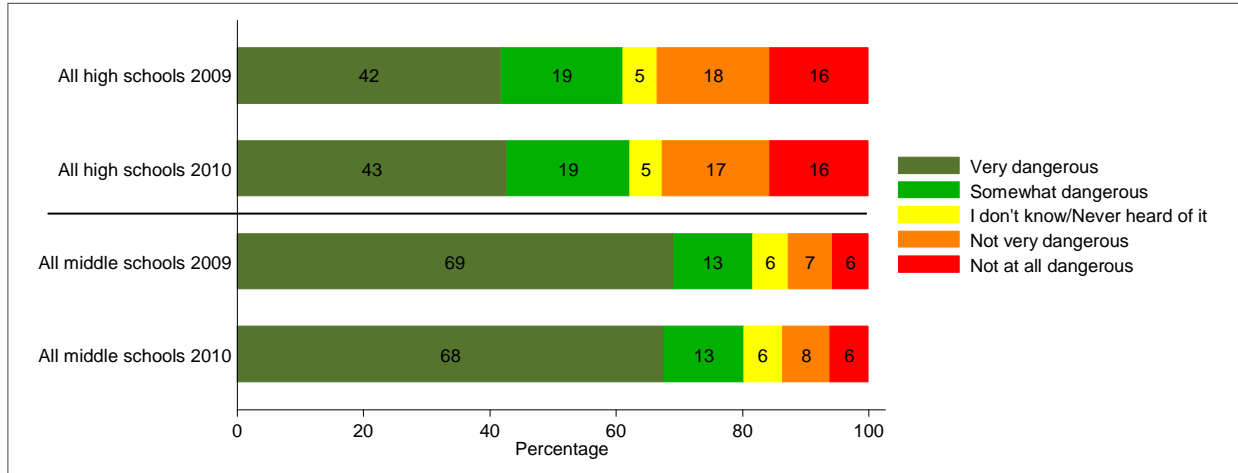
Q21c: During this year, how often did you use Marijuana?



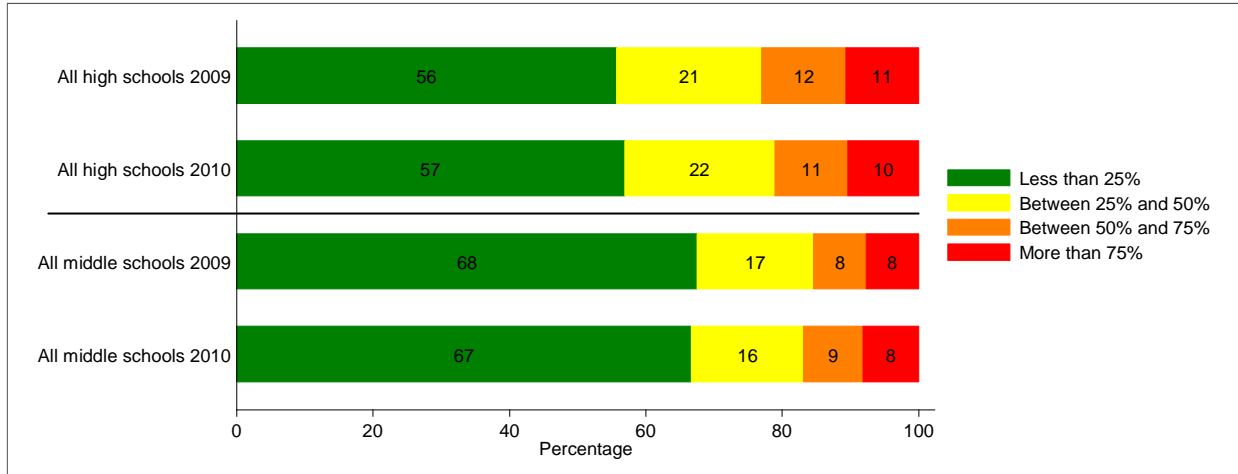
Q29c. Within the past month, how many kids at your school do you think have used marijuana?



Q27c: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use Marijuana?

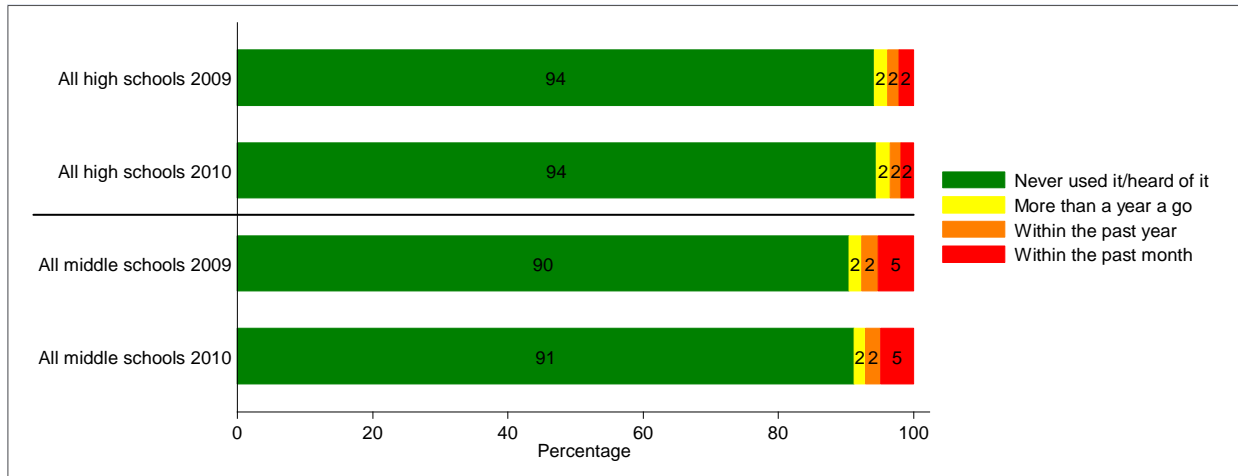


Q29d. Within the past month, how many kids at your school do you think have used other illegal drugs (e.g., cocaine, ecstasy, heroin, etc.) ?

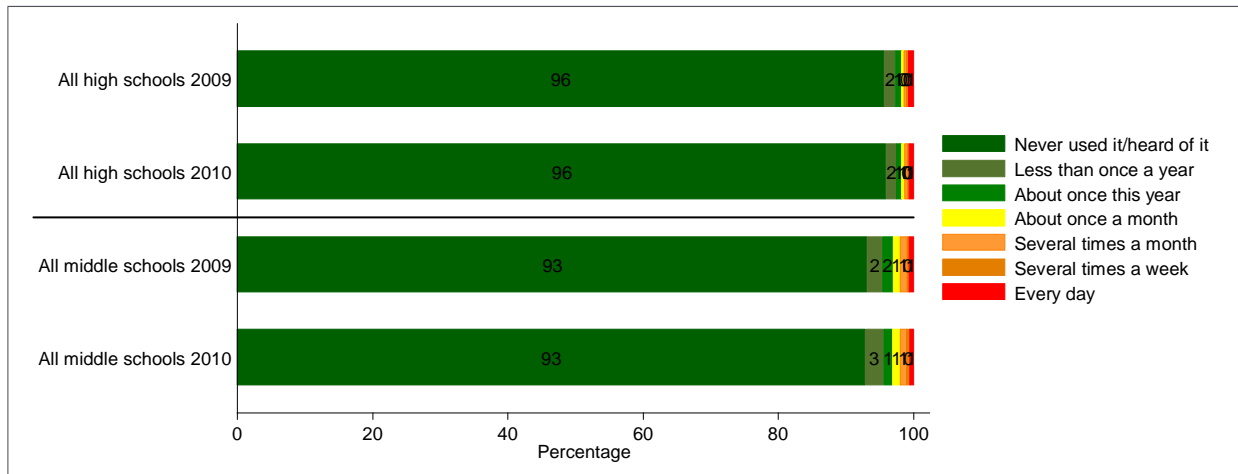


OTHER SUBSTANCES:

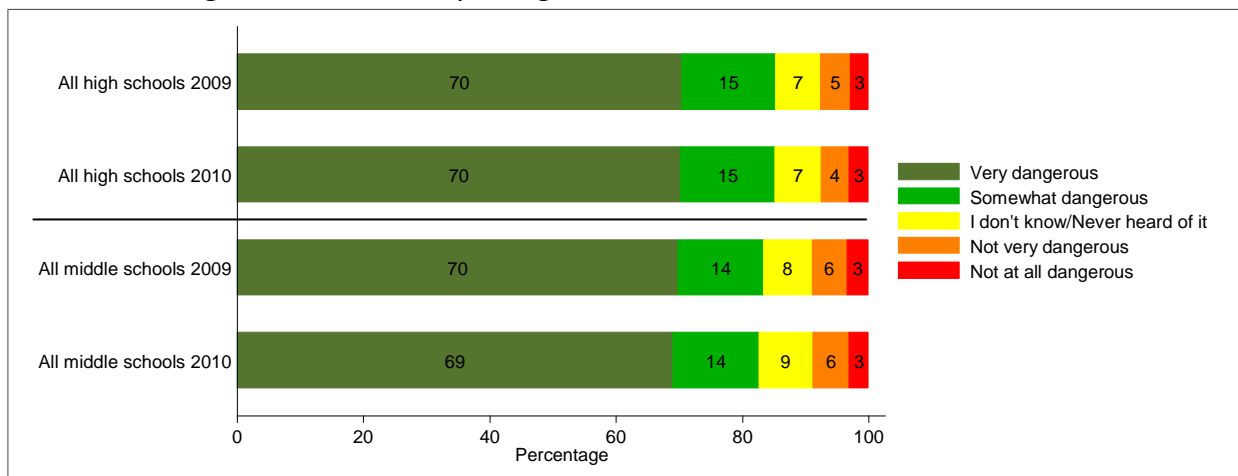
Q18D: What is the most recent you have used Inhalants?



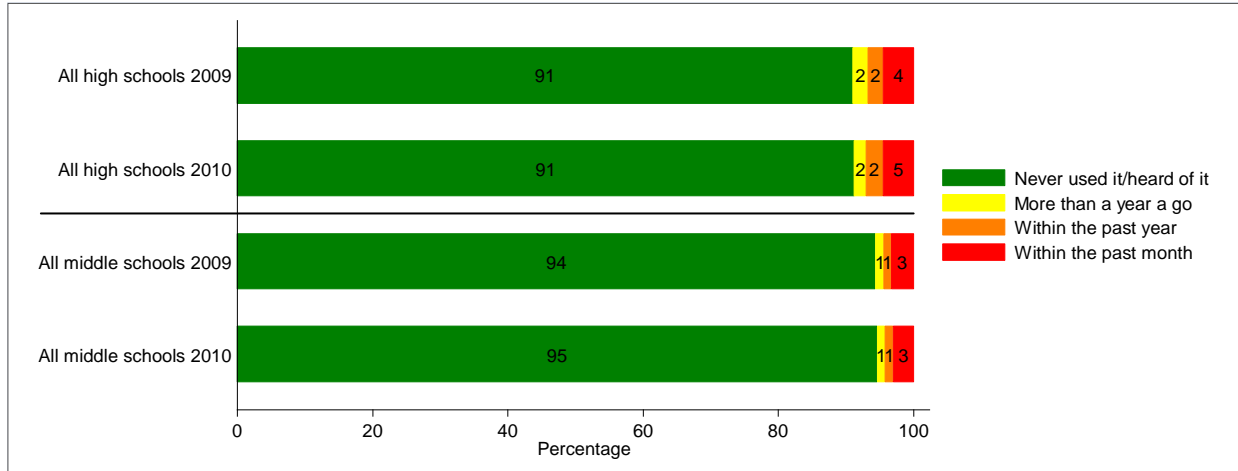
Q21d: During this year, how often did you use Inhalants?



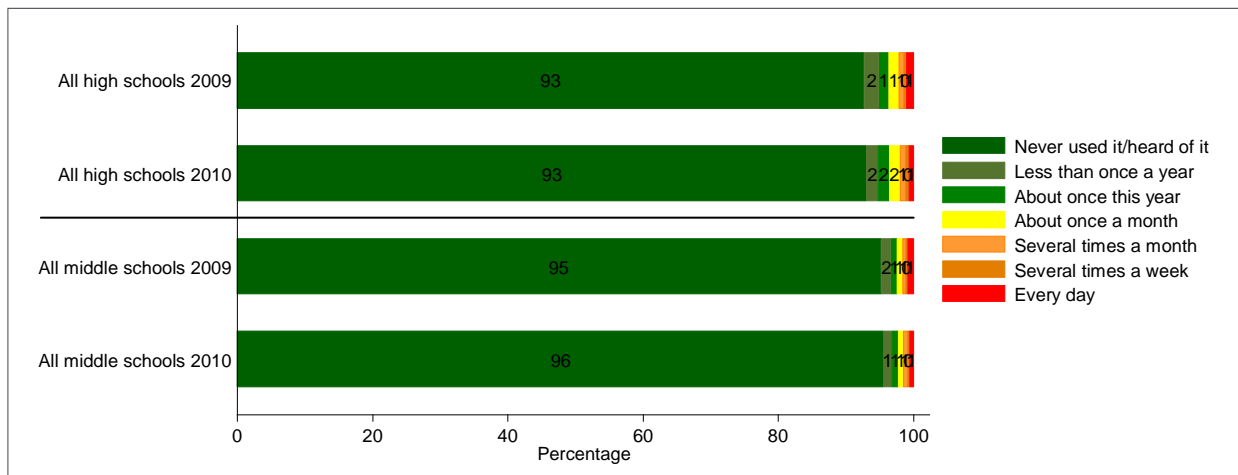
Q27d: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use Inhalants?



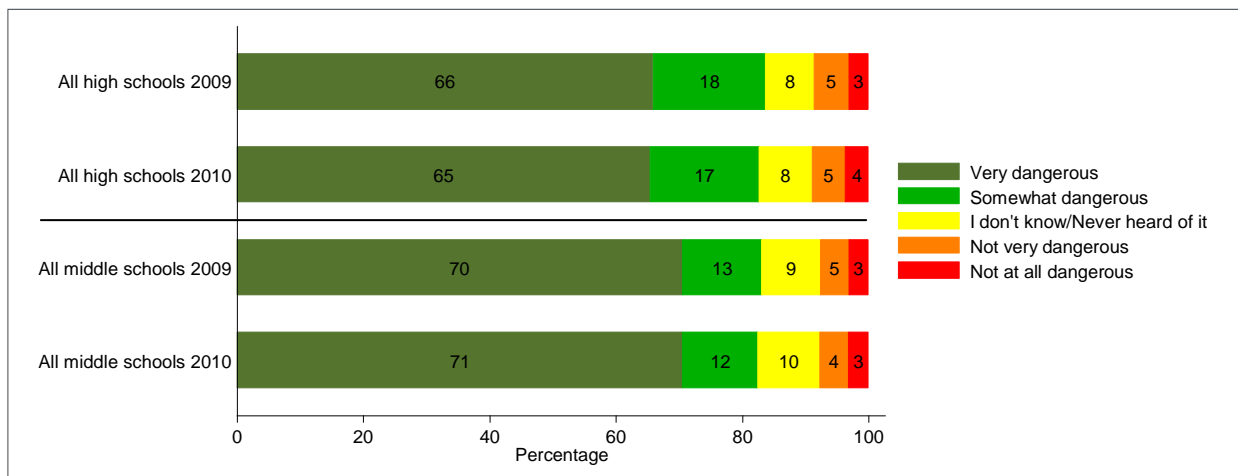
Q18E: What is the most recent you have used Over the Counter Medication to get high?



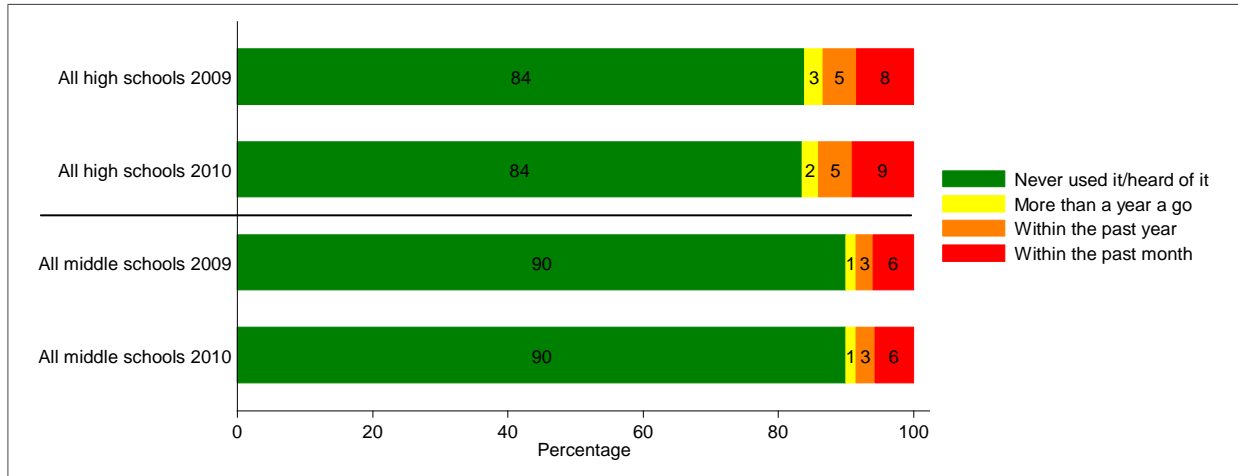
Q21e: During this year, how often did you use Over the Counter Medication to get high?



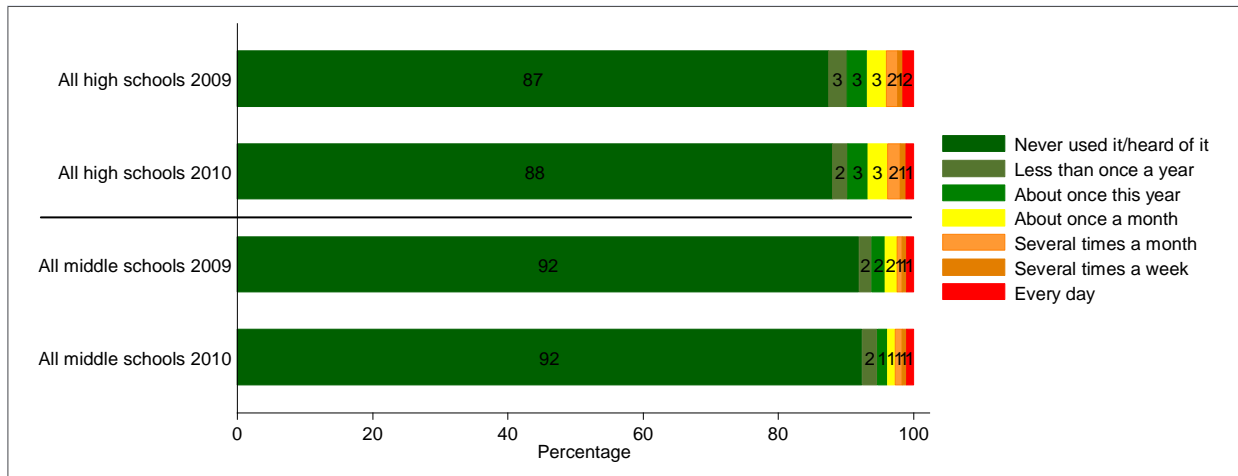
Q27e: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use Over the Counter Medication to get high?



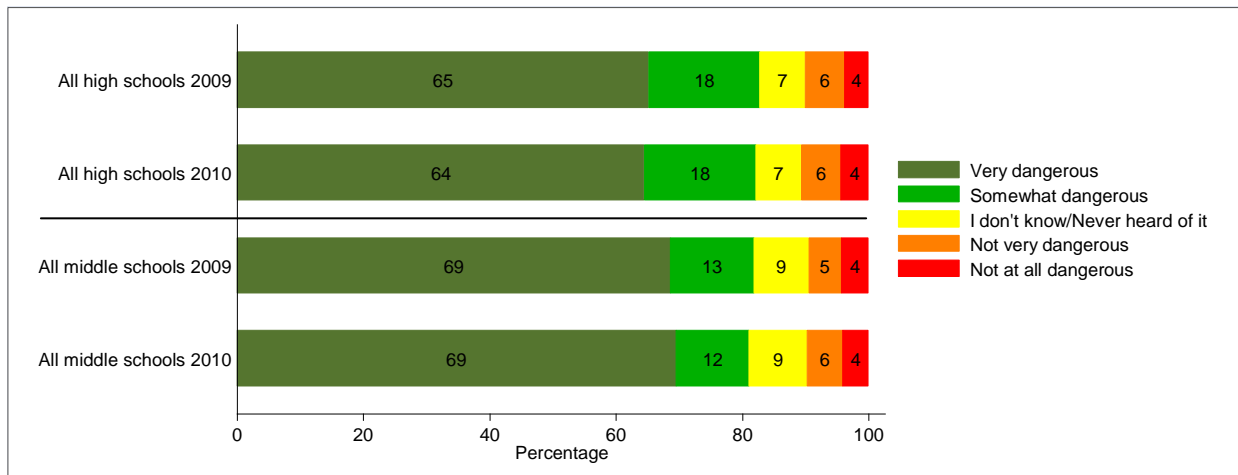
Q18f: What is the most recent you have used Prescription Drugs that were not prescribed to you to get high?



Q21f: During this year, how often did you use Prescription Drugs that were not prescribed to you to get high?

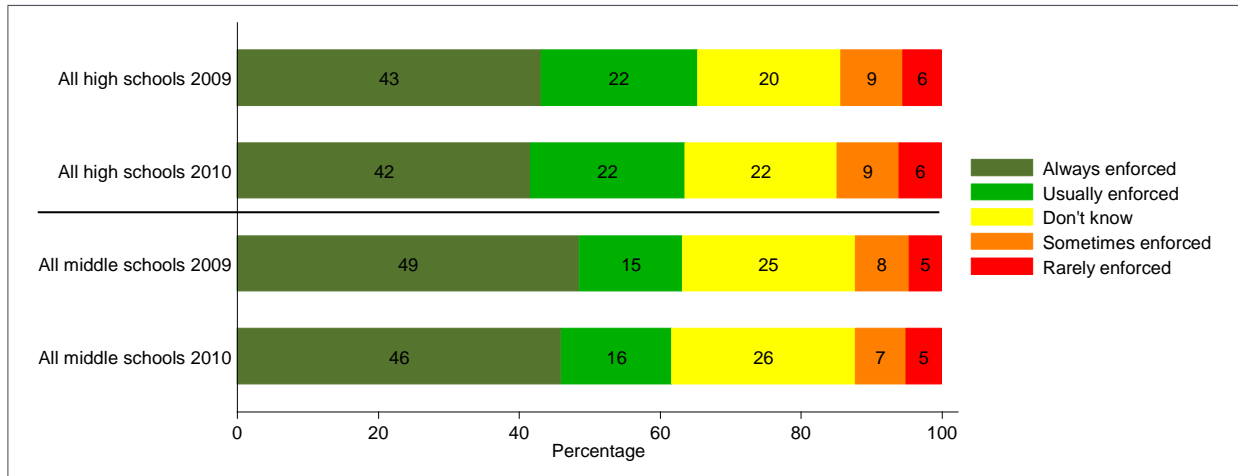


Q27f: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use Prescription Drugs that were not prescribed to you to get high?

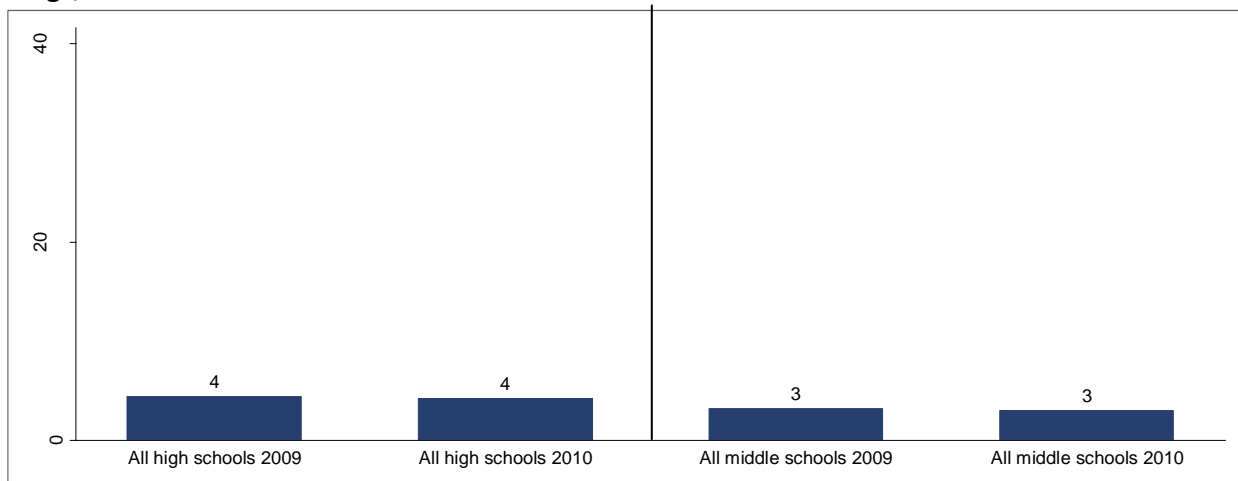


OPINIONS, EXPERIENCES, AND EXPOSURE:

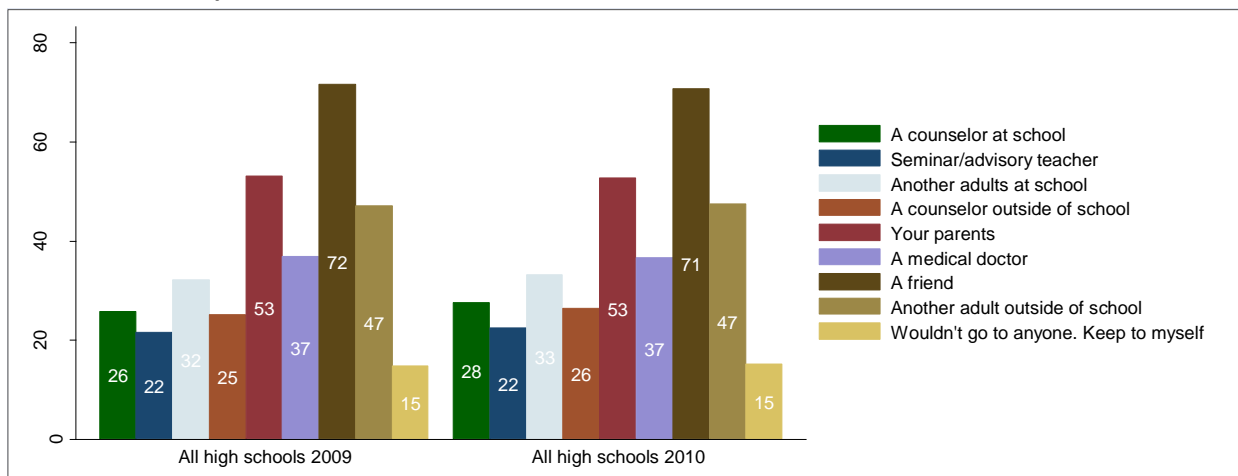
Q13: Are school rules about drug, alcohol, and tobacco use enforced by school staff?



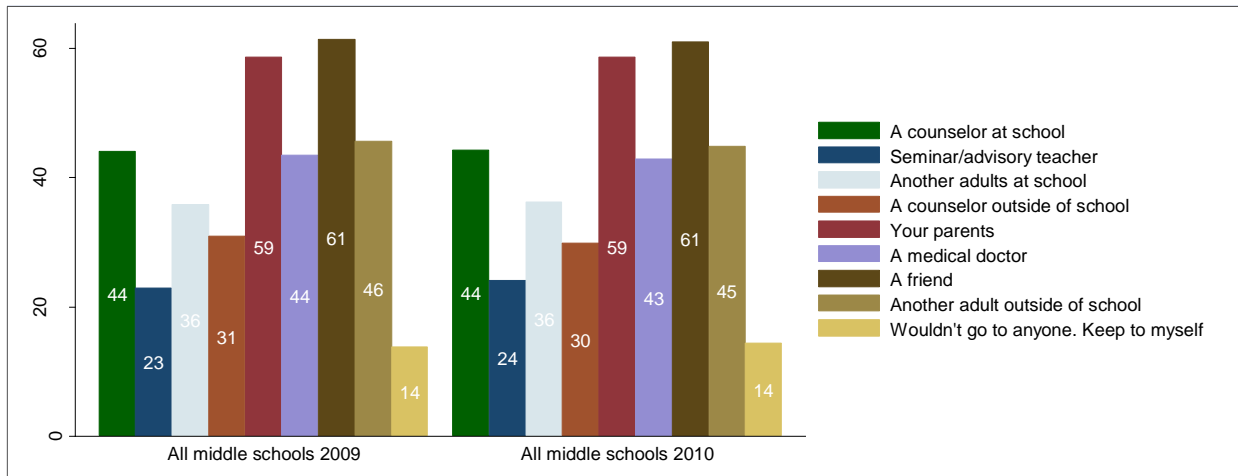
Q19: During this school year, have you gotten into trouble with the police because of tobacco, drugs, or alcohol?



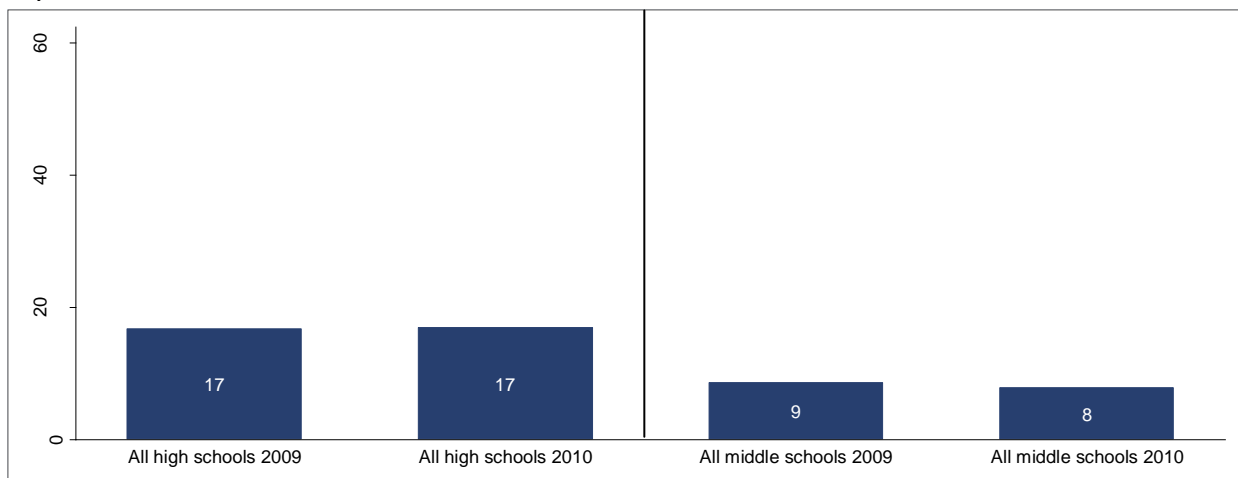
Q24a: If you had a drug or alcohol problem and needed help, who would you go to? (High School Students)



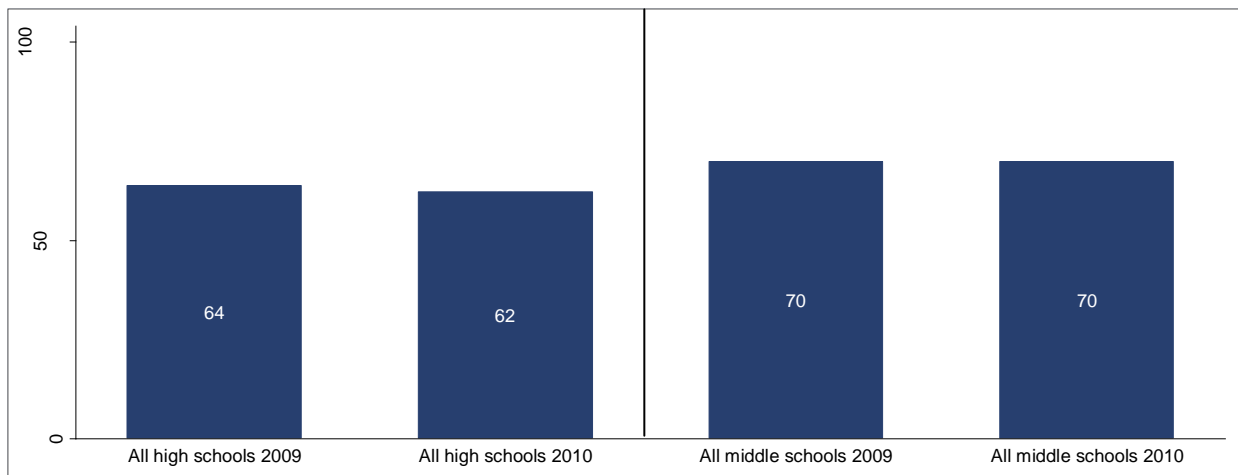
Q24b: If you had a drug or alcohol problem and needed help, who would you go to? (Middle School Students)



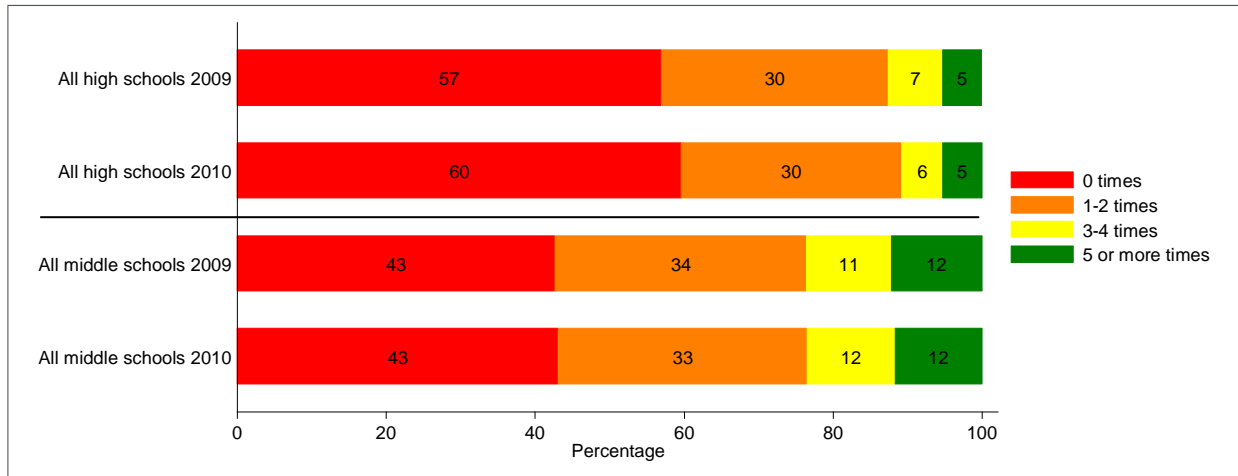
Q20: During this school year, have you attended any class while “high”, “stoned”, or “drunk” on any substance?



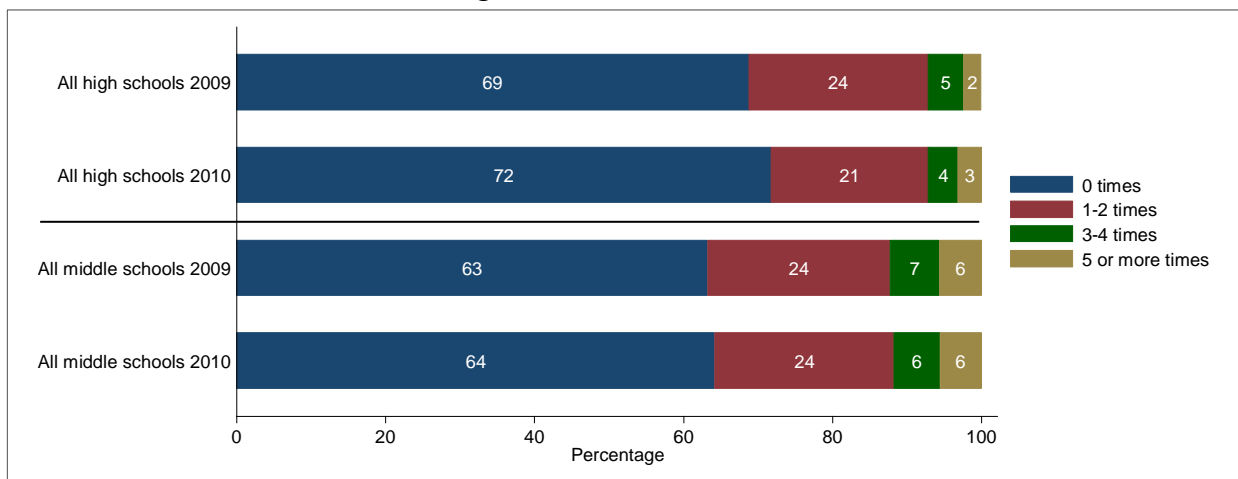
Q25: Within the past year, has your parent/guardian talked with you about the dangers of tobacco, alcohol, or drug use?



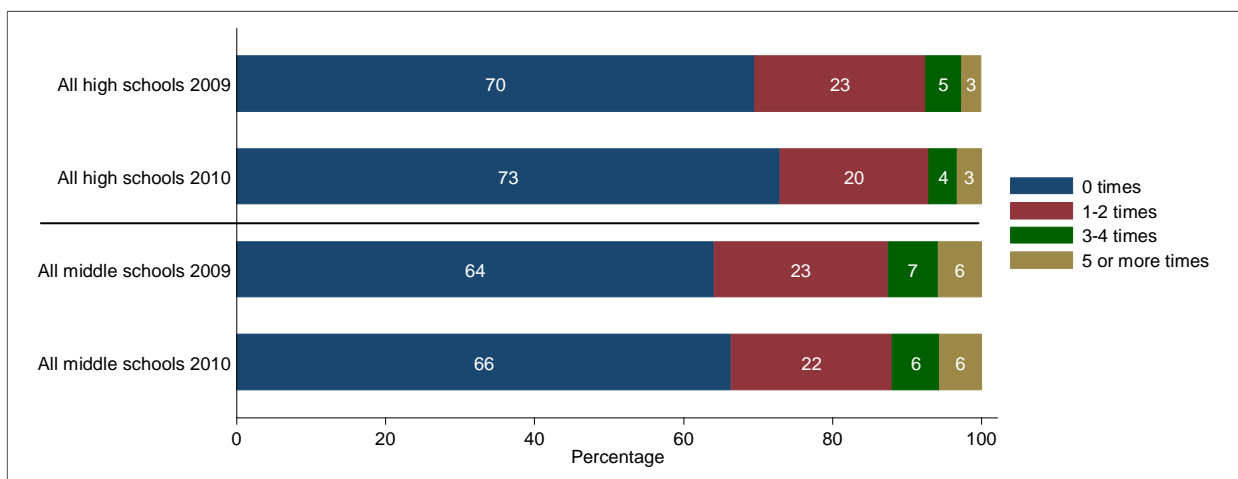
Q28a. During the school year, how many times have you experienced classes in which you learned and practiced ways of resisting and avoiding substance abuse?



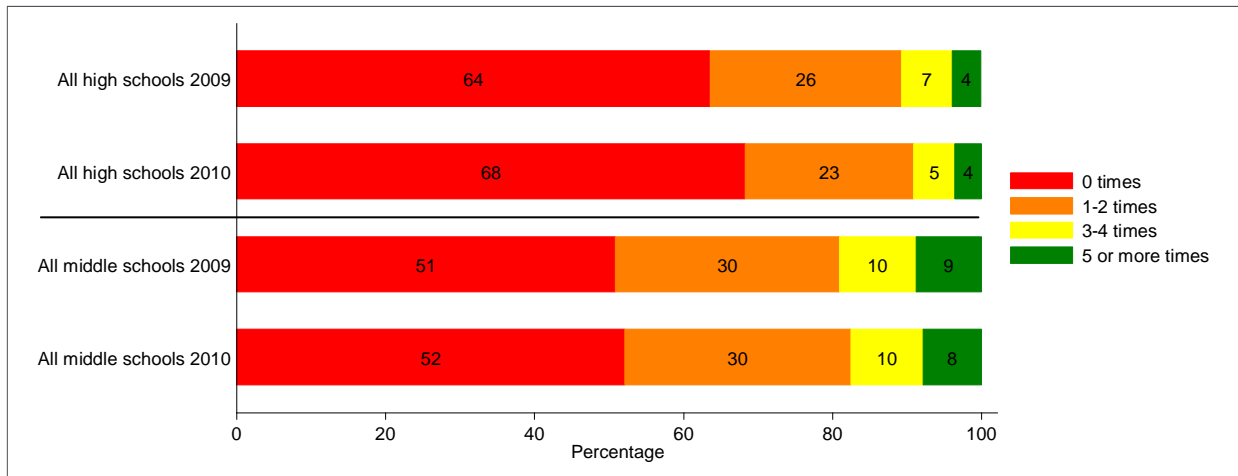
Q28b. During the school year, how many times have you experienced presentations by people who recovered from alcohol and drug abuse?



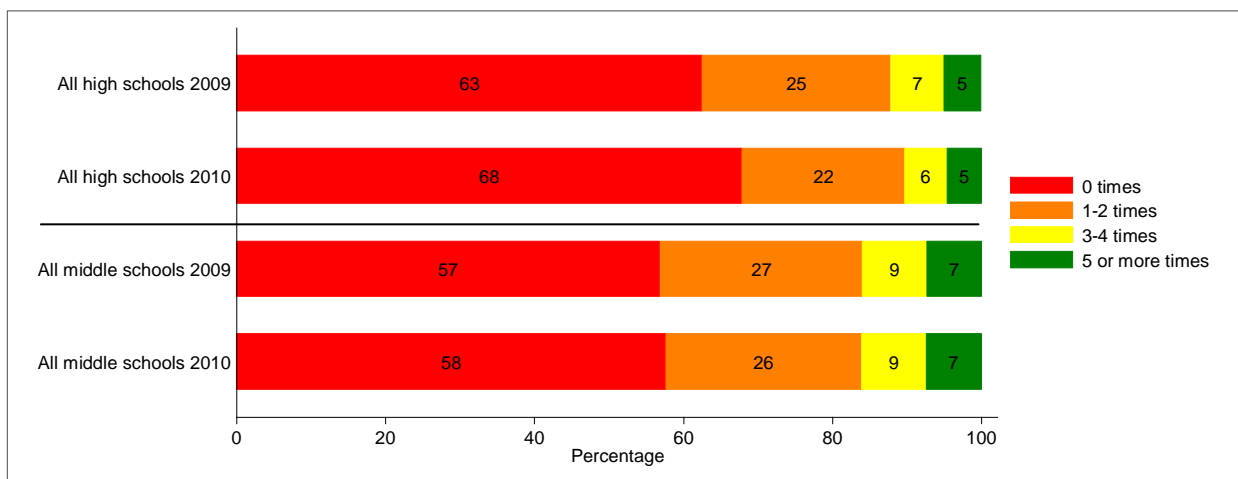
Q28c. During the school year, how many times have you experienced presentations by students who tell about how to avoid substance abuse?



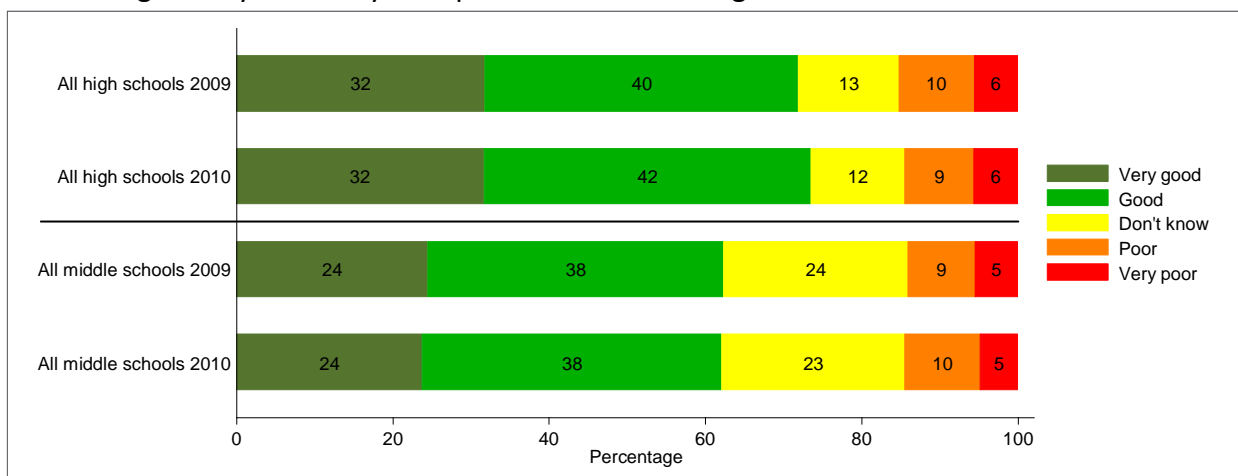
Q28d. During the school year, how many times have you received information about counseling or services to help kids quit smoking and stop substance abuse?



Q28e. During the school year, how many times have you experienced printed materials with cartoons and stories about how students avoid substance abuse?



Q30. How good is your ability to cope with stress and negative emotions?



AUSTIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Superintendent of Schools

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