

# Results of the 2012 Student Substance Use and Safety Survey

September, 2012

## AUSTIN HIGH SCHOOL

### DESCRIPTION OF SURVEY

Every 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 2012 a sample of 8,725 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 74%.<sup>1</sup> All item results are attached.

### 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 population size and sample size to construct a 95% confidence interval for each item, allowing you to be 95% confident that the true population result will fall within the constructed interval.

### HOW SHOULD CONFIDENCE INTERVALS BE USED TO INTERPRET YOUR CAMPUS DATA?

***Based on the Austin HS sample of 327 students and population enrollment of 2,413, the confidence interval for Austin HS is + and – 5 percentage points.***

***Interval for All high schools is + and -1.5 percentage points.***

To make inferences about your campus population using the sample data, the results should be interpreted with the computed confidence interval of 5 percentage points on each side of the sample statistics. For example, in 2012, 17% of respondents from your campus indicated that their friends belonged to gangs (see Q16, p.10). Applying the confidence interval (i.e., adding and subtracting 5 percentage points) to the 17% yields a range of 12% - 22%. Therefore, you can be 95% confident that somewhere between 12% - 22% of all students at your campus would indicate that their friends belong to a gang. When making comparisons between item results from year to year, please remember that small changes may have occurred by chance alone. The confidence interval for 2011 was 5 percentage points. Therefore, only differences of 10 (5%+5%) percentage points or greater should be considered statistically significant when comparing the results from two different years. In addition, differences of 6.5 (5+1.5) percentage points or greater should be considered statistically significant when comparing the results between the campus and all high schools.

This report presents respondent demographics followed by survey items related to both school safety and substance use, then items related to school safety, and finally items related to substance use. For each campus, results of the 2012 and 2011 surveys are presented to allow for year to year comparisons. The all high school results are presented to allow comparisons between your campus and all other AISD high schools. The question numbers correspond to the item number on the survey.

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<sup>1</sup> A total of 9,139 surveys were returned to the Department of Program Evaluation from an original sample of 11,829 students. Of those returned, 586 surveys were removed from analysis due to invalid responses.

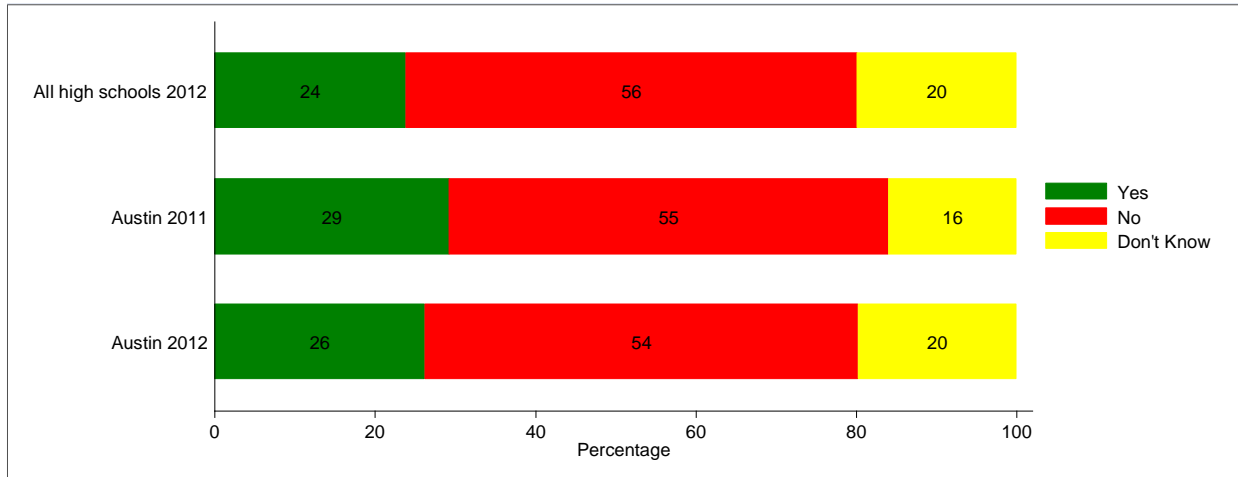
## RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

	Gender		Grade				Total
	Male	Female	9th	10th	11th	12th	
<b>Austin 2011</b>	176 52%	165 48%	91 27%	77 22 %	97 28 %	80 23 %	345
<b>Austin 2012</b>	176 54%	149 46%	96 29%	95 29%	78 24%	57 17%	327
<b>All high schools 2012</b>	1,742 50%	1,742 50%	1,038 30%	914 26%	833 24%	707 20%	3,510

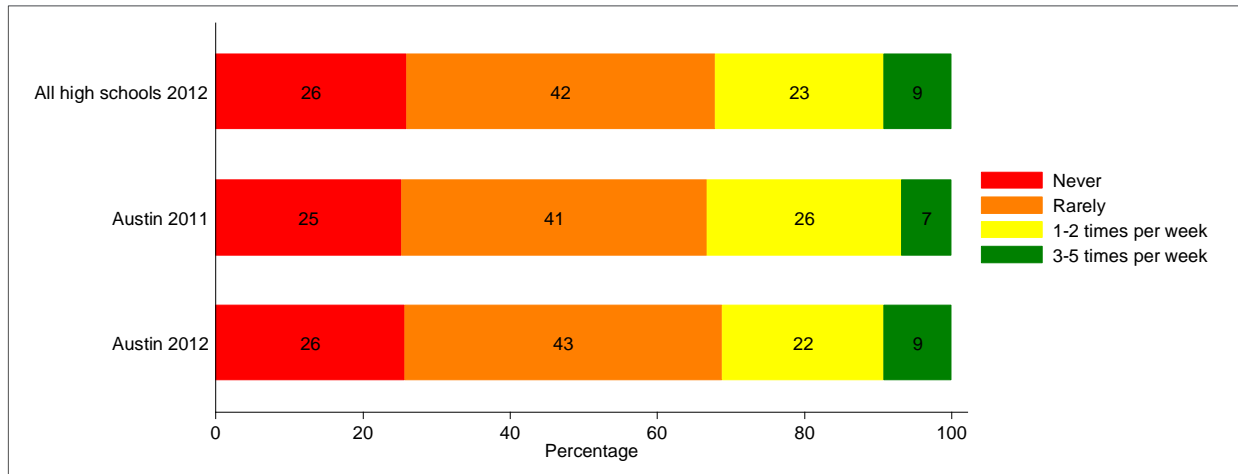
Note: Numbers may not sum to total because some students skipped the demographic questions.

### ITEMS THAT ADDRESS BOTH SUBSTANCE USE AND SAFETY

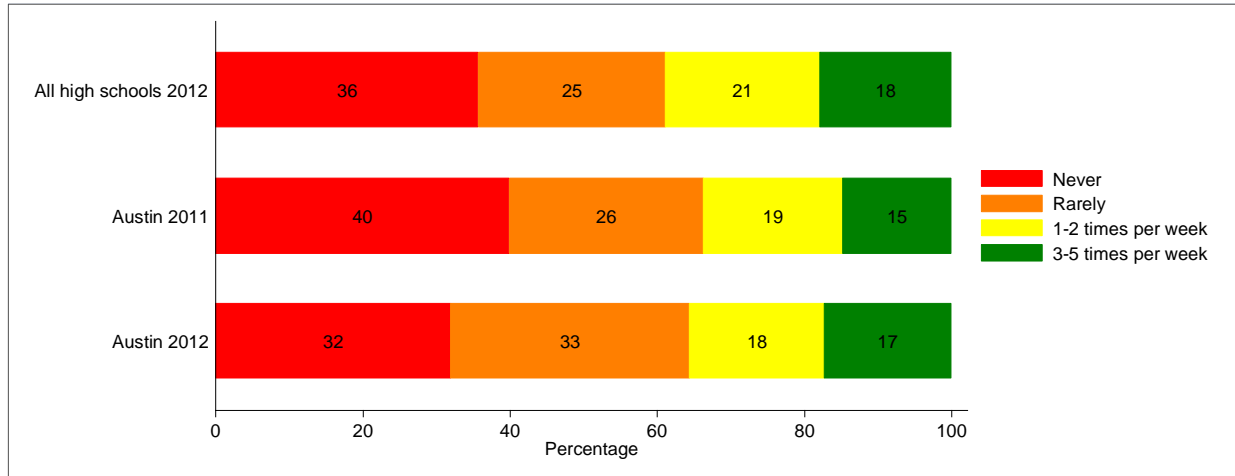
Q22: Do one or both of your parents usually attend school sponsored open houses, PTA meetings or other school events?



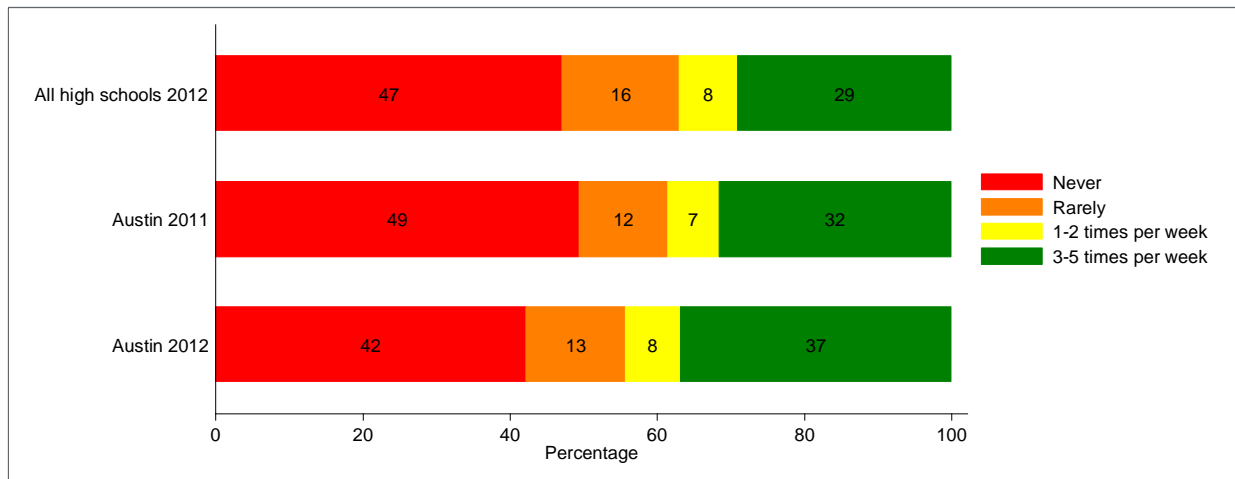
Q4. How often do you participate in after school programs to help you with your school work (e.g., tutoring, homework, etc.) ?



Q5. How often do you participate in other after school programs (e.g. clubs, art, technology, leadership, dance, etc.) ?



Q6. How often do you participate in organized school sports?



Q23: During this school year, have you brought any of the following items to school?

	Austin 2011-2012	Percentage point change from 2010-2011*	All high schools 2011-2012
Illegal drugs	11%	0	9%
Tobacco	7%	-2	7%
Knives	8%	0	7%
Prescription drugs	8%	-1	6%
Alcohol	9%	0	5%
Other weapons	3%	-4	4%
Gun	2%	0	2%
None of the above	80%	2	82%

% represents the percentage of students who responded 'yes' to the item.

\*Negative percentage point changes indicate fewer students reported bringing those items to school in 2011-2012 than in 2010-2011.

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

	Austin 2011-2012	Percentage point change from 2010-2011*	All high schools 2011-2012
<b>Marijuana use</b>	34%	9	34%
<b>Student fighting and physical aggression</b>	7%	-10	10%
<b>Student harassment, threats, and intimidation</b>	6%	3	8%
<b>Alcohol use</b>	10%	0	2%
<b>Prescription drug use</b>	4%	2	4%
<b>Student vandalism, criminal mischief</b>	5%	2	3%
<b>Student weapon possession</b>	2%	0	2%
<b>Tobacco use</b>	1%	0	2%
<b>Violence or threats toward staff</b>	1%	0	1%
<b>None of these are serious problems on my campus</b>	28%	-8	30%

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

% represents the percentage of students who responded 'yes' to the item.

\* Negative percentage point changes indicate fewer students reported those items as the most serious problem on their campus in 2011-2012 than in 2010-2011.

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

	Austin 2011-2012	Percentage point change from 2010-2011*	All high schools 2011-2012
<b>Health class</b>	45%	-2	45%
<b>Coach or P.E. teacher †</b>	40%	N/A	40%
<b>Advisory/seminar class</b>	31%	-10	45%
<b>Science class</b>	30%	5	37%
<b>Another class</b>	30%	-1	32%
<b>Special school event about tobacco, drugs, alcohol, or violence</b>	18%	-5	25%
<b>Guidance counselor</b>	13%	1	16%
<b>School nurse</b>	12%	2	14%
<b>Other school source not mentioned above</b>	12%	-4	15%
<b>Afterschool program</b>	10%	0	13%
<b>Student support group meetings at school</b>	8%	-1	13%
<b>None of the above</b>	29%	5	20%

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

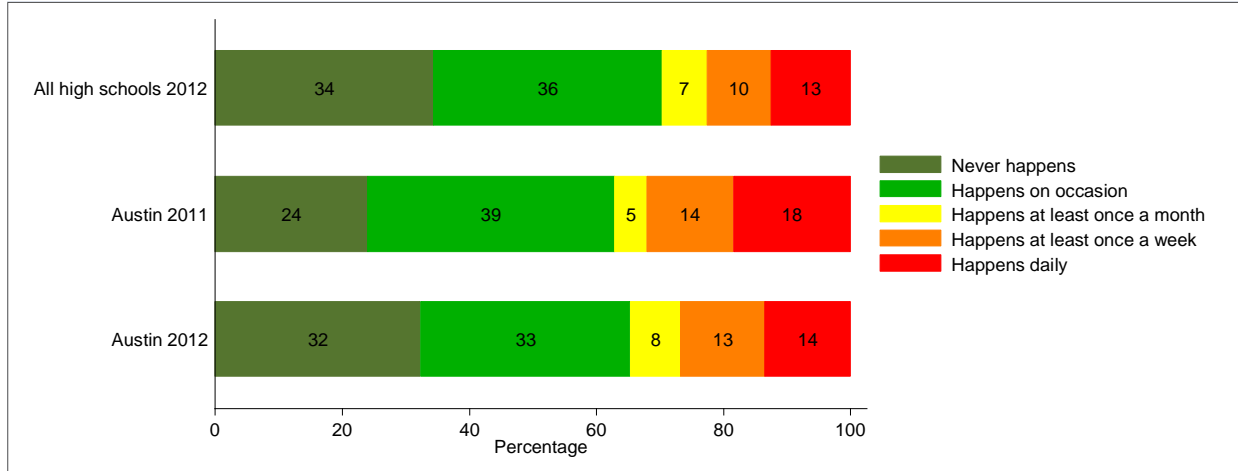
% represents the percentage of students who responded 'yes' to the item.

\* Positive percentage point changes indicate more students reported having received information on drugs, alcohol, or violence from school sources in 2011-2012 than in 2010-2011.

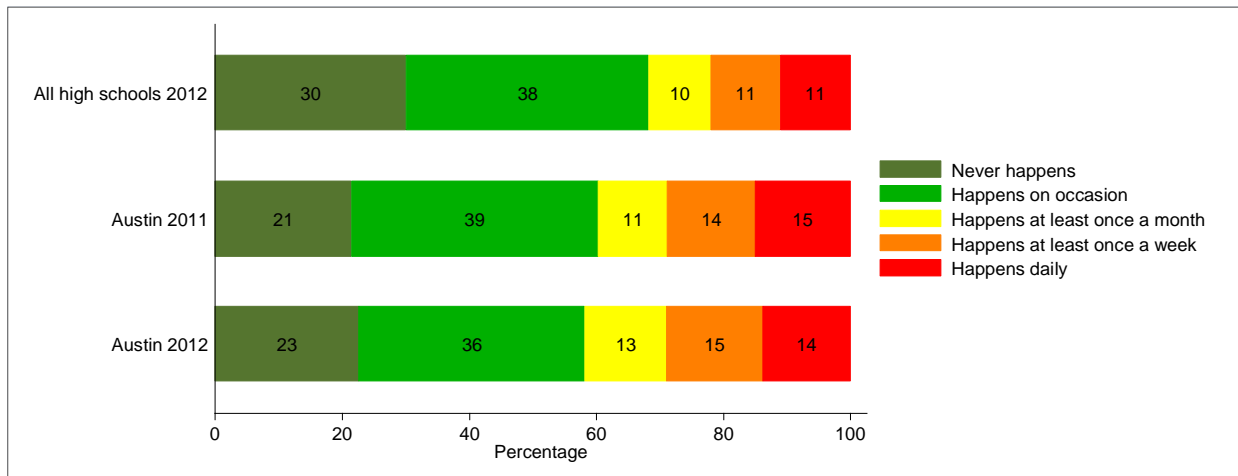
† The item was not asked in the 2010-2011 survey.

## SCHOOL SAFETY ITEMS

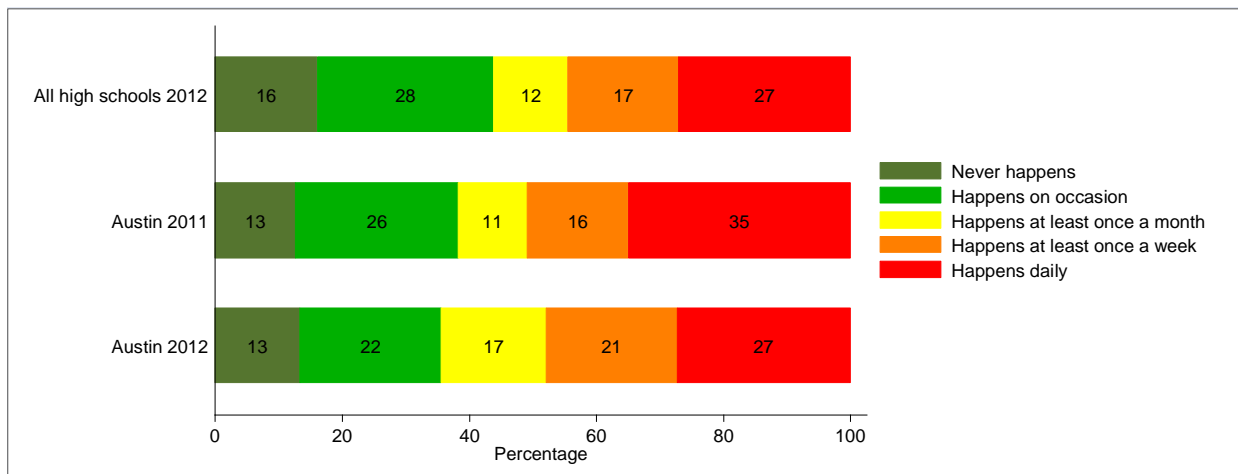
Q15a: How often does racial tension occur at your school?



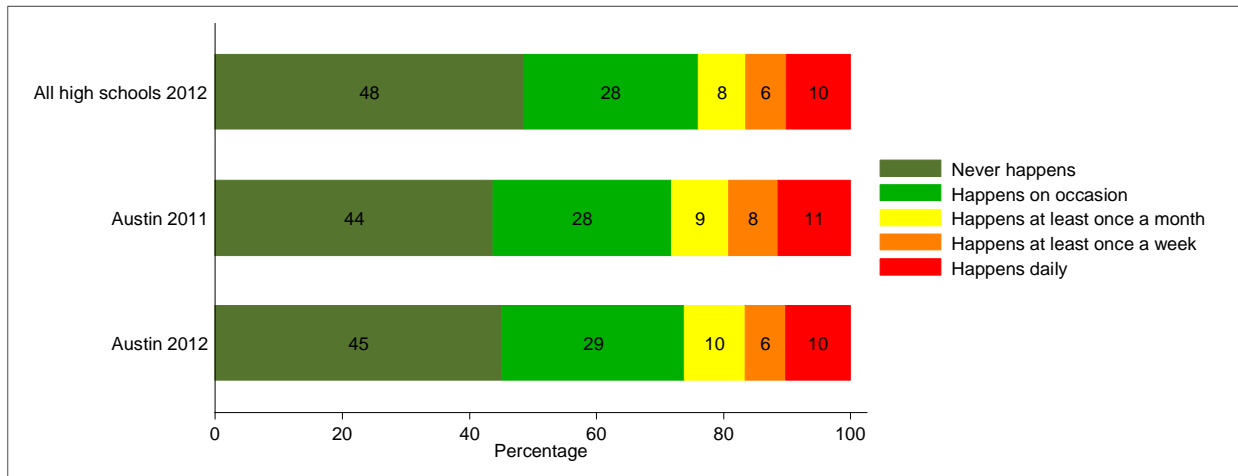
Q15b: How often does student bullying occur at your school?



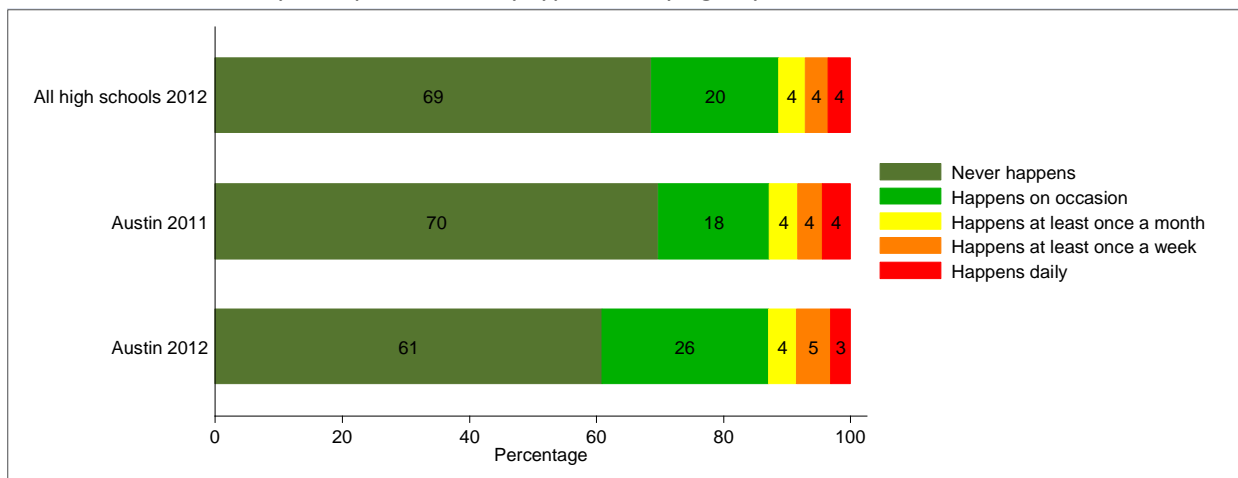
Q15c: How often do acts of disrespect for teachers occur at your school?



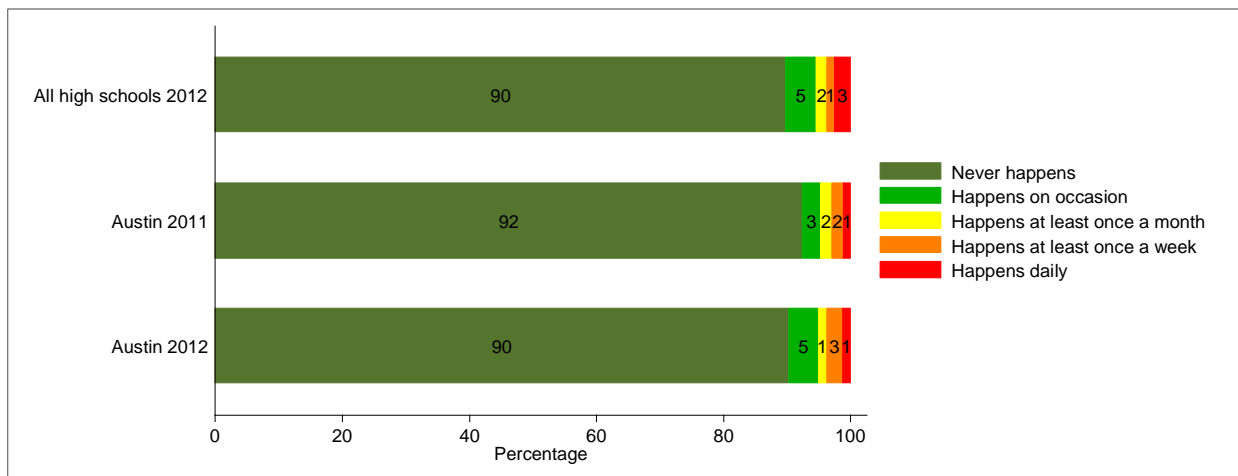
Q15d: How often do gang activities occur at your school?



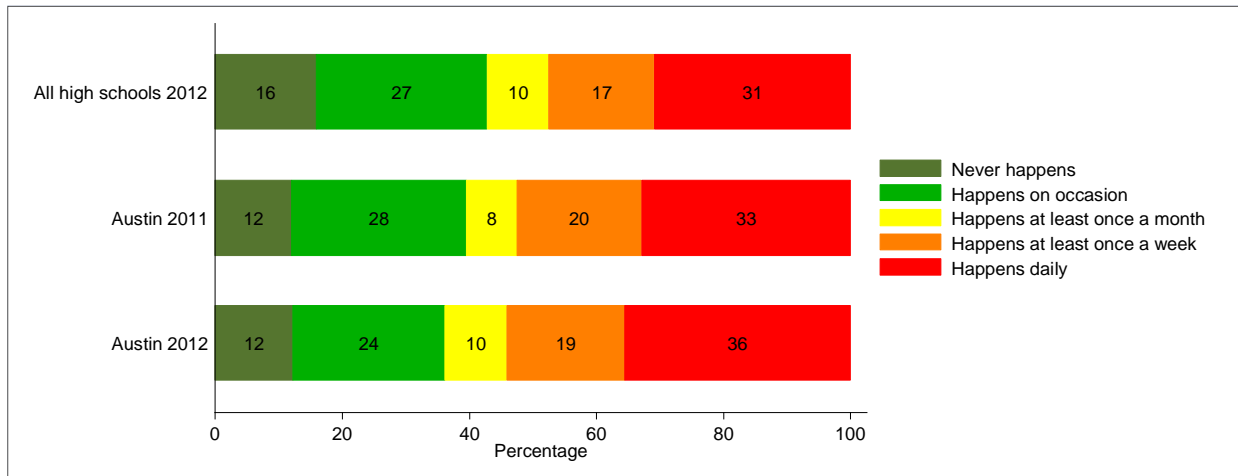
Q15e: How often have you experienced any type of bullying at your school?



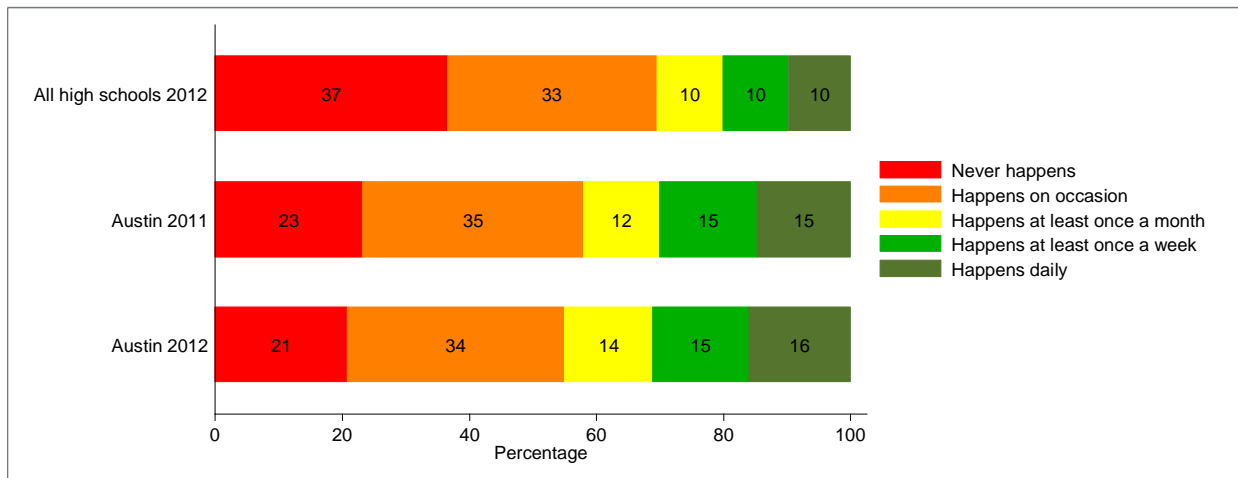
Q15f: How often were you absent because you did not feel safe on the way to/from school?



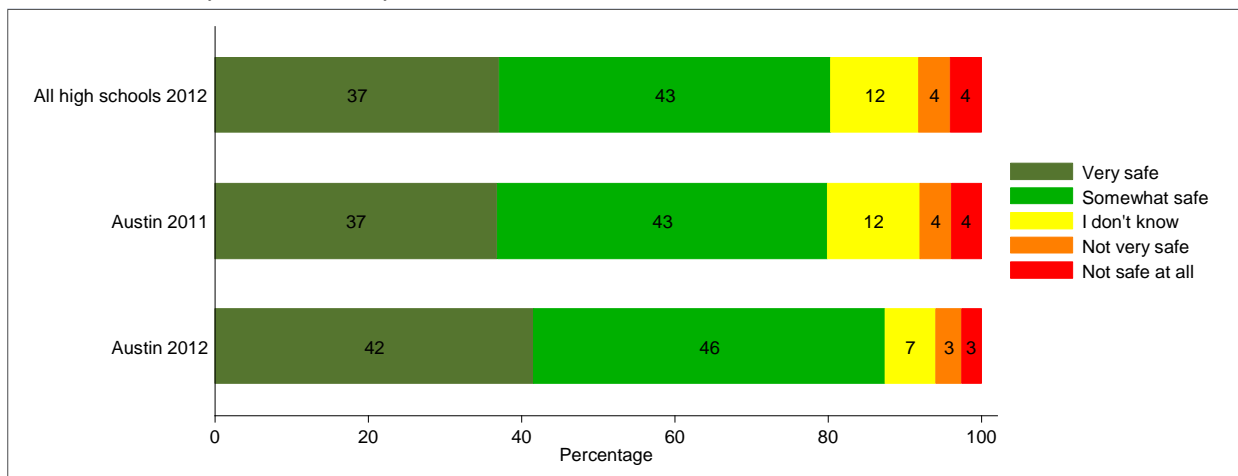
Q15g: How often does your teacher have to interrupt class to deal with student misbehavior?



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?

	Austin 2011-2012	Percentage point change from 2010-2011*	All high schools 2011-2012
Was sick	65%	3	57%
Had to do something with family	48%	8	38%
Was too tired	43%	11	33%
Wanted to hang out with friends	25%	6	19%
Felt too sad or depressed to attend	15%	3	15%
Didn't have a way to get to school	13%	3	15%
Didn't get along well with teachers	10%	4	11%
Had to go to work	8%	2	7%
Didn't feel safe at school	3%	0	5%
Didn't feel safe on the way to/from school	3%	1	5%
None	19%	-6	26%

Note. Percentages may sum to more than 100% because respondents were allowed to choose multiple items. % represents the percentage of students who responded 'yes' to the item.

\* Negative percentage point changes indicate fewer students reported missing school due to any of the above reasons in 2011-2012 than in 2010-2011.

Q10: During this school year, have you experienced any of the following types of bullying at school?

	Austin 2011-2012	Percentage point change from 2010-2011*	All high schools 2011-2012
Verbal	29%	6	22%
Social	26%	5	22%
Racial or ethnic harassment	18%	4	14%
Physical	14%	1	11%
Sexual harassment	13%	-3	9%
Cyber bullying	10%	0	9%
Hurtful or controlling dating behavior	8%	1	7%
Hazing/Initiation †	8%	N/A	4%
Written	6%	0	5%
None	51%	-5	9%

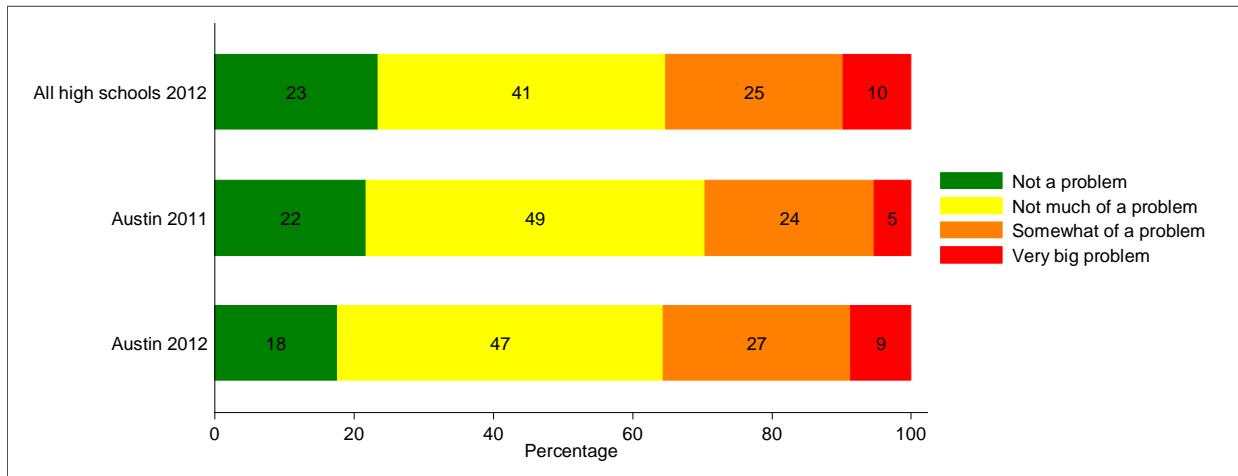
Note. Percentages may sum to more than 100% because respondents were allowed to choose multiple items. % represents the percentage of students who responded 'yes' to the item.

\* Negative percentage point changes indicate fewer students reported experiencing types of bullying in 2011-2012 than in 2010-2011.

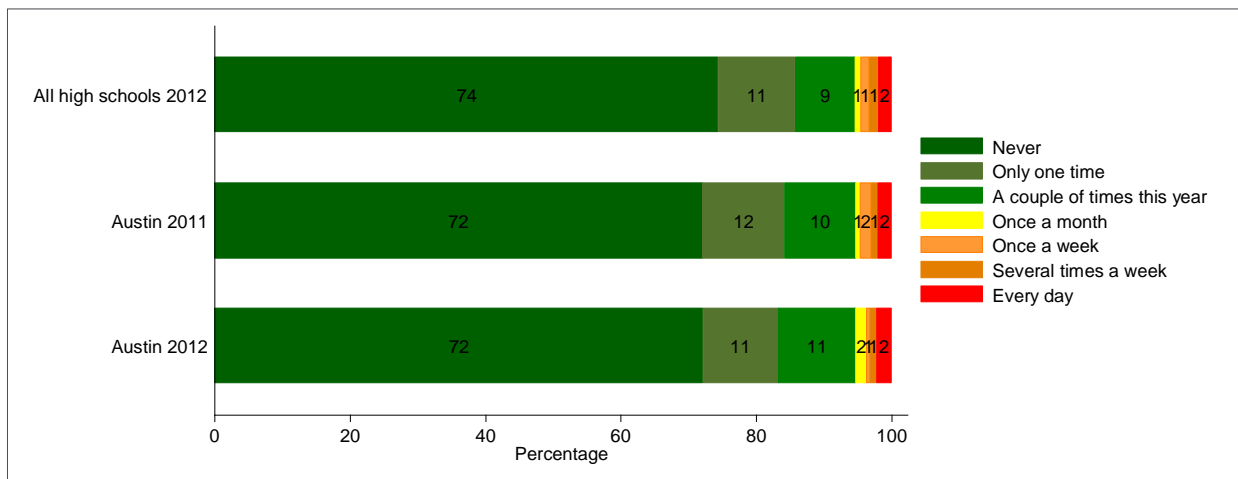
† The item was not asked in the 2010-2011 survey.



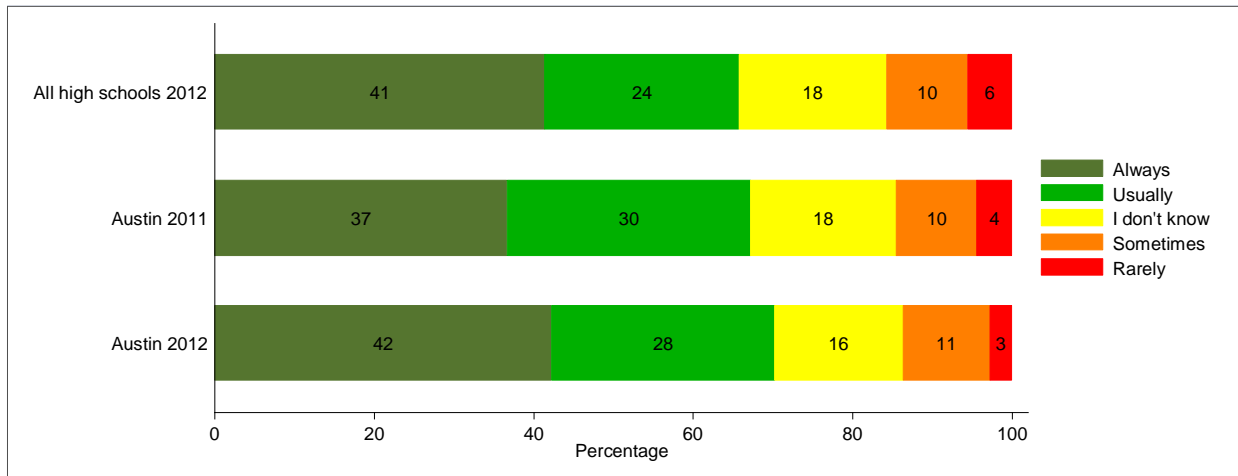
Q12: How big a problem do you think bullying is at your school?



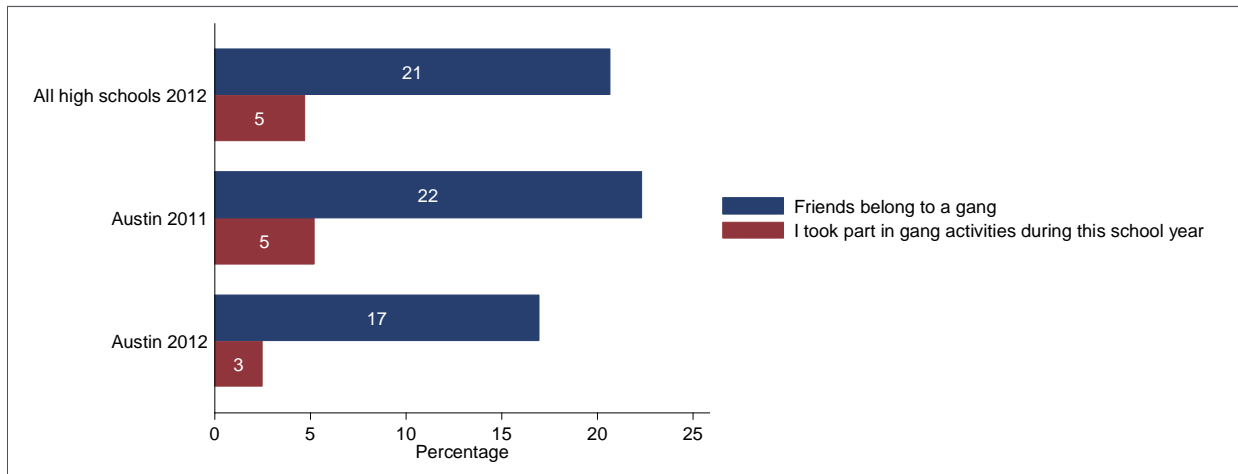
Q11: During this school year, how often have you or your close friends been physically harmed or threatened with physical harm by another student at your school?



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



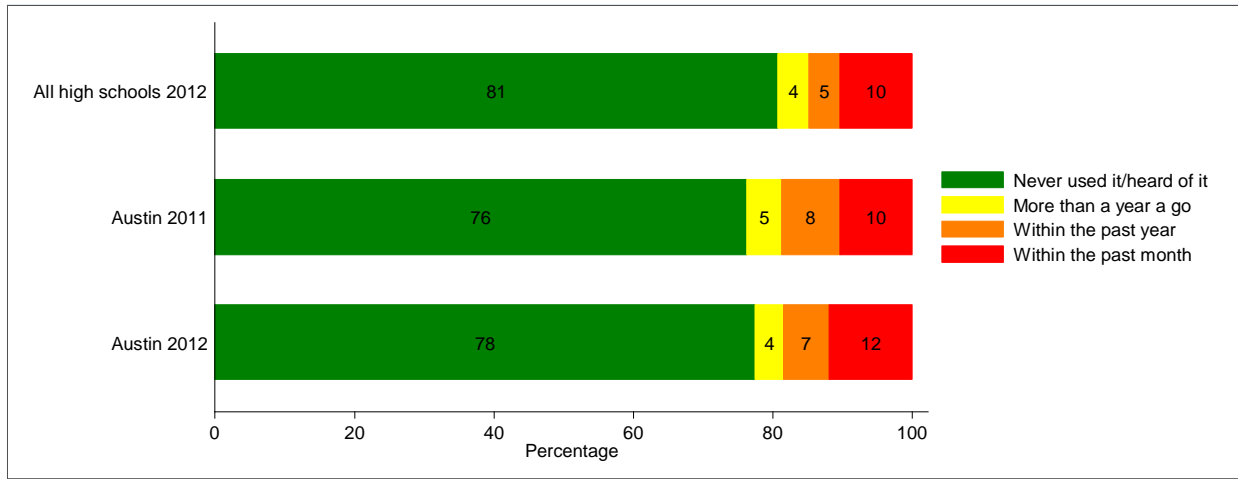
**Q16-Q17: Do any of your friends belong to a gang? During this school year, did you take part in any gang activities?**



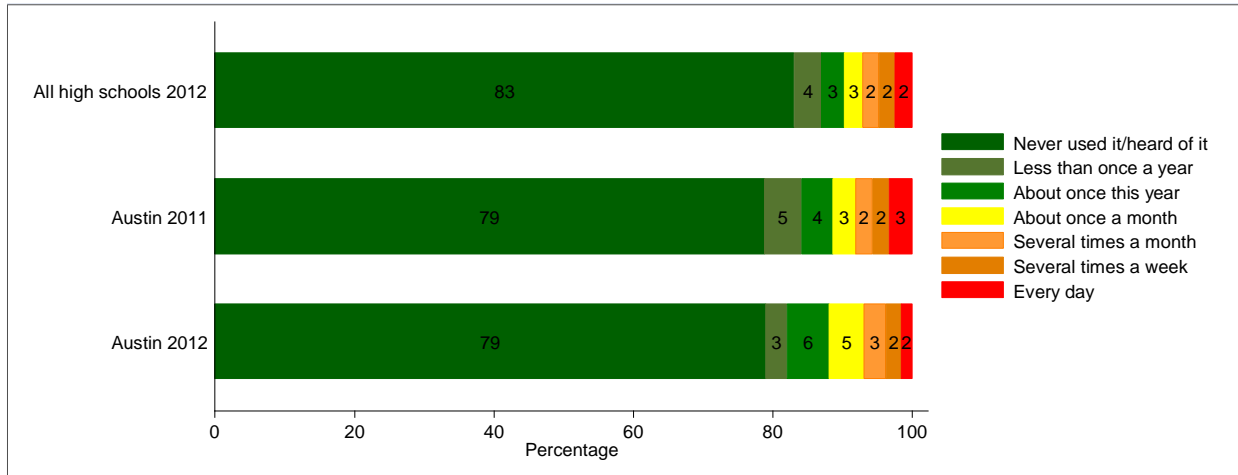
## SUBSTANCE USE ITEMS

### TOBACCO:

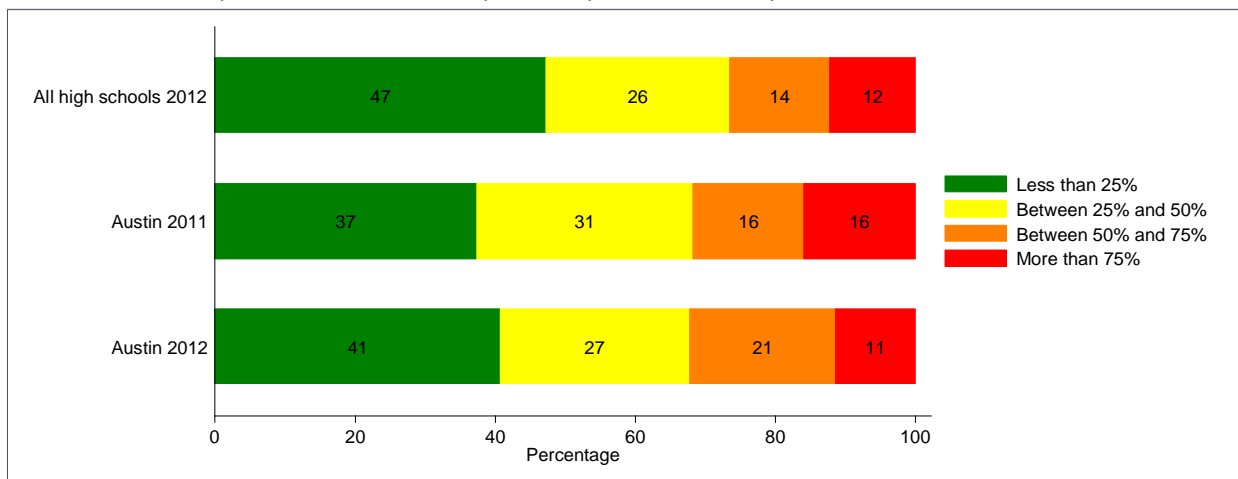
Q18a: What is the most recent you have used Tobacco?



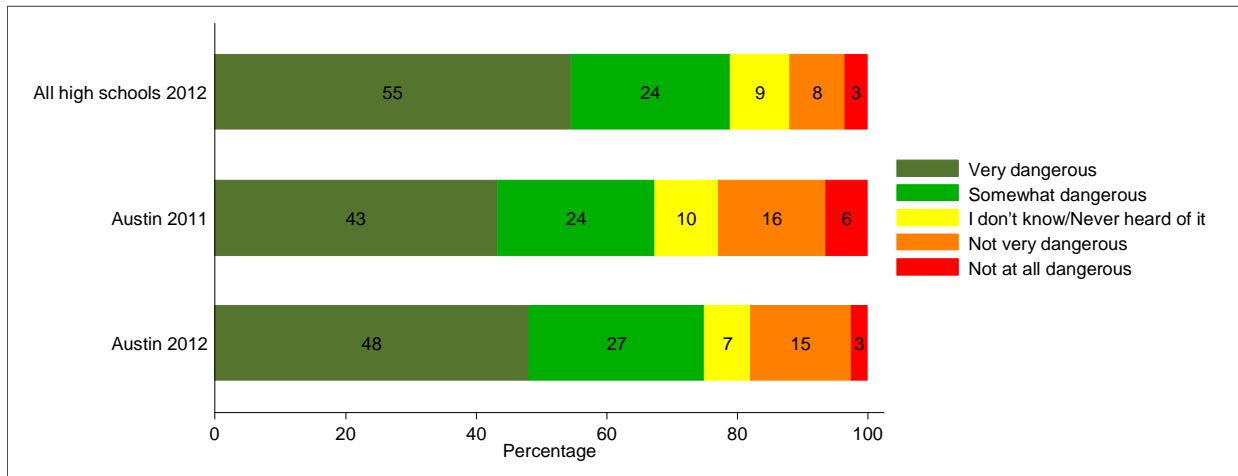
Q21a: During this year, how often did you use Tobacco?



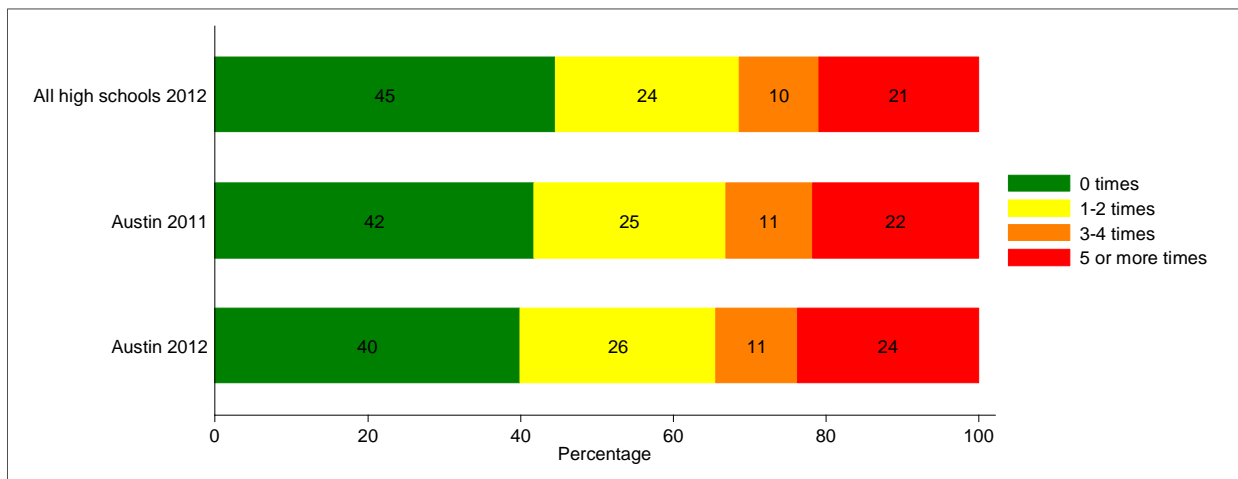
Q29a. Within the past month, how many kids at your school do you think have used Tobacco?



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

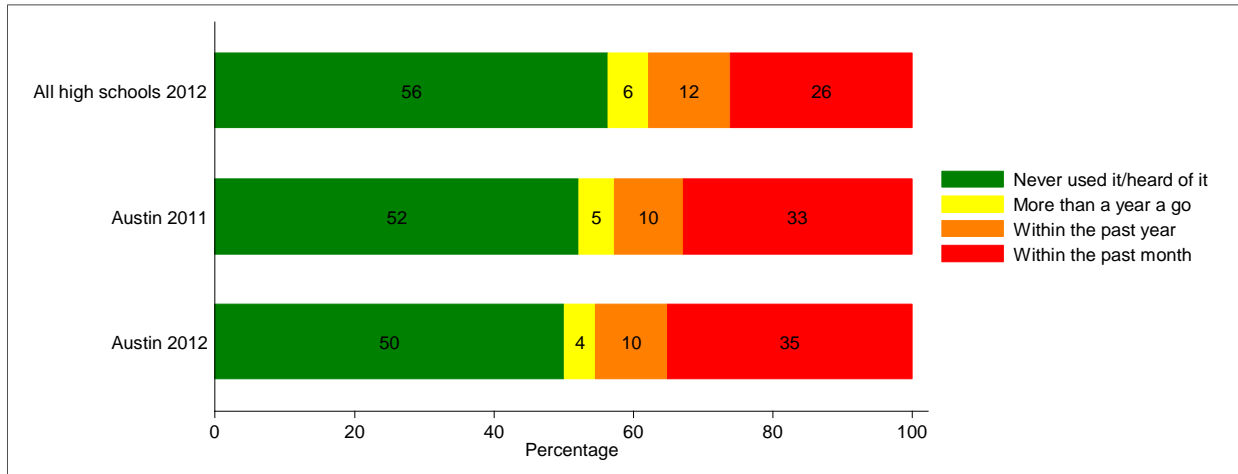


Q28g. During the school year, how many times have you experienced advertisements (TV, radio, billboard, magazine, internet, etc.) for tobacco products?

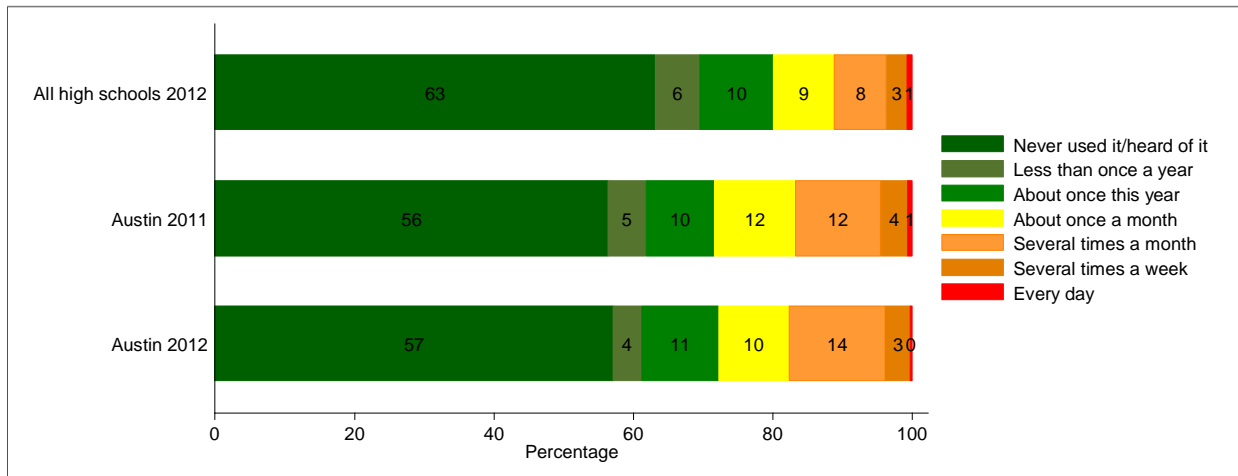


**ALCOHOL:**

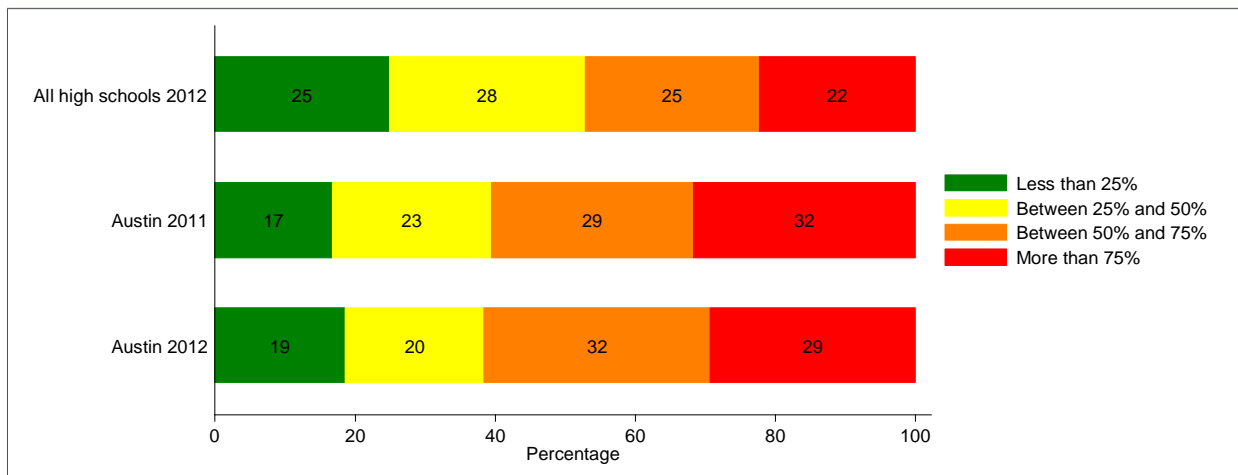
Q18b: What is the most recent you have used Alcohol?



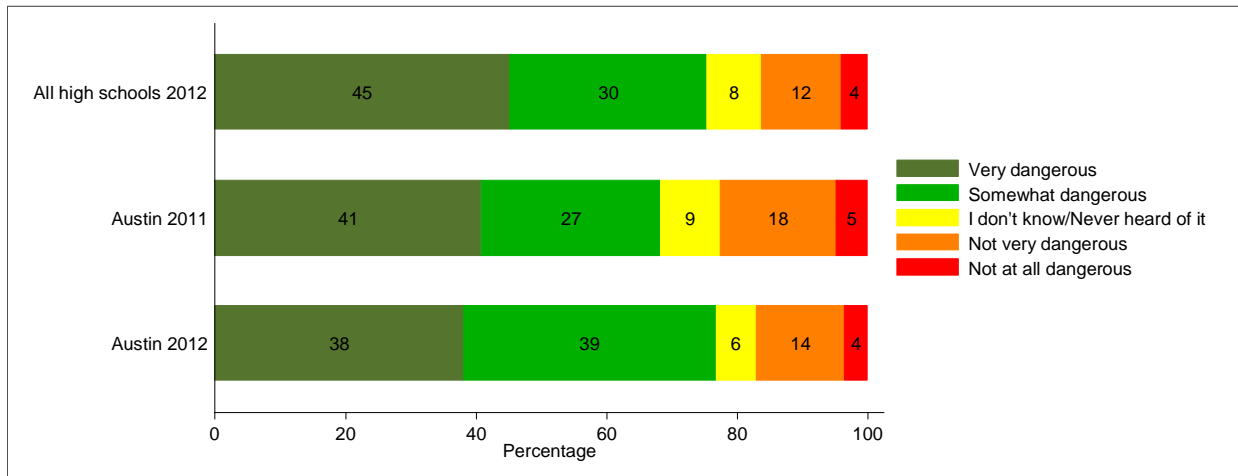
Q21b: During this year, how often did you use Alcohol?



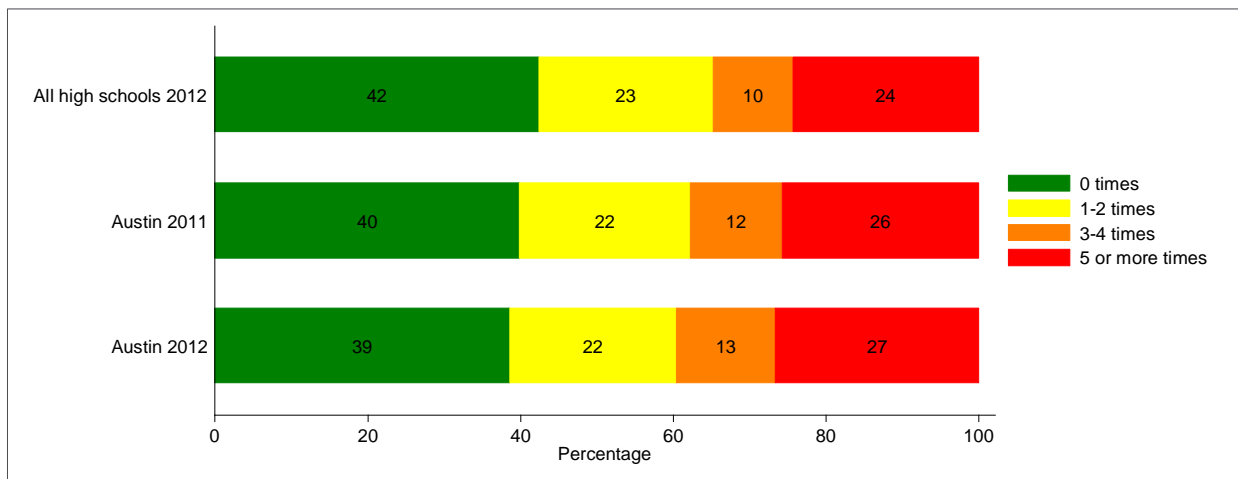
Q29b. Within the past month, how many kids at your school do you think have used Alcohol?



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

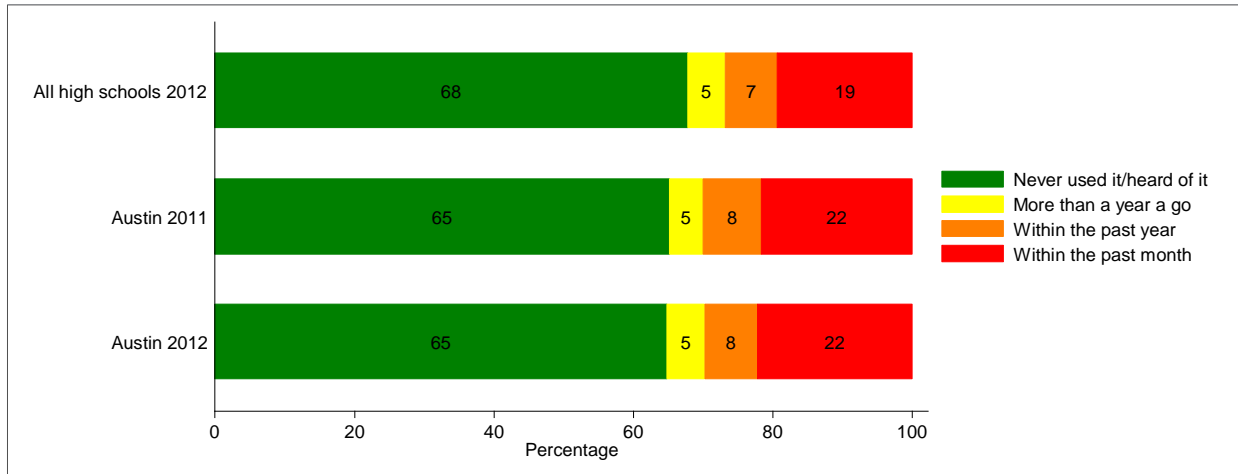


Q28f. During the school year, how many times have you experienced advertisements (TV, radio, billboard, magazine, internet, etc.) for alcohol products?

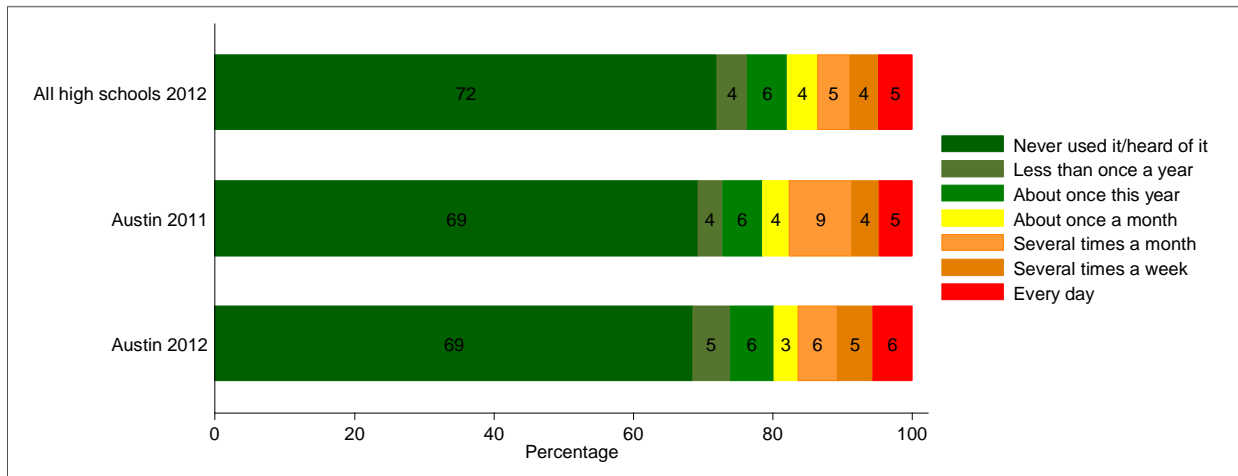


**MARIJUANA:**

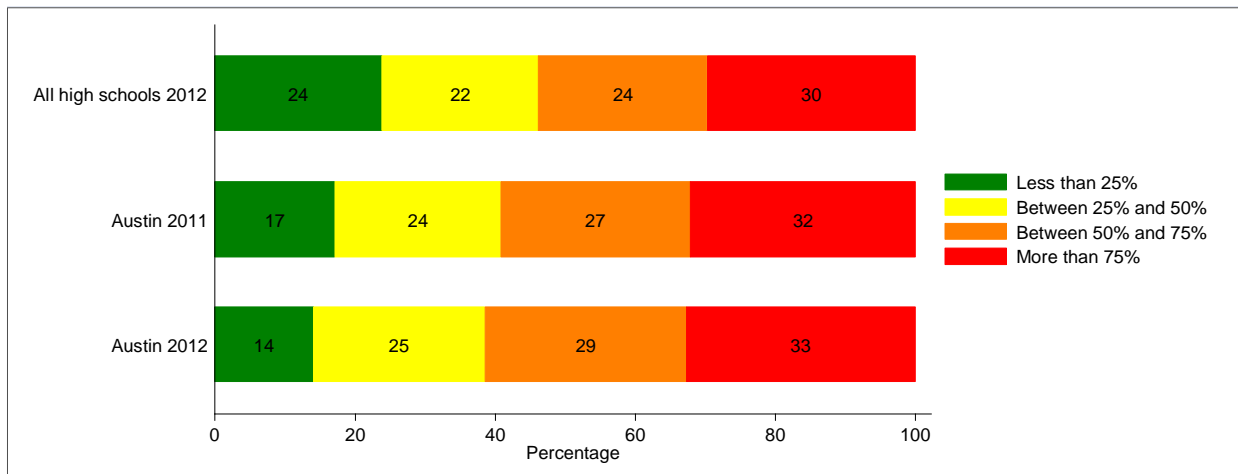
Q18c: What is the most recent you have used Marijuana?



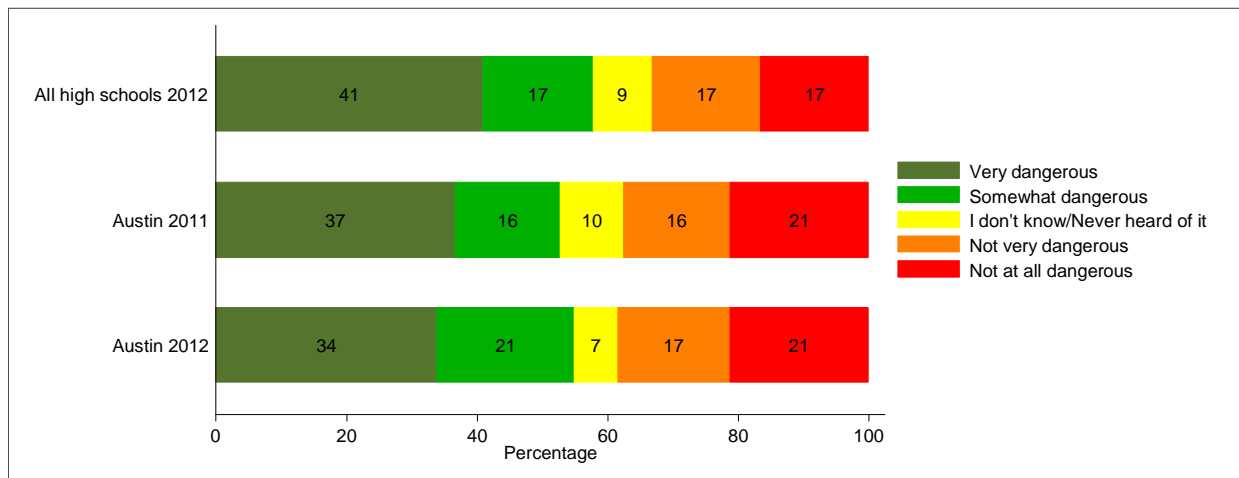
Q21c: During this year, how often did you use Marijuana?



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



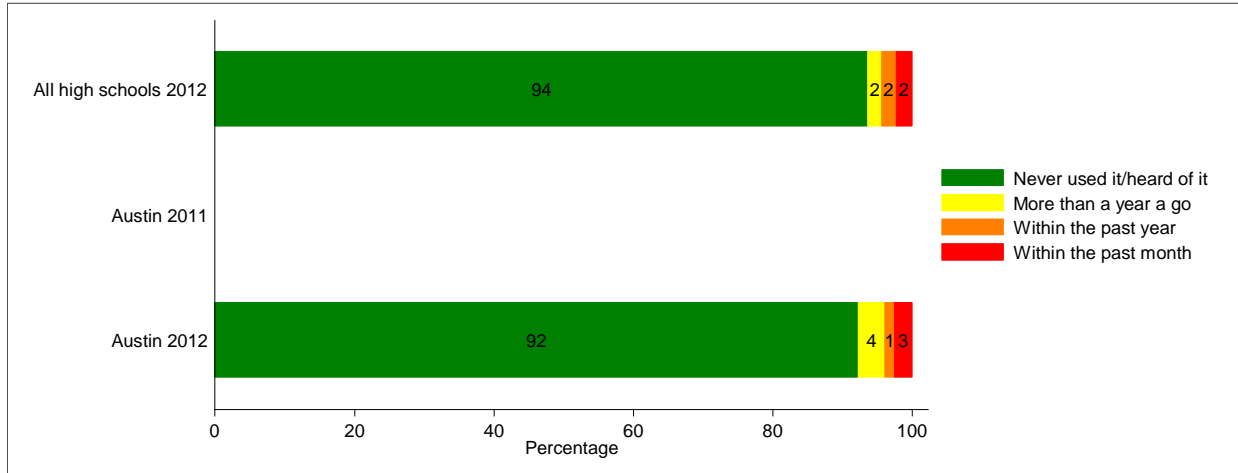
Q27c: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use Marijuana?





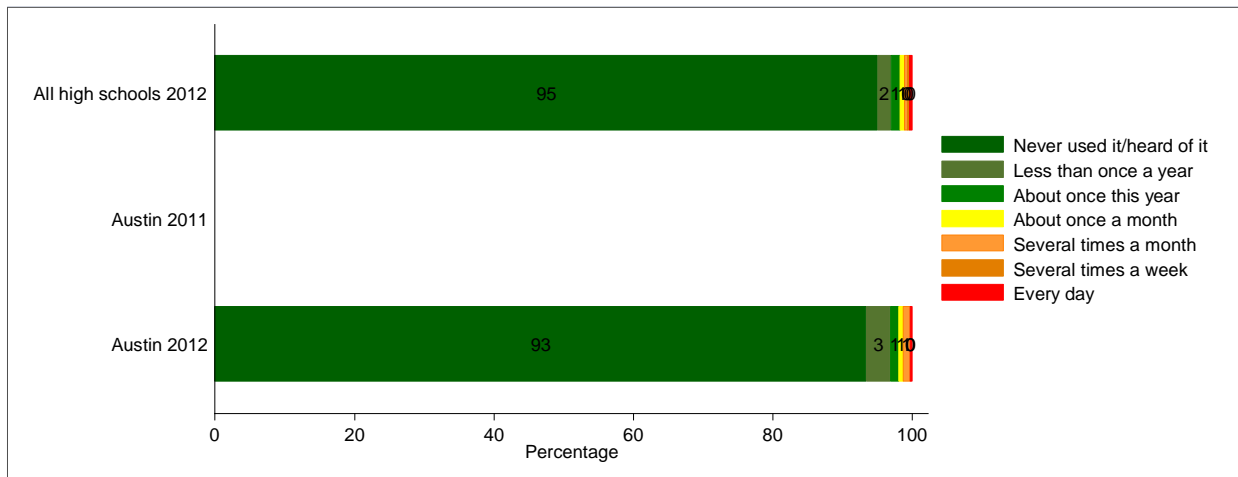
**K2 OR SPICE:**

Q18d: What is the most recent you have used K2 or Spice?



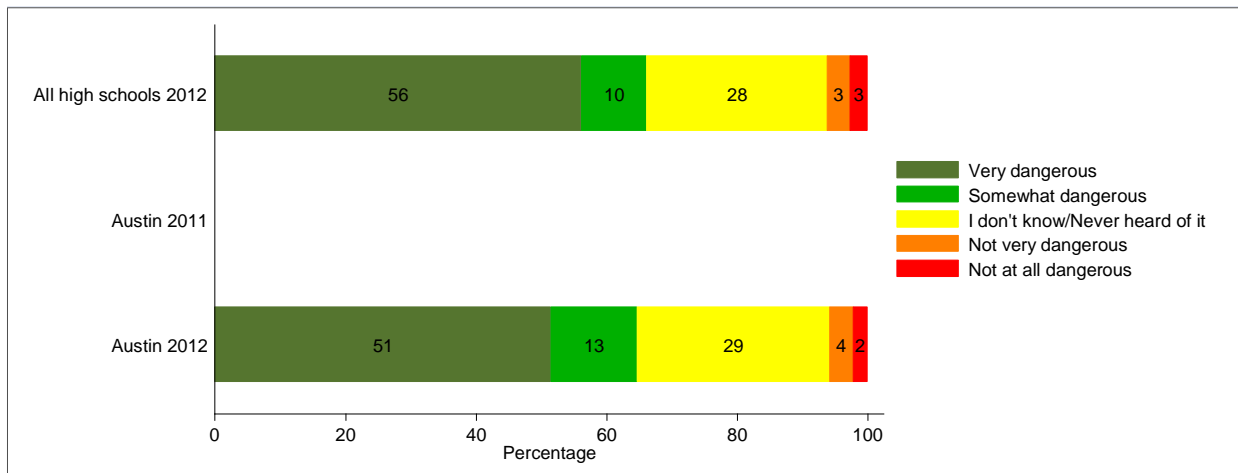
Note: This question was not asked in the 2010-2011 survey.

Q21d: During this year, how often did you use K2 or Spice?



Note: This question was not asked in the 2010-2011 survey.

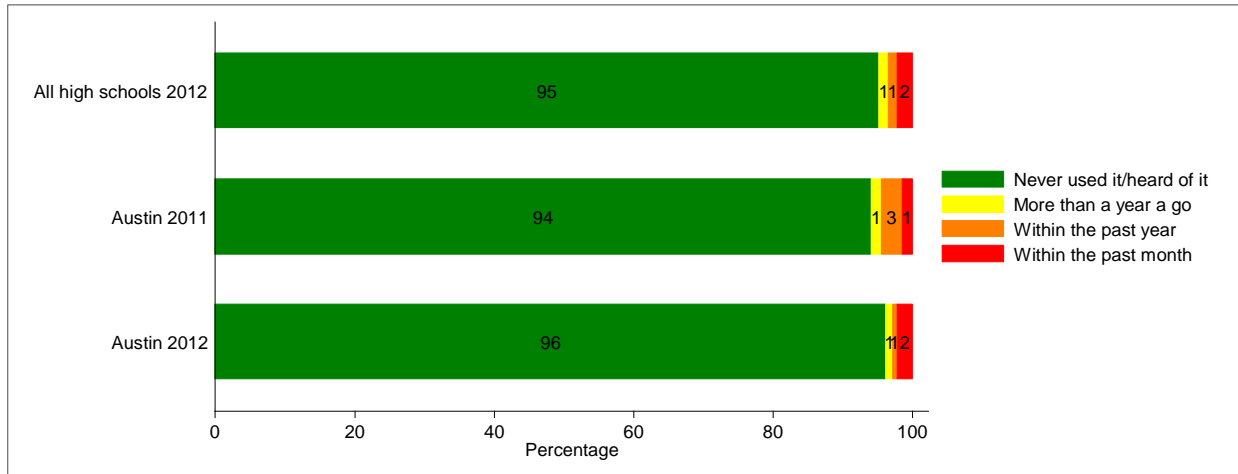
Q27d: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use K2 or Spice?



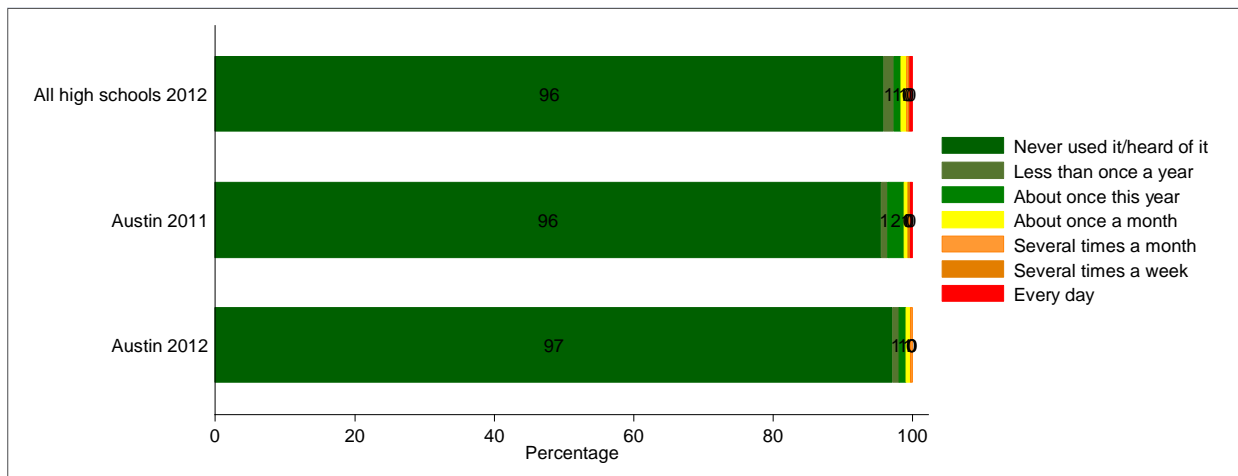
Note: This question was not asked in the 2010-2011 survey.

**INHALANTS:**

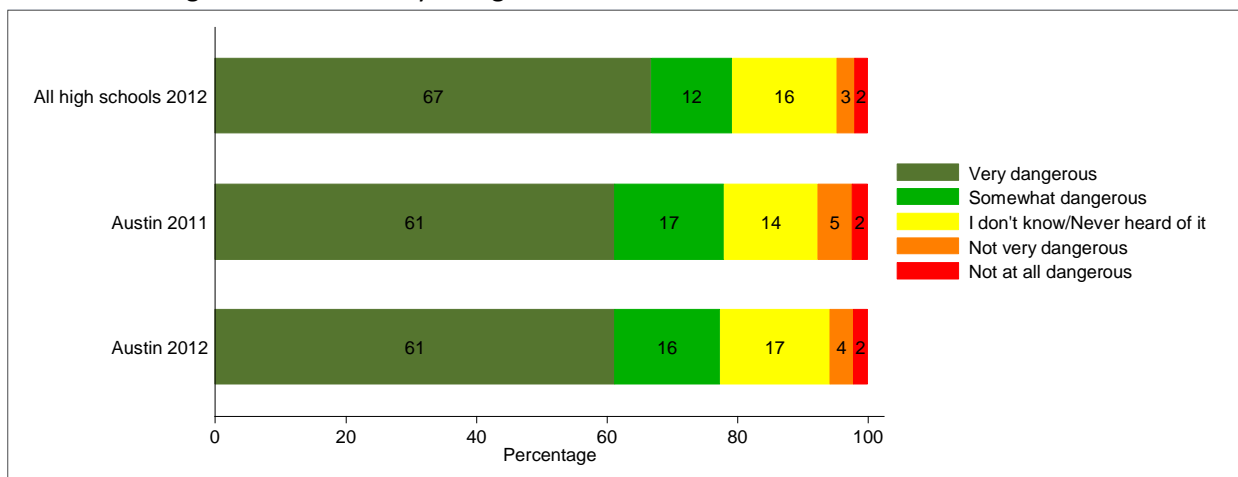
Q18e: What is the most recent you have used Inhalants?



Q21e: During this year, how often did you use Inhalants?

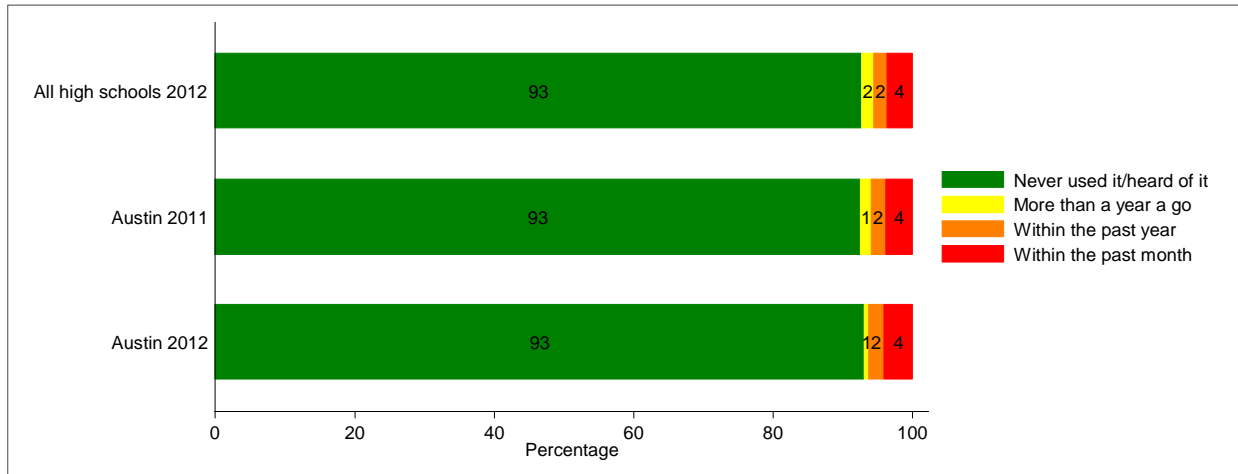


Q27e: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use Inhalants?

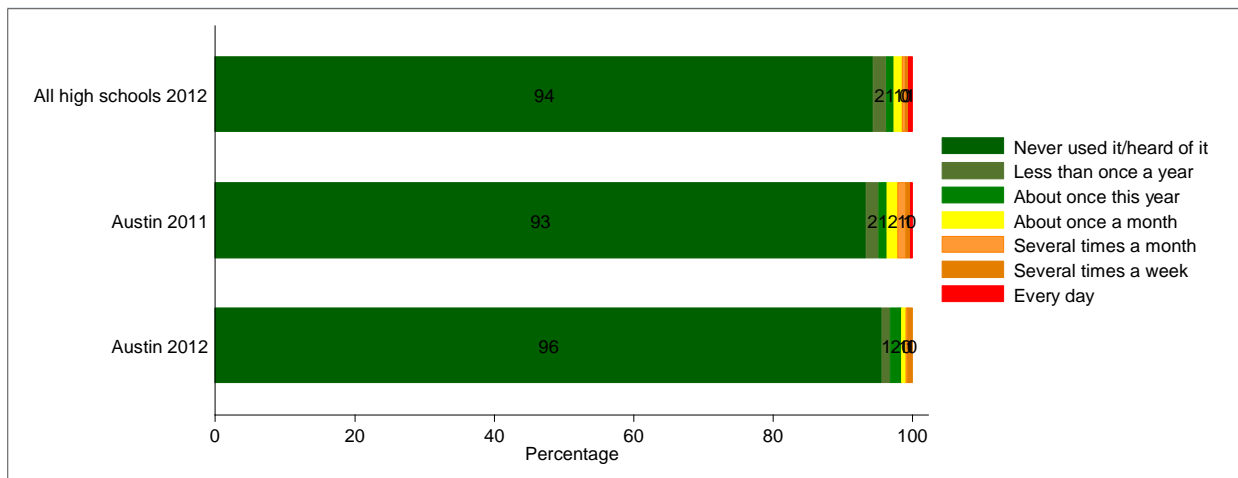


**OVER THE COUNTER MEDICATION:**

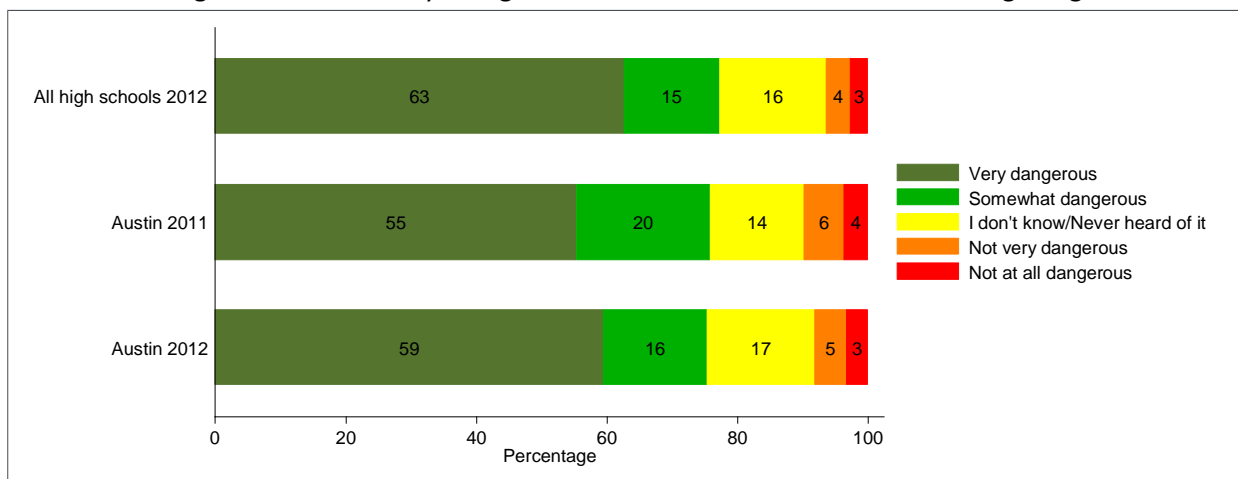
Q18f: What is the most recent you have used Over the Counter Medication to get high?



Q21f: During this year, how often did you use Over the Counter Medication to get high?

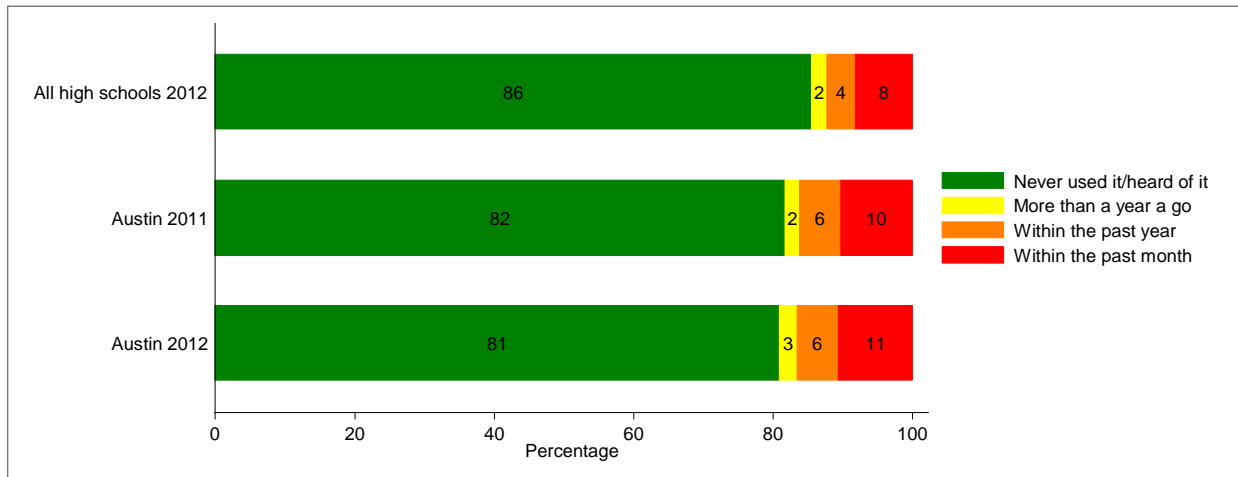


Q27f: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use Over the Counter Medication to get high?

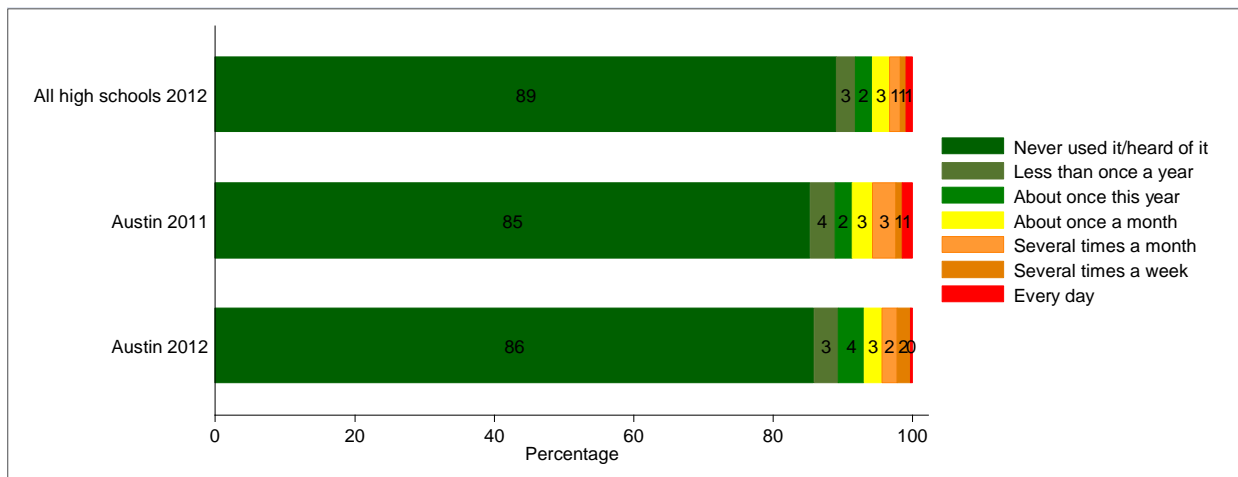


**PRESCRIPTION DRUGS:**

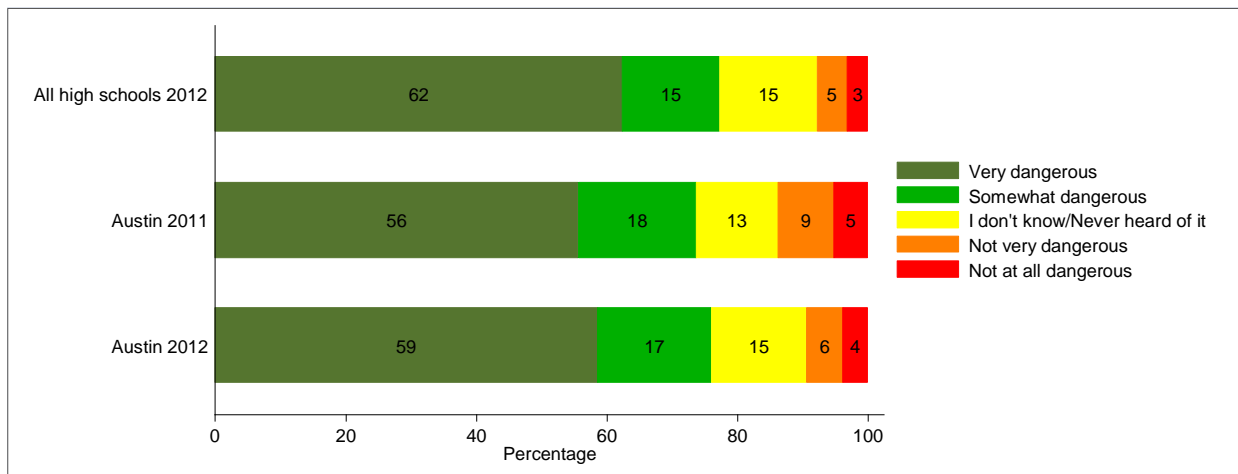
Q18g: What is the most recent you have used Prescription Drugs that were not prescribed to you to get high?



Q21g: During this year, how often did you use Prescription Drugs that were not prescribed to you to get high?

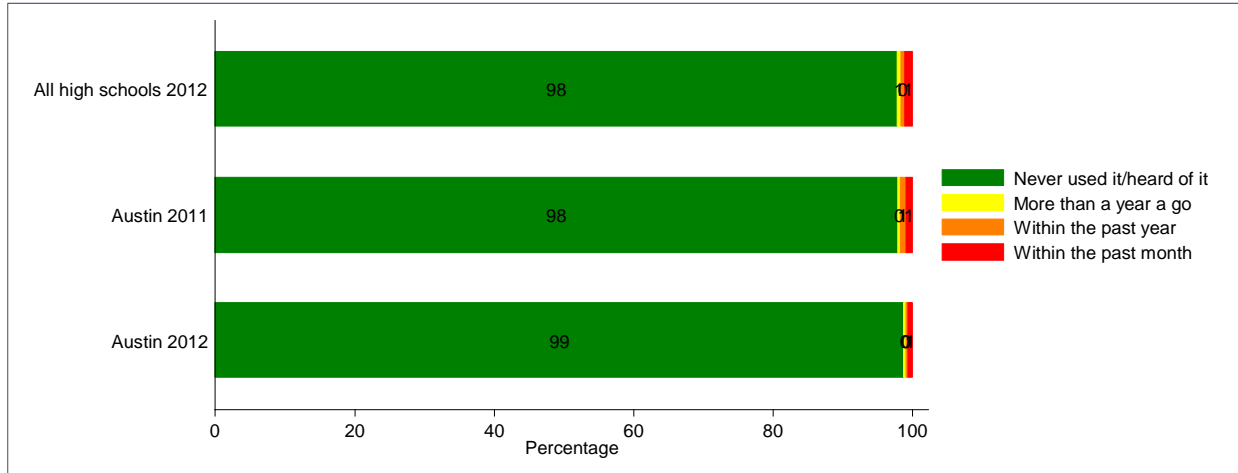


Q27g: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use Prescription Drugs that are not prescribed to you to get high?

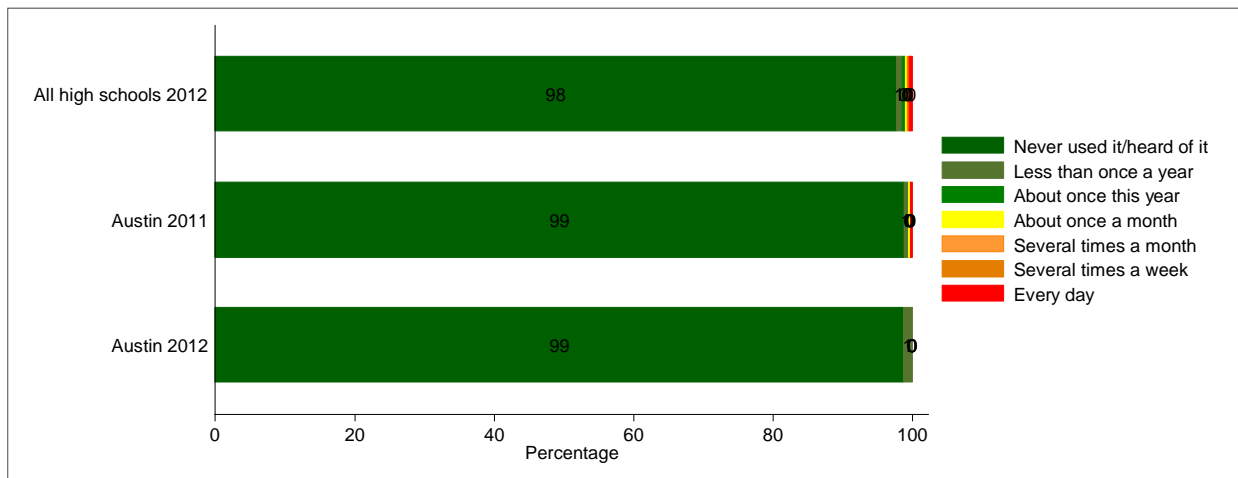


**STEROIDS OR PERFORMANCE ENHANCING DRUGS:**

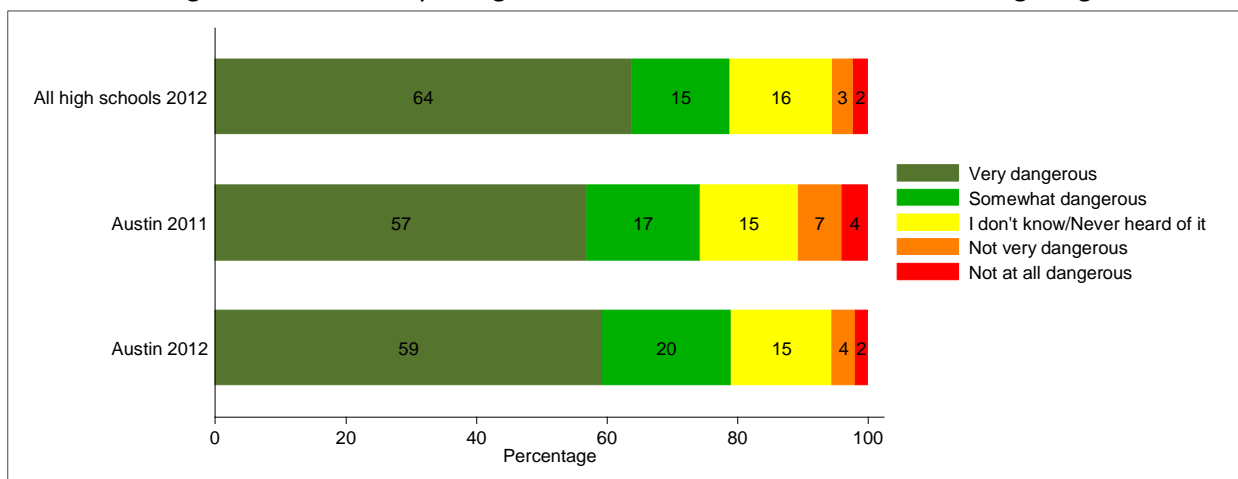
Q18h: What is the most recent you have used Steroids or Performance Enhancing Drugs?



Q21h: During this year, how often did you use Steroids or Performance Enhancing Drugs?

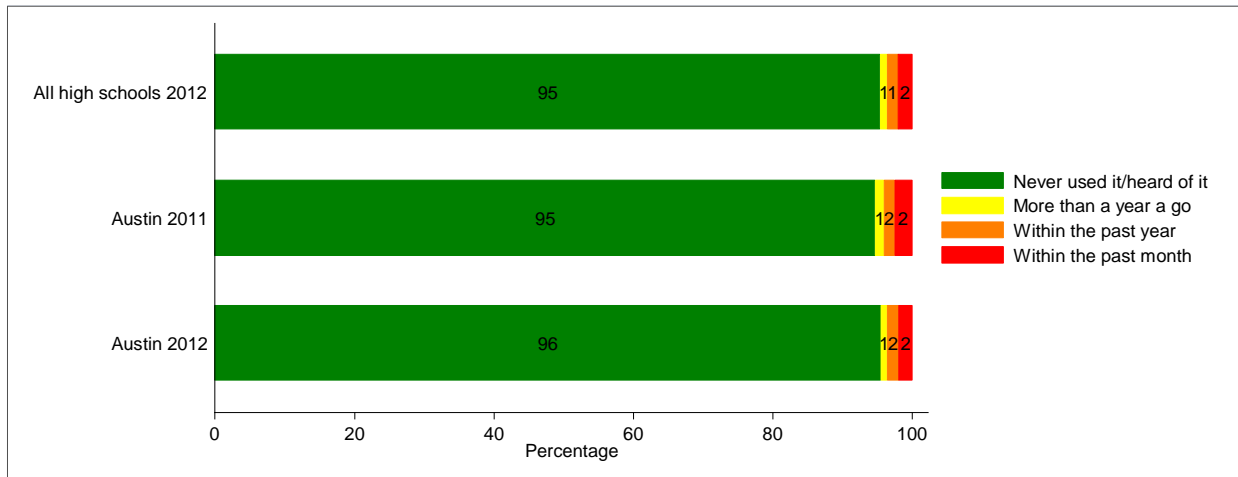


Q27h: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use Steroids or Performance Enhancing Drugs?

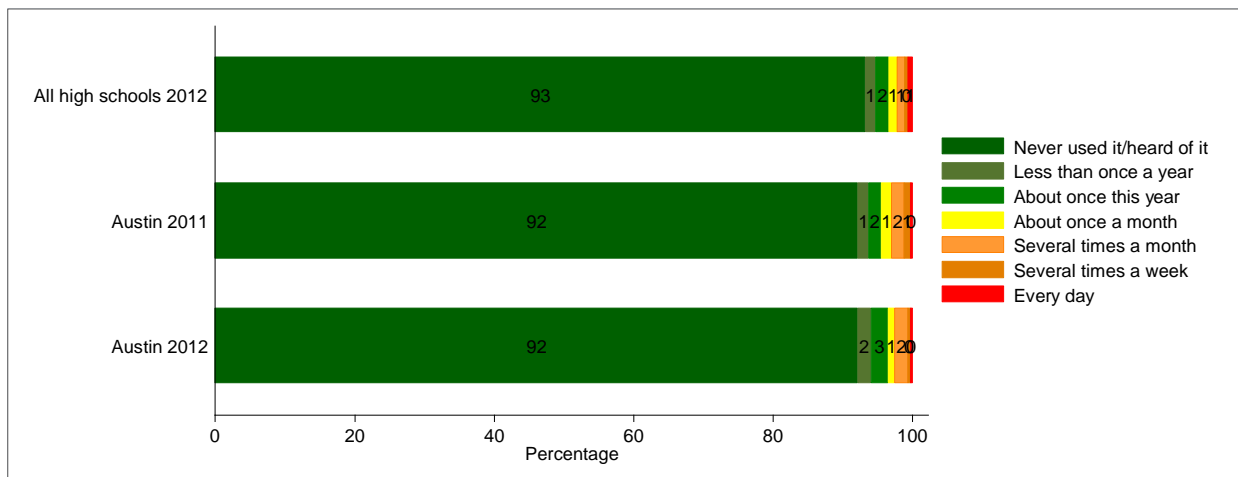


**OTHER ILLEGAL DRUGS:**

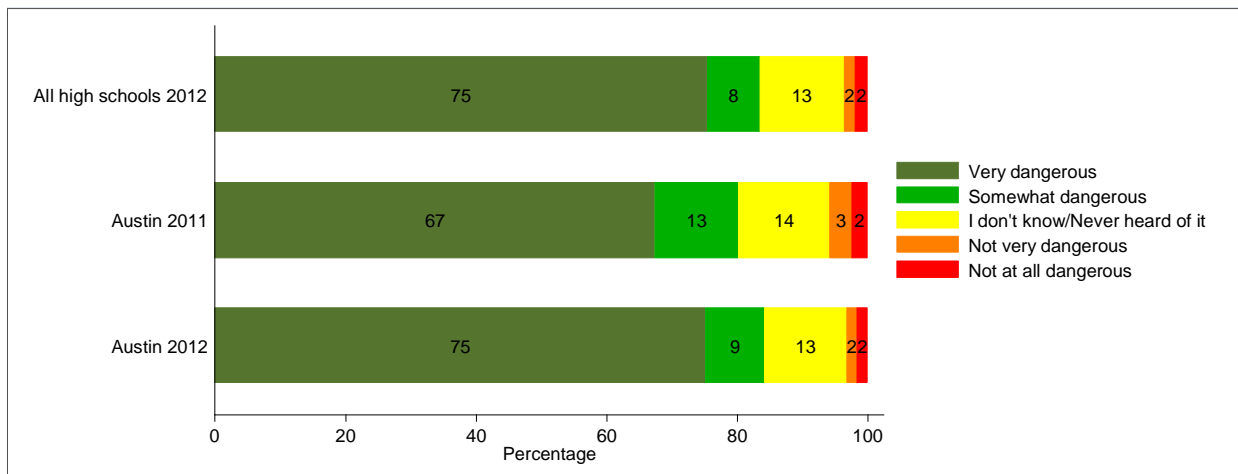
Q18i: What is the most recent you have used Other Illegal Drugs (e.g. cocaine, ecstasy, hallucinogens, heroin, methamphetamines)?



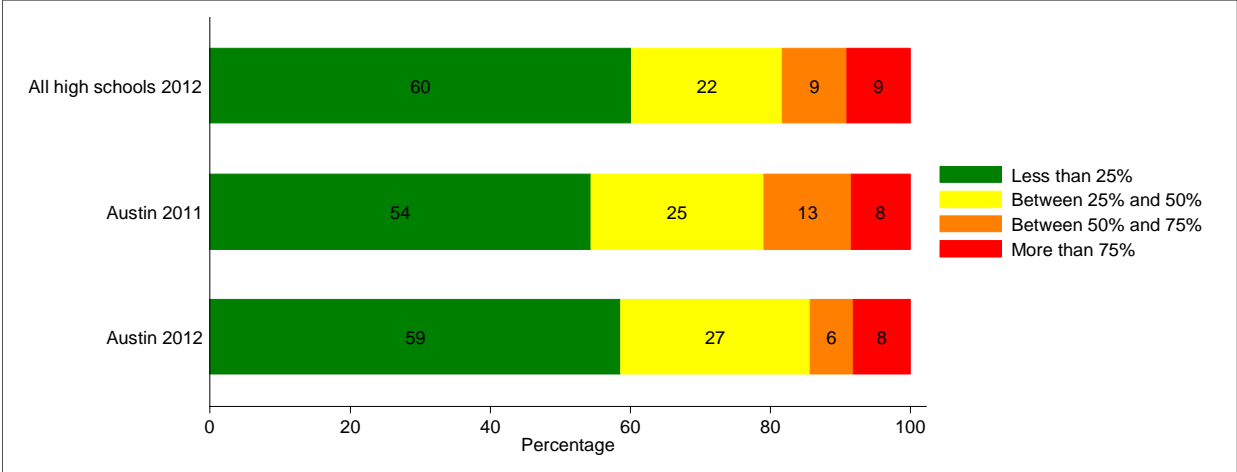
Q21i: During this school year how often have you used Other Illegal Drugs?



Q27i: How dangerous do you think it is for kids your age to use Other Illegal Drugs?

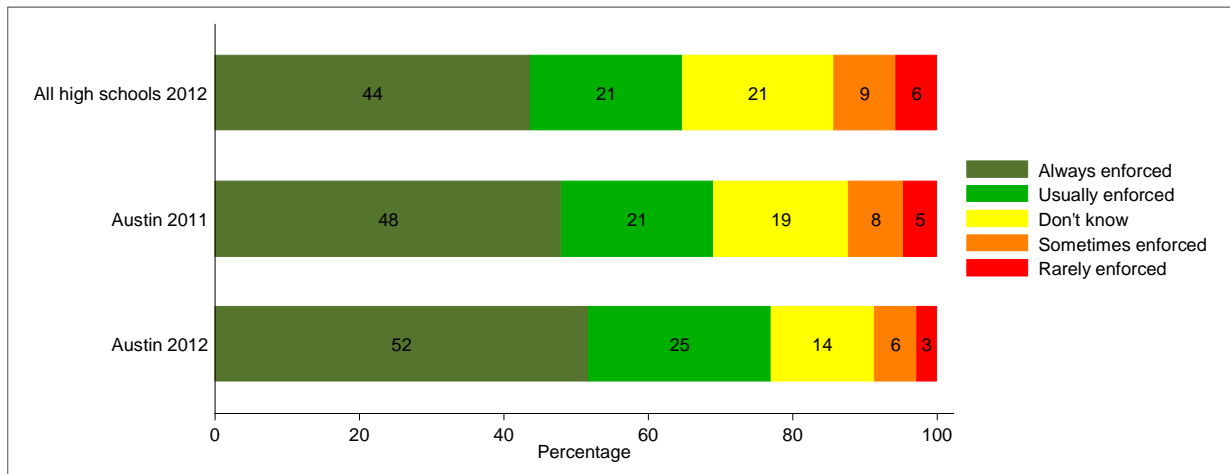


Q29d. Within the past month, how many kids at your school do you think have used Other Illegal Drugs (e.g., cocaine, ecstasy, heroin, etc.) ?

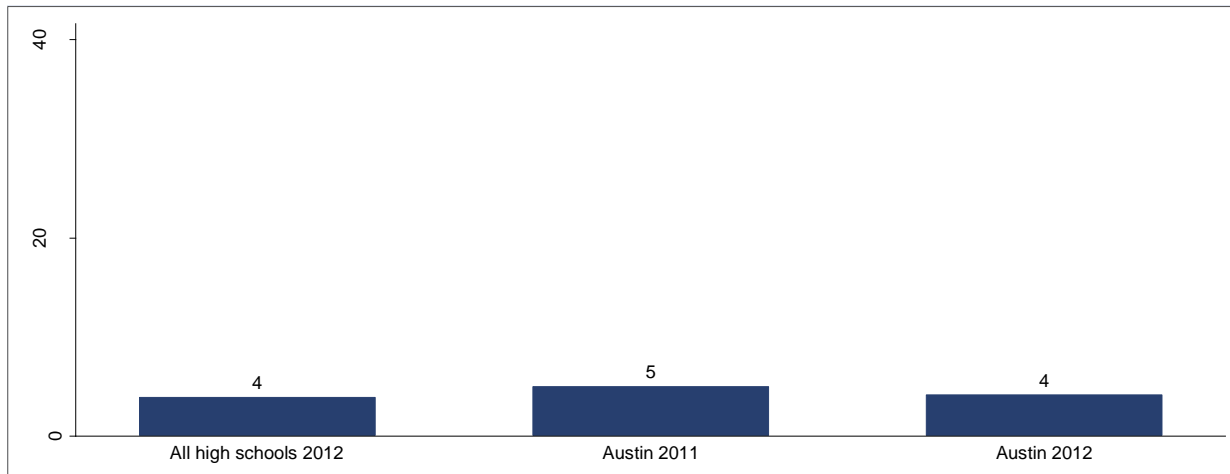


**OPINIONS, EXPERIENCE, AND EXPOSURE:**

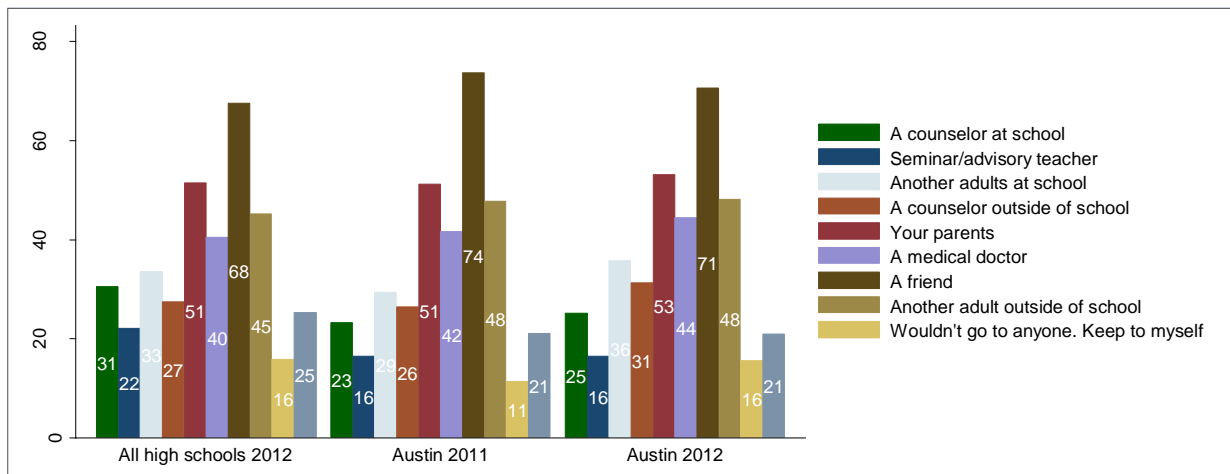
Q13: Are school rules about drug, alcohol, and tobacco use enforced by school staff?



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

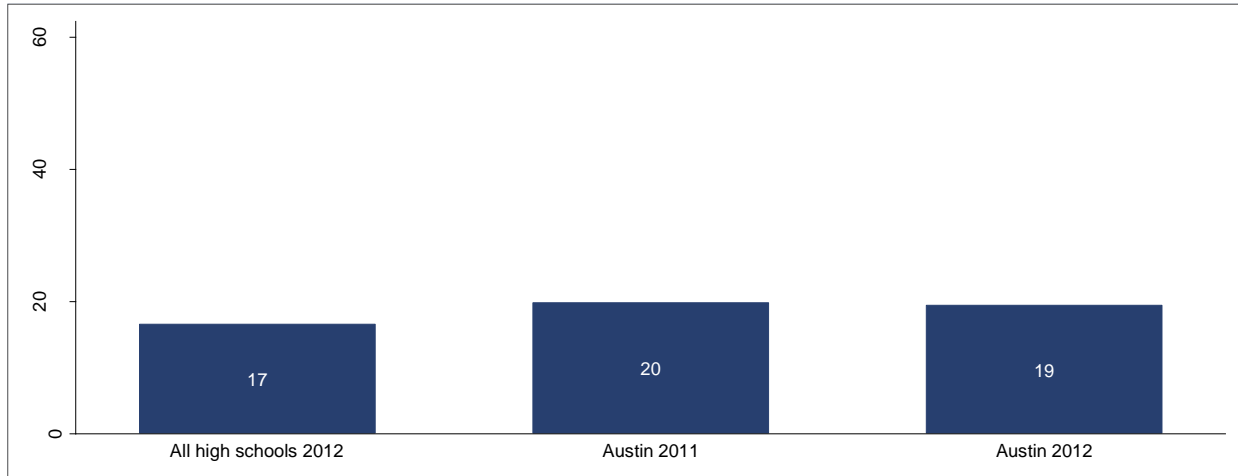


Q24: If you had a drug or alcohol problem and needed help, who would you go to?

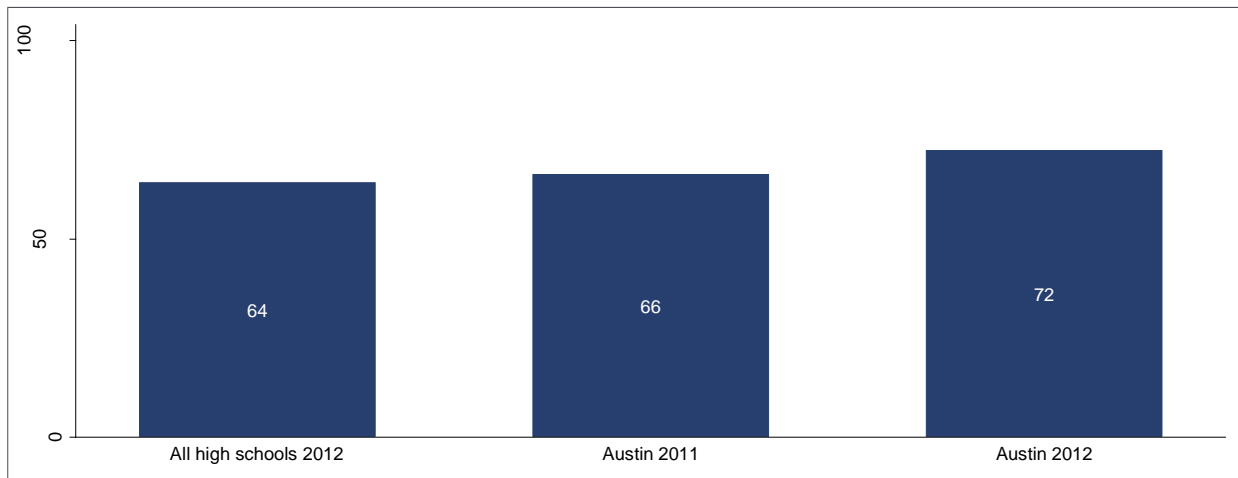




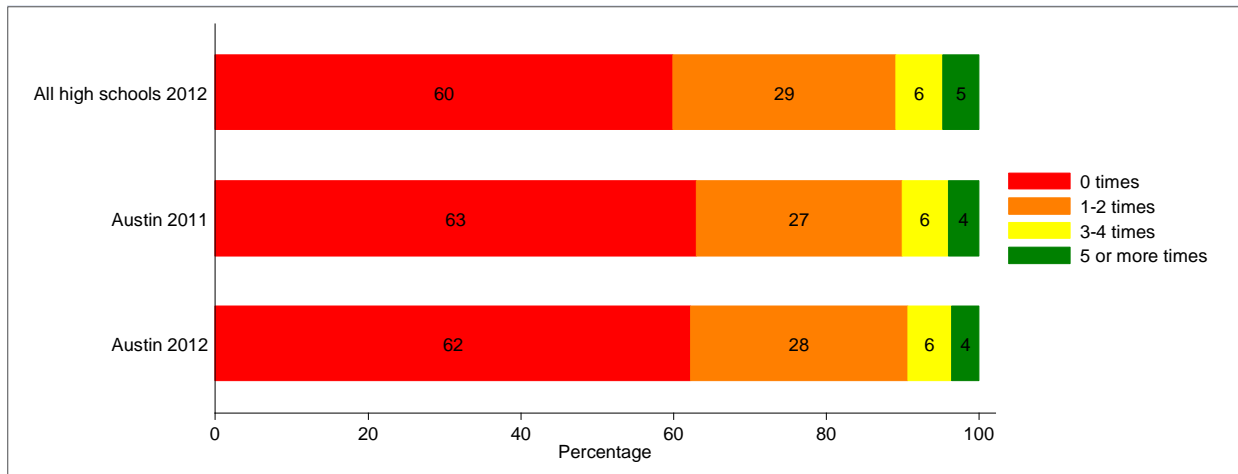
Q20: During this school year, have you attended any class while “high”, “stoned”, or “drunk” on any substance?



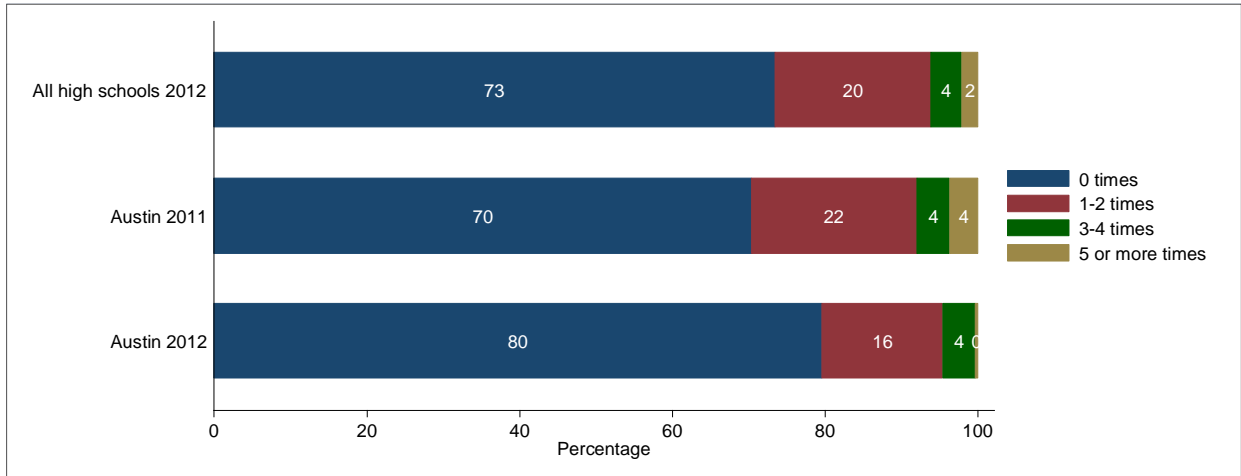
Q25: Within the past year, has your parent/guardian talked with you about the dangers of tobacco, alcohol, or drug use?



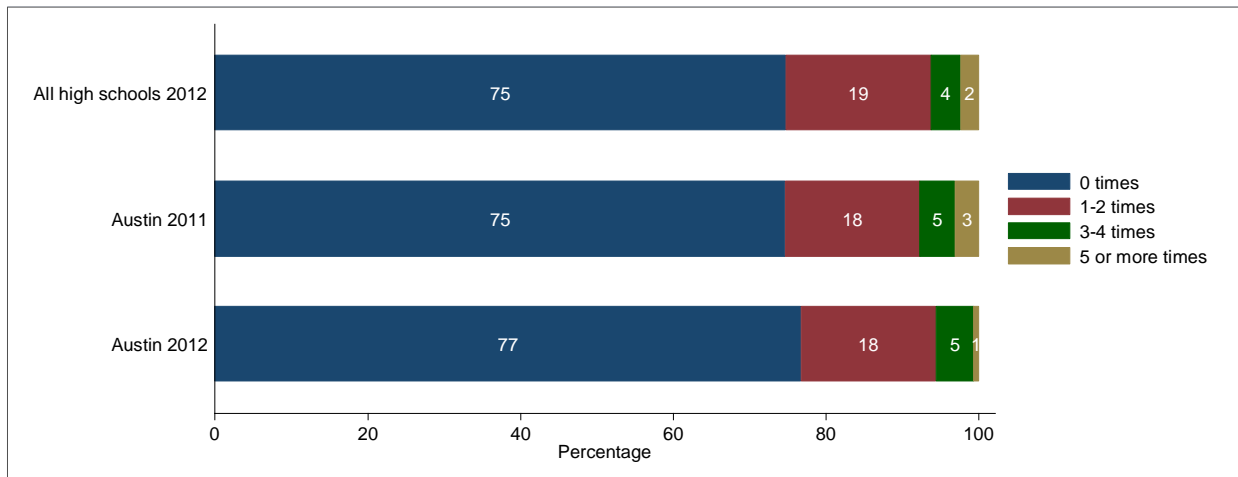
Q28a. During the school year, how many times have you experienced classes in which you learned and practiced ways of resisting and avoiding substance abuse?



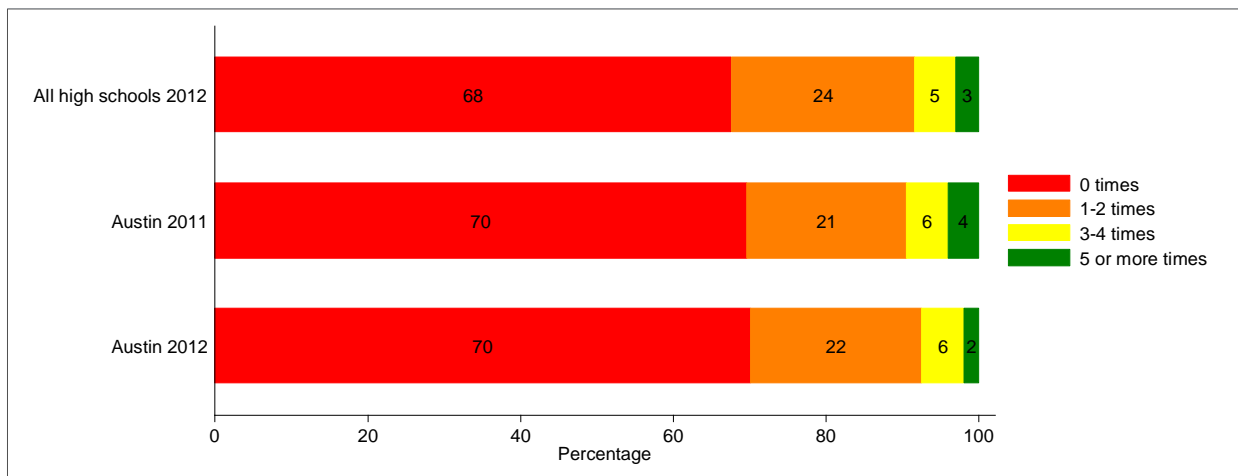
Q28b. During the school year, how many times have you experienced presentations by people who recovered from alcohol and drug abuse?



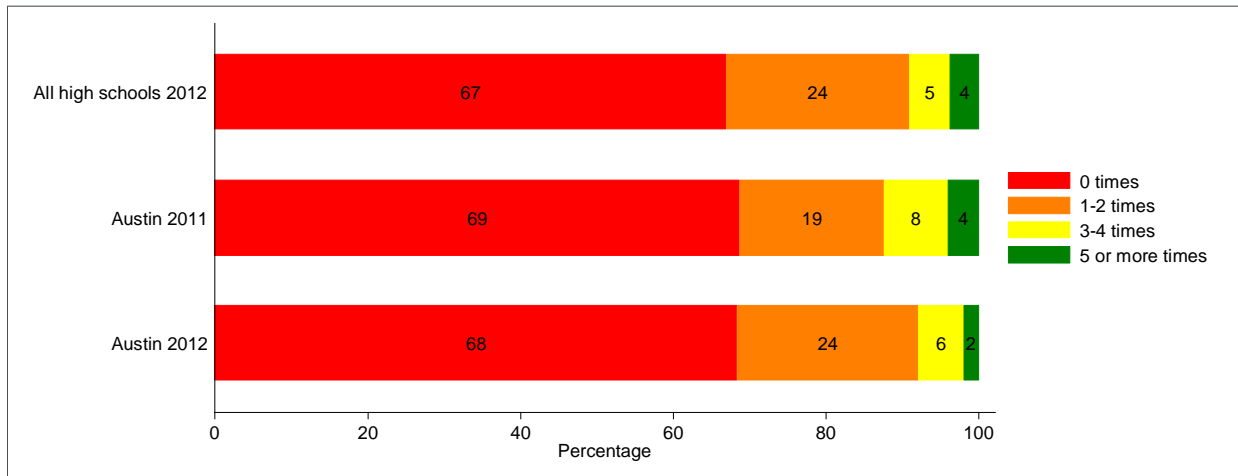
Q28c. During the school year, how many times have you experienced presentations by students who tell about how to avoid substance abuse?



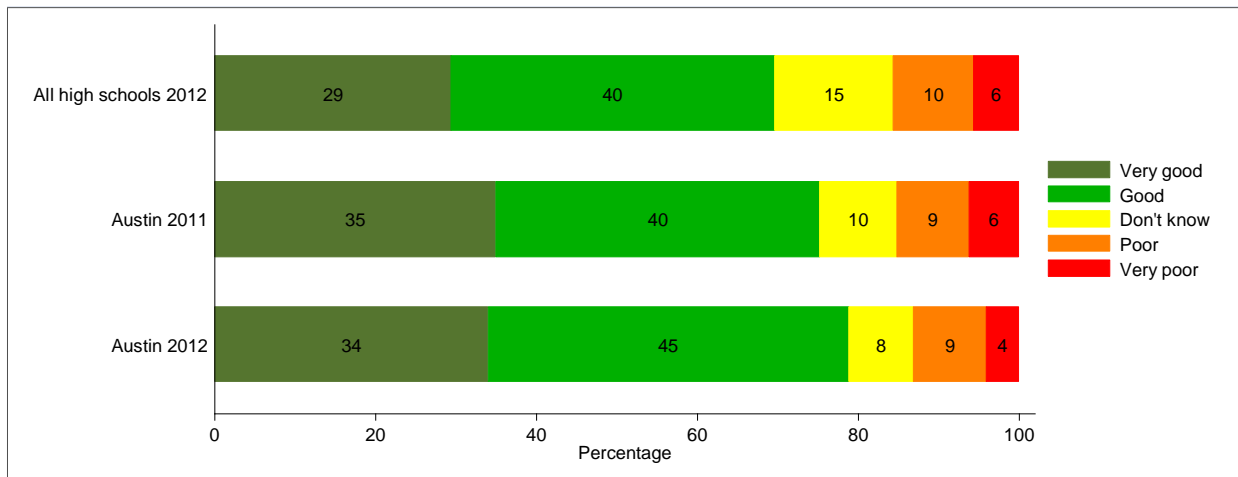
Q28d. During the school year, how many times have you received information about counseling or services to help kids quit smoking and stop substance abuse?



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?



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