

Results of the 2013 Student Substance Use and Safety Survey

September, 2013



GARCIA MIDDLE SCHOOL

Description of Survey

Every year, the self-reported student substance use and safety survey (SSUSS) is administered to a random, representative sample of Austin Independent School District (AISD) students. The survey is used to track students' knowledge, attitudes, and self-reported behavior over time. In the spring of 2013, a sample of 8,846 students in grades 6 through 12 submitted valid responses to the district's annual SSUSS, yielding a response rate of 75%.¹ Respondent demographics and all item results are included in this report. The survey questions are presented by topic and maps of results are included for certain items.

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 your campus population is likely to fall:

- Population size: In this case, the number of students at your campus.
- Sample size: In this case, the number of survey respondents from your campus.
- 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 your campus data?

Based on the Garcia Middle School sample of 235 students and population enrollment of 571, the 95% confidence interval for Garcia is + and – 5 percentage points.

The 95% interval for all middle schools is + and -1 percentage point.

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 2013, 29% 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 29% yields a range of 24% - 34%. Therefore, you can be 95% confident that somewhere between 24% - 34% 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 2012 was 6 percentage points. Therefore, only differences of 11 (5% + 6%) percentage points or greater should be considered statistically significant when comparing the results from two different years. In addition, differences of 6 (5% + 1%) percentage points or greater should be considered statistically significant when comparing the results between the campus and all middle schools.

¹ A total of 9,256 surveys were returned to the Department of Research and Evaluation from an original sample of 11,860 students. Of those returned, 410 surveys were removed from analysis due to invalid responses.

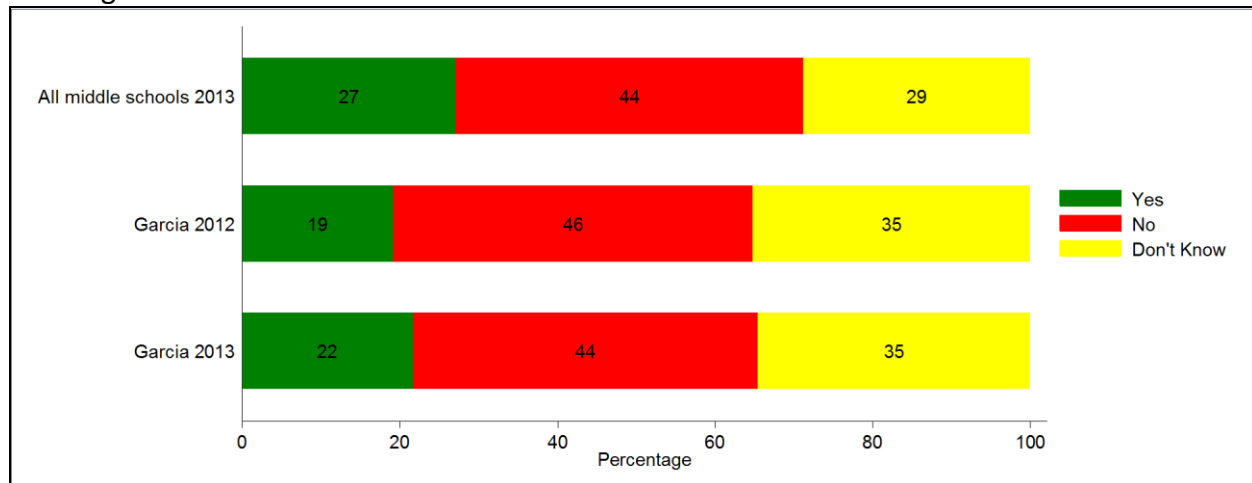
RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS AND ITEMS THAT ADDRESS BOTH SUBSTANCE USE AND SAFETY

Survey Sample Demographics

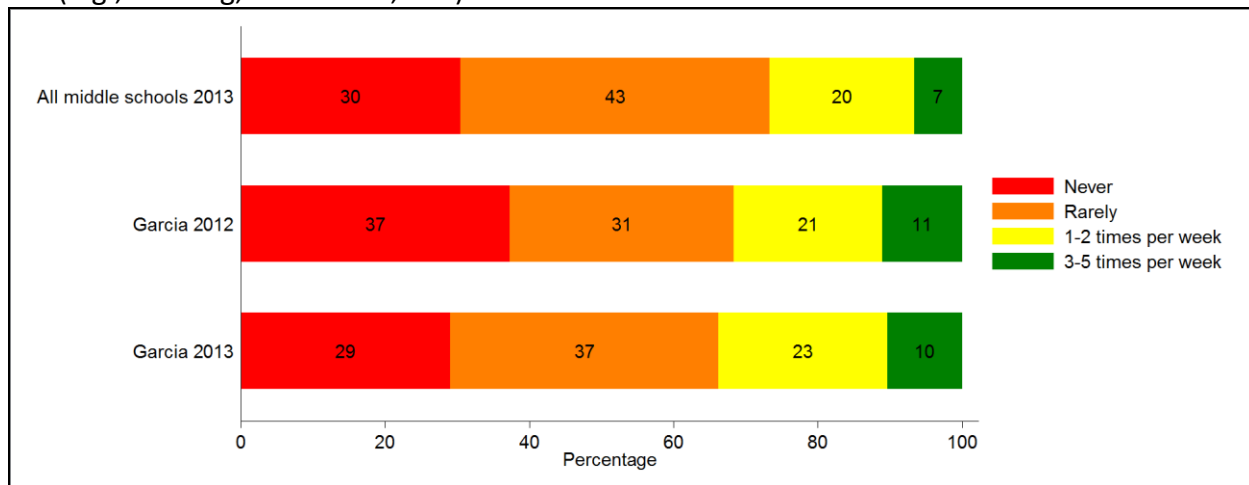
	Gender		Grade			Total
	Male	Female	6th	7th	8th	
Garcia 2012	96 54%	82 46%	0 0%	96 53 %	85 47 %	181
Garcia 2013	117 50%	118 50%	86 37%	67 27%	81 34%	235
All middle schools 2013	2,434 49%	2,510 51%	1,691 34%	1,667 34%	1,591 32%	4,984

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

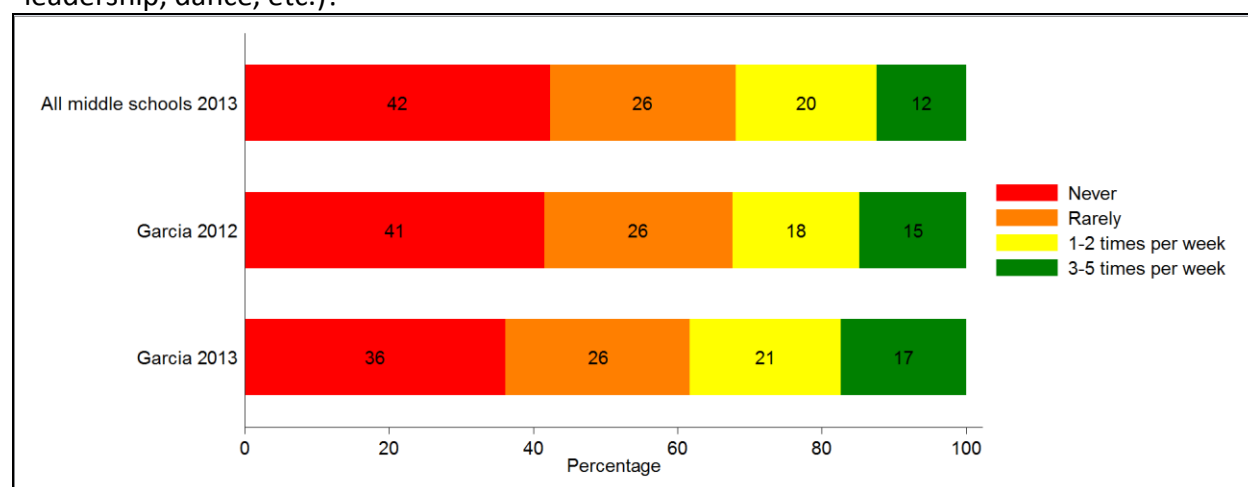
Q22: Do one or both of your parents usually attend school sponsored open houses, PTA meetings or other school events?



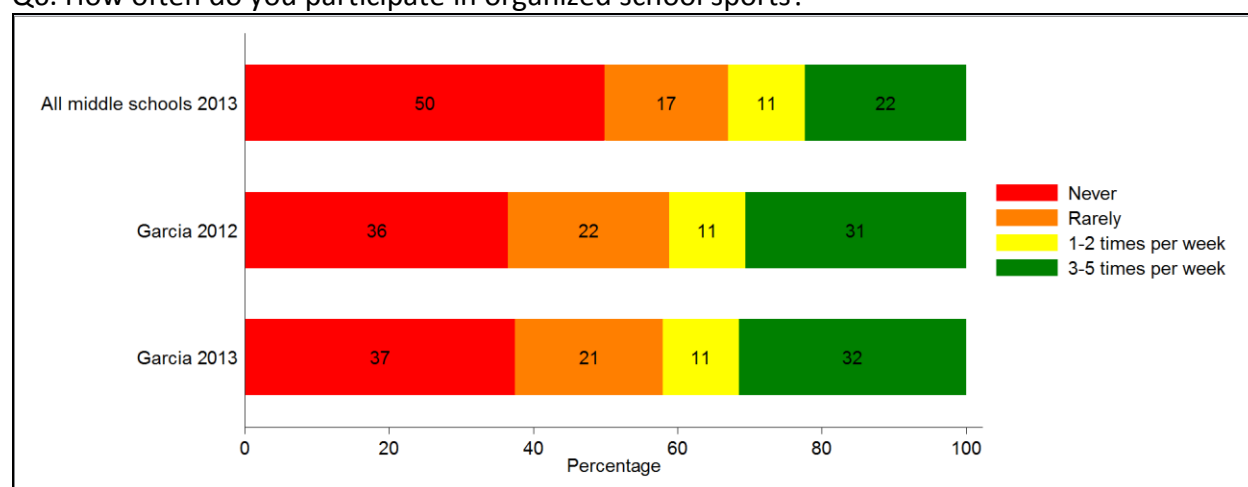
Q4. How often do you participate in after school programs to help you with your school work (e.g., tutoring, homework, etc.) ?



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?

	Garcia 2012-2013	Percentage point change from 2011-2012*	All middle schools 2012-2013
Illegal drugs	6%	-4	6%
Tobacco	4%	2	3%
Knives	6%	-1	5%
Prescription drugs	5%	1	4%
Alcohol	4%	-2	3%
Other weapons	7%	3	5%
Gun	3%	-1	3%
None of the above	88%	4	89%

Note. Percentages are of students who reported bringing those items to school.

*Negative percentage point changes indicate fewer students reported bringing those items to school in 2012-2013 than in 2011-2012.

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

	Garcia 2012-2013	Percentage point change from 2011-2012*	All middle schools 2012-2013
Marijuana use	6%	-12	15%
Student fighting and physical aggression	51%	9	25%
Student harassment, threats, and intimidation	9%	2	19%
Alcohol use	1%	0	1%
Prescription drug use	4%	0	4%
Student vandalism, criminal mischief	2%	1	3%
Student weapon possession	7%	1	5%
Tobacco use	0%	-1	1%
Violence or threats toward staff	1%	-1	2%
None of these are serious problems on my campus	17%	-1	25%

Note. Percentages are of students who reported those items as the most serious problem on their campus.

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

* Negative percentage point changes indicate fewer students reported those items as the most serious problem on their campus in 2012-2013 than in 2011-2012.

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

	Garcia 2012-2013	Percentage point change from 2011-2012*	All middle schools 2012-2013
Advisory/seminar class	39%	9	44%
Health class	43%	11	36%
Science class	46%	-10	43%
Another class	49%	4	36%
Special school event about tobacco, drugs, alcohol, or violence	57%	10	38%
Guidance counselor	44%	13	26%
School nurse	32%	-8	20%
Afterschool program	27%	0	13%
Student support group meetings at school	28%	-5	15%
Other school source not mentioned above	63%	-9	72%
Coach or P.E. teacher	25	1	19
None of the above	12%	0	10%

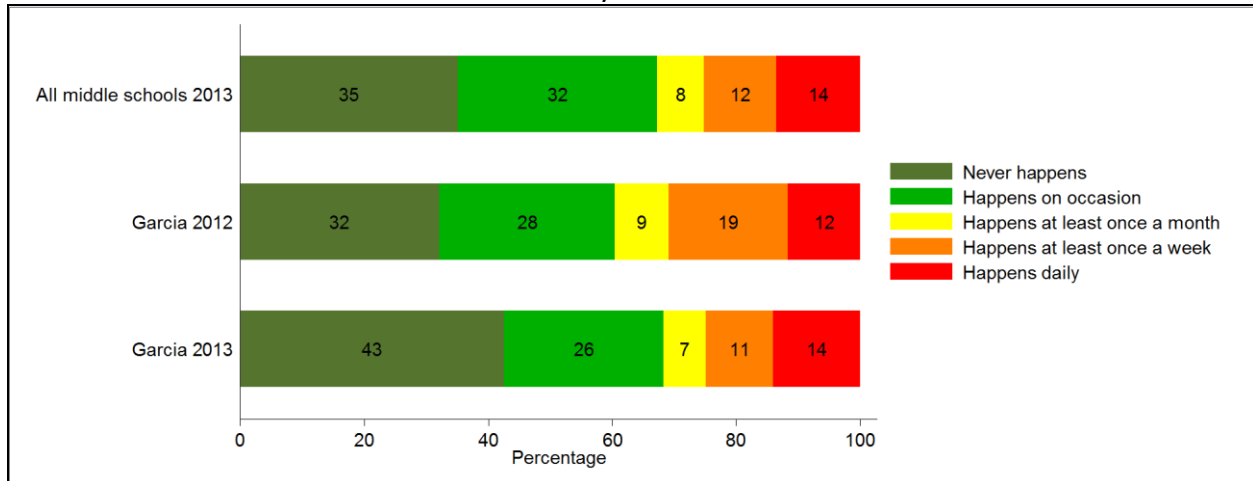
Note. Percentages are of students who reported having received information on drugs, alcohol, or violence.

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

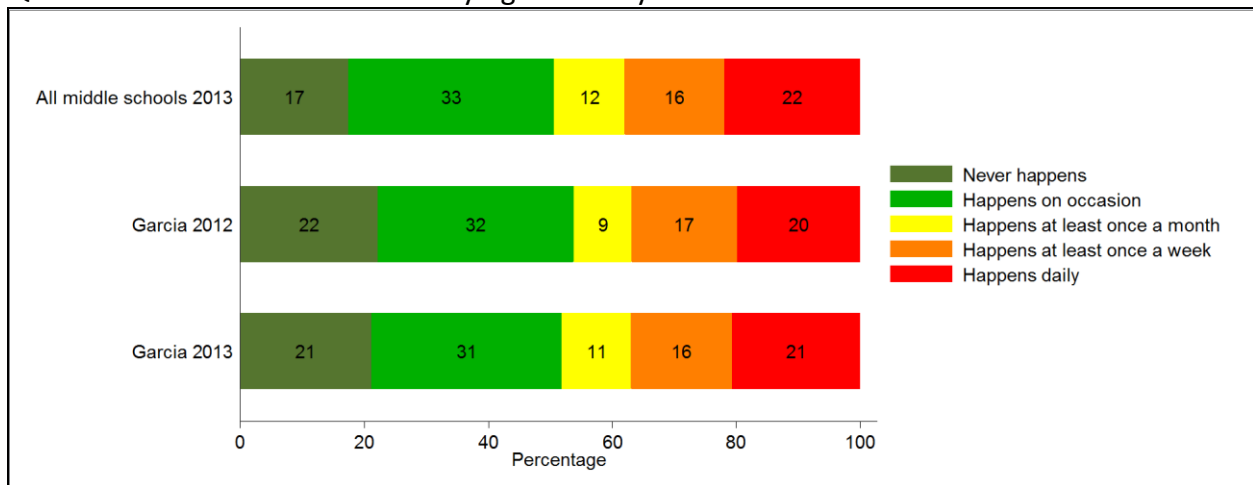
* Positive percentage point changes indicate more students reported having received information on drugs, alcohol, or violence from school sources in 2012-2013 than in 2011-2012.

SCHOOL SAFETY ITEMS

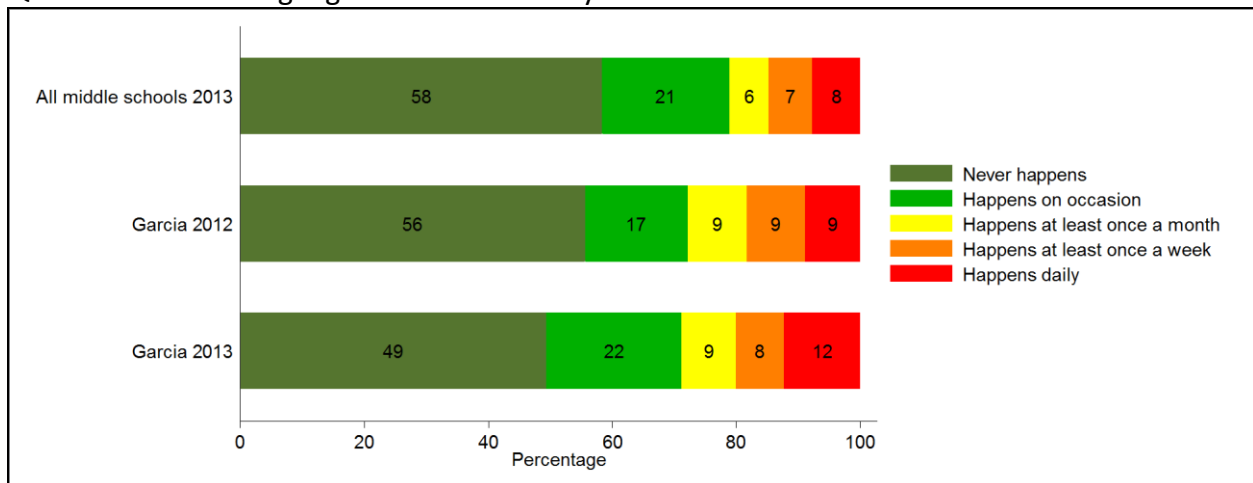
Q15a: How often does racial tension occur at your school?



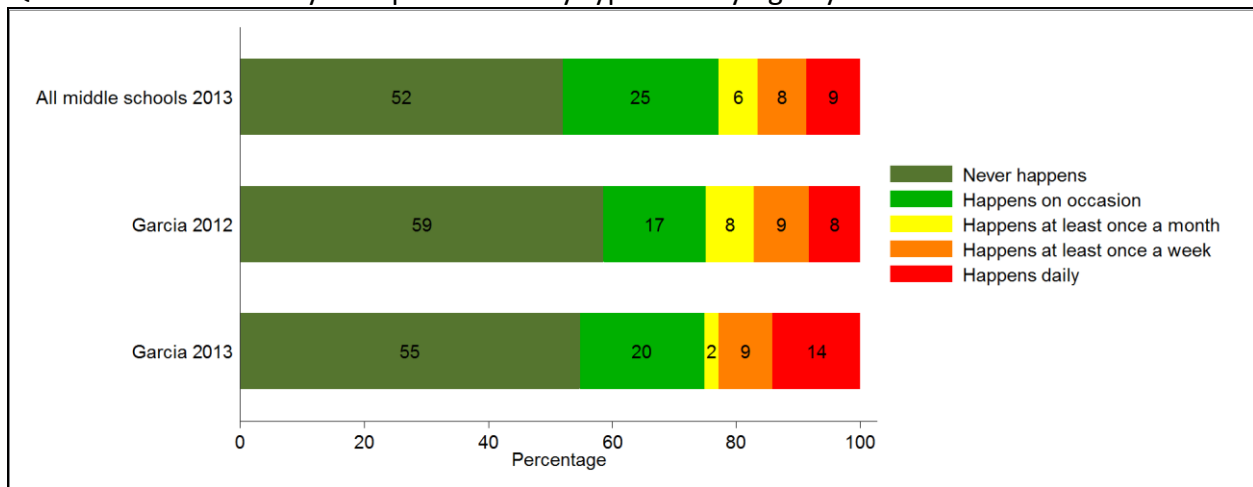
Q15b: How often does student bullying occur at your school?



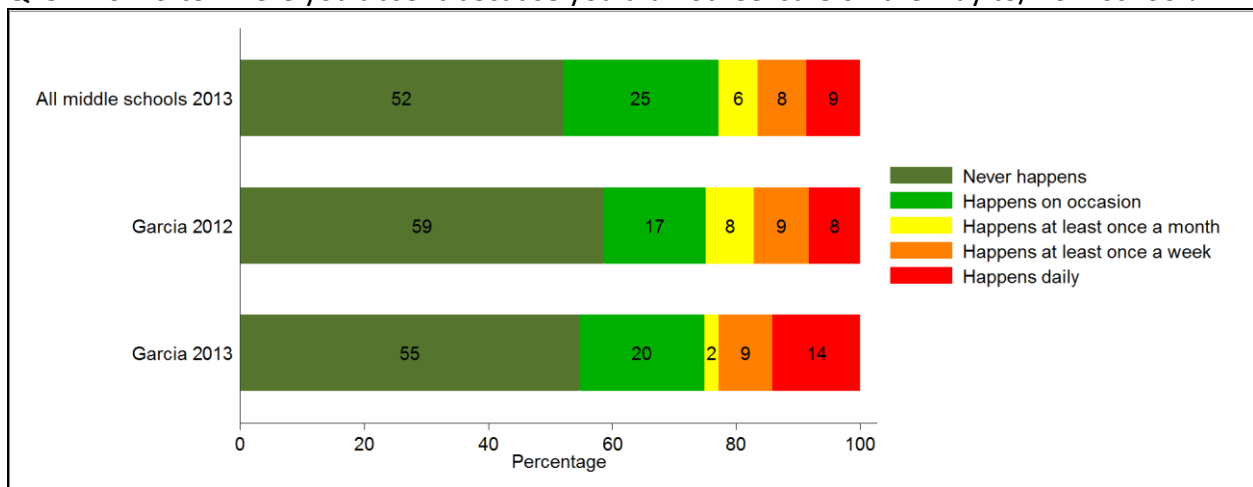
Q15d: How often do gang activities occur at your school?



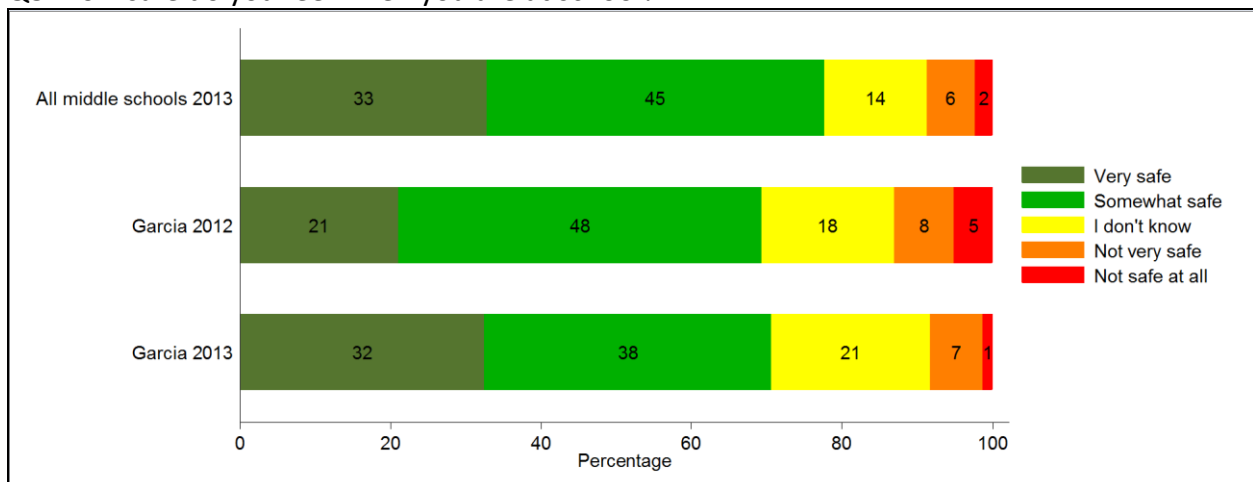
Q15e: How often have you experienced any type of bullying at your school?



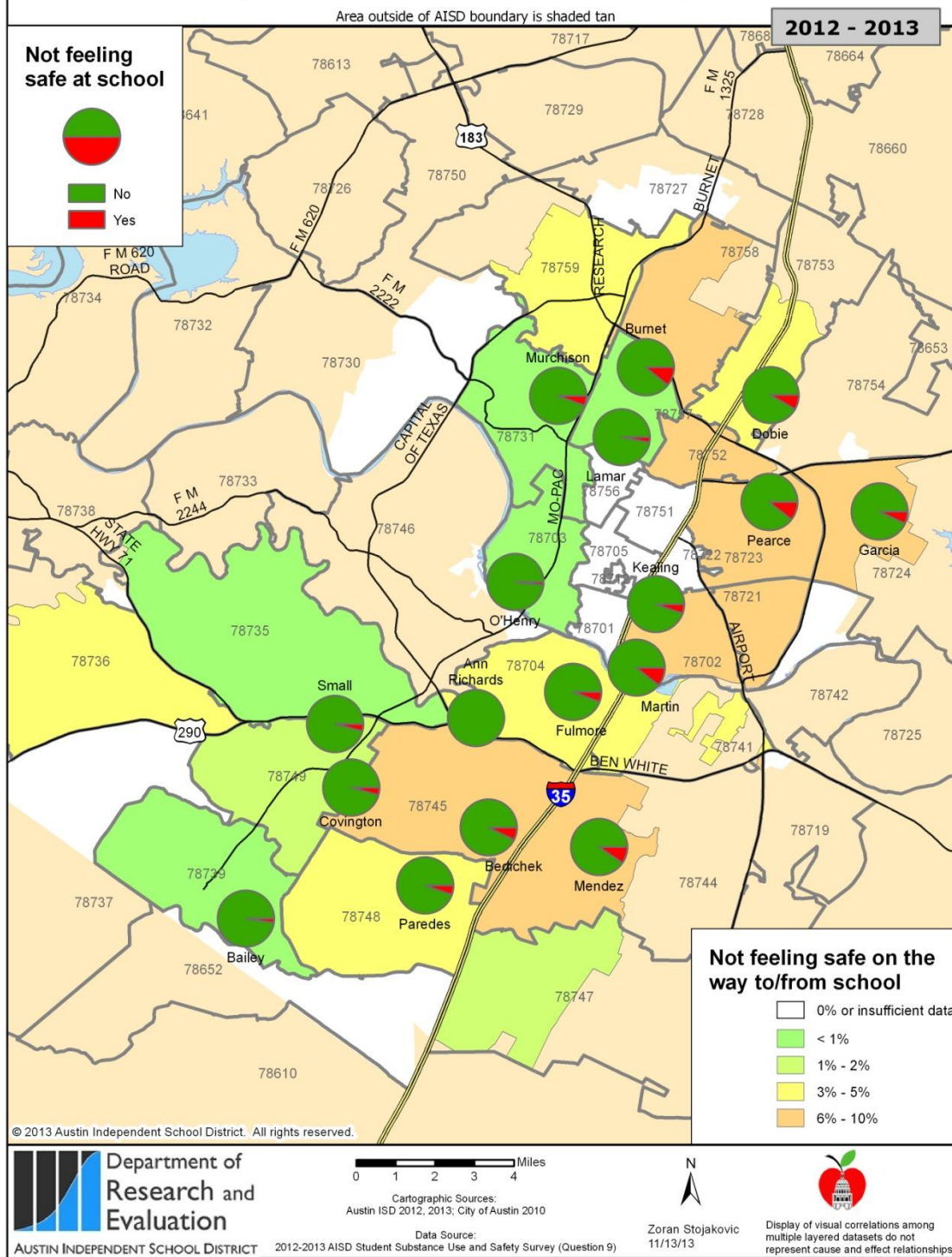
Q15f: How often were you absent because you did not feel safe on the way to/from school?



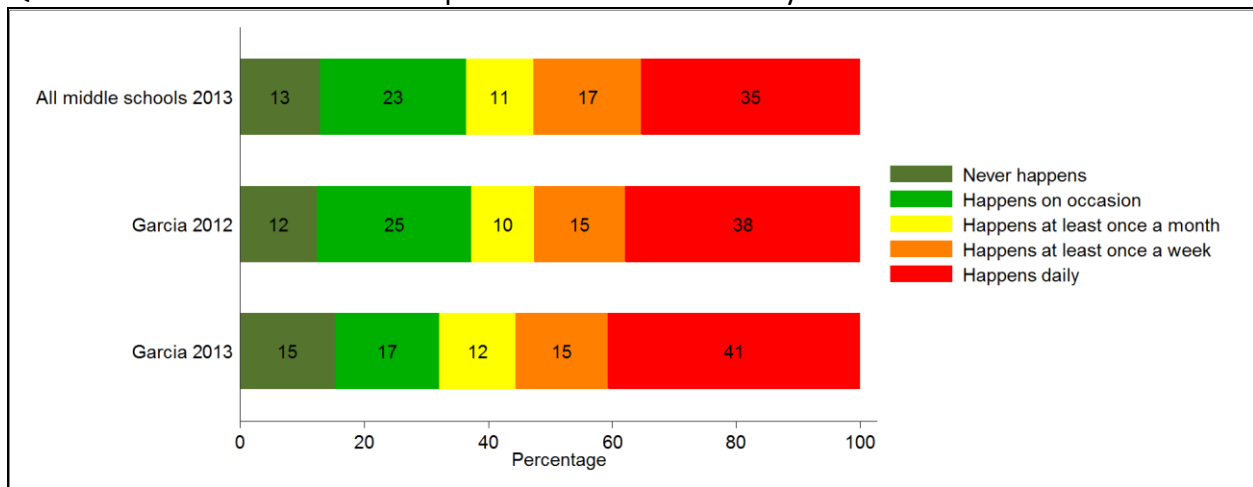
Q8: How safe do you feel when you are at school?



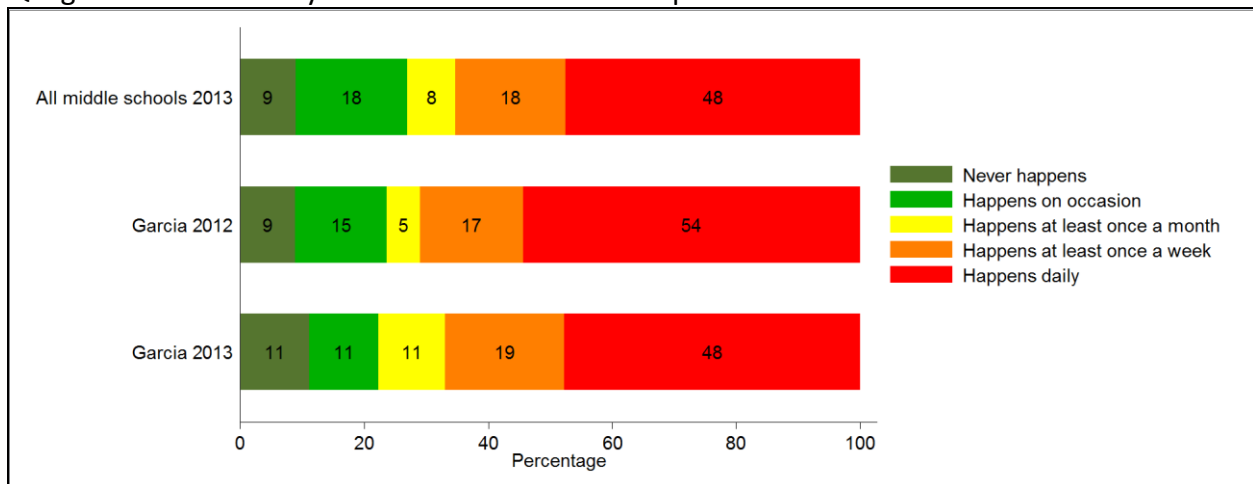
Middle Schools: Students' Self-Reported Safety Related Reasons for Missing School



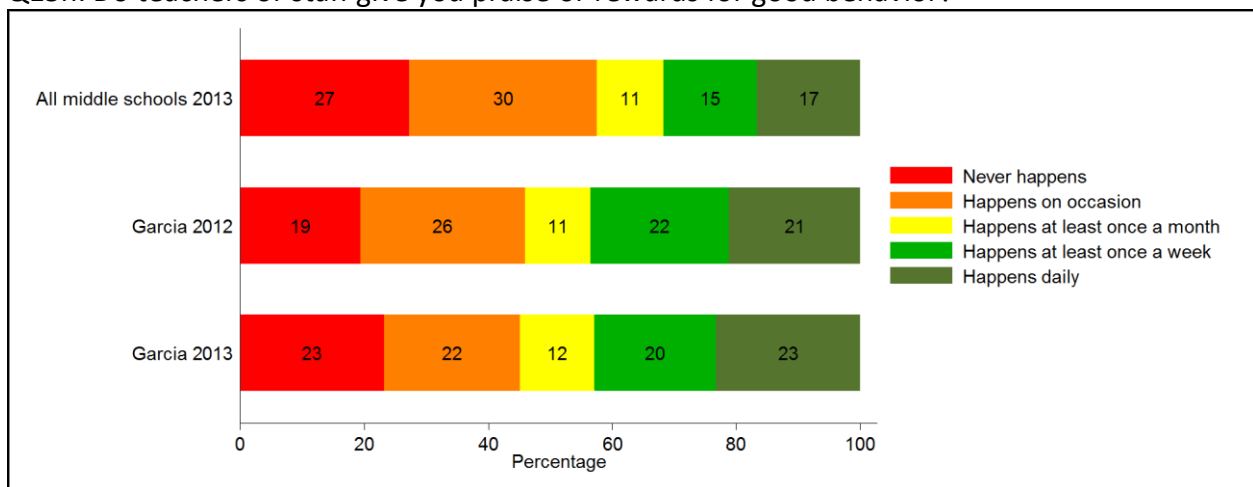
Q15c: How often do acts of disrespect for teachers occur at your school?



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?



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

	Garcia 2012-2013	Percentage point change from 2011-2012*	All middle schools 2012-2013
Was sick	57%	1	58%
Had to do something with family	41%	4	34%
Was too tired	21%	0	19%
Wanted to hang out with friends	18%	6	10%
Felt too sad or depressed to attend	13%	3	11%
Didn't have a way to get to school	17%	-1	9%
Didn't get along well with teachers	13%	0	10%
Had to go to work	6%	1	3%
Didn't feel safe at school	7%	0	6%
Didn't feel safe on the way to/from school	9%	0	5%
None	27%	4	30%

Note. Percentages are of students who reported missing school due to any of the above reasons. Percentages may sum to more than 100% because respondents were allowed to choose multiple items.

* Negative percentage point changes indicate fewer students reported missing school due to any of the above reasons in 2012-2013 than in 2011-2012.

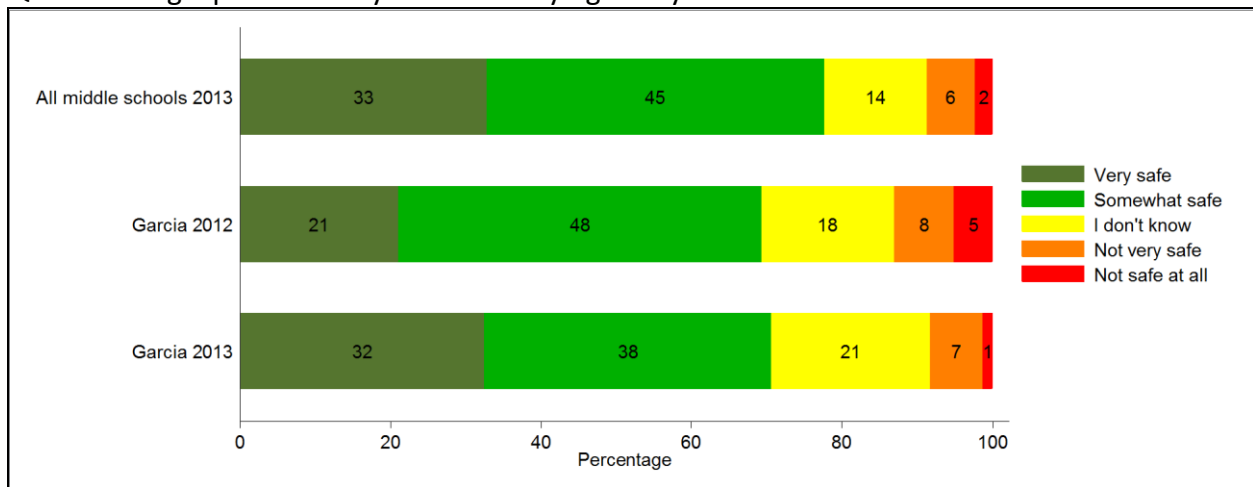
Q10: During this school year, have you experienced any of the following types of bullying at school?

	Garcia 2012-2013	Percentage point change from 2011-2012*	All middle schools 2012-2013
Verbal	34%	3	33%
Social	30%	7	30%
Racial or ethnic harassment	18%	4	16%
Physical	24%	7	21%
Sexual harassment	15%	10	10%
Cyber bullying	8%	1	9%
Hurtful or controlling dating behavior	9%	3	7%
Written	11%	7	8%
Hazing/Initiation	9	5	5
None	47%	-6	10%

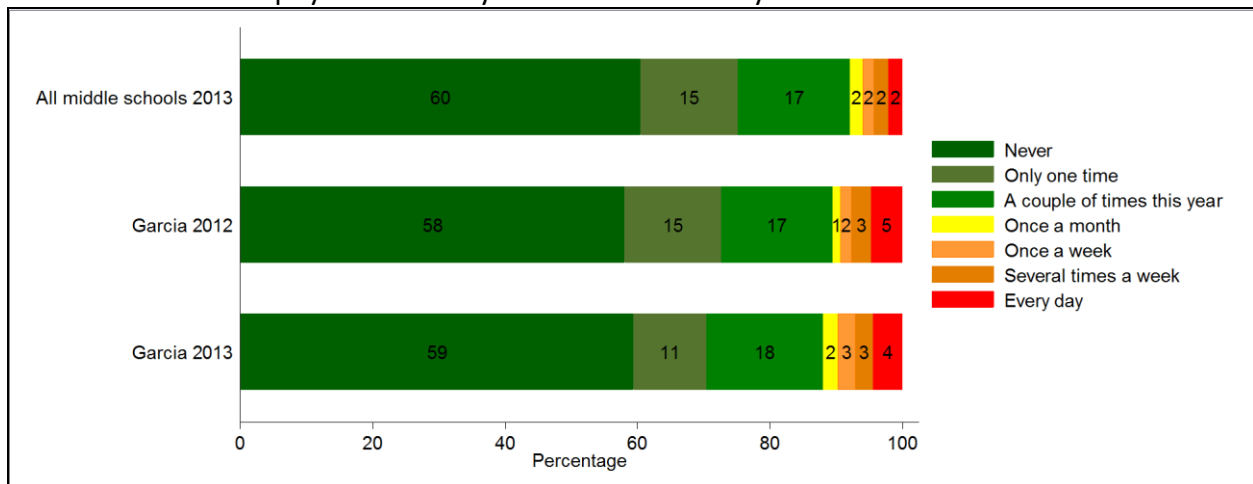
Note. Percentages are of students who reported experiencing types of bullying listed above. Percentages may sum to more than 100% because respondents were allowed to choose multiple items.

* Negative percentage point changes indicate fewer students reported experiencing types of bullying in 2012-2013 than in 2011-2012.

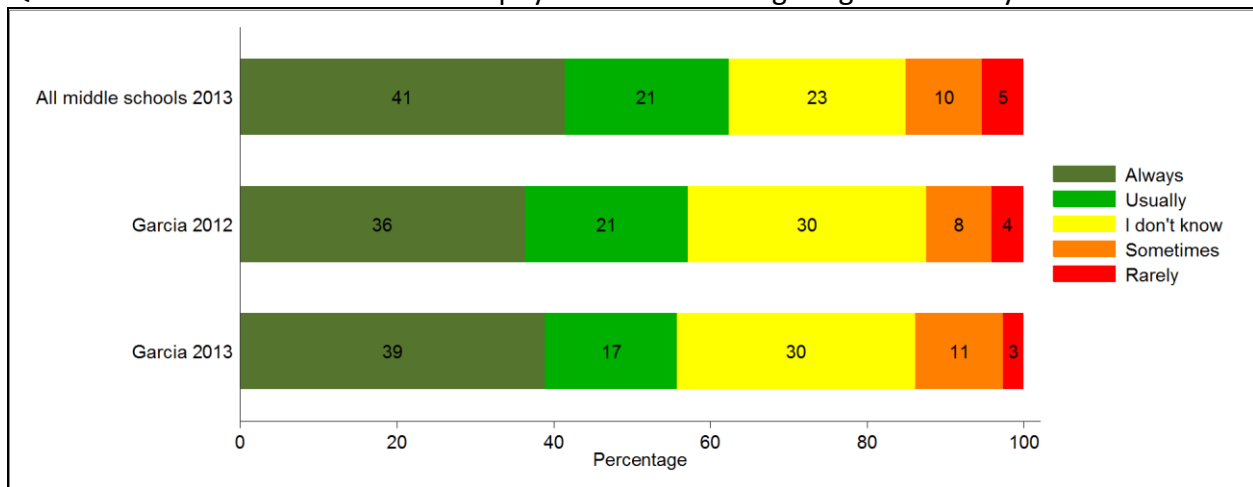
Q12: How big a problem do you think bullying is at your school?



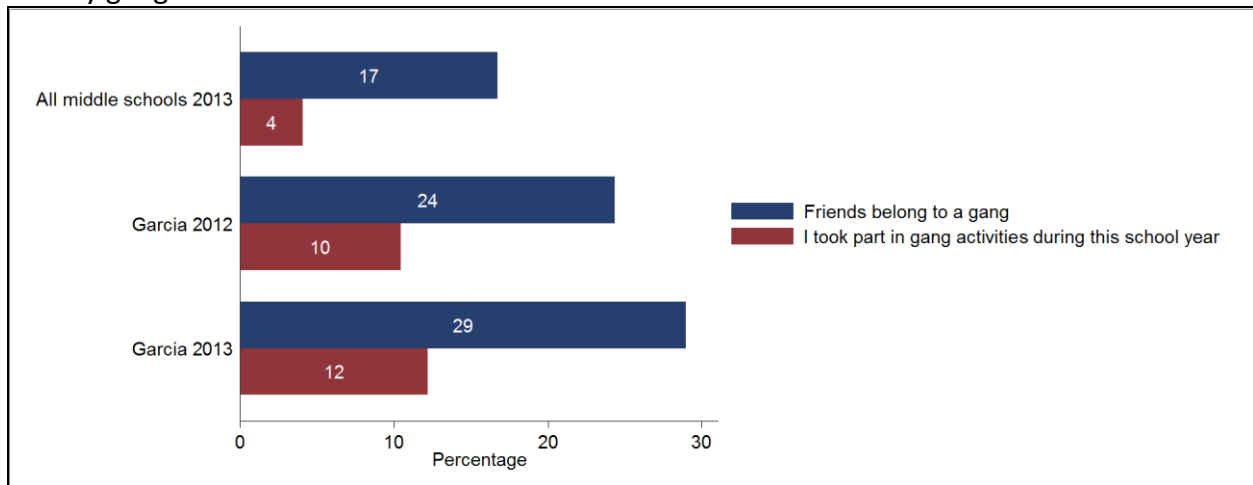
Q11: During this school year, how often have you or your close friends been physically harmed or threatened with physical harm by another student at your school?



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



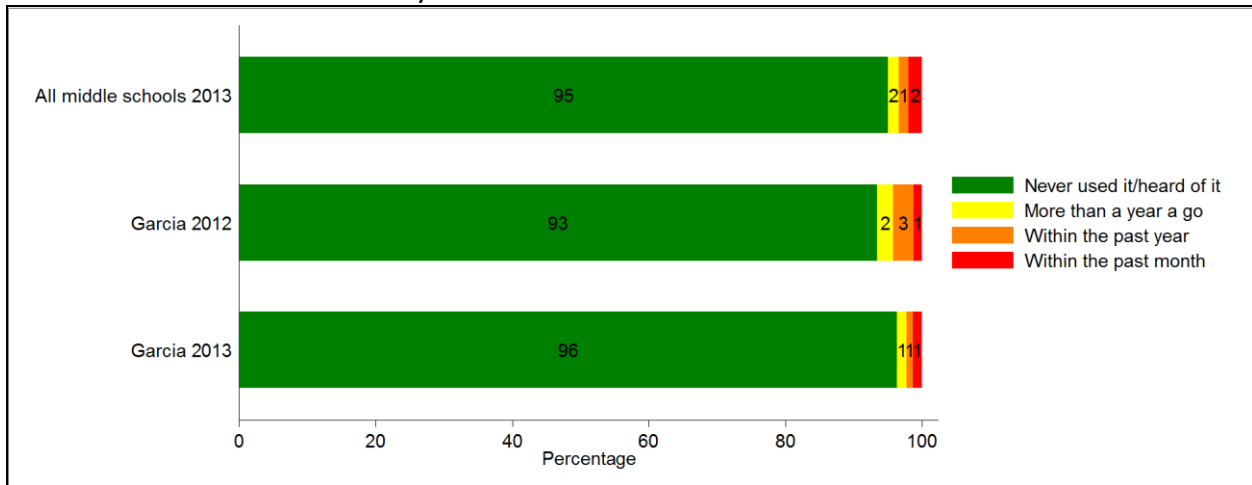
Q16 & Q17: Do any of your friends belong to a gang? During this school year, did you take part in any gang activities?



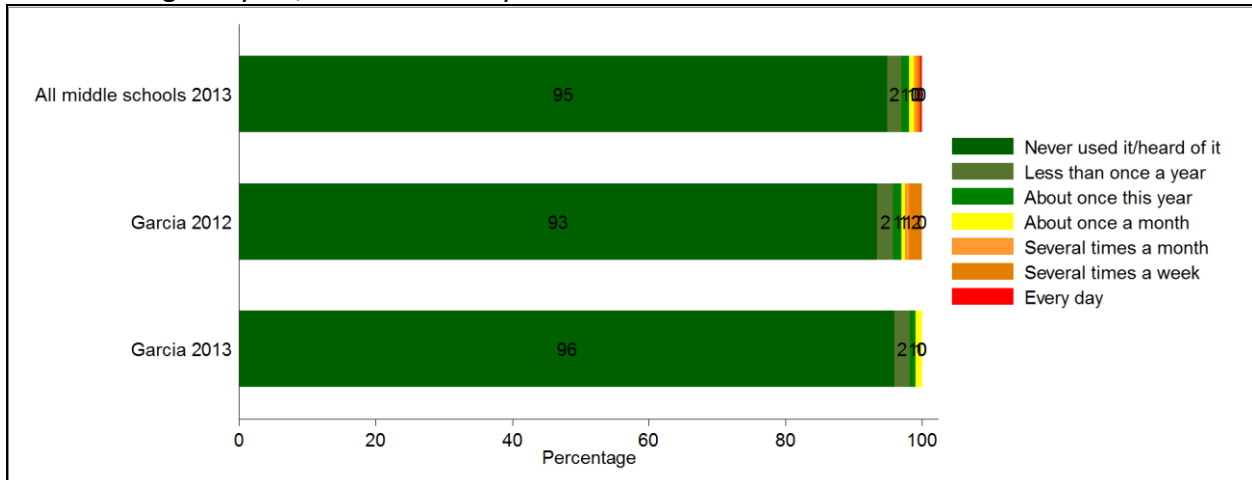
SUBSTANCE USE ITEMS

TOBACCO:

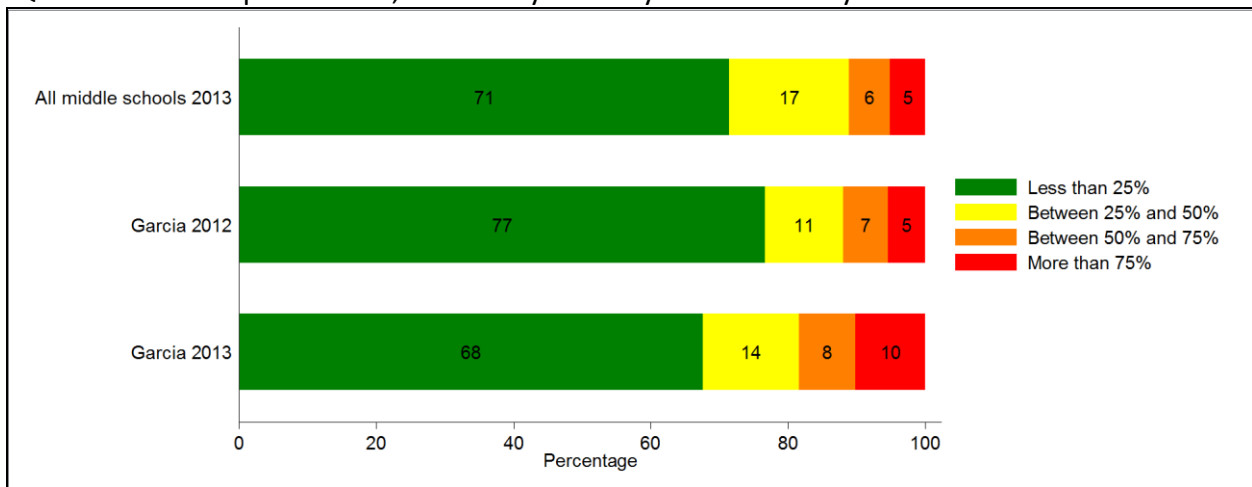
Q18a: What is the most recent you have used Tobacco?



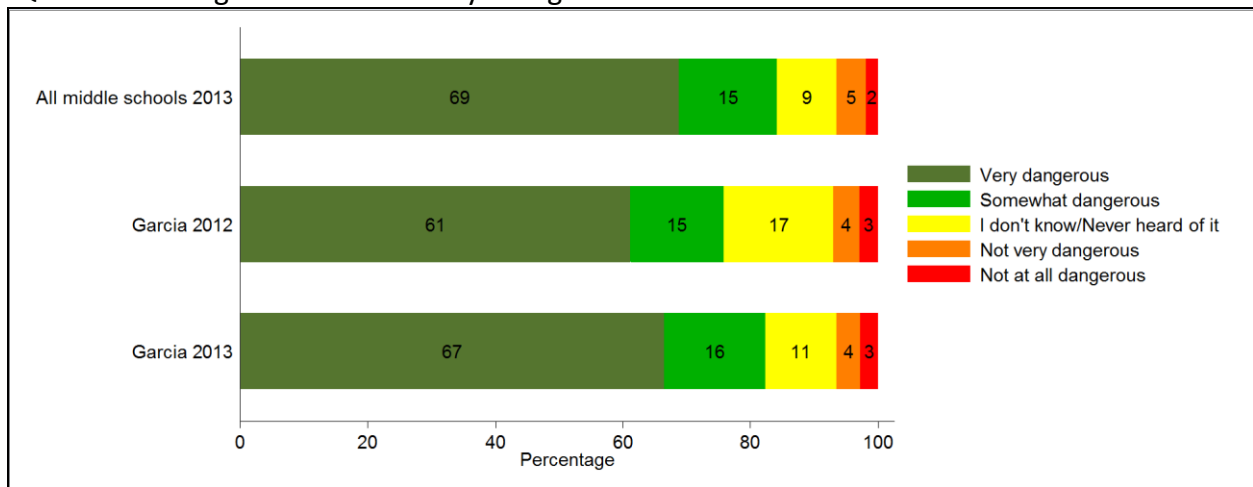
Q21a: During this year, how often did you use Tobacco?



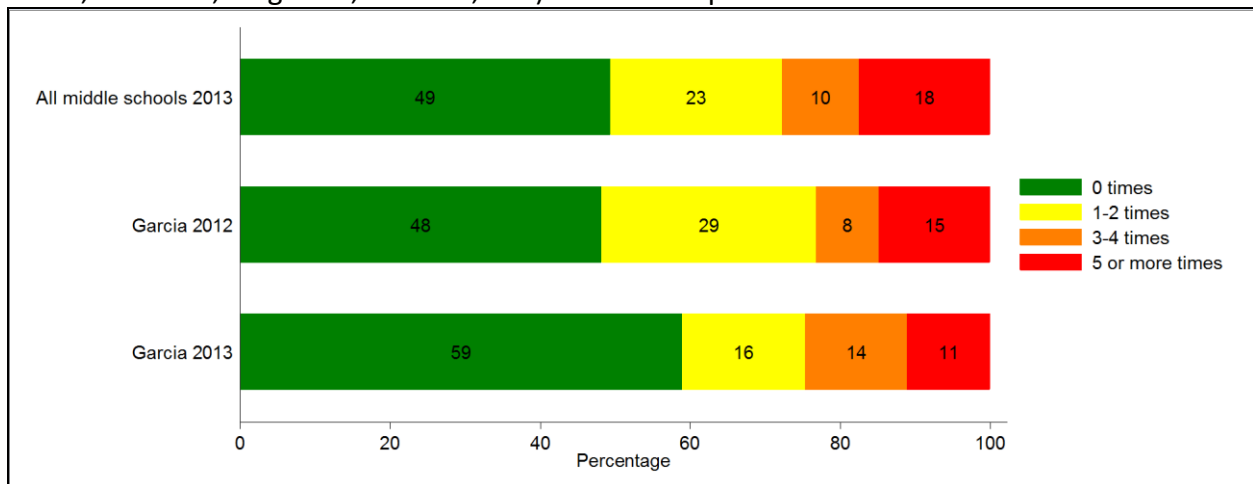
Q29a: Within the past month, how many kids at your school do you think have used tobacco?



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?



Middle Schools: Percentage of Students Self-Reporting Tobacco Use

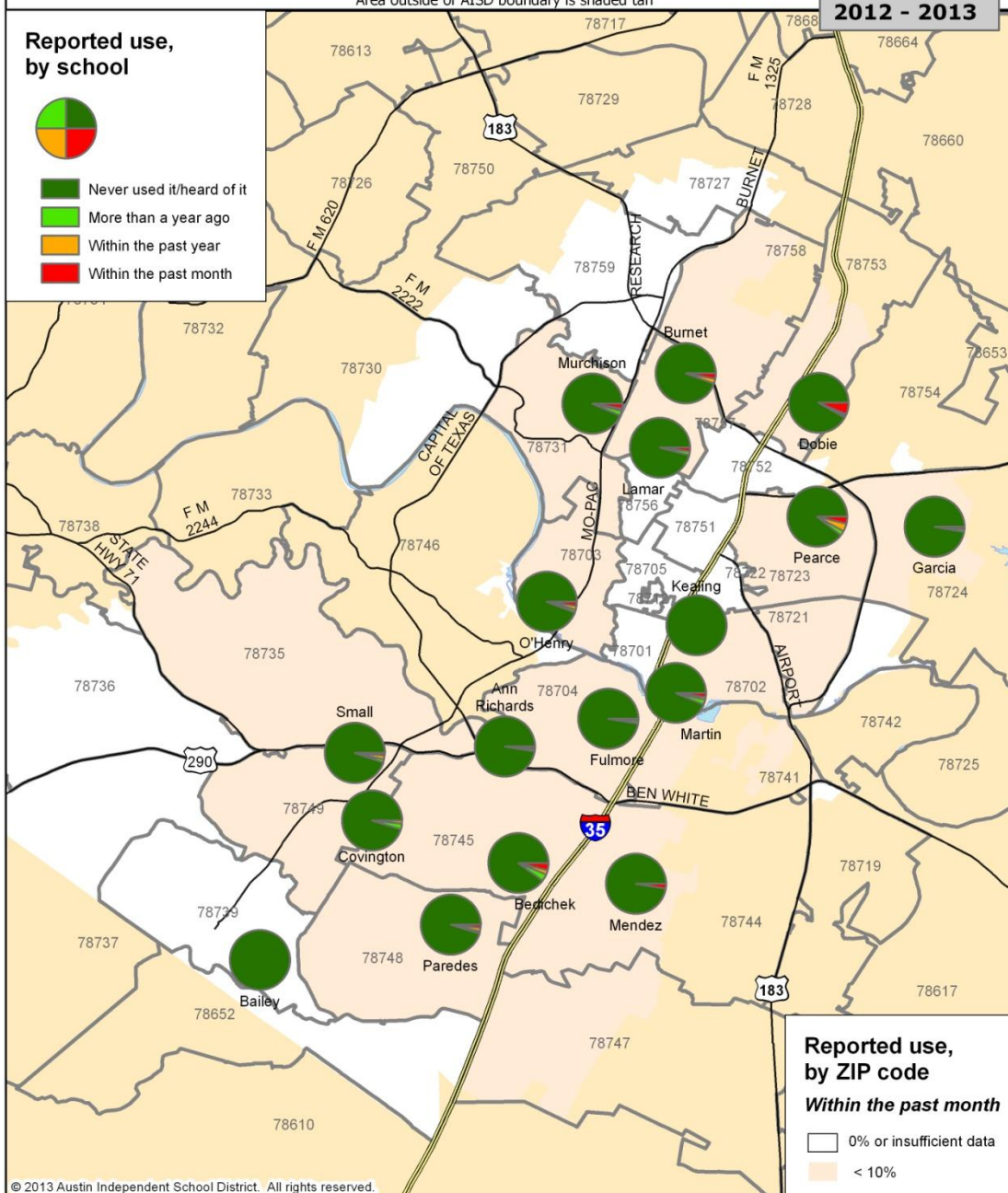
Area outside of AISD boundary is shaded tan

2012 - 2013

Reported use,
by school



- Never used it/heard of it
- More than a year ago
- Within the past year
- Within the past month



Reported use,
by ZIP code

Within the past month

- 0% or insufficient data
- < 10%

© 2013 Austin Independent School District. All rights reserved.



Department of
Research and
Evaluation

AUSTIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

0 1 2 3 4 Miles

Cartographic Sources:
Austin ISD 2012, 2013; City of Austin 2010

Data Source:

2012-2013 AISD Student Substance Use and Safety Survey (Question 18)

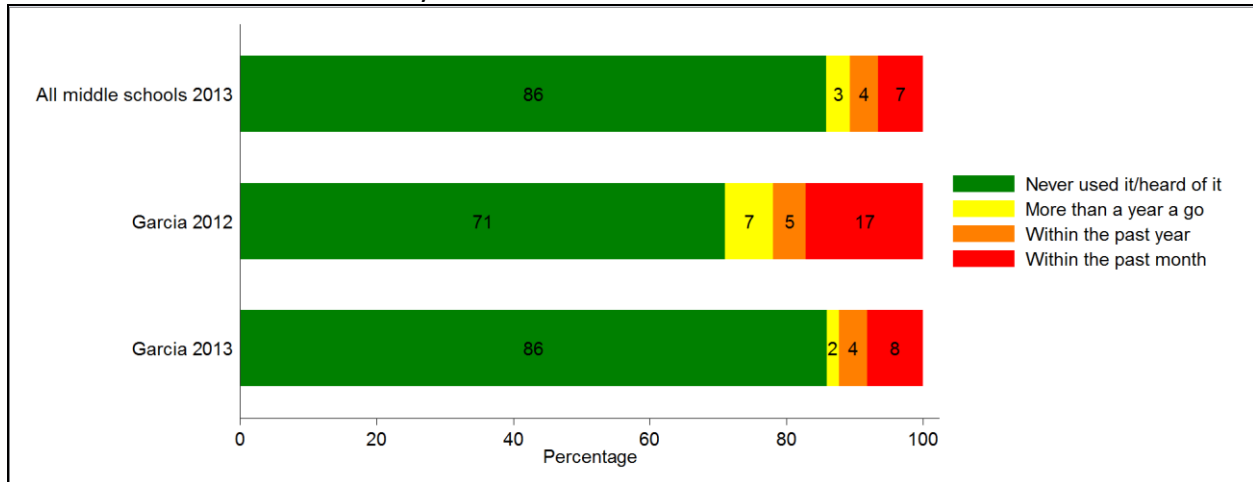
Zoran Stojakovic
11/13/13



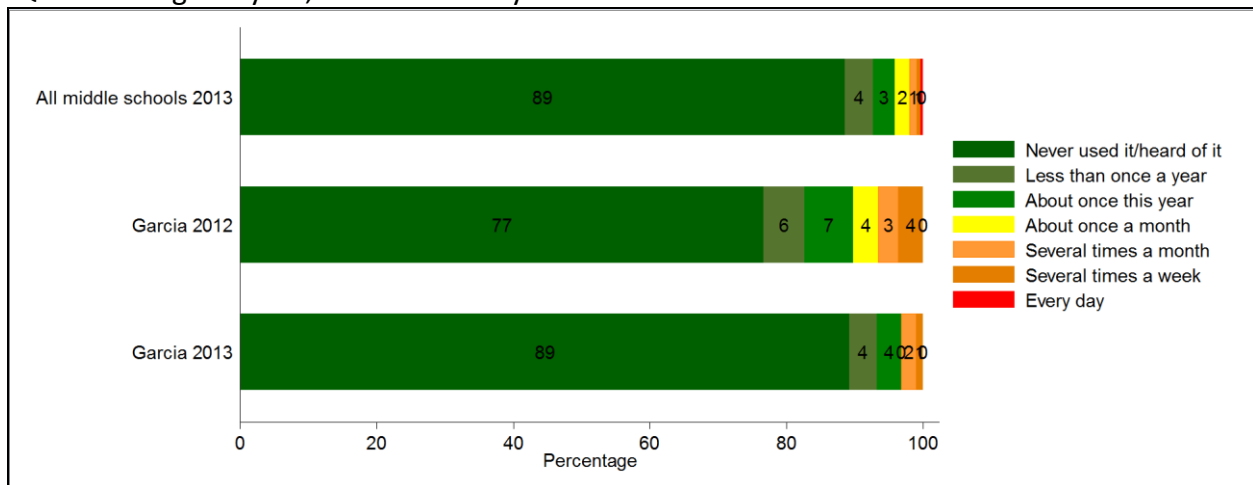
Display of visual correlations among
multiple layered datasets do not
represent cause and effect relationships.

ALCOHOL:

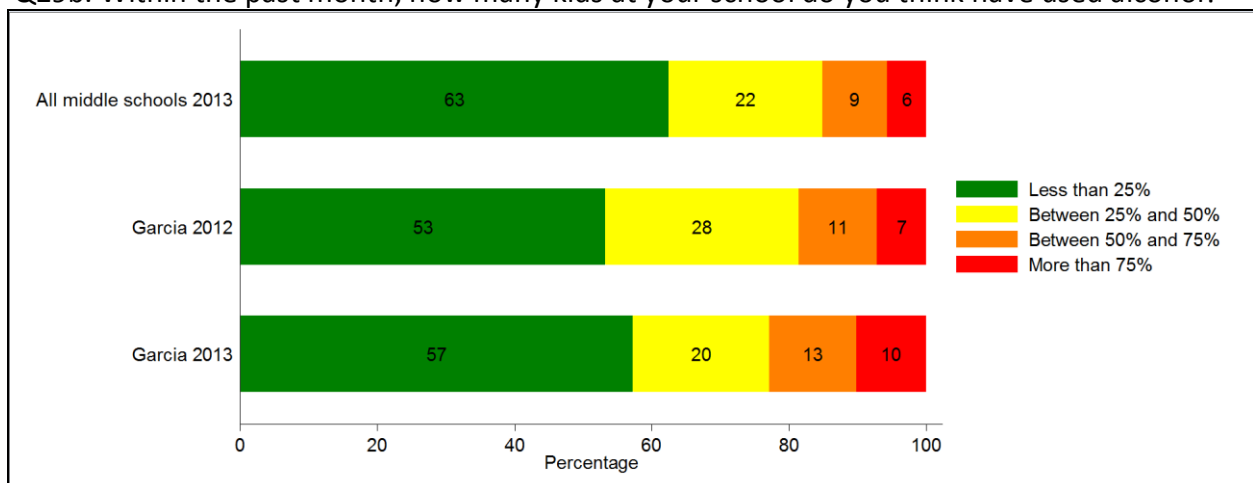
Q18b: What is the most recent you have used Alcohol?



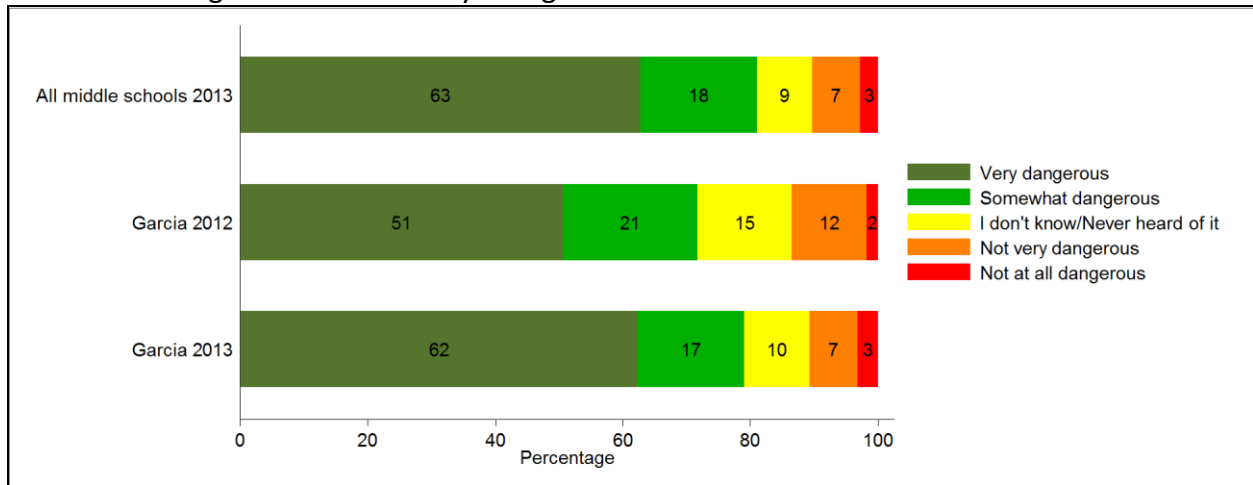
Q21b: During this year, how often did you use Alcohol?



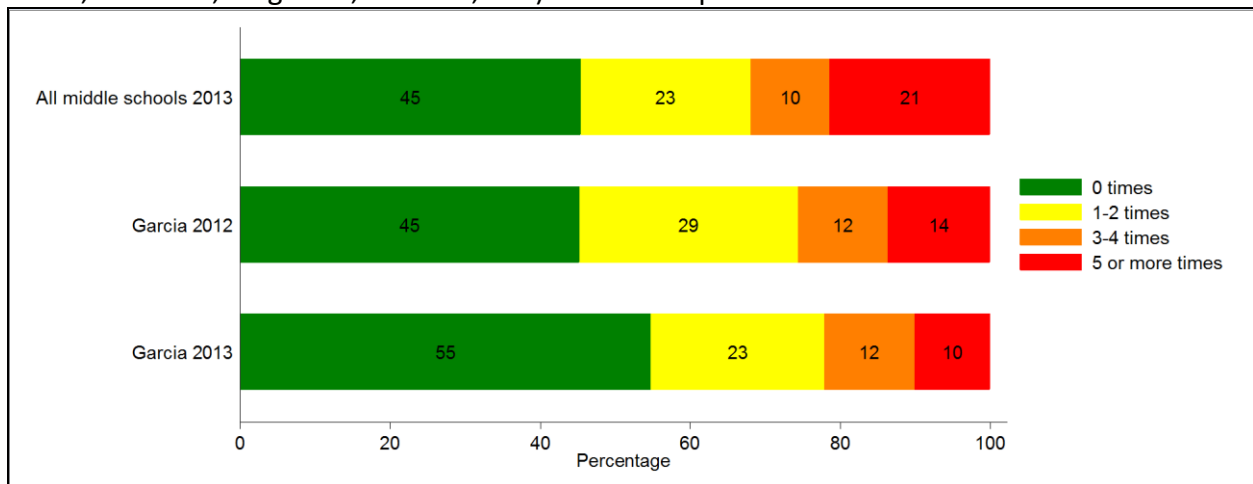
Q29b. Within the past month, how many kids at your school do you think have used alcohol?



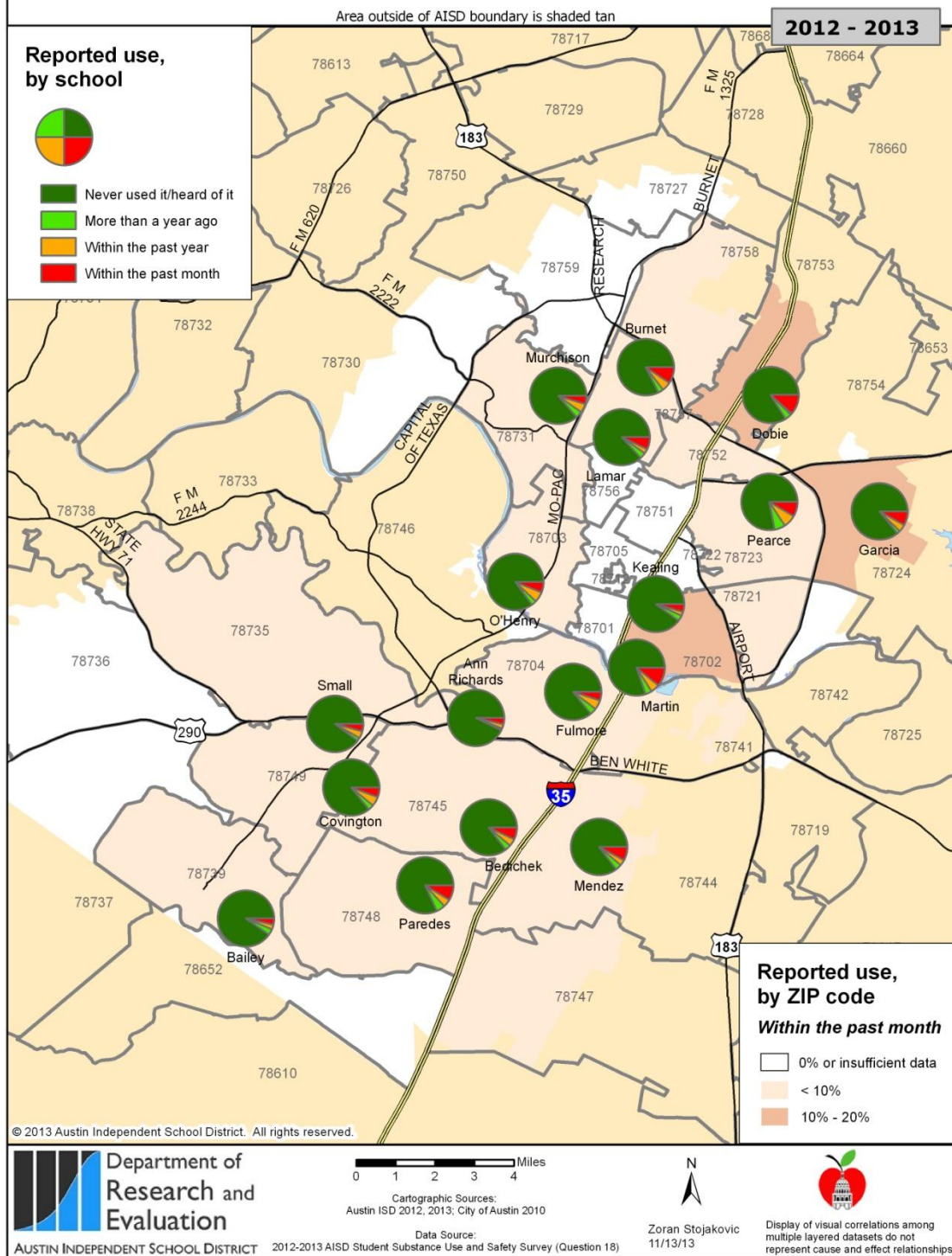
Q27b: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use Alcohol?



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

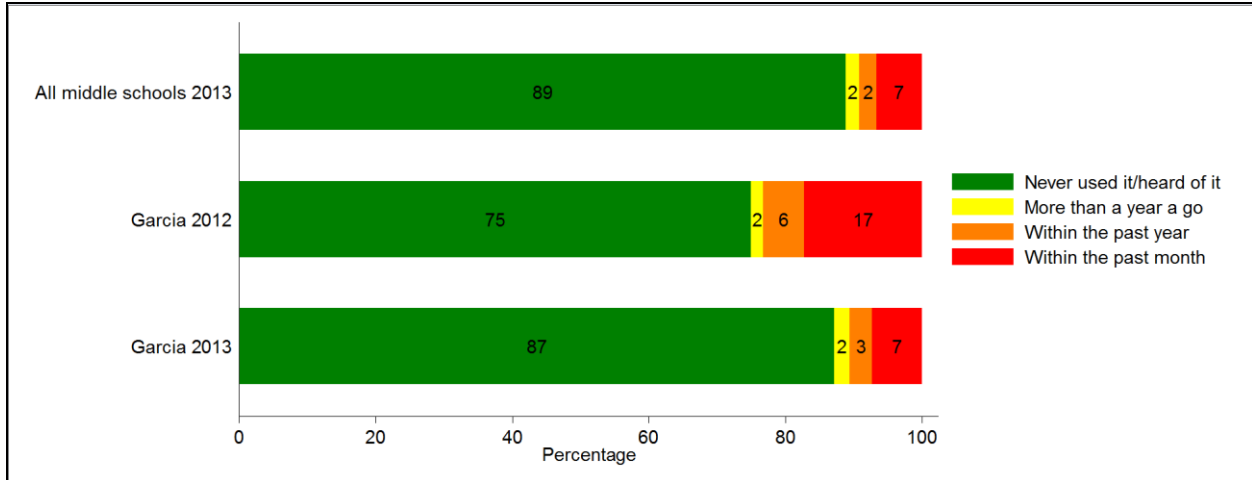


Middle Schools: Percentage of Students Self-Reporting Alcohol Use

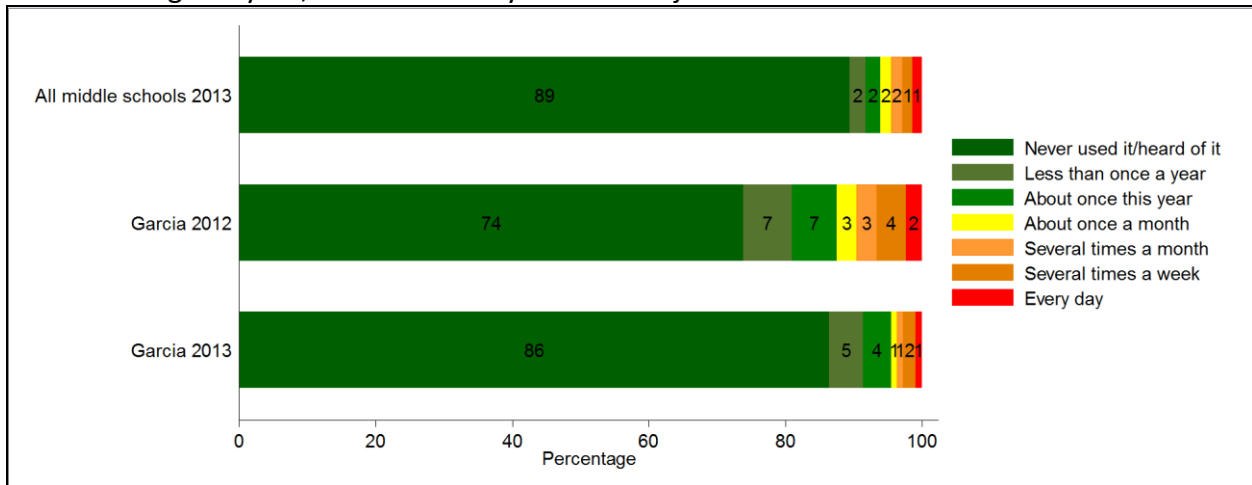


MARIJUANA/ K2 OR SPICE:

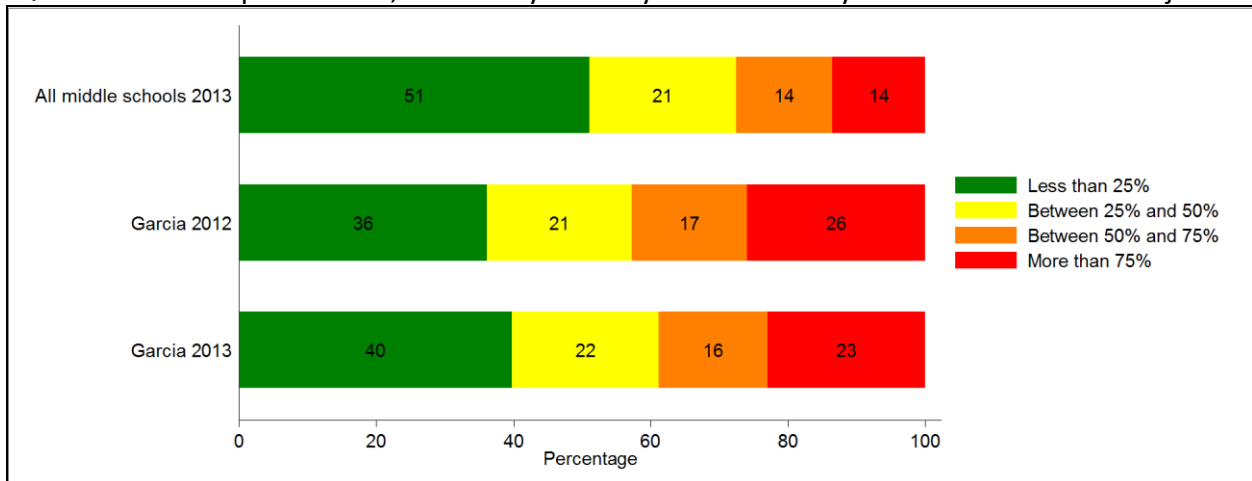
Q18c: What is the most recent you have used Marijuana?



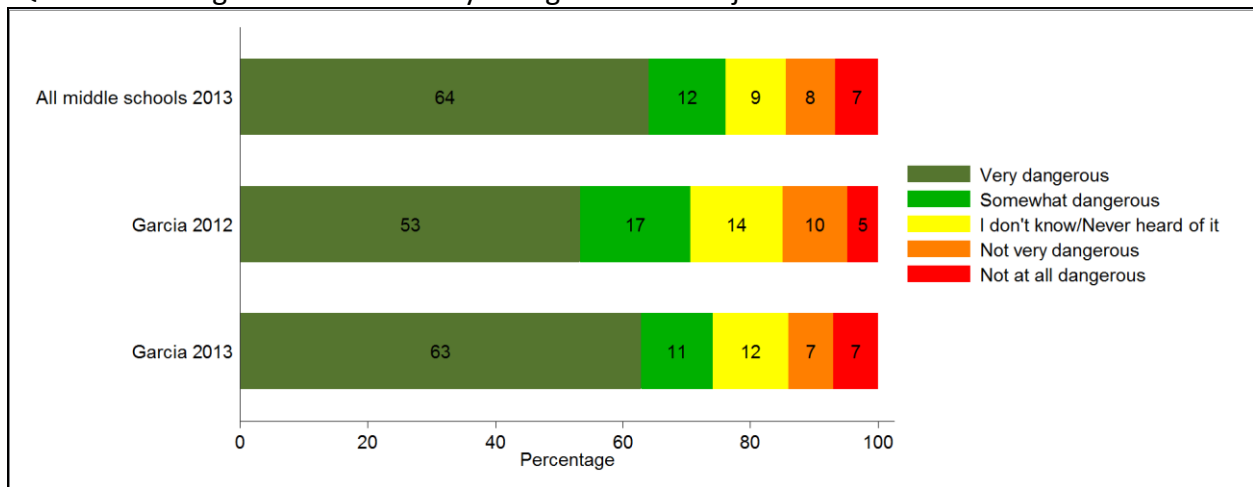
Q21c: During this year, how often did you use Marijuana?



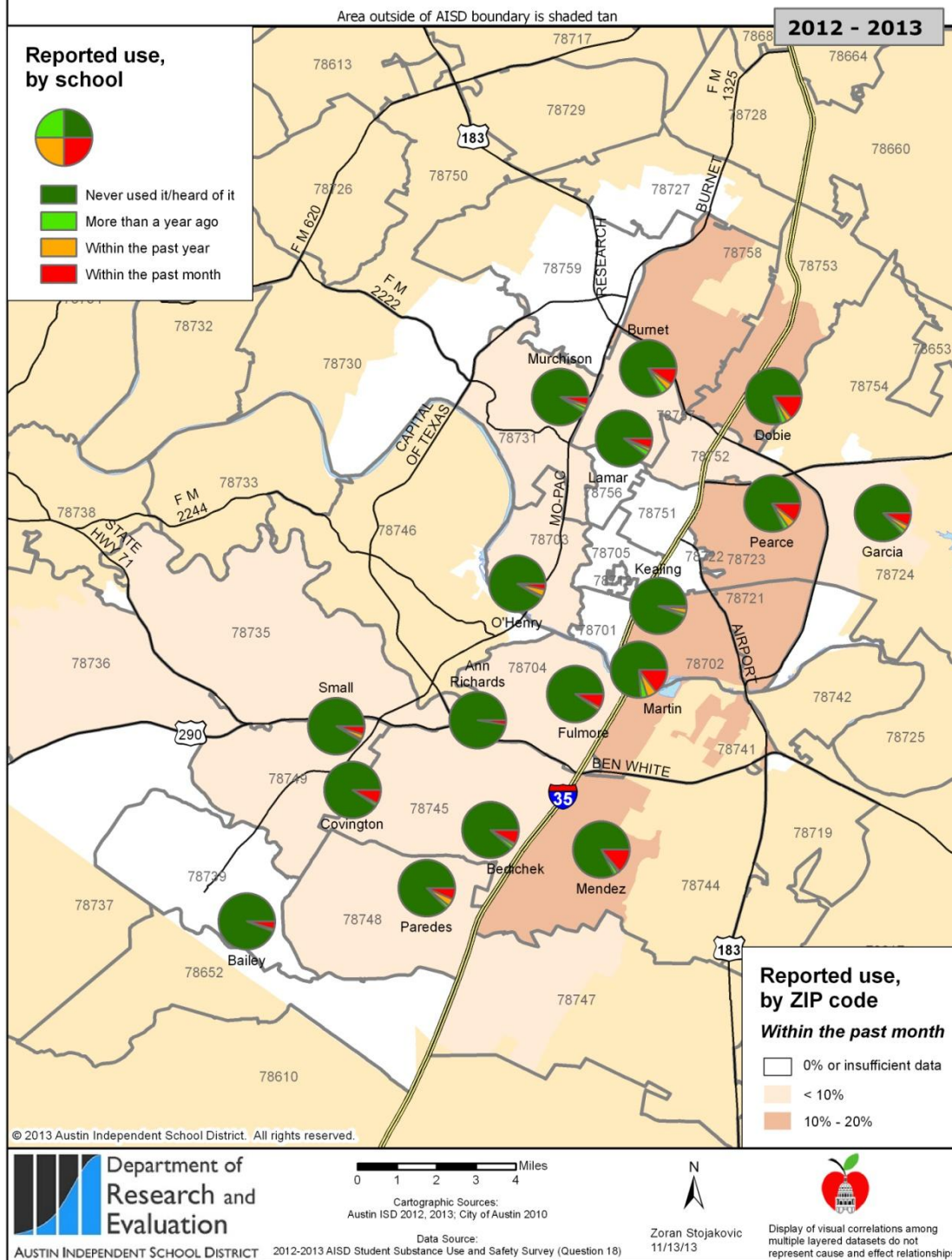
Q29c. Within the past month, how many kids at your school do you think have used marijuana?



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

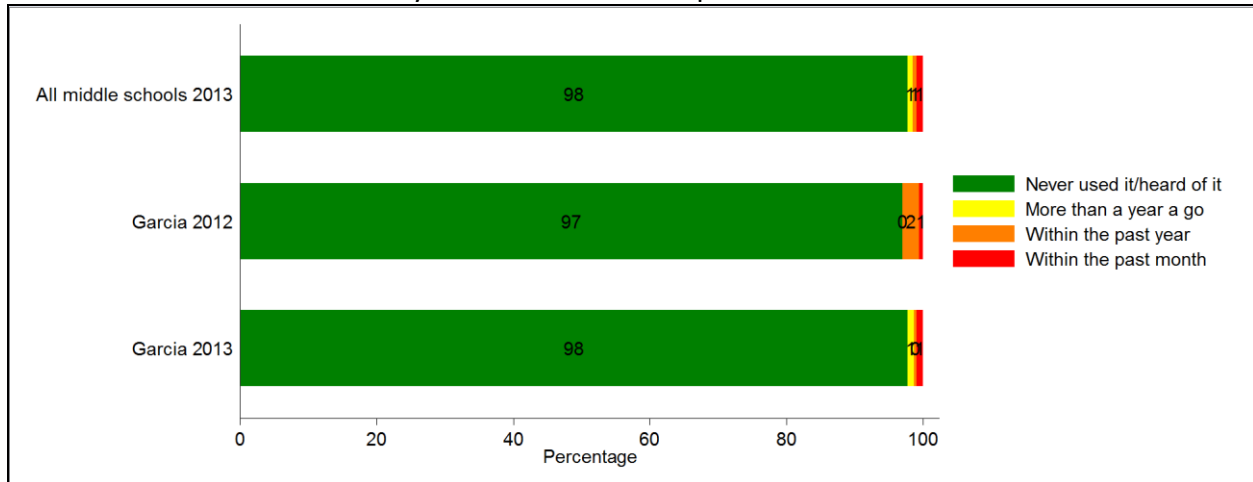


Middle Schools: Percentage of Students Self-Reporting Marijuana Use

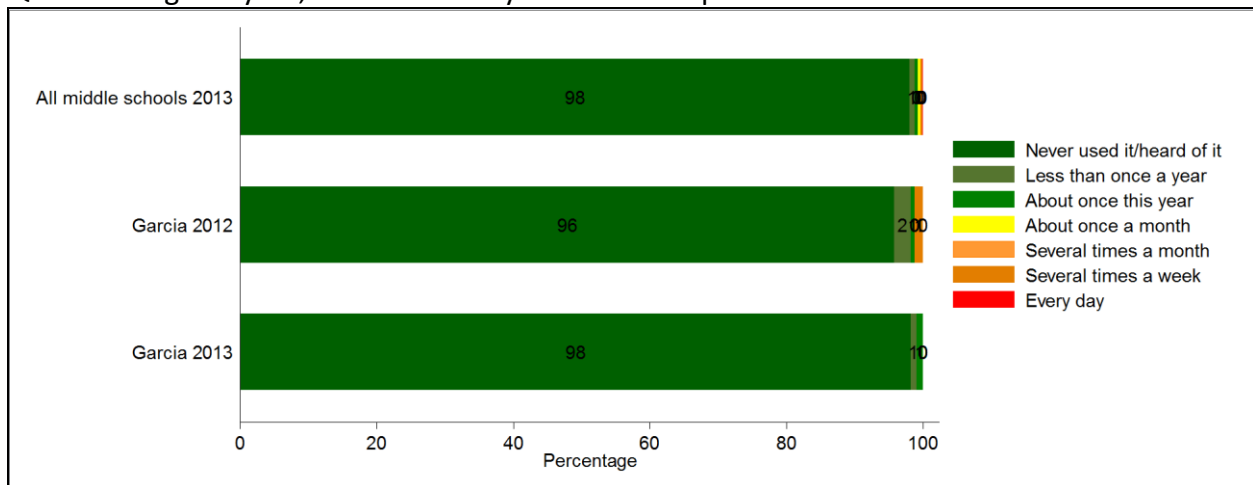


K2 OR SPICE:

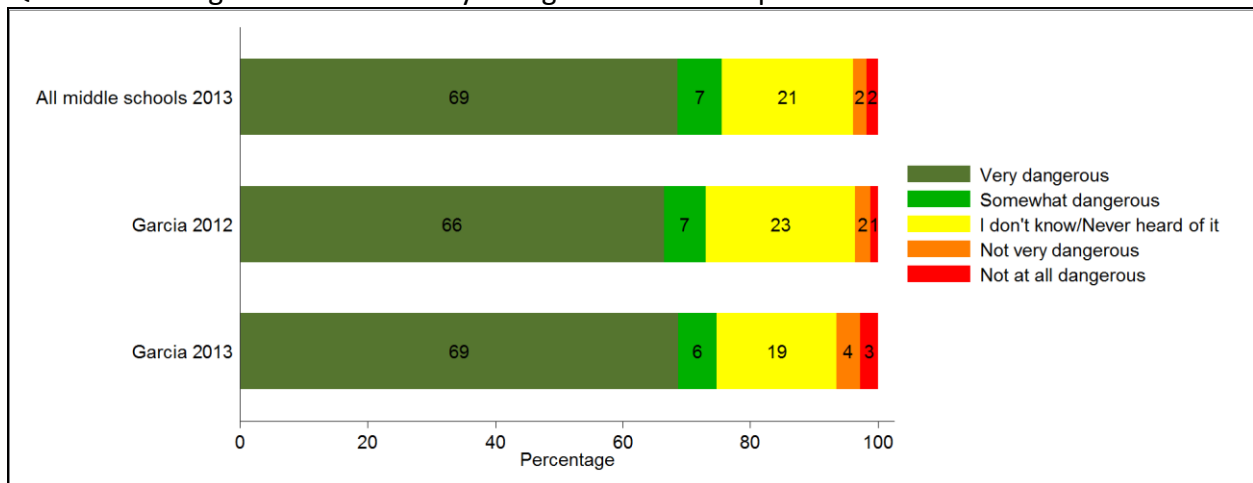
Q18d: What is the most recent you have used K2 or Spice?



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

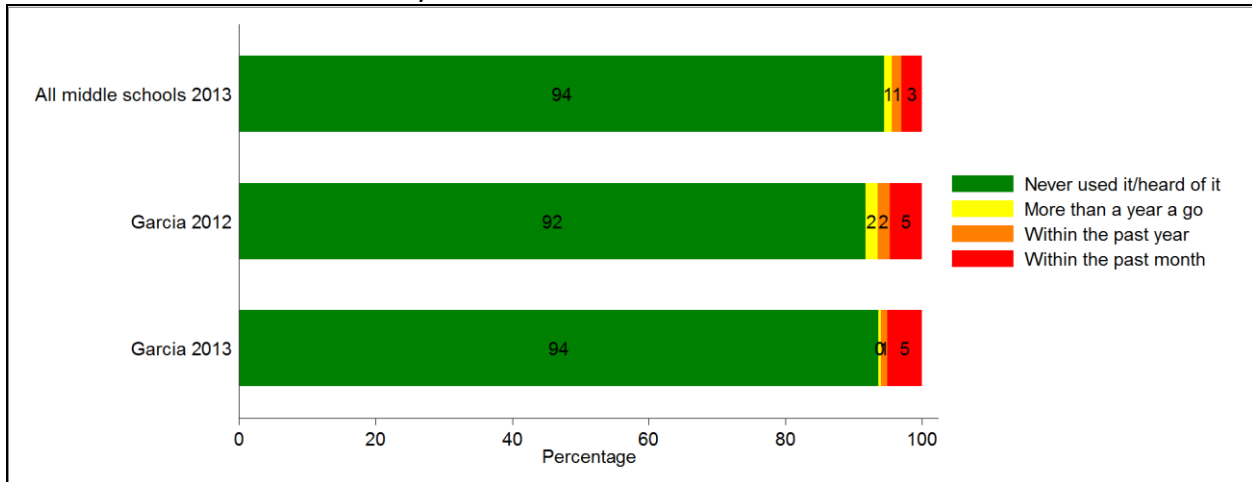


Q27d: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use K2 or Spice?

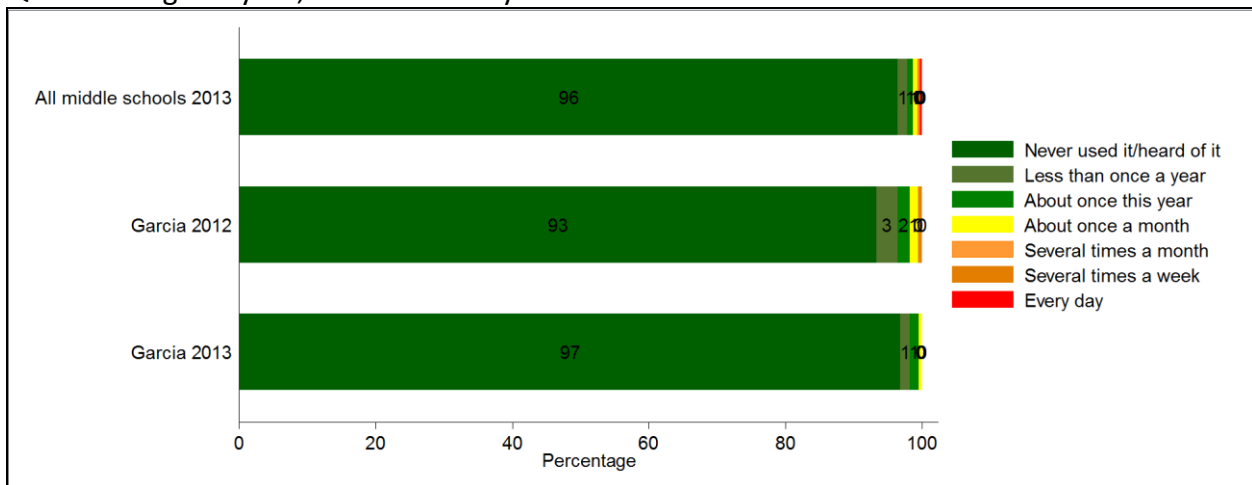


INHALANTS:

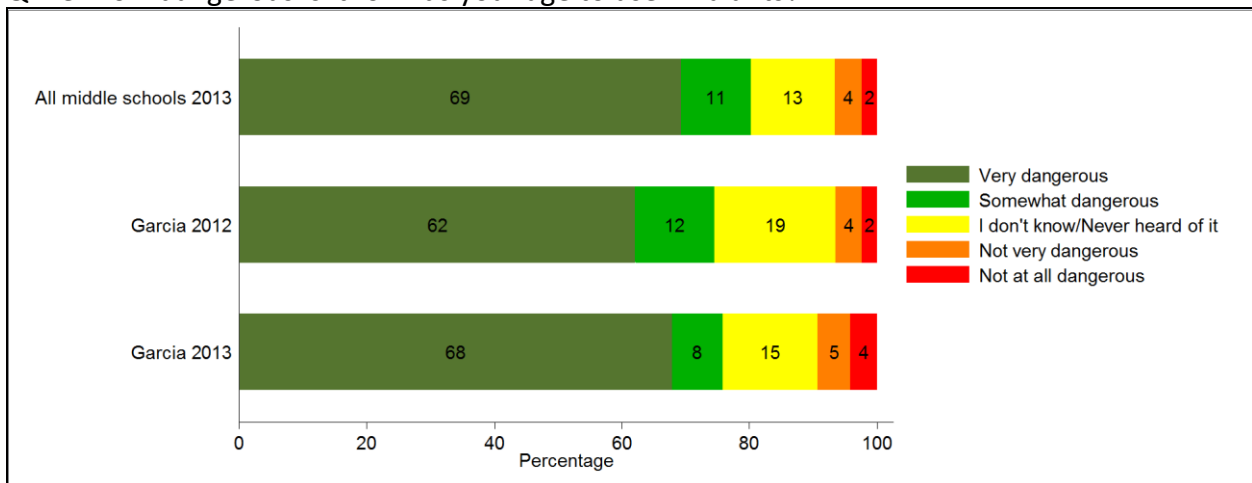
Q18e: What is the most recent you have used Inhalants?



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

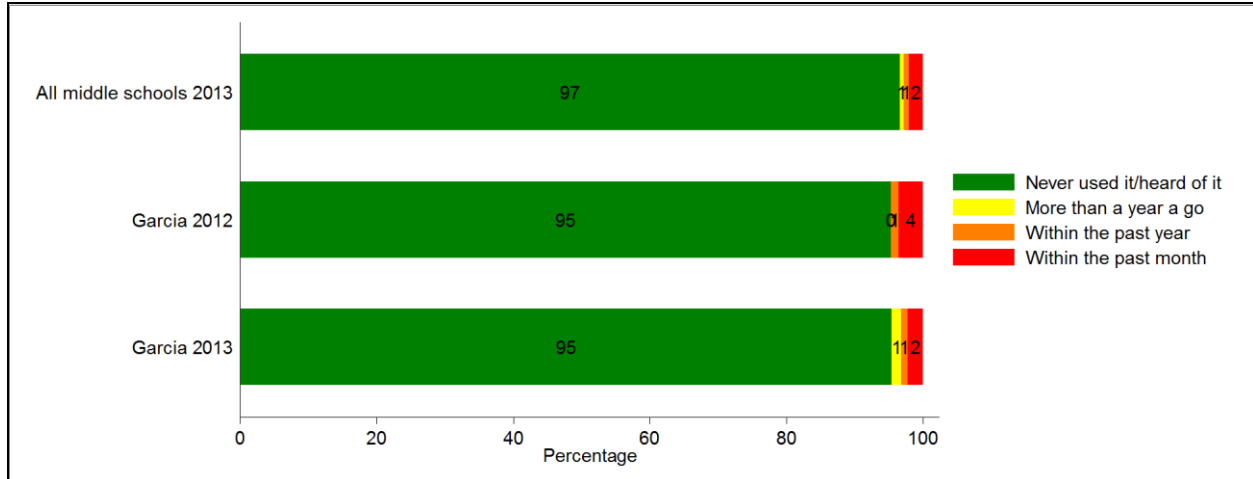


Q27e: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use Inhalants?

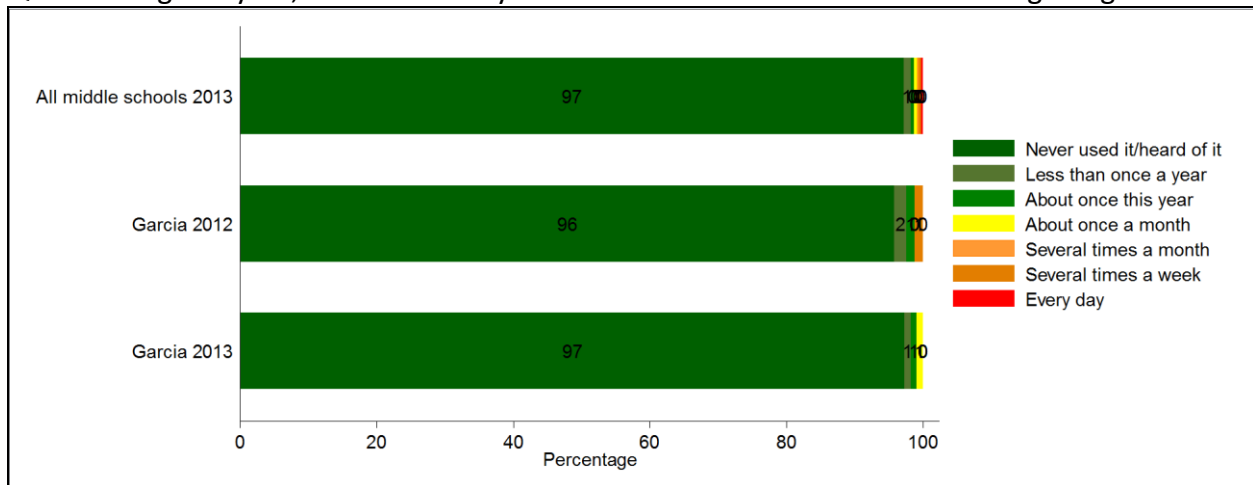


OVER THE COUNTER MEDICATION:

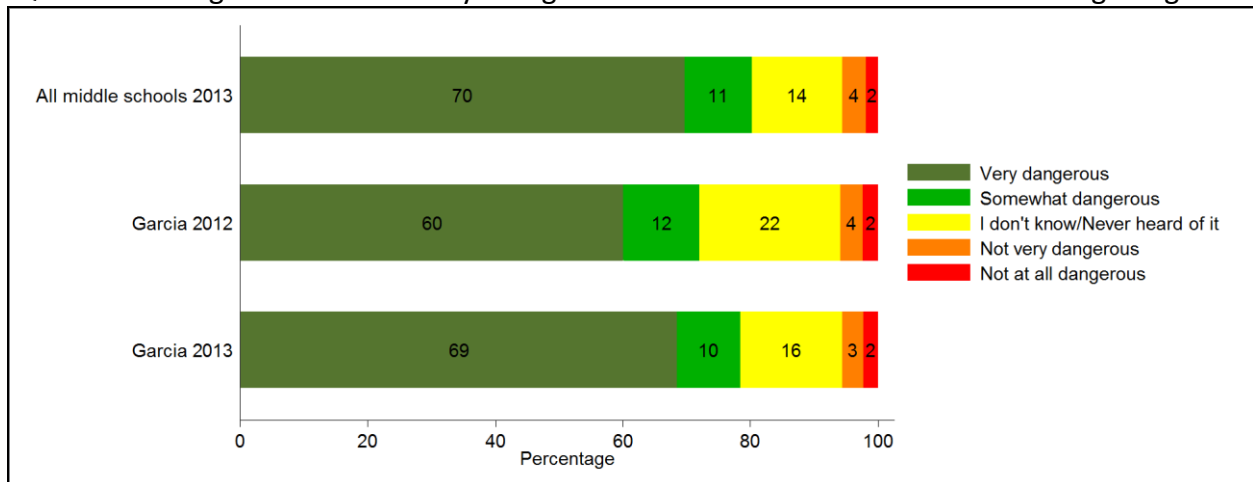
Q18f: What is the most recent you have used Over the Counter Medication to get high?



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

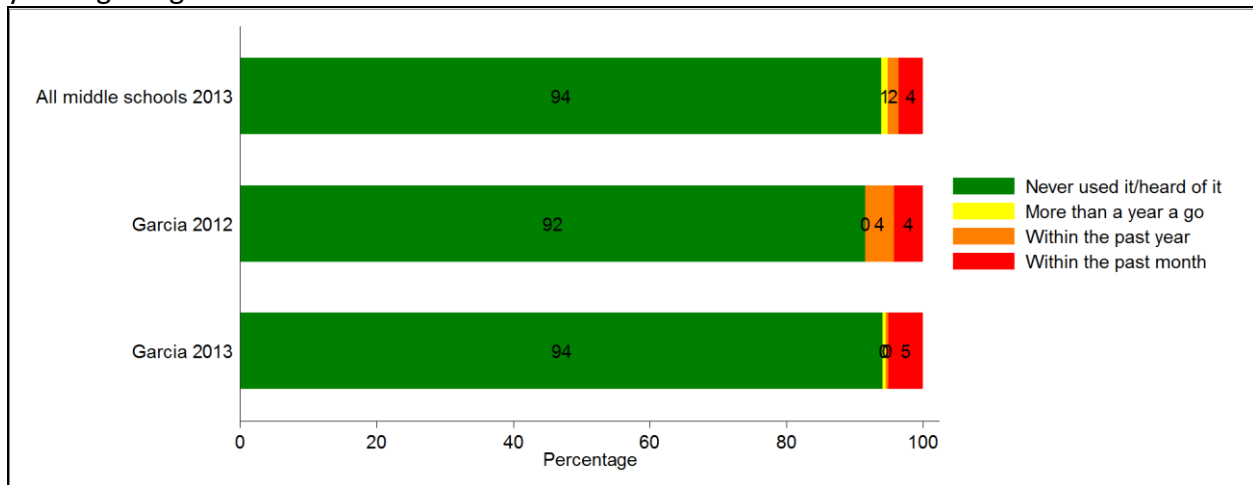


Q27f: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use Over the Counter Medication to get high?

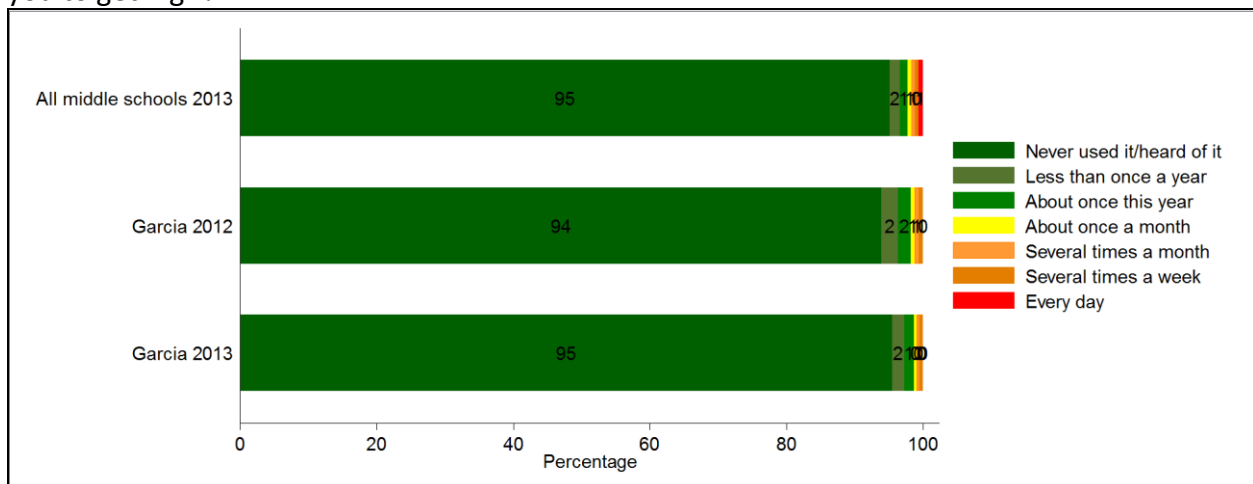


PREScription DRUGS:

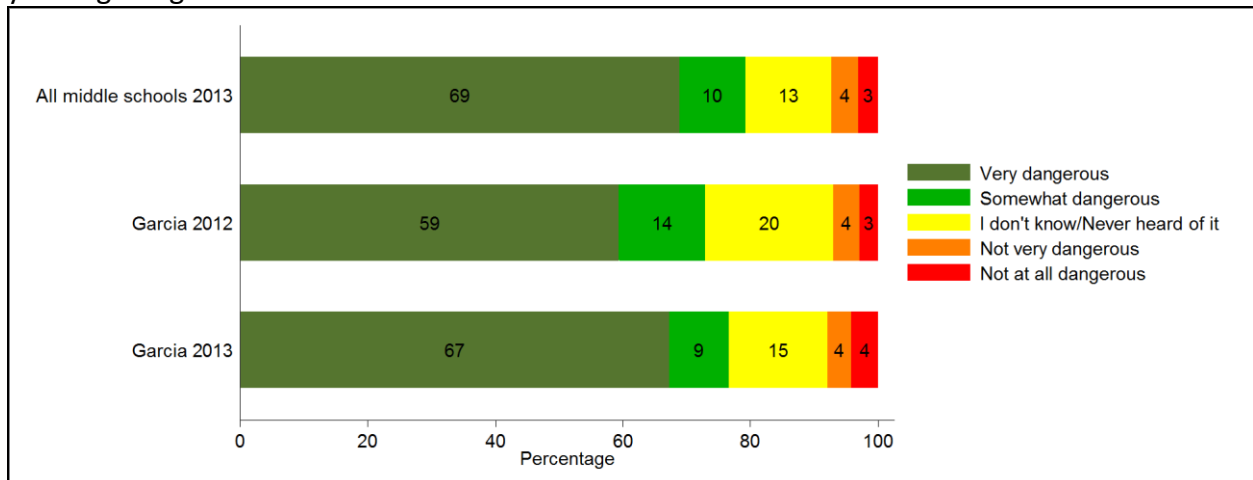
Q18g: What is the most recent you have used Prescription Drugs that were not prescribed to you to get high?



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

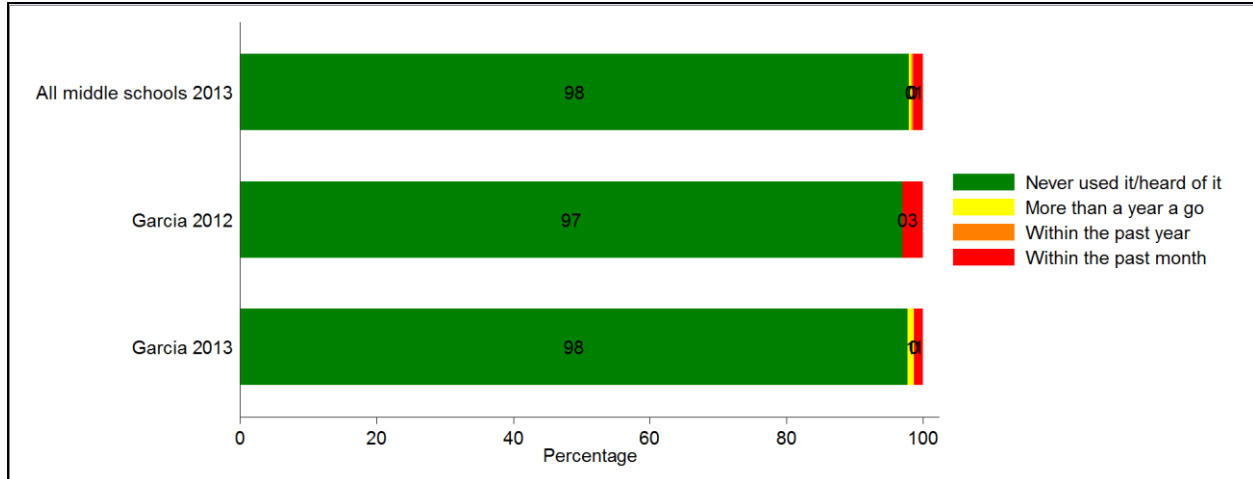


Q27g: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use Prescription Drugs that are not prescribed to you to get high?

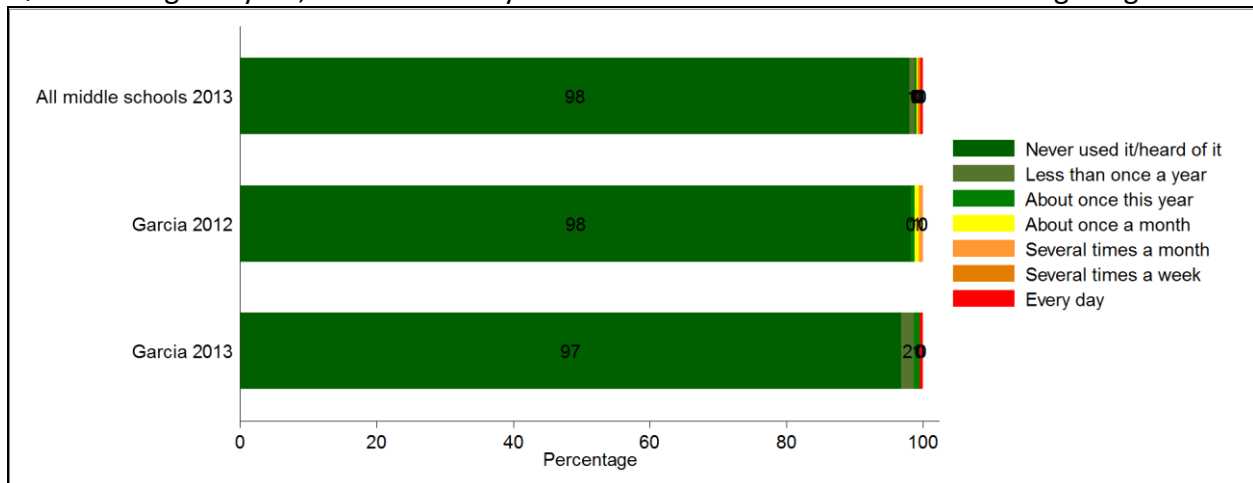


STEROIDS OR PERFORMANCE ENHANCING DRUGS:

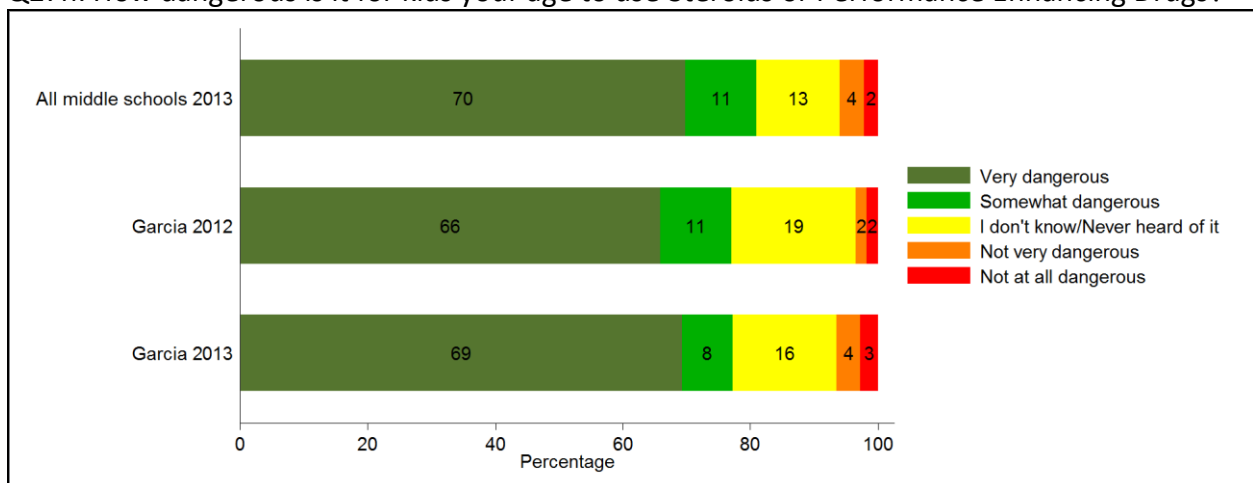
Q18h: What is the most recent you have used Steroids or Performance Enhancing Drugs?



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

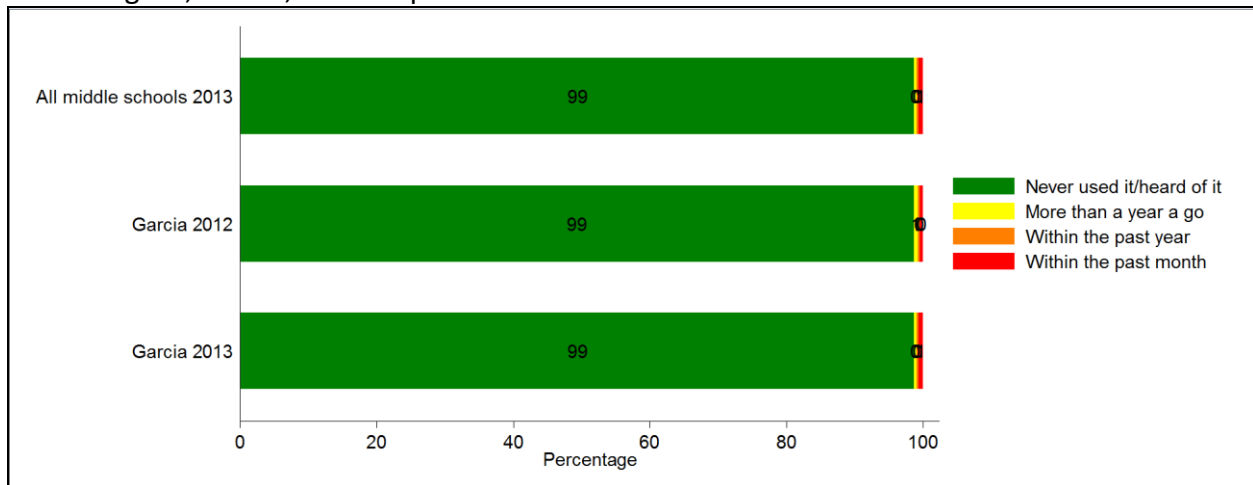


Q27h: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use Steroids or Performance Enhancing Drugs?

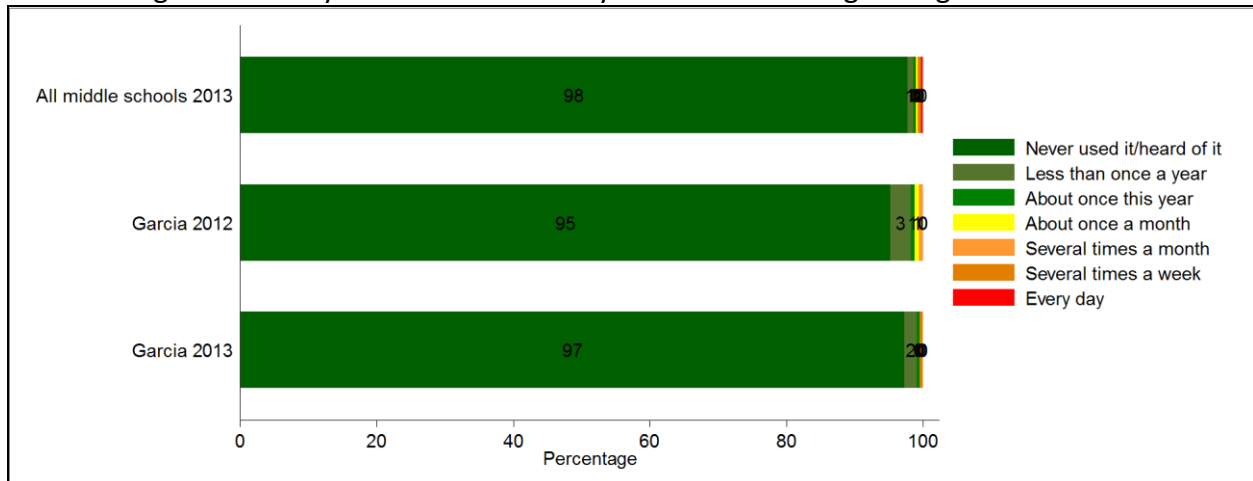


OTHER ILLEGAL DRUGS:

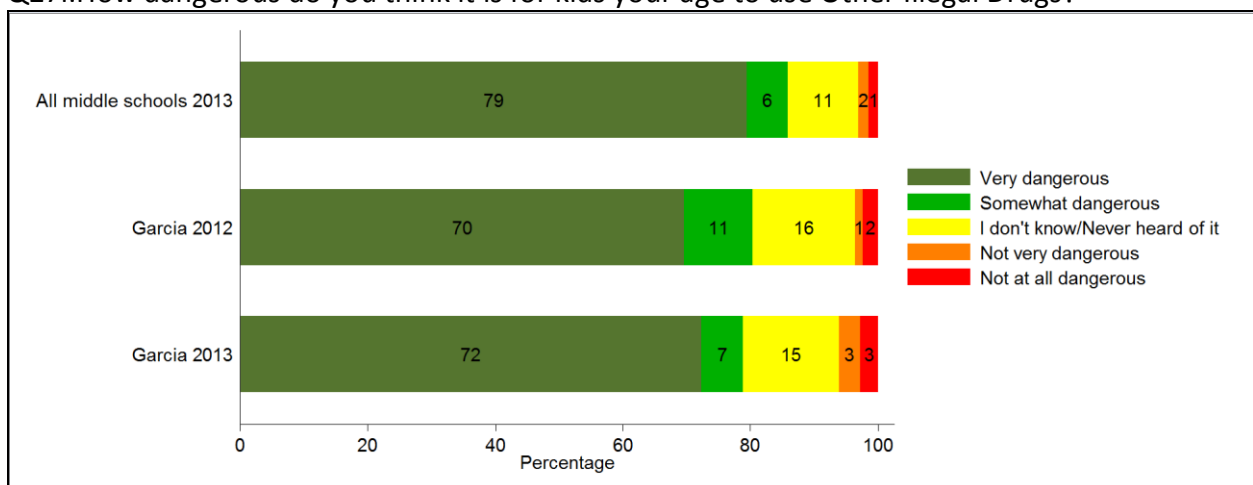
Q18i: What is the most recent you have used Other Illegal Drugs (e.g. cocaine, ecstasy, hallucinogens, heroin, methamphetamines)?



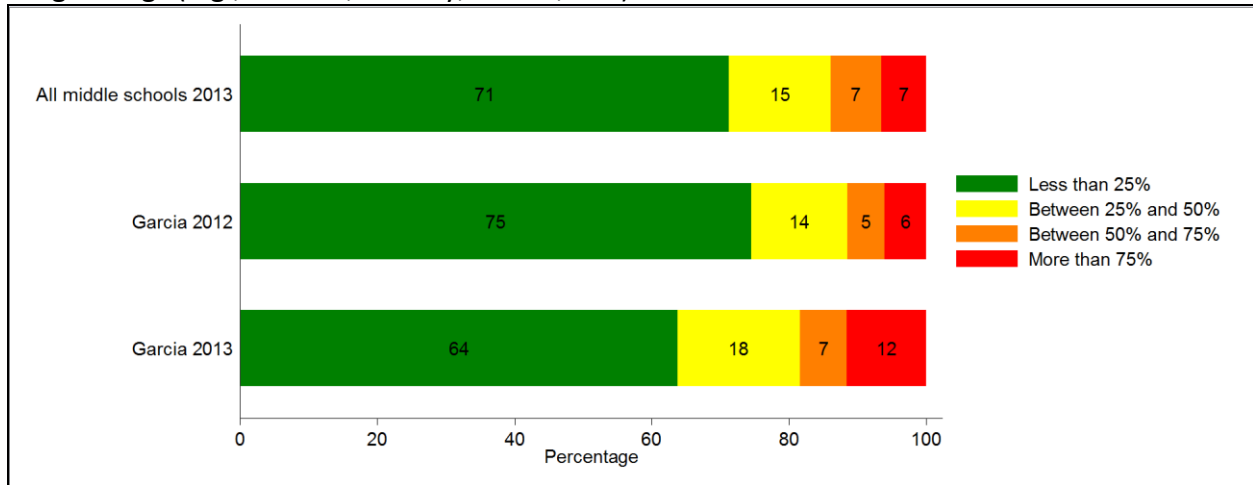
Q21i: During this school year how often have you used Other Illegal Drugs?



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

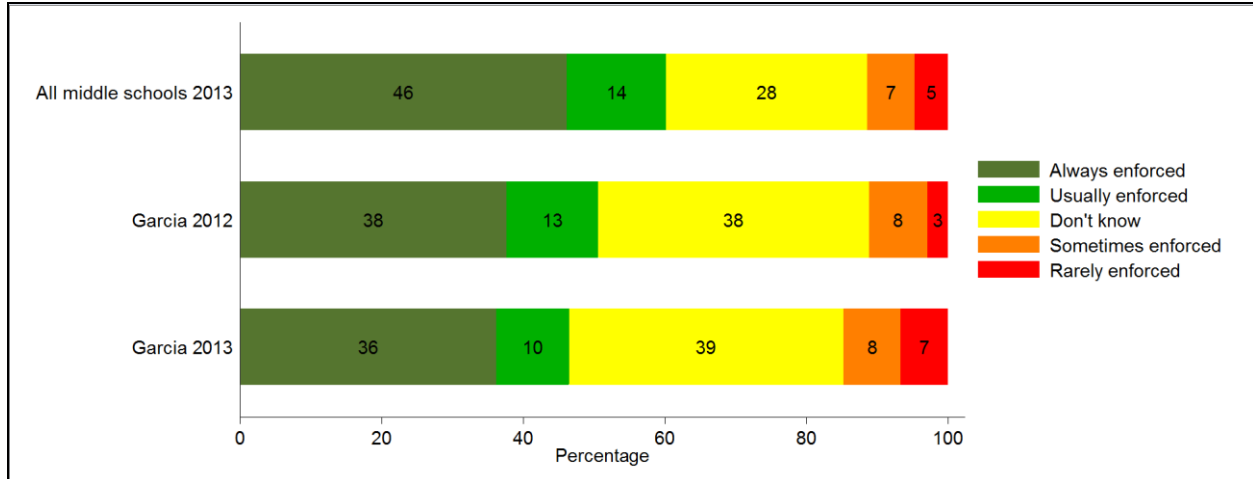


Q29d. Within the past month, how many kids at your school do you think have used other illegal drugs (e.g., cocaine, ecstasy, heroin, etc.) ?

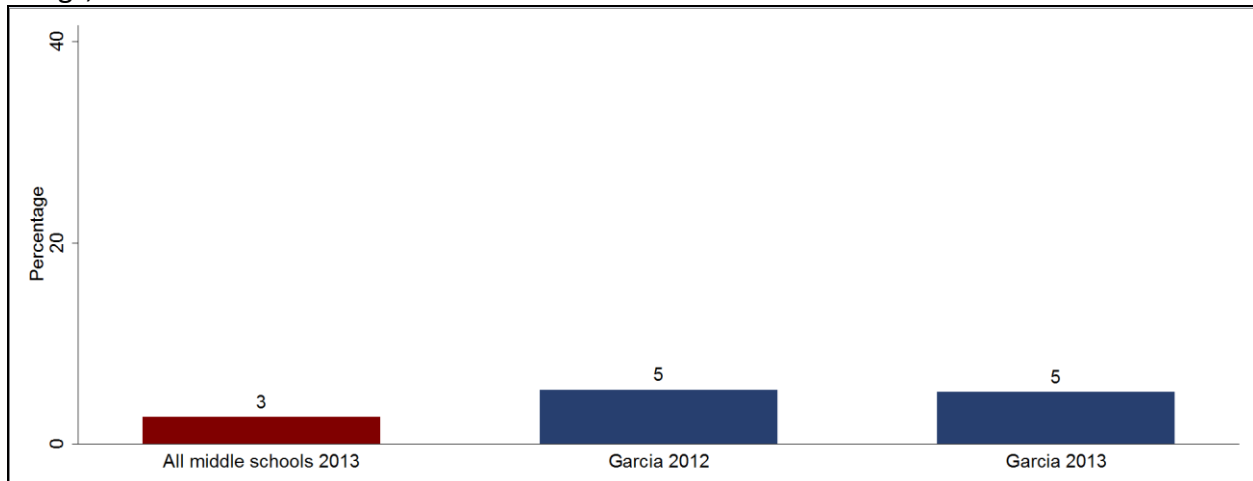


OPINIONS, EXPERIENCE, AND EXPOSURE:

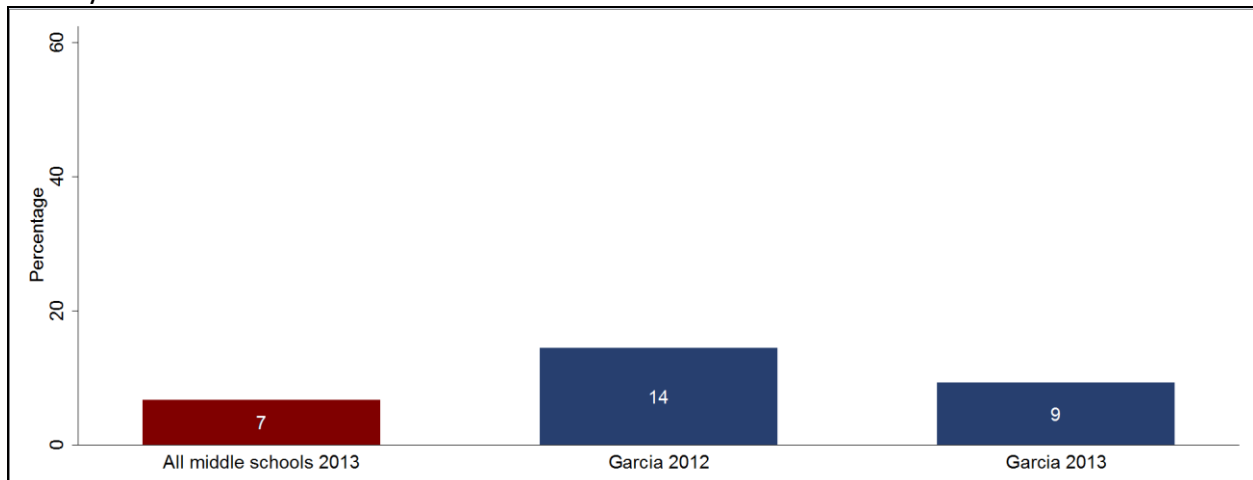
Q13: Are school rules about drug, alcohol, and tobacco use enforced by school staff?



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



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



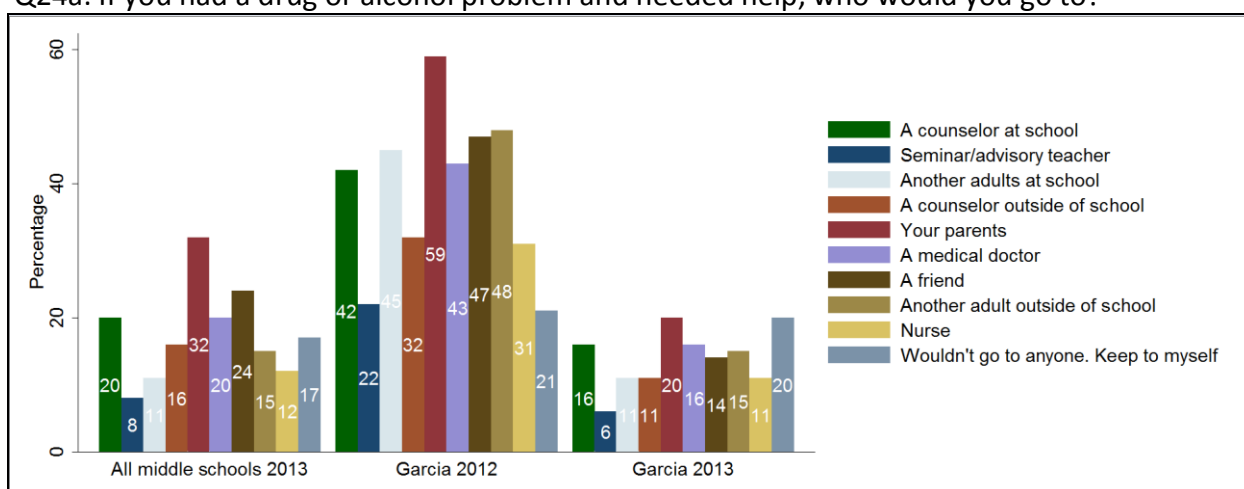
Question 24 was expanded for the 2012-2013 SSUSS. In addition to asking students who they would go to if they experienced problems with drugs or alcohol, they were also asked who they would go to if they experienced problems related to schoolwork or academics; bullying, violence, or personal safety; friends or family; and health.

Overall, at both the high school and middle school levels it appeared that survey respondents would largely approach friends, parents, and/or counselors if they experienced problems with drugs or alcohol; bullying, violence, or threats to personal safety; or issues with family or friends.

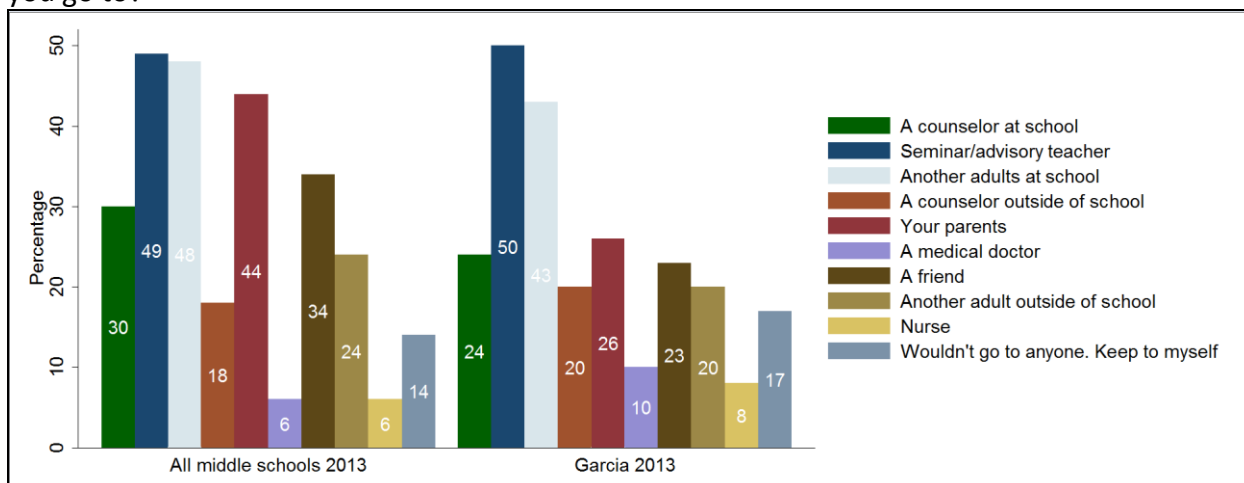
At both levels, the majority of respondents reported they would go to a teacher at school if they experienced problems with schoolwork or academics.

Lastly, at both levels, most survey respondents reported they would go to a doctor or school nurse if they experienced health issues.

Q24a: If you had a drug or alcohol problem and needed help, who would you go to?

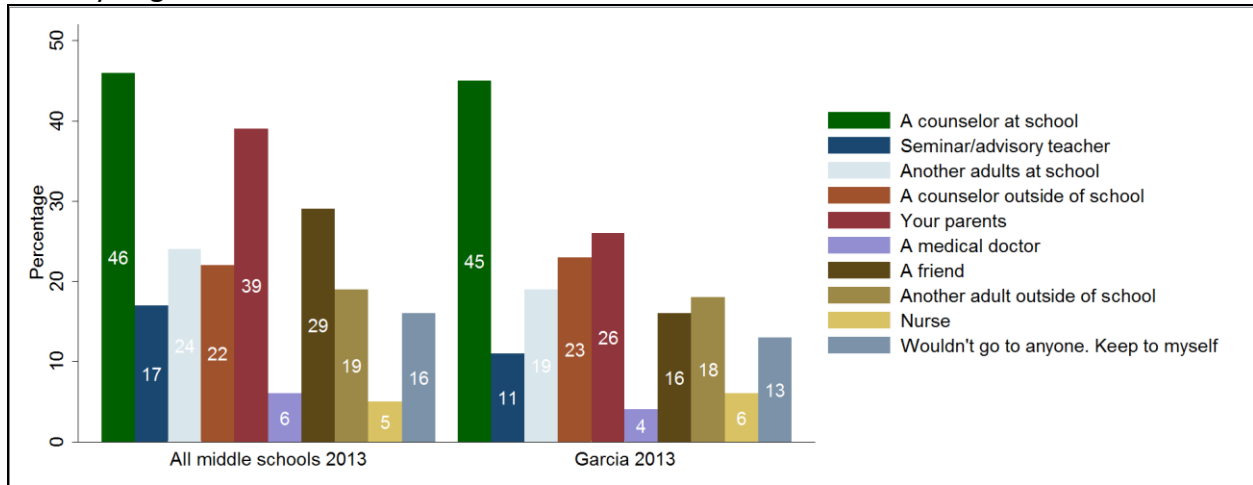


Q24b: If you had problems with your schoolwork or academics and needed help, who would you go to?



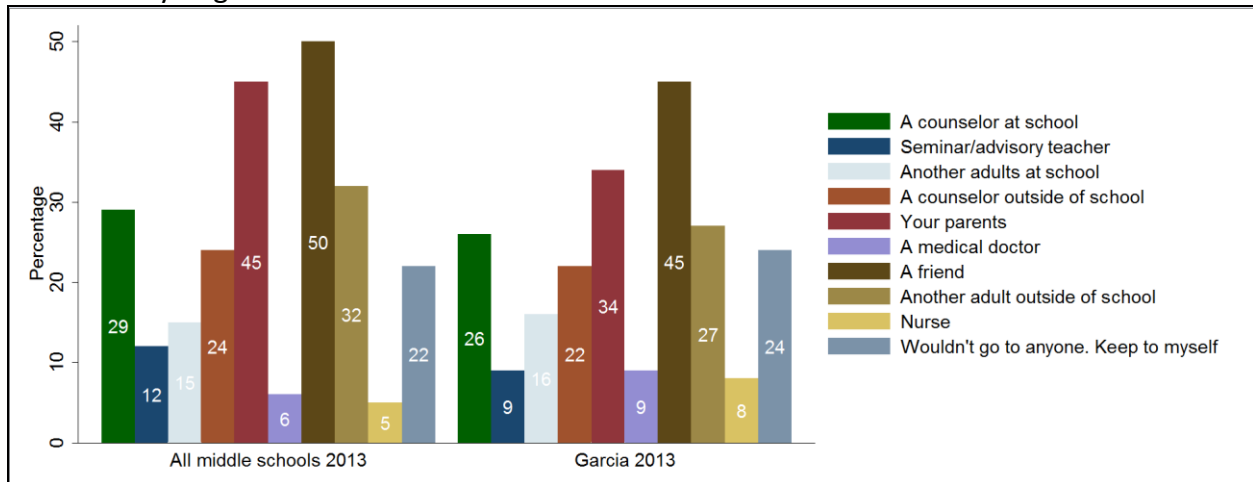
Note. This question was not asked in the 2011-2012 survey.

Q24c: If you experienced bullying, violence, or threats to personal safety and needed help, who would you go to?



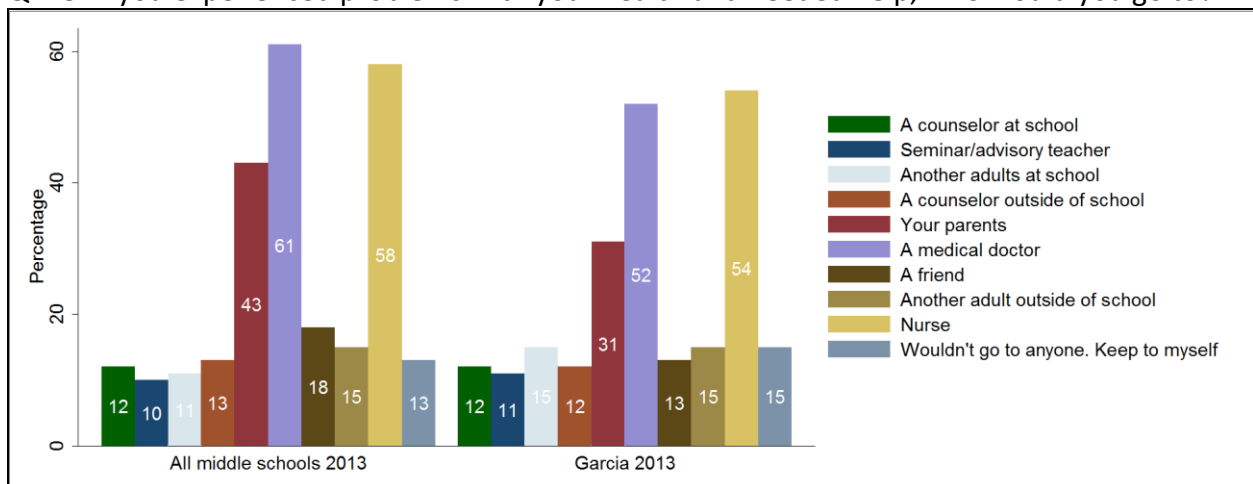
Note. This question was not asked in the 2011-2012 survey.

Q24d: If you experienced social problems or problems with friends or family and needed help, who would you go to?



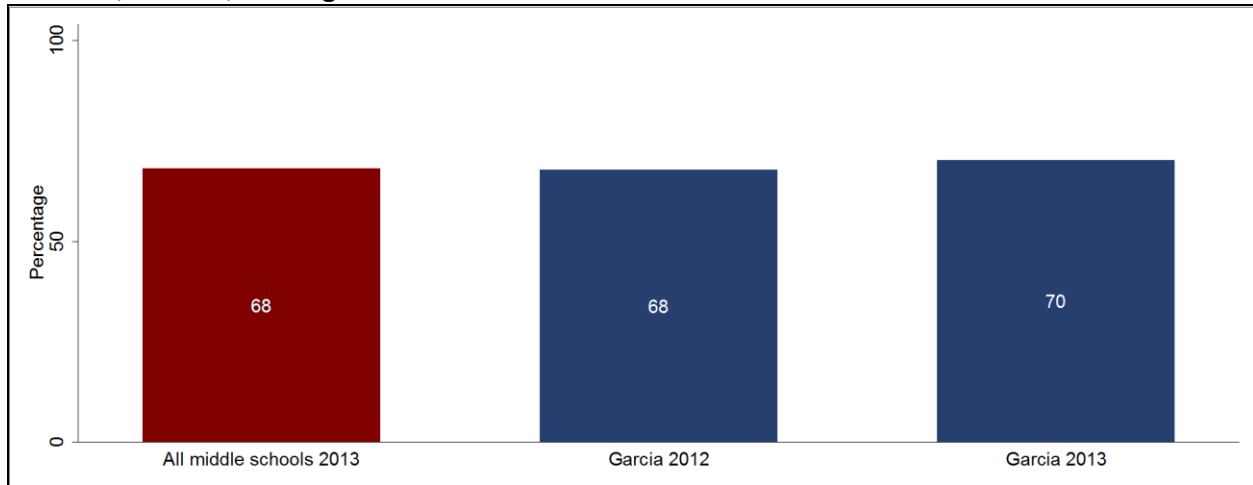
Note. This question was not asked in the 2011-2012 survey.

Q24e: If you experienced problems with your health and needed help, who would you go to?

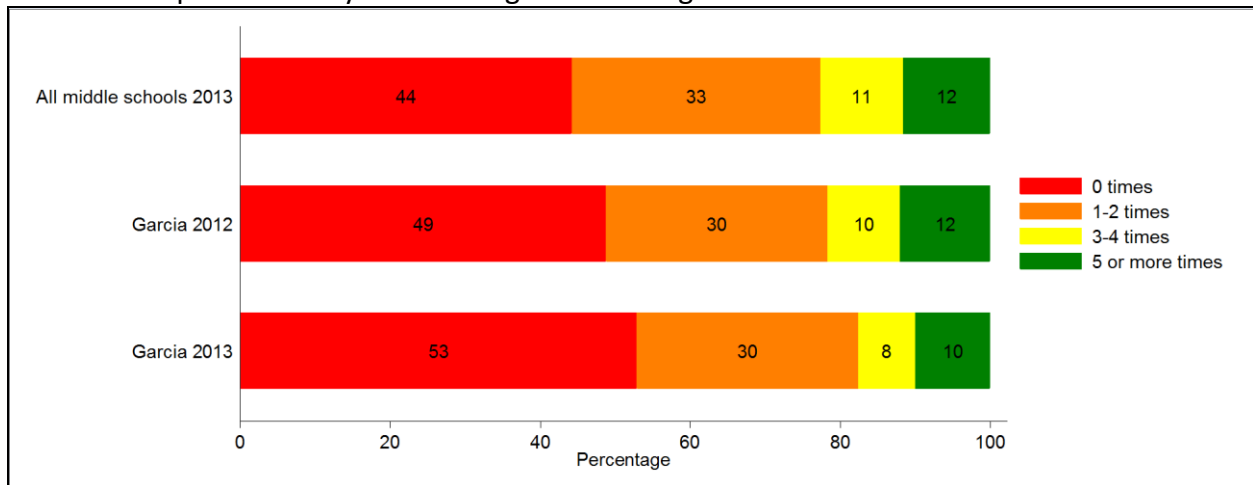


Note. This question was not asked in the 2011-2012 survey.

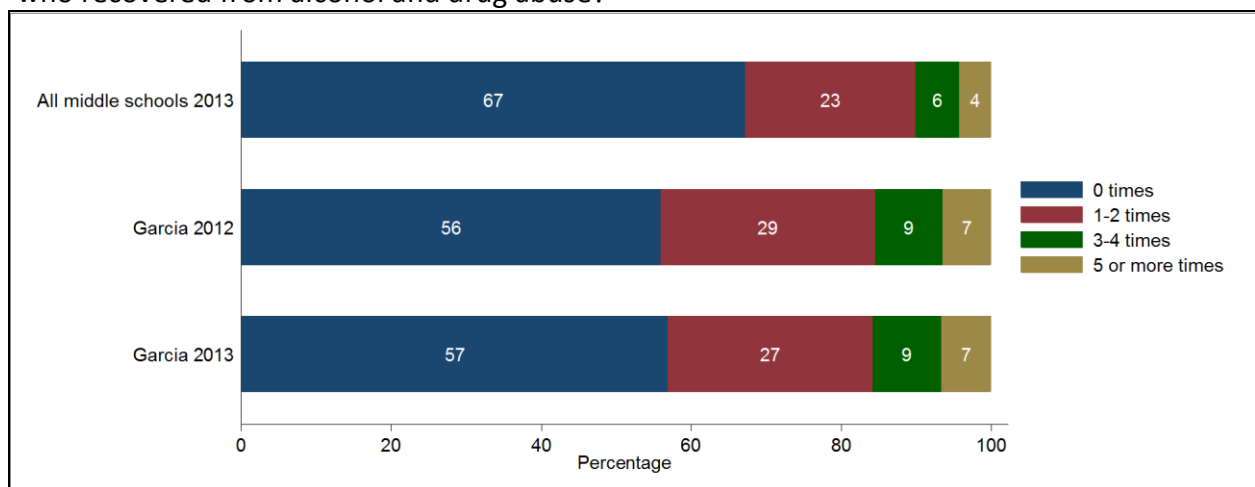
Q25: Within the past year, has your parent/guardian talked with you about the dangers of tobacco, alcohol, or drug use?



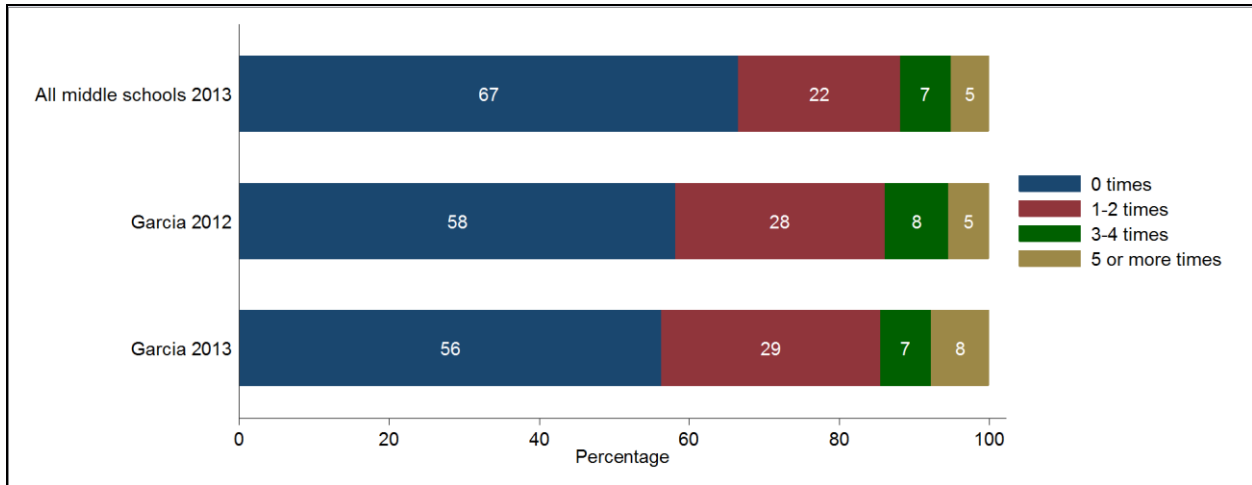
Q28a. During the school year, how many times have you experienced classes in which you learned and practiced ways of resisting and avoiding substance abuse?



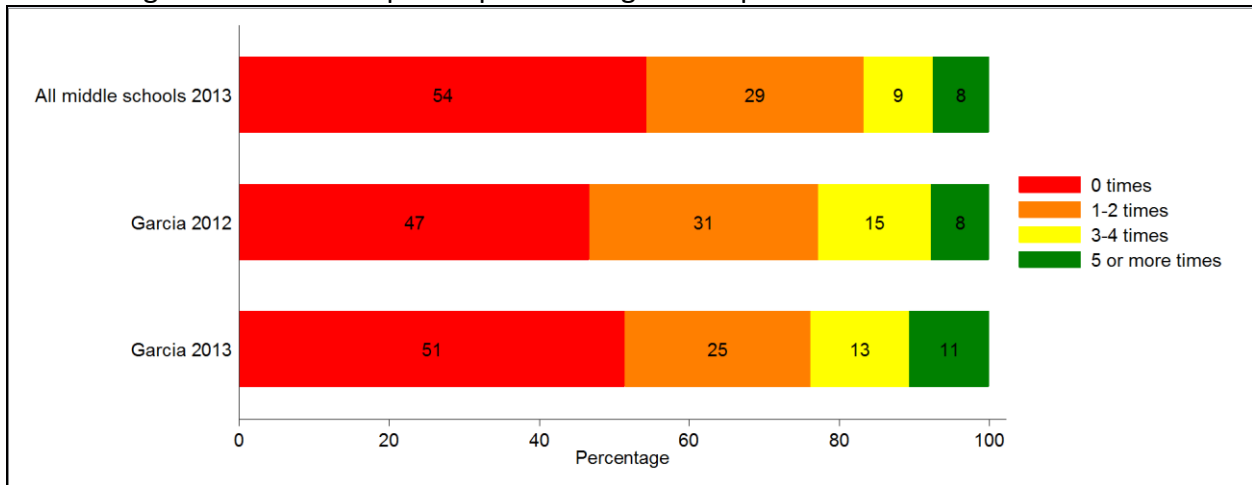
Q28b. During the school year, how many times have you experienced presentations by people who recovered from alcohol and drug abuse?



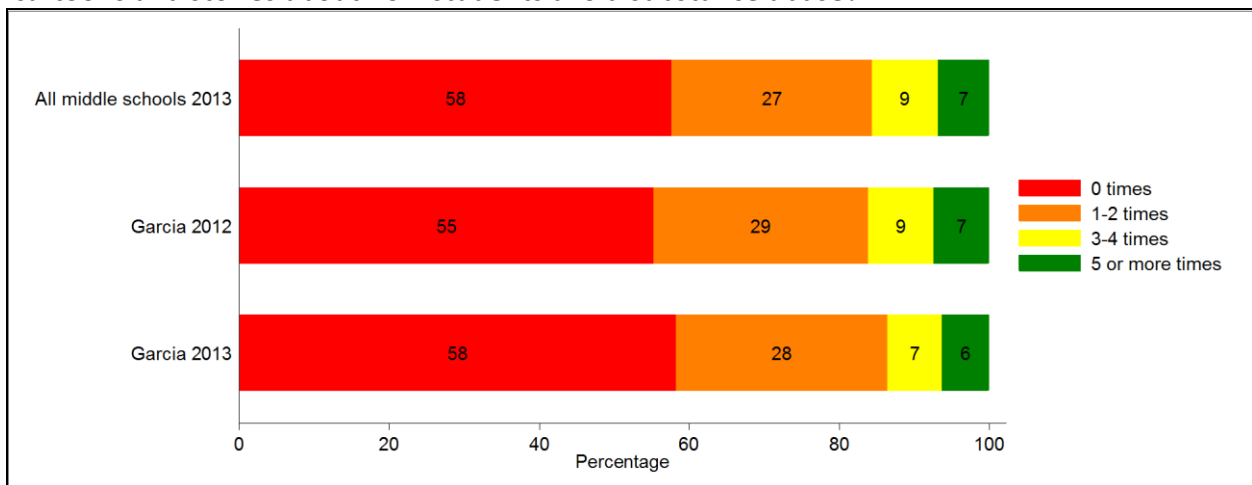
Q28c. During the school year, how many times have you experienced presentations by students who tell about how to avoid substance abuse?



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?



Middle Schools: Percentage of Students Reporting Exposure to Substance Use Prevention Education and Advertisements

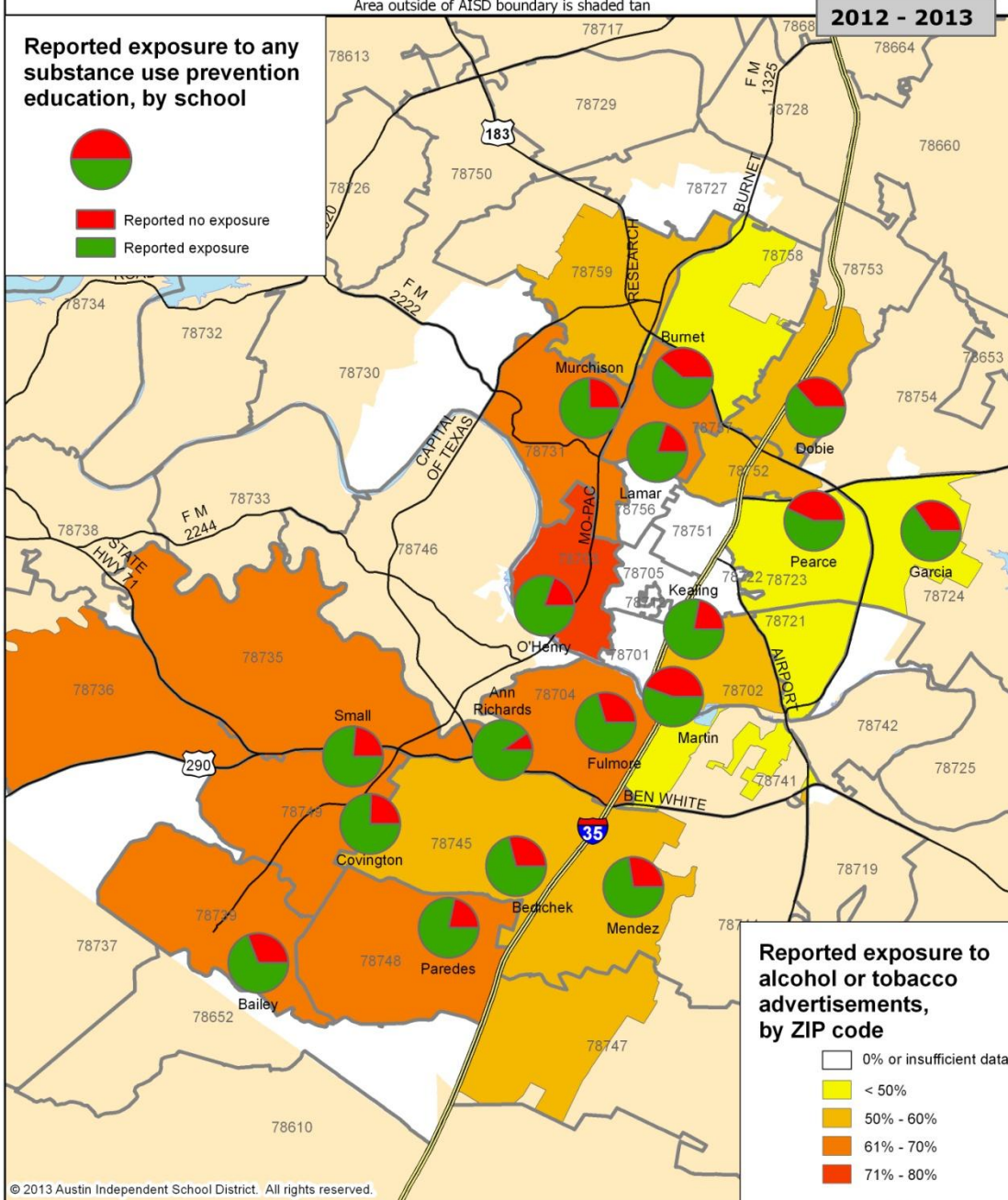
Area outside of AISD boundary is shaded tan

2012 - 2013

Reported exposure to any substance use prevention education, by school



■ Reported no exposure
■ Reported exposure



© 2013 Austin Independent School District. All rights reserved.



0 1 2 3 4 Miles

Cartographic Sources:
Austin ISD 2012, 2013; City of Austin 2010

Data Source:
2012-2013 AISD Student Substance Use and Safety Survey (Question 28)

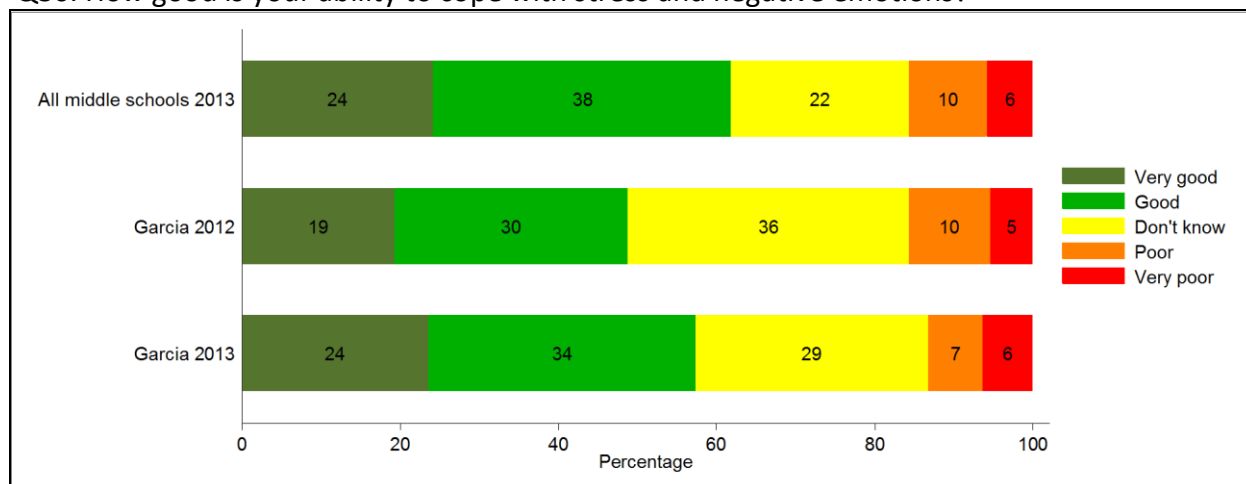


Zoran Stojakovic
11/13/13



Display of visual correlations among multiple layered datasets do not represent cause and effect relationships.

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



**APPENDIX: CONFIDENCE INTERVALS BY ZIP CODES FOR AISD MIDDLE SCHOOL RESPONDENTS TO 2013
STUDENT SUBSTANCE USE AND SAFETY SURVEY**

ZIP code	Number of middle school survey respondents	Total AISD middle school residents	Confidence interval	ZIP code	Number of middle school survey respondents	Total AISD middle school residents	Confidence interval
78610	2	4	*	78737	22	112	+/- 18.81%
78652	15	55	+/- 21.78%	78739	212	832	+/- 5.81%
78701	5	15	*	78741	125	606	+/- 7.82%
78702	179	579	+/- 6.09%	78744	372	1556	+/- 4.43%
78703	83	305	+/- 9.19%	78745	329	1332	+/- 4.69%
78704	197	653	+/- 5.84%	78746	6	9	+/- 24.5%
78705	5	32	*	78747	94	491	+/- 9.1%
78719	2	1	*	78748	280	1278	+/- 5.18%
78721	97	324	+/- 8.34%	78749	271	1009	+/- 5.09%
78722	22	75	+/- 17.68%	78750	10	97	+/- 29.5%
78723	202	694	+/- 5.81%	78751	27	125	+/- 16.77%
78724	167	457	+/- 6.05%	78752	131	513	+/- 7.4%
78725	8	19	+/- 27.09%	78753	231	1082	+/- 5.72%
78727	34	293	+/- 15.83%	78754	13	19	+/- 15.69%
78730	1	9	*	78756	27	105	+/- 16.33%
78731	68	436	+/- 10.93%	78757	118	391	+/- 7.55%
78733	1	0	*	78758	172	985	+/- 6.79%
78735	69	289	+/- 10.31%	78759	69	518	+/- 10.99%
78736	40	170	+/- 13.59%				

Source. AISD Student Records as of March 2013, and 2013 Student Substance Use and Safety Survey

Note. To make inferences about the ZIP code population using the sample data, the results should be interpreted by adding and subtracting the confidence interval to the observed statistic (see page 1 for more information regarding interpretation of confidence intervals).

* Where confidence intervals for a ZIP code are greater than +/- 15%, or when five or fewer students responded, survey items were not mapped by ZIP code due to insufficient data.

AUSTIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Meria J. Carstarphen, Ed.D.

OFFICE OF ACCOUNTABILITY

William Caritj, M.Ed.

DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

Holly Williams, Ph.D.

AUTHOR

Reetu Naik, M.A.

Zoran Stojakovic, M.A.G.



Vincent Torres, President
Gina Hinojosa, Vice President
Jayme Mathias, Secretary
Cheryl Bradley
Ann Teich
Amber Elenz
Lori Moya
Robert Schneider
Tamala Barksdale

Publication Number 12.85 b
September 2013