

Results of the 2010 Student Substance Use and Safety Survey

GARCIA MIDDLE SCHOOL

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%.⁸ 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 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 205 students and population enrollment of 694, the confidence interval for Garcia Middle School is + and – 6 percentage points.

To make inferences about your campus population using the sample data, the results should be interpreted with the computed confidence interval of 6 percentage points on each side of the sample statistics. For example, in 2010 38% of respondents from your campus indicated that their friends belonged to gangs (see Q16, p.9). Applying the confidence interval (i.e., adding and subtracting 6 percentage points) to the 38% yields a range of 32% - 44%. Therefore, you can be 95% confident that somewhere between 32% - 44% 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 2009 was 5 percentage points. Therefore, only differences of 11 percentage points or greater (5%+6%) should be considered statistically significant when comparing the results from two different years.

⁸ 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.

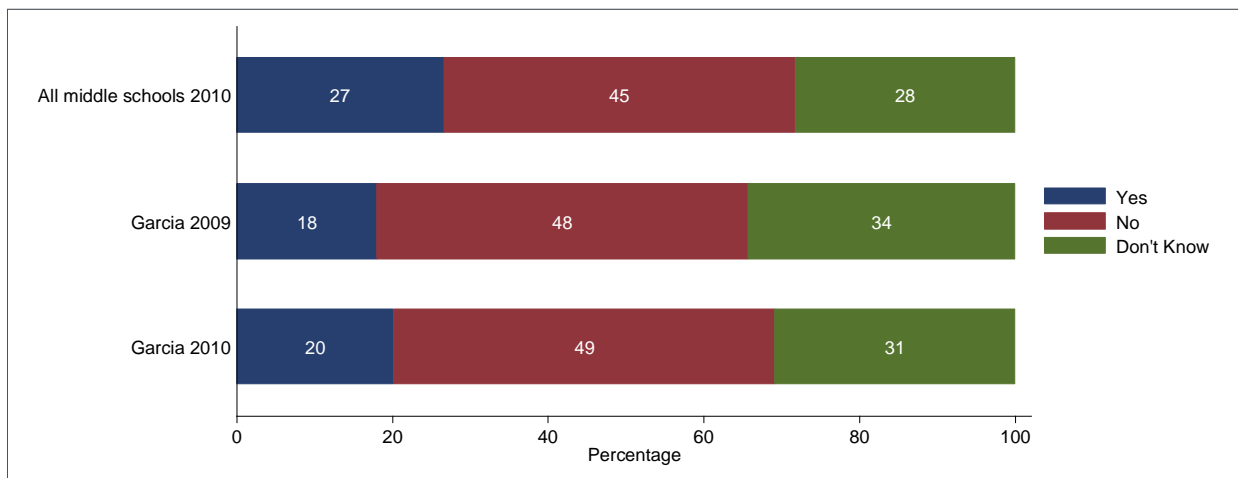
RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS AND ITEMS THAT ADDRESS BOTH SUBSTANCE USE AND SAFETY

Demographics

	Gender		Grade			Total
	Male	Female	6th	7th	8th	
Garcia 2009	137	132	75	100	87	270
	51%	49%	28%	40%	32%	
Garcia 2010	95	107	86	48	68	205
	47%	53%	42%	24%	34%	
All middle schools 2010	2,167	2,372	1,710	1,497	1,327	4,593
	48%	52%	38%	33%	29%	

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?



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

	Garcia 2009-2010	Percentage point change from 2008-2009*	All middle schools 2009-2010
Knives	8%	2	6%
Illegal drugs	11%	5	6%
Other weapons	10%	6	6%
Prescription drugs	6%	3	5%
Tobacco	6%	3	4%
Alcohol	7%	3	4%
Gun	5%	3	3%
None of the above	81%	-5	87%

* Negative percentage point changes indicate fewer students reported bringing those items to school in 2009 – 2010 than in 2008 – 2009.

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

	Garcia 2009-2010	Percentage point change from 2008-2009*	All middle schools 2009-2010
Student fighting and physical aggression	33%	0	29%
Marijuana use	19%	3	17%
Student harassment, threats, and intimidation	3%	-1	13%
Student weapon possession	11%	4	5%
Prescription drug use	9%	2	5%
Student vandalism, criminal mischief	1%	0	2%
Violence or threats toward staff	2%	-1	2%
Tobacco use	1%	0	1%
Alcohol use	1%	-1	1%
None of these are serious problems on my campus	21%	-7	25%

Note. 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 2009 – 2010 than in 2008 – 2009.

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

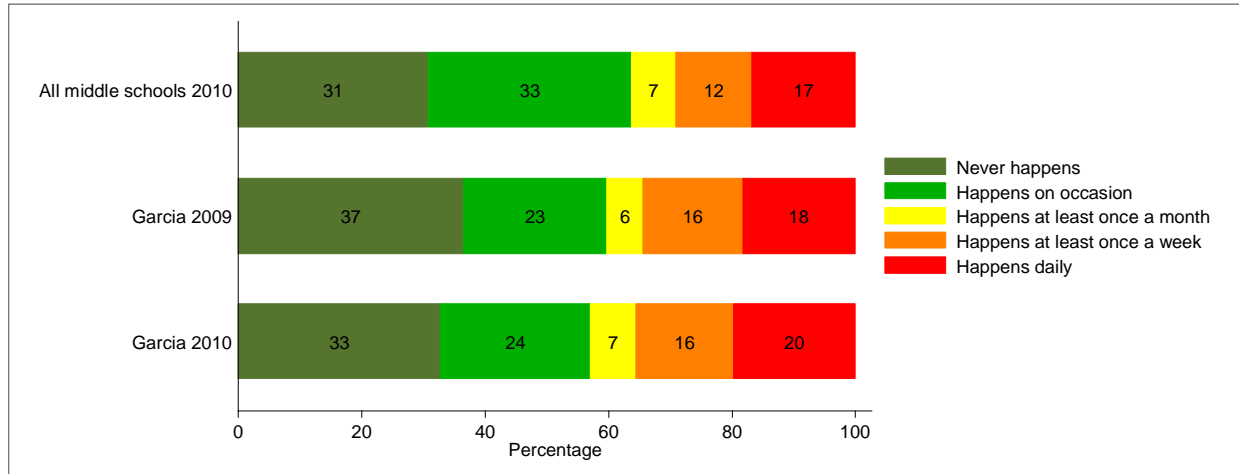
	Garcia 2009-2010	Percentage point change from 2008-2009*	All middle schools 2009-2010
Science class	45%	-24	50%
Advisory/seminar class	33%	-22	48%
Another class	43%	-1	44%
Health class	35%	-2	36%
Special school event about tobacco, drugs, alcohol, or violence	34%	-4	33%
Guidance counselor	18%	-8	24%
Student support group meetings at school	18%	-10	13%
Other school source not mentioned above	18%	-2	22%
None of the above	19%	6	11%

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

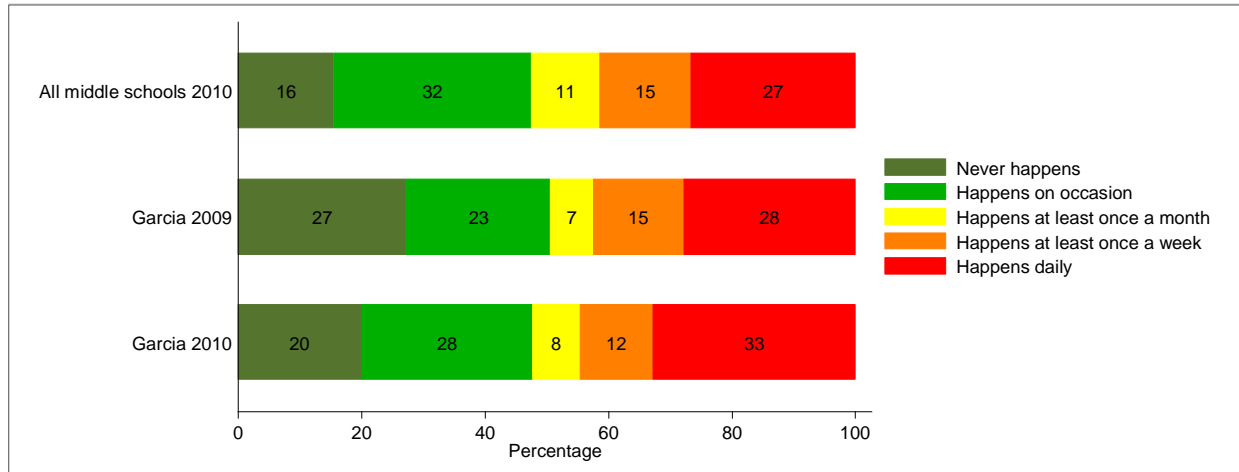
* Positive percentage point changes indicate more students reported having received information on drugs, alcohol, or violence from school sources in 2009 – 2010 than in 2008 – 2009.

SCHOOL SAFETY ITEMS

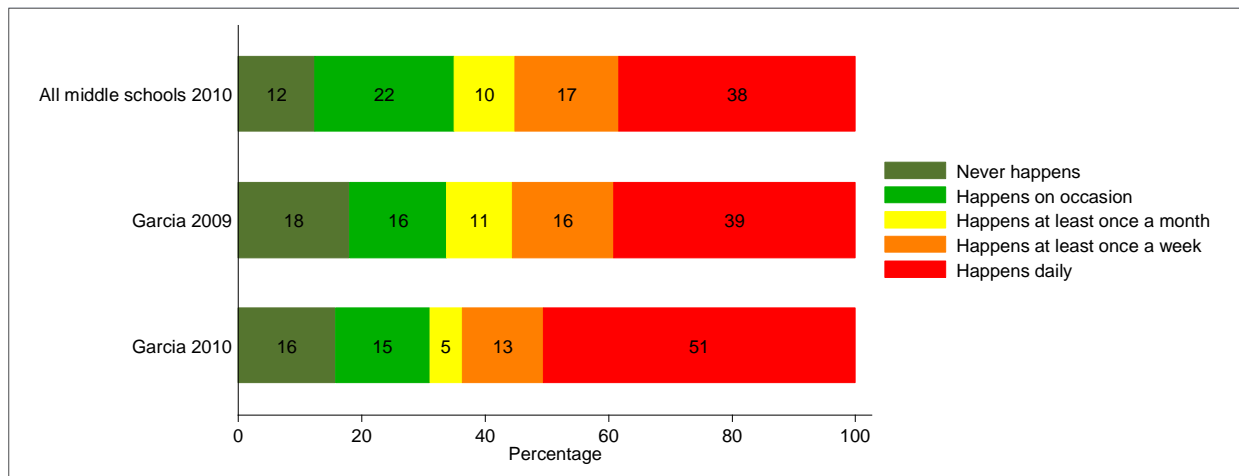
Q15a: How often does racial tension occur at your school?



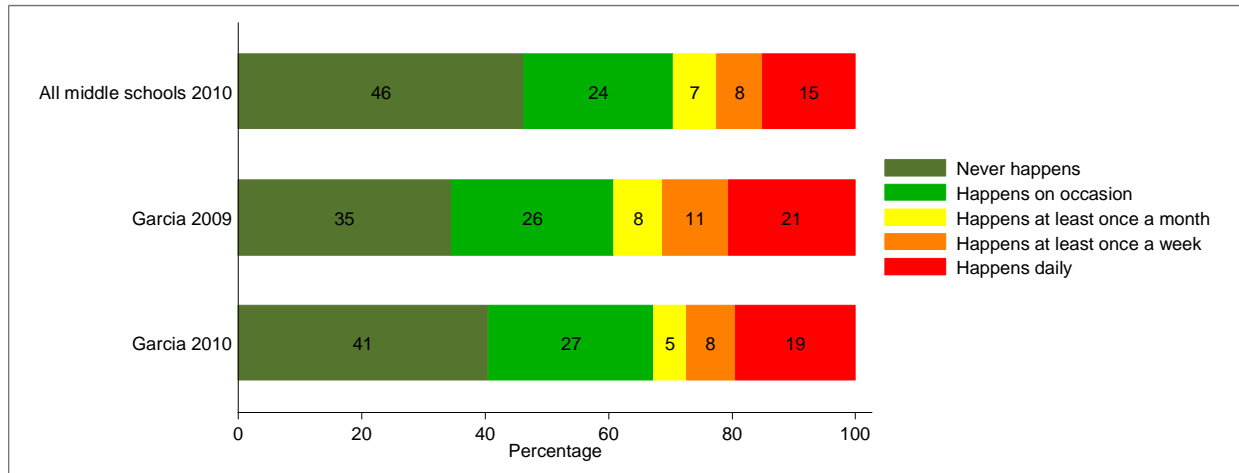
Q15b: How often does student bullying occur at your school?



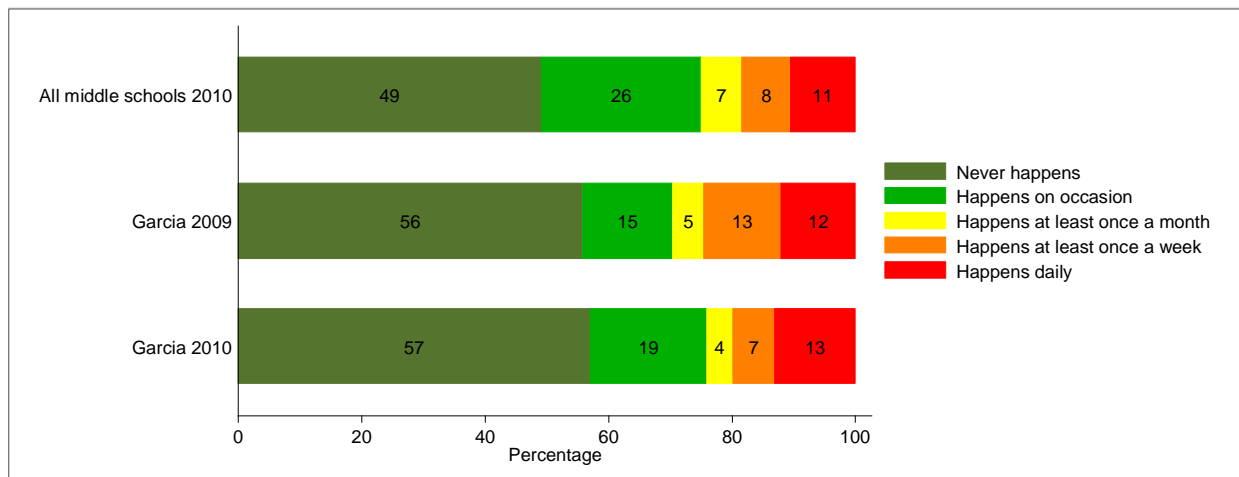
Q15c: How often do acts of disrespect for teachers occur at your school?



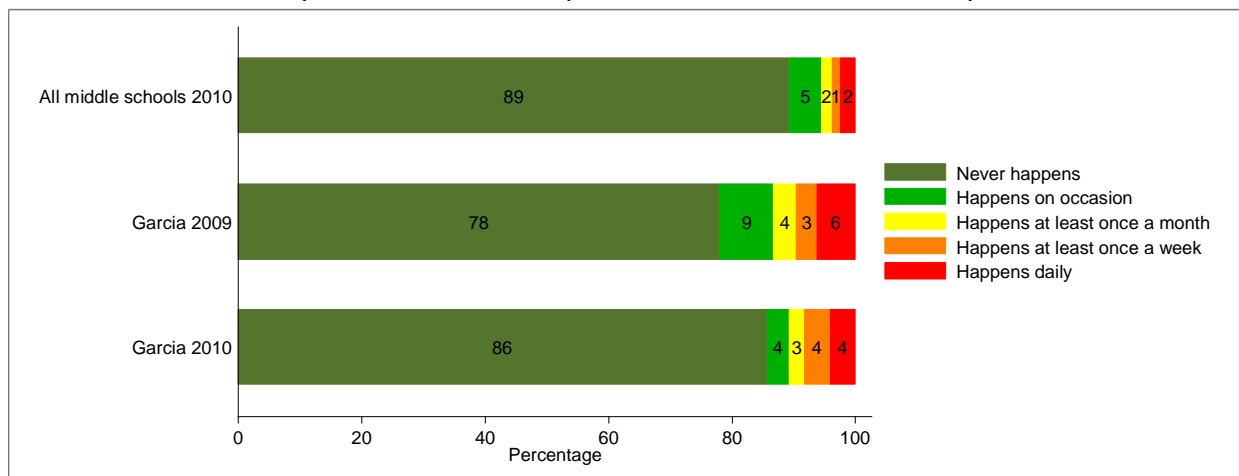
Q15d: How often do gang activities occur at your school?



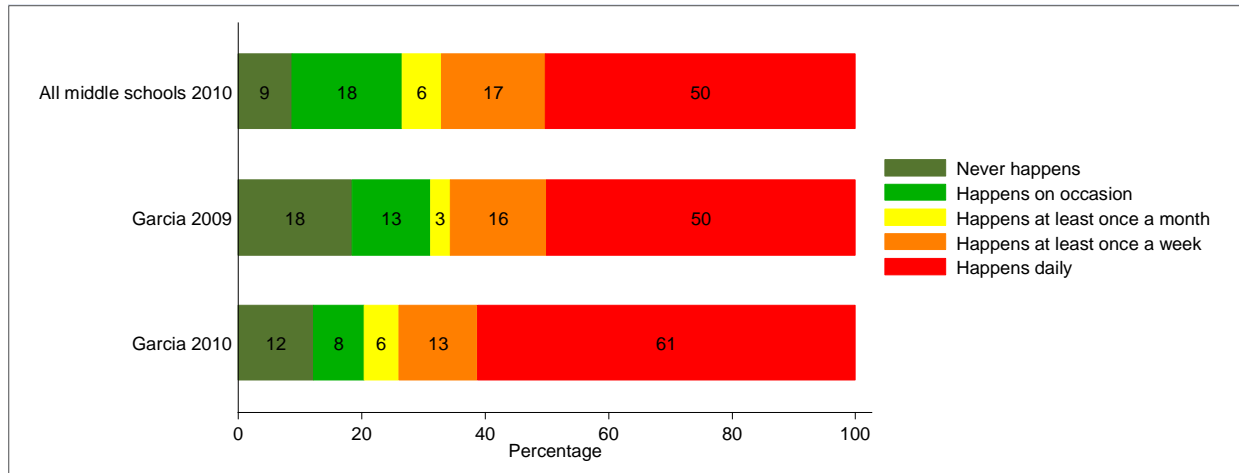
Q15e: How often have you experienced any type of bullying at your school?



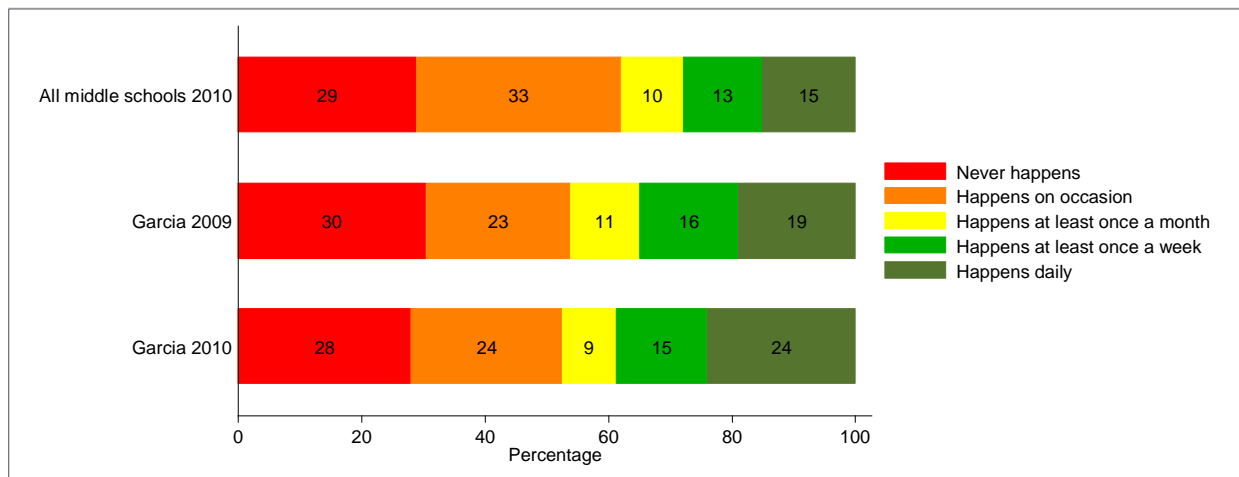
Q15f: How often were you absent because you did not feel safe on the way to/from school?



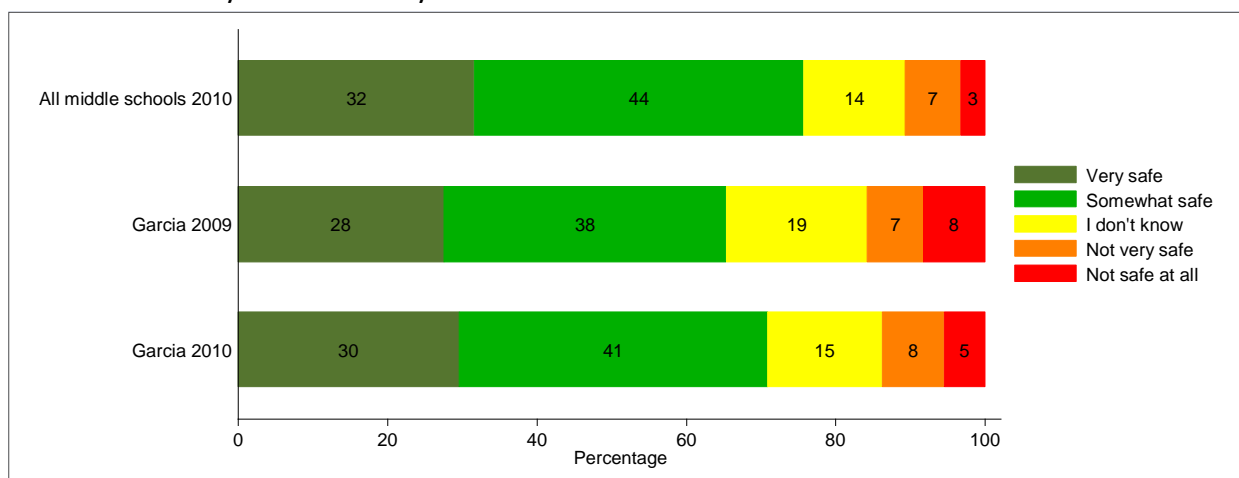
Q15g: How often does your teacher have to interrupt class to deal with student misbehavior?



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?

	Garcia 2009-2010	Percentage point change from 2008-2009*	All middle schools 2009-2010
Was sick	54%	1	57%
Other reason	35%	5	30%
Had to do something with family	30%	-1	25%
Was too tired	25%	4	20%
Didn't have a way to get to school	18%	-1	10%
Wanted to hang out with friends	17%	4	9%
Didn't get along well with teachers	14%	-4	9%
Didn't feel safe at school	9%	2	5%
Didn't feel safe on the way to/from school	8%	-1	5%
None	22%	-3	26%

Note. 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 2009 – 2010 than in 2008 – 2009.

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

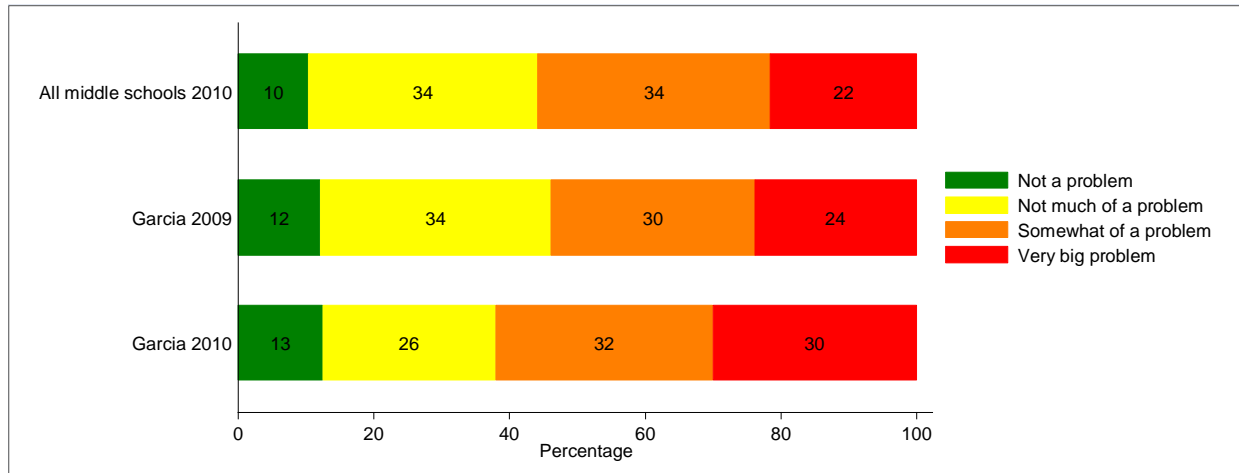
	Garcia 2009- 2010	Percentage point change from 2008-2009*	All middle schools 2009-2010
Verbal	34%	4	39%
Social	30%	9	33%
Physical	26%	3	25%
Racial or ethnic harassment	23%	-2	19%
Sexual harassment	13%	0	12%
Intimidation	11%	0	11%
Written	14%	1	9%
Cyber bullying♣	10%	N/A	9%
None	43%	-4	40%

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

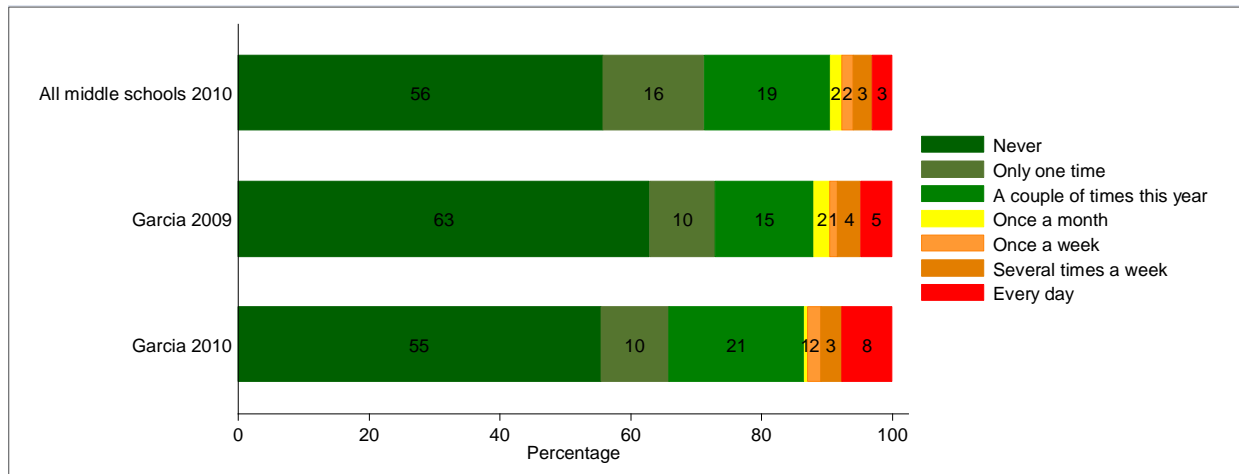
* Negative percentage point changes indicate fewer students reported experiencing types of bullying in 2009 – 2010 than in 2008 – 2009.

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

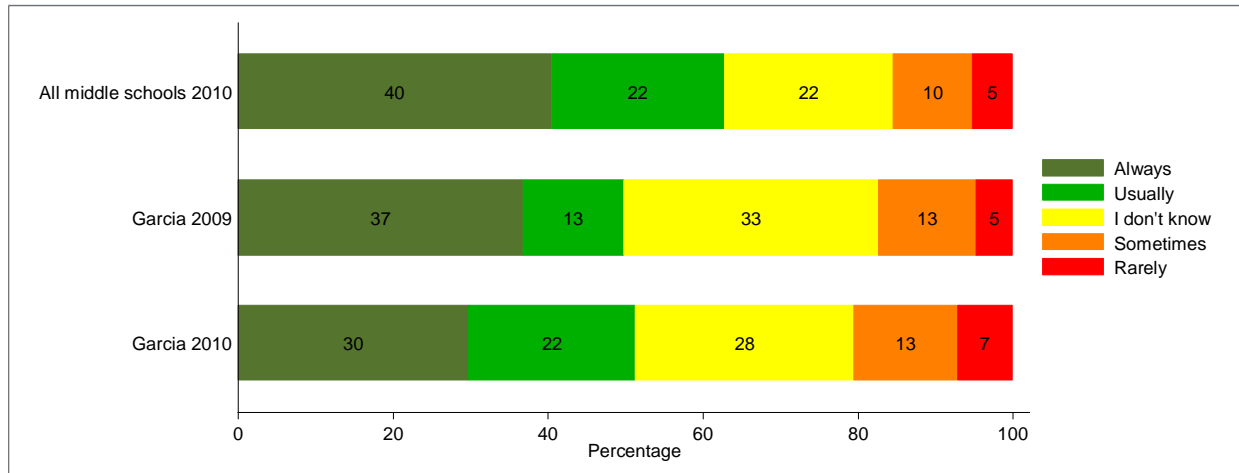
Q12: How big a problem do you think bullying is at your school?



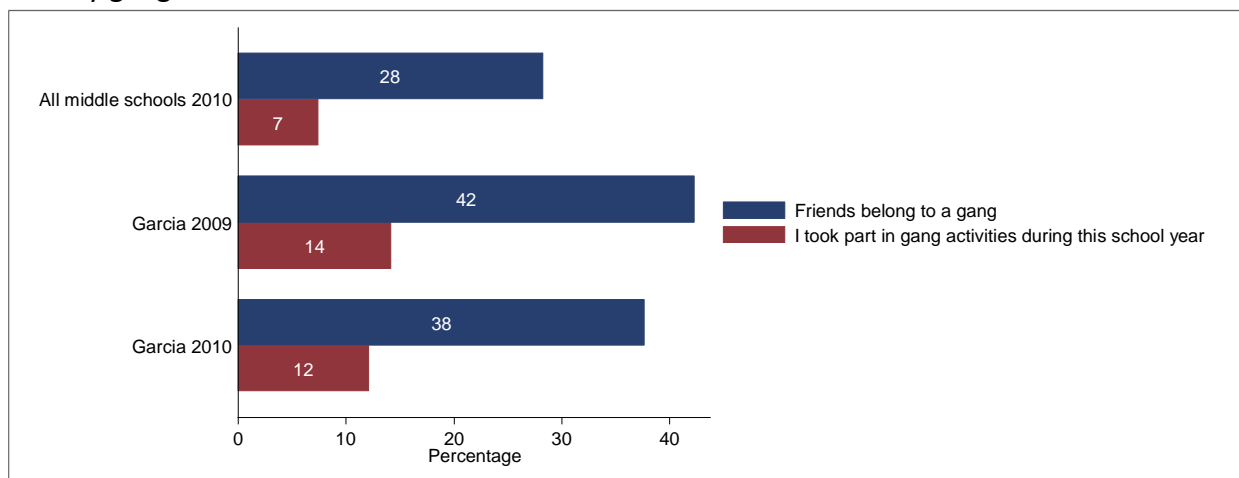
Q10: During this school year, how often have you or your close friends been physically harmed or threatened with physical harm by another student at your school?



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



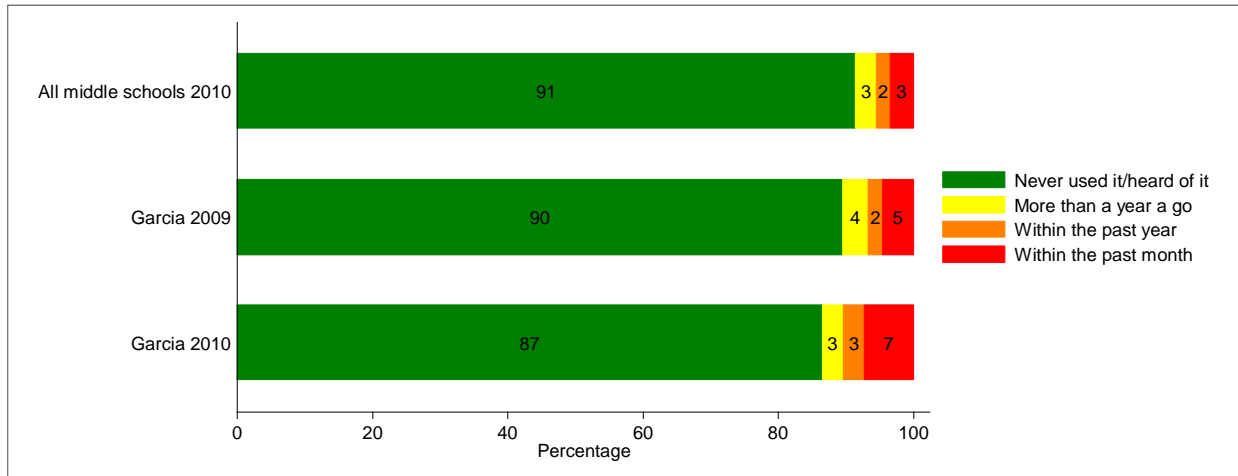
Q16-Q17: Do any of your friends belong to a gang? During this school year, did you take part in any gang activities?



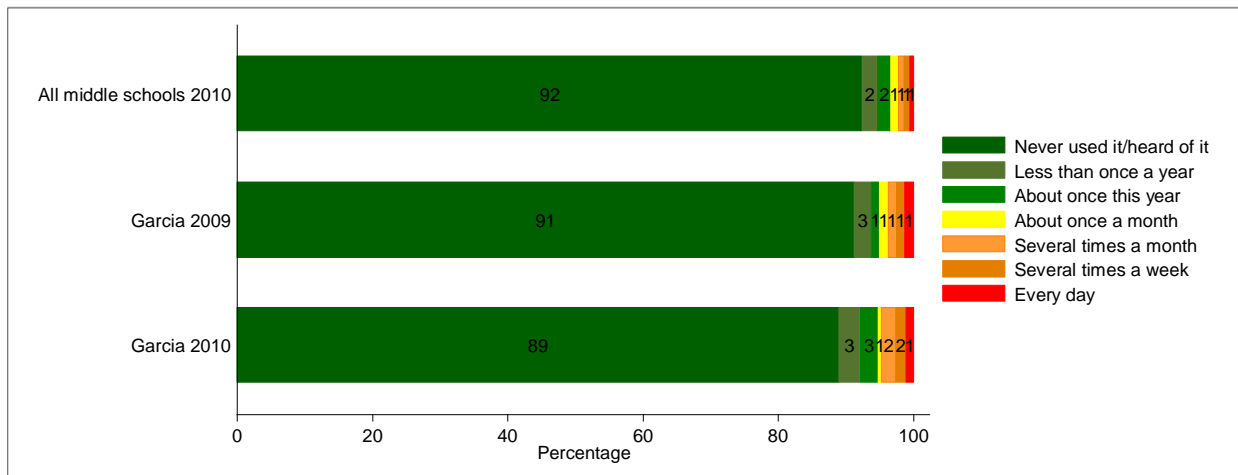
SUBSTANCE USE ITEMS

TOBACCO:

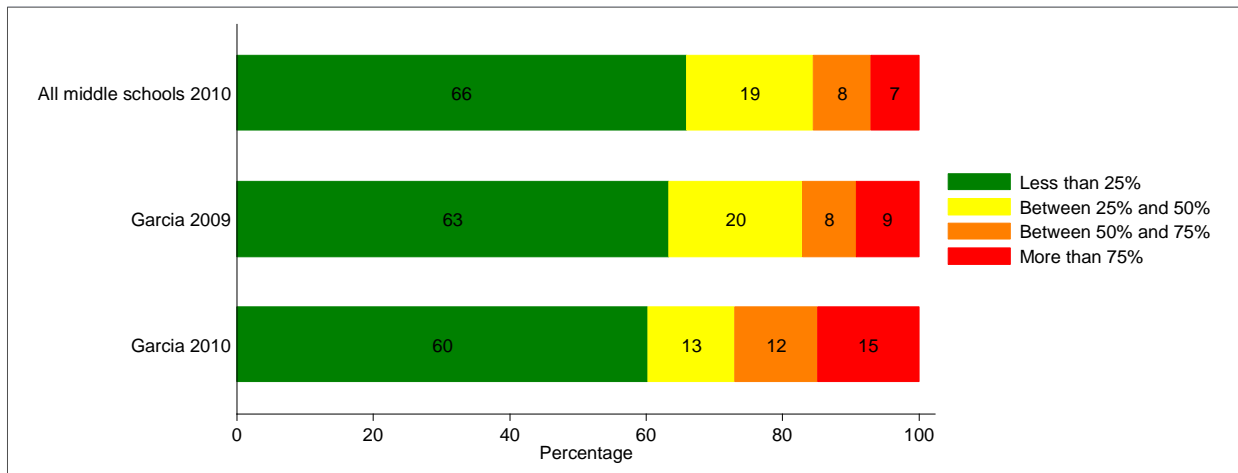
Q18A: What is the most recent you have used Tobacco?



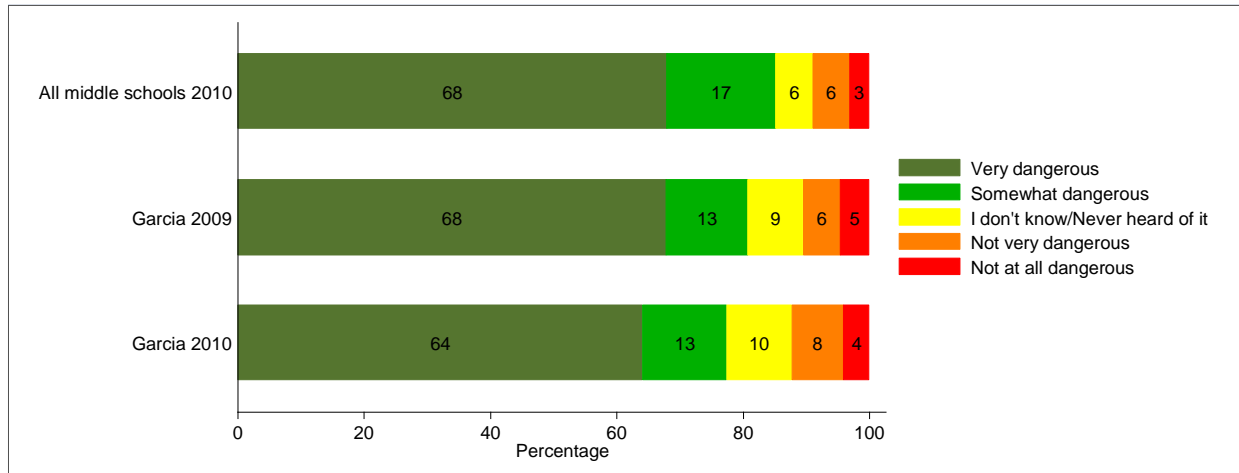
Q21a: During this year, how often did you use Tobacco?



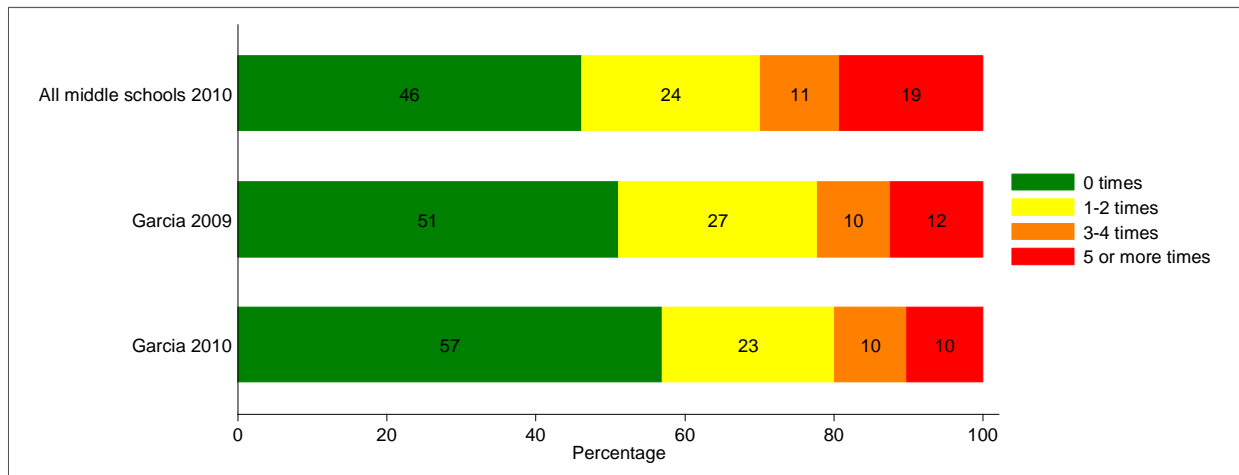
Q29a. Within the past month, how many kids at your school do you think have used tobacco?



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

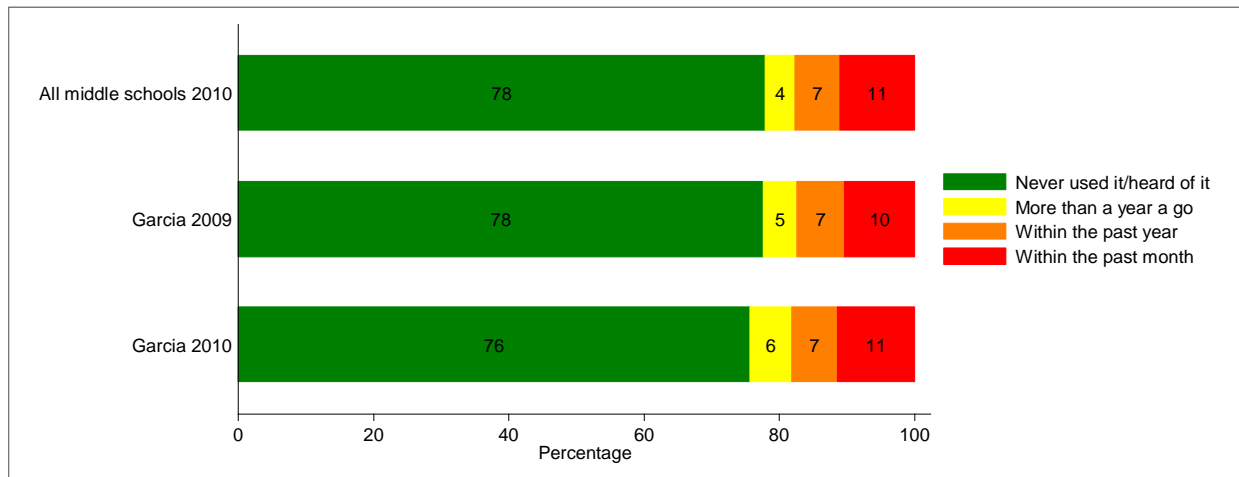


Q28g. During the school year, how many times have you experienced advertisements (TV, radio, billboard, magazine, internet, etc.) for tobacco products?

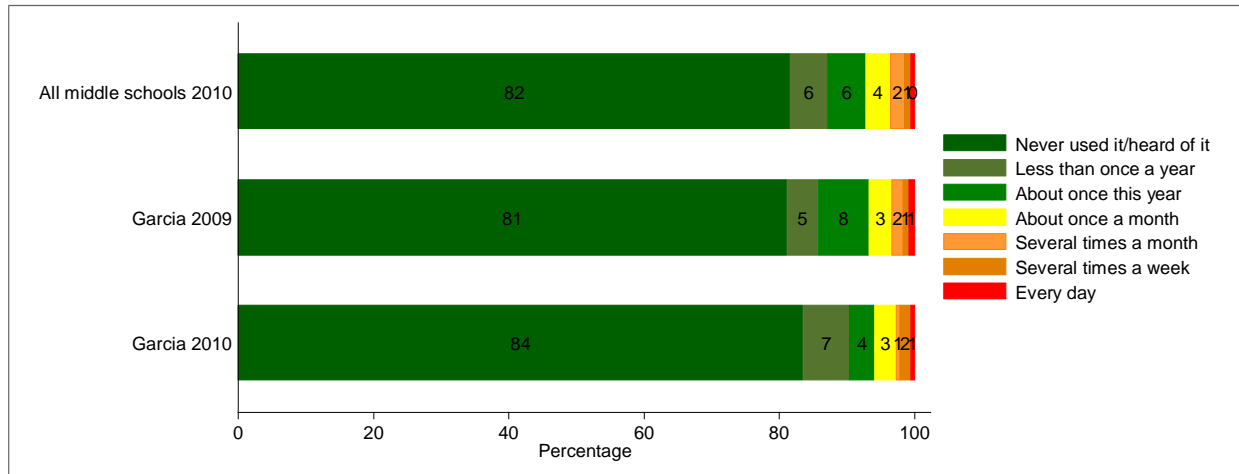


ALCOHOL:

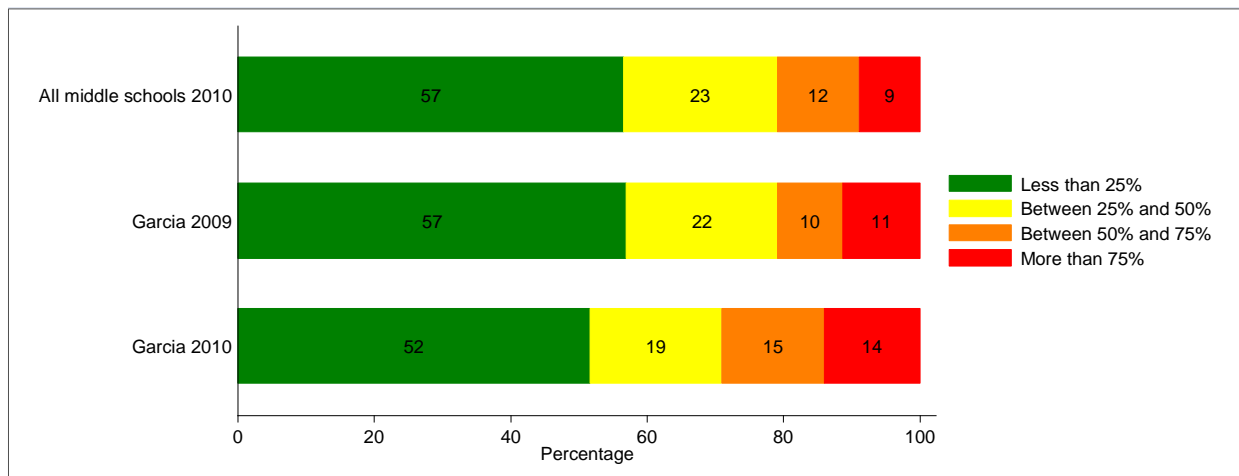
Q18b: What is the most recent you have used Alcohol?



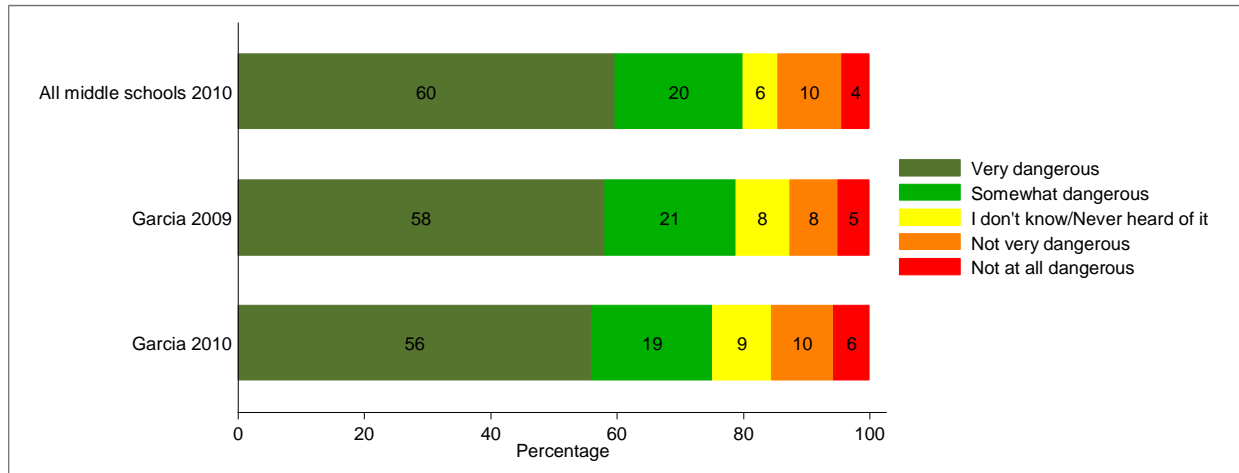
Q21b: During this year, how often did you use Alcohol?



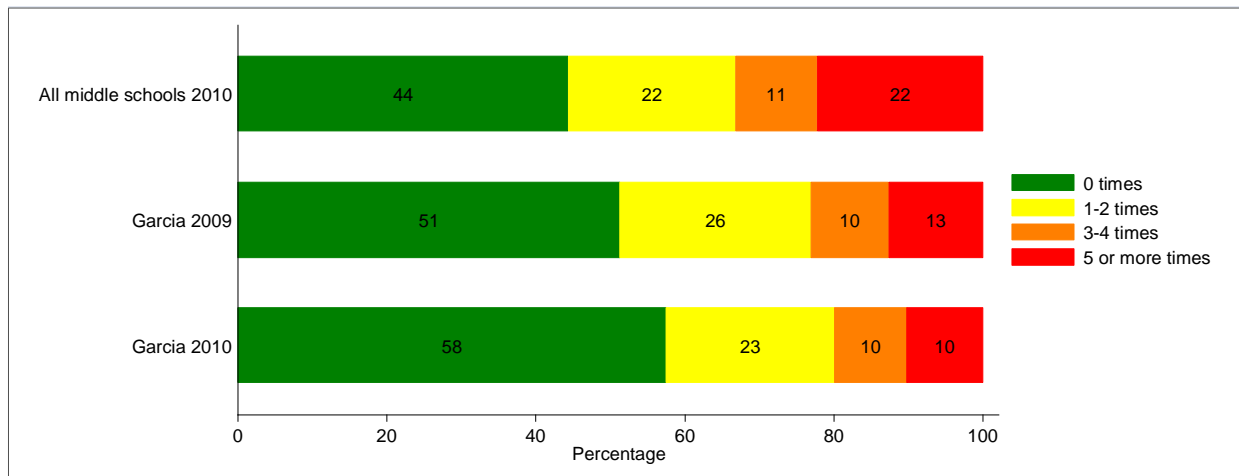
Q29b. Within the past month, how many kids at your school do you think have used alcohol?



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

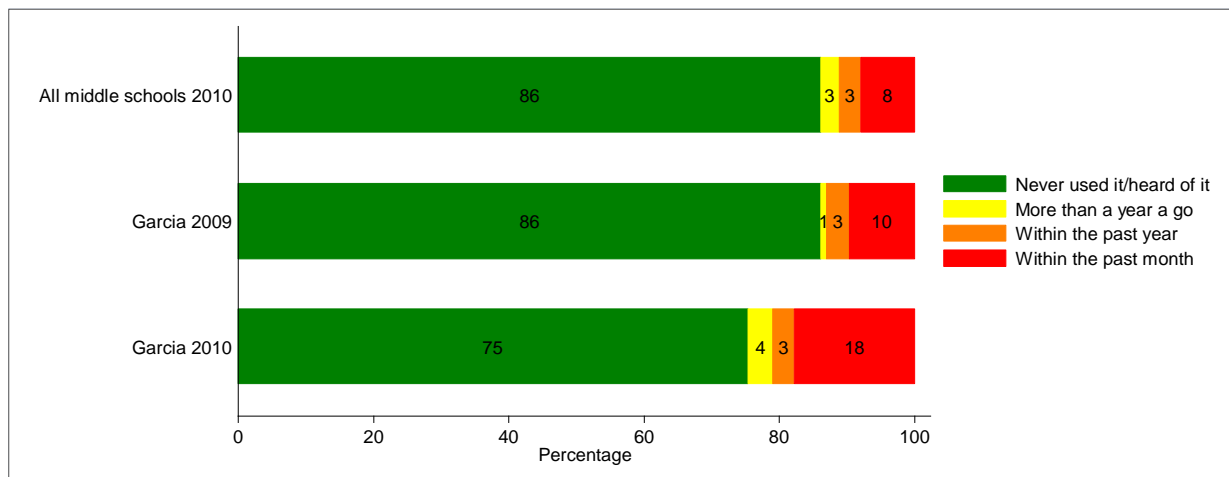


Q28f. During the school year, how many times have you experienced advertisements (TV, radio, billboard, magazine, internet, etc.) for alcohol products?

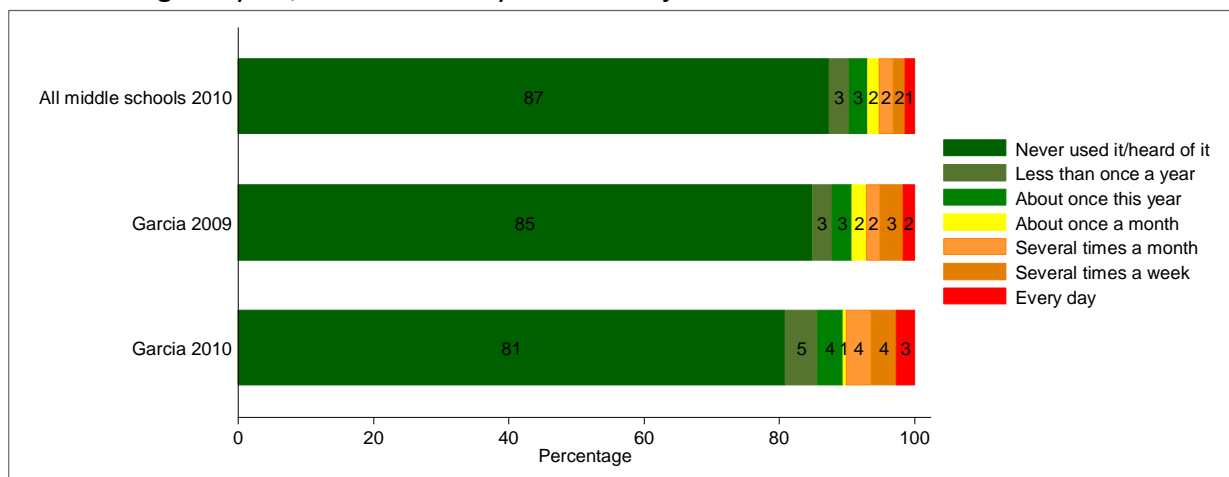


MARIJUANA:

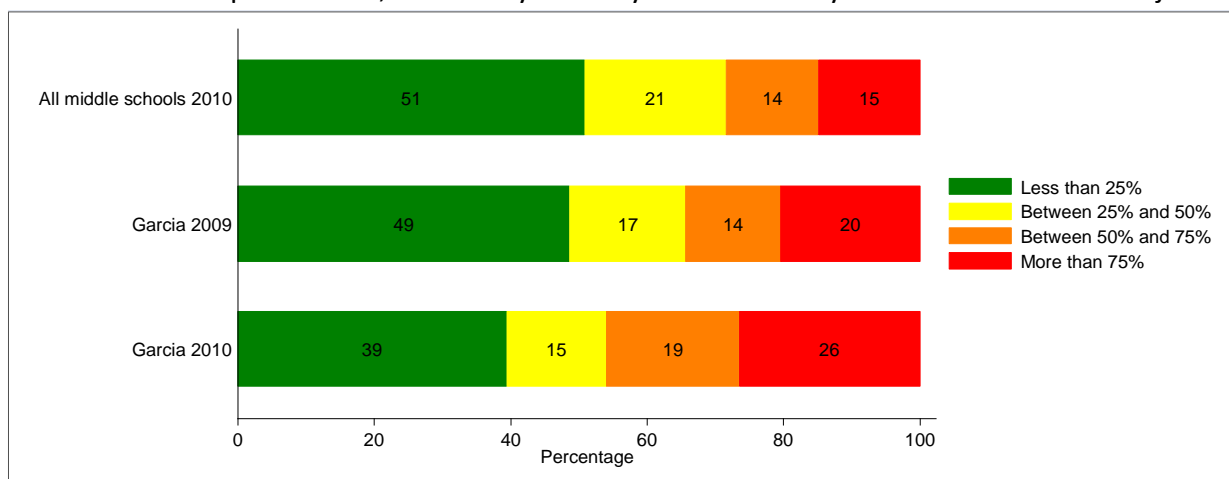
Q18c: What is the most recent you have used Marijuana?



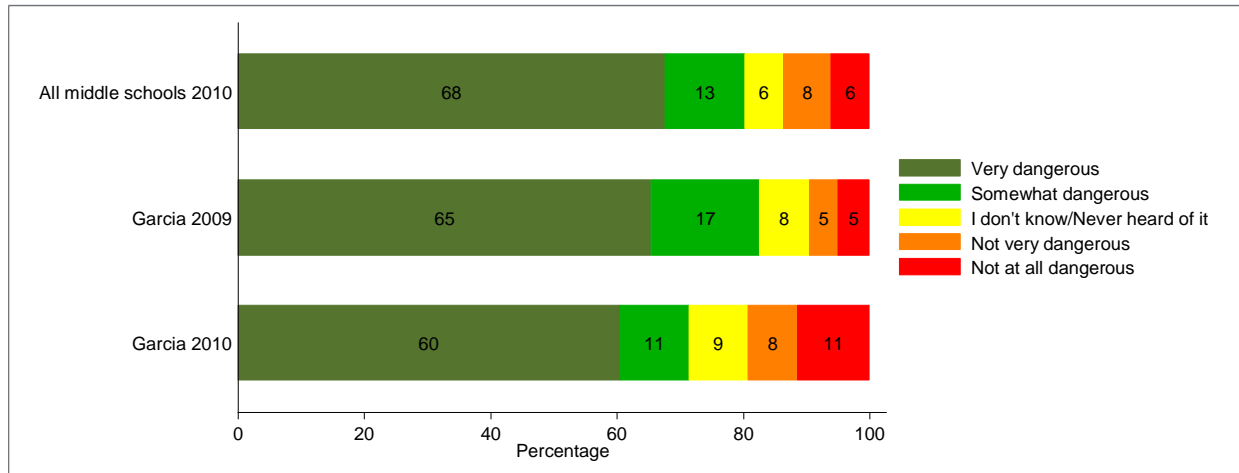
Q21c: During this year, how often did you use Marijuana?



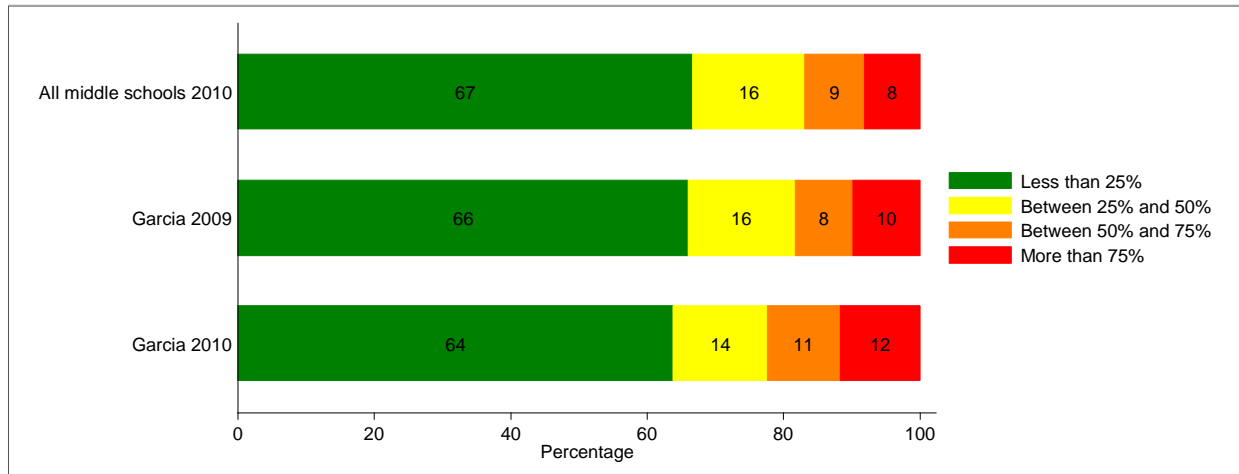
Q29c: Within the past month, how many kids at your school do you think have used marijuana?



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

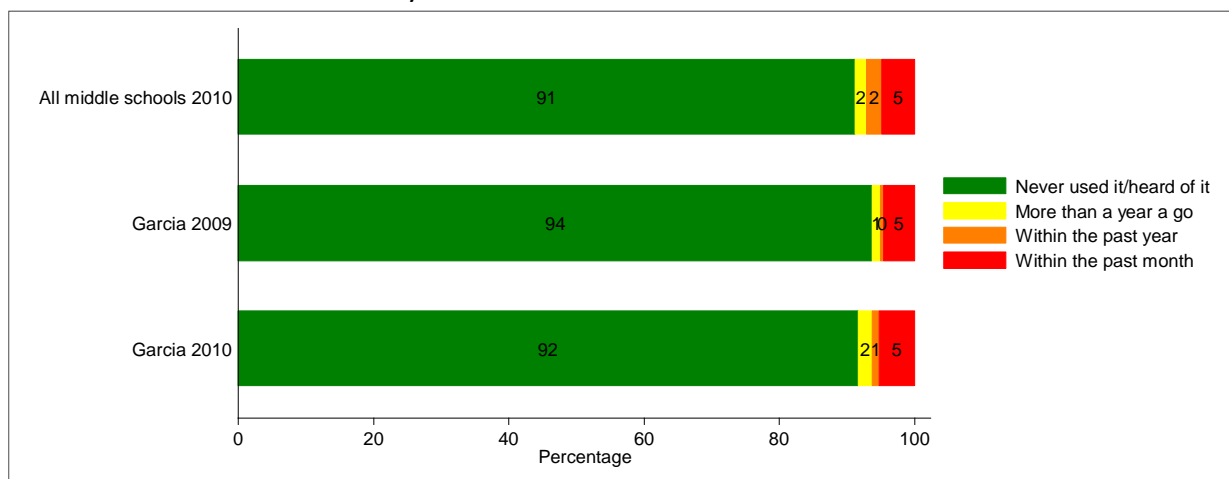


Q29d. Within the past month, how many kids at your school do you think have used other illegal drugs (e.g., cocaine, ecstasy, heroin, etc.)?

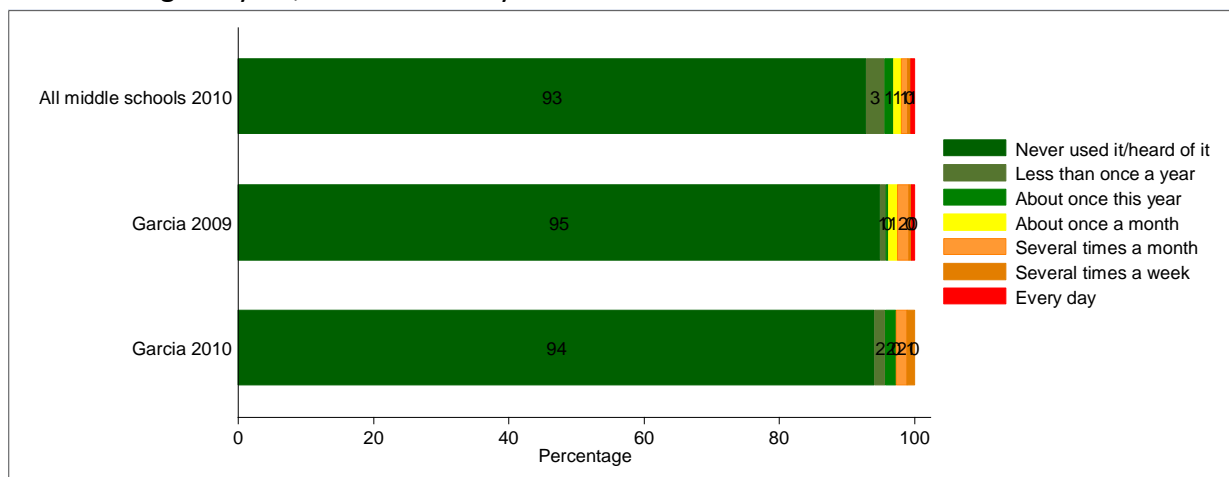


OTHER SUBSTANCES:

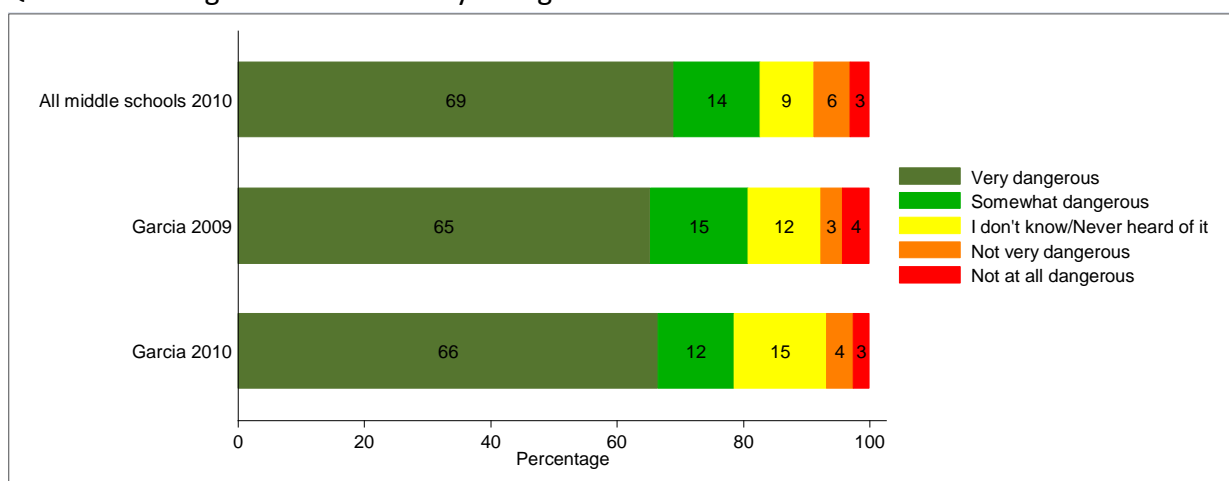
Q18d: What is the most recent you have used Inhalants?



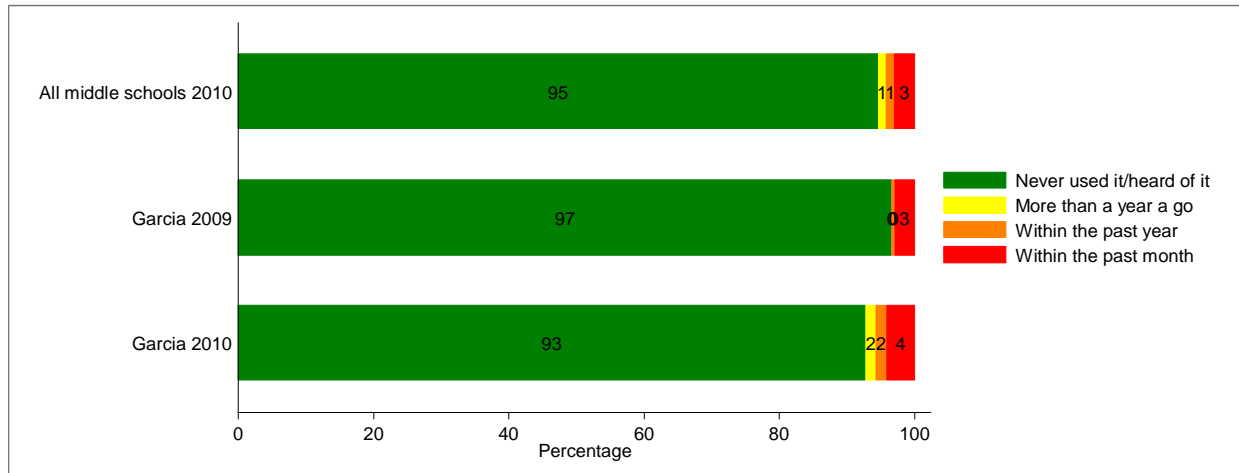
Q21d: During this year, how often did you use Inhalants?



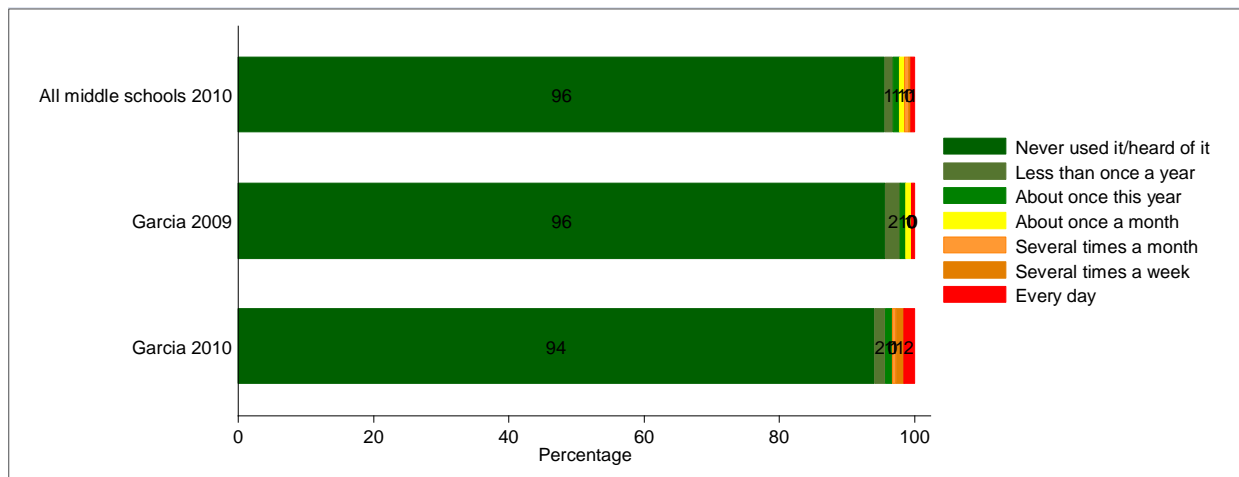
Q27d: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use Inhalants?



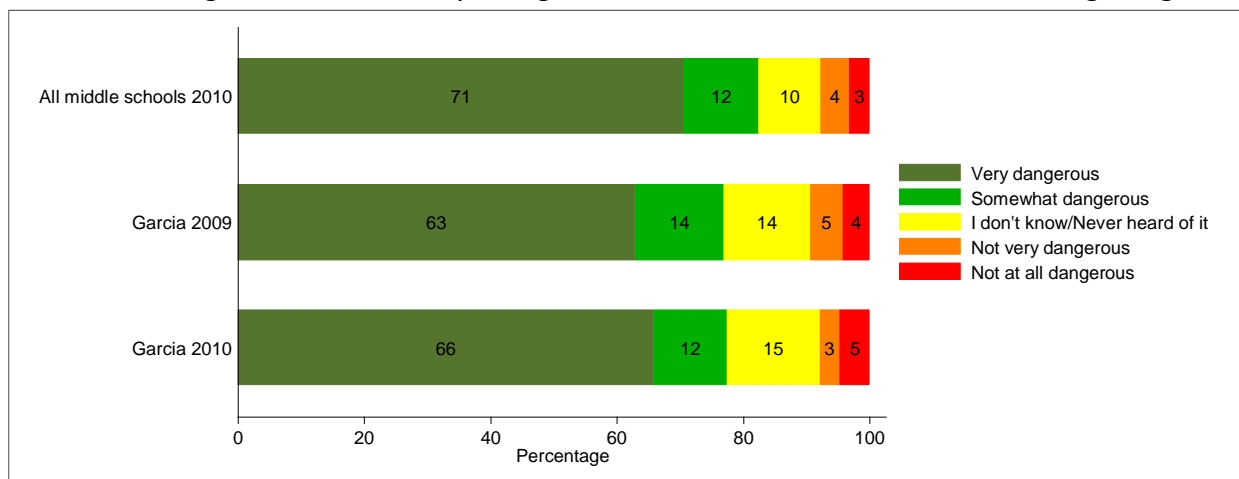
Q18E: What is the most recent you have used Over the Counter Medication to get high?



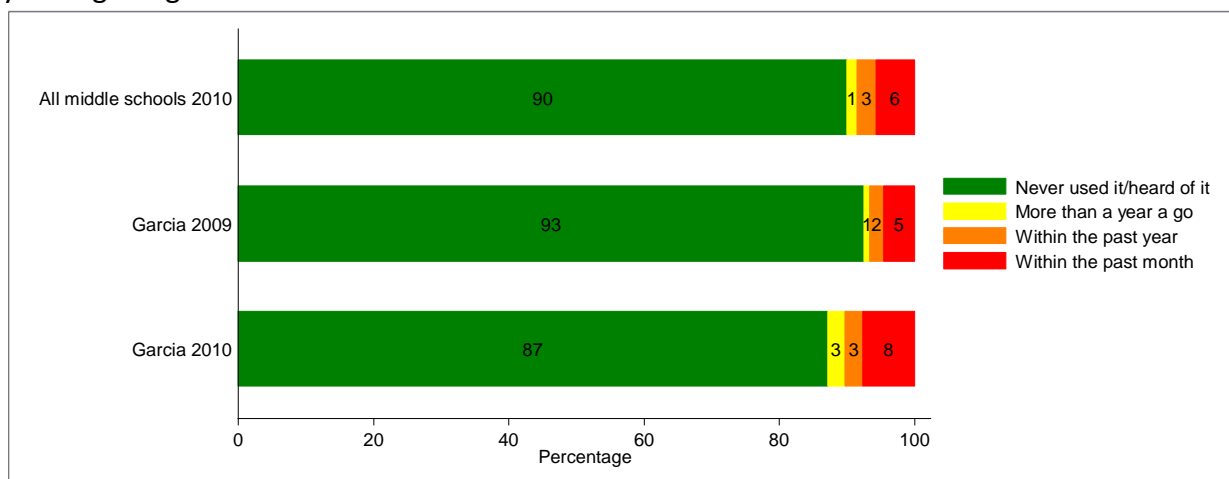
Q21e: During this year, how often did you use Over the Counter Medication to get high?



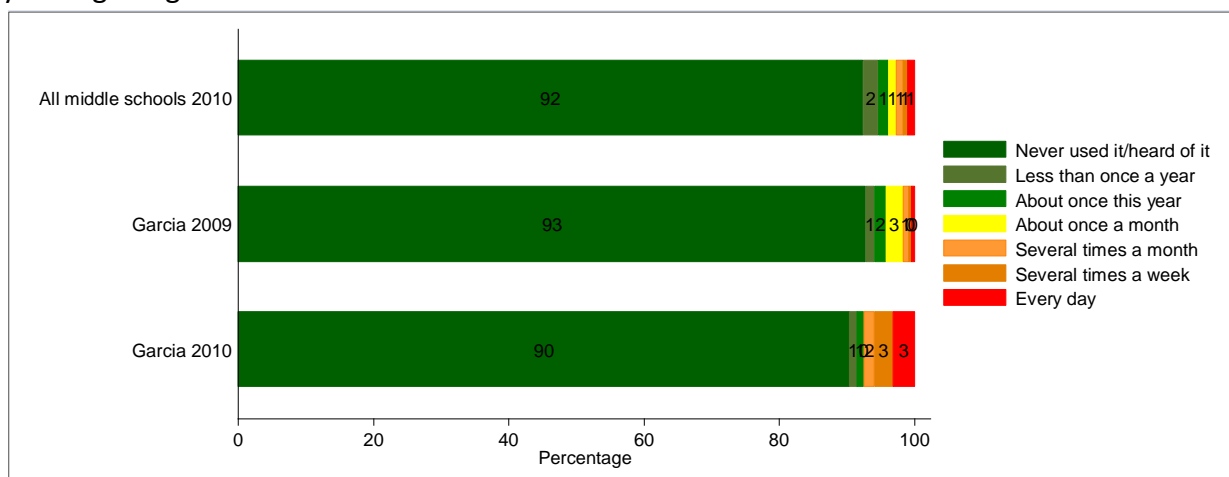
Q27e: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use Over the Counter Medication to get high?



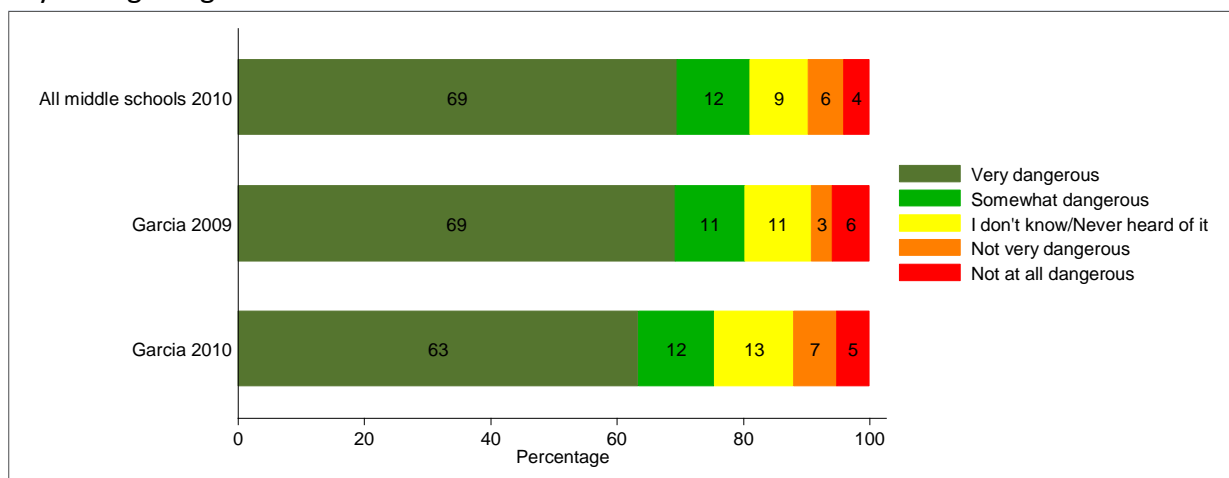
Q18f: What is the most recent you have used Prescription Drugs that were not prescribed to you to get high?



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

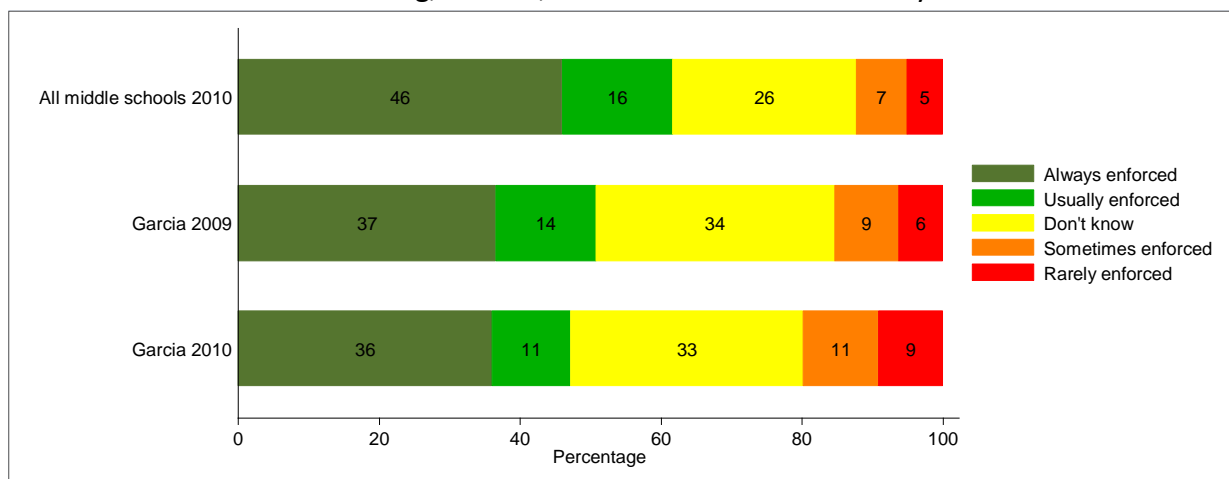


Q27f: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use Prescription Drugs that were not prescribed to you to get high?

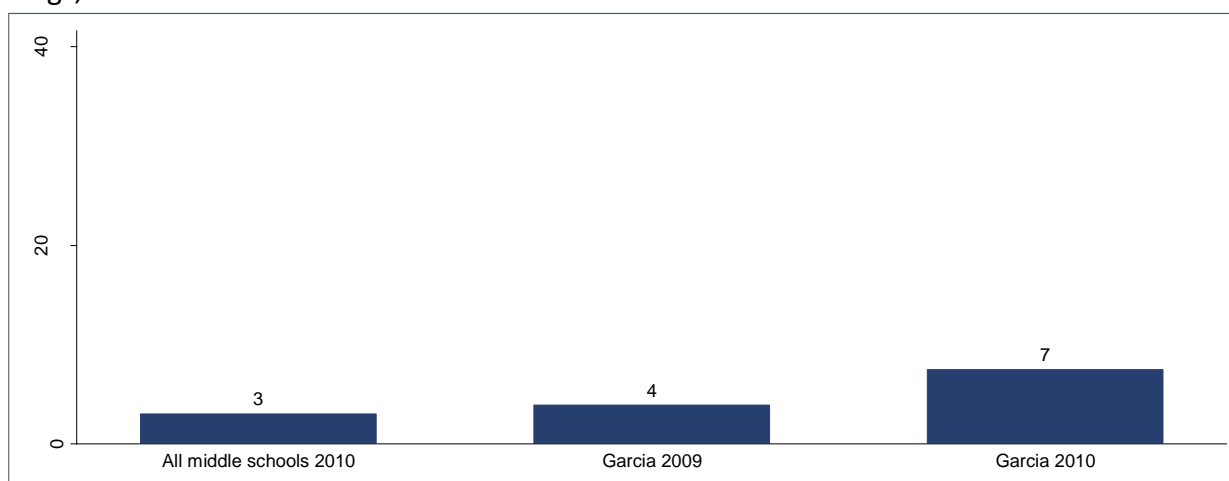


OPINIONS, EXPERIENCE, AND EXPOSURE:

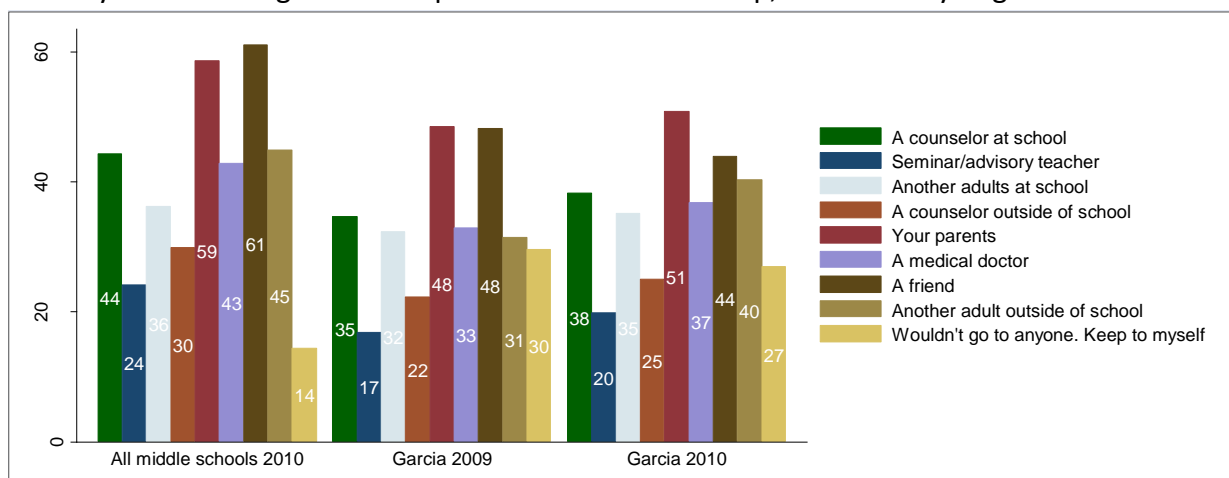
Q13: Are school rules about drug, alcohol, and tobacco use enforced by school staff?



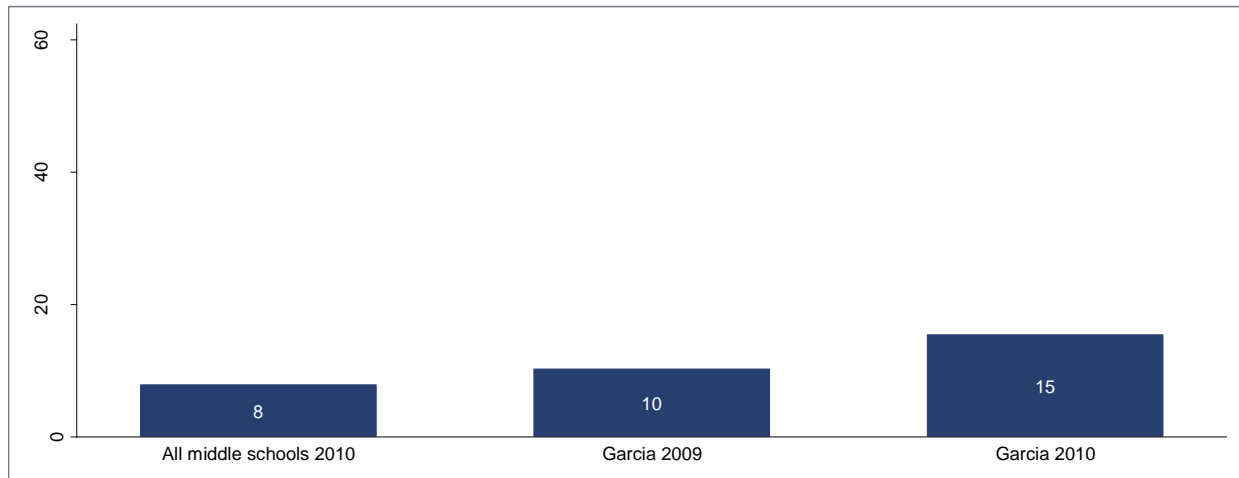
Q19: During this school year, have you gotten into trouble with the police because of tobacco, drugs, or alcohol?



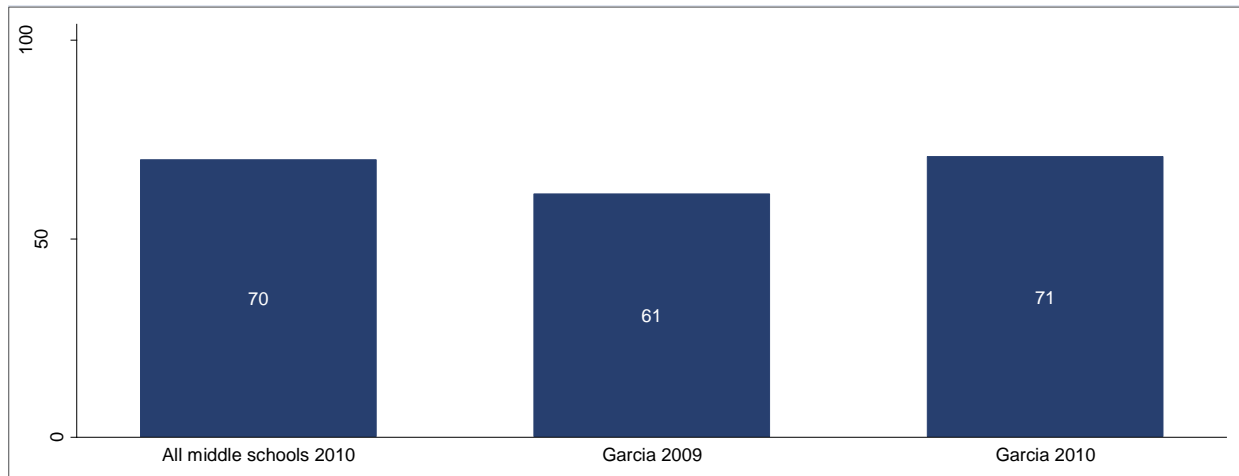
Q24: If you had a drug or alcohol problem and needed help, who would you go to?



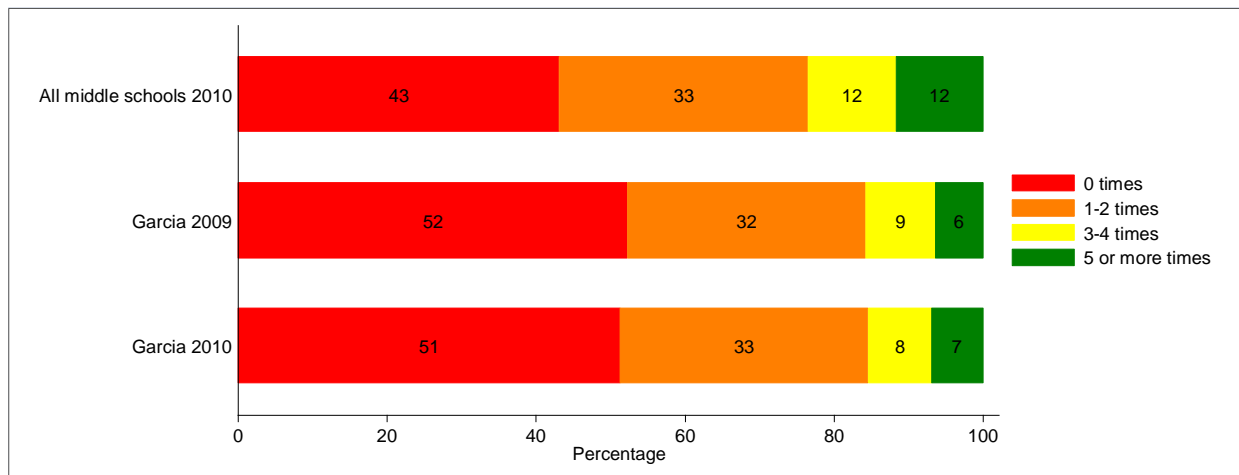
Q20: During this school year, have you attended any class while “high”, “stoned”, or “drunk” on any substance?



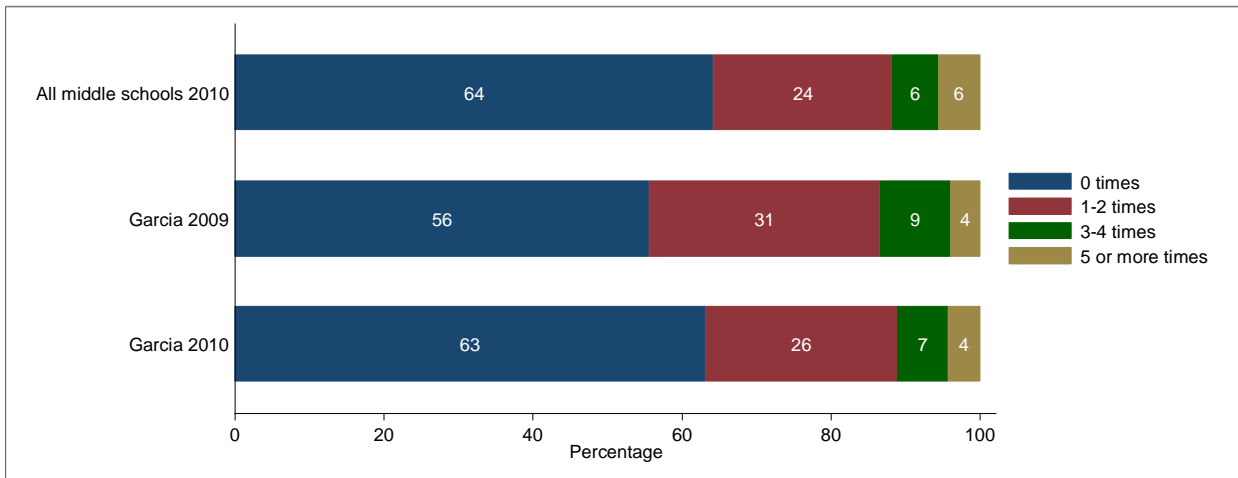
Q25: Within the past year, has your parent/guardian talked with you about the dangers of tobacco, alcohol, or drug use?



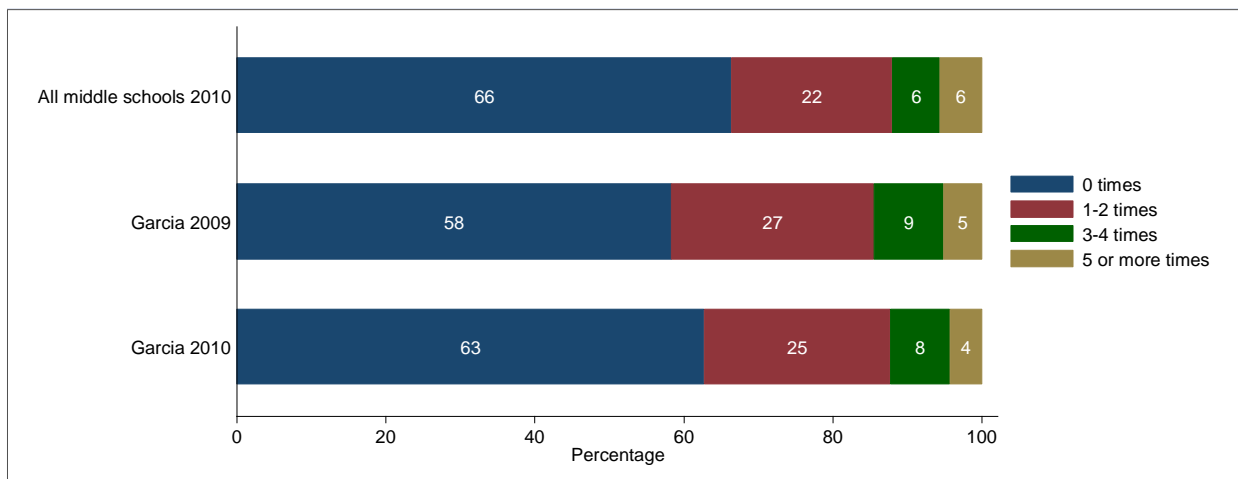
Q28a. During the school year, how many times have you experienced classes in which you learned and practiced ways of resisting and avoiding substance abuse?



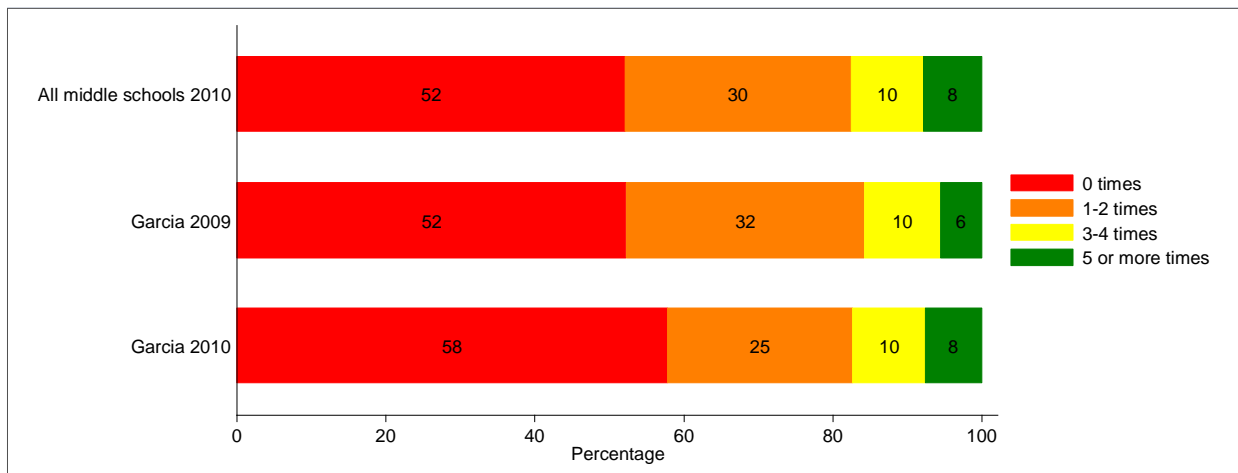
Q28b. During the school year, how many times have you experienced presentations by people who recovered from alcohol and drug abuse?



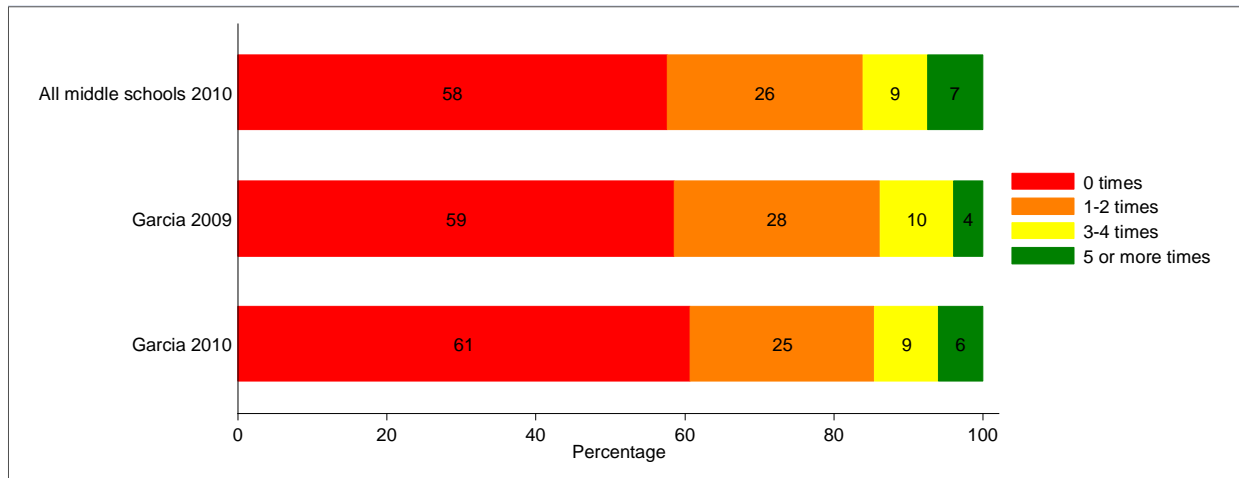
Q28c. During the school year, how many times have you experienced presentations by students who tell about how to avoid substance abuse?



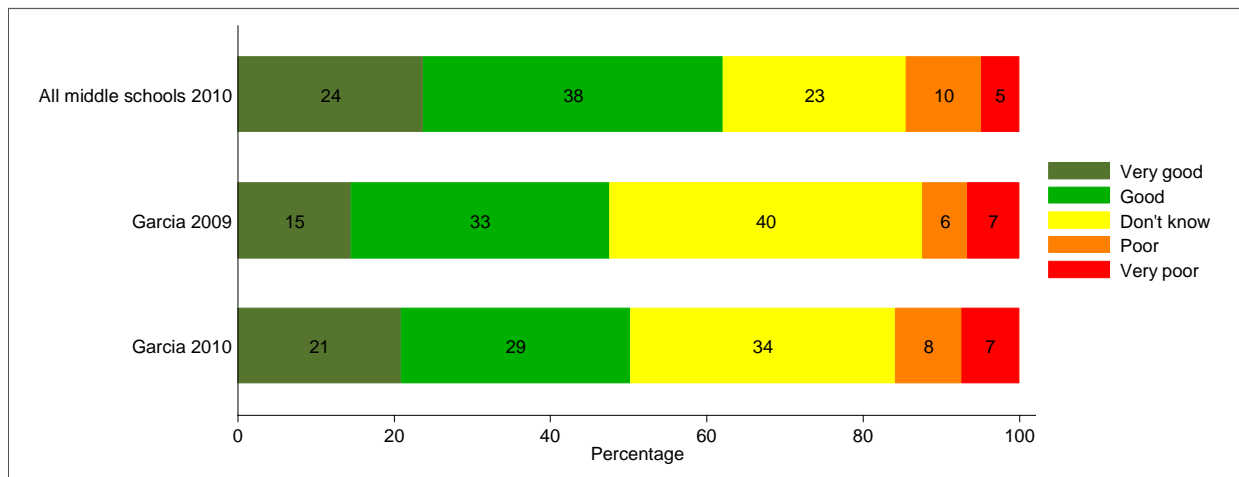
Q28d. During the school year, how many times have you received information about counseling or services to help kids quit smoking and stop substance abuse?



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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