

**PEARCE 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%.<sup>1</sup> 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 Pearce Middle School sample of 204 students and population enrollment of 549, the 95% confidence interval for Pearce 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, 21% 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 21% yields a range of 16% - 26%. Therefore, you can be 95% confident that somewhere between 16% - 26% 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 4 percentage points. Therefore, only differences of 9 (5% + 4%) 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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

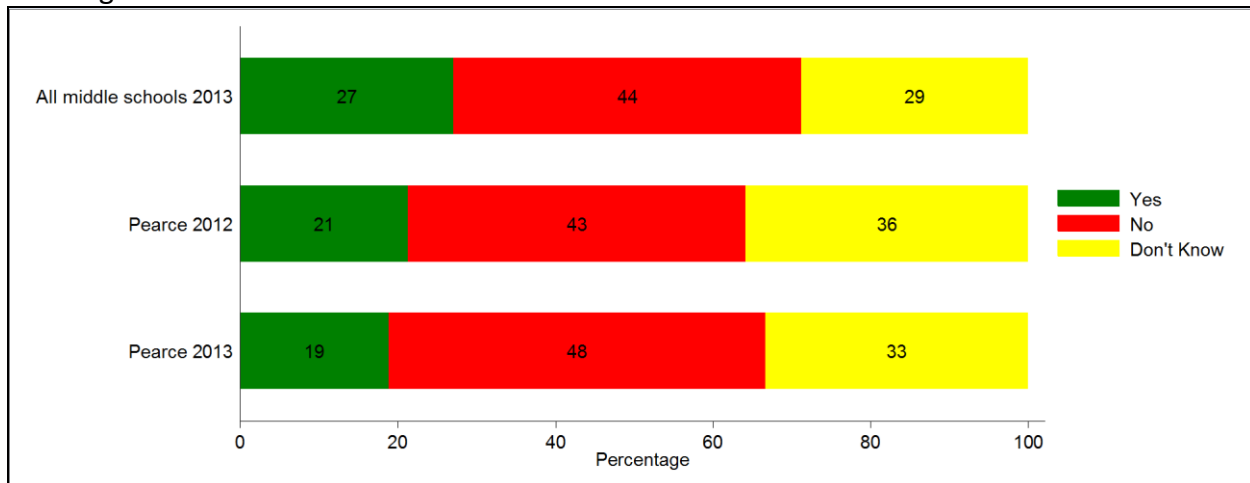
## RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS AND ITEMS THAT ADDRESS BOTH SUBSTANCE USE AND SAFETY

Survey Sample Demographics

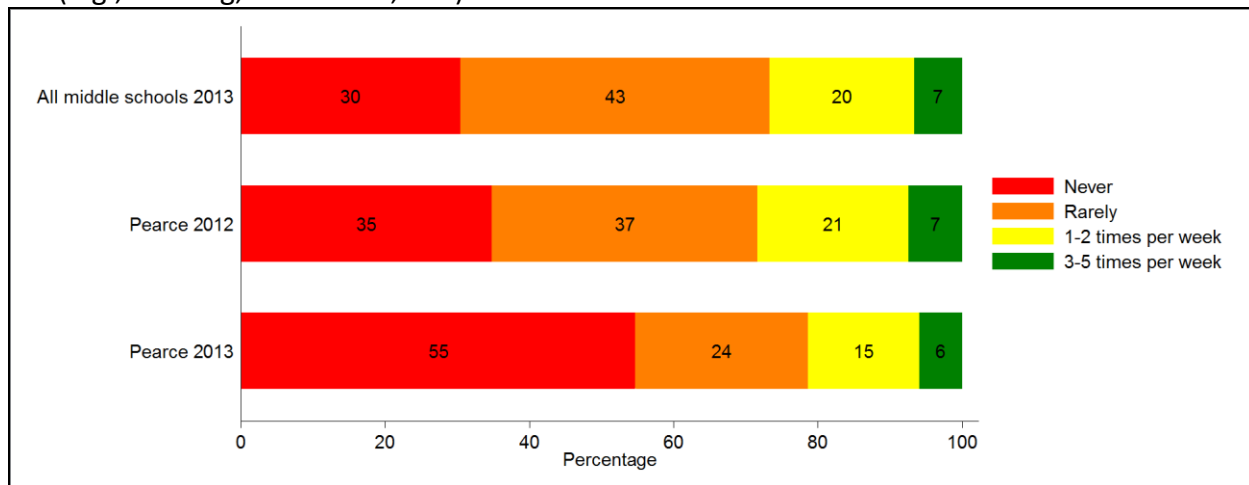
	Gender		Grade			Total
	Male	Female	6th	7th	8th	
<b>Pearce 2012</b>	140 49%	143 51%	101 36%	91 32 %	92 32 %	285
<b>Pearce 2013</b>	117 58%	85 58%	74 36%	76 37%	53 26%	204
<b>All middle schools 2013</b>	2,434 49%	2,510 51%	1,691 34%	1,667 34%	1,591 32%	4,984

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

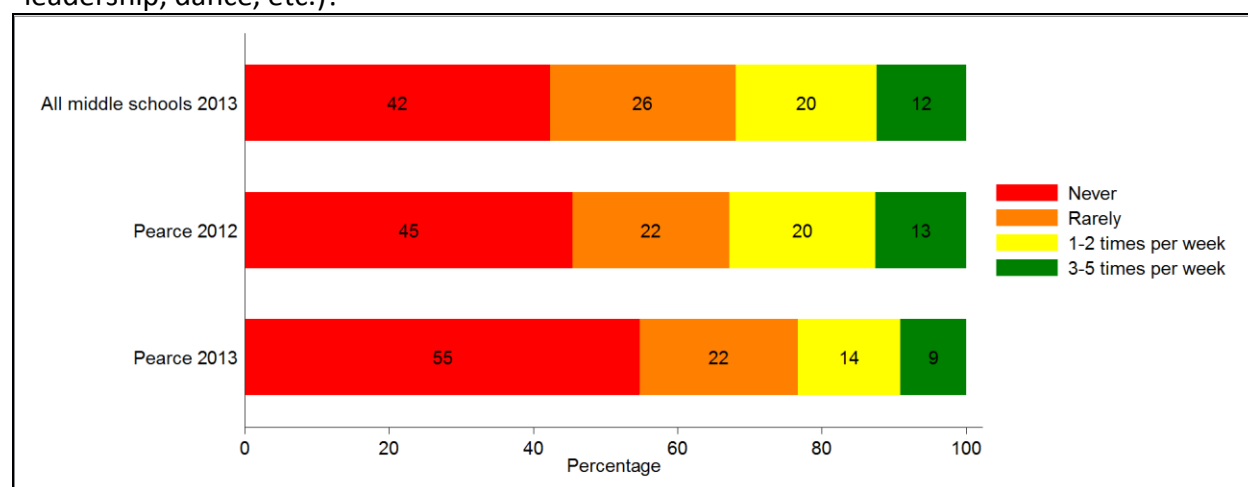
Q22: Do one or both of your parents usually attend school sponsored open houses, PTA meetings or other school events?



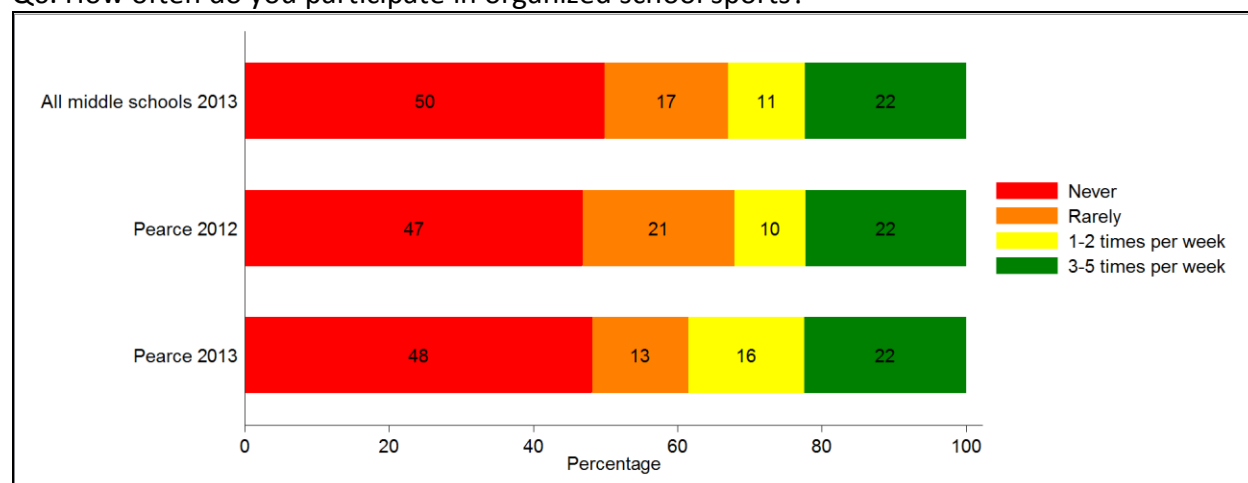
Q4. How often do you participate in after school programs to help you with your school work (e.g., tutoring, homework, etc.) ?



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?

	Pearce 2012-2013	Percentage point change from 2011-2012*	All middle schools 2012-2013
Illegal drugs	9%	1	6%
Tobacco	5%	1	3%
Knives	7%	-1	5%
Prescription drugs	6%	1	4%
Alcohol	4%	1	3%
Other weapons	8%	1	5%
Gun	6%	2	3%
None of the above	87%	0	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?

	Pearce 2012-2013	Percentage point change from 2011-2012*	All middle schools 2012-2013
<b>Marijuana use</b>	13%	5	15%
<b>Student fighting and physical aggression</b>	36%	1	25%
<b>Student harassment, threats, and intimidation</b>	9%	-5	19%
<b>Alcohol use</b>	0%	-1	1%
<b>Prescription drug use</b>	8%	3	4%
<b>Student vandalism, criminal mischief</b>	1%	-2	3%
<b>Student weapon possession</b>	6%	-4	5%
<b>Tobacco use</b>	4%	3	1%
<b>Violence or threats toward staff</b>	0%	-3	2%
<b>None of these are serious problems on my campus</b>	23%	3	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?

	Pearce 2012-2013	Percentage point change from 2011-2012*	All middle schools 2012-2013
<b>Advisory/seminar class</b>	54%	-14	44%
<b>Health class</b>	31%	-9	36%
<b>Science class</b>	56%	7	43%
<b>Another class</b>	50%	3	36%
<b>Special school event about tobacco, drugs, alcohol, or violence</b>	50%	-5	38%
<b>Guidance counselor</b>	29%	-8	26%
<b>School nurse</b>	34%	2	20%
<b>Afterschool program</b>	18%	-5	13%
<b>Student support group meetings at school</b>	21%	-4	15%
<b>Other school source not mentioned above</b>	75%	-9	72%
<b>Coach or P.E. teacher</b>	24	2	19
<b>None of the above</b>	13%	6	10%

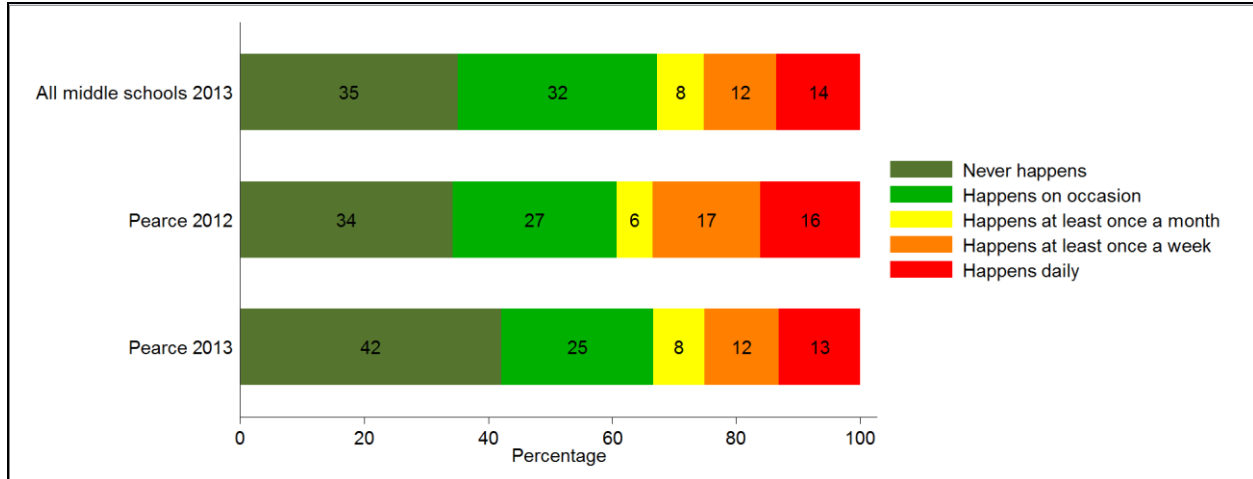
Note. Percentages are of students who reported having received information on drugs, alcohol, or violence.

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

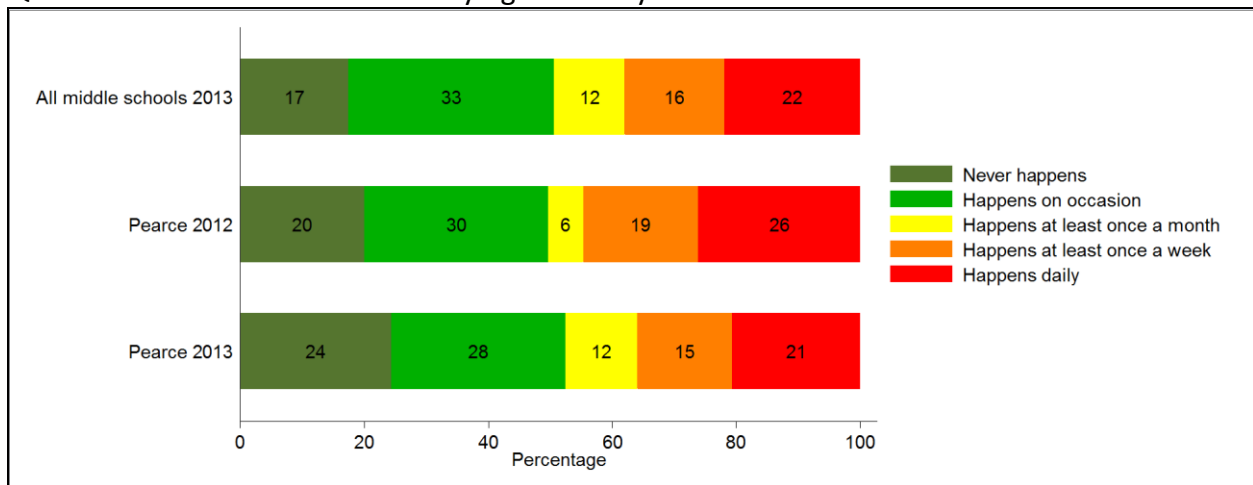
\* Positive percentage point changes indicate more students reported having received information on drugs, alcohol, or violence from school sources in 2012-2013 than in 2011-2012.

## SCHOOL SAFETY ITEMS

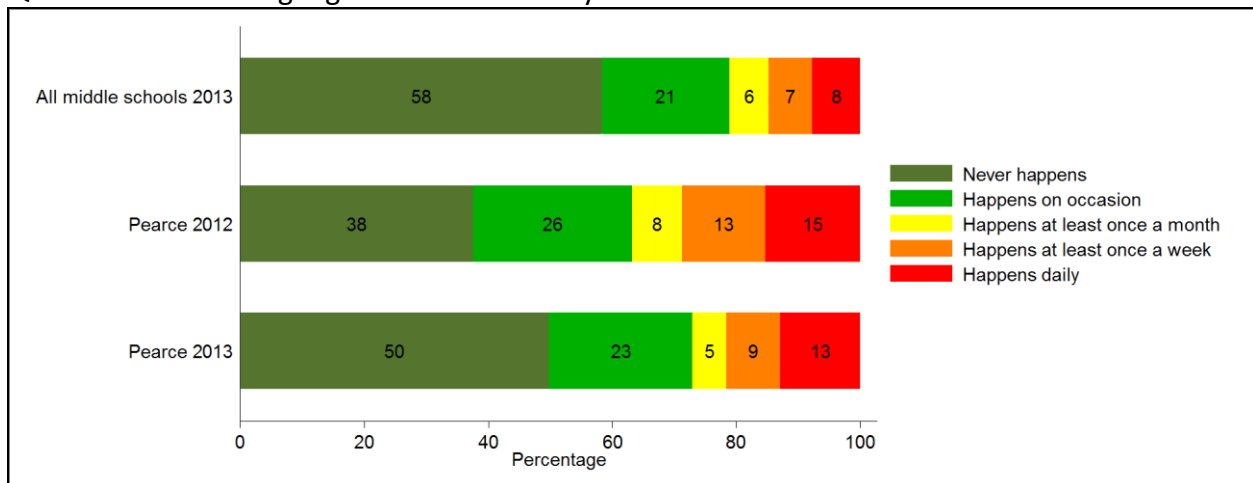
Q15a: How often does racial tension occur at your school?



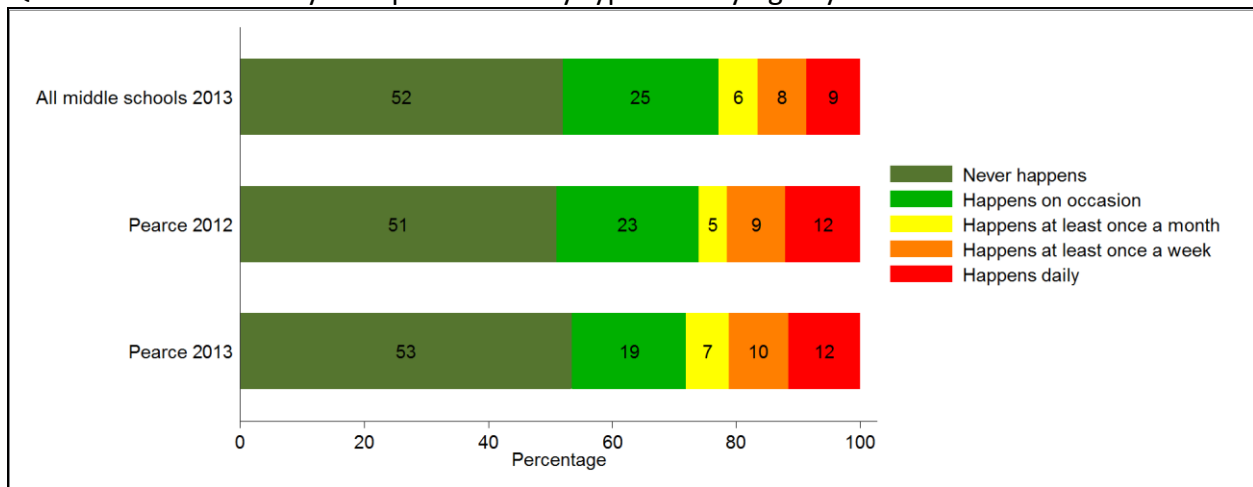
Q15b: How often does student bullying occur at your school?



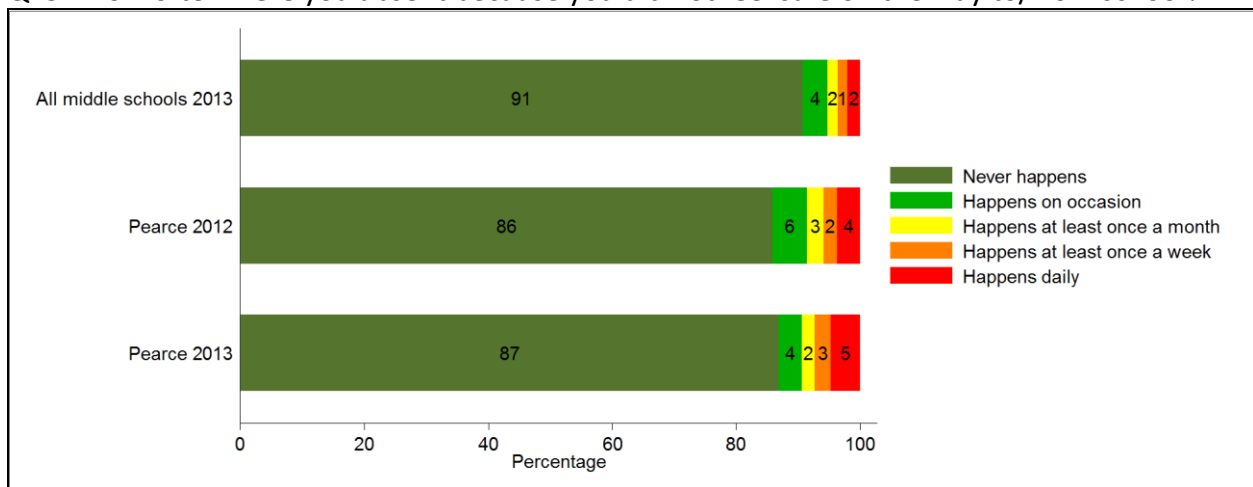
Q15d: How often do gang activities occur at your school?



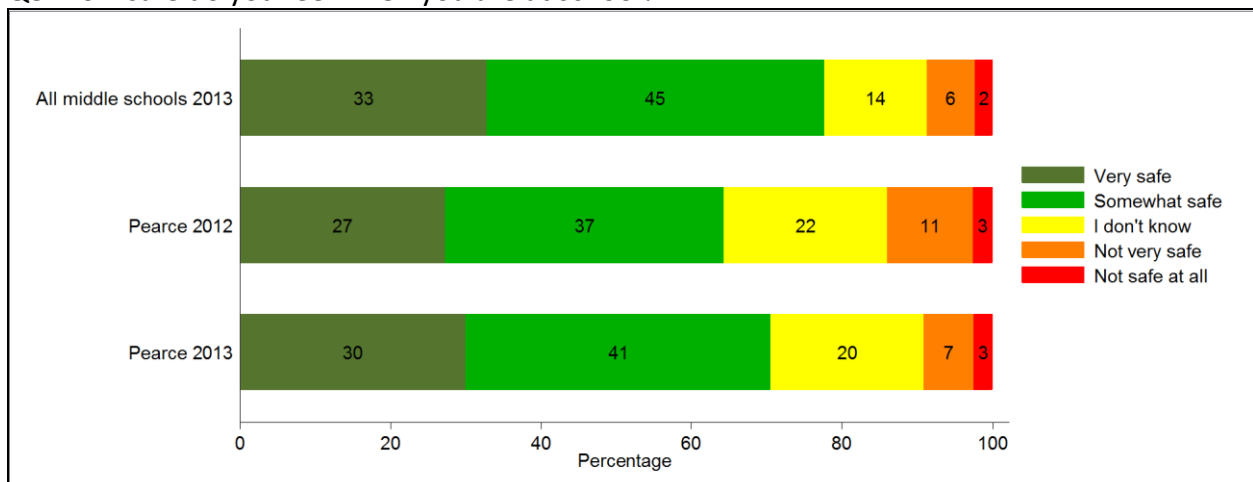
Q15e: How often have you experienced any type of bullying at your school?



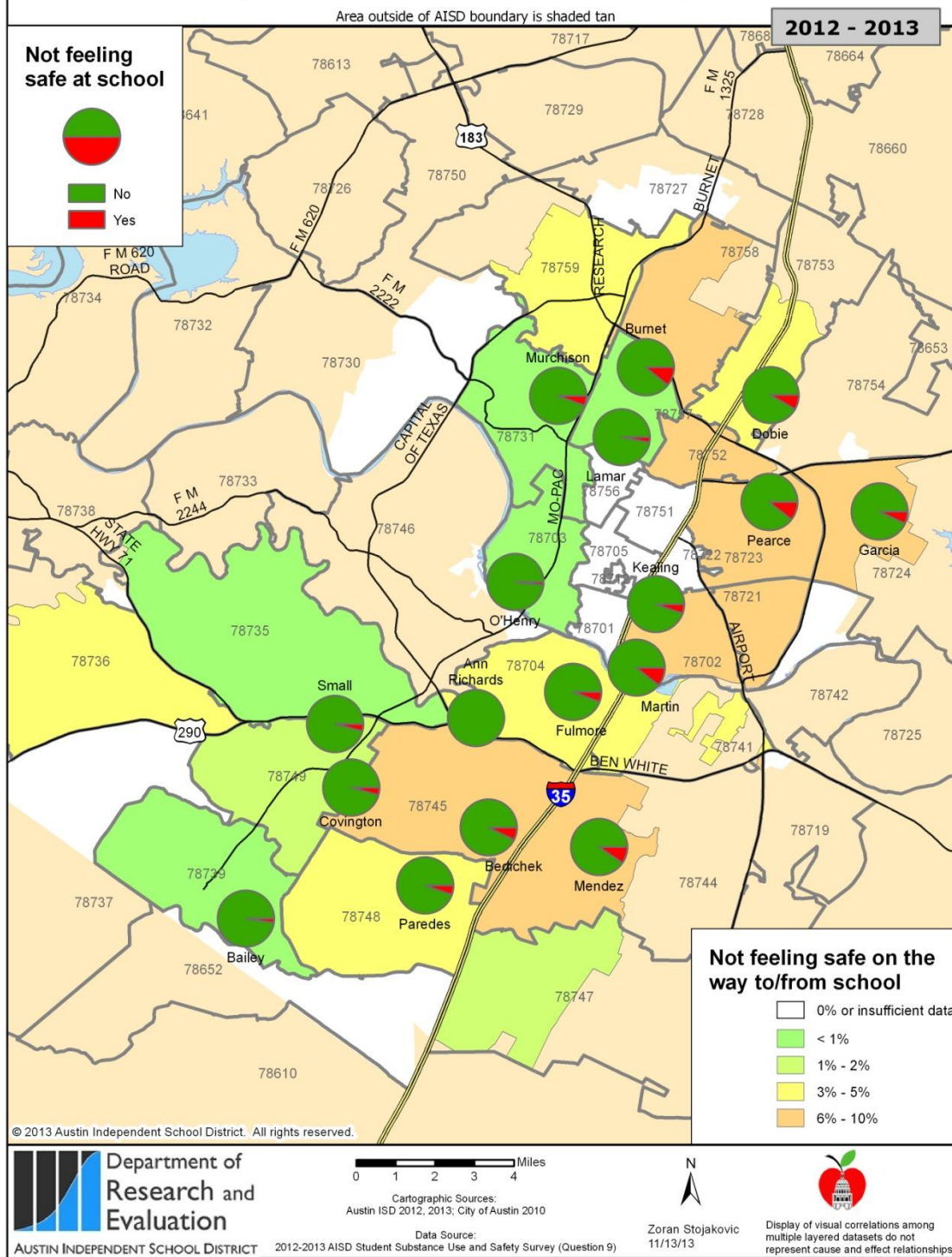
Q15f: How often were you absent because you did not feel safe on the way to/from school?



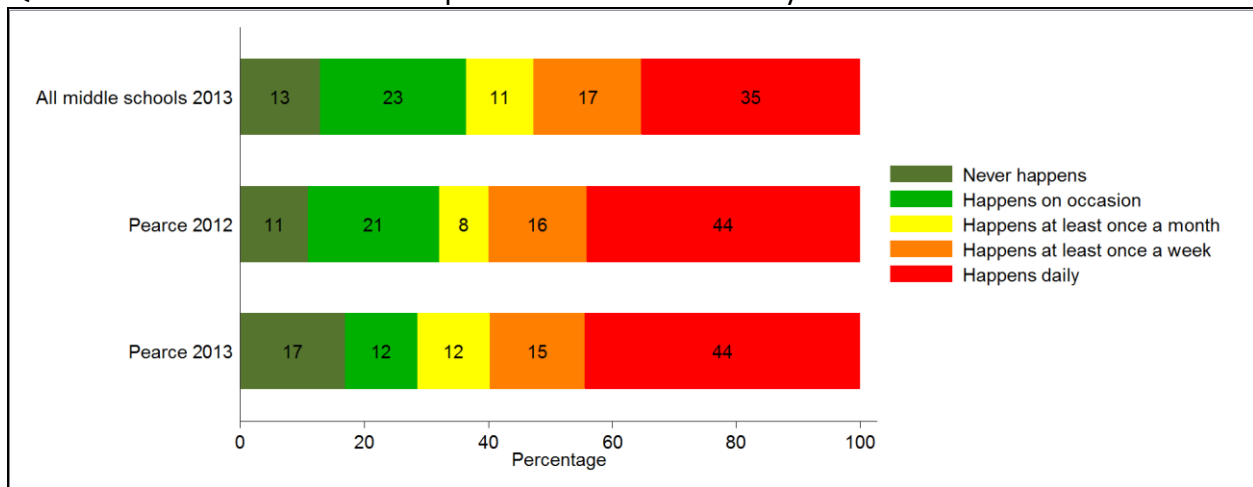
Q8: How safe do you feel when you are at school?



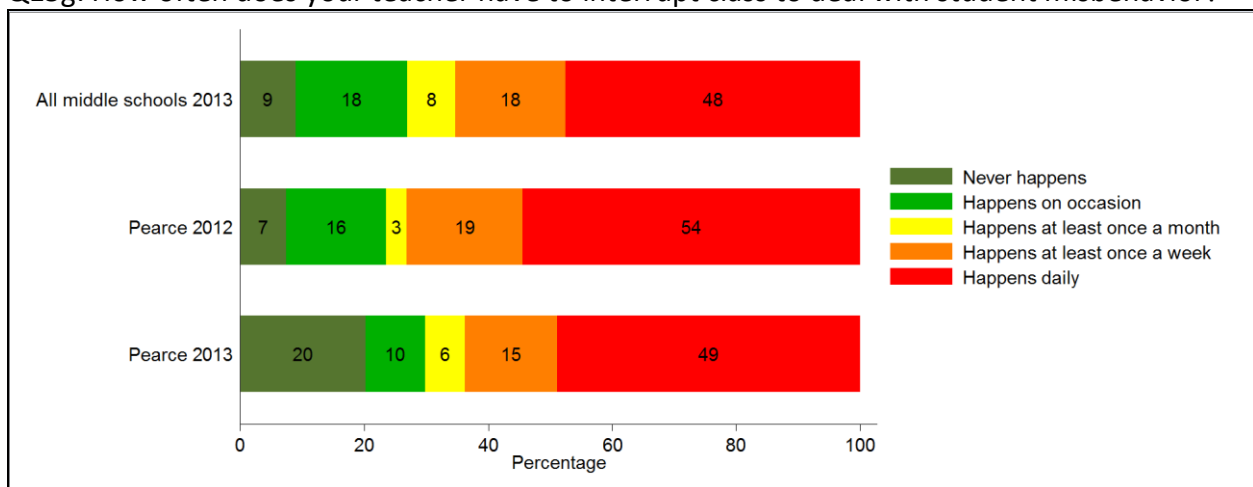
# Middle Schools: Students' Self-Reported Safety Related Reasons for Missing School



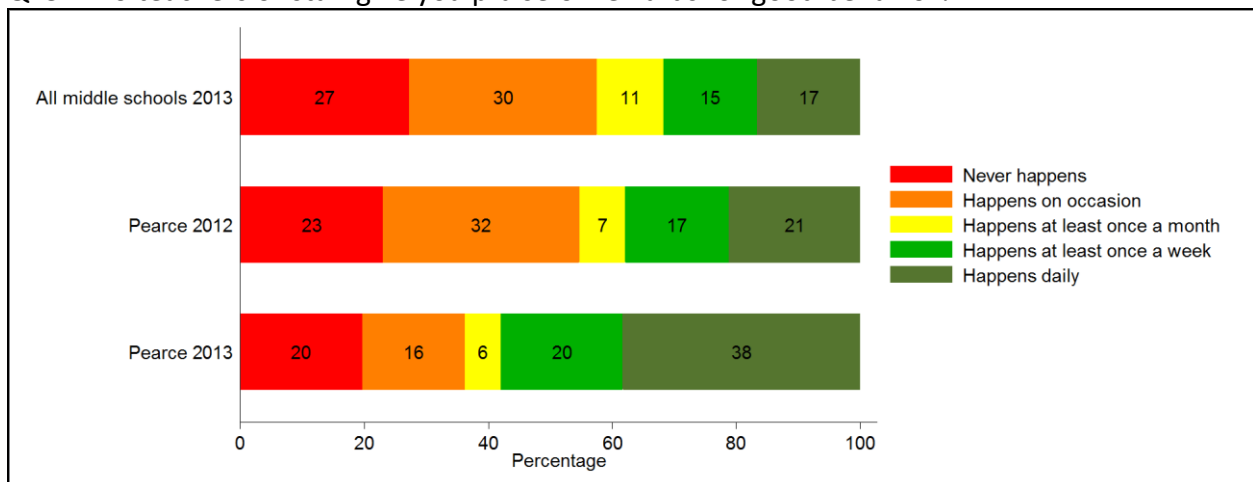
Q15c: How often do acts of disrespect for teachers occur at your school?



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?

	Pearce 2012-2013	Percentage point change from 2011-2012*	All middle schools 2012-2013
Was sick	64%	11	58%
Had to do something with family	39%	3	34%
Was too tired	30%	7	19%
Wanted to hang out with friends	22%	6	10%
Felt too sad or depressed to attend	13%	-2	11%
Didn't have a way to get to school	15%	-2	9%
Didn't get along well with teachers	19%	7	10%
Had to go to work	6%	-2	3%
Didn't feel safe at school	11%	3	6%
Didn't feel safe on the way to/from school	12%	2	5%
None	21%	-9	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.

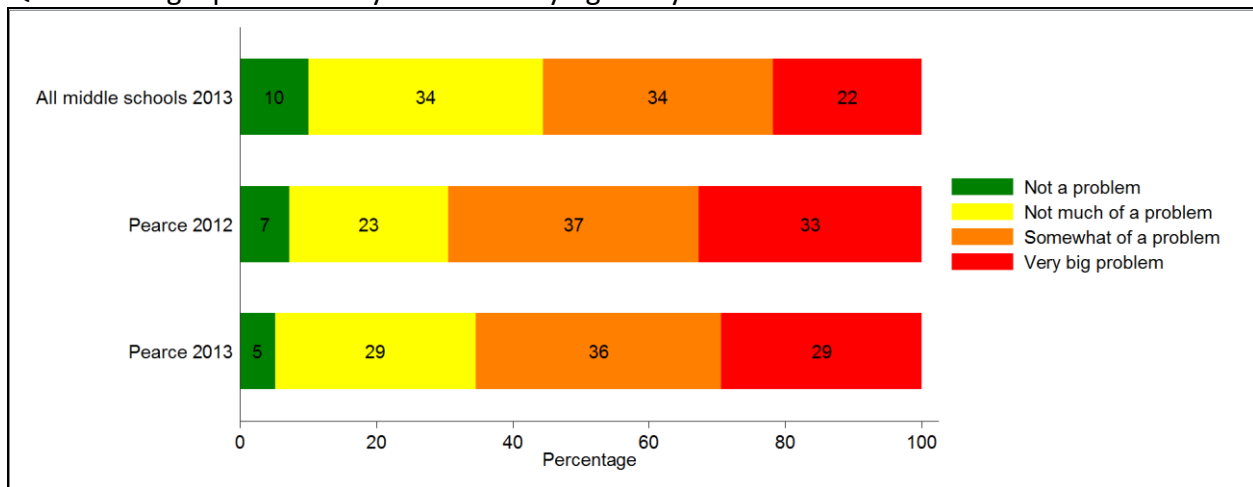
Q10: During this school year, have you experienced any of the following types of bullying at school?

	Pearce 2012-2013	Percentage point change from 2011-2012*	All middle schools 2012-2013
Verbal	27%	-8	33%
Social	23%	-10	30%
Racial or ethnic harassment	12%	-10	16%
Physical	21%	-6	21%
Sexual harassment	13%	1	10%
Cyber bullying	6%	-2	9%
Hurtful or controlling dating behavior	7%	0	7%
Written	5%	-4	8%
Hazing/Initiation	5	-3	5
None	52%	11	10%

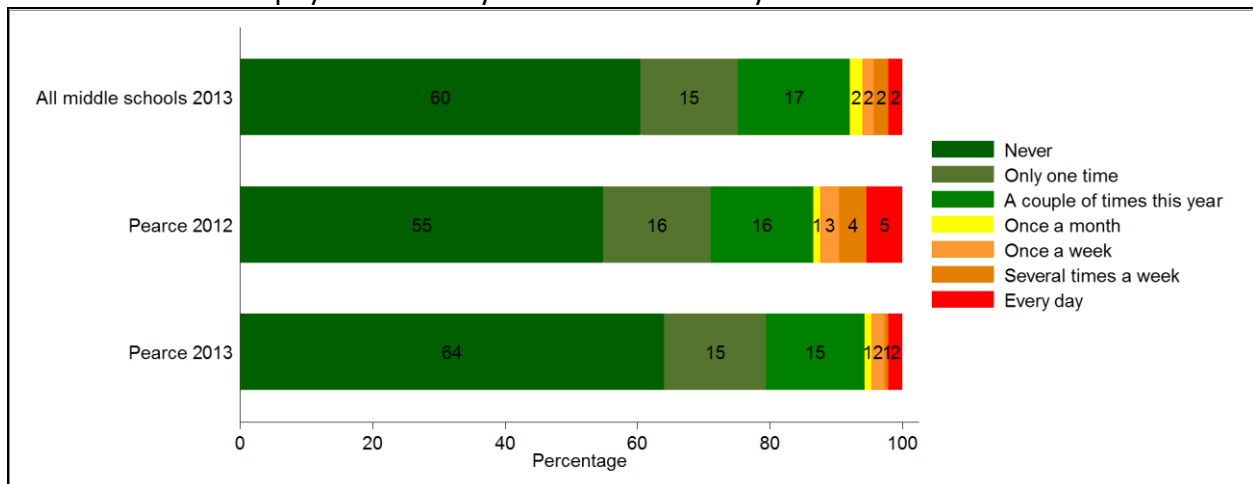
Note. Percentages are of students who reported experiencing types of bullying listed above. Percentages may sum to more than 100% because respondents were allowed to choose multiple items.

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

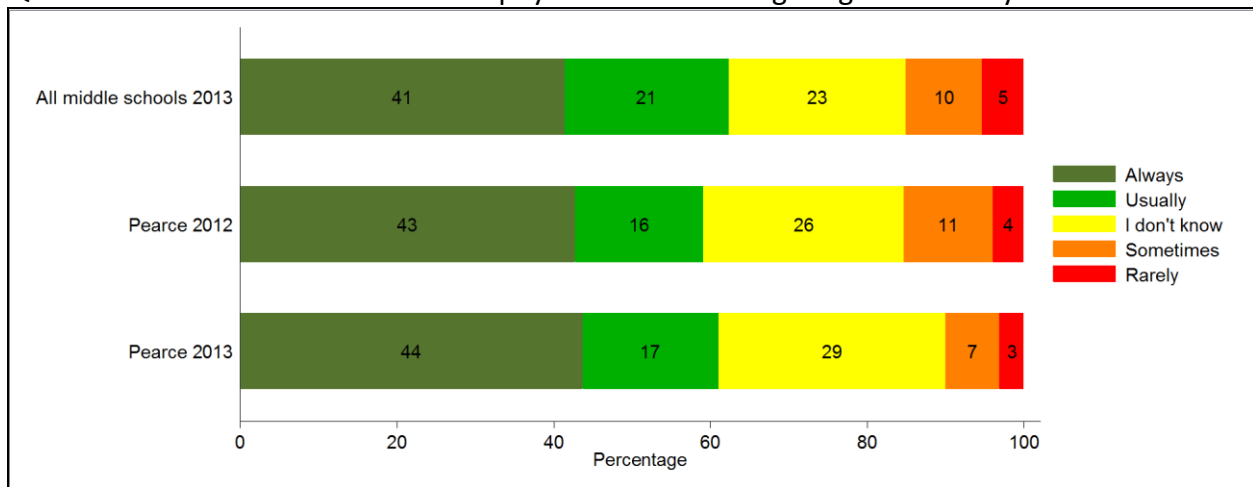
Q12: How big a problem do you think bullying is at your school?



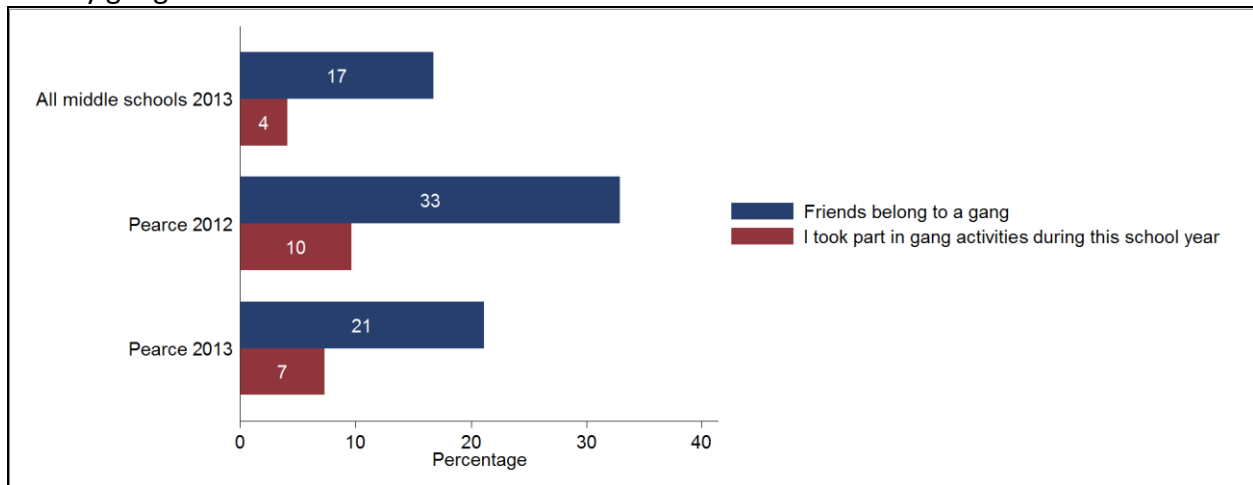
Q11: During this school year, how often have you or your close friends been physically harmed or threatened with physical harm by another student at your school?



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



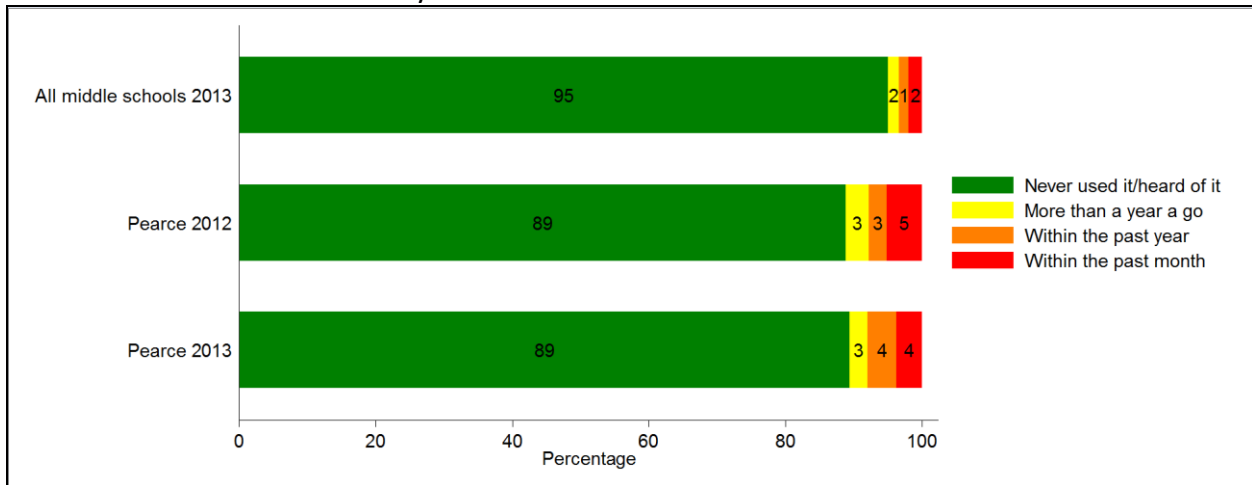
Q16 & Q17: Do any of your friends belong to a gang? During this school year, did you take part in any gang activities?



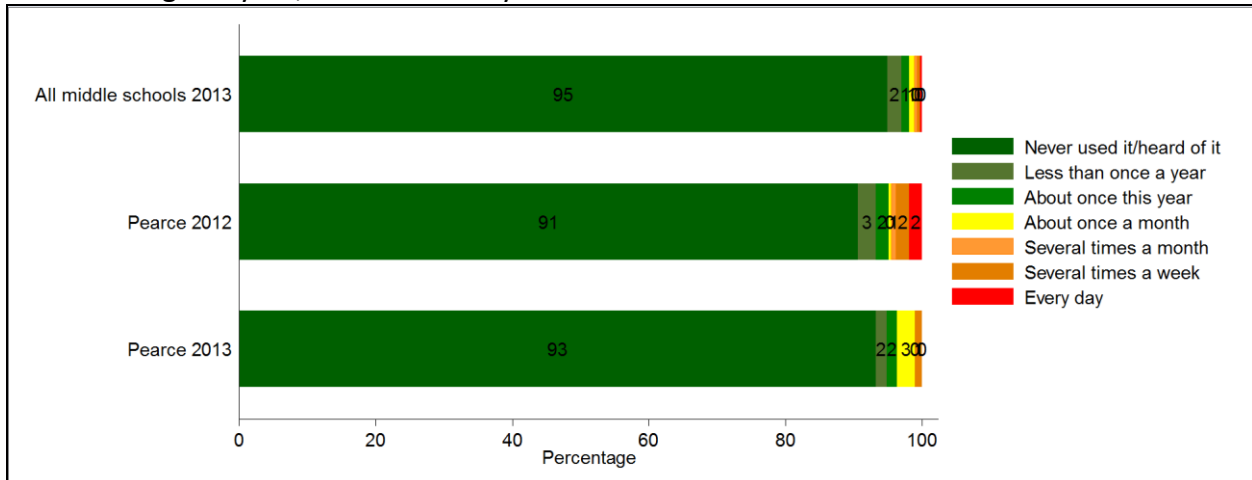
## SUBSTANCE USE ITEMS

### TOBACCO:

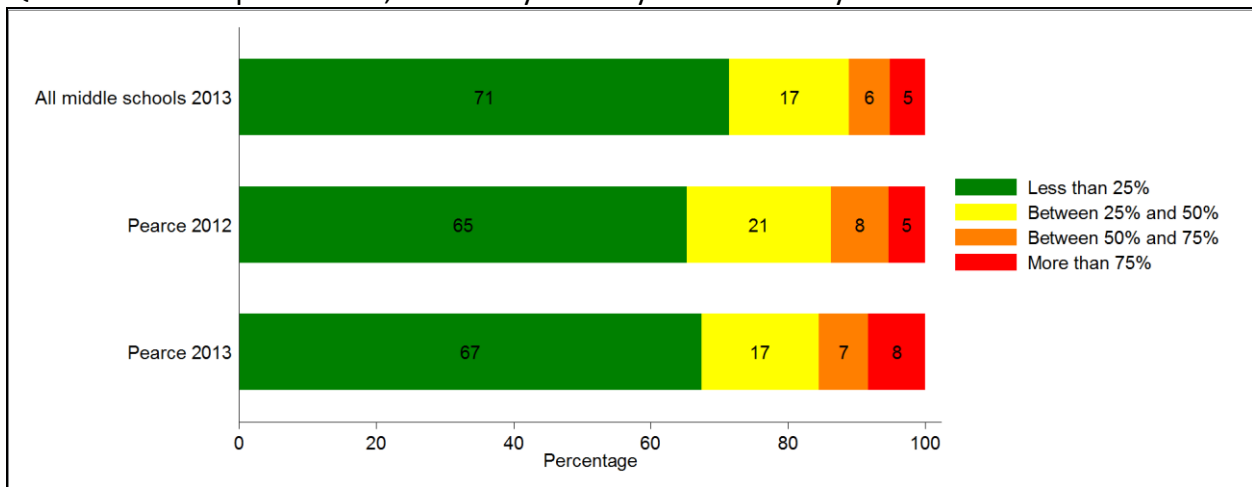
Q18a: What is the most recent you have used Tobacco?



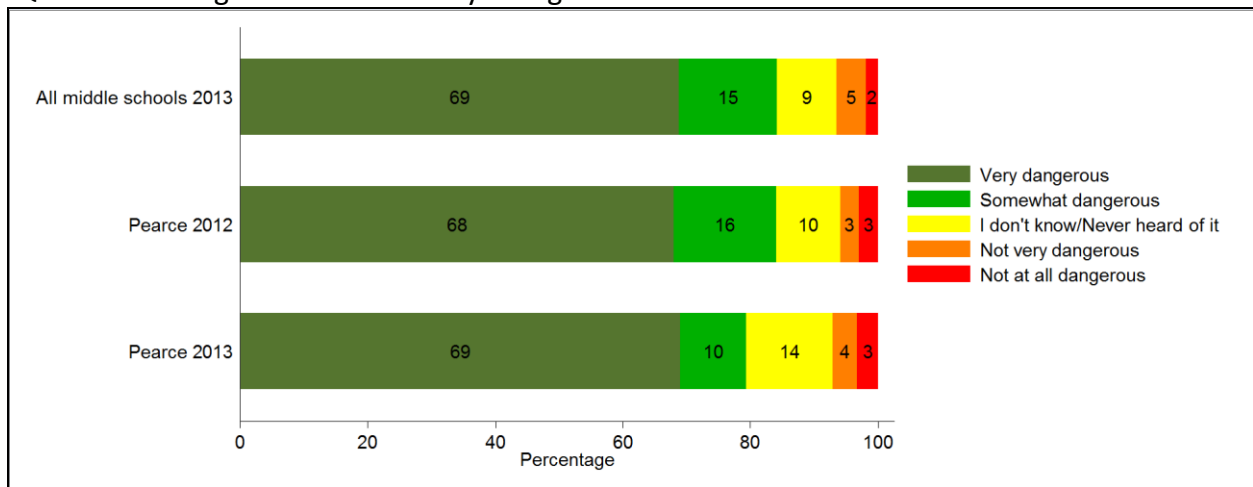
Q21a: During this year, how often did you use Tobacco?



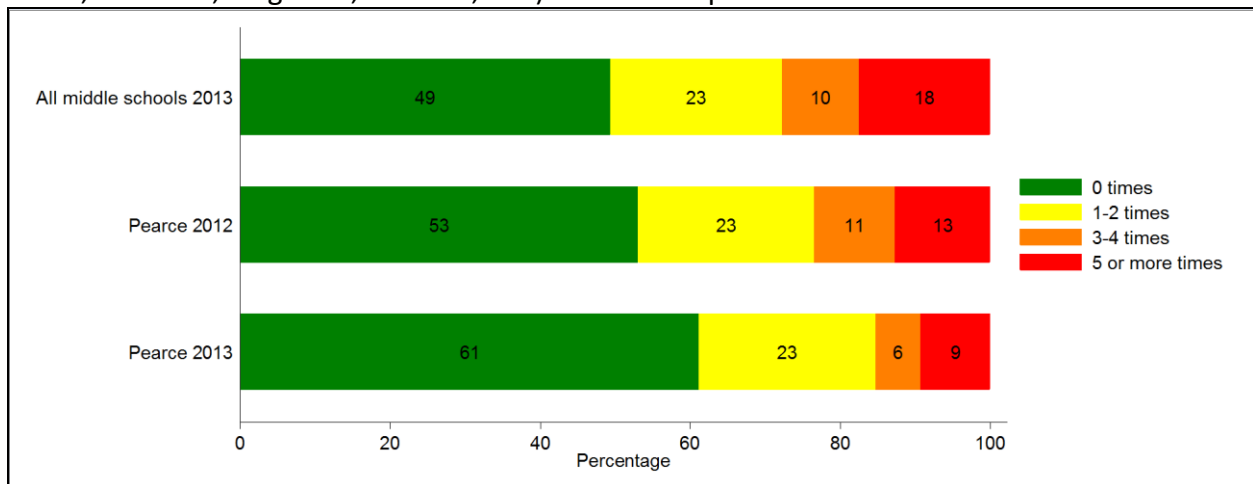
Q29a. Within the past month, how many kids at your school do you think have used tobacco?



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

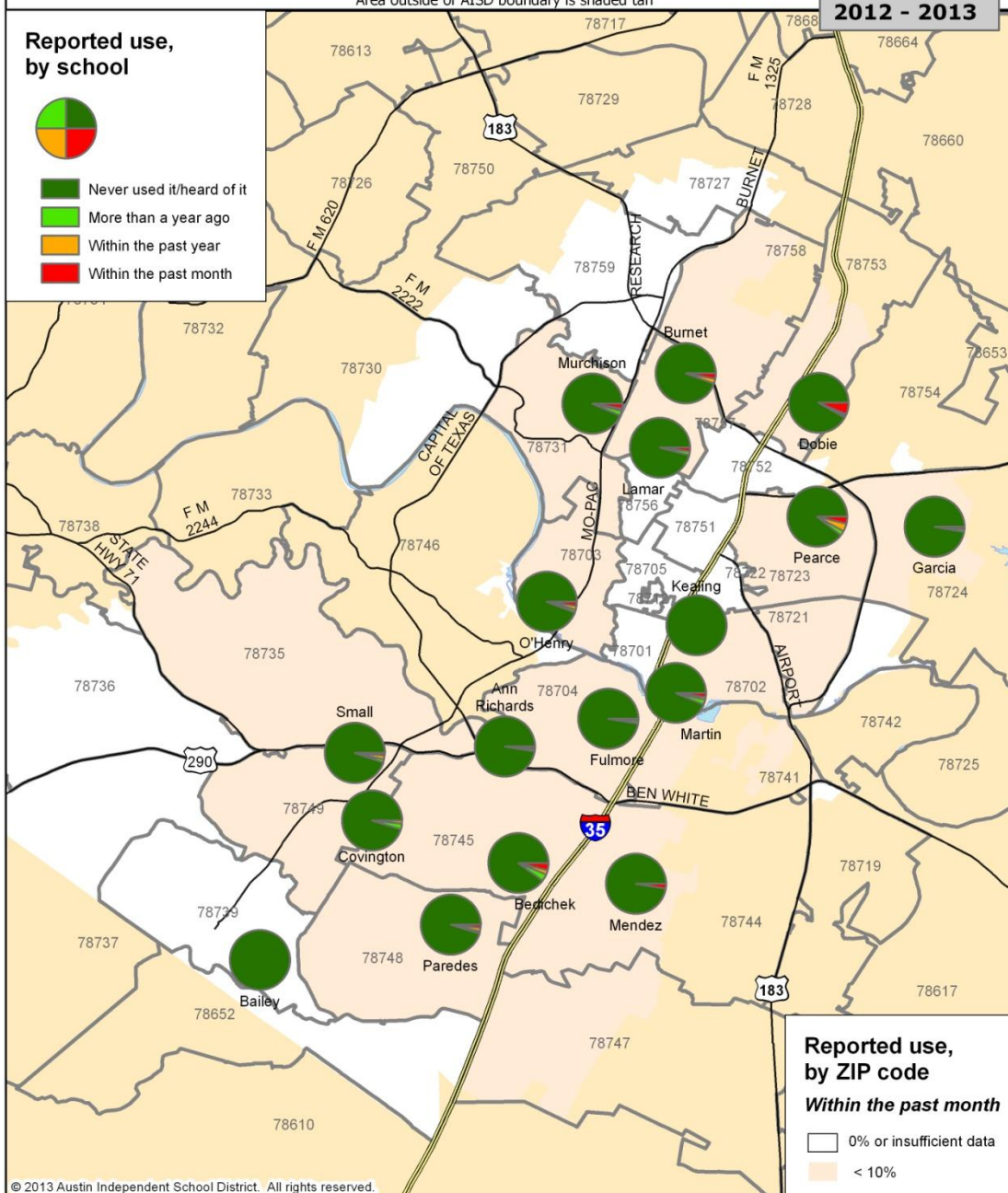
Area outside of AISD boundary is shaded tan

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%

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Department of  
Research and  
Evaluation

AUSTIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



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

Data Source:

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



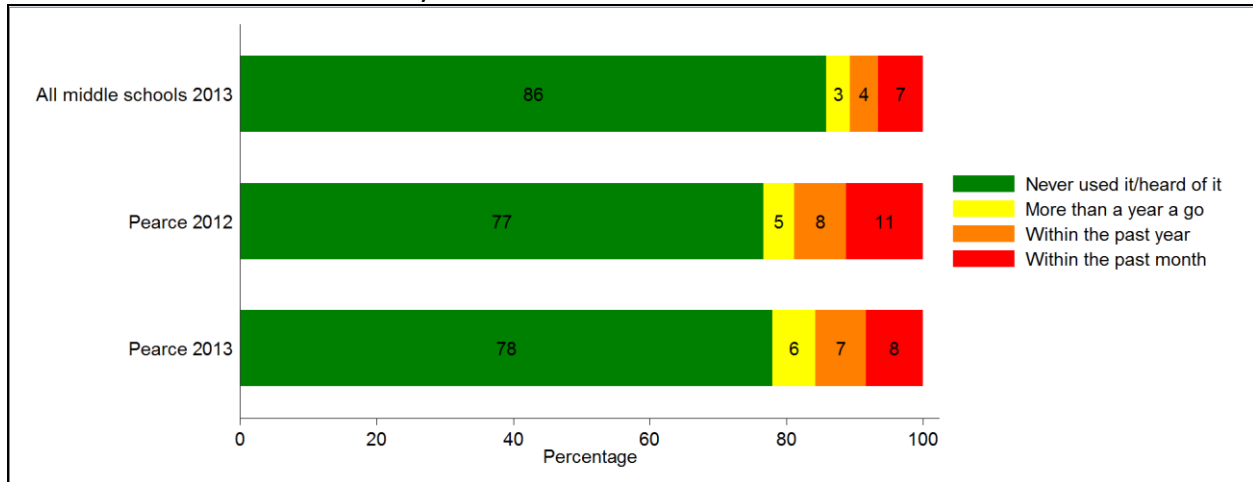
Zoran Stojakovic  
11/13/13



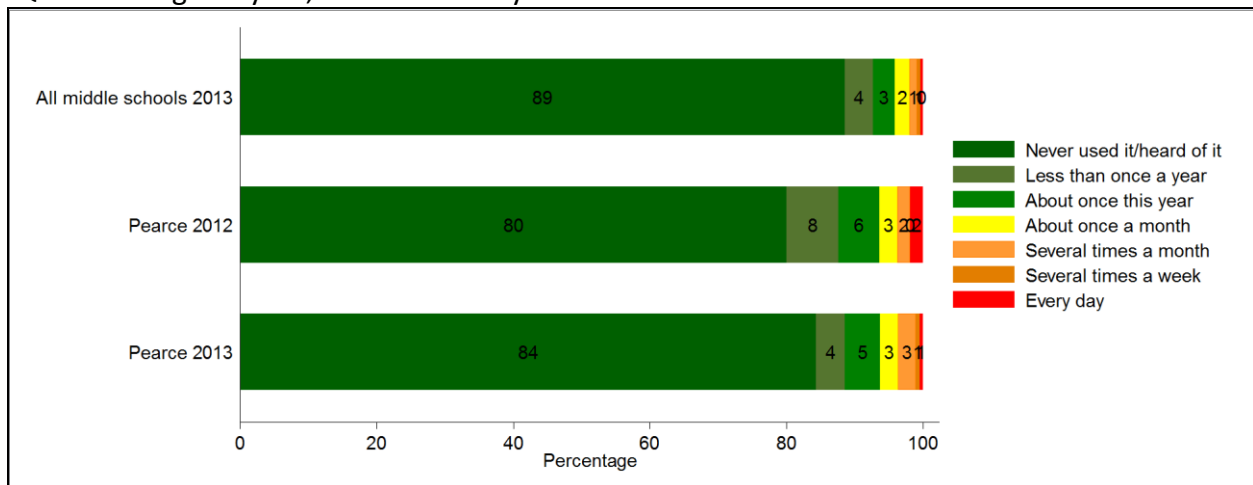
Display of visual correlations among  
multiple layered datasets do not  
represent cause and effect relationships.

## ALCOHOL:

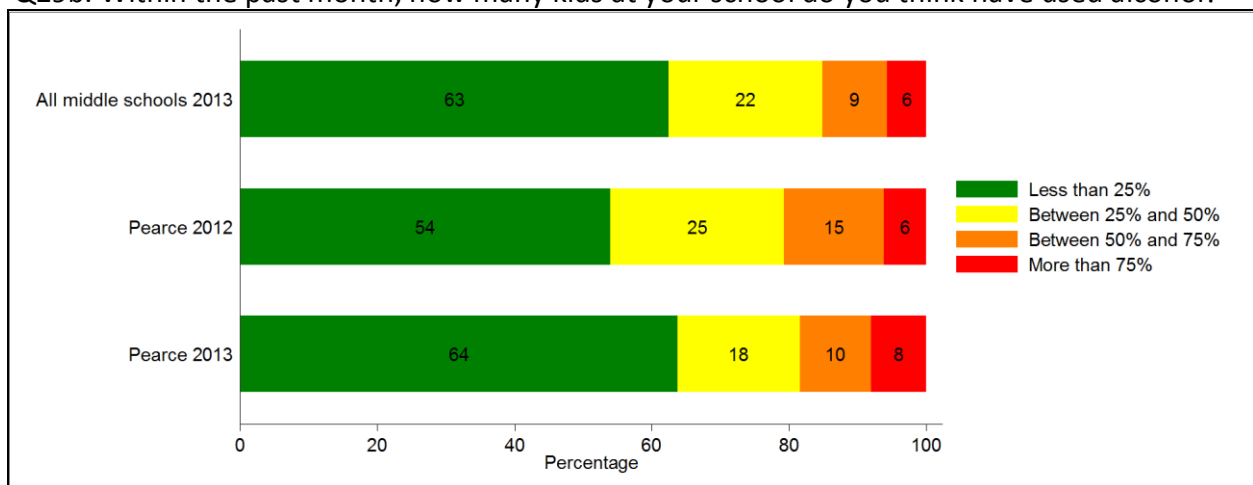
Q18b: What is the most recent you have used Alcohol?



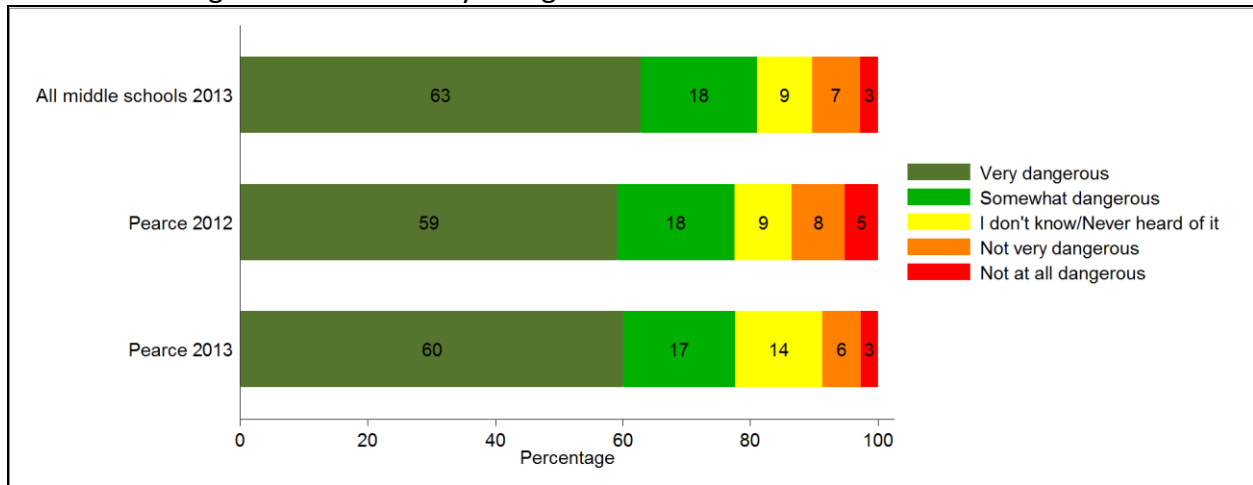
Q21b: During this year, how often did you use Alcohol?



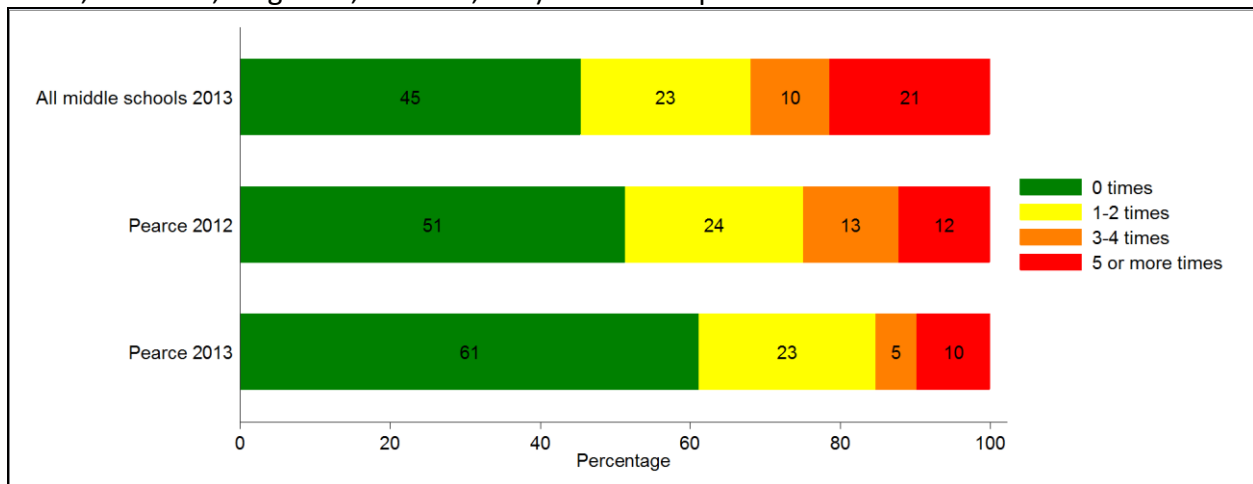
Q29b. Within the past month, how many kids at your school do you think have used alcohol?



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

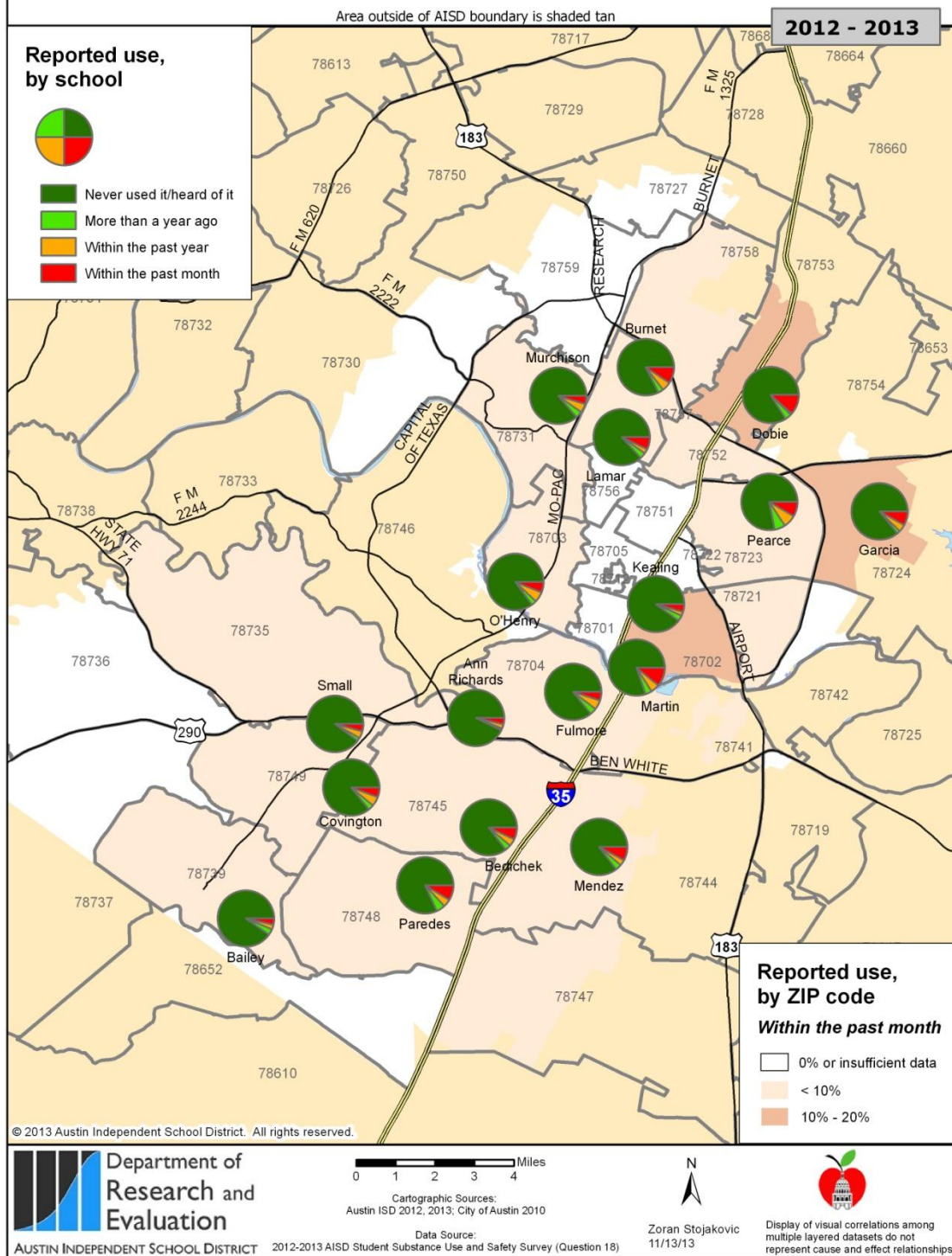


Q28f. During the school year, how many times have you experienced advertisements (TV, radio, billboard, magazine, internet, etc.) for alcohol products?



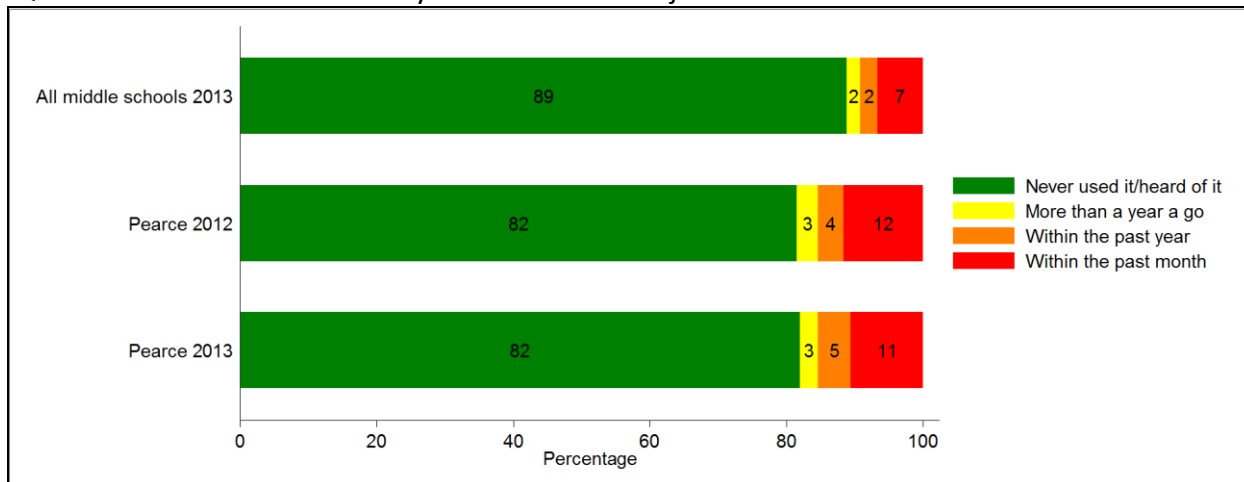


# Middle Schools: Percentage of Students Self-Reporting Alcohol Use

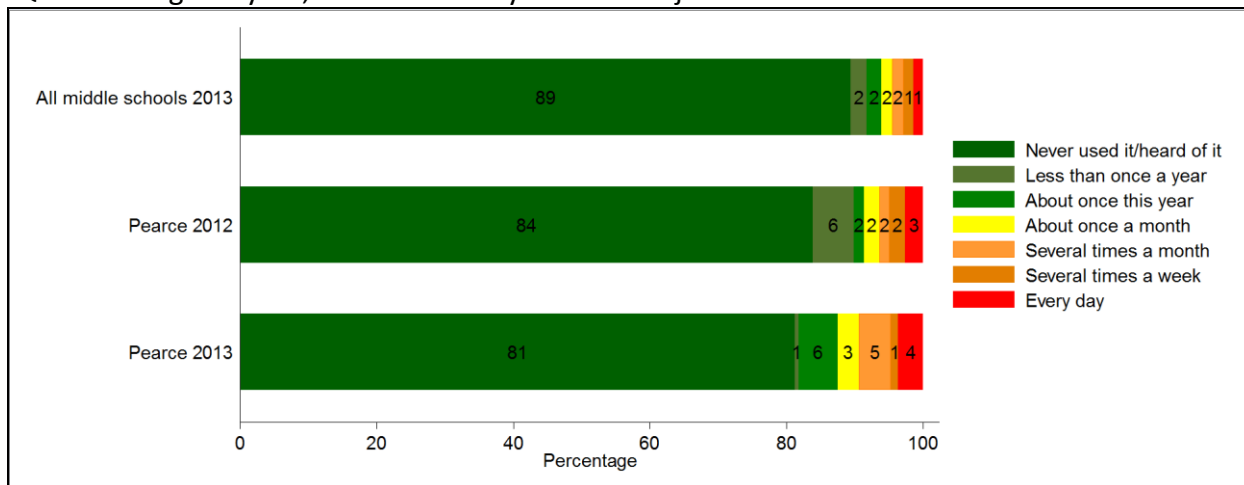


## MARIJUANA/ K2 OR SPICE:

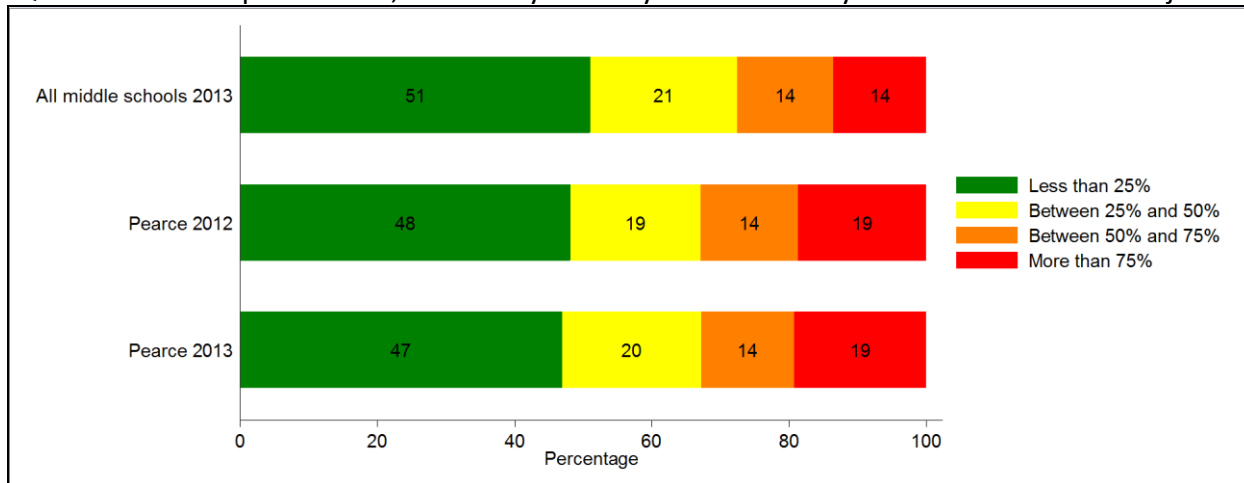
Q18c: What is the most recent you have used Marijuana?



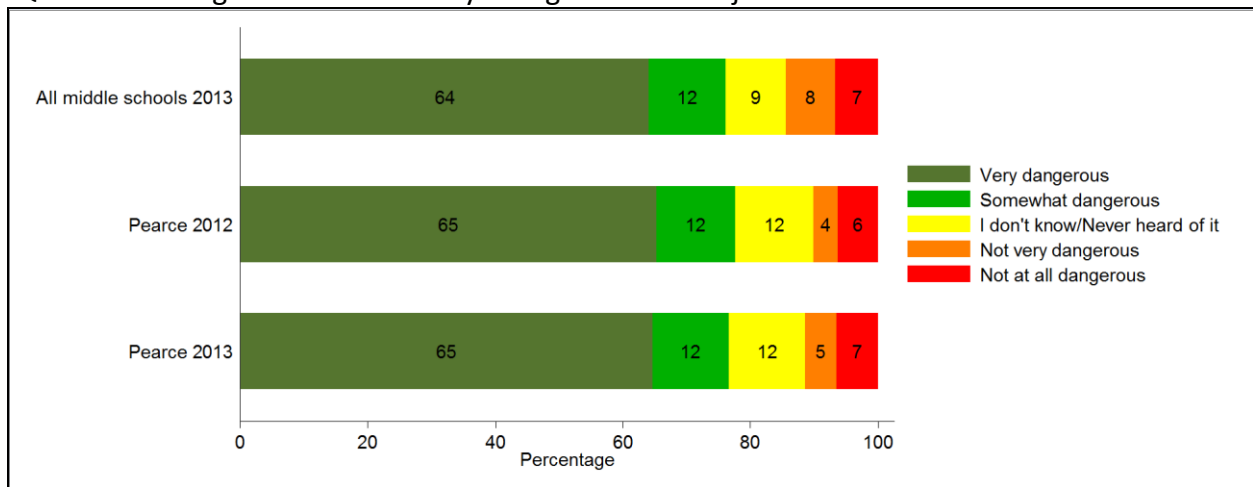
Q21c: During this year, how often did you use Marijuana?



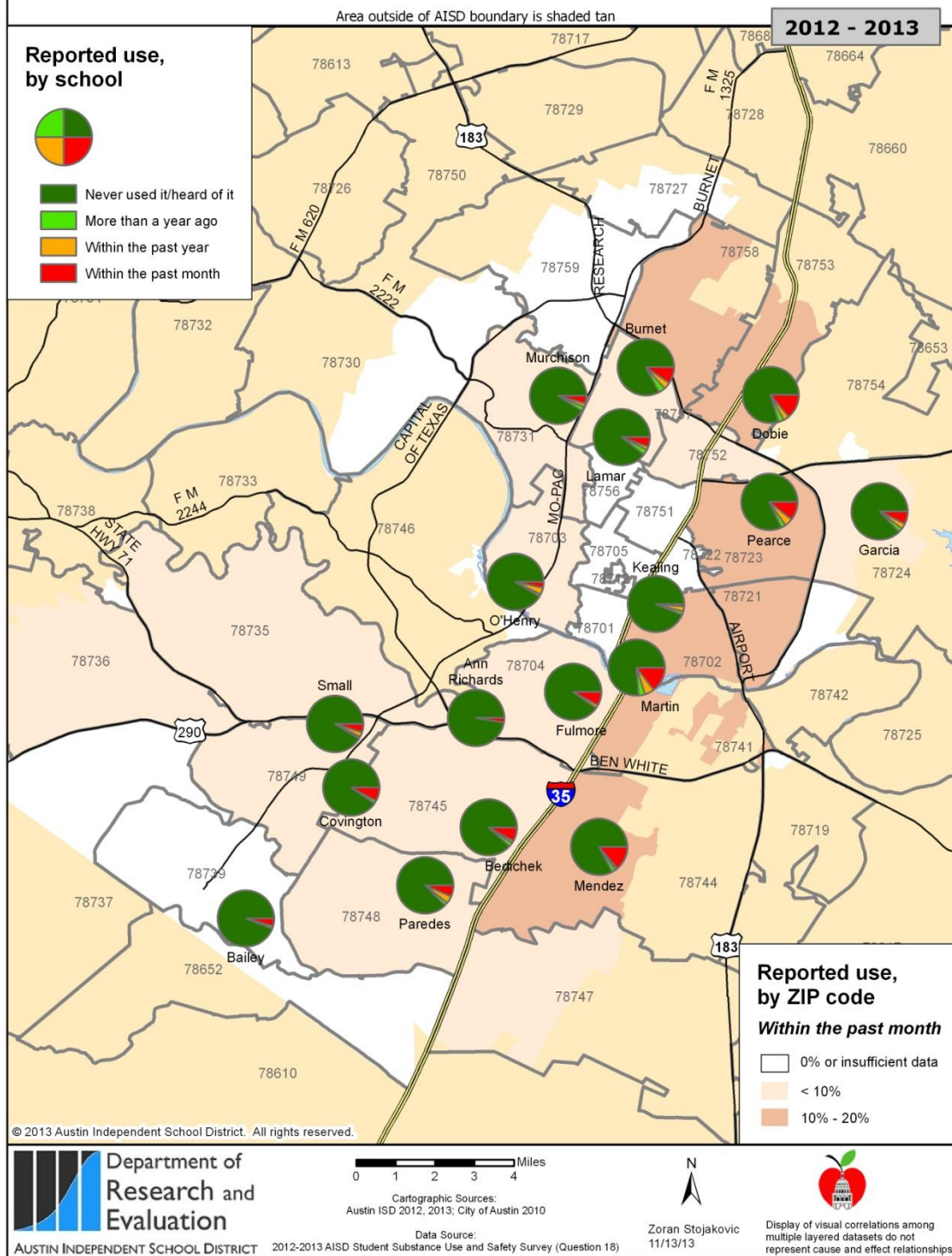
Q29c. Within the past month, how many kids at your school do you think have used marijuana?



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

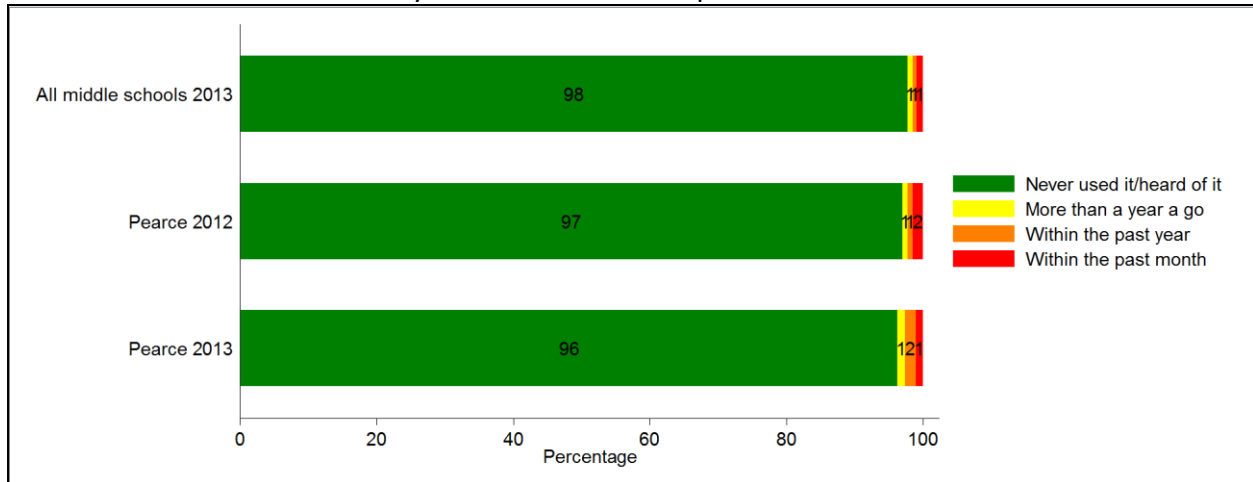


# Middle Schools: Percentage of Students Self-Reporting Marijuana Use

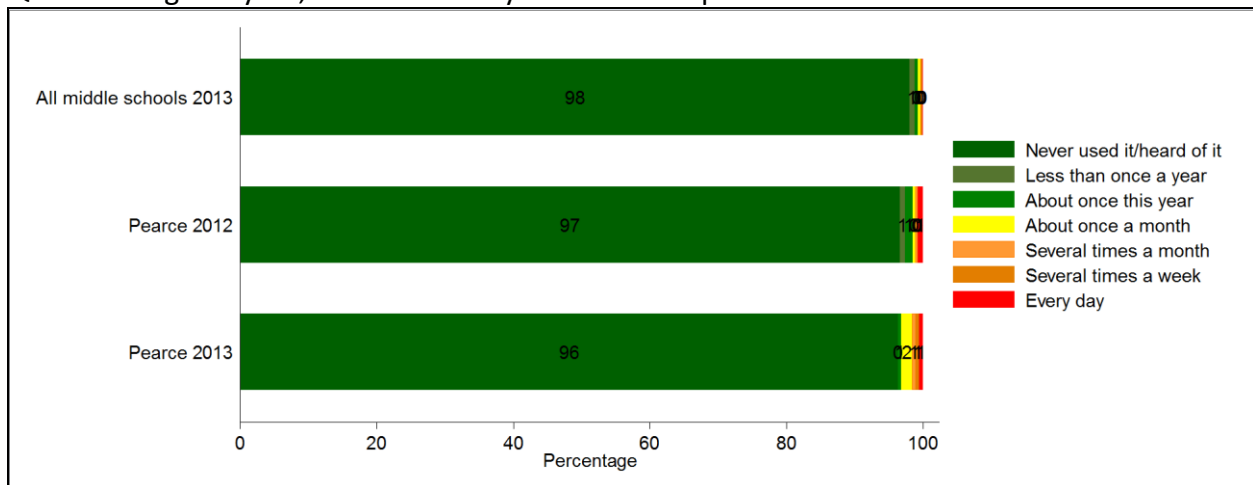


## K2 OR SPICE:

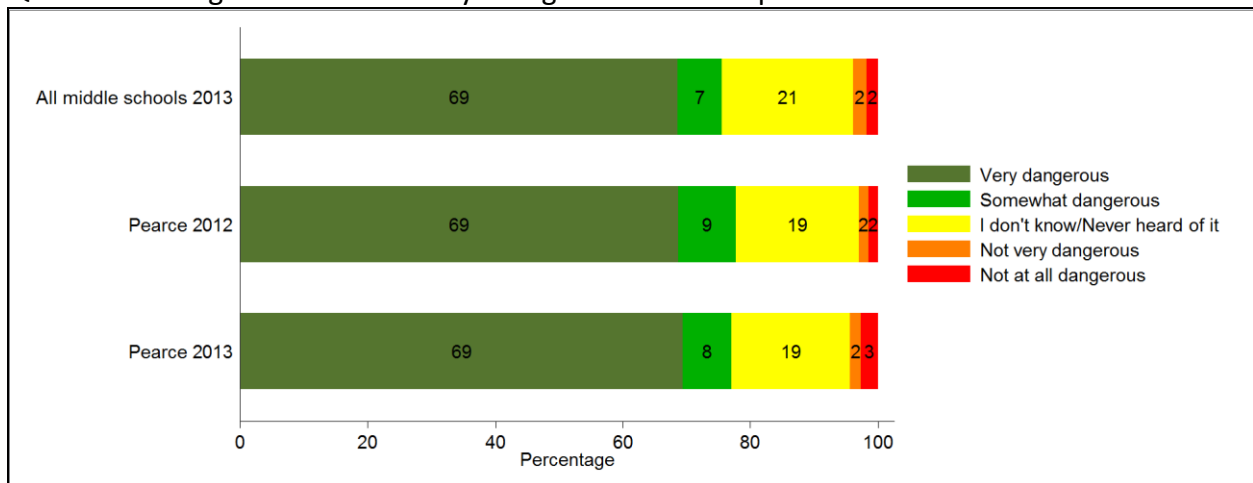
Q18d: What is the most recent you have used K2 or Spice?



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

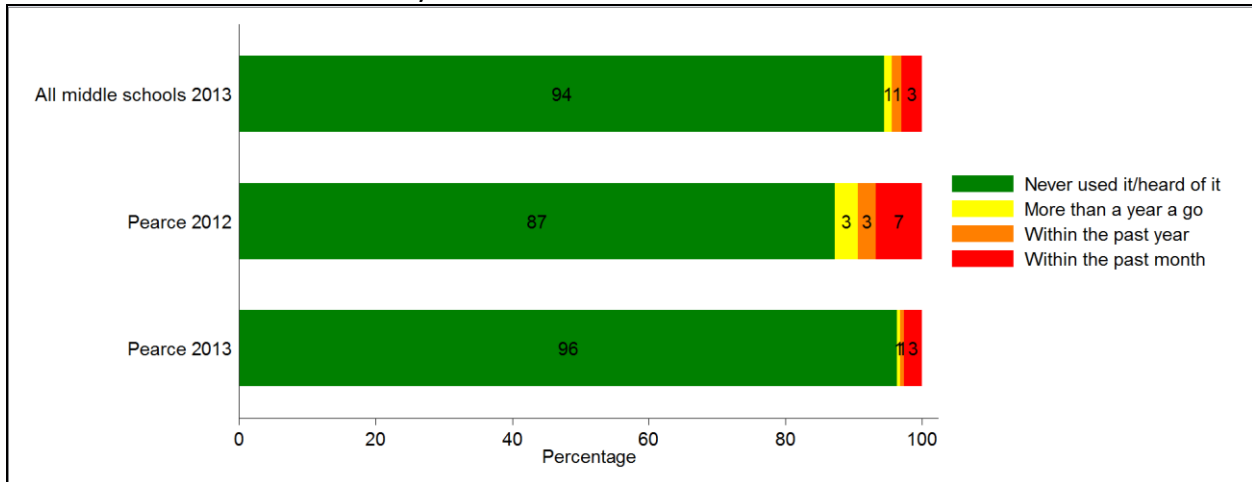


Q27d: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use K2 or Spice?

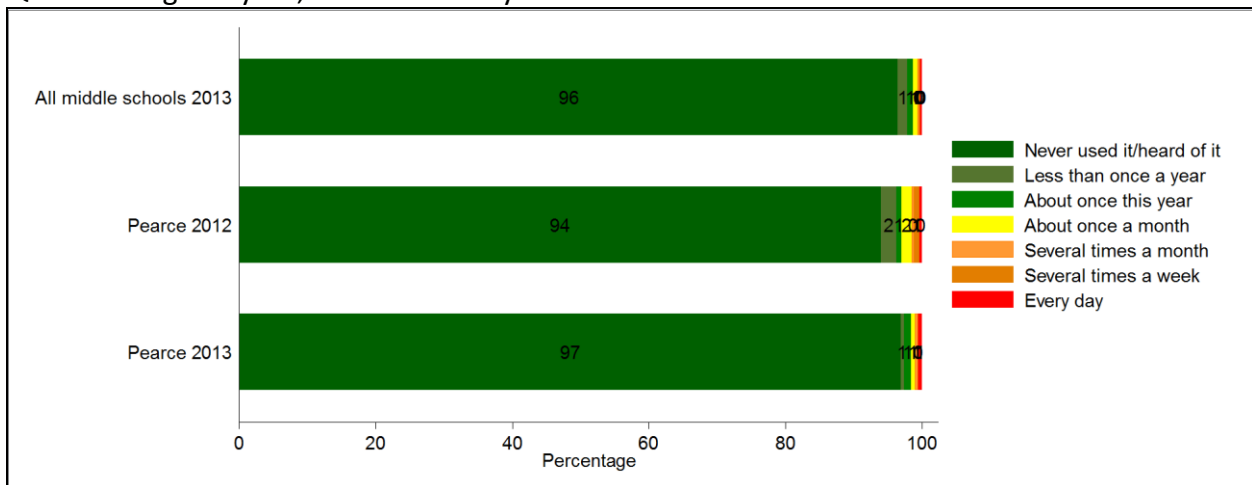


## INHALANTS:

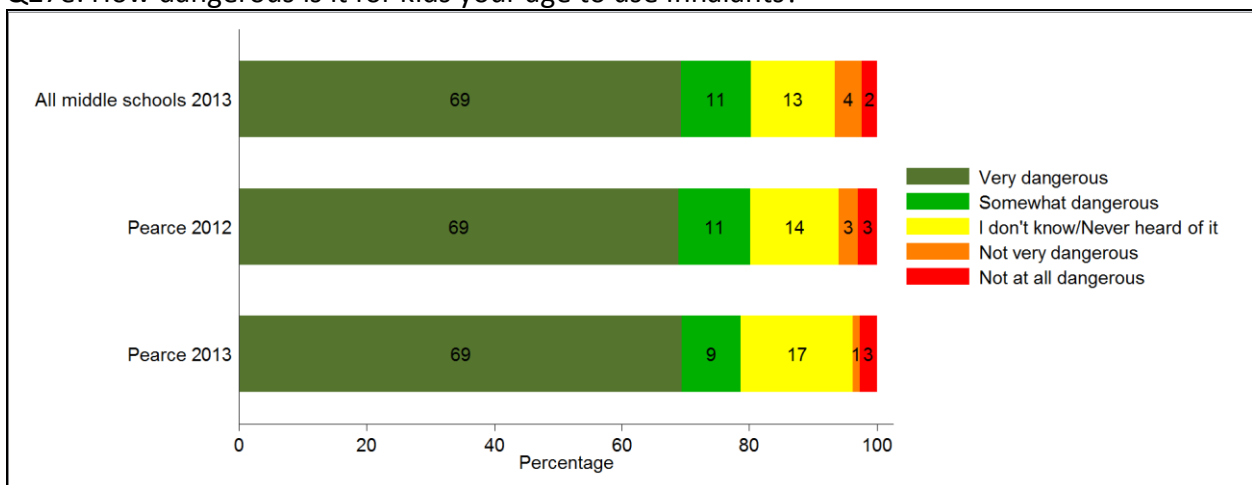
Q18e: What is the most recent you have used Inhalants?



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

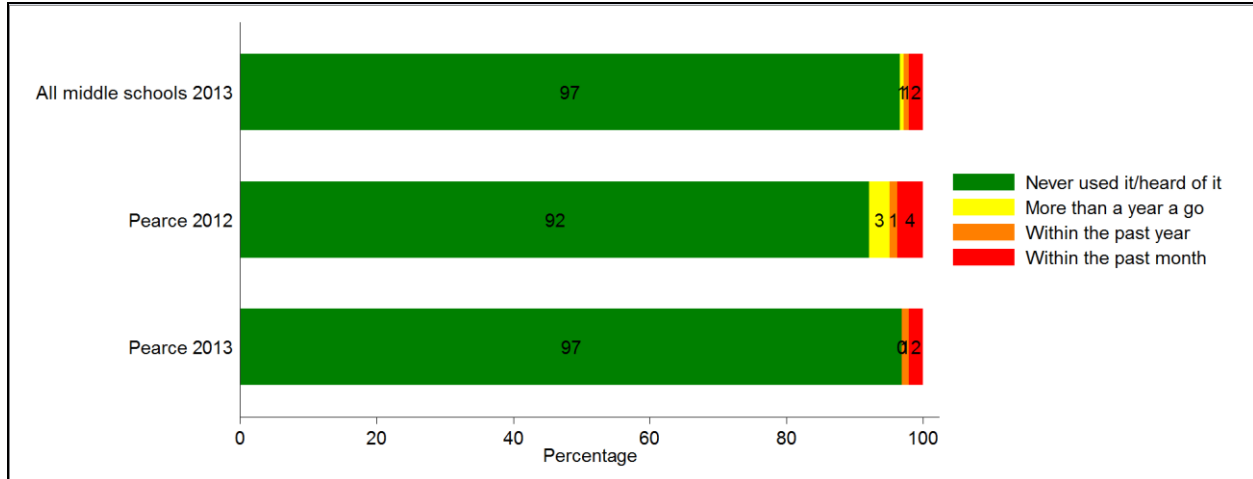


Q27e: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use Inhalants?

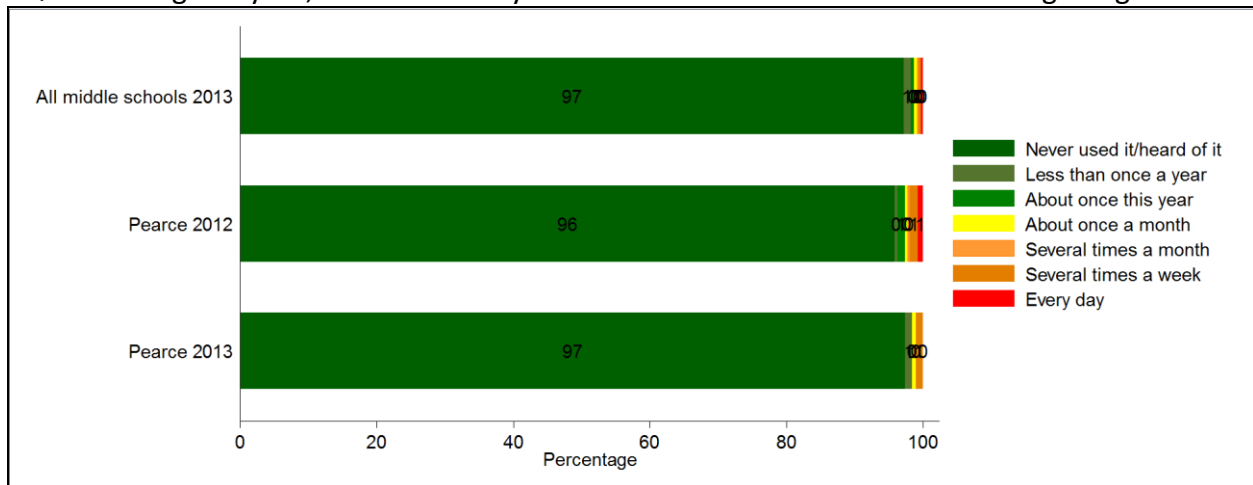


## OVER THE COUNTER MEDICATION:

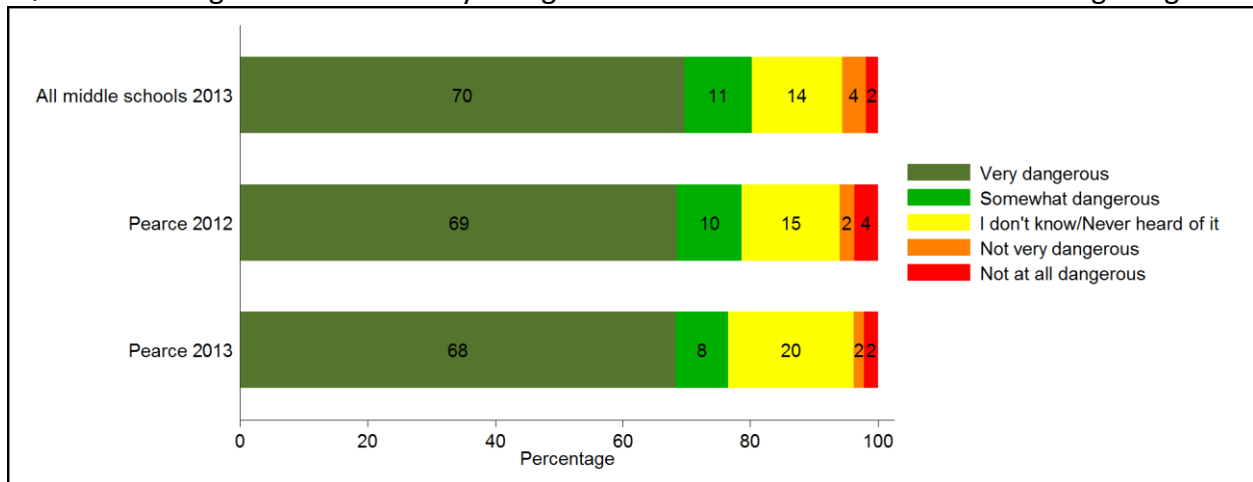
Q18f: What is the most recent you have used Over the Counter Medication to get high?



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

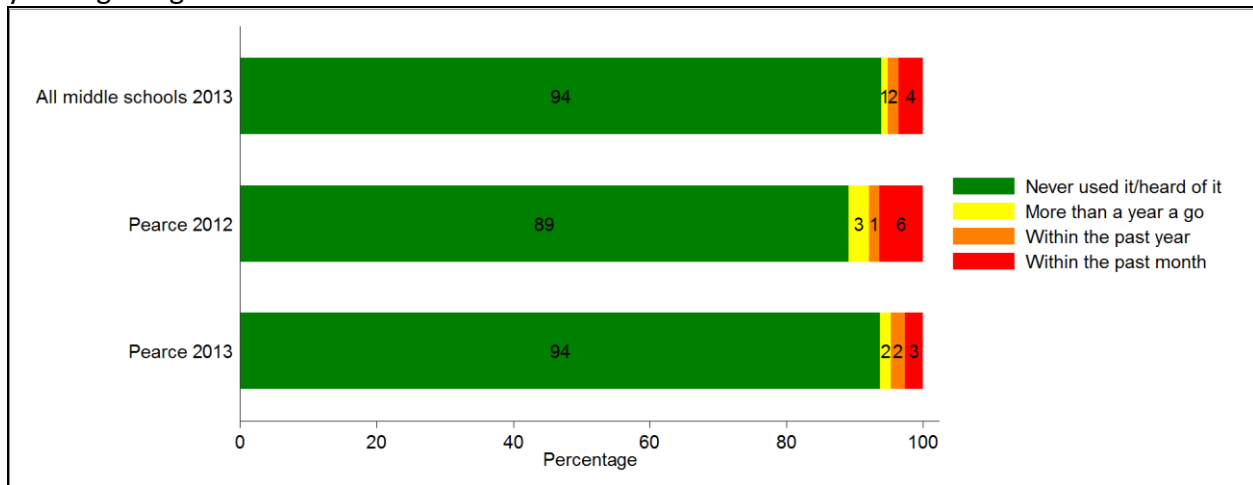


Q27f: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use Over the Counter Medication to get high?

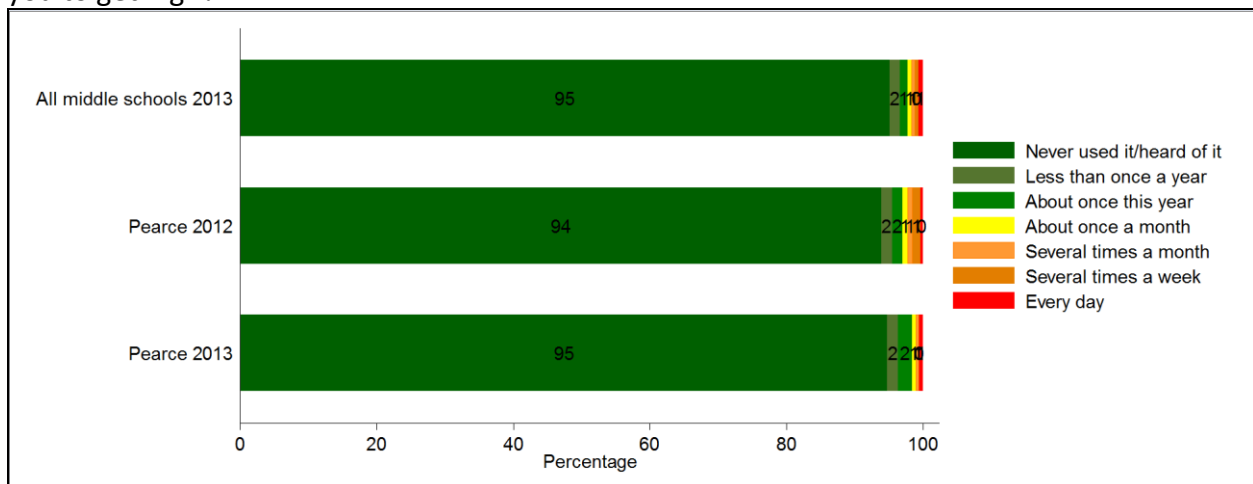


## PREScription DRUGS:

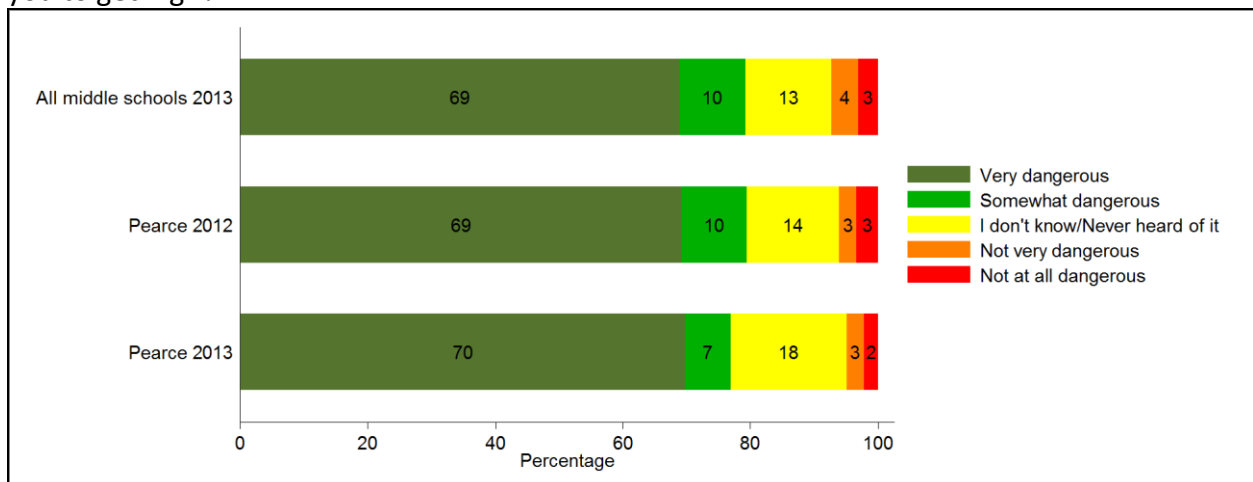
Q18g: What is the most recent you have used Prescription Drugs that were not prescribed to you to get high?



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



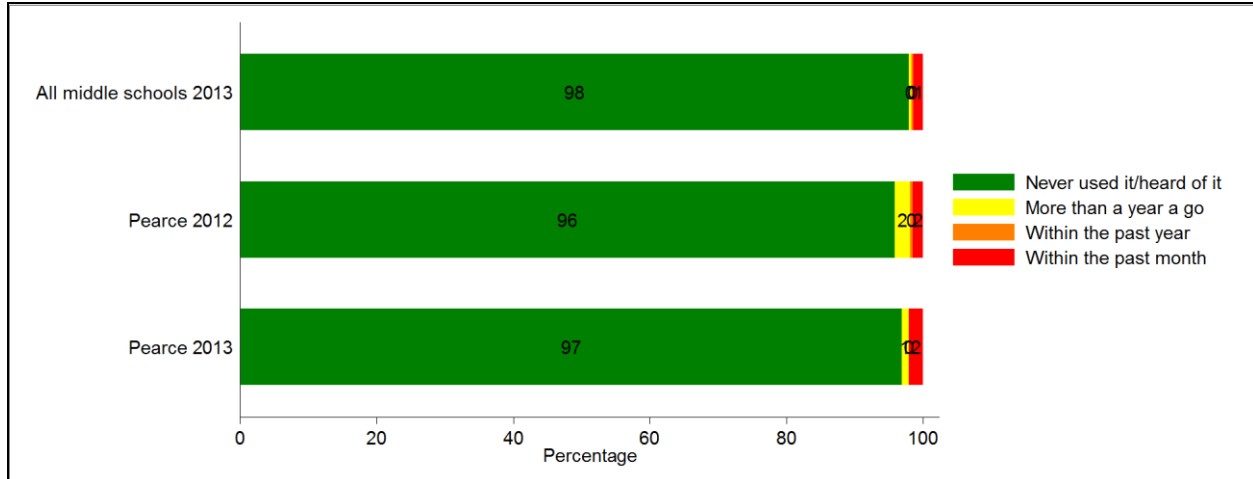
Q27g: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use Prescription Drugs that are not prescribed to you to get high?



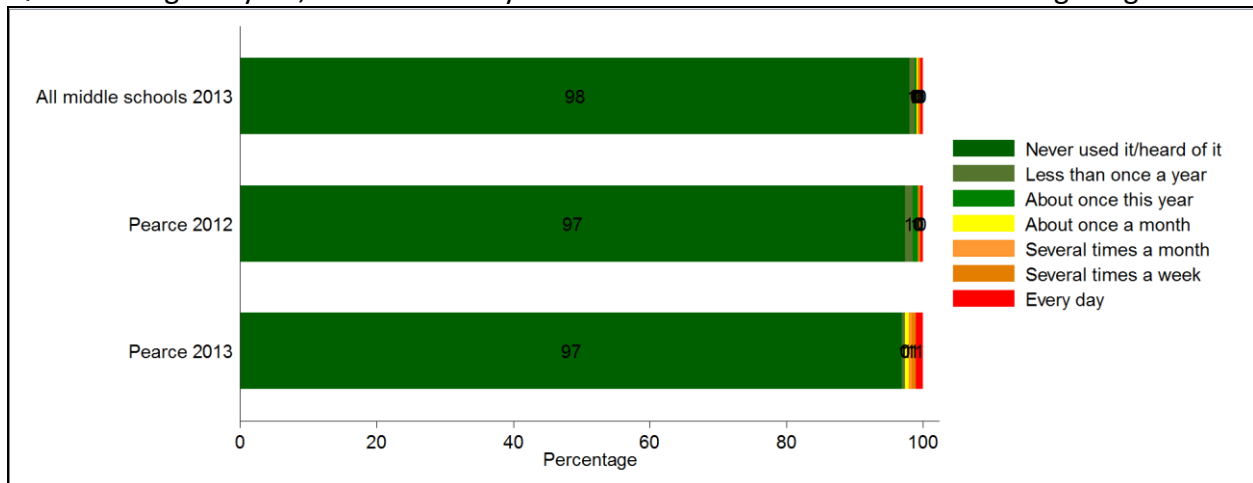


## STERIODS OR PERFORMANCE ENHANCING DRUGS:

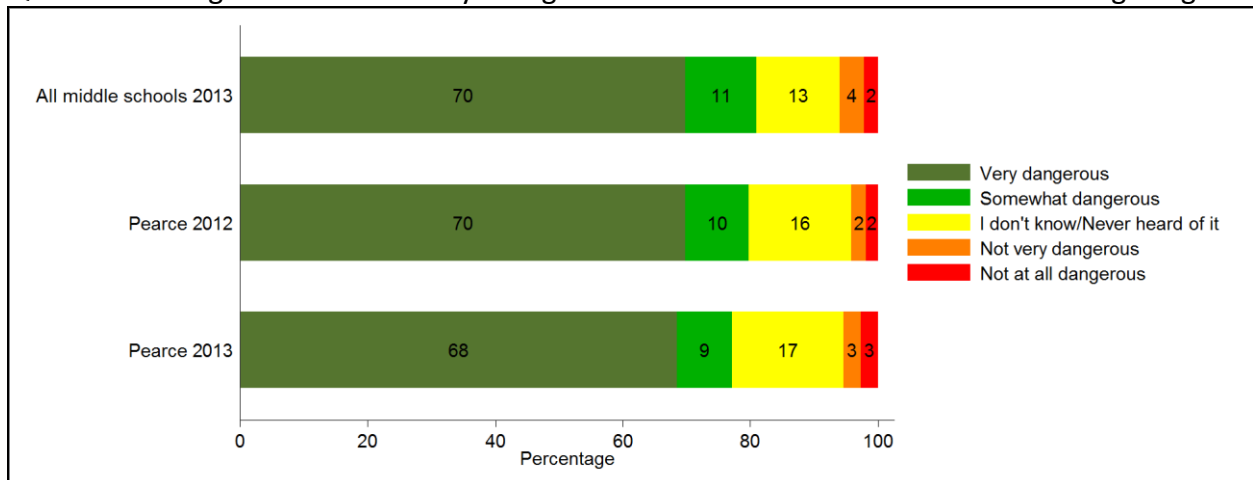
Q18h: What is the most recent you have used Steroids or Performance Enhancing Drugs?



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

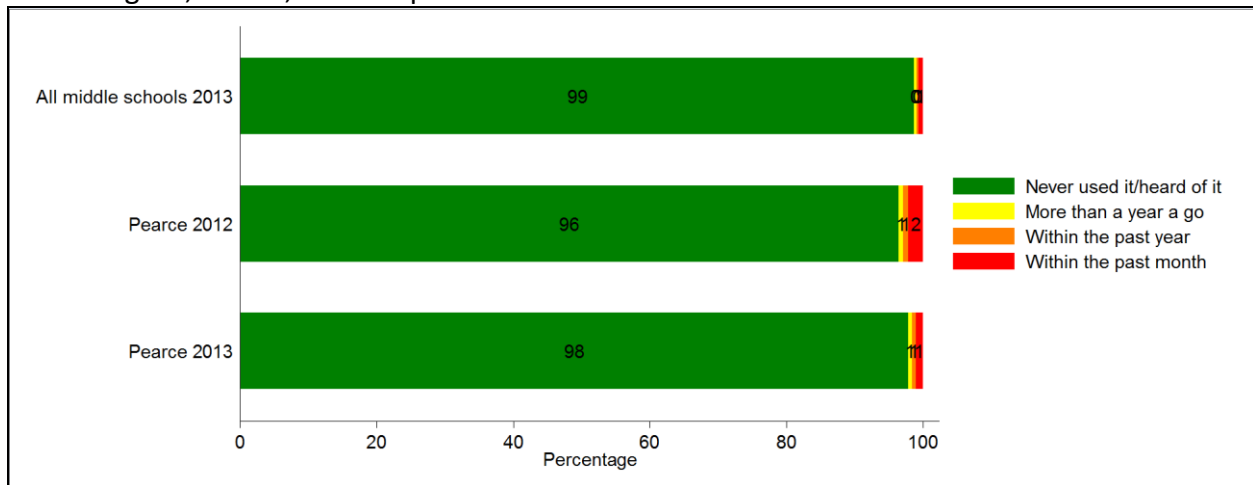


Q27h: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use Steroids or Performance Enhancing Drugs?

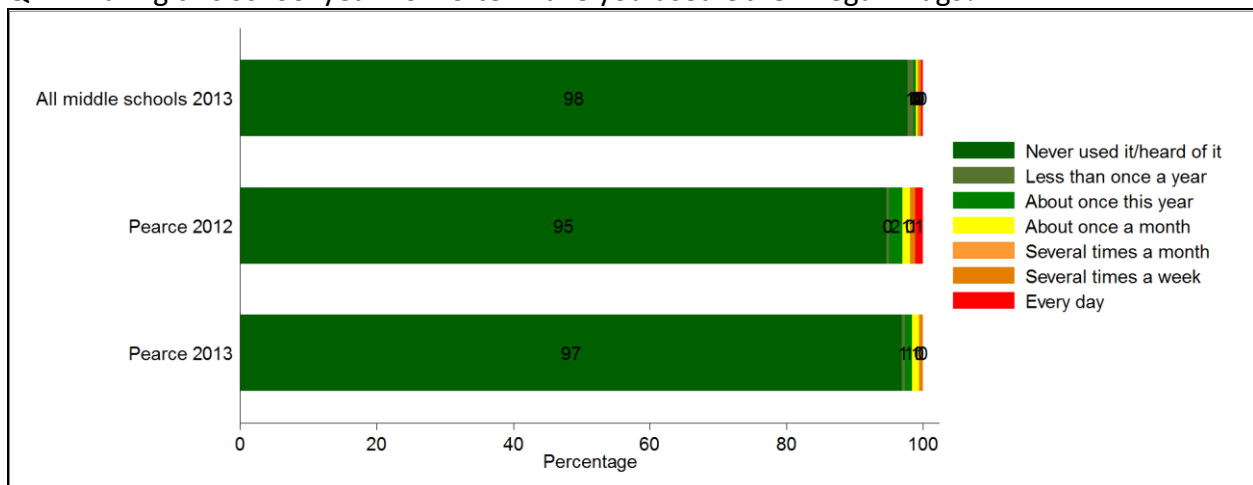


## OTHER ILLEGAL DRUGS:

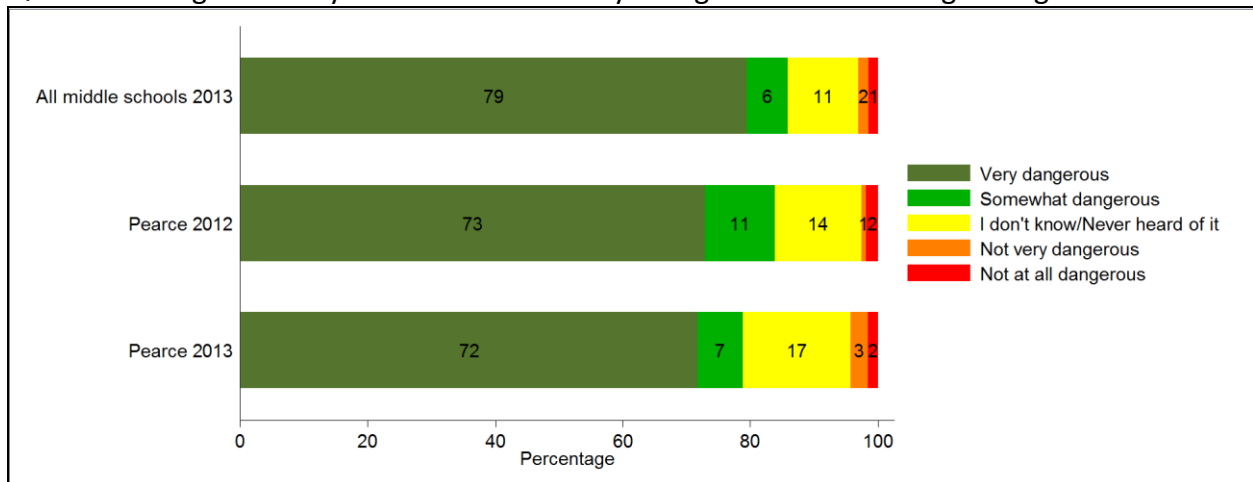
Q18i: What is the most recent you have used Other Illegal Drugs (e.g. cocaine, ecstasy, hallucinogens, heroin, methamphetamines)?



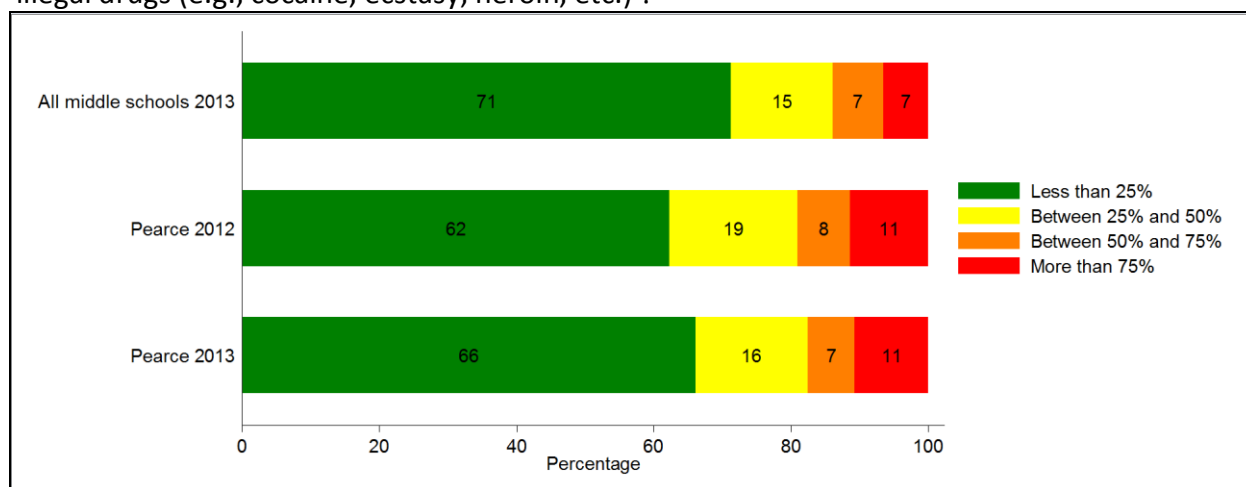
Q21i: During this school year how often have you used Other Illegal Drugs?



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

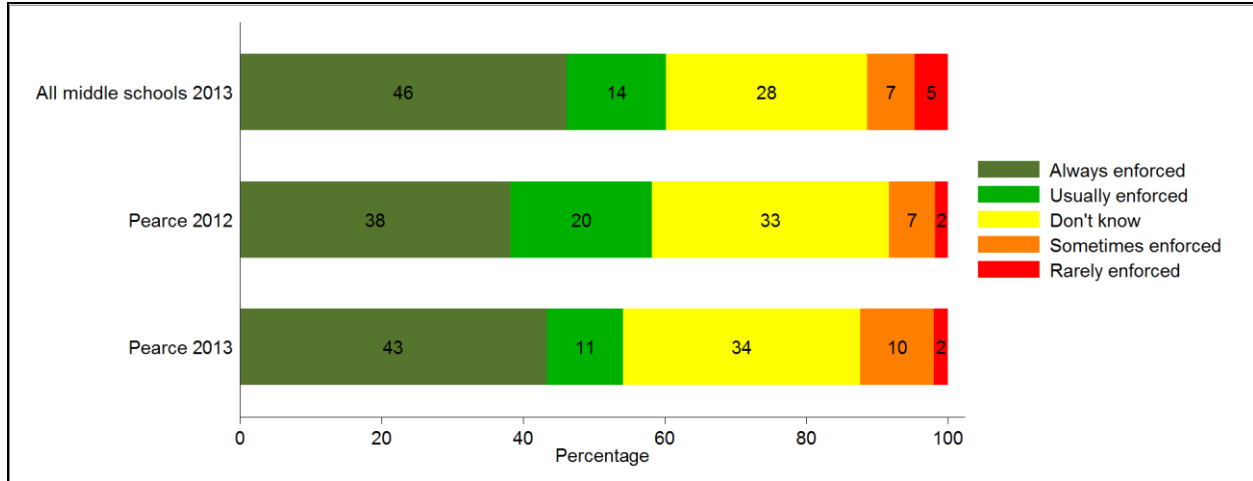


Q29d. Within the past month, how many kids at your school do you think have used other illegal drugs (e.g., cocaine, ecstasy, heroin, etc.) ?

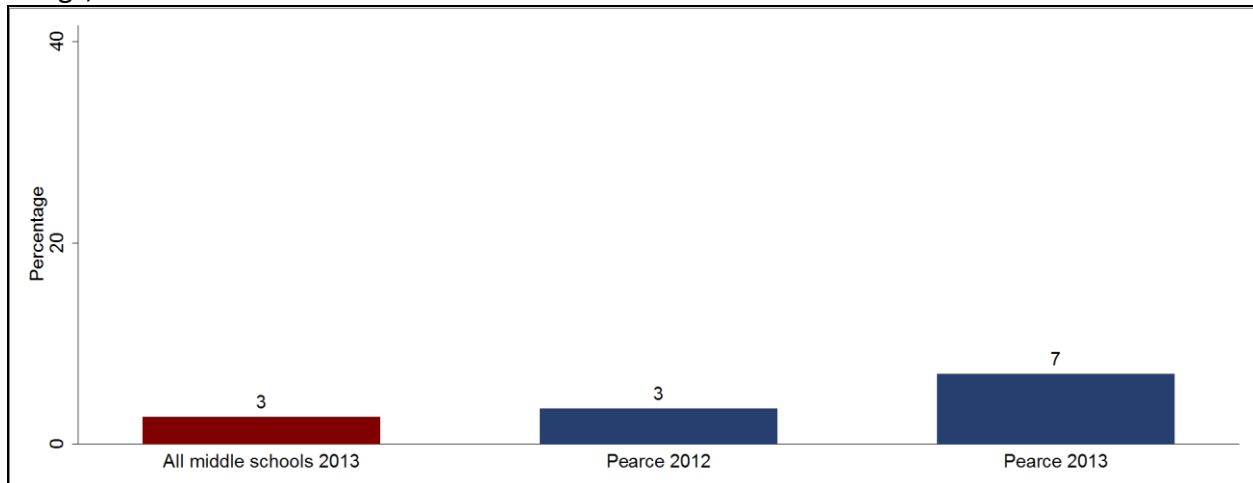


## OPINIONS, EXPERIENCE, AND EXPOSURE:

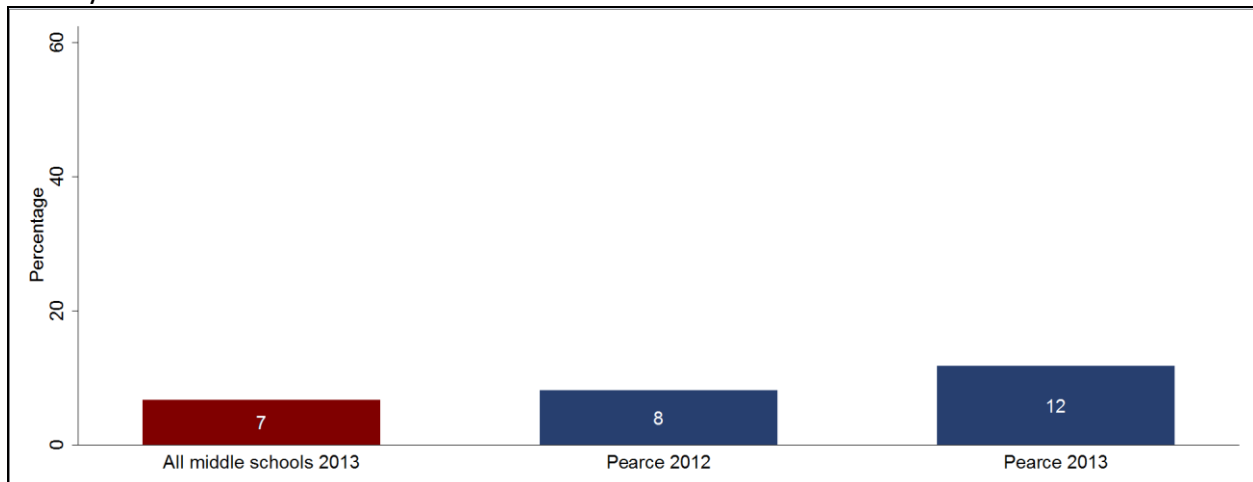
Q13: Are school rules about drug, alcohol, and tobacco use enforced by school staff?



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?



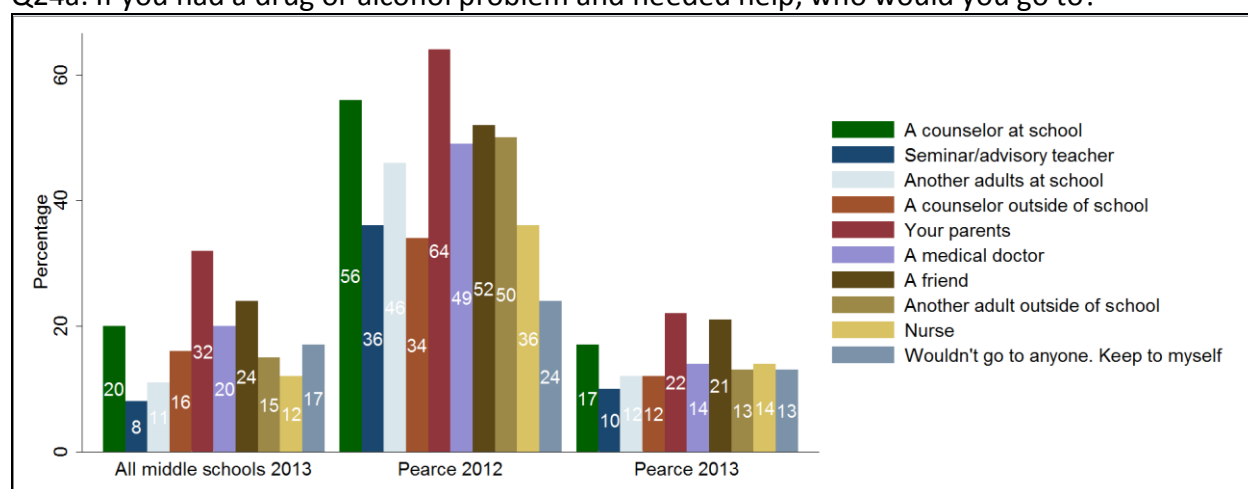
Question 24 was expanded for the 2012-2013 SSUSS. In addition to asking students who they would go to if they experienced problems with drugs or alcohol, they were also asked who they would go to if they experienced problems related to schoolwork or academics; bullying, violence, or personal safety;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

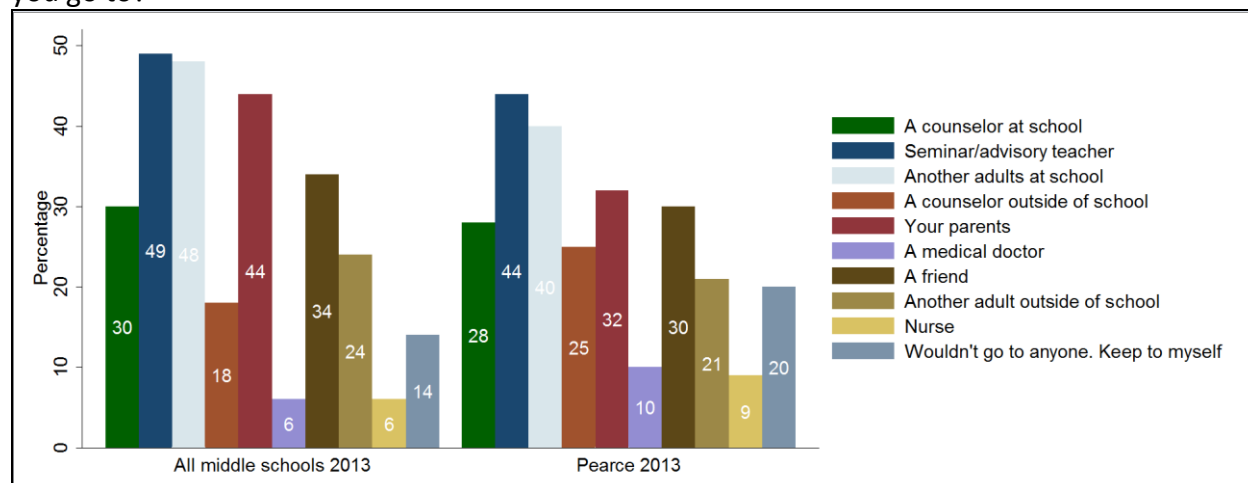
At both levels, the majority of respondents reported they would go to a teacher at school if they experienced problems with schoolwork or academics.

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?

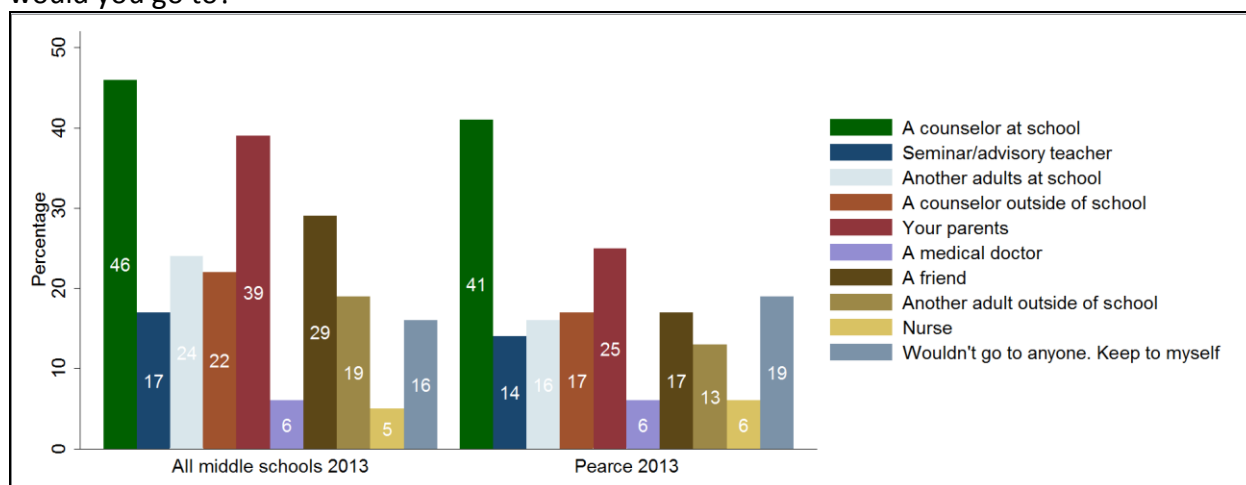


#### Q24b: If you had problems with your schoolwork or academics and needed help, who would you go to?



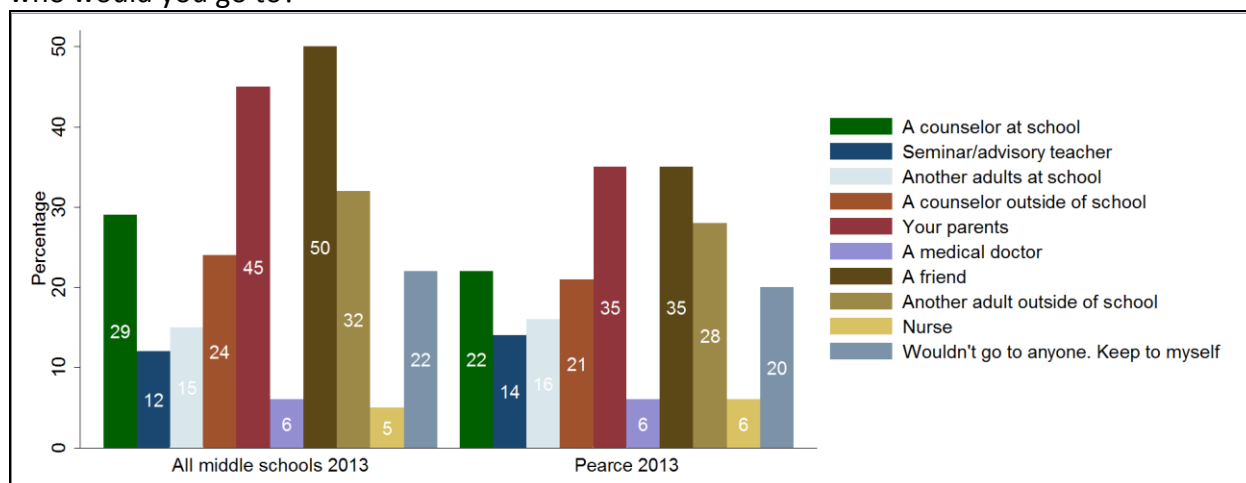
Note. This question was not asked in the 2011-2012 survey.

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



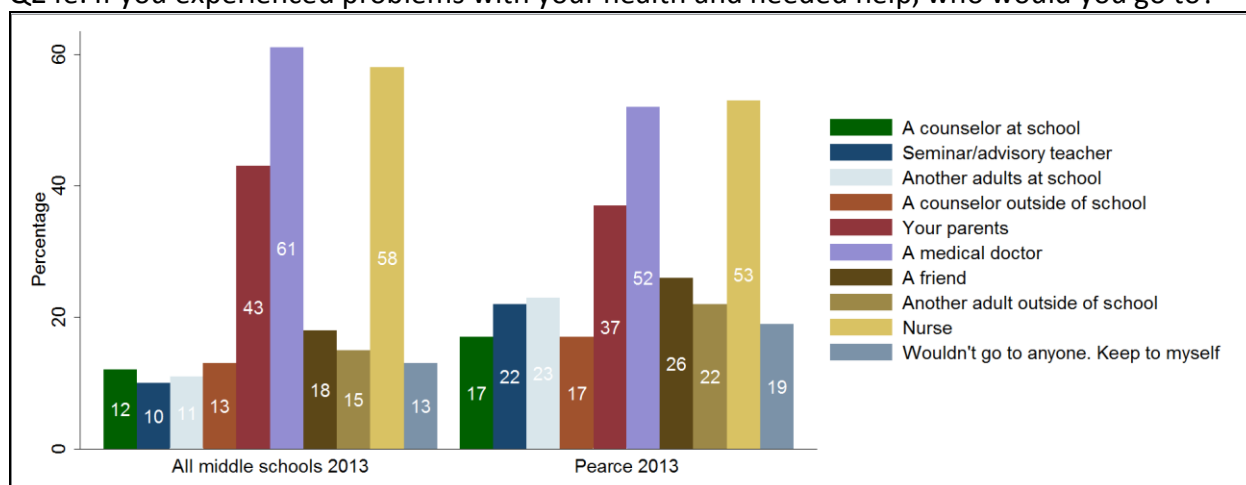
Note. This question was not asked in the 2011-2012 survey.

24d: If you experienced social problems or problems with friends or family and needed help, who would you go to?



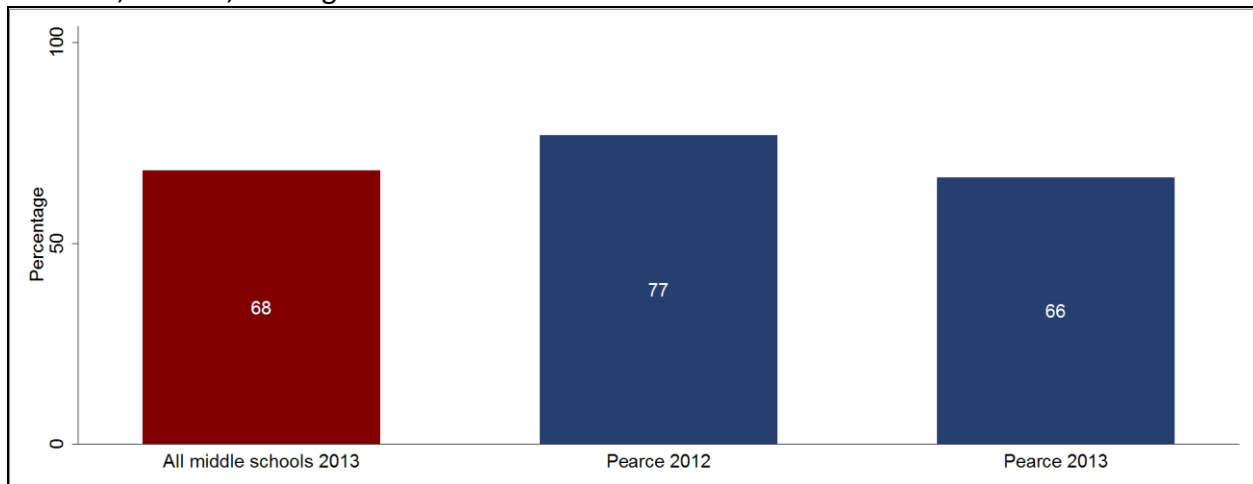
Note. This question was not asked in the 2011-2012 survey.

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

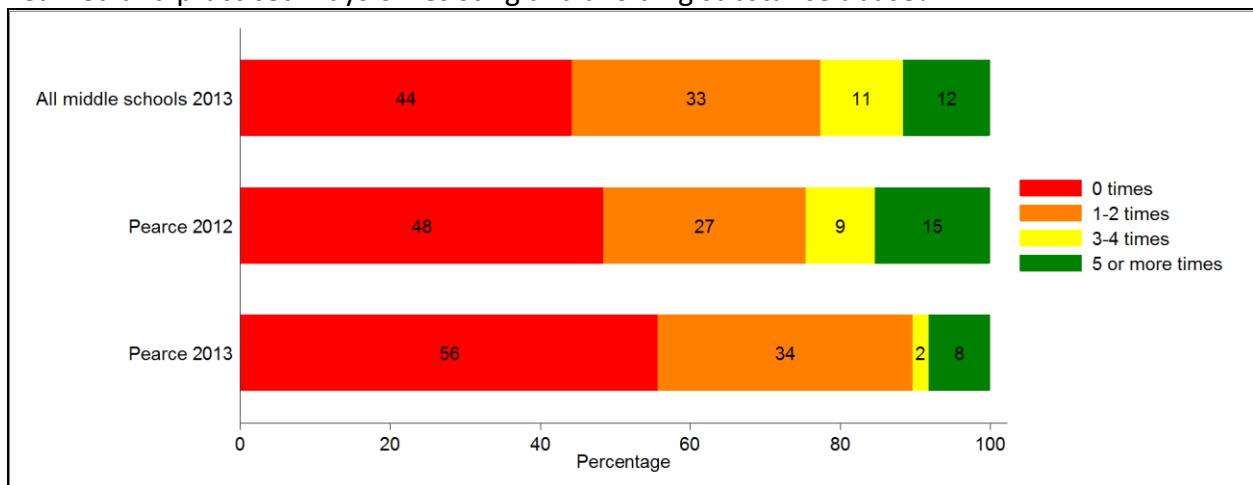


Note. This question was not asked in the 2011-2012 survey.

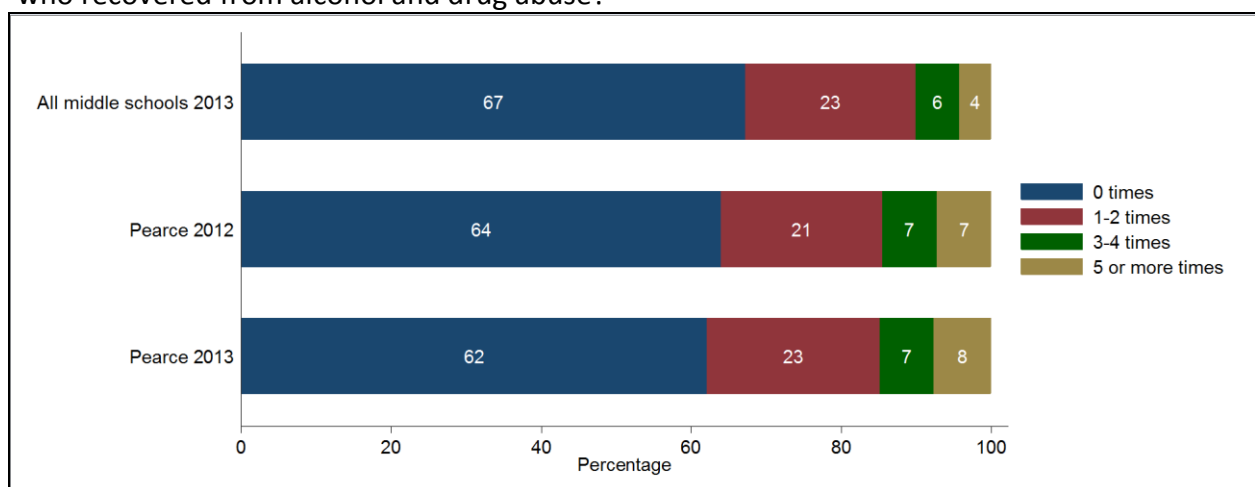
Q25: Within the past year, has your parent/guardian talked with you about the dangers of tobacco, alcohol, or drug use?



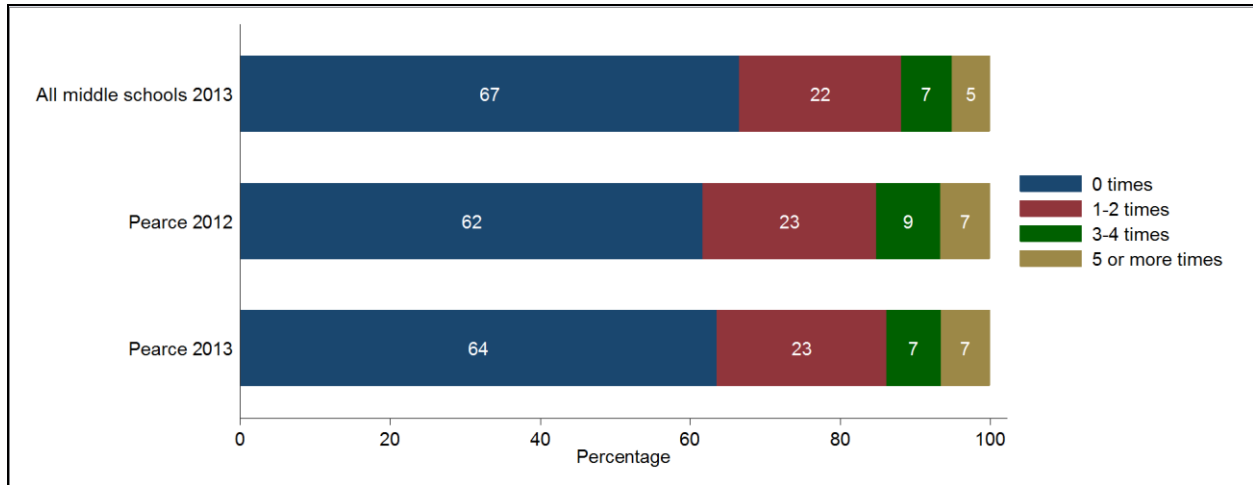
Q28a. During the school year, how many times have you experienced classes in which you learned and practiced ways of resisting and avoiding substance abuse?



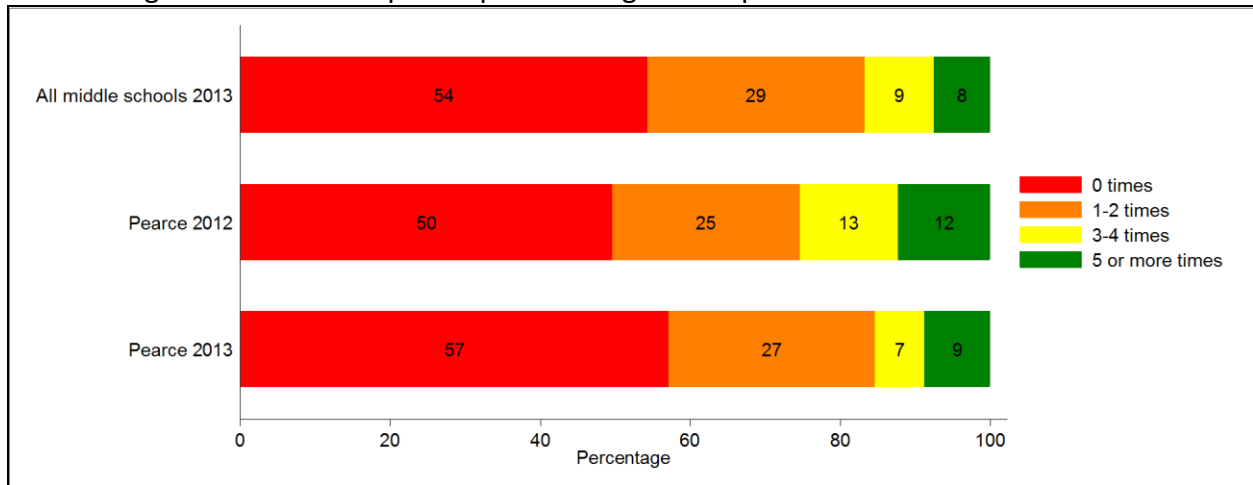
Q28b. During the school year, how many times have you experienced presentations by people who recovered from alcohol and drug abuse?



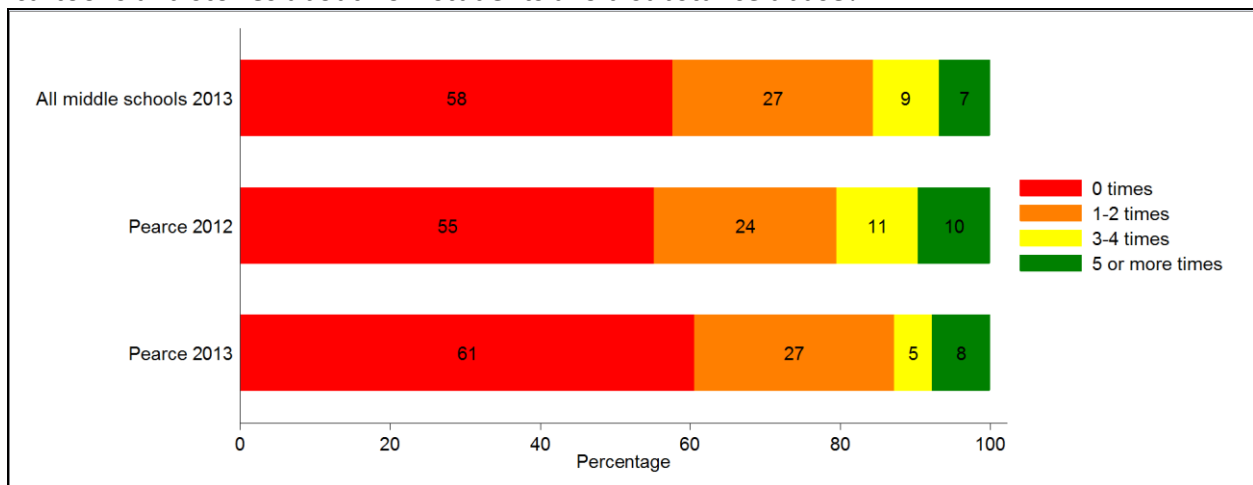
Q28c. During the school year, how many times have you experienced presentations by students who tell about how to avoid substance abuse?



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?

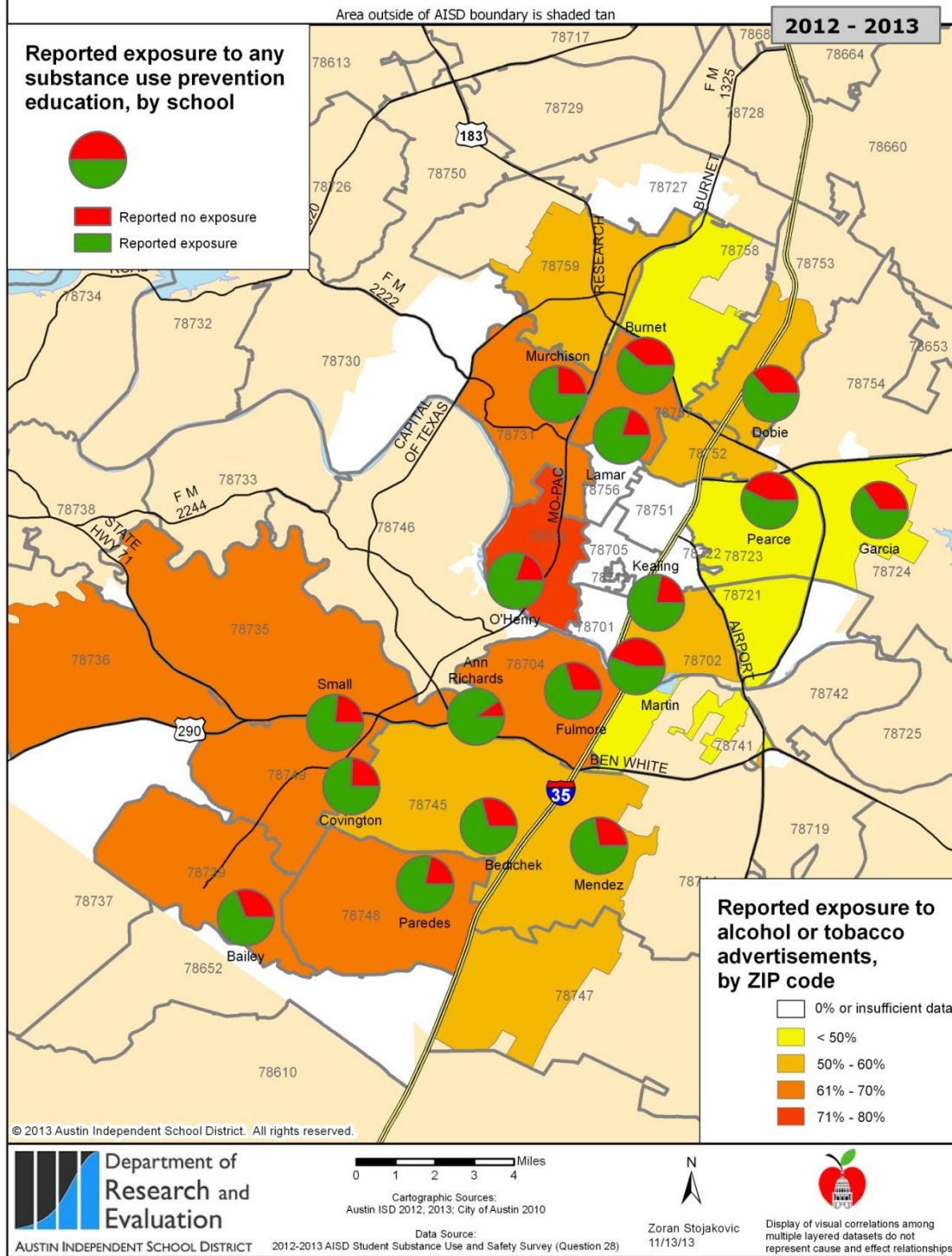


Q28e. During the school year, how many times have you experienced printed materials with cartoons and stories about how students avoid substance abuse?

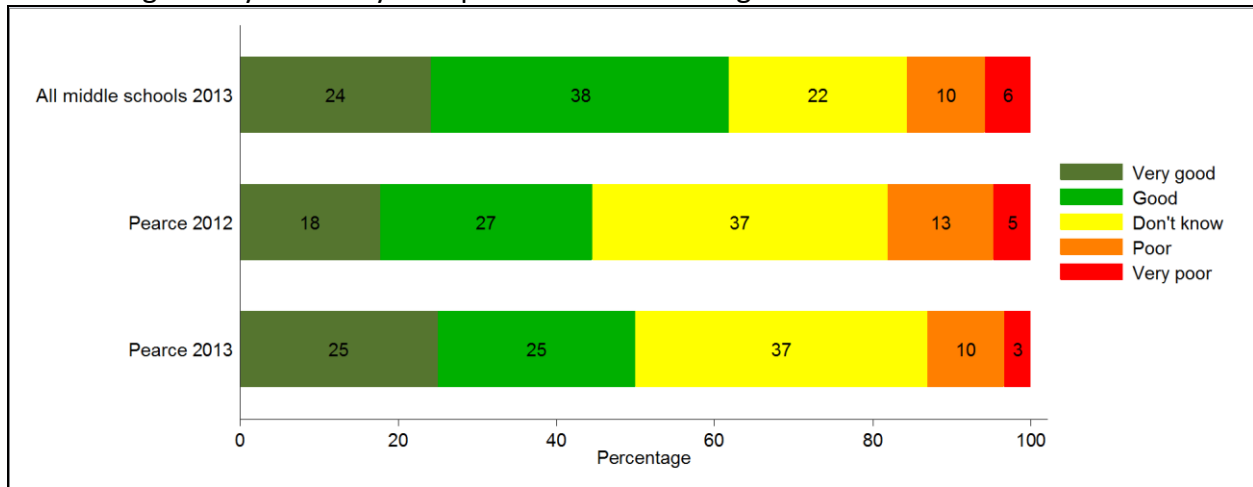




# **Middle Schools: Percentage of Students Reporting Exposure to Substance Use Prevention Education and Advertisements**



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.

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