

October 2015

Publication Number 14.125e

Results of the 2015 Student Substance Use and Safety Survey

Covington Middle School Report



Description of Survey

Every year, the Austin Independent School District (AISD) administers the Student Substance Use and Safety Survey (SSUSS) to a random, representative sample of AISD middle and high school students. The survey tracks self-reported student knowledge, attitudes, and behavior. In the spring of 2015, a sample of 9,089 students in grades 6 through 12 submitted valid responses to the survey, yielding a response rate of 78%⁵. This report includes respondents' demographics and all survey results. The report presents survey questions by topic, and includes results from the 2013–2014 school year for year-to-year comparisons.

How should I interpret sample data?

When it is not feasible to survey an entire population, researchers may use samples instead. When using a sample to make inferences about a population, interpret results 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, researchers from the AISD Department of Research and Evaluation used the following information to construct an interval that describes the range within which results for your campus population are likely to fall:

Population size: The number of students at your campus

Sample size: The number of survey respondents from your campus

Desired level of confidence: 95%

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

How should I use confidence intervals to interpret campus data?

Based on the Covington Middle School sample of 285 students and population enrollment of 636, the confidence interval for Covington is + and - 4 percentage points.

The interval for the all middle schools category is + and -1 percentage point.

To make inferences about your campus population using the sample data, interpret results with the confidence interval of 4 percentage points on each side of the sample statistics. For example, in 2015, 24% of respondents from Covington indicated they had friends who belonged to a gang (see Q16, p. 11). Applying the confidence interval (i.e., adding and subtracting 4 percentage points) to the 24% yields a range of 19% to 29%. Therefore, you can be 95% confident that between 19% and 29% of all students at Covington would indicate that some of their friends belong to a gang. When making comparisons between item results from year to year, remember that small changes may have occurred by chance. The confidence interval for 2014 was 5 percentage points. Therefore, only consider differences of 9 percentage points (4% + 5%) or greater as statistically significant when comparing the results between these two school years. In addition, only consider differences of 5 percentage points (4% + 1%) or greater as statistically significant when comparing the results between the campus and all middle schools.

⁵ A total of 9,484 surveys were returned to the Department of Research and Evaluation from an original sample of 11,666 students. Of those returned, 395 surveys were removed from analysis due to invalid responses.

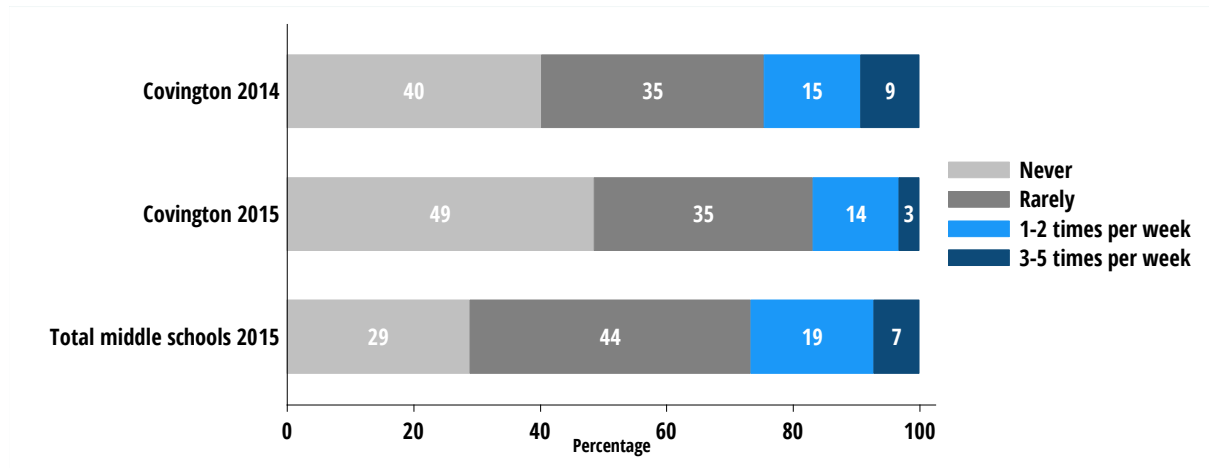
**RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS AND ITEMS THAT ADDRESS BOTH
SUBSTANCE USE AND SAFETY**

Survey Sample Demographics

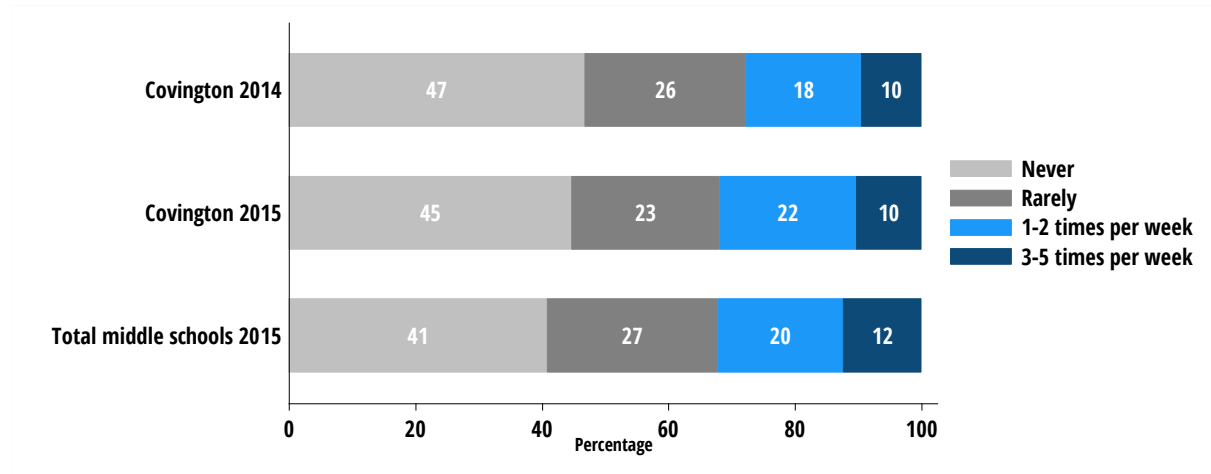
	Gender		Grade			Total
	Male	Female	6th	7th	8th	
Covington 2014	136 56%	105 44%	97 40%	61 25%	83 34%	245
Covington 2015	134 48%	146 52%	85 30%	112 40%	84 30%	285
All middle schools 2015	2,491 50%	2,532 50%	1,705 34%	1,690 34%	1,644 33%	5,073

Note. Numbers may not sum to total and percentages may not sum to 100 because some students skipped the demographic questions.

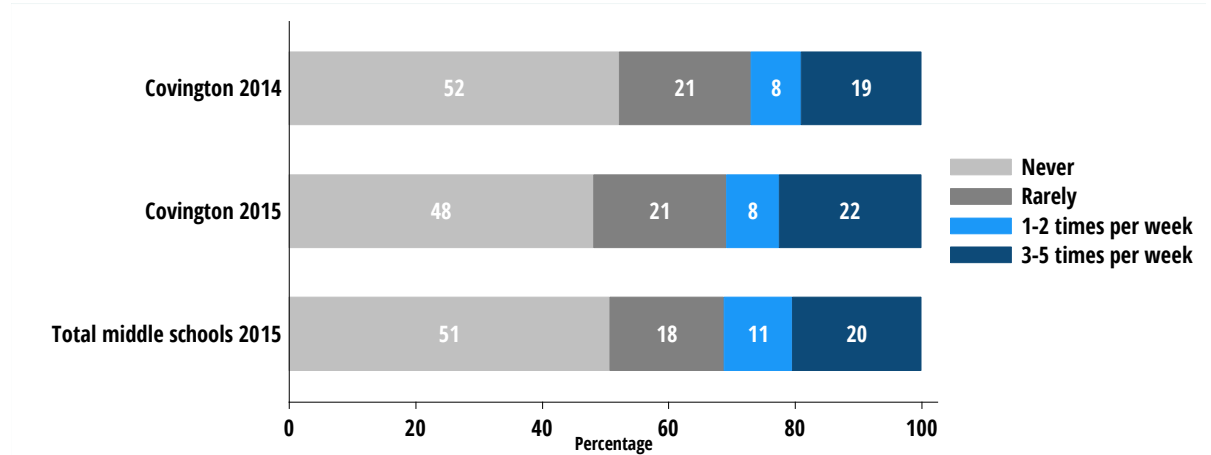
Q4. How often do you participate in after school programs to help you with your school work (e.g., tutoring, homework, etc.)?



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?



Q22: During this school year, have you brought any of the following items to school?

	Covington 2015	Percentage point change from 2014*	All middle schools 2015
Knife	8%	0	5%
Illegal drugs	7%	-2	5%
Prescription drugs	7%	2	3%
E-cigarettes	7%	N/A	3%
Alcohol	4%	0	3%
Tobacco	6%	2	3%
Gun	3%	-1	3%
Other weapons	8%	2	4%

* Negative percentage point changes indicate fewer students reported bringing those items to school in 2014–2015 than in 2013–2014.

Q23: Of the following, which do you consider to be the most serious problem on your campus?

	Covington 2015	Percentage point change from 2014*	All middle schools 2015
Student fighting and physical aggression	22%	-8	22%
Student harassment, threats, and intimidation	17%	4	20%
Marijuana use	19%	-4	15%
Student weapon possession	5%	2	3%
Prescription drug use	6%	-1	3%
Student vandalism, criminal mischief	0%	-1	2%
Violence or threats toward staff	1%	0	2%
E-cigarette use	1%	N/A	1%
Alcohol use	0%	0	1%
Tobacco use	1%	-2	1%
None of these are serious problems on my campus	26%	8	31%

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 2014–2015 than in 2013–2014.

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

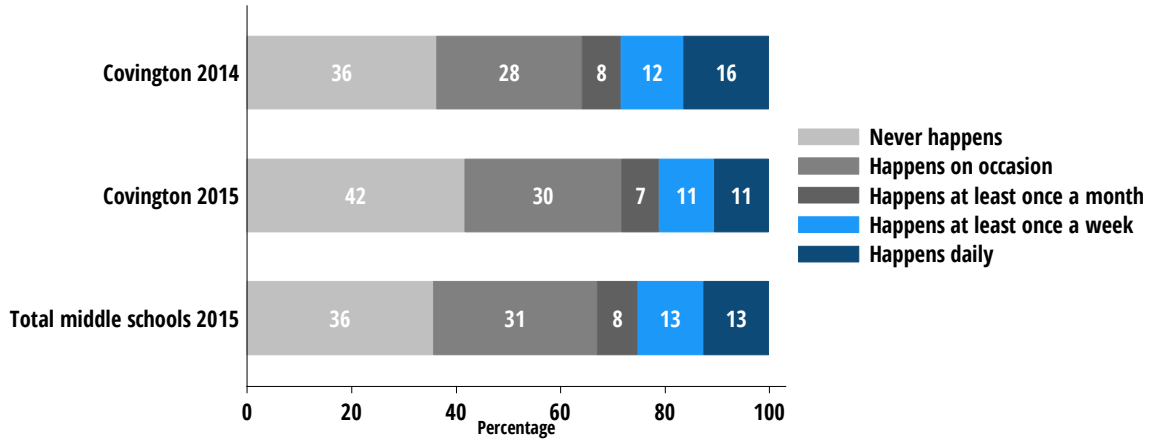
	Covington 2015	Percentage point change from 2014*	All middle schools 2015
Coach or P.E. teacher	63%	5	74%
Science class	39%	-3	44%
Health class	33%	-7	41%
Another class	48%	6	47%
Special school event about tobacco, drugs, alcohol, or violence	35%	-13	41%
Guidance counselor	22%	-3	28%
School nurse	18%	-3	21%
Student support group meetings at school	20%	-2	16%
Afterschool program	11%	-2	13%
Other school source not mentioned above	17%	-9	20%

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

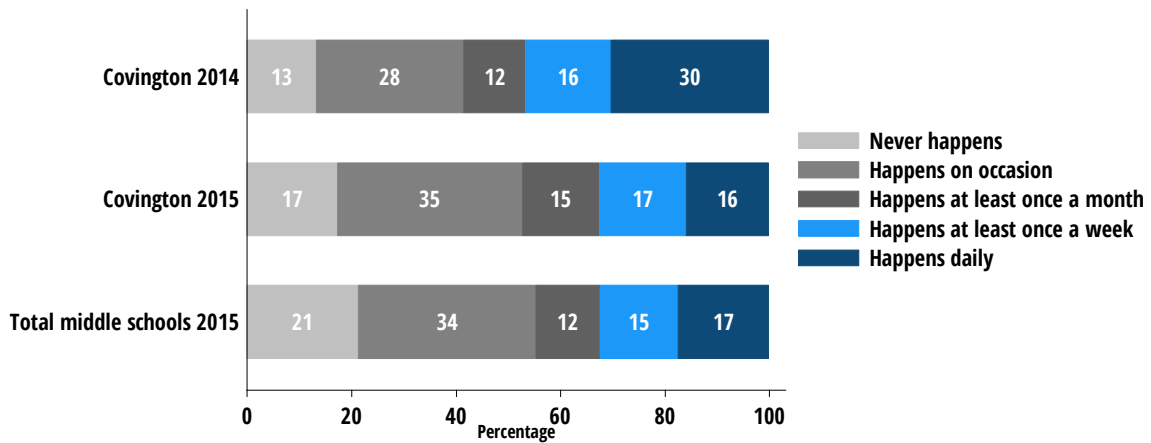
* Positive percentage point changes indicate more students reported having received information on drugs, alcohol, or violence from school sources in 2014–2015 than in 2013–2014.

SCHOOL SAFETY ITEMS

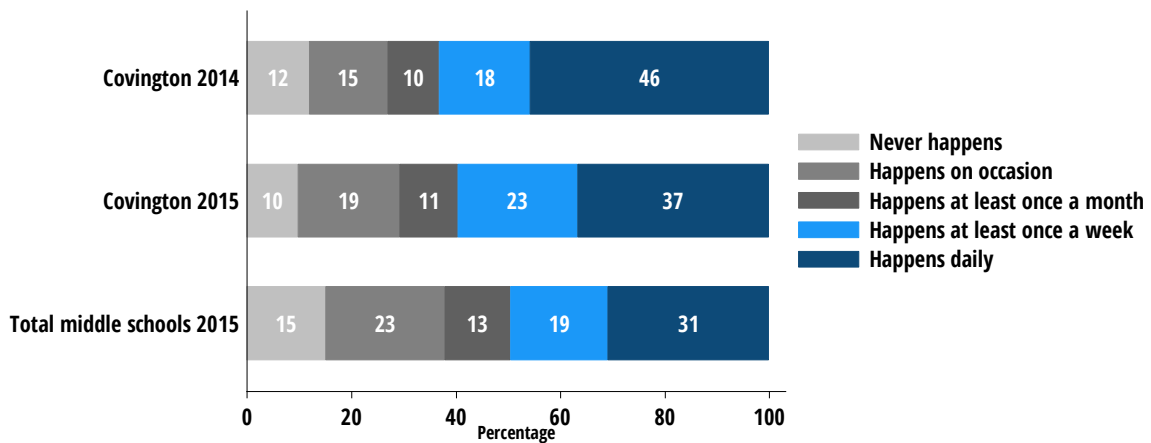
Q15a: How often does racial tension occur at your school?



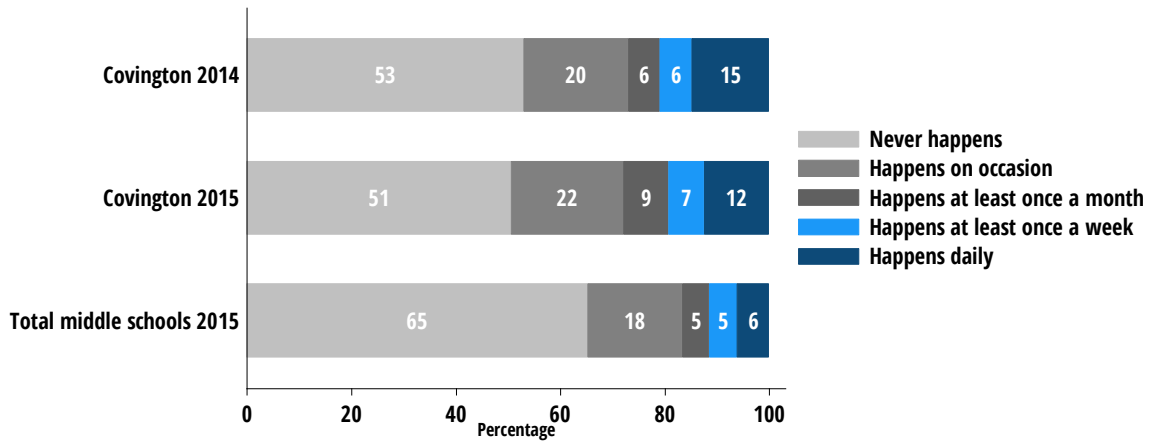
Q15b: How often does student bullying occur at your school?



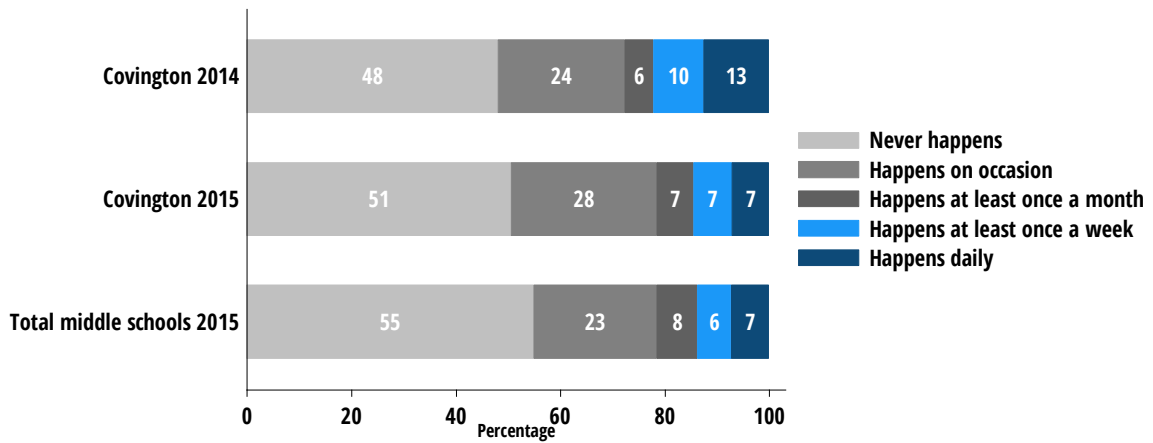
Q15c: How often do acts of disrespect for teachers occur at your school?



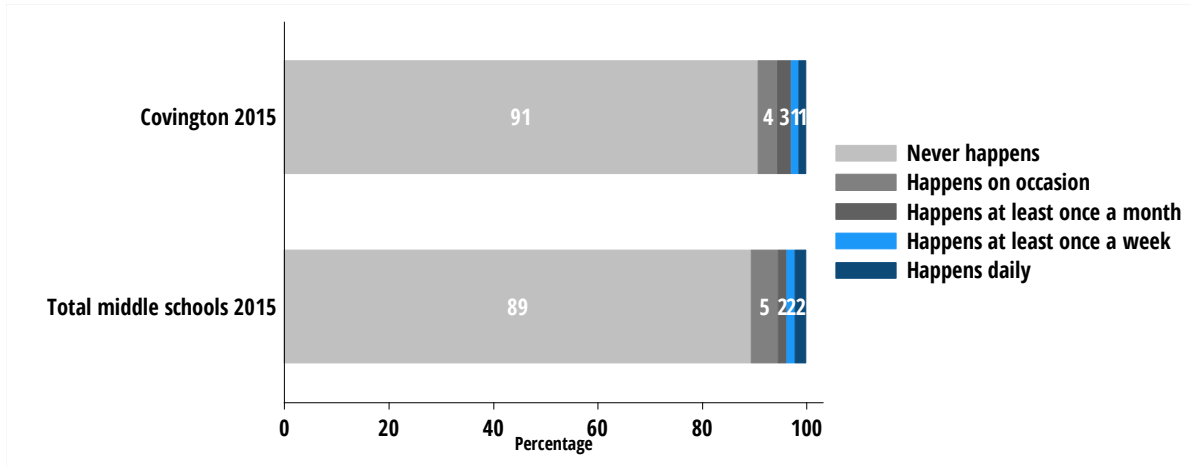
Q15d: How often do gang activities occur at your school?



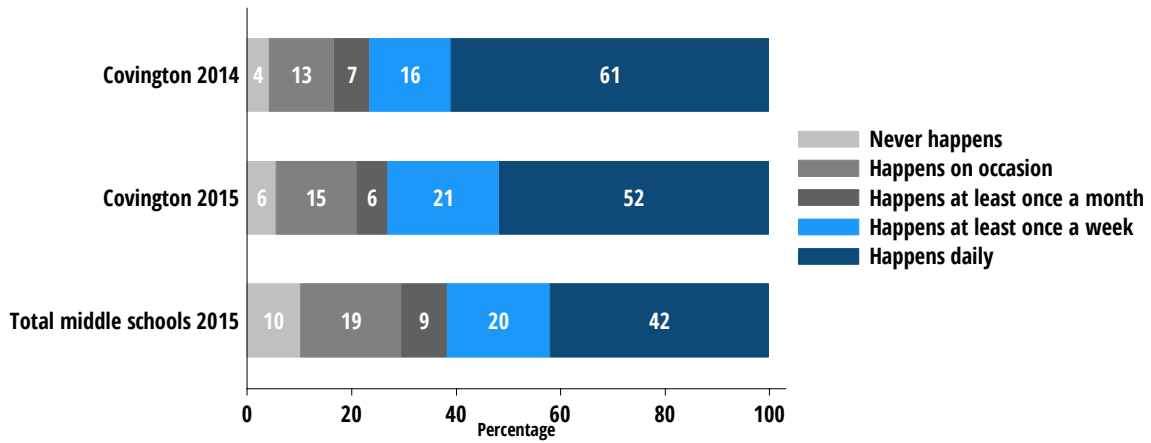
Q15e: How often have you experienced any type of bullying at your school?



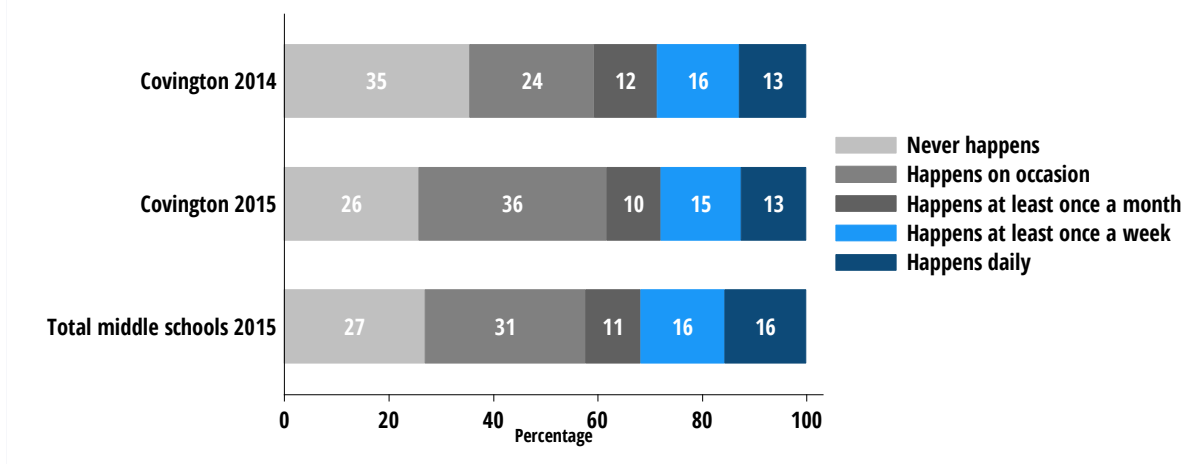
Q15f: How often were you absent because you did not feel safe on the way to/from school?



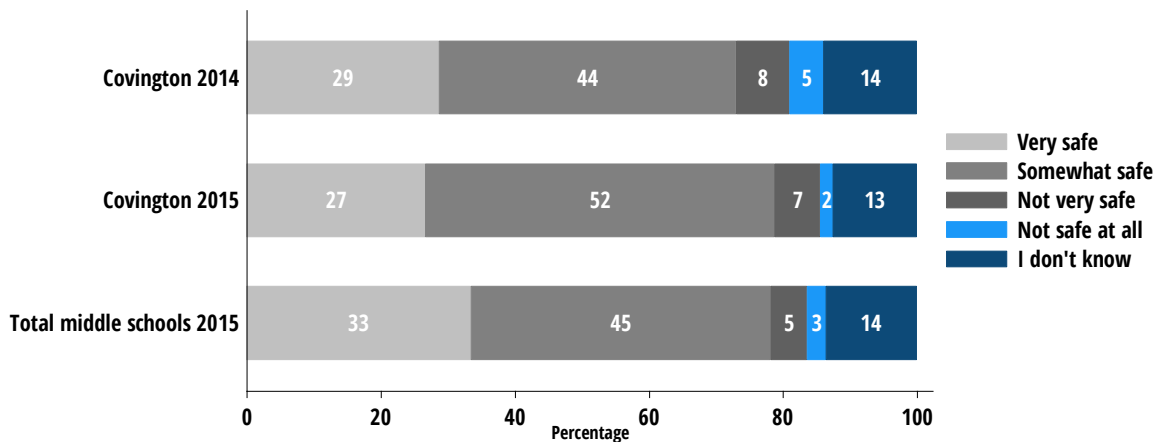
Q15g: How often does your teacher have to interrupt class to deal with student misbehavior?



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?

	Covington 2015	Percentage point change from 2014*	All middle schools 2015
Was sick	60%	-1	54%
Had to do something with family	37%	-2	33%
Was too tired	21%	-3	20%
Felt too sad or depressed to attend	14%	1	11%
Didn't have a way to get to school	12%	-3	11%
Wanted to hang out with friends	8%	-4	10%
Didn't get along well with teachers	12%	-1	9%
Didn't feel safe at school	5%	-6	6%
Didn't feel safe on the way to/from school	4%	-3	6%
Had to go to work	2%	-2	4%

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 2014–2015 than in 2013–2014.

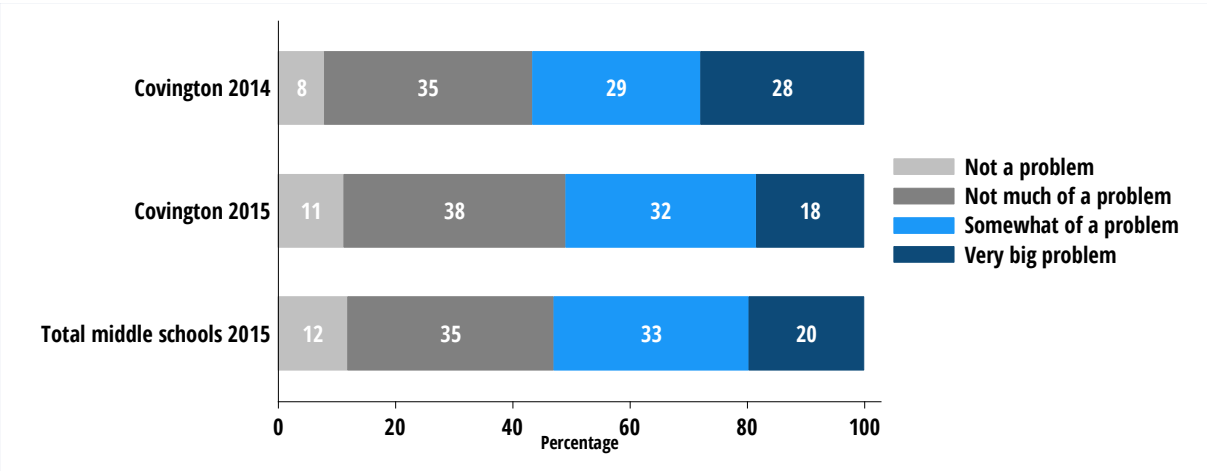
Q10: During this school year, have you experienced any of the following types of bullying at school?

	Covington 2015	Percentage point change from 2014*	All middle schools 2015
Verbal	32%	-5	31%
Social	35%	-2	29%
Physical	22%	-7	21%
Racial or ethnic harassment	14%	-2	16%
Cyber bullying	9%	-2	10%
Sexual harassment	9%	-4	9%
Hurtful or controlling dating behavior	8%	-1	6%
Written	5%	-2	6%
Hazing/Initiation	7%	0	6%

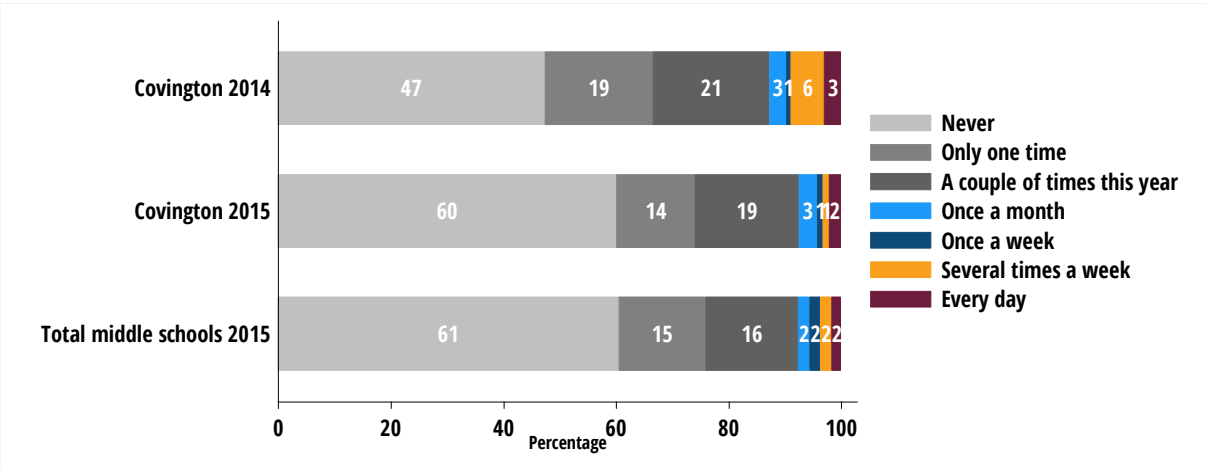
Note. Percentages may sum to more than 100% because respondents were allowed to choose multiple items.

* Negative percentage point changes indicate fewer students reported experiencing types of bullying in 2014–2015 than in 2013–2014.

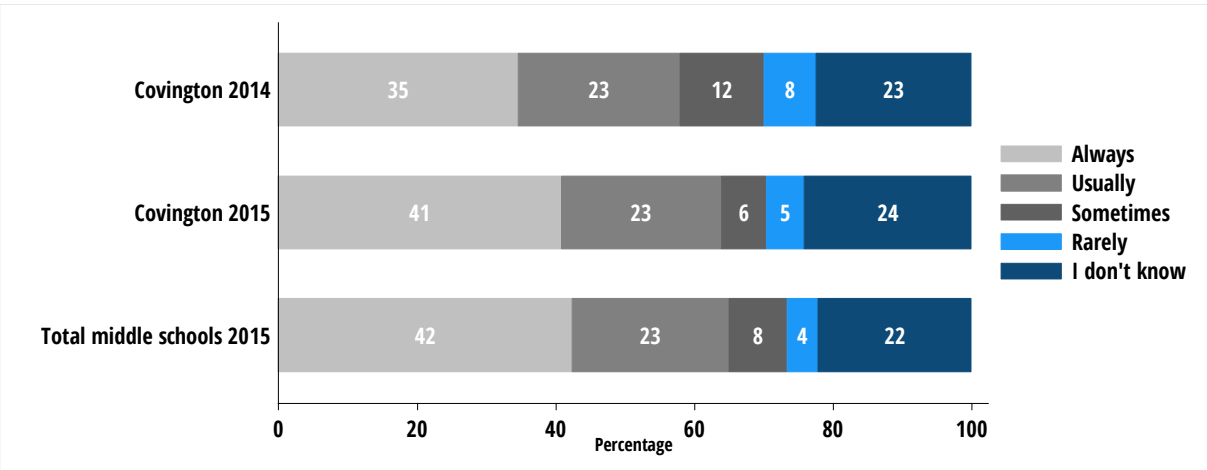
Q12: How big a problem do you think bullying is at your school?



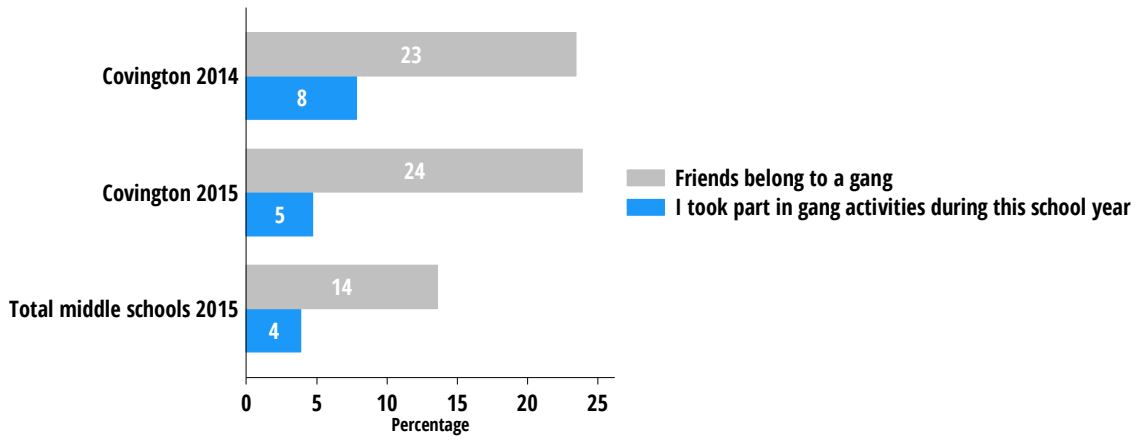
Q11: During this school year, how often have you or your close friends been physically harmed or threatened with physical harm by another student at your school?



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



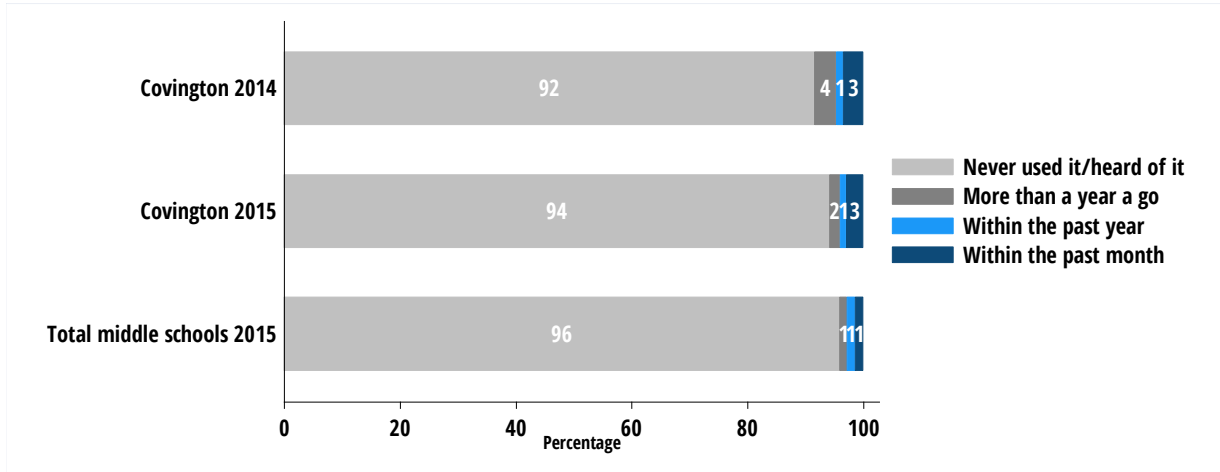
Q16-Q17: Do any of your friends belong to a gang? During this school year, did you take part in any gang activities?



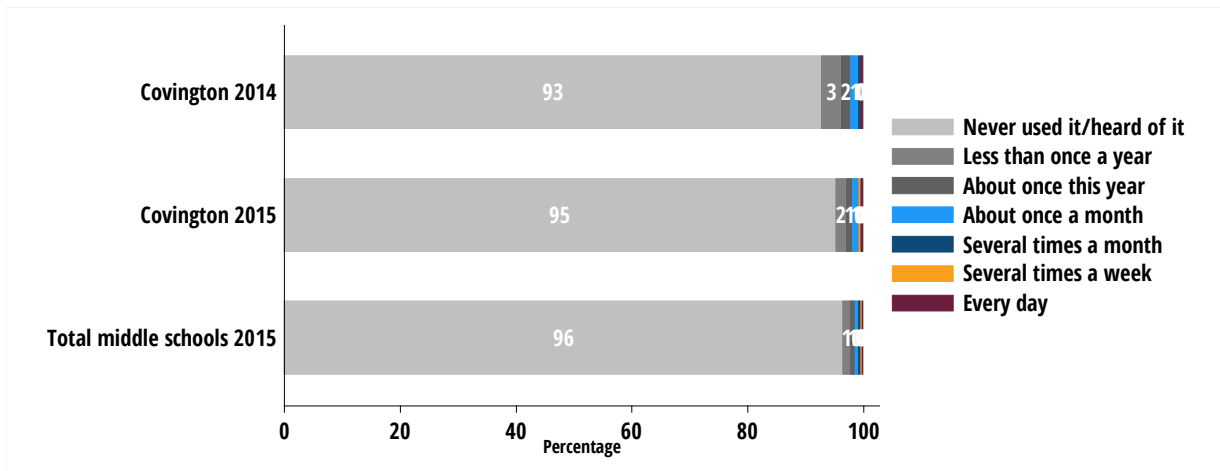
SUBSTANCE USE ITEMS

TOBACCO:

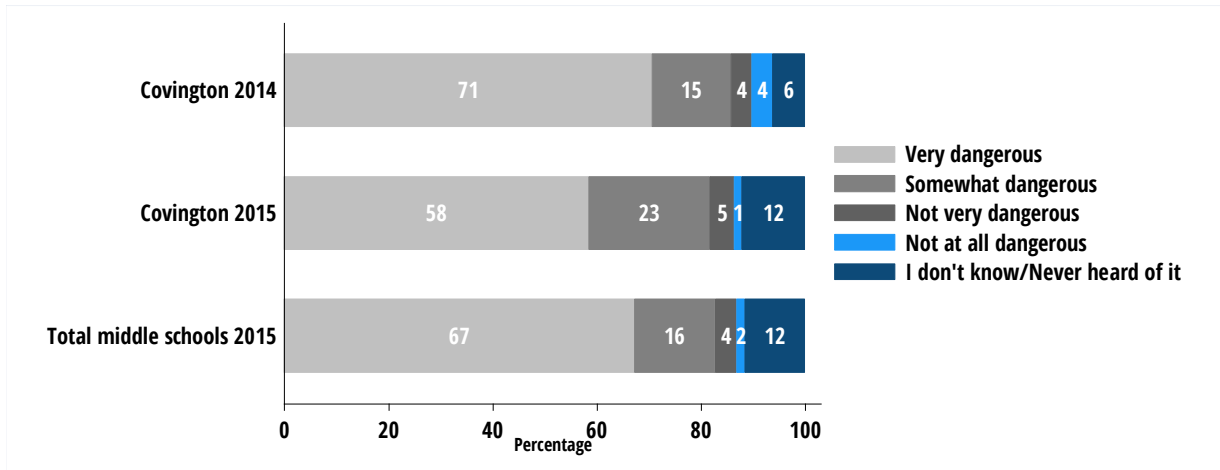
Q20a: What is the most recently you have used tobacco?



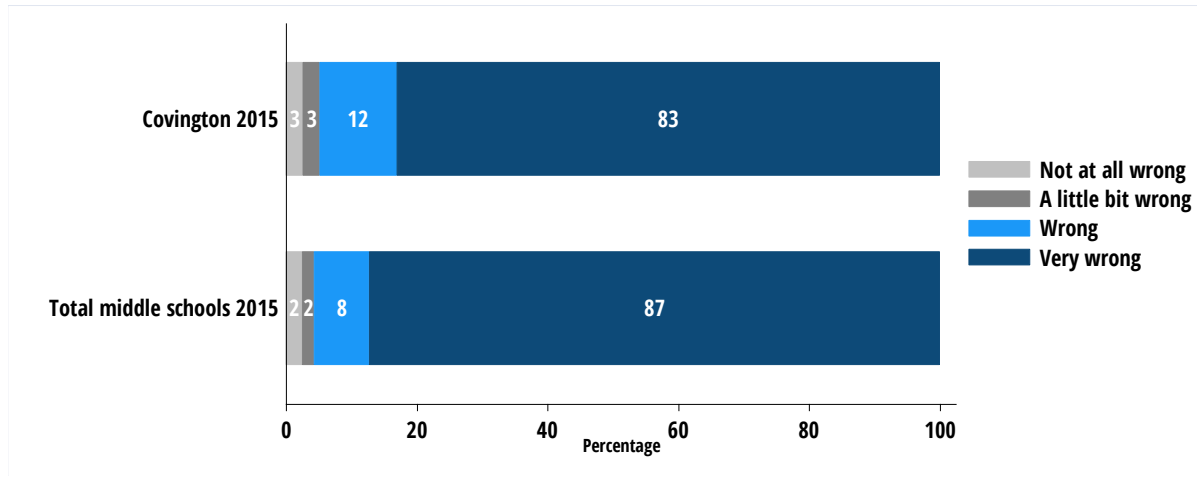
Q21a: During this year, how often did you use tobacco?



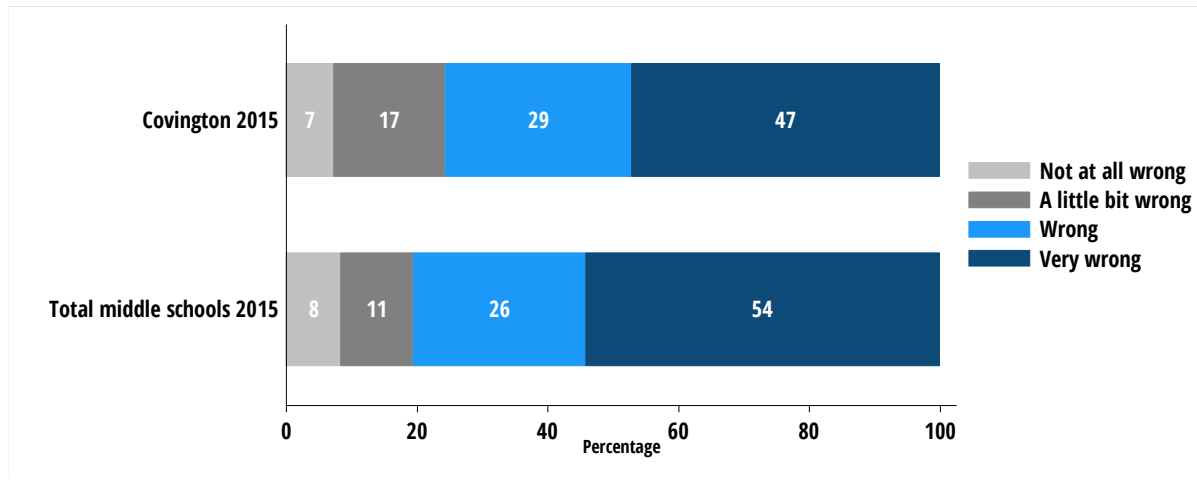
Q25a: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use tobacco?



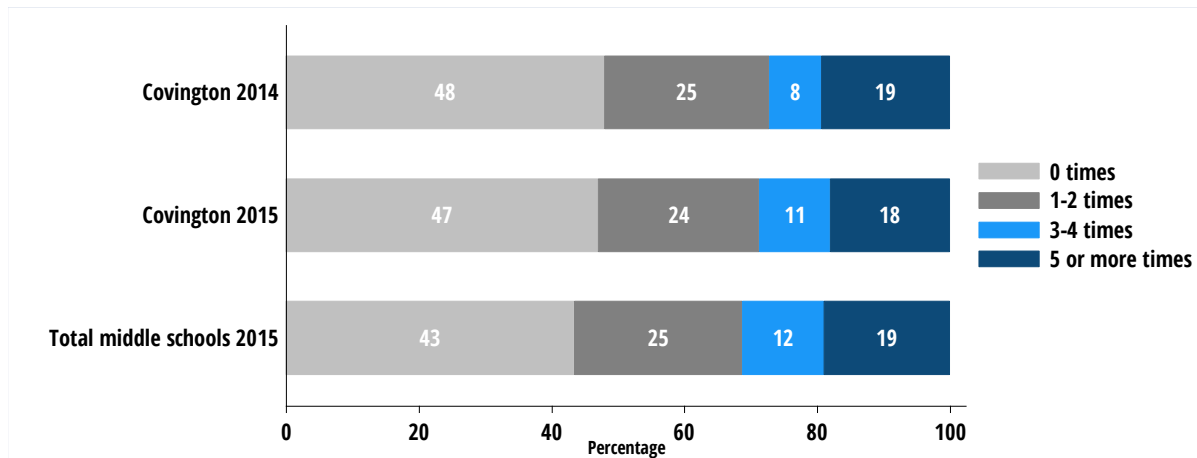
Q26a: How wrong do your parents feel it would be if you used tobacco?



Q27a: How wrong do your friends feel it would be if you used tobacco?

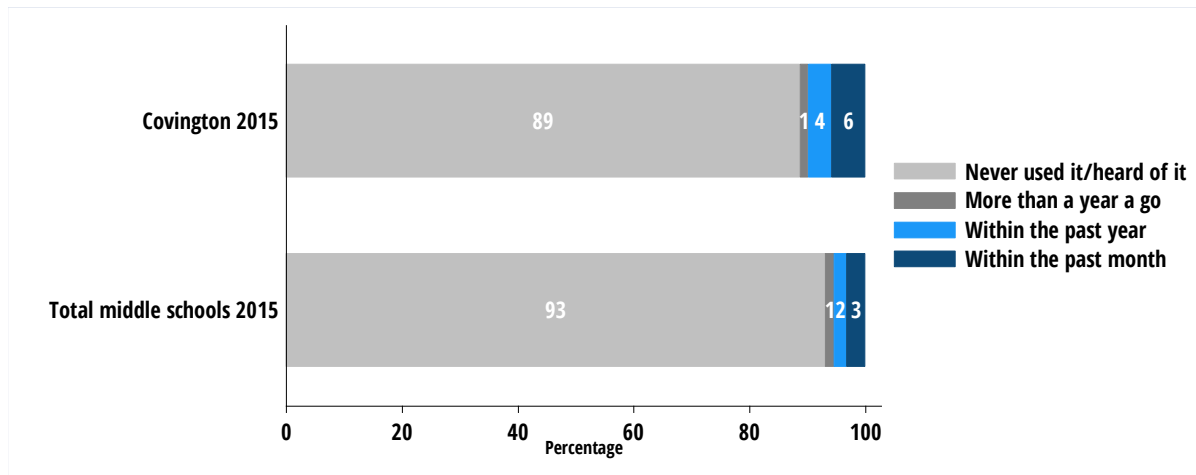


Q28g. During the school year, how many times have you experienced advertisements (TV, radio, billboard, magazine, Internet, etc.) for tobacco products?

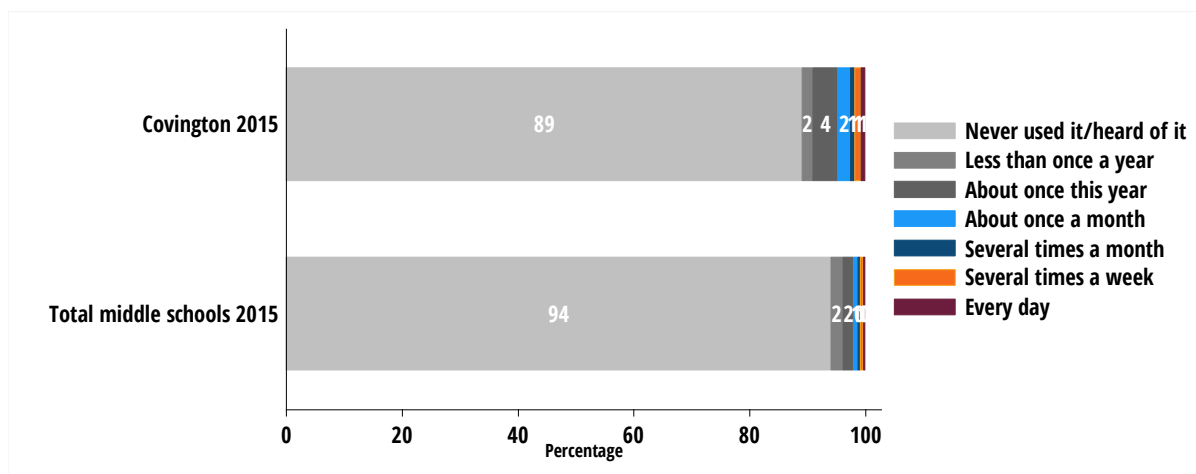


E-CIGARETTES:

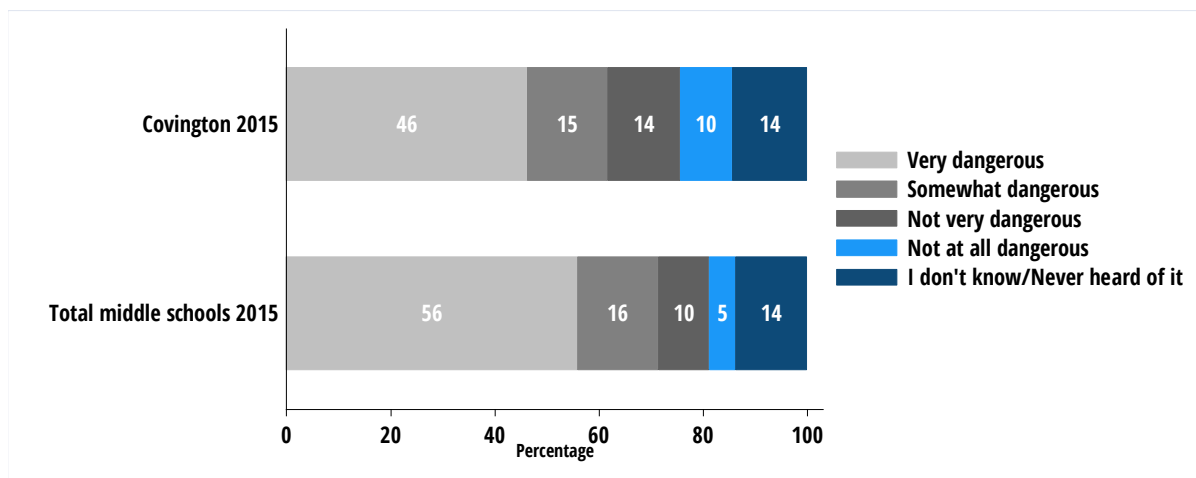
Q20b: What is the most recently you have used e-cigarettes?



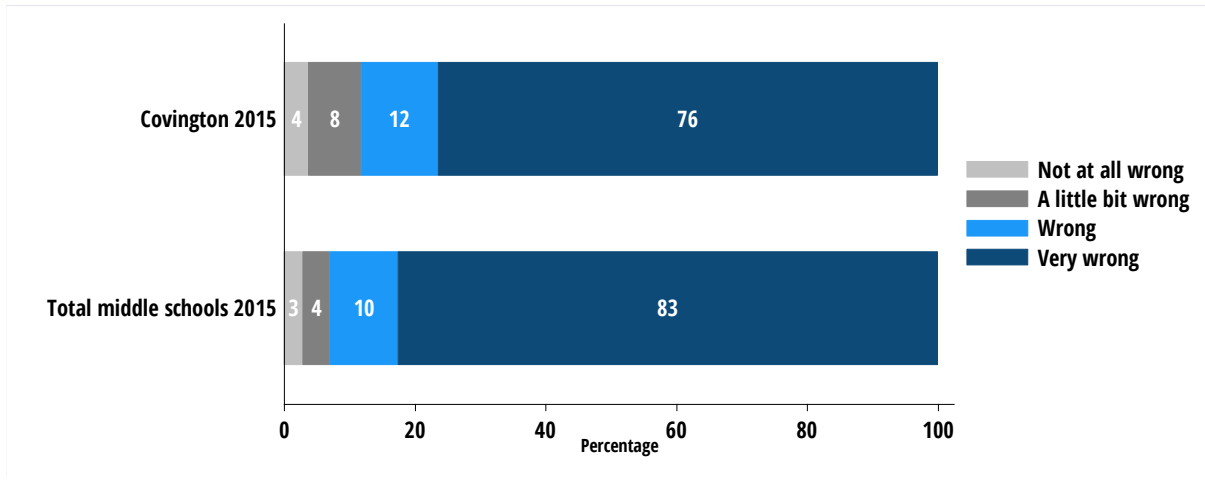
Q21b: During this school year, how often did you use e-cigarettes?



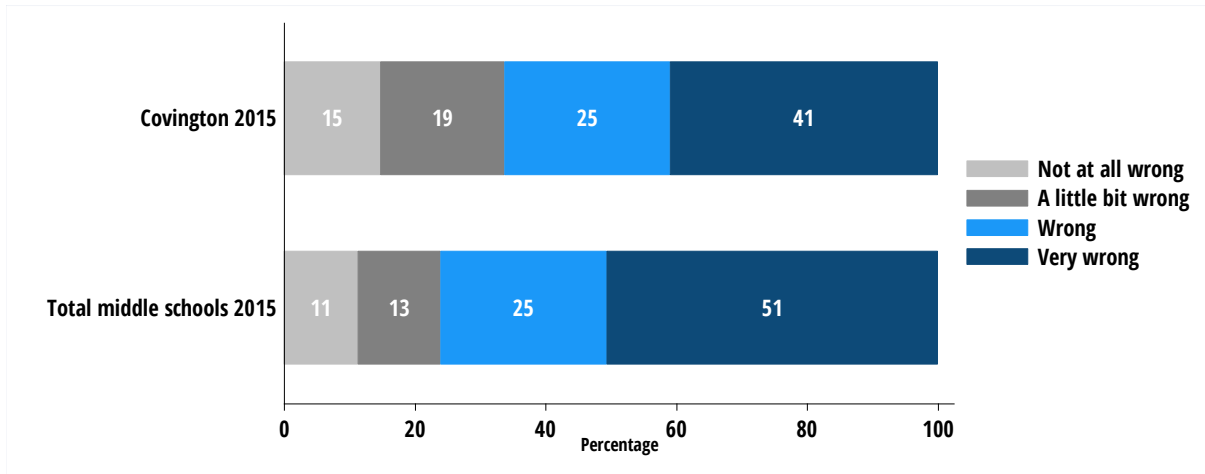
Q25b: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use e-cigarettes?



Q26b: How wrong do your parents feel it would be if you used e-cigarettes?

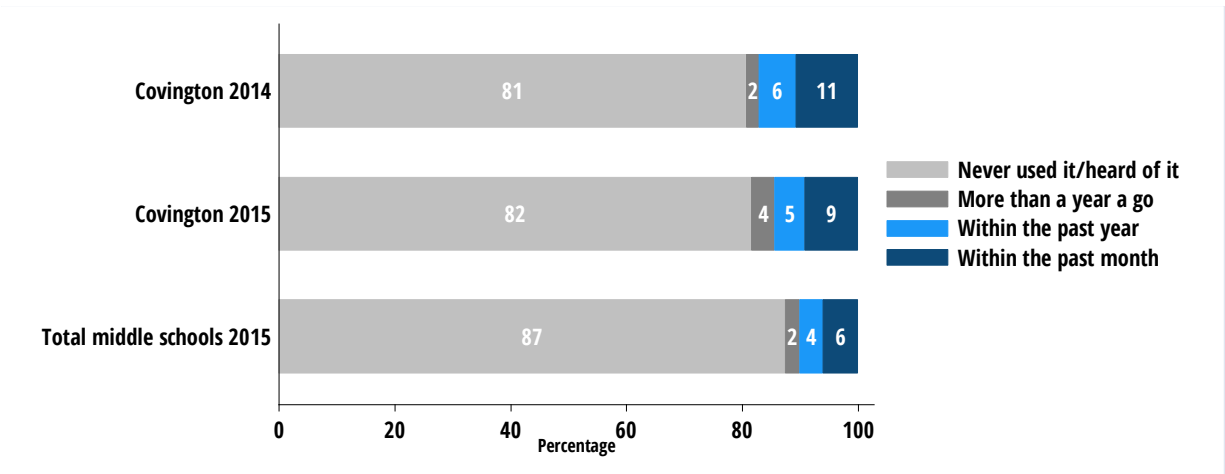


Q27b: How wrong do your friends feel it would be if you used e-cigarettes?

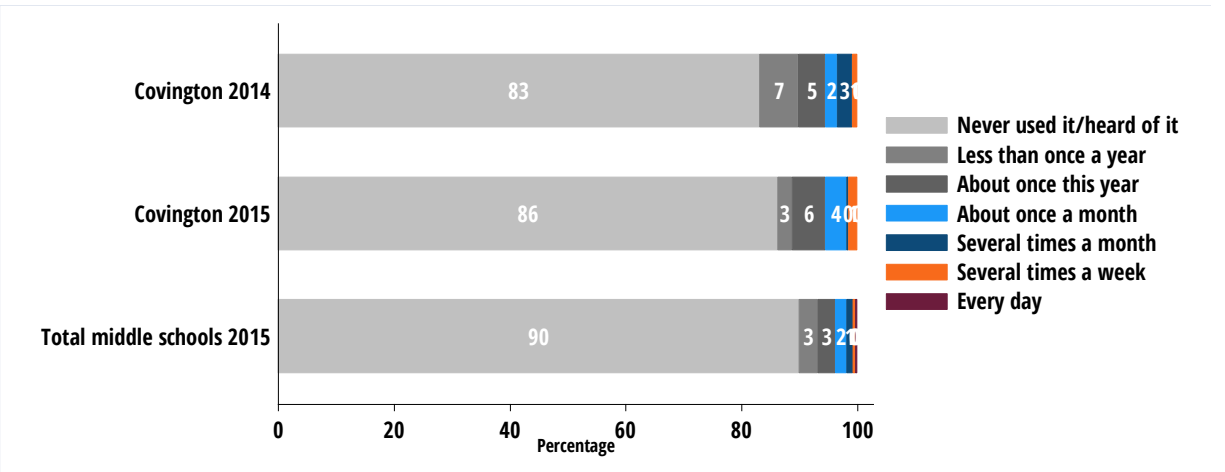


ALCOHOL:

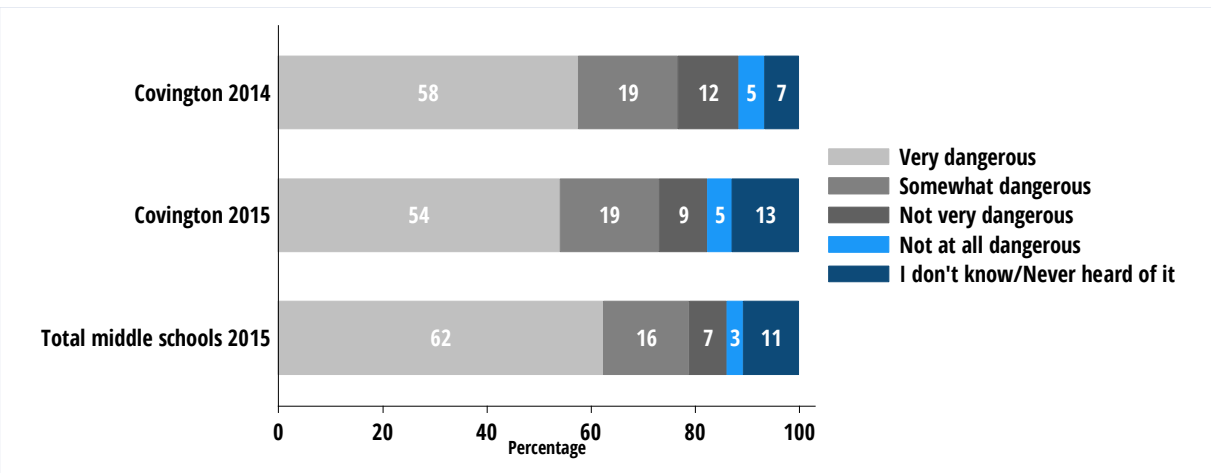
Q20c: What is the most recently you have used alcohol?



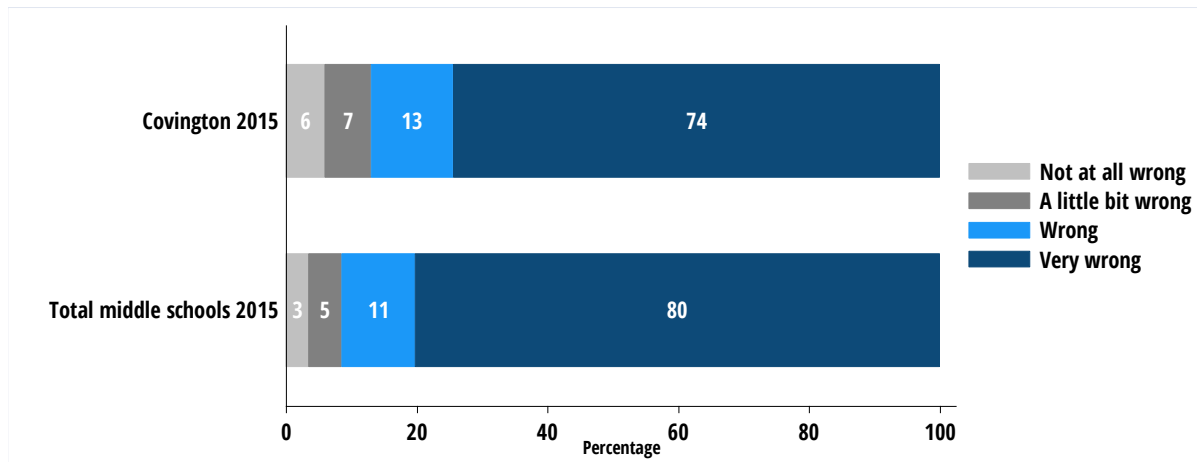
Q21c: During this year, how often did you use alcohol?



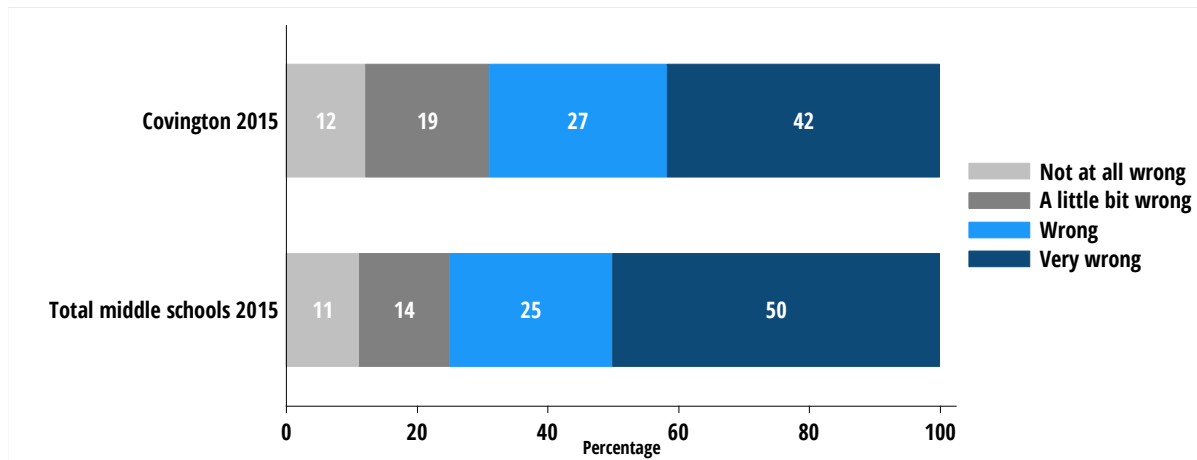
Q25c: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use alcohol?



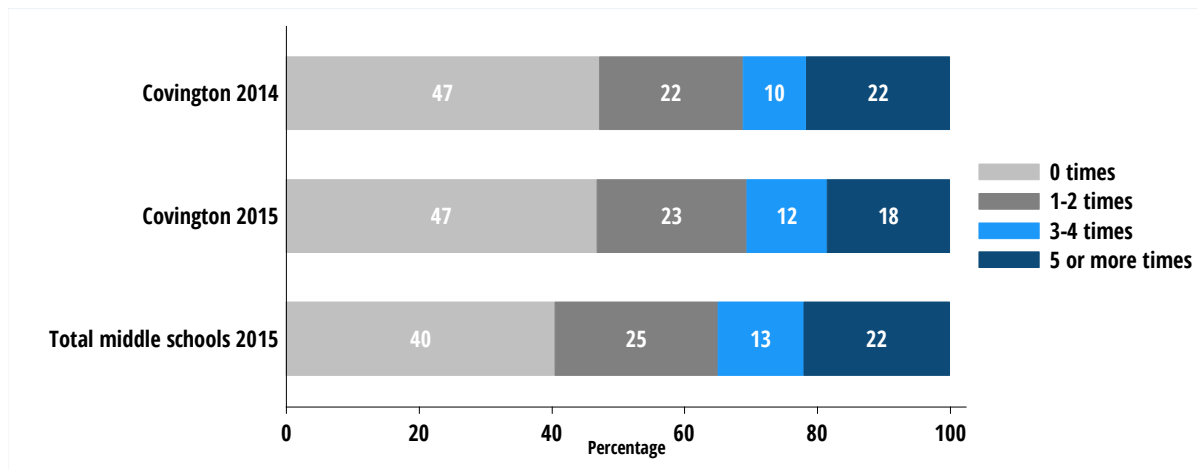
Q26c: How wrong do your parents feel it would be if you used alcohol?



Q27c: How wrong do your friends feel it would be if you used alcohol?

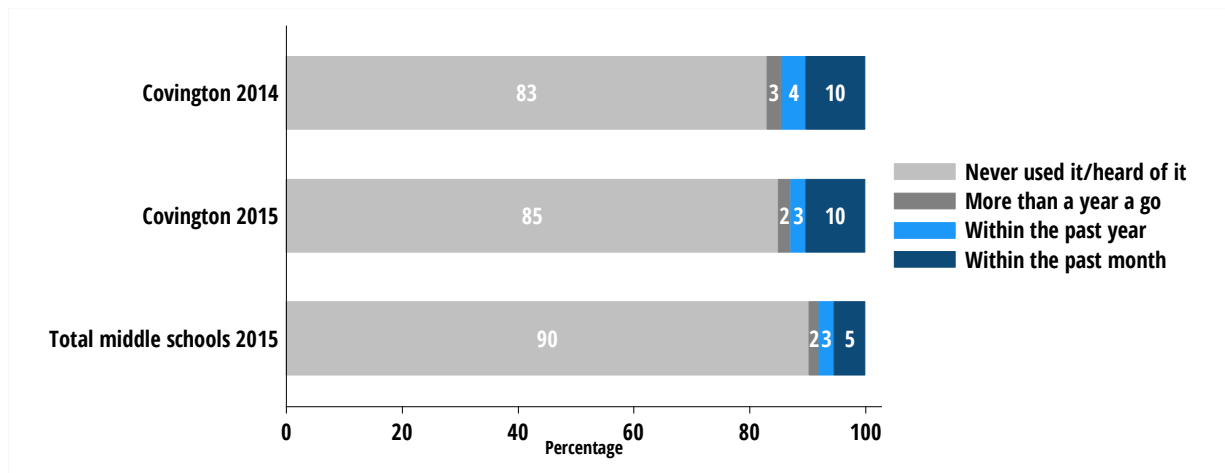


Q28f. During the school year, how many times have you experienced advertisements (TV, radio, billboard, magazine, Internet, etc.) for alcohol products?

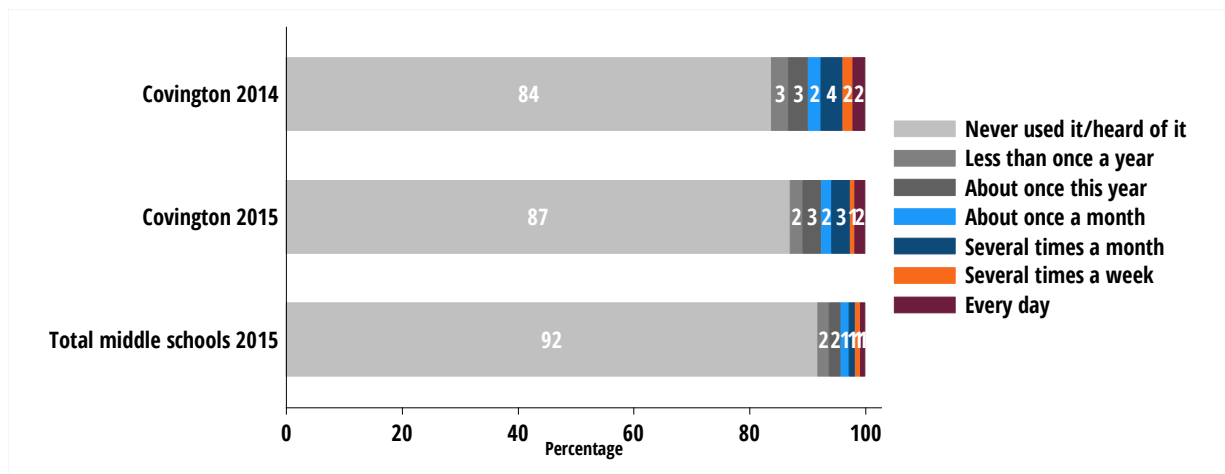


MARIJUANA:

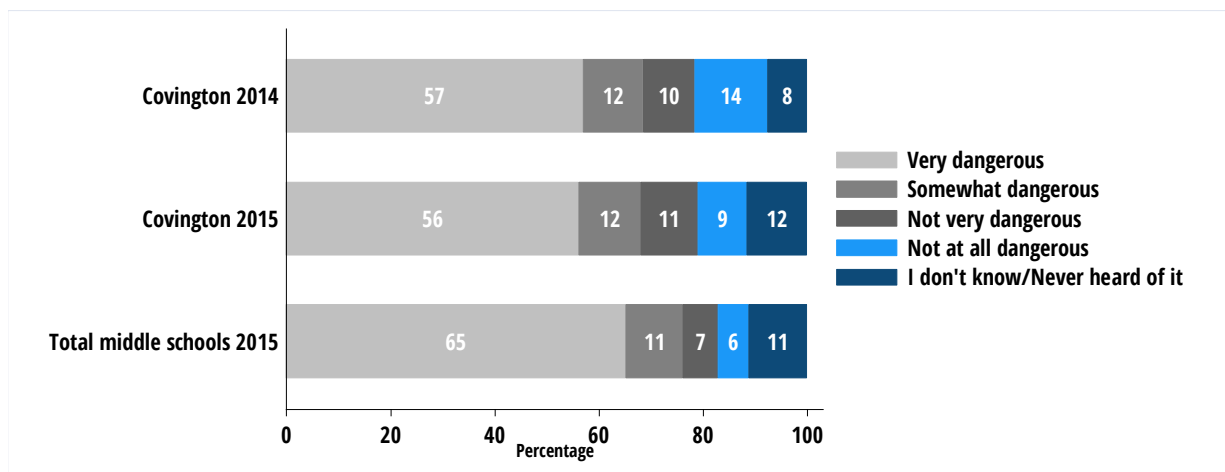
Q20d: What is the most recently you have used marijuana?



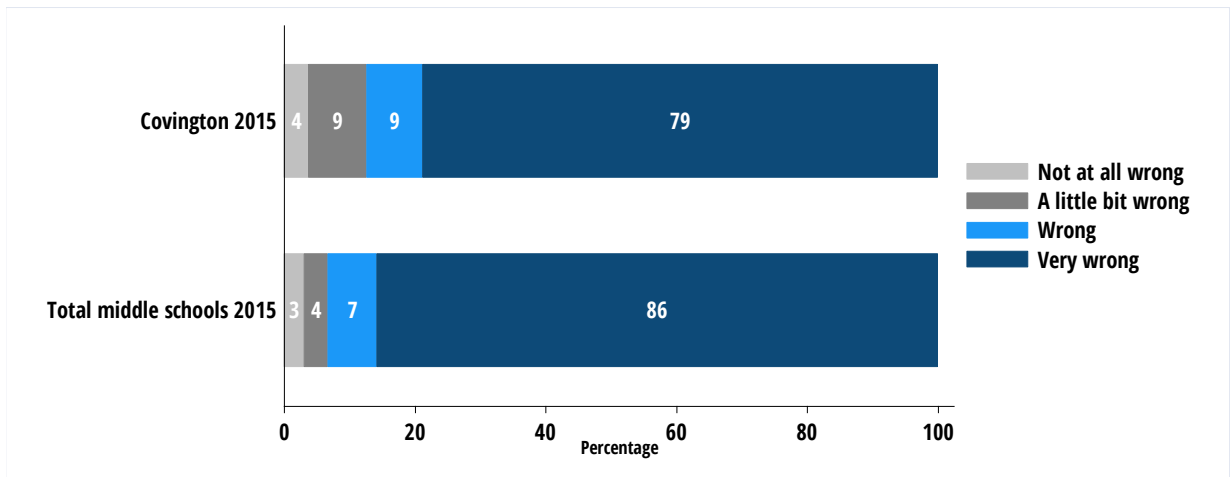
Q21d: During this year, how often did you use marijuana?



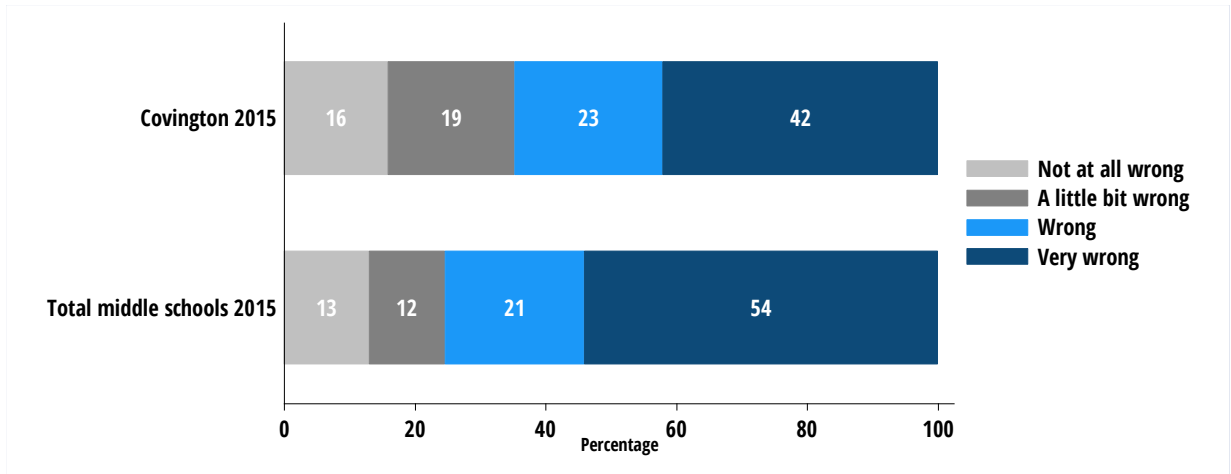
Q25d: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use marijuana?



Q26d: How wrong do your parents feel it would be if you used marijuana?

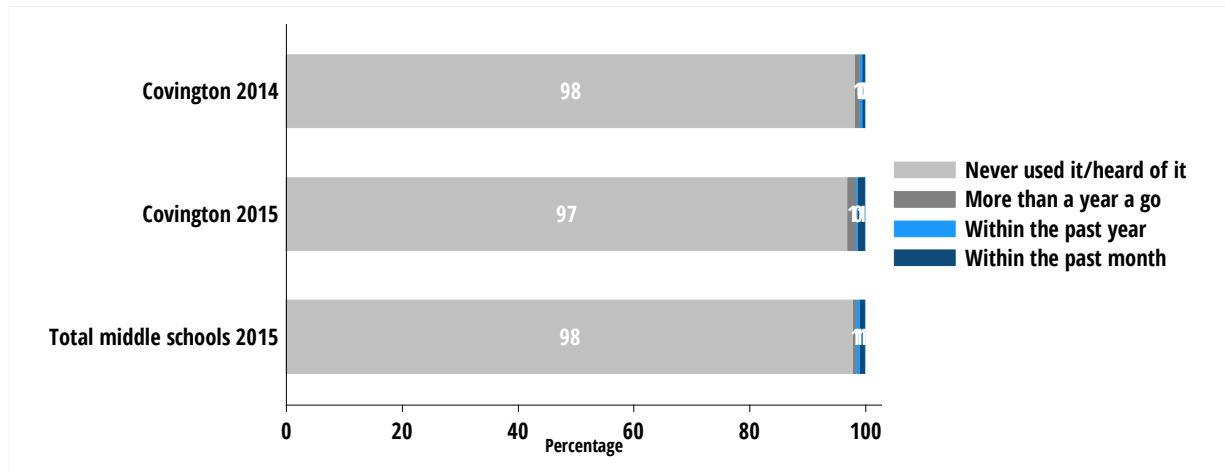


Q27d: How wrong do your friends feel it would be if you used marijuana?

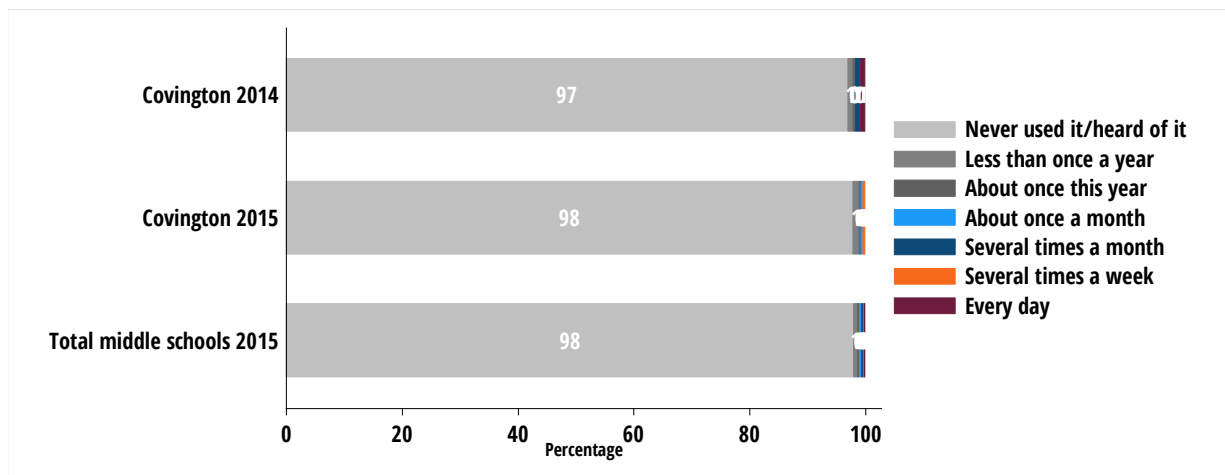


K2 OR SPICE:

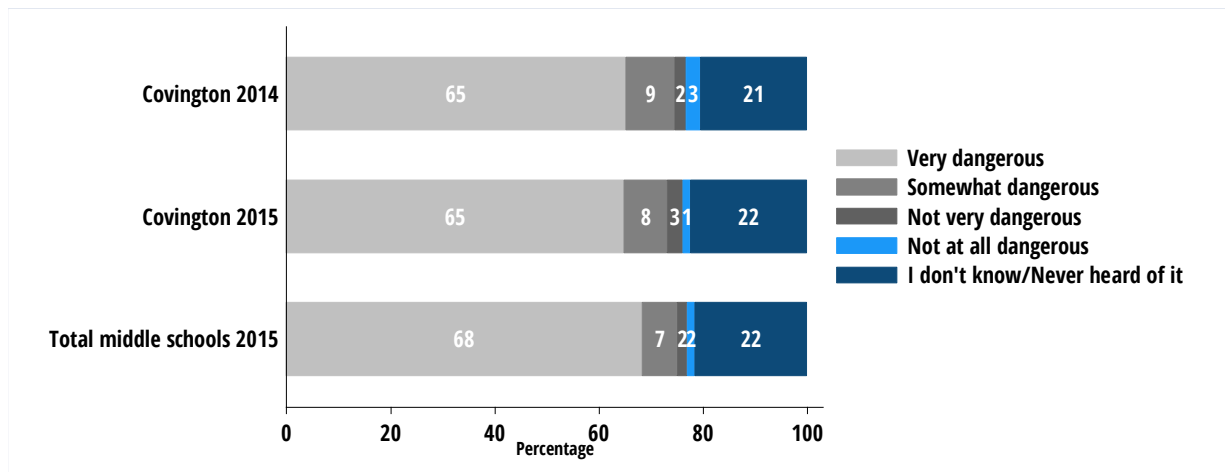
Q20e: What is the most recently you have used K2 or Spice?



Q21e: During this year, how often did you use K2 or Spice?

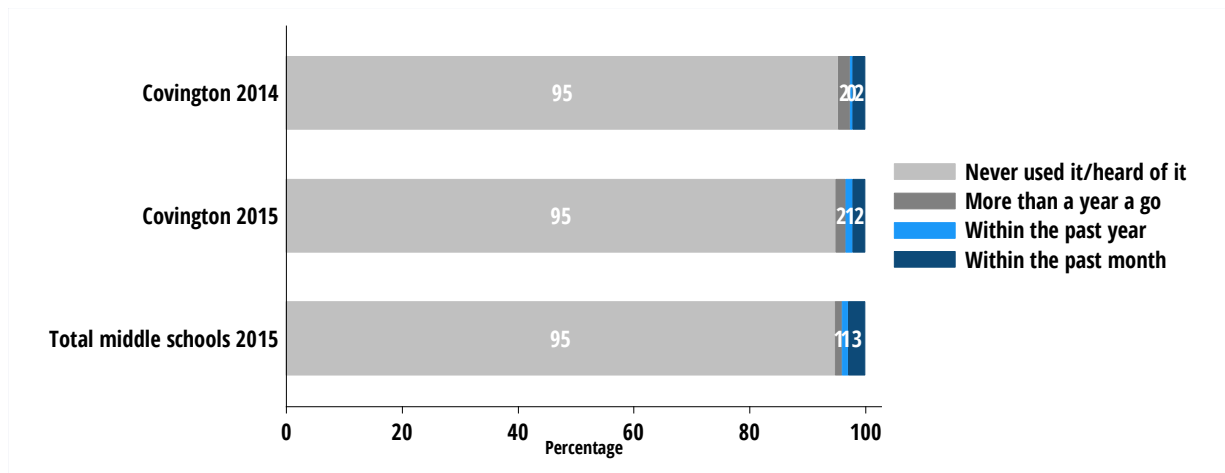


Q25e: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use K2 or Spice?

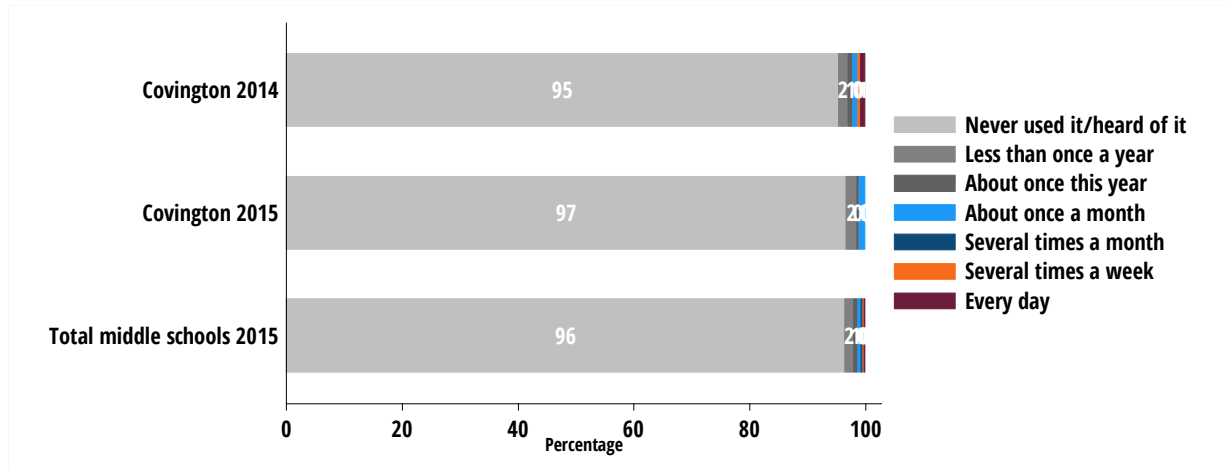


INHALANTS:

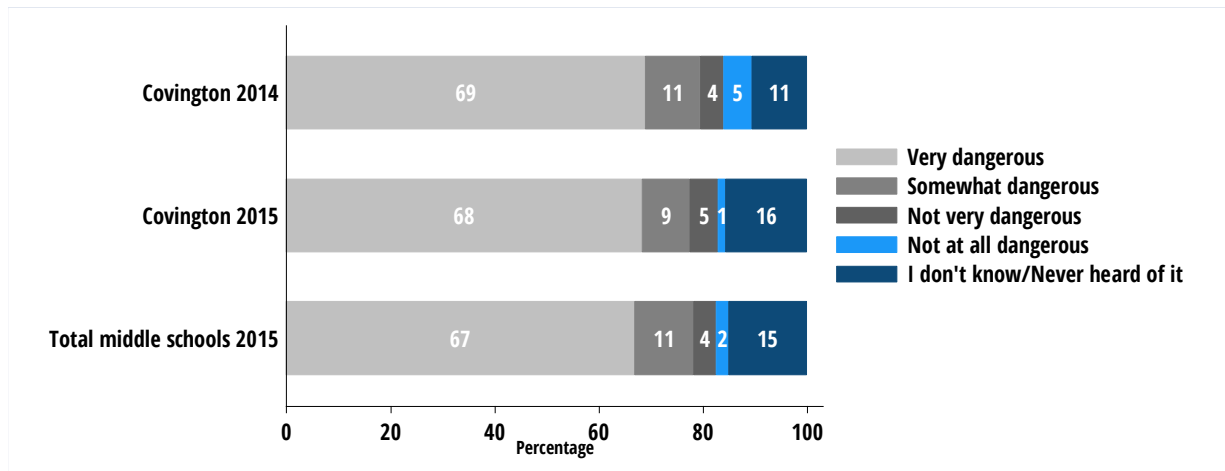
Q20f: What is the most recently you have used inhalants?



Q21f: During this year, how often did you use inhalants?

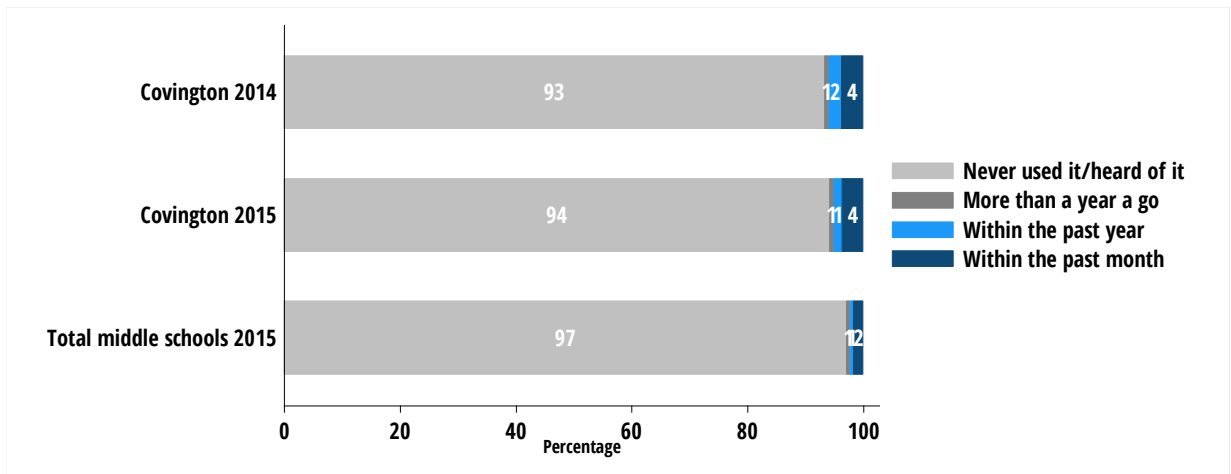


Q25f: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use inhalants?

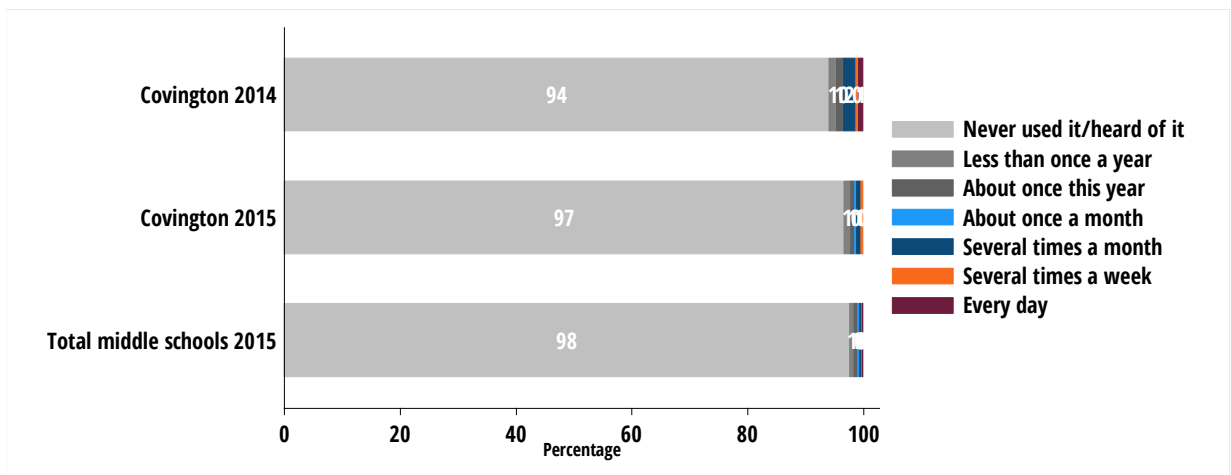


OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDICATION:

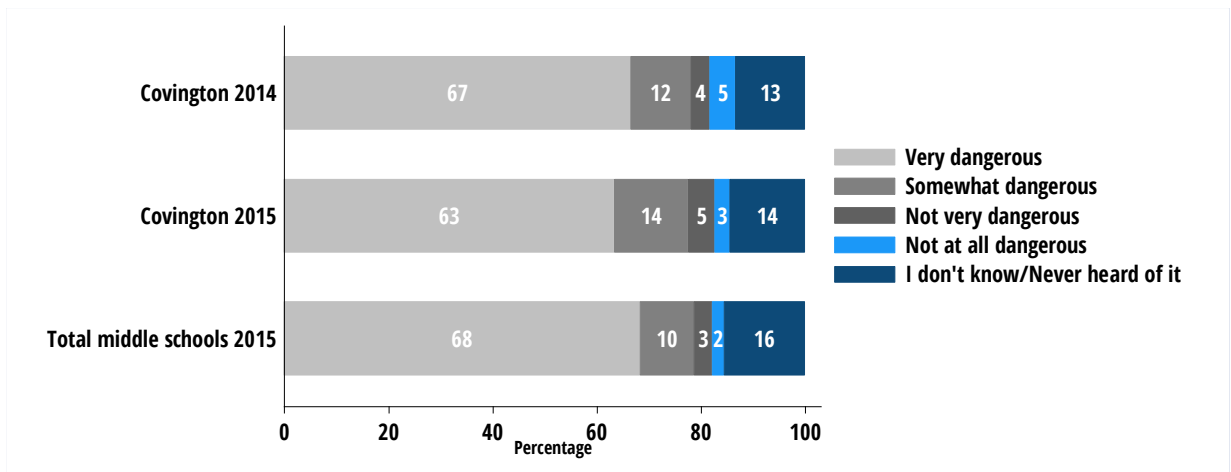
Q20g: What is the most recently you have used over-the-counter medication to get high?



Q21g: During this year, how often did you use over-the-counter medication to get high?

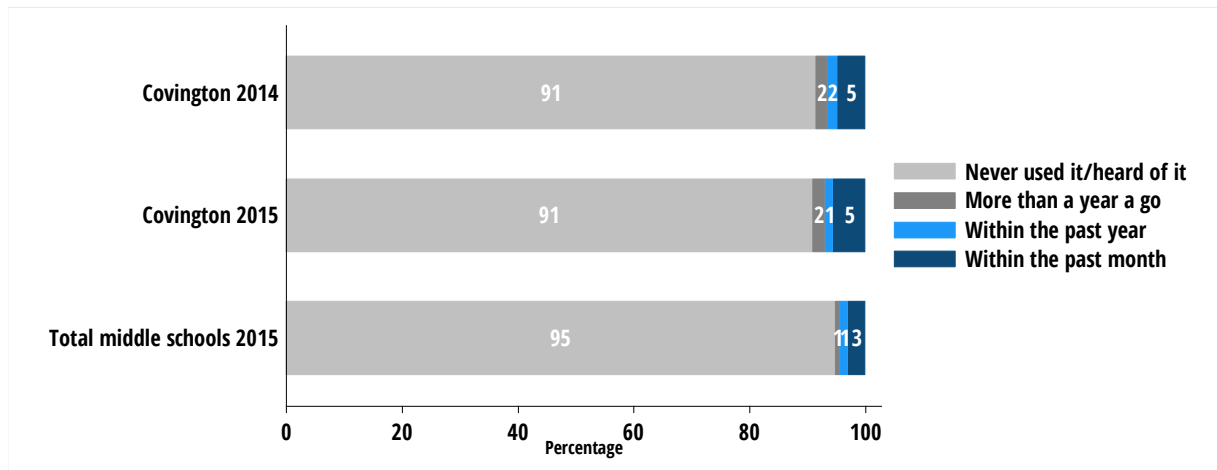


Q25g: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use over-the-counter medication to get high?

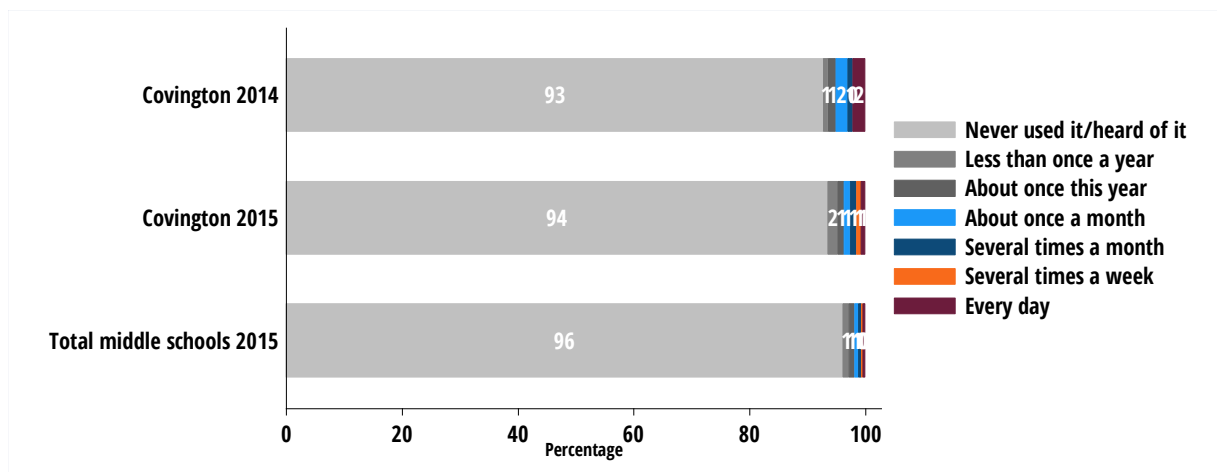


PRESCRIPTION DRUGS:

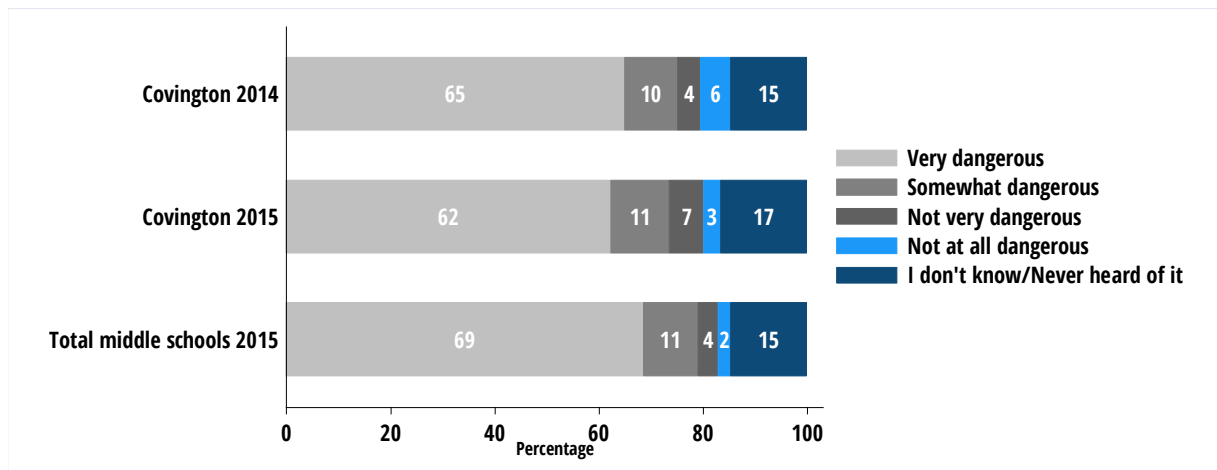
Q20h: What is the most recently you have used prescription drugs that were not prescribed to you to get high?



Q21h: During this year, how often did you use prescription drugs that were not prescribed to you to get high?

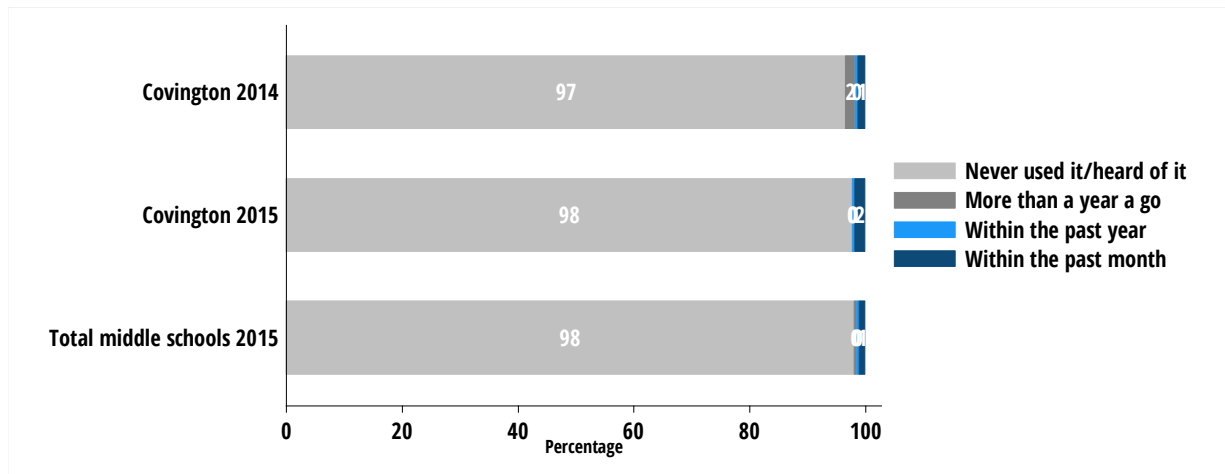


Q25h: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use prescription drugs that are not prescribed to you to get high?

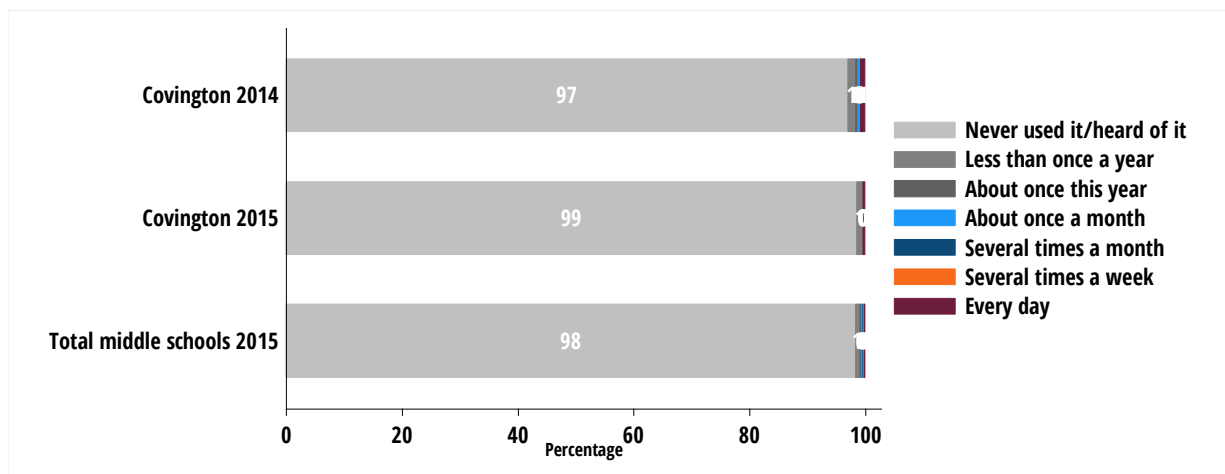


STERIODS OR PERFORMANCE-ENHANCING DRUGS:

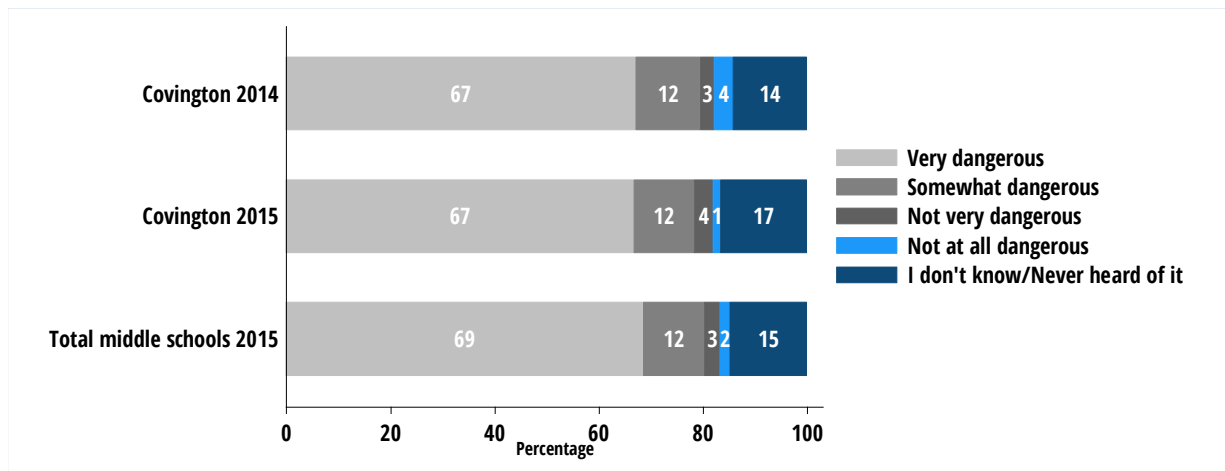
Q20i: What is the most recently you have used steroids or performance-enhancing drugs?



Q21i: During this year, how often did you use steroids or performance-enhancing drugs?

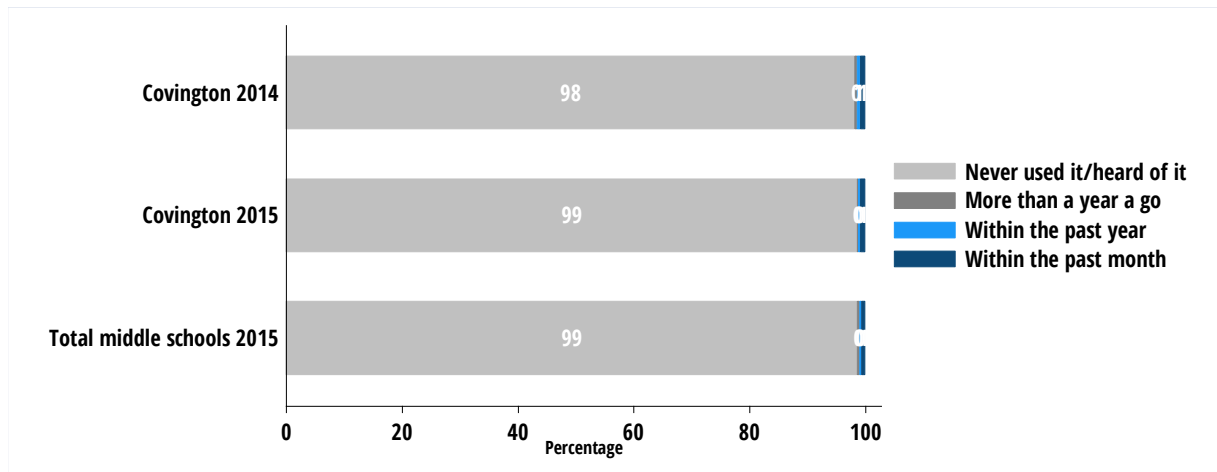


Q25i: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use steroids or performance-enhancing drugs?

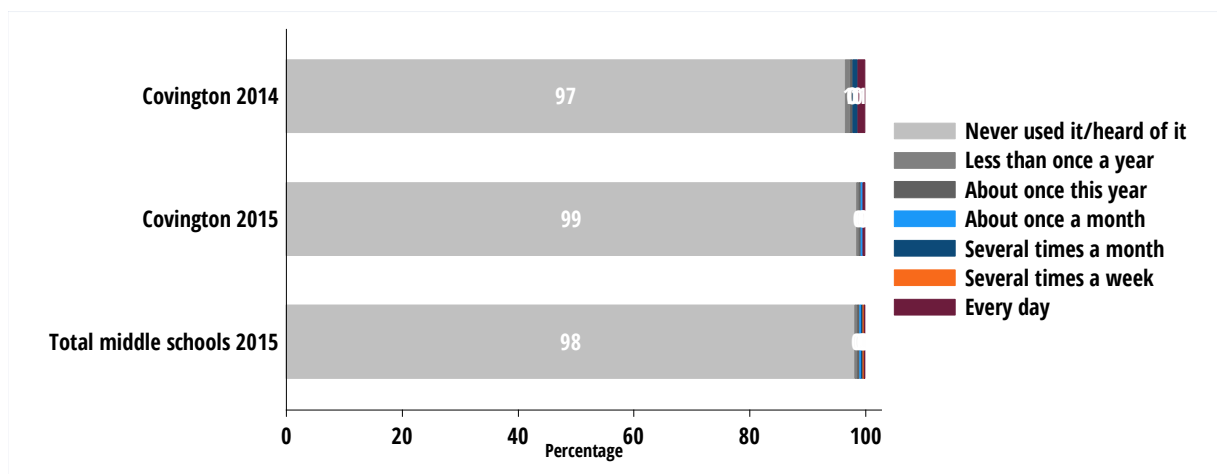


OTHER ILLEGAL DRUGS:

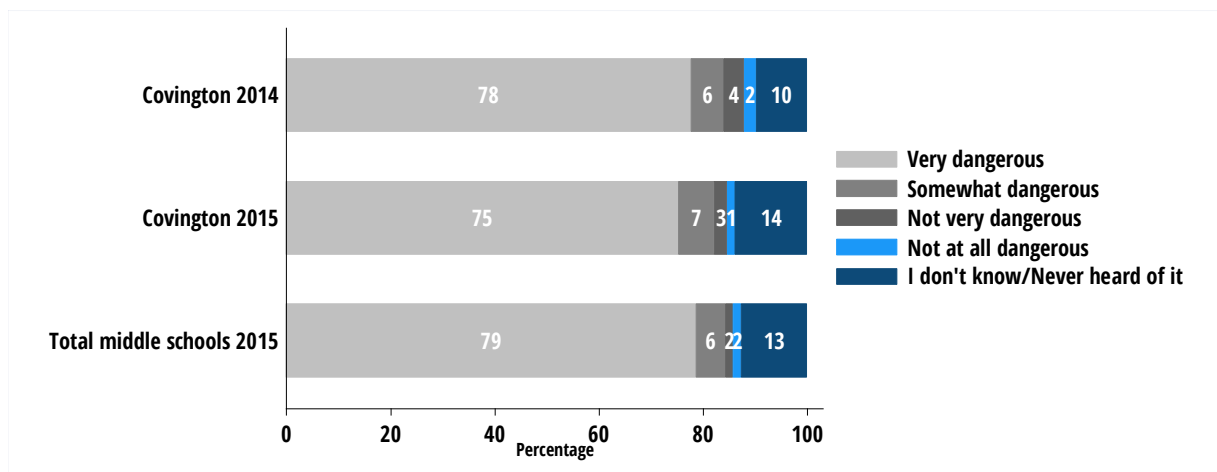
Q20j-o: What is the most recently you have used other illegal drugs (e.g. cocaine, ecstasy, hallucinogens, heroin, methamphetamines)?



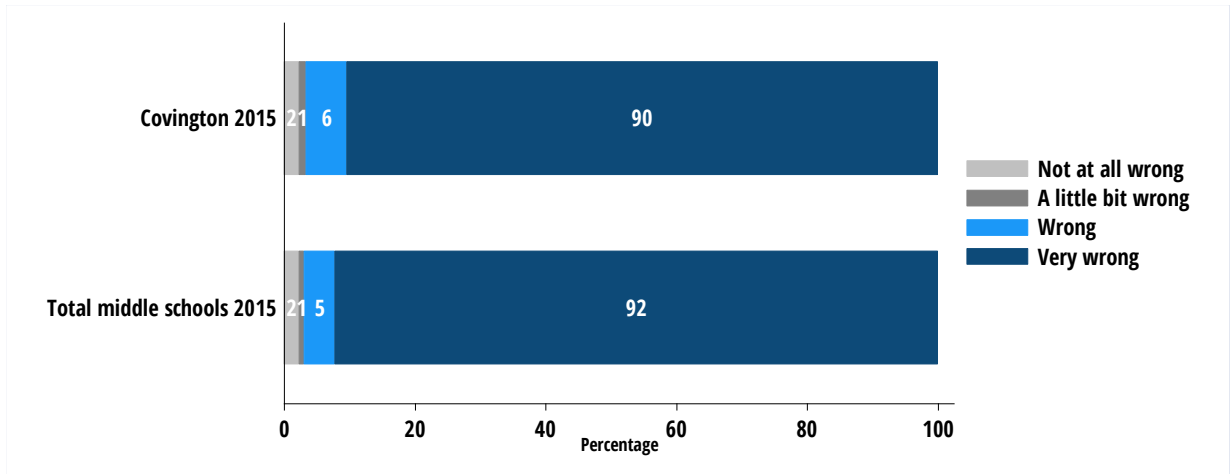
Q21j: During this school year, how often have you used other illegal drugs?



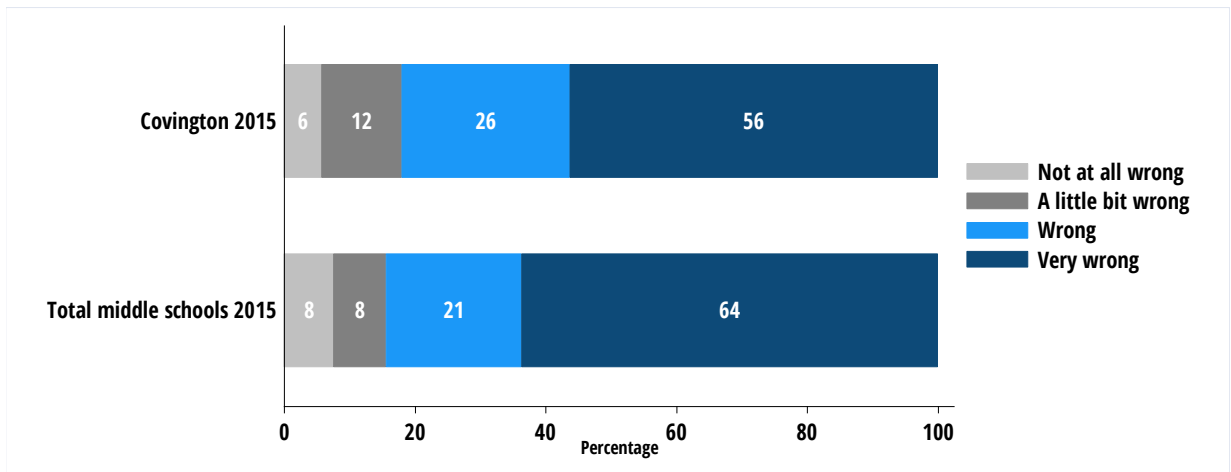
Q25j: How dangerous do you think it is for kids your age to use other illegal drugs?



Q26e: How wrong do your parents feel it would be if you used other illegal drugs?

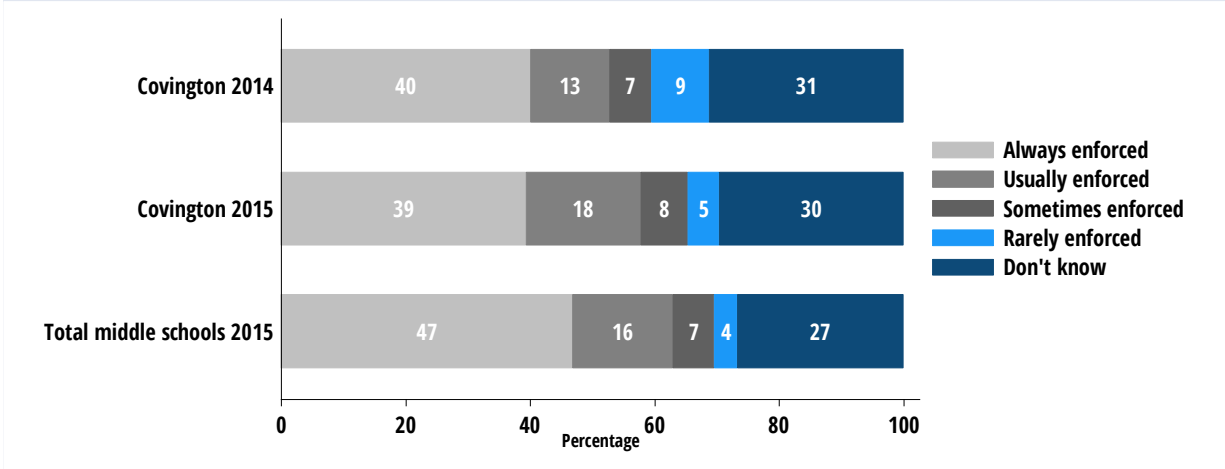


Q27e: How wrong do your friends feel it would be if you used other illegal drugs?

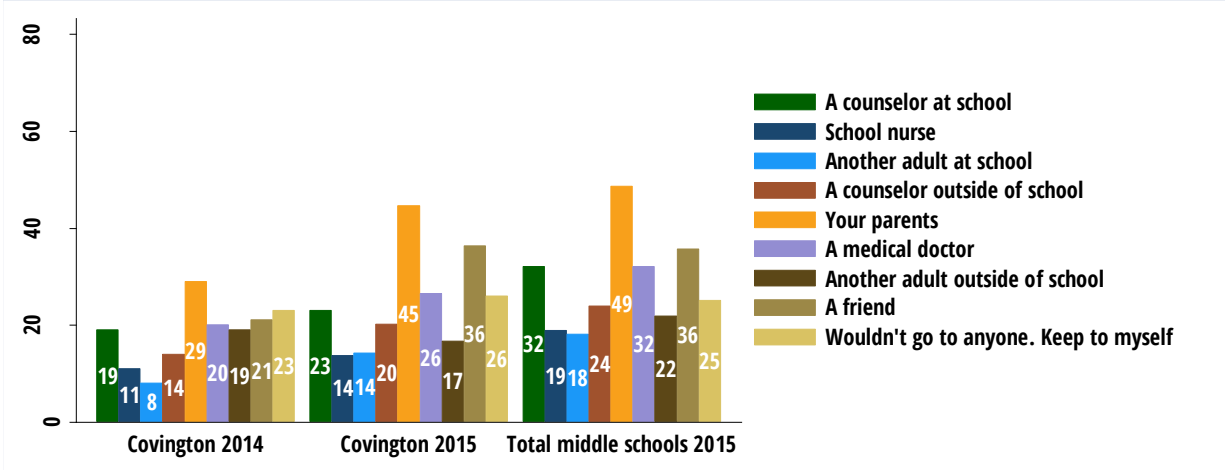


Opinions, Experience, and Exposure

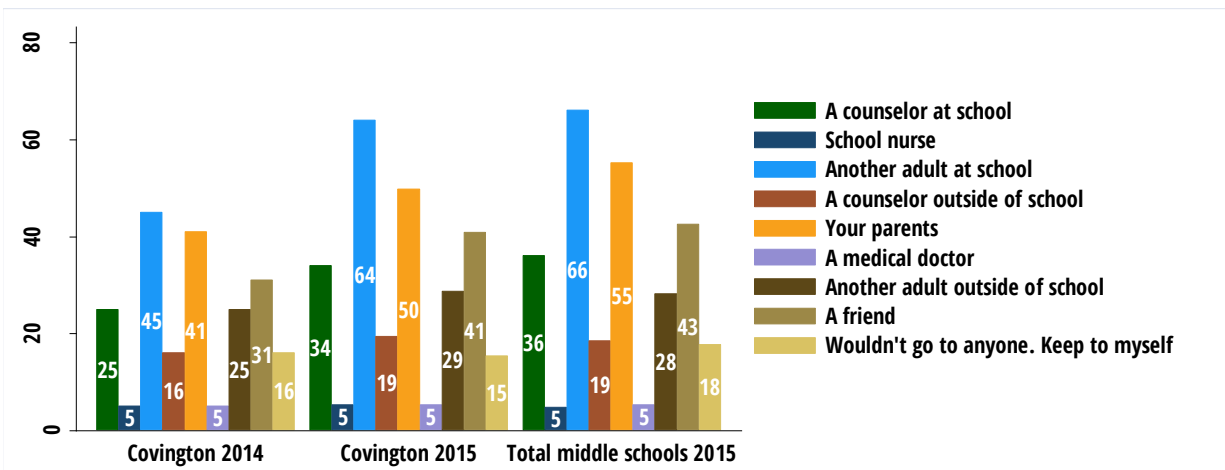
Q13: Are school rules about drug, alcohol, and tobacco use enforced by school staff?



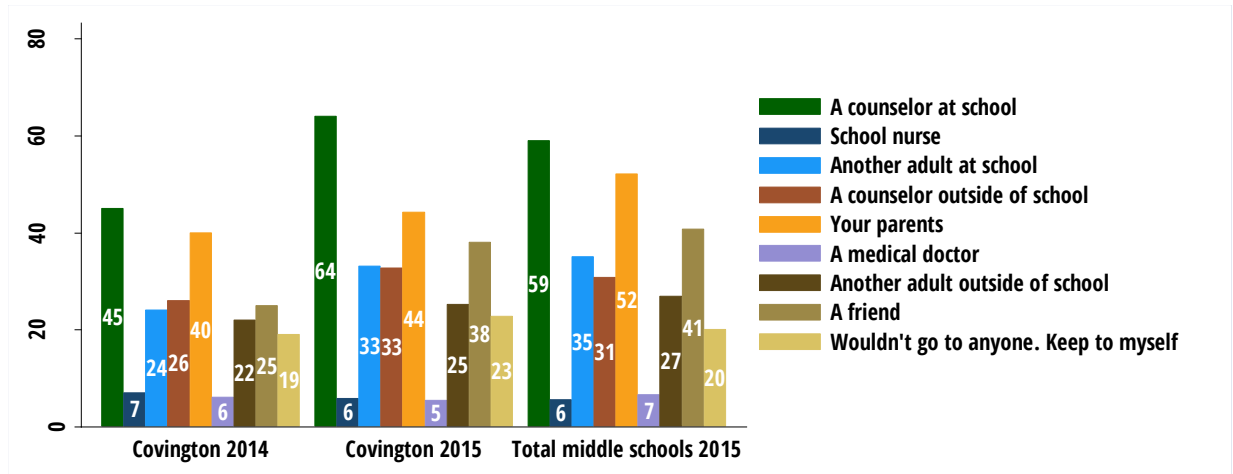
Q24a: If you had a drug or alcohol problem and needed help, who would you go to?



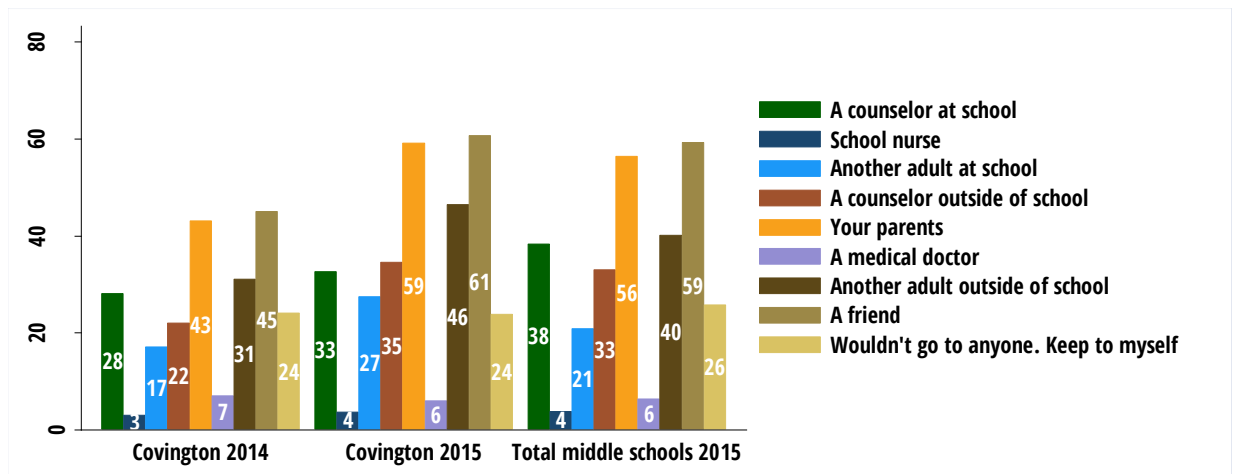
Q24b: If you had problems with your schoolwork or academics and needed help, who would you go to?



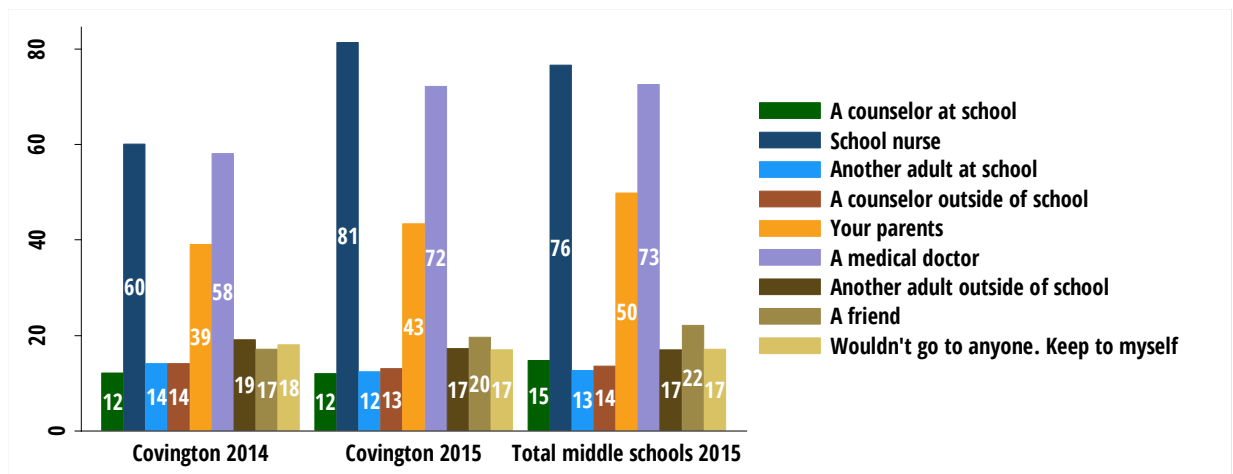
Q24c: If you experienced bullying, violence, or threats to personal safety and needed help, who would you go to?



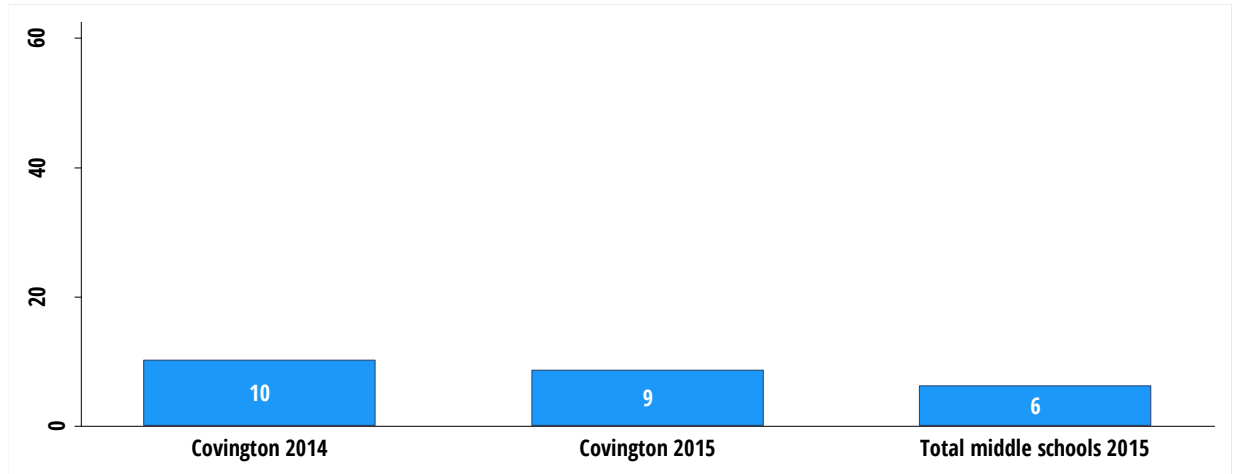
Q24d: If you experienced social problems or problems with friends or family and needed help, who would you go to?



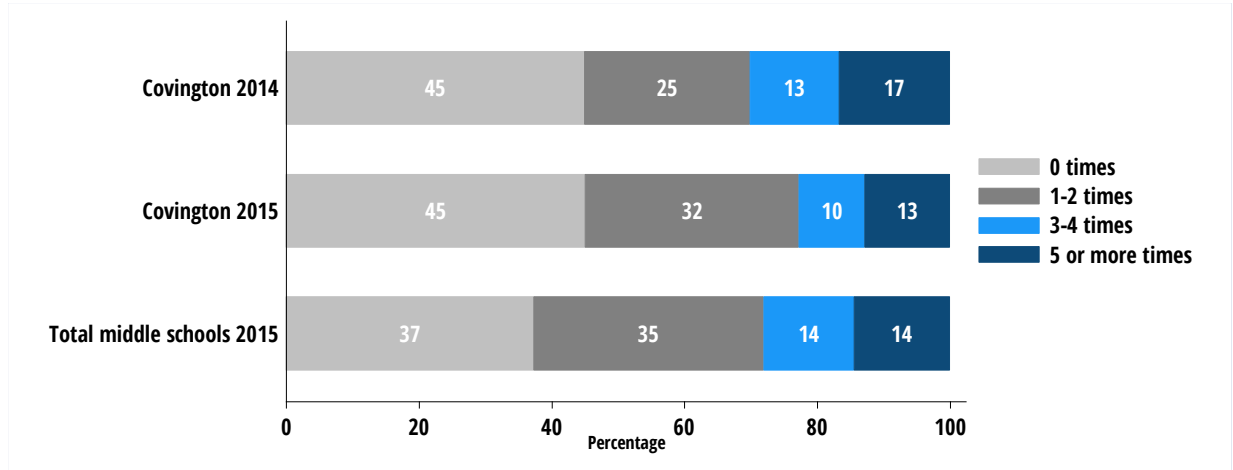
Q24e: If you experienced problems with your health and needed help, who would you go to?



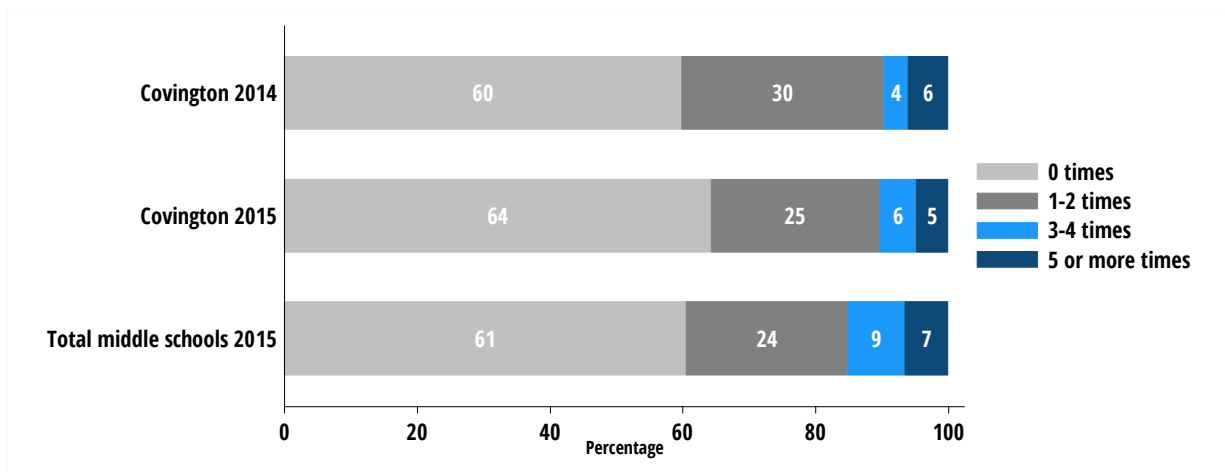
Q19: During this school year, have you attended any class while “high,” “stoned,” or “drunk” on any substance?



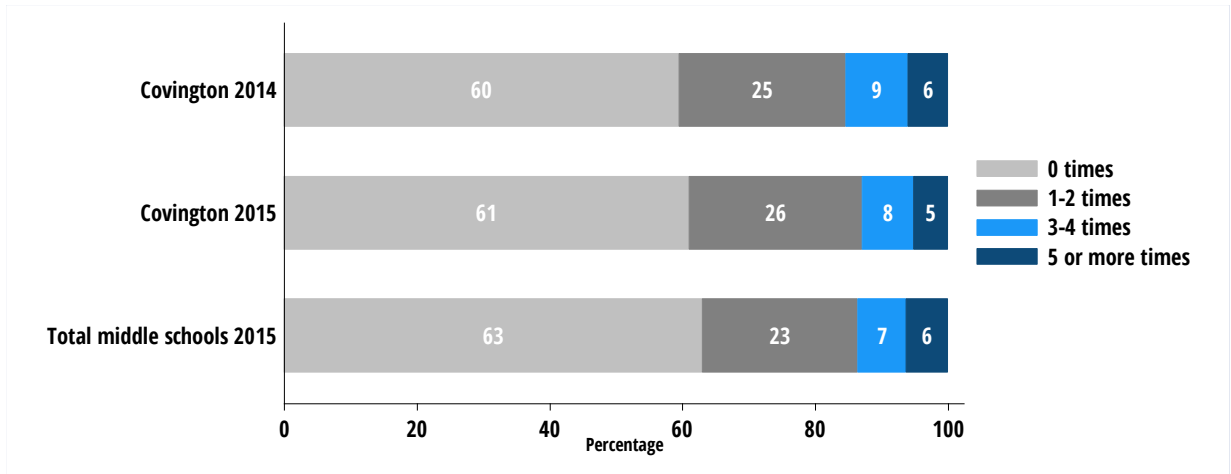
Q28a. During the school year, how many times have you experienced classes in which you learned and practiced ways of resisting and avoiding substance abuse?



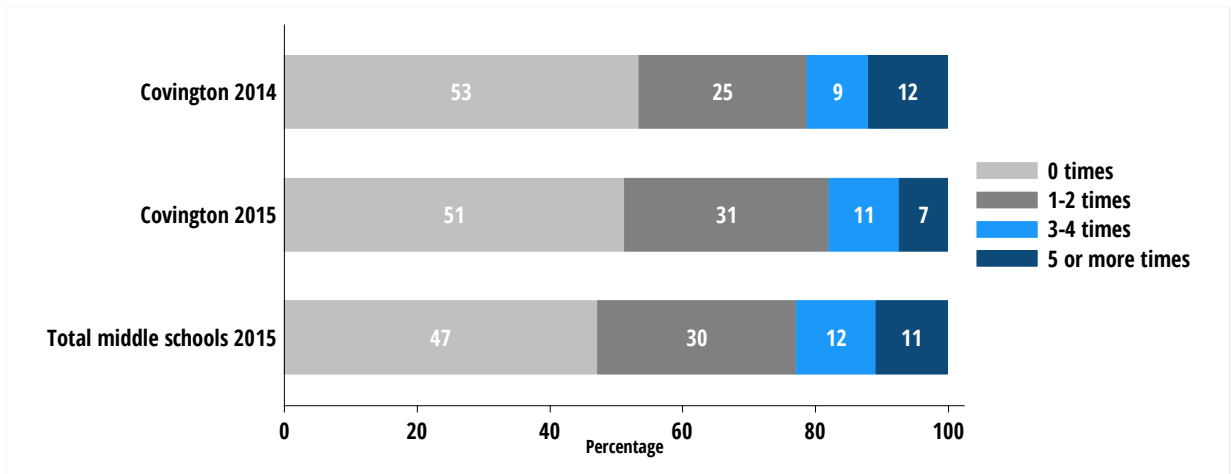
Q28b. During the school year, how many times have you experienced presentations by people who recovered from alcohol and drug abuse?



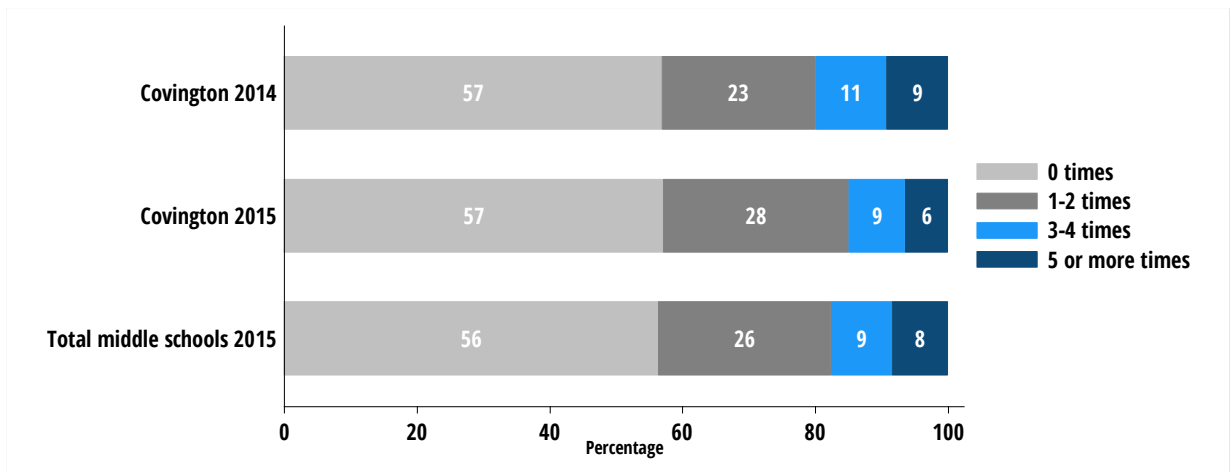
Q28c. During the school year, how many times have you experienced presentations by students who tell about how to avoid substance abuse?



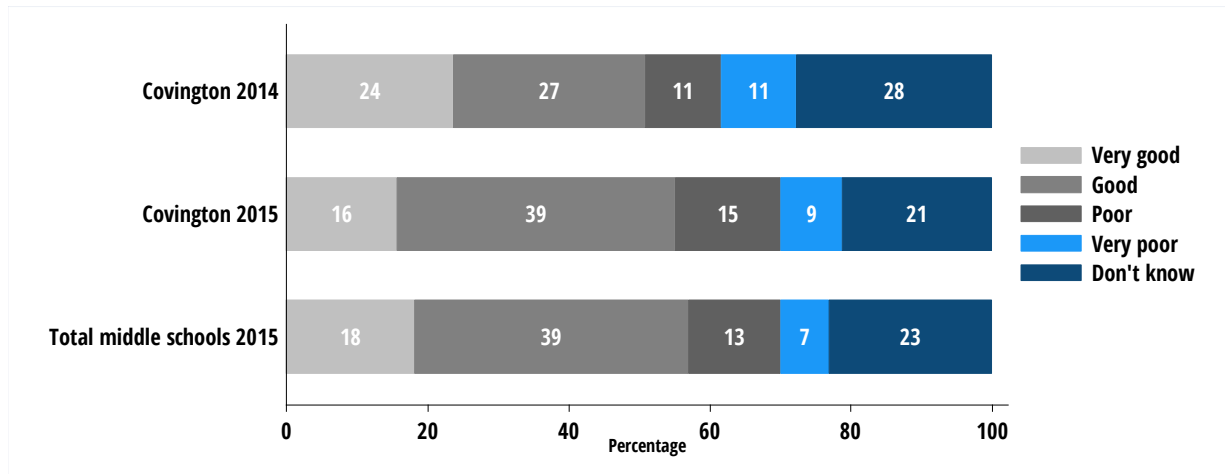
Q28d. During the school year, how many times have you received information about counseling or services to help kids quit smoking and stop substance abuse?



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



Q18. How good is your ability to cope with stress and negative emotions?



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