

# Results of the 2012 Student Substance Use and Safety Survey

September, 2012

## HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL REPORT

### DESCRIPTION OF SURVEY

Every year a self-report student survey of substance use and school safety is administered to a random, representative sample of AISD students. The survey is used to track student knowledge, attitudes, and self-reported behavior over time. In the spring of 2012 a sample of 8,725 students in grades 6-12 submitted valid responses to the district's annual survey of substance use and safety issues, yielding a response rate of 74%.<sup>1</sup> All item results are attached.

### HOW SHOULD SAMPLE DATA BE INTERPRETED?

When it is not feasible to survey an entire population, samples are used instead. However, when a sample is used to make inferences about a population the results must be interpreted with caution. For example, although 87% of a *sample* may select a particular survey response, this does not necessarily mean 87% of the entire *population* feels the same way. To interpret the sample data cautiously, we have used the population size and sample size to construct a 95% confidence interval for each item, allowing you to be 95% confident that the true population result will fall within the constructed interval.

### HOW SHOULD CONFIDENCE INTERVALS BE USED TO INTERPRET SUBSTANCE USE AND SAFETY SURVEY DATA?

***Based on the High School sample of 3,510 students and population enrollment of 23,266, the confidence interval for High School is + and – 1.5 percentage points.***

***Based on the Middle School sample of 5,215 students and population enrollment of 17,573, the confidence interval for Middle School is + and – 1% percentage point.***

To make inferences about the population using the sample data, the results should be interpreted with the computed confidence interval above (i.e., 1.5 percentage points for High schools and 1 percentage point for Middle Schools, respectively) on each side of the sample statistics. For example, 21% of respondents at the middle school level indicated that their friends belonged to gangs (see Q16, p.11). Applying the confidence interval (i.e., adding and subtracting 1 percentage point) to the 21% yields a range of 20% - 22%. Therefore, you can be 95% confident that somewhere between 20% - 22% of all students at the middle school level would indicate that their friends belonged to a gang. Apply the same logic to both years to determine if there was a significant change. Continuing with the example above, if the ranges do not overlap you can be 95% certain that a change took place in the population. For example for middle schools, the 2012 range is 20% to 22% and the 2011 range is 25% to 27%. Since they do not overlap, you can be 95% confident that fewer students in the AISD middle school population had friends that belonged to a gang in 2012 than in 2011.

This report presents respondent demographics followed by survey items related to both school safety and substance use, then items related to school safety, and finally items related to substance use. For each school level (i.e. high school or middle school), results of the 2012 and 2011 surveys are presented to allow for year to year comparisons. The question numbers correspond to the item number on the survey.

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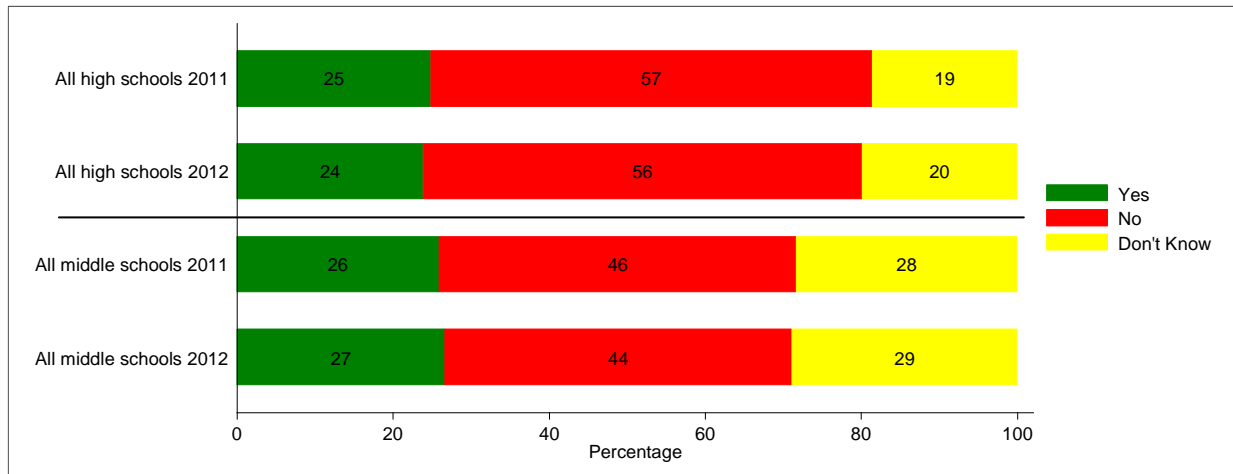
<sup>1</sup> A total of 9,139 surveys were returned to the Department of Program Evaluation from an original sample of 11,829 students. Of those returned, 586 surveys were removed from analysis due to invalid responses.

## RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

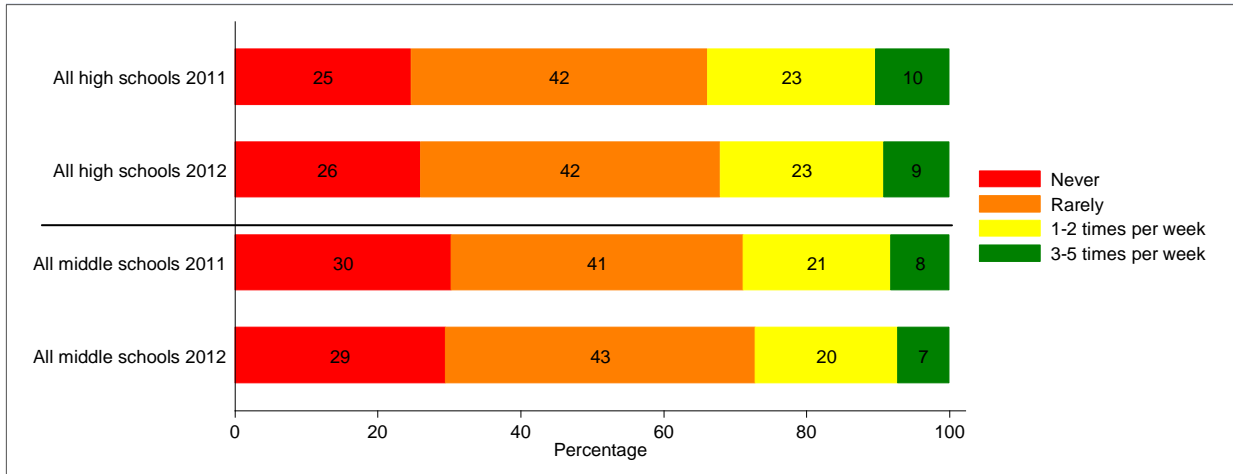
Gender and Grade	High schools 2010-2011	High schools 2011-2012	Middle schools 2010-2011	Middle schools 2011-2012
<b>Male</b>	1,741 (49%)	1,742 (50%)	2,454 (51%)	2,496 (48%)
<b>Female</b>	1,835 (51%)	1,742 (50%)	2,366 (49%)	2,685 (52%)
<b>6<sup>th</sup> grade</b>	N/A	N/A	1,667 (34%)	1,632 (31%)
<b>7<sup>th</sup> grade</b>	N/A	N/A	1,622 (34%)	1,790 (34%)
<b>8<sup>th</sup> grade</b>	N/A	N/A	1,549 (32%)	1,776 (34%)
<b>9<sup>th</sup> grade</b>	1,067 (30%)	1,038 (30%)	N/A	N/A
<b>10<sup>th</sup> grade</b>	878 (24%)	914 (26%)	N/A	N/A
<b>11<sup>th</sup> grade</b>	886 (25%)	833 (24%)	N/A	N/A
<b>12<sup>th</sup> grade</b>	768 (21%)	707 (20%)	N/A	N/A

## ITEMS THAT ADDRESS BOTH SUBSTANCE USE AND SAFETY

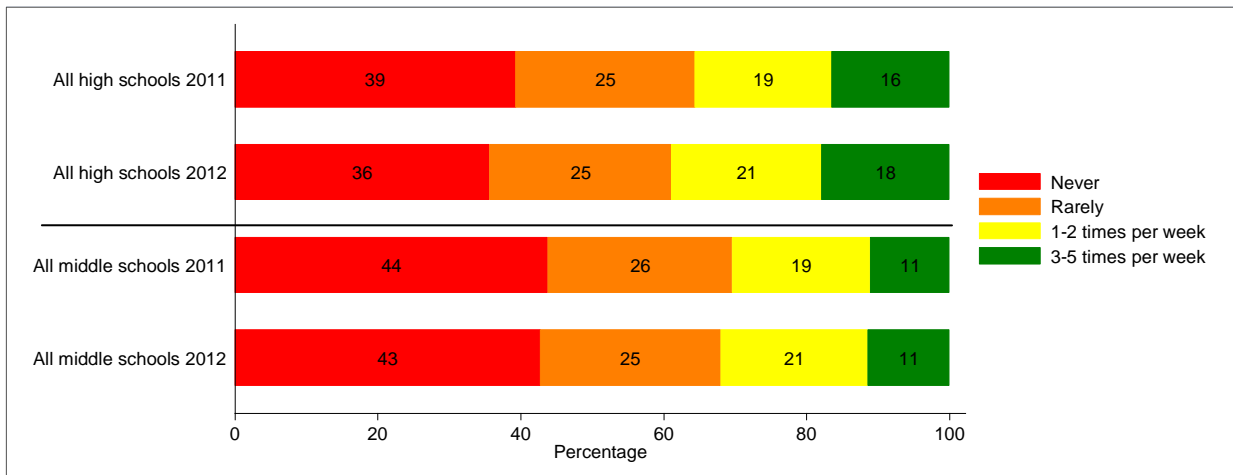
Q22: Do one or both of your parents usually attend school sponsored open houses, PTA meetings or other school events?



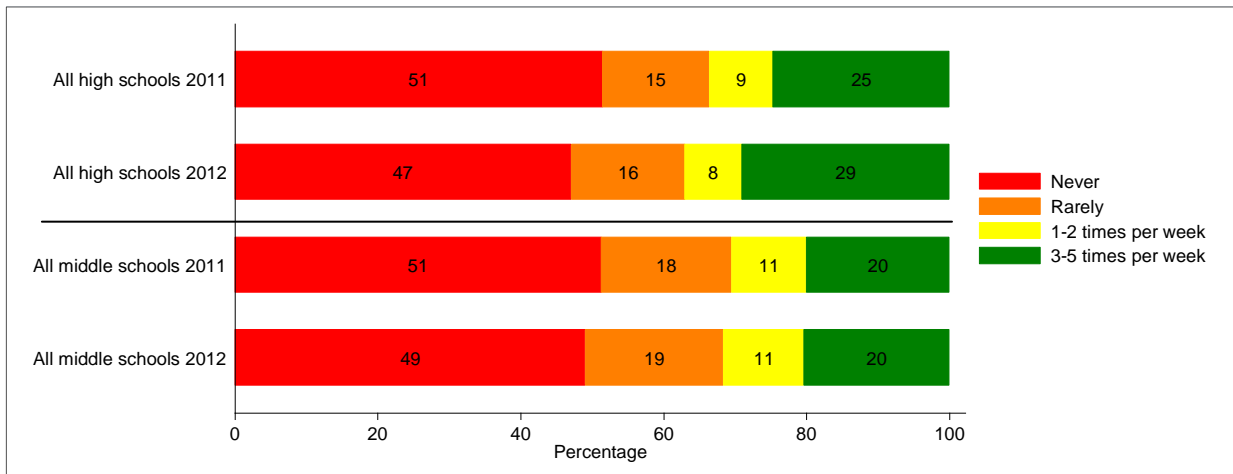
Q4. How often do you participate in after school programs to help you with your school work (e.g., tutoring, homework, etc.) ?



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



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



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

	High schools 2011-2010	High schools 2011-2012	$\Delta^*$	Middle schools 2010-2011	Middle schools 2011-2012	$\Delta^*$
Illegal drugs	10%	9%	-1	6%	6%	0
Knife	8%	7%	-1	6%	6%	0
Other weapon	5%	4%	-1	6%	4%	-2
Prescription drugs	7%	6%	-1	4%	4%	0
Tobacco	8%	7%	-1	3%	3%	0
Alcohol	6%	5%	-1	3%	3%	0
Gun	3%	2%	-1	3%	2%	-1
None of the above	81%	82%	1	88%	89%	1

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

\* $\Delta$  represents percentage point change from 2010-2011 to 2011-2012. Negative numbers indicate a decrease in percentage of students bringing those items to school. For high schools, the absolute value of  $\Delta \geq 3$  percentage points and for middle schools, the absolute value of  $\Delta \geq 2$  percentage points would be significant.

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

	High schools 2010-2011	High schools 2011-2012	$\Delta^*$	Middle schools 2010-2011	Middle schools 2012-2011	$\Delta^*$
Student fighting and physical aggression	11%	10%	-1	26%	27%	1
Marijuana use	31%	34%	3	14%	14%	0
Student harassment, threats, and intimidation	8%	8%	0	21%	20%	-1
Prescription drug use	4%	4%	0	5%	4%	-1
Student weapon possession	3%	2%	-1	5%	4%	-1
Student vandalism, criminal mischief	3%	3%	0	3%	2%	-1
Violence or threats toward staff	1%	1%	0	2%	2%	0
Alcohol use	5%	6%	1	1%	1%	0
Tobacco use	2%	2%	0	1%	1%	0
None of these are serious problems on my campus	33%	30%	-3	23%	26%	3

\* $\Delta$  represents percentage point change from 2010-2011 to 2011-2012. Negative numbers indicate a decrease in perceived problems at campuses. For high schools, the absolute value of  $\Delta \geq 3$  percentage points and for middle schools, the absolute value of  $\Delta \geq 2$  percentage points would be significant.

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

	High schools 2010-2011	High schools 2011-2012	$\Delta^*$	Middle schools 2010-2011	Middle schools 2011-2012	$\Delta^*$
Health class	44%	45%	1	40%	36%	-4
Science class	35%	37%	2	52%	45%	-7
Advisory/seminar class	47%	45%	-2	49%	39%	-10
Another class	33%	32%	-1	44%	37%	-7
Guidance counselor	13%	16%	3	30%	26%	-4
Student support group meetings at school	11%	13%	2	15%	15%	0
Special school event about tobacco, drugs, alcohol, or violence	25%	25%	0	33%	33%	0
School nurse	12%	14%	2	18%	21%	3
After school program	12%	13%	1	14%	14%	0
Coach or P.E. teacher †	N/A	40%	N/A	N/A	74%	N/A
Other school source not mentioned above	17%	15%	-2	21%	18%	-3
None of the above	20%	20%	0	12%	11%	-1

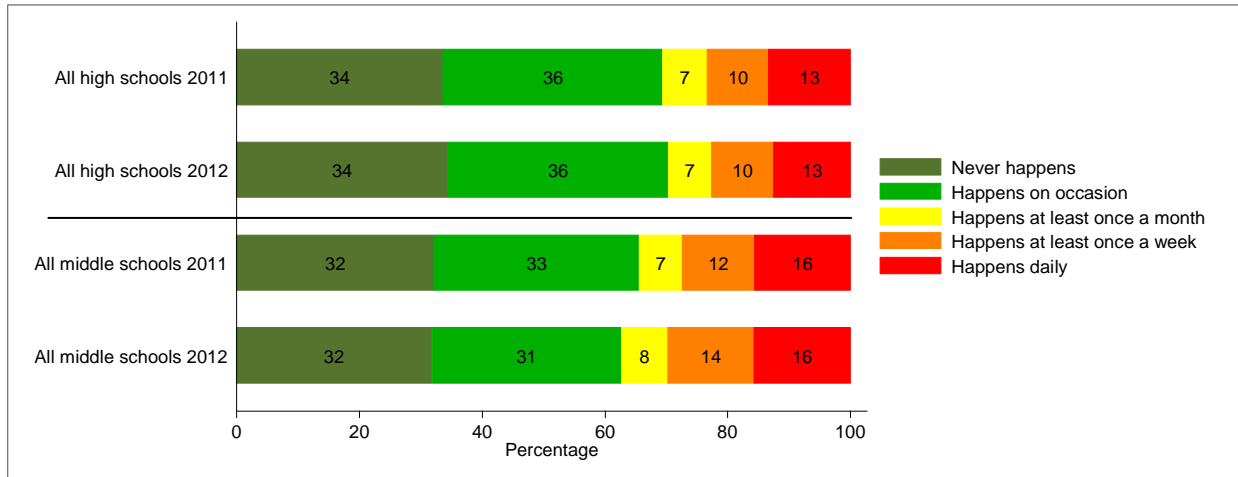
Note. Percentages may sum to more than 100% because respondents were allowed to choose multiple items. % represents the percentage of students who responded 'yes' to the item.

\* $\Delta$  represents percentage point change from %. Positive numbers indicates an increase in percentage of students reporting receiving information from that source. For high schools, the absolute value of  $\Delta \geq 3$  percentage points and for middle schools, the absolute value of  $\Delta \geq 2$  percentage points would be significant.

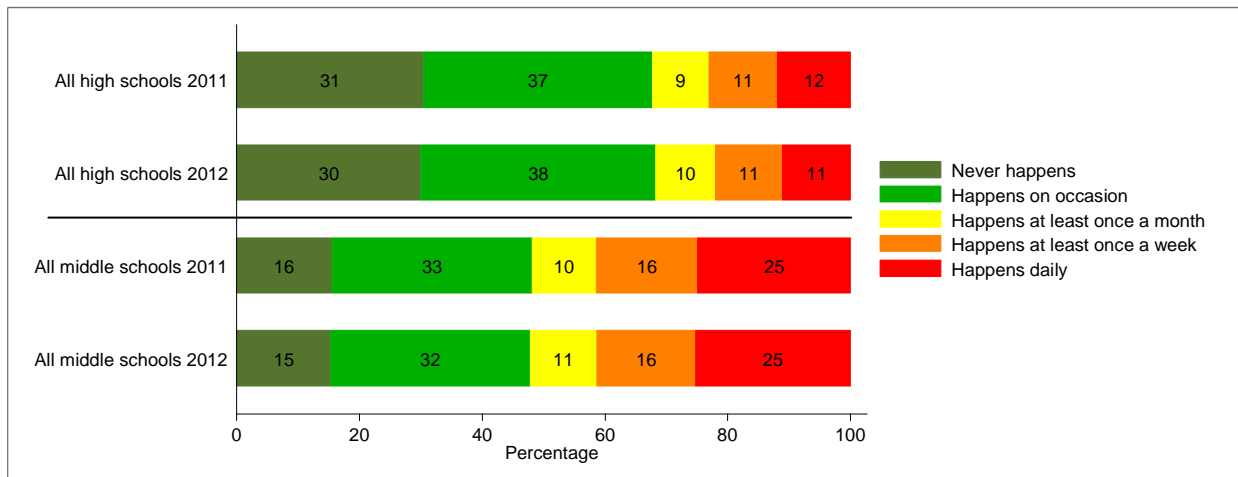
† The item was not asked in the 2010-2011 survey.

## SCHOOL SAFETY ITEMS

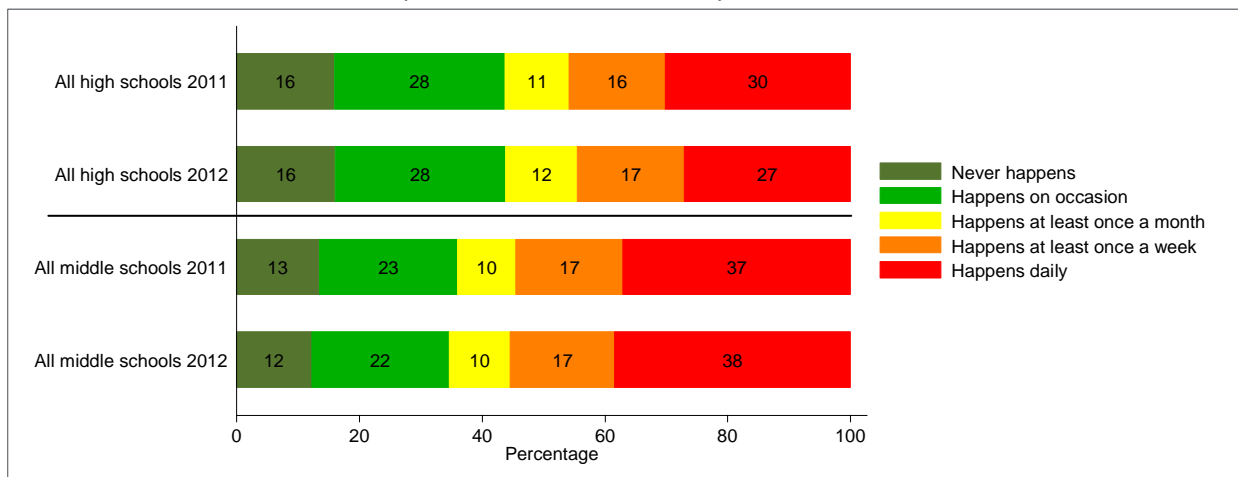
Q15a: How often does racial tension occur at your school?



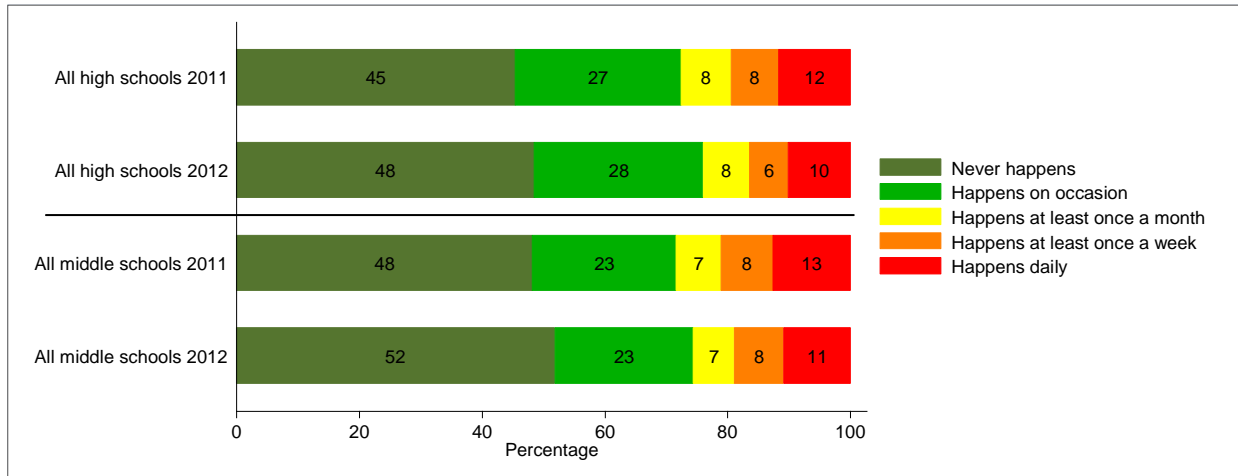
Q15b: How often does student bullying occur at your school?



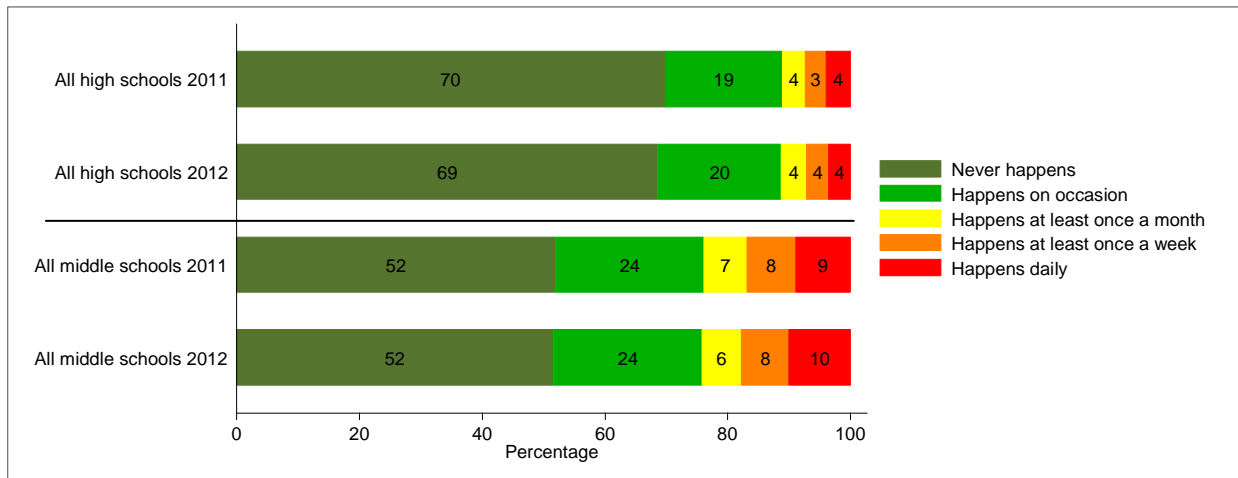
Q15c: How often do acts of disrespect for teachers occur at your school?



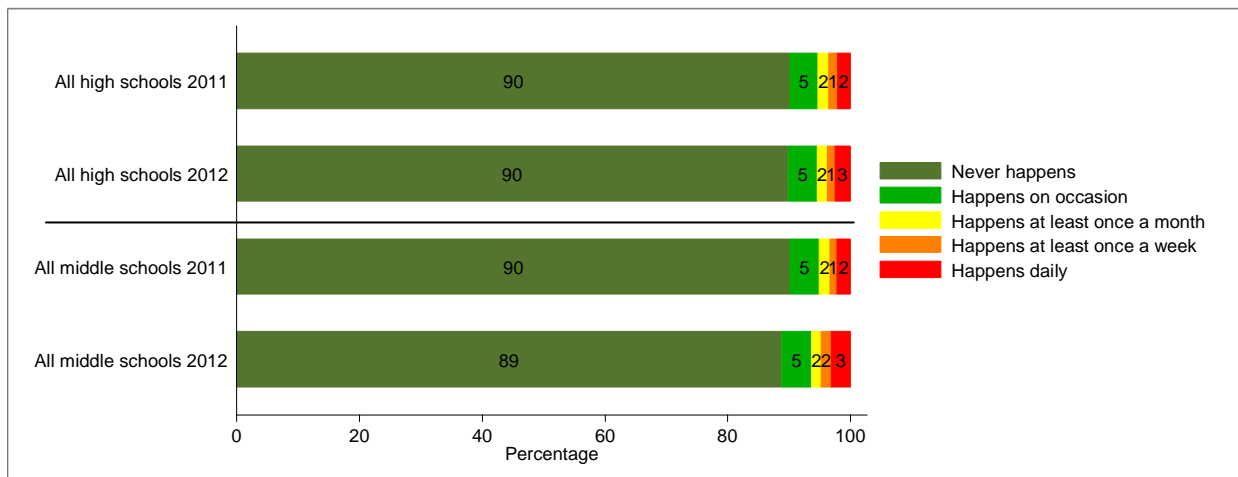
Q15d: How often do gang activities occur at your school?



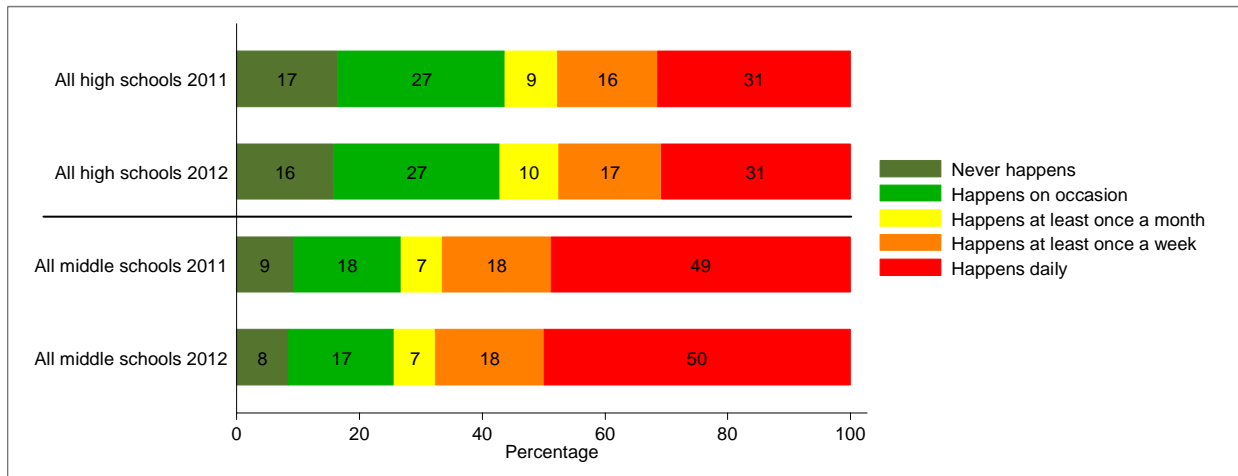
Q15e: How often have you experienced any type of bullying at your school?



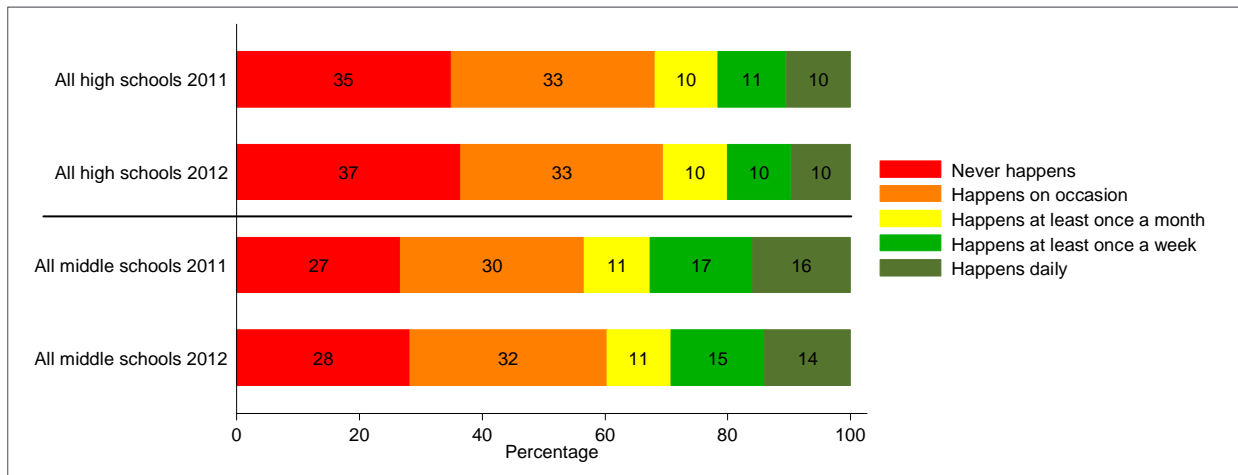
Q15f: How often were you absent because you did not feel safe on the way to/from school?



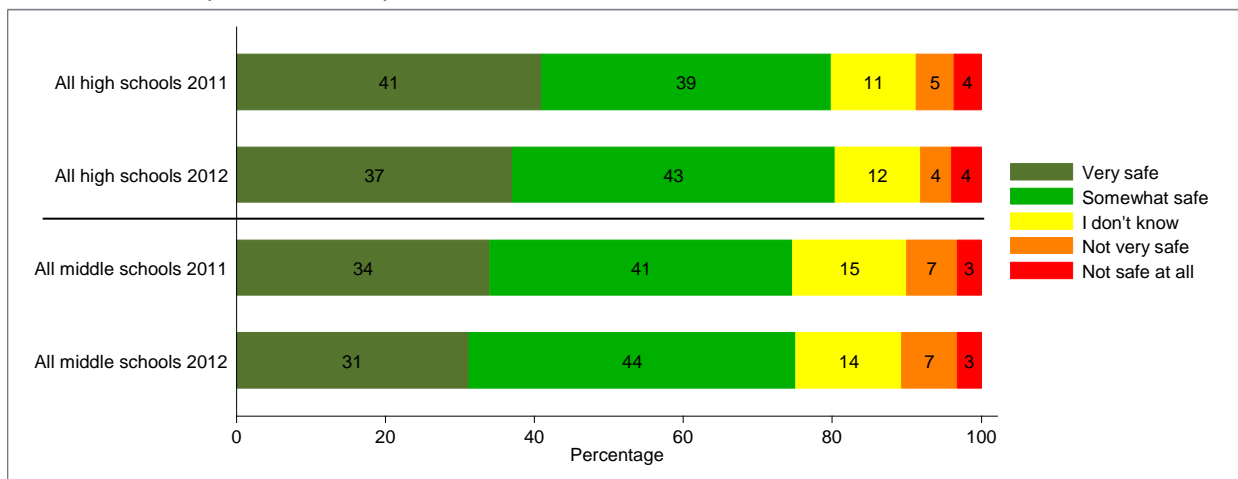
Q15g: How often does your teacher have to interrupt class to deal with student misbehavior?



Q15h: Do teachers or staff give you praise or rewards for good behavior?



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





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

	All high schools 2010-2011	All high schools 2011-2012	$\Delta^*$	All middle schools 2010-2011	All middle schools 2011-2012	$\Delta^*$
Was sick	58%	57%	-1	57%	55%	-2
Didn't feel safe at school	6%	5%	-1	5%	6%	1
Didn't feel safe on the way to/from school	4%	5%	-1	5%	5%	0
Didn't get along well with teachers	11%	11%	0	9%	9%	0
Wanted to hang out with friends	21%	19%	-2	10%	10%	0
Had to do something with family	38%	38%	0	32%	33%	1
Was too tired	33%	33%	0	19%	20%	1
Didn't have a way to get to school	15%	15%	0	9%	9%	0
Felt too sad or depressed to attend	15%	15%	0	10%	11%	1
Had to go to work	7%	7%	0	3%	4%	1
None	24%	26%	2	30%	32%	2

\* $\Delta$  represents percentage point change from 2010-2011 to 2011-2012. Negative numbers indicates a decrease in percentage of students missing school for that reason. For high schools, the absolute value of  $\Delta \geq 3$  percentage points and for middle schools, the absolute value of  $\Delta \geq 2$  percentage points would be significant.

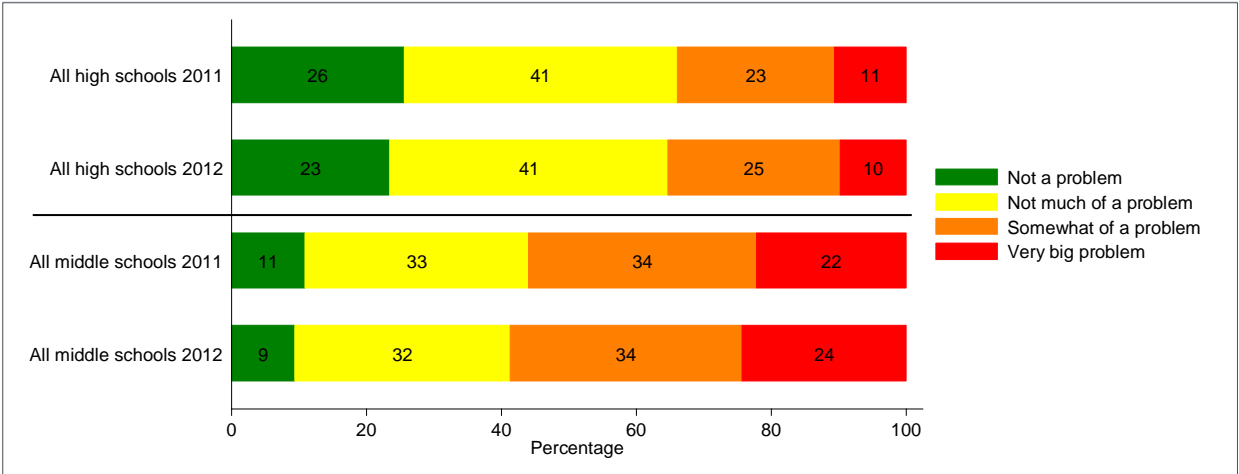
Q10: During this school year, have you experienced any of the following types of bullying at school?

	All high schools 2010-2011	All high schools 2011-2012	$\Delta^*$	All middle schools 2010-2011	All middle schools 2011-2012	$\Delta^*$
Physical	11%	11%	0	23%	24%	1
Social	20%	22%	2	30%	31%	1
Verbal	21%	22%	1	35%	36%	1
Written	5%	5%	0	8%	8%	0
Sexual Harassment	10%	9%	-1	11%	10%	-1
Racial or Ethnic Harassment	15%	14%	-1	18%	18%	0
Cyber bullying	8%	9%	1	8%	9%	1
Hurtful or controlling dating behavior	7%	7%	0	8%	7%	-1
Hazing Initiation †	N/A	4%	N/A	N/A	5%	N/A
None	61%	60%	-1	45%	45%	0

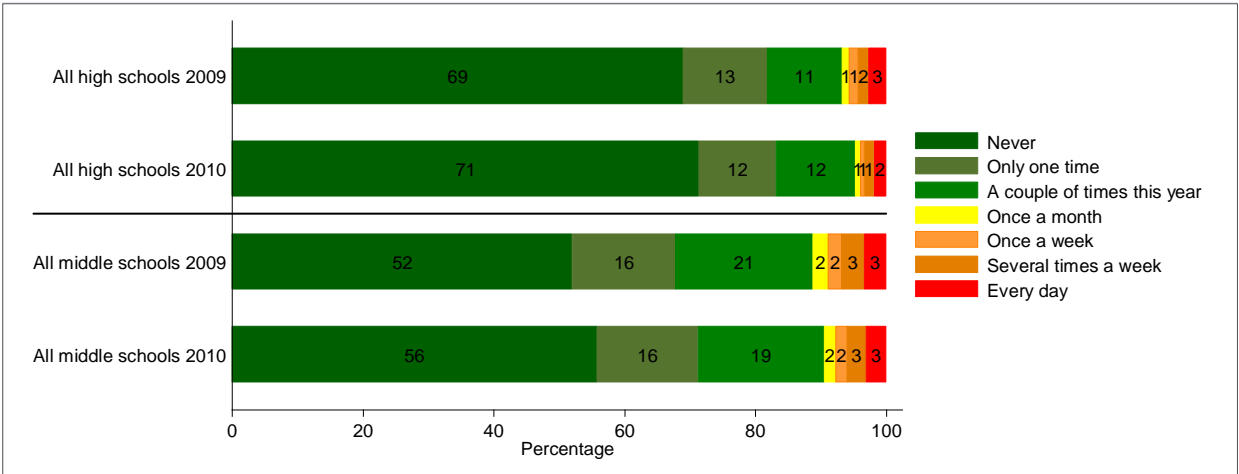
Note. Percentages may sum to more than 100% because respondents were allowed to choose multiple items.

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

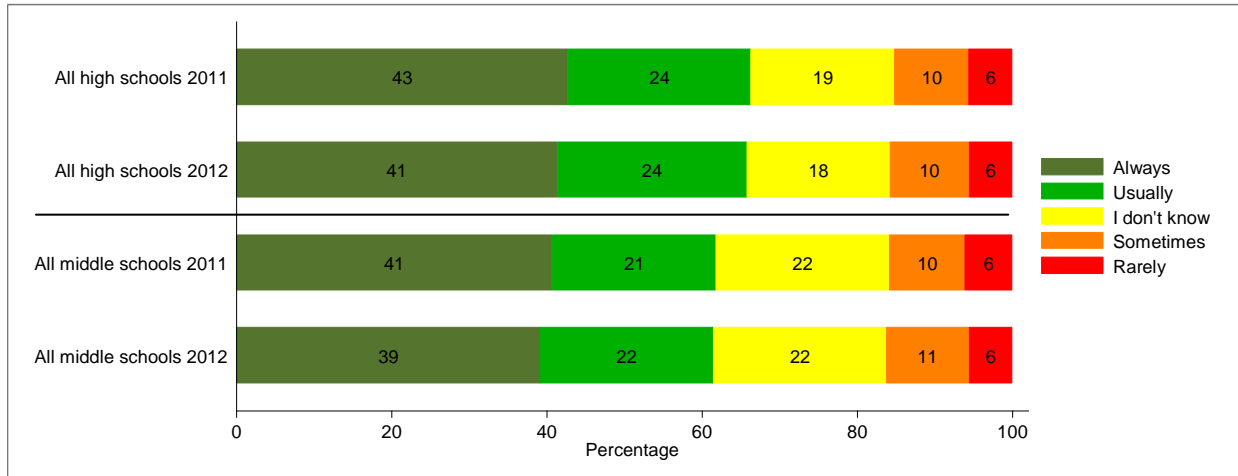
Q12: How big a problem do you think bullying is at your school?



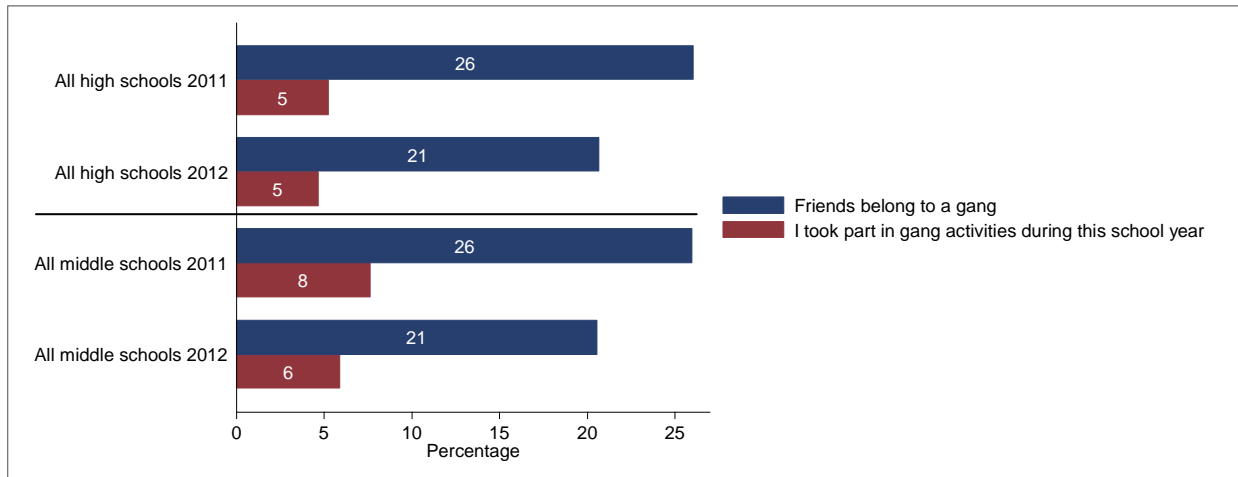
Q11: During this school year, how often have you or your close friends been physically harmed or threatened with physical harm by another student at your school?



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



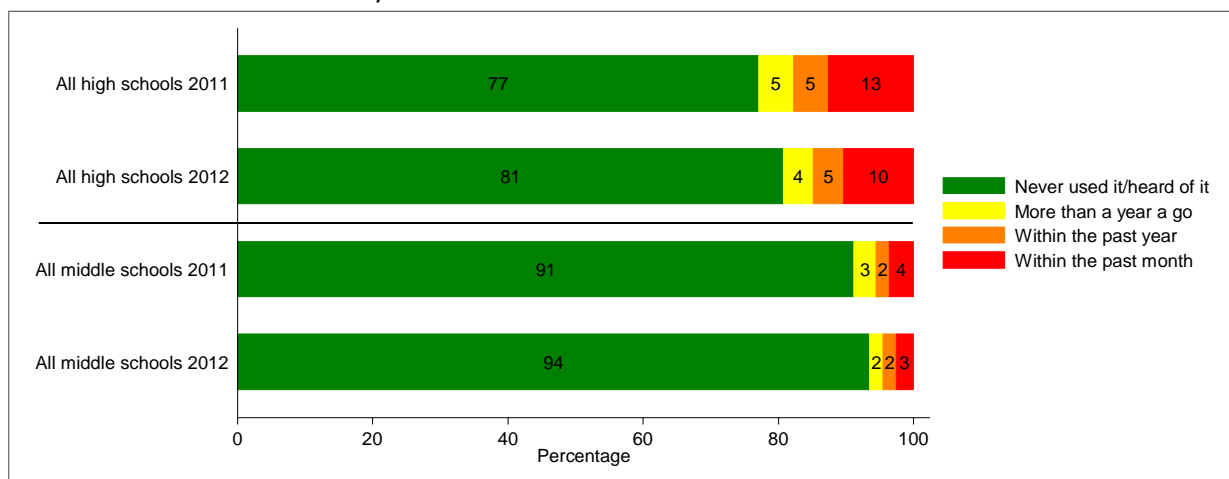
Q16-Q17: Do any of your friends belong to a gang? During this school year, did you take part in any gang activities?



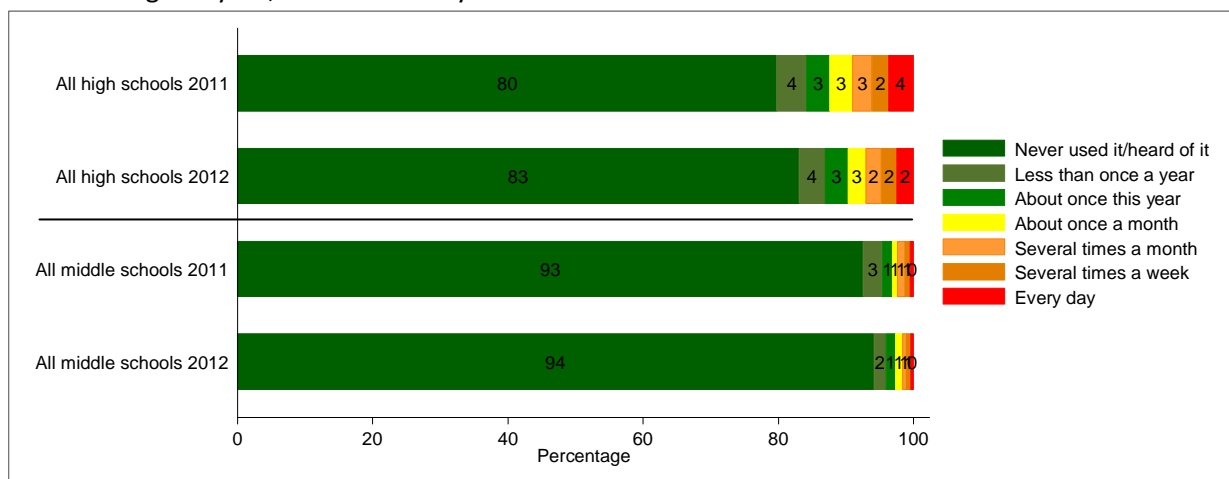
## SUBSTANCE USE ITEMS

### TOBACCO:

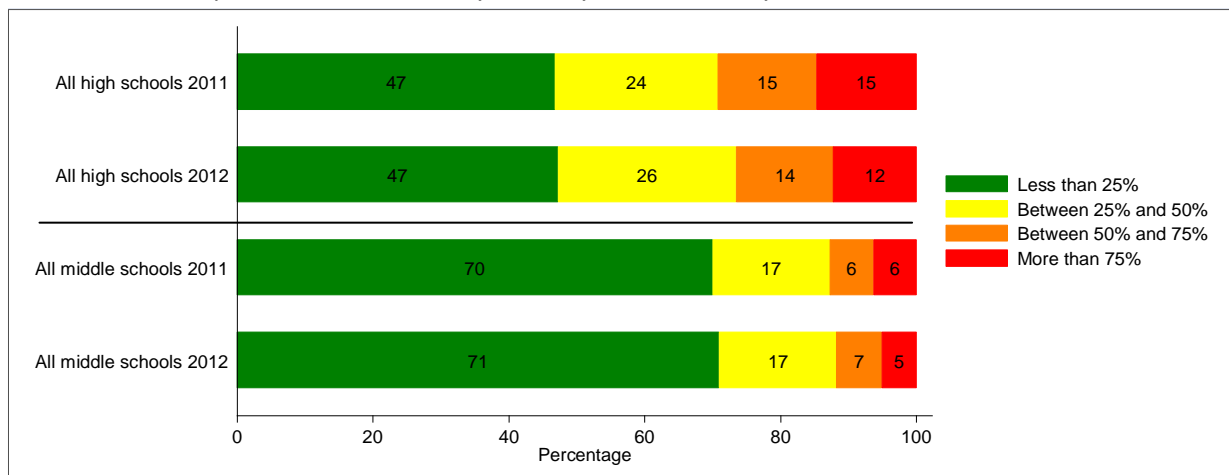
Q18a: What is the most recent you have used Tobacco?



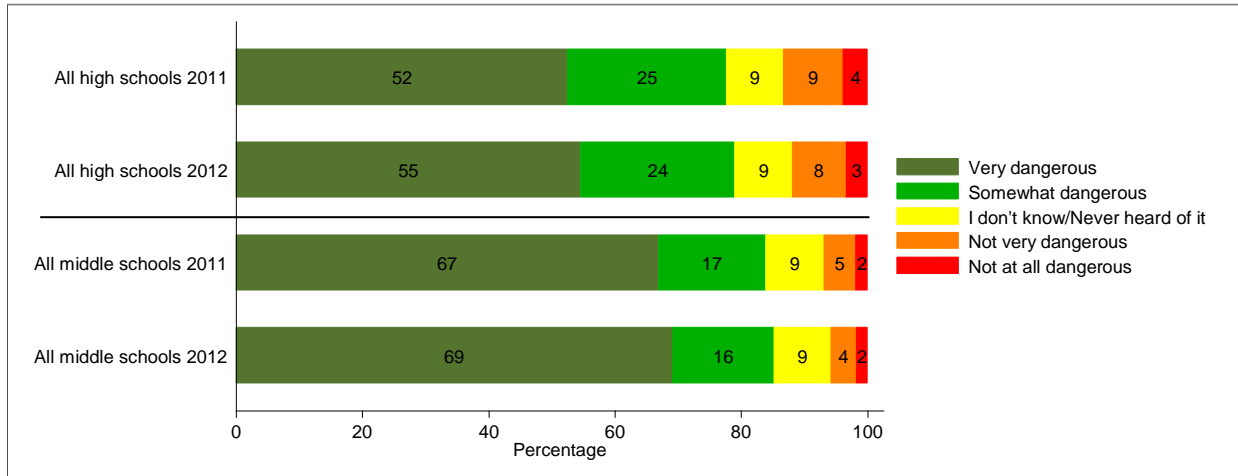
Q21a: During this year, how often did you use Tobacco?



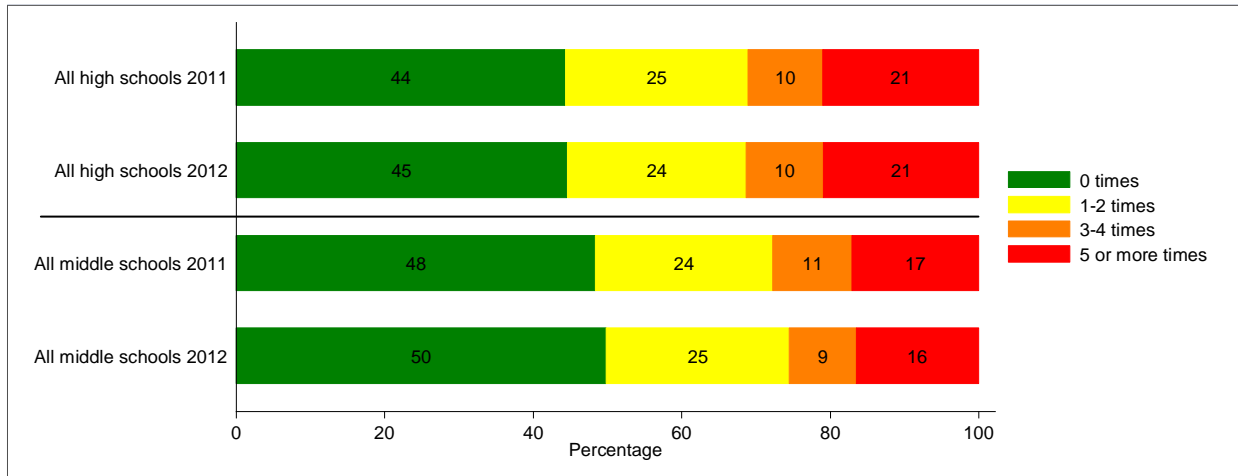
Q29a. Within the past month, how many kids at your school do you think have used Tobacco?



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

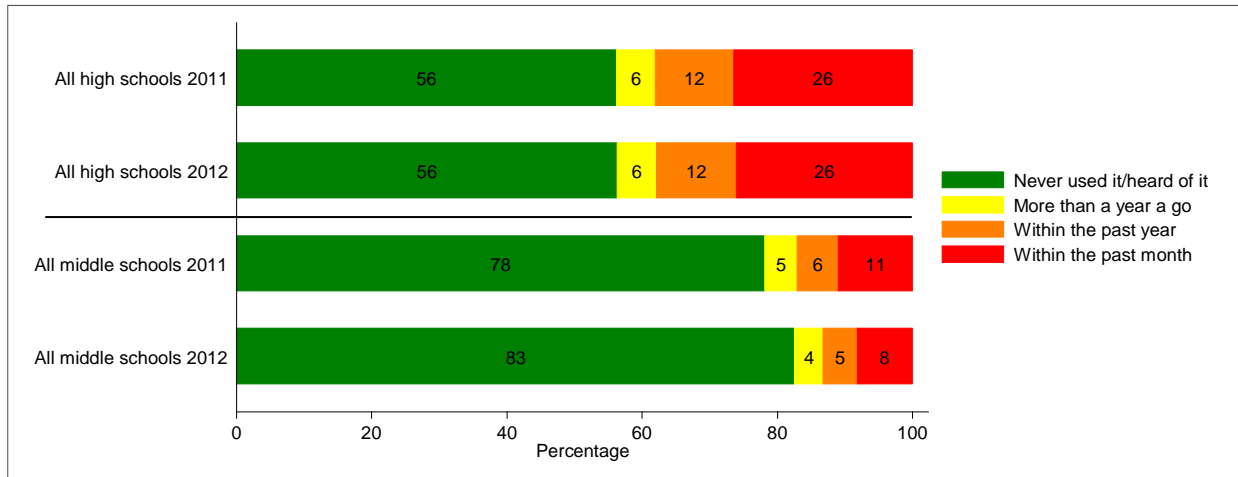


Q28g. During the school year, how many times have you experienced advertisements (TV, radio, billboard, magazine, internet, etc.) for tobacco products?

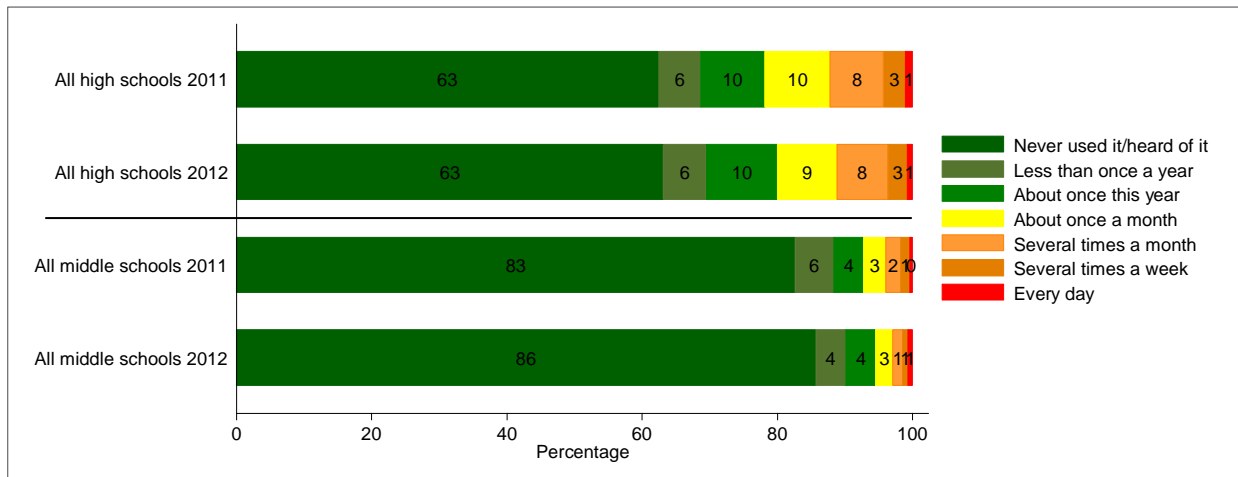


**ALCOHOL:**

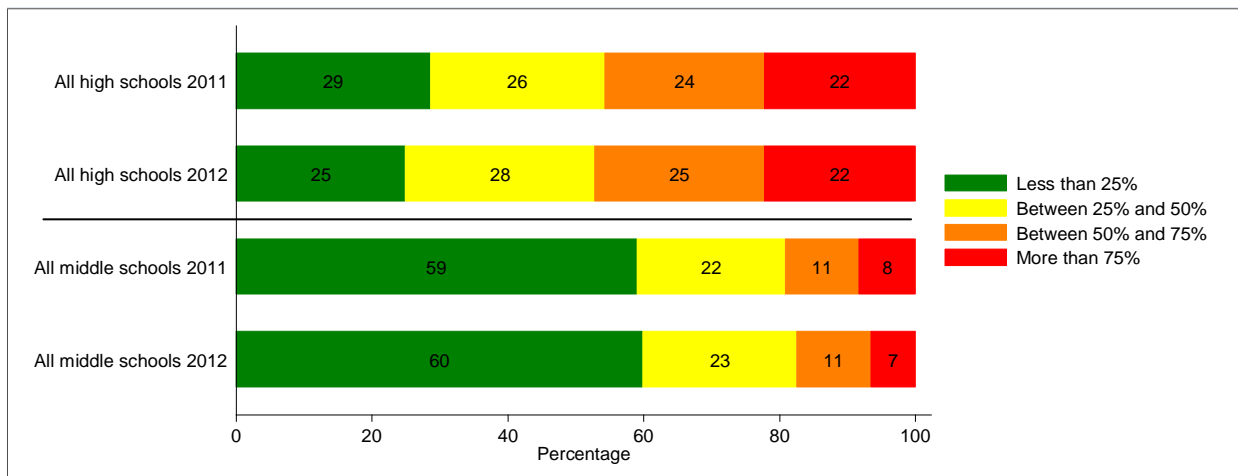
**Q18b: What is the most recent you have used Alcohol?**



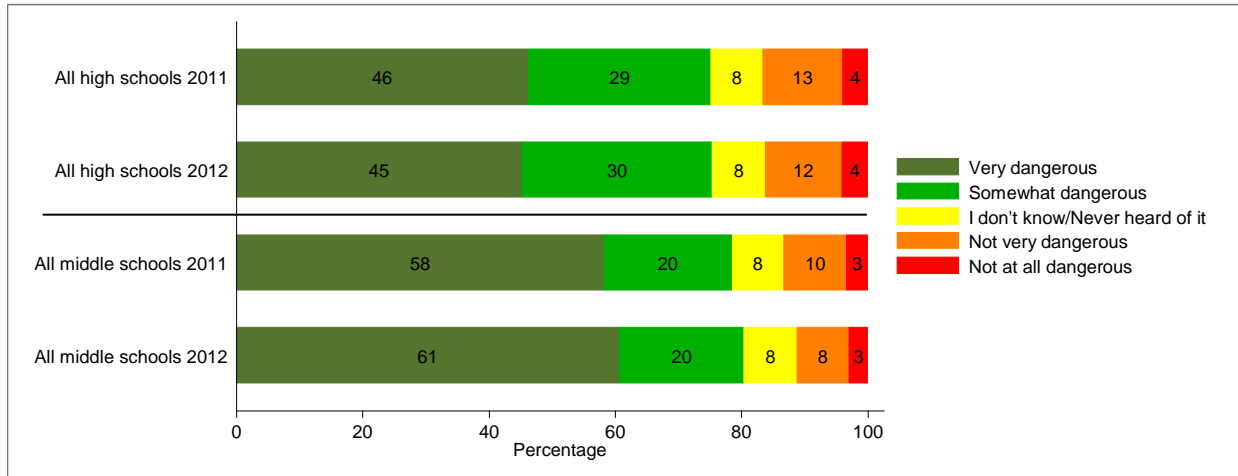
**Q21b: During this year, how often did you use Alcohol?**



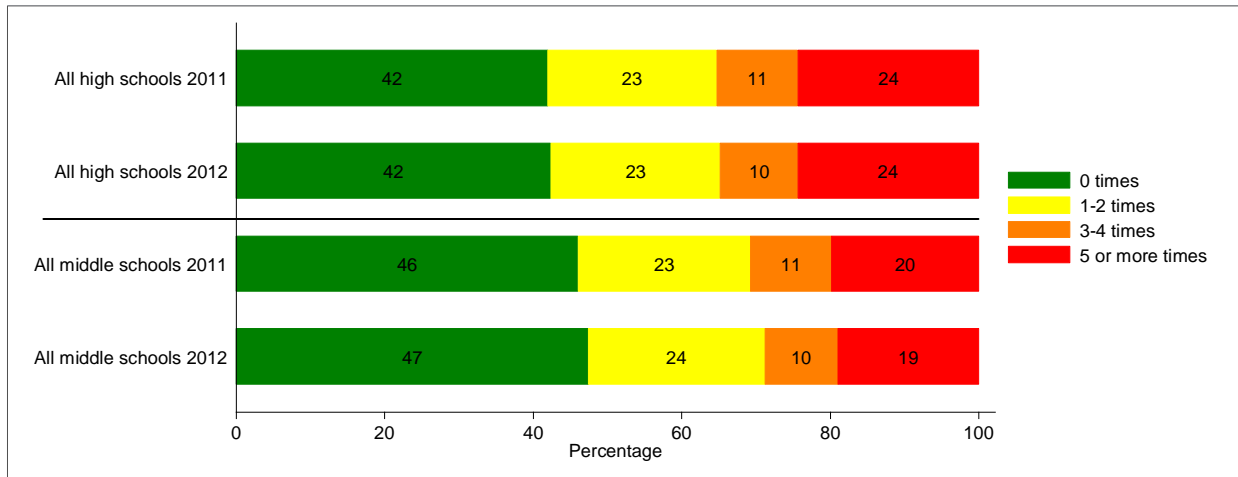
**Q29b. Within the past month, how many kids at your school do you think have used Alcohol?**



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

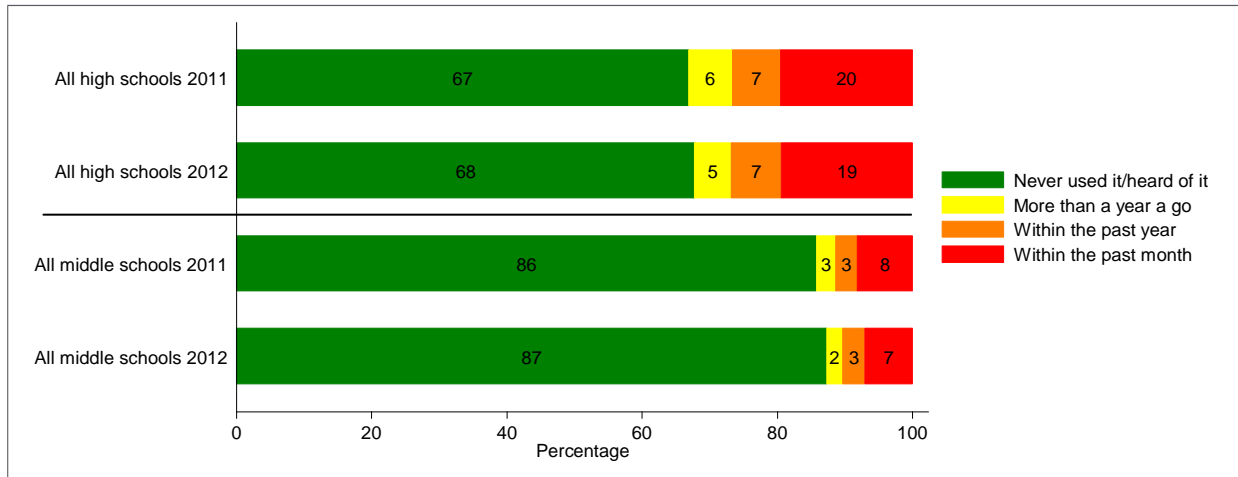


Q28f. During the school year, how many times have you experienced advertisements (TV, radio, billboard, magazine, internet, etc.) for alcohol products?

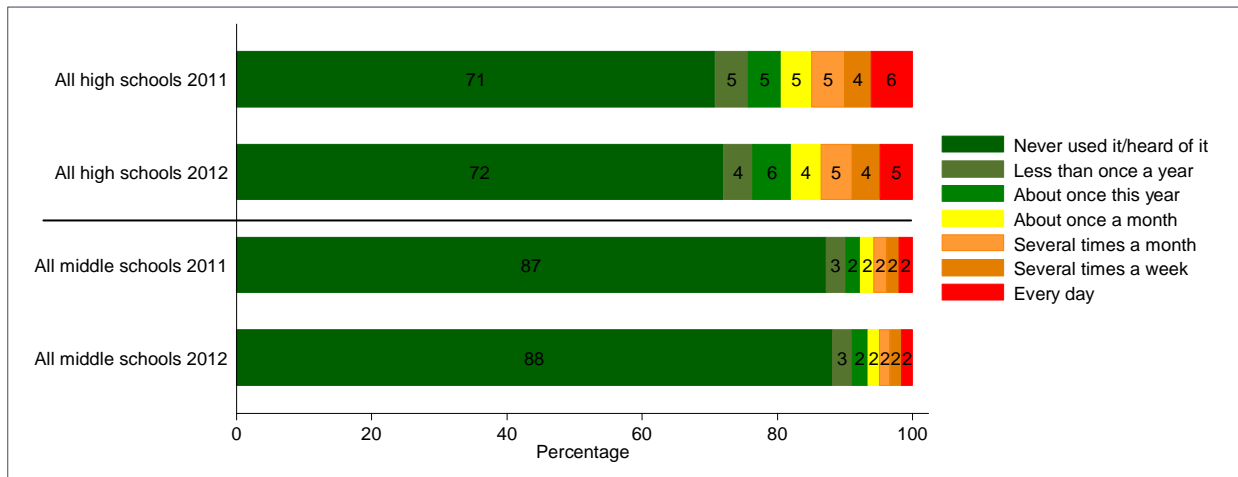


**MARIJUANA:**

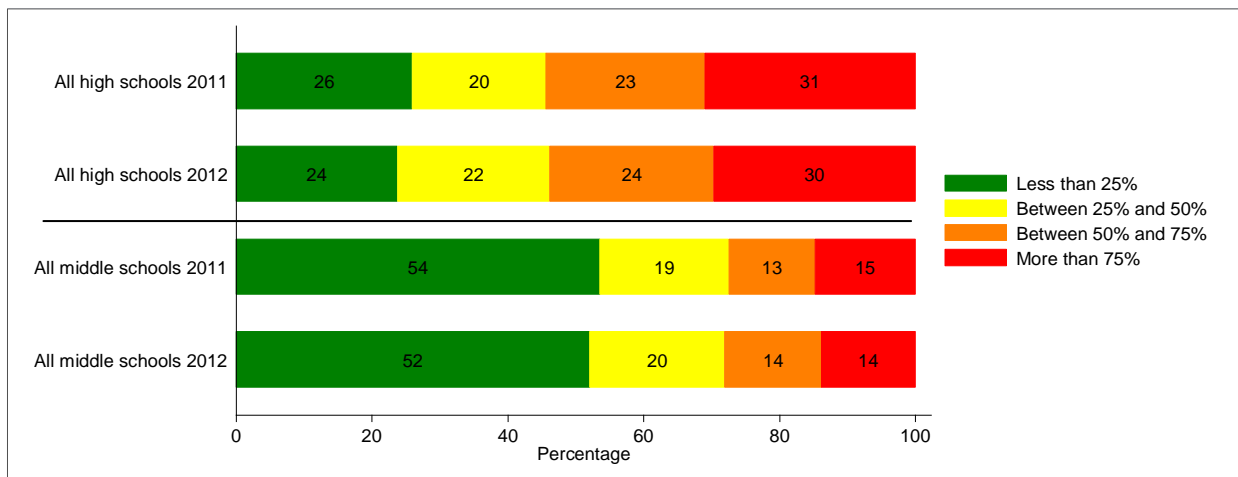
Q18c: What is the most recent you have used Marijuana?



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

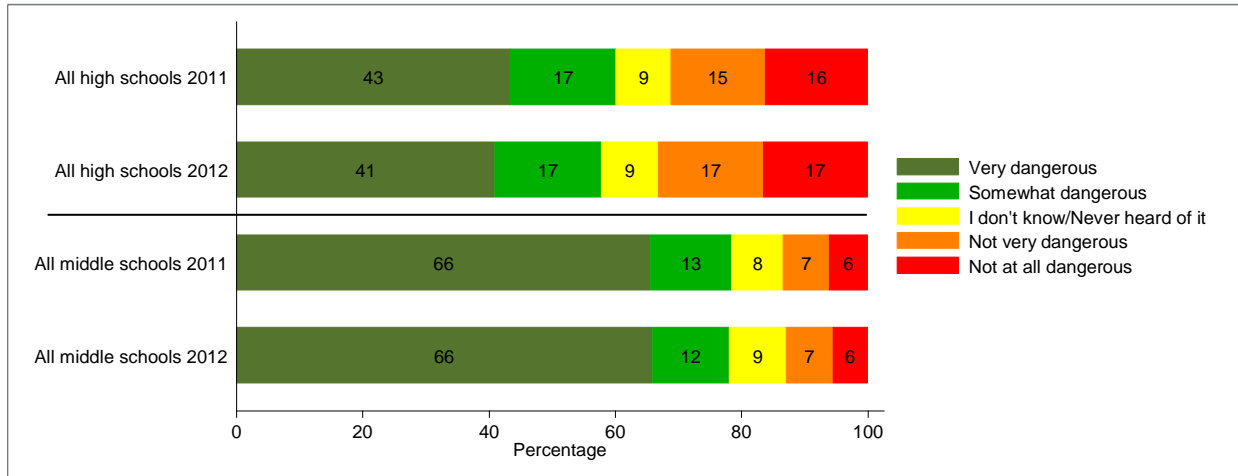


Q29c. Within the past month, how many kids at your school do you think have used Marijuana?



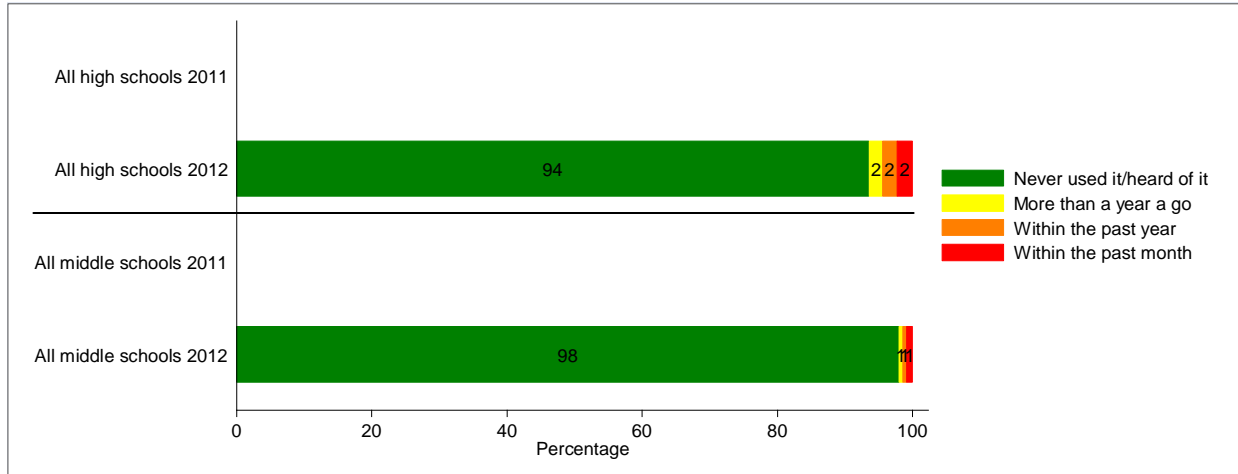


Q27c: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use Marijuana?



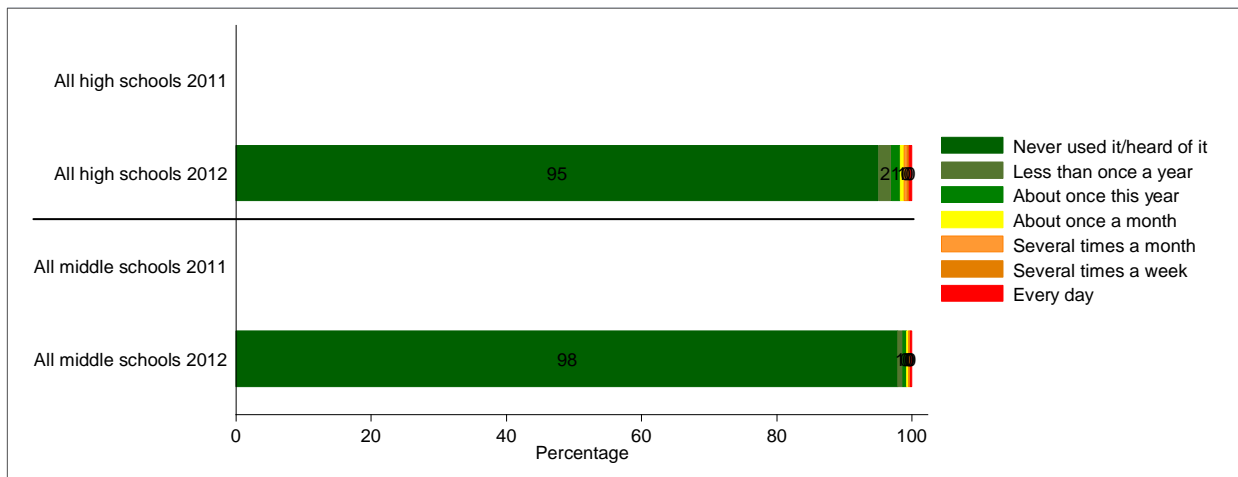
**K2 OR SPICE:**

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



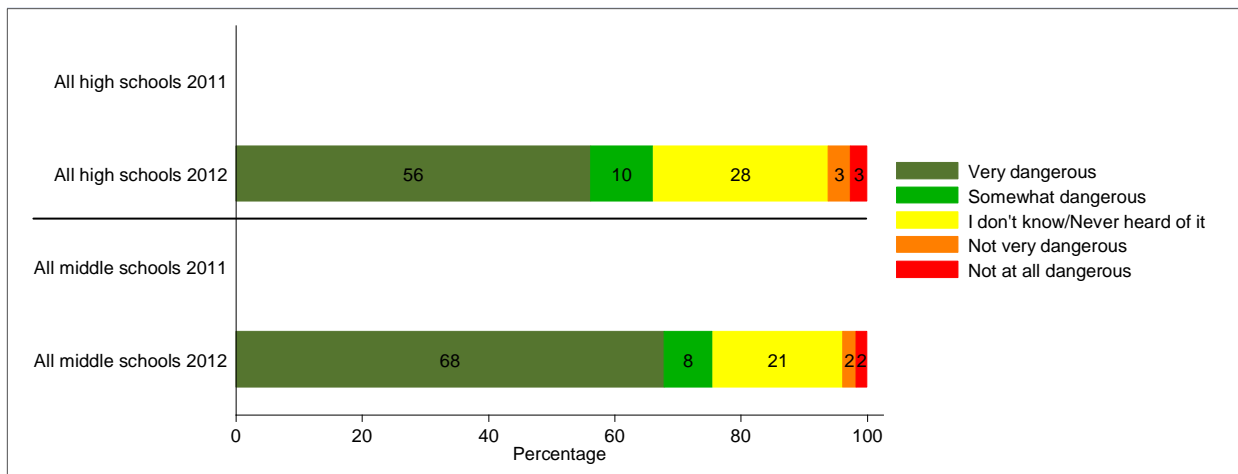
Note: This question was not asked in the 2010-2011 survey.

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



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

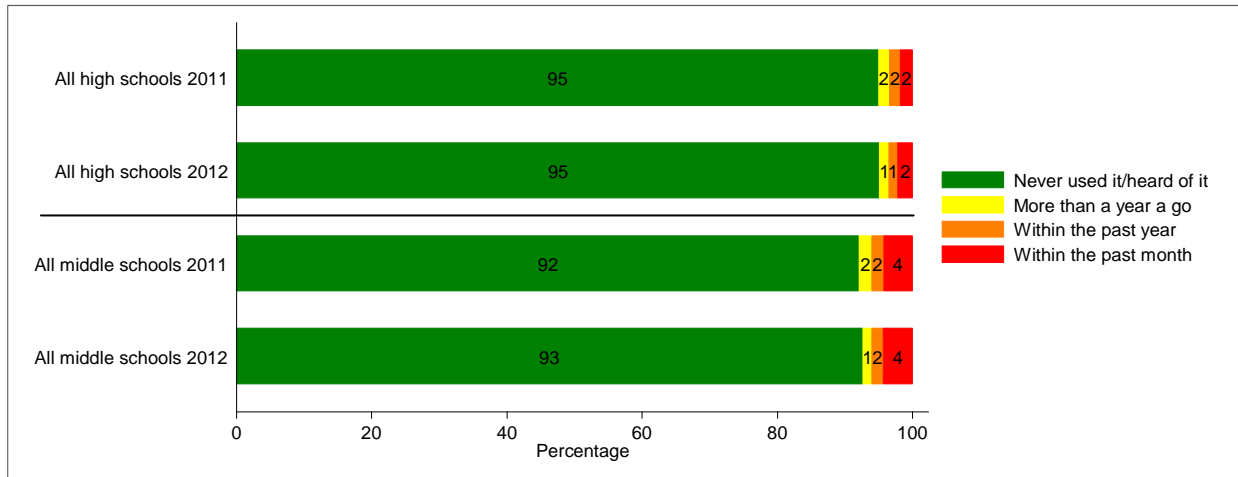
Q27d: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use K2 or Spice?



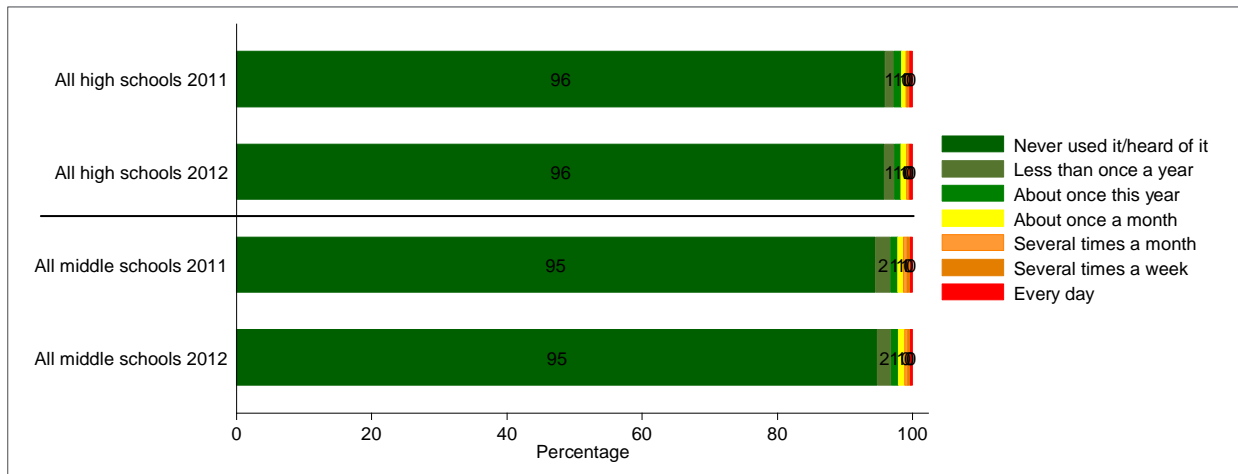
Note: This question was not asked in the 2010-2011 survey.

**INHALANTS:**

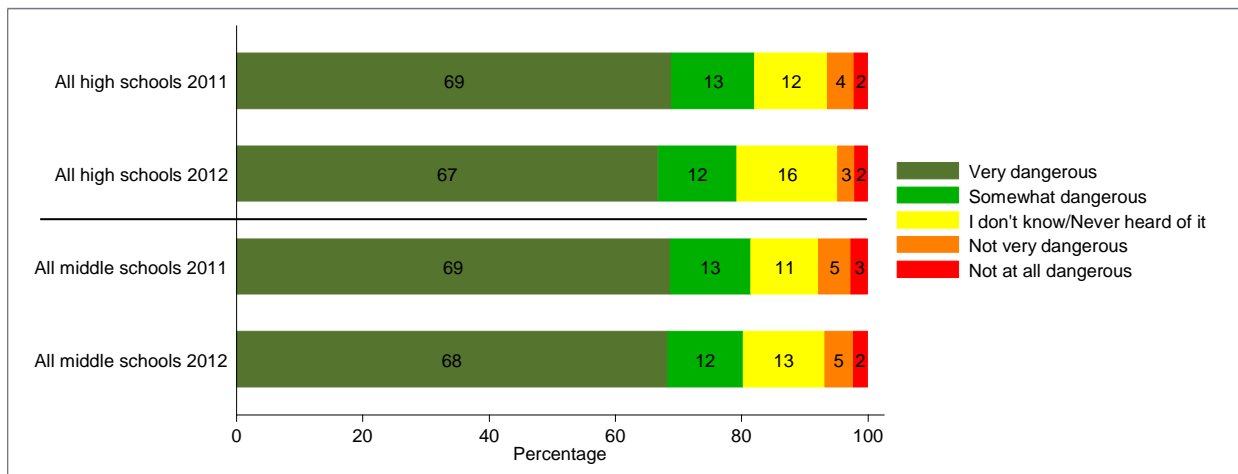
**Q18e: What is the most recent you have used Inhalants?**



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

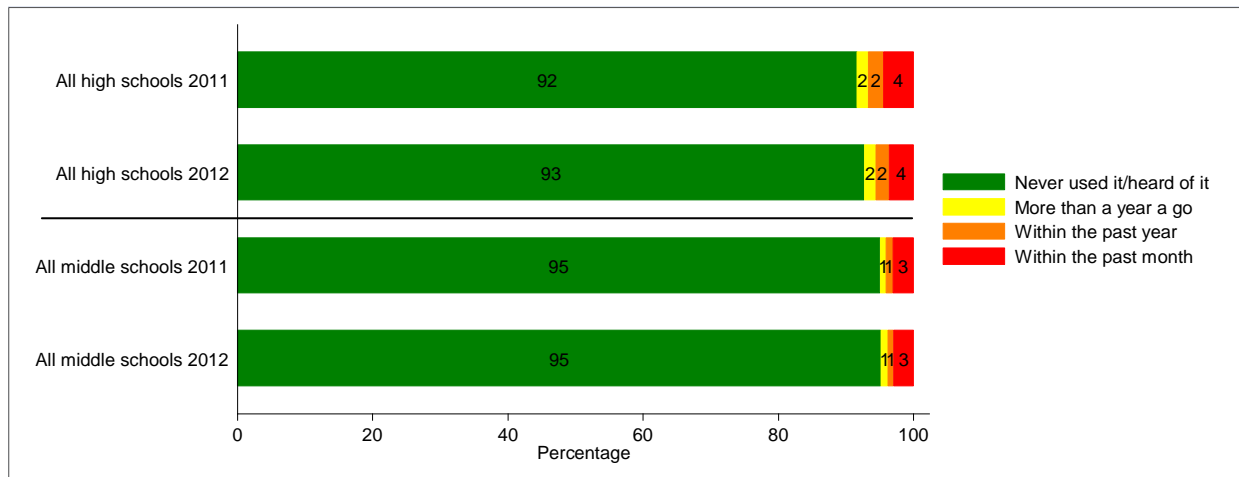


**Q27e: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use Inhalants?**

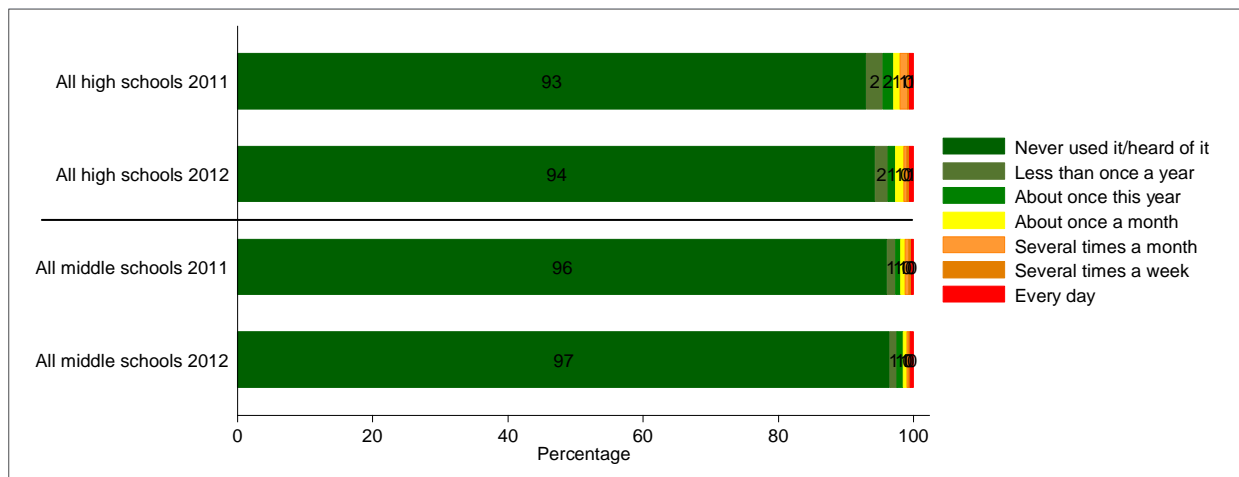


**OVER THE COUNTER MEDICATION:**

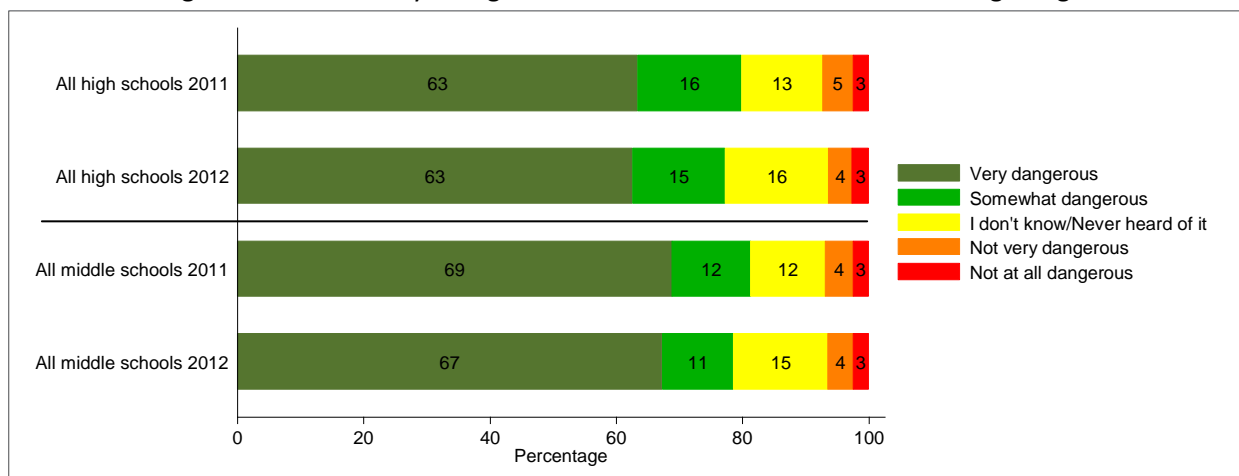
Q18f: What is the most recent you have used Over the Counter Medication to get high?



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

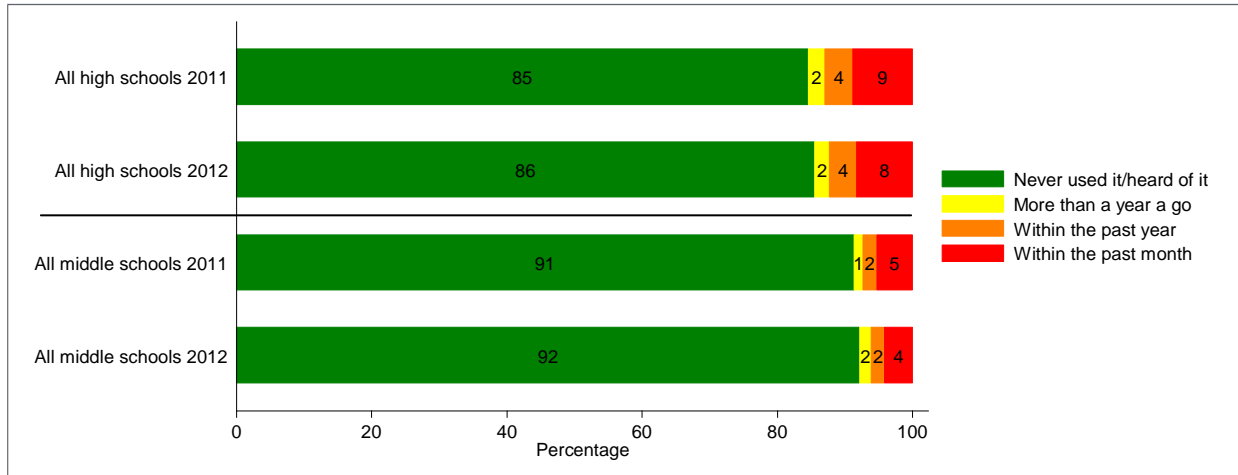


Q27f: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use Over the Counter Medication to get high?

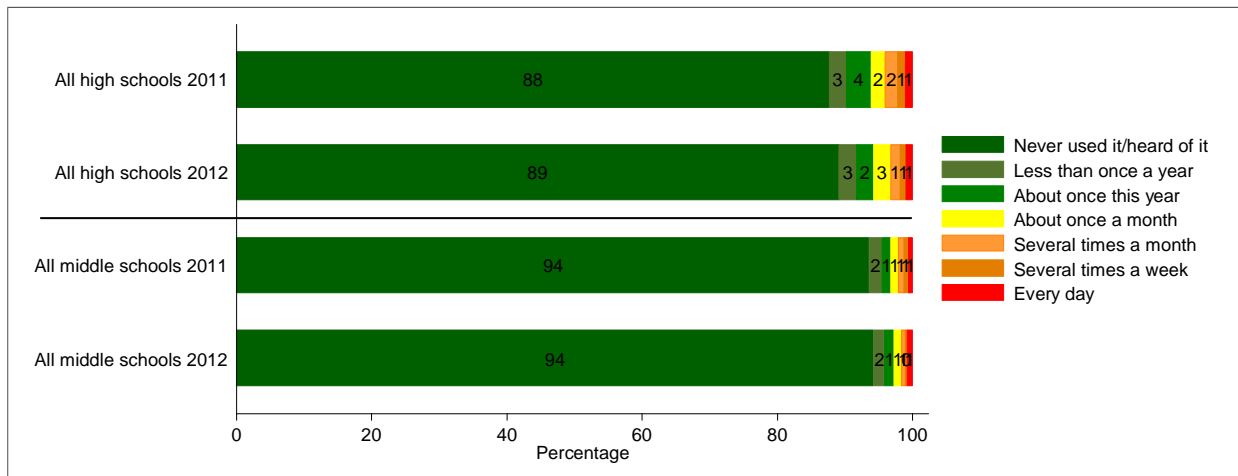


**PRESCRIPTION DRUGS:**

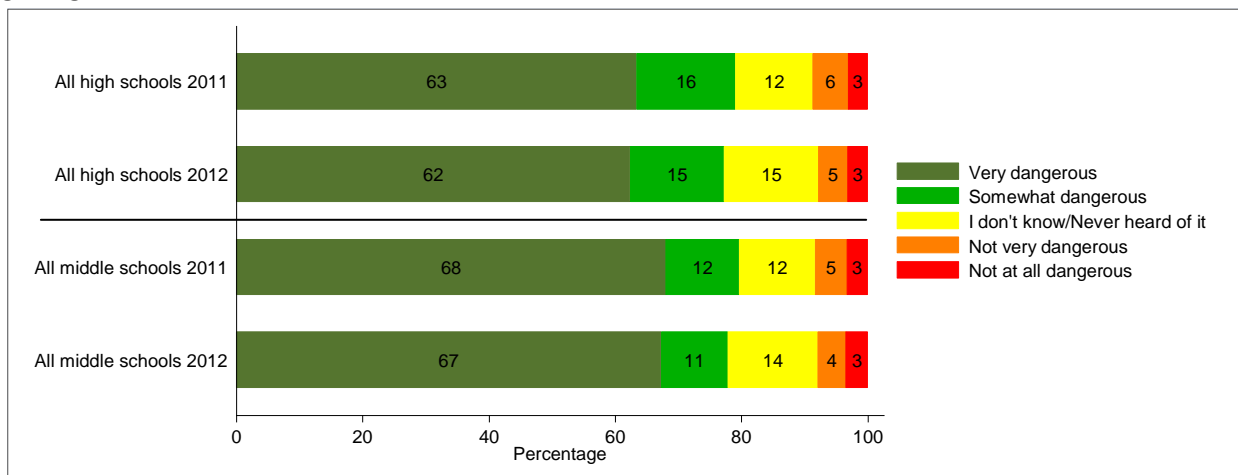
Q18g: What is the most recent you have used Prescription Drugs that were not prescribed to you to get high?



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

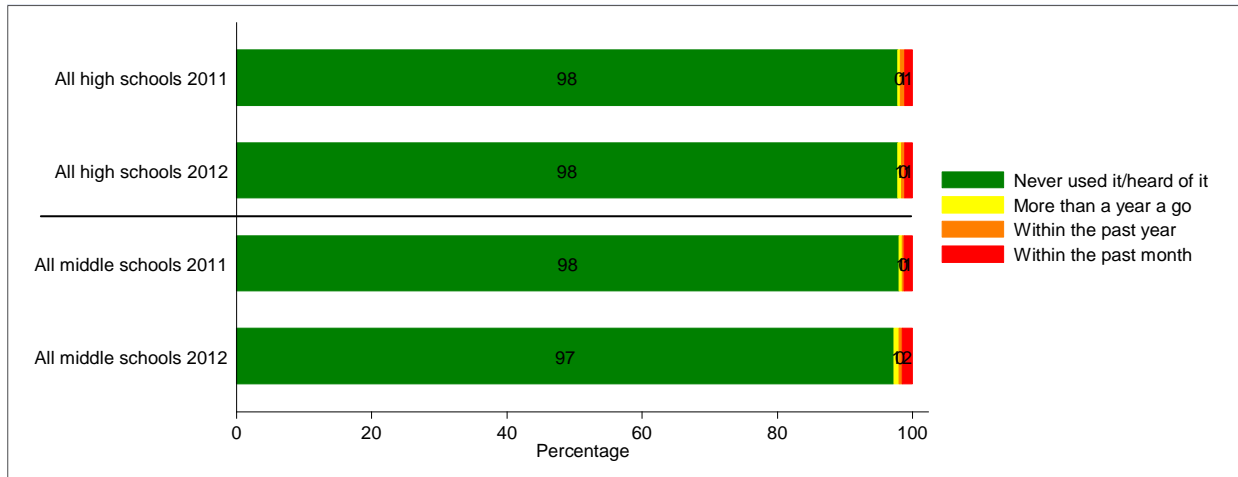


Q27g: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use Prescription Drugs that were not prescribed to you to get high?

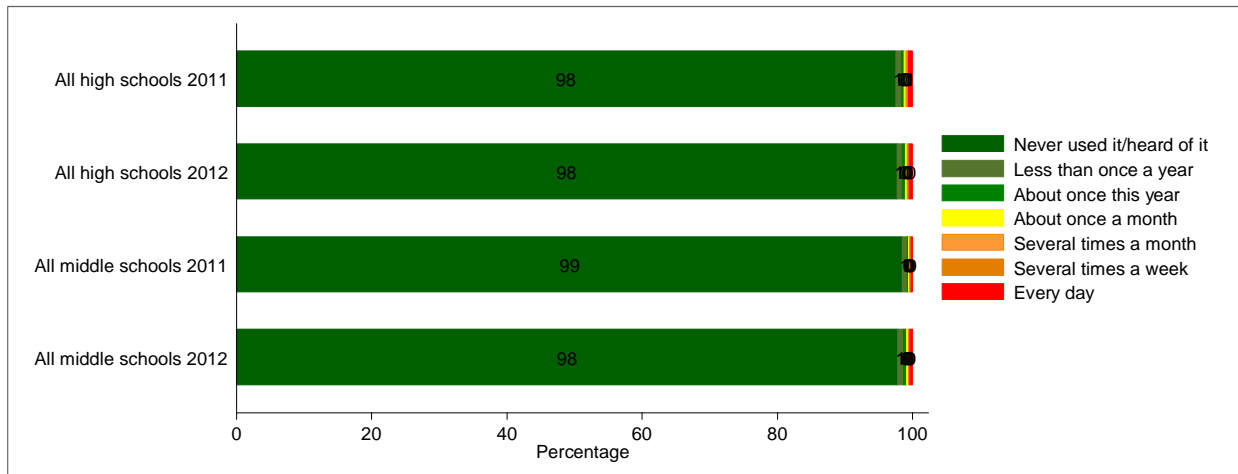


**STEROIDS OR PERFORMANCE ENHANCING DRUGS:**

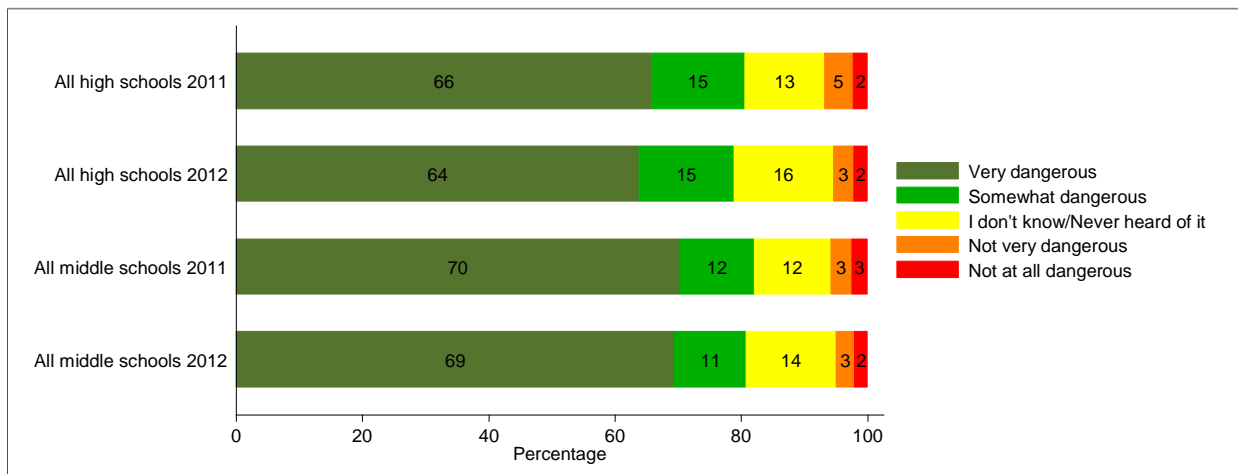
Q18h: What is the most recent you have used Steroids or Performance Enhancing Drugs?



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

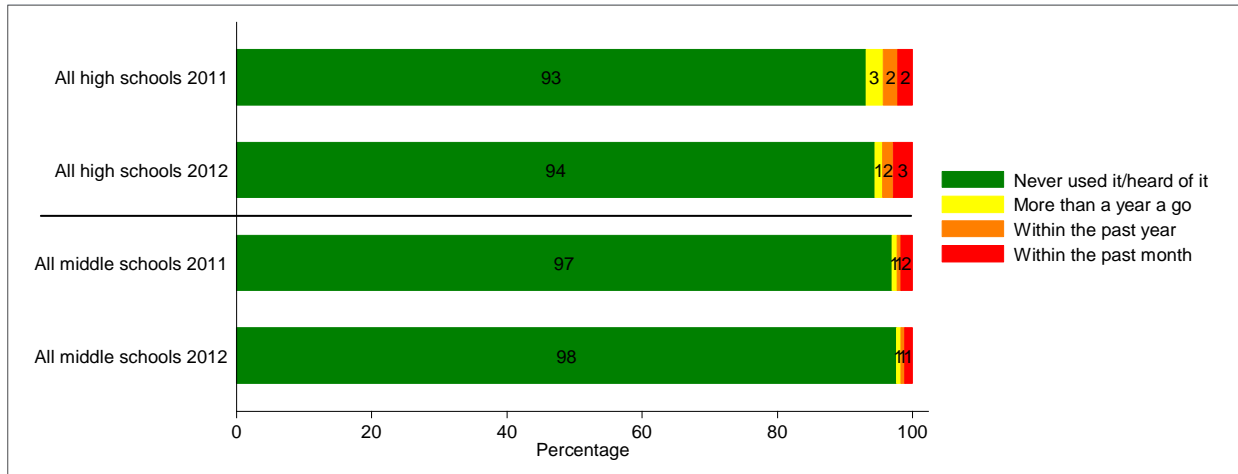


Q27h: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use Steroids or Performance Enhancing Drugs?

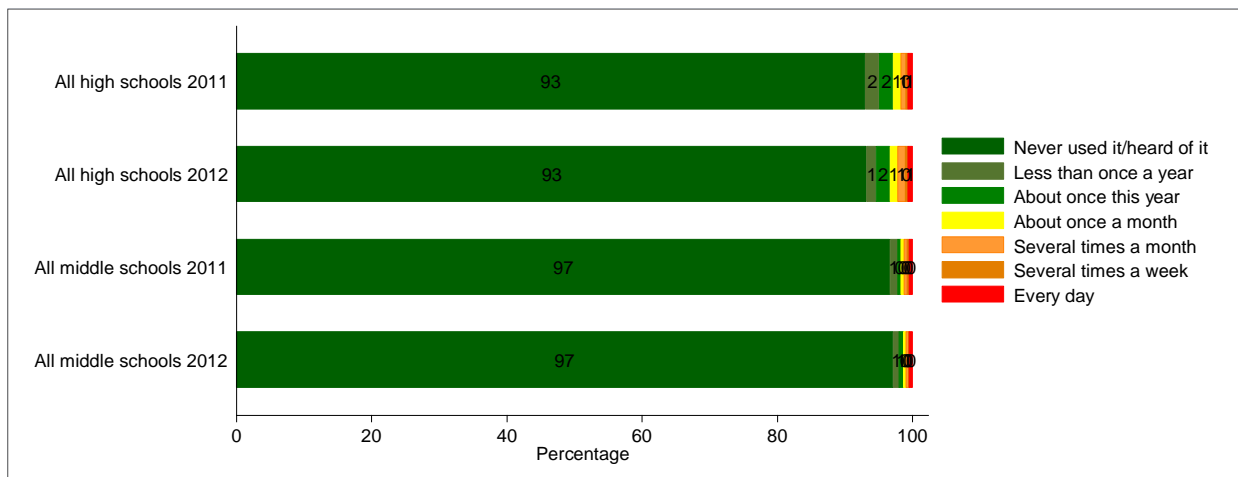


**OTHER ILLEGAL DRUGS:**

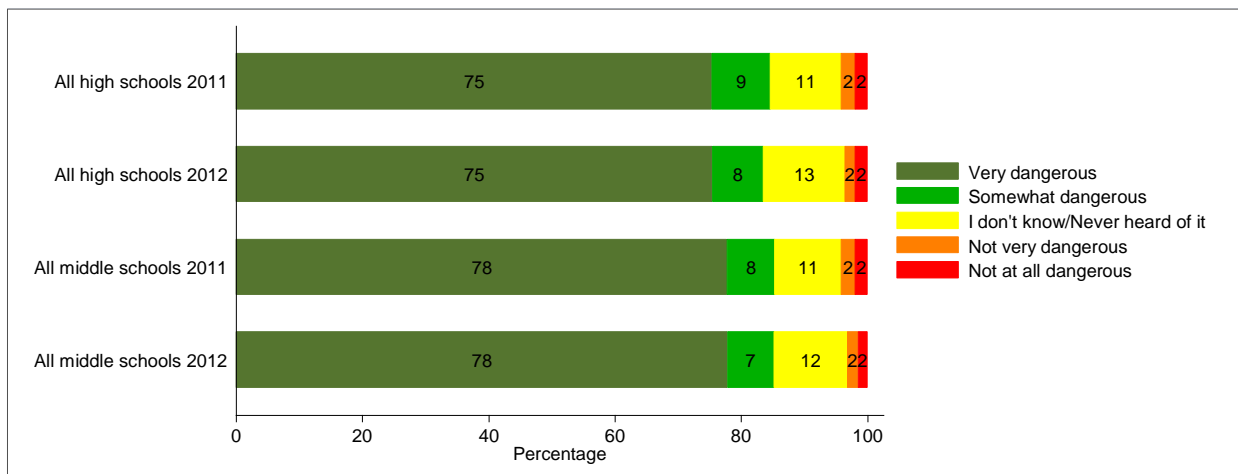
Q18i: What is the most recent you have used Other Illegal Drugs (e.g., cocaine, ecstasy, hallucinogens, heroin, methamphetamines)?



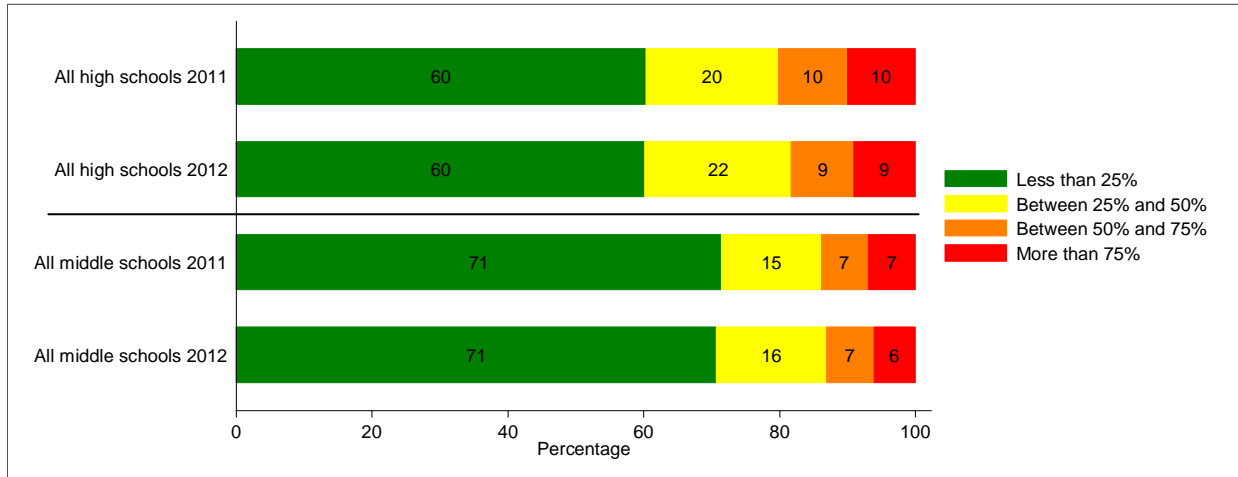
Q21i: During this year, how often did you use Other Illegal Drugs?



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



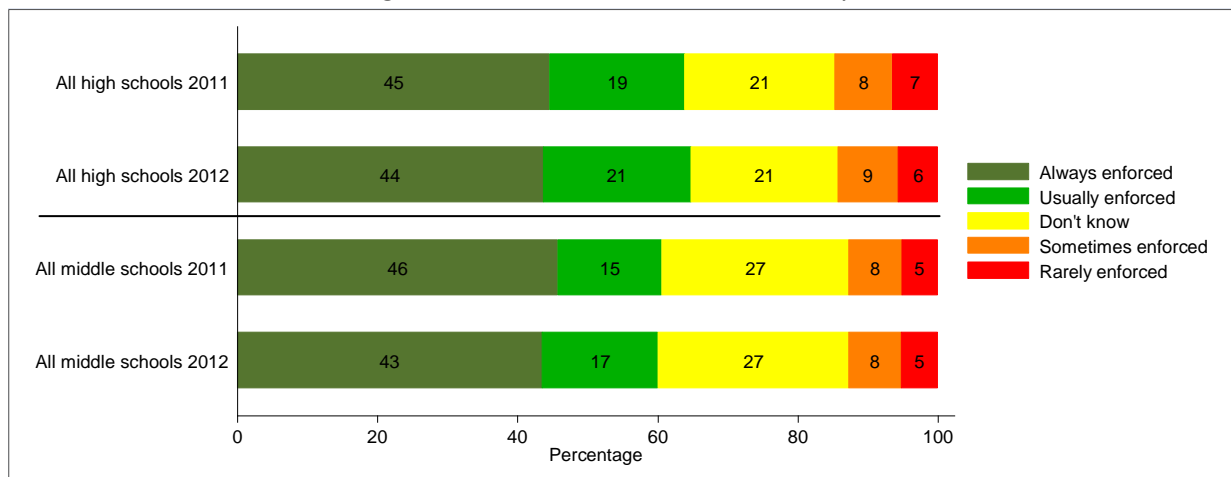
Q29d. Within the past month, how many kids at your school do you think have used Other Illegal Drugs (e.g., cocaine, ecstasy, heroin, etc.) ?



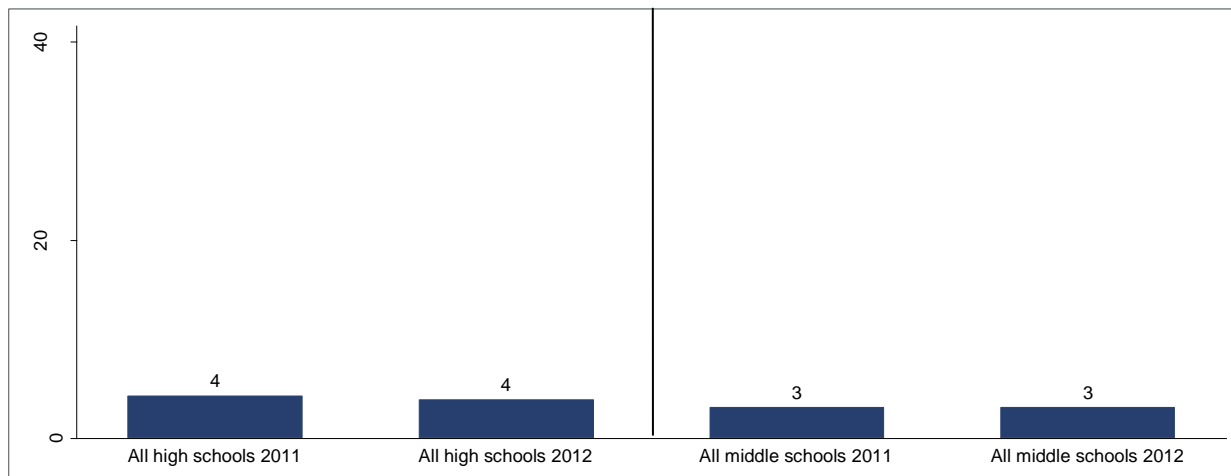


**OPINIONS, EXPERIENCES, AND EXPOSURE:**

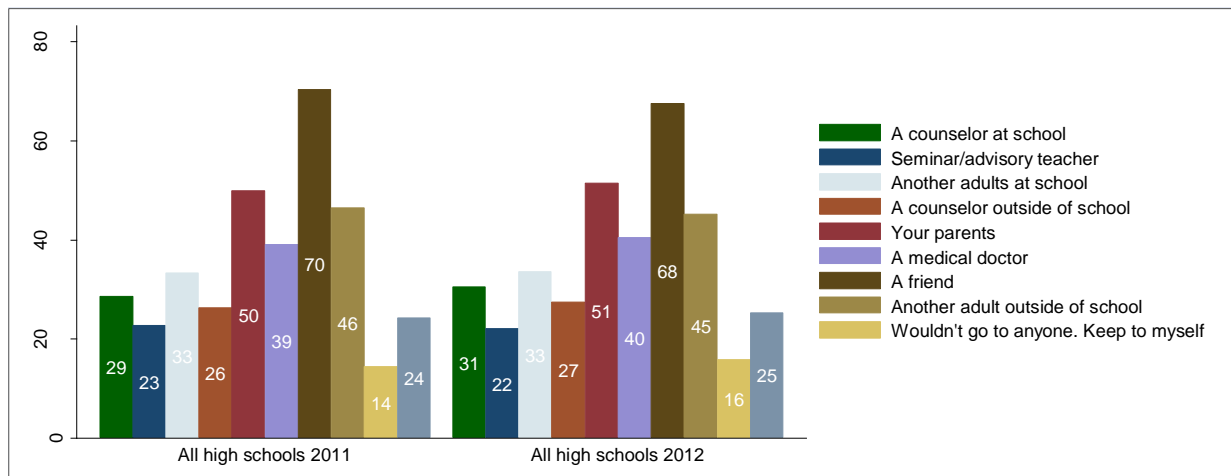
Q13: Are school rules about drug, alcohol, and tobacco use enforced by school staff?



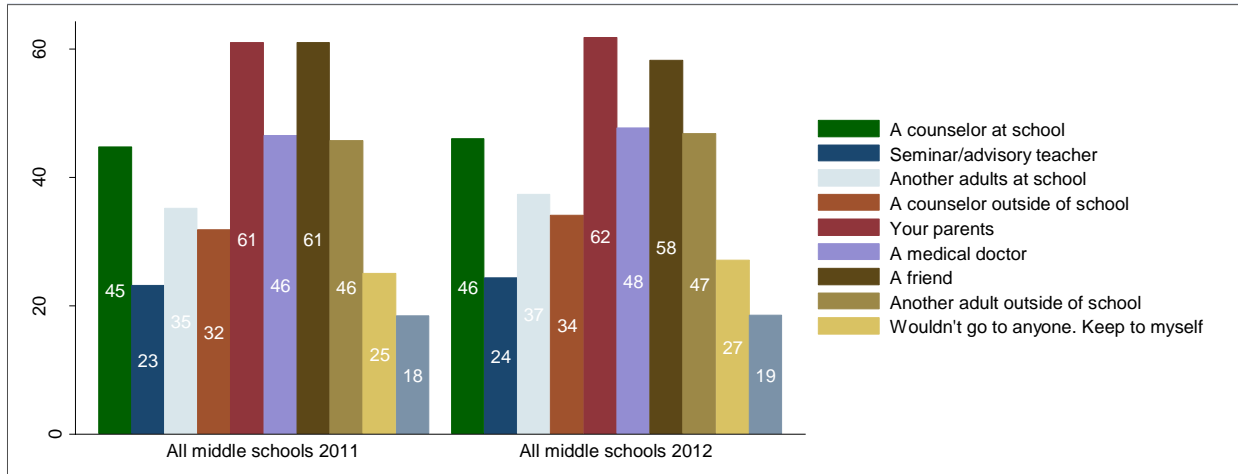
Q19: During this school year, have you gotten into trouble with the police because of tobacco, drugs, or alcohol?



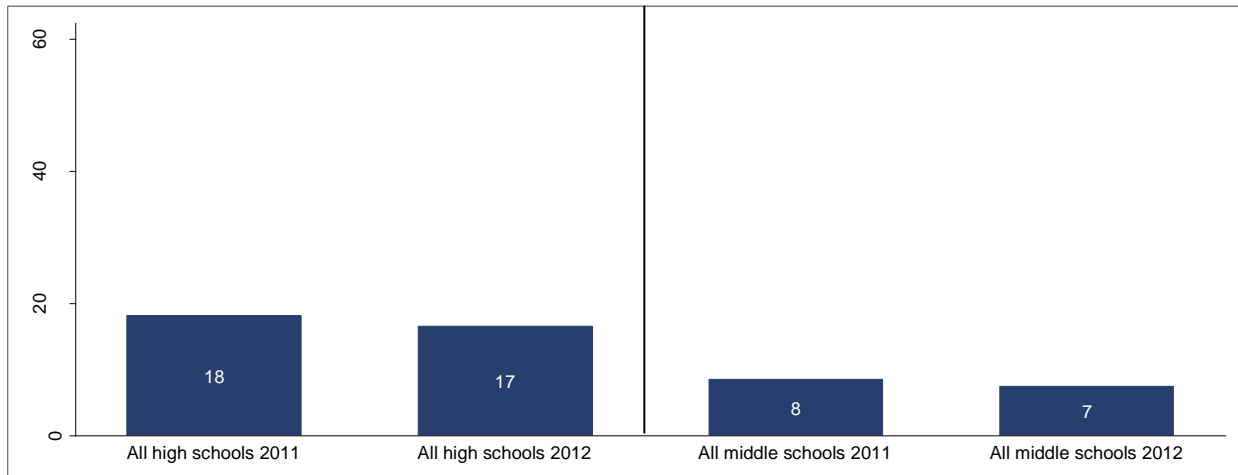
Q24a: If you had a drug or alcohol problem and needed help, who would you go to? (**High School Students**)



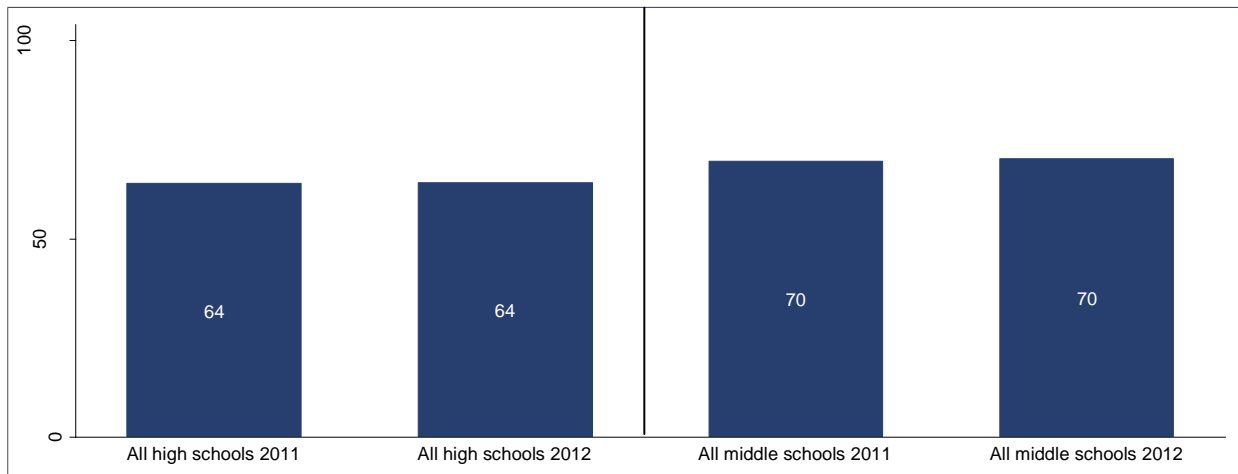
**Q24b: If you had a drug or alcohol problem and needed help, who would you go to? (Middle School Students)**



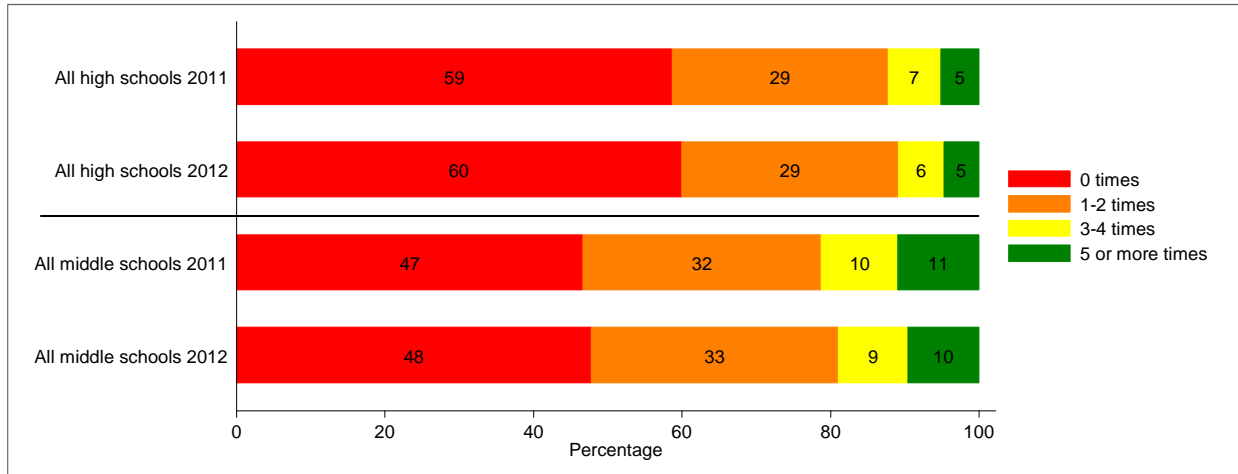
**Q20: During this school year, have you attended any class while "high", "stoned", or "drunk" on any substance?**



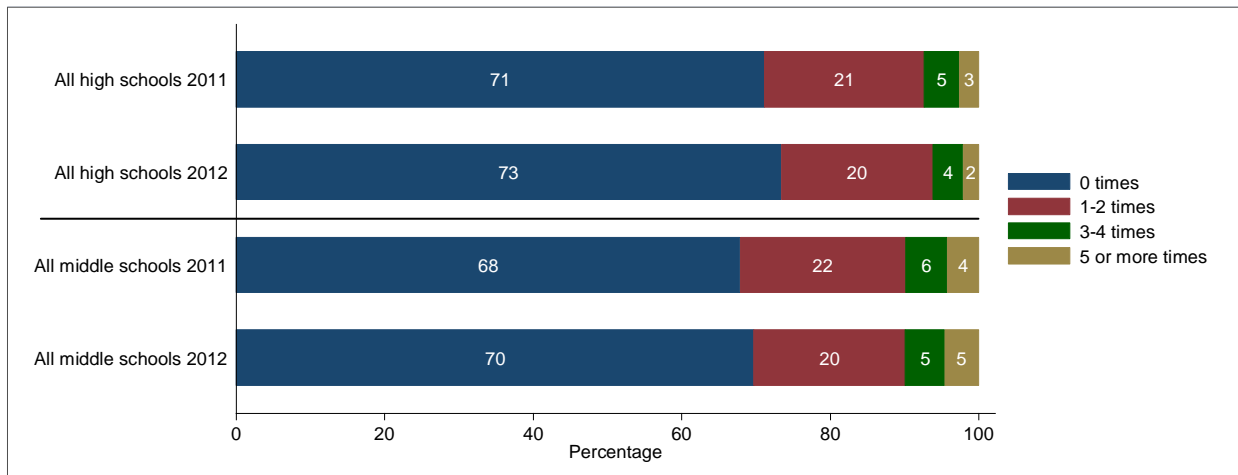
**Q25: Within the past year, has your parent/guardian talked with you about the dangers of tobacco, alcohol, or drug use?**



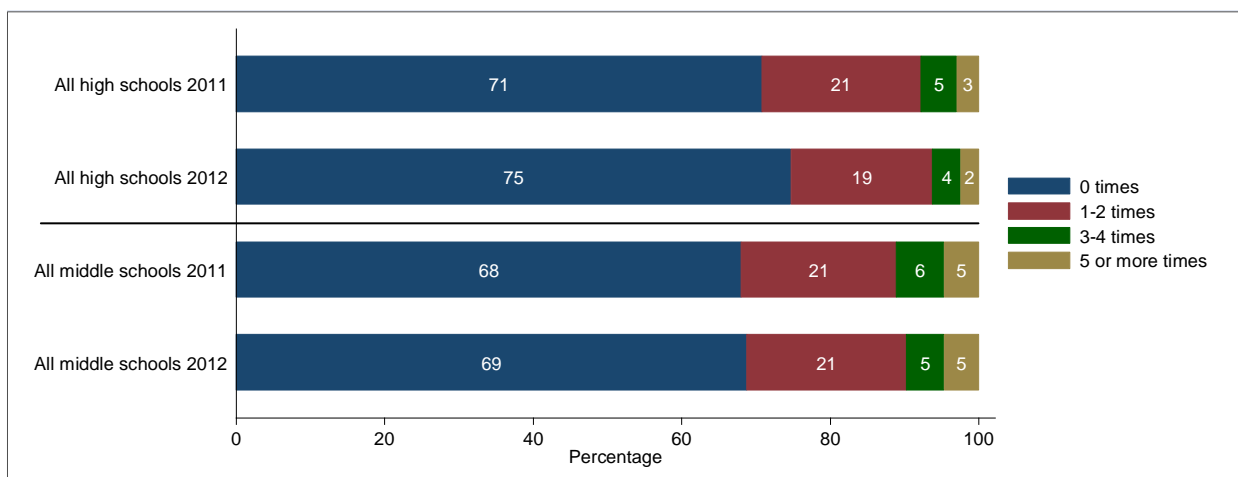
Q28a. During the school year, how many times have you experienced classes in which you learned and practiced ways of resisting and avoiding substance abuse?



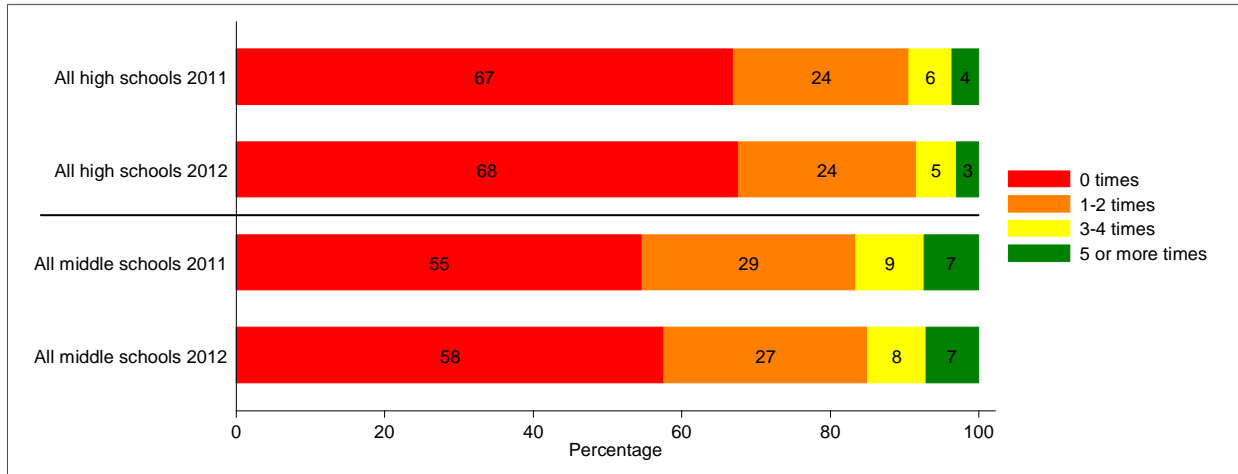
Q28b. During the school year, how many times have you experienced presentations by people who recovered from alcohol and drug abuse?



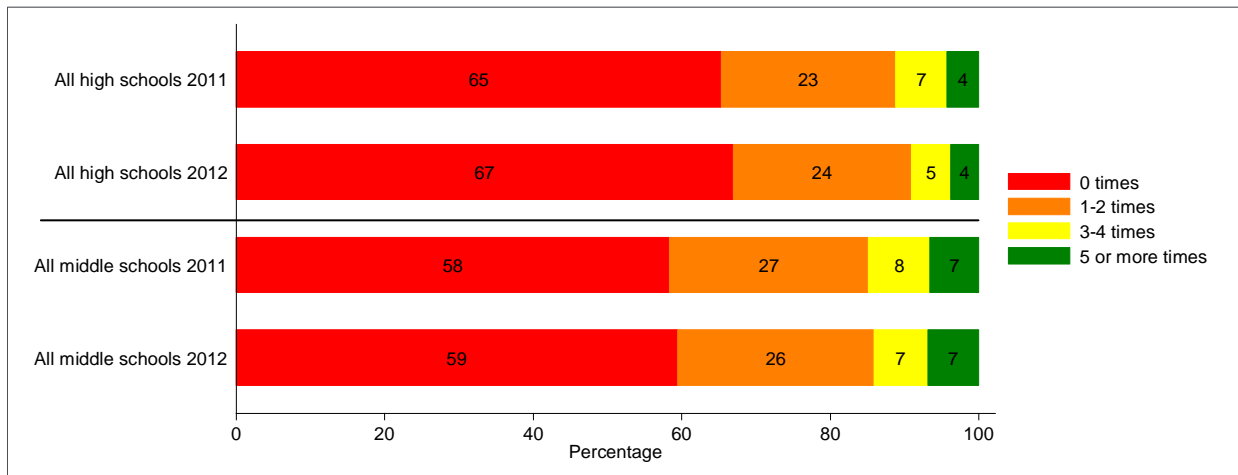
Q28c. During the school year, how many times have you experienced presentations by students who tell about how to avoid substance abuse?



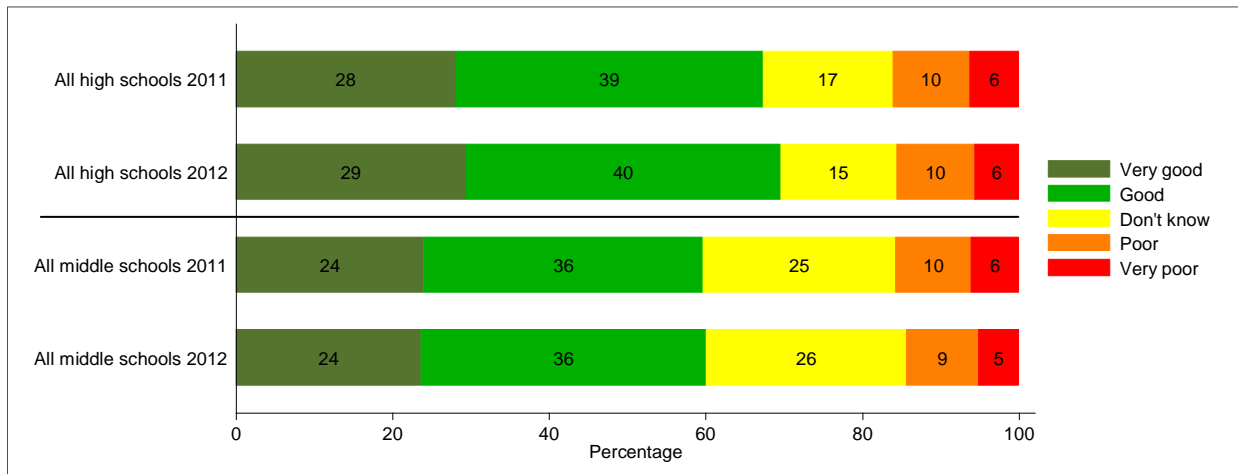
Q28d. During the school year, how many times have you received information about counseling or services to help kids quit smoking and stop substance abuse?



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?



# AUSTIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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