Results of the 2014 Student Substance Use and Safety Survey

October, 2014

Department of Research and Evaluation
AUSTIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

KEALING 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 AISD students. The survey is used to track students' knowledge, attitudes, and self-reported behavior over time. In the spring of 2014, a sample of 9,819 students in grades 6 through 12 submitted valid responses to the district's annual survey of substance use and safety issues, yielding a response rate of 76%.[1] 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 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 Kealing Middle School sample of 390 students and population enrollment of 1155, the confidence interval for Kealing is + and - 4 percentage points.

The 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 4 percentage points on each side of the sample statistics. For example, in 2013, 5% 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 4 percentage points) to the 5% yields a range of 1% to 9%. Therefore, you can be 95% confident that somewhere between 1% and 9% 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 2013 was 5 percentage points. Therefore, only differences of 9 percentage points (4%+ 5%) or greater should be considered statistically significant when comparing the results from two different years. In addition, differences of 5 percentage points (4% + 1%) or greater should be considered statistically significant when comparing the results between the campus and all middle schools.

[1] A total of 10,271 surveys were returned to the Department of Research and Evaluation from an original sample of 12,922 students. Of those returned, 452 surveys were removed from analysis due to invalid responses. Since students did not necessarily respond to all questions on the survey, individual survey items have different response rates.

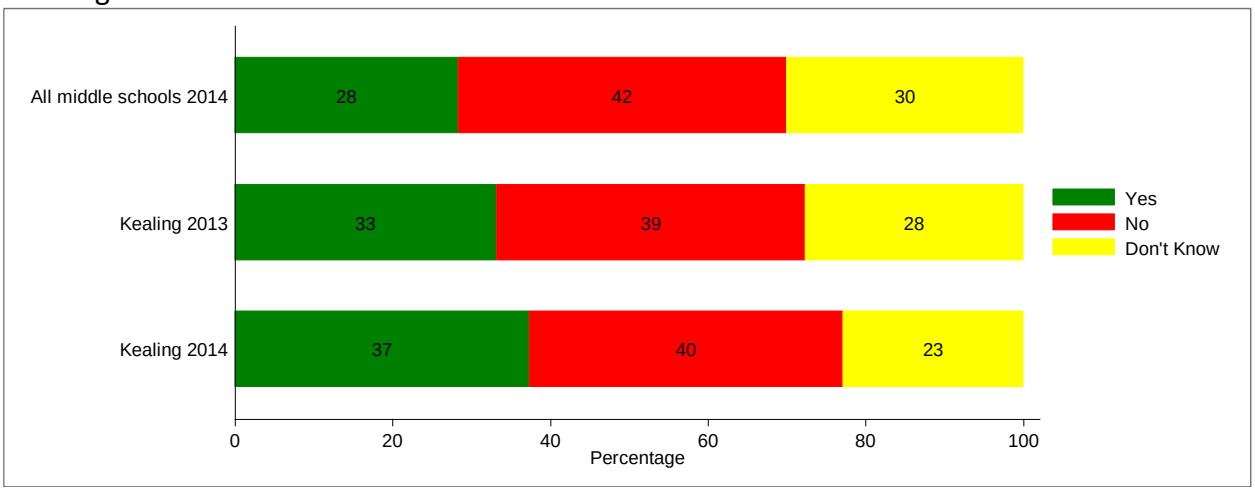
RESPONDENTS' DEMOGRAPHICS AND ITEMS THAT ADDRESS BOTH SUBSTANCE USE AND SAFETY

Survey Sample Demographics

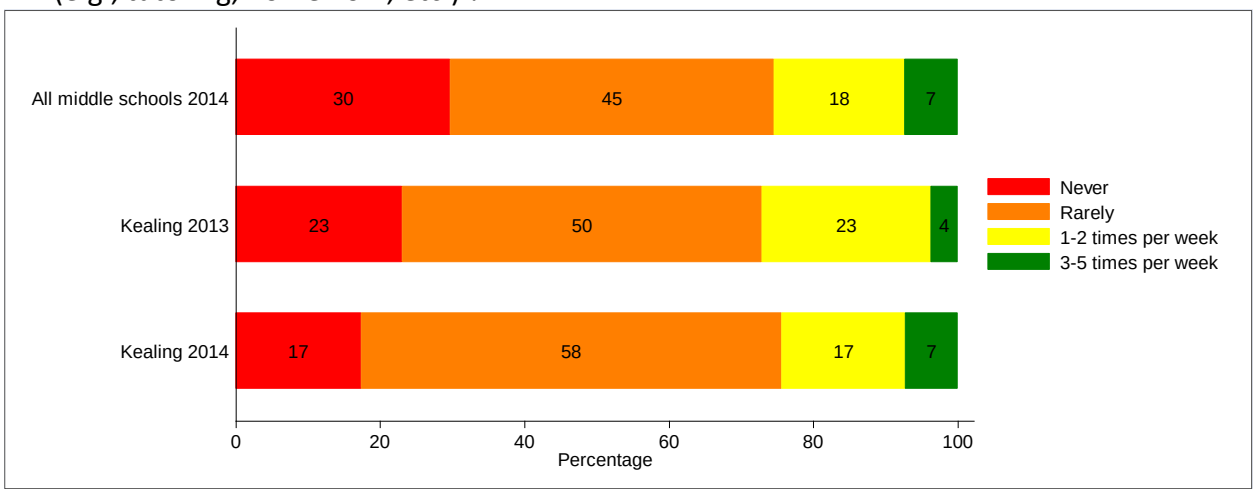
	Gender		Grade			Total
	Male	Female	6th	7th	8th	
Kealing 2013	145 45%	175 55%	107 33%	105 33%	108 34%	324
Kealing 2014	191 49%	198 51%	119 31%	135 35%	136 35%	390
All middle schools 2014	2,646 48%	2,819 52%	1,888 34%	1,861 34%	1,726 32%	5,508

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

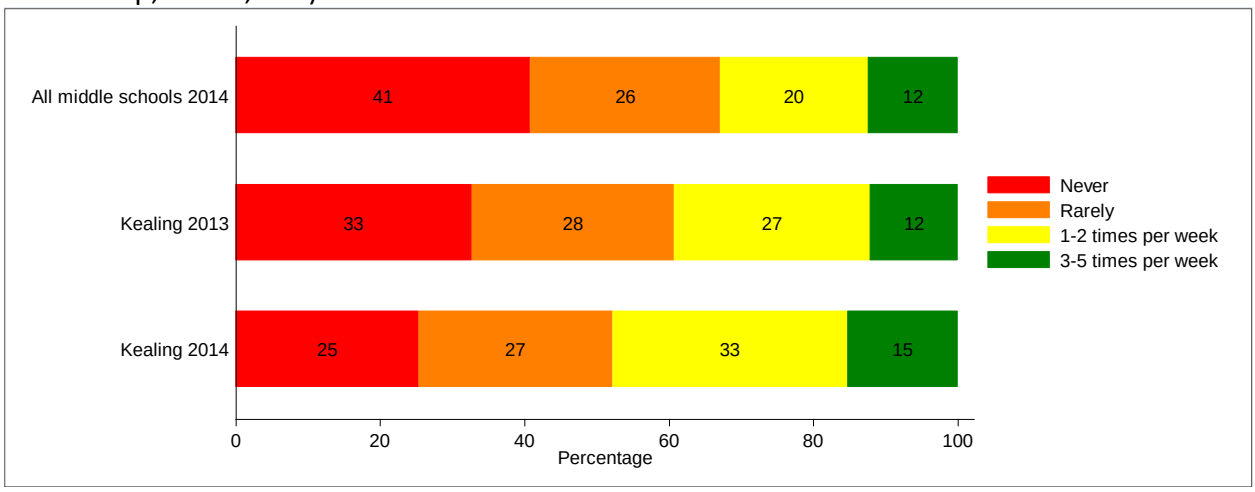
Q22: Do one or both of your parents usually attend school sponsored open houses, PTA meetings or other school events?



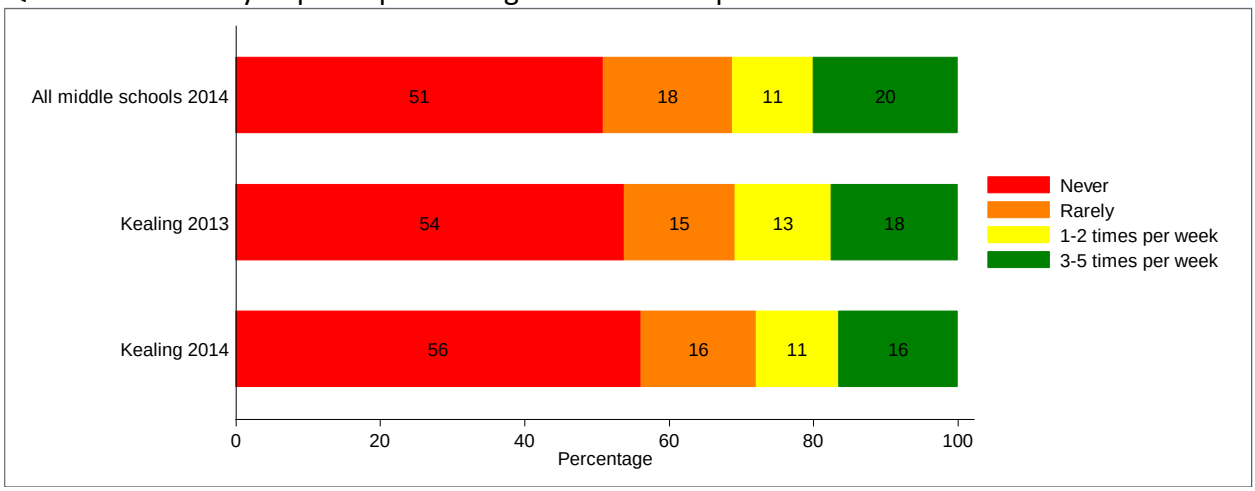
Q4. How often do you participate in after school programs to help you with your school work (e.g., tutoring, homework, etc.) ?



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?

	Kealing 2013–2014	Percentage point change from 2012–2013*	All middle schools 2013–2014
Knives	6%	2	5%
Other weapons	5%	2	5%
Illegal drugs	3%	-1	5%
Prescription drugs	3%	1	4%
Tobacco	2%	0	3%
Alcohol	2%	-1	3%
Gun	2%	0	3%
None of the above	91%	-1	89%

*Negative percentage point changes indicate fewer students reported bringing those items to school in 2013–2014 than in 2012–2013.

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

	Kealing 2013–2014	Percentage point change from 2012–2013*	All middle schools 2013–2014
Student fighting and physical aggression	32%	5	21%
Student harassment, threats, and intimidation	27%	5	19%
Student vandalism, criminal mischief	8%	2	3%
Marijuana use	6%	-4	16%
Student weapon possession	2%	0	6%
Alcohol use	1%	0	1%
Prescription drug use	1%	-2	4%
Tobacco use	1%	-1	1%
Violence or threats toward staff	1%	-1	2%
None of these are serious problems on my campus	22%	-4	27%

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 2013–2014than in 2012–2013.

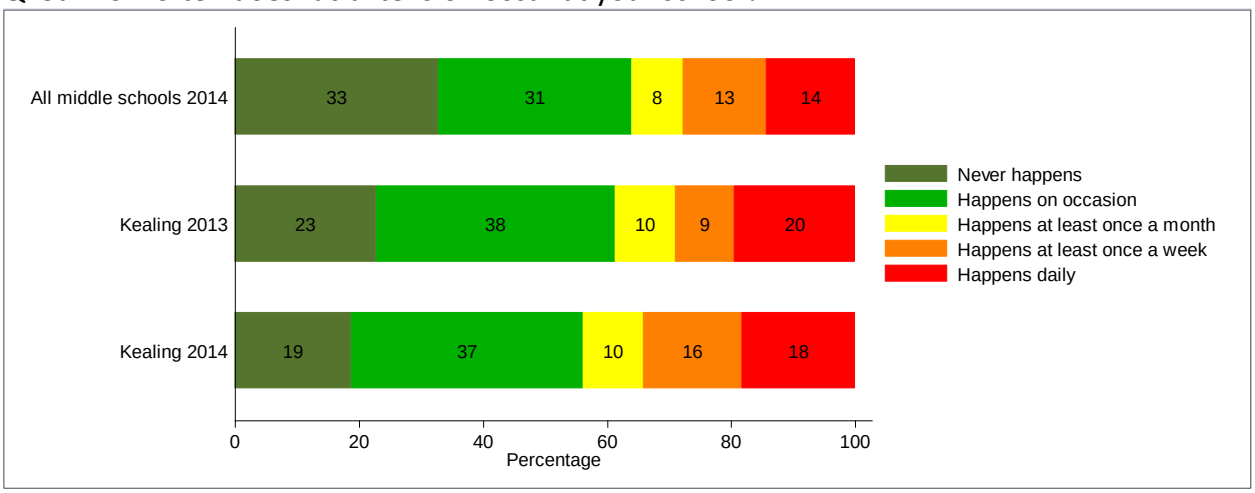
Q7. During this school year, have you received any information on drugs, alcohol, or violence from any of the following school sources?

	Kealing 2013–2014	Percentage point change from 2012–2013*	All middle schools 2013–2014
Advisory/seminar class	58%	-17	42%
Health class	37%	-3	37%
Science class	27%	-7	43%
Another class	27%	-6	38%
Guidance counselor	12%	-15	25%
Special school event about tobacco, drugs, alcohol, or violence	11%	-20	36%
Coach or P.E. teacher	11%	-6	20
School nurse	10%	-3	21%
Afterschool program	5%	-4	14%
Student support group meetings at school	4%	-4	16%
Other school source not mentioned above	84%	0	71%
None of the above	10%	6	10%

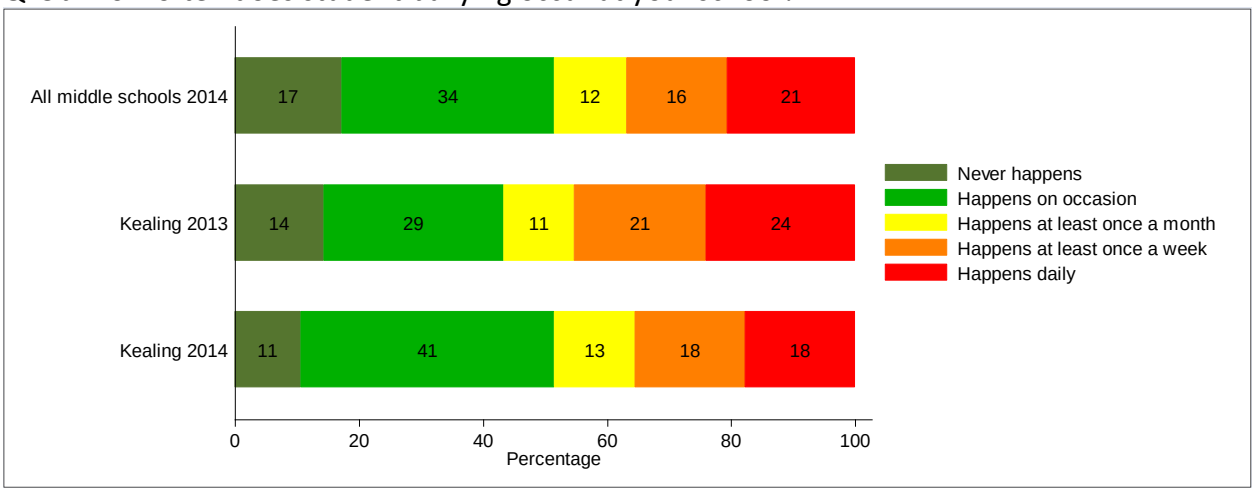
Note. Percentages may sum to more than 100% because respondents were allowed to choose multiple items.
* Positive percentage point changes indicate more students reported having received information on drugs, alcohol, or violence from school sources in 2013–2014 than in 2012–2013.

SCHOOL SAFETY ITEMS

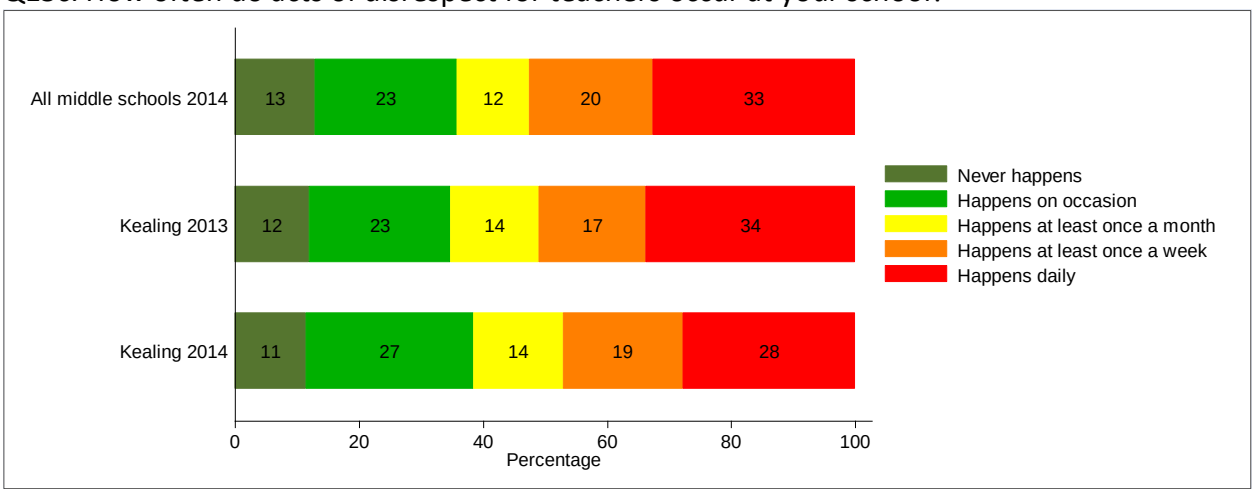
Q15a: How often does racial tension occur at your school?



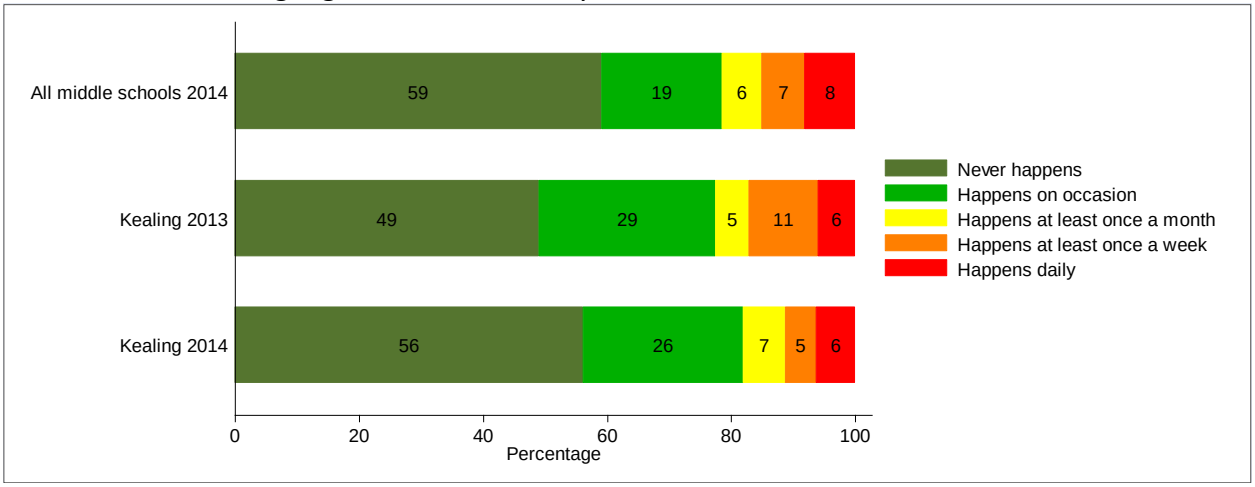
Q15b: How often does student bullying occur at your school?



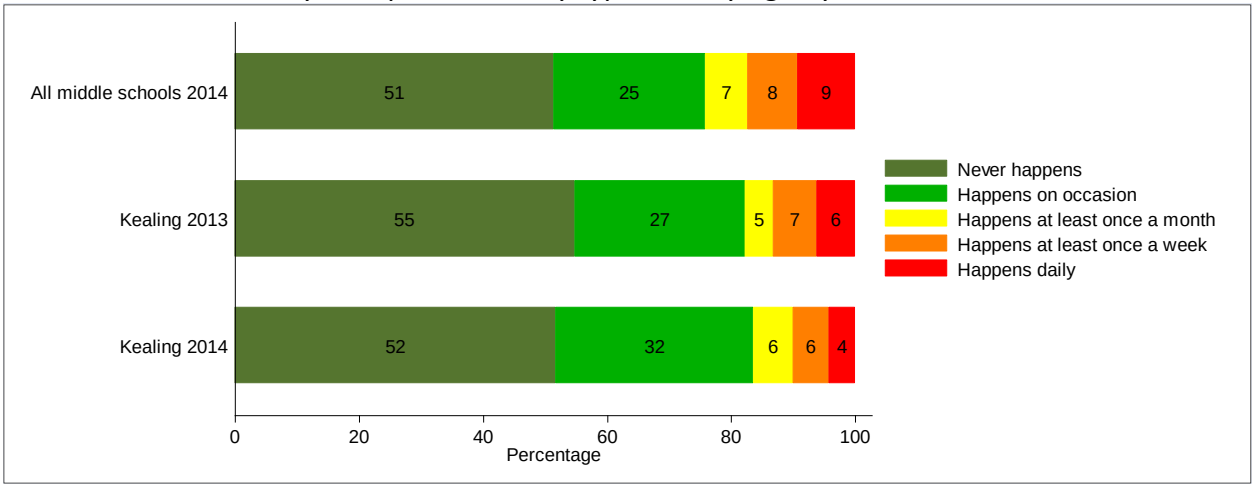
Q15c: How often do acts of disrespect for teachers occur at your school?



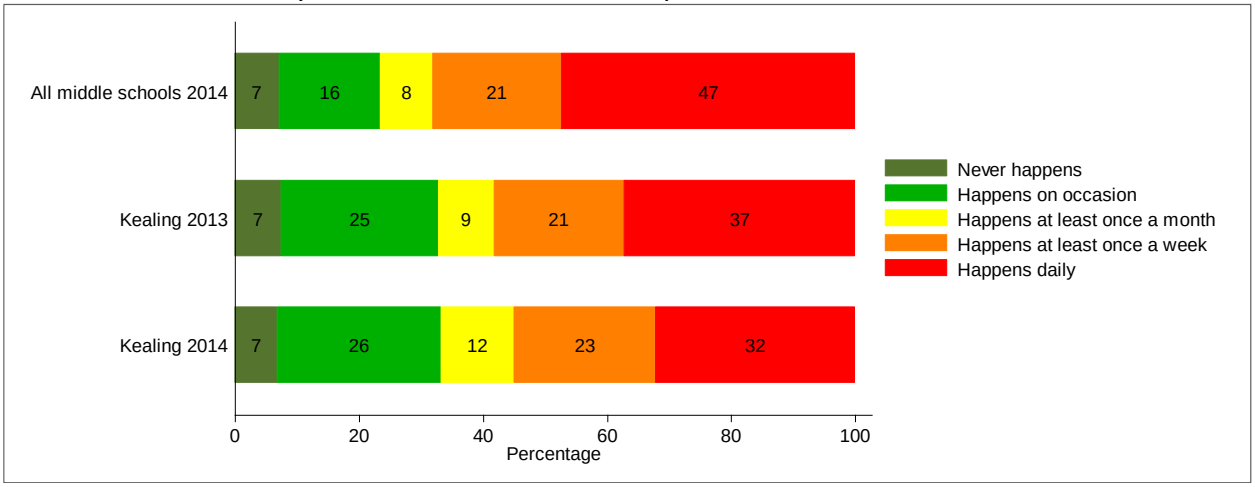
Q15d: How often do gang activities occur at your school?



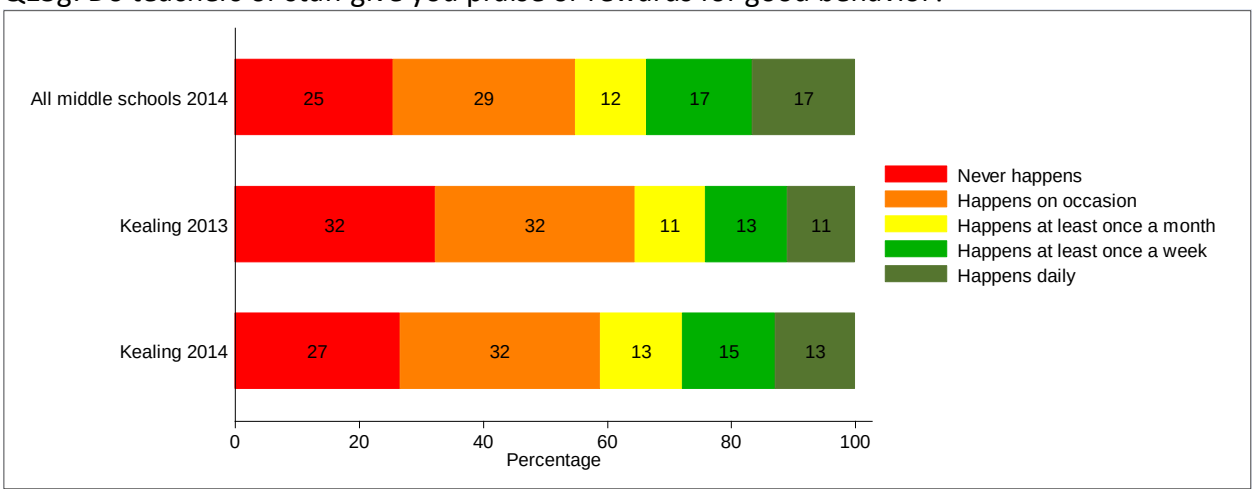
Q15e: How often have you experienced any type of bullying at your school?



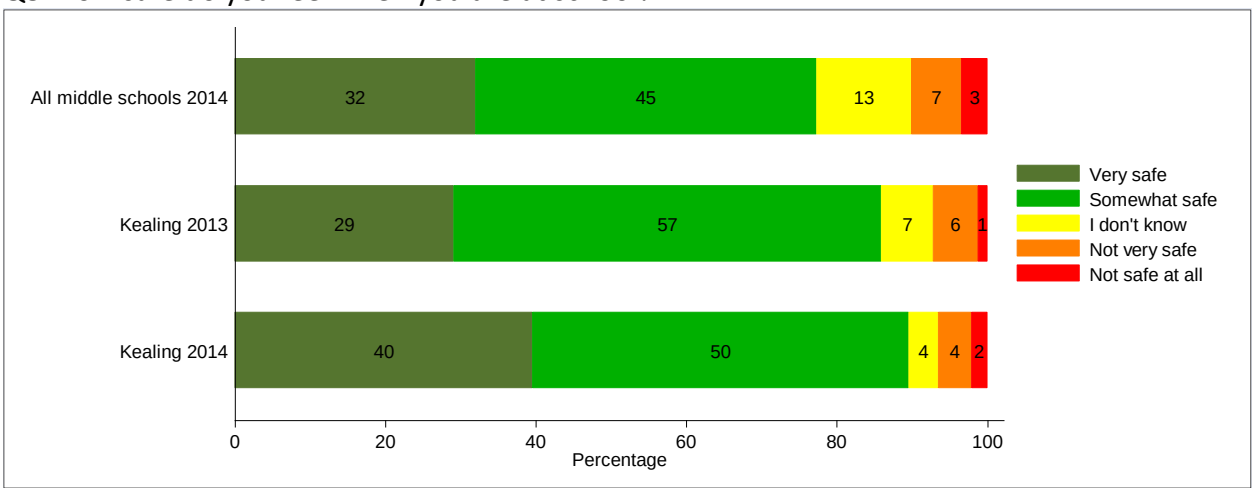
Q15f: How often does your teacher have to interrupt class to deal with student misbehavior?



Q15g: 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?

	Kealing 2013–2014	Percentage point change from 2012–2013*	All middle schools 2013–2014
Was sick	46%	-4	56%
Had to do something with family	24%	-4	34%
Was too tired	16%	-3	20%
Felt too sad or depressed to attend	6%	-1	12%
Didn't have a way to get to school	6%	2	11%
Didn't get along well with teachers	5%	-3	9%
Didn't feel safe on the way to/from school	4%	1	5%
Wanted to hang out with friends	3%	-3	10%
Didn't feel safe at school	3%	-2	7%
Had to go to work	2%	-1	4%
None	42%	4	30%

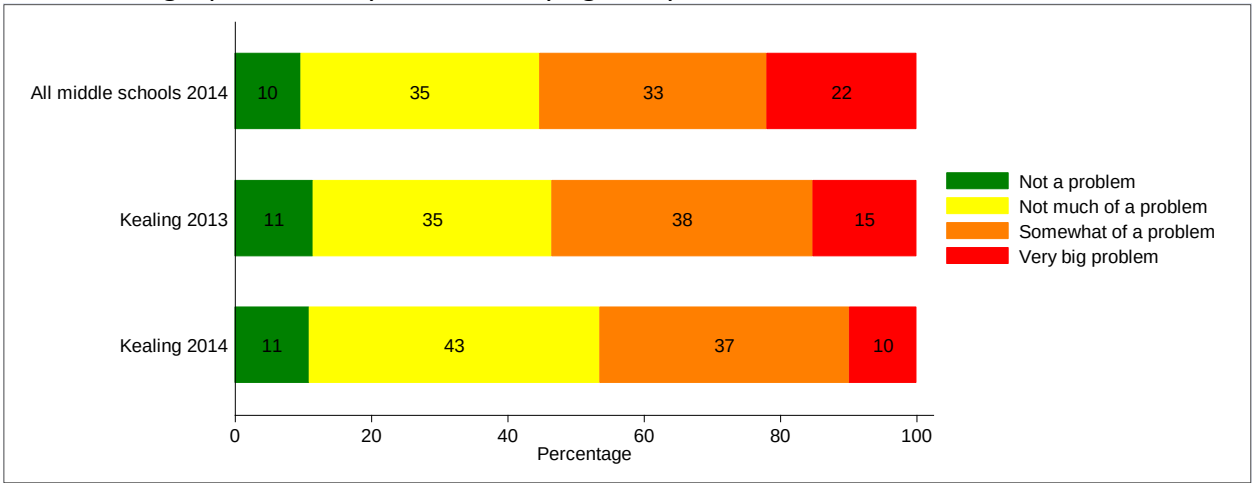
Note. Percentages may sum to more than 100% because respondents were allowed to choose multiple items.
* Negative percentage point changes indicate fewer students reported missing school due to any of the above reasons in 2013–2014 than in 2012–2013.

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

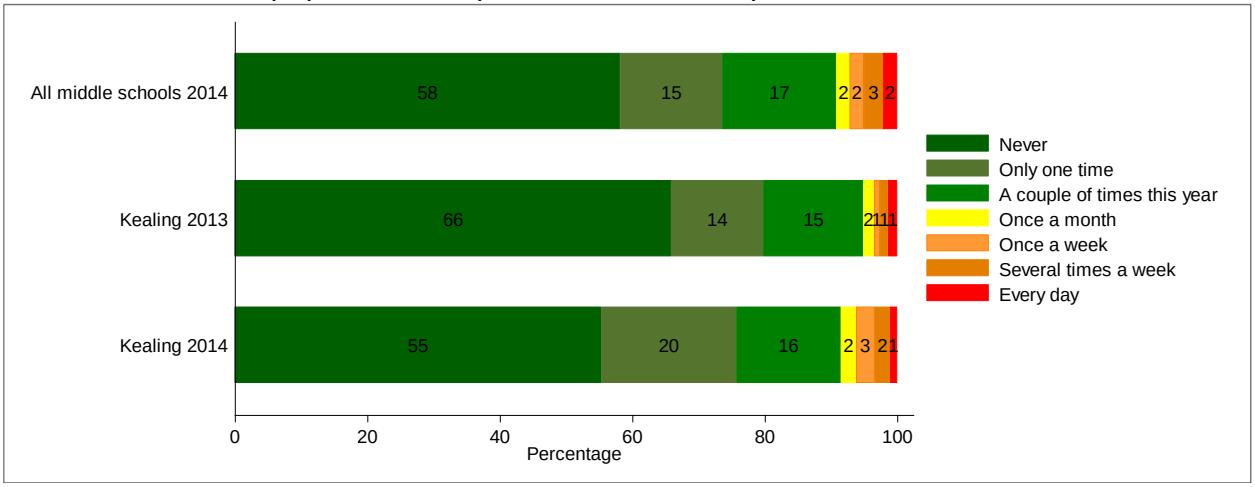
	Kealing 2013–2014	Percentage point change from 2012–2013*	All middle schools 2013–2014
Verbal	29%	-3	33%
Social	28%	3	32%
Physical	21%	2	22%
Racial or ethnic harassment	17%	0	16%
Sexual harassment	7%	-3	10%
Cyber bullying	6%	-3	16%
Written	5%	1	8%
Hazing/Initiation	3%	-1	6
Hurtful or controlling dating behavior	2%	-5	7%
None	50%	2	10%

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 2013–2014 than in 2012–2013.

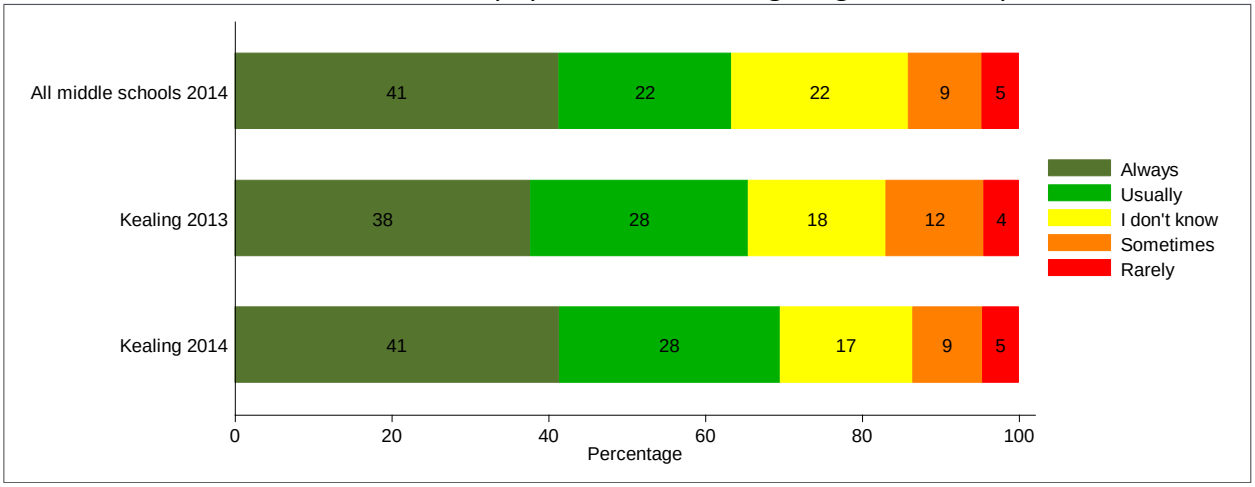
Q12: How big a problem do you think bullying is at your school?



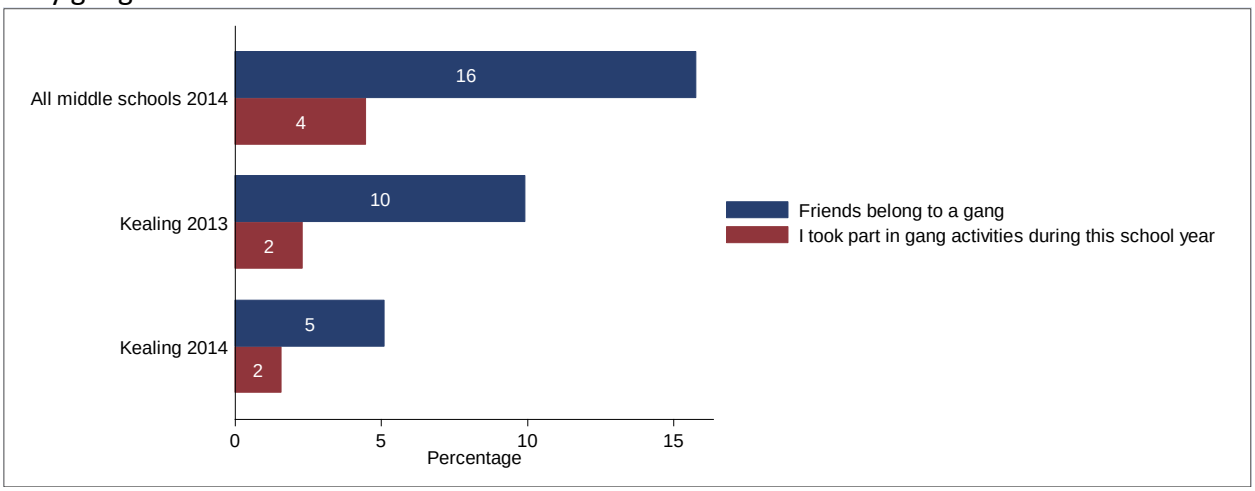
Q11: During this school year, how often have you or your close friends been physically harmed or threatened with physical harm by another student at your school?



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



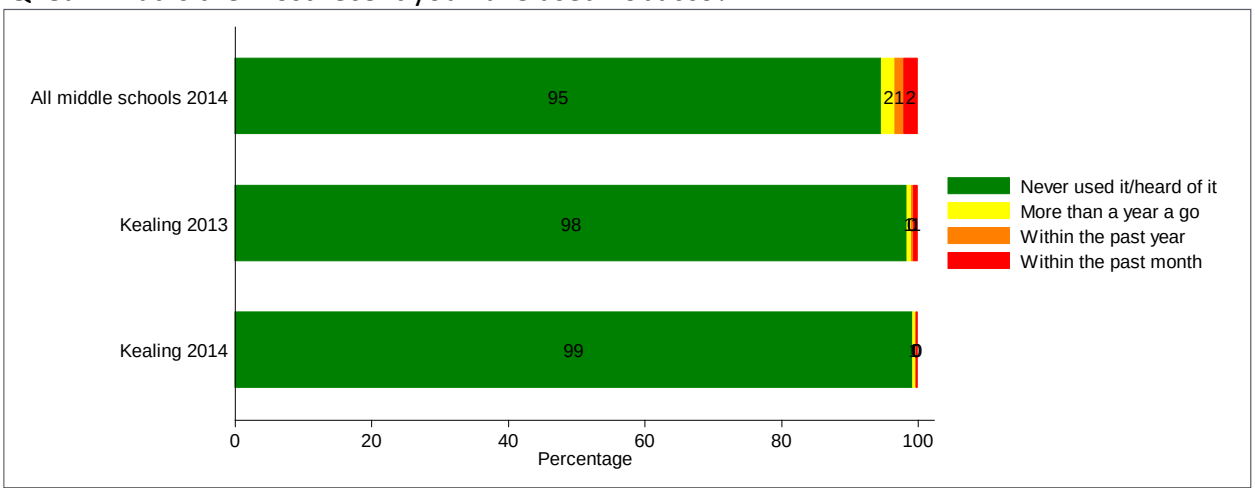
Q16-Q17: Do any of your friends belong to a gang? During this school year, did you take part in any gang activities?



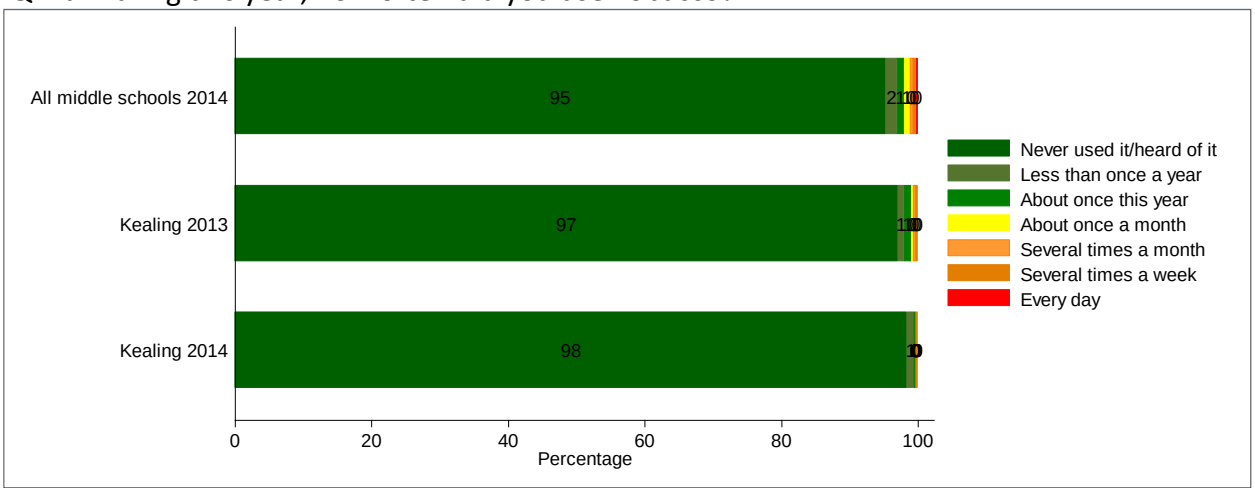
SUBSTANCE USE ITEMS

TOBACCO:

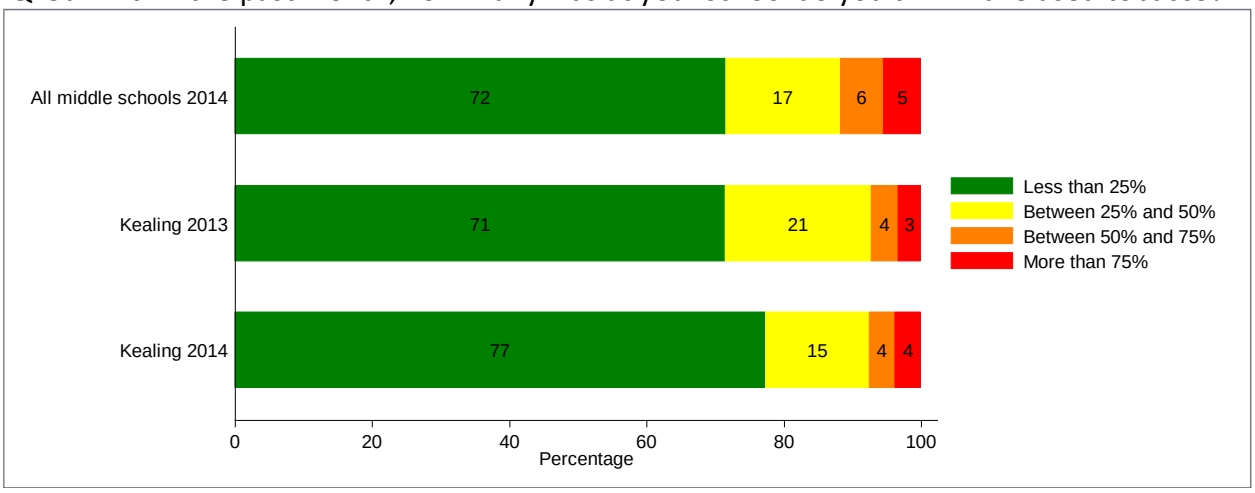
Q18a: What is the most recent you have used Tobacco?



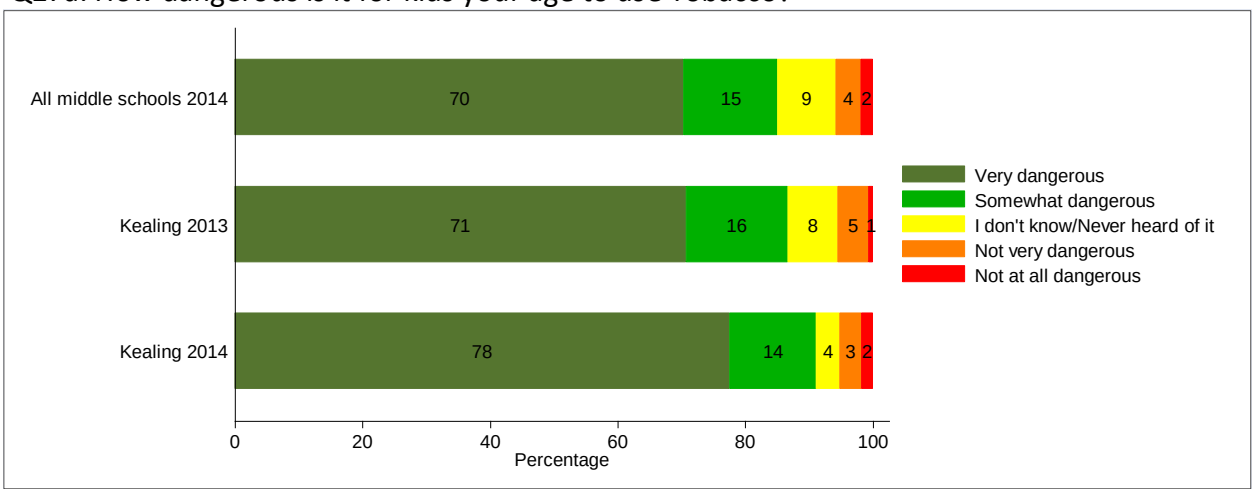
Q21a: During this year, how often did you use Tobacco?



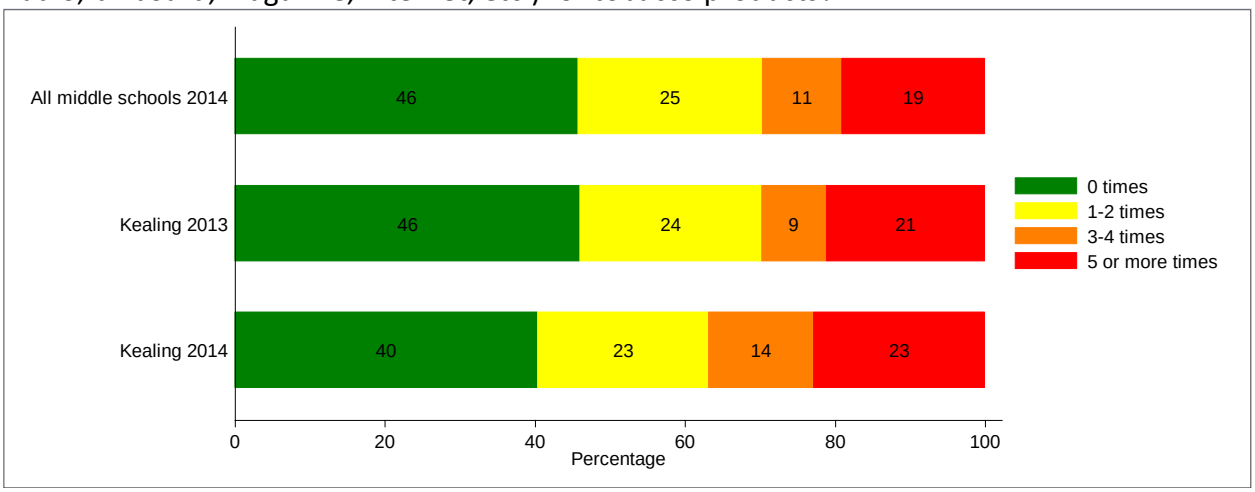
Q29a. Within the past month, how many kids at your school do you think have used tobacco?



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

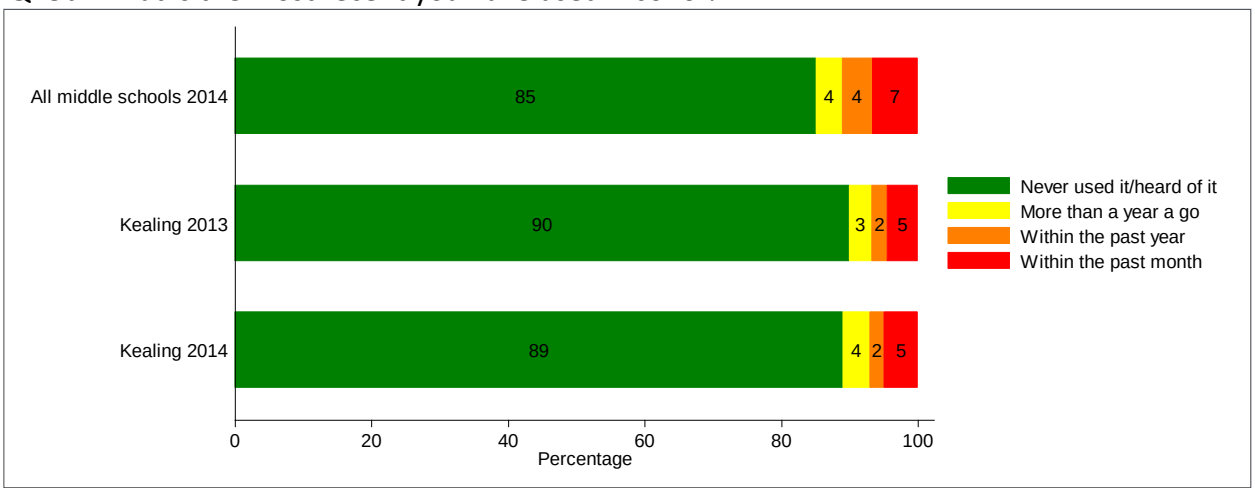


Q28g. During the school year, how many times have you experienced advertisements (TV, radio, billboard, magazine, internet, etc.) for tobacco products?

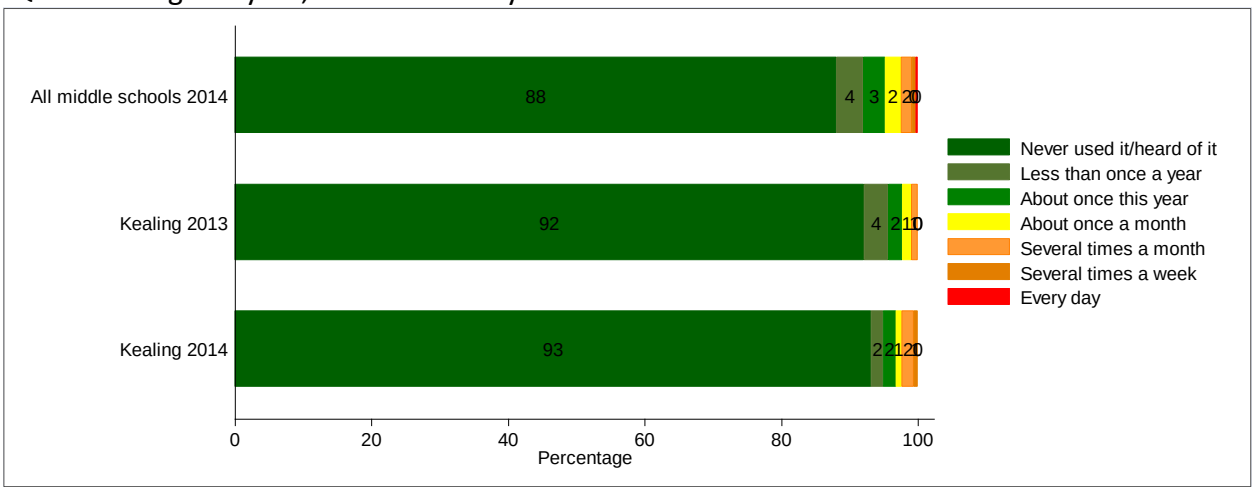


ALCOHOL:

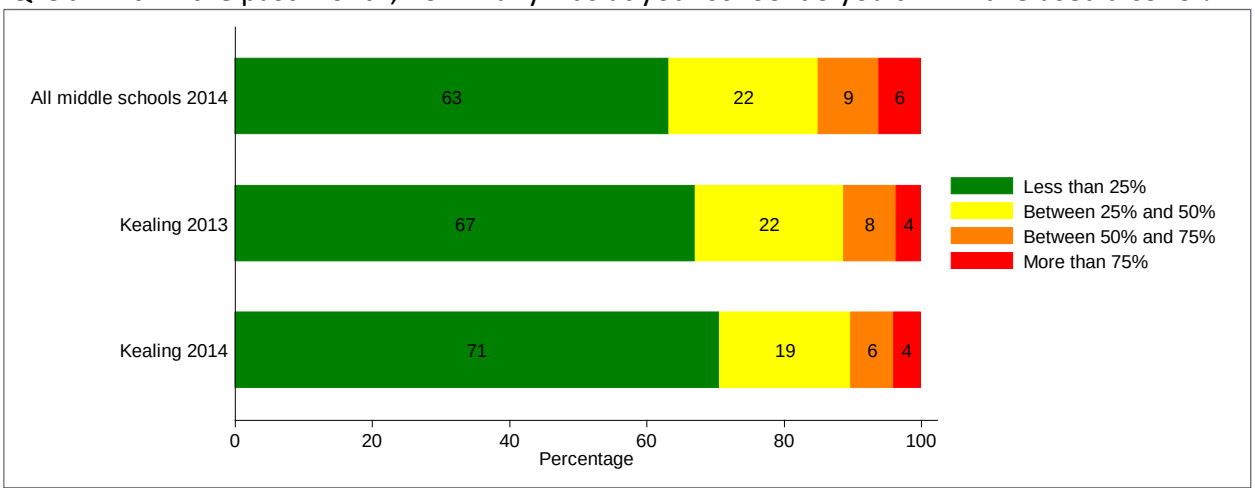
Q18b: What is the most recent you have used Alcohol?



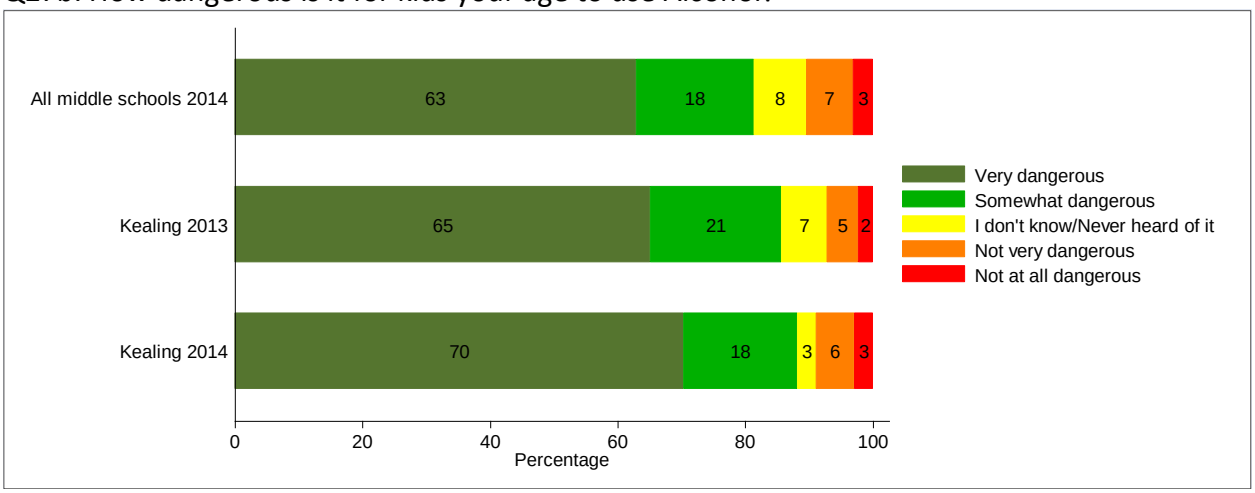
Q21b: During this year, how often did you use Alcohol?



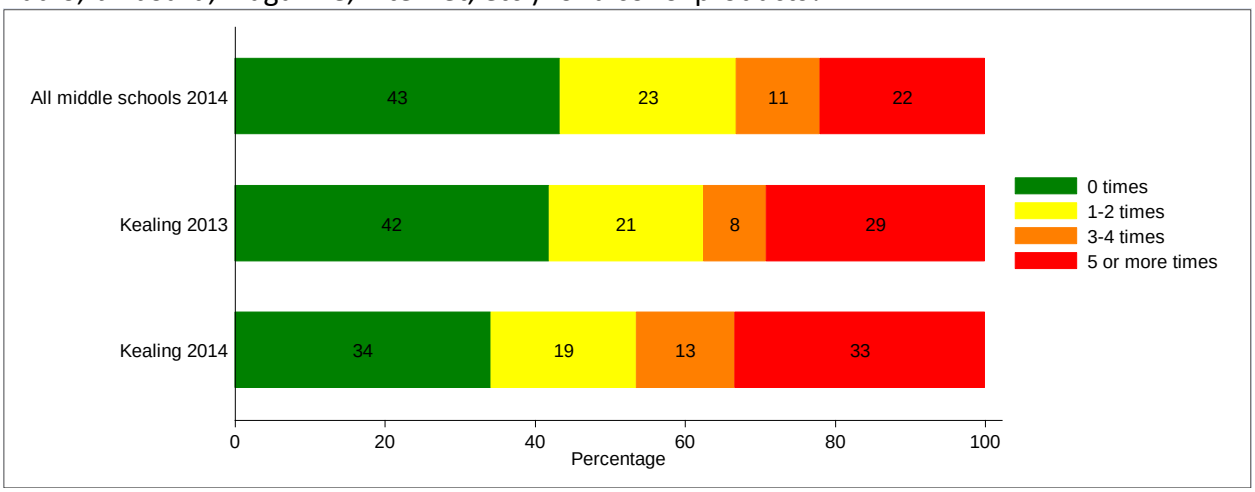
Q29b. Within the past month, how many kids at your school do you think have used alcohol?



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

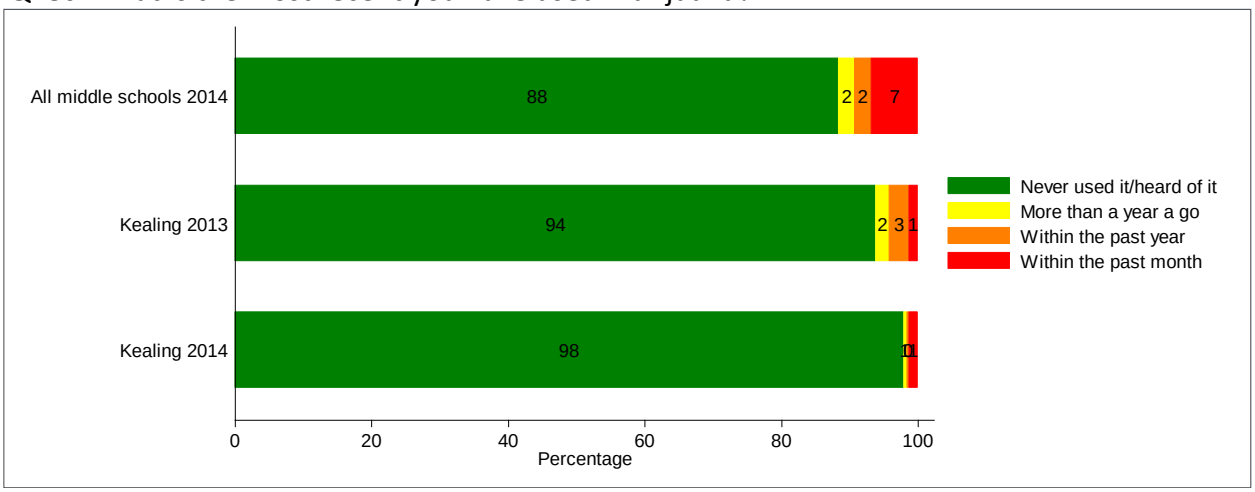


Q28f. During the school year, how many times have you experienced advertisements (TV, radio, billboard, magazine, internet, etc.) for alcohol products?

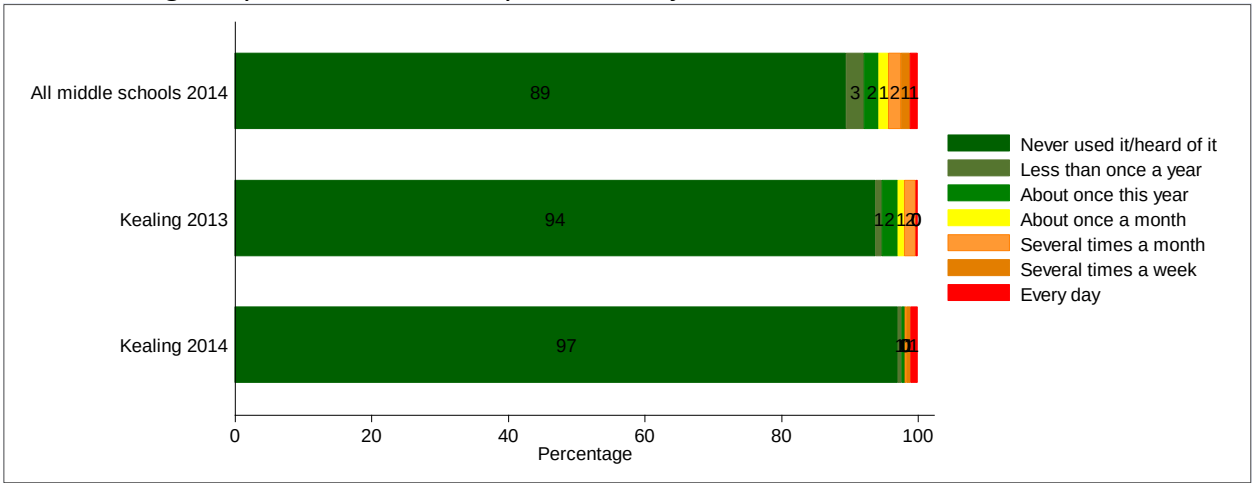


MARIJUANA/ K2 OR SPICE:

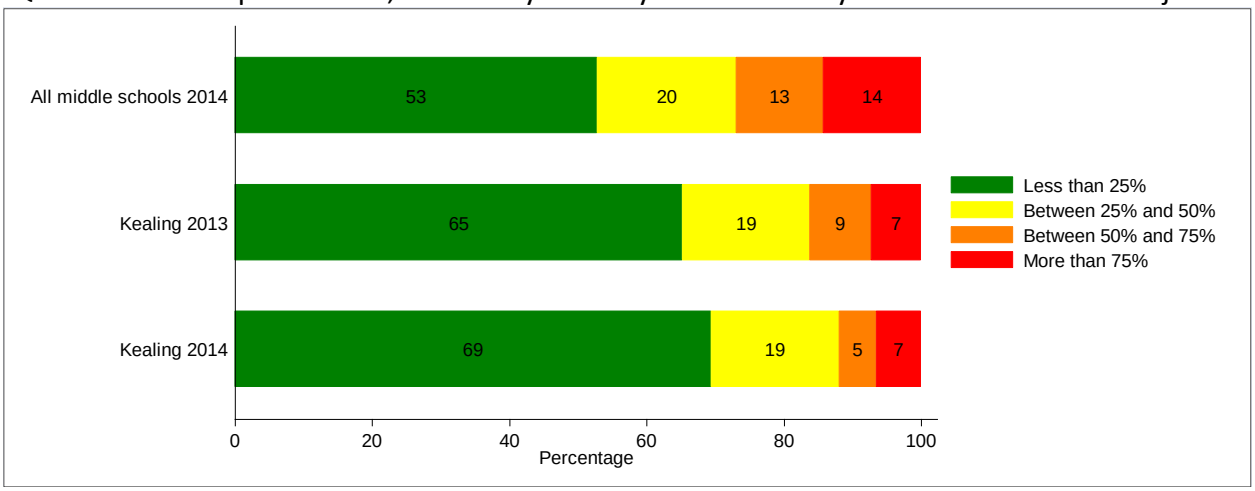
Q18c: What is the most recent you have used Marijuana?



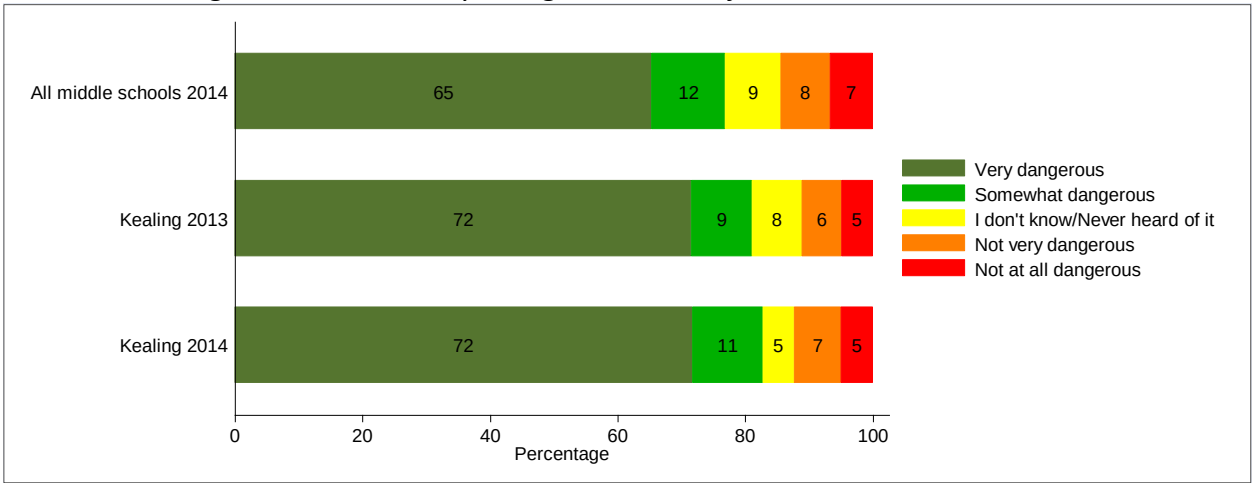
Q21c: During this year, how often did you use Marijuana?



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

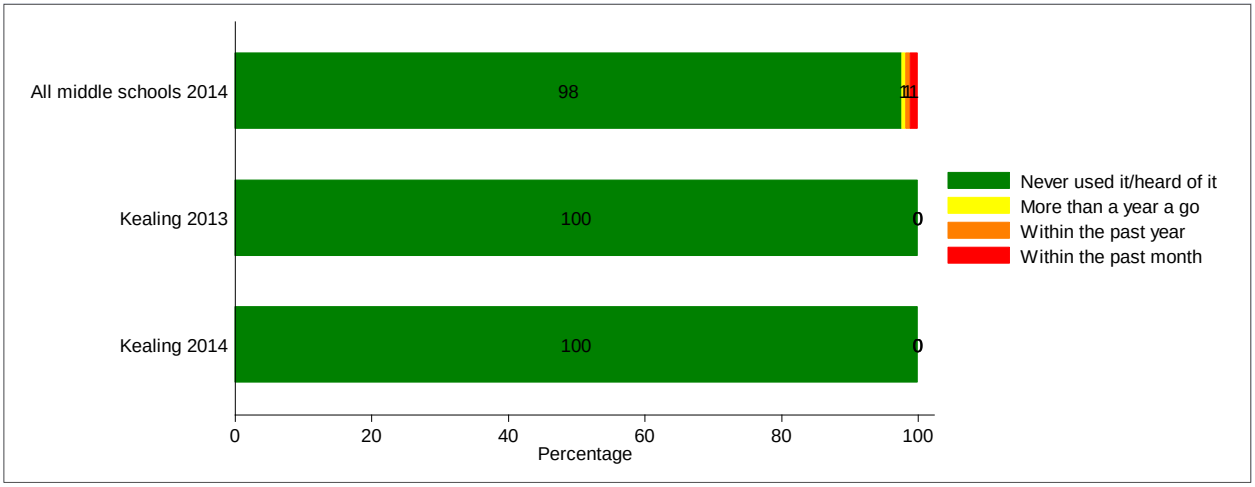


Q27c: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use Marijuana?

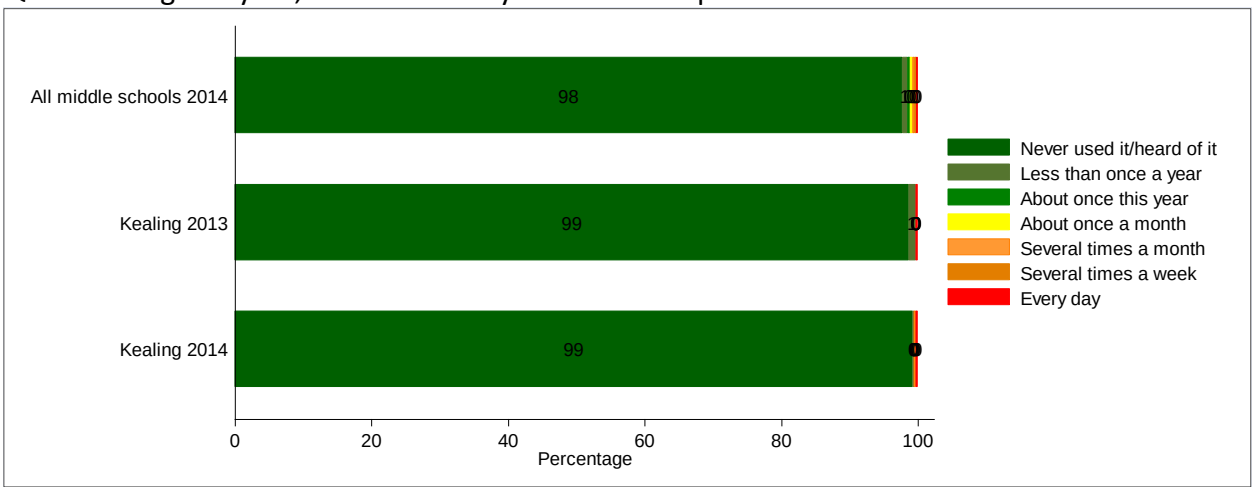


K2 OR SPICE:

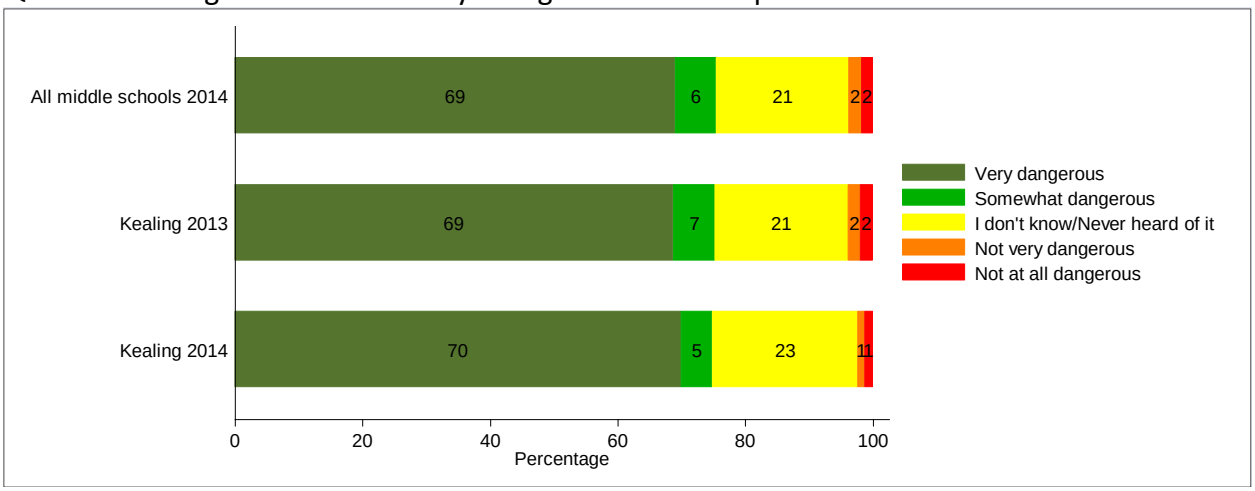
Q18d: What is the most recent you have used K2 or Spice?



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

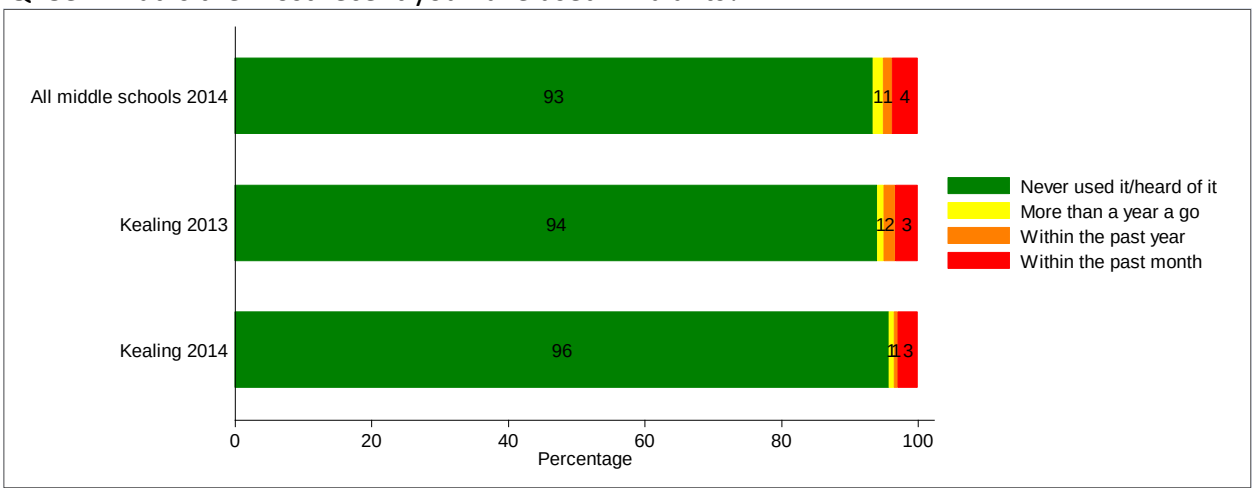


Q27d: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use K2 or Spice?

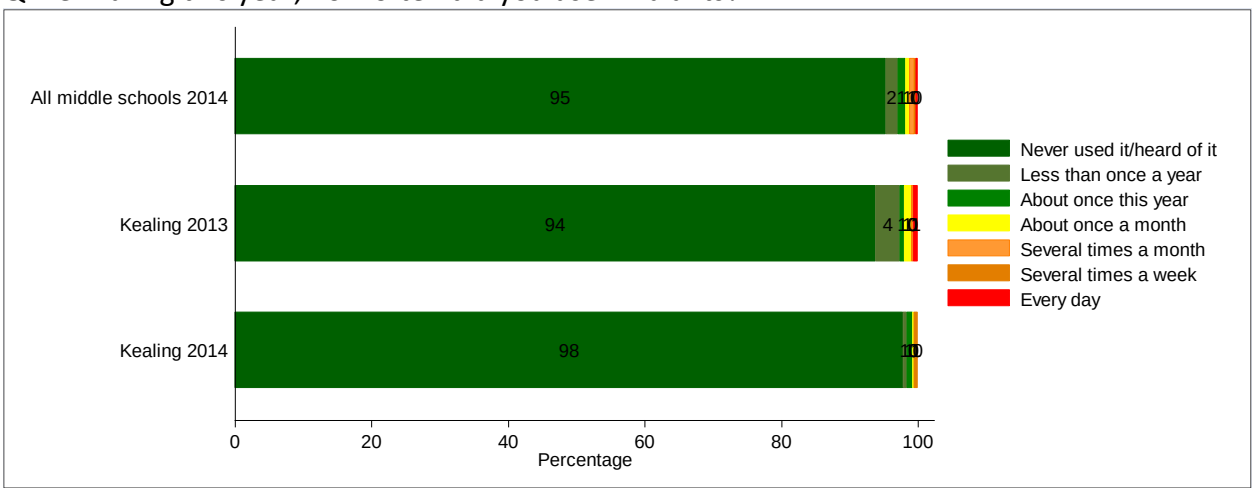


INHALANTS:

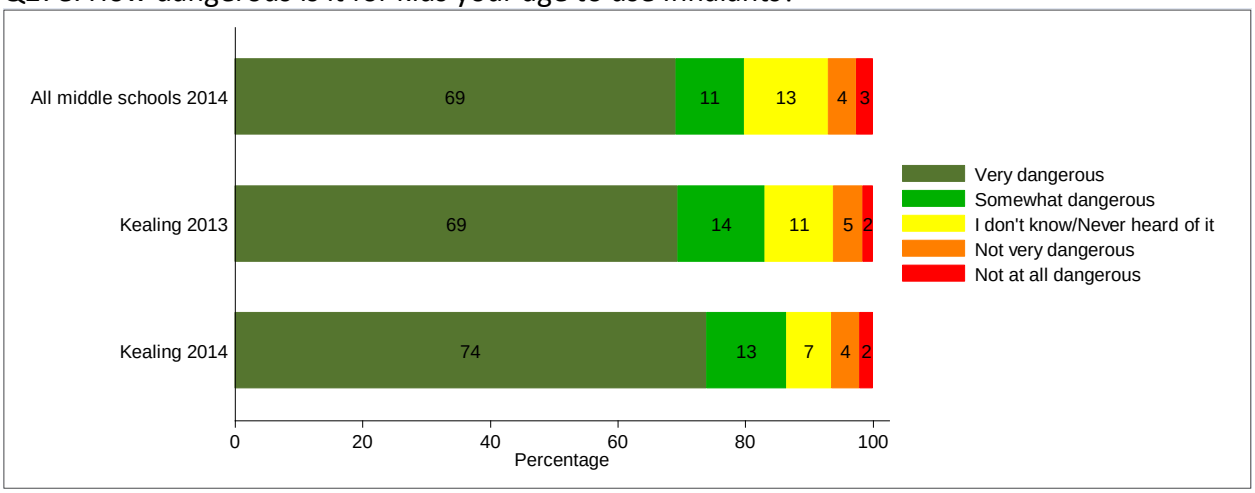
Q18e: What is the most recent you have used Inhalants?



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

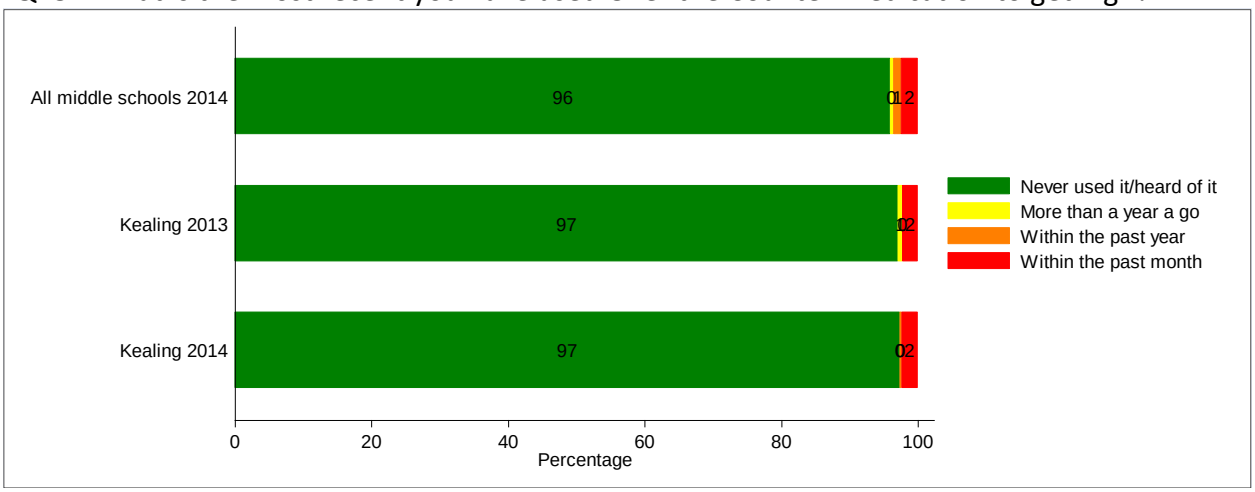


Q27e: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use Inhalants?

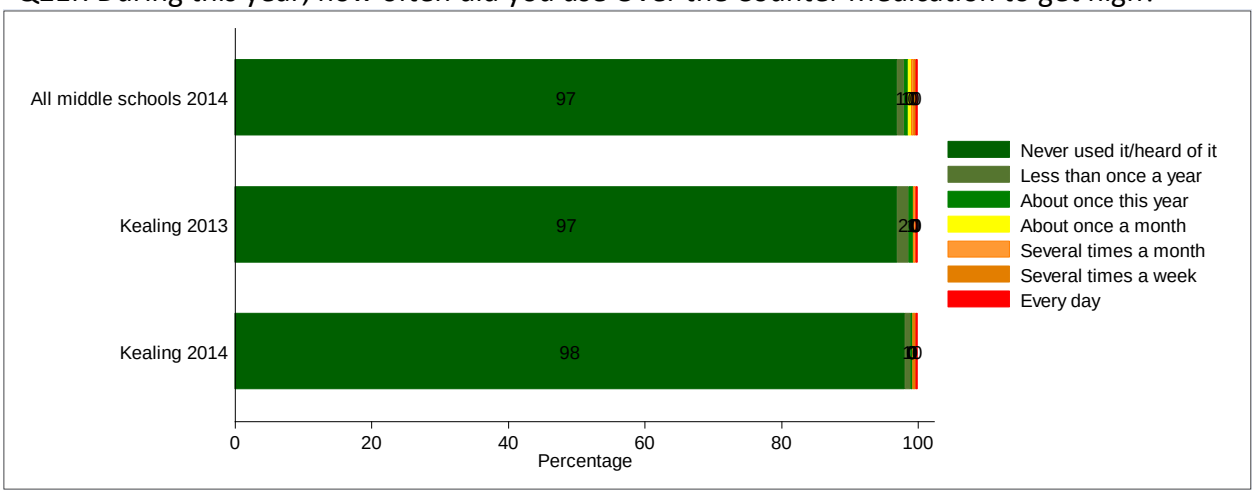


OVER THE COUNTER MEDICATION:

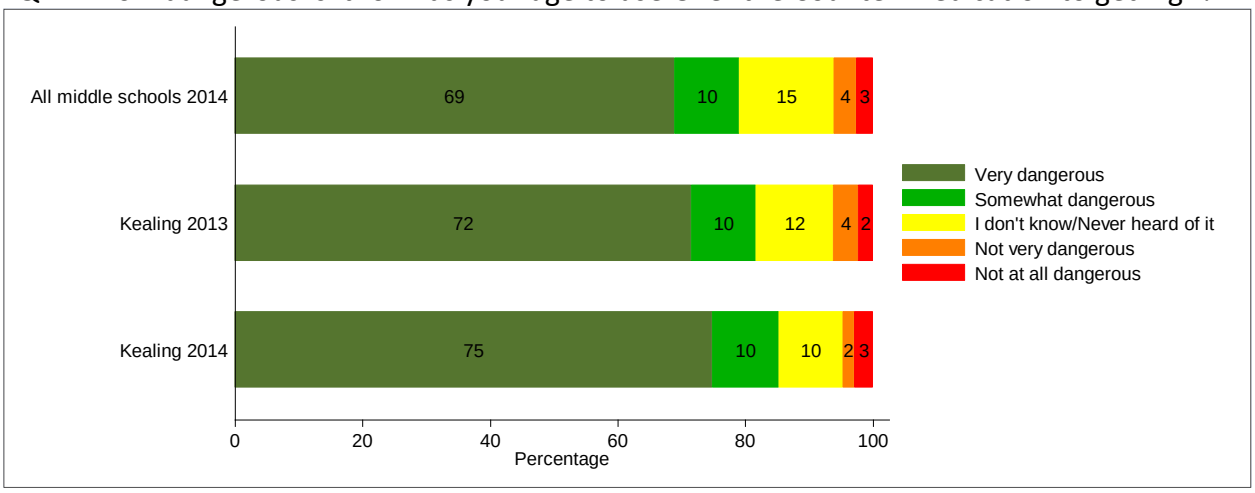
Q18f: What is the most recent you have used Over the Counter Medication to get high?



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

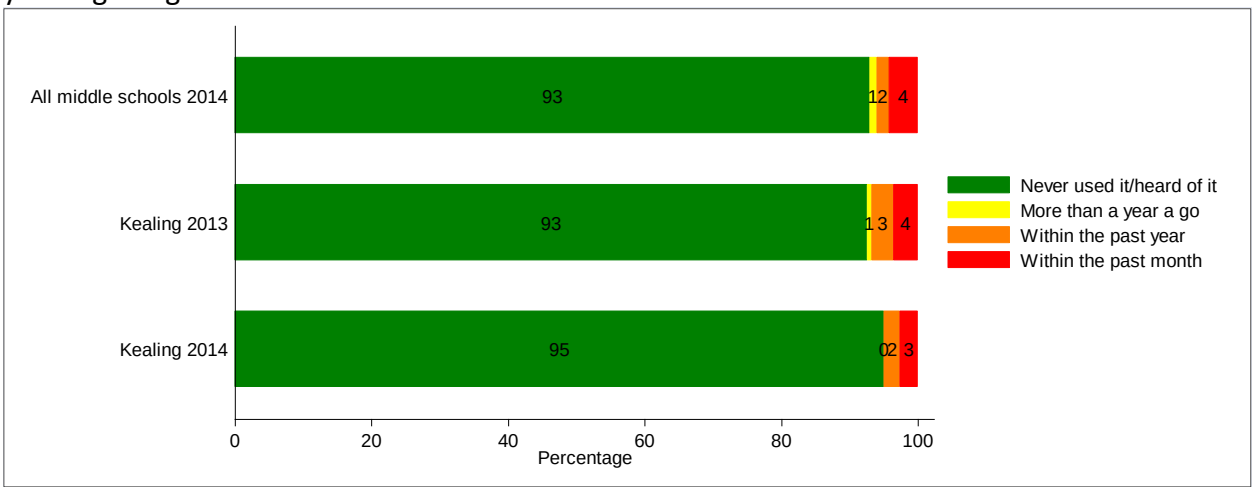


Q27f: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use Over the Counter Medication to get high?

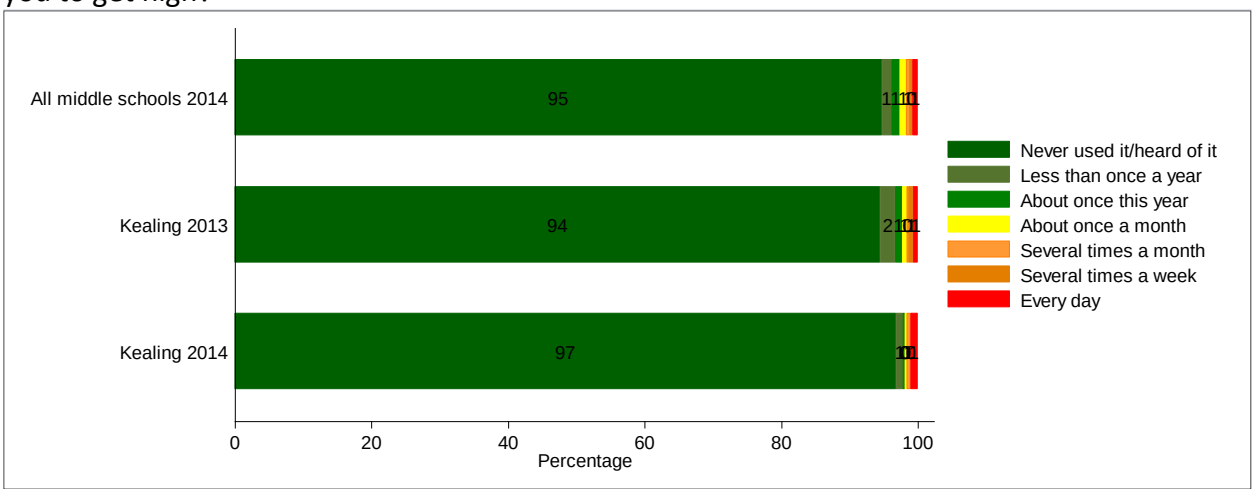


PRESCRIPTION DRUGS:

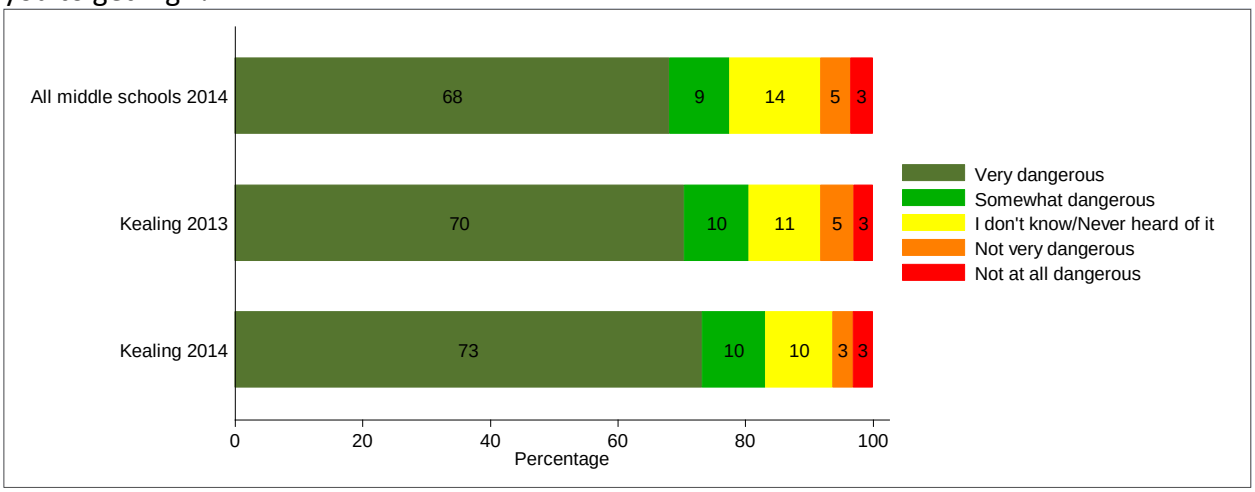
Q18g: What is the most recent you have used Prescription Drugs that were not prescribed to you to get high?



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

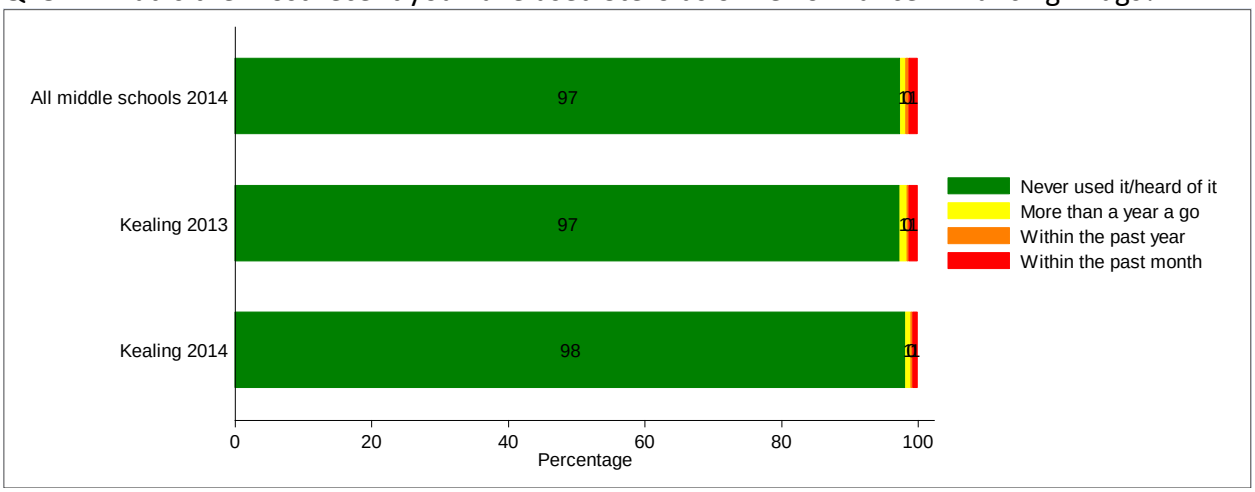


Q27g: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use Prescription Drugs that are not prescribed to you to get high?

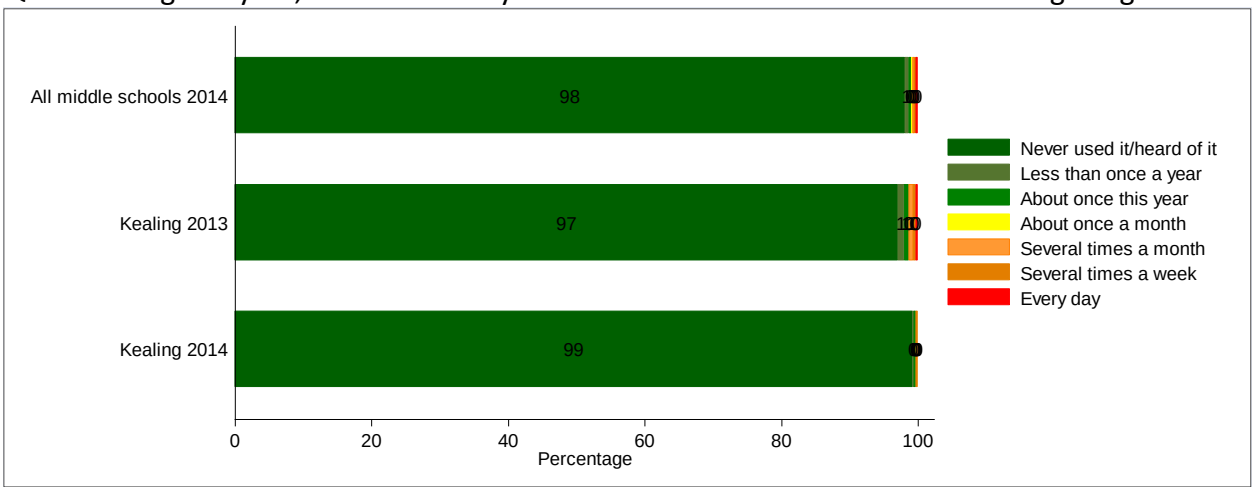


STEROIDS OR PERFORMANCE ENHANCING DRUGS:

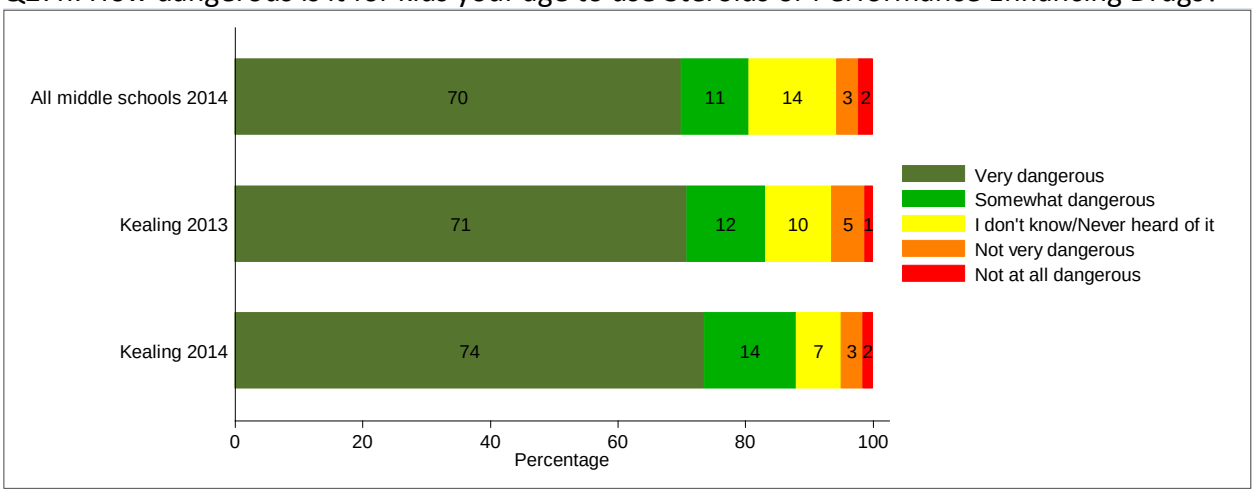
Q18h: What is the most recent you have used Steroids or Performance Enhancing Drugs?



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

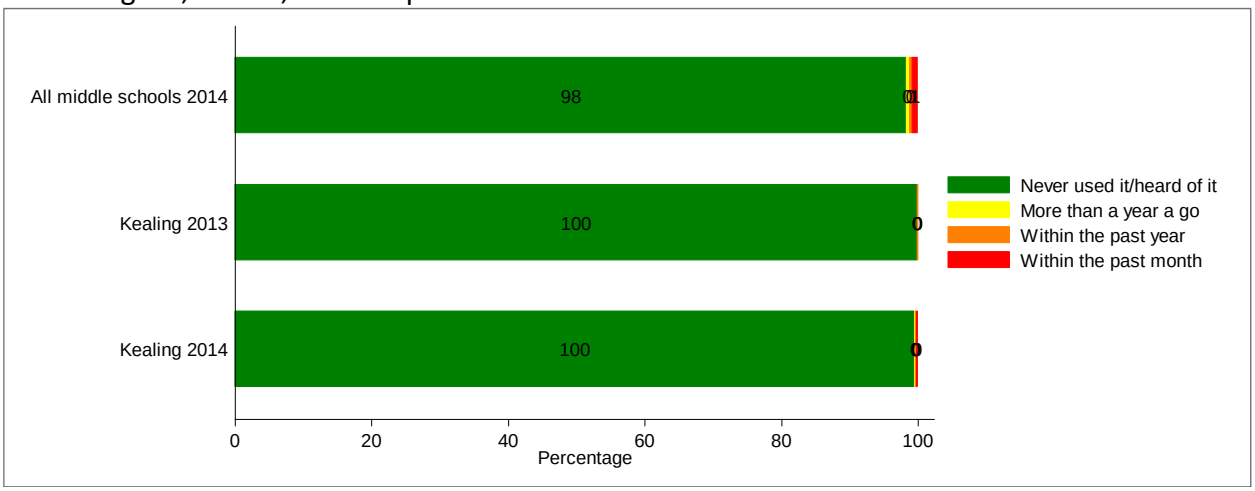


Q27h: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use Steroids or Performance Enhancing Drugs?

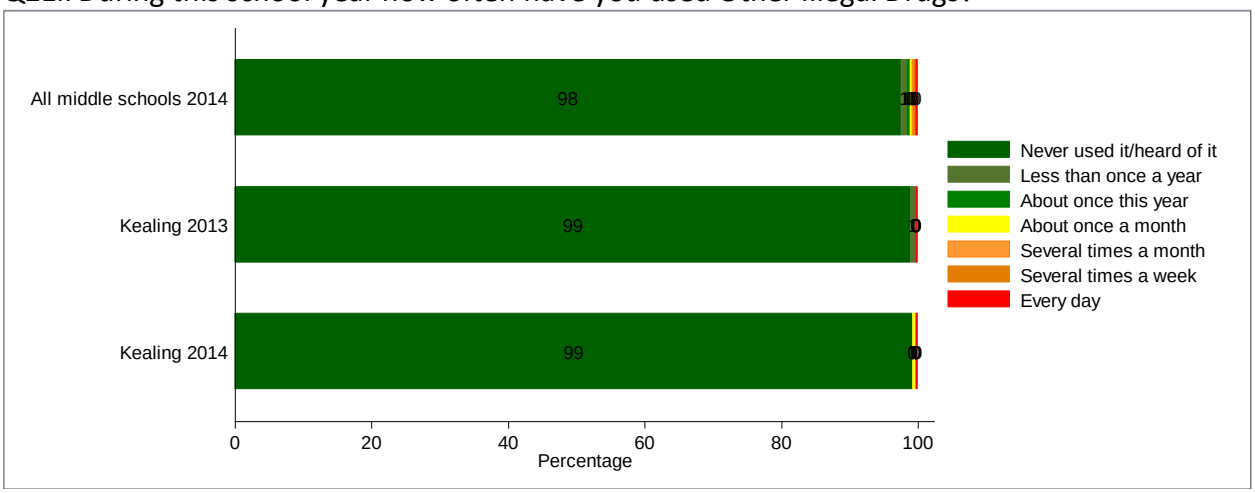


OTHER ILLEGAL DRUGS:

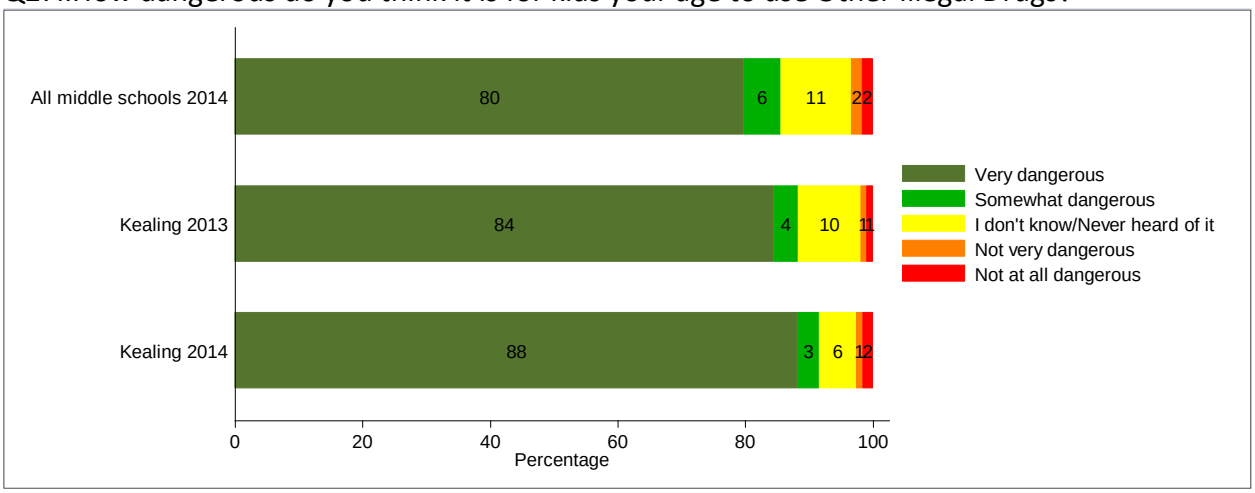
Q18i: What is the most recent you have used Other Illegal Drugs (e.g. cocaine, ecstacy, hallucinogens, heroin, methamphetamines?



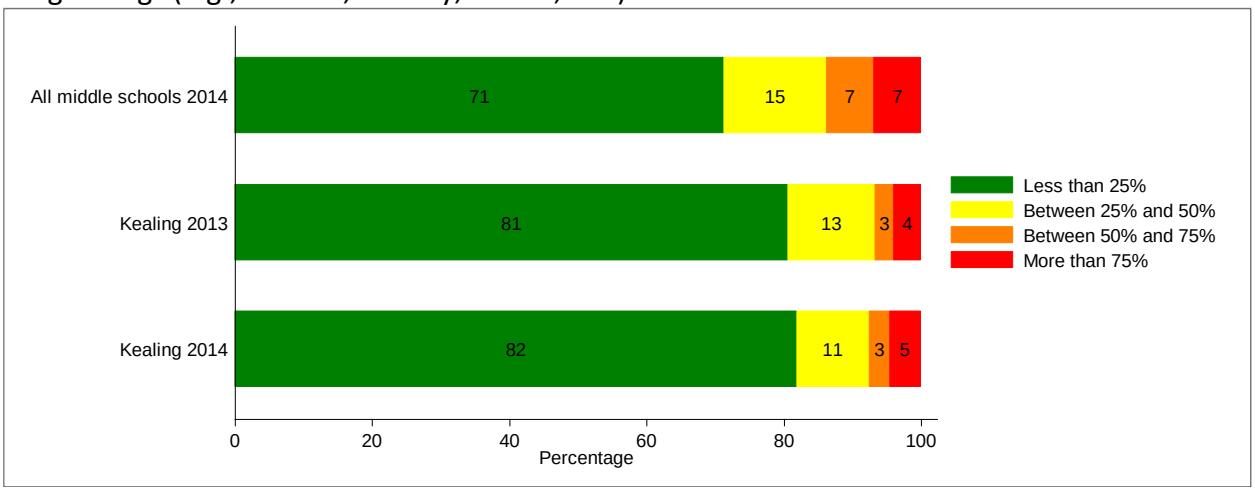
Q21i: During this school year how often have you used Other Illegal Drugs?



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

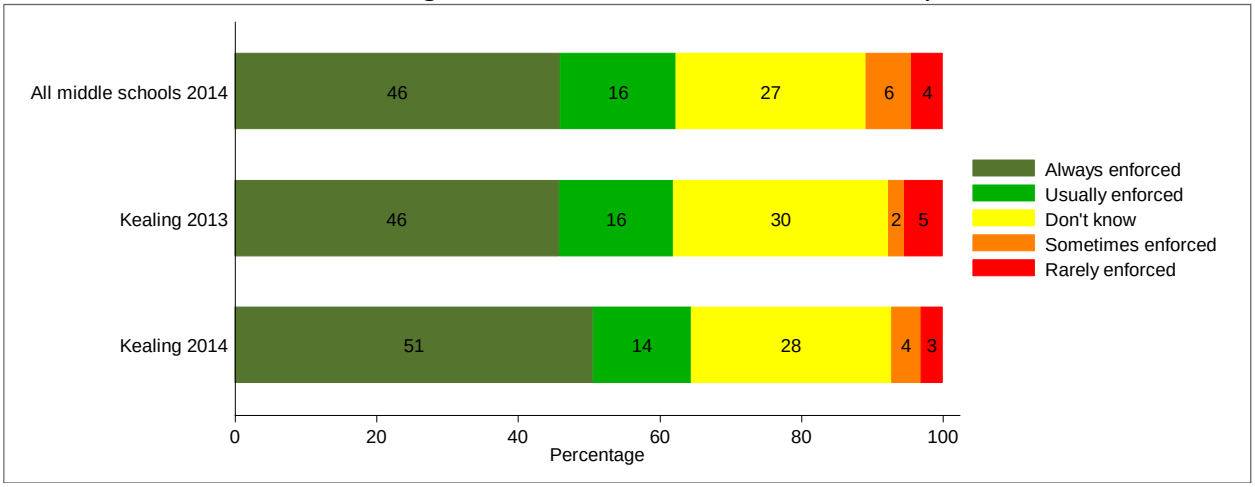


Q29d. Within the past month, how many kids at your school do you think have used other illegal drugs (e.g., cocaine, ecstasy, heroin, etc.) ?

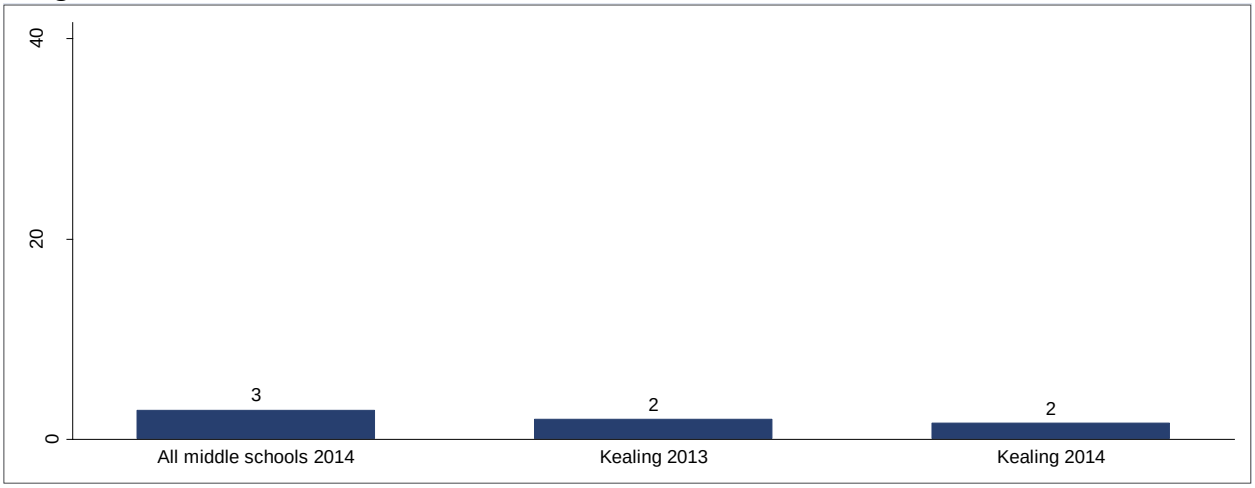


OPINIONS, EXPERIENCE, AND EXPOSURE:

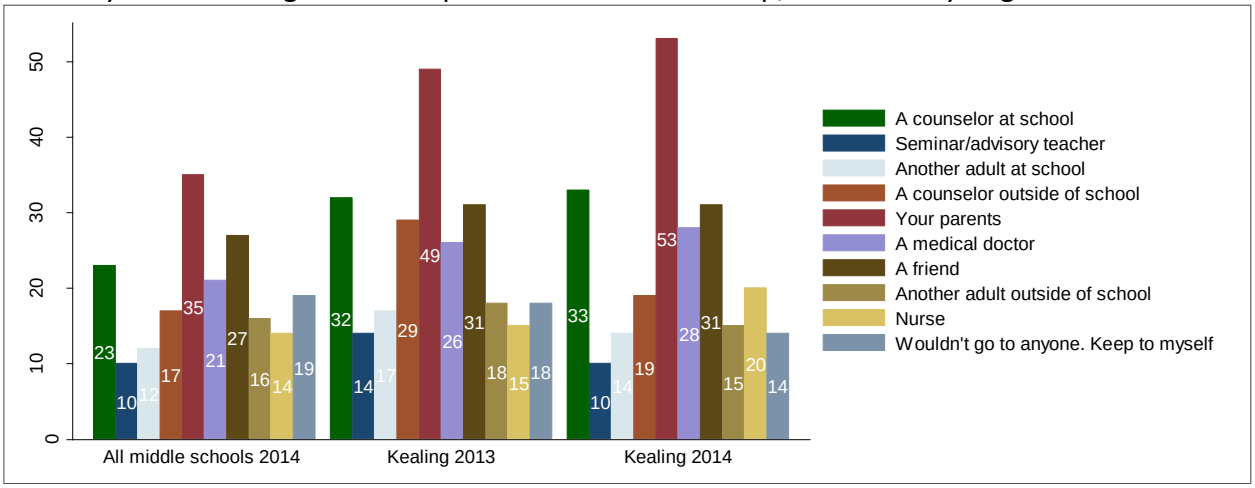
Q13: Are school rules about drug, alcohol, and tobacco use enforced by school staff?



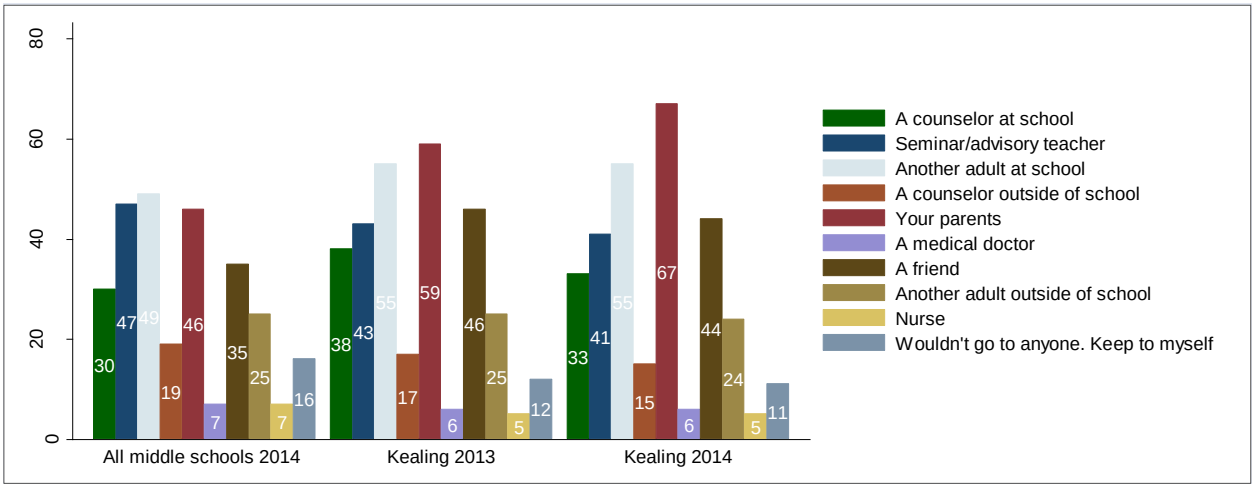
Q19: During this school year, have you gotten into trouble with the police because of tobacco, drugs, or alcohol?



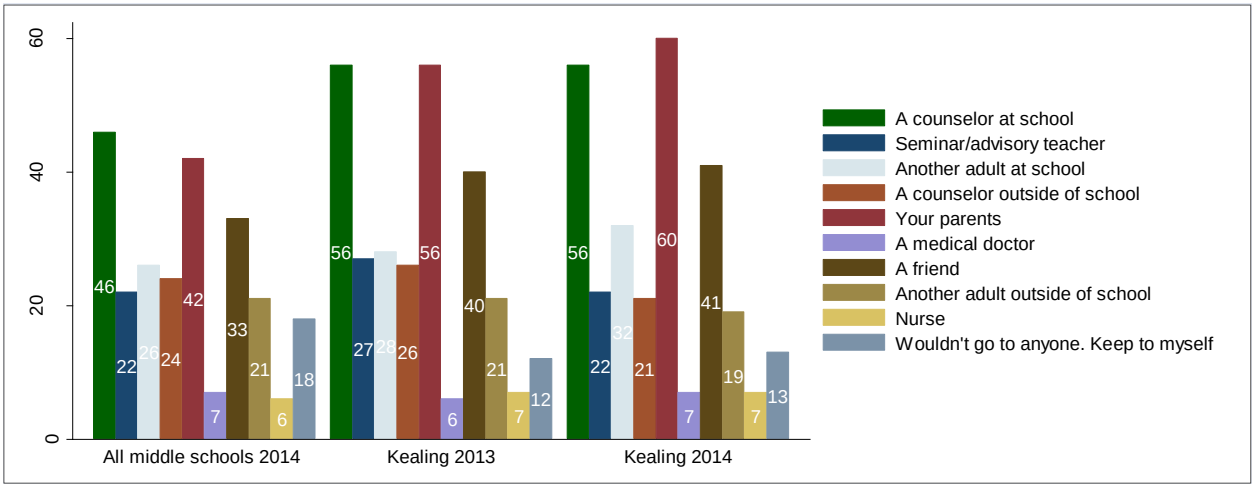
Q24: If you had a drug or alcohol problem and needed help, who would you go to?



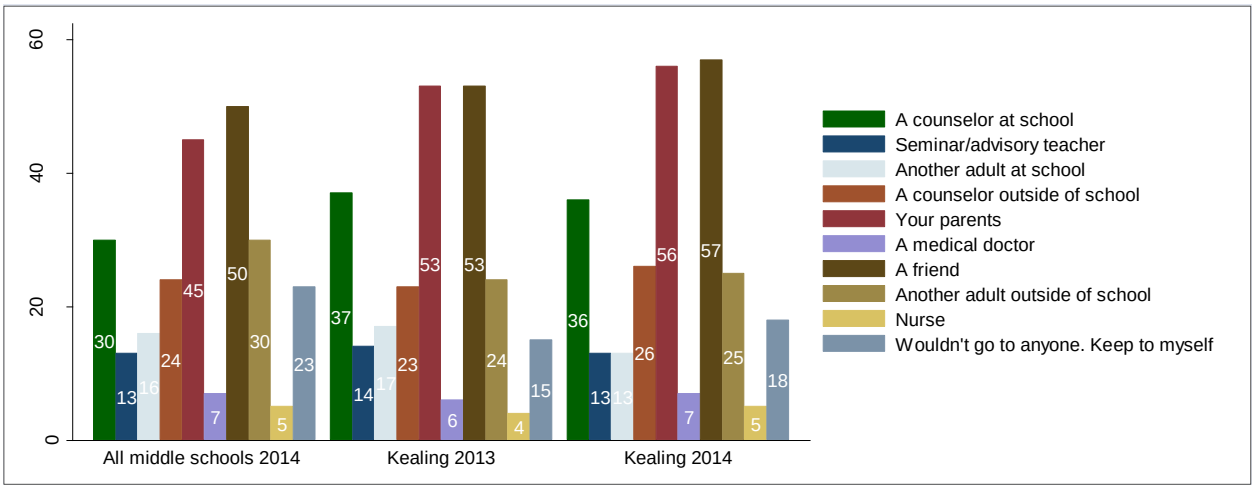
Q24b: If you had problems with your schoolwork or academics and needed help, who would you go to?



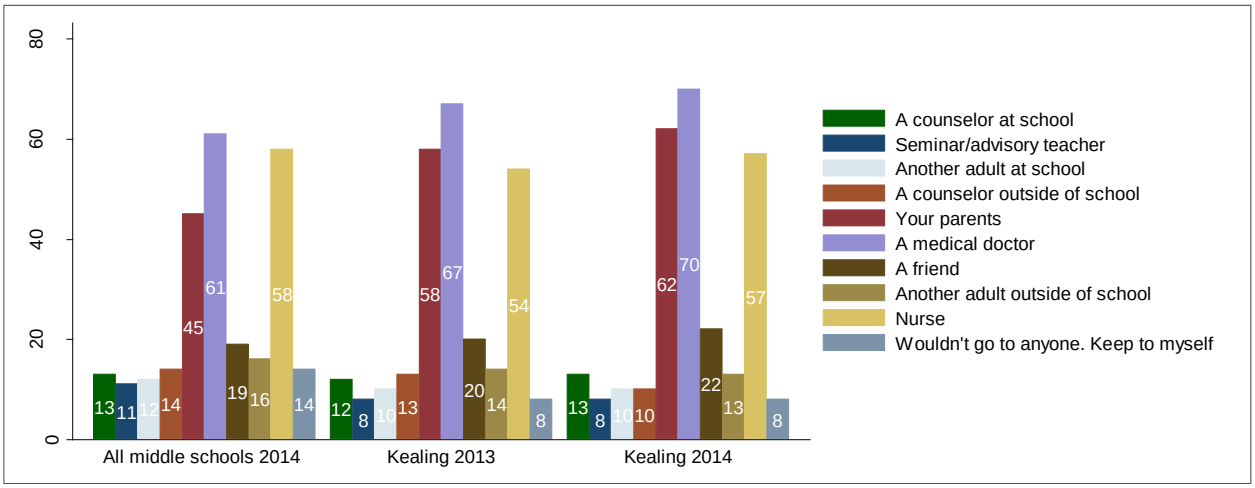
Q24c: If you experienced bullying, violence, or threats to personal safety and needed help, who would you go to?



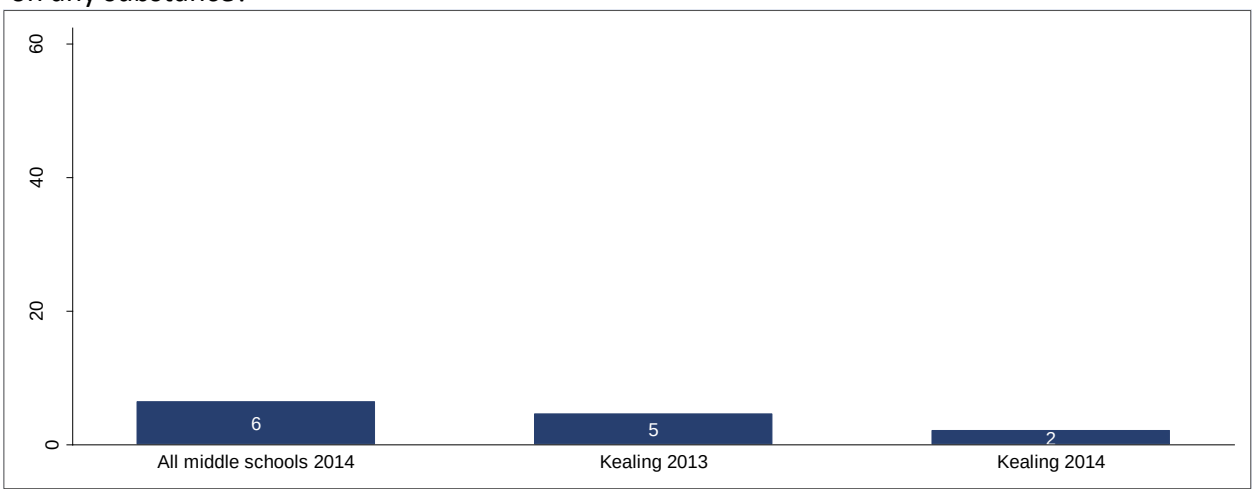
Q24d: If you experienced social problems or problems with friends or family and needed help, who would you go to?



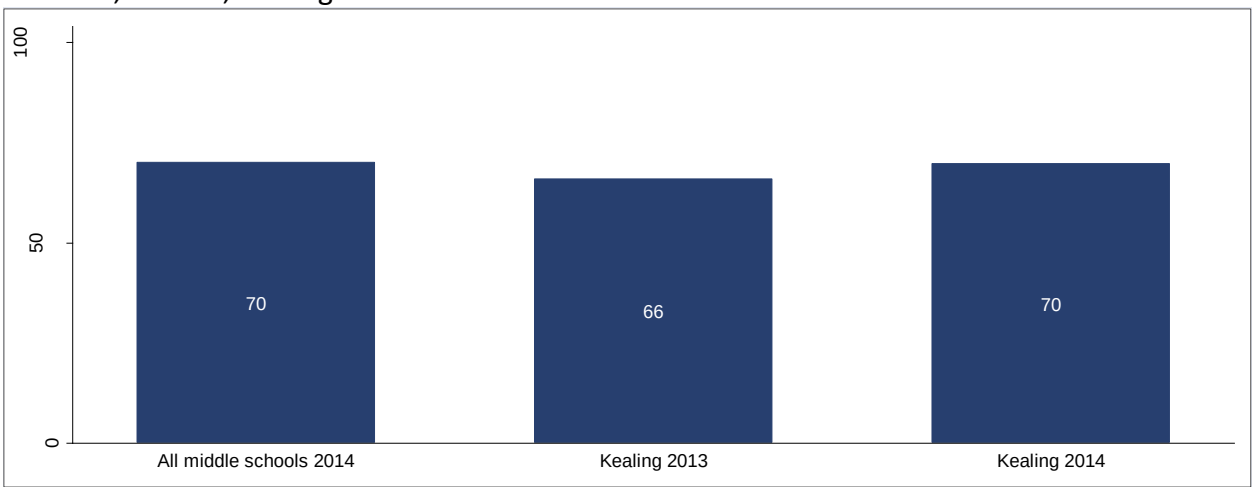
Q24e: If you experienced problems with your health and needed help, who would you go to?



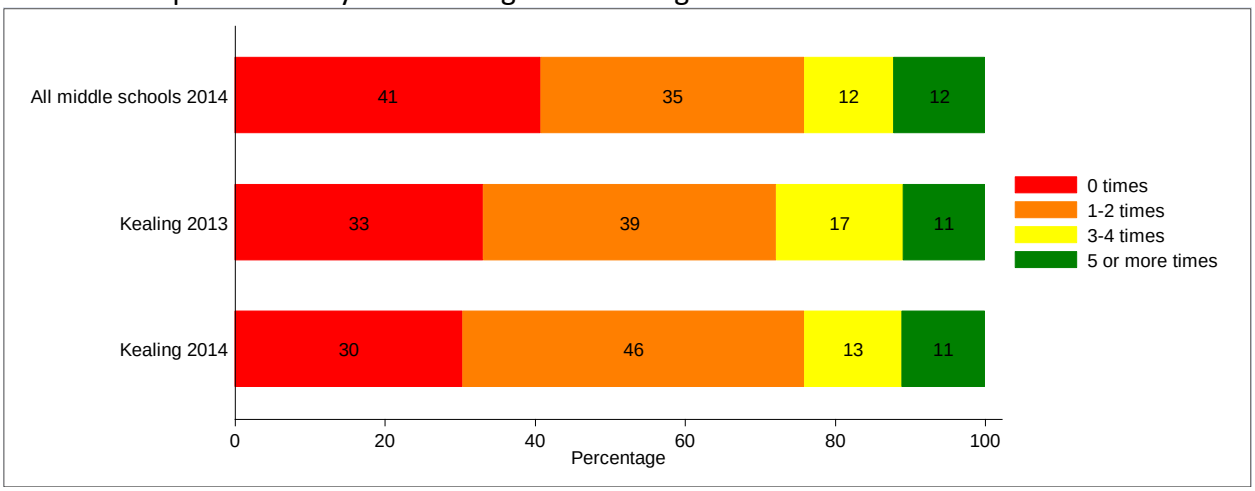
Q20: During this school year, have you attended any class while “high”, “stoned”, or “drunk” on any substance?



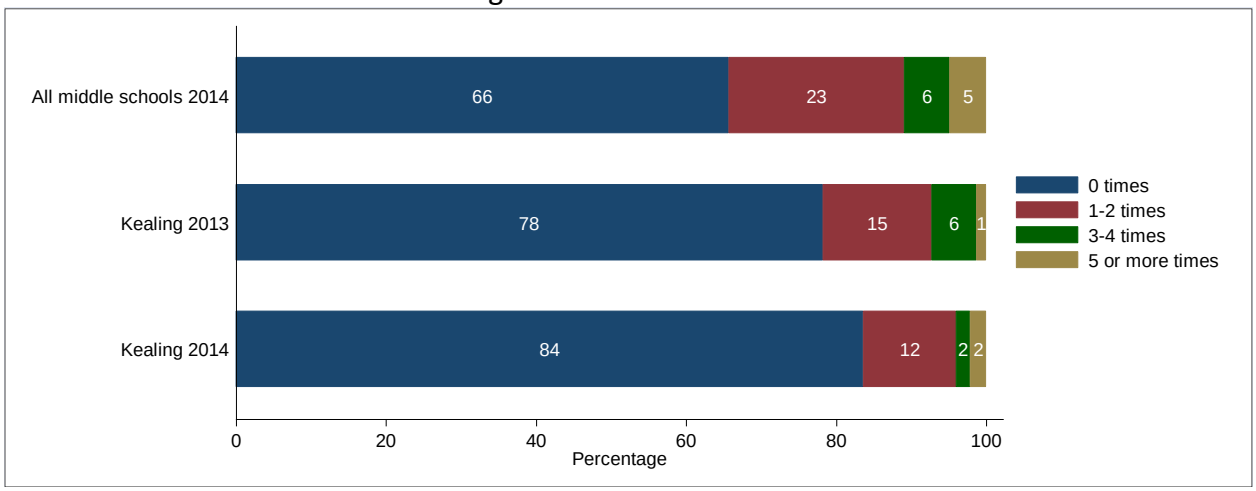
Q25: Within the past year, has your parent/guardian talked with you about the dangers of tobacco, alcohol, or drug use?



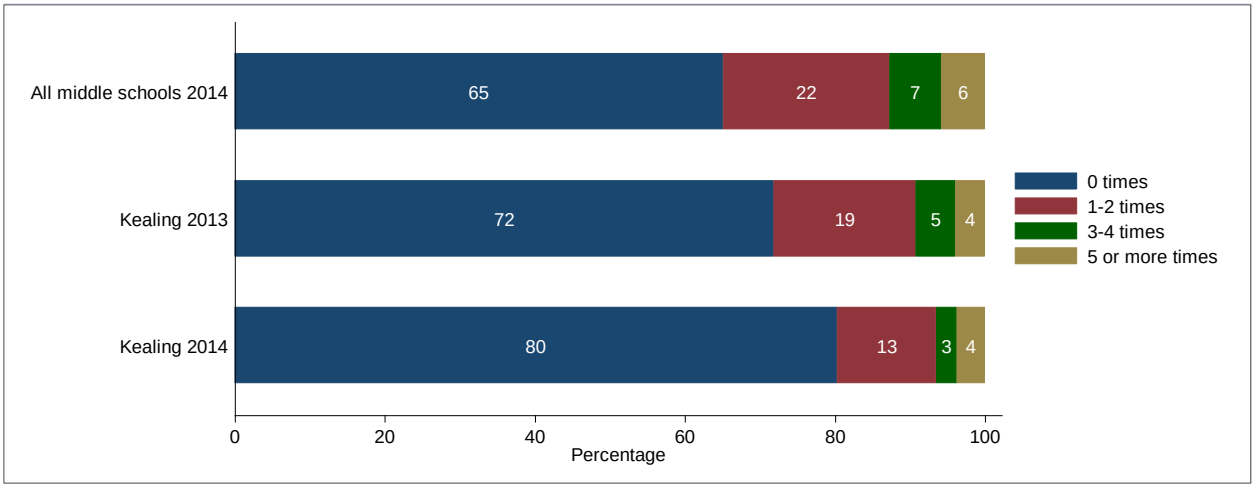
Q28a. During the school year, how many times have you experienced classes in which you learned and practiced ways of resisting and avoiding substance abuse?



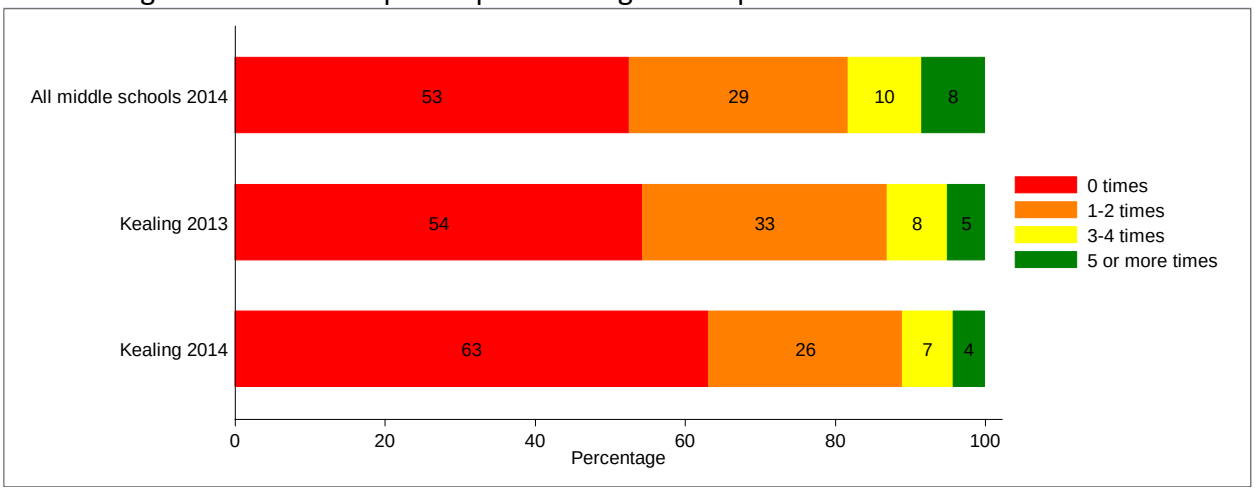
Q28b. During the school year, how many times have you experienced presentations by people who recovered from alcohol and drug abuse?



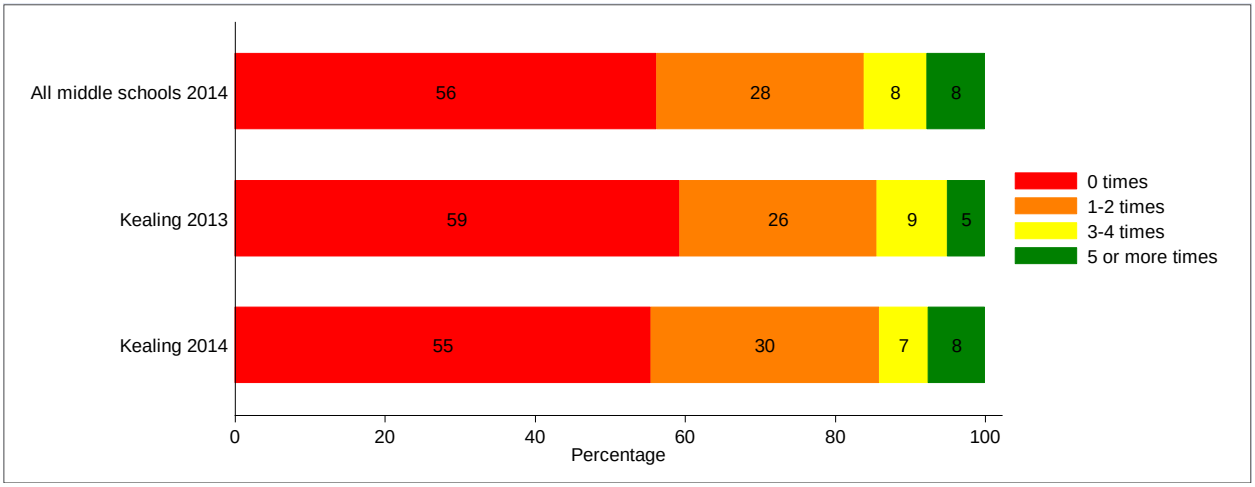
Q28c. During the school year, how many times have you experienced presentations by students who tell about how to avoid substance abuse?



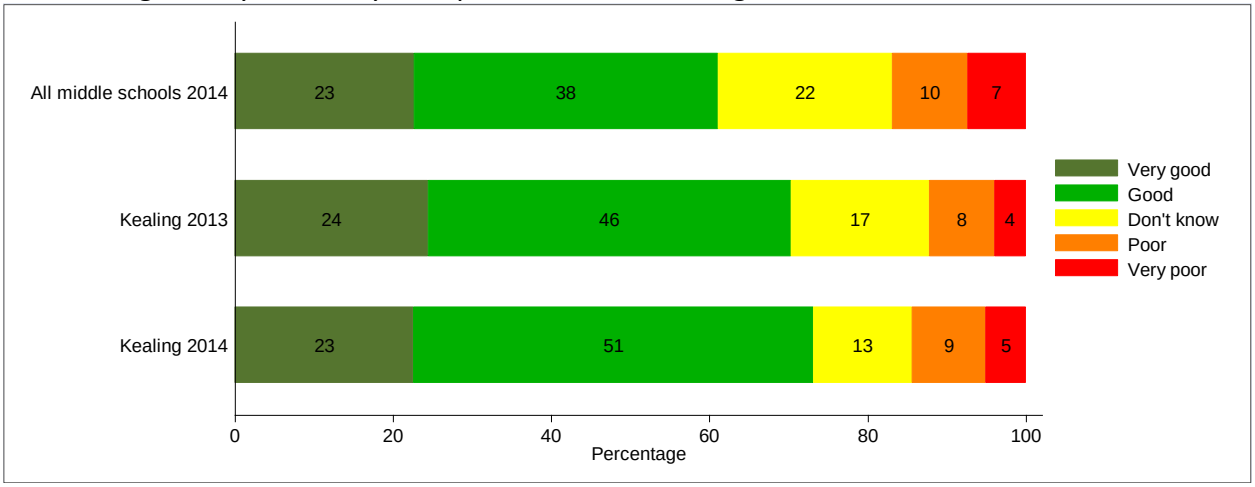
Q28d. During the school year, how many times have you received information about counseling or services to help kids quit smoking and stop substance abuse?



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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