



# Austin Independent School District

## Department of Program Evaluation

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## 2009 STUDENT SUBSTANCE USE AND SAFETY SURVEY RESULTS HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL REPORT

### Description of Survey

The federal Title IV Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities grant requires annual needs assessment and evaluation of substance use and safety issues. Consequently, each spring 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 2009, a sample of 8,320 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 72%.<sup>1</sup> Selected item results are attached. These results should be shared with the campus Positive Behavior Support (PBS) team, Campus Advisory Council, and others involved in campus safety planning efforts at AISD schools.

### 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 All HS sample of 3,255 students and population enrollment of 22,133, the confidence interval for All HS is + and -2%.*

*Based on the All MS sample of 4,734 students and population enrollment of 16,877, the confidence interval for All MS is + and -1%.*

To make inferences about level population using the sample data, the results should be interpreted with the computed confidence interval above (i.e., either 2% or 1% for HS & MS respectively) on each side of the sample statistics. For example, in 2009, 35% of respondents at the middle school level indicated that their friends belonged to gangs (see Q16, p.8). Applying the confidence interval (i.e., adding and subtracting 1%) to the 35% yields a range of 34% - 36%. Therefore, you can be 95% confident that somewhere between 34% - 36% of all students at the middle school level would indicate that their friends belonged to a gang.

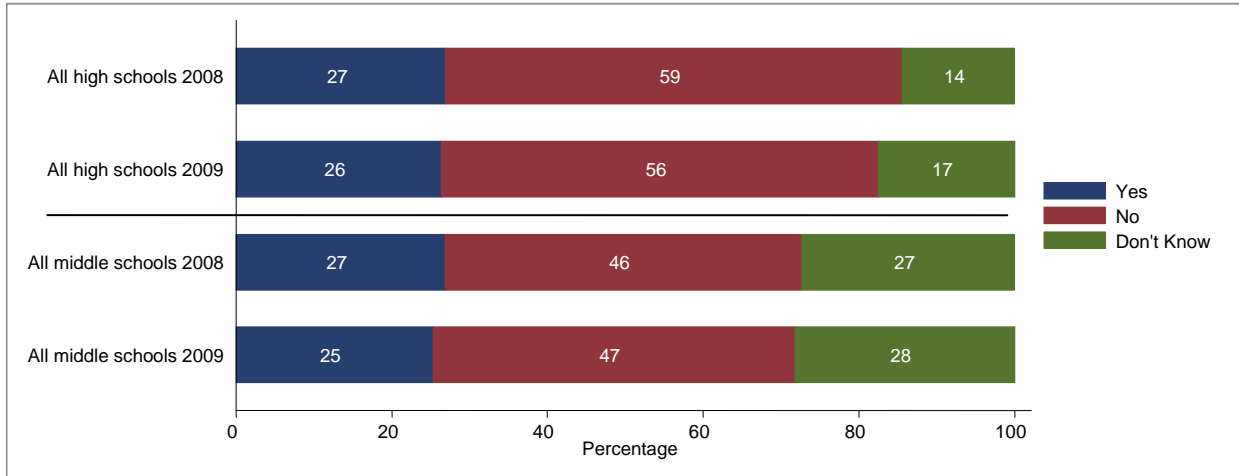
Apply the same logic to both years to determine if there was a significant change. Continuing with the example above, if the ranges do not overlap you can be 95% certain that a change took place in the population. For example for MS, the 2009 range is 34% to 36% and the 2008 range is 37%-39%. Since they do not overlap, you can be 95% confident that fewer students in the AISD middle school population had friends that belonged to a gang.

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<sup>1</sup> A total of 8,783 surveys were returned to the Department of Program Evaluation from an original sample of 11,628 students. Of those returned, 463 surveys were removed from analysis due to invalid responses.

## RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS AND 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?



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

	All high schools 2008	All high schools 2009	$\Delta^*$	All middle schools 2008	All middle schools 2009	$\Delta^*$
<b>Marijuana use</b>	29%	31%	2	13%	15%	2*
<b>Alcohol use</b>	8%	7%	-1	1%	1%	0
<b>Tobacco use</b>	3%	3%	0	1%	2%	1
<b>Prescription drug use</b>	4%	4%	0	4%	4%	0
<b>Student fighting and physical aggression</b>	12%	14%	2	31%	33%	2*
<b>Student harassment, threats, and intimidation</b>	7%	6%	-1	13%	13%	0
<b>Student vandalism, criminal mischief</b>	4%	4%	0	3%	3%	0
<b>Student weapon possession</b>	4%	4%	0	7%	6%	-1
<b>Violence or threats toward staff</b>	1%	2%	1	2%	2%	0
<b>None of these are serious problems on my campus</b>	28%	27%	-1	24%	21%	-3*

\* $\Delta$  represents percentage point change from 2007-2008 to 2008-2009. Positive numbers indicates an increase in perceived problems at campuses. For high school a  $\Delta \geq 4$  percentage points and for middle school, a  $\Delta \geq 2$  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?

	All high schools 2008	All high schools 2009	$\Delta^*$	All middle schools 2008	All middle schools 2009	$\Delta^*$
<b>Health class</b>	39%	40%	1	35%	36%	1
<b>Advisory/seminar class</b>	40%	49%	9*	28%	36%	8*
<b>Science class</b>	28%	29%	1	52%	57%	5*
<b>Another class</b>	34%	35%	1	49%	45%	-4*
<b>Guidance counselor</b>	11%	12%	1	28%	28%	0
<b>Student support group meetings at school</b>	13%	13%	0	15%	15%	0
<b>Special school event about tobacco, drugs, alcohol, or violence</b>	31%	30%	-1	44%	38%	-6*
<b>Other school source not mentioned above</b>	18%	19%	1	22%	23%	1
<b>None of the above</b>	21%	18%	-3	9%	9%	0

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

\* $\Delta$  represents percentage point change from 2007-2008 to 2008-2009. Positive numbers indicates an increase in substance use and/or violence related information received from different sources. For high school a  $\Delta \geq 4$  percentage points and for middle school, a  $\Delta \geq 2$  percentage points would be significant.

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

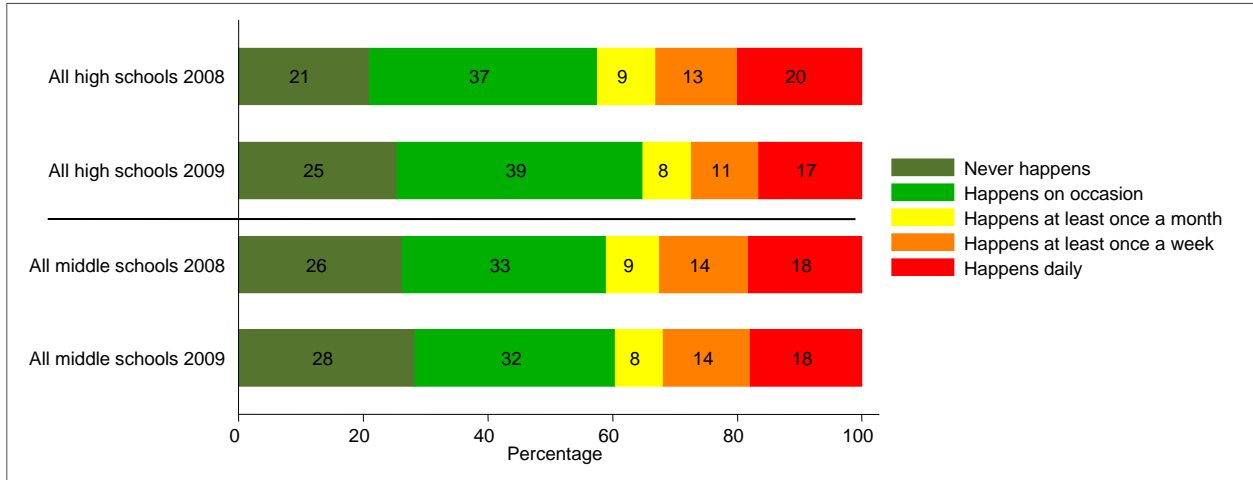
	All high schools 2008	All high schools 2009	$\Delta^*$	All middle schools 2008	All middle schools 2009	$\Delta^*$
<b>Tobacco</b>	10%	9%	-1	3%	4%	1
<b>Alcohol</b>	5%	6%	1	2%	4%	2*
<b>Illegal drugs</b>	10%	11%	1	5%	7%	2*
<b>Prescription drugs</b>	6%	7%	1	3%	5%	2*
<b>Gun</b>	2%	3%	1	2%	3%	1
<b>Knives</b>	8%	8%	0	5%	8%	3*
<b>Other weapons</b>	4%	6%	2	5%	6%	1
<b>None of the above</b>	77%	79%	2	87%	85%	2*

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

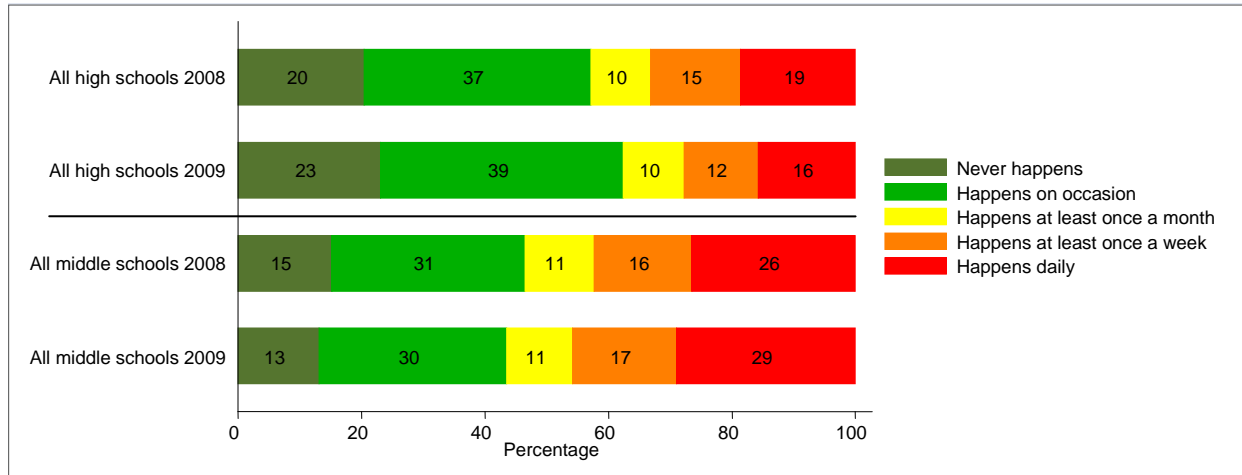
\* $\Delta$  represents percentage point change from 2007-2008 to 2008-2009. Positive numbers indicates an increase in the number of students bringing substances or weapons to school. For high school a  $\Delta \geq 4$  percentage points and for middle school, a  $\Delta \geq 2$  percentage points would be significant.

## SCHOOL SAFETY ITEMS

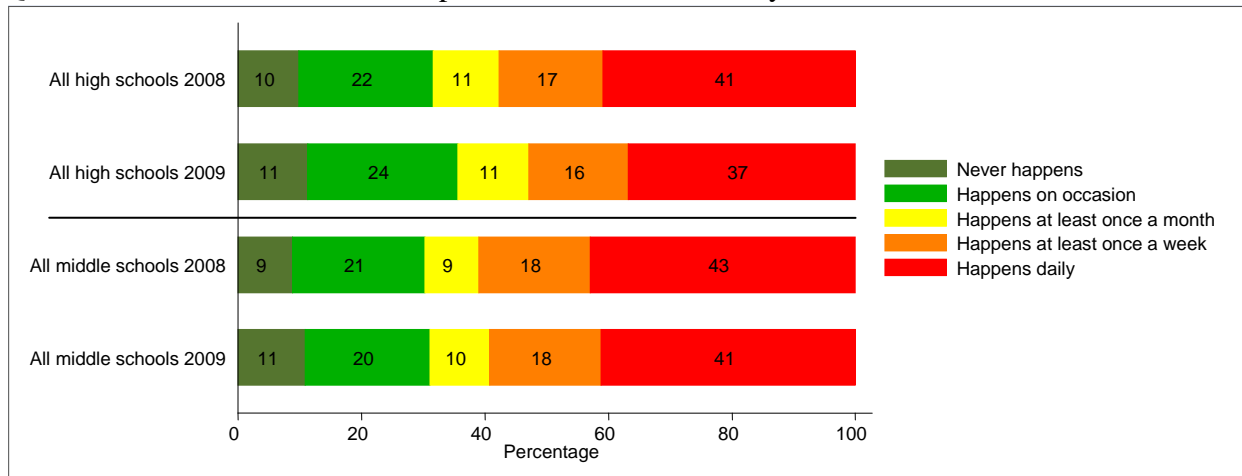
Q15a: How often does racial tension occur at your school?



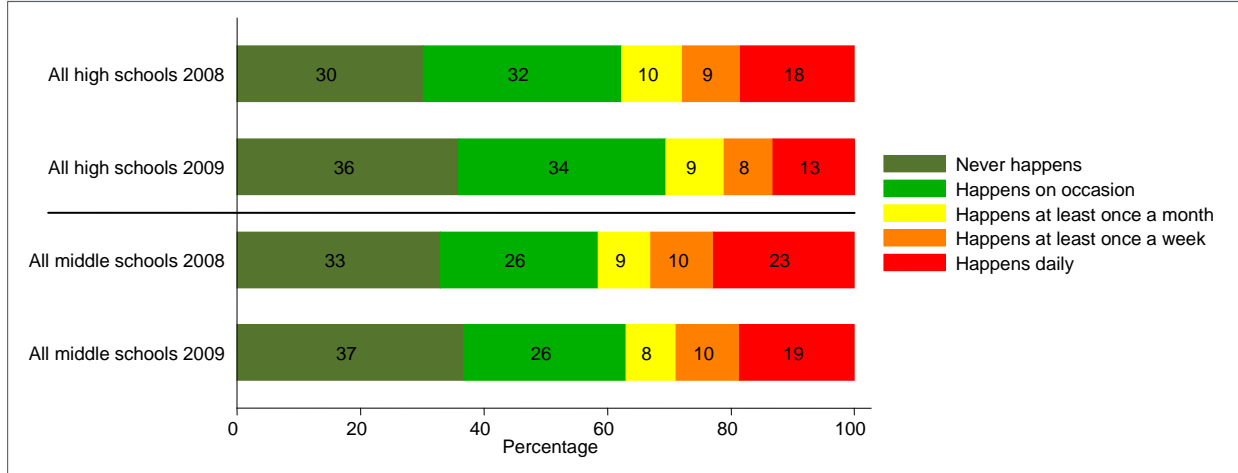
Q15b: How often does student bullying occur at your school?



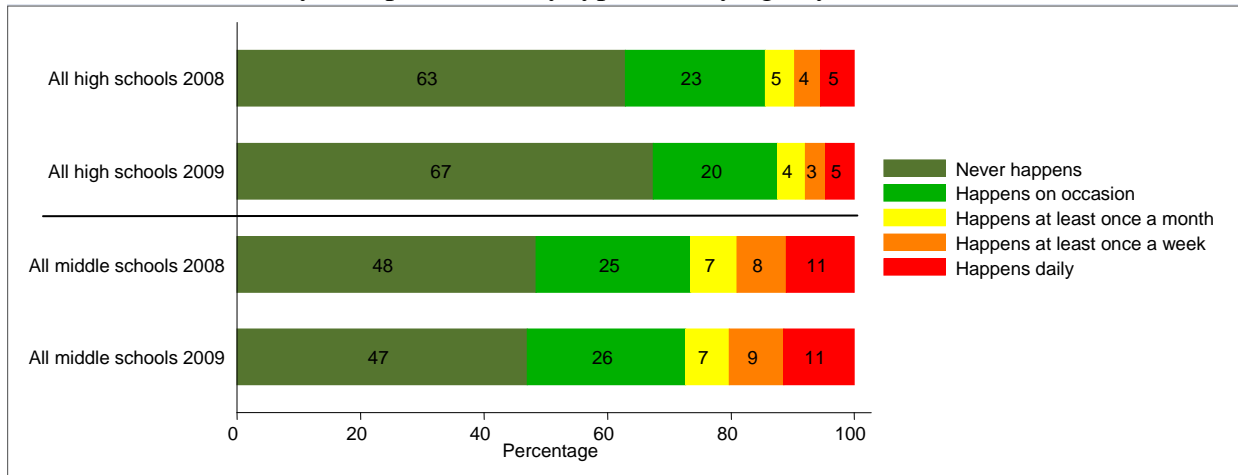
Q15c: How often do acts of disrespect for teachers occur at your school?



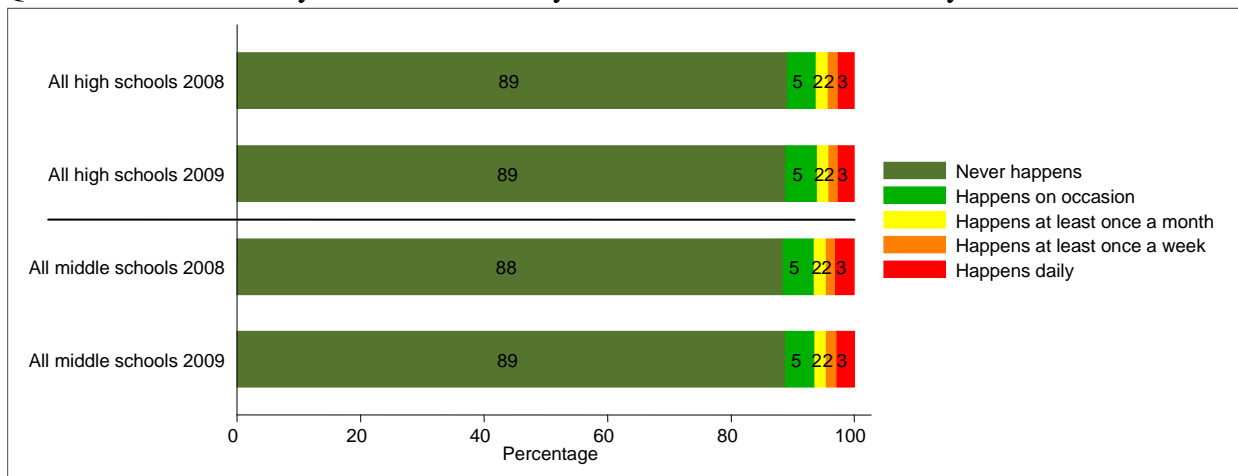
Q15d: How often do gang activities occur at your school?



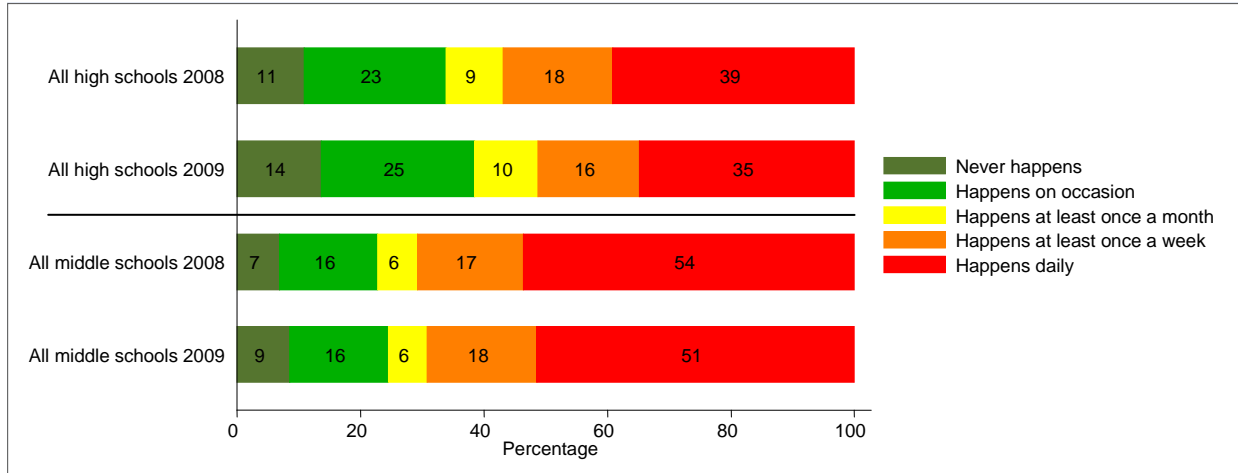
Q15e: How often have you experienced any type of bullying at your school?



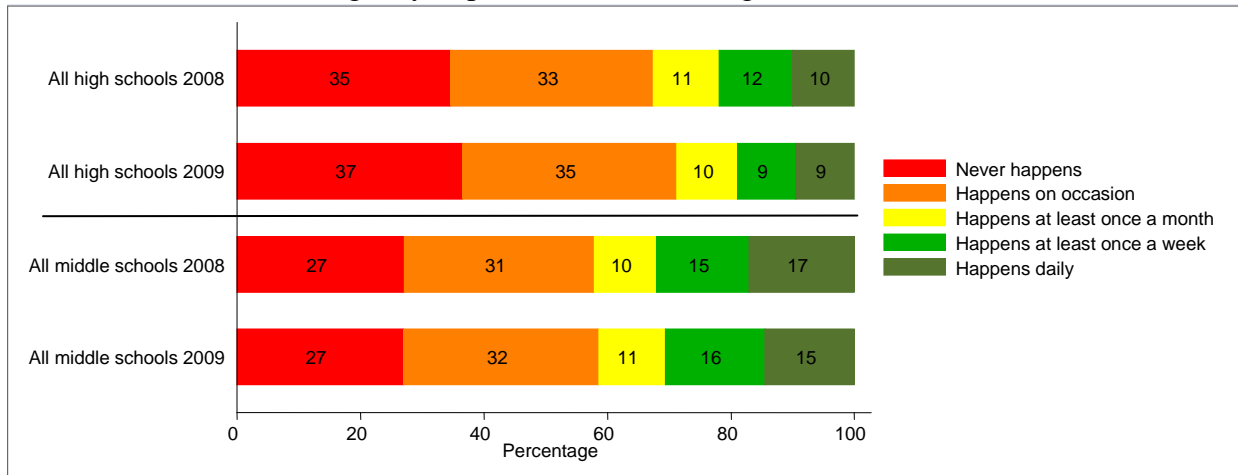
Q15f: How often were you absent because you did not feel safe on the way to/from school?



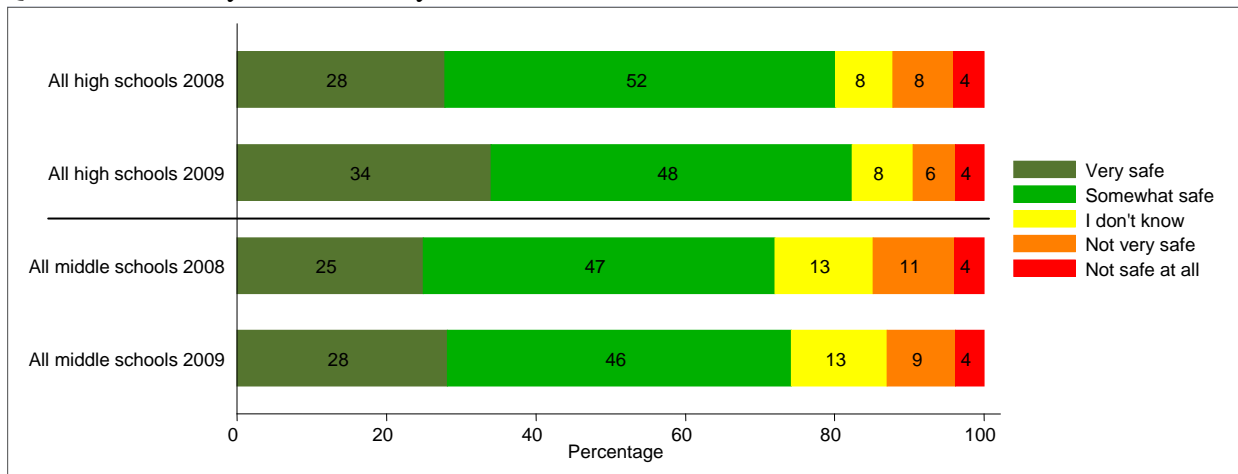
Q15g: How often does your teacher have to interrupt class to deal with student misbehavior?



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



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

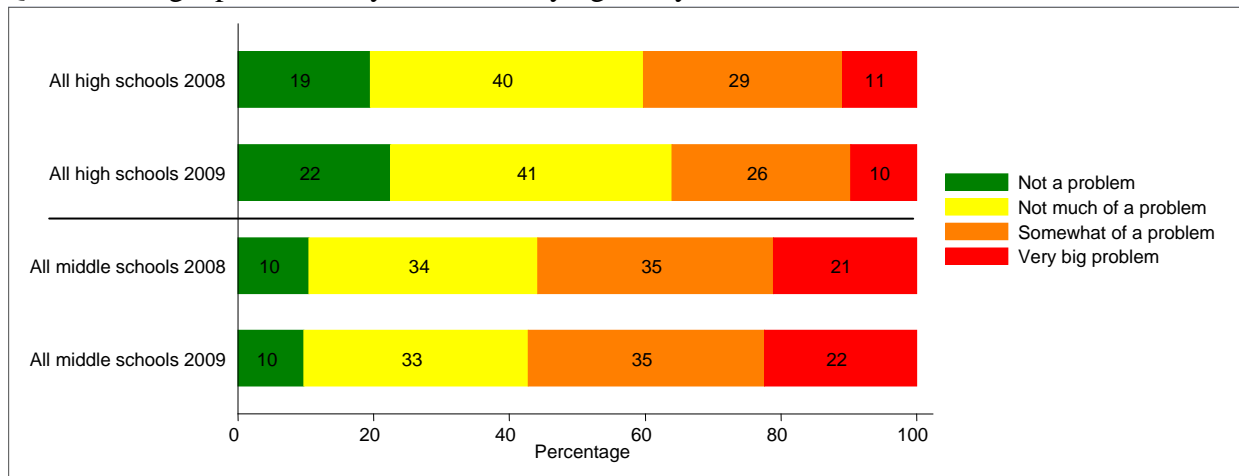


Q11: During this school year, have you experienced any of the following types of bullying at school?

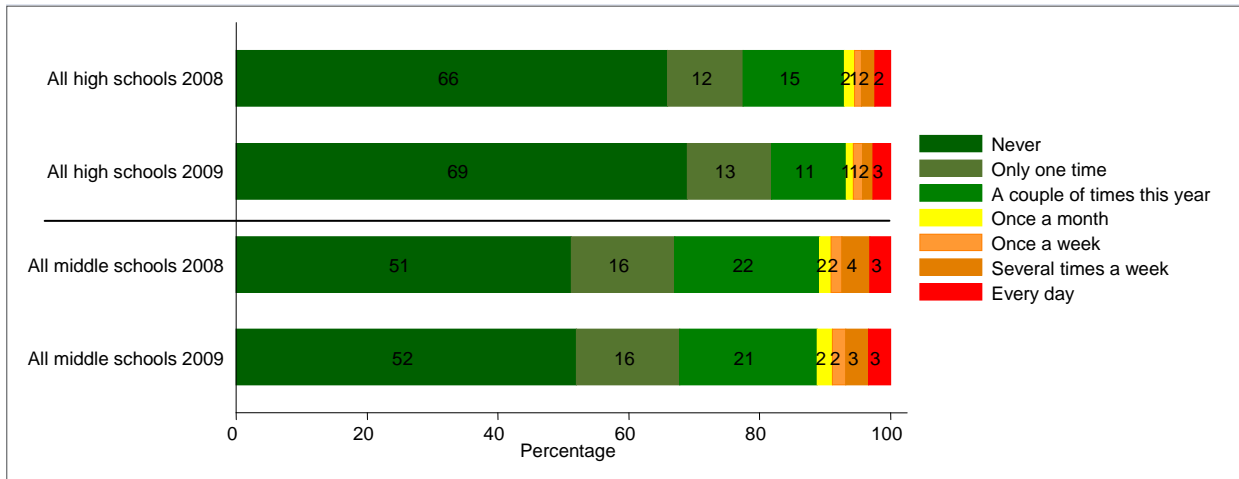
	All high schools 2008	All high schools 2009	$\Delta^*$	All middle schools 2008	All middle schools 2009	$\Delta^*$
<b>Physical</b>	13%	12%	-1	26%	29%	3*
<b>Social</b>	25%	26%	1	33%	35%	2*
<b>Verbal</b>	28%	26%	-2	41%	41%	0
<b>Intimidation</b>	9%	9%	0	12%	11%	-1
<b>Written</b>	7%	6%	-1	12%	11%	-1
<b>Sexual harassment</b>	13%	12%	-1	14%	14%	0
<b>Racial or ethnic harassment</b>	21%	19%	-2	24%	22%	-2*
<b>None</b>	54%	54%	0	39%	37%	-2*

Note. Percentages may sum to more than 100% because respondents were allowed to choose multiple items.  
 $\Delta^*$  represents percentage point change from 2007-2008 to 2008-2009. Negative numbers indicates a decrease in type of bullying experienced. . For high school a  $\Delta \geq 4$  percentage points and for middle school, a  $\Delta \geq 2$  percentage points would be significant.

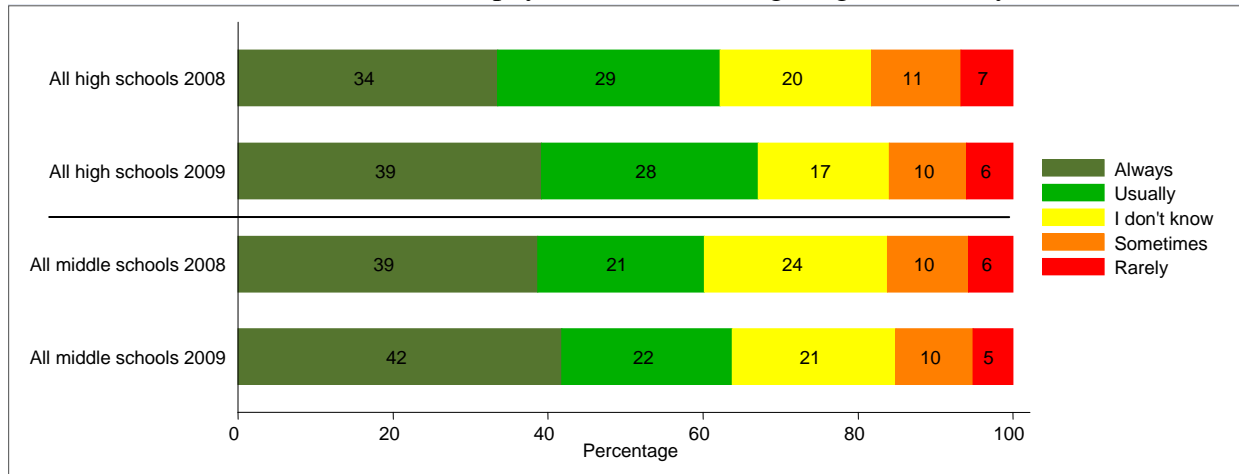
Q12: How big a problem do you think bullying is at your school?



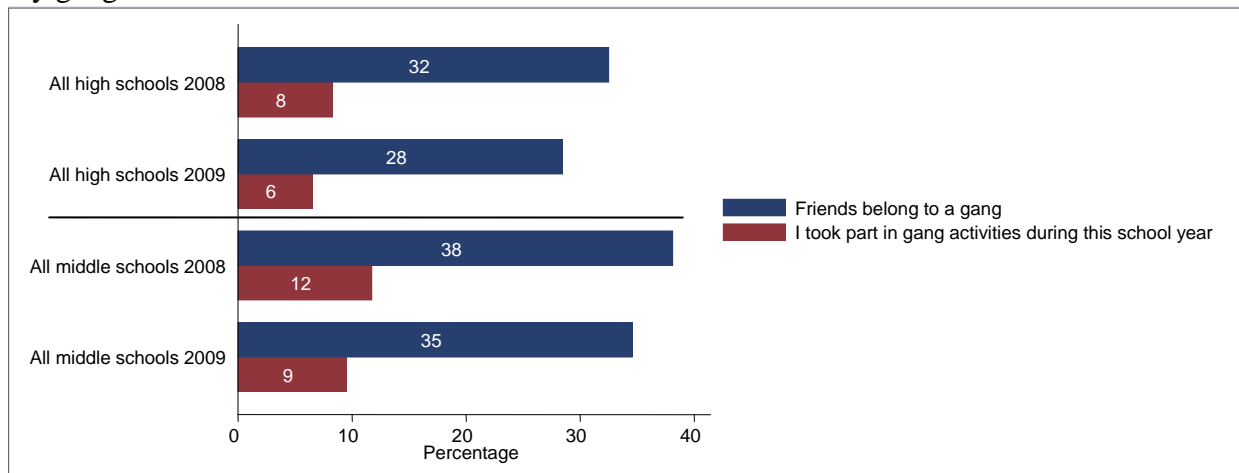
Q10: During this school year, how often have you or your close friends been physically harmed or threatened with physical harm by another student at your school?



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



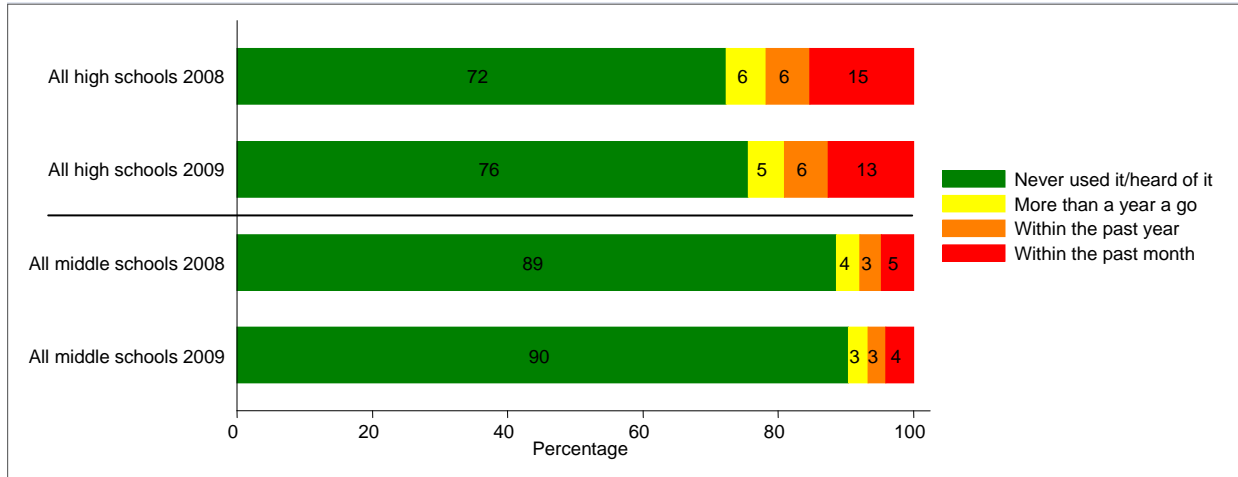
Q16-Q17: Do any of your friends belong to a gang? During this school year, did you take part in any gang activities?



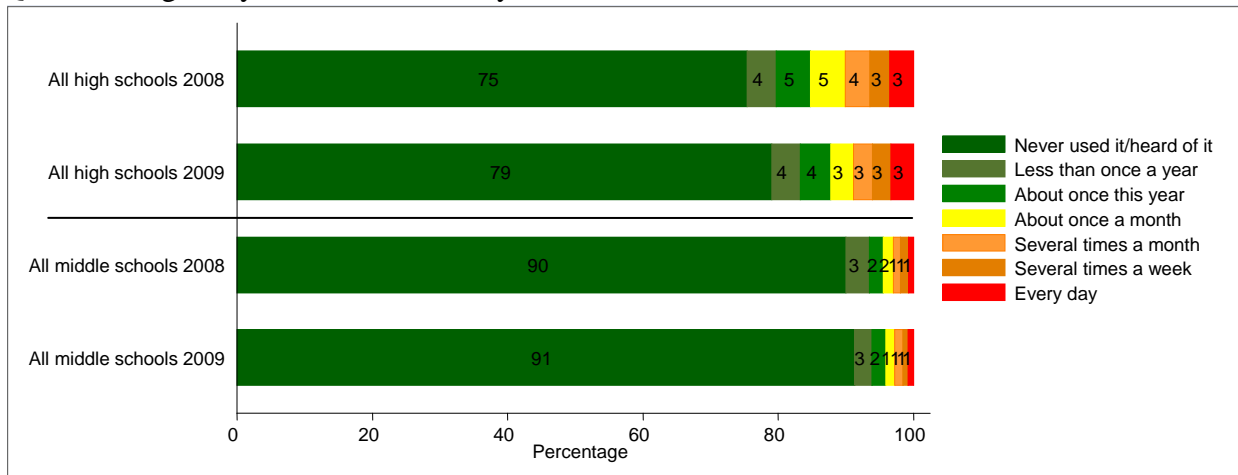


## SUBSTANCE USE ITEMS

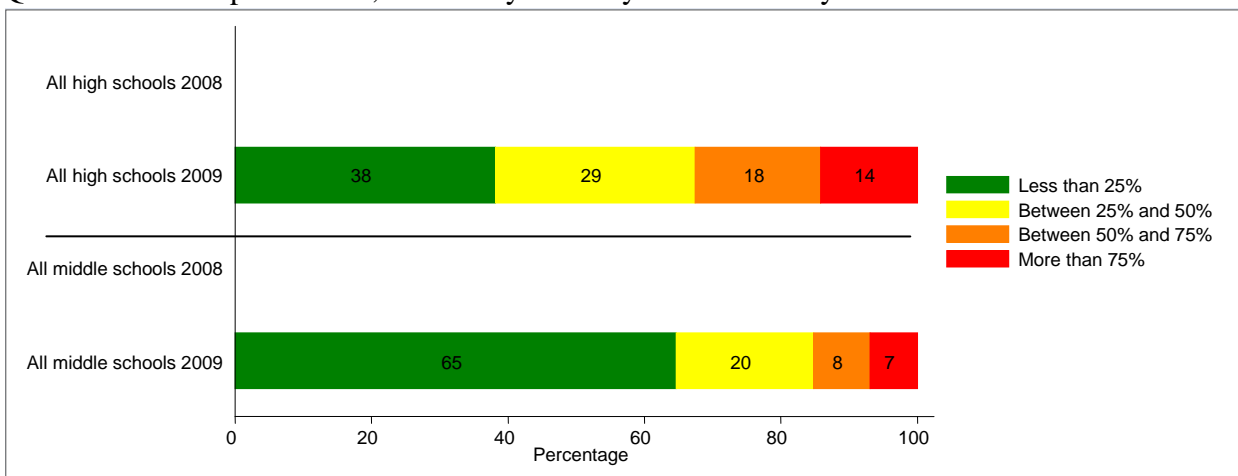
Q18A: What is the most recent you have used Tobacco?



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

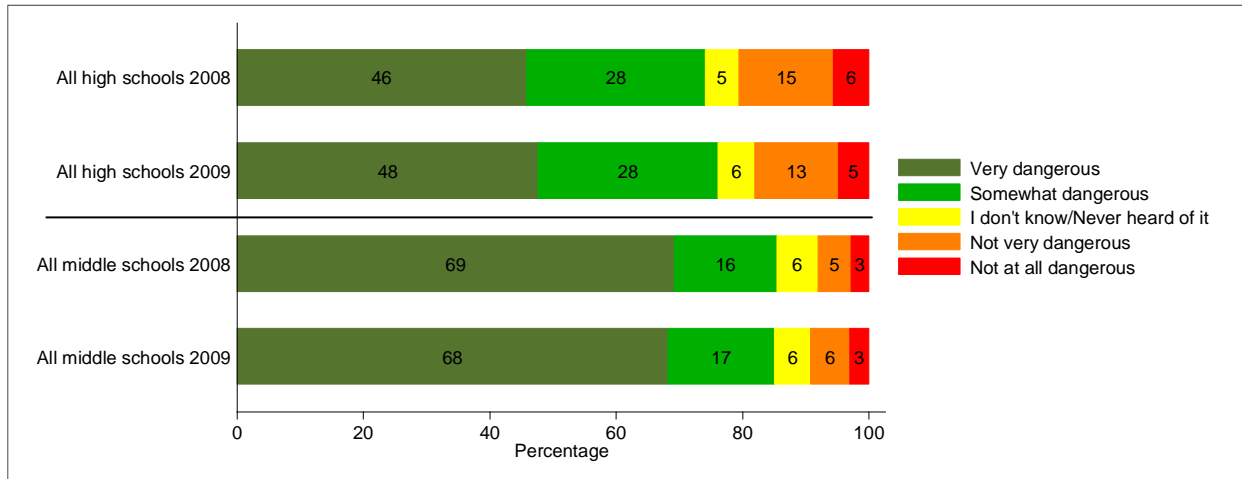


Q29a. Within the past month, how many kids at your school do you think have used tobacco?

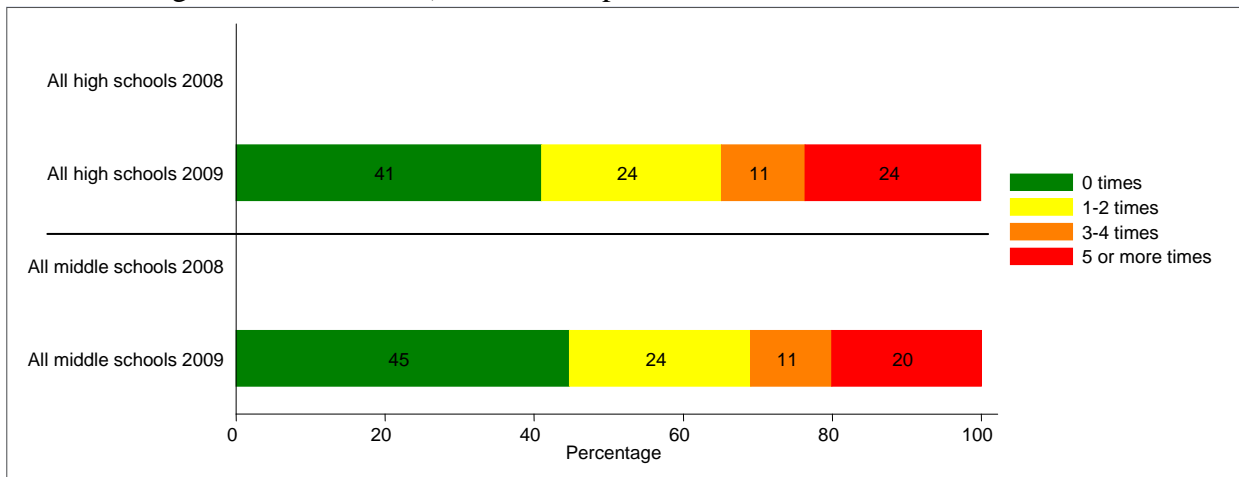


Note: This question was not asked in the 2007-2008 survey.

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

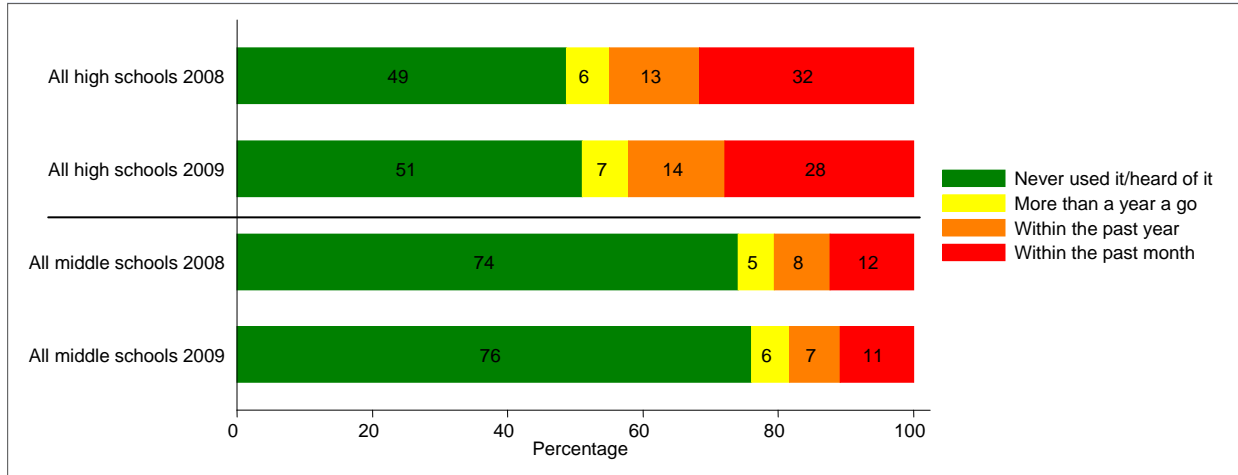


Q28g. During the school year, how many times have you experienced advertisements (TV, radio, billboard, magazine, internet, etc.) for tobacco products?

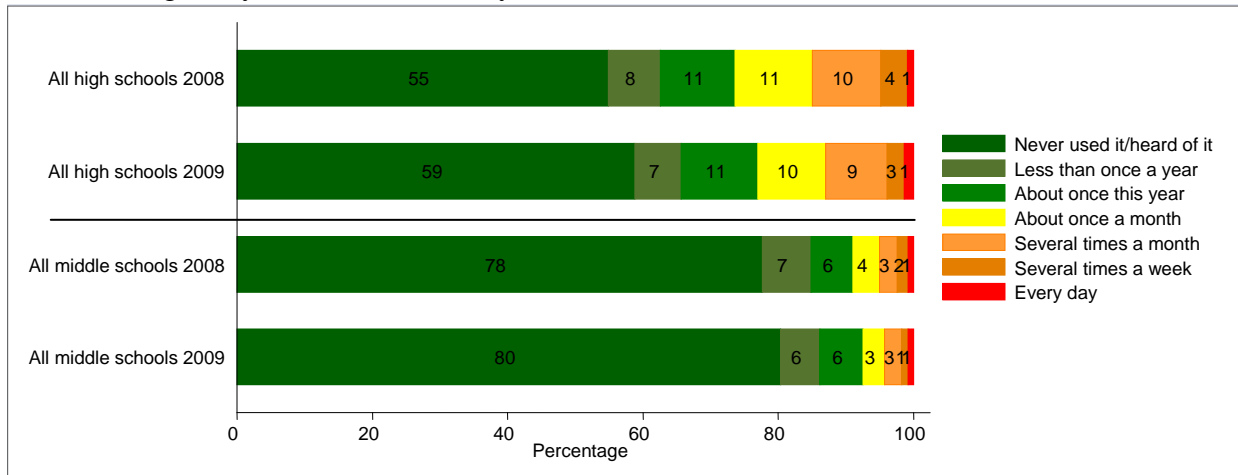


Note: This question was not asked in the 2007-2008 survey.

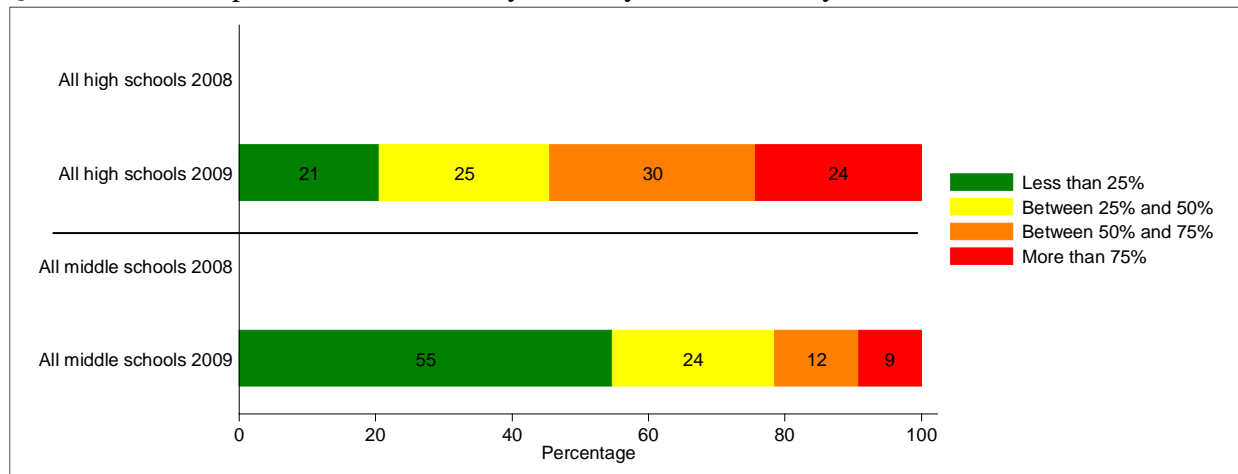
Q18B: What is the most recent you have used Alcohol?



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

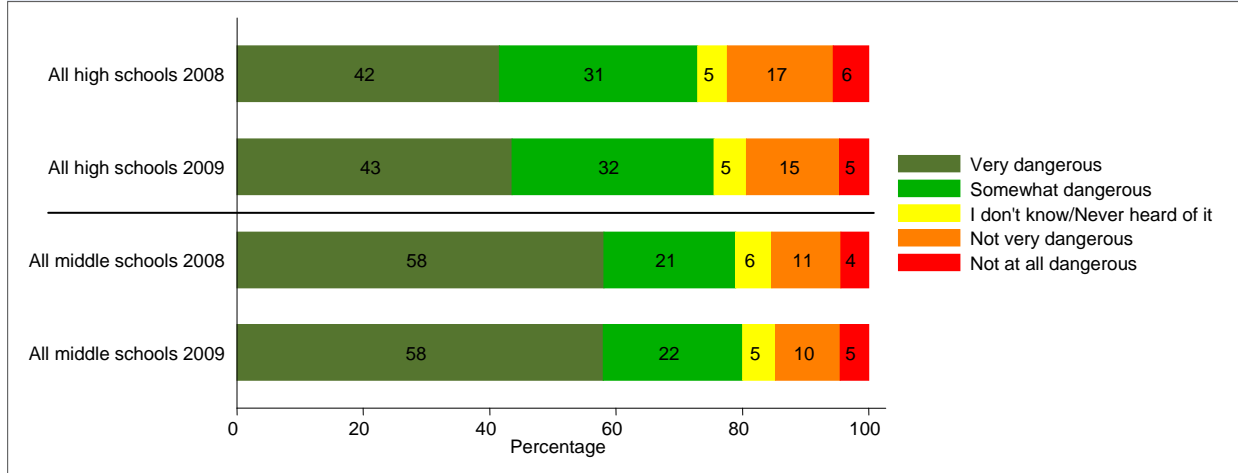


Q29b. Within the past month, how many kids at your school do you think have used alcohol?

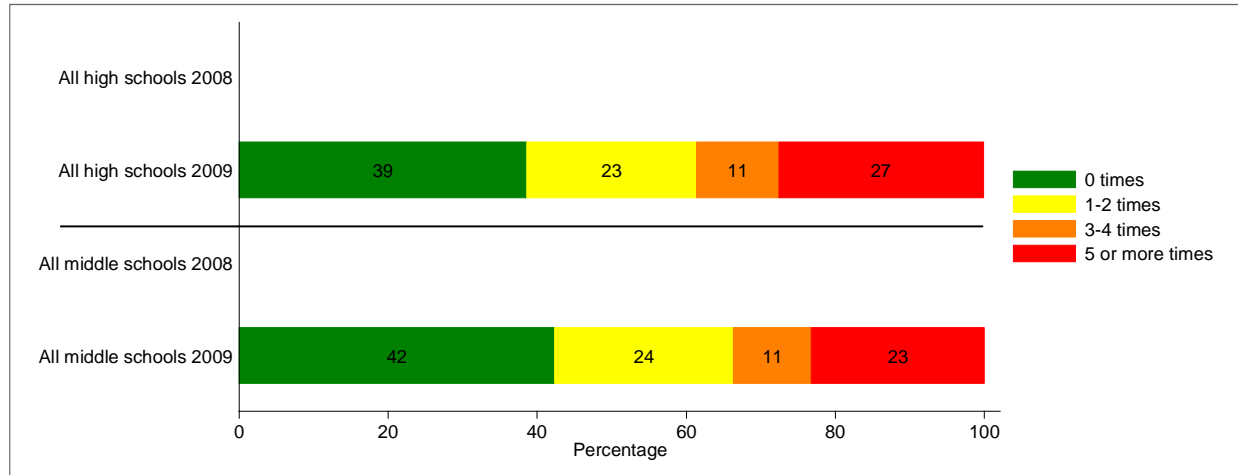


Note: This question was not asked in the 2007-2008 survey..

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

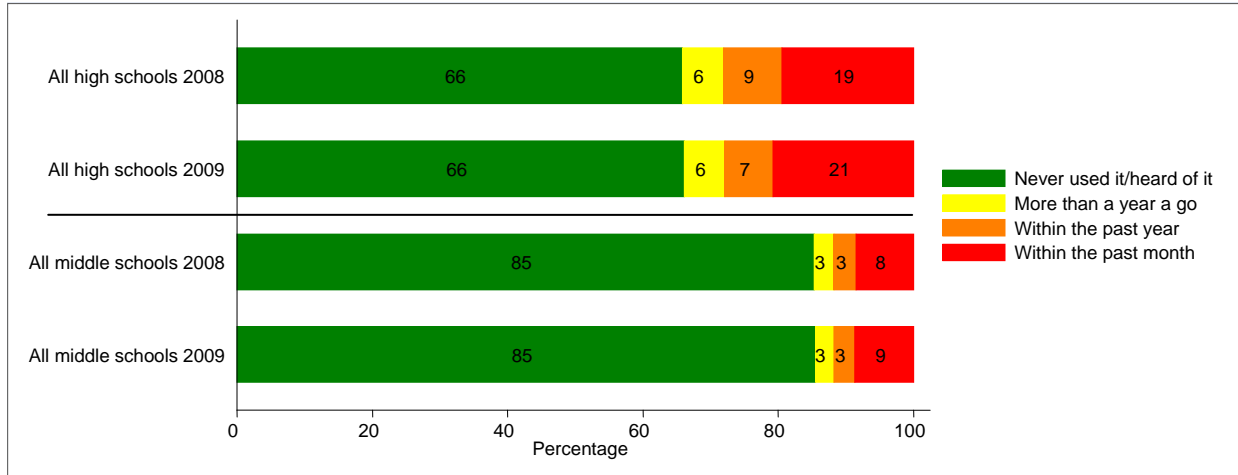


Q28f. During the school year, how many times have you experienced advertisements (TV, radio, billboard, magazine, internet, etc.) for alcohol products?

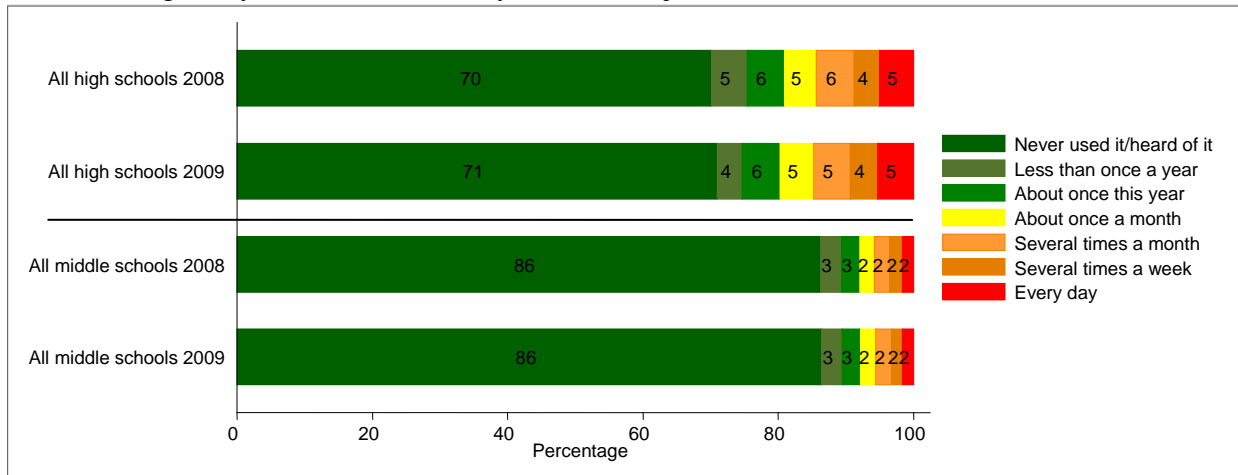


Note: This question was not asked in the 2007-2008 survey.

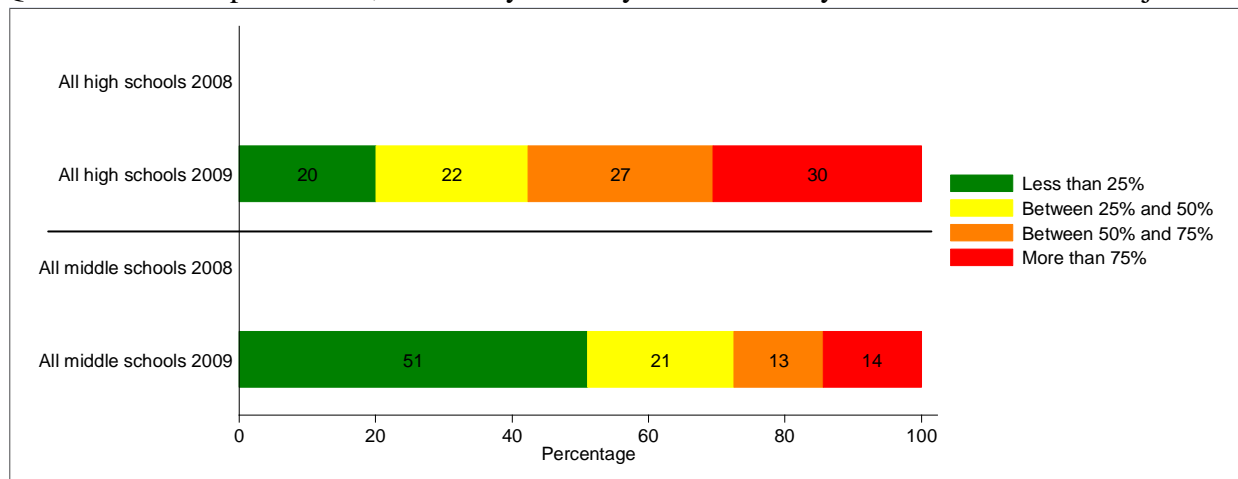
Q18C: What is the most recent you have used Marijuana?



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

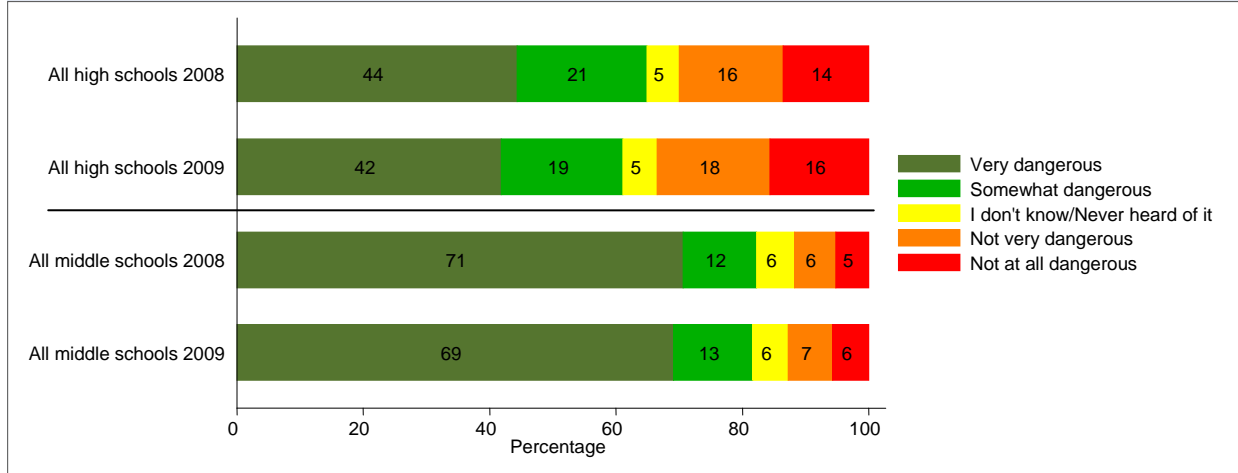


Q29c. Within the past month, how many kids at your school do you think have used marijuana?

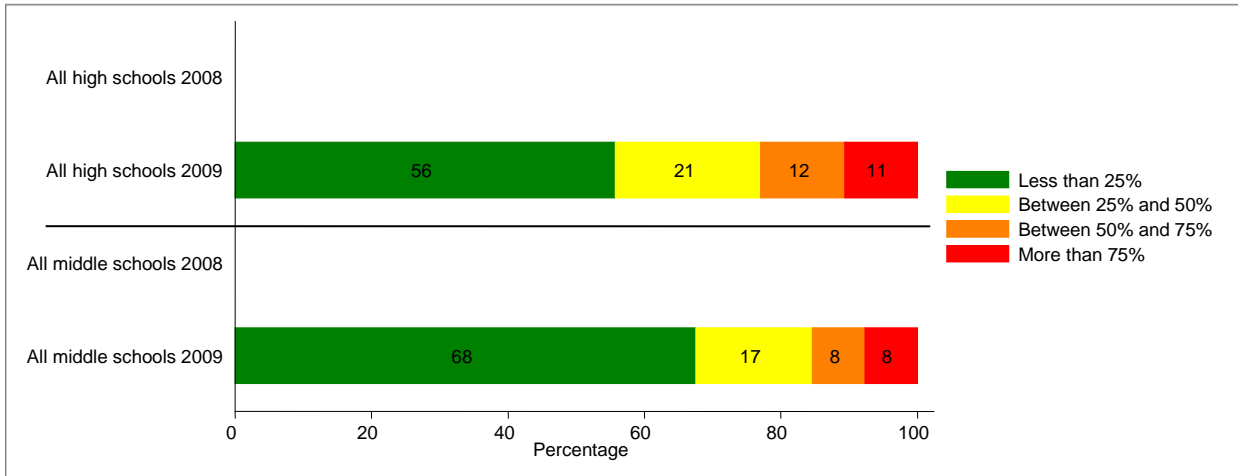


Note: This question was not asked in the 2007-2008 survey.

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

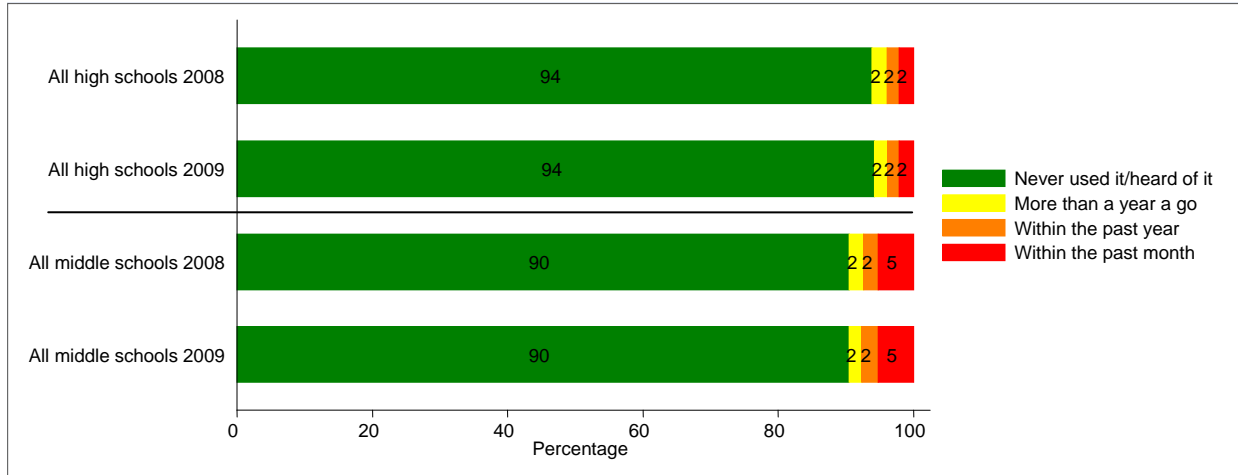


Q29d. Within the past month, how many kids at your school do you think have used other illegal drugs (e.g., cocaine, ecstasy, heroin, etc.) ?

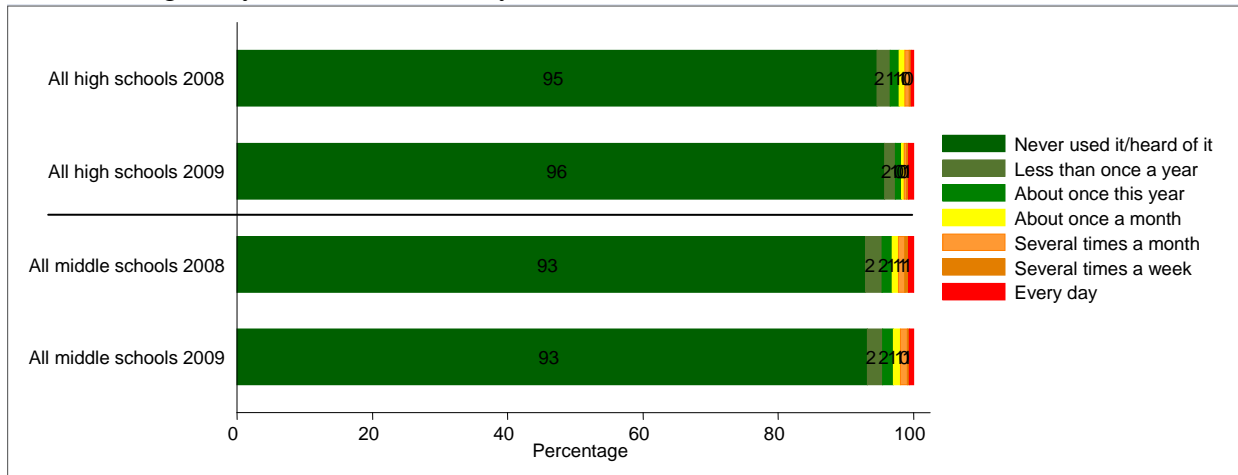


Note: This question was not asked in the 2007-2008 survey.

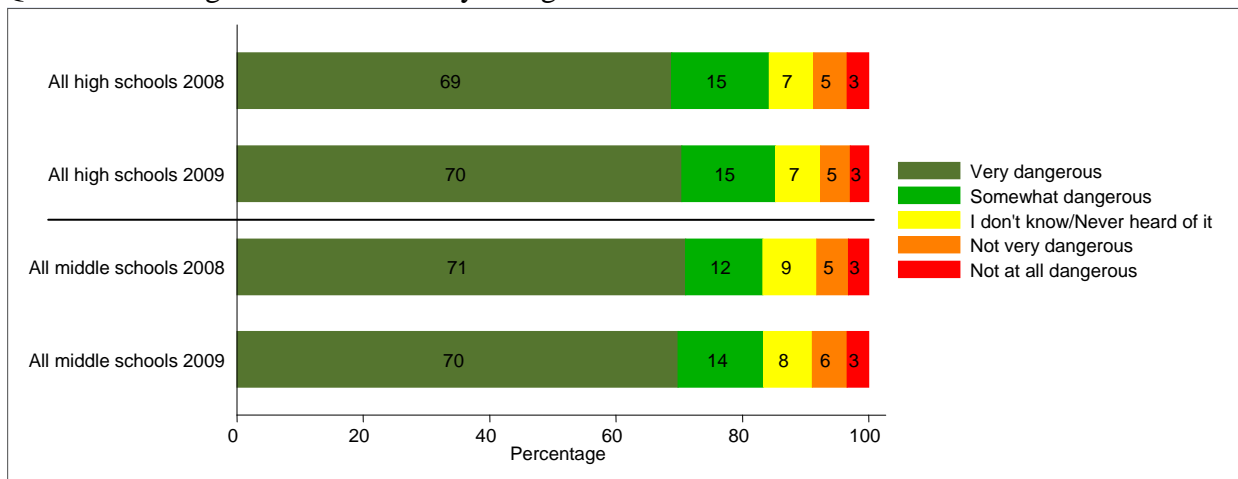
Q18D: What is the most recent you have used Inhalants?



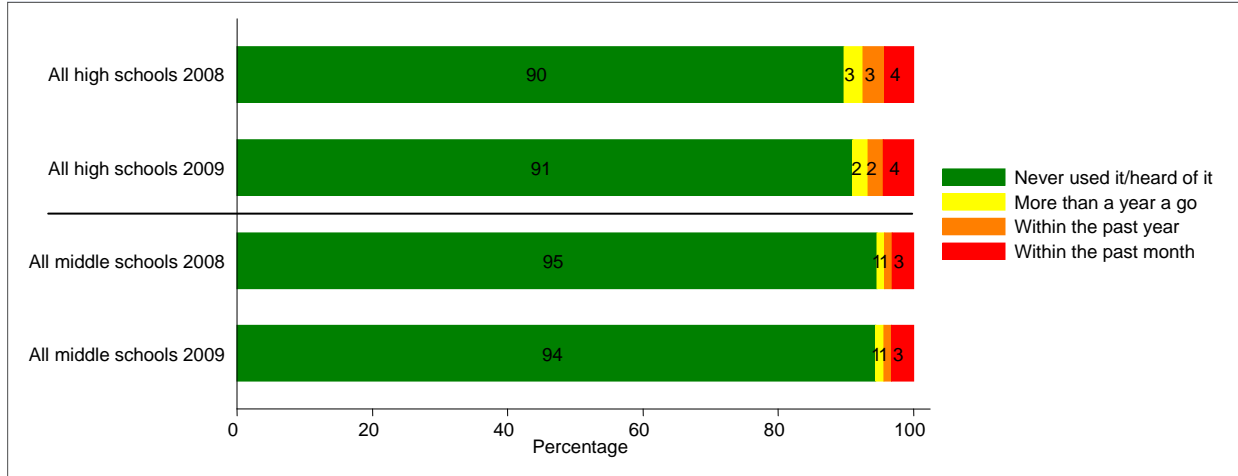
Q21d: During this year, how often did you use Inhalants?



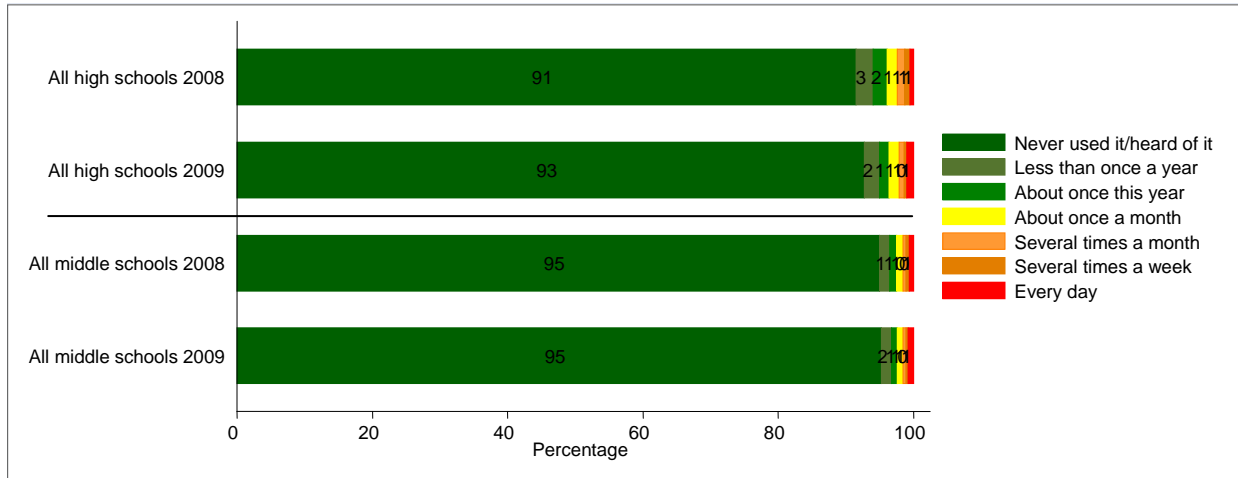
Q27d: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use Inhalants?



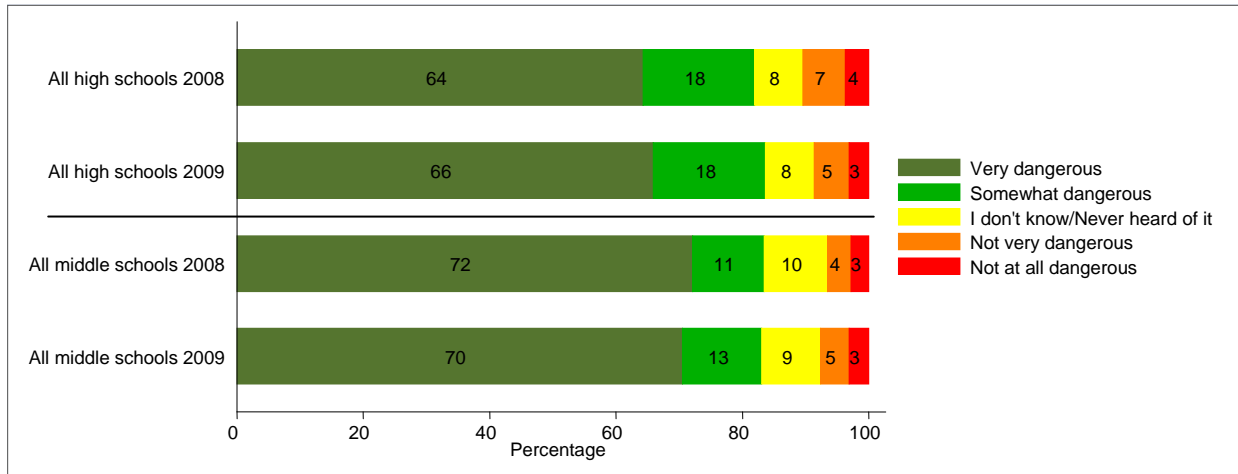
Q18E: What is the most recent you have used Over the Counter Medication to get high?



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

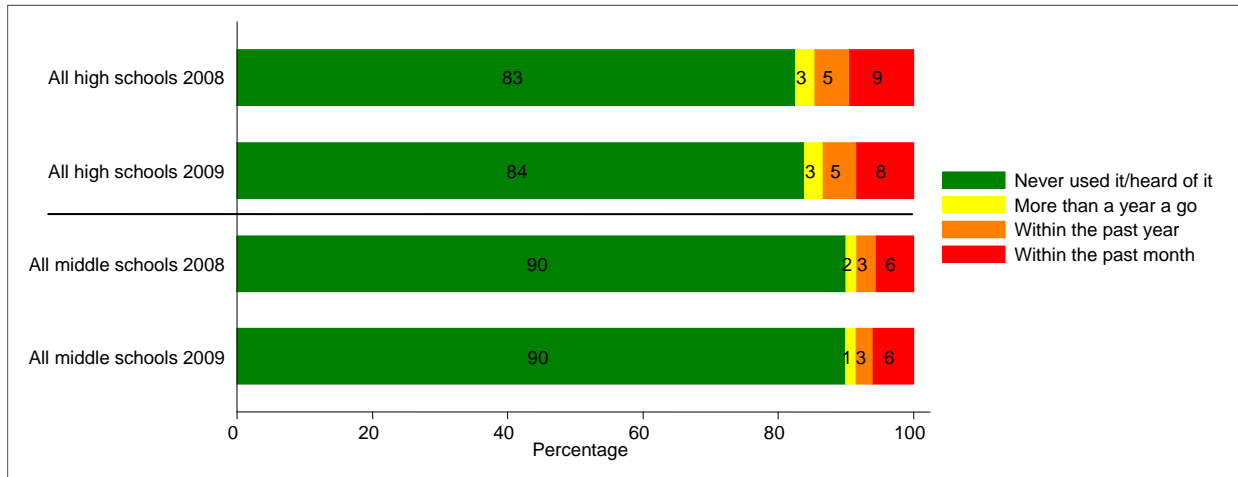


Q27e: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use Over the Counter Medication to get high?

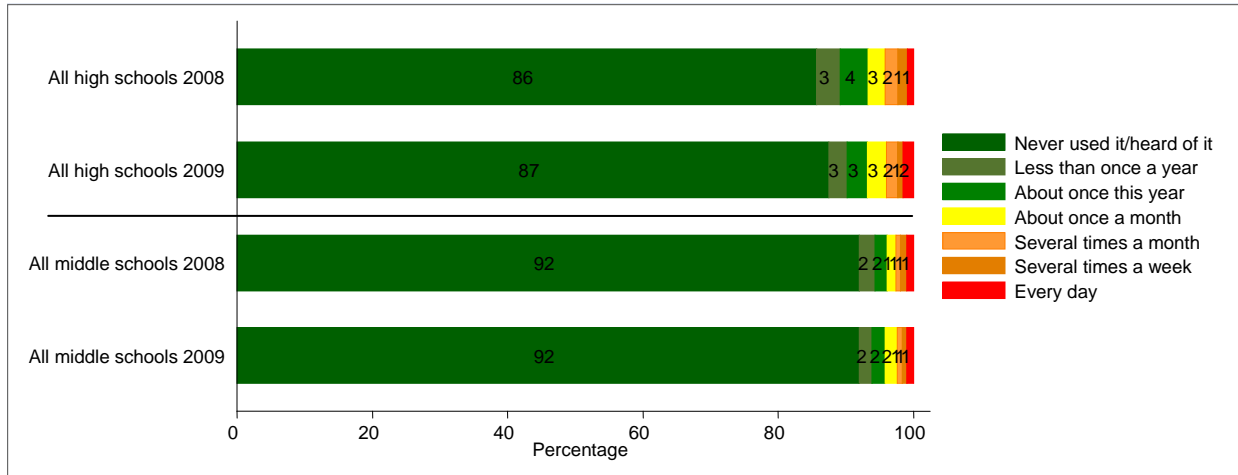




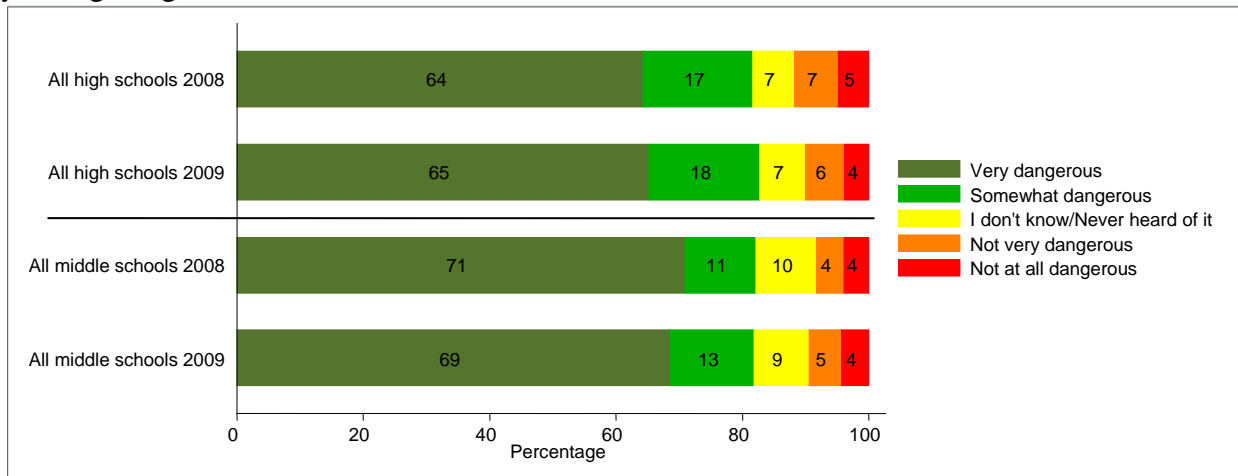
Q18f: What is the most recent you have used Prescription Drugs that were not prescribed to you to get high?



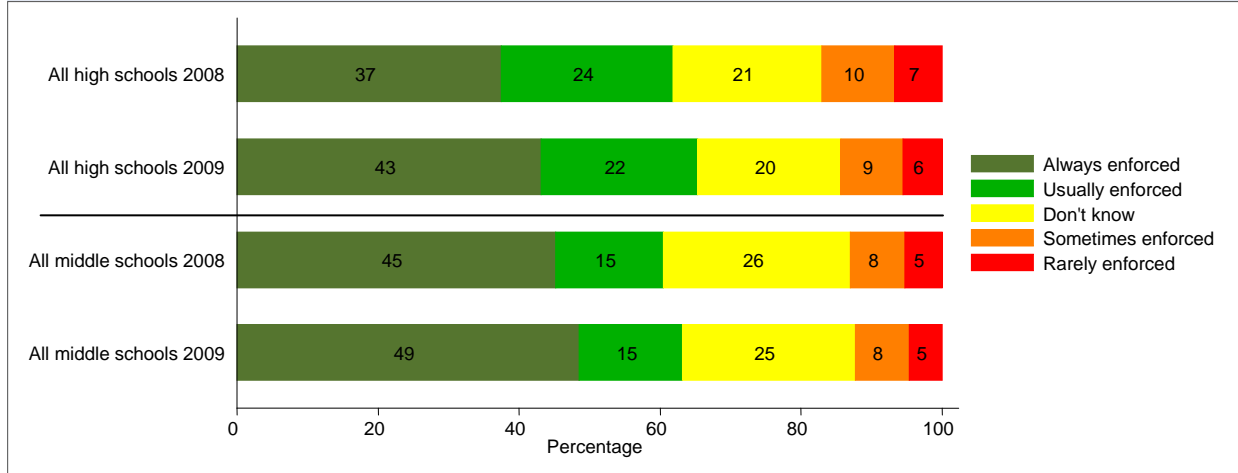
Q21f: During this year, how often did you use Prescription Drugs that were not prescribed to you to get high?



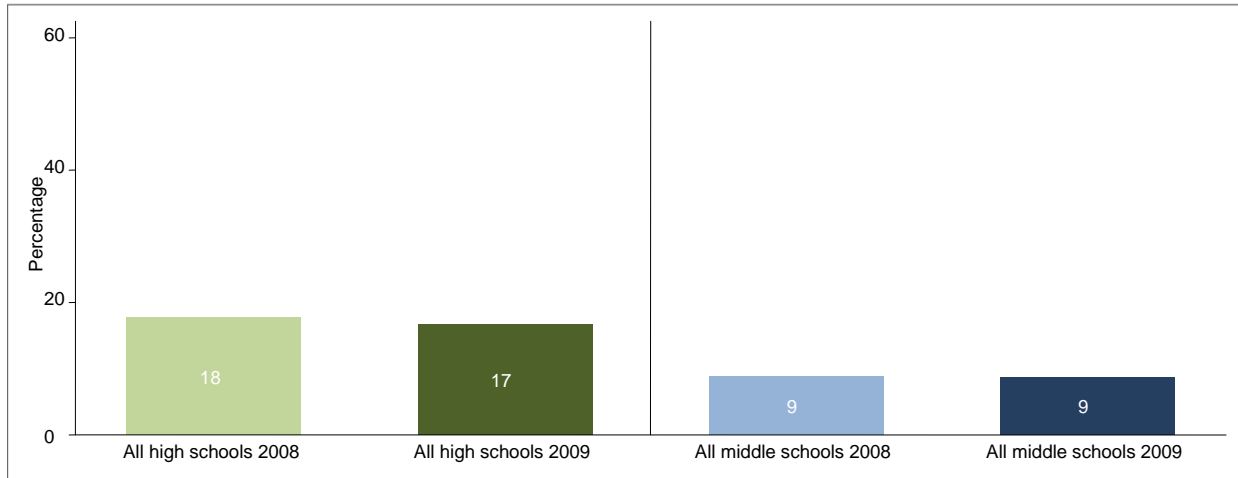
Q27f: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use Prescription Drugs that were not prescribed to you to get high?



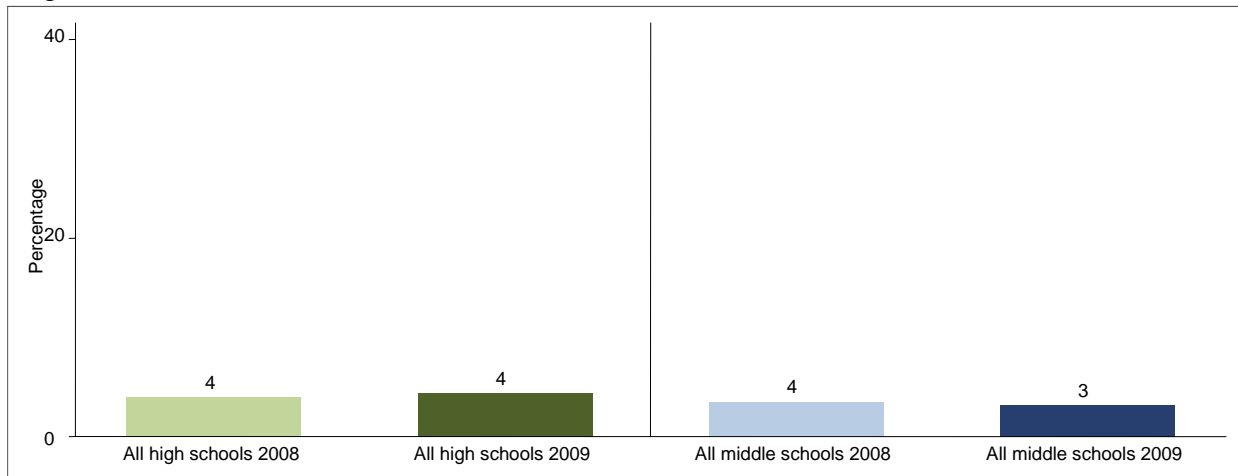
Q13: Are school rules about drug, alcohol, and tobacco use enforced by school staff?



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

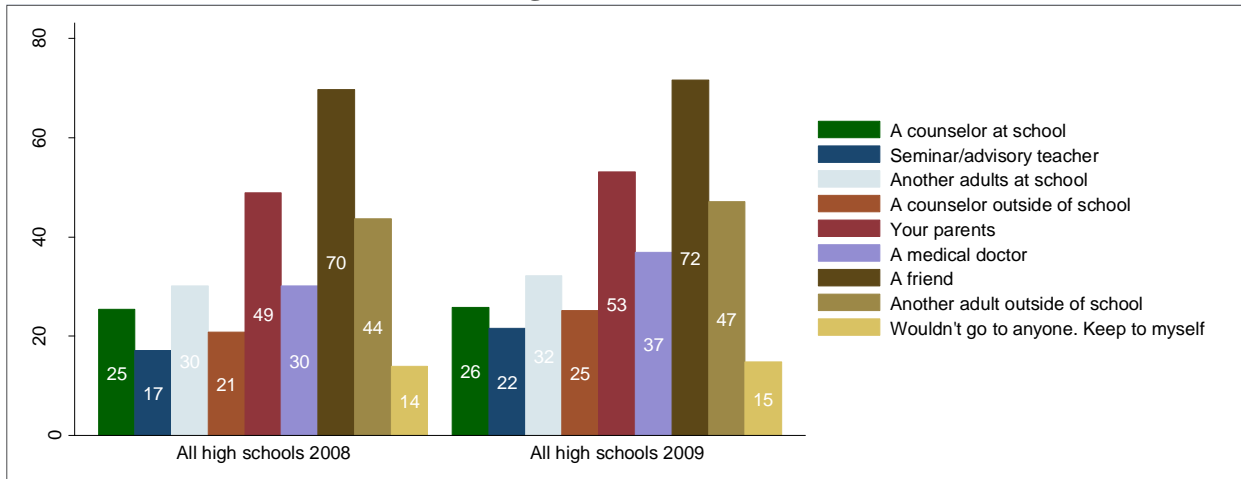


Q19: During this school year, have you gotten into trouble with the police because of tobacco, drugs, or alcohol?

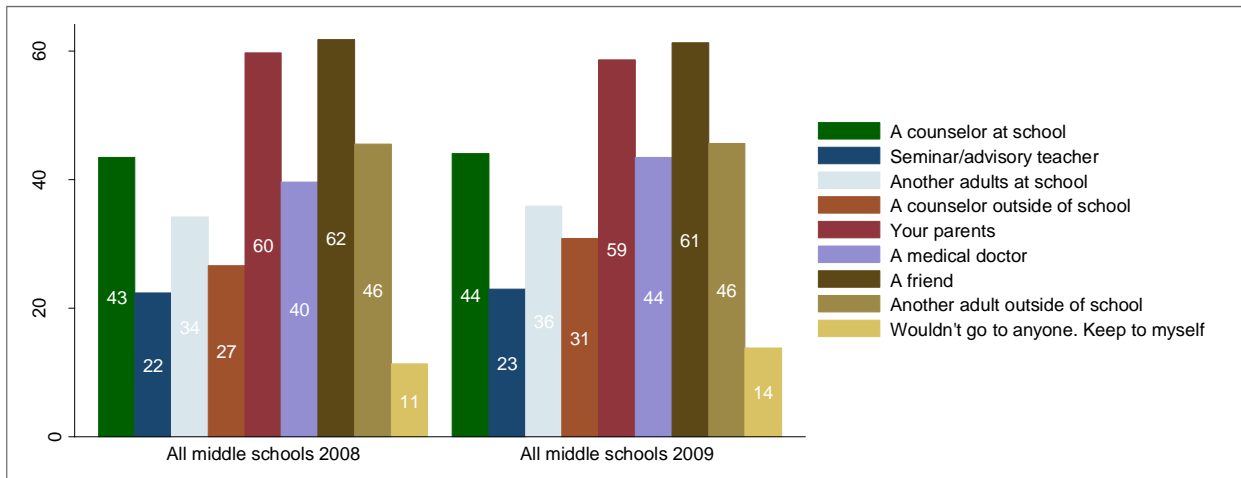


Q24: If you had a drug or alcohol problem and needed help, who would you go to?

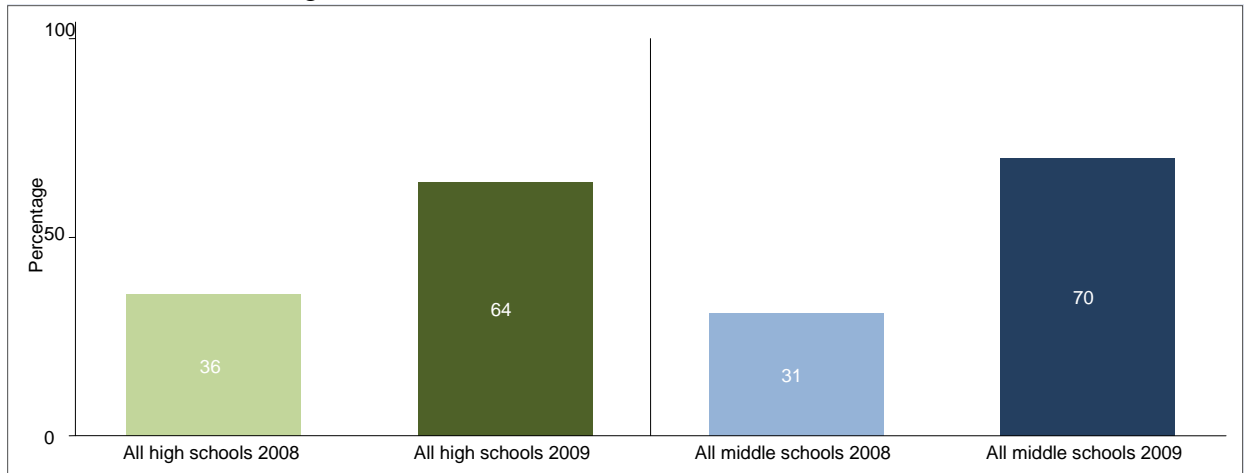
**High School**



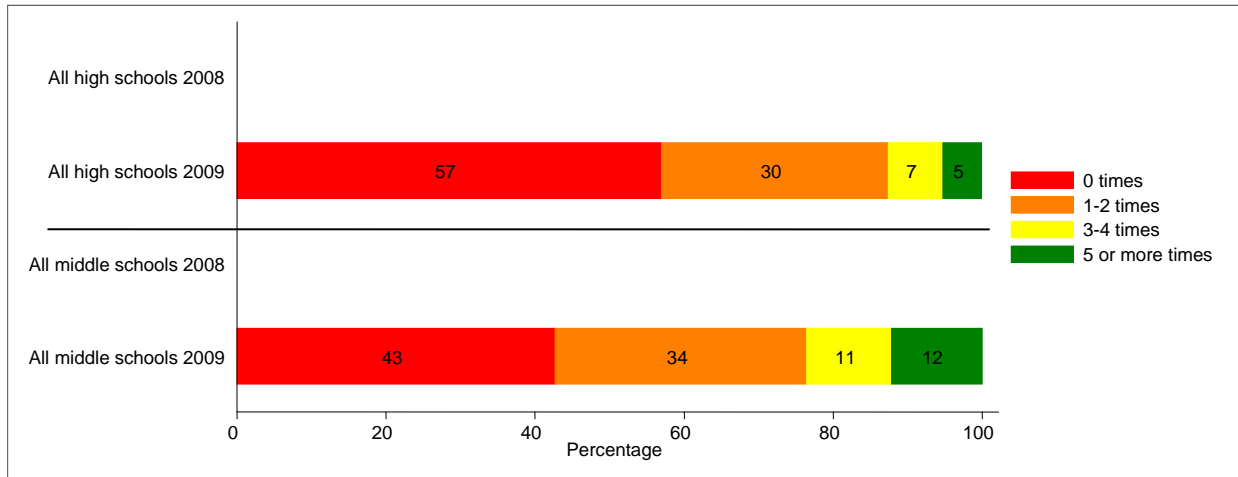
**Middle School**



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

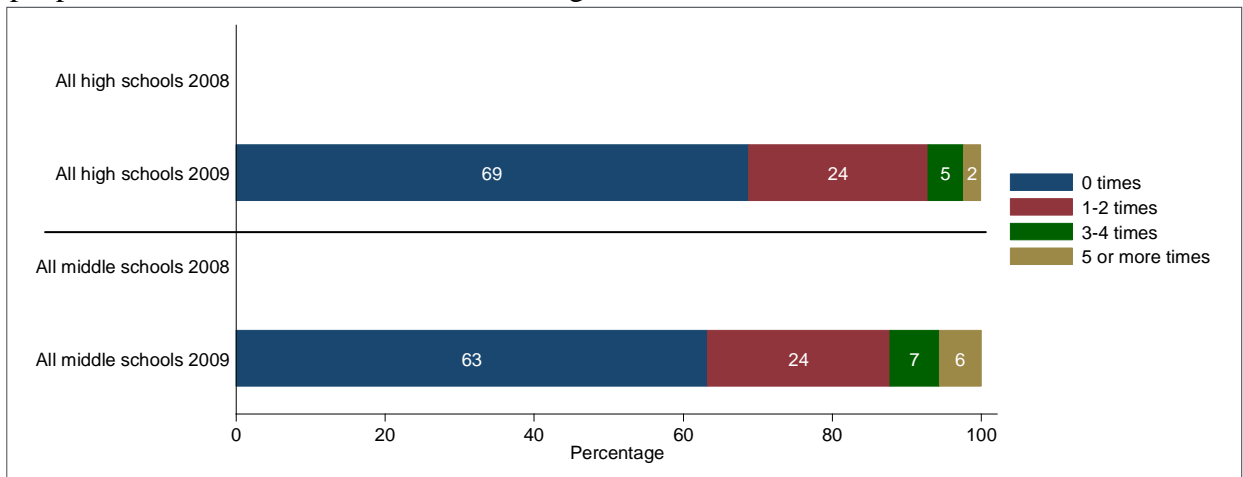


Q28a. During the school year, how many times have you experienced classes in which you learned and practiced ways of resisting and avoiding substance abuse?



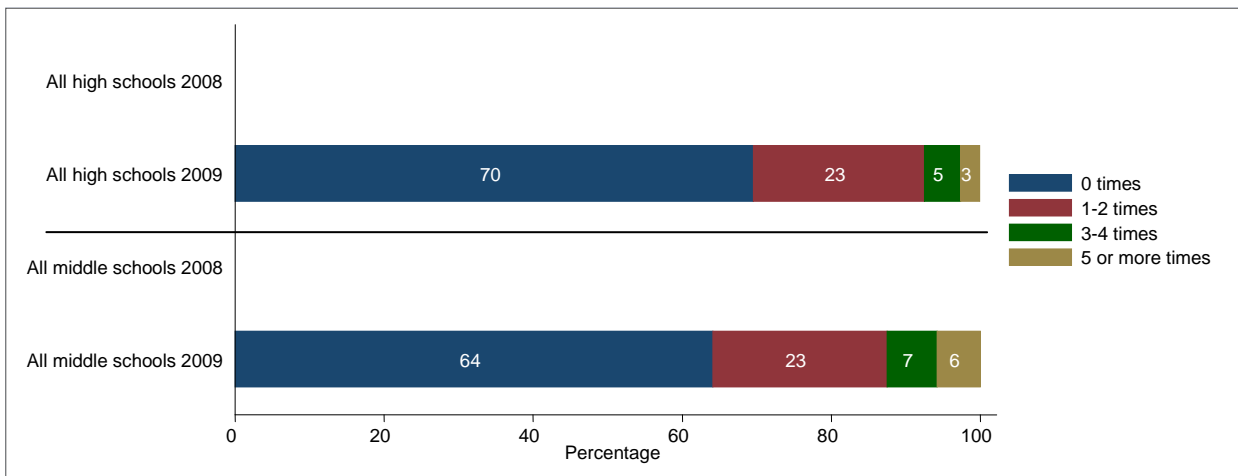
Note: This question was not asked in the 2007-2008 survey.

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



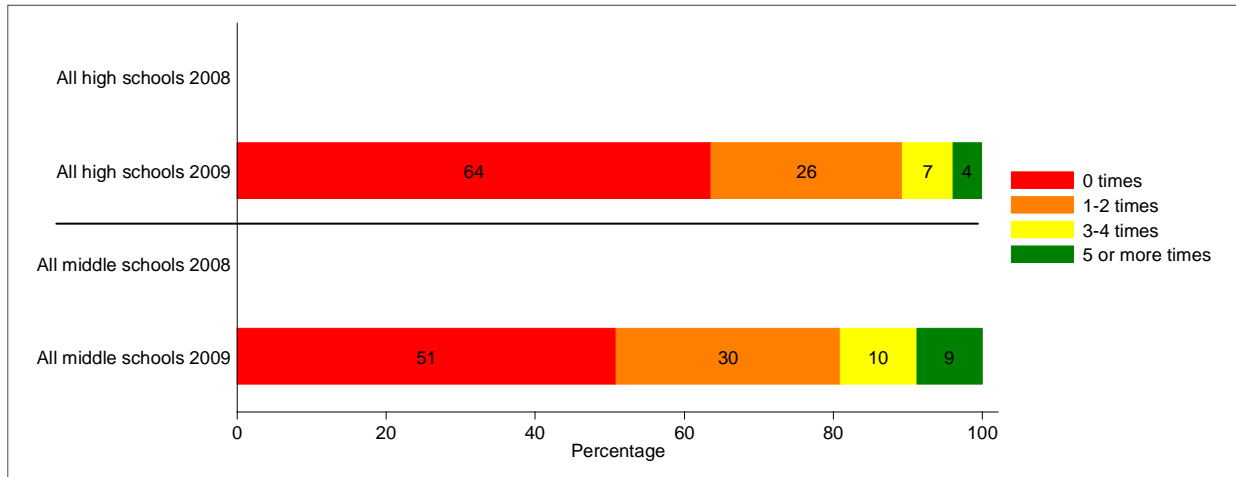
Note: This question was not asked in the 2007-2008 survey.

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



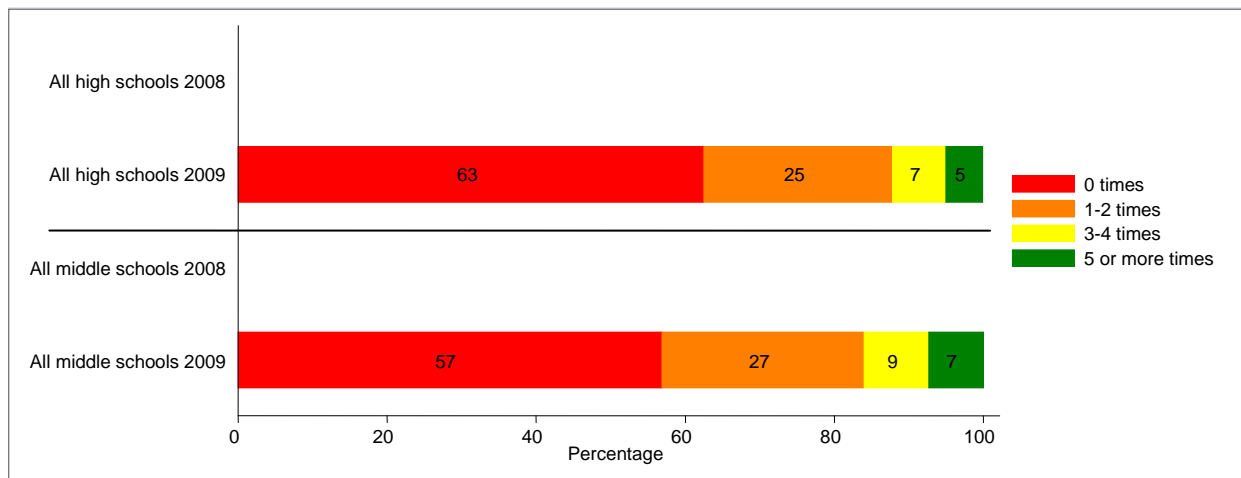
Note: This question was not asked in the 2007-2008 survey.

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?



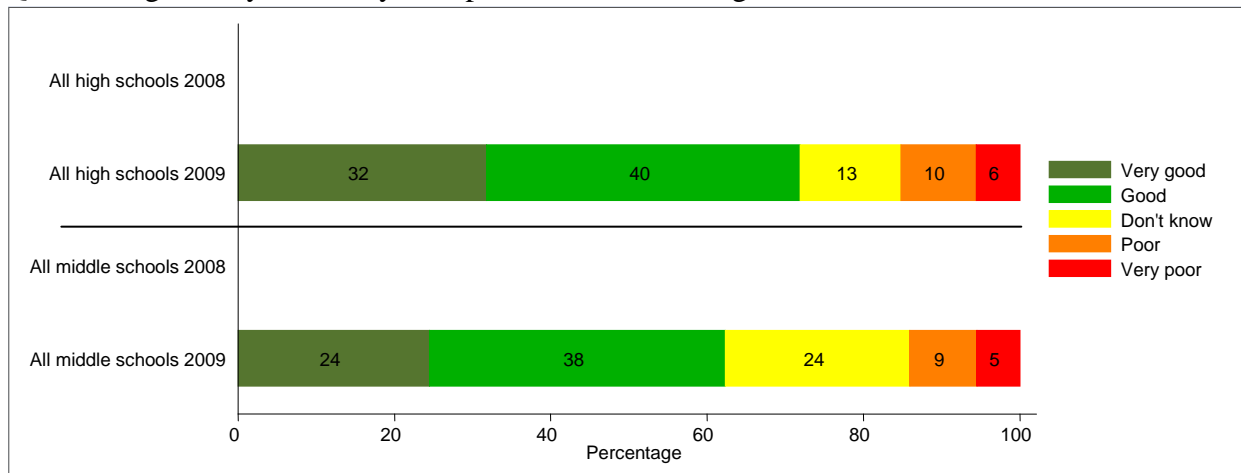
Note: This question was not asked in the 2007-2008 survey.

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



Note: This question was not asked in the 2007-2008 survey.

Q30. How good is your ability to cope with stress and negative emotions?



Note: This question was not asked in the 2007-2008 survey.