## Results of the 2013 Student Substance Use and Safety Survey



Austin Independent School District

September, 2013

#### HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL REPORT

#### **DESCRIPTION OF SURVEY**

Every year, the self-reported student substance use and safety survey (SSUSS) is administered to a random, representative sample of Austin Independent School District (AISD) students. The survey is used to track students' knowledge, attitudes, and self-reported behavior over time. In the spring of 2013, a sample of 8,846 students in grades 6 through 12 submitted valid responses to the district's annual SSUSS, yielding a response rate of 75%.<sup>1</sup> Respondent demographics and all item results are included in this report. The survey questions are presented by topic and maps of results are included for certain items. For each school level (i.e., high school or middle school), results of the 2013 and 2012 surveys are presented to allow for year-to-year comparisons. The question numbers correspond to the item number on the survey.

#### 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 us to be 95% confident that the true population result will fall within the constructed interval.

#### HOW SHOULD CONFIDENCE INTERVALS BE USED TO INTERPRET SSUSS DATA?

## Based on the high school sample of 3,862 students and a population enrollment of 21,695, the 95% confidence interval for high school is + and – 1 percentage point.

## Based on the middle school sample of 4,984 students and a population enrollment of 17,410, the 95% 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 these computed confidence intervals (i.e., 1 percentage point for high schools and 1 percentage point for middle schools) on each side of the sample statistics. For example, 17% of respondents at the middle school level indicated their friends belonged to gangs (see Q16, p. 11). Applying the confidence interval (i.e., adding and subtracting 1 percentage point) to the 17% yields a range of 16% to 18%. Therefore, we can be 95% confident that somewhere between 16% and 18% of all students at the middle school level would indicate their friends belonged to a gang. Applying the same logic to both years allows us to determine if a significant change occurred. Continuing with this example, if the ranges do not overlap, we can be 95% certain a change took place in the population. For example for middle schools, the 2013 range was 16% to 18% and the 2012 range was 20% to 22%. Because the ranges do not overlap, we can be 95% confident that fewer students in the AISD middle school population had friends who belonged to a gang in 2013 than did so in 2012.

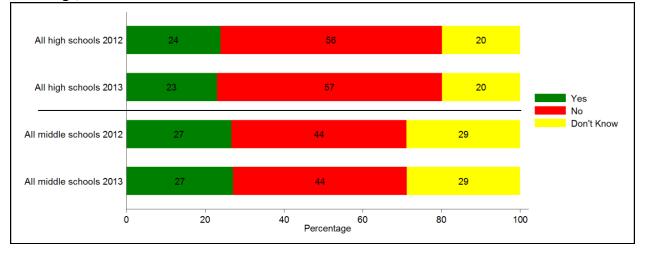
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> A total of 9,256 surveys were returned to the Department of Research and Evaluation from an original sample of 11,860 students. Of those returned, 410 surveys were removed from analysis due to invalid responses.

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

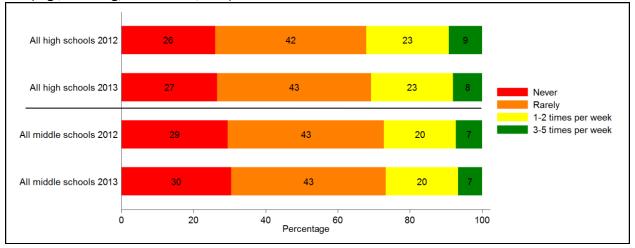
Gender and grade	All high schools 2012–2013	All high schools 2011–2012	All middle schools 2012–2013	All middle schools 2011–2012
Male	1,839 (48%)	1,742 (50%)	2,434 (49%)	2,496 (48%)
Female	1.999 (52%)	1,742 (50%)	2,510 (51%)	2,685 (52%)
6 <sup>th</sup> grade	-	-	1,691 (34%)	1,632 (31%)
7 <sup>th</sup> grade	-	-	1,667 (34%)	1,790 (34%)
8 <sup>th</sup> grade	-	-	1,591 (32%)	1,776 (34%)
9 <sup>th</sup> grade	1,264 (33%)	1,038 (30%)	-	-
10 <sup>th</sup> grade	895 (23%)	914 (26%)	-	-
11 <sup>th</sup> grade	940 (24%)	833 (24%)	-	-
12 <sup>th</sup> grade	763 (20%)	707 (20%)	-	-

#### Survey Sample Demographics

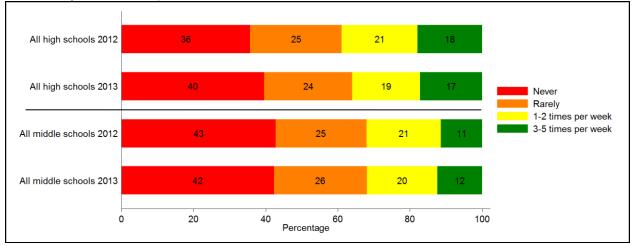
Q22: Do one or both of your parents usually attend school sponsored open houses, PTA meetings, or other school events?

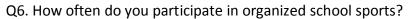


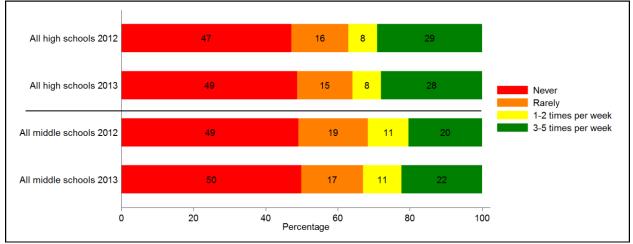
Q4. How often do you participate in after school programs to help you with your school work (e.g., tutoring, homework, etc.)?



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







	All high schools 2012–2013	All high schools 2011–2012	Δ*	All middle schools 2012–2013	All middle schools 2011–2012	Δ*
Tobacco	6%	7%	-1	3%	3%	0
Alcohol	5%	5%	0	3%	3%	0
Illegal drugs	8%	9%	-1	6%	6%	0
Prescription drugs	5%	6%	-1	4%	4%	0
Gun	2%	2%	0	3%	2%	1
Knife	7%	7%	0	5%	6%	-1
Other weapon	4%	4%	0	5%	4%	1
None of the above	84%	82%	2	89%	89%	0

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

Note. Percentages are of students who reported bringing those items to school. Percentages may sum to more than 100% because respondents were allowed to choose multiple items.

\* $\Delta$  represents percentage point change from 2011–2012 to 2012–2013. Negative numbers indicate a decrease in percentage of students bringing those items to school. For high schools, the absolute value of  $\Delta \ge 2$ percentage points would be significant, and for middle schools, the absolute value of  $\Delta \ge 2$  percentage points would be significant.

	All high schools 2012–2013	All high schools 2011–2012	Δ*	All middle schools 2012–2013	All middle schools 2012–2011	Δ*
Marijuana use	31%	34%	-3	15%	14%	1
Alcohol use	5%	6%	-1	1%	1%	0
Tobacco use	2%	2%	0	1%	1%	0
Prescription drug use	4%	4%	0	4%	4%	0
Student fighting and physical aggression	12%	10%	2	25%	27%	-2
Student harassment, threats, and bullying	8%	8%	0	19%	20%	-1
Student vandalism, criminal mischief	3%	3%	0	3%	2%	1
Student weapon possession	3%	2%	1	5%	4%	1
Violence or threats toward staff	2%	1%	1	2%	2%	0
None of these are serious problems on my campus	33%	30%	3	25%	26%	-1

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

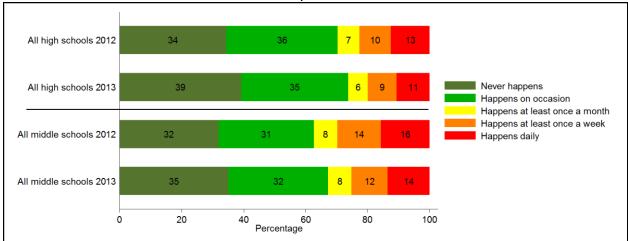
Note. Percentages are of students who reported those items as the most serious problem on their campus. \* $\Delta$  represents percentage point change from 2011–2012 to 2012–2013. Negative numbers indicate a decrease in perceived problems at campuses. For high schools, the absolute value of  $\Delta \ge 2$  percentage points would be significant, and for middle schools, the absolute value of  $\Delta \ge 2$  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?

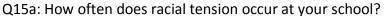
	All high schools 2012–2013	All high schools 2011–2012	Δ*	All middle schools 2012–2013	All middle schools 2011–2012	Δ*
Health class	40%	45 <b>%</b>	-5	36%	36%	0
Science class	33%	37%	-4	43%	45%	-2
Advisory/seminar class	39%	45%	-6	44%	39%	5
Another class	33%	32%	1	36%	37%	-1
Guidance counselor	16%	16%	0	28%	26%	2
Student support group meetings at school	13%	13%	0	15%	15%	0
Special school event about tobacco, drugs, alcohol, or violence	24%	25%	-1	38%	33%	5
School nurse	13%	14%	-1	20%	21%	-1
After school program	12%	13%	-1	13%	14%	-1
Coach or physical education teacher	38%	40%	-2	72%	74%	-2
Other school source not mentioned above	18%	15%	3	19%	18%	1
None of the above	20%	20%	0	10%	11%	-1

Note. Percentages are of students who reported having received information on drugs, alcohol, or violence. Percentages may sum to more than 100% because respondents were allowed to choose multiple items.

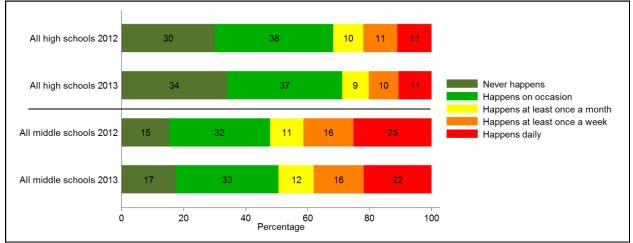
\* $\Delta$  represents percentage point change from 2011–2012 to 2012–2013. Positive numbers indicate an increase in percentage of students reporting receiving information from that source. For high schools, the absolute value of  $\Delta \ge 2$  percentage points would be significant, and for middle schools, the absolute value of  $\Delta \ge 2$  percentage points would be significant.

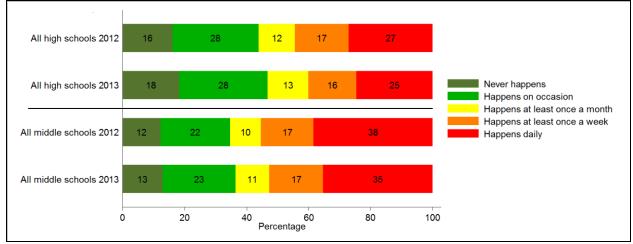
## SCHOOL SAFETY ITEMS



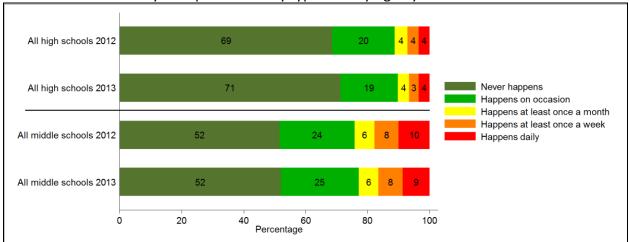


#### Q15b: How often does student bullying occur at your school?



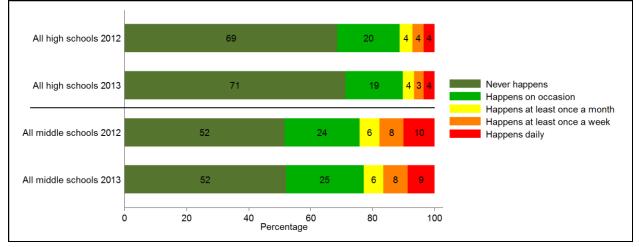


Q15d: How often do gang activities occur at your school?

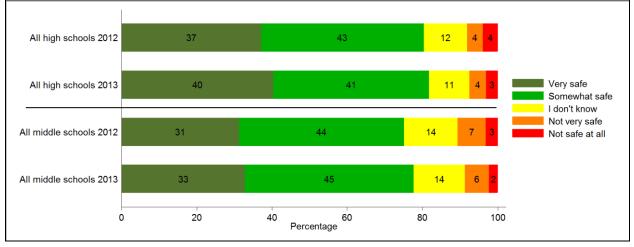


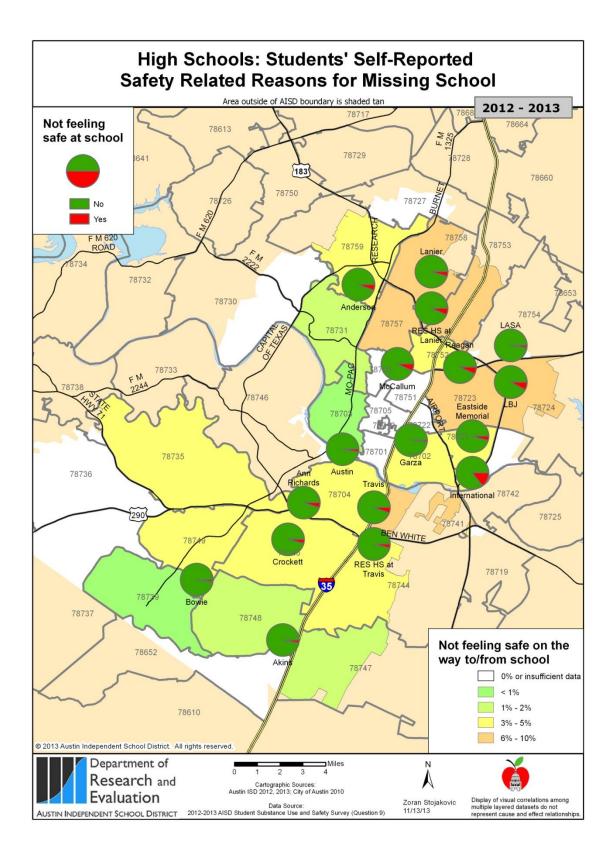
## Q15e: How often have you experienced any type of bullying at your school?

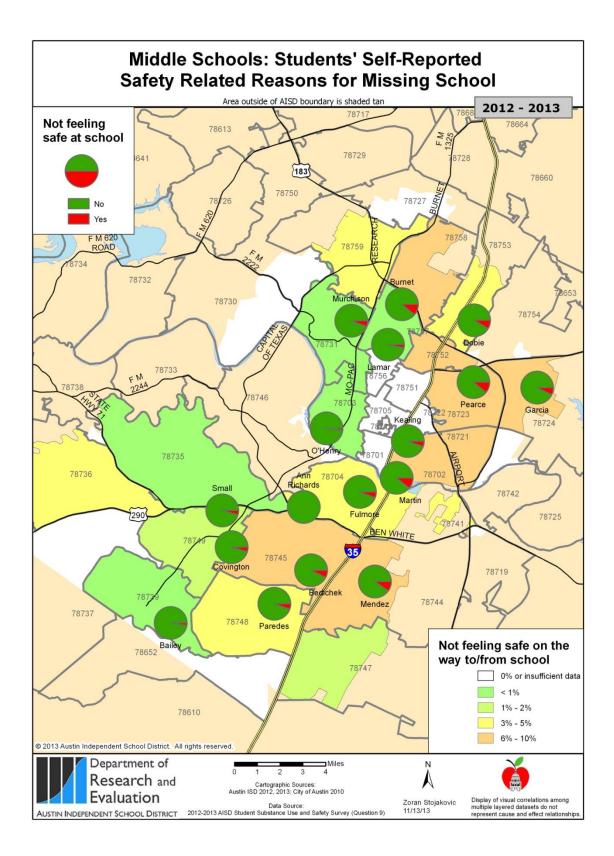
## Q15f: How often were you absent because you did not feel safe on the way to/from school?

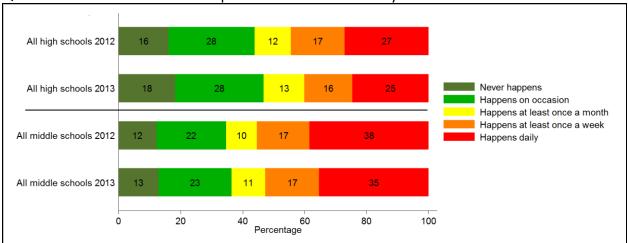


## Q8: How safe do you feel when you are at school?



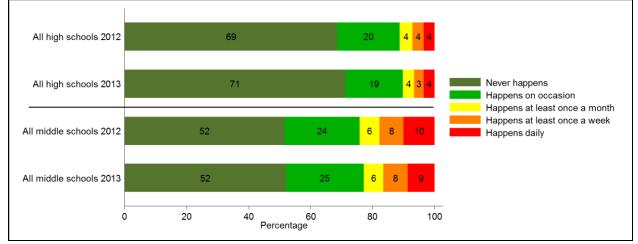




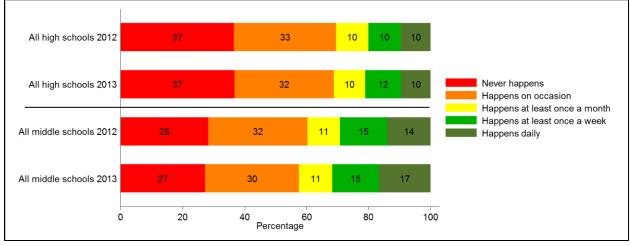


## Q15c: How often do acts of disrespect for teachers occur at your school?

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



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



Q9: During the last month, did you miss one o	r more school davs due to any	of the following reasons?
Q5. During the last month, and you miss one o	n more senoor days dae to drig	or the ronowing reasons.

	All high schools 2012–2013	All high schools	Δ*	All middle schools 2012–2013	All middle schools 2011–2012	Δ*
Was sick	60%	57%	3	58%	55%	3
Didn't feel safe at school	5%	5%	0	6%	6%	0
Didn't feel safe on the way to/from school	5%	5%	0	5%	5%	0
Didn't get along well with teachers	9%	11%	-2	10%	9%	1
Wanted to hang out with friends	18%	19%	-1	10%	10%	0
Had to do something with family	38%	38%	0	34%	33%	1
Was too tired	33%	33%	0	19%	20%	-1
Didn't have a way to get to school	14%	15%	-1	9%	9%	0
Felt too sad or depressed to attend	16%	15%	1	11%	11%	0
Had to go to work	7%	7%	0	3%	4%	-1
None	24%	26%	-2	30%	32%	-2

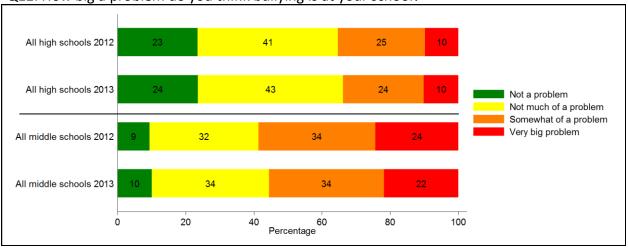
Note. Percentages are of students who reported missing school due to any of the above reasons.

\* $\Delta$  represents percentage point change from 2011–2012 to 2012–2013. Negative numbers indicate a decrease in percentage of students missing school for that reason. For high schools, the absolute value of  $\Delta \ge 2$  percentage points would be significant, and for middle schools, the absolute value of  $\Delta \ge 2$  percentage points.

Q10: During this school year,	have you experienced	l any of the following tyr	es of bullving at school?
Qito. During this school year,	nuve you experienceu	i any of the following typ	is of builying at school.

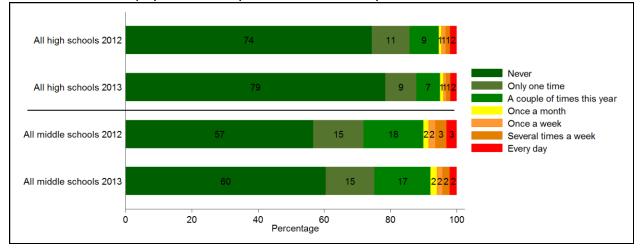
	All high schools 2012–2013	All high schools 2011–2012	Δ*	All middle schools 2012–2013	All middle schools 2011–2012	Δ*
Physical	9%	11%	-2	21%	24%	-3
Social	19%	22%	-3	30%	31%	-1
Verbal	18%	22%	-4	33%	36%	-3
Written	5%	5%	0	8%	8%	0
Sexual harassment	8%	9%	-1	10%	10%	0
Racial or ethnic harassment	11%	14%	-3	16%	18%	-2
Cyber bullying	7%	9%	-2	9%	9%	0
Hurtful or controlling dating behavior	6%	7%	-1	7%	7%	0
Hazing Initiation	45	4%	0	5%	5%	0
None	66%	60%	6	46%	45%	1

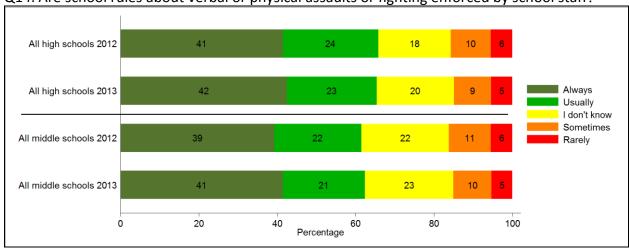
Note. Percentages are of students who reported experiencing types of bullying listed above.



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

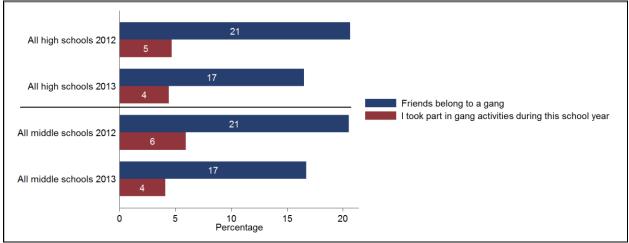
Q11: During this school year, how often have you or your close friends been physically harmed or threatened with physical harm by another student at your school?





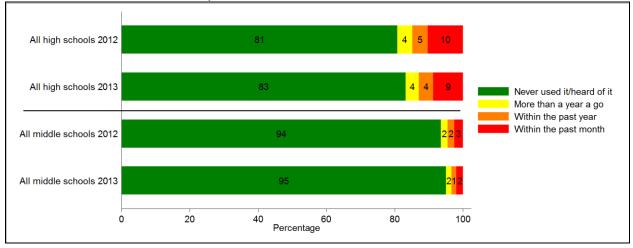
## Q14: Are school rules about verbal or physical assaults or fighting enforced by school staff?

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



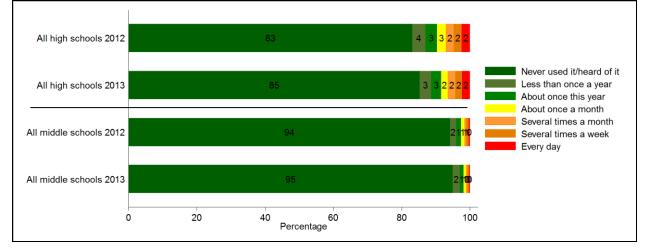
#### **SUBSTANCE USE ITEMS**

### Товассо

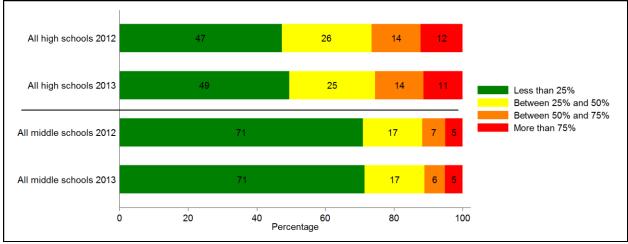


#### Q18a: What is the most recent you have used tobacco?

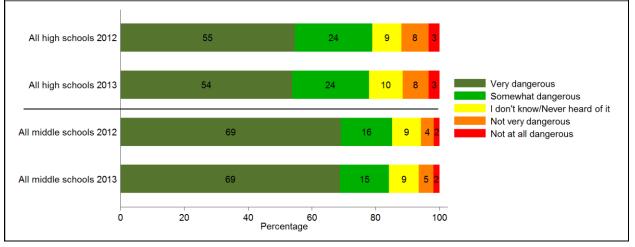
#### Q21a: During this year, how often did you use tobacco?



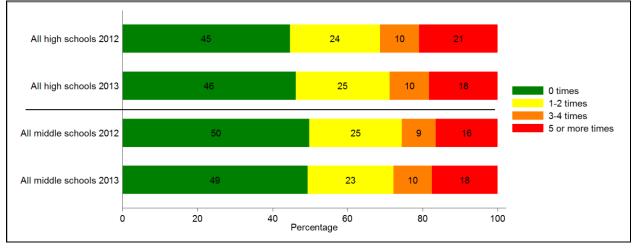
#### Q29a. Within the past month, how many kids at your school do you think have used tobacco?

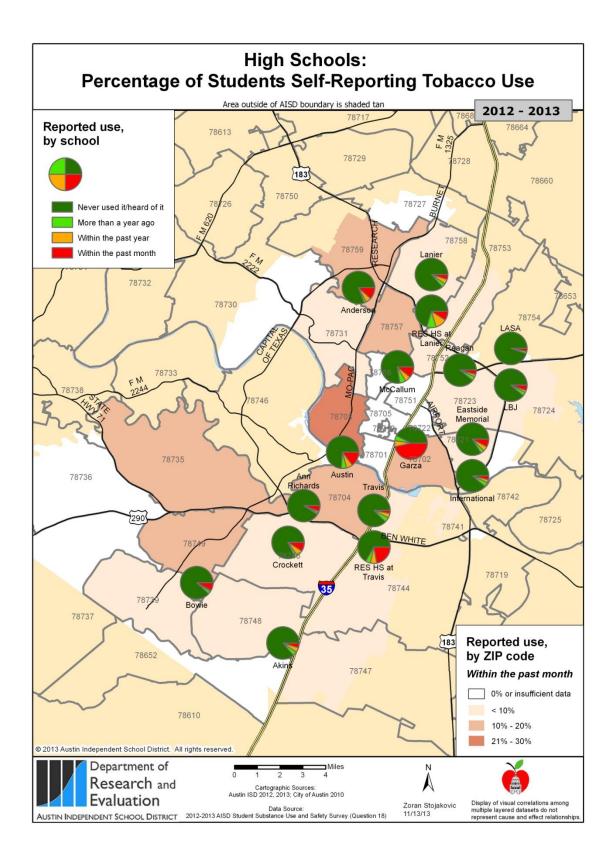


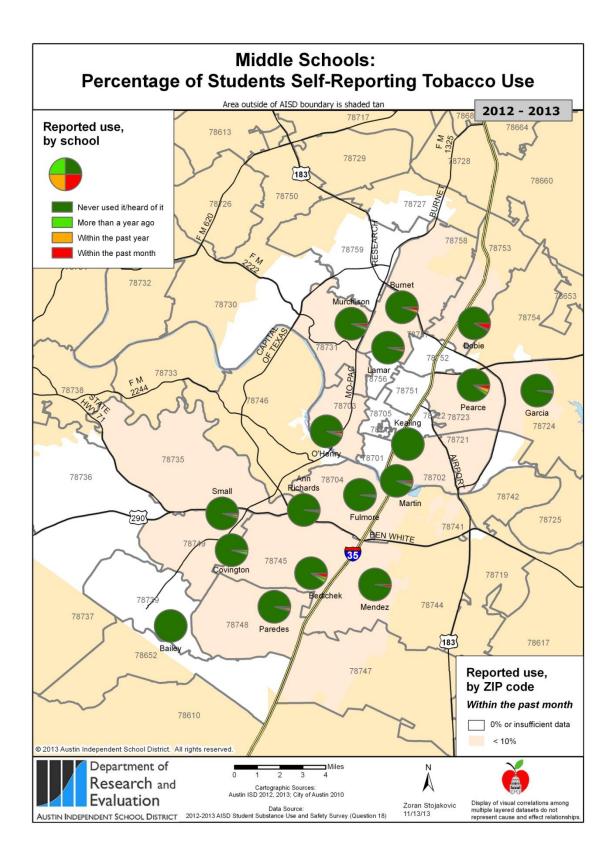




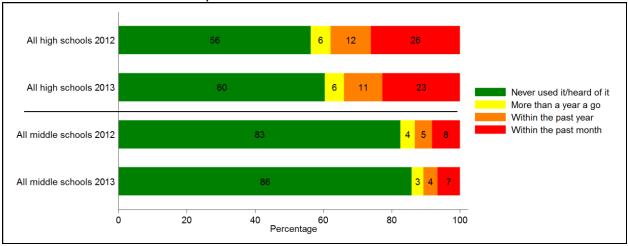
# Q28g. During the school year, how many times have you experienced advertisements (TV, radio, billboard, magazine, Internet, etc.) for tobacco products?





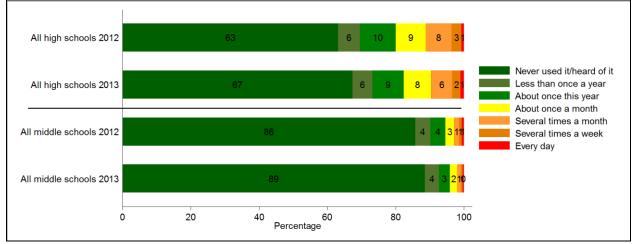


#### ALCOHOL

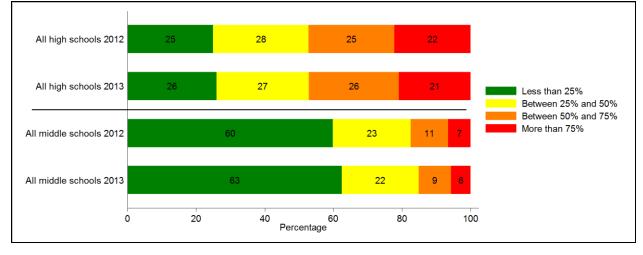


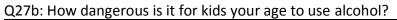
#### Q18b: What is the most recent you have used alcohol?

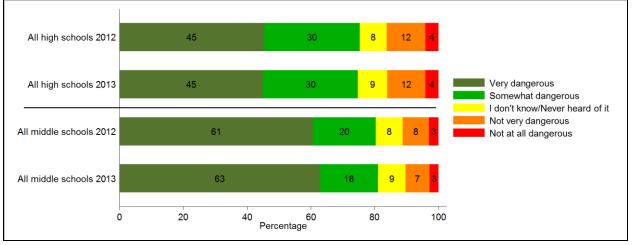
## Q21b: During this year, how often did you use alcohol?



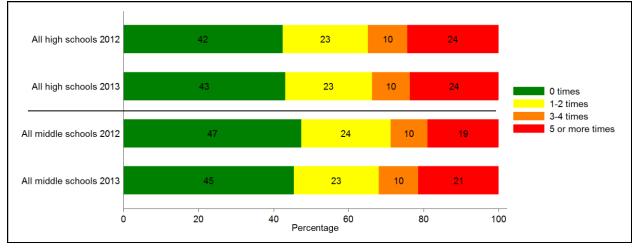
#### Q29b. Within the past month, how many kids at your school do you think have used alcohol?

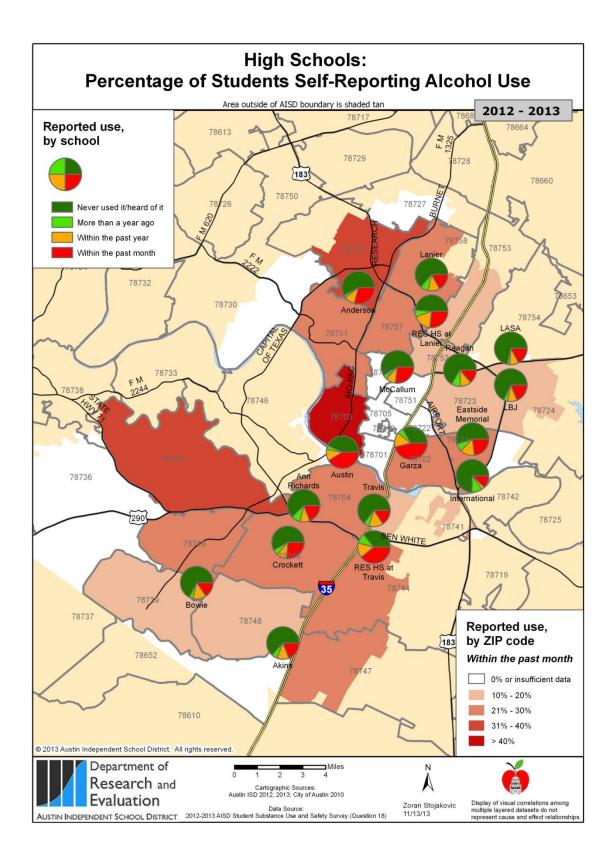


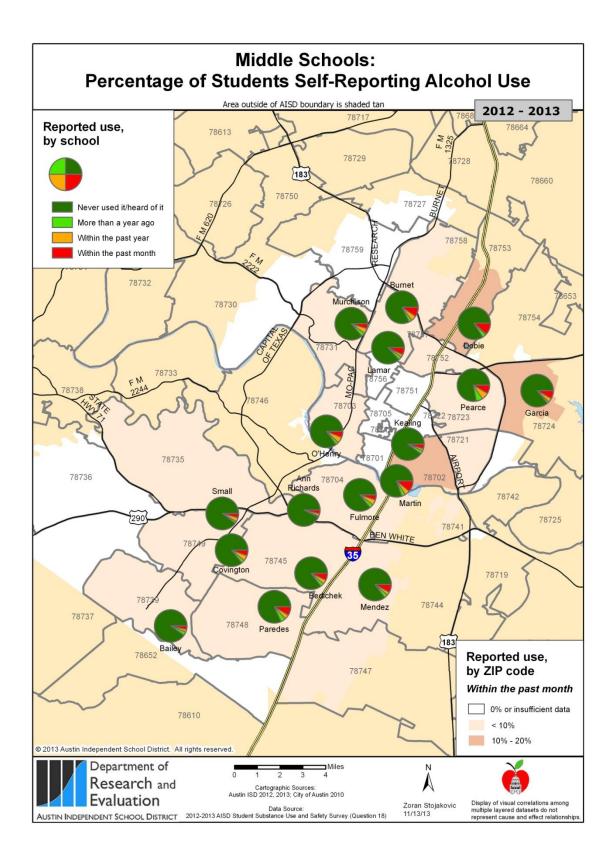




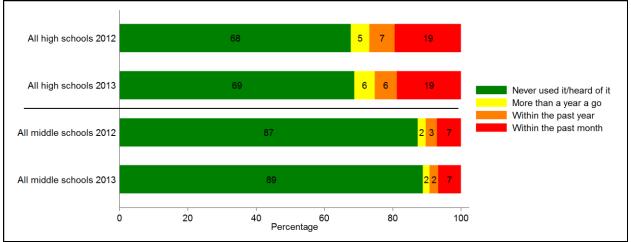
## Q28f. During the school year, how many times have you experienced advertisements (TV, radio, billboard, magazine, Internet, etc.) for alcohol products?





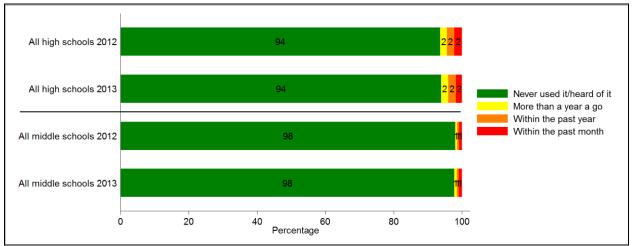


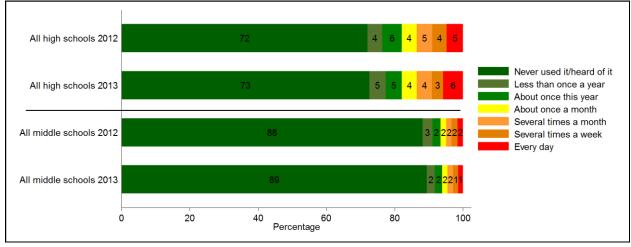
#### MARIJUANA/ K2 OR SPICE



#### Q18c: What is the most recent you have used marijuana?

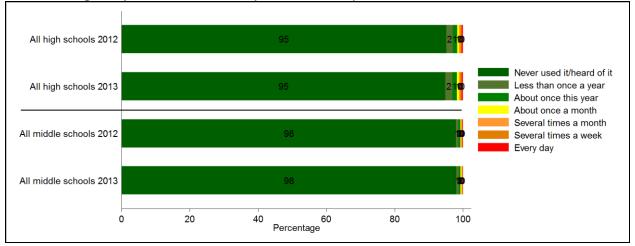
#### Q18d: What is the most recent you have used K2 or Spice?



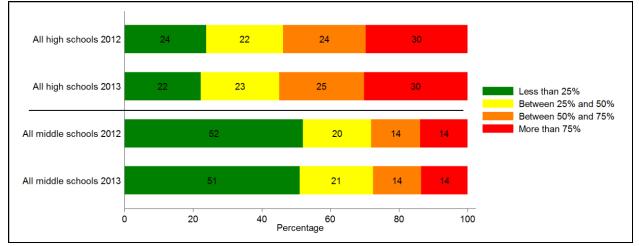


#### Q21c: During this year, how often did you use marijuana?

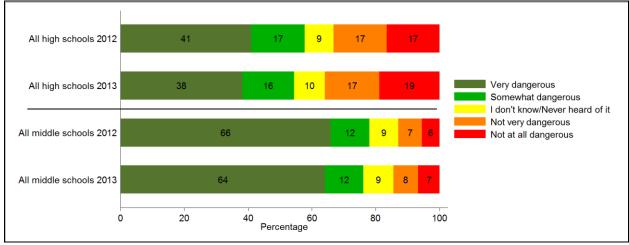
#### Q21d: During this year, how often did you use K2 or Spice?

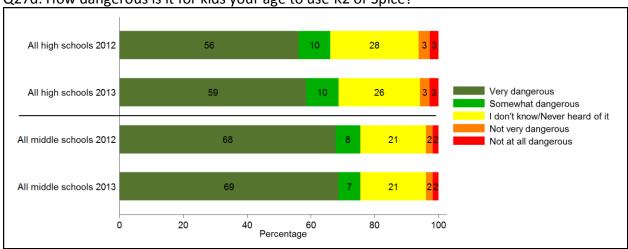


#### Q29c. Within the past month, how many kids at your school do you think have used marijuana?

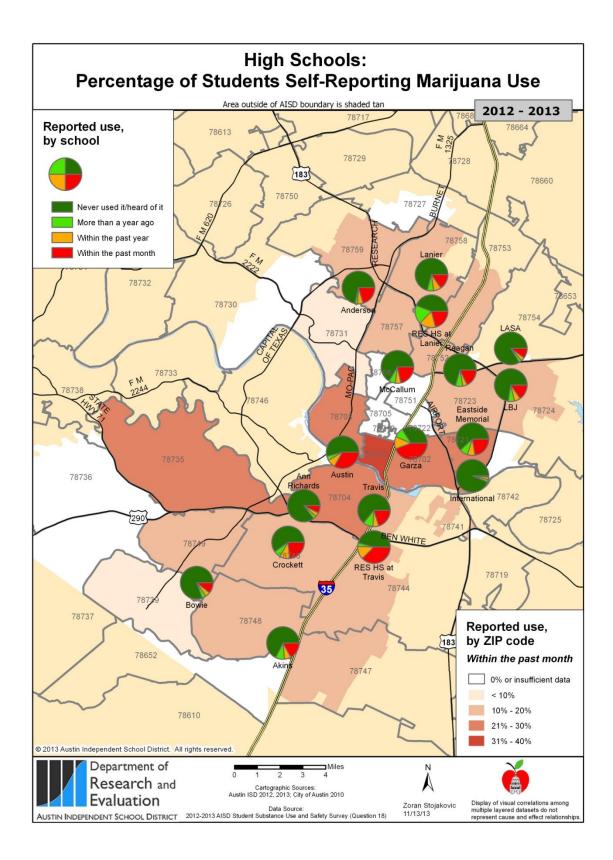


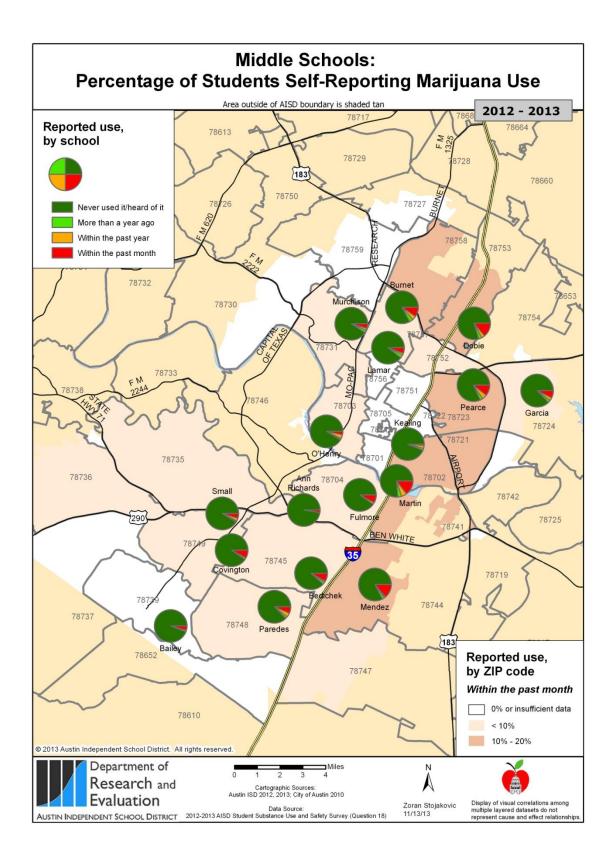
#### Q27c: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use marijuana?



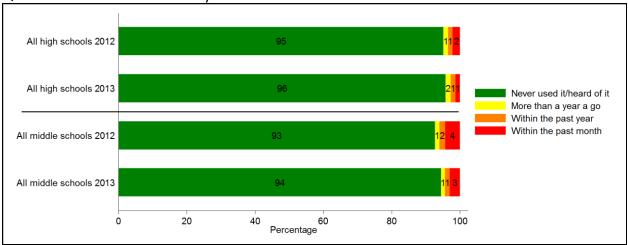


### Q27d: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use K2 or Spice?



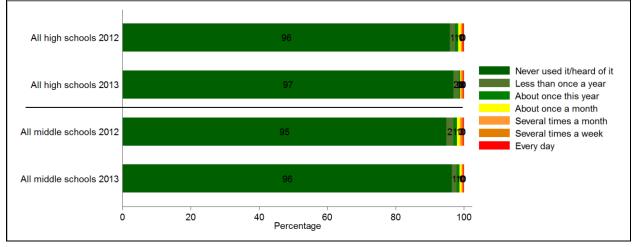


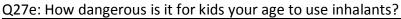
#### INHALANTS

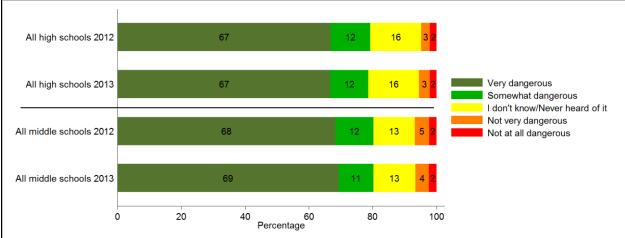


#### Q18e: What is the most recent you have used inhalants?

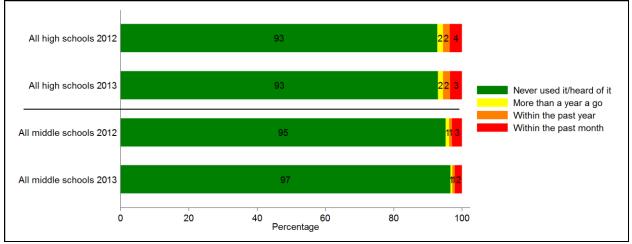
### Q21e: During this year, how often did you use inhalants?





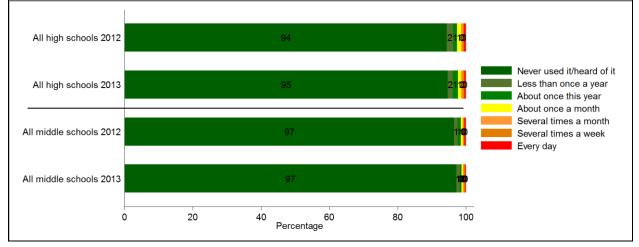


#### **OVER THE COUNTER MEDICATION**

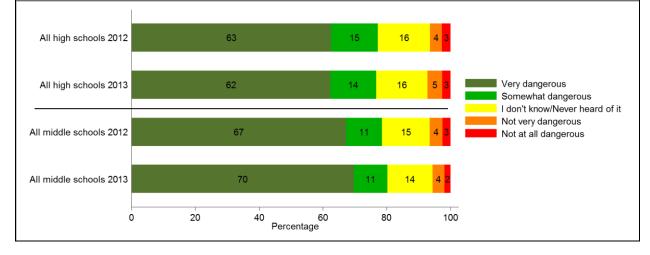


#### Q18f: What is the most recent you have used over the counter medication to get high?

### Q21f: During this year, how often did you use over the counter medication to get high?

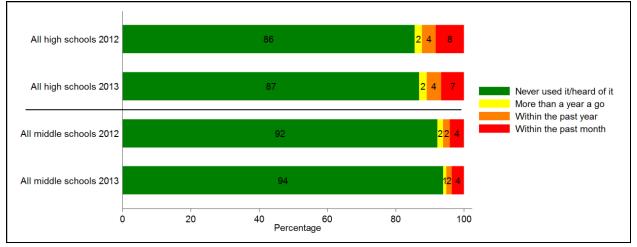


#### Q27f: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use over the counter medication to get high?

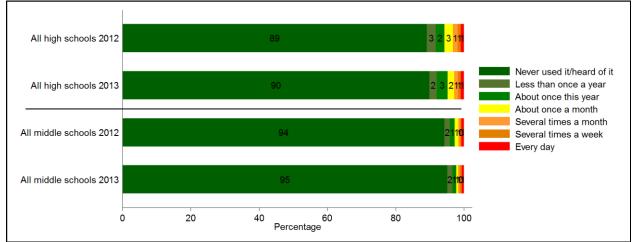


#### **PRESCRIPTION DRUGS**

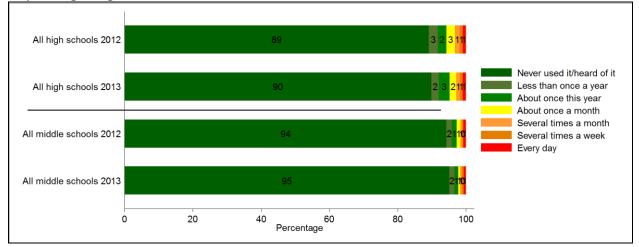
Q18g: What is the most recent you have used prescription drugs that were not prescribed to you to get high?



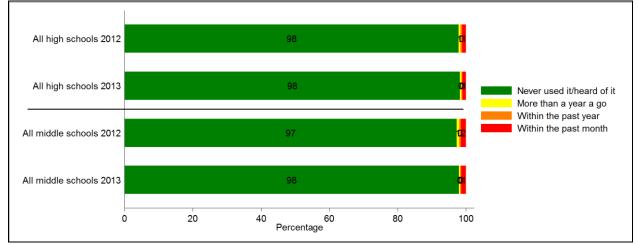
Q21g: During this year, how often did you use prescription drugs that were not prescribed to you to get high?



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

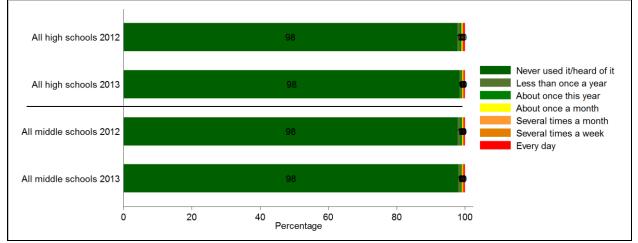


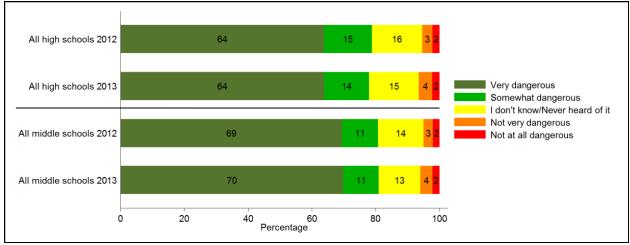
#### STEROIDS OR PERFORMANCE-ENHANCING DRUGS



#### 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?

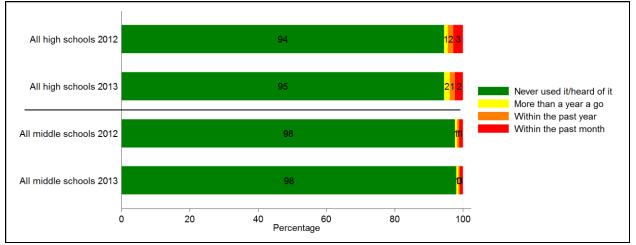




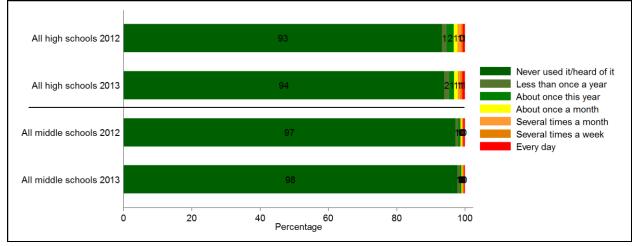
#### Q27h: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use steroids or performance-enhancing drugs?

#### **OTHER ILLEGAL DRUGS**

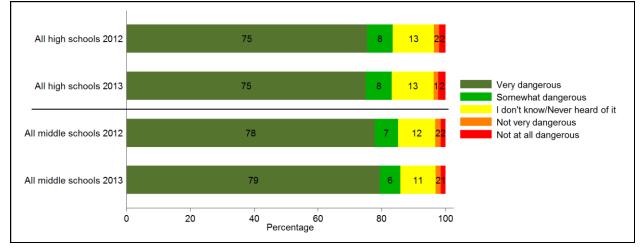
## Q18i: What is the most recent you have used other illegal drugs (e.g., cocaine, ecstasy, hallucinogens, heroin, methamphetamines)?



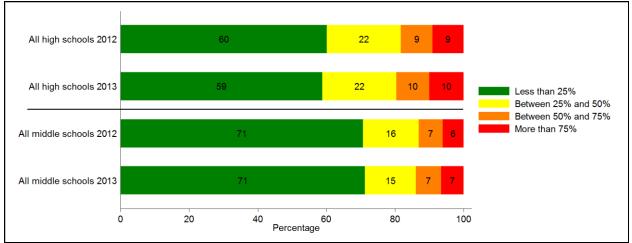
### Q21i: During this year, how often did you use other illegal drugs?



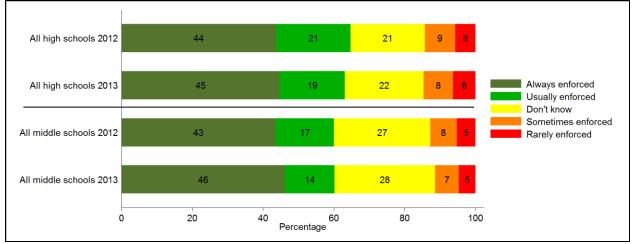
#### Q27i: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use other illegal drugs?



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.)?

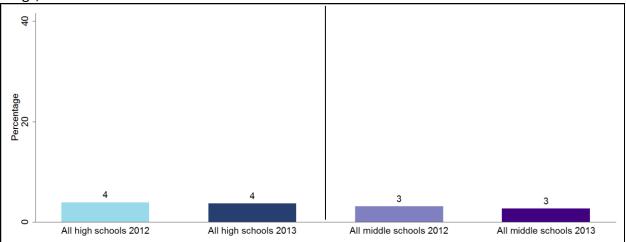


#### **OPINIONS, EXPERIENCES, AND EXPOSURE**

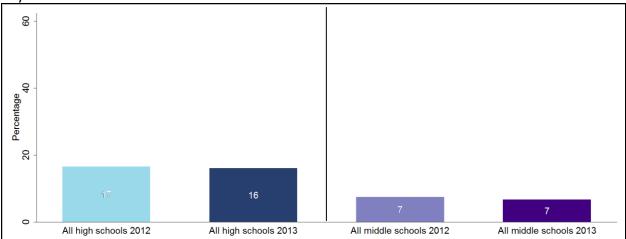


Q13: Are school rules about drug, alcohol, and tobacco use enforced by school staff?

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



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

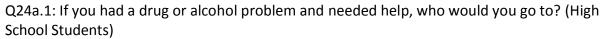


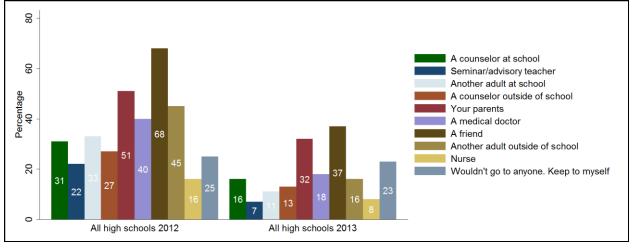
Question 24 was expanded for the 2012-2013 substance use and safety survey. In addition to asking students who they would go to if they experienced problems with drugs or alcohol, they were also asked who they would go to if they experienced problems related to schoolwork or academics; bullying, violence,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

Overall, at both the high school and middle school levels, it appeared that survey respondents would largely approach friends, parents, and/or counselors if they experienced problems with drugs or alcohol; bullying, violence, or threats to personal safety; or issues with family or friends.

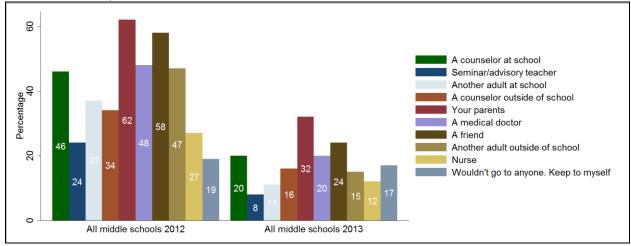
At both levels, the majority of respondents reported they would go to a teacher at school if they experienced problems with schoolwork or academics.

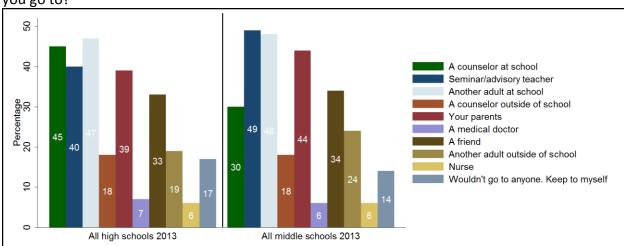
Lastly, at both levels, most survey respondents reported they would go to a doctor or school nurse if they experienced health issues.





## Q24a.2: If you had a drug or alcohol problem and needed help, who would you go to? (Middle School Students)

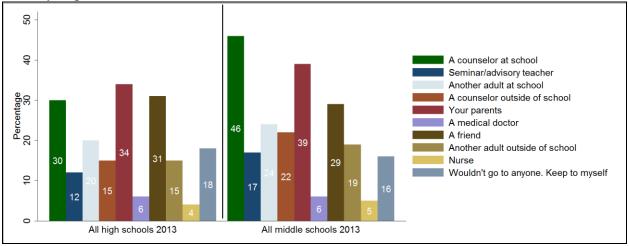




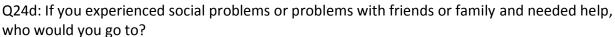
Q24b: If you had problems with your schoolwork or academics and needed help, who would you go to?

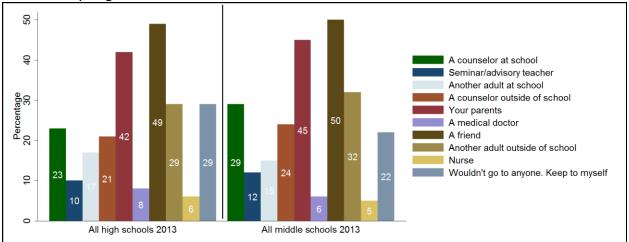
Note. This question was not asked in the 2011-2012 survey.

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

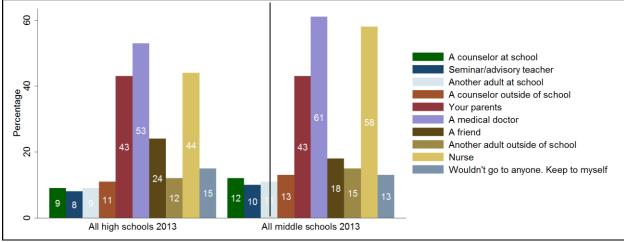


Note. This question was not asked in the 2011-2012 survey.



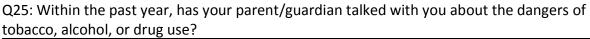


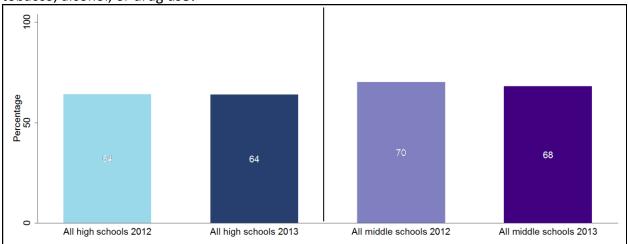
Note. This question was not asked in the 2011–2012 survey.



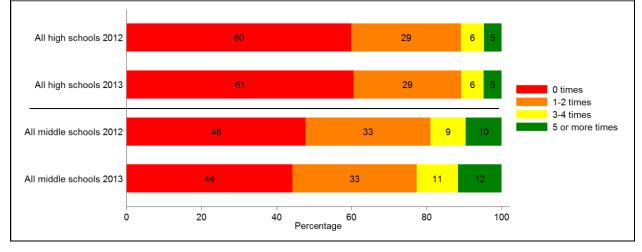
Q24e: If you experienced problems with your health and needed help, who would you go to?

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

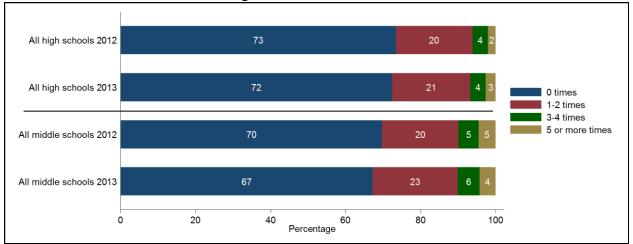




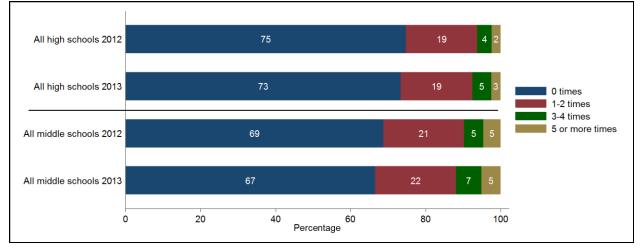
Q28a. During the school year, how many times have you experienced classes in which you learned and practiced ways of resisting and avoiding substance abuse?



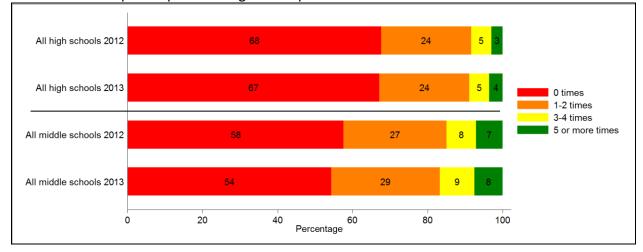
Q28b. During the school year, how many times have you experienced presentations by people who recovered from alcohol and drug abuse?



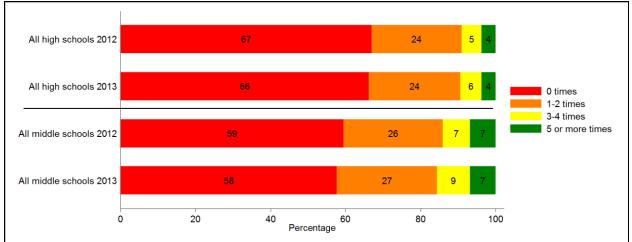
Q28c. During the school year, how many times have you experienced presentations by students who tell about how to avoid substance abuse?

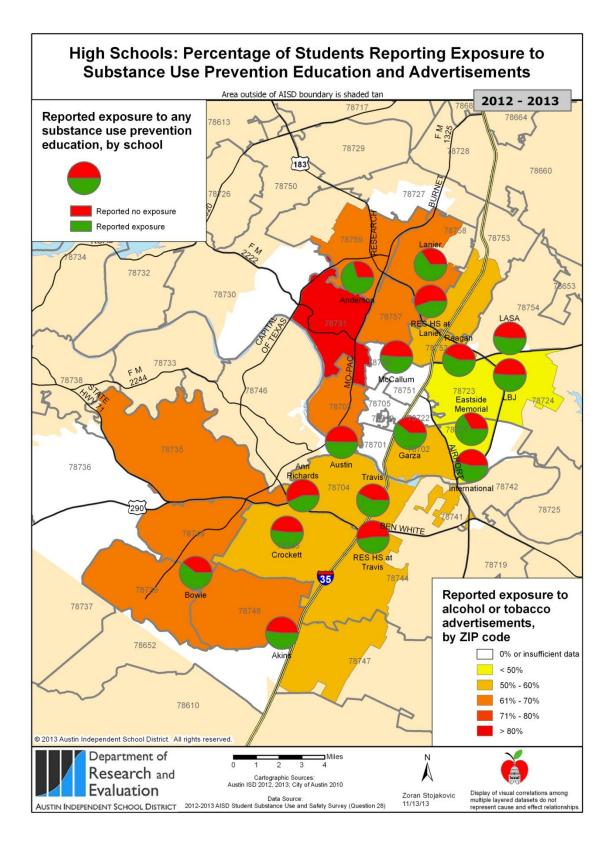


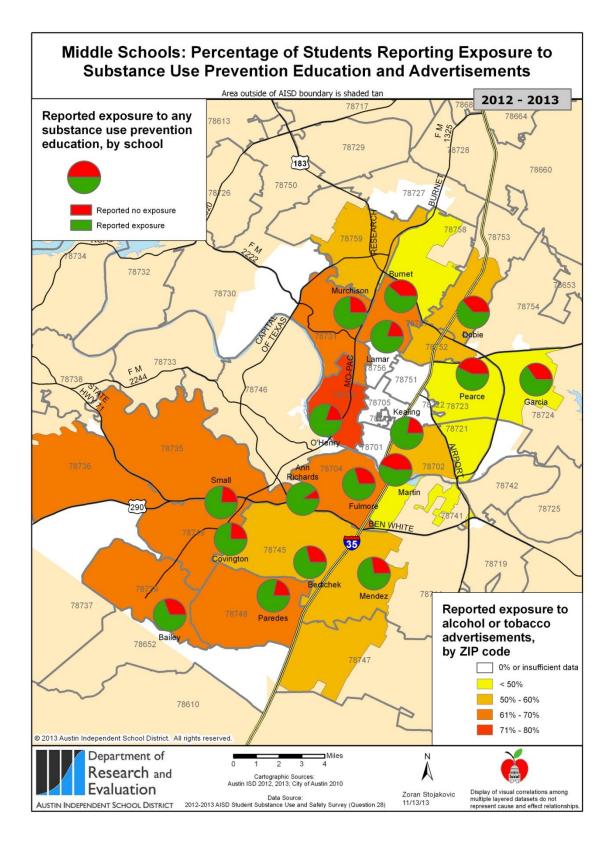
Q28d. During the school year, how many times have you received information about counseling or services to help kids quit smoking and stop substance abuse?

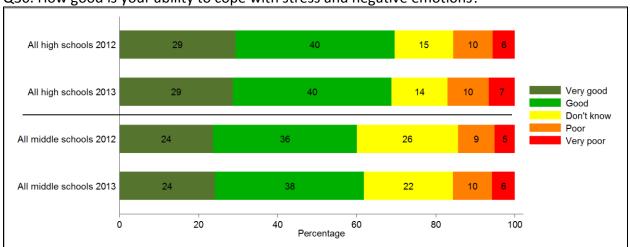


Q28e. During the school year, how many times have you experienced printed materials with cartoons and stories about how students avoid substance abuse?









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

#### APPENDIX A

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ZIP code	Number of high school survey respondents	Total AISD high school residents	Confidence interval	ZIP code	Number of high school survey respondents	Total AISD high school residents	Confidence interval
78610	1	6	*	78738	1	1	*
78652	7	88	+/- 35.74%	78739	108	951	+/- 8.88%
78701	4	29	*	78741	145	670	+/- 7.21%
78702	179	712	+/- 6.34%	78744	268	1833	+/- 5.53%
78703	72	378	+/- 10.41%	78745	271	1499	+/- 5.39%
78704	138	705	+/- 7.49%	78746	4	7	*
78705	8	49	+/- 32.02%	78747	65	614	+/- 11.5%
78721	127	388	+/- 7.14%	78748	199	1572	+/- 6.49%
78722	17	72	+/- 20.92%	78749	172	1256	+/- 6.94%
78723	186	739	+/- 6.22%	78750	25	136	+/- 17.77%
78724	127	559	+/- 7.65%	78751	26	141	+/- 17.42%
78725	7	25	+/- 32.08%	78752	133	494	+/- 7.27%
78727	36	263	+/- 15.2%	78753	232	1067	+/- 5.69%
78730	3	21	*	78754	11	32	+/- 24.32%
78731	93	546	+/- 9.26%	78756	33	153	+/- 15.16%
78735	41	275	+/- 14.14%	78757	77	414	+/- 10.09%
78736	15	247	+/- 24.57%	78758	188	1073	+/- 6.49%
78737	18	172	+/- 21.92%	78759	117	563	+/- 8.07%

Table A1. Confidence Intervals by ZIP Codes for AISD High School Respondents to 2013 Student Substance Use and Safety Survey

*Source*. AISD Student Records as of March 2013, and 2013 Student Substance Use and Safety Survey *Note*. To make inferences about the ZIP code population using the sample data, the results should be interpreted by adding and subtracting the confidence interval to the observed statistic (see page 1 for more information regarding interpretation of confidence intervals).

\* Where confidence intervals for a ZIP code are greater than +/- 15%, or when five or fewer students responded, survey items were not mapped by ZIP code due to insufficient data.

ZIP code	Number of middle school survey respondents	Total AISD middle school residents	Confidence interval	ZIP code	Number of middle school survey respondents	Total AISD middle school residents	Confidence interval
78610	2	4	*	78737	22	112	+/- 18.81%
78652	15	55	+/- 21.78%	78739	212	832	+/- 5.81%
78701	5	15	*	78741	125	606	+/- 7.82%
78702	179	579	+/- 6.09%	78744	372	1556	+/- 4.43%
78703	83	305	+/- 9.19%	78745	329	1332	+/- 4.69%
78704	197	653	+/- 5.84%	78746	6	9	+/- 24.5%
78705	5	32	*	78747	94	491	+/- 9.1%
78719	2	1	*	78748	280	1278	+/- 5.18%
78721	97	324	+/- 8.34%	78749	271	1009	+/- 5.09%
78722	22	75	+/- 17.68%	78750	10	97	+/- 29.5%
78723	202	694	+/- 5.81%	78751	27	125	+/- 16.77%
78724	167	457	+/- 6.05%	78752	131	513	+/- 7.4%
78725	8	19	+/- 27.09%	78753	231	1082	+/- 5.72%
78727	34	293	+/- 15.83%	78754	13	19	+/- 15.69%
78730	1	9	*	78756	27	105	+/- 16.33%
78731	68	436	+/- 10.93%	78757	118	391	+/- 7.55%
78733	1	0	*	78758	172	985	+/- 6.79%
78735	69	289	+/- 10.31%	78759	69	518	+/- 10.99%
78736	40	170	+/- 13.59%				

## Table A2. Confidence Intervals by ZIP Codes for AISD Middle School Respondents to 2013 StudentSubstance Use and Safety Survey

*Source*. AISD Student Records as of March 2013, and 2013 Student Substance Use and Safety Survey *Note*. To make inferences about the ZIP code population using the sample data, the results should be interpreted by adding and subtracting the confidence interval to the observed statistic (see page 1 for more information regarding interpretation of confidence intervals).

\* Where confidence intervals for a ZIP code are greater than +/- 15%, or when five or fewer students responded, survey items were not mapped by ZIP code due to insufficient data.

## AUSTIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS Meria J. Carstarphen, Ed.D.

OFFICE OF ACCOUNTABILITY William Caritj, M.Ed.

DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH AND EVALUATION Holly Williams, Ph.D.

> AUTHOR Reetu Naik, M.A. Zoran Stojakovic, M.A.G.



Vincent Torres, President Gina Hinojosa, Vice President Jayme Mathias, Secretary Cheryl Bradley Ann Teich Amber Elenz Lori Moya Robert Schneider Tamala Barksdale

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