

Results of the 2011 Student Substance Use and Safety Survey

September, 2011

HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL REPORT

Description of Survey

Every year a self-report student survey of substance use and school safety is administered to a random, representative sample of AISD students. The survey is used to track student knowledge, attitudes, and self-reported behavior over time. In the spring of 2011 a sample of 8,480 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 73%.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 have used the following information to construct an interval that describes the range within which the result for the AISD High School and Middle School population is likely to fall:

- Population size: In this case, the number of students in AISD High Schools and Middle Schools.
- Sample size: In this case, the number of survey respondents from AISD High Schools and Middle Schools.
- 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 Substance Use and Safety Survey data?

Based on the All High School sample of 3,610 students and population enrollment of 22,215, the confidence interval for All High School is + and - 1.5%.

Based on the All Middle School sample of 4,870 students and population enrollment of 16,982, the confidence interval for All Middle School is + and - 1%.

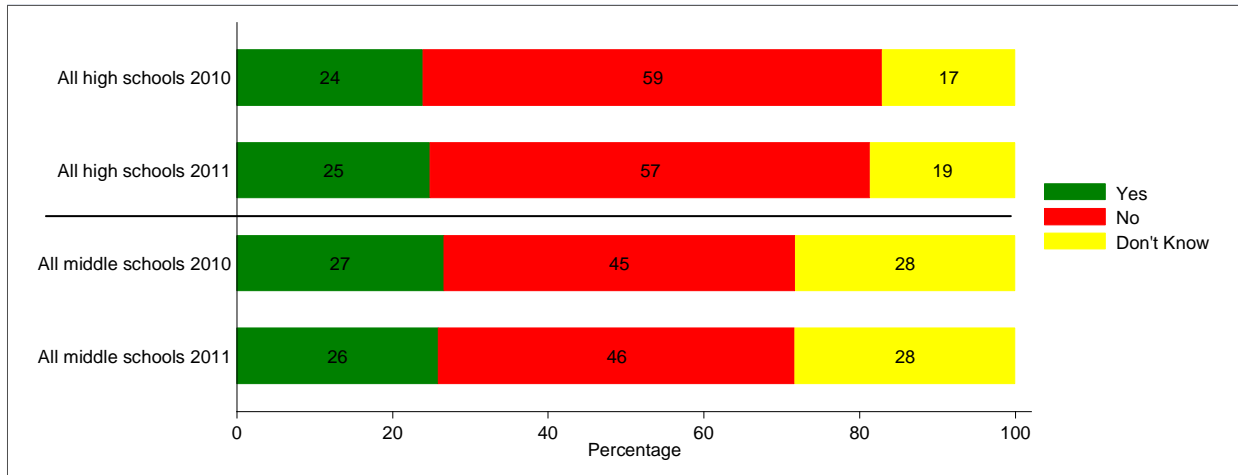
To make inferences about the population using the sample data, the results should be interpreted with the computed confidence interval above (i.e., either 1.5 percentage points or 1 percentage point for High Schools & Middle Schools, respectively) on each side of the sample statistics. For example, 26% of respondents at the middle school level indicated that their friends belonged to gangs (see Q16, p.9). Applying the confidence interval (i.e., adding and subtracting 1%) to the 26% yields a range of 25% - 27%. Therefore, you can be 95% confident that somewhere between 25% - 27% of all students at the middle school level would indicate that their friends belonged to a gang. Apply the same logic to both years to determine if there was a significant change. Continuing with the example above, if the ranges do not overlap you can be 95% certain that a change took place in the population. For example for Middle Schools, the 2010 range is 27% to 29% and the 2009 range is 34% to 36%. Since they do not overlap, you can be 95% confident that fewer students in the AISD middle school population had friends that belonged to a gang in 2010.

¹ A total of 9,004 surveys were returned to the Department of Program Evaluation from an original sample of 11,660 students. Of those returned, 524 surveys were removed from analysis due to invalid responses.

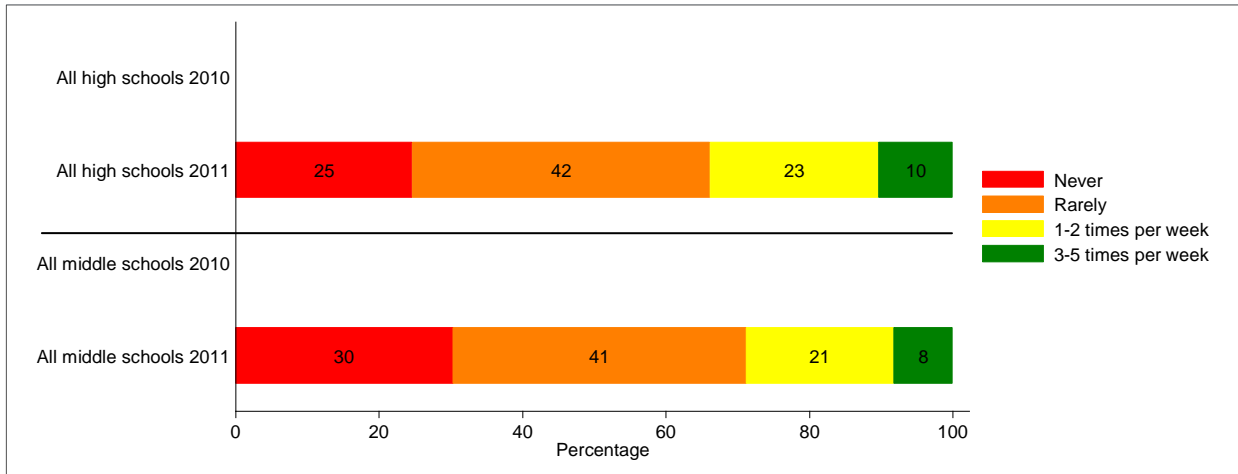
RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS AND ITEMS THAT ADDRESS BOTH SUBSTANCE USE AND SAFETY

Gender and Grade	All high schools 2009-2010	All high schools 2010-2011	All middle schools 2009-2010	All middle schools 2010-2011
Male	1,705 (48%)	1,741 (49%)	2,168 (48%)	2,454 (51%)
Female	1,812 (52%)	1,835 (51%)	2,370 (52%)	2,366 (49%)
6th grade	N/A	N/A	1,710 (38%)	1,667 (34%)
7th grade	N/A	N/A	1,497 (33%)	1,622 (34%)
8th grade	N/A	N/A	1,327 (29%)	1,549 (32%)
9th grade	1,052 (30%)	1,067 (30%)	N/A	N/A
10th grade	783 (22%)	878 (24%)	N/A	N/A
11th grade	896 (25%)	886 (25%)	N/A	N/A
12th grade	817 (23%)	768 (21%)	N/A	N/A

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

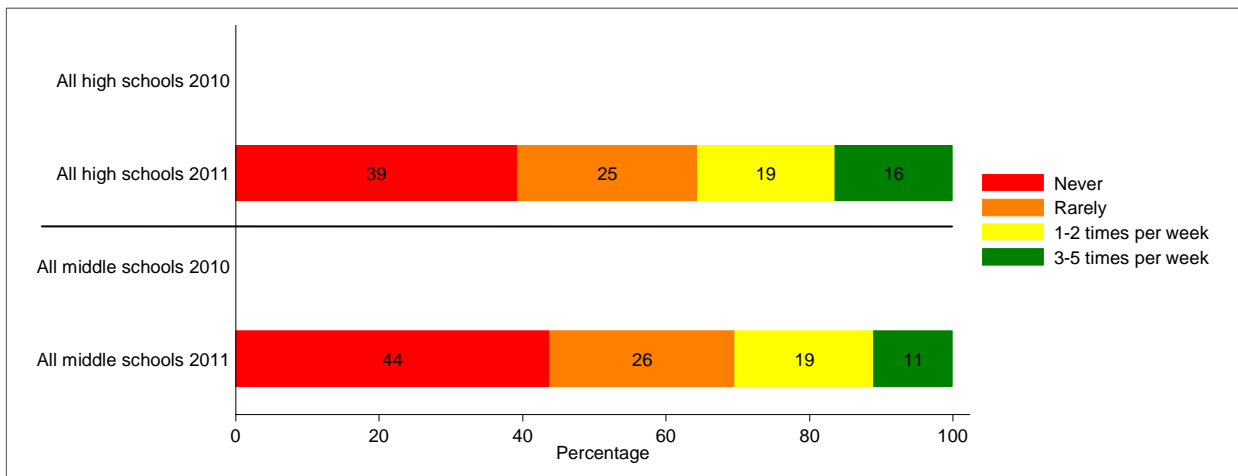


Q4. How often do you participate in after school programs to help you with your school work (e.g., tutoring, homework, etc.) ?



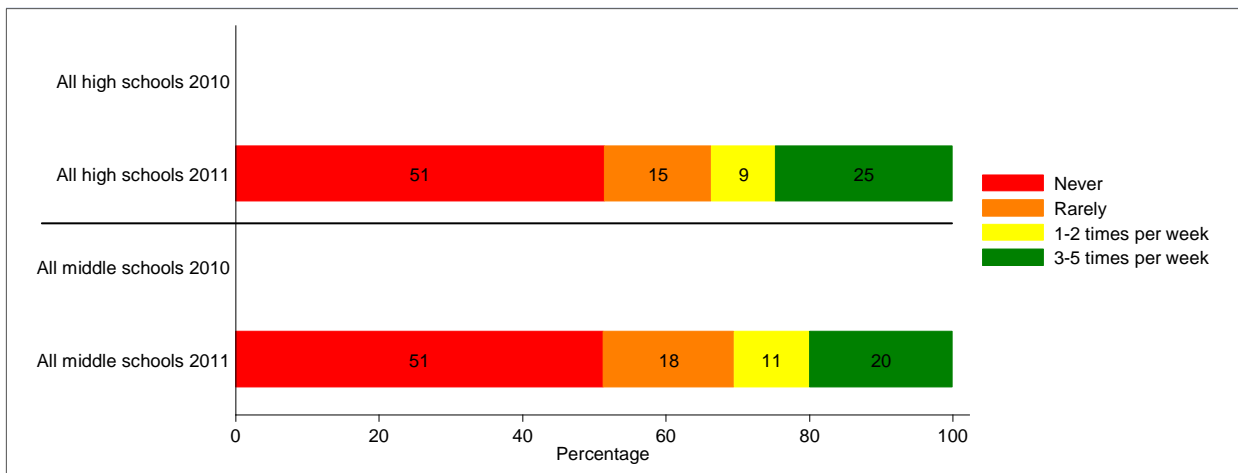
Note. This question was not asked in the 2009-2010 survey

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



Note. This question was not asked in the 2009-2010 survey

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



Note. This question was not asked in the 2009-2010 survey

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

	All high schools 2009-2010	All high schools 2011-2010	Δ^*	All middle schools 2009-2010	All middle schools 2010-2011	Δ^*
Illegal drugs	10%	10%	0	6%	6%	0
Knife	8%	8%	0	6%	6%	0
Other weapon	5%	5%	0	6%	6%	0
Prescription drugs	6%	7%	1	5%	4%	-1
Tobacco	8%	8%	0	4%	3%	-1
Alcohol	5%	6%	1	4%	3%	-1
Gun	2%	3%	1	3%	3%	0
None of the above	79%	81%	2	87%	88%	1

Note. Percentages may sum to more than 100% because respondents were allowed to choose multiple items. * Δ represents percentage point change from 2009-2010 to 2010-2011. Negative numbers indicate a decrease in percentage of students bringing those items to school. For high schools, the absolute value of $\Delta \geq 3$ percentage points and for middle schools, the absolute value of $\Delta \geq 2$ percentage points would be significant.

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

	All high schools 2009-2010	All high schools 2010-2011	Δ^*	All middle schools 2009-2010	All middle schools 2010-2011	Δ^*
Student fighting and physical aggression	12%	11%	-1	29%	26%	-3
Marijuana use	34%	31%	-3	17%	14%	-3
Student harassment, threats, and intimidation	6%	8%	2	13%	21%	8
Prescription drug use	3%	4%	1	5%	5%	0
Student weapon possession	3%	3%	0	5%	5%	0
Student vandalism, criminal mischief	4%	3%	-1	2%	3%	1
Violence or threats toward staff	1%	1%	0	2%	2%	0
Alcohol use	5%	5%	0	1%	1%	0
Tobacco use	2%	2%	0	1%	1%	0
None of these are serious problems on my campus	28%	33%	5	25%	23%	-2

* Δ represents percentage point change from 2009-2010 to 2010-2011. Negative numbers indicate a decrease in perceived problems at campuses. For high schools, the absolute value of $\Delta \geq 3$ percentage points and for middle schools, the absolute value of $\Delta \geq 2$ percentage points would be significant.

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

	All high schools 2009-2010	All high schools 2010-2011	Δ^*	All middle schools 2009-2010	All middle schools 2010-2011	Δ^*
Health class	40%	44%	4	36%	40%	4
Science class	27%	35%	8	50%	52%	2
Advisory/seminar class	42%	47%	5	48%	49%	1
Another class	33%	33%	0	44%	44%	0
Guidance counselor	11%	13%	2	24%	30%	6
Student support group meetings at school	11%	11%	0	13%	15%	2
Special school event about tobacco, drugs, alcohol, or violence	26%	25%	-1	33%	33%	0
School nurse †	N/A	12%	N/A	N/A	18%	N/A
After school program †	N/A	12%	N/A	N/A	14%	N/A
Other school source not mentioned above	19%	17%	-2	22%	21%	-1
None of the above	22%	20%	-2	11%	12%	1

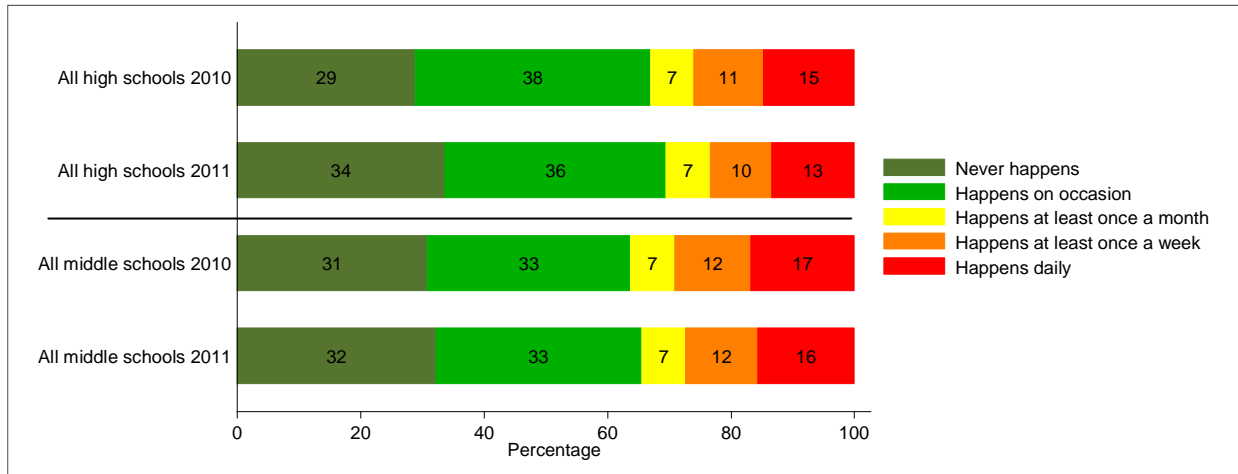
Note. Percentages may sum to more than 100% because respondents were allowed to choose multiple items.

* Δ represents percentage point change from 2009-2010 to 2010-2011. Positive numbers indicates an increase in percentage of students reporting receiving information from that source. For high schools, the absolute value of $\Delta \geq 3$ percentage points and for middle schools, the absolute value of $\Delta \geq 2$ percentage points would be significant.

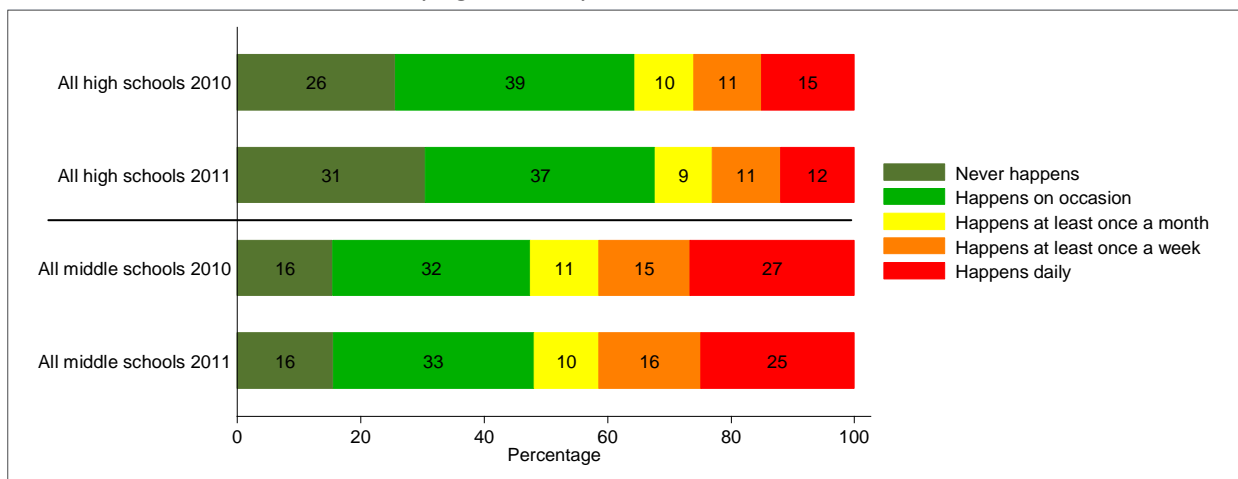
† The item was not asked in the 2009-2010 survey.

SCHOOL SAFETY ITEMS

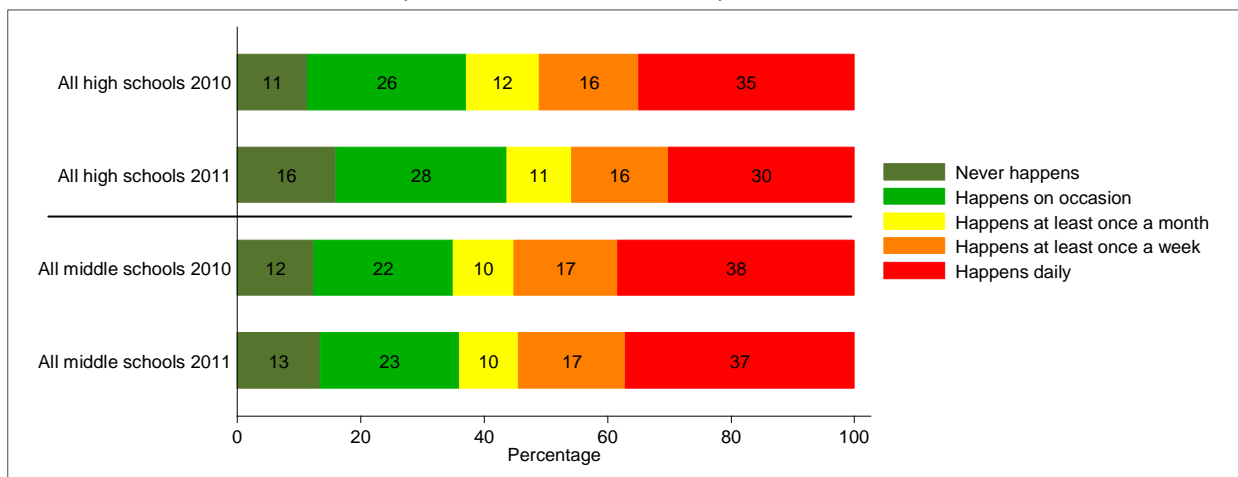
Q15a: How often does racial tension occur at your school?



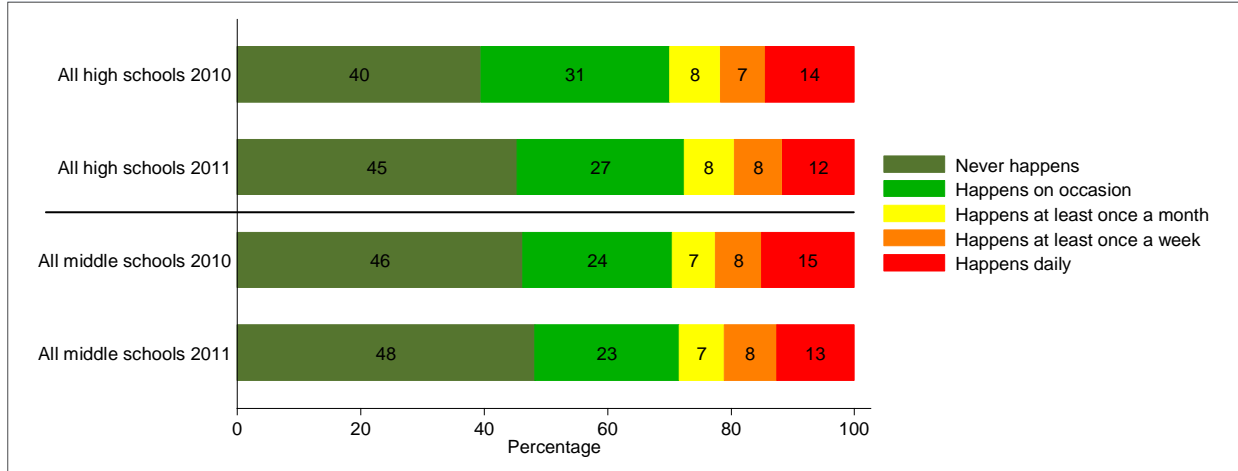
Q15b: How often does student bullying occur at your school?



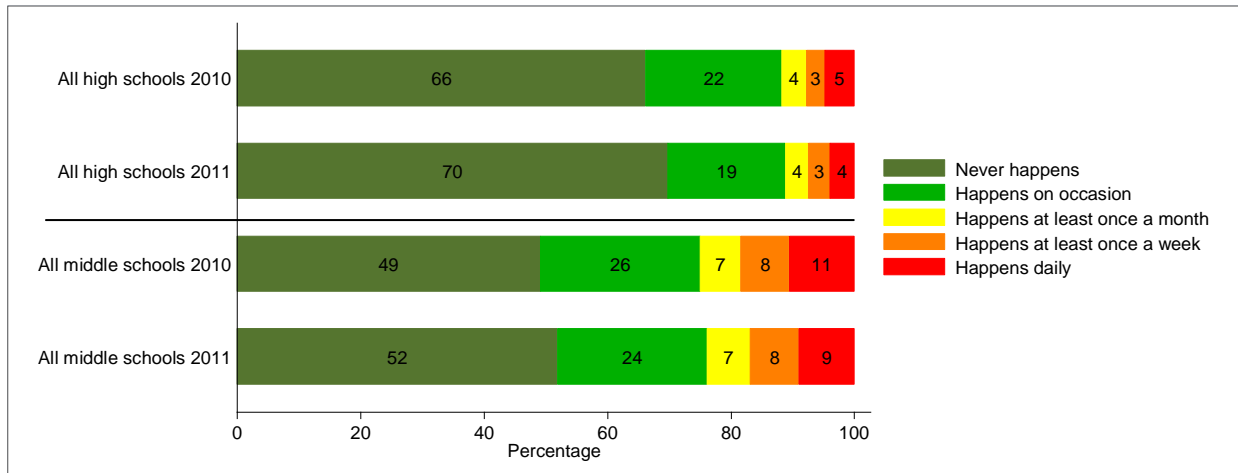
Q15c: How often do acts of disrespect for teachers occur at your school?



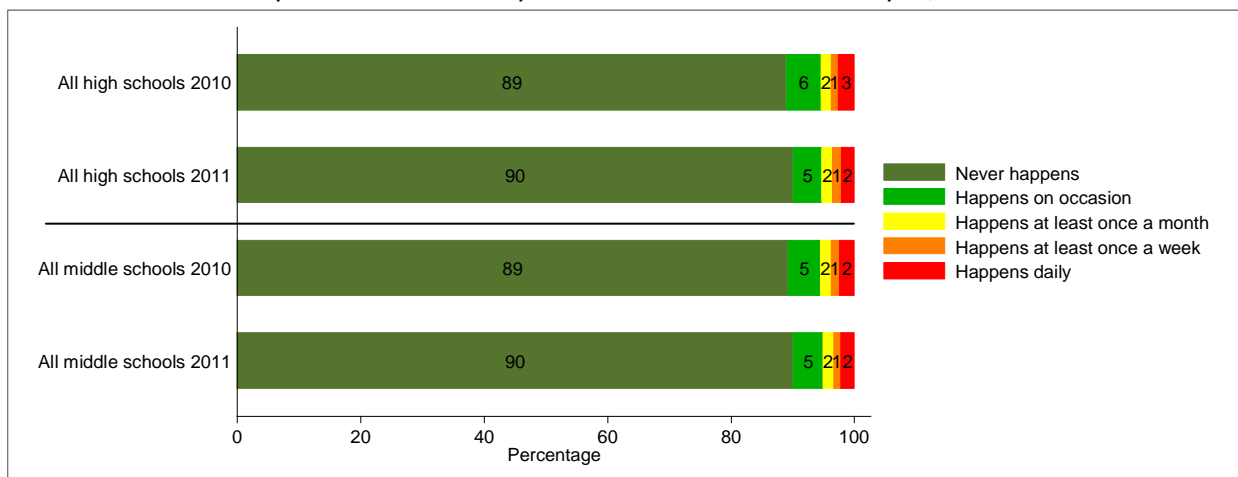
Q15d: How often do gang activities occur at your school?



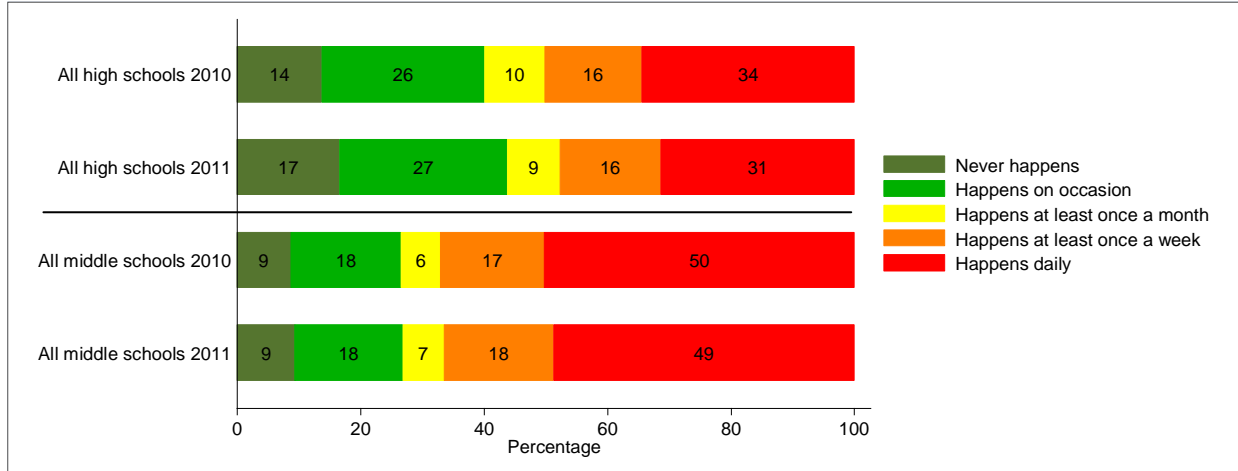
Q15e: How often have you experienced any type of bullying at your school?



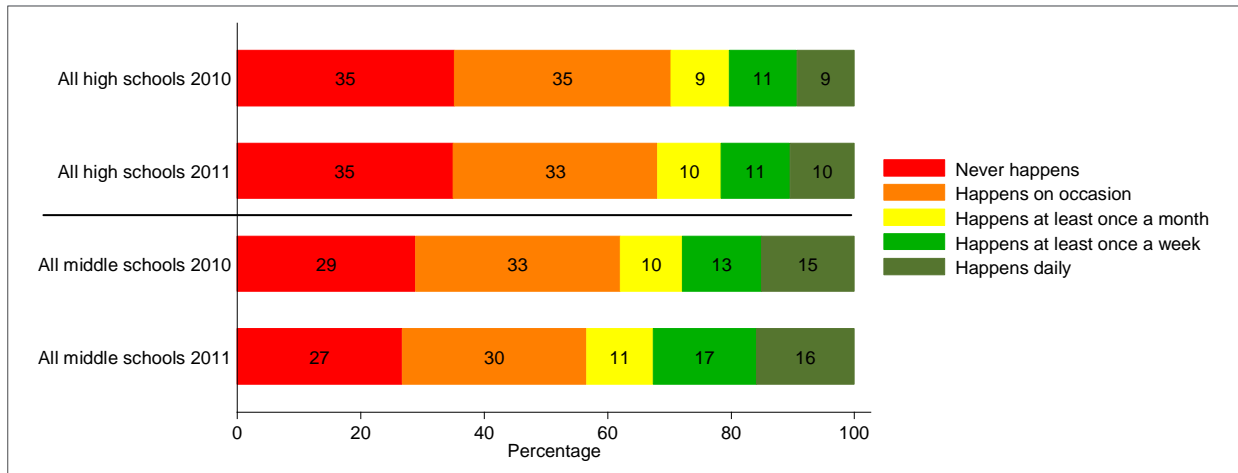
Q15f: How often were you absent because you did not feel safe on the way to/from school?



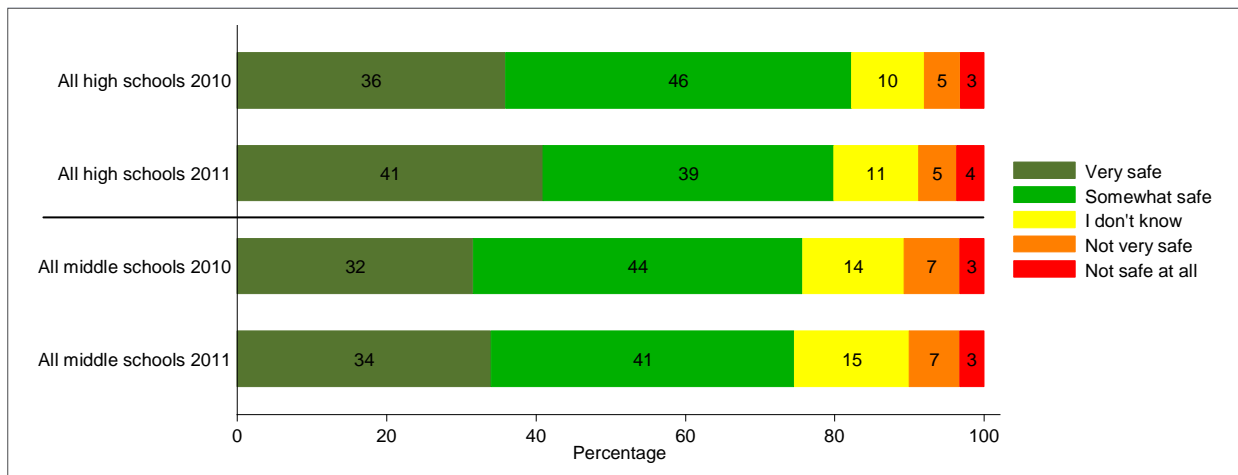
Q15g: How often does your teacher have to interrupt class to deal with student misbehavior?



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



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



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

	All high schools 2009-2010	All high schools 2010-2011	Δ^*	All middle schools 2009-2010	All middle schools 2010-2011	Δ^*
Was sick	59%	58%	-1	57%	57%	0
Didn't feel safe at school	4%	6%	2	5%	5%	0
Didn't feel safe on the way to/from school	4%	4%	0	4%	5%	1
Didn't get along well with teachers	11%	11%	0	9%	9%	0
Wanted to hang out with friends	21%	21%	0	9%	10%	1
Had to do something with family	37%	38%	1	25%	32%	7
Was too tired	35%	33%	-2	20%	19%	-1
Didn't have a way to get to school	15%	15%	0	10%	9%	-1
Felt too sad or depressed to attend †	N/A	15%	N/A	N/A	10%	N/A
Had to go to work †	N/A	7%	N/A	N/A	3%	N/A
None	19%	24%	5	26%	30%	4

* Δ represents percentage point change from 2009-2010 to 2010-2011. Negative numbers indicates a decrease in percentage of students missing school for that reason. For high schools, the absolute value of $\Delta \geq 3$ percentage points and for middle schools, the absolute value of $\Delta \geq 2$ percentage points would be significant.

† The item was not asked in the 2009-2010 survey.

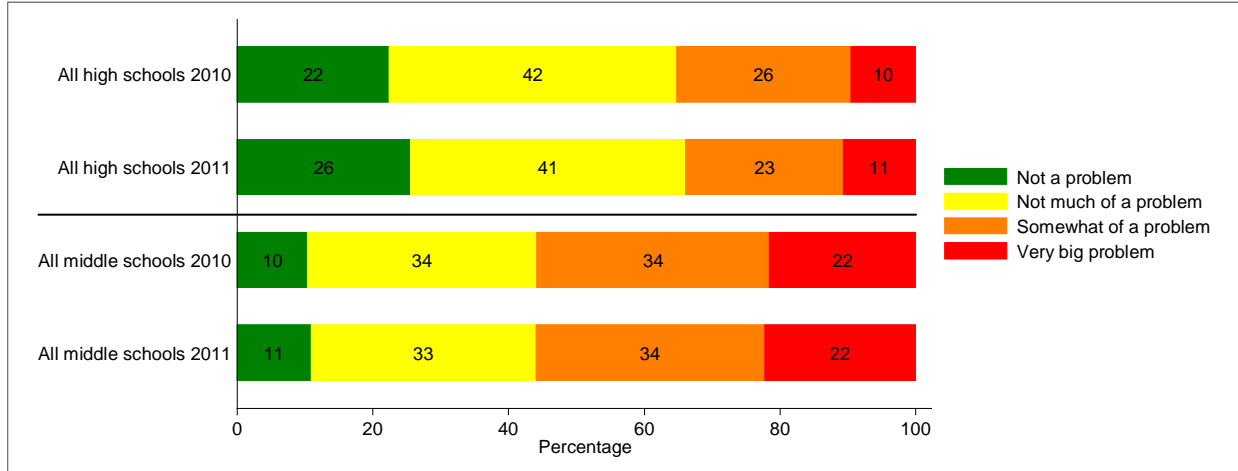
Q10: During this school year, have you experienced any of the following types of bullying at school?

	All high schools 2009-2010	All high schools 2010-2011	Δ^*	All middle schools 2009-2010	All middle schools 2010-2011	Δ^*
Physical	12%	11%	-1	25%	23%	-2
Social	25%	20%	-5	33%	30%	-3
Verbal	25%	21%	-4	39%	35%	-4
Written	5%	5%	0	9%	8%	-1
Sexual Harassment	11%	10%	-1	12%	11%	-1
Racial or Ethnic Harassment	17%	15%	-2	19%	18%	-1
Cyber bullying	8%	8%	0	9%	8%	-1
Hurtful or controlling dating behavior †	N/A	7%	N/A	N/A	8%	N/A
None	56%	61%	5	40%	45%	5

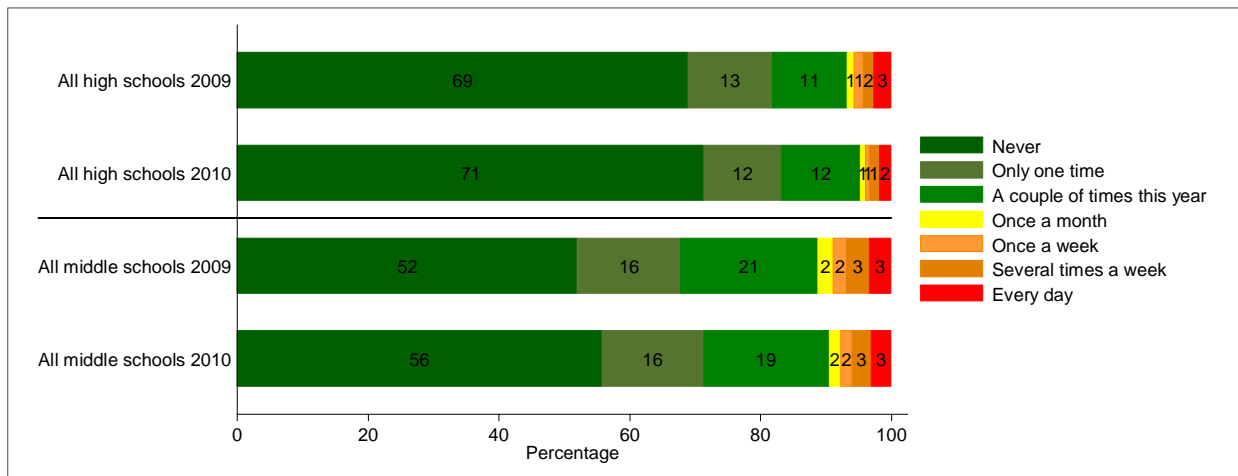
Note. Percentages may sum to more than 100% because respondents were allowed to choose multiple items.

† The item was not asked in the 2009-2010 survey.

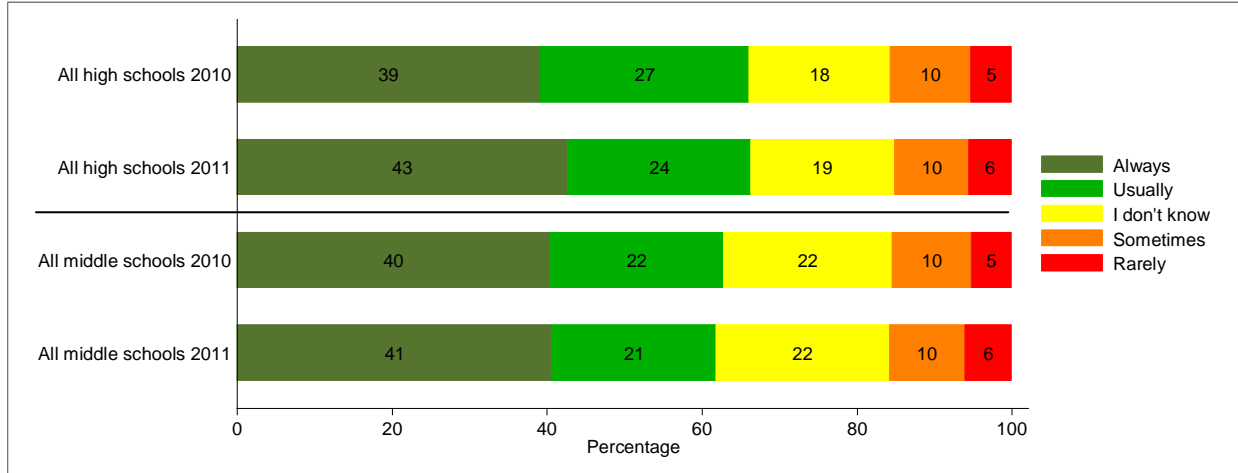
Q12: How big a problem do you think bullying is at your school?



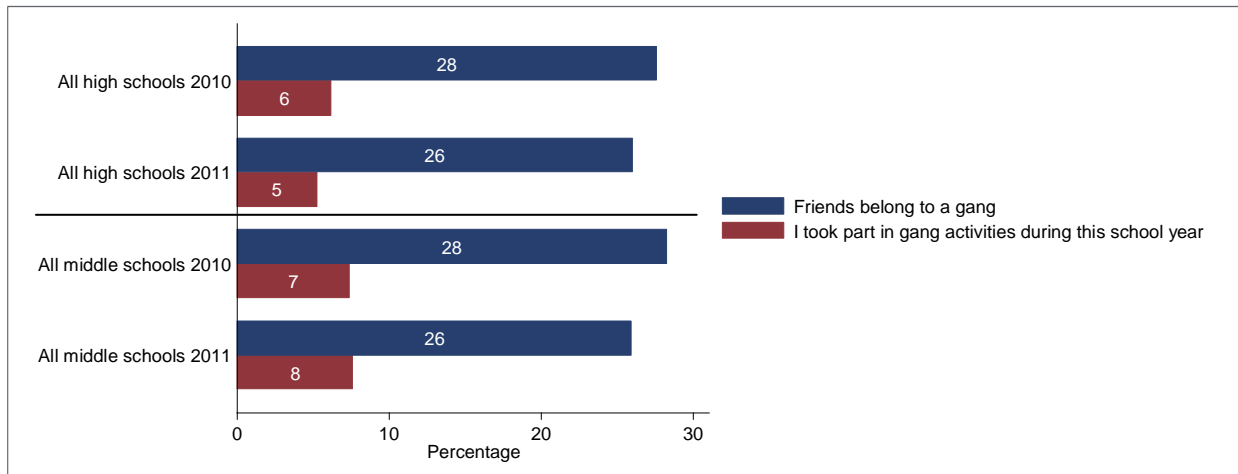
Q10: During this school year, how often have you or your close friends been physically harmed or threatened with physical harm by another student at your school?



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



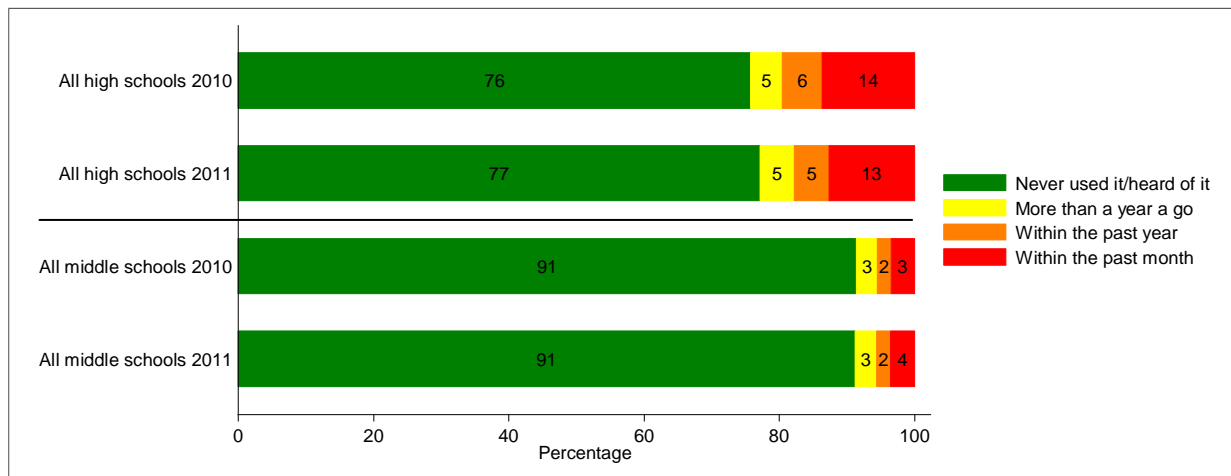
Q16-Q17: Do any of your friends belong to a gang? During this school year, did you take part in any gang activities?



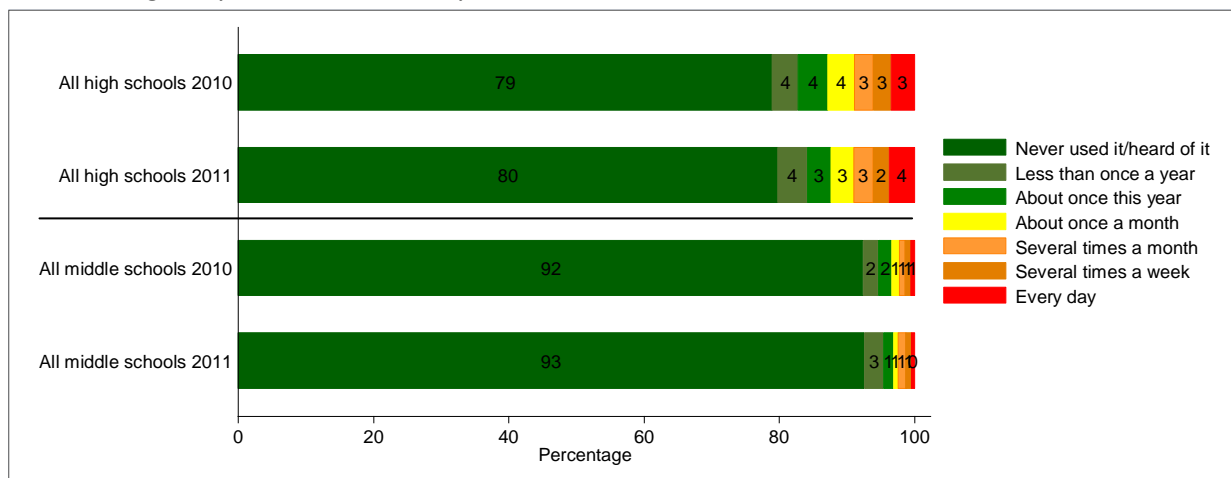
SUBSTANCE USE ITEMS

TOBACCO:

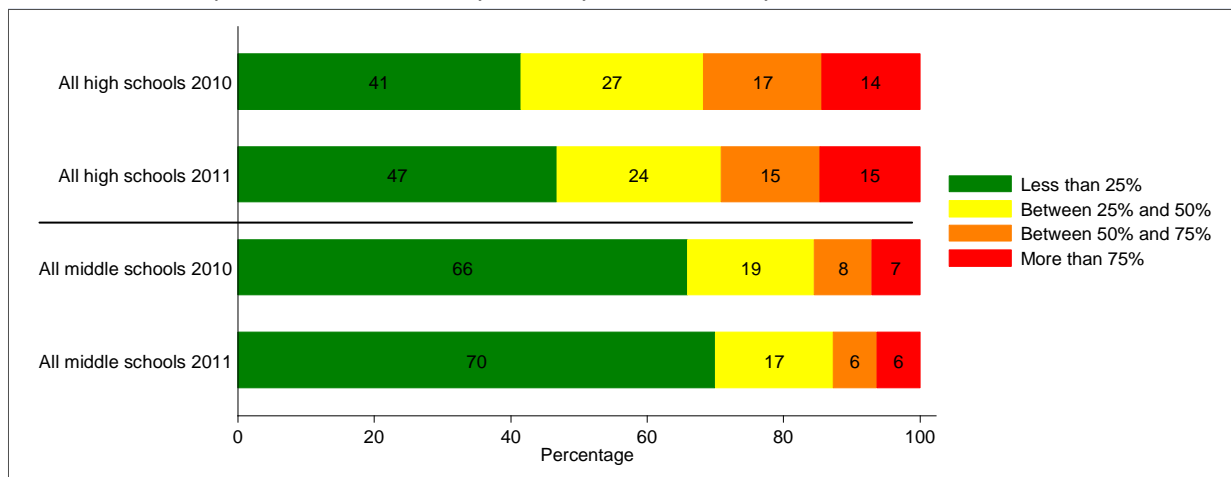
Q18a: What is the most recent you have used Tobacco?



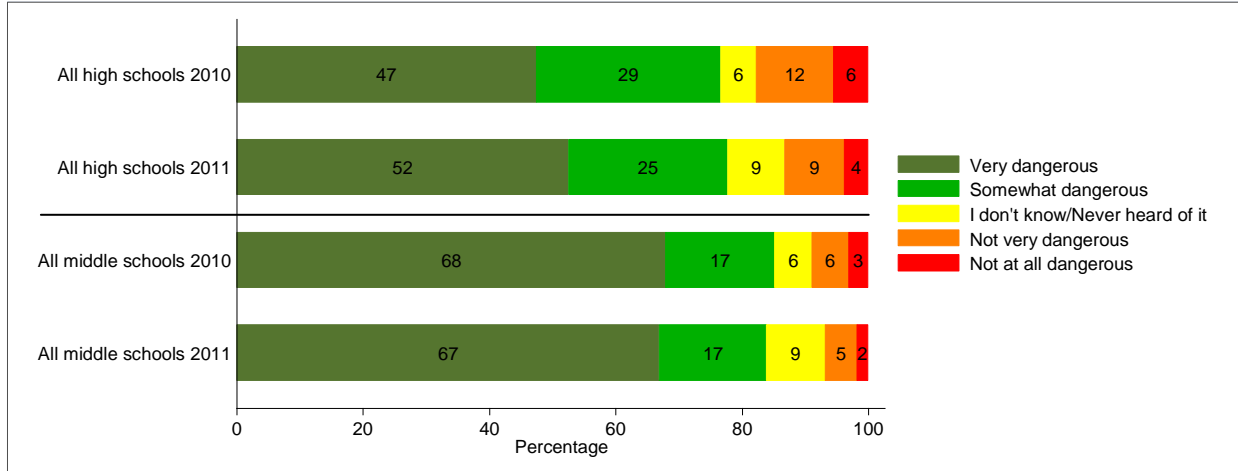
Q21a: During this year, how often did you use Tobacco?



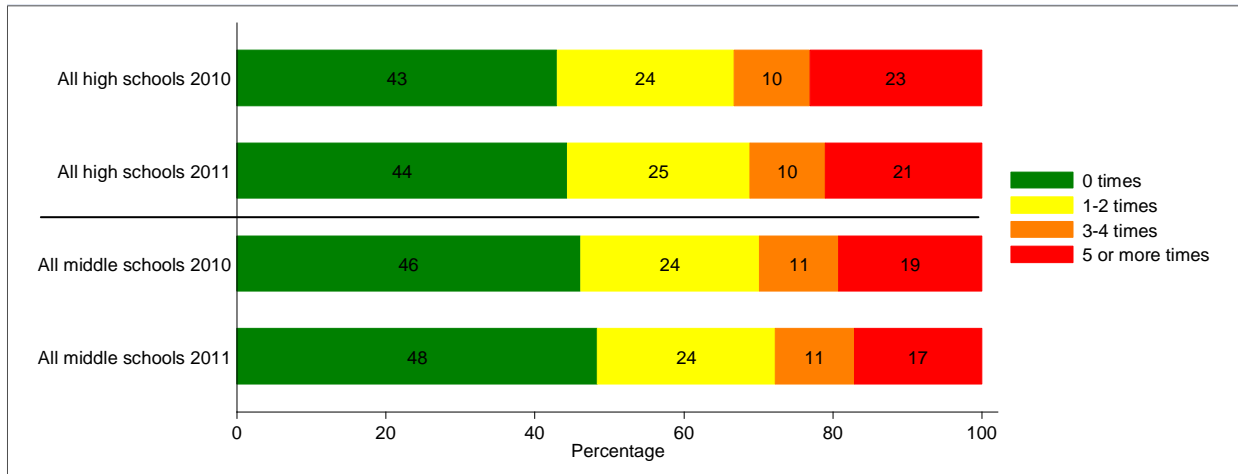
Q29a. Within the past month, how many kids at your school do you think have used tobacco?



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

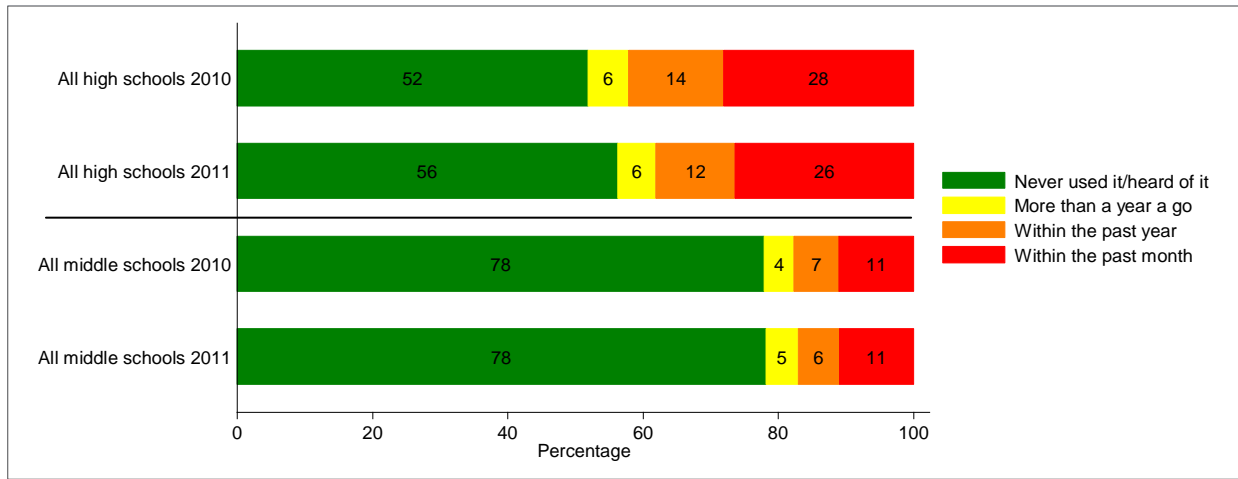


Q28g. During the school year, how many times have you experienced advertisements (TV, radio, billboard, magazine, internet, etc.) for tobacco products?

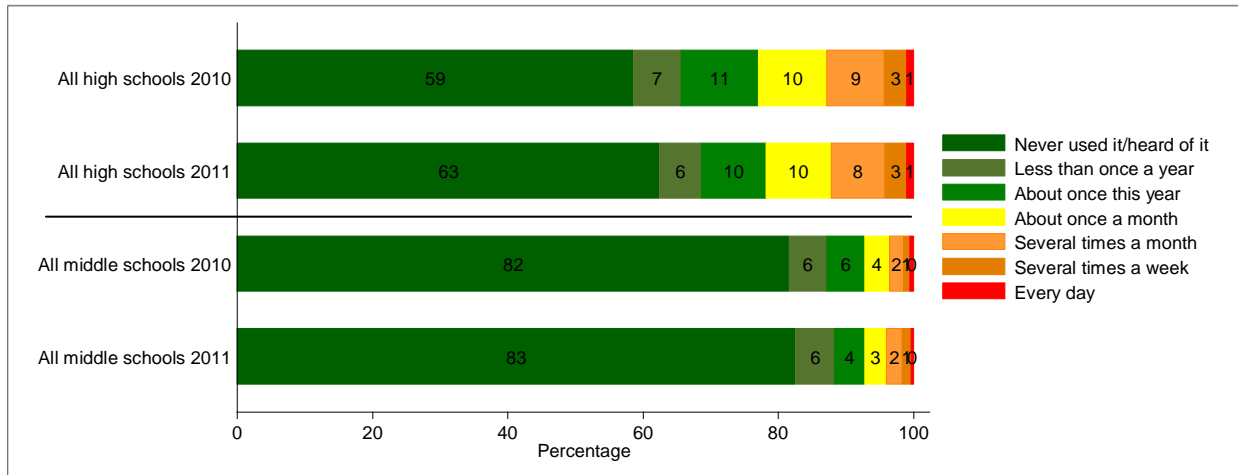


ALCOHOL:

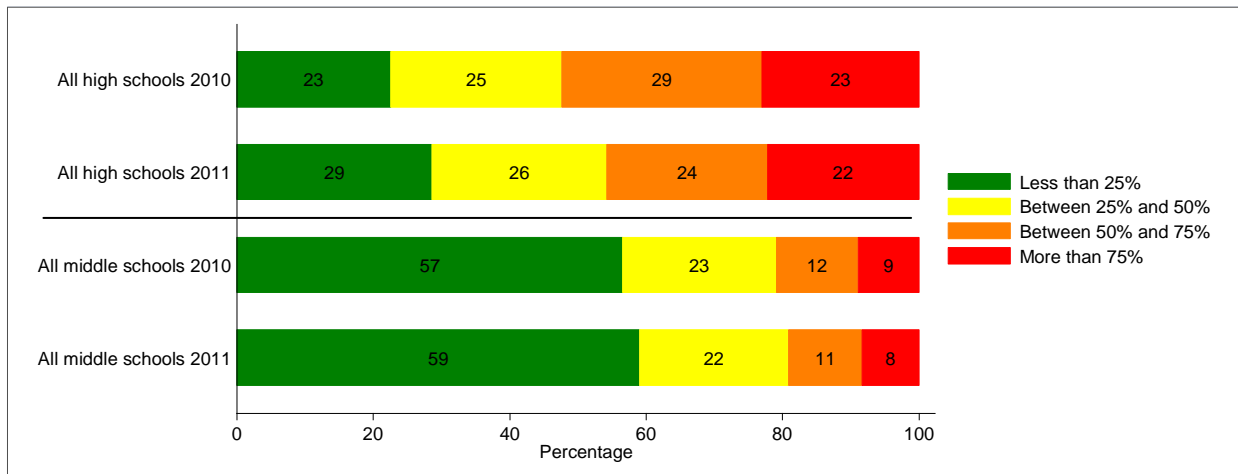
Q18b: What is the most recent you have used Alcohol?



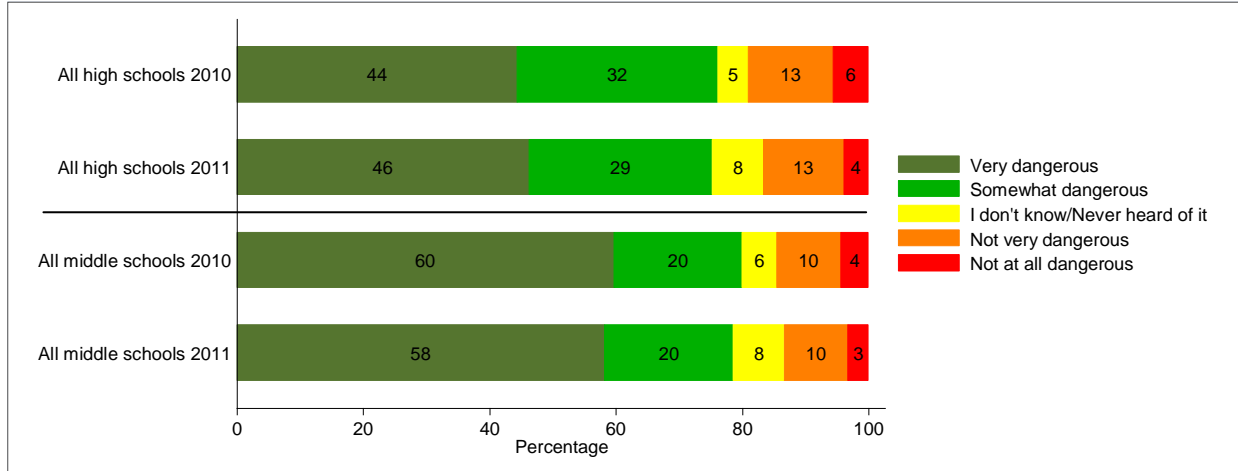
Q21b: During this year, how often did you use Alcohol?



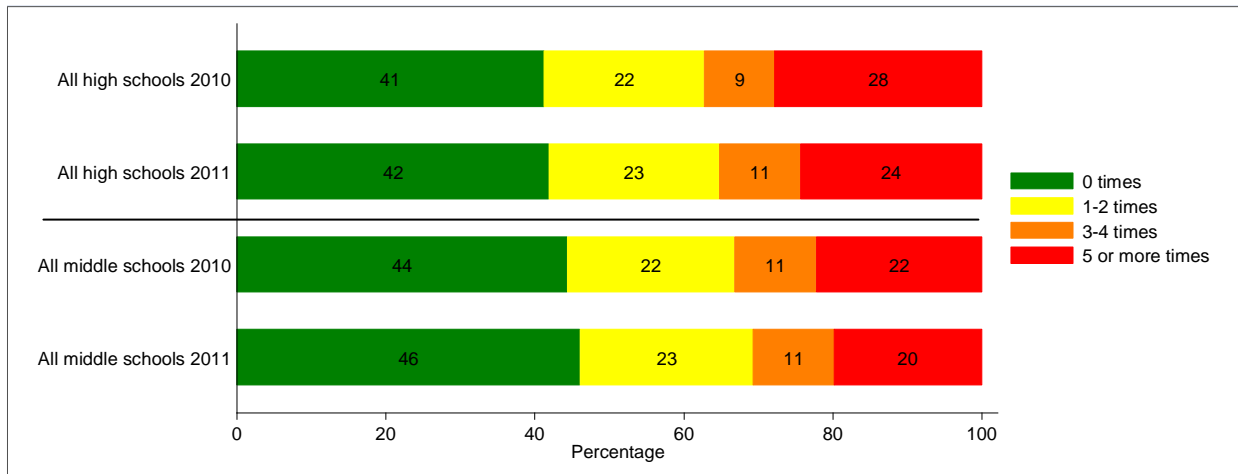
Q29b. Within the past month, how many kids at your school do you think have used alcohol?



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

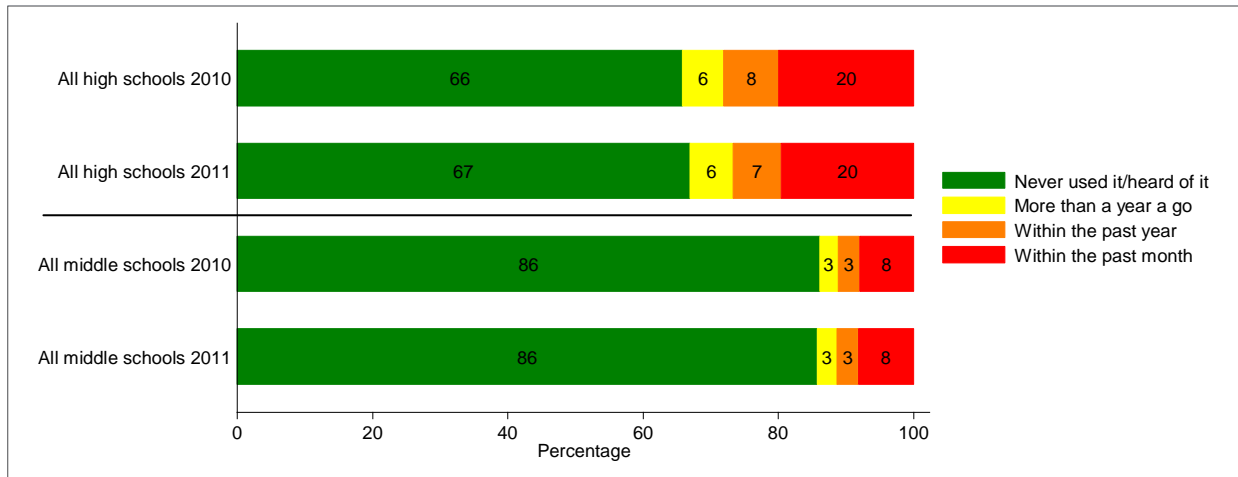


Q28f. During the school year, how many times have you experienced advertisements (TV, radio, billboard, magazine, internet, etc.) for alcohol products?

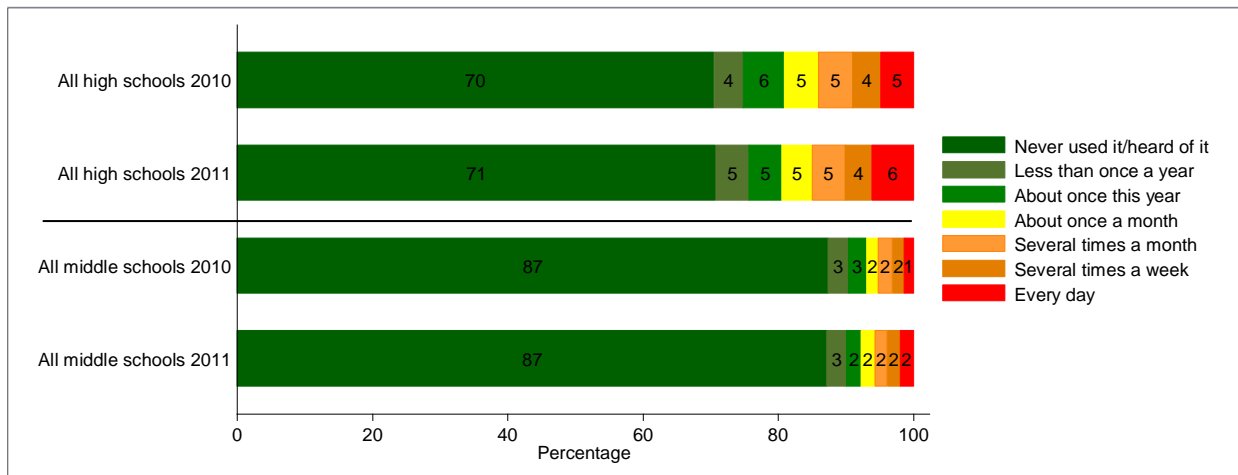


MARIJUANA:

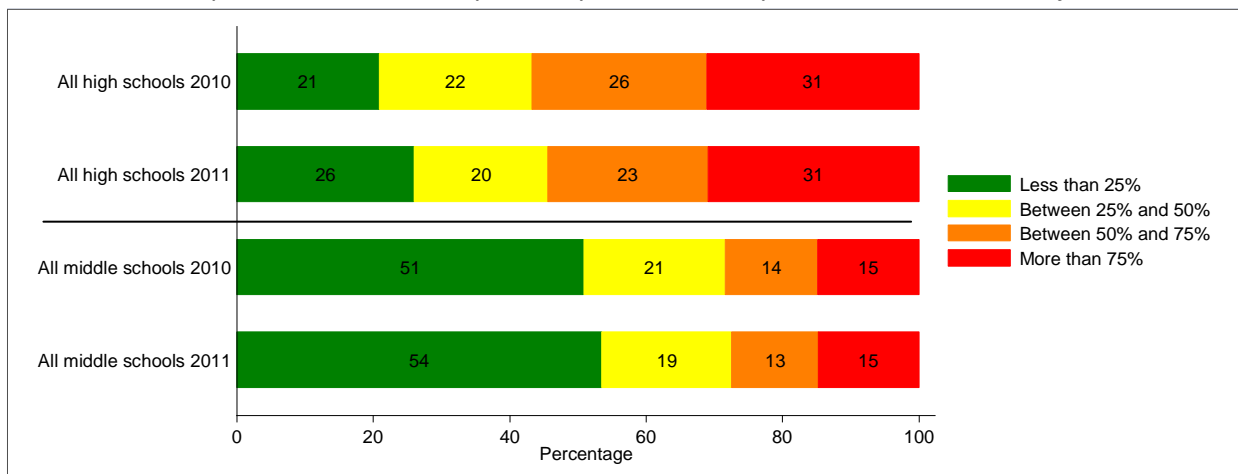
Q18c: What is the most recent you have used Marijuana?



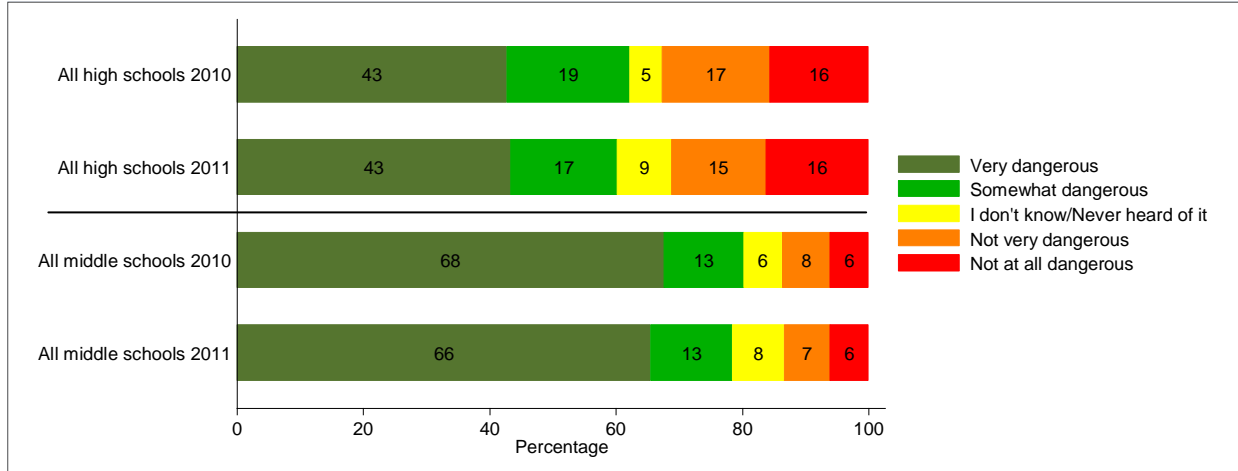
Q21c: During this year, how often did you use Marijuana?



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

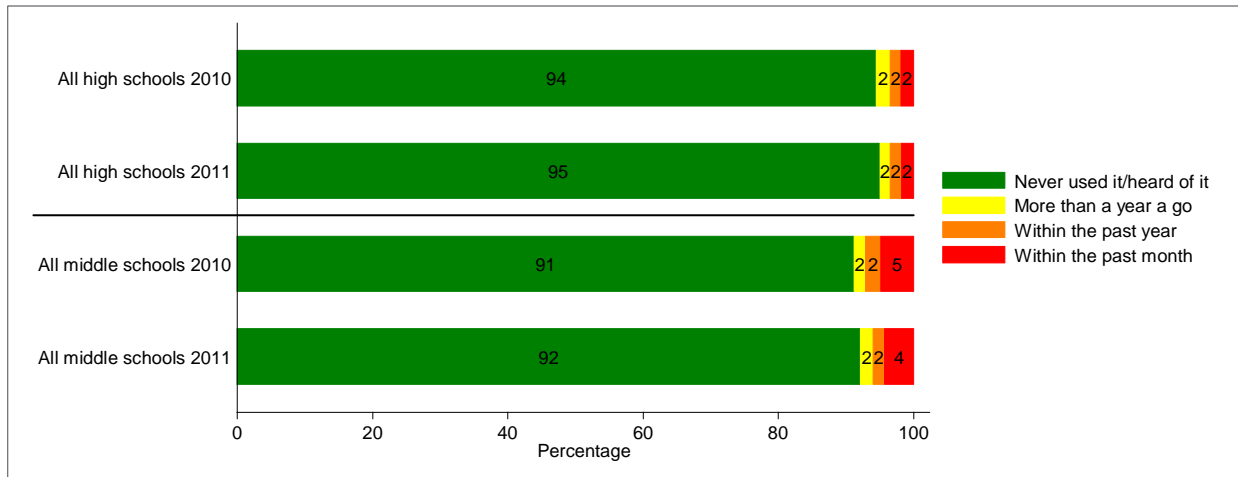


Q27c: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use Marijuana?

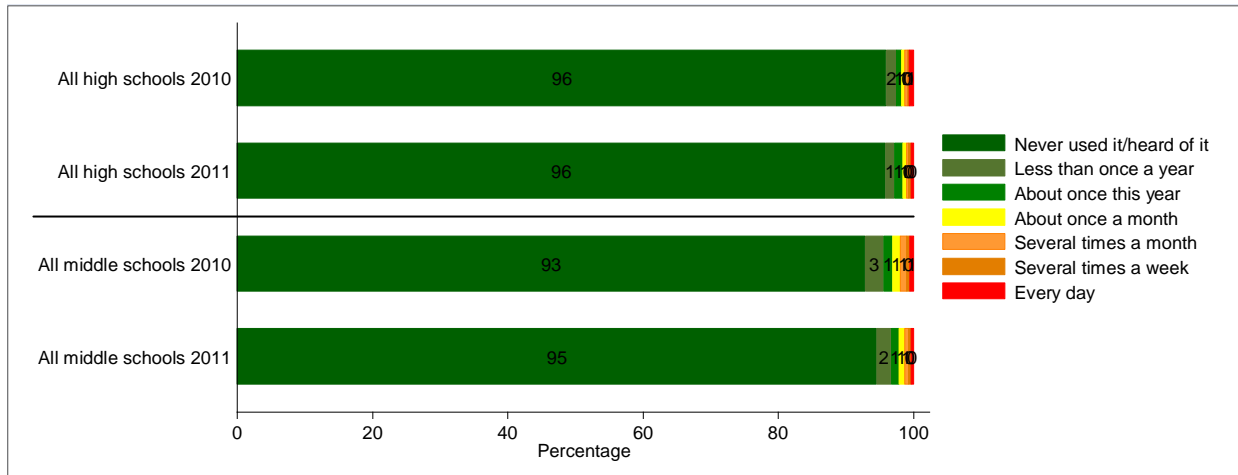


INHALANTS:

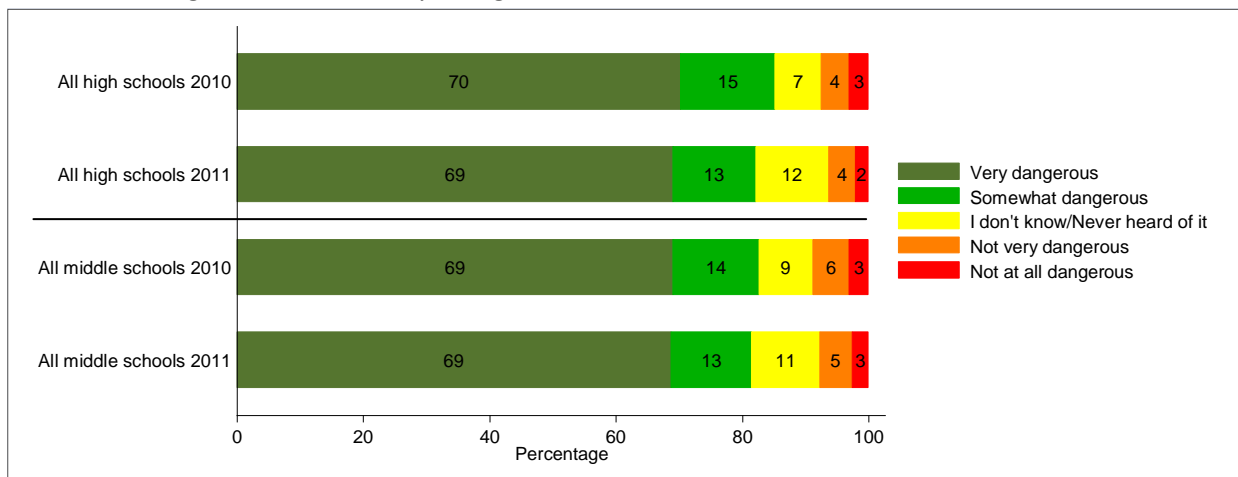
Q18d: What is the most recent you have used Inhalants?



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

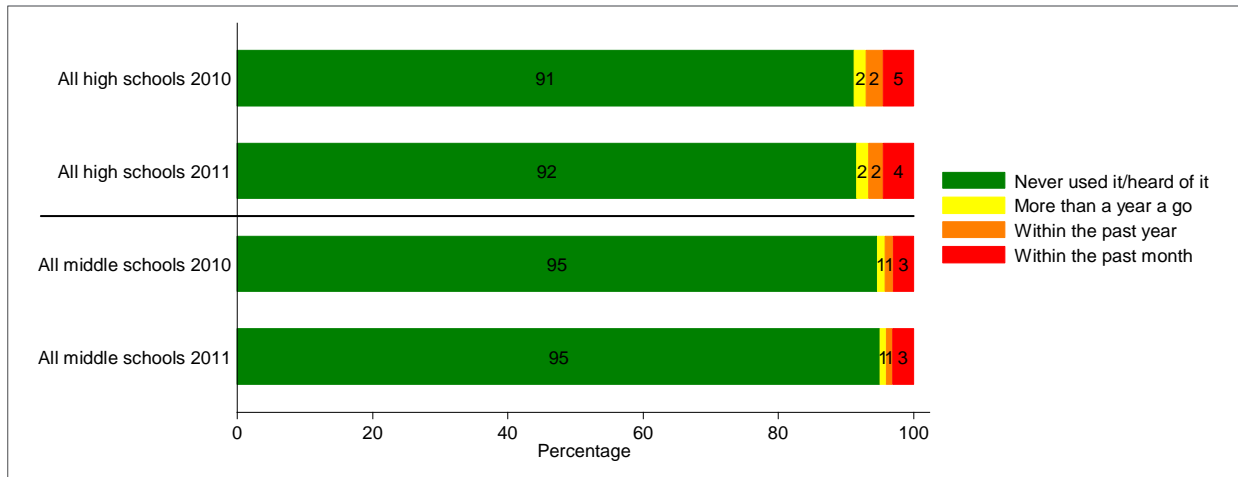


Q27d: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use Inhalants?

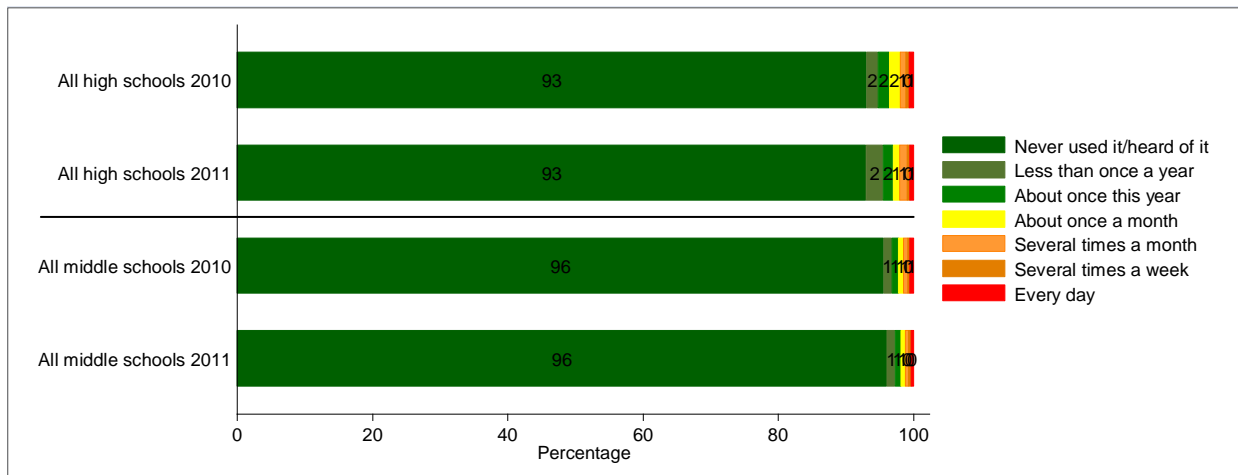


OVER THE COUNTER MEDICATION:

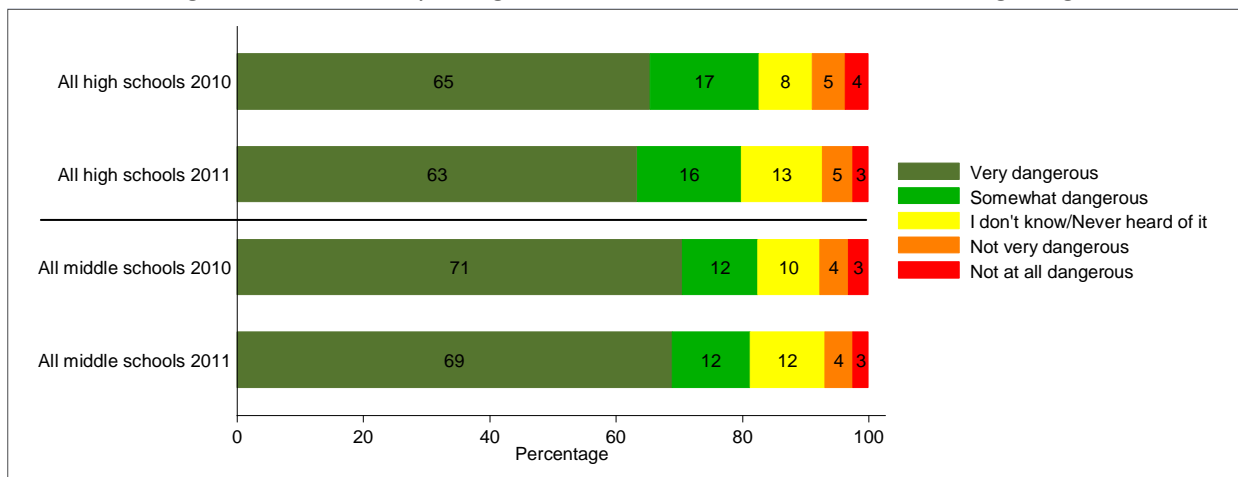
Q18e: What is the most recent you have used Over the Counter Medication to get high?



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

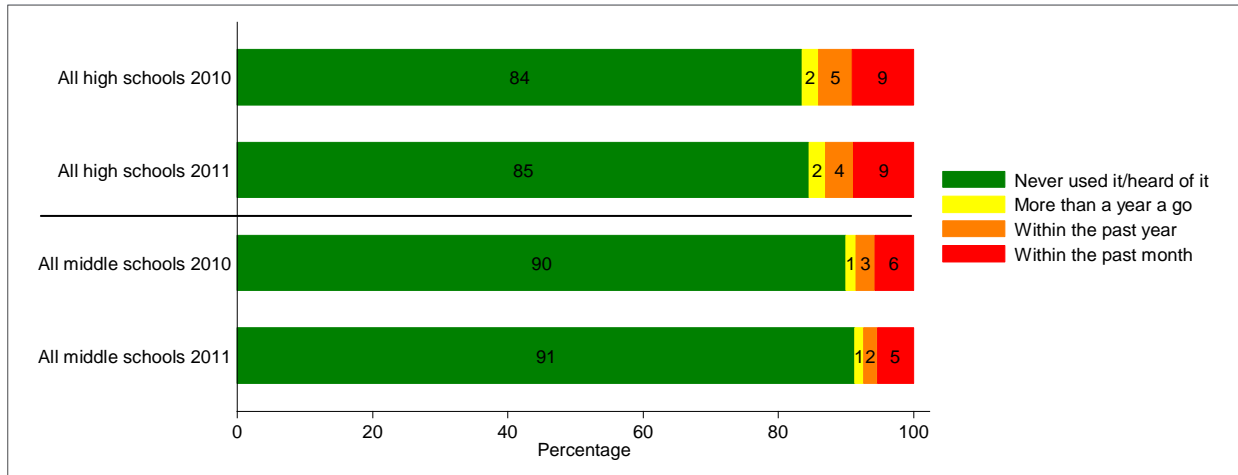


Q27e: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use Over the Counter Medication to get high?

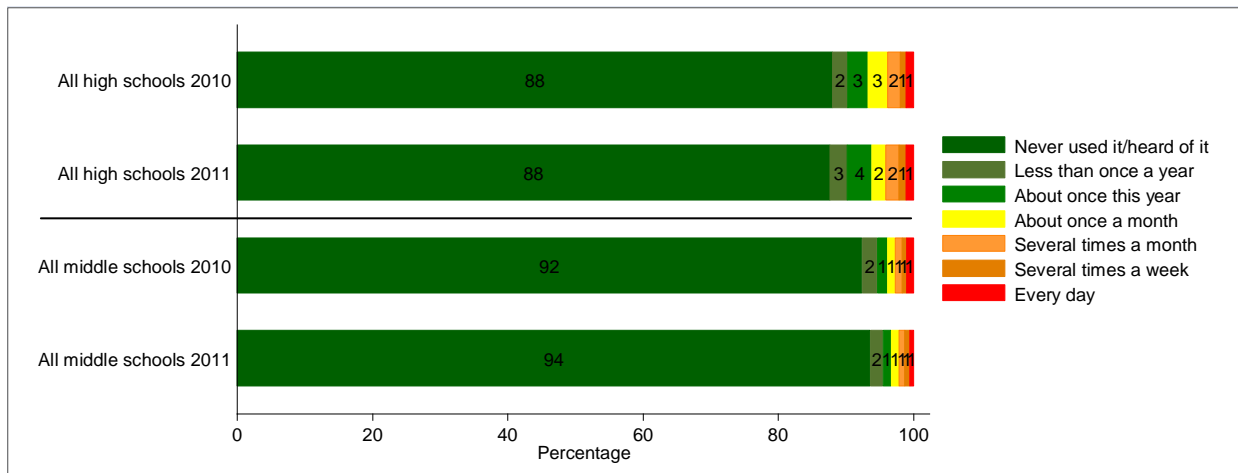


PRESCRIPTION DRUGS:

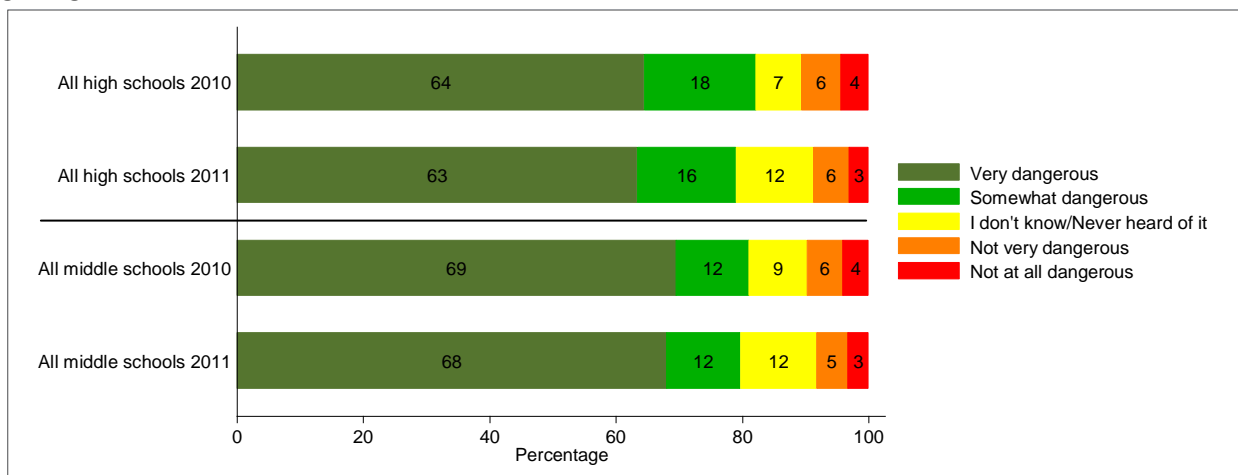
Q18f: What is the most recent you have used Prescription Drugs that were not prescribed to you to get high?



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

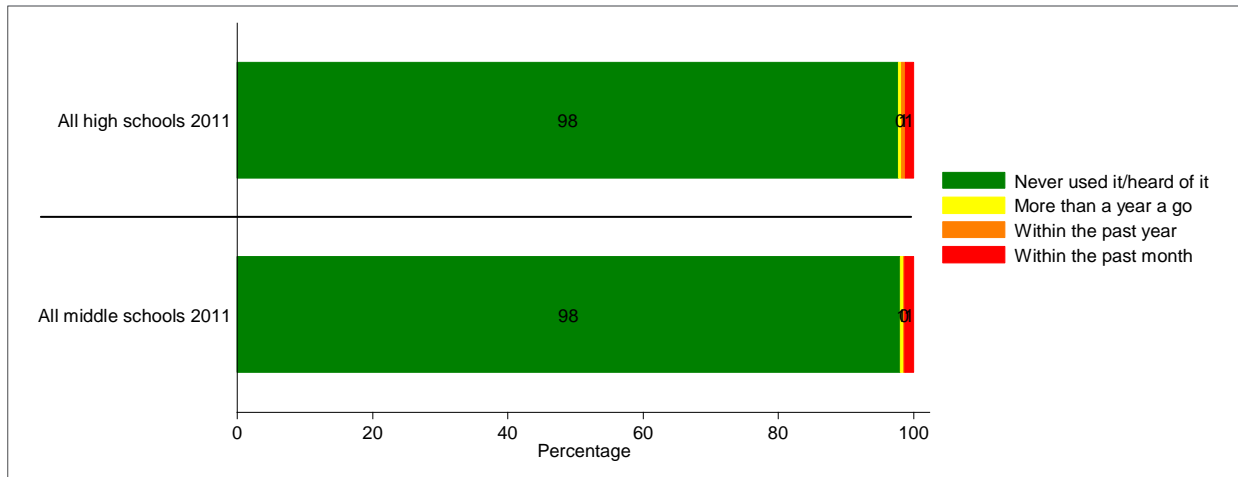


Q27f: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use Prescription Drugs that were not prescribed to you to get high?



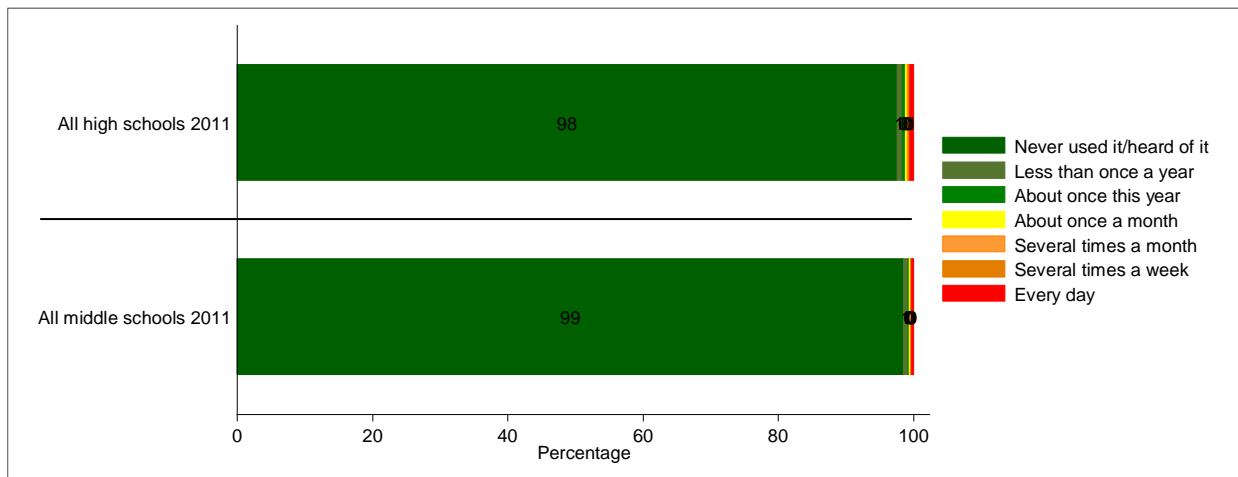
STERIODS OR PERFORMANCE ENHANCING DRUGS:

Q18g: What is the most recent you have used Steroids or Performance Enhancing Drugs?



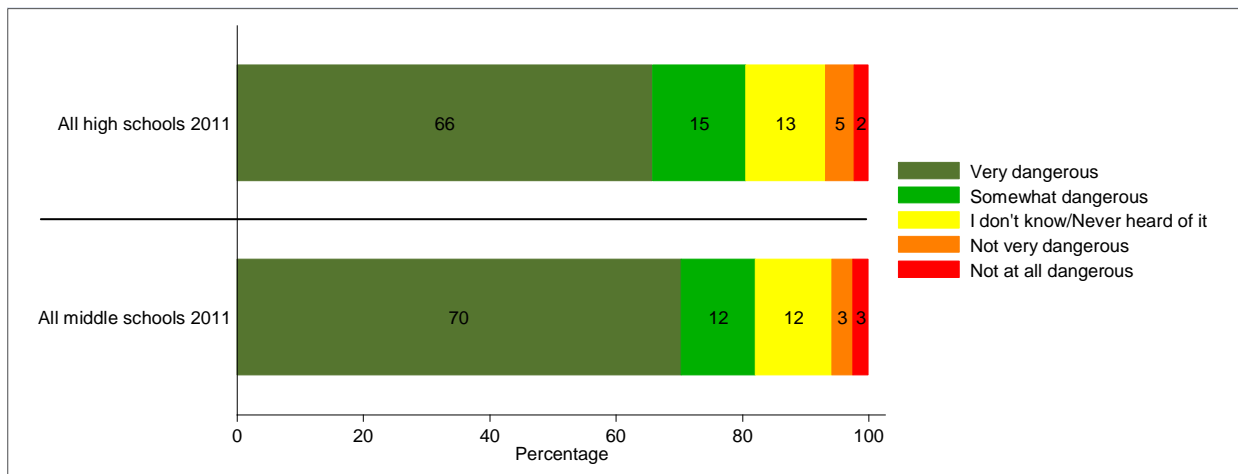
Note. This question was not reported for the 2009-2010 school year

Q21g: During this year, how often did you use Steroids or Performance Enhancing Drugs?



Note. This question was not reported for the 2009-2010 school year

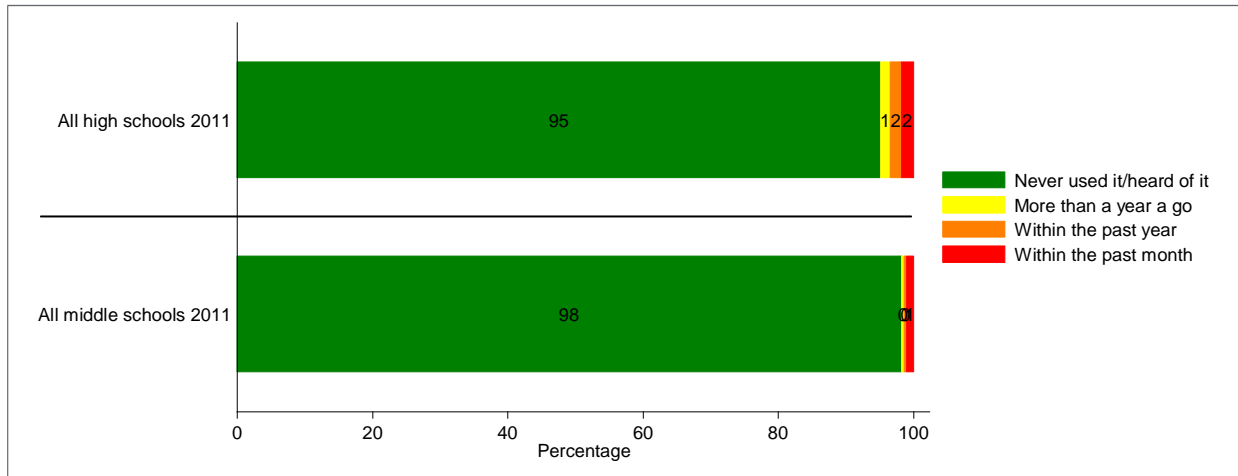
Q27g: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use Steroids or Performance Enhancing Drugs?



Note. This question was not reported for the 2009-2010 school year

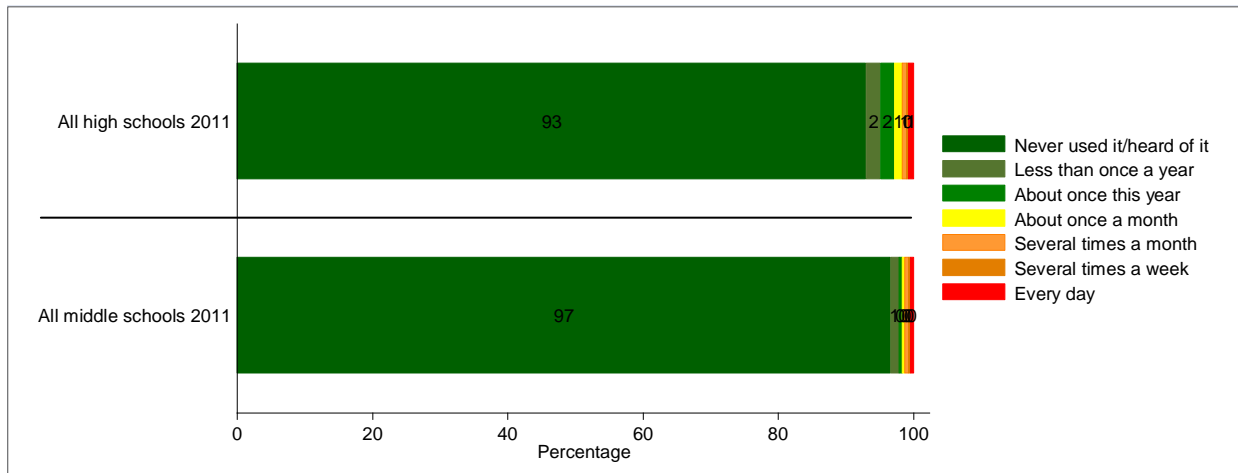
OTHER ILLEGAL DRUGS:

Q18h: What is the most recent you have used Other Illegal Drugs (e.g., cocaine, ecstasy, hallucinogens, heroin, methamphetamines)?



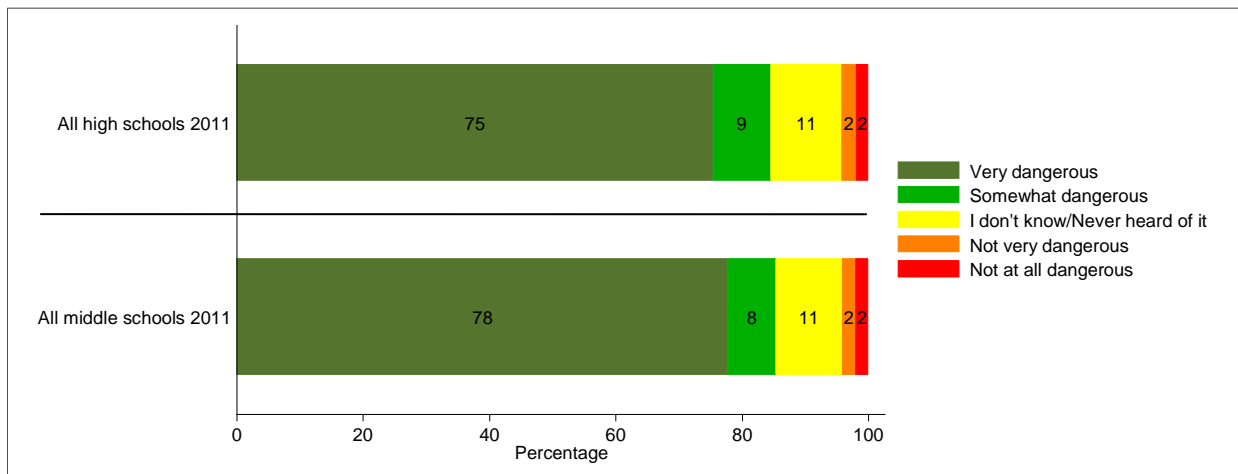
Note. This question was not reported for the 2009-2010 school year

Q21h: During this year, how often did you use Other Illegal Drugs?



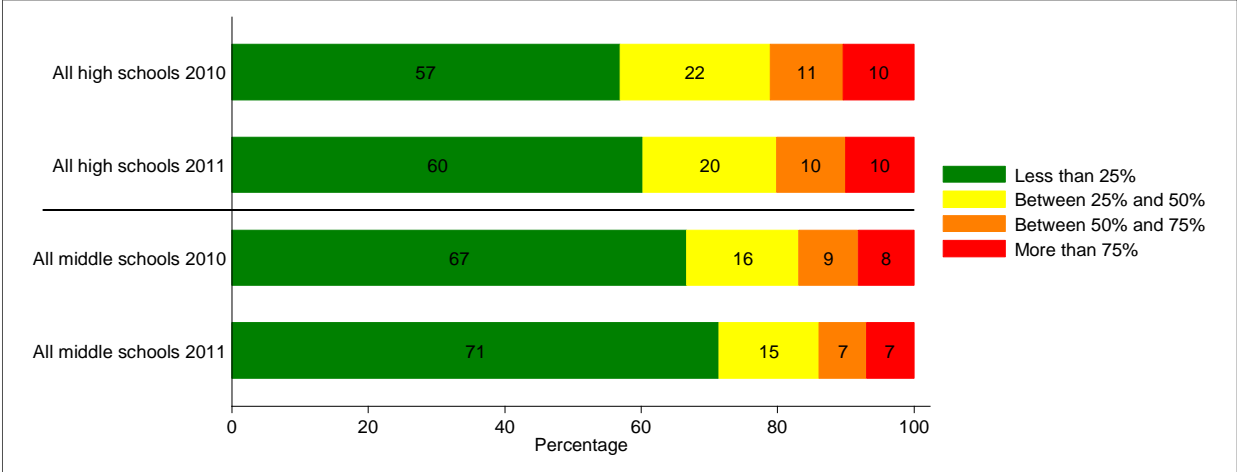
Note. This question was not reported for the 2009-2010 school year

Q27h: How dangerous is it for kids your age to use Other Illegal Drugs?



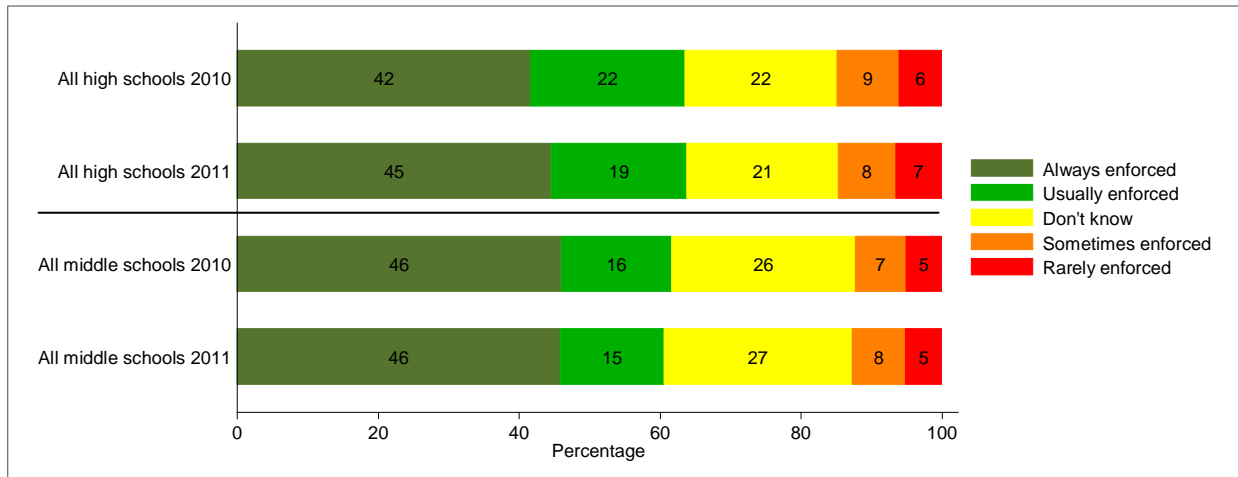
Note. This question was not reported for the 2009-2010 school year

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

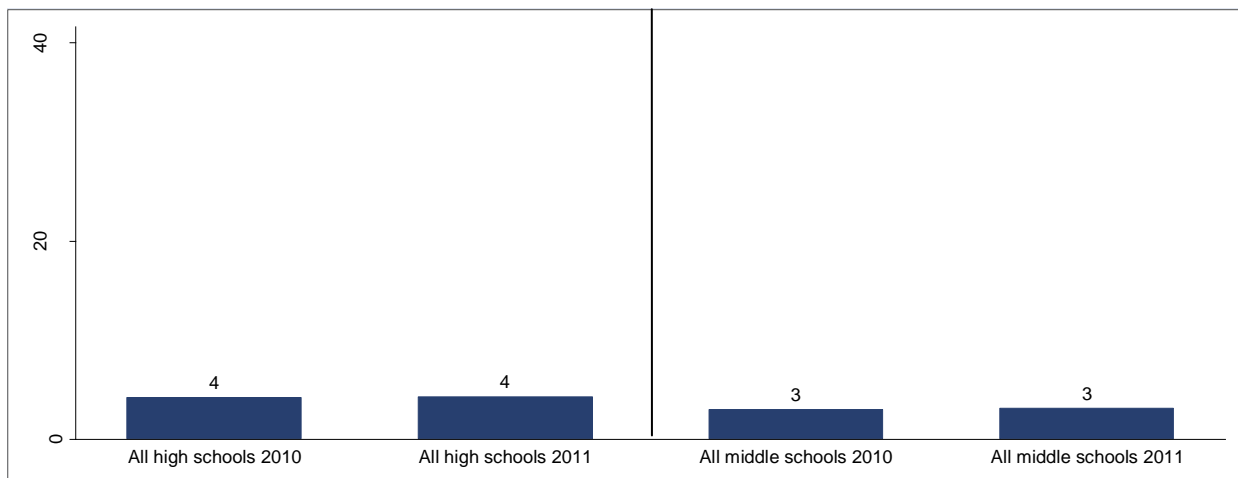


OPINIONS, EXPERIENCES, AND EXPOSURE:

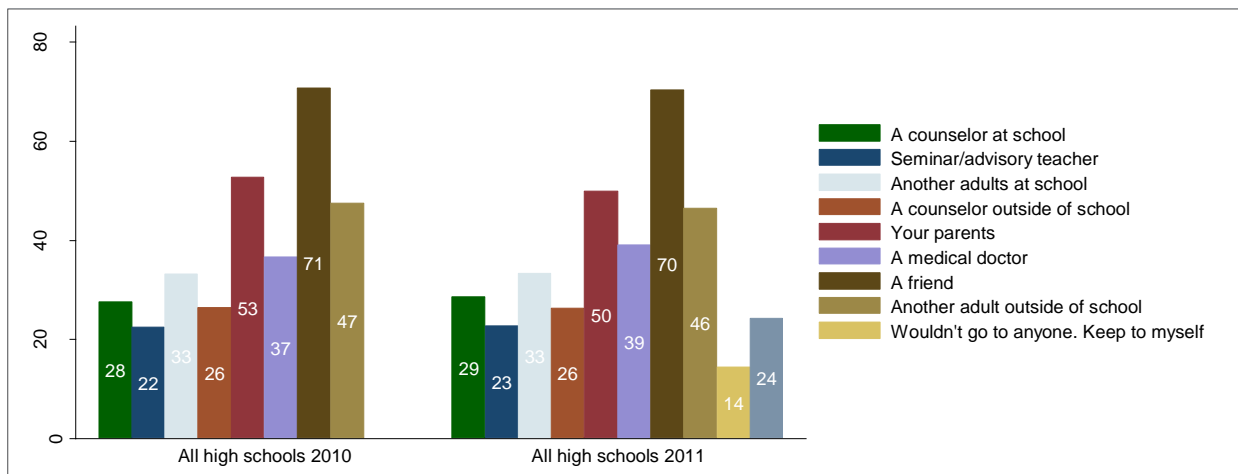
Q13: Are school rules about drug, alcohol, and tobacco use enforced by school staff?



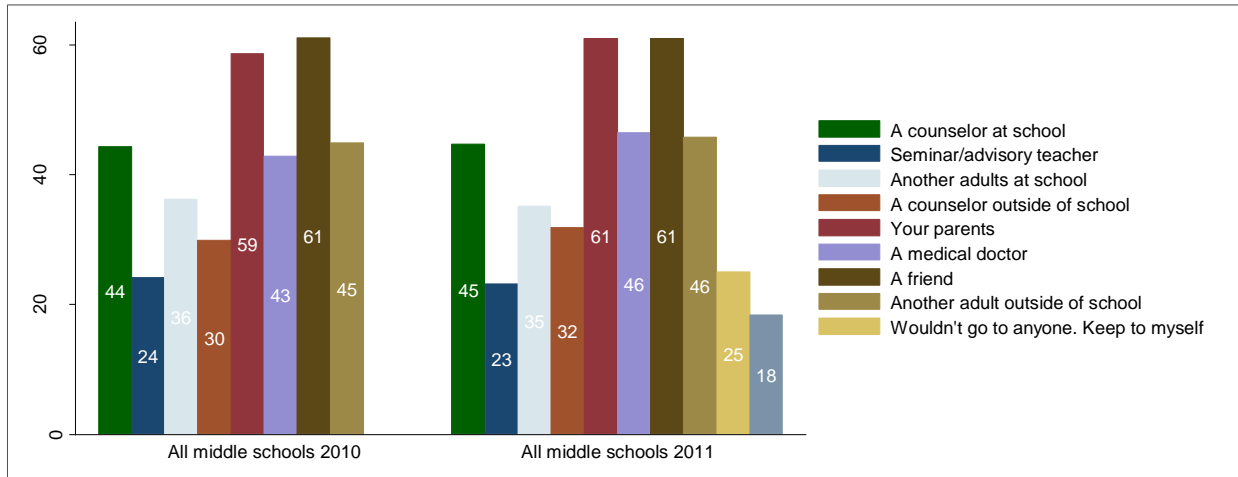
Q19: During this school year, have you gotten into trouble with the police because of tobacco, drugs, or alcohol?



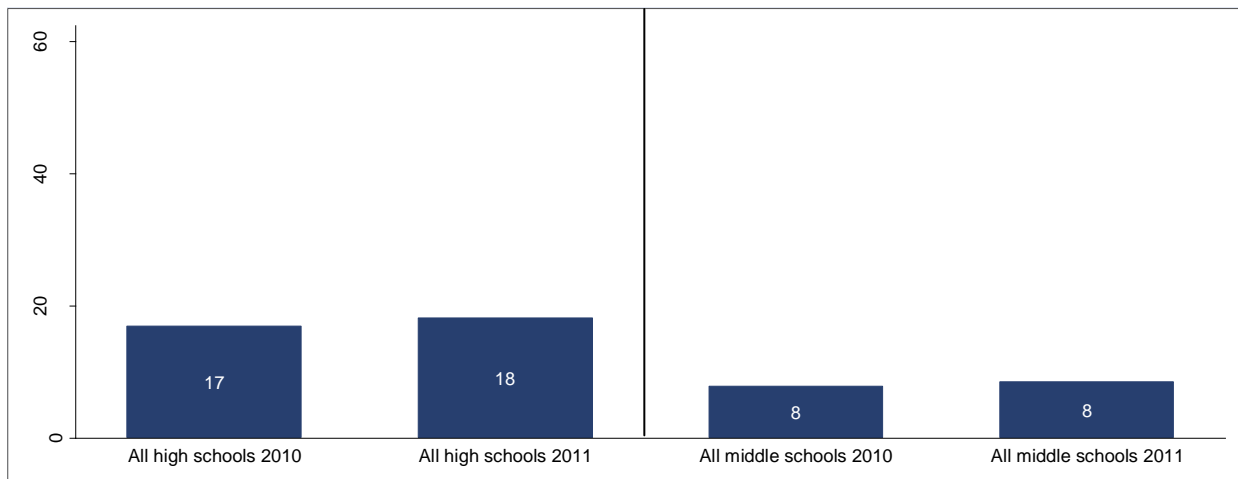
Q24a: If you had a drug or alcohol problem and needed help, who would you go to? (High School Students)



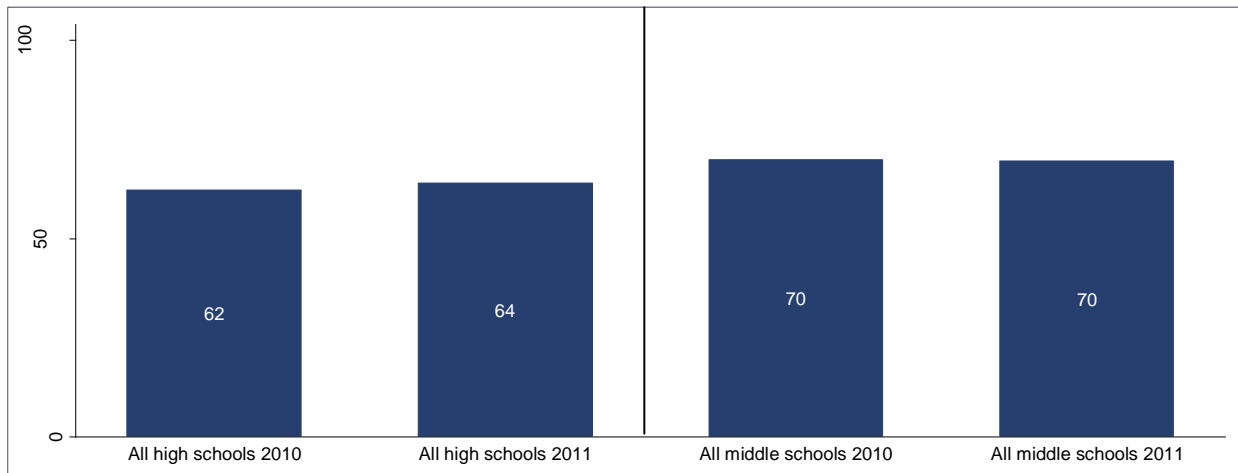
Q24b: If you had a drug or alcohol problem and needed help, who would you go to? (Middle School Students)



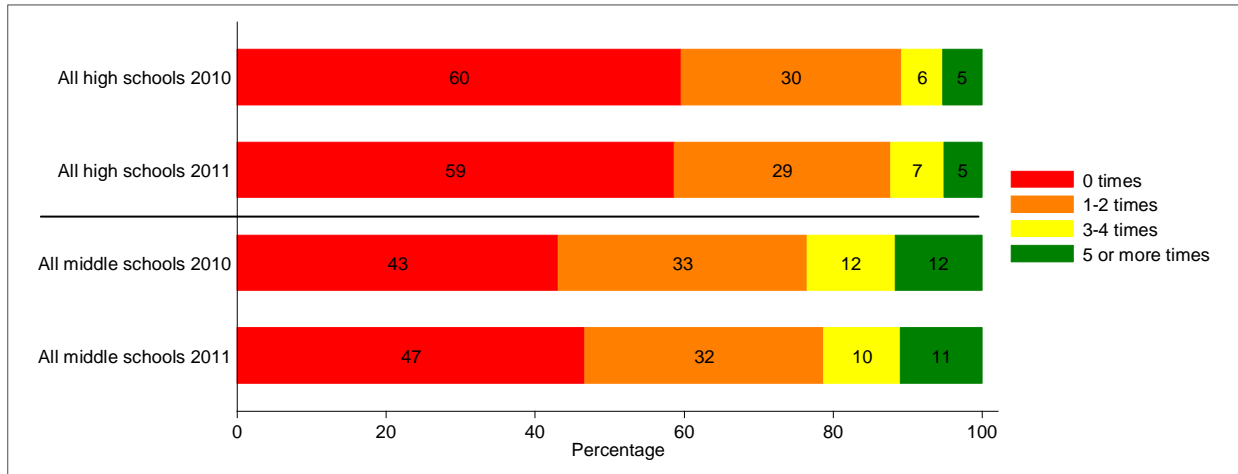
Q20: During this school year, have you attended any class while “high”, “stoned”, or “drunk” on any substance?



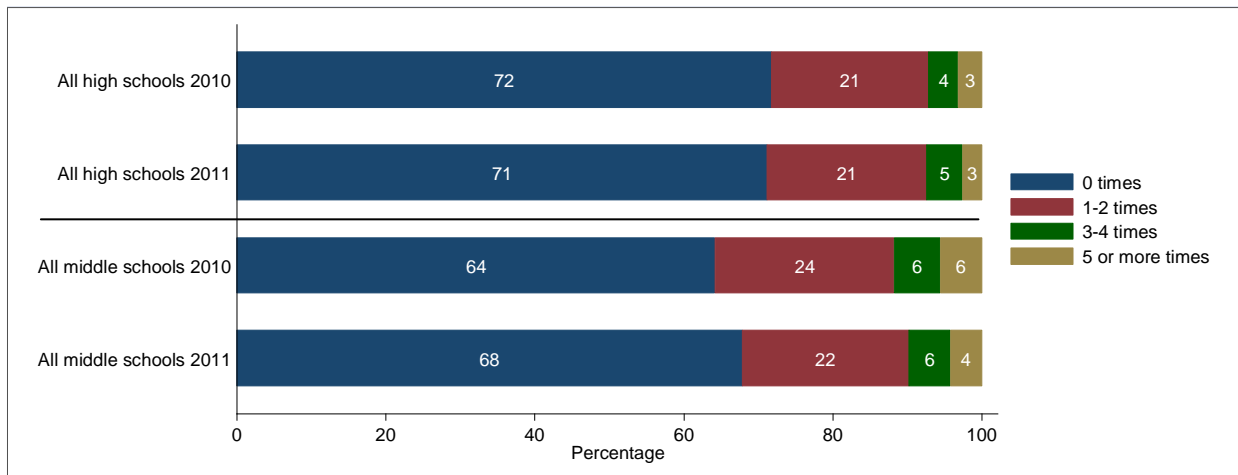
Q25: Within the past year, has your parent/guardian talked with you about the dangers of tobacco, alcohol, or drug use?



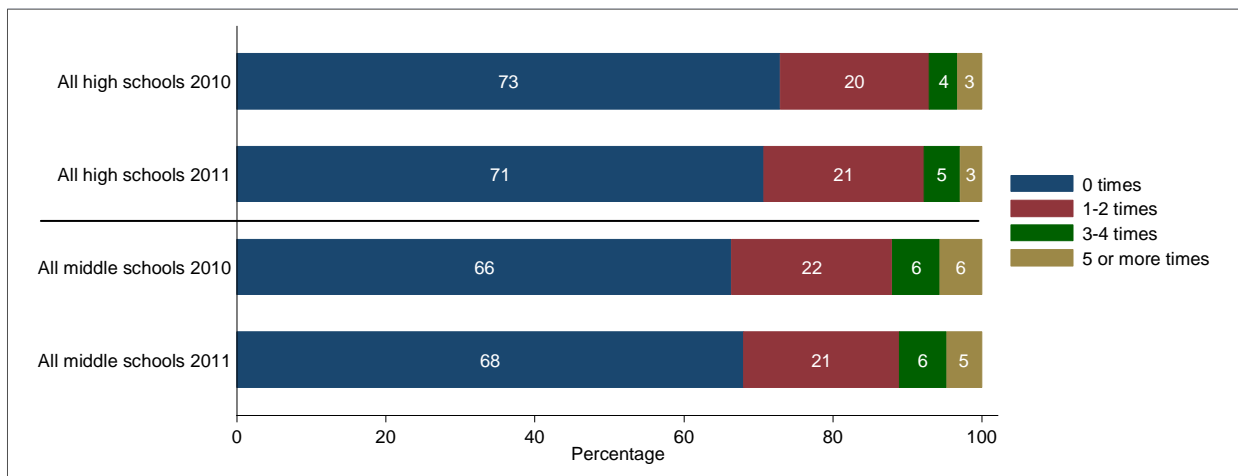
Q28a. During the school year, how many times have you experienced classes in which you learned and practiced ways of resisting and avoiding substance abuse?



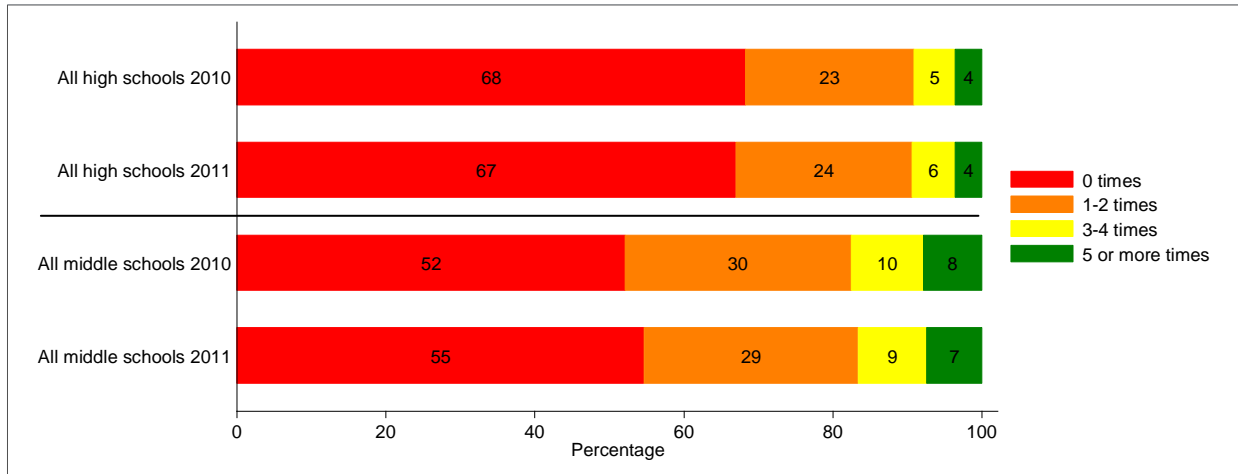
Q28b. During the school year, how many times have you experienced presentations by people who recovered from alcohol and drug abuse?



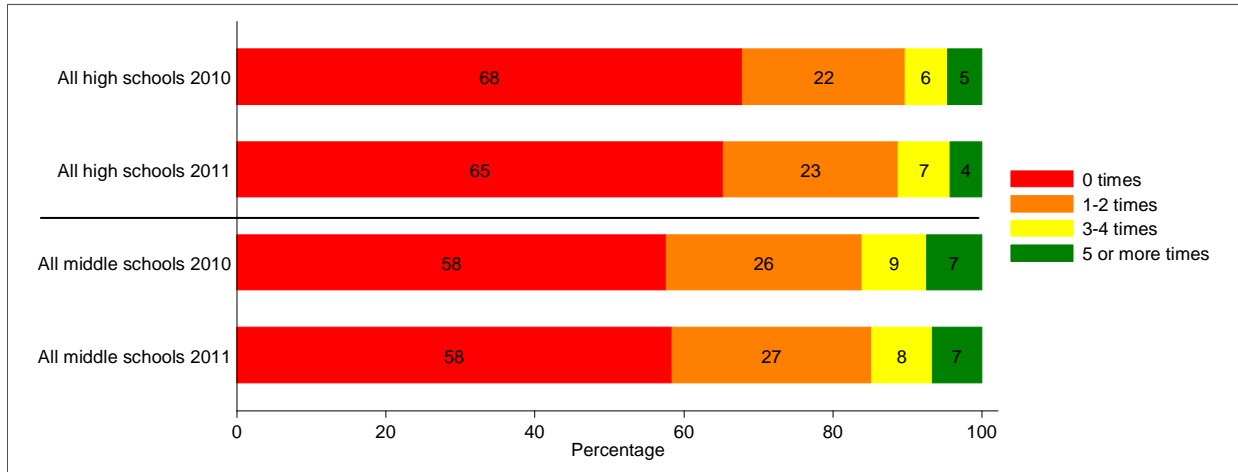
Q28c. During the school year, how many times have you experienced presentations by students who tell about how to avoid substance abuse?



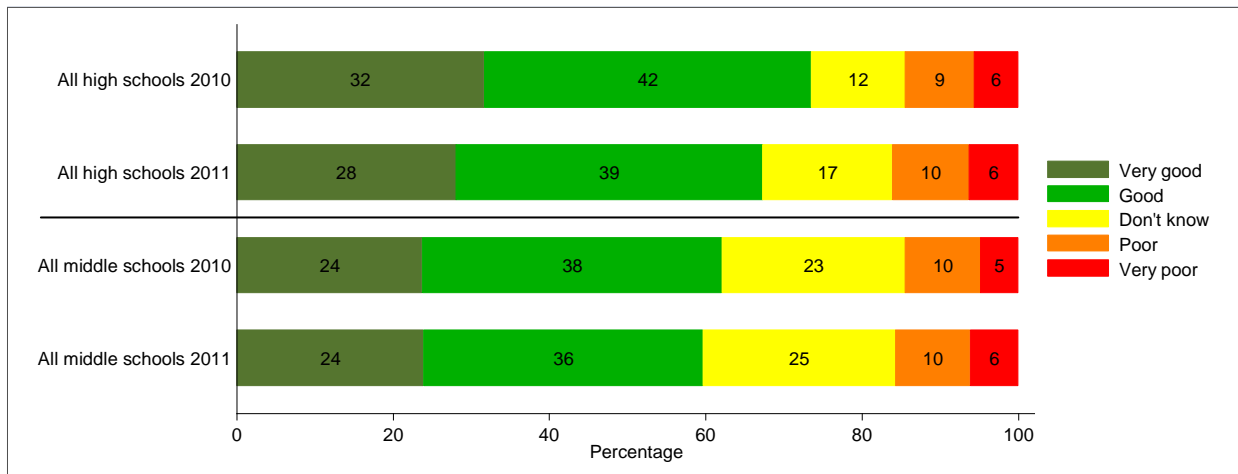
Q28d. During the school year, how many times have you received information about counseling or services to help kids quit smoking and stop substance abuse?



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



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



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