
Anti- Bullying Survey 2014

Anoka-Hennepin
School District

Prepared by Research,
Evaluation and Testing



What is the Anti-Bullying Survey?

The Anti-Bullying Survey is a survey administered to a random sample of students in grades 4, 6, 8, and 10 annually, as of 2012. In previous years, the survey was given every other year. As part of the on-going district commitment to eliminate bullying and harassing behaviors, raise awareness of these issues and better equip students to effectively deal with these unsolicited and unwanted occurrences, this survey is given in conjunction with Bullying Prevention Week along with other activities.

The Anti-Bullying Survey addresses 7 primary means of bullying:

During the past month, other students....

1. Hit, pushed, or kicked me on purpose
2. Said mean things, teased me, or called me names
3. Did not include me in what they were doing
4. Took things that belonged to me
5. Threatened to hurt me or take things
6. Touched, grabbed, or pinched me in a way that made me feel uncomfortable
7. Bullied me through the computer, cell phone, or other electronic device

Each item was rated on a 4 point scale: (1) never, (2) sometimes, (3) often, (4) every day.

Other questions were included to understand students' perceptions of why they were bullied, their responses to these bullying situations, where these bullying situations occurred, and students' general perceptions of safety in and around school.

A bully is defined in the survey as "A person who does mean things on purpose to hurt or embarrass you or someone else. The bully does these mean things over and over, not just once."

Who took the Anti-Bullying Survey?

Students in 4th, 6th, 8th, and 10th grades from the Anoka-Hennepin School District participate in the Anti-Bullying Survey. In 2014, more than 5,500 students completed the survey. Exactly 50% of the students were female and 50% of the students were males. Based on self-reporting, 67.9% of the participants were White, 9.1% were Multi-racial, 7.9% were Black, 6.3% were Asian/Pacific Islander, 3.6% were Hispanic, 2.0% were American Indian, and 3.2% did not respond to this question.

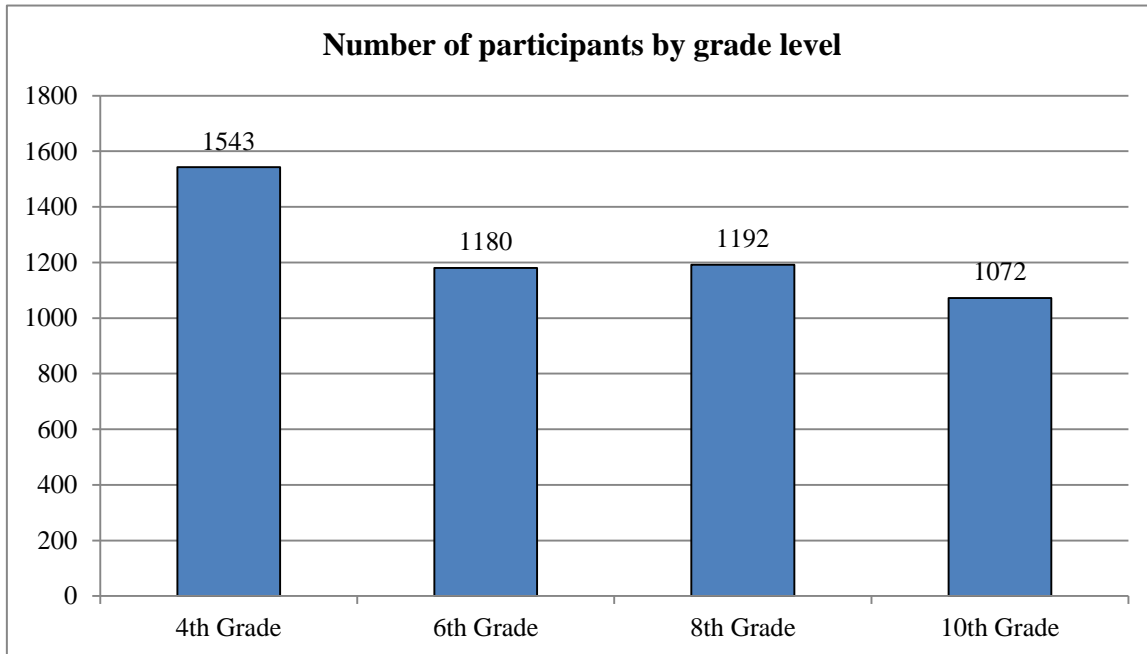


Figure 1. Number of participants by grade level.

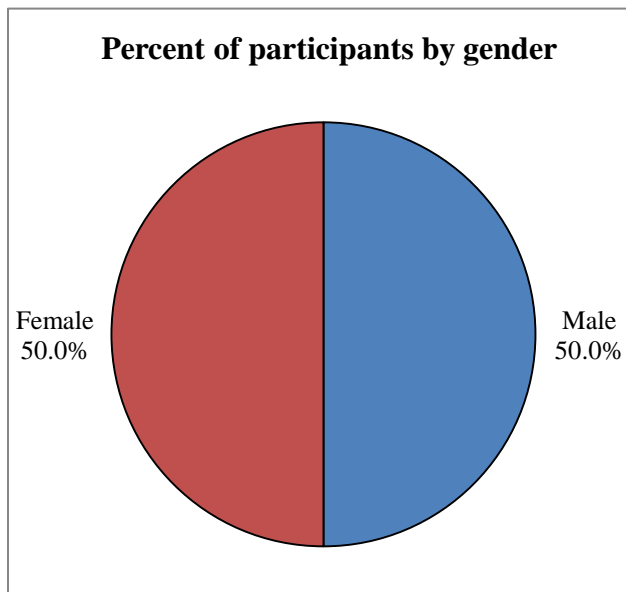


Figure 2. Percent of participants by gender.

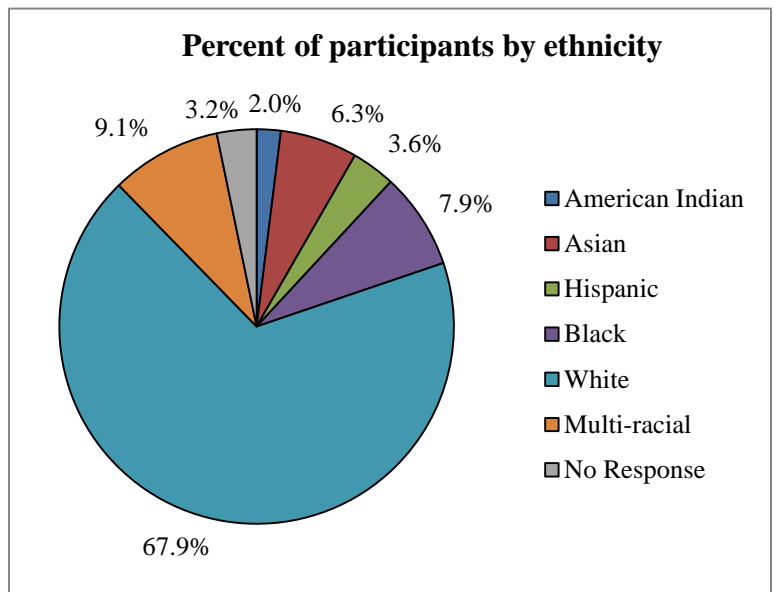


Figure 3. Percent of participants by ethnicity.

What are the key findings?

- The majority of students report not being bullied or only being bullied sometimes in the past month. This trend has remained steady over time.
- The percent of students reporting being bullied every day has stayed consistently low over time. The percent of students who report bullying others is down from 2013.
- Most students that reported bullying indicated it was through other students saying mean things, teasing them, or calling them names. While fewer students are reporting experiencing this than in 2012, over time, this is consistently the highest reported behavior.
- In general, secondary students reported lower incidence of bullying than elementary students with the exception of bullying through an electronic device or over the internet where the pattern reversed.
- Multi-racial students reported experiencing significantly more bullying behaviors than Hispanic, Black, and White student groups.
- Students most commonly reported that they have been bullied because of their looks, ability, or race/ethnicity.
 - Consistent with 2013 data, 48% of the students who reported they have been bullied reported they were bullied because of their looks. This is significantly lower than two years ago (59%).
 - Twenty percent of the students who reported they have been bullied reported they were bullied because of their ability, up slightly from 19% in 2013.
 - Approximately 17% of the students who reported they have been bullied for at least one reason reported they were bullied because of their race/ethnicity.
 - Consistent with previous years, female students were significantly more likely to report that they were bullied because of their appearance and gender than male students.
- Overall, students reported that they were most likely to be bullied in the hallways (decreased from 2013), in the classrooms (increased from 2013), on the bus (decreased slightly from 2013), on the playground (increased slightly from 2013), or on the internet/electronic devices (decreased from 2013). All areas are trending down from 2012 except playground/recess which was about the same.
 - Elementary school students (grade 4) were more likely to indicate that they were bullied on the playground, on the bus, in their neighborhood, and at the bus stop.
 - Secondary school students (grades 6, 8, and 10) were more likely to indicate that they were bullied in the classroom, in the hallways, and on the internet/electronic devices.
- Reporting of bullying to someone decreased slightly from 2013 to 2014 except for “I told an adult at school” which increased slightly. Students were more likely to ignore bullies, tell bullies to stop, tell a parent/guardian, or walk away, rather than to tell an adult within their school.
- Reports of feeling safe increased in every location on school property except for at recess/on the playground for grade 4 students which dropped from 70% in 2013 to 46% in 2014. Feelings of safety reported on the bus and going to or from school decreased slightly from 2013 to 2014.

Reports of bullying behavior

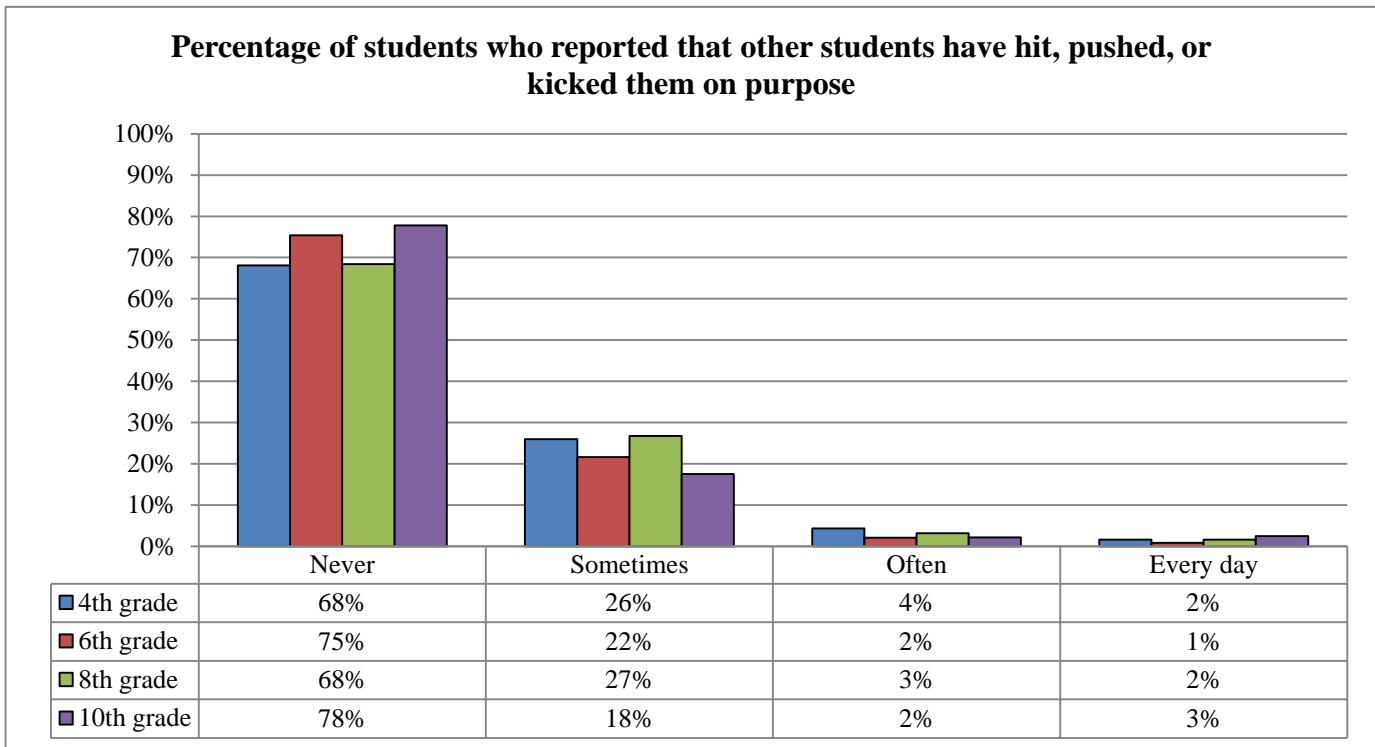


Figure 4. Percentages of students who reported that other students have hit, pushed, or kicked them on purpose by grade level.

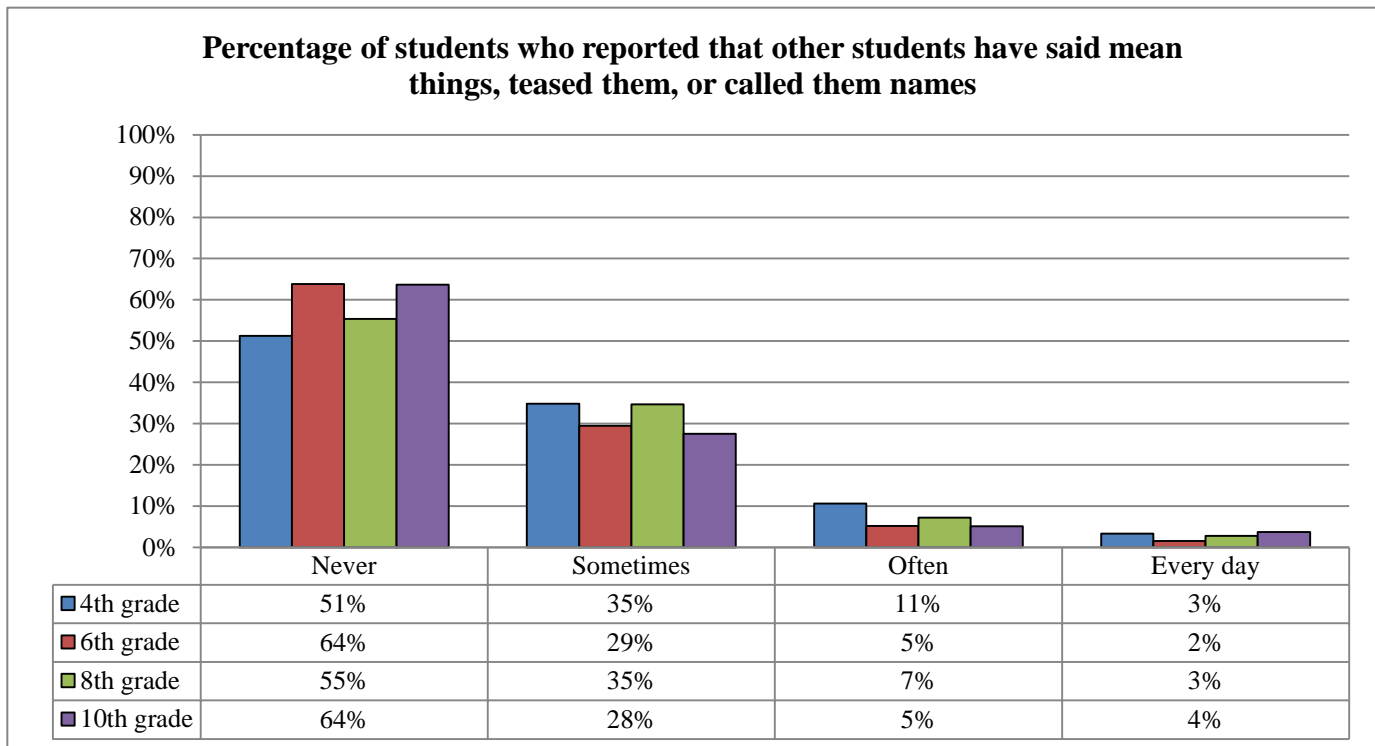


Figure 5. Percentages of students who reported that other students have said mean things, teased them, or called them names by grade level.

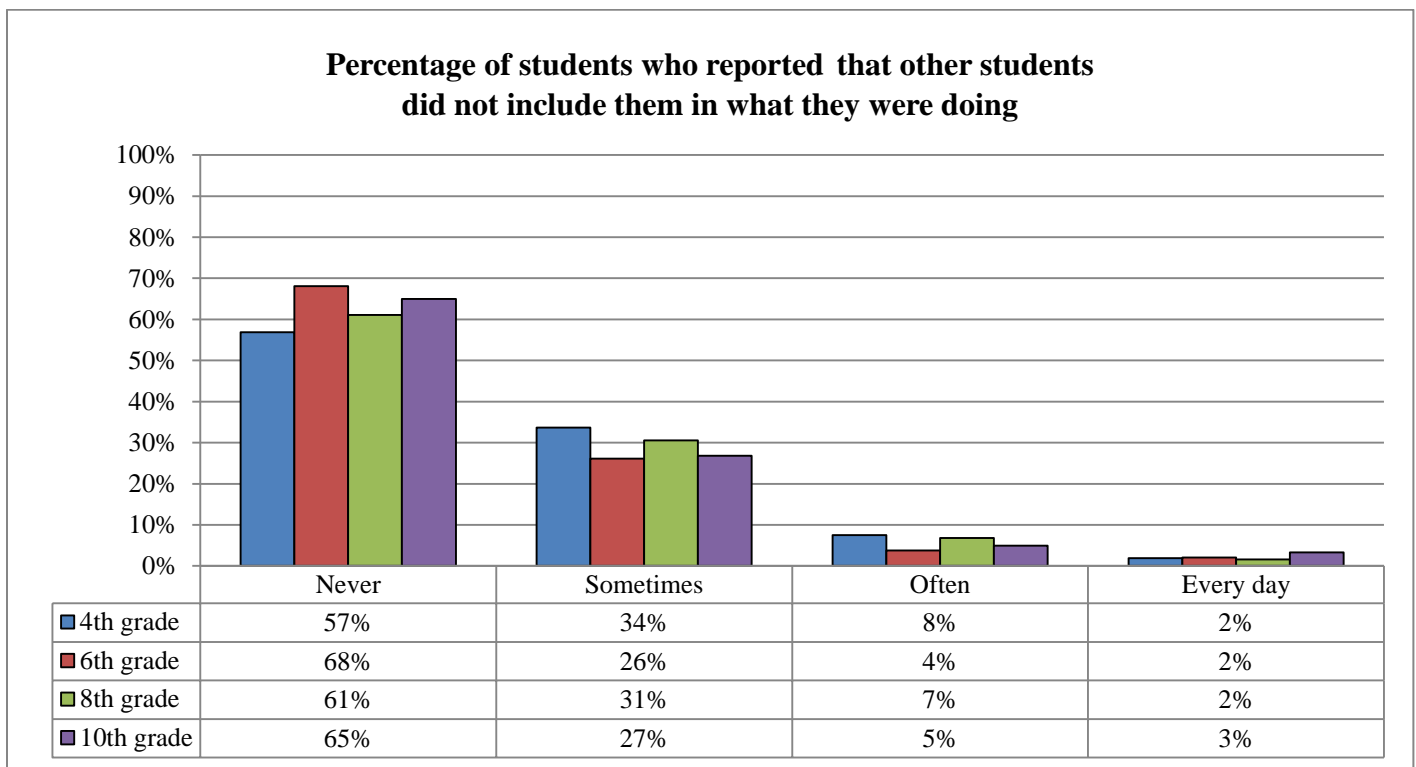


Figure 6. Percentages of students who reported that other students did not include them in what they were doing by grade level.

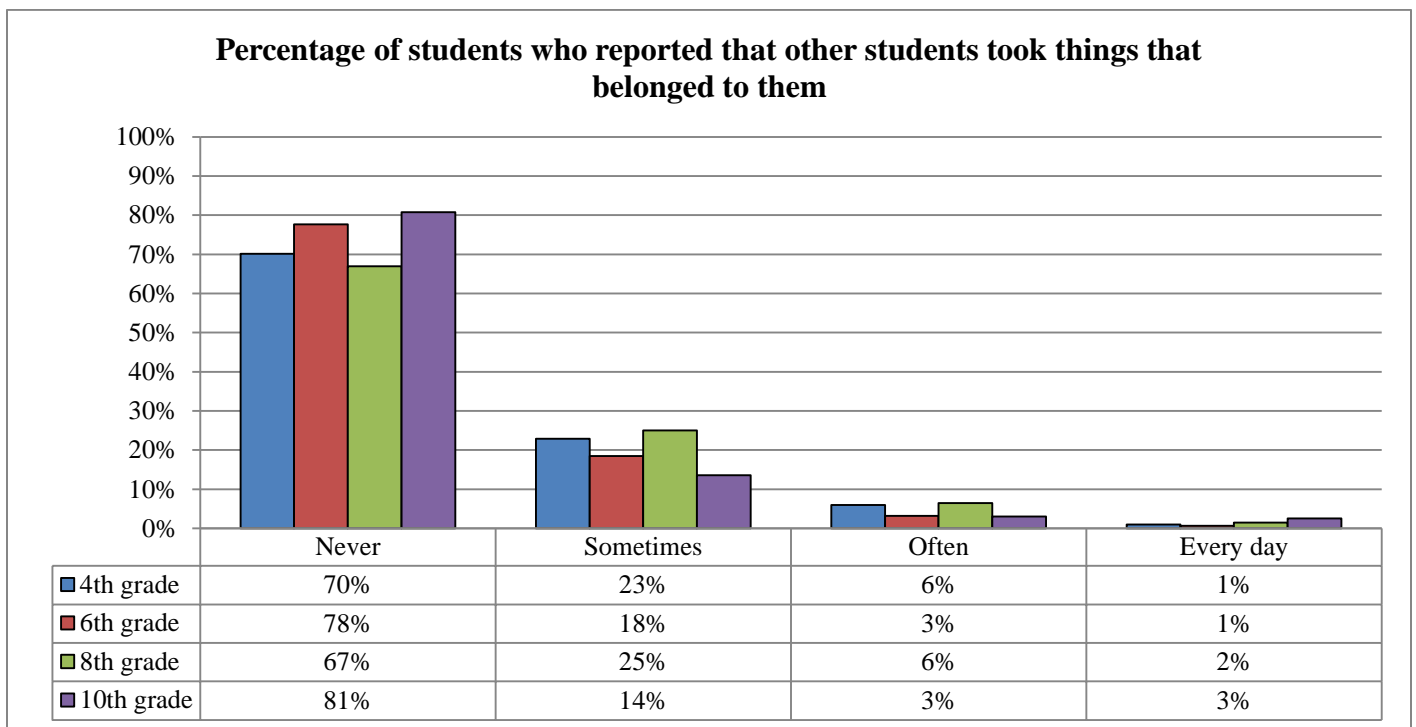


Figure 7. Percentages of students who reported that other students took things that belonged to them by grade level.

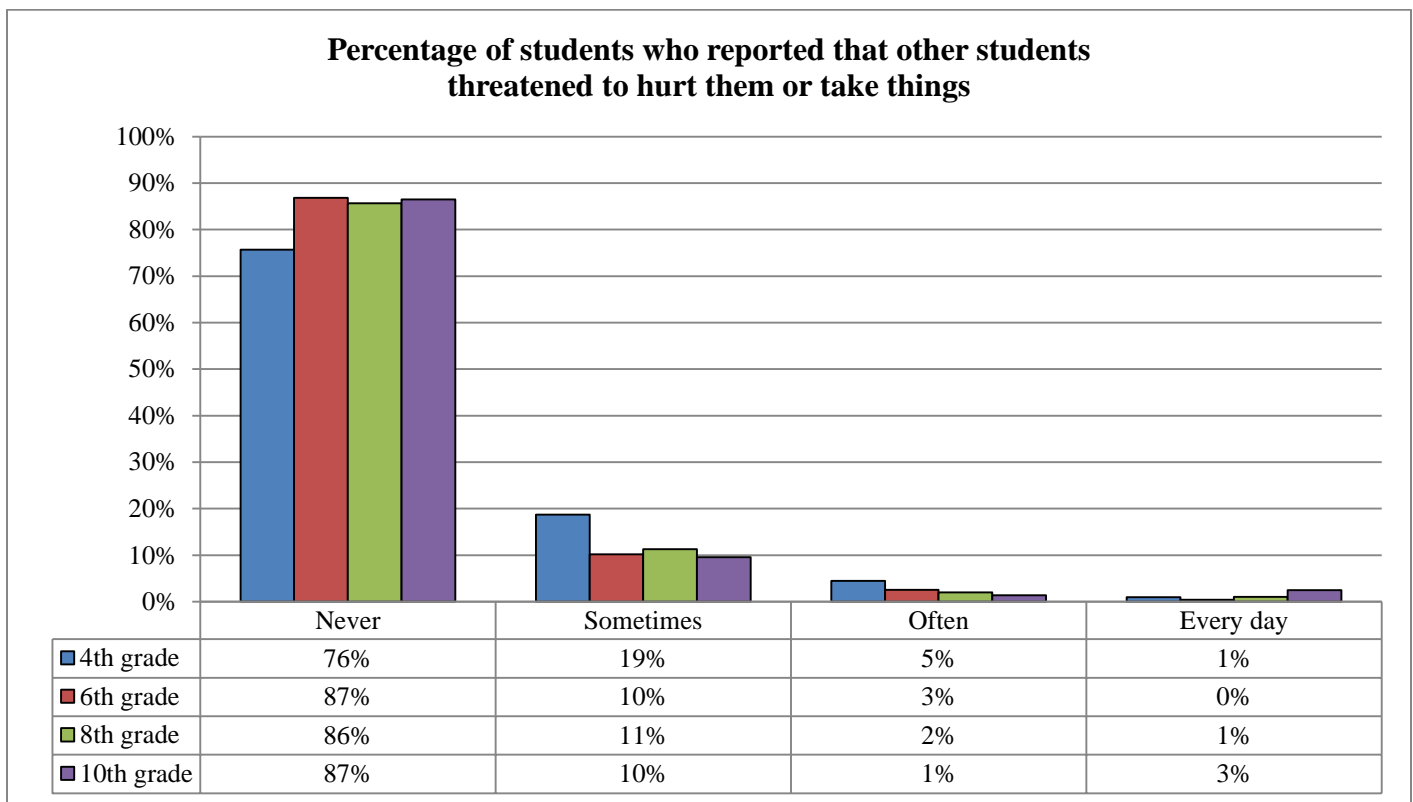


Figure 8. Percentages of students who reported that other students threatened to hurt them or take things by grade level.

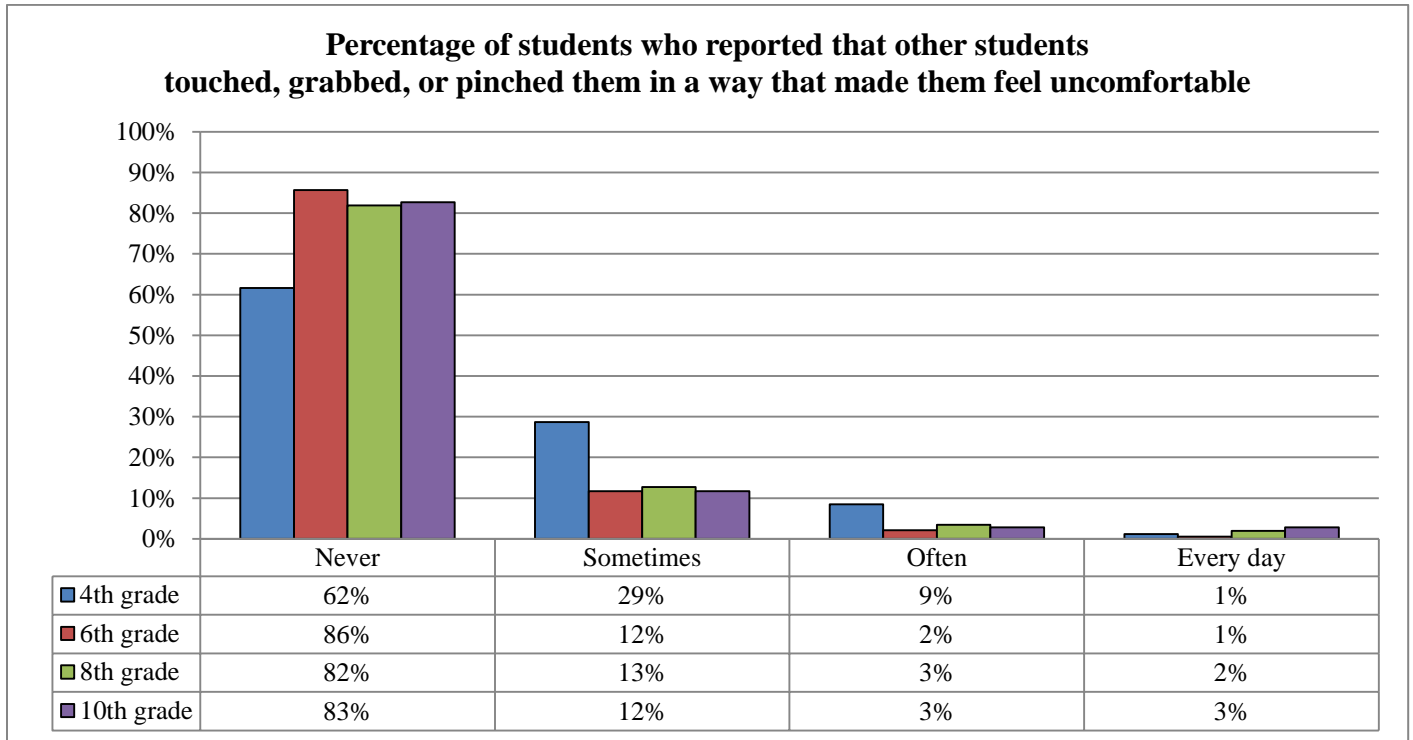


Figure 9. Percentages of students who reported that other students touched, grabbed, or pinched them in a way that made them feel uncomfortable by grade level.

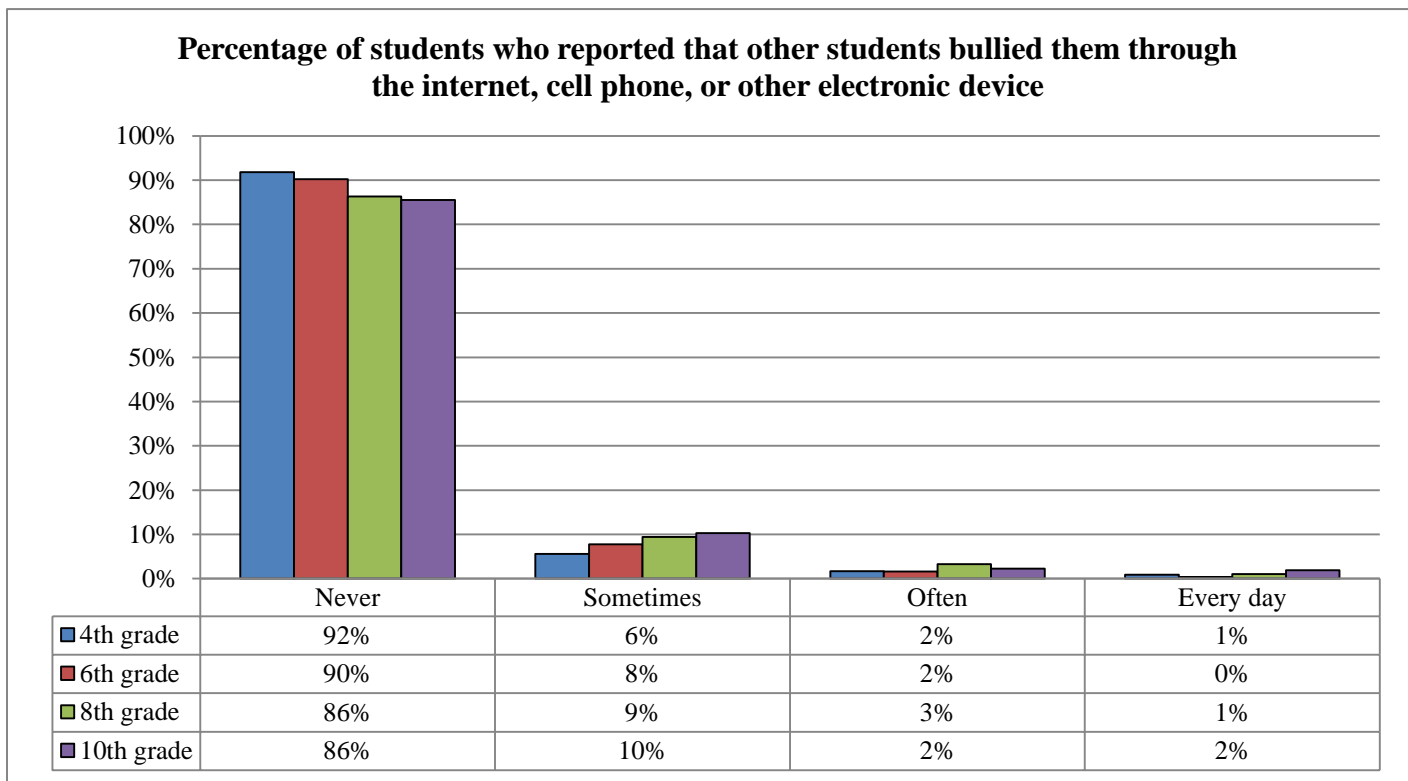


Figure 10. Percentages of students who reported that other students bullied them through the internet, cell phone, or other electronic device by grade level.

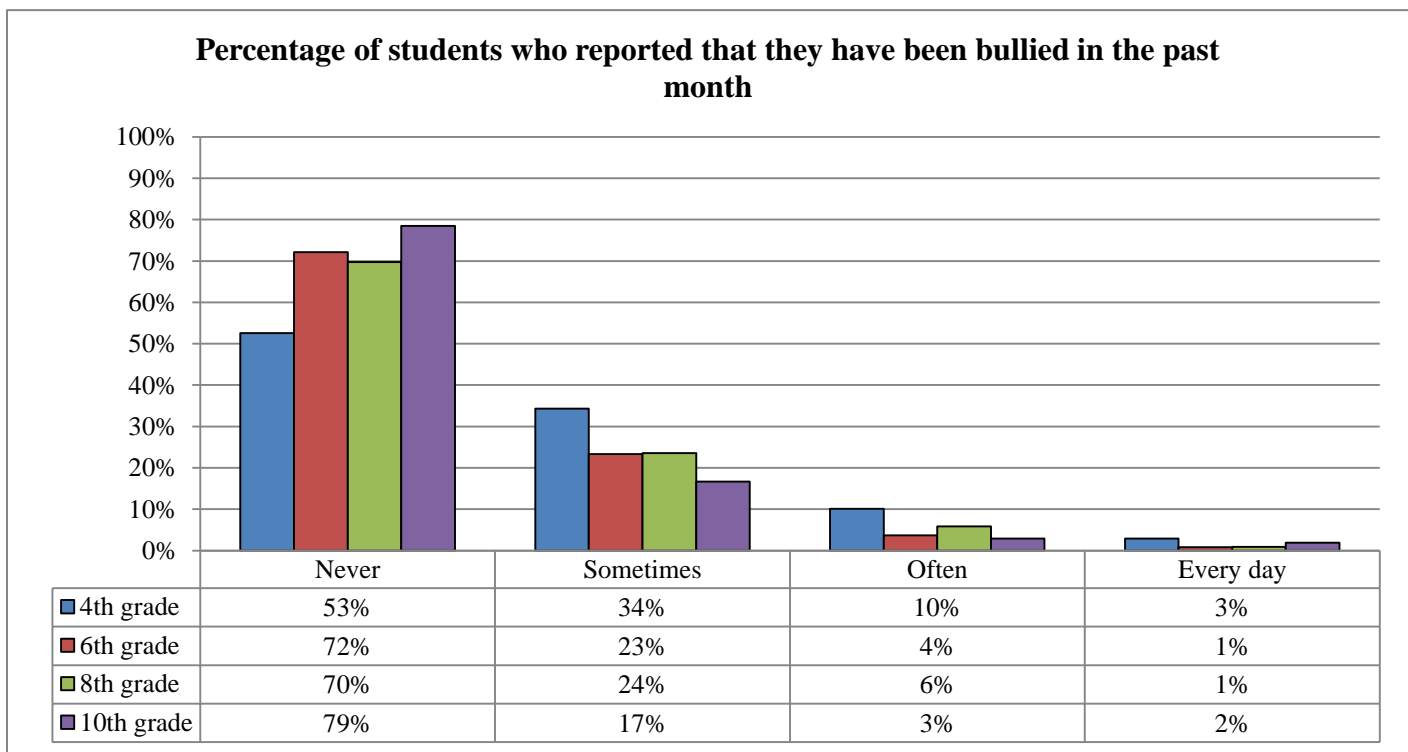


Figure 11. Percentages of students who reported that other students bullied them in the past month by grade level.

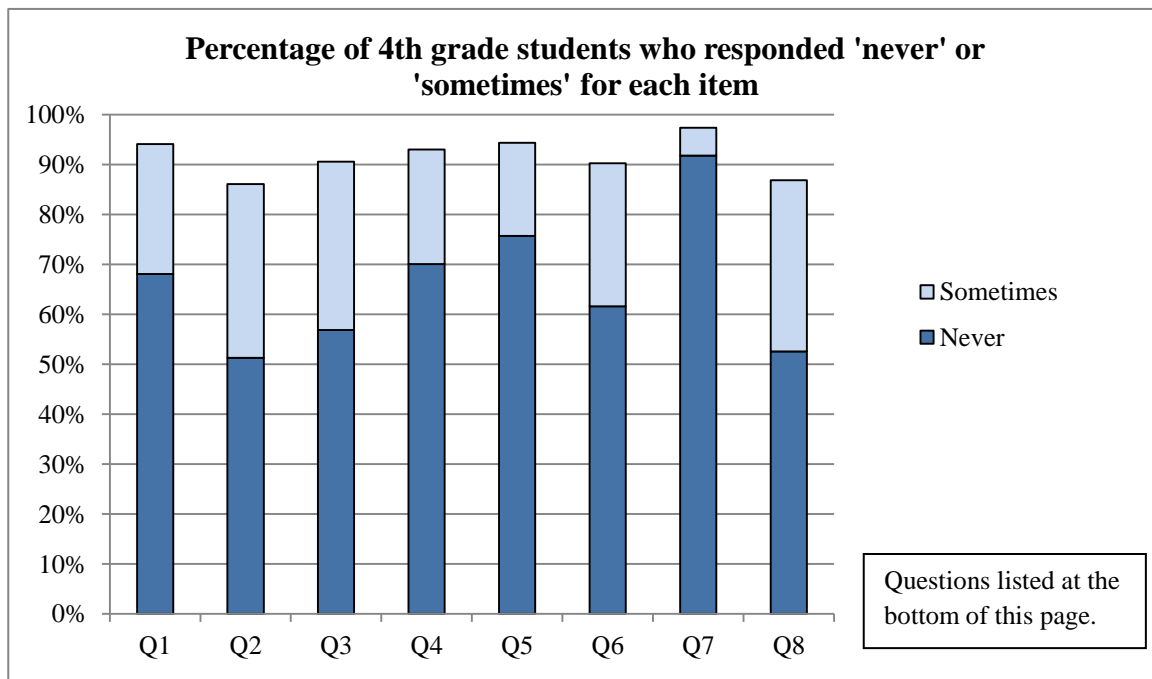


Figure 12. 4th grade responses for each survey item. Other response options included “often” and “every day”.

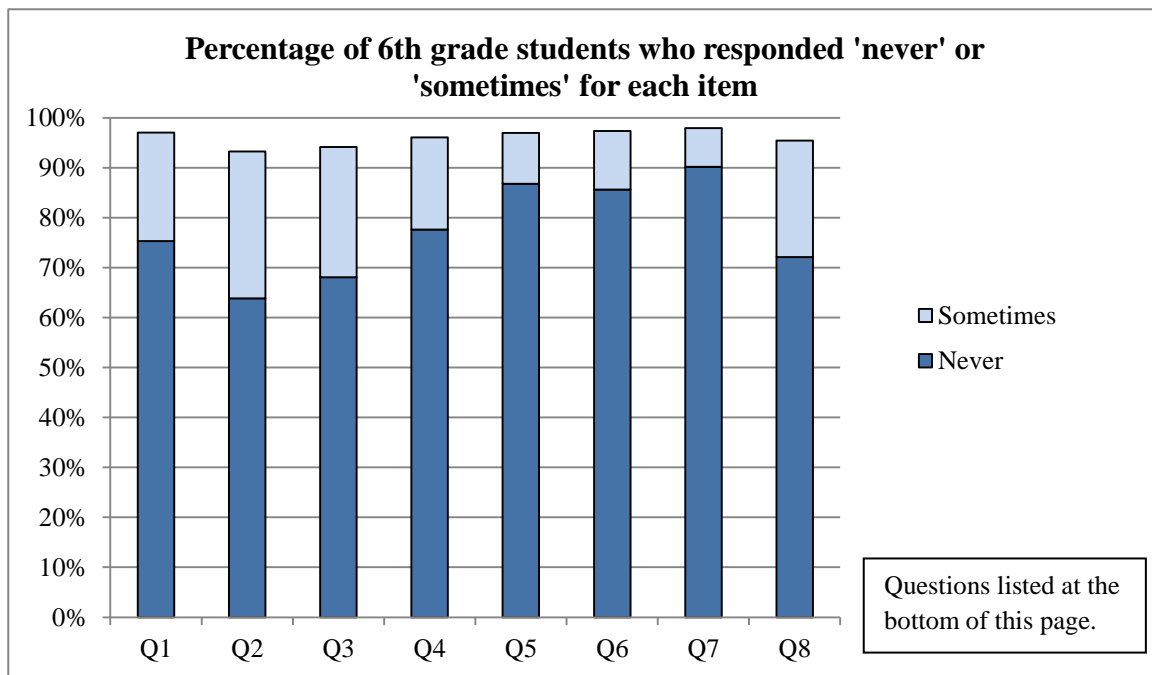


Figure 13. 6th grade responses for each survey item. Other response options included “often” and “every day”.

Survey items: During the past month, other students:

- Q1. Hit, pushed, or kicked me on purpose
- Q2. Said mean things, teased me, or called me names
- Q3. Did not include me in what they were doing
- Q4. Took things that belonged to me
- Q5. Threatened to hurt me or take things
- Q6. Touched, grabbed, or pinched me in a way that made me feel uncomfortable
- Q7. Bullied me through the computer, cell phone, or other electronic device
- Q8. Overall, how often have you been bullied in the past month?

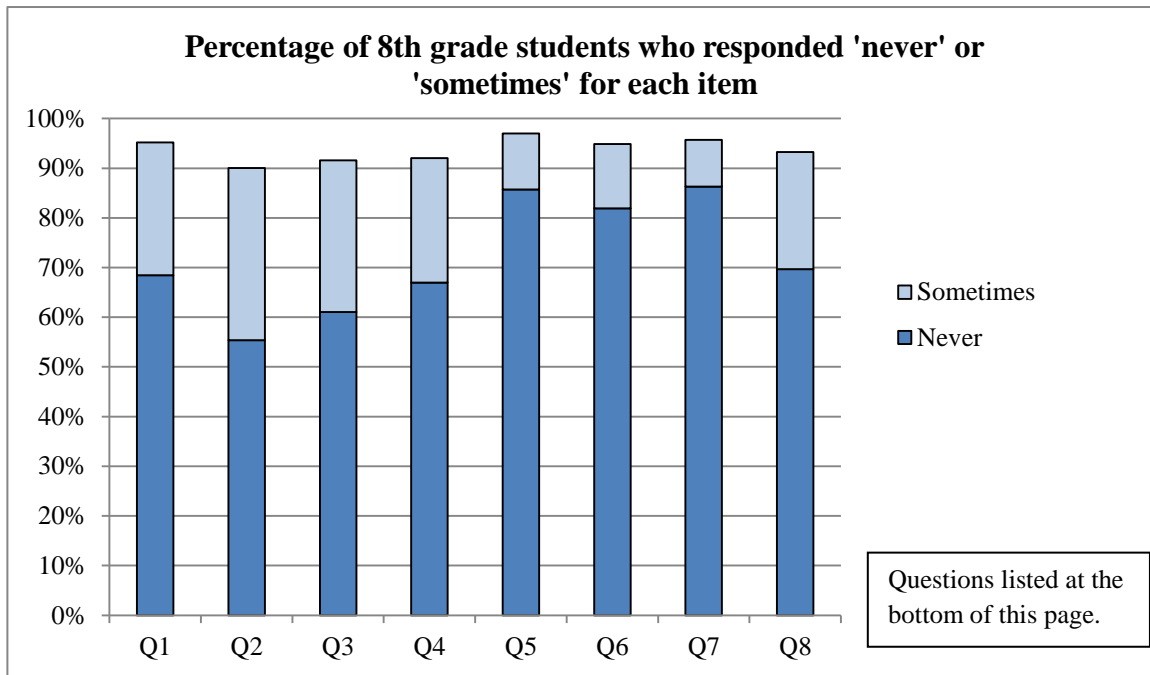


Figure 14. 8th grade responses for each survey item. Other response options included “often” and “every day”.

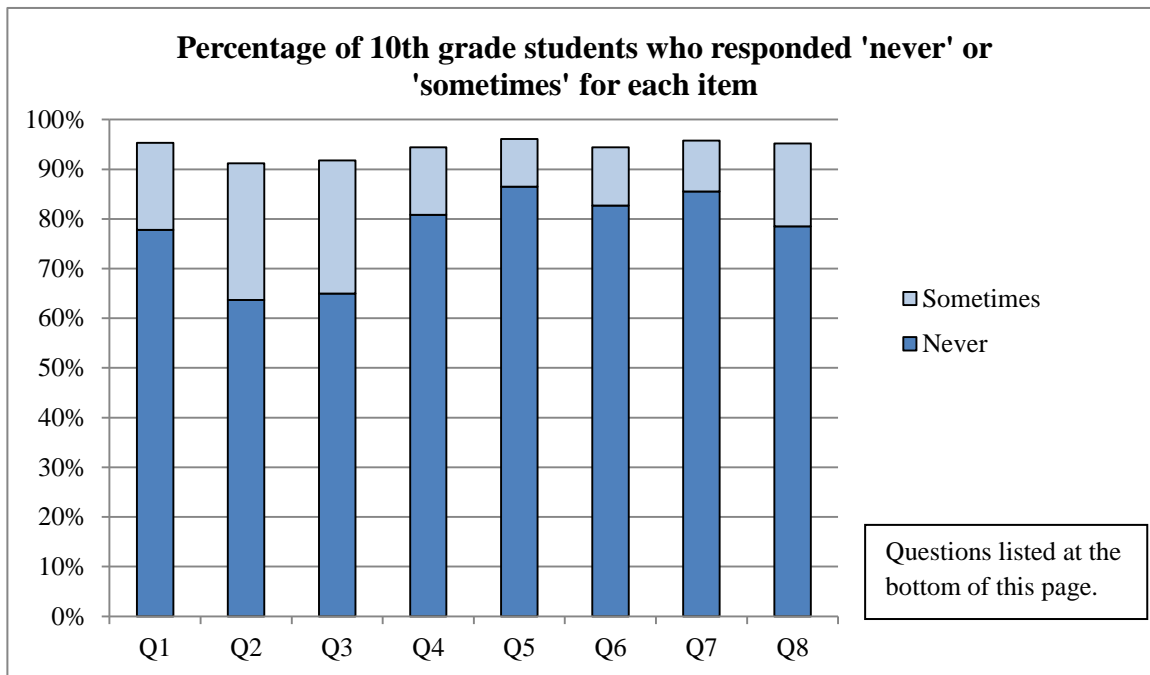


Figure 15. 10th grade responses for each survey item. Other response options included “often” and “every day”.

Survey items: During the past month, other students:

- Q1. Hit, pushed, or kicked me on purpose
- Q2. Said mean things, teased me, or called me names
- Q3. Did not include me in what they were doing
- Q4. Took things that belonged to me
- Q5. Threatened to hurt me or take things
- Q6. Touched, grabbed, or pinched me in a way that made me feel uncomfortable
- Q7. Bullied me through the computer, cell phone, or other electronic device
- Q8. Overall, how often have you been bullied in the past month?

Bullying behaviors by ethnicity

Below are findings based on comparisons between each ethnic group across questions.

- When asked, “Overall, how often have you been bullied?”, Black students reported being bullied in the past month at lower rates than other student groups. Multi-racial students reported higher frequencies of being bullied. More specifically, they reported statistically significantly higher rates than Hispanic, Black, and White student groups. American Indian and Asian students did not differ significantly from any other student group.
- Multi-racial students reported experiencing three of the seven bullying behaviors (listed in the bullet below) significantly more frequently in comparison to one of the other ethnic groups.
 - Multi-racial students experienced: not being included significantly more frequently than Hispanic students, students taking things from them significantly more frequently than White students, and being touched in a way that made them feel uncomfortable significantly more frequently than White students.
- There were no significant differences across ethnicities in terms of how often other students hit, pushed or kicked them; said mean things to them, teased them, or called them names; threatened to hurt them or take their things; and bullied them through the internet, cell phone, or other electronic device.

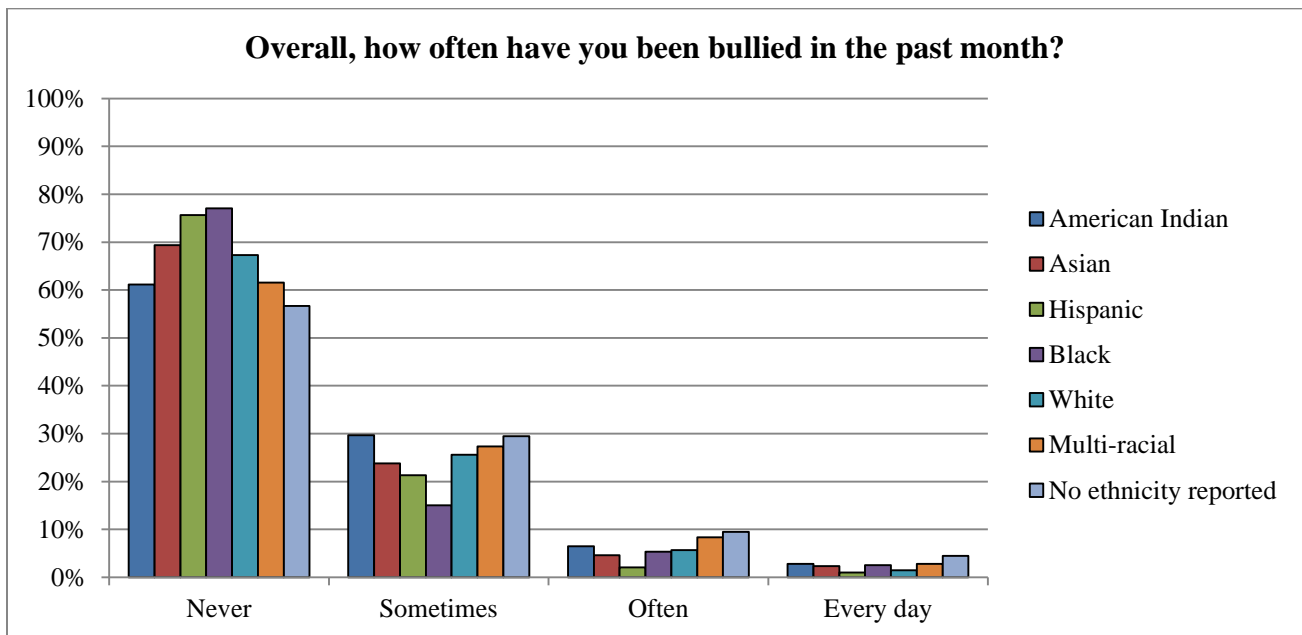


Figure 16. Percentages of students who reported that other students bullied them in the past month by ethnicity.

“If you were bullied, what do you think was the reason?”

(Students were instructed to select all responses that applied)

- Of the total number of students who completed the survey, 4% of students did not respond to this item, while 57% of students reported that they “have not been bullied”. The following statistics pertain to the 40% of students who selected at least one reason for being bullied.
- Of the students who responded to this survey item that they had been bullied, approximately 48% reported that they were bullied because of their looks. Female students (48%) were more likely to report that they were bullied because of their looks than male students (36%).
- A similar trend is found for the 12% of the students who reported that they were bullied because of their gender. Female students (16%) were more likely than male students (7%) to report that they were bullied because of their gender.

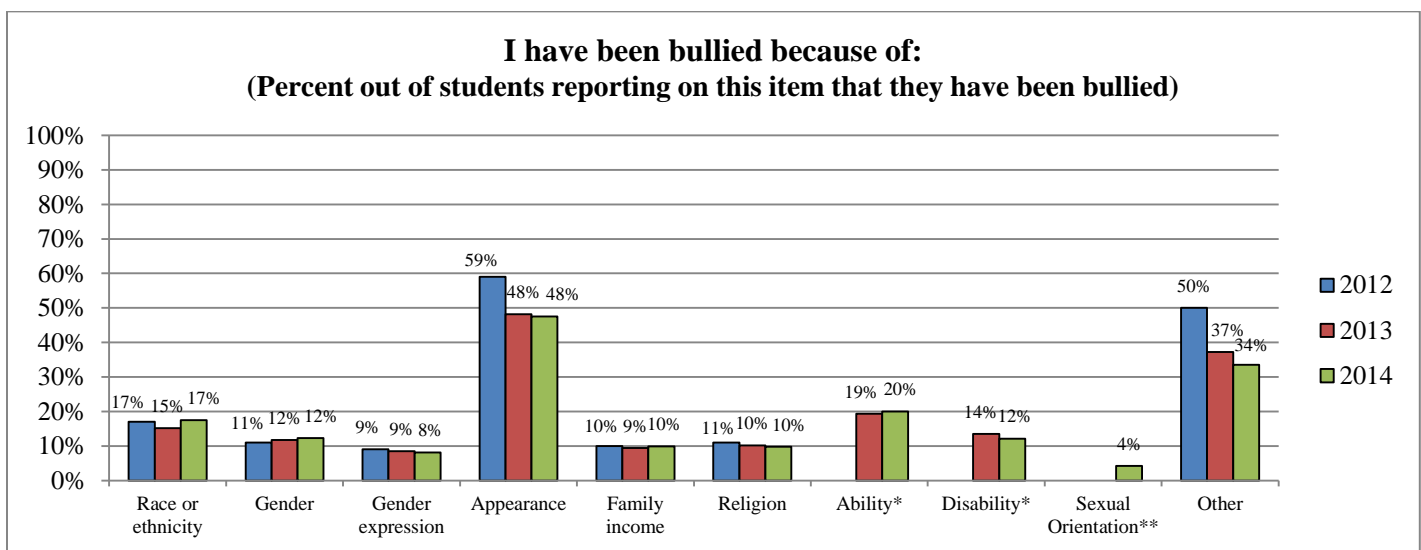


Figure 17. Students’ perceptions of why they were bullied. *Indicates this was not a response option in 2012. In 2012, these choices appeared as the option ‘Ability/disability’, with 18% of students selecting this option. ** Sexual orientation was a new response option for secondary students only in 2014. Note: For the “other” responses, students were provided the opportunity to include other reasons of why they were bullied. From these open-ended responses, the top three responses included: (1) height or weight, (2) personality or how they act, and (3) who they hang out with.

By Gender

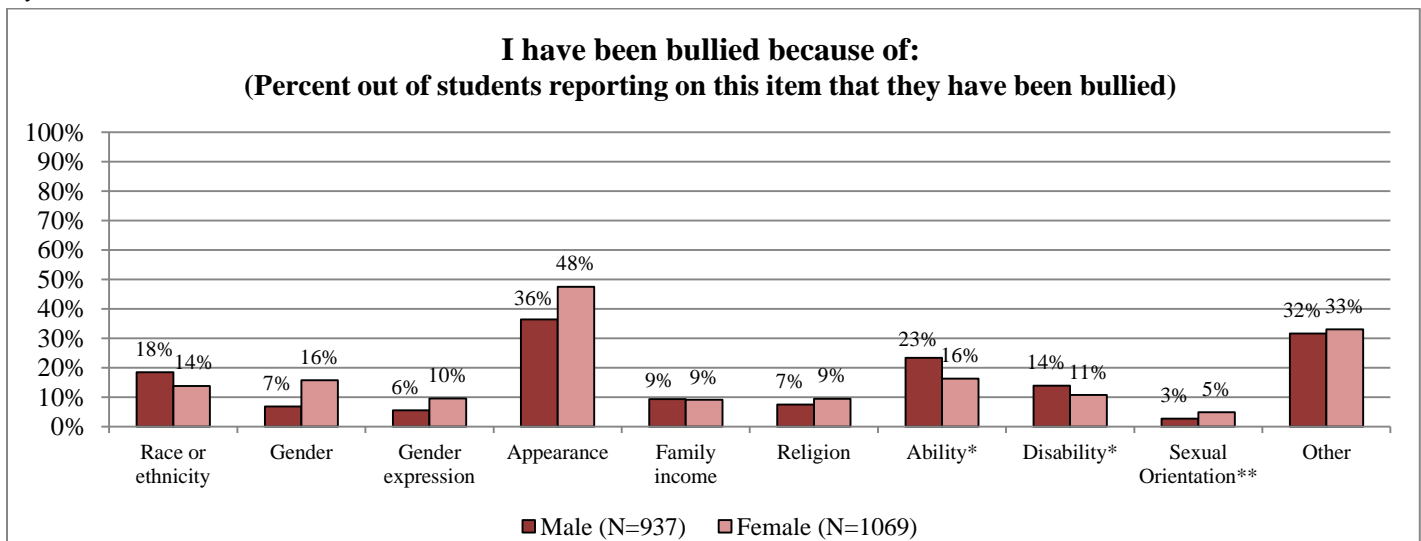


Figure 18. Students’ perceptions of why they were bullied broken down by gender. N= number of students reporting at least one reason for being bullied. *Indicates this was not a response option in 2012. In 2012, these choices appeared as the option ‘Ability/disability’, with 18% of students selecting this option. ** Sexual orientation was a new response option in 2014. Note: This does not include the students who did not indicate their gender (903 students).

By Ethnicity

- Below are the percent of students within each ethnic category who reported being bullied for each reason out of those within that ethnic category who reported at least one reason. (Figure 19 and 20 are a continuation of the list of reasons provided as options).

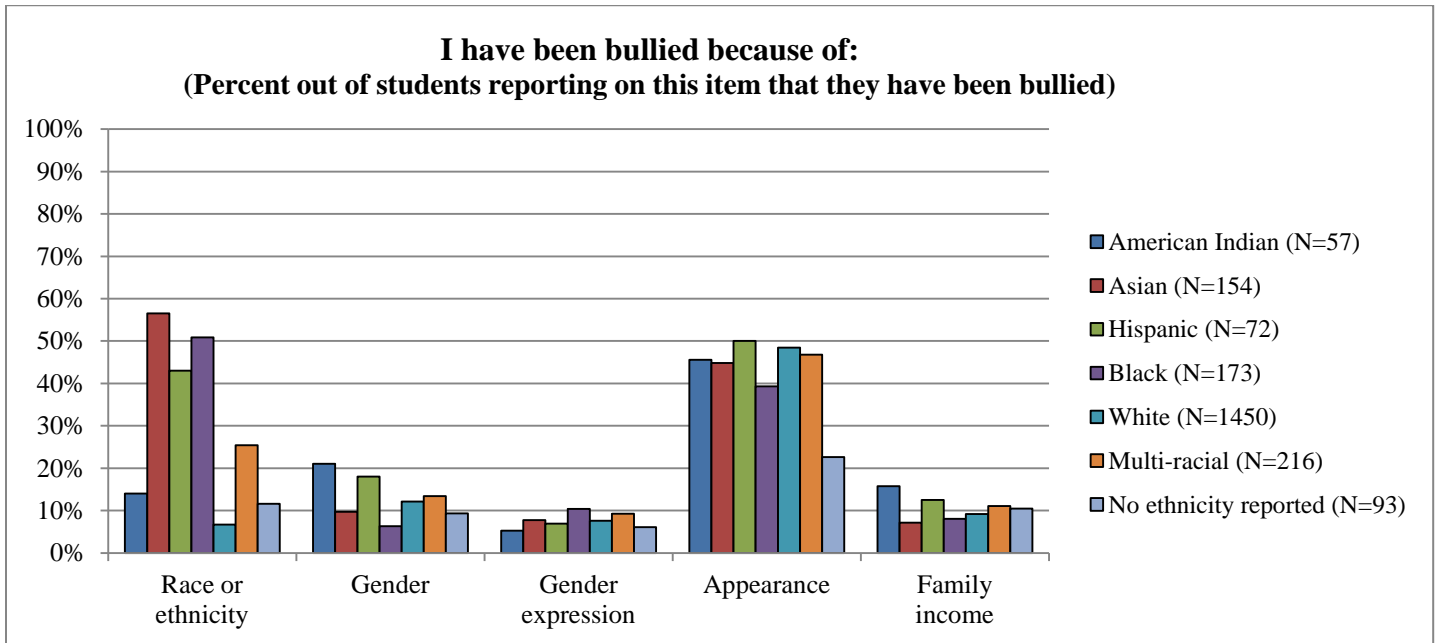


Figure 19. Students' perceptions of why they were bullied broken down by ethnicity. N= number of students reporting at least one reason for being bullied.

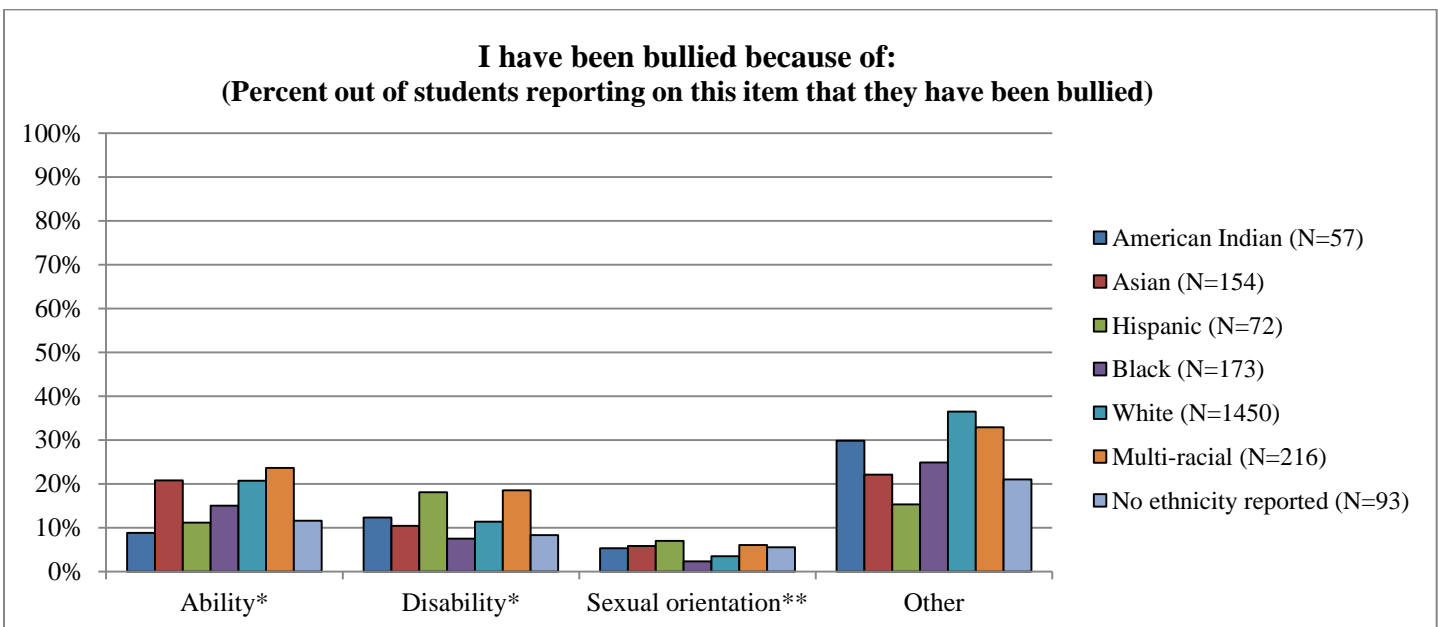


Figure 20. Students' perceptions of why they were bullied broken down by ethnicity. N= number of students reporting at least one reason for being bullied. *Indicates this was not a response option in 2012. In 2012, these choices appeared as the option 'Ability/disability'. ** Sexual orientation was a new response option in 2014.

“If you were bullied, where did it happen?”

(Students were instructed to select all responses that applied.)

- Three percent of students who took the survey did not respond to this item, while 54% responded that they “have not been bullied”.
- Of the students who reported being bullied in one of the select locations, 36% of the students reported that they were bullied in the hallways, down from 42% in 2013 and 47% in 2012. Secondary students (47%) were significantly more likely to report that they were bullied in the hallways than elementary students (18%).
- Furthermore, 35% of the students reported that they were bullied in the classrooms, up slightly from 33% in 2013 but down from 2012 (41%). Secondary students (41%) were more likely to report that they were bullied in the classrooms than elementary students (26%).
- Approximately 24% of students reported that they were bullied on the bus, down from 29% in 2012. Elementary students (27%) were more likely to indicate they were bullied on the bus than secondary students (23%).
- Just over 18% of the students reported that they were bullied on the internet or an electronic device, down from 23% in 2013. Secondary students (24%) were more likely to indicate that they were bullied on their devices than elementary students (8%).
- The remaining response options stayed relatively the same from last year to this year (locker room, gym, lunchroom, bathroom, recess/playground, bus stop, and neighborhood).

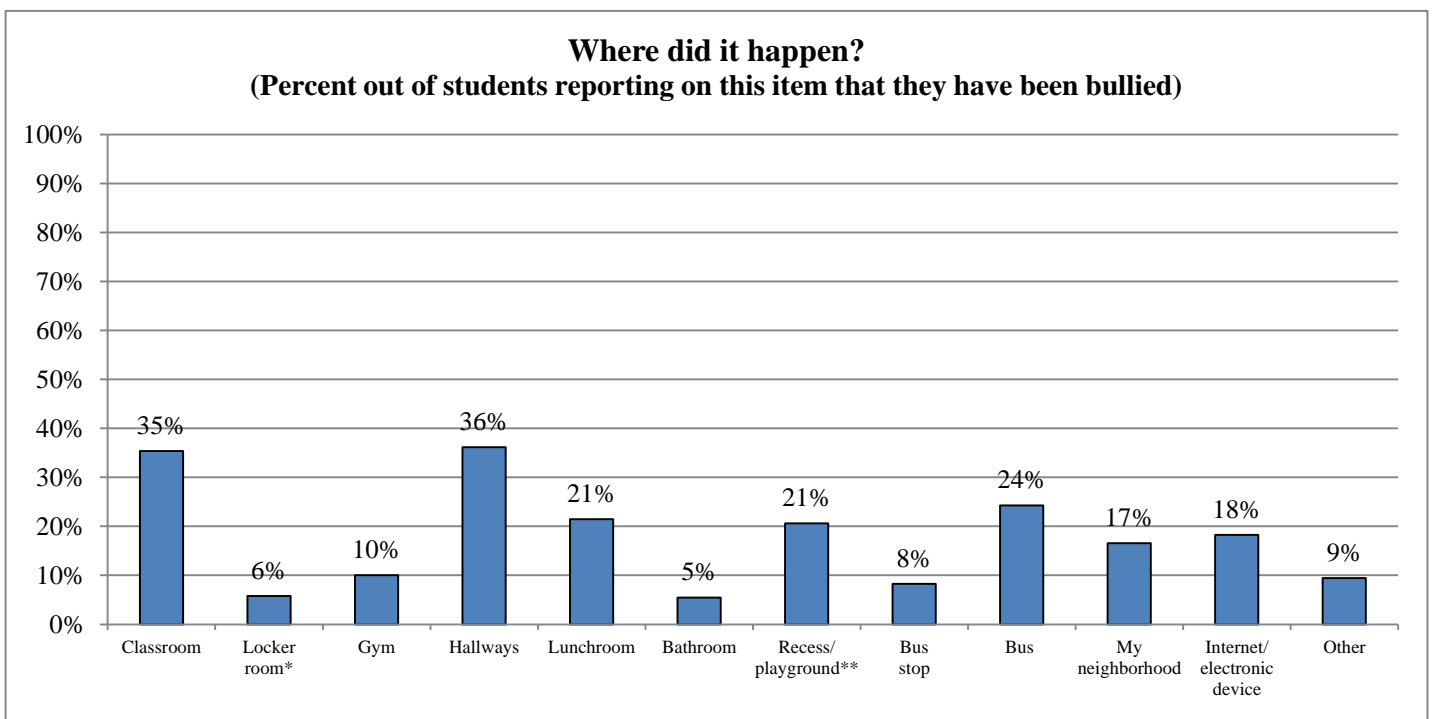


Figure 21. Location of bullying. *Indicates this was a response option for secondary students only. ** Indicates this was a response option for elementary students only.

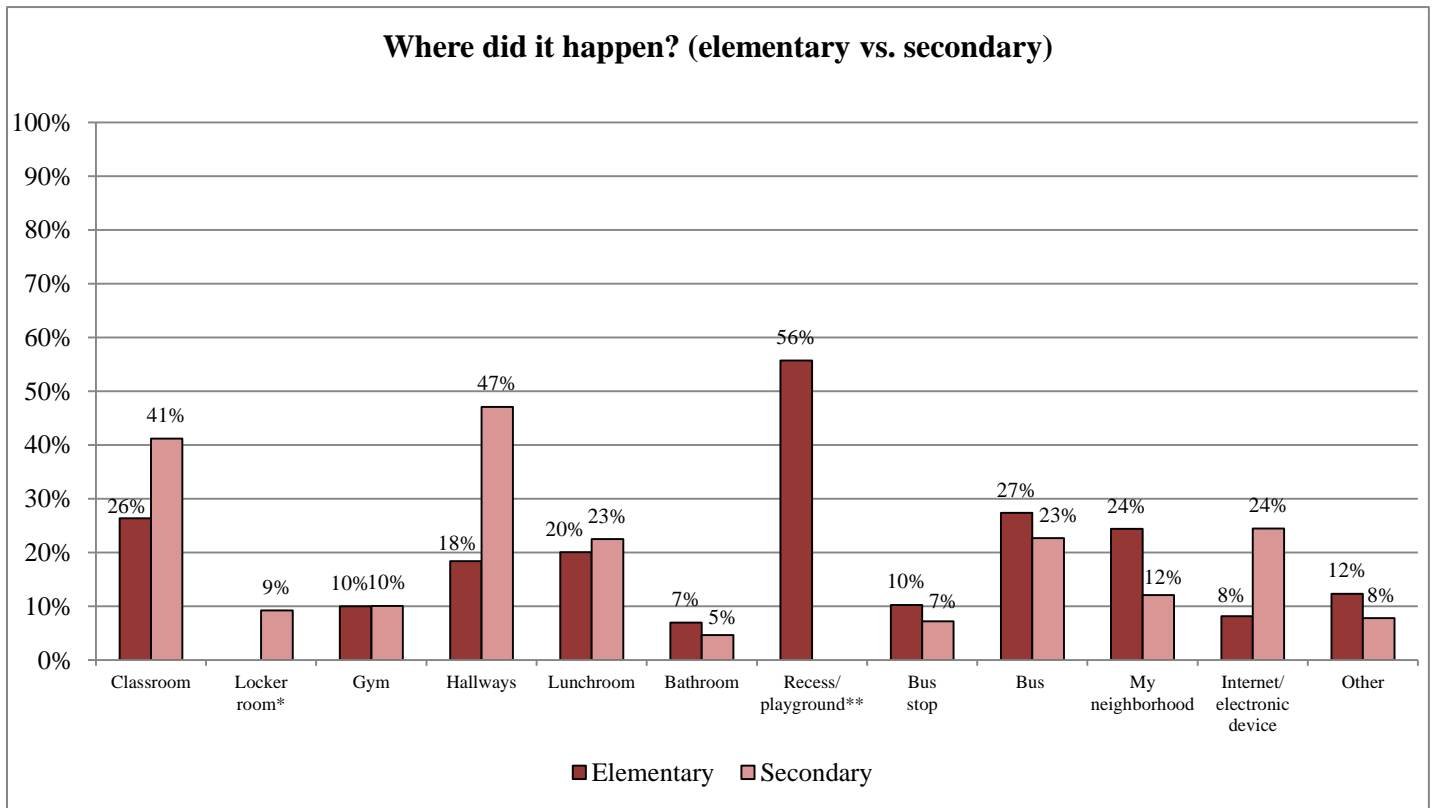


Figure 22. Location of bullying by level. * Indicates this was a response option for secondary students only. ** Indicates this was a response option for elementary students only.

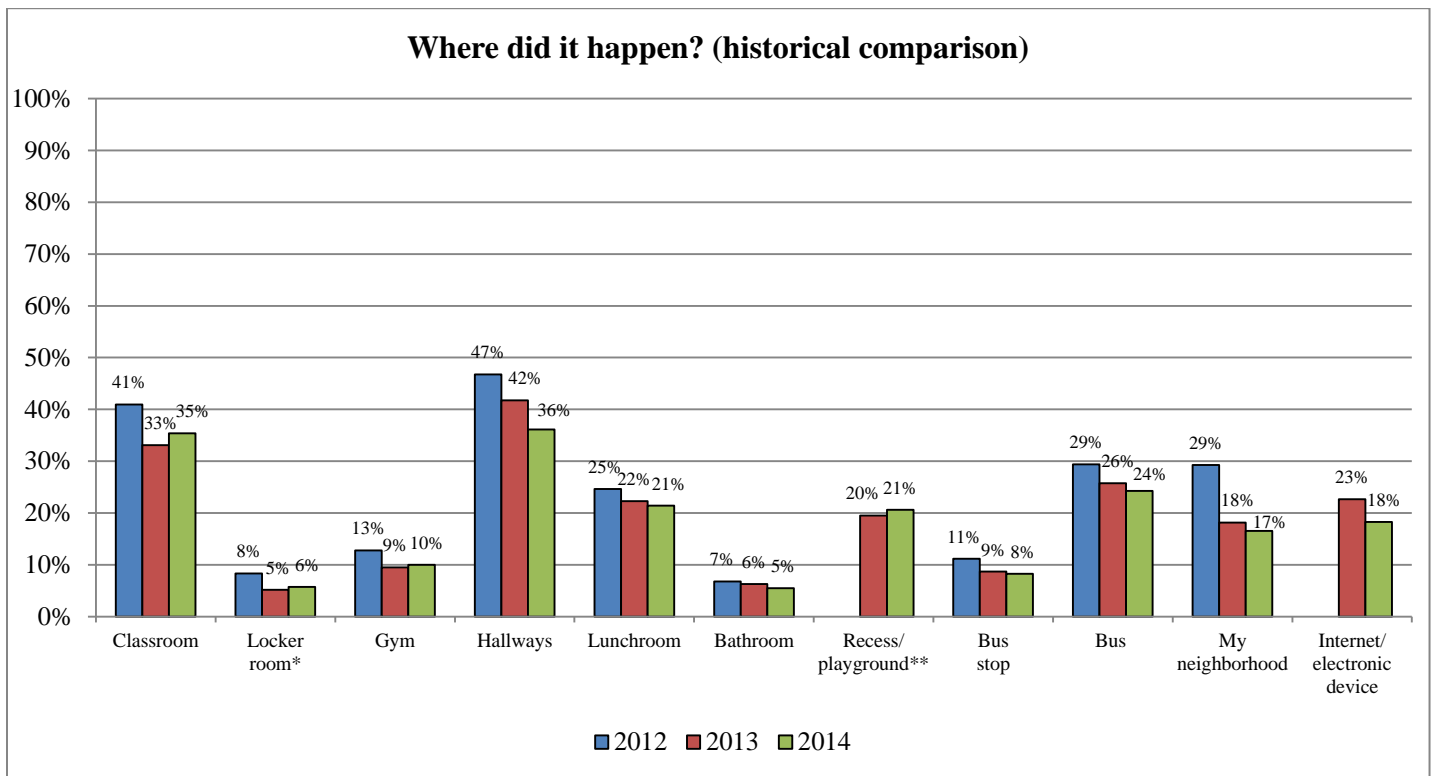


Figure 23. Location of bullying by year. *Indicates this was a response option for secondary students only. ** Indicates this was a response option for elementary students only.

Note: Recess/playground and internet/electronic device were not response options in 2012.

“If you were bullied, what did you do?”

(Students were instructed to select all responses that applied)

- When the students were asked what they did about being bullied, 3% did not respond and 52% reported that they “have not been bullied”.
- Students were most likely to ignore the bully, tell them to stop, tell a parent/guardian, or walk away.
- Reporting bullying to someone decreased slightly from 2013 to 2014 for all choices except telling an adult at school, however, students remained more likely to tell a parent/guardian than to tell an adult at school.
- The percent of students who reported not telling anyone has been steadily declining since 2012.

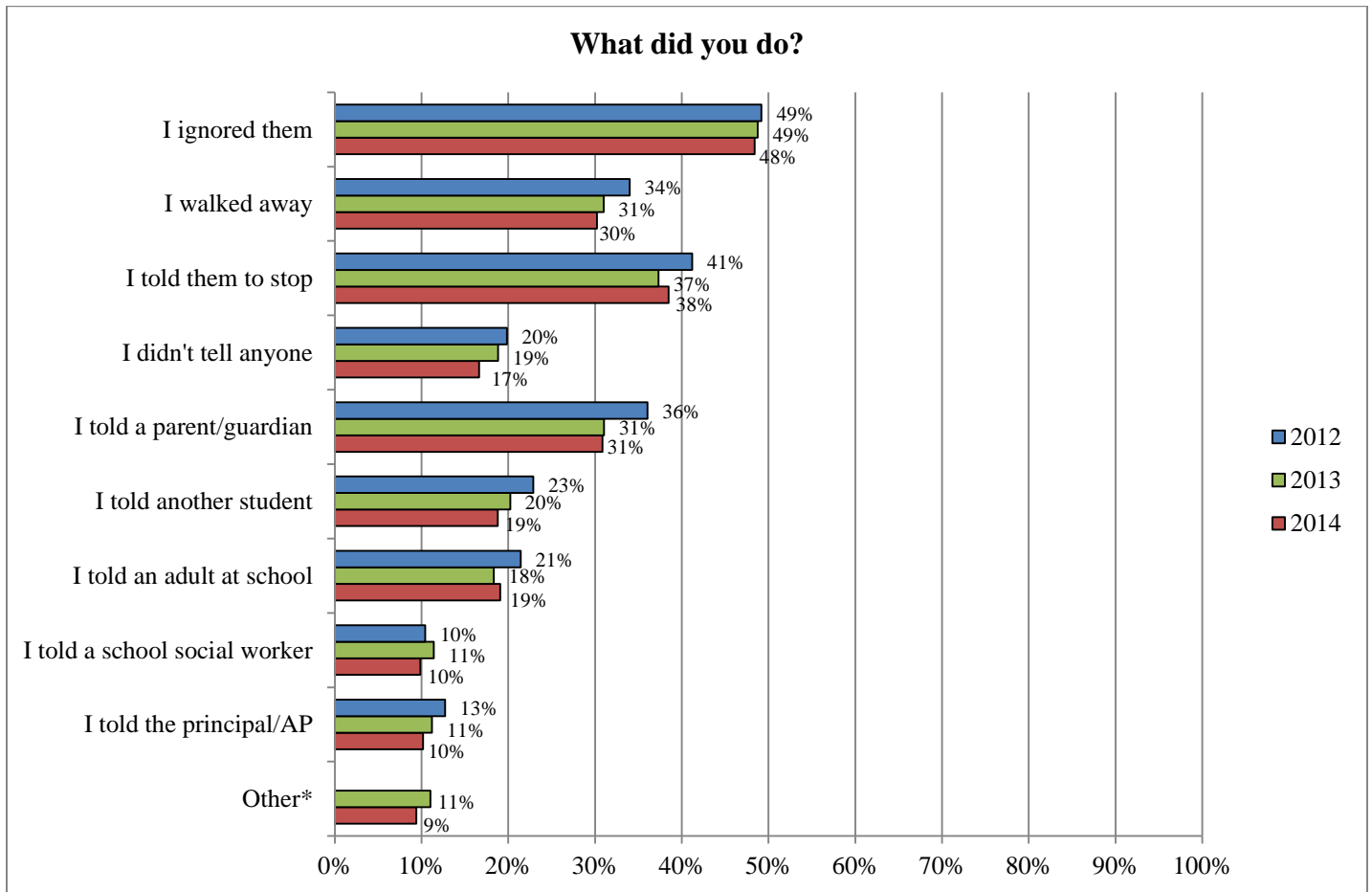


Figure 24. Responses to the question, “If you were bullied, what did you do?”

* Other was not a response option in 2012. For the “other” responses, students were provided the opportunity to include other actions they took. From these open-ended responses, the top three responses included: (1) fought back, (2) talked back, and (3) nothing or kept to myself.

“How safe do you feel in the following places?”
Percent of students who reported that they felt “safe” in each location
(Does not include those who felt “kind of safe”)

- More than 75% of all students reported that they felt safe in the classroom, in the lunchroom, in the bathroom, going to and from school, and at the bus stop.
- Feelings of safety increased from 2013 to 2014 in all locations other than at recess/on the playground, on the bus, and going to or from school.
 - Elementary students reported feeling safe on the playground or at recess at a rate of 46%. This is down 24% from 2013 when the rate was 70%.

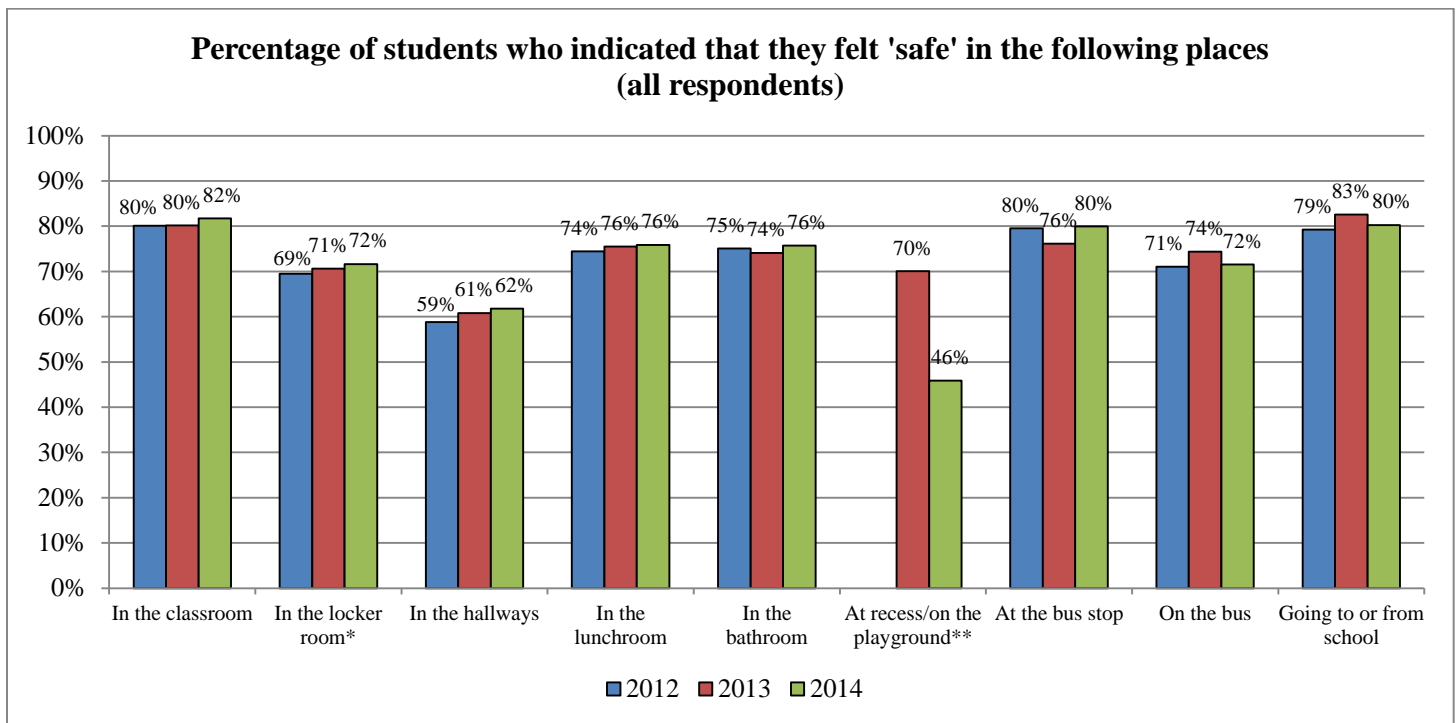


Figure 25. Percentages of students who indicated that they felt ‘safe’. Percentages do not include those students who indicated they felt ‘kind of safe’. * Indicates this was a response option for secondary students only. ** Indicates this was a response option for elementary students only and was a new response option in 2013.

“Have you ever bullied someone?”

- Approximately 84% of all students reported that they have never bullied someone (up from 72% in 2013), while 15% of students do it ‘sometimes’ (down from 21% in 2013).
- One percent of all students reported that they bullied someone ‘often’ (down from 4% in 2013) and just under 1% of students reported that they bullied someone ‘every day’ (down from 3% in 2013).
- Of the response choices offered, 21% reported that they have bullied others because of their looks, whereas 42% chose the ‘other’ option as a reason for bullying someone else.
- The most common theme among students who reported bullying someone else for “other” reasons was because the person had bullied them or their friends.

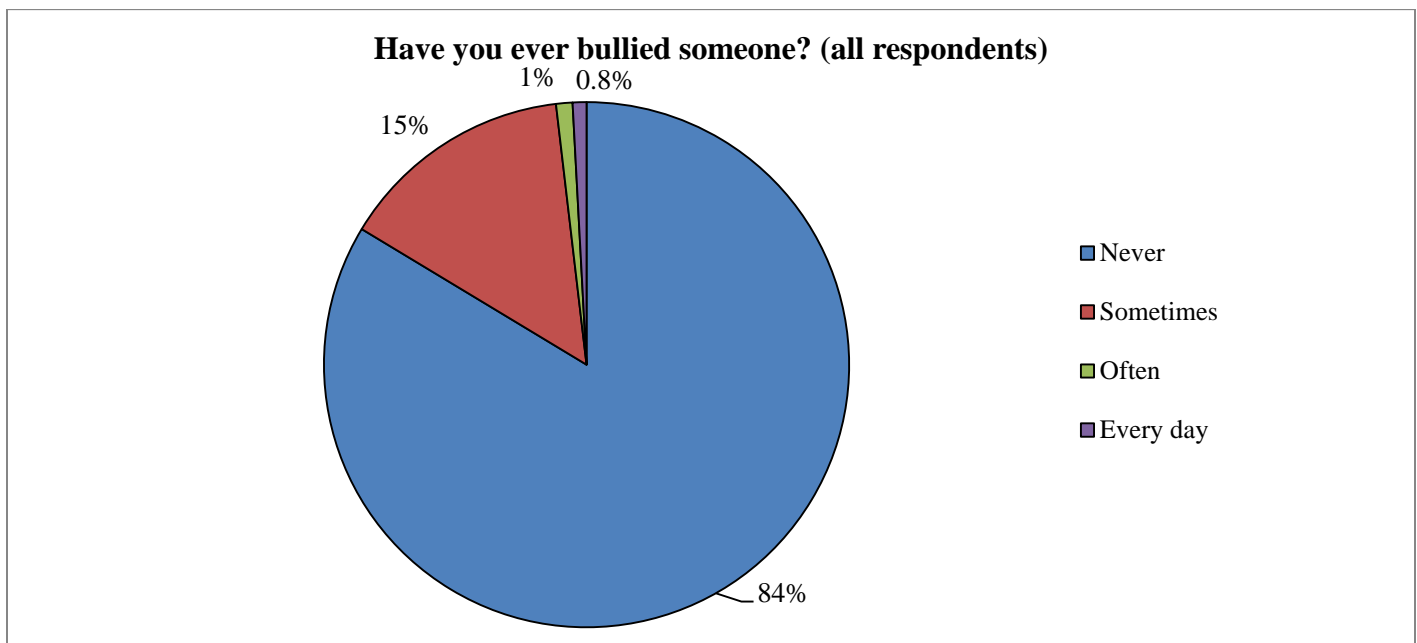


Figure 26. Percentages of students who indicated that they have bullied someone.

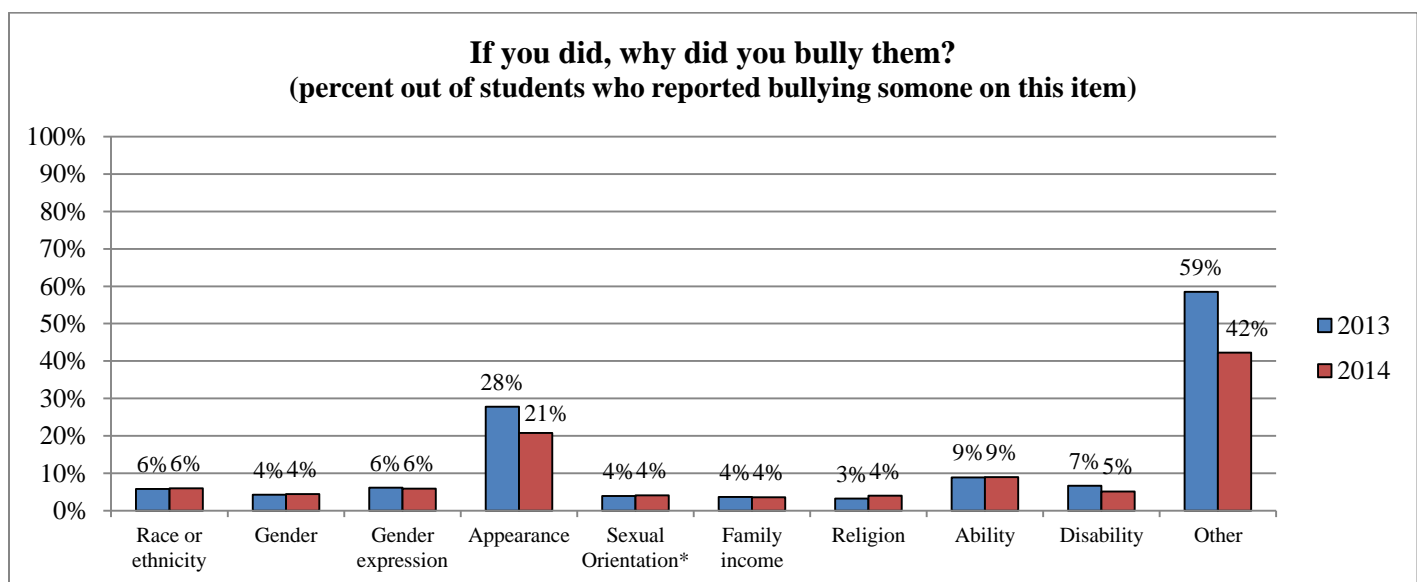


Figure 27. Percentages of students who indicated why they bullied someone. * Indicates this was not a response option for elementary school students. Note: Students were instructed to select all that apply. For the “other” responses, students were provided the opportunity to include other reasons of why they bullied someone else. From these open-ended responses, the top three responses included: (1) they bullied me or my friends, (2) I am joking around, and (3) personality or how they act (“they are annoying”).

“How often have you seen someone else being bullied?”

- About 39% of students reported that they have never seen someone else being bullied (a slight increase from 37% in 2013), while 46% of students have seen it ‘sometimes’ (consistent with 2013 data).
- Approximately 11% of all students reported that they have seen someone else being bullied ‘often’ (consistent with the percent in 2013) and 4% of students reported that they have seen someone bullied ‘every day’ (a slight decrease from 5% in 2013).
- Up from 39% in 2013, approximately 58% of students who have seen someone else being bullied, reported that they helped to stop it.
- The percent of students who saw someone else being bullied and told an adult in school increased from 20% of students in 2013 to 31% in 2014, whereas 30% of students reported doing nothing (up from 19% in 2013).

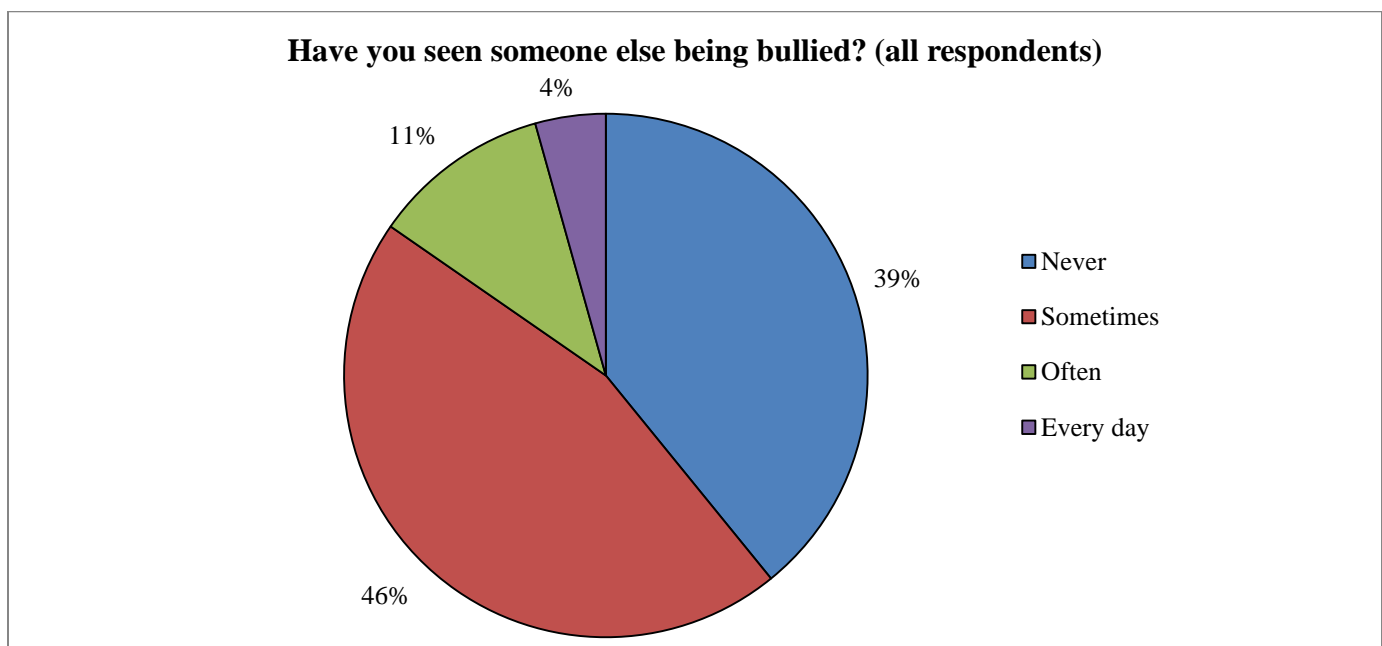


Figure 28. Percentages of students who indicated that they have seen someone else being bullied.

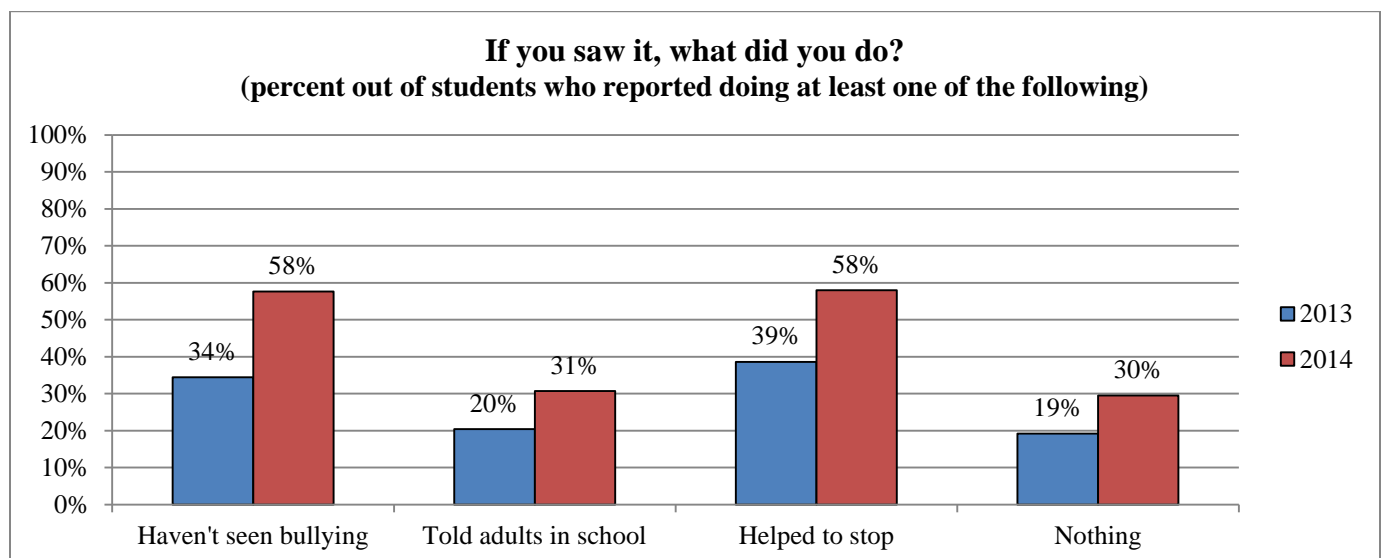


Figure 29. Percentages of students who indicated what they did when they saw someone being bullied out of those who reported doing at least one action. Note: Students were instructed to select all that apply. Students may have selected “Haven’t seen bullying” and selected another response, but these occurrences are rare and do not have a significant impact on the data.

Comparing survey responses by year

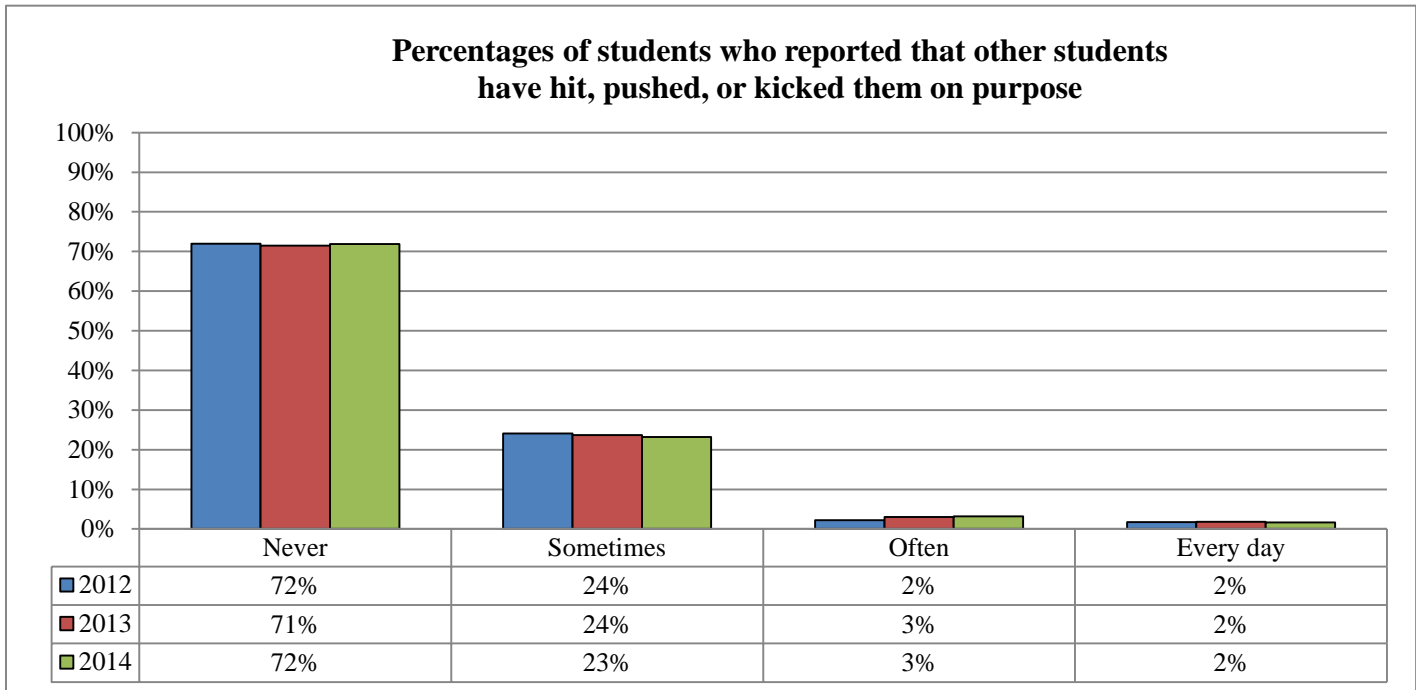


Figure 30. Percentages of students who reported that other students have hit, pushed, or kicked them on purpose by year.

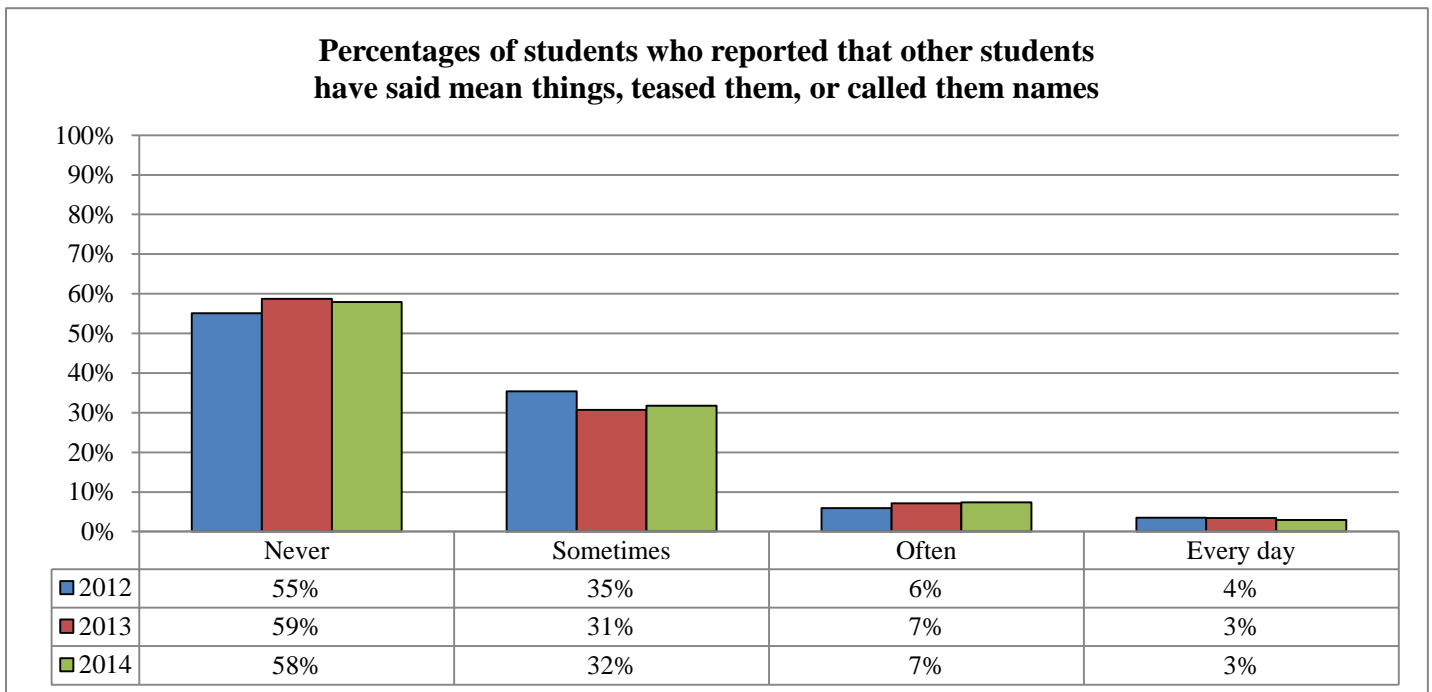


Figure 31. Percentages of students who reported that other students have said mean things, teased them, or call them names by year.

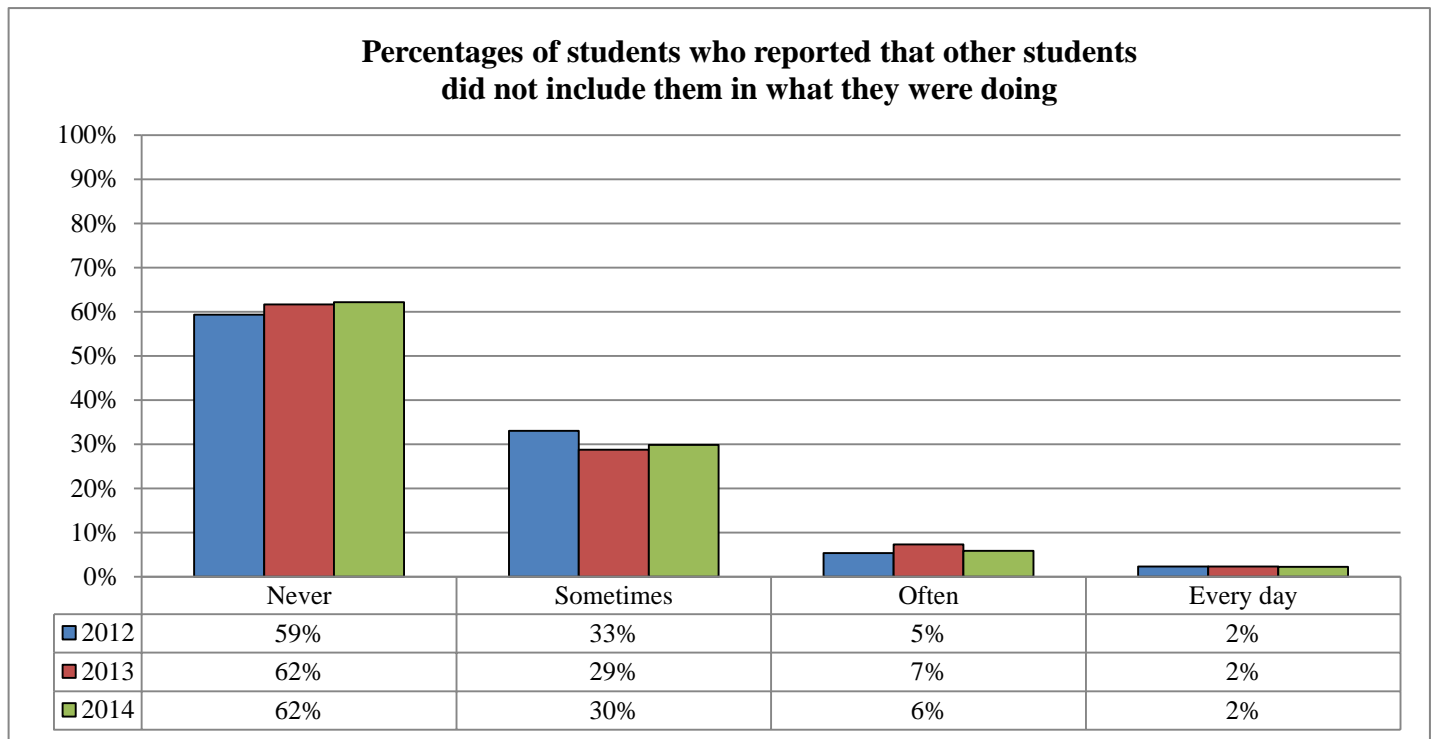


Figure 32. Percentages of students who reported that other students did not include them in what they were doing by year.

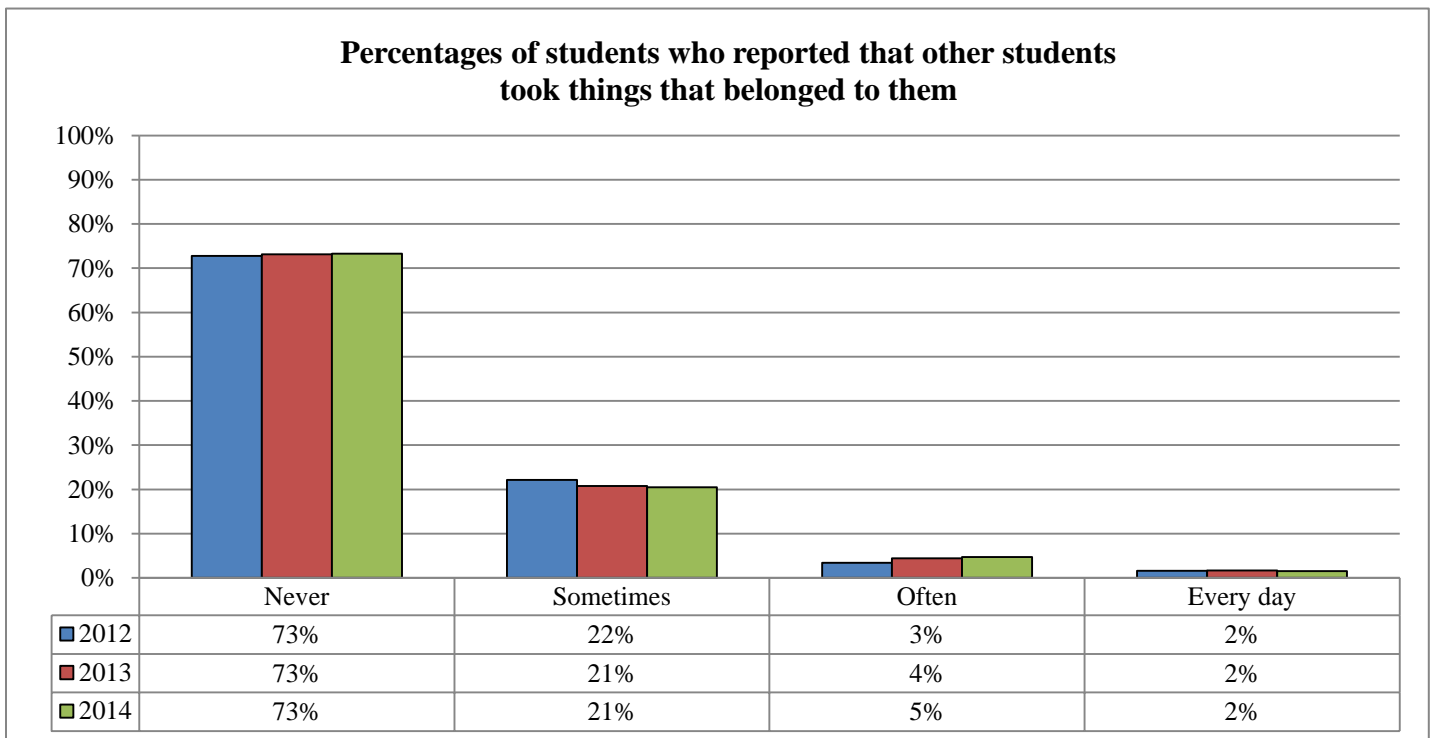


Figure 33. Percentages of students who reported that other students took things that belonged to them by year.

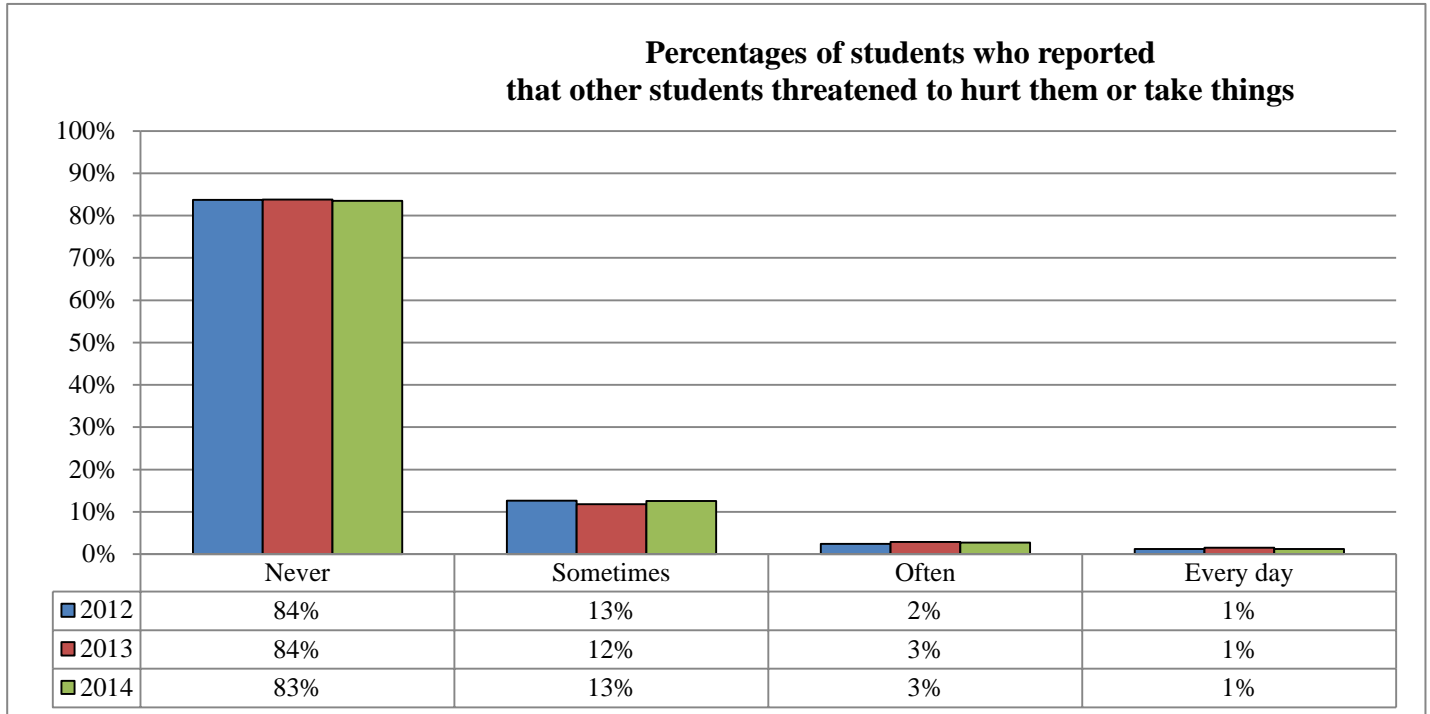


Figure 34. Percentages of students who reported that other students threatened to hurt them or take things by year.

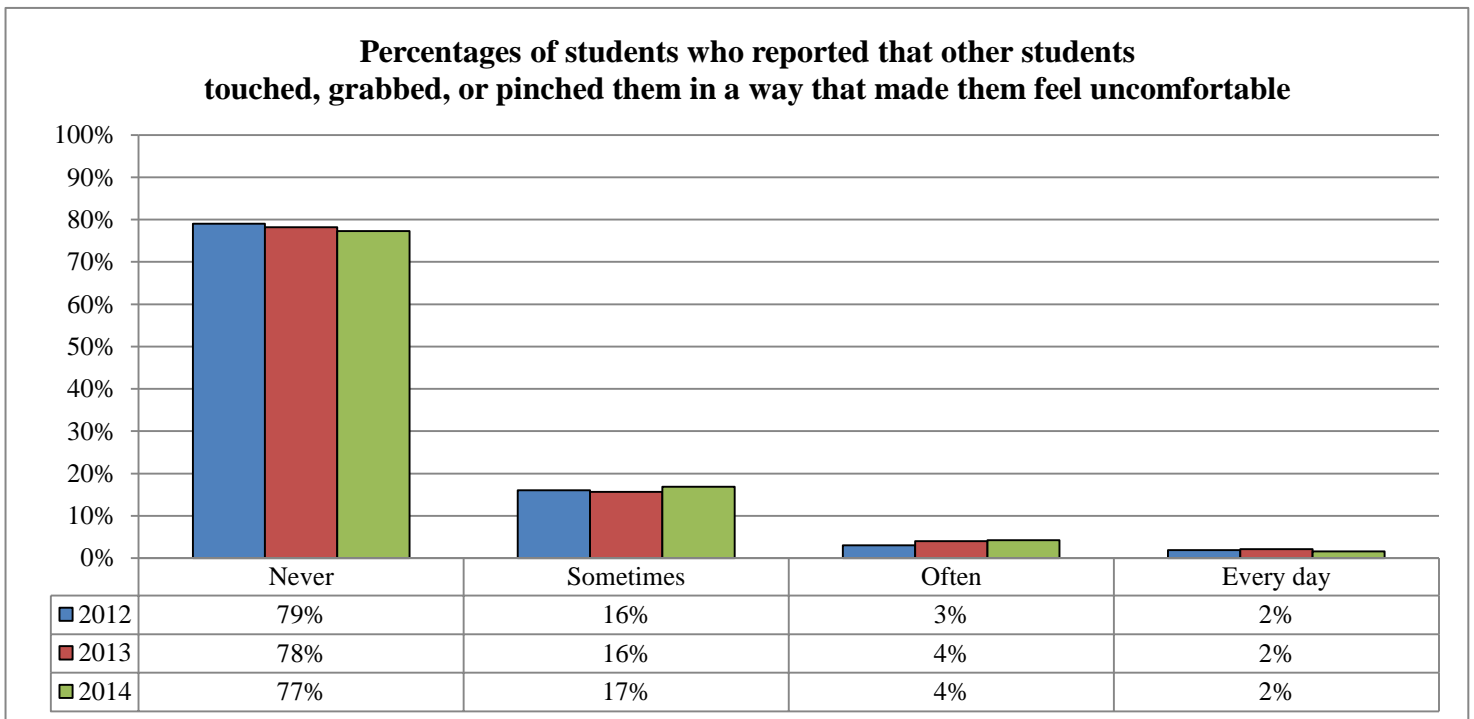


Figure 35. Percentages of students who reported that other students touched, grabbed, or pinched them in a way that made them feel uncomfortable by year.

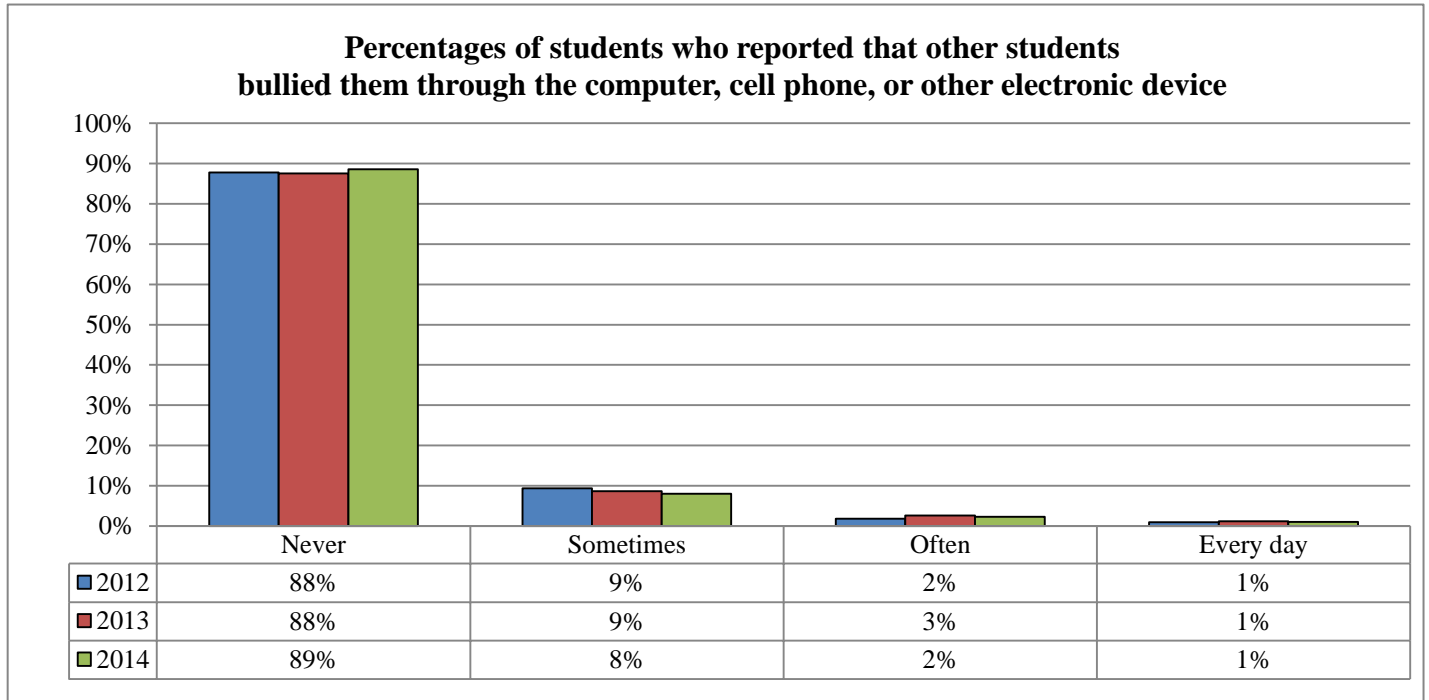


Figure 36. Percentages of students who reported that other students bullied them through the computer, cell phone or other electronic device by year.

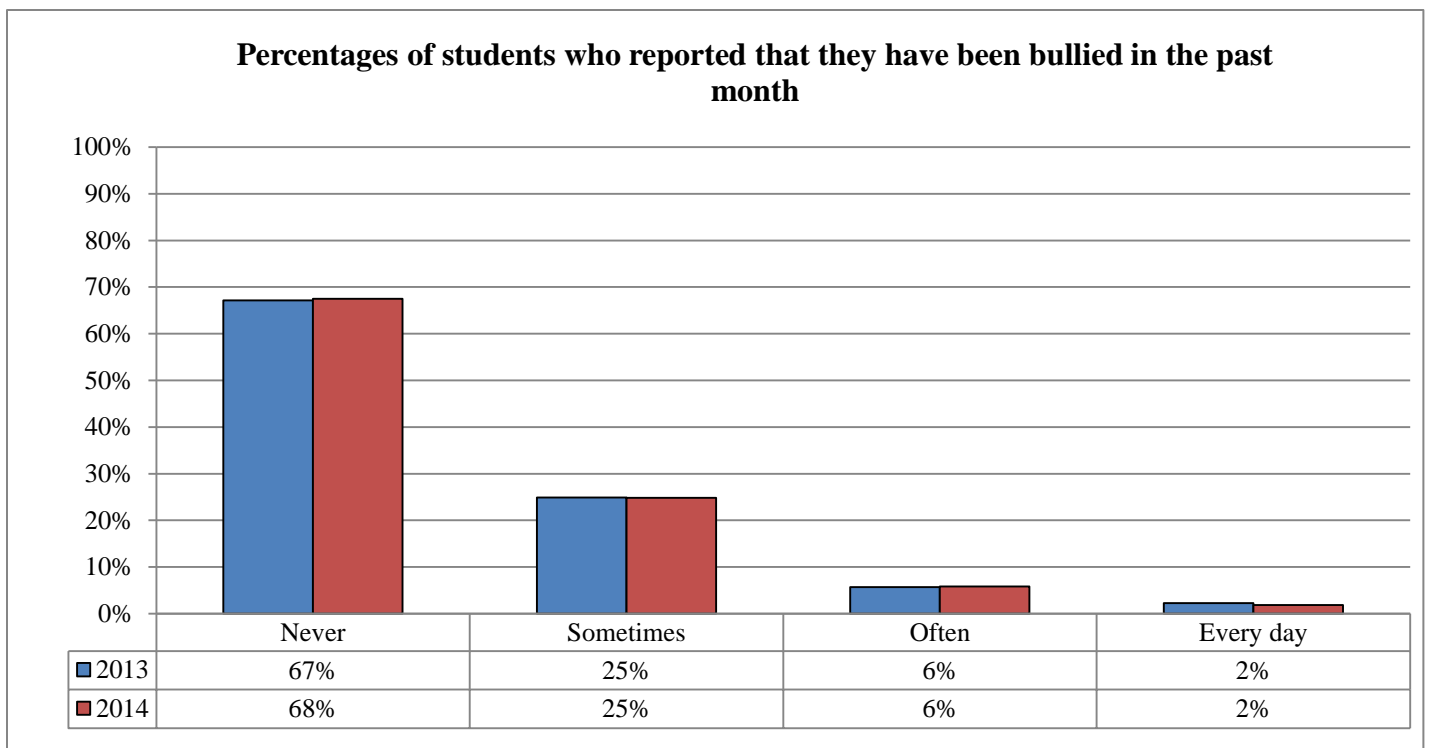


Figure 37. Percentages of students who reported that other students bullied them in the past month by year.
 Note: This was a new survey item in 2013.

Open-Ended Responses

Students were instructed, “If you would like, please give an example of why you do not feel safe or how you have been bullied at school.”

Secondary

Themes from secondary students included:

- Students not feeling safe because of older students in the school as well as fears about violence in the schools, on the bus, or in their neighborhood.
- Students having mean things said about their height or weight.
- Lastly, students also reported lack of supervision as a reason they feel unsafe in some areas of the school.

Elementary

Themes from elementary students included:

- Students having mean things said about their height, their weight, their name, the food they eat, their clothes or their culture.
- Students not feeling safe because of the fear that they might be bullied.
- In conjunction with the locations reported, many students also mentioned fear of unsafe adults or being “kidnapped” from the bus stop.
- Lastly, students also reported lack of supervision at recess, in the hallways or in the bathroom, as a reason why they felt unsafe, especially in “bigger” and unstructured places.

This report was generated by the Research, Evaluation, and Testing department of the Anoka-Hennepin School District. For further clarification, please contact RET by clicking on the “Contact RET” link on from the left menu on the Anoka-Hennepin website, www.anoka.k12.mn.us.k12/ret or calling (763) 506-1000 and requesting the RET department.