
Anti- Bullying Survey 2018

Anoka-Hennepin
School District

Prepared by Research,
Evaluation and Testing



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What is the Anti-Bullying Survey?

Since 2012, the annual Anti-Bullying Survey has been administered to a random sample of students in grades 4, 6, 8, and 10. In years prior to 2012, the survey was given every other year. As part of the ongoing district commitment to eliminate bullying and harassing behaviors, raise awareness of these issues, better equip staff to monitor and intervene, and help students to effectively deal with these unsolicited and unwanted occurrences, this survey is given in conjunction with Bullying Prevention Month along with other activities.

During the 2018-19 school year, the Anti-Bullying Survey was administered to students between October 8 and October 26, 2018.

The Anti-Bullying Survey asks students to report their experiences pertaining to 7 primary bullying behaviors:

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. Did mean things to me using the internet, cell phone, or other electronic device

Each item was rated on a 5-point scale: (1) never, (2) once, (3) sometimes, (4) often, (5) every day.

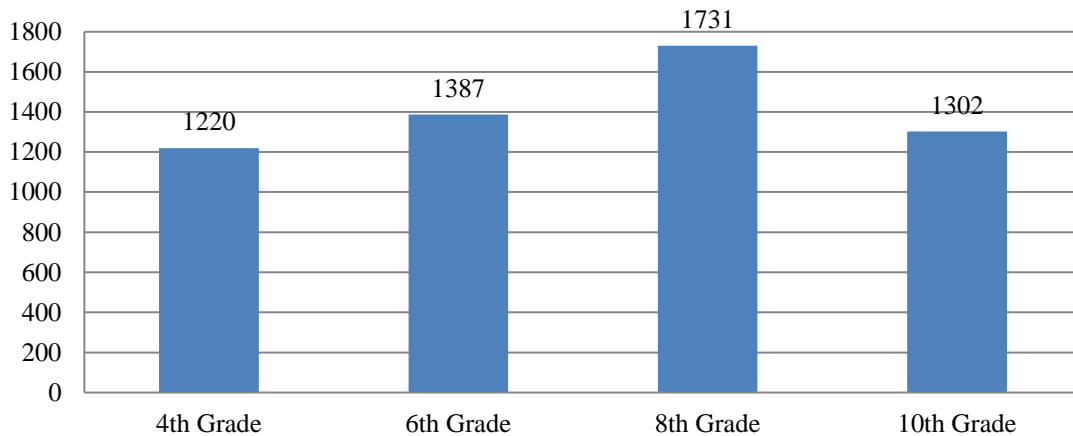
Other questions were included to understand students' perceptions of why they were bullied, their responses to these bullying situations, where these bullying situations occurred, and students' general perceptions of safety in and around school.

Bullying is defined in the survey as, "when a student (or students) does mean things on purpose to hurt or embarrass another student. These mean things happen over and over, not just once."

Who took the Anti-Bullying Survey?

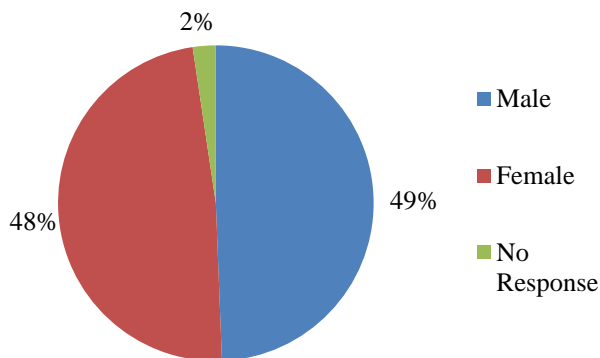
Students in 4th, 6th, 8th, and 10th grades from the Anoka-Hennepin School District participate in the Anti-Bullying Survey. In 2018, 5,648 students completed the survey. Approximately 2% of students did not report their gender. Of those students who did report their gender, around half were male and half were female. Based on self-reporting, 59.6% of the participants were White, 9.9% were multi-racial, 9.4% were Black, 8.0% were Asian/Pacific Islander, 3.6% were Hispanic, 1.5% were American Indian, and 3.9% did not respond to this question.

Number of respondents by grade level

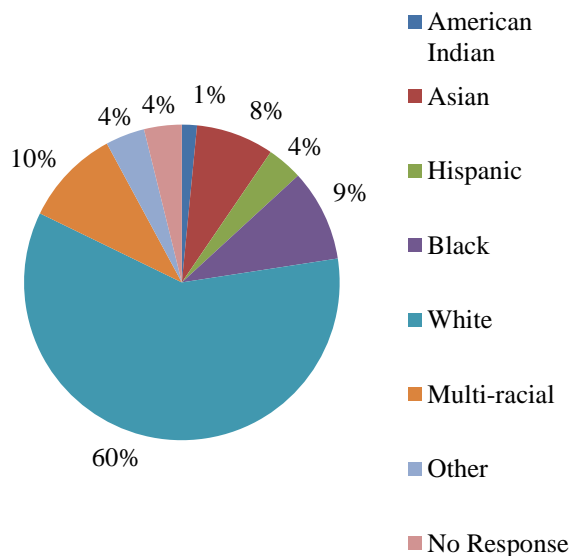


Note: There were 8 students who did not select a grade level.

Percent of participants by gender



Percent of participants by ethnicity



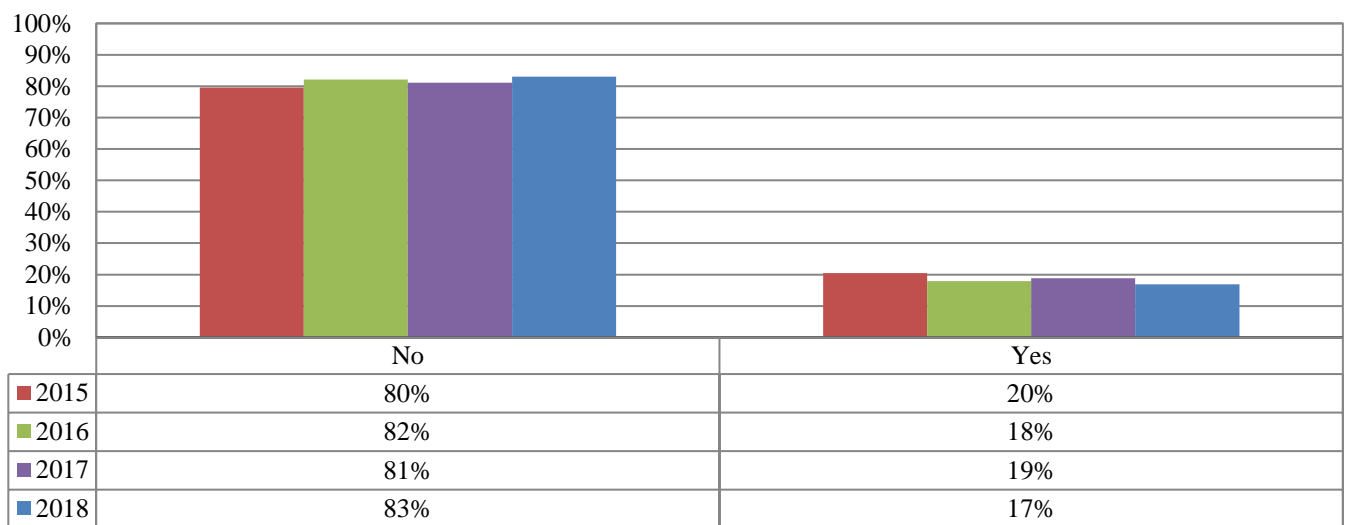
What are the key findings?

- The majority of students report not being bullied in the past month.
 - The percent of students who report experiencing no bullying increased slightly, moving from 81% in 2017 to 83% in 2018.
- The percent of students who report never bullying others remained steady at 92% from 2016 to 2018.
- The most common bullying behavior reported by students who said they had been bullied in the past month was other students saying mean things, teasing them, or calling them names, consistent with prior years.
- In general, a smaller proportion of secondary students experienced bullying compared with elementary students. The opposite is true for bullying through an electronic device or over the internet.
- Both American Indian and multi-racial students reported that they had been bullied within the past month at significantly higher rates than peers in other racial/ethnic groups. Multi-racial students reported experiencing all seven bullying behaviors significantly more frequently than other racial/ethnic groups.
- Consistent with previous years, students most commonly reported that they have been bullied because of their appearance, race/ethnicity, or ability.
 - Of the students who selected at least one reason for being bullied, the percent of students who reported they have been bullied because of their appearance increased from 46% in 2017 to 49% in 2018.
 - Sixteen percent of the students who reported they have been bullied reported they were bullied because of their ability, up slightly from 15% in 2017.
 - Remaining fairly consistent across the years, 17% of the students who reported they have been bullied in the past month cited race/ethnicity as a reason for being bullied; however, the rate is much higher for Asian, Black, Hispanic, and multi-racial students (47%, 41%, 36%, and 28%, respectively, of students having experienced any type of bullying) than it is for White students (5%) and American Indian students (13%).
 - Female students were more likely to report that they were bullied because of their appearance and gender, whereas male students were more likely to report being bullied because of their ability and race/ethnicity.
 - Students who didn't report their gender reported being bullied for race/ethnicity, gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, and/or disability at much higher rates than students who reported their gender.
- Overall, students reported that they were most likely to be bullied in the classroom, in the hallways, in the lunchroom, on the bus, and over the internet. Of students who reported being bullied in the past month, 37% reported that it happened in the classroom in 2018, up from 33% in 2017. Elementary students reported that they were most likely to be bullied on the playground (although this has decreased from 2017).
- Students who reported being bullied were most likely to respond by ignoring bullies or telling bullies to stop.
- Approximately 85% of secondary students and 91% of elementary students feel there is an adult at school that they can go to for help if a student is bullying them or someone else.
- Reports of feeling safe overall declined for the second year in a row, from 63% in 2016 to 60% in 2017 and 54% in 2018. Students felt less safe in all locations in 2018 than they did in 2017.

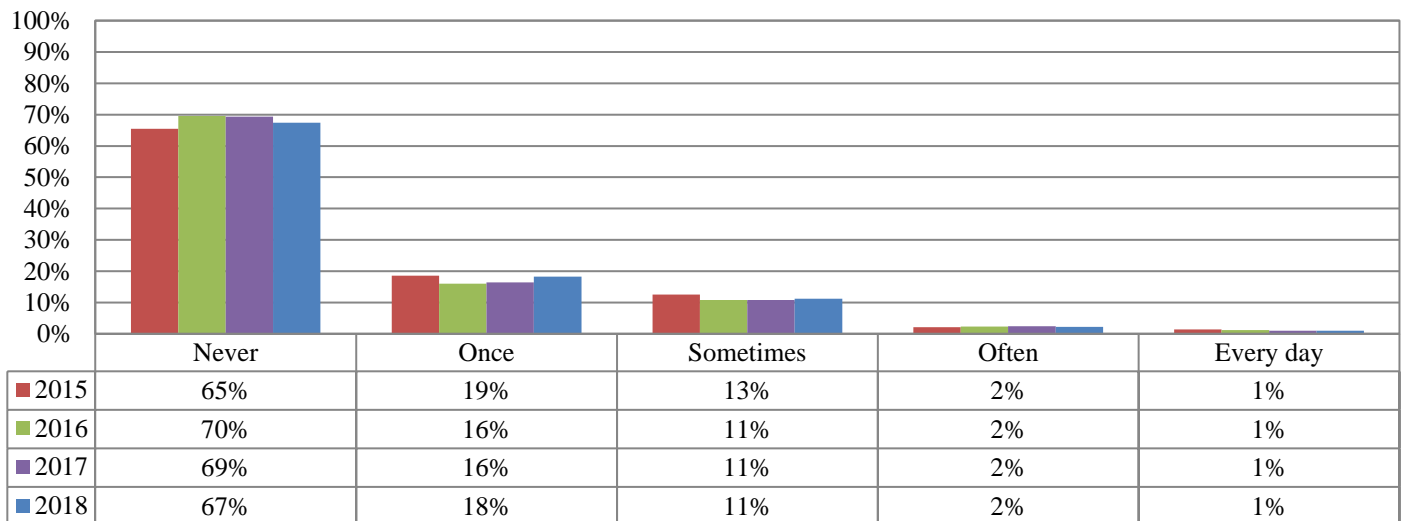
Comparing overall responses by year

- Overall, the percent of students who reported having been bullied in the past month decreased from 19% in 2017 to 17% in 2018.
- For the series of survey questions asking how often students have experienced each of the seven bullying behaviors in the past month, responses have remained fairly consistent over time. There was a slight (<2 percentage point) decrease in the percent of students reporting they had never experienced five of the seven behaviors between 2017 and 2018, and no change in the percent of students having experienced the other two bullying behaviors.

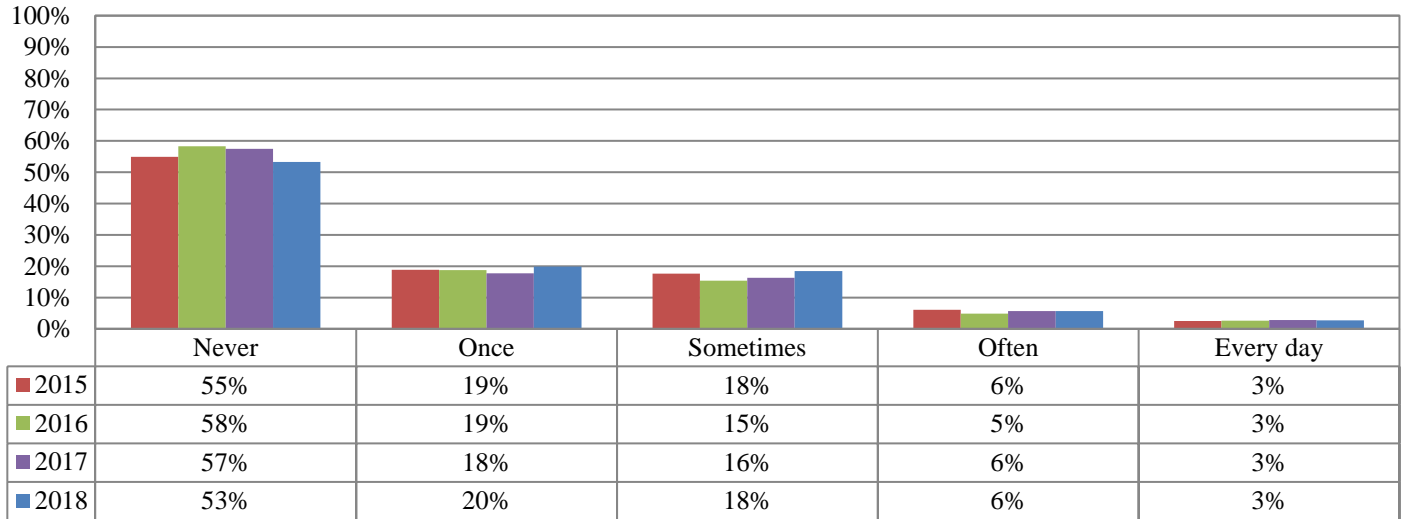
Percentage of students who reported that they have been bullied in the past month



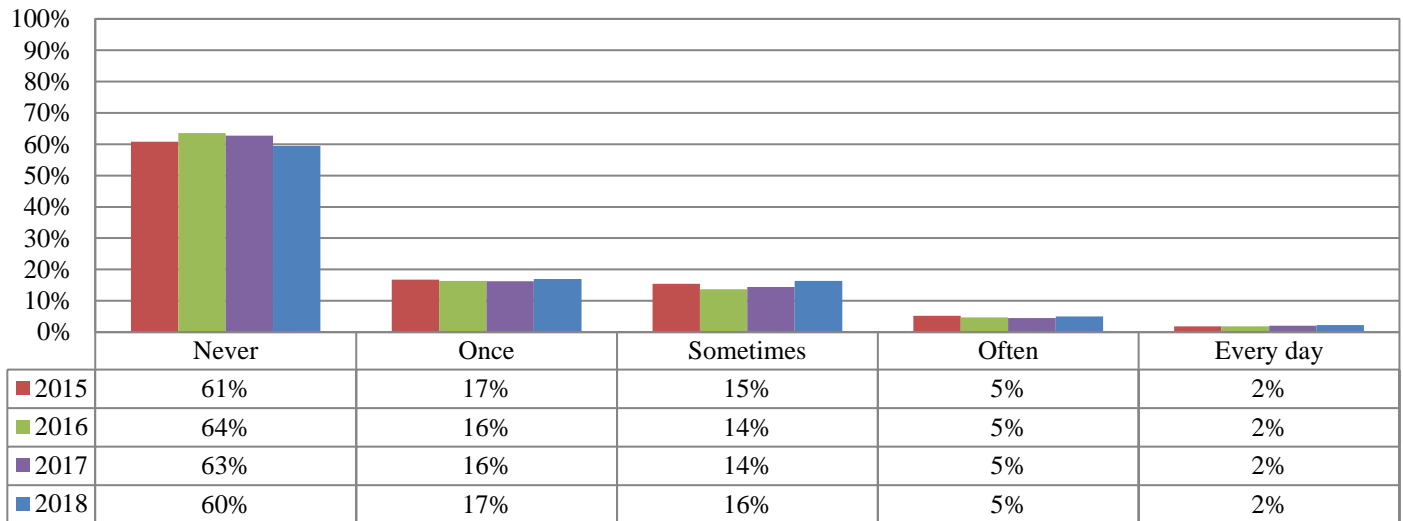
Percentages of students who reported that other students have hit, pushed, or kicked them on purpose



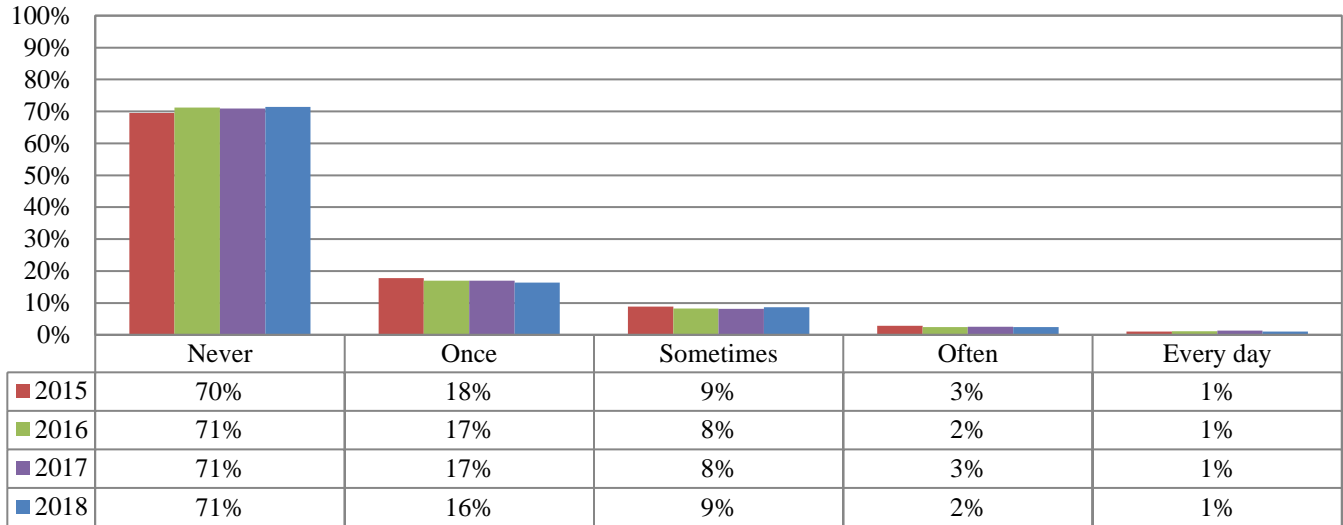
Percentages of students who reported that other students have said mean things, teased them, or call them names



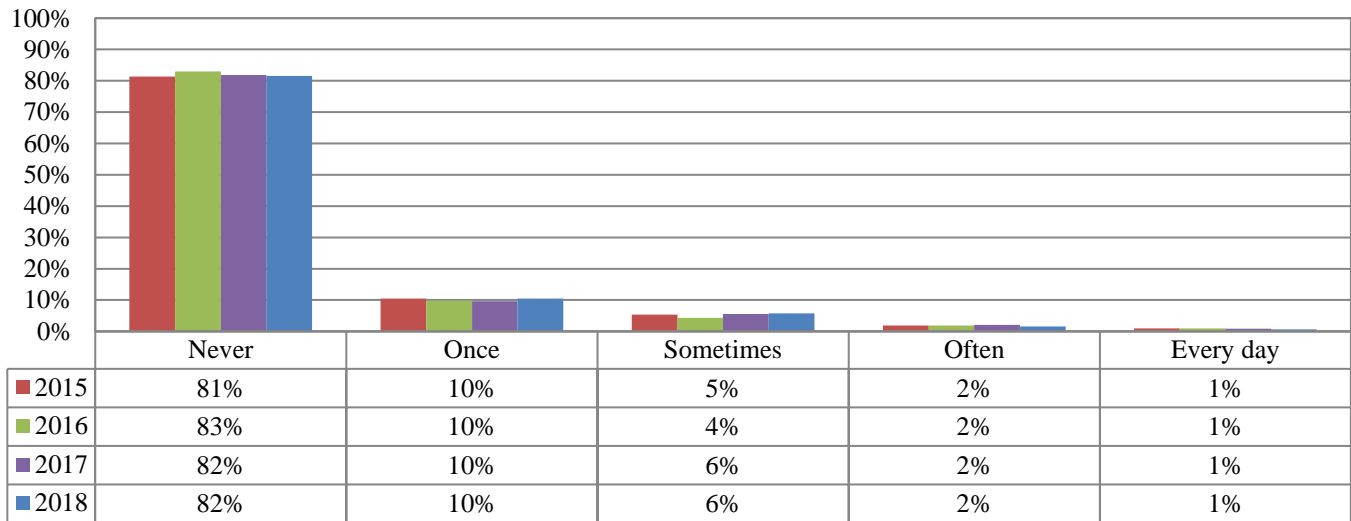
Percentages of students who reported that other students did not include them in what they were doing



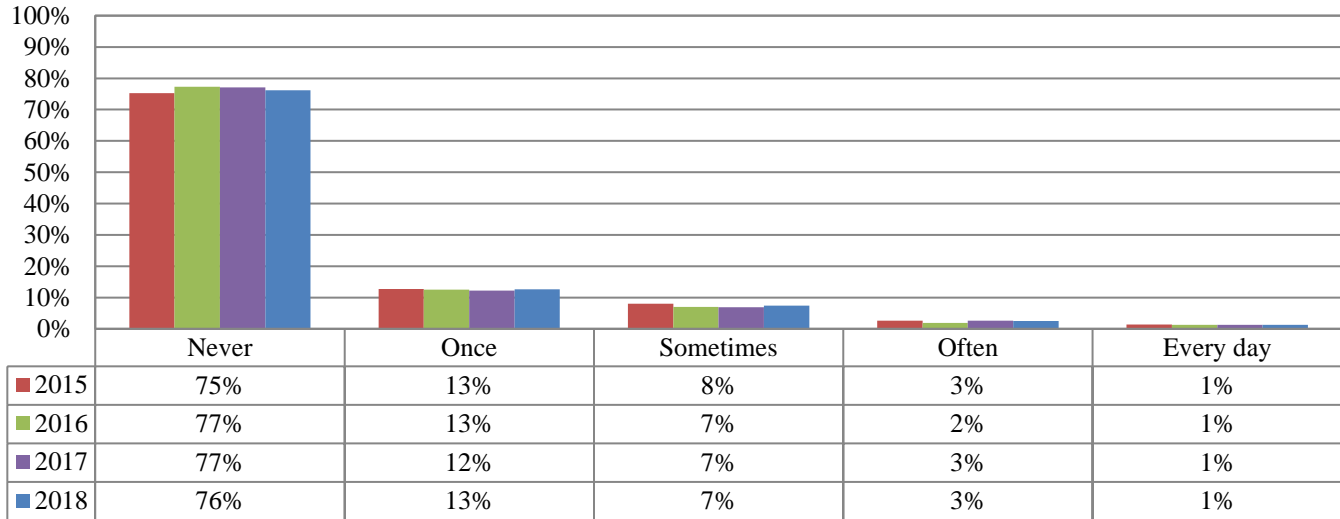
Percentages of students who reported that other students took things that belonged to them



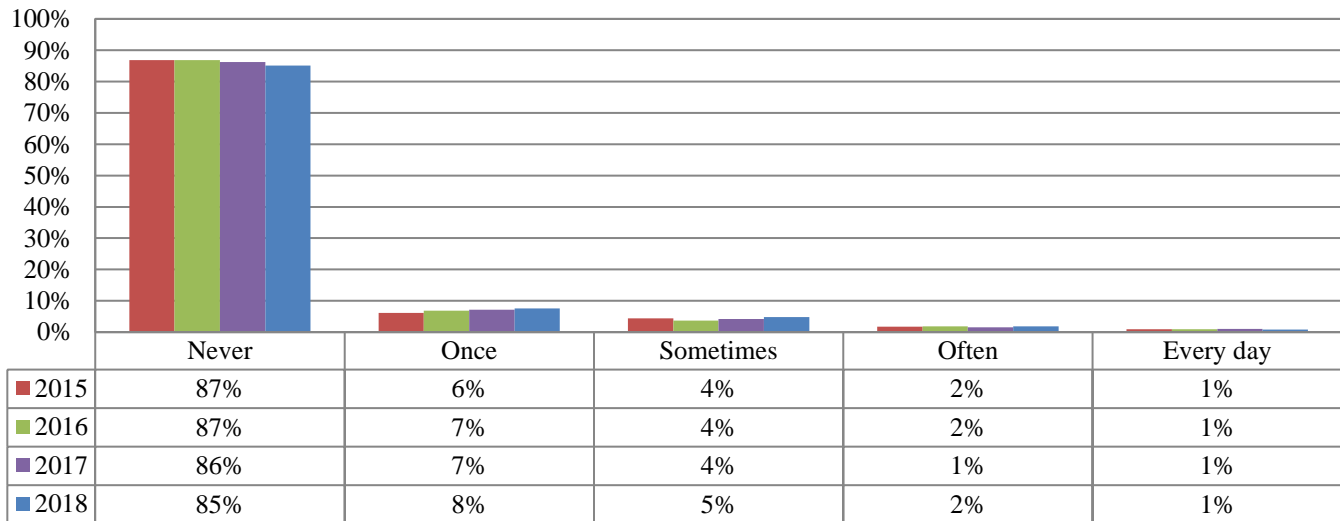
Percentages of students who reported that other students threatened to hurt them or take things



Percentages of students who reported that other students touched, grabbed, or pinched them in a way that made them feel uncomfortable



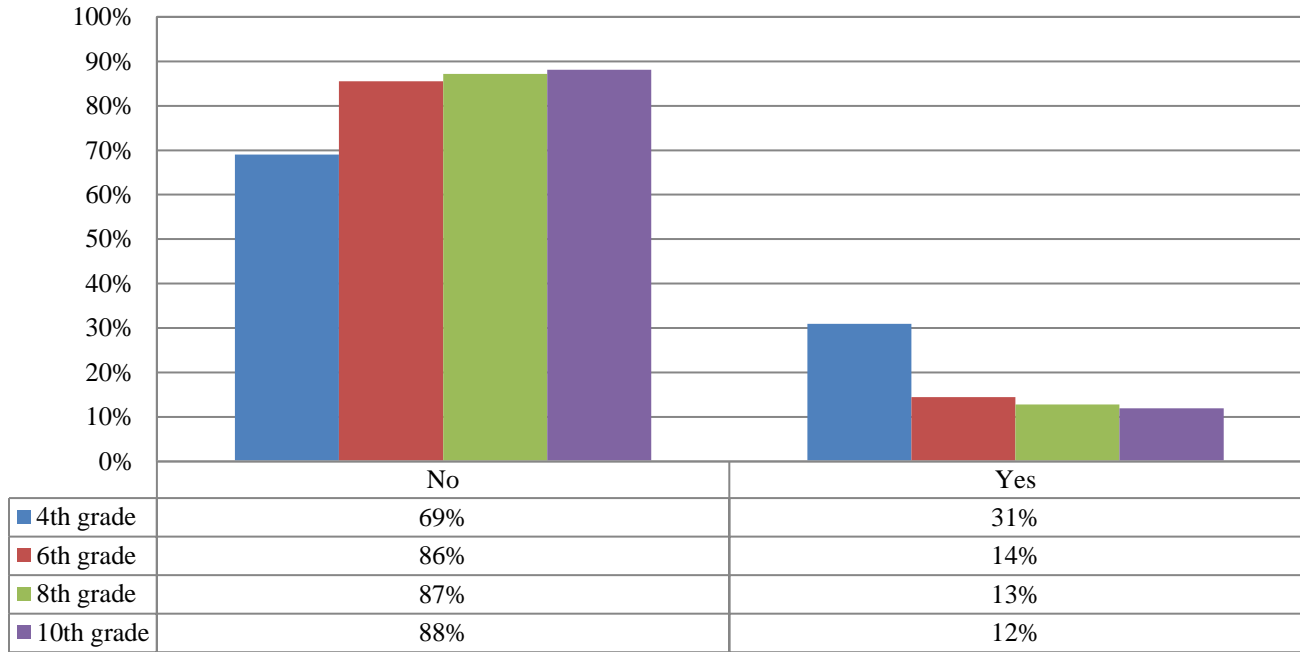
Percentages of students who reported that other students bullied them using the internet, cell phone, or other electronic device



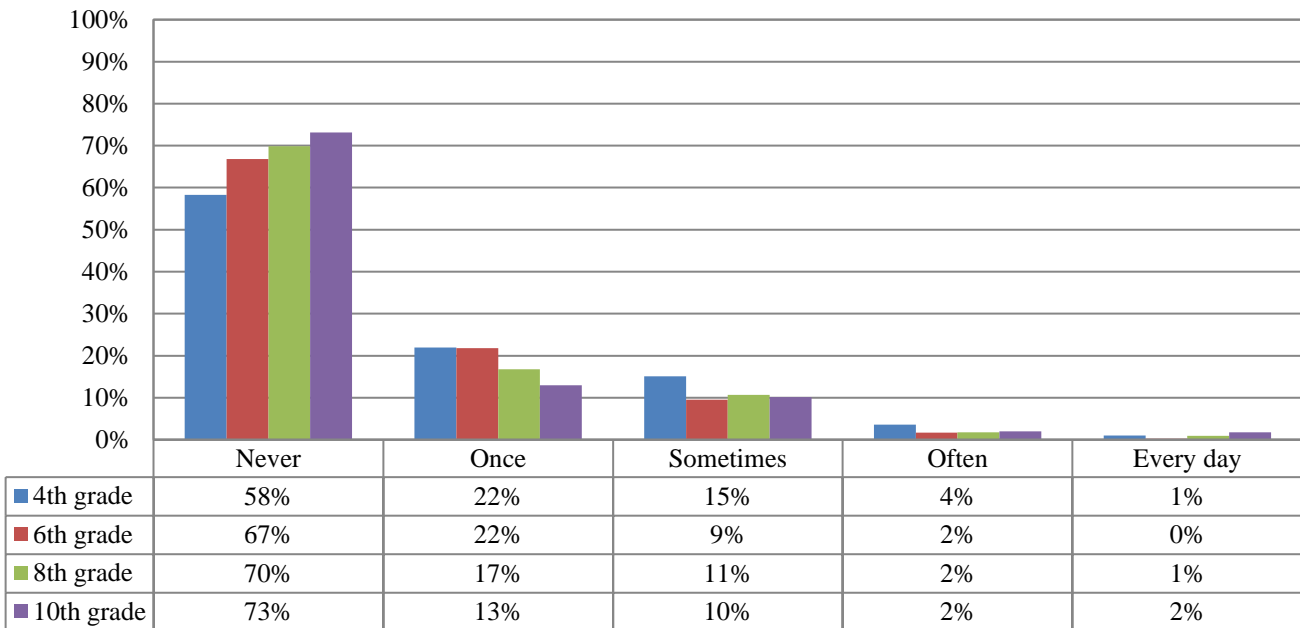
Reports of bullying behavior by grade

Students were asked to report how often, during the past month, they have experienced each of these behaviors.

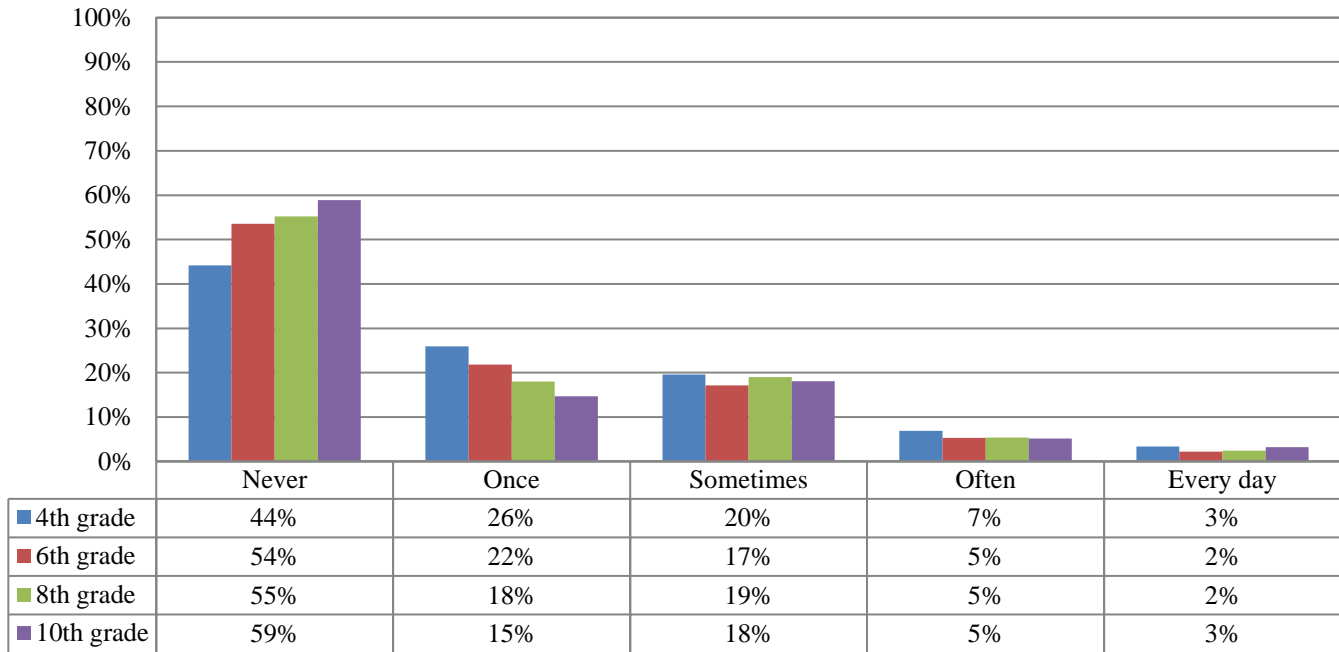
Percentage of students who reported that they have been bullied in the past month, by grade level



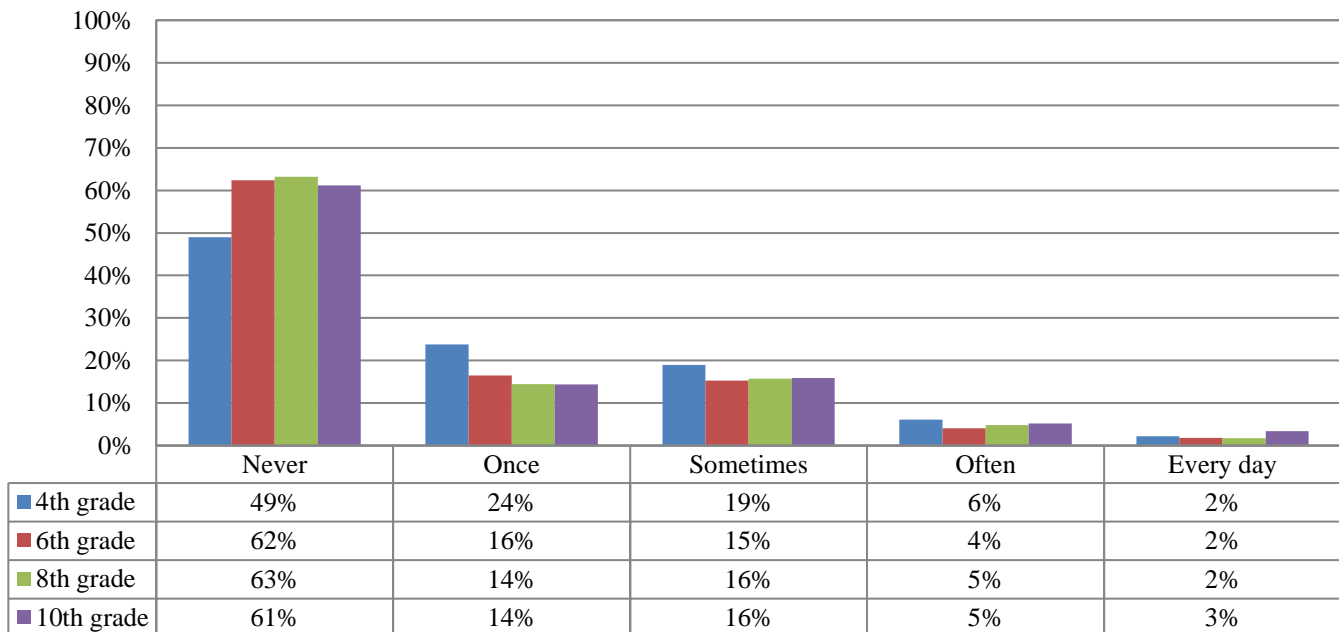
Percentage of students who reported that other students have hit, pushed, or kicked them on purpose, by grade level



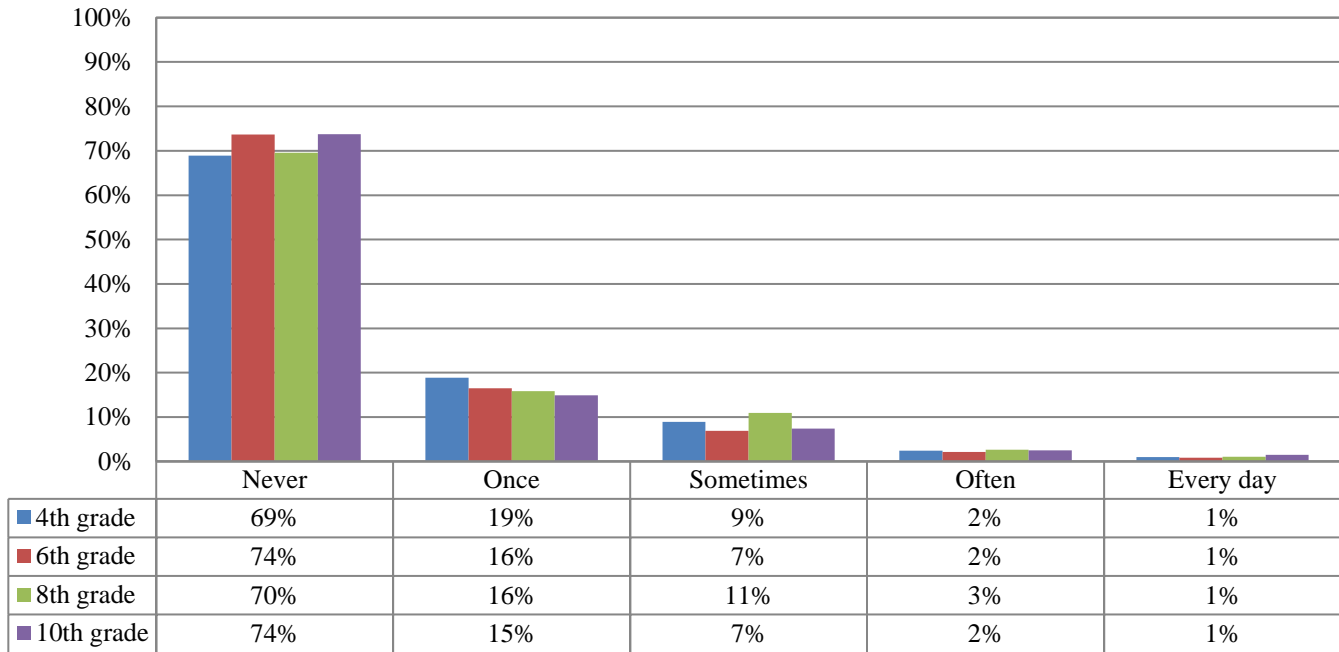
Percentage of students who reported that other students have said mean things, teased them, or called them names, by grade level



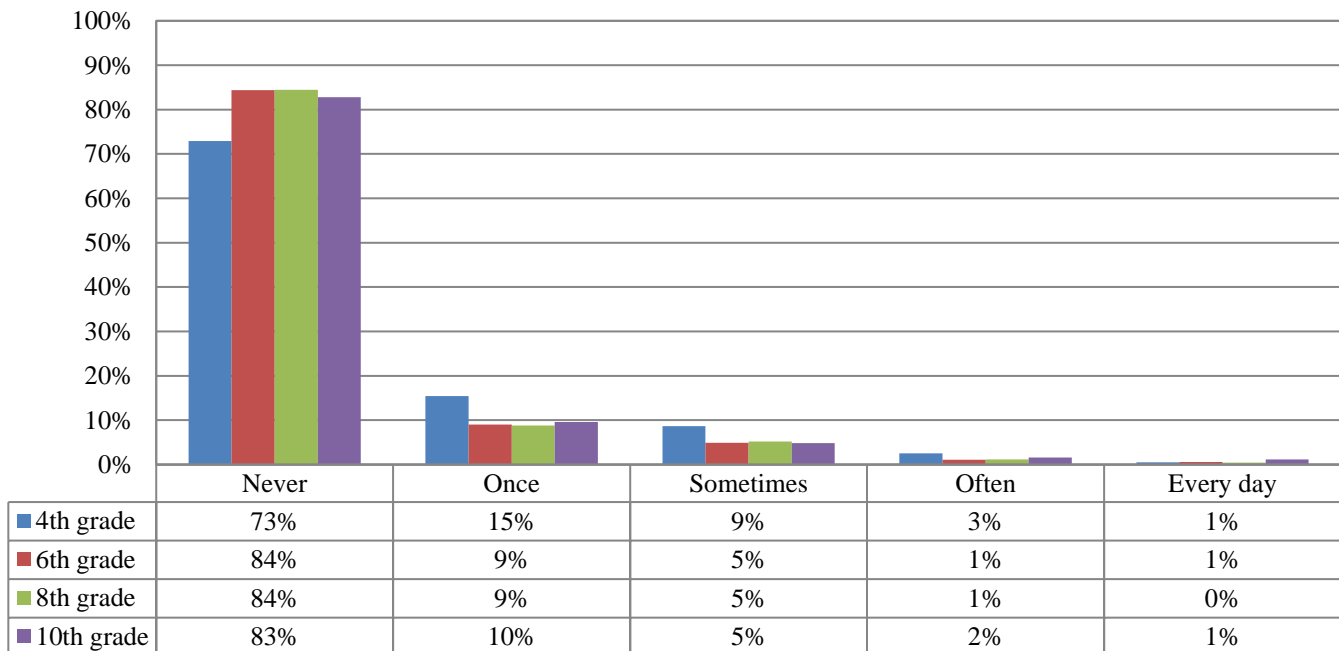
Percentage of students who reported that other students did not include them in what they were doing, by grade level



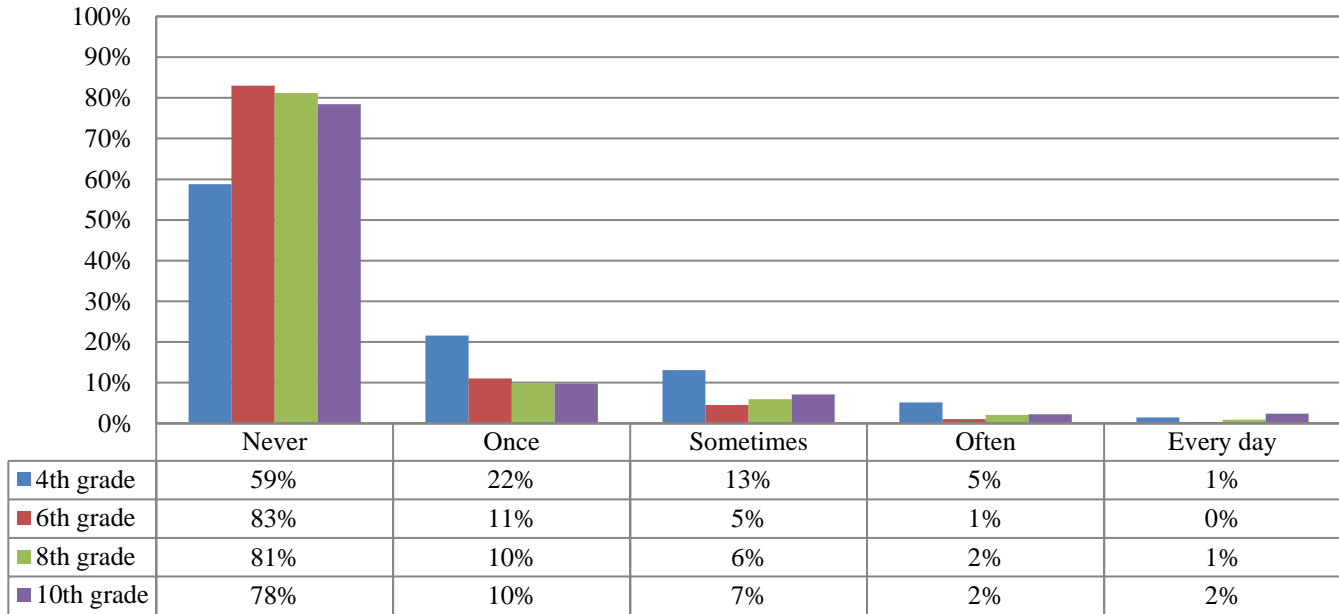
Percentage of students who reported that other students took things that belonged to them, by grade level



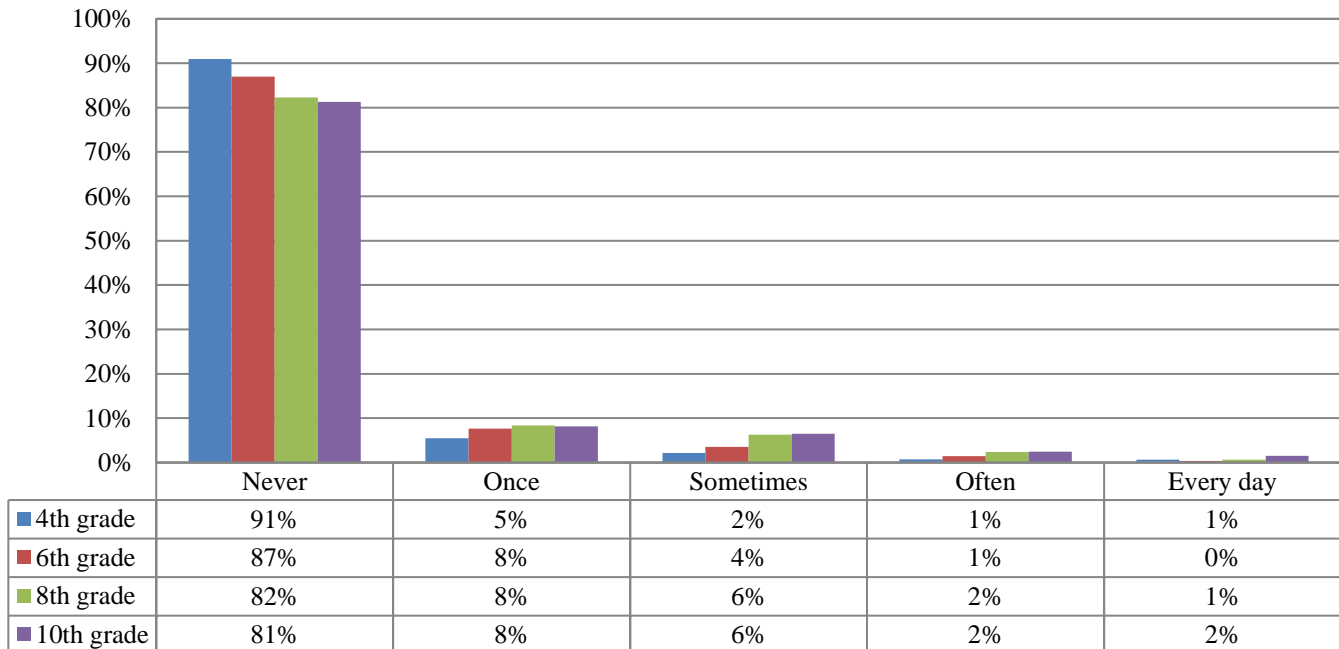
Percentage of students who reported that other students threatened to hurt them or take things, by grade level



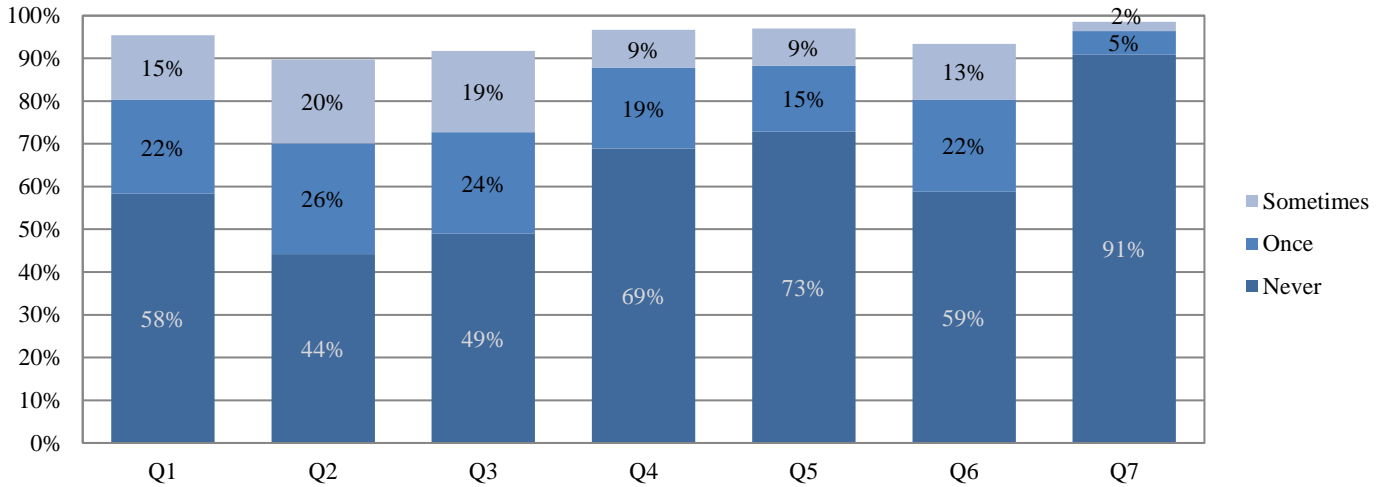
Percentage of students who reported that other students touched, grabbed, or pinched them in a way that made them feel uncomfortable, by grade level



Percentage of students who reported that other students bullied them using the internet, cell phone, or other electronic device, by grade level



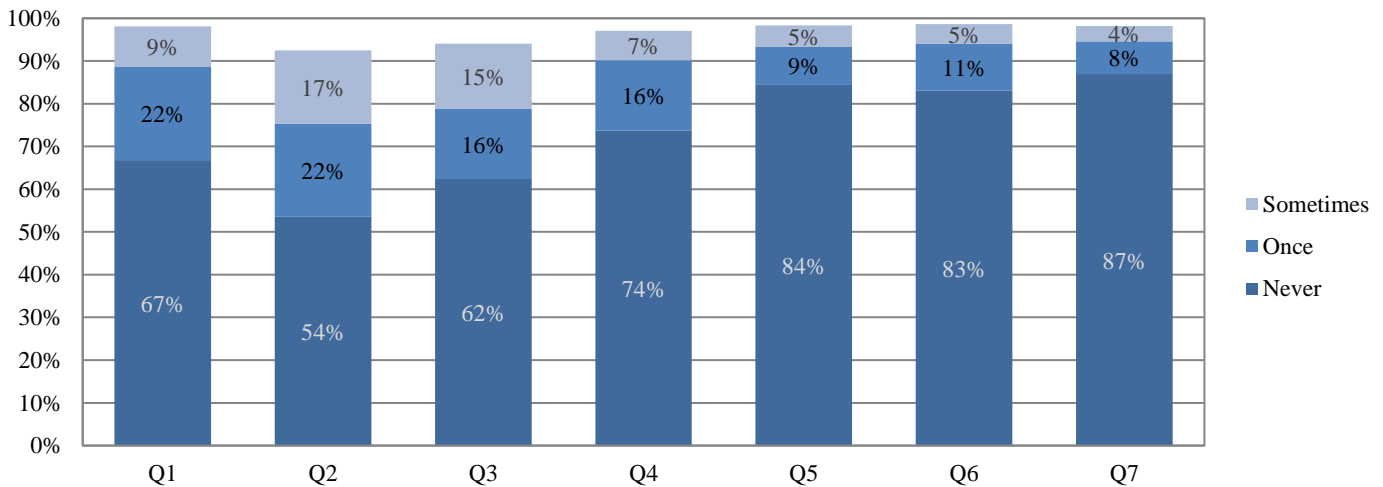
Percentage of 4th grade students who responded never, once or sometimes for each item



Note: Other response options included often and every day.

Questions listed at the bottom of this page.

Percentage of 6th grade students who responded never, once or sometimes for each item



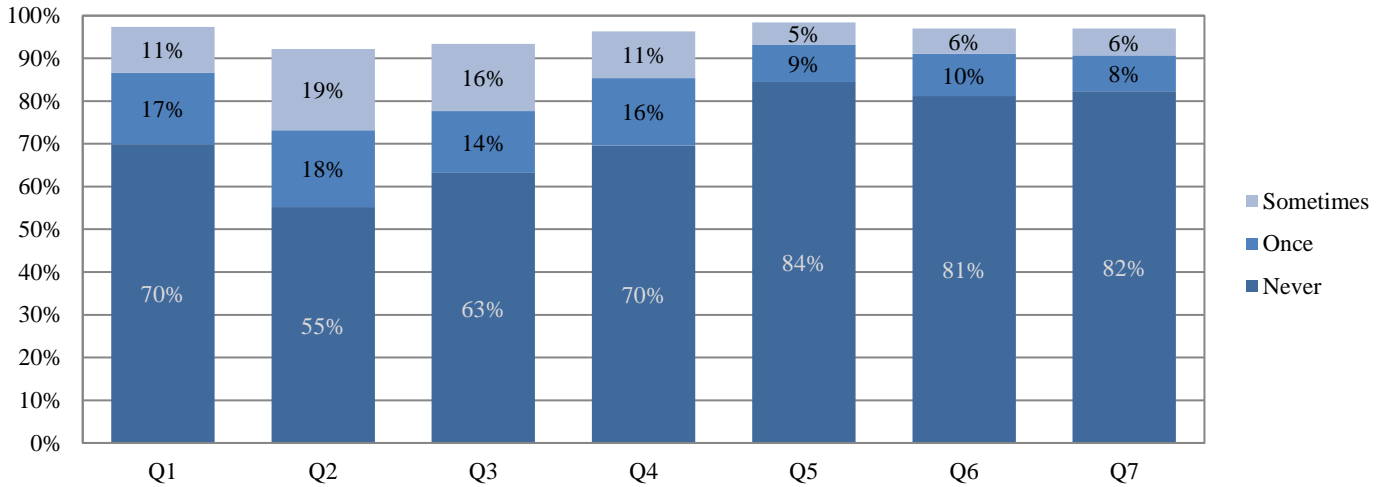
Note: Other response options included often and every day.

Questions listed at the bottom of this page.

Survey items: During the past **month**, how often have other students:

- Q1. Hit, pushed, or kicked you on purpose
- Q2. Said mean things, teased you, or called you names
- Q3. Did not include you in what they were doing
- Q4. Took things that belonged to you
- Q5. Threatened to hurt you or take things
- Q6. Touched, grabbed, or pinched you in a way that made you feel uncomfortable
- Q7. Did mean things to you using the internet, cell phone, or other electronic device

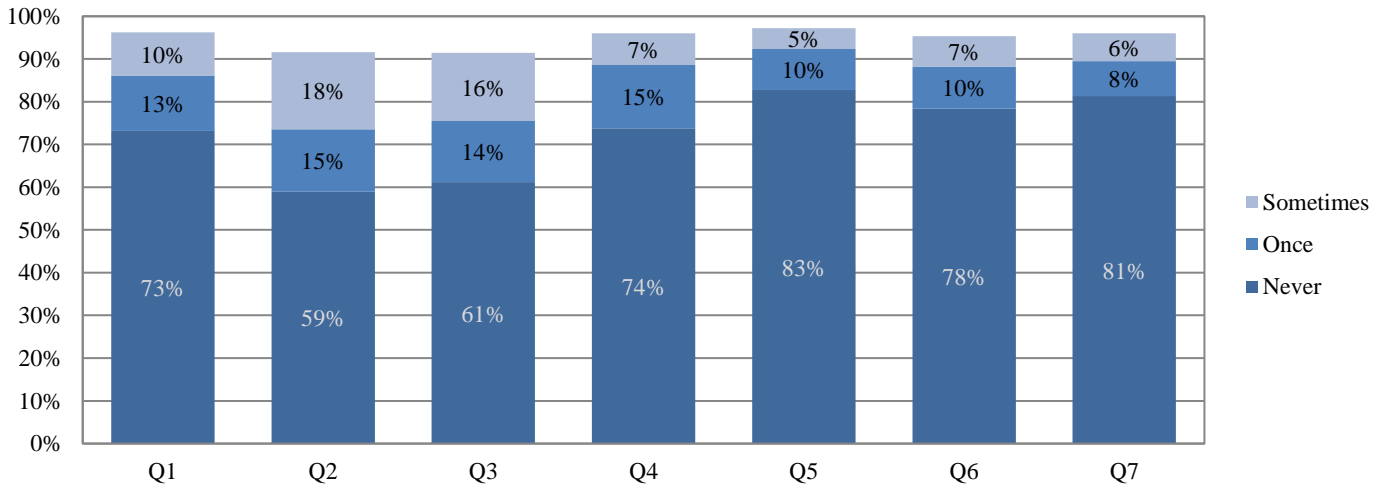
Percentage of 8th grade students who responded never, once or sometimes for each item



Note: Other response options included often and every day.

Questions listed at the bottom of this page.

Percentage of 10th grade students who responded never, once or sometimes for each item



Note: Other response options included often and every day.

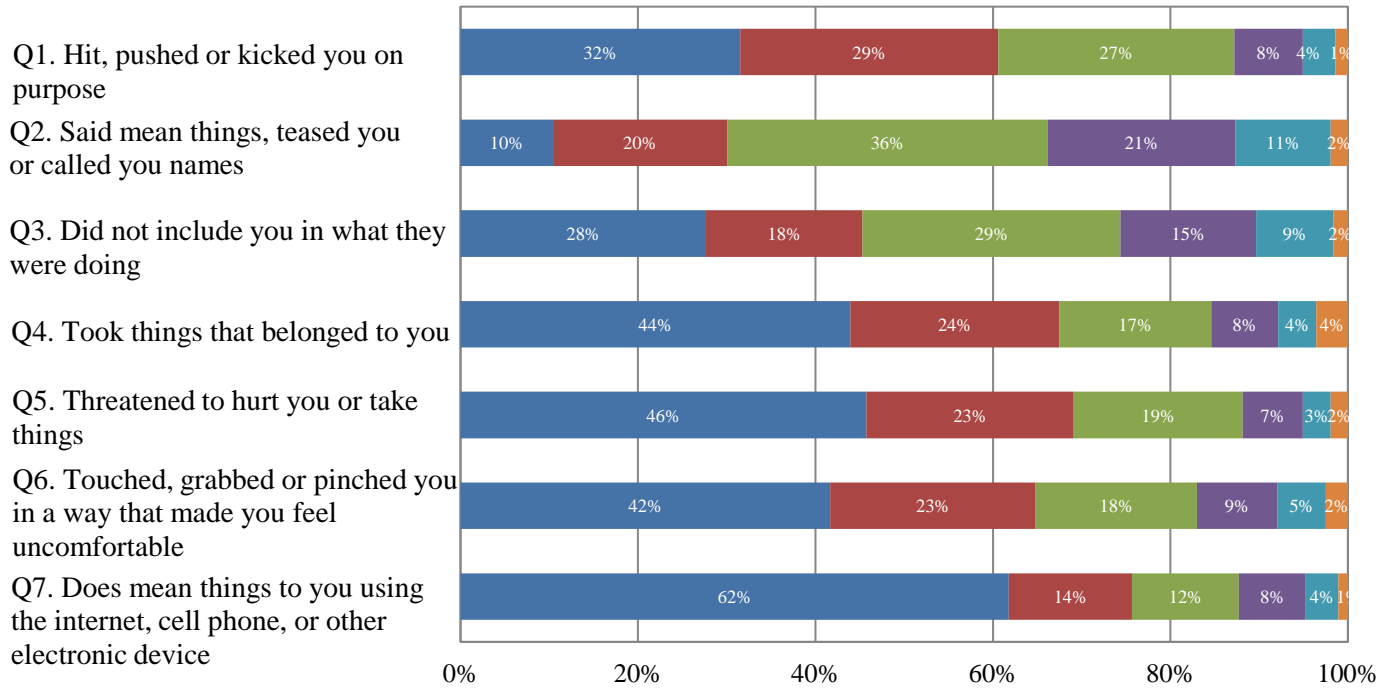
Questions listed at the bottom of this page.

Survey items: During the past **month**, how often have other students:

- Q1. Hit, pushed, or kicked you on purpose
- Q2. Said mean things, teased you, or called you names
- Q3. Did not include you in what they were doing
- Q4. Took things that belonged to you
- Q5. Threatened to hurt you or take things
- Q6. Touched, grabbed, or pinched you in a way that made you feel uncomfortable
- Q7. Did mean things to you using the internet, cell phone, or other electronic device

Frequency of bullying behaviors reported by students who said they have been bullied in the past month

■ Never ■ Once ■ Sometimes ■ Often ■ Every day ■ No response



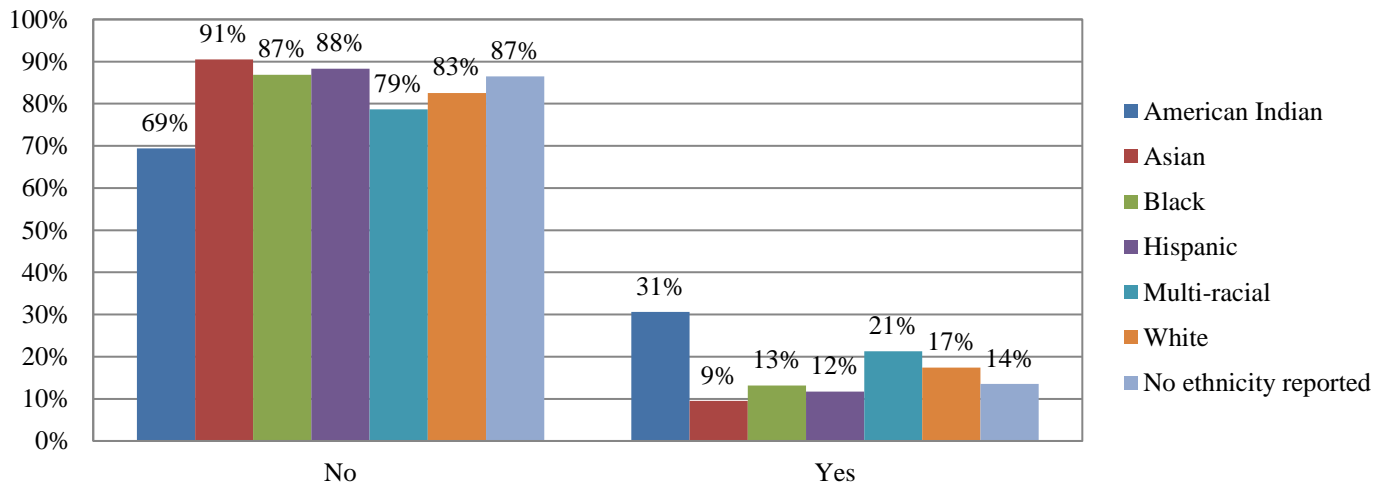
The graphic above displays the frequency with which students who reported being bullied in the past month reported experiencing various bullying behaviors.

Reports of bullying behaviors by race/ethnicity

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

- When asked, “Overall, have you been bullied in the past month?”, both American Indian and multi-racial students reported being bullied at significantly higher rates than Asian, Hispanic, and Black students. White students reported being bullied at significantly higher rates than Asian students.
- Asian students reported experiencing specific bullying behaviors significantly less frequently than at least one other racial/ethnic group in most instances.
- Multi-racial students reported experiencing all seven bullying behaviors (listed in the bullets below) significantly more frequently in comparison to at least one of the other racial/ethnic groups. Multi-racial students experienced:
 - Being hit, pushed or kicked on purpose significantly more frequently than Asian and White students.
 - Having mean things said about them significantly more frequently than Asian students.
 - Not being included in things significantly more frequently than Asian students.
 - Having things taken from them significantly more frequently than Hispanic and White students.
 - Being threatened to be hurt or have things taken significantly more frequently than Asian, Hispanic, Black and White students.
 - Being touched, grabbed, or pinched significantly more frequently than Asian, Black, and White students.
 - Having mean things done to them using the internet or electronic device significantly more frequently than Asian students.
- Black students reported being hit, kicked or pushed purposefully and having mean things said about them at a significantly higher rate than Asian students.
- White students reported having mean things said about them, having things taken from them, and a being threatened to be hurt or have things taken at a significantly higher rate than Asian students.

Percentages of students who reported that other students bullied them in the past month, by ethnicity

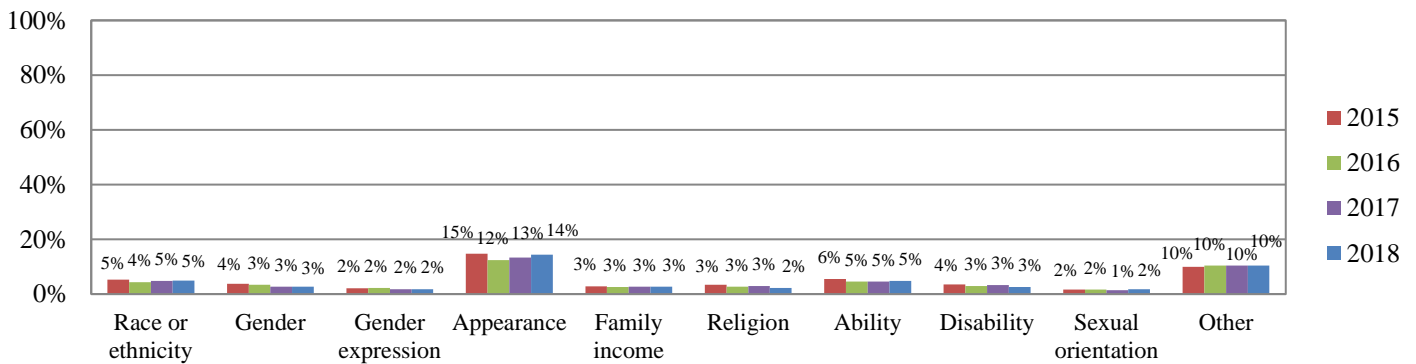


“If you were bullied, what do you think was the reason?”

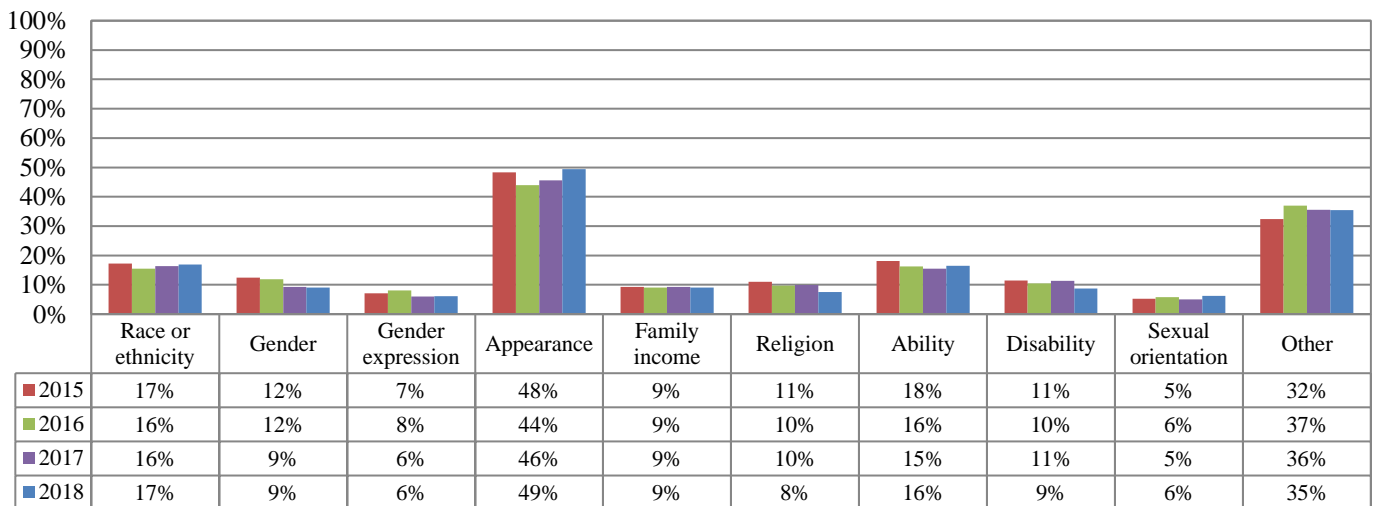
(Students were instructed to select all responses that applied.)

- Of the total number of students who completed the survey, 7% of students did not respond to this item, while 64% of all respondents reported that they “have not been bullied.” The following two graphs show the percent out of all students surveyed (whether bullied or not) who believe they were bullied for each of the reasons listed (top), and the percent of students who reported being bullied on this question who believed they were bullied for each reason (bottom). For example, 5% of all respondents believe they were bullied because of race/ethnicity in 2018, however this represents 17% of the subset of students who reported being bullied on this question.
- Of all students who completed the survey, the percentage of students reporting they have been bullied because of their appearance has increased from 12% in 2016 to 14% in 2018.
- Of the students who responded to this survey item that they had been bullied, approximately 49% reported that they were bullied because of their appearance, an increase from the previous two years.

**I have been bullied because of:
(Percent out of all students who completed a survey)**



**I have been bullied because of:
(Percent out of students reporting on this item that they have been bullied)**



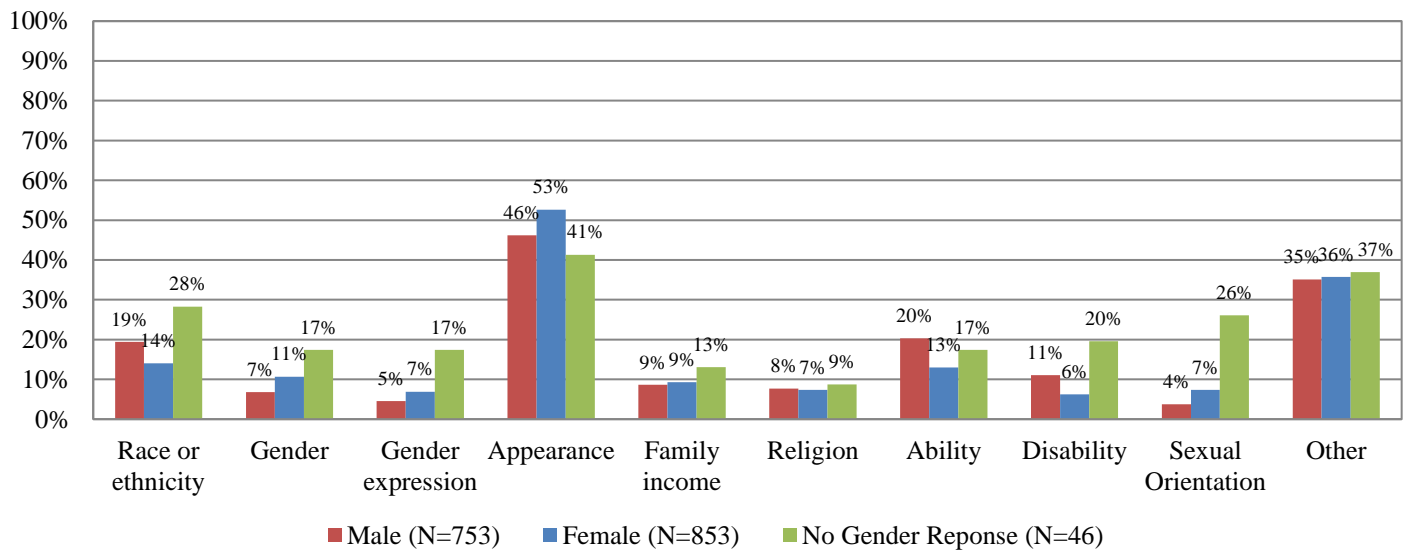
Students were instructed to select all responses that applied.

Note: For the “other” responses, students were provided the opportunity to include other reasons of why they were bullied. From these open-ended responses, top response themes included: physical attributes (e.g., weight, speech), personality or how they act, social status, student’s name, and for no reason or they don’t know.

By Gender

- Students who did not report their gender (17%) were more likely than female students (11%) and male students (7%) to report that they were bullied because of their gender.
- Male students, female students, and students who did not list their gender all reported being bullied due to their appearance more frequently than any other reasons.
- Students who did not report their gender reported being bullied more frequently than male and female students for eight of the ten reason options, including: race or ethnicity, gender, gender expression, family income, religion, disability, sexual orientation, and other reasons.

**I have been bullied because of:
(Percent out of students reporting on this item that they have been bullied)**



N= number of students reporting at least one reason for being bullied.

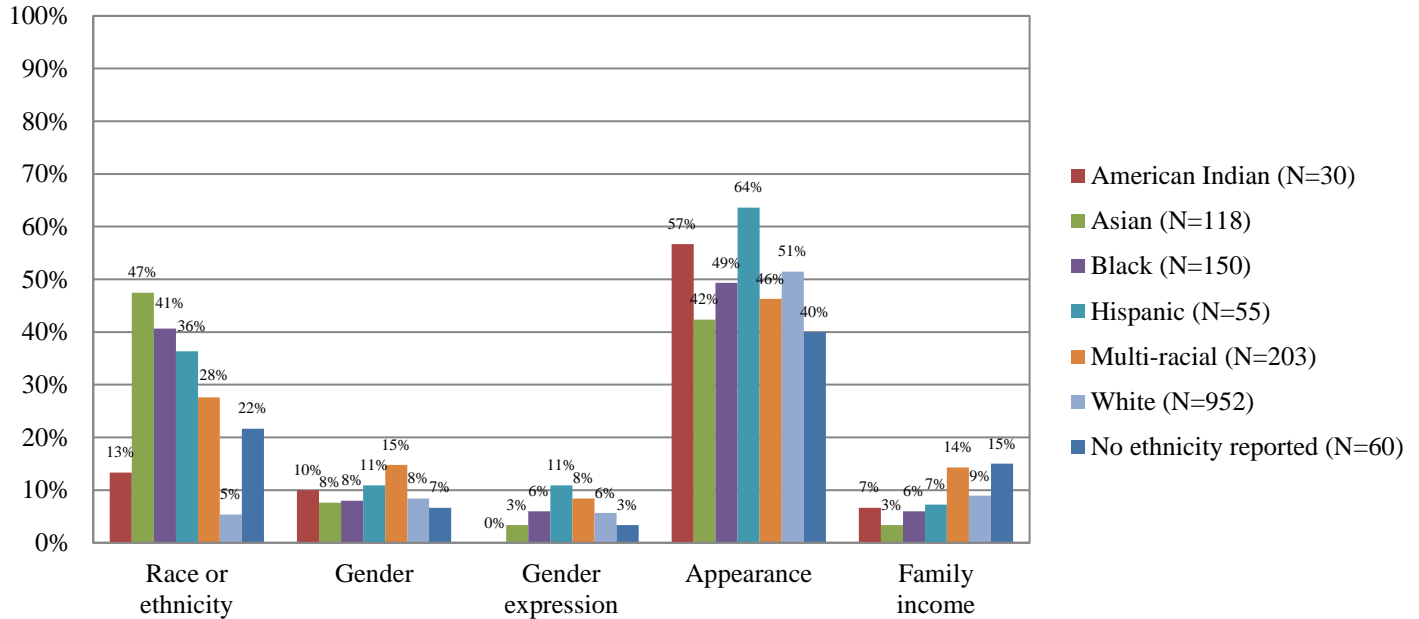
Students were instructed to select all responses that applied.

Note: For the “other” responses, students were provided the opportunity to include other reasons of why they were bullied. From these open-ended responses, top response themes included: physical attributes (e.g., weight, speech), personality or how they act, social status, student’s name, and for no reason or they don’t know.

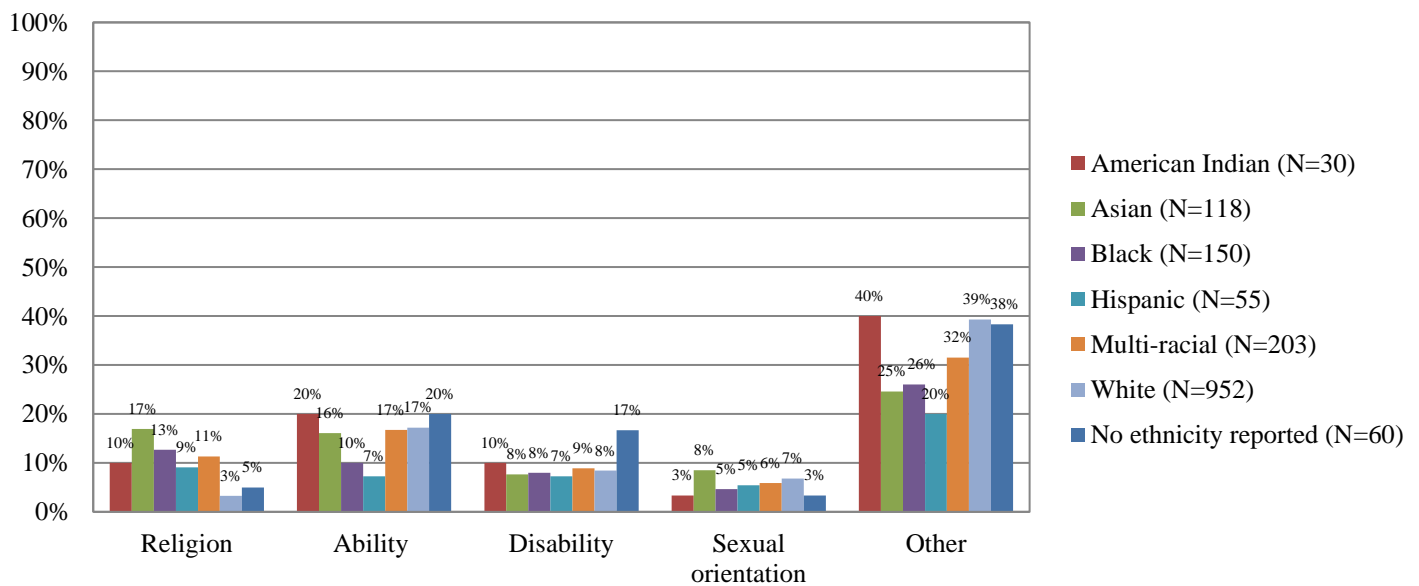
By Race/Ethnicity

- Below is the percentage of students within each racial/ethnic category who reported being bullied for each reason out of those within that racial/ethnic category who reported at least one reason. (The second figure below is a continuation of the list of reasons provided as options).
- Race/ethnicity was the top reason for being bullied by Asian students, and appearance was the top reason for all other student groups.

**I have been bullied because of:
(Percent out of students reporting on this item that they have been bullied)**



**I have been bullied because of:
(Percent out of students reporting on this item that they have been bullied)**



N= number of students reporting at least one reason for being bullied. Students were instructed to select all responses that applied.

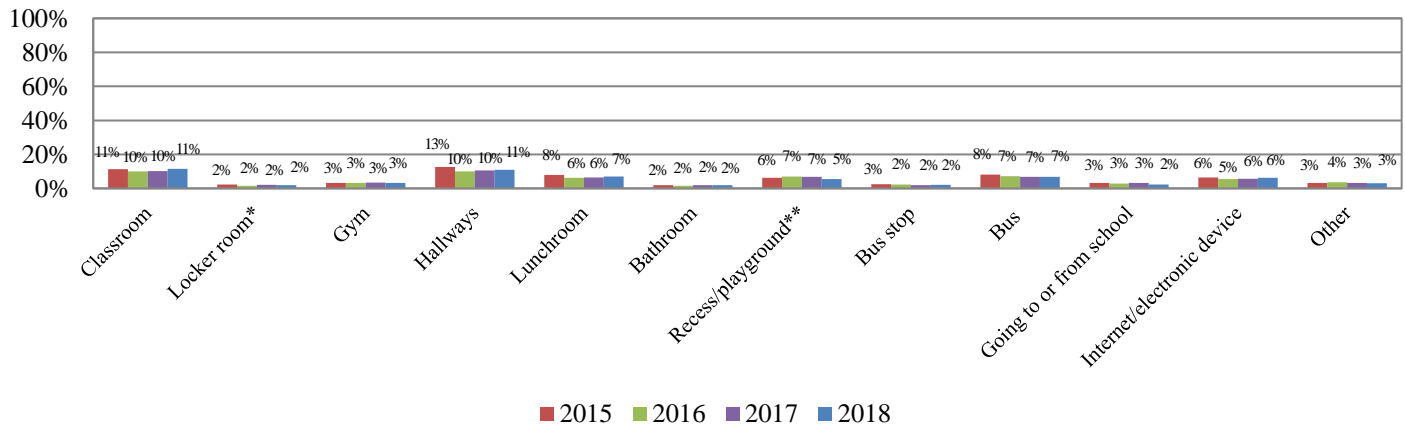
Note: For the “other” responses, students were provided the opportunity to include other reasons of why they were bullied. From these open-ended responses, top response themes included: physical attributes (e.g., weight, speech), personality or how they act, social status, student’s name, and for no reason or they don’t know.

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

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

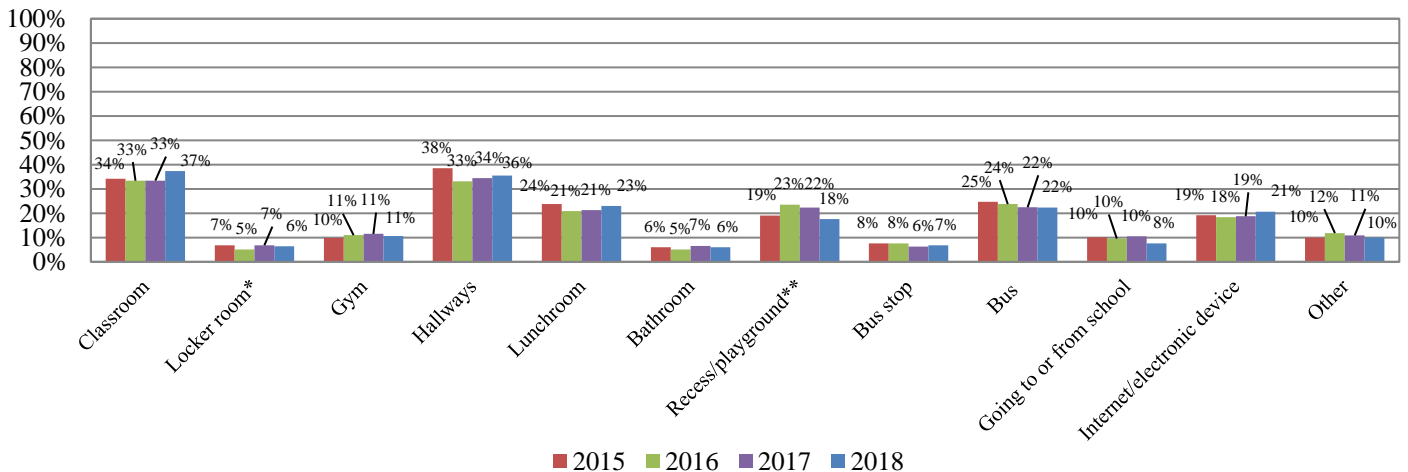
- Eleven percent of all students who took the survey said that they have been bullied in the classroom and/or hallways. These have been the most frequently reported locations for bullying from 2015-2018.
- Seven percent of students who took the survey did not respond to this item, while 62% responded that they “have not been bullied.”
- Approximately 37% of students who reported being bullied reported that they were bullied in the classroom, a 4% increase from 2017.
- Of students who reported being bullied, 36% said it happened in the hallways, a 2% increase from 2017.
- Of students who reported being bullied, 18% said it happened at recess or on the playground, a 4% decrease from 2017.

**Where did it happen?
(Percent out of all students who completed a survey)**



*Indicates this was a response option for secondary students only. ** Indicates this was a response option for elementary students only.

**Where did it happen?
(Percent out of students reporting on this item that they have been bullied)**



*Indicates this was a response option for secondary students only. ** Indicates this was a response option for elementary students only.

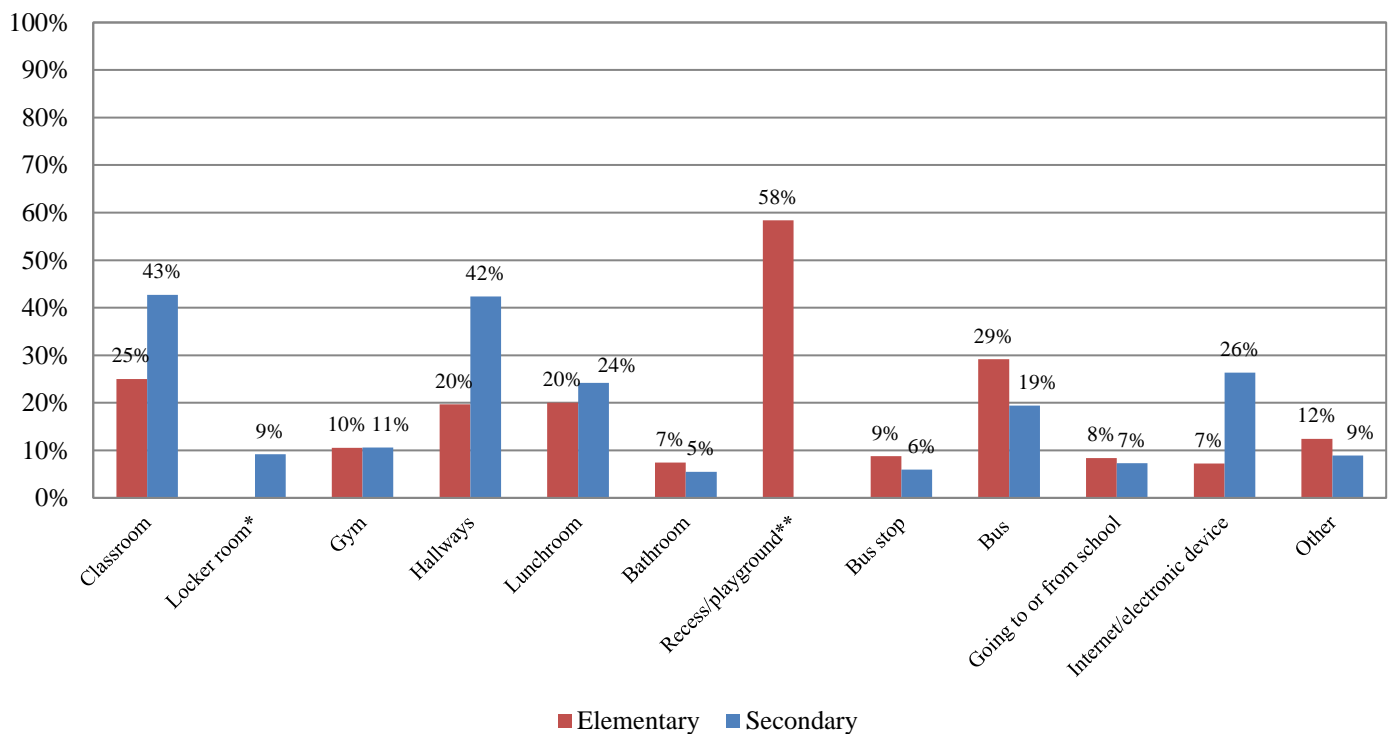
Students were instructed to select all responses that applied.

Note: For the “other” responses, students were provided the opportunity to include other places where they were bullied. Top open-ended responses included before- or after-school care and specials classes (e.g., art, music) for elementary students, “everywhere” and after-school events for secondary students, and lockers and outside of school (e.g., at a friend’s house, at the park) for students at both levels.

By Level

- Of the students who reported being bullied in at least one location, elementary students were most likely to report that they had been bullied at recess/on the playground (58%), while secondary students were most likely to report being bullied in the classroom (43%) or in the hallways (42%).
- Secondary students were more likely than elementary students to report that they were bullied in the classroom, gym, hallways, lunchroom, and on the internet/electronic device.
- Elementary students were more likely than secondary students to indicate they were bullied in the bathroom, at the bus stop, on the bus, going to or from school, and for other reasons.

**Where did it happen?
(Percent out of students reporting on this item that they have been bullied)**



* Indicates this was a response option for secondary students only. ** Indicates this was a response option for elementary students only. Students were instructed to select all responses that applied.

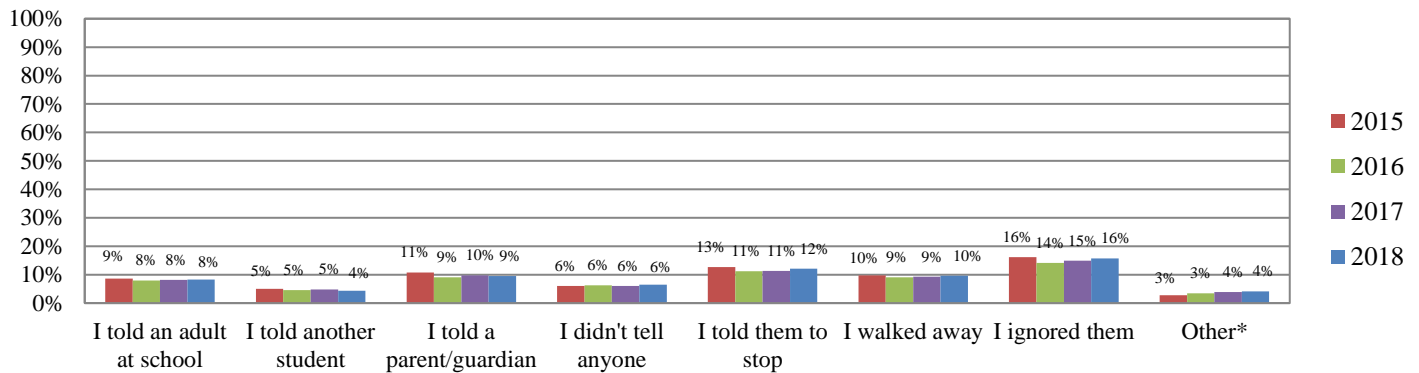
Note: For the “other” responses, students were provided the opportunity to include other places where they were bullied. Top open-ended responses included before- or after-school care and specials classes (e.g., art, music) for elementary students, “everywhere” and after-school events for secondary students, and lockers and outside of school (e.g., at a friend’s house, at the park) for both levels.

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

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

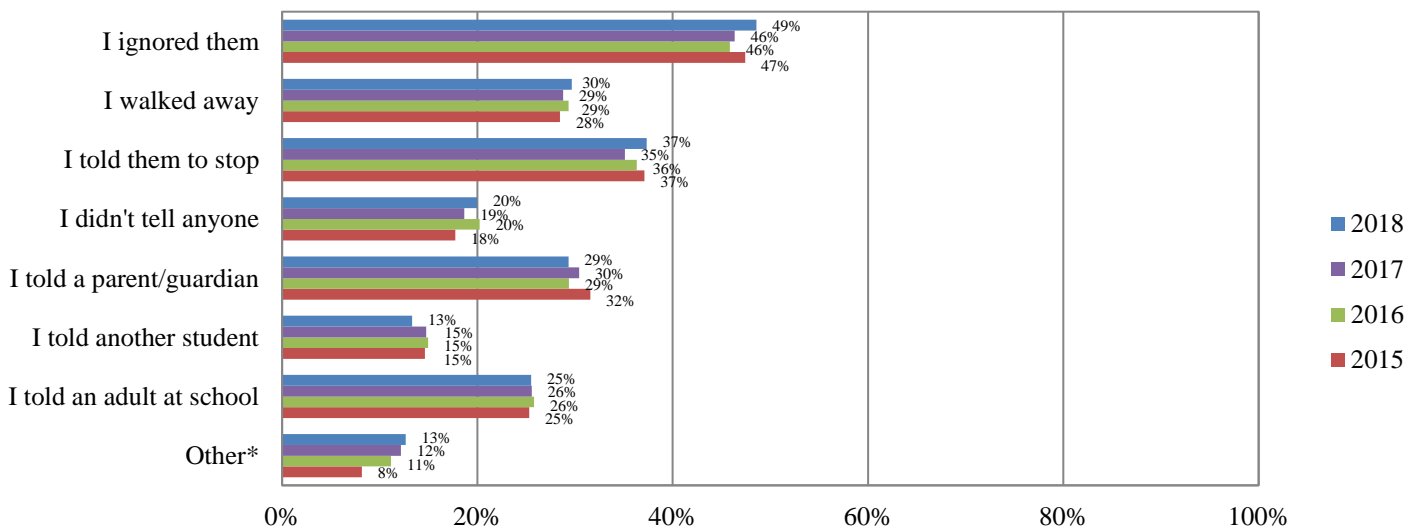
- When the students were asked what they did about being bullied, 7% did not respond and 65% reported that they “have not been bullied.”
- Of all students who completed a survey, 16% reported that they ignored bullies, increasing from 14% in 2016 and remaining the most common response to being bullied since 2015.
- Students who reported being bullied were most likely to ignore the bully (49%), tell them to stop (37%), or walk away (30%).
- Over the past several years, there has been a slight increase in the percentage of students handling bullying themselves (by ignoring bullies, walking away, or telling them to stop) and a slight decrease in the percentage of students telling a parent/guardian or another student.

How did you respond? (Percent out of all students who completed a survey)



*For the “other” responses, students were provided the opportunity to include other actions they took. From these open-ended responses, top response themes included: fought back, stood up for self or talked back, became upset or cried, laughed it off, and “dealt with it.” Students were instructed to select all responses that applied.

How did you respond? (Percent out of students reporting on this item that they have been bullied)

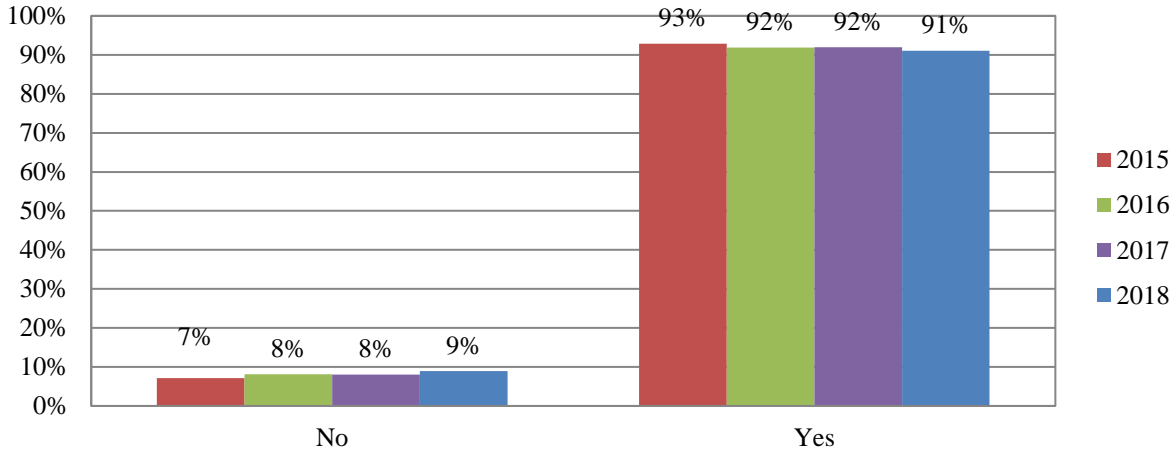


*For the “other” responses, students were provided the opportunity to include other actions they took. From these open-ended responses, top response themes included: fought back, stood up for self or talked back, became upset or cried, laughed it off, and “dealt with it.” Students were instructed to select all responses that applied.

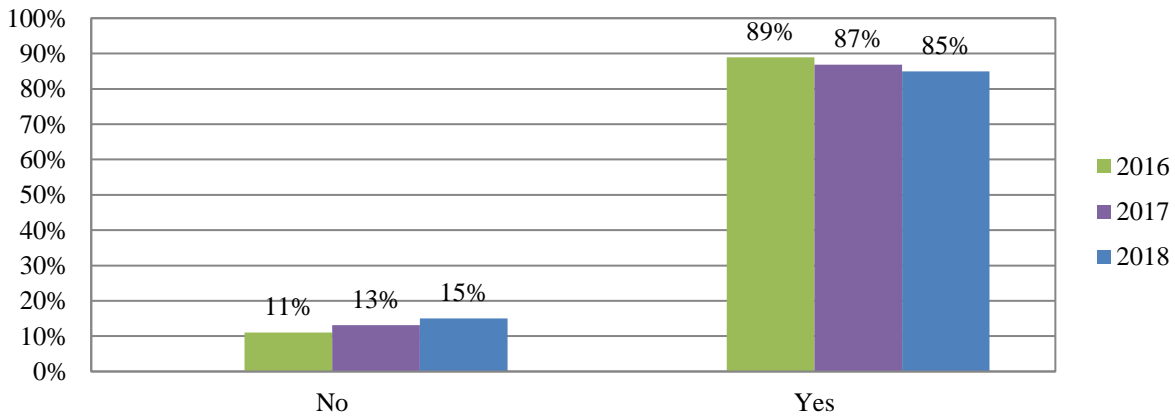
Reports of adult support

- Elementary students’ reports of having an adult to go to for help fell slightly from 92% in 2017 to 91% in 2018.
- In 2018, 85% of secondary students said there is an adult at the school they can go to for help, slightly lower than the elementary school rate of 91%, and down 4% from 2016.

Elementary: Is there an adult at school that you can go to for help if a student is bullying you or someone else?



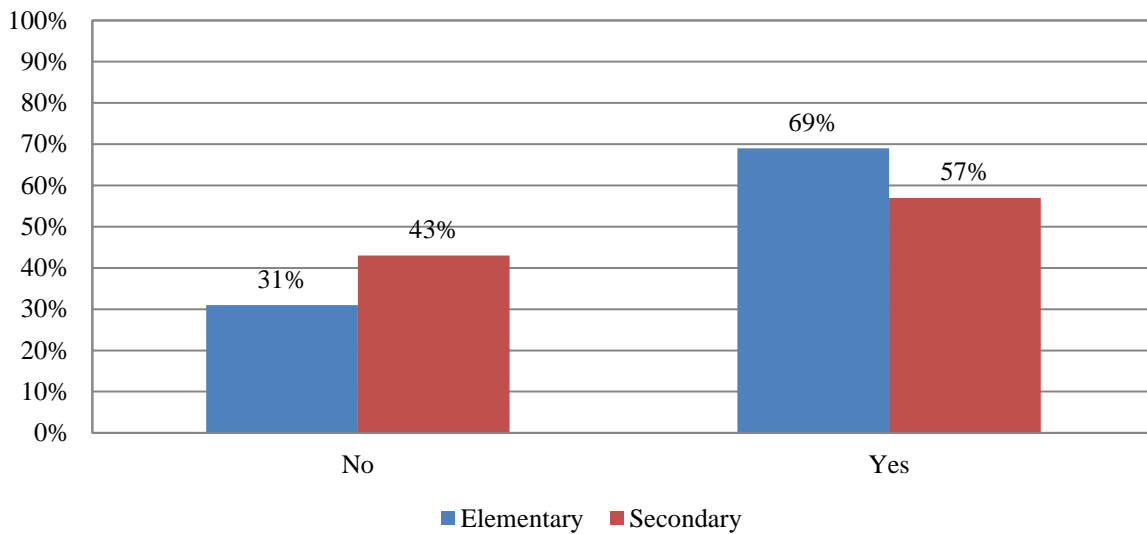
Secondary: Is there an adult at school that you can go to for help if a student is bullying you or someone else?



Note: At the secondary level, the question changed in 2016 from “I believe that an adult in my school will help if I report bullying or harassment” to “Is there an adult at school that you can go to for help if a student is bullying you or someone else,” the same question that has been used at the elementary level. As such, only three years of data are available at the secondary level.

- An item was added to the survey in 2018 asking students, “If you have reported bullying behavior to an adult at school do you feel like it helped?” Approximately 61% of students who took the survey reported on this item that they have not reported bullying behavior to an adult at school, 37% indicated that they had reported bullying, and the remaining 2% of survey respondents did not respond to this item.
- Across both elementary and secondary levels, about 61% of students who did report bullying to an adult at school felt that doing so helped, while 39% of students felt that it did not help. Elementary students were more likely to feel that reporting bullying behavior helped (69%) than secondary students were (57%).

**If you reported bullying behavior, do you feel like it helped?
(Elementary vs. secondary, 2018 only)**

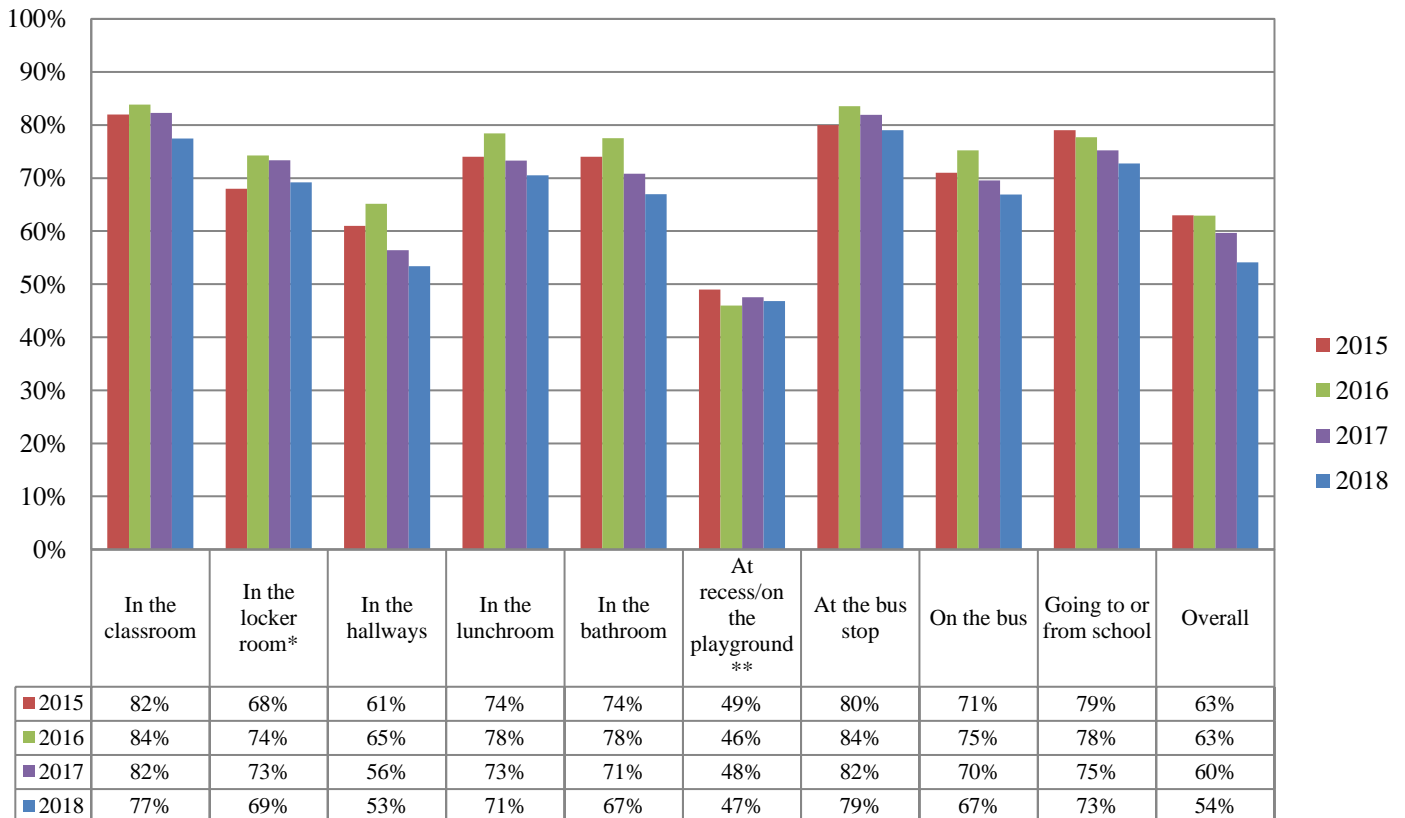


Note: Percentages shown here represent the proportion of students answering “No” or “Yes” to this question out of the total number of students at each level who indicated on this item that they had in fact reported bullying behavior.

“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 and at the bus stop.
- Feelings of safety have declined two years in a row in all categories except for “at recess/on the playground.” However, this location remains the area with the lowest percentage of students feeling safe for elementary students.
- The two locations with the greatest declines in percent of students feeling safe from 2016 to 2018 were in the hallways (down 12%) and in the bathroom (down 11%).
- Feelings of safety going to or from school have declined three years in a row from 79% in 2015 to 73% in 2018.
- Students’ overall feeling of safety declined by nine percentage points to 54% over the past two years.

Percentage of students who indicated that they felt "safe" in the following places
(All respondents)

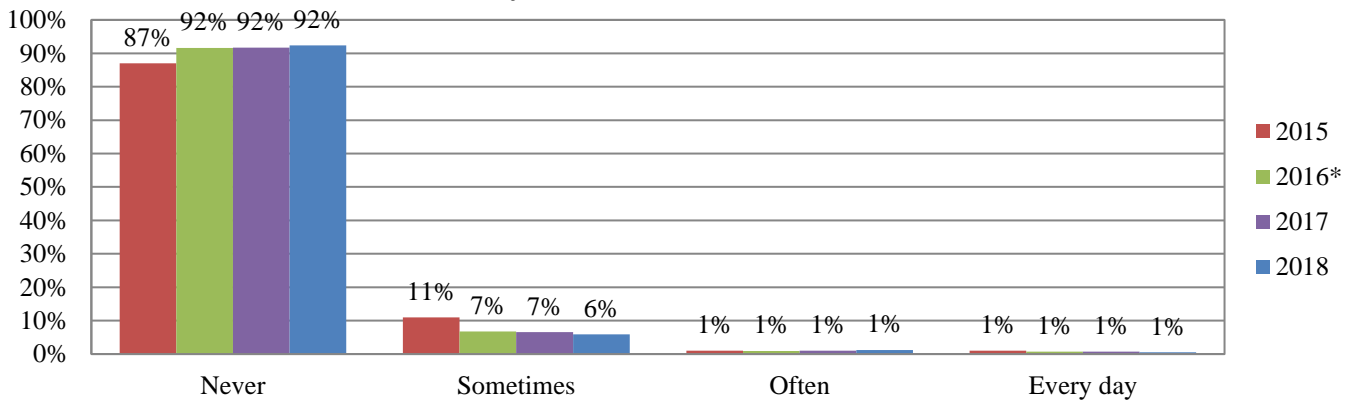


Note: Percentages do not include those students who indicated they felt “kind of safe.” * Indicates this was a response option for secondary students only.
 ** Indicates this was a response option for elementary students only.

“Have you bullied someone?”

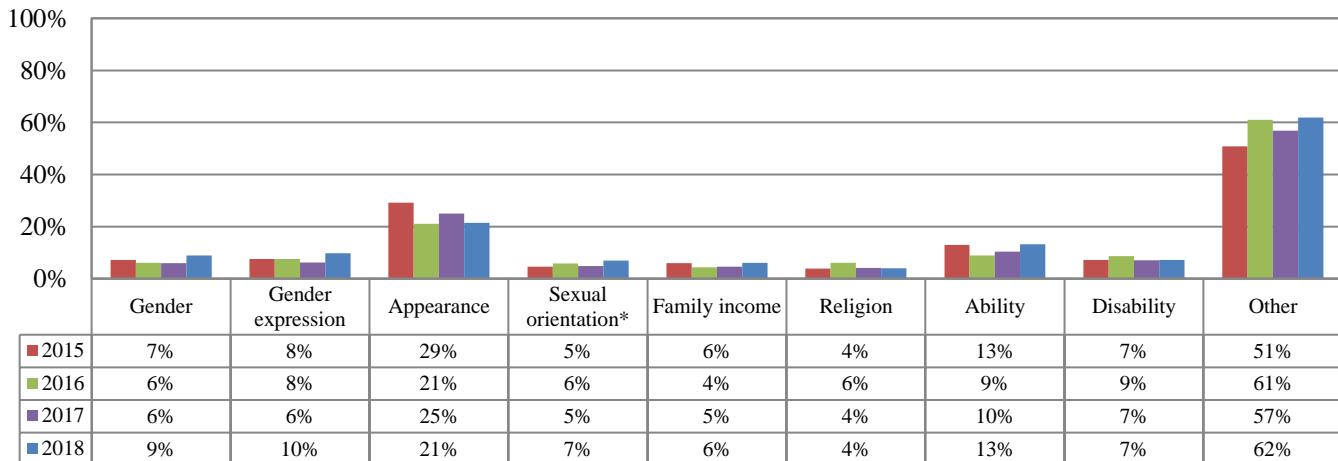
- The wording for the items presented in the next four graphs changed in 2016 to specify that the bullying occurred “in the last month.” Therefore, comparisons to previous years should be made with caution.
- Approximately 92% of students responding to the question “How often have you bullied someone in the last month?” reported that they have “never” bullied anyone, while 6% of students did it “sometimes.”
- One percent of students responding reported that they bullied someone “often” or “every day,” consistent with previous years.
- Of the respondents who reported having bullied someone, 21% reported that they have bullied others because of their appearance, while 62% chose the “other” option as a reason for bullying someone else.
- The most common themes among students who reported bullying someone else for “other” reasons were because the person had bullied them or their friends and because they were “playing” or “joking.”

How often have you bullied someone in the last month?



* Wording for this item changed in 2016 to specify that the bullying occurred “in the last month.”

If you have bullied someone, why?
(Percent out of students who reported on this item that they had bullied someone)



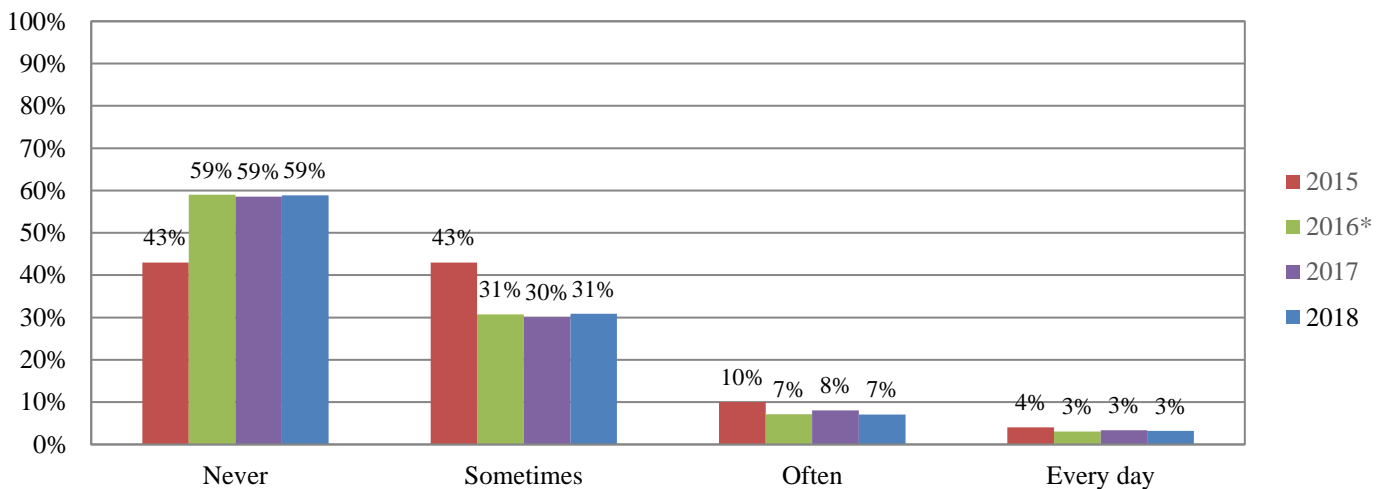
*Indicates this was not a response option for elementary school students.

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 response themes included: they bullied/were mean to me or my friends, and I was “playing” or “joking.”

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

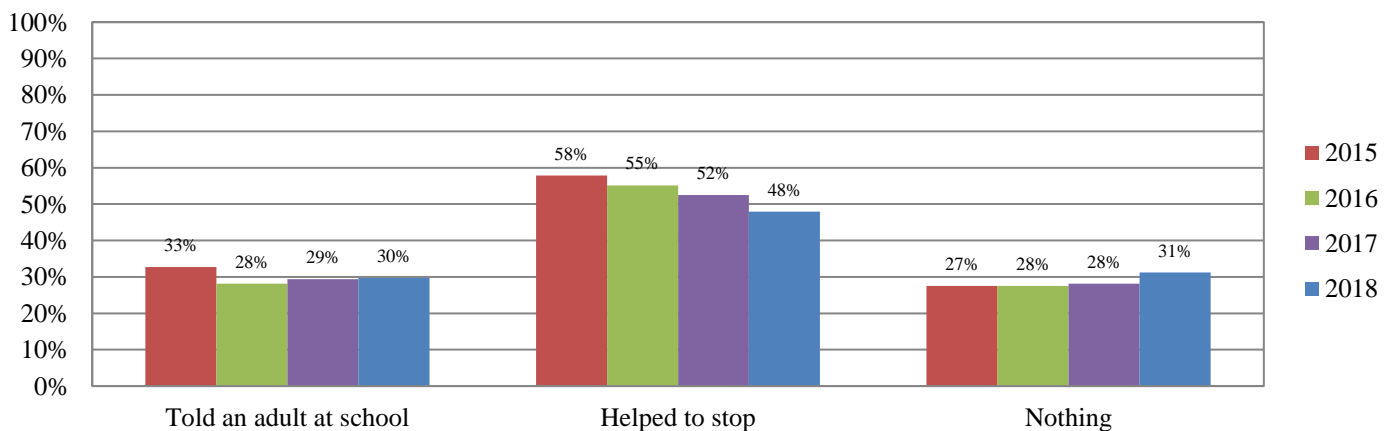
- About 59% of students reported that they have “never” seen someone else being bullied in the last month, 31% of students have seen it “sometimes,” 7% have seen it “often,” and 3% have seen it “every day.”
- Of students reporting that they had seen bullying, nearly half (48%) said that they “helped to stop,” 30% said they “told an adult at school,” and 31% said they did “nothing.”
- There has been a steady decline in the percent of students who helped to stop bullying if they saw it, falling from 58% of students in 2015 to 48% in 2018, while over the same timeframe there has been a slight increase in the percent of students reporting that they did “nothing” (27% to 31%).

Have you seen someone else being bullied in the last month?*



* Wording for this item changed in 2016 to specify that the bullying occurred “in the last month.”

If you saw bullying, how did you respond? (Percent out of students reporting on this item that they have seen bullying)



Note: Percentages reported are of students who indicated what they did when they saw someone being bullied out of those who reported doing at least one of these actions. Students were instructed to select all that apply. Students were also given the option of “other.” In 2018, 8% of students who saw bullying reported other responses. Common among these responses were: standing up to the bully or telling the bully to stop, comforting or supporting the person being bullied, and walking away for fear of being targeted by the bully.

Open-ended responses

Students were instructed, “If you do not feel safe at school, please tell us why.”

Elementary

Themes from elementary students included:

- Students reported having mean things said about their height, their weight, their name, or something about their appearance.
- Students reported not feeling safe because of the fear that they might be bullied or hurt.
- Students reported fearing violence from intruders, including that someone might come into the school or playground and start shooting or kidnap them.
- Students also reported lack of adult supervision at recess, near lockers, or in the bathroom as a reason why they felt unsafe.
- Students reported feeling unsafe in specials classes (e.g., art, music) and in after-school care programs.
- Students reported feeling unsafe because of older students who bully them or their friends.

Secondary

Themes from secondary students included:

- Students reported not feeling safe because of one or more students in the school as well as fears about violence in the schools and on the bus.
- Many students expressed fears of being harmed by intruders and were concerned about building security. Relatedly, students expressed fear related to lockdown and active shooter drills.
- Students expressed general anxiety and fear that “anything can happen.”
- Some students reported feeling that adults were unwilling or unable to intervene in problems.
- Some students reported feeling unsafe because of unwanted physical touch or sexual harassment.
- Some students reported feeling unsafe because of homophobic, transphobic, sexist, or racist attitudes among students.
- Lastly, students reported feeling unsafe because of crowding and lack of supervision in the halls. Many students mentioned that they can be shoved, tripped, or kicked in the hallways.

This report was generated by the Research, Evaluation, and Testing department of the Anoka-Hennepin School District. For further information, please visit the RET website, www.ahschools.us/ret, or call (763) 506-1000 and request the RET department.