
Anti- Bullying Survey 2017

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 is 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.

The Anti-Bullying Survey addresses 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

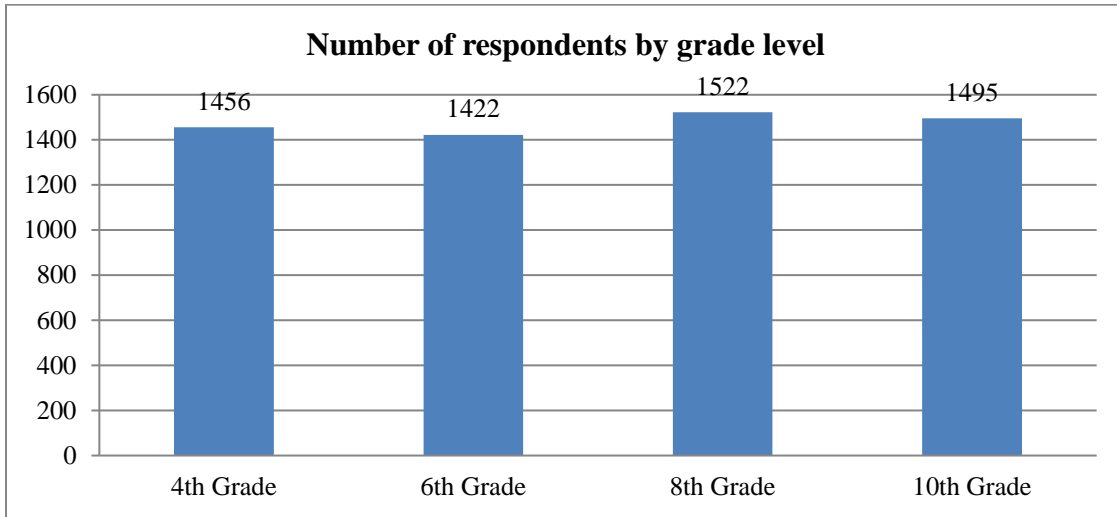
Each item was rated on a 5-point scale: (1) never, (2) once, (3) sometimes, (4) often, (5) every day.

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.

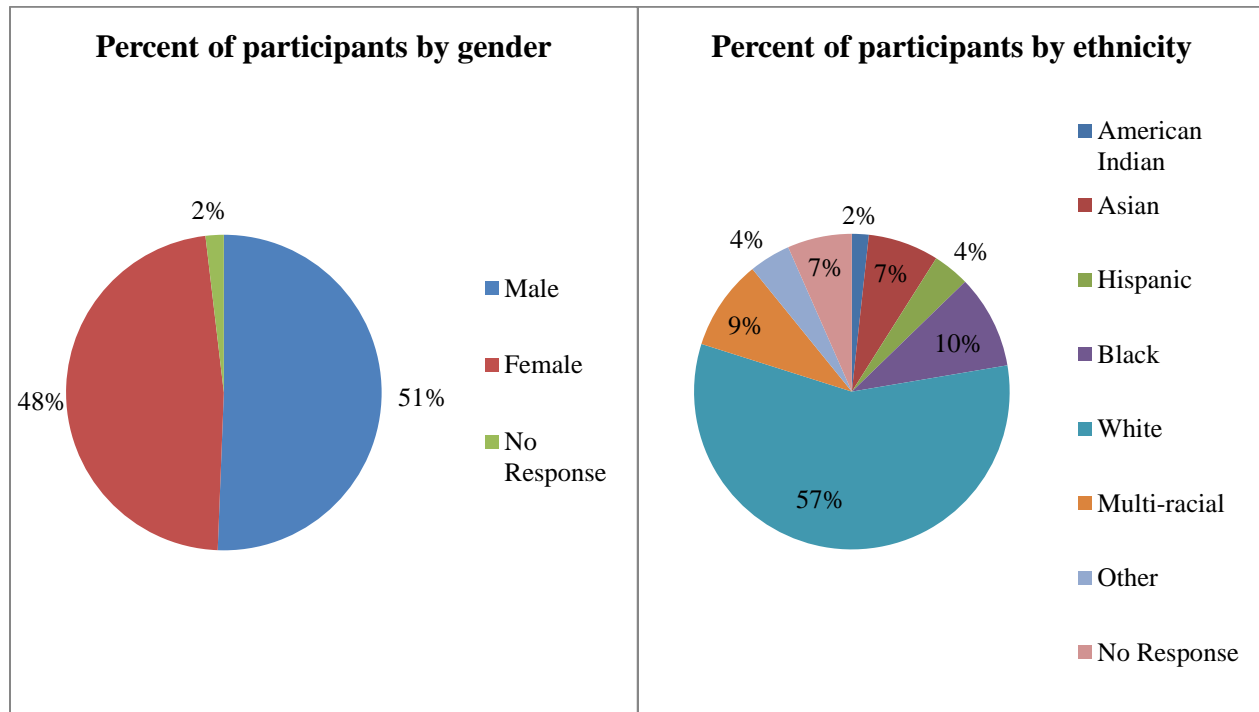
Bullying is defined in the survey as, "when a student (or students) does mean things on purpose to hurt or embarrass another student. These mean things happen over and over, not just once."

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 2017, 5,902 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, 57.5% of the participants were White, 9.3% were Multi-racial, 9.6% were Black, 7.3% were Asian/Pacific Islander, 3.8% were Hispanic, 1.7% were American Indian, and 6.6% did not respond to this question.



Note: There were 6 students who did not select a grade level.



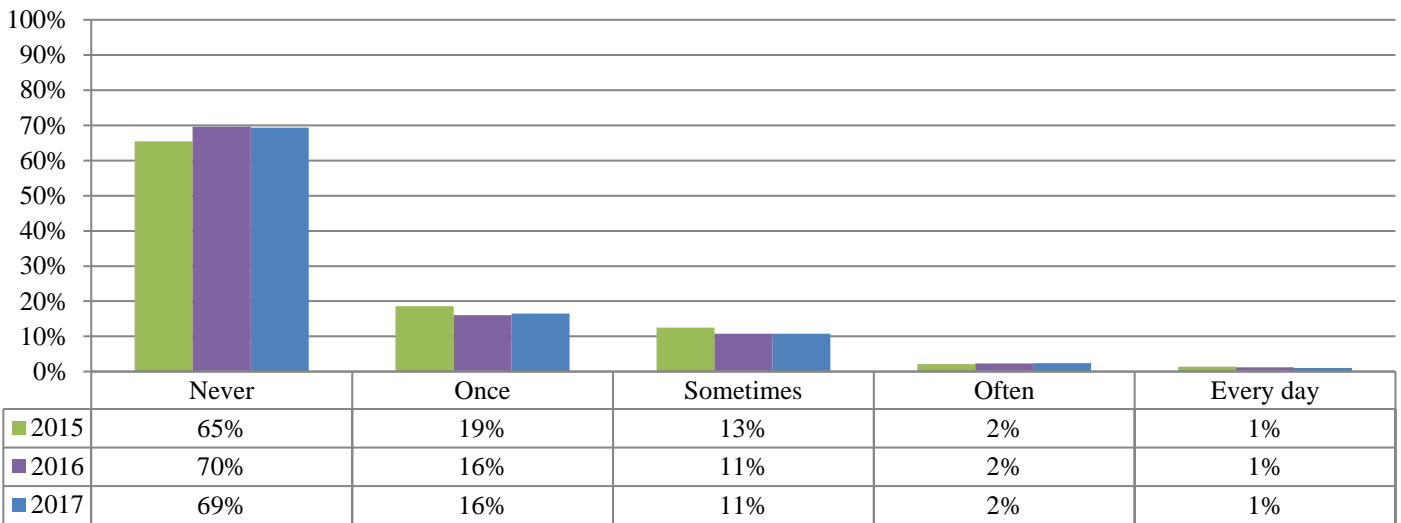
What are the key findings?

- The majority of students report not being bullied in the past month.
 - The percent of students who report experiencing no bullying remained essentially steady, moving from 82% in 2016 to 81% in 2017.
- The percent of students who report never bullying others remained steady, moving from 92% in 2016 to 91% in 2017.
- Most students who reported bullying behaviors indicated the behaviors as other students saying mean things, teasing them, or calling them names. This is consistently the most frequently reported behavior.
- In general, secondary students reported a lower incidence of experiencing bullying behaviors 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 five of the seven bullying behaviors significantly more frequently than other ethnic groups, and American Indian students reported experiencing bullying behaviors within the past month at a significantly higher rate.
- 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 slightly, from 44% in 2016 to 46% in 2017.
 - Fifteen percent of the students who reported they have been bullied reported they were bullied because of their ability, down slightly from 16% in 2016.
 - Remaining fairly consistent across the years, approximately 16% of students reported they have been bullied because of their race/ethnicity, however, the rate is much higher for Asian, Hispanic, and Black students; 41%, 40%, and 39% respectively.
 - Females were more likely to report that they were bullied because of their appearance and gender, whereas males were more likely to report being bullied because of their ability.
 - Students who didn't report their gender reported being bullied for gender expression, sexual orientation, and/or disability at significantly higher rates than students who reported their gender.
- Overall, students reported that they were most likely to be bullied in the hallways, in the classrooms, on the bus, and in the lunchroom (all fairly steady from 2016). Elementary students reported that they were most likely to be bullied on the playground (although this has decreased from 2015).
- Students who reported being bullied were most likely to respond by ignoring bullies, telling bullies to stop, telling a parent/guardian, or walking away.
- About 87% of secondary students and 92% 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 slightly in 2017 from past years, from 63% in 2014, 2015, and 2016 to 60% in 2017. The places where fewer students than last year reported feeling safe were in the hallways, the bathroom, and on the bus.

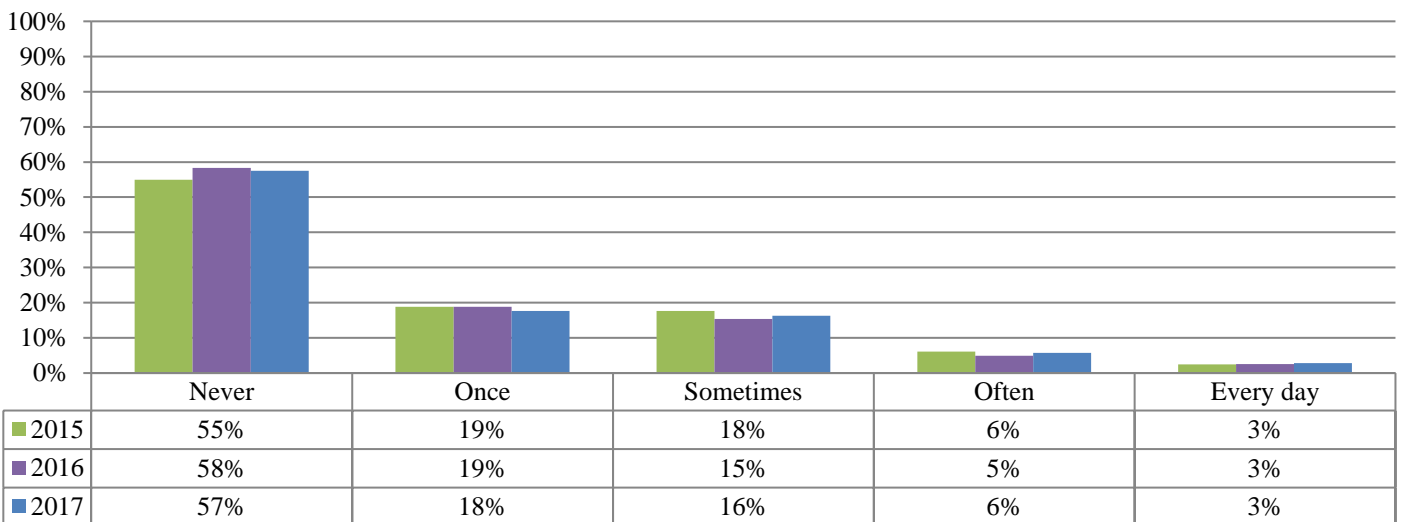
Comparing overall responses by year

For the series of survey questions asking, during the past month, how often have they experienced each of the seven bullying behaviors, the response options changed. Beginning in 2015 the response options included never, once, sometimes, often, and every day. Answers to these questions have remained fairly consistent, especially between 2016 and 2017.

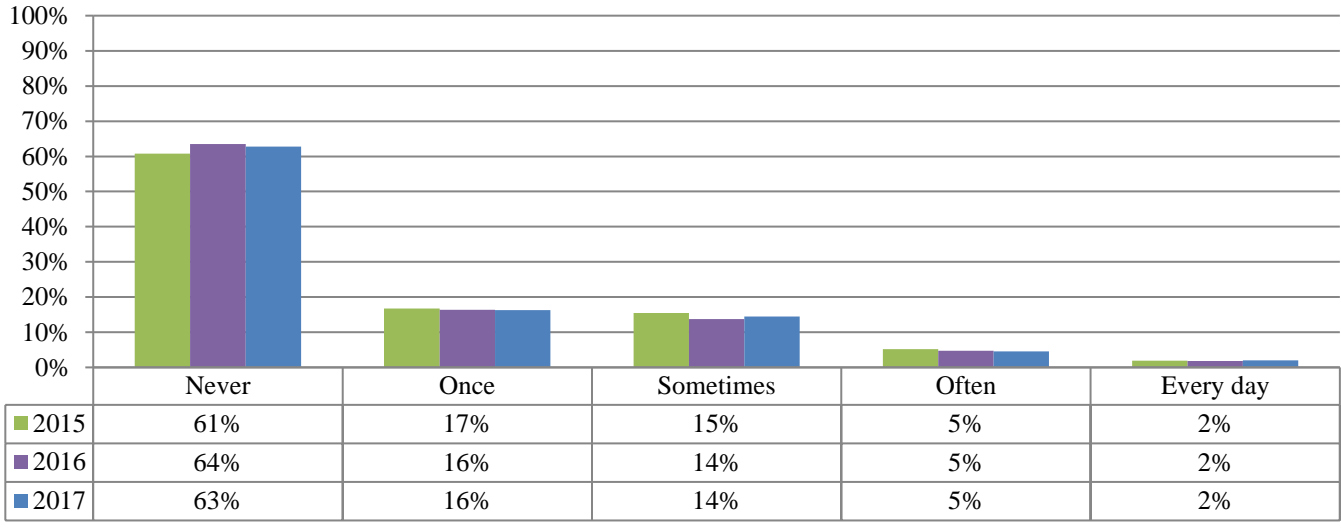
Percentages of students who reported that other students have hit, pushed, or kicked them on purpose



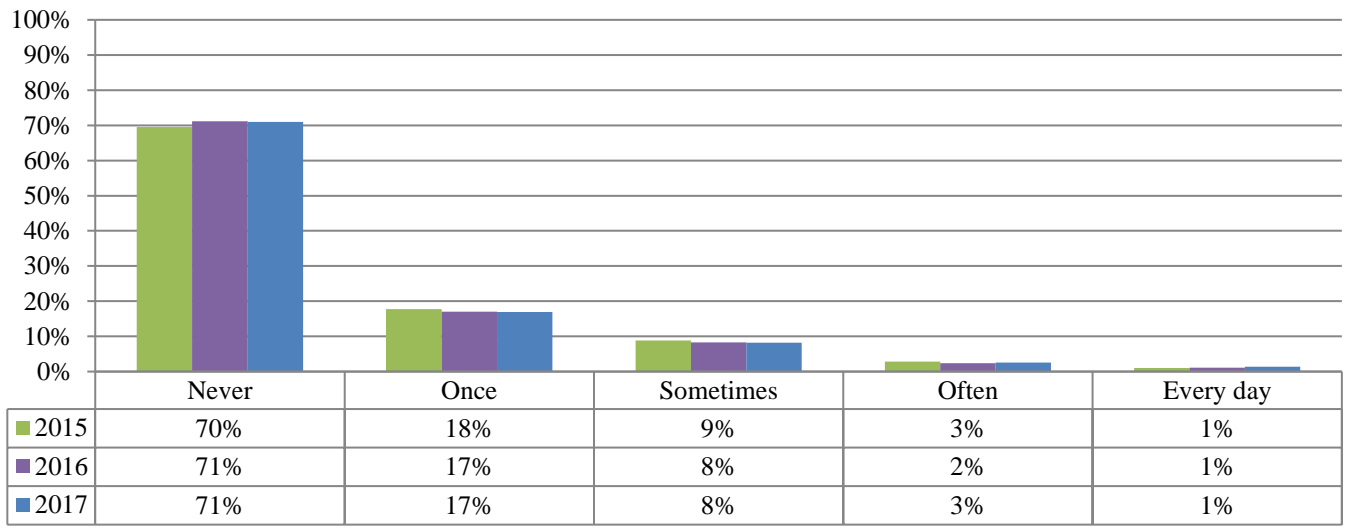
Percentages of students who reported that other students have said mean things, teased them, or call them names



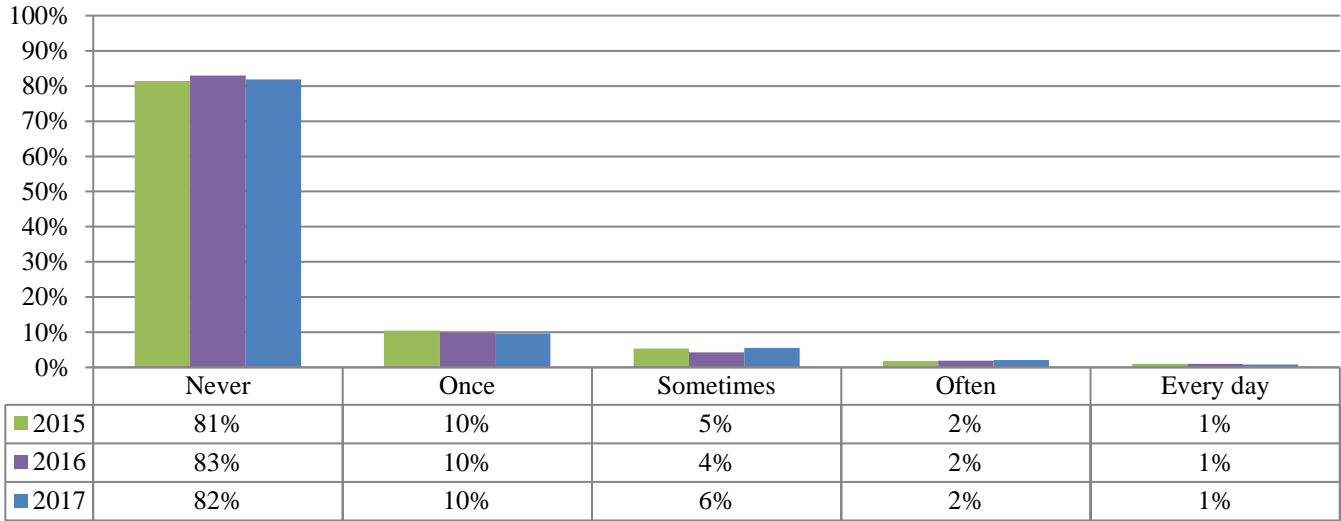
Percentages of students who reported that other students did not include them in what they were doing



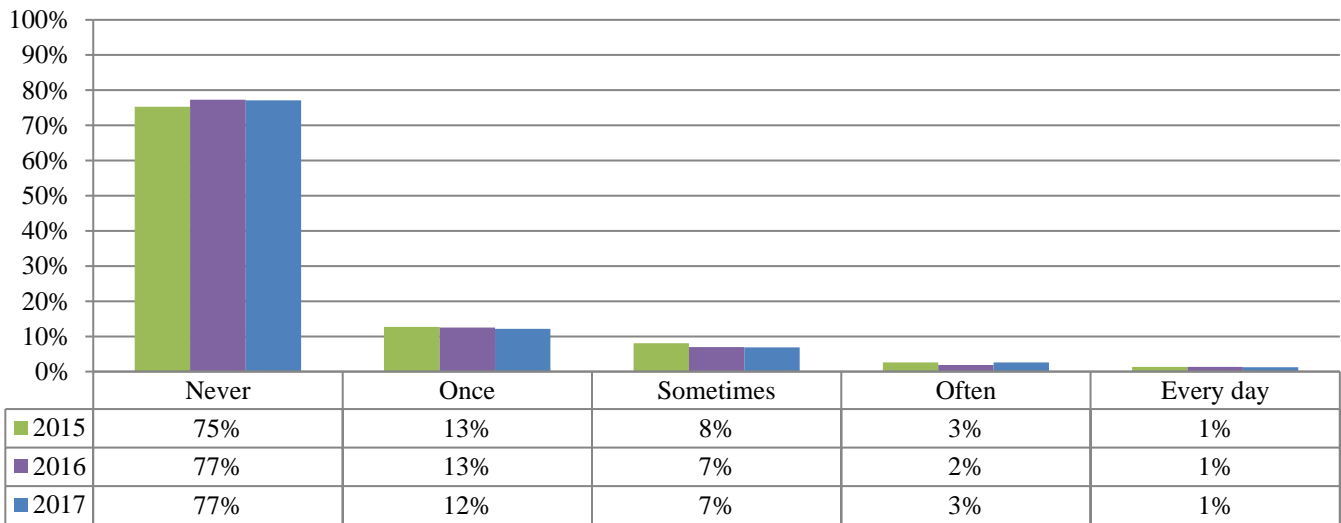
Percentages of students who reported that other students took things that belonged to them



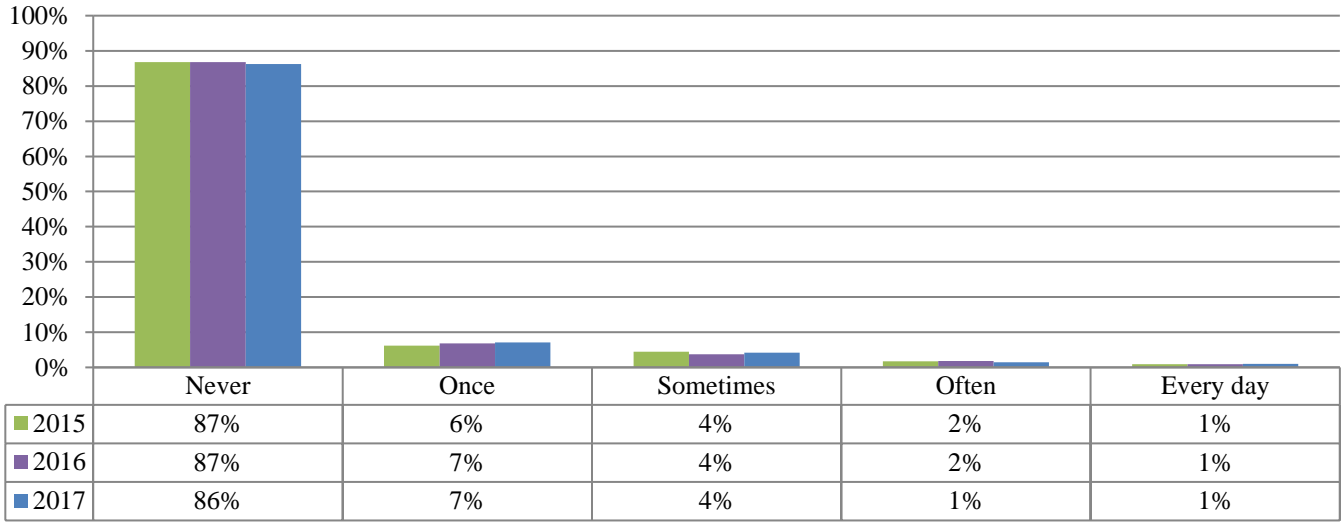
Percentages of students who reported that other students threatened to hurt them or take things



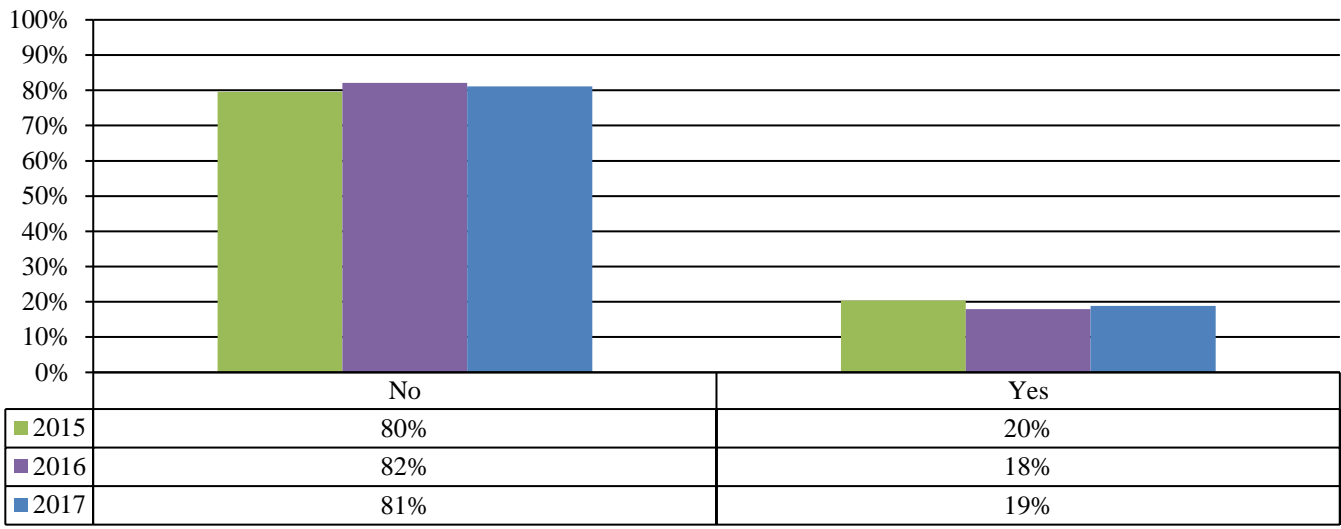
Percentages of students who reported that other students touched, grabbed, or pinched them in a way that made them feel uncomfortable



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



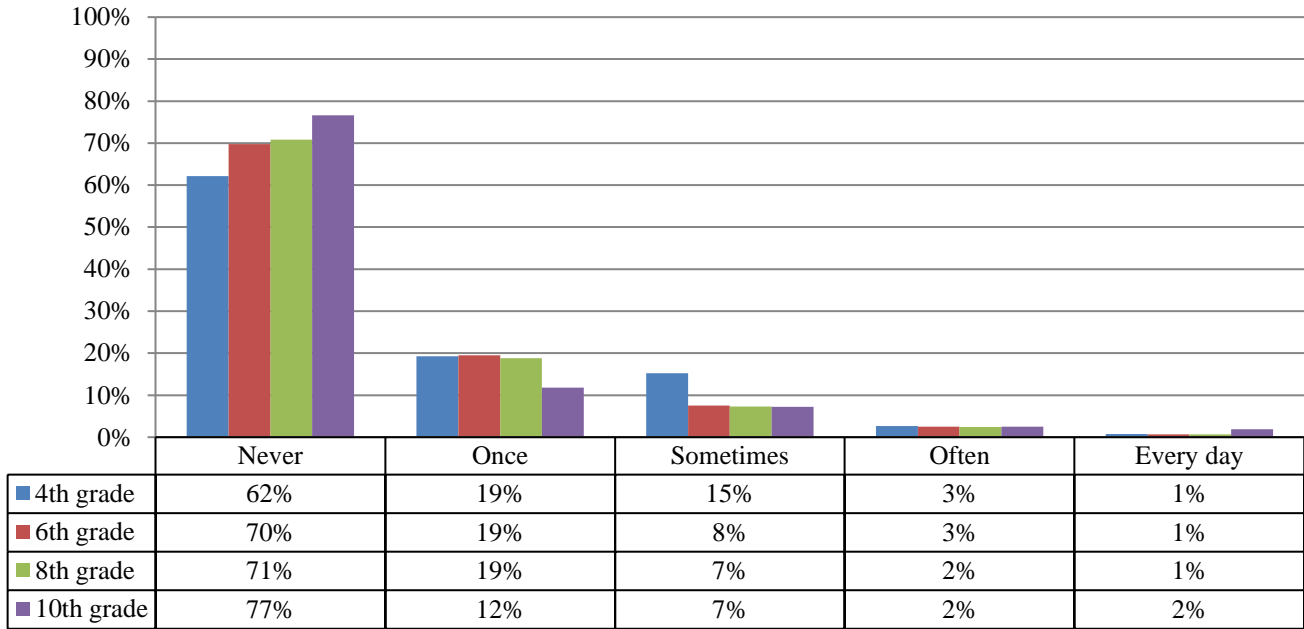
Percentage of students who reported that they have been bullied in the past month



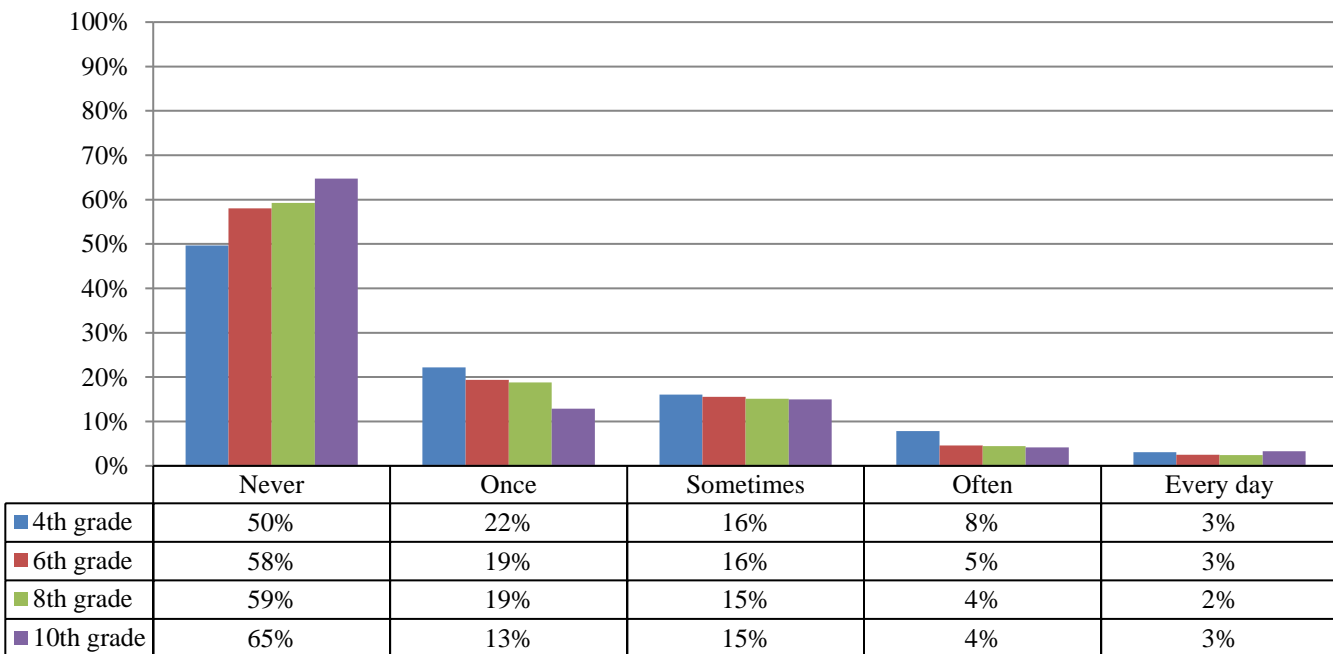
Reports of bullying behavior by grade

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

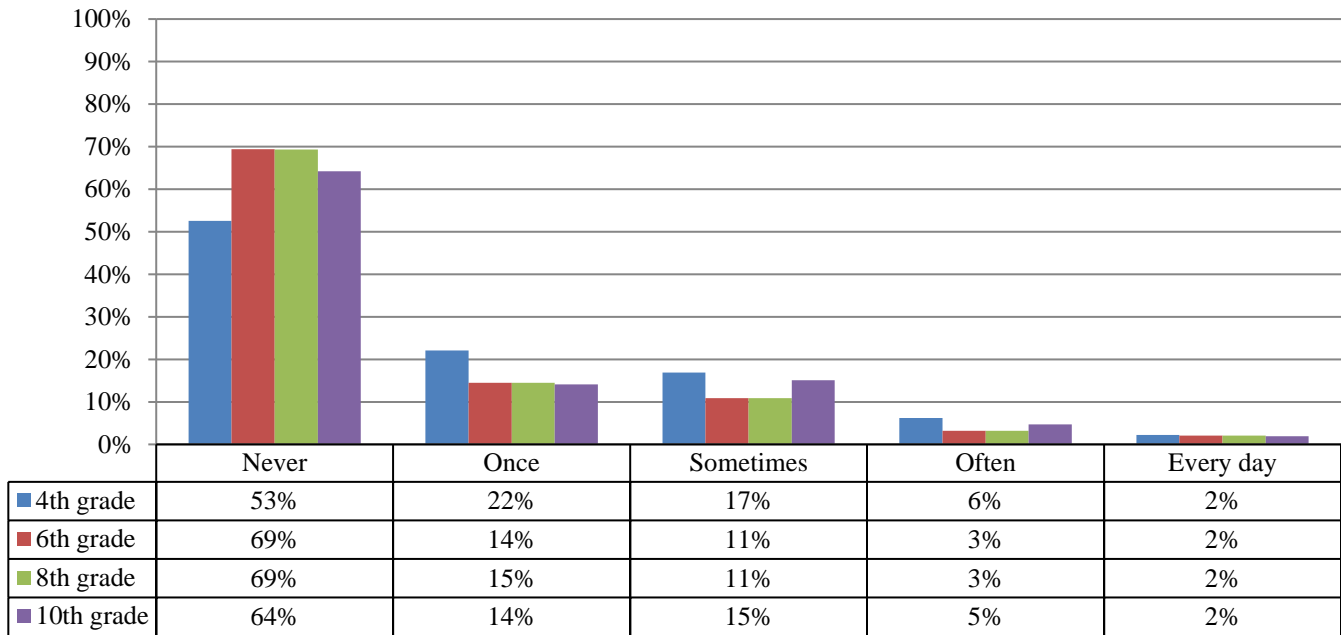
Percentage of students who reported that other students have hit, pushed, or kicked them on purpose, by grade level



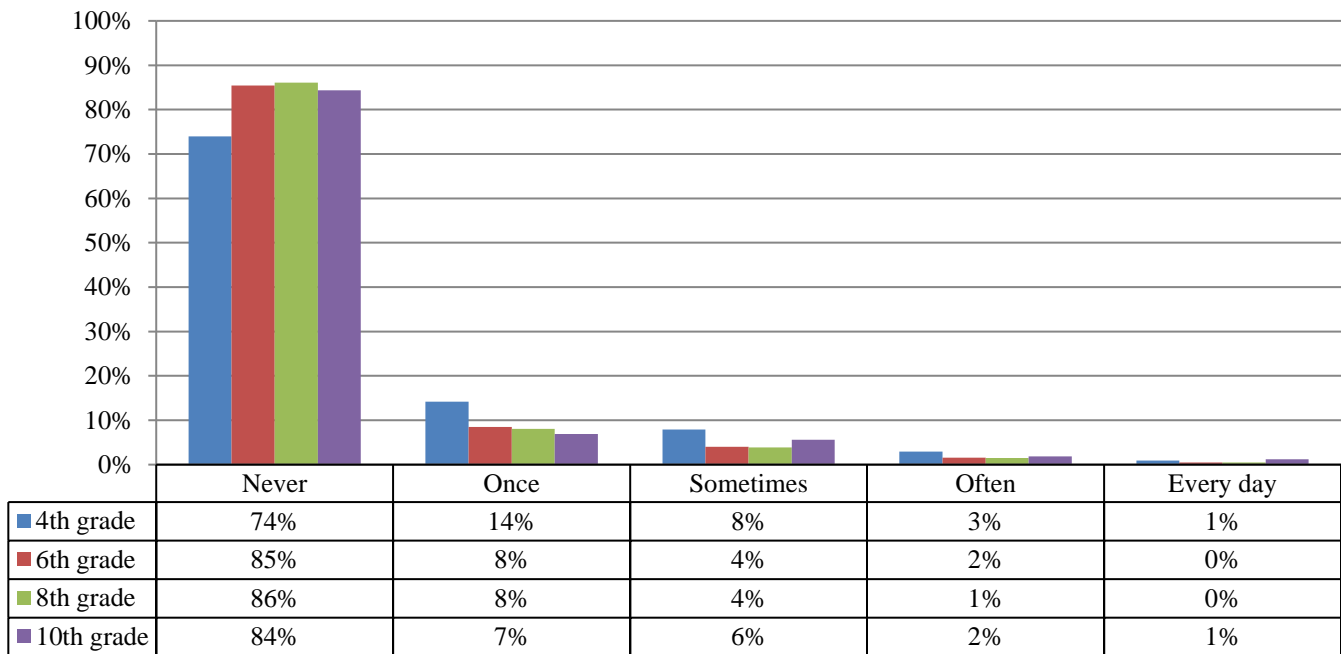
Percentage of students who reported that other students have said mean things, teased them, or called them names, by grade level



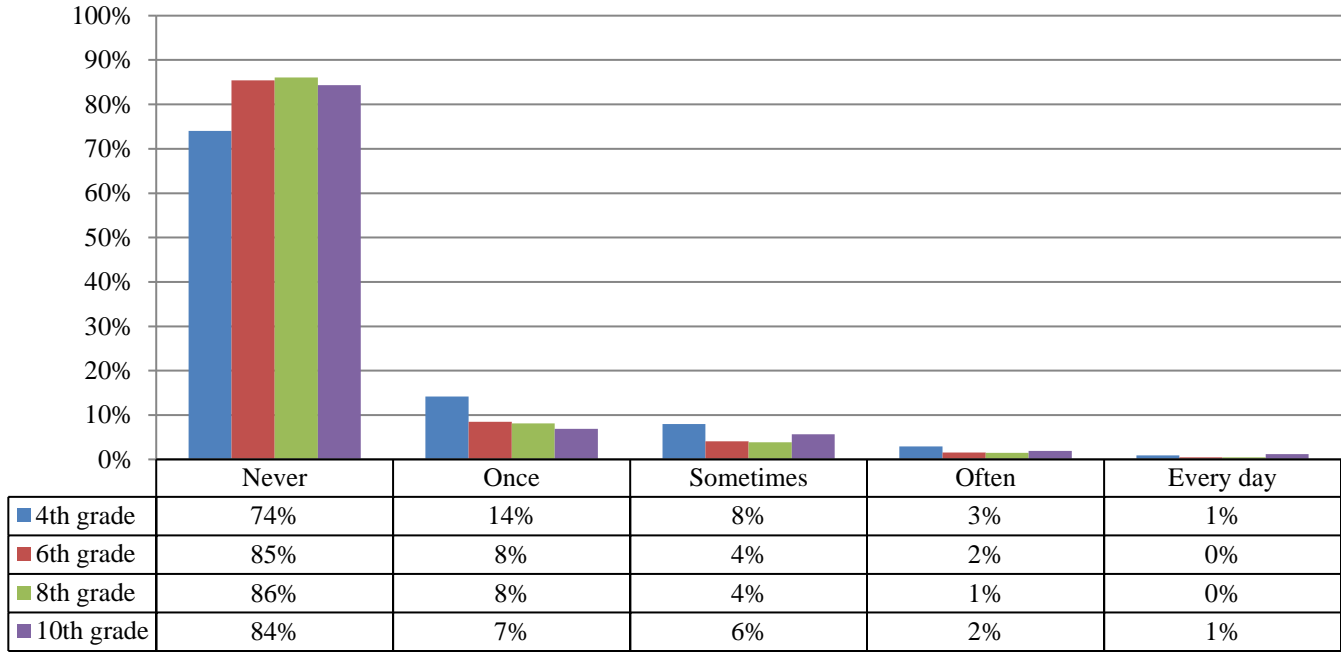
Percentage of students who reported that other students did not include them in what they were doing, by grade level



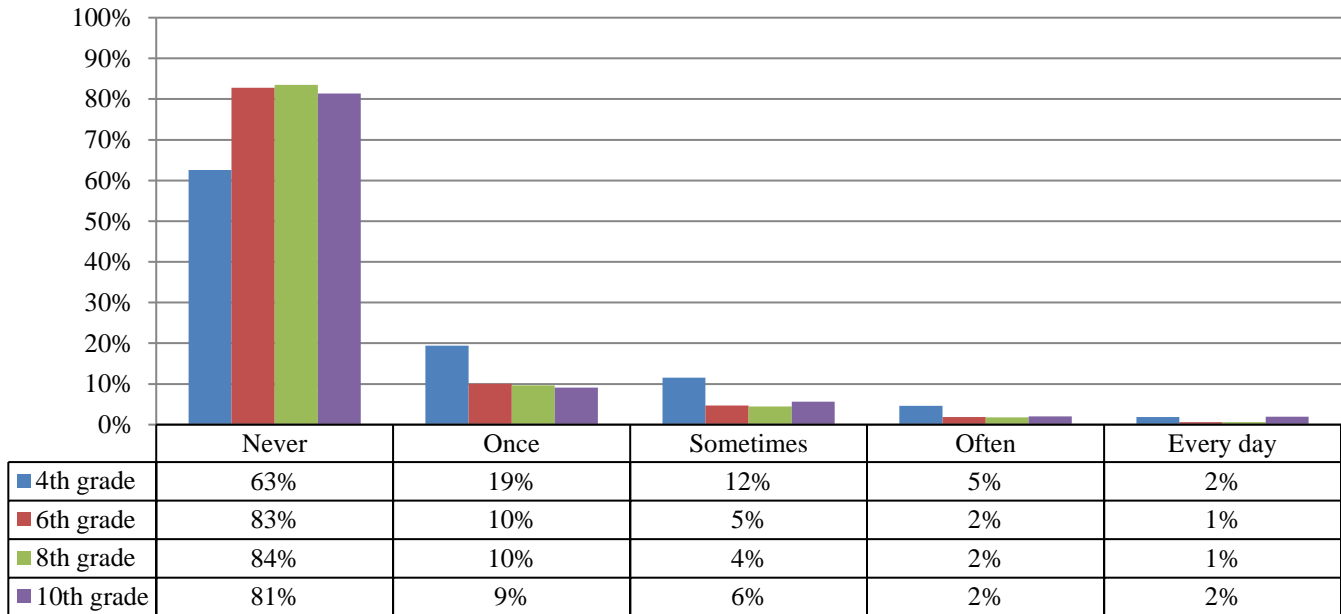
Percentage of students who reported that other students took things that belonged to them, by grade level



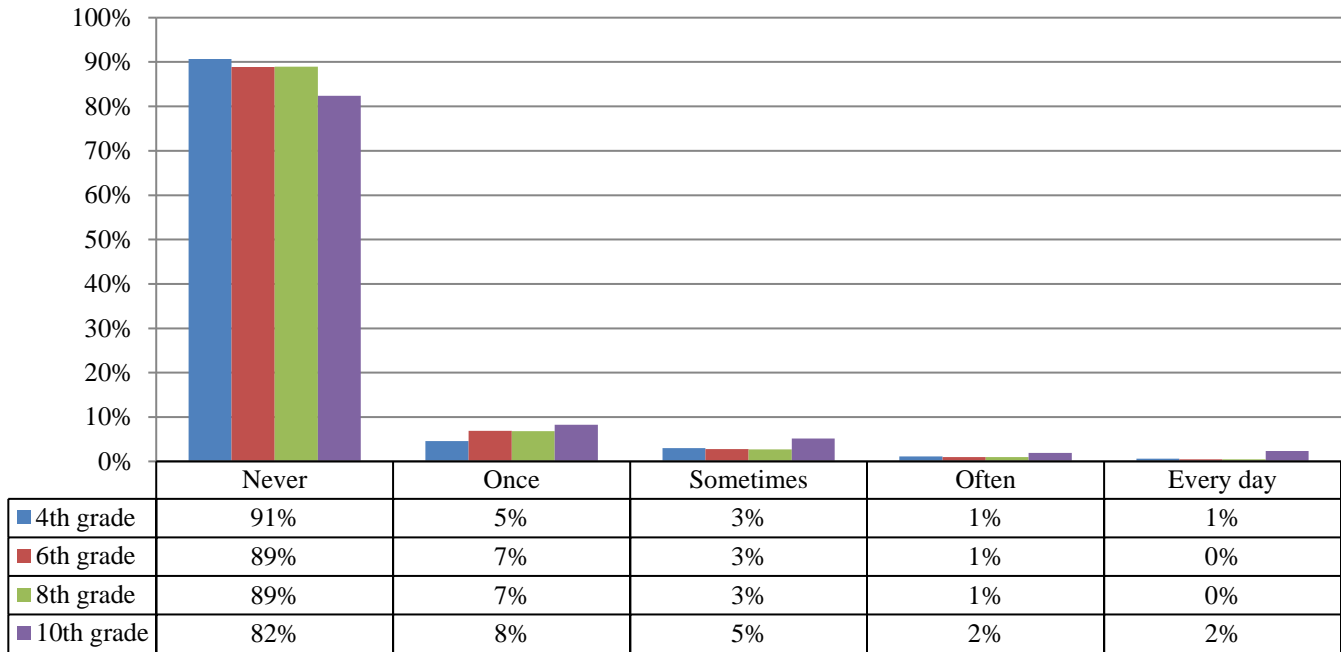
Percentage of students who reported that other students threatened to hurt them or take things, by grade level



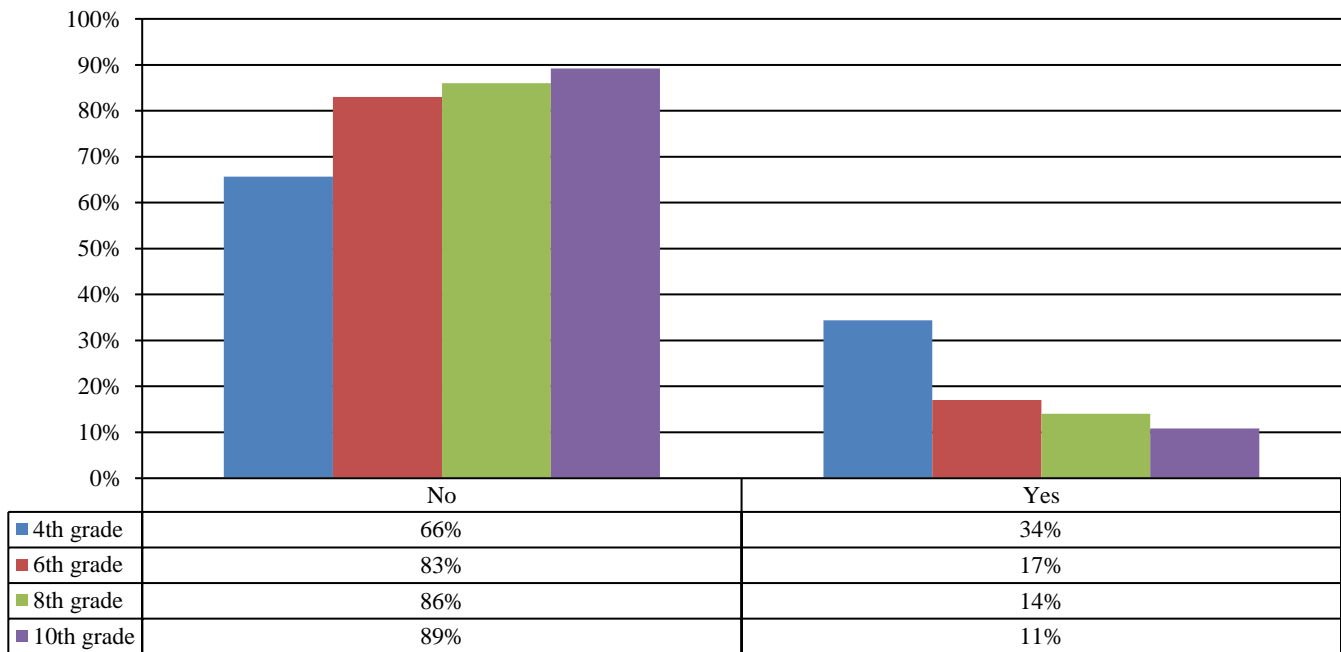
Percentage of students who reported that other students touched, grabbed, or pinched them in a way that made them feel uncomfortable, by grade level

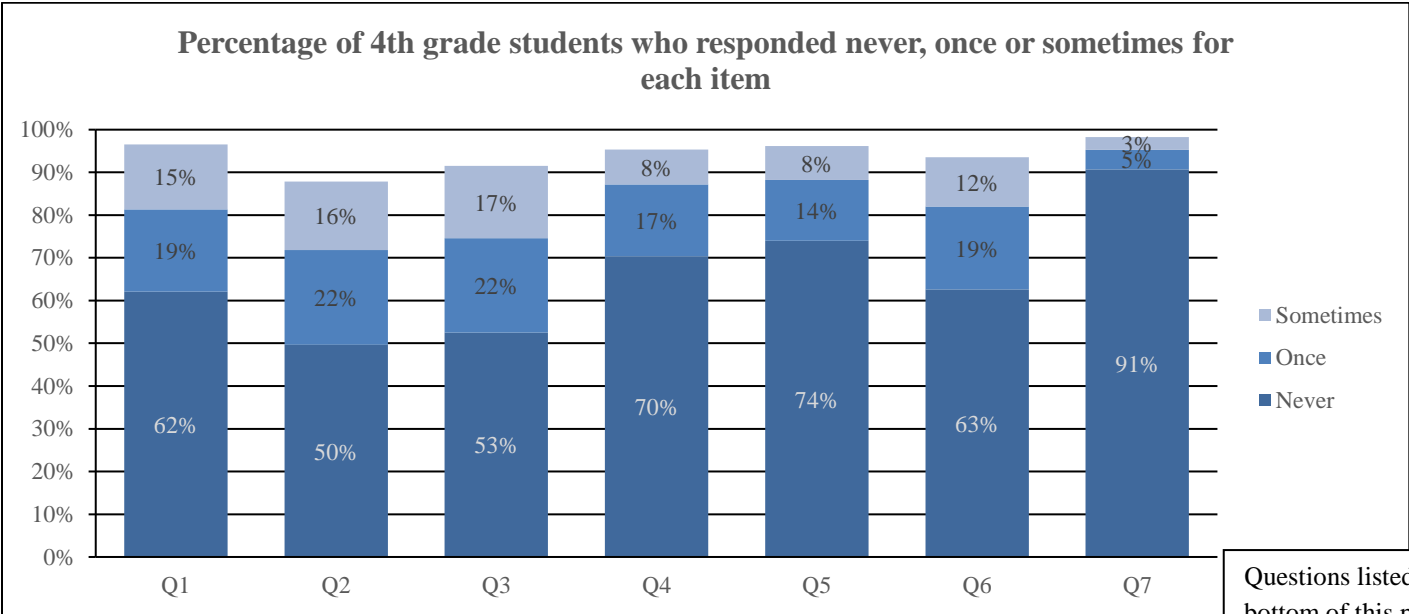


Percentage of students who reported that other students bullied them using the internet, cell phone, or other electronic device, by grade level

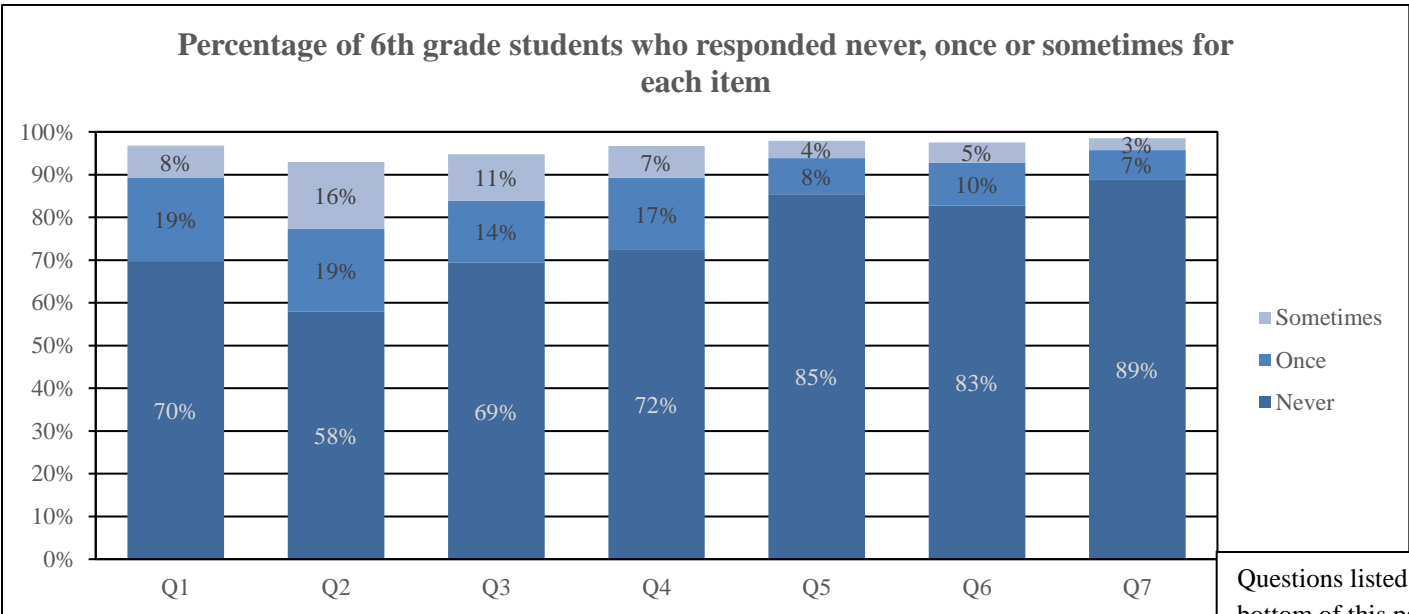


Percentage of students who reported that they have been bullied in the past month, by grade level





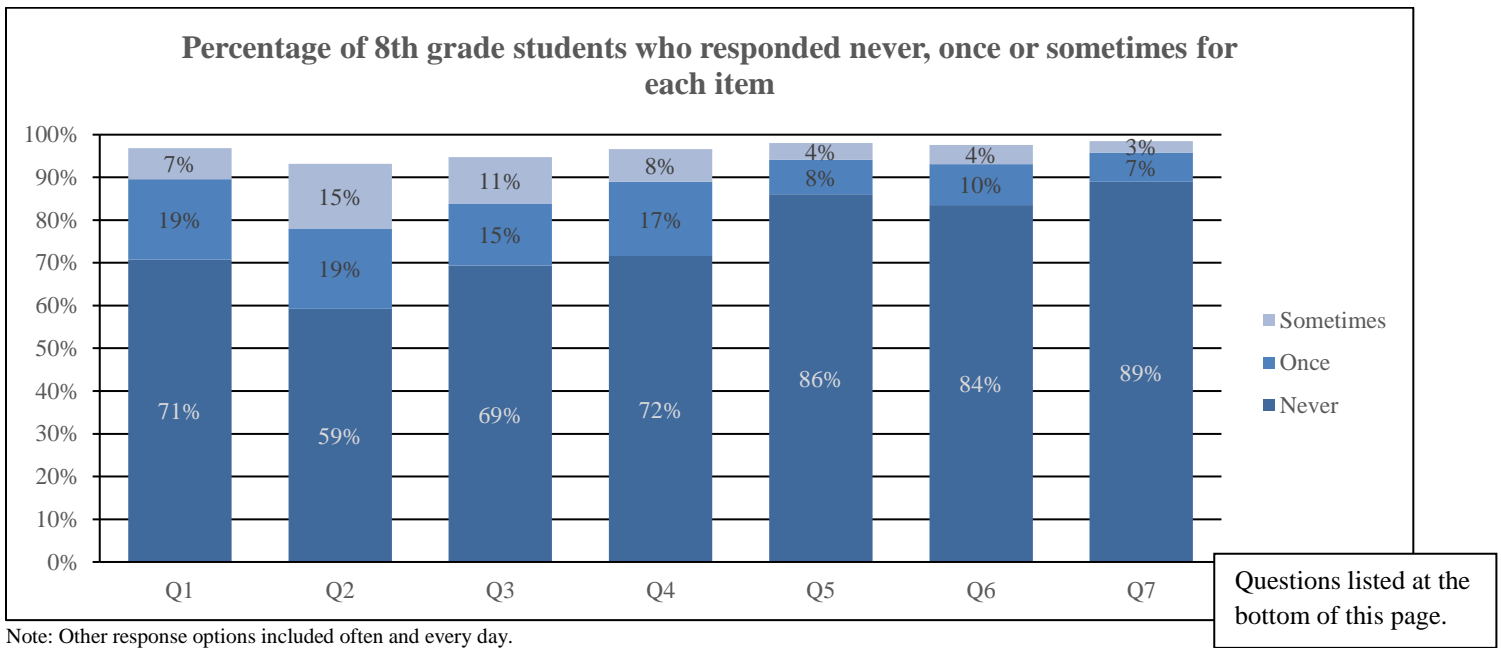
Note: Other response options included often and every day.



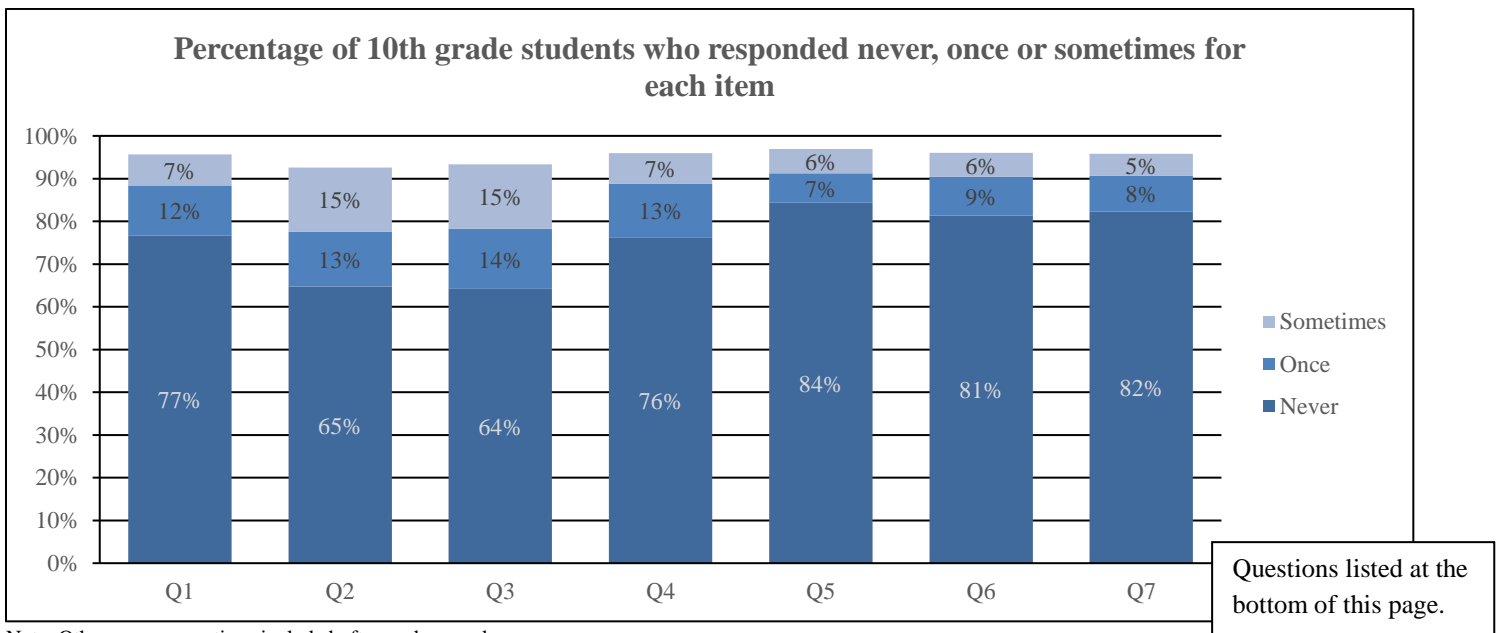
Note: Other response options included often and every day.

Survey items: During the past **month**, how often have 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. Did mean things to me using the internet, cell phone, or other electronic device



Note: Other response options included often and every day.



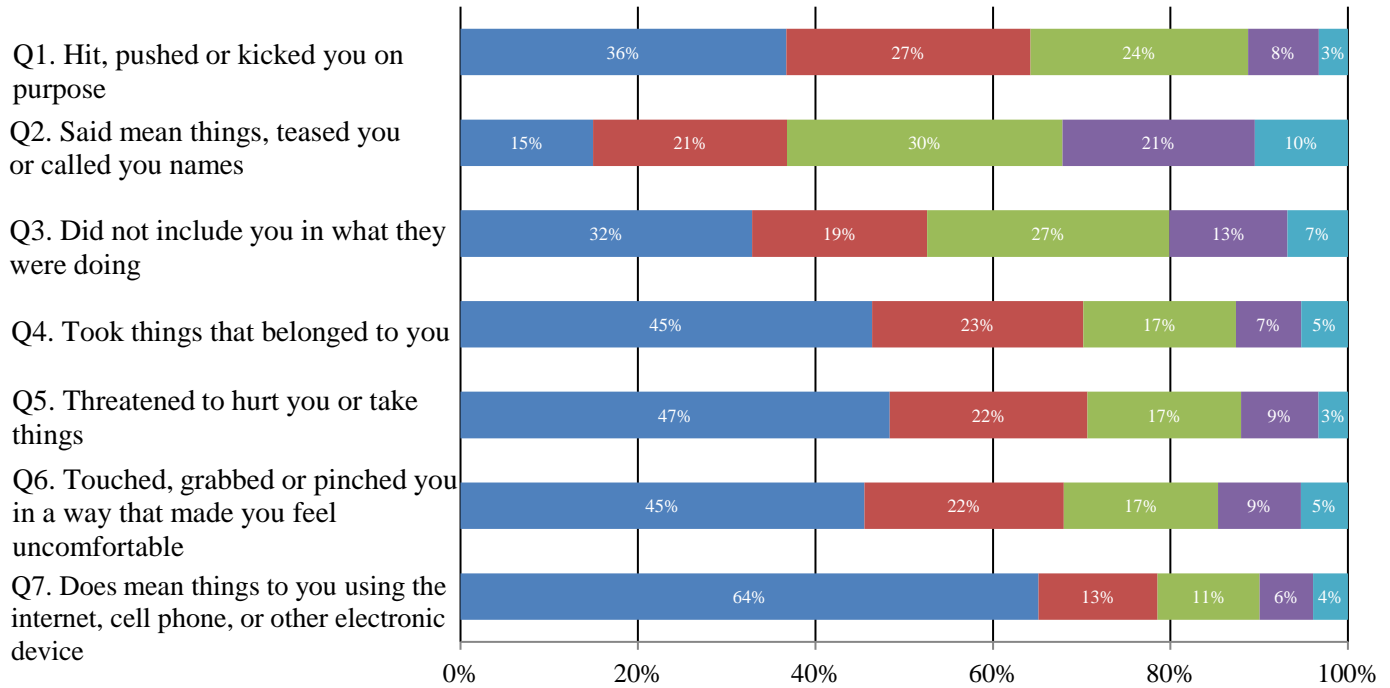
Note: Other response options included often and every day.

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

- Q1. Hit, pushed, or kicked me on purpose
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- 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. Did mean things to me 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

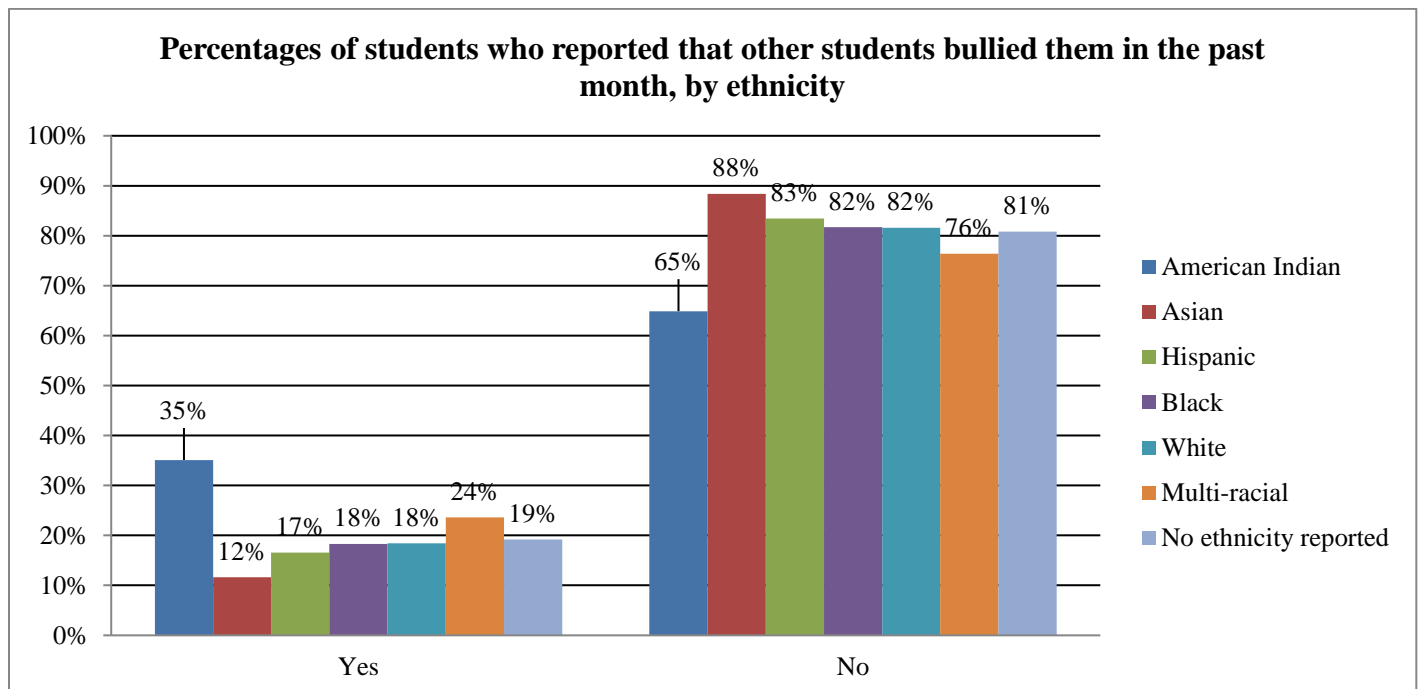


The graphic above displays the frequency with which students who reported being bullied in the past month reported experiencing various bullying behaviors.

Reports of bullying behaviors by ethnicity

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

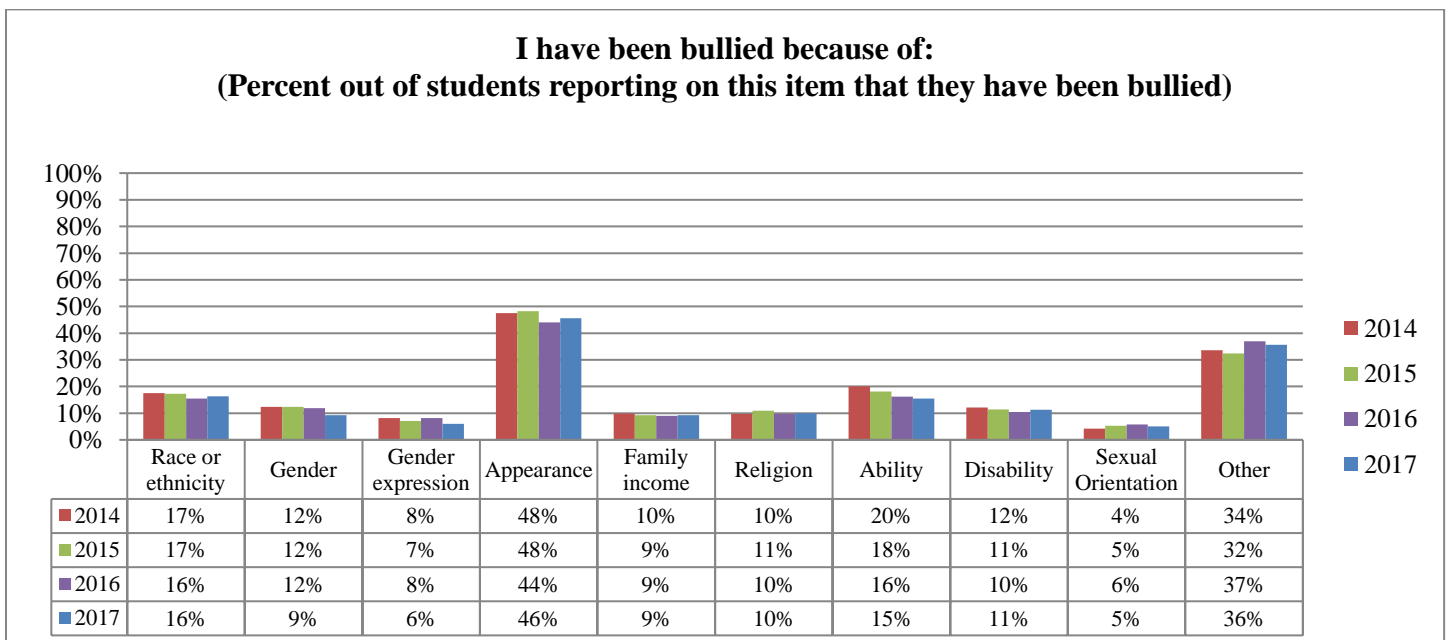
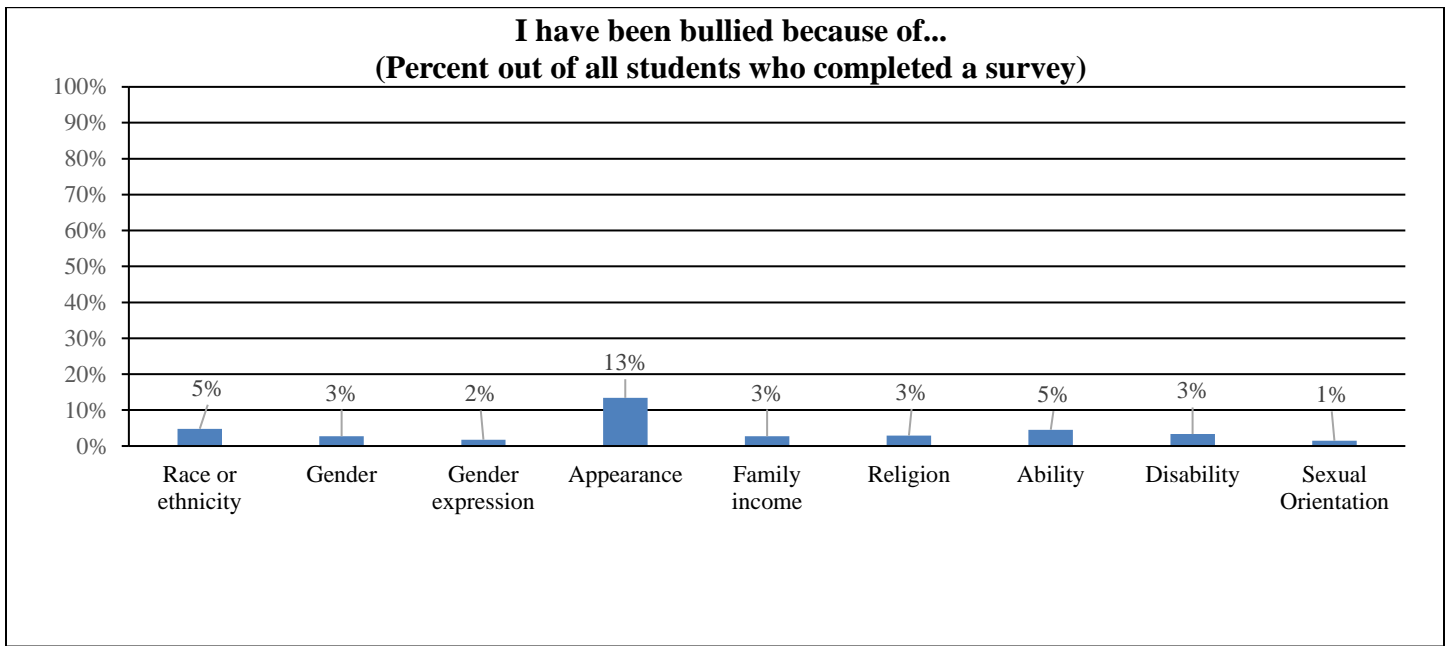
- When asked, “Overall, have you been bullied in the past month?”, American Indian students reported statistically significant higher rates of bullying than Asian, Hispanic, Black and White students. In addition, multi-racial students reported statistically significantly higher rates of bullying than Asian students.
- Multi-racial students reported experiencing five of the seven bullying behaviors (listed in the bullets below) significantly more frequently in comparison to at least one of the other 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 and White students.
 - Not being included in things significantly more frequently than Asian students.
 - Having things taken from them significantly more frequently than White students.
 - Being threatened to be hurt or have things taken significantly more frequently more than Asian, Hispanic, Black and White students.
- American Indian students reported having things taken from them significantly more frequently than White students.
- Black students reported a higher rate of being hit, kicked or pushed purposefully than White students.
- There were no significant differences across ethnicities in terms of how often other students did mean things to them using the internet, cell phone, or other electronic device, or in how often they were touched, grabbed, or pinched in a way that made them feel uncomfortable.



“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, 8% 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 and the percent of those students bullied for each reason. For example, 5% of all respondents believe they were bullied because of race/ethnicity, however this represents 16% of the subset of students who reported being bullied.
- Of the students who responded to this survey item that they had been bullied, approximately 46% (see page 13) reported that they were bullied because of their appearance, up marginally from last year.

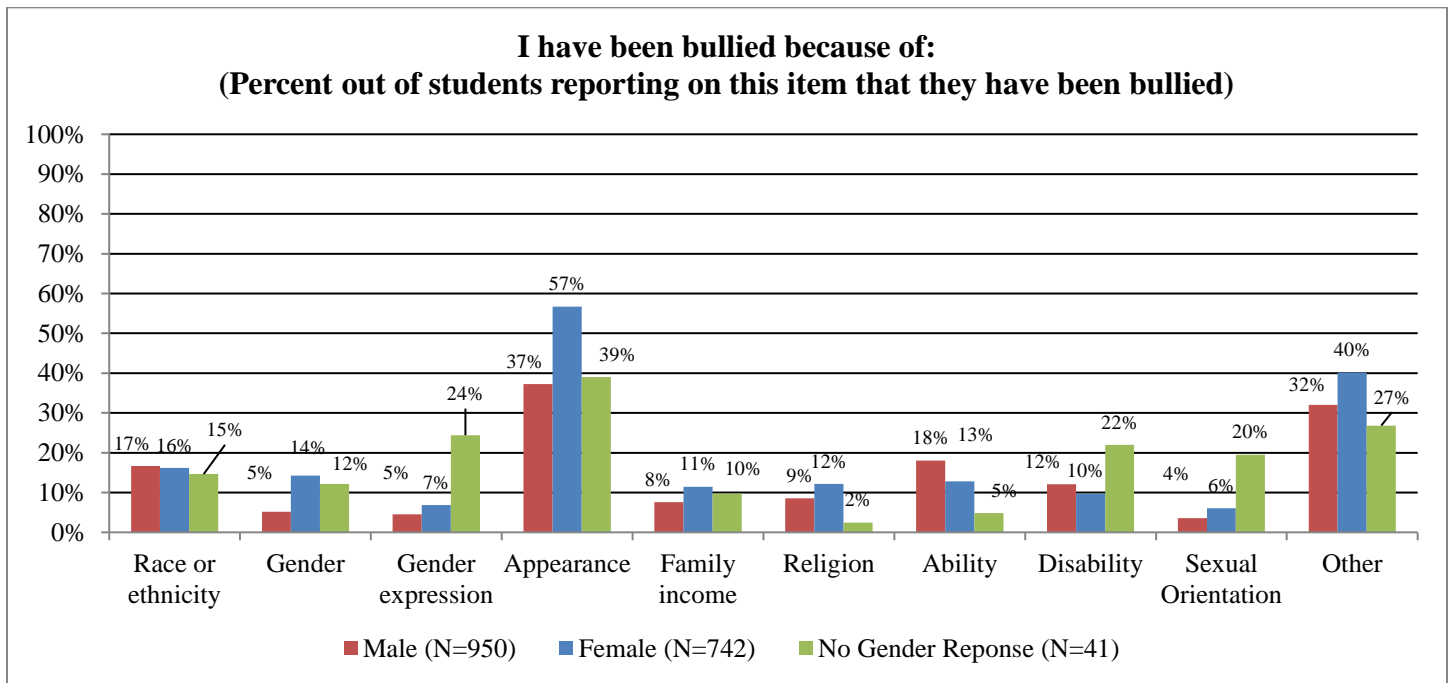


Students were instructed to select all responses that applied.

Note: For the “other” responses, students were provided the opportunity to include other reasons of why they were bullied. From these open-ended responses, the top three responses included: (1) number or nature of friends, (2) personality or how they act, and (3) for no reason or they don’t know.

By Gender

- Female students (14%) were more likely than male students (5%) and similarly likely to students who did not report their gender (12%) 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 because of their gender expression, disability and sexual orientation.



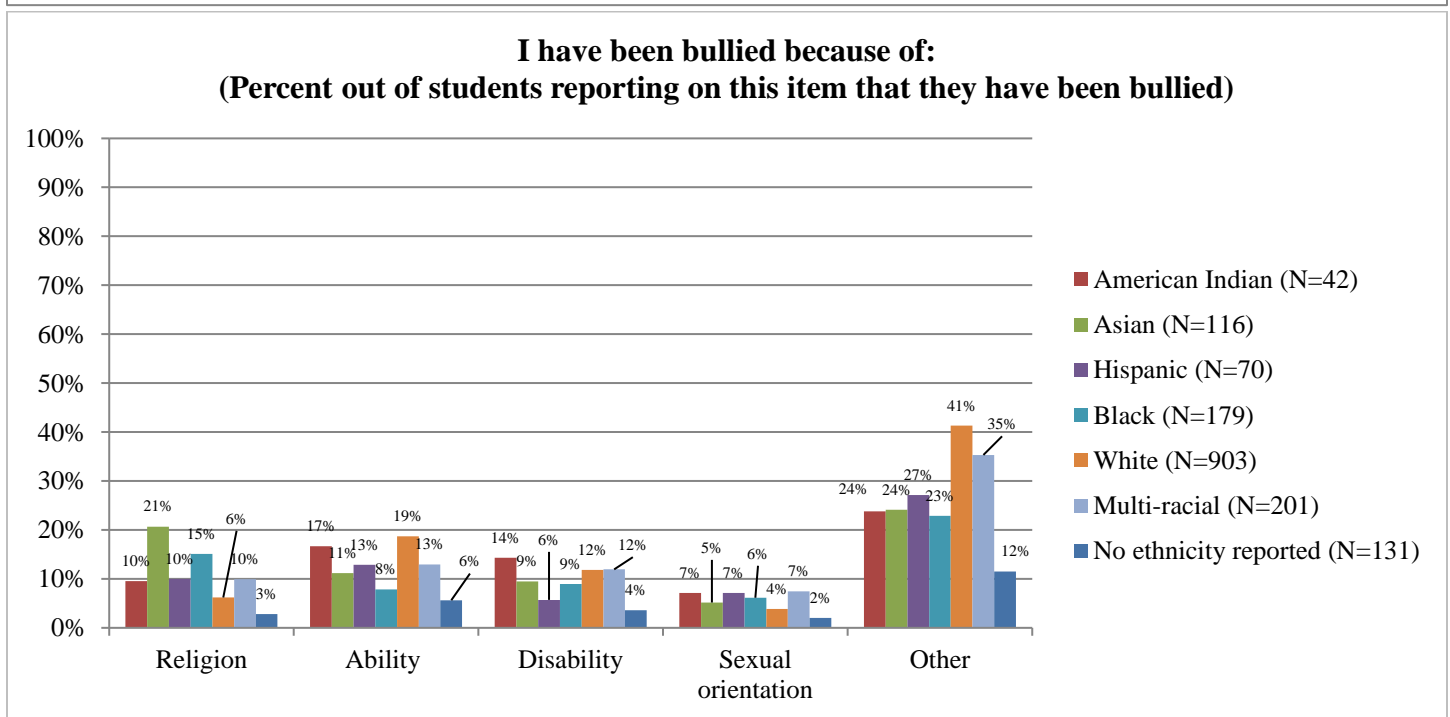
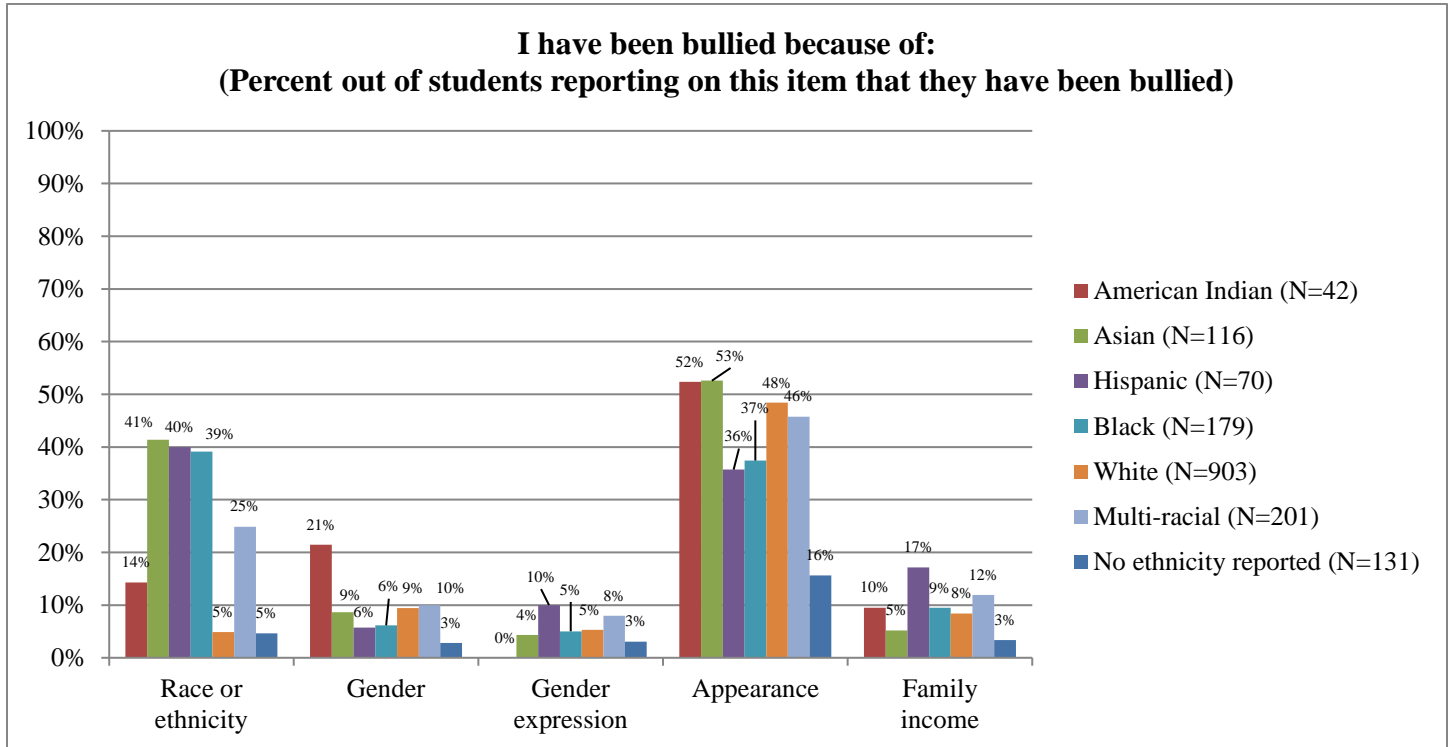
N= number of students reporting at least one reason for being bullied.

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, the top three responses included: (1) number or nature of friends, (2) personality or how they act, and (3) for no reason or they don’t know.

By Ethnicity

- Below is the percentage 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. (The two figures below are a continuation of the list of reasons provided as options).
- Race/ethnicity were listed at the top reasons for being bullied by Black and Hispanic students, and appearance was the top reason for all other student groups.



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

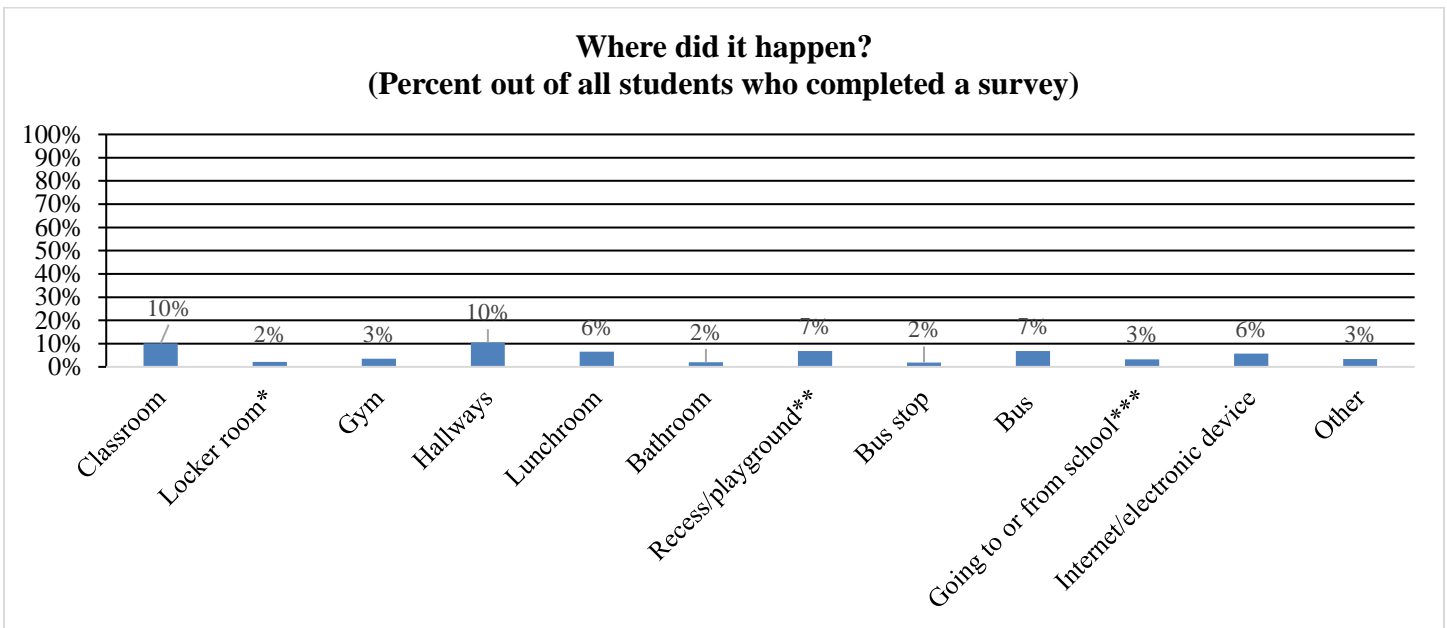
Students were instructed to select all responses that applied.

Note: For the “other” responses, students were provided the opportunity to include other reasons of why they were bullied. From these open-ended responses, the top three responses included: (1) number or nature of friends, (2) personality or how they act, and (3) for no reason or they don’t know.

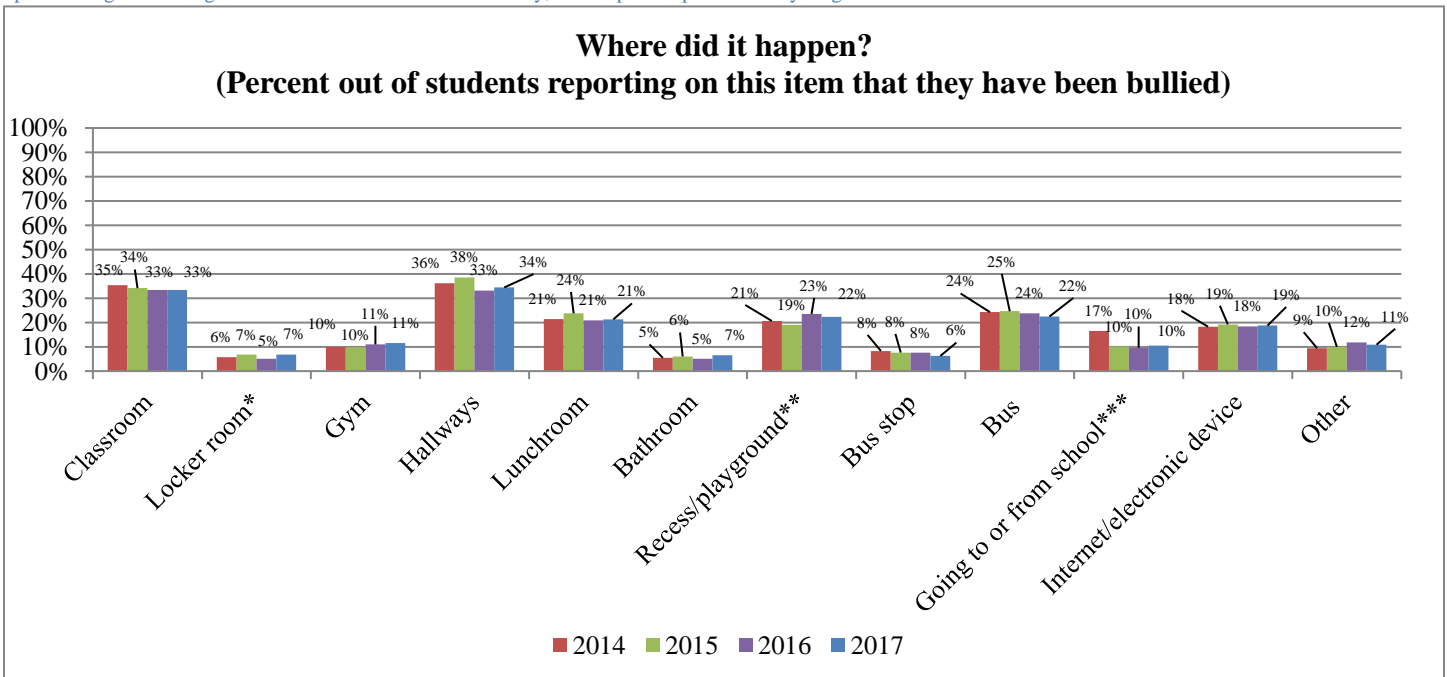
“If you were bullied, where did it happen?”

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

- Ten percent of all students who took the survey said that they have been bullied in the classroom and/or hallways.
- Eight percent of students who took the survey did not respond to this item, while 62% responded that they “have not been bullied.”
- Of students who reported being bullied, 34% said it happened in the hallways.
- Approximately 33% of students who reported being bullied reported that they were bullied in the classroom, which is unchanged from 2016.



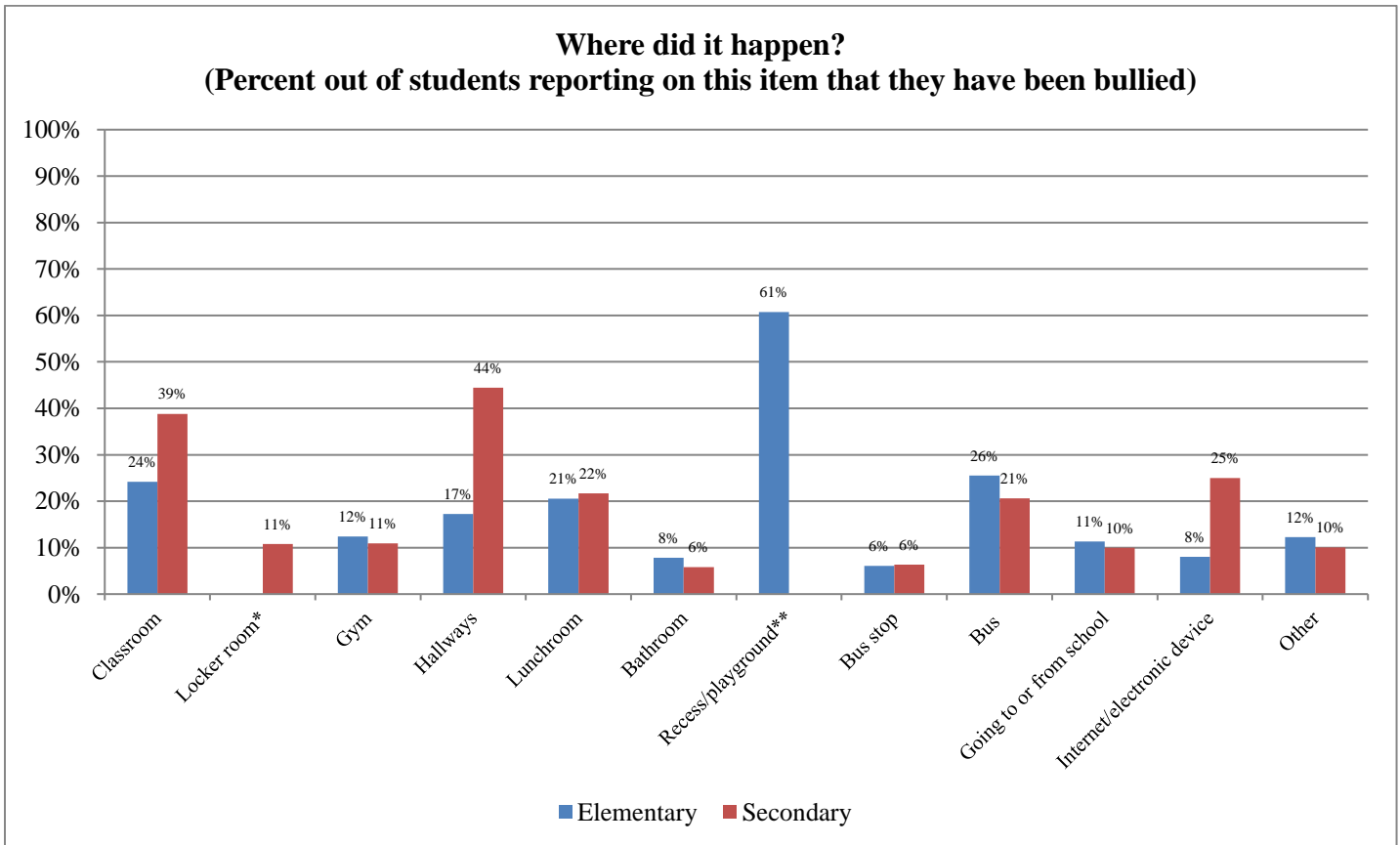
*Indicates this was a response option for secondary students only. ** Indicates this was a response option for elementary students only. *** Indicates this response option changed to Going to or from school in 2015. Previously, this response option was My neighborhood.



*Indicates this was a response option for secondary students only. ** Indicates this was a response option for elementary students only. *** Indicates this response option changed to Going to or from school in 2015. Previously, this response option was My neighborhood. Students were instructed to select all responses that applied.

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 (61%), while secondary students were most likely to report being bullied in the hallways (44%).
- Secondary students were more likely than elementary students to report that they were bullied in the classroom, hallways, lunchroom, and on the internet/electronic device.
- Elementary students were more likely than secondary students to indicate they were bullied in the gym, bathroom, on the bus, and going to or from school.

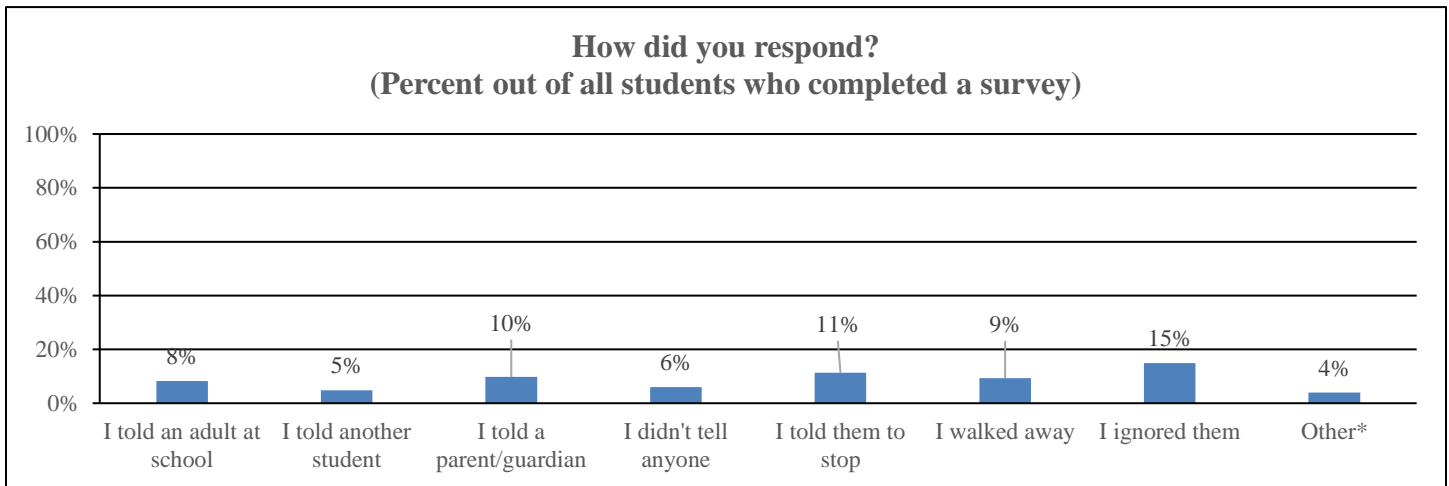


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“If you were bullied, what did you do?”

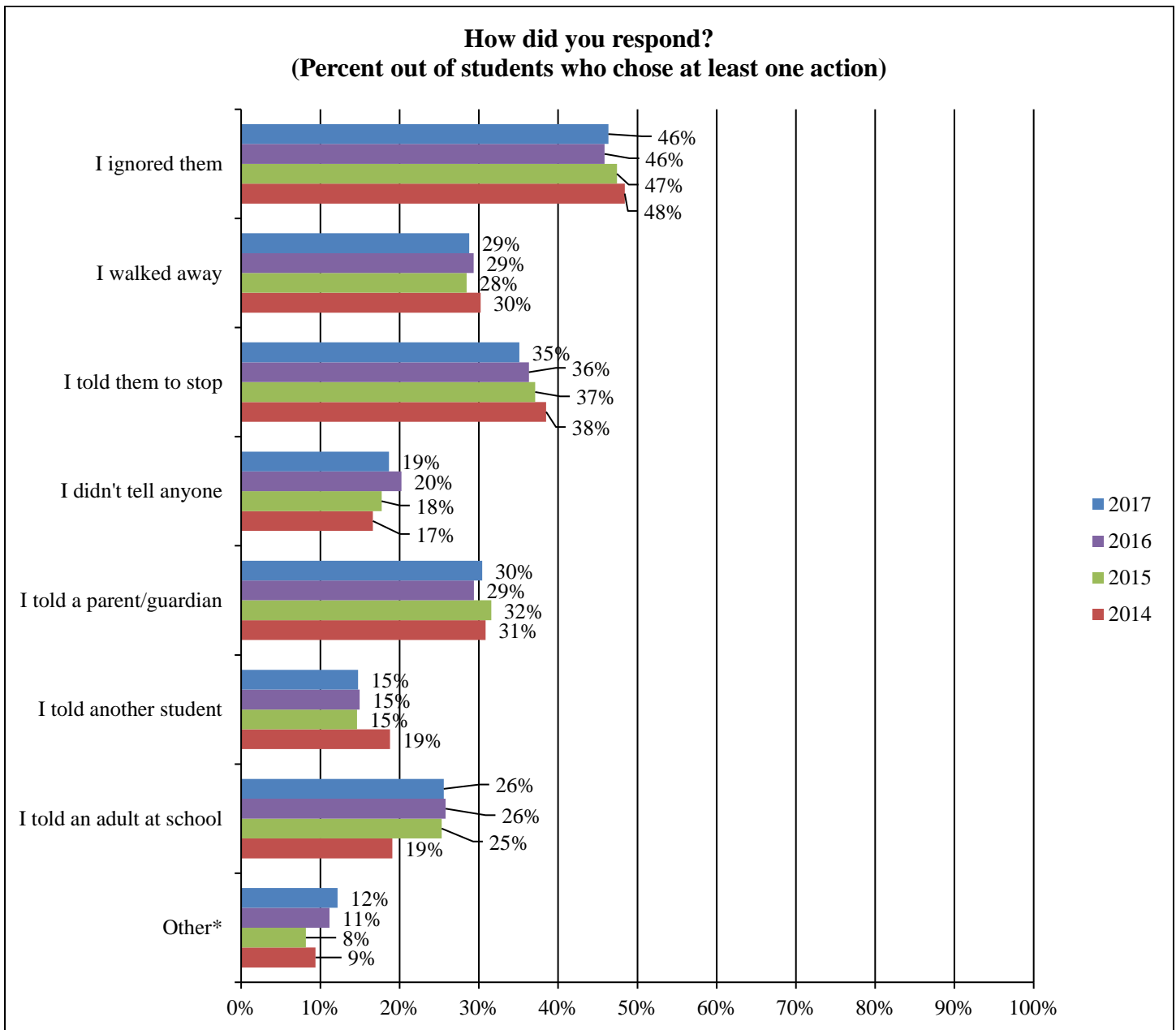
(Students were instructed to select all responses that applied)

- When the students were asked what they did about being bullied, 8% did not respond and 60% reported that they “have not been bullied.”
- Students who were bullied were most likely to ignore the bully, tell them to stop, or tell a parent/guardian.
- The percent of students who report telling the bully to stop has steadily declined since 2014 (see page 18).
- There was a change in the response options in 2015. The options of “I told an adult at school,” “I told a school social worker,” and “I told the principal/AP” were reduced to “I told an adult at school.” This may explain the increase in the percent of students who chose “I told an adult at school” in 2015 and 2016 (see page 18).



Note: “I told an adult at school,” “I told a school social worker,” and “I told the principal/AP” were combined in 2015 and represented as one response option, “I told an adult at school.”

*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. Students were instructed to select all responses that applied.

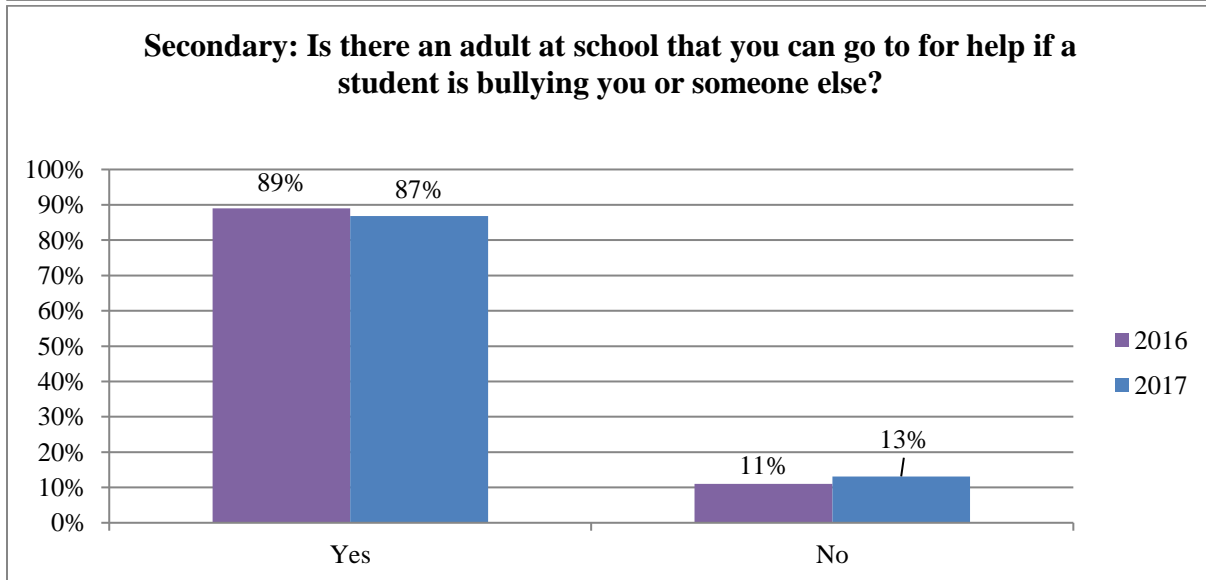
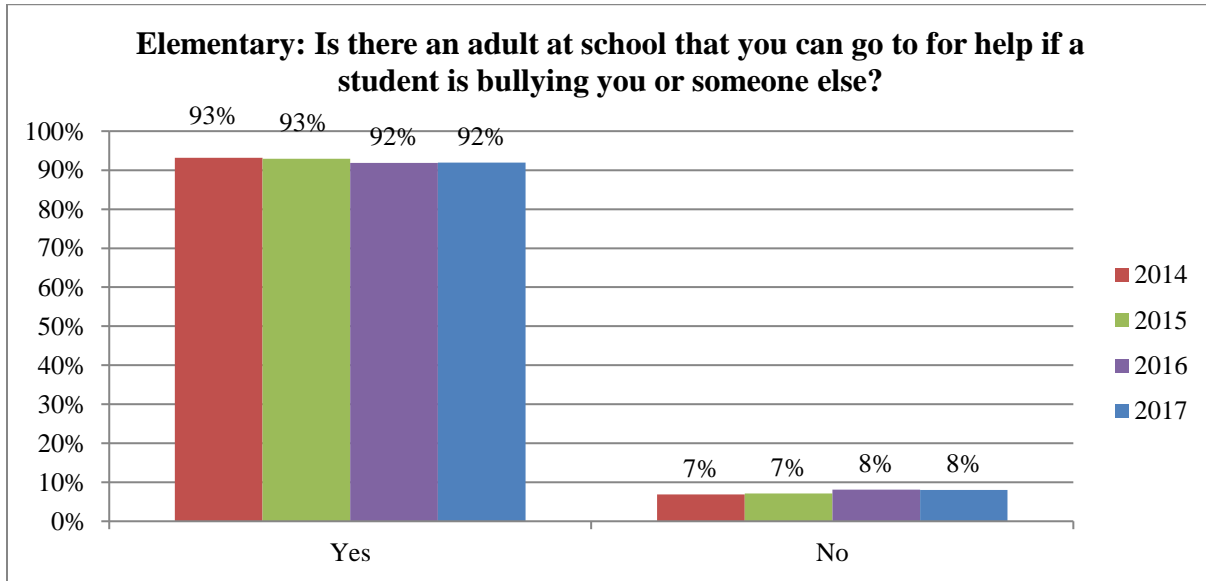


Note: "I told an adult at school," "I told a school social worker," and "I told the principal/AP" were combined in 2015 and represented as one response option, "I told an adult at school."

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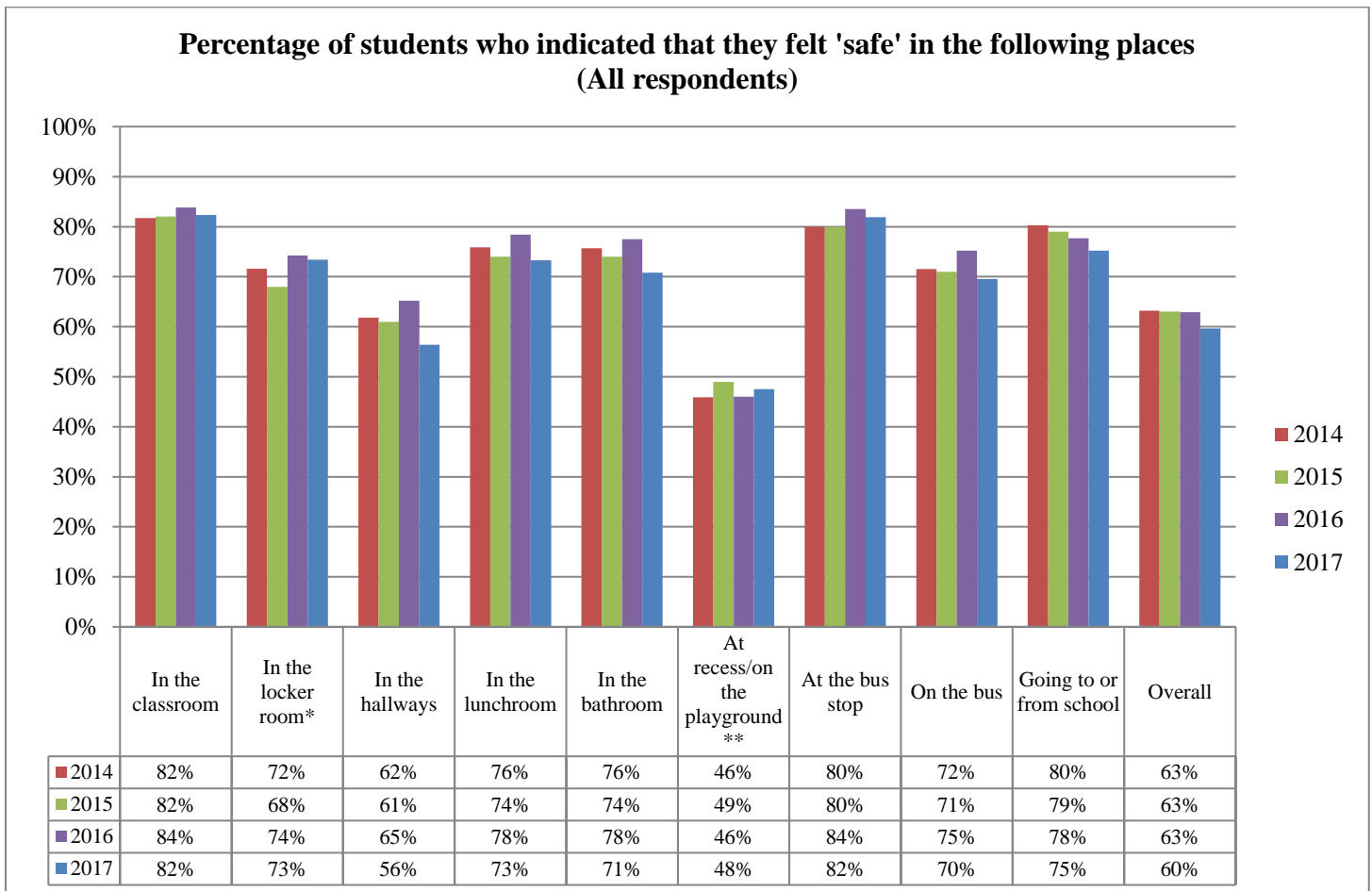
Reports of adult support

- Elementary students’ reports of having an adult to go to for help remained steady in 2017.
- 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 the question that has been used at the elementary level, so only two years of data are available. In 2017, 87% 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 92%, and down 2% from 2016.



“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 declined from 2016 rates in all categories except for at recess/on the playground, but at recess/on the playground is still the area with the lowest percentage of students feeling safe.
- The two locations with the greatest declines in percent of students feeling safe from 2016 to 2017 were in the hallways (down 9%) and in the bathroom (down 7%).
- Feelings of safety going to or from school continued to decline in 2017 (currently 75% of students feel safe in this location).
- Students’ overall feeling of safety declined by three percent to 60% after remaining steady the previous three years.

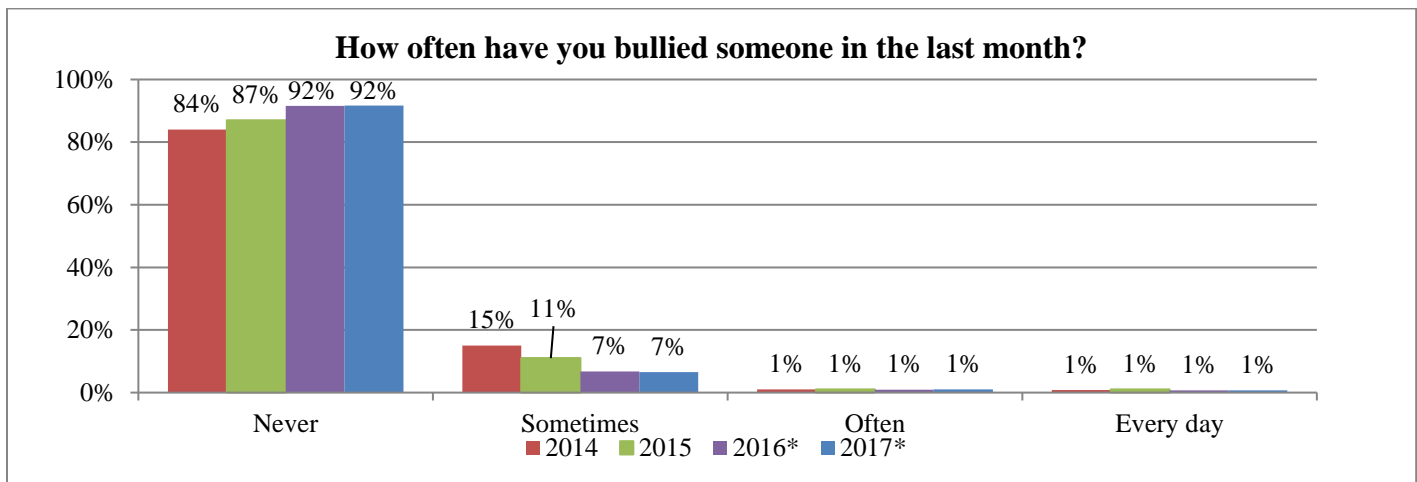


Note: Percentages do not include those students who indicated they felt ‘kind of safe’. * Indicates this was a response option for secondary students only.
 ** Indicates this was a response option for elementary students only.

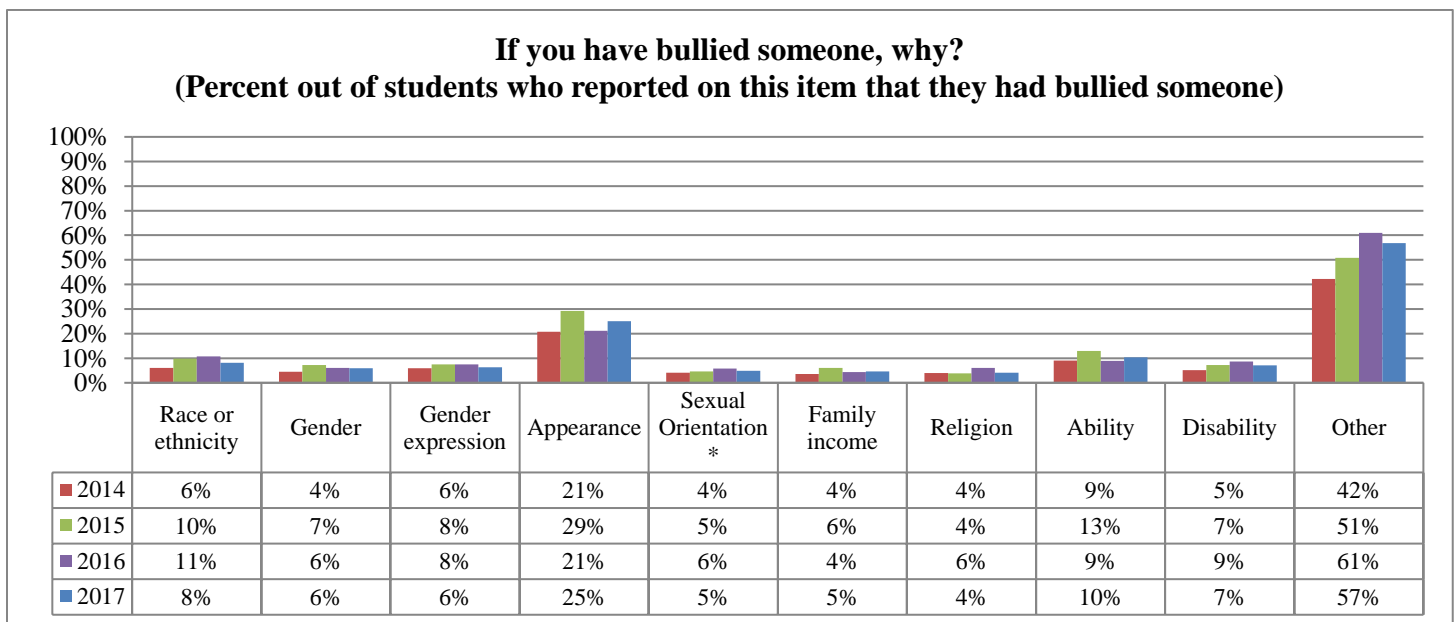
Have you bullied someone?

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 91% of all students reported that they have not bullied someone in the last month, while 6% of students do it “sometimes”.
- Just under 1% of all students in each category reported that they bullied someone “often” or “every day”.
- Of the respondents who reported having bullied someone, 25% reported that they have bullied others because of their appearance, while 57% 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 was because the person had bullied them or their friends and because they were joking around.



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

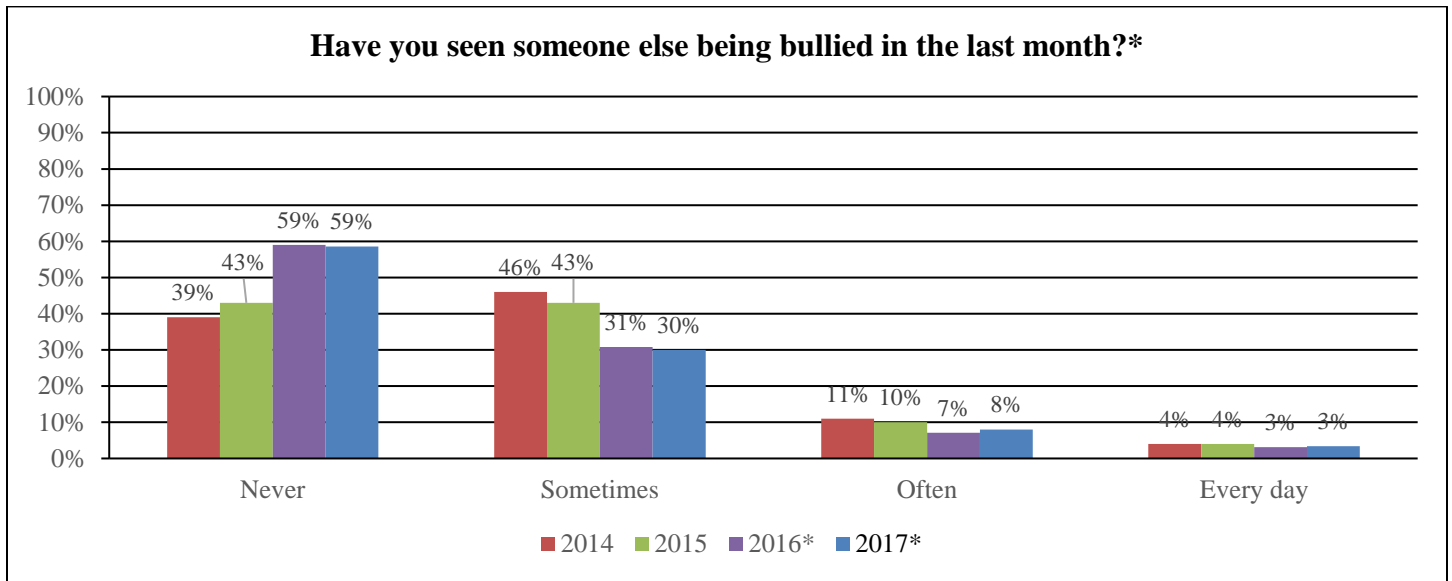


* Indicates this was not a response option for elementary school students.

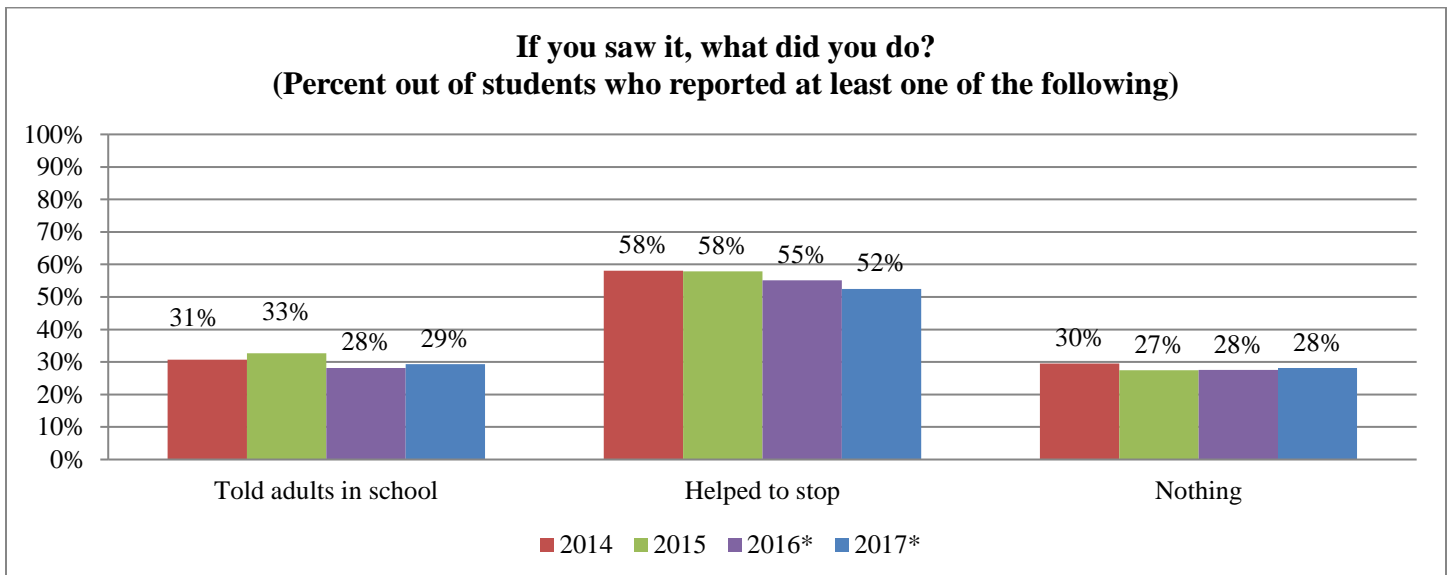
Note: In 2016, students were instructed to respond for the last month, while in previous years a time span was not specified. Students were instructed to select all that apply. For the “other” responses, students were provided the opportunity to include other reasons of why they bullied someone else. From these open-ended responses, the top two responses included: (1) they bullied/were mean to me or my friends and (2) I am joking around.

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

- About 59% of students reported that they have not seen someone else being bullied in the past month, while 30% of students have seen it “sometimes”.
- Approximately 8% of all students reported that they have seen someone else being bullied “often” in the last month and 3% of students reported that they have seen someone bullied “every day”.



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



*Starting in 2016, students were instructed to respond for the last month, while in previous years a time span was not specified. 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 also given the option of ‘other.’ Common responses to ‘other’ included confronting the bully, talking to the person being bullied, and trying to get other students to help. Students were instructed to select all that apply.

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. Some students felt unsafe because these things were said about a friend.
- Students reported not feeling safe because of the fear that they might be bullied or hurt.
- Students also reported lack of supervision at recess, in the hallways or in the bathroom, as a reason why they felt unsafe.
- Students reported fearing violence from strange adults, including that someone might come into the school or playground and start shooting or kidnap them.
- 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 other students in the school as well as fears about violence in the schools and on the bus.
- Some students mentioned feeling unsafe in the bathrooms and locker rooms.
- Students mentioned having mean things said about their height, weight, or other appearance factors.
- Some students reported feeling that adults were unwilling or unable to intervene in problems.
- 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.