
Anti- Bullying Survey 2019

Anoka-Hennepin
School District

Prepared by Research,
Evaluation and Testing



ANOKA-HENNEPIN
SCHOOLS
A future without limit

Table of Contents

What is the Anti-Bullying Survey?.....	1
Who took the Anti-Bullying Survey?	2
What are the key findings?	3
Comparing overall responses by year	5
Reports of bullying behavior by grade.....	9
Reports of bullying behaviors by race/ethnicity	16
“If you were bullied, what do you think was the reason?”	17
“If you were bullied, where did it happen?”	20
“If you were bullied, what did you do?”	22
Reports of adult support.....	23
“How safe do you feel in the following places?”	25
“Have you bullied someone?”	26
“How often have you seen someone else being bullied?”	27
Open-ended responses	28

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 2019-20 school year, the Anti-Bullying Survey was administered to students between October 7 and October 25, 2019.

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.

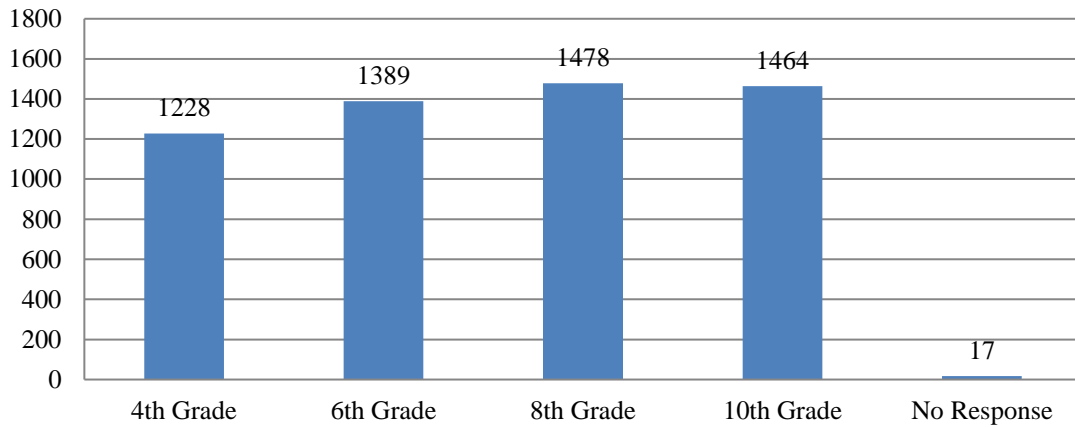
Other questions were included to understand students' perceptions of why they were bullied, their responses to these bullying situations, where these bullying situations occurred, and students' general perceptions of safety in and around school.

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?

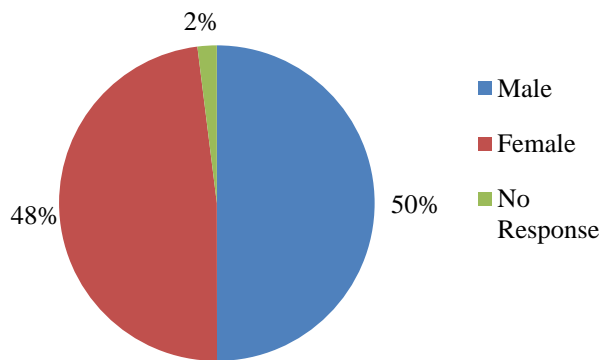
Students in 4th, 6th, 8th, and 10th grades from the Anoka-Hennepin School District participate in the Anti-Bullying Survey. In 2019, 5,576 students completed the survey. Approximately 2% of students did not report their gender. Of those students who did report their gender, around half were male and half were female. Based on self-reporting, 58.9% of the participants were White, 10.8% were multi-racial, 9.9% were Black, 8.4% were Asian, 3.6% were Hispanic, 1.3% were American Indian, 4.0% reported other, and 2.7% did not respond to this question. These percentages are proportionate to district percentages for most ethnic groups.

Number of respondents by grade level

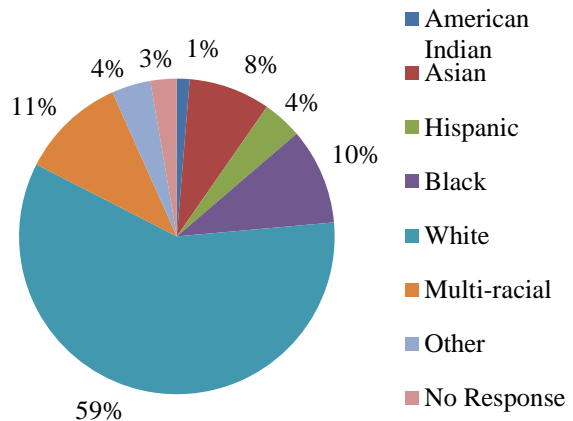


Note: There were eight elementary and nine secondary students who did not select a grade level.

Percent of participants by gender



Percent of participants by ethnicity



What are the key findings?

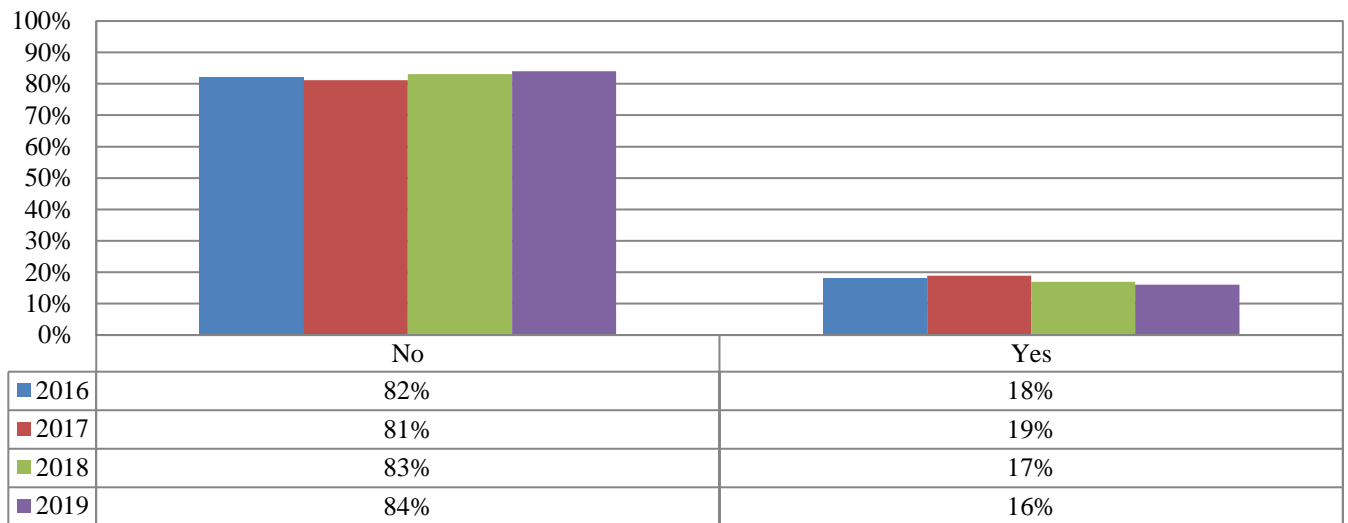
- The majority of students reported not having been bullied in the past month.
 - The percentage of students who reported experiencing no bullying increased slightly, from 83% in 2018 to 84% in 2019.
- The percent of students who report not having bullied another student in the last month has remained quite steady from 2016 to 2019, right around 92%.
- 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 lower percentage of secondary students experienced bullying compared to elementary students.
 - Thirty-one percent of fourth grade students reported having been bullied within the past month, as compared to 14%, 12%, and 9%, respectively from sixth, eighth, and 10th grade students, who reported being bullied within the past month.
- American Indian students reported being bullied at significantly higher rates than Asian, Hispanic, and Black students.
- Multi-racial students reported they had been bullied within the past month at significantly higher rates than Asian, Hispanic, Black and White students. Multi-racial students reported experiencing six of seven bullying behaviors significantly more frequently in comparison to at least one other racial/ethnic group.
- Twenty-six percent of all students who completed a survey indicated at least one reason for being bullied in response to the question “If you were bullied, what do you think was the reason?”
 - Consistent between reports of all students who completed a survey (whether bullied or not) and the subset of students who indicated having been bullied for at least one reason, students most commonly reported that they have been bullied because of their appearance, race/ethnicity, ability, or for “other” reasons.
 - The percentage of all students who completed a survey (whether bullied or not) and reported the reason they were bullied was because of their appearance, decreased from 14% in 2018 to 11% in 2019, down 3%. The percentage of all students who completed a survey, reported being bullied for “other” reasons remained relatively the same.
 - Remaining fairly consistent across the years, 15% of the students who reported they have been bullied for at least one reason, cited race/ethnicity as a reason for being bullied; however, the rate is much higher for Asian, Black, Hispanic, and multi-racial students (40%, 34%, 33%, and 24%, respectively, of students having experienced any type of bullying) than it is for White students (4%) and American Indian students (13%).
 - Female students reported being bullied at a higher percentage than male students for six out of the ten reason options, including: appearance, race/ethnicity, gender, religion, sexual orientation, and gender expression. Male students reported being bullied at a higher percentage than female students due to ability, family income, disability, and for “other” reasons.
 - Students who did not report their gender who reported being bullied indicated being bullied at a higher percentage than students who reported their gender, due to race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, gender expression, disability, and for “other” reasons.

- Twenty-eight percent of all students who completed a survey indicated at least one location in response to the question “If you were bullied, where did it happen?”
 - Overall, students reported that they were most likely to be bullied in classrooms and/or hallways.
 - Thirty-four percent of students reporting at least one location where they were bullied, indicated being bullied in the classroom, a decrease of 3% since 2018.
 - Elementary students reported that they were most likely to be bullied on the playground. Secondary students reported they were most likely to be bullied in the hallways.
- Students who reported being bullied were most likely to respond by ignoring bullies (41%) or telling bullies to stop (34%).
- Approximately, 91% of elementary students and 84% of secondary students feel there is an adult at school that they can go to for help if a student is bullying them or someone else. The percentage of secondary students reporting there is an adult at the school they can go to for help has steadily declined from 89% in 2016 to 84% in 2019.
- Overall, the percentage of students who reported feeling safe continues to decline from 63% in 2016 to 60% in 2017 to 54% in 2018 and 53% in 2019. The percentage of students reporting feeling safe in each location in 2019 is fairly consistent with the previous year.

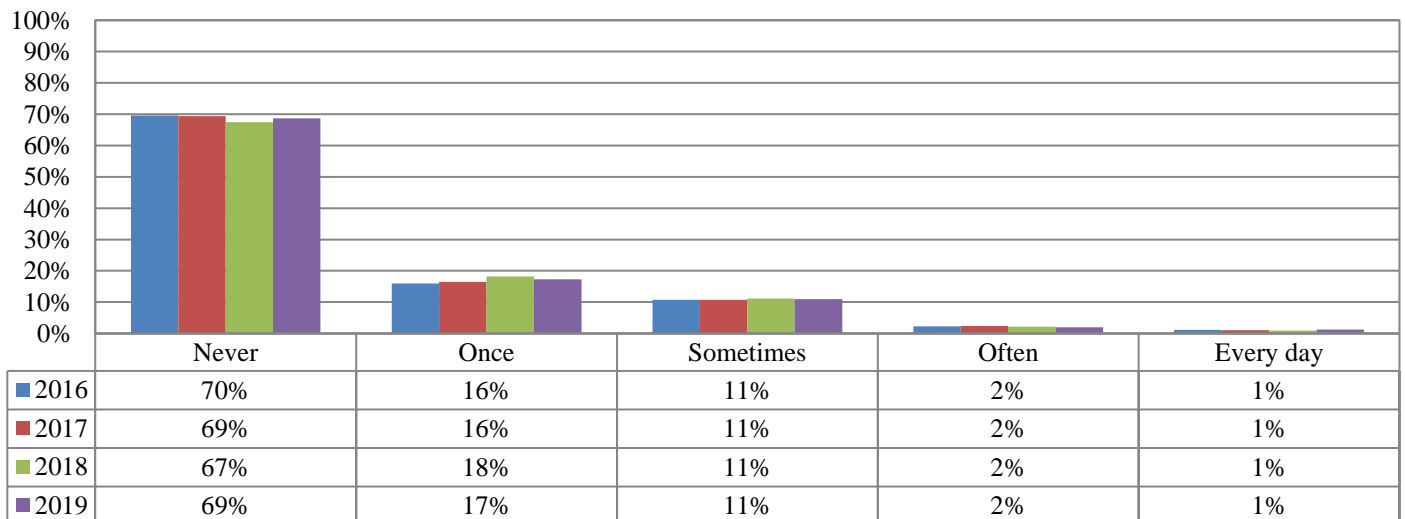
Comparing overall responses by year

- Overall, the percentage of students who reported having been bullied in the past month decreased from 17% in 2018 to 16% in 2019. Since 2015 when the item was added, the percentage of students reporting having been bullied has decreased by 4%.
- For the series of survey questions asking how often students have experienced each of the seven bullying behaviors in the past month, all seven behaviors showed favorable reports. There was a slight (<2 percentage point) increase in the percentage of students reporting they had “never” experienced six of the seven behaviors between 2018 and 2019. The percentage of students reporting they had “never” experienced having mean things said to them, being teased, or being called names over the last month, increased 5% since 2018.

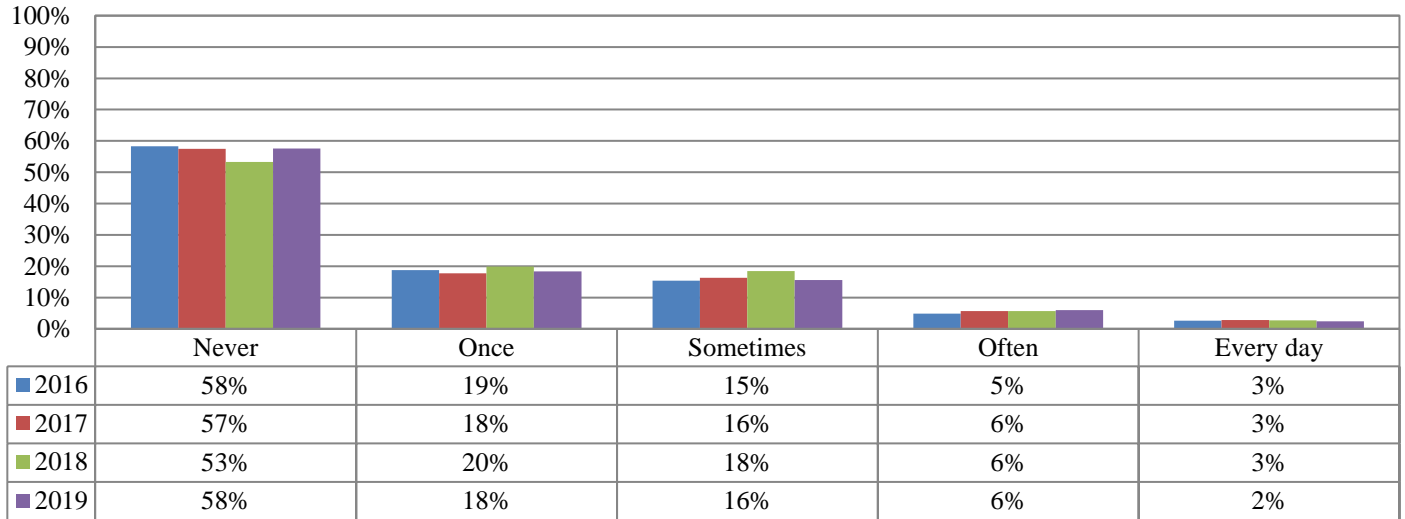
Percentage of students who reported that they have been bullied in the past month



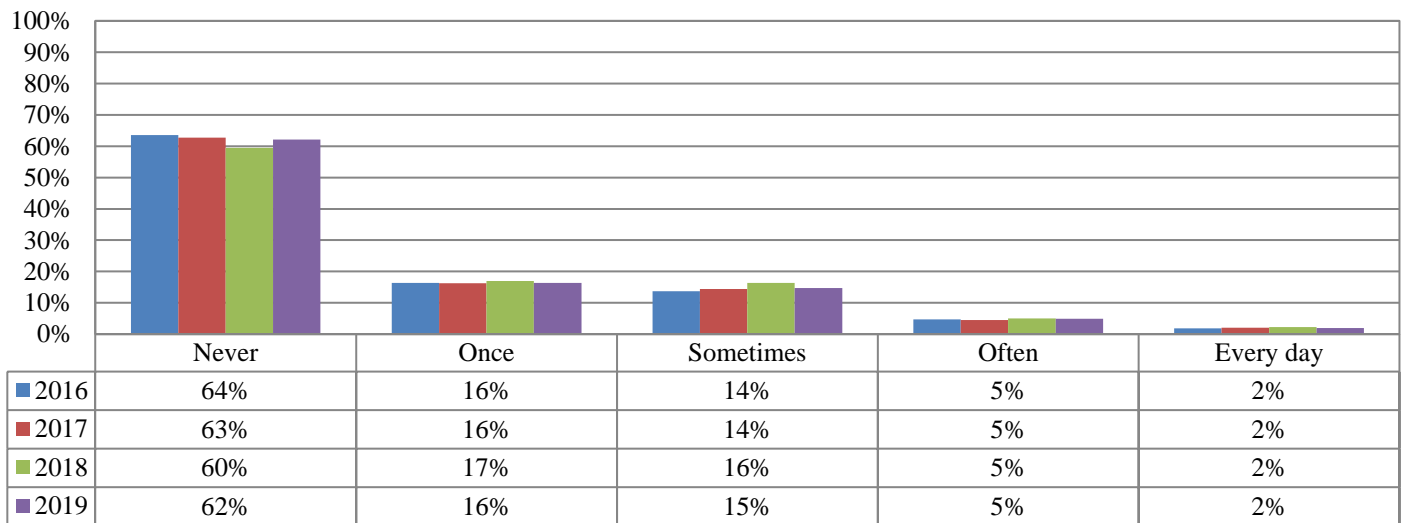
Percentage of students who reported that other students have hit, pushed, or kicked them on purpose



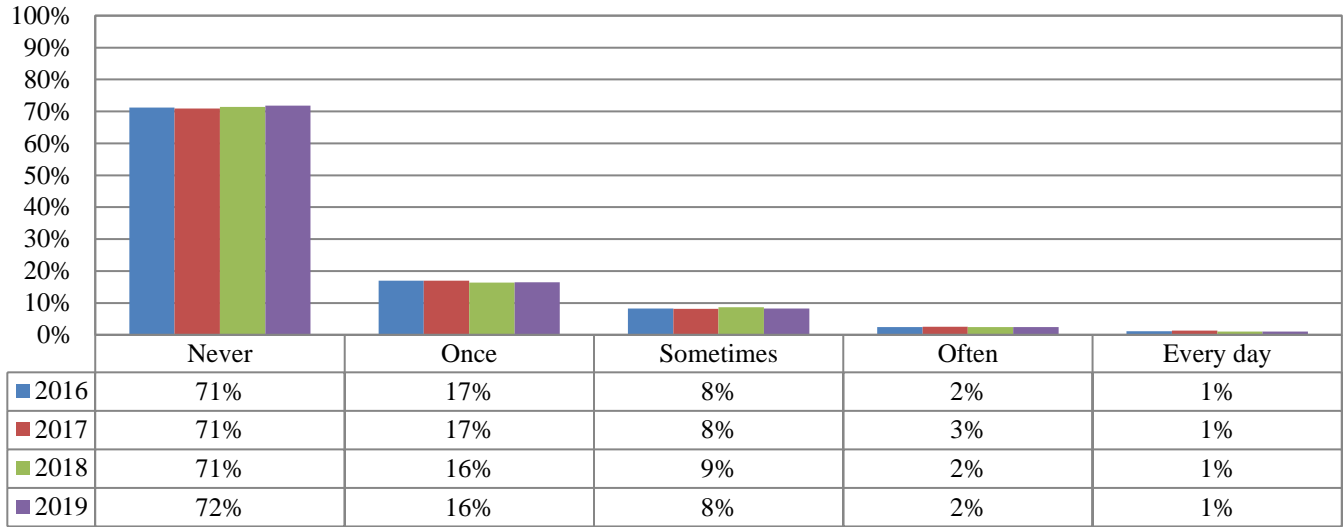
Percentage of students who reported that other students have said mean things, teased them, or call them names



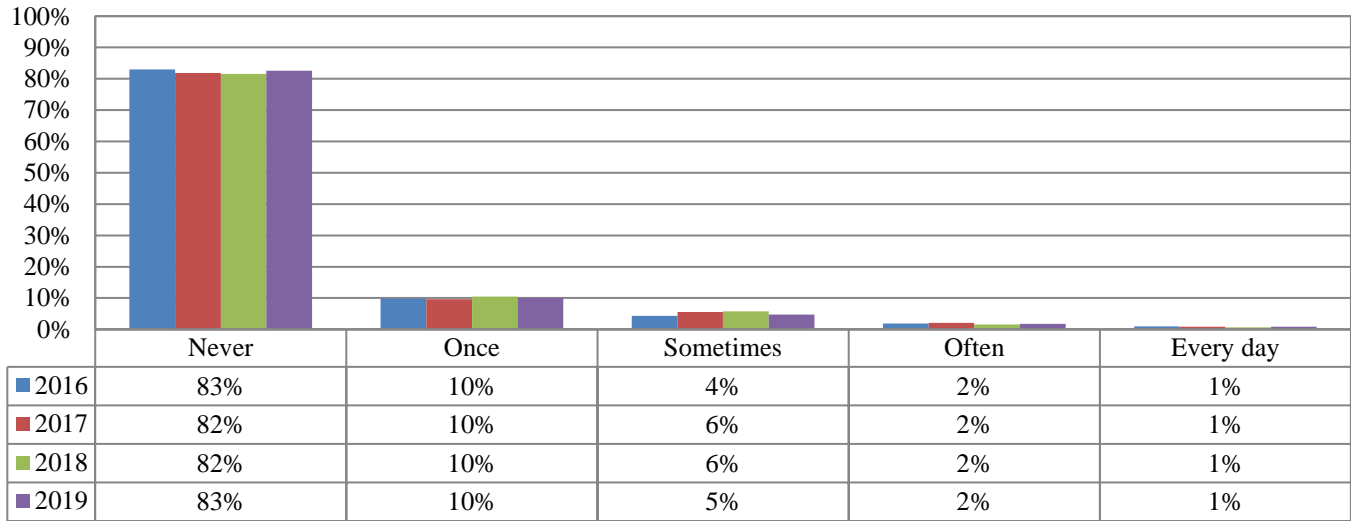
Percentage of students who reported that other students did not include them in what they were doing



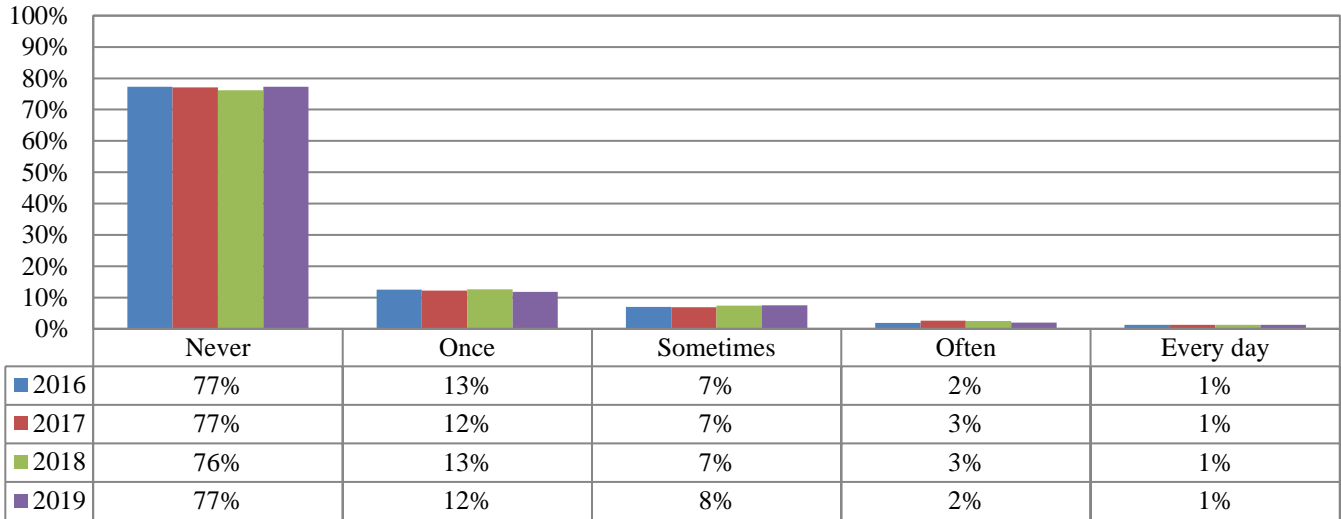
Percentage of students who reported that other students took things that belonged to them



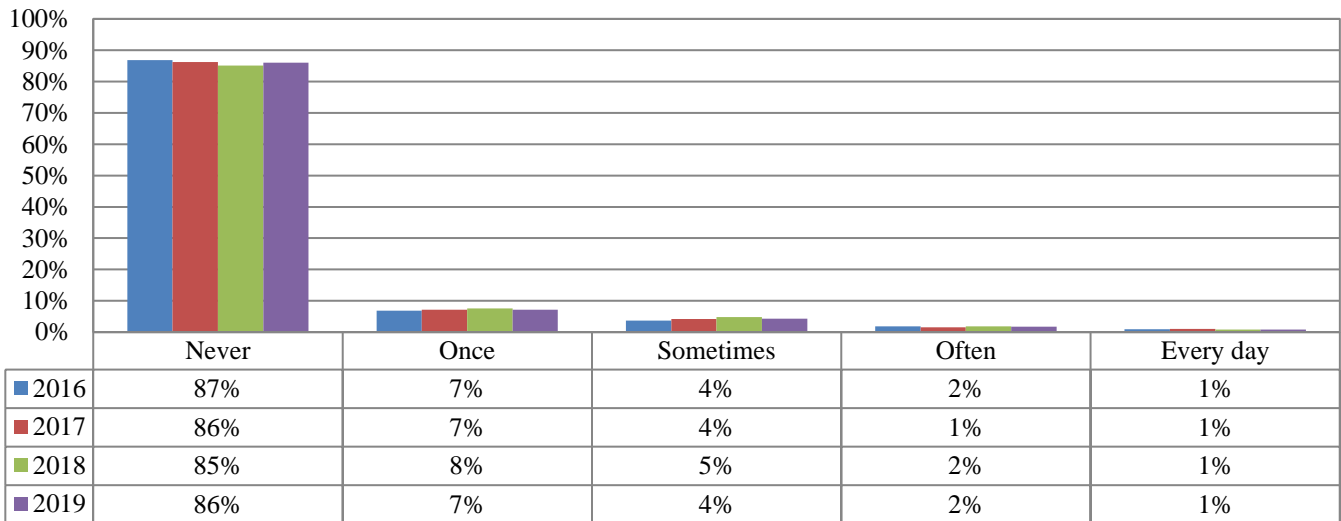
Percentage of students who reported that other students threatened to hurt them or take things



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



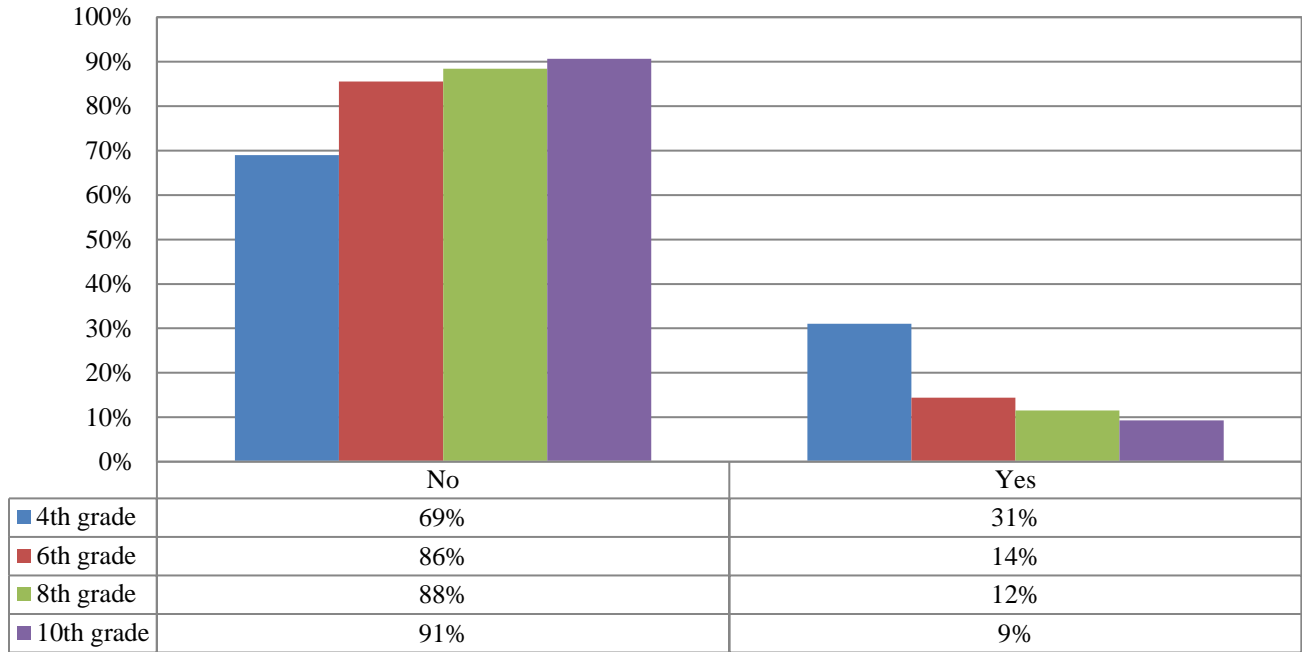
Percentage of students who reported that other students bullied them using the internet, cell phone, or other electronic device



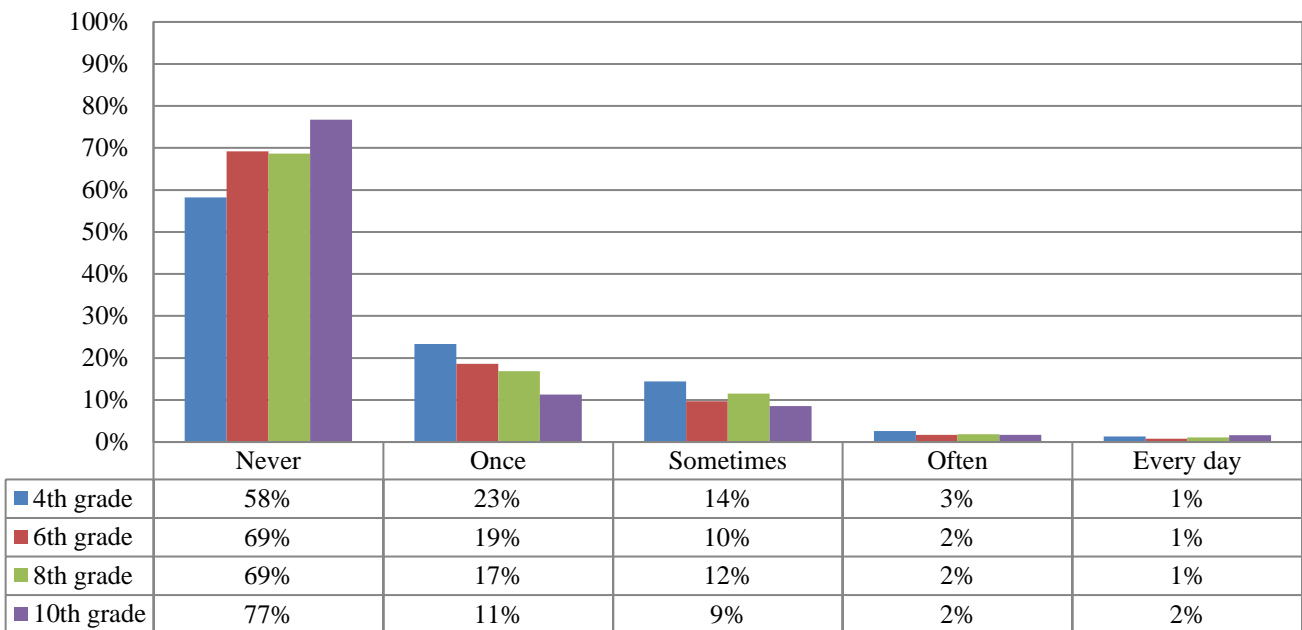
Reports of bullying behavior by grade

Students were asked to report how often, during the past month, they have experienced each of these behaviors. In general, a smaller percentage of secondary students reported having experienced bullying as compared to elementary students.

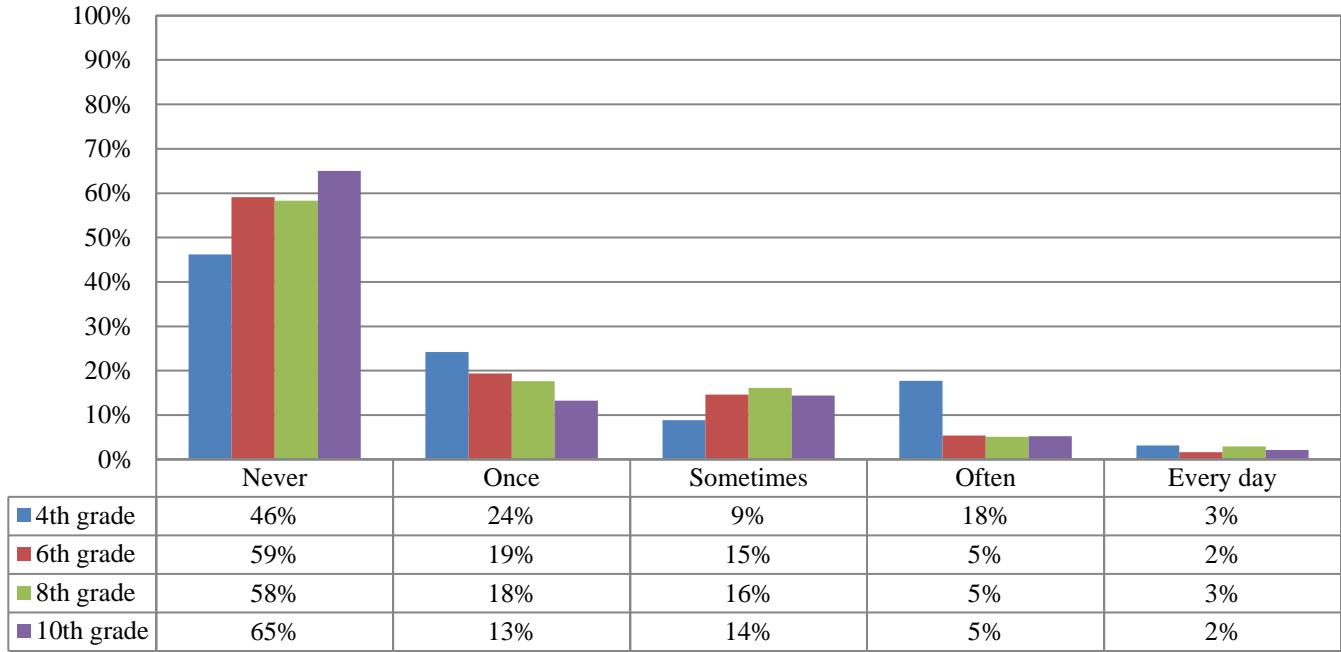
Percentage of students who reported that they have been bullied in the past month, by grade level



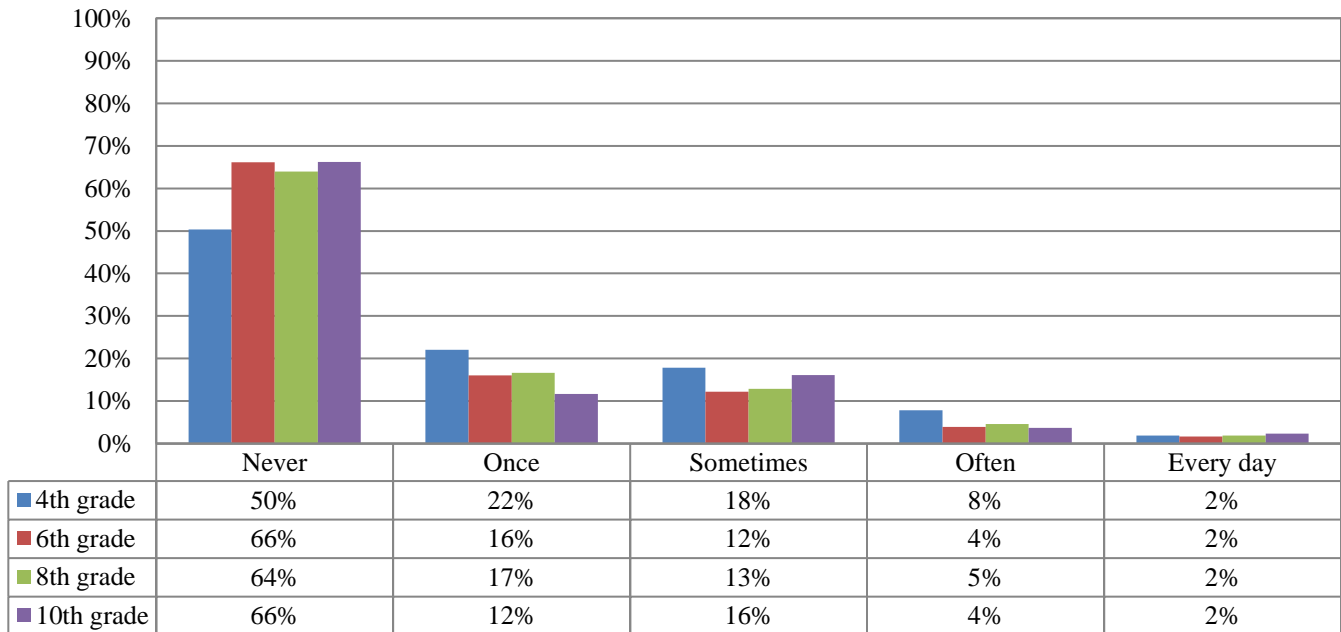
Percentage of students who reported that other students have hit, pushed, or kicked them on purpose, by grade level



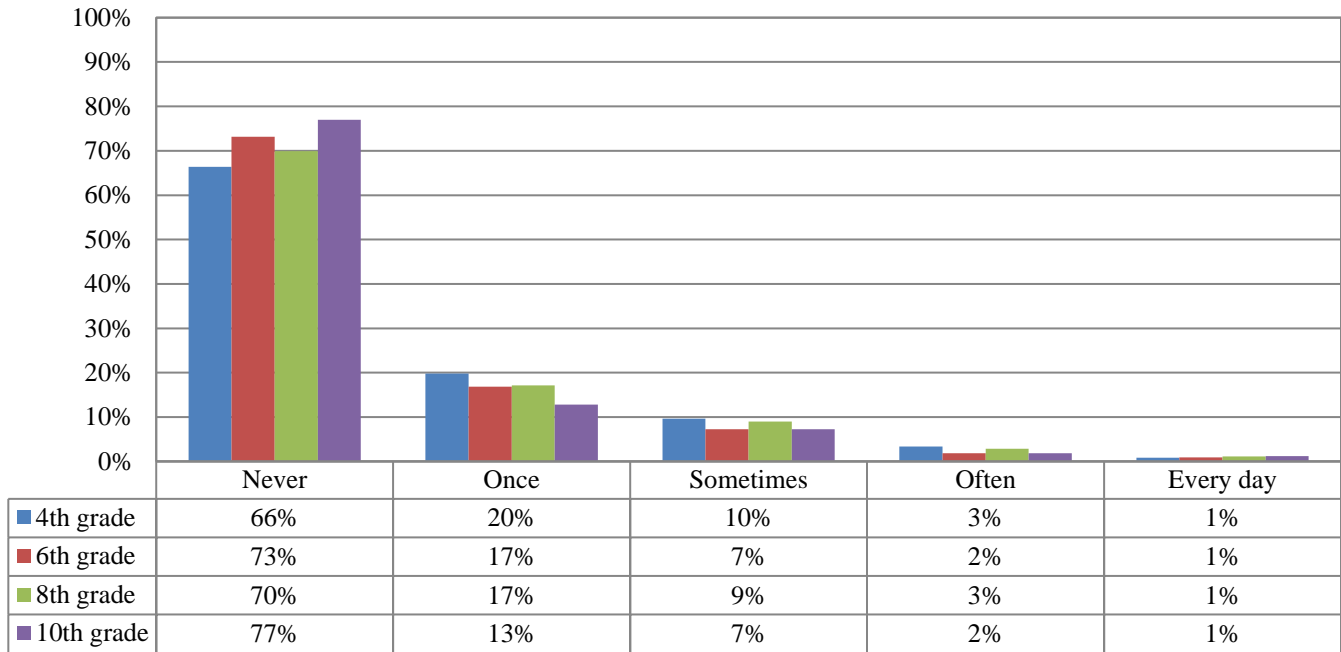
Percentage of students who reported that other students have said mean things, teased them, or called them names, by grade level



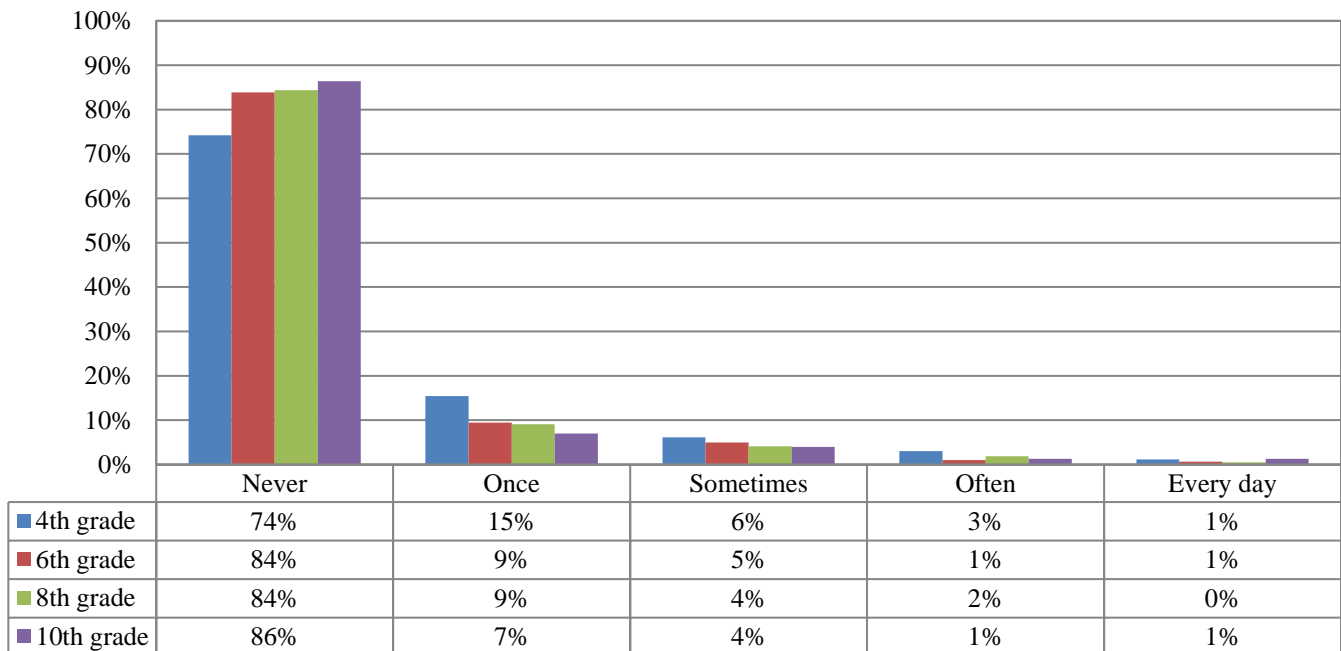
Percentage of students who reported that other students did not include them in what they were doing, by grade level



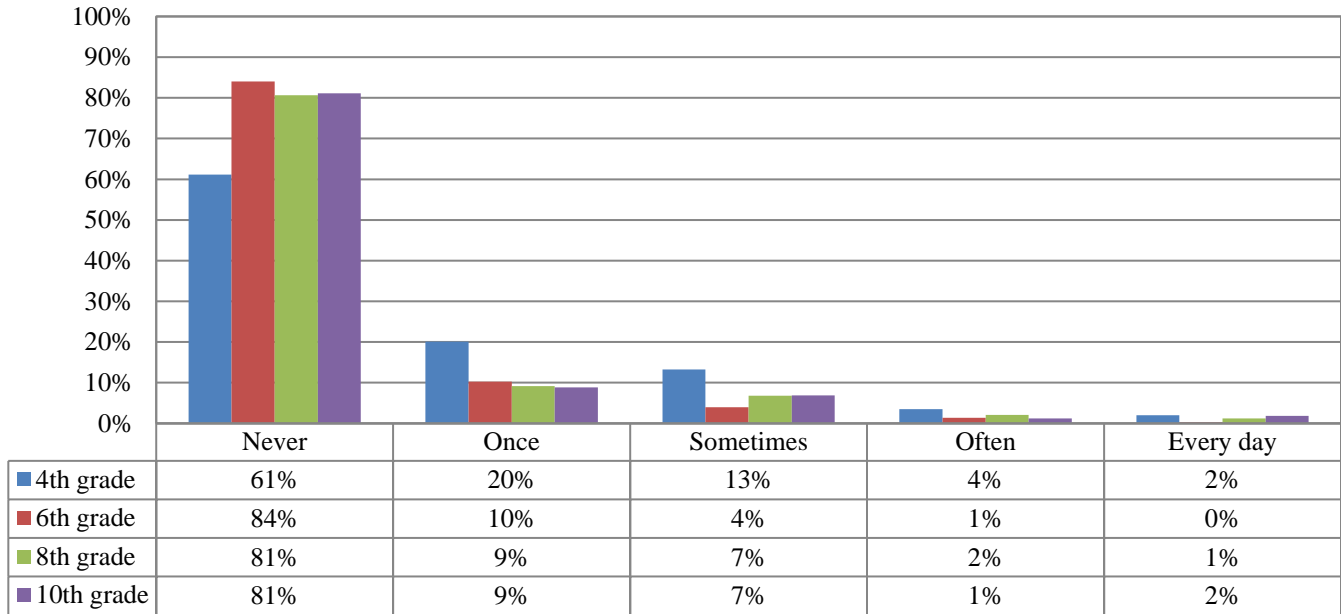
Percentage of students who reported that other students took things that belonged to them, by grade level



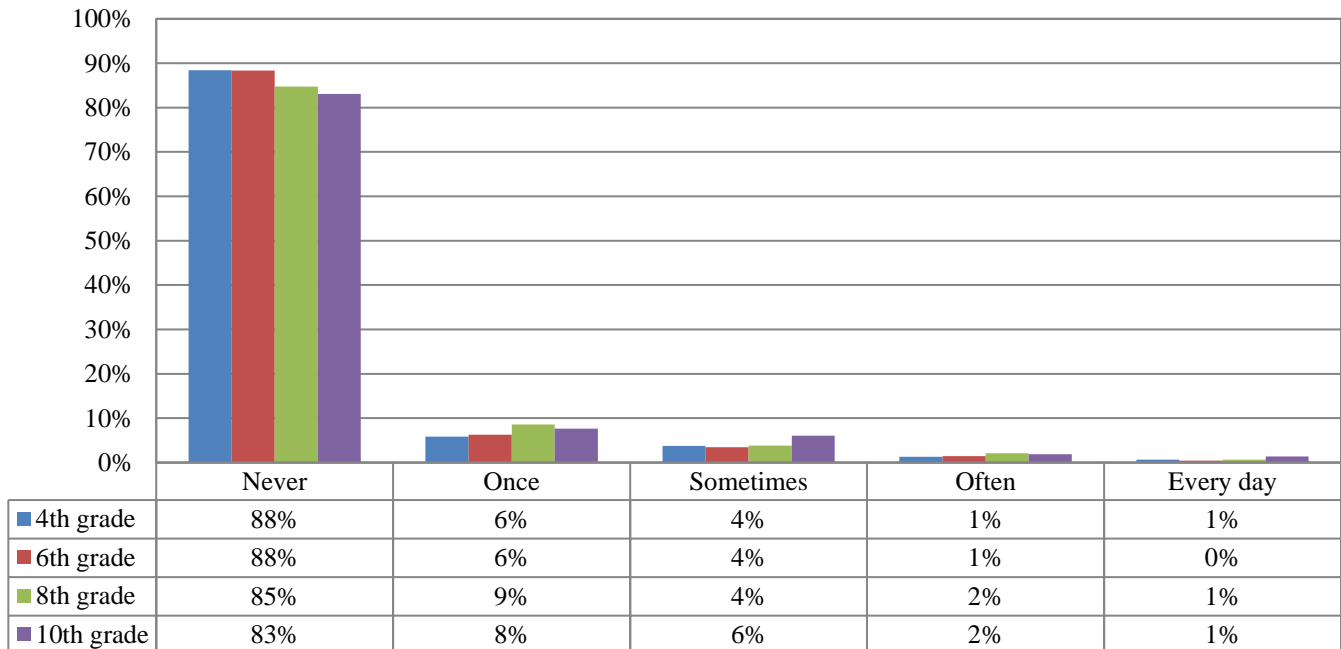
Percentage of students who reported that other students threatened to hurt them or take things, by grade level



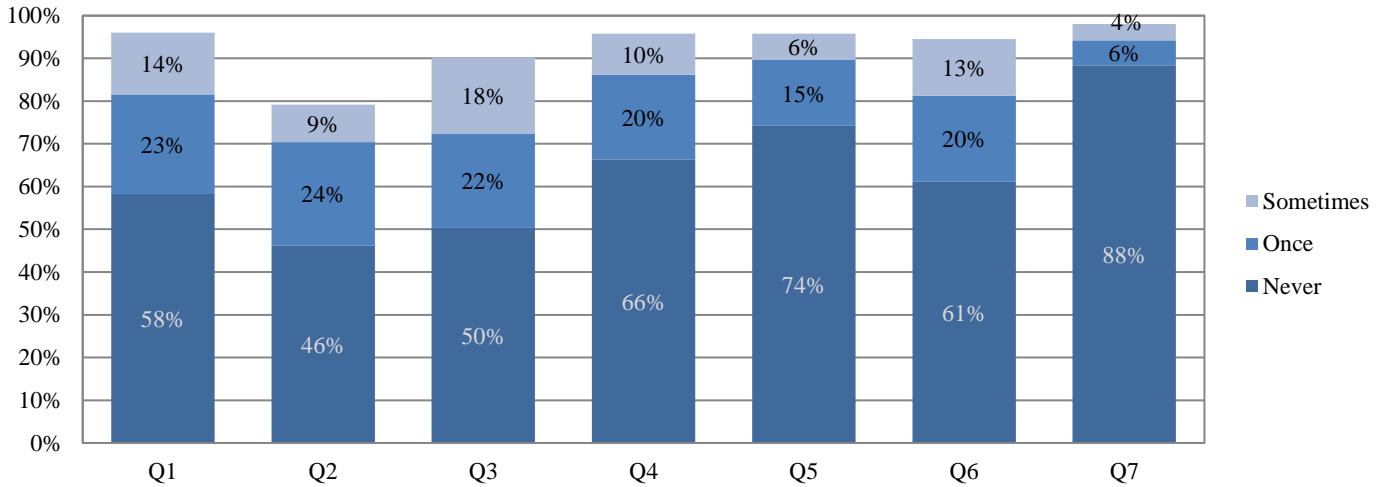
Percentage of students who reported that other students touched, grabbed, or pinched them in a way that made them feel uncomfortable, by grade level



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



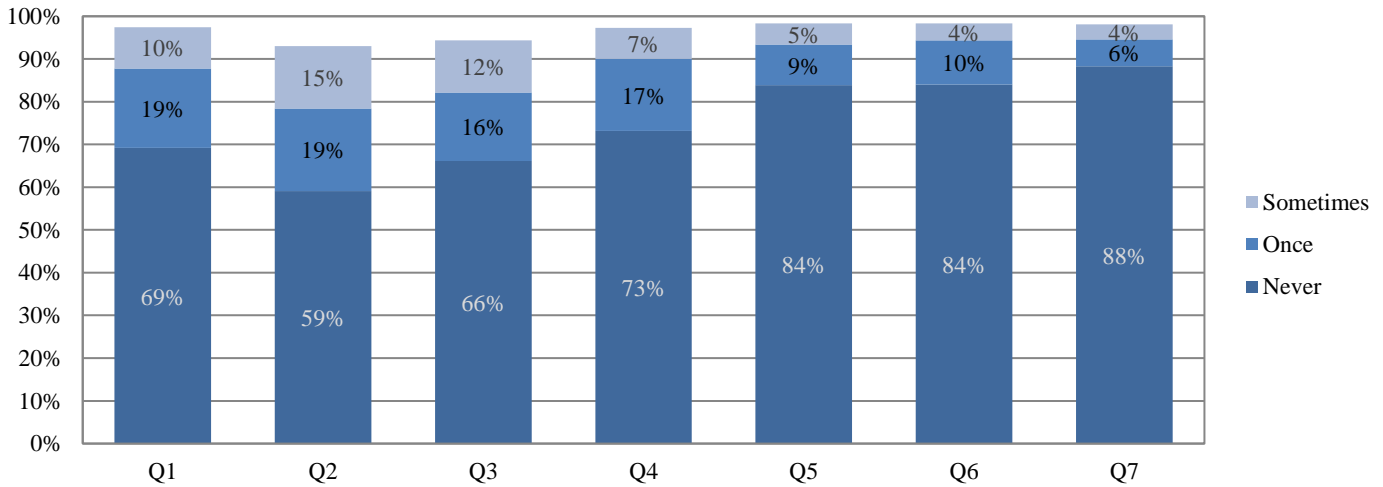
Percentage of 4th grade students who responded never, once or sometimes for each item



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



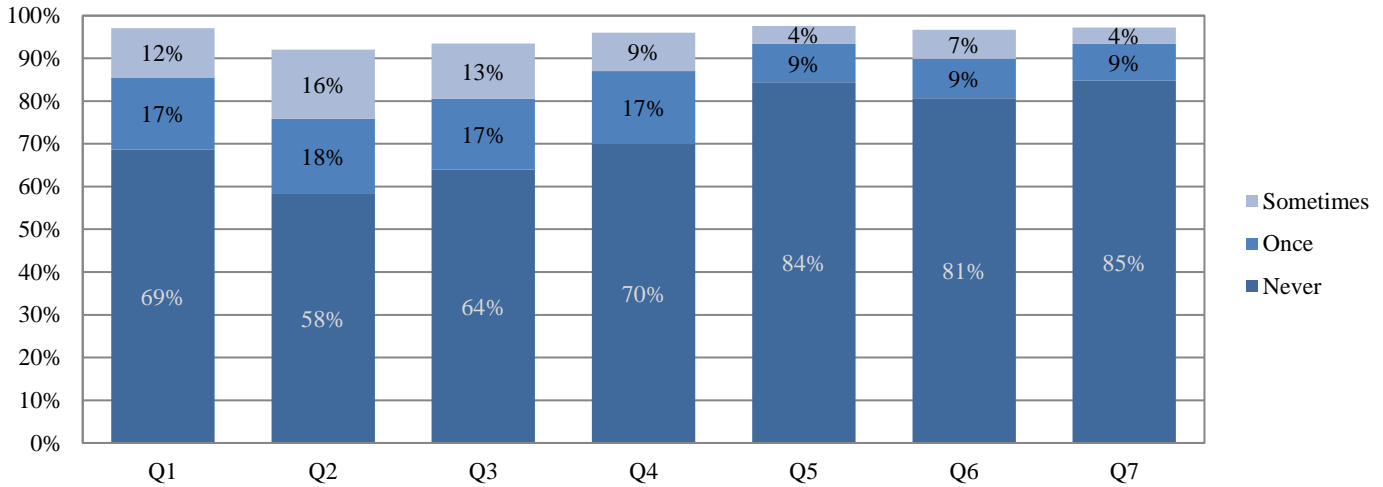
Note: Other response options included often and every day.

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

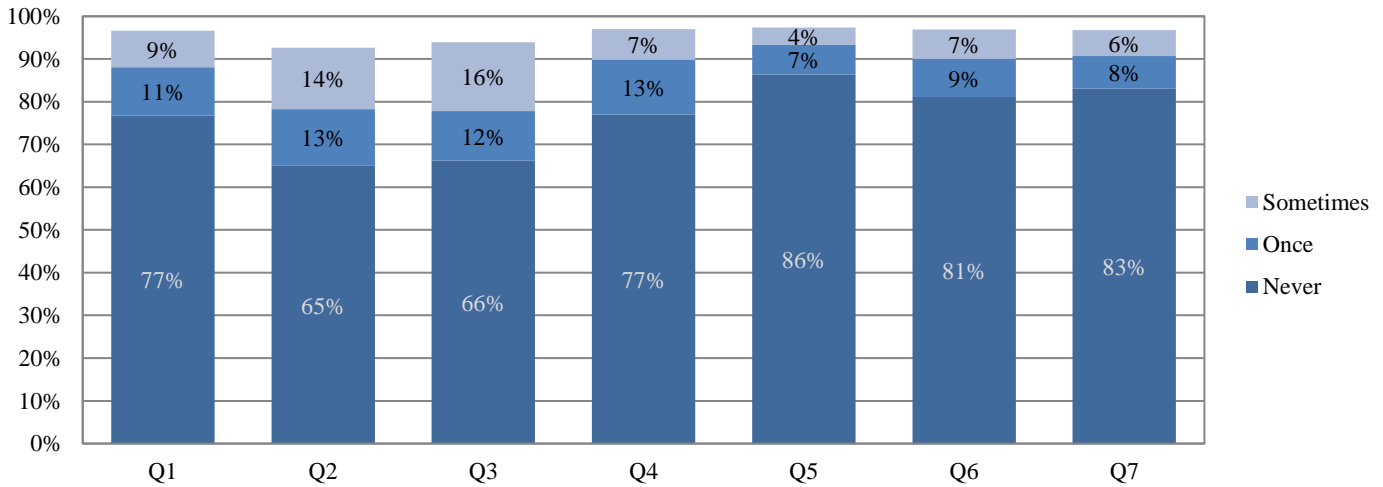
Percentage of 8th grade students who responded never, once or sometimes for each item



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.

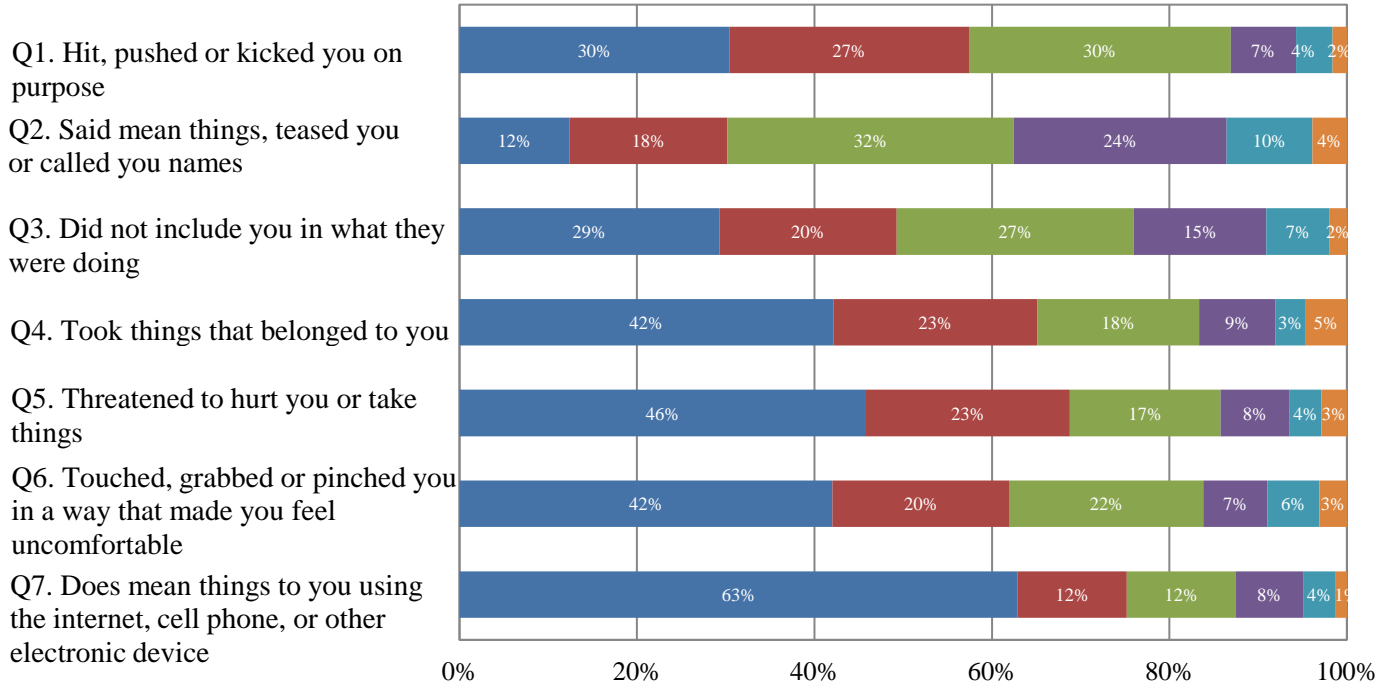
Questions listed at the bottom of this page.

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



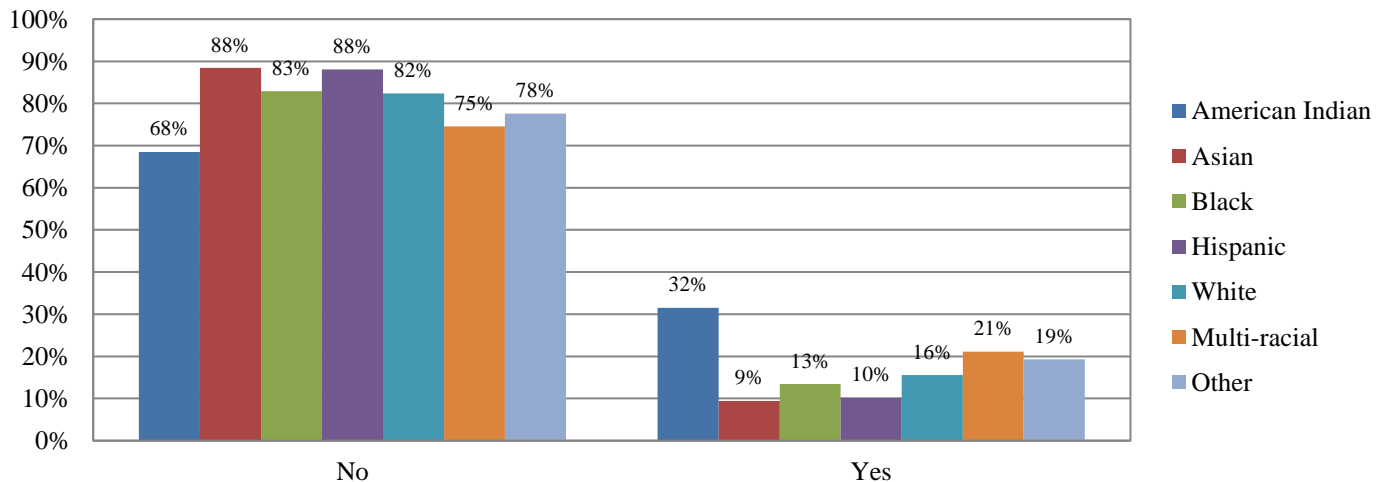
The graphic above displays the frequency with which students who reported being bullied in the past month reported experiencing various bullying behaviors.

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?”, American Indian students reported being bullied at significantly higher rates than Asian, Hispanic, and Black students. Multi-racial students reported being bullied at significantly higher rates than Asian, Hispanic, Black, and White 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 four of the seven instances.
- Multi-racial students reported experiencing six of the 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, Hispanic, Black and White students.
 - Having mean things said about them significantly more frequently than Asian, Hispanic and White students.
 - Not being included in things significantly more frequently than Asian, Hispanic and Black students.
 - Being threatened to be hurt or have things taken significantly more frequently than Asian and Hispanic students.
 - Being touched, grabbed, or pinched significantly more frequently than Hispanic and Black students.
 - Having mean things done to them using the internet or electronic device significantly more frequently than Black students.
- White students reported having been bullied in the past month and not being included at a significantly higher rate than Asian students.

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

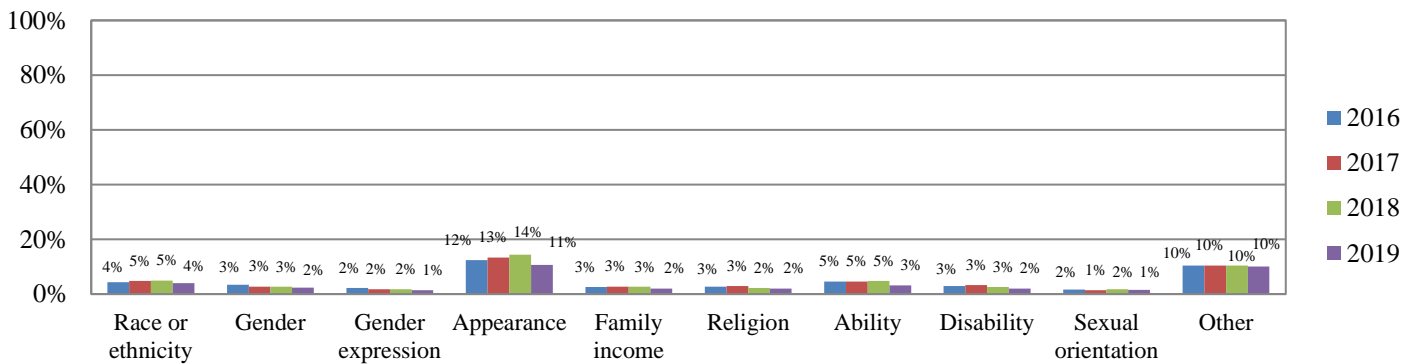


“If you were bullied, what do you think was the reason?”

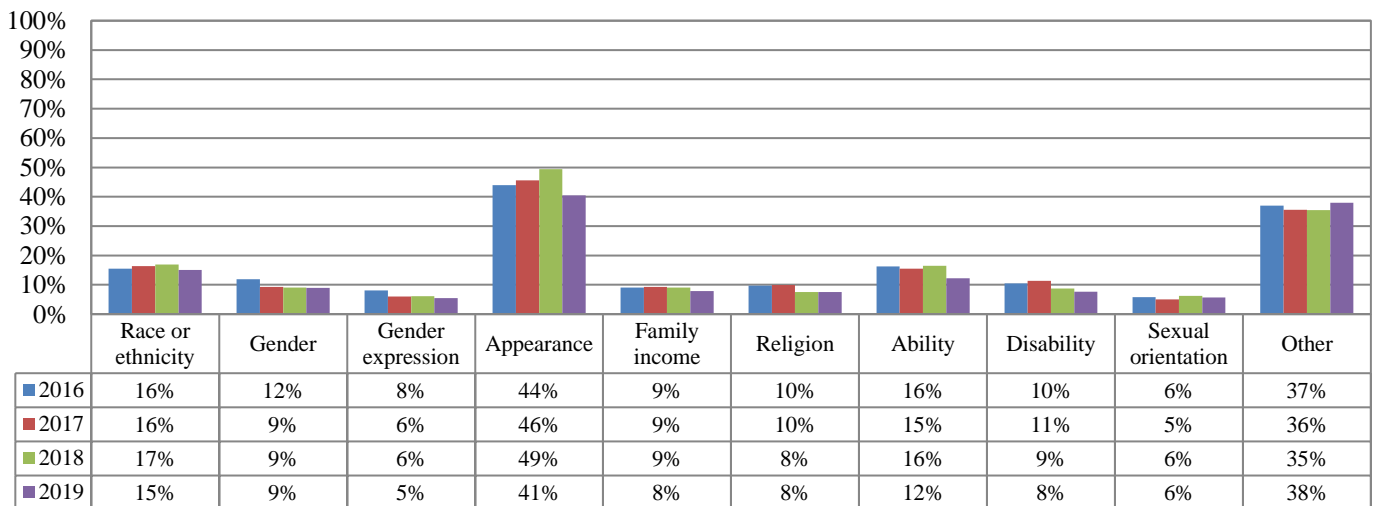
(Students were instructed to select all responses that applied.)

- Of the total number of students who completed the survey, 5% of students did not respond to this item, while 69% 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, 4% of all respondents believe they were bullied because of race/ethnicity in 2019, however this represents 15% 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 decreased from 14% in 2018 to 11% in 2019.
- Of the students who responded to this survey item that they had been bullied, approximately 41% reported that they were bullied because of their appearance, an 8% decrease from the previous year.

**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)**



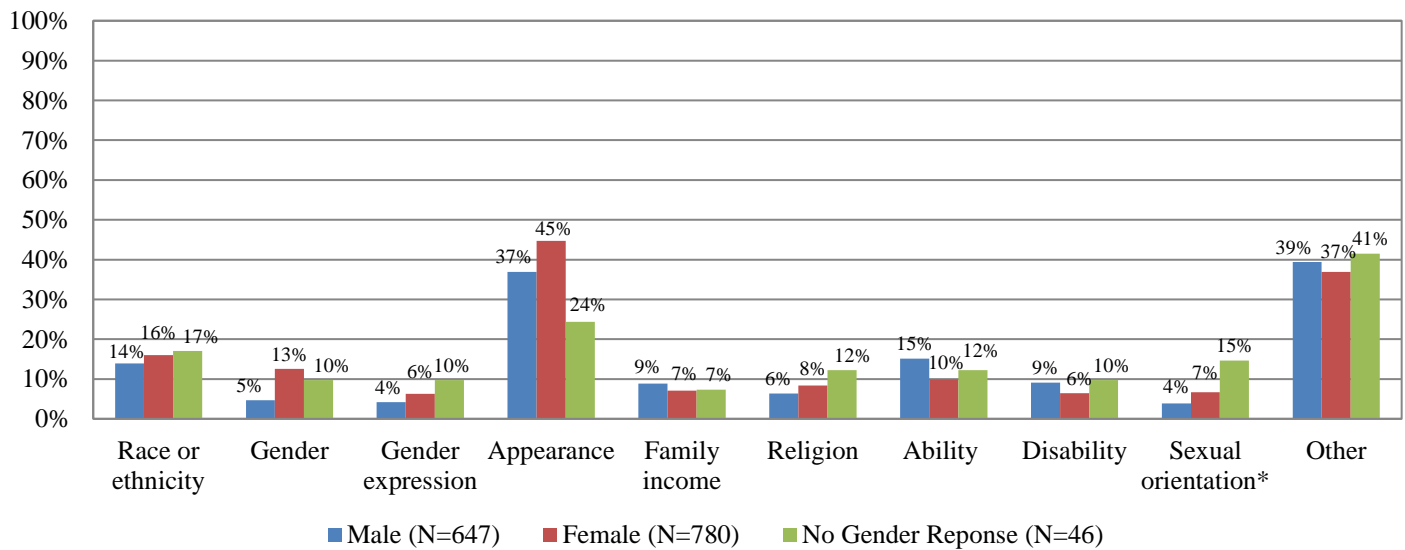
Students were instructed to select all responses that applied.

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, personality, how they act, social status, student’s name, and for no reason or they don’t know.

By Gender

- Female students who reported they have been bullied, reported being bullied due to their appearance to a higher degree than any other reasons, when compared to all other students who reported they have been bullied.
- Male students who reported they have been bullied, indicated they were bullied to a higher degree due to ability and family income, when compared to all other students who also reported they have been bullied.
- Students who did not report their gender who reported being bullied, reported being bullied to a higher degree than male and female students for six of the ten reason options, including: race or ethnicity, gender expression, 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)**



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

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

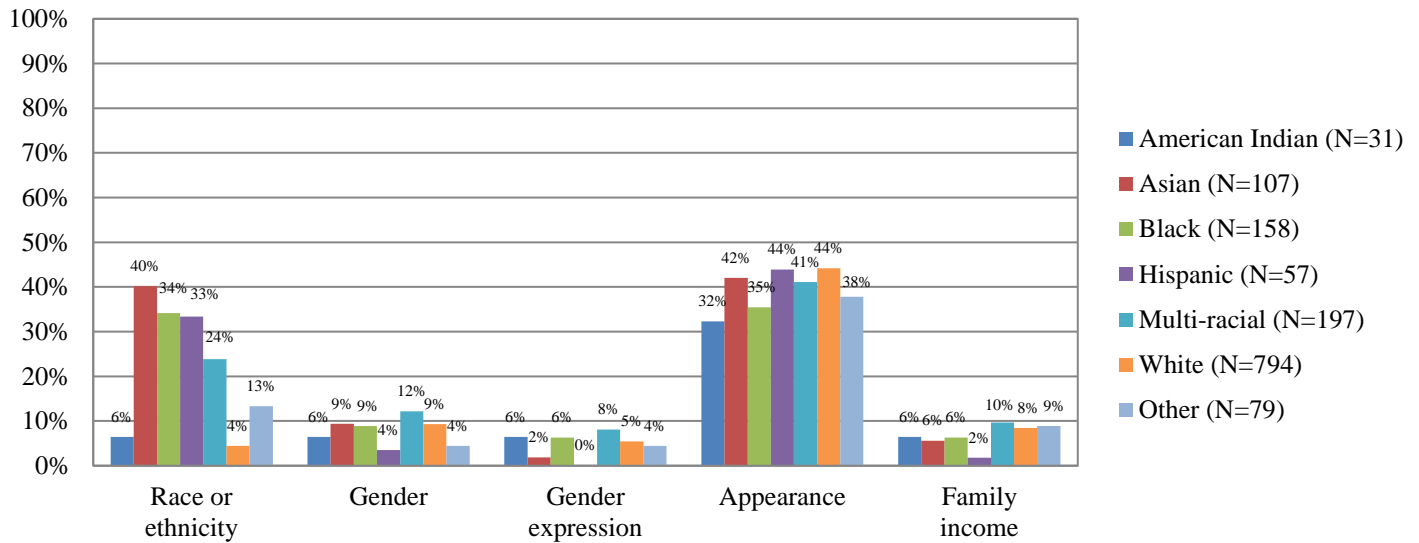
Students were instructed to select all responses that applied.

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, personality, how they act, social status, student’s name, and for no reason or they don’t know.

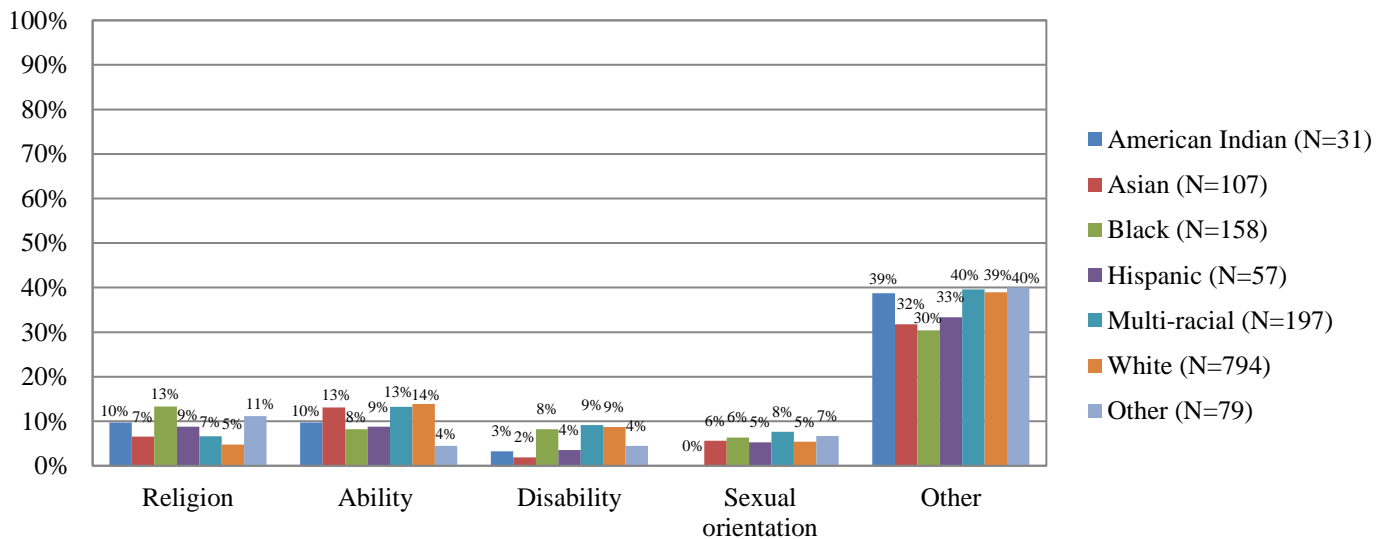
By Race/Ethnicity

- 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).
- Overall, a higher percentage of Asians reported being bullied due to race or ethnicity.
- Appearance was the top reason for four out of seven student groups for being bullied. Multi-racial students and students who reported their ethnicity as other, reported “other” reasons for being bullied as the top item.

**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.

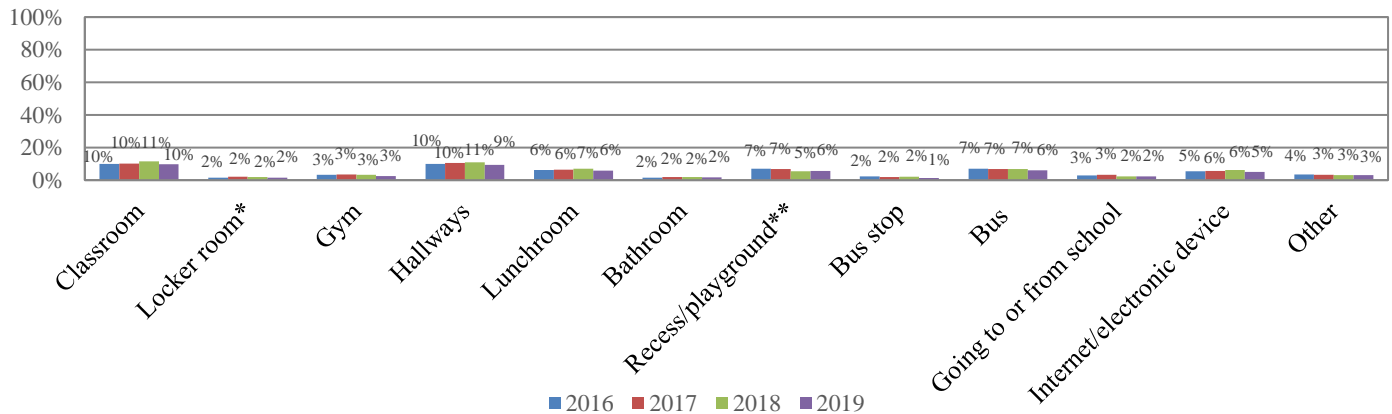
Note: For the “other” responses, students were provided the opportunity to include other reasons of why they were bullied. From these open-ended responses, top response themes included: physical attributes, personality, how they act, social status, student’s name, and for no reason or they don’t know.

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

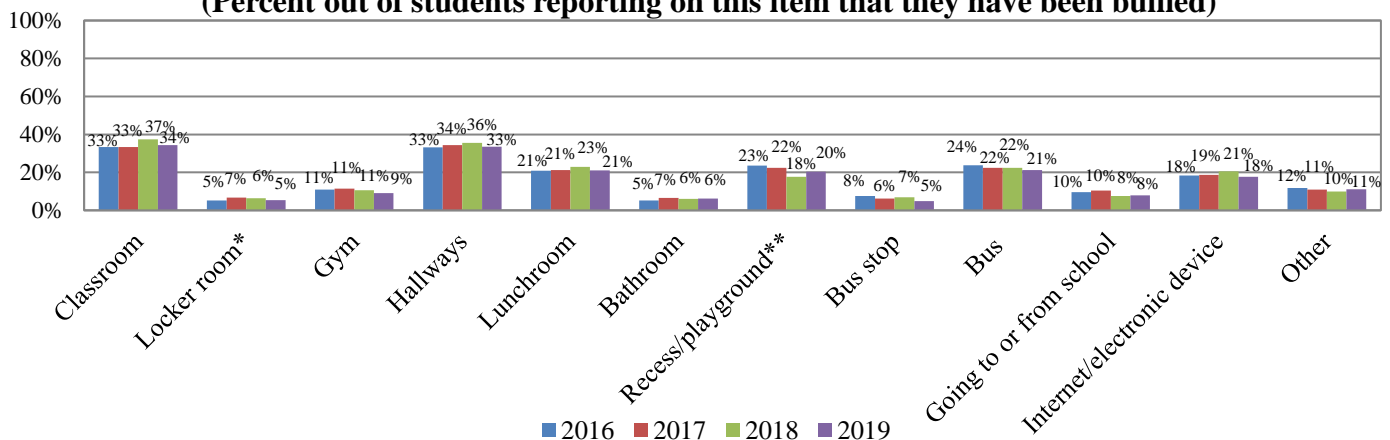
(Students were instructed to select all responses that applied.)

- Ten percent of all students who took the survey said that they have been bullied in the classroom. Another 9% of all students reported having been bullied in the hallways. These have been the most frequently reported locations for bullying from 2016-2019.
- Four percent of students who took the survey did not respond to this item, while 71% responded that they “have not been bullied.”
- Approximately 34% of students who reported being bullied reported that they were bullied in the classroom, a 3% decrease from 2018.
- Of students who reported being bullied, 33% said it happened in the hallways, a 3% decrease from 2018. Another 18% of students who reported being bullied indicated that they were bullied over the internet/electronic device, a 3% decrease from 2018.
- Of elementary students who reported being bullied, 20% said it happened at recess or on the playground, a 2% increase from 2018.

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



**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.

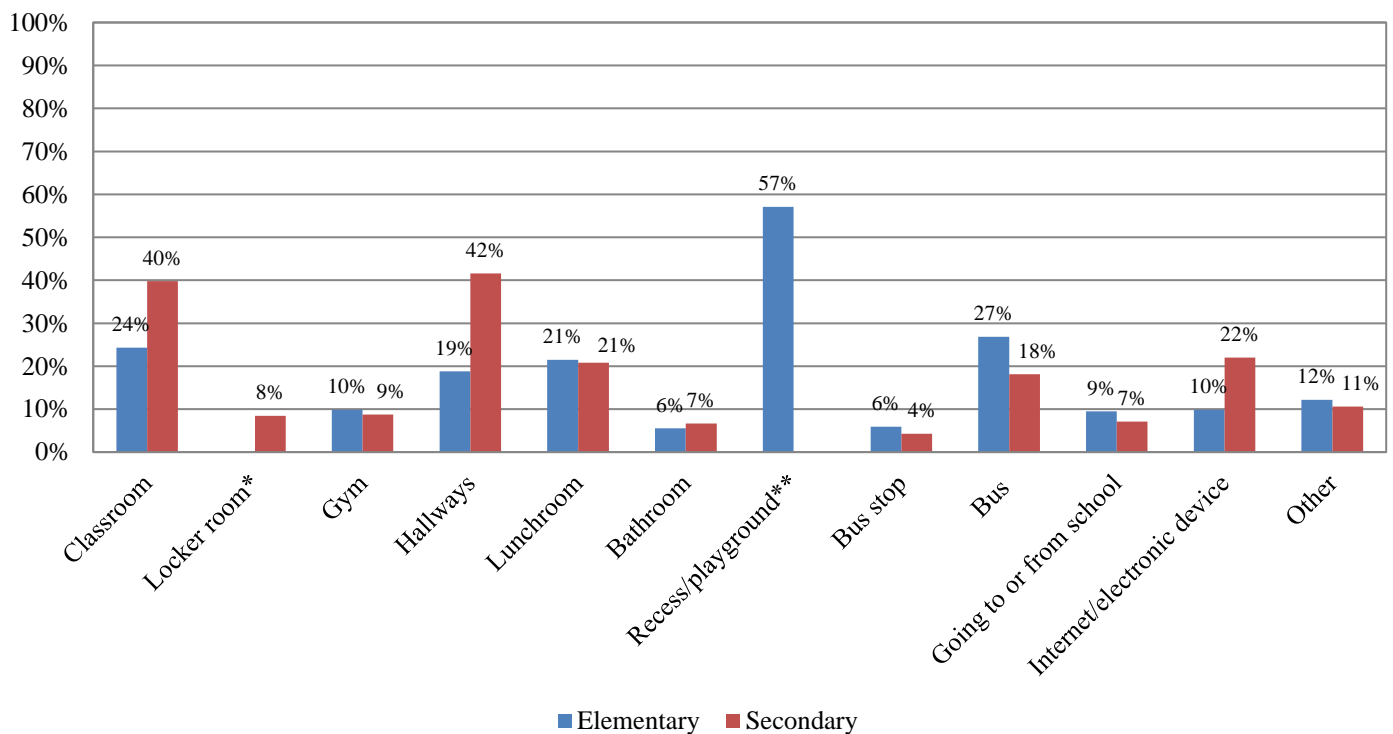
Students were instructed to select all responses that applied.

Note: For the “other” responses, students were provided the opportunity to include other places where they were bullied. Top open-ended responses included before-after school care and special classes for elementary students, “everywhere” and after-school events for secondary students, and lockers, outside of school (e.g., at home, neighborhood parks) 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 (57%), while secondary students were most likely to report being bullied in the hallways (42%) or in the classroom (40%).
- Secondary students were more likely than elementary students to report that they were bullied in the classroom, hallways, and on the internet/electronic device.
- Elementary students were more likely than secondary students to indicate they were bullied at the bus stop, on the bus, and going to or from school.

**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.

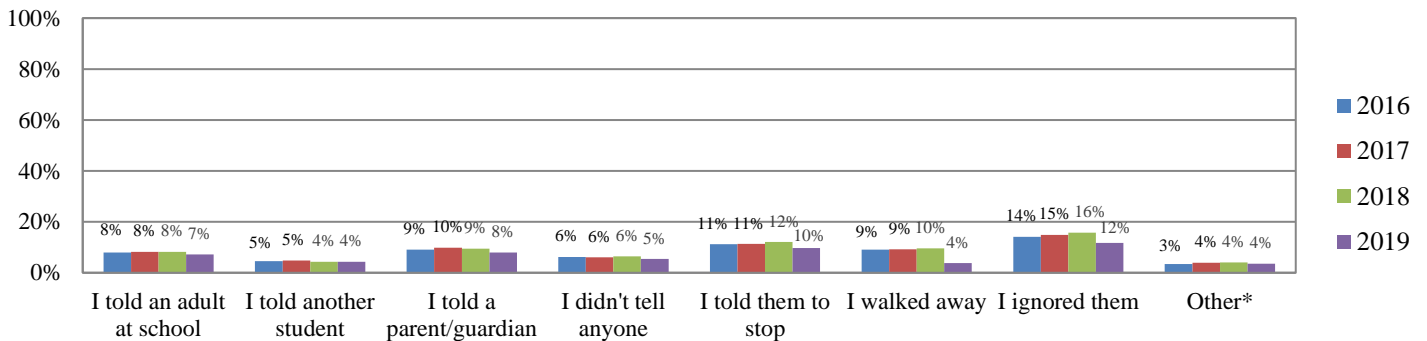
Note: For the “other” responses, students were provided the opportunity to include other places where they were bullied. Top open-ended responses included before-after school care and special classes for elementary students, “everywhere” and after-school events for secondary students, and lockers, outside of school (e.g., at home, neighborhood parks) for students at both levels.

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

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

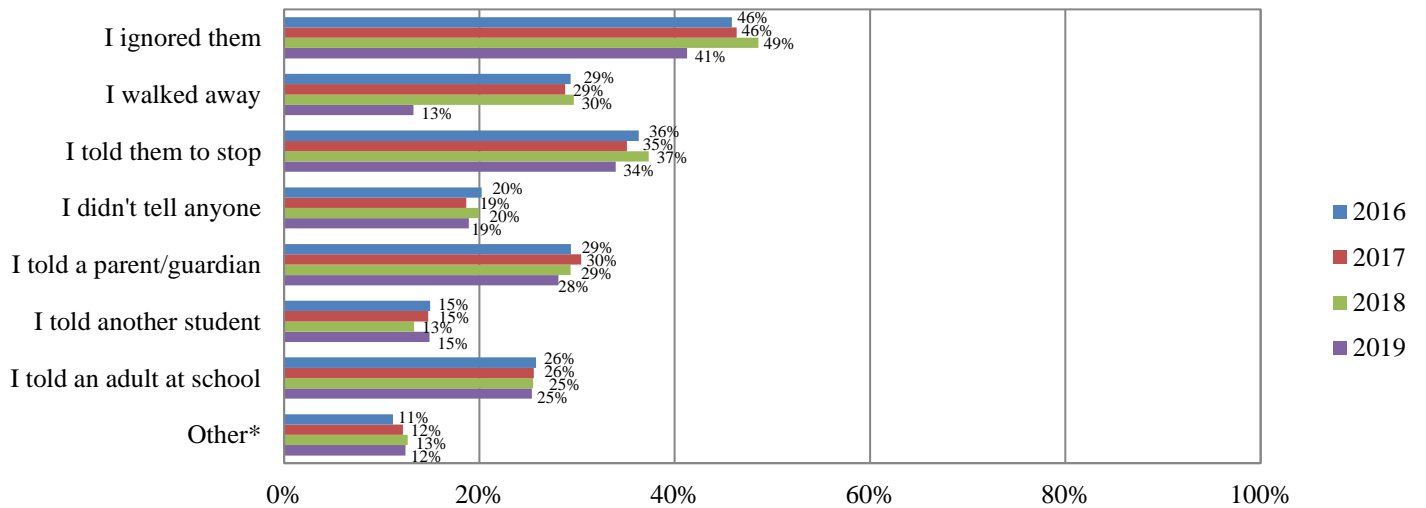
- When the students were asked what they did about being bullied, 5% did not respond and 67% reported that they “have not been bullied.”
- Students who reported being bullied were most likely to ignore the bully (41%), tell them to stop (34%), or tell a parent/guardian (28%).
- The percentage of students who reported responding to being bullied by walking away decreased by 17%. The percentage of students who reported responding to being bullied by ignoring them decreased by 8%. The percentage of students who reported telling bullies to stop decreased by 3%. The percentage of students who reported telling another student about being bullied increased by 2%.

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: physical/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)

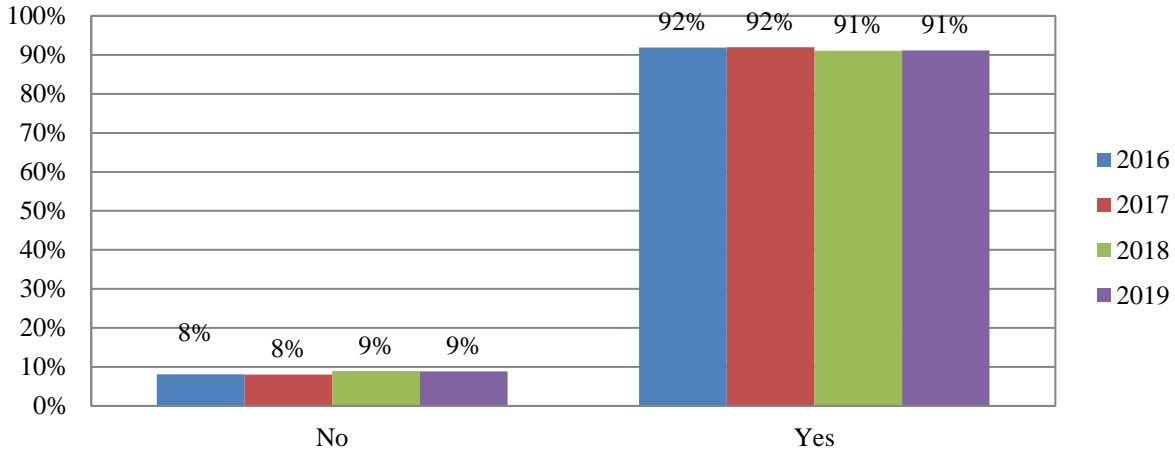


*For the “other” responses, students were provided the opportunity to include other actions they took. From these open-ended responses, top response themes included: physical violence/fought back, stood up for self or talked back, became upset or cried, laughed it off, and “dealt with it.” Students were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

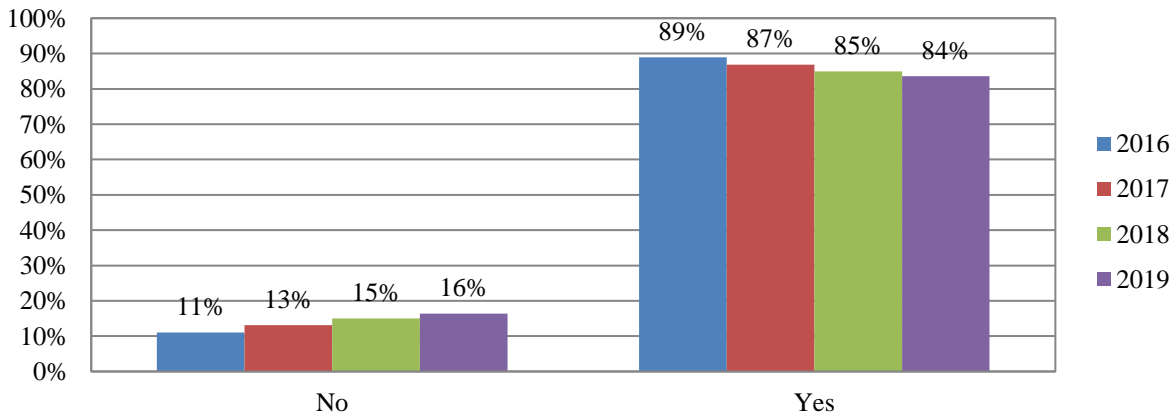
Reports of adult support

- The percentage of elementary students who reported having an adult to go to for help when being bullied remained the same from 2018 to 2019 (91%).
- In 2019, 84% of secondary students reported that there is an adult at the school they can go to for help, lower than the elementary school rate of 91%, and down a total of 5% 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?

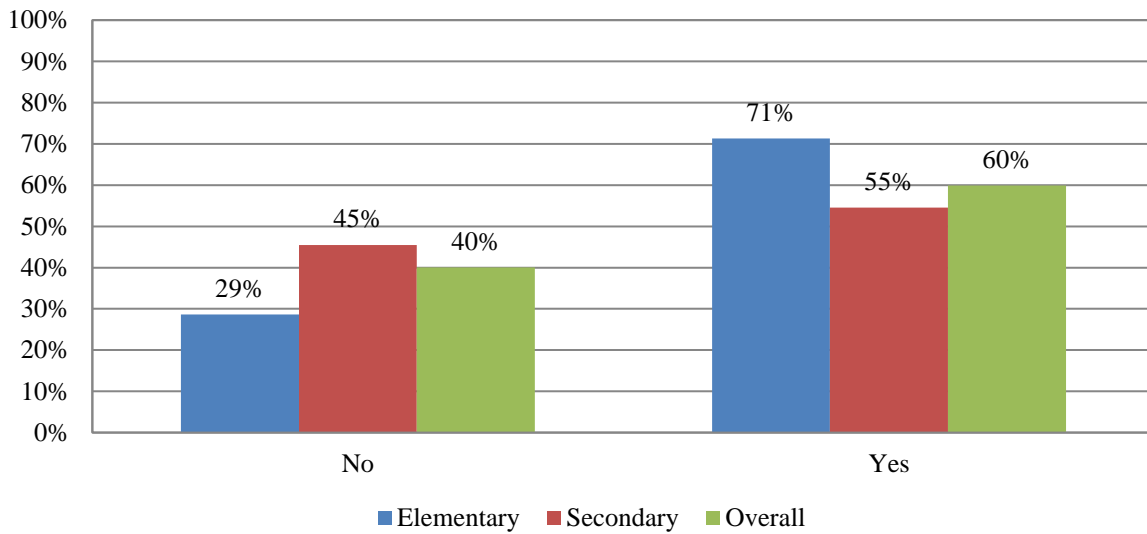


Secondary: Is there an adult at school that you can go to for help if a student is bullying you or someone else?



- Approximately 64% of students who took the survey reported that they have not reported bullying behavior to an adult at school, 33% 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, 60% of students who reported bullying to an adult at school felt that doing so helped, while 40% of students felt that it did not help. Seven-one percent of elementary students who reported bullying behavior felt that it helped, as compared to 55% of secondary students.

**If you reported bullying behavior, do you feel like it helped?
(Elementary vs. secondary, 2019 only)**

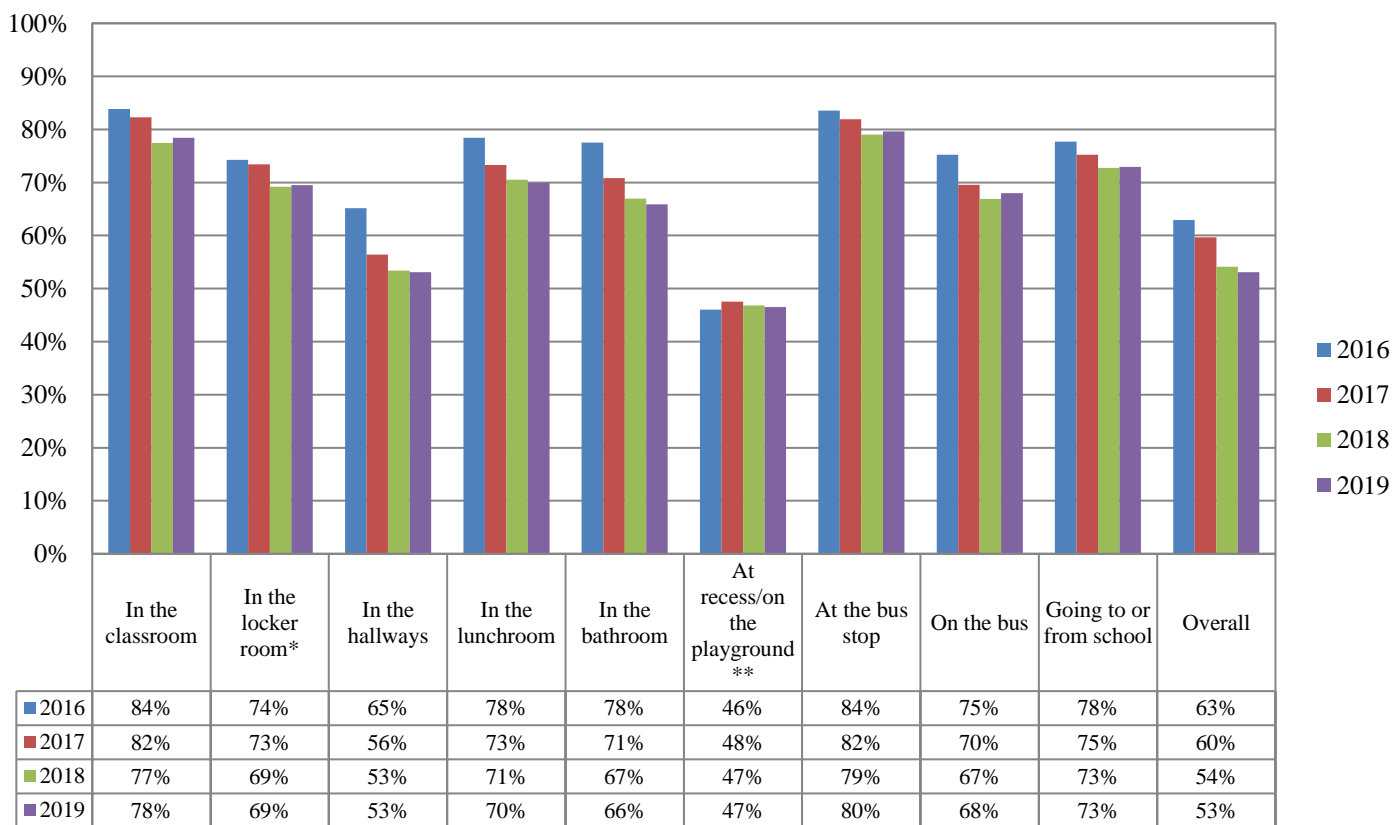


Note: Percentages shown here represent the proportion of students answering “No” or “Yes” to this question out of the total number of students at each level who indicated on this item that they had in fact reported bullying behavior.

“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”)

- Students’ feelings of safety in all locations have declined since 2016, with the exception of “at recess” that has remained relatively steady.
- Just under 80% of all students reported that they felt safe in the classroom and at the bus stop.
- The percentage of students reporting that they felt safe in the lunchroom has declined by 8% since 2016. The percentage of students who reported feeling safe in the bathroom and hallway have each declined by 12% since 2016.
- Students’ overall feeling of safety has declined by ten percentage points to 53% over the past four years.

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

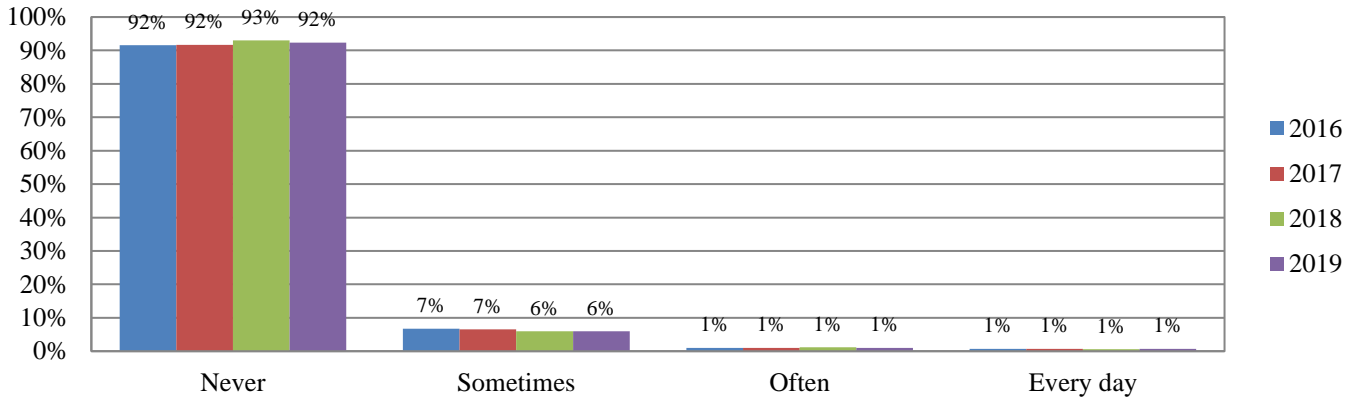


Note: Percentages do not include those students who indicated they felt “kind of safe.” * Indicates this was a response option for secondary students only.
 ** Indicates this was a response option for elementary students only.

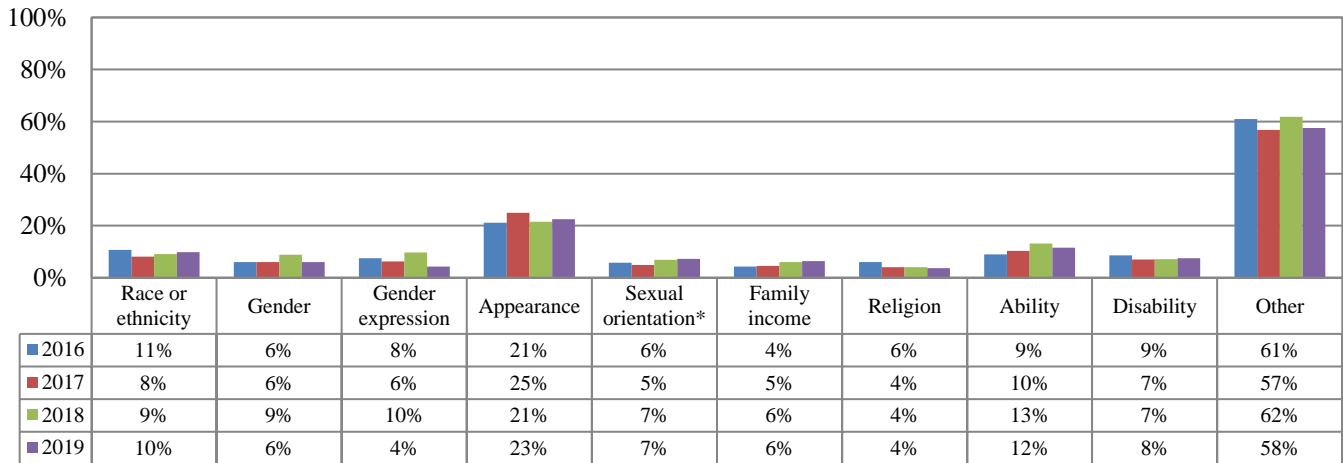
“Have you bullied someone?”

- 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, 23% reported that they have bullied others because of their appearance, while 58% chose the “other” option as a reason for bullying someone else.

How often have you bullied someone in the last month?



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



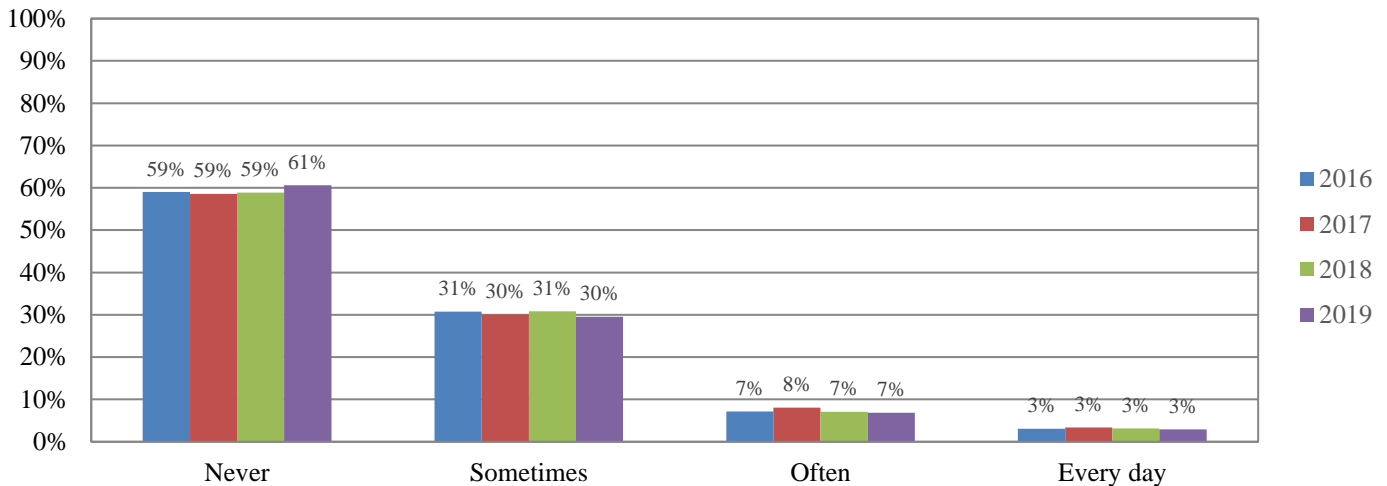
*Indicates this was not a response option for elementary school students.

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: anger or annoyance, response to being bullied, standing up for friends, and I was “playing” or “joking.”

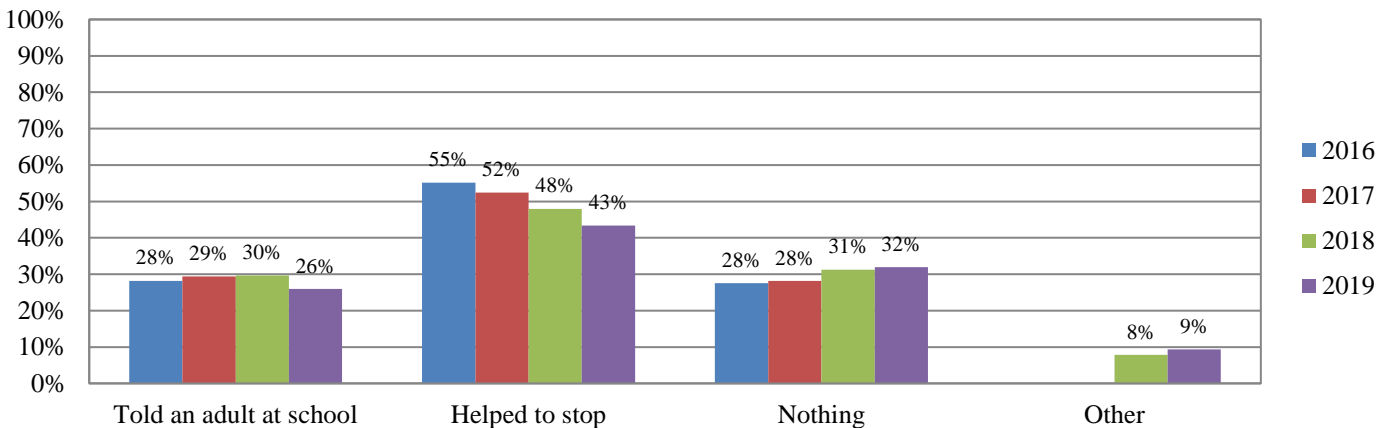
“How often have you seen someone else being bullied?”

- About 61% of students reported that they have “never” seen someone else being bullied in the last month, 30% of students have seen it “sometimes,” 7% have seen it “often,” and 3% have seen it “every day.”
- The percentage of students who reported that they helped stop someone from being bullied decreased 5% since 2018 and has steadily declined from 55% in 2016 to 43% in 2019. Within the same timeframe, there has been a slight increase in the percentage of students reporting that they did “nothing” (28% to 32% from 2016 to 2019, respectively).
- There has been a 4% decrease since 2018 of students reporting that they had seen bullying and responded by telling an adult at school.

Have you seen someone else being bullied 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”, beginning in 2018. Common among these responses were: stood up to bully or told them to stop, told a parent, walked away for fear of retaliation, comforted or supported the victim, or physically retaliated.

Open-ended responses

Students were asked, “What makes you feel safe at school?”

Elementary

Themes from elementary students included:

- Students reported feeling safe when there is a significant adult presence (i.e., principals, teachers, paras) within the school.
- Students reported that regularly having drills helped them to feel safe at school.
- Students also reported that having friends and adults whom they can speak with concerning safety issues makes them feel safe at school.
- Students reported feeling safe in large group settings, such as in the classroom.

Secondary

Themes from secondary students included:

- Students reported feeling safe at school because they have friends whom they can trust and depend on.
- Students reported feeling safe at school when there is a significant adult presence/supervision throughout the school.
- Students reported that safety procedures and rules make them feel safe at school.
- Students reported that having more security in the form of police officers and/or guards, along with more safety measures (e.g., metal detectors, locked doors, cameras, etc.) would make them feel safe at school.
- Students expressed that if there was a general sense of kindness and mutual respect for one another, they would feel safe at school.
- Students reported that having people whom they can speak with concerning safety issues, whether adults or peers, makes them feel safe at school.

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.