

School Climate Report: Fall 2010 Middle Schools

This report summarizes results from the Fall 2010 administration of the School Climate Bullying Survey in two Charlottesville and six Albemarle County middle schools. A total of 3,378 students in grades 6-8 completed the survey this fall, achieving a participation rate of 95%. The purpose of this report is to provide schools with a baseline for planning that will be compared to the spring 2011 survey in reducing bullying, improving school climate, and meeting other Safe Schools/Healthy Students project goals. Information about the project can be found at <www.safeschoolscville.org>.

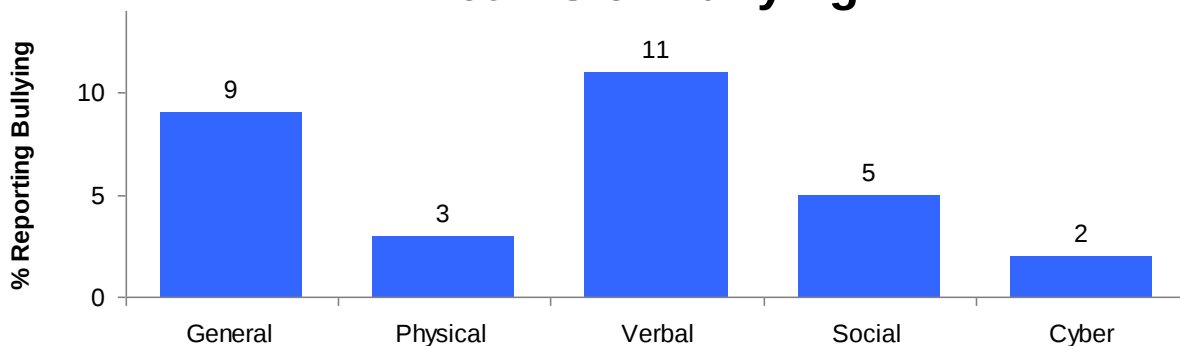
Bullying rates. The survey presents a standard definition of bullying:

Bullying is defined as the use of one's strength or popularity to injure, threaten, or embarrass another person. Bullying can be physical, verbal, or social. It is not bullying when two students of about the same strength argue or fight.

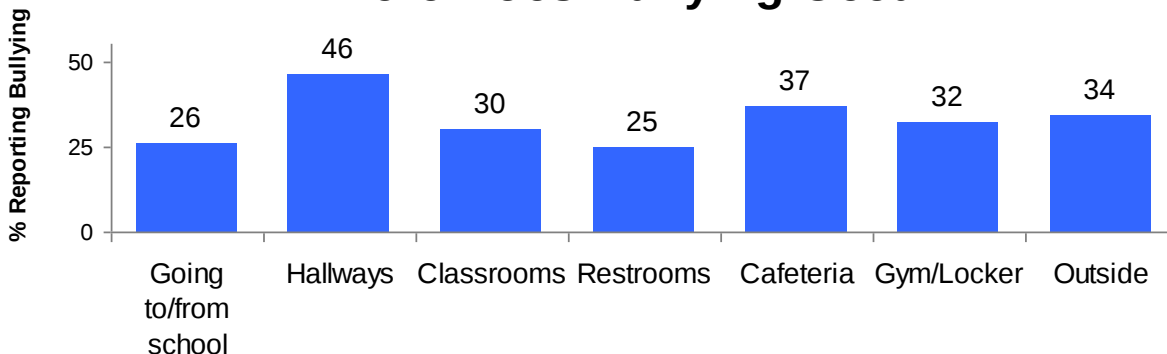
After reading this definition, students were asked whether they had been bullied in the past month "never," "once or twice," "about once per week" or "several times per week." By convention, the total percent who report being bullied at least once per week ("about once per week" plus "several times per week") is used as an index of bullying.

The survey asked students if they have been bullied in general and then asked about physical, verbal, social, and cyber bullying. The first chart below presents the percentages of students who reported being bullied at least once per week in the past month. (In some cases a student did not report being bullied on the general question, but did report other bullying.)

Victims of Bullying



Where Does Bullying Occur?

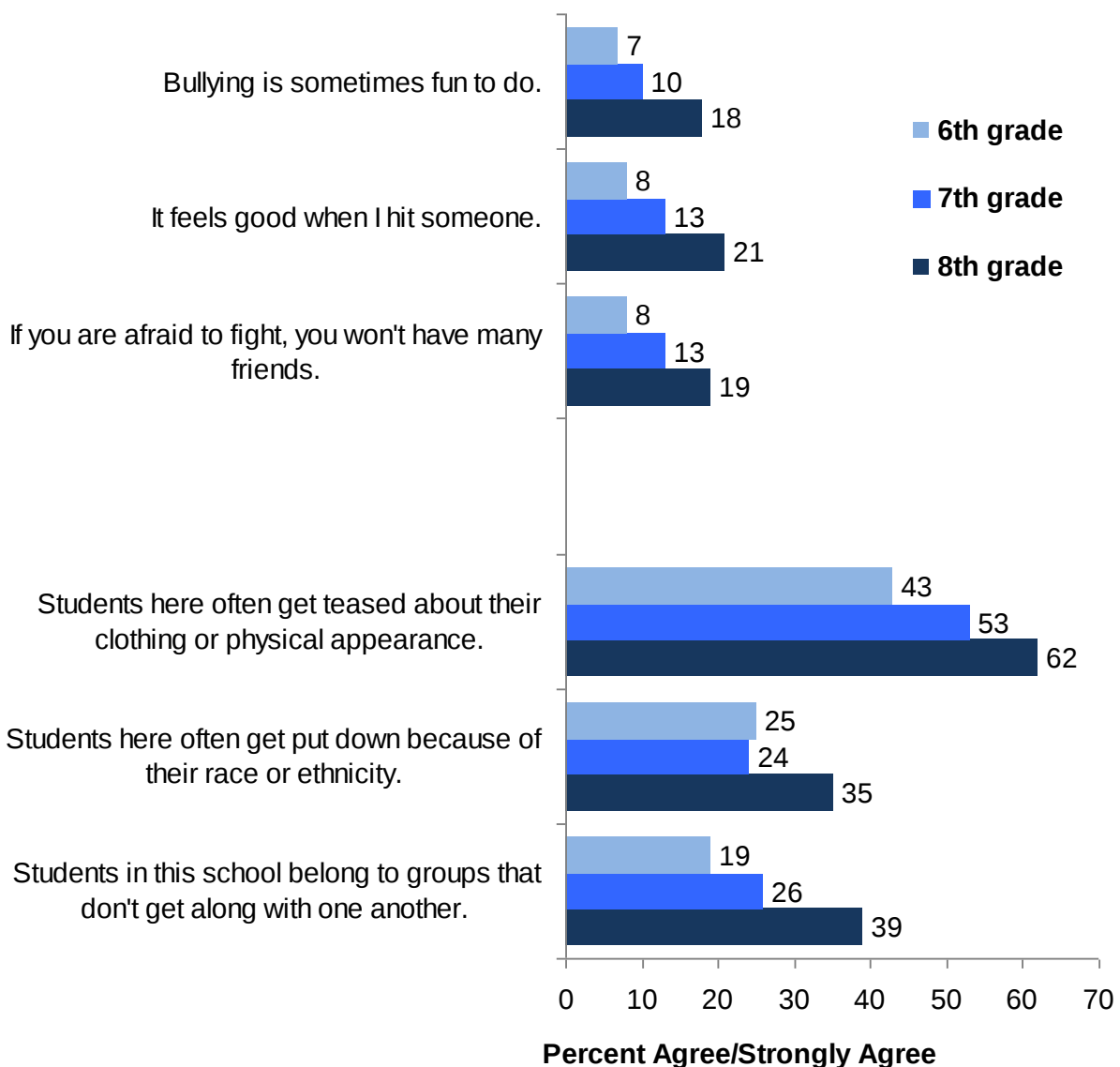


School Climate – Teasing and Aggressive Attitudes

Teasing does not always rise to the level of bullying, but it affects the quality of the school climate and influences whether students feel comfortable and accepted at school. Teasing about clothing and appearance are common problems in middle school grades. Teasing about race, while less common, can be more serious and needs attention.

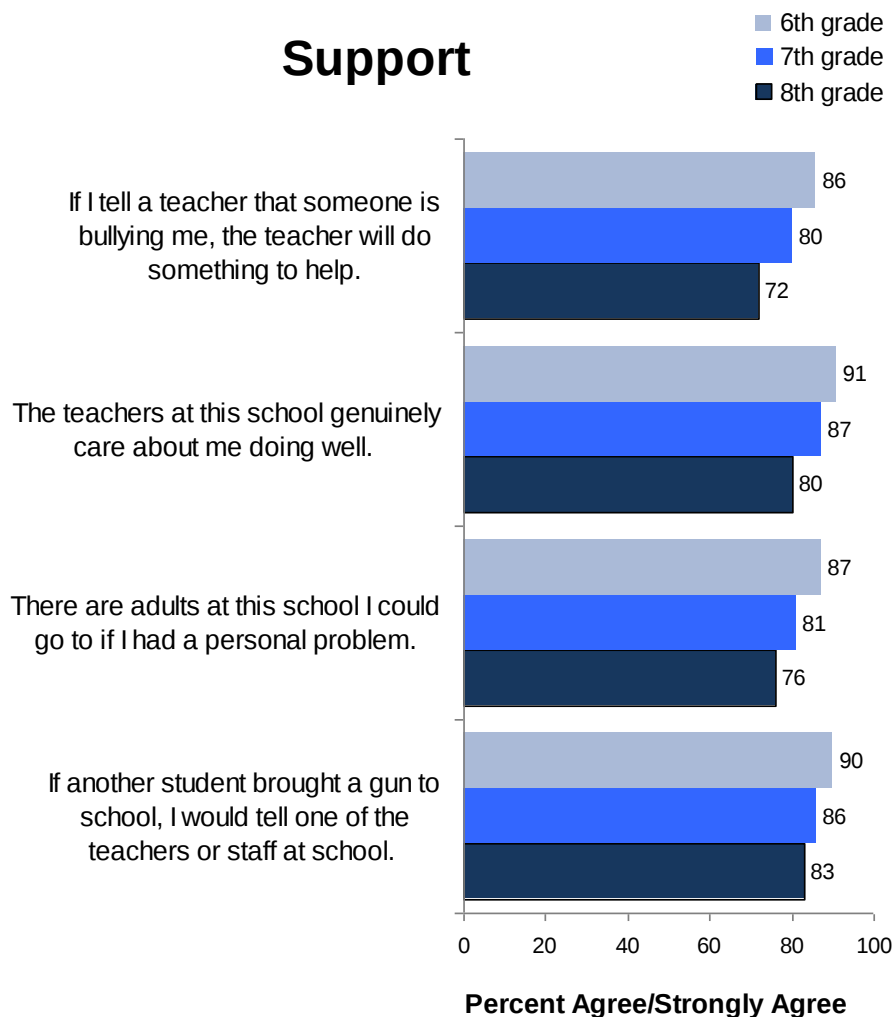
Our research has shown that the small numbers of students who express aggressive attitudes are at increased risk for aggressive behavior, disciplinary referrals, and bullying. Eighth graders appear to be more at risk than other grades for teasing and aggressive attitudes.

Teasing and Aggressive Attitudes



School Climate -- Help-Seeking Attitudes

Studies have demonstrated that student willingness to seek help is a good indicator of a supportive school climate. Schools with a positive school climate tend to have fewer disciplinary problems, higher student engagement in learning, and overall higher academic achievement. Overall, middle school students reported positive feelings of support toward their teachers and other adults at school; however, the tendency toward help-seeking was lower among older students.



Seeking Help for Bullying

We recommend that students make an effort to stop bullying by telling the bully to stop and by speaking up when they see someone bullying someone else. However, if this does not work, and the student continues to be bullied, the student should seek help. The next set of questions asked students whether they had told anyone that they had been bullied in the past 30 days. (Note that students who had only been bullied one time could be included in these results, so that the totals are higher than the results for students who are bullied on a weekly basis.)

There were 382 (11%) middle school students who reported, “I have been bullied, but I have not told anyone” and 473 (14%) students who reported, “I have told someone.” Students most often reported that they told a parent (313 students), a friend (214), or a teacher or another adult at school (187).

Seeking Help for Threats

We also asked students whether another student had threatened to harm them in the past 30 days. The majority (83%) of students said they had not been threatened. There were 442 (13%) students who said they had been threatened, but that the person did not really mean it and 126 (4%) who agreed, “I have been threatened and it was serious.”

All 568 students who said they were threatened were asked whether they told someone they had been threatened. Only 192 (34%) of the 568 threatened students said they had told someone. Students most often reported that they told a friend (101), a teacher or another adult at school (72), a family member (99), or someone else (26).

All of the students who said they were threatened were asked what happened. There were 425 (75% of those threatened) students who responded, “The threat is over and nothing happened,” 70 (12% of those threatened) who responded, “The threat is not over and might be carried out” and 53 (9% of those threatened) who responded, “The threat was carried out and the person tried to hurt me or did hurt me.”

Bullying Prevention Recommendations

Middle schools should make concerted efforts to establish cultures in which bullying and teasing others are not permitted. Here are some recommendations:

Establish bullying prevention as a school wide goal

- Discuss survey results with faculty to increase awareness of bullying, especially verbal bullying, which appears to be most prevalent.
- Increase supervision at locations where bullying is most problematic such as hallways and in the cafeteria.

Hold classroom meetings to discuss bullying. Topics that can be covered in these meetings

- Watch the 6-minute video “Bullying or Not?” Copies are available from the Safe Schools office or it can be downloaded from YouTube at <<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iXXKMehgiAk>>.
- Discuss different forms of bullying and where bullying takes place.
- Ask why bullying is harmful and what can happen to victims of bullying.
- Discuss how to respond when someone bullies you, or you witness someone bullying someone.

Identify victims of bullying

- Counselors should use the peer nomination list to identify possible victims.
- Encourage students to seek help for a peer who is being bullied.
- Teach students the difference between snitching for personal gain and seeking help.

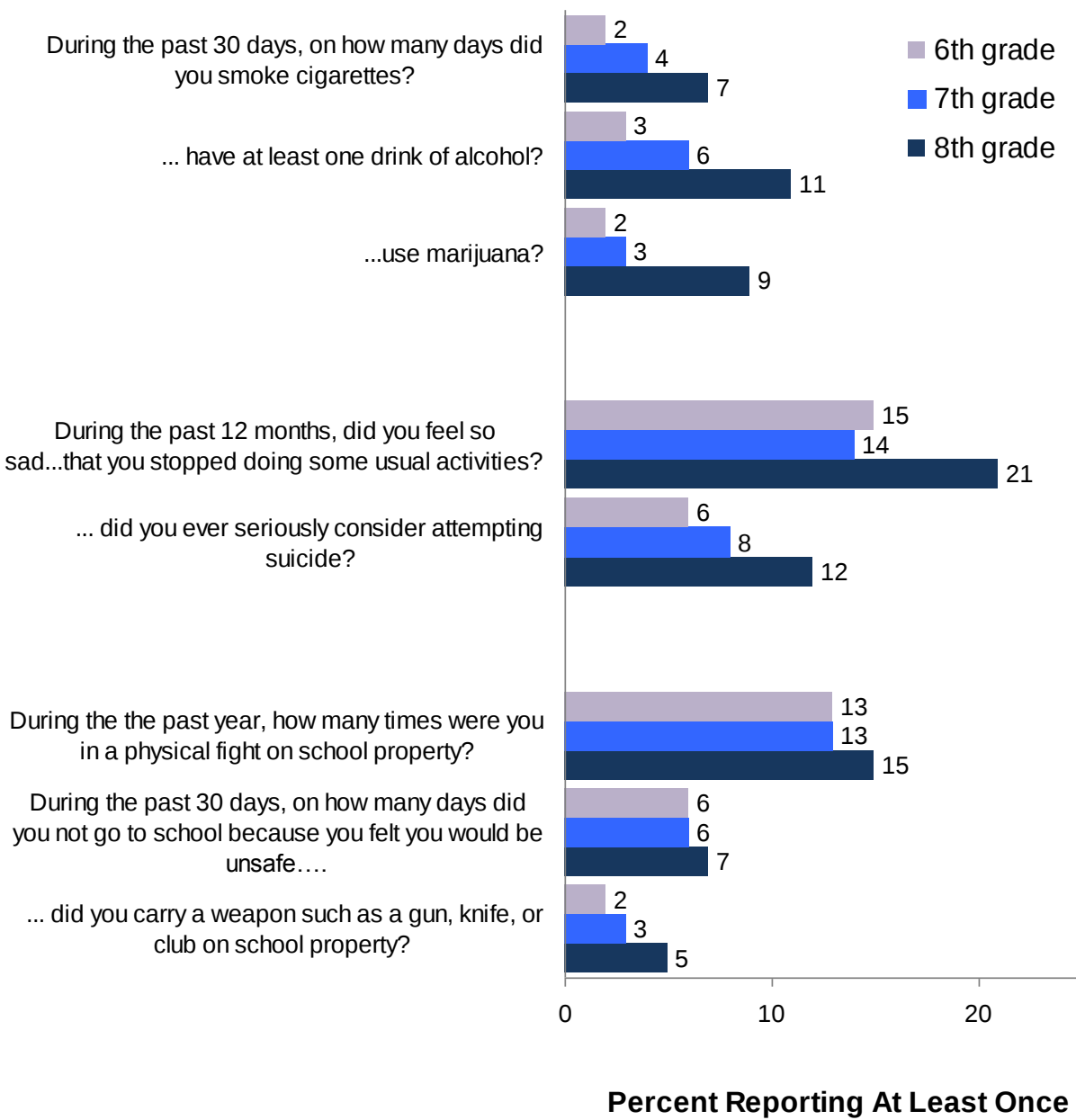
Engage parents in bullying prevention

- Share survey results with parents and encourage them to discuss bullying with their children.
- Advise parents of the school’s policy toward bullying.
- Invite parents to contact the school with concerns about bullying.
- Make presentations to parent meetings.

Youth Risk Behaviors

The survey includes some standard items used on national surveys to assess the prevalence of high-risk behaviors. Students (especially eighth graders) should be reminded of resources available in school to help with feelings of depression, substance abuse, and concerns about violence. It may be beneficial to share some of these results with students so that they do not overestimate how common it is for their peers to smoke, drink alcohol, or use other drugs.

Youth Risk Behaviors



Student honesty in survey reports

Most students answer surveys honestly and accurately, but a small proportion of students may answer in a careless or intentionally provocative manner. This survey includes a series of questions designed to identify *some* of the students whose answers are questionable. This provides schools with a gauge for assessing student engagement in the survey process. Studies have found that when students are not seriously engaged in the survey, rates of invalid and exaggerated responding increase. Therefore, it is important that school staff convey to students the importance of taking the survey seriously and answering it accurately.

This survey contained four validity check questions designed to detect students who answered in a careless or intentionally provocative manner.

Validity Check Questions	Percent who answered inappropriately
I am not paying attention to how I answer this survey	5%
I am telling the truth on this survey.	4%
The answers I have given on this survey are true.	2%
During the past 30 days, how many times did you use the drug known as “Panda B.”? (Note: No drug called “Panda B” exists.)	3%
Answered at least one question inappropriately.	11%

Caveats. Percentage differences of just a few points can be due to chance variations. Student self-report surveys are vulnerable to exaggeration, misunderstanding, and under-reporting by some students. They are also influenced by classroom conditions and student engagement in the survey process. Therefore, surveys are most useful in indicating trends within a school rather than precise measures. Student surveys should be accompanied by other efforts to assess bullying and risky behaviors, such as interviews with students, class discussions, peer nomination procedures, and reviews of discipline referrals.

This report was completed by the Virginia Youth Violence Project of the Curry School of Education, University of Virginia. The survey period for the middle schools ended on October 15, 2010. Final data for this report were received from October 21 to November 9, and the report was completed on November 14.

Summary of Survey Results: Demographics and Reports of Bullying

Overall MIDDLE SCHOOL

12/13/2010

Total students completing the survey: (All numbers are in percent)		GENDER		Boys:	Girls:	
				50.3	49.7	
How old are you?	≤ 10	11	12	13	14	≥ 15
	0.6	28.5	31.7	31.1	7.5	0.6
What grade are you in?	6	7	8			
	35	33	32			
Are you Hispanic?	Yes	No				
	8.5	91.5				
What is your race?	Am-Indian /Alaskan	Asian	Black	White	Multi-racial	Other
	1.1	4.0	15.6	62.2	4.4	12.6

	Never	Once or Twice	About once per week	Several times per week
I have been bullied at school in the past month.	71.1%	20.4%	4.2%	4.3%
I have bullied others at school in the past month.	82.8%	13.9%	1.3%	1.9%
I have been physically bullied at school in the past month.	84.9%	11.8%	1.5%	1.8%
I have physically bullied others at school in the past month.	91.4%	6.7%	0.7%	1.2%
I have been verbally bullied at school in the past month.	67.4%	21.9%	5.2%	5.5%
I have verbally bullied others at school in the past month.	81.7%	14.8%	1.4%	2.1%
I have been socially bullied at school in the past month.	78.9%	16.0%	2.6%	2.6%
I have socially bullied others at school in the past month.	88.3%	9.6%	0.9%	1.2%
I have been cyber bullied at school in the past month.	89.9%	7.6%	1.0%	1.4%
I have cyber bullied others at school in the past month.	93.7%	4.7%	1.0%	1.0%

Summary of Survey Results: Bullying Reporting, Locations, and Peer Threats

Have you told anyone that you were bullied in the past 30 days at school?

I have not been bullied	74.9%
I have been bullied, but I have not told anyone.	11.2%
I have told someone.	13.9%

If you told someone you were bullied in the previous question, whom did you tell?

I told a friend	6.3%
I told a teacher or other adult at school	5.5%
I told a family member	9.2%

	Yes	No
Does bullying take place anywhere at school?	72.7%	27.3%

If bullying takes place, where does it occur?

	Yes	No
Going to/from school	26.3%	73.7%
Restrooms	25.3%	74.7%
Outside	34.0%	66.0%
Hallways	46.2%	53.8%
Cafeteria	36.7%	63.3%
Classrooms	30.0%	70.0%
Gym/locker room	32.4%	67.6%

Has another student threatened to harm you in the past 30 days at school?

I have not been threatened	83.3%
I have been threatened, but the person did not really mean it	13.0%
I have been threatened and it was serious	3.7%

What did the other student threaten to do to you? (only for students who reported being threatened)

Nothing specific, just a threat to hurt or harm me	10.3%
Injure me without a weapon (for example, hit me)	4.1%
Injure me with a weapon such as a club, knife, or gun	1.7%

What happened with the threat? (only for students who reported being threatened)

The threat is over and nothing happened	12.5%
The threat is not over and might be carried out	2.1%
The threat was carried out and the person tried to hurt me or did	1.6%

	Yes	No
Did you tell someone you have been threatened? (only for students who reported being threatened)	5.6%	11.1%

If you told someone you were threatened in the previous question, whom did you tell?

I told a friend	3.0%
I told a teacher or other adult at school	2.1%
I told a family member	2.9%

Summary of Results: School Climate Items and Risky Behaviors

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Bullying is a problem at this school.	15.2%	39.9%	30.4%	14.5%
If another student was bullying me, I would tell one of the teachers or staff at school.	11.4%	16.2%	41.0%	31.4%
It feels good when I hit someone.	64.2%	22.5%	7.7%	5.6%
Students here often get teased about their clothing or physical appearance.	18.8%	29.5%	32.8%	18.8%
Students here try to stop bullying when they see it happening.	19.7%	34.8%	36.3%	9.2%
If another student brought a gun to school, I would tell one of the teachers or staff at school.	8.2%	6.1%	14.9%	70.9%
If you fight a lot, everyone will look up to you.	59.5%	27.5%	7.9%	5.1%
Students here often get put down because of their race or ethnicity.	38.6%	34.1%	18.4%	8.9%
Teachers here make it clear to students that bullying is not tolerated.	11.9%	13.0%	34.7%	40.4%
If another student talked about killing someone, I would tell one of the teachers or staff at school.	8.1%	10.6%	25.2%	56.0%
Sometimes you only have two choices – get punched or punch the other person first.	36.9%	30.3%	18.3%	14.5%
I am telling the truth on this survey.	2.9%	1.6%	15.3%	80.2%
If I tell a teacher that someone is bullying me, the teacher will do something to help.	8.3%	12.5%	44.1%	35.1%
There are adults at this school I could go to if I had a personal problem.	8.7%	10.6%	40.8%	39.9%
If you are afraid to fight, you won't have many friends.	54.4%	32.4%	8.5%	4.6%
Students tell teachers when other students are being bullied.	15.8%	33.7%	40.1%	10.5%
The teachers at this school genuinely care about me doing well.	7.7%	7.2%	44.2%	40.9%
I am not paying attention to how I answer this survey.	77.6%	17.0%	2.7%	2.7%
If someone threatens you, it is okay to hit that person.	43.5%	39.1%	10.6%	6.9%
There is a lot of teasing about sexual topics at this school.	27.9%	32.8%	24.3%	15.0%
Students who are bullied or teased mostly deserve it.	57.3%	31.9%	7.5%	3.3%
Bullying is sometimes fun to do.	66.2%	22.7%	7.8%	3.3%
Students in this school belong to groups that don't get along with one another.	34.2%	38.3%	18.5%	9.0%

	0	1-2 Days	3-9 Days	10-19 Days	20-30 Days
During the past 30 days, on how many days did you smoke cigarettes?	95.8%	1.7%	0.6%	0.3%	1.6%
During the past 30 days, on how many days did you have at least one drink of alcohol?	93.3%	3.5%	1.1%	0.5%	1.6%

	0	1-2 Times	3-9 Times	10-19 Times	20 or more times
During the past 30 days, how many times did you smoke marijuana?	95.6%	1.4%	0.7%	0.4%	1.9%
During the past 30 days, how many times did you use the drug known as "Panda B"?	97.4%	0.7%	0.2%	0.2%	1.4%

	0	1 Day	2-3 Days	4-5 Days	6 or more days
During the past 30 days, on how many days did you carry a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club on school property?	96.5%	1.5%	0.5%	0.3%	1.2%
During the past 30 days, on how many days did you not go to school because you felt you would be unsafe at school or on your way to school?	93.8%	3.4%	1.1%	0.3%	1.4%

	0	1 Time	2-3 Times	4-5 Times	6 or more times
During the past 12 months, how many times were you in a physical fight on school property?	86.3%	7.8%	3.3%	1.0%	1.6%
During the past 12 months, did you ever feel so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that you stopped doing some usual activities?	83.3%	7.9%	4.3%	1.1%	3.4%
During the past 12 months, did you ever seriously consider attempting suicide?	91.4%	4.3%	1.7%	0.6%	2.0%

Breakdowns by Grade and Gender: Bullying Reports

Definition of Bullying: Bullying is defined as the use of one's strength or popularity to injure, threaten, or embarrass another person. Bullying can be physical, verbal, or social. It is not bullying when two students of about the same strength argue or fight.

The answers below are based on the above definition of bullying	GRADE	Never			Once or Twice			About once per week			Several times per week		
		Girls	Boys	Σ	Girls	Boys	Σ	Girls	Boys	Σ	Girls	Boys	Σ
By this definition, I have been bullied at school in the past month.	6	411	425	836	133	109	242	27	24	51	25	23	48
	7	419	401	820	111	104	215	14	26	40	16	28	44
	8	364	375	739	120	117	237	20	32	52	22	32	54
	Σ	1194	1,201	2,395	364	330	694	61	82	143	63	83	146
By this definition, I have bullied others at school in the past month.	6	524	502	1,026	53	63	116	4	3	7	8	8	16
	7	478	448	926	65	88	153	6	14	20	5	9	14
	8	412	396	808	92	112	204	5	13	18	11	25	36
	Σ	1414	1,346	2,760	210	263	473	15	30	45	24	42	66

Physical Bullying: repeatedly hitting, kicking, or shoving someone weaker on purpose	GRADE	Never			Once or Twice			About once per week			Several times per week		
		Girls	Boys	Σ	Girls	Boys	Σ	Girls	Boys	Σ	Girls	Boys	Σ
By this definition, I have been physically bullied at school in the past month.	6	523	479	1,002	55	81	136	6	8	14	8	14	22
	7	486	456	942	60	88	148	5	5	10	5	10	15
	8	473	440	913	41	75	116	5	23	28	6	18	24
	Σ	1482	1,375	2,857	156	244	400	16	36	52	19	42	61
By this definition, I have physically bullied others at school in the past month.	6	564	520	1,084	17	45	62	3	4	7	3	4	7
	7	513	502	1,015	31	43	74	3	5	8	5	7	12
	8	474	471	945	38	53	91	2	8	10	6	17	23
	Σ	1,551	1,493	3,044	86	141	227	8	17	25	14	28	42

Verbal Bullying: repeatedly teasing, putting down, or insulting someone on purpose	GRADE	Never			Once or Twice			About once per week			Several times per week		
		Girls	Boys	Σ	Girls	Boys	Σ	Girls	Boys	Σ	Girls	Boys	Σ
By this definition, I have been verbally bullied at school in the past month.	6	405	395	800	132	113	245	25	42	67	30	31	61
	7	393	384	777	118	114	232	29	21	50	13	36	49
	8	325	350	675	152	116	268	23	37	60	28	50	78
	Σ	1,123	1,129	2,252	402	343	745	77	100	177	71	117	188
By this definition, I have verbally bullied others at school in the past month.	6	523	486	1,009	51	73	124	2	4	6	5	8	13
	7	476	441	917	68	87	155	4	13	17	4	10	14
	8	395	383	778	105	118	223	12	13	25	12	34	46
	Σ	1,394	1,310	2,704	224	278	502	18	30	48	21	52	73

Social Bullying: getting others to repeatedly ignore or leave someone out on purpose	GRADE	Never			Once or Twice			About once per week			Several times per week		
		Girls	Boys	Σ	Girls	Boys	Σ	Girls	Boys	Σ	Girls	Boys	Σ
By this definition, I have been socially bullied at school in the past month.	6	452	467	919	118	80	198	14	17	31	12	14	26
	7	430	455	885	103	73	176	15	16	31	10	13	23
	8	408	445	853	87	82	169	10	15	25	20	19	39
	Σ	1,290	1,367	2,657	308	235	543	39	48	87	42	46	88
By this definition, I have socially bullied others at school in the past month.	6	529	514	1,043	48	50	98	5	6	11	6	2	8
	7	504	498	1,002	45	48	93	2	5	7	3	5	8
	8	440	461	901	69	65	134	5	9	14	8	18	26
	Σ	1,473	1,473	2,946	162	163	325	12	20	32	17	25	42

Cyber Bullying: using technology (cell phone, email, internet chat and posting, etc.) to tease or put down someone	GRADE	Never			Once or Twice			About once per week			Several times per week		
		Girls	Boys	Σ	Girls	Boys	Σ	Girls	Boys	Σ	Girls	Boys	Σ
By this definition, I have been cyber bullied at school in the past month.	6	541	534	1,075	45	35	80	8	4	12	3	8	11
	7	498	510	1,008	50	33	83	4	7	11	7	8	15
	8	458	496	954	57	40	97	4	8	12	9	13	22
	Σ	1,497	1,540	3,037	152	108	260	16	19	35	19	29	48
By this definition, I have cyber bullied others at school in the past month.	6	562	545	1,107	21	26	47	3	2	5	2	2	4
	7	524	521	1,045	29	21	50	3	2	5	1	9	10
	8	480	503	983	34	30	64	4	6	10	5	15	20
	Σ	1,566	1,569	3,135	84	77	161	10	10	20	8	26	34

Breakdowns by Grade and Gender: Bullying Reporting

Have you told anyone that you were bullied in the past 30 days at school?				
		Girls	Boys	Σ
I have not been bullied	6	430	444	874
	7	426	429	855
	8	386	431	817
	Σ	1242	1,304	2546
I have been bullied, but I have not told anyone.	6	61	57	118
	7	56	66	122
	8	62	80	142
	Σ	179	203	382
I have told someone.	6	111	85	196
	7	78	67	145
	8	80	52	132
	Σ	269	204	473
If you told someone you were bullied in the previous question, whom did you tell?				
		Girls	Boys	Σ
I told a friend	6	53	24	77
	7	44	23	67
	8	44	26	70
	Σ	141	73	214
I told a teacher or other adult at school	6	44	30	74
	7	25	33	58
	8	28	27	55
	Σ	97	90	187
I told a family member	6	70	54	124
	7	59	42	101
	8	60	28	88
	Σ	189	124	313

		Yes			No		
		Girls	Boys	Σ	Girls	Boys	Σ
Does bullying take place anywhere at school?	6	393	354	747	209	232	441
	7	418	428	846	142	134	276
	8	436	443	879	92	120	212
	Σ	1247	1,225	2,472	443	486	929

Breakdowns by Grade and Gender: Bullying Locations

If bullying takes place, where does it occur?				
		Girls	Boys	Σ
Going to/from school	6	109	111	220
	7	140	155	295
	8	187	194	381
	Σ	436	460	896
Restrooms	6	78	114	192
	7	125	180	305
	8	167	196	363
	Σ	370	490	860
Outside	6	175	165	340
	7	191	198	389
	8	208	220	428
	Σ	574	583	1,157
Hallways	6	211	196	407
	7	281	257	538
	8	320	307	627
	Σ	812	760	1,572
Cafeteria	6	16	115	131
	7	211	207	418
	8	294	257	551
	Σ	521	579	1,100
Classrooms	6	136	98	234
	7	159	169	328
	8	235	223	458
	Σ	530	490	1,020
Gym/locker room	6	106	119	225
	7	175	241	416
	8	204	256	460
	Σ	485	616	1,101

Multiple answers per participant possible. Percentages added may exceed 100 since a participant may select more than one answer for this question.

Breakdowns by Grade and Gender: Student Threats

Has another student threatened to harm you in the past 30 days at school?				
		Girls	Boys	Σ
I have not been threatened	6	506	469	975
	7	505	460	965
	8	447	446	893
	Σ	1458	1,375	2833
I have been threatened, but the person did not really mean it	6	71	83	154
	7	42	81	123
	8	66	99	165
	Σ	179	263	442
I have been threatened and it was serious	6	25	34	59
	7	13	21	34
	8	15	18	33
	Σ	53	73	126

What did the other student threaten to do to you? (only for students who reported being threatened)				
		Girls	Boys	Σ
Nothing specific, just a threat to hurt or harm me	6	61	75	136
	7	37	55	92
	8	46	76	122
	Σ	144	206	350
Injure me without a weapon (for example, hit me)	6	28	28	56
	7	14	29	43
	8	23	19	42
	Σ	65	76	141
Injure me with a weapon such as a club, knife, or gun	6	5	7	12
	7	2	15	17
	8	8	21	29
	Σ	15	43	58

What happened with the threat? (only for students who reported being threatened)				
		Girls	Boys	Σ
The threat is over and nothing happened	6	75	77	152
	7	45	76	121
	8	64	88	152
	Σ	184	241	425
The threat is not over and might be carried out	6	10	20	30
	7	6	13	19
	8	5	16	21
	Σ	21	49	70
The threat was carried out and the person tried to hurt me or did hurt me	6	8	15	23
	7	3	9	12
	8	8	10	18
	Σ	19	34	53

Breakdowns by Grade and Gender: Student Threats (continued)

		Yes			No		
		Girls	Boys	Σ	Girls	Boys	Σ
Did you tell someone you have been threatened? (only for students who reported being threatened)	6	40	48	88	56	69	125
	7	17	29	46	38	73	111
	8	22	36	58	59	81	140
Σ		79	113	192	153	223	376

If you told someone you were threatened in the previous question, whom did you tell?				
		Girls	Boys	Σ
I told a friend	6	18	19	37
	7	11	14	25
	8	14	25	39
Σ		43	58	101
I told a teacher or other adult at school	6	14	21	35
	7	5	12	17
	8	8	12	20
Σ		27	45	72
I told a family member	6	21	24	45
	7	9	21	30
	8	12	12	24
Σ		42	57	99

Breakdowns by Gender and Grade: School Climate Items

	GRADE	Strongly Disagree			Disagree			Agree			Strongly Agree		
		Girls	Boys	Σ	Girls	Boys	Σ	Girls	Boys	Σ	Girls	Boys	Σ
Bullying is a problem at this school.	6	85	96	181	252	232	484	183	185	368	80	71	151
	7	70	93	163	229	212	441	188	165	353	71	89	160
	8	48	109	157	218	213	431	178	136	314	81	102	183
	Σ	203	298	501	699	657	1356	549	486	1035	232	262	494
If another student was bullying me, I would tell one of the teachers or staff at school.	6	38	48	86	63	68	131	268	251	519	230	218	448
	7	48	76	124	94	96	190	211	225	436	206	161	367
	8	50	111	161	120	110	230	224	216	440	131	121	252
	Σ	136	235	371	277	274	551	703	692	1395	567	500	1067
It feels good when I hit someone.	6	479	382	861	81	139	220	18	32	50	12	25	37
	7	415	275	690	107	174	281	23	65	88	10	42	52
	8	341	251	592	104	160	264	49	76	125	29	71	100
	Σ	1,235	908	2,143	292	473	765	90	173	263	51	138	189
Students here often get teased about their clothing or physical appearance.	6	126	133	259	195	216	411	185	156	341	90	77	167
	7	84	105	189	173	164	337	191	175	366	104	111	215
	8	48	105	153	125	131	256	210	200	410	139	120	259
	Σ	258	343	601	493	511	1004	586	531	1117	333	308	641
Students here try to stop bullying when they see it happening	6	64	79	143	105	189	294	45	244	289	596	67	663
	7	98	129	227	192	190	382	221	185	406	46	51	97
	8	100	173	273	235	205	440	160	143	303	31	40	71
	Σ	262	381	643	532	584	1116	426	572	998	673	158	831
If another student brought a gun to school, I would tell one of the teachers or staff at school.	6	34	39	73	18	24	42	67	68	135	482	452	934
	7	32	50	82	26	53	79	77	77	154	420	376	796
	8	26	75	101	37	49	86	111	106	217	353	327	680
	Σ	92	164	256	81	126	207	255	251	506	1,255	1,155	2,410
If you fight a lot, everyone will look up to you.	6	450	340	790	98	187	285	28	34	62	22	23	45
	7	372	278	650	132	190	322	41	52	93	10	35	45
	8	316	245	561	145	183	328	41	73	114	24	59	83
	Σ	1,138	863	2,001	375	560	935	110	159	269	56	117	173
Students here often get put down because of their race or ethnicity.	6	235	251	486	211	193	404	105	105	210	45	35	80
	7	211	230	441	221	182	403	86	95	181	36	46	82
	8	161	191	352	189	164	353	115	119	234	58	83	141
	Σ	607	672	1,279	621	539	1,160	306	319	625	139	164	303
Teachers here make it clear to students that bullying is not tolerated.	6	44	68	112	50	60	110	194	186	380	305	268	573
	7	42	73	115	58	63	121	210	190	400	243	230	473
	8	50	93	143	108	104	212	230	170	400	524	192	716
	Σ	136	234	370	216	227	443	634	546	1,180	1,072	690	1,762
If another student talked about killing someone, I would tell one of the teachers or staff at school.	6	30	34	64	47	61	108	115	140	255	406	347	753
	7	31	49	80	46	66	112	124	157	281	357	279	636
	8	33	72	105	56	85	141	154	168	322	283	234	517
	Σ	94	155	249	149	212	361	393	465	858	1,046	860	1,906
Sometimes you only have two choices – get punched or punch the other person first	6	327	212	539	185	188	373	48	115	163	41	67	108
	7	252	146	398	166	170	336	87	129	216	54	112	166
	8	181	124	305	181	140	321	99	144	243	66	153	219
	Σ	760	482	1,242	532	498	1,030	234	388	622	161	332	493
I am telling the truth on this survey.	6	11	17	28	8	14	22	80	93	173	502	459	961
	7	12	12	24	5	11	16	58	93	151	482	443	925
	8	7	25	32	6	11	17	98	99	197	417	423	840
	Σ	30	54	84	19	36	55	236	285	521	1,401	1,325	2,726

Breakdowns by Gender and Grade: School Climate Items (continued)

	GRADE	Strongly Disagree			Disagree			Agree			Strongly Agree		
If I tell a teacher that someone is bullying me, the teacher will do something to help.	6	28	29	57	51	56	107	227	241	468	294	260	554
	7	27	55	82	61	85	146	265	231	496	206	188	394
	8	45	85	130	101	71	172	263	272	535	115	131	246
	Σ	100	169	269	213	212	425	755	744	1499	615	579	1194
There are adults at this school I could go to if I had a personal problem.	6	34	31	65	50	44	94	220	231	451	294	277	571
	7	35	54	89	61	62	123	227	237	464	233	204	437
	8	56	66	122	74	68	142	228	246	474	167	181	348
	Σ	125	151	276	185	174	359	675	714	1389	694	662	1356
If you are afraid to fight, you won't have many friends.	6	417	322	739	149	195	344	17	44	61	14	21	35
	7	353	231	584	147	230	377	38	65	103	14	32	46
	8	267	231	498	185	197	382	50	75	125	25	52	77
	Σ	1,037	784	1821	481	622	1103	105	184	289	53	105	158
Students tell teachers when other students are being bullied.	6	50	49	99	137	144	281	305	289	594	95	95	190
	7	68	89	157	191	197	388	236	217	453	56	48	104
	8	96	128	224	239	237	476	167	149	316	23	40	63
	Σ	214	266	480	567	578	1145	708	655	1363	174	183	357
The teachers at this school genuinely care about me doing well.	6	28	26	54	25	28	53	230	249	479	317	278	595
	7	18	52	70	37	40	77	239	239	478	259	223	482
	8	33	71	104	58	58	116	296	250	546	137	177	314
	Σ	79	149	228	120	126	246	765	738	1503	713	678	1391
I am not paying attention to how I answer this survey.	6	479	455	934	87	101	188	19	10	29	10	18	28
	7	458	428	886	83	93	176	9	18	27	7	18	25
	8	385	409	794	109	106	215	13	22	35	17	23	40
	Σ	1,322	1,292	2614	279	300	579	41	50	91	34	59	93
If someone threatens you, it is okay to hit that person.	6	350	276	626	189	220	409	38	54	92	21	31	52
	7	289	175	464	207	246	453	42	88	130	19	49	68
	8	220	140	360	216	251	467	53	86	139	34	79	113
	Σ	859	591	1450	612	717	1329	133	228	361	74	159	233
There is a lot of teasing about sexual topics at this school.	6	246	220	466	199	204	403	89	115	204	61	43	104
	7	142	142	284	199	186	385	147	145	292	69	83	152
	8	65	105	170	171	158	329	161	168	329	128	125	253
	Σ	453	467	920	569	548	1117	397	428	825	258	251	509
Students who are bullied or teased mostly deserve it	6	407	345	752	149	188	337	31	31	62	8	15	23
	7	344	275	619	163	201	364	30	52	82	12	23	35
	8	294	240	534	184	200	384	34	76	110	14	40	54
	Σ	1,045	860	1905	496	589	1085	95	159	254	34	78	112
Bullying is sometimes fun to do.	6	475	413	888	90	127	217	23	28	51	11	16	27
	7	407	340	747	114	138	252	29	54	83	5	24	29
	8	316	269	585	136	167	303	54	78	132	16	41	57
	Σ	1,198	1,022	2220	340	432	772	106	160	266	32	81	113
Students in this school belong to groups that don't get along with one another.	6	267	233	500	224	230	454	66	80	146	40	37	77
	7	189	172	361	228	232	460	100	101	201	35	52	87
	8	107	164	271	197	193	390	159	124	283	63	78	141
	Σ	563	569	1132	649	655	1304	325	305	630	138	167	305

Breakdowns by Grade and Gender: Risky Behaviors

	GRADE	0			1-2 Days			3-9 Days			10-19 Days			20-30 Days		
		Girls	Boys	Σ	Girls	Boys	Σ	Girls	Boys	Σ	Girls	Boys	Σ	Girls	Boys	Σ
During the past 30 days, on how many days did you smoke cigarettes?	6	588	571	1159	3	9	12	0	1	1	2	2	4	6	3	9
	7	544	532	1076	7	11	18	3	6	9	0	3	3	3	7	10
	8	492	519	1011	17	11	28	5	4	9	1	3	4	13	23	36
	Σ	1624	1,622	3246	27	31	58	8	11	19	3	8	11	22	33	55
During the past 30 days, on how many days did you have at least one drink of alcohol?	6	587	560	1147	7	9	16	1	7	8	-	2	2	6	3	9
	7	529	513	1042	18	22	40	6	6	12	-	3	3	1	13	14
	8	465	495	960	36	27	63	10	9	19	3	8	11	12	19	31
	Σ	1,581	1,568	3149	61	58	119	17	22	39	3	13	16	19	35	54

	GRADE	0			1-2 Times			3-9 Times			10-19 Times			20 or more times		
		Girls	Boys	Σ	Girls	Boys	Σ	Girls	Boys	Σ	Girls	Boys	Σ	Girls	Boys	Σ
During the past 30 days, how many times did you smoke marijuana?	6	593	570	1163	1	6	7	0	3	3	0	1	1	6	5	11
	7	551	533	1084	5	8	13	2	6	8	1	3	4	1	10	11
	8	492	503	995	11	17	28	7	7	14	4	3	7	13	30	43
	Σ	1,636	1,606	3242	17	31	48	9	16	25	5	7	12	20	45	65
During the past 30 days, how many times did you use the drug known as "Panda B"?	6	591	576	1167	2	3	5	-	1	1	-	1	1	4	3	7
	7	555	539	1094	1	6	7	-	3	3	-	2	2	2	9	11
	8	508	527	1035	5	7	12	2	1	3	1	3	4	10	21	31
	Σ	1,654	1,642	3296	8	16	24	2	5	7	1	6	7	16	33	49

	GRADE	0			1 Day			2-3 Days			4-5 Days			6 or more days		
		Girls	Boys	Σ	Girls	Boys	Σ	Girls	Boys	Σ	Girls	Boys	Σ	Girls	Boys	Σ
During the past 30 days, on how many days did you carry a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club on school property?	6	591	566	1157	5	7	12	1	4	5	0	1	1	4	2	6
	7	551	523	1074	3	14	17	1	4	5	1	1	2	1	11	12
	8	508	513	1021	5	18	23	1	6	7	2	4	6	7	15	22
	Σ	1,650	1,602	3252	13	39	52	3	14	17	3	6	9	12	28	40
During the past 30 days, on how many days did you not go to school because you felt you would be unsafe at school or on your way to school?	6	558	548	1106	22	21	43	4	6	10	3	1	4	4	4	8
	7	520	523	1043	23	14	37	10	9	19	-	1	1	4	6	10
	8	490	506	996	16	18	34	5	-	5	2	-	2	9	22	31
	Σ	1,568	1,577	3145	61	53	114	19	15	34	5	2	7	17	32	49

	GRADE	0			1 Time			2-3 Times			4-5 Times			6 or more times		
		Girls	Boys	Σ	Girls	Boys	Σ	Girls	Boys	Σ	Girls	Boys	Σ	Girls	Boys	Σ
During the past 12 months, how many times were you in a physical fight on school property?	6	560	466	1026	23	67	90	6	26	32	3	14	17	8	9	17
	7	528	443	971	22	67	89	7	32	39	0	7	7	1	11	12
	8	474	442	916	22	64	86	17	25	42	5	5	10	7	19	26
	Σ	1,562	1,351	2,913	67	198	265	30	83	113	8	26	34	16	39	55
During the past 12 months, did you ever feel so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that you stopped doing some usual activities?	6	502	502	1004	52	40	92	22	24	46	4	1	5	20	16	36
	7	475	484	959	41	33	74	27	21	48	7	6	13	9	15	24
	8	401	454	855	54	49	103	31	22	53	11	9	20	29	25	54
	Σ	1,378	1,440	2,818	147	122	269	80	67	147	22	16	38	58	56	114
During the past 12 months, did you ever seriously consider attempting suicide?	6	562	550	1112	16	22	38	7	5	12	4	3	7	9	6	15
	7	517	516	1033	24	21	45	13	7	20	3	-	3	3	15	18
	8	451	501	952	37	26	63	19	6	25	7	4	11	14	22	36
	Σ	1,530	1,567	3,097	77	69	146	39	18	57	14	7	21	26	43	69

The precise numbers of students engaged in risky behaviors (e.g., marijuana use, weapon-carrying) must be interpreted with caution because in any survey a few students will give exaggerated reports.

These results show that relatively few middle school students are engaged in high frequencies of substance use. However, studies of young adults with substance abuse problems do confirm that use can begin in middle school.

The somewhat higher numbers of students reporting symptoms of depression and suicidal thoughts suggests that there is a small group of students who could benefit from intervention.