

Illinois Youth Survey

Peer Interactions
Among Youth in
Illinois



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01.

What is the Illinois Youth Survey?

Overview

The Illinois Youth Survey is a biennial survey of 8th, 10th, and 12th grade students. The IYS is a self-report survey administered in school settings and is designed to gather information about a variety of health and social indicators including substance use patterns and attitudes of Illinois youth. The Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) has funded the administration of the Illinois Youth Survey (IYS) biennially since 1990.

The administration of the IYS has two major goals:

- To supply local data to schools and school districts throughout Illinois.
- To provide a scientific estimate of health and social indicators for the state of Illinois.

2018 Data

In 2018, the Illinois Youth Survey included over 230,000 youth across more than 914 Illinois schools who were surveyed between January and June of 2018. The data in this paper is based on a statewide randomly drawn, scientifically weighted sample of 11,259 students, selected to represent the state population of 8th, 10th, and 12th graders in Illinois' public schools, distributed across the grades as shown below. The sampling design assures that youth in the state sample are representative of the state's diverse community types.

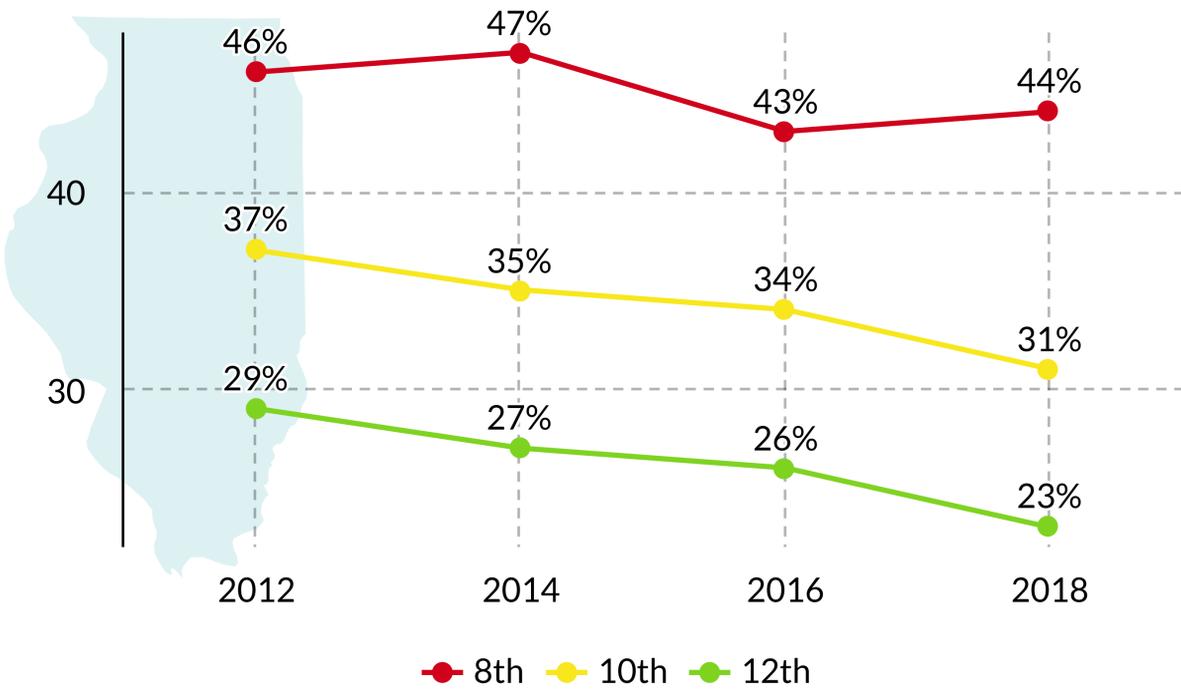
	Weighted Count
8th	3,800
10th	3,885
12th	3,574
Total	11,259



02.

Bullying in Illinois

Bullying Rates by Grade from 2012-2018

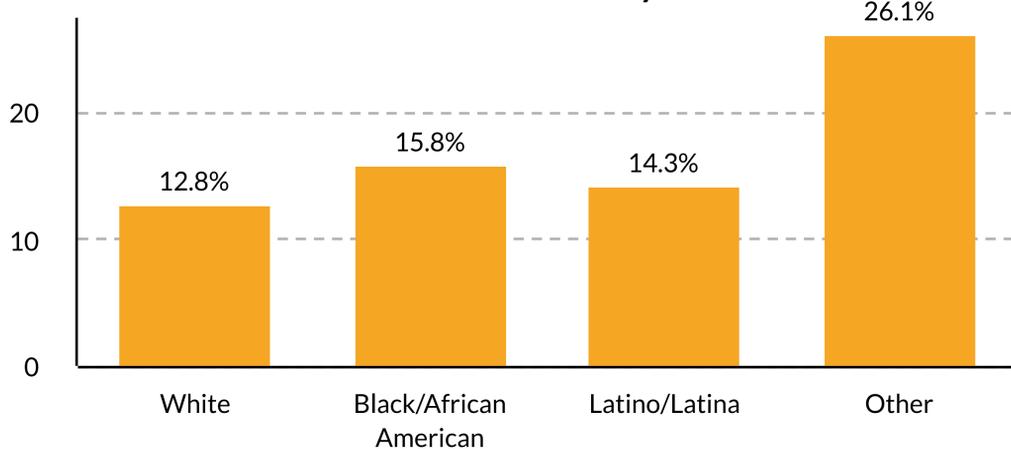


Bullying is a serious concern for many parents and youth. Bullying can affect a student's academic performance as well as their overall mental and physical well-being. Recently, schools and parents have been working together to increase awareness and prevent bullying. Fortunately, reports of bullying on the IYS have been decreasing from 2012 through 2018, likely due to these efforts. However, 44% of 8th grade students still reported being bullied in 2018.

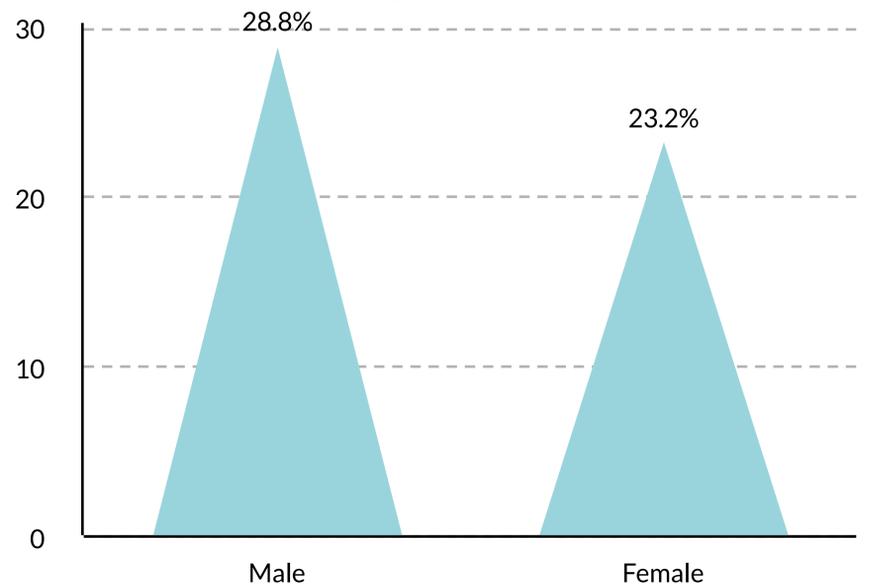
Perceived Reason for Being Bullied

Students may report being bullied for a variety of reasons. On the 2018 IYS, students were asked about being bullied because of their appearance or disability (8th, 10th, and 12th grade) or because of what someone assumed about their religion, sexual orientation, or race/ethnicity (10th and 12th grade) during the past year.

Bullied Due to Religion, Sexual Orientation, or Race/Ethnicity



Bullied Due to Appearance or Disability



When broken out by race, 10th and 12th grade students who reported "Other" as their race were more likely to be bullied because of what someone assumed about their religion, sexual orientation, or race/ethnicity.

Interestingly, slightly more males (5.6%) than females reported being bullied for their appearance or disability.



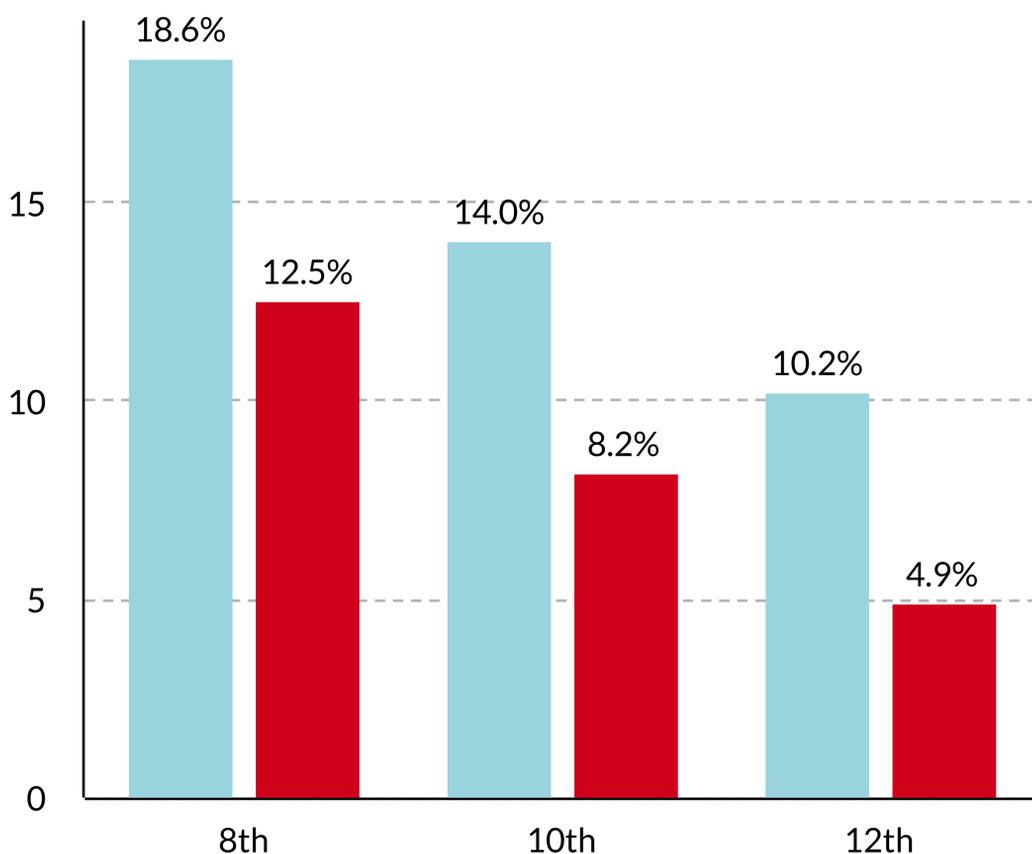
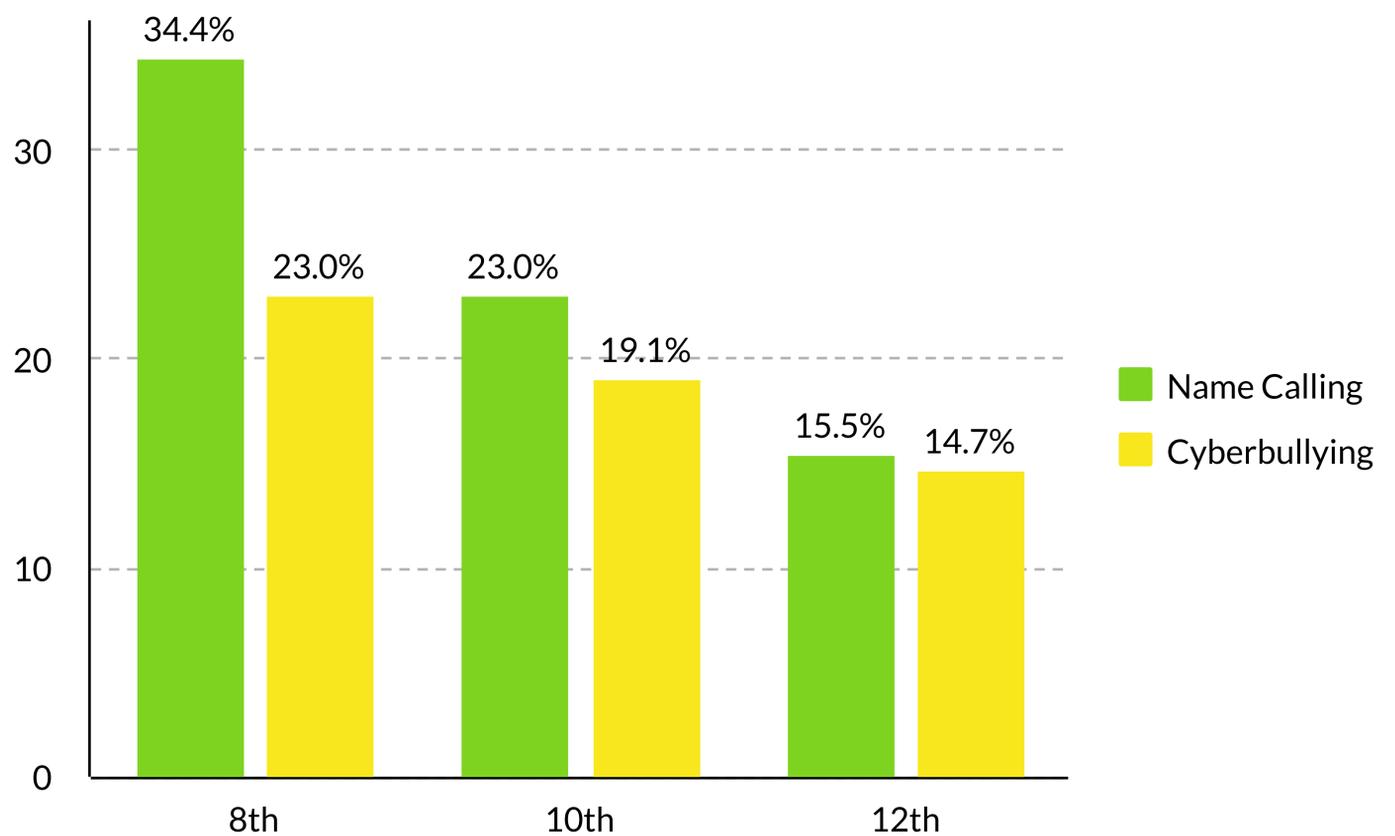
03.

Bullying Statistics

Bullying can occur through a variety of different methods. On the 2018 IYS, students were asked, during the past 12 months, has another student at school: 1) bullied you by calling you names? 2) bullied, harassed, or spread rumors about you on the Internet or through text messages? 3) threatened to hurt you? 4) bullied you by hitting, punching, kicking, or pushing you? All of these types were higher in lower grades, with 8th grade reporting the highest rates of bullying for each of the four ways.

18%

of students have reported being bullied at least once within the past year



4%

of students have reported being bullied all four ways



04.

Safety & Mental Health

Studies have shown that victims of bullying tend to have increased fear and anxiety, especially with regard to the possibility of future victimization. Individuals may go to extreme measures such as not going to school to avoid having to face their oppressors, and may have lower levels of psychological well-being which in turn can decrease their overall educational achievement.



69%
of bullied youth
have been in a
physical fight

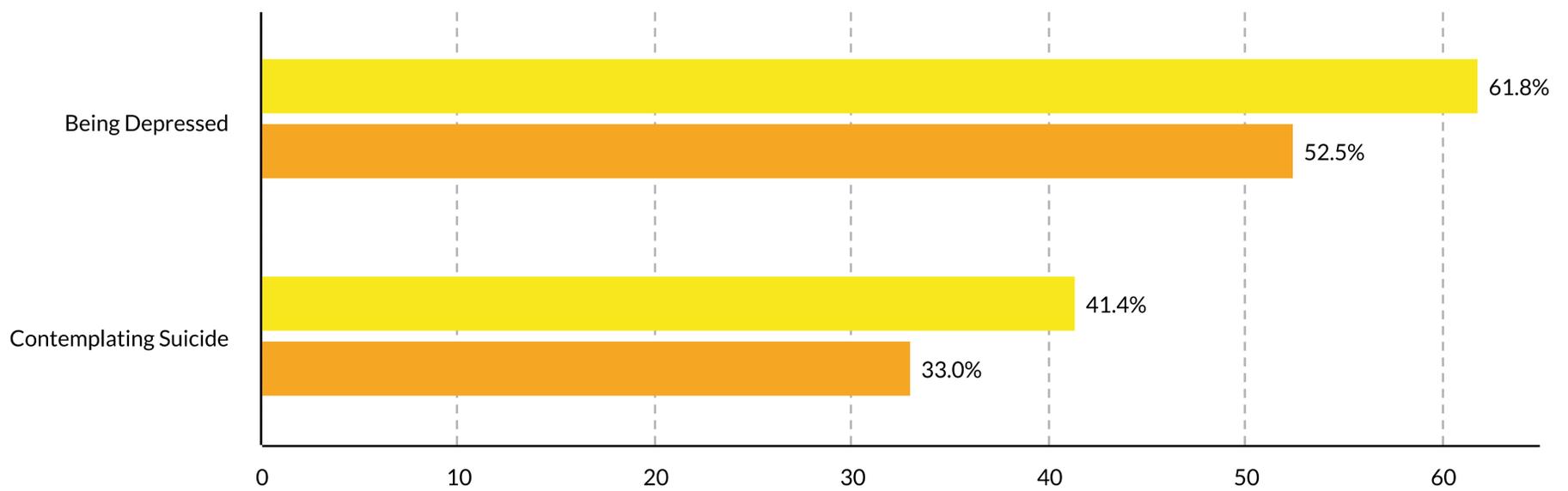
50%
of bullied youth have
missed school due
to feeling unsafe

32%
of bullied youth
have carried a
weapon



Youth Who Were Victims of at Least One Form of Bullying

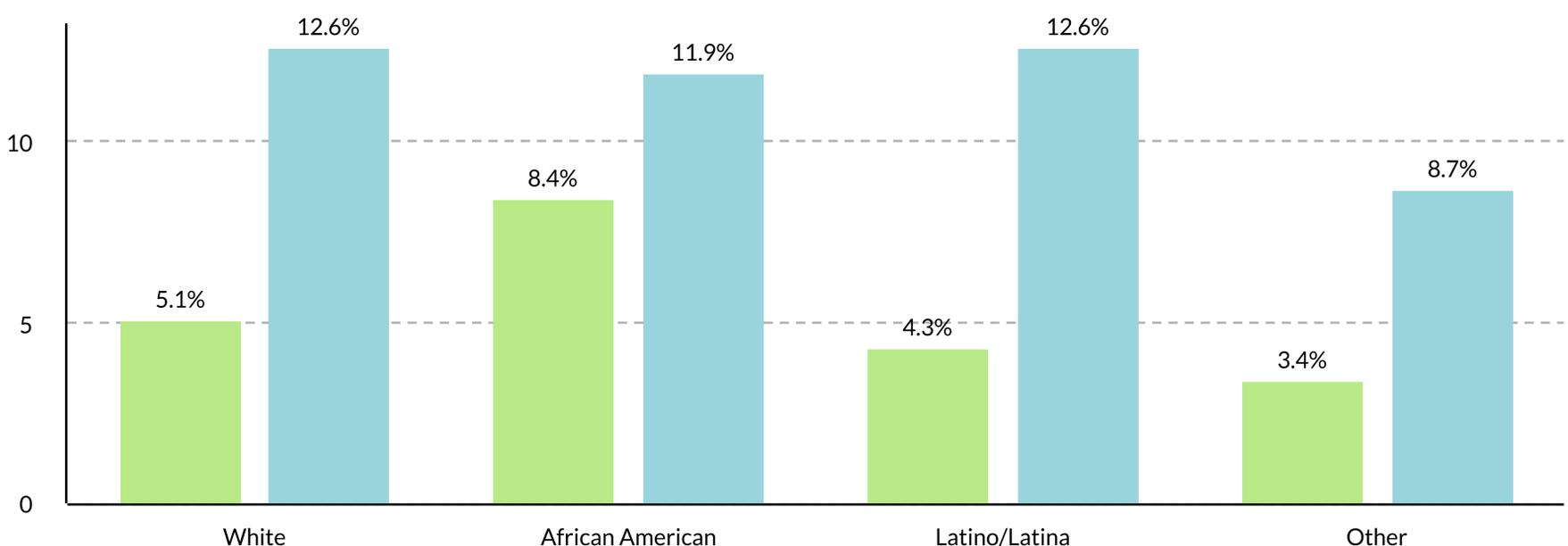
Youth Who Were Victims of Every Type of Bullying



Similar to bullying, dating violence is a serious concern and can affect a student's mental and physical well-being and safety. African American students were much more likely to experience physical dating violence than other students.

Have you ever been slapped, kicked, punched, hit, or threatened in a dating relationship?

Has someone put you down or tried to control you in a dating relationship?

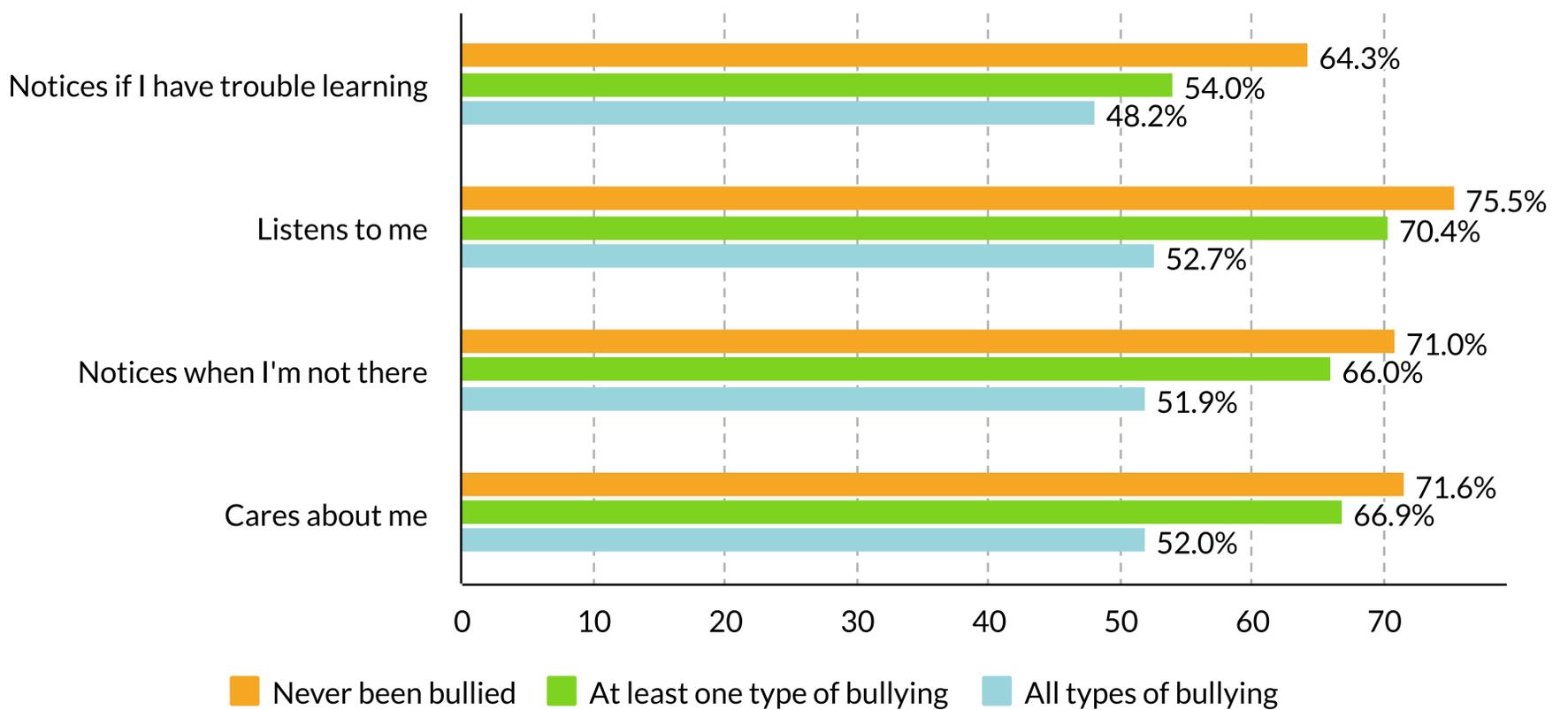


05.

Supportive Adults & School Climate

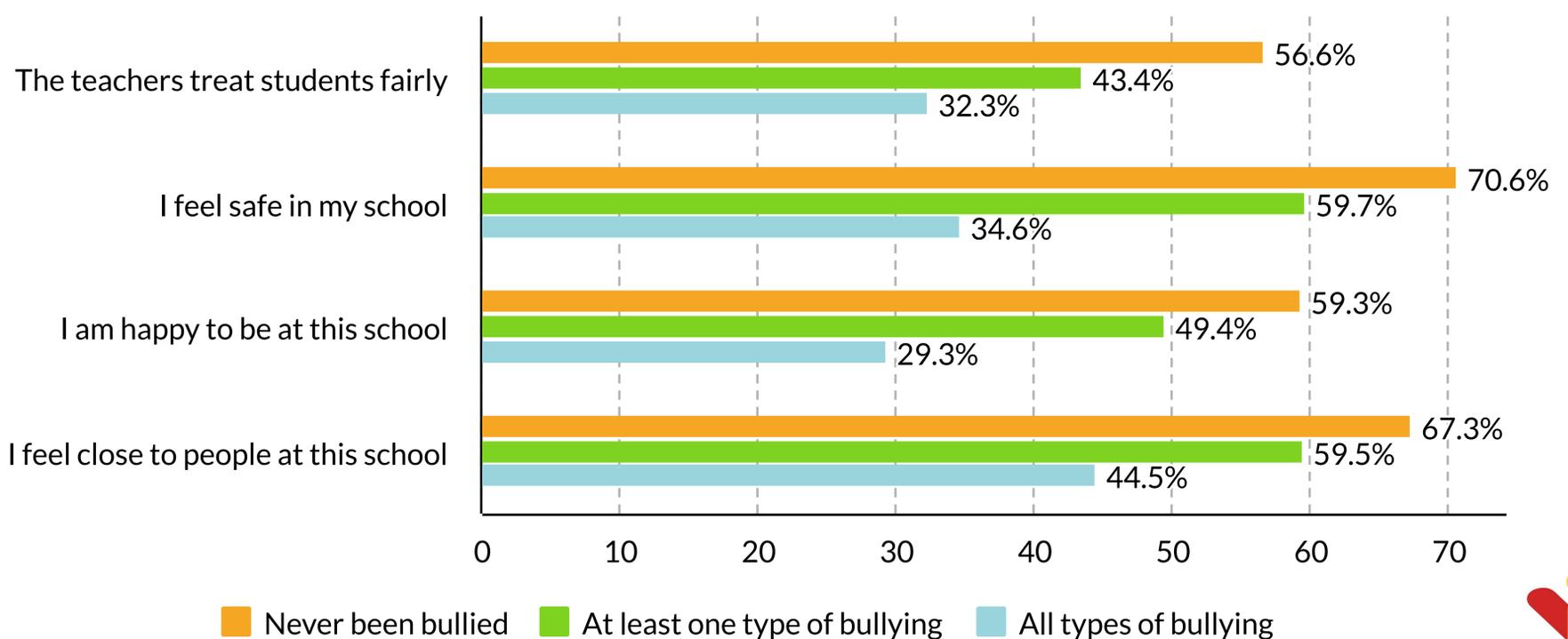
Students who reported having a supportive adult in their life were less likely to be bullied. Both those who reported one type of bullying (name calling, cyber, threats, or physical) and those who reported all types of bullying were less likely to respond 'pretty much true' or 'very much true' when asked about adults in their life who were supportive.

At My School, There is an Adult Who...



As shown below, students' feelings about their school were closely aligned with their bullying experiences. It is important to consider the school climate for students because this can also affect their ability and motivation to attend and do well in school. As bullying increased, students felt less close, less safe, less happy, and felt teachers treated them less fairly.

Students' Feelings About Their School



06.

Implications & Recommendations



To Sum Up: Takeaways for Bullying in Illinois

- Bullying has decreased in recent years, but 44% of 8th grade students still reported being bullied.
- Those who reported their race as “Other” were more likely to be bullied for their religion, sexual orientation, or race/ethnicity.
- Bullied youth were more likely to experience depression and thoughts of suicide. They were more likely to carry weapons, engage in physical fights, and miss school than students who were not bullied.
- Youth who are victims of one or more types of bullying are much more likely to have negative feelings about their school and feel less support from teachers/adults at school.

Now What?

- The website www.stopbullying.gov is a great resource for youth, parents, educators, and coaches. It provides information about prevention, laws and policies, and trainings.
- The website www.thebullyproject.com also provides resources specific to students, parents, educators, and advocates to help with bullying, including materials in both English and Spanish.

Center for Prevention Research and Development

As part of the School of Social Work at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, CPRD concentrates its efforts in the areas of prevention science, school reform and after-school evaluation, and health and human service reform. Please visit our website: <https://cprd.illinois.edu>

Illinois Youth Survey and State Report

In addition to bullying, the IYS covers a variety of other health and social indicators. To find out more information about the Illinois Youth Survey, to see if your school participated, or to access the geographic (state, county, Chicago Community Area) and other topical reports, please visit the IYS website: <https://www.iys.cprd.illinois.edu>



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