

Bullying in primary schools

The results of the
second and third assessment



Bullying Survey

Second and third assessment

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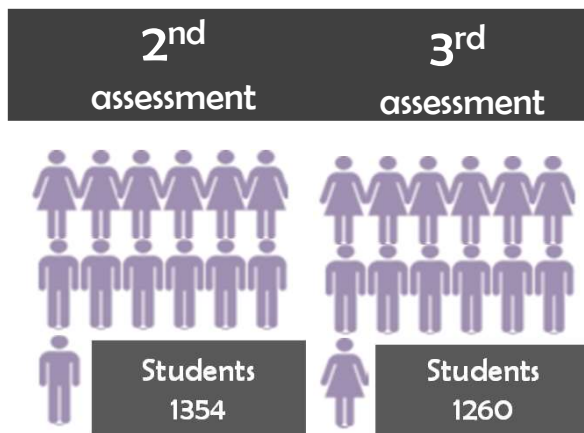
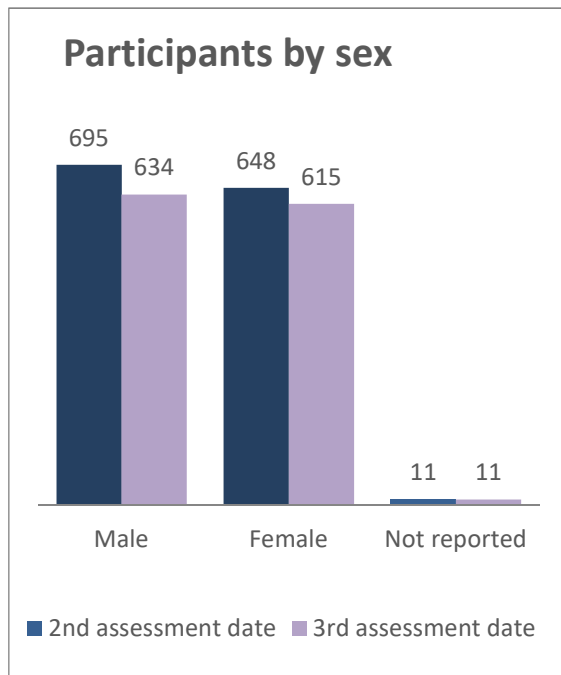
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Project and Research Department



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Introduction and Methodology



Introduction

The bullying survey was conducted in partnership with the foundation Telefon pa Hubentud (TPH) as a pilot project among 8 primary schools, that were selected by TPH. The purpose of this independent survey was to get an overview of the prevalence of bullying in Primary schools in Aruba. The selected schools are a representation of the eight different zones of Aruba. The questionnaire was designed by the Hazelden Foundation as part of the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, but was adapted by the Central Bureau of Statistics, due to the length of the questionnaire itself and the complexity of some of the original questions. The participating students included all students from the participating primary schools grades 2 – 6 and ranging from ages 6 – 15 years, except for first graders.

Methodology

For the third assessment the schools were visited by TPH staff in the course of which the students from grades 2 to 6 completed a short questionnaire regarding bullying in school. In between the second and the third visit, the students received training sessions from TPH staff as part of the by TPH adapted 'Preventing Bullying at School Program', developed by Beverly B. Title, Ph.D., and published by The Hazelden Foundation. The third assessment as well as the training sessions took place during the school year 2016.

For the purpose of this research, the following definition was used to explain the meaning of bullying. A person is bullied when one or more children:

- ❖ Say bad things and hurt another child or laugh at him/her or call him/her bad names and hurt them by doing so;
- ❖ Ignore him/her or do not include him/her in their group of friends or willfully exclude him/her from everything;
- ❖ Hit, push or kick him/her or push him/her aside or lock him/her up in the classroom;
- ❖ Lie upon him/her or spread rumors about him/her or send bad messages about him/her so others won't like him/her;
- ❖ And other behaviors of this kind.

Introduction and Methodology

When referring to bullying, these are different behaviors that occur more than once and make it difficult for the person who is being bullied to defend himself/ herself. We also refer to bullying when a child is teased more than once in a bad and hurtful way.

Definitions

Persons being bullied are the students that experience the act of being bullied, by another person.

The person who bullies refers to the person committing the act of bullying another person.

With this report the CBS and TPH present the results of both assessment moments after the training sessions were completed, showing the overall panorama of bullying in primary schools and the short-term effects of the 'Preventing Bullying at school Program' as executed by TPH.

In the summary, the essential findings can be reviewed, while the detailed results are displayed in the various segments.

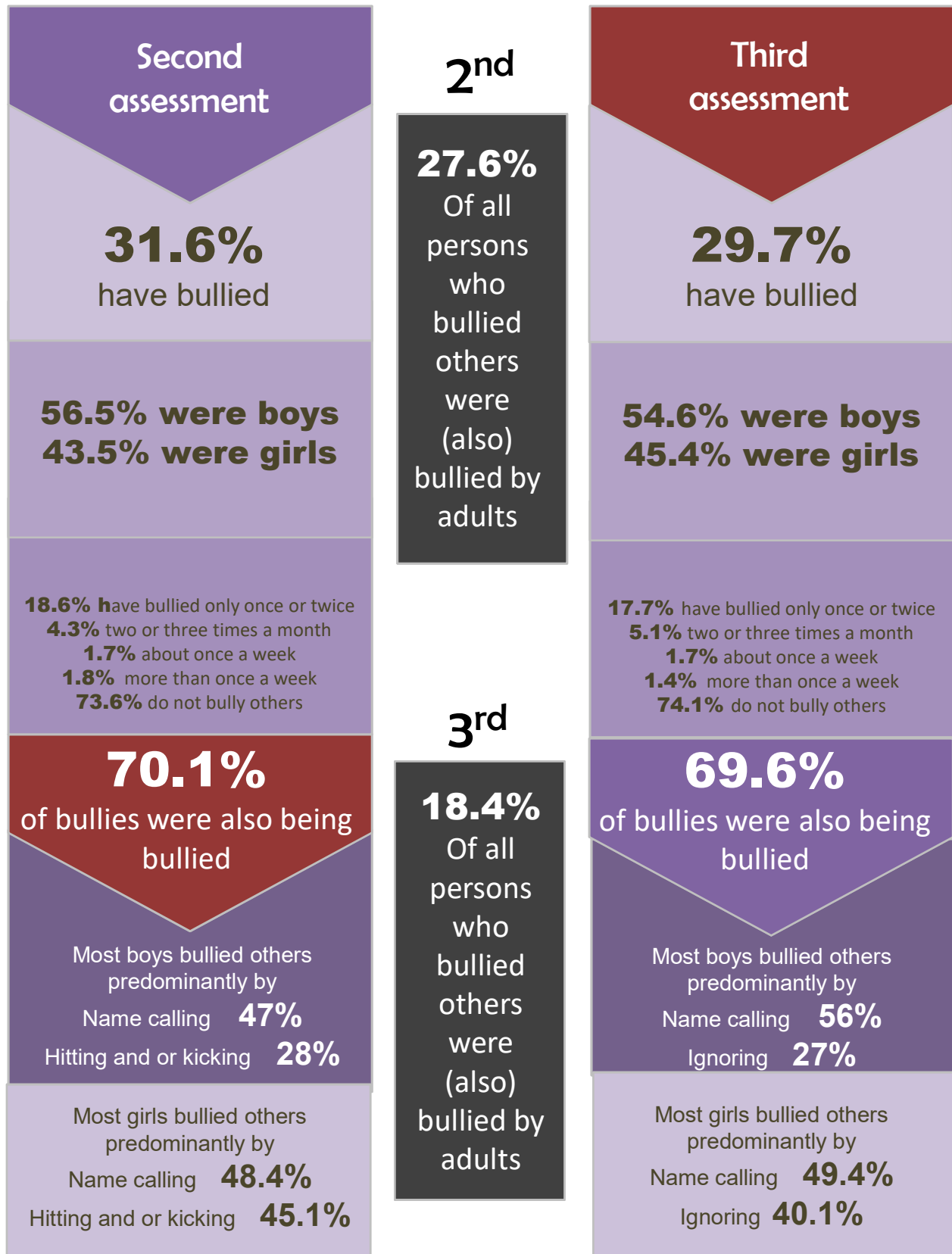
A comparison is also presented between the findings of The Nationwide research project of The Netherlands on bullying in primary schools¹ and the results of the pilot research project conducted in Aruba.

Special thanks goes out to everyone who participated and contributed to the successful execution of this project.

Join
HANDS to
STOP
BULLYING

Those who bully

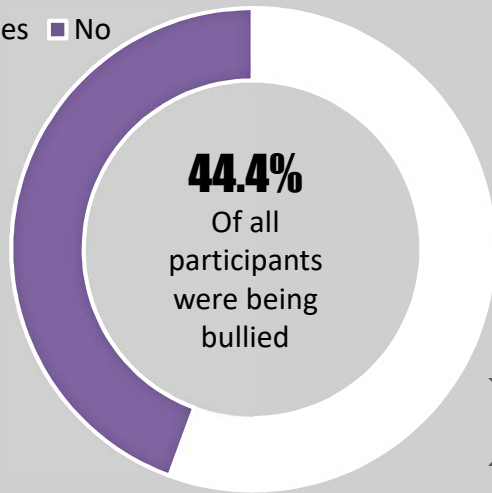
General characteristics (all participants)



Persons being bullied, by sex

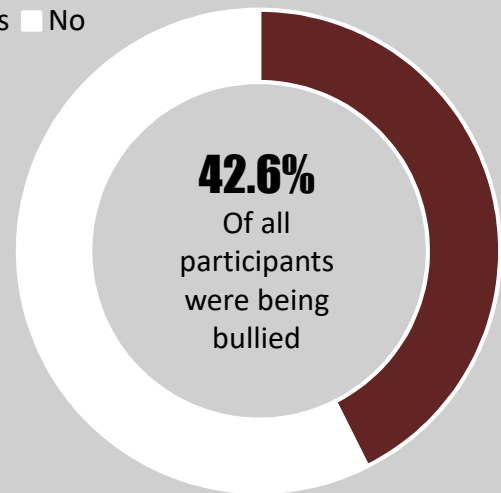
2nd assessment

■ Yes ■ No



3rd assessment

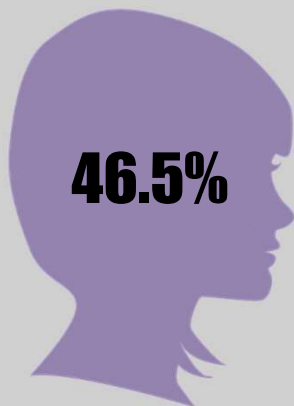
■ Yes ■ No



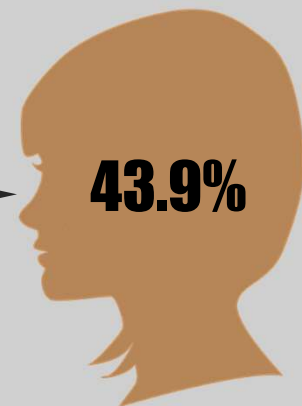
4% reduction



All participating boys that were bullied at least once



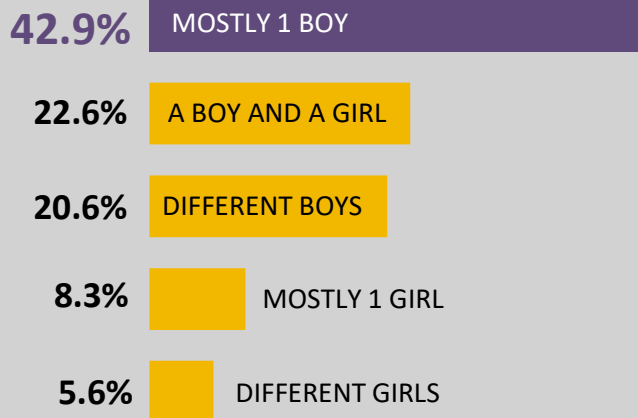
All participating girls that were bullied at least once



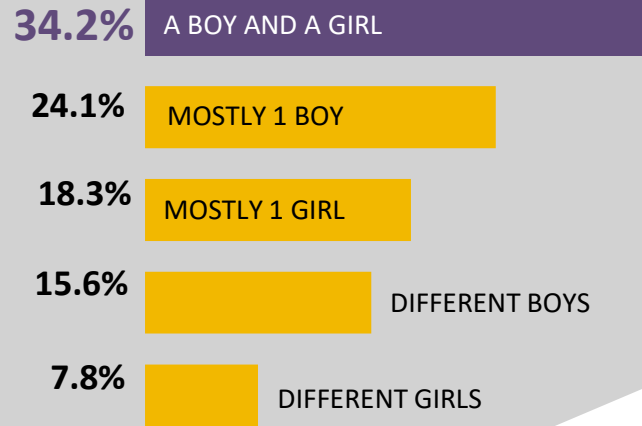
Persons being bullied, by sex

2nd

BOYS WERE BULLIED BY

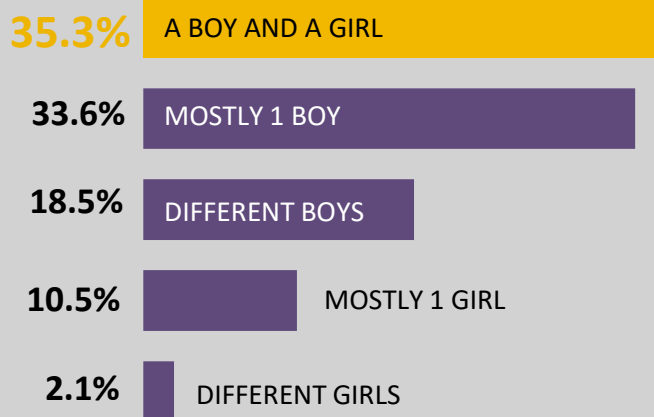


GIRLS WERE BULLIED BY

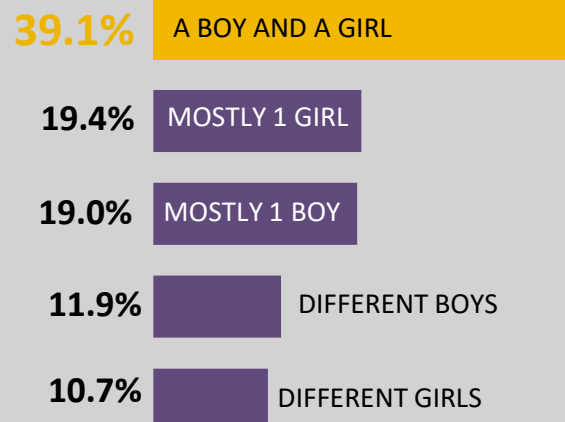


3rd

BOYS WERE BULLIED BY



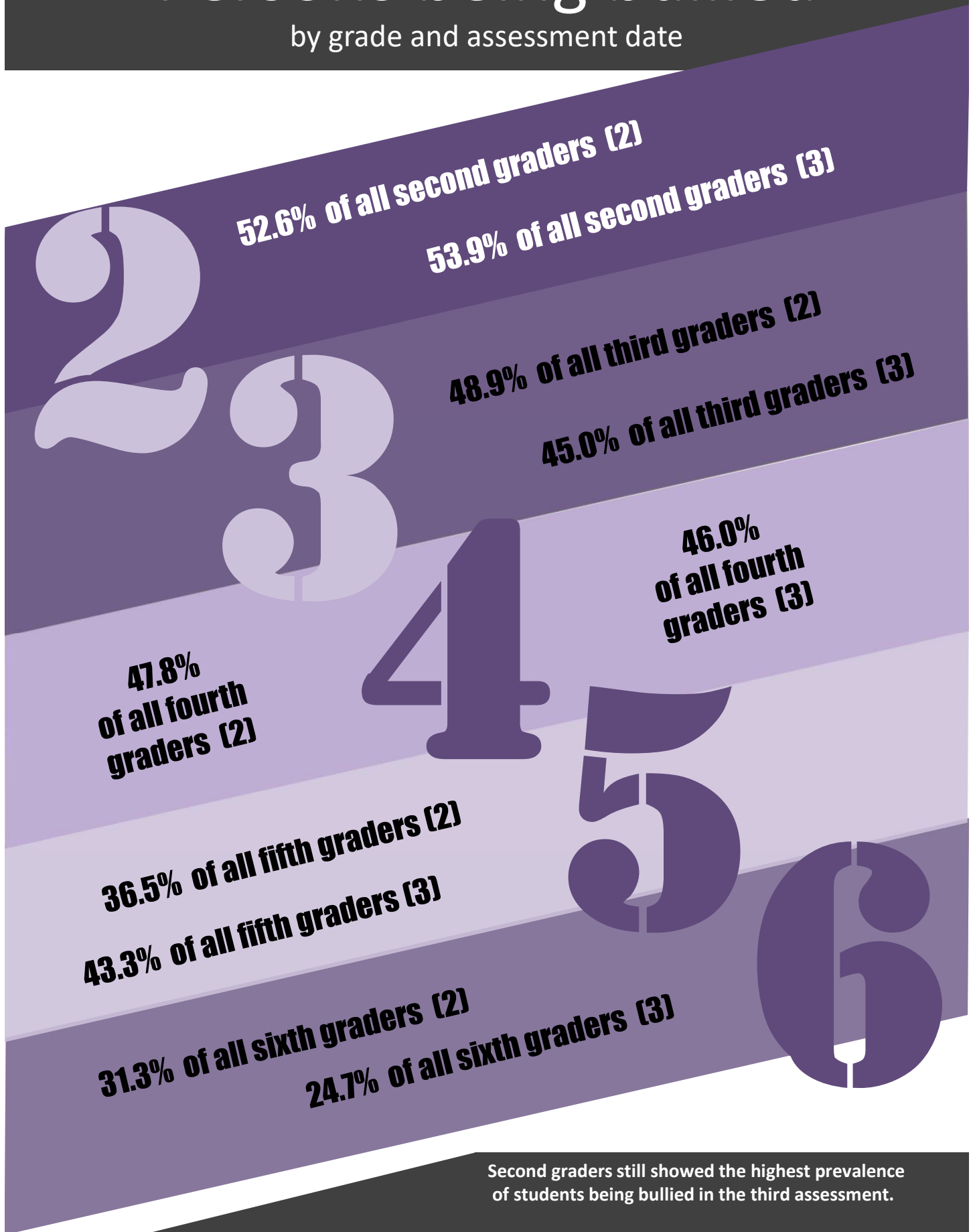
GIRLS WERE BULLIED BY



Findings from to the second assessment showed that boys were bullied mostly by 1 boy, while girls were mostly bullied by a boy and a girl. A shift occurred for boys at the third assessment, where they were mostly bullied by a boy and a girl (35.3%) followed closely by mostly 1 boy (33.6%). The bullying panorama stayed more or less the same for girls when comparing both assessments.

Persons being bullied

by grade and assessment date

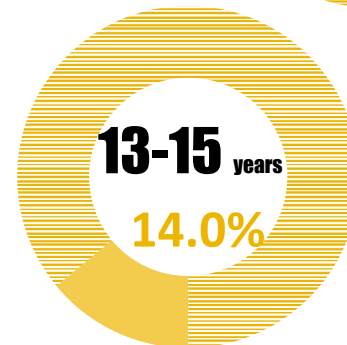
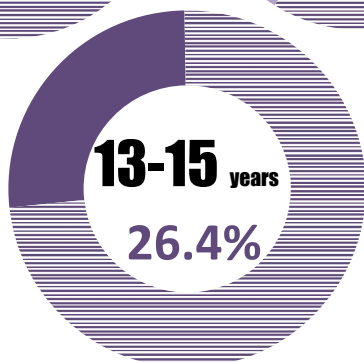
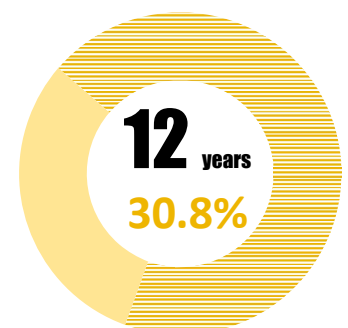
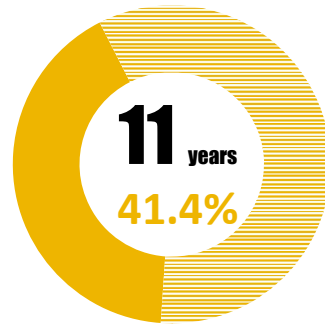
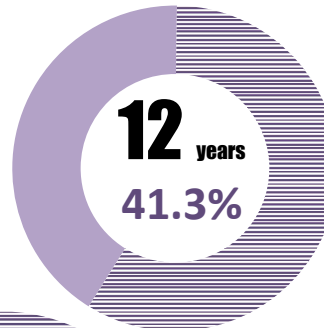
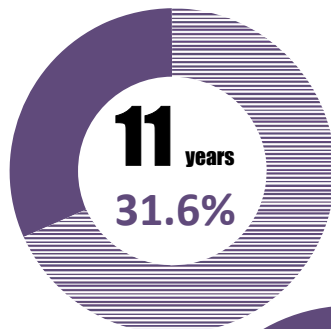
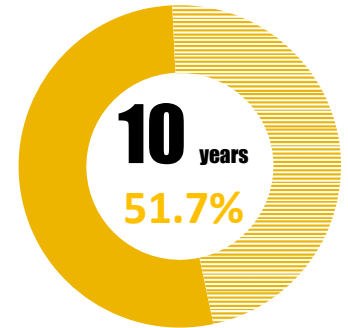
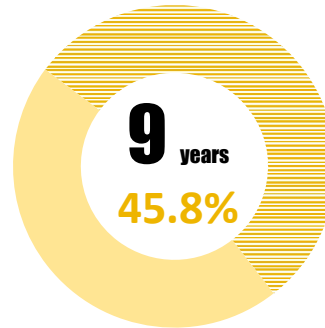
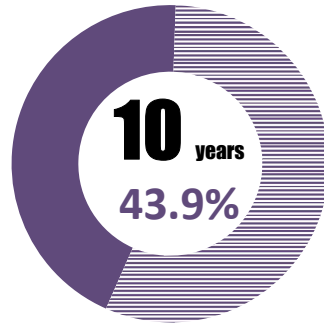
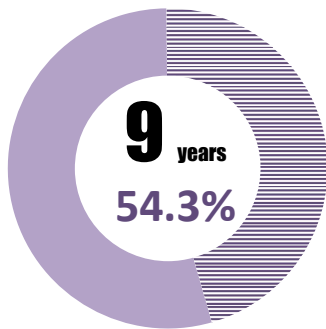
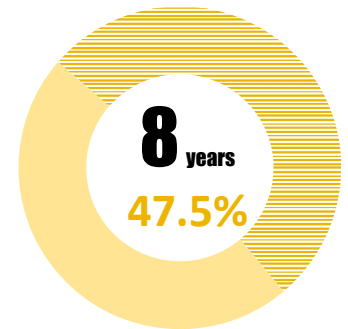
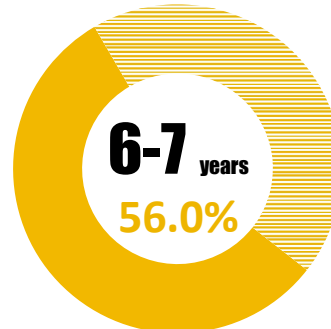
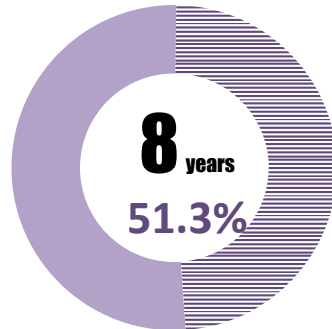
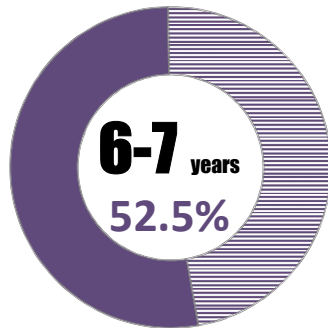


Second graders still showed the highest prevalence of students being bullied in the third assessment.

Persons being bullied, by age

2nd assessment

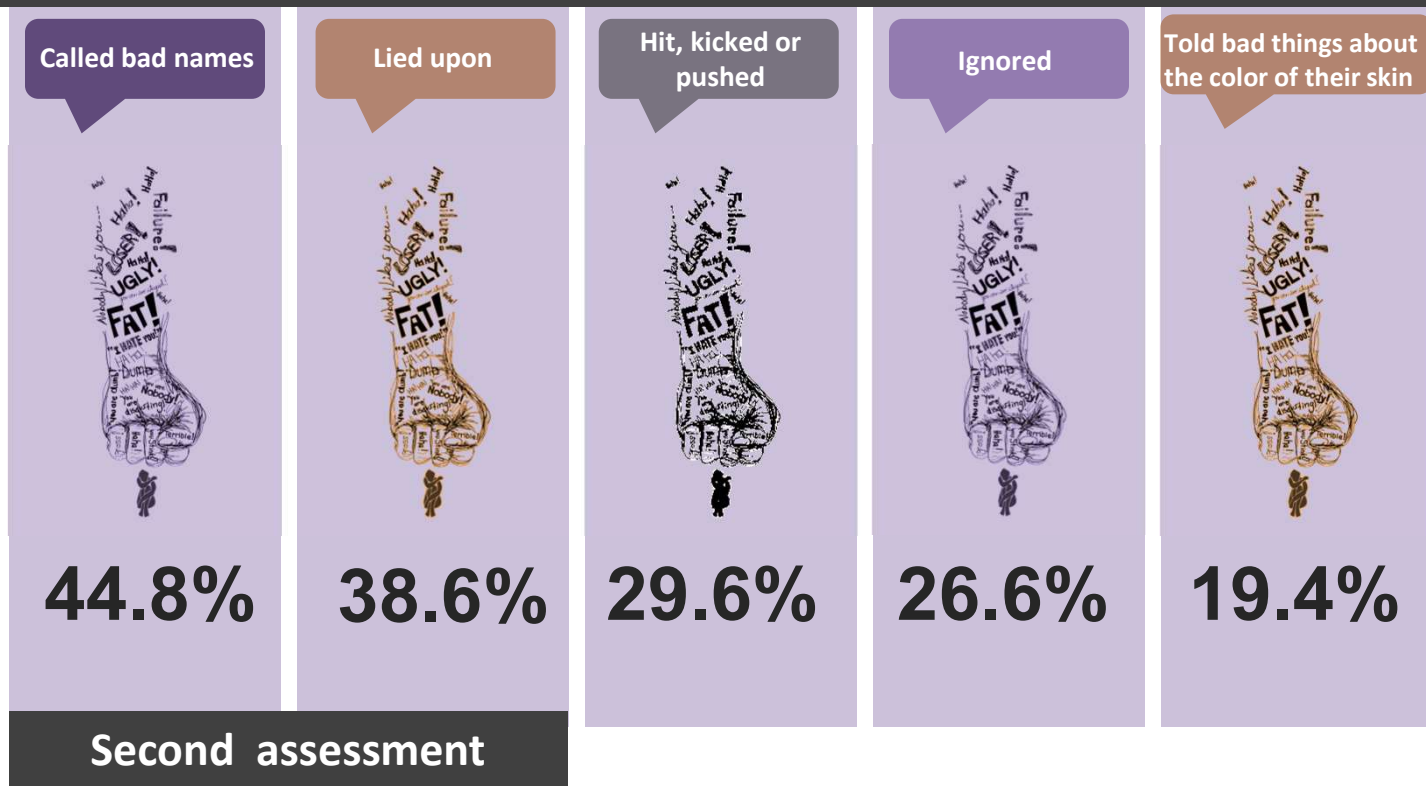
3rd assessment



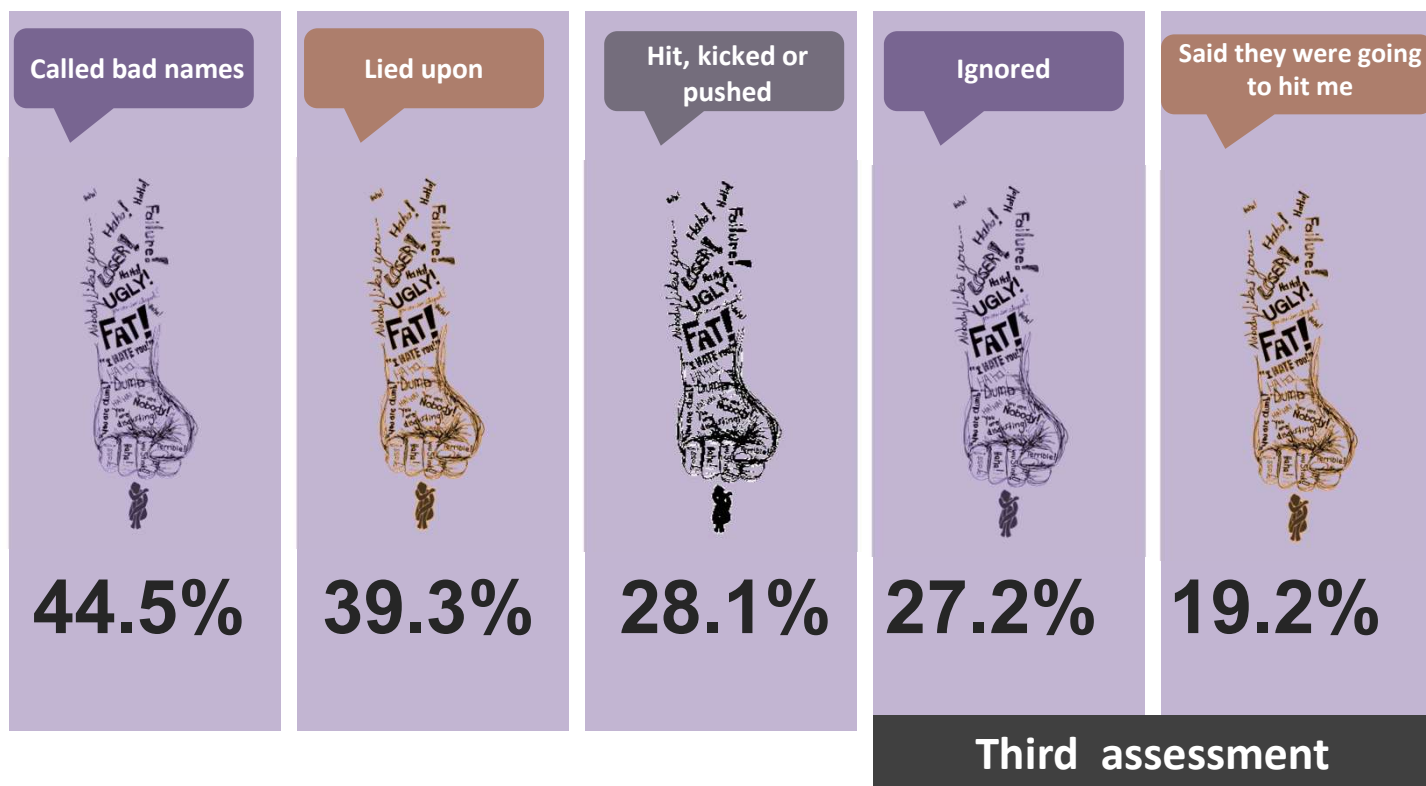
The prevalence of persons being bullied was highest among students ages 6 - 9 years old in the second assessment. A change occurred in the third assessment, where students aged 10 years showed a higher percentage of being bullied, compared to 8 and 9 years old students. When comparing both assessments, the results show a decrease in bullying among students in age group 13-15 years.

The way how

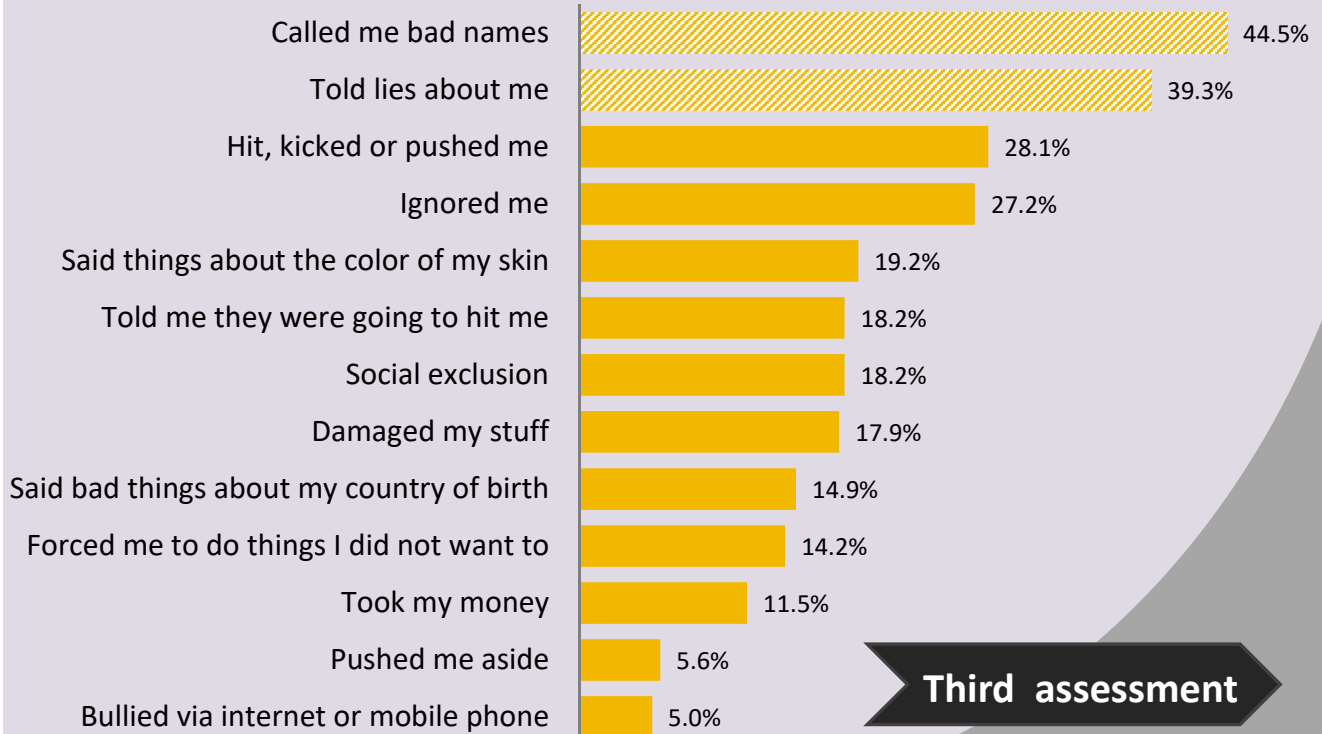
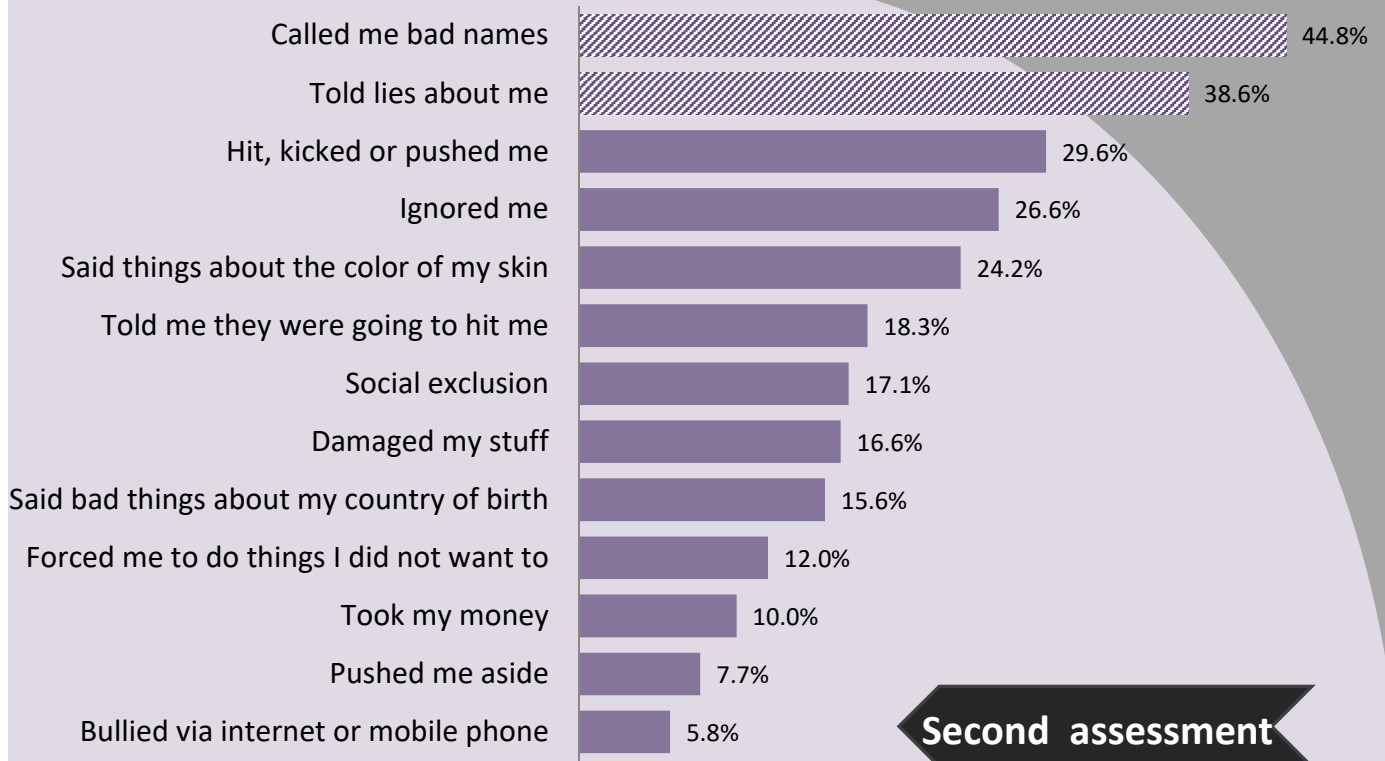
The top 5 ways children were bullied



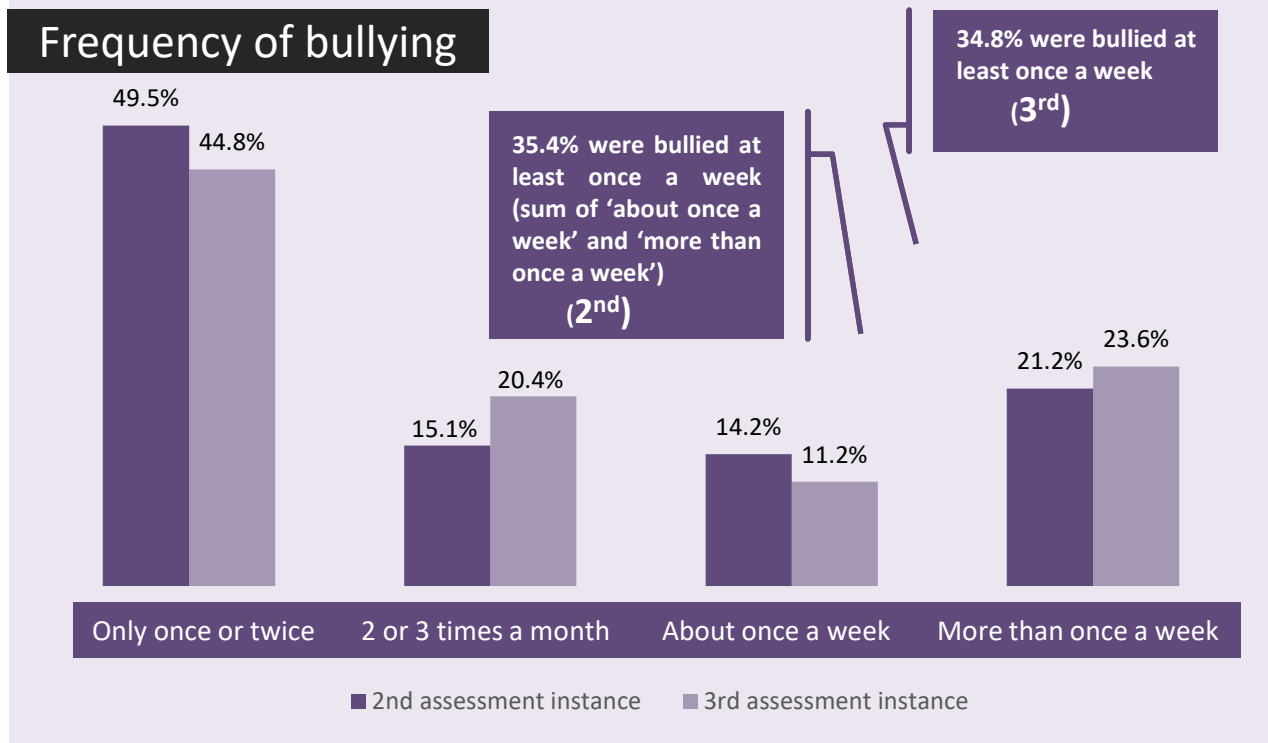
(More than 1 answer was possible, therefore the percentages do not add up to 100%)



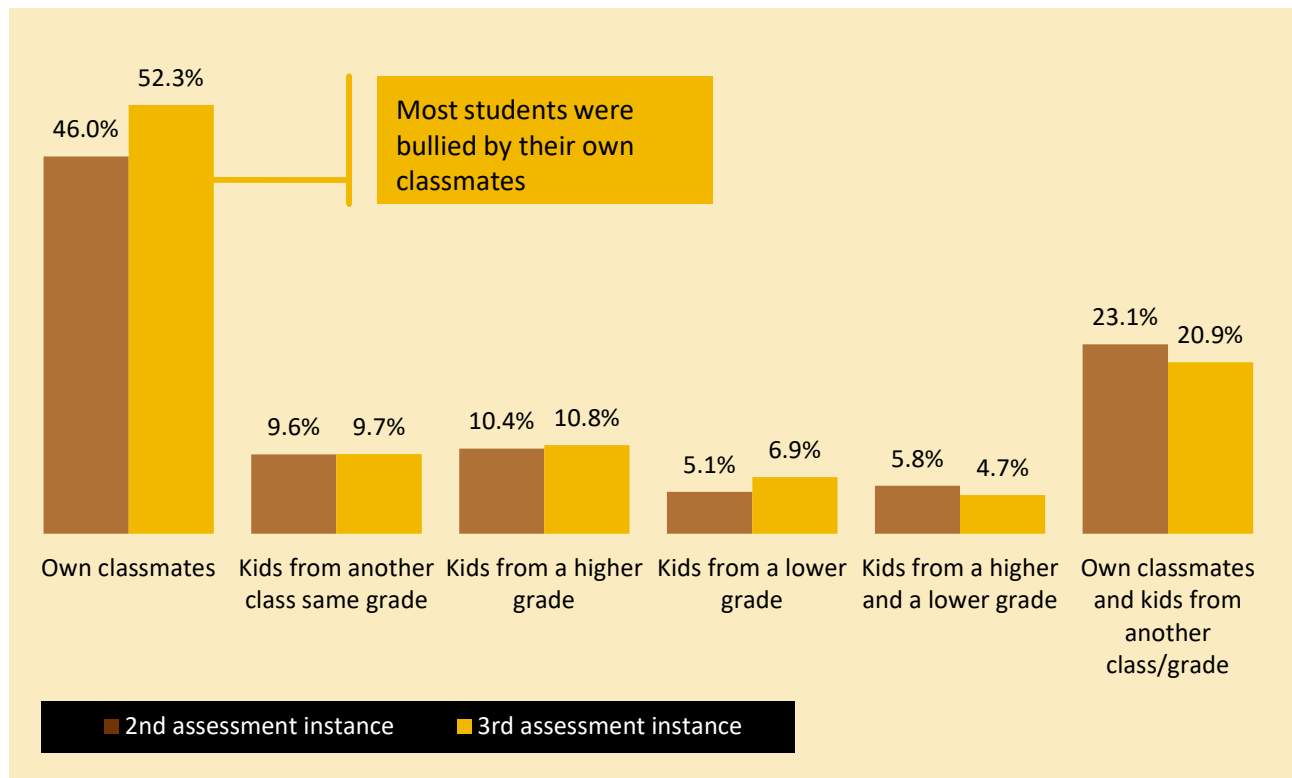
The other ways how



Frequency and who bullied



Who bullied



The other students

Other students being bullied

Watching other kids my age being bullied makes me feel

2nd

Maybe it's his/her own fault

19.4%

I don't feel much

6.5%

I feel bad for him/her

19.2%

I feel bad for him/her and I want to help him/her

54.9%

3rd

Maybe it's his/her own fault

17.3%

I don't feel much

6.3%

I feel bad for him/her

16.1%

I feel bad for him/her and I want to help him/her

60.3%

31.5%

of persons being bullied were also bullied by adults

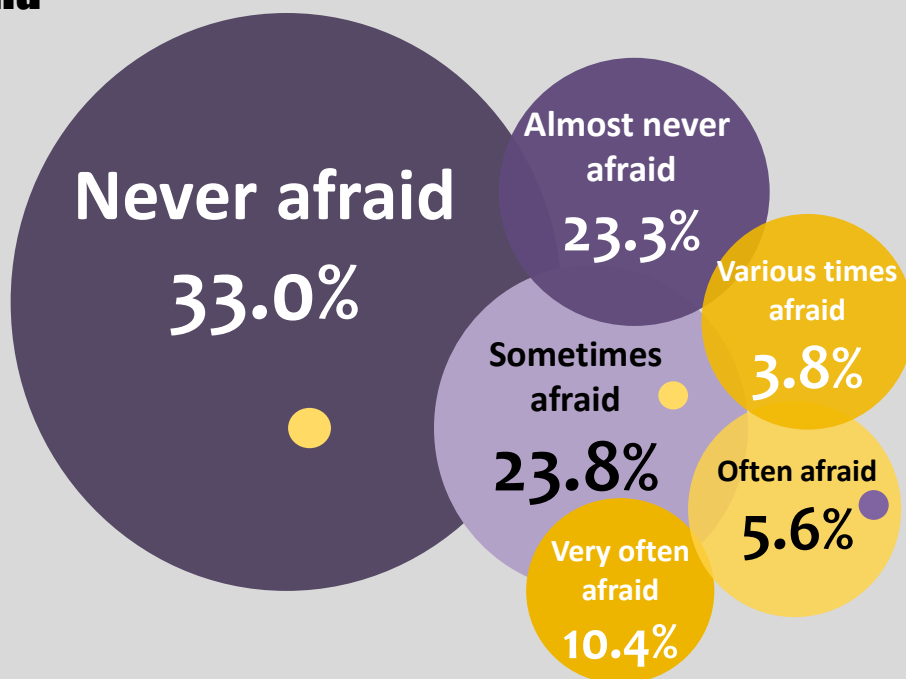
21.6%

of persons being bullied were also bullied by adults

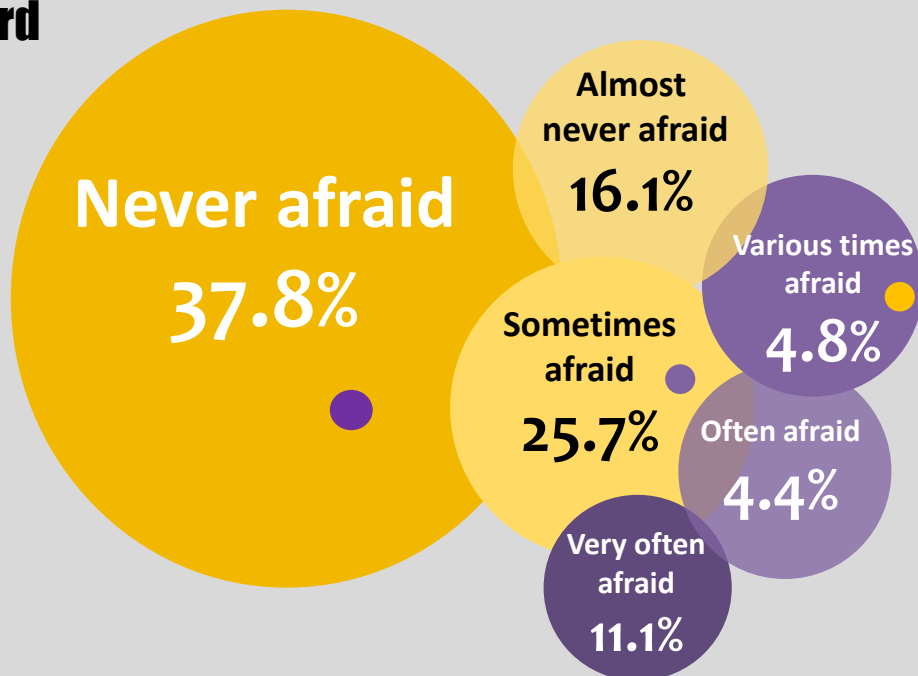
Bullied and afraid

How often are you afraid of being bullied at school?

2nd



3rd



Despite the decrease in bullying when comparing the second assessment with the third, there was a 2.5% increase in the percentage of persons, that were afraid of being bullied at school (sum of various times, often and very often afraid) (19.8%, and 20.3% respectively).

Did you know?

2nd assessment

4.0% of all students were also being bullied by their parents/guardians

27.8% of students being bullied indicated that a teacher or other adult almost never or never stopped bullying of a child

31.6% of students being bullied have also bullied others at least once

70.1% of bullies were also being bullied

31.6% of all participating students have bullied others at least once

17.9% of all participating students were (also) bullied by adults

3rd assessment

2.5% of all students were also being bullied by their parents/guardians

39.3% of students being bullied indicated that a teacher or other adult almost never or never stopped bullying of a child

25.9% of students being bullied have also bullied others at least once

69.6% of bullies were also being bullied

29.7% of all participating students have bullied others at least once

9.7% of all participating students were (also) bullied by adults

The Location

Where did the bullying take place?

On the playground

59.0%

In the classroom without teacher present

23.9%

In the classroom with teacher present

22.1%

In the hallway at school

15.4%

During gym class

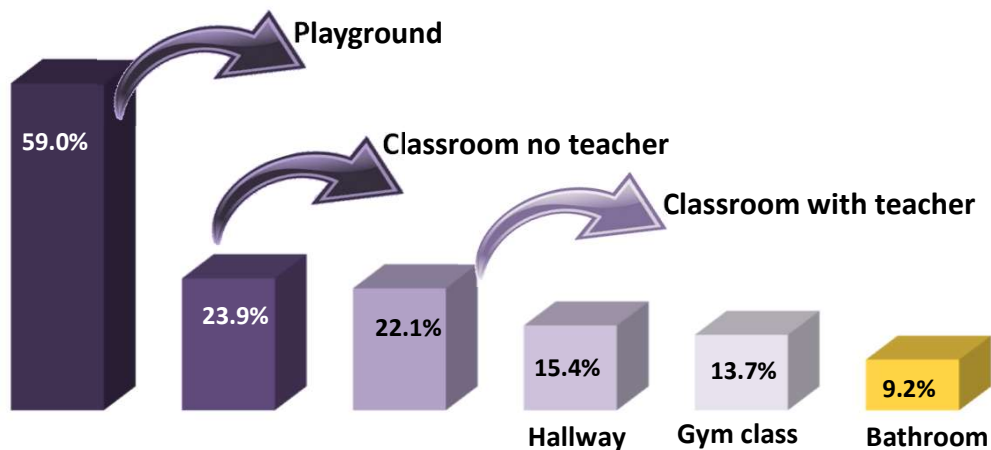
13.7%

In the bathroom at school

9.2%

(More than 1 answer was possible, therefore the percentages do not add up to 100%)

Second assessment



The Location

Where did the bullying take place?

On the playground

53.4%

In the classroom without teacher present

25.7%

In the classroom with teacher present

19.6%

In the hallway at school

15.3%

During gym class

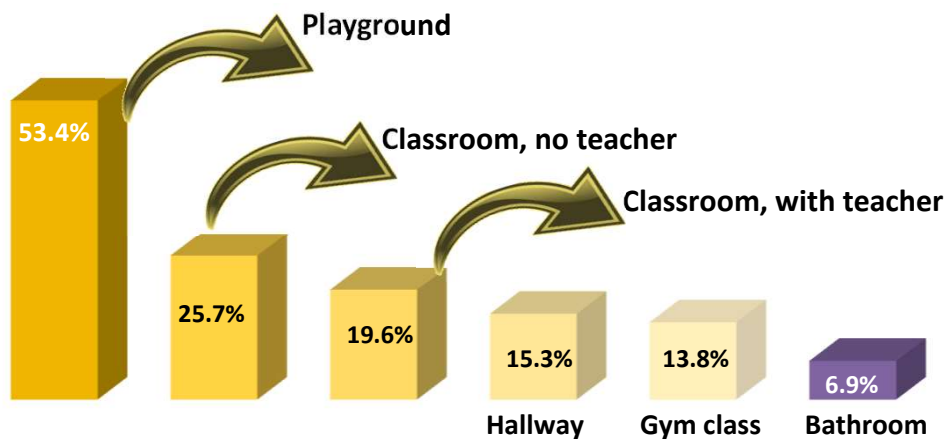
13.8%

In the bathroom at school

6.9%

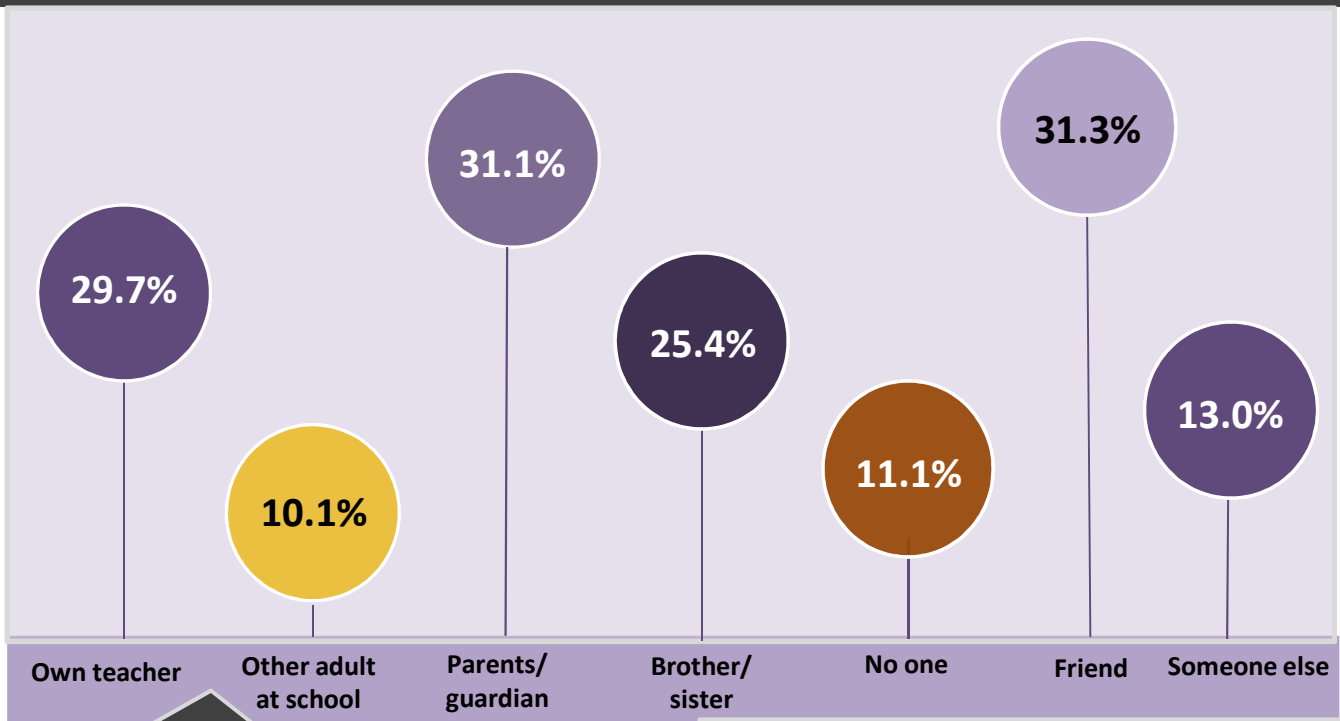
(More than 1 answer was possible, therefore the percentages do not add up to 100%)

Third assessment



Reporting it

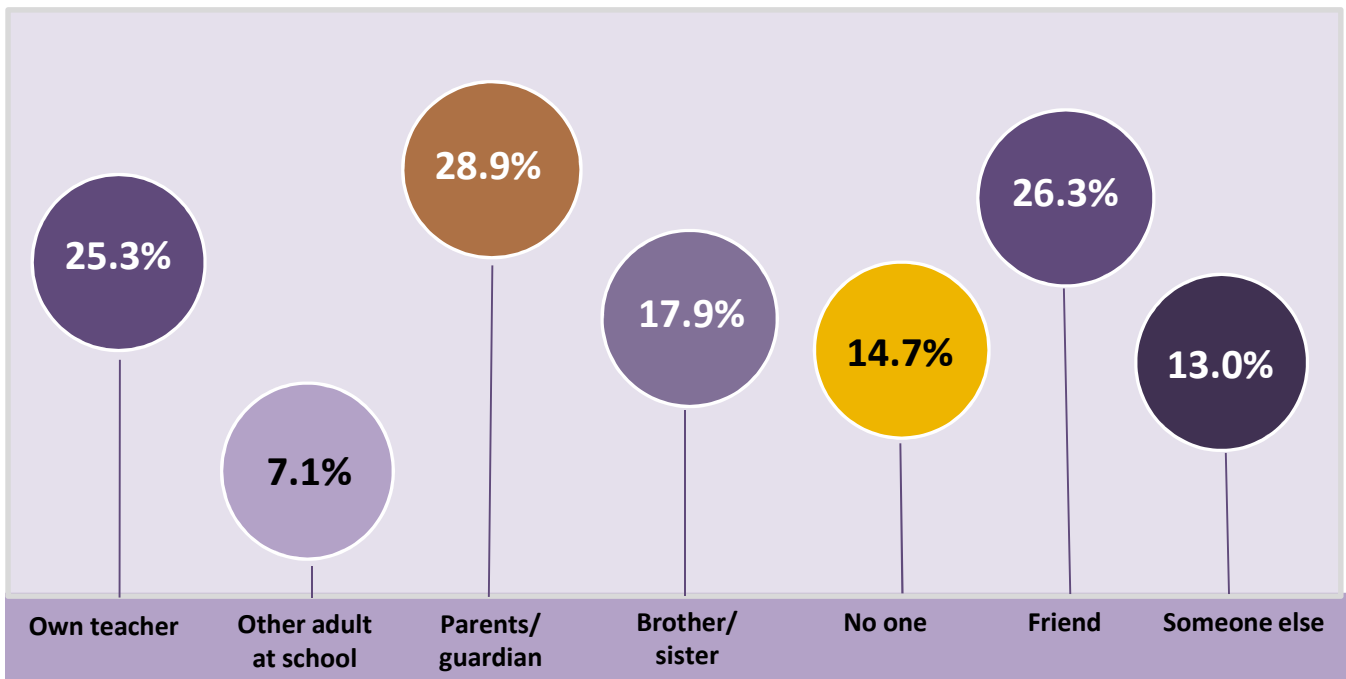
Who did you tell?



The second assessment showed that most persons being bullied confided in a friend, followed by a parent or guardian, that they were bullied at school. A little over 11% of students that were bullied told no one that they were bullied.

The third assessment showed persons being bullied confiding mostly in parents or guardians, followed by a friend and their own teacher, about being bullied at school. Notable is that the percentage of students being bullied that told no one increased to 14.7% compared to the second assessment (11.1%).

(More than 1 answer was possible, therefore the percentages do not add up to 100%)



International comparison

When comparing some key statistics of bullying in primary schools in Aruba with The Netherlands, there are many similarities concerning, 'where', 'who' and 'whom bully victims are reporting the bullying to'.

According to the 'Nationwide Research Bullying 2012 Primary Education', held in The Netherlands, more than 16% of the participants reported that they had been bullied in the past weeks (group 5 – 8, corresponding with ages 8 – 12 years). The Aruba survey results indicated a prevalence of bullying of 44.4% (second assessment) and 42.6% (third assessment).

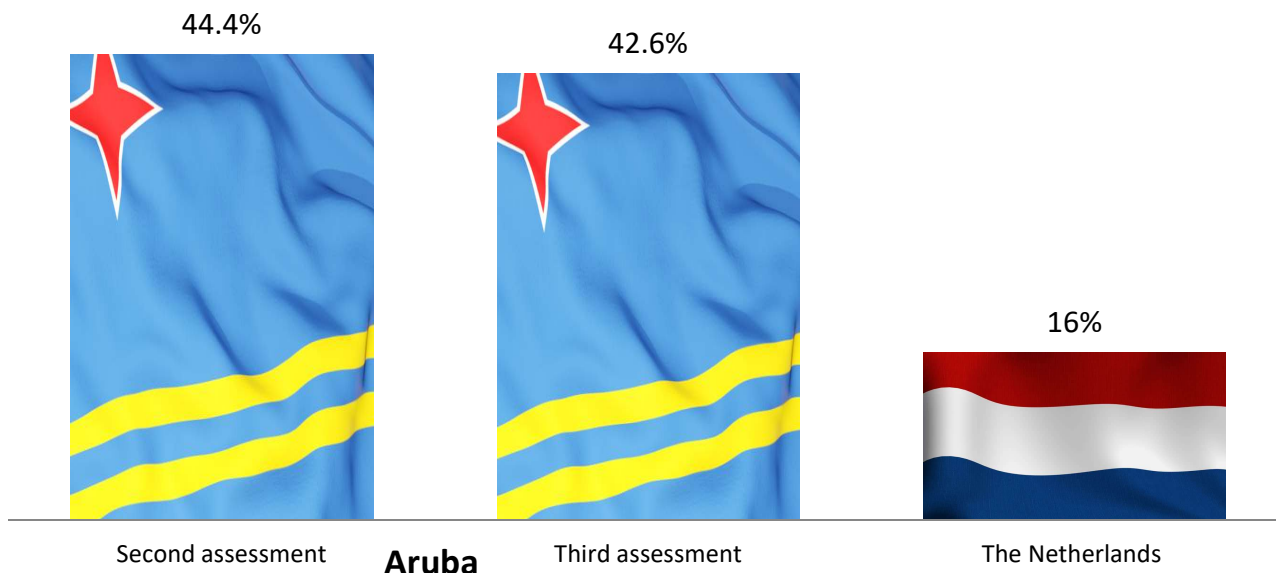
The prevalent 'ways how' most students were bullied in The Netherlands differ from the reports in Aruba. In The Netherlands, children reported mainly, 'being blamed for something', 'being excluded', 'being cursed at' and being bullied by others 'spreading rumors about them and by being joked about'.

The number of primary schools that participated in The Netherlands was 87, (1.2%). In Aruba 8 primary schools, (17.8%) participated in the project.

The Aruba findings indicated that children were mainly bullied by 'being called bad names', 'being lied upon', 'being hit and kicked or pushed and by 'being ignored'. Comparable to the Aruba findings, two thirds of bully victims in The Netherlands mentioned the school playground and the classroom as the main locations where bullying took place. In The Netherlands, the majority (two thirds) indicated that their own classmates were the main bully culprits. According to the third assessment, 52% of bully victims in Aruba pointed their fingers at their own classmates as the main bully culprits.

When comparing 'whom' children reported to about being bullied in school, children from both The Netherlands and Aruba reported that they mainly told their parents, friends and/or their teacher. The percentage of participants from the Netherlands who were bullies was 17%, compared to Aruba 31,6% (second assessment) and 29.7% (third assessment).

Persons being bullied in Primary School



Summary

This research represents the first attempt to gather information about bullying in primary schools. And was a pilot project conducted among 8 primary schools. The key findings are described here.

According to the second assessment 44.4% of all participating students reported that they were being bullied, which decreased to 42.6% according to the second assessment. The prevalence of bullying was higher among younger students ages 6 – 7 years and 9 years old. The two most common types of bullying reported in both assessments were:

- ❖ Name calling (44.8% - 2nd assessment and 44.5% - 3rd assessment)
- ❖ Being lied upon (38.6% - 2nd assessment, 39.3% - 3rd assessment)

Notable is that a fairly reasonable group of children was bullied because of the color of their skin (19.4% - 2nd assessment and 19.2% according to the 3rd assessment).

The least common ways of being bullied were 'being pushed aside' (7.7% - 2nd assessment and 5.6% - 3rd assessment) and 'cyber bullying' 5.8% - 2nd assessment and 5.0% - 3rd assessment).

In both assessments girls were bullied more frequently than boys, and girls were mostly bullied by a boy and a girl. According to the second assessment, boys were also mostly bullied by one boy (42.9%), and secondly by a boy and a girl (22.6%). The third assessment however showed that boys were mostly bullied by a boy and a girl (35.3%).

Second and third graders were more often bullied than students in higher grades.

The results show that according to the second assessment 49.5% of students being bullied were bullied only once or twice during the school year. The third assessment showed a decrease to 44.8%.

The findings also indicate that most students were bullied by their own classmates (46.0% - second assessment and 52.3%, according to the third assessment).

While the majority of persons being bullied reported sympathy for other persons being bullied (more than 60%), a small group reported that being bullied was probably the fault of person being bullied (19.4% - 2nd, and 17.3% - 3rd assessment).

In the second assessment 17.9% of all participating students reported that they were (also) bullied by an adult, which percentage decreased to 9.7% according to the third assessment.

While according to the second assessment 31.6% of students being bullied reported that they had also bullied another child at least once, this percentage dropped to 25.9% at the third assessment. As for the location where the bullying took place, almost 53.4% of the students being bullied reported the playground at school as the main location, according to the third assessment. The findings also show that students who were bullied confided mostly in a friend, parent and or their own teacher about being bullied in school. In this respect it is important to mention that the percentage of students who told no one about being bullied at school increased from 11.1% to 14.7% between the second and third assessment.

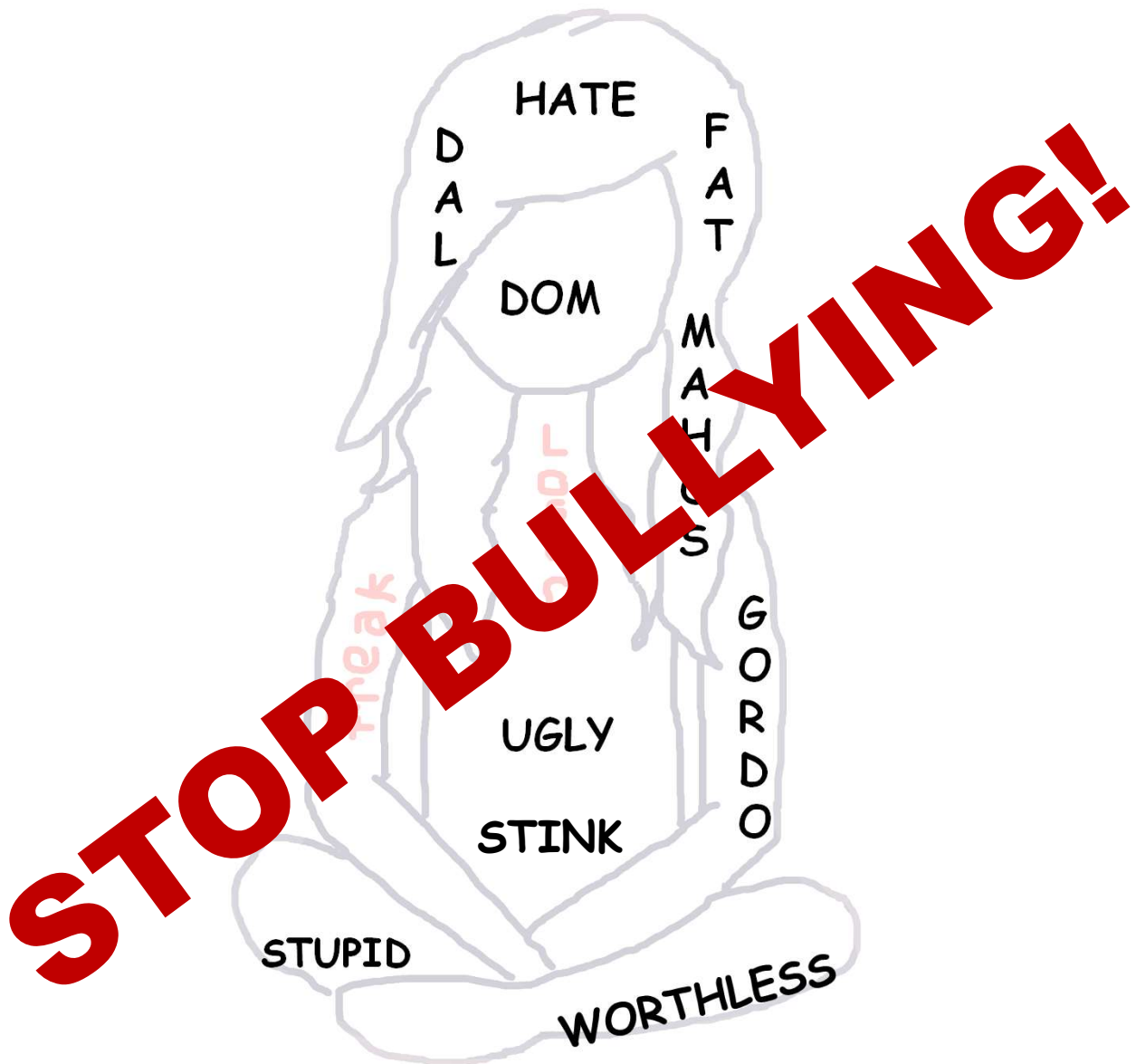
When comparing the findings in Aruba on bullying in primary schools to the findings from an extensive study conducted in The Netherlands, many similarities can be seen. In both countries the main bully culprits were the classmates of the persons being bullied and the main locations where the bullying took place were the school playground and the classroom.

Summary

While in The Netherlands 16% of participating children reported having been bullied in primary school, in Aruba the prevalence of bullying was much higher (44.4%, 2nd assessment; 29.7%, 3rd assessment). The results of this pilot project point to a need for continuous interventions and campaigning against bullying to ensure that children are no longer at risk of being bullied and that bullying is no longer accepted and normalized in Aruban schools. The reason for no longer accepting bullying in school is that according to recent studies, children who are bullied by their peers in their childhood were generally at risk for mental health problems such as anxiety, depression and self harm or suicide¹.

The adapted 'Preventing Bullying at School Program' executed by TPH may have contributed to reduce the prevalence of bullying in the 8 primary schools that participated in this pilot project.

Words Hurt!



References:

1. Research Project 'Prevencion di Termento' na scol, school year 2014 – 2015 and 2016, by Central Bureau of Statistics and Telefon pa Hubentud.
2. The annual bullying survey 2015, by Ditch the label.
3. Research report from the Department for Education (UK); Characteristics of bullying victims in schools, by Rosie Green, Aleks Collingwood and Andy Ross.
4. Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, www.violencepreventionworks.org
5. www.nji.nl, Landelijk onderzoek Pesten 2012 Primair Onderwijs (Nederlands Jeugd Instituut). Gaag, M. van der, & Duiven, R. (2013). Zwolle: School & Innovatie Groep.
6. Lancet Psychiatry 2015, Adult mental health consequences of peers and bullying and maltreatment in childhood: two cohorts in two countries).