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School Climate Enhancement and Bullying Prevention in Southern Illinois: Preliminary Findings

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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- The Regional Office of Education #30 is our LEA partner.
- We appreciate the participation of all 40 schools involved in the project.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- A. To conduct a region-wide school climate assessment of K-12 schools in 22 school districts across Southern Illinois.
- B. To assess the effectiveness of training school administrators, teachers and staff in the delivery of low-cost, evidenced-based interventions addressing key components identified in critical reviews of bullying prevention programs.
- C. To assess the impact of facilitating anonymous reporting of school safety issues via a web-based platform on school climate.

Design/Analyses: random assignment of schools to intervention years; hierarchical linear modeling for nested structures based on mixed effects longitudinal models for repeated outcomes.

INTERVENTIONS

- **Administrator workshop**

Safe Schools/Bullying Prevention (Illinois Principal Association Academy)

- **Teaching Training Workshop**

Creating a Safe and Respectful Environment in our Nation's Classrooms (NCSSLE)

- **Playground/School Monitor Training**

Systematic Supervision (Iris Ed/ U of Oregon Institute on Violence and Destructive Behavior)

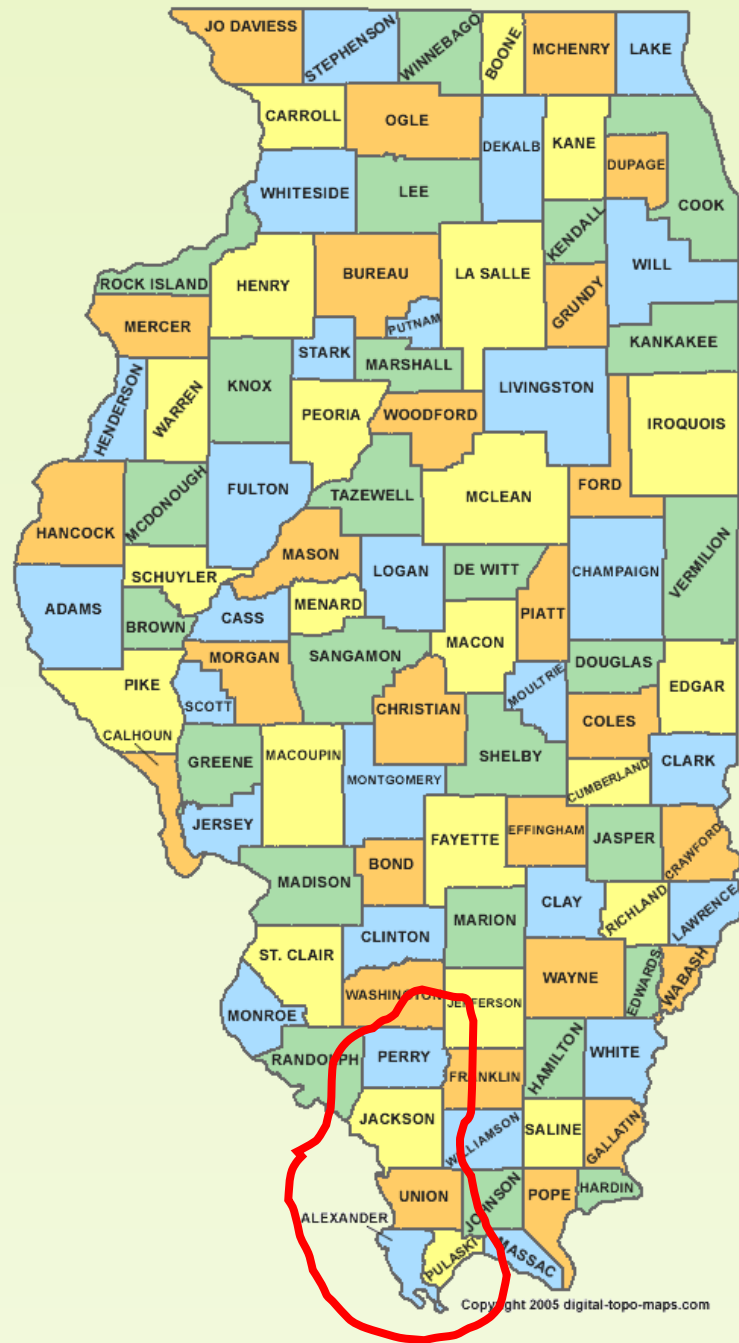
- **Pilot Testing of Web-Based Anonymous Reporting System**

METHOD

- Data collection for this presentation occurred March – May 2016
- Surveys were collected from 40 ROE#30 elementary, middle and high schools
- Measure: School Climate Survey (Ontario Ministry of Education), separate versions:
 - Grades 4 to 6
 - Grades 7 to 12
- Procedure: Surveys completed anonymously in classes at times/days designated by administrators.

SCHOOLS

- Schools were located in Jackson, Perry, Union, Pulaski and Alexander Counties.
- Each is in one of the following four classifications as defined by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES):
 - 33 - Town, Remote**
 - 41 - Rural, Fringe**
 - 42 - Rural, Distant**
 - 43 - Rural, Remote**
- The majority of districts are classified as 42-Rural, Distant.



PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

SCHOOL SAMPLES

- Grades 4 to 6
 - Total N = 2463
 - Schools = 30
- Grades 7 to 12
 - Total N = 3046
 - Schools = 24

DEFINITIONS

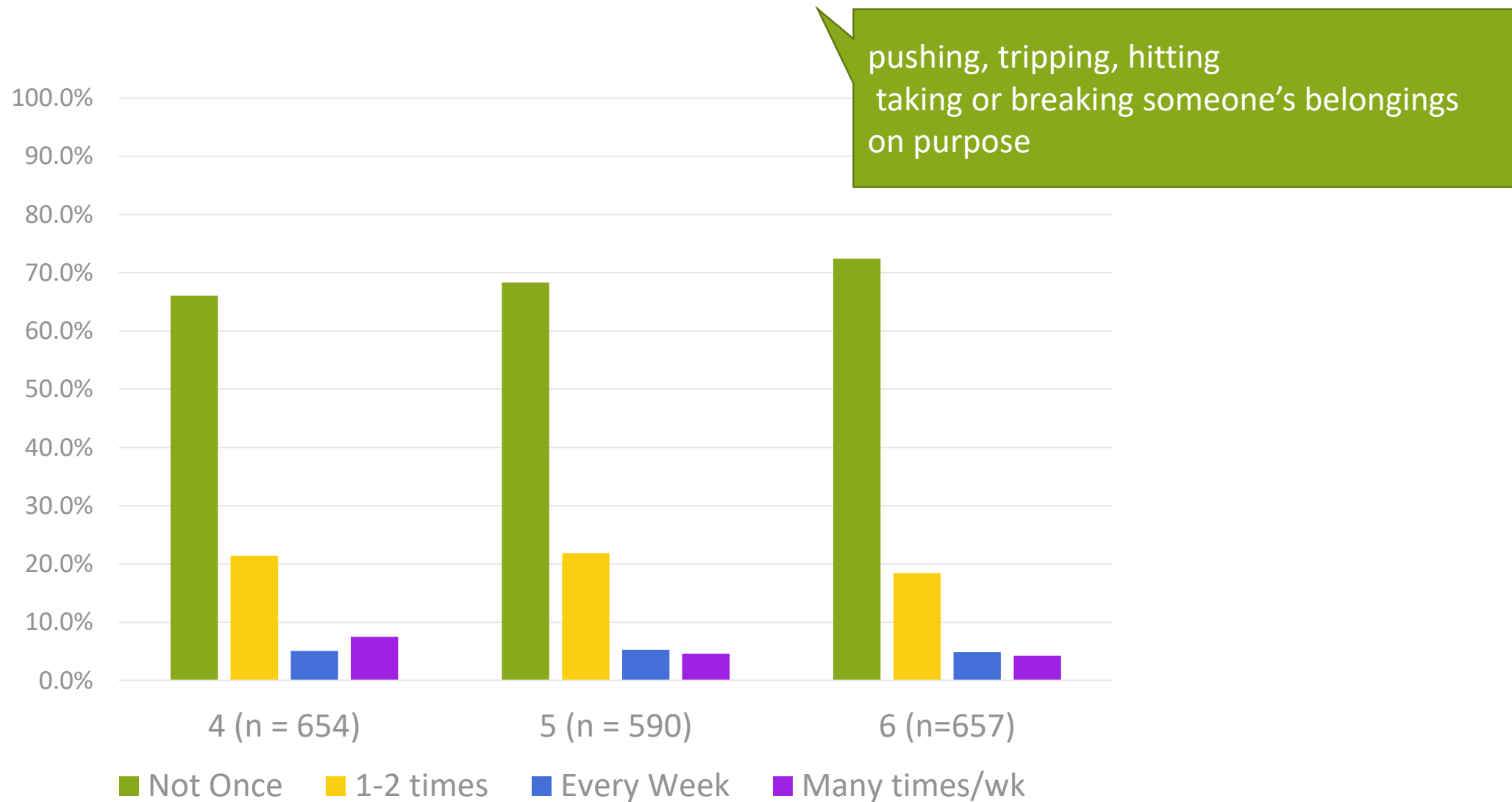
Actions meant to hurt another person's feelings or to put a person down are called **bullying/harassing** behaviors. Bullying is a form of harassment.

In this section, we will be using the words “bullying/harassment” for behaviors such as:

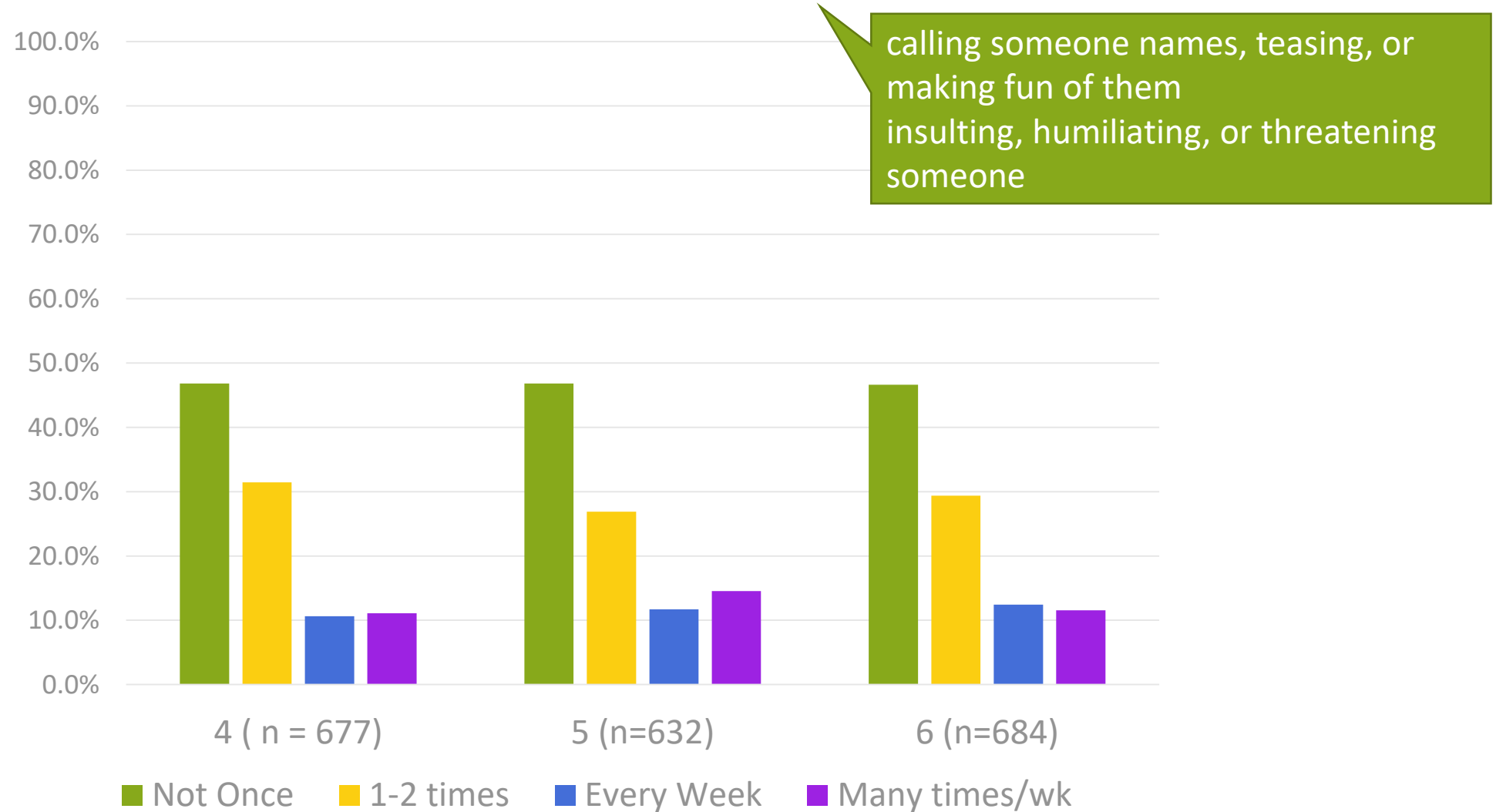
- saying hurtful things to someone about their appearance, their intelligence, or their abilities;
- posting hurtful comments about someone online;
- hurting someone by hitting, kicking, or pinching them, or in some other physical way;
- leaving someone out or treating them badly because of who they are.

The same person or group of people is often bullied or harassed over and over again. This can happen on or off school grounds.

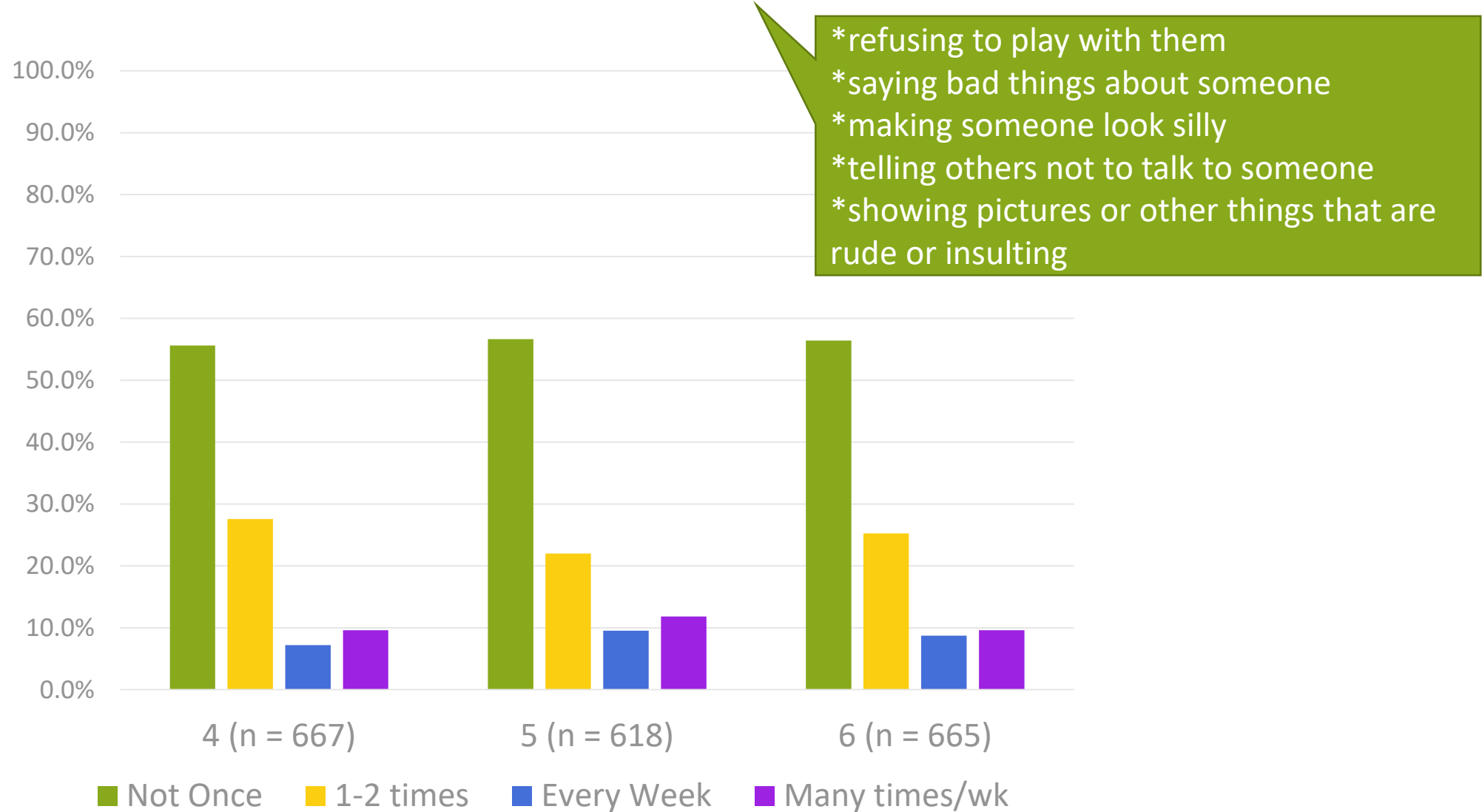
FREQUENCY OF PHYSICAL BULLYING GRADES 4-6



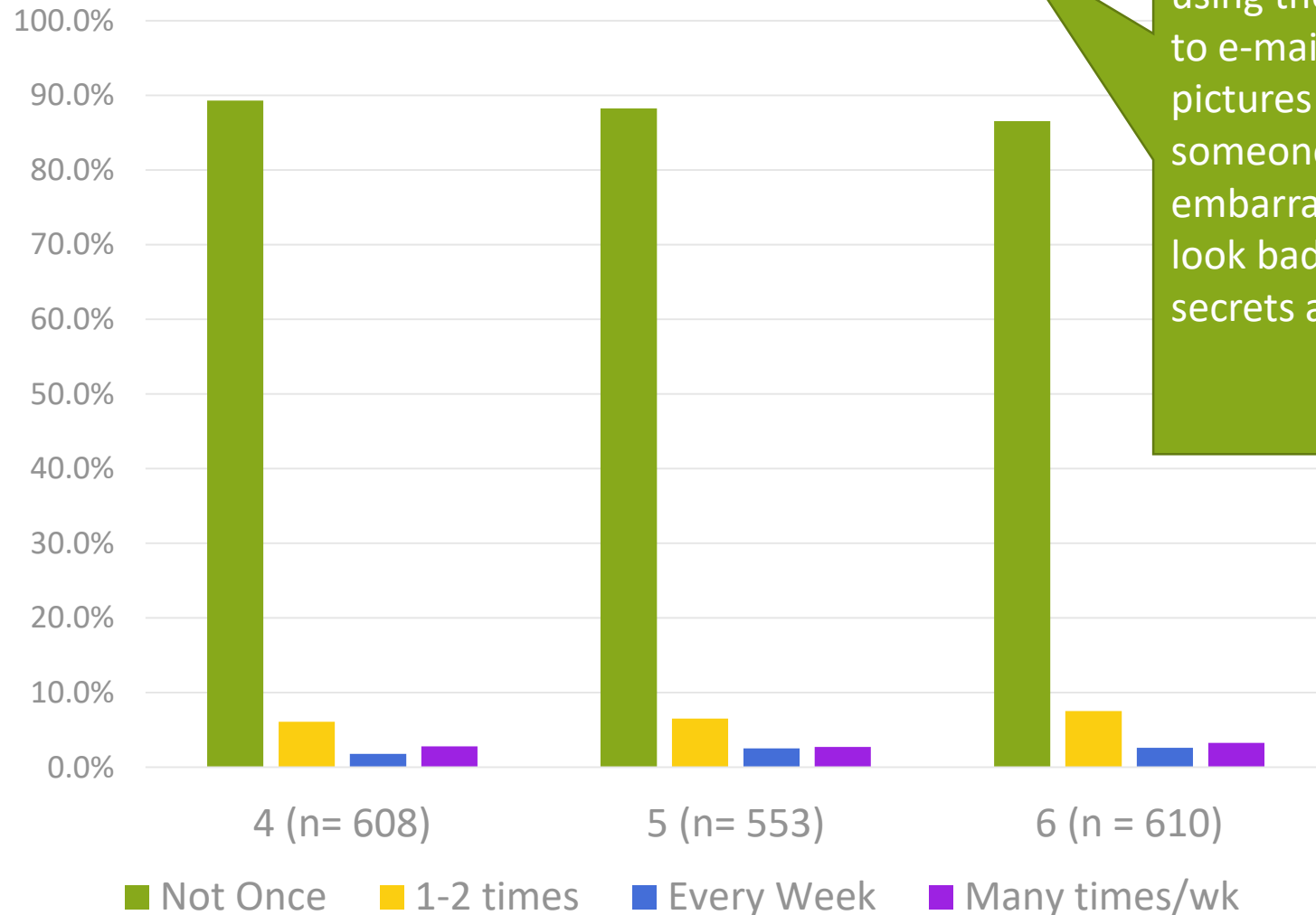
FREQUENCY OF VERBAL BULLYING GRADES 4-6



FREQUENCY OF SOCIAL BULLYING BY GRADES 4-6



FREQUENCY OF ELECTRONIC BULLYING BY GRADES 4-6



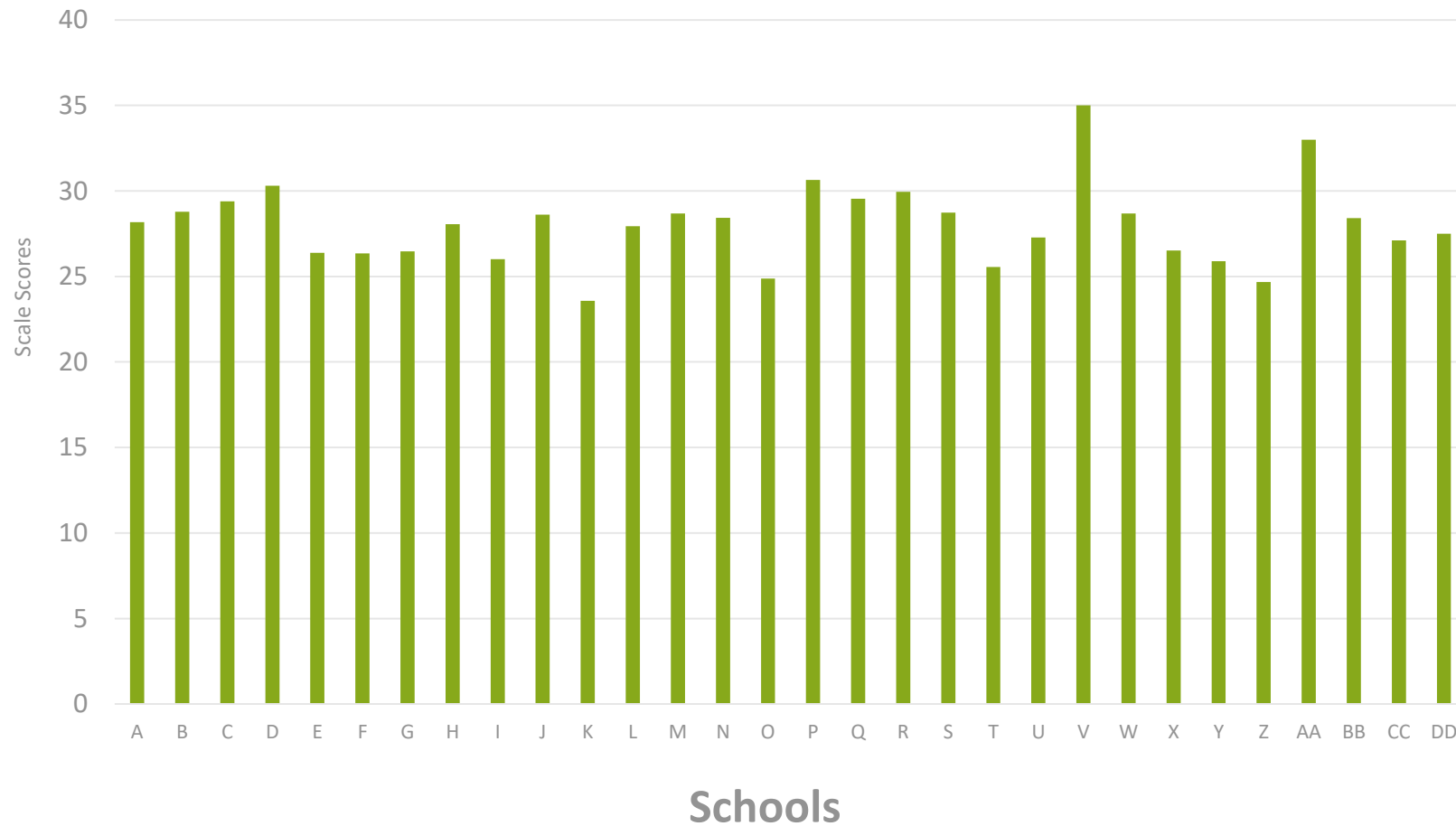
using the Internet or a cell phone to e-mail or send text messages or pictures in order to threaten someone, hurt their feelings, embarrass them or make them look bad, or spread rumors or tell secrets about them

PERCENT BULLY-VICTIMS AMONG THOSE WHO REPORTED BEING BULLIED BY GRADE

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Physical</u>	<u>Social</u>	<u>Electronic</u>
4	25%	25%	21%
5	31%	31%	35%
6	26%	32%	39%

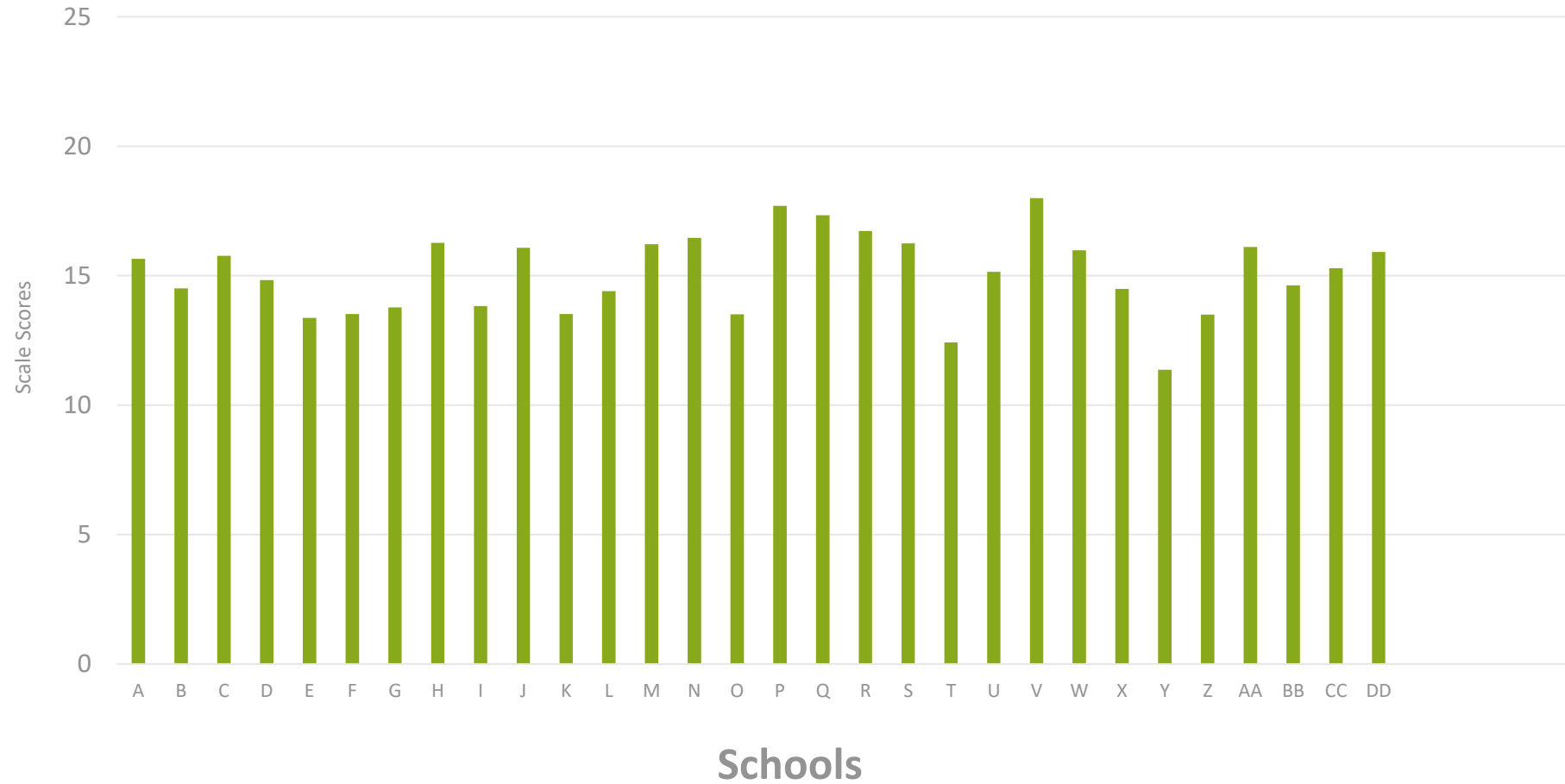
CLIMATE SCALE SCORES GRADES 4 TO 6 BY SCHOOL

Perceptions of Climate



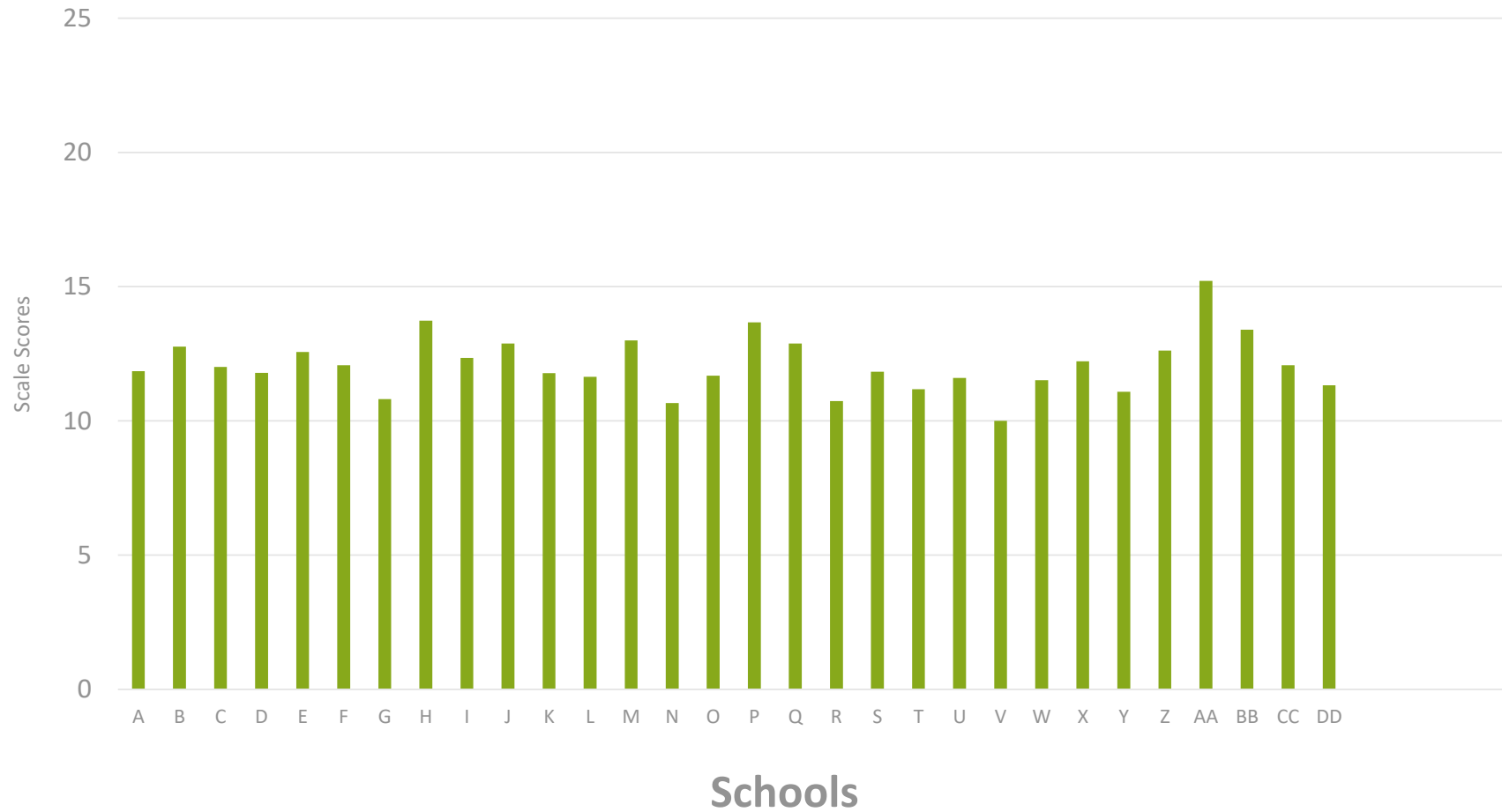
SAFETY SCALE SCORES GRADES 4 TO 6 BY SCHOOL

Perceptions of Safety



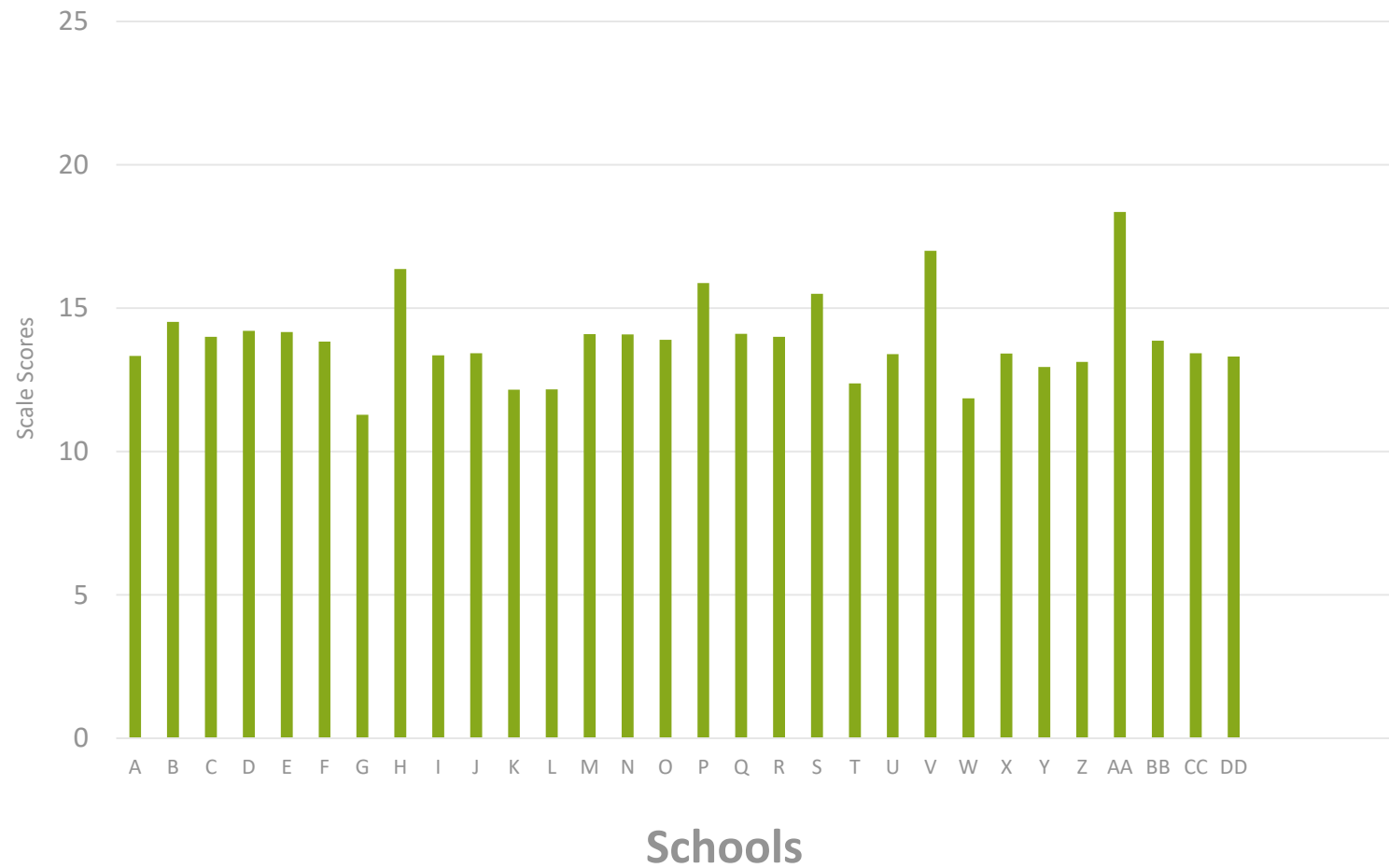
BULLIED SCALE SCORES GRADES 4 TO 6 BY SCHOOL

Experienced Bullying



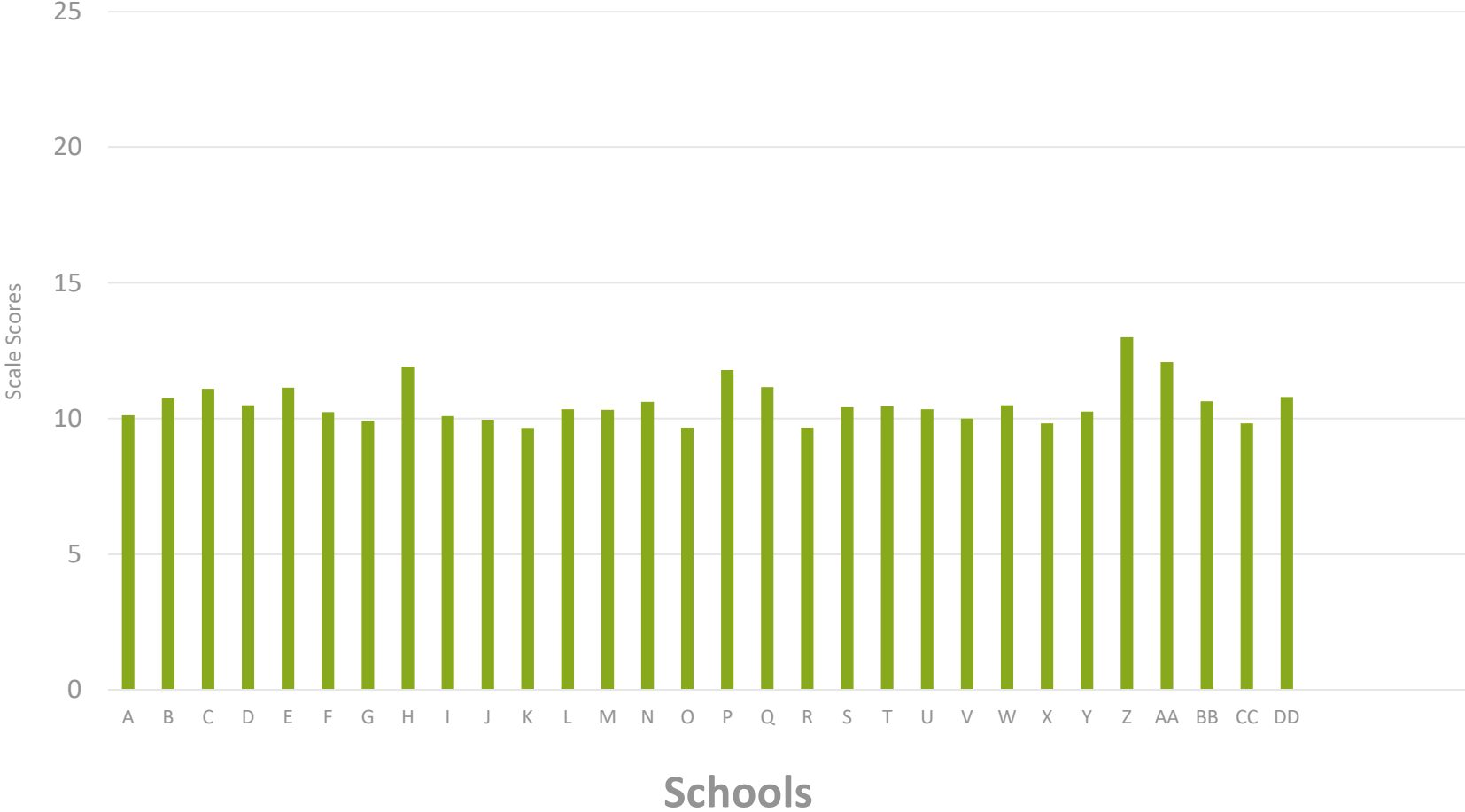
WITNESS SCALE SCORES GRADES 4 TO 6 BY SCHOOL

Witnessed Bullying

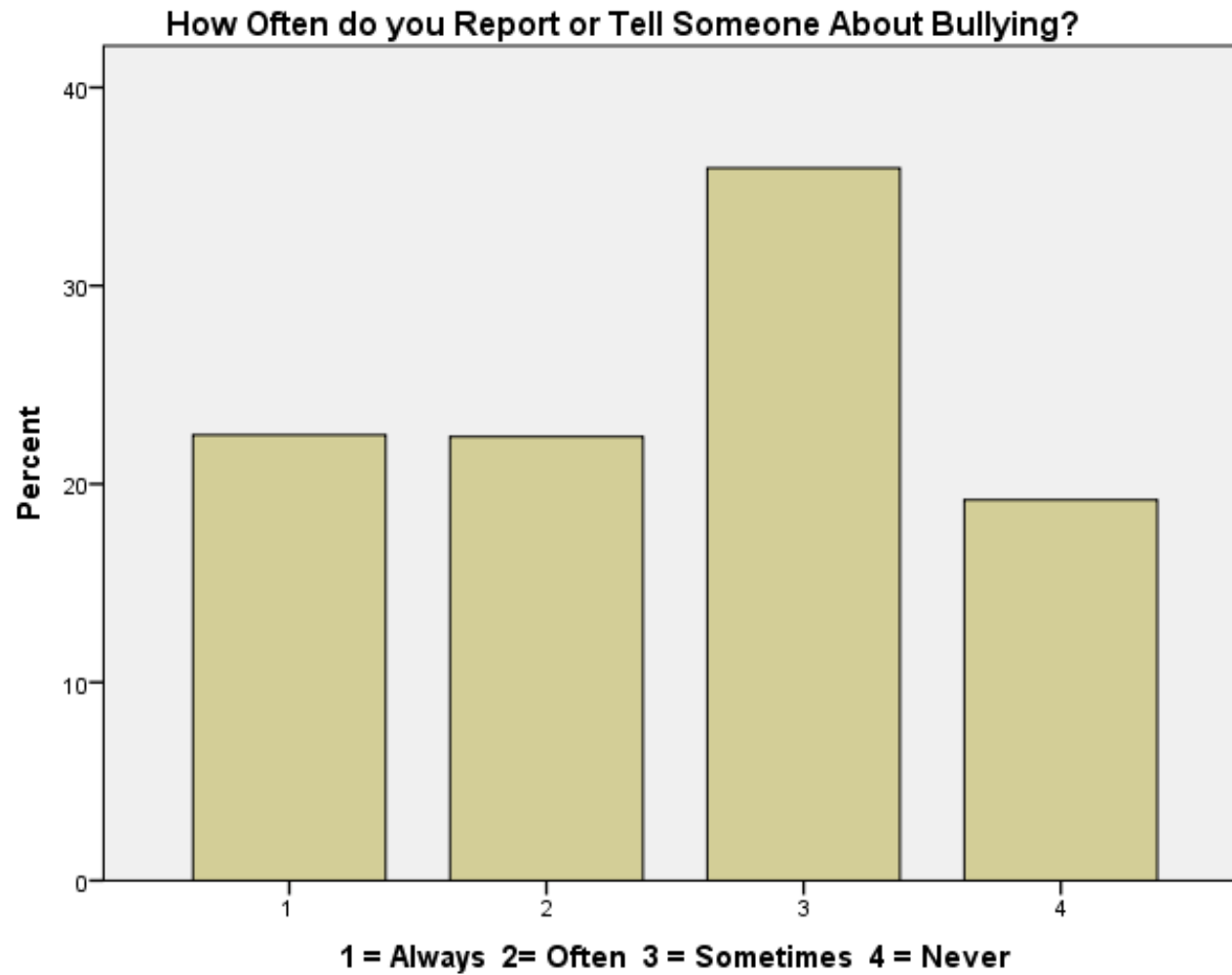


BULLY SCALE SCORES GRADES 4 TO 6 BY SCHOOL

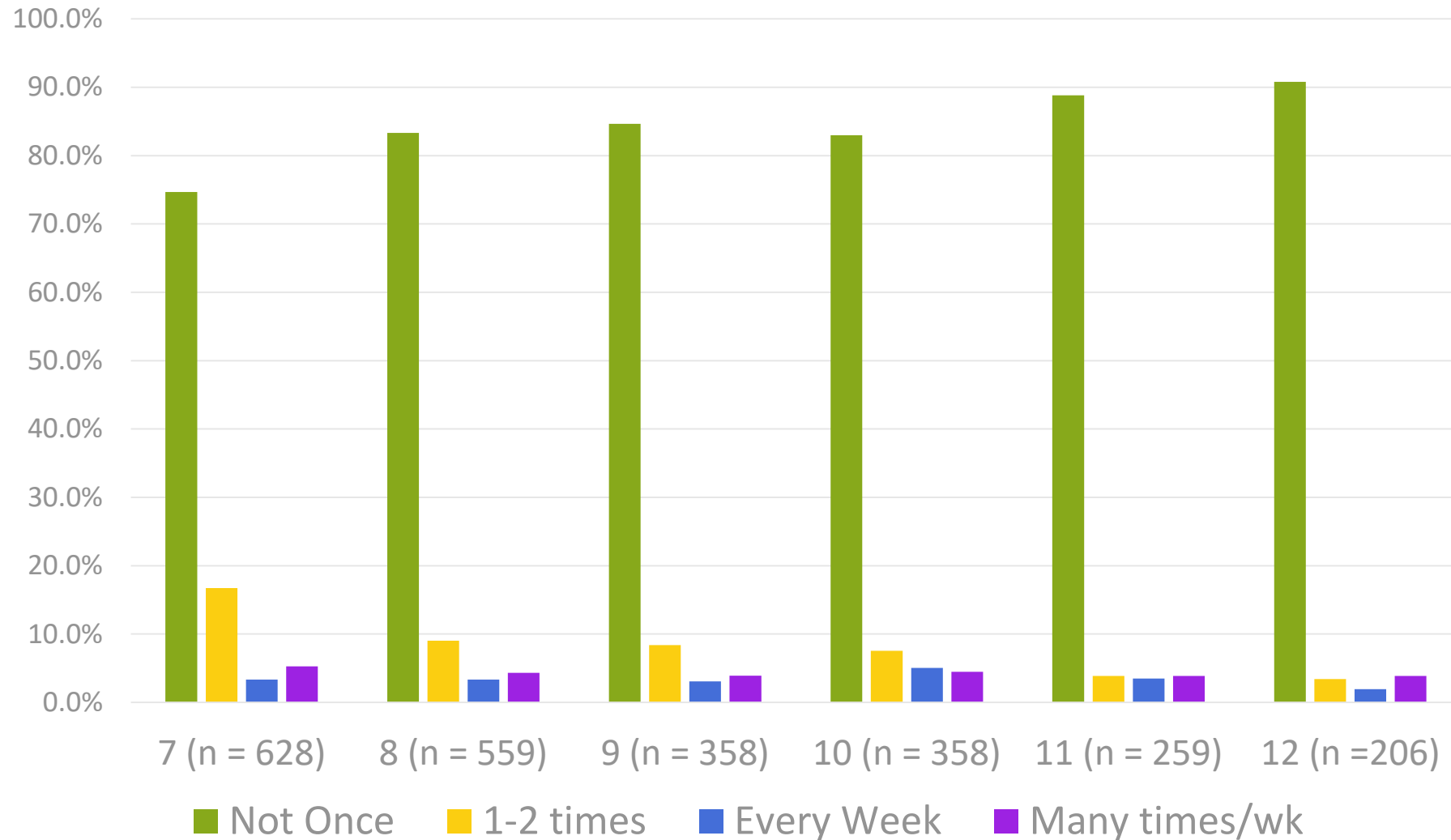
Engaged in Bullying



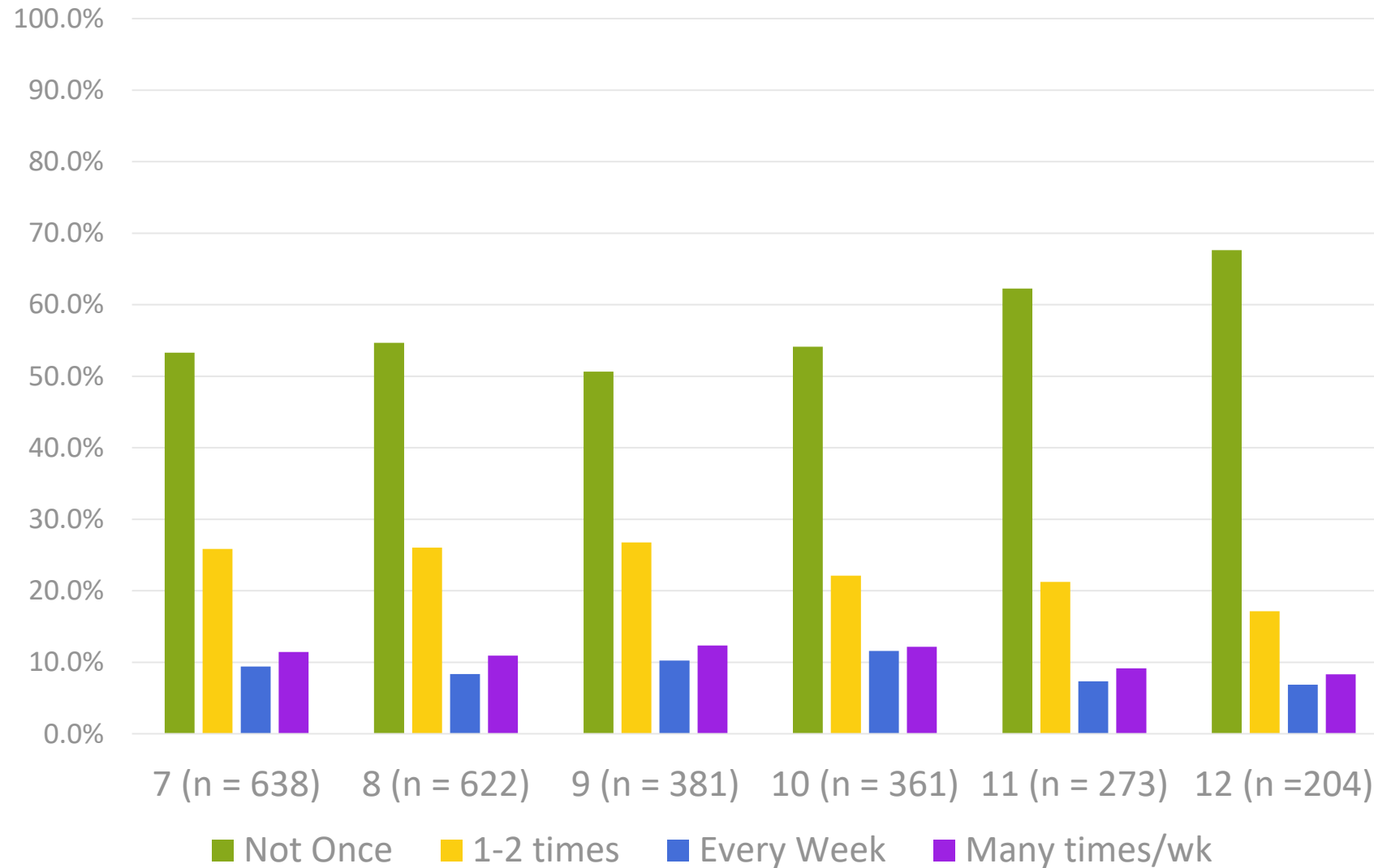
FREQUENCY OF REPORTING GRADES 4 TO 6



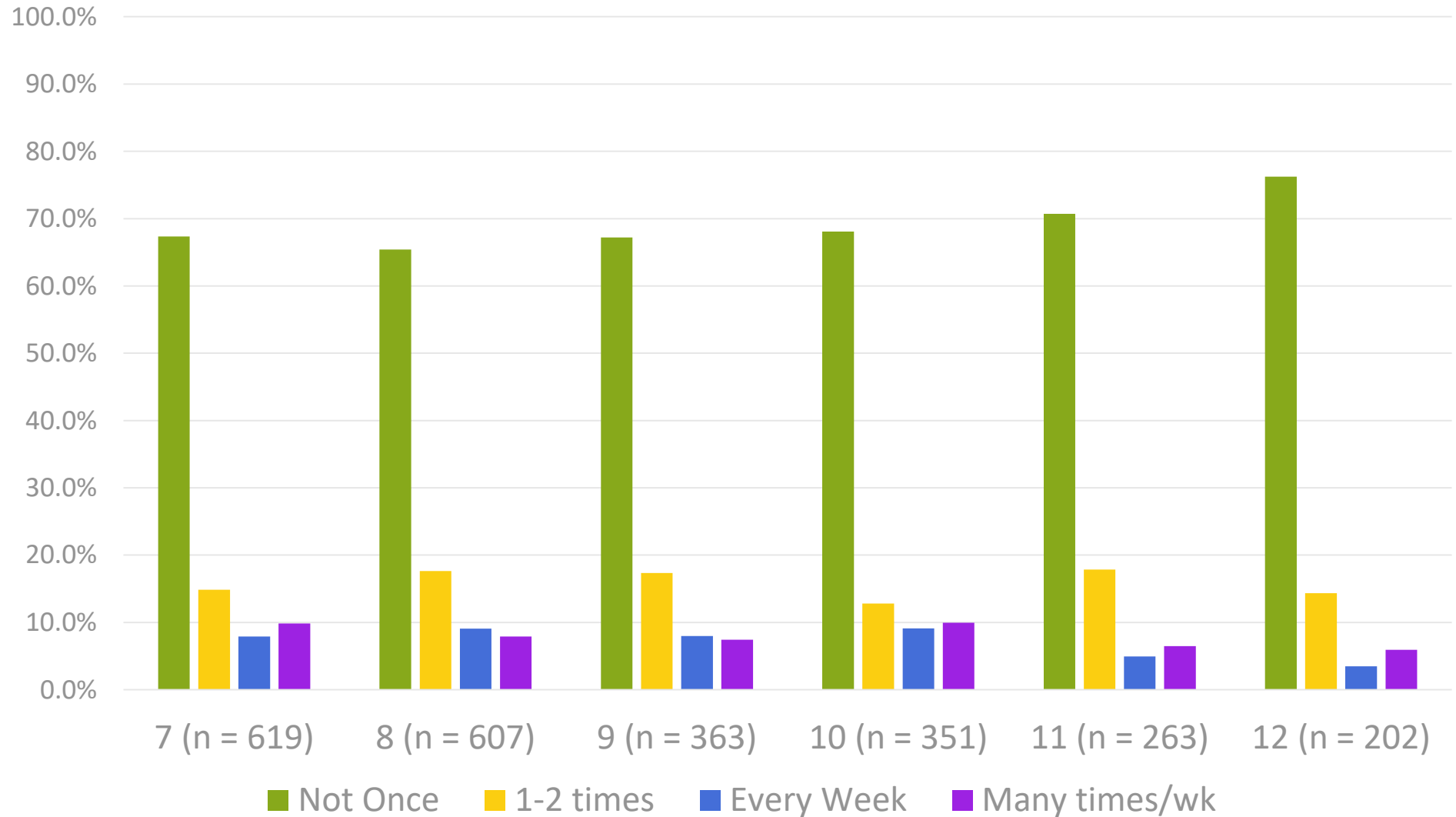
FREQUENCY OF PHYSICAL BULLYING GRADES 7 TO 12



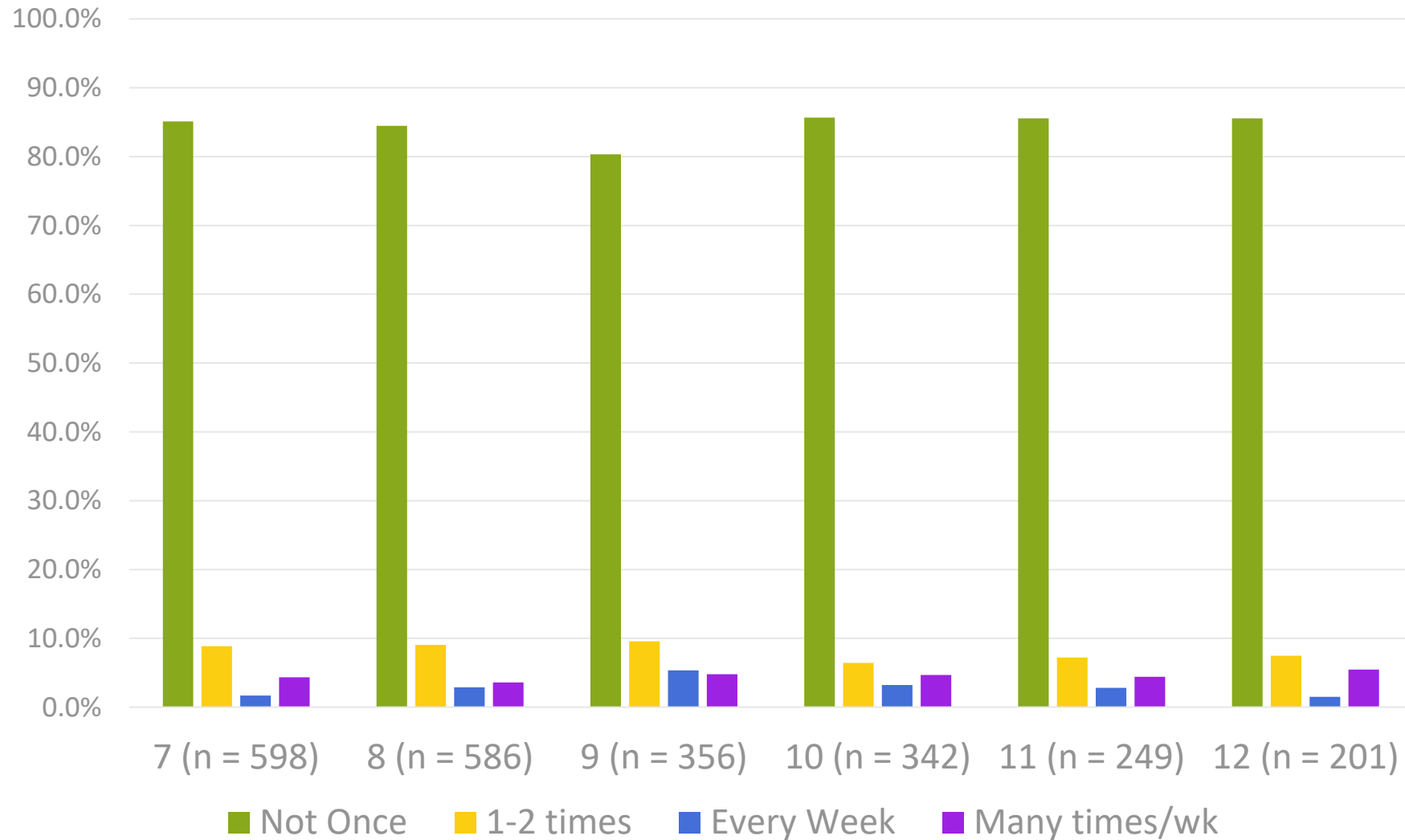
FREQUENCY OF VERBAL BULLYING GRADES 7-12



FREQUENCY OF SOCIAL BULLYING GRADES 7-12



FREQUENCY OF ELECTRONIC BULLYING GRADES 7-12

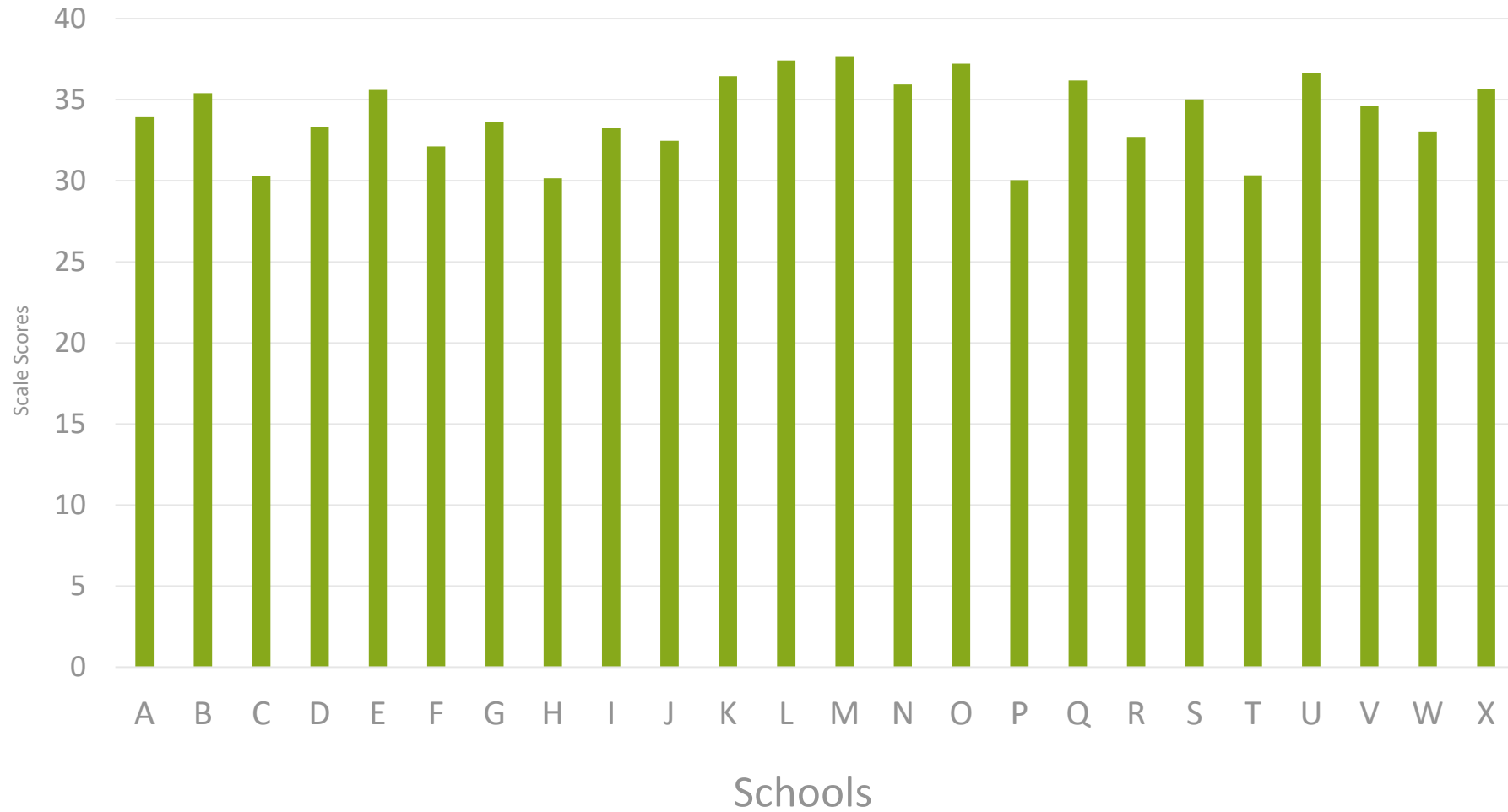


PERCENT BULLY-VICTIMS AMONG THOSE WHO REPORTED BEING BULLIED BY GRADE

Grade	Physical	Social	Electronic
7	22%	28%	28%
8	28%	22%	33%
9	29%	34%	34%
10	22%	22%	31%
11	36%	30%	26%
12	31%	16%	16%

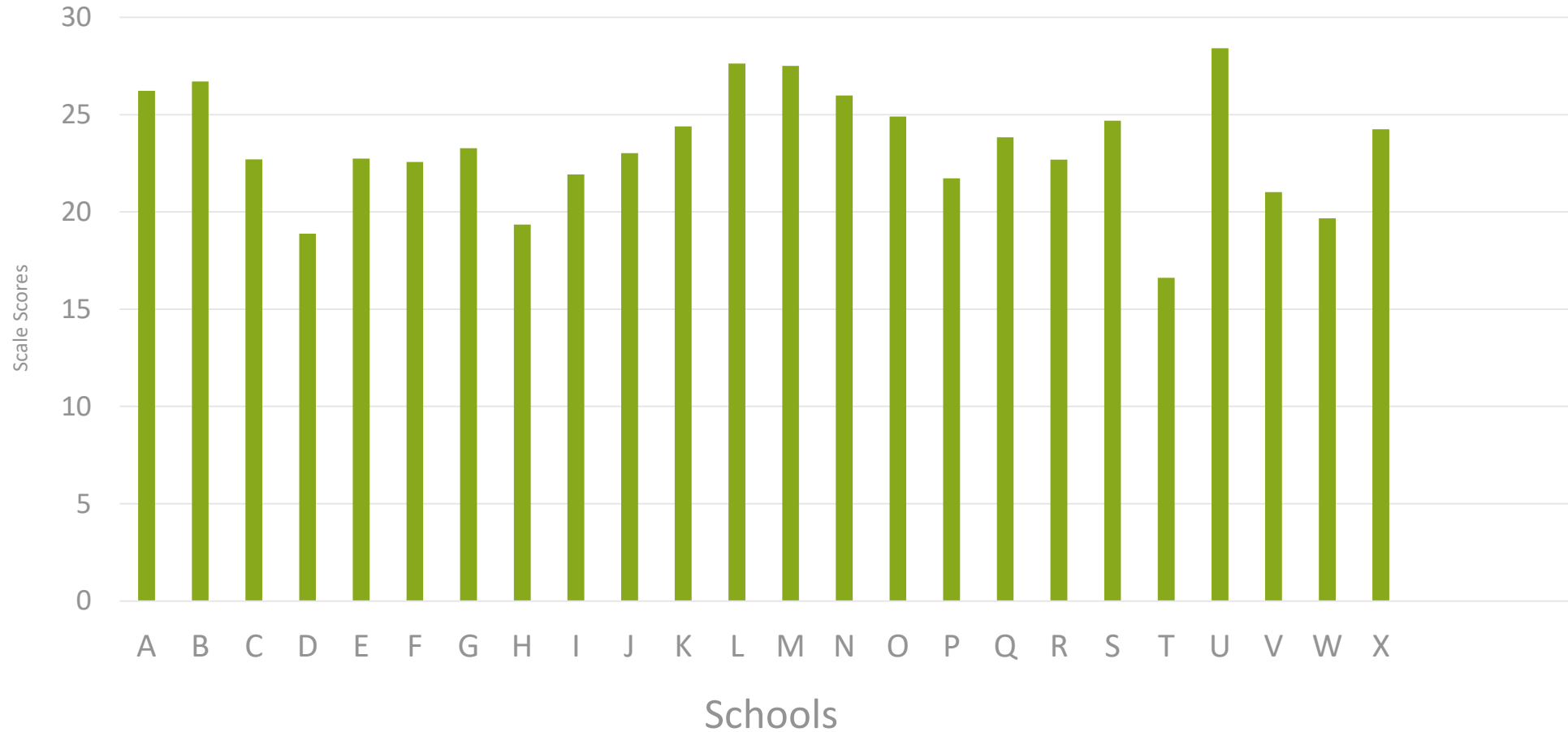
CLIMATE SCALE SCORES GRADES 7-12 BY SCHOOL

Perceptions of Climate



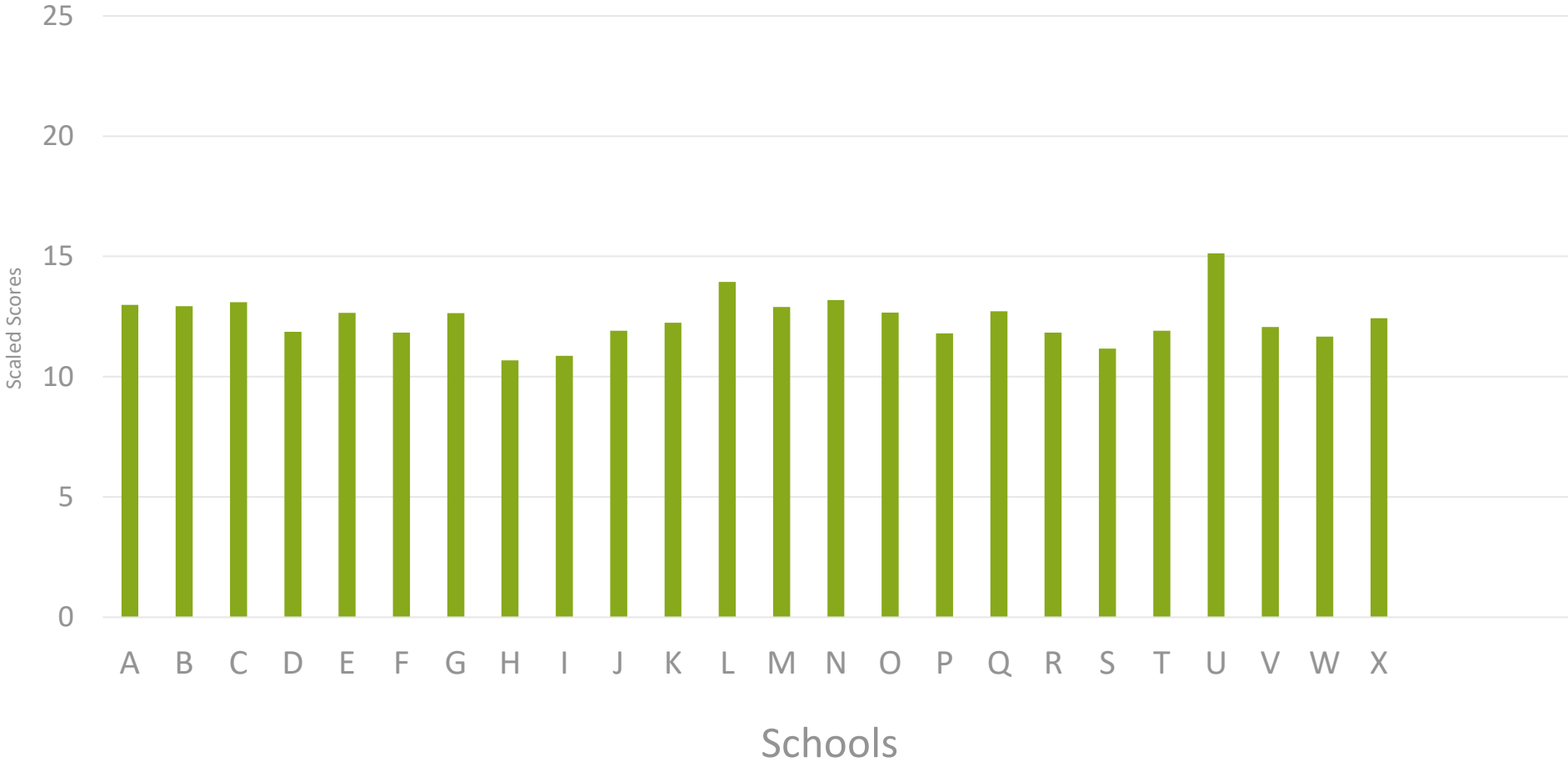
SAFETY SCALES GRADES 7-12 BY SCHOOL

Perceptions of Safety



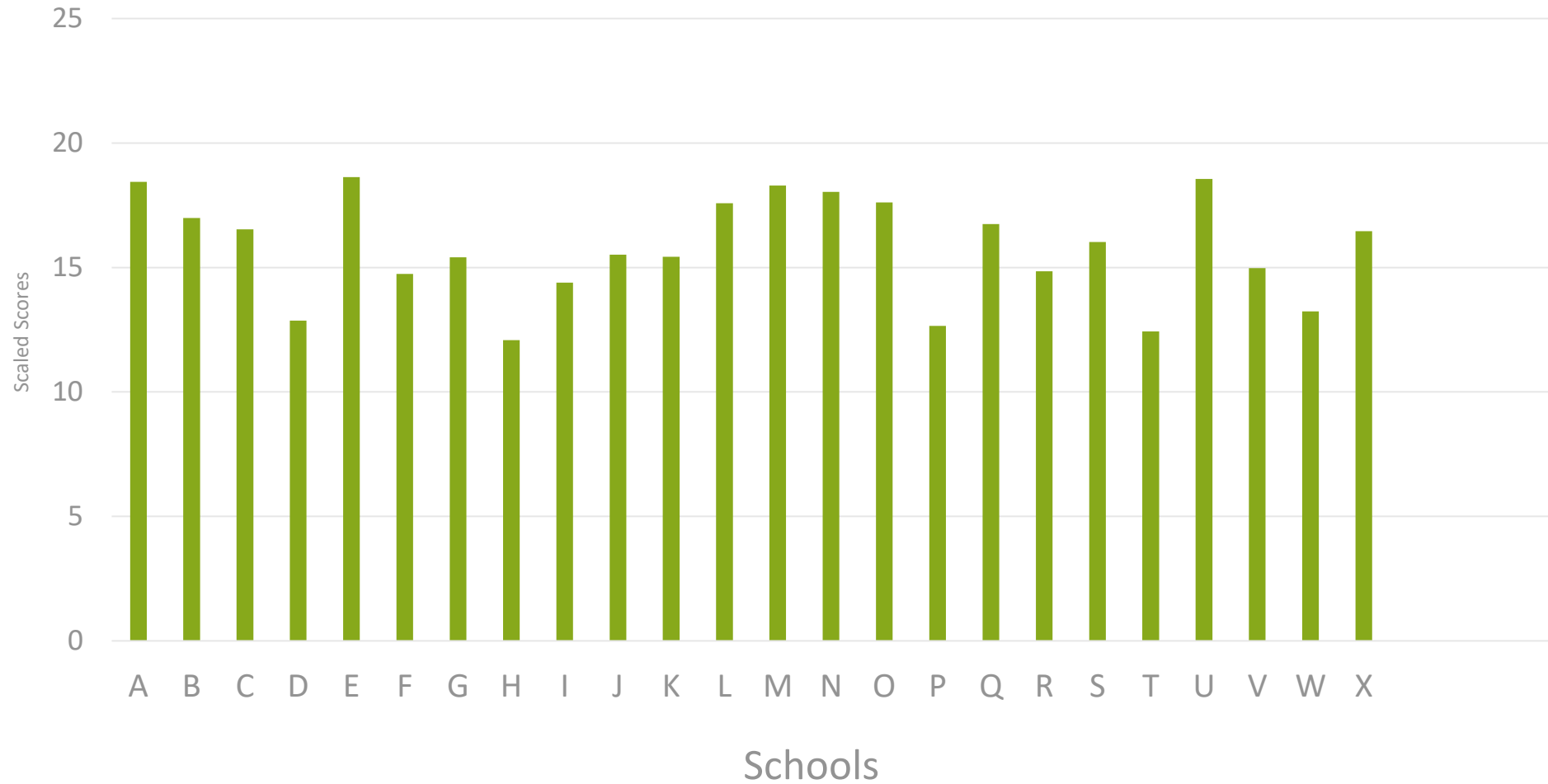
BULLIED SCALE SCORES GRADES 7-12 BY SCHOOL

Experienced Bullying



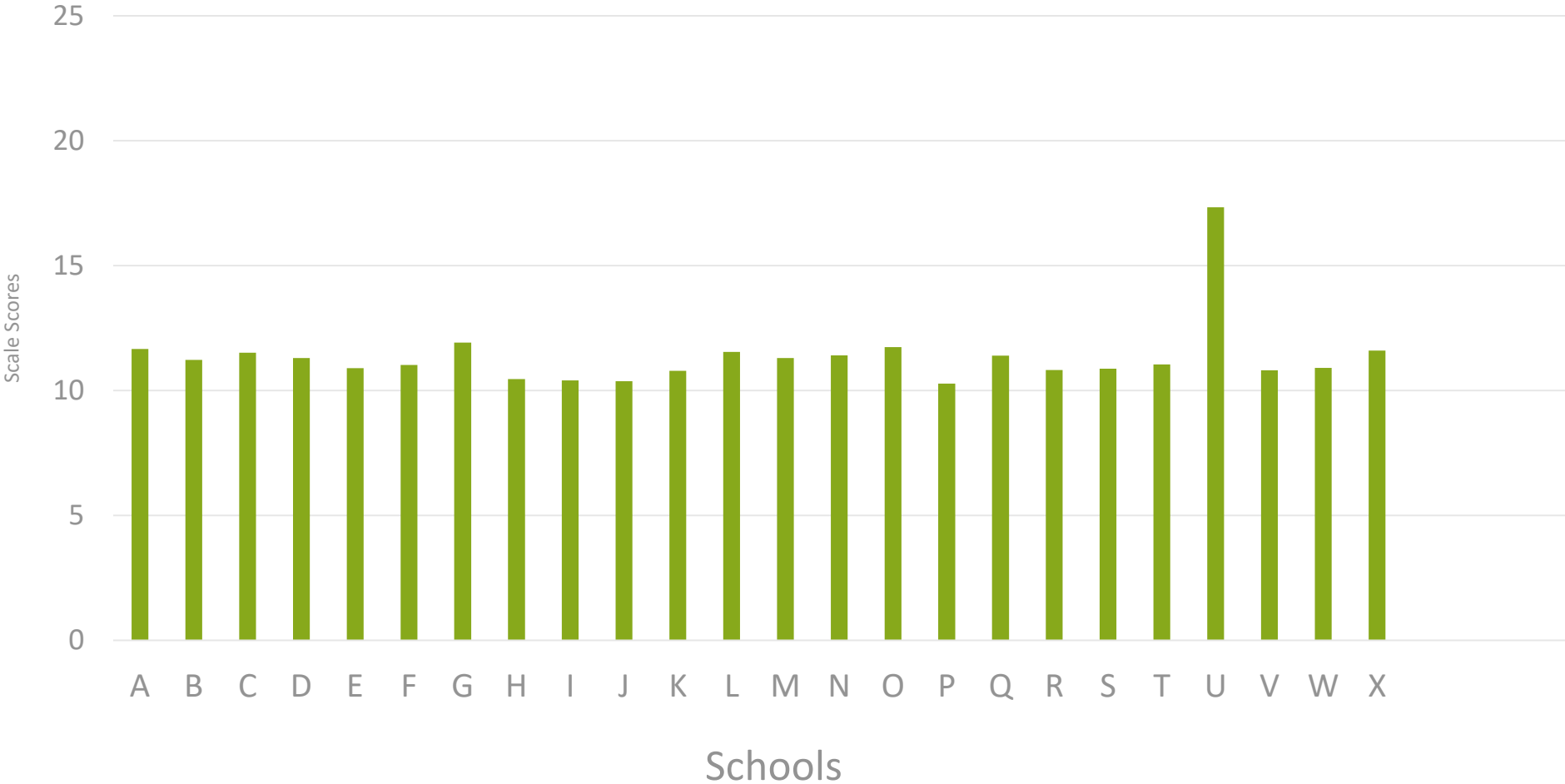
WITNESS SCALE SCORES GRADES 7-12 BY SCHOOL

Witnessed Bullying



BULLY SCALE SCORES GRADES 7-12 BY SCHOOL

Engaged in Bullying



FREQUENCY OF REPORTING GRADES 7-12



PROGRESS TO DATE

- Year 1 and Year 2 school climate survey data collected
- IPA workshops held in May of 2016/2017
- NCSSLE Workshop Training August 2016/2017
- Wave 1 Systematic Supervision Training (Dec – Mar 2017)
- Coding of School Disciplinary/Bullying Policies (2015-2016, 2016-2017)
- Year 2 data entry & analysis *in progress*
- Anonymous web-based reporting launch *in progress*
- Wave 2 Systematic Training *in progress*

ISSUES THAT HAVE ARISEN

- Issues in randomization
- Difficulties in scheduling survey collection
- Parents opting students out of participation in some districts
- Teacher objections to survey content for fourth – sixth graders
- Modifications teachers made to NCCSLE workshop curriculum
- Administrator concerns regarding liability for information received through web portal
- Changes in LEA staff members
- Changes in Illinois Legislation related to bullying

QUESTIONS??

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