
Identity's Needs Assessment 2006

**Funded by a
Montgomery County Empowerment Grant**

**Montgomery County Department of
Housing and Community Affairs**

Introduction

This **Needs Assessment** was administered to Latino youth by Identity's trained Peer Educators at various locations throughout the County.

- **1,014 Latino youth** residing and attending school in Montgomery County, MD were surveyed.
- **This presentation will focus on:**

Risk and Protective Factors Related to Latino Youth Positive Development

Social Factors

Family Factors

Individual Factors

Sample Characteristics

Gender ($n=986$):

- Male: 51.8%
- Female: 48.2%

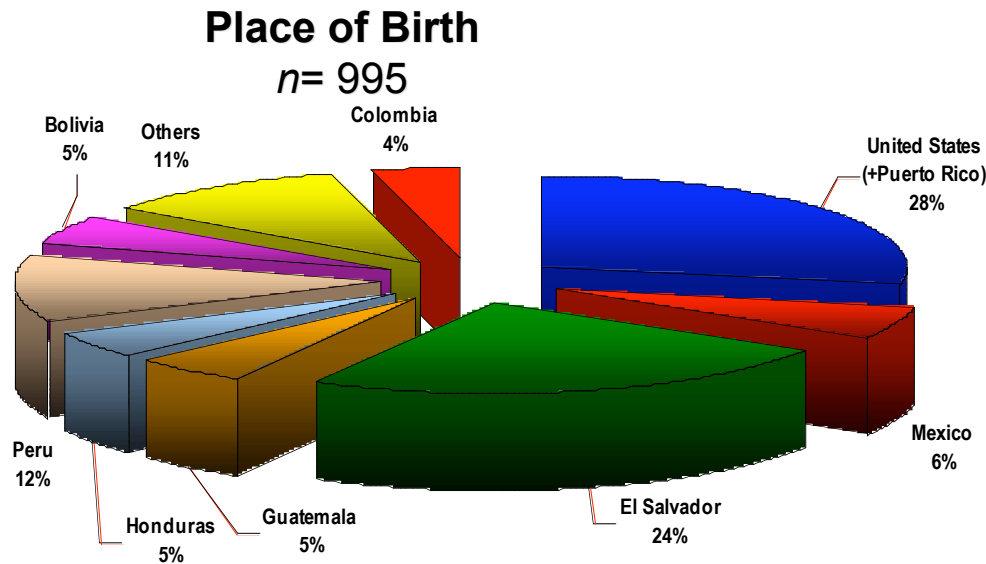
Survey Language ($n=1014$):

- **Spanish: 64.1%**
- English: 35.9%

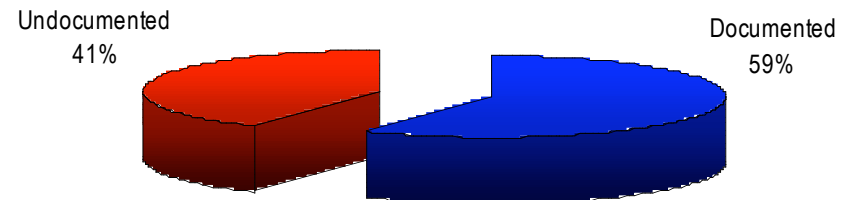
Grade in School ($n=910$):

- 6th and 7th Grades: 1.1%
- **8th Grade: 4.2%**
- **9th Grade: 27.1%**
- **10th Grade: 28.0%**
- **11th Grade: 24.6%**
- **12th Grade: 12.2%**
- In College: 1.3%
- HS graduate (no college): 1.4%

Sample Characteristics

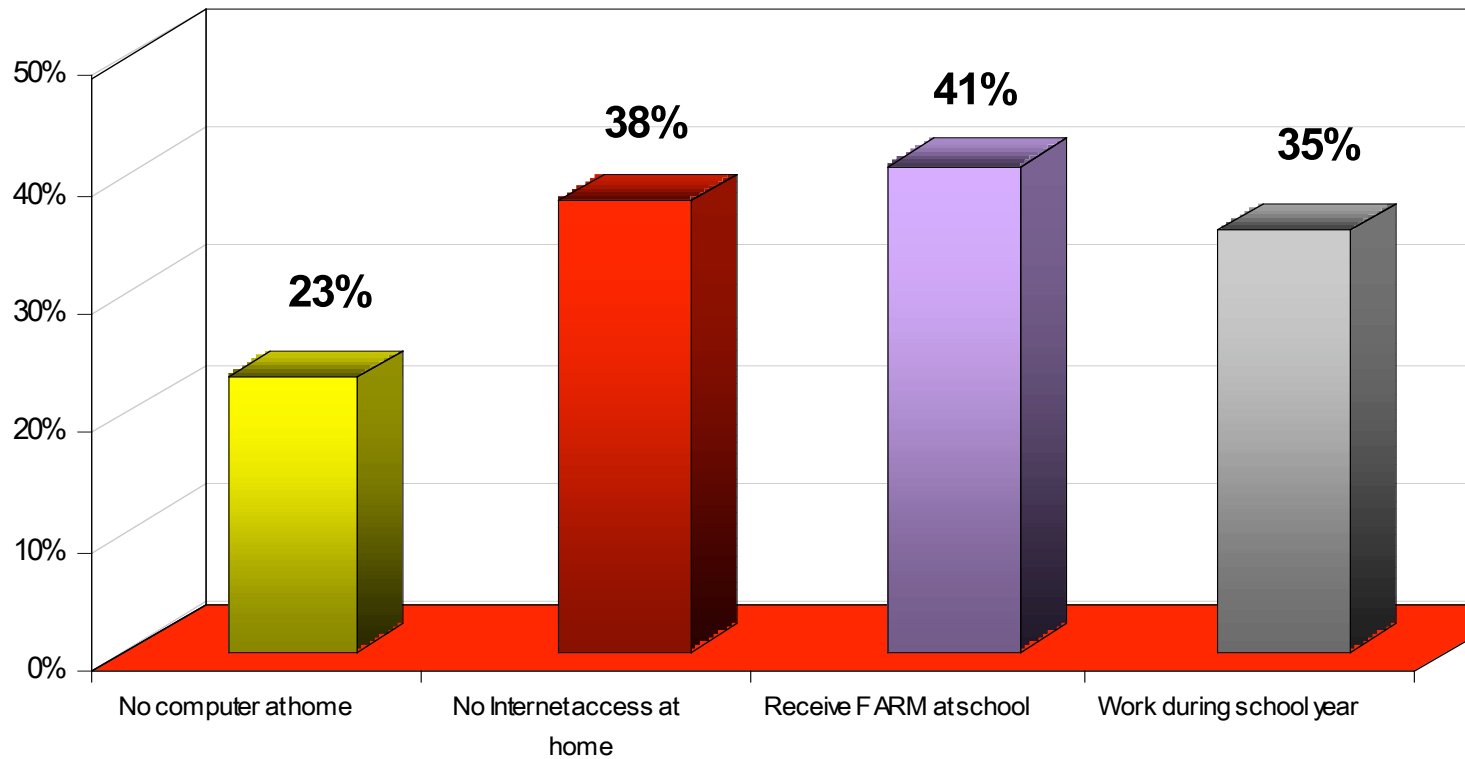


Immigration Status (*n* = 677)



- Of the total who responded to this question, 28% (*n* = 278) reported they are undocumented -

Socio-economic Indicators



Socio-economic Indicators

High statistically significant correlations with gang involvement were found:

With youth who **do not have computers at home**

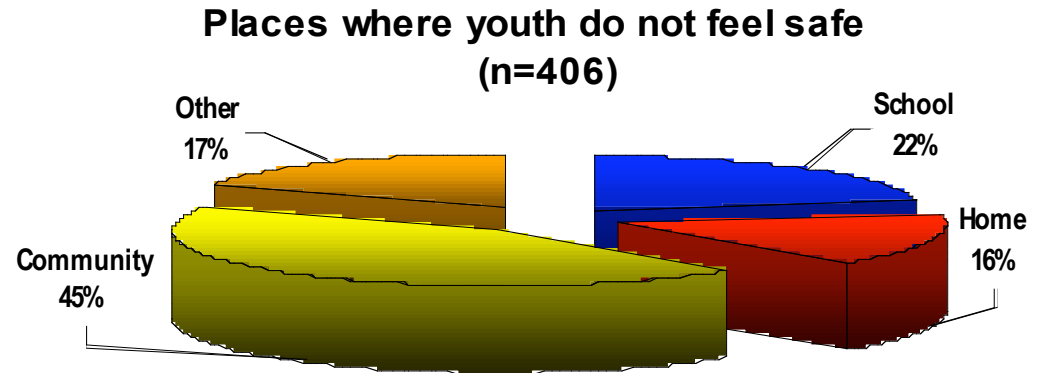
With youth who **do not have access to Internet**

With youth who **receive FARM**

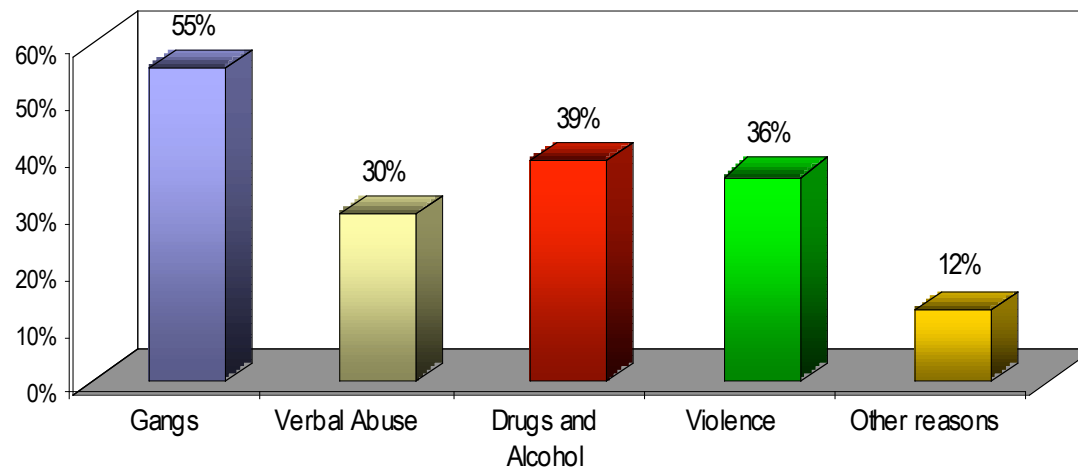
Youth who **work after school** were **less likely** to report being current or former **gang** members.

Perception of Safety

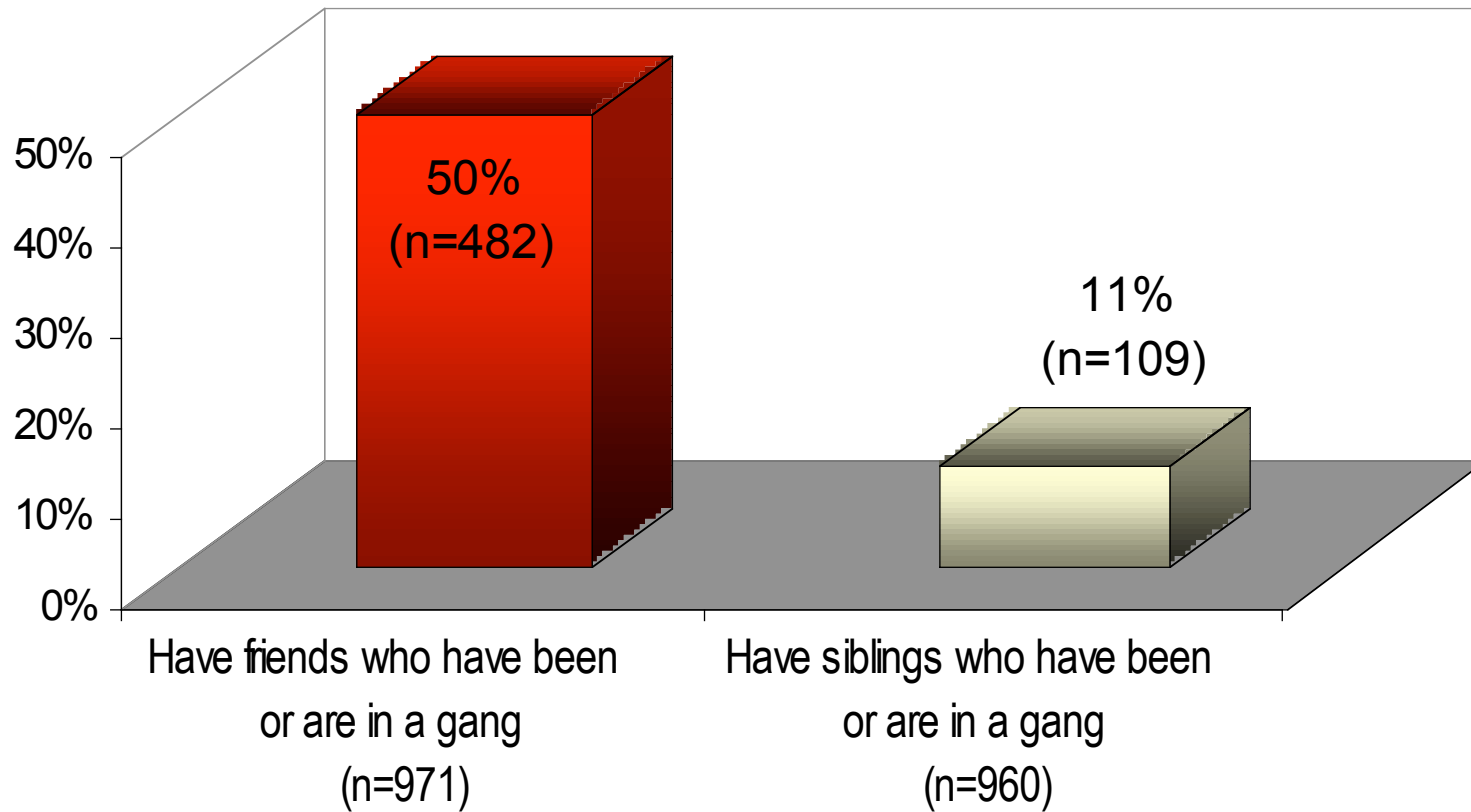
38% (n: 406) reported there is a place where they sometimes do not feel safe. The breakdown of their responses is as follow:



Reasons why youth do not feel safe:



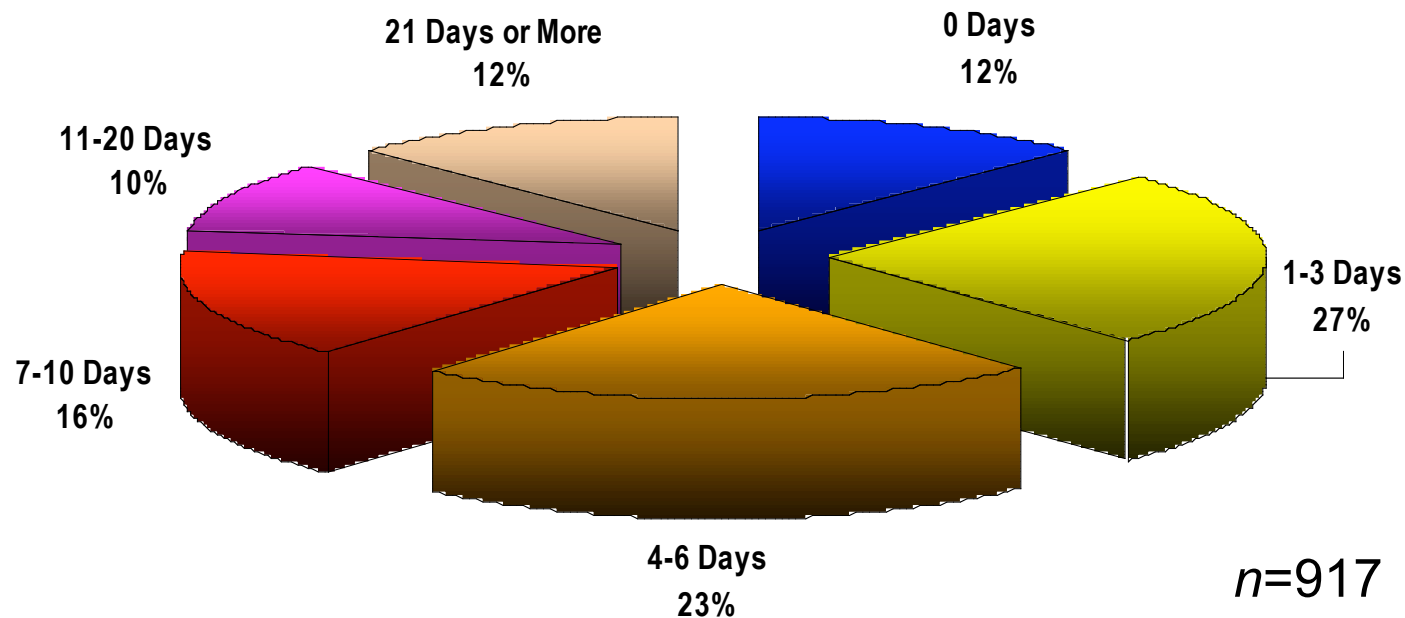
Exposure to Gangs



School Connectedness

Youth were asked how many **days of school they missed** the previous year. Many youth were missing sizeable amounts of school time.

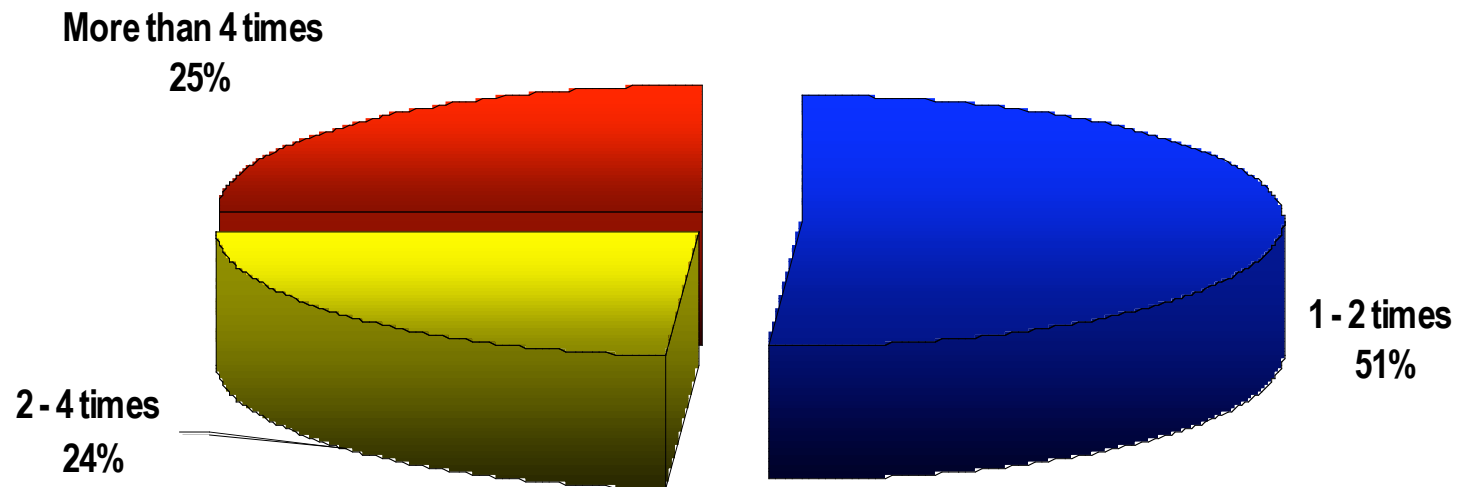
The breakdown is as follows:



School Connectedness

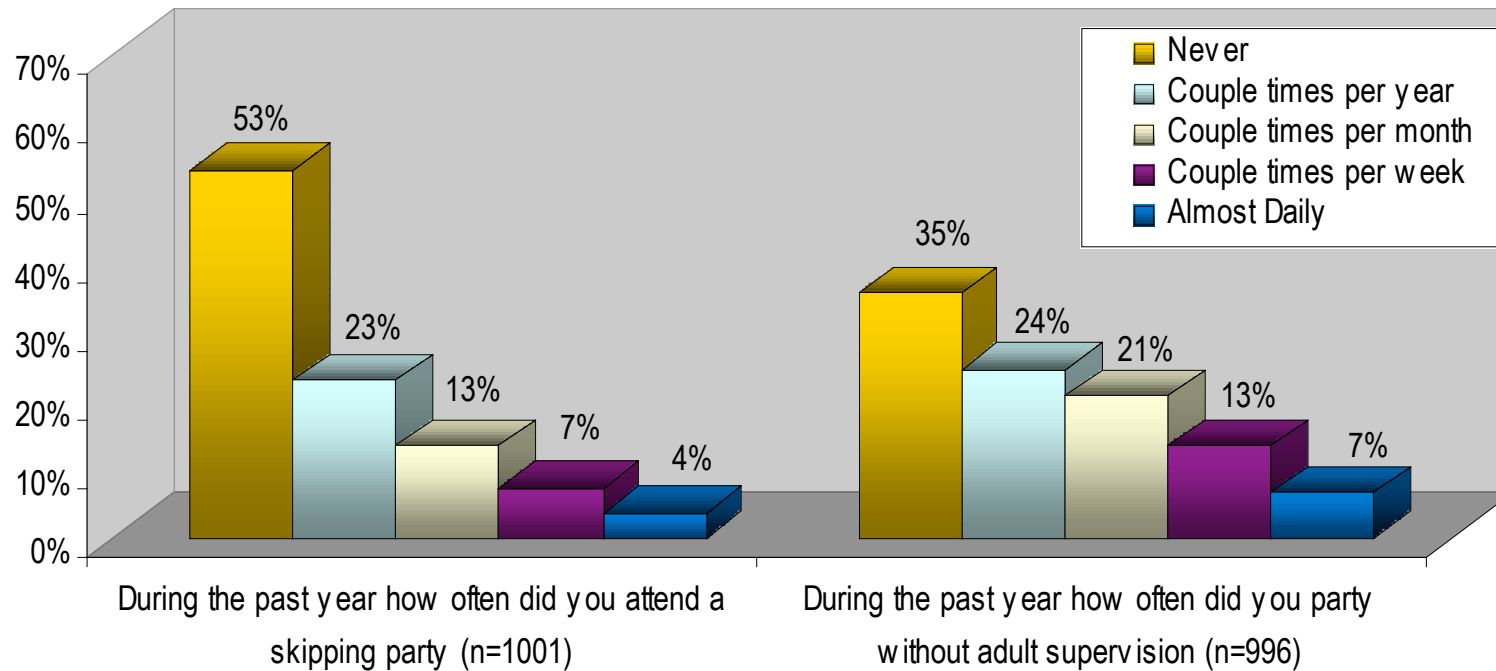
55.3% (n=507) reported being in **detention** during the previous year

The breakdown is as follows:



School Connectedness

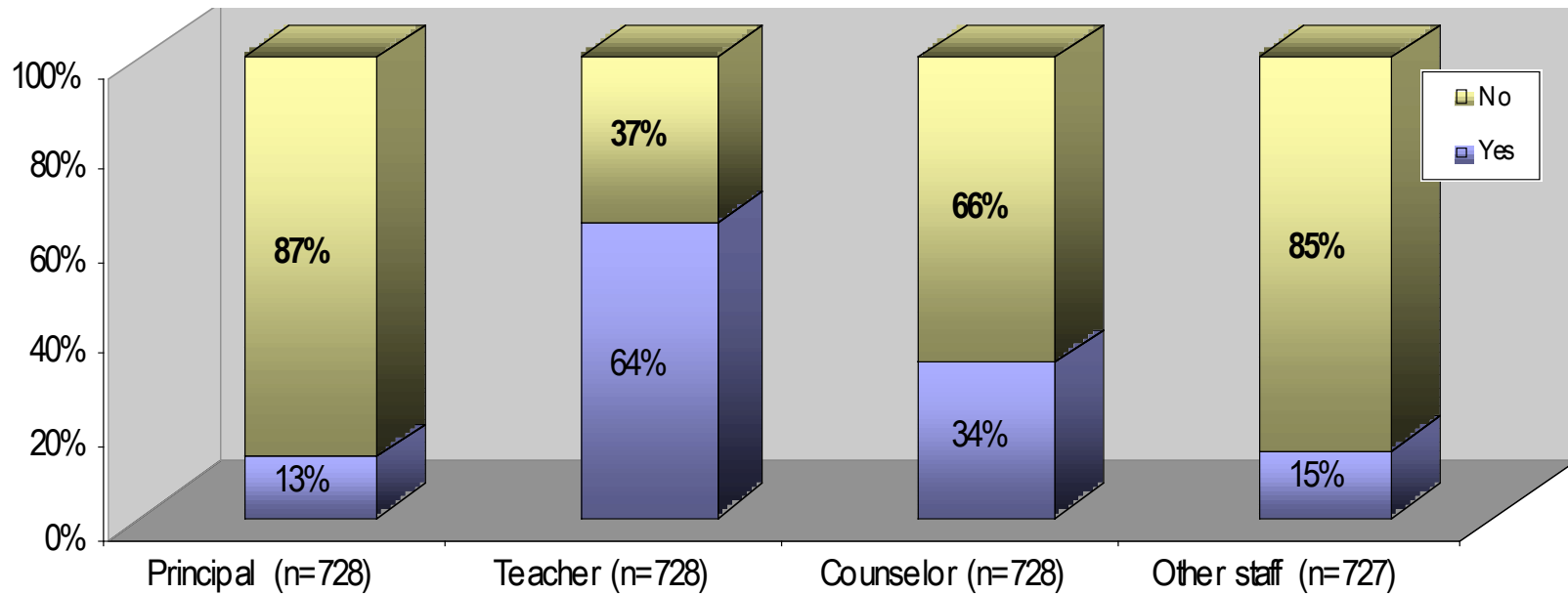
Attend Skipping Parties



School Connectedness

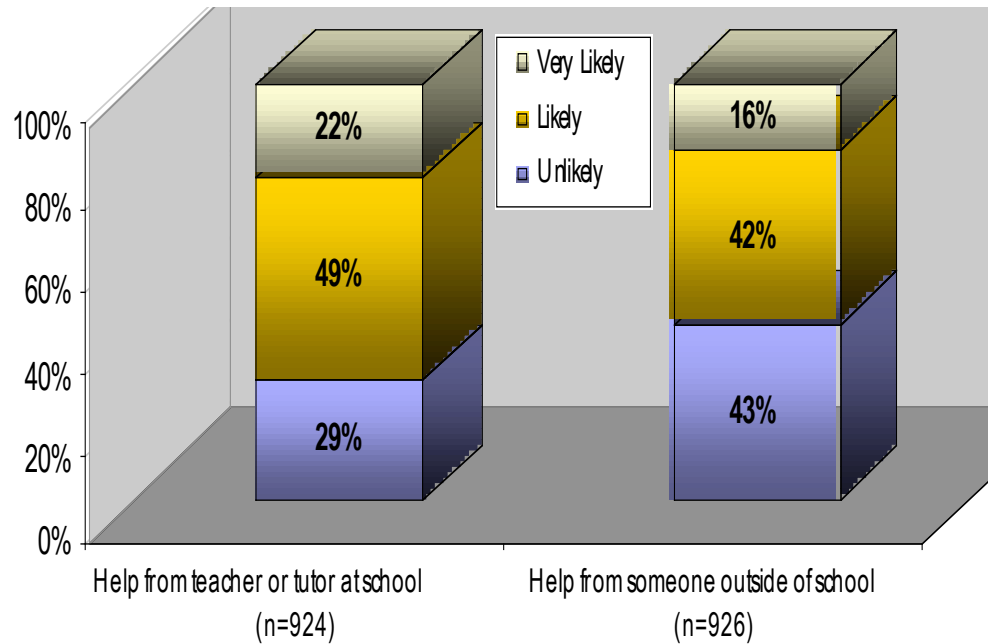
Feel Encouraged at School

Youth were provided with options to specify who encouraged them at school and these results are presented below:



School Connectedness

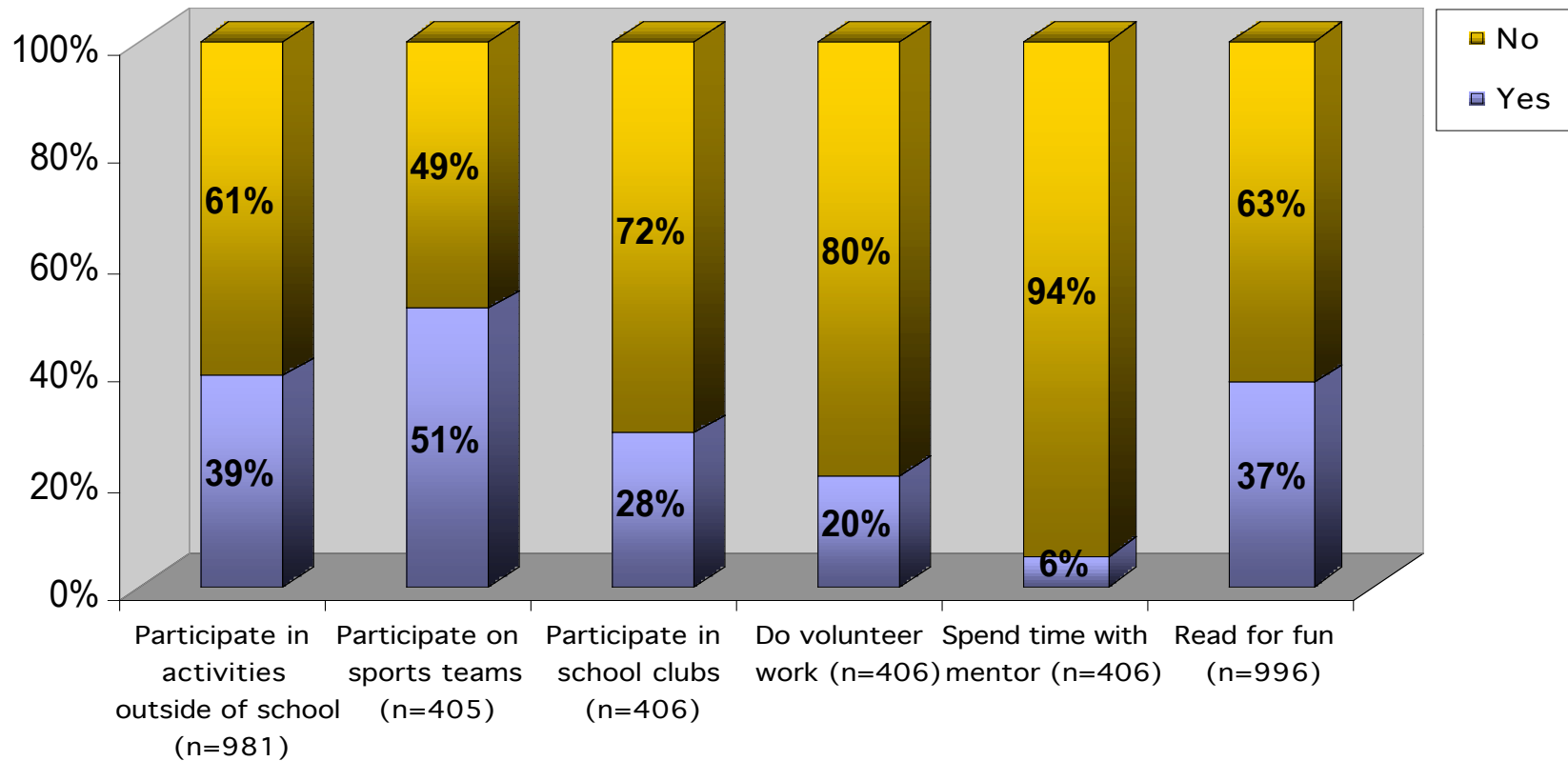
Academic Support



High statistically significant correlation with gang involvement ($p < 0.05$)

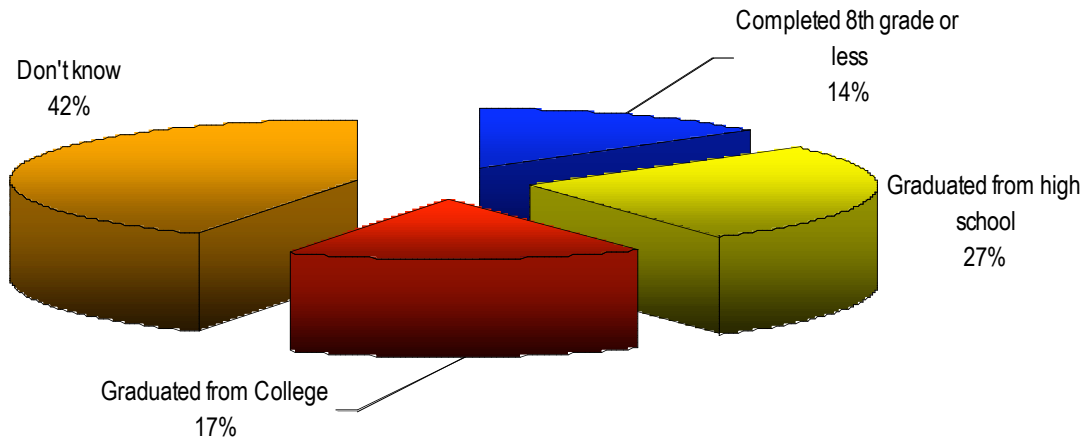
Youth who received less academic support were more likely to report being current or former gang members.

Prosocial Activities

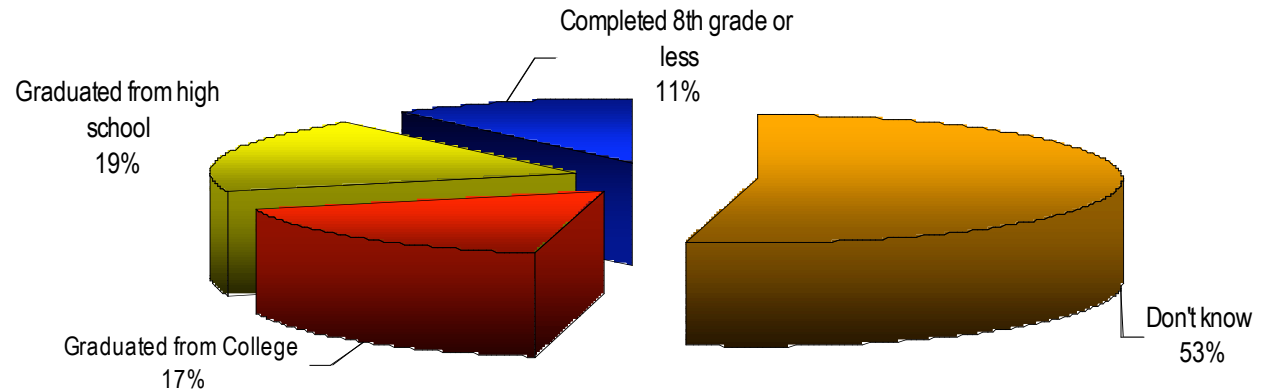


Level of Parent Education

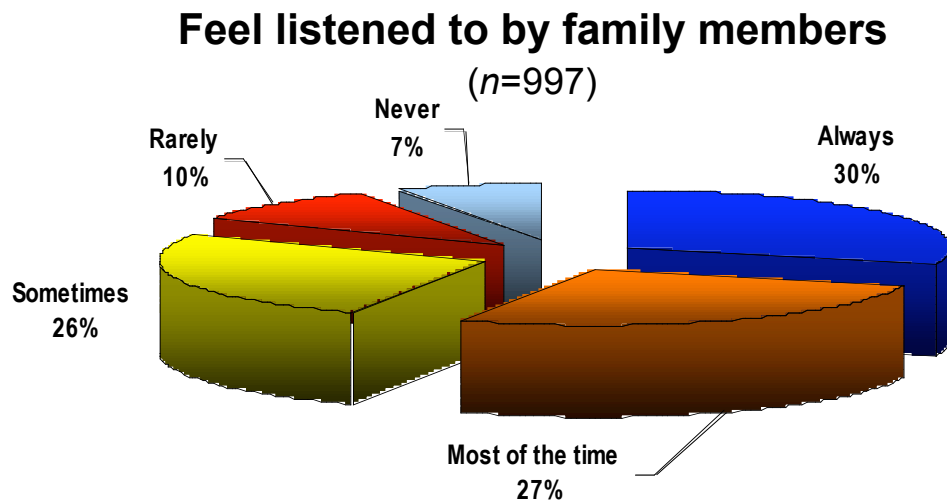
Highest grade completed by mother/female guardian (n=1,014)



Highest grade completed by father/male guardian (n=1,014)



Family Connectedness



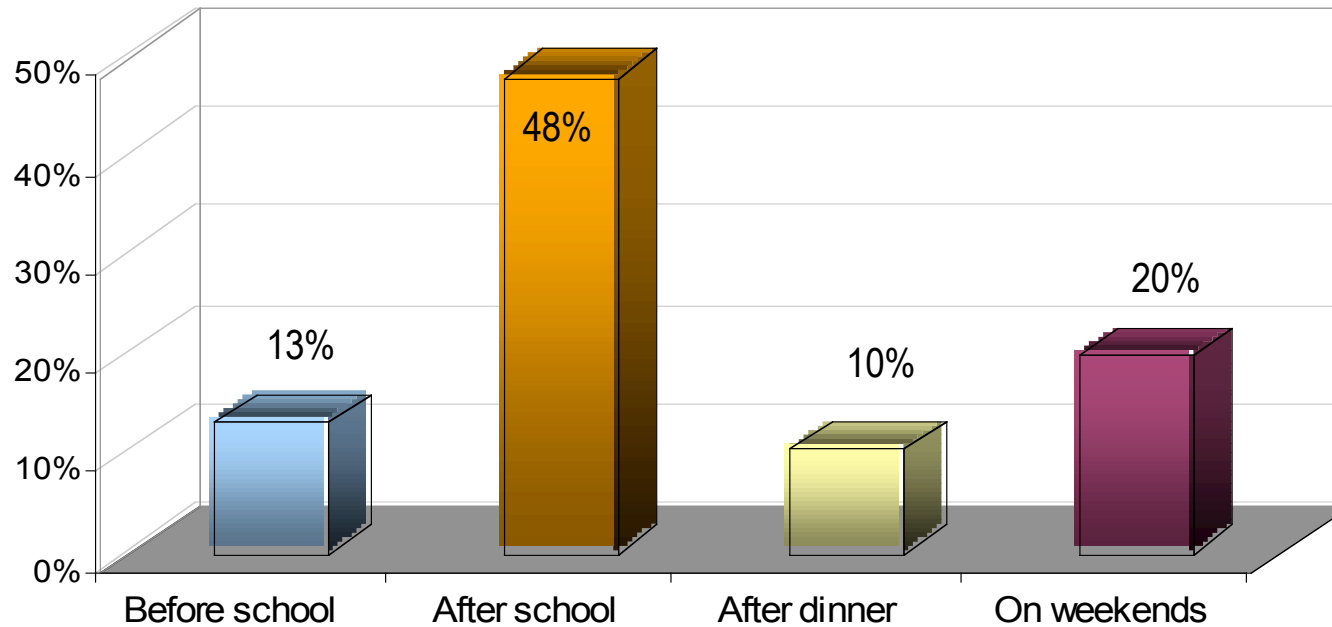
17% of youth reported not feeling listened to by their family members.

Very high statistically significant correlation with gang involvement
($p < 0.001$)

Youth who felt less connected to their families were more likely to report being current or former gang members.

Parent Supervision

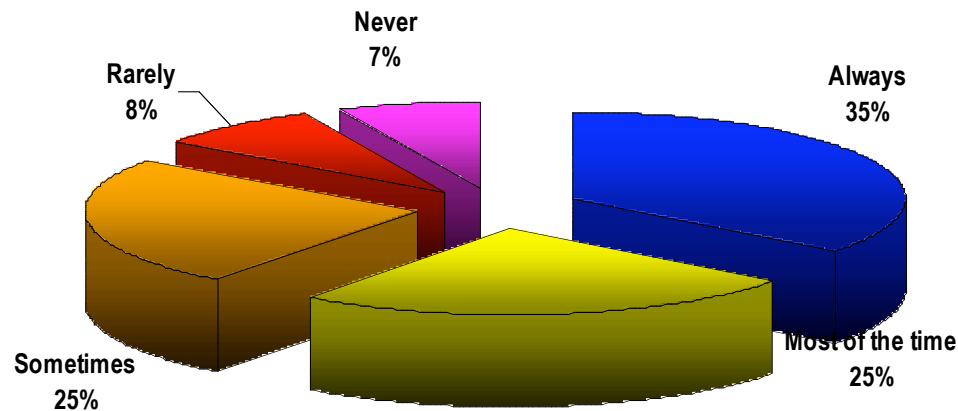
Adult Supervision
Youth spending time without supervision
(n=994)



Parent Monitoring

Parent knows with **WHOM** they are
when not at home or at school

(*n*=1000)



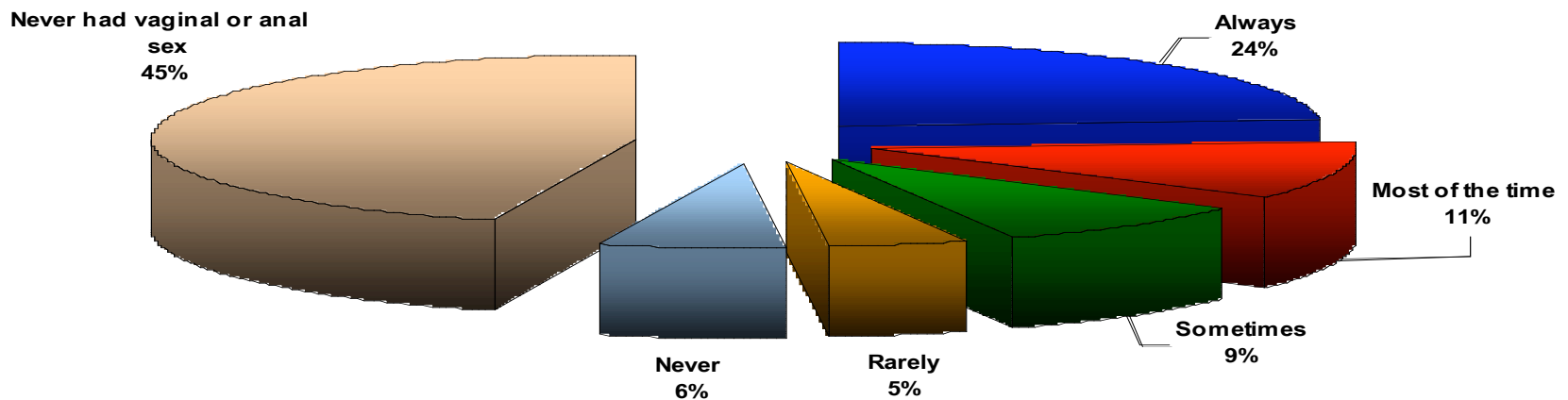
40% (*n*=392) of youth reported that their parents knew with **WHOM** they were only “sometimes” or less often

Very high statistically significant correlation with gang involvement
(*p*<0.005)

Youth whose parents were **less aware of who they were spending time with** were also **more likely** to report being current or former **gang** members.

Sexual Behavior

- **Teen Parenthood:** 7.4% ($n=74$) reported having at least one child
3.1% ($n=30$) reported being pregnant or having a pregnant partner
- **Safe Sex:** 56.6% ($n=305$) who are sexually active reported practicing unsafe vaginal or anal sex (i.e., not using a condom every time they have intercourse).

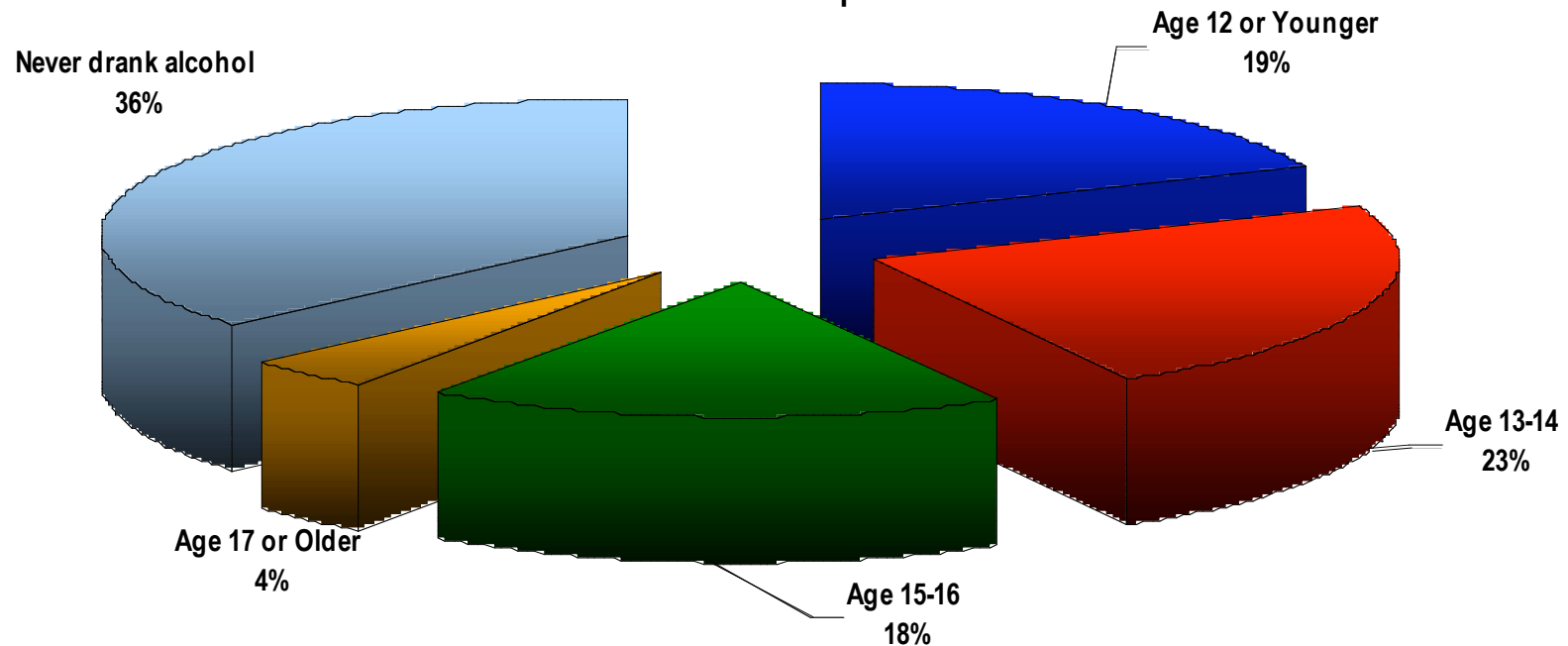


- 49% ($n=490$) of youth had engaged in vaginal or anal sex
 - 88.2% ($n=432$) had their first vaginal or anal sex experience by age 16

Substance Abuse

Initial Experiences with Alcohol

Surveyed youth ($n=993$) were asked how old they were when they had their first drink of alcohol. The breakdown of these responses is as follows:

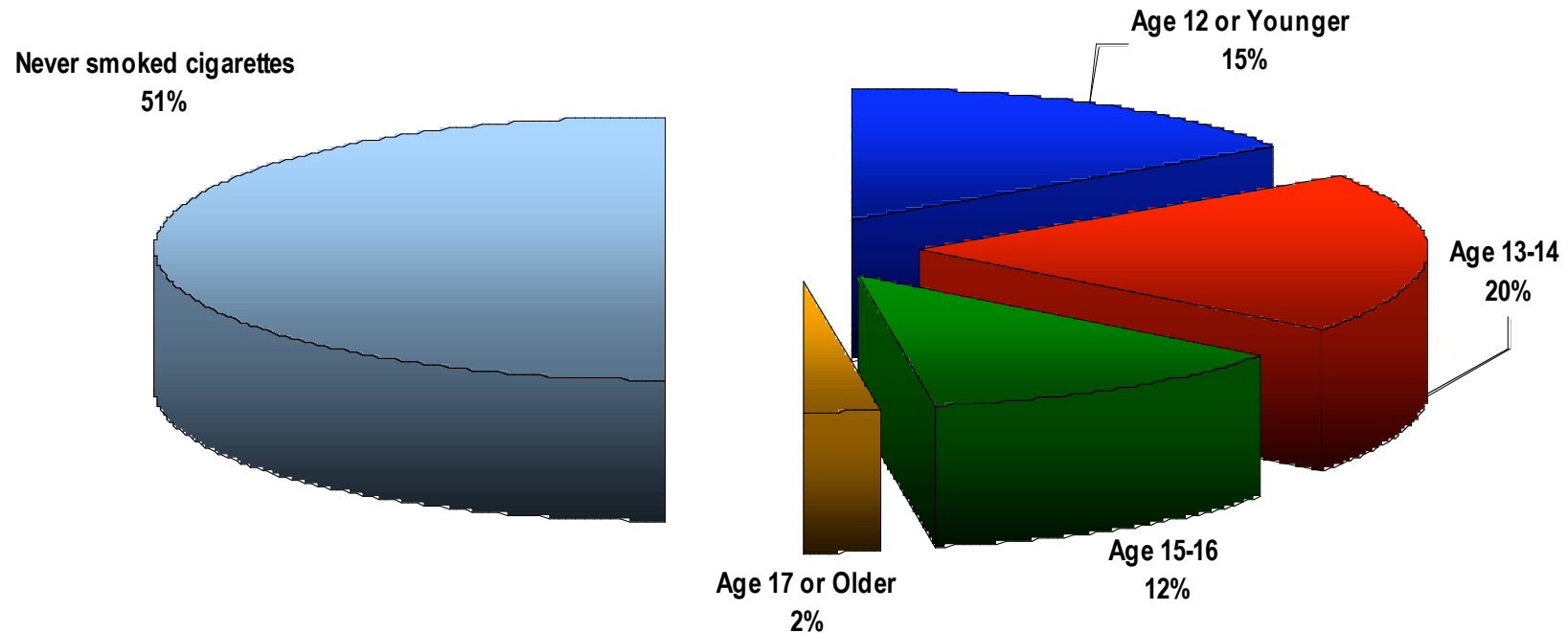


- 64% ($n=631$) of youth reported that they had tried alcohol
 - 94% ($n=593$) had done so by age 16

Substance Abuse

Initial Experiences with Tobacco

Surveyed youth ($n=995$) were asked how old they were when they first smoked cigarettes. The breakdown of these responses is as follows:

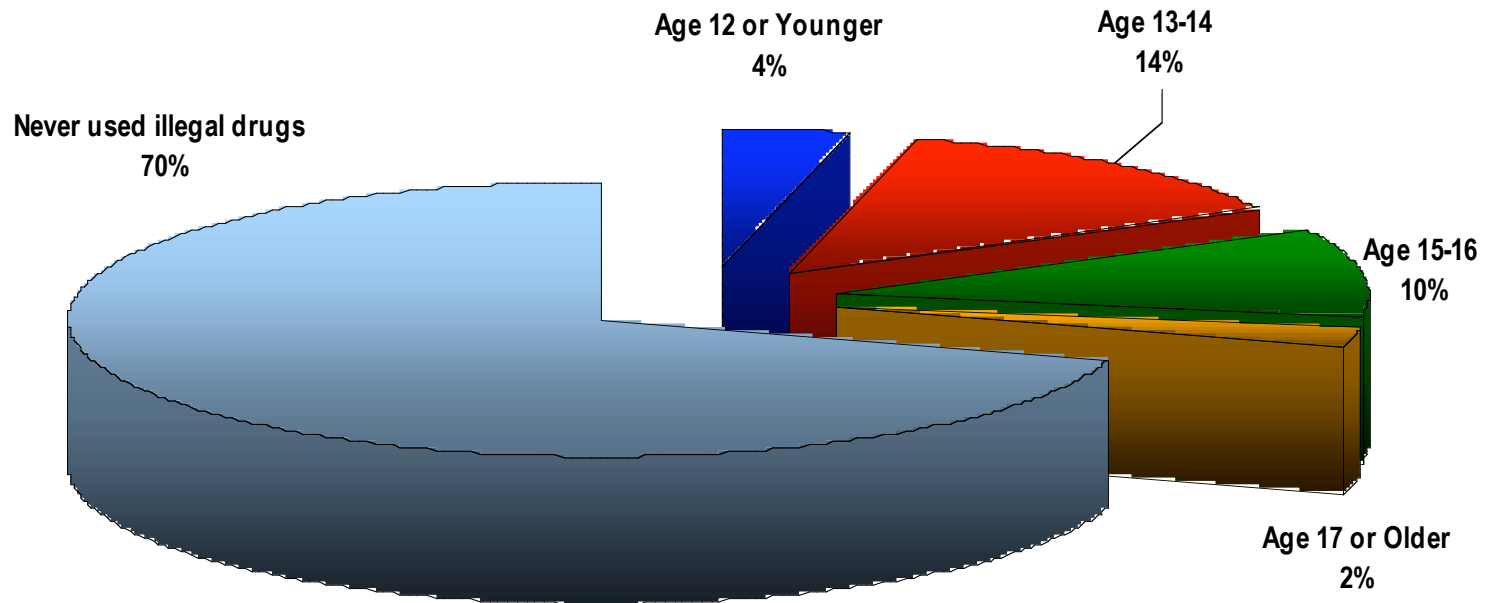


- 49% ($n=497$) of youth reported that they had smoked cigarettes
 - 71.2% ($n=354$) had done so by age 14

Substance Abuse

Initial Experiences with Illegal Drugs

Survey youth ($n=998$) were asked about their first experiences with marijuana or any other illegal drugs. The breakdown of these responses is as follows:



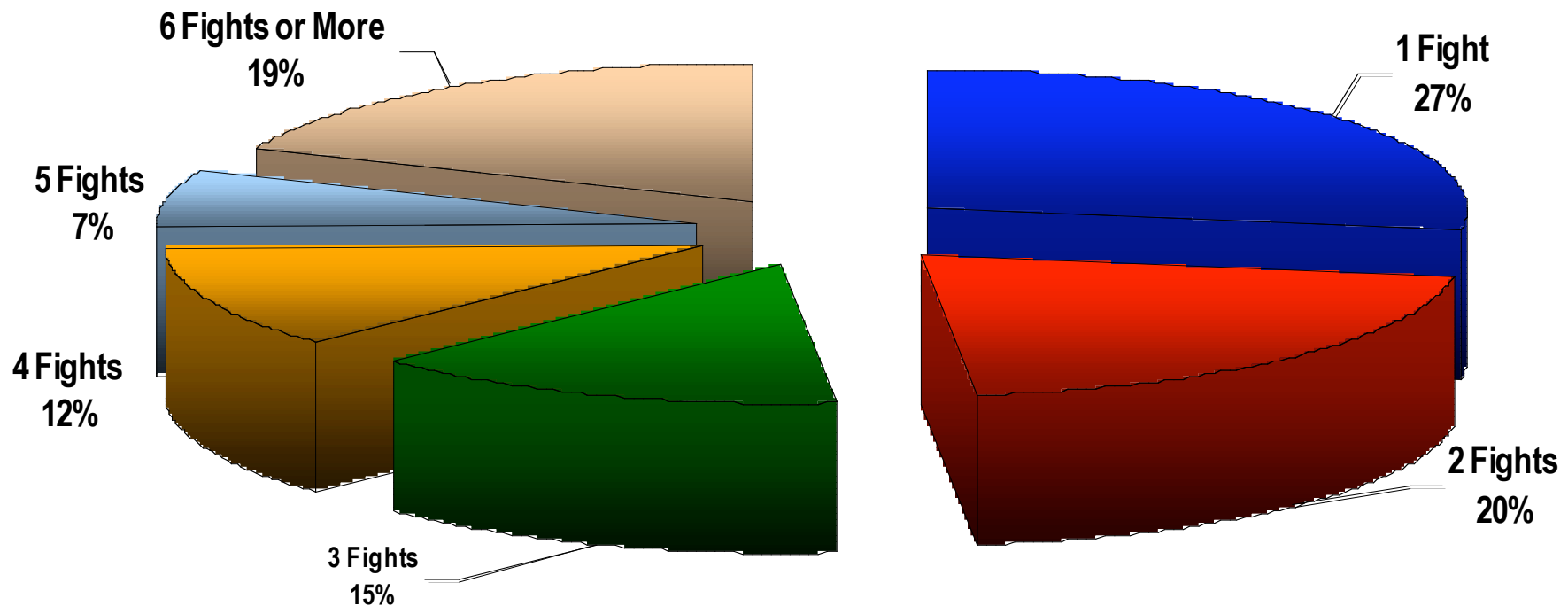
- 30% ($n=297$) of youth reported that they had used marijuana or other drugs
 - 92.9% ($n=276$) had done so by age 16

Violence

Physical Fights

422 (42%) reported being involved in physical fights in the previous year

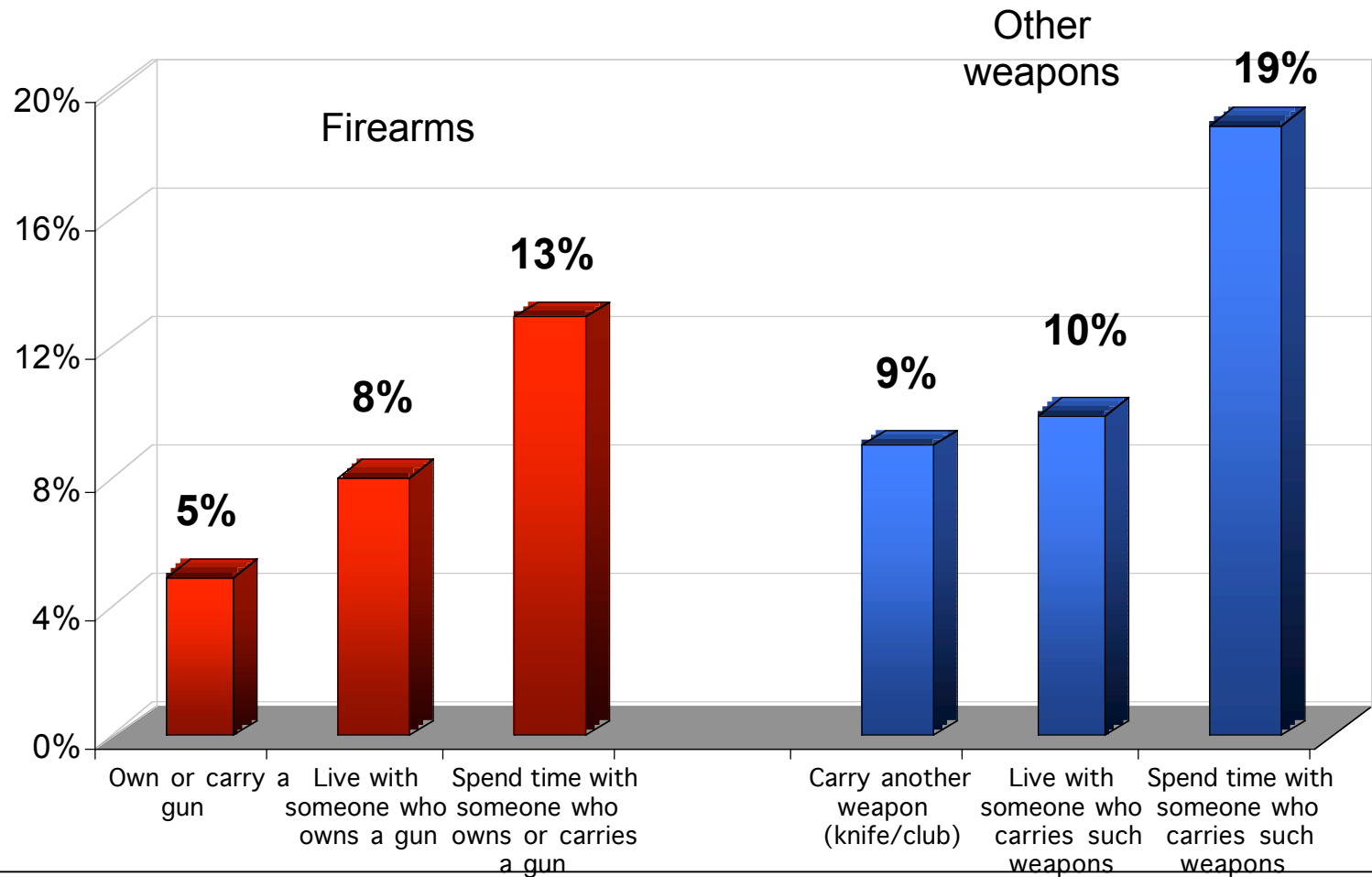
Physical fights (*n*=422)



- 52% (*n*=218) were involved in three fights or more

Violence

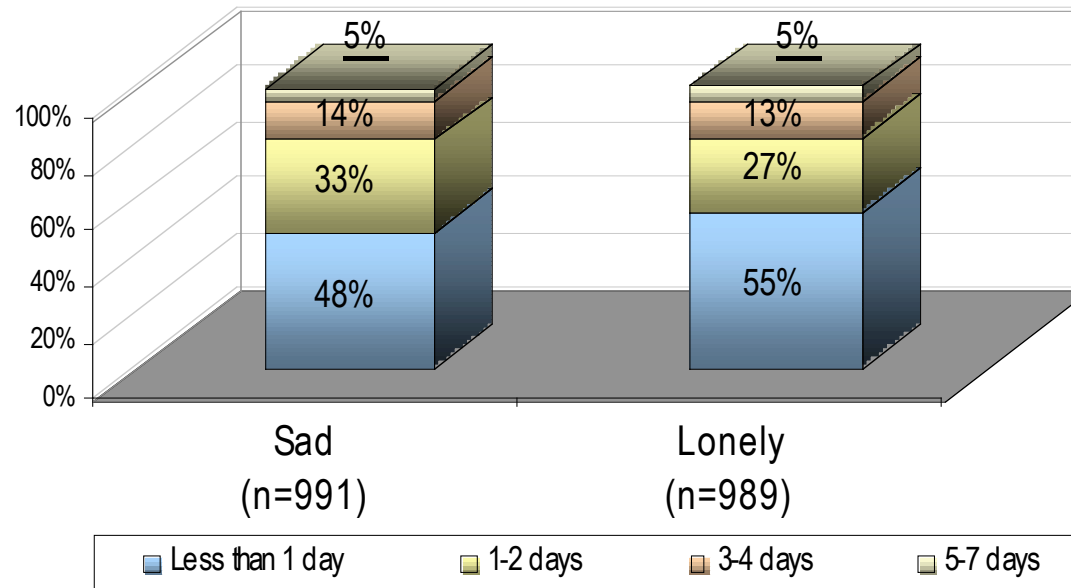
Access to Weapons



Mental Health

Depression

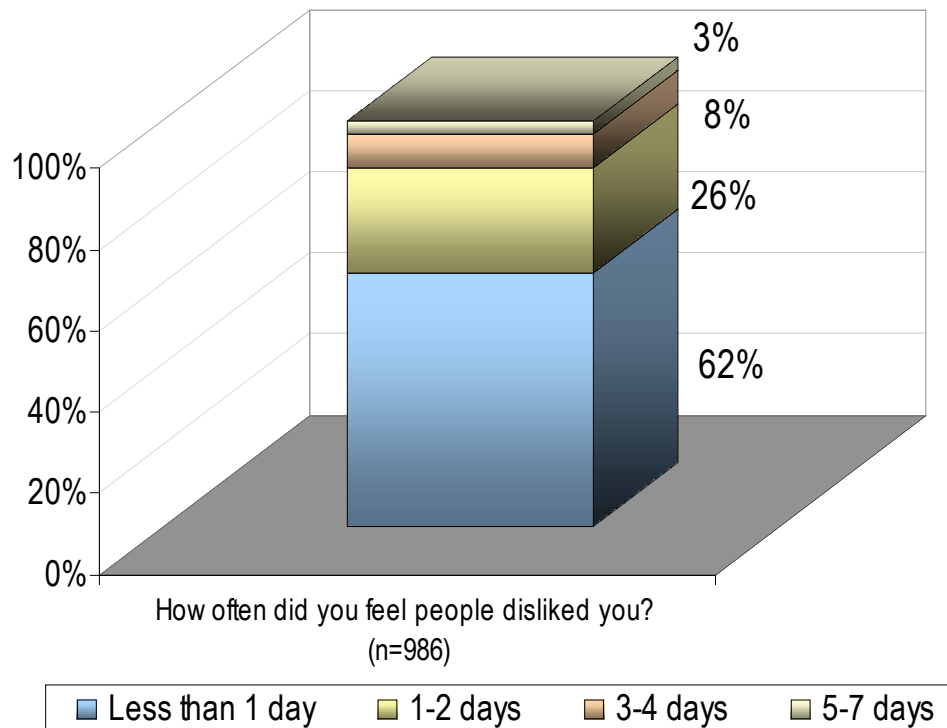
How often did you feel ... in the last week?



No significant correlation was found between **sadness** and **loneliness**, and gang membership.

Mental Health

Self Esteem

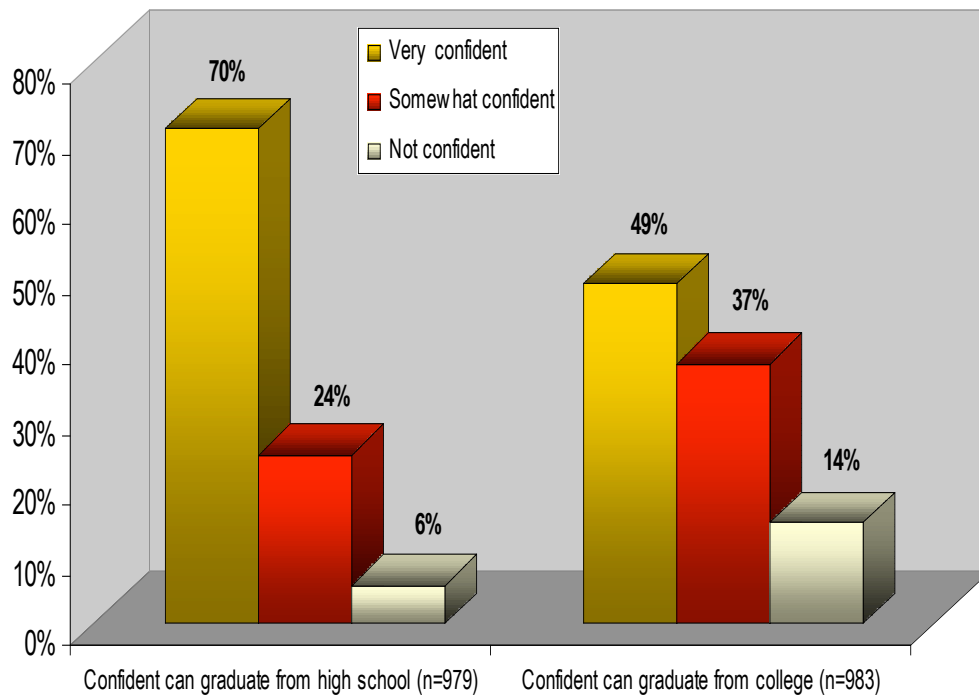


Very high statistically significant correlation was found between gang membership and if youth had felt disliked by others.

(p<0.0001)

Future Expectations

Youth were asked how confident they were that they would graduate from high school or college. The following graph provides a breakdown of their responses:



30% of youth do not feel confident about finishing high school.

Statistically significant correlation with gang involvement was found ($p < 0.05$)

Youth who reported less confidence about graduating from high school were more likely to report being current or former gang members.