

# ***Critical Challenges in the Translation of Research to Policy***

Dewey Cornell, Ph.D.  
Curry School of Education  
University of Virginia

434-924-8929

Email: [youthvio@virginia.edu](mailto:youthvio@virginia.edu)

Website: [youthviolence.edschool.virginia.edu](http://youthviolence.edschool.virginia.edu)



Can you present for 15 minutes on the translation of research to practice, your experiences and research, and what you see as critical challenges to the field?

# 1. Make bullying relevant to academic achievement.



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- 2. Develop effective methods of assessment and intervention.**



1. Make bullying relevant to academic achievement.
2. Develop effective methods of assessment and intervention.
3. Determine standards of practice.

## 9 Teens Charged After Classmate Commits Suicide



Posted by: [Ami Angelowicz](#) Filed In: [News](#)  
10:10AM, Tuesday March 30th 2010

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Nine Massachusetts teens were charged today with statutory rape, violation of civil rights, criminal harassment and disturbing a school assembly in conjunction with a bullying incident. Back in January, 15-year-old Phoebe Prince was jumped by a group of male and female students in the school library and hallways. Phoebe was verbally harassed, physically abused, and even raped as she was making her way home from school. Why? The group was angry that she had briefly dated one of the guys and they wanted to teach her a lesson.

Shortly after, Phoebe took her own life. What a lesson.

I am personally relieved that there are consequences for these students. It was totally reprehensible. Teenagers are mean; they always have been and they always will be. But the district attorney felt that "their conduct far exceeded the limits of normal teenage relationship-related quarrels," and I agree. We can only hope that this case will serve as a wake-up call about how severe the bullying can get. That's the only lesson I can see coming from this incident. [[Herald Sun](#)]



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### Harassment at School

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Being picked on by a school bully is frightening for your child, and frustrating for you. Ignoring a bully is never the answer. The faster you act, the better your chance of controlling the bully's behavior.

#### What Is Bullying?

**Bullying** can take many forms, including:

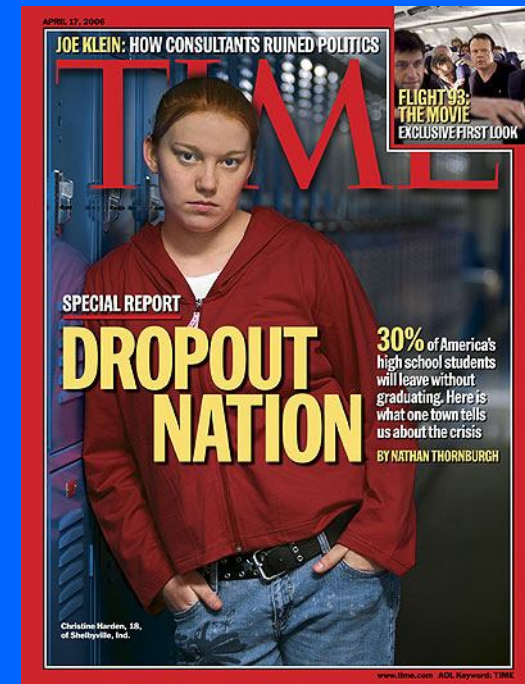
- Sexual harassment of another student
- Teasing and excluding
- Name calling
- Physically pushing, hitting or otherwise attacking
- Threatening or hazing
- Damaging or stealing belongings
- Demanding money

#### School Sexual Harassment

[Title IX of the Federal Education Amendments of 1972](#) makes it illegal for any public school receiving federal funding to discriminate on the basis of sex. Recent federal court cases give parents of children sexually harassed in schools a right to sue their school districts, where:

- The school district knew of the harassment and deliberately ignored it
- The harassment was so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive it deprived the victims of access to the educational opportunities or benefits provided by the school

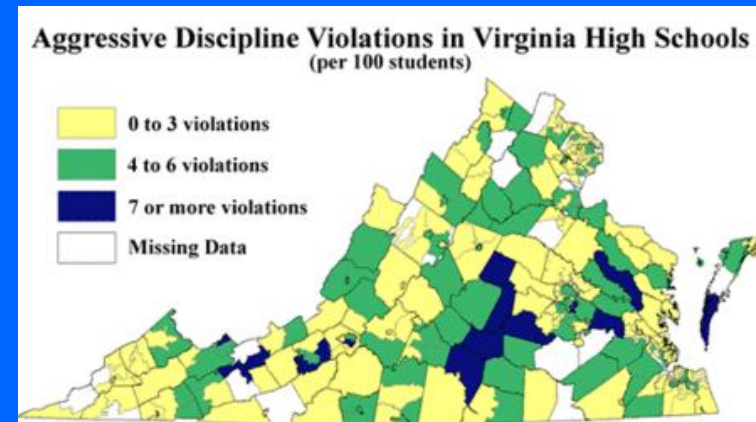
**Bullying climate in  
9<sup>th</sup> grade predicts  
drop out rates.**



# Virginia High School Safety Study

How are school safety practices in Virginia's public high schools related to student outcomes?

- Surveys of 7,400 9<sup>th</sup> grade students and 2,300 teachers
- 294 of 314 schools (94% participation)
- Schoolwide discipline records, achievement scores, and graduation rates



# Bullying Climate Scale

Disagree/  
Strongly  
Disagree

Agree/  
Strongly  
Agree

Bullying is a problem at this school.

53%

47%

Students here often get teased about their clothing or physical appearance.

29%

71%

Students here often get put down because of their race or ethnicity.

65%

35%

There is a lot of teasing about sexual topics at this school.

45%

55%



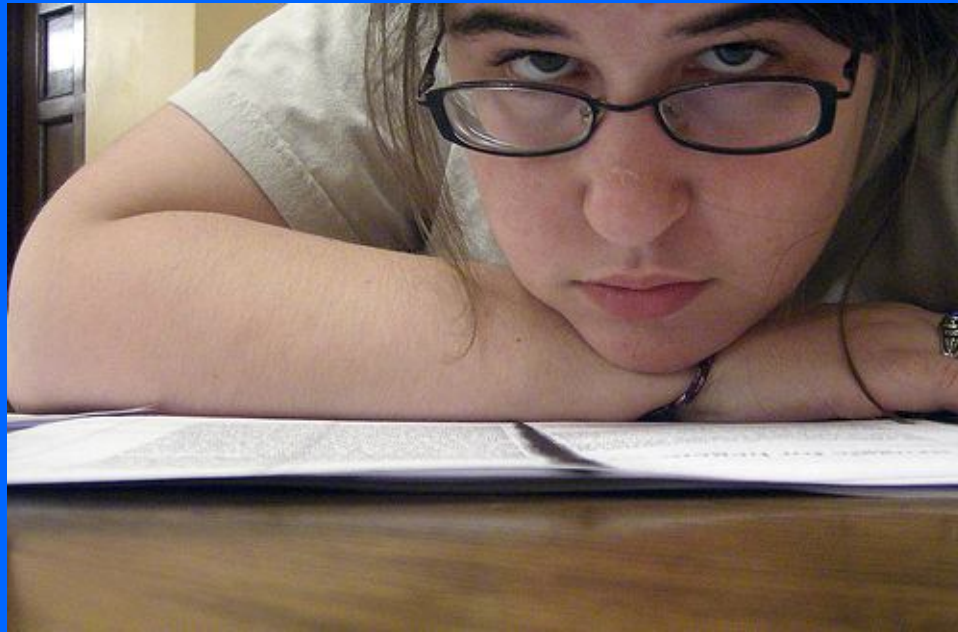
<b>Predictor</b>	<i>Standardized Exp(b)</i>	<b>Effect of 1 SD increase on Dropout Rate</b>
<b>School size</b>	0.955	
<b>% Nonwhite</b>	1.093*	Increase Dropouts 9%
<b>% FRPM</b>	1.266*	Increase Dropouts 27%
<b>Urbanicity</b>	1.021	
<b>Achievement</b>	0.861*	Decrease Dropouts 14%
<b>Bullying Victim</b>	0.963	
<b>Bullying Climate</b>	1.140*	Increase Dropouts 14%

\* $p < .05$ . Negative binomial regression with exponentiated coefficients, log-linear model with Poisson distribution.  
N = 282 schools.

**Student self-report is a weak measure of bullying.**



- **Bullying is an abstract and complex concept**
- **Students may not take the survey seriously**



**Dewey Cornell, Ph.D.**,  
is a professor with Curry  
School of Education,  
University of Virginia,  
and **Sharmila B. Mehta**  
is a doctoral student,  
also at the University of  
Virginia. E-mail:  
sharmila@virginia.edu

Professional School Counseling, 2011, 14, 261-  
270

## Counselor Confirmation of Middle School Student Self-Reports of Bullying Victimization

*School counselors frequently use self-report surveys to assess bullying despite little research on their accuracy. In this study, counselor follow-up interviews found that only 24 (56%) of 43 middle school students who self-identified as victims of bullying could be confirmed as actual victims. Other students described peer conflicts that did not constitute bullying, mis-marked the survey, or reported previous bullying. Counselor judgments were supported by peer-nomination data and other survey responses indicative of victimization.*

grams often rely on self-report surveys to assess their success (Chan, 2006; Fox & Boulton, 2005).

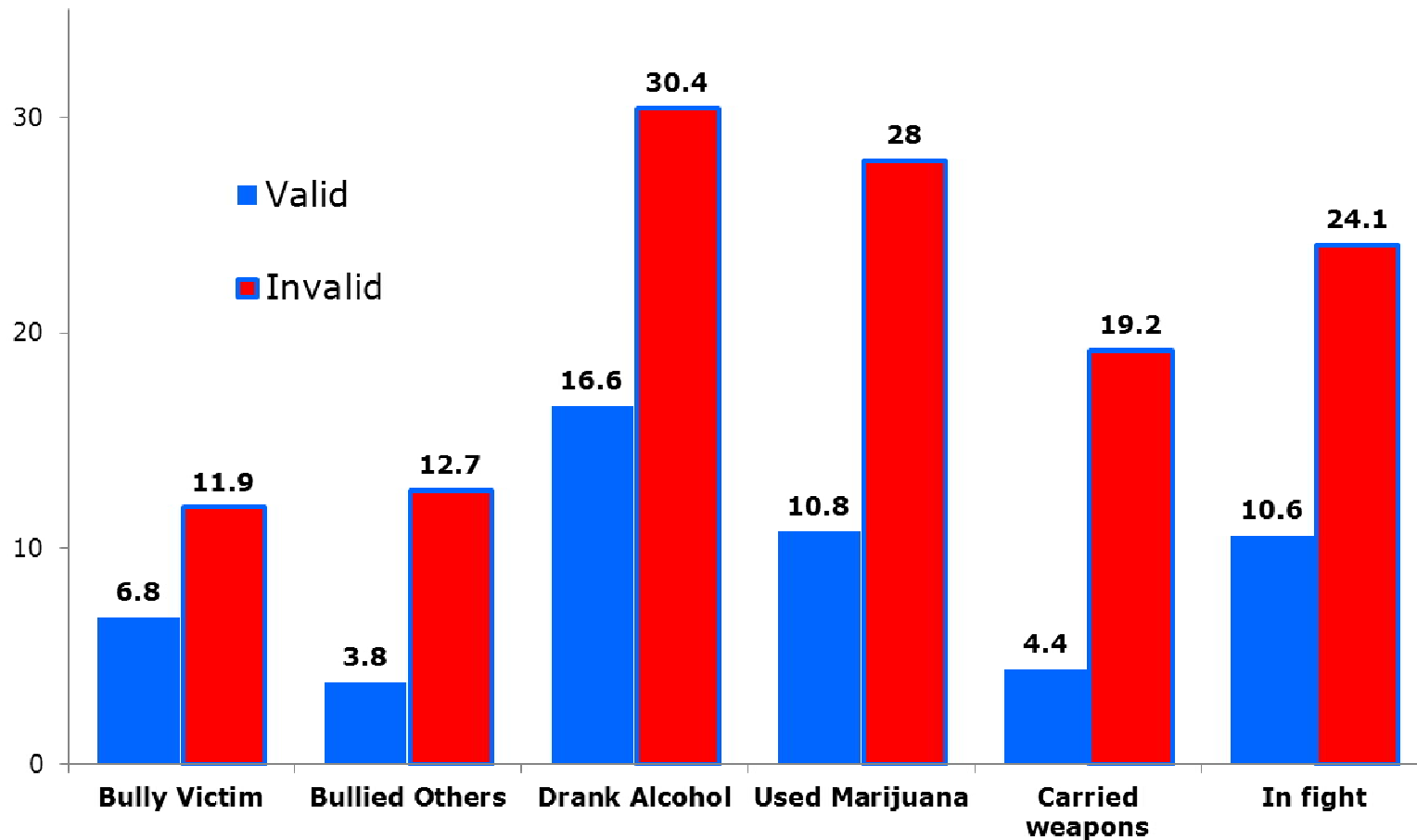
One important limitation, however, is that survey measures of bullying typically rely on anonymous student self-reports of victimization that are not confirmed by others. How can school authorities be certain that the levels of bullying reported by their students are accurate? Despite the widespread use of self-report surveys to measure bullying, little published research exists on the accuracy of this method (Branson & Cornell, 2009; Lee & Cornell, 2010;

**Of 43 middle school students self-reported as victims of bullying, only 24 (56%) confirmed as victims in counselor interviews. The other 19 included 2 with prior bullying, 13 with peer conflicts, and 4 marked in error.**

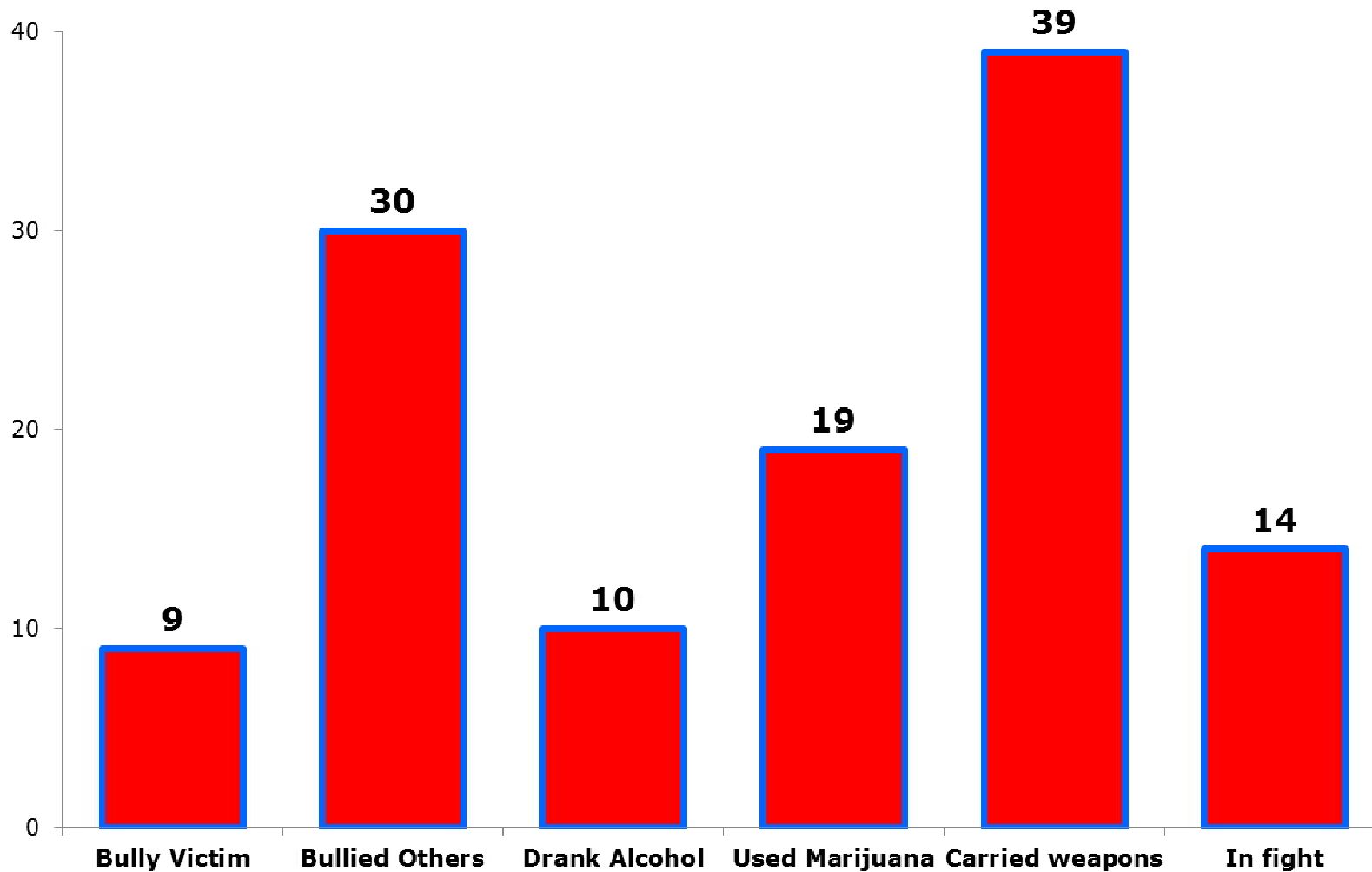
- **“I am not telling the truth on this survey” screening items**
- **Invalid responders constituted 12% of 7,800 students in grades 6-12**



# Risk Behaviors Reported by Valid vs Invalid Responders



# Inflation Rate Caused by Invalid Responders



# Peer Nominations – An Alternative to Self-Report

- Student self-report is vulnerable to exaggeration, misunderstanding, and denial.
- Peer nominations are also vulnerable, but more reliable.
- *Peer nominations allow you to identify potential victims.*



## Who is being bullied? Help us stop bullying at this school.

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. *Physical bullying* is when a student hits, kicks, grabs, or shoves you on purpose. *Verbal bullying* is when a student threatens or teases you in a hurtful way. *Social bullying* is when a student tries to keep others from being your friend or from letting you join in what they are doing. It is not bullying when two students of about the same strength argue or fight.

Based on this definition of bullying, write the names of any students who are the victims of bullying. You may write the name of any student at your school whom you know has been bullied at school during the past month.

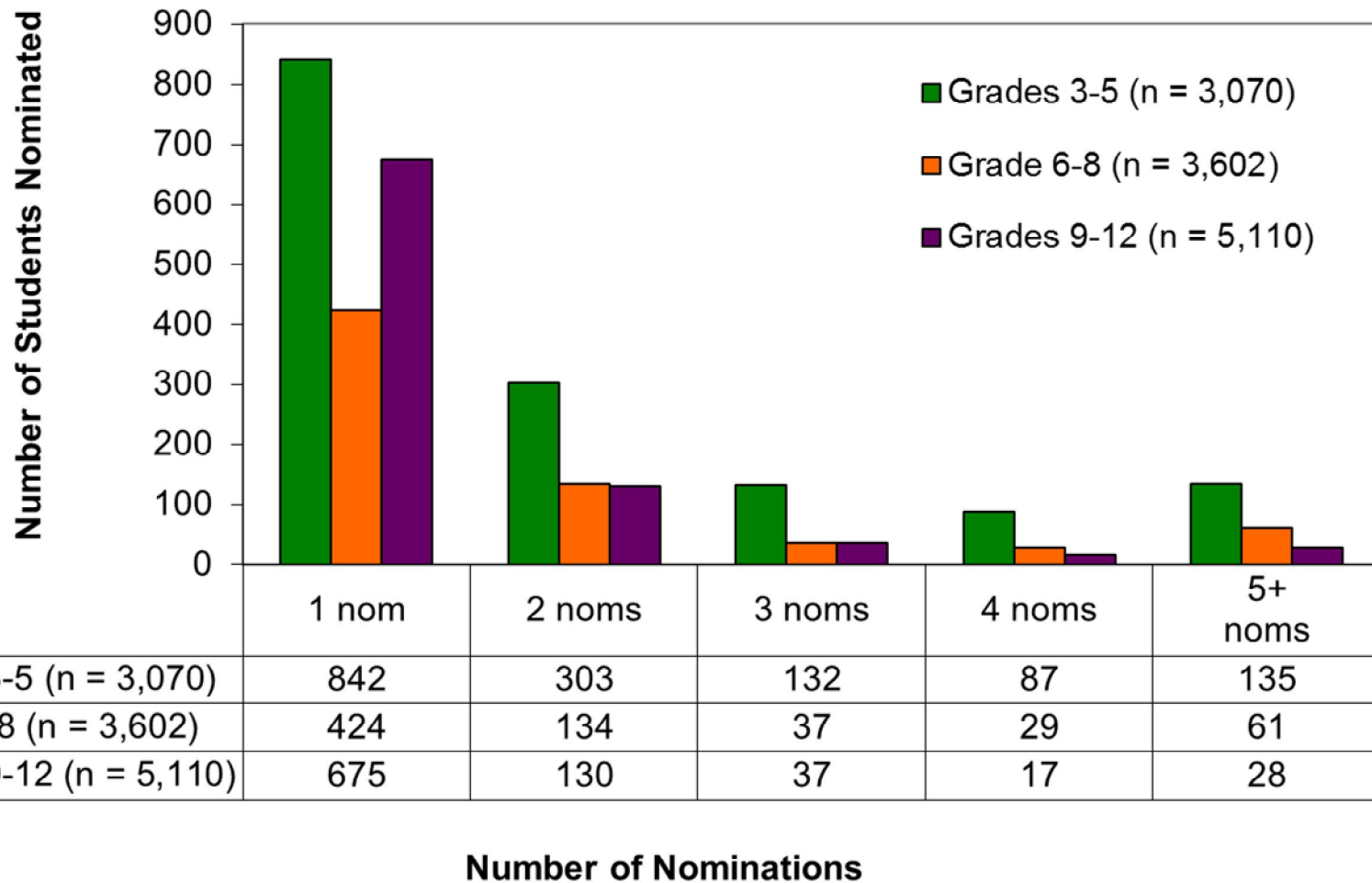
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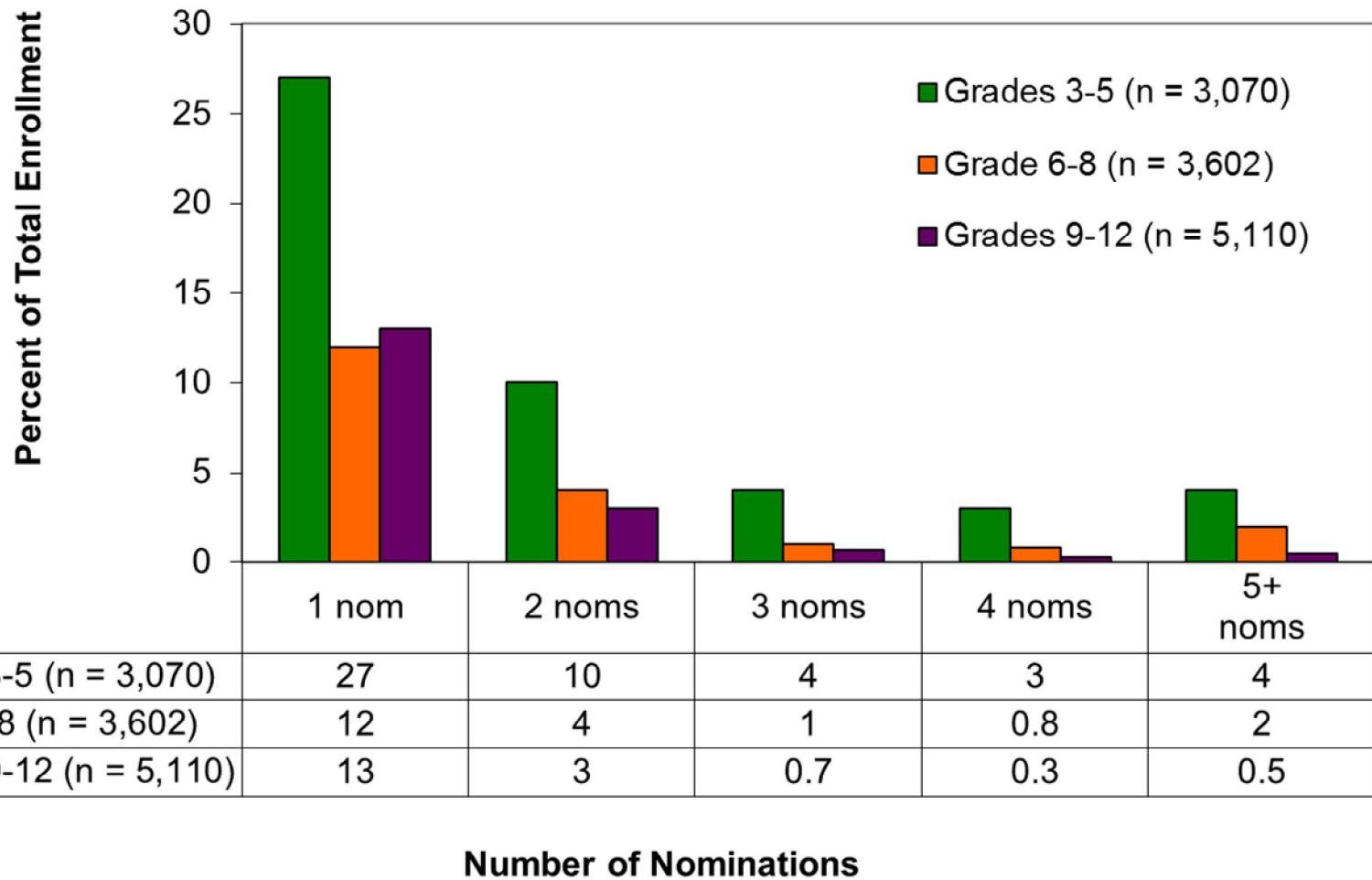
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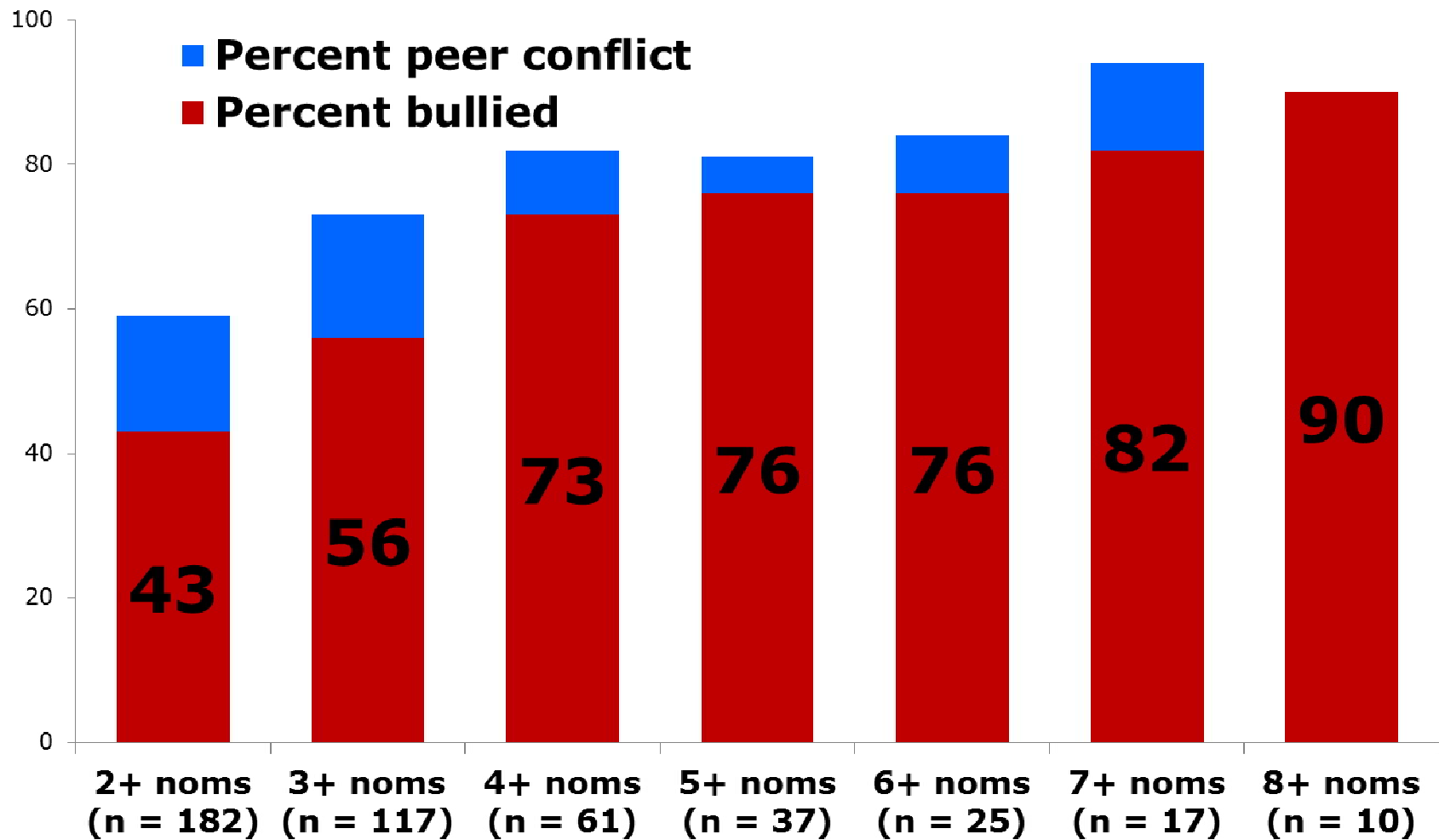
## Students Nominated as Victims of Bullying by Peers



## Percent of Student Body Nominated as Victims by Peers



## Counselor Interviews with 449 Nominated Students

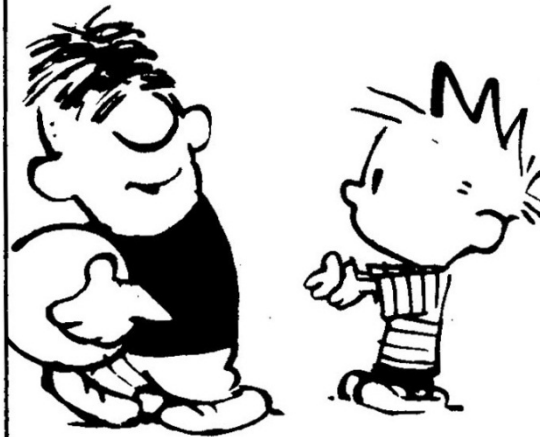


## Calvin And Hobbes

Gimme that ball  
or I'll punch your  
face in.



Smart move,  
sissy boy.



IN MY OPINION, WE DON'T  
DEVOTE NEARLY ENOUGH  
SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH TO  
FINDING A CURE FOR  
JERKS.



MESN 102