

# U.S. Department of Education

*Federal Education Priorities*



*Creating Safe Schools*





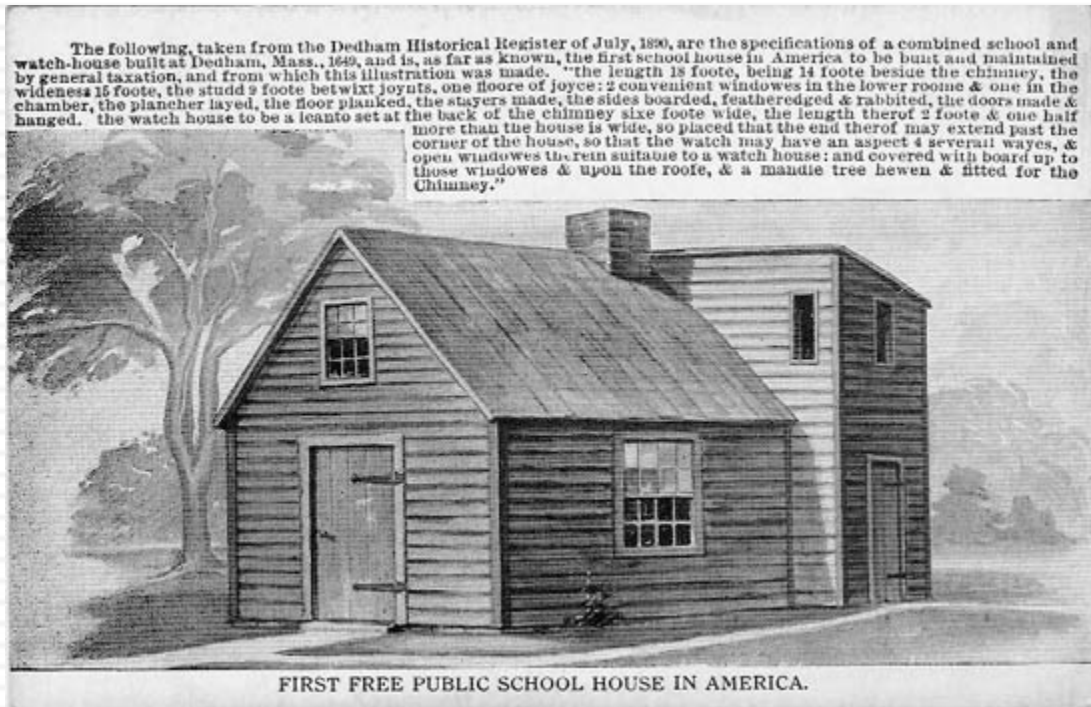
## What's the goal at ED?



President Obama:  
“Produce a higher  
percentage of college  
graduates than any other  
country in the world by the  
end of the next decade.”



# Reasons for America's Rise to Power



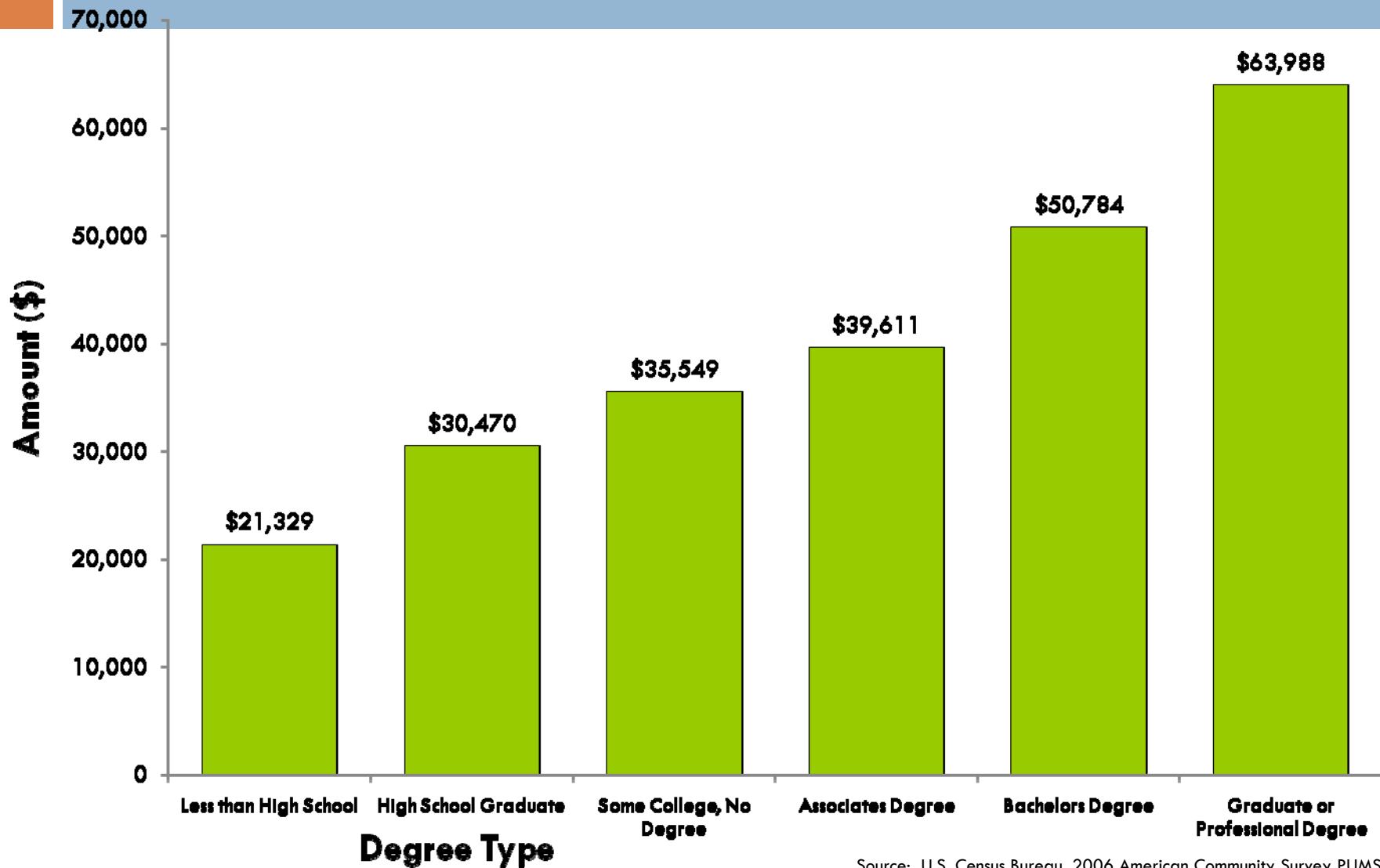
19<sup>th</sup> Century:  
**First free public school system in the world**

20<sup>th</sup> Century:  
**GI Bill: Biggest Investment in Higher Ed in History**

Effects:  
Created the most educated, knowledgeable citizenry that the world had ever seen.

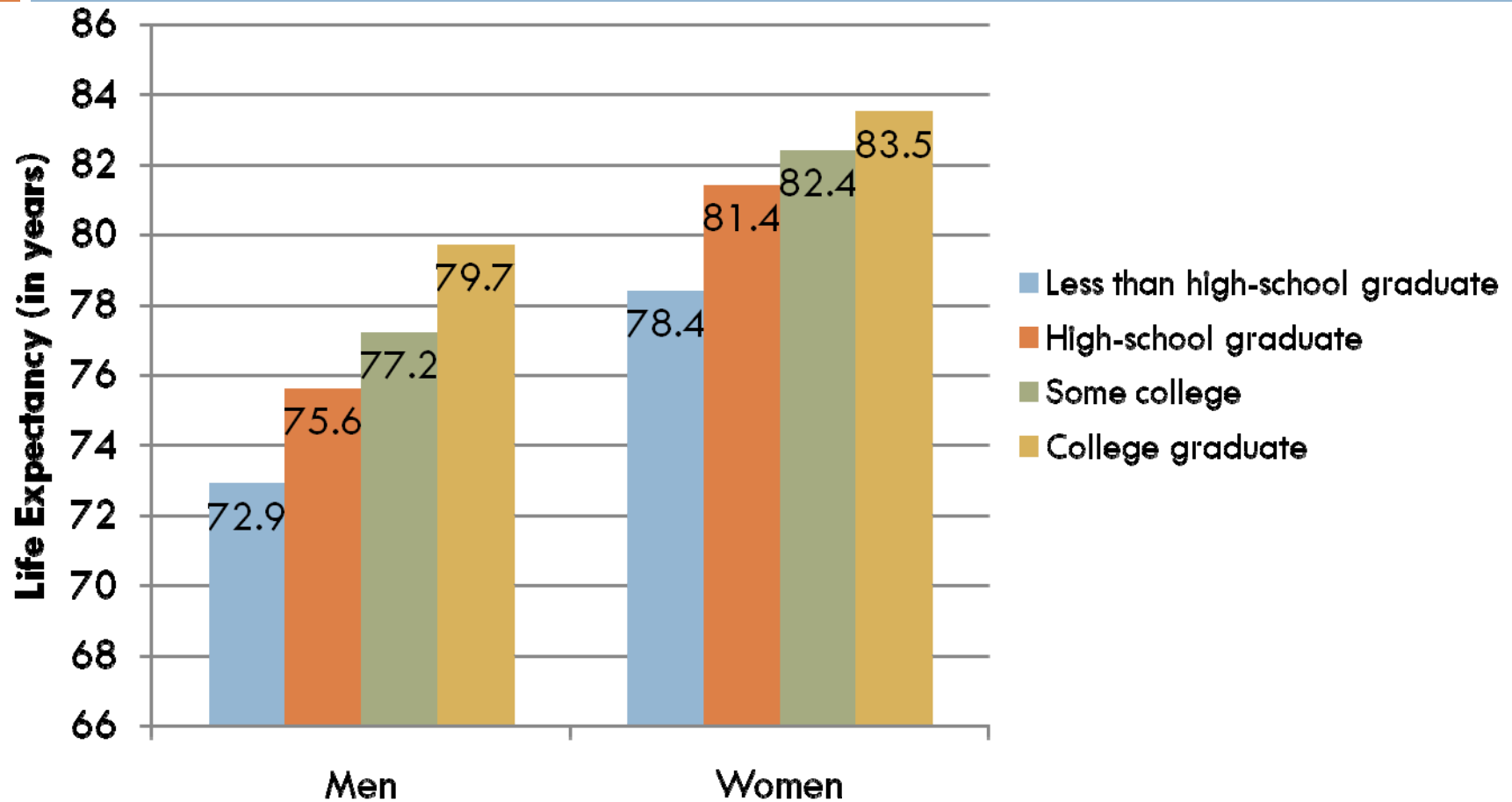
# Education Determines Earnings

Median Earnings for Population Age 25-64 by Education Attainment, 2006



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey PUMS File.

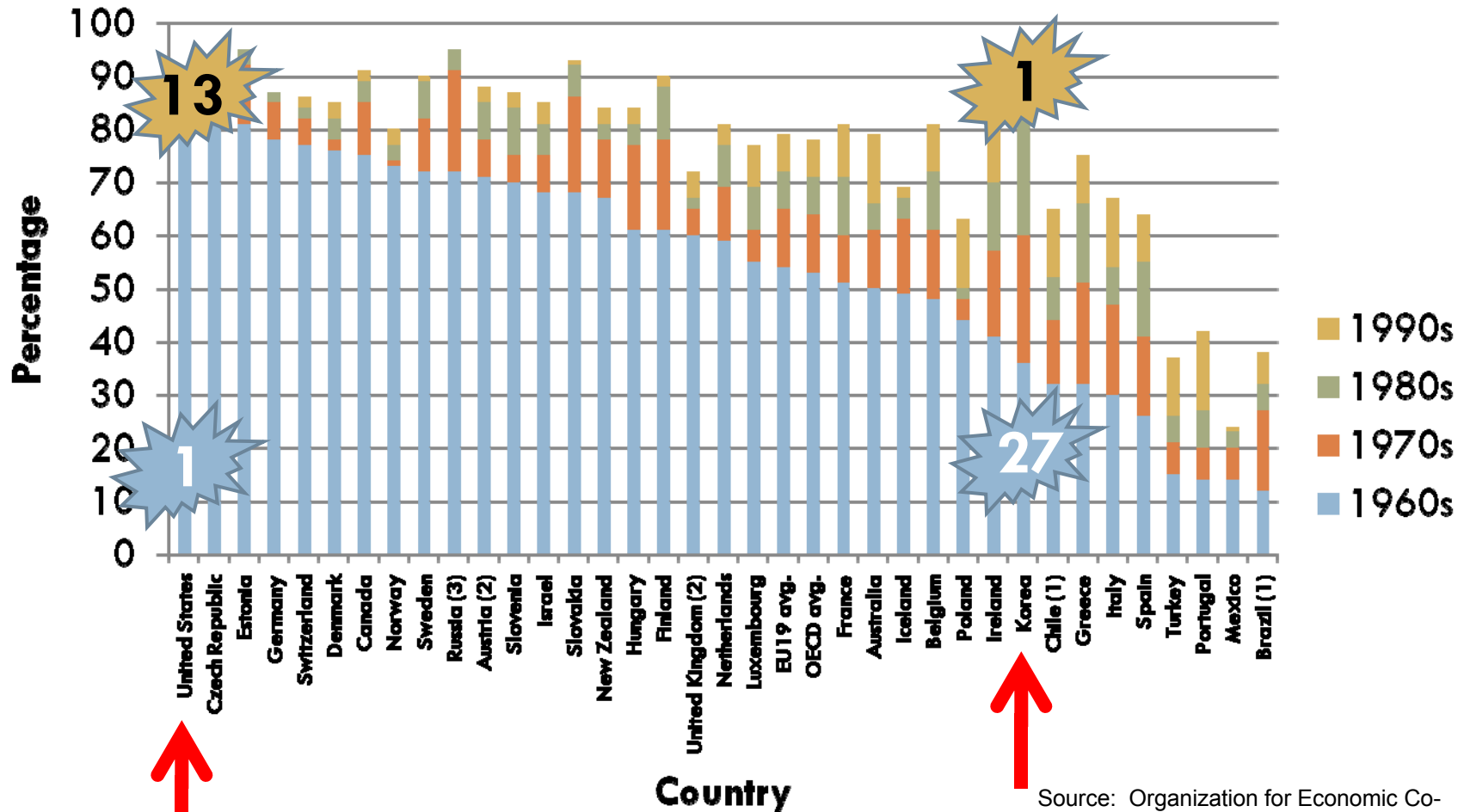
# More Education, Longer Life



Source: National Longitudinal Mortality Study, 1988-1998

# The US is Falling Behind in HS Graduation Rates

Approximate percentage of persons with high school or equivalent qualifications in the age group 25-64

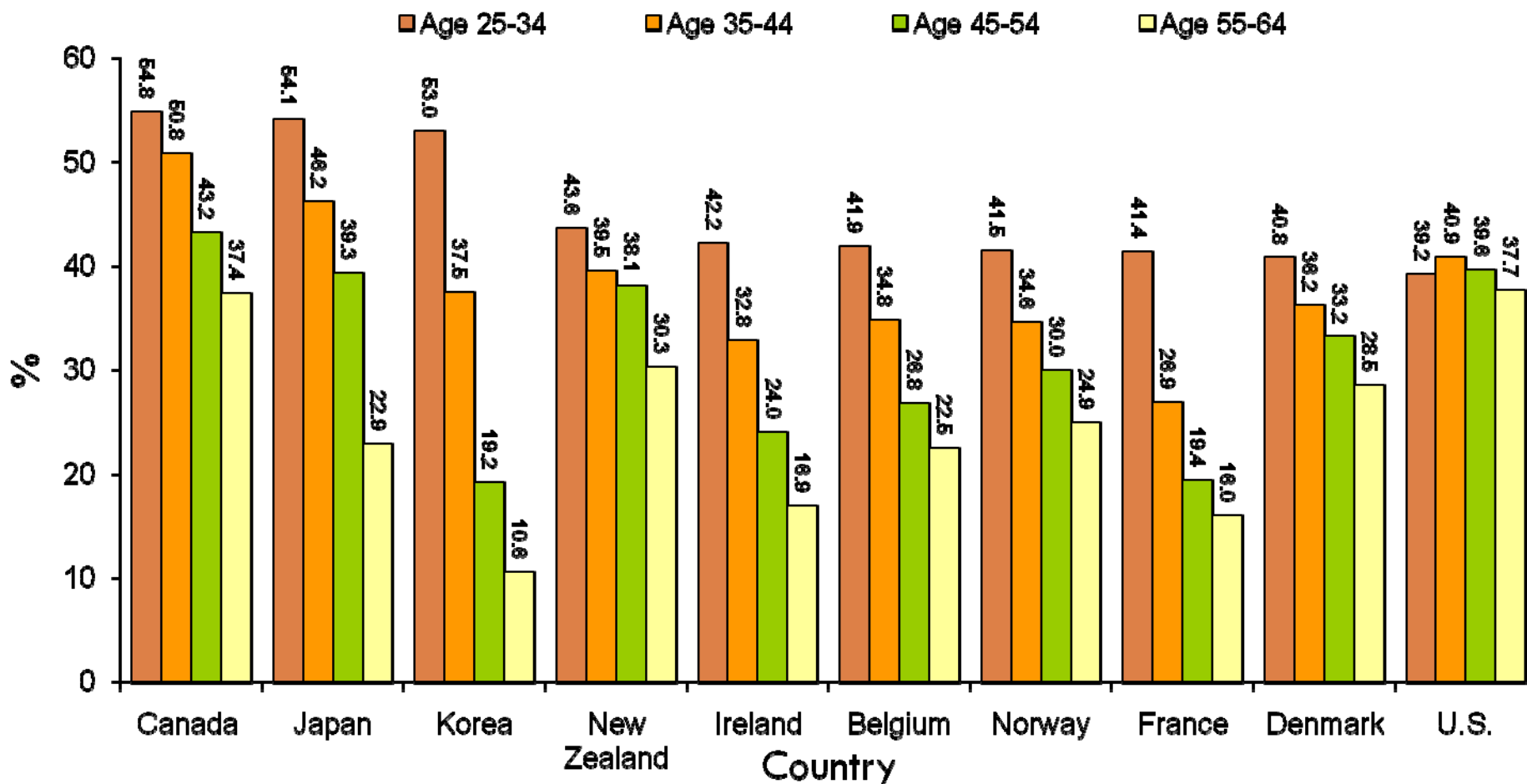


1. Year of reference 2004.
2. Including some ISCED 3C short programs
3. Year of reference 2003.

Source: Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), *Education at a Glance 2008*

# U.S. Higher Ed: Leader in the Sixties, The Laggard Today

Percent of Adults with an Associate Degree or Higher by Age Group - U.S. & Leading OECD Countries



Source: OECD, *Education at a Glance 2008*

# Four Assurances



Raise **standards**  
and improve  
**assessments.**



Recruit, retain & support **effective educators**, and  
ensure equitable distribution.



Build robust **data systems**  
that track student progress  
and improve practice.



Turn around **low-performing schools**, focusing on dropout  
factories and their feeder schools.





## **Where does the Office of Safe & Drug Free Schools fit in?**

**It's simple.**

**Students can't learn if they don't feel safe.**

**Period.**



# How are we doing now? Are our schools safe?

What is a safe school?

What is our standard?

How do we measure it?



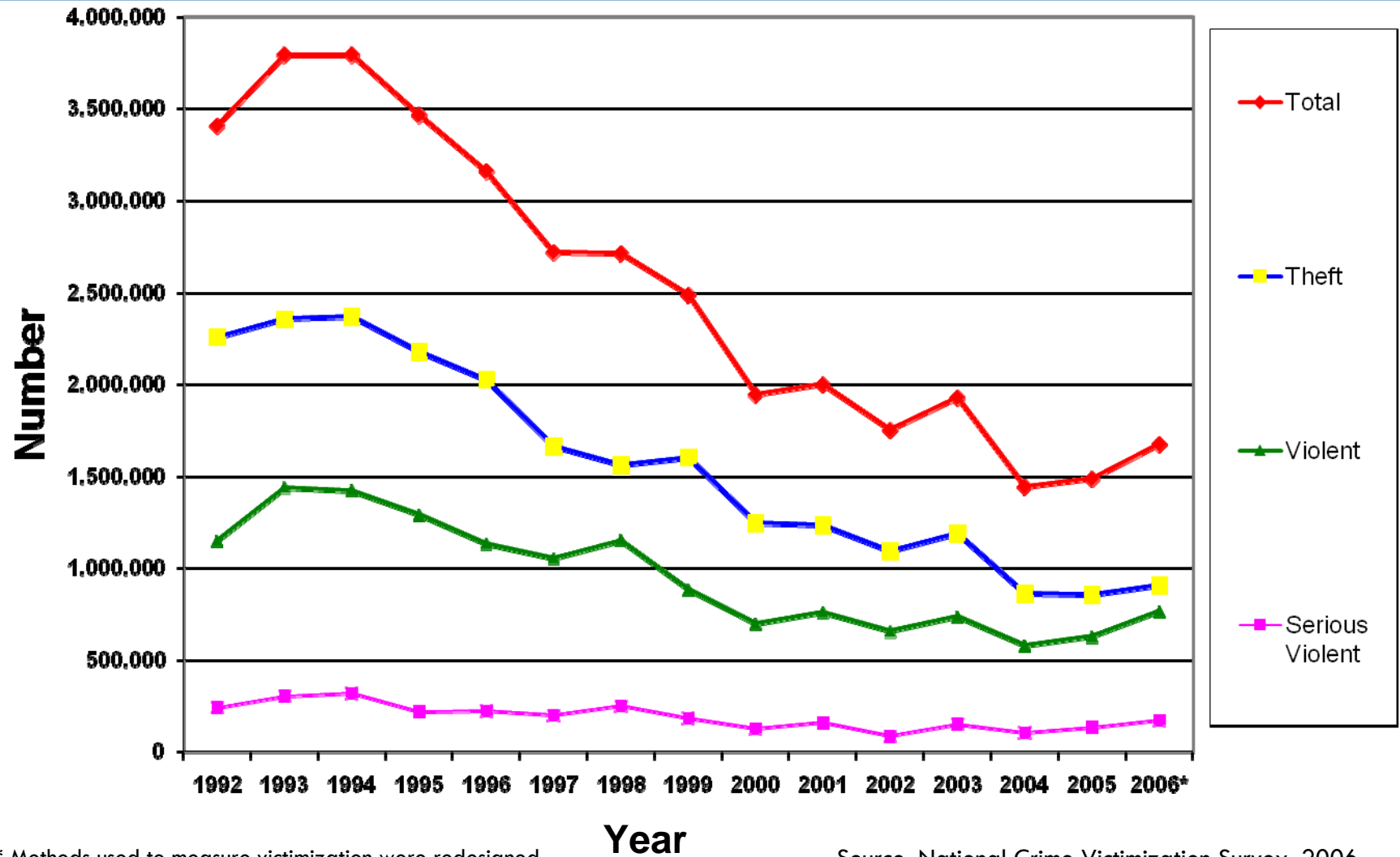
**Traditional View Says  
We're Doing Great**



**No Violence =  
Safe School**

# Rates of Victimization at School Have Dropped Dramatically

Number of student-reported nonfatal crimes against students ages 12-18 at school: 1992-2006



\* Methods used to measure victimization were redesigned

Source: National Crime Victimization Survey, 2006

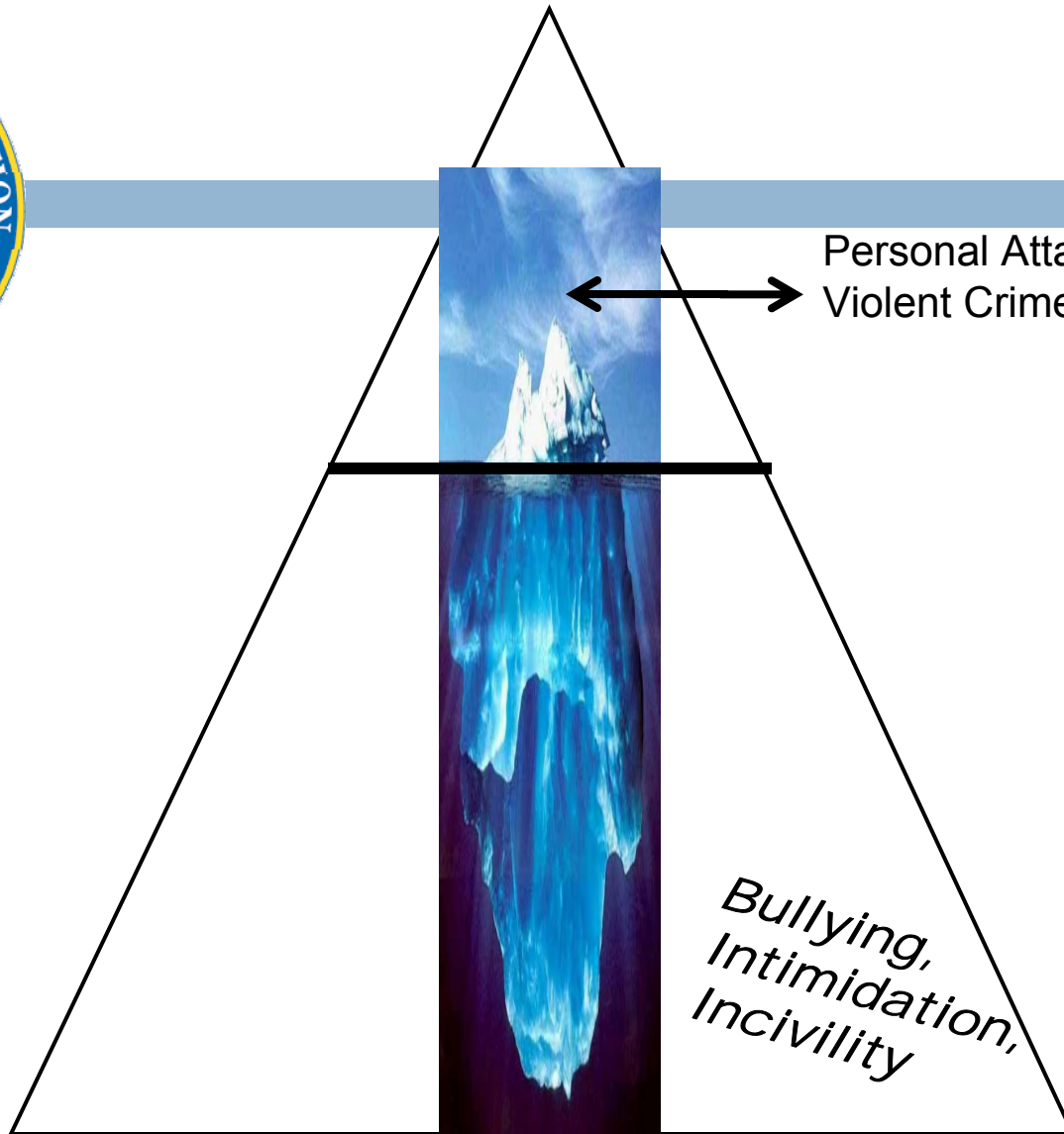




# The Traditional View is Wrong

“Incivil behavior” – verbal threats, hate language, bullying, social rejection – is **almost twice as likely** to predict student “self-protection” (skipping school, avoiding areas/activities) as is crime (theft, attacks) at school

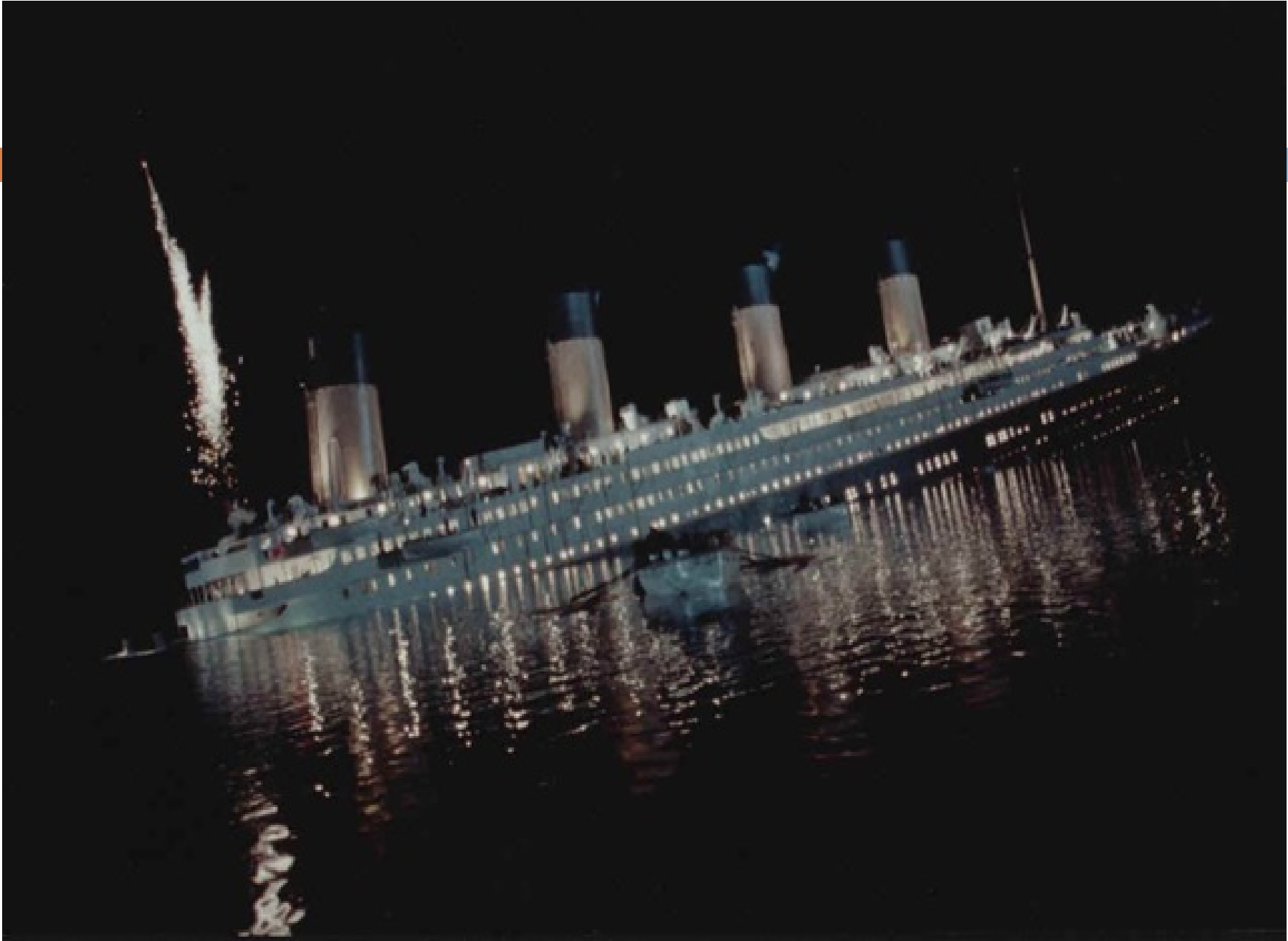




Personal Attack, Theft, Serious  
Violent Crime, Shootings

*Bullying,  
Intimidation,  
Incivility*









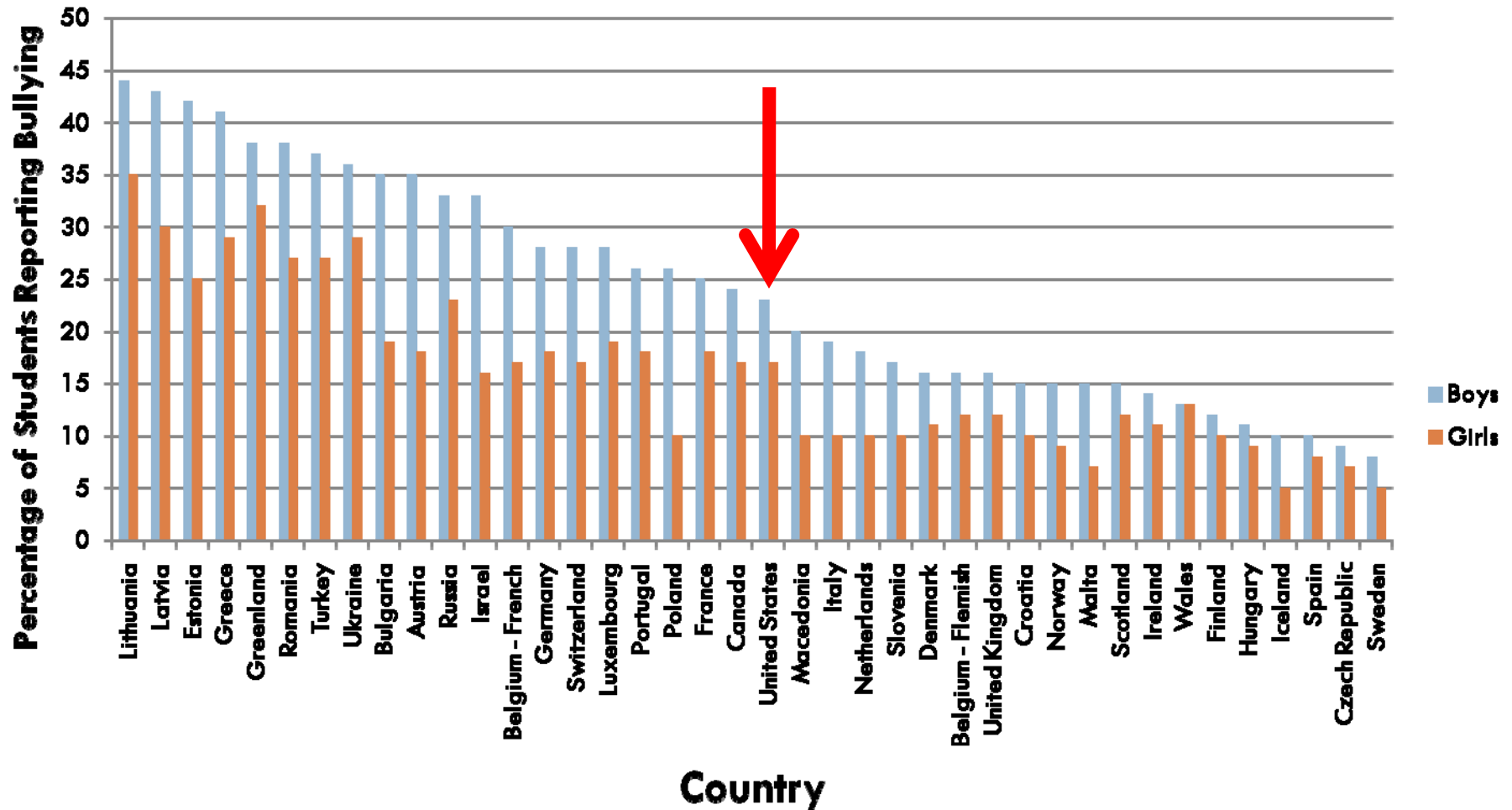
# ***Understanding Bullying***

Extent and Nature of the Problem

Types of Interventions

# Students' Involvement in Bullying

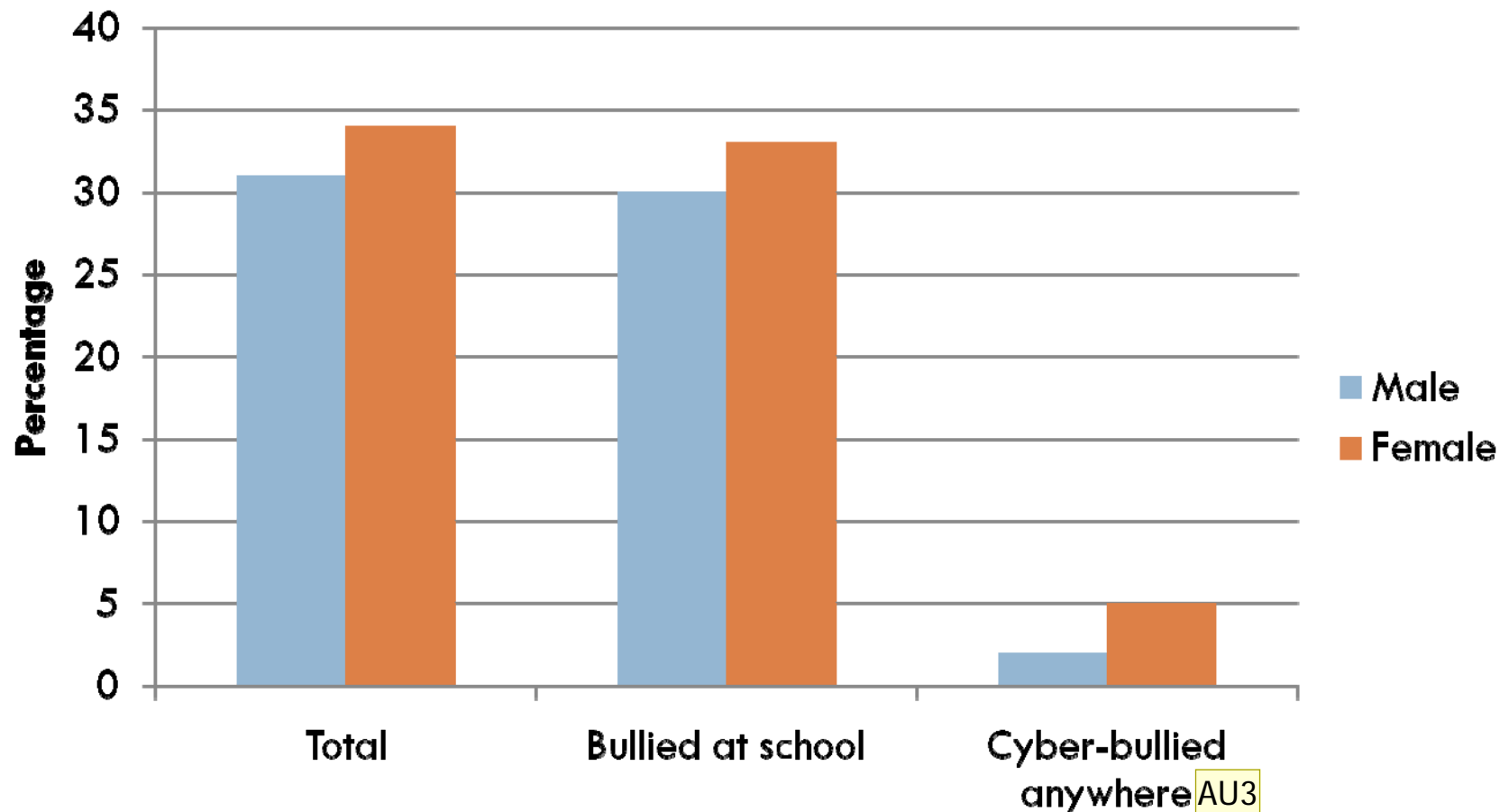
40 Nation Study of 11, 13, and 15 year old children



Source: Craig et al, 2009 (taken from *Stop Bullying Now*)

# Many Students Experience Bullying

Percentage of students ages 12-18 who reported being bullied at school and being cyber-bullied anywhere during the school year, by sex: 2007



Source: Indicators of Crime and School Safety, 2008

## Slide 21

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### AU3

1. Includes students who responded that another student posted hurtful information about the respondent on the Internet; made unwanted contact by threatening or insulting the respondent via instant message; or made unwanted contact by threatening or insulting the respondent via text (SMS) messaging.

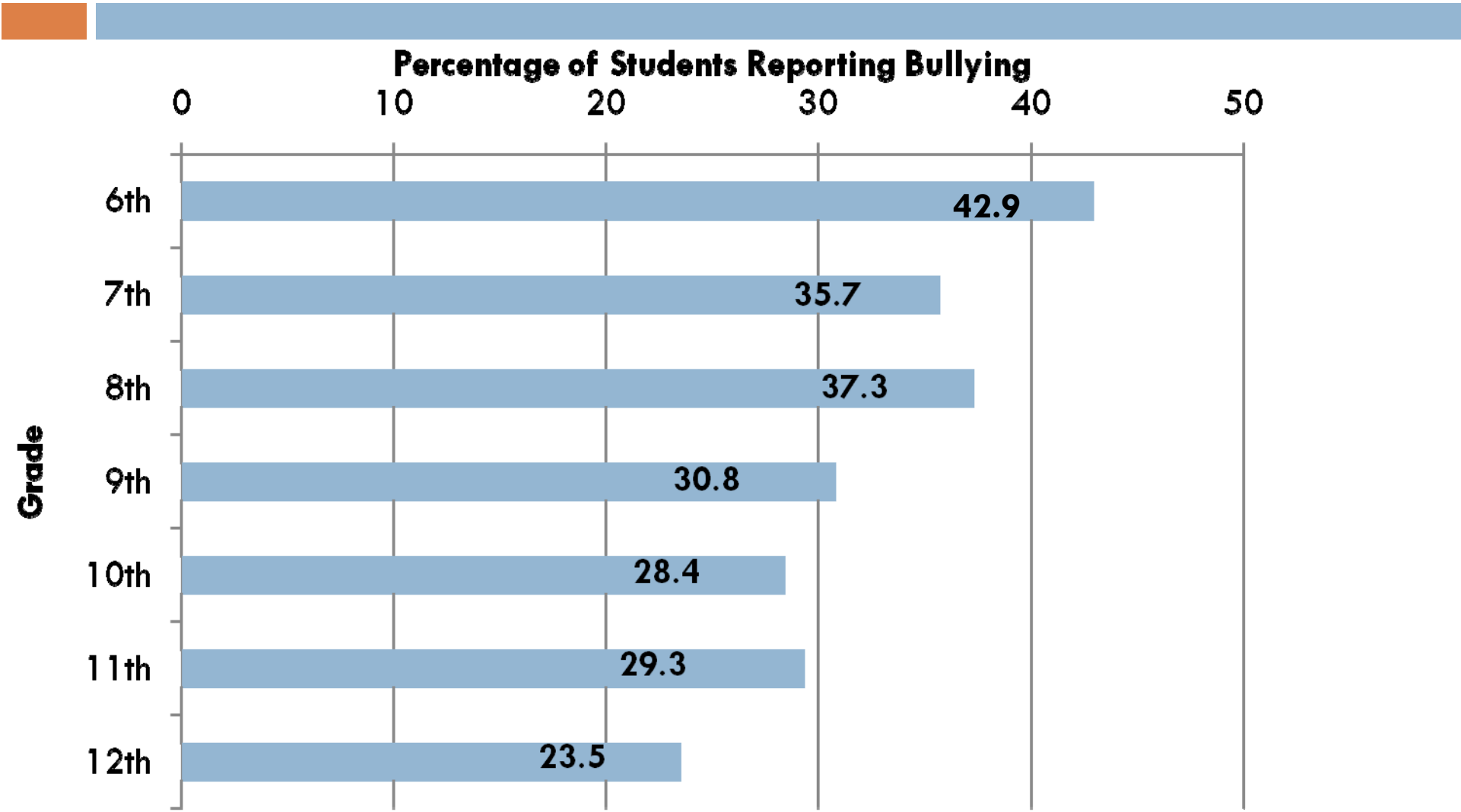
Authorised User, 9/23/2009

# Peer Intervention Works, but Isn't Common



- Of bullying episodes in which peers intervened, 57% of the interventions were effective (i.e., the bullying stopped within 10 seconds).
- Peers intervene in only 11-19% of all bullying incidents.

# Middle School is the Worst Period

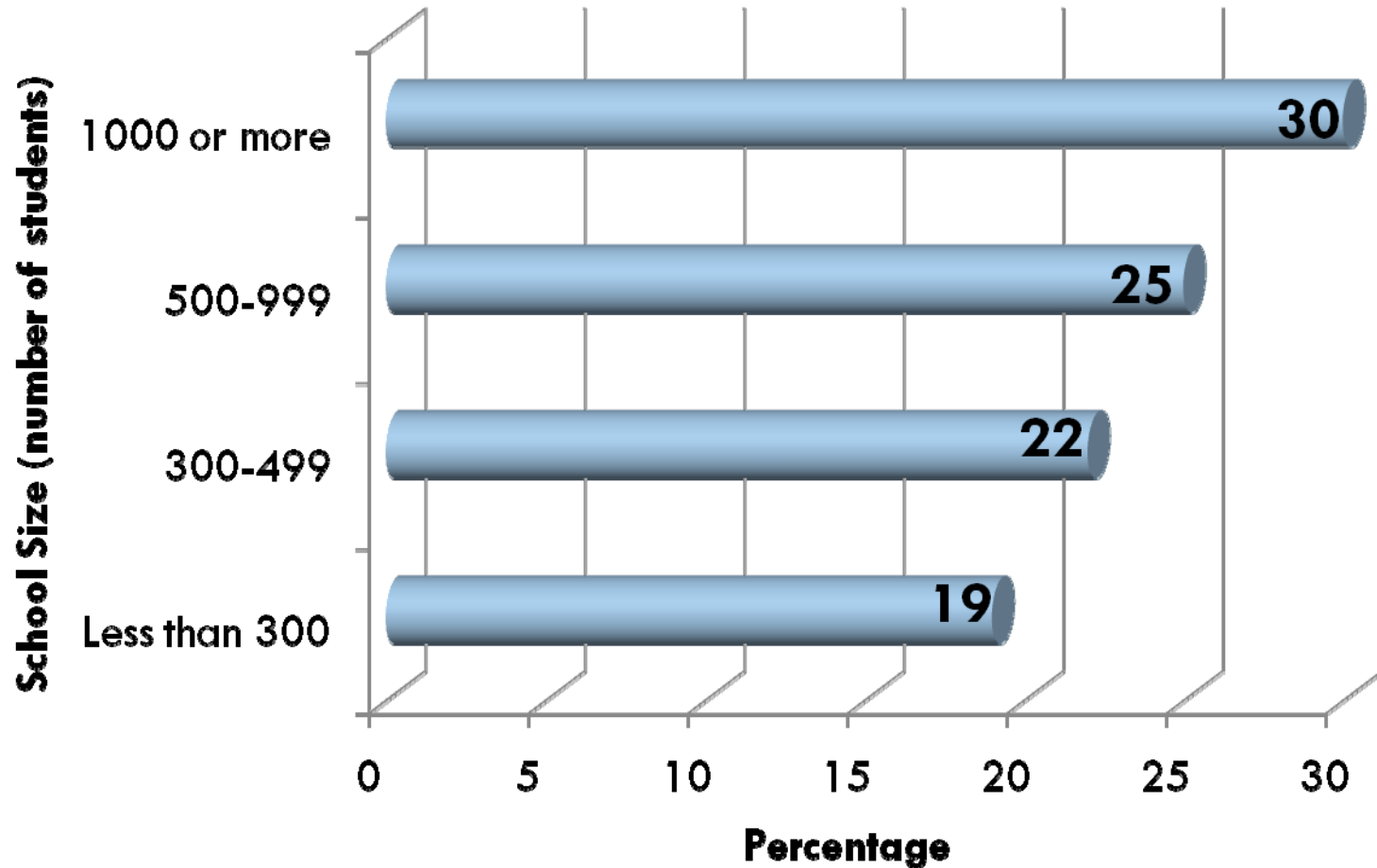


Source: Indicators of School Crime and Safety, 2008



# Bigger School, More Problems

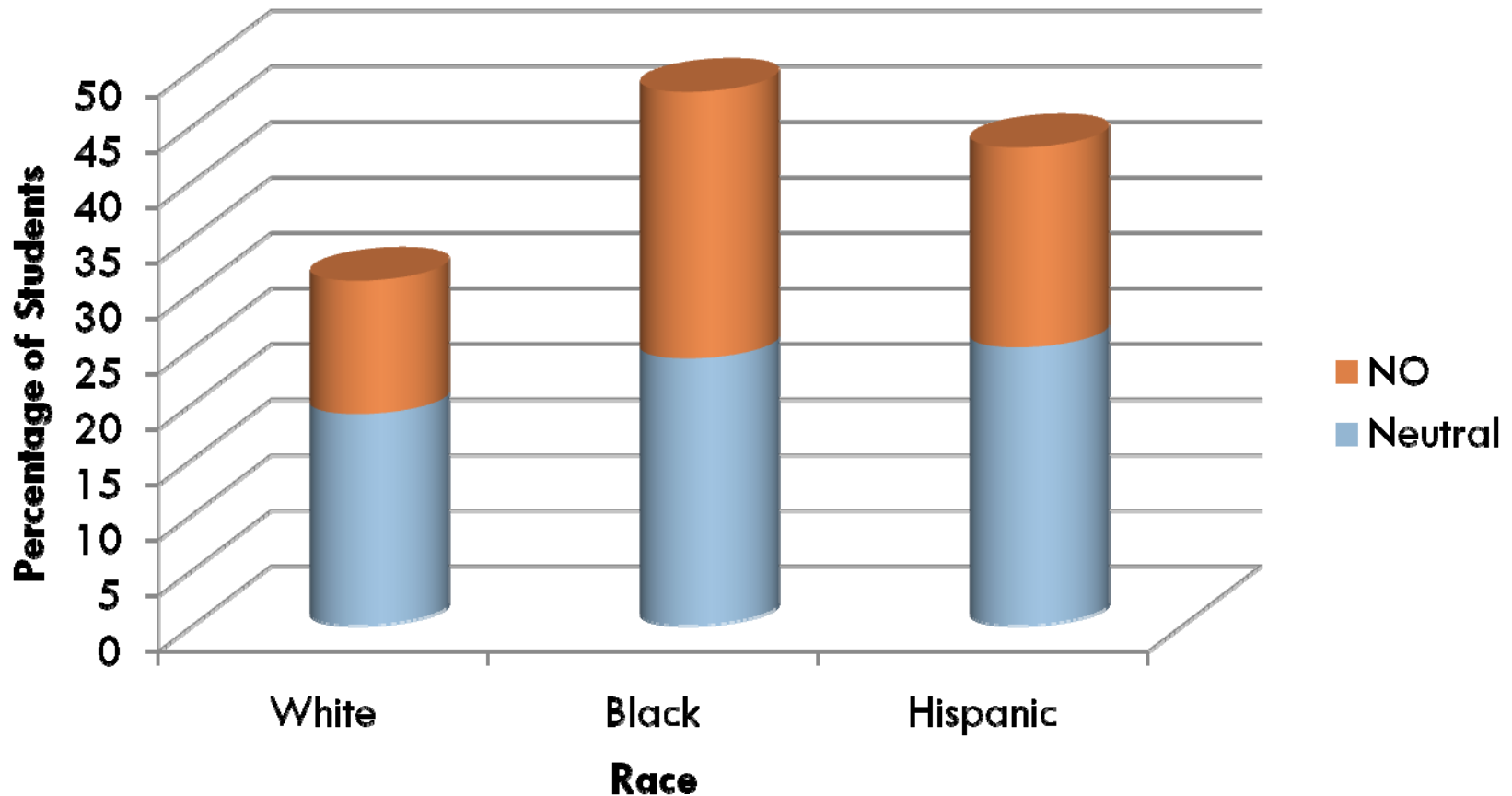
Percentage of public schools reporting selected discipline problems that occurred at school, by school enrollment size: 2005-06



Source: Indicators of School Crime and Safety 2007

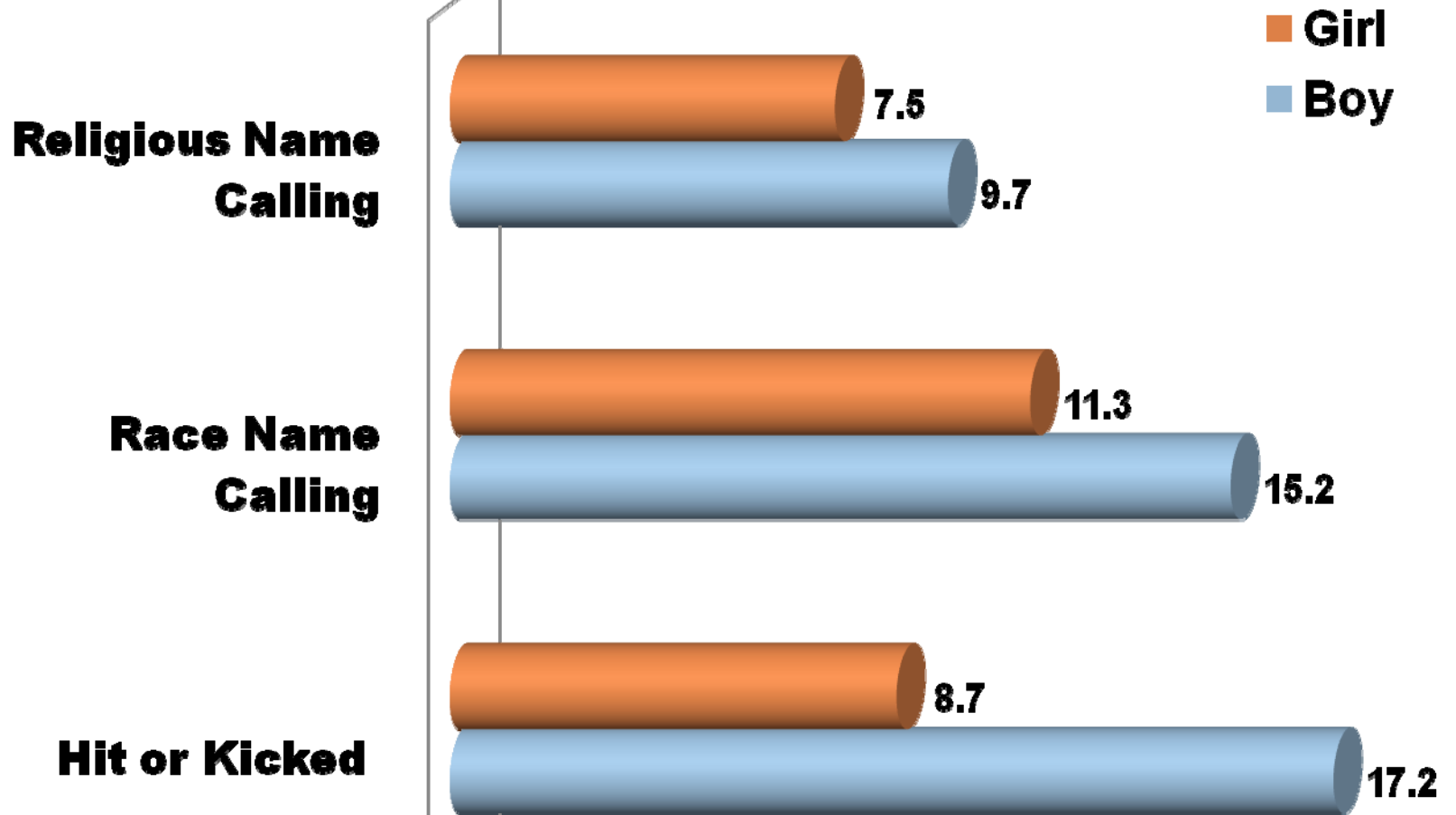
# The “Racial Safety Gap” at School

Percentage of students responding “Neutral” or “No” to the question:  
“Do you feel safe at school?”



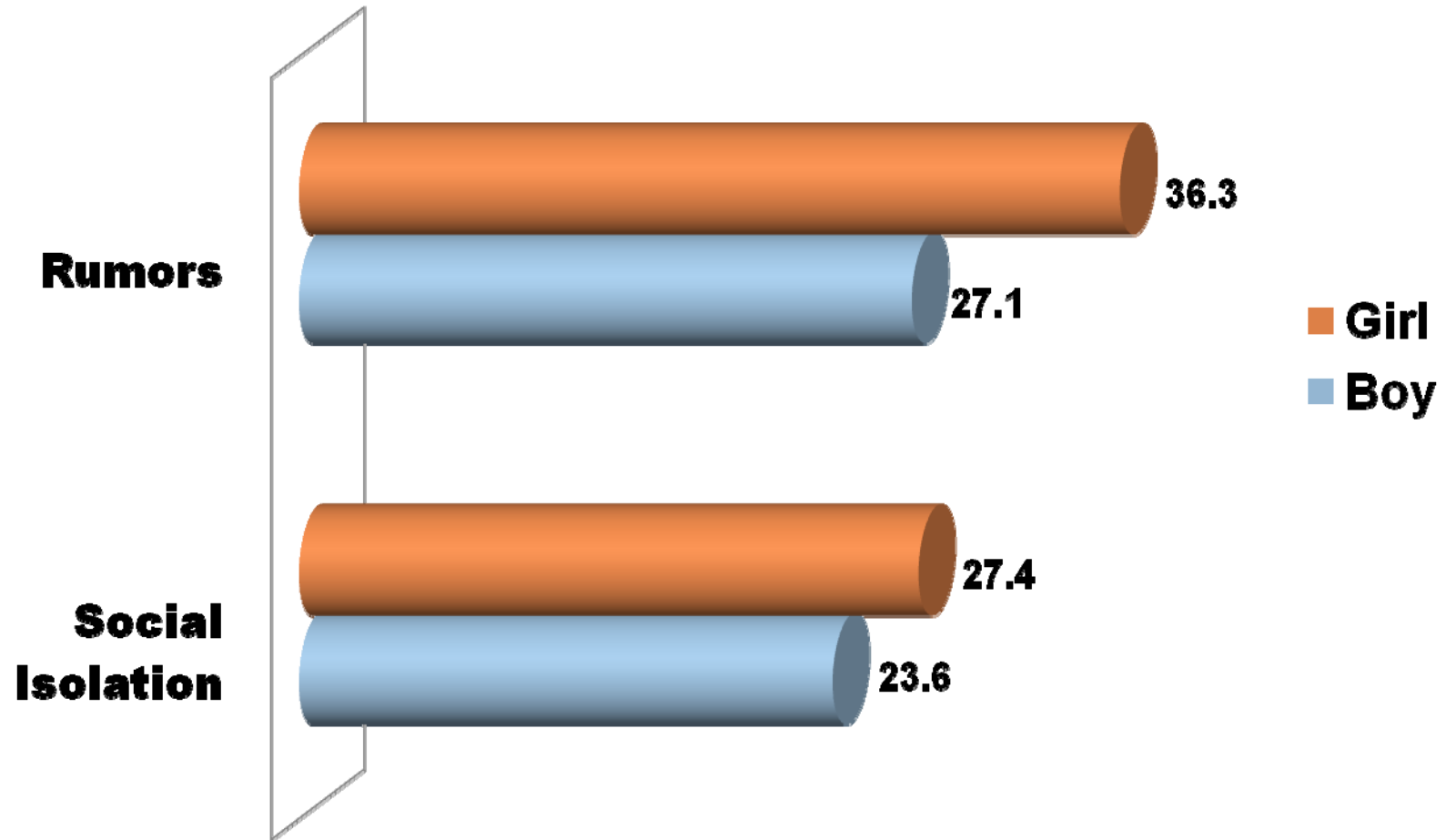
Source: Springs, Iannotti, Nansel and Haynie 2007

# What Boys Do (i.e. Boys Are Mean)



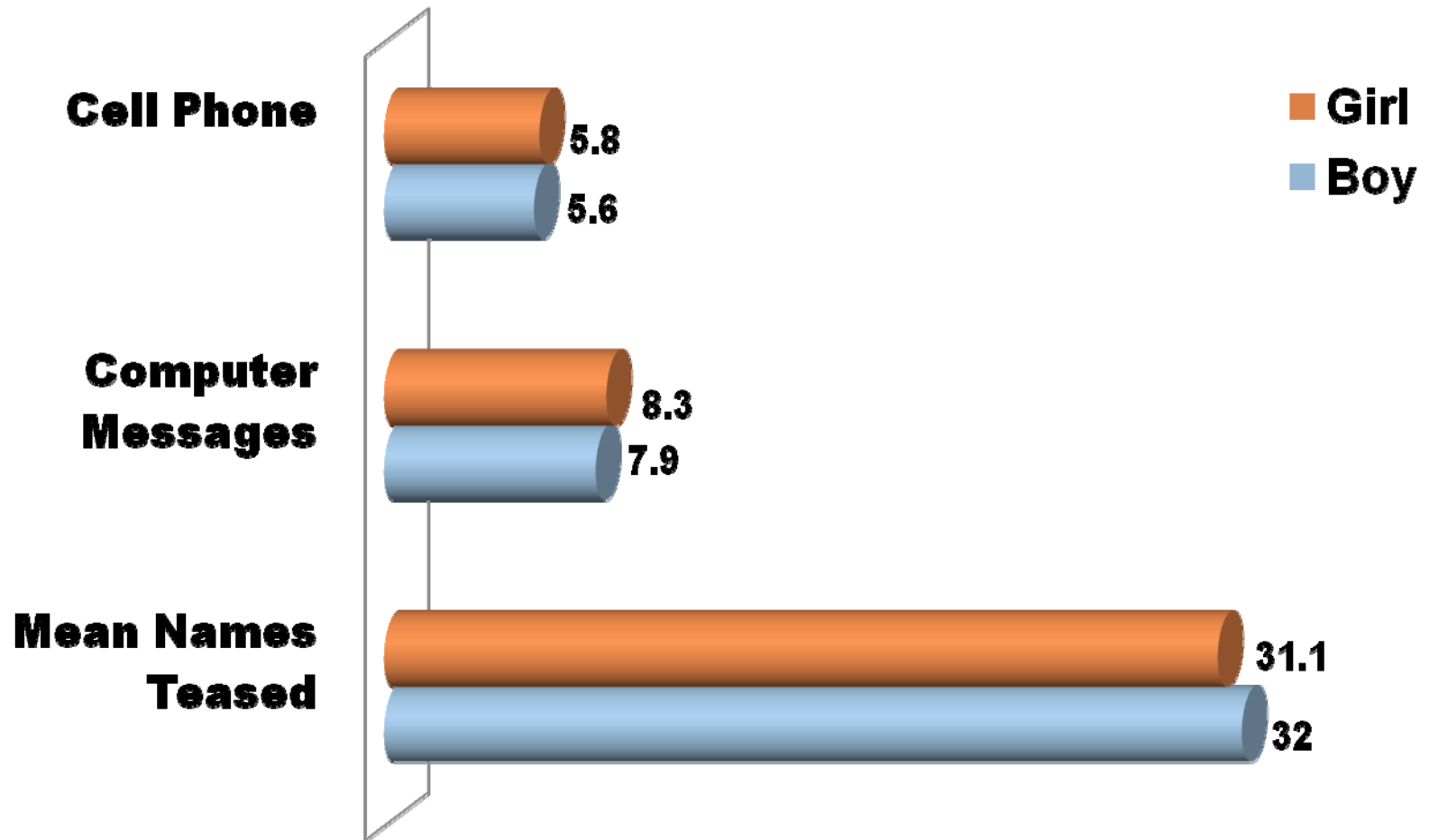
Source: Wang, 2009

# What Girls Do (i.e. Girls Are Sneaky)



Source: Wang, 2009

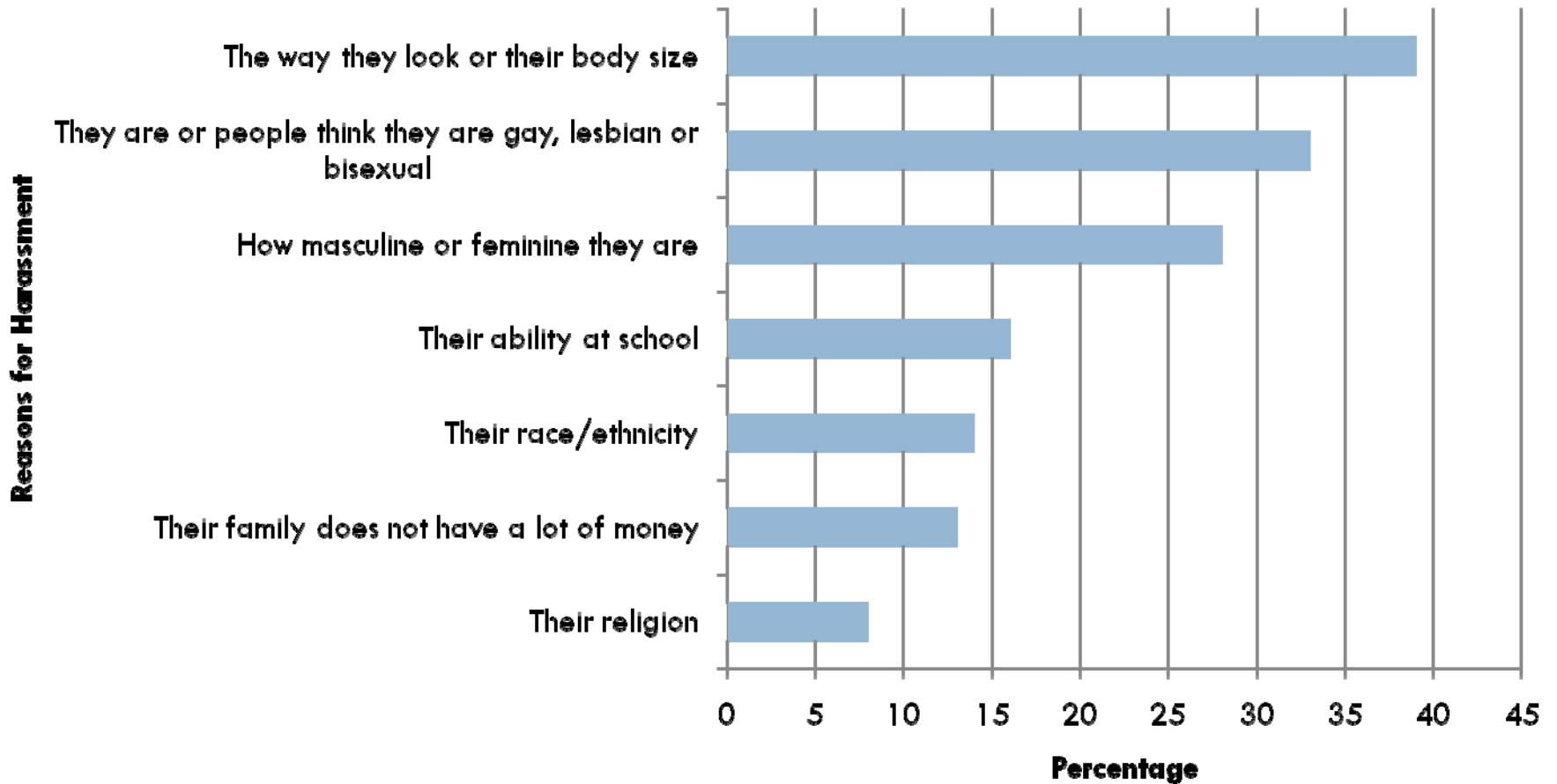
# What They Both Do



Source: Wang, 2009

# Some Groups are Singled Out for Harassment

Question: "At your school, how often are students bullied, called names or harassed for the following reasons?"



Source: *From Teasing to Torment: School Climate in America 2005*



## ***It's All Good: The "3 P's"***

### POLICY

School wide rules and sanctions ("Control" Strategy)  
Climate Standards (Culture and Climate)

### PROGRAMS

Teacher training (Behavioral/Classroom Management)

### PRACTICES

Skills building/conflict resolution (psycho-educational)  
Positive Youth Development  
CRE  
SEL  
PBIS  
RTI



# *What's the Washington Agenda?*





# In a Truly Safe School Every Student Feels Like...

- They Belong.
- They are Valued.
- They Feel Physically and Emotionally Safe.



# Tie Safe Schools into Ed Reform Agenda

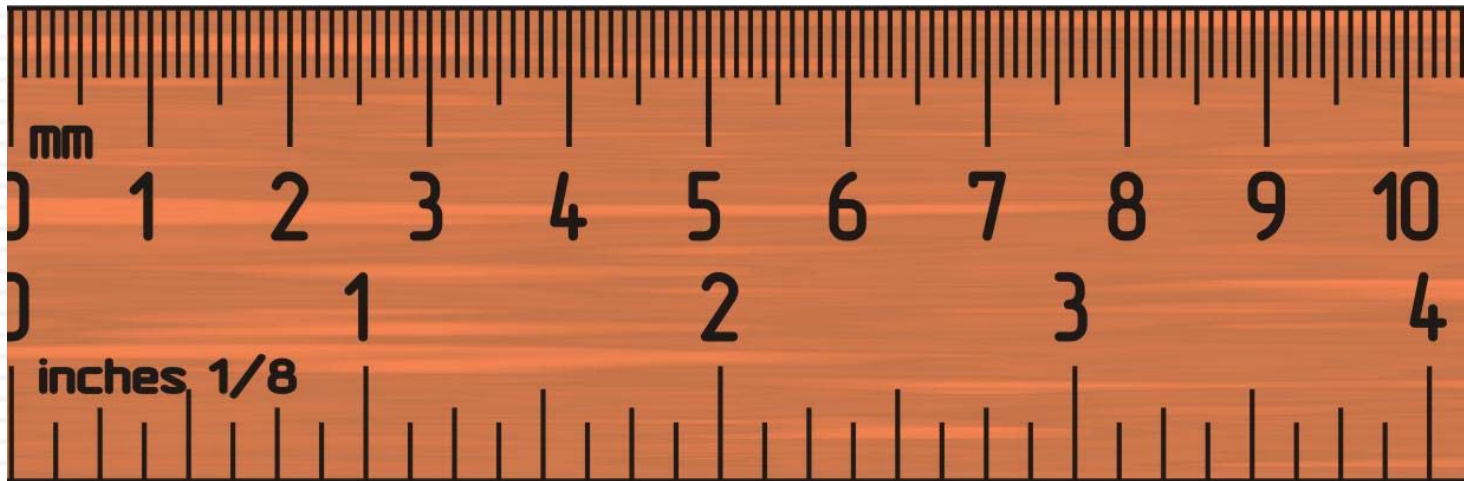


Build robust **data systems**  
that track student progress  
and improve practice.

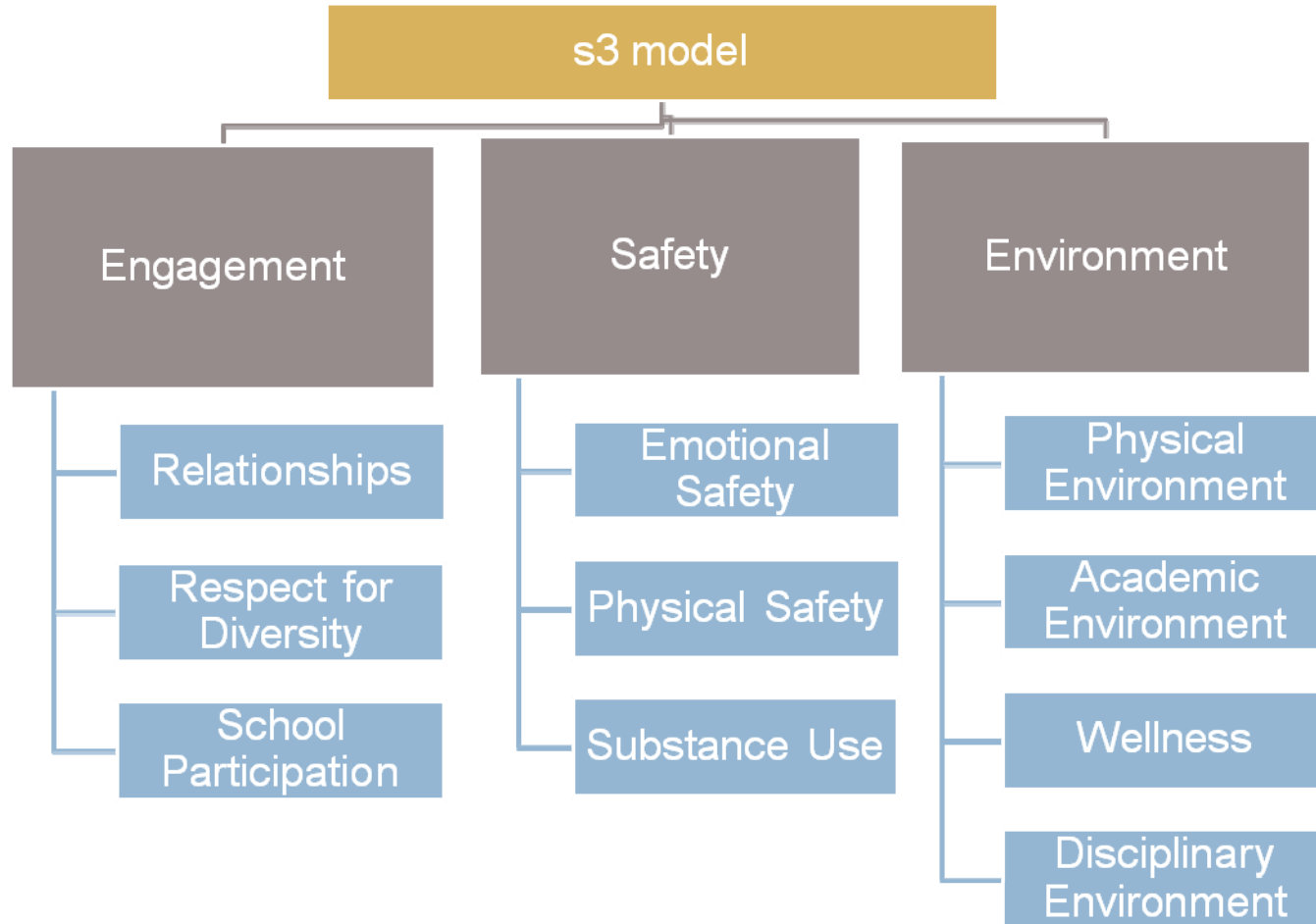
*Safe Schools: Measure school  
safety with the same rigor we  
measure academic progress*



## *What Gets Measured is What Gets Done*



# Safe and Supportive Schools (s3) Model



# Email – April 14, 2010

- 1. A need to make bus riding more appealing. You asked us to help with a study to understand why students do and do not ride buses as well as the impact of ridership (and non-ridership) on important outcomes like school attendance. We have already reached out to a research firm to ascertain the cost of such a study and, should it be affordable, will ask the department for permission to sue some of our national activities funds to conduct it.
- 
- 2. The need for effective training for drivers on student behavior management. From our conversation it seems that the amount and quality of training available to drivers is wildly variant and there is a real need in this area. We could perhaps work with you to develop a standard training module that could be made available to all states, drawing from the existing training programs that address behavior and climate on buses like the “Peaceful Bus Program,” some of which you promised to get me, I now recall. ☺
- 
- 3. Public education about the need for drivers to not pass stopped buses. The prevalence of injury and even death caused by this is problematic and we will each out the NHTSA to discuss if we can partner on such campaign.
- 
- 4. The need for regular communion between Ed and your constituency. We discussed that today is the end of the beginning, not the beginning of the end, of the conversation need to have. We discussed various future events, like bimonthly American School Bus Council meetings, the joint gathering you are all sponsoring in Portland, OR October 31-Nov. 4, as opportunities where I can not only speak but, more importantly, listen and learn.

## Email - May 10, 2010

We are requesting permission from our Budget Services office to conduct a study of school bus safety, focused on children's experiences on the buses and why (or why not) they take (or don't take) buses to school. This will be more focused on "climate" (do they feel unsafe? Bullied? Etc...) than on things like seat belts and will also include surveys of parents to understand their experiences and decision-making processes. We will want to involve you in the design of that study.

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Walker, H.M, Horner, R.H., Sugai, G.H., Bullies, M., Sprague, J.R., Bricker, D., & Kaufman, M.J. (1996). Integrated approaches to preventing antisocial behavior patterns among school-age children and youth. *Journal of Emotional and Behavioral Disorders, 4*, 193-256. Found in *Setting the Stage for Strong Standards: Elements of a Safe and Orderly School* by AFT.

Wang, J., Iannotti, R.J. and Nansel, T.R. (2009). School Bullying Among Adolescents in the United States: Physical, Verbal, Relational, and Cyber. *Journal of Adolescent Health, 13 May 2009*.