



Are the kids alright? Analysing bullying trends amongst 13-year-olds

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GUI Annual Conference
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth

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Age 13 – Bullying module

- As part of self-complete questionnaire for the **age 13 wave**, both cohorts ('98 and '08) completed questions on bullying (in 2011 and 2021, respectively)
 - Parents also completed questions asking if their child had been bullied
- Questions include type of bullying behaviour experienced, how the bullying made Young Person feel and whether or not they had told anyone
- Some questions were identical across cohorts while others were slightly different
- Differences in methodology and routing allow for insight into implications of how results vary based on questioning

Why analyse bullying?

- Detrimental to physical and/or emotional well-being
 - Cross-sectional and longitudinal effect (deLara 2018)
- Can impact learning environment or engagement with peers in social settings
- Bullying can now “follow” victim home
- At 13, have moved to secondary school
 - No longer supervised by one teacher

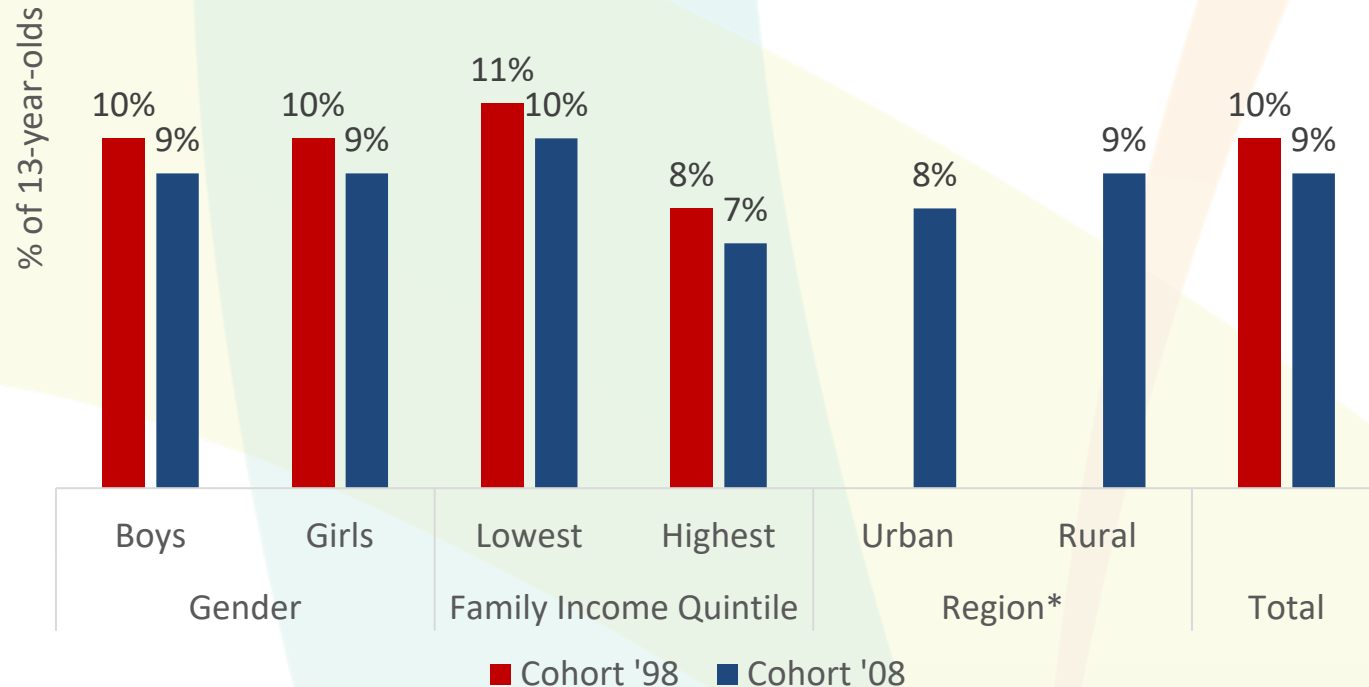


Are the kids
alright?

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Self-Defined Bullying

Have you been bullied in the last 3 months?



- 13-year-olds were asked “Have you been bullied in the last 3 months?”
- Results show little difference across gender or setting
- Slight difference across income levels
- No change across cohorts

Bullying Behaviours – Cohort ‘98

- Cohort ‘98 at 13 were only asked about specific behaviours if they said ‘yes’ to being bullied in earlier question
 - ‘Tick all that apply’

<u>What form did the bullying take?</u>	<u>% of “Yes”</u>
Physical bullying	32%
Verbal bullying	83%
Electronic	31%
Graffiti, pinning up notes, passing notes in class	16%
Taking, damaging personal possessions	22%
Exclusion	42%
Gossip	51%
Threatened	15%
Other	5%

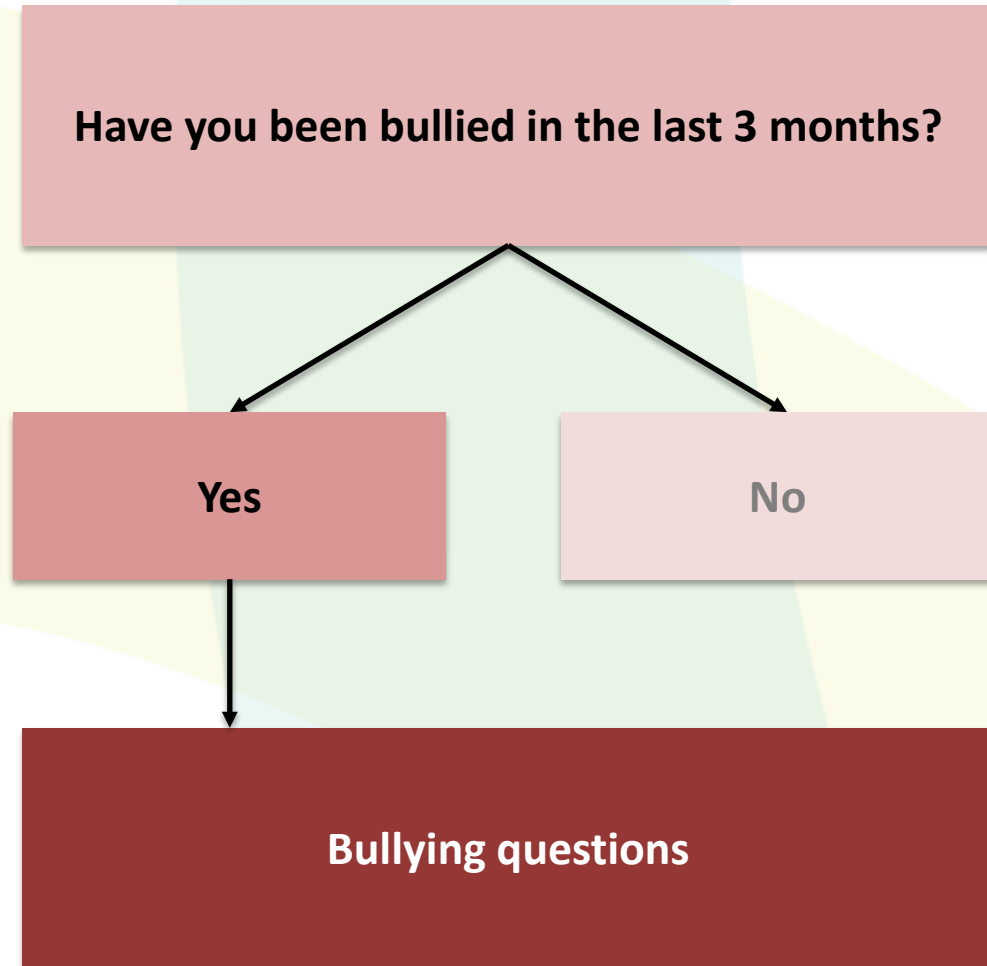
Bullying Behaviours – Cohort ‘98

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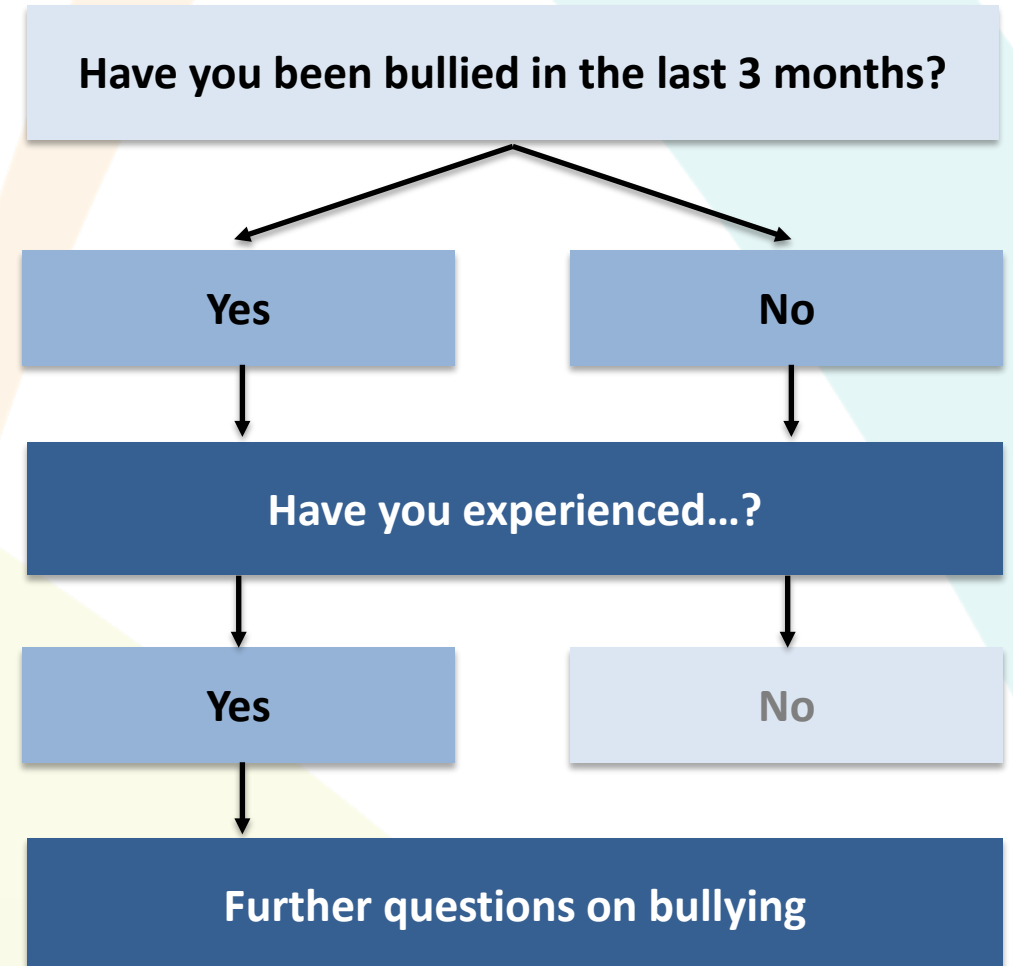
<u>What form did the bullying take?</u>	% of “Yes”	% of total sample
Physical bullying	32%	3%
Verbal bullying	83%	8%
Electronic	31%	3%
Graffiti, pinning up notes, passing notes in class	16%	1.5%
Taking, damaging personal possessions	22%	2%
Exclusion	42%	4%
Gossip	51%	5%
Threatened	15%	1%
Other	5%	1%

Different methodology

Cohort '98



Cohort '08



Bullying Behaviours – Cohort ‘08

- All of Cohort ‘08 at 13 asked about experience of bullying behaviours
 - “Never”, “once” or “two or more times”
 - Behaviours not exactly the same as for Cohort ‘98

<u>Have you been...?</u>	Once	Two or more times
Hit or kicked	12%	11%
Pushed or slapped	15%	15%
Name called	13%	20%
Sent a hurtful message	8%	7%
Something hurtful posted online	6%	3%
Circulated upsetting information/image about you	4%	2%
Taken/damaged your possessions	12%	6%
Excluded	17%	17%
Gossiped about	13%	9%
Threatened	6%	4%

Bullying Behaviours – Cohort ‘08

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Pushed or slapped	15%	15%	30%
Name called	13%	20%	33%
Sent a hurtful message	8%	7%	15%
Something hurtful posted online	6%	3%	9%
Circulated upsetting information/image about you	4%	2%	6%
Taken/damaged your possessions	12%	6%	18%
Excluded	17%	17%	34%
Gossiped about	13%	9%	22%
Threatened	6%	4%	10%



Physical Bullying

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Type of Bullying

Cohort '98

What form did the bullying take?

Physical bullying

Cohort '08

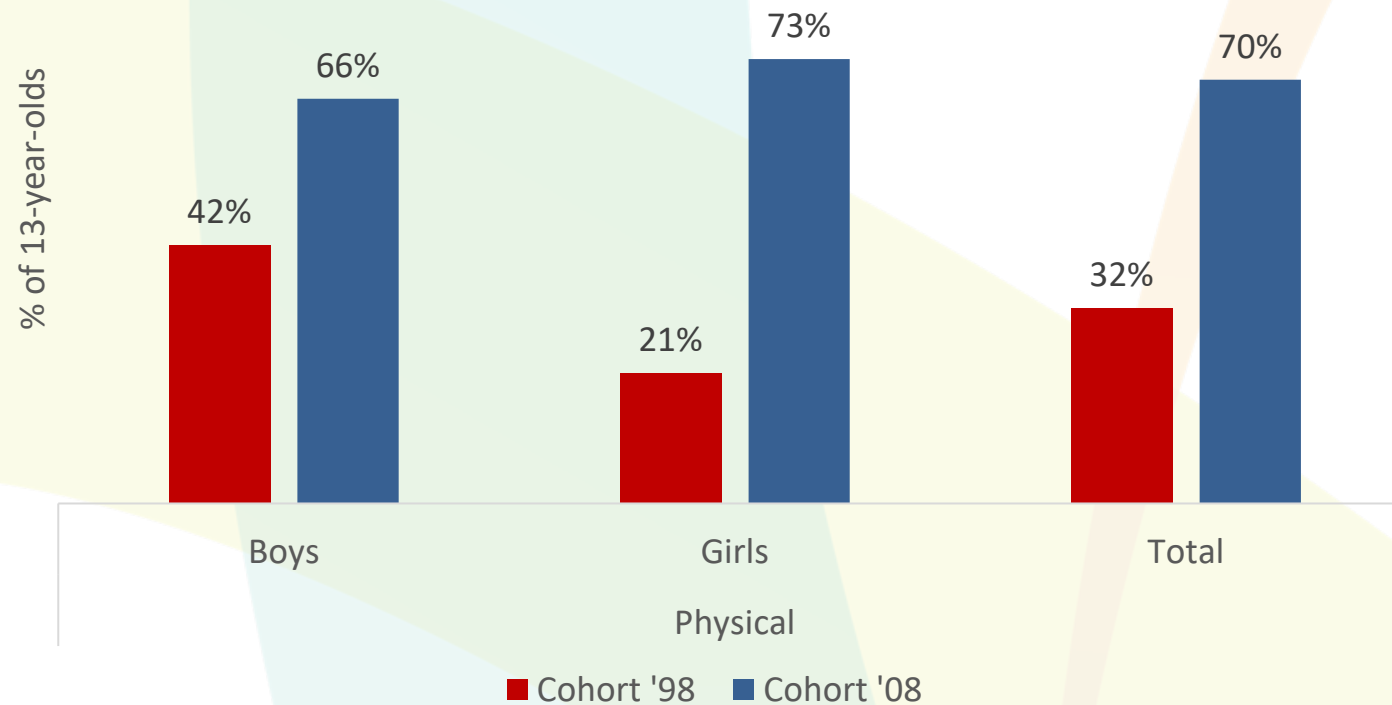
Have you been...?

Hit or kicked

Pushed or slapped

- Remaining behaviours coded as “non-physical”
- Using only those who answered “Yes” to having been bullied for both cohorts
- Not an either/or; can experience both

Physical bullying



- Nearly two-fold increase in experiencing physical bullying
- Substantial increase in physical bullying for both genders
- Girls now more likely to experience physical bullying than boys
- Nearly all Young People who were bullied experienced non-physical bullying*

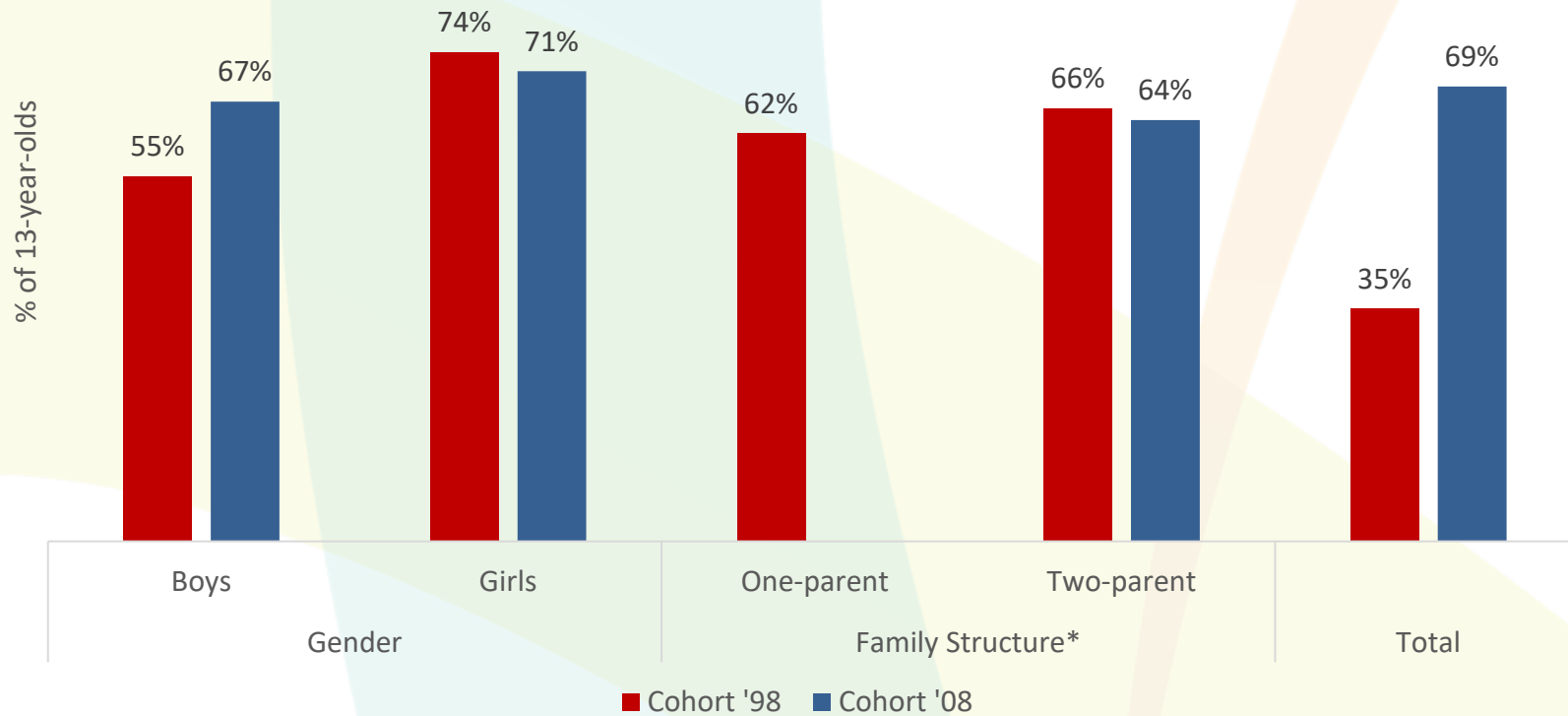


Adult Awareness

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Adult awareness of bullying

Told an adult about being bullied



- Cohort '08 twice as likely to tell an adult about being bullied
- Decreasing gender disparity
- Trends in family structure hold across cohorts*
- 10% of Cohort '98 mothers were aware and 34% of Cohort '08



Changing how bullying is measured

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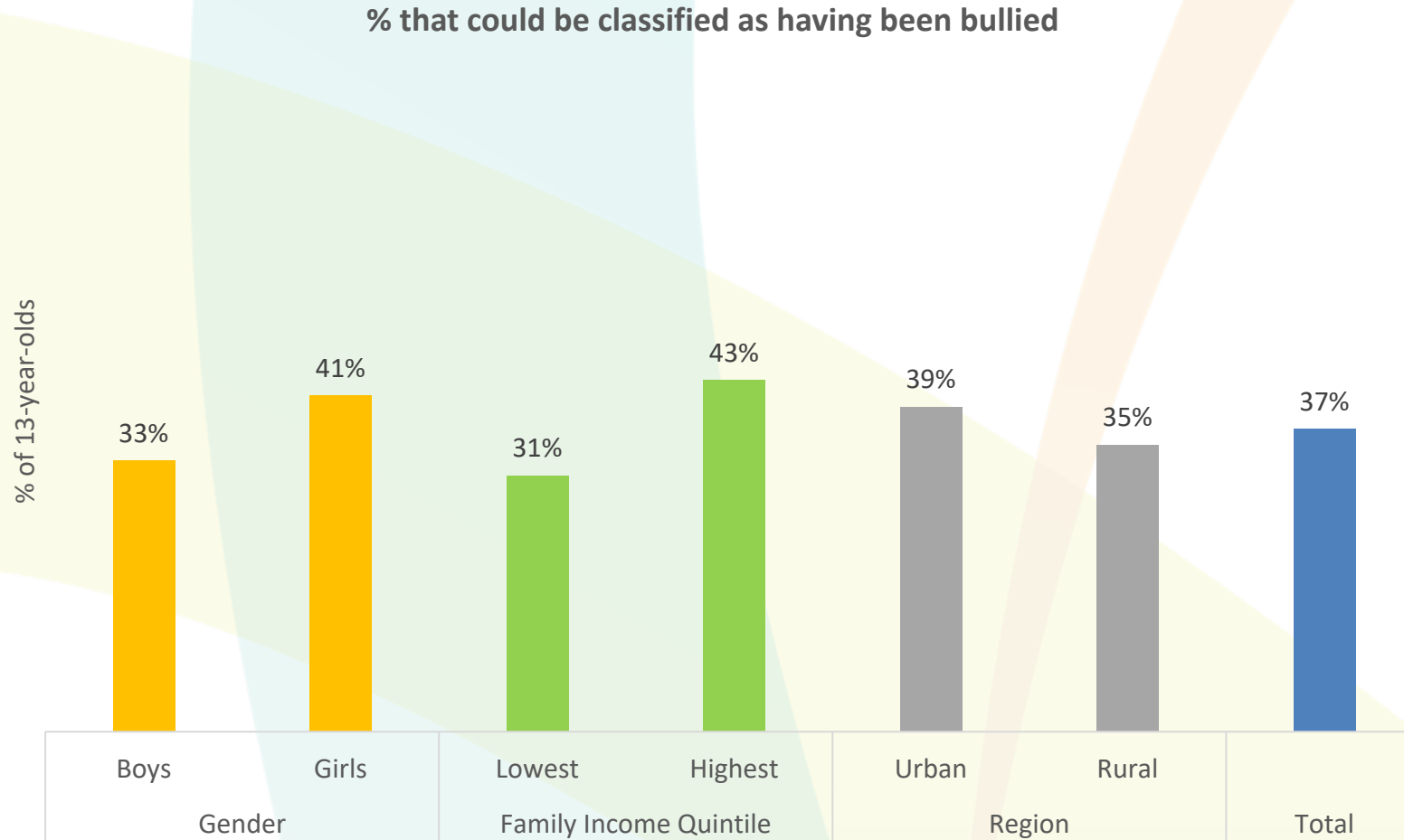
Creating an alternative classification of bullying

- The “two or more times” responses coded into derived bullying variable to compare with the direct question for Cohort ‘08

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Can now compare self-defined experience vs. experience of bullying behaviours

Alternative classification of bullying – Cohort '08



- 37% meet alternative classification; 9% said “yes”
- Girls now more likely than boys
- Relationship with family income has flipped
- Relationship with region has flipped



Physical vs. Non-Physical Bullying Behaviours

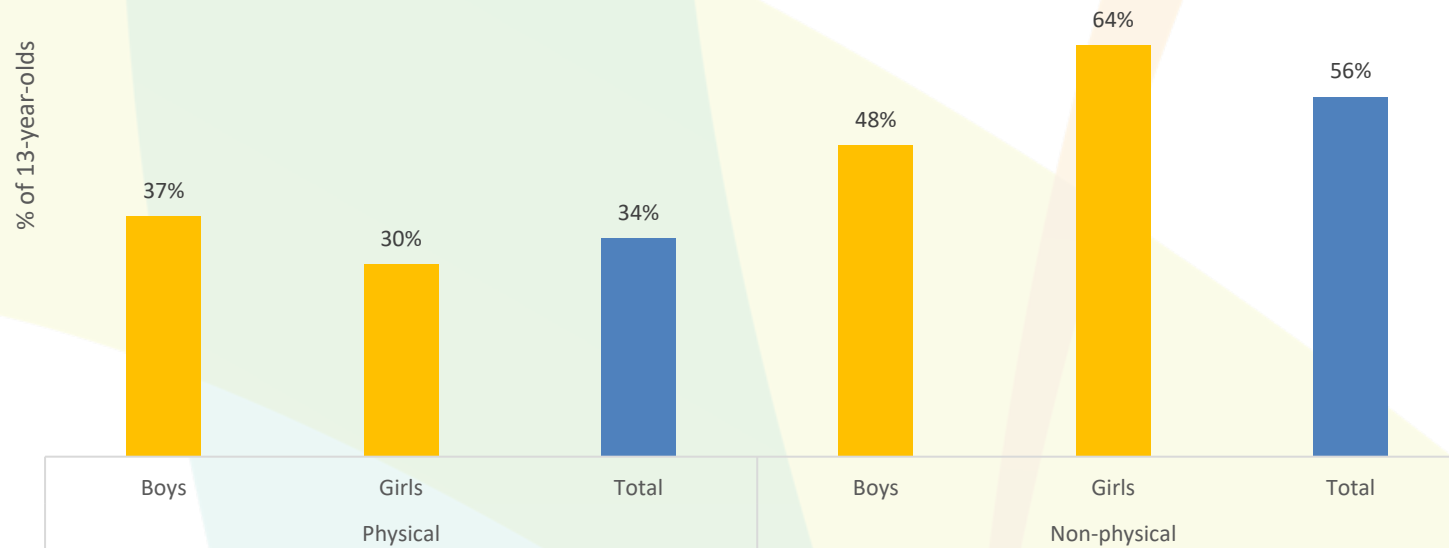
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Cohort '08

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Physical vs non-physical

Experience of physical vs non-physical bullying behaviours by gender



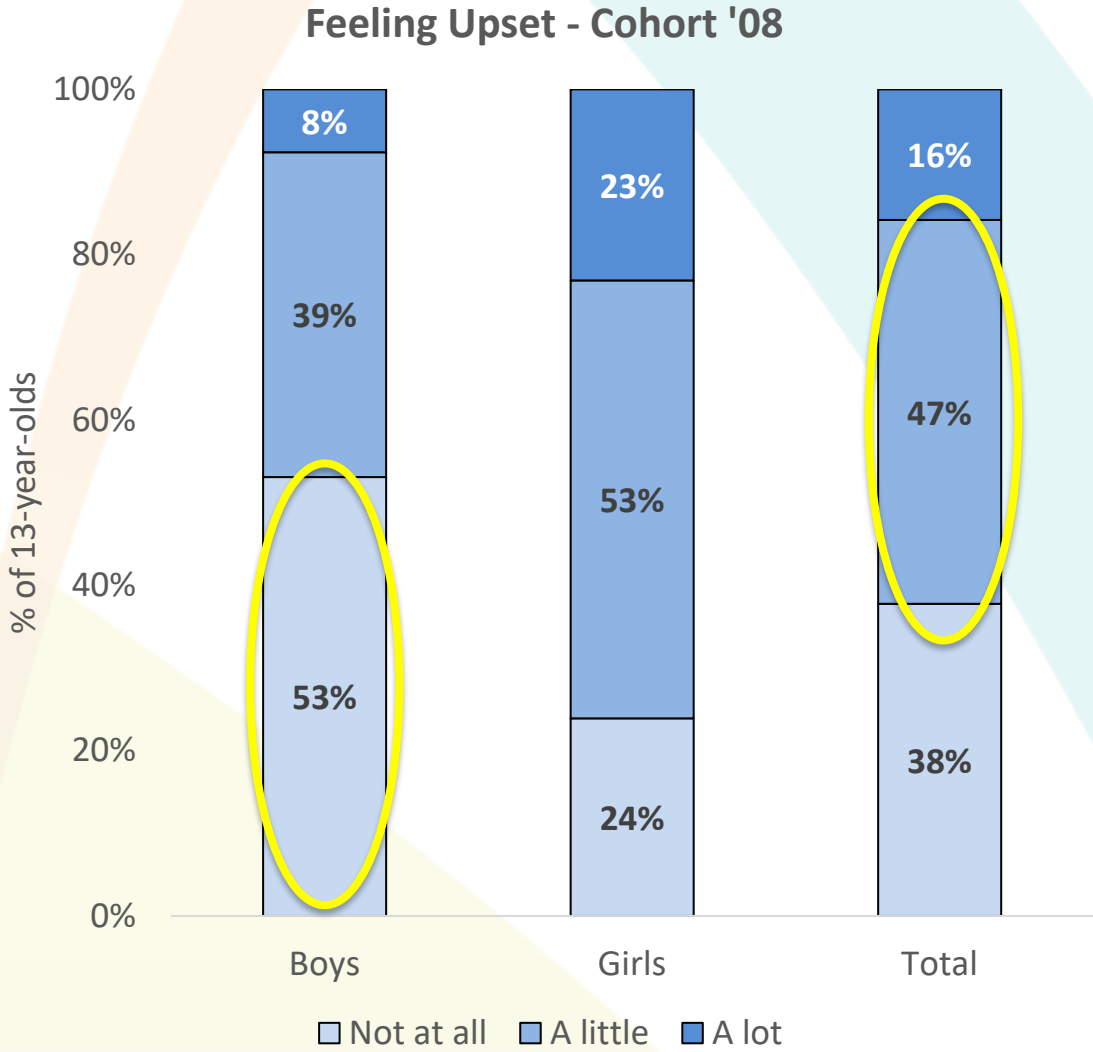
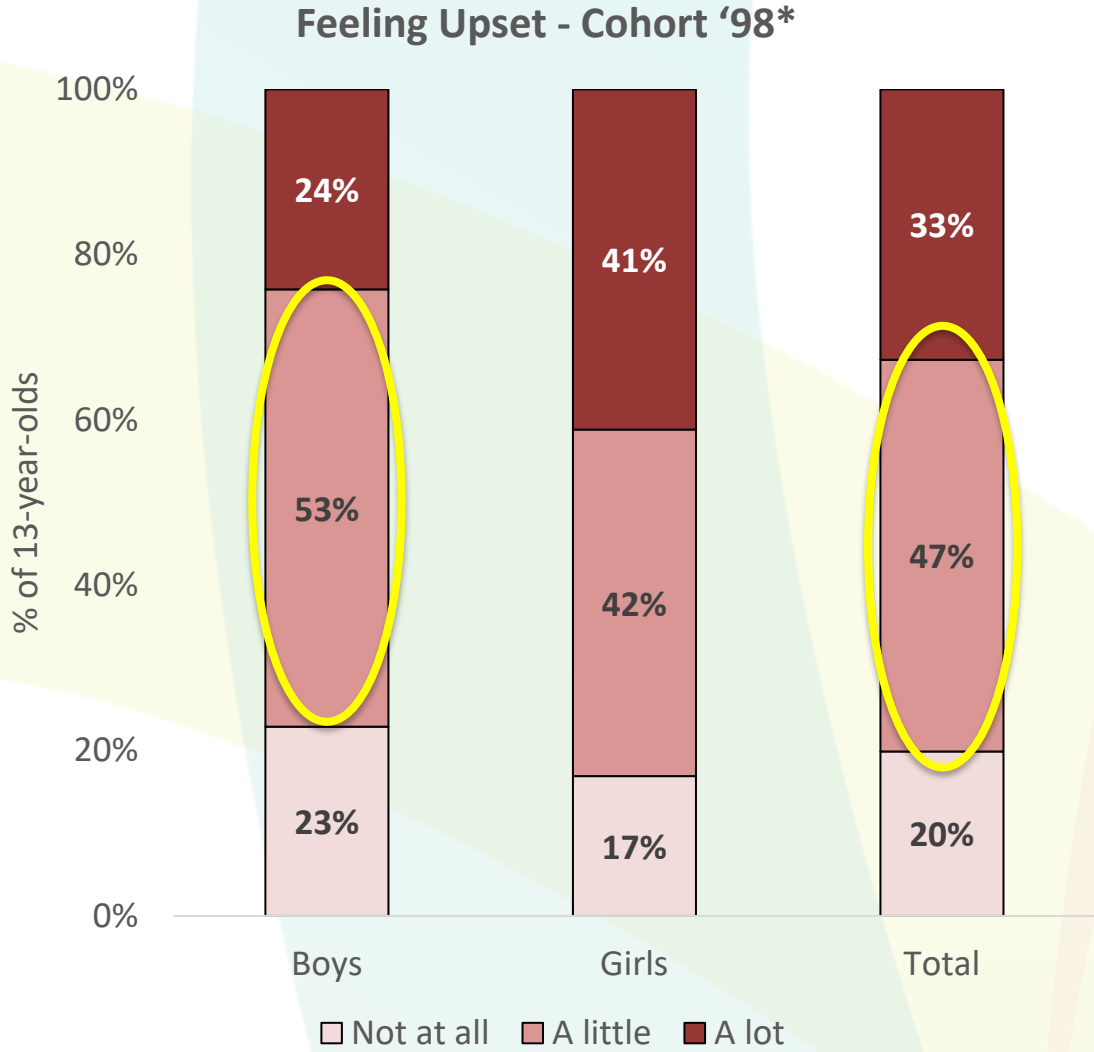
- Non-physical more likely than physical
- Boys more likely to have *any* experience of a physical bullying behaviour
- Girls more likely to have *any* experience of a non-physical bullying behaviour



How Bullying Made Them Feel

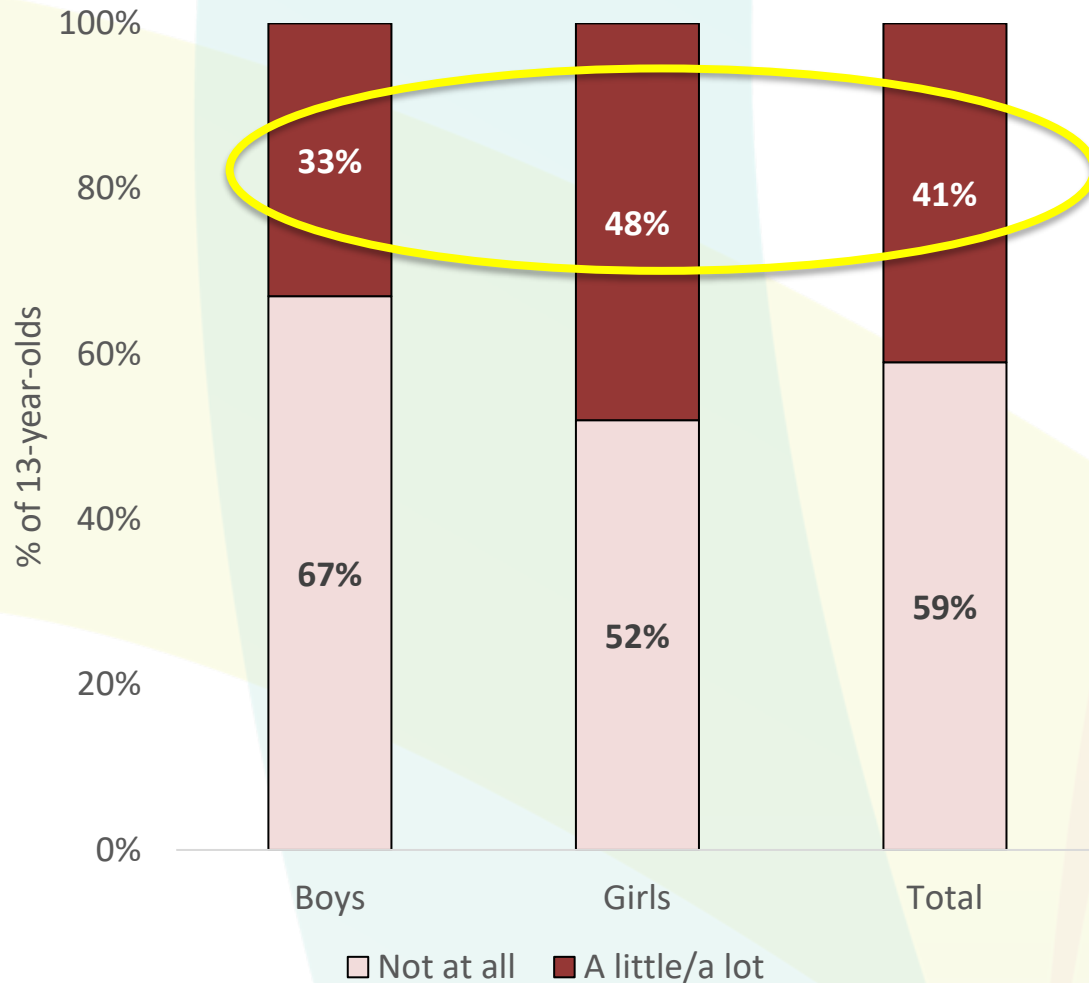
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Did this make you feel *upset*?

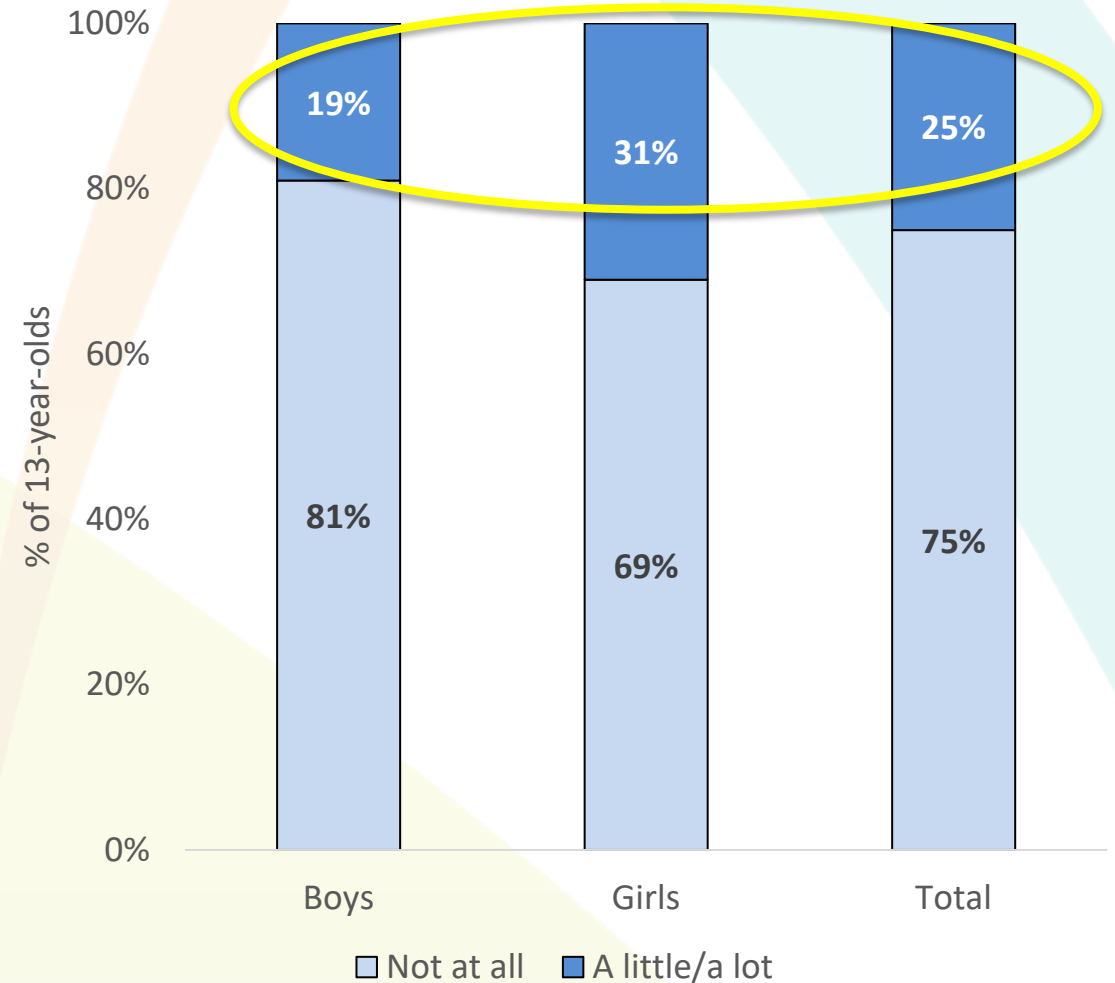


Did this make you feel *afraid*?

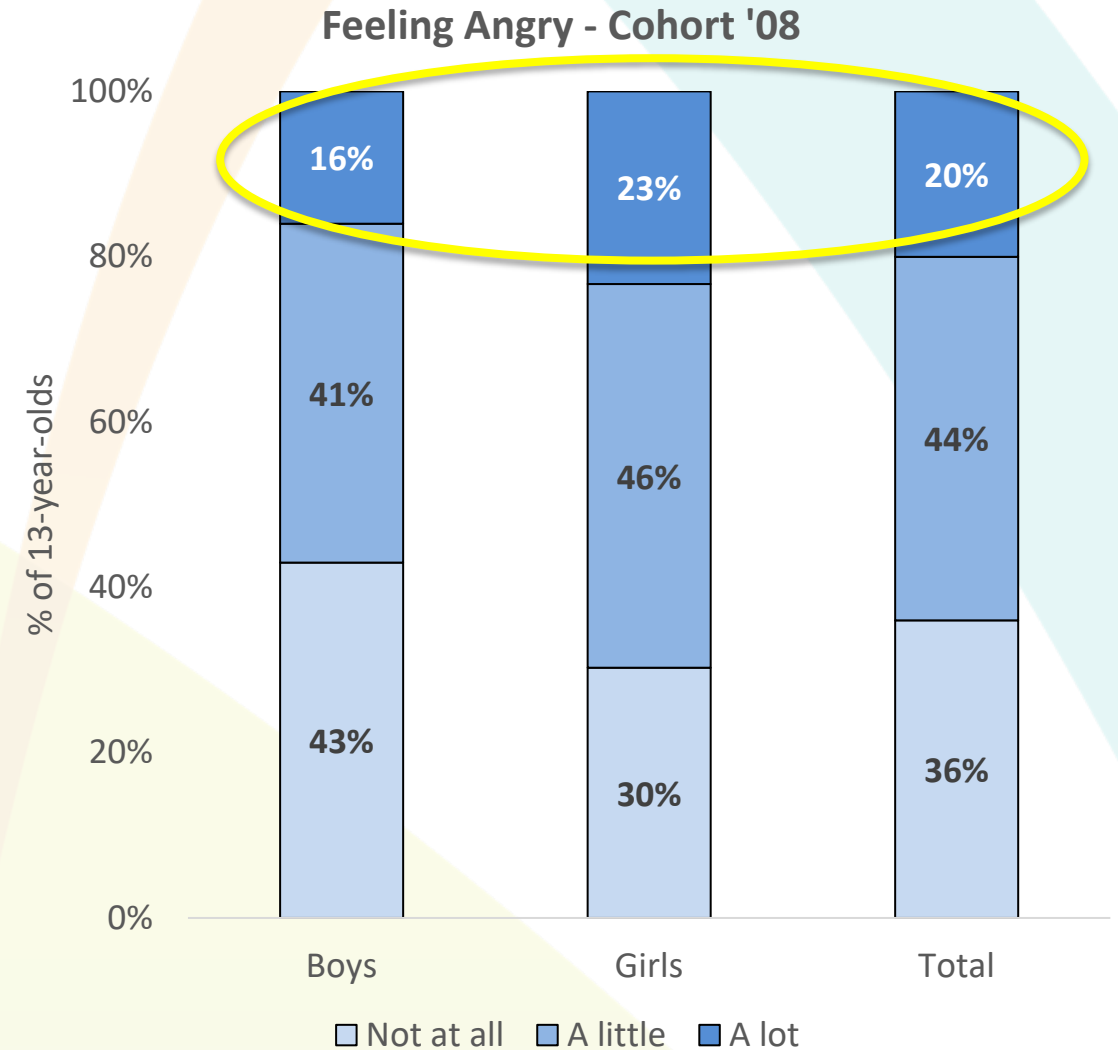
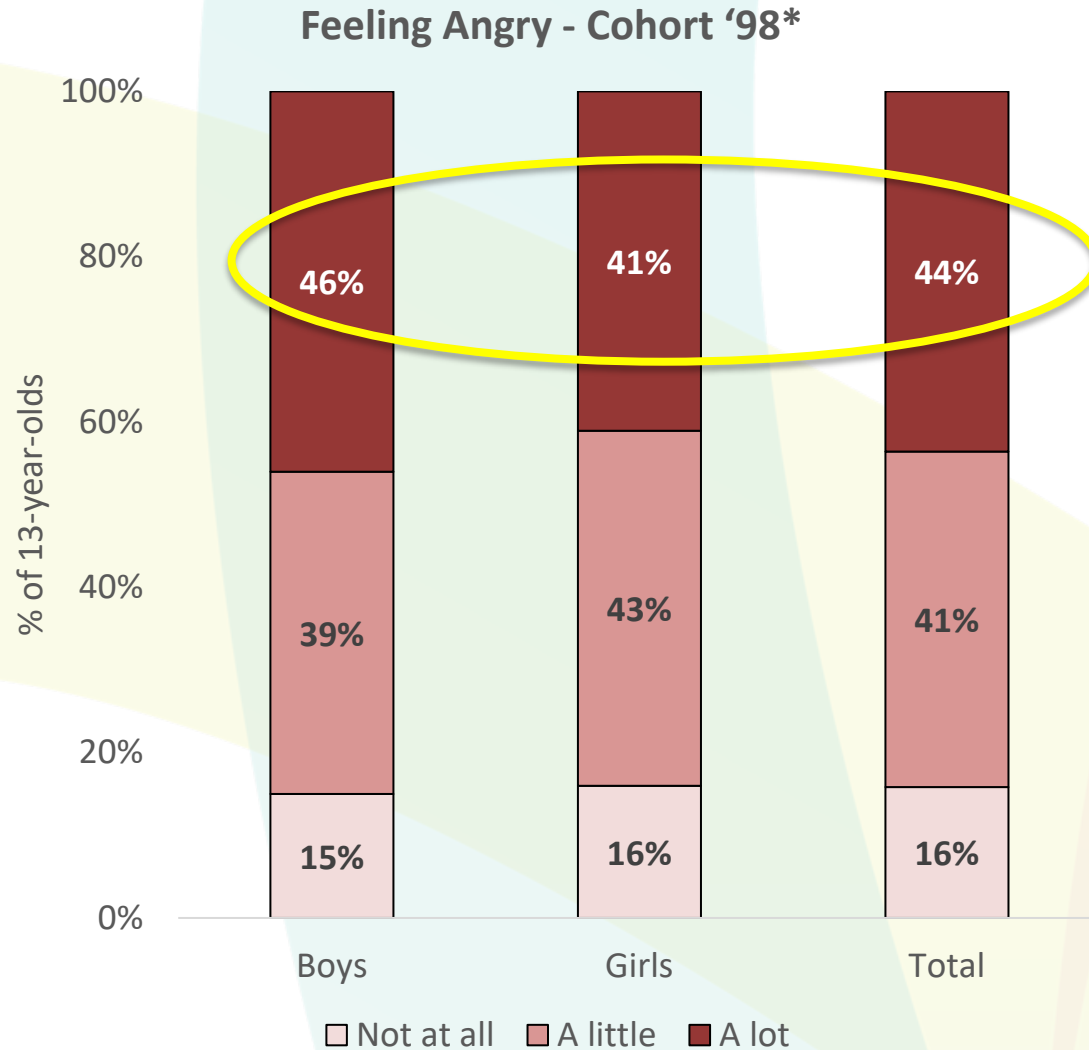
Feeling Afraid - Cohort '98*



Feeling Afraid - Cohort '08



Did this make you feel *angry*?



Conclusions

- Self-defined bullying prevalence is similar across cohorts
 - Similar trends across groups
- Alternative classification sees nearly 40% of 13-year-olds as having been bullied
 - Trends change as compared to self-defined bullying
- Non-physical bullying is more prevalent than physical bullying
- 13-year-olds now more likely to tell an adult
- 13-year-olds are having better emotional reactions



Thank You

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Sample for Cohort '08 at age 13

Respondent	Target sample	No. (%) of telephone interviews completed	Number of self-complete modules completed online		
			N	% of phone interviews	% of total target sample
Mother	9,723	6,655 (68%)	3,963	60%	41%
Father	8,952	4,805 (54%)	2,445	51%	27%
Young Person	9,723	6,375 (66%)	3,128	49%	32%

Sample for
this report

Not all
respondents did
the online module
after their phone
interview –
different weight
needed