



Save the Children  
Sweden

NO-ONE HAS EVER  
ASKED "WHAT DO YOU  
THINK ABOUT THIS?"

 YOUNG  
VOICE  
SWEDEN 2014

## **Young Voice 2014**

Save the Children, Sweden

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# Preface

Save the Children Sweden carried out the Young Voice survey because children, according to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (the Convention), are entitled to express their views on all matters that affect them. The children themselves must have their say about whether they feel their rights are being properly observed. The people who make decisions about factors related to children's lives - at school, at home, in leisure activities and in the community – should have access to information and understanding of how children feel. Children possess unique knowledge about their own situations. When children have more influence over decisions, these decisions become better informed and enjoy greater legitimacy.

The aim is that Young Voice will become an instrument in discussions with politicians, policy-makers and other stakeholders concerning conditions for children and young people. We hope that Young Voice will inspire the creation of arenas of influence at all levels, all based on the children's own conditions and terms.

In Sweden, the Government and Parliament, municipalities and county councils bear responsibility for issues relating to children


and young people. As Sweden has adopted the Convention, these are the agencies who have the duty to make it happen. Although many children in Sweden are doing fine, Young Voice shows that there is still a great deal left to do.

Our sincere thanks to all the children and young people who have participated in Young Voice. Also thanks to all the teachers, school principals and everyone else who has contributed so Save the Children Sweden could carry out this survey.



**Inger Ashing**  
Ordförande Rädda Barnen

*THE VOICES OF CHILDREN  
AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN  
SWEDEN ARE ALMOST  
NEVER HEARD. THIS  
SURVEY WAS TERRIFIC  
AND I HOPE THAT THE  
MUNICIPALITIES DO  
SOMETHING LIKE THIS  
THEMSELVES IN THE  
FUTURE*



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Overall results

**I WANT CHILD  
AMBASSADORS, YOUTH  
COUNCILLORS AND YOUTH  
CLUBS IN EVERY TOWN.**

Boy, Grade 8

# Summary of Young Voice 2014

In Young Voice, nearly 25,000 children in Sweden responded to questions about their rights. Results show that not all children in Sweden have their rights fulfilled. Young Voice also shows that many children want to be listened to and taken seriously to a much greater extent than they are today, both as concerning their own issues and issues that affect society in general.

**91%** feel that it is vital that decision-makers listen to children

**24%** have received offensive messages online

**90%** have, over the course of the previous year, felt stressed concerning their schoolwork

**43%** have, over the course of the previous year, been asked by school staff to bring money to school to pay for activities

**23%** seldom or never feel safe on public transport in the evenings

**4%** have, over the course of the previous year, worried about not being allowed to be together with/marry the person they choose

**13%** have, over the course of the previous year, worried about whether their family will have enough money to manage

**60%** want more influence and more opportunities to affect issues that concern children

**17%** of the girls have experienced problems with eating disorders over the course of the previous year

**21%** have, over the course of the previous year, felt that they have been bullied or harassed

**49%** have, at some time or many times, felt sad or down for a longer period of time over the course of the previous year

**11%** of the girls have been contacted online by an adult who wanted to talk to them about sex

**8%** have not been able to participate in leisure time activities over the course of the previous year, because these have cost money

**52%** of the boys have seen someone punched or hit over the course of the previous year

**4%** have, over the course of the previous year, worried about being evicted





# Seriously speaking

*"Will you help us now, help us to make it less scary here at night?"* A question from a twelve-year-old girl who was one of the around 25,000 children who participated in Young Voice.

We had to answer no. We could not make such a promise. And even if we might have been able to help with that problem, who would have helped the next time she and her friends wanted to change something? What we did promise was to relay her views to the people in charge. We also promised to fight for children to be listened to and that their opinions should be taken seriously at all levels in society. Young Voice confirms the fact that many children want to be listened to. Both on issues that concern them directly and with respect to society in general.

*"If there is a big decision to be made in the municipality, send it out to the schools and check out what young people think. Then the decision-makers can take a position on our opinions."*

More than 20% of the Swedish population is under 18 and thus lack formal opportunities to make their voices heard. Consequently the perspective of a very important part of the population is easily overlooked and something needs to be done to safeguard children's views, locally and nationally.

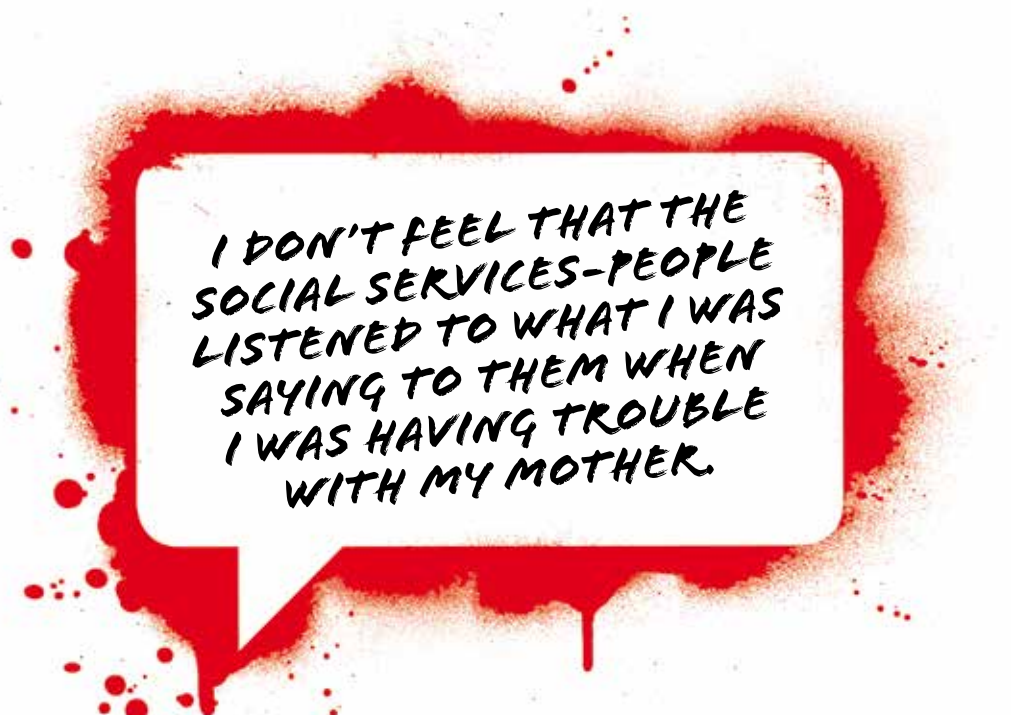
In Young Voice, time and again children describe a sense of powerlessness. They say that adults do not listen and if they actually do listen, nothing happens anyway. Children describe, for example, how they had been members of school food committees for several years without anything changing or how they had been bullied without teachers taking any action.

It appears that many of the arenas designed for children to exert influence do not consider their opinions. This leads to less successful decisions and also that children's confidence in adults is damaged. Being listened to and taken seriously is crucial to a child's wellbeing.

*"I was bullied in grades 0-9 and never got the help I needed even though the teachers said they would deal with it. A large part of my childhood was ruined because of them ..."*

In Young Voice children testify about stress, anxiety, bullying, eviction, depression, costs in school and racism. Children are treated badly and, in some situations, adults do not ensure the best interest of the child. This is serious.

So now we are doing what we promised that twelve-year-old girl. We are handing over Young Voice to you and we will continue our struggle to make sure that children are taken seriously - wherever they live in Sweden.



**I DON'T FEEL THAT THE  
SOCIAL SERVICES-PEOPLE  
LISTENED TO WHAT I WAS  
SAYING TO THEM WHEN  
I WAS HAVING TROUBLE  
WITH MY MOTHER.**

# What is Young Voice?

Young Voice is Save the Children Sweden's nation-wide survey of what children think. It was carried out using questionnaires and focus group interviews. The questions cover both municipal and national responsibilities and extend over themes such as participation, education, security, the future and psychological problems. The survey is permeated in all its aspects by the articles of the Convention and is primarily based on the recommendations Sweden received from the Committee on the Rights of the Child, as well as covering other areas where Save the Children would like to discover how children perceive their situation.

## **Recommendations from the Committee**

The Convention was ratified by Sweden in 1990. Consequently, every five years the Government is examined by the Committee on the Rights of the Child in order to follow up on how well Sweden complies with the Convention. Although, generally speaking, Sweden is considered to show a high level of compliance, the Committee wants Sweden to do more to ensure that, for example:

- Children are heard more often on issues that concern them
- Bullying is prevented
- More rapid help is provided for children and young people who do not feel well emotionally or psychologically
- Children who seek refuge from other countries must have the same rights as all the other children in Sweden
- Children must be aware of their rights to a greater extent than they are today
- Child poverty is reduced
- All children enjoy the same opportunities for education and support, irrespective of where they live.

Sweden was also criticised because the Children's Ombudsman is not able to deal with complaints from individual children whose rights have been violated.

## **What does Save the Children want?**

Young Voice provides insight into how children perceive their situation and how they feel their rights are respected and fulfilled. The aim is to disseminate this knowledge and that the adults who impact on children's lives should take this knowledge to heart - and act on it. Save the Children want Parliament, the Government, agencies, county councils, municipalities and schools to create structures and procedures to capture children's opinions and ensure that these are taken into account in all decision concerning children. Routines must adopt an approach that is always based on the best interest of the child.

Save the Children does not claim to explain why children have responded as they did, so there is good reason for municipalities and county councils to implement more in-depth studies and engage in more detailed dialogue with children and young people in order to gain a deeper understanding of these results.

## **How can Young Voice be used?**

This report includes results from the entire country. Certain issues are awarded more space than others but the results of all the questions are found in the Annex. In addition there are another 61 local editions in which results are reported at county and municipality levels.

These are available at: ([www.raddabarnen.se/ungrost](http://www.raddabarnen.se/ungrost).)





# Article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the child

According to Article 12 of the Convention, children have the right to express their views on all matters affecting them according to their age and maturity. For example, this could mean that adults must produce child-friendly information so children can understand it. Adults must listen to, respect and take into account the children's own opinions in all decisions concerning them. The point of departure is to regard children's participation as a process rather than a one-off. Adults should not adopt a symbolic approach to Article 12 such as by organising drawing competitions, children's choirs or tree planting.

Listening properly to children means that they have their say in all matters affecting them. For example, children being involved in and influencing major decisions such as recruitment, budget and planning in the municipality or the school. Children should receive information about the issue under discussion and participation should be voluntary.

*"I think our Principal and Municipal Director should take our letters seriously and that they should actually respond to them."*

It is also important to ask children what they want to discuss and how they would like to do it. When a decision is made, tell them about it, how their opinions have been considered and what the consequences are.

## ARTICLE 12 OF THE CONVENTION

**1. The States Parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child.**

**2. For this purpose, the child shall in particular be provided the opportunity to be heard in any judicial and administrative proceedings affecting the child, either directly, or through a representative or an appropriate body, in a manner consistent with the procedural rules of national law.**

# How did Save the Children do it?

## Data collection

Data collection has been carried out by Save the Children's local branches. Article 3 of the Convention, which addresses the best interest of the child, is central to Save the Children operations. Consequently it was vital that children were given the opportunity to conduct the survey without worrying that others would be able to check on their answers. The school was assessed as being the place where all the children could be reached yet guaranteed maximum anonymity. The survey was therefore conducted using questionnaires in schools.

## ARTICLE 3 OF THE CONVENTION

**In all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.**

## The questions and the questionnaire

The questionnaire consists of 31 questions that have been produced by Save the Children in consultation with legal experts, researchers and the survey company Enkätfabriken. Enkätfabriken has also been responsible for

the compilation and management of questionnaires. In addition, ten focus group interviews, with about six children in each group were carried out in different places around the country. The questions in both the questionnaire and the focus groups were based on the Convention and the recommendations Sweden received from the Committee.

## Selection

The survey's target group was children in grades 6 and 8, plus those in the first year of upper secondary education (approximately ages 12, 14 and 16). In order to ensure representativeness and secure participation, clear guidelines were provided concerning all aspects of implementation. Consequently the sample could not be completely random, but for the best representativeness possible, a large spread of municipalities, counties and participating schools was required. A total of 24,777 questionnaires were collected from 500 schools in 75 municipalities. For each participating municipality there have been minimum numbers of participating students and schools. These have been developed based on the number of students in these municipalities. Results at the municipal level have only been developed for the municipalities that generated a sufficient number of responses and that showed a good spread. Results are thus reliable both at municipal and national levels. All municipalities did not generate responses from all age groups as some municipalities lack the upper secondary level. This should be taken into consideration when comparing municipalities.

## Weighting

Results are weighted according to age to ensure the most representative results possible. This means that even if it is possible to calculate the approximate number of children on the basis of the percentage, it is not possible to arrive at the exact numbers.

## Variables

The report presents data consistently broken down by gender (girl/boy) and grade. In their survey responses, the children themselves stated which groups they belong to. The response categories for gender were: Girl, Boy, Other (do not identify myself as a girl or a boy). 561 children stated Other. However Save the Children's analysis of the Other group showed that some questionnaires were careless or incomplete. In order not to burden the test result with erroneous data, Save the Children therefore chose to ignore the Other group when reporting the quantitative results, however when reporting quotes taken from the survey, this group's answers are included.

## Questionnaires

<b>Total no. of questionnaires submitted</b>	<b>24 777</b>
Online questionnaires	8 634
Hard copy questionnaires	16 143
Incomplete, discounted	800
Group removed <i>Other</i>	561
No. of questionnaires quantitative results based on	23 416

Paper or online questionnaires were used usually based on classes' personal preferences. Some questionnaires could not be included in the overall results as they were largely incomplete or the respondent failed to fill in one of the gender or grade variables. The group *Other*'s quantitative answers have been removed,

which is reported above under Variables. However, written comments given in response to the open-ended question were harvested from all questionnaires and included in the total compilation. In summary 24,777 children filled out the Young Voice questionnaire and the quantitative results are based on 23,416 questionnaires.

## Gender and grade distribution

Results distributed according to school grade or gender represent the total results. If 20% of the boys and 10% of the girls have answered yes to a question, this does not mean that totally 30% have answered yes, it is the proportion of girls or boys who have answered yes to a question that is reported. See the example below:

	<b>BOY</b>	<b>GIRL</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
No. of children	100	100	200
No. who said yes	20	10	30
Proportion who said yes	20%	10%	15%

## Rounding up/down

Percentages are rounded to whole numbers so totals can sometimes be less than, or greater than, 100%. Some of the questions are multiple choice questions where it has been possible to select more than one answer. In such cases, totals are more than 100%.

## Focus groups and quotes

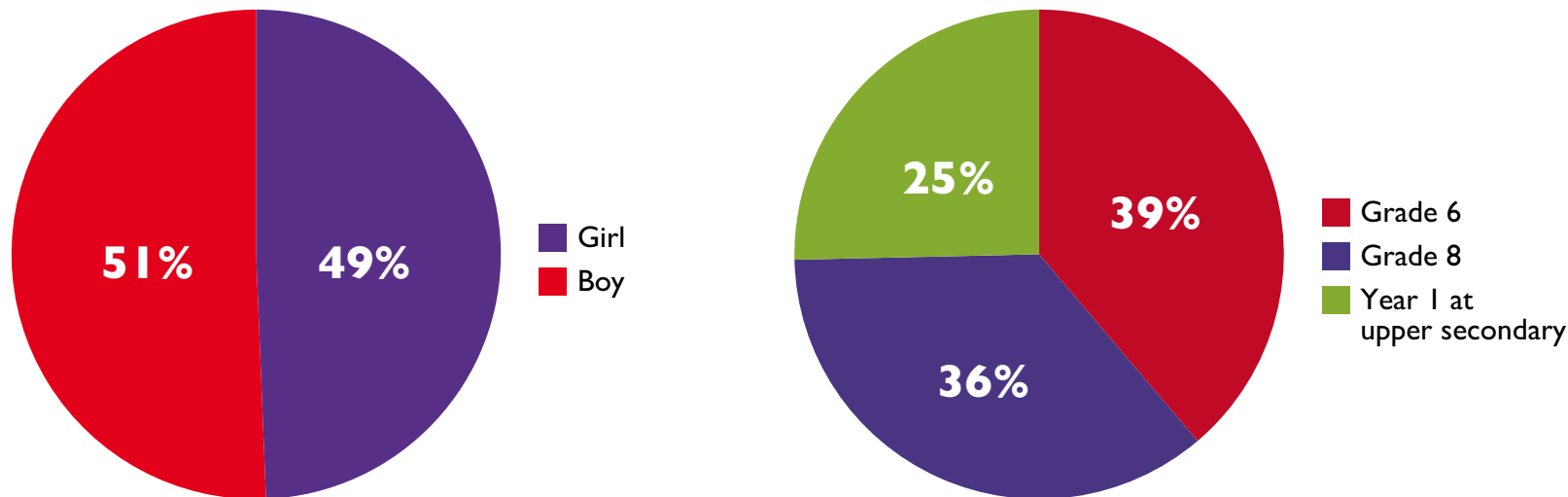
The report includes quotes from children. These are derived either from the ten focus group interviews or from comments written in answer to an open-ended question in the questionnaire: "Is there anything you want to say to the people who make the decisions in your town, your municipality or in Sweden? Is there anything you think they should know?" Some quotes have been edited to protect the child's identity, cut down due to space issues or because they in some manner contained language that was offensive.



# Results

24,777 CHILDREN IN SWEDEN WERE ASKED ABOUT THEIR RIGHTS IN THE YOUNG VOICE SURVEY.

The diagrams below illustrate the proportion of girls and boys who have taken part, and the distribution of participants according to school grade.



The results of the study are reported under different themes. Along with the quantitative results there are quotes from focus group interviews and from an open-ended question where the children were given the opportunity to respond in their own words. In this part of the report the specific sections are reported. In the Annex the total results are reported in tables. On some pages, the results are provided in tables by gender and grade. For clarification of these, see page 13. The survey includes a further 61 local editions in which results are given at municipal or county level (in Swedish). These are listed at ([www.raddabarnen.se/ungrost](http://www.raddabarnen.se/ungrost)).

# CHILDREN IN 75 MUNICIPALITIES IN 19 COUNTIES HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO YOUNG VOICE 2014



- |                      |                     |                       |
|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Alvesta</b>       | <b>Kalmar</b>       | <b>Stenungsund</b>    |
| <b>Arvika</b>        | <b>Karlsborg</b>    | <b>Stockholm</b>      |
| <b>Bjuv</b>          | <b>Karlshamn</b>    | <b>Strömsund</b>      |
| <b>Borlänge</b>      | <b>Karlskrona</b>   | <b>Sundsvall</b>      |
| <b>Bräcke</b>        | <b>Kiruna</b>       | <b>Surahammar</b>     |
| <b>Danderyd</b>      | <b>Knivsta</b>      | <b>Svedala</b>        |
| <b>Ekerö</b>         | <b>Kristianstad</b> | <b>Säter</b>          |
| <b>Enköping</b>      | <b>Kungsbacka</b>   | <b>Sölvesborg</b>     |
| <b>Falun</b>         | <b>Lerum</b>        | <b>Tibro</b>          |
| <b>Gotland</b>       | <b>Lidingö</b>      | <b>Timrå</b>          |
| <b>Gävle</b>         | <b>Ljusdal</b>      | <b>Tomelilla</b>      |
| <b>Göteborg</b>      | <b>Luleå</b>        | <b>Trelleborg</b>     |
| <b>Hallstahammar</b> | <b>Lund</b>         | <b>Trollhättan</b>    |
| <b>Halmstad</b>      | <b>Lycksele</b>     | <b>Tyresö</b>         |
| <b>Haninge</b>       | <b>Malmö</b>        | <b>Täby</b>           |
| <b>Haparanda</b>     | <b>Nacka</b>        | <b>Upplands Väsby</b> |
| <b>Helsingborg</b>   | <b>Norrköping</b>   | <b>Uppsala</b>        |
| <b>Huddinge</b>      | <b>Nynäshamn</b>    | <b>Vansbro</b>        |
| <b>Hudiksvall</b>    | <b>Ockelbo</b>      | <b>Vetlanda</b>       |
| <b>Härnösand</b>     | <b>Orsa</b>         | <b>Värmdö</b>         |
| <b>Hässleholm</b>    | <b>Partille</b>     | <b>Värnamo</b>        |
| <b>Höganäs</b>       | <b>Piteå</b>        | <b>Växjö</b>          |
| <b>Hör</b>           | <b>Sigtuna</b>      | <b>Ystad</b>          |
| <b>Järfälla</b>      | <b>Skellefteå</b>   | <b>Åre</b>            |
| <b>Jönköping</b>     | <b>Sollentuna</b>   | <b>Österåker</b>      |

Towns in red have their own report showing local results.  
There are also four county reports: Skåne, Blekinge, Stockholm and Dalarna.

海濱區



# I Respect for the views of the child

ALL CHILDREN HAVE THE RIGHT TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS FREELY ON ALL ISSUES THAT AFFECT THEM.

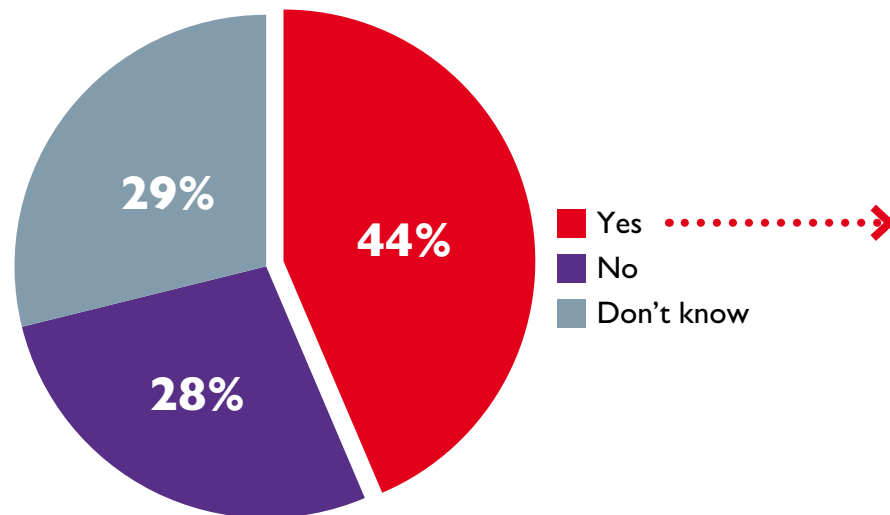
Children have no formal opportunities to make their voices heard. It is adults' responsibility and obligation to listen to, respect and consider children's opinions in decisions affecting them. Children have the right to express their views and to be taken seriously. This applies, for example, in school, at home or in the municipality. However, in Young Voice children have on several occasions described a sense of powerlessness. They say that adults do not always listen and if they actually do listen, often nothing happens anyway.

WOULD REALLY HAVE LIKED  
TO KNOW HOW I COULD  
CONTACT YOU IF THERE WAS  
SOMETHING IMPORTANT,  
HOW WE CHILDREN CAN  
INFLUENCE THE TOWN WE  
LIVE IN. IT WOULD BE  
POSITIVE TO PARTICIPATE  
IN DECISIONS THAT  
AFFECT US CHILDREN.

# CHILDREN WANT ADULTS TO LISTEN

Many children express the importance of decision-makers listening to them. Two out of three want more influence and opportunities to affect issues that concern them. However, only one in ten feel that they have many opportunities to put their views to decision-makers. Children feel that they have most influence at school, and it is primarily there that they would like to expand their influence. The municipality is the place the children feel they have the least influence.

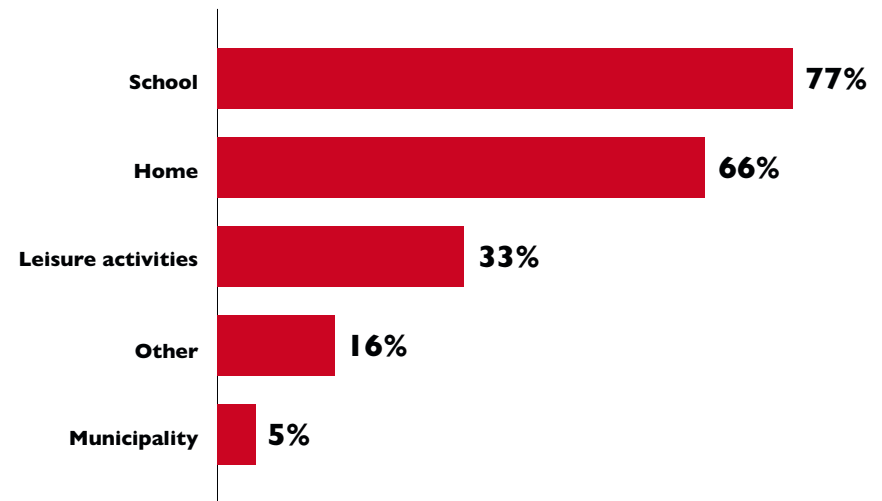
## Have children been allowed influence in important issues?



**Question 7:** This diagram shows whether children feel that they have been able to influence issues that are important to them in the course of the previous year.

# 91% feel that it is important that decision-makers listen to children.

## If "yes" – what have children been able to influence?



**Question 7.b:** The table shows where children feel they are able to exert influence.

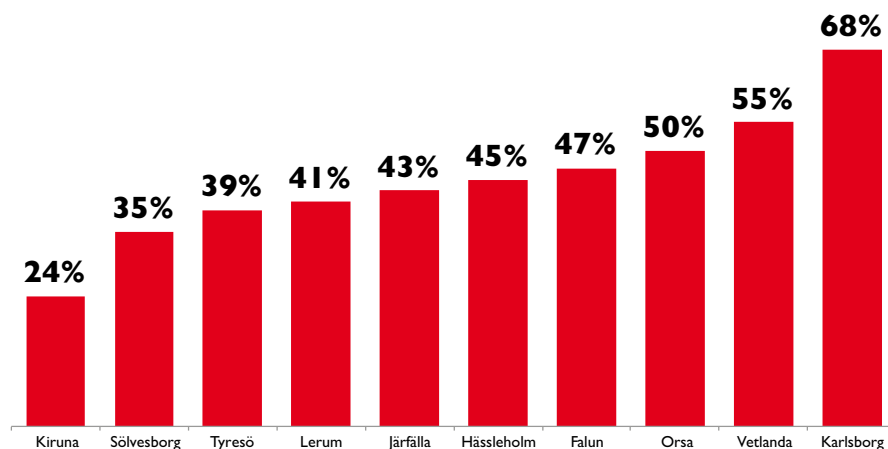


The proportion of children who feel that they can exert influence decreases the older they become. More than half of the children in grade 6 said that they have been involved and have exerted influence in matters important to them, however just over a third in Year 1 of upper secondary responded likewise. Girls to a greater extent than boys want more influence and more opportunities to affect issues that concern them.

The proportion of children who feel that they have been able to influence issues important to them varies depending on the municipality they live in.

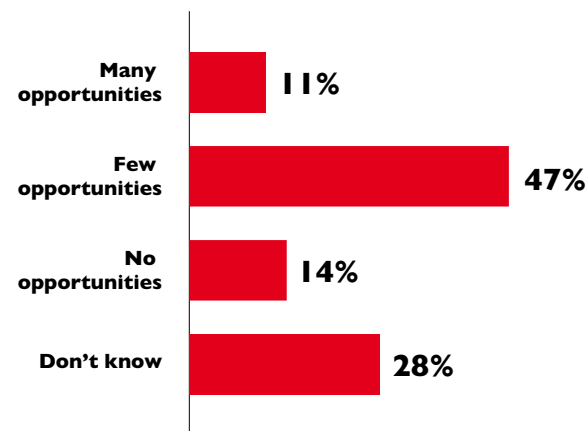
*I THINK THAT YOU SHOULD  
COME OUT AND SHOW US THAT  
YOU EXIST AND WHAT YOU WANT  
DO. YOU OUGHT TO LISTEN TO US  
YOUNG PEOPLE TOO.*

### Opportunities to influence



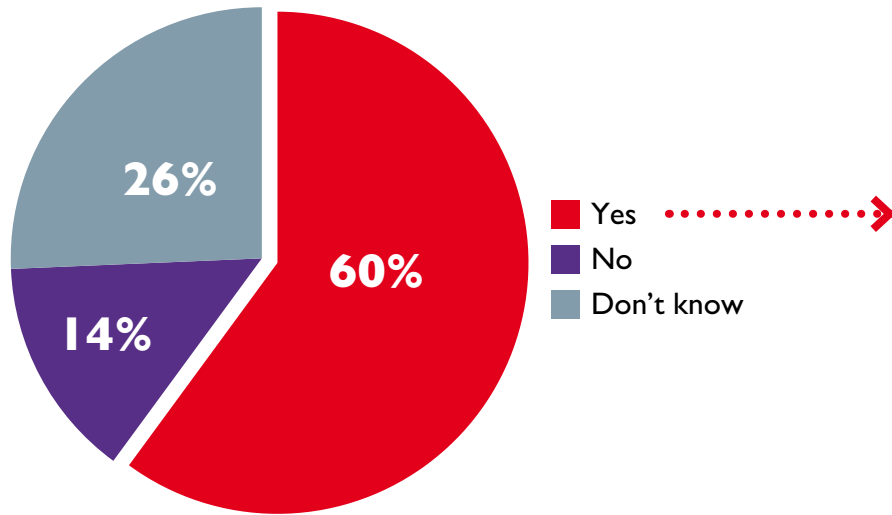
**Question 7:** This diagram shows the differences between children in 10 municipalities who answered YES when asked if they had been able to exert influence on issues important to them in the previous year.

### Opportunities to present opinions to decision-makers



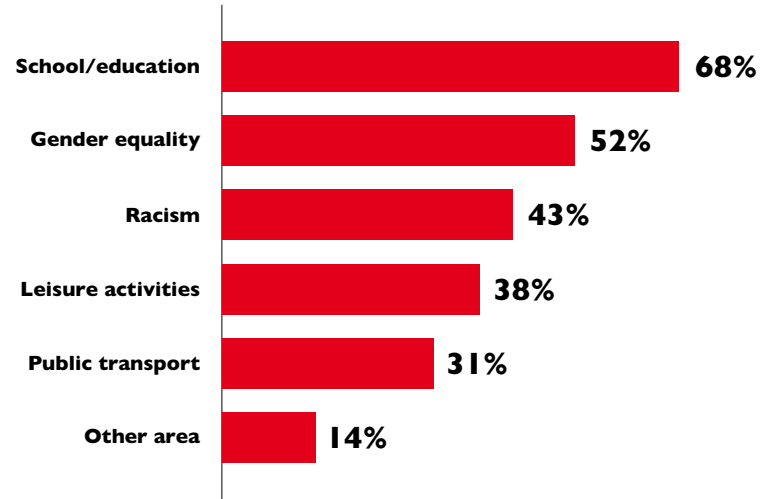
**Question 6:** The diagram shows the opportunities children feel they have to present their opinions to municipal decision-makers where they live.

### Do children want more influence?



Question 8: This diagram shows whether children want more influence and more opportunities to affect issues that are important to them.

### If "yes" – which areas do children want to influence?



Question 8.b: This bar chart shows the areas in which children would like to exert more influence.



### Issues that concern and engage children in Sweden

Young Voice shows that many children have a commitment to the issues that concern themselves, friends and family as well as society in general. In the survey, questions were partially controlled but there was an opportunity to express themselves freely in the ten focus-group interviews and also in response to an open-ended question in the questionnaire: "Is there anything you would like to say to the decision-makers in your town, your municipality or in Sweden? Is there anything you think they should know?" The open-ended question was answered by nearly 10,000 children and lots of views, tips, suggestions, invitations and questions emerged at all levels: locally, nationally and globally, but also individual stories and descriptions of what the children themselves had experienced.

Comments mainly concerned the school environment, suggestions for leisure activities, how security could be improved and times when children felt their rights were violated or overlooked by adults. Many expressed themselves on social issues such as school, resource allocation, development issues, children's health, racism and diversity. Numerous calls were made for Sweden to help children who are feeling bad, have been bullied or whose families have a very strained economy.

**WE ARE  
IMPORTANT TOO  
AND YOU FORGET  
US TOO OFTEN!**

### Children want:

- ➔ **adults to listen to children more, and take their opinions seriously**
- ➔ **less stress in schools**
- ➔ **improved school lunches**
- ➔ **more committed and energetic teachers and substitute teachers**
- ➔ **Sweden to do more to stop bullying/online bullying**
- ➔ **children who are feeling bad to get more support**
- ➔ **public transport to become more child- and youth friendly (safer, free and timetable adapted to after-school and activities)**
- ➔ **more, cheaper leisure activities (opening hours, transport, meeting places, lighting in outdoor arenas etc).**




## 2 The right to feel well and safe

EVERY CHILD HAS THE RIGHT TO A SAFE CHILDHOOD. THEY SHOULD NOT HAVE TO BE EXPOSED TO VIOLENCE, BULLYING OR OTHER HARASSMENT.

Children are entitled to feel well and receive help and support if they have been mistreated, injured or are feeling bad. If the adults in a family are unable to help or support their children in a vulnerable situation, society must take responsibility and ensure that the children get the help they need.

The Committee recommended that Sweden should work harder against bullying and abuse - especially against harassment related to children with foreign backgrounds and children with disabilities. Sweden was also advised to act to stop violations that occur outside the school and that children should be involved in efforts to combat bullying.

**5% worry about being exposed to racism.**



I GET CALLED THE N-WORD  
AND A LOAD OF OTHER  
THINGS AND I DON'T WANT  
TO BE CALLED THESE THINGS.  
I HAVE TOLD THEM TO STOP  
BUT NOBODY LISTENS.  
I FEEL DOWN EVERY DAY  
BECAUSE OF THIS.

# BULLIED AND HARASSED

In Young Voice many children mention bullying in school and online. It is notable that many children appeal to adults to pay increased attention to some of the virtual meeting places where violations are common.

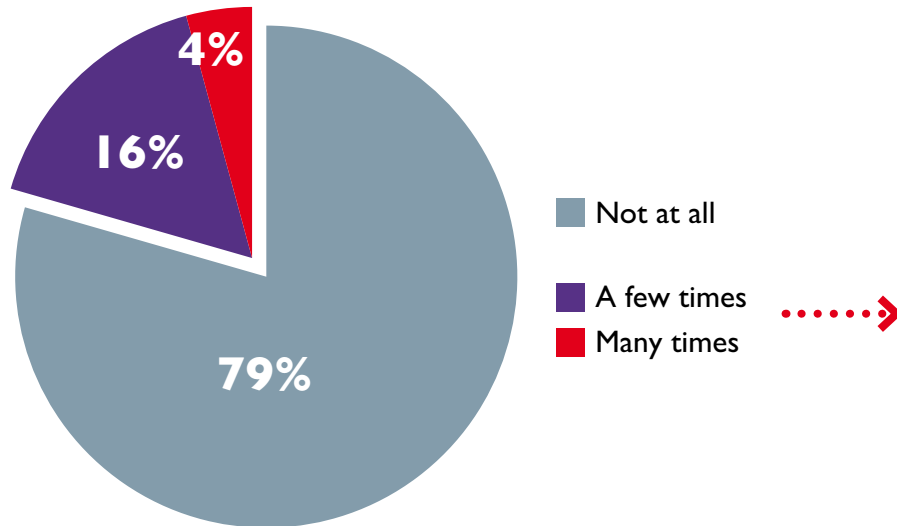
Young voice shows that more than one in five has felt bullied or harassed some or many times during the past year. 24% have received offensive messages from other children online and 17% have received such messages via their mobile phones.

More than one in ten girls has been contacted by an adult online who wanted to talk about sex. Girls, to a greater degree than boys, had been subjected to degrading treatment.

*"I think that we should keep an eye on online bullying much more. Children can take it really personally and feel that it is themselves who are wrong. It can affect them so much that they start to hurt themselves or even kill themselves because of it. The adults do not really know as much as they think they know about what happens at school/online. Adults really do not know how much it affects us."*

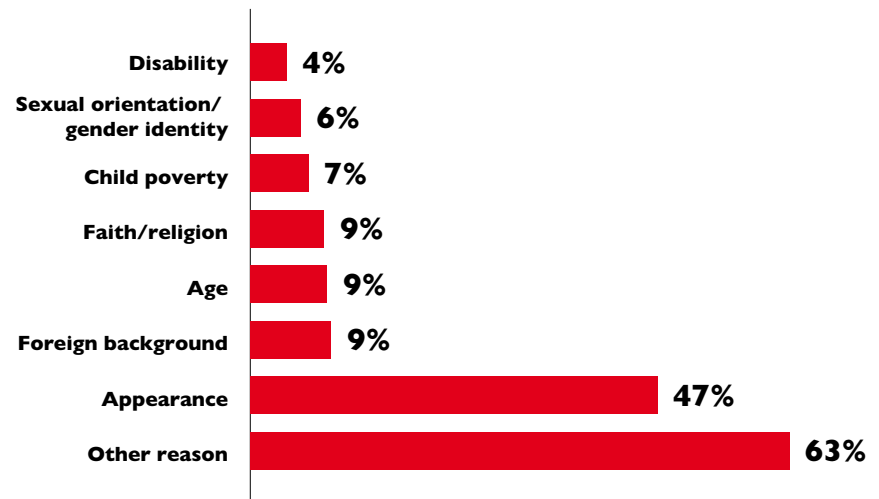
*Girl grade 6*

## Bullied or harassed the previous year



**Question: 27.4:** This diagram shows if children felt they had been bullied or harassed in the previous year.

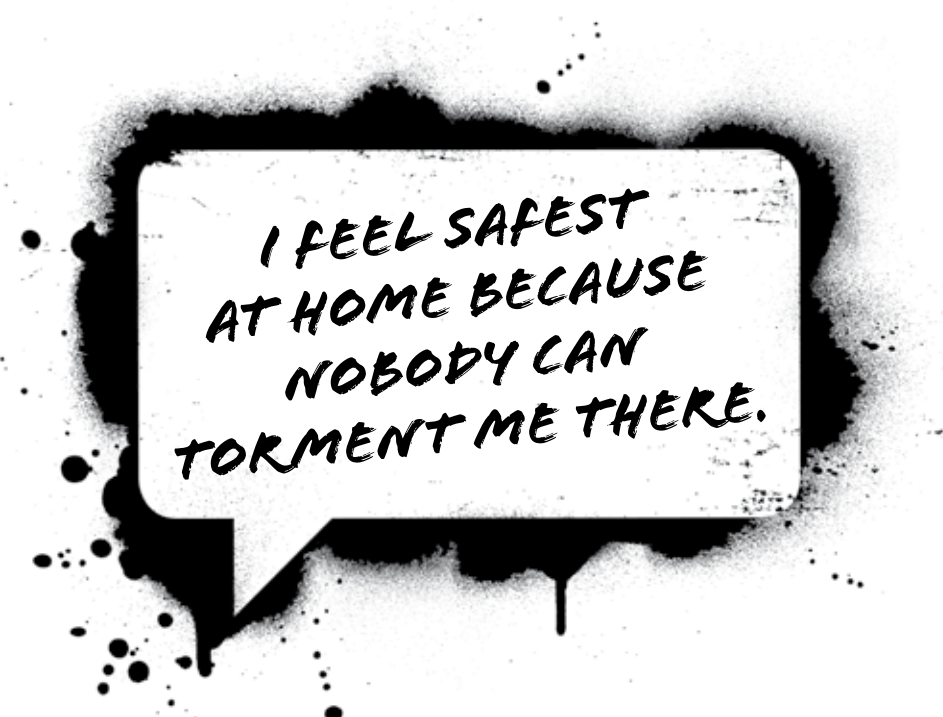
## Why bullied or harassed?



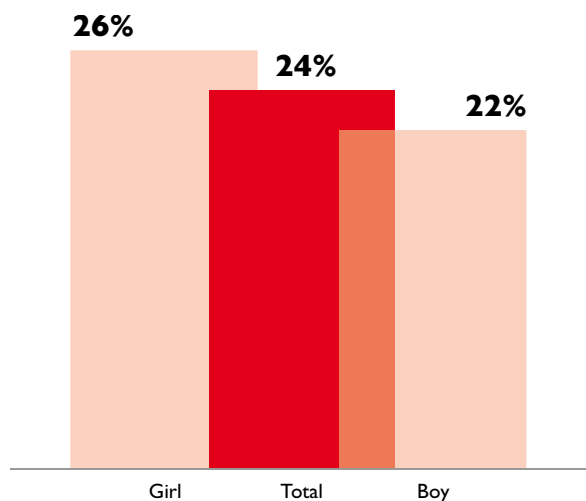
**Question: 27.b:** The table shows the reason why the children believed they had been bullied or harassed.



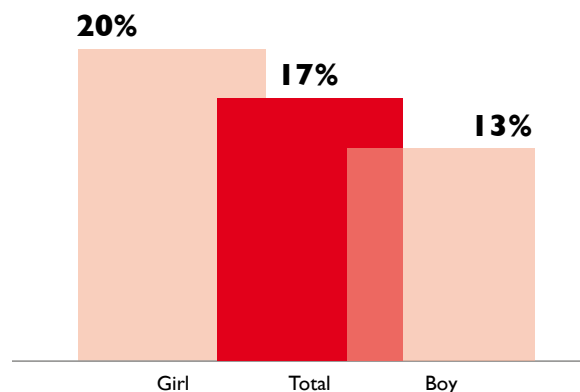
88% want Sweden to do more to stop bullying, in real life and online.



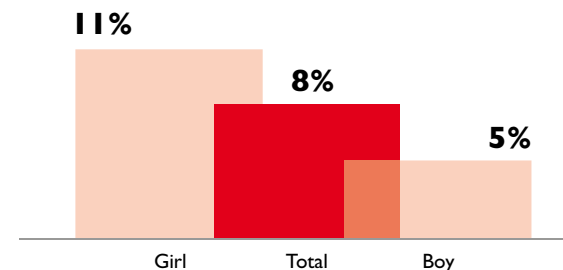
Online and mobile phone violations



Question: 26.3: Received insulting messages **online** from other children or young people.



Question: 26.4: Received insulting messages on **mobile phone** from other children or young people.



Question: 26.5: Been contacted online by an adult who wanted to talk about sex.

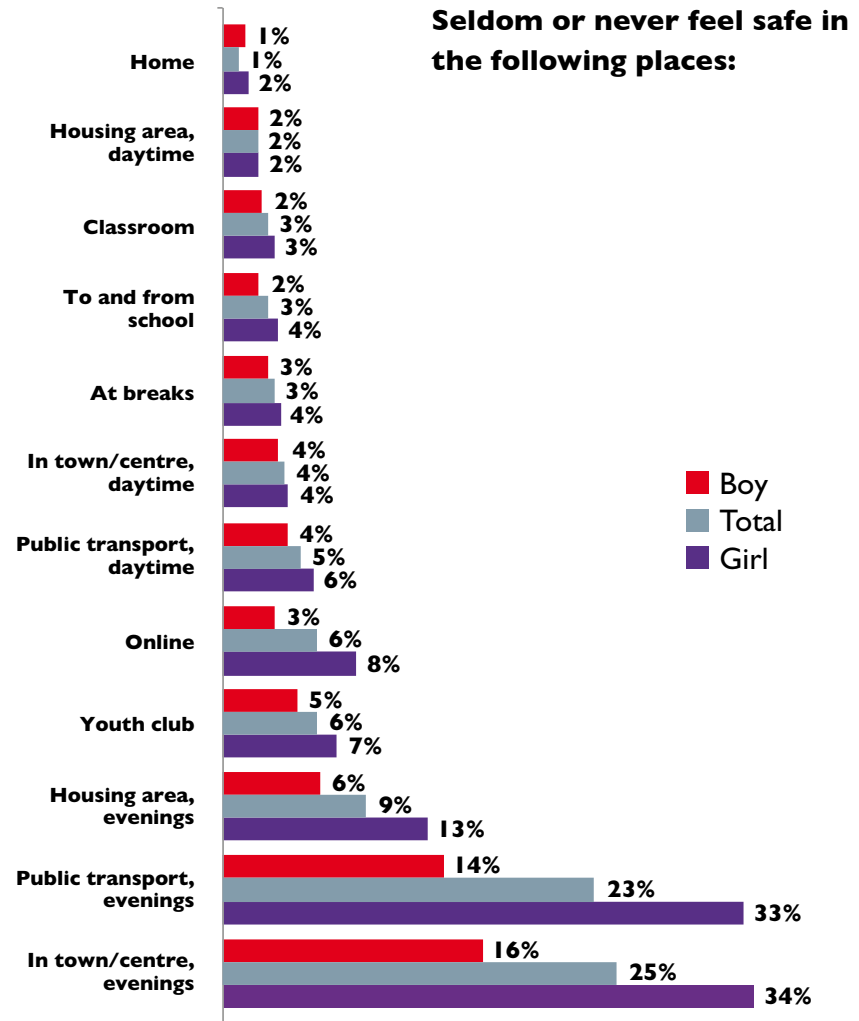
# UNSAFE PLACES

One out of four children feel unsafe on public transport in the evenings. This is also confirmed by the comments received and in the interviews.

Children often mention poor lighting, deserted platforms/bus stops and “scary people” using public transport. Children also feel unsafe in the town centres and in the larger residential area in the evenings.

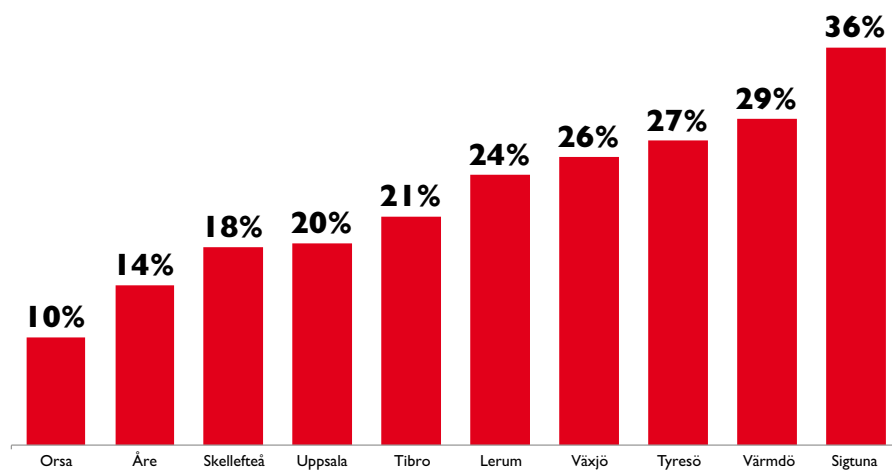
3% seldom or never feel safe at break time at school, in the classroom or on the way to and from school.

*I WANT TO BE ABLE TO FEEL SAFE IN THE EVENINGS. HOME ALONE OR OUT IN THE TOWN IN THE EVENINGS.*



Question 24.a-l: This diagram shows the proportion of children who have answered that they seldom or never feel safe in the places listed above. Like to know more about this question? See the Annex on pages 64-67.

## Unsafe on public transport



**Question 24.j:** This diagram shows the differences between 10 municipalities where children have answered that they seldom or never feel safe on public transport in the evenings.

I AM NOT ALWAYS SAFE  
WHEN I WALK HOME FROM  
SCHOOL. MY PARENTS AND  
MY TEACHERS DO NOT  
ALWAYS LISTEN WHEN I TELL  
THEM I AM SCARED OF ONE  
OF THE BOYS.

## VIOLENCE

**45%** have seen someone get punched or hit in the past year. Boys in the two lower school grades have witnessed violence to a greater degree than girls and to a greater extent than children in Year 1 of upper secondary school. 12% worry about violence from other children, 7% are worried about violence from an adult.

## HOME AND FAMILY

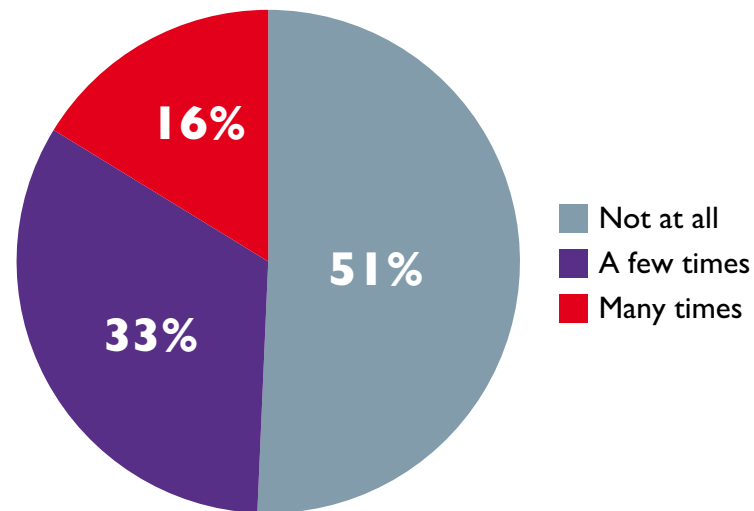
In answer to the question of where children feel safe, 7% answered that they always feel safe at home, 5% said that they usually do and 2% said they rarely or never do. 3% are worried about being thrown out of their homes by their guardians. **4%** worry that they will not be able to be together with, or marry, whoever they choose (6% of the girls and 3% of the boys). 2% are worried about being deported from the country.

## FEELING BAD

Young Voice shows that many children in Sweden do not feel good. Children experience stress, anxiety, eating disorders or self-harming. Half of the children who participated in Young Voice sometimes or many times have felt sad or down for a longer period of time during the previous year. 12% have experienced problems with eating disorders and 14% worry about harming themselves.

Results from Young Voice show that girls consistently experience more psychological or emotional problems than boys. The proportion of children who state that they are feeling bad increases with age. 9% in Grade 6 have felt sad and down many times during the previous year while in Year 1 of upper secondary school the figure was 22%.

### Sad and down for a longer period

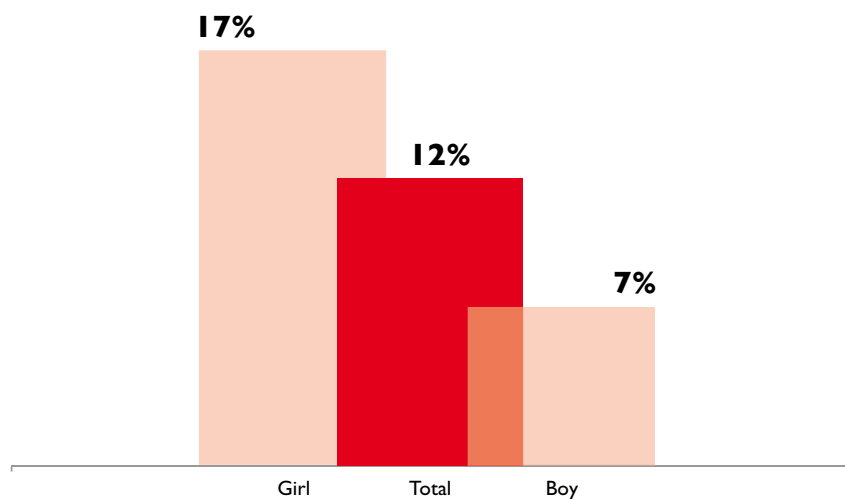


**Question 27.3:** The diagram and table show whether children have felt sad or down for a longer period of time in the previous year.

GENDER		
	GIRL	BOY
Not at all	38%	64%
Sometimes	39%	27%
Many times	23%	9%
Total	100%	100%

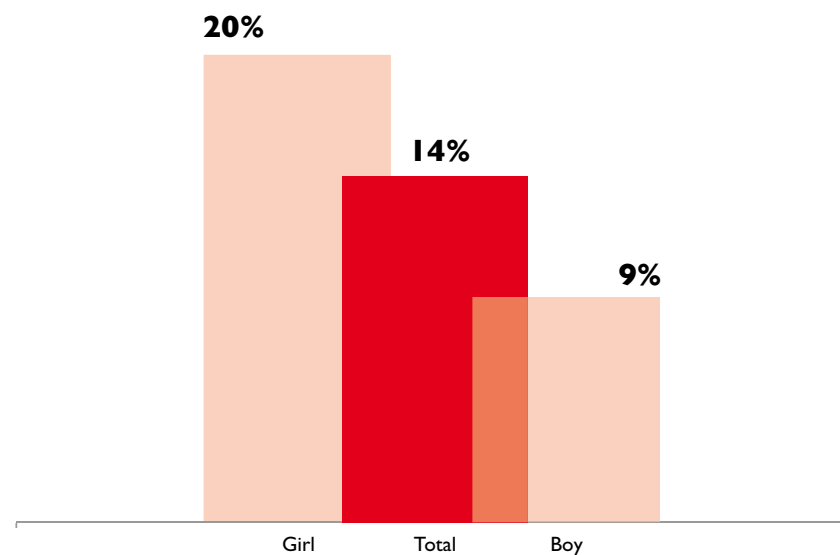


### Experienced eating disorders



**Question 26.6:** This diagram shows the proportion of children who have experienced problems with eating disorders over the previous year.

### Worried about self-harming



**Question 25.9:** This diagram shows the proportion of children who have worried about self-harming during the previous year.

## SUPPORT AND HELP

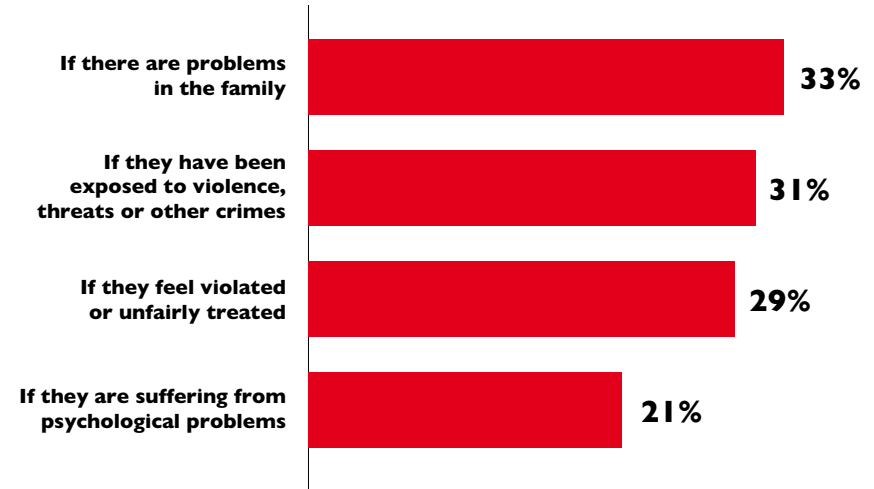
Many children who participated in Young Voice have expressed, in comments and interviews, that they want faster and more easily-accessible support for children who are feeling down. Most mentioned that they would turn to someone in their family if they had concerns or had experienced something frightening. However, one in every three children do not know where to turn if they experience problems in the family.

**93% want Sweden to do more for children who feel bad.**

*KIDS NEED HELP WHICH DOES NOT COST ANYTHING, EVERYTHING FROM HELP WITH HOMEWORK TO PSYCHOLOGISTS AND THAT. IT SHOULD BE EASY TO GET HELP!*



### Children who don't know where to turn ...



Question 28: This diagram shows the proportion of children who do not know where to turn if they experience any of the above situations.

IT IS JUST IMPOSSIBLE  
TO MAKE ANY CONTACT  
WITH THE CHILD AND  
YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH  
CLINIC.








### 3 Growing up under different circumstances

ALL CHILDREN ARE ENTITLED TO THE SAME OPPORTUNITIES – INCLUDING EDUCATION AND SUPPORT – IRRESPECTIVE OF BACKGROUND, GENDER OR WHERE THEY LIVE.

The Committee have repeatedly expressed concern about the disparities in conditions between different municipalities, particularly for children who grow up in financially vulnerable families. Considerable differences in the wellbeing levels of girls and boys has also attracted the attention of the Committee. Different conditions in childhood may mean some children are not afforded the same opportunities as others.



PEOPLE WHO HARDLY  
HAVE ANY MONEY SHOULD  
GET MORE, FOR FOOD AND  
CLOTHES FOR EXAMPLE.  
MY MUM DOES NOT HAVE  
A JOB AND SHE ONLY GETS  
VERY LITTLE MONEY.

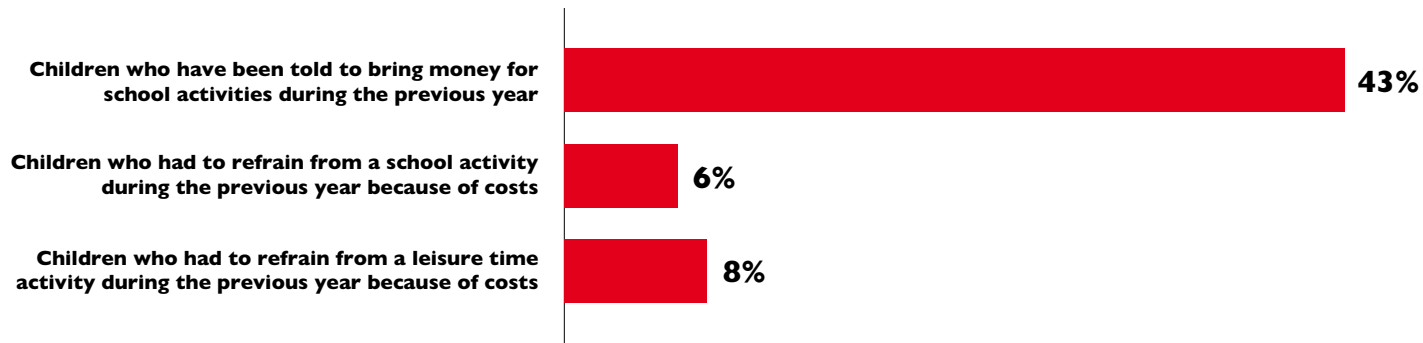
# BADLY OFF

In Young Voice it emerges that **13% are concerned** that the family's finances will not be sufficient. 43% of the children have been asked to bring money for activities in school, even though school should be free for everyone. For children in families living on the margin, this may mean denying themselves activities at school or in leisure time. Young Voice shows that 6% have refrained from activities in school due to cost and 8% have had to abandon leisure activities for the same reason. Upper secondary students have had to forego leisure activities to a greater degree than students in the lower grades.

## CHILD POVERTY

**Sweden has no official definition of poverty. Save the Children's definition are children living in a family who either have a low income – so low that there is not enough money to cover the necessary costs – or receive income support, previously known as social benefits.**

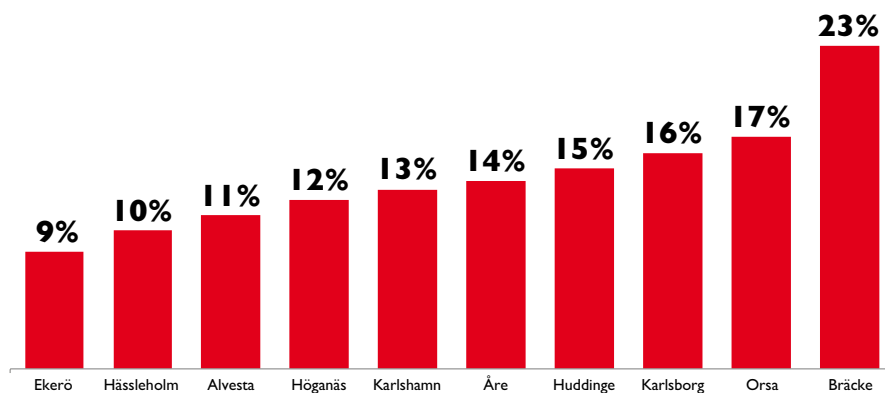
### Costs in school and leisure time



Questions 12, 13 and 14: This diagram shows the proportion of children who answered YES to whether they had been told to bring money for school activities and if they had to refrain from a school or leisure time activity in the previous year because of costs.

The Government has introduced a zero vision for evictions of families with children, in spite of this Young Voice shows that **4%** are worried that they might have to move if the family cannot pay the rent.

### Worry about the family's economy



**Question 25.13:** This bar chart shows the proportion of children who have worried that the family will not have enough money for necessities during the previous year in 10 municipalities.



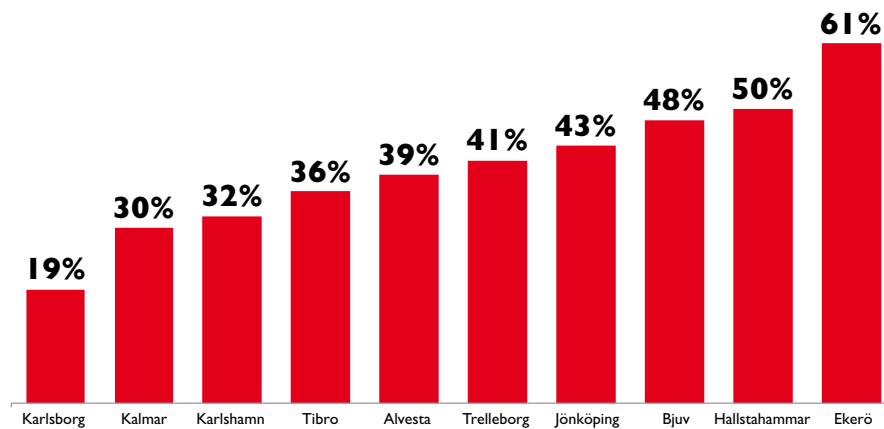
Girl Grade 8

## DIFFERENCES DEPENDING ON WHERE CHILDREN LIVE

Young Voice confirms that there are differences in childhood circumstances depending on where the children live. Examples of such differences include costs in school and how children experience that their school staff work to prevent bullying.

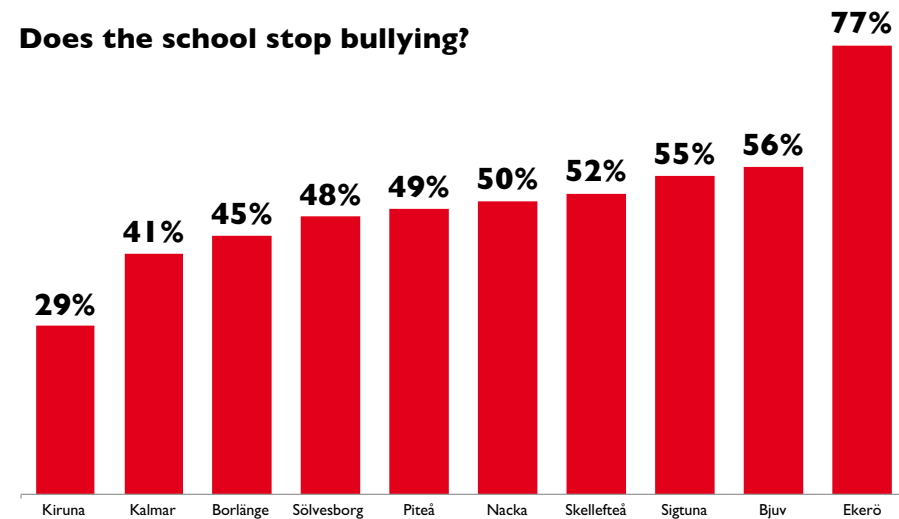
PLEASE ASK THE SCHOOL NOT TO PLAN ACTIVITIES THAT ARE SO EXPENSIVE THAT WE CANNOT PAY FOR THEM.

**Costs in school**



**Question 12:** This diagram shows the proportion of children who were told to bring money to school in 10 municipalities.

**Does the school stop bullying?**



**Question 21:** This diagram shows the proportion of children who experienced that school staff worked to prevent bullying in 10 municipalities.

## DIFFERENCES BETWEEN GIRLS AND BOYS

The childhoods of girls and boys differ in many respects. For example, girls feel down more often than boys. They worry more and are exposed to more harassment. There are also differences between girls and boys in certain questions of safety and influence. In only one question is boys' vulnerability significantly higher than girls and this concerns the proportion of children who have witnessed violence.

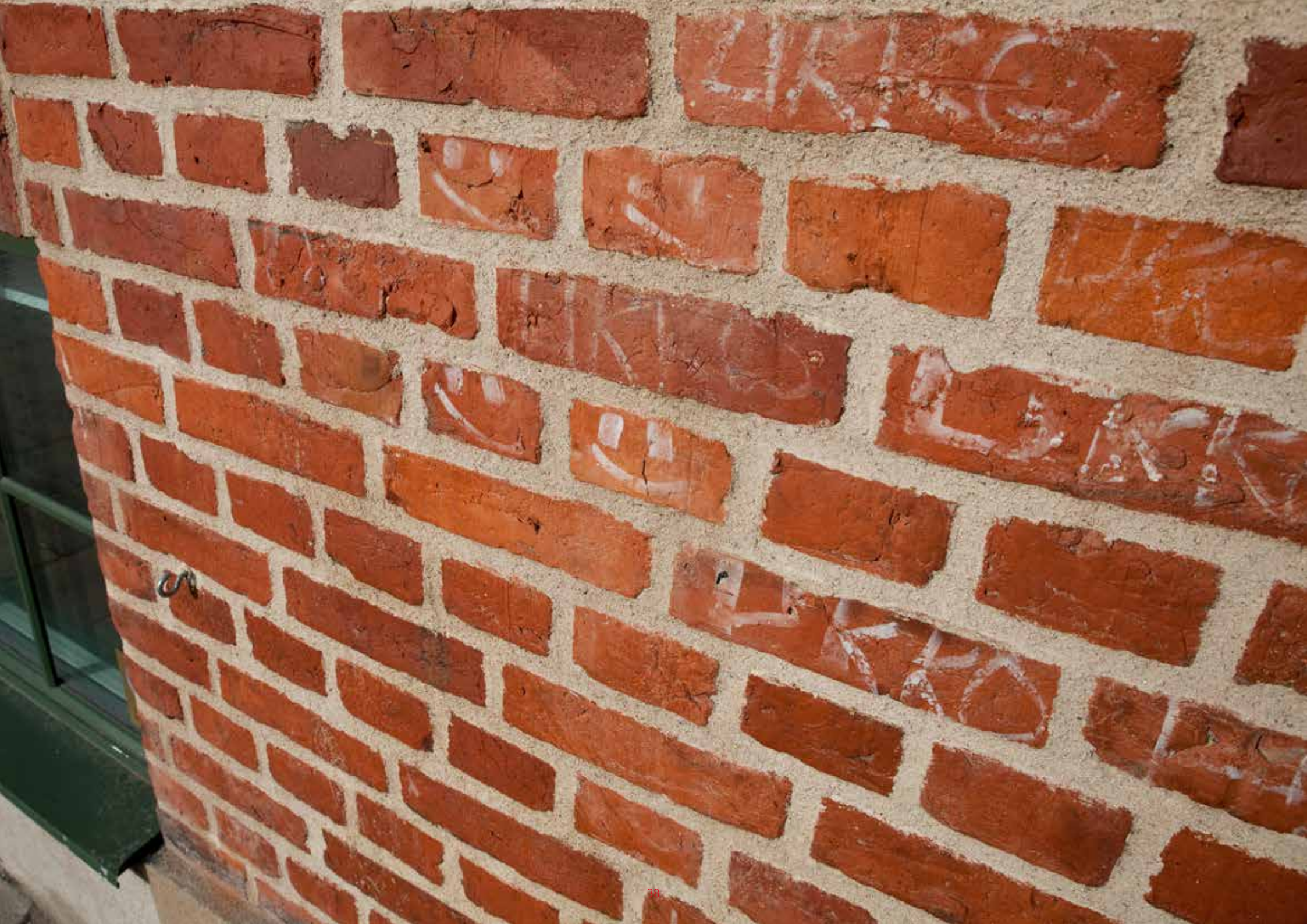
*EVERYONE HAS THE SAME VALUE,  
FOR EXAMPLE MEN GET HIGHER  
SALARIES THAN WOMEN AND THERE  
IS NOT ONE GIRLS' ICE HOCKEY TEAM  
WHERE I LIVE. #RESPECT!*



QUESTION	GIRLS	BOYS
Proportion of children who worry about not being able to manage school	48%	31%
Proportion of children who seldom or never feel safe on public transport in the evening	33%	14%
Proportion of children who have been harassed by other children on their mobile phones	20%	13%
Proportion of children who would like more influence	67%	53%
Proportion of children who have experienced problems with eating disorders	17%	7%
Proportion of children who have worried about the family's economy	18%	9%
Proportion of children who have felt sad or depressed for a longer period	62%	36%
Proportion of children who have been contacted online by an adult who wanted to talk about sex	11%	5%
Proportion of children who worry about being bullied	27%	16%
Proportion of children who have witnessed violence	38%	52%

(Table shows the gender differences in answers to ten different questions.)







# 4 School and education for everyone

SCHOOL IS TO PROVIDE EQUAL PRECONDITIONS FOR EVERYONE, IRRESPECTIVE OF BACKGROUND, GENDER, DISABILITY OR GUARDIAN'S EDUCATIONAL LEVEL.

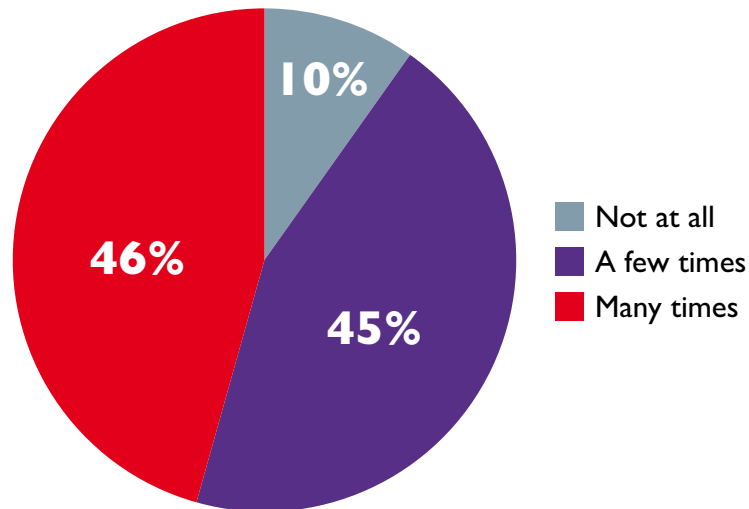
School must play a compensatory role, thus making up for different conditions that the children may live in. Children who are not able to get help with homework at home should be supported in school. School has the responsibility to ensure that children do not experience abusive behaviour, such as bullying or racism, and that children who are feeling bad get help. School must react, manage, and respond in such situations. School is children's workplace; they are entitled to a good working environment and to influence in school-related issues.

*I THINK THAT SCHOOL SHOULD BE FREE OF CHARGE. THEY SHOULD AVOID HOMEWORK AND HAVE LESS ASSIGNMENT BECAUSE EVERYONE HAS A DIFFERENT SITUATION AND WE CANNOT ALL GET HELP AT HOME. THAT MAKES IT UNFAIR AND AFFECTS GRADES AND EVERYONE SHOULD GET THE SAME CHANCE.*

# WORRY ABOUT SCHOOLWORK

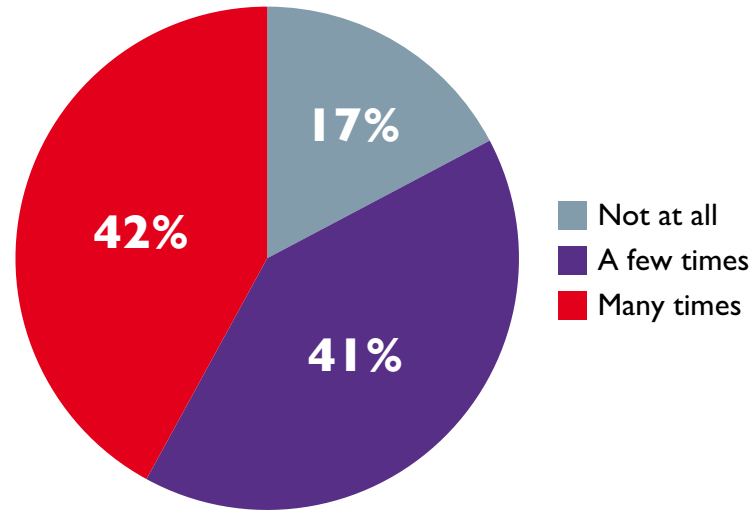
Young Voice shows that children experience stress and anxiety in school. Nine out of ten have some or many times experienced stress because of schoolwork over the past year and 83% have felt stressed about grades. **39% worry that they will not manage to succeed in school** and one in every five children is worried about not getting enough help in school. Stress and anxiety over grades and schoolwork is more common among girls than boys and more frequent in the older age group than in the younger. Stress and anxiety in school is confirmed in both written comments and in interviews. It is one of the most common subjects that children address and discuss in Young Voice.

## Stress about school work



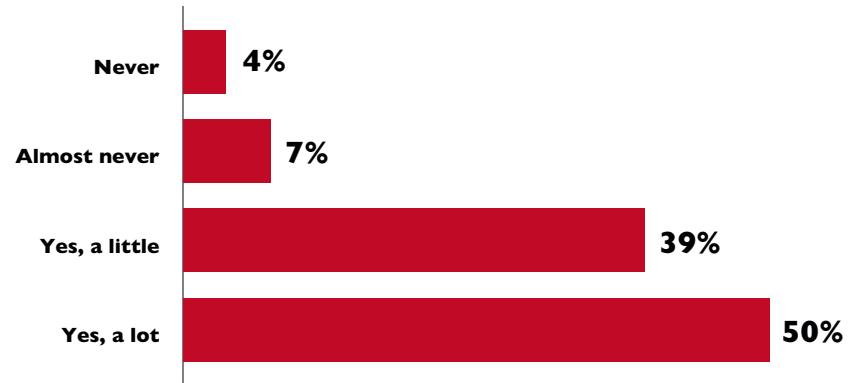
Question 27.1: This diagram shows whether children have felt stressed about schoolwork in the previous year.

## Stress about grades



Question 27.2: This diagram shows whether children have felt stressed about grades in the previous year.

## Help with homework at home

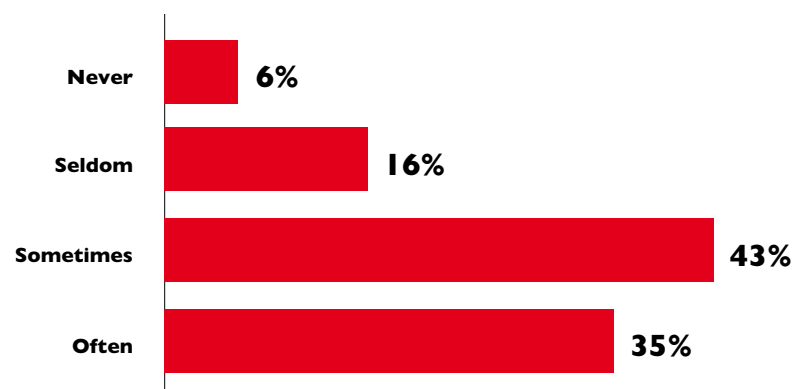


Question 16: This diagram shows whether children receive help with homework at home.

## WORKING ENVIRONMENT AND INFLUENCE AT SCHOOL

Many children say that they want more influence at school. More than one in five children feel that they rarely or never have the opportunity to voice their opinions on, for example, school meals, breaks or other school-related issues. Children from almost all participating municipalities have views on their work environment, including preconditions for concentration, school meals, stress, disinterested teachers and bullying. They state repeatedly that they are not taken seriously when they present their views to, for example, student council, food committees or staff at school. Students want, among other things, to be involved in efforts to develop school equal opportunities plans. 46% know about their school's equal opportunities plan, but only 10% have participated in its development.

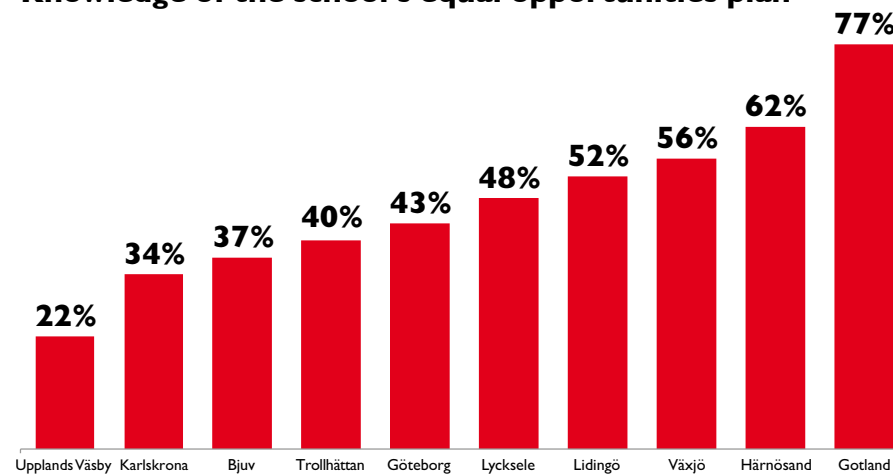
### Influence in school



**Question 22:** This diagram shows whether children consider that they have had the opportunity to present their views on, for example, school meals, breaks or school-related issues.



### Knowledge of the school's equal opportunities plan



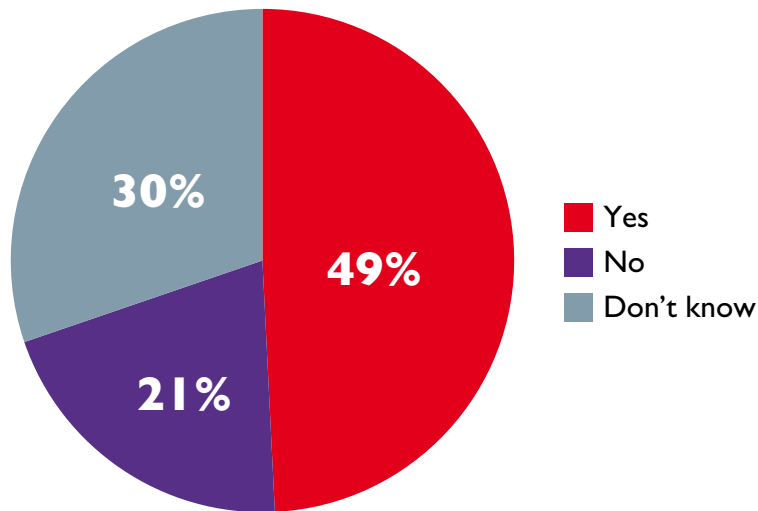
**Question 19:** This diagram shows the proportion of children who are aware of the school's equal opportunities plan in 10 municipalities.

# SAFE AT SCHOOL

Many children describe bullying as a part of everyday life at school, for themselves or for other students/pupils. 3% state that they seldom or never feel safe at break time, in the classroom or on their way to and from school.

(See page 26 *Unsafe places*)

## Does the school stop bullying?



**Question 21:** This diagram shows whether children feel that teachers and other staff work to stop bullying.


## EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES PLAN

According to Chapter 6, Section 8 of the Education Act, the body responsible for the school must ensure that each year a plan is established for the measures necessary to prevent and avoid abusive treatment of children and students. According to the Ordinance (2006:1083) on children and student participation in the work of developing plans against discrimination and harassment, plans should be established, monitored and reviewed with the participation of children or students at the unit to which the plan applies.

*Retrieved from the National Agency for Education publication: Arbetet mot diskriminering och kränkande behandling, 2014 (Work against discrimination and degrading treatment, 2014)*

SOMETIMES I DO NOT FEEL SAFE AT SCHOOL.





The school does not put anything into homework help. It's not possible to ever get help until it's the lesson and then it has to be given in and the teacher tells us the answers. You can't get any help at all. The new grading system is not good either, all the teachers interpret it differently. One of my teachers is really strict. If you get a 2% E in, for example, English and then a 98% A, you get a D grade. Some other teachers would put a B in a similar situation. All this has happened to me and it makes me very confused, and it just feels harder to go to school nowadays. I really prefer the old grading system and would do almost anything to get it back. Also the shortage of teachers is difficult. Our chemistry teacher for example works as an architect somewhere else and only works at school twice a week and knows almost nothing about chemistry. We students know more than our own teachers, it just doesn't seem right! Also, I do think that not enough money is spent on school lunch. When we arrive at our lunch break which usually begins between twelve and one they have run out of food! The vegetables too. If there is no food they say they can't do anything about that and we get to eat crispbread. Doesn't feel right. They might heat up some old leftovers, but this takes time and our lunch break is not that long. I feel that we do not have the chance to change anything at all at school. We have a class council once a term and the student council has meetings about as often and at their meetings they mostly have coffee and biscuits and almost none of our proposals go through. Then they promise football competitions and so on and they NEVER happen. I would need all these things to be happier at school, the chance to get help with homework from teachers, lunch and properly qualified teachers. It would make me feel more confident that I could manage to reach the objectives and stop feeling anxious all the time because I can't keep up. I know what my dream is for the future, but probably I won't get there ...

Girl Grade 8



THE SCHOOL DOES N  
... INTO



# 5 5 Knowledge about rights

IF YOU DON'T KNOW YOUR RIGHTS IT IS DIFFICULT TO MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD AND GET SUPPORT.

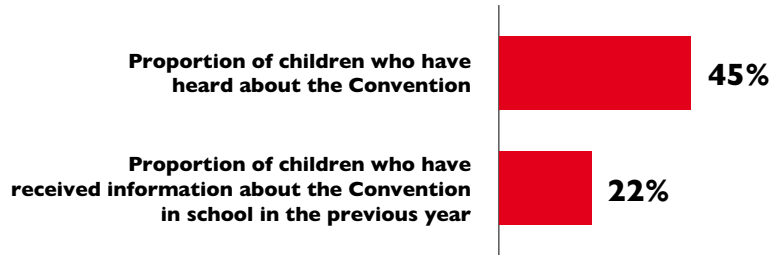
It is vital that all children know their rights. Sweden's Government and Parliament, municipalities and county councils have a responsibility to ensure that everyone working with and for children is aware of, and familiar with, the content of the Convention. The Committee has recommended that Sweden raise awareness of the Convention among children.

Young Voice shows that 45% have heard of the Convention and 22% have received information about the Convention in school during the past year. However, considerably more have heard of the term "children's rights". Knowledge of the Convention varies widely between different municipalities.

*WE HAVE RIGHTS TOO AND WE  
HAVE A LIFE. WE ARE JUST A  
LITTLE BIT YOUNGER. WE FIND  
OUT MASSES OF THINGS THAT  
YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT.*

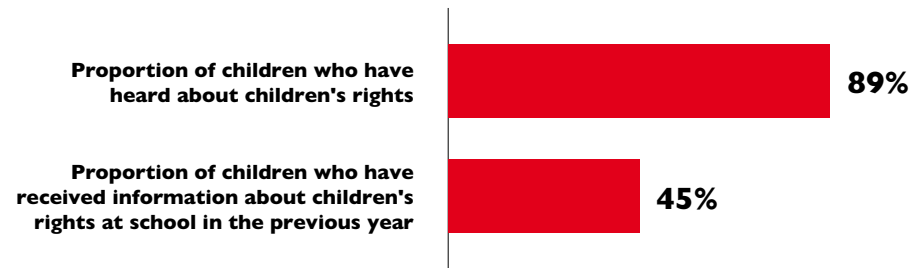


## Knowledge about the Convention



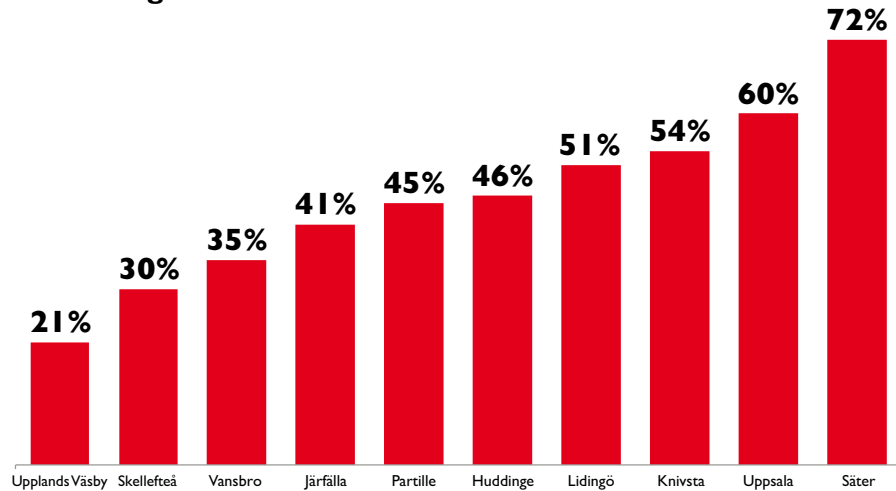
Questions 3.a and 4.a: This diagram shows the proportion of children who answered YES to the question on whether they had heard about, or received information at school about, the Convention.

## Awareness of children's rights



Questions 3.b and 4.b: This diagram shows the proportion of children who answered YES to the question asking if they had heard about the concept "children's rights" and if they had received information on "children's rights" in school.

## Knowledge about the Children's Convention



Question 3.a: This diagram shows the proportion of children who answered YES to the question asking if they has heard about the Children's Convention, in 10 different municipalities.

**MOST PEOPLE SEEM TO THINK  
THAT WE CANNOT MANAGE AS  
MUCH JUST BECAUSE WE ARE  
CHILDREN. SHOW A LITTLE  
RESPECT NOW. WE ARE HUMAN  
BEINGS, JUST A LITTLE  
YOUNGER!**





## 6 The future

THE CONVENTION CLEARLY ALLOCATES RESPONSIBILITY TO ADULTS. A CHILD'S CHANCES OF GOOD FUTURE PROSPECTS BEGINS WITH THE ADULT WORLD'S ABILITY TO PROVIDE SUPPORT.

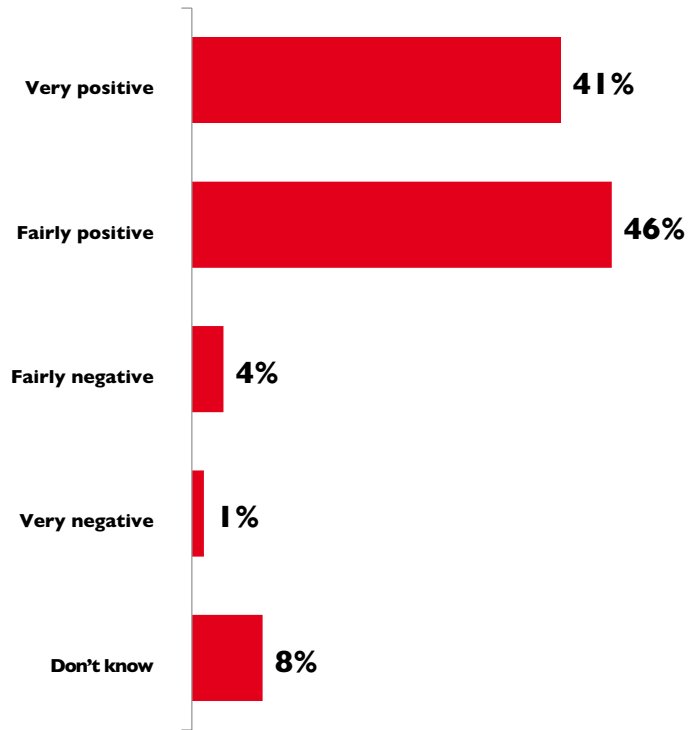
Young Voice shows that, to a great extent, children see the future in a very positive light and hope to be able to find a job after school. This does vary a little according to age, and upper secondary students do not really dare to hope for work to the same extent as the younger children.

**87% are positive about their future.**

*I AM WORRIED  
ABOUT MY FUTURE.  
DON'T KNOW IF  
IT IS POSSIBLE TO  
GET A JOB.*



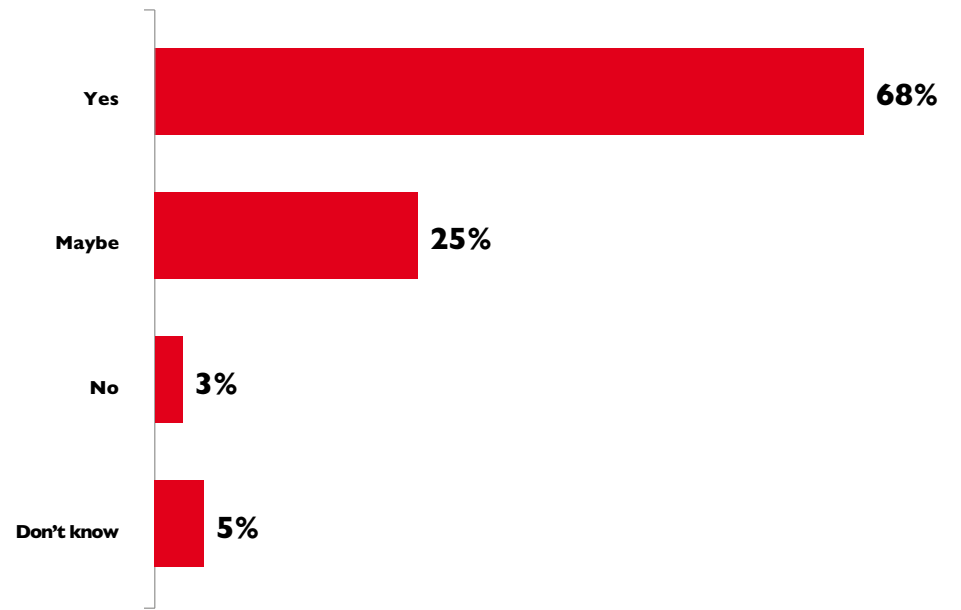
**How do children regard their future?**



Question 29: This diagram and table show how the children regard their future.

GRADE	6	8	1
Very positive	48%	36%	38%
Fairly positive	41%	50%	49%
Fairly negative	2%	4%	4%
Very negative	1%	2%	2%
Don't know	8%	8%	7%
Total	100%	100%	100%

**Do children believe that they will get a job after school?**

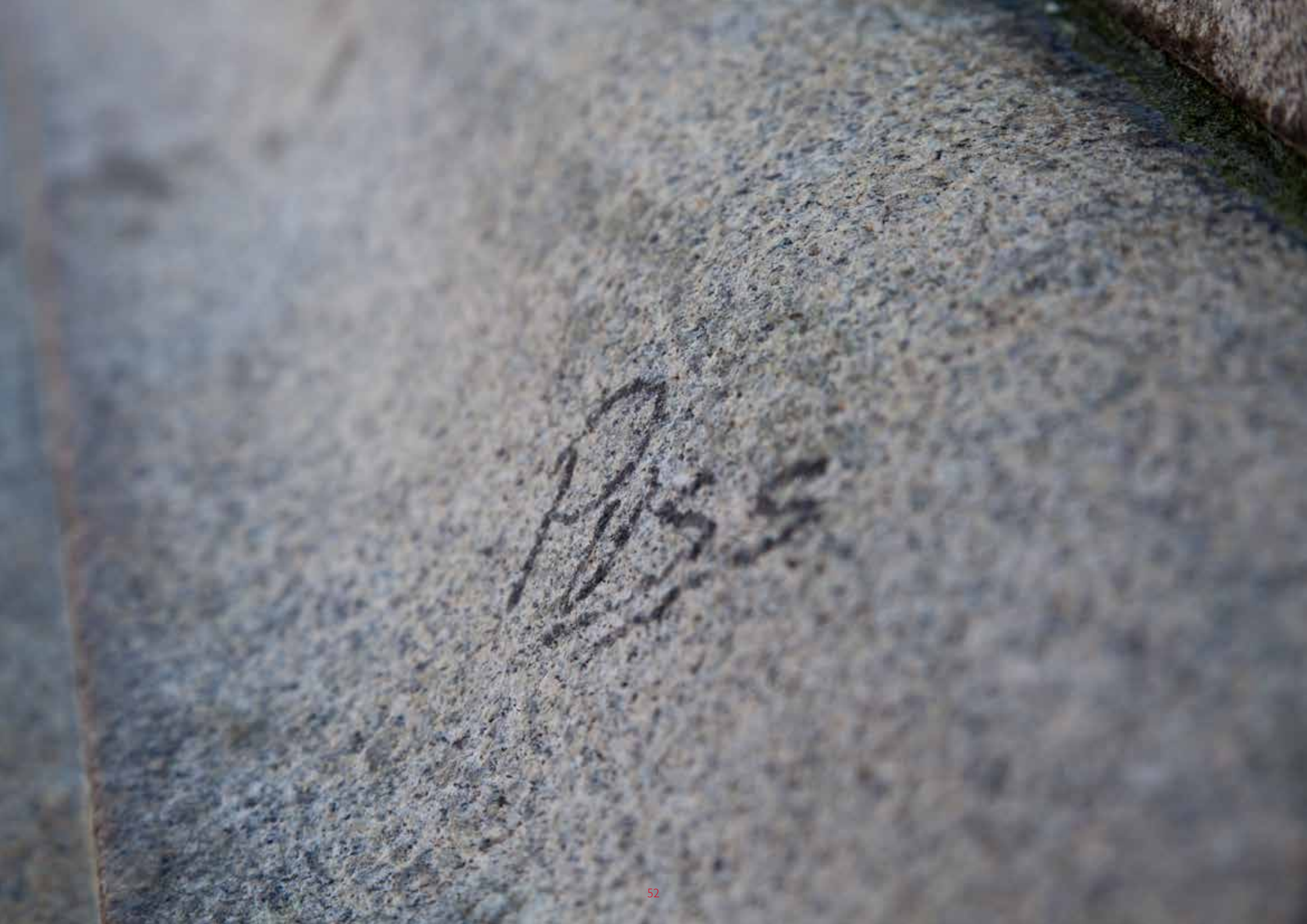


Question 30: This diagram and table show if children believe that they will get a job when they finish school.

GRADE	6	8	1
Yes	78%	69%	55%
Maybe	18%	24%	33%
No	1%	2%	5%
Don't know	3%	4%	7%
Total	100%	100%	100%



US YOUNGER PEOPLE SHOULD GET  
MUCH BETTER INFORMATION  
ABOUT THE FUTURE, OUR GRADES  
AND WHY WE NEED THEM,  
NOT JUST 'OTHERWISE YOU  
WON'T GET A JOB'.

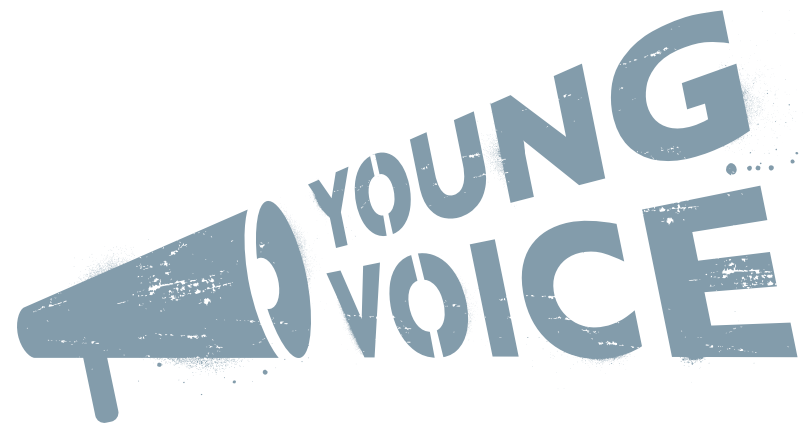




# Annex

## OVERALL RESULTS.

Results are reported in the order the questions were arranged in the questionnaire.



Question 1: **Are you ...**

	Sweden
Girl	49%
Boy	51%

Question 2: **Which grade or Year are you in?**

	Sweden
6	39%
8	36%
Year I at upper	25%

Question 3.a: **Have you heard about the Convention?**

	Grade 6	Grade 8	Year I upper secondary	Girls	Boys	Sweden
Yes	53%	39%	42%	46%	44%	45%
No	23%	35%	37%	30%	33%	31%
Don't know	23%	26%	21%	24%	23%	24%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Question 3.b: **Have you heard about children's rights?**

	Grade 6	Grade 8	Year I upper secondary	Girls	Boys	Sweden
Yes	90%	88%	89%	92%	86%	89%
No	3%	5%	5%	3%	6%	4%
Don't know	7%	8%	6%	5%	8%	7%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Question 4.a: **This term or last term, has the Convention been presented at your school?**

	Grade 6	Grade 8	Year I upper secondary	Girls	Boys	Sweden
Yes	37%	17%	12%	22%	22%	<b>22%</b>
No	24%	42%	61%	44%	40%	<b>42%</b>
Don't know	39%	42%	28%	34%	38%	<b>36%</b>
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	<b>100%</b>

Question 4.b: **This term or last term, have Rights been presented at your school?**

	Grade 6	Grade 8	Year I upper secondary	Girls	Boys	Sweden
Yes	64%	43%	29%	46%	45%	<b>45%</b>
No	11%	25%	47%	28%	27%	<b>28%</b>
Don't know	25%	32%	24%	26%	28%	<b>27%</b>
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	<b>100%</b>

Question 5: **Do you think it is important that politicians and decision-makers listen to what children/young people think about different things?**

	Grade 6	Grade 8	Year I upper secondary	Girls	Boys	Sweden
Yes	92%	90%	91%	94%	87%	<b>91%</b>
No	2%	3%	4%	1%	5%	<b>3%</b>
Don't know	6%	7%	6%	4%	8%	<b>6%</b>
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	<b>100%</b>

Question 6: **How great do you think your opportunities are to present your views and opinions to the decision-makers in your municipality?**

	Grade 6	Grade 8	Year I upper secondary	Girls	Boys	Sweden
Many opportunities	14%	10%	10%	10%	12%	<b>11%</b>
Few opportunities	45%	48%	47%	48%	46%	<b>47%</b>
No opportunities	11%	16%	15%	14%	14%	<b>14%</b>
Don't know	30%	26%	27%	28%	27%	<b>28%</b>
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	<b>100%</b>

**Question 7: This term or last term, have you been able to give your views about/affect any issue important to you?**

	Grade 6	Grade 8	Year I upper secondary	Girls	Boys	Sweden
Yes	55%	41%	34%	45%	42%	<b>44%</b>
No	16%	28%	39%	27%	29%	<b>28%</b>
Don't know	28%	31%	27%	29%	29%	<b>29%</b>
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	<b>100%</b>

**Question 7.b: Where have you been able to give your views about/affect any issue important to you?**

Only those who answered YES to question 7 have answered 7.b

	Grade 6	Grade 8	Year I upper secondary	Girls	Boys	Sweden
In school	79%	77%	75%	78%	77%	<b>77%</b>
In my leisure time activities	31%	34%	36%	33%	33%	<b>33%</b>
In my municipality	4%	5%	8%	5%	5%	<b>5%</b>
At home	66%	66%	65%	68%	63%	<b>66%</b>
Another place	16%	15%	17%	15%	17%	<b>16%</b>

**Question 8: Would you like more influence, power and opportunities to affect/give your views on issues that concern you and other children/young people?**

	Grade 6	Grade 8	Year I upper secondary	Girls	Boys	Sweden
Yes	61%	60%	59%	67%	53%	<b>60%</b>
No	13%	14%	16%	8%	20%	<b>14%</b>
Don't know	26%	26%	25%	25%	27%	<b>26%</b>
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	<b>100%</b>

**Question 8.b: Which areas would you like to influence/give your views on?**

Only those who answered YES to question 8 have answered 8.b

	Grade 6	Grade 8	Year I upper secondary	Girls	Boys	Sweden
Your education and school	60%	71%	72%	70%	65%	<b>68%</b>
Leisure activities for children where you live	35%	39%	41%	37%	40%	<b>38%</b>
Public transport	20%	30%	46%	34%	28%	<b>31%</b>
Racism	43%	42%	43%	48%	37%	<b>43%</b>
Equal rights for girls and boys	56%	51%	49%	63%	38%	<b>52%</b>
I would have chosen another	13%	14%	15%	11%	17%	<b>14%</b>

## Question 9.a: Sweden needs to do more to stop bullying/online bullying

	Grade 6	Grade 8	Year 1 upper secondary	Girls	Boys	Sweden
Very important	75%	65%	58%	76%	56%	<b>66%</b>
Important	18%	23%	25%	18%	26%	<b>22%</b>
Fairly important	5%	9%	11%	5%	12%	<b>8%</b>
Not important	1%	1%	3%	0%	3%	<b>2%</b>
Don't know	1%	2%	2%	1%	3%	<b>2%</b>
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	<b>100%</b>

## Question 9.b: Sweden needs to do more to make sure refugee children have the same opportunities as other children in Sweden

	Grade 6	Grade 8	Year 1 upper secondary	Girls	Boys	Sweden
Very important	66%	53%	46%	62%	49%	<b>55%</b>
Important	23%	27%	27%	25%	26%	<b>26%</b>
Fairly important	7%	12%	15%	9%	14%	<b>12%</b>
Not important	2%	5%	8%	2%	8%	<b>5%</b>
Don't know	2%	3%	3%	2%	4%	<b>3%</b>
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	<b>100%</b>

## Question 9.c: Sweden needs to do more to help children and young people who feel bad

	Grade 6	Grade 8	Year 1 upper secondary	Girls	Boys	Sweden
Very important	73%	65%	63%	76%	58%	<b>67%</b>
Important	23%	27%	28%	21%	31%	<b>26%</b>
Fairly important	3%	6%	7%	3%	8%	<b>5%</b>
Not important	0%	1%	1%	0%	1%	<b>1%</b>
Don't know	1%	1%	1%	0%	2%	<b>1%</b>
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	<b>100%</b>



Question 9.d: Sweden needs to do more to help children and young people who self-harm

	Grade 6	Grade 8	Year 1 upper secondary	Girls	Boys	Sweden
Very important	62%	58%	56%	70%	48%	<b>59%</b>
Important	26%	27%	27%	22%	31%	<b>27%</b>
Fairly important	9%	11%	11%	6%	14%	<b>10%</b>
Not important	1%	3%	4%	1%	4%	<b>3%</b>
Don't know	2%	2%	2%	1%	3%	<b>2%</b>
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	<b>100%</b>

Question 9.e: Sweden needs to do more to make sure there is no wait when contacting a psychologist

	Grade 6	Grade 8	Year 1 upper secondary	Girls	Boys	Sweden
Very important	42%	43%	49%	52%	37%	<b>45%</b>
Important	36%	37%	33%	34%	37%	<b>35%</b>
Fairly important	16%	15%	14%	11%	18%	<b>15%</b>
Not important	2%	2%	2%	1%	3%	<b>2%</b>
Don't know	5%	3%	2%	2%	5%	<b>3%</b>
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	<b>100%</b>

Question 9.f: Sweden needs to do more to stop racism

	Grade 6	Grade 8	Year 1 upper secondary	Girls	Boys	Sweden
Very important	70%	61%	58%	68%	58%	<b>63%</b>
Important	18%	23%	22%	21%	21%	<b>21%</b>
Fairly important	7%	9%	10%	7%	10%	<b>9%</b>
Not important	2%	4%	7%	2%	7%	<b>4%</b>
Don't know	3%	3%	3%	2%	4%	<b>3%</b>
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	<b>100%</b>

Question 9.g: Sweden needs to do more to help children in Sweden who are living in child poverty

	Grade 6	Grade 8	Year I upper secondary	Girls	Boys	Sweden
Very important	58%	48%	42%	54%	45%	<b>49%</b>
Important	30%	34%	35%	32%	33%	<b>33%</b>
Fairly important	10%	15%	18%	12%	16%	<b>14%</b>
Not important	1%	2%	3%	1%	3%	<b>2%</b>
Don't know	1%	2%	2%	1%	3%	<b>2%</b>
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	<b>100%</b>

Question 9.h: Sweden needs to do more to improve the situation for disabled children

	Grade 6	Grade 8	Year I upper secondary	Girls	Boys	Sweden
Very important	51%	48%	48%	56%	43%	<b>49%</b>
Important	32%	33%	35%	31%	36%	<b>33%</b>
Fairly important	8%	12%	12%	9%	13%	<b>11%</b>
Not important	1%	1%	2%	1%	2%	<b>1%</b>
Don't know	7%	5%	3%	3%	6%	<b>5%</b>
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	<b>100%</b>

Question 9.i: Sweden needs to do more to ensure there is a Children's Ombudsman in your municipality

	Grade 6	Grade 8	Year I upper secondary	Girls	Boys	Sweden
Very important	47%	39%	37%	48%	34%	<b>41%</b>
Important	30%	32%	32%	31%	31%	<b>31%</b>
Fairly important	11%	16%	18%	12%	17%	<b>15%</b>
Not important	1%	2%	3%	1%	3%	<b>2%</b>
Don't know	11%	12%	10%	7%	14%	<b>11%</b>
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	<b>100%</b>

Question 10.a: **Do you have access to Internet in your home?**

	Grade 6	Grade 8	Year I upper secondary	Girls	Boys	Sweden
Yes	97%	98%	97%	97%	97%	<b>97%</b>
No	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	<b>1%</b>
Sometimes	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%	<b>2%</b>
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	<b>100%</b>

Question 10.b: **Do you have access to a computer in your home?**

	Grade 6	Grade 8	Year I upper secondary	Girls	Boys	Sweden
Yes	95%	97%	98%	97%	97%	<b>97%</b>
No	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	<b>1%</b>
Sometimes	4%	2%	1%	3%	2%	<b>2%</b>
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	<b>100%</b>

Question 11.a: **Do you have your own room at home?**

	Grade 6	Grade 8	Year I upper secondary	Girls	Boys	Sweden
Yes	90%	92%	93%	92%	92%	<b>92%</b>
No	8%	6%	6%	7%	6%	<b>7%</b>
Sometimes	2%	2%	1%	1%	2%	<b>1%</b>
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	<b>100%</b>

Question 11.b: **Do you have your own mobile phone?**

	Grade 6	Grade 8	Year I upper secondary	Girls	Boys	Sweden
Yes	97%	98%	99%	99%	97%	<b>98%</b>
No	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%	<b>1%</b>
Sometimes	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	<b>0%</b>
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	<b>100%</b>

**Question 12: Has a teacher (or anyone else at school) asked you to bring in money to pay for a picnic meal, excursion or outdoor day? This term or last term!**

	Grade 6	Grade 8	Year 1 upper secondary	Girls	Boys	Sweden
Yes	38%	43%	48%	44%	41%	<b>43%</b>
No	41%	34%	36%	36%	38%	<b>37%</b>
Don't know	21%	23%	16%	20%	21%	<b>20%</b>
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	<b>100%</b>

**Question 12.b: What was this for?**

those who answered YES to question 12 have answered 12.b

	Grade 6	Grade 8	Year 1 upper secondary	Girls	Boys	Sweden
Excursion	56%	58%	55%	57%	56%	<b>56%</b>
School trip	42%	38%	51%	42%	46%	<b>44%</b>
Food/snack during trip or excursion	46%	56%	62%	61%	49%	<b>55%</b>
Outdoor day	33%	45%	45%	43%	40%	<b>41%</b>
Other	24%	22%	18%	20%	22%	<b>21%</b>

**Question 13: Have you, this term or last term, not been able to join in an activity at school because it has cost money?**

	Grade 6	Grade 8	Year 1 upper secondary	Girls	Boys	Sweden
Yes	5%	6%	6%	5%	6%	<b>6%</b>
No	86%	87%	87%	88%	85%	<b>87%</b>
Don't know	9%	8%	6%	7%	9%	<b>8%</b>
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	<b>100%</b>

**Question 14: Have you, this term or last term, not been able to join in some leisure time activity because you could not afford, for example, membership fees, training kit, swimsuit, skis, skates or something else that was needed?**

	Grade 6	Grade 8	Year 1 upper secondary	Girls	Boys	Sweden
Yes	6%	7%	11%	9%	7%	<b>8%</b>
No	86%	87%	83%	85%	85%	<b>85%</b>
Don't know	8%	6%	6%	6%	8%	<b>7%</b>
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	<b>100%</b>

Question 15: Can you get help with homework from the staff at your school?

	Grade 6	Grade 8	Year I upper secondary	Girls	Boys	Sweden
Yes	79%	79%	78%	78%	79%	<b>79%</b>
No	7%	7%	6%	6%	7%	<b>7%</b>
Don't know	14%	14%	16%	15%	14%	<b>15%</b>
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	<b>100%</b>

Question 16: Do you get help with homework at home?

	Grade 6	Grade 8	Year I upper secondary	Girls	Boys	Sweden
Yes, a lot	61%	49%	38%	48%	51%	<b>50%</b>
Yes, a little	34%	41%	43%	41%	38%	<b>39%</b>
Almost never	3%	7%	12%	8%	7%	<b>7%</b>
Never	1%	3%	7%	3%	4%	<b>4%</b>
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	<b>100%</b>

Question 17: Do you get the help you need to manage your tasks at school?

	Grade 6	Grade 8	Year I upper secondary	Girls	Boys	Sweden
Yes, always	42%	31%	31%	31%	38%	<b>35%</b>
Often	51%	57%	57%	58%	52%	<b>55%</b>
Seldom	5%	10%	9%	8%	7%	<b>8%</b>
Never	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	<b>1%</b>
Don't know	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%	<b>2%</b>
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	<b>100%</b>

Question 18: Are you satisfied with the teaching you get at school?

	Grade 6	Grade 8	Year I upper secondary	Girls	Boys	Sweden
Yes, always	37%	17%	21%	22%	28%	<b>25%</b>
Often	55%	65%	66%	65%	59%	<b>62%</b>
Seldom	5%	13%	10%	9%	9%	<b>9%</b>
Never	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%	<b>2%</b>
Don't know	2%	3%	2%	2%	2%	<b>2%</b>
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	<b>100%</b>



Question 19.a: **Do you know that your school has an Equal Opportunities Plan?**

	Grade 6	Grade 8	Year I upper secondary	Girls	Boys	Sweden
Yes	46%	48%	43%	46%	45%	<b>46%</b>
No	19%	21%	21%	19%	21%	<b>20%</b>
Don't know	35%	31%	36%	34%	34%	<b>34%</b>
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	<b>100%</b>

Question 19.b: **Have you read it?**

Only those who answered YES to question 19.a have answered 19.b

	Grade 6	Grade 8	Year I upper secondary	Girls	Boys	Sweden
Yes	41%	46%	40%	44%	40%	<b>42%</b>
No	42%	41%	51%	41%	47%	<b>44%</b>
Don't know	18%	13%	9%	15%	12%	<b>13%</b>
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	<b>100%</b>

Question 19.c: **Were you allowed to participate in developing it?**

Only those who answered YES to question 19.a have answered 19.c

	Grade 6	Grade 8	Year I upper secondary	Girls	Boys	Sweden
Yes	13%	10%	7%	10%	10%	<b>10%</b>
No	62%	68%	79%	70%	69%	<b>70%</b>
Don't know	25%	22%	13%	20%	20%	<b>20%</b>
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	<b>100%</b>

Question 20: **Has school taught you how to use Internet safely?**

	Grade 6	Grade 8	Year I upper secondary	Girls	Boys	Sweden
Yes	51%	39%	33%	40%	42%	<b>41%</b>
No	31%	41%	50%	38%	43%	<b>41%</b>
Don't know	18%	20%	17%	21%	16%	<b>18%</b>
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	<b>100%</b>

**Question 21: Do you feel that teachers and other staff at your school work to stop bullying?**

	<b>Grade 6</b>	<b>Grade 8</b>	<b>Year I upper secondary</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Sweden</b>
Yes	63%	49%	35%	46%	52%	<b>49%</b>
No	14%	24%	23%	22%	19%	<b>21%</b>
Don't know	23%	26%	42%	32%	29%	<b>30%</b>
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	<b>100%</b>

**Question 22: At your school, are there any opportunities for you to present your opinions on, for example, school meals, breaks, schoolwork or other things concerning school?**

	<b>Grade 6</b>	<b>Grade 8</b>	<b>Year I upper secondary</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Sweden</b>
Often	40%	32%	33%	36%	35%	<b>35%</b>
Sometimes	42%	43%	44%	45%	41%	<b>43%</b>
Seldom	13%	18%	16%	15%	17%	<b>16%</b>
Never	4%	7%	6%	4%	7%	<b>6%</b>
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	<b>100%</b>

**Question 23: Do you think that your school does enough for disabled children who need special support?**

	<b>Grade 6</b>	<b>Grade 8</b>	<b>Year I upper secondary</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Sweden</b>
Yes	56%	47%	40%	46%	49%	<b>48%</b>
No	9%	13%	8%	11%	9%	<b>10%</b>
Don't know	35%	40%	52%	43%	42%	<b>42%</b>
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	<b>100%</b>

**Question 24.a: Do you feel safe on your way to and from school?**

	<b>Grade 6</b>	<b>Grade 8</b>	<b>Year I upper secondary</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Sweden</b>
Always	69%	75%	75%	64%	82%	<b>73%</b>
Often	26%	22%	22%	32%	15%	<b>24%</b>
Seldom	3%	2%	2%	3%	1%	<b>2%</b>
Never	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	<b>1%</b>
Don't know	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	<b>1%</b>
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	<b>100%</b>

## Question 24.b: Do you feel safe in the classroom?

	Grade 6	Grade 8	Year 1 upper secondary	Girls	Boys	Sweden
Always	78%	75%	81%	73%	83%	<b>78%</b>
Often	19%	21%	16%	24%	13%	<b>19%</b>
Seldom	2%	3%	2%	3%	1%	<b>2%</b>
Never	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	<b>1%</b>
Don't know	0%	1%	1%	0%	1%	<b>1%</b>
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	<b>100%</b>

## Question 24.c: Do you feel safe at breaks?

	Grade 6	Grade 8	Year 1 upper secondary	Girls	Boys	Sweden
Always	72%	71%	77%	68%	78%	<b>73%</b>
Often	24%	25%	19%	28%	18%	<b>23%</b>
Seldom	3%	3%	2%	3%	2%	<b>2%</b>
Never	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	<b>1%</b>
Don't know	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	<b>1%</b>
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	<b>100%</b>

## Question 24.d: Do you feel safe in the area where you live during daytime?

	Grade 6	Grade 8	Year 1 upper secondary	Girls	Boys	Sweden
Always	85%	86%	86%	82%	88%	<b>85%</b>
Often	12%	12%	11%	15%	9%	<b>12%</b>
Seldom	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	<b>1%</b>
Never	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	<b>1%</b>
Don't know	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	<b>1%</b>
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	<b>100%</b>

## Question 24.e: Do you feel safe in the evening in the area where you live?

	Grade 6	Grade 8	Year 1 upper secondary	Girls	Boys	Sweden
Always	58%	62%	62%	50%	72%	<b>61%</b>
Often	31%	28%	27%	36%	21%	<b>28%</b>
Seldom	8%	7%	7%	10%	4%	<b>7%</b>
Never	3%	2%	2%	3%	2%	<b>2%</b>
Don't know	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	<b>1%</b>
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	<b>100%</b>

Question 24.f: Do you feel safe at the youth club or youth centre?

	Grade 6	Grade 8	Year I upper secondary	Girls	Boys	Sweden
Always	50%	51%	48%	42%	58%	<b>50%</b>
Often	19%	18%	15%	20%	14%	<b>17%</b>
Seldom	4%	4%	4%	5%	3%	<b>4%</b>
Never	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	<b>2%</b>
Don't know	26%	25%	31%	31%	23%	<b>27%</b>
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	<b>100%</b>

Question 24.g: Do you feel safe in town/in the centre during daytime?

	Grade 6	Grade 8	Year I upper secondary	Girls	Boys	Sweden
Always	61%	68%	71%	61%	72%	<b>67%</b>
Often	32%	27%	24%	33%	22%	<b>28%</b>
Seldom	4%	2%	2%	3%	2%	<b>3%</b>
Never	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	<b>1%</b>
Don't know	3%	2%	1%	1%	3%	<b>2%</b>
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	<b>100%</b>

Question 24.h: Do you feel safe in town/the centre in the evening?

	Grade 6	Grade 8	Year I upper secondary	Girls	Boys	Sweden
Always	26%	32%	36%	19%	43%	<b>31%</b>
Often	36%	38%	40%	43%	34%	<b>38%</b>
Seldom	22%	19%	16%	26%	12%	<b>19%</b>
Never	8%	5%	4%	8%	4%	<b>6%</b>
Don't know	8%	6%	3%	5%	6%	<b>6%</b>
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	<b>100%</b>

Question 24.i: Do you feel safe on the bus, school bus, train, commuter train, tube during daytime?

	Grade 6	Grade 8	Year I upper secondary	Girls	Boys	Sweden
Always	56%	63%	70%	56%	71%	<b>63%</b>
Often	31%	28%	24%	35%	20%	<b>28%</b>
Seldom	5%	3%	3%	5%	3%	<b>4%</b>
Never	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	<b>1%</b>
Don't know	7%	4%	2%	3%	5%	<b>4%</b>
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	<b>100%</b>

## Question 24.j: Do you feel safe in the evening on the bus, school bus, train, commuter train, tube?

	Grade 6	Grade 8	Year 1 upper secondary	Girls	Boys	Sweden
Always	27%	34%	39%	20%	47%	<b>33%</b>
Often	33%	35%	37%	40%	30%	<b>35%</b>
Seldom	19%	18%	15%	25%	10%	<b>18%</b>
Never	8%	6%	4%	8%	4%	<b>6%</b>
Don't know	13%	8%	4%	7%	9%	<b>8%</b>
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	<b>100%</b>

## Question 24.k: Do you feel safe at home?

	Grade 6	Grade 8	Year 1 upper secondary	Girls	Boys	Sweden
Always	94%	92%	92%	91%	94%	<b>93%</b>
Often	4%	6%	6%	7%	4%	<b>5%</b>
Seldom	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	<b>1%</b>
Never	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	<b>1%</b>
Don't know	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	<b>1%</b>
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	<b>100%</b>

## Question 24.l: Do you feel safe online?

	Grade 6	Grade 8	Year 1 upper secondary	Girls	Boys	Sweden
Always	56%	62%	64%	45%	76%	<b>61%</b>
Often	36%	31%	29%	45%	19%	<b>32%</b>
Seldom	4%	4%	4%	7%	2%	<b>4%</b>
Never	2%	1%	2%	2%	1%	<b>2%</b>
Don't know	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%	<b>2%</b>
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	<b>100%</b>



**Question 25: This term or last term have you been worried about any of the following:**

	<b>Grade 6</b>	<b>Grade 8</b>	<b>Year I upper secondary</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Sweden</b>
25.1: Not to be able to manage school	33%	42%	44%	48%	31%	<b>39%</b>
25.2: Be subjected to racism	6%	4%	6%	5%	5%	<b>5%</b>
25.3: Be bullied	28%	20%	17%	27%	16%	<b>22%</b>
25.4: Experience violence from other children or young people	15%	12%	9%	12%	11%	<b>12%</b>
25.5: Experience violence from an adult	9%	6%	6%	9%	5%	<b>7%</b>
25.6: Be deported from the country (not be able to stay in Sweden)	3%	2%	2%	2%	3%	<b>2%</b>
25.7: That your friend will be deported (not be able to stay in Sweden)	8%	6%	7%	8%	6%	<b>7%</b>
25.8: That your family will be evicted	6%	4%	4%	5%	4%	<b>4%</b>
25.9: That you will harm yourself	14%	15%	14%	20%	9%	<b>14%</b>
25.10: That you will not be able to decide who you will be together with/live with or marry	5%	4%	4%	6%	3%	<b>4%</b>
25.11: That you will not receive enough help at school	16%	21%	22%	26%	14%	<b>20%</b>
25.12: That your parents will kick you out so you cannot live at home any more	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	<b>3%</b>
25.13: That the family will not have enough money for their needs	12%	13%	15%	18%	9%	<b>13%</b>

**Question 26: This term or last term, has this happened to you?**

	<b>Grade 6</b>	<b>Grade 8</b>	<b>Year I upper secondary</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Sweden</b>
26.1: Seen someone hit or punched	52%	48%	35%	38%	52%	<b>45%</b>
26.2: Ran away from or been kicked out of home	4%	7%	8%	7%	5%	<b>6%</b>
26.3: Received insulting online messages from other children or young people	21%	27%	24%	26%	22%	<b>24%</b>
26.4: Received insulting messages on your mobile from other children or young people	16%	18%	15%	20%	13%	<b>17%</b>
26.5: An adult has contacted you online and wanted to talk about sex	5%	9%	10%	11%	5%	<b>8%</b>
26.6: Had problems with eating disorders	8%	13%	15%	17%	7%	<b>12%</b>

Question 27.1: **This term or last term have you ever felt stressed over schoolwork?**

	Grade 6	Grade 8	Year 1 upper secondary	Girls	Boys	Sweden
Not at all	16%	7%	7%	6%	14%	<b>10%</b>
Sometimes	59%	39%	35%	36%	53%	<b>45%</b>
Many times	25%	54%	57%	58%	33%	<b>46%</b>
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	<b>100%</b>

Question 27.2: **This term or last term have you ever felt stressed over your grades?**

	Grade 6	Grade 8	Year 1 upper secondary	Girls	Boys	Sweden
Not at all	25%	13%	14%	10%	24%	<b>17%</b>
Sometimes	46%	38%	38%	36%	46%	<b>41%</b>
Many times	29%	49%	49%	54%	30%	<b>42%</b>
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	<b>100%</b>

Question 27.3: **This term or last term have you felt sad and down for a longer period of time?**

	Grade 6	Grade 8	Year 1 upper secondary	Girls	Boys	Sweden
Not at all	62%	48%	41%	38%	64%	<b>51%</b>
Sometimes	29%	34%	37%	39%	27%	<b>33%</b>
Many times	9%	18%	22%	23%	9%	<b>16%</b>
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	<b>100%</b>

Question 27.4: **This term or last term have you felt that you were bullied or harassed?**

	Grade 6	Grade 8	Year 1 upper secondary	Girls	Boys	Sweden
Not at all	77%	78%	83%	76%	83%	<b>79%</b>
Sometimes	18%	18%	13%	19%	13%	<b>16%</b>
Many times	5%	4%	4%	5%	4%	<b>4%</b>
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	<b>100%</b>

**Question 27.b: If you have felt bullied or harassed at any time during the previous year, was this due to:**  
Only those who answered "Sometimes" or "Many times" in question 27.4

	<b>Grade 6</b>	<b>Grade 8</b>	<b>Year 1 upper secondary</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Sweden</b>
Your faith/religion?	7%	8%	11%	7%	11%	<b>9%</b>
That your family is badly off?	5%	8%	7%	6%	8%	<b>7%</b>
That you or your parents come from another country?	9%	9%	11%	8%	12%	<b>9%</b>
That you are disabled?	3%	4%	6%	3%	6%	<b>4%</b>
Your sexual orientation or gender	3%	6%	9%	6%	6%	<b>6%</b>
Your appearance?	45%	51%	46%	54%	37%	<b>47%</b>
Your age?	9%	9%	9%	9%	9%	<b>9%</b>
Other?	65%	62%	60%	67%	56%	<b>63%</b>

**Question 28: Do you know where to go if you need to talk to someone or to get help ...**

	<b>Grade 6</b>	<b>Grade 8</b>	<b>Year 1 upper secondary</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Sweden</b>
28.1: If you are feeling bad mentally (very anxious, depressed, sad, etc.)?	76%	79%	83%	81%	77%	<b>79%</b>
28.2: If you have problems in the family?	62%	68%	73%	70%	65%	<b>67%</b>
28.3: If you or someone you know has been exposed to violence, threats or other crimes?	64%	71%	74%	69%	70%	<b>69%</b>
28.4: If you feel harassed and unfairly treated?	70%	72%	72%	72%	70%	<b>71%</b>

**Question 29: How do you regard your future?**

	<b>Grade 6</b>	<b>Grade 8</b>	<b>Year 1 upper secondary</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Sweden</b>
Very positively	48%	36%	38%	37%	44%	<b>41%</b>
Fairly positively	41%	50%	49%	49%	44%	<b>46%</b>
Fairly negatively	2%	4%	4%	4%	3%	<b>4%</b>
Very negatively	1%	2%	2%	1%	1%	<b>1%</b>
Don't know	8%	8%	7%	9%	7%	<b>8%</b>
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	<b>100%</b>

## Question 30: Do you think you will be able to get a job when you leave school?

	Grade 6	Grade 8	Year I upper secondary	Girls	Boys	Sweden
Yes	78%	69%	55%	65%	70%	<b>68%</b>
Maybe	18%	24%	33%	28%	23%	<b>25%</b>
No	1%	2%	5%	2%	3%	<b>3%</b>
Don't know	3%	4%	7%	5%	4%	<b>5%</b>
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	<b>100%</b>



**Almost 25,000 children in Sweden have answered questions about their rights. In this Save the Children survey entitled Young Voice, children bear witness to extra costs at school, stress, anxiety, bullying, depression and insecurity.**

**Young Voice shows that the rights of all the children in Sweden are not fulfilled.**

**The aim is to disseminate this knowledge and that the people who can influence the conditions in which children are brought up will understand what they are saying – and take action.**



**Save the Children**  
Sweden

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