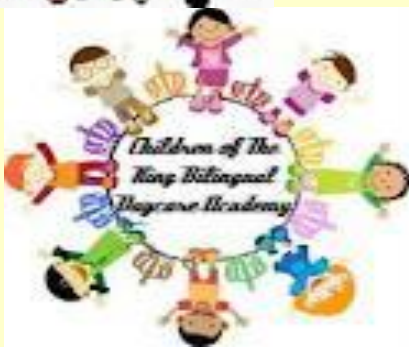




Harmless environments

VS

Unsafe schools



Harmless environments



An environment not harmful to
anyone's health or well-being

School shootings



Self

In South Africa?

Depres
Anxiou



What should school safety comprise of at public schools?

- ? What are the legal requirements regarding safe schools?
- ? What do the statistics portray regarding safety at school?
- ? What are the perceptions of learners regarding safe schools?

Section 24 of the Constitution

The Occupational Health and Safety Act

Code of Conduct Guidelines



Sections 12 and 28 of the Constitution

Regulations for Safety Measures at Public Schools

The National Policy on the Managing Drug of Drug abuse by Learners in Public and Independent Schools

Random search and seizure

Devices to be used and Procedures to be Followed for Drug Testing

Going to school in South Africa today - Is this what it feels like for some learners and educators?



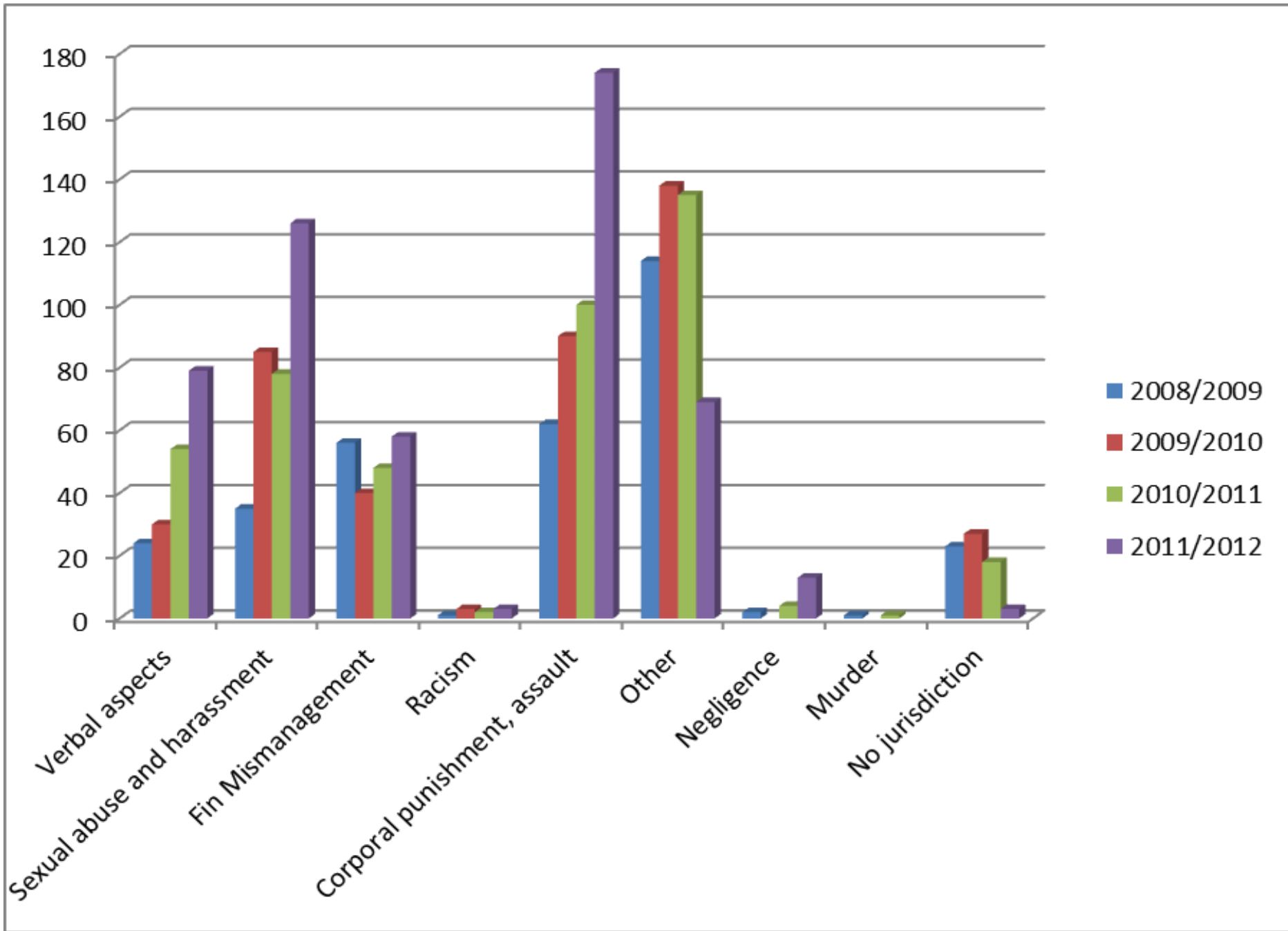
Or like this?





What can one say?





Exploratory study

12 Schools (2 students at the same school)

After investigating legal requirements of a safe school environment, compile a questionnaire with at least 25 statements aimed at establishing how safe the school is at which you teach

Themes focussed on in this paper:



Bullying



Drug and alcohol-related problems



Weapons








Violence



Corporal punishment

Most disconcerting findings:

-  Corporal punishment - still a reality.
-  Drugs and alcohol-related problems in the majority of school.
-  Bullying is an everyday occurrence in the life of the majority of participants.
-  Weapons brought to school.
-  Violence and particularly the learners reactions to it.

As two of the student-respondents indicated, the reaction of the learner to a fight today is not run for help, but let's tape it!



Recommendations

- ! Greater cooperation between schools, the community and the SAP should take place.
- ! Educators, principals and School Governing Bodies should take cognisance of what learners tell them regarding school safety.
- ! The Department of Basic Education should help schools to rid themselves of learners who are repeat offenders.
- ! SACE should not only strike educators off the role, but accept a policy of blame and shame.