

770 TESTIMONIES

OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT,
PERIOD SPOT CHECKS,
BULLYING AND OTHER ABUSE
IN SCHOOLS

#MAKESCHOOLASAFERPLACE
STILL MATTERS.

**ACROSS THESE TESTIMONIES,
THERE WAS A TOTAL OF**

**1,145
INCIDENTS**

**204 (26.5%) OF THESE
TESTIMONIES REPORTED MULTIPLE
INCIDENTS.**

#MAKESCHOOLASAFERPLACE



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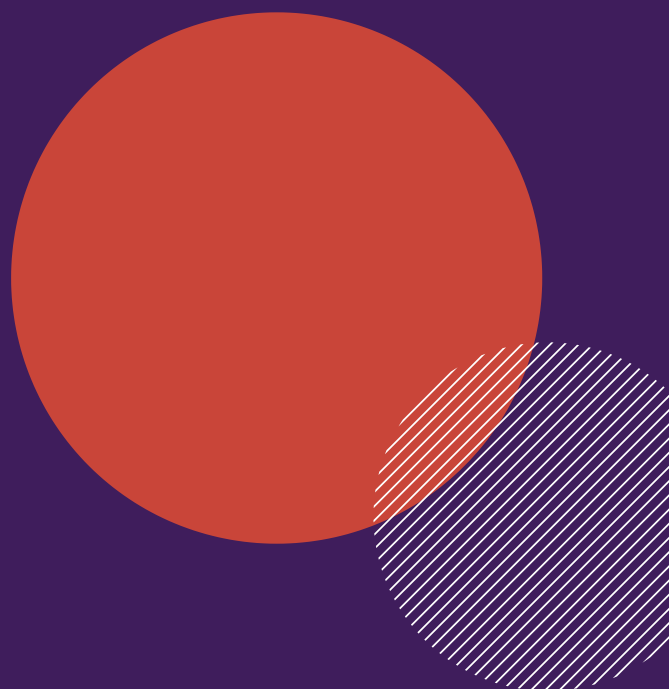
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DISCLAIMER

These stories were collected from a Google Form managed by Save The Schools MY. As these stories are anecdotal by nature, some stories were incomplete in information.

However, the AWAM Communications Team did our best in ensuring that the information that was present was accurately represented.



TRIGGER WARNINGS

The following report contains, at times, graphic descriptions of sexual harassment, abuse, bullying and suicide.

Please read at your own discretion.

If anything in the report resonates with you and you want to seek free counselling or legal information services, you can contact AWAM's Telenita helpline at **016-2374221 or 016-2284221**.



WHO SHARED THESE INCIDENTS WITH US?

17.4%

Others

199



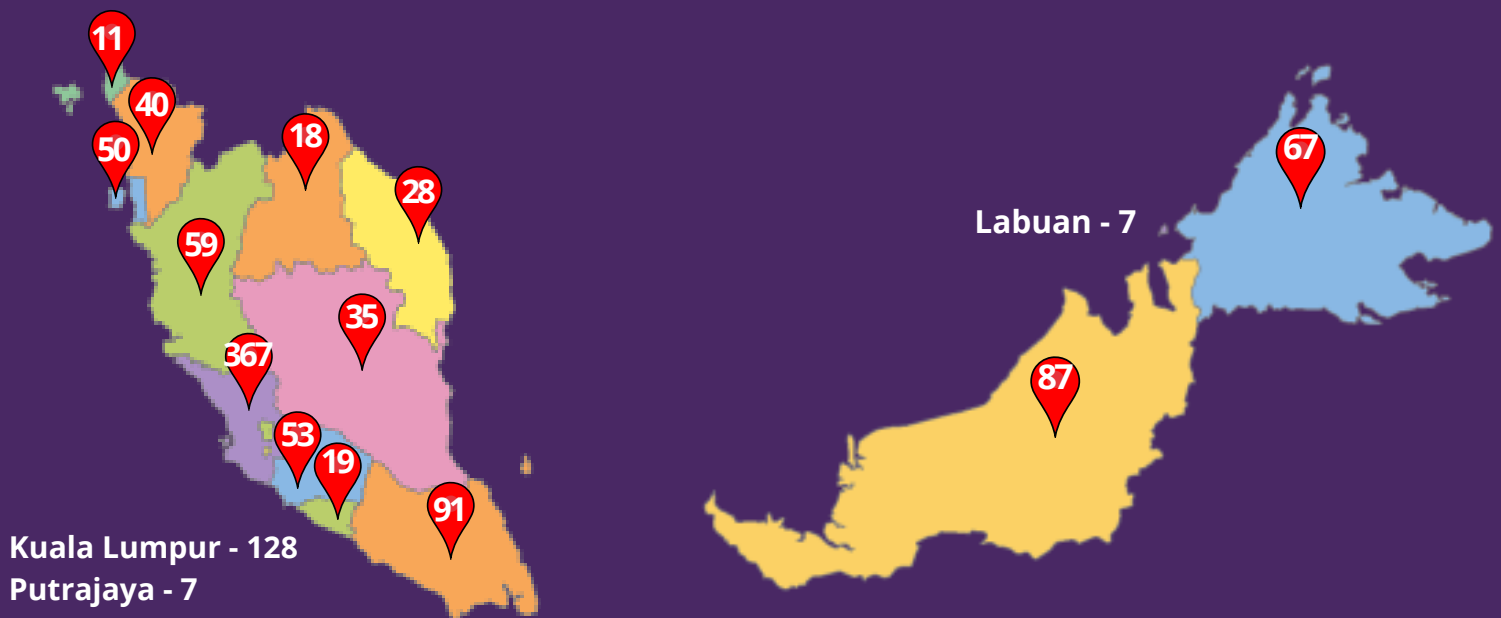
82.6%

The survivor

946

WHERE DID IT OCCUR?

84.9% of all incidents that happened in Malaysia and disclosed the state in which they occurred were from the Peninsular.



Out of Malaysia - 1

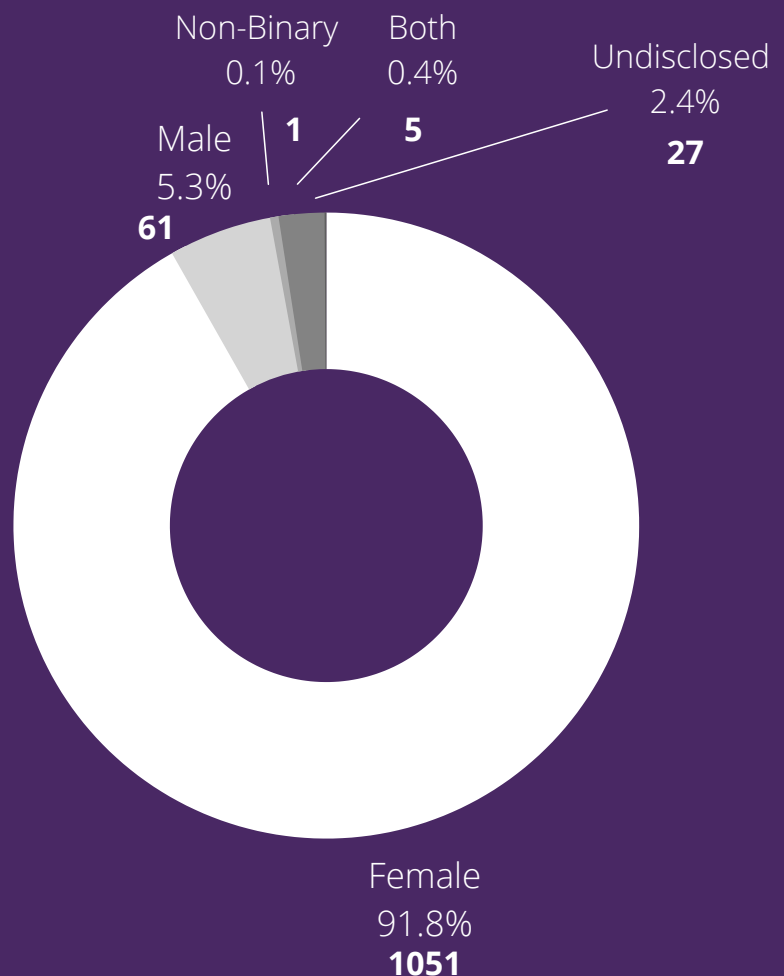
Undisclosed - 77

WHO DID IT HAPPEN TO?

More than one-third (38.8%) of all incidents involved **multiple survivors**.

22.1% of all incidents were perpetrated by **multiple perpetrators/perpetrator groups**.

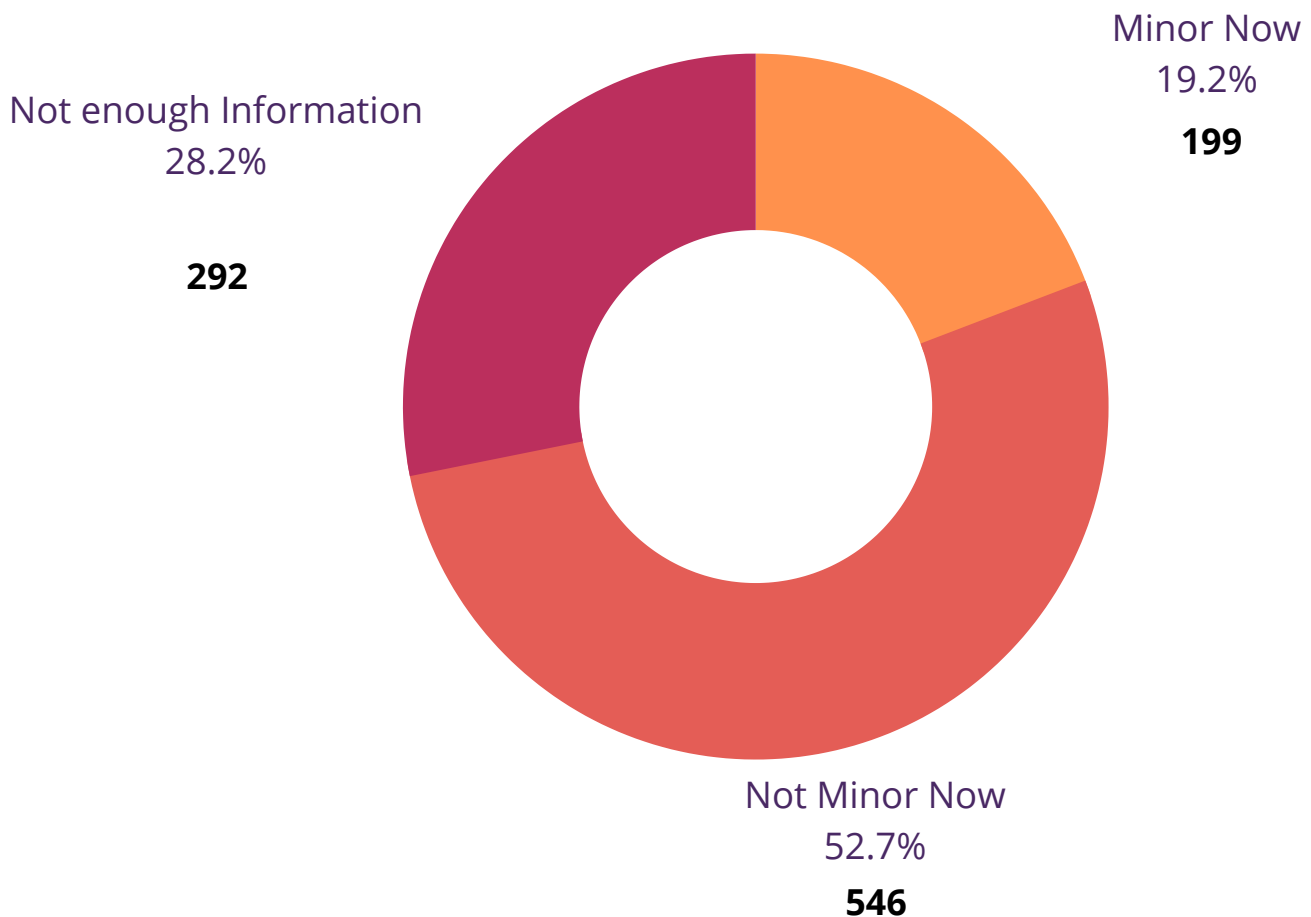
GENDER OF SURVIVORS



WHO DID IT HAPPEN TO?

1165 perpetrators violated 1037 survivors.

Among the 1037 survivors, how many are **still minors** (below 18) by 2021?



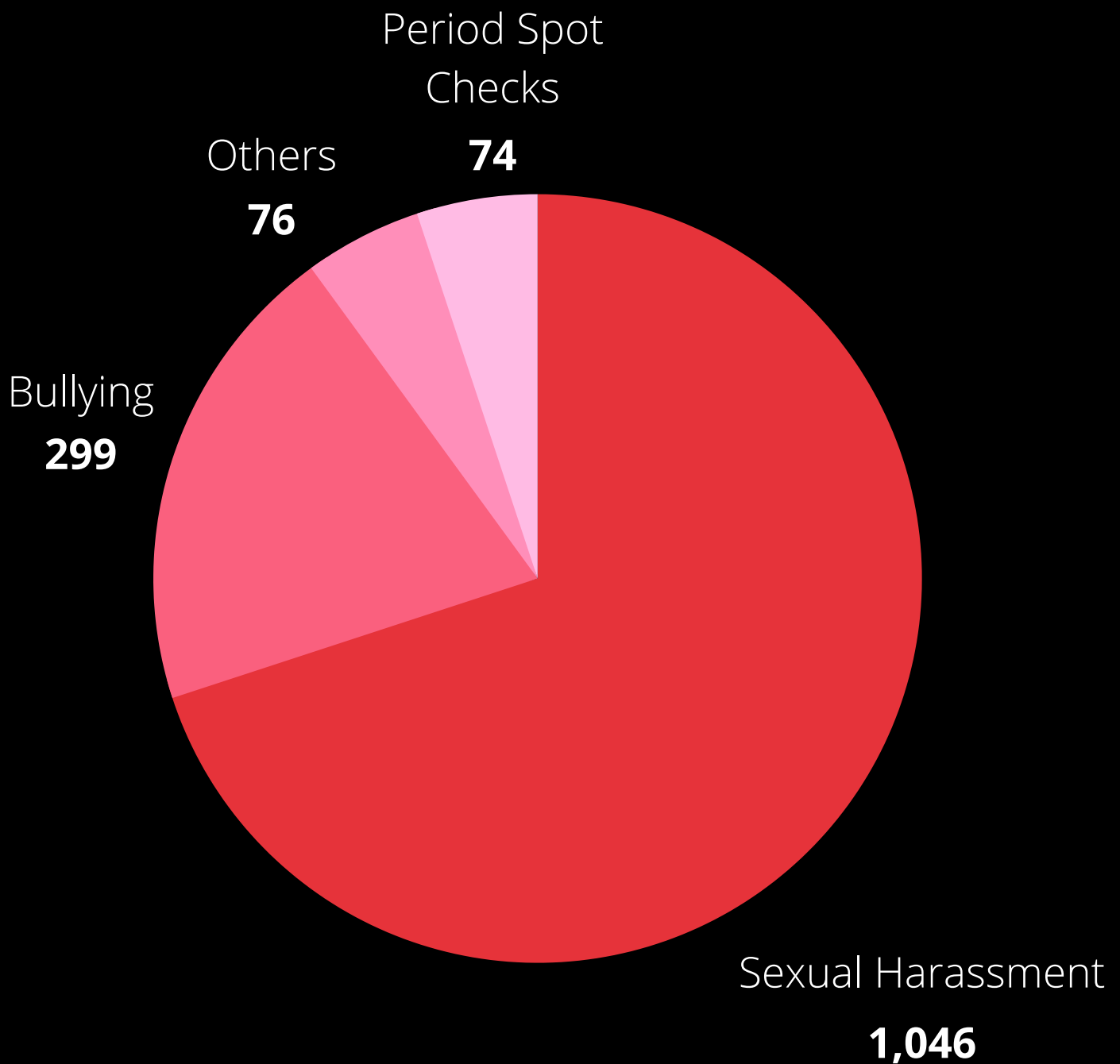


**OUT OF THE 1145 INCIDENTS
OF ABUSE, WE IDENTIFIED A
TOTAL OF**

**1,495
VIOLATIONS**

**279 (24.4%) OF ALL INCIDENTS
INVOLVED MULTIPLE VIOLATIONS.**

1,495 VIOLATIONS



IMPACT ON SURVIVOR

“

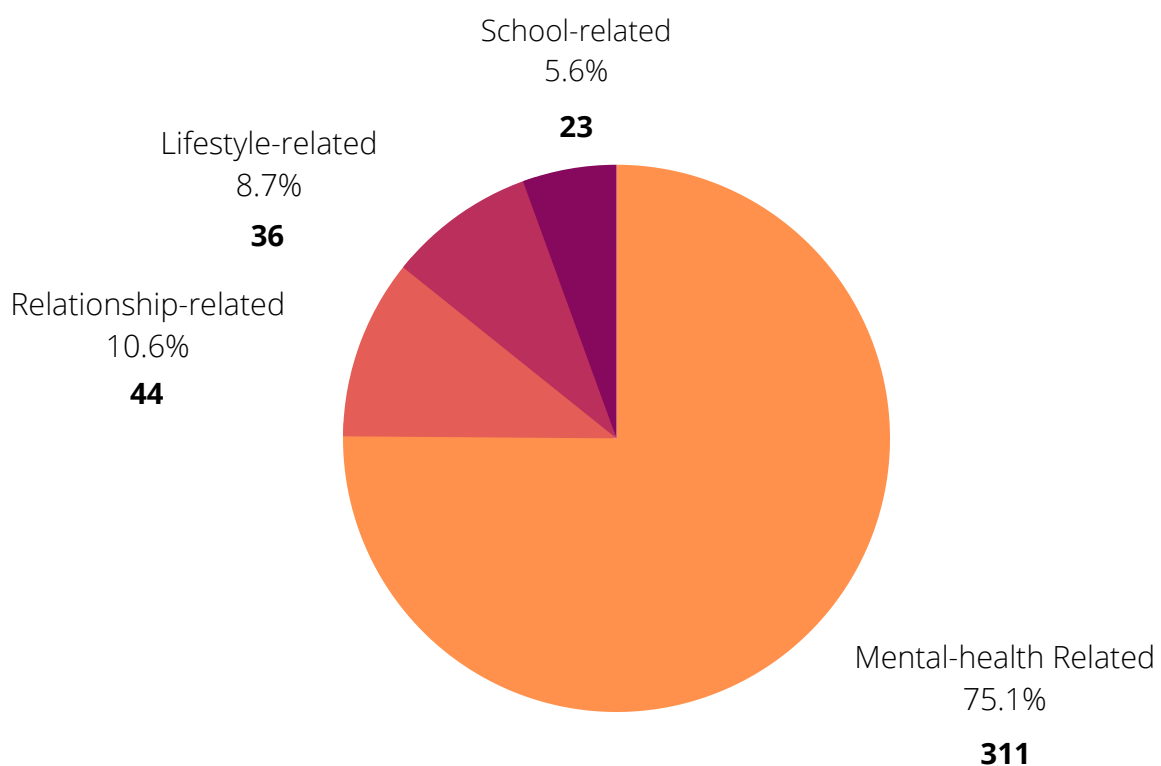
I never told anyone about this. But I couldn't touch my family members without remembering him. I remember feeling nauseous when I accidentally touched my father's hand. I avoided my mother's hugs. After that I never looked at his face again, even in class. I disassociated many times in his class. **I panicked when I saw glimpses of his smile.**

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IMPACT ON SURVIVOR

Across all 1145 incidents, **274 of them** (23.9%) led to survivors experiencing **negative psychosocial consequences**, affecting their mental health, livelihood, school lives and relationships.

Among these 274 incidents, 85 of them (31%) involved **multiple psychosocial consequences**.



IMPACT ON SURVIVOR

Mental Health

Among those that frequently emerged were those of the survivor being traumatised, not feeling safe and being distrustful of males.

There were 17 diagnoses of mental health conditions. Anxiety and depression make up close to 75% of these diagnoses.

School-Related

12 skipped or no longer attended school events, 6 stopped going to school altogether and 5 said that their academic performance declined.

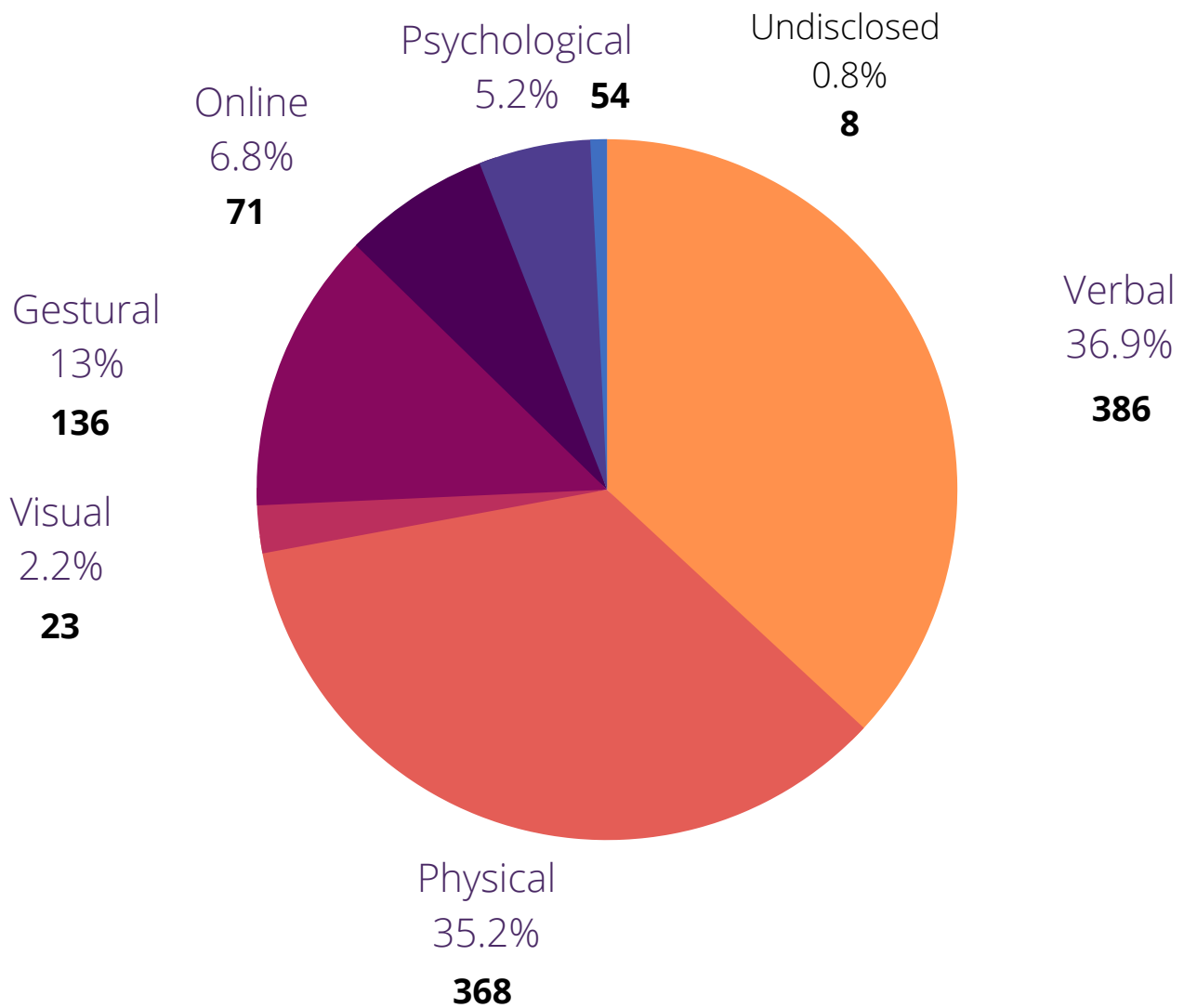
SEXUAL HARASSMENT

“

They made me naked for fun. Pegang my whole body, and lancapkan in front of people dalam dorm. Betul-betul traumatising. Tapi bagi diorang bahan gelak je. Diorang kata tu gurau. Some of them are prefects too.

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SEXUAL HARASSMENT

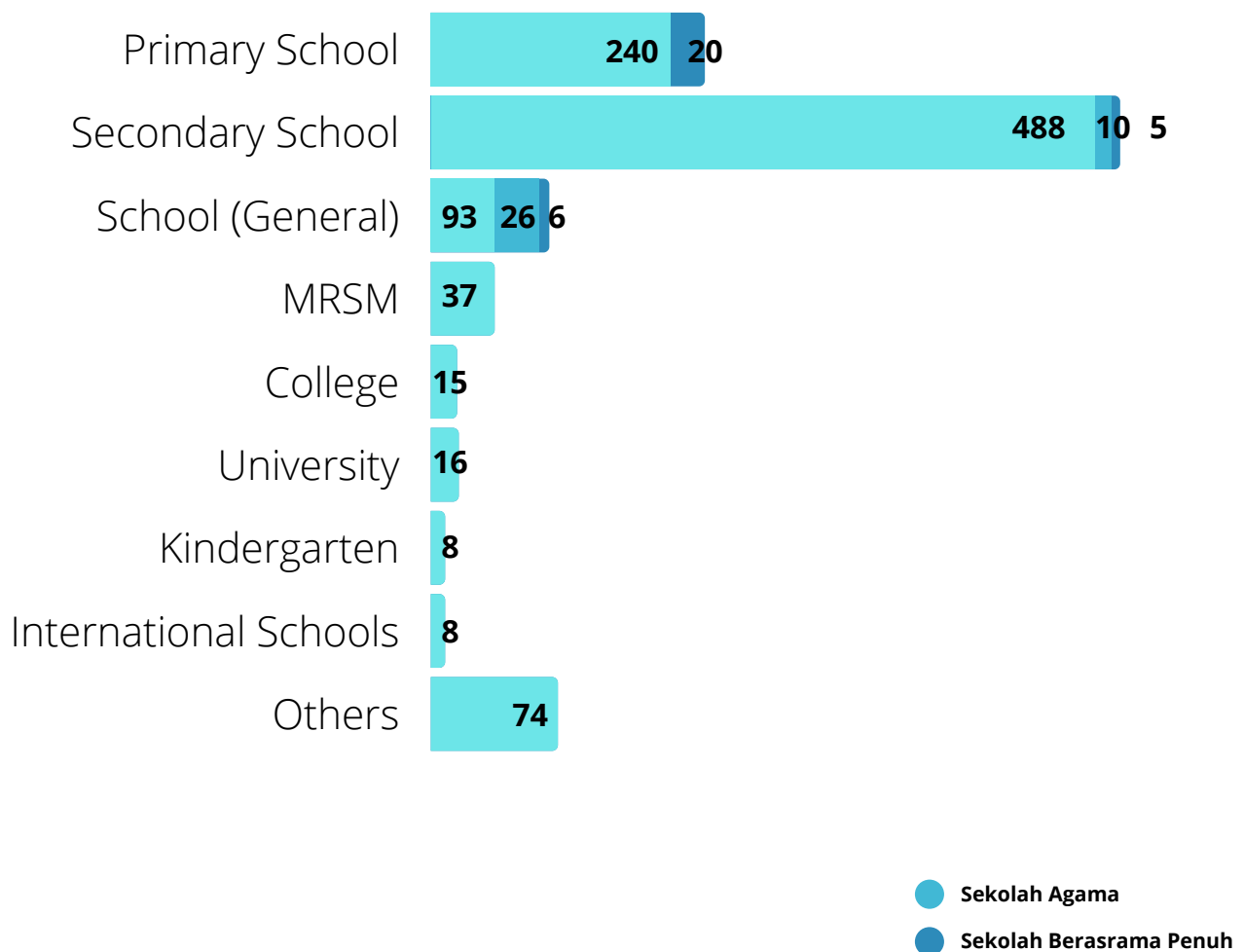


For sexual harassment, the definition by All Women's Action Society (AWAM) is used: "Sexual harassment is one or a series of unwanted and unwelcoming conduct of a sexual nature, which is perceived by the recipient to be intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive, with the intent to violate the recipient's dignity".

Categorisation of sexual harassment violations by form are informed by examples from All Women's Action Society's (AWAM) sexual harassment brochure:

- Verbal: offensive or suggestive sexual remarks, comments, jokes, jests, sounds and inappropriate questions etc
- Physical: inappropriate touching, patting, pinching, stroking, hugging, kissing, fondling and brushing against the recipient's body etc
- Gestural: unwanted leering or ogling, hand signals or sign language that denotes sexual activity; peeping tom, flashing etc
- Online: receiving or sending comments, text or audio messages, images and videos that are unwanted and sexual in nature
- Psychological: repeated unwanted social invitations for dates or physical intimacy; unwanted constant offers of benefits (e.g. promotions, long leave) on the condition of sexual favours
- Visual: showcasing of obscene materials (e.g. drawings, text, images) that elicit discomfort

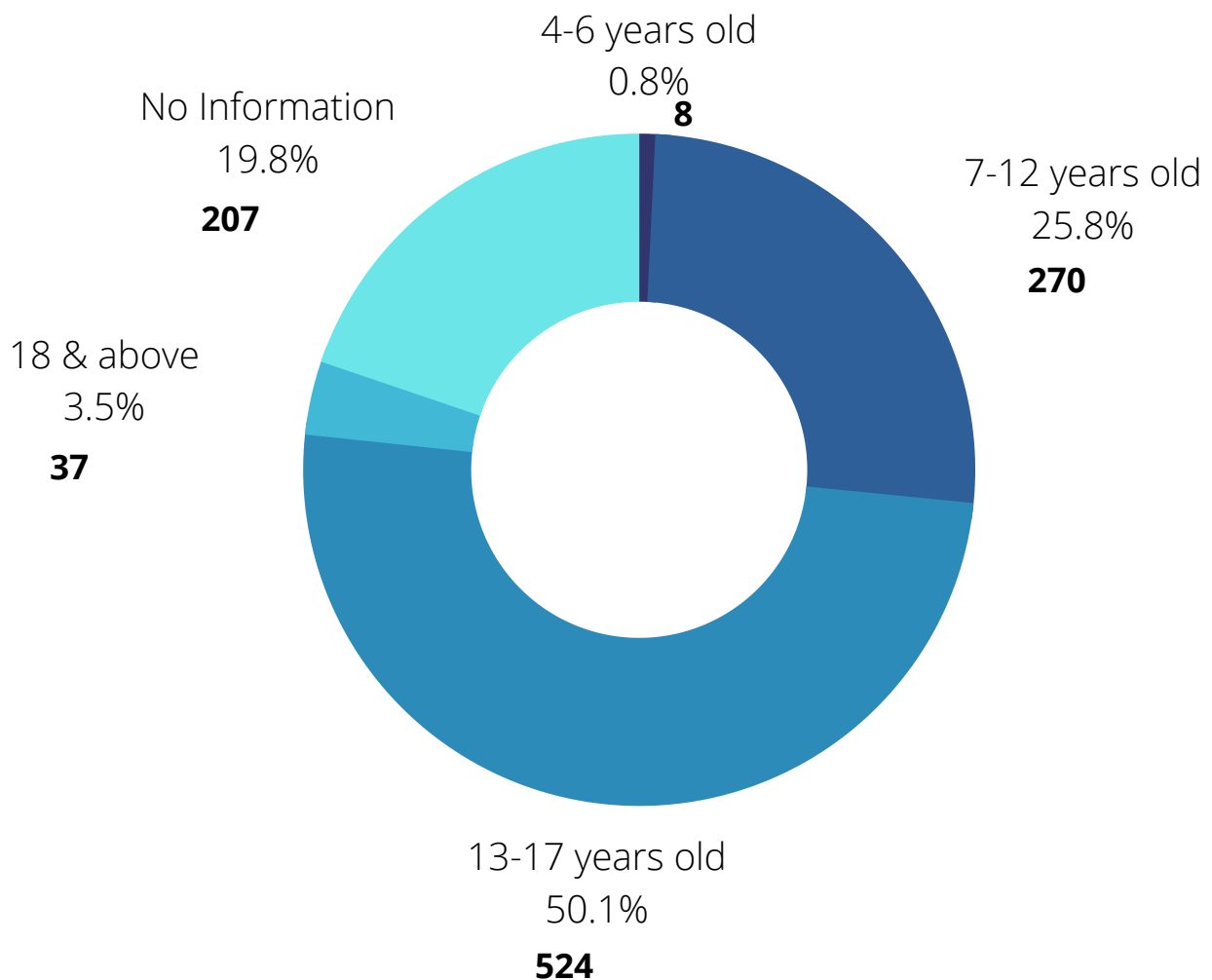
WHERE DID IT HAPPEN?



89.2% of all sexual harassment violations occurred in primary and secondary institutions of learning.

SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT

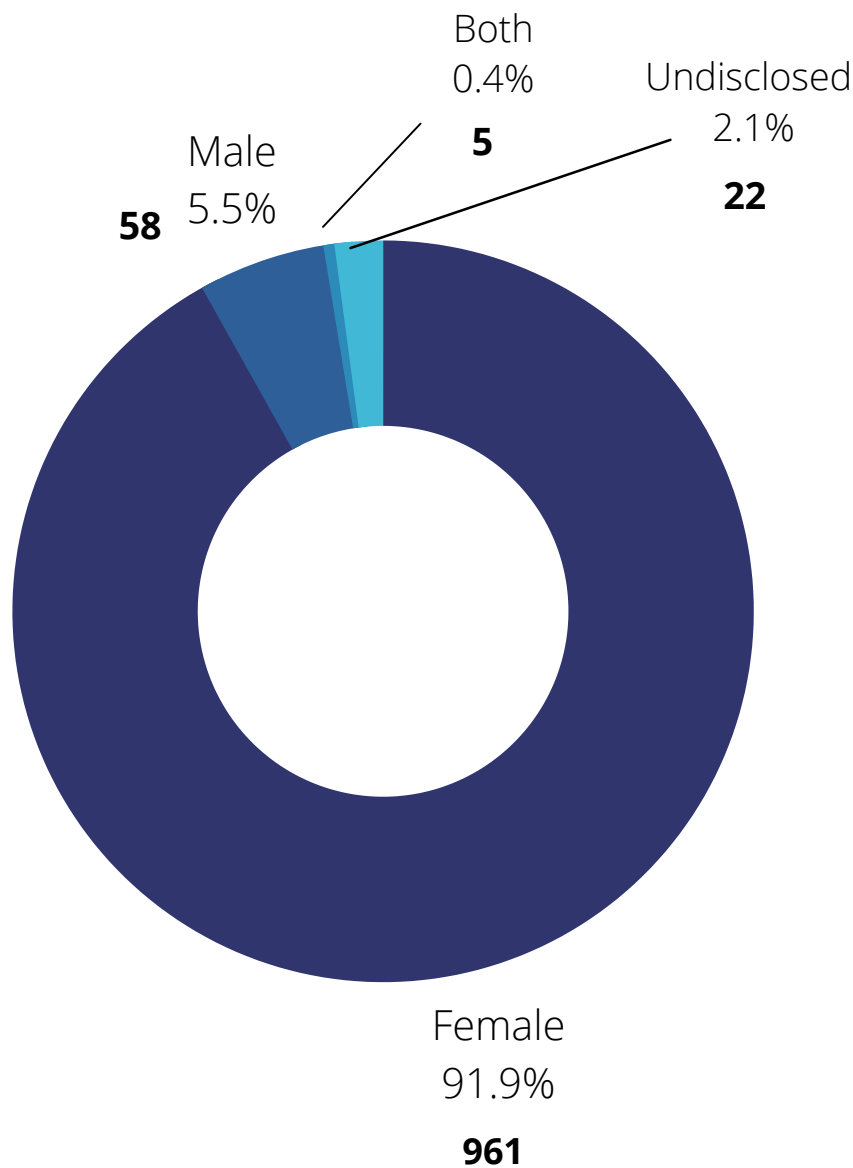
AGE



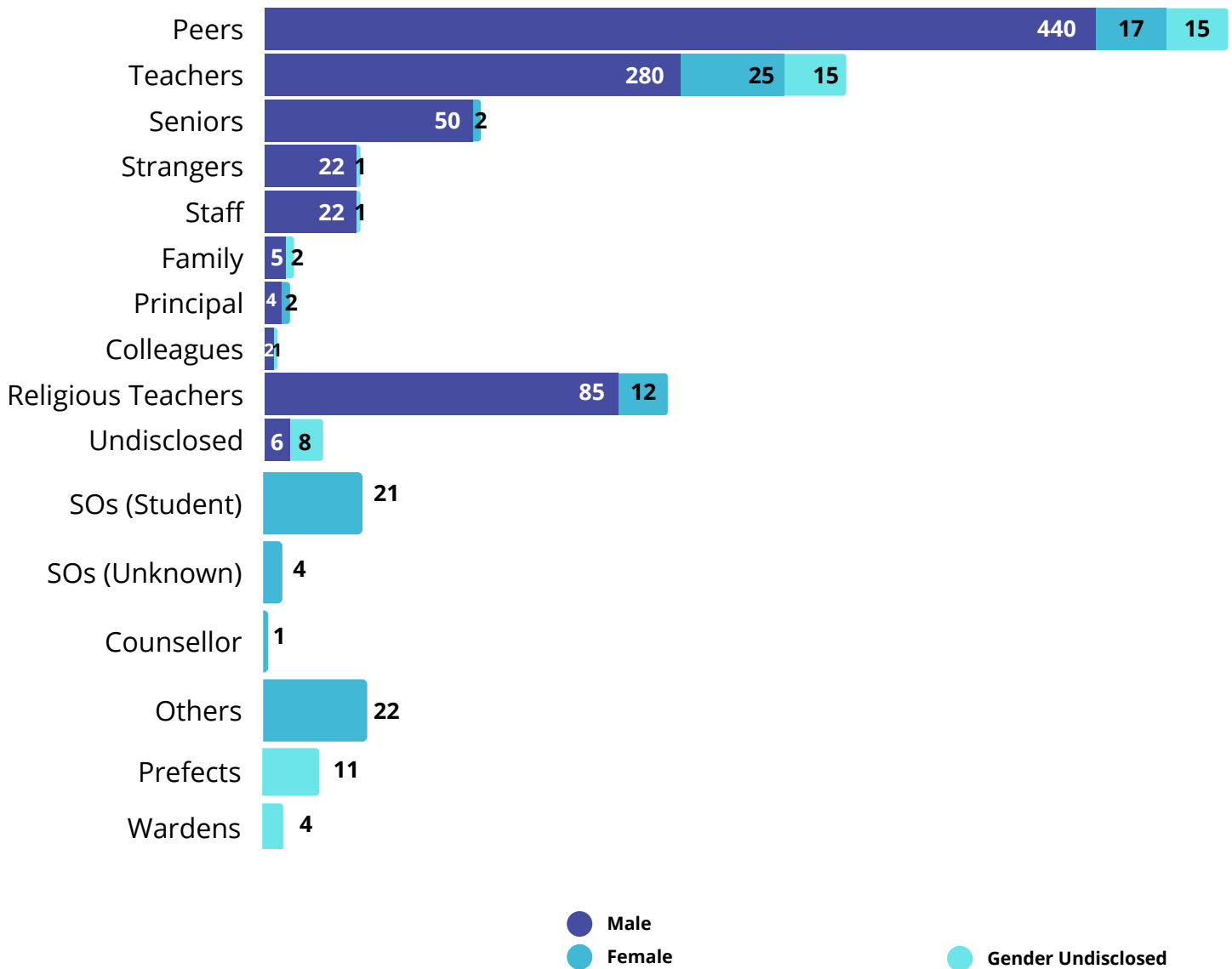
At least 76.7% of sexual harassment violations involved child survivors.

SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT

GENDER



PERPETRATORS OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT



Out of all perpetrators, 41.1% were figures of authority in school. Out of these perpetrators, at least 87.1% were men.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER?

851 (81.4%) sexual harassment violations **were not disclosed/reported to anyone.**

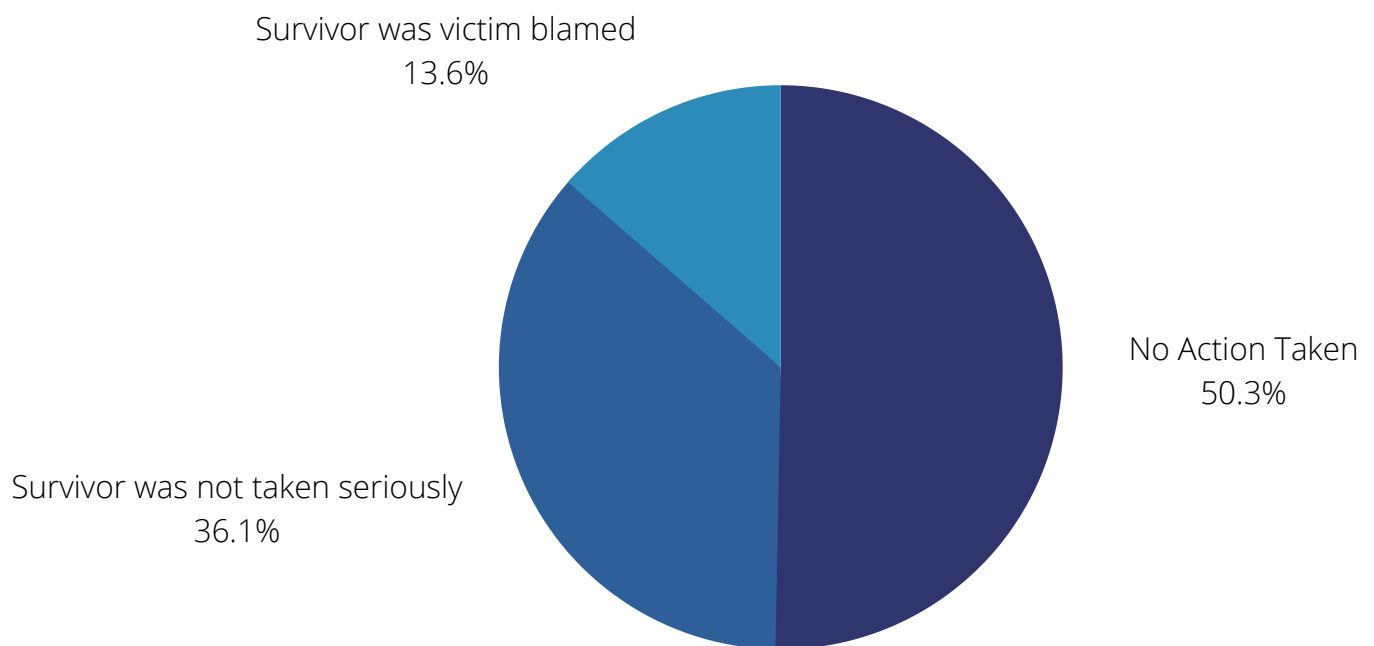
In 71 (8.3%) of these violations, however, survivors either took action or suffered negative consequences.



WHAT HAPPENS AFTER?

237 sexual harassment violations **were disclosed/reported to someone**. 42 of these reports were made by a third-party/bystander.

We have identified the top three consequences experienced by survivors upon disclosure/reporting of the violations. **None of the outcomes were positive.**



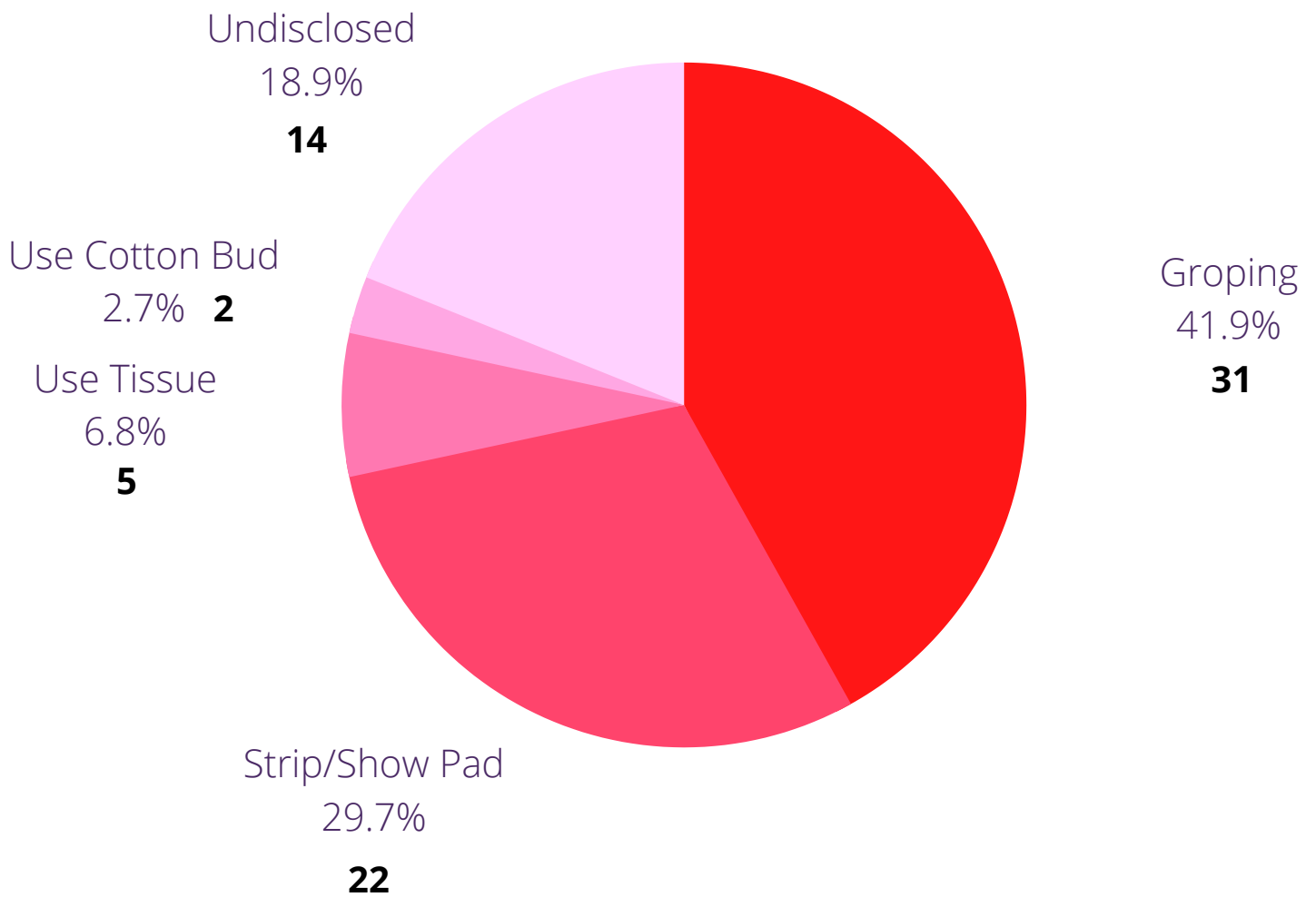
PERIOD SPOT CHECKS

“

My teacher brought all the girls who were not praying to the hall next to the surau while the girls and boys were praying so as to check the existence of the pads. They touched our butts and put their hands straight to our pussies to “check if we were lying”. I knew a number of them wore tampons due to their period flow, so there was no pad that can be felt. It was so sickening to watch my schoolmates get mercilessly interrogated.

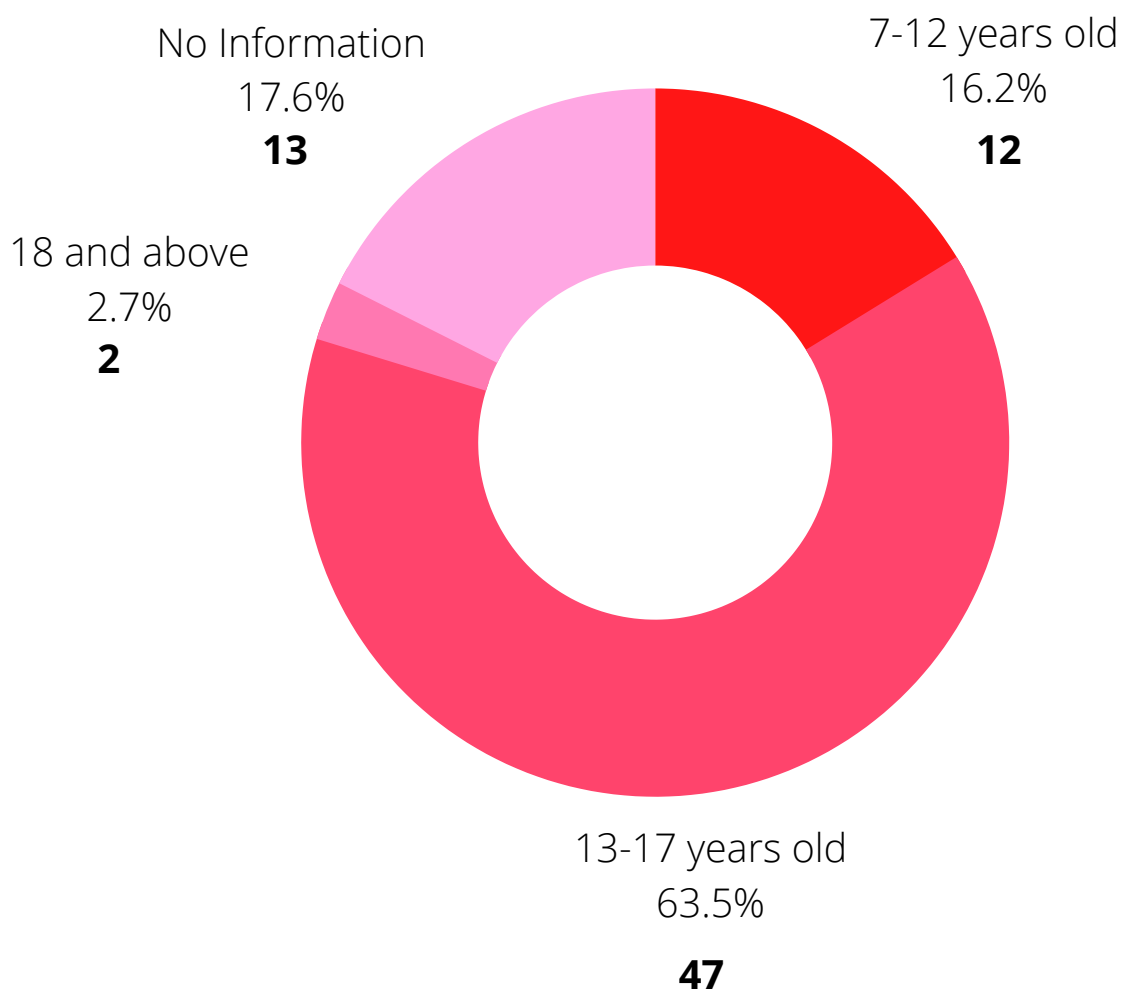
#MAKESCHOOLASAFERPLACE

PERIOD SPOT CHECKS



SURVIVORS OF PERIOD SPOT CHECKS

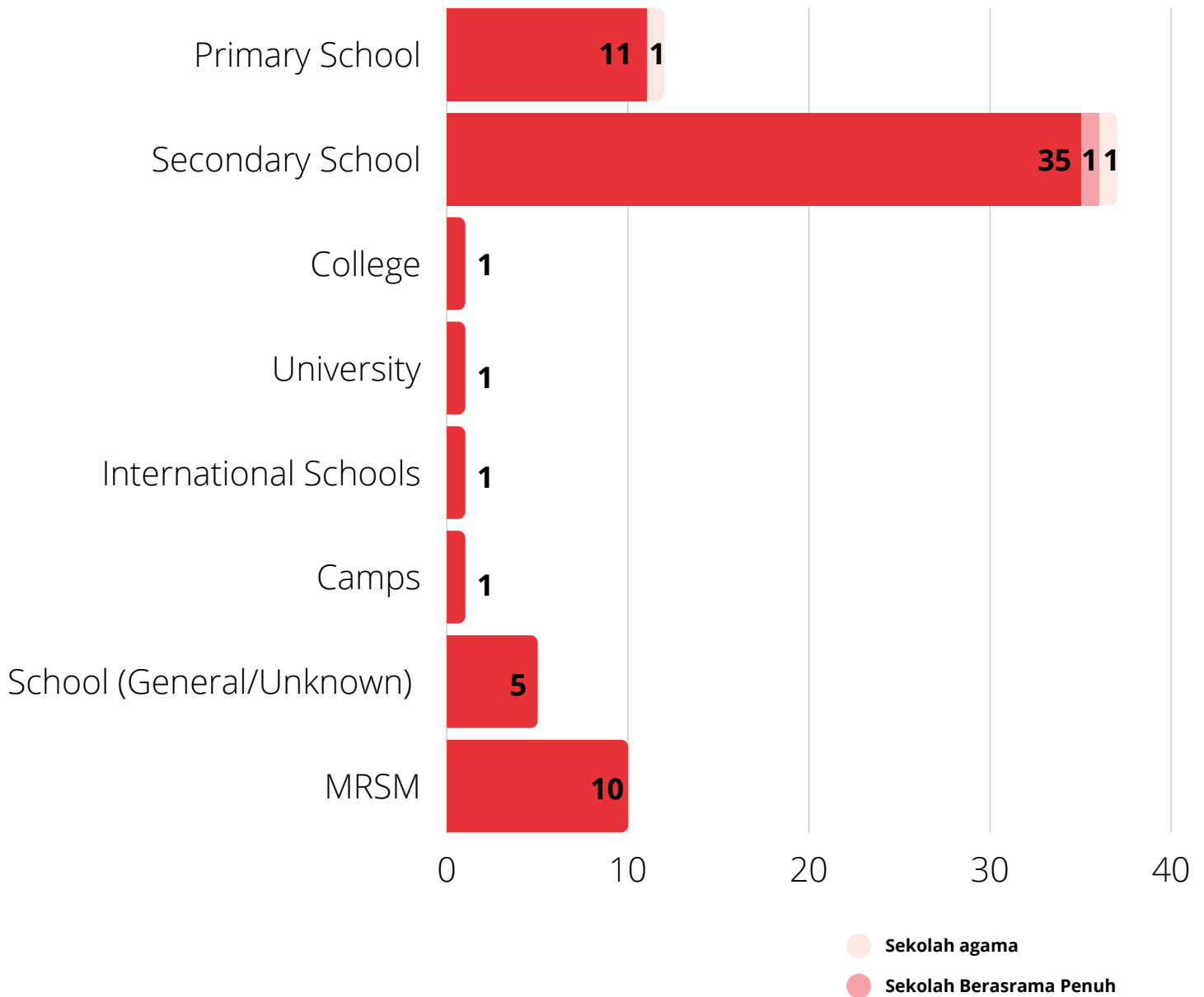
AGE



All survivors of period spot checks were female.

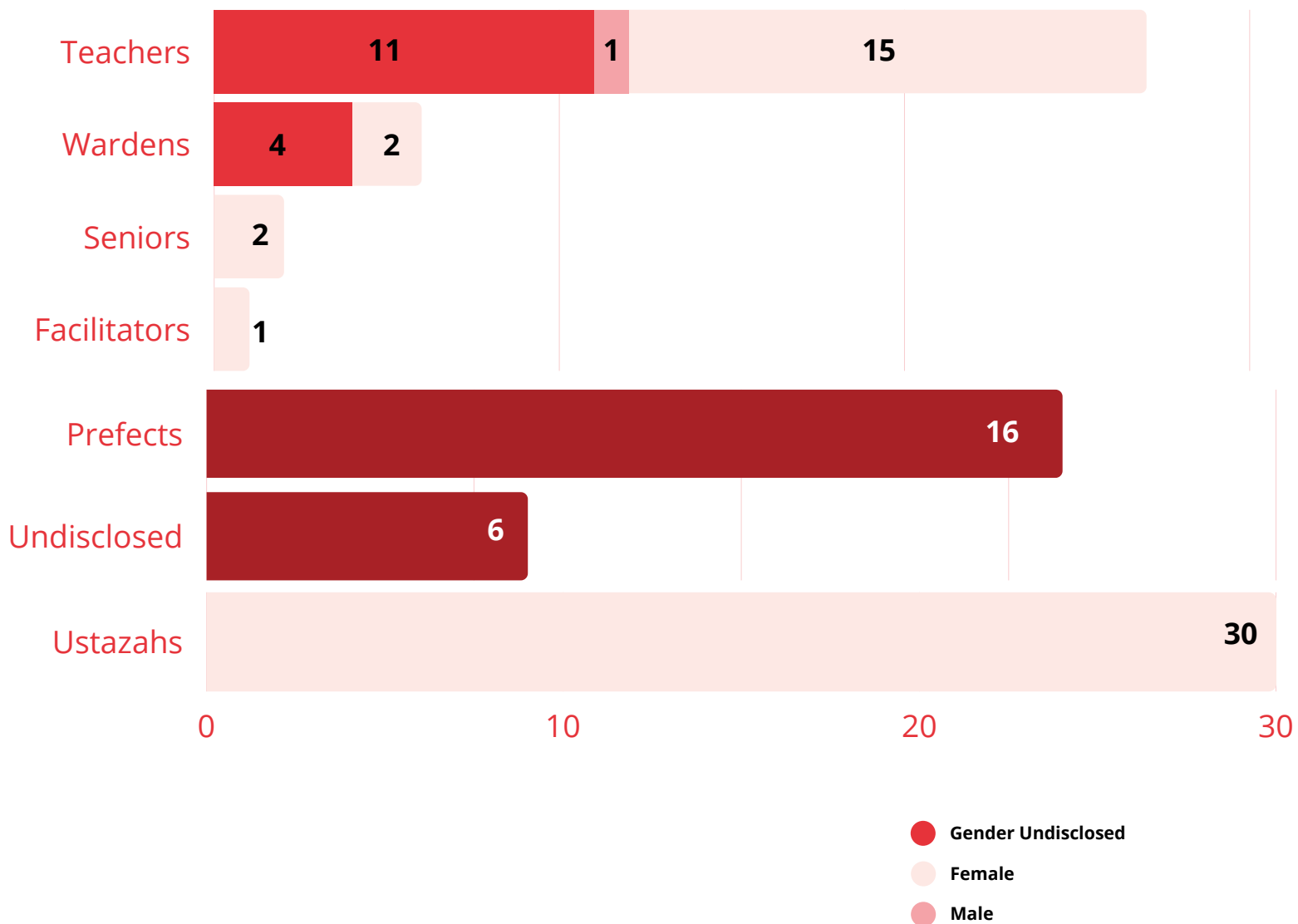
79.7% of all period spot check violations involved child survivors.

WHERE DID IT HAPPEN?



94.6% of all period spot check violations occurred in primary and secondary institutions of learning.

PERPETRATORS OF PERIOD SPOT CHECKS

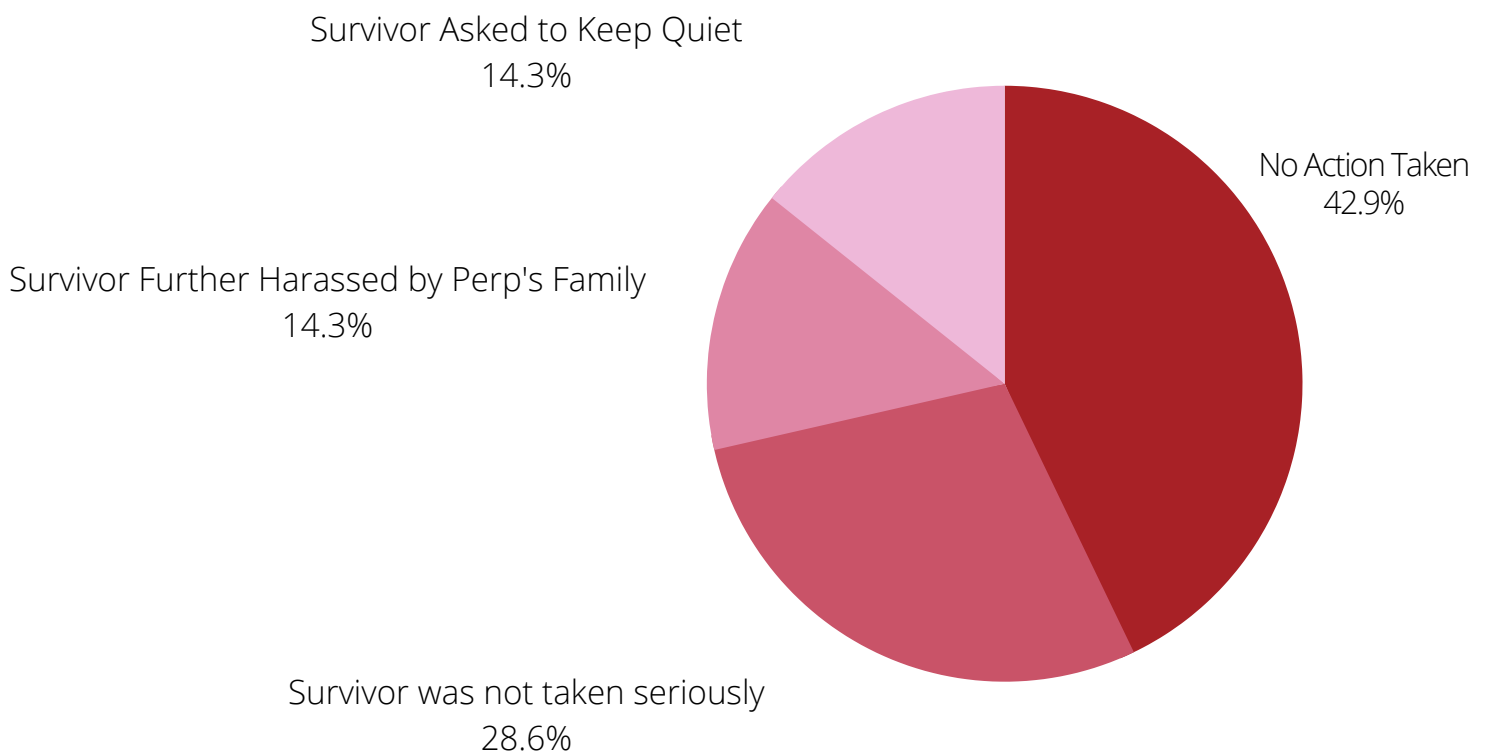


72.7% of all perpetrators were figures of authority in school. Out of these perpetrators, 75% were women.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER?

In only 5 (6.8%) period spot check violations, did survivors disclose or report to someone.

None of the consequences upon disclosure/reporting by the survivor were positive.



WHAT HAPPENS AFTER?

There was **one third-party disclosure**/report of period spot check violations.



The survivor and other girls in the school were individually called to a teacher's room. There were seven female teachers there, who asked them to strip and show them their pads as proof of having periods. Upon parents complaining to the school authorities, all girls, including the survivor, were warned to not make a big deal about the period spot check violations.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER?

93.2% of period spot check violations were not disclosed or reported to anyone. There were 2 violations, however, that each involved further abuse, bullying and/or harassment by the perpetrator and/or other third parties.



- In one violation, a rumour **related to the girls' private parts was subsequently spread** among the teachers, which led to a male teacher coming to their class frequently to make inappropriate jokes about that
- In another violation, the survivor was scolded by the perpetrator and other teachers for not knowing that her period ended

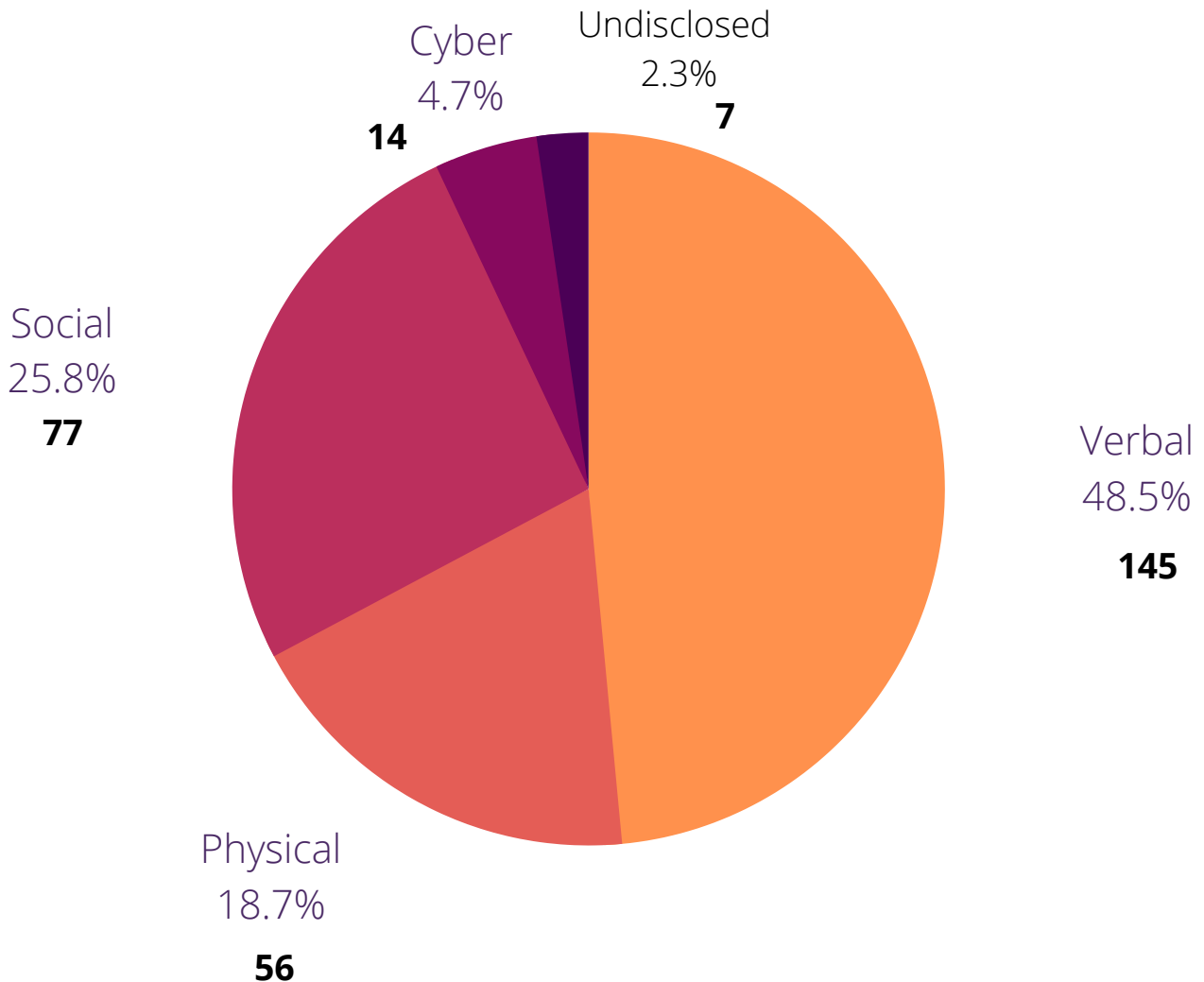
BULLYING

“

This was almost 2 decades ago, where we had our discipline teacher and other various ever-switching Penyelia Petangs and Penolong Kanan Hal-Ehwal Murid using derogatory terms on a classmate like bapuk, pondan etc. My batch wasn't innocent on this either, as we also called the said person using those derogatory terms...I just hope that person isn't worse off because of that treatment.

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BULLYING



For bullying, the definition by #StandTogether is used and adapted to broaden boundaries of perpetrator and survivor identities: "Bullying is aggressive behavior that is intentional and that involves an imbalance of power or strength. Bullying occurs when the (survivor) is subjected to negative behaviour, repeated over a period of time, by another (perpetrator) or group of (perpetrators)."

Categorisation of bullying violations by form are informed by examples from Australia's National Centre Against Bullying, due to a lack of credible local sources. Please note that certain examples are paraphrased to minimise confusion on context/terminology:

Verbal: name calling, insults, teasing, intimidation, homophobic or racist remarks, verbal abuse etc

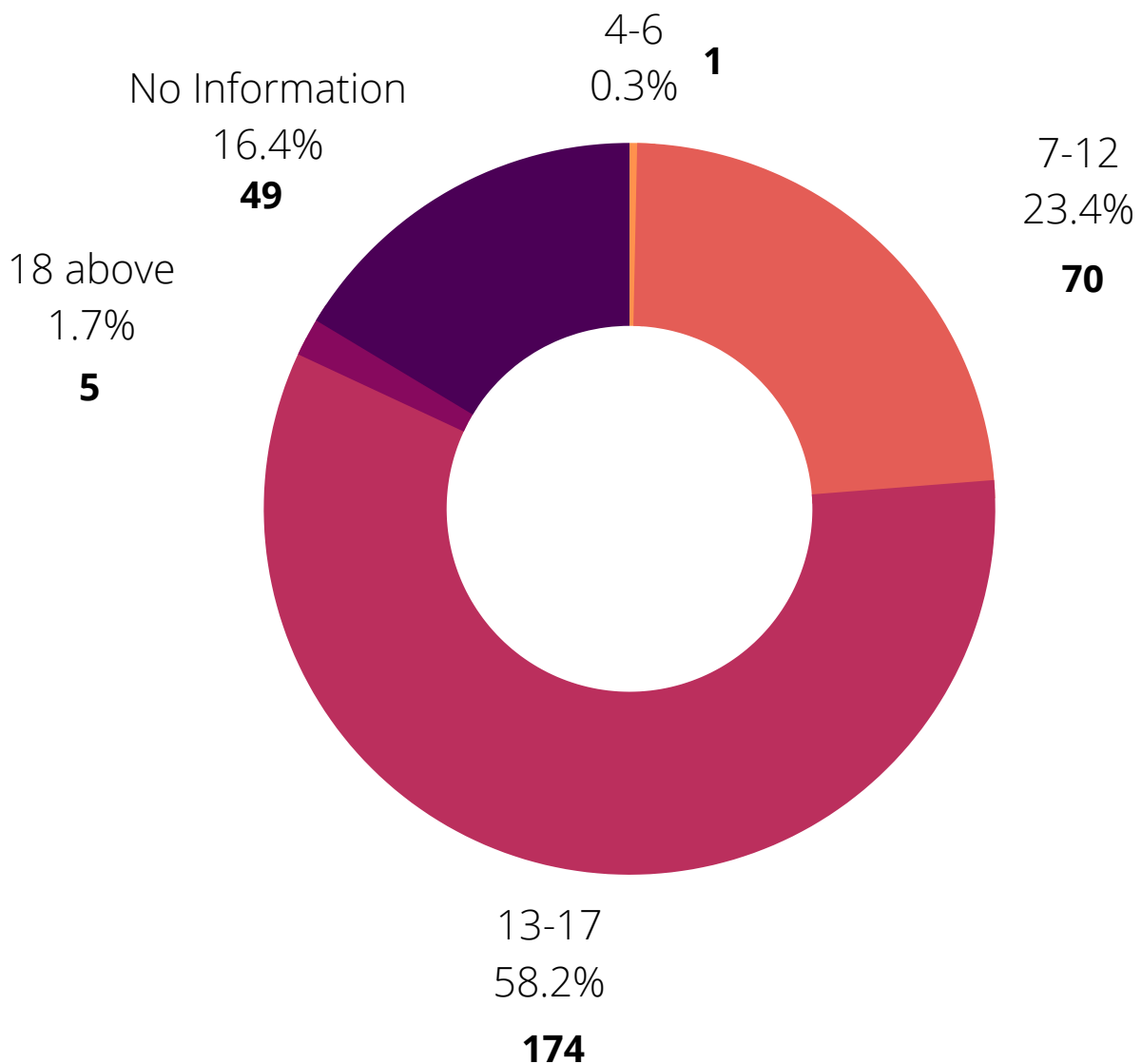
Social: lying and spreading rumours, negative facial or physical gestures, menacing or contemptuous looks, playing nasty jokes to embarrass and humiliate, mimicking unkindly, encouraging others to social exclude someone, damaging someone's social reputation or social acceptance etc

Physical: hitting, kicking, tripping, pinching, pushing, stealing/confiscating or damaging the survivor's possessions/property etc

Cyber: abusive or hurtful texts, emails or posts, images or videos, deliberately excluding others online, nasty gossip or rumours online, imitating others online, logging in the survivors' accounts to commit actions that damage the survivors' social reputation etc

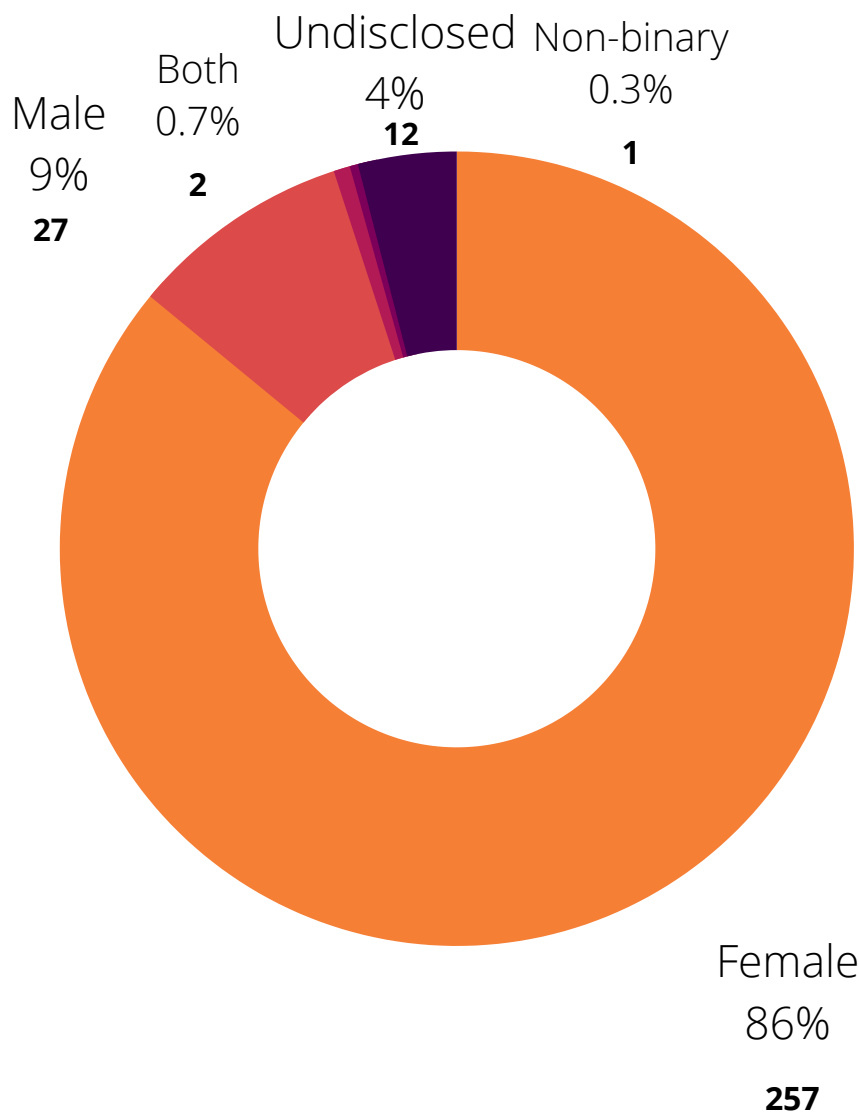
SURVIVORS OF BULLYING

AGE



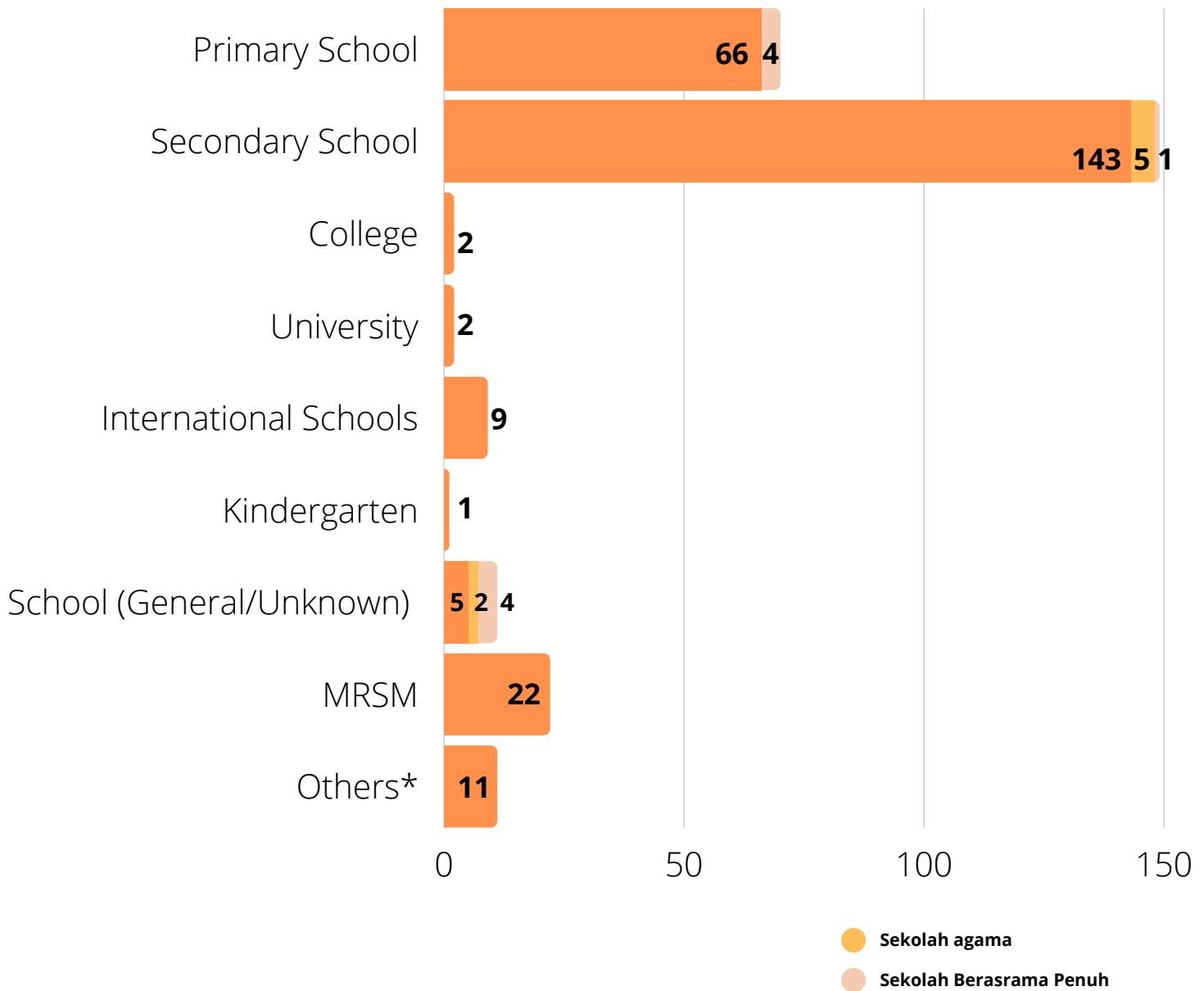
SURVIVORS OF BULLYING

GENDER



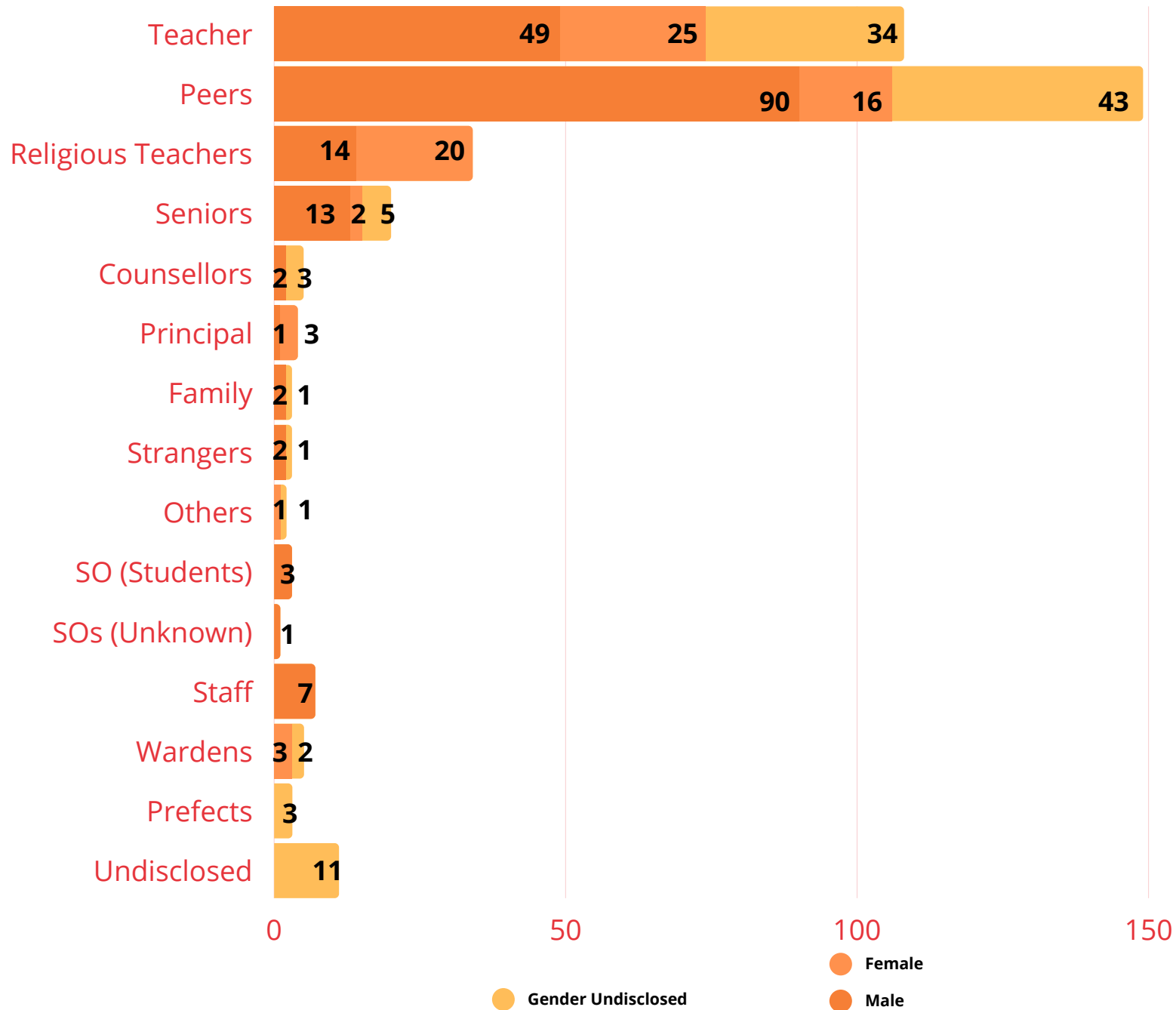
The number of bullying violations involving female-only survivors is 9.5 times more than those involving male-only survivors.

WHERE DID IT HAPPEN?



94.6% of all bullying violations occurred in primary and secondary institutions of learning.

PERPETRATORS OF BULLYING

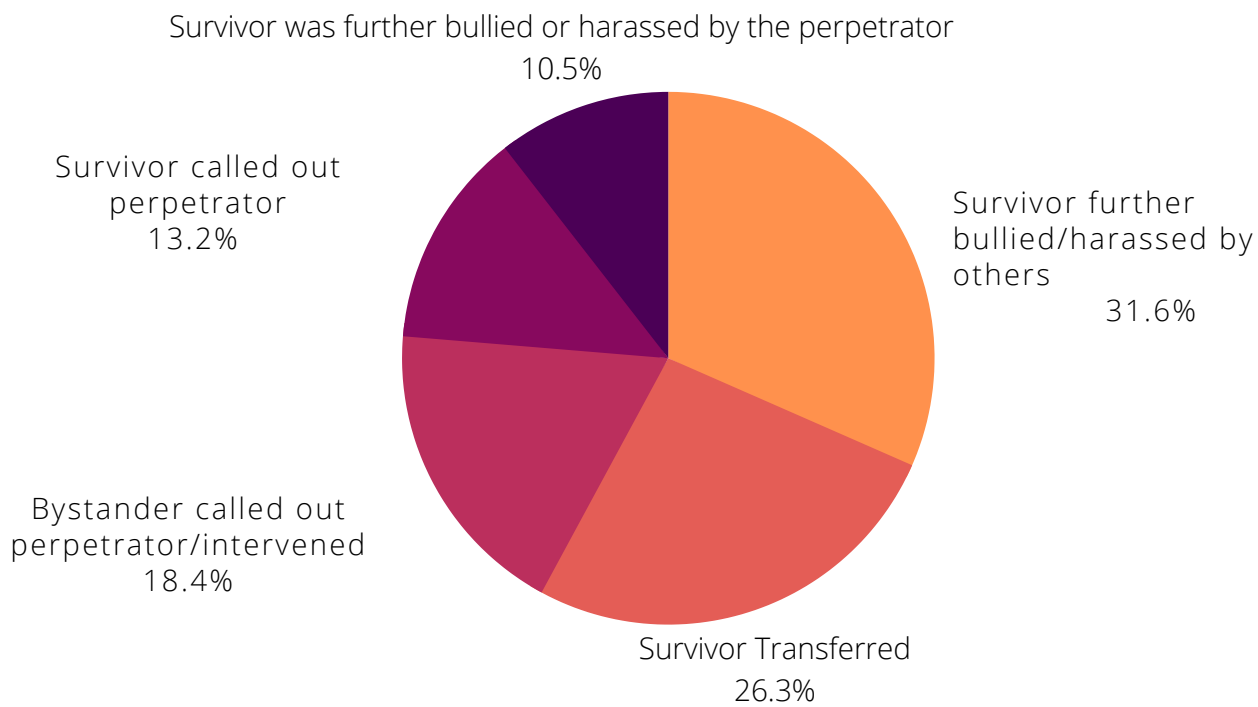


At least 45% of all perpetrators were figures of authority in school. Among these perpetrators who are figures of authority, at least 44.1% of them were men.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER?

242 (80.9%) bullying violations were not disclosed/reported to someone.

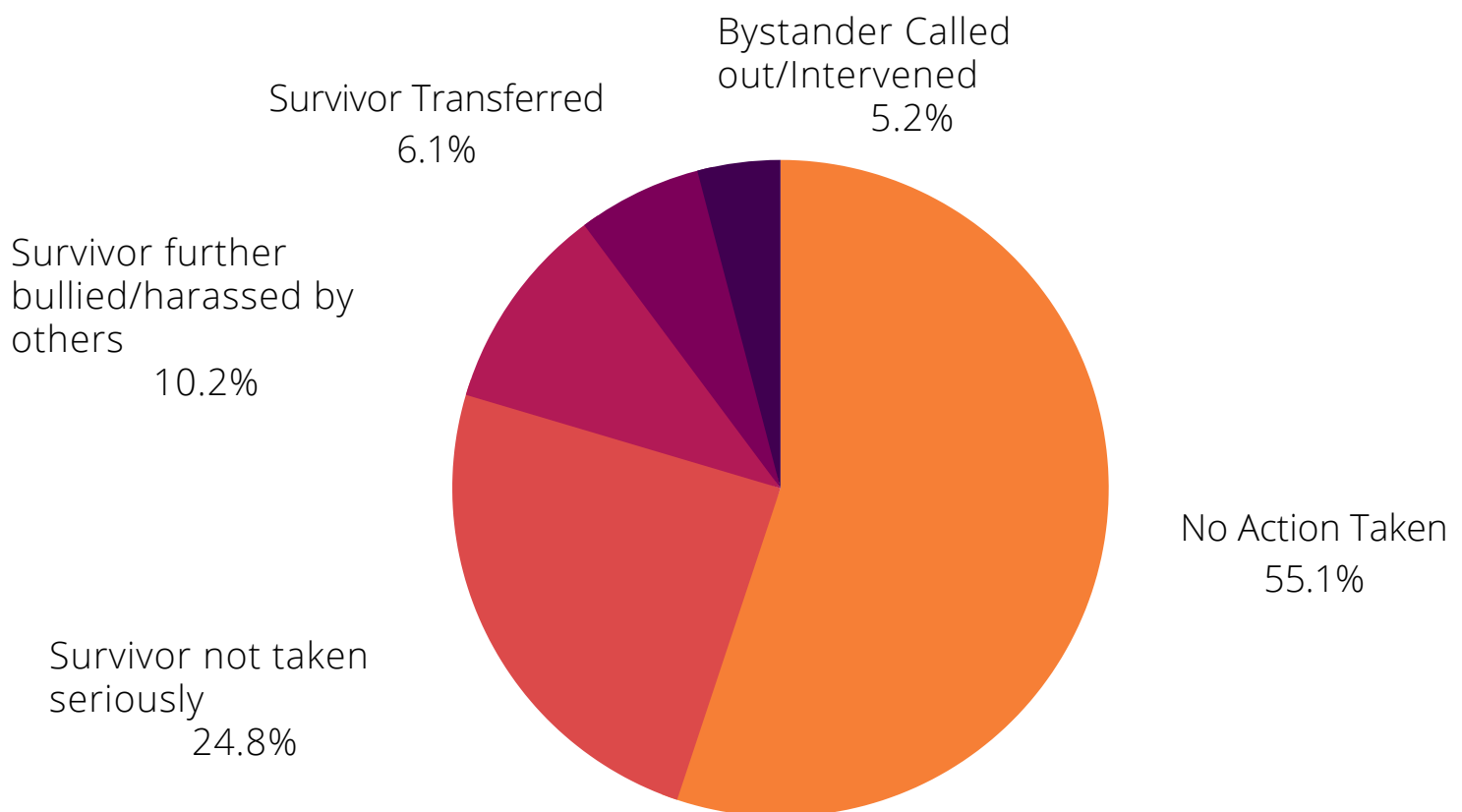
In 36 (14.9%) of these violations, nevertheless, survivors took action and/or suffered negative consequences. We have identified the top five actions/outcomes as shown below.



WHAT HAPPENS AFTER?

57 (19.1%) bullying violations were disclosed/reported to someone,
10 of which were reported by a third party/bystander.

We have identified the top five consequences experienced by survivors upon disclosure/reporting of the violations to the identified top five parties which were teachers, family, counsellors, friends and ustazahs.



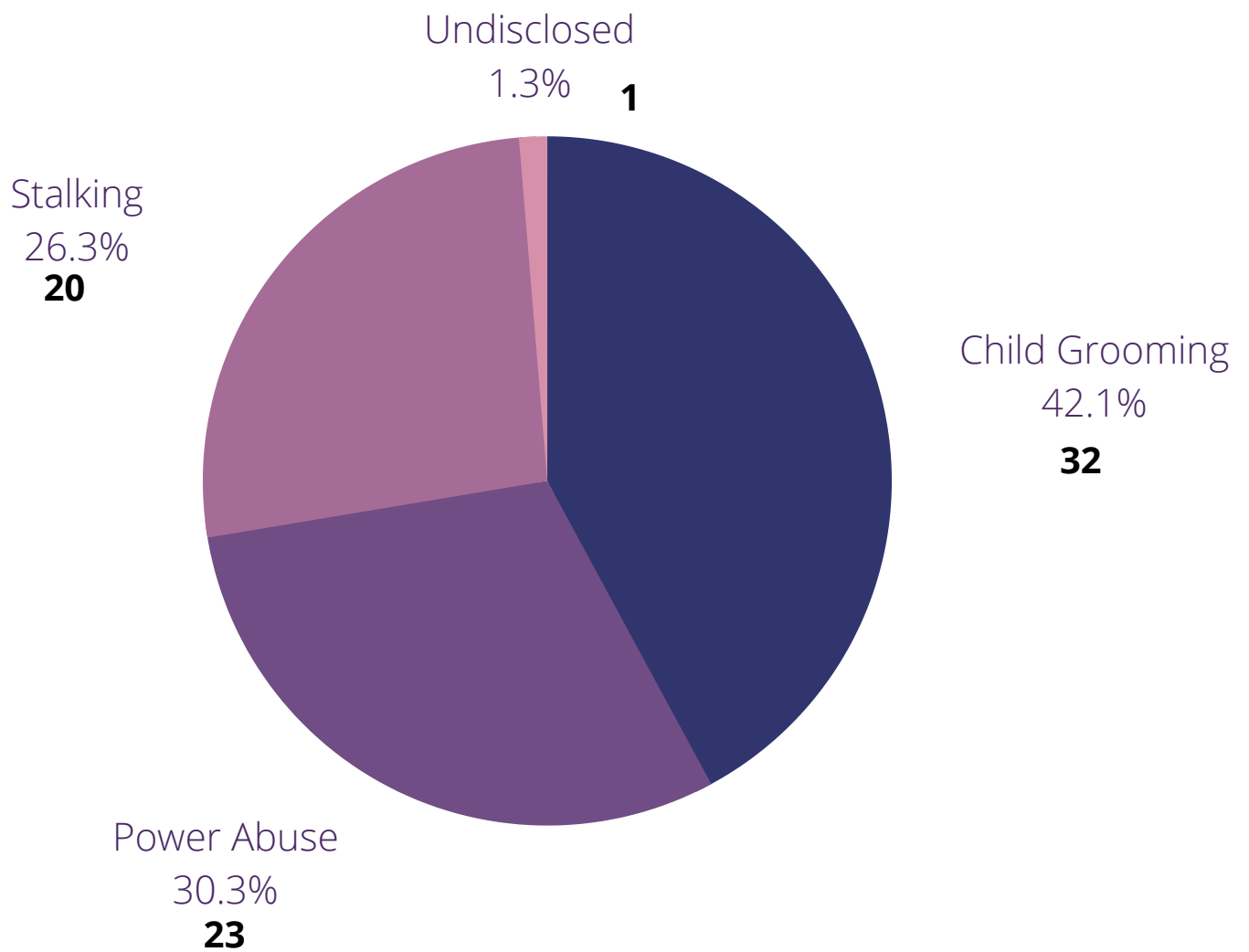
OTHERS

“

He has depression so he'd use it against me by saying he "feels sad" or "very upset" that I wouldn't do xxx for him and he'd mope and sometimes cry until I caved in...He was texting me asking me for a blowjob...I told him I really didn't want to do it and...he kept saying that "I promised him that I'd give him one". He then took out his penis and made me lick it once, then let me go back home. I felt so trapped in not doing so because he has made suicide threats to me before if I weren't compliant with his "demands". When I got home, I cried for about 2 hours and hated myself for letting that happen until this date.

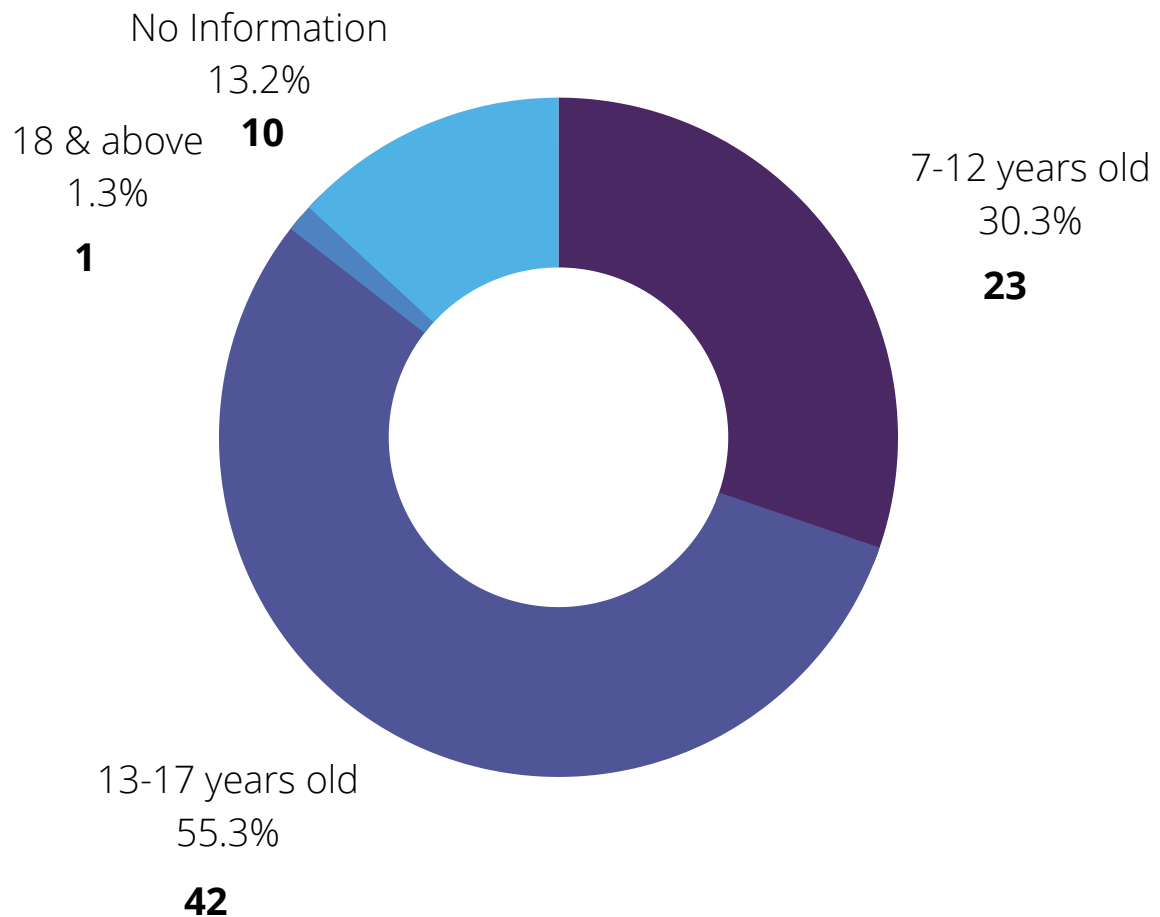
#MAKESCHOOLASAFERPLACE

OTHERS



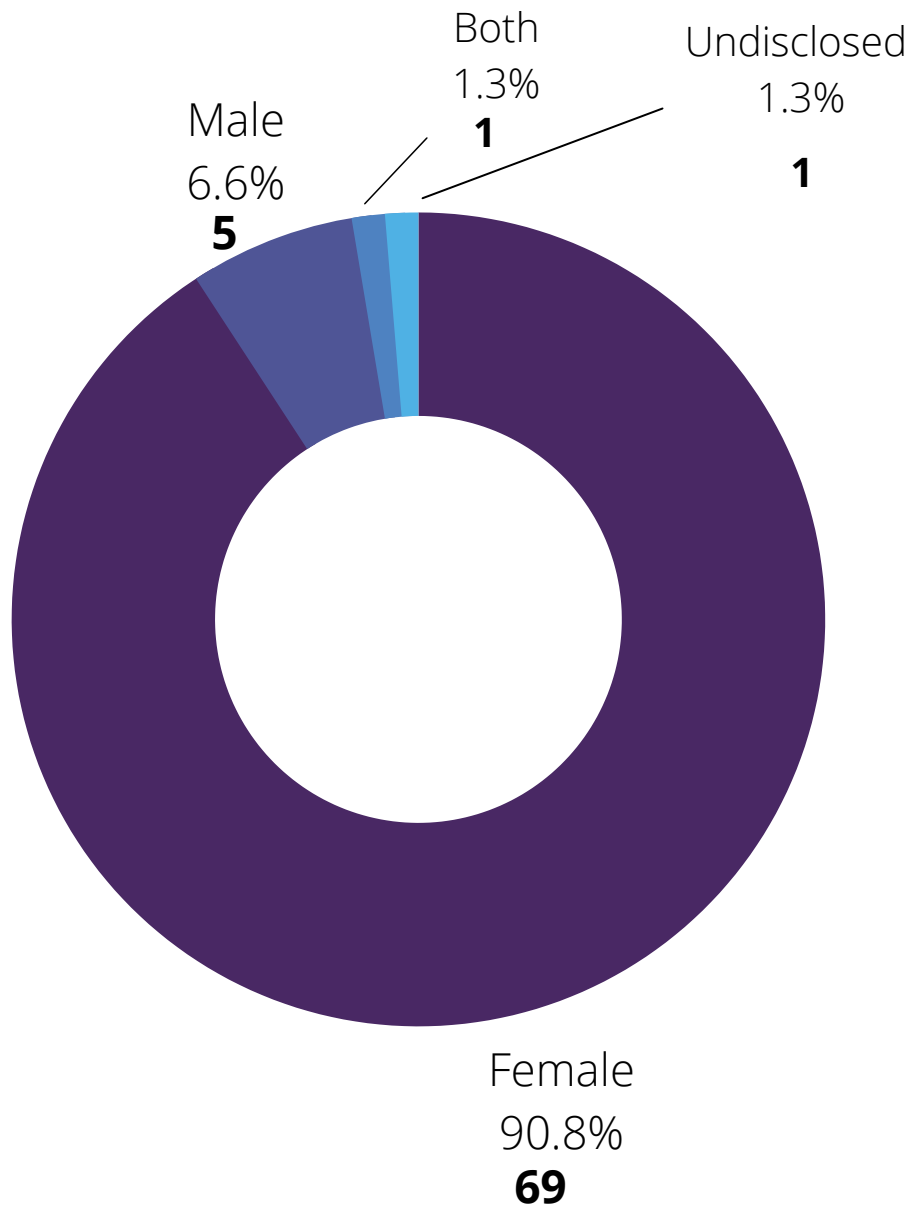
SURVIVORS OF OTHER ABUSE

AGE



SURVIVORS OF OTHER ABUSE

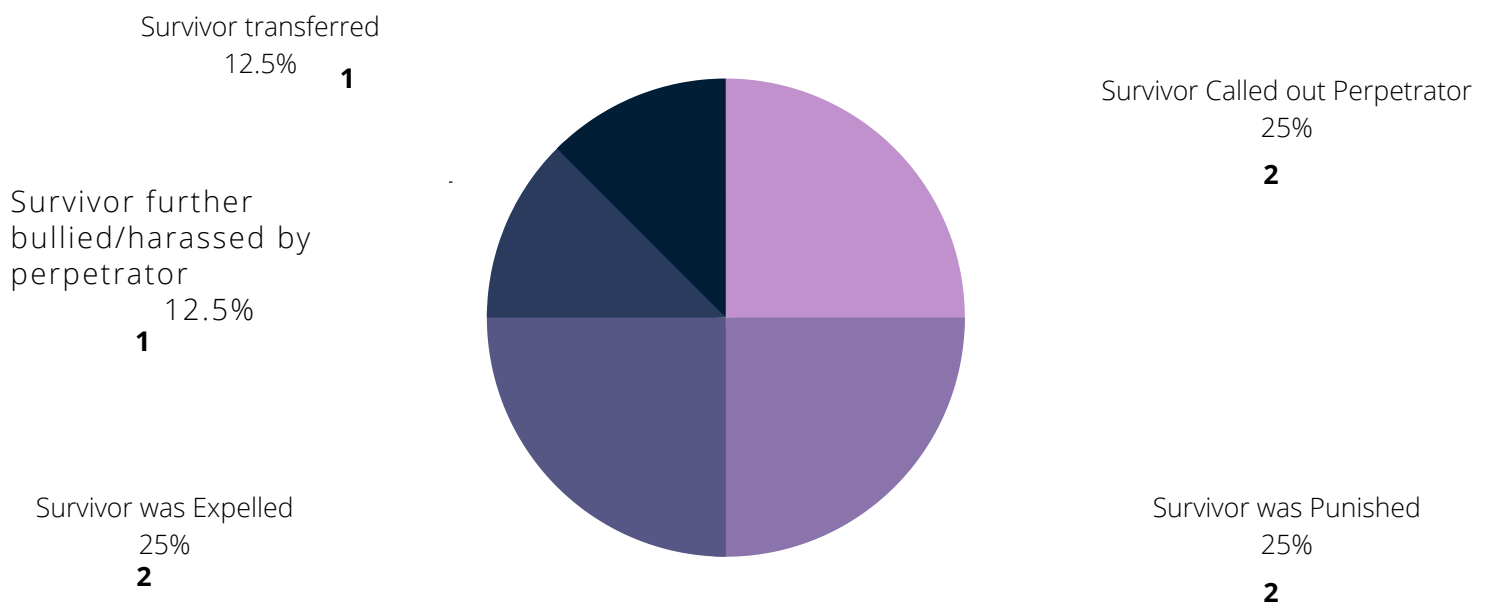
GENDER



WHAT HAPPENS AFTER?

51 (67.1%) violations under the 'Others' category were not disclosed/reported to anyone.

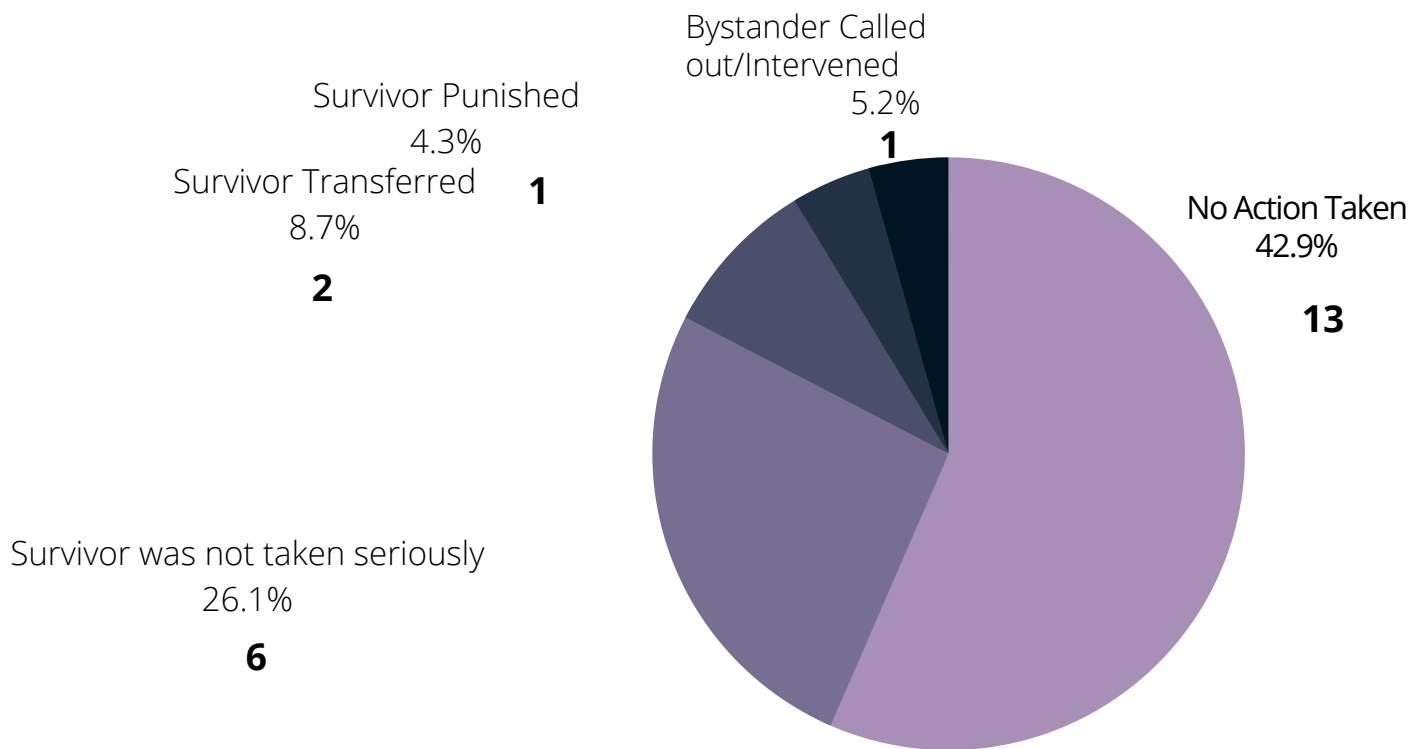
In 4 of these undisclosed violations, however, survivors took action and/or suffered negative consequences, of which the latter constituted three-quarters of all outcomes.



WHAT HAPPENS AFTER?

30 violations under the 'Others' category were disclosed/reported to someone, 5 of which were reported by a third party/bystander.

We have identified the top five consequences experienced by survivors upon disclosure/reporting of the violations.



RAPE

“

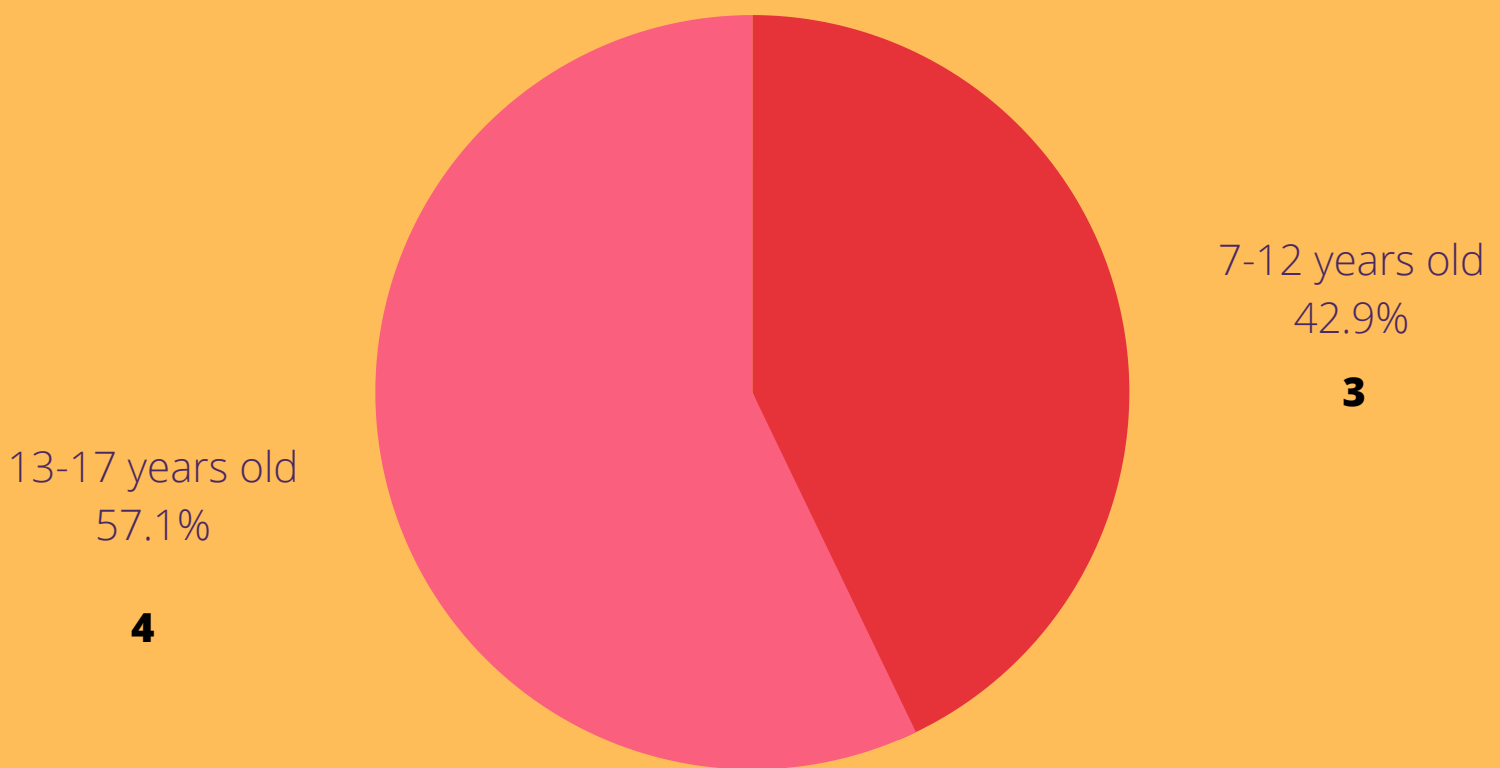
I was raped by a classmate who caught me while I was having a mental breakdown. He took advantage of me while I was vulnerable. A junior of mine later in the years confided in me that she too was raped by a schoolmate in her own classroom.

#MAKESCHOOLASAFERPLACE

Alleged rape consisted of
2.7% (10) of all physical
sexual harassment violations.

All 10 survivors were female.

For alleged violations in which the
survivor's age is known, all involved **child**
survivors.



The **youngest** survivor age disclosed
was **8 years old.**

Eight alleged rape violations occurred in school. Secondary schools were where 50% of all alleged violations occurred. This was followed by primary schools (37.5%) and international schools (12.5%).

In 9 alleged rape violations, the perpetrator's relationship with the survivor were known.

- Five perpetrators were **students**, who were **all male**. Three were the survivors' classmates. Two were the survivors' seniors, one of whom was also the corresponding survivor's boyfriend.
- Three perpetrators were **figures of authority**. Two were **teachers**, one of whom was male. One was an **ustaz**.
- One was the survivor's **boyfriend**, though it was unknown whether it was a student or an adult.

None of the survivors (except one) told anyone about the alleged rape violation. Nevertheless, **5 survivors still experienced negative psychosocial consequences.**

- One was **shunned** by her friends.
- Three were **traumatised** by the alleged violations, with 1 of them so severely traumatised to the extent that she developed **dissociative identity disorder** and **underwent treatment** for her condition.
- One was **verbally bullied** by her relatives, peers and teachers - coupled with the alleged rape, these violations led to outcomes of **traumatisation** and **self-harm**.

For that 1 survivor who did tell someone about the alleged violation, it was to her family, but only after they asked her about the pain and bleeding that she was experiencing at her private part. Whilst the perpetrator was transferred to another school, the **principal** also **paid the family** to **keep quiet** about the alleged rape violation.

CHILD GROOMING

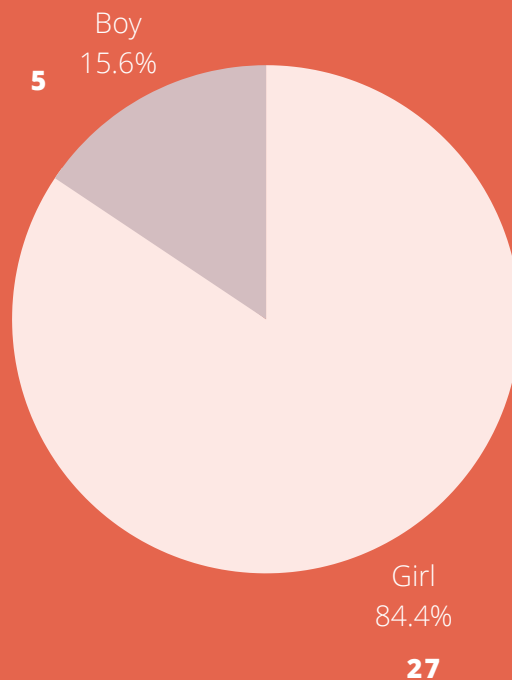
“

I still remember her smile when she called me sexy after a peck on the cheek...Today, I realize, I should have called the cops first. I should have known to run away the first time she gave me a flying kiss and called us lovers. I didn't complain because I loved her back, I was happy when she said she wished I was part of her family, either her daughter or her husband.

#MAKESCHOOLASAFERPLACE

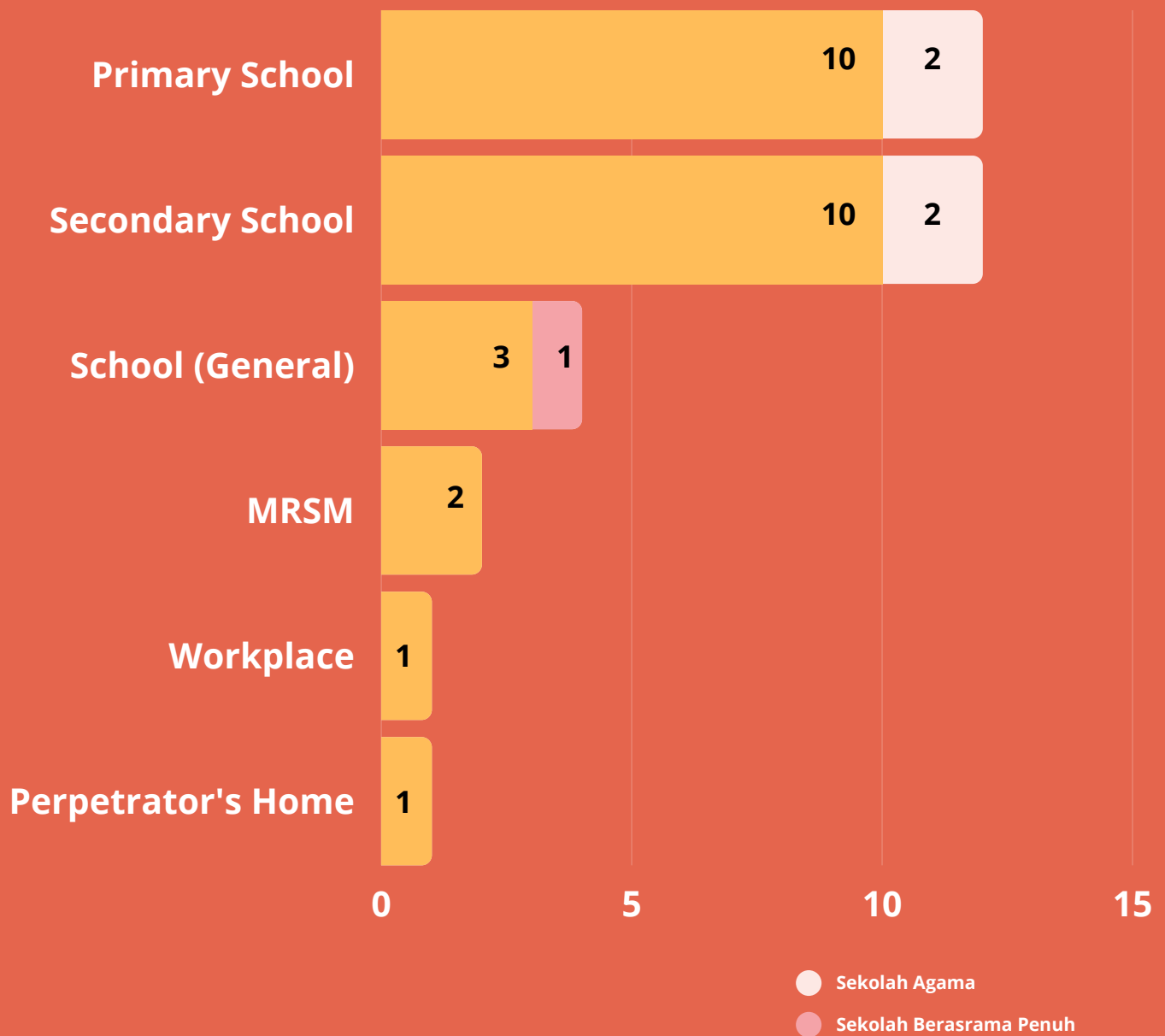
There were 32 perpetrators and 33 survivors.

The number of girl survivors was 5.4 times more than boys.



The youngest survivor age disclosed was 7 years old, and the oldest was 17 years old.

93.75% of actual/alleged child grooming violations took place in primary and secondary educational institutions.



The earliest year of occurrence disclosed was 1992, with the most recent to be in 2020.



At least 68.75% of survivors **did not tell or report** the actual/alleged child grooming violation to anyone. There were still negative consequences, though disclosed counts were few:

- One survivor transferred to another school to get away from the perpetrator, who was a male teacher.
- Another survivor was socially bullied by teachers and students, who further spread the rumour initiated by the perpetrator that it was her fault for what she experienced.

2 survivors disclosed having experienced negative consequences after having told or reported to someone:

- One survivor, upon reporting to the school authorities, was not taken seriously. In addition, the perpetrator's family (spouse and children) not only harassed and bullied her, but also cut off her livelihood shortly after she became an adult.
- Another survivor told her parents, and the latter went to see the principal, who asked her to not be dramatic. Eventually, her parents, boyfriend and some of her friends (except for her sister, who supported her) also said that the situation was not as bad as it seemed.

2 other survivors disclosed inaction from figures of authority in school despite having reported the violation.

There was **only one conviction**. Nevertheless, the perpetrator was convicted 3 years later based on reports of misconduct towards other female students. Hence, the survivor's experience of child grooming and sexual harassment was never made known to the authorities.

Among 13 survivors, there were 20 counts of negative psychosocial consequences experienced as a result of the violations.

10 involved being **traumatised**, one on **medication** and one on **attempted suicide**.

5 survivors (38.5%) experienced multiple negative psychosocial consequences.

STALKING

“

My standard 6 class teacher is married with 4 kids...He wrote me love letters and cards and telephoned me to chat at night...when finished primary school, I didn't want to hear anything from him. So, he sent a messenger.

When I was already starting secondary school, a relative who went to the same primary school showed up at my door with cards and a message which she conveyed out loud. My mum heard her: "Cikgu XXX kat akak mungkir janji."

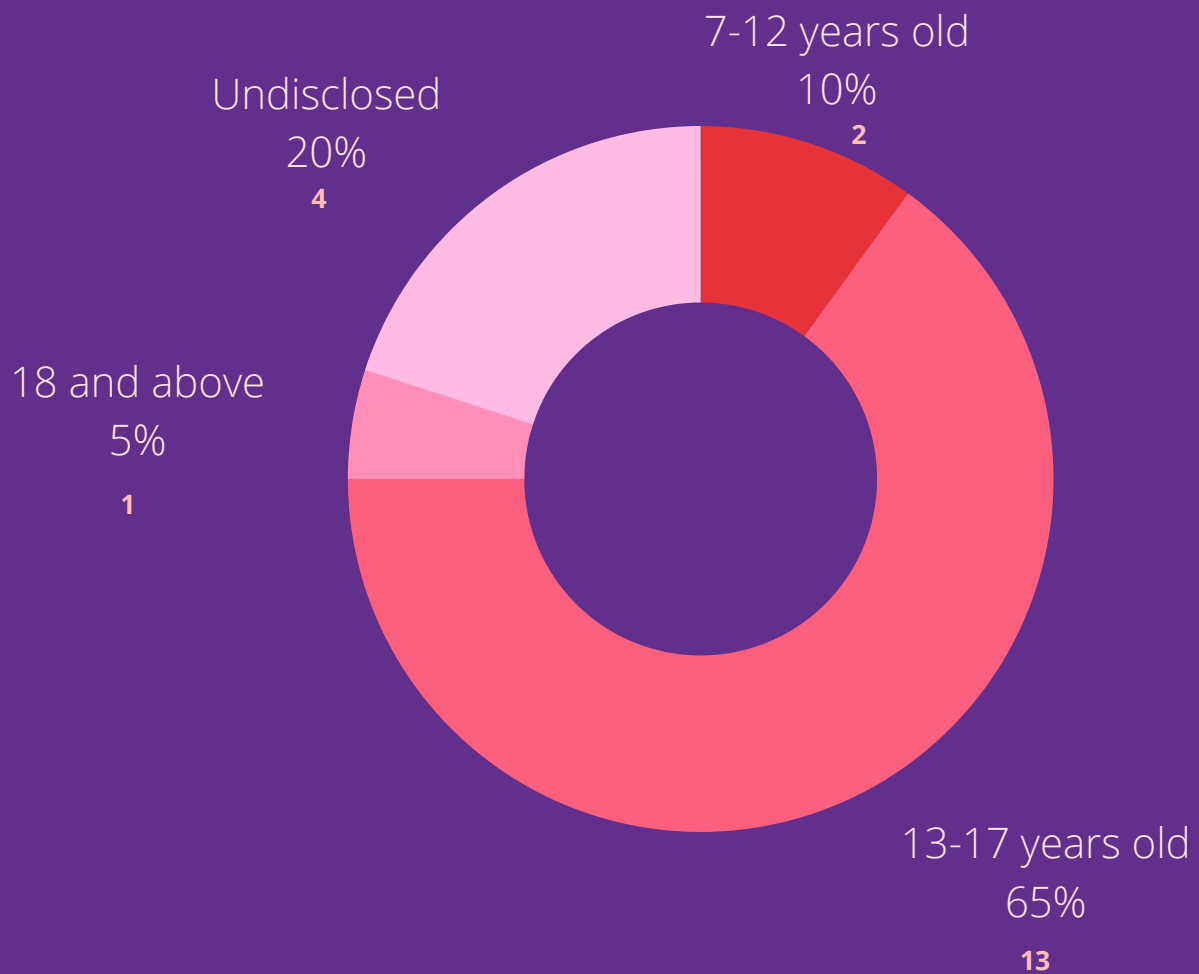
#MAKESCHOOLASAFERPLACE

20 perpetrators stalked 21 survivors.

All 21 survivors were female.

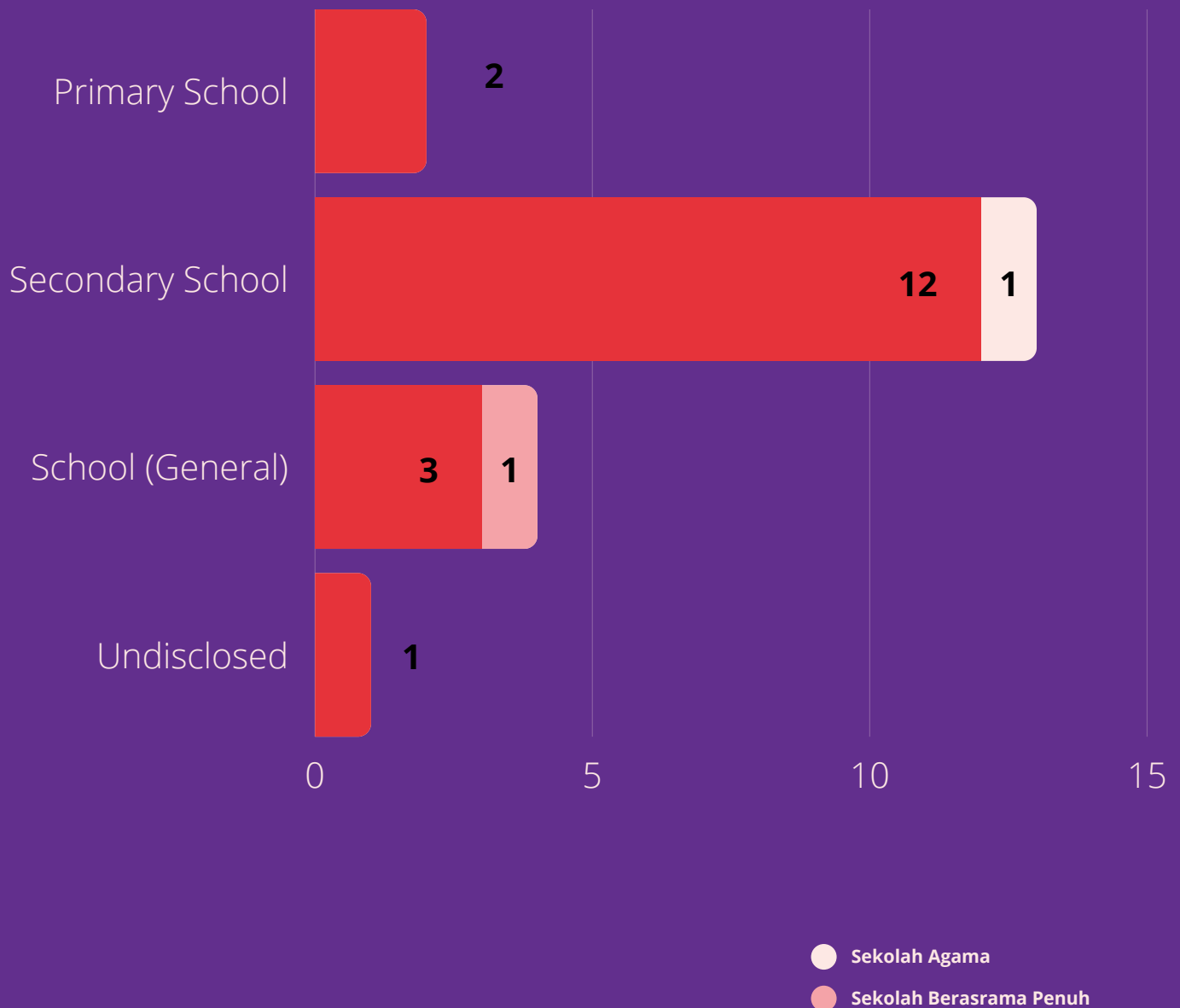


Among alleged stalking violations in which the survivors' ages/age ranges were known, 81.25% involved survivors in secondary schools.



The youngest survivor age disclosed was 7 years old.

95% of alleged stalking violations took place in primary and secondary educational institutions.



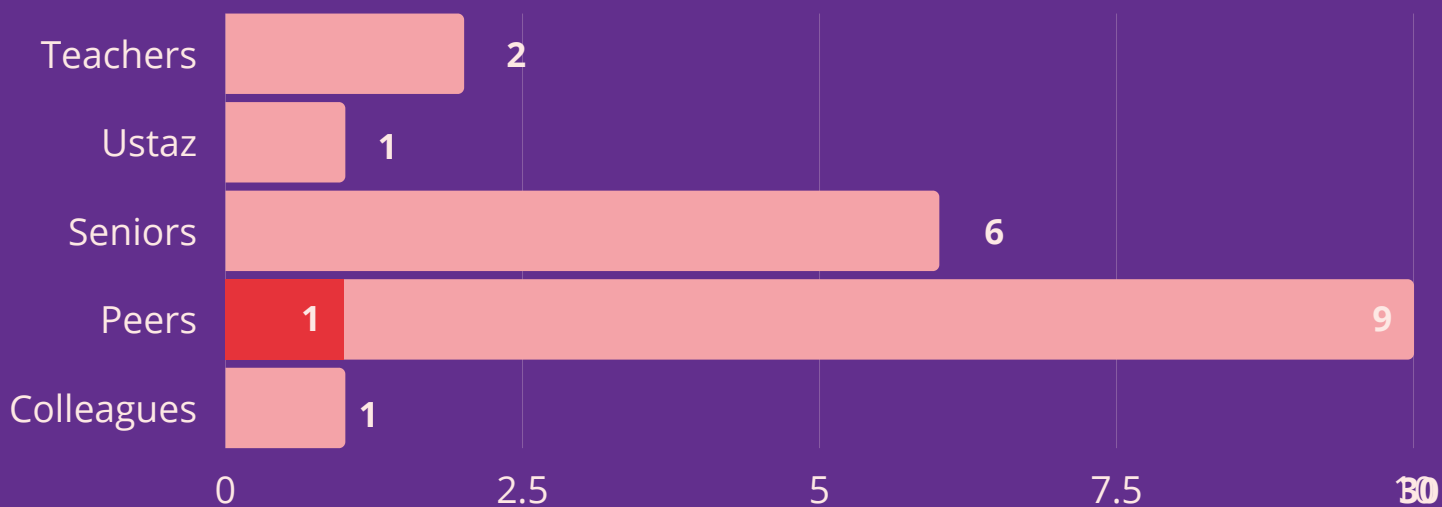
The earliest year of occurrence of alleged stalking violation disclosed was 1996, with the most recent occurring in 2021.

At least 25% of alleged stalking violations continued for at least a year - 20% for one year, 40% for two years, and 40% for five years.



95% of all perpetrators were men.

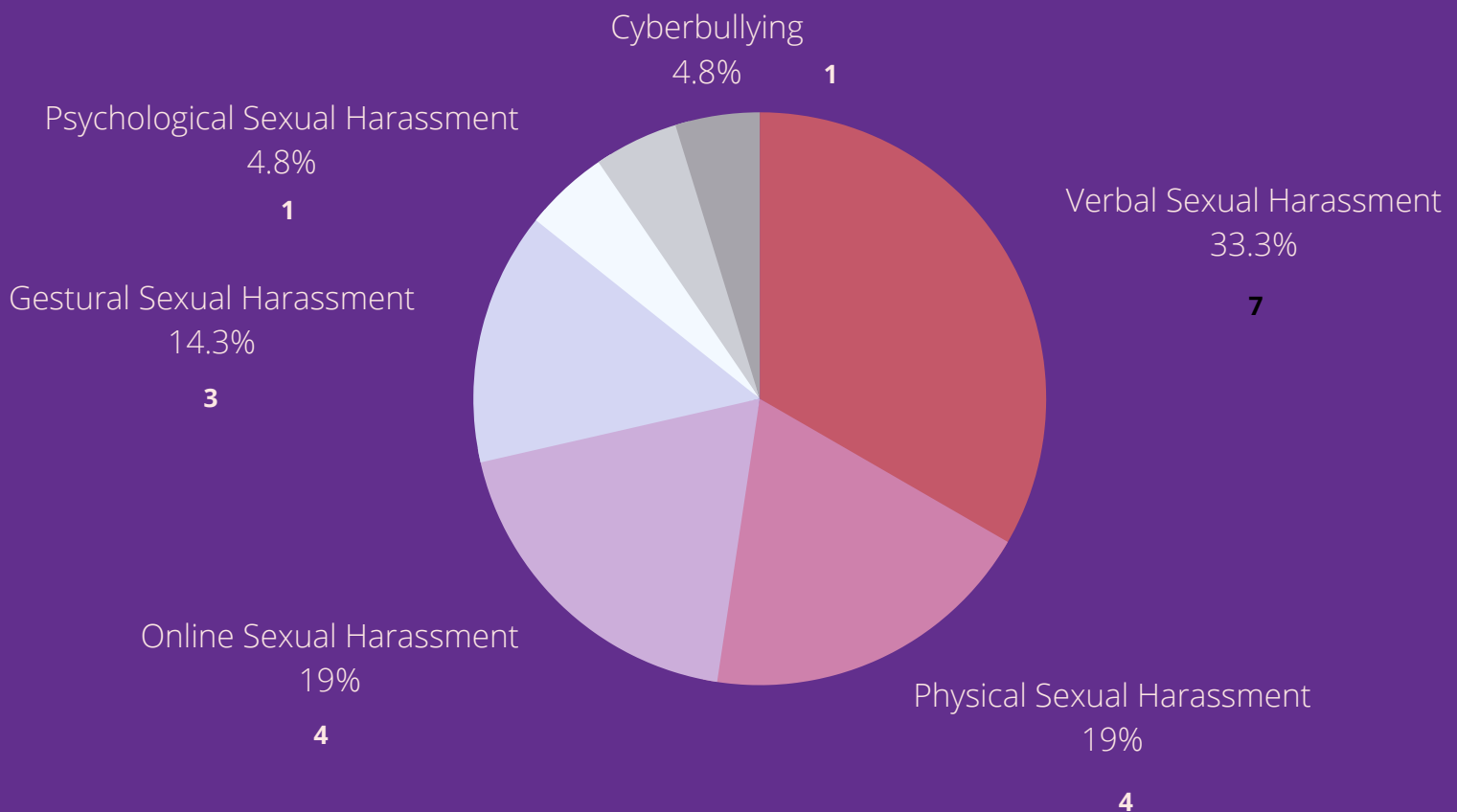
80% of all perpetrators were students.



Gender Undisclosed
Male

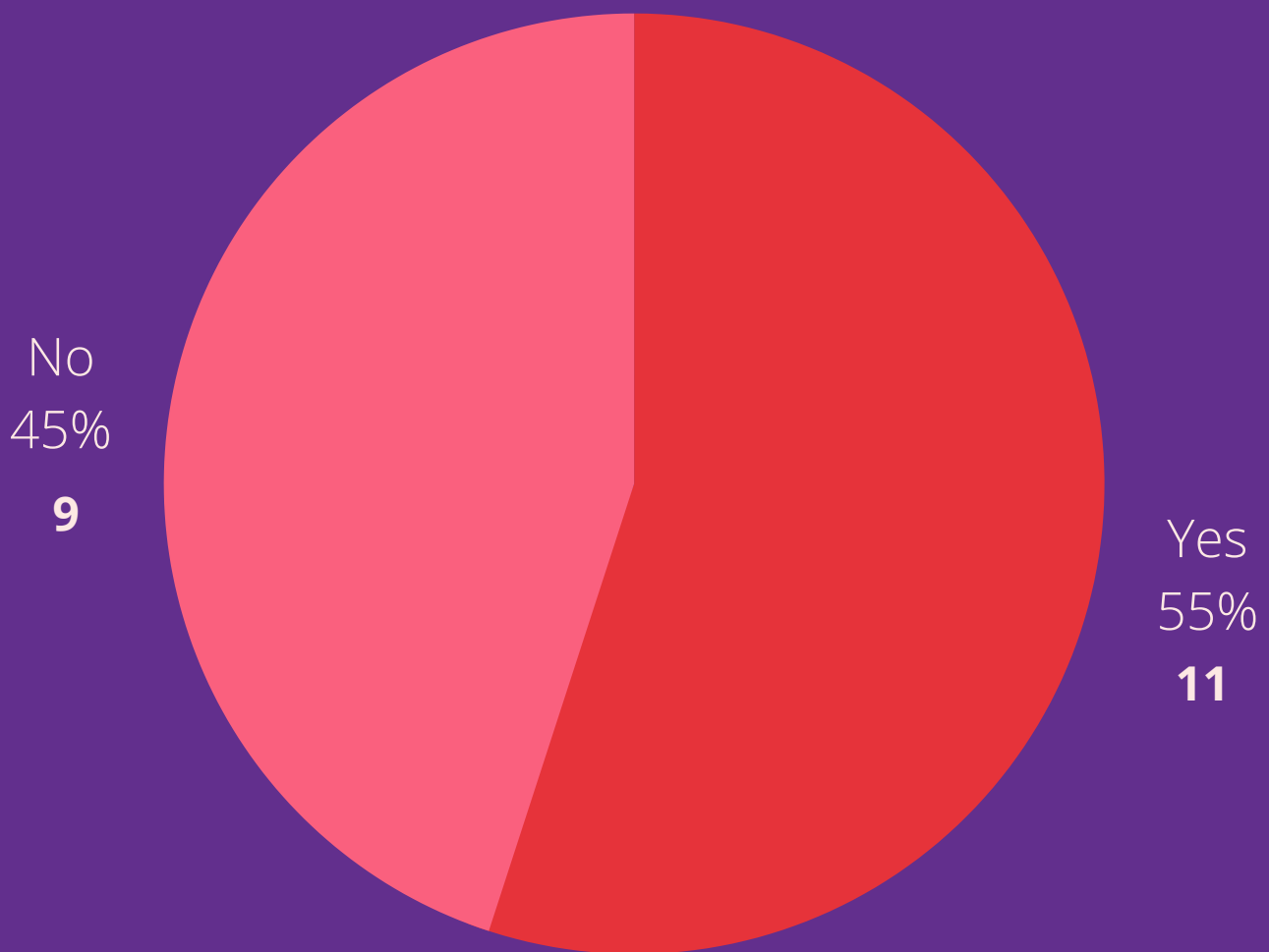


In 60% of alleged stalking violations, other violation types were perpetrated. There were 21 counts of other violation types. 58.3% of these alleged stalking violations involved one other violation type, whilst the remaining 41.7% involved at least two.



Perpetration of verbal, online and physical sexual harassment was a common characteristic seen in all 4 alleged stalking violations that had at least three other violation types.

More than half of alleged stalking violations were disclosed or reported to someone.



In the 2 alleged stalking violations in which survivors reported to figures of authority in school, a negative and positive outcome were respectively seen:

- One survivor, who reported to teachers, was not taken seriously.
- Another survivor reported to her supervisor, who warned the perpetrator that she would report to the headmaster and police if he did not stop. The stalking immediately ceased.



55% of alleged stalking violations disclosed negative psychosocial consequences. There were a total of 15 counts of negative psychosocial consequences.

Among alleged stalking violations that disclosed psychosocial consequences, 27.3% involved multiple negative psychosocial consequences.

