

To Cross or Not to Cross the Road: How kids feel about illegal school bus passings?

INTRODUCTION

In the U.S, millions of kids ride in the bus every day (NHTSA). In just Connecticut over 330,000 kids ride the bus to get to school (CTDOT). Safety always comes first when crossing the road to get in or out of the school bus. In only Bridgeport, Connecticut there were 10,000 illegal school bus passings caught on camera between September 2023-February 2024 (City of Bridgeport). An illegal passing is when a car doesn't stop at a minimum of 10 feet away from a stopped school bus(CGA). Illegal passings are really unsafe for kids who cross the road to get to or out of the bus.

My goal is to find how 3rd and 4th graders feel about crossing the road to get in or out of the bus.



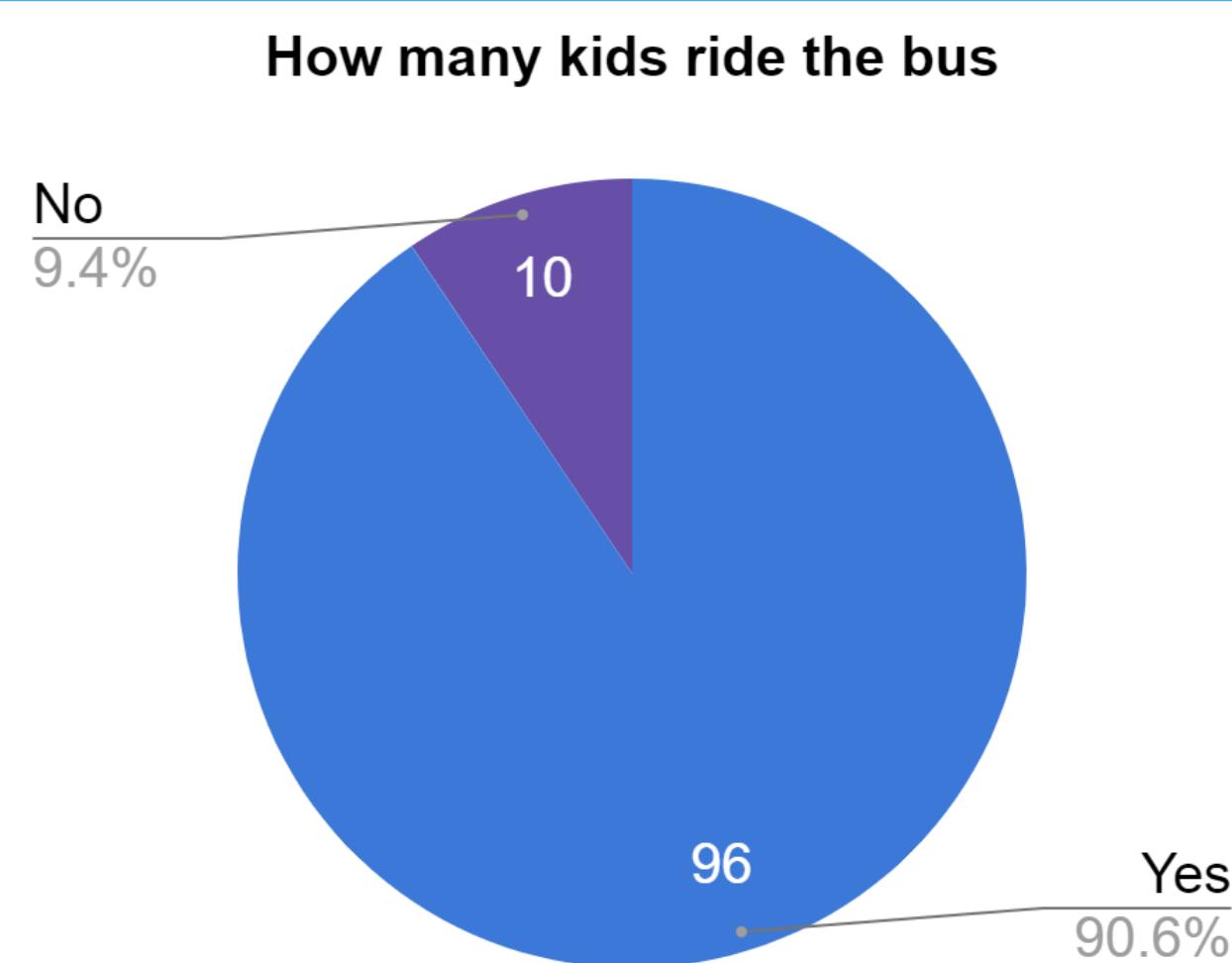
RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. Who rides on the bus?
2. Who rides on which bus route?
3. How many kids have to cross to get in or out of the bus?
4. How do kids feel about bus crossing?
5. How many kids have seen an illegal bus passing?

METHOD

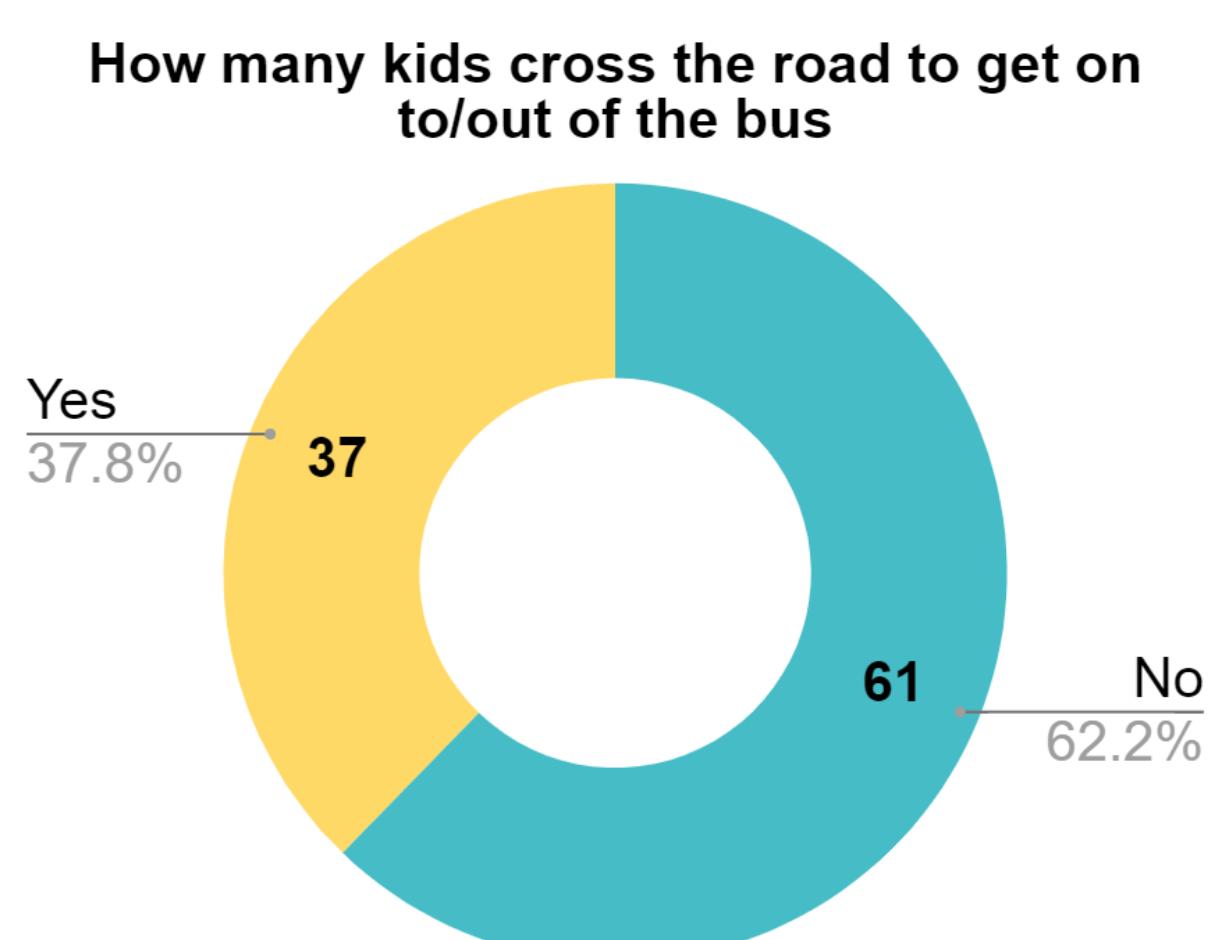
I made a Google survey. Then I sent it out to 3rd (106 kids) and 4th (103 kids) graders at my school with the help of my teacher. Finally, I gathered the results and made graphs using Google Sheets.

Graph 1



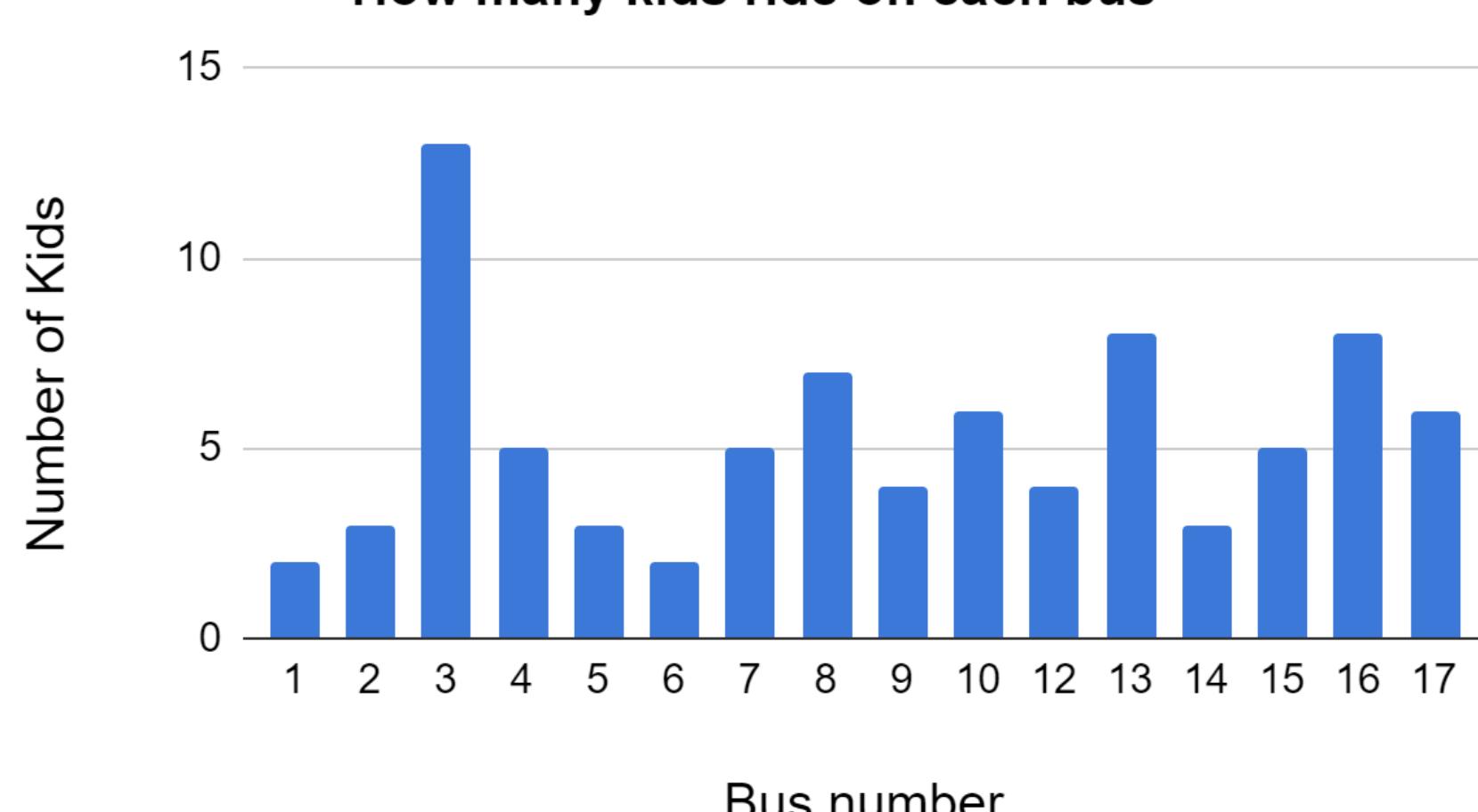
In the survey, I asked the 3rd and 4th graders "Do you ride the bus?"

Graph 2



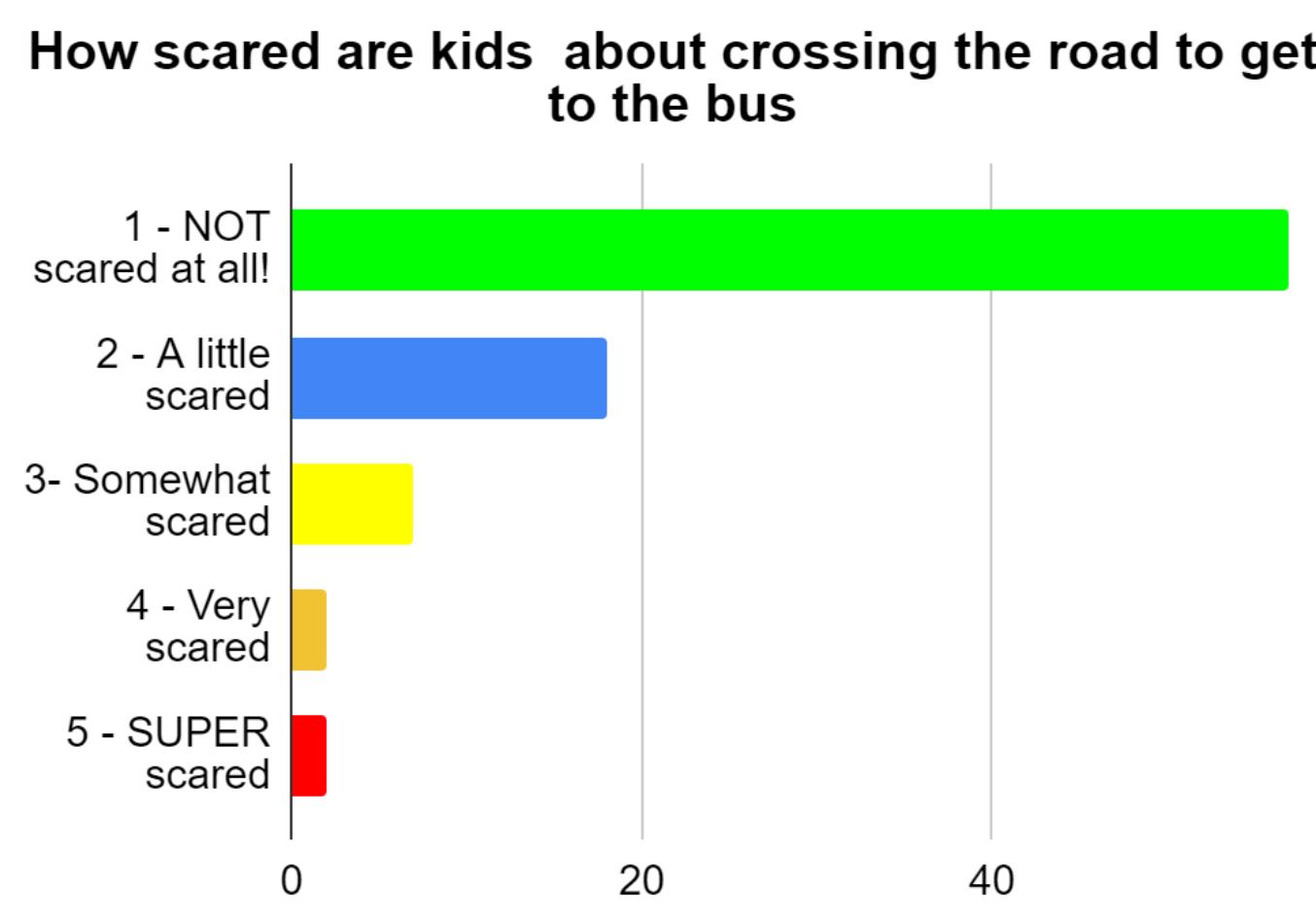
In the survey, I asked them "Do you cross the road to get in or out of the bus?"

Graph 3



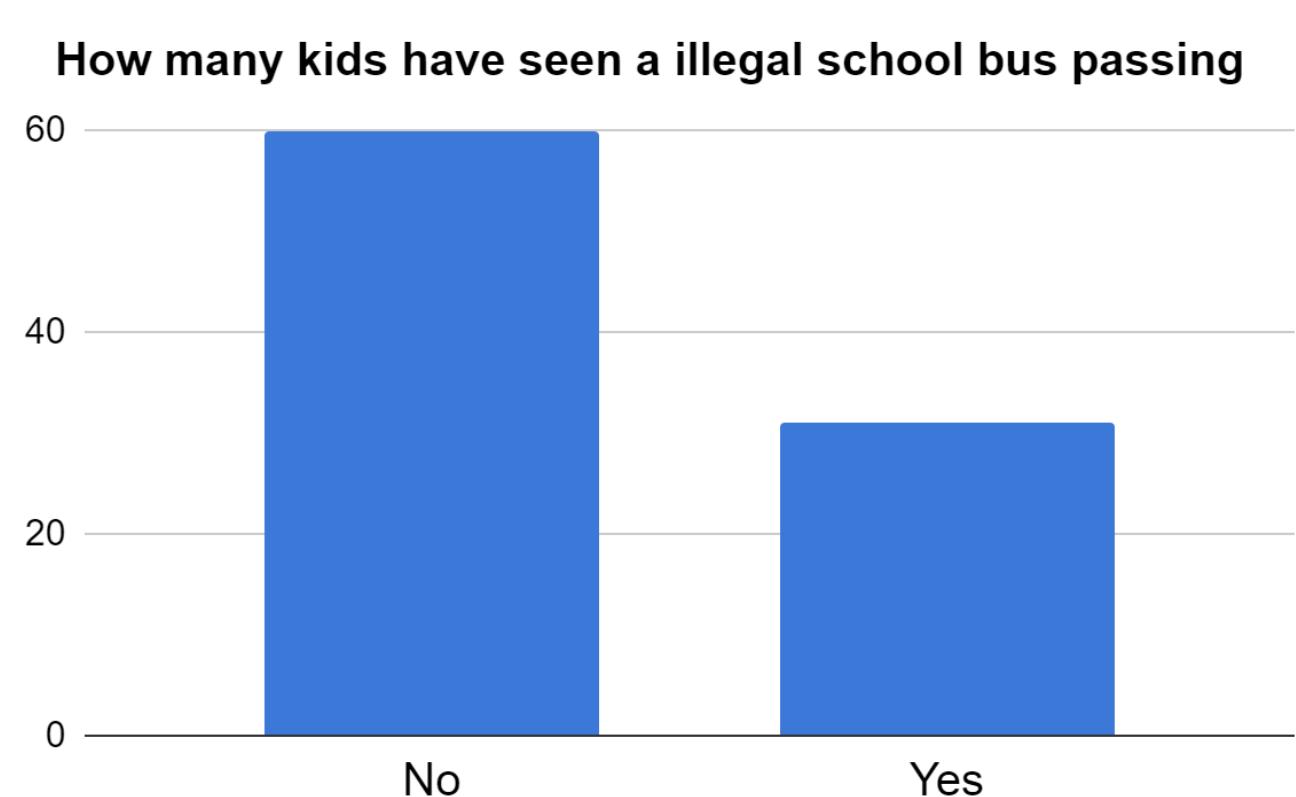
In the survey, I asked "Which bus route do you go on?"

Graph 4



In the survey, I asked the 3rd and 4th graders "How scared are you about crossing the road to get in or out of the bus?"

Graph 5



In the survey, I asked "Have you seen a car pass your bus when you were about to get on?"

CONCLUSION

- 90.6% of students (Graph 1) said that they ride the bus. This means many students ride the school bus.
- Not many people have to cross the road to get in or out of their school bus because 62.2% responses said they didn't cross the road to get in or out of their school bus (Graph 2)
- Most kids ride on bus route 3 because the "Bus 3" bar (Graph 3) is taller than all the other bars.
- Lots of kids are completely fine with crossing the road to get in / out of their school bus because around 60 out of 96 kids said they were not scared at all (Graph 4).
- 60 out of 96 kids said they didn't see a car pass their bus when they were about to get on (Graph 5). That means not many kids have seen an illegal passing before.

Sources: CTDOT, Connecticut Department of Transportation

CGA: Connecticut General Assembly

NHSTA: National Highway Safety Traffic Administration