

Children's Worlds Malta

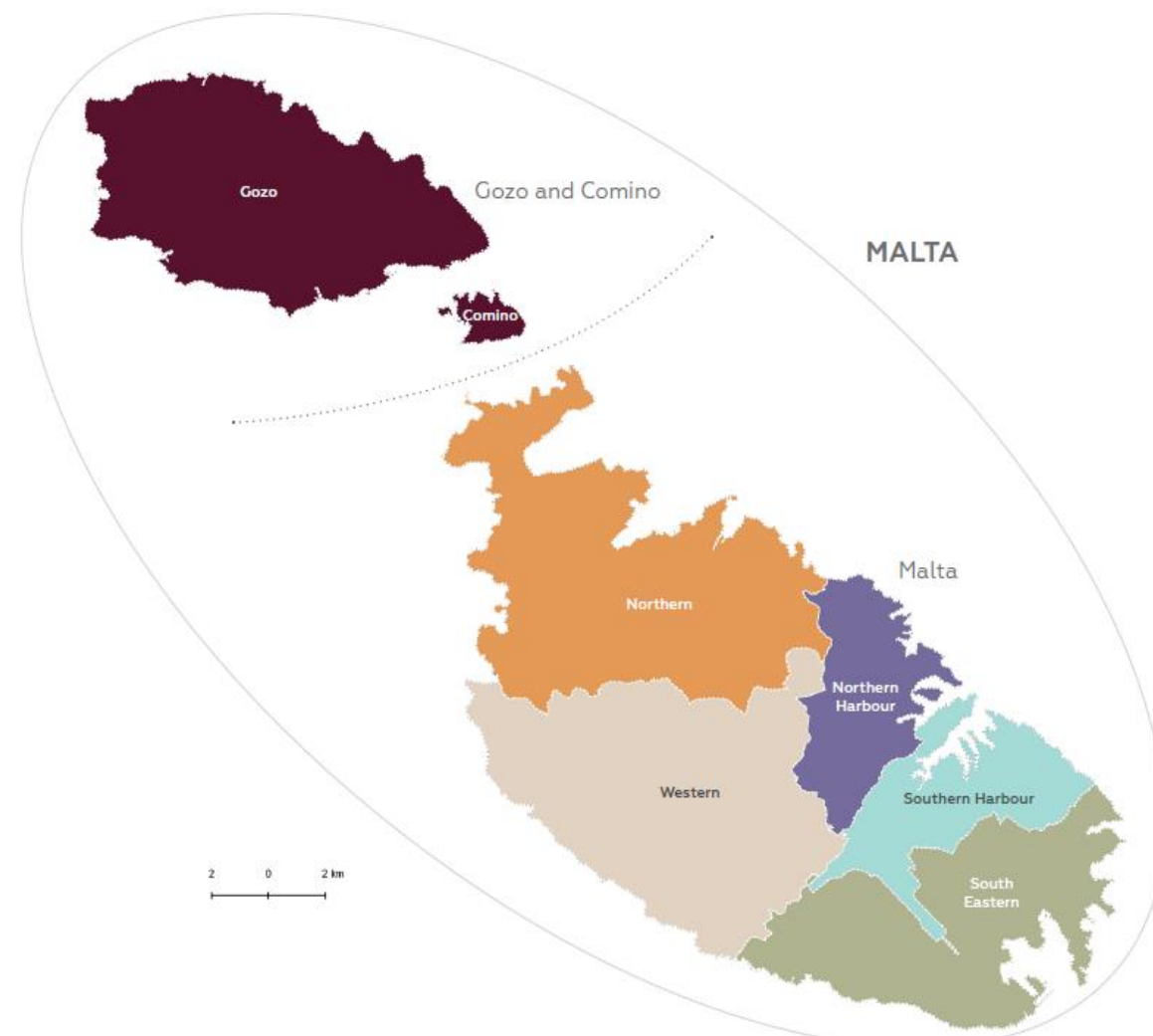


Prof Carmel Cefai & Ms Natalie Galea



Context & Population

- 2 main regions: Malta and Gozo
- 6 districts; concentration of population in harbour districts
- Total population at the end of 2017: **475,701**
- Total number of children: **79,163**
- Non-Maltese living in Malta have more than doubled over the last decade, which constitute more than **12%** of the total population

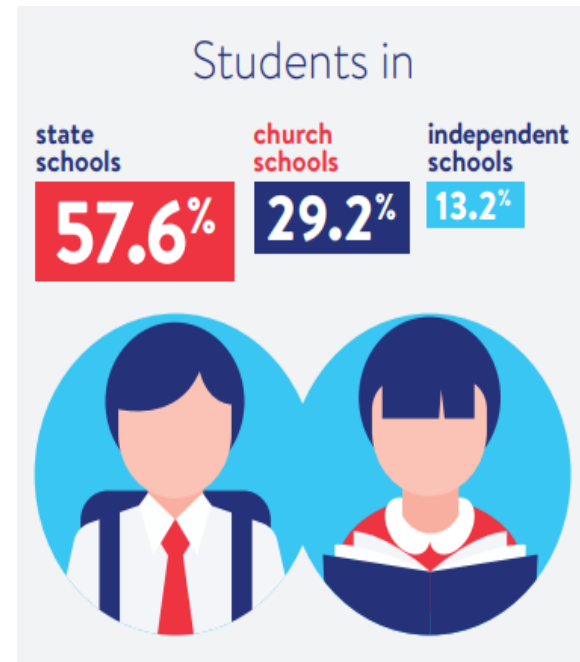


Source: NSO 2019

Educational system in Malta

3 main educational sectors:

- State schools (free to all students)
- Church schools (annual donation)
- Independent/ Private schools (fee-paying)



Share of
non-Maltese students
in pre-primary, primary
and secondary schools

Source: NSO, 2018

Sampling Strategy



- Primary school **Year 3** (aged 6 to 8 years old) and **Year 5** (aged 8 to 10 years old)
- Secondary school **Year 7** (aged 10 – 12)
- The primary sampling unit was the three mainstream **school sectors** in Malta
- The sampling frame was further stratified by various variables namely **geographic region, gender** and **school size**

Data Collection

- All data was collected in **schools** with the help of school staff when necessary
- **Paper-based questionnaires** in a group setting with 8 year old and 10 year old students
- **Online version** with 12 year old students in computer labs



Maltese Sample



Total participants: **2,021 students**

Gender	UW %	W%	Age	UW %	W%	School Sector	UW %	W%
Males	56.9%	54.9%	8 years	28.1%	33.3%	State	52.6%	56.6%
Females	43.1%	45.1%	10 years	31.2%	33.3%	Church	42.9%	35.8%
			12 years	40.8%	33.3%	Independent	4.5%	7.6%

Weighting:

- the proportion of students in the dataset in each stratum (i.e. school sector) is equivalent to the proportion of students in that stratum in the population.
- to balance the weighting across the three age groups so that each age group has an equal weight in the analysis.

Overall satisfaction at school



Maltese children are **satisfied** with:

- their life as a student (84.4% / 74.2%)
- the things learned at school (91% / 84%)
- with the other children in their class (88% / 71%)

10 year old and 12 year old children reported **higher scores in the second wave** study (77% - 90%) (Cefai & Galea, 2016)



School satisfaction by gender (8y)



Level of school satisfaction by gender (8y)

		Mean	Std. Deviation
Your life as a student	Male	3.27***	1.153
	Female	3.60***	0.753
Things you have learned at school	Male	3.49***	0.851
	Female	3.79***	0.535
The other children in your class	Male	3.45**	0.904
	Female	3.62**	0.758

Note: **p<0.01, ***p<0.001

School satisfaction by age

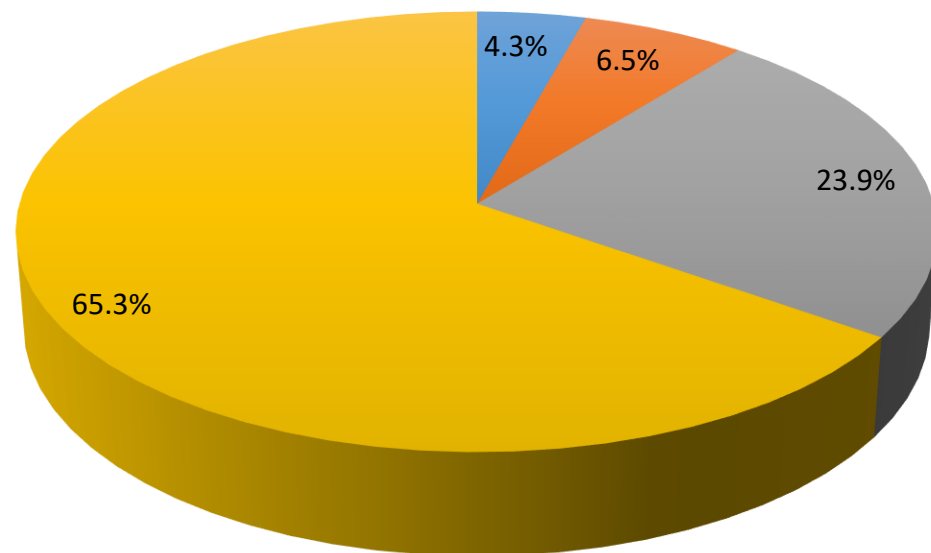
Level of school satisfaction by age (10y & 12y)

		Mean	Std. Deviation
Your life as a student	10y	8.40*	2.509
	12y	8.14*	2.353
Things you have learned at school	10y	8.97**	1.991
	12y	8.63**	1.970
The other children in your class	10y	8.37*	2.309
	12y	8.06*	2.355

Note: *p<0.05, **p<0.01

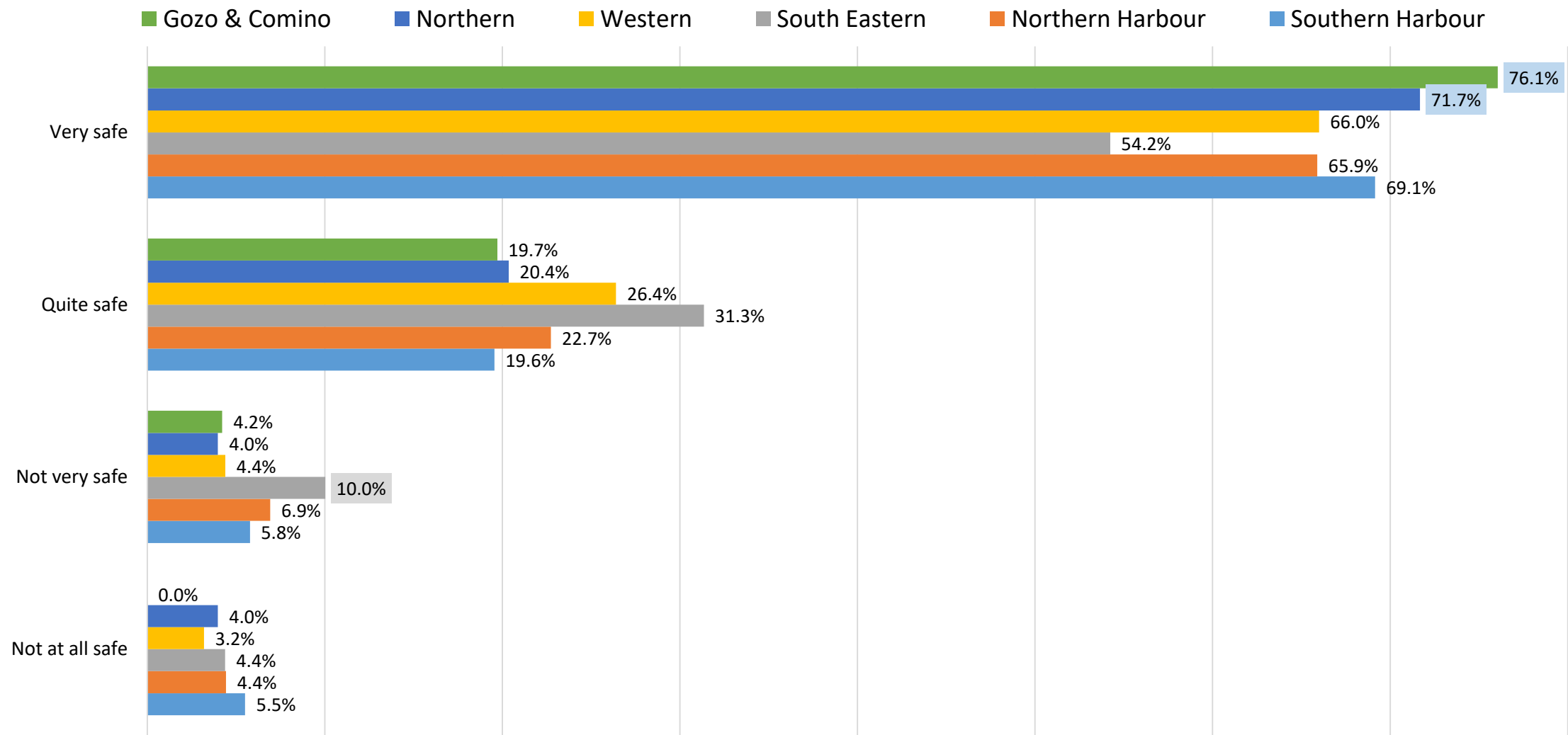
Level of safety to and from school (All ages)

■ Not at all safe ■ Not very safe ■ Quite safe ■ Very safe



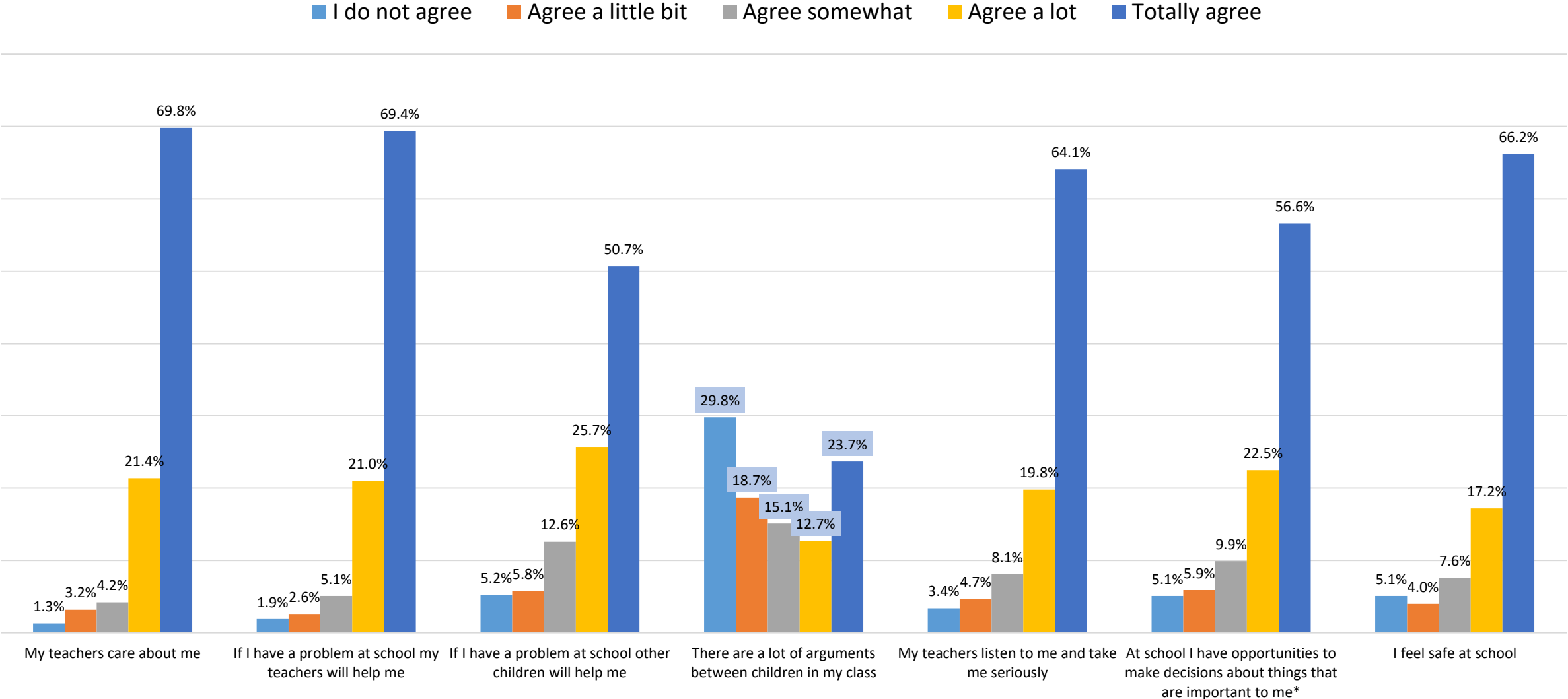
- 61.3% of **males** do not feel **safe** when travelling to and from school compared to 38.7% of female students
- Higher levels of perceived safety among **8 year olds** (78.7%) when compared with 10 year olds (63.4%) and 12 year old students (54.4%)

Level of safety to and from school by home district



Note: $p < 0.001$

Students' relations with teachers and peers



Note: *Question not included in 8y questionnaire

Perceived safety at school

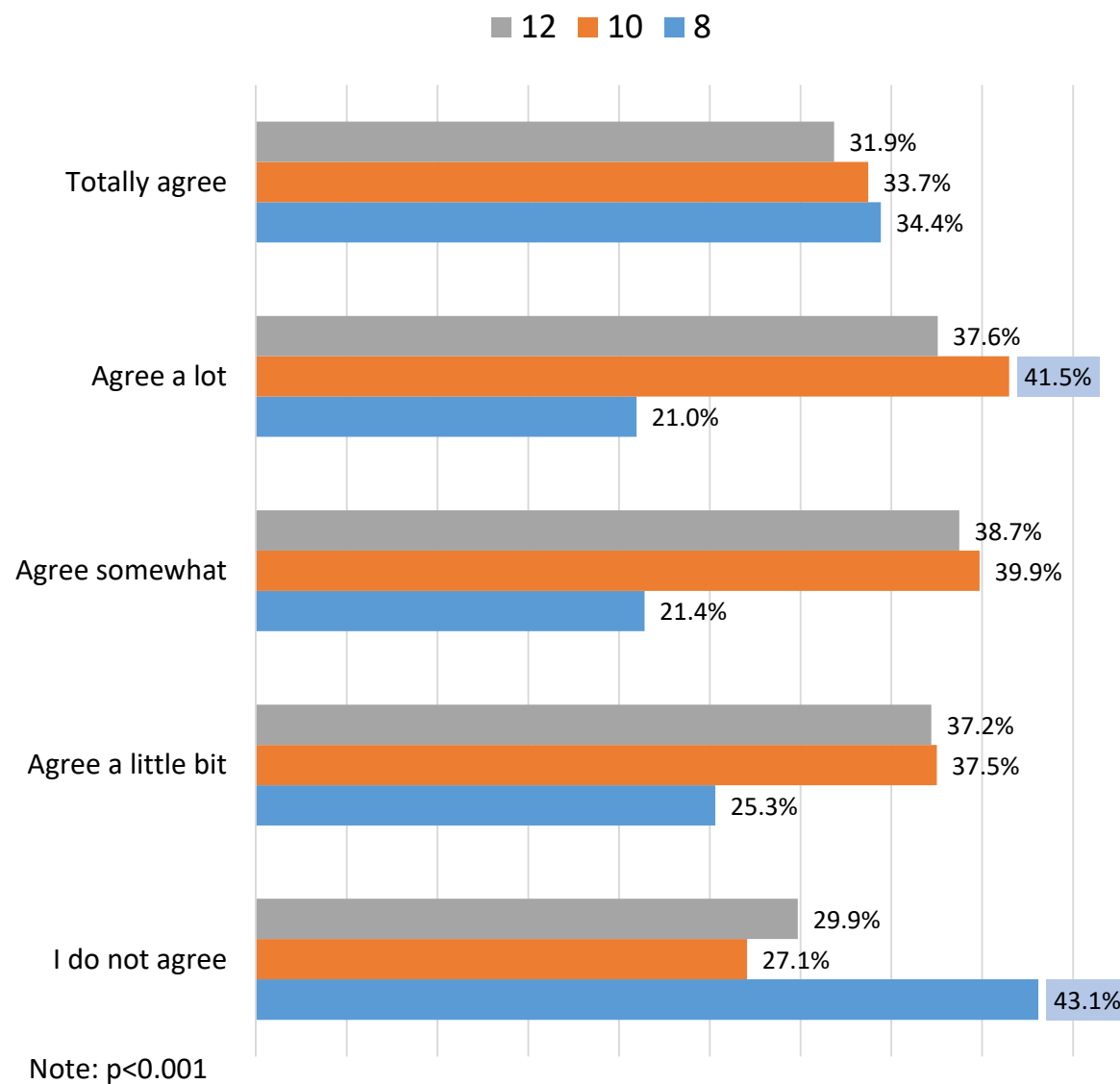
8 year old children reported highest levels of perceived safety at school (88%) followed by 10 year olds (82.8%) and 12 year olds (80%)

12% of 8 year olds feel less safe. 17% - 20% of 10 year old & 12 year old children do not feel safe at school or not safe at all.

Lower levels of perceived safety among children attending **State** schools (52.1%) followed by Church schools (36.5%) and Independent schools (11.5%)



Arguments between children in class

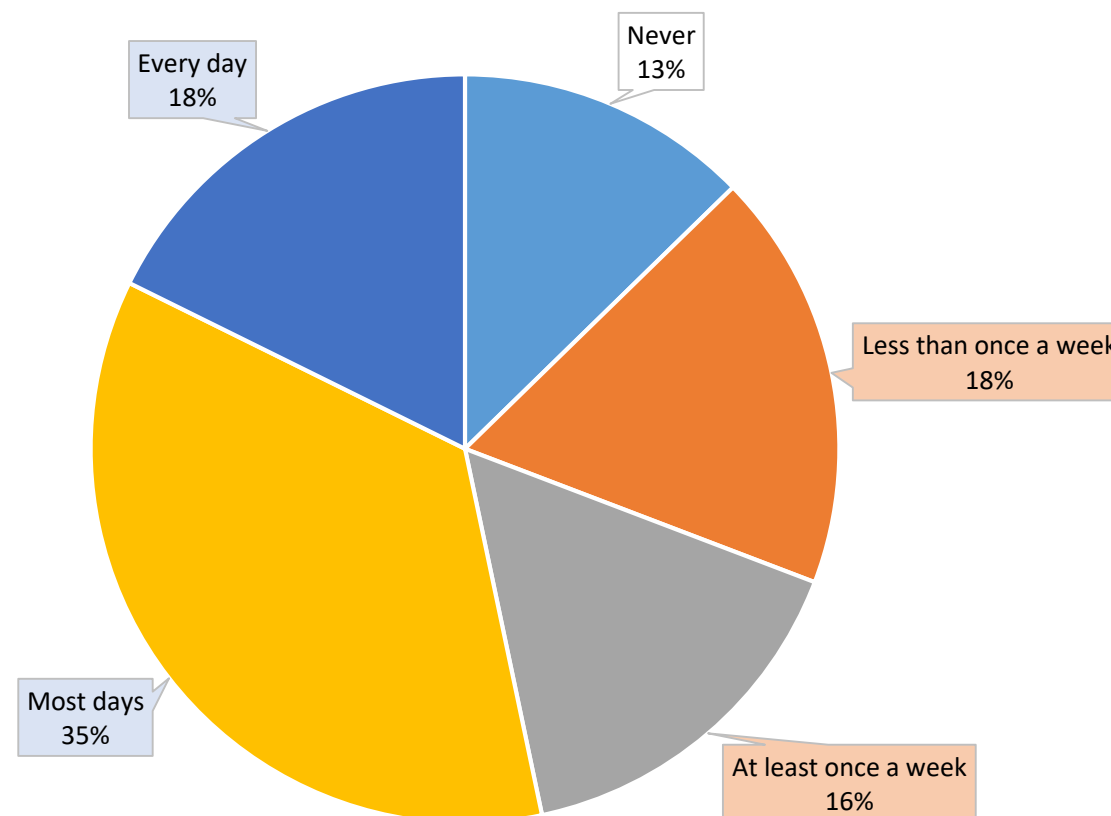


Highest rates of class arguments reported in **State schools** (54.5%) when compared with Church schools (37.3%) and Independent schools (8.2%)

Class arguments more common among males (54.2%) than females (45.8%)

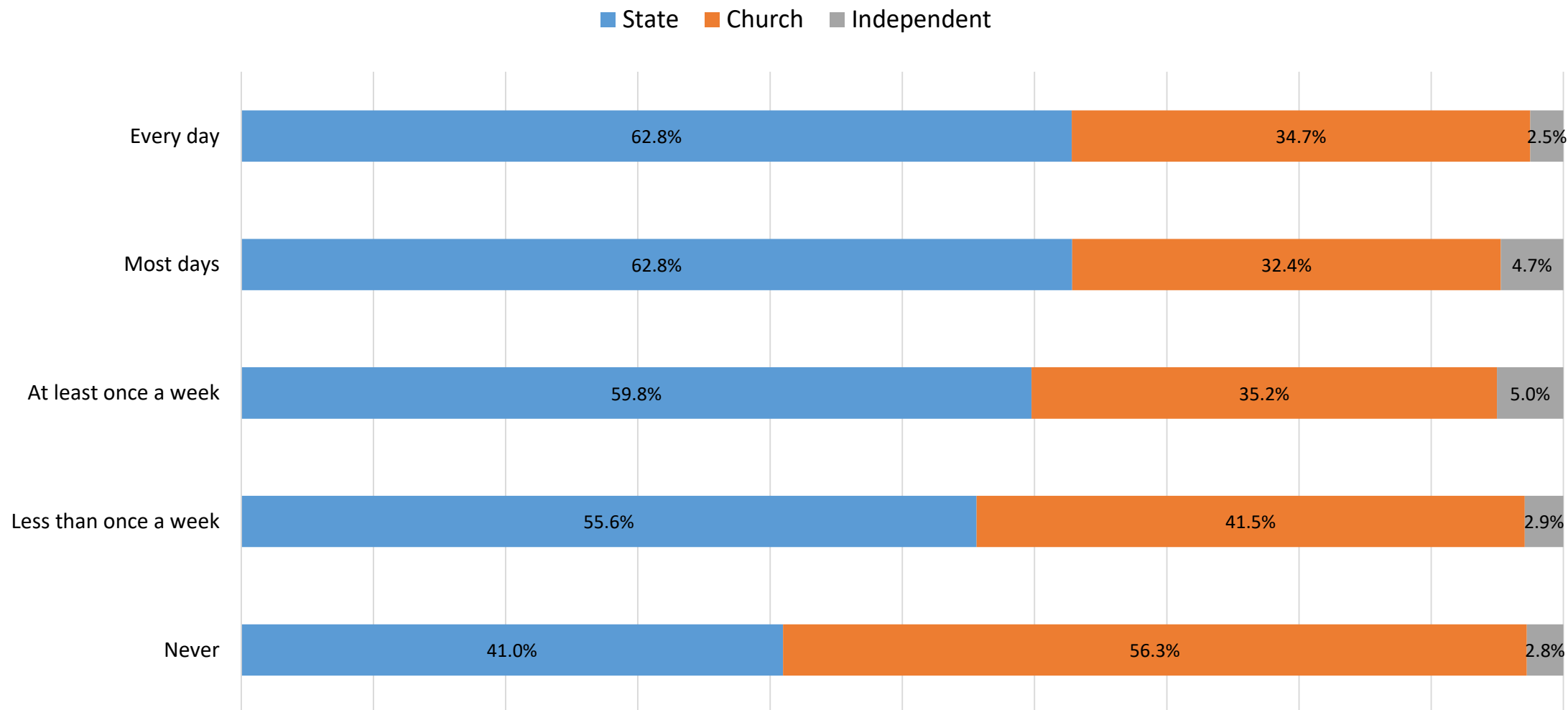
Fights at school

■ Never ■ Less than once a week ■ At least once a week ■ Most days ■ Every day



School fights on a daily basis were more reported by **10 year old** students (55.8%) and **female** students (52.8%)

Schools fights by sector



Note: $p < 0.001$

Bullying

FREQUENCY OF SCHOOL BULLYING

19% 
Hit by other children in your school

22% 
Called unkind names by other children in your school

19% 
Left out by other children in your class

Decrease in figures between **7- 8%** from second wave study

More frequent **physical bullying** (32% - 43%) and **psychological bullying** (35% - 36%) among **older students** when compared with 8 year olds students (25.2% / 28.4%)

Males experienced physical bullying (63.4%) and exclusion (56.3%) more frequently than females (36.6% / 43.7%)

Physical bullying more prevalent in **State** schools (51.6%)

Conclusions: Satisfaction at school



- Overall, the **great majority** of Maltese students are **happy** with their **school life**, having positive relationships with both teachers and peers. They feel supported at school and expressed a high level of satisfaction with the things they learn at school.
- **Younger students** and **females** appear to be **happier** and **more satisfied** at school.
- When compared with the **second wave study**, one notes a **decline in level of satisfaction of school life** in the case of **10 year and 12 year** students.

Conclusions: Safety, school fights and bullying



- **More than one third** complained about **frequent arguments and fighting** in their class or school in general.
- Although there has been a **decrease in bullying rates** from second wave, it is still a major cause for concern. **One in five** reported **frequent physical or psychological bullying** especially among **older male students** attending **State schools**
- Whilst the **majority** of Maltese students feel **safe at school** as well as when **travelling** to and from school, around **9 - 11% do not feel as safe** or not safe at all, especially **older males** and students attending **State schools**.

Areas of Exploration



- the relationship between various **independent variables** (school safety, bullying, satisfaction at school etc.) and **SWB** (CW-SWBS & OLS)
- Identification of further **subgroups in Malta** (i.e. whether they live in the same home or not, whether parents lived/worked away from home, fights in local area etc.)
- International comparative analysis

References



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