



School Isn't a Safe Space: A Look at a Failing Educational System

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The Legislation (Florida)

CS/CS/HB 1557: Parental Rights in Education

- No teaching about sexual orientation or gender identity in grades Kindergarten through 3rd Grade
- “Don’t Say Gay” Bill

CS/CS/HB 1069: Education

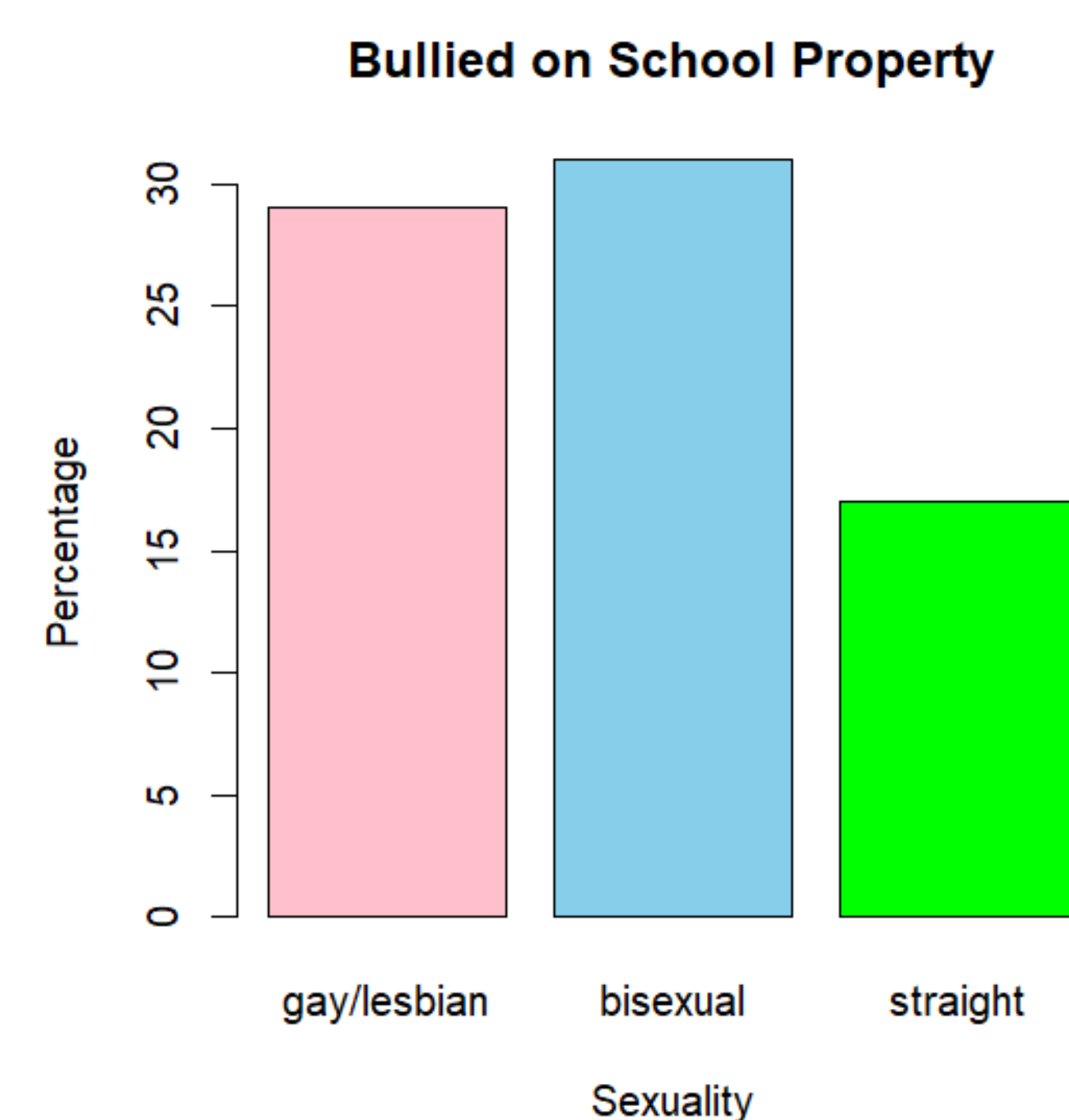
- Defines “sex”
- Prohibits pronouns that don’t match your “sex”
- Students can’t have preferred title or pronouns that don’t match their sex and action can be taken against employees who use a student’s preferred title/pronouns

One Month Later...

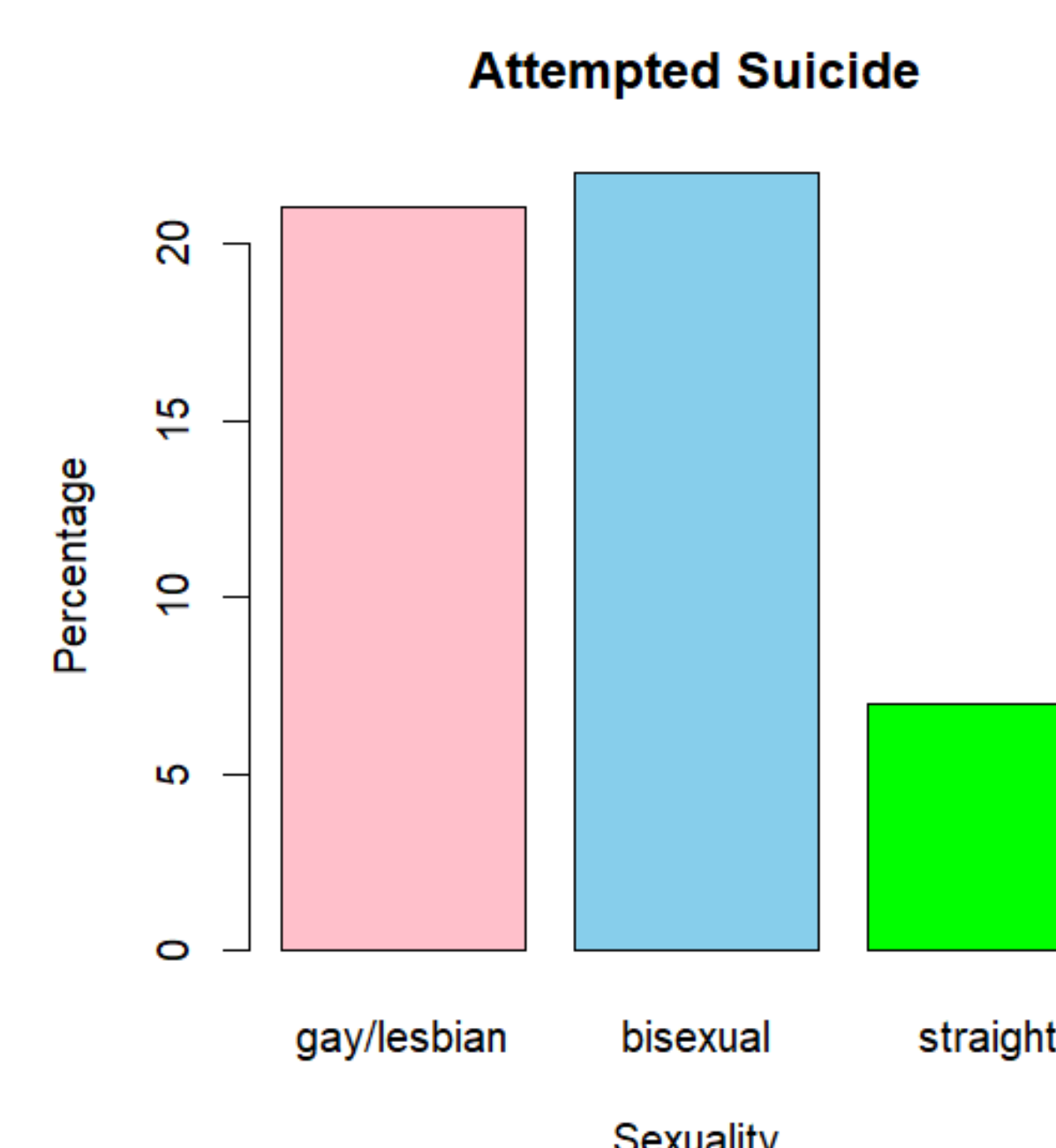
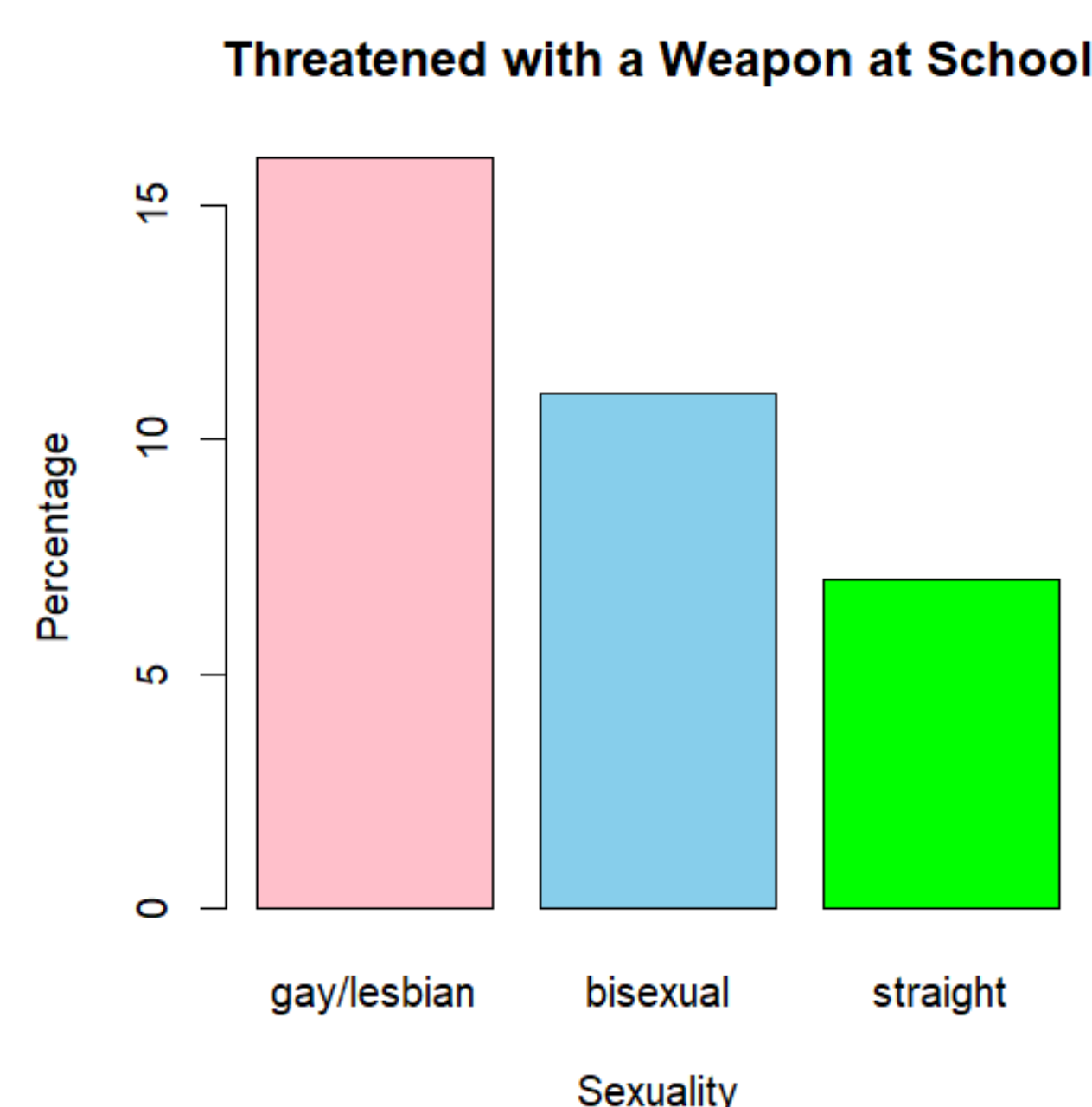
- Avg. number of tweets with slurs increased by 406%
- Inflammatory “grooming” content surged by 400% across social media
- Desantis’s press secretary created hashtag “OkGroomer”

The Students

The legislation has caused the villainization of the LGBTQ+ community and has put more pressure on highschool students who are a part of the community. Highschool is a time when teens are discovering themselves, but that also leads to possible bullying which could be made worse through factors like sexuality.



The graphs show the difference in percentages when looking at the sexuality of highschool students. Graph one looks at students being bullied, graph two features percents of students threatened with a weapon, and graph three shows the amount who attempted suicide (CDC 2019).



The Teachers

- 59,000~ teacher quit nationwide in April 2023 alone.
- More than 1/3 of k-12 teachers say they plan on quitting within the next 2 years.
- 5,200+ vacancies in Florida by January 2023
- Could lose license if they are reported to the Board of Education for using a student’s preferred pronouns.

The Future

Ron DeSantis is currently campaigning and spreading his ideas about education to other states. He has defunded diversity and equity efforts in universities and has banned math textbooks for being too “woke.” Meanwhile, in states like New York, New Jersey, and California, there are safeguards in place for students to safely report harassment pertaining to sexuality.