

ETHNIC DISCRIMINATION AND BULLYING IN THE SÁMI AND NON-SÁMI POPULATIONS IN NORWAY: THE SAMINOR STUDY

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OBJECTIVES:

To investigate the prevalence of self-reported experiences of ethnic discrimination and bullying among Sámi and non-Sámi adults.

STUDY DESIGN:

Cross-sectional, questionnaire-based survey.

METHODS:

SAMINOR is a population based study of health and living condition that was administered in 2003-2004 in 24 different Norwegian and Sami populated municipalities within central and northern Norway. This analysis was based on 12,265 men and women aged 36-79 years. Ethnic distribution was Sami (33.1%), Kvens (7.8%) and majority (59.1%) (Table 1).

RESULTS:

Overall, Sámi and Kven responders reported more ethnic discrimination and bullying in general than ethnic Norwegians ($p < 0.001$) (Table 2, 3, 4). The reporting was highest among the younger participants ($p < 0.001$). Men reported more ethnic discrimination than women, while women reported more bullying. Responders with the strongest Sámi affiliation reported higher levels of ethnic discrimination outside the Sámi language Act's district, while responders with weak Sámi affiliation and Kvens reported higher levels inside this district. Among the responders that reported bullying previously, the most common type was discriminatory treatment and the most common locations were public schools (Figure 1). For the reported bullying last year, the most common type was gossiping and discriminatory treatment and the most common locations were at work (Figure 2). Two out of every three of those reporting ethnic discrimination, independent of ethnicity, also reported bullying (Figure 3).

CONCLUSIONS

The findings from this study show that the Sámi and Kven population more often experience bullying and ethnic discrimination than the ethnic Norwegian. These results are consistent with experiences from other minority and marginalized groups that experienced colonization. More research is needed to understand the role of bullying and ethnic discrimination in Sámi and Kven population's well being and health

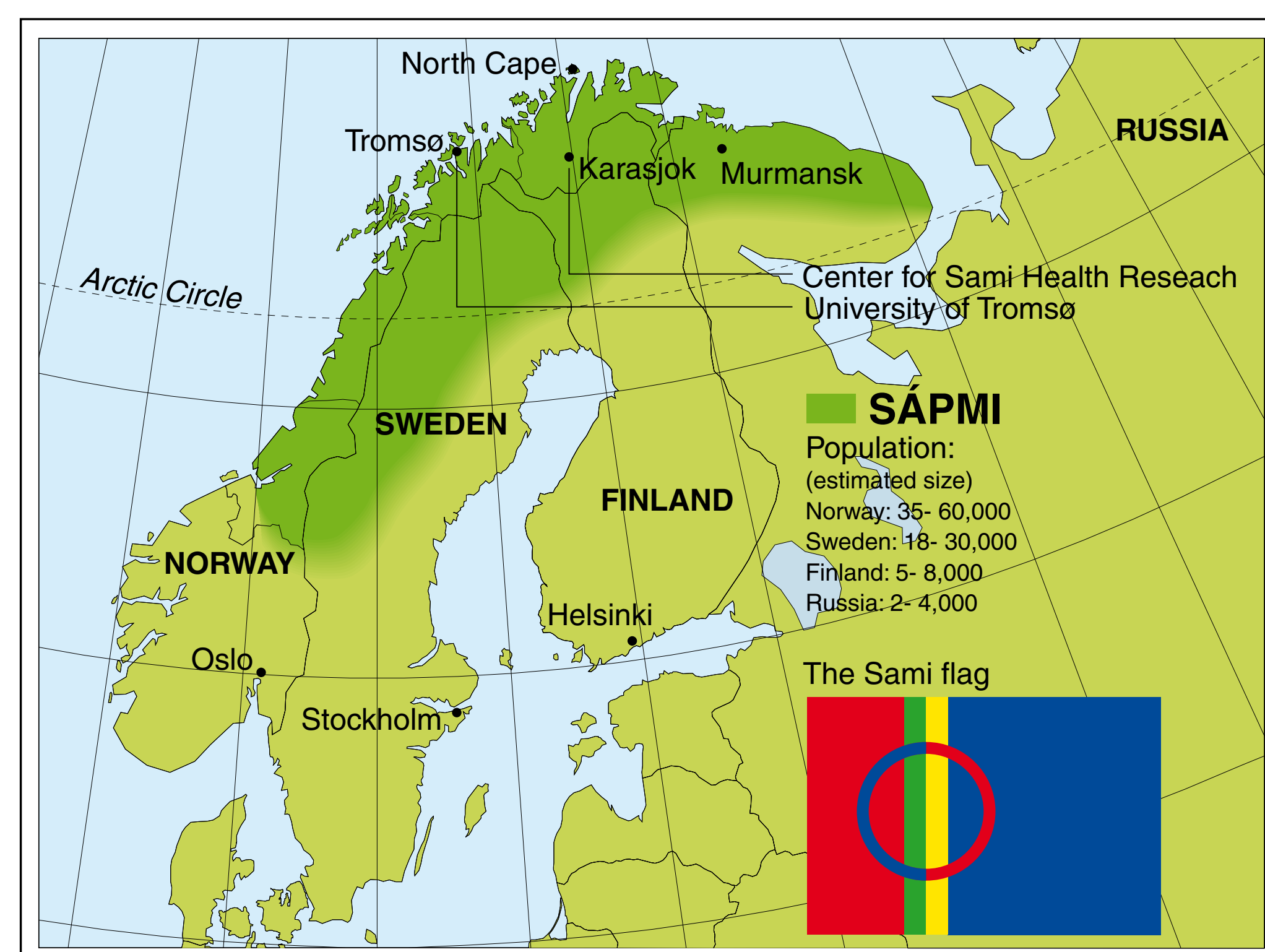


Table 1. Characteristics of the study population (N = 12,265).

Ethnic classification	Sámi I n = 1360 %	Sámi II n = 1856 %	Sámi III n = 854 %	Kvens n = 957 %	Ethnic Norwegians n = 7238 %	Total % (n)
Gender						
Female:	50.4	49.9	50.4	49.4	52.8	51.7
Male:	49.6	50.1	49.6	50.6	47.2	48.3
Age groups (years)*						
36-49	34.8	42.2	34.3	31.1	36.6	36.7
50-64	41.6	42.0	44.4	44.1	43.7	43.3
65-79	23.6	15.8	21.3	24.8	19.7	20.0
Sámi language Act 'district'						
Yes	80.0	45.4	33.4	26.5	10.6	26.4
No	20.0	54.6	66.6	73.5	89.4	73.6
Education- in number of years*						
< 6	13.2	5.5	7.1	6.7	2.9	5.0
7-9	33.9	30.7	30.0	33.9	30.3	31.0
10-12	24.2	32.6	27.2	29.2	32.3	30.9
13-16	18.9	20.5	23.6	19.2	21.8	21.2
≥17	9.7	10.7	12.1	11.0	12.6	11.9
Boarding school*						
Yes	59.3	32.2	25.3	19.2	14.5	23.4
No	40.7	67.8	74.7	80.8	85.5	76.7
Household income in Nkr*						
<150,000	18.2	10.6	10.3	11.7	8.6	10.3
150-450,000	59.0	58.5	61.4	55.7	57.4	57.9
> 450,000	22.8	30.9	28.3	32.6	33.9	31.7

* Significant difference between the ethnic groups, as evaluated by chi square testes, $p < 0.0001$.

TABLE 2. Prevalence and relative risk estimates of self-reported ethnic discrimination by ethnic groups, age-groups and gender

Ethnic groups	Total % (n)	Men*		Women*		Adjusted RR** (95% CI)
		36-57 years % (n)	58-79 years % (n)	36-57 years % (n)	58-79 years % (n)	
Sámi I	36.0 (490)	40.9 (163)	34.4 (95)	35.3 (157)	31.3 (75)	9.76 (7.57-12.58)
Sámi II	18.8 (349)	22.3 (139)	17.7 (54)	18.5 (122)	12.7 (34)	4.68 (3.81-5.75)
Sámi III	12.3 (105)	16.8 (41)	12.2 (22)	10.5 (30)	8.3 (12)	3.75 (2.75-5.15)
Kvens	7.4 (71)	7.5 (20)	8.3 (18)	8.4 (21)	5.4 (12)	1.93 (1.37-2.71)
Norwegians	3.5 (254)	3.6 (73)	3.5 (48)	3.9 (96)	2.7 (37)	Ref.

* Significant for gender and age-groups ($p < 0.0001$).

** Estimates adjusted for age, gender, education, boarding school and household income.

TABLE 3. Relative risk of self-reported exposure of ethnic discrimination by ethnic groups

	Sámi I RR (95% CI)	Sámi II RR (95% CI)	Sámi III RR (95% CI)	Kvens RR (95% CI)	Ethnic Norwegians
Sámi language Act' district (adjusted)*					
- inside the district	8.83 (6.68-11.68)	4.21 (3.25-5.46)	5.64 (3.53-9.01)	2.79 (1.72-4.52)	Ref.
- outside the district	15.13 (9.49-24.11)	4.99 (3.82-6.54)	2.91 (1.96-4.29)	1.47 (0.93-2.32)	Ref.

Data are RR (95% CI) with non-Sámi as references.

* Adjusted for age, gender, education, boarding school and household income.

TABLE 4. Prevalence and relative risk estimates of self-reported exposure of bullying in general by ethnic groups, age-groups and gender

Ethnic Groups	Bullied	Total % (n)	Men		Women**		Adjusted RR*** (95% CI)
			36-57 years* % (n)	58-79 years % (n)	36-57 years* % (n)	58-79 years % (n)	
Sámi I	last year	5.4 (74)	7.5 (30)	2.9 (8)	6.5 (29)	2.9 (7)	2.20 (1.93-2.51)
	previously	32.1 (437)	33.1 (132)	26.4 (73)	36.6 (163)	28.8 (69)	
	never	62.4 (849)	59.4 (237)	70.7 (195)	56.9 (253)	68.3 (164)	
Sámi II	last year	4.6 (85)	5.8 (36)	1.3 (4)	5.3 (35)	3.7 (10)	1.71 (1.53-1.91)
	previously	26.0 (483)	24.0 (150)	22.3 (68)	31.4 (207)	21.7 (58)	
	never	69.4 (1288)	70.2 (438)	76.4 (233)	63.3 (418)	74.5 (199)	
Sámi III	last year	4.9 (42)	6.1 (15)	2.3 (4)	7.0 (20)	2.1 (3)	1.75 (1.49-2.06)
	previously	20.7 (177)	18.9 (46)	19.4 (35)	24.1 (69)	18.8 (27)	
	never	74.4 (635)	75.0 (183)	78.3 (141)	68.9 (197)	79.2 (114)	
Kvens	last year	3.9 (37)	3.7 (10)	4.1 (9)	4.4 (11)	3.1 (7)	1.29 (1.09-1.53)
	previously	14.9 (143)	15.4 (41)	12.0 (26)	21.2 (53)	10.3 (23)	
	never	81.2 (777)	80.9 (216)	83.9 (182)	74.4 (186)	86.5 (193)	
Ethnic Norwegians	last year	2.3 (165)	2.3 (47)	1.8 (24)	2.8 (70)	1.8 (24)	Ref.
	previously	12.6 (910)	13.1 (268)	8.8 (120)	15.8 (391)	9.7 (131)	
	never	85.1 (6163)	84.6 (1736)	89.4 (1218)	81.4 (2011)	88.5 (1198)	

* For all ethnic groups and both genders the youngest age-group reported higher significant higher prevalence of bullying ($p < 0.01$)

** Overall, women reported significant higher than men ($p < 0.001$).

*** Relative risk estimates for the combined bullied variable: last year and previously, with ethnic Norwegians as reference and adjusted for age gender, education, boarding school and household income.

Figure 1. Type and place of bullying reported previously

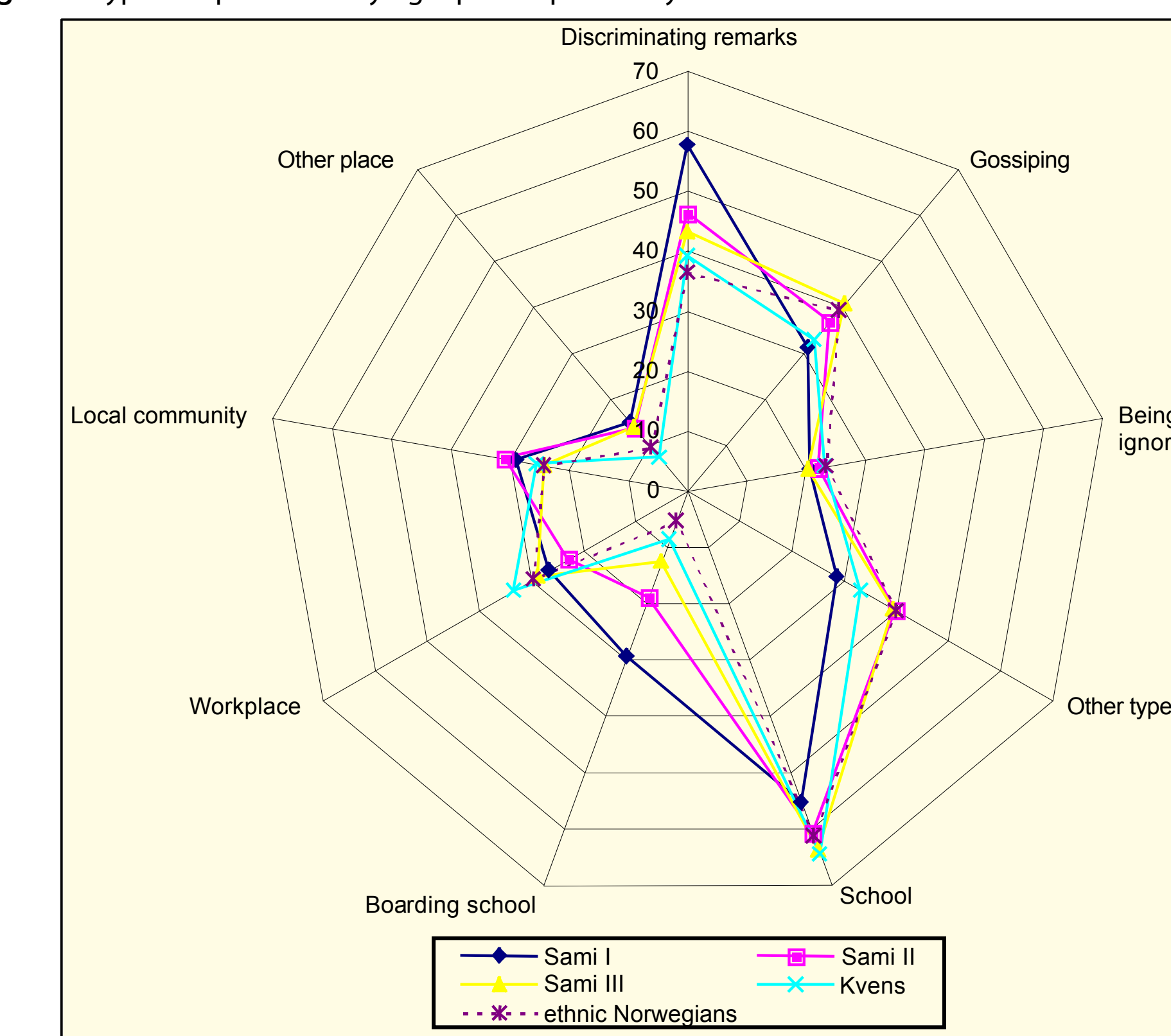


Figure 2. Type and place of bullying reported last year

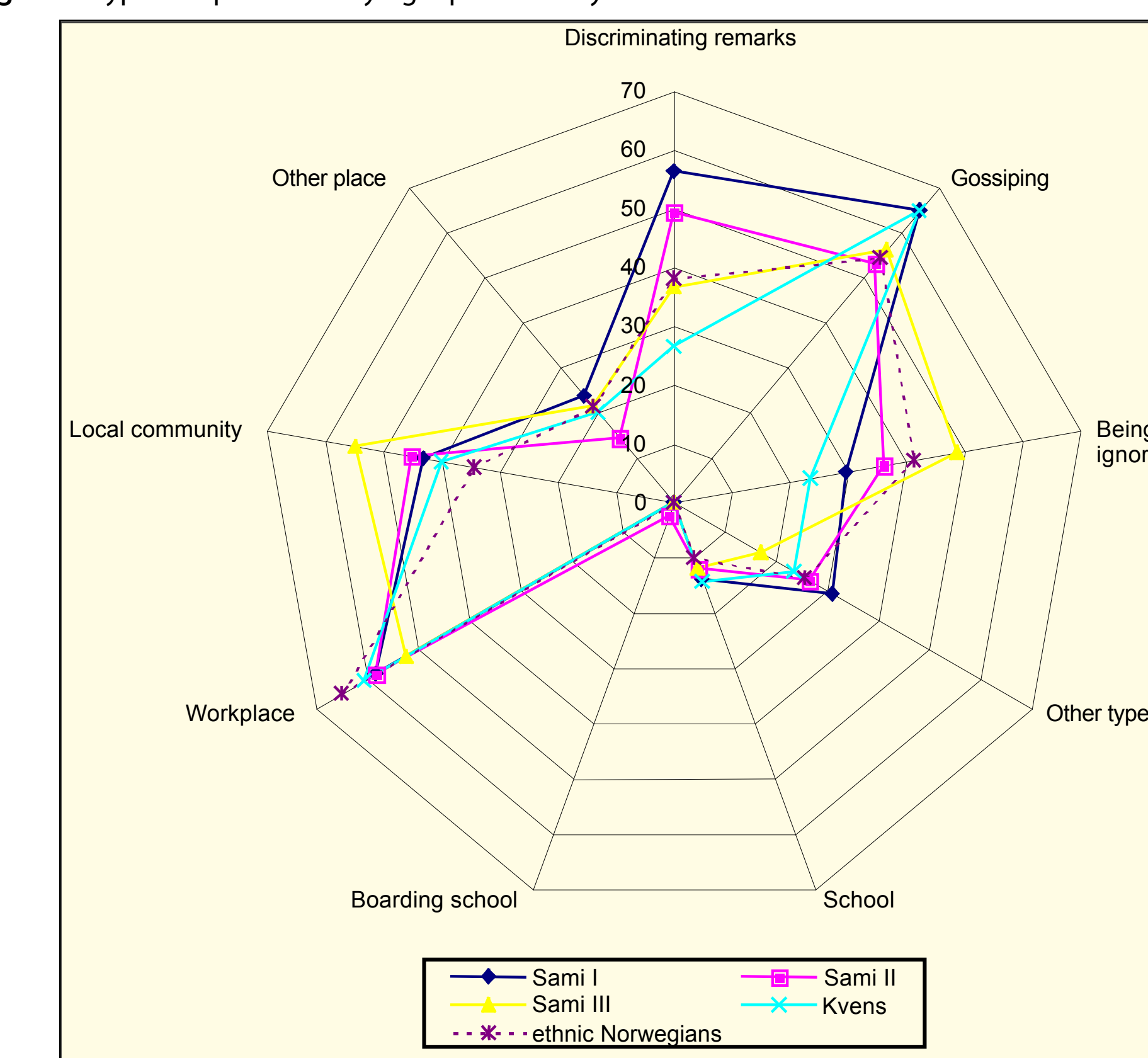
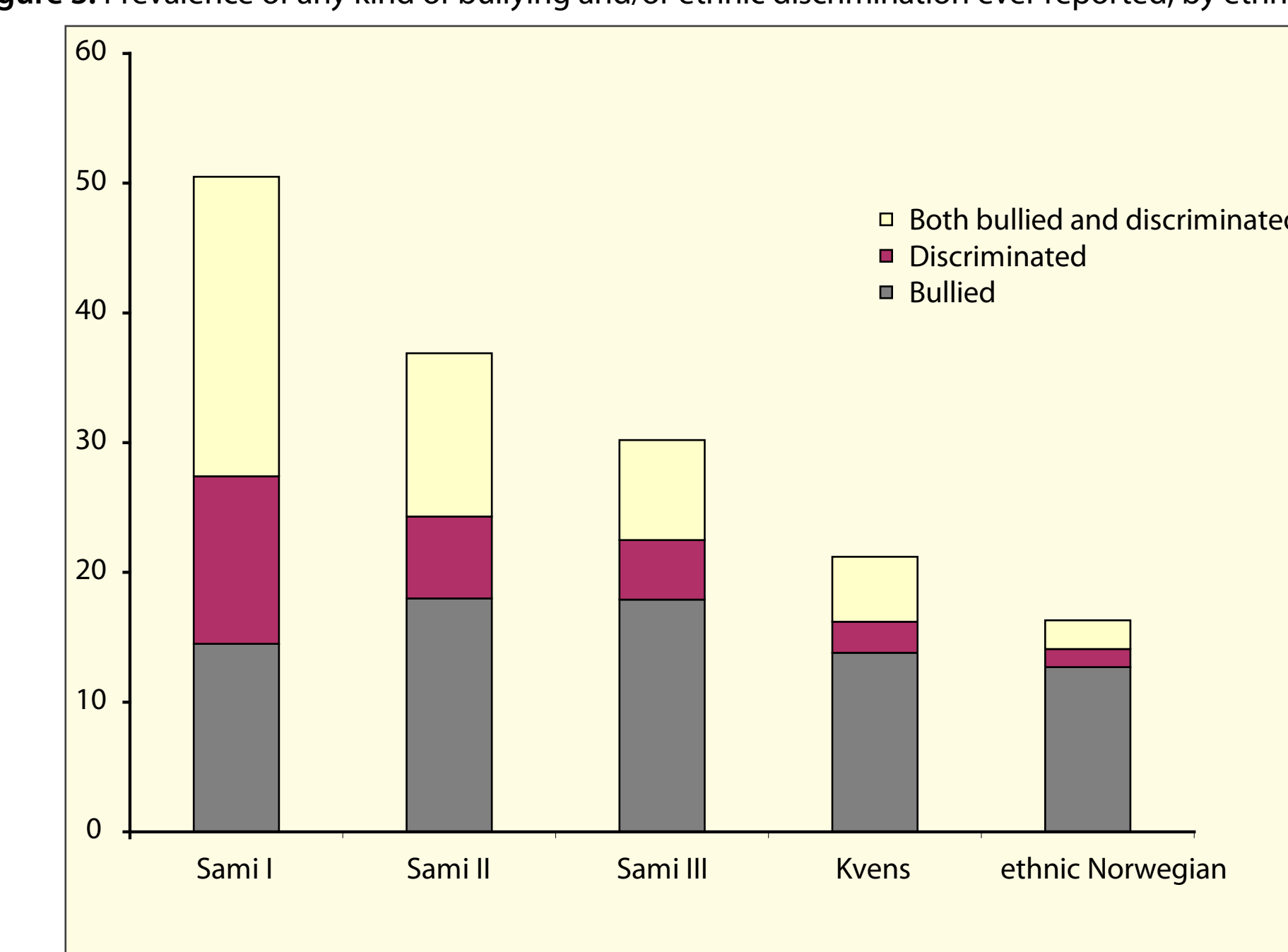


Figure 3. Prevalence of any kind of bullying and/or ethnic discrimination ever reported, by ethnic groups.



THE SAMI PEOPLE:

The Sami is an indigenous people living in northern parts of Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia, most of them in Norway. They have their own language and culture. Traditionally the Sami were close to nature, with hunting, fishing and reindeer herding as important livelihoods. They have experienced rapid social changes, which have had large influence on health and living conditions.