

# Grasp of The Reality of Cellular Phone Use by The Junior High School Students and Their Guardian’ s Awareness

## Increase of Use of Child’ s Cellular Phone

In Japan, the use of a cellular phone(=cell phone) is spreading among children, and that of smart phone are increasing among junior high school students. Children can easily access to internet through cell phones, and it’ s

difficult for the gurdians to keep track of them. There are more cases where children are involved in a crime through internet. Therefore, we need to look internet to secure children’ s safety, not only the real world.

## Questionnaire Suvey

This study grasps the reality of students’ use of cell phones and their guardian’ s opinions, and acquire basic knowledge on cell phone uses to improve children’ s safety. A case study was conducted at “O” junior high school in Ageo city near Tokyo.

A survey questionnaire was conducted for all the students and their guardians (each 322 persons). Questions include; kind of cell phone, the uses, reasons for buying cell phones for children, worries about the use of cell phones, and rules for use.

|               |   |   |
|---------------|---|---|
| Subject       | Junior high students n=322  | Student's gurdians N=322                            |
|               | Gender, Grade, Use model  | Gender, Use model                                   |
| Survey topics | Services you use.   | Services you think your children use.               |
|               | When do you think a cell phone is necessary?                          | The reason you gave your children cell phones.      |
|               | Rule for cellphone use you necessary.                                 | Rules for use of cell phone in family.              |
|               | -   | What you worry about children's use of cell phones. |
|               | Survey : November, 2014<br>Through teachers of 'O' junior high school |   |



Overview of the survey

Study sight

## The Reality of Children’ s Use of Cellular Phone

The ratio of cell phone possession by the students was about 70 %; feature phone 21 %, smart phone 48%, within (Fig. 1 ) . The primary reason guardians had bought their children cell phone was “for emergency contact”, and the third was “for securement of crime prevention and safety”. We see awareness of the

guardians, of letting children have cell phones in preparation for the emergency (Fig.2) . But guardians are worried about their children “getting harmful information”, “addicted to cell phone” and “involved in bullying or crime” by using cell phones (Fig.3) .

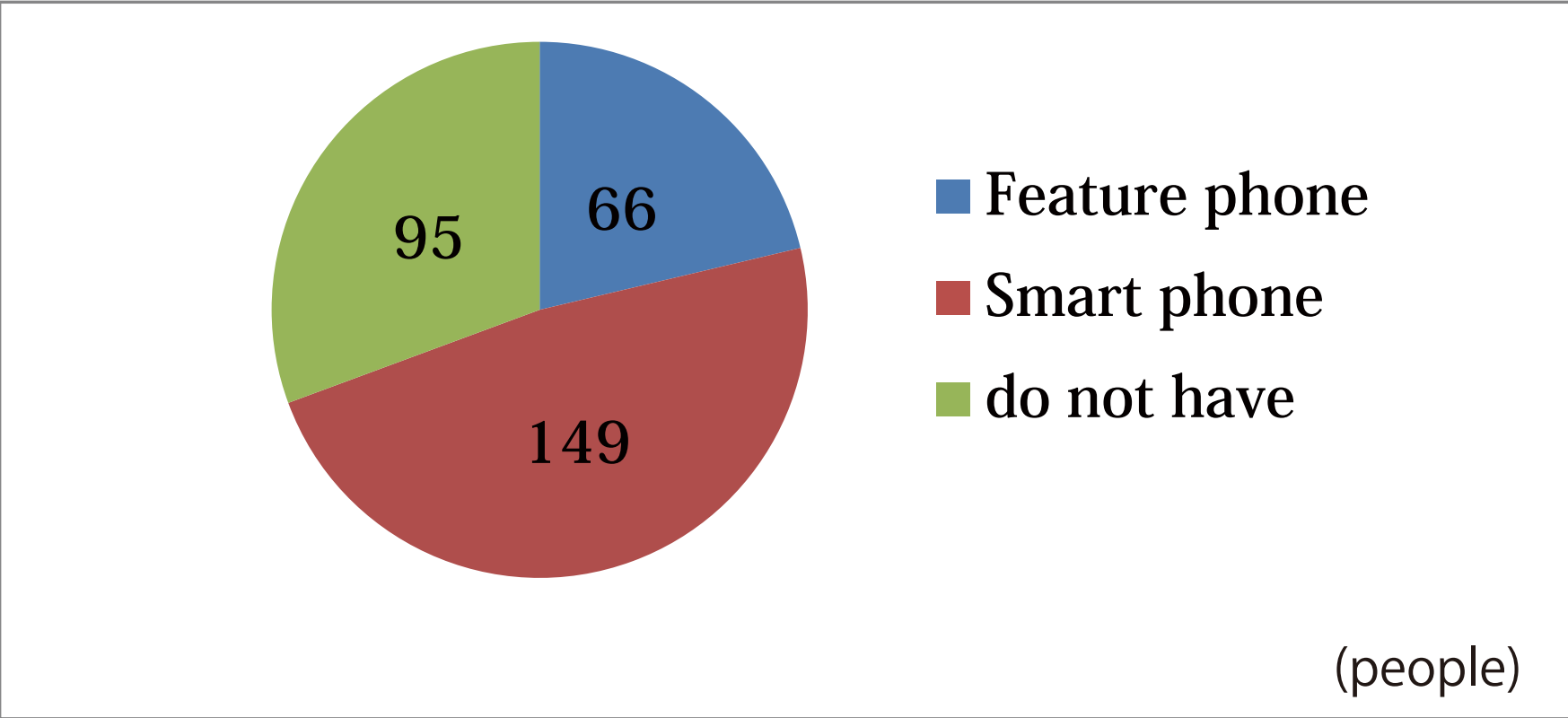


Fig.1 The ratio of cell phone possession by the students

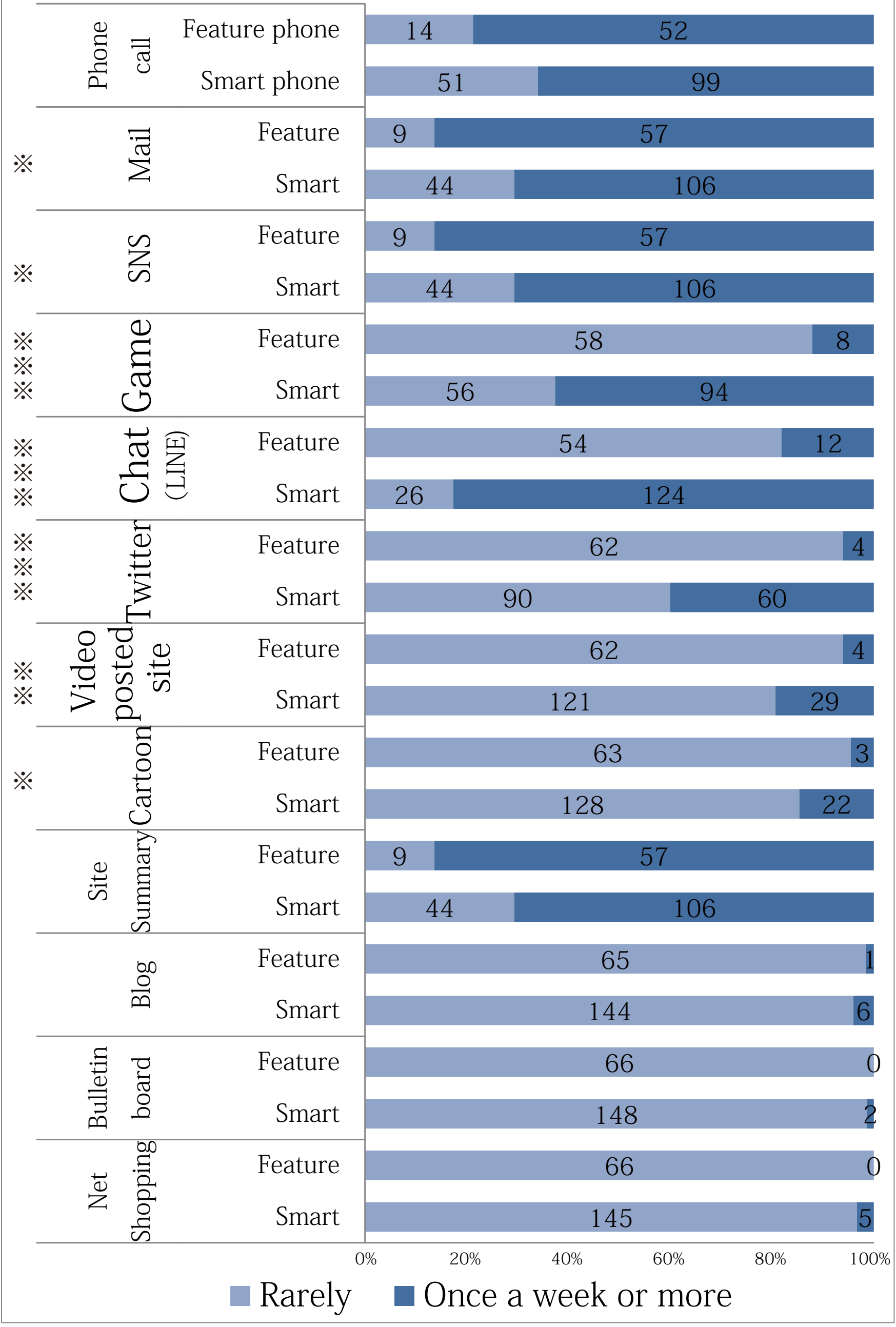


Fig.4 The use of the student’ s cell phones

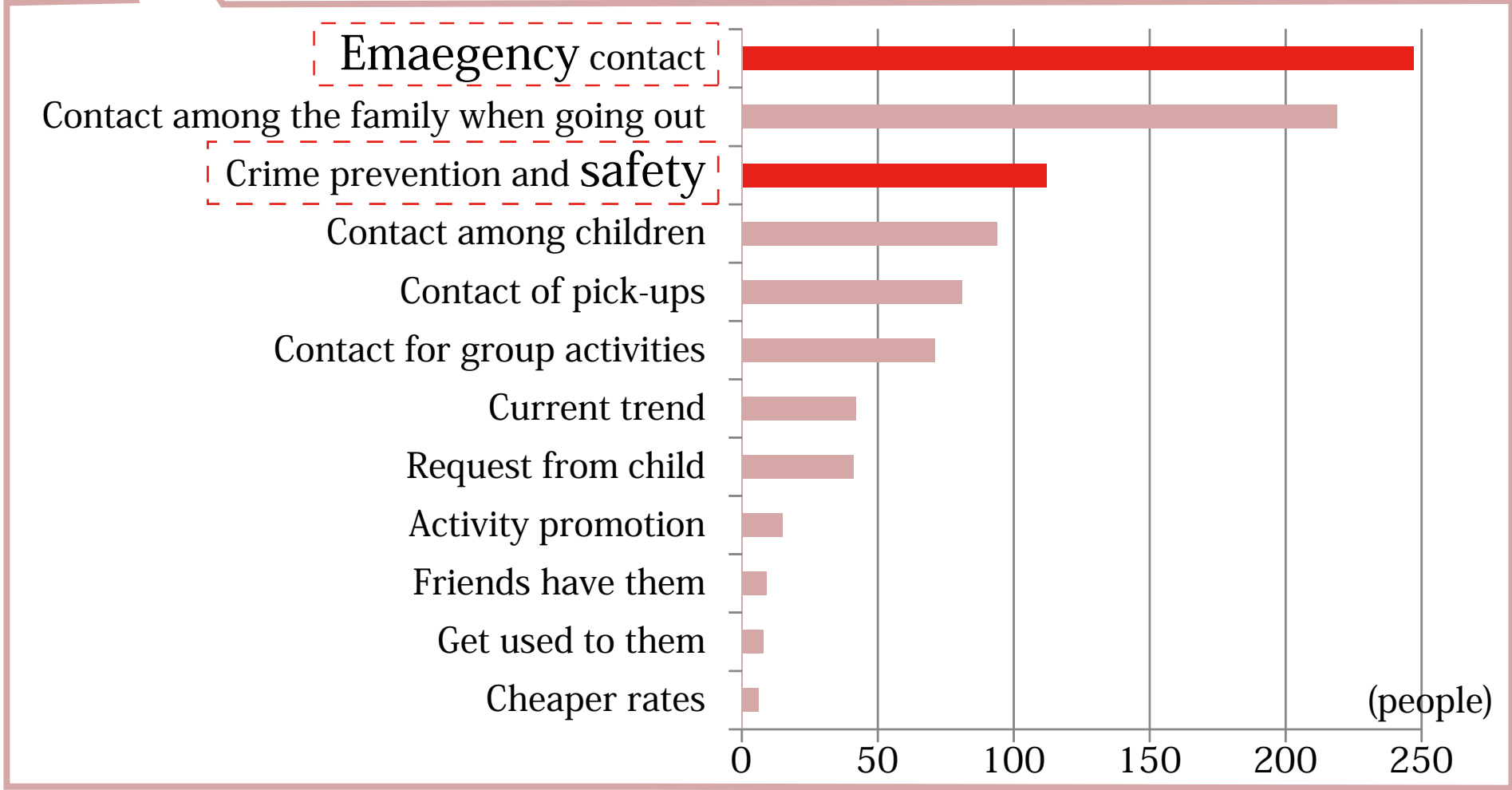


Fig.2 Reasons for buying children cell phones

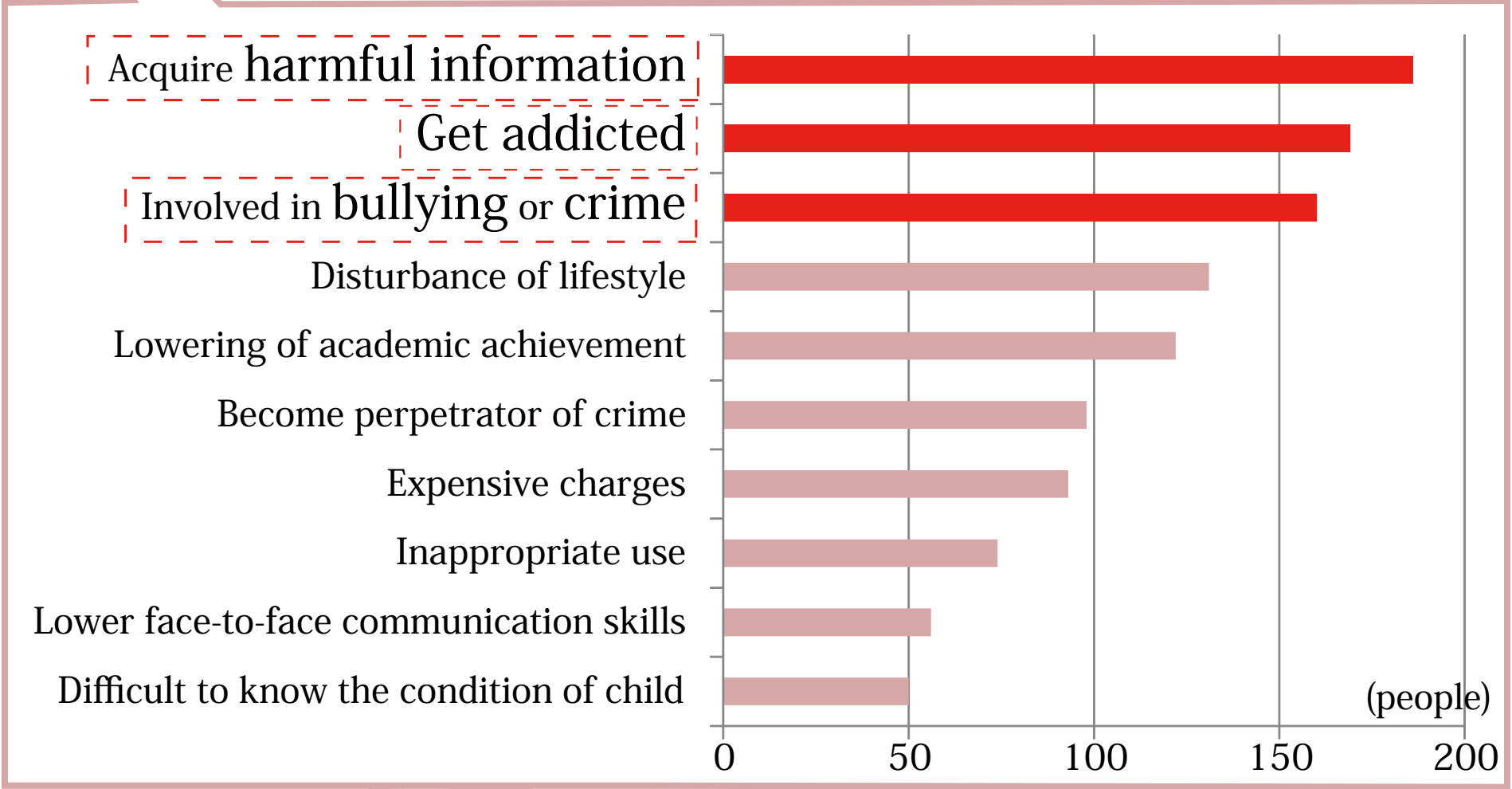


Fig.3 Worries about children's use of cell phones

Cellular phones were given for safety ensuring , but guardians are worried about children’ s easy access to internet.

For the use of the student’ s cellular phones, there were differences in the services used by the types. The services used more by smart phone were through internet, e-mail, SNS, game, video posting and download of cartoons (Fig.4) .No tendency was observed for guardians to refrain from buying smart phones for children.

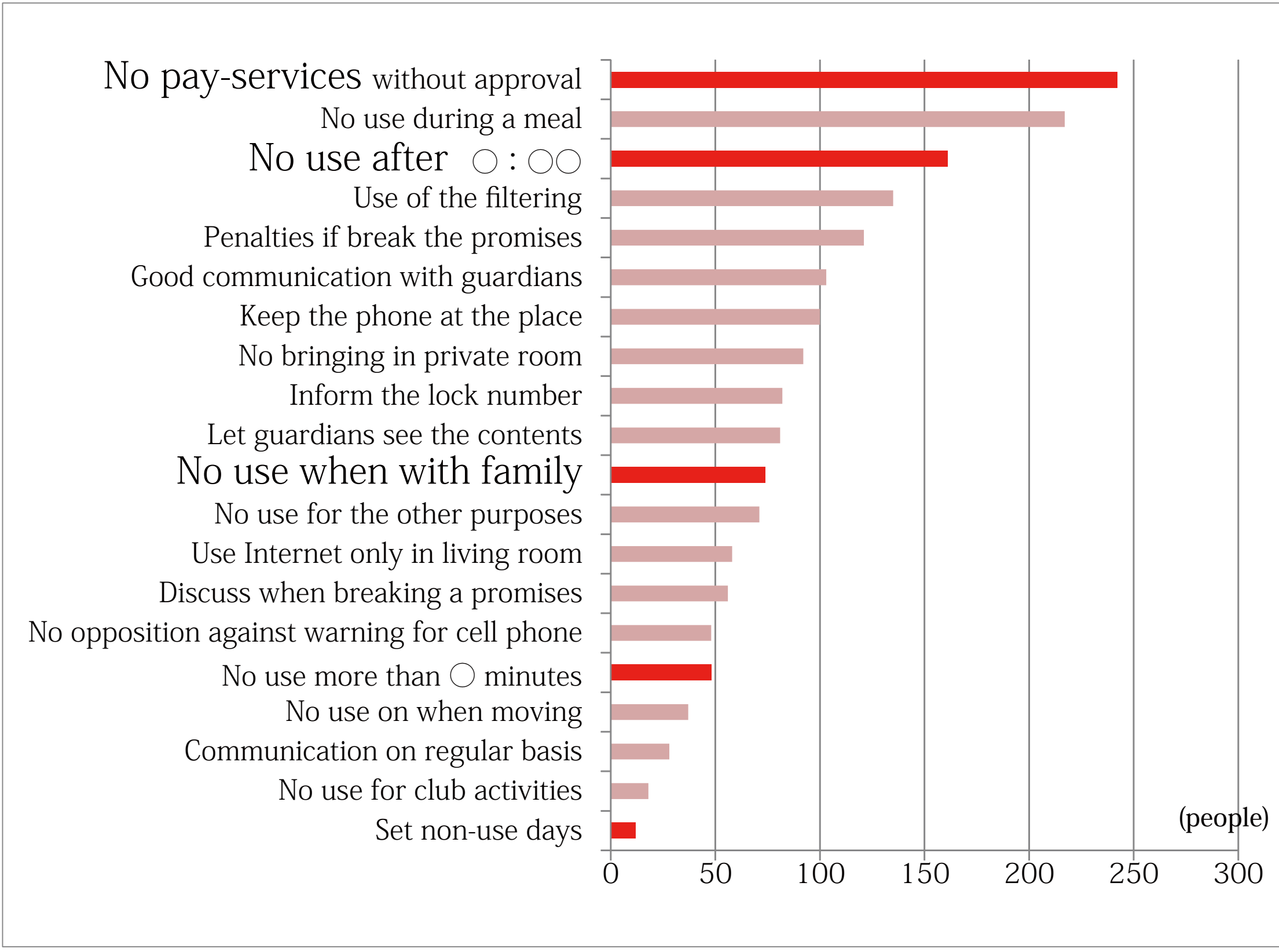


Fig.5 Rules for use of cell phone in family

Main rules for use of cellular phone in family are; limitation of use hours, no use of pay-services without guardians approval (Fig.5) .About 10% of the student experienced trouble through internet (Fig.6) .

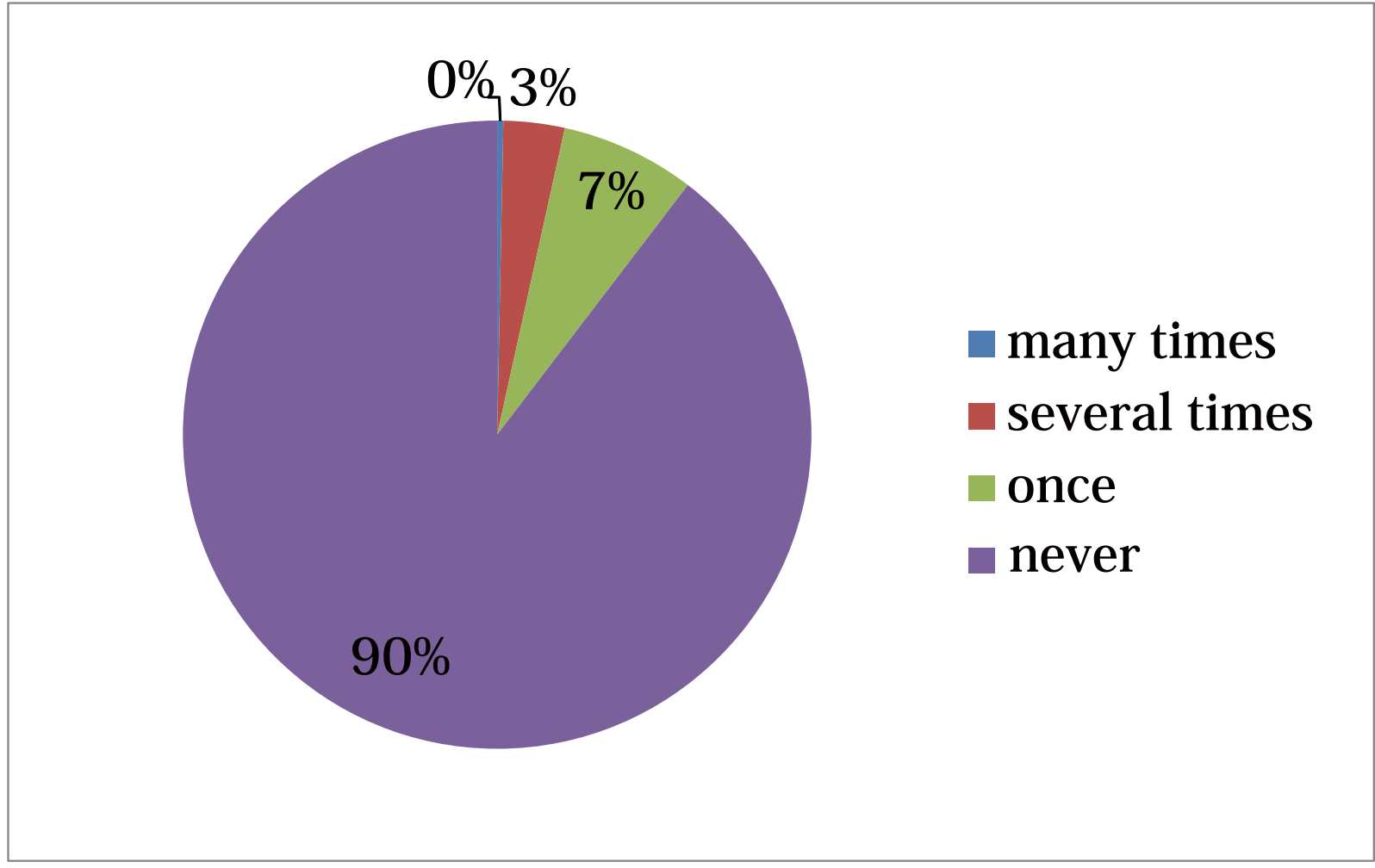


Fig.6 The frequency of Internet trouble (n=322)

## Conclusions

Guardians are worried about crime or addiction problems with internet, but they let children have cell phones to prepare for an emergency. Especially smart phones are effective internet mobile terminal, but they have higher risks of

troubles through internet. It is desired to find principles of cell phone uses, in accordance with children’ s growth.