

Official Report:

**UMW's 2016 Student Climate Survey:
Perceptions, Attitudes and Prevalence of Interpersonal Violence**



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Perceptions, Attitudes and Prevalence of Interpersonal Violence**

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Self-Care Disclaimer:

This documents reports on sensitive topics, including but not limited to dating violence, stalking and sexual assault. Reading this report does have the potential risk of emotional distress or triggering effects, especially for survivors of or witnesses to abuse. As such, UMW encourages the practice of self-care while reviewing the document. If your review becomes distressing at any time, please stop reading and reach out to any number of available supportive services for assistance. A few confidential resources are provided below for convenience:

UMW’s Talley Center for Counseling Services	(540) 654-1053	http://students.umw.edu/counseling/
Rappahannock Council Against Sexual Assault	(540) 371-6771	http://www.rcasa.org/
Empowerhouse	(540) 373-9373	http://www.empowerhouseva.org/
Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance	(800) 838-8238	http://www.vsdvalliance.org/
Rape Abuse Incest National Network (RAINN)	(800) 656-4673	https://www.rainn.org

Introduction

The University of Mary Washington seeks to provide “a superior education that inspires and enables our students to make positive changes in the world”¹. Additionally, UMW is committed to taking a stand against all forms of interpersonal violence as well as providing support, resources, education and preventative awareness to our campus community.

The purpose of this climate survey was to examine the UMW campus climate on interpersonal violence in terms of student perceptions of campus safety as well as attitudes/beliefs and experiences. Participation was incentivized; participation enabled respondents to be entered into a random drawing for 1 of 10 prizes including an iPad and UMW bookstore merchandise. Several precautions were taken to ensure participant anonymity, such as the use of an anonymous survey link. IP addresses were not captured or recorded. Names and email addresses were voluntarily provided in a separate form from the survey, used to enter participants in the random drawing for prizes. The prize form information cannot be linked to participant responses. No other identifying information was captured or recorded. The findings of this study will inform sexual violence prevention and intervention efforts on campus.

Response Rates

In February 2016, all 4,376 UMW students were invited to complete an online student climate survey. Undergraduates (4,047), graduate students (329) as well as full (3,637) and part-time students (739) were invited to participate in the study. A total of 590 students participated in the study, which indicates a 13% overall response rate. If a student provided five or more responses within Module 1 of the survey, they were

¹ University of Mary Washington. (2016). *Our mission*. Retrieved from: <http://www.umw.edu/about/our-mission/>

included in the analysis and the data provided in this report. Survey participants were not required to answer any question throughout the survey; as such, some participants skipped questions.

An overwhelming majority of participants were undergraduate students (409, 98.6%), while very few graduate students participated (10; 2.4%). Of those who identified their level of schooling, first year and third year students each represented 28% of participants. Second year students represented 18%, fourth year 20%, and those in their fifth+ year of undergraduate coursework represented almost 4% of participants.

UMW’s climate survey asked participants to identify their gender (See: Table 1), sexual orientation (See: Table 2) and race/ethnicity (See: Table 3). The majority of participants identified as either *woman* (76.4%) or *man* (21%), while a minority of students (<3%) identified as *transgendered*, *genderqueer/androgynous*, *questioning* or another gender form. 80% of participants identified heterosexual/straight as their sexual orientation, while 10% identified as bisexual, 9% identified with another sexual orientation and 0.5% of participants were undecided or unsure. None of the participants identified as an international student.

GENDER IDENTITY

Table 1: What is your current gender identity?		
Response	Frequency	Percent
Woman	321	76.4
Man	88	21.0
Transwoman	1	0.2
Transman	2	0.5
Genderqueer/Androgynous	6	1.4
A gender not listed here	2	0.4
Total	420	100.00

SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Table 2: What is your sexual orientation?		
Response	Frequency	Percent
Gay	7	1.7
Lesbian	10	2.4
Bisexual	42	10
Asexual	8	1.9
Queer	11	2.6
Pansexual/Polysexual	2	0.5
Heterosexual/Straight	337	80.2
Undecided/Unsure	2	0.5
Total	420	100.00

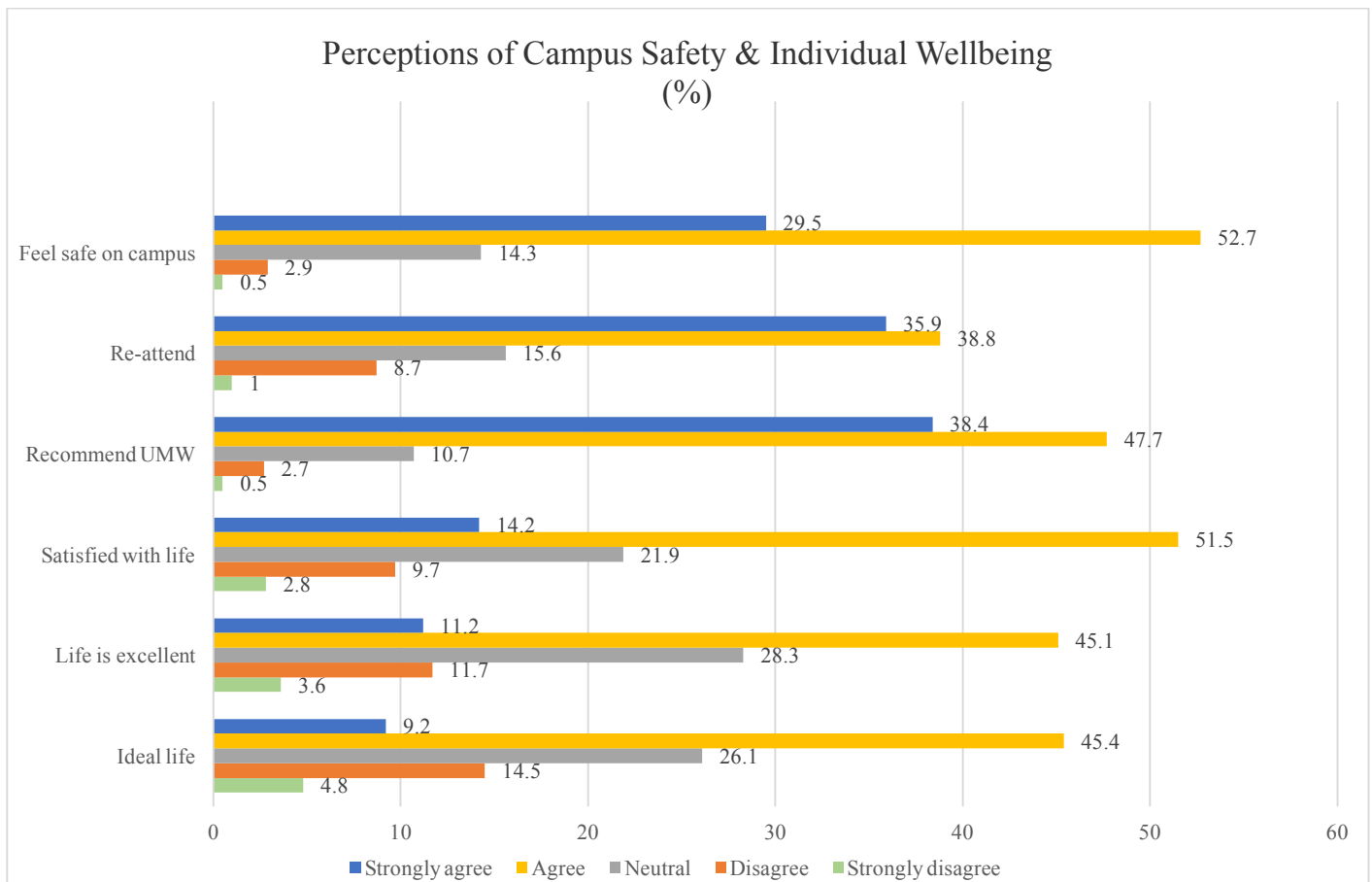
RACE/ETHNICITY

Table 3: Describe your race/ethnicity. Please check all that apply		
Response	Frequency	Percent
Black/African American	29	6.95
White/Caucasian	351	84.2
Asian or Asian American	30	7.2
Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	5	1.2
Native American or Alaskan Native	5	1.2
Hispanic or Latino	30	7.2
A race not listed here	8	1.9
Total Participants	417 (41 participants indicated 2 or more categories)	

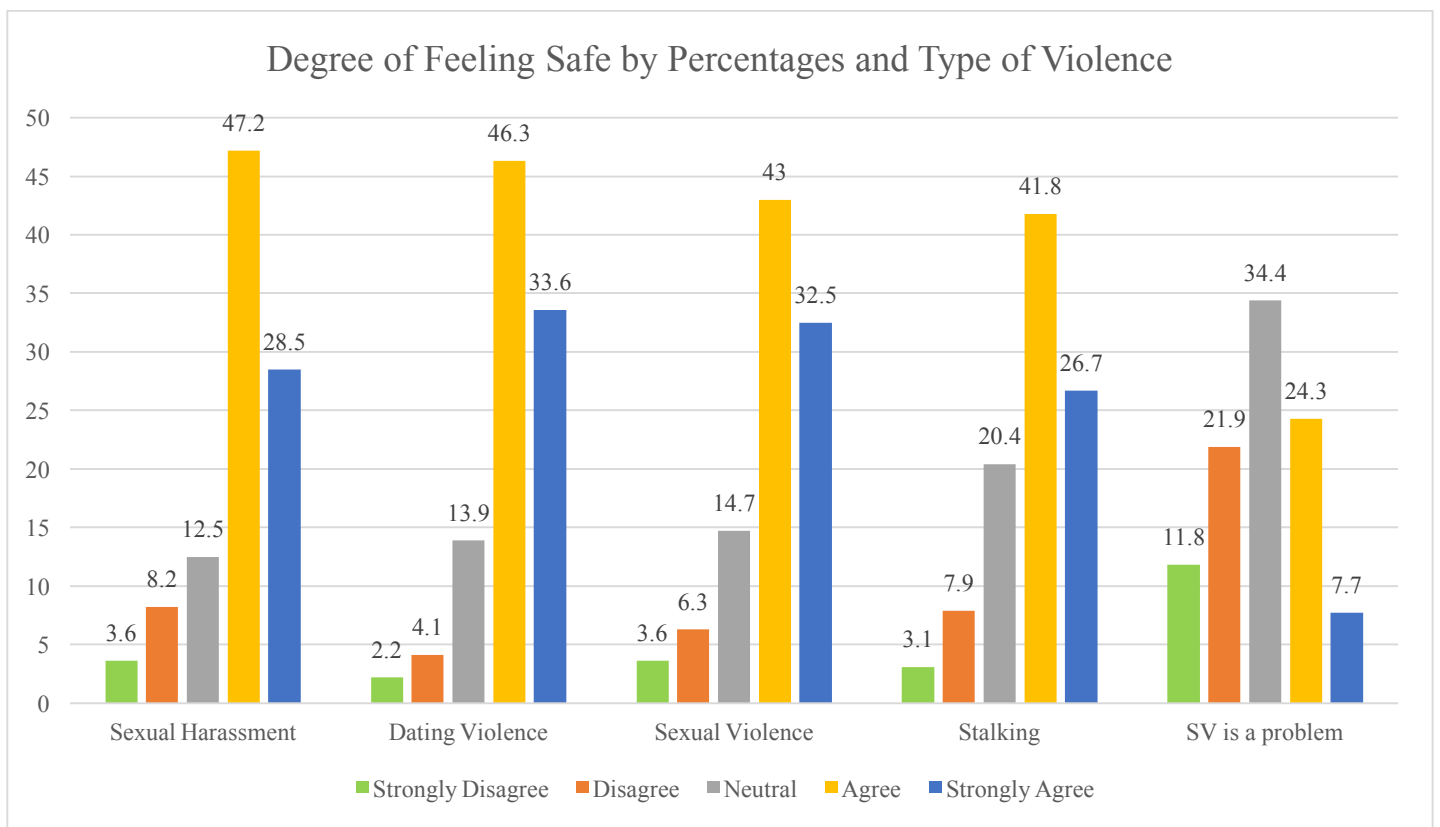
Perceptions Campus Safety and Wellbeing

Survey participants were asked to indicate how safe they felt on campus at the university. Additionally, participants were prompted to rate several aspects of their individual wellbeing, including their overall health, life satisfaction, the frequency of calm and peaceful feelings, and other indicators of wellbeing. And finally, participants were asked about whether they would recommend UMW to others and, if they had to re-attend college, would still attend UMW.

An overwhelming majority of students, 82%, feel safe on campus, while 3% do not. Most students also report a good sense of wellbeing. Furthermore, the majority of students would not only re-attend UMW, if they had to do it over again, but many students also report that they would recommend UMW to others.



The majority of respondents report that they feel safe on campus from sexual harassment (75.7%), dating violence (76.9%), sexual violence (75.5%) and stalking (68.5%). Sexual harassment is the type of violence in which respondents report feeling less safe (11.8%). In terms of the degree to which respondents believe sexual violence is a problem on campus, the data suggests feelings are closely split with 32% reporting it as a problem and 33.7% reporting it is not a problem.

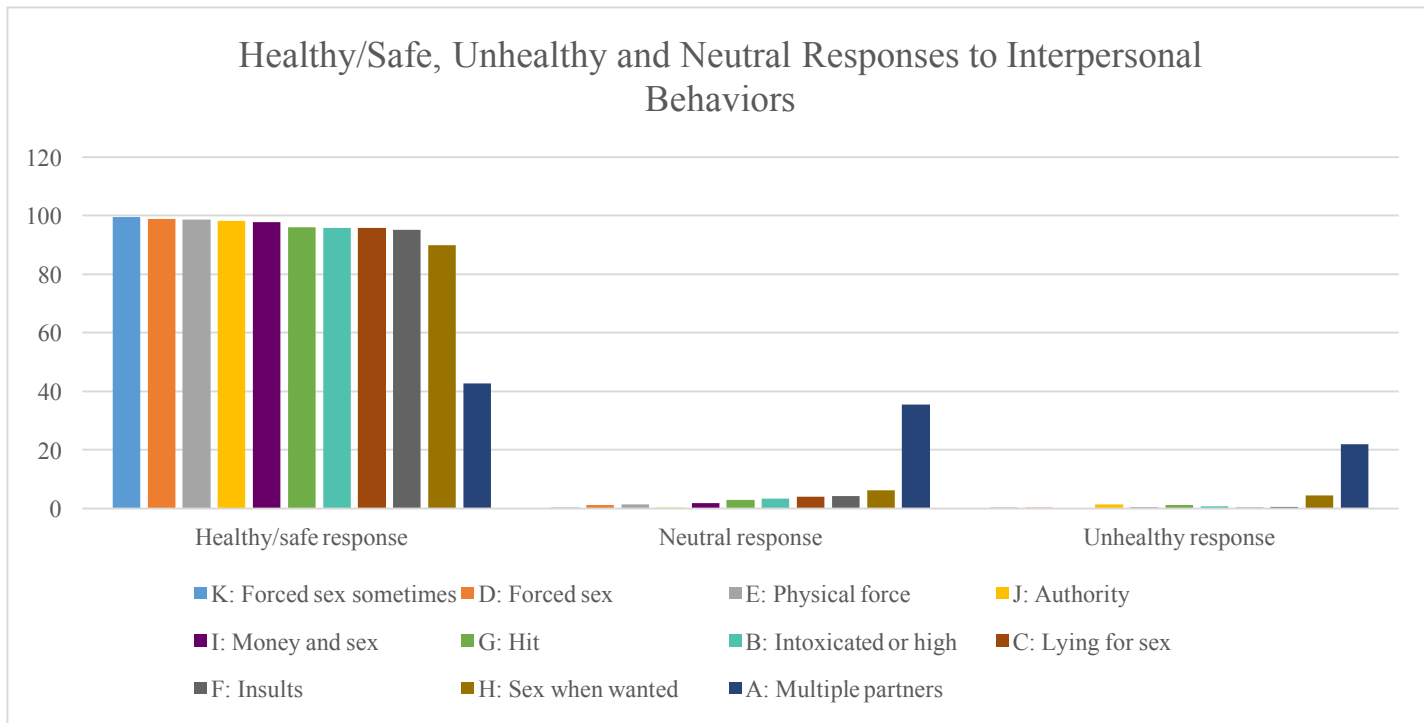


Perceptions of Student Beliefs on Interpersonal Relations

All survey participants were asked to report the degree to which their friends would approve of a variety of interpersonal behaviors, such as the degree to which their friends would approve of having multiple sex partners (See in chart: A) or getting someone intoxicated or high to have sex (See in chart: B). The participants' responses overwhelmingly suggests UMW students have healthy beliefs regarding interpersonal relations. In addition to reporting on the aforementioned behaviors, participants were also asked to report the extent to which friends:

- Approve of lying to someone in order to have sex with them (See in chart: C)
- Approve of forcing someone to have sex (See in chart: D)
- Approve of using physical force, such as hitting or beating, to resolve conflicts with dates (See in chart: E)
- Approve of insulting or swearing at their dates (See in chart: F)
- Would say it's alright to hit a date in certain conditions (See in chart: G)
- Would say that someone I am dating should have sex when I want (See in chart: H)
- Tell me that when I spend money on a date, the person should have sex with me in return (See in chart: I)
- Tell me to respond to a date's challenges to my authority by insulting them or putting them down (See in chart: J)
- Tell me it's alright to physically force a person to have sex under certain conditions (See in chart: K)

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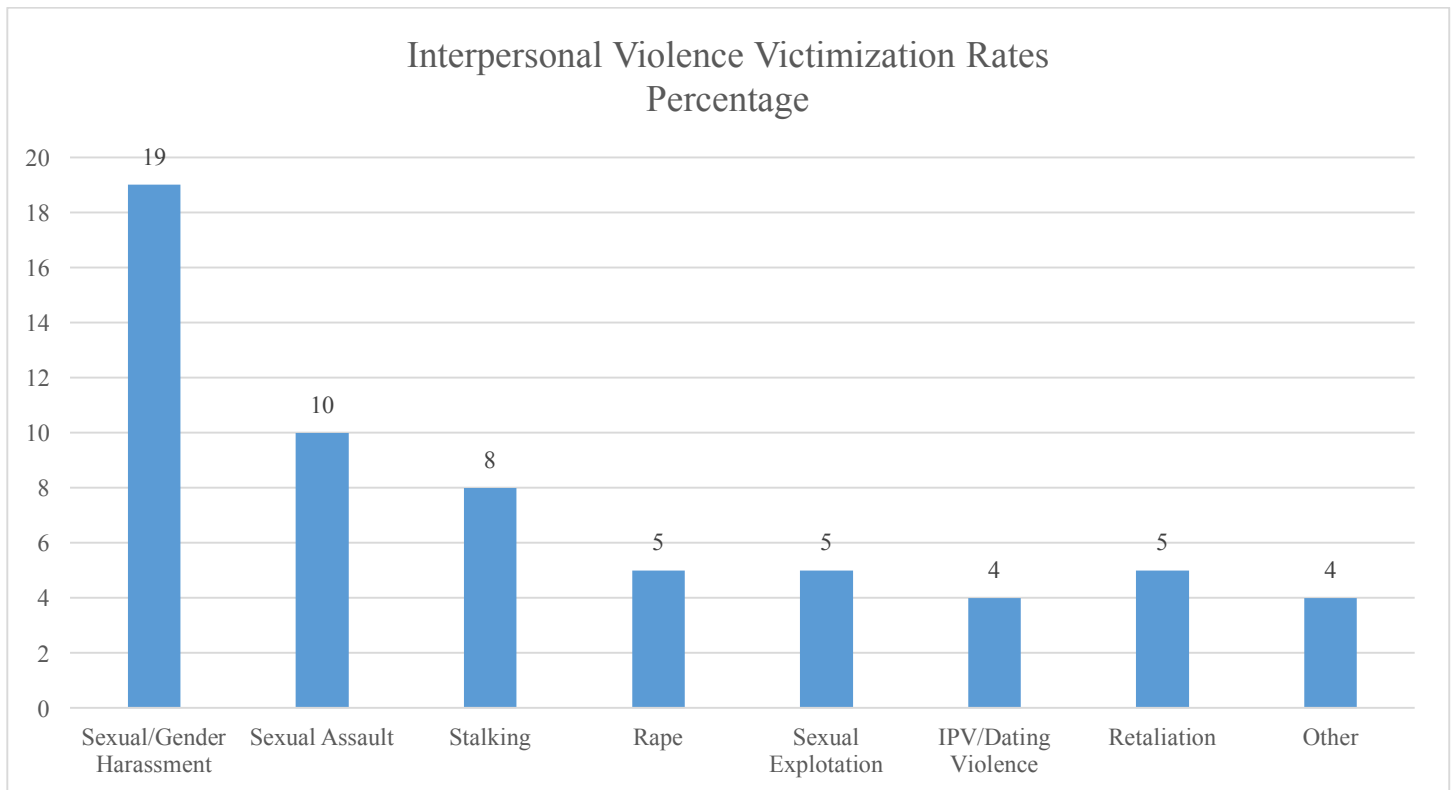


Altogether, 91.7% of respondents’ reports indicate healthiness and safety with respect to their perceptions of their friends’ beliefs regarding a variety of interpersonal behaviors. The highest-rated unhealthy/unsafe belief was that 21.9% of respondents perceive their friends as approving of having “many” sex partners. (While morality regarding multiple sex partners is debatable, empirical research shows that as the number of partners increases, so does the risk of having a partner with HIV or STD². As such, for the purposes of this study, having many sexual partners is determined to be unhealthy/unsafe.) In all but two behaviors (having many sex partners [42.6%]; someone I am dating should have sex with me when I want [89.9%]), 95% or more of respondents indicate healthy/safe beliefs of their friends. For more information on participant responses, review the data tables provided in the Appendix.

² Centers for Disease Control. (2016). HIV Risk Reduction Tool: Having multiple sexual partners. Retrieved from: https://wwwn.cdc.gov/hivrisk/increased_risk/partners/multiple_partners.html

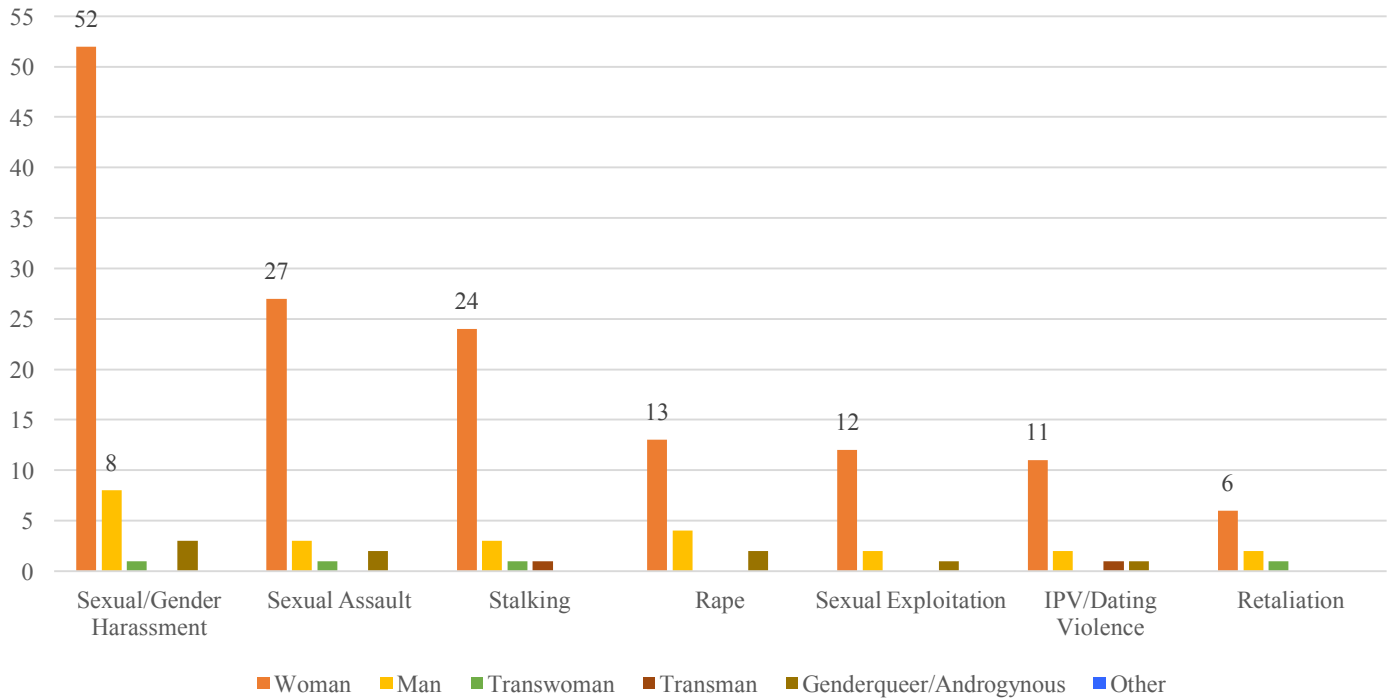
Interpersonal Violence Victimization

Survey participants were asked to share whether they experienced various forms of interpersonal violence while at UMW, to include: sexual and gender harassment, sexual assault, stalking, rape, sexual exploitation, intimate partner or dating violence, and retaliation. Participants were allowed to select “other” as a type of violence and encouraged to specify or describe the violence they experienced.

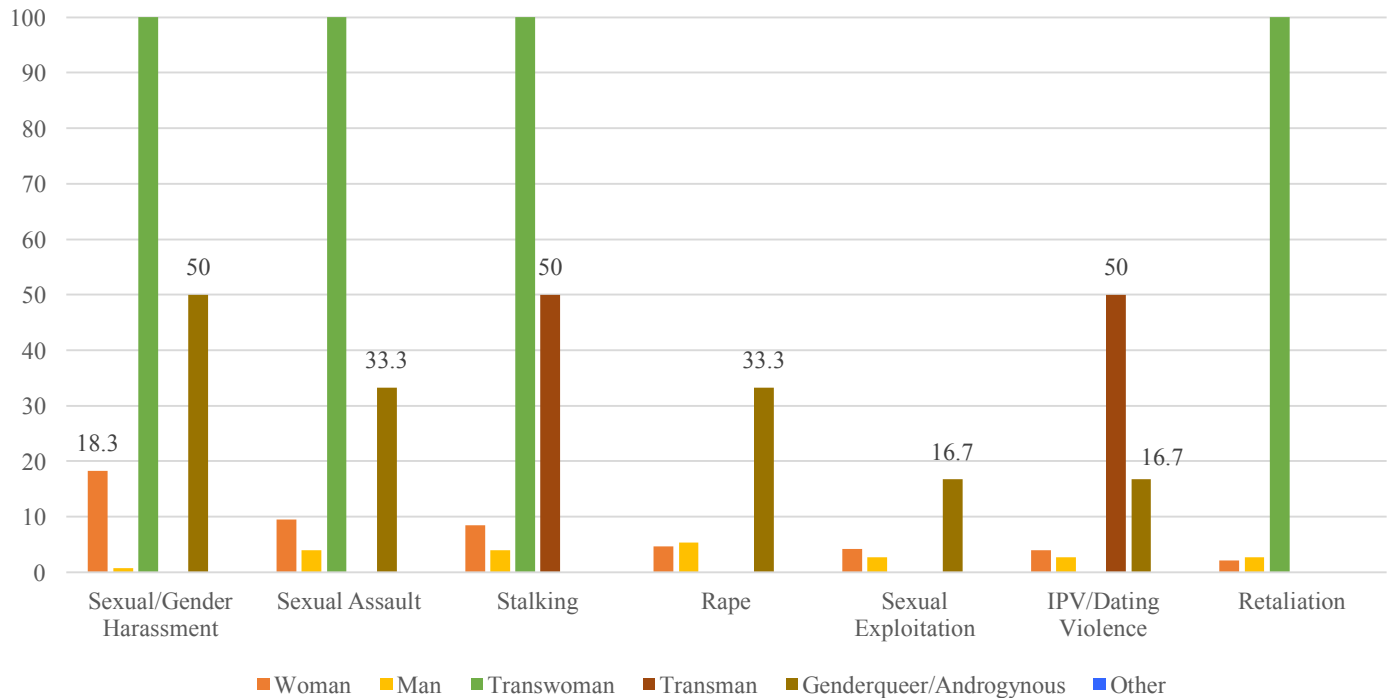


Women made up the overwhelming majority of participants who report experiencing interpersonal violence, while transwomen, transmen and genderqueer/androgynous persons had higher rates in several categories due to their low representation in the data. More women report experiencing sexual/gender harassment (52; 18.3%) and sexual assault (27; 9.5%), when compared to other forms of violence. Sexual/gender harassment was also the highest reported violence category for men and genderqueer/androgynous persons.

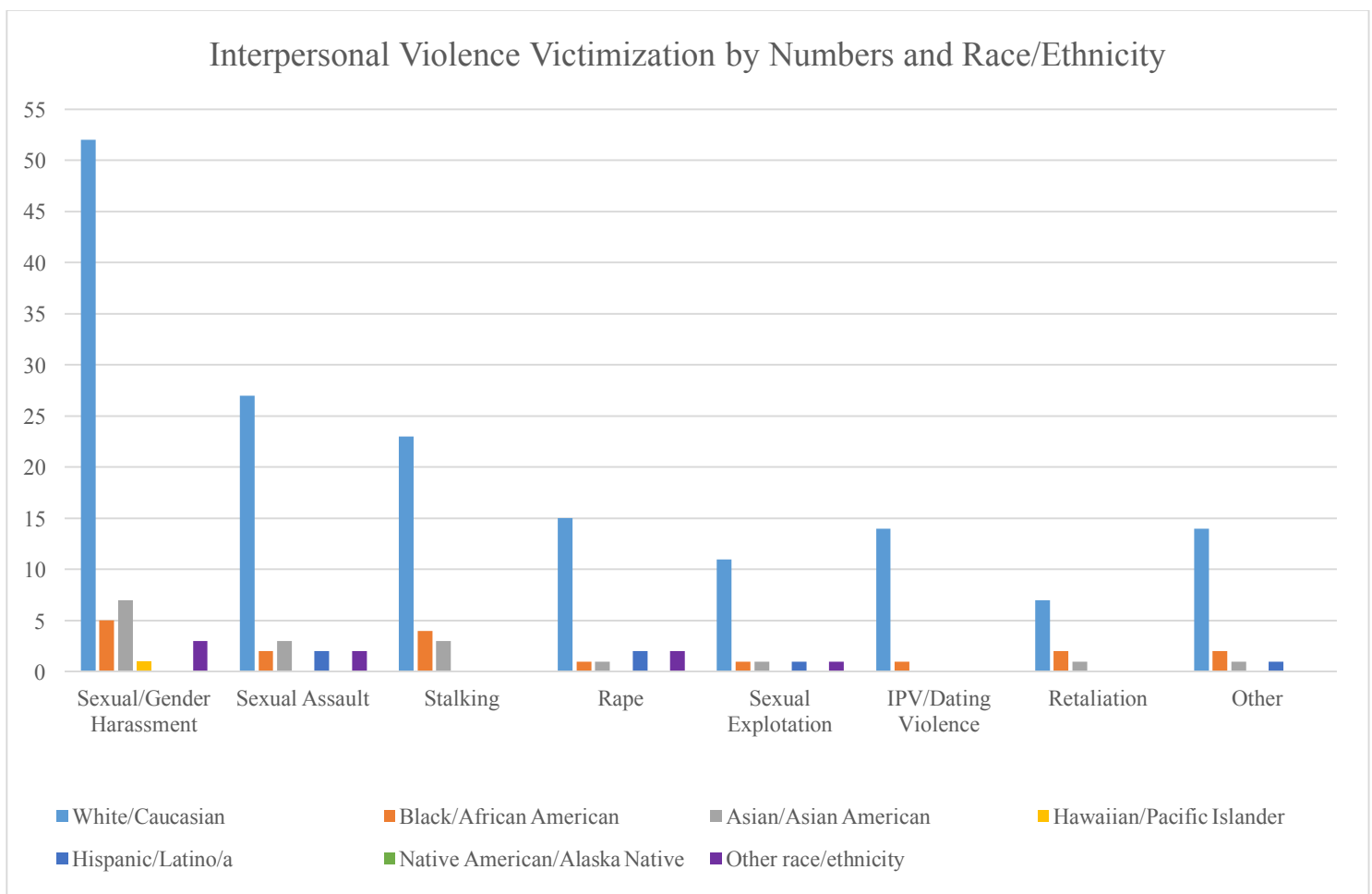
Interpersonal Violence Victimization Numbers by Gender

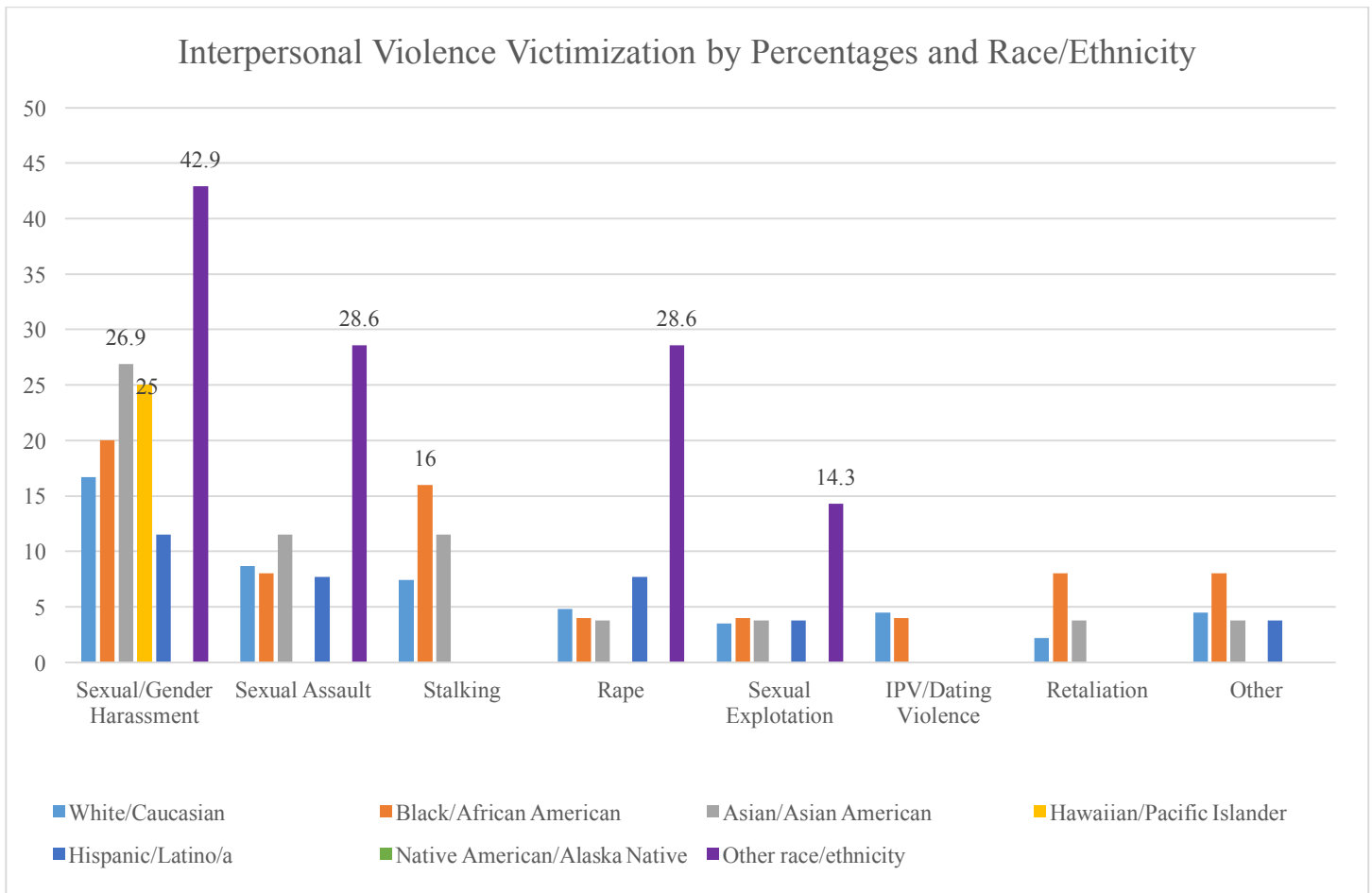


Interpersonal Violence Victimization Percentages by Gender

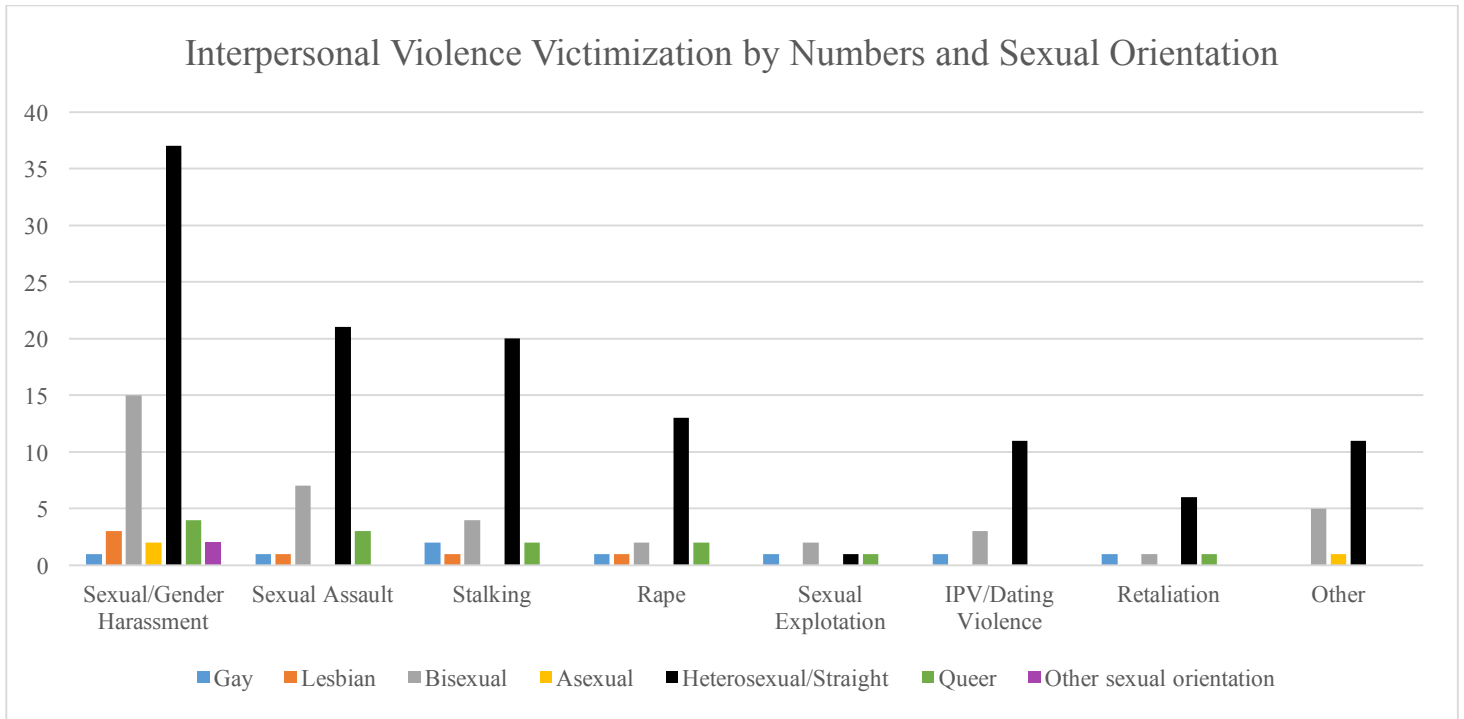


White/Caucasian respondents make up the majority of those who report experiencing interpersonal violence. Sexual/gender harassment was reported as the most prevalent form of interpersonal violence for respondents who identified as White/Caucasian, Black/African American, Asian/Asian American, Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, as well as those who identified with the “Other race/ethnicity” category. Even further, sexual/gender harassment was the only form of interpersonal violence reported by Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents. Native American/Alaskan Native survey participants did not report interpersonal violence.





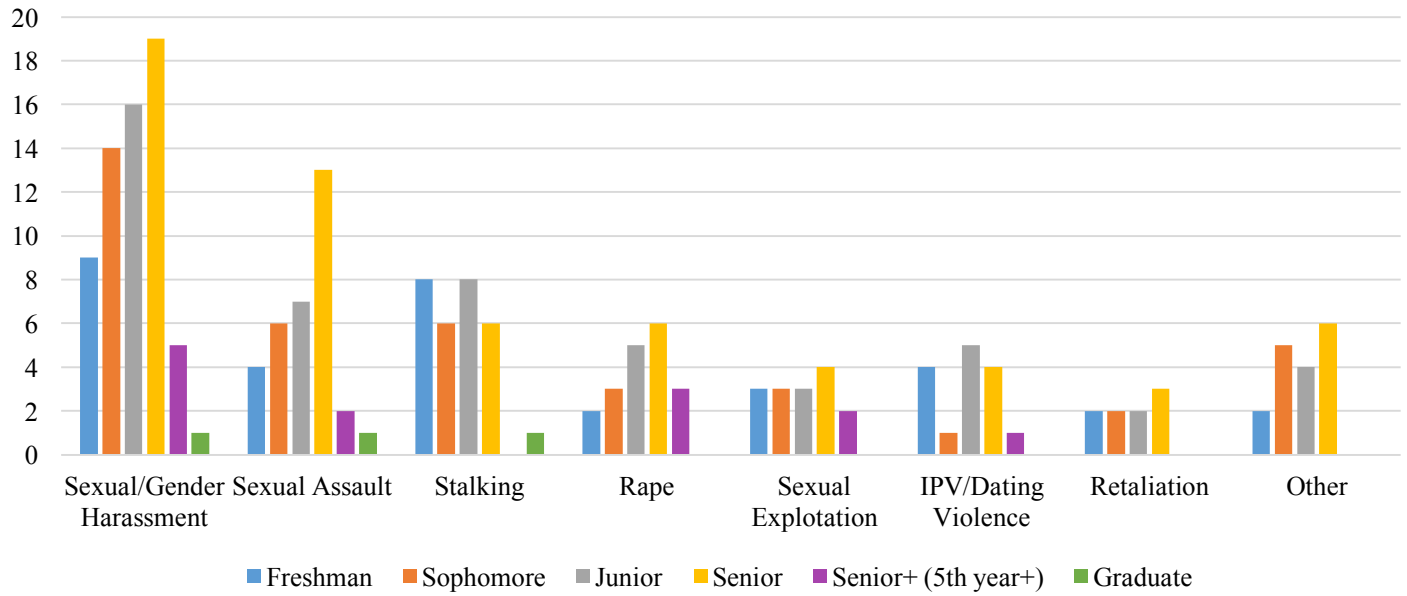
In almost every sexual orientation category, with the exception of participants who identified as gay, sexual/gender harassment was the type of interpersonal violence reported the most. Sexual/gender harassment is also the only form of interpersonal violence reported by one or more members of each orientation category (64). Moreover, it is the only type of violence reported by participants who identified as having an “other sexual orientation.” The numbers of participant reports of interpersonal violence for gay, lesbian, asexual and other are low (<10). However, for bisexual, heterosexual and queer respondents, sexual assault is the second highest reported form of violence.



With the exception of graduate students, sex/gender harassment had the highest reports of all forms of interpersonal violence for each student status category. In the case of graduate students, sex/gender harassment reports tied with sexual assault and stalking (1). The second-most common forms of violence by student status include the following: stalking for freshmen (8), sexual assault and stalking for sophomores (6), stalking for juniors (8), sexual assault for seniors (13) and rape for undergraduate students in the 5+ year (3).

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Interpersonal Violence Victimization by Numbers and Student Status



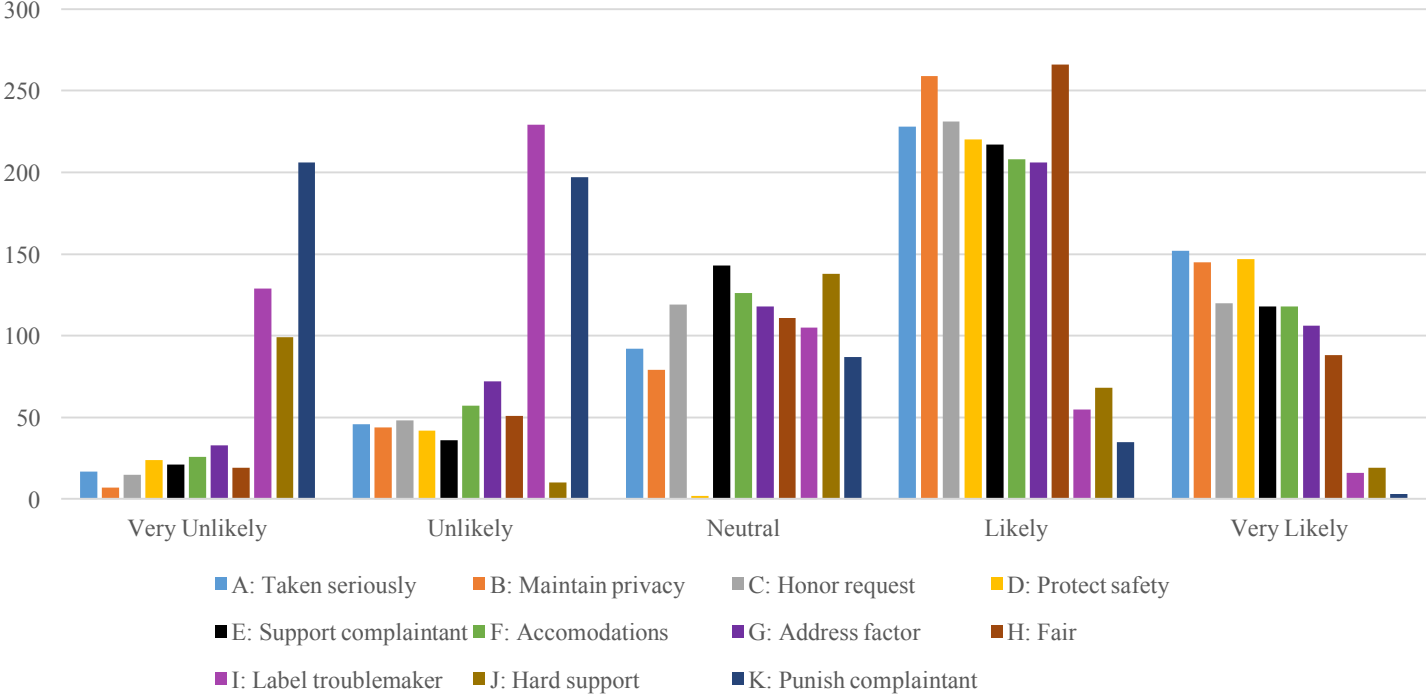
Perceptions of Institutional Response: Prohibited Sexual Conduct

Survey participants were asked to describe how they thought UMW *might* handle a report (or the report's complainant) of sexual misconduct. Prohibited conduct in this case refers to the physical contact or other non-physical conduct of a sexual nature in the absence of voluntary and clear permission, regardless of sex, sexual orientation, and/or gender identity/expression. Examples include sexual assault, rape, sexual exploitation, intimate partner violence, stalking, sexual or gender-based harassment and retaliation. Participants were asked if UMW would:

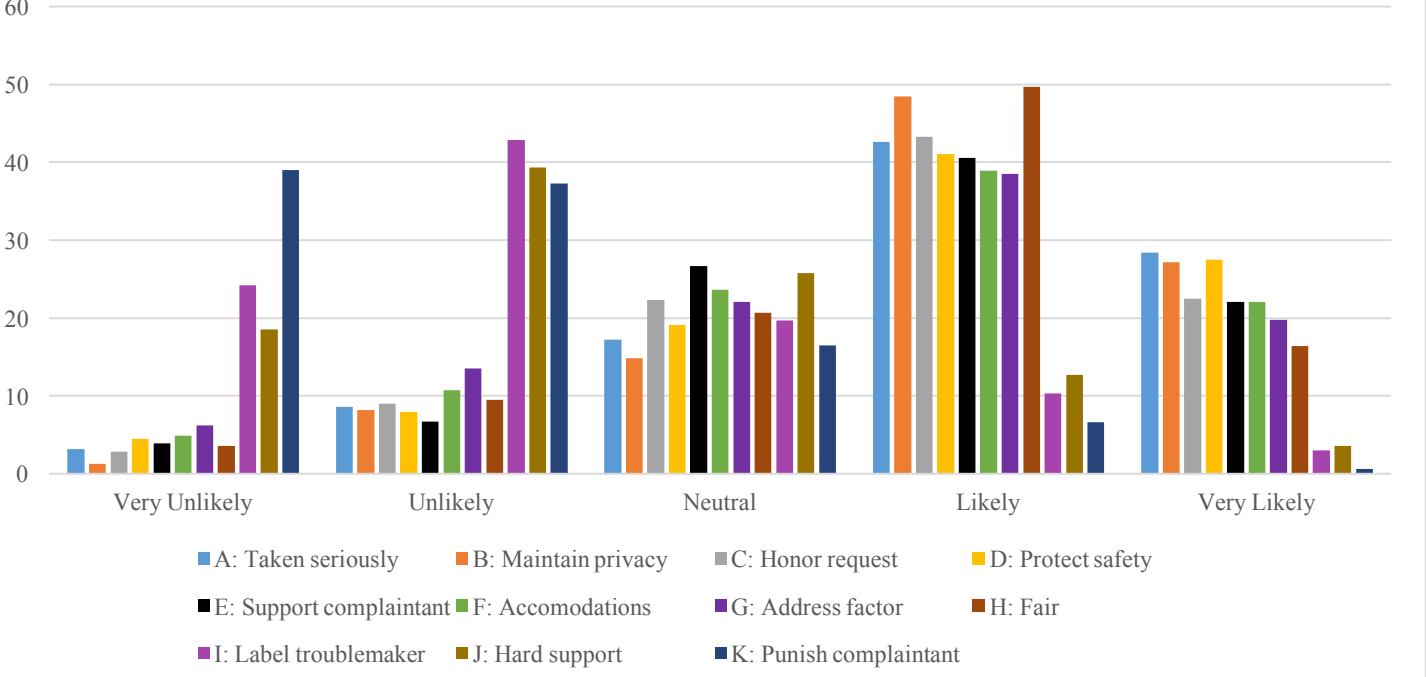
- Take the report seriously (See in charts: A)
- Maintain the privacy of the person making the report (See in charts: B)
- Do its best to honor the request of the person about how to go forward with the case (See in charts: C)
- Take steps to protect the safety of the person making the report (See in charts: D)
- Support the person making the report (See in charts: E)
- Provide accommodations to support the person (e.g. academic, housing, safety) (See in charts: F)
- Take action to address factors that may have led to the prohibited sexual conduct (See in charts: G)
- Handle the report fairly (See in charts: H)
- Would label the person making the report a troublemaker (See in charts: I)
- Have a hard time supporting the person making the report (See in charts: J)
- Punish the person who made the report (See in charts: K)

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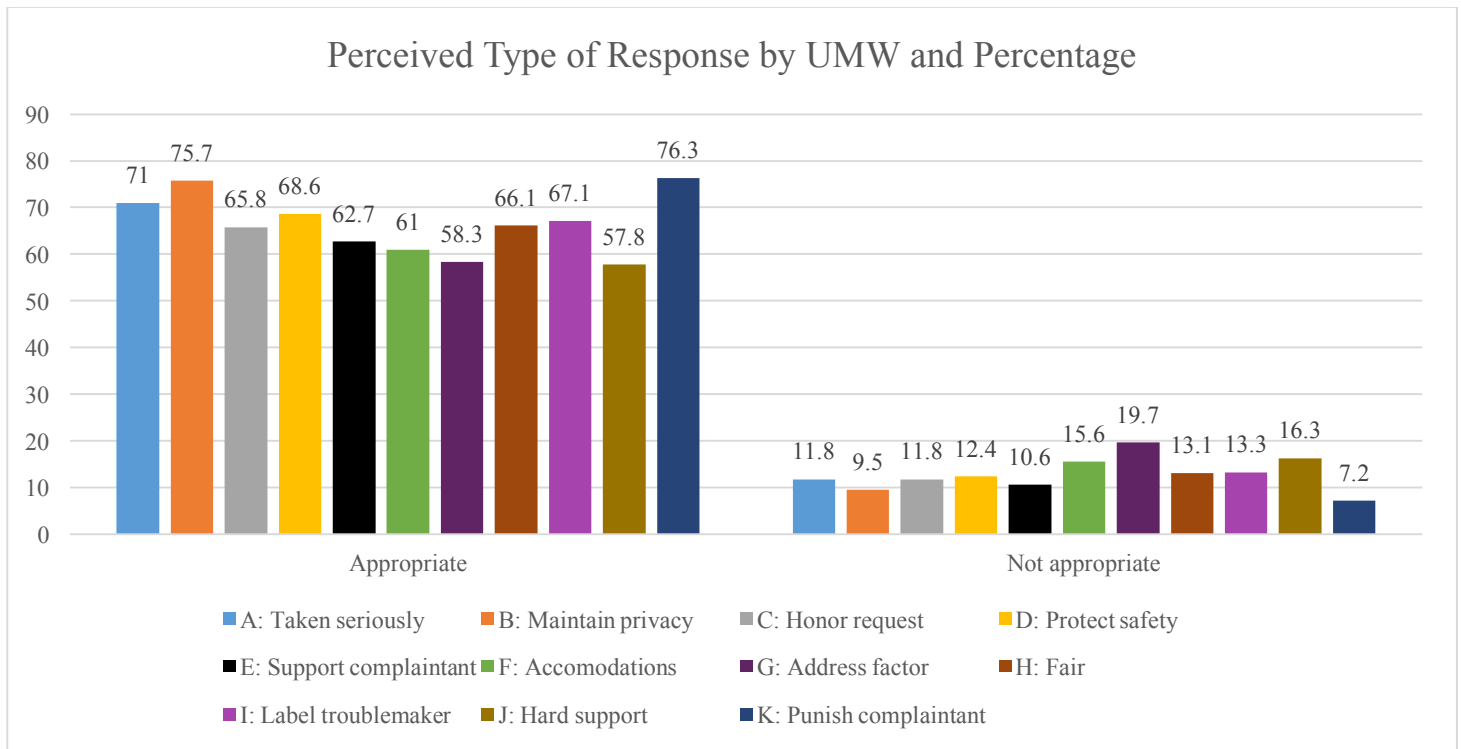
Perceptions of Institutional Response by Number



Perceptions of Institutional Response by Percentage



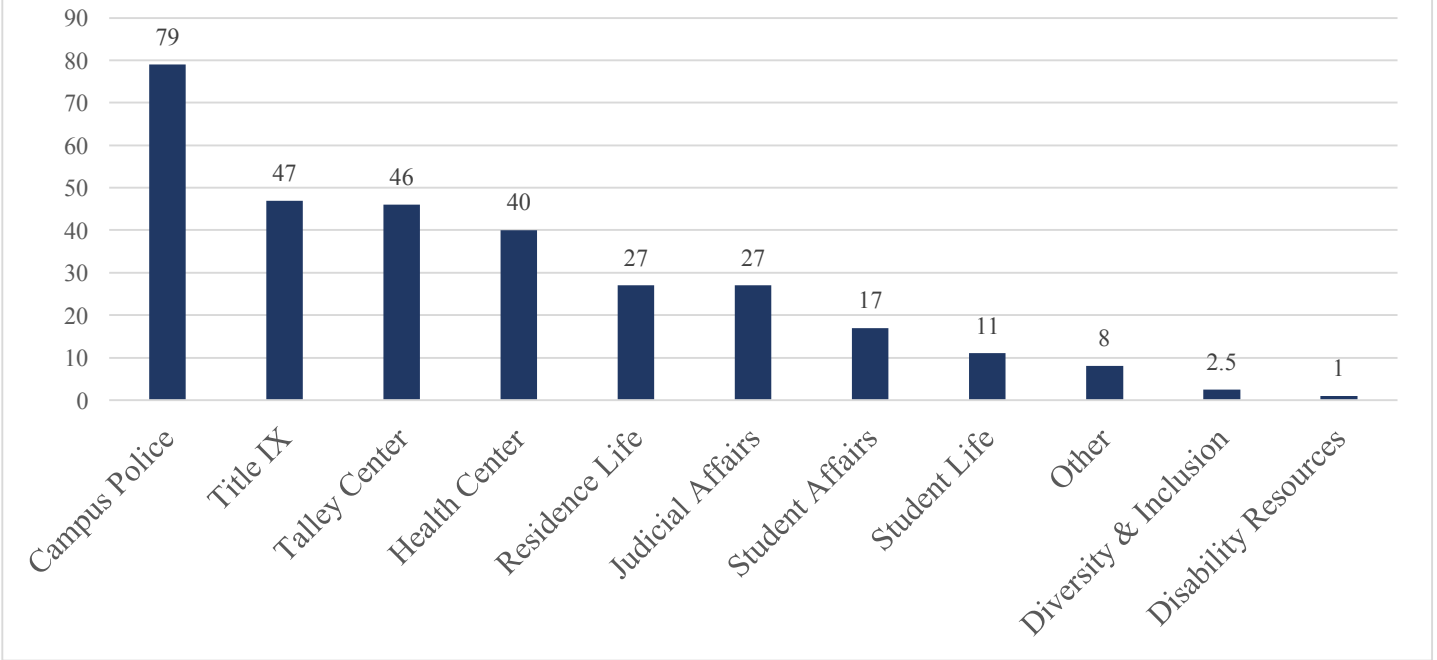
In general, the majority of respondents reported that they believed UMW would respond appropriately in each category. It is important to note that the data does not indicate an overwhelming majority in all categories, as the highest appropriate rate is only 76.3% (See: K Punish complainant). In fact, 19.7% of respondents do not believe UMW would address factors that led to prohibited sexual conduct, 16.3% believe it would be hard for UMW to support the person making a report and 15.6% do not believe the university would provide accommodations.



Rates do not compute to 100%, as the remaining rates indicate neutral responses of survey participants.

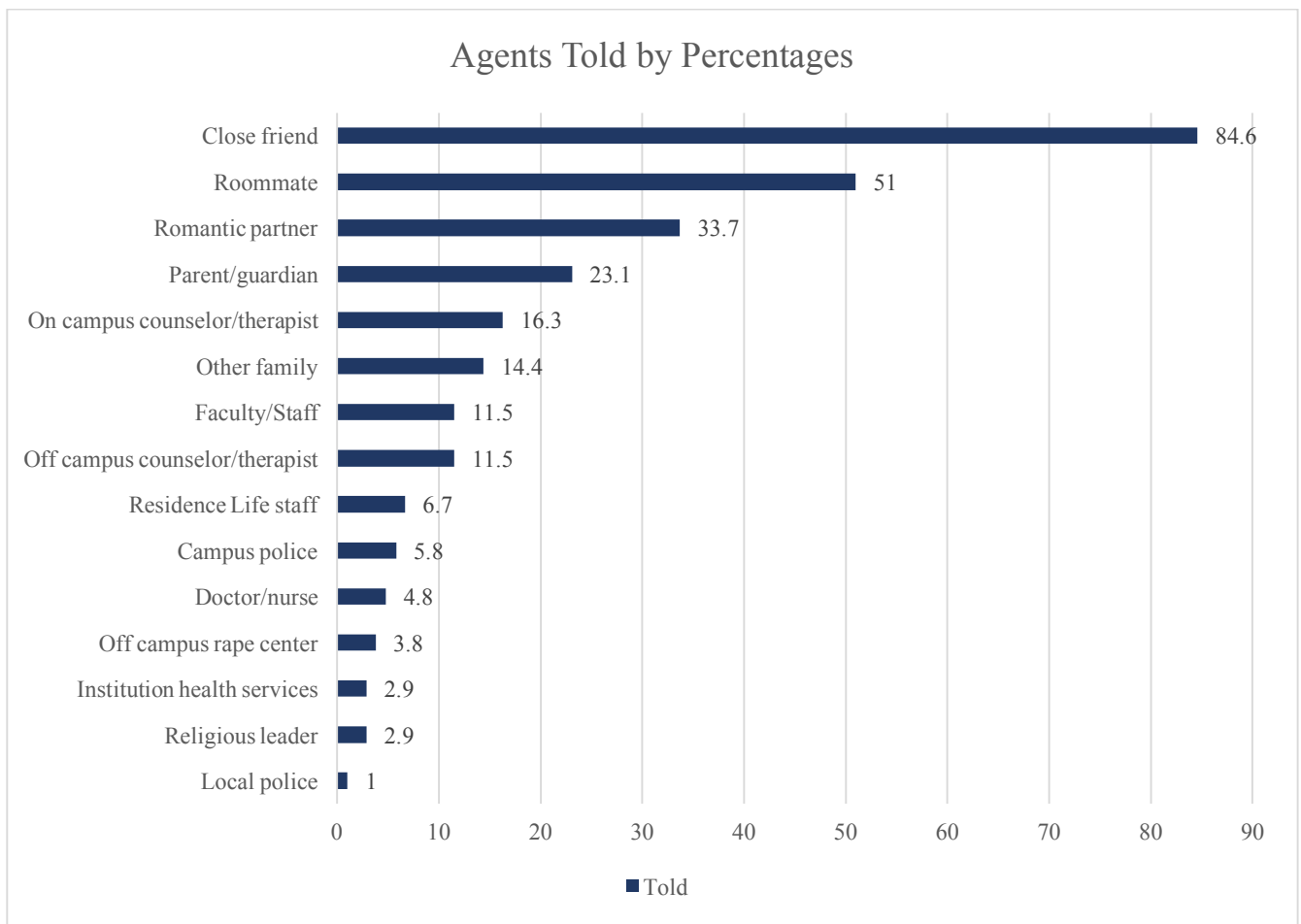
A majority (79%) of respondents indicated that they would seek the help of Campus Police regarding instances of sexual misconduct. The Office of Title IX, The Talley Center for Counseling Services and the Student Health Center were also highly reported as places to go for help. Other resources, such as 9-1-1, academic advisors, the hospital, local nonprofits, family, friends and faculty, were identified as persons or agents that 8% survey respondents would go to for help.

Rates of Perceived Help Seeking %



Responses to Interpersonal Violence

Respondents *who shared they experienced one or more forms of interpersonal violence* while enrolled were also asked who they told about the incident. One third of respondents told someone about their experience/s of interpersonal violence before this survey. Many respondents told a close friend (84.6%), roommate (51%) and/or romantic partner (33.7%). Surprisingly, while respondents indicated that they would seek help from Campus Police in the case of an incident (See Section: Perceptions of Institutional Response), only 5.8% of respondents who reported experiencing violence actually reported to Campus Police.

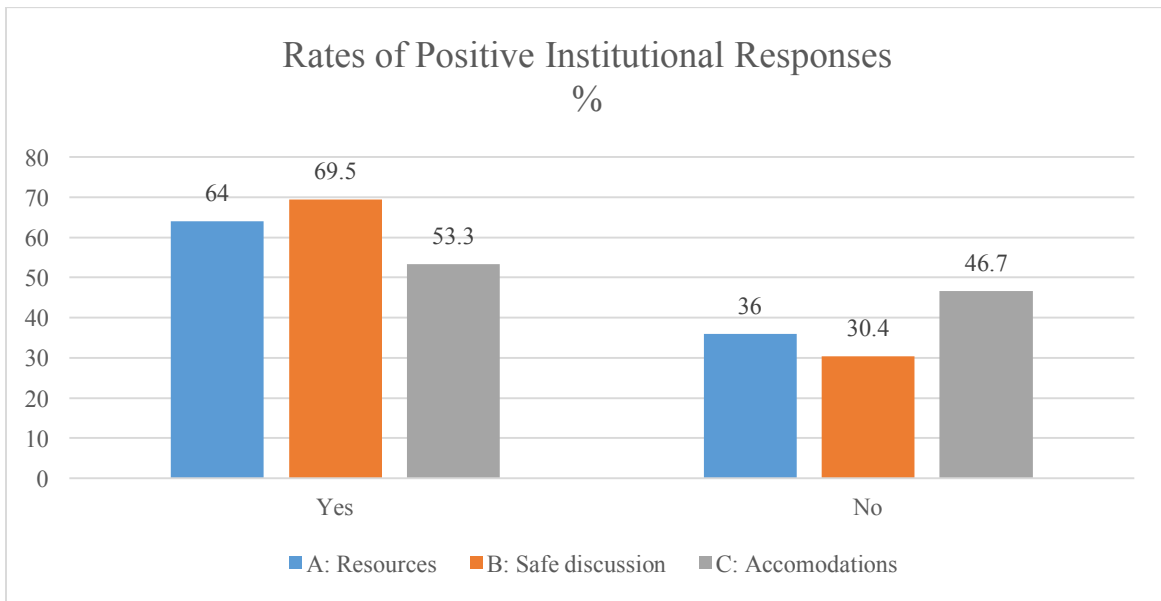


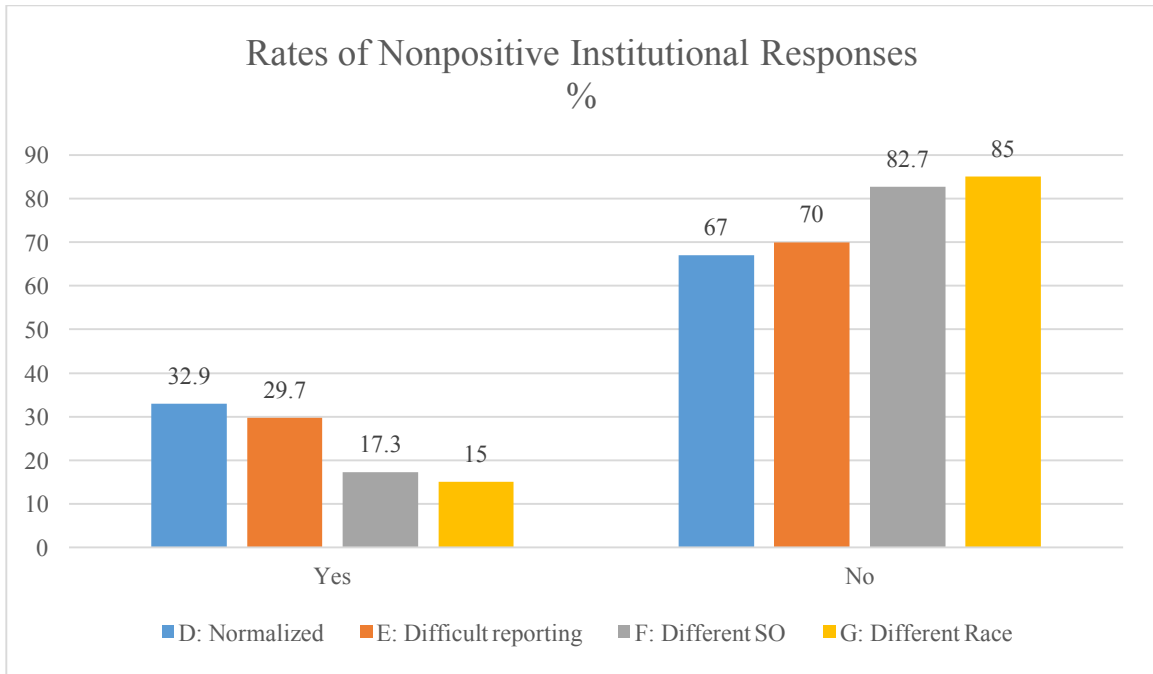
Survey respondents *who shared they experienced one or more forms of interpersonal violence* while enrolled were also asked to share if the institution played a role in a number of responses. The charts below provide a

snapshot of how respondents believe the university responded. It is important to note that the question did not ask respondents to only report administrative responses; as such, the data may include how peers, faculty, staff and administration responded. The following responses are captured in the charts below:

(In thinking about the events related to prohibited sexual conduct you described, did UMW play a role in your experiences by...)

- Actively supporting you with either formal or informal resources (See in chart: A)
- Creating an environment where this type of experience was safe to discuss (See in chart: B)
- Meeting your needs for support and accommodations (See in chart: C)
- Creating an environment in which this type of experience/s seemed common or normal (See in chart: D)
- Making it difficult to report the experience/s (See in chart: E)
- Responding differently to your experience/s based on your sexual orientation (See in chart: F)
- Responding differently to your experience/s based on your race (See in chart: G)



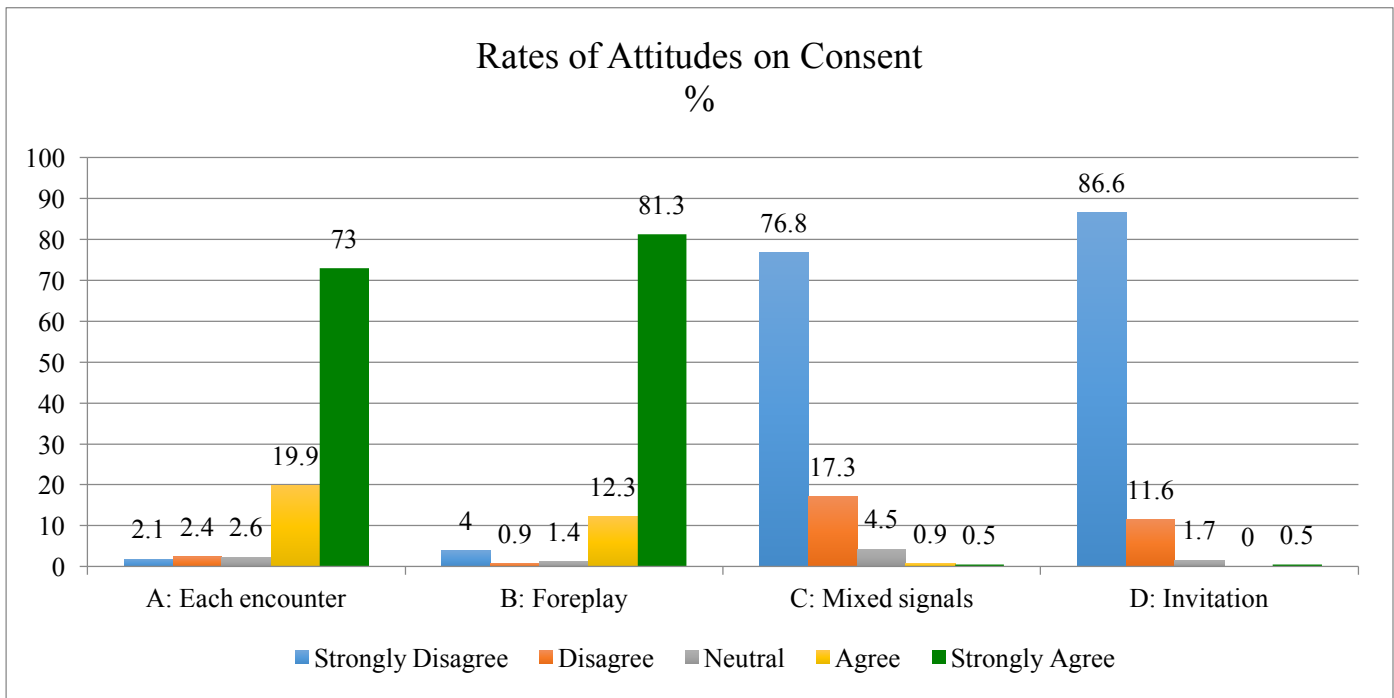


The majority of respondents who reported experiencing interpersonal violence in the survey indicate positive, but not overwhelming, institutional responses. For instance, 53% report the institution met their needs for support and accommodations, while 46.7% report the institution did not meet their needs. Additionally, while 67% of students report the institution did not normalize their experiences, 32.9% did report normalization. An overwhelming number of responses did not indicate being treated differently based on sexual orientation (82.7%) or race (85%).

Attitudes on Consent

Survey participants were asked to indicate their attitudes regarding sexual consent. Four questions were asked to capture whether respondents had an appropriate understanding of consent. Overwhelmingly, 94.6% of the responses indicate safe and appropriate understandings about sexual consent. The following measures were captured: Indicate the degree to which you agree or disagree with the following:

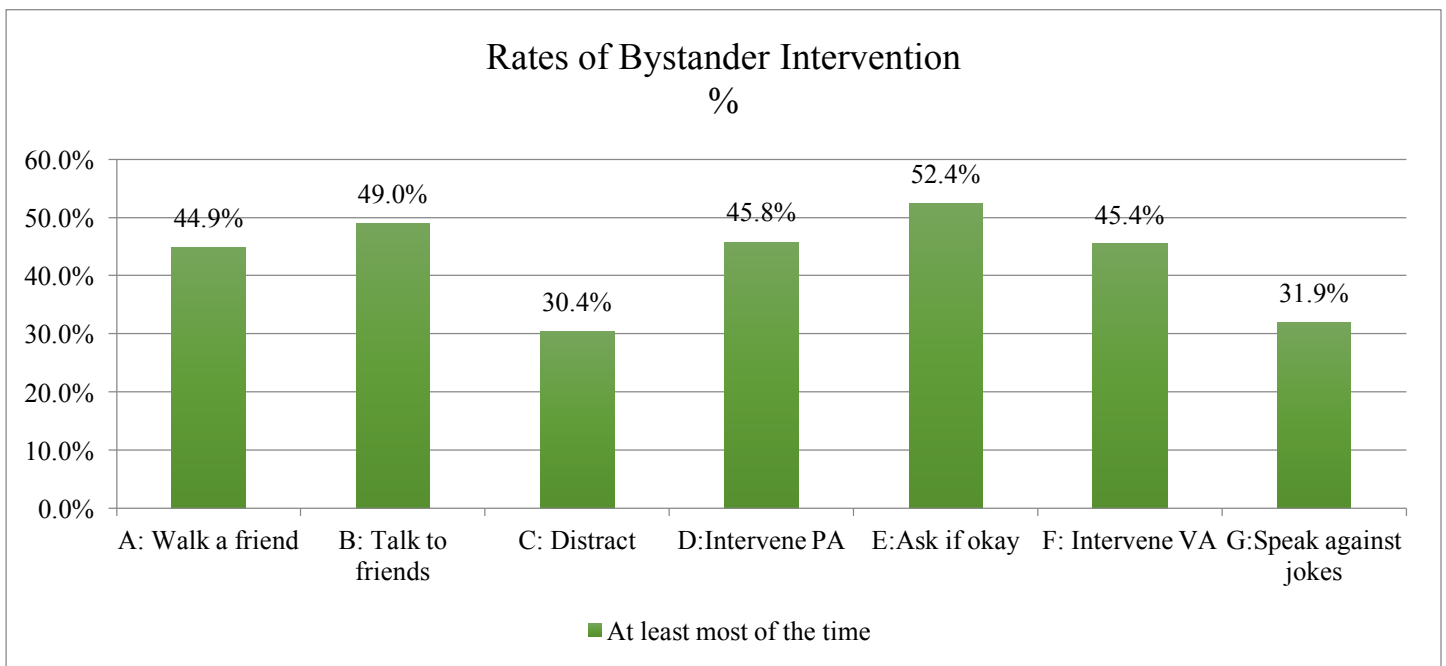
- Consent must be given at each step in a sexual encounter (See in chart: A)
- If a person initiates sex, but during foreplay says they no longer want to, the person has not given consent to continue (See in chart: B)
- Mixed signals can sometime mean consent (See in chart: C)
- If someone invites you to their place, they are giving consent for sex (See in chart: D)



Engagement as a Bystander

Survey participants were asked to indicate if they engaged as a bystander when situations arose such as:

- Walked a friend who has had too much to drink home from a party, bar, or other social event (See in chart: A)
- Talked to the friends of a drunk person to make sure they don't leave him/her behind at a party, bar, or other social event (See in chart: B)
- Tried to distract someone who was trying to take a drunk person to another room or trying to get them to do something sexual (See in chart: C)
- Intervened with a friend who was being physically abusive to another person (See in chart: D)
- Asked someone who looks very upset at a party if they are okay or need help (See in chart: E)
- Intervened with a friend who was being verbally abusive to another person (See in chart: F)
- Spoke up against sexist jokes (See in chart: G)



Respondents do report intervening in risky situations that should be challenged. Most (and/or all) of the time, the majority of respondents ask if a person is okay or needs help if they look upset (52.4%) or talk with the friends of a drunk person (49%). Respondents were less likely to distract someone from taking advantage of a drunk person (30.4%) as well as speaking up against sexist jokes (31.9%). And finally, respondents reported similar rates of intervening when a friend is physically (45.8%) or verbally abusive (45.4%).

Next Steps

The university will use the findings from this study to improve its response and preventative education efforts with regard to interpersonal violence at UMW. Specifically, existing groups such as UMW's Coordinated Community Response Team, Sexual Assault Response Team, Office of Title IX Team, Strategic Planning Wellness Subcommittee, TEAL (Student) Peer Educators as well as the President's Task Force on Sexual Assault have vested interests in reviewing these findings and using them to improve their prevention and intervention efforts. Further analysis of the survey data may continue and be reported at a later date to address sexual violence perpetration, faculty versus peer perpetration, and the prevalence of violence in student organization groups. And finally, future climate surveys will be conducted in order to establish cross-comparative or longitudinal studies for analysis across time.

Appendix

To what extent would friends approve of having many sexual partners?							
Response	Woman	Man	Transwoman	Transman	Genderqueer Androgynous	A gender not listed here	Totals
Strongly Disagree	58	18	0	0	0	1	77
Disagree	85	16	0	0	1	0	102
Neutral	109	35	0	2	3	0	149
Agree	59	16	1	0	0	1	77
Strongly Agree	10	3	0	0	2	0	15
Totals	321	88	1	2	6	2	420
To what extent would your friends approve of getting someone drunk or high to have sex with them?							
Response	Woman	Man	Transwoman	Transman	Genderqueer Androgynous	A gender not listed here	Totals
Strongly Disagree	277	67	0	2	6	1	353
Disagree	35	14	0	0	0	1	50
Neutral	8	6	0	0	0	0	14
Agree	1	1	1	0	0	0	3
Strongly Agree	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	321	88	1	2	6	2	420

To what extent would your friends approve of lying to someone in order to have sex with them?							
Response	Woman	Man	Transwoman	Transman	Genderqueer Androgynous	A gender not listed here	Totals
Strongly Disagree	275	65	0	2	6	2	350
Disagree	38	15	0	0	0	0	53
Neutral	7	8	1	0	0	0	16
Agree	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Strongly Agree	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	321	88	1	2	6	2	420

To what extent would your friends approve of forcing someone to have sex?							
Response	Woman	Man	Transwoman	Transman	Genderqueer Androgynous	A gender not listed here	Totals
Strongly Disagree	312	85	0	2	6	2	407
Disagree	7	0	0	0	0	0	7
Neutral	2	2	0	0	0	0	4
Agree	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Strongly Agree	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	321	87	1	2	6	2	419

To what extent would your friends approve of using physical force, such as hitting or beating, to resolve conflicts with dates?

Response	Woman	Man	Transwoman	Transman	Genderqueer Androgynous	A gender not listed here	Totals
Strongly Disagree	313	86	0	2	6	1	408
Disagree	4	0	0	0	0	1	5
Neutral	3	2	1	0	0	0	6
Agree	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Strongly Agree	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	320	88	1	2	6	2	419

To what extent would your friends approve of insulting or swearing at their dates?

Response	Woman	Man	Transwoman	Transman	Genderqueer Androgynous	A gender not listed here	Totals
Strongly Disagree	259	71	0	1	6	1	338
Disagree	48	13	0	1	0	0	62
Neutral	13	4	0	0	0	1	18
Agree	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
Strongly Agree	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	321	88	1	2	6	2	420

My friends tell me that it is alright to hit a date in certain situations.							
Response	Woman	Man	Transwoman	Transman	Genderqueer Androgynous	A gender not listed here	Totals
Strongly Disagree	292	81	1	1	6	1	382
Disagree	16	3	0	1	0	1	21
Neutral	8	4	0	0	0	0	12
Agree	4	0	0	0	0	0	4
Strongly Agree	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Totals	321	88	1	2	6	2	420

My friends tell me that someone you are dating should have sex with you when you want.							
Response	Woman	Man	Transwoman	Transman	Genderqueer Androgynous	A gender not listed here	Totals
Strongly Disagree	232	67	1	1	6	1	308
Disagree	52	13	0	1	0	1	67
Neutral	19	7	0	0	0	0	26
Agree	11	1	0	0	0	0	12
Strongly Agree	7	0	0	0	0	0	7
Totals	321	88	1	2	6	2	420

My friends tell me that when you spend money on a date, the person should have sex with you in return.

Response	Woman	Man	Transwoman	Transman	Genderqueer Androgynous	A gender not listed here	Totals
Strongly Disagree	288	74	1	1	6	2	372
Disagree	27	11	0	1	0	0	39
Neutral	5	3	0	0	0	0	8
Agree	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Strongly Agree	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	321	88	1	2	6	2	420

My friends tell me that you should respond to a date's challenges to your authority by insulting them or putting them down.

Response	Woman	Man	Transwoman	Transman	Genderqueer Androgynous	A gender not listed here	Totals
Strongly Disagree	295	76	0	1	6	1	379
Disagree	21	10	1	1	0	0	33
Neutral	3	2	0	0	0	1	6
Agree	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Strongly Agree	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	320	88	1	2	6	2	419

My friends tell me it is alright to physically force a person to have sex under certain conditions.							
Response	Woman	Man	Transwoman	Transman	Genderqueer Androgynous	A gender not listed here	Totals
Strongly Disagree	310	84	1	2	6	2	405
Disagree	10	2	0	0	0	0	12
Neutral	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Agree	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Strongly Agree	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	321	87	1	2	6	2	419