

# SDSU Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Violence

Spring 2024

**Provided to:**  
**Jessica Rentto, J.D.**  
Senior Associate Vice President,  
Administration

**By: Side of Change Consulting**  
**Brittnie Bloom, Ph.D.**  
**and Marissa Salazar, Ph.D.**



# Table of Contents

<b>Survey Administration</b> .....	<b>2</b>
Survey Instrument .....	2
Response Rate .....	3
Demographics .....	4
<b>Survey Results</b> .....	<b>7</b>
What Constiutes Consent & Rape.....	7
Reporting Options at SDSU.....	8
Bystander Intervention.....	9
Process-Based Content.....	11
Partner Abuse: Cyber.....	13
Partner Abuse: Psychological.....	15
Partner Abuse: Threats of Physical Violence.....	16
Partner Abuse: Physical Violence.....	17
Partner Abuse: Sexual Violence.....	19
Sexual Harassment by SDSU Employees.....	20
Sexual Harassment by SDSU Students.....	23
Sexual Assault Experiences.....	26
Sexual Experiences Scale: Perpetration.....	28
Disclosure of Sexual Violence.....	29
Highlighting Student Voice.....	33
Acknowlegements.....	38

# SURVEY ADMINISTRATION

Side of Change Consulting<sup>®</sup> (Brittnie Bloom, Ph.D. and Marissa Salazar, Ph.D.) was commissioned by Jessica Rentto, J.D. (Senior Associate Vice President, Administration) to program and distribute the 2024 SDSU Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Violence. Students enrolled at both SDSU and SDSU Imperial Valley during the spring 2024 and summer 2024 semesters were invited to participate. Similar surveys were conducted in 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2022.

## Survey Instrument

Enrollment Services provided the student email addresses used for survey dissemination. An email invitation from the Office of the President to participate in the survey was sent to 35,237 addresses on April 8 2024. Five separate reminder emails were sent to non-respondents (April 15, April 22, April 29, May 6, and May 20). All students were informed in the email invitation that if they participated and completed the survey, they would be offered a chance to win an Apple Watch (2 available) or a set of Apple AirPods (2 available). Additionally, students were informed that the first 50 responses for the weeks of April 8, April 15, and April 22 would receive a \$10 Starbucks gift card. Some instructors also offered extra credit in their courses to those who completed the survey. The survey link was deactivated on May 27, 2024.

An introduction page was included in the survey, which informed all potential survey respondents about the purpose of the study. The introduction also included a brief description of the sensitive nature of the questions and the associated risks and discomforts that might be caused by some questions. Respondents were informed about the voluntary nature of survey participation and given tips on how to protect their privacy if they chose to participate. Survey respondents were informed they could exit the survey at any time and were provided with a list of resources and contact information upon completion of the survey.

Two sections of the survey were only completed by respondents who met eligibility criteria of being in a romantic relationship while attending SDSU. In these instances, the actual number of respondents who received the questions are shown in the tables and figures associated with those sections. Percentages in the report are calculated based on the respondents who answered the question. The survey was programmed for online administration using Qualtrics. Programming included locations for responses, checks for acceptable responses, instructions to respondents, and necessary skip patterns. Programming and data conversion into SPSS were tested prior to survey implementation.

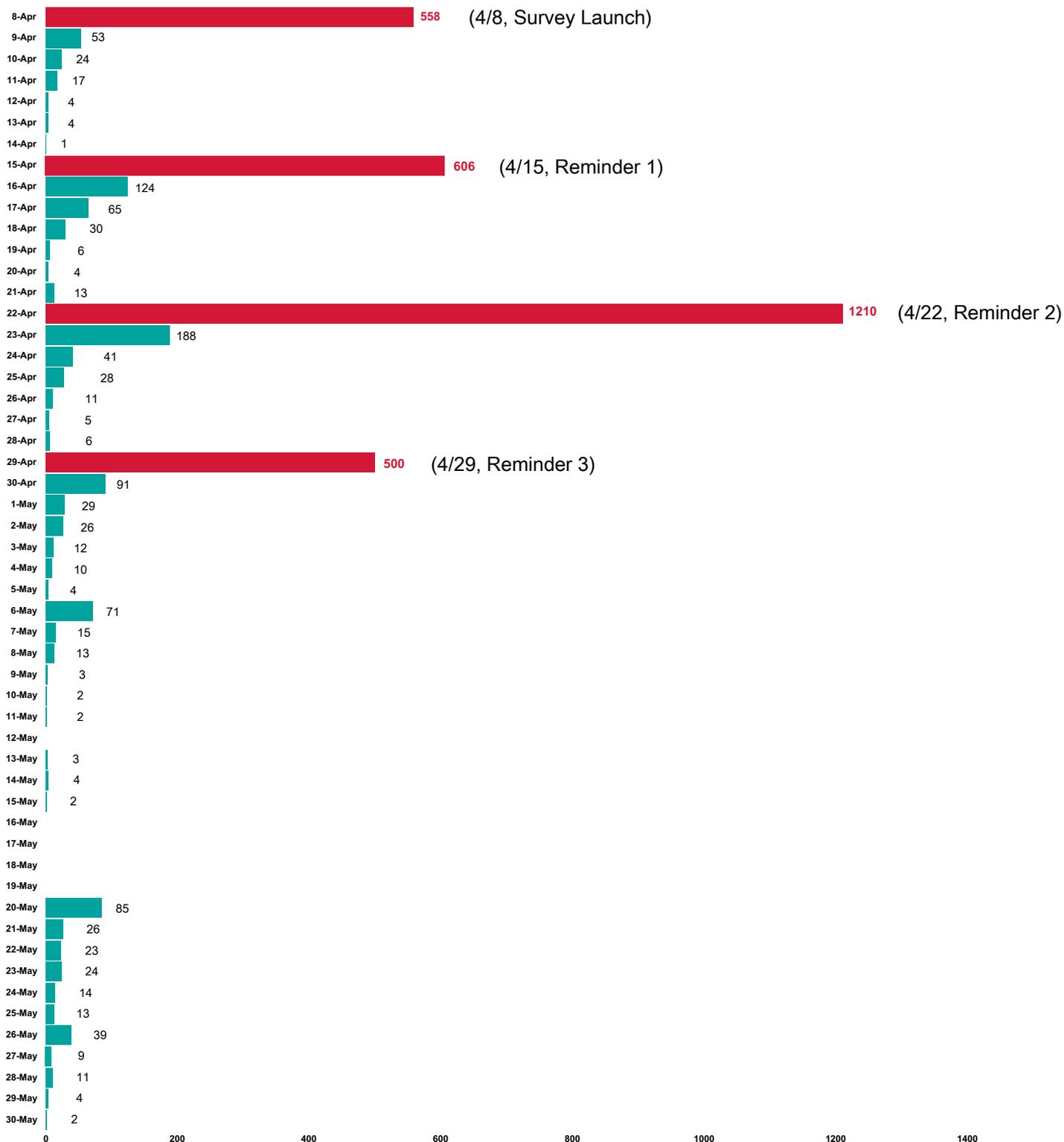
---

<sup>1</sup>Source: <https://titleix.sdsu.edu/sdsu-publications/campus-climate-spring-2022.pdf>

## Response Rate

A total of 35,237 students received emails to participate in the survey. A total of 4,035 students completed the survey, which represents a response rate of 11%. For comparison, the response rate of the 2022 survey was 16%.

### Total Responses by Date Survey was Started



## Demographics

SDSU student population data for the spring 2024 semester was collected from SDSU's Analytic Studies & Institutional Research (ASIR) website. The demographics of the survey were compared to the SDSU student population when these data were available. All percentages are rounded and may not total to 100.

### CAMPUS: SDSU POPULATION VS. SURVEY RESPONDENTS

	SDSU <sup>1</sup>	RESPONDENTS <sup>2</sup>
San Diego	34,301 (97%)	3,720 (96%)
Imperial Valley	1,111 (3%)	156 (4%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,412</b>	<b>3,891</b>

### STUDENT LEVEL: SDSU POPULATION VS. SURVEY RESPONDENTS

In the survey, 32% of respondents (n=1,182) identified as transfer students.

	SDSU <sup>3</sup>	RESPONDENTS <sup>4</sup>
Freshman	4,444 (13%)	617 (16%)
Sophomore	5,406 (15%)	536 (14%)
Junior	8,775 (25%)	1,014 (27%)
Senior	12,245 (35%)	959 (26%)
Graduate	4,315 (12%)	633 (17%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,185</b>	<b>3,759</b>

### GENDER IDENTITY: SDSU POPULATION VS. SURVEY RESPONDENTS

In addition to the responses below, less than 1% of survey respondents identified as transgender male (n = 11), transgender female (n=2), a different identity (n=2), preferred to self-describe (n=3), or preferred not to disclose (n=21).

	SDSU <sup>5</sup>	RESPONDENTS <sup>6</sup>
Female	20,117 (57%)	2,658 (72%)
Male	14,943 (42%)	1,004 (27%)
Nonbinary	125 (0.3%)	56 (1%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,185</b>	<b>3,718</b>

<sup>1</sup> Source: <https://asir.sdsu.edu/enrollment-data/enrollment-summary-data-table/>

<sup>2</sup> In the survey, 144 respondents did not answer the campus question.

<sup>3</sup> Source: <https://asir.sdsu.edu/enrollment-data/comprehensive-enrollment-data-table/>

<sup>4</sup> In the survey, 276 respondents did not answer the question about class standing.

<sup>5</sup> Source: <https://asir.sdsu.edu/enrollment-data/comprehensive-enrollment-data-table/>

<sup>6</sup> In the survey, 317 respondents did not answer the gender identity question.

## ETHNICITY: SDSU POPULATION VS. SURVEY RESPONDENTS

Respondents were able to select more than one ethnicity. Percentages may not total to 100.

	SDSU <sup>1</sup>	RESPONDENTS
White	11,731 (33%)	2,002 (50%)
Hispanic, Latino	12,433 (35%)	1,572 (37%)
Asian	2,655 (8%)	741 (18%)
Filipino	1,850 (5%)	245 (6%)
African American	1,298 (4%)	212 (5%)
Native American, Alaskan Native	78 (<1%)	95 (2%)
Pacific Islander, Native Hawaiian	74 (<1%)	58 (1%)
Multiple Ethnicities	2,429 (7%)	336 (8%)
Prefer not to say	1,362(4%)	310 (8%)
Other, Not Stated	1,275 (4%)	185 (8%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,185</b>	<b>4,035</b>

## SEXUAL ORIENTATION: SURVEY RESPONDENTS ONLY

Over three-quarters of respondents (76%) identified as straight/heterosexual.

	RESPONDENTS <sup>2,3</sup>
Asexual	96 (3%)
Bisexual	401 (11%)
Gay/Lesbian	149 (4%)
Pansexual	55 (2%)
Queer	70 (2%)
Straight/Heterosexual	2,864 (76%)
Prefer to self-describe	29 (1%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,750</b>

<sup>1</sup> Source: <https://asir.sdsu.edu/enrollment-data/enrollment-summary-data-table/>

<sup>2</sup> SDSU population information is not available on this item.

<sup>3</sup> In the survey, 285 respondents did not answer the sexual orientation question.

## LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

	RESPONDENTS <sup>1</sup>
Off-campus or other non-university housing	1,776 (47%)
Parent/guardian/other family member's home	1,138 (30%)
Campus or university housing	771 (21%)
Chapter housing	30 (<1%)
Don't currently have a place to live	4 (<1%)
Other	24 (<1%)
Temporarily staying with a relative, friend, or "couch surfing" until I find housing	17 (<1%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,760</b>

## PARTICIPATION IN CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

Respondents were able to select more than one activity in which they participate in at SDSU. Percentages may not total to 100.

	RESPONDENTS <sup>2</sup>
Student club or organization	1,550 (33%)
Work study or employed by SDSU	823 (35%)
Club or intramural sports	465 (8%)
Honors society	318 (5%)
Sorority	296 (4%)
Fraternity	140 (<1%)
Resident Life employee	119 (<1%)
Intercollegiate athletics	55 (7%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,766</b>

## DISABILITY STATUS

In the survey, 8% of respondents (n=302) said they have a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act.<sup>3</sup>

	RESPONDENTS <sup>4</sup>
No	3,349 (89%)
Yes	302 (8%)
Prefer not to say	105 (3%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,756</b>

<sup>1</sup> In the survey, 275 respondents did not answer the living arrangements question.

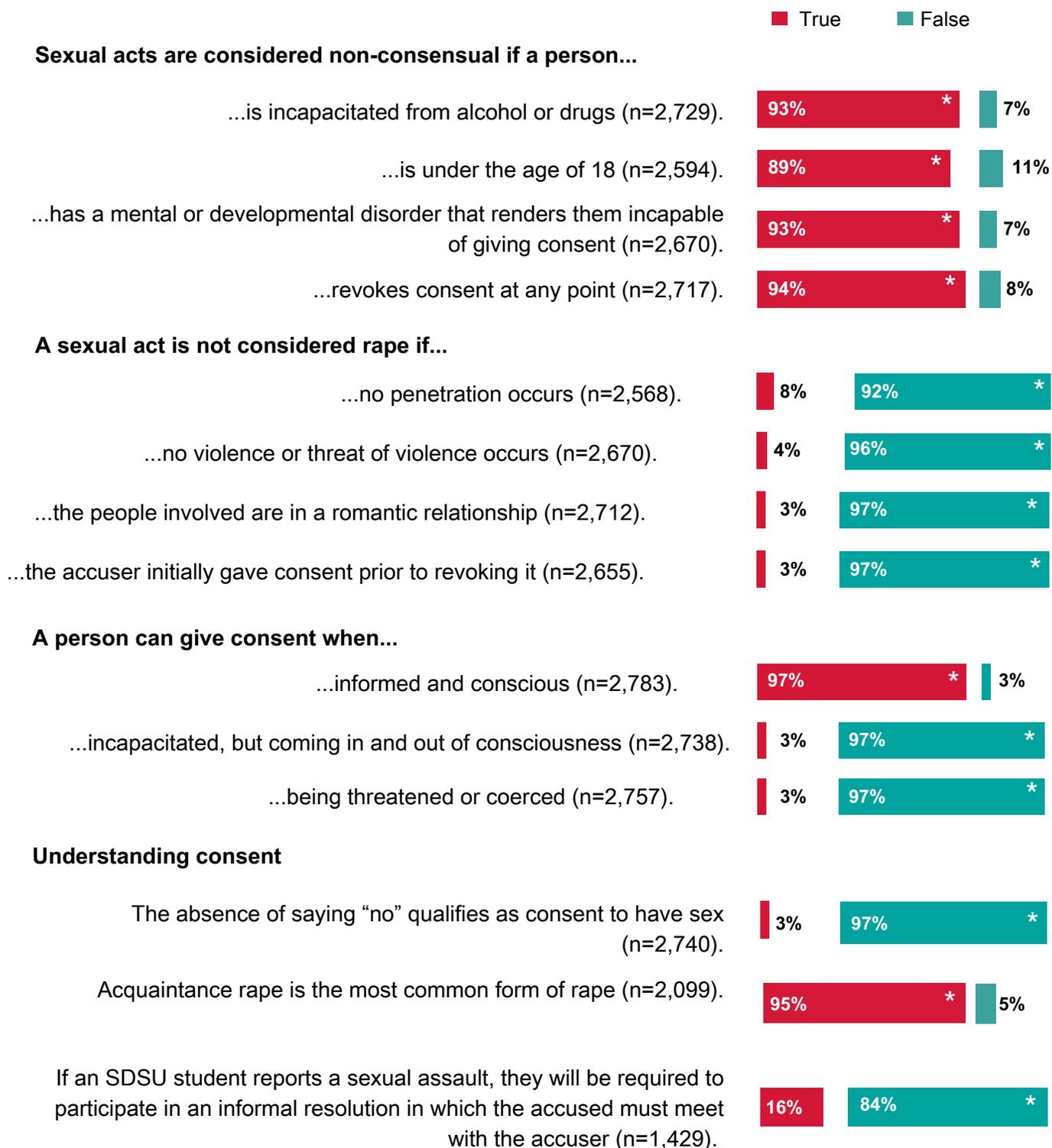
<sup>2</sup> In the survey, 269 respondents did not answer the sexual orientation question.

<sup>3</sup> Source: <https://www.ada.gov/law-and-regs/ada/>

<sup>4</sup> In the survey, 279 respondents did not answer the disability status question.

# Student Understanding of What Constitutes Consent and Rape

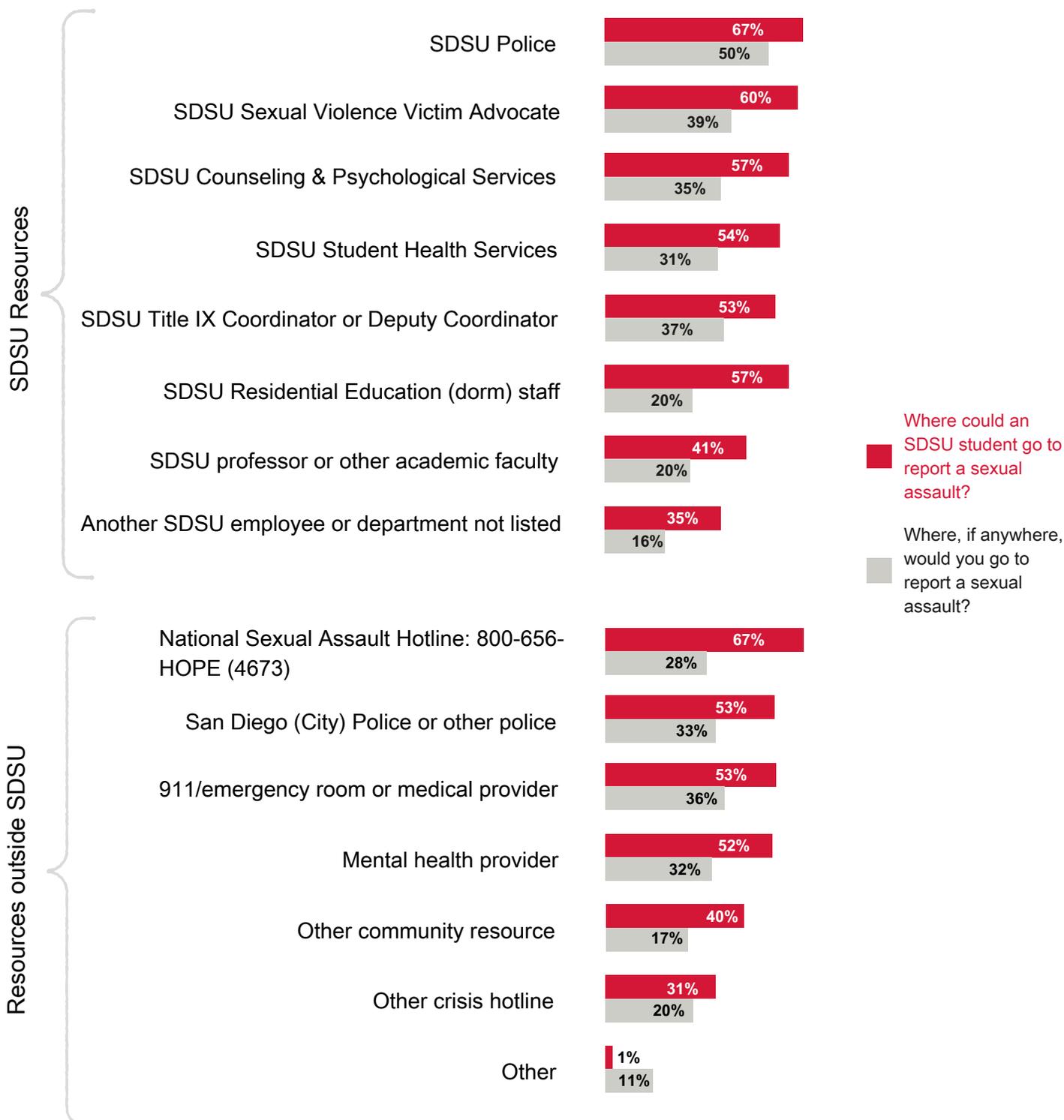
Questions crafted around SDSU's Title IX and related policies on nondiscrimination and sexual violence prevention were presented to all survey respondents to determine students' understanding of what constitutes consent and rape. The majority of respondents were aware of what constitutes consent and what constitutes rape. Correct answers are indicated by an asterisk (\*).



## Reporting Options at SDSU

It is important to determine the places where students know they can go to report sexual assault and seek help after experiencing sexual assault, both on- and off-campus. Respondents were provided with a list of resources and were asked to select where students could go to report a sexual assault versus where they themselves would prefer to go. Respondents could select multiple options. The most common response was SDSU police, followed by SDSU Sexual Violence Victim Advocate and Counseling and Psychological Services.

### Reporting Sexual Assault at SDSU



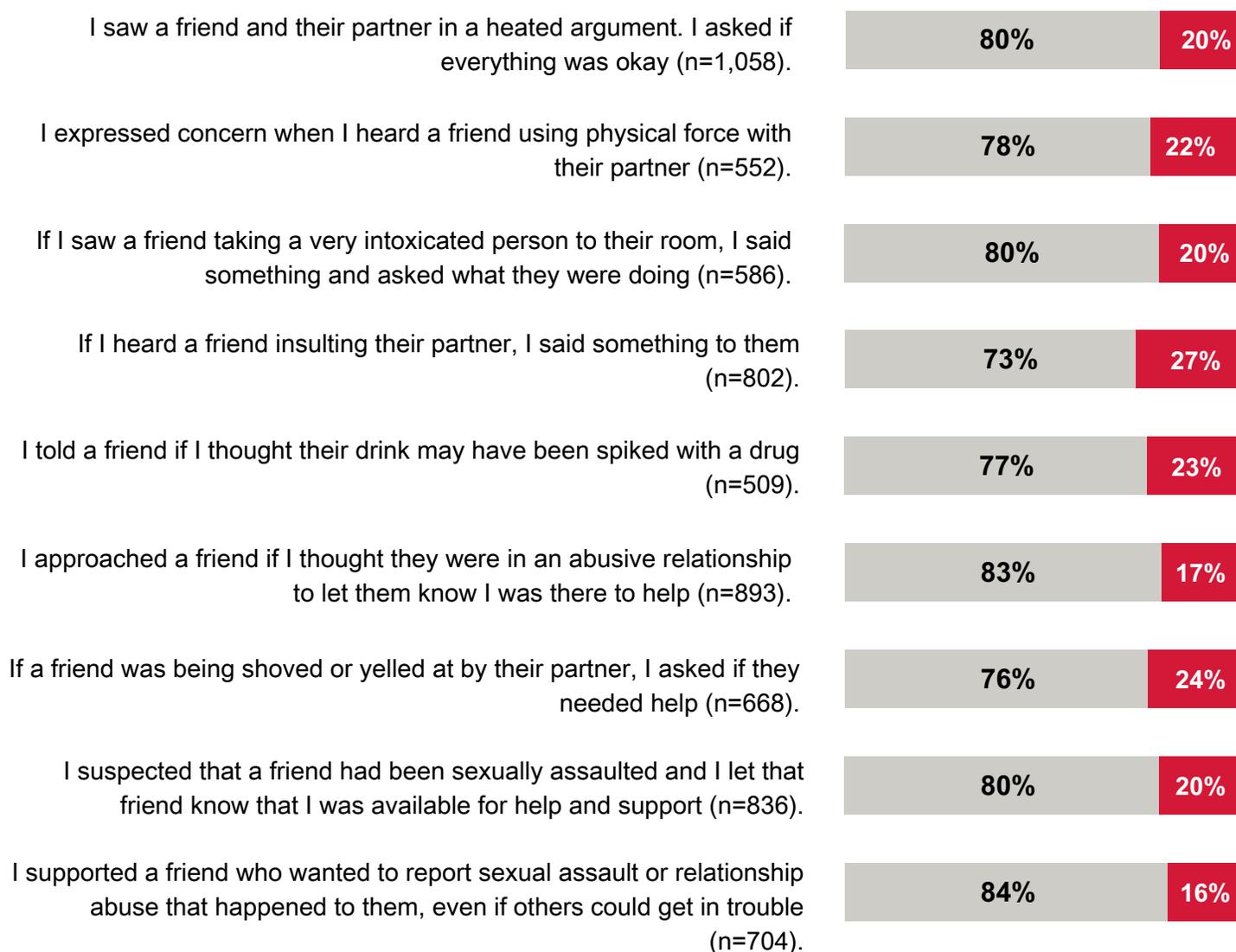
## Bystander Intervention

Using The Bystander Behavior (For Friends) Scale,<sup>1</sup> prosocial bystander behavior in the context of sexual assault and intimate partner violence were assessed. Respondents were provided with examples of specific situations SDSU students may have experienced (e.g., expressing concern when a friend is in an argument with their partner), and if they had been in that specific situation whether they took action (yes or no).

Of those that responded to this section (n=3,449), approximately 60.5% encountered at least one of the situations below. When respondents had encountered situations where intervention was potentially warranted, more than half (66% - 92%) indicated they engaged in a bystander behavior.

### When the situation arose at SDSU, did you do any of the following?

■ Yes ■ No



<sup>1</sup> Cascardi, M., Krauss, A., O'Leary, K. D., Loatman, K. L., Sargent, K., Grych, J., & Jouriles, E. N. (2021). The Bystander Behavior (For Friends) Scale: Factor Structure and Correlation With Prior Victimization. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 36(9-10), NP4850-NP4873.

## Bystander Intervention continued



**When the situation arose at SDSU, did you do any of the following?**

■ Yes ■ No

If I heard sounds of yelling and fighting coming from a friend's dorm room or other resident's walls, I knocked on the door to see if everything was okay (n=564).

66%

34%

If I saw a friend grabbing or pushing their partner, I said something to them (n=588).

73%

27%

I expressed concern to a friend if I saw their partner being very jealous and trying to control them (n=1,268).

87%

13%

If a friend said they had an unwanted sexual experience, but they don't call it rape, I expressed concern and/or offered to help (n=1,149).

90%

10%

I confronted a friend who made excuses for abusive behaviors by others (n=886).

83%

17%

I expressed concern when I heard a friend talking about forcing someone to have sex with them (n=484).

78%

22%

I expressed disagreement with a friend who said having sex with someone who is passed out or very intoxicated is okay (n=449).

77%

23%

Someone was talking to my friend. I could see they were uncomfortable. I asked them if they were okay and tried to start a conversation with them (n=1,235).

92%

8%

When a friend who looked very intoxicated was being taken to someone's room at a party or home with (n=963).

86%

14%

I expressed concern to a friend who had unexplained bruises that may be signs of abuse in their relationship (n=447).

75%

25%

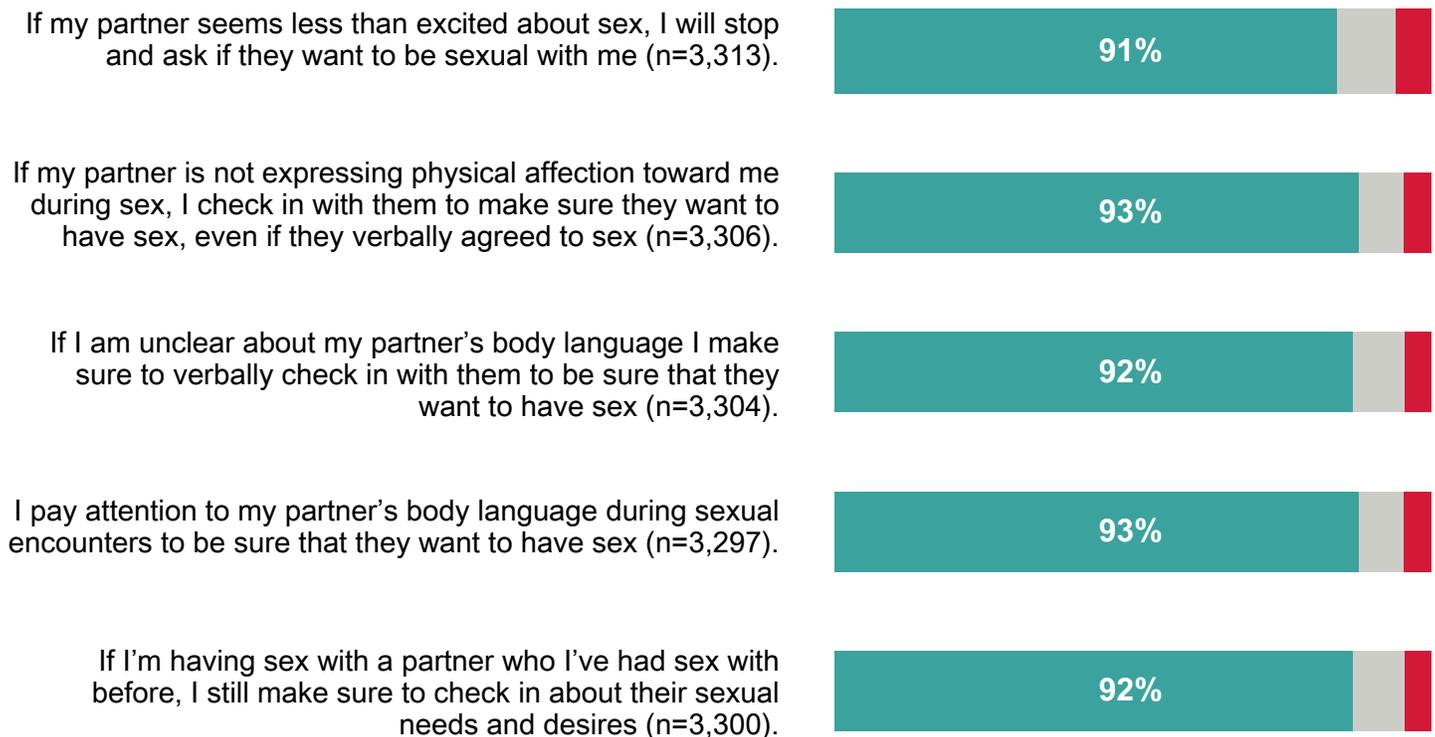
## Process-Based Consent

The Process-Based Consent Scale<sup>1</sup> measured attitudes and behaviors associated with sexual consent, including communication during sexual activities. Respondents were asked to indicate their levels of agreement or disagreement on items related to ongoing consent, subtle coercion, and communicative sexuality. Due to the small number of responses, answers in the seven original response categories were collapsed into three categories (i.e., agree, neutral, disagree). If numbers are not displayed below, it indicates a response rate of less than 5%.

Respondents indicated high levels of engaging in ongoing consent (the extent to which a respondent values process-based consent) and low levels of subtle coercion (the extent to which a respondent expresses attitudes and reports behaviors in support of verbally pressuring a sexual partner to convince them to engage in sexual activity). More variability was present in questions related to communicative sexuality (a respondent's comfort with explicit communication during and about sex).

### Ongoing Consent

■ Disagree   ■ Neutral   ■ Agree

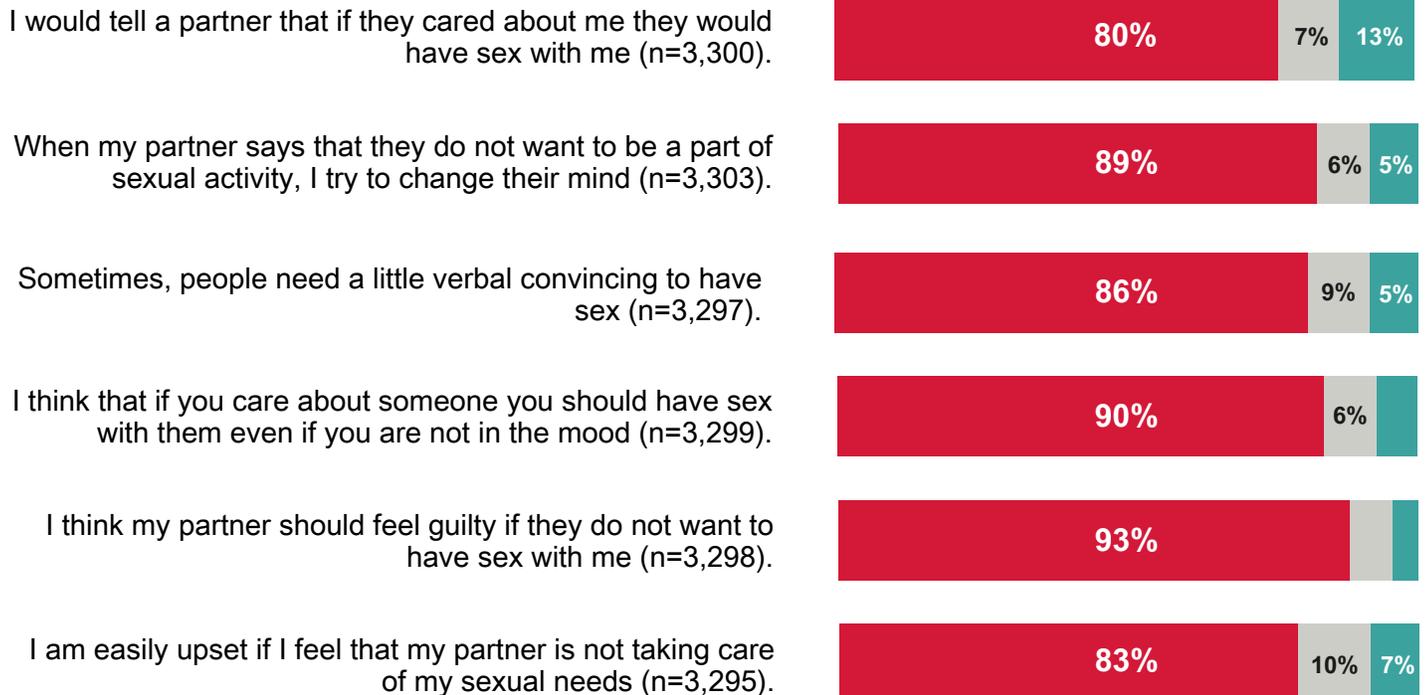


<sup>1</sup>Glance, A. M., Zatzkin, J. G., & Kaufman, K. L. (2021). Moving Toward a New Model of Sexual Consent: The Development of the Process-Based Consent Scale. *Violence Against Women, 27*(12-13), 2424-2450.

## Process-Based Consent continued

### Subtle Coercion

■ Disagree ■ Neutral ■ Agree



### Communicative Sexuality

■ Disagree ■ Neutral ■ Agree



## Partner Cyber Abuse

The Cyber Intimate Partner Aggression Measure<sup>1</sup> assessed the frequency of experiencing cyber-related abuse in the last year. Respondents were asked to indicate how often, if at all, 18 scenarios had occurred. Response categories were dichotomized into “never” vs. “1 or more times” due to the small number of responses.

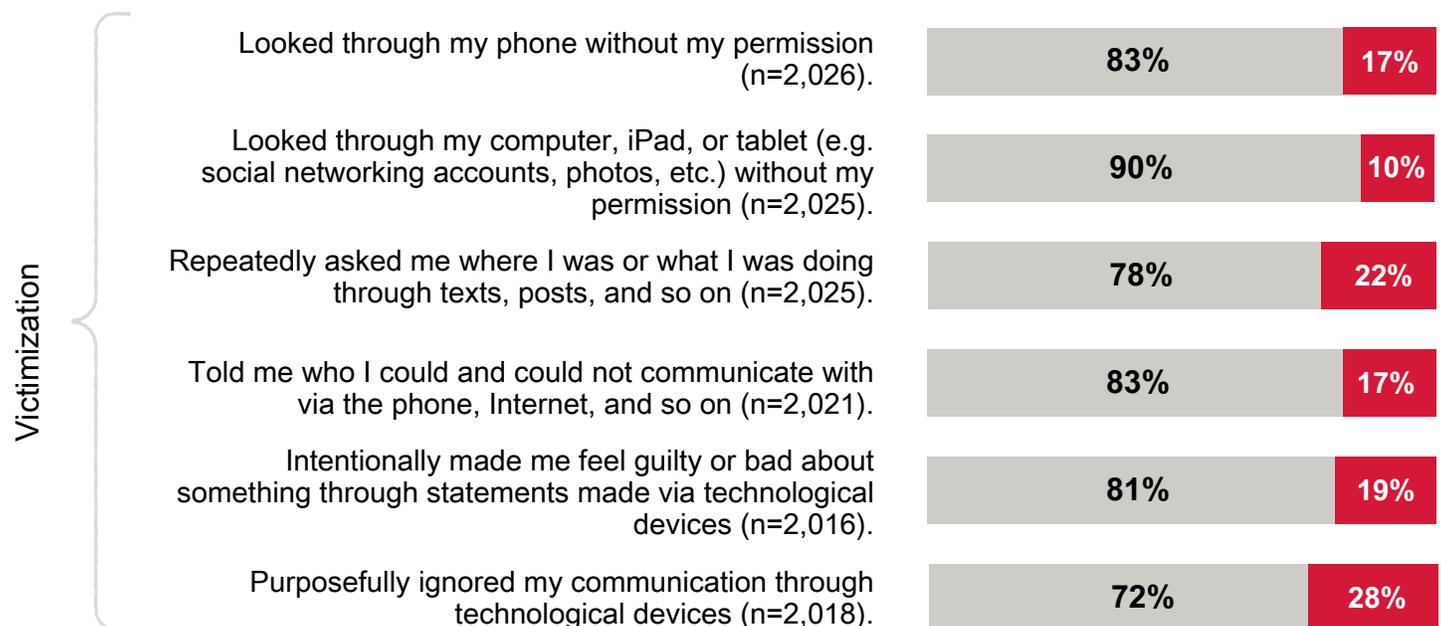
These questions, and all of the following questions related to partner violence (pgs. 14-20), were only asked of respondents who were in a current or recent relationship. Below are the most frequently reported items.

The majority of participants reported never experiencing cyber abuse, however 44% reported experiencing any form of cyber abuse. Among participants who experienced partner cyber abuse, this most frequently occurred among respondents who identified as heterosexual (74%) followed by bisexual (14%). When looking at differences by gender identity, the majority of respondents who experienced partner cyber abuse identified as female (75%)

### Partner Cyber-Abuse Victimization

■ Never ■ 1 or more times

How often did a partner do the following in the past year...



<sup>1</sup> Marganski, A., & Melander, L. (2018). Intimate Partner Violence Victimization in the Cyber and Real World: Examining the Extent of Cyber Aggression Experiences and Its Association With In-Person Dating Violence. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 33(7), 1071-1095.

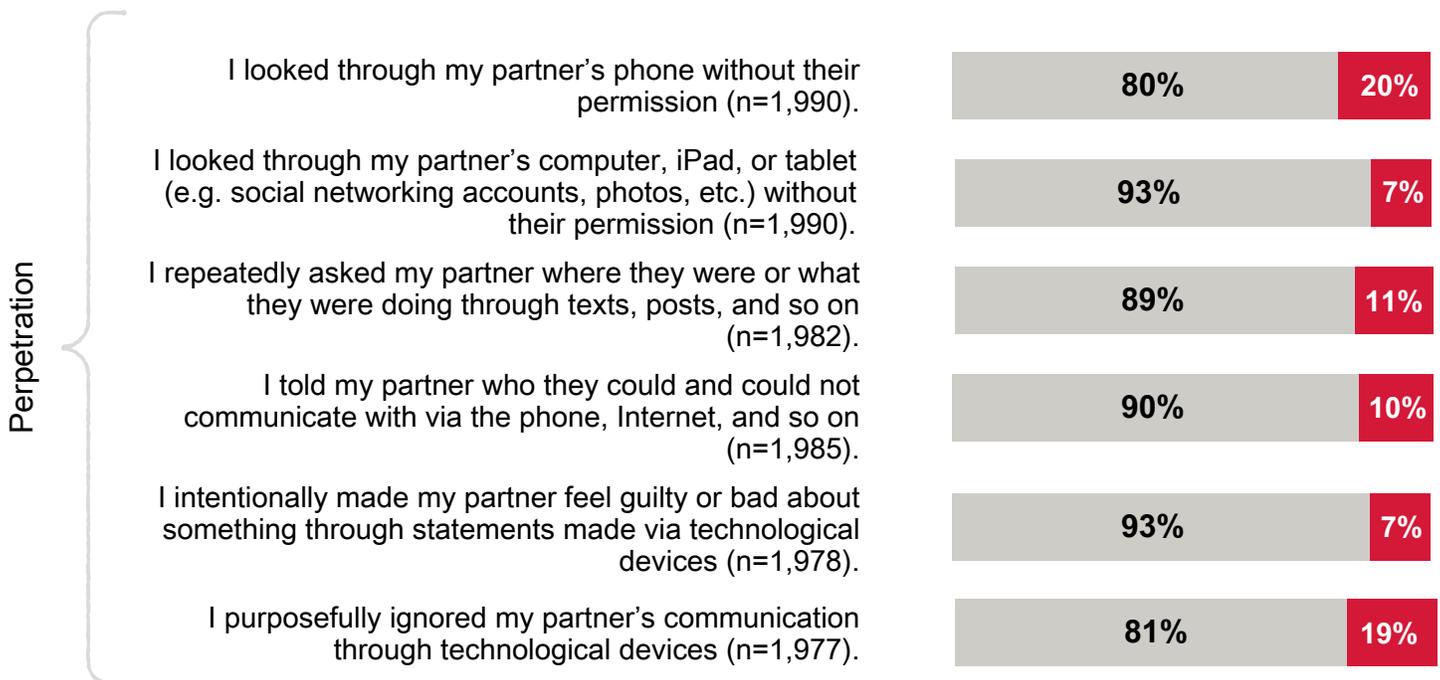
## Partner Cyber Abuse Continued

Over one-third of respondents (36%) reported perpetrating cyber abuse in the past year. Among those who perpetrated partner cyber abuse, over three-quarters (78%) identified as female. In terms of sexual orientation, the majority of perpetrators identified as heterosexual (72%), followed by bisexual (15%).

### Partner Cyber-Abuse Perpetration\*

■ Never ■ 1 or more times

How often did you engage in the following behaviors in the past year...

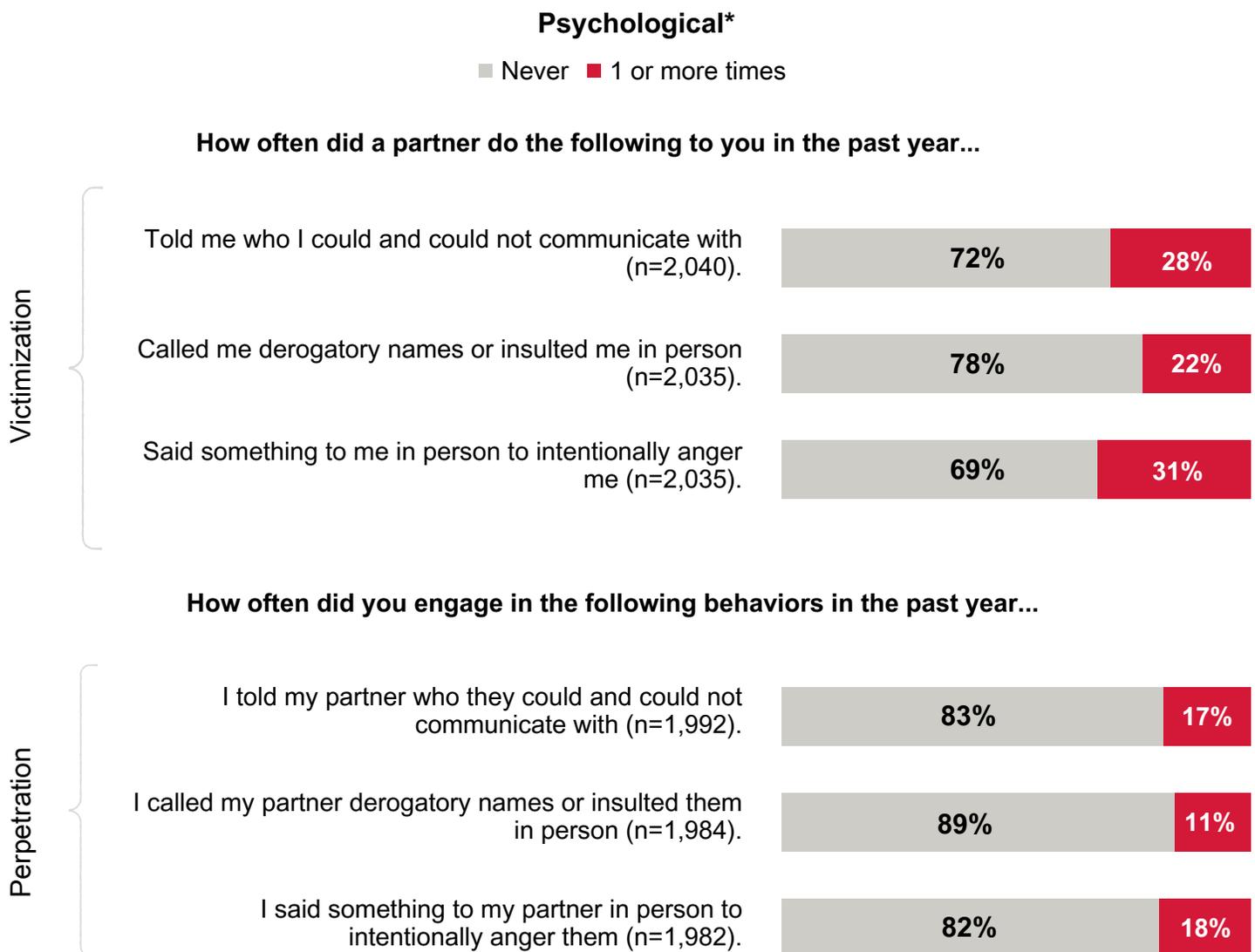


\*These questions, and all of the following questions related to violence (pgs. 14-20), were only asked of respondents who were in a current or recent relationship.

## Partner Abuse - Psychological

A modified version of the Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS2)<sup>1</sup> was used to assess whether participants experienced scenarios related to physical and sexual aggression. Response categories were dichotomized into “never” vs. “1 or more times” due to the small number of responses.

The items below measure psychological violence. Of those who responded to these questions, almost half (42.7%) of respondents reported experiencing some form of in-person psychological victimization in the past year.



<sup>1</sup> Straus, M. A., Hamby, S. L., Boney-McCoy, S. U. E., & Sugarman, D. B. (1996). The revised conflict tactics scales (CTS2) development and preliminary psychometric data. *Journal of family issues*, 17(3), 283-316.

\*These questions, and all of the following questions related to violence (pgs. 14-20), were only asked of respondents who were in a current or recent relationship.

## Partner Abuse: Threats of Physical Violence

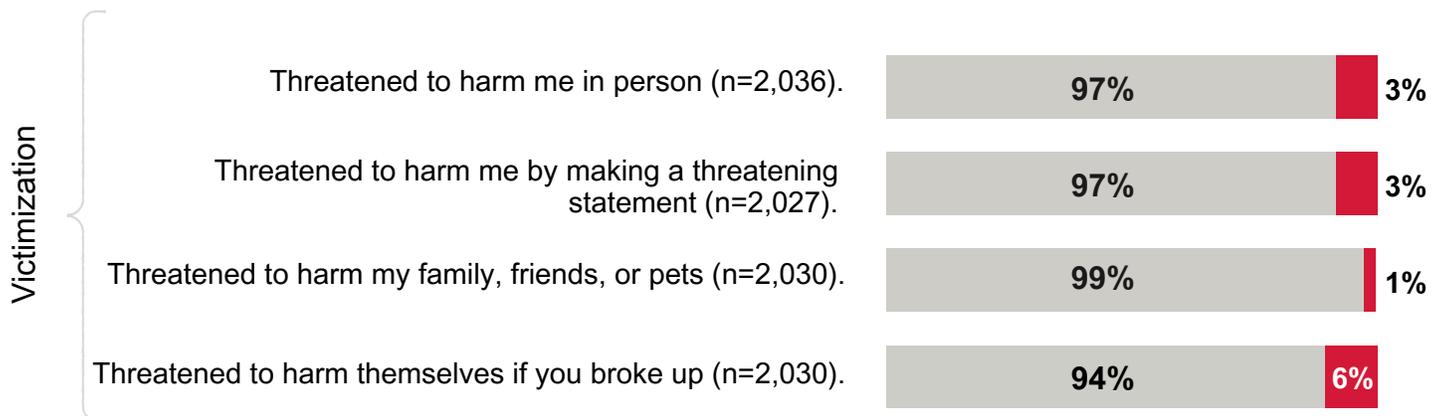
Respondents were asked to indicate how often they experienced threats of physical violence. Due to the small number of responses, the response categories “1 time,” “2 times,” “3 times,” “4 times,” and “5 or more times” from the original scale were combined into a new category of “1 or more times”.

Of those who responded to these questions, 8.6% of respondents reported experiencing a threat of violence in the past year and 1.6% of respondents reported threatening their partner with violence in the past year.

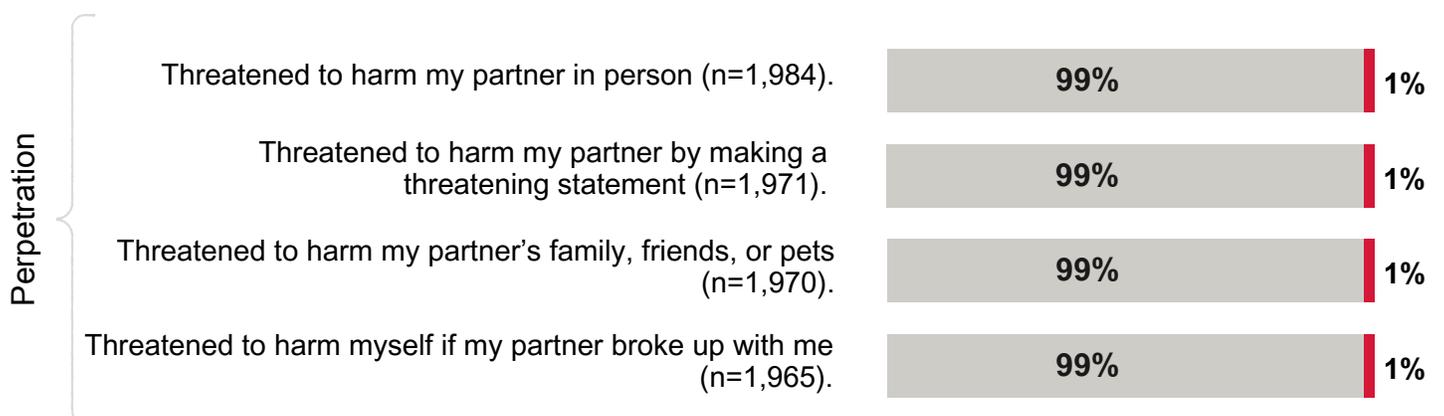
### Threats of Physical Violence\*

Never ■ 1 or more times

#### How often did a partner do the following to you in the past year...



#### How often did you engage in the following behaviors in the past year...

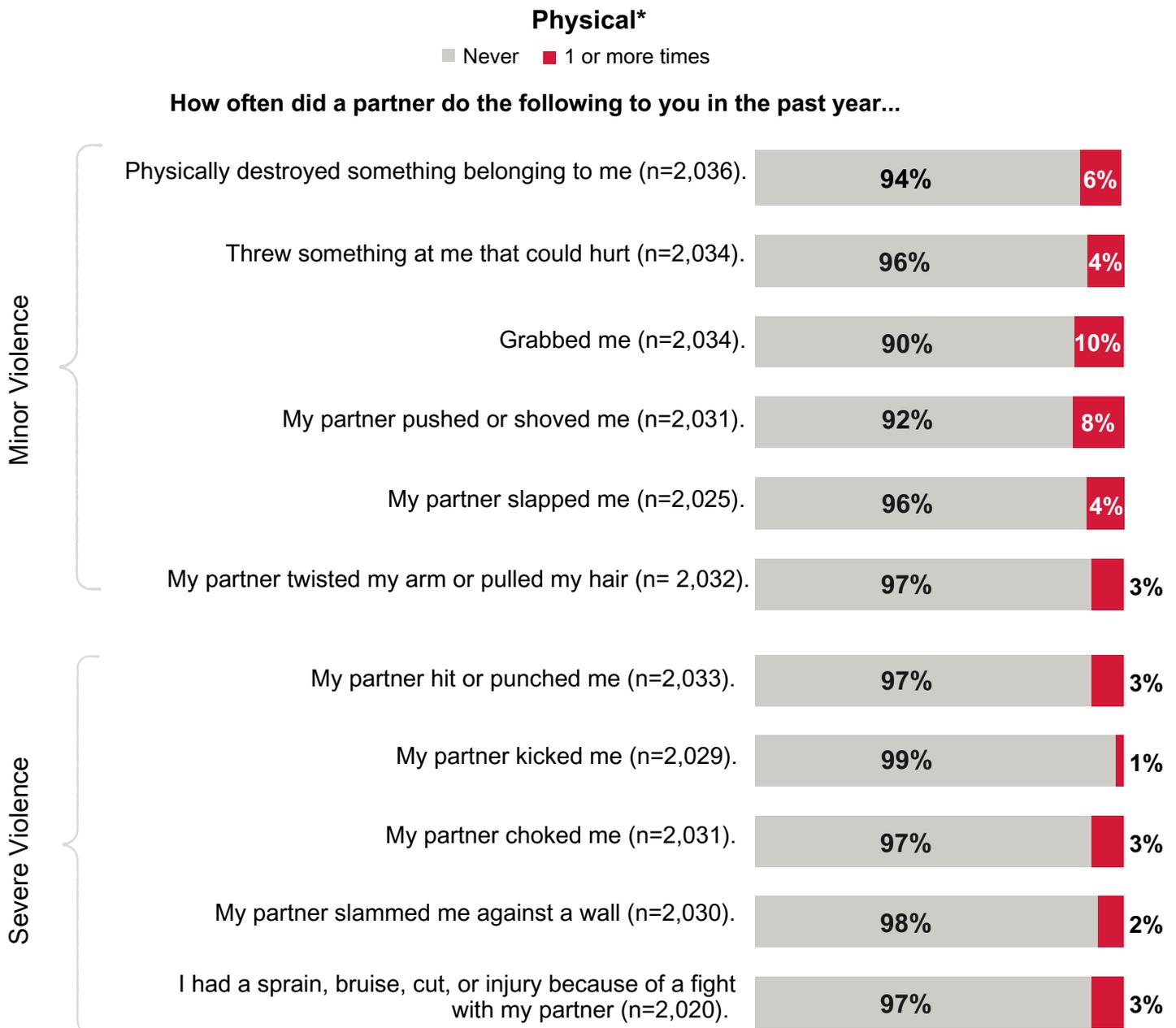


\*These questions, and all of the following questions related to violence (pgs. 14-20), were only asked of respondents who were in a current or recent relationship.

## Partner Abuse: Physical Violence Victimization

Respondents were asked to indicate how often, if at all, the following scenarios had occurred. Due to the small number of responses, the response categories “1 time,” “2 times,” “3 times,” “4 times,” “5 or more times” from the original scale were combined into a new category “1 or more times”.

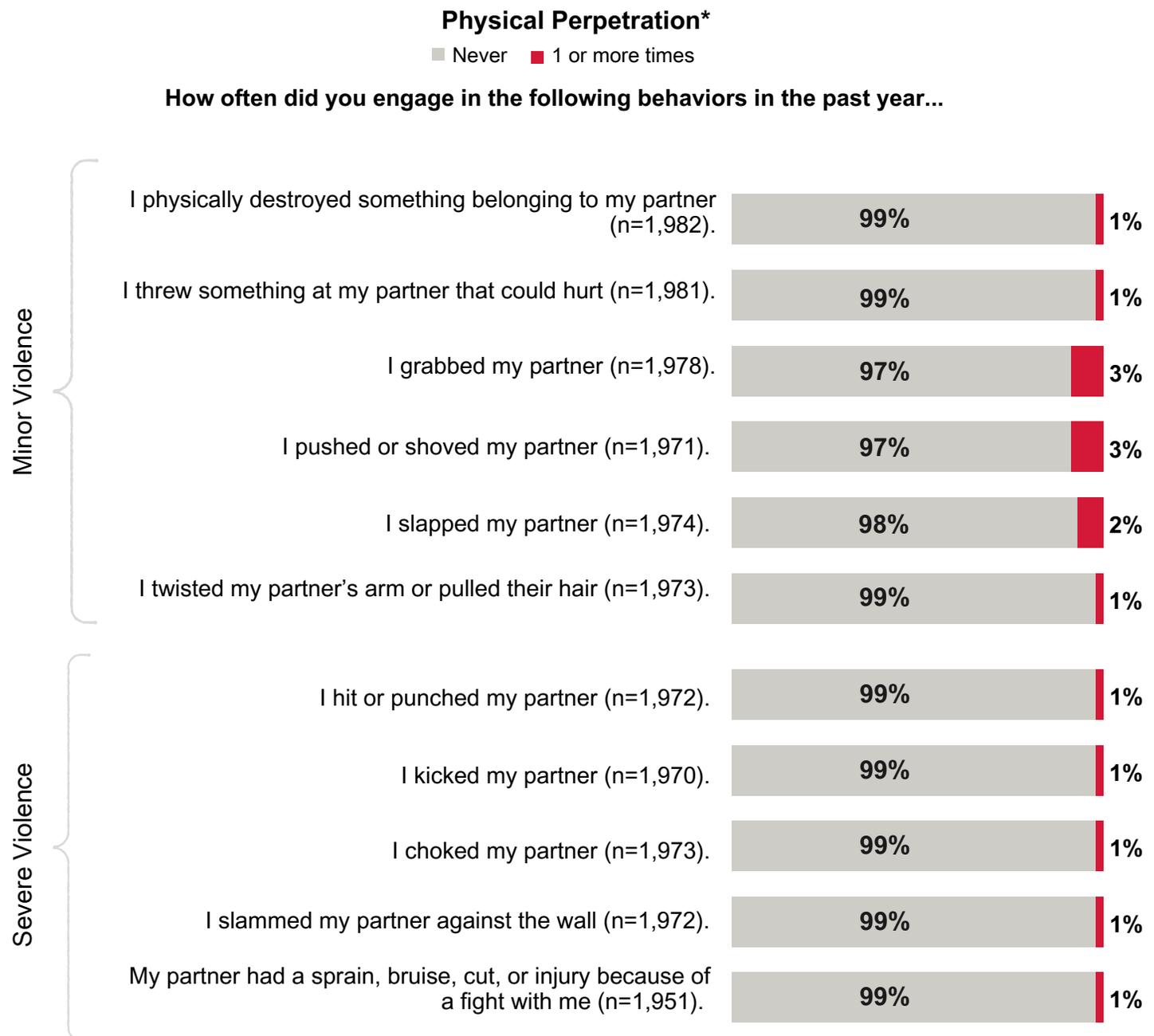
Experiences of physical violence were categorized as minor or severe. Of those who responded to these questions, 15.5% of respondents reported experiencing some form of minor physical violence in the past year and 6.9% of respondents reported experiencing some form of severe physical violence in the past year.



\*These questions, and all of the following questions related to violence (pgs. 14-20), were only asked of respondents who were in a current or recent relationship.

## Partner Abuse Physical Violence: Perpetration

In addition to victimization, respondents were also asked to report whether they ever perpetrated physical violence. Among respondents who answered these questions, 7.3% of respondents reported perpetrating minor physical violence and 2.4% of respondents reported perpetrating severe physical violence in the past year.



\*These questions, and all of the following questions related to violence (pgs. 14-20), were only asked of respondents who were in a current or recent relationship.

## Partner Abuse: Sexual Violence

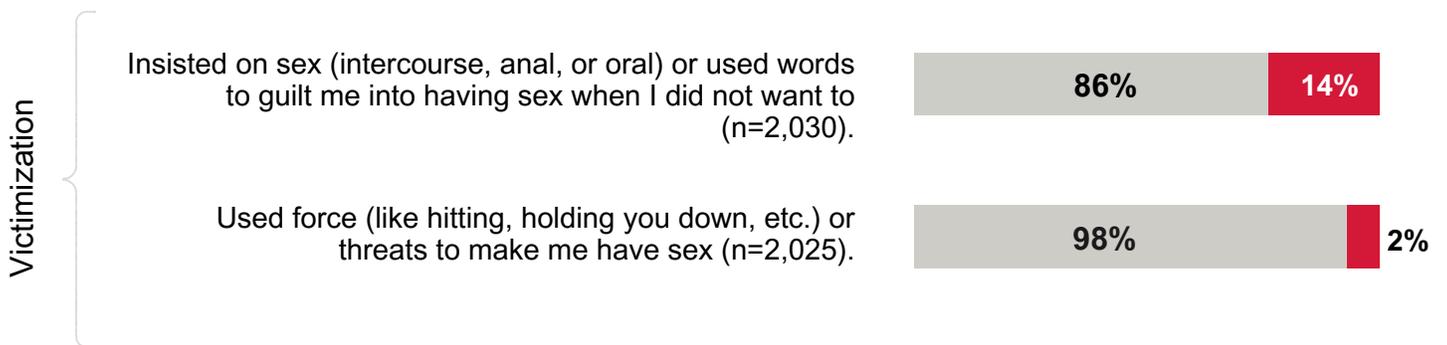
Respondents were asked to indicate how often, if at all, the following scenarios had occurred. Due to the small number of responses, the response categories “1 time,” “2 times,” “3 times,” “4 times,” and “5 or more times” from the original scale were combined into a new category “1 or more times”.

Among those who responded to these questions, 14.5% of respondents reported experiencing sexual violence, the majority of whom identified as female (85%). The most common sexual orientation was heterosexual (70%), followed by bisexual (20%).

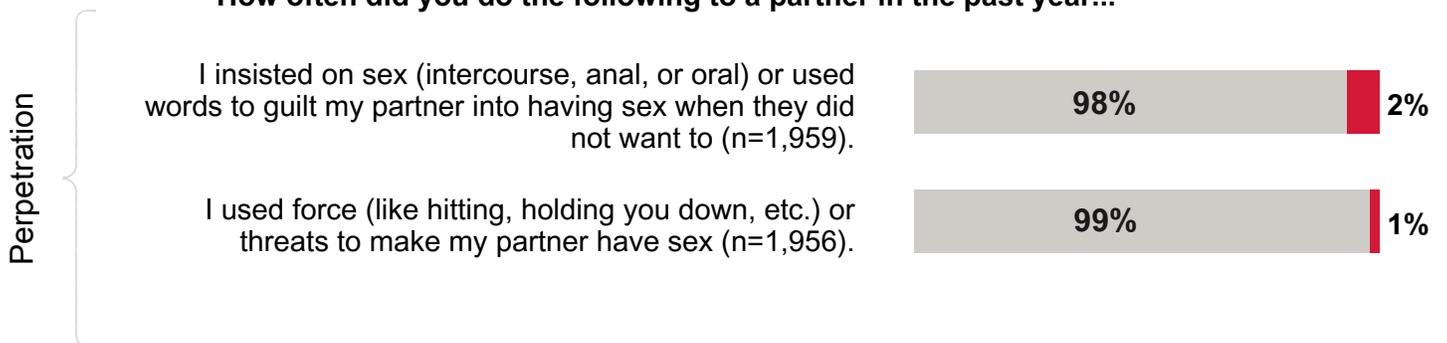
### Sexual Perpetration\*

■ Never ■ 1 or more times

#### How often did a partner do the following to you in the past year...



#### How often did you do the following to a partner in the past year...



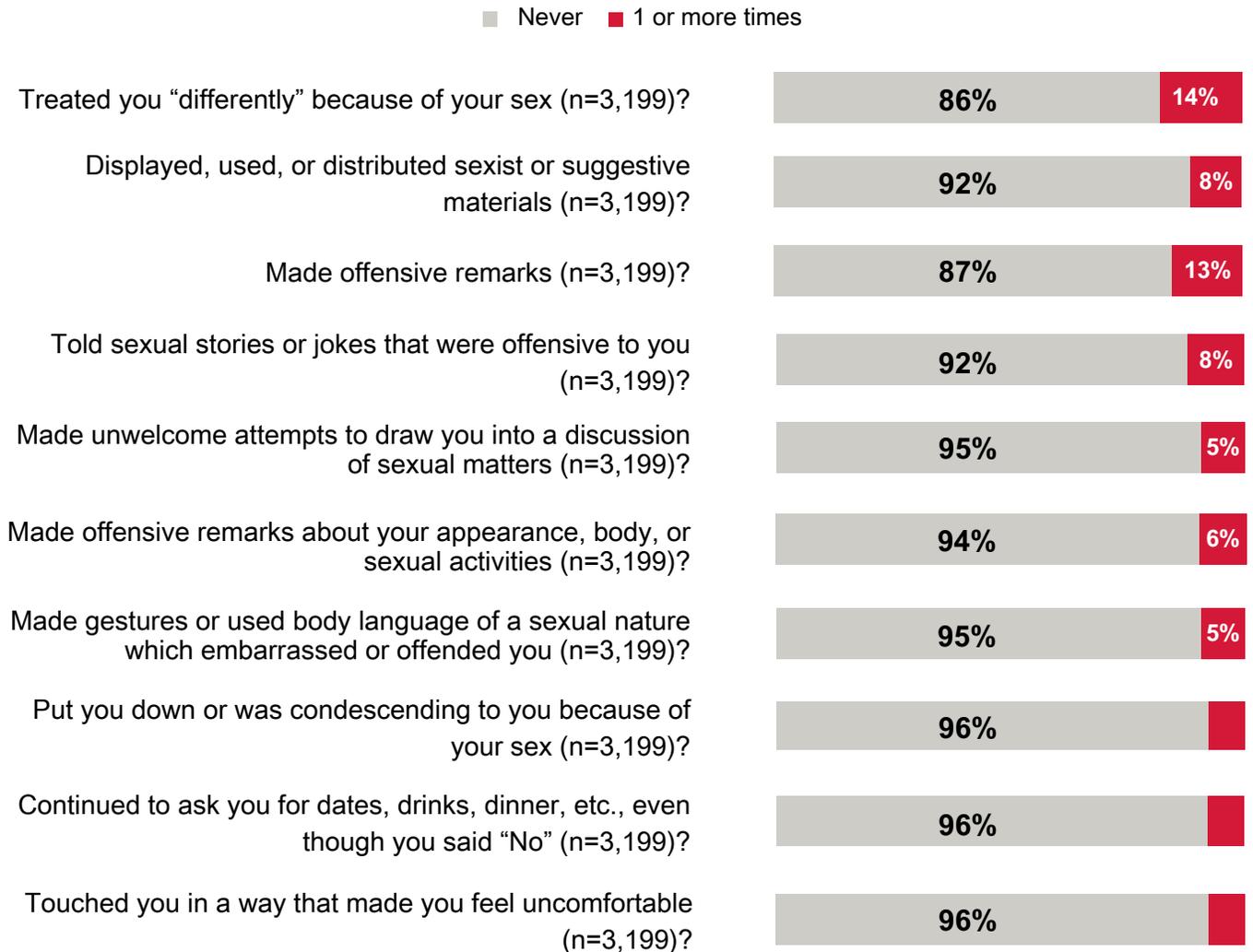
\*These questions, and all of the following questions related to violence (pgs. 14-20), were only asked of respondents who were in a current or recent relationship.

## Sexual Harassment by SDSU Employees

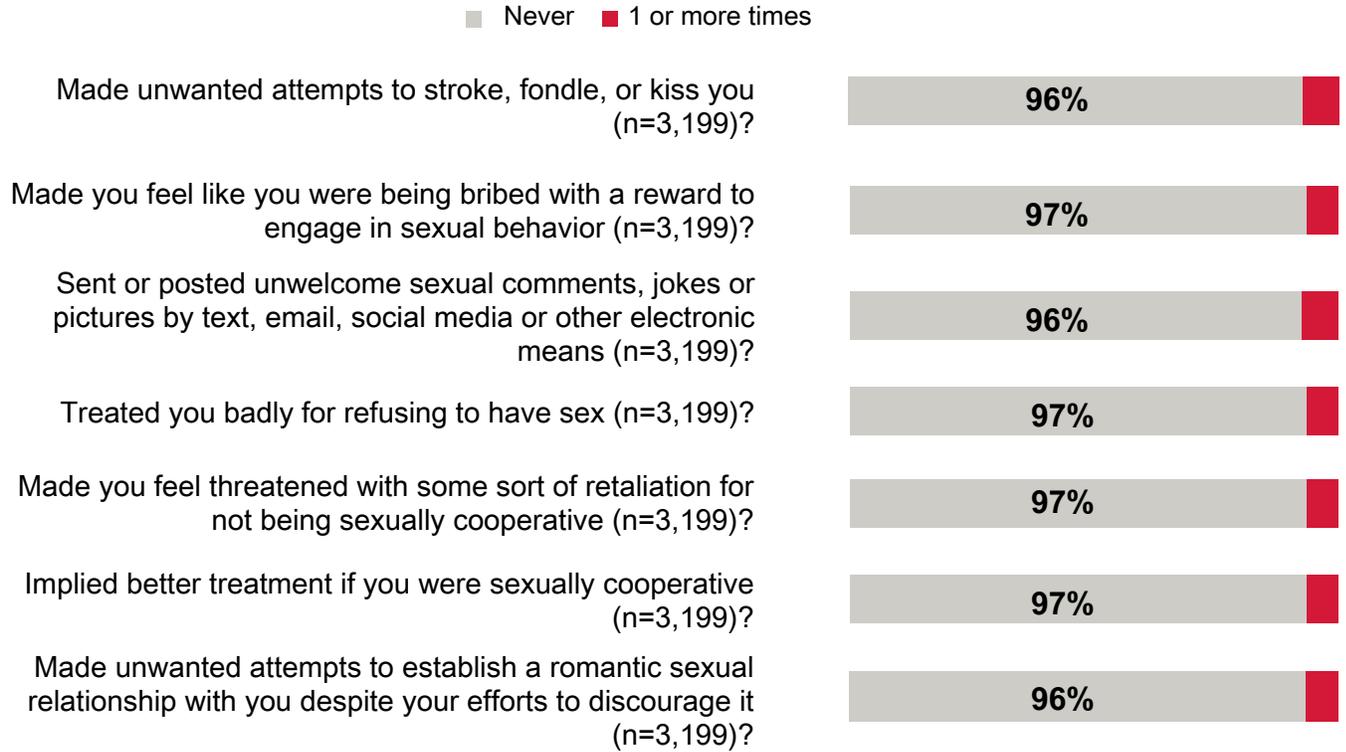
Respondents were asked about the type and frequency of sexual harassment they experienced by SDSU faculty or staff (e.g., professor, instructor, mentor, teaching assistant, coach or administrator). The original response categories of “once or twice” and “more than 2 times” were combined into “1 or more times” due to the small number of responses. Numbers not displayed below indicate a response of less than 5%.

While the majority of survey respondents indicated that they did not experience sexual harassment by an SDSU employee, the most frequently cited incidents included being treated differently because of the student’s sex (14%) and being the recipient of offensive remarks (13%).

**Since you enrolled at SDSU, how often, if ever, have you been in a situation in which an SDSU faculty or staff member did any of the following:**



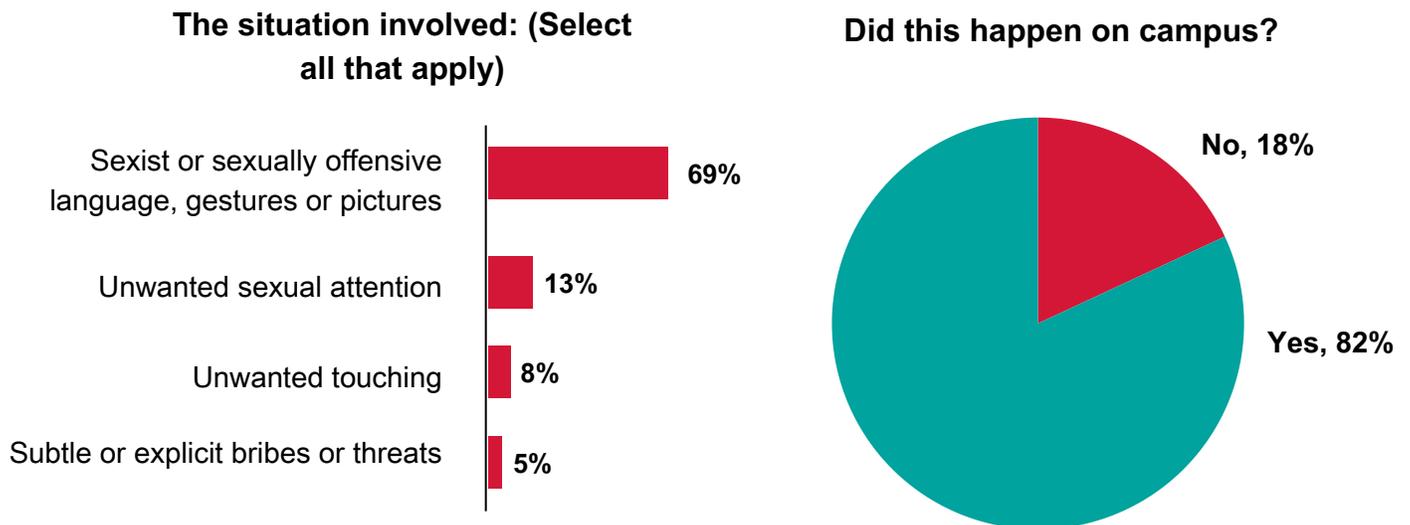
## Sexual Harassment by SDSU Employees continued



## Context for Experiences of Sexual Harassment by an SDSU Employee:

Respondents who indicated that they had experienced any of these behaviors (n=548) were asked to answer follow-up question about the one situation that had the greatest impact on them.

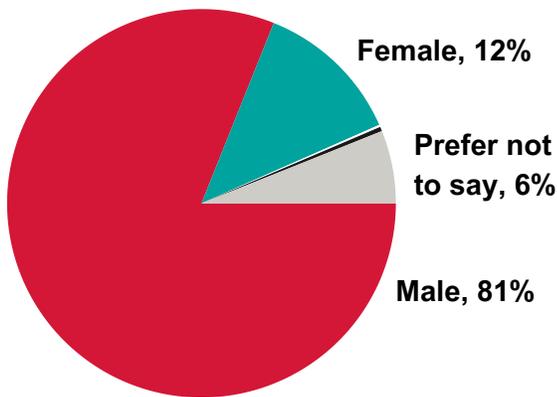
Among those who indicated they had experienced one or more of the behaviors listed above, 69% reported that the situation involved sexually offensive language, gestures or pictures and 82% indicated the incident occurred on campus.



## Context continued

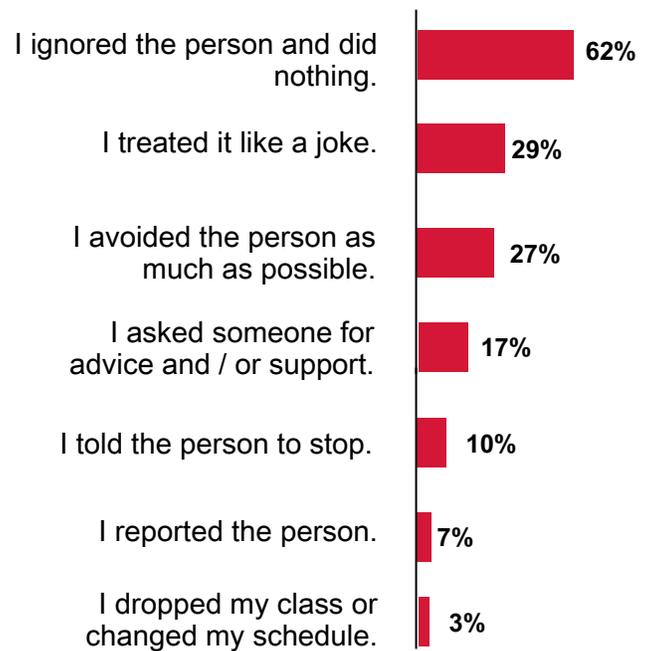
The majority of the respondents indicated that the gender of the person who committed the behavior was male (81%). When asked how they reacted to the situation, over half of the respondents said they ignored the person and did nothing. Only 7% said they reported the person.

**Please describe the gender of the person(s) who committed this behavior:**



Less than 1% indicated the perpetrator was a transgender female, nonbinary, or a different identity.

**How did you react to the situation? (Select all that apply)**



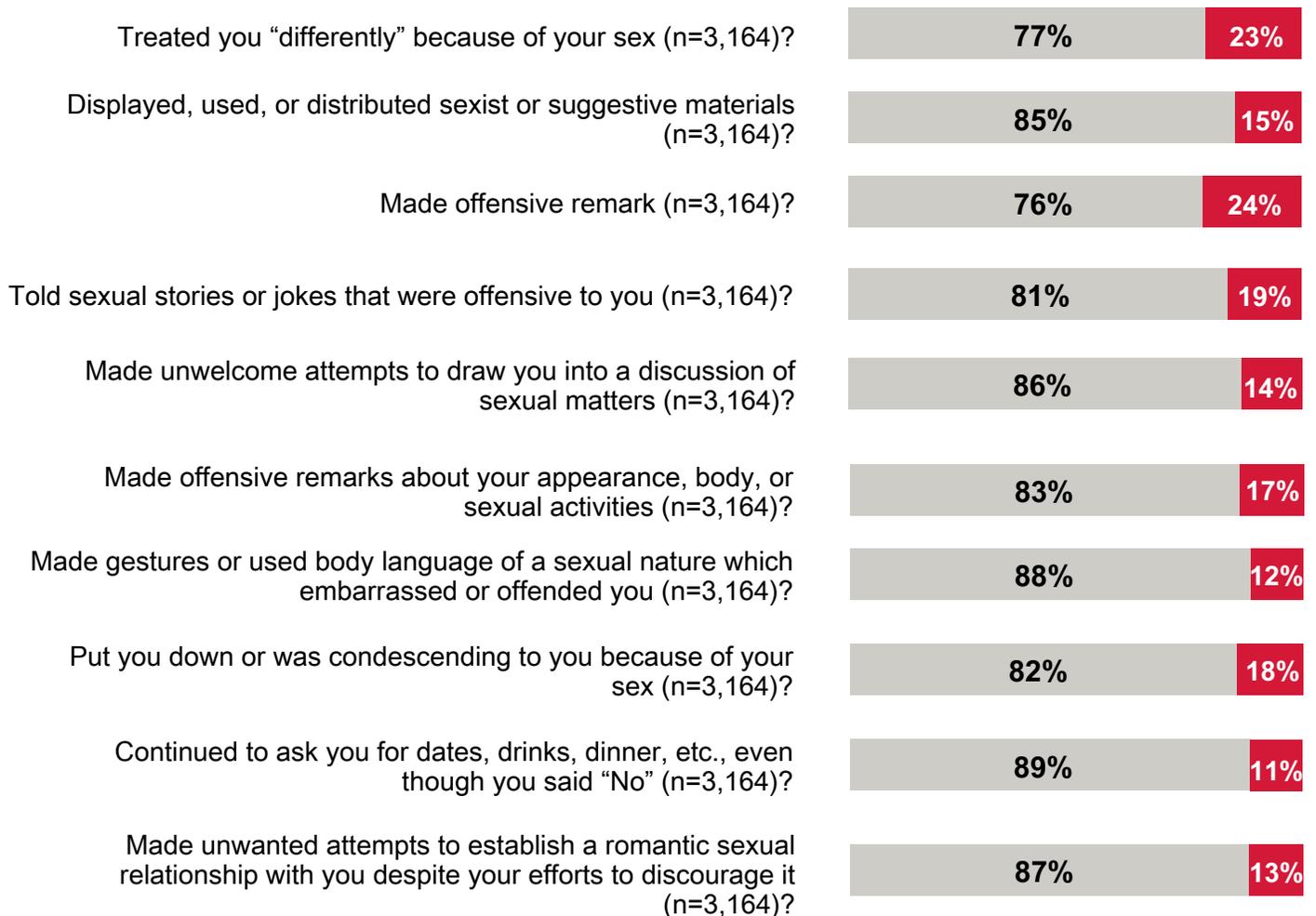
## Sexual Harassment by SDSU Students

Respondents were asked about the type and frequency of sexual harassment they experienced by other SDSU students. An SDSU student was defined as an undergraduate, graduate or professional student. Due to the small number of responses, the original response categories of “once or twice” and “more than 2 times” were combined into “1 or more times.” Numbers not displayed below indicate a response of less than 5%.

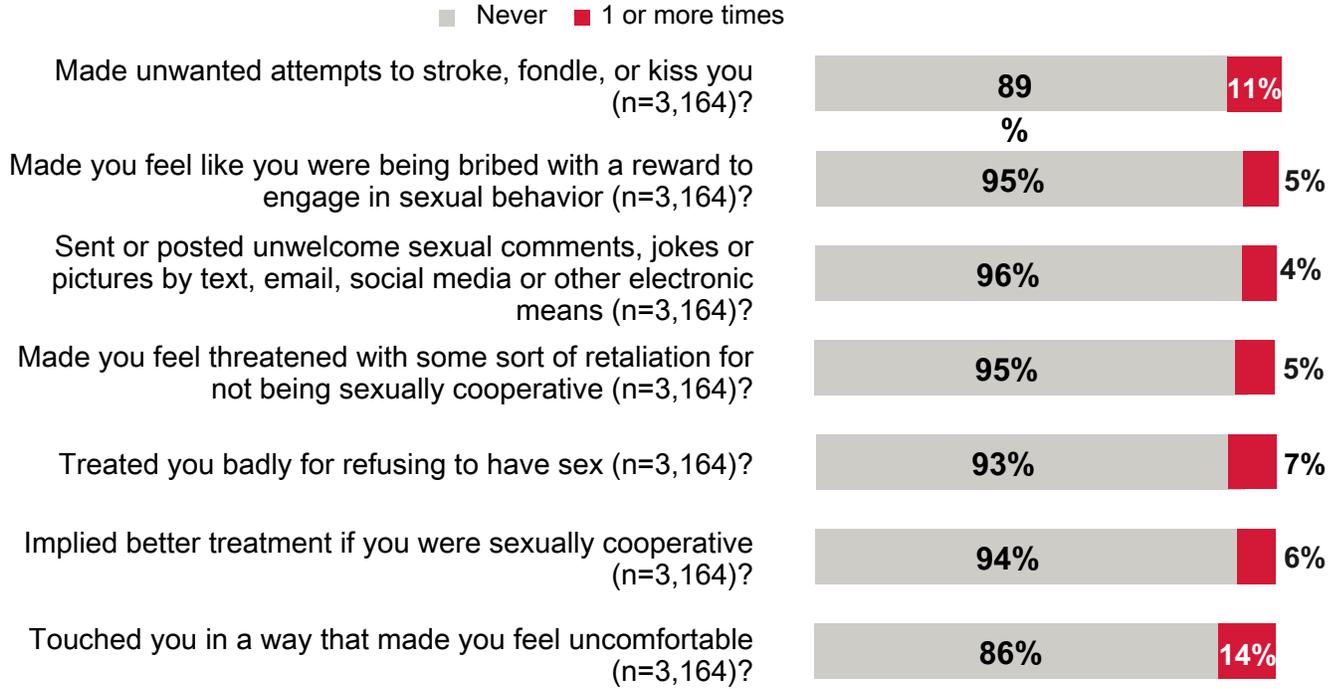
The majority of survey participants indicated that they did not experience sexual harassment by another SDSU student. Among those who did experience sexual harassment, the most frequently cited incidents included being treated differently because of the student’s sex (23%) and being the recipient of offensive remarks (24%).

### Since you enrolled at SDSU, how often, if ever, have you been in a situation in which a fellow SDSU student did any of the following:

■ Never ■ 1 or more times



## Sexual Harassment by SDSU Students continued

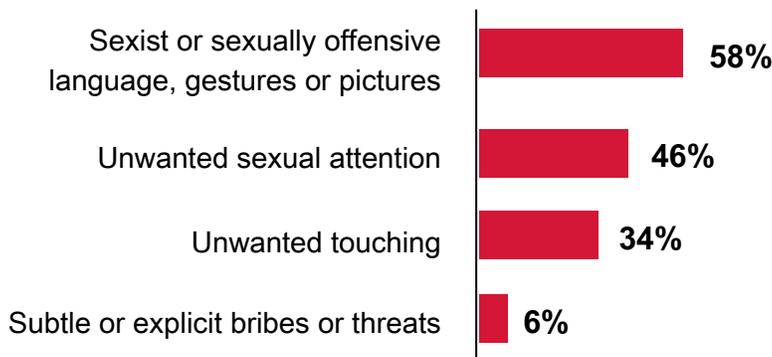


## Context for Experiencing Sexual Harassment by a Fellow SDSU Student:

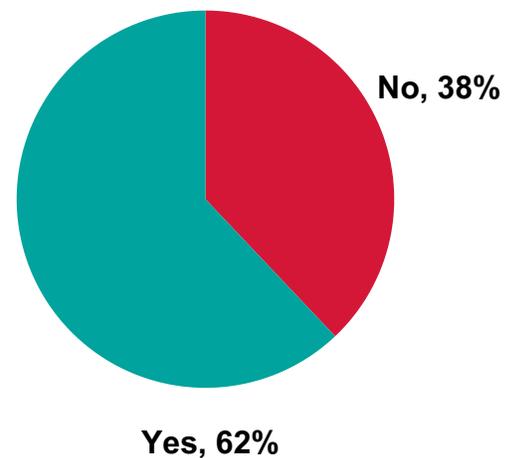
Respondents who indicated that they had experienced any of these behaviors (n=987) were asked to answer follow-up questions about the one situation that had the greatest impact on them.

The majority of these incidents involved sexist or sexually offensive language, gestures or pictures (58%), and nearly half included unwanted sexual attention (46%). Of note, 62% of these incidents occurred on campus.

**The situation involved:  
(Select all that apply)**



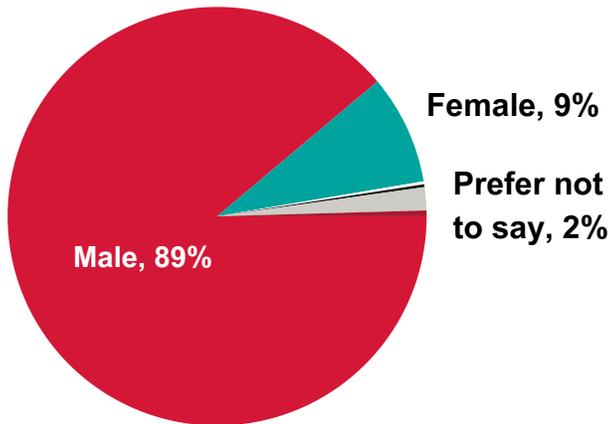
**Did this happen on campus?**



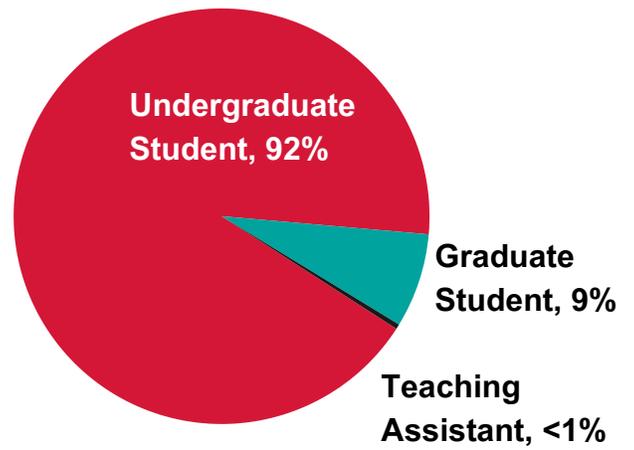
## Context continued

The majority of the respondents said that the gender of the person who committed the behavior was male (89%) and that the perpetrator was an undergraduate (92%). Almost half the respondents said they ignored the person and did nothing, and more than half indicated they avoided the person as much as possible (52%). Only 3% said they reported the person.

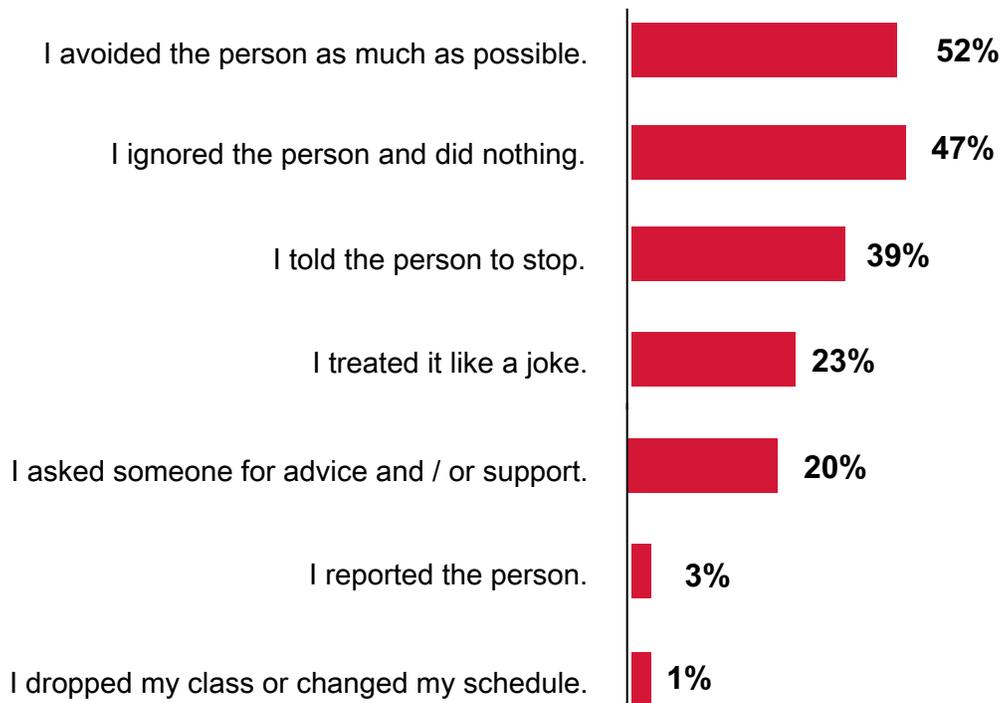
**Please describe the gender of the person(s) who committed this behavior:**



**Was the other person a:**



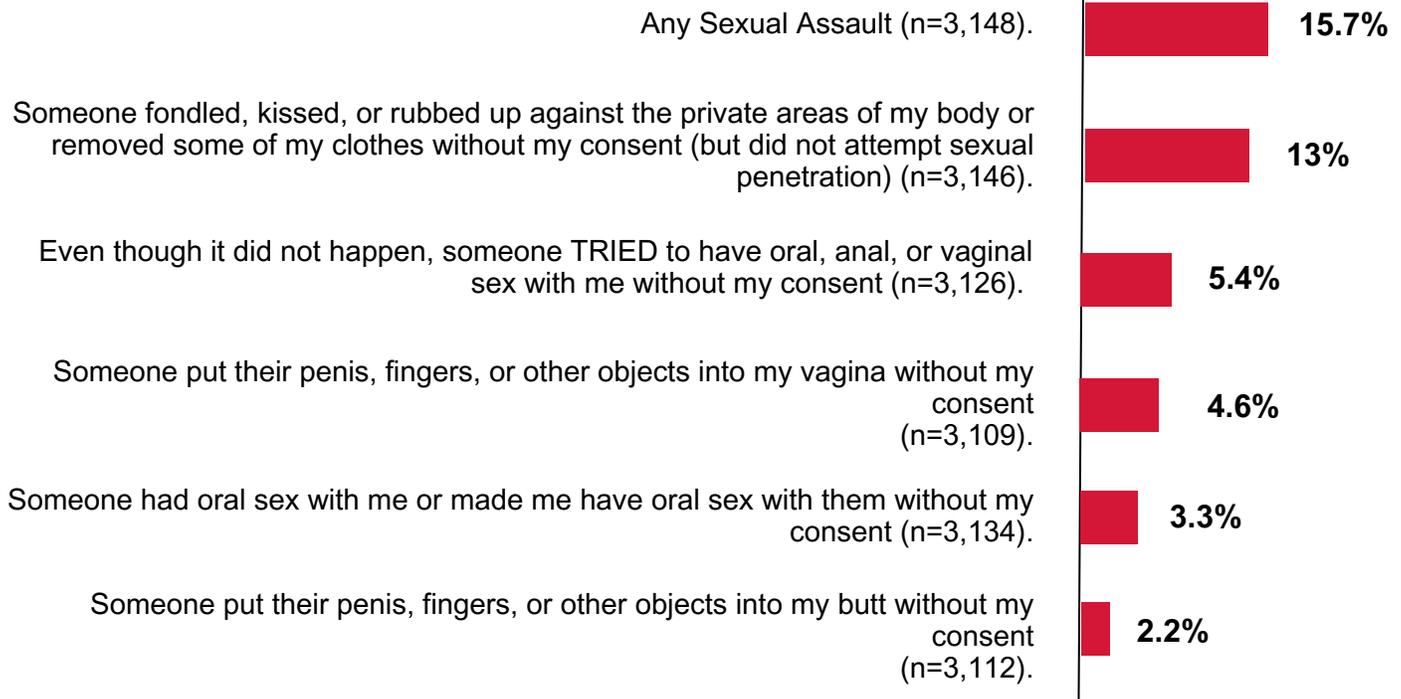
**How did you react to the situation? (Select all that apply)**



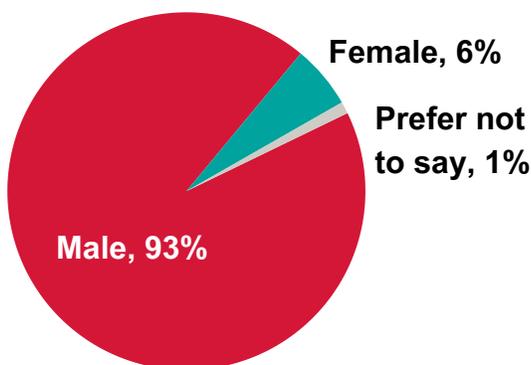
## Sexual Assault Experiences

The Sexual Experiences Survey–Revised (SES–R)<sup>1</sup> was given to all participants to measure the extent of victimization and perpetration of unwanted sexual experiences. Of the respondents who answered these questions, 15.7% reported ever experiencing sexual assault.

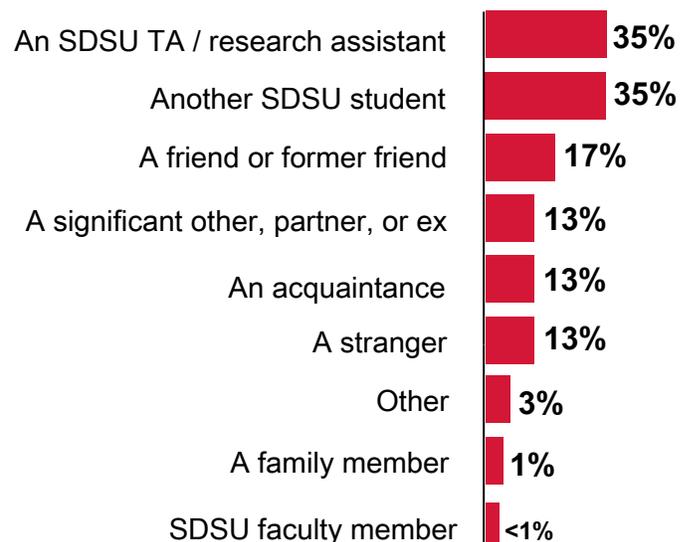
### Sexual Assault Experiences: Victimization



### What was the gender of the person that did this to you (n=234)?



### Who was the person who did this to you (n=438)?



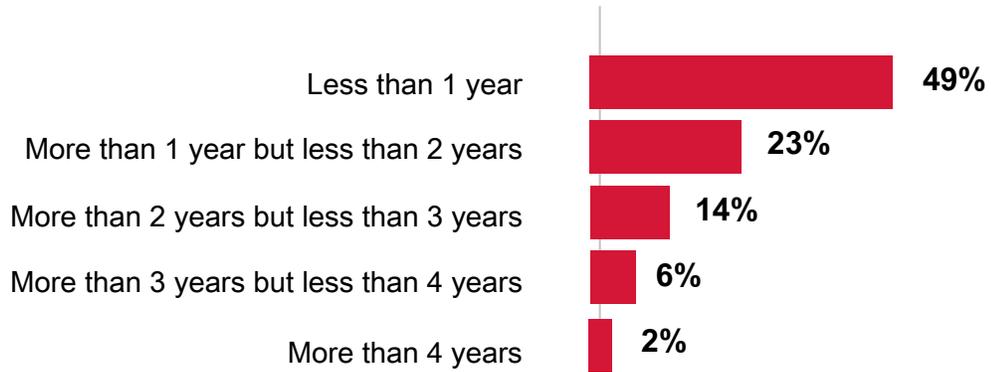
<sup>1</sup> Johnson, S. M., Murphy, M. J., & Gidycz, C. A. (2017). Reliability and validity of the sexual experiences survey–short forms victimization and perpetration. *Violence and victims*, 32(1), 78-92.

# Sexual Assault Experiences

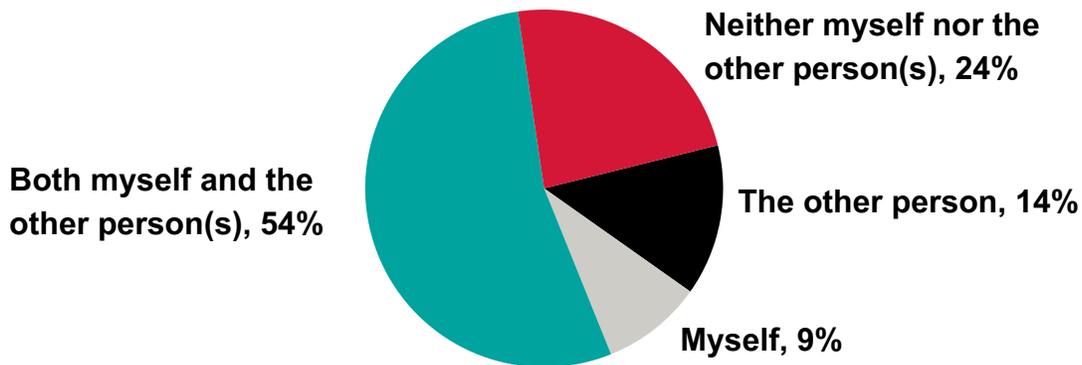
Almost half of respondents who experienced sexual assault reported the unwanted sexual assault experience occurred within the first year of being an SDSU student (49%).

Respondents reported long-term impacts of experiencing sexual assault. Most respondents (95%) reported moving or changing where they lived as a result of the incident. Furthermore, respondents reported that the incident had negative impacts on their academics (66%), including dropping classes/changing schedules (92%).

## How long had you been at SDSU when this incident occurred?

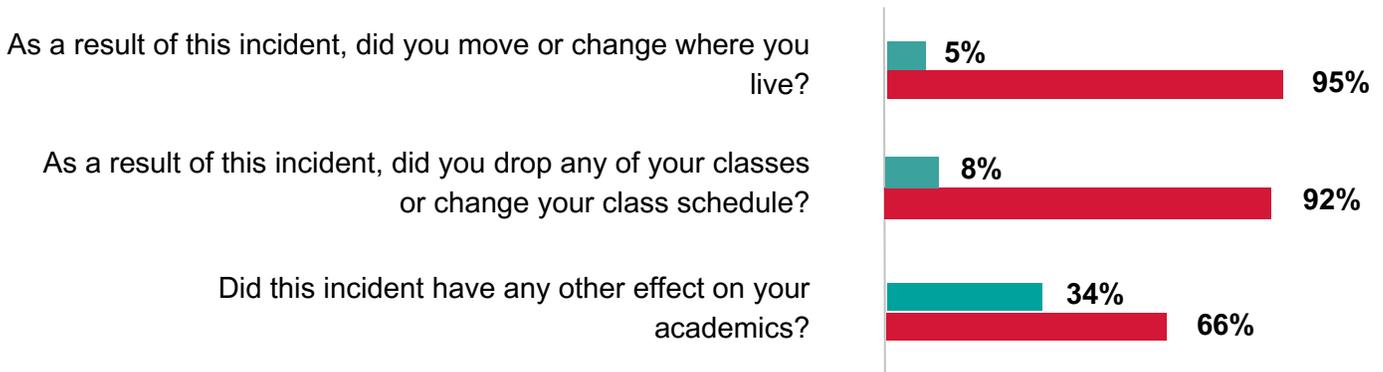


## Was anyone under the influence of alcohol or drugs at the time of the incident?



## Effects of the Incident

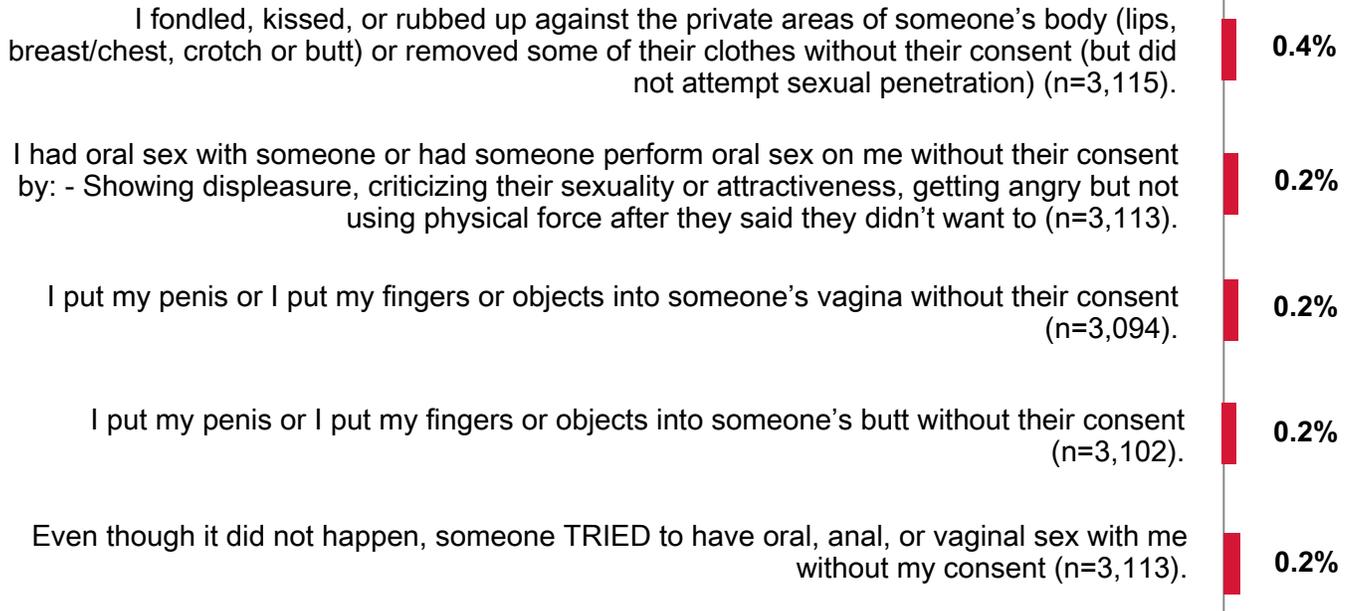
■ No ■ Yes



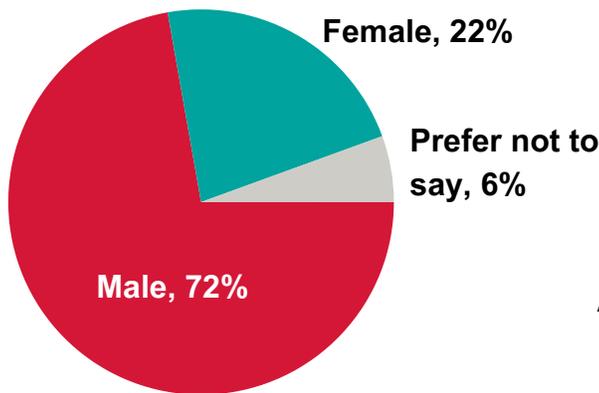
## Sexual Assault Experiences: Perpetration

The Sexual Assault Experiences Scale-Revised (SES-R)<sup>1</sup> was also used to assess whether participants had perpetrated any instances of sexual assault. Overall, less than 1% of participants reported perpetrating at least one of the five scenarios described below. One quarter of respondents (25%) reported that the sexual assault occurred on campus.

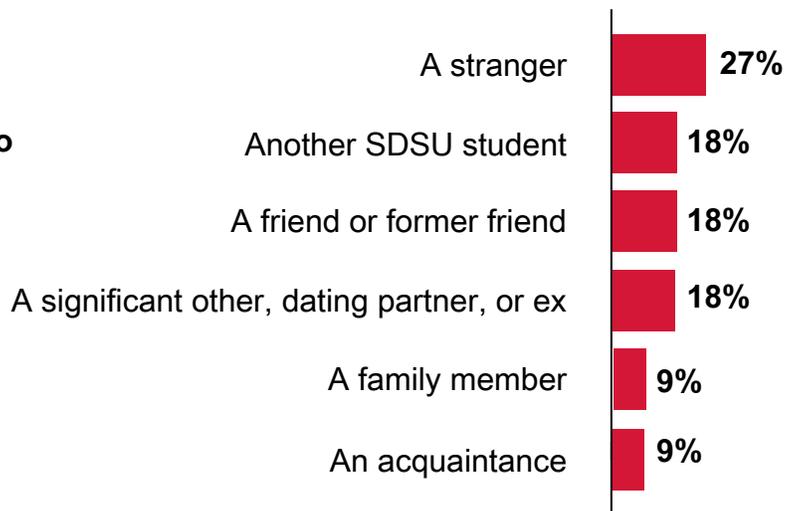
### Sexual Assault Experiences: Perpetration



#### The individual I did this to was a:



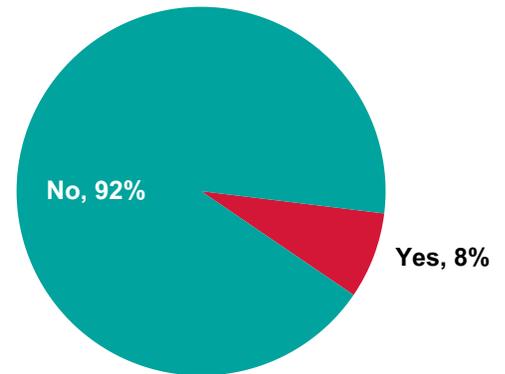
#### Who was the other person? (n=11)



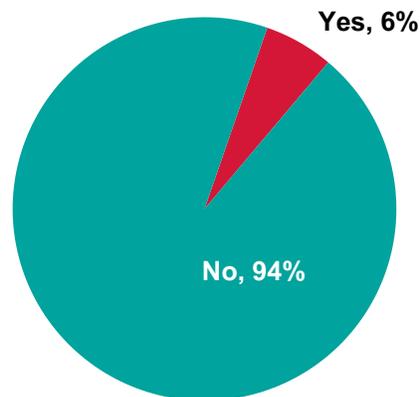
## Self-Identification and Disclosure of Sexual Violence

Survey respondents were asked three questions related to their own labeling and understanding of their experiences of sexual assault, stalking, and sexual harassment. Among respondents, 8% self-identified as having experienced sexual assault, 6% experienced stalking, and 16% experienced sexual harassment. Of note, the prevalence of these experiences using self-identification differed from the validated scales used above.

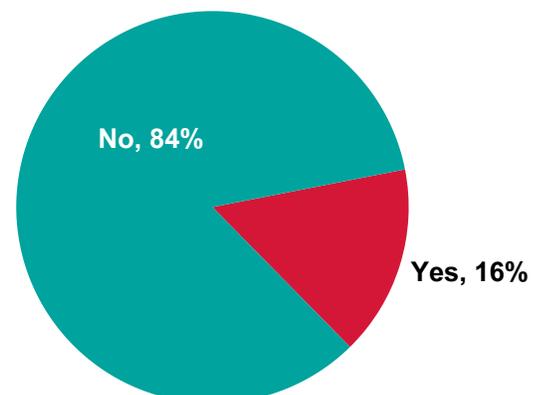
Since becoming a student at SDSU, have you been a victim of any sexual assault? (n=3,103)



Since becoming a student at SDSU, have you experienced stalking? (n=3,103)



Since becoming a student at SDSU, have you experienced sexual harassment? (n=3,104)

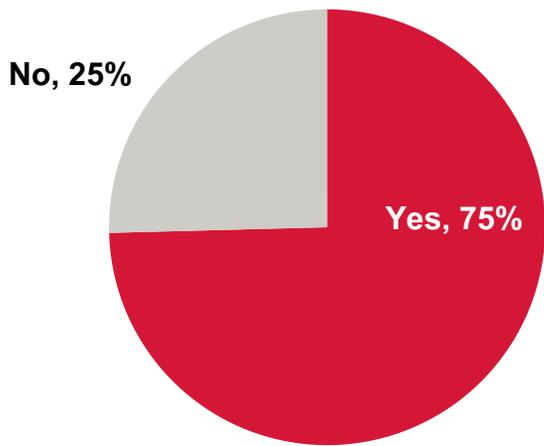


## Disclosure continued



Survey respondents were asked whether they disclosed their experiences of sexual violence. Three-fourths (75%) of respondents disclosed their experiences. SDSU’s Title IX coordinator was the most popular resource (23%), followed by Counseling and Psychological Services (16%). Only 6% of respondents disclosed to a non-SDSU resource, which primarily included friends, roommates, and family members.

### Did you tell anyone about these experiences? (n=606)

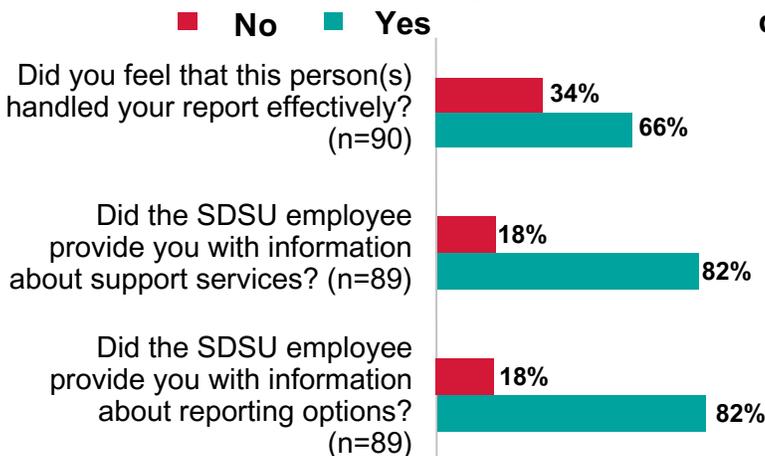


### To whom did you report the incident?

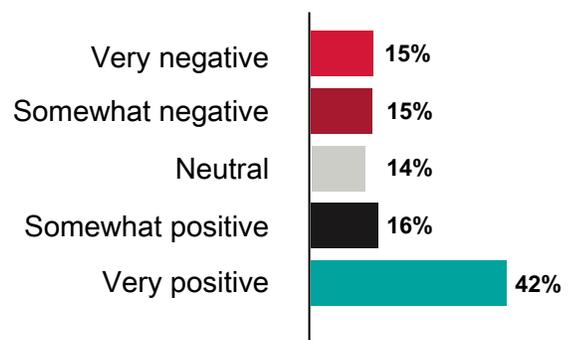
	RESPONDENTS
Title IX coordinator	47 (23%)
Counseling & Psychological Services	32 (16%)
Faculty	27 (13%)
Victim advocate	21 (10%)
Dorm staff	18 (9%)
Other SDSU employee	16 (8%)
Student Health Services	15 (7%)
University police	15 (7%)
Non-SDSU resource	13 (6%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>204</b>

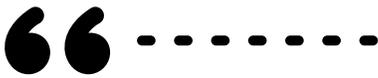
Among students who disclosed their experiences to an SDSU employee, additional questions were asked around effectiveness of reporting and their overall experience with disclosing. Most respondents indicated that the SDSU employee handled the report effectively (66%) and that they were provided with appropriate information related to support services (82%) and reporting options (82%).

### Effectiveness of Reporting



### Please rate your overall experience disclosing (reporting) to an SDSU employee. (n=89)





## Reasons for Non-Disclosure of Sexual Violence

- Respondents were given the opportunity to articulate why they did not disclose their experiences to an SDSU faculty or staff member through an open ended question. Analyses revealed that respondents declined to disclose to an SDSU faculty or staff member for the following reasons: fear, feeling the incident wasn't important enough to report, and general distrust in the system.

### Fear

“I felt like nobody would believe me.”

“I was afraid of the repercussions.”

“Fear it would affect my employment opportunities [and my] potential to get hired for a following term.”

“Fear it would change the rest of my college experience.”

“I was scared of the outcome and did not want to go through the process alone.”

### Not Important Enough to Report

“Because it happens worse to others.”

“I convinced myself it wasn't a big deal.”

“I didn't think it was a big enough incident.”

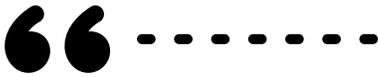
### Distrust in the System

“I didn't think anything would happen. I didn't think [the perpetrator] would face any disciplinary action.”

“As I was struggling to make sense of the situation, I did not feel like SDSU staff could help much and might potentially make the situation worse.”

“I did not want to go through the process of reporting what had happened just for nothing to happen.”

“I don't trust them, and for the most part none of them will do anything about it.”



## Experiences with Reporting Sexual Violence

- Respondents were asked to provide any additional information about their experience with disclosure, either positive or negative. The open-ended responses reflected the mostly positive perception of SDSU's efforts of providing needed services to survivors (61%); however, there were negative experiences that reflect areas for improvement related to reporting and help-seeking on SDSU's campus.

### Negative Experiences:

“I didn't get justice for my situation and the way counseling is handled at SDSU is inefficient for people like me going through current crisis. I was overwhelmed with the situation itself and exams. I couldn't focus on filling out a bunch of complicated handouts by myself. Having faculty offer me help to do so would've been best. It was a complicated process they thought I could do on my own.”

“I felt that my situation was not taken as seriously as it was.”

“[Resources] are hard to contact and make appointments with.”

### Positive Experiences:

“The [Victim Advocate] and Title IX were amazing. I felt so supported.”

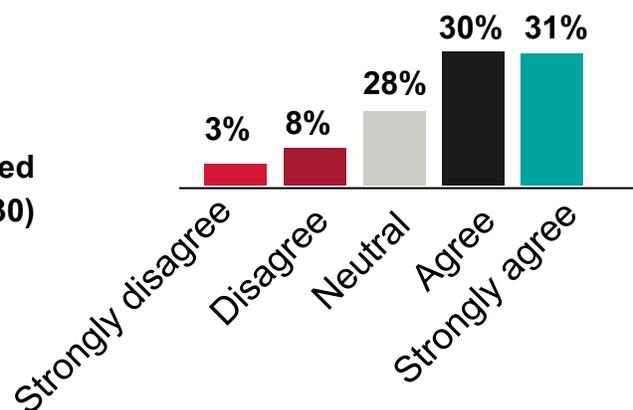
“The victims advocate saved my life, emotionally and academically.”

“Very supportive and convenient location on campus”

“I really like the variety [of resources] that there are.”

“My field instructor this year was incredibly supportive, kind and empathetic in the whole process, [and] back[ed] me up.”

**SDSU is doing a good job of providing needed services to survivors of sexual assault (n=3,030)**



## Highlighting Student Voice

The last question of the survey asked respondents to provide any additional information they wanted to disclose. The open-ended responses reflected positive feedback regarding the need for the survey and feeling heard. However there were negative responses around the survey length, lack of resources on campus, victim blaming, and how SDSU handles experiences of sexual violence.

### Continue disseminating this survey to raise awareness about sexual violence

**Repondents felt that the survey provided a safe space for them to share their experiences around sexual violence as well as gave them hope that this work will be used to change the culture of sexual violence on campus:**

“Thank you for spreading awareness about different matters that could occur on campus, even though I may have never experienced such harm, it makes me feel safe to understand the available information and resources.”

“I think surveys like this should be required to talk about or take in class, even if it is uncomfortable, it’s a harsh reality.”

“I appreciate you guys taking the time to create this survey and I hope that it is useful to help bring awareness and additional resources for this matter.”

“Thank you for all the resources that you guys provide to victims of sexual assault. I myself am a victim and it becomes difficult to be comfortable around so many people but I feel safe here at SDSU.”

## Highlighting Student Voice continued

### More access to resources and training is needed:

#### Respondents indicated that SDSU has a variety of resources but more is needed in terms of training and education:

“I have been on the side of the survivor and the side of the advocate and I still see and hear about such a lack of awareness of how to support survivors among staff and faculty as SDSU and no discussions of consent happening. What’s being done isn’t enough.”

“More workshops year round regarding sexual assault, more security present on campus, better lighting.”

”Sexual assault is rampant..I know there are resources but with all the moving parts of a students day, a lazy single email isn’t enough. Maybe a part of graduating is a 1-2 time a semester seminar about this kind of stuff.”

#### Respondents felt that while SDSU has resources for disclosing sexual violence, many are not aware of how to access them:

“Better advertising of where sexual assault can be reported and other resources for victims.”

“Students (regardless of sex/gender) should be/feel supported by the school. Perhaps QR codes in on campus restrooms to get in-semester support.”

## Additional support, resources and intervention are needed for specific SDSU community members

### LGBTQIA+ Minority Students

“Please increase awareness and support for sexual assault and violence among same sex male couples.”

### Greek Life

“I think that fraternities need some serious assembly or something where they can see how horrible sexual assault impacts people and that their actions are truly horrific in some cases.”

### Athletes

“Our school does a terrible job at actually giving justice to these victims, our sports teams shouldn’t have sex offenders on them. It’s disgusting and embarrassing.”

### Foreign Exchange Students

“Since I’m an exchange student I didn’t know about any of this, maybe mention it on the orientation for international students.”

## Highlighting Student Voice continued

### Disappointment around how sexual violence is handled at SDSU and fear of repercussions:

“Make sure that those reported are held accountable instead of kept along where their victims have to see and still get harassed by them every single day. There are so many people I know who don’t want to report because they know of stories and facts of nothing ending up happening or that they’re scared of what will happen after.”

“I worry that the race and student/faculty status of persons involved in sexual assault will affect the outcome of the investigation.”

“If I or a friend was assaulted at SDSU, I have no hope we would see any justice or repercussions.”

“I hope this survey reaches enough people and SDSU can become a safer place. When I first went here I loved this school. Now everyday I walk around I hate it. I would have transferred but after getting raped my grades dropped and my GPA never fully recovered. I walk around campus scared and need to be on the phone with someone or with someone. I hope other people have better experiences.”

“Do better, get better cameras...do better believing women. You let guys run wild with their dicks out, violating women and we have nowhere to go. Do you know how traumatic it is being raped and for the next 3 semesters having classes that end at 10pm?...The cameras don’t even work.”

**Many respondents also expressed frustration with specific areas of student life, including Greek life and athletics, and feel perpetrators from these groups are not held accountable:**

“Our school does a terrible job at actually giving justice to these victims, our sports teams shouldn’t have sex offenders on them. It’s disgusting and embarrassing.”

“I think the school has plenty of resources for survivors, but needs to do more to prevent them in the first place. Call out athletics and Greek life.”

## Highlighting Student Voice continued

### Victim blaming

**Respondents mentioned sexual violence could be avoided if certain precautions were taken. More work is needed to educate students on the impact of victim blaming and why the focus should be on reducing perpetration of sexual violence.**

“I am fortunate in that I am not involved at all in the alcoholic community side of campus life and in that, I have not personally experienced any form of assault or rape... However, I know that for those that who are involved in that part of the campus life (the alcohol and party life), they have much more occurrence...I am just grateful I don't place myself in situations where I know I could possibly experience an unwilling act against myself or be coerced into an uncomfortable situation”

“There needs to be more focus on females taking responsibility for themselves and on female perpetrators.”

“I personally have not been faced with a lot of sexual harassment on campus but many of my friends have, many of my friends who go out a lot more than me have gotten in trouble for something that someone else has done to them and that needs to change.”

### Survey improvements

**Respondents highlighted additional ways that the sexual violence survey could capture their experiences for future iterations.**

“Good work on this problem, SDSU! I'd add: sexist attitudes, discrimination & mistreatment can be done systematically by organizations and groups as well as individuals. Some questions in this survey could be re-written to acknowledge and include this possibility.”

“All of the information requested and provided here is extremely important, but just for your information, I really started to feel fatigue [...]. I kept hoping to see a measure of how much longer the survey was.”

“Please consider incorporating my suggestions: some of the questions/capacity to respond in this survey was inadequate and did not encompass the full spectrum of relationship violence.”

## Recommendations



- **Sampling:** Survey respondents primarily identified as female, heterosexual and White undergraduates. Future survey iterations should employ more robust recruitment strategies, including expanding participation to non-female and non-heterosexual populations and additional recruitment efforts among Imperial Valley and graduate student populations.
- **Survey Length and Content:** Despite shortening the survey from previous iterations, respondents continued to mention survey fatigue. Future iterations should only feature questions relevant to influencing SDSU policies and procedures around sexual violence prevention, education, and service provision.
- **Allocate More Funding for Student Resources:** While students had primarily positive experiences when disclosing sexual violence, additional personnel and student support could be beneficial to better serve student survivors (e.g., reducing wait times, increasing availability of services). Focusing on first and second year students is also important, as this is when the majority of sexual violence occurred.
- **Simplifying the Reporting and Disclosure Processes:** Survey respondents were generally pleased with the quantity of support services available for survivors. Nevertheless, qualitative data highlighted the need for more transparency and streamlined processes after reporting sexual violence.
- **More Follow-up Among Survivors of Sexual Violence:** Survey respondents who experienced sexual violence indicated long-term impacts, including moving and switching classes. More follow-up is needed to support students who experience sexual violence.
- **Continuous Evaluation Efforts Are Needed:** Biannual surveys are a good barometer of sexual violence on campus. However, surveys alone are not enough. More work is needed to evaluate the effectiveness of existing sexual violence prevention and education programming on campus.
- **Believe Survivors and Amplify Their Voices:** Qualitative data revealed many student survivors did not feel heard by SDSU leadership. While students praised SDSU for providing services for survivors, they ultimately criticized the restitution processes around policy (i.e., justice was not served).

## Acknowledgements

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the survey respondents who took the time to complete this survey on sexual violence. Your participation is invaluable in helping us better understand how violence is experienced among SDSU students. Your insights and experiences will play a crucial role in shaping future policies, expanding support systems, and creating new educational initiatives aimed at preventing sexual violence and supporting survivors. We see you, we hear you, and we stand with you.

We would also like to thank the SDSU community, specifically those who care for survivors. The work you do is important and invaluable to all who live, learn, work, and play on campus:

- SDSU Title IX Office
- Center for Community Solutions Victims Advocate
- SDSU Sexual Violence Task Force
- Ryan Shriver, Research Assistant
- Jessica Rentto, J.D.

May we continue to work together, with survivors and advocates alike, to prevent sexual violence from occurring on our campus. We'd like to end this report by thanking the survivors of sexual violence specifically -- thank you for sharing your light, warmth and courage. You inspire us to do more and do better.

- Brittne Bloom, Ph.D. and Marissa Salazar, Ph.D.  
Side of Change Consulting

**“You’re not a victim for sharing your story. You are a survivor setting the world on fire with your truth. And you never know who needs your light, your warmth and raging courage.”**

- Alex Elle

### ***About Side of Change Consulting®***

Side of Change Consulting is a small, women-owned evaluation company that aims to empower organizations, program leads and educators to broaden their impact through program design, evaluation and growth.

For more information about this report or its findings, please email [sideofchange@gmail.com](mailto:sideofchange@gmail.com) or visit [sideofchange.com](http://sideofchange.com)



