

THE CLAREMONT COLLEGES

2023 Sexual Assault Campus Climate Survey Findings

Background and Context

In the spring of 2023, the Higher Education Data Sharing Consortium (HEDS) [Sexual Assault and Campus Climate](#) (SACC) survey was sent to over 6000 undergraduate students in the Claremont Colleges (5Cs). The SACC survey instrument covers the following topics: perceptions of campus climate around unwanted sexual contact and sexual assault, perceptions of how the institution addresses and responds to sexual assault, and the extent to which students have experienced unwanted sexual contact or sexual assault. The 5Cs added 9 supplemental questions to the survey (see Appendix B for question text) to address dating/domestic violence and stalking, since the topics are closely related.

While the survey findings are intended to provide insights that will improve the campus climate for all students, it is important to keep in mind that this information does not represent generalizations about the Claremont Colleges community. The dissemination of the 2023 survey coincides with the culmination of a period of great disruption in the traditional trajectory of college students. Given the impact of the pandemic – including more than one full academic year of remote learning - many of the students have not spent extensive time on campus and their experiences are reflective of their time away. This broader perspective may assist in framing not only the lower response rate but also the responses themselves. Students may not be as focused on this campus climate issue as they continue to readjust to the academic and residential environment at the 5Cs. For those that did respond, their answers may indicate their feelings of support and community while away from campus – necessarily changing their perspective on the immediacy of support, availability of resources, and connection to the Colleges.

Additionally, it is not possible to determine the impact self-selection may have had on results because the survey was voluntary and because the topics of sexual assault, campus climate, dating/domestic violence and stalking have the potential to provoke strong opinions. The 5Cs have committed to the highest level of transparency possible through the public dissemination of results, while maintaining the anonymity of survey participants on a topic that is inherently sensitive and difficult.

Several actions were taken to prevent any potential identification of survey participants. Prior to sending institutions their data files, HEDS removed some demographic variables and combined others to create larger response categories, particularly when the number of participants in a category (e.g., participants who did not select a gender identification) were small. As such, the categories listed in this report are not common but are included to acknowledge observed differences in campus climate and sexual assault for various survey participant populations, using the categories provided in the survey data files. Additionally, categories with small numbers of survey participants (less than ten) are not presented.

Although the HEDS SACC survey was administered in 2015 and 2018, instrument revisions around reporting of sexual assaults, substantial variation in response rates and potential for overlap in survey response populations preclude a comparison of results across time. As a result, each report is presented as a discrete snapshot.

Survey findings are provided in the following sections:

1. Survey participant demographics – Page 2
2. Perceptions of campus climate and sexual assault – Page 3
3. Institutional information and education about sexual assault – Page 5
4. Dating violence, stalking, domestic violence, and 5C supplemental questions – Page 6
5. Unwanted sexual contact and sexual assault – Page 8
6. Bystander intervention– Page 17

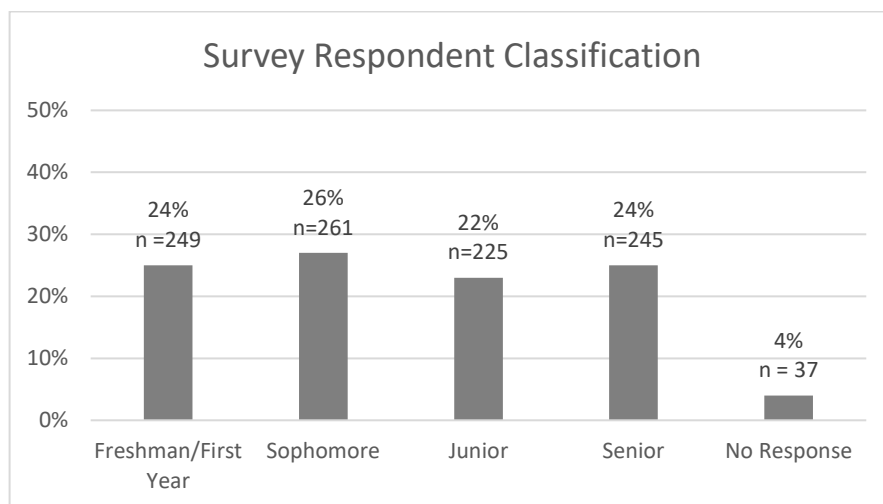
The report also includes several appendices: the 2023 survey instrument, our supplemental questions, an FAQ document, and a list of actions taken since the 2018 survey administration. Lastly, this work is only possible because students at the Claremont Colleges took the time to share their experiences. On behalf of everyone involved in this effort, we are deeply grateful.

SECTION 1: SURVEY PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS

Surveys were submitted by 1,017 out of 6,011 students at the five undergraduate Claremont Colleges (5Cs), for a response rate of 17 percent. Compared to the students who were invited to fill out the survey, respondents were slightly less likely to be women (62% vs. 56%) and were slightly more likely to identify as white (40% vs. 47%).

Figures 1.1 & 1.2 – Survey participant demographics and classification information.

Survey participant demographics:	5C Count	5C %
Women	542	56%
Men	370	38%
Nonbinary	53	5%
Selected only white	430	47%
Did not select only white	476	53%
Heterosexual	551	59%
Sexual orientation not heterosexual	383	41%



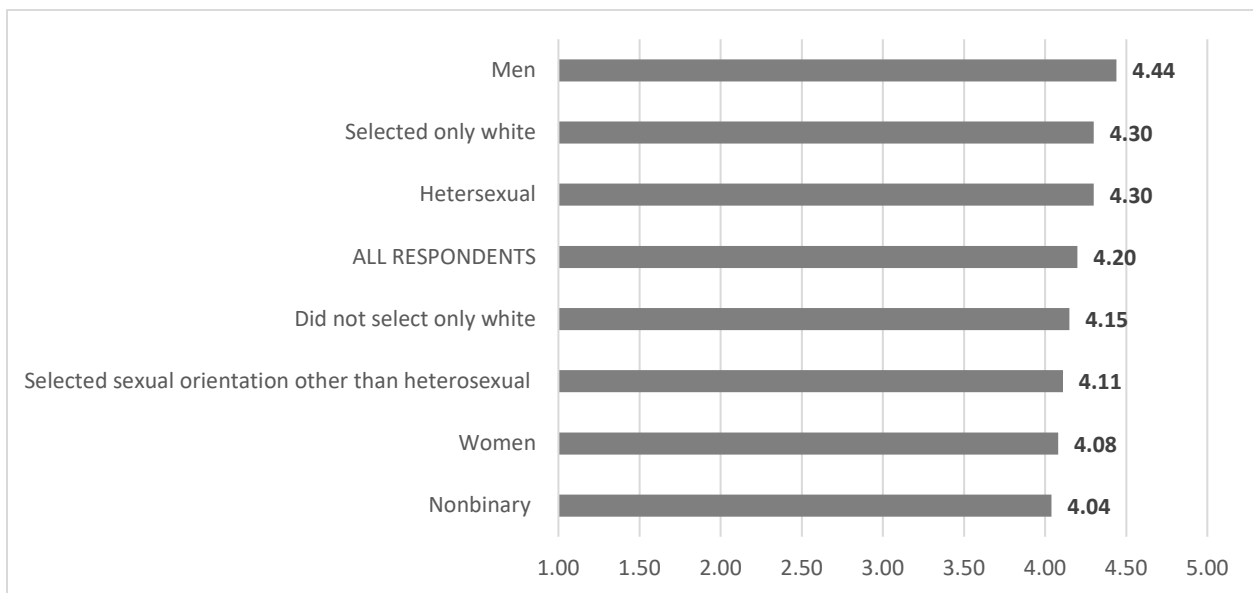
SECTION 2: PERCEPTIONS OF CAMPUS CLIMATE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT

Survey participants responded to the following questions using a 5-point scale, where 5 represents strongly agree, 4 is agree, 3 is neither agree nor disagree, 2 is disagree, and 1 is strongly disagree.

In general, views about campus climate are very positive. Eighty-five percent of 5C survey participants agree or strongly agree that they feel safe on their campus.

Figure 2.1 - Questions about general climate:	5C Count	5C Mean
I feel safe on this campus.	1001	4.20
I feel valued in the classroom/learning environment.	1004	4.14
Students are genuinely concerned about the welfare of other students.	1004	4.11
I feel close to people on this campus.	1004	3.97
Faculty, staff, and administrators are genuinely concerned about students' welfare.	1006	3.94
I feel like I am a part of the community.	1003	3.88
Faculty, staff, and administrators respect what students think.	1001	3.84
Faculty, staff, and administrators treat students fairly.	1000	3.70

Figure 2.2 - Disaggregated responses to the statement “I feel safe on this campus.”



The following two figures show participant perceptions of how various groups contribute to the general campus climate and the level of agreement with how officials manage difficult or dangerous situations.

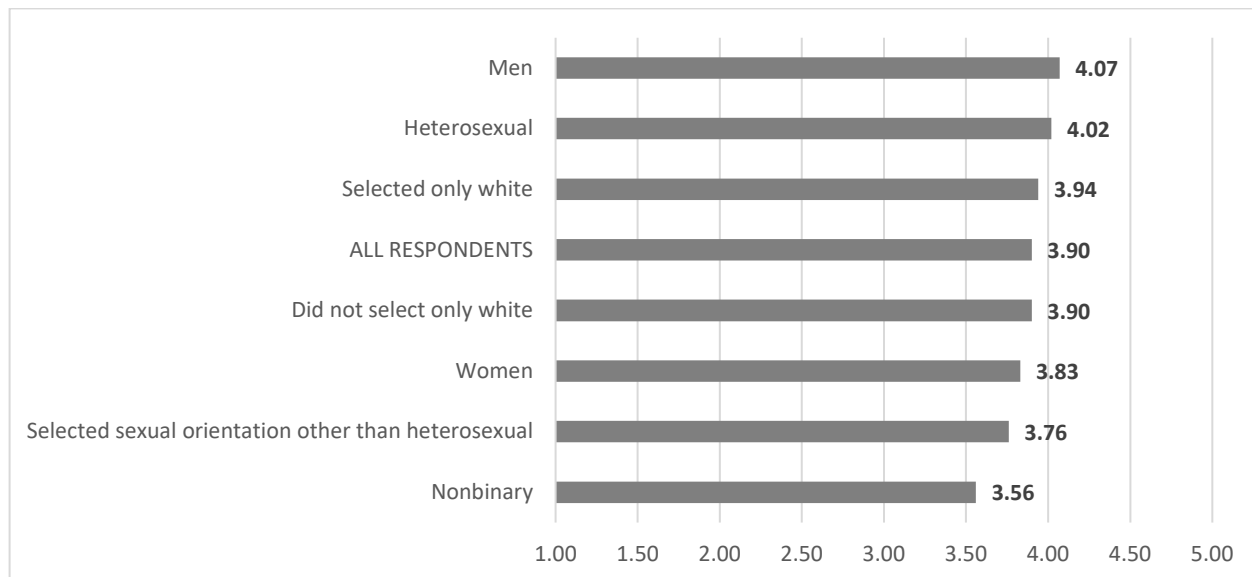
Figure 2.3 - Extent to which groups contribute to general climate:	5C Count	5C Mean
Staff contributes to a positive and supportive campus climate.	1003	4.37
Faculty contributes to a positive and supportive campus climate.	1003	4.25
Students contribute to a positive and supportive campus climate.	999	4.12
Administration contributes to a positive and supportive campus climate.	1000	3.27

Figure 2.4 - Response to difficult or dangerous situations:	5C Count	5C Mean
Campus officials respond quickly in difficult situations.	993	3.61
Campus officials do a good job protecting students from harm.	1001	3.57
Campus officials handle incidents in fair and responsible manner.	991	3.43
There is a good support system for students going through difficult times.	993	3.40
If a crisis happened here, I am confident campus officials would handle it well.	1002	3.32

Seventy-one percent of survey participants from the 5Cs agree or strongly agree that other students would intervene if they witnessed a sexual assault. Forty-seven percent perceive the number of sexual assaults that occur on campus or during off-campus events or programs sponsored by their institution to be low. Thirty-nine percent believe that they or one of their friends is not at risk for being sexually assaulted on campus or during off-campus events or programs sponsored by the institution.

Figure 2.5 - Views on sexual assault at institution:	5C Count	5C Mean
Students would intervene if they witnessed a sexual assault.	1003	3.90
Low number of sexual assaults on campus.	1006	3.29
Don't believe I or one of my friends is at risk of sexual assault.	1005	2.96

Figure 2.6 - Disaggregated responses to the statement “I believe that students would intervene if they witnessed a sexual assault.”

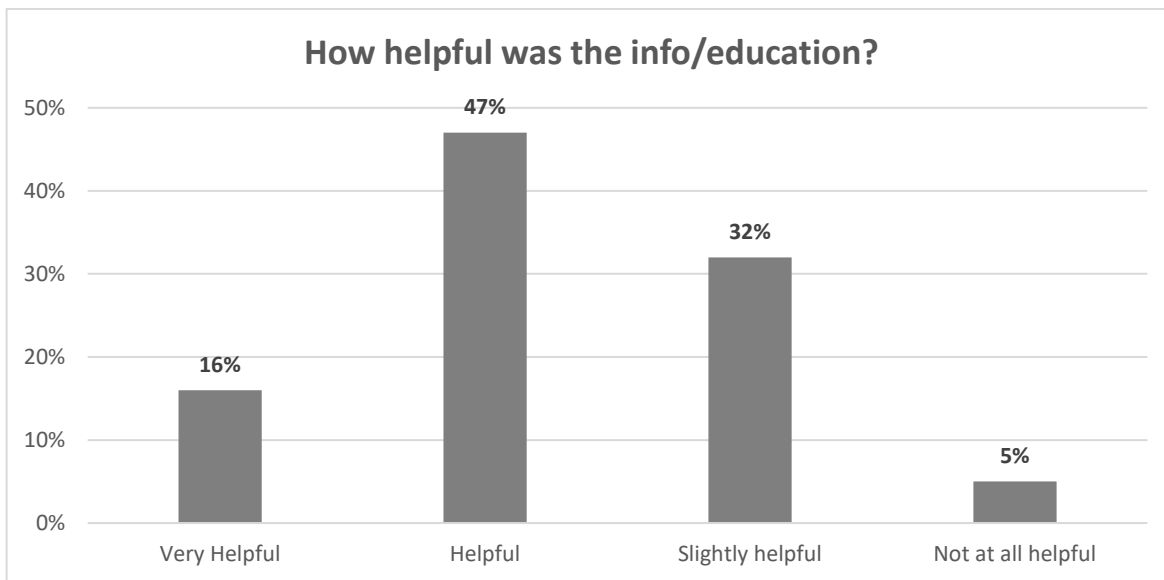
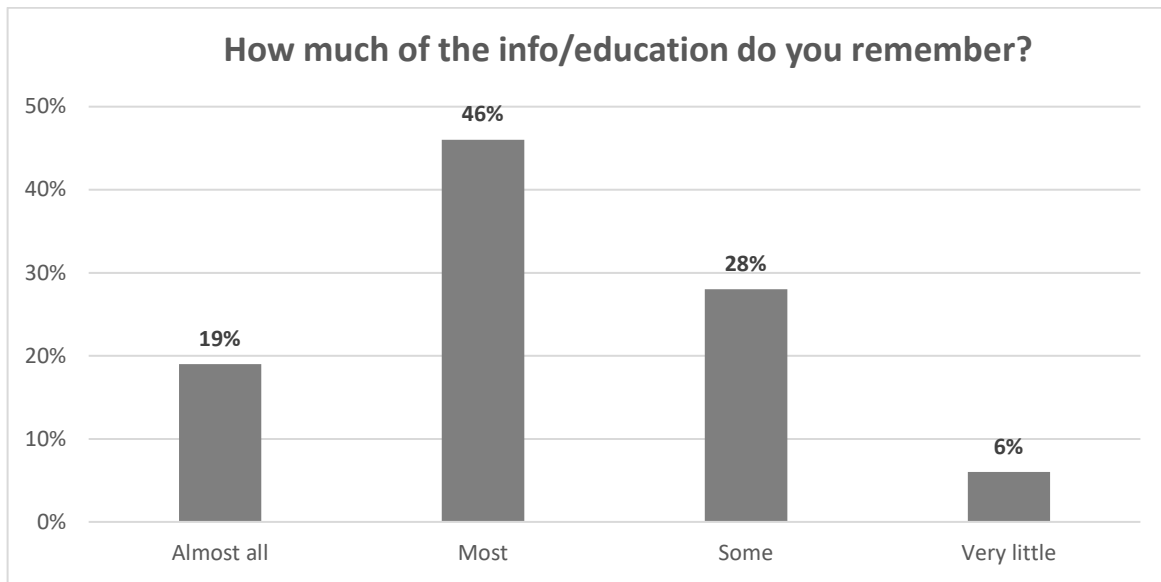


SECTION 3: INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION AND EDUCATION ABOUT SEXUAL ASSAULT

Over ninety percent of 5C survey participants know what sexual assault is and the actions they can take to help prevent it. Lower proportions of survey participants know how to access confidential resources, report incidents, or the investigation procedures for sexual assault.

Figure 3.1 - Received information or education from institution about:	5C Count	% Yes	% No	% Unsure
What sexual assault is and how to recognize it.	999	94%	3%	3%
Actions you can take to help prevent sexual assault.	995	91%	5%	4%
Confidential resources for sexual assault and how to locate them.	999	83%	7%	10%
How to report an incident of sexual assault.	999	81%	7%	12%
Procedures for investigating a sexual assault.	993	58%	21%	21%

Figures 3.2 & 3.3 – Additional details regarding institutional information/ education.



SECTION 4: DATING VIOLENCE, STALKING, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & 5C SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

Dating violence, stalking and domestic violence are forms of abuse that involve the exertion of power and control over a victim, which often overlap and can cause severe trauma. Nearly one-quarter of 5C participants indicate they have received unwanted sexual SPAM, emails, or messages, and eighteen percent have been sent unwanted messages asking them to sext.

Figure 4.1 - In your day-to-day life as a student at this institution, how often have the following things happened to you:	5C Count	% > Never
I have received unwanted sexual SPAM, emails, or messages.	989	24%
People have sent me unwanted messages asking me to sext.	995	18%
People have spread rumors about my sexual behavior online.	994	15%
People have shown me unwanted sexual images online.	992	14%
People have sent me unwanted messages asking for nude pictures of myself online.	992	13%
People have continued to have sexual discussions with me online even after I told them to stop.	993	12%

Figure 4.2 - Since starting at this institution, have you experienced any of the following things:	5C Count	% No	% Unsure	% Yes
Has someone followed you or kept track of your activities in a way that made you feel you were in serious danger?	973	91%	4%	5%
Has a partner ever twisted your arm, thrown something at you that could hurt you, or pushed, grabbed, or slapped you, against your will?	975	95%	1%	4%
Has a partner ever prevented you from seeing family or friends, held you captive, stalked you, or verbally threatened to hurt you or your family?	976	96%	2%	3%
Has a partner ever kicked you, slammed you against a wall, beaten you up, punched or kicked you, hit you with something that could hurt you, burned or scalded you, choked you, or used or threatened to use a knife or gun on you on purpose?	975	97%	1%	2%

At the Claremont Colleges, the Title IX Coordinators, the EmPOWER Center, and student advocates support students impacted by all forms of sex discrimination and violence addressed under Title IX, the Violence Against Women Act, and Cleary, including not only sexual assault, but also dating/domestic violence and stalking. The Claremont Colleges prevention and education programs address these forms of abuse simultaneously. In 2018, we felt it was important to add questions to the HEDS survey to inform this ongoing work more holistically, and we have again added these items to the instrument in 2023.

The following questions utilize the following response options: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, and more than 4. The percentages represent the number of survey participants who selected any option greater than zero.

Figure 4.3 - Since starting at this institution how many people have:	5C % > 0
Made unwanted phone calls to you or left you messages. This includes hang-ups, text, or voice messages?	24%
Gave you something unwanted or left something strange or threatening in a place where you would find it?	7%

Figure 4.4 - Since starting at this institution how many of your romantic partners have:	5C % > 0
Called you names, put you down, blamed you for things, or told you that no one else would want you?	18%
Insulted, humiliated, or made fun of you in front of others?	16%
Kept track of you by demanding to know where you were and what you were doing?	12%
Made decisions for you that should have been yours to make, such as the clothes you wear, things you eat or the friends you have?	12%
Threatened to hurt or kill themselves when they were upset with you?	10%
Destroyed something that was important to you?	8%

Figure 4.5 - Since starting at this institution, how many of your romantic or sexual partners have ever:	% Yes
Prevented you from using safer sex methods when you wanted to use them?	6%

SECTION 5: UNWANTED SEXUAL CONTACT AND SEXUAL ASSAULT

Survey participants indicated the frequency with which they had experienced the following forms of unwanted sexual contact using the following scale: never, rarely, sometimes, often, and very often. The chart below represents any reporting of unwanted contact (all responses beyond never).

- Unwanted verbal behaviors – such as someone making sexual comments about your body; someone making unwelcome sexual advances, propositions, or suggestions to you; or someone telling you sexually offensive jokes or kidding about your sex or gender-specific traits.
- Unwanted nonverbal behaviors – such as sending you sexual emails, texts, or pictures; posting sexual comments about you on blogs or social media; showing you sexually offensive pictures or objects; leering at you or making lewd gestures towards you; or touching oneself sexually in front of you.
- Unwanted brief physical contact – such as someone briefly groping you, rubbing sexually against you, pinching you, or engaging in any other brief inappropriate or unwelcome touching of your body.

Figure 5.1 – Frequency of unwanted sexual contact.

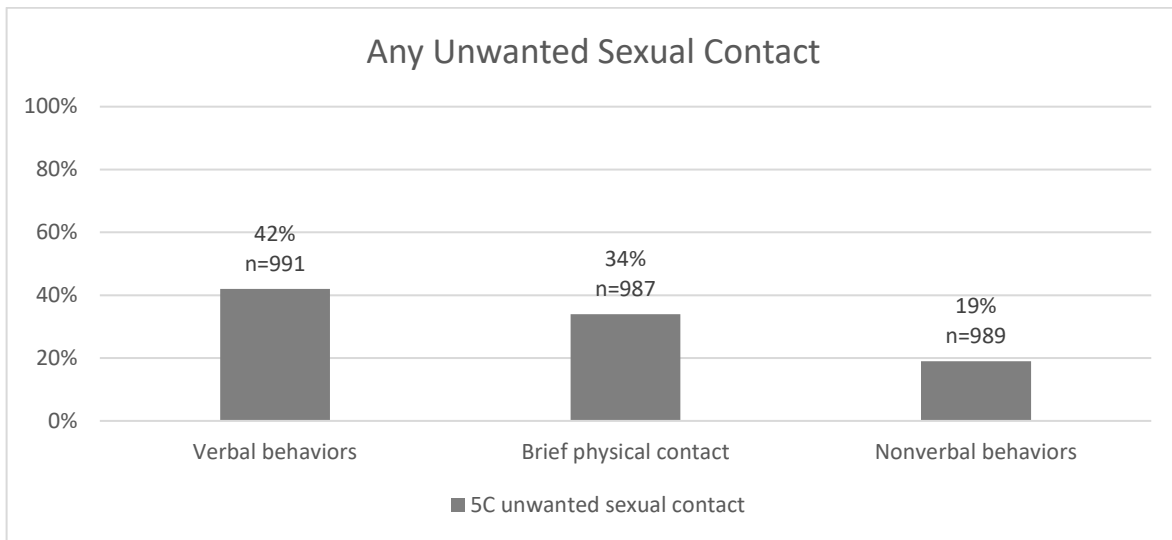
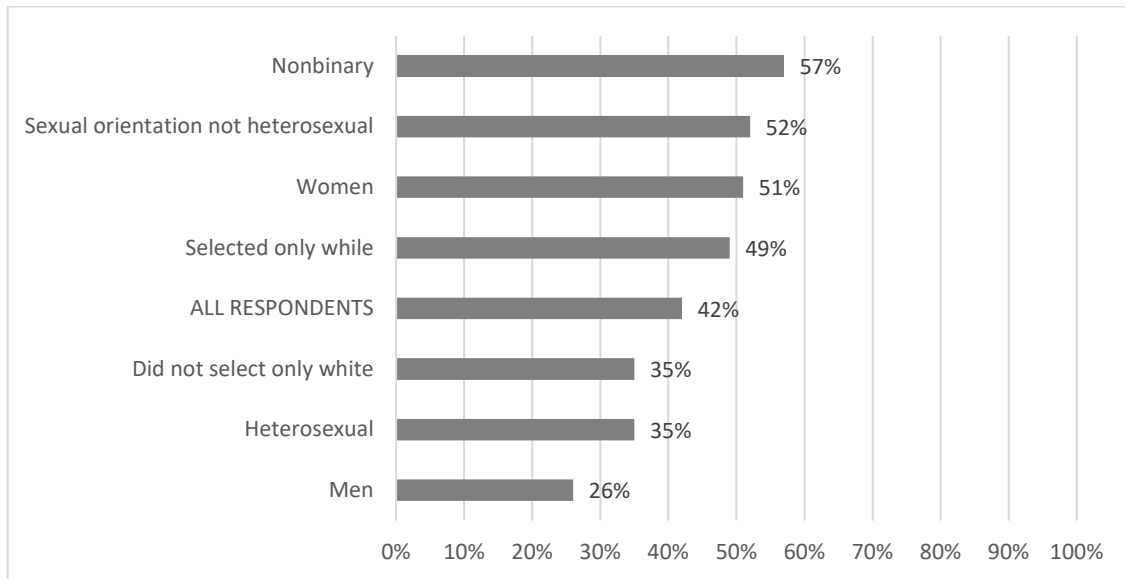


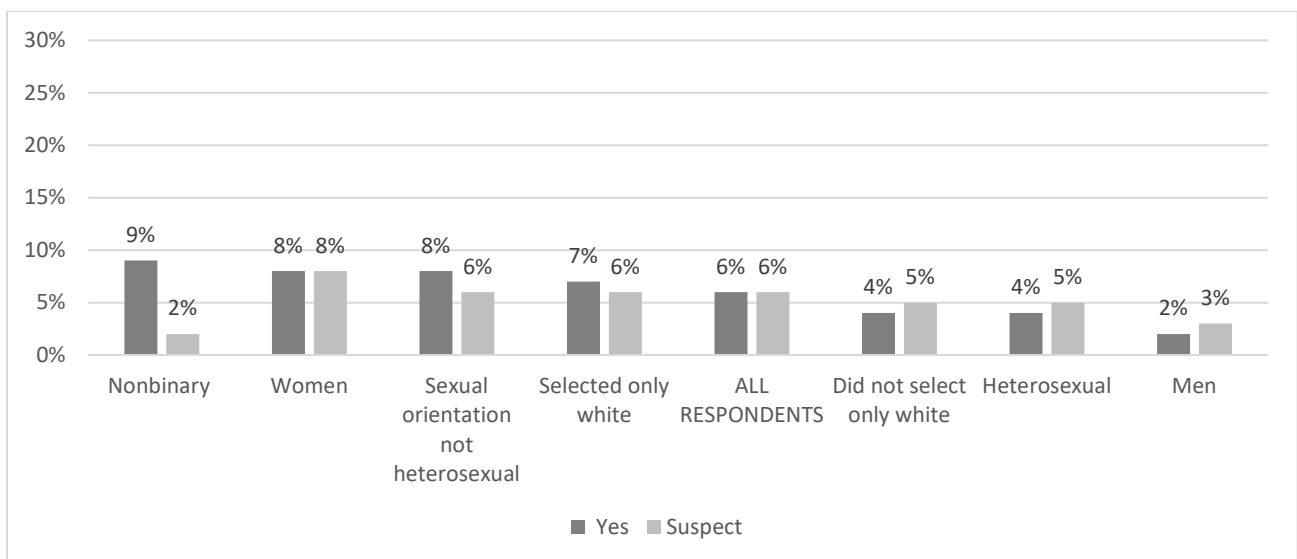
Figure 5.2 - Who was responsible for this behavior? (Check all that apply)	5C %
Student(s) from this institution	73%
Student(s) from another institution	56%
Person or people from the local community	13%
Other	3%
Faculty member(s), staff member(s), or administrator(s) from this institution	3%
Faculty member(s), staff member(s), or administrator(s) from another institution	1%
Employer(s)/supervisor(s) at this institution	1%

Figure 5.3 - Disaggregated participant percentages who experienced any unwanted verbal behaviors.



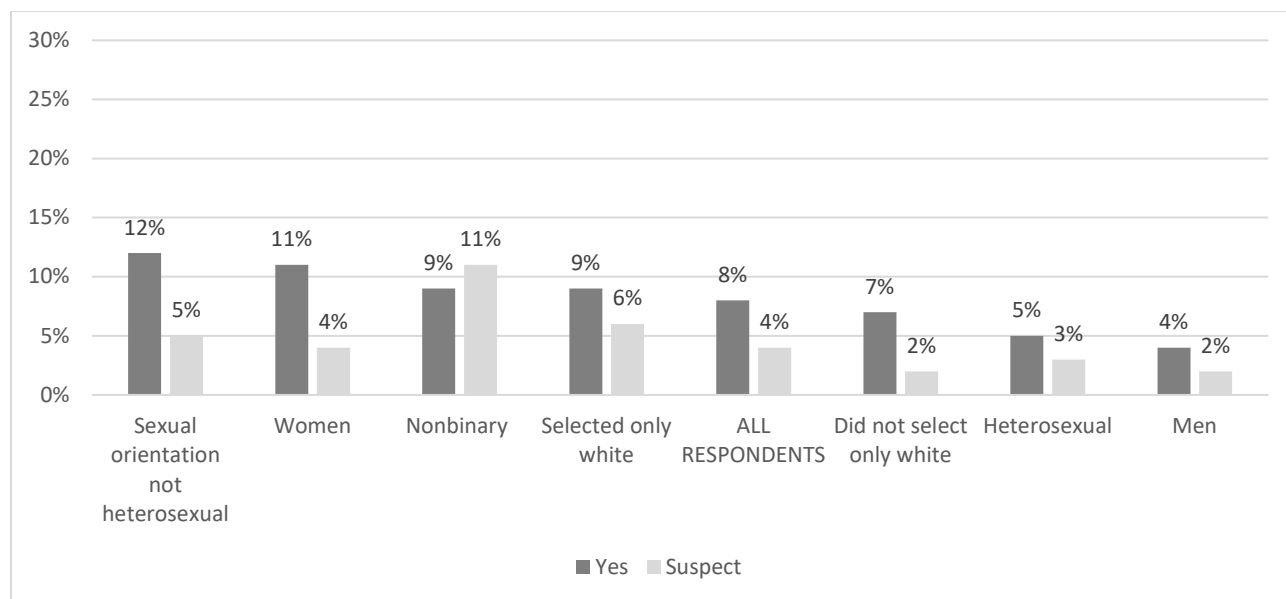
In response to the question *“Has anyone attempted, but not succeeded in, sexually assaulting you while you were on campus or while you were off campus during an event or program sponsored by your institution?”* six percent of survey participants answered yes and six percent suspected that someone attempted to sexually assault them but were not certain.

Figure 5.4 – Participants indicating attempted sexual assault.



Eight percent of survey participants indicated that they had been sexually assaulted while they were on campus or while off campus at an event or program sponsored by their institution. An additional four percent suspect that someone attempted to sexually assault them but were not certain.

Figure 5.5 – Participants indicating sexual assault.



Types of sexual contact during the sexual assault:

- Touching of a sexual nature - kissing you, touching of private parts, grabbing, fondling, rubbing up against you in a sexual way, even if it was over your clothes.
- Oral sex - someone’s mouth or tongue making contact with your genitals, or your mouth or tongue making contact with someone else’s genitals.
- Vaginal sex - someone’s penis being put in your vagina, or your penis being put into someone else’s vagina.
- Anal sex - someone’s penis being put in your anus, or your penis being put into someone else’s anus.
- Anal or vaginal penetration - with a body part other than a penis or tongue, or by an object, like a bottle or candle.

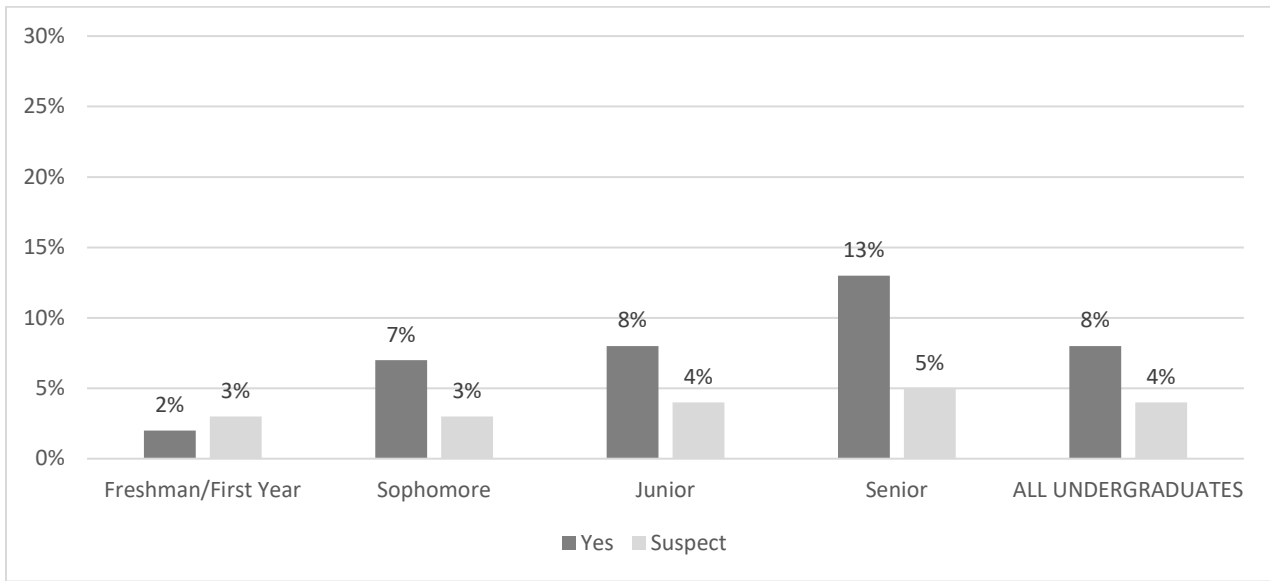
Figure 5.6 - Which of the following happened:	5C %
Touching of a sexual nature	89%
Vaginal sex	35%
Oral sex	27%
Anal or vaginal penetration with a body part other than a penis or tongue, or by an object, like a bottle or candle	9%
Anal sex	9%

A majority of the survey participants who reported sexual assault report experiencing more than one incident of sexual assault.

Figure 5.7 – Number of incidents of sexual assault:	5C %
1	46%
2	29%
3 or more	26%

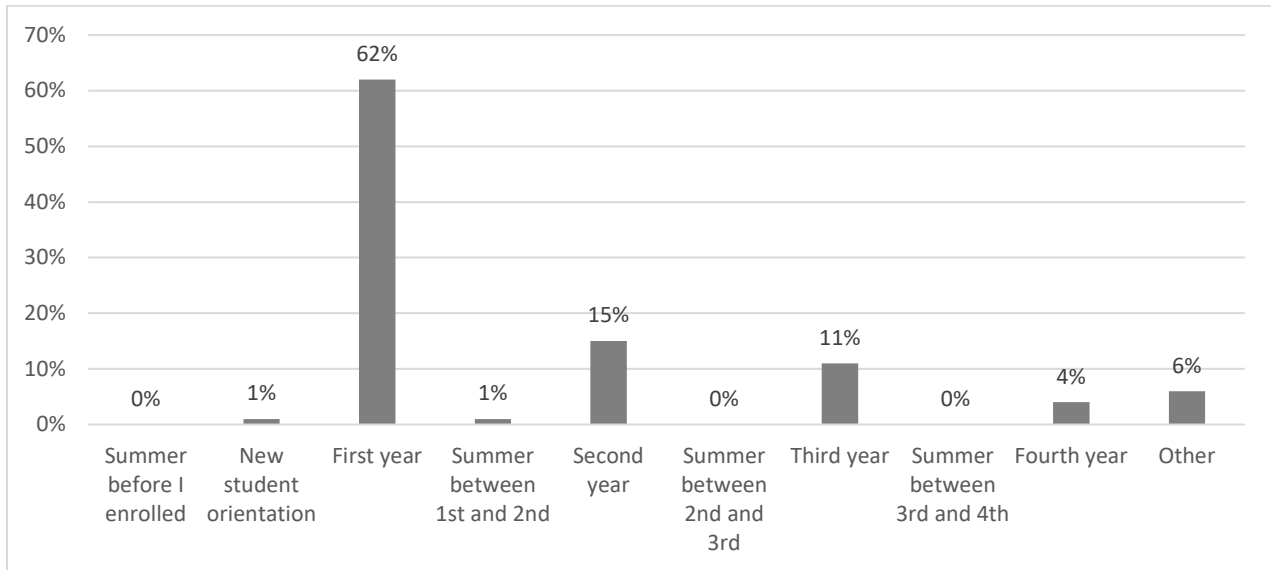
Eight percent of junior and thirteen percent of senior survey participants reported experiencing sexual assault.

Figure 5.8 – Percent of 5C Participants indicating “yes” to sexual assault, disaggregated by class year.



The majority of the incidents occurred during the first and second year.

Figure 5.9 – When the participants indicated the incident occurred.



Of those indicating assault, sixty-four percent indicated that the assailant was a student at their own institution.

Figure 5.10 - The person who sexually assaulted you:	5C %
Student(s) from this institution	64%
Student(s) from another institution	32%
Not affiliated with this or another institution	5%
I do not know	3%
Faculty member(s), staff member(s), or administrator(s) from this institution	1%
Faculty member(s), staff member(s), or administrator(s) from another institution	1%

The nature of the relationship between the survey participant and the assailant was most frequently defined as nonromantic friends or acquaintances.

Figure 5.11 - Relationship to assailant	5C %
Nonromantic friend or acquaintance	52%
Casual date or hookup	29%
Stranger	20%
Ex-romantic partner	13%
Current romantic partner	3%
Other	3%
College staff member	3%
Co-worker	1%
College administrator	1%
College professor or instructor	0%
Employer/supervisor	0%
Family member	0%

At the 5Cs, more than two-thirds of reported assailants were drinking alcohol and almost three-fourths of those reporting assaults were also drinking alcohol themselves. Forty-six percent of survey participants indicated that they were unable to provide consent or stop what was happening because they were incapacitated in some way (e.g., passed out, drugged, drunk, or asleep).

Figure 5.12 - Did this incident involve:	5C % Yes
Your drinking alcohol	71%
Other people drinking alcohol	68%
Other people using physical force	46%
Were you unable to provide consent or stop what was happening because you were incapacitated	46%
Other people using drugs	32%
Other people threatening physical force, coercion, or intimidation	31%
Your voluntarily taking or using drugs	16%
Your being given a drug without knowledge or consent	4%

While the majority of those indicating they had been assaulted indicated that their assailants were men, there are survey participants indicating they were assaulted by women, as well as nonbinary and transgender people and both men and women together.

Figure 5.13 - Gender of the assailant:	5C %
Man	84%
Woman	13%
Nonbinary/transgender	3%
Both men and women	1%

The majority of respondents indicating they had been assaulted indicated the assault occurred on campus, in a dorm or other campus housing.

Figure 5.14 - Location of sexual assault:	5C %
On campus, in a dormitory or other campus housing	74%
Off campus, at another college or university (not study abroad)	14%
Off campus, at an apartment, restaurant, bar, or another location nearby	6%
On campus, in a nonresidential building or some other location on campus	4%
Study abroad, study away, or other off-campus study program	1%
In a fraternity or sorority house, on or off campus, including college-owned housing	0%
Off-campus internship	0%

Survey participants indicated that bystanders were not present in a majority of the assaults.

Figure 5.15 - Were there bystanders when you were sexually assaulted?	5C %
Yes	27%
No	56%
I am not sure	17%

Survey participants indicated that when there were bystanders present, the majority did not intervene.

Figure 5.16 – Did they intervene?	5C %
Yes	24%
No	76%

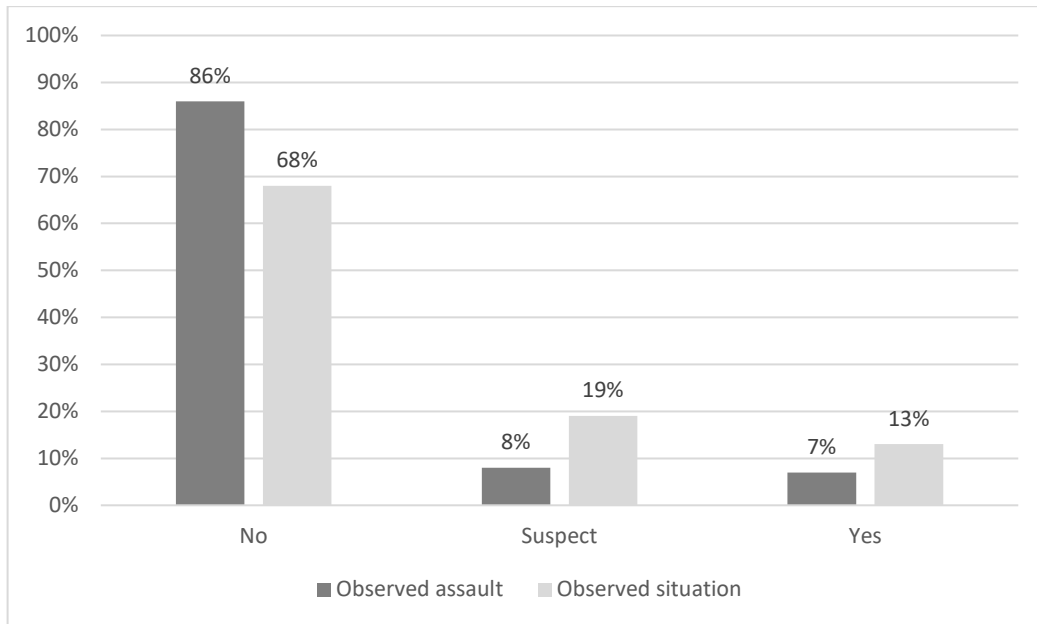
Over eighty percent of survey participants who experienced a sexual assault told a close friend.

Figure 5.17 - Whom did you tell:	5C %
Close friend	88%
Roommate	29%
Romantic partner	26%
Parent or guardian	23%
Campus title IX coordinator or deputy coordinator	23%
Faculty, staff, or administrator	16%
Private counselor	16%
Campus sexual assault advocate	13%
Resident advisor or peer advisor	12%
Campus counselor	6%
Other family member	5%
Other	4%
Faculty, staff, or administrator at other school	3%
Campus health services	3%
Local or national sexual assault hotline	1%
No one	1%
Campus security, safety, or campus police	0%
Local police	0%
Campus pastor, minister, rabbi, or other clergy	0%

SECTION 6 - BYSTANDER INTERVENTION

The majority of survey participants report that they had not observed a sexual assault, or a situation that they believed could have led to a sexual assault.

Figure 6.1 – Survey participants reporting observing a sexual assault or situation that could have led to a sexual assault.



Participants who indicated that they witnessed a sexual assault or a situation that could lead to a sexual assault were asked if they intervened. The majority of participants indicated that they intervened in the situation.

Figure 6.2 – Did you intervene:	5C %
No	9%
Considered, but did not feel safe doing so	4%
Considered, but did not feel comfortable doing so	7%
Considered, but did not know how to do so	11%
Yes	69%