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The Perception of Sexual Violence on Swarthmore College Campus

Fatima Mar , '24

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SWARTHMORE COLLEGE

CRIMINOLOGY

PERCEPTION OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE ON SWARTHMORE COLLEGE CAMPUS

BY: FATIMA MAR



TRIGGER WARNINGS

This presentation involves the discussion of:

- Sexual Violence
- Sexual Assault
- Sexual Misconduct
- Rape
- Harassment
- Non-consensual touching

Please remember that your health and well being are important. If you would like to talk to someone about questions or concerns relating to sexual assault or intimate partner violence, please contact:

National Sexual Assault Hotline: 1-800-656-4673
National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233

What is Sexual Violence?

There is no set definition.

Academic Articles definition:

- Sexual Assault Only
 - Physical Contact
- Include Sexual Misconduct
 - Non-Physical Actions



sexual violence

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

“Sexual violence is sexual activity when consent is not obtained or freely given”



Our Definition

A range of behaviors that are nonconsensual or unwanted such as physical sexual assault or behaviors that encompass sexual harassment. These behaviors could include remarks about physical appearance or persistent sexual advances. They could also include threats of force (or actual force) to get someone to engage in sexual behaviors such as nonconsensual or unwanted touching, sexual penetration, anal sex, or attempts to engage in these behaviors. These behaviors could be initiated by someone known or unknown including someone that you are in or have been in a relationship with.

- Sexual Assault
- Non-Consensual Sexual Touching
- Dating Violence
- Domestic Violence
- Stalking
- Sexual Exploitations
- Indecent Exposure
- Physical Assault

In the Context of College Campuses

The Problem

The ever-growing issue of sexual violence across college campuses has made institutions re-evaluate their policies, procedures, and guidelines throughout the years in an attempt to address the problem.

However, despite new strategies being constantly developed, the issue prevails with many cases going unreported.

The Problem:

- Institutions remain unaware of how problematic the presence of sexual violence is on their campus
- The effectiveness of their policies, procedures, and guidelines remains unknown

Research indicates that many survivors of sexual violence choose not to report their experiences of sexual violence to campus officials due to:

1. not believing the resources offered are for them
2. not being aware of the resources offered
3. not trusting the institution to believe them
4. not trusting the institution to hold perpetrators responsible

In the Context of Swarthmore College

The Clery Act

The Clery Act requires colleges that receive federal funding to release a report of crimes that happen on, around, and in some cases, off campus.

Criminal Offenses												
	On Campus			Residence Halls			Public Property			Non-Campus Property		
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
Sex Offenses – Rape	9	2	4	9	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sex Offenses – Fondling	4	2	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sex Offenses – Statutory Rape	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sex Offenses – Incest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
VAWA Offense – Domestic Violence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
VAWA Offense- Dating Violence	11	1	6	9	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
VAWA Offense – Stalking	0	0	4	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0

Purpose

The purpose of this research is to gain a better understanding on how the presence of sexual violence has changed throughout the years at Swarthmore College Campus

- Clery Act only includes reported cases
- Previous Swarthmore students' perspectives provide insight into both reported and unreported cases

Research Question

How has the **student perception** of sexual violence on Swarthmore College Campus changed throughout the years?





Research Question

How has the **student perception** of sexual violence on Swarthmore College Campus changed throughout the years?

OBJECTIVES

01

Examine how perception of Sexual Violence on Swarthmore College Campus varies per student's graduating class year

02

Examine how perception of Sexual Violence on Swarthmore College Campus varies depending on students' demographic characteristics

Methodology

Recruitment

Swarthmore College Alumni were recruited through social networking sites and asked to complete a Qualtrics survey



Measures

Demographics

- Gender Identity
- Race/Ethnicity
- Sexual Identity
- Academic Focus
- Extracurricular Involvements

- Perception of Own Safety on Swarthmore College Campus
- Perception of Swarthmore College's Response to Sexual Violence
- Level of Exposure to Messages about Sexual Violence on Swarthmore College
- Perception of Sexual Violence Occurring on Swarthmore Campus



Typical Respondent

* 42 Respondents

Descriptive Statistics

Class Years:

1989 – 2023

Gender Identity:

- 27 Woman
- 9 Men
- 3 Non-binary/Third Gender
- 2 Transgender

Sexual Identity/Orientation:

- Heterosexual or Straight
- Bisexual
- Gay or Lesbian

Race/Ethnicity:

- Asian
- Black or African American
- Hispanic or Latino/a
- White
- Multiracial

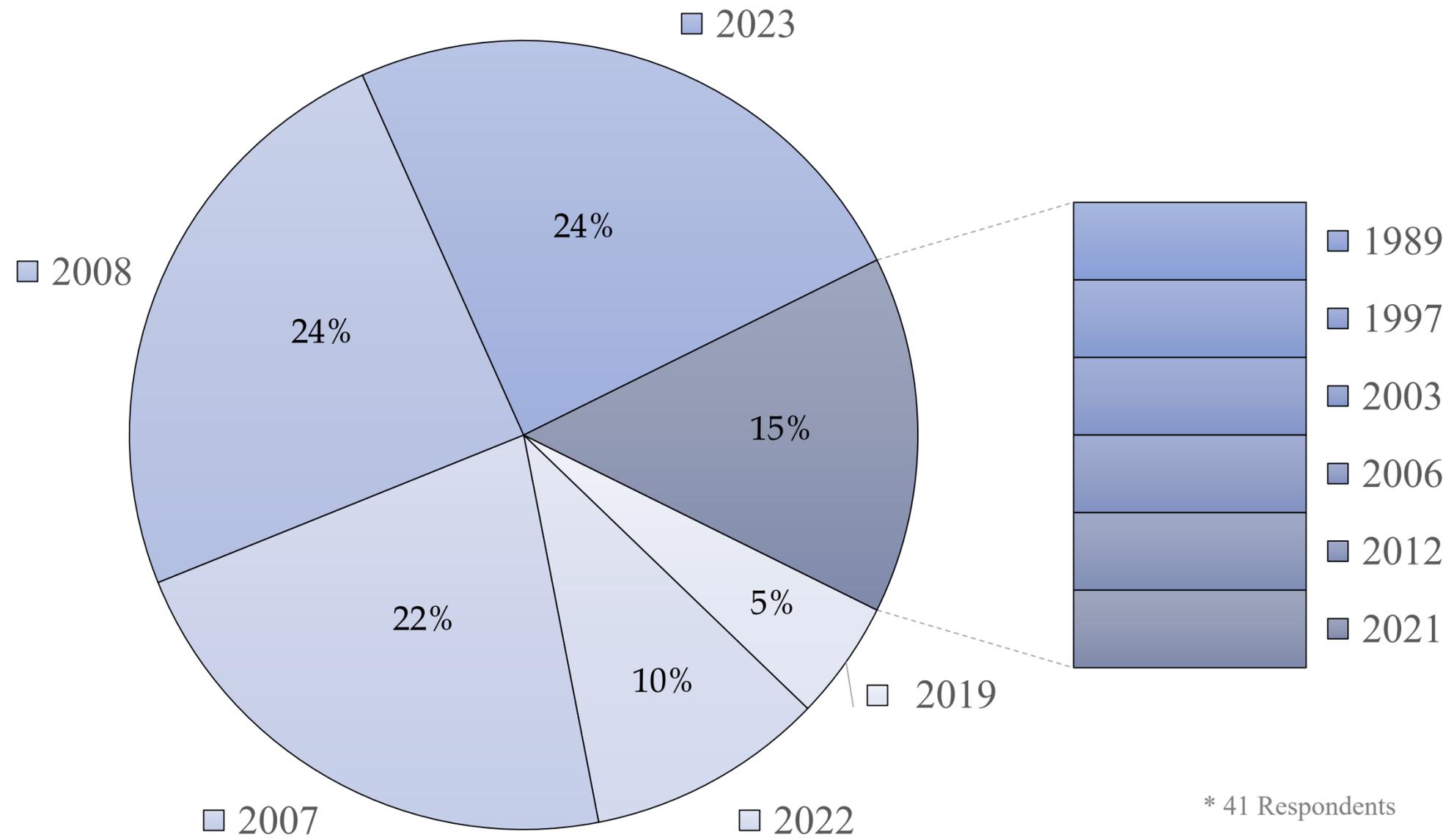
Department of Study:

65% Social Science

Student Involvements:

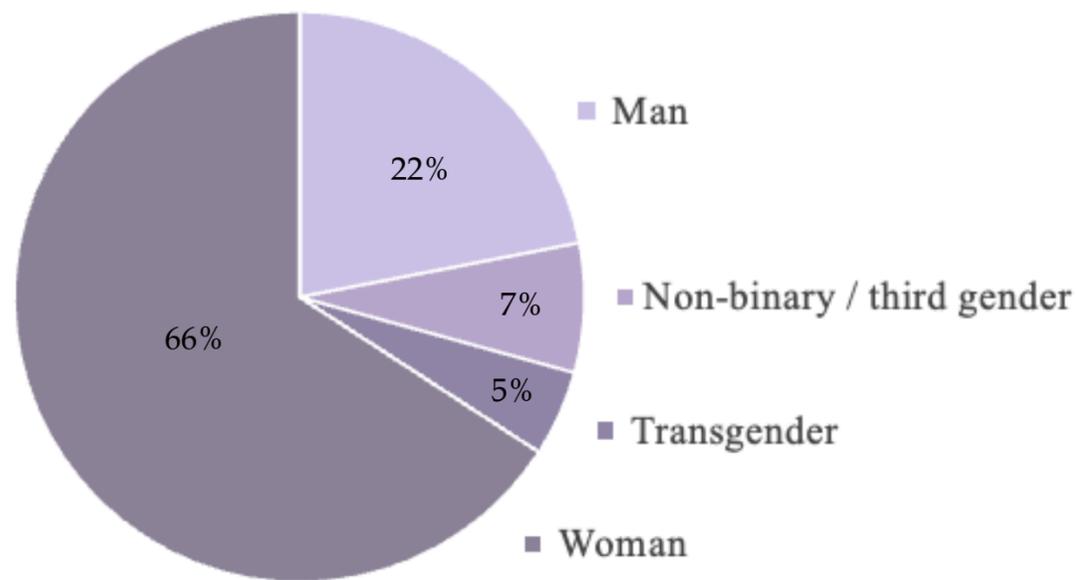
24% Athletes

Class Year



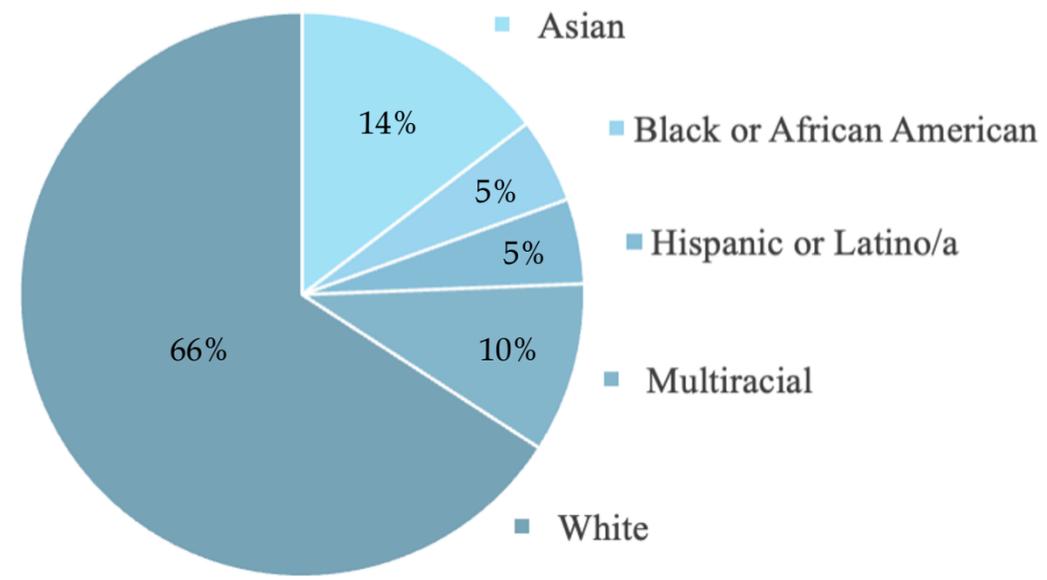
Self-Reported Identity

Gender Identity



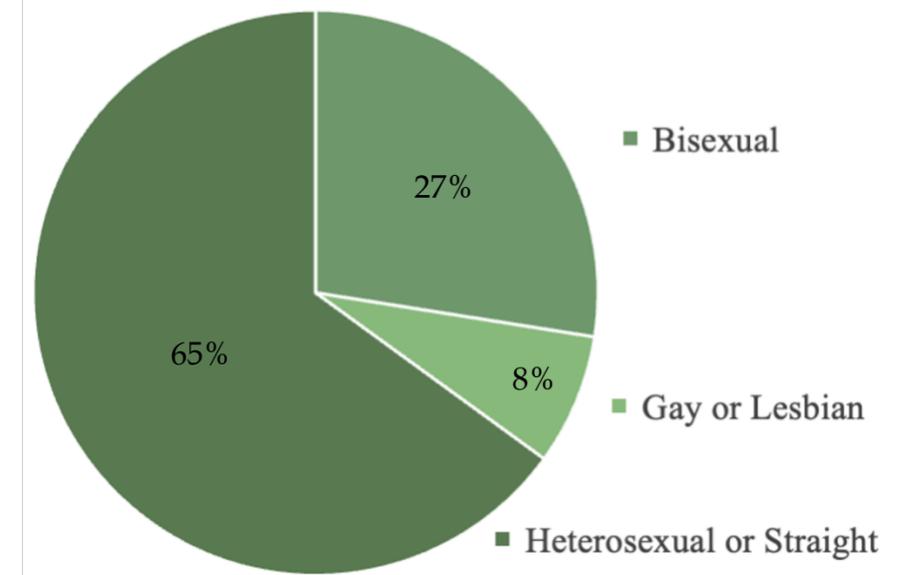
*41 Respondents

Race/Ethnicity



*41 Respondents

Sexual Identity/Orientation



*40 Respondents

Findings

Own Safety on Swarthmore College Campus

- 79% Very Safe

Perception of Swarthmore College's Response to Sexual Violence

- 29% Disagree on Effectiveness
- 16% Agree on Effectiveness

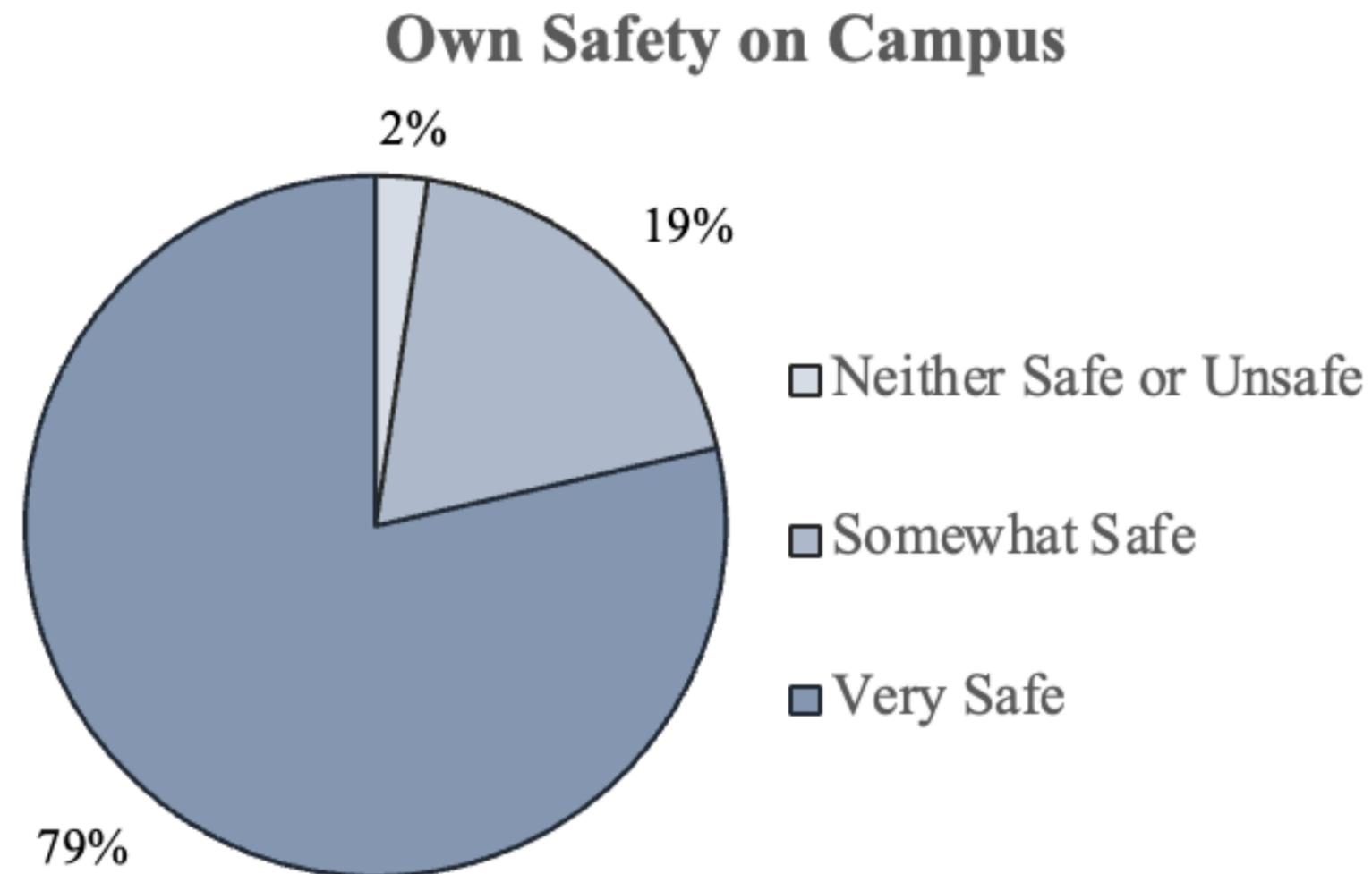
Level of Exposure to Messages about Sexual Violence on Swarthmore College

- 57% None At All

Perception of Sexual Violence Occurring on Swarthmore Campus

- 49% Somewhat Problematic
- 33% Very Likely a Future Student will experience Sexual Violence
- 51% Experienced (or knew someone who experienced) Sexual Violence on Campus

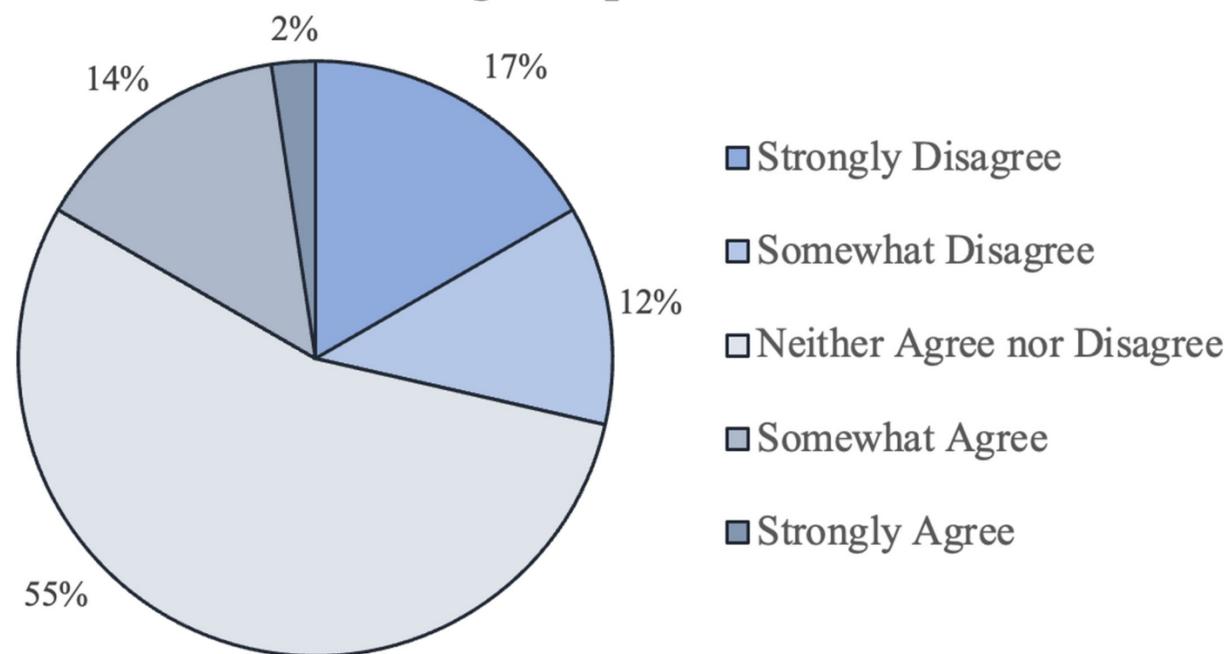
Perceptions of Safety on Swarthmore College Campus



*41 Respondents

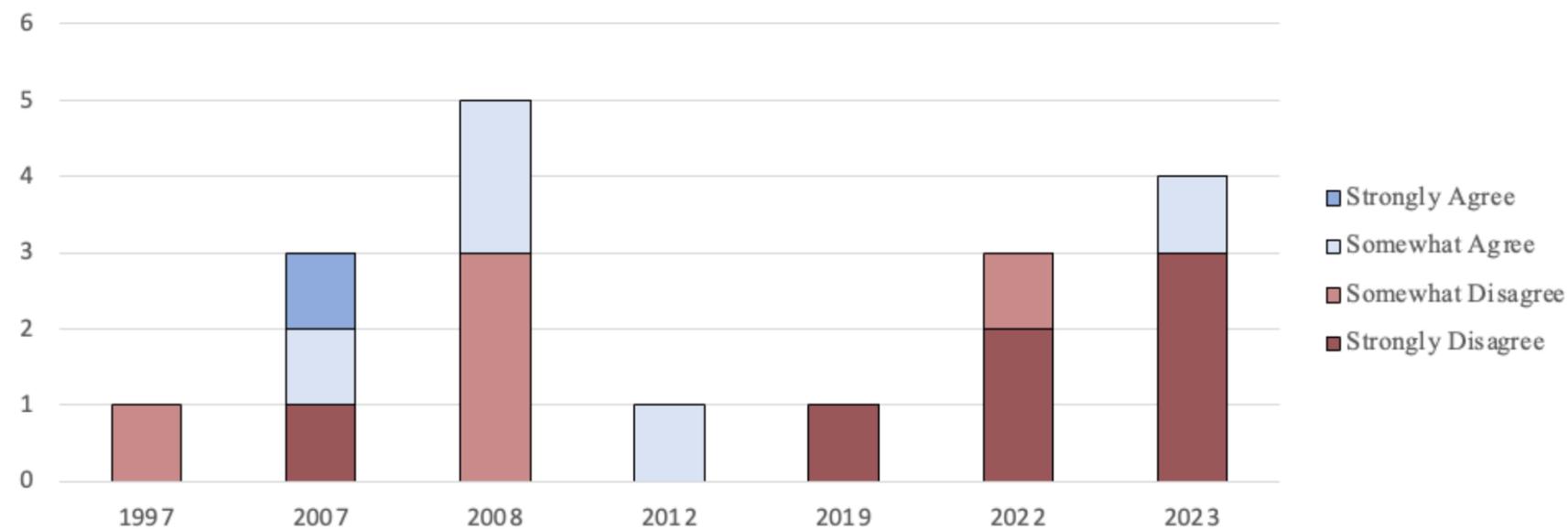
Perceptions of Swarthmore College Response to Sexual Violence

Swarthmore College Response to Sexual Violence



*41 Respondents

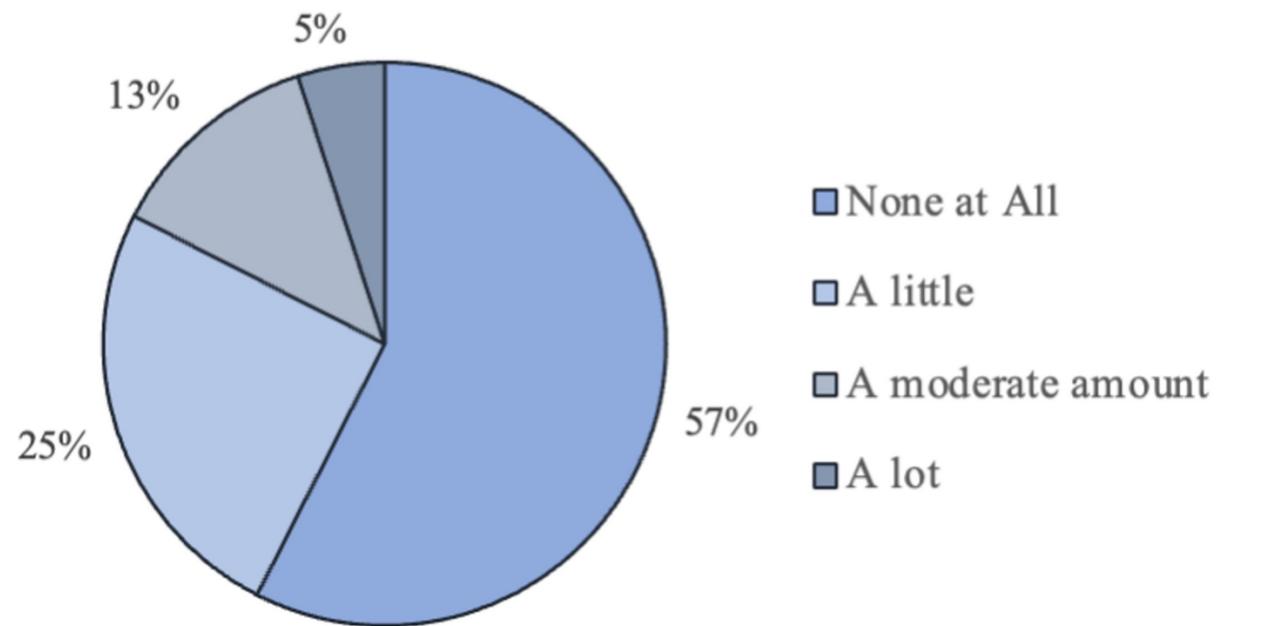
Perception per Graduating Class Year



*18 Respondents

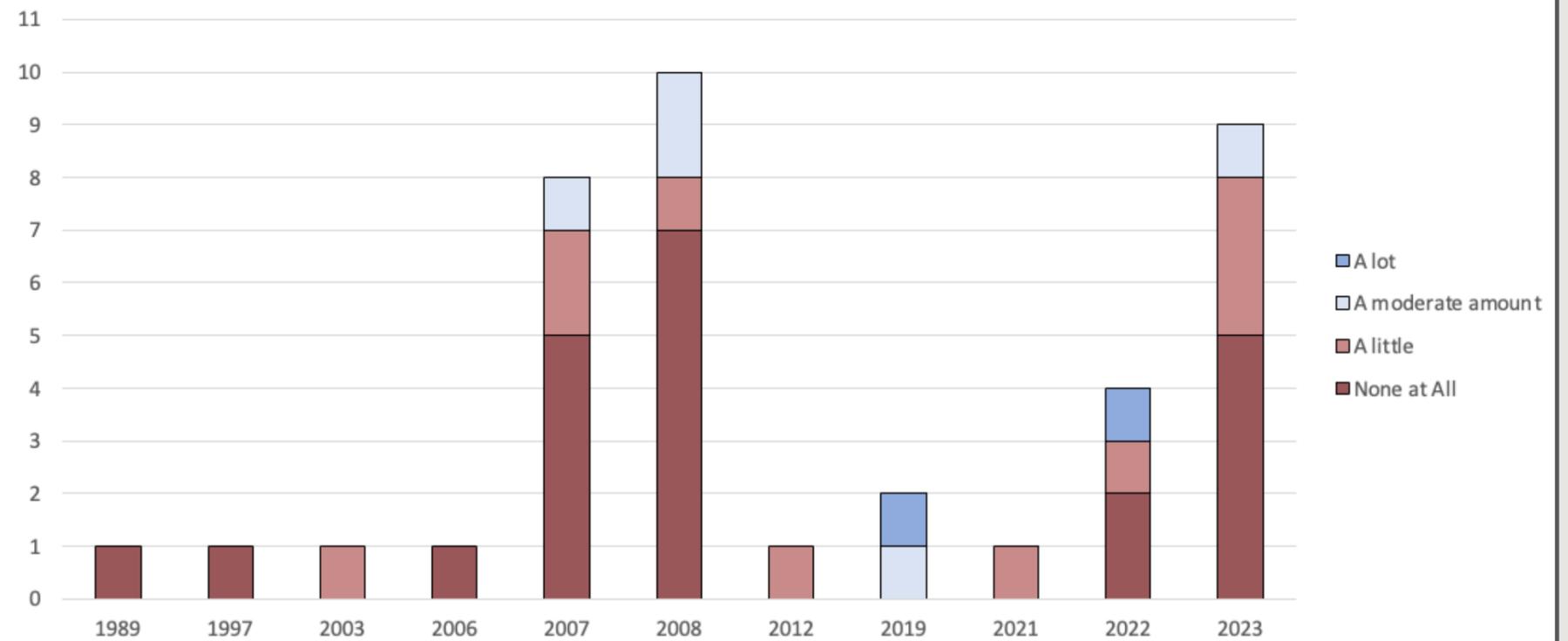
Perceptions of Level of Exposure to Messages about Sexual Violence

Level of Exposure to Messages about Sexual Violence



*41 Respondents

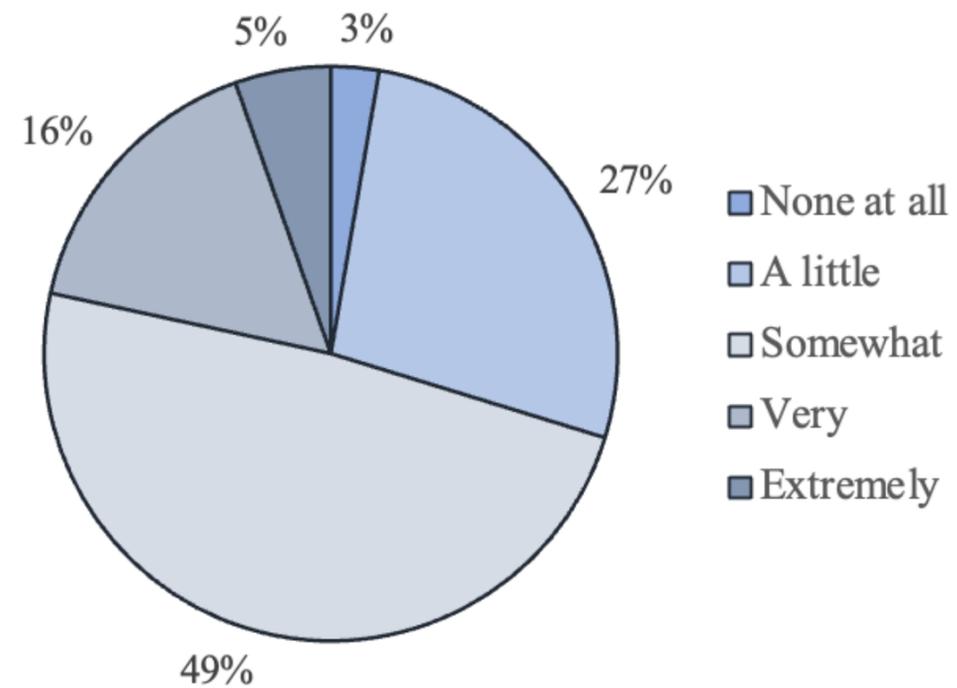
Perception per Graduating Class Year



*39 Respondents

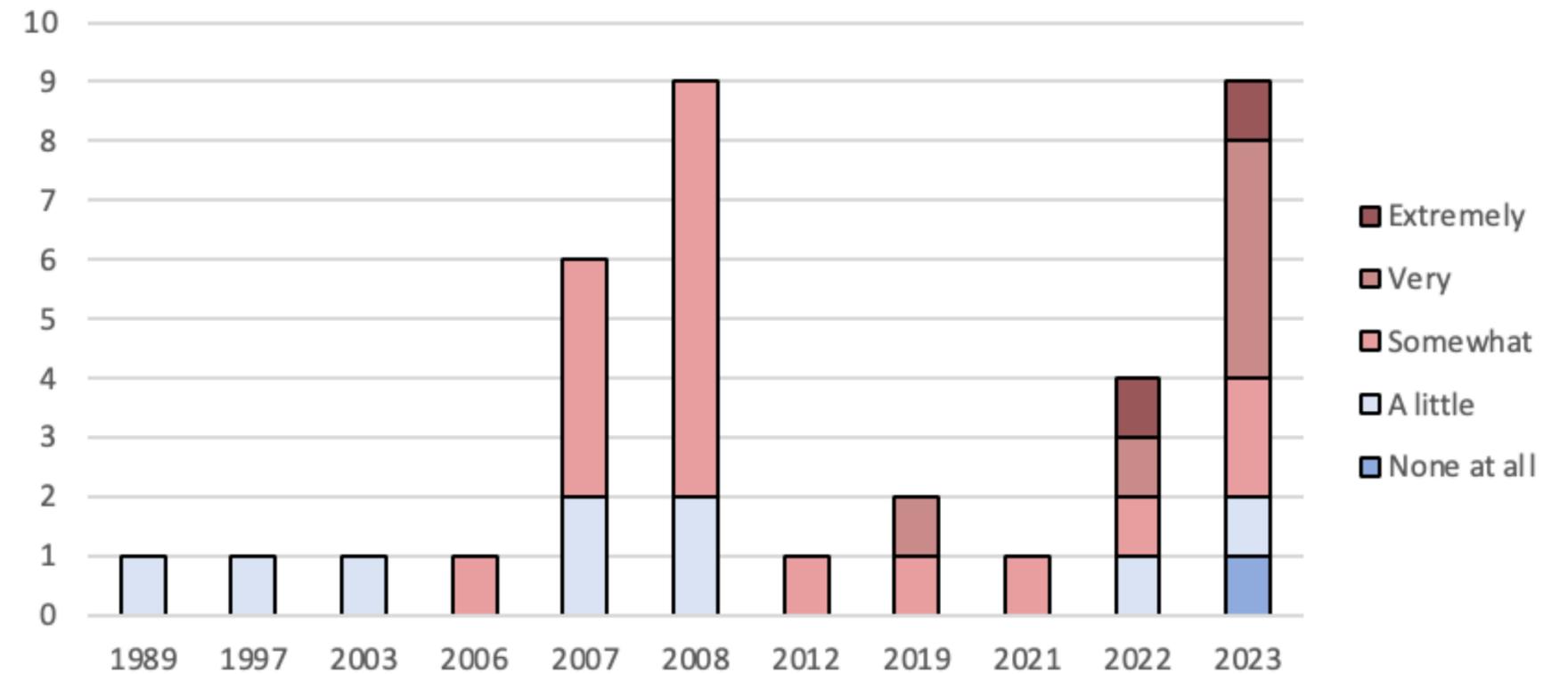
Perceptions of Sexual Violence as a Problem on Swarthmore College

How Problematic was Sexual Violence



*37 Respondents

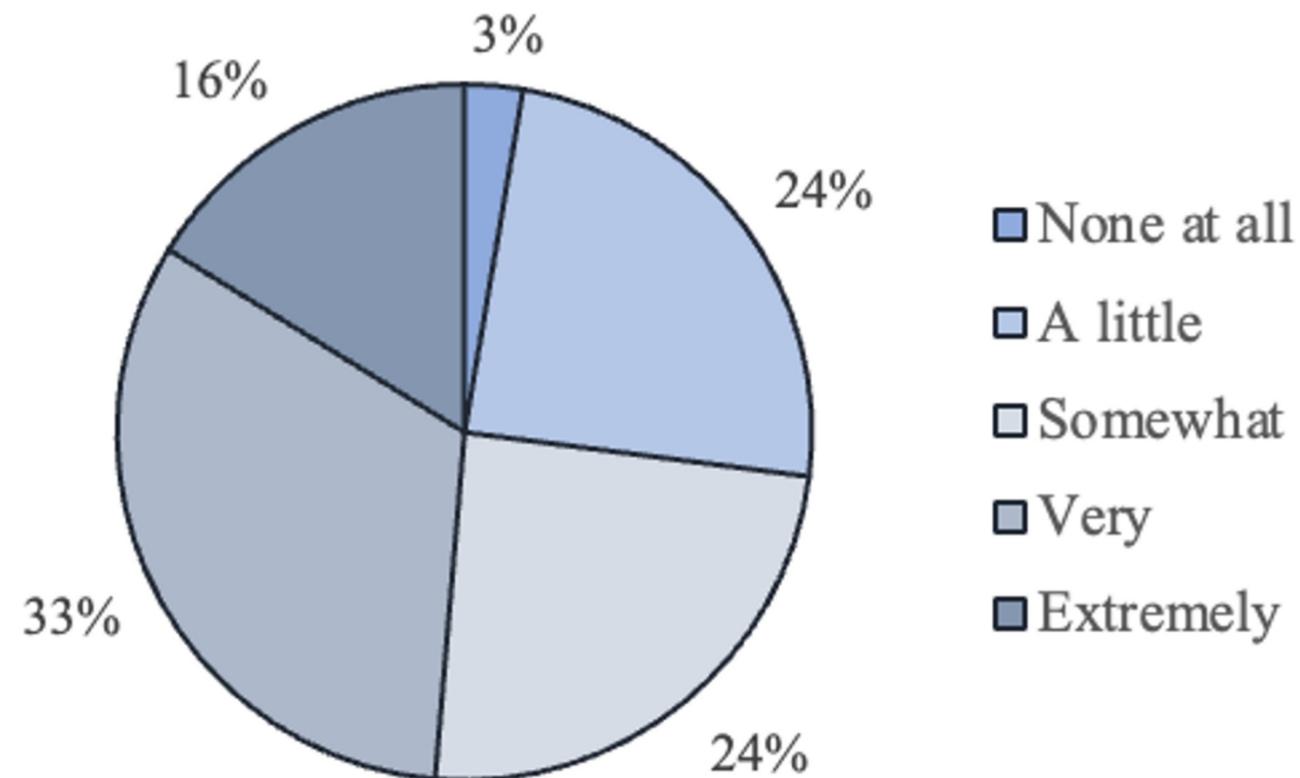
Perception per Graduating Class Year



*36 Respondents

Perceptions of Future Sexual Violence Occurring at Swarthmore College

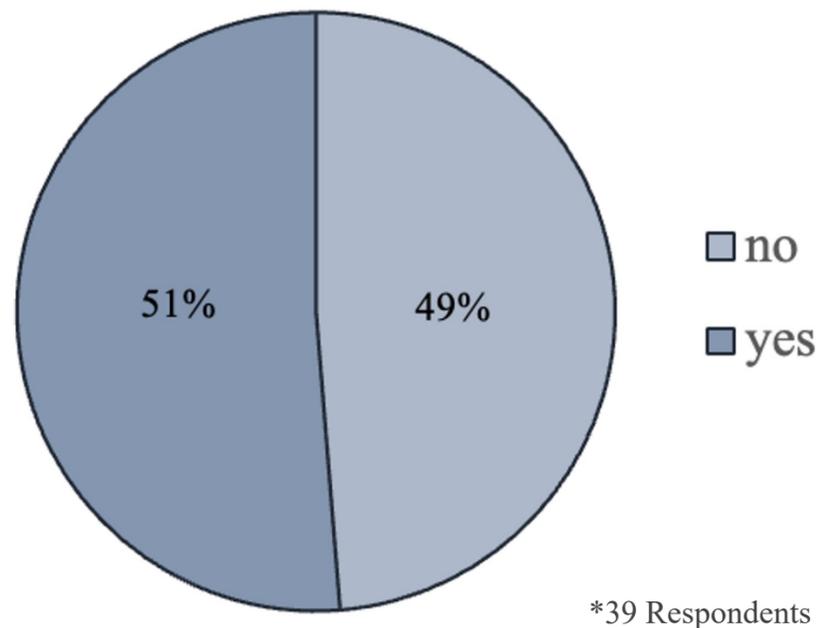
**Likelihood of Future Student Experiencing
Sexual Violence**



*37 Respondents

Perception of Sexual Violence Occurring at Swarthmore College

Experienced Sexual Violence on Campus



National Average

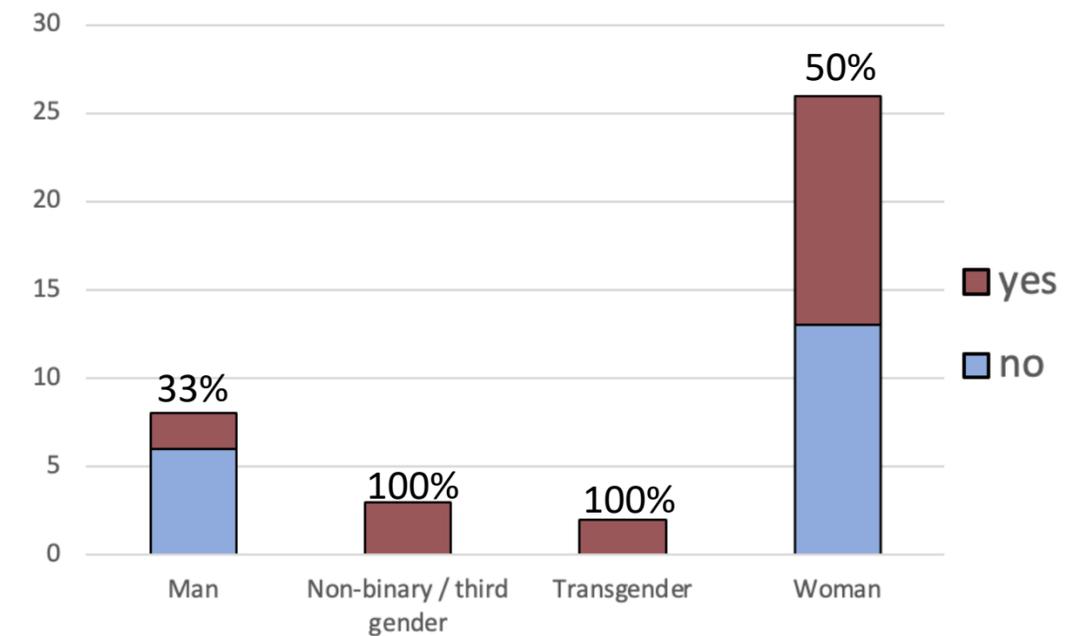
Clery Act

- 8 per 10,000 student

Association of American Universities

- 26.4% of women
- 6.8% of men
- 23.1% of Transgender, Non-binary, Third Gender

Perception per Gender Identity



*39 Respondents

Perception of Sexual Violence as a Problem on Swarthmore Campus

Class Year 2008 and Earlier:

- Most participants who perceive the issue of sexual violence at Swarthmore College to be “a little” problematic

Class Year 2019 and Later:

- Participants have a stronger perception of the issue of Sexual Violence (“very” or “extremely” problematic) on Swarthmore College campus

Perception of Swarthmore College’s Response to Sexual Violence

Class Year 2012 and Earlier:

- Most participants who “agreed” (somewhat/strongly) on the sentiment that Swarthmore College as an institution was doing a “good job” of in addressing the issue of Sexual Violence

Class Year 2019 and Later:

- Most participants who “strongly disagreed” on the sentiment that Swarthmore College as an institution was doing a “good job” of in addressing the issue of Sexual Violence

Possible Explanation

if significance is found..

The different institutional policies, procedures, and guidelines present in the given year set in place to address the issue of Sexual Violence.

After the Class Year 2019:

- “Strongly Disagree” on effectiveness
- “Very” problematic
- “Extremely” problematic

2018

Organizing for Survivors (O4S), a collective of over 100 survivors and allies: list of 30+ demands for change in the College’s Title IX policy to address:

- inequitable control of campus social life that fraternities’ building leases provided
- facilitation of sexual violence
- protection of perpetrators.



2019

Internal Documents Leaked displaying the “minutes” of meeting that included jokes about sexual assault and referring to rooms as “rape attic” and “rape tunnel”

Current Issues

Conclusion

1. Not believing the resources offered are for them

- Misconceptions, History, and Reputation of Swarthmore College

2. Not being aware of the resources offered

- Inaccessible Events:
 - During Class Time, or Lunch Rush
- Optional Events:
 - First-Years
 - Athletes

As of 2023:

88% of participants had “a little” or “none at all” exposure to messages about the issue of Sexual Violence on Swarthmore’s Campus

Current Issues

Conclusion

3. Not trusting the institution to believe them

- Lack of support for victims
 - After reporting assault, not receiving housing changes
 - After confiding in Dean, not having incident reported
 - After reporting, failed to provide psychological or academic accommodations
 - Being made uncomfortable going through the adjudication process

4. Not trusting the institution to hold perpetrators responsible

- It is very rare for students to be expelled on account of a sexual assault policy violation
- Student hiring process “good standing” with the College
- Admin mishandling cases of sexual assault

As of 2023:

75% of participants “strongly disagreed” on the sentiment that Swarthmore College as an institution was doing a “good job” in addressing the issue of sexual violence

Future Studies

Conclusion

I am not making any claims or generalizations about the sexual violence that occurred/occurs on Swarthmore College Campus, these findings are meant to provide insight into the perception of sexual violence on campus for this specific sample.

Future Studies:

- Recruitment Method
 - Random Sampling
- Larger Sample Size
 - Alumni Network Directory
 - Current Student Body
- Clery Act

Conclusion

Criminology

“Protect Survivors, Hold Perpetrators Accountable, and Prevent Sexual Violence to the degree it is possible” – O4S

“Swarthmore College provides learners of diverse backgrounds a transformative liberal arts education grounded in rigorous intellectual inquiry and empowers all who share in our community to flourish and contribute to a better world.” – Swarthmore College



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Title IX Office

- Bindu Jayne, Title IX Coordinator, 610-690-3720, bjayne1@swarthmore.edu
- Chelsey Eiel, Associate Director and Deputy Title IX Coordinator, 610-957-6409, ceiel@swarthmore.edu

Confidential Resources

- Counseling and Psychological Services, 610-328-8059 (after hours: 610-328-7768), caps@swarthmore.edu
- Student Health and Wellness, 610-328-8058, health@swarthmore.edu
- Alcohol and Other Drug Counselor, Josh Ellow, 610-957-6152, jellow@swarthmore.edu
- Religious Advisors, 610-328-8328, interfaith@swarthmore.edu

Deputy Title IX Coordinators

- Deputy Title IX Coordinator for Faculty, Tristan Smith, 610-328-8259, tsmith2@swarthmore.edu
- Deputy Title IX Coordinator for Physical Education & Athletics, Val Gómez, 610-328-8222, gomez1@swarthmore.edu
- Deputy Title IX Coordinator for Students, Rachel Head, 610-328-8362, rhead1@swarthmore.edu
- Deputy Title IX Coordinator for Staff, Paula MacDonald, 610-690-5667, pmacdon1@swarthmore.edu

24/7 Resources

- Public Safety Emergency, 610-328-8333, publicsafety@swarthmore.edu
- CAPS, 610-328-7768, caps@swarthmore.edu
- Delaware County Victim Assistance Center, 610-566-4342



Surveys





Perception of Own Safety on Swarthmore College Campus



On a Scale of 1 (Not safe at all) to 5 (Very Safe) how well do you identify with the following statements:

	1 (Not Safe at All)	2 (Somewhat Unsafe)	3 (Neither Safe or Unsafe)	4 (Somewhat Safe)	5 (Very Safe)
Walking around Swarthmore Campus during the day	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Walking around Swarthmore Campus during the night	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Spending time inside Academic Buildings during class	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Spending time inside Academic Buildings outside of class	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Attending Campus events during the day	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Attending Campus events during the night	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Attending Parties Alone	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Leaving Parties Alone	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

➤ Perception of Swarthmore College's Response to Sexual Violence



Using the scale provided, please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements:

	1 (Strongly Disagree)	2 (Somewhat Disagree)	3 (Neither Agree nor Disagree)	4 (Somewhat Agree)	5 (Strongly Agree)
Swarthmore Officials took training in sexual assault prevention seriously	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Swarthmore did a good job in educating their students about sexual assault (consent, definitions, prevention)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Swarthmore did a good job of trying to prevent sexual assault from happening	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Swarthmore did a good job at providing needed services to victims of sexual assault	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Swarthmore did a good job of investigating incidents of sexual assaults	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Swarthmore did a good job of holding people accountable for committing sexual assault	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Swarthmore was more interested in protecting their reputation than the student they serve	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Level of Exposure to Messages about Sexual Violence on Swarthmore College



Using the scale provided, please indicate how often during your time at Swarthmore (as a student) you:

	None at all	A little	A moderate amount	A lot	A great deal
Discussed Sexual Assault/Rape in class	<input type="radio"/>				
Discussed Sexual Assault/Rape with friends	<input type="radio"/>				
Voluntarily attended a rally or other campus event about Sexual Assault / Rape	<input type="radio"/>				
Saw posters about Sexual Assault (raising awareness, prevention, defining, etc)	<input type="radio"/>				
Saw or heard campus administrators address Sexual Assault /Rape	<input type="radio"/>				
Saw crime alerts about Sexual Violence that happened on campus	<input type="radio"/>				
Saw or heard a report about Sexual Violence rates about Swarthmore College	<input type="radio"/>				
Attended a mandatory event on campus discussing Sexual Violence	<input type="radio"/>				
Volunteered or interned at an organization that addressed Safety Violence	<input type="radio"/>				
Saw or heard about Sexual Assault in a student publication or media outlet	<input type="radio"/>				



Perception of Sexual Violence Occurring on Swarthmore Campus



Using the Scale provided, please indicate how you feel about the following statements:

	None at all	A little	Somewhat	Very	Extremely
How problematic was sexual assault or other sexual misconduct at Swarthmore	<input type="radio"/>				
How likely do you think future students experienced sexual assault or sexual misconduct at Swarthmore	<input type="radio"/>				

While you were a student at Swarthmore, did a student, or someone employed by or otherwise associated with Swarthmore make sexual remarks or told sexual jokes or sexual stories that were insulting or offensive to you or someone you know?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to answer

While you were a student at Swarthmore, did a student, or someone employed by or otherwise associated with Swarthmore make inappropriate or offensive comments about you or someone else's body, appearance or sexual activities?

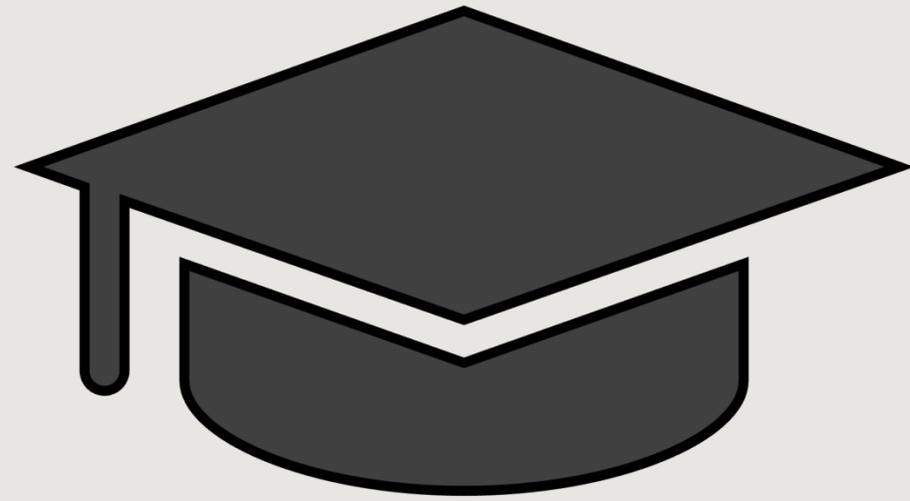
- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to answer

While you were a student at Swarthmore, did a student, or someone employed by or otherwise associated with Swarthmore say non-consensual crude or gross sexual things to you or someone you know?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to answer

While you were a student at Swarthmore, did a student, or someone employed by or otherwise associated with Swarthmore continue to ask you or someone you know to go out, get dinner, have drinks, or have sex even after saying "No"?

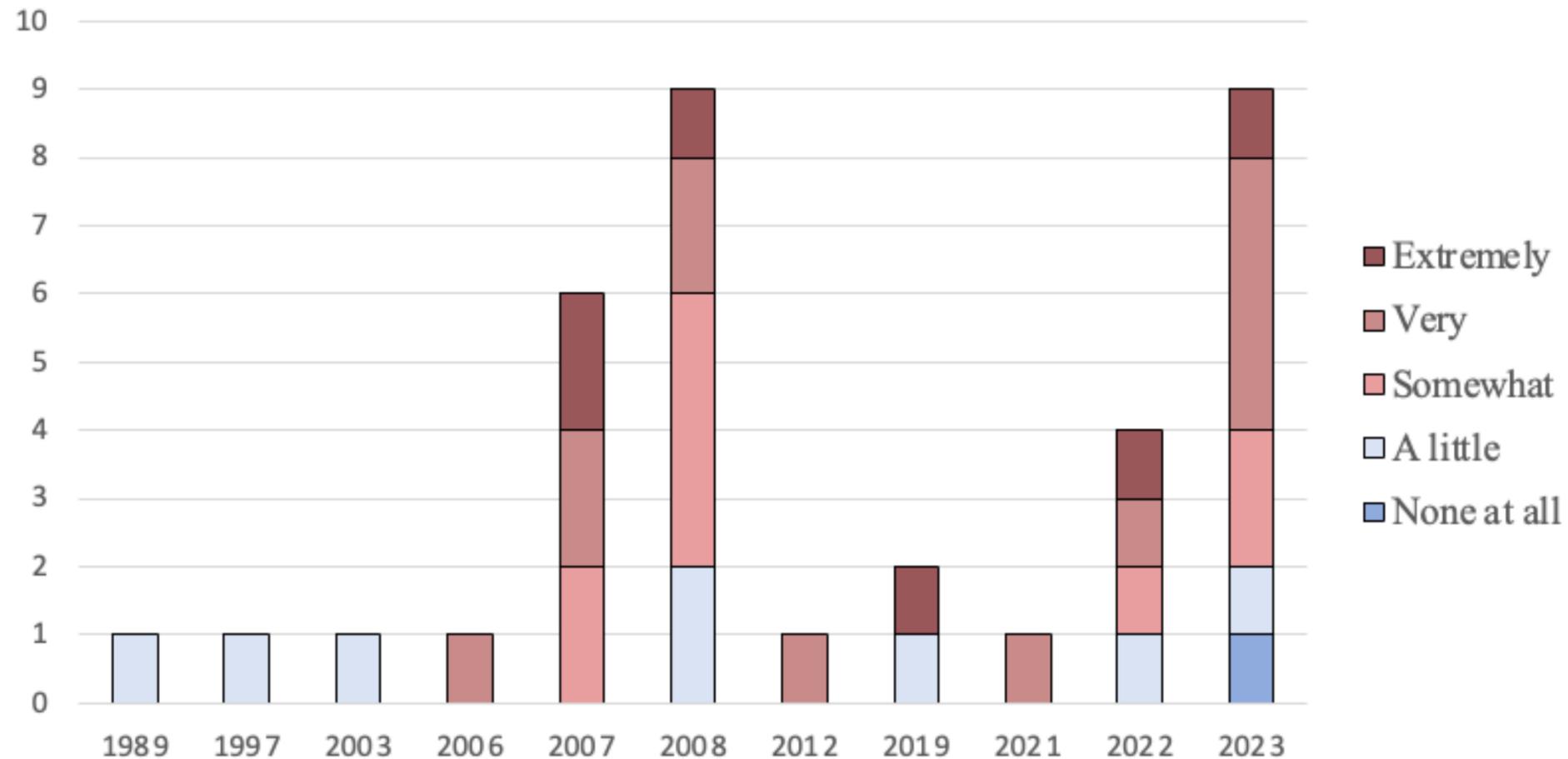
- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to answer



Class Year

Perceptions of Future Sexual Violence Occurring at Swarthmore College

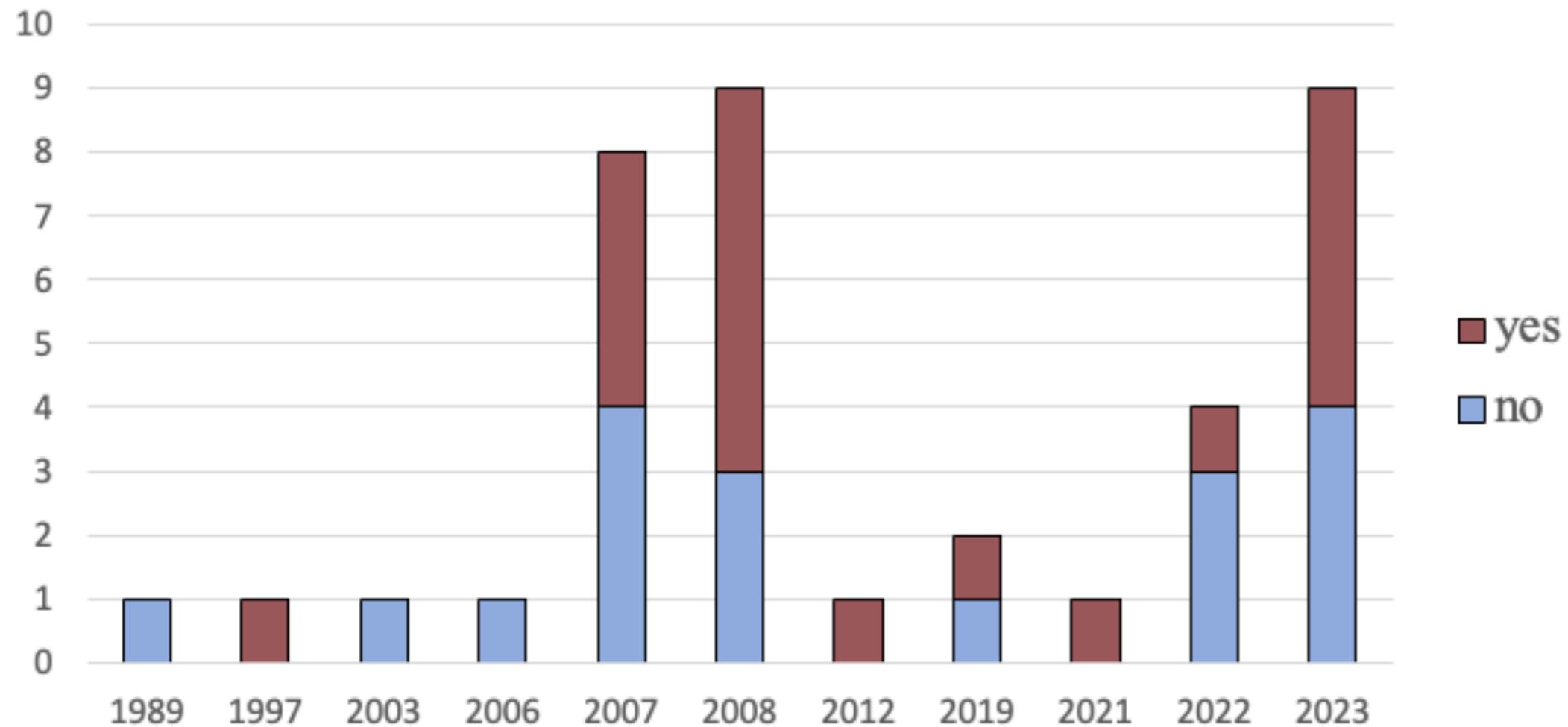
Perception per Graduating Class Year



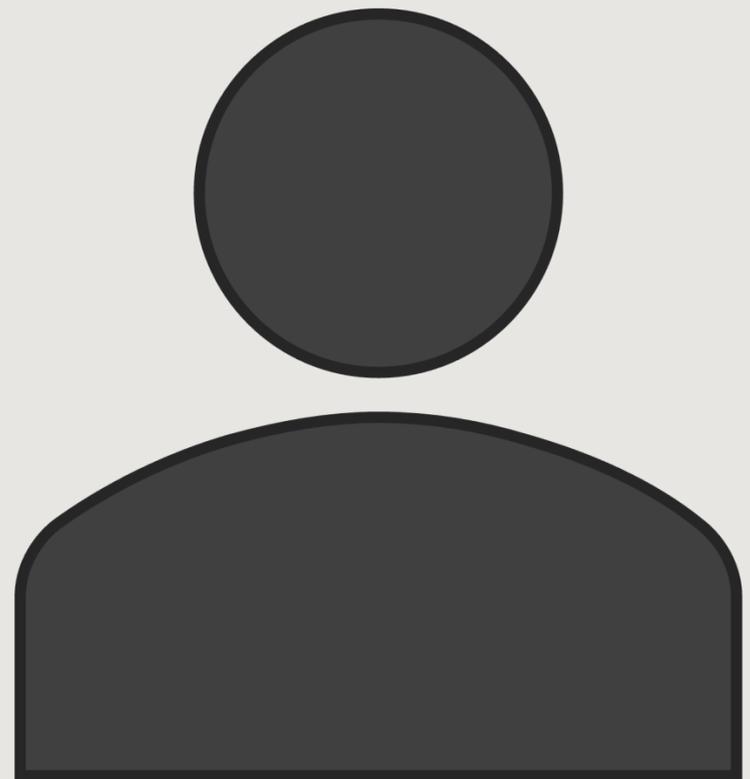
*36 Respondents

Experienced Sexual Violence on Campus

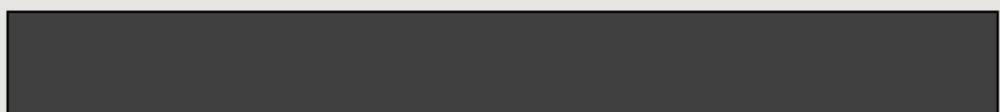
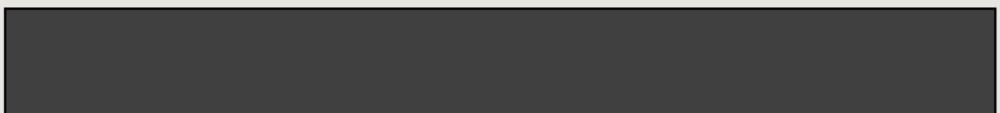
Perception per Graduating Class Year



*38 Respondents



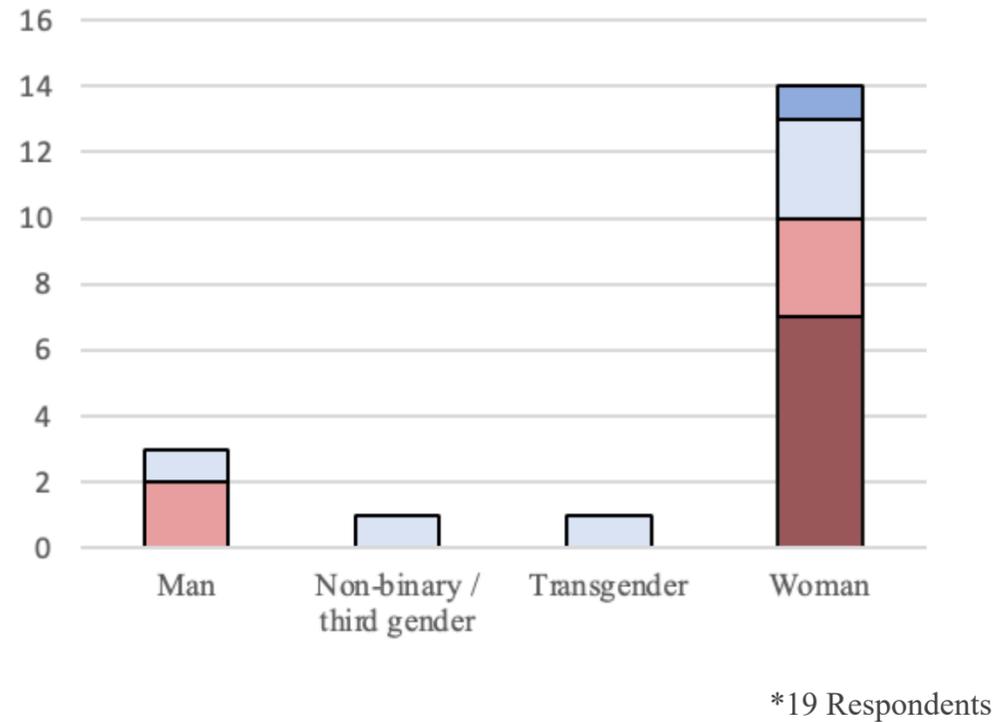
Identity



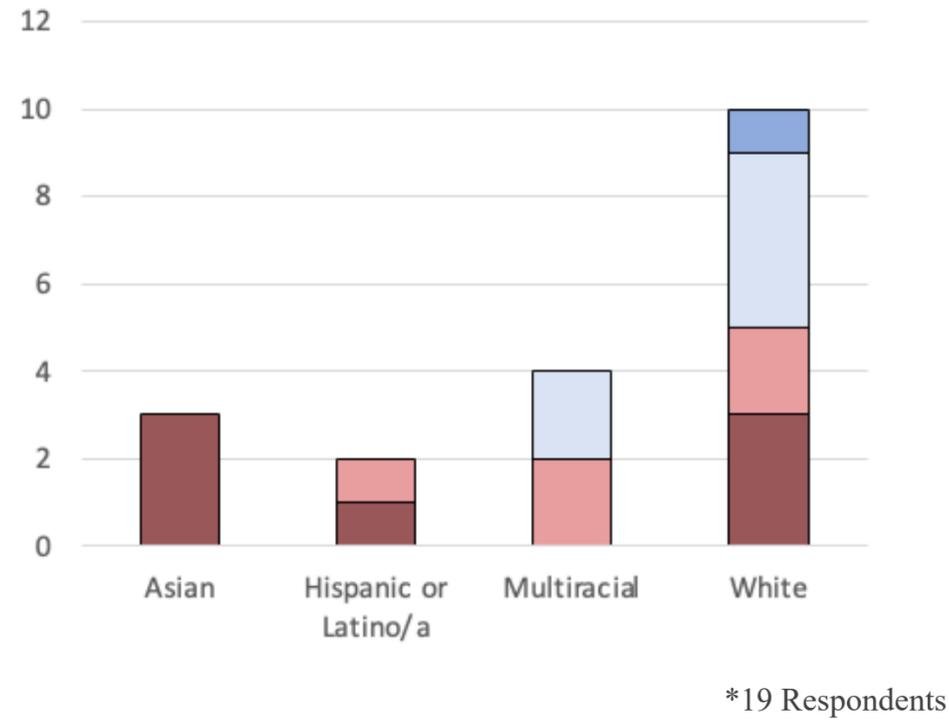
Swarthmore College Effective Institutional Response

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

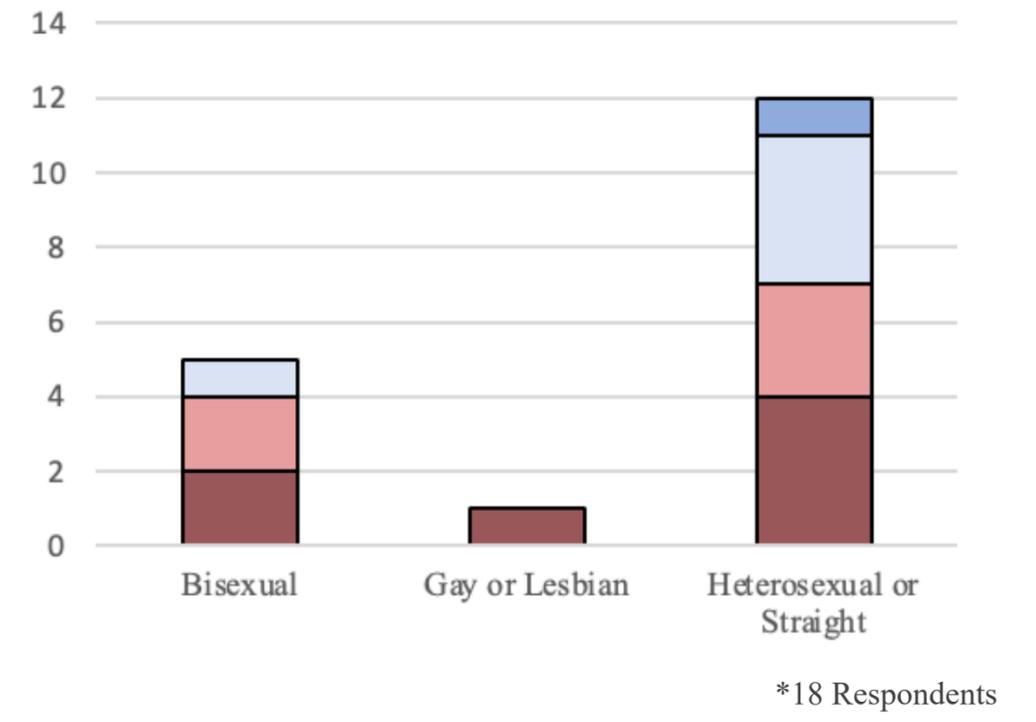
Perception per Gender Identity



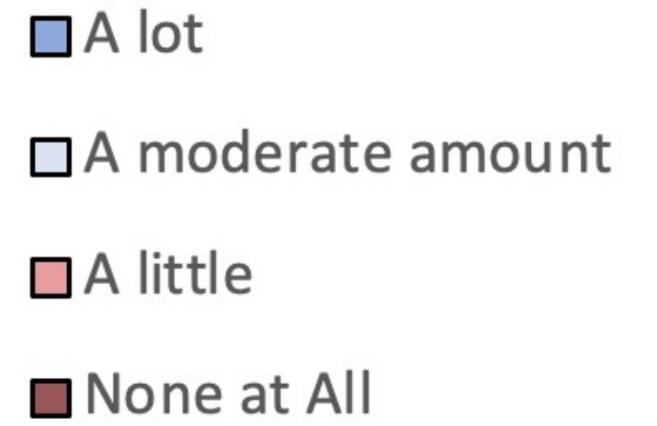
Perception per Race/Ethnicity



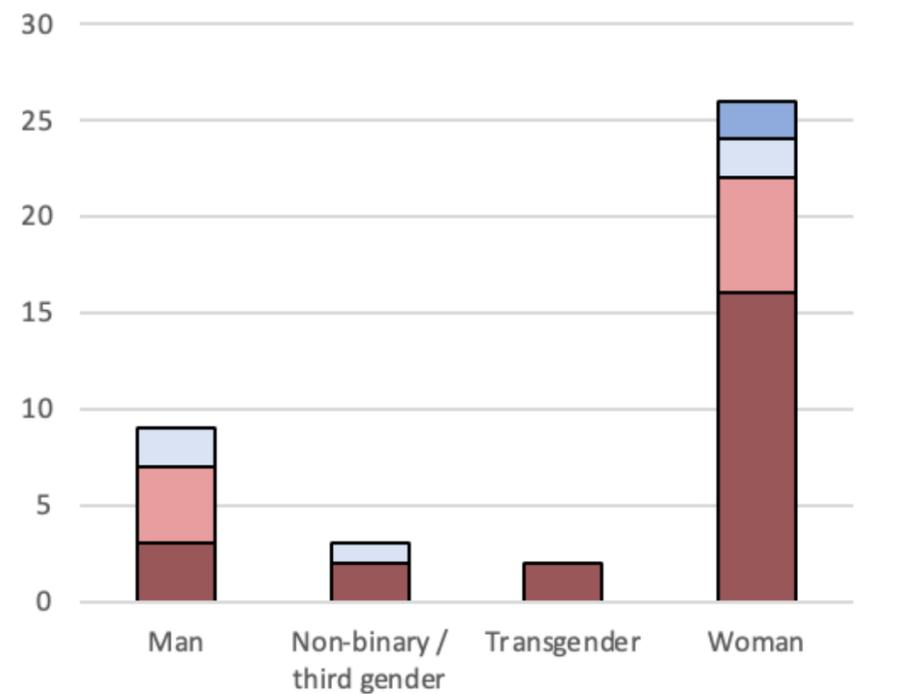
Perception per Sexual Orientation



Level of Exposure to Messages about Sexual Violence

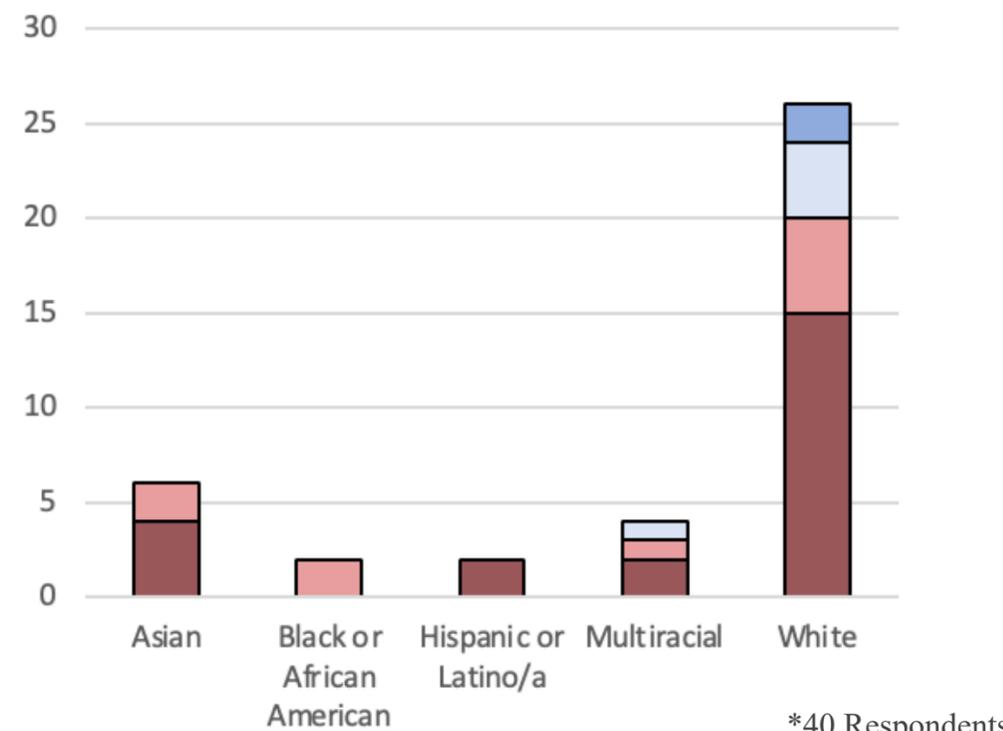


Perception per Gender Identity



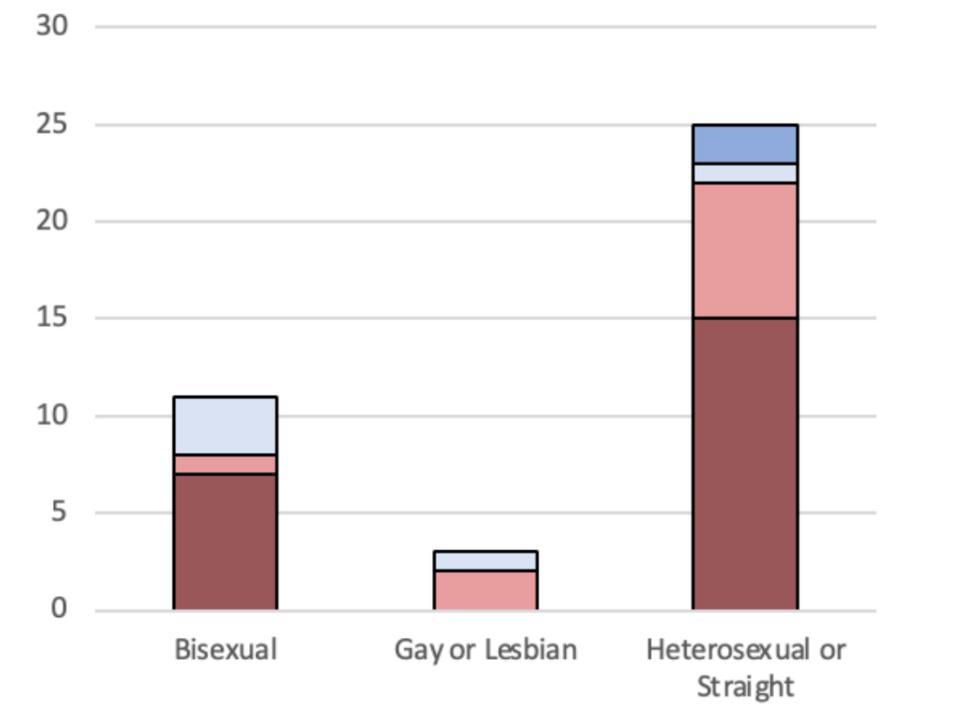
*40 Respondents

Perception per Race/Ethnicity



*40 Respondents

Perception per Sexual Orientation

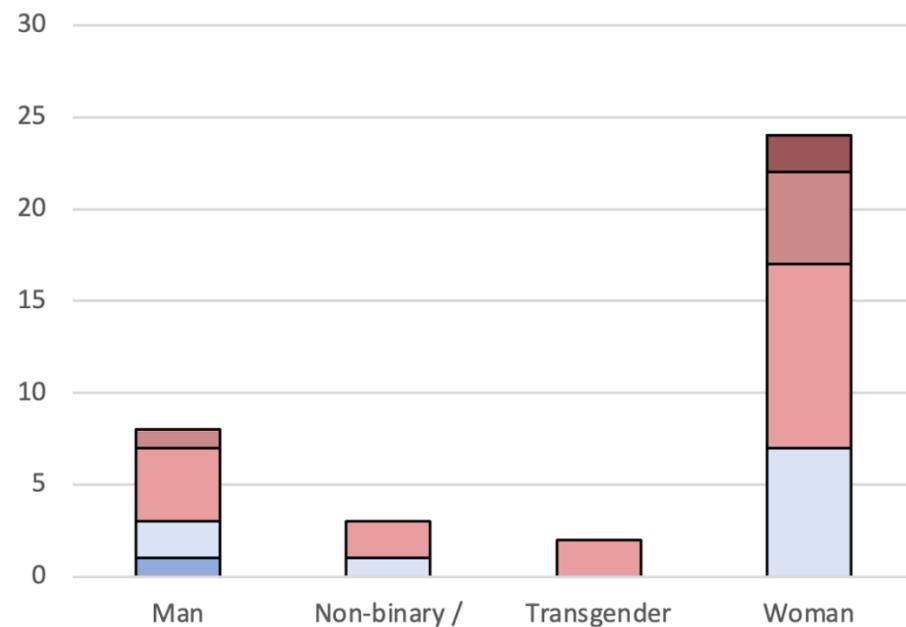


*39 Respondents

How Problematic was Sexual Violence on Campus?

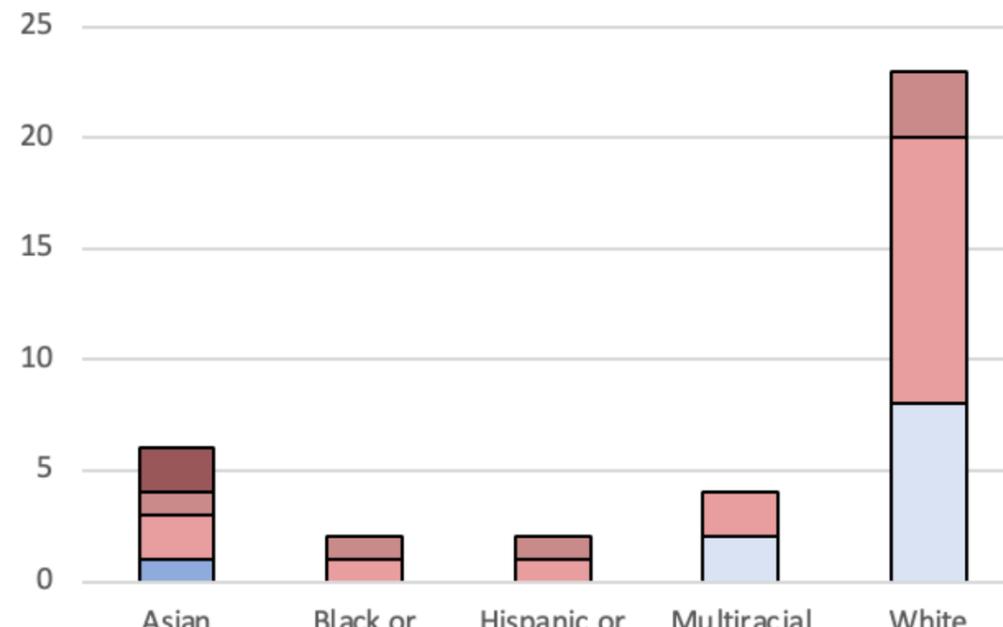
- Extremely
- Very
- Somewhat
- A little
- None at all

Perception per Gender Identity



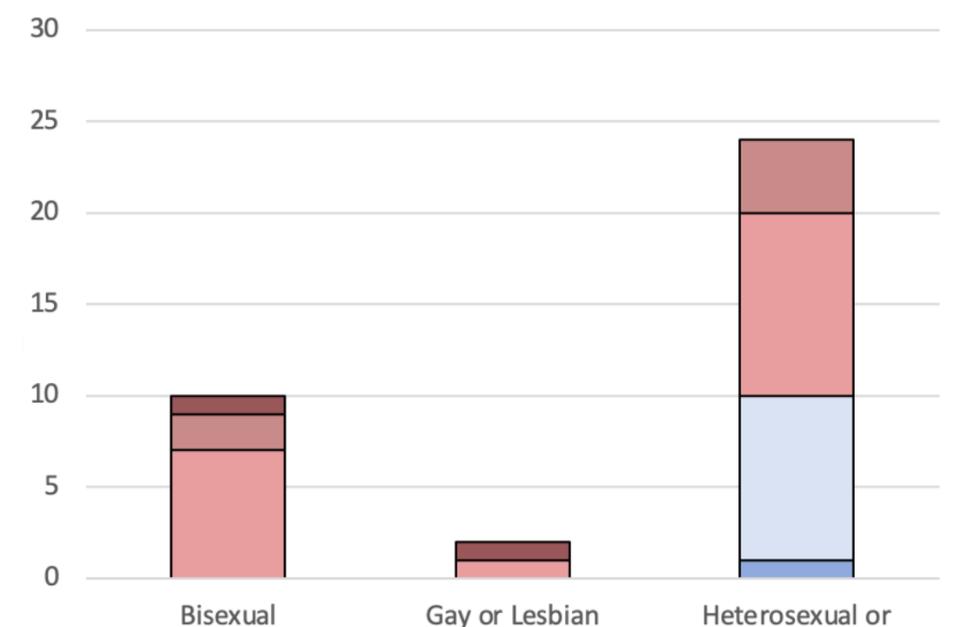
*37 Respondents

Perception per Race/Ethnicity



*37 Respondents

Perception per Sexual Orientation

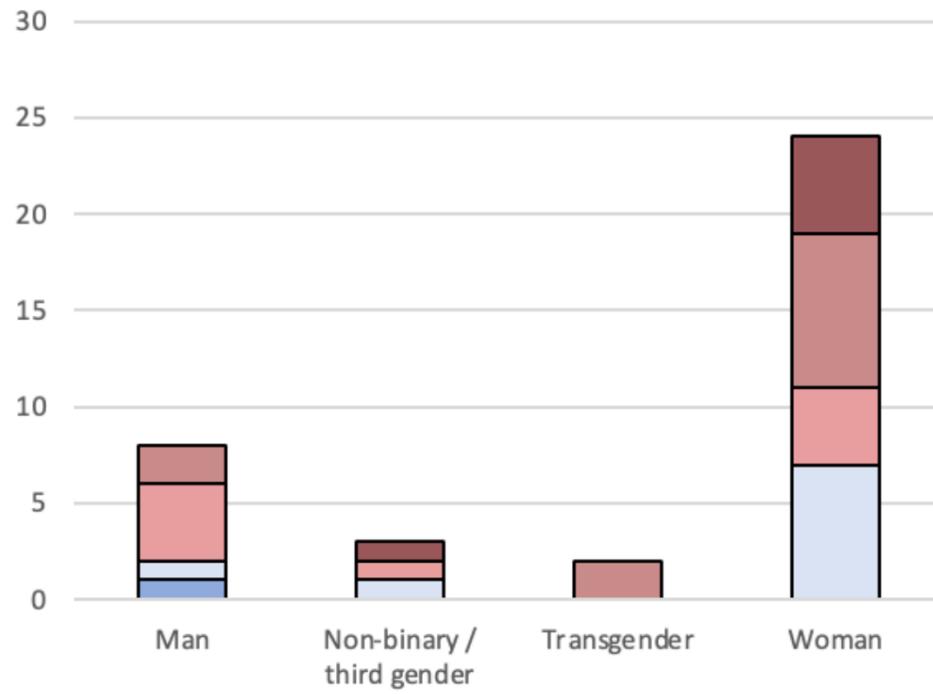


*36 Respondents

Likelihood of Future Swarthmore Student Experiencing Sexual Violence

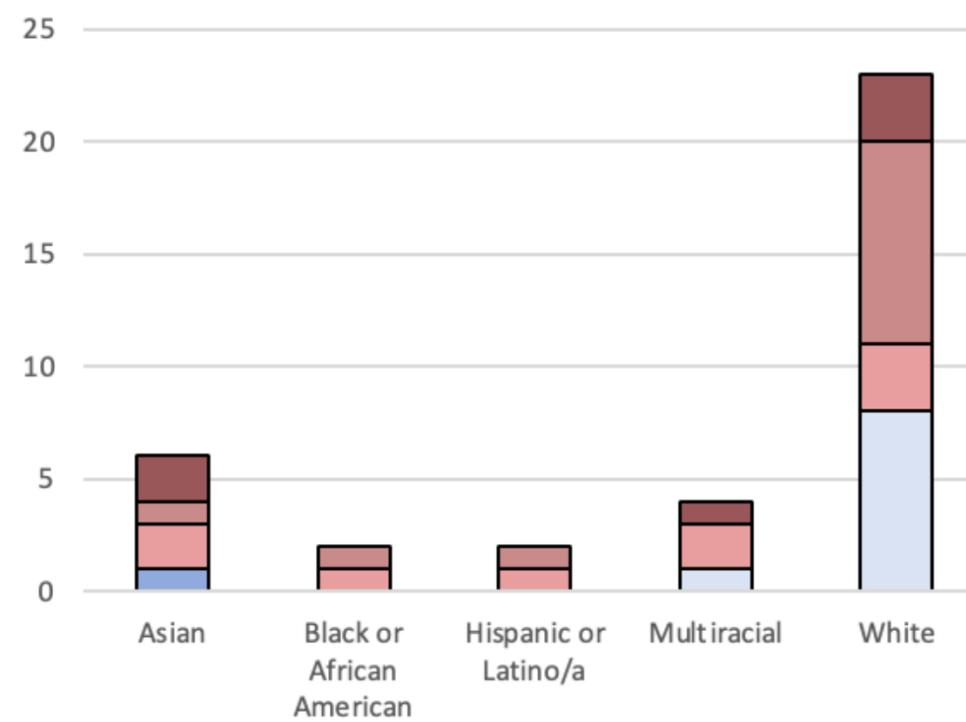
- Extremely
- Very
- Somewhat
- A little
- None at all

Perception per Gender Identity



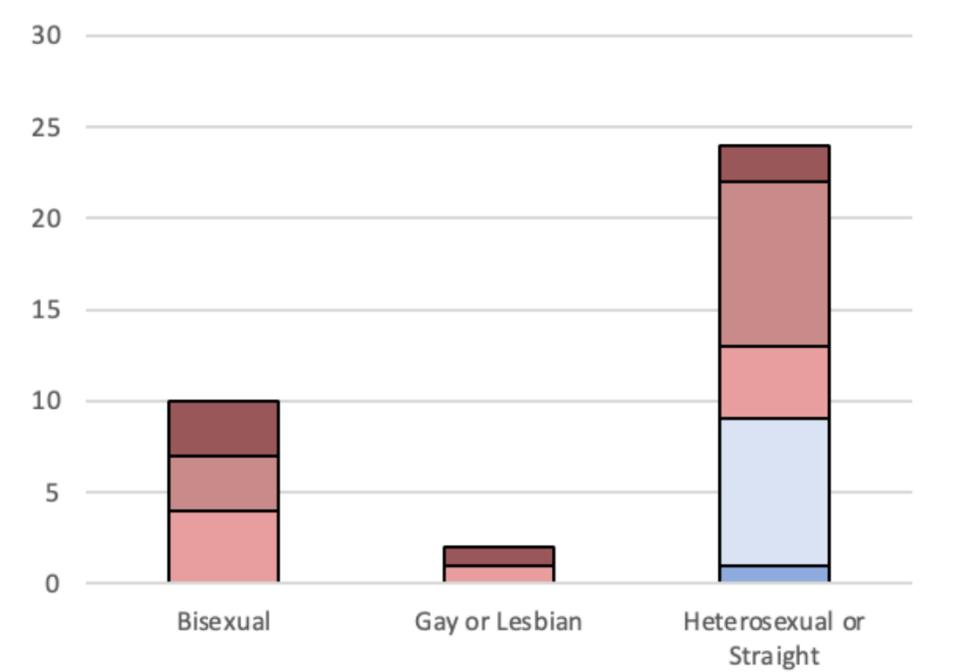
*37 Respondents

Perception per Race/Ethnicity



*37 Respondents

Perception per Sexual Orientation

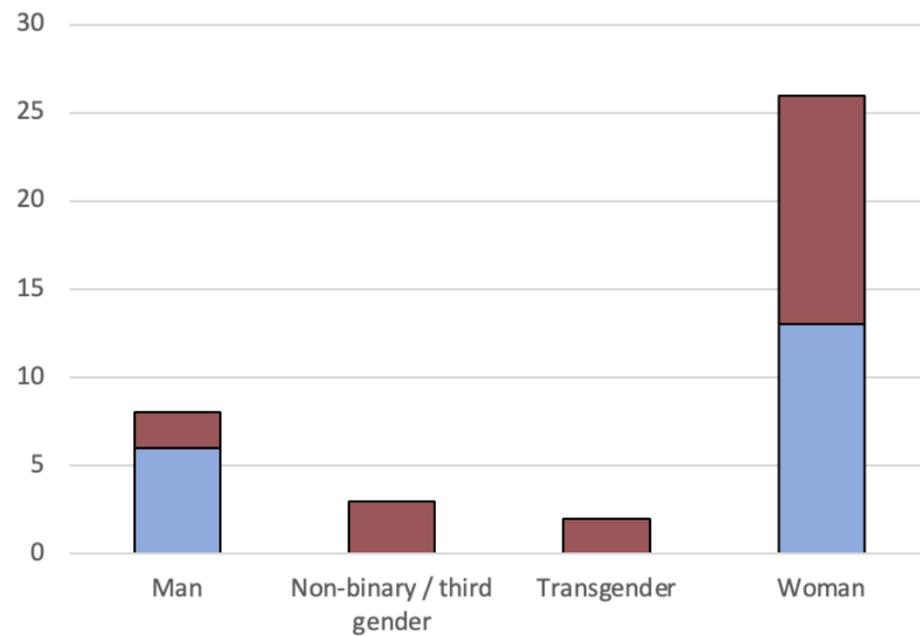


*36 Respondents

Experienced Sexual Violence on Campus

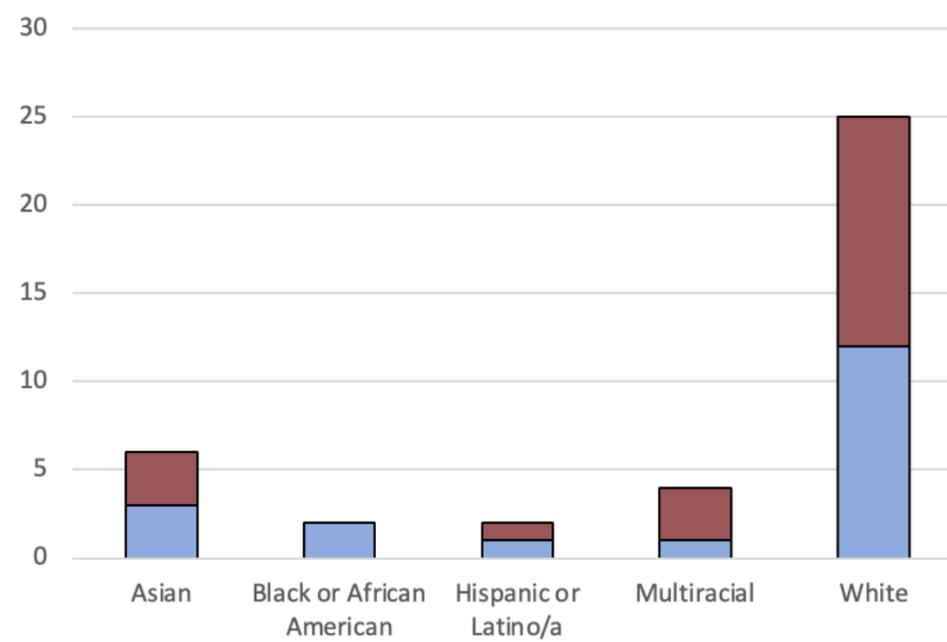
yes
no

Perception per Gender Identity



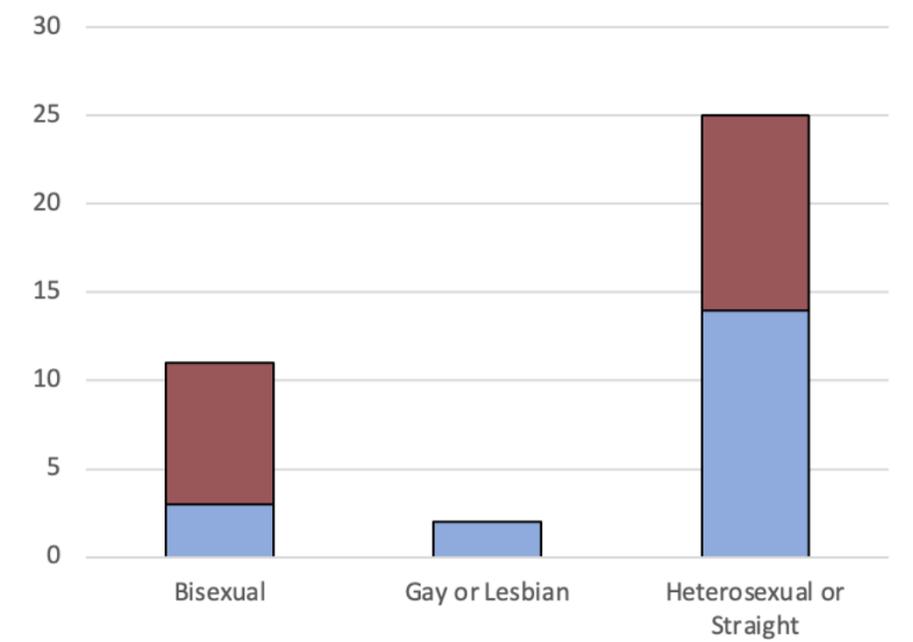
*39 Respondents

Perception per Race/Ethnicity



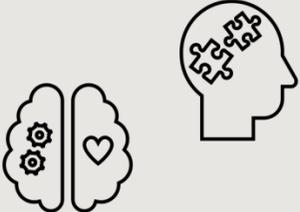
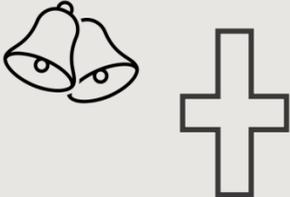
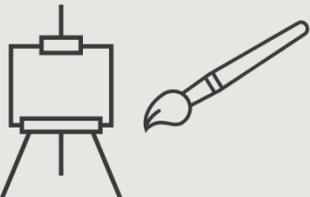
*39 Respondents

Perception per Sexual Orientation



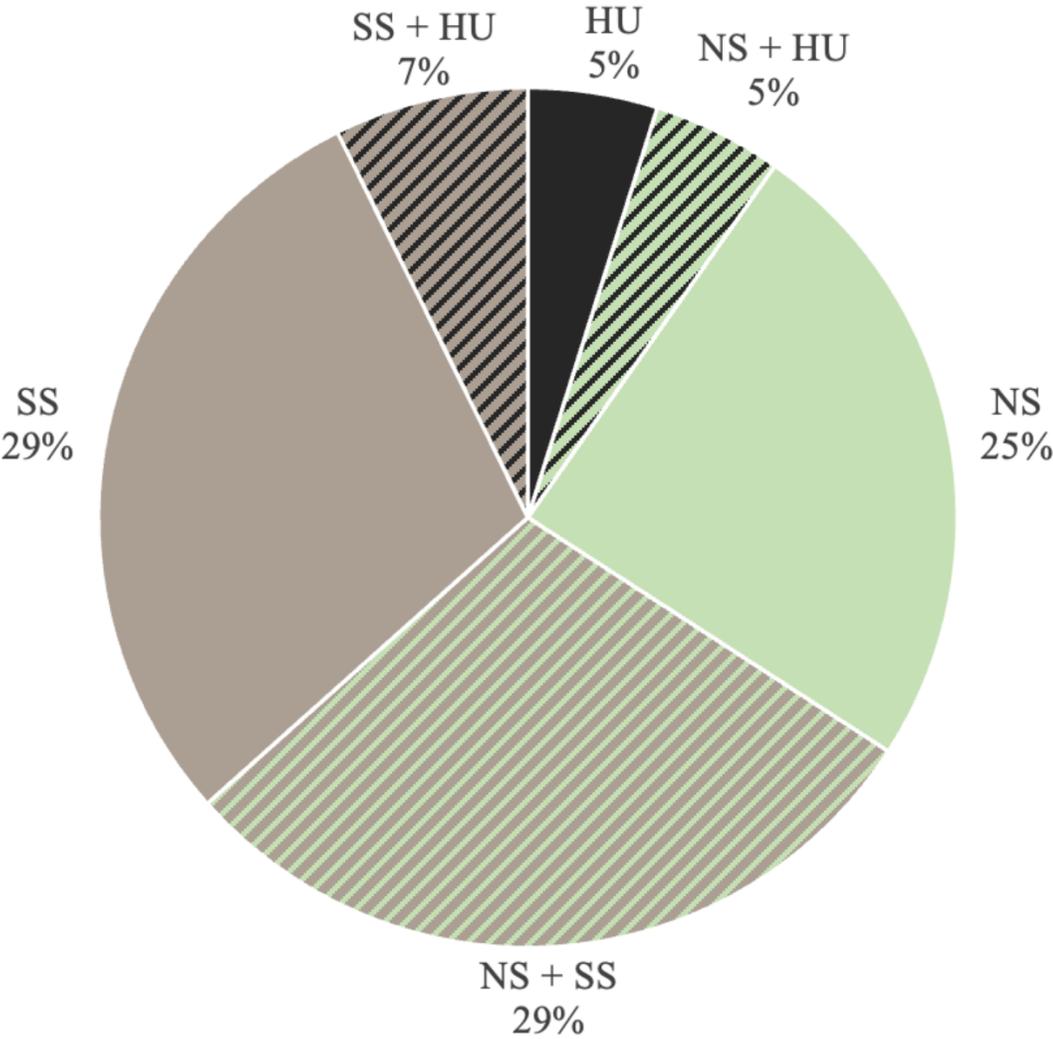
*38 Respondents

Involvements

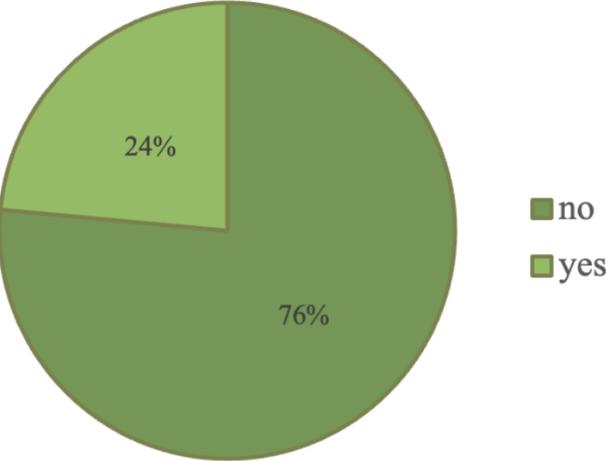
Student Involvements

Department Focus of Study

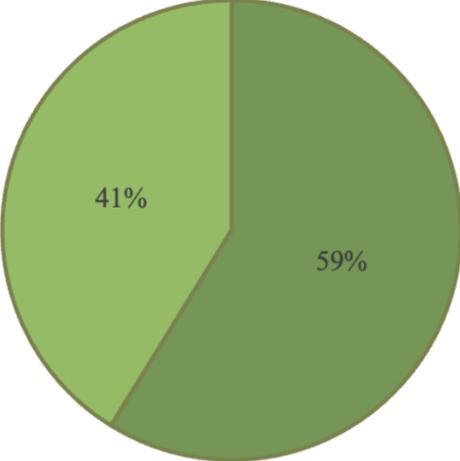


*41 Respondents

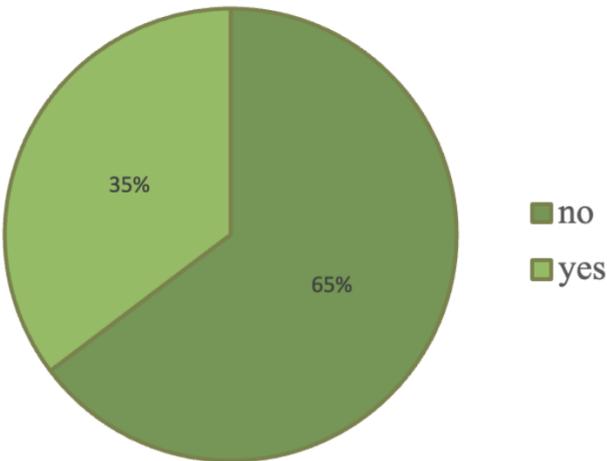
Academic Groups



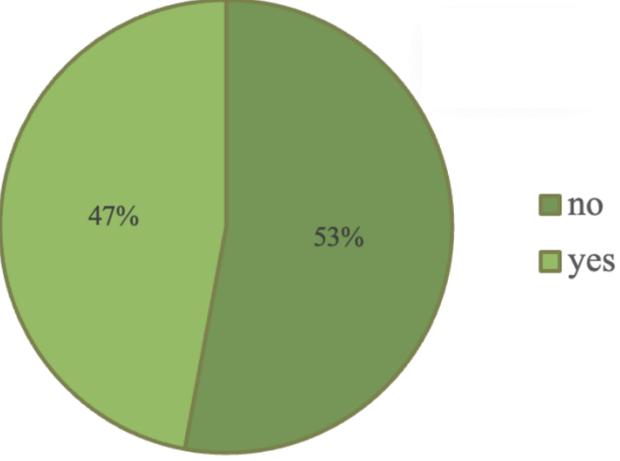
Arts



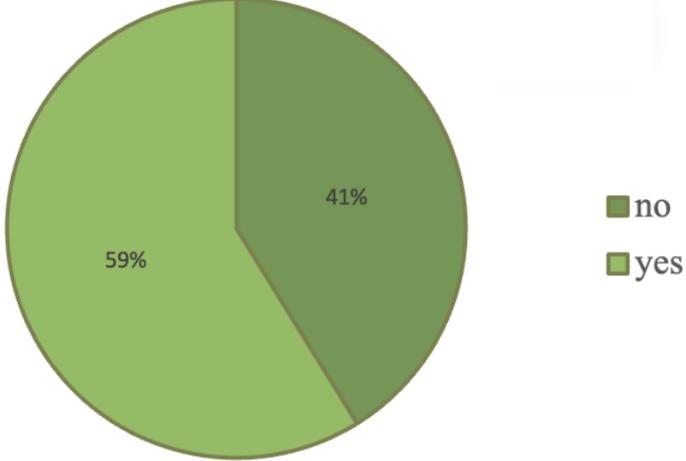
Athletics



Identity/Cultural Based Groups



Civic Engagement

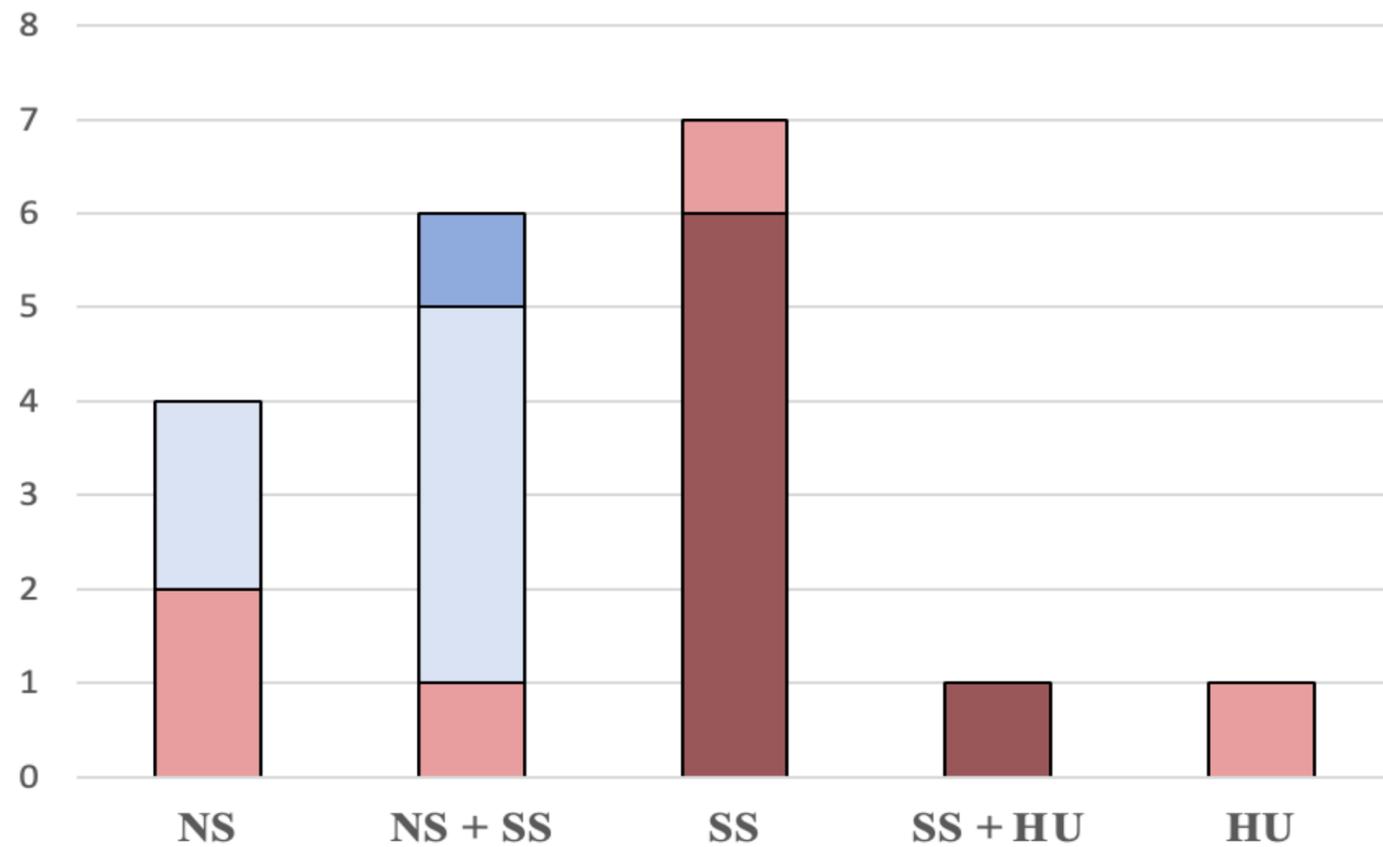


*34 Respondents

Swarthmore College Effective Institutional Response

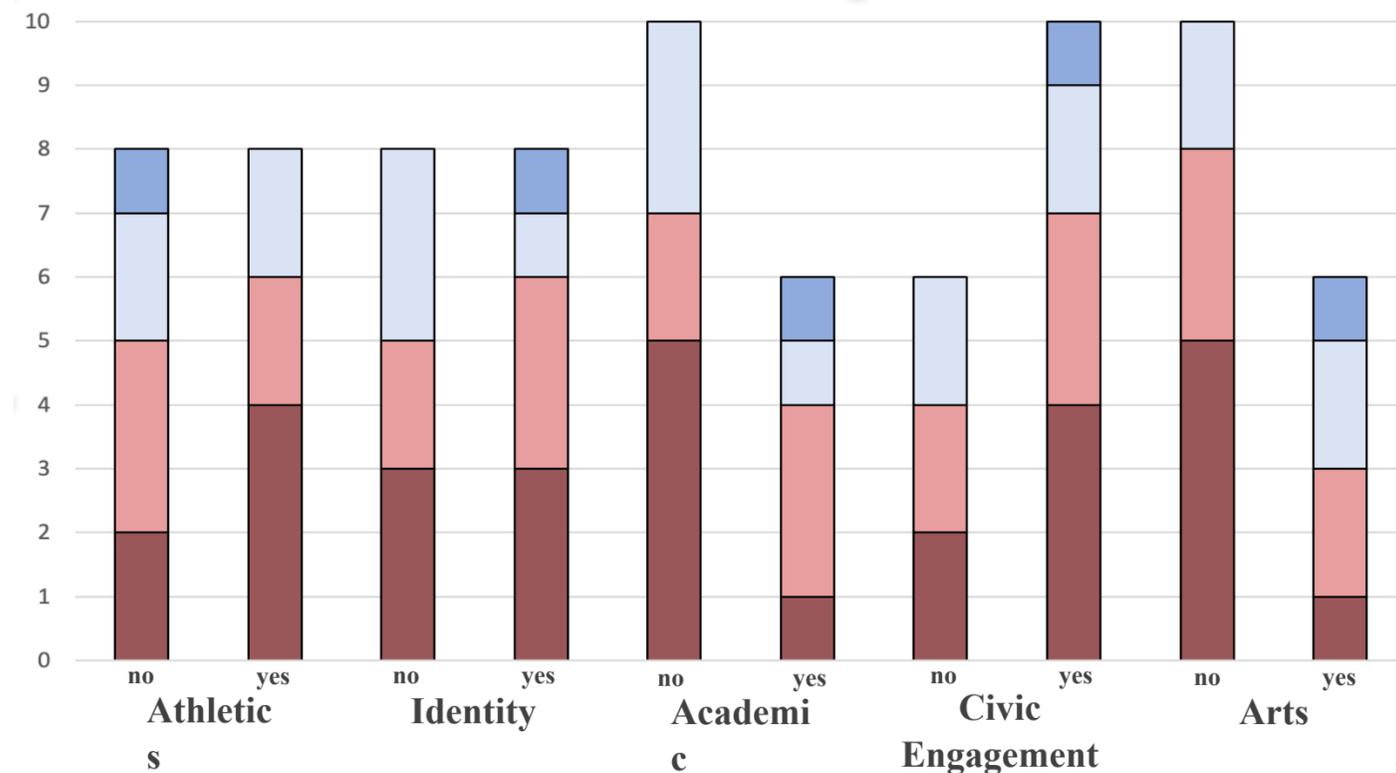
- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Perception per Academic Department



*19 Respondents

Perception per Club/Organization

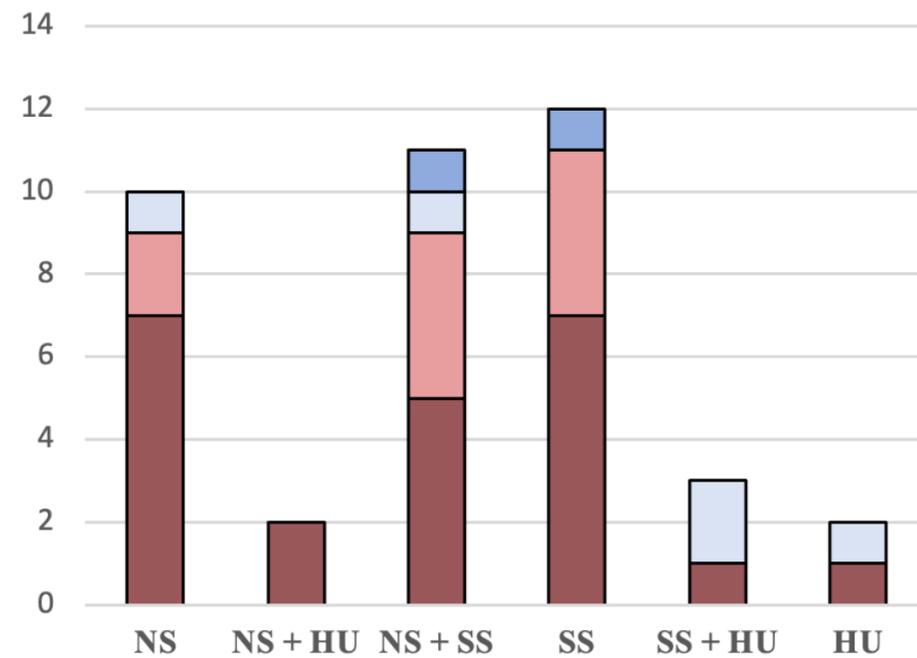


*16 Respondents

Level of Exposure to Messages about Sexual Violence

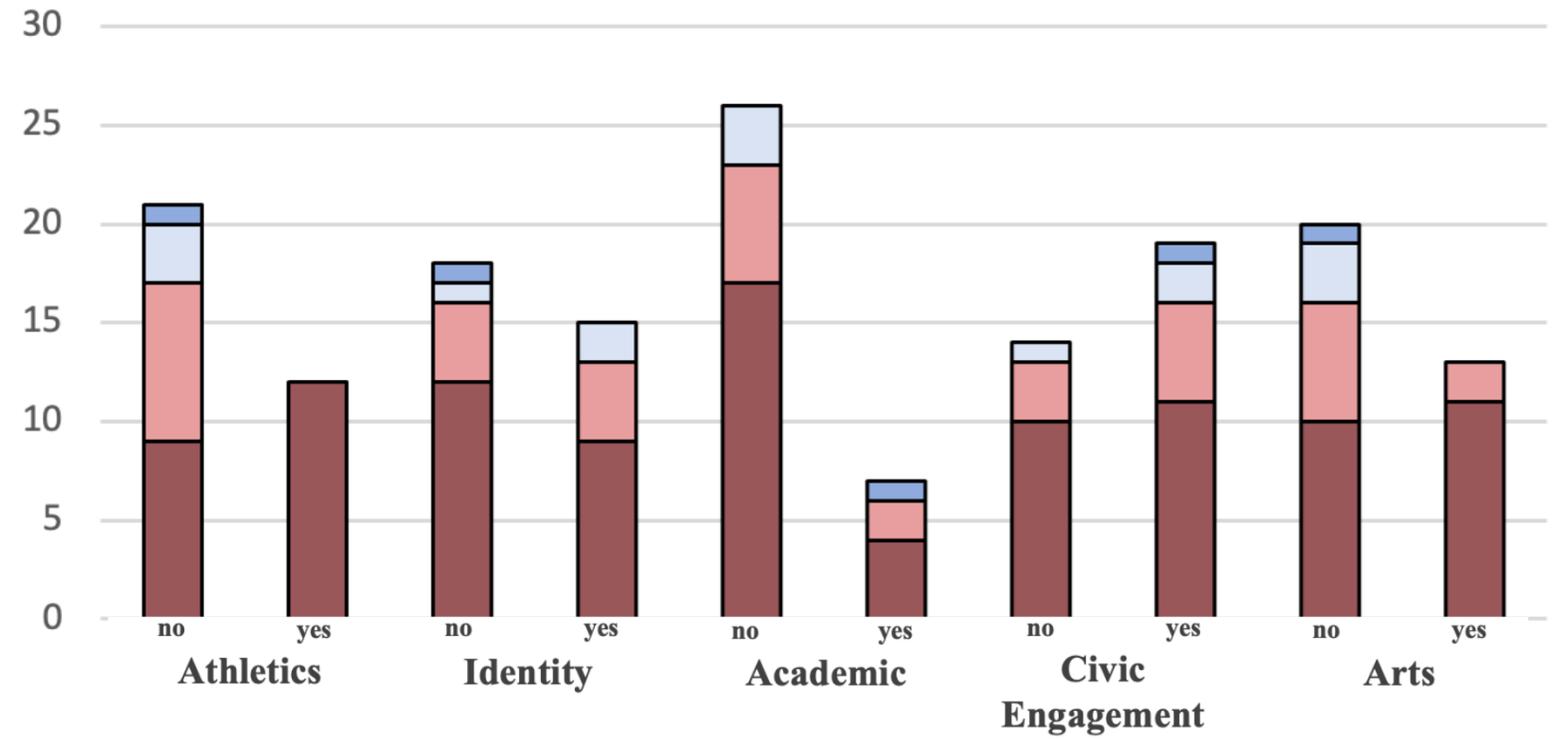
- A lot
- A moderate amount
- A little
- None at All

Perception per Academic Department



*40 Respondents

Perception per Club/Organization

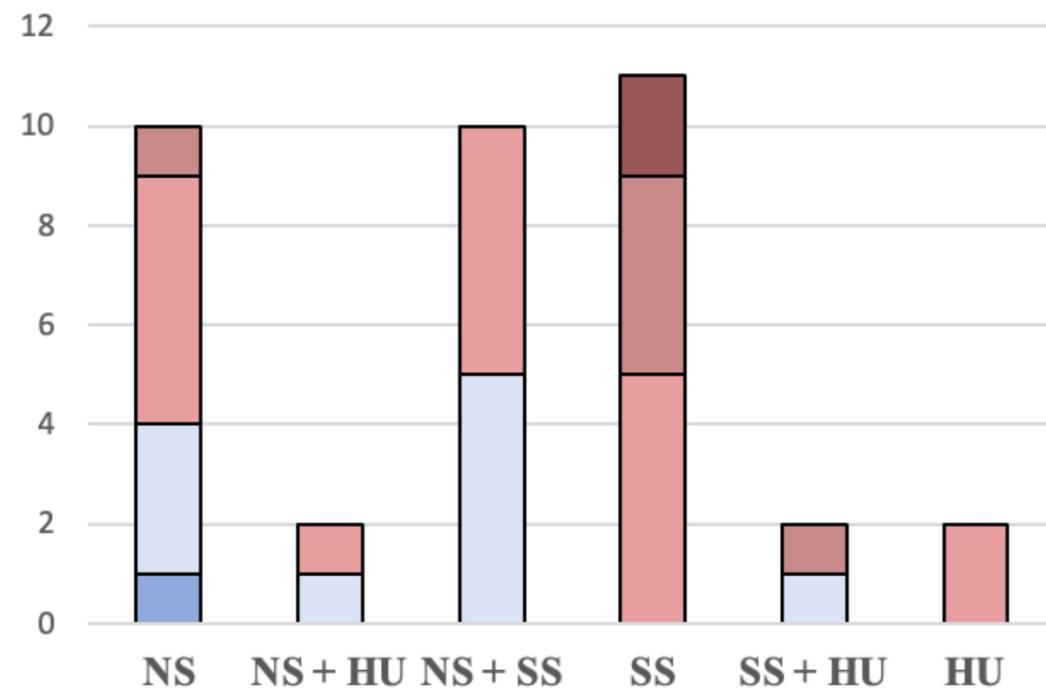


*33 Respondents

How Problematic was Sexual Violence on Campus?

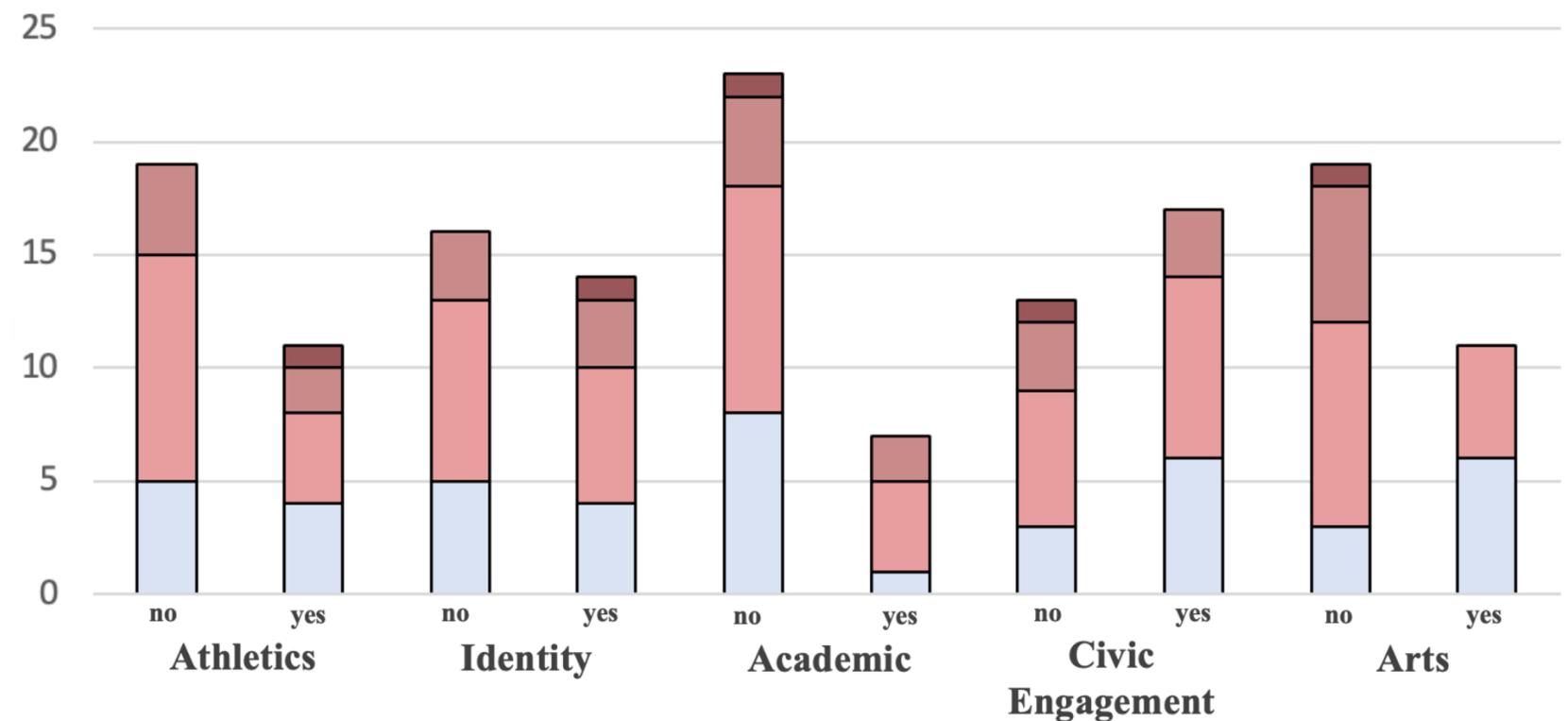
- Extremely
- Very
- Somewhat
- A little
- None at all

Perception per Academic Department



*37 Respondents

Perception per Club/Organization

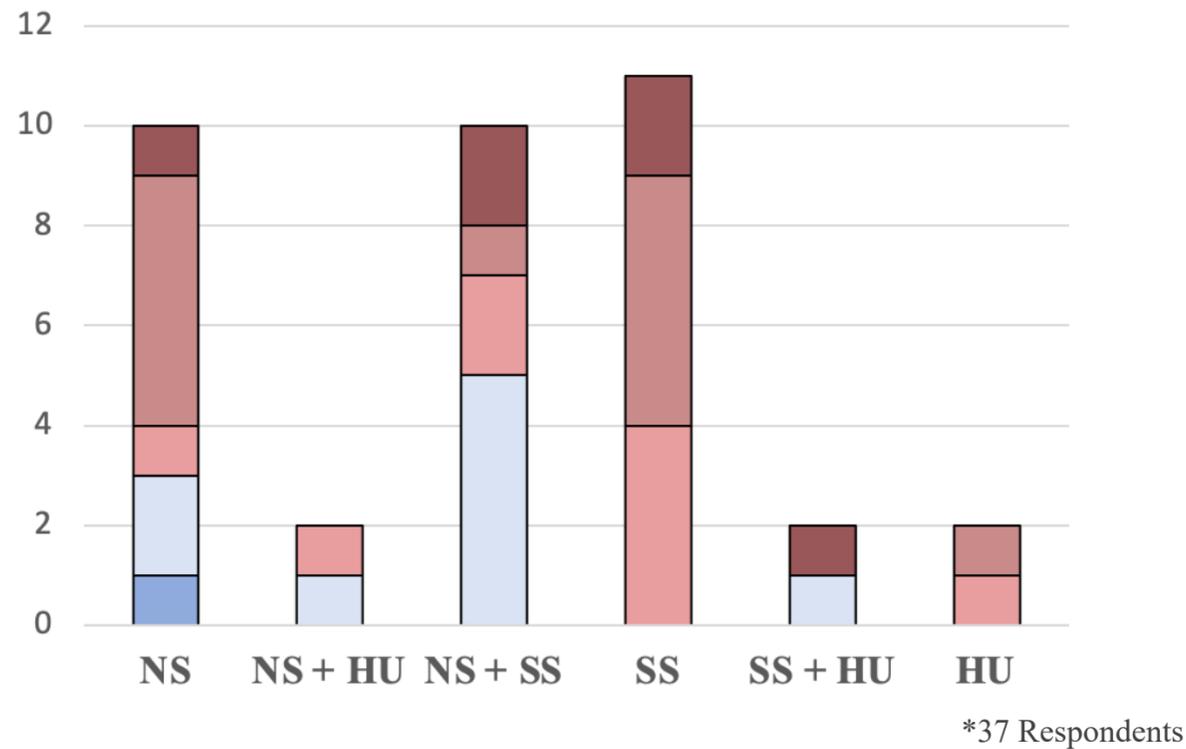


*30 Respondents

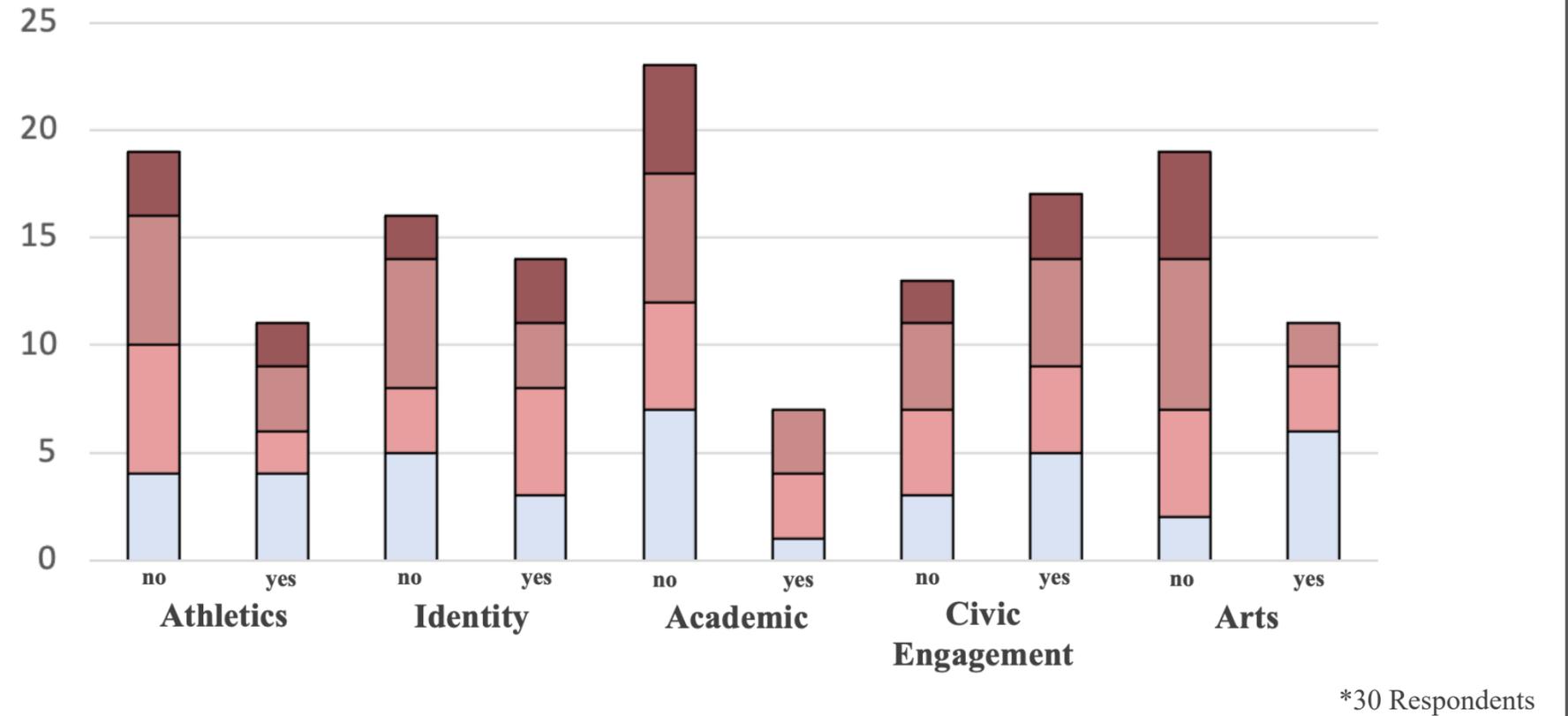
Likelihood of Future Swarthmore Student Experiencing Sexual Violence

- Extremely
- Very
- Somewhat
- A little
- None at all

Perception per Academic Department



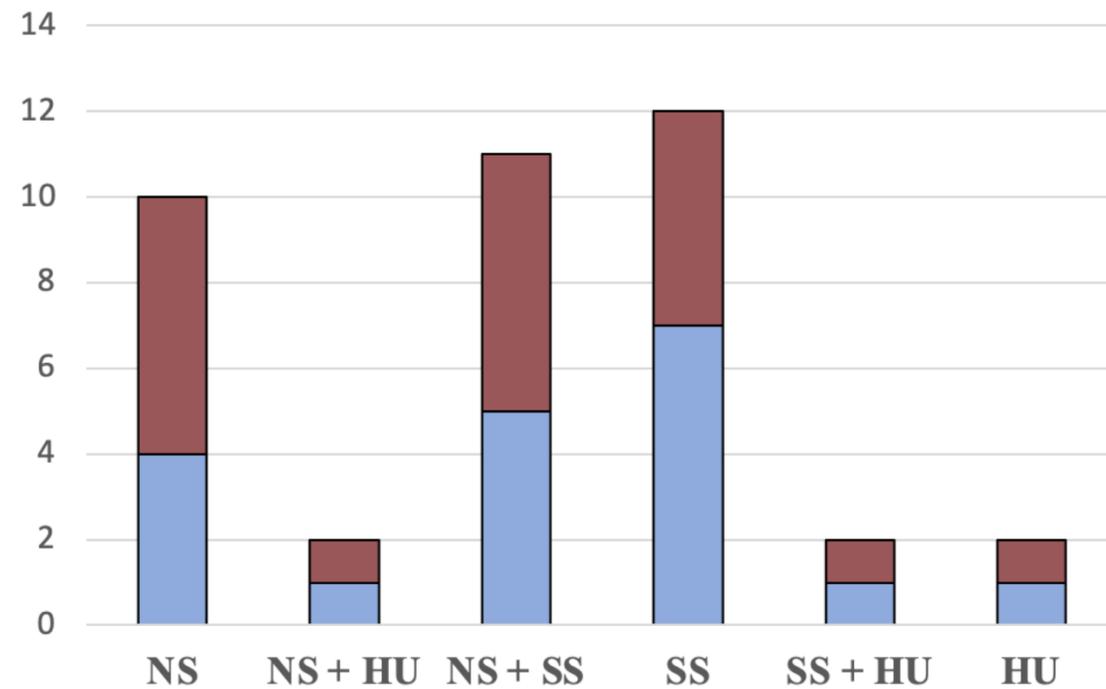
Perception per Club/Organization



Experienced Sexual Violence on Campus

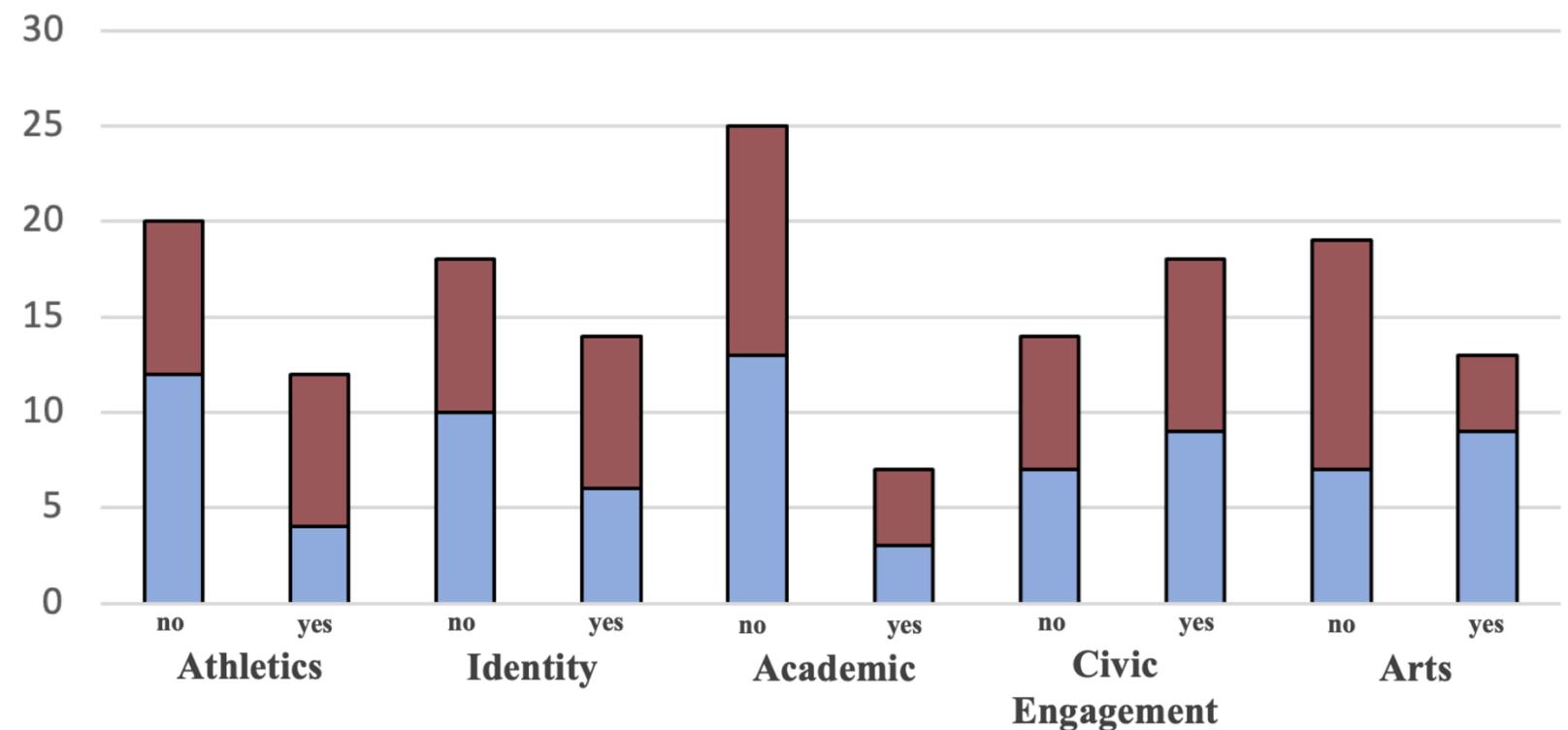
yes
no

Perception per Academic Department



*39 Respondents

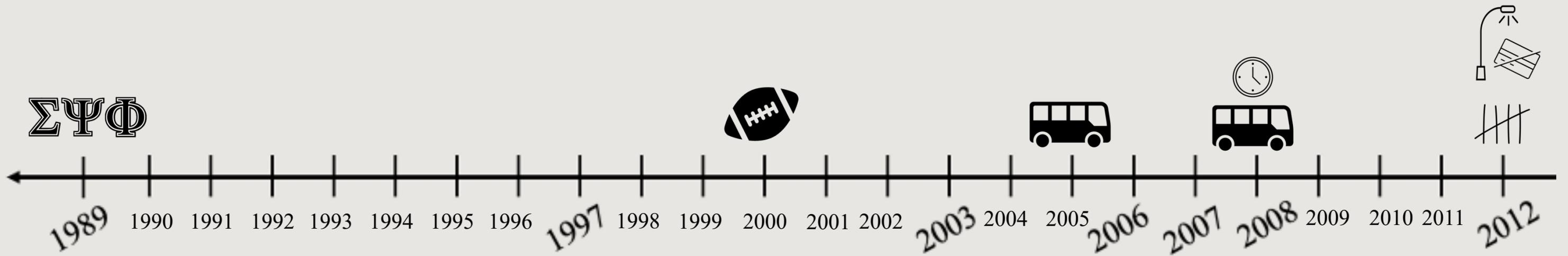
Perception per Club/Organization



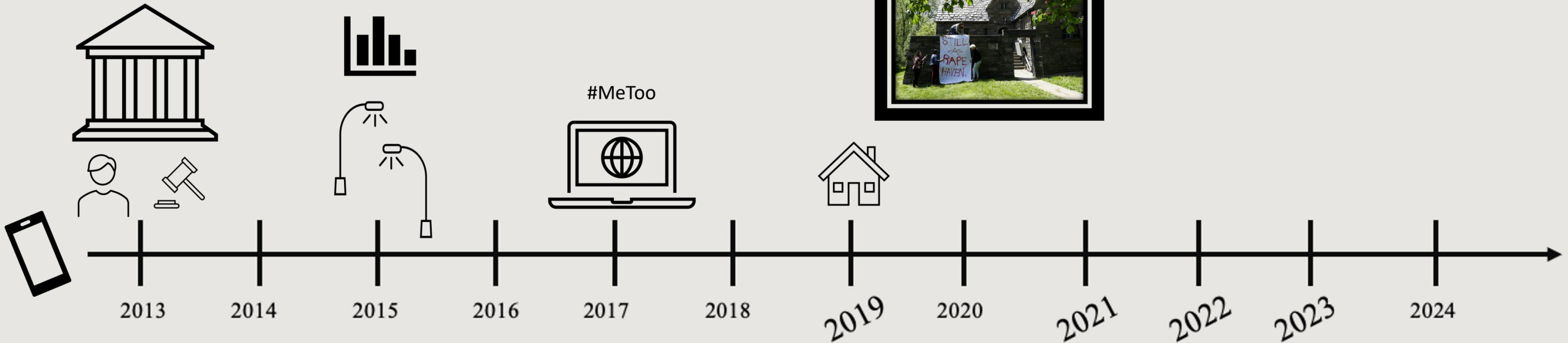
*32 Respondents

Timeline 1989 - 2012

 SWATHMORE COLLEGE



Timeline 2013 – 2023



**THE PERCEPTION OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE ON
SWARTHMORE COLLEGE CAMPUS**

by

Fatima Mar

A Presentation

Submitted to the Department of Sociology

Swarthmore College

In Fulfillment of the Requirements

For the Degree of Bachelors in Criminology

May 2024

PREFACE

Slide 1 - Title

Welcome. Thank you everyone for coming. My name is Fatima Mar and today I will be presenting my senior research capstone project for my criminology major. My presentation will be on the Perception of Sexual Violence on Swarthmore College Campus.

Slide 2 - Trigger Warning

Before I begin, I would like to note that some of the themes that I will be discussing in this presentation may be triggering for some people.

Transition 1:

As the title suggests, this presentation involves the discussion of themes like sexual violence, sexual assault, and sexual misconduct. This includes the mentioning of concepts such as rape, harassment, and non-consensual touching.

If anyone needs to step out now, or at any other point during this presentation, please do not hesitate to do so. Remember that your health and wellbeing are important. Due to the nature of this presentation, resources will also be listed at the end of the presentation should anyone need them.

BACKGROUND

Slide 3 – What is Sexual Violence?

So, what is sexual violence?

Transition 1:

Unfortunately, we do not have a set definition for what sexual violence is. There are many definitions floating around, and there doesn't seem to be one that everyone can agree on.

Transition 2:

Using the common cultural definition, or what comes up when you google sexual violence...

Transition 3:

The CDC defines sexual violence as "sexual activity when consent is not obtained or freely given".

The vagueness of this definition makes it unclear what "sexual activity" entails. Would verbal harassment be considered as sexual violence under this definition? The definition also seems to imply that there needs to be a completion of an activity, does this mean that an "attempt" of an act does not qualify?

Transition 4:

Some researchers define sexual violence to be just the act of sexual assault or only involving physical contact (whether actual or attempted).

Other researchers define sexual violence to include sexual misconduct, or include both physical and non-physical actions, like stalking, harassing, or verbally threatening someone.

Slide 4 - Our Definition

For the purposes of this research, I will be defining sexual violence as...

Transition 1:

A range of behaviors that are nonconsensual or unwanted such as physical sexual assault or behavior that encompasses sexual harassment. These behaviors could include remarks about physical appearance or persistent sexual advances. They could also include threats of force (or actual force) to get someone to engage in sexual behaviors such as nonconsensual or unwanted touching, sexual penetration, anal sex, or attempts to engage in these behaviors. These behaviors could be initiated by someone known or unknown including someone that you are in or have been in a relationship with.

This definition was derived from the combination of various definitions from research papers discussing the subject and involves both sexual assault and sexual misconduct. This definition is also in accordance with the definition that Swarthmore College uses under their *Title IX and College-Defined Sexual Misconduct Policy*.

Transition 2:

Under this definition instances of sexual assault, non-consensual sexual touching, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, sexual exploitation, indecent exposure, and physical assault are considered sexual violence.

Slide 5 - In the Context of College Campuses
--

The presence of sexual violence on college campuses is not a new problem. This ever-growing issue of sexual violence has led institutions to re-evaluate their policies, procedures, and guidelines throughout the years in an attempt to address the problem and keep the members of their community safe.

Transition 1:

However, despite new strategies being constantly developed, the issue prevails with many cases going unreported.

Transition 2:

This leads institutions to be unaware of how problematic the presence of sexual violence is on their campus at any given moment as well as unsure if the policies, procedures, and guidelines that they have in place are actually helping reduce the problem.

Now, why does this underreporting happen?

Transition 3:

Research tells us that survivors of sexual violence who choose not to report their experiences to their campus officials do so for four main reasons.

1. They do not believe the resources offered by the college are for them
2. They are unaware of the resources offered
3. They do not trust that the institution will believe them, or
4. They do not trust that the institution will hold the perpetrators responsible for their actions.

INTRODUCTION

Slide 6 - In the Context of Swarthmore

The Clery Act requires colleges that receive federal funding to be transparent about crimes that happen on, around, and sometimes off campus, including crimes of sexual violence.

Through this year's Fire Safety and Security Report we can see the number of reported cases for acts of sexual violence in Swarthmore College for the years 2020, 2021, and 2022. The report shows a decrease in cases reported for rape, fondling, and dating violence; no reports of statutory rape, incest, or domestic violence; and an increase in reports of stalking.

While this Annual Report does give us some insight into the presence of sexual violence on Swarthmore's campus, it only includes cases that were reported, making it an inaccurate representation of the total presence of sexual violence on Swarthmore's Campus.

Slide 7 - Purpose

The purpose of this research is to gain a better understanding on how the presence of sexual violence on Swarthmore College campus has changed throughout the years.

However, as discussed in the previous slide, the reports given by the Clery Act omit the presence of sexual violence that went unreported. Instead, I decided to use the perspectives of previous Swarthmore students as they may have insight into the presence of sexual violence (both reported and unreported) at the time that they were students

My research question then becomes: How has the student perception of sexual violence on Swarthmore College Campus changed throughout the years?

Slide 8 - Objectives

My objective with this question is to:

1. Examine how the perception of Sexual Violence on Swarthmore College Campus varies for each graduating class year

And,

2. Examine how the perception of Sexual Violence on Swarthmore College Campus varies depending on students' demographic characteristics

Slide 9 - Methodology

Since the purpose of this research is to assess how the perception of sexual violence has changed throughout the years, the student perspectives that were looked into were those of Swarthmore Alums.

For the duration of 4-months, participants were recruited through social networking sites like Facebook and LinkedIn and invited to complete a Qualtrics survey.

Transition 1:

Participants were asked to indicate their graduating class year, gender identity, race/ethnicity, and sexual orientation. They were also asked to identify their majors/minors and clubs/organizations that they were involved in during their time as a student at Swarthmore.

The Qualtrics survey used included a series of questionnaires designed to measure different perceptions of Sexual Violence.

Transition 2:

The first questionnaire measured participants perception about their own general safety on Swarthmore's campus when they were students. This questionnaire was not specific to sexual violence as its purpose was to understand a student's overall feeling of safety on campus.

Transition 3:

The second questionnaire measured a participant's perception of Swarthmore College's institutional effort and response to the issue of Sexual Violence. Specifically, the goal of this questionnaire was to measure Institutional Trust, or whether participants believed Swarthmore was going a "good job" at addressing the issue.

Transition 4:

The third questionnaire measured a participant's level of exposure to messages about Sexual Violence on Swarthmore College. Specifically, this survey measured how well-educated students were on the issue of Sexual Violence.

Transition 5:

Finally, the last questionnaire measured a participant's perception of Sexual Violence Occurring on Swarthmore Campus.

Participants were asked about their perceptions of

- how problematic they believed the issue of sexual violence to be on campus
- the likelihood that future student would experience sexual assault or sexual misconduct on campus
- and whether they or someone they knew ever experienced sexual violence while attending Swarthmore College.

TYPICAL RESPONDENT**Slide 10 - Typical Respondent**

A total of 42 responses were collected at the end of the 4-months. However, since participants were allowed to skip any question they did not feel comfortable answering, the number of responses may vary throughout the survey. A side note will be present to show how many responses are being considered for each observation when discussing them.

Slide 11 - Descriptive Statistics

For this study:

- The graduating class years reported ranged from the class of 1989 to our most recent graduating class, the class of 2023.
- The self-reported gender identities included 27 Women, 9 Men, 3 Non-binary or Third Gender individuals, and 2 Transgender individuals
- For the self-report of sexual identities or orientations, participants identified as Heterosexual or Straight, Bisexual, and Gay or Lesbian
- For the self-reported races and ethnicities, participants identified as Asian, Black or African American, Hispanic or Latino/Latina, White, or Multiracial
- Of the 3 main departments, the Social Science department was the popular amongst participants, 65% had at least one major and/or minor in the Social Sciences
- Lastly, 24% of the participants reported being involved in athletics during their time at Swarthmore. This includes both varsity and intermural.

Slide 12 - Class Year

As mentioned, the graduating class years reported ranged from the class of 1989 to our most recent graduating class, the class of 2023.

The most common graduating year was in 2008 and in 2023, making up 48% of our sample.

- The class of '07 closely followed with 22% of respondents
- class of '22 with 10% respondents
- and class of '19 with 5% of respondents
- Collectively the class of '89, '97, '03, '06, '12, and '21 make up 15 % of participants, having exactly one member to represent each respective class year.

A possible reason for this distribution of class years can be attributed to the method of recruitment. Since the only method in which these Alums were recruited through were social networking sites, this does limit our population to Swarthmore Alums who are the most likely to be active on platforms like Facebook or LinkedIn.

Slide 13 – Self Reported Identity

When participants were asked to report their identity, 1 participant chose not to disclose their gender identity, 1 participant chose not to disclose their race/ethnicity, and 2 respondents chose not to disclose their sexual identity/orientation.

Transition 1:

For Gender Identity:

- 66% of participants self-identified as Women
- 22% as Men
- 7% as non-binary or a third gender
- and 5% identified as Transgender individuals.

Transition 2:

For Racial or Ethnic Identity:

- 66% of participants self-identified as White
- 14% as Asian
- 5% as Black or African American
- 5% as Hispanic or Latino/a
- and 10% of participants as Multiracial.

Transition 3:

Lastly, for sexual identity or orientation:

- 65% of participants identified as Heterosexual or Straight
- 27% as Bisexual
- and 8% as Gay or Lesbian.

In the context of Swarthmore College, a predominately white institution, these percentages make sense. Additionally, there is also a participation bias to consider, that is, individuals who may or may not be more compelled to complete a survey of this topic. This can lead to a skewed representation for some demographic characteristics.

FINDINGS

Slide 14 - Findings

Keeping in mind both the biases previously discussed, as well as the limitations that come with having a small sample size, the following findings I will be presenting are purely observational, they are not to be interpreted as causal.

Transition 1:

When asked about overall safety on Swarthmore College Campus, 79% of participants expressed that they felt “very safe”.

Transition 2:

On average, when asked about Swarthmore College effectiveness in addressing the issue of Sexual Violence on Campus and gaining the trust of its students, 29% of participants disagreed on effectiveness and 16% agreed on effectiveness.

Transition 3:

On average, 57% of participants expressed their levels of exposure to messages or education about Sexual Violence on Swarthmore College to be “None at All”

Transition 4:

49% of participants felt that sexual violence on Swarthmore College campus is “somewhat problematic”

Transition 5:

33% of participants felt that it was “very likely” that a future Swarthmore student would experience sexual violence on campus

Transition 6:

Of the participants of this survey, 51% of them experienced (or knew someone who experienced) sexual violence on Swarthmore College Campus during their time as students

When comparing these observations to the demographic characteristics collected, no significant distinctions in perceptions were found. This does not mean that differences of gender, race, or sexual identity don't exist in the population. This was simply not able to be concluded in this study due to the small sample size.

Slide 15 – Perceptions of Own Safety

When discussing general safety on campus, the overall response on safety on Swarthmore Campus was positive, or at least neutral.

On average, most participants (79%) felt “Very Safe” when referring to their own general safety on Swarthmore’s campus when they were students. 2% of participants felt “Somewhat Safe”, and 19% felt “Neither Safe nor Unsafe”.

While this questionnaire was not specific to Sexual Violence, it was more guided to understand the perception of safety in “every-day” life for students, the lack of negative responses is a good indicator that the campus was generally perceived as safe by the participants in this study.

Slide 16 – Perceptions of Swarthmore College Response

When asked if Swarthmore College as an institution did a “good job” at addressing the issue of Sexual Violence on Campus and gaining the trust of its students, the typical participant neither agreed nor disagreed with the sentiments (55%).

Although a majority of participants were neutral, for those that weren’t, most disagreed with the sentiment (29% to be exact): with 12% somewhat disagreeing and 17% strongly disagreeing. A total of 16% of participants agreed with the sentiment: with 14% somewhat agreeing and 2% strongly agreeing.

Transition 1:

In an attempt to gain a more conclusive understanding of how effective Swarthmore College Institutional Response is perceived, the neutral response of “neither agree nor disagree” was omitted from the following observations, limiting the sample to 18 respondents. As discussed, there are more individuals who disagree that Swarthmore’s Response is effective than there are individuals who agree.

When looking at the specific class years:

- Most participants who have a “strong disagreement” for the effectiveness of addressing the issue of sexual violence come from the class year 2019 and later.
- On the contrary, most participants who “agree” on the effectiveness of addressing the issue of sexual violence come from the class year 2012 and earlier.

Slide 17 – Perceptions of Exposure to Messages
--

When asked about the levels of exposure to messages about the issue of Sexual Violence on Swarthmore College's campus while they were students:

- 57% of participants reported their levels of exposure to be "None at All"
- 25% of participants reported "a little" exposure
- 13% reported "a moderate amount" of exposure
- and only 5% reported "a lot" of exposure

Transition 1:

When looking at the specific class years:

- Most participants from **all** graduating class years (with the exception of 2019) perceived to have "little" or "none at all" exposure to messages about the issue of Sexual Violence on Swarthmore's Campus

Slide 18 – Perceptions of Sexual Violence as a Problem
--

When asked how problematic the issue of Sexual Violence was during their time at Swarthmore:

- 5% said it was "extremely" problematic
- 16% said it was "very" problematic
- 49% of participants said it was "somewhat" problematic
- 27% said it was "a little" problematic
- and only 3% said it was "not at all" problematic

Transition 1:

When looking at the specific class years:

- Most participants who perceive the issue of sexual violence at Swarthmore College to be "a little" problematic are from the class year 2008 and earlier.
- All participants that perceive the issue of sexual violence at Swarthmore College to be "very" or "extremely" problematic are from the class year 2019 and after.

It's important to note that while the perceptions of sexual violence as a problem may be "very" or "extremely" problematic, this does not mean that more Sexual Violence is happening. These are simply the perceptions of sexual violence occurring.

Slide 19 - Perceptions of Future Sexual Violence Occurring
--

When asked how likely it was for a future Swarthmore student to experience Sexual Violence on Campus:

- 16% said “extremely” likely
- 33% said it was “very” likely
- 24 % said “somewhat” likely
- another 24% said “a little” likely
- and only 3% said it was “not at all” likely

There were no notable observations when comparing participants’ perception of how likely it was for a future Swarthmore student to experience Sexual Violence on Campus to their respective class years.

Slide 20 - Perception of Sexual Violence Occurring
--

When participants were asked if they, or someone they knew, experienced sexual violence while attending Swarthmore College:

- 51% of participants reported “yes”
- 49% of participants reported “no”

While there were no notable observations when comparing a participants’ response with their respective class years, the percentage of participants that reported “yes” is notable in itself when compared to the national average.

Transition 1:

The Clery Act states that 8 per 10,000 students experience sexual violence a year. However, this number isn’t the best to use for this study as the Clery act only refers to the reported cases on a college campus.

Transition 2:

The Association of American Universities states that:

- 26.4% of students who identify as Women
- 6.8% of students who identify as Men
- and 23.1% of students who identify as Transgender, Non-Binary, or Third-Gender experience sexual violence

These percentages were derived from a self-reported study, making it more appropriate to use as a comparison.

Transition 3:

Now, compare to our percentages of:

- 50% of participants who identify as Women
- 33% of participants who identify as Men
- and 100% of participants who identify as Transgender, Non-Binary, or Third-Gender experiencing (or knowing someone who experienced) sexual violence.

While there is clearly a large difference in the two, I am not making any claims or generalizations about the sexual violence that occurred/occurs on Swarthmore College Campus. The current study I am presenting is limited in many ways and therefore, not fully representative of the entire Swarthmore student population. However, the differences found here is at the very least notable and future studies should be conducted to further explore if there is any significance.

Slide 21 – Summary

To summarize...

- Most participants who perceive the issue of sexual violence at Swarthmore College to be “a little” problematic are from the **class year 2008 and earlier**.
- All participants that perceive the issue of sexual violence at Swarthmore College to be “very” or “extremely” problematic are from the **class year 2019 and after**.
- Most participants who “agreed” on the sentiment that Swarthmore College as an institution was doing a “good job” in addressing the issue of sexual violence came from the **class year 2012 and earlier**.
- Most participants “strongly disagreed” on the sentiment that Swarthmore College as an institution was doing a “good job” in addressing the issue of sexual violence came from the **class year 2019 and later**.

While the sample that was used for this study is limited, the perceptions of Sexual Violence do appear to possibly vary through graduating class years. Specifically, the perception of sexual violence as a problem on Swarthmore Campus and the perception of Swarthmore’s College effectiveness in addressing the issue.

Slide 22 – Possible Explanation

A possible explanation for this (if future studies are able to establish significance) could be, as mentioned in the beginning of this presentation, the different institutional policies, procedures, and guidelines present.

Transition 1:

For example, for both of these perceptions, it is not until the Graduating Class Year of 2019 that the presence of “strongly disagree” on effectiveness, “very” and “extremely” problematic perceptions appear.

Transition 2:

So, what was Swarthmore College doing to address the issue of Sexual Violence during this time...

Going back to 2018, Organizing for Survivors (O4S), a collective of over 100 survivors and allies were rallying for a list of 30+ demands for change in the College’s Title IX policy. These demands were meant to address the inequitable control of campus social life that fraternities’ building leases provided, as well as their facilitation of sexual violence and protection of perpetrators.

Transition 3:

In the year 2019 internal documents from Swarthmore Fraternities were leaked displaying the “minutes” of the meetings including jokes that men from 2012 - 2016 had made about sexual assault and referring to rooms in the neighborhood as “rape attic” and a “rape tunnel”.

The influx of conversations and awareness surrounding Sexual Violence cases on Swarthmore’s Campus could explain why the perception of the issue of sexual violence was seen as “very” or “extremely” problematic.

The actions that the institution took or didn’t take could explain the “strong disagreement” on the sentiment that Swarthmore College was doing a “good job” of addressing the issue of Sexual Violence.

However, while this may be a possible explanation for the perceptions in the year 2019, these perceptions have remained to date, even after the fraternities were disbanded.

CONCLUSION

Slide 23 – Current Issue

As discussed in the beginning, there are 4 main reasons why students do not report their experiences of sexual violence:

1. not believing the resources offered are for them

While Swarthmore does not use gendered language in their discussions or policies, this does not erase the misconceptions that are already in place, or the history and reputation that Swarthmore holds.

2. not being aware of the resources offered

While there are currently a lot of events held on and around campus that aim to educate individuals, they are not the most accessible:

- they tend to be during class time or during lunch rush hour.
- Or they are optional

The only time students are required to receive education on Sexual Violence is when they are First-Years students. They are given a module that is easy to complete (and ignore by skipping sections).

That is, unless you are an athlete. Athletes are the only students in the entire institution that are required to complete a training on sexual violence. Although I was unable to find any policies that explained why athletes were singled out, the training they receive is as easy to ignore as the one given to first years.

This may explain why, at least from the students in this study, 88% of participants from 2023 had “a little” or “none at all” exposure to messages about the issue of Sexual Violence on Swarthmore’s Campus.

While it may not be the most convenient for the administration to hold mandatory informational programs during accessible hours for students, the alternative is to possibly continue allowing students to have a lack of knowledge on the issue of Sexual Violence, leaving them vulnerable.

Slide 24 – Current Issues

3. not trusting the institution to believe them

The lack of trust that students have towards Swarthmore is possibly due to the many cases that involve a lack of support for victims.

Some stories from the Phoenix talk about how:

- after reporting an assault, Swarthmore refused to give students a housing change
- after students confided in a Dean about being assaulted, the Dean did not report the incident
- after reporting an assault, Swarthmore failed to provide students with psychological or academic accommodations
- students were made felt uncomfortable while going through the adjudication process as they were being asked inappropriate questions, or victim blaming

4. not trusting the institution to hold perpetrators responsible

There are trends in failures of Swarthmore doing a poor job at holding perpetrators responsible. For example:

- it is very rare that students are expelled on account of a sexual assault policy violation.
- students are still allowed to be hired as RA's as well as TA's as long as they are in "good standing" with the college, something that accused students remain until found guilty, a process that takes a long time.
- there have been demands for several Deans, Directors, and Coordinators to resign after continuously mishandling cases of sexual assault. Many of these individuals are still employed at the College today and continue to be part of the adjudication process.

Dean of Students Elizabeth Braun, Dean of the Senior Class and Director of Student Conduct Nate Miller, Associate Director of Investigations Beth Pitts, and Interim Title IX Coordinator Michelle Ray resign for their continued mishandling of cases of sexual assault.

This lack of trust may possibly explain why, at least from the students in this study, 75% of participants from 2023 "strongly disagreed" on the sentiment that Swarthmore College as an institution is doing a "good job" in addressing the issue of sexual violence.

Slide 25 - Future Studies

Due to the nature of this study, I am not making any claims or generalizations about the sexual violence that occurred/occurs on Swarthmore College Campus, these findings are meant to provide insight into the perception of sexual violence on campus for this specific sample.

To gain a better understanding and representation about the perceptions of Sexual Violence on Swarthmore College Campus, future studies should:

- change the method of recruitment and
- work with a larger sample size, possibly using the Alumni Network Directory or the current student body population.

This will not only allow for the research to establish significance (if any) but it can provide more context about how different policies, procedures, and guidelines throughout the years may have influenced those perceptions.

If interested in exploring the discrepancy found between the perception of Sexual Violence Occurring at Swarthmore College (experienced or knew someone who experienced sexual violence) and the National Averages, future studies can also look into records like the Clery Act that provide statistics for the institution.

Slide 26 - Conclusion

Historically speaking, Swarthmore College does not have the best reputation when it comes to addressing issues of Sexual Violence. Demands have continuously been made to Swarthmore to “protect survivors, hold perpetrators accountable, and prevent sexual violence to the degree it is possible”. I hope that this presentation will give Swarthmore some insight into just how problematic the issue of Sexual Violence has been on Swarthmore’s Campus through the perspective of its students.

Transition 1:

Swarthmore’s mission is to “provide learners of diverse backgrounds a transformative liberal arts education grounded in rigorous intellectual inquiry and empower all who share in our community to flourish and contribute to a better world.”

It is Swarthmore’s College responsibility as an institution to educate and protect its students, and in the eyes of the students from this study, Swarthmore did neither.

Slide 27 - Thank You

APPENDIX

Slide 28 - 32: Surveys

28: Title Page

29: Perception of Own Safety on Swarthmore College Campus

30: Perception of Swarthmore College’s Response to Sexual Violence

31: Level of Exposure to Messages about Sexual Violence on Swarthmore College

32: Perception of Sexual Violence Occurring on Swarthmore Campus

Slide 33 - 35: Class Years

33: Title Page

34: Perceptions of Future Sexual Violence Occurring

When looking at the specific class years:

- 2006: 100% “Very” likely
- 2007: 66% “Very” or “Extremely” likely
- 2008: 33% “Very” or “Extremely” likely
- 2012: 100% “Very” likely
- 2019: 50% “Extremely” likely
- 2021: 100% “Very” likely
- 2022: 50% “Very” or “Extremely” likely
- 2023: 55% “Very” or “Extremely” likely

EXCEPTION

- 1989, 1997, 2003: 100% “A little” likely

35: Experienced Sexual Violence on Campus

When looking at the specific class years:

- 1989: 100% no
- 1997: 100% yes
- 2003: 100% no
- 2006: 100% no
- 2007: 50% yes; 50% no
- 2008: 66% yes; 33% no
- 2012: 100% yes
- 2019: 50% yes; 50% no

- 2021: 100% yes
- 2022: 25% yes; 75% no
- 2023: 55% yes; 45% no

Slide 36 - 41: Identity

36: Title Page

37: Perception of Swarthmore College's Effective Institutional Response

Not statistically significant because of overrepresentation (small sample size)

Gender: Of those that disagree, most are woman (on average most somewhat agree)

Race/Ethnicity: Not much variance (disagree on average)

Orientation: Not much variance (disagree on average)

*Only 2 participants strongly agree that Swarthmore is doing an effective job at addressing sexual violence (straight, white, women)

38: Level of Exposure to Messages about Sexual Violence on Swarthmore College

Not statistically significant because of overrepresentation (small sample size)

Gender: Of those that express none at all, most are woman (on average everyone else a little or none at all)

Race/Ethnicity: Of those that express none at all, most are white (on average everyone else is a little or none at all)

Orientation: Of those that express none at all, most are heterosexual or straight (on average everyone else is a little or none at all)

*Only 2 participants say they received "a lot" of exposure (straight, white, women)

39: Perception of Sexual Violence as a Problem on Swarthmore Campus

Not statistically significant because of overrepresentation (small sample size)

Gender: Not much variance (somewhat on average)

Race/Ethnicity: Of those that express that sexual violence is "somewhat problematic", most are white (somewhat on average)

Orientation: The only sexual orientation that says sexual violence is "a little or not at all problematic" are heterosexual or straight (somewhat on average)

*Only 1 participant says that sexual violence is “not at all” problematic (a straight, Asian, man)

40: Perceptions of Future Sexual Violence Occurring

Not statistically significant because of overrepresentation (small sample size)

Gender: Not much variance (somewhat or very on average)

Race/Ethnicity: Not much variance (somewhat or very on average)

Orientation: The only sexual orientation that the likelihood of a future Swarthmore student experiencing sexual violence is “a little or none at all” are heterosexual or straight (somewhat and very on average)

*Only 1 participant says that the likelihood of a future Swarthmore student experiencing sexual violence is “none at all” (a straight, Asian, man)

41: Experienced Sexual Violence on Campus

Not statistically significant because of overrepresentation (small sample size)

Gender: Not much variance (All transgender and non-binary/third gender say yes)

Race/Ethnicity: Not much variance (All Black or African American say no)

Orientation: Not much variance (All Gay or Lesbian say no)

Slide 42 - 48: Involvements

42: Title Page

43: Student Involvements

Most participants (65%) had a major/minor housed in the Social Science department, with 29% of them focusing on the Social Sciences. 25 % of participants focused on the Natural Science Department and 5% focused on the Humanities Department. There were also individuals who had multiple majors or minors in interdisciplinary subjects including: 29% of Alums who were housed under both the Social and Natural Sciences, 7% who were housed under both the Social Sciences and Humanities, and 5% who were housed in both the Natural Sciences and Humanities.

Of the remaining 34 respondents:

- 24% were involved in Academic Oriented Groups
- 41% were involved in the Art Based Groups, such as: Music, Theater, Dance

- 35% were involved in Athletics, such as: Varsity or Intermural
- 47% were involved in an Identity or Culturally Based Group
- 59% were involved in a Civic Engagement Group or Organization

It's worth noting that of the 30 respondents, none indicated participation in a Fraternity or Sorority Group

44: Perception of Own Safety on Swarthmore College Campus

Not statistically significant because of overrepresentation (small sample size)

Academic Department:

- Of the individuals who strongly disagreed in the effectiveness, most were involved in the social science majors
- All of the individuals who agreed in the effectiveness were involved in the natural sciences.

Club/Organization: Not much variance (disagree on average)

45: Perception of Swarthmore College's Response to Sexual Violence

Not statistically significant because of overrepresentation (small sample size)

Academic Department: Not much variance (a little or none at all on average)

Club/Organization: Not much variance (a little or none at all on average)

46: Perception of Sexual Violence as Problem

Not statistically significant because of overrepresentation (small sample size)

Academic Department: Not much variance (somewhat on average)

Club/Organization: Not much variance (somewhat on average)

47: Perception of Future Sexual Violence Occurring

Not statistically significant because of overrepresentation (small sample size)

Academic Department: Not much variance (somewhat and very on average)

Club/Organization: Not much variance (somewhat and very on average)

48: Experienced Sexual Violence on Campus

Not statistically significant because of overrepresentation (small sample size)

Academic Department: Not much variance

Club/Organization: Not much variance

Slide 49: Timeline 1989 - 2012

1989:

Although Sororities had been disbanded for almost 60 years, Fraternities were very much still active on Swarthmore's Campus.

Since the Title IX of the Education Amendments was passed in 1972, I assume that there was already a Title IX office on Swarthmore's Campus, or at the very least there were some resources available to students.

For clarification purposes, the Amendment stated that:

"No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance. "

2000:

The Football team was officially dropped from Swarthmore College in an attempt to find a more equitable balance between academics and athletics.

2005:

The Dean's office hired an outside agency to run the evening shuttle. Prior to this, students were hired to run the vehicle which caused complaints amongst the student body.

2008:

The Shuttle Services (now run by an outside agency) were extended to run on Saturdays from 10am - 12pm. Prior to this, the morning shuttle only ran weekdays 8am - 9:30am and evenings 6pm - 2am.

2012:

Crime Statistics collected by the U.S Department of Education tallied a total of 19 forcible sex offenses were committed on Swarthmore Campus property. This caused a panic in the student body and conversations around safety protocols arose.

By this year both Bryn Mawr and Haverford have blue light emergency phone systems, but Swarthmore does not. Although the director of Public Safety, Mike Hill, favored having them installed, the Vice President for Facilities and Services, Stu Hain, stated that “The cost of the blue lights (30,000 per light) makes the decision to add them hard”

Slide 50: Timeline 2013 - 2023

2013:

Firstly, a new safety measure was added to the community. Public Safety announced a new app called EmergenSee that assisted students in contacting Pub Safe in case of an emergency, offering text and GPS communication, and the ability to livestream video and audio directly to the Public Safety dispatcher (very much like the app we currently have but appropriate for that time)

This year would come to be known as “The Spring of Discontent” by the student body.

Swarthmore College received lawsuits alleging that the administrators mishandled sexual-assault cases. The students claimed they had been raped by men associated with Fraternities (Phi Psi and Delta) and other women were also being sexually assaulted without any interference from the college

Complaints were also filed against the college. One complaint involved the federal government for the violation of the Clery act, which alleged the underreporting of sexual assault statistics and the testimonials from over ten students who had their rights under the Clery Act violated. The other complaint involved the Department of Education for a violation of Title IX.

It was revealed that prior to 2013, the last meeting of the College Judiciary Committee to consider a case of sexual misconduct was in 2010, where the accused was found not guilty. Since then, victims of sexual violence were experiencing damaging and unhelpful responses from the College. They faced unsympathetic and often accusatory responses from administrators, unnecessarily lengthy and distressing adjudication processes, and insufficient sanctions against their perpetrators.

This eventually led to the Drug and Alcohol Counselor (who also served as an advisor to the fraternities) to be fired. He was found responsible for mishandling cases of sexual assault and having unfair advocacy of fraternity members in those cases.

The 2013 [VAWA amendments](#) also established the first ever federal requirement for prevention programming and response procedures for the crimes of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking (DVSAS) as well as universal standards for disciplinary procedures at institutions of higher education. These requirements ensure that students and employees on college campuses can recognize these types of crimes, intervene safely, understand consent and what constitutes a healthy relationship, and receive due process when resolving complaints

2015:

The first two blue lights were installed on Swarthmore's Campus after years of asking for them. One at the foot of Magill Walk and the other in the parking lot next to the Fieldhouse Lane.

According to a report released by the Institution, violent crime on campus was well above the national average (7.73 per 1000 compared to national average of 2.49 per 1000 students)

A survey conducted by public safety stated majority of students felt "very safe" on campus. That same survey had 3.5% of student feel "somewhat unsafe" and 1.4% feel "very unsafe".

2017:

A group of Swarthmore College students created a website called Swat Protects Rapists to document the precise issues in the College's handling of sexual assault. This website is no longer available, but it is important to note that students felt really strong about being unsupported.

The year 2017 is also the year where the "Me Too" Movement begins to gain traction and only continues to grow from there. Opening up the floor for conversations about Sexual Violence that up to this point wasn't common.

2019:

Internal documents from Swarthmore Fraternities are leaked displaying the "minutes" of the meetings including jokes that men from 2012 - 2016 had made about sexual assault and referring to rooms in the neighborhood as "rape attic" and a "rape tunnel".

- The college goes under fire by all the students urging Swarthmore to take action.
- Eventually fraternities are disbanded, and President Smith makes a statement that "Fraternities and Sororities will no longer exist at the college"