

Tufts Attitudes About Sexual Conduct Survey (TASCS): Report

In the fall of 2013, President Monaco brought together a group of faculty, staff and students from all three Tufts campuses, with the goal of raising awareness of sexual misconduct at Tufts and more effectively addressing concerns raised by students and others about this critical campus issue. Through its three working groups, the President's Sexual Misconduct Prevention Task Force has worked through a number of important University-wide tasks. They include reviewing and revising policies and procedures related to sexual misconduct; assessing and improving resources to support those affected by sexual misconduct, and enhancing educational and awareness programs to mitigate, prevent and address sexual misconduct.

The Resources and the Prevention working groups were specifically charged with assisting the Provost's office in crafting a university-wide survey to assess the attitudes of all Tufts graduate and undergraduate students on the topic of sexual assault and other sexual misconduct. The survey was also designed to elicit student perceptions about and experiences with sexual misconduct and with existing resources to address sexual misconduct at Tufts. The result of the subcommittees' efforts was the first Tufts Attitudes on Sexual Conduct Survey (TASCS).

The TASCS was launched during the spring 2015 semester. We sent the survey to all undergraduate and graduate students enrolled on Tufts' three campuses, and 28.7% of students responded. The survey was entirely anonymous and confidential, and it provided crucial information about the student experience at Tufts.

As promised, we have collected, reviewed and aggregated the survey information. Data displays follow this introduction. You may also view the TASCS FAQ at: <http://oeo.tufts.edu/wp-content/uploads/TASCS-FAQs.pdf>.

I am looking forward to working with the Sexual Misconduct Prevention Task Force this fall to review this unprecedented information. We will use the data to further enhance the resources, educational and prevention efforts throughout the University.

--Jill A. Zellmer
Director, Office of Equal Opportunity and Title IX Coordinator

The TASCs: A brief overview

Who received the TASCs?

Approximately 11,000 students from all schools and divisions were sent the survey.

What was the survey about? What was it not about?

The survey was one important way to measure students' knowledge of campus policies concerning sexual conduct, exposure to prevention work, and attitudes and perceptions about sexual conduct. The survey also gathered information about experiences with sexual misconduct at Tufts, including experiences with campus resources and supports.

The survey primarily assessed incidents of non-consensual sexual intercourse/penetration and non-consensual sexual contact/activity. It did not focus on incidents of sexual harassment, stalking, or intimate partner violence. We may address those topics more thoroughly in future climate checks or surveys.

Response Rates

What was Tufts' response rate?

Overall, the response rate was 28.7%. However, individual schools responded at different rates (17%-39%). Approximately 30% of undergraduates participated in the survey.

How does the 28.7% response rate compare with similar surveys?

Our overall response rate – as well as our undergraduate response rate – was similar to other schools' response rates.

Did you correct for non-response bias?

To correct for non-response bias, we developed a weighting scheme in order to make the survey sample look more comparable to the full population in terms of age, gender, race/ethnicity, and campus/class year. Data presented is weighted.

Summary of Results

What were the results?

We have done our best to summarize data in a useful format. Data for all students (except where otherwise noted) for all survey items is presented below.

What is the rate of sexual misconduct on campus?

Approximately 14% of students reported having had at least one incident of sexual misconduct (non-consensual penetration or non-consensual contact) since enrolling at Tufts. About 13.5% of students reported having experienced non-consensual sexual contact and 4.7% reported non-consensual sexual intercourse. The table below presents the rates of misconduct for various subgroups of the student population.

Percentage of students reporting...				
	... at least	...at least one	... at least one	...at least

	one incident of either type of misconduct since enrolling at Tufts	incident of non-consensual sexual intercourse since enrolling at Tufts	incident of non-consensual sexual contact since enrolling at Tufts	one incident of either type of misconduct during the 2014-15 school year
ALL STUDENTS	14.1%	4.7%	13.5%	5.7%
<i>All women</i>	<i>18.7%</i>	<i>6.9%</i>	<i>18.7%</i>	<i>8.0%</i>
<i>All men</i>	<i>8.1%</i>	<i>1.9%</i>	<i>7.8%</i>	<i>2.8%</i>
<i>Transgender, Genderqueer/Gender non-conforming students, and students for whom gender data was not provided</i>	<i>21.9%</i>	<i>5.1%</i>	<i>21.9%</i>	<i>8.7%</i>
Undergraduates	24.7%	8.1%	23.7%	9.8%
Graduate/professional students	4.7%	1.6%	4.5%	2.1%
<i>Boston campus</i>	<i>4.4%</i>	<i>1.6%</i>	<i>4.2%</i>	<i>2.0%</i>
<i>Grafton campus</i>	<i>4.5%</i>	<i>0.3%</i>	<i>4.2%</i>	<i>3.5%</i>
<i>Medford campus</i>	<i>5.1%</i>	<i>1.9%</i>	<i>4.8%</i>	<i>2.1%</i>

What can you tell us about sexual misconduct incidents at Tufts?

The incident characteristics at Tufts followed a pattern seen in most research on college sexual misconduct. For example:

- The majority of misconduct incidents appear to have been perpetrated by an individual known to the victim. Most incidents appear to have taken place in a residential location, and in most cases, the victim and/or the perpetrator was using alcohol.
- Although most victims tell someone about the incident, they harbor a variety of concerns about telling others, such as thinking the incident wasn't serious enough to share or not wanting any disciplinary or legal action to be taken.
- Most victims do not officially report their incidents with the Office of Equal Opportunity. Those who do generally feel respected, listened to, and supported during the formal process, and felt the staff members are well-trained.

What is the campus climate like?

Although the data above provides distressing information, we did find that:

- Over 90% of respondents reported that they are happy, feel safe, feel valued in the classroom at Tufts, and trusted that their friends would watch out for them.
- Over 80% of respondents felt close to people at Tufts and felt that administrators, staff, and faculty treated students fairly and respected what

students thought.

- The majority of students had received information about university policies regarding incidents of sexual misconduct and complaint and disciplinary procedures. Most students knew how to seek confidential counseling about sexual misconduct. However, we do need to continue our efforts to make every student aware of policies, procedures, and resources.

Next Steps

We now have a wealth of information about the sexual conduct climate at Tufts. Much of these data establish a baseline from which we can measure future change. For example, we hope that the next iteration of the survey will show that more students are familiar with reporting options, and that fewer students will have experienced misconduct. Additionally, Tufts is actively working to use this information to supplement ongoing Task Force work to make improvements in prevention, education, training, and resources.



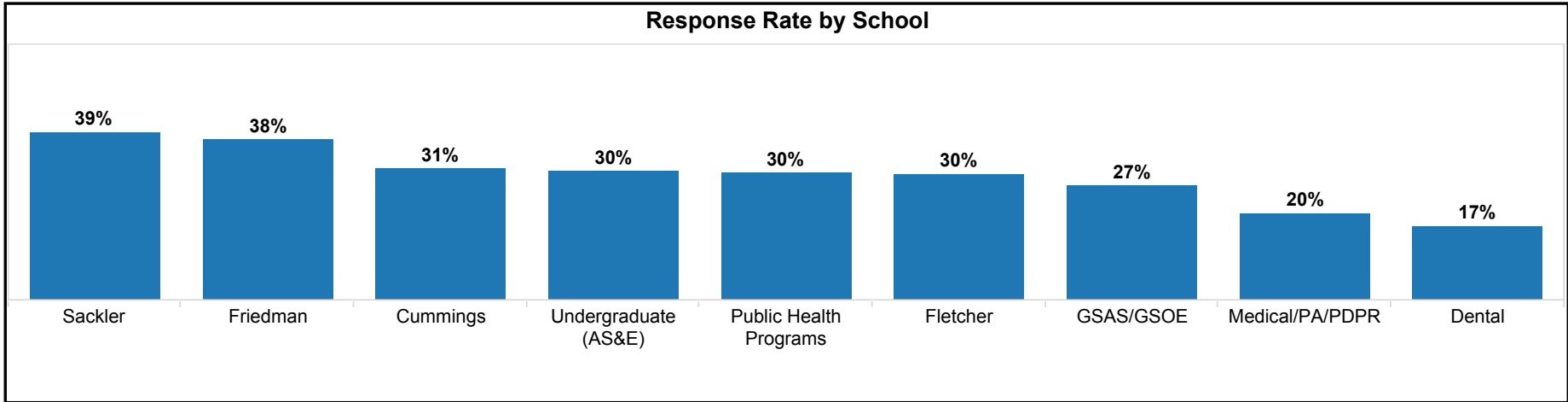
Tufts Attitudes About Sexual Conduct Survey

Response Rates by School, Gender, and Race

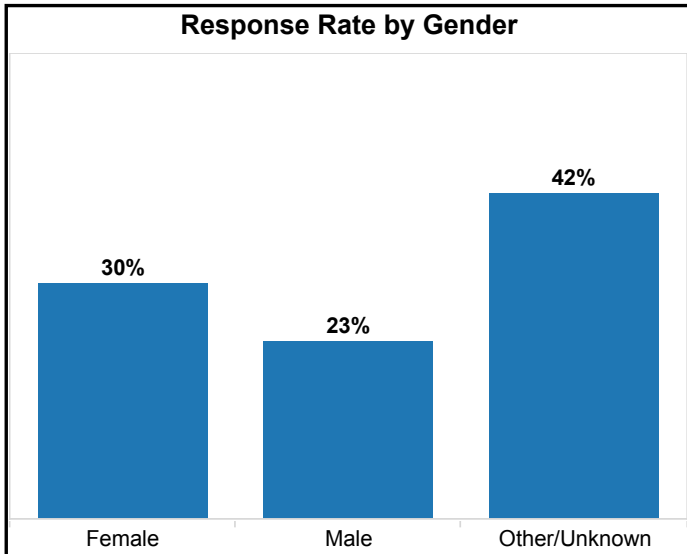
Number of Survey Respondents: 3136

Overall Response Rate: 28.7%

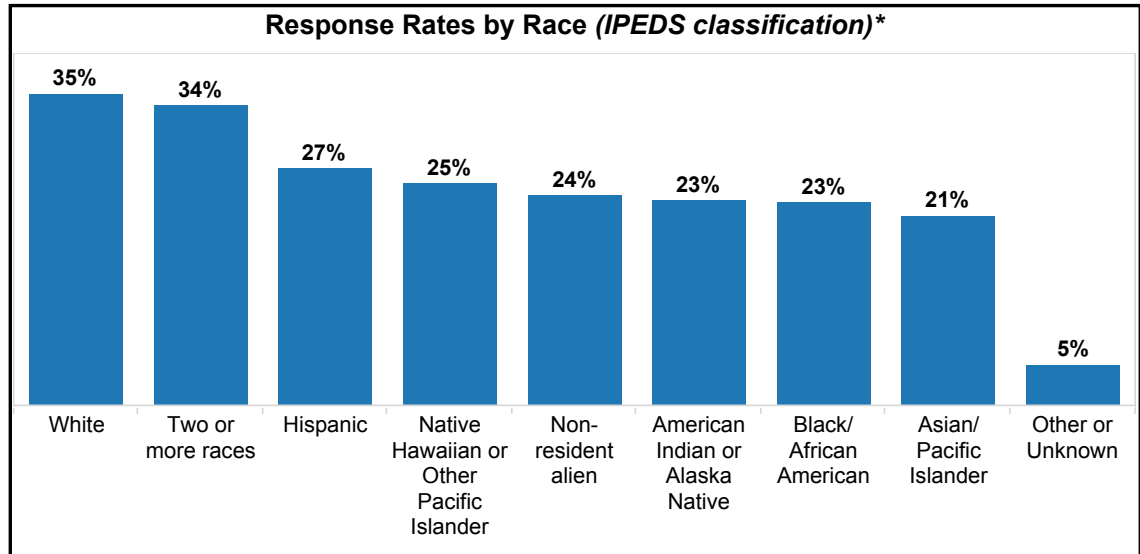
Response Rate by School



Response Rate by Gender



Response Rates by Race (IPEDS classification)*

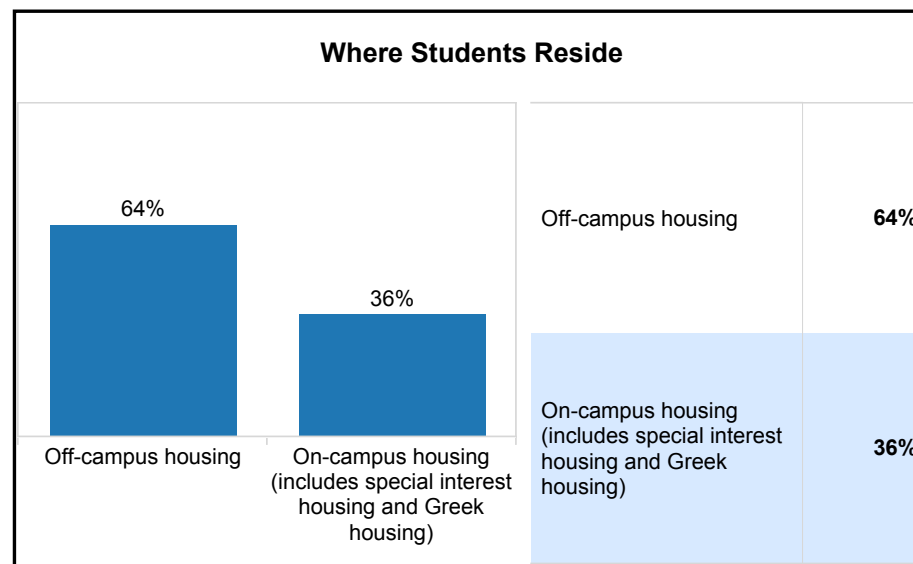
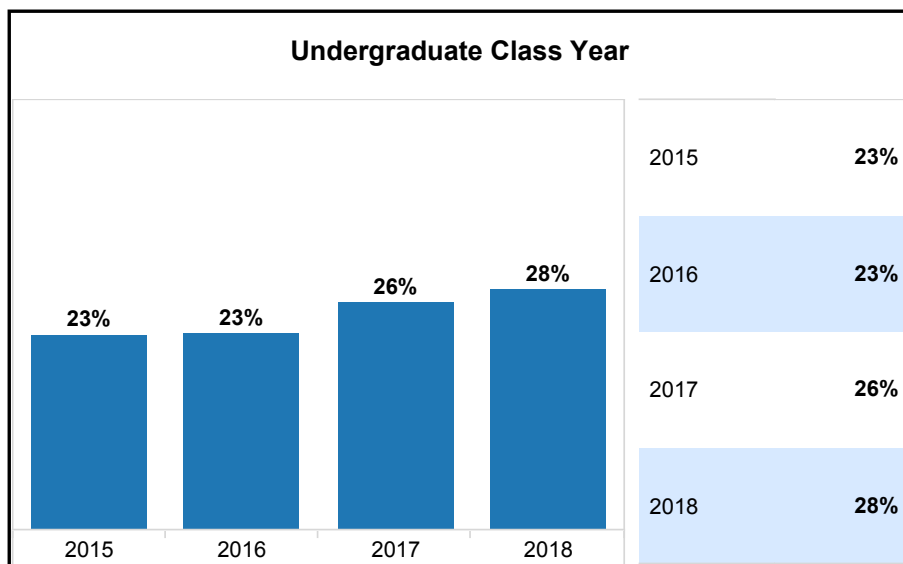
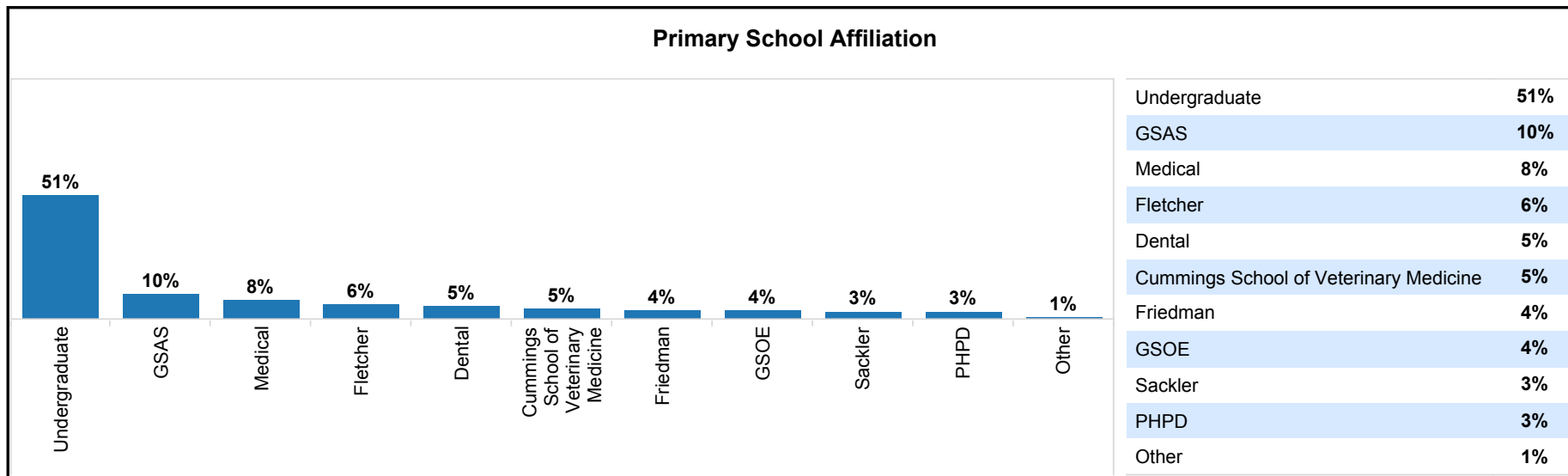


* The U.S. Department of Education's Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, or IPEDS, requires institutions to classify and report race and ethnicity according to new rules, which can be reviewed here: https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/reic/collecting_re.asp



Tufts Attitudes About Sexual Conduct Survey

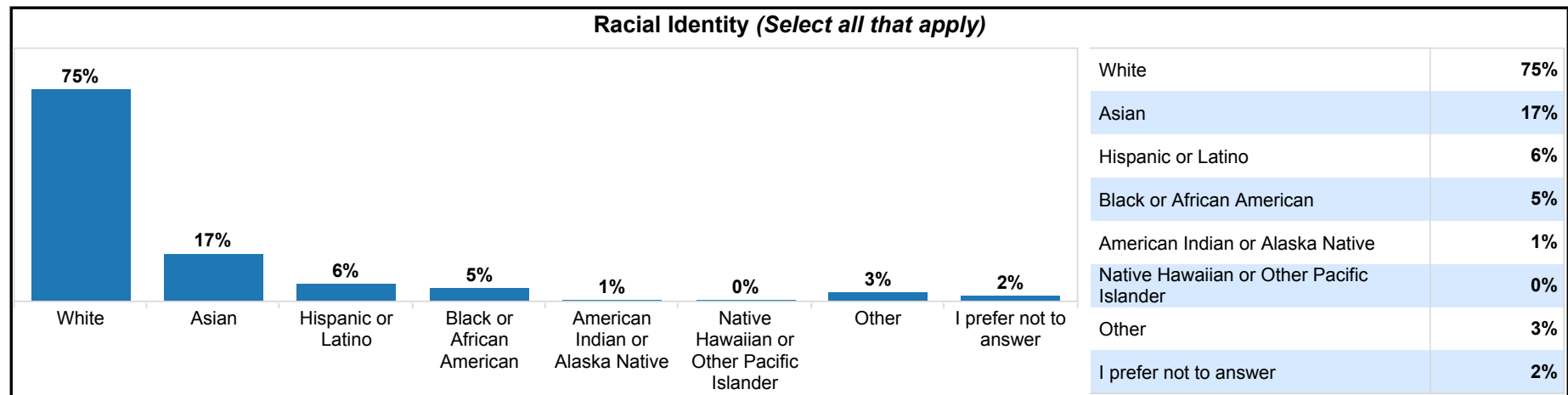
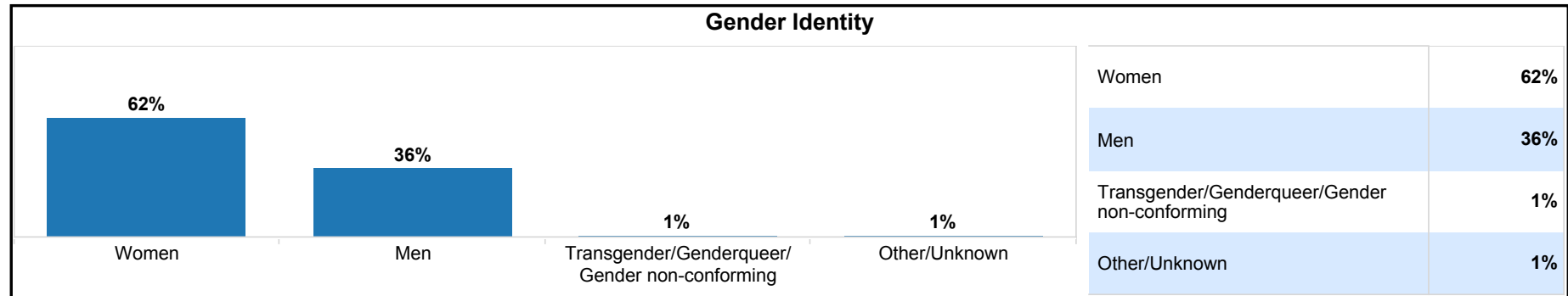
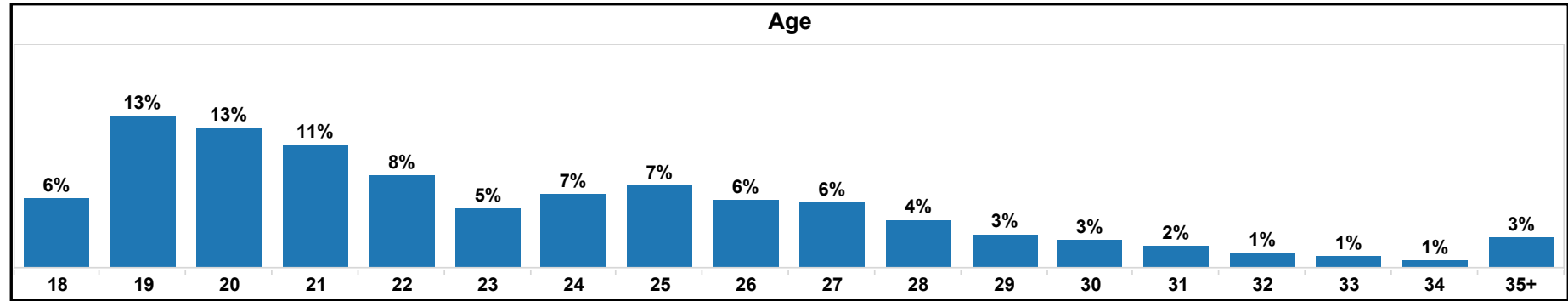
All Respondents: Demographics





Tufts Attitudes About Sexual Conduct Survey

All Respondents: Demographics





Tufts Attitudes About Sexual Conduct Survey

All Respondents

Please rate your level of agreement with each of the following statements:

Legend:



Strongly Disagree Disagree Agree Strongly Agree

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
I am happy to be at Tufts.	6%		50%	42%	2%	6%	50%	42%
I feel like I am a part of Tufts.	16%		48%	32%	3%	16%	48%	32%
I feel close to people at Tufts.	14%		48%	36%	2%	14%	48%	36%
I feel safe at Tufts.			52%	44%	2%	3%	52%	44%
I feel valued in the classroom/learning environment.			57%	36%	1%	5%	57%	36%
The faculty, staff, and administrators at Tufts treat students fairly.	11%		60%	27%	3%	11%	60%	27%
Faculty, staff, and administrators respect what students on this campus think.	8%		58%	32%	2%	8%	58%	32%
I think faculty are genuinely concerned about my welfare.	6%		56%	36%	2%	6%	56%	36%
I think administrators are genuinely concerned about my welfare.	16%		54%	26%	5%	16%	54%	26%
I feel that most Tufts students would respect someone who did something to prevent an incident of sexual misconduct.			48%	47%	1%	4%	48%	47%
I think students at Tufts respect one another's personal space.	7%		65%	27%	1%	7%	65%	27%
I trust that my friends would watch out for me if it seemed like something bad might happen to me at a party or social event.			44%	52%	1%	3%	44%	52%

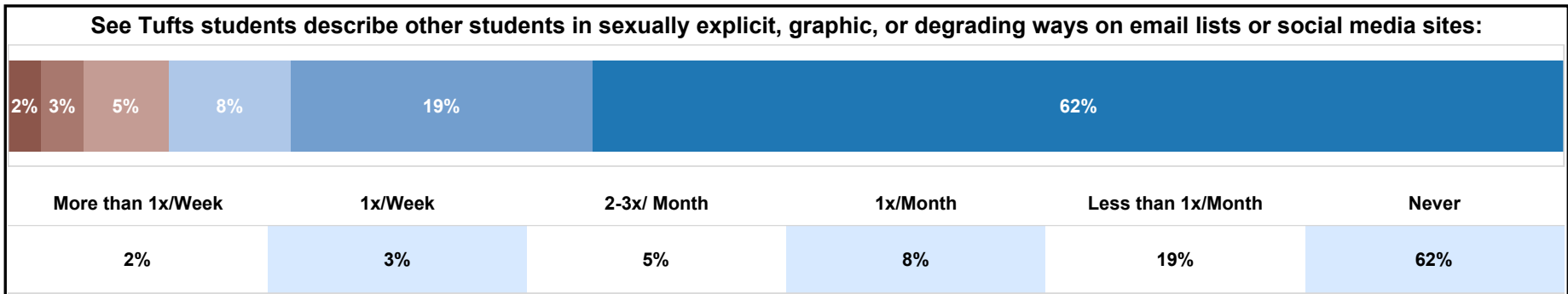
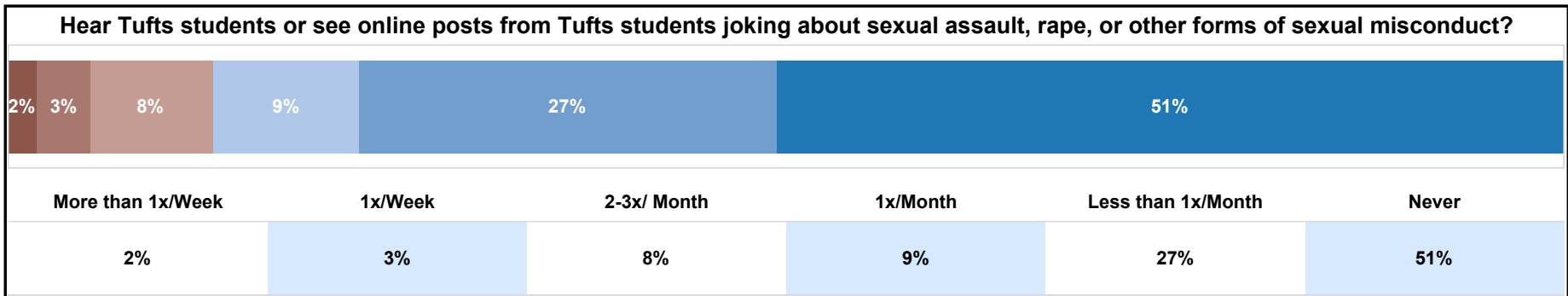
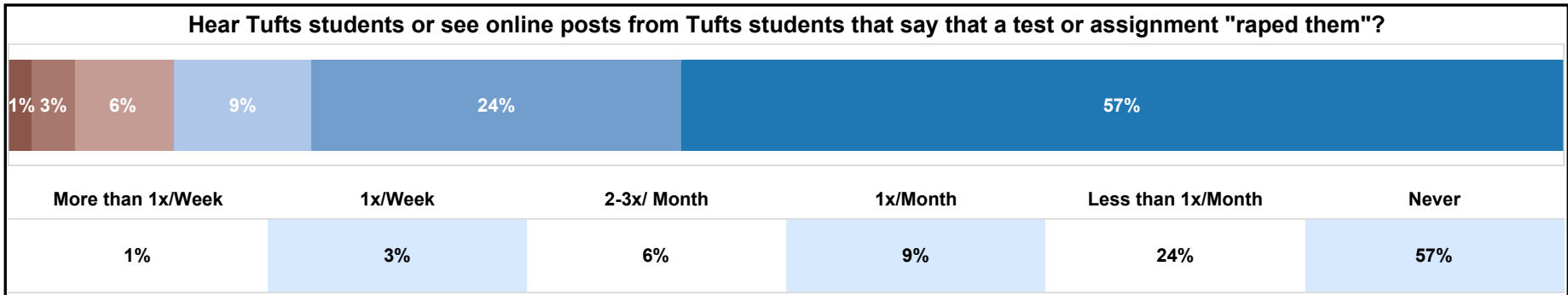


Tufts Attitudes About Sexual Conduct Survey

All Respondents

How often do you:

Legend: ■ More than 1x/Week ■ 1x/Week ■ 2-3x/ Month ■ 1x/Month ■ Less than 1x/Month ■ Never

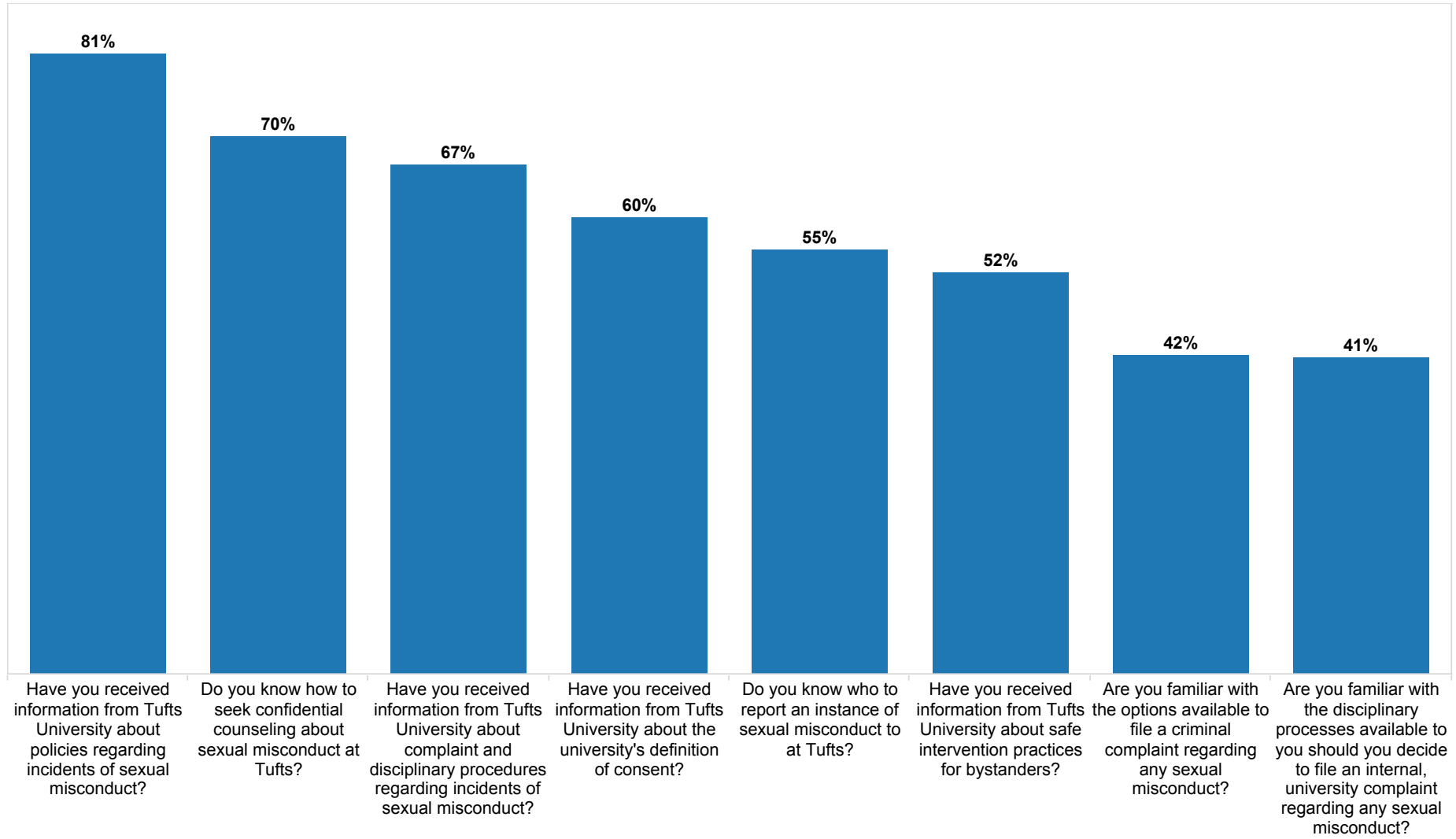




Tufts Attitudes About Sexual Conduct Survey

All Respondents

Percentage of Students Responding "Yes" to each Question



Tufts Attitudes About Sexual Conduct Survey

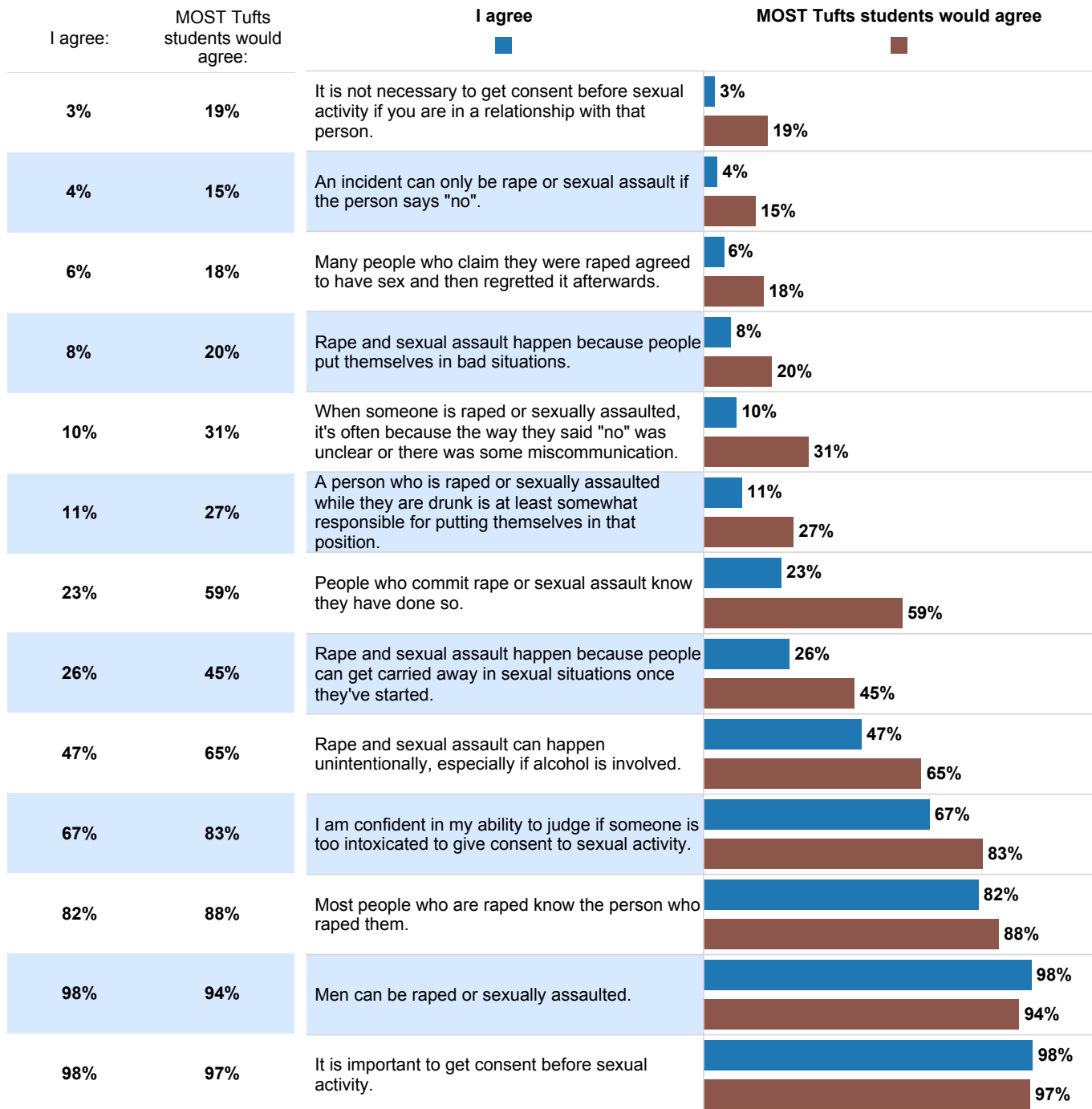


All Respondents

For each statement, please indicate:

1. Whether YOU agree (blue bar).
2. Whether you think MOST Tufts students would agree (brown bar).

Percent **AGREEING** with each statement.





Tufts Attitudes About Sexual Conduct Survey

All Respondents

In these scenarios, how often do you do any of the following?

Legend: ■ Never ■ Sometimes ■ Usually ■ Always

	Never	Sometimes	Usually	Always
When at a party, I make sure to leave with the same people I came with.	2%	29%	47%	23%
After being at a party, bar, or other social event, I walk home friends who have had too much to drink.	2%	25%	34%	39%
When I see someone drunk at a party, bar, or other social event, I talk to that person's friends to make sure they don't leave him/her behind.	13%	37%	28%	22%
I speak up against sexist jokes.	13%	42%	31%	14%
I try to distract people who attempt to take a drunk person to another room or who try to get them to do something sexual.	9%	23%	33%	35%
When I see someone I don't know who has had too much to drink or is out of it, I ask them if they need to be walked home.	25%	33%	24%	17%

Percentage of students who indicated that they had never encountered the specific situation:

	No, situation has not arisen
When at a party, I make sure to leave with the same people I came with.	14%
After being at a party, bar, or other social event, I walk home friends who have had too much to drink.	21%
When I see someone drunk at a party, bar, or other social event, I talk to that person's friends to make sure they don't leave him/her behind.	25%
I speak up against sexist jokes.	13%
I try to distract people who attempt to take a drunk person to another room or who try to get them to do something sexual.	64%
When I see someone I don't know who has had too much to drink or is out of it, I ask them if they need to be walked home.	35%

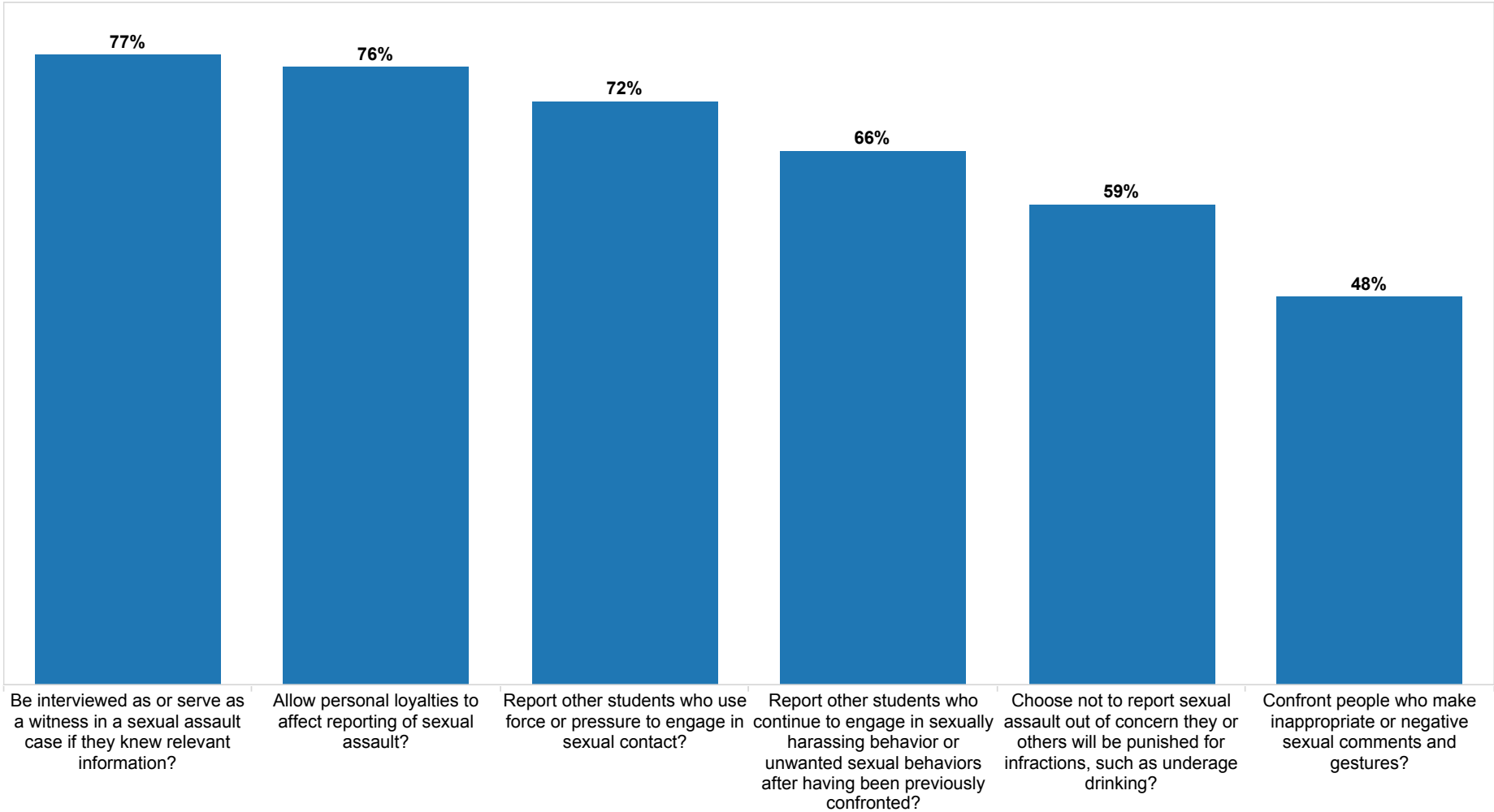


Tufts Attitudes About Sexual Conduct Survey

All Respondents

Percentage of Students Responding "Yes" to each Question

Do you think MOST Tufts students would:





Tufts Attitudes About Sexual Conduct Survey

A note about the following questions:

Consent is an informed, knowing, and voluntary decision to engage mutually acceptable sexual activity. Consent cannot be obtained by use of force or under coercion. Additionally, individuals who are under the legal age of consent, mentally disabled, or incapacitated (for example, someone who has used drugs, drank alcohol, or is sleeping) cannot provide consent.

There are many different kinds of sexual misconduct prohibited by Title IX and Tufts University. The following questions describe two types of sexual misconduct described in Tufts' Sexual Misconduct Policy (<http://oeo.tufts.edu/policies-and-procedures/sexual-misconduct-policy/>):

a. Non-Consensual Sexual Intercourse/Penetration: This is defined as any sexual intercourse or penetration (anal, oral, or vaginal), no matter how slight, with any object or body part, by another person, and without consent or upon a person being unable to consent.

This includes, but is not limited to someone's penis, finger, or other object being put in your vagina, anus, or mouth; someone's mouth or tongue making contact with your genitals; or your mouth or tongue making contact with someone else's genitals without your explicit consent.

b. Non-Consensual Sexual Contact/Activity: This is defined as any intentional sexual touching, however slight, with any object, by another person, and without consent or upon a person being unable to consent.

This includes, but is not limited to forced kissing; touching of genitals; grabbing, fondling, or rubbing up against you in a sexual way (even if it is over your clothes) without your explicit consent.

In both cases, these behaviors carried out on a person who is incapacitated – for example, someone who is "passed out," asleep, or otherwise unable to give consent, or who is mentally disabled or under the legal age of consent – is always considered non-consensual.

Questions that follow reflect the above definitions only and do **not** include cases of stalking, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, relationship, dating or domestic violence, or other forms of sexual misconduct.

TRIGGER WARNING: Some of the questions in this portion of the survey use explicit language, including anatomical names of body parts and specific behaviors to ask about sexual situations. This survey also asks about instances of sexual misconduct, which may be upsetting. Should you wish to talk to someone about questions or concerns related to sexual misconduct, please visit <http://oeo.tufts.edu/sexualmisconduct> for resources.



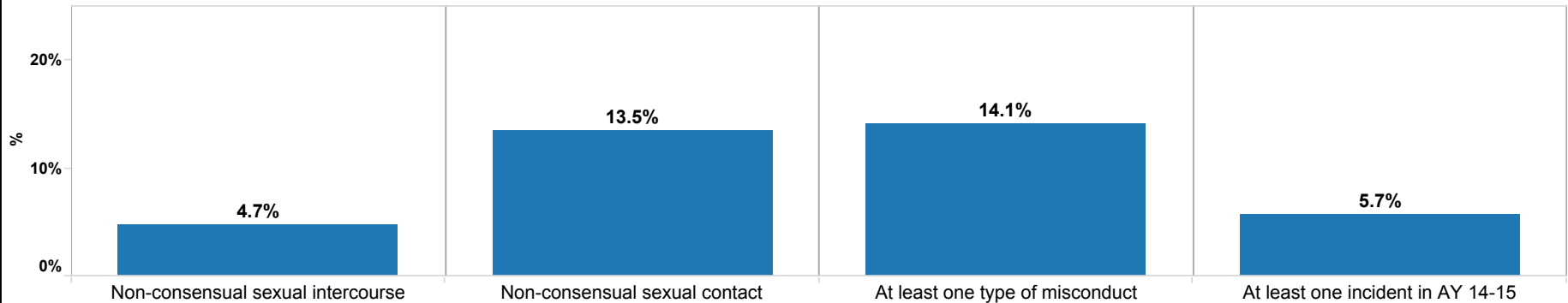
Tufts Attitudes About Sexual Conduct Survey

All Respondents

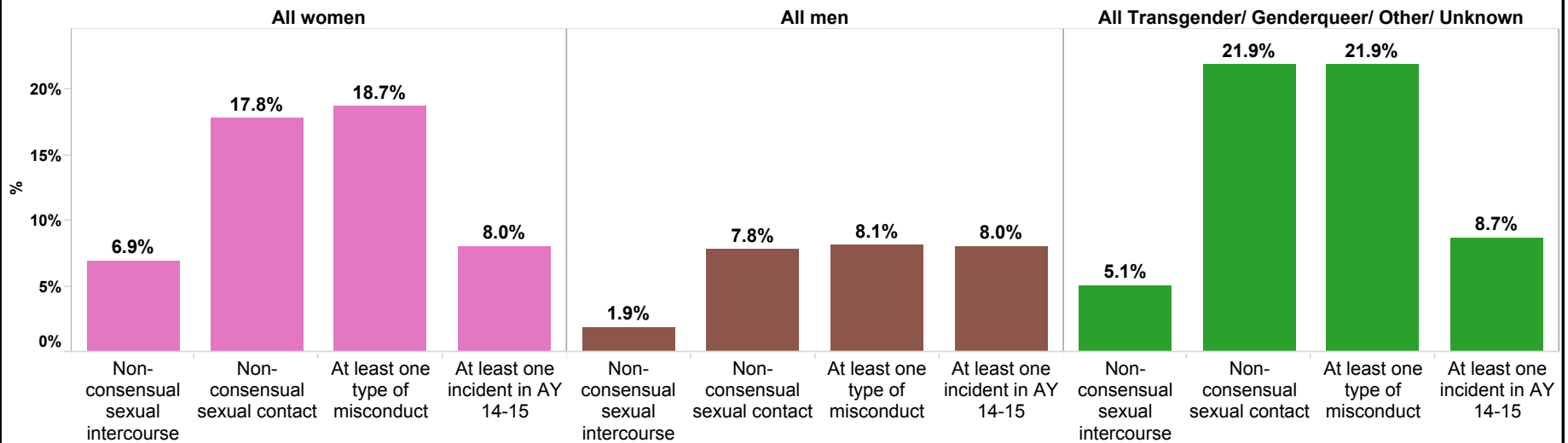
Have you experienced non-consensual sexual intercourse or penetration?

Have you experienced non-consensual sexual contact or activity?

Percentage who have experienced one or both types of misconduct while students at Tufts: All students.



Percentage who have experienced one or both types of misconduct while students at Tufts: By gender identity.





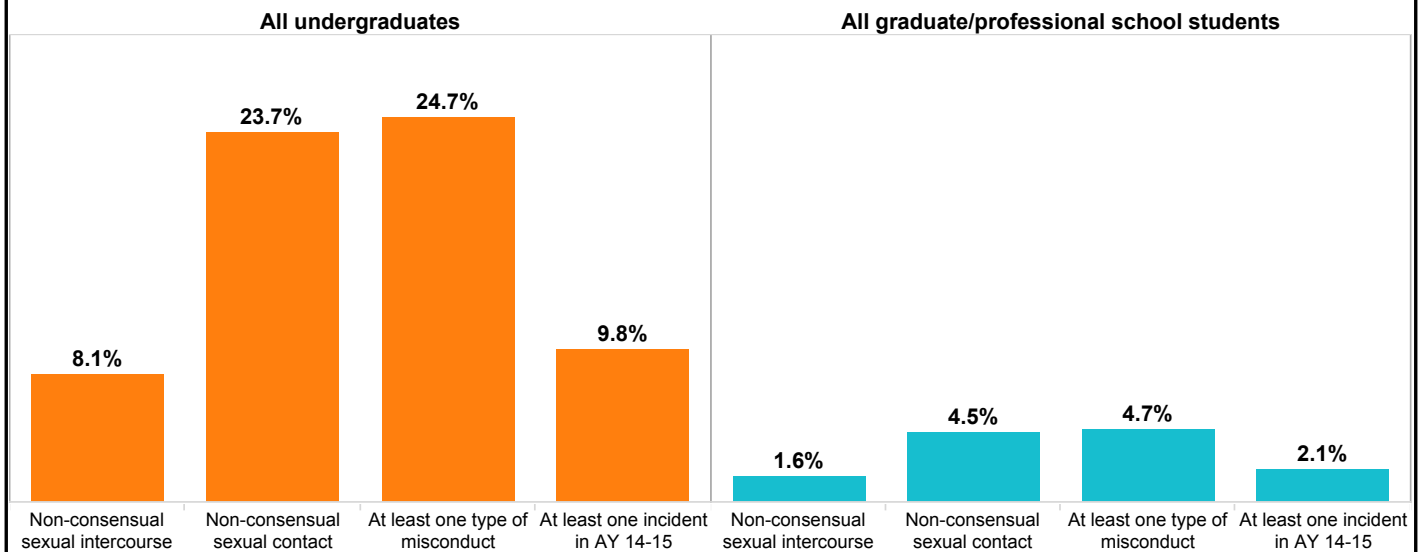
Tufts Attitudes About Sexual Conduct Survey

All Respondents

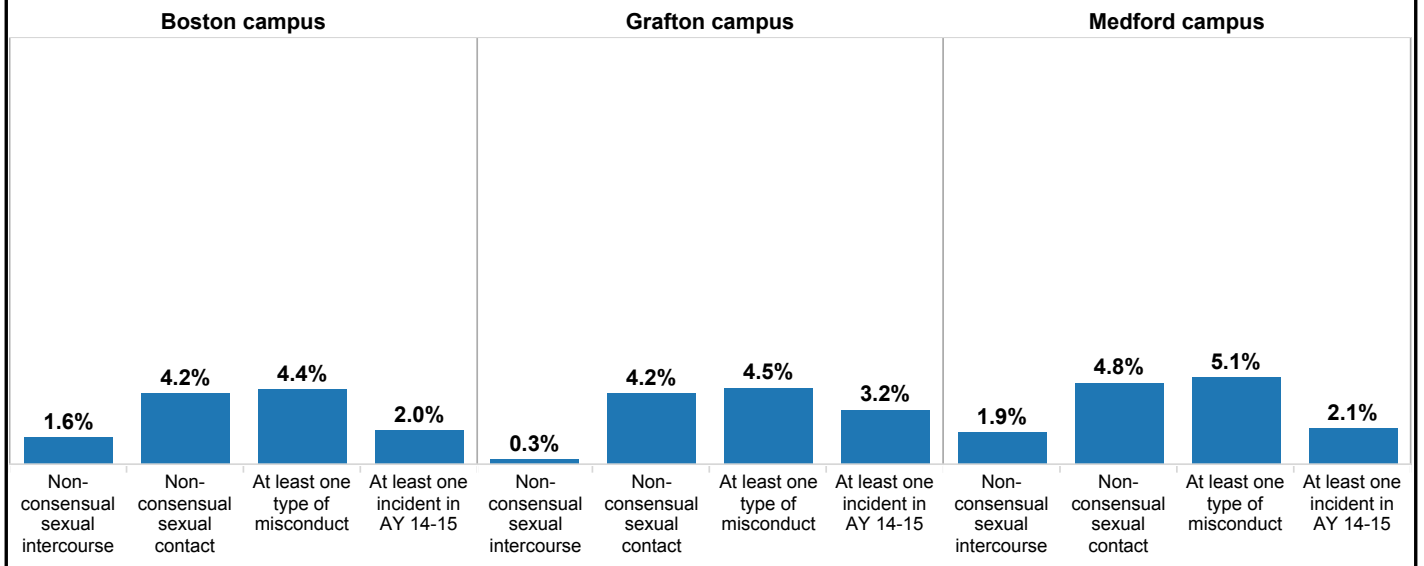
Have you experienced non-consensual sexual intercourse or penetration?

Have you experienced non-consensual sexual contact or activity?

Percentage who have experienced one or both types of misconduct while students at Tufts:
By undergraduate/graduate status.



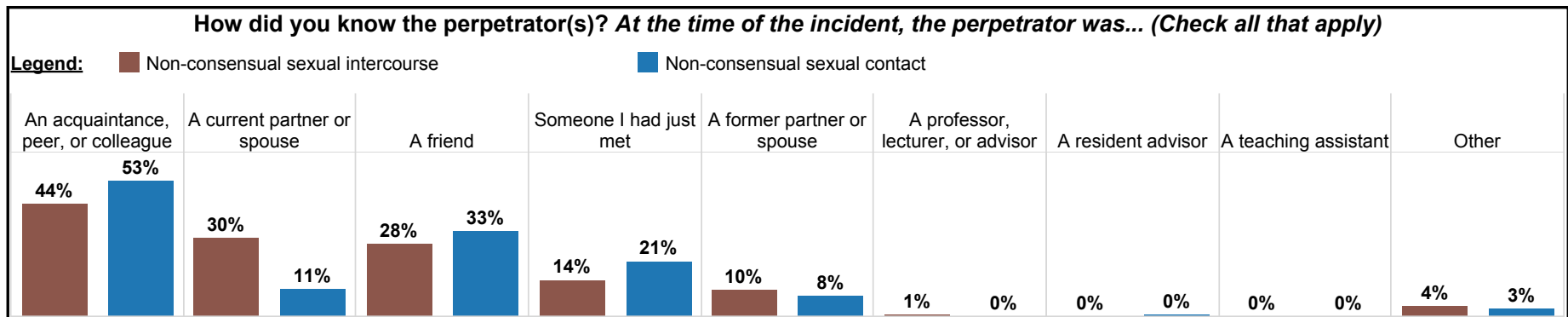
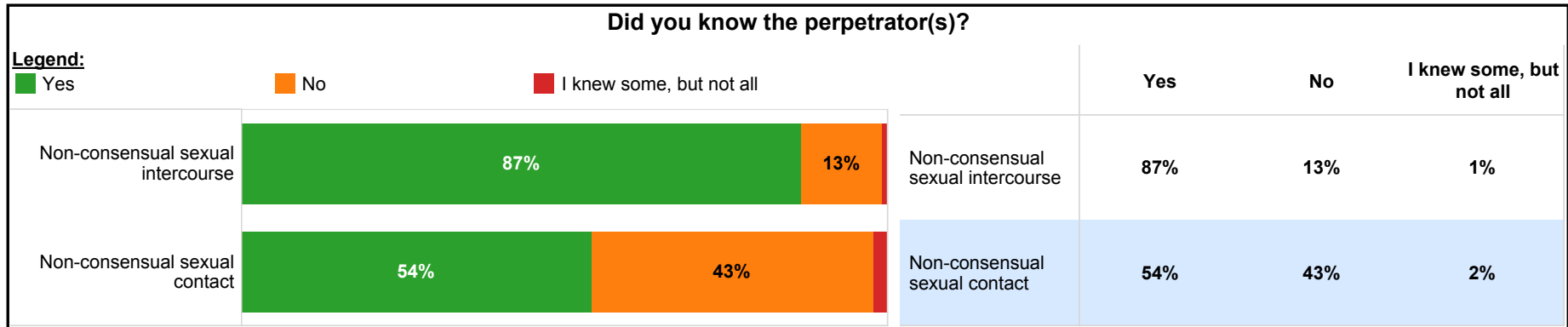
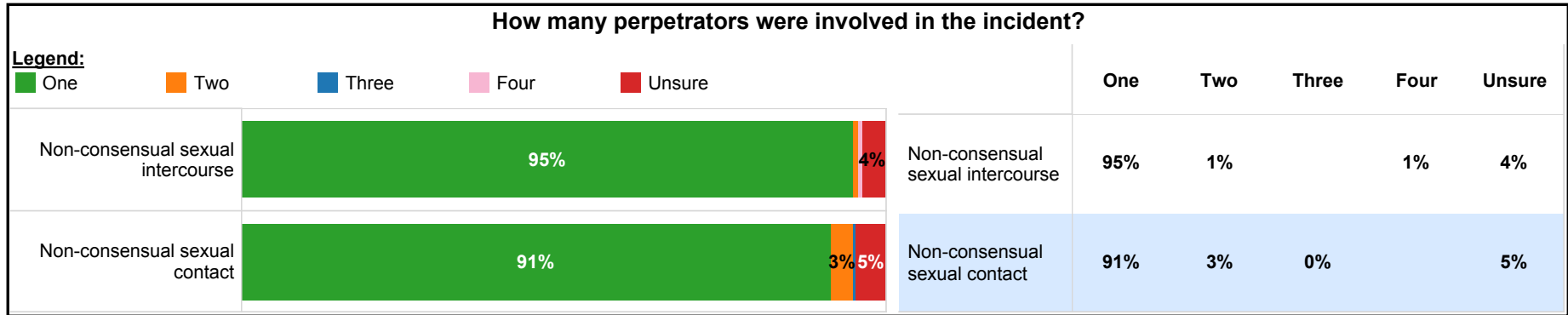
Percentage who have experienced one or both types of misconduct while students at Tufts:
By graduate school campus.





Tufts Attitudes About Sexual Conduct Survey

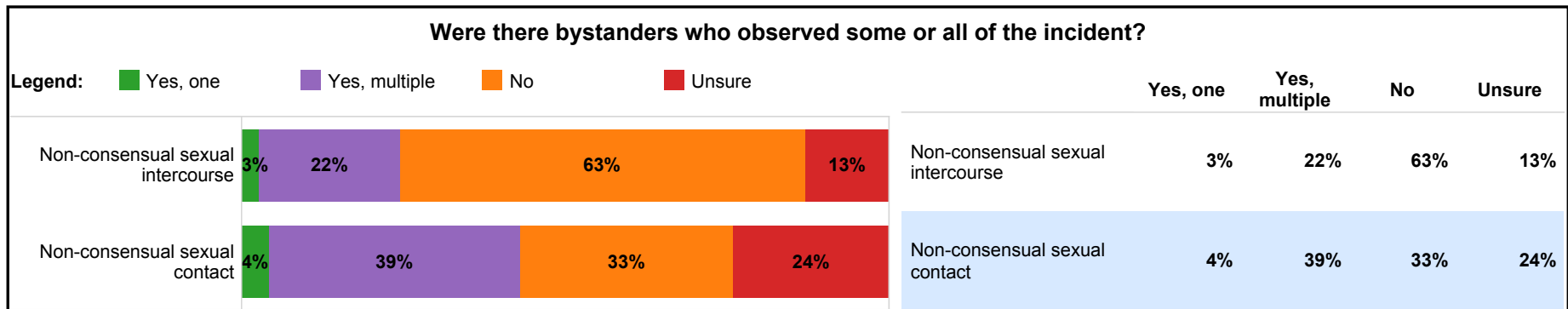
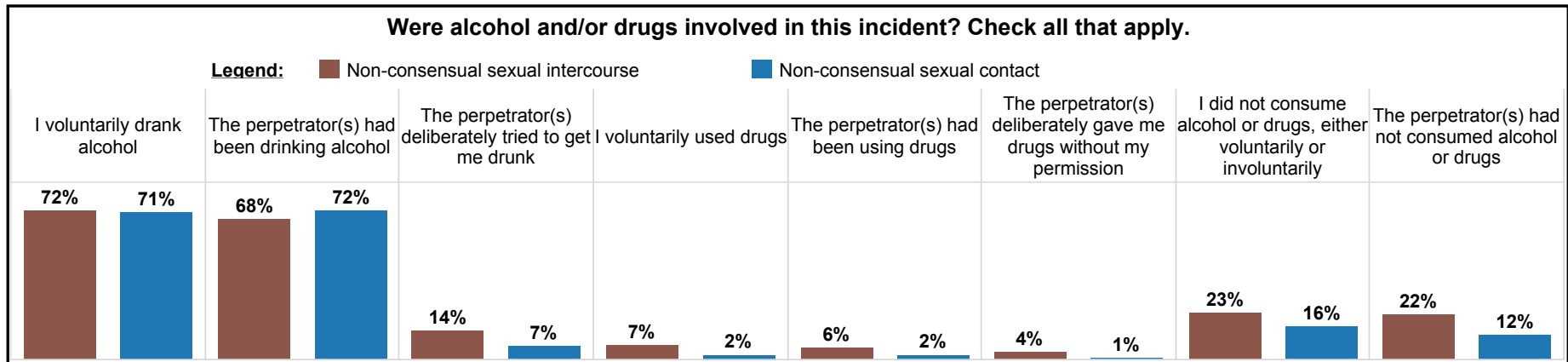
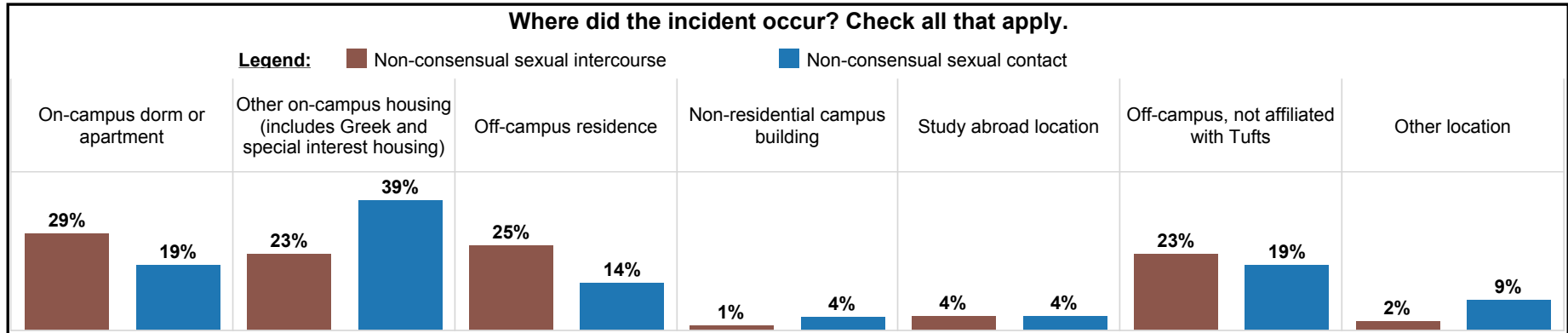
All Respondents Reporting an Incident at Tufts





Tufts Attitudes About Sexual Conduct Survey

All Respondents Reporting an Incident at Tufts



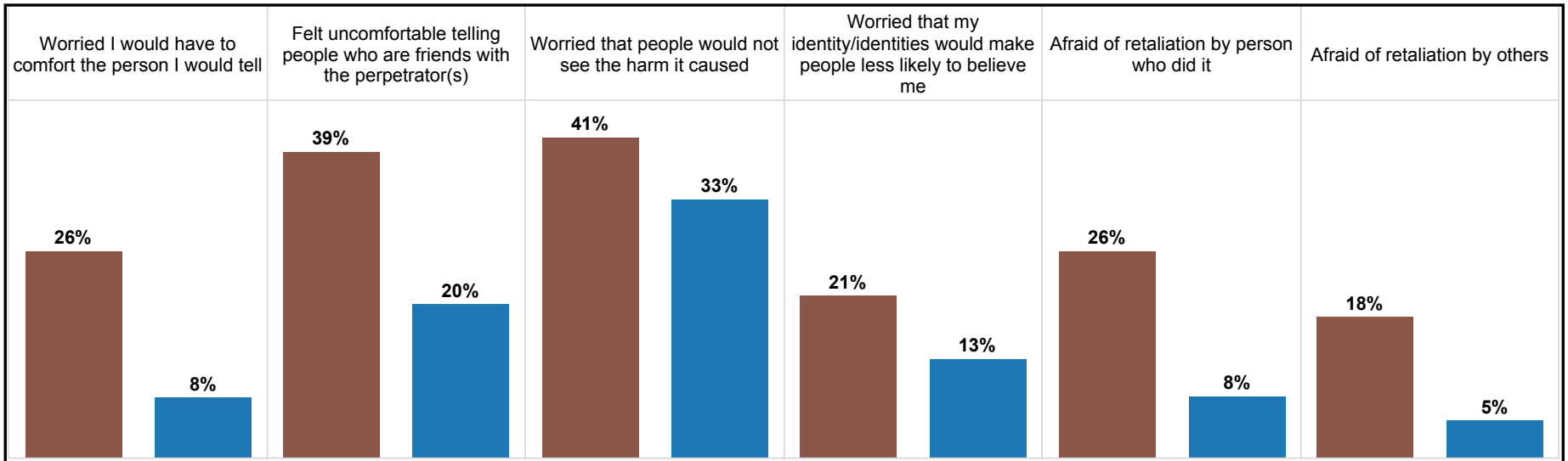
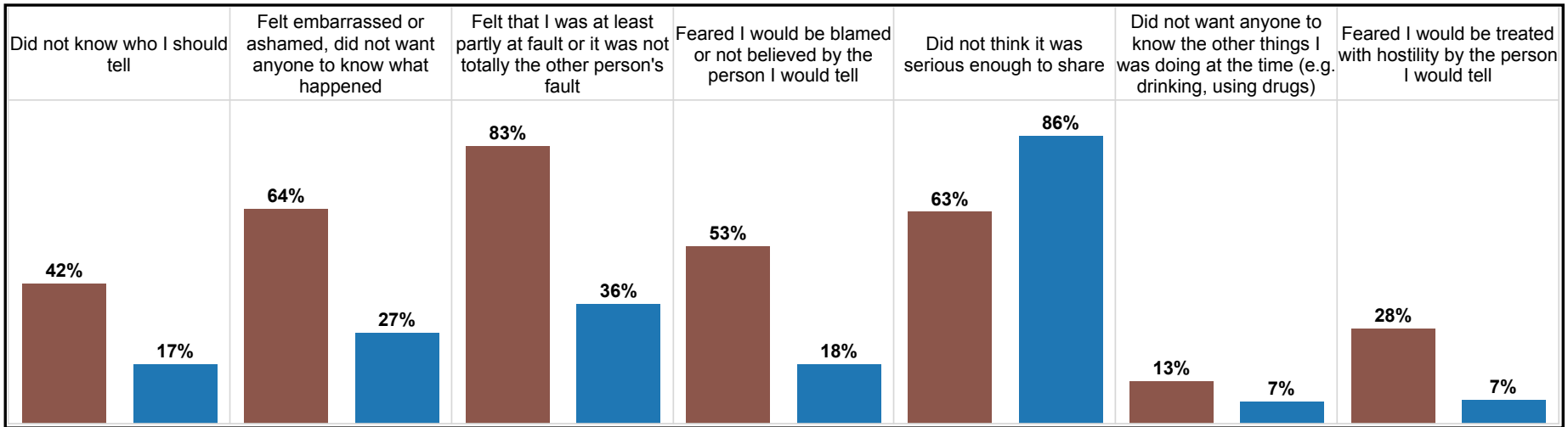


Tufts Attitudes About Sexual Conduct Survey

All Respondents Reporting an Incident at Tufts

Did any of the following concerns or thoughts about how you or others might feel cross your mind when you decided whether or not to share your experience? Check all that apply.

Legend: ■ Non-consensual sexual intercourse ■ Non-consensual sexual contact

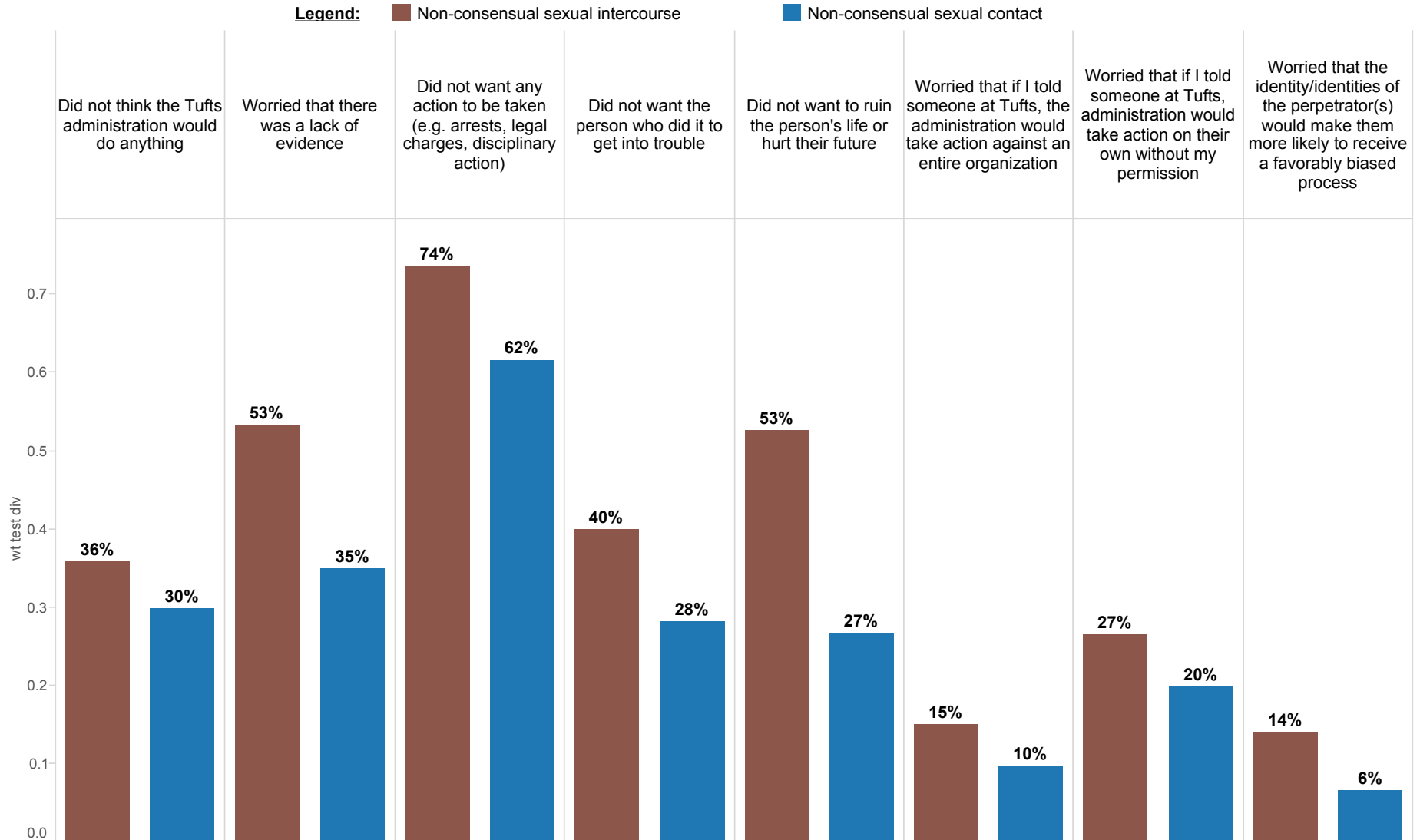




Tufts Attitudes About Sexual Conduct Survey

All Respondents Reporting an Incident at Tufts

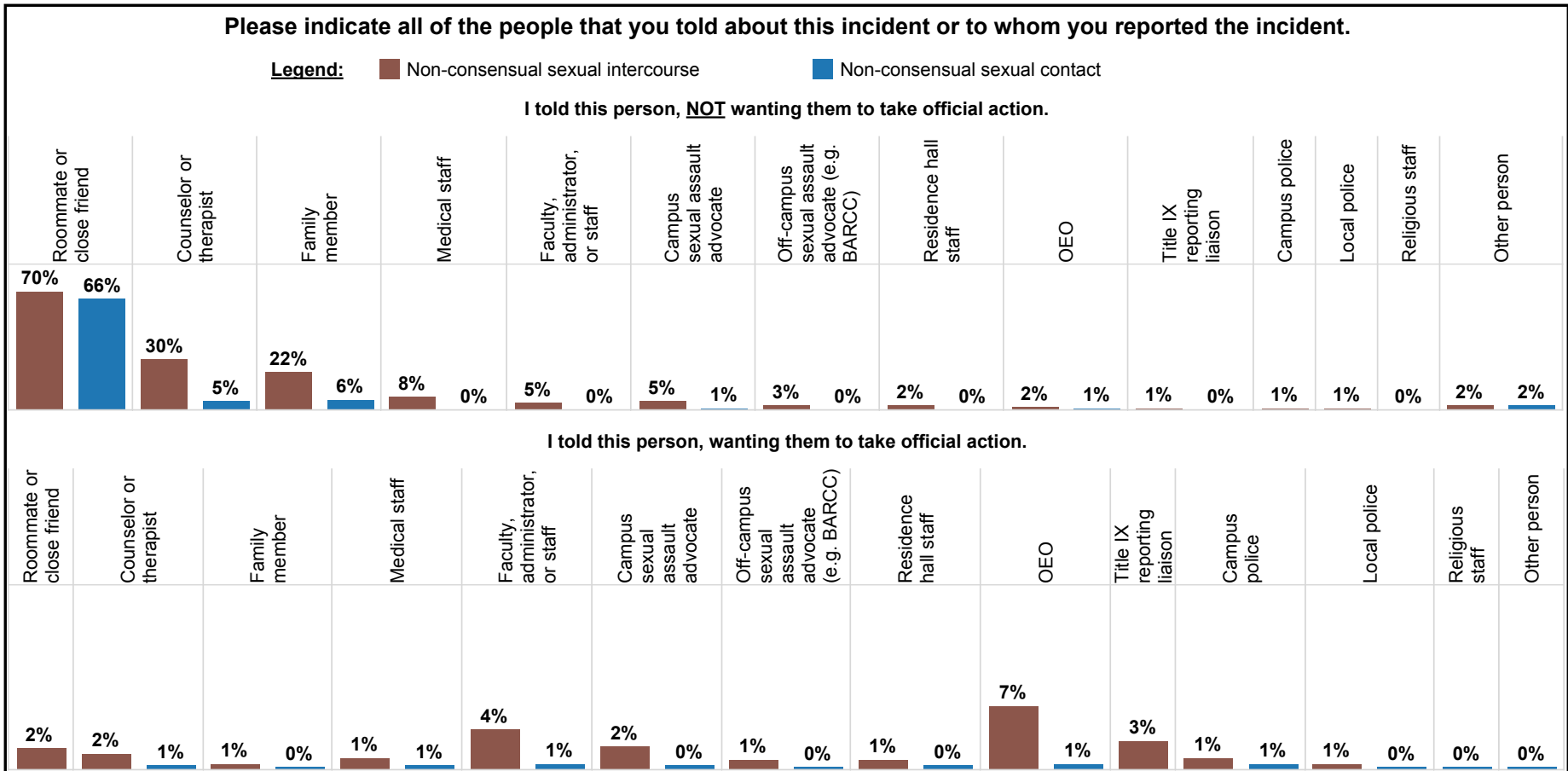
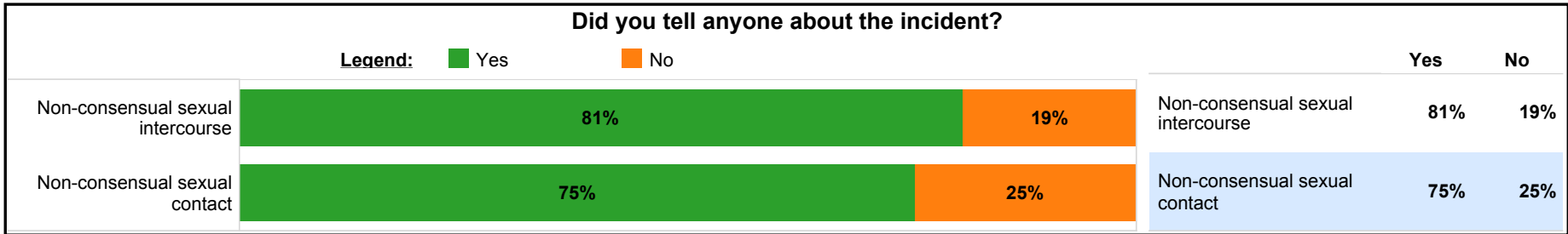
Did any of the following concerns or thoughts about reporting cross your mind when you decided whether or not to share your experience? Check all that apply.





Tufts Attitudes About Sexual Conduct Survey

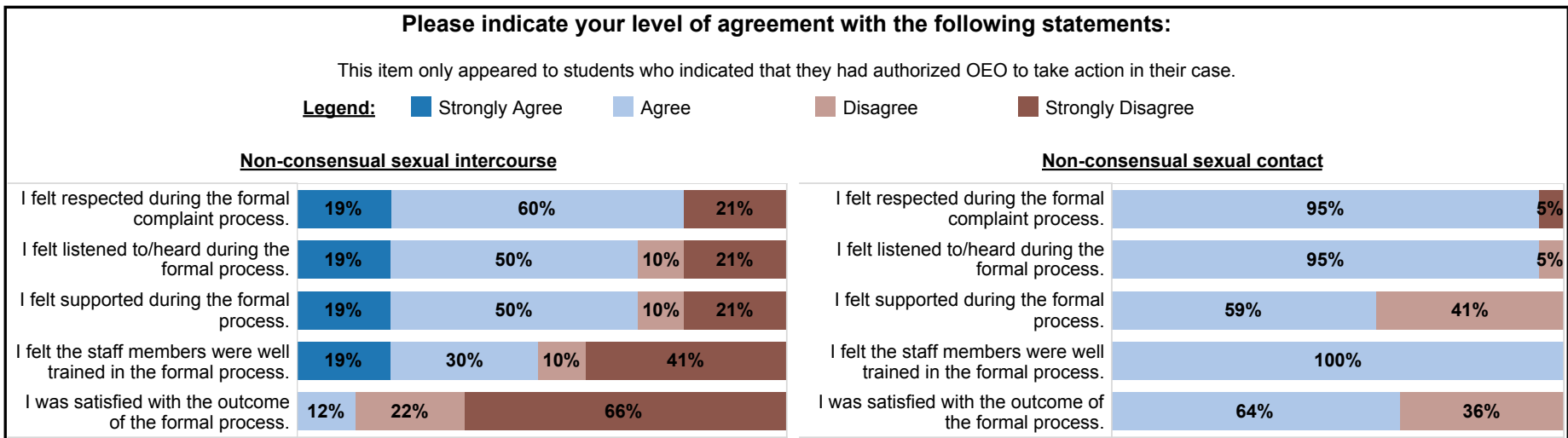
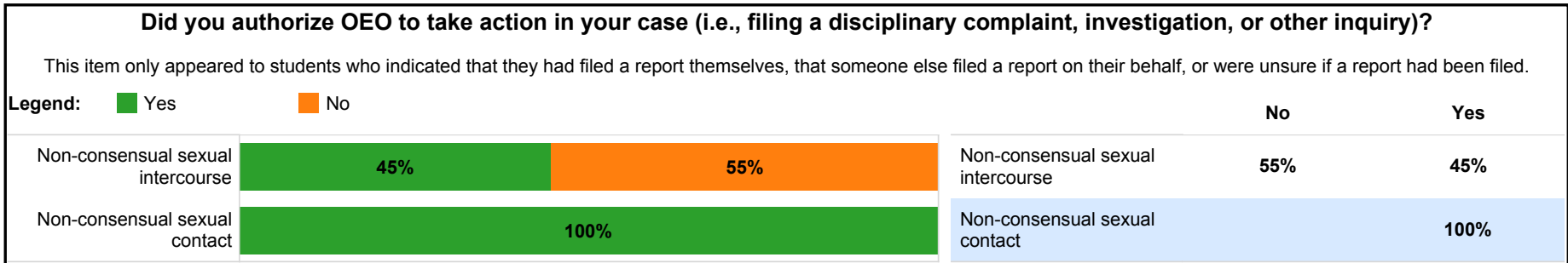
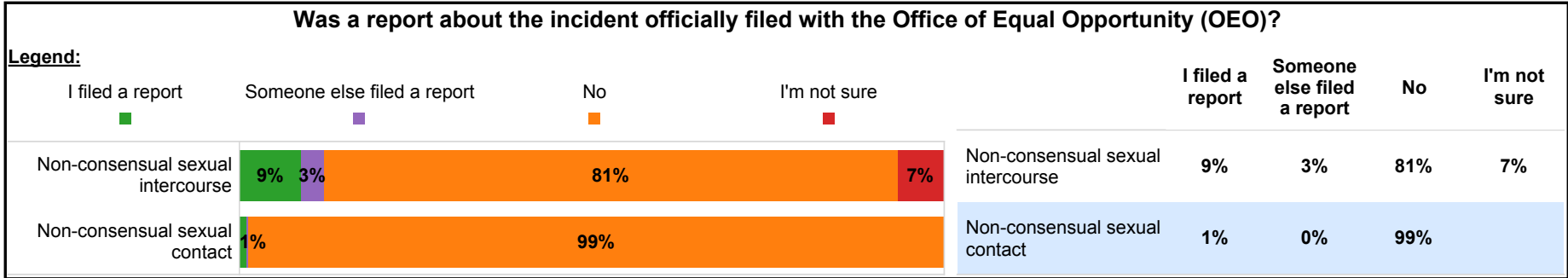
All Respondents Reporting an Incident at Tufts





Tufts Attitudes About Sexual Conduct Survey

All Respondents Reporting an Incident at Tufts

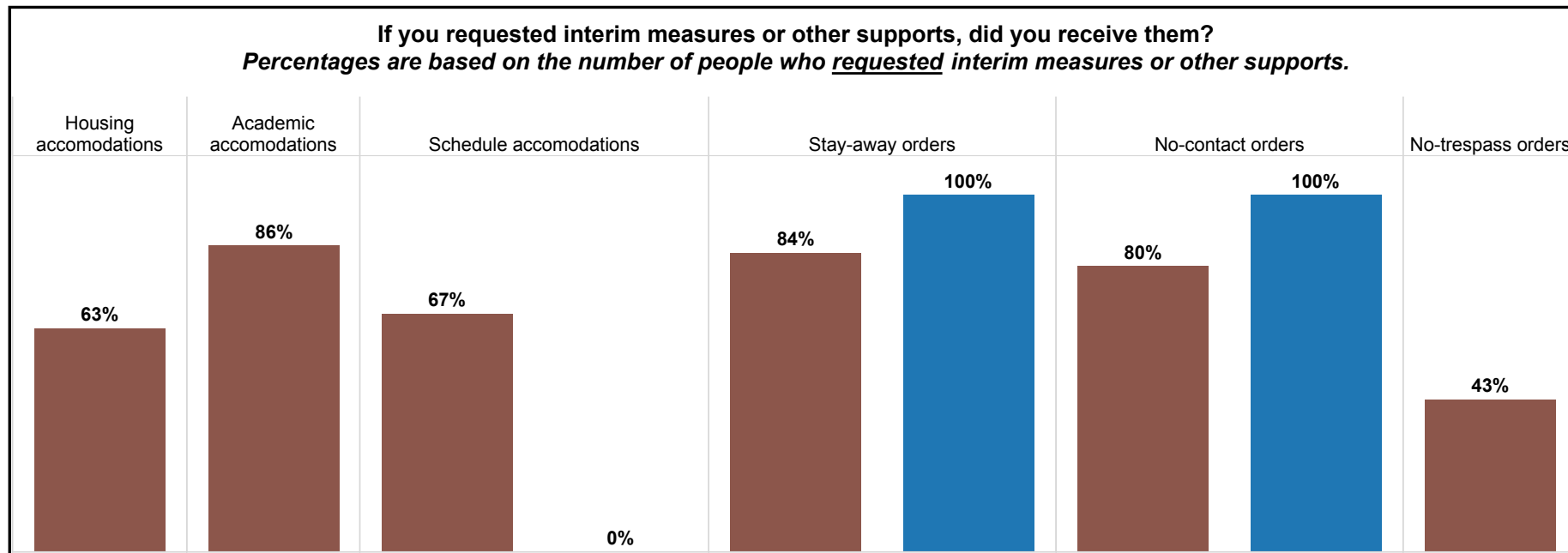
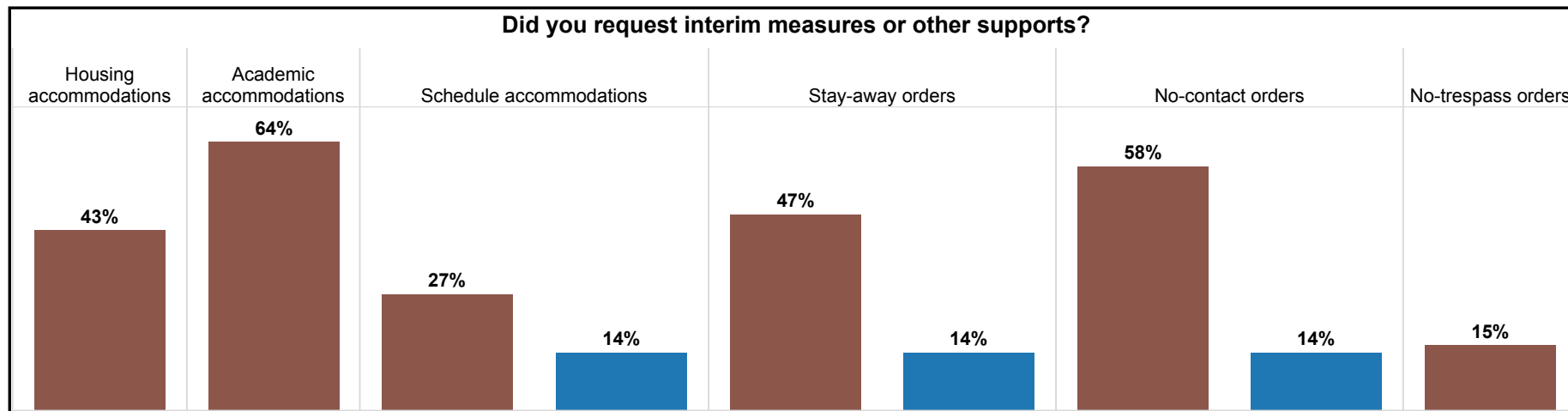




Tufts Attitudes About Sexual Conduct Survey

All Respondents Reporting an Incident at Tufts

Legend: ■ Non-consensual sexual intercourse ■ Non-consensual sexual contact

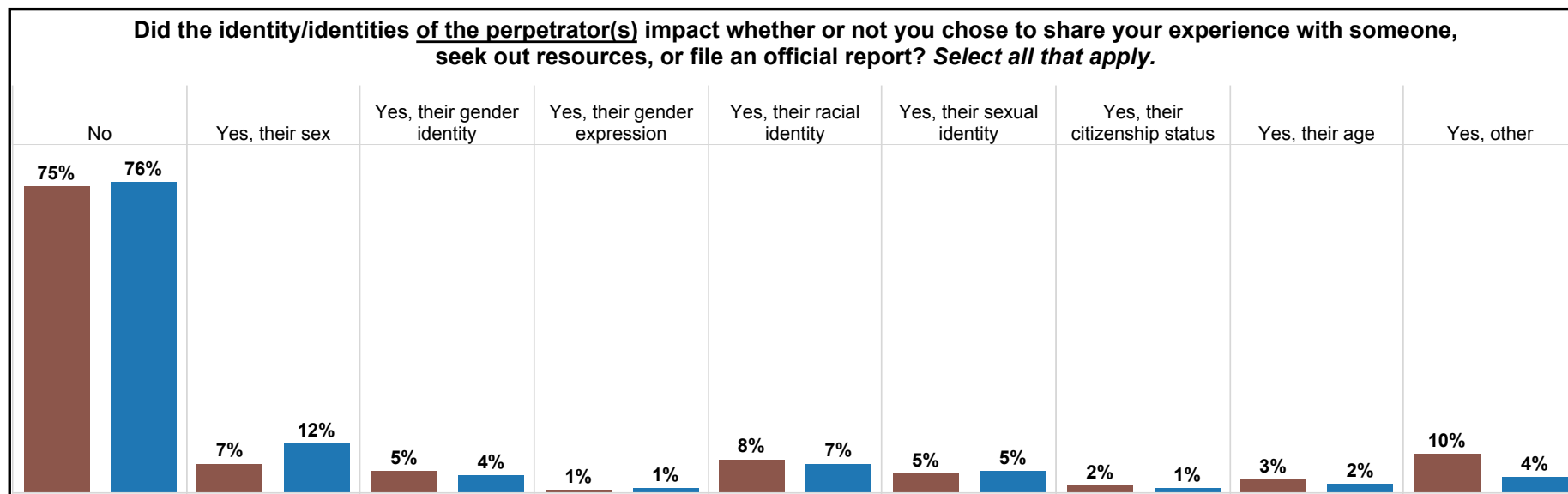
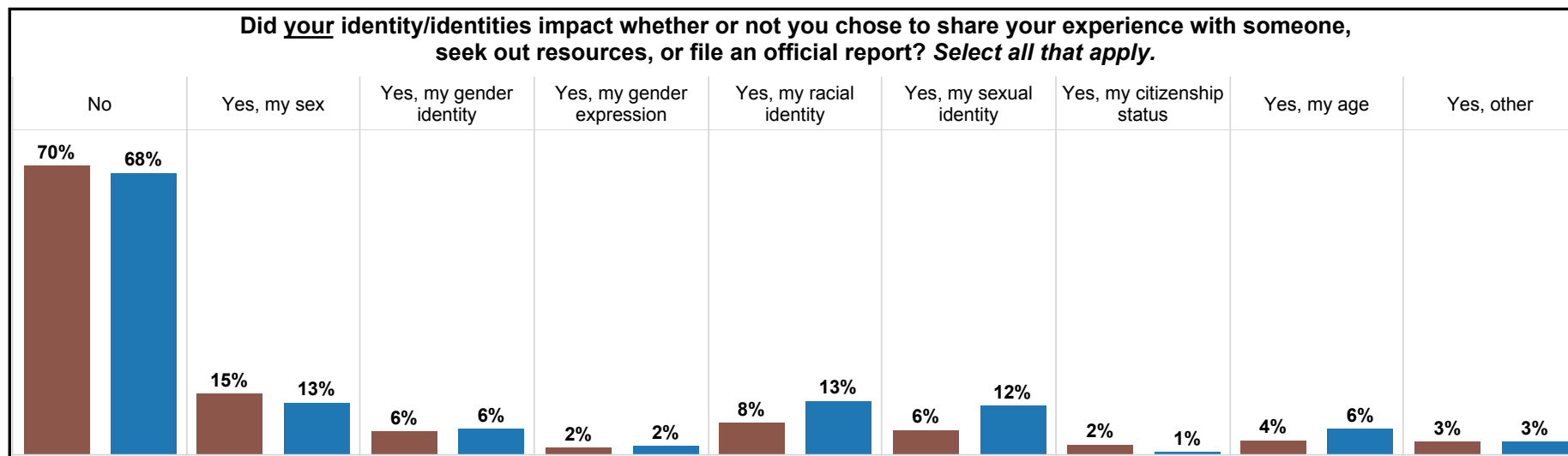




Tufts Attitudes About Sexual Conduct Survey

All Respondents Reporting an Incident at Tufts

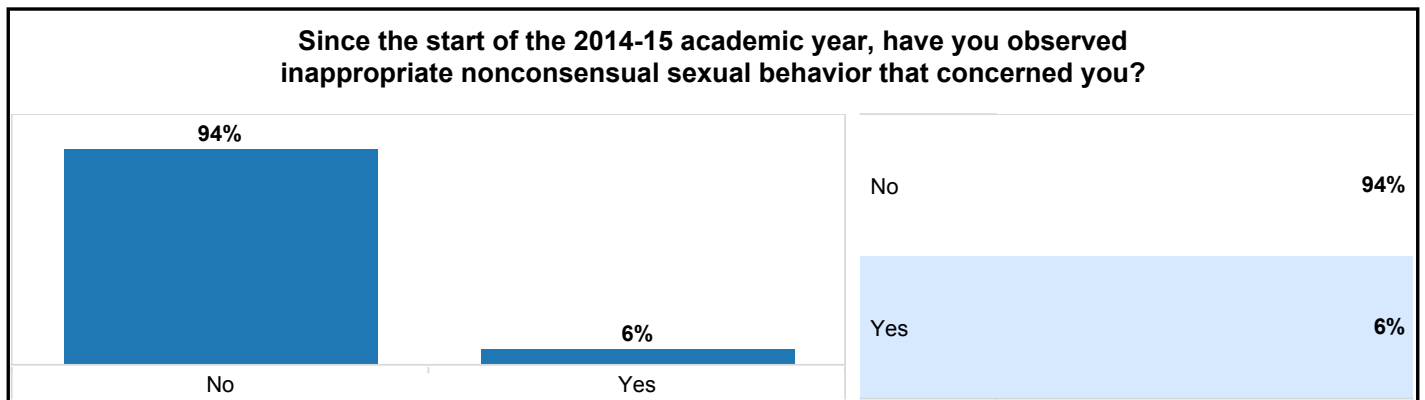
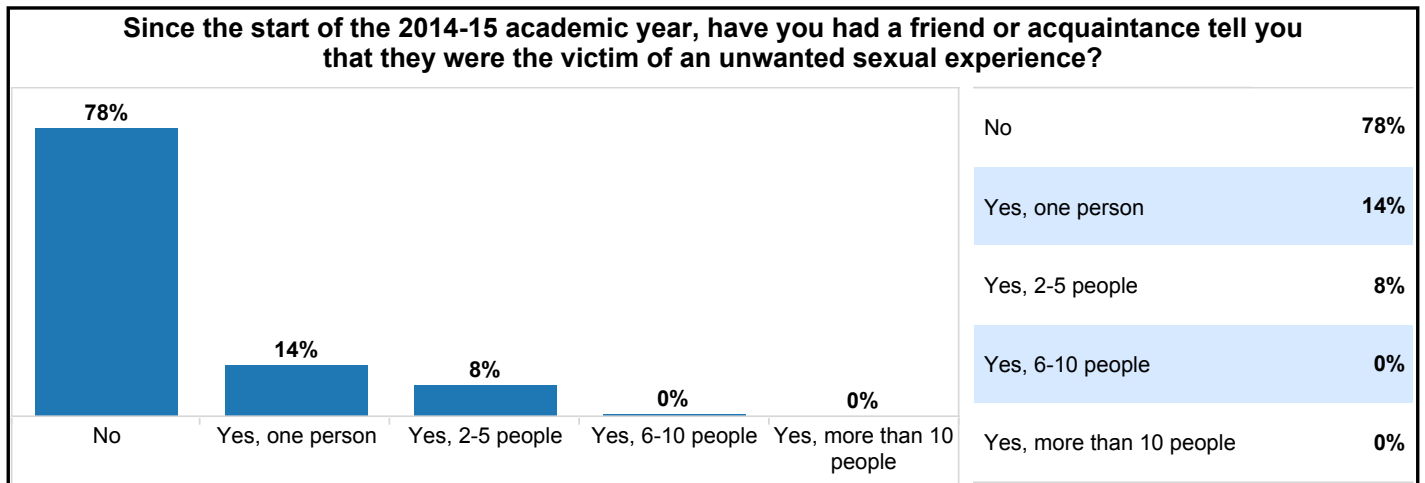
Legend: ■ Non-consensual sexual intercourse ■ Non-consensual sexual contact





Tufts Attitudes About Sexual Conduct Survey

All Respondents



Do you have any suggestions for how Tufts could do a better job educating students about sexual misconduct?

Suggestions frequently made:

- * Create better orientation programming around sexual misconduct
- * Require attendance at sexual misconduct lectures and information sessions
- * Continue the conversation and education throughout the school year, not just during orientation
- * Make information about reporting misconduct more readily available
- * Educate students on the role alcohol plays in consent

Do you have any suggestions for how to prevent sexual misconduct at Tufts?

Suggestions frequently made include:

- * Educate/increase awareness on campus about sexual misconduct
- * Educate students about alcohol use and encourage students to reduce alcohol use
- * Ensure students clearly understand the definition of consent
- * Create an open dialogue on topics of sexual misconduct
- * Have targeted programming for different social organizations to more effectively educate students