

Official Summary:
**UMW's 2018 Student Climate Survey:
Perceptions, Attitudes, and Prevalence of Interpersonal
Violence**



**UMW's 2018 Student Climate Survey:
Perceptions, Attitudes, and Prevalence of Interpersonal Violence**

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Self-Care Disclaimer:

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

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

Introduction

One in five women and one in sixteen men are sexually assaulted while in college¹. A traditional college-aged student is at higher risk of gender-based violence than the wider population, with 37% of adult-aged female rape victims reporting that they were first assaulted between 18 and 24 years of age². Expanding the scope, national studies show that 81% of women and 43% of men will experience gender-based harassment or assault across their lifetime. This includes verbal sexual harassment (77% of women, 34% of men), unwanted sexual touching (51% of women; 17% of men), stalking (34% of women, 12% of men), and sexual assault (27% of women; 7% of men).³ A vast majority of these incidents (90%) are never reported⁴.

The University of Mary Washington (hereafter UMW, the University, or institution) is committed to taking a stand against all forms of interpersonal violence as well as providing support, resources, education, and preventative awareness to our campus community. UMW understands that sexual and gender-based violence can greatly impede a student's opportunities for academic and personal success, and we are committed to reducing risk and enhancing resources on campus for all of our students.

This study marks the second in a series of biennial campus climate surveys of UMW students. This survey is meant to capture perceptions, attitudes, and prevalence of interpersonal violence affecting students. The findings of these ongoing studies will inform prevention, intervention, and response efforts on campus.

The University utilized a modified version of the Administrator-Researcher Campus Climate Collaborative (ARC3) survey, sent via email to all 4,808 undergraduate, graduate, part-time and full-time students enrolled as of March 2018. University staff utilized a poster, flier, and social media campaign to encourage participation and tabled in high-trafficked campus locations twice during the survey period. University administrators sent a reminder email to the student body each Monday that the survey was

¹ Krebs, C. P., Lindquist, C., Warner, T., Fisher, B., & Martin, S. (2007). The campus sexual assault (CSA) study: Final report. Retrieved from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service: <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/221153.pdf>

² Black M. C., Basile K. C., Breiding M. J., Smith S. G., Walters M. L., Merrick M. T., ... Stevens M. R. (2011). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2010 summary report. Retrieved from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/nisvs_report2010-a.pdf

³ Kearl, H. (2018). The Facts Behind the# MeToo Movement: A National Study on Sexual Harassment and Assault (Executive Summary).

⁴ Fisher, B.S., Cullen, F.T...& Turner, M. G. (2000) The sexual victimization of college women. Retrieved from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service: <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/182369.pdf>

open, with information regarding how to complete the survey, anonymity procedures, and on and off-campus resources. Members of the Office of Title IX, the University's Coordinated Community Response Team (CCRT), and the TEAL Peer Educators program elicited the help of department chairs, professors, residence assistants, student club leaders, coaches, and student athletes to increase participation. The raffling of incentives, including an Apple Watch, University bookstore merchandise, and tickets to on-campus events, was used to encourage participation.

Due to the sensitive nature of this survey, all questions were optional, and students were allowed to skip questions they did not wish to answer. If a student provided five or more responses within Module 1 of the survey, they were included in the final analysis. The survey remained open for a period of five weeks, after which responses were recorded and data was analyzed. To reduce risk of response bias and encourage greater participation, responses were kept strictly anonymous and access to responses were limited to the principle investigator and editors. Providing demographic information was optional for participants, and demographics and email addresses for the raffle were disaggregated from the survey responses.

Response Rates

The majority of participants in this survey fell within the traditional college-aged range of 18-22 years old (86%). An additional 14% fell within the non-traditional age range of 23+ years. Students under 18 years old were not invited to participate in this survey. An overwhelming majority of participants were undergraduate students (97%); few graduate students (3%) participated. Of those who identified their level of schooling, first and third year students each represented 25% of participants. Second year students represented 22%, fourth year 21%, and those in their fifth or more year of undergraduate coursework represented 4% of participants.

Participants were asked to identify their gender (see Table 1), sexual orientation (see Table 2), and race/ethnicity (see Table 3). The majority of participants identified as women (81%), while 15% identified as men. A little less than 5% of students identified as transgender, genderqueer/androgynous, or a gender not listed. A majority of participants identified as heterosexual (72%), followed by bisexual (14%) and queer (4%). Of the 17 students (3%) that selected "a sexual orientation not listed here," the responses were pansexual (9), confused/unsure (4), demisexual (2), and decline to answer (2). About 76% of participants identified as white/Caucasian followed by Hispanic or Latinx (7%) and Black/African

American (7%). Asian students accounted for 6% of participants.⁵ The vast majority of participants were domestic students, with 1% identifying as international students.⁶

| Table 1: Gender Identity | |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| Response | Percent |
| Woman | 80.64 |
| Man | 14.72 |
| Transwoman | 0.40 |
| Transman | 0.81 |
| Genderqueer/Androgynous | 2.22 |
| A gender not listed here | 1.21 |

| Table 2: Sexual Orientation | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| Response | Percent |
| Gay | 1.63 |
| Lesbian | 3.26 |
| Bisexual | 14.05 |
| Asexual | 2.24 |
| Queer | 3.67 |
| Heterosexual/Straight | 71.69 |
| A sexual orientation not listed here | 3.46 |

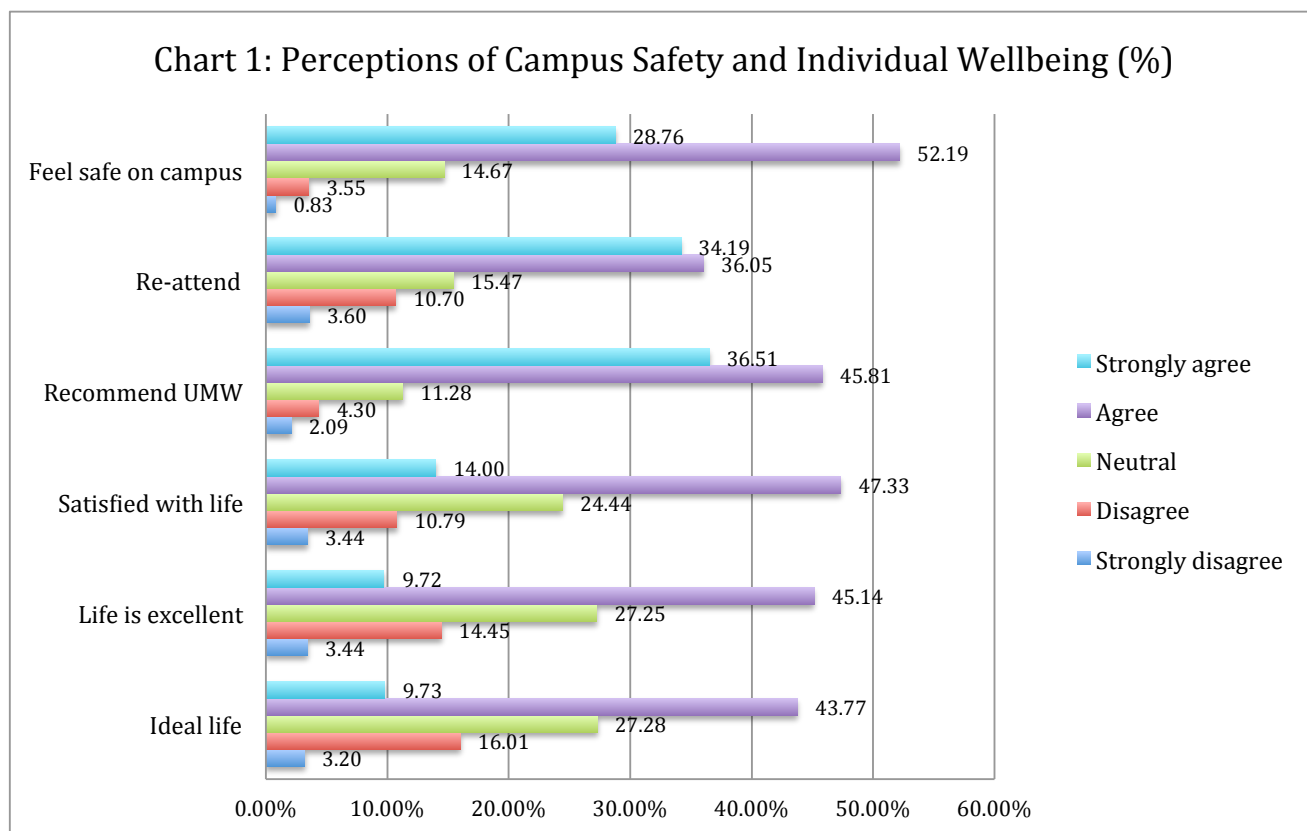
| Table 3: Race/Ethnicity | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Response | Percent |
| Black/African American | 6.64 |
| White/Caucasian | 76.38 |
| Asian or Asian American | 5.54 |
| Hawaiian or Pacific Islander | 0.55 |
| Native American or Alaskan Native | 2.03 |
| Hispanic or Latino | 6.83 |
| A race not listed here | 2.03 |

⁵ According to the UMW 2017-2018 Common Data Set, 69% of UMW students identify as white, 9% as Hispanic or Latinx, 8% as Black or African American, 6% two or more races, 4% Asian, 0.3% American Indian and Alaska Native, and 0.1% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander. <https://academics.umw.edu/iae/files/2018/01/CDS-2017-2018-Enrollment-and-Persistence.pdf>

⁶ According to the UMW 2017-2018 Common Data Set, 1.05% of degree-seeking and non-degree seeking undergraduates and graduates are identified as “non-resident aliens.” <https://academics.umw.edu/iae/files/2018/01/CDS-2017-2018-Enrollment-and-Persistence.pdf>

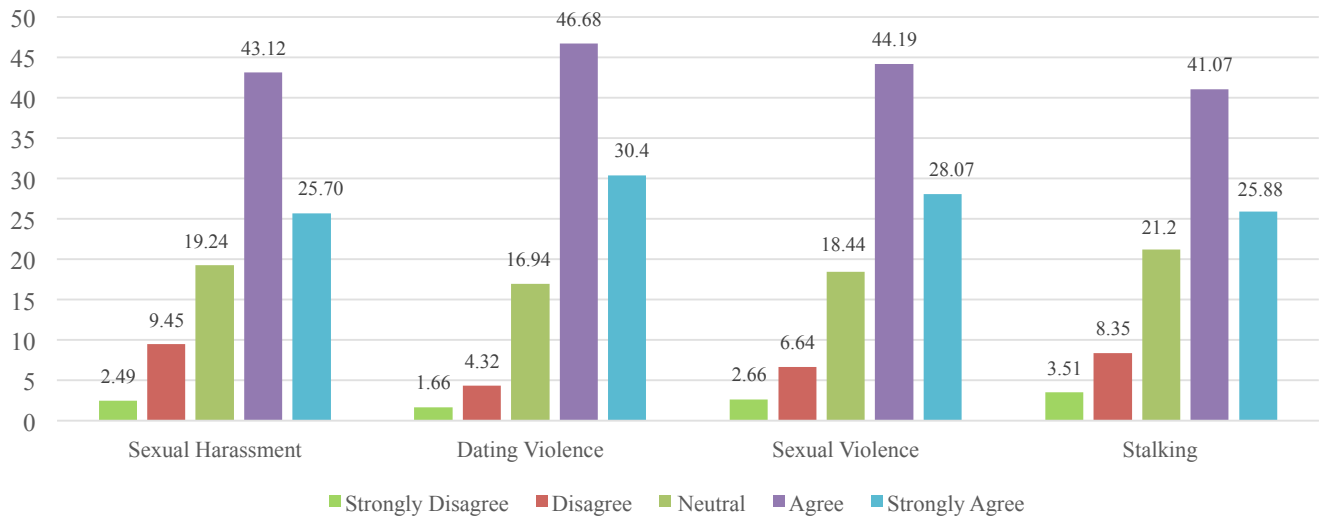
Perceptions of Campus Safety and Wellbeing

Survey participants were asked to indicate how safe they felt on campus. Additionally, participants were prompted to rate several aspects of their individual mental health and wellbeing, including their overall health, life satisfaction, frequency of calm and peaceful feelings, and other indicators of wellbeing. Overall, the majority of students rated their mental and physical health as average, above average, or excellent (72%). A majority of students (81%) felt safe on campus, while 4% did not and 15% were neutral. A majority of students would re-attend UMW if they had to do it over again (70%), and a majority of students reported that they would recommend UMW to others (82%).



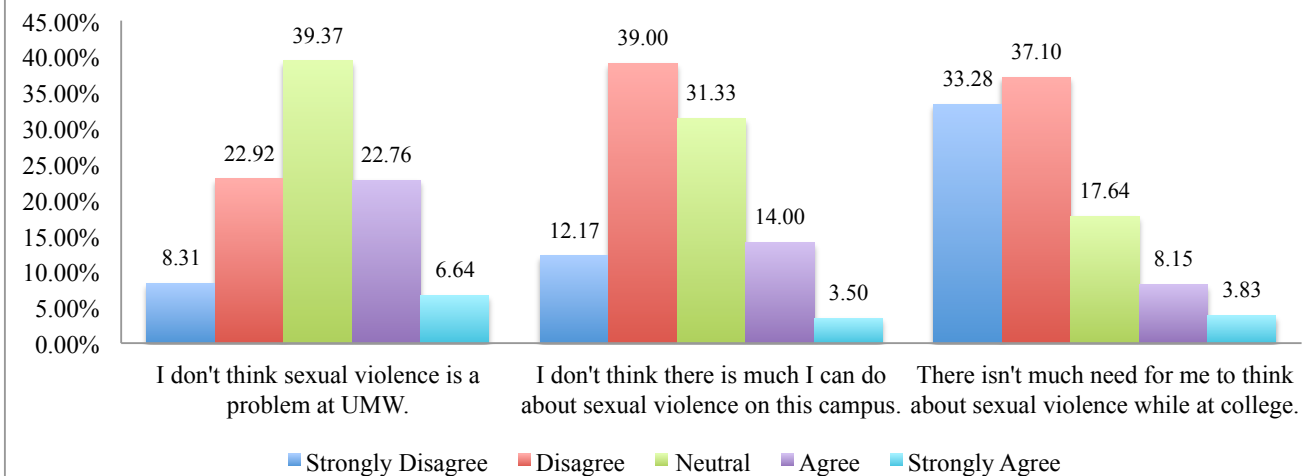
Participants were asked to extrapolate on their feelings of safety regarding different forms of gender-based violence on campus. The majority of respondents reported that they felt safe on campus from sexual harassment (69%), dating violence (77%), sexual violence (72%) and stalking (67%).

Chart 2: Perceptions of Safety from Type of Violence (%)



Nearly 40% of students were neutral when asked if they felt sexual violence was a problem at UMW, with the remaining participants fairly evenly split between agreeing (29%) or disagreeing (31%) that it was a problem. However, students felt much more strongly (70%) that there was a need for them to think about sexual violence while at college. A little over half (51%) of participants felt they had a role to play in sexual violence prevention or response at UMW; 31% felt neutral about it, and 18% felt they could not do much about sexual violence on campus.

Chart 3: Personal Perceptions and Responsibility Regarding Sexual Violence on Campus (%)



Knowledge and Awareness of Prohibited Sexual Conduct Policy

All survey participants were asked to report their education on prohibited sexual conduct prior to UMW and while at UMW. Participants were also asked about their knowledge of resources and support available at UMW, including their knowledge on UMW's *Policy on Sexual and Gender-Based Harassment and Other Forms of Interpersonal Violence* (hereafter Policy). Prior to UMW, the majority of students (80%) said they had received some education about prohibited sexual conduct prior to enrolling at UMW, while 20% said that had not previously received any education about prohibited sexual conduct. The majority of respondents (83%) were either somewhat familiar, familiar, or very familiar with UMW's Policy (see Chart 4). Nearly half (48%) indicated that they had learned about the policy through the online course required of all incoming and transfer students, while 19% heard about it through word of mouth, 15% "other," 10% from the UMW website, and 8% through the student handbook. Of the 103 respondents who chose "other," the most common responses include: had not learned about the policy (27), learned about it through some form of training (27), passive learning through posters, fliers, or emails (13), through some other in-person interaction (11), and through participating in the Title IX reporting or investigation process (5) (see Chart 5).

Chart 4: Familiarity of Policy

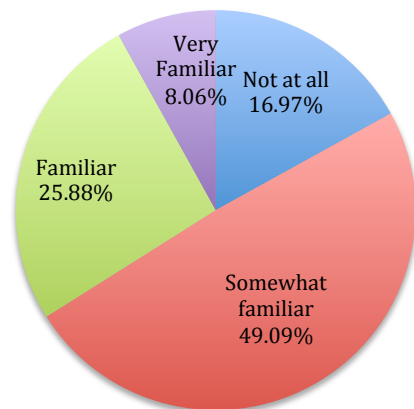
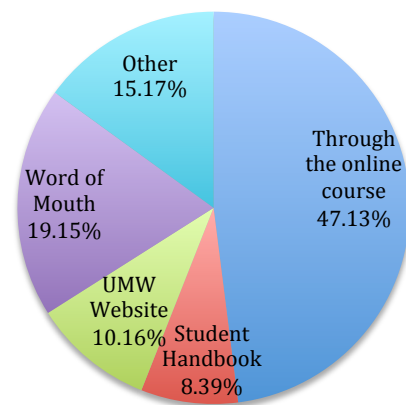
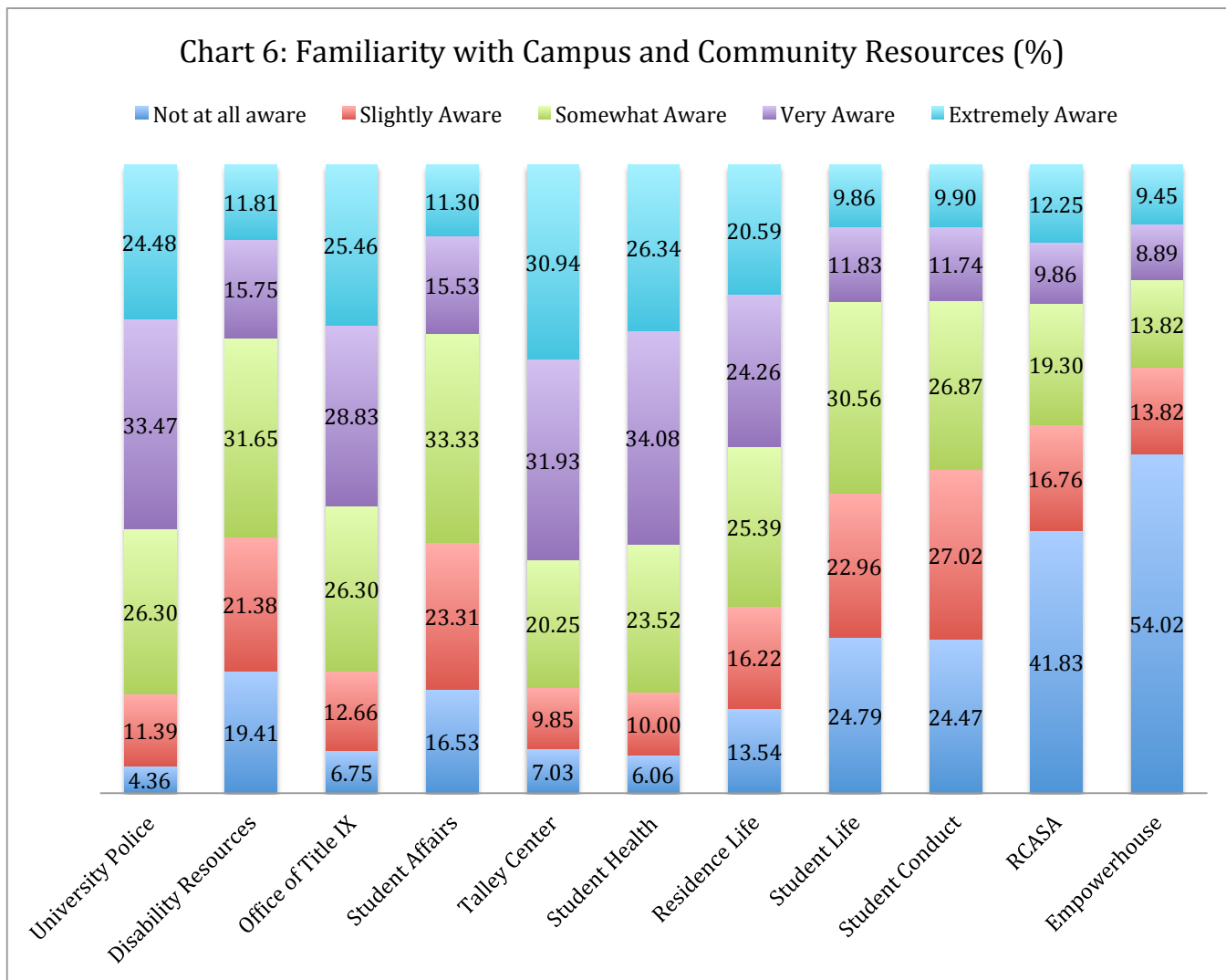


Chart 5: How Did You Learn About the Policy?



In terms of sexual conduct resources at UMW, students were slightly, somewhat, very, or extremely aware of University Police (96%), the Office of Title IX (93%), the Talley Center for Counseling Services (93%), and Student Health Center (94%), while students were less aware of off-campus partners, Empowerhouse (46%) and RCASA (58%), or the Office of Student Life (75%) and the Office of Student Conduct and Responsibility (76%) (see Chart 6).



Perceptions of Student Beliefs on Interpersonal Relations

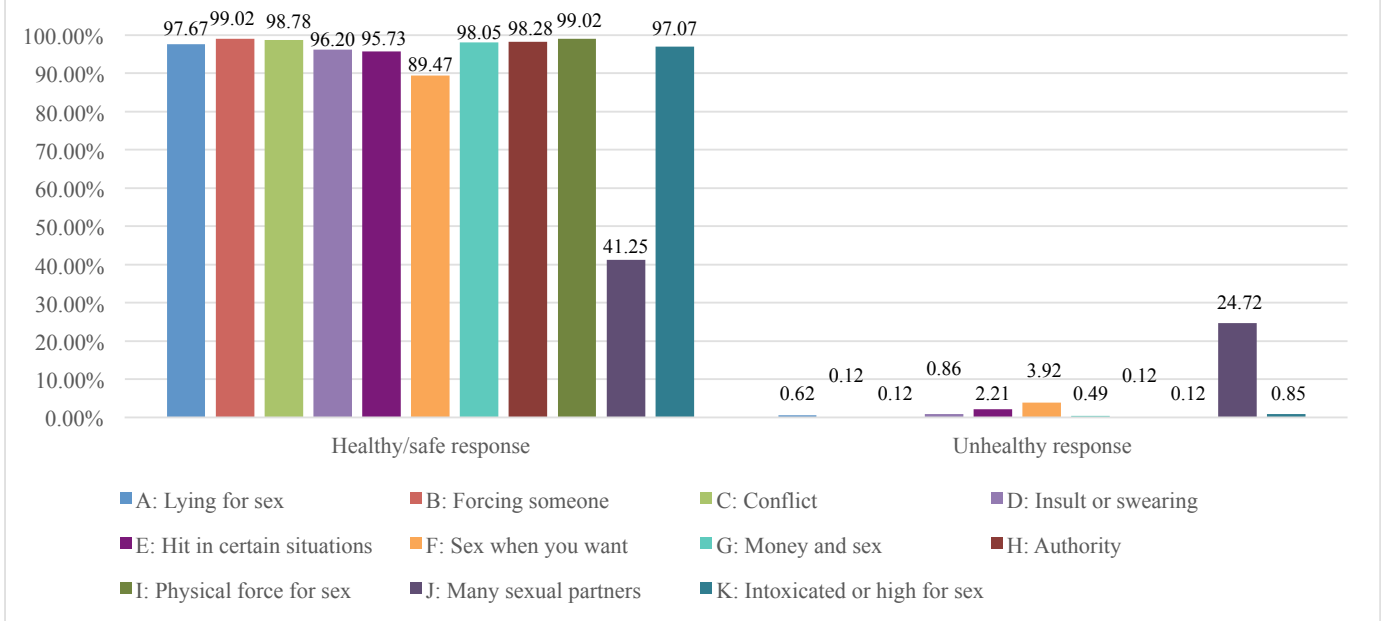
All survey participants were asked to share the degree to which their friends would approve of a variety of interpersonal behaviors, such as the degree to which their friends would approve of having multiple sex partners (see in chart: J) or getting someone intoxicated or high to have sex (see in chart: K). The participants' responses overwhelmingly suggest UMW students have healthy beliefs regarding interpersonal relations. In addition the aforementioned behaviors, participants were asked to share the extent to which their friends:⁷

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

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⁷ Rates do not total to 100% as the remaining rates indicate "neutral."

Chart 7: Healthy and Unhealthy Responses to Interpersonal Behaviors (%)



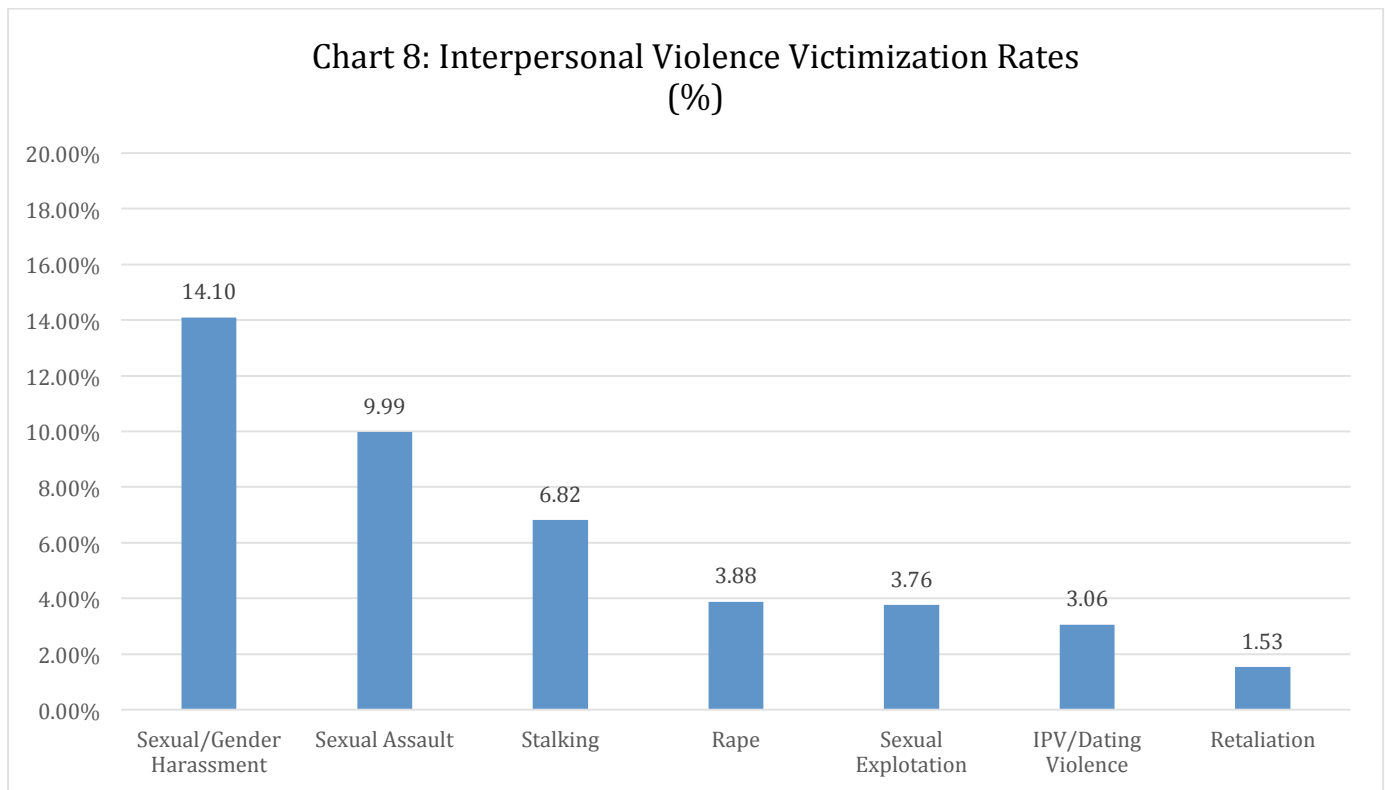
Altogether, 92% of responses indicate healthiness and safety with respect to their perceptions of their friends' beliefs regarding a variety of interpersonal behaviors. The highest-rated unhealthy/unsafe belief was that 25% of respondents perceived their friends as approving of having “many” sexual partners. (While morality regarding multiple sex partners is debatable, empirical research shows that as the number of partners increases, so does the risk of having a partner with HIV or a sexually transmitted infection⁸. As such, for the purposes of this study, having many sexual partners was determined to be unhealthy/unsafe.)

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⁸ HIV Risk Reduction Tool: Having Multiple Sex Partners Retrieved from https://www.cdc.gov/increased_risk/partners/multiple_partners.html

Interpersonal Violence Victimization Rates

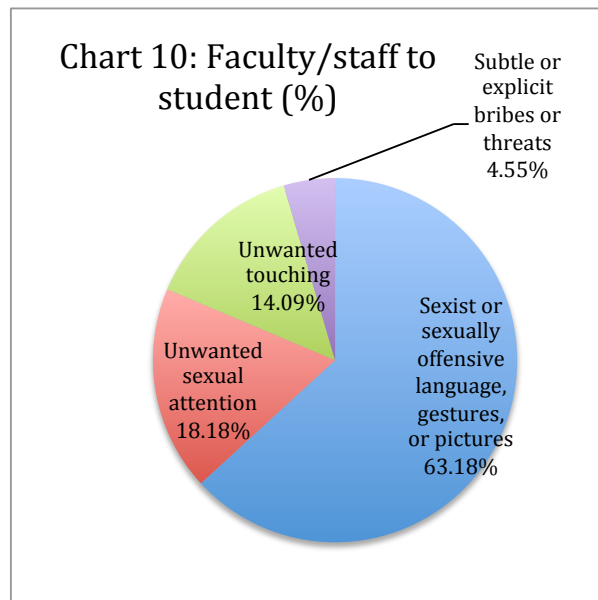
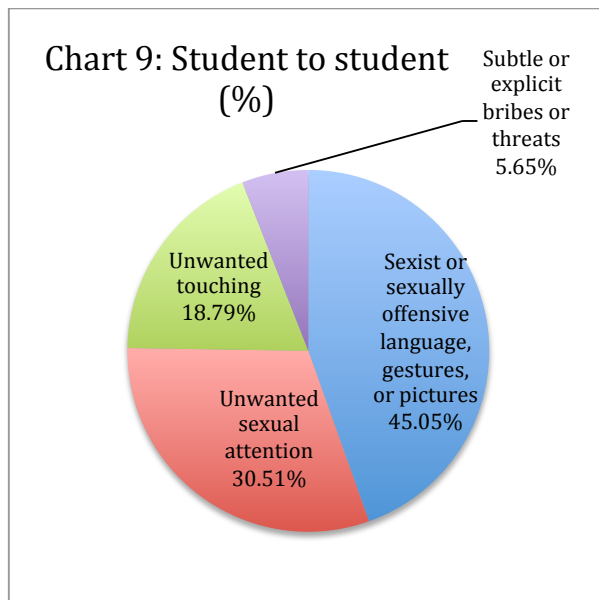
Survey participants were asked to share whether they experienced various forms of interpersonal violence while at UMW, including: sexual and gender-based harassment, sexual assault, stalking, rape, sexual exploitation, intimate partner or dating violence, and retaliation. The responses show that, in total, 43% of participants experienced one or more forms of gender-based violence, with the most common experience being sexual or gender-based harassment (14%).⁹



⁹ Rates do not total to 100% as the remaining rates indicate "none."

Sex or Gender-Based Harassment

For students who reported gender or sex-based harassment from other students, most reported experiencing sexist or sexually offensive language, gestures, or pictures (45%) or unwanted sexual attention (31%) (see Chart 9). Participants who indicated they had been harassed by faculty/staff were most likely to report experiencing sexist or sexually offensive language, gestures, or pictures (63%) or unwanted sexual attention (18%) (see Chart 10).

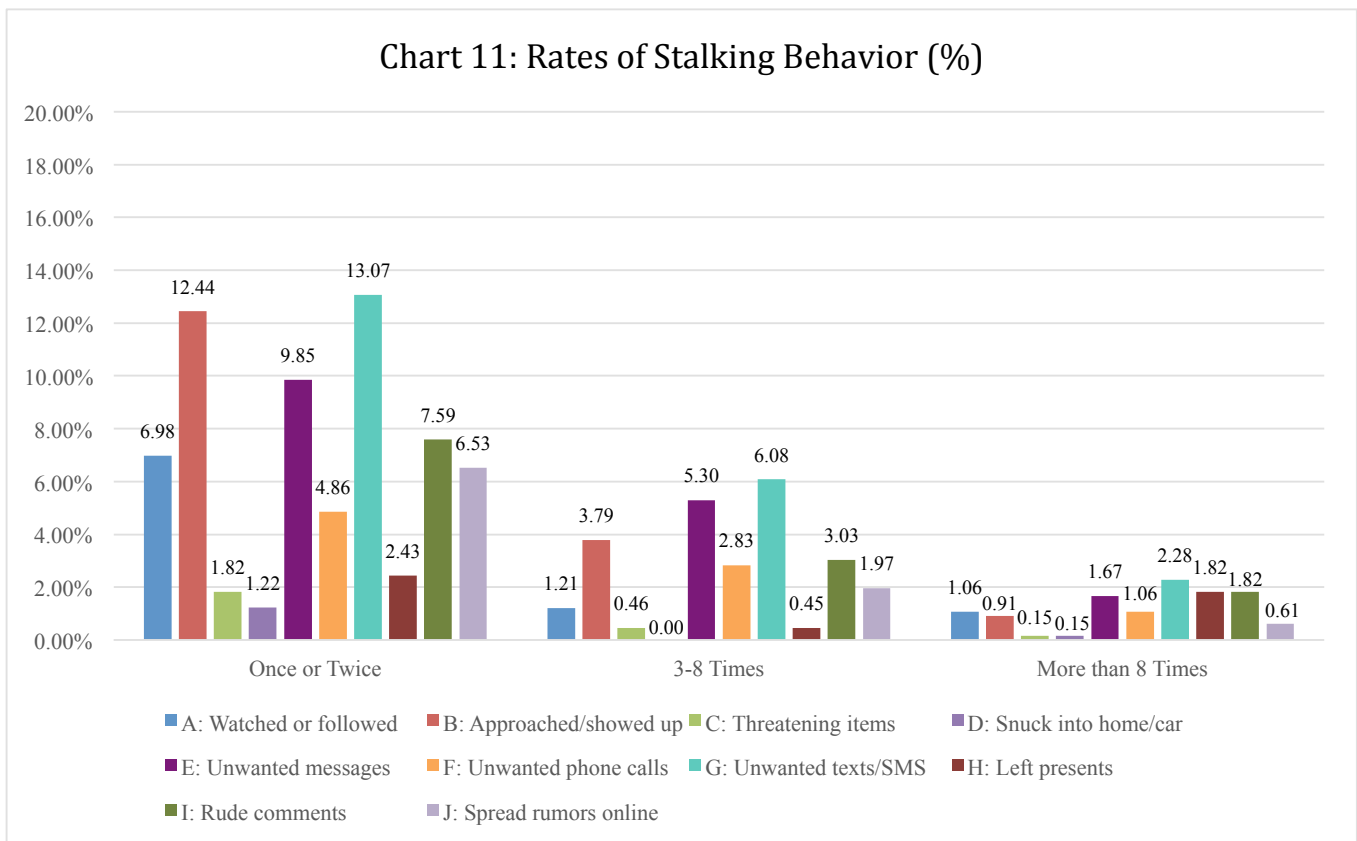


Stalking

Participants were asked a series of questions about their experiences regarding different forms of stalking behavior. The most commonly reported forms of stalking behavior included “unwanted emails, texts, instant messages, or messages through social media apps” (see in chart: G; 21%) followed by “approached you or showed up in a place such as your home, workplace, or school” (see in chart: B; 17%) and “left you unwanted messages” (see in chart: E; 16%). In addition to the aforementioned behaviors, participants were also asked to share if they had been in a situation in which a person had:

- Watched or followed you from a distance, spied on you with a listening device, camera, or GPS (See in chart: A)
- Left strange or potentially threatening items for you to find (see in chart: C)

- Snuck into your home or car and did things to scare you by letting you know they had been there (see in chart: D)
- Left you unwanted messages (including text or voice messages) (See in chart: E)
- Sent you unwanted emails, texts, instant messages, or sent messages through social media apps (See in chart: G)
- Left cards, letters, flowers, or presents when they knew you didn't want them to (see in chart: H)
- Made rude or mean comments to you online (see in chart: I)
- Spread rumors about you online, whether they were true or not (see in chart: J)



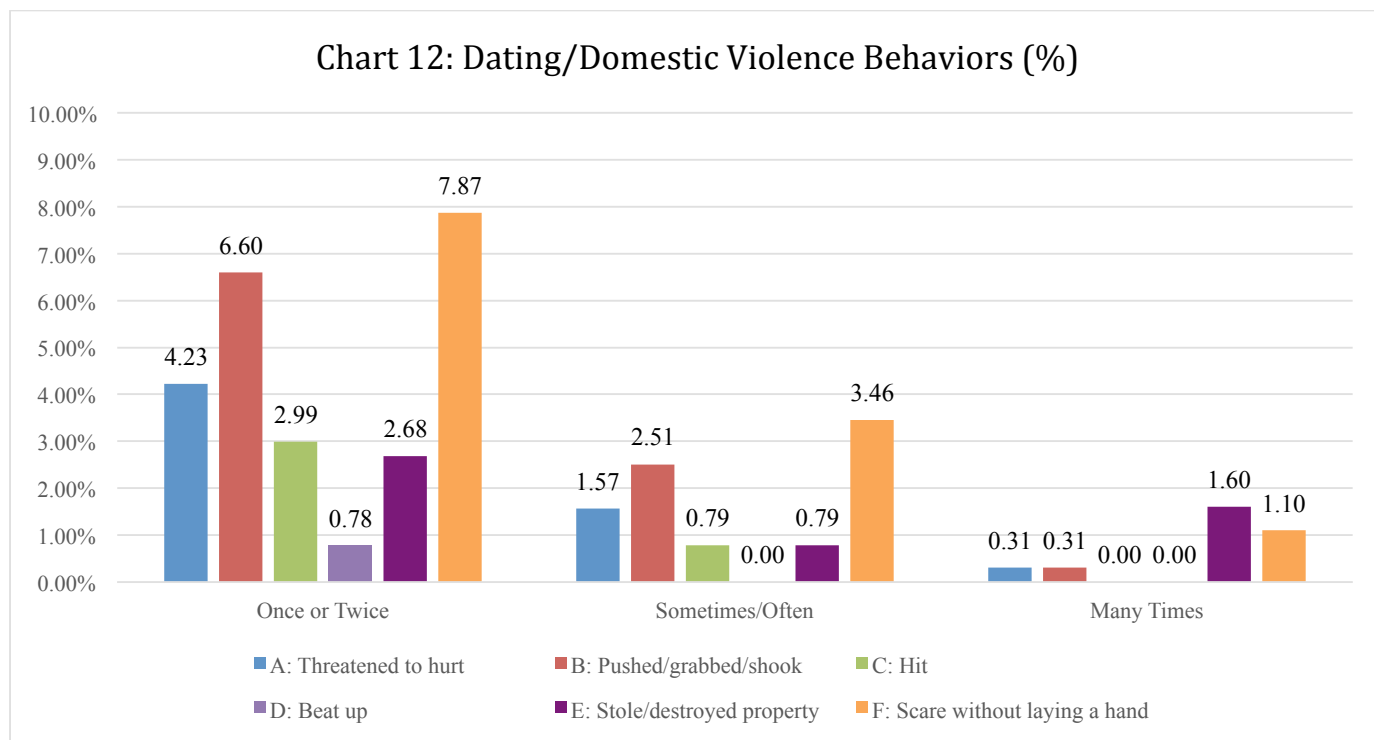
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Intimate Partner or Dating Violence

Participants were asked to answer a number of questions about any partner, spouse, boyfriend, girlfriend, hook-up, husband, or wife, including exes, regardless of the length of the relationship, since enrolling at UMW, to measure indicators of relationship abuse including dating and domestic violence. The most commonly reported forms of dating/domestic violence included scaring the person without laying a hand on them (see in chart: F; 12%) followed by pushing, grabbing or shaking the person (see in chart: B; 9%). In addition to the aforementioned behaviors, participants were also asked:

Not including horseplay or joking around, did the person:

- Threaten to hurt you and you thought you may really get hurt (see in chart: A)
- Hit you (see in chart: C)
- Beat you up (see in chart: D)
- Steal or destroy your property (see in chart: E)



Sexual Violence

Participants who indicated that they had experienced some form of sexual violence (including non-penetrative assault, penetrative assault, and attempted non-penetrative assault) were asked a range of questions regarding the nature of the assault and tactics used, including the following:

- Telling lies, threatening to end the relationship, threatening to spread rumors about me, making promises I knew were untrue, or continually verbally pressuring me after I said I didn't want to (See in chart: A)
- Show displeasure, criticizing my sexuality or attractiveness, or getting angry but not using physical force, after I said I didn't want to (See in chart: B)
- Taking advantage of me when I was too drunk or out of it to stop what was happening (See in chart: C)
- Threatening to physically harm me or someone close to me (See in chart: D)
- Using force, for example holding me down with their body weight, pinning my arms, or having a weapon (See in Chart: E)

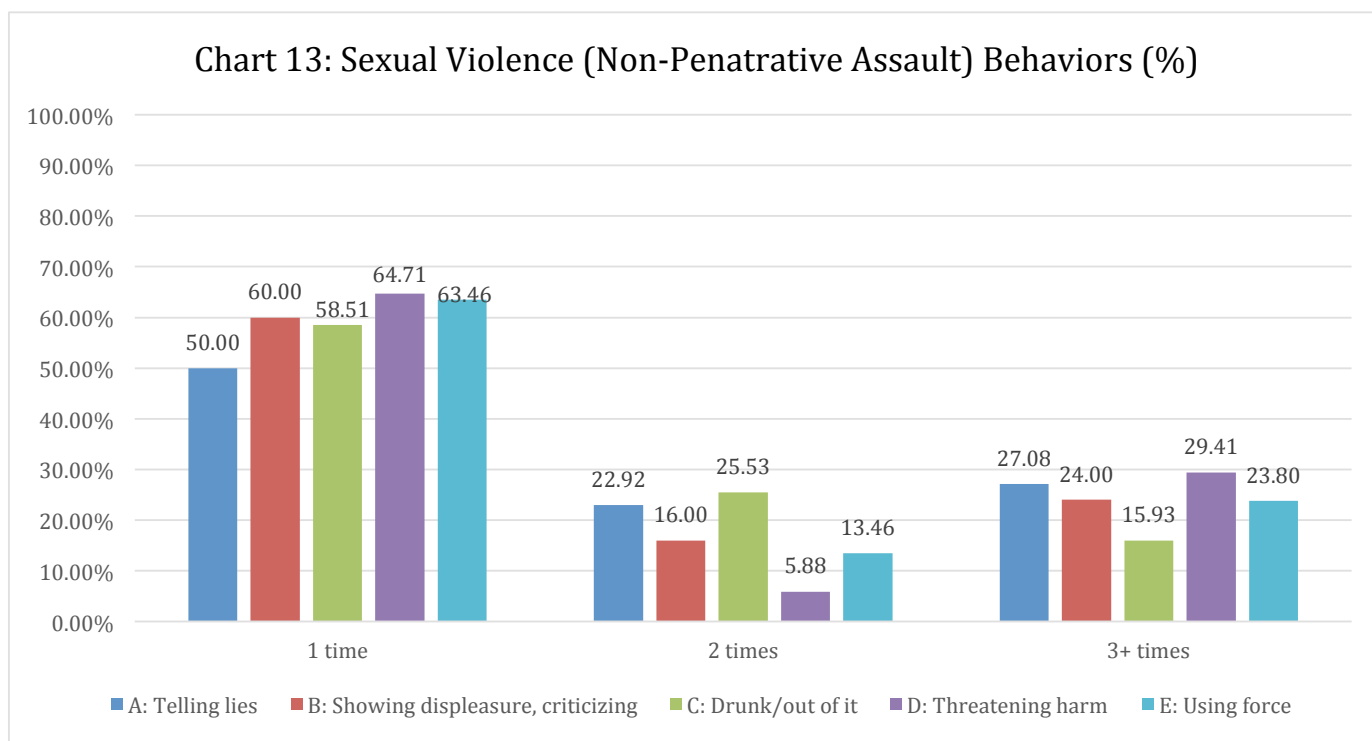


Chart 14: Sexual Violence (Penetrative Assault) Behaviors (%)

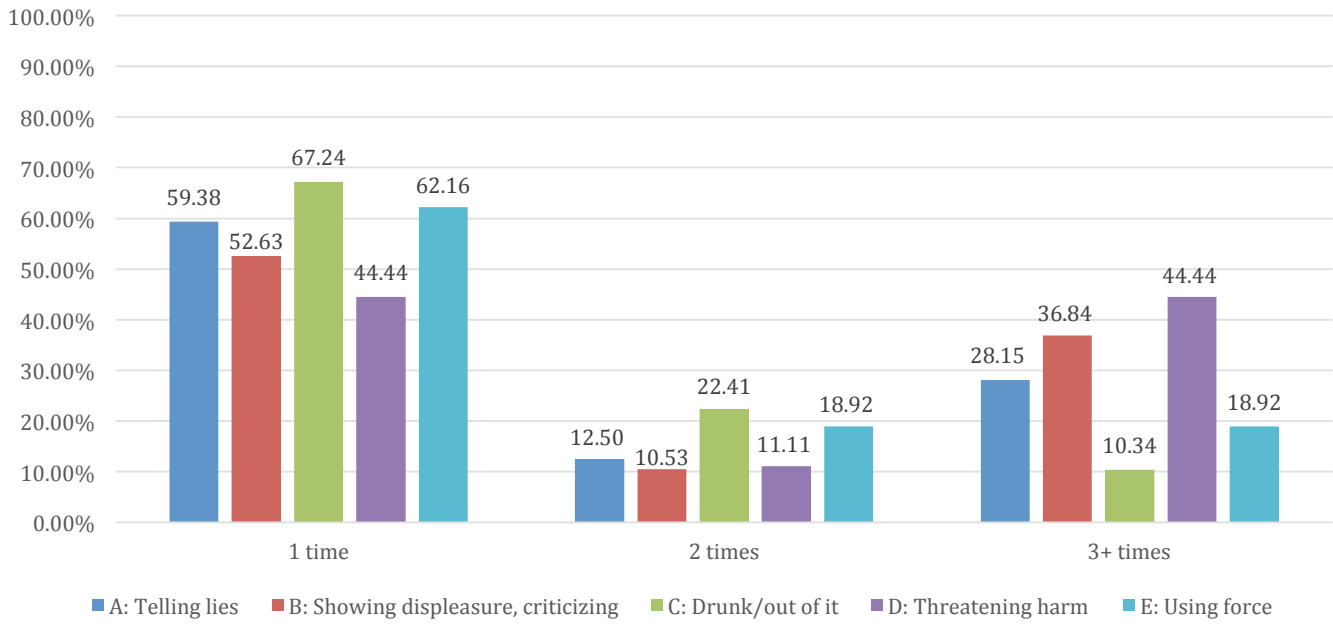


Chart 15: Sexual Violence (Attempted Penetrative Assault) Behaviors (%)

