

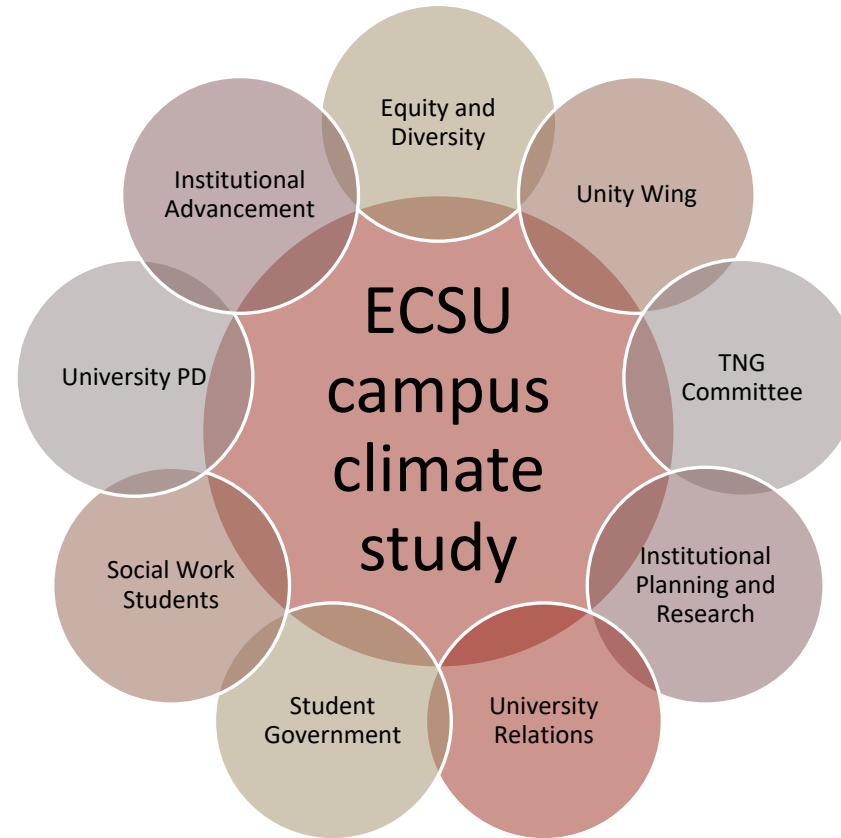
Speak out, we're listening: The Title IX and Sexual Misconduct Campus Climate Study (Spring 2022)

PREPARED BY: SARAH D. NIGHTINGALE, PH.D., ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF SOCIAL WORK

EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY



Collaborative Approach to Climate Work



Important terminology

- Sexual misconduct: sexual assault, intimate partner violence and stalking

- TGN: Participants whose gender identity is transgender, genderqueer or non-binary

- Queer-spectrum: Participants whose sexual orientation is lesbian, gay, bisexual, pansexual, asexual, queer, questioning and prefer to self-describe.

Background: Introduction

- Sexual misconduct is a persistent problem on college campuses in the United States (U.S) (Cantor et al., Krebs et al., 2016)
- Students who experience sexual misconduct in the college context have an increased likelihood of anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder (Carey et al., 2018; Wood et al., 2020) and also face additional barriers to academic success (Banyard et al., 2020).
- Research has found that queer-spectrum students, and students with disabilities experience sexual assault at disproportionate rates in college (Campe, 2021; Klein et al., 2022).



Background: Campus Climate

- The sexual assault campus climate is identified as both the prevalence of victimization as well as **perceptions** that students have about training, reporting, and campus resources (Task Force, 2014b).

- Assessments of the campus climate can be used to create action and improve conditions for students through changes to both policy and practice (Swartout et al., 2020).



Methodology

- Survey initiated by the Office of Equity and Diversity.
- Small committee worked from February – March 2022 to develop and implement the survey.
- Survey questions were drawn from reliable, validated measures previously used with college students.



- Voluntary
- Anonymous
- Win an all-access parking pass for a full semester! Additional cash prizes!
- Your anonymous answers will be added to other students and an action plan to improve sexual misconduct prevention and response will be developed.

If you need to access resources and support for sexual assault, dating violence, and/or stalking, visit <https://www.easternct.edu/title-ix/get-assistance> or <https://www.easternct.edu/title-ix/support-and-resources>. For more information about this survey, contact Professor Sarah Nightingale at nightingales@easternct.edu.



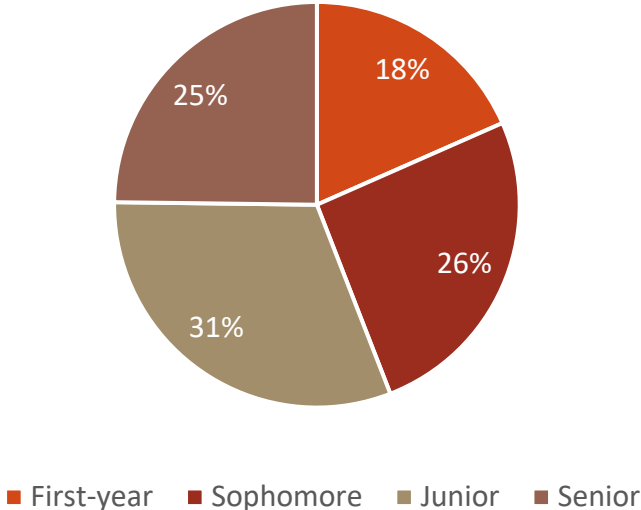
Methodology: Procedure

- Anonymous, on-line survey was used to gather data.
- Survey was open from April 4, 2022 – May 1, 2022
- Participants were asked to sign-in using their ECSU credentials, however no identifying information was retained by Qualtrics.
- Recruitment: weekly e-mails to all registered students, tabling, posters, social media promotion.
- Incentives:
 - Week 1: 10, \$100 Visa gift cards
 - Week 2: 10, \$50 Visa gift cards
 - Week 3: 10, \$25 Visa gift cards
 - Week 4: 1 all access parking pass for Fall 2022

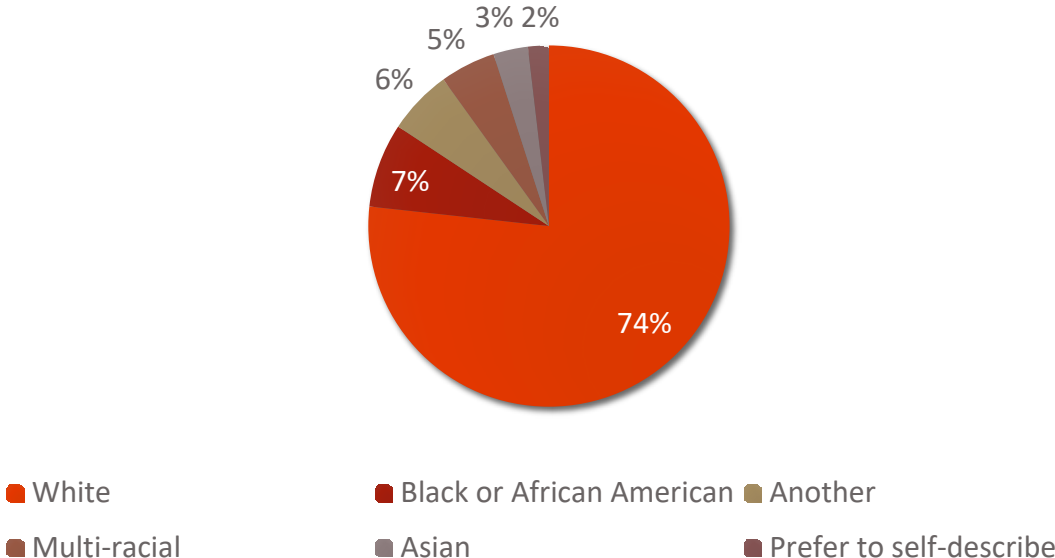
Methodology - Sample

A total of **790 undergraduate students** participated in the survey, yielding a 23% sample size.

Class Year (based on credits earned) (n = 789)

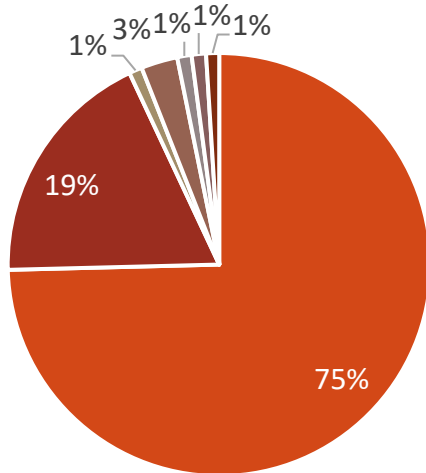


Racial Background (n = 790)



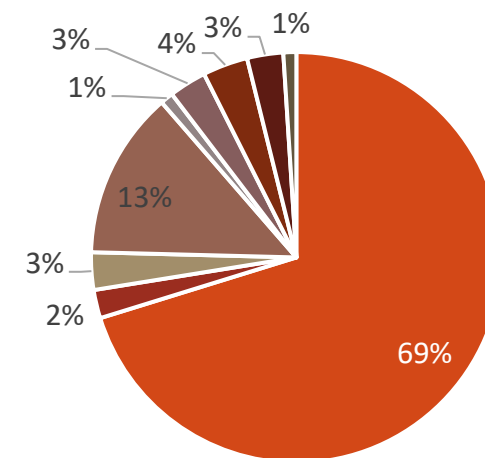
Methodology - Sample

Gender Identity (n = 790)



- Woman
- Man
- Gender queer
- Nonbinary
- Trans man
- Prefer not to say
- Another

Sexual Orientation (n = 790)



- Straight/Heterosexual
- Gay
- Lesbian
- Bisexual
- Asexual
- Queer
- Pansexual
- Questioning
- Prefer to self-describe

Methodology: Sample

13.4% (n = 106) of participants have a disability.

65.6% (n = 518) of participants live on campus.

50.4% (n = 398) of participants are a member of a student organization

Results: Campus Climate

BELONGING, TRUST, AND INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE

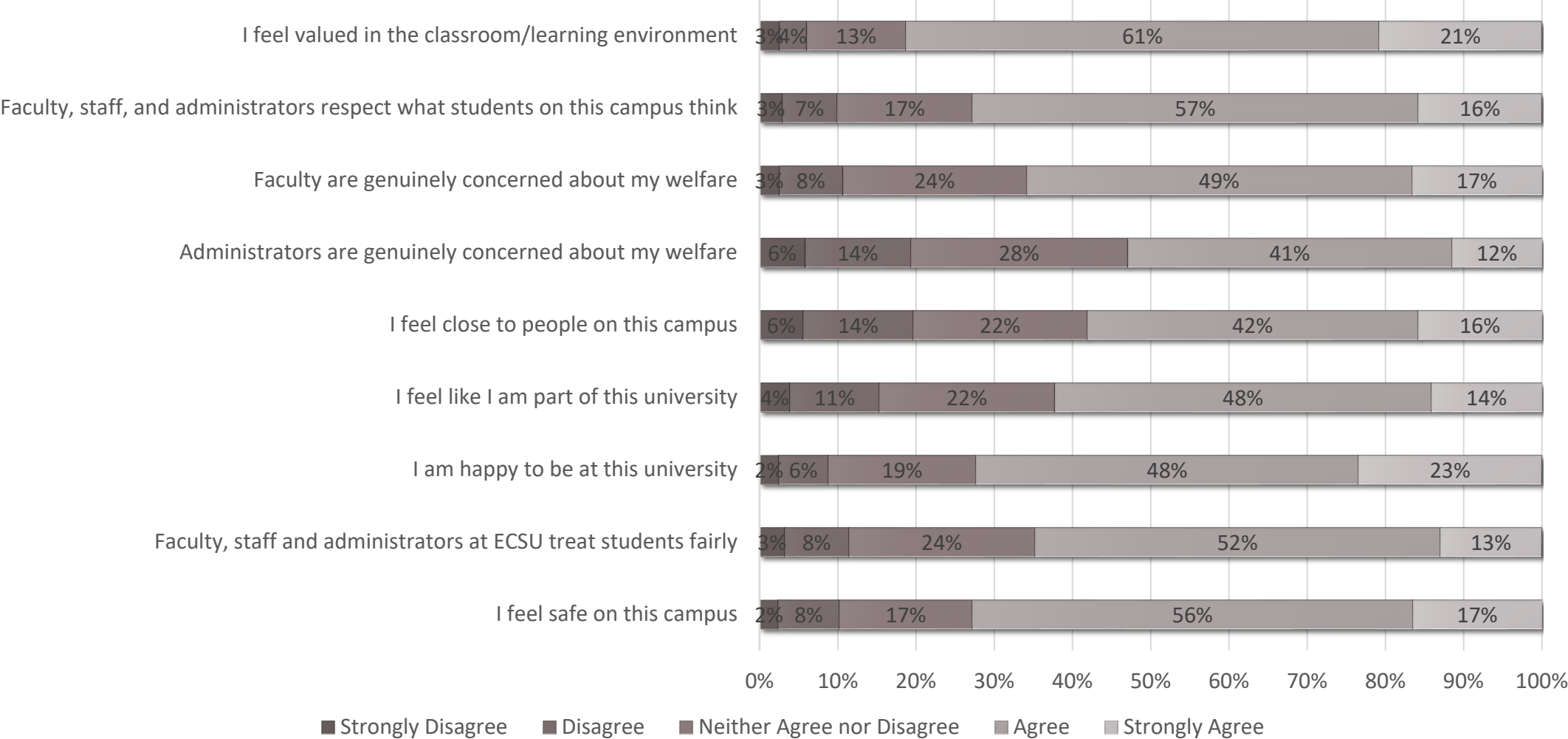
Results: Sense of Belonging

Approximately 82% (n = 642) of participants agreed or strongly agreed that they felt valued in the classroom/learning environment

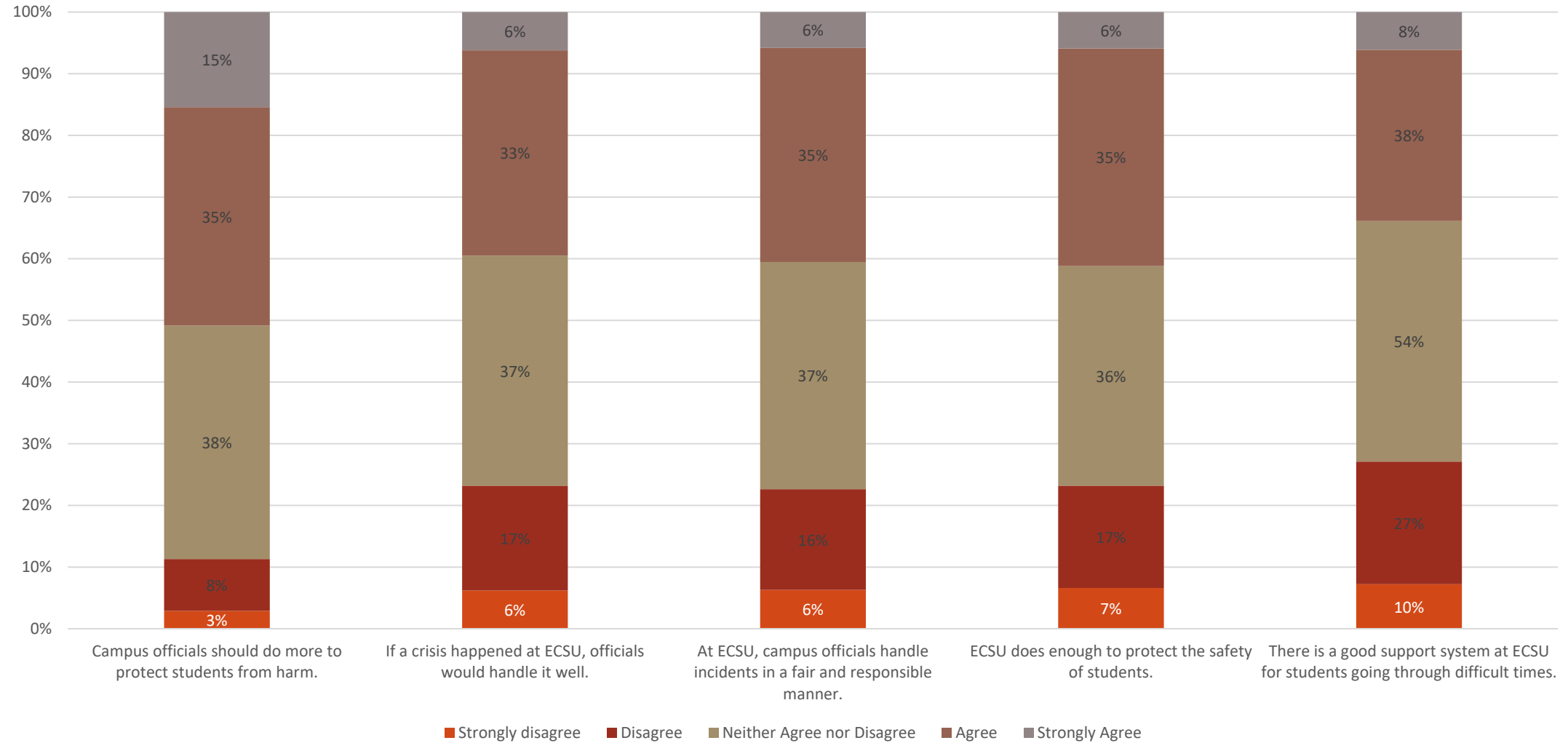
73% (n = 575) of participants agreed or strongly agreed that they feel safe on this campus

71% (n = 565) of participants agreed or strongly agreed that they are happy to be at this university

Sense of Belonging – All Survey Respondents (n = 790)

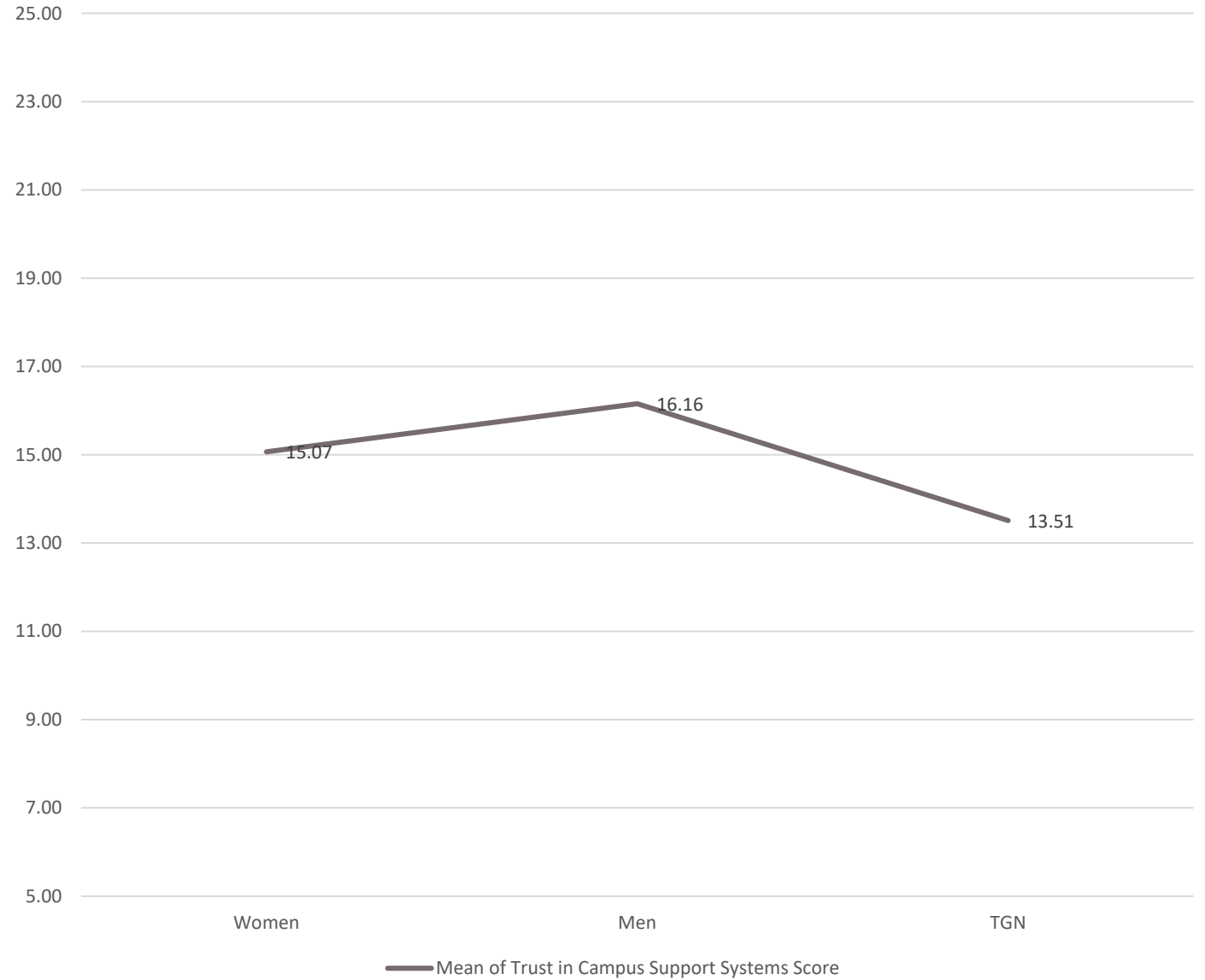


Trust in Campus Support Systems – All Survey Respondents (n = 790)



Results: Trust in Campus Support Services

Mean of Trust in Campus Support Systems Score by gender identity (n = 757)



Results: Perceptions of Institutional Response

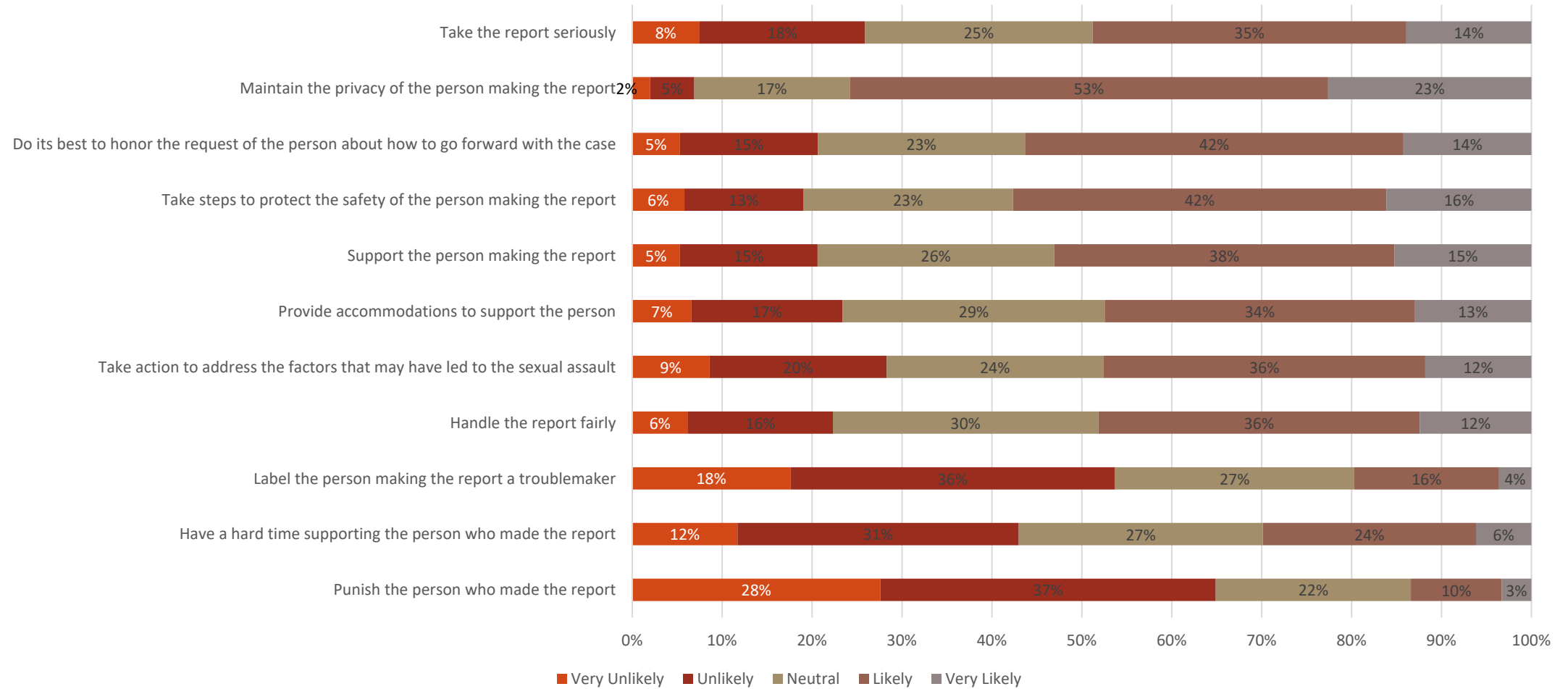
Just over half of participants (53%, n = 401) thought it was likely or very likely that if a student made a report of sexual assault ECSU would support them.

49% (n = 369) of participants think it is likely or very likely that ECSU would take the report seriously.

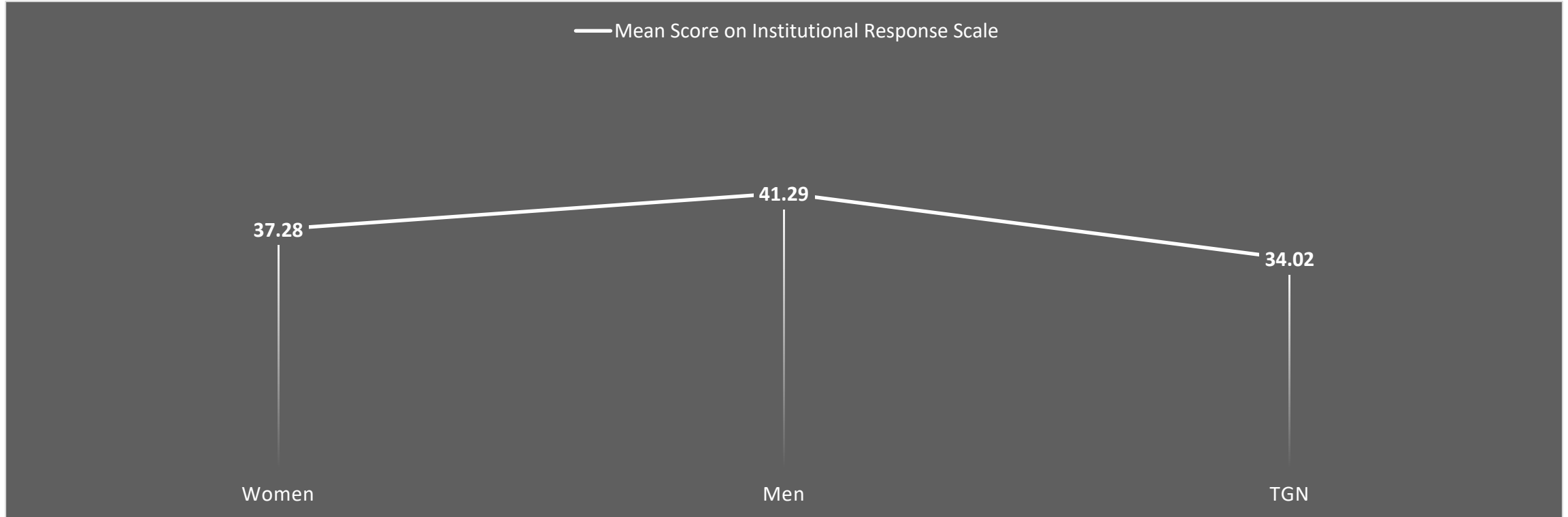
48% (n = 364) of participants believe it is likely or very likely that ECSU would handle the report fairly.

Perceptions of Institutional Response – All Survey Respondents (n = 747)

If a student at ECSU reported sexual misconduct the institution would...



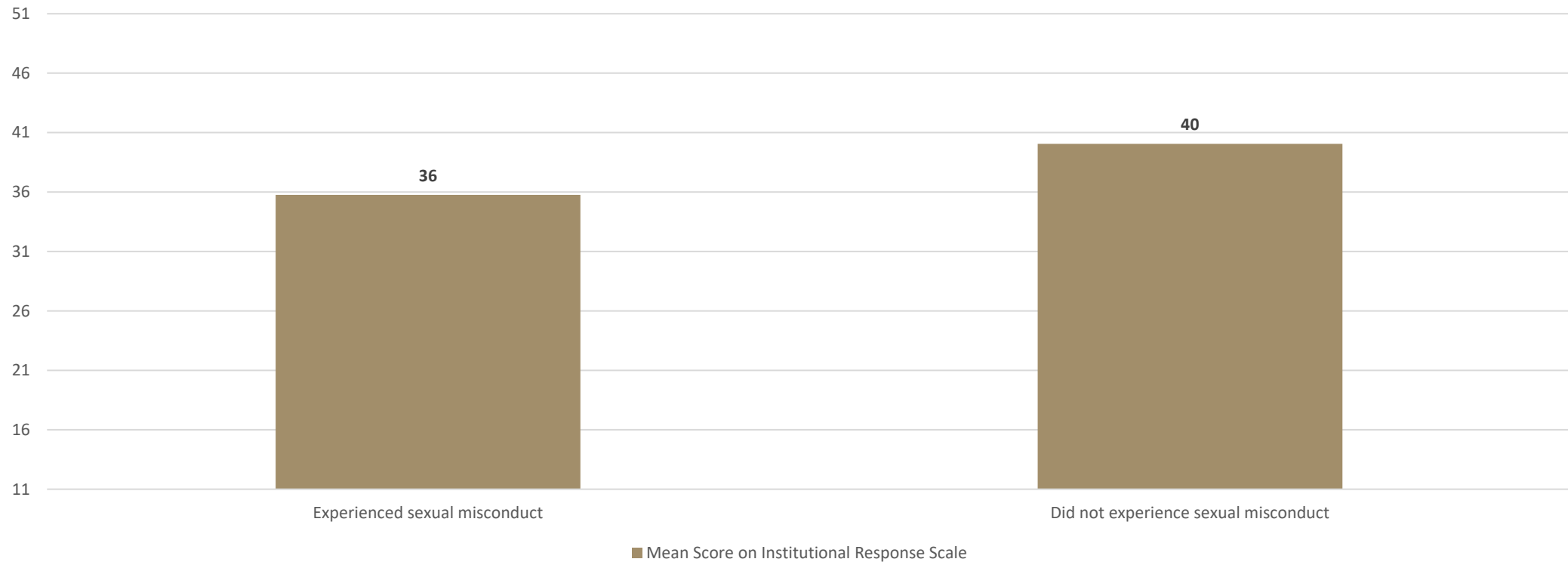
Mean of Institutional Response Scale score by gender identity (n = 747)



Results: Perceptions of Institutional Response

Results: Perceptions of Institutional Response

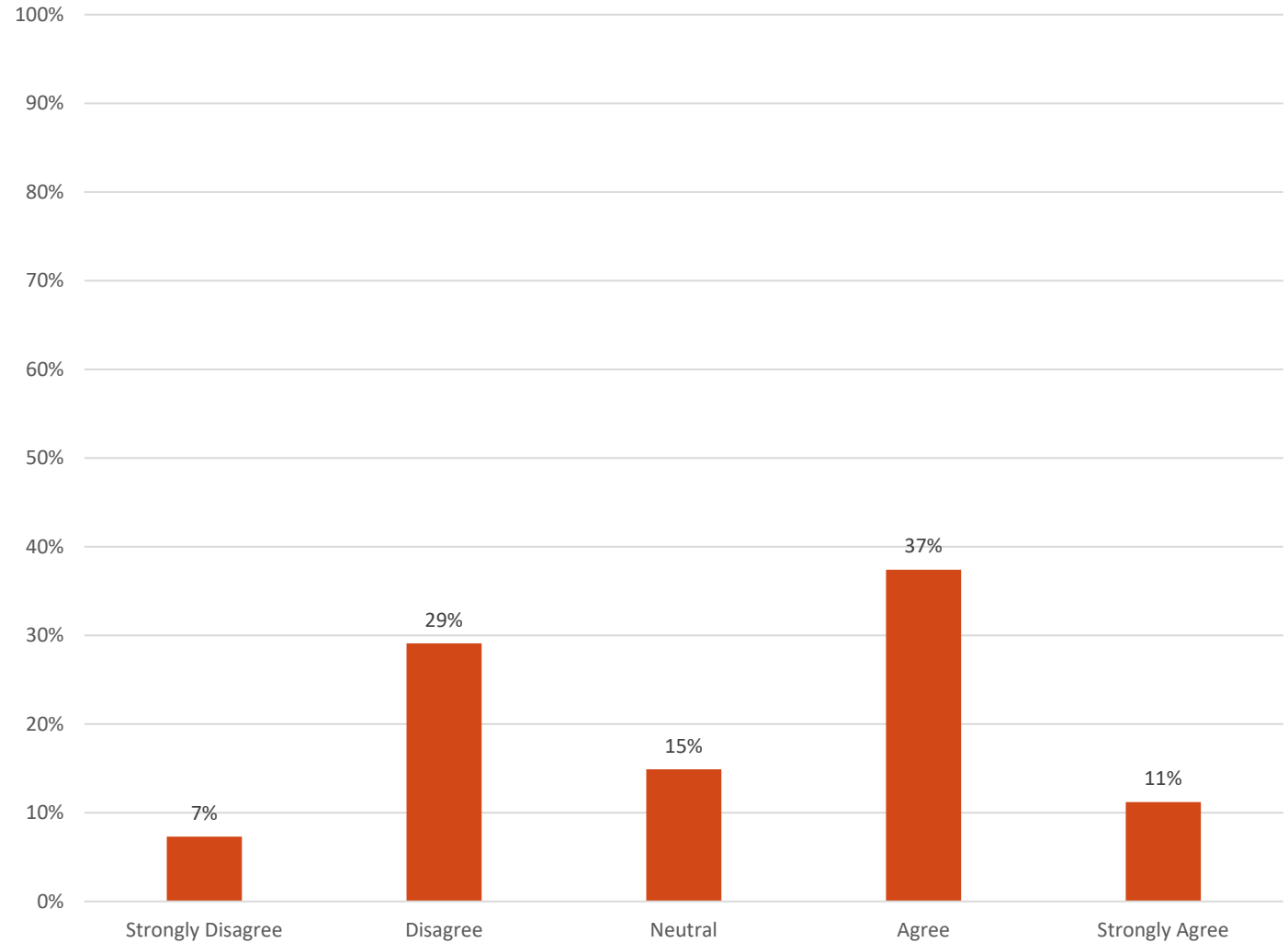
Mean of Institutional Response Scale score by whether a student experienced sexual misconduct at ECSU (n = 718)



Resources and Training

Knowledge of resources – know where to get help – all participants (n = 756)

If a friend or I experienced sexual misconduct, I know where to go to get help on campus.

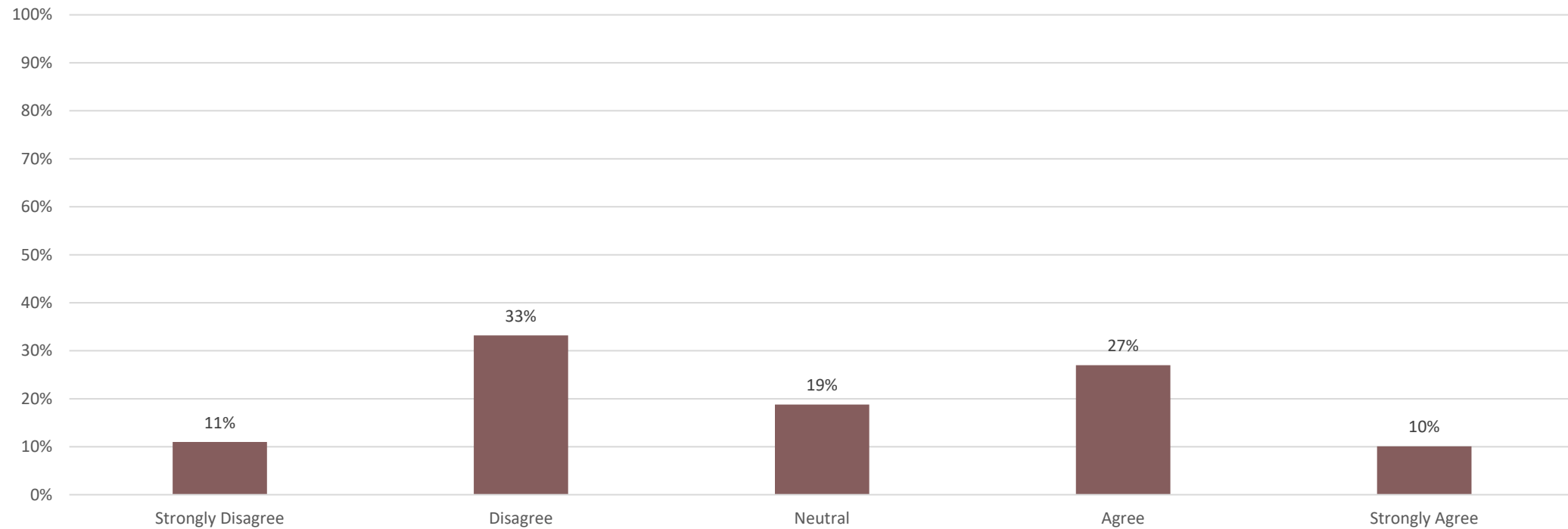


Results: Resources

Knowledge of resources – understand what happens – all participants (n = 756)

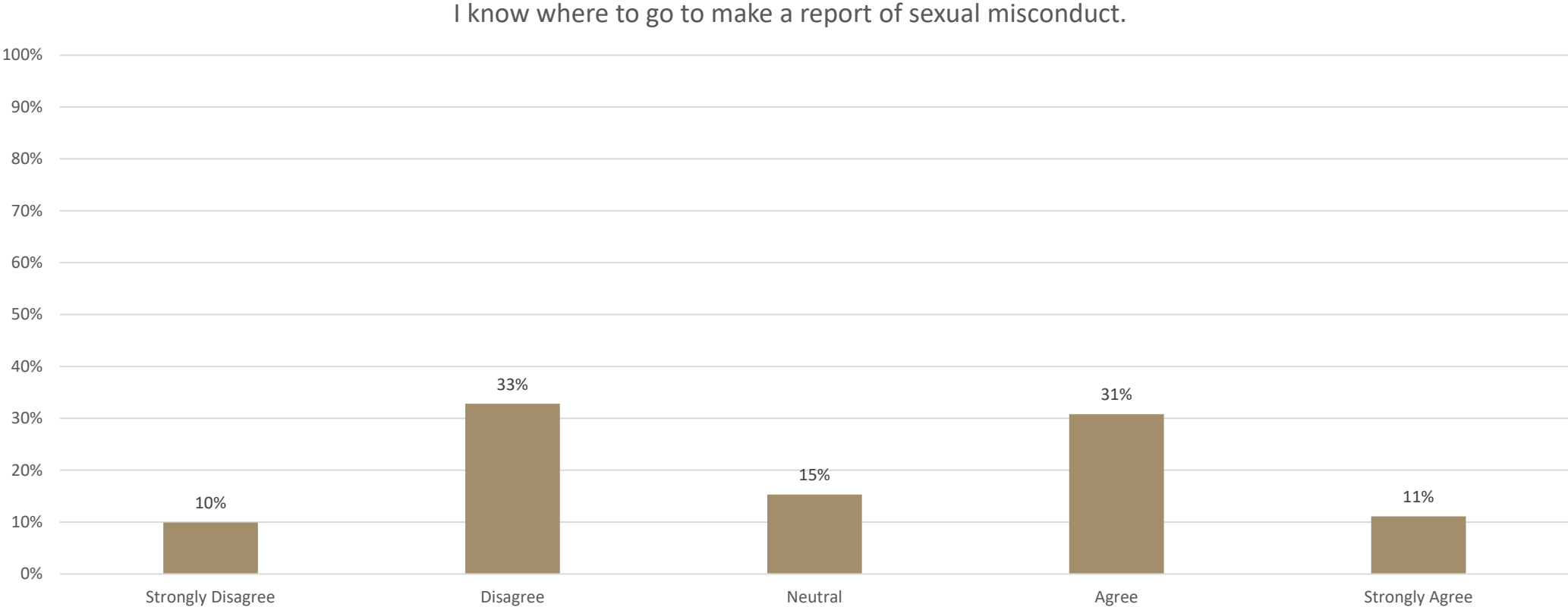
Results: Resources

I understand what happens when a student reports a claim of sexual misconduct at ECSU.



Knowledge of resources – know where to go – all participants (n = 756)

Results: Resources

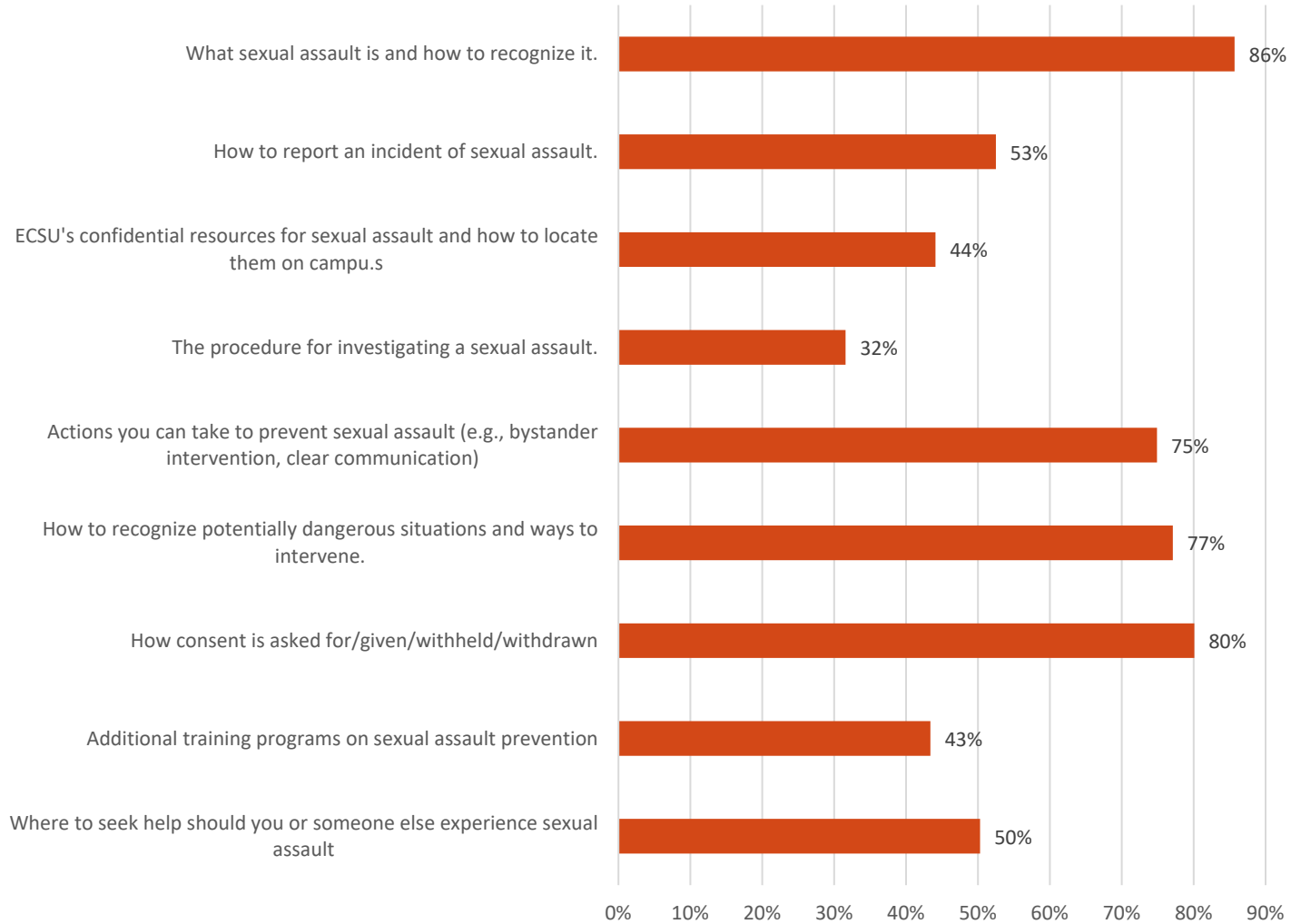


Results: Training

A majority of participants (81.7%, n = 616) had received information or education about sexual misconduct before they became a student at ECSU (and that did not come from ECSU).

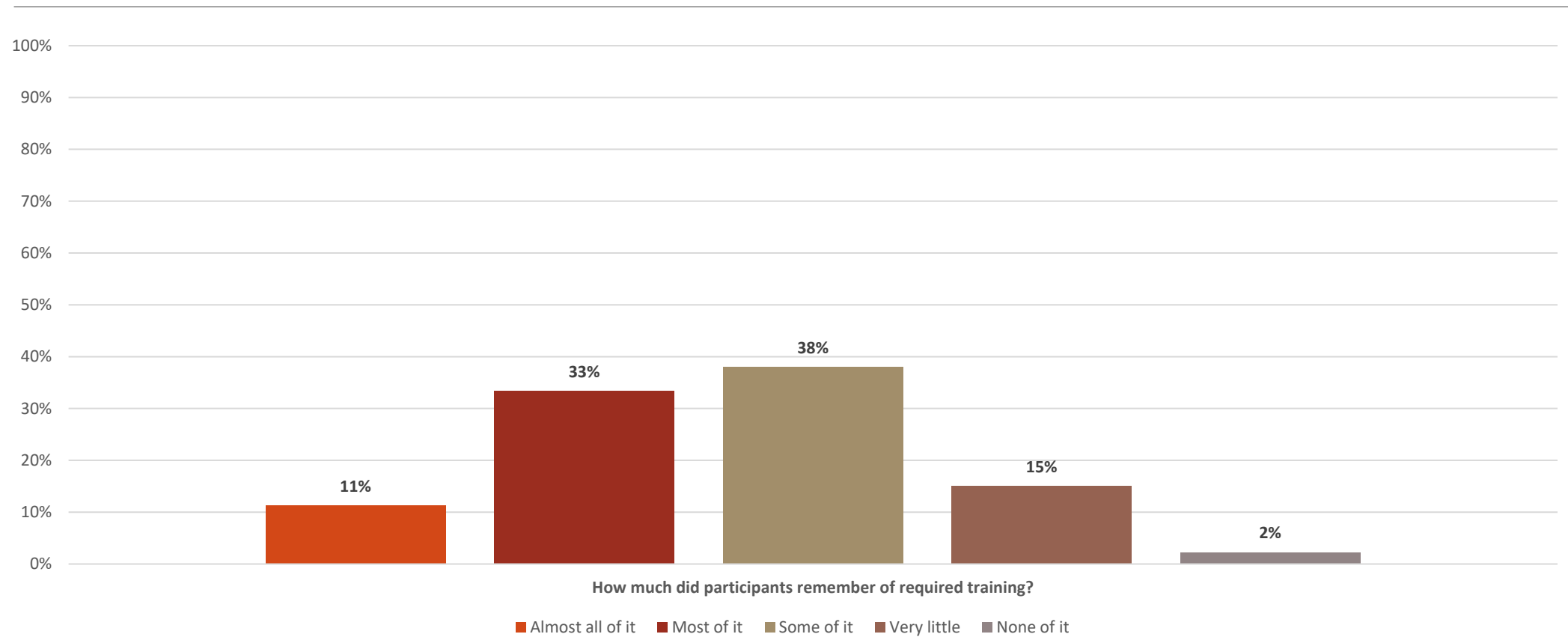
94.7% (n = 712) of participants completed required training modules or information sessions about sexual assault or other sexual misconduct since they became a student at ECSU

Topics included in the required training module or information session at ECSU (n = 790)

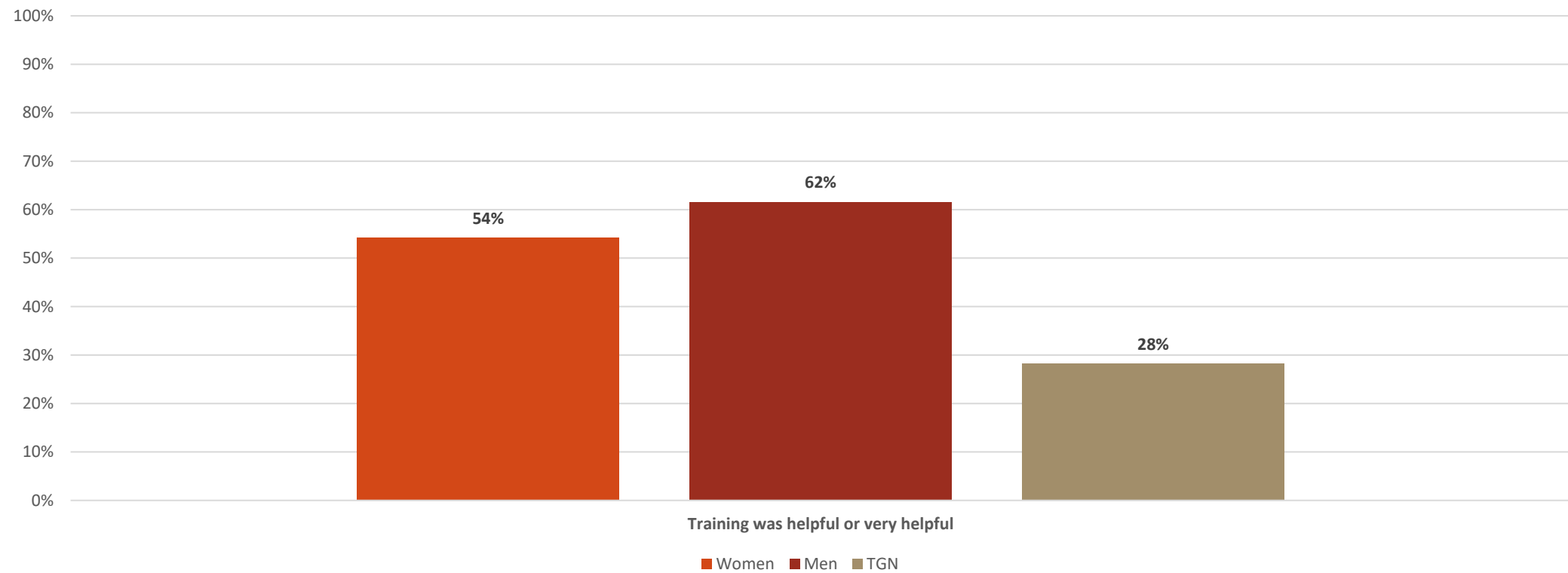


Results:
Training

Percentage of how much participants remember about the information or education from ECSU about sexual assault? (n = 710)



Participants who found the training “helpful” or “very helpful” by gender identity. (n = 702)



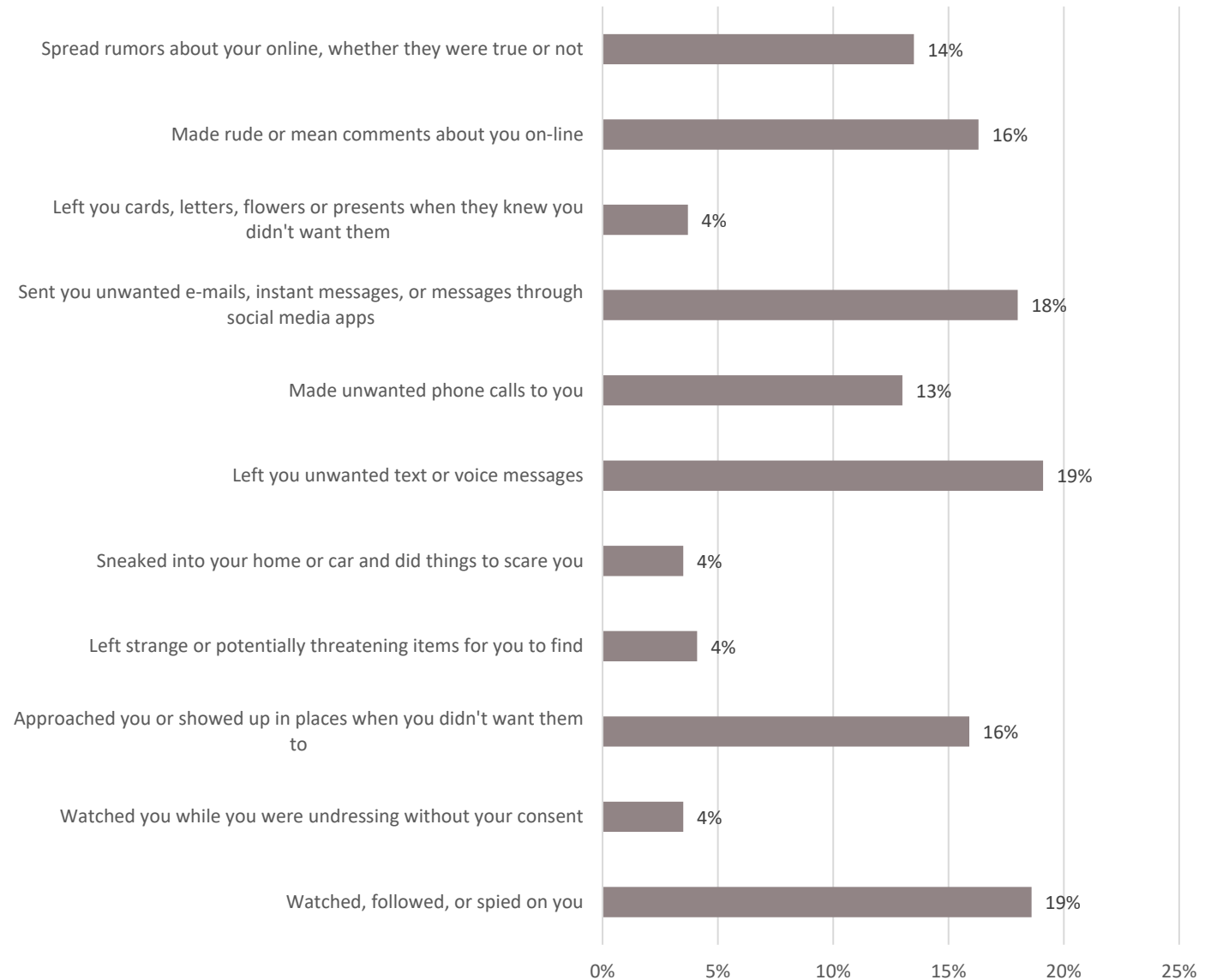
Percentages of students who believe it “likely” or “very likely” they would do these behaviors if they had the opportunity in the future (n = 708)



Stalking Victimization

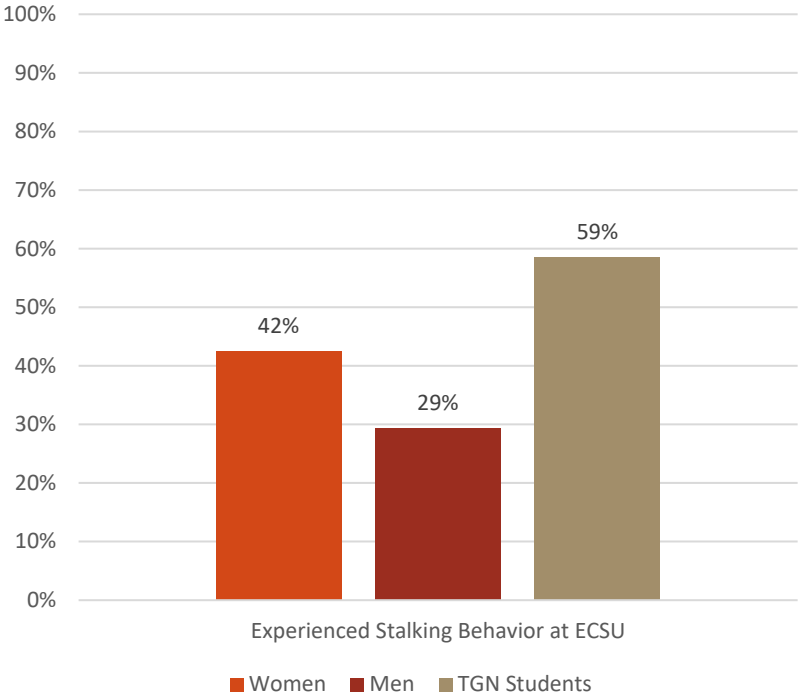
Results: Stalking Victimization Prevalence

Type of stalking behavior experienced by students since attending ECSU (n = 738)

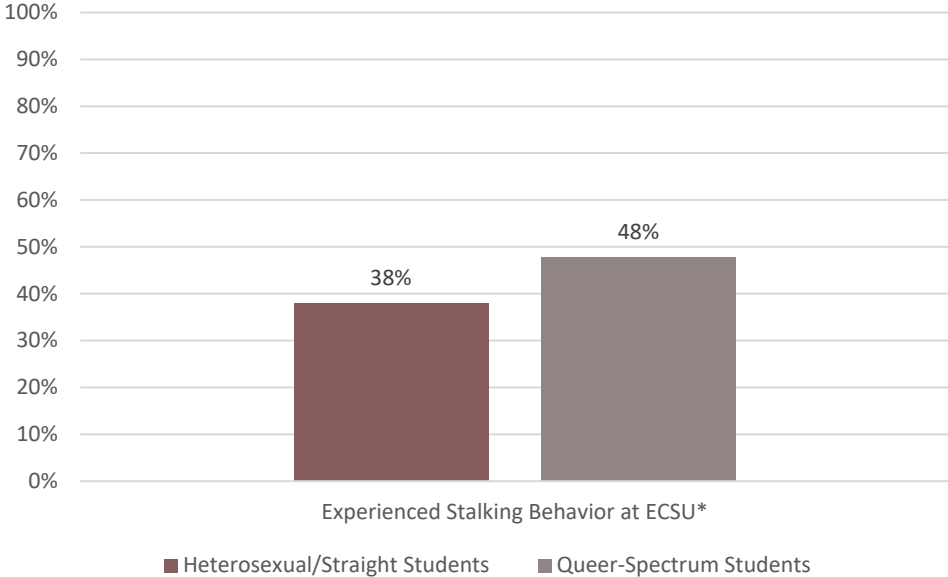


Results: Stalking Victimization Prevalence

Percentage of students who experienced one or more stalking behavior at ECSU by gender identity (n = 720)

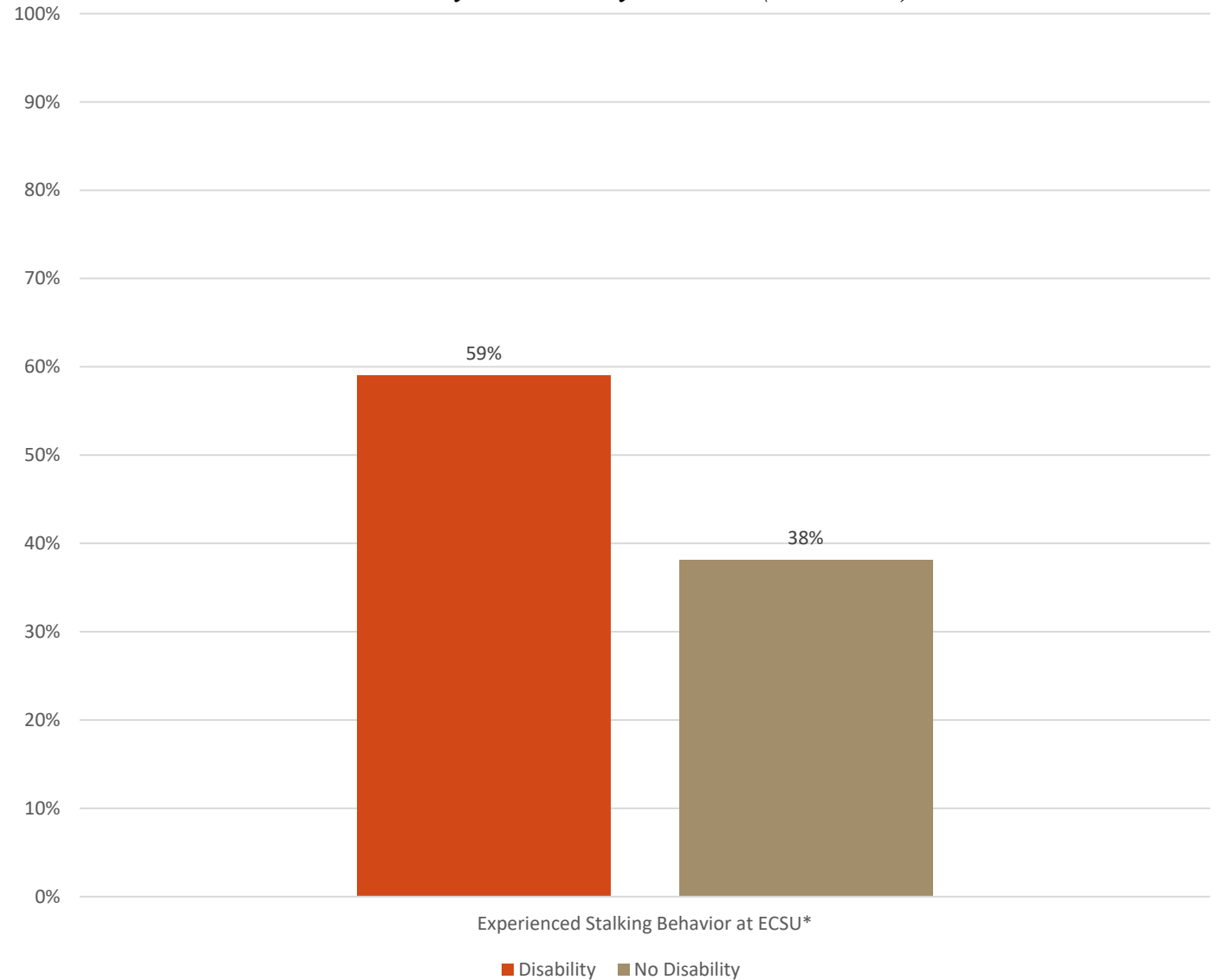


Percentage of students who experienced one or more stalking behavior at ECSU by Sexual Orientation (n = 715)



*The difference is significant, $X^2 (1, n = 715) = 5.61, p = .018, \phi = .092$.

Percentage of students who experienced one or more stalking behavior at ECSU by disability status (n = 728)



*The difference is significant – $X^2 (1, n = 728) = 14.79, p < .000, \phi = -.147$.

Results: Stalking Victimization Prevalence

Stalking Victimization: Location and Relationship to Offender

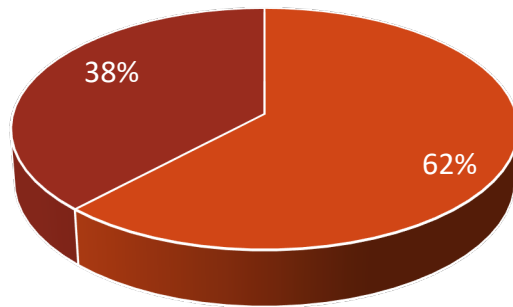
60.2% (n = 174) of participants who experienced at least one stalking behavior indicated the incident occurred on campus.

53.6% (n = 155) of participants believed that the person who did the stalking behavior was an ECSU student.

The most selected relationships to the offender were stranger (40%, n = 112), acquaintance (31%, n = 88), and friend (22%, n = 62)

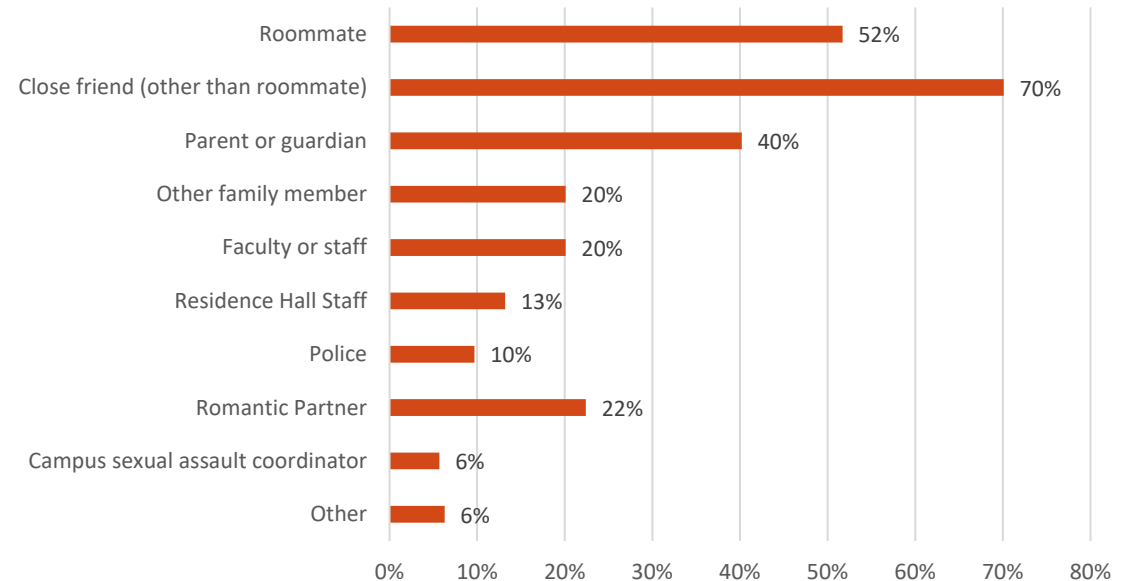
Stalking victimization: Did students tell anyone?

Did students tell someone about stalking experience?



■ Did tell someone ■ Did not tell someone

Who did students tell about unwanted stalking behavior? (n = 174)

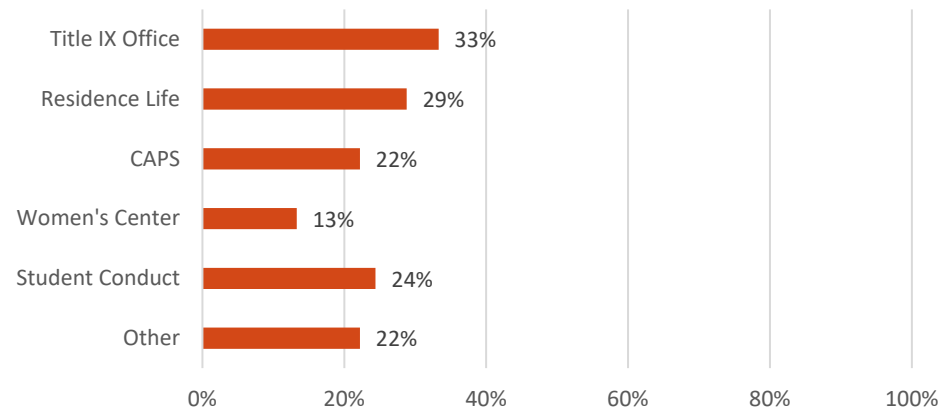


Note. Students were able to select “counselor”, but this category was removed as the cell count was less than 5.

Stalking Victimization: Office Contacts

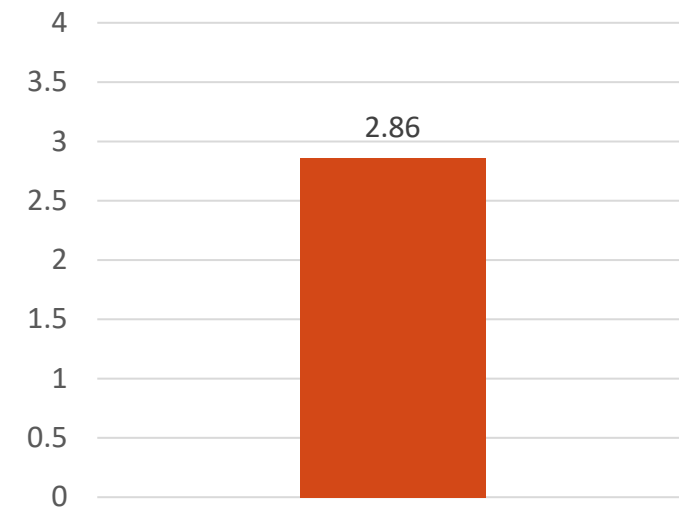
Approximately **26% (n = 45)** of students who told someone about the incident(s) contacted an office or official at ECSU.

Which offices or officials at ECSU did students contact? (n = 45)

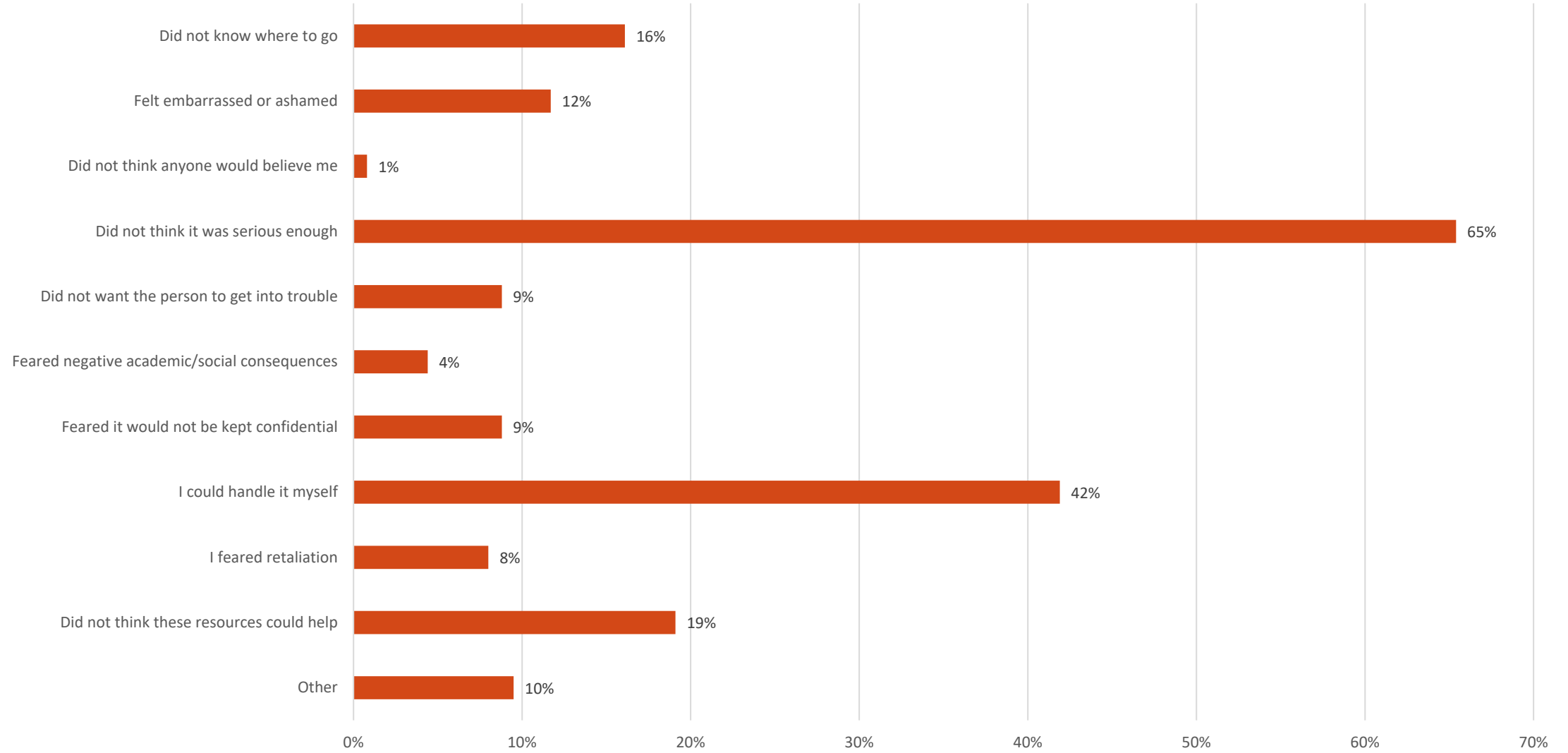


Note. Students were able to select “Pride Center”, “Office of Equity and Diversity” and “Athletics”. These categories were removed from the table due to cell counts less than 5.

Average Helpfulness of Office Contacted



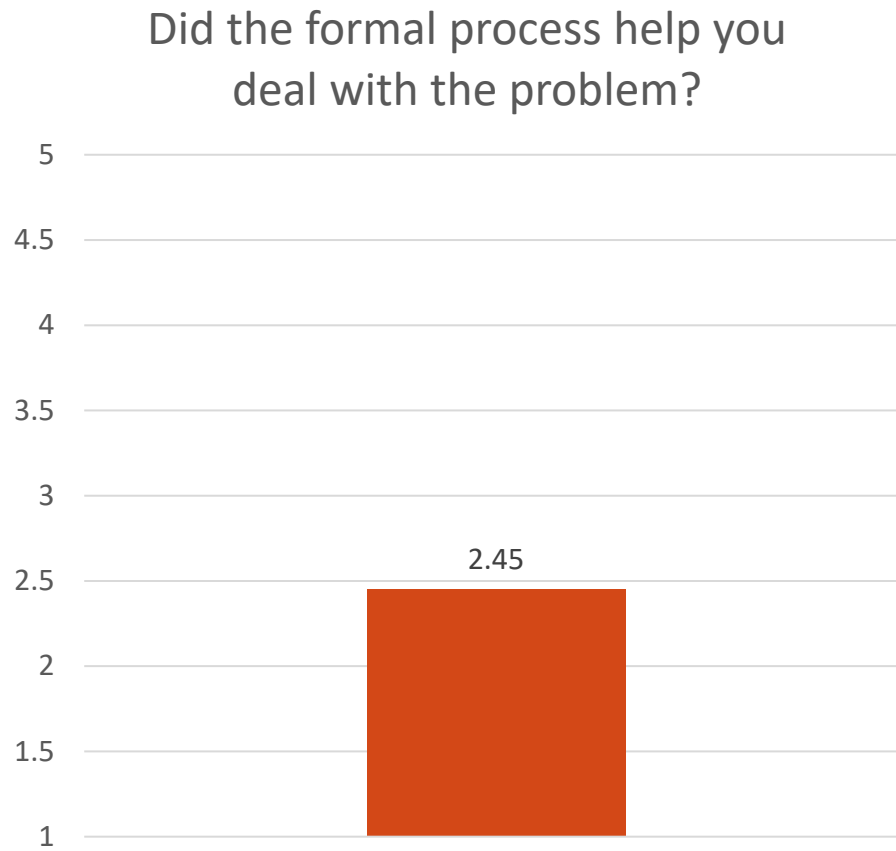
Reasons for not contacting an ECSU office or official about stalking behavior (n = 136)



Stalking Victimization: Formal Reports

10.3% (n = 18) of participants who told someone made a formal report to ECSU about the incident(s)

60% (n = 9) of students who made a formal report made a formal report to the Title IX Office, and 46.7% (n = 7) to another Administrator



Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Victimization

IPV Victimization

13.2% (n = 95) of students in the sample experienced IPV while a student at ECSU.

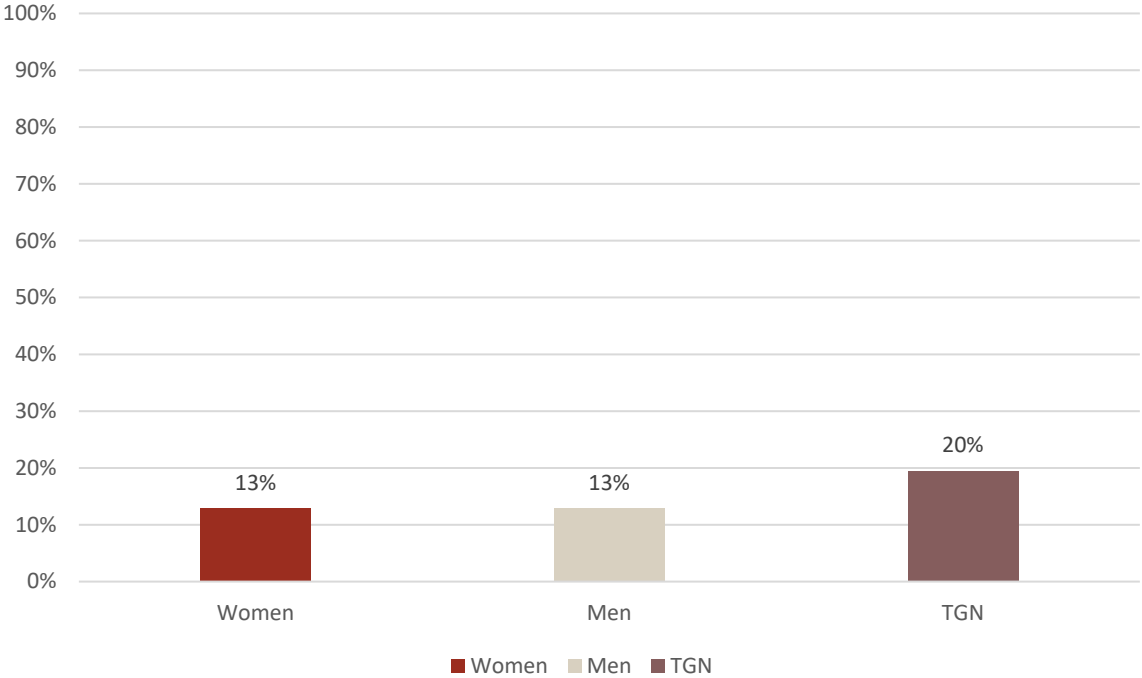
10.3% (n = 74) of participants had had a partner who controlled or tried to control them

6.1% (n = 44) have had a partner threaten physical harm

4.9% (n = 34) of students have had a partner that used physical force or physically injured them

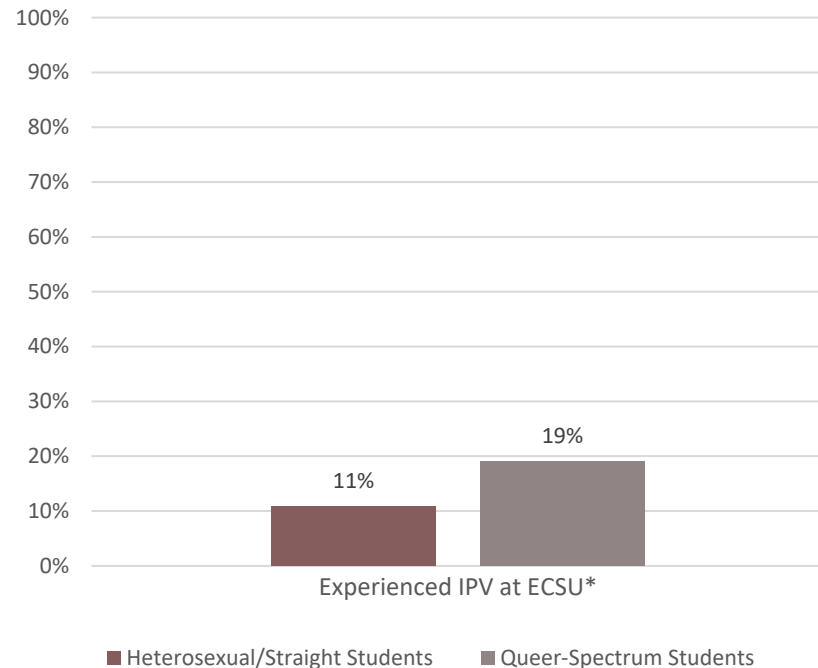
IPV Victimization by Gender

Intimate Partner Violence Victimization Prevalence by Gender Identity (n = 717)



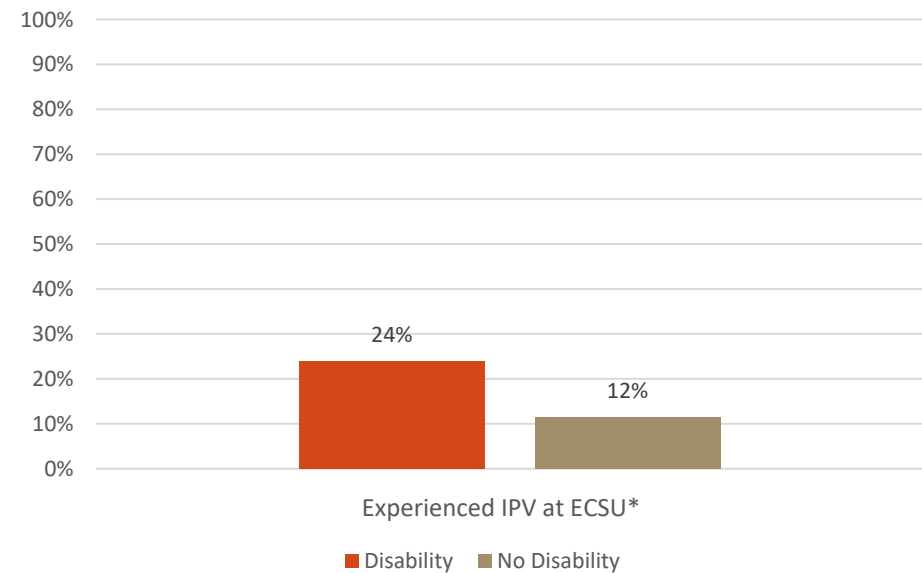
IPV Victimization by Sexual Orientation and Disability

Percentage of students who experienced IPV while students at ECSU by sexual orientation (n = 707)



*The difference is significant: $X^2(1, n = 707) = 8.23, p = .004, \phi = .112$.

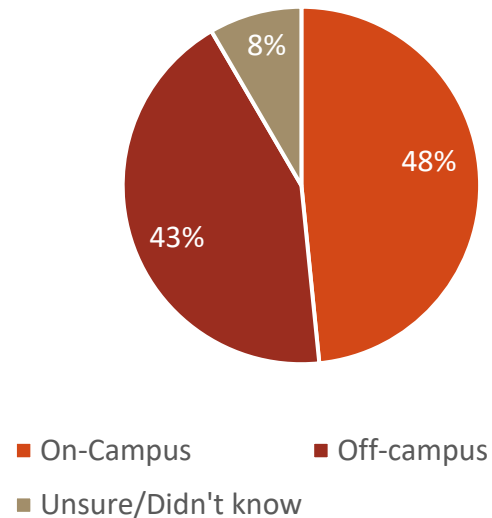
Percentage of students who experienced IPV at ECSU by disability status (n = 719)



*The difference is significant: $X^2(1, n = 719) = 10.10, p = .001, \phi = .125$.

IPV Location and Relationship to Offender

Location of incident(s)

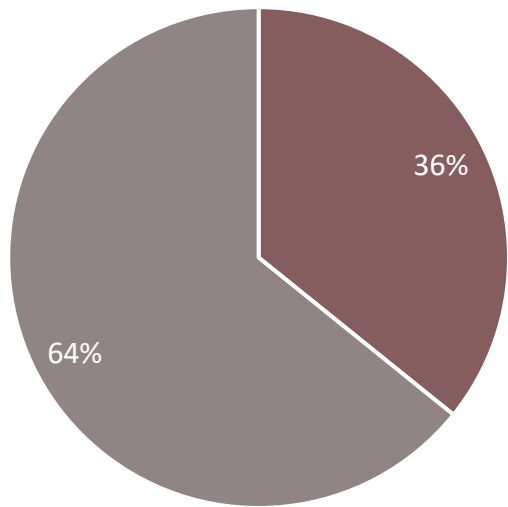


44.2% (n = 42) of students who experienced IPV said the offender was another ECSU student.

Almost half of participants said the offender was a former romantic partner (47.4%, n = 45)

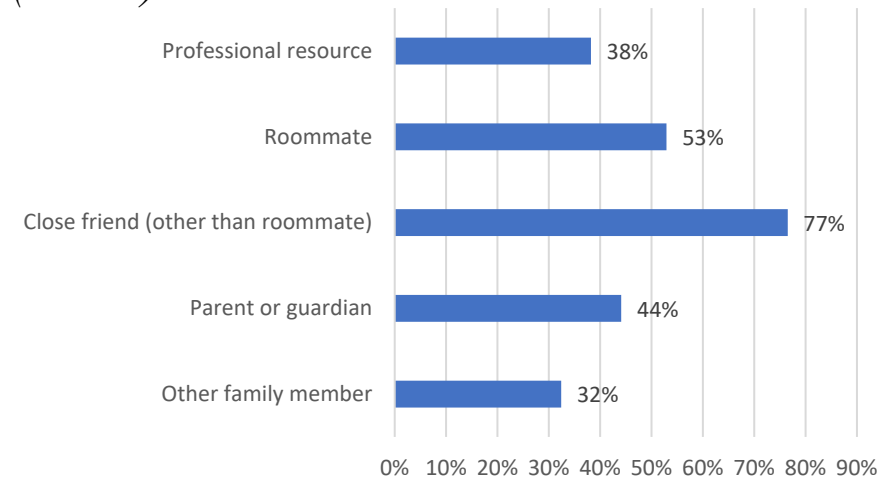
IPV: Did students tell someone?

Did you tell anyone about the IPV incident(s)?



■ Told someone ■ Did not tell anyone

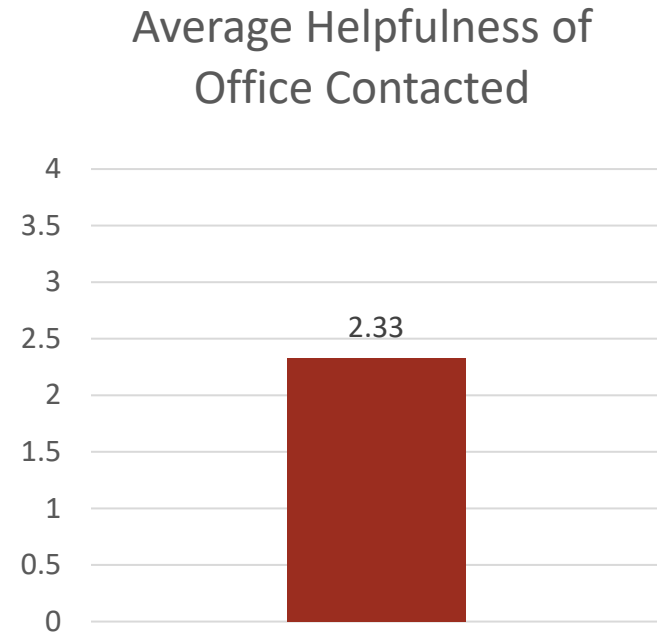
Percentages of who individuals that experienced IPV told about the incident(s) (n = 34)



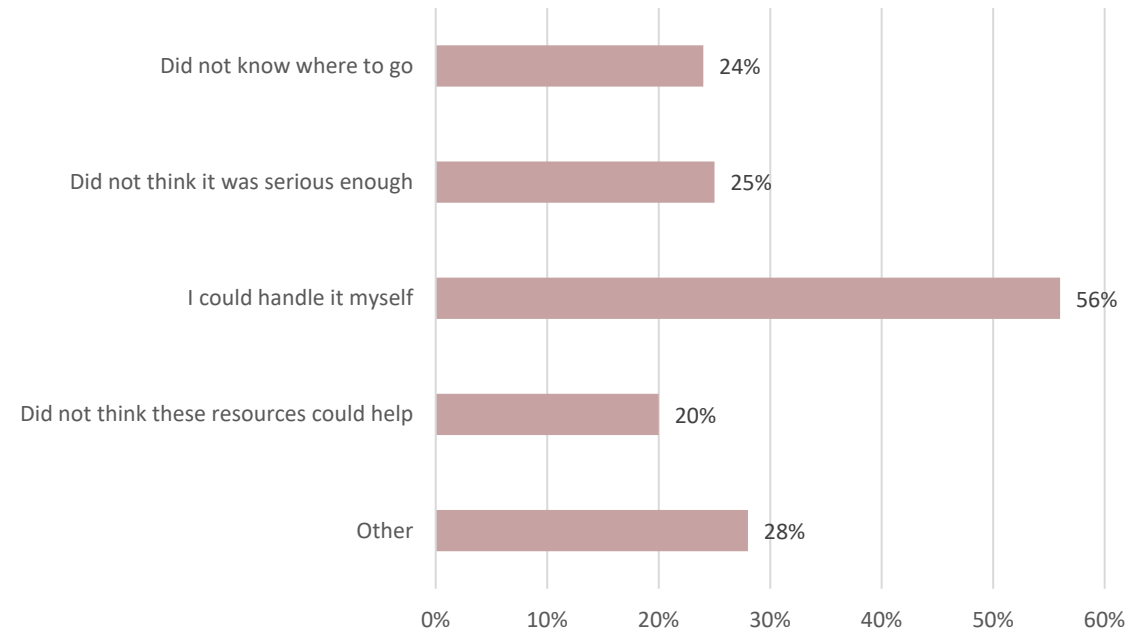
Note. Due to cell counts under 5, several categories (“counselor”, “faculty/staff”, “residence life staff”, “police”, and “campus sexual assault coordinator”) were re-coded into a single category called “professional resources”. The category “romantic partner” was removed from the table due to a cell count below 5

IPV: Did students contact an office or official?

Approximately **26.5% (n = 9)** of students who told someone about the incident(s) contacted an office or official at ECSU.



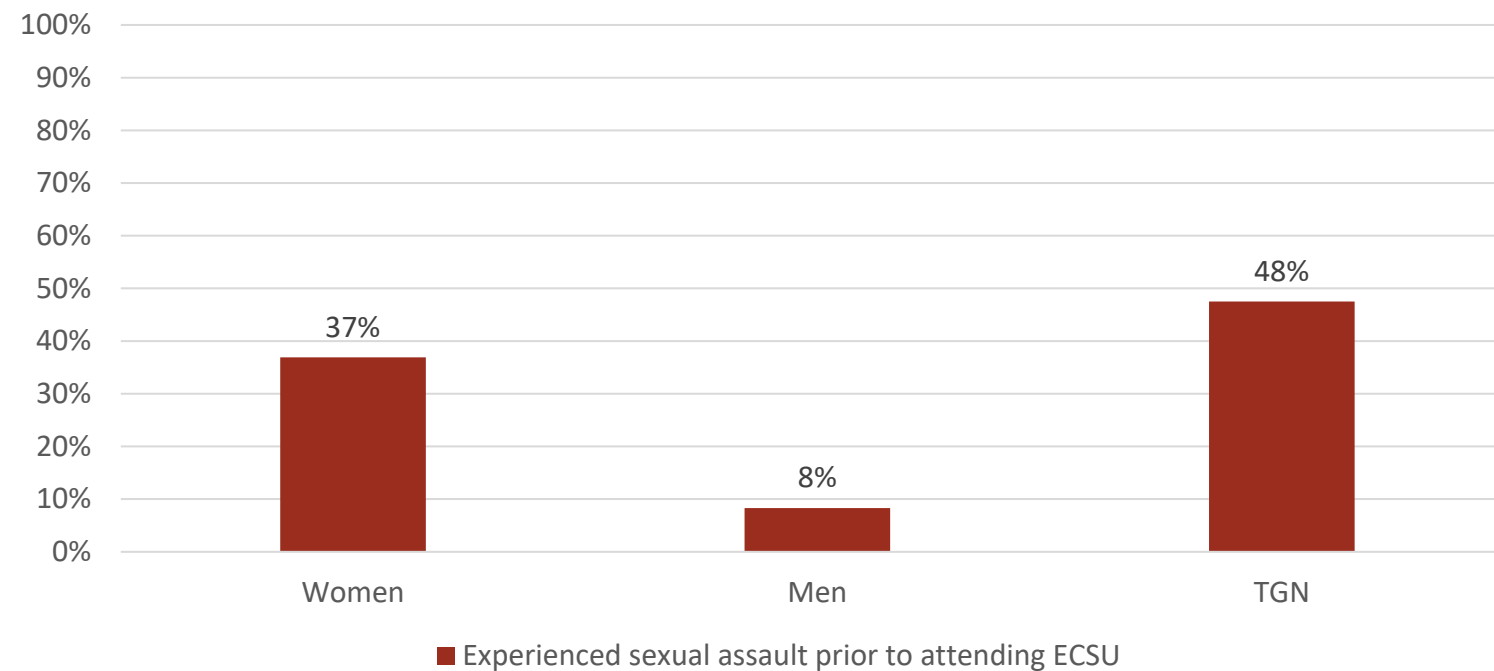
Reasons for not contacting an office or official at ECSU about IPV (n = 25)



Sexual Assault Victimization

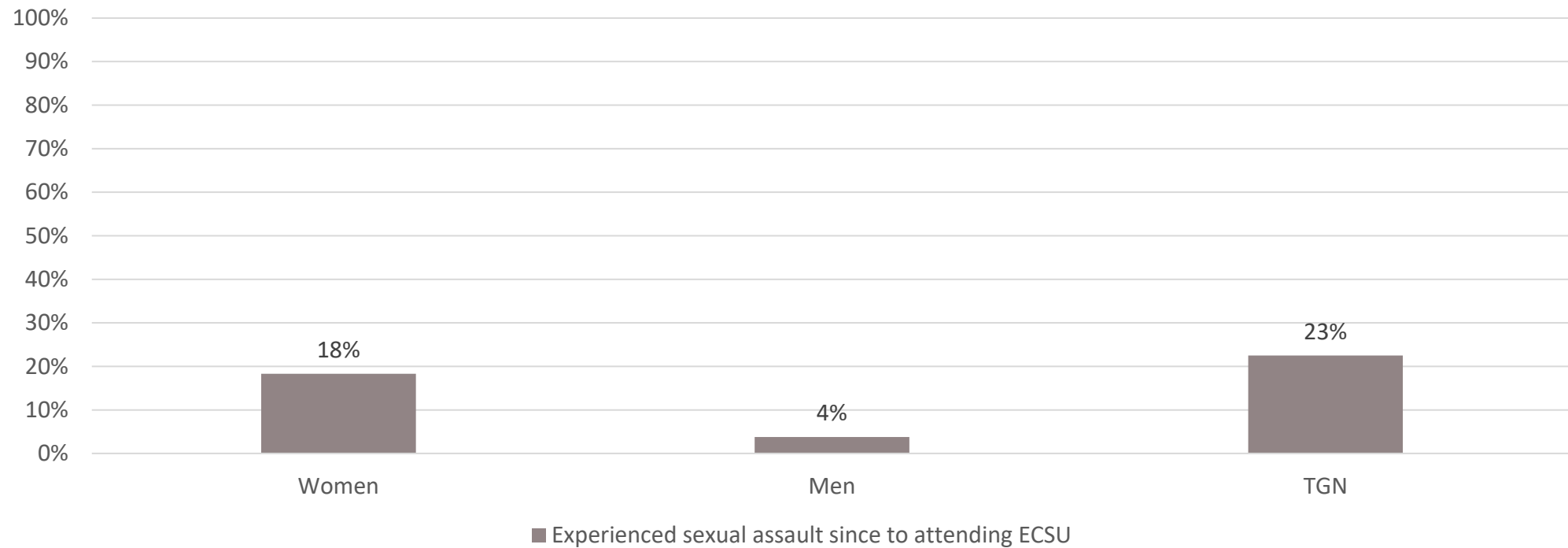
Sexual assault prior to attending ECSU

Percentage participants who experienced sexual assault prior to attending ECSU by gender identity (n = 712)



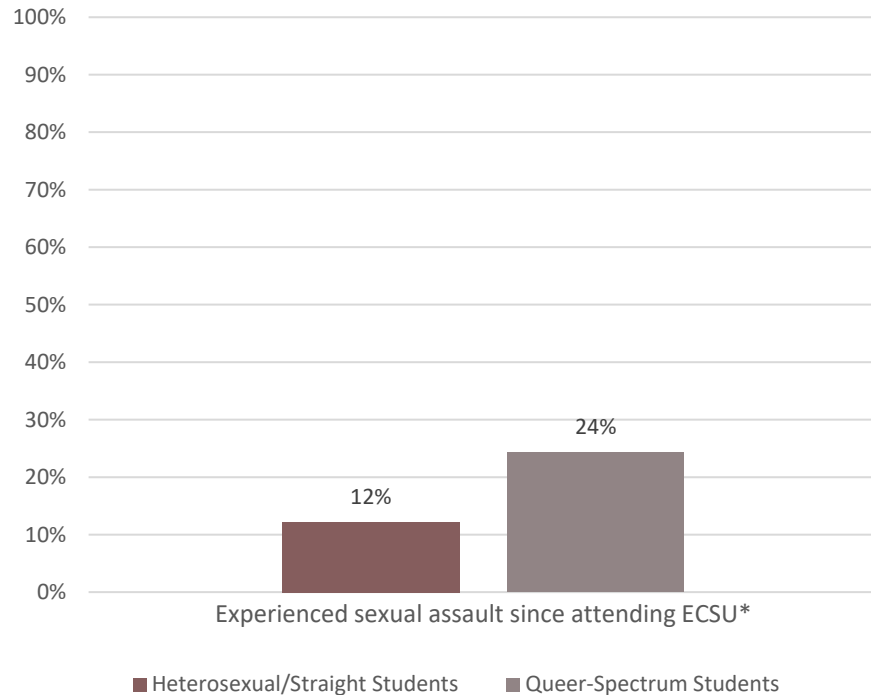
Sexual assault since attending ECSU

Percentage of participants who experienced sexual assault since attending ECSU by gender identity. (n = 712)



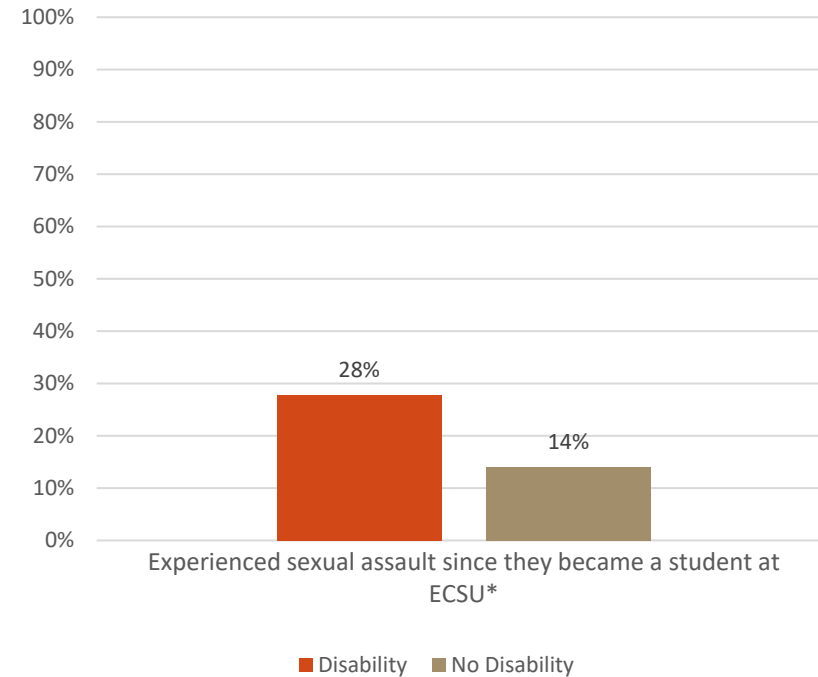
Sexual assault victimization by sexual orientation and disability

Percentage of participants who experienced unwanted sexual contact since they began attending ECSU by sexual orientation (n = 705)



*The difference is significant: $X^2(1, n = 705) = 16.27, p < .001, phi = .152$.

Percentage of participants who experienced unwanted sexual contact since they began attending ECSU by disability status (n = 718)

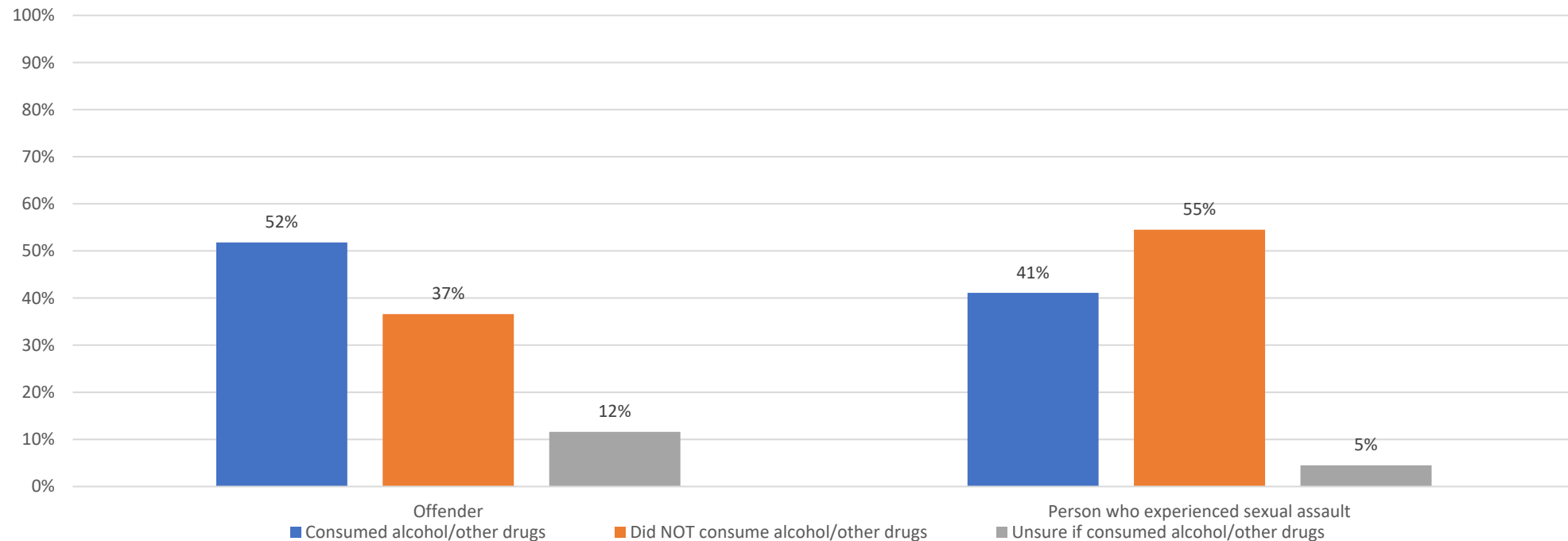


*The difference is significant: $X^2(1, n = 718) = 12.01, p = .001, phi = .129$.

Alcohol and Other Drug Use

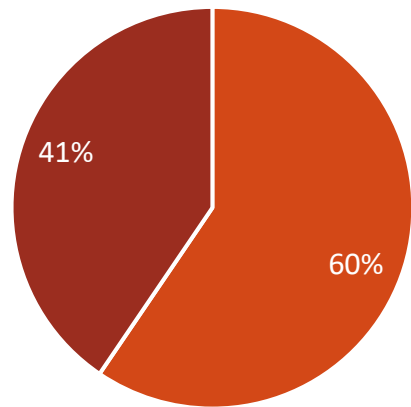
Please keep in mind that you are **not responsible** for what happened, even if you had been drinking or using drugs or had been given a drug without your knowledge or consent.

Percentages of alcohol and/or other drug use by offender and survivor prior to the incident(s)



Sexual Assault Victimization: Location and Relationship to Offender

Location of incident(s)



■ On-Campus ■ Off-campus

63.1% (n = 70) of students who experienced IPV said the offender was another ECSU student.

The offender was most often an acquaintance (37.3%, n = 41), friend (27.3%, n = 30) or stranger (21.8%, n = 24).

How do students label the experience?

Rape

Sexual assault

Uncomfortable

Terrifying

Disgusting

Awful

Bad

Frightening

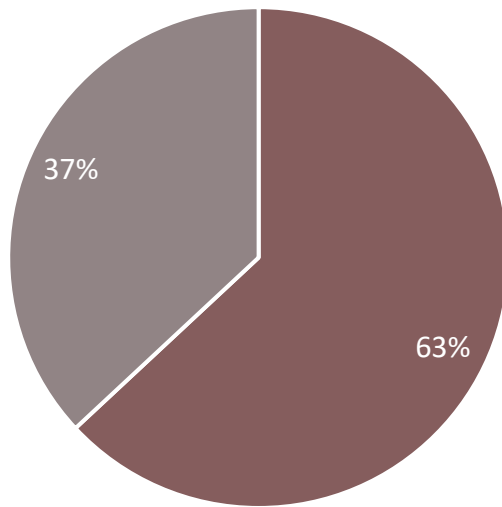
Hard to accept

Unwanted

Terrible

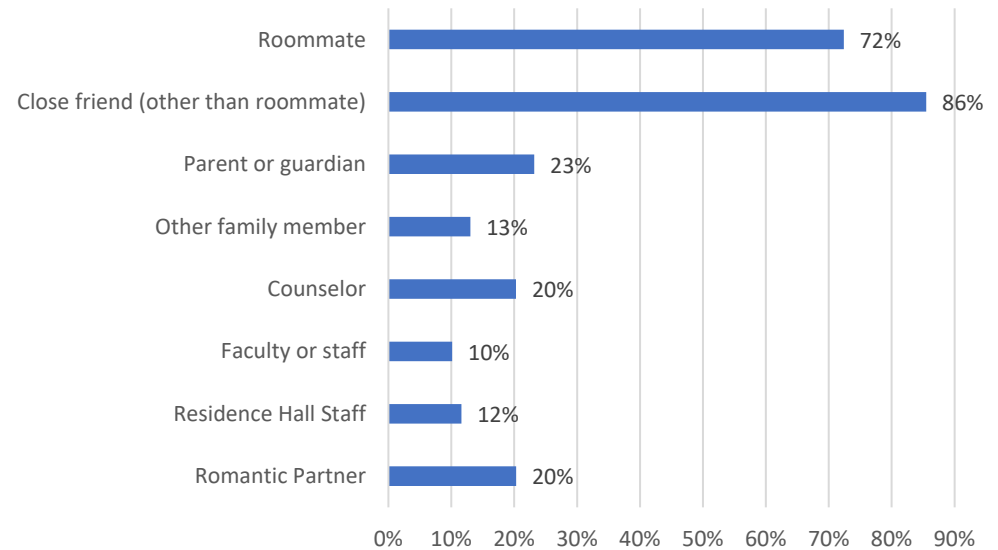
Sexual Assault Victimization: Did students tell someone?

Did you tell anyone about the sexual assault?



■ Told someone ■ Did not tell anyone

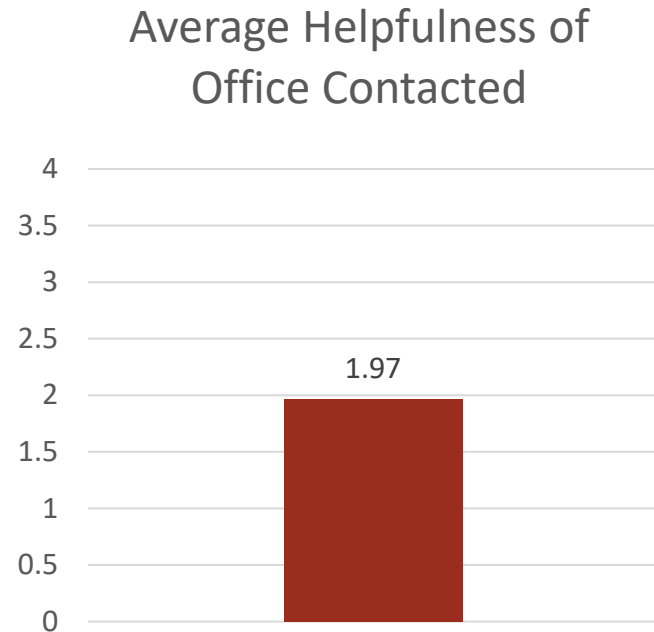
Who participants told about sexual assault. (n = 69)



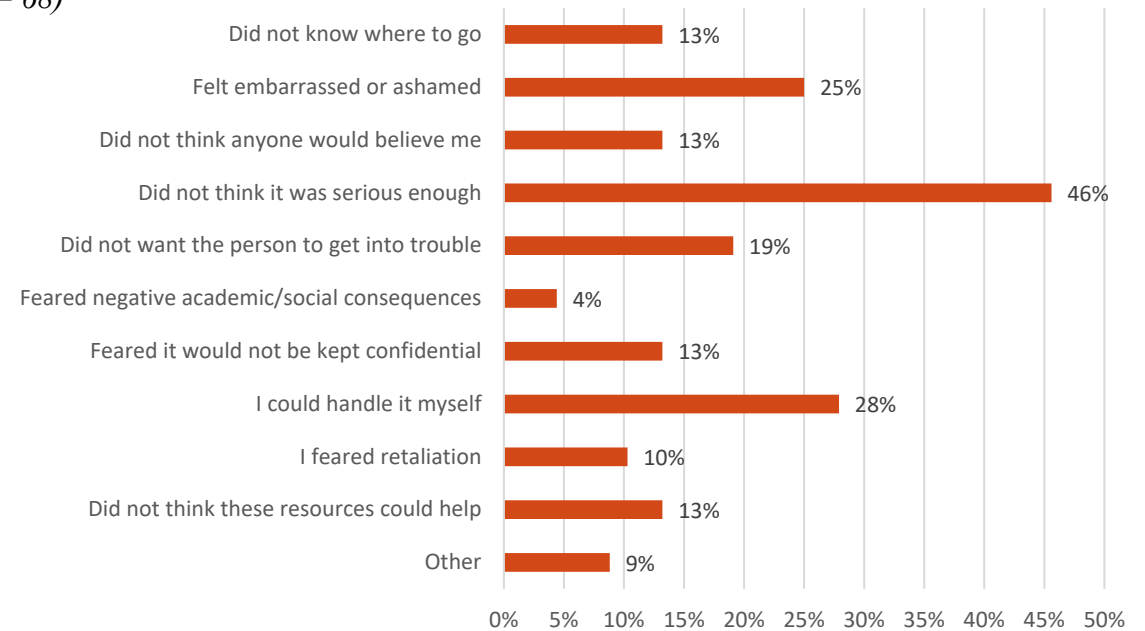
Note. Students could select “campus victim advocate” and “police”. However, these categories were removed from the chart as they had cell counts less than 5.

Sexual assault victimization: Did students contact an office or official?

Approximately **28.6% (n = 20)** of students who told someone about the incident(s) contacted an office or official at ECSU.



Reasons students who experienced sexual assault did not contact ECSU office or official about sexual assault (n = 68)



Open-Ended Questions

Do you have any suggestions for how ECSU can improve their efforts?

- Believe victims.
- Listen to victims.
- Take victims seriously.
- Improve support for survivors
 - More trauma informed counseling services.
 - Anonymous means to access services (i.e., texting line)

“Hire more people in CAPS. We are begging for support and need real crisis hours. Not every students has insurance or money to get outside help.”

Do you have any suggestions for how ECSU can improve their efforts?

- More information/communication on reporting and resources
 - “I think eastern should do a better job at providing support and showing where to go to report sexual violence or misconduct because as a junior I still do not know.”
- Improvements in the adjudication process
 - “Hold people accountable who sexually assault others.”
- Changes to mandatory training
 - “Change the training. “Not Anymore” does NOT help in anyway.”
- Events and programs
 - “I think talking about it more with campus events and in classes to spread awareness. The events ECSU does are meaningful and bring people together to share support. Also, should talk more about disability and sexual assault.”

Questions? Comments?

Feel free to
contact me to
discuss further!

Sarah D. Nightingale, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Social Work

Eastern Hall 19

nightingales@easternct.edu