

Student Life 2013 Survey Aggregate Findings

SALAD

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The Campus Climate Project Offers Valuable Insights to Key Elements of the UMass Environment, as Experienced by Students

YEAR 1

Campus Climate Survey Spring 2012

Student Connections

Student Engagement

*Student Perceptions & Experiences of
Diversity on Campus*

Harassment & Violence on Campus

YEAR 2

Student Life Survey Spring 2013

Friendships

Diversity Dynamics

Sexual Harassment & Assault Experiences

Alcohol & Drug Environment

Climate A	Climate B	CC 2012		SL 2013	UG	Masters
3,719	3,758	7,477	Invitations	3,501	2,800	701
675	690	1,365	Respondents	742	581	161
18.2%	18.4%	18.3%	Response Rate	21.2%	20.75%	23.0%

Demographics: Self-Reported

	Total		UG		Masters	
	N	Valid %	N	Valid %	N	Valid %
First-year student	95	13.9%	95	17.6%	0	0.0%
Sophomore	192	28.0%	192	35.6%	0	0.0%
Junior	122	17.8%	122	22.6%	0	0.0%
Senior (including 5th year)	132	19.3%	131	24.3%	1	0.07%
Masters student	144	21.0%	0	0.0%	144	99.3%
Female	413	60.6%	332	61.5%	81	57.0%
Male	260	38.1%	201	37.2%	59	41.5%
Transgendered	2	0.3%	0	0.0%	2	1.4%
Another identity	7	1.0%	7	1.3%	0	0.0%
Students of color	156	21.1%	105	18.1%	51	31.7%
White students	507	68.4%	421	72.6%	86	53.4%
None/Other	78	10.5%	54	9.3%	24	14.9%
First gen	190	27.8%	150	27.8%	40	27.8%
Veteran	6	.9%	3	.6%	3	2.1%

Students' Campus Leadership Positions

Students holding Leadership Positions	N	Valid % (N=194)	Sample % (N=742)
Teaching assistant	85	43.8%	11.5%
Graduate assistant	49	25.3%	6.6%
RSO E-board	42	21.6%	5.7%
Other peer advising	30	15.5%	4.0%
Student governance (SGA, RHA, GSO)	22	11.3%	3.0%
Resident Assistant (RA)	21	10.8%	2.8%
Peer health educator	2	1.0%	0.3%
Total # Student Leaders	194	100.0%	26.1%

How are you using DATA & INFORMATION to guide your work?

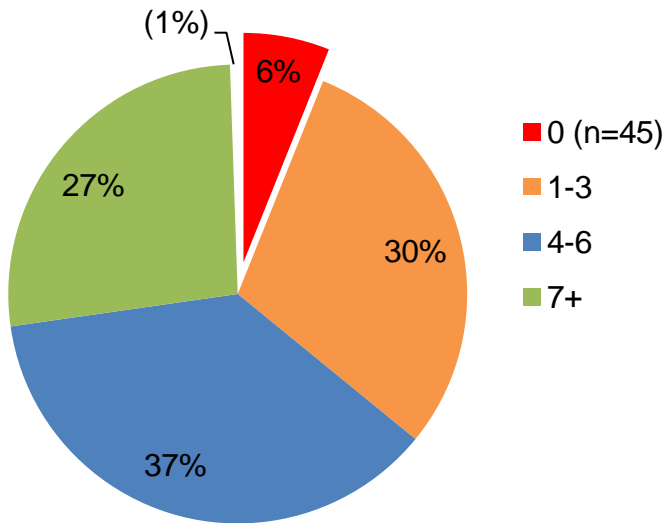
YOUR CHALLENGE!

- **During this discussion, listen & note ONE piece of data or information that you can use to guide your work this semester**
 - **How will you use it?**

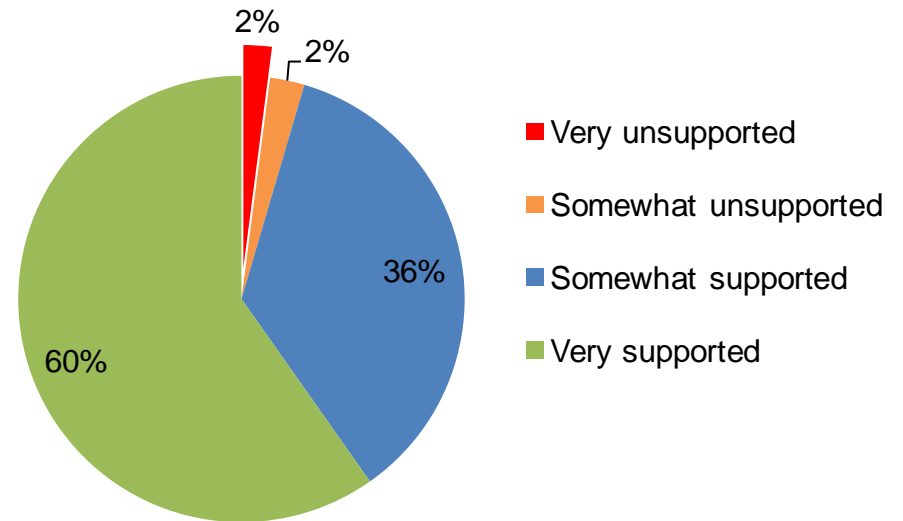
Friendships

The Vast Majority of Respondents Have Developed Close, Supportive Friendships at UMass

Number of Close Friends at UMass Amherst Currently (N=741)



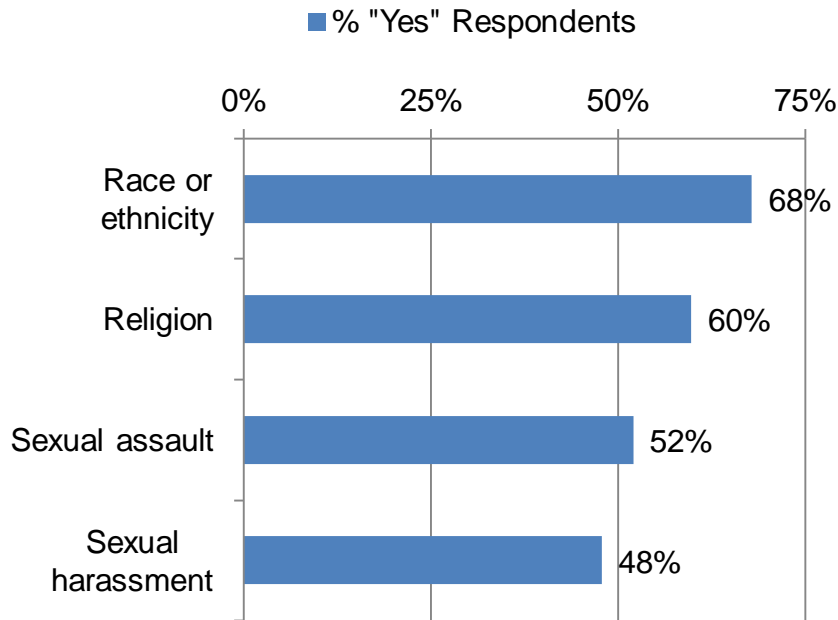
Feelings of Support from UMass Amherst Close Friends (n=681, Respondents with 1+ close friends)



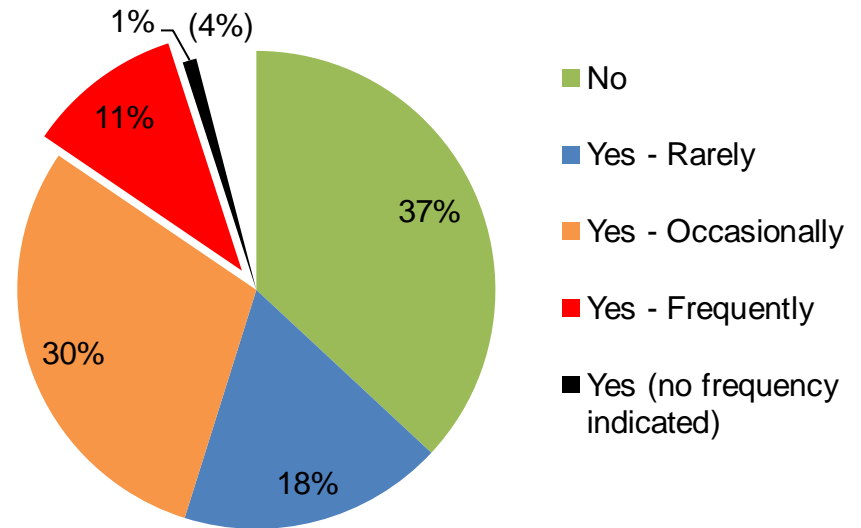
Friendships

Despite Their Friendships, 42% of Respondents Had Felt Lonely Occasionally or Frequently During 2012-13

Q: Have you and your close friends at UMass Amherst ever discussed any of the following issues, as they relate to UMass Amherst? (n=692, Respondents with 1+ friends)



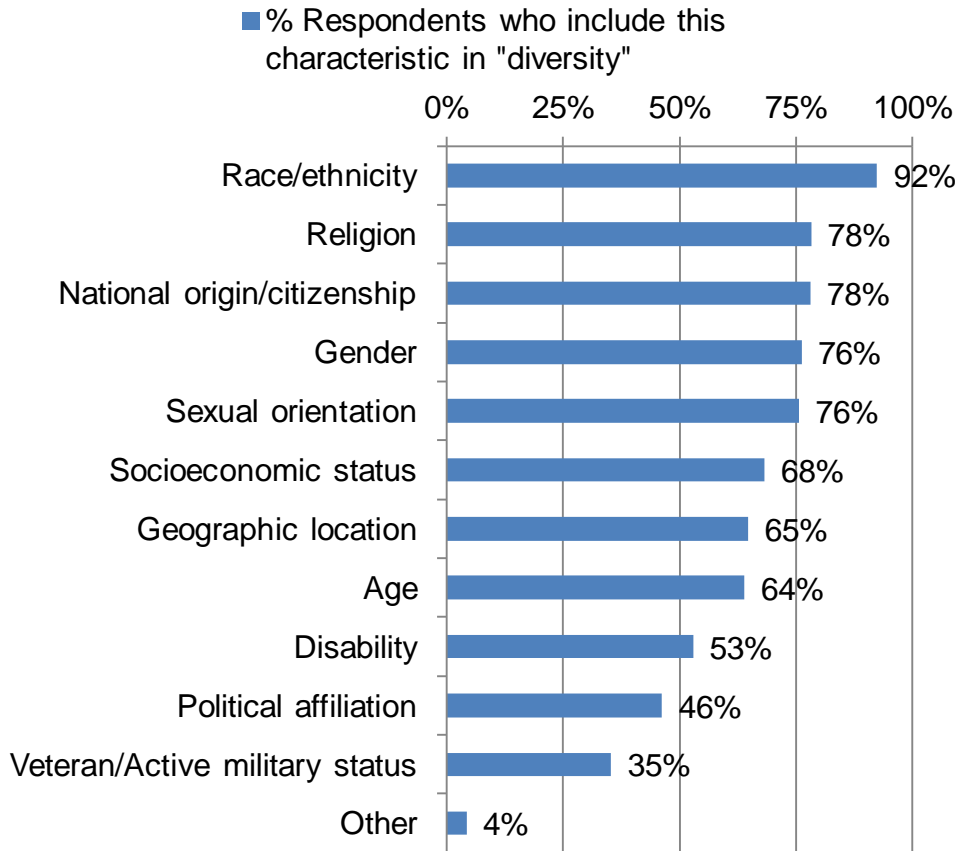
% of Students who Felt Lonely at Any Time during 2012-13 Academic Year (N=742)



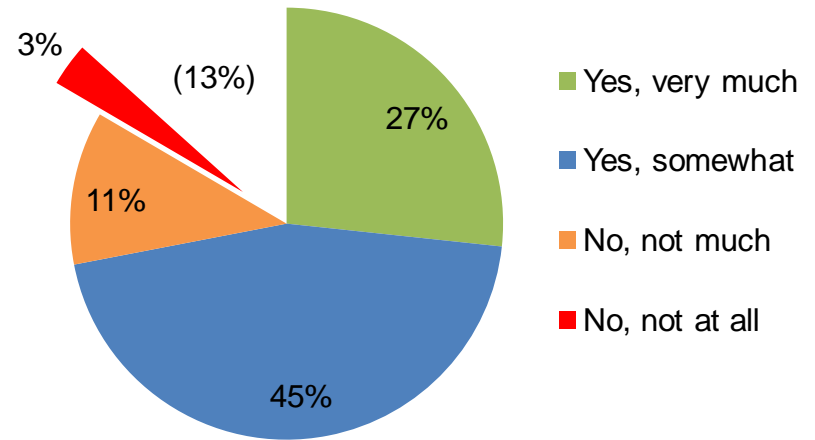
Diversity

The Majority of Respondents Define Diversity in Multiple Ways, and View UMass Leaders to be Committed to Diversity

Characteristics Included in Students' Concepts of "Diversity" (N=742)



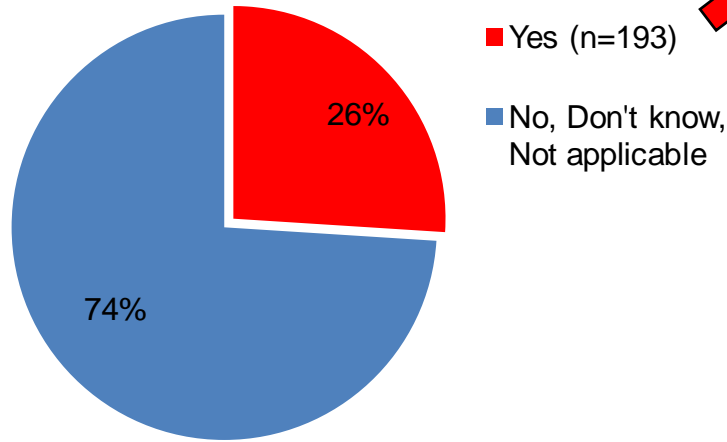
Q: Based on the characteristics that you've just described, do you think UMass Amherst's administrative leadership is committed to diversity? (N=742)



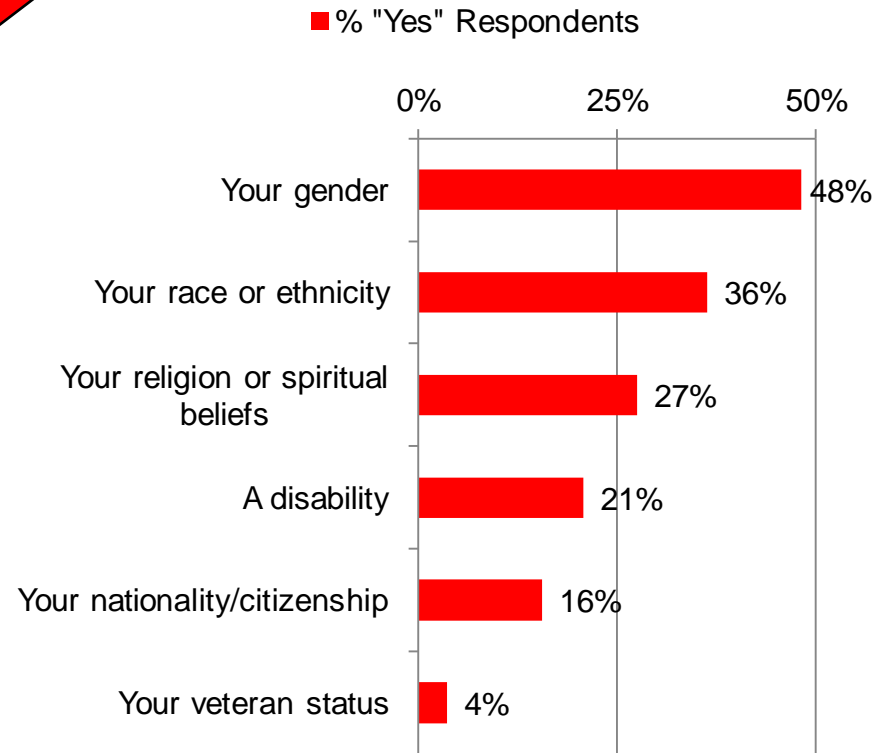
Diversity

One in Four Respondents Had Felt Uncomfortable for Diversity-Related Reasons, Most Frequently Due to Gender or Race/Ethnicity

Respondents Who Have Ever Felt Uncomfortable at UMass Amherst for Diversity-Related Reasons (N=742)

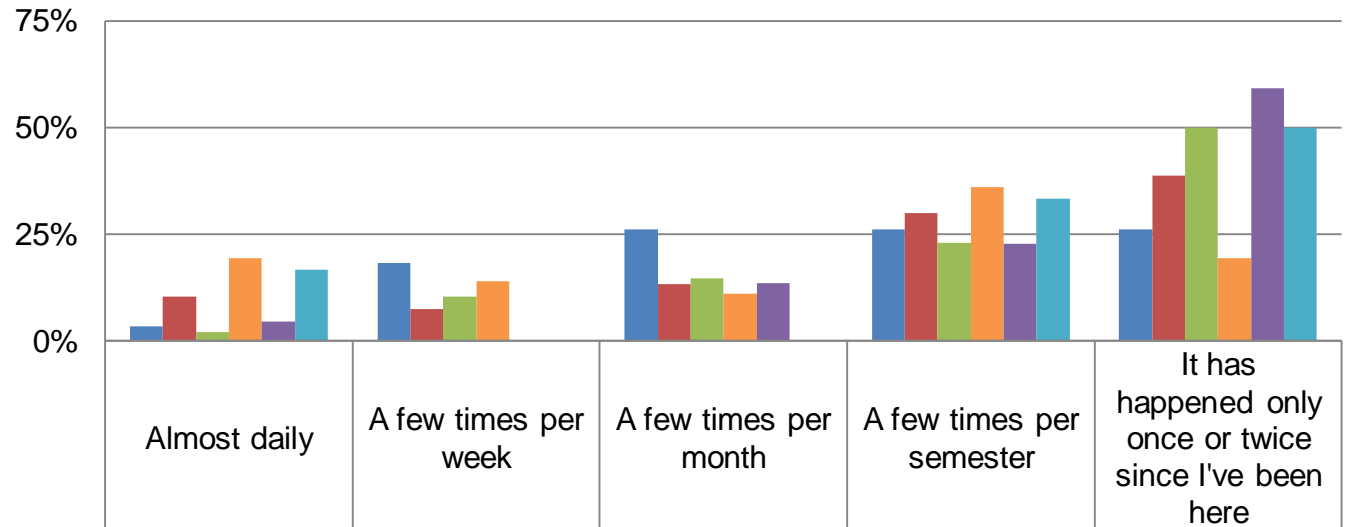


Types of Diversity-Related Reasons (n=193)



Diversity Dynamics

Frequency of Respondents Feeling Uncomfortable at UMass Amherst for Diversity-Related Reasons (n=193)

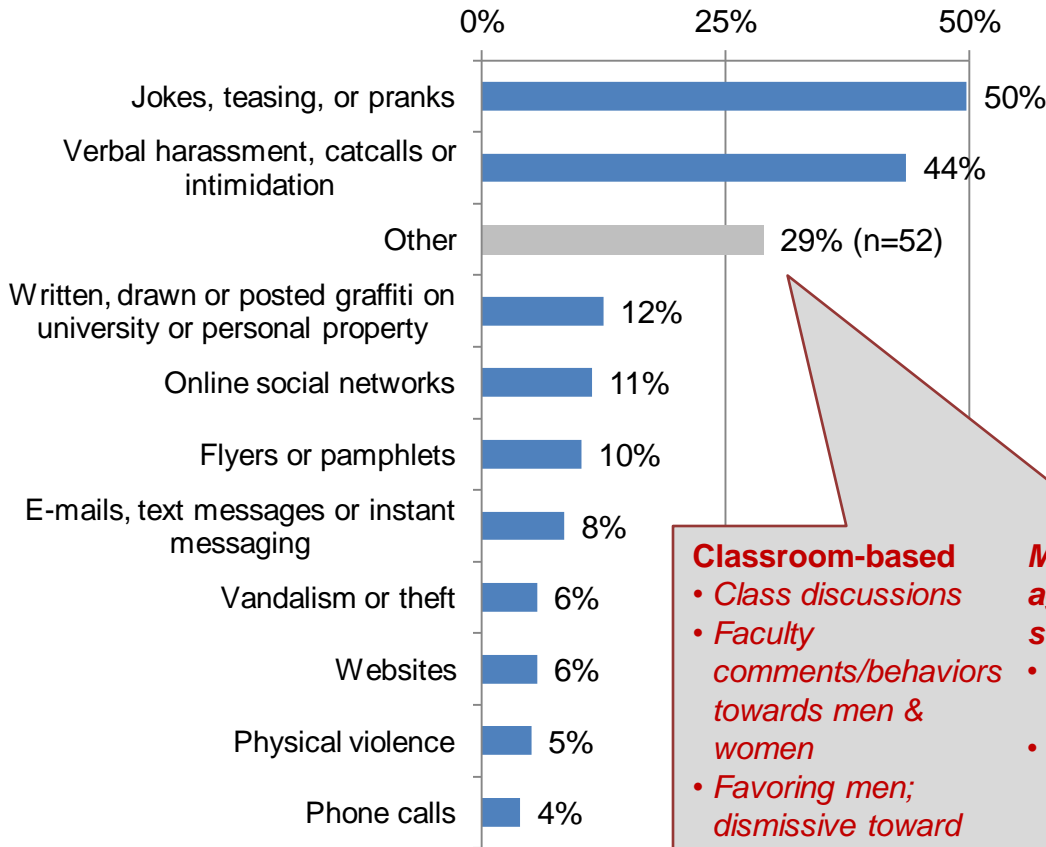


	Almost daily	A few times per week	A few times per month	A few times per semester	It has happened only once or twice since I've been here
■ Your gender (n=88)	3%	18%	26%	26%	26%
■ Your race or ethnicity (n=67)	10%	7%	13%	30%	39%
■ Your religion or spiritual beliefs (n=48)	2%	10%	15%	23%	50%
■ A disability (n=36)	19%	14%	11%	36%	19%
■ Your nationality/citizenship (n=22)	5%	0%	14%	23%	59%
■ Your veteran status (n=6)	17%	0%	0%	33%	50%

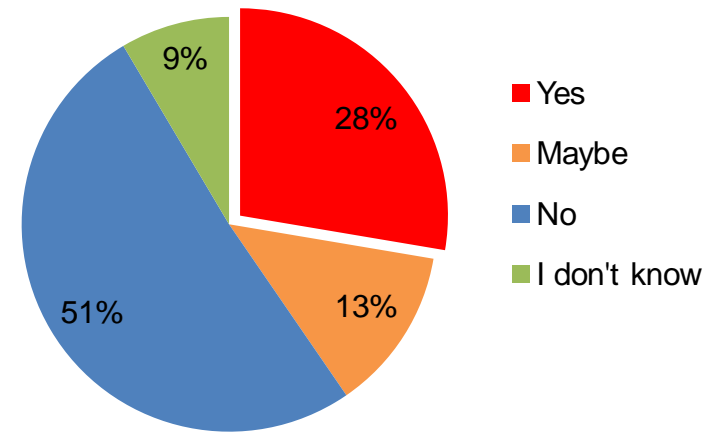
Diversity Dynamics

Negative Experiences Occurred Most Frequently in the Form of Jokes, Teasing, or Verbal Harassment

Nature of the Diversity-Related Experiences that Bothered Students the Most (n=177)



Students Who Were Acquainted with Anyone Who Contributed to their Uncomfortable Experience (n=188)



<p>Classroom-based</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Class discussions</i> • <i>Faculty comments/behaviors</i> • <i>Favoring men; dismissive toward women</i> 	<p>Multiple micro-aggressions & subtleties</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Nonverbal (body language, looks)</i> • <i>Conversation (undertones, discriminatory)</i> • <i>Social settings</i> • <i>Word of mouth</i> 	<p>Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Outsider/Other</i> • <i>Sexual assault/rape culture</i> • <i>White privilege</i>
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Gender Experiences

42 students offered descriptions of the ways they have felt uncomfortable at UMass because of their gender, including:

- **Experiences:** while socializing at night, in residence, in class, at work, at the gym, playing sports, walking alone on campus at night, being the only female in the room at campus job, at off-campus bars & parties
- **Being subject to:** party culture & objectification of women, faculty sexism/bias/off-putting remarks in class, sexist comments about women's bodies, cliques, marginalization of men, bias toward women or men, actions & comments from drinking/drunken males, preferential treatment of men, sexual advances/comments/innuendos, jokes about women's inferiority, derogatory remarks, dismissive treatment, aggressive behaviors, inappropriate comments
- **Feeling:** general discomfort, shunned, stared at, worried, scared, unsafe, disturbed "by campus' history of sexual attacks on women," vulnerable, disrespected, objectified, stress, intimidated, uneasy

As a woman, I feel that there's a lot of pressure to both be promiscuous and yet not be labeled a 'slut.' I feel like there's a lot of slut shaming that goes on from both men and women.

Senior

I work for UMass Transit and frequently have to walk a mile and a half home to my dorm after work at midnight. Being a tiny female, I always feel vulnerable to attack, and sometimes I think the few students I encounter are very much aware of this whether or not they would actually take advantage of me. While I am grateful for the constant discussion on rape culture, I think it very frequently just reminds people that such a thing is possible, including putting the idea in the mind of a would-be attacker.

Sophomore

Race/Ethnicity Experiences

22 students offered descriptions of the ways they have felt uncomfortable at UMass because of their race/ethnicity, including:

- **Experiences:** in class, walking on campus, in residence halls, and in Amherst & Northampton
- **Being subject to:** stares, shouts, slurs, laughing, being followed, lack of discussion about race/ethnicity in class
- **Feeling:** weird, awkward, excluded, inadequate, disrespected

UMass Amherst is not a very diverse university. I often find myself in classrooms with 30 or more students in which I am the only person of color and it's hard to feel connected in such situations. There have been occasions as well when I have had students make insensitive and derogatory comments about my race/ethnicity.

Junior

Religion Experiences

17 students offered descriptions of the ways they have felt uncomfortable at UMass because of their religion, including:

- **Experiences:** in class, dining commons, extracurricular activity, with friends or peers who don't share/practice their spiritual beliefs. Experiences include students self-identified as Christian, evangelical, Roman Catholic, or Jewish.
- **Being subject to:** difficulties creating a religious organization/chapter, classmate in Nazi uniform, religious beliefs accosted by liberal culture, accosted, jokes, too much swearing, blurbs/judgments/questions/mockings about spiritual beliefs and religious services, difficulty finding ways to grow spiritually, rude stares while saying quiet grace, accusations and gross generalizations, false facts, constantly combating people's negative views of Christians, generalizations & accusations of bigotry & intolerance, casual prejudice, professor's opinions & views pushed in class, ignorance, negative views
- **Feeling:** reverse discrimination, unable to talk about God/religion, empty, caught off guard, offended, tired, frustrated, unwelcomed, unvalidated & unsafe to participate in class, wishing for a bigger faith community, misunderstood, shunned

The casual prejudice I and my Christian sisters and brothers encounter here, when we mind our own business as much as we can, is frustrating. I think it gives the university as a whole a reputation for being tolerant only as long as you agree with the majority opinion or have a minority opinion that is perceived as being oppressed. I do not feel oppressed, but due to my faith I do not feel welcomed either.

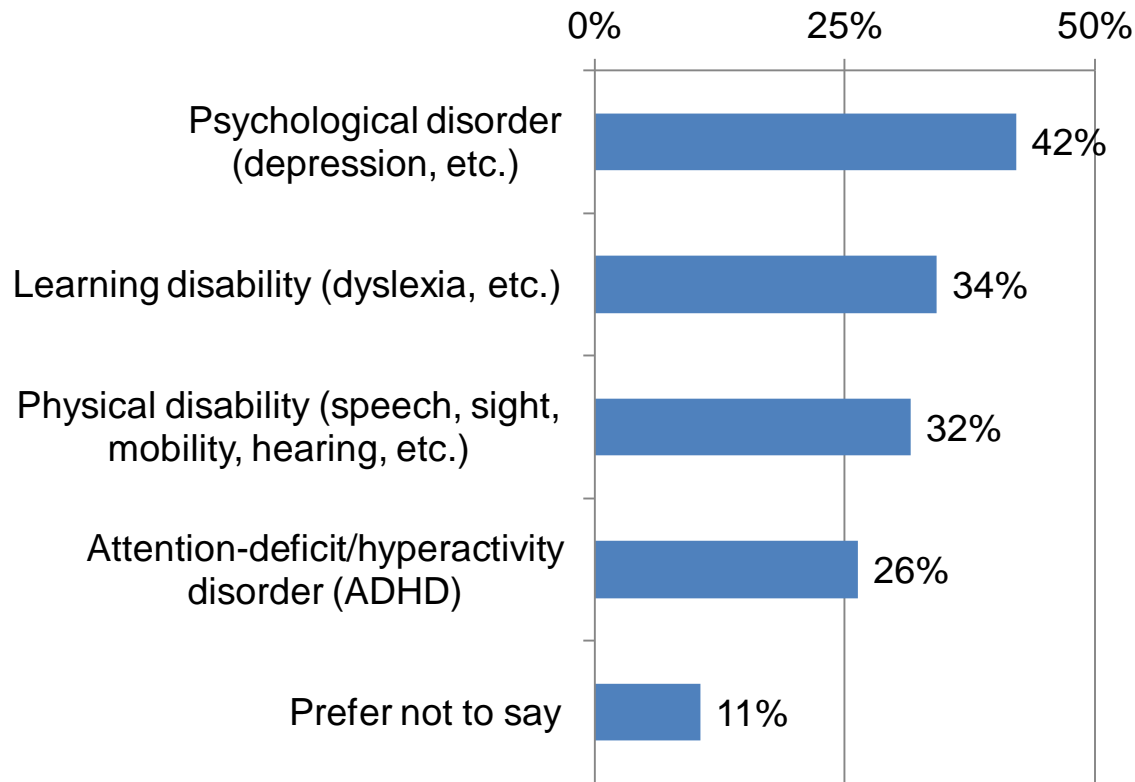
Masters

When I was a freshman a boy wore a Nazi uniform to class I felt uncomfortable being Jewish.

Sophomore

Disability Experiences

Nature of Respondents' Disabilities (n=38)



Disability Experiences

20 students offered descriptions of the ways they have felt uncomfortable at UMass because of their disability, including:

- **Experiences:** in class, with faculty, with students, with group coursework, with pace of life and level of interaction with others, during exams, moving around campus
- **Being subject to:** feelings of discomfort imposed upon themselves, trouble with public speaking, low understanding and/or not attuned to disabilities that are not obvious, difficulty keeping up with pace of some classes and/or pace of life, low understanding/empathy, overarching misconceptions and lack of education about disabilities/disorders, judgmental peers, misunderstanding, hassle to get accommodations, disability as a part of everyday life, inaccessible buildings/classes, irregularly placed bus stops, no practical way to get to the center of campus while disabled
- **Feeling:** awkward, humiliated, caring too much about what people think, making themselves feel uncomfortable, painful, frustrated

My professors are always extremely accommodating of my disabilities and circumstances. However, it is the students at UMass who can be very judgmental. Not all of them have a very comprehensive understanding of most mental disorders. I highly suggest making a psych class mandatory for everyone.

Senior

Nationality/Citizenship Experiences

12 students offered descriptions of the ways they have felt uncomfortable at UMass because of their nationality/citizenship, including:

- **Experiences:** in class, work group, in an international program
- **Being subject to:** alienation based upon appearance, classmates making fun of ESL instructors, different treatment than American students, limited support facilities, resentment based on political/historical issues, mild America 'bashing', classroom questions related to American culture raised
- **Feeling:** worried about finding a job, looked down upon, in need of the most help, embarrassed, uncomfortable regarding my country's (US) domestic & foreign policies, unfamiliar with American culture, alienated because of their appearance

Once a recruiter at a UMass career fair told me 'you may not even be able to be hired easily here after becoming a citizen because you are Iranian and you are under sanction' and she was not nice in her tone of voice at all. I almost cried for 2 hours that day but a friend who is lawyer told me that the recruiter was not correct and that it was a result of personal resentment.

Masters

Active/Veteran Military Experiences

3 students offered descriptions of the ways they have felt uncomfortable at UMass because of their active/veteran military status, including:

- **Experiences:** as a dependent of a veteran, attending a liberal campus
- **Being subject to:** negative presumptions about competence &/or intelligence, emails that don't pertain to me [i.e., military dependent]
- **Feeling:** unwelcomed in some places, frustrated, uncertain how to fit into veteran community

"I am regularly 'othered' due to my veteran status. Negative presumptions about my competence level and intelligence regularly frustrate me. Veterans are not welcome in some places on this campus"

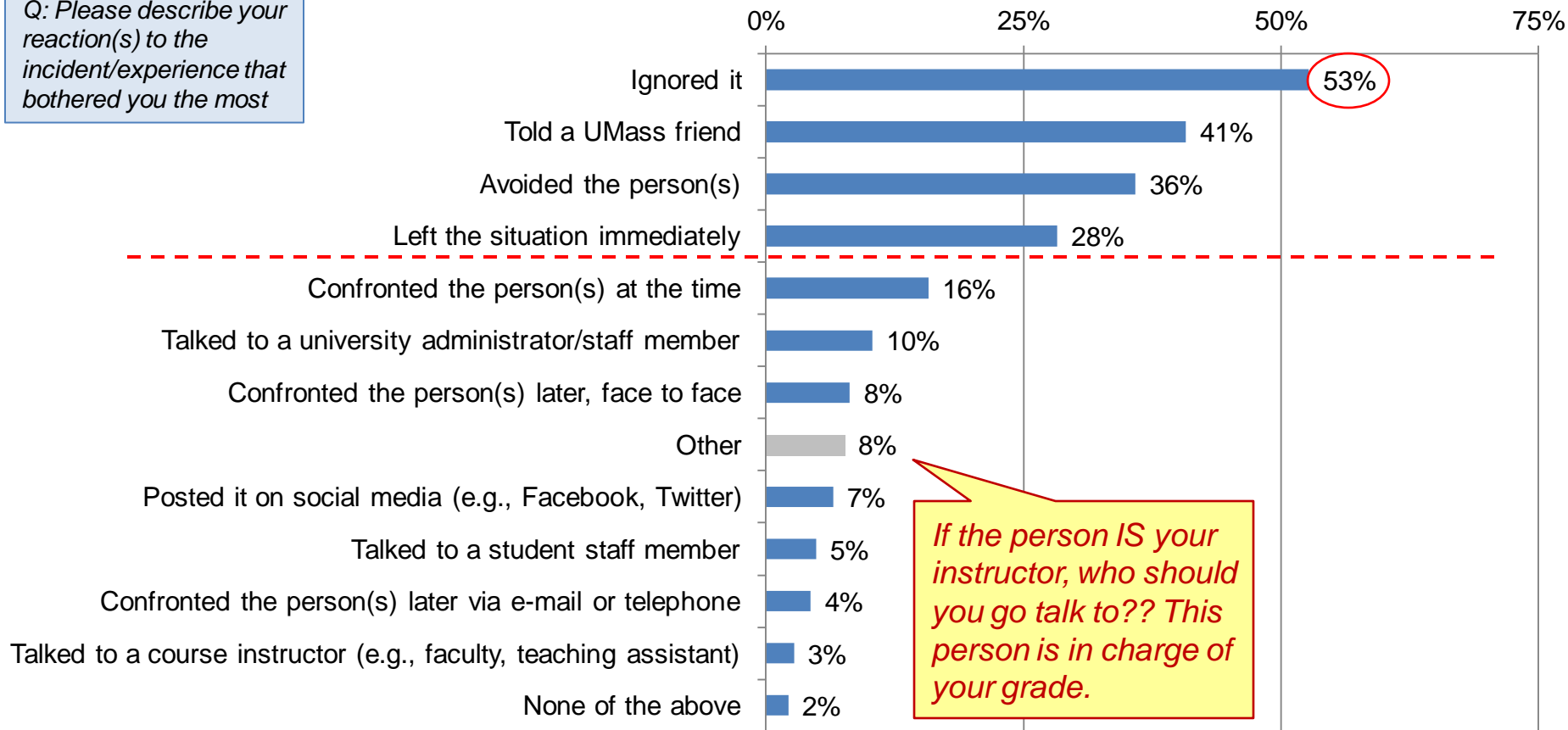
Doctoral

Diversity Dynamics

The Majority of Students Chose to Ignore Negative Diversity Incidents

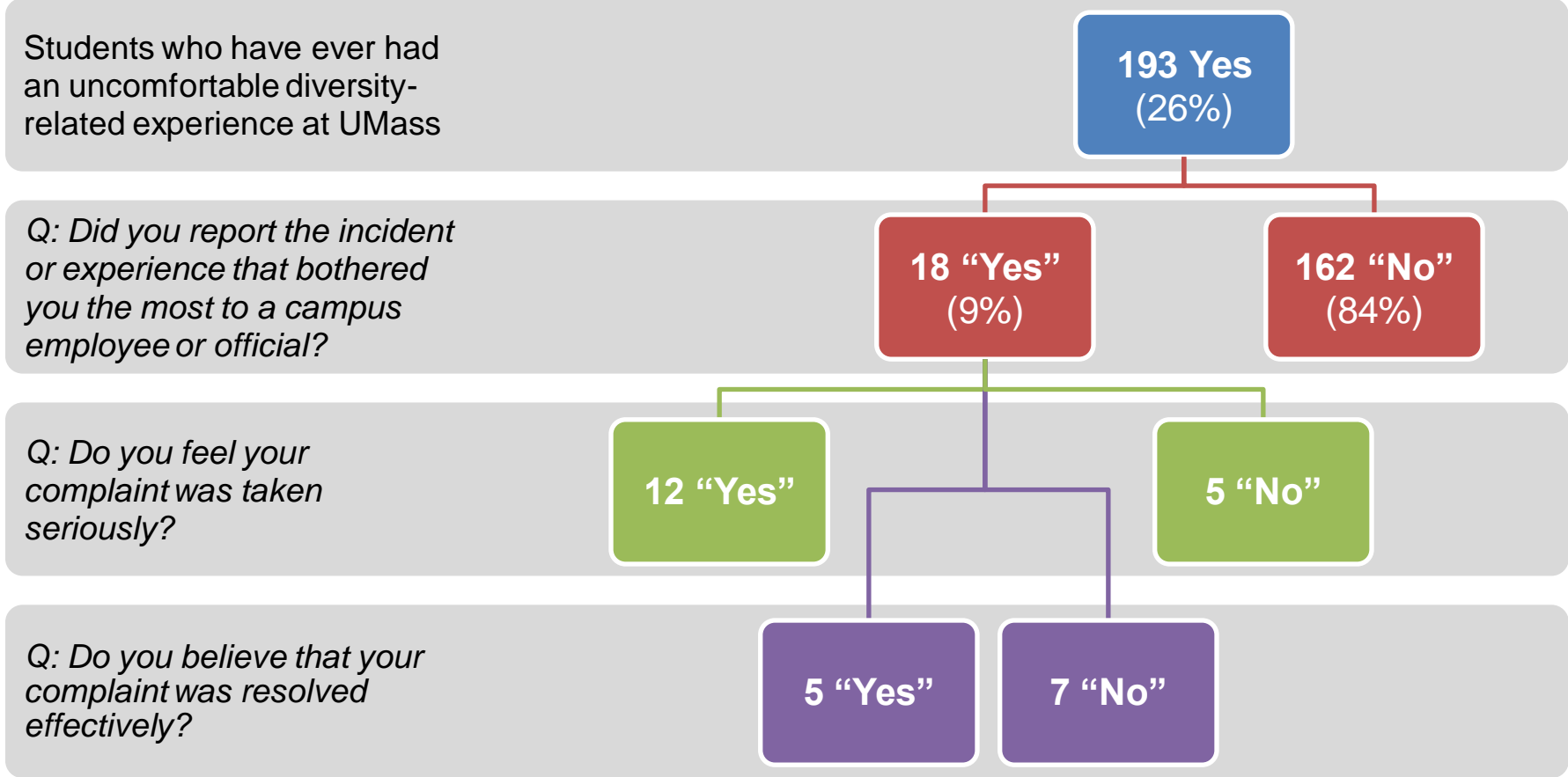
Students' Responses to Their Most Uncomfortable Diversity-Related Experiences (n=184)

Q: Please describe your reaction(s) to the incident/experience that bothered you the most

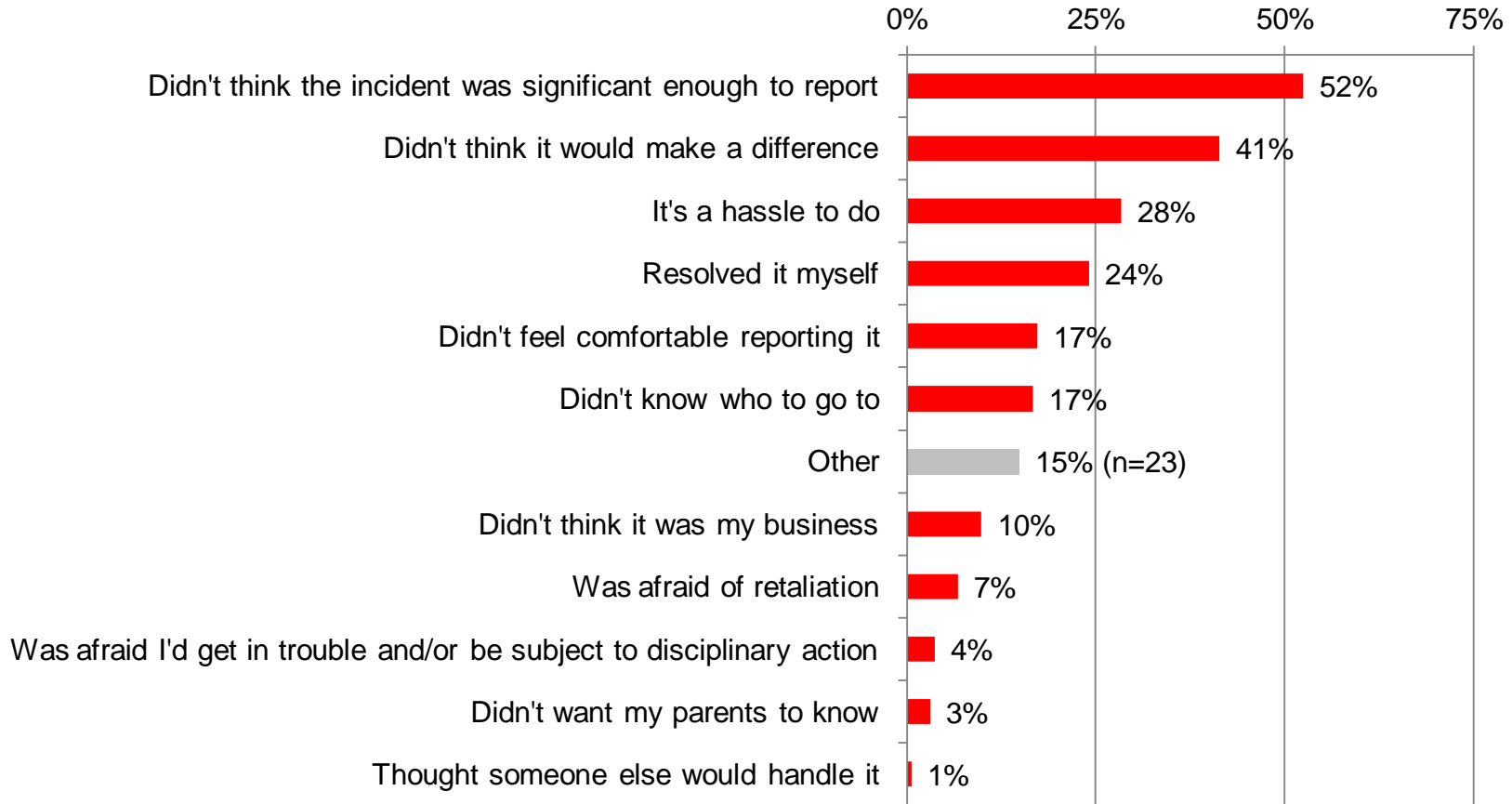


Diversity Dynamics

Only 9% of Students Reported the Diversity Incident that Bothered Them Most to a Campus Official



Non-Reporters' Barriers to Reporting Uncomfortable Diversity-Related Experiences (n=162)



Diversity Dynamics

23 Students “Other” Comments Offer Insights Into Their Inaction

- *It wasn't directly related to me; I heard about incidents via police announcement.*
- *It was late, and I was afraid. I don't really remember what he looked like.*
- *The act of attempting to express these incidents is stressful to prepare for and pursue, with no guarantee that anything will improve, and some chance of greater stigmatization*

It wasn't really a big deal

- *It wasn't reportable, just obnoxious.*
- *Not something I felt worried about.*
- *I probably imagined it anyway.*
- *I just let it slide.*
- *I got over it. It wasn't a big deal to me.*
- *I felt that college students do stupid things all the time. And it didn't really bother me.*
- *I know about the Ombudsman and other resources available to us, but you don't report an isolated joke. We all know there are social rules that can be bent to degrees, but an isolated incident should never qualify as bullying.*

Sexual Harassment

The next set of questions will help us to understand the extent to which students experience **unwanted verbal or non-verbal conduct of a sexual nature** at UMass Amherst or in the local Amherst community.

Examples of **unwanted verbal conduct** include:

- Repeated, unwanted sexual advances
- Unwanted email, telephone calls, texts, or voice-mail messages of a sexual nature
- Unwanted sexual teasing, telling sexual jokes
- Requests for sexual favors in return for other favors (including grades, letters of recommendation)
- Personal questions or sexual remarks or about a person's clothing, body or sexual activities

Examples of **unwanted non-verbal conduct** include:

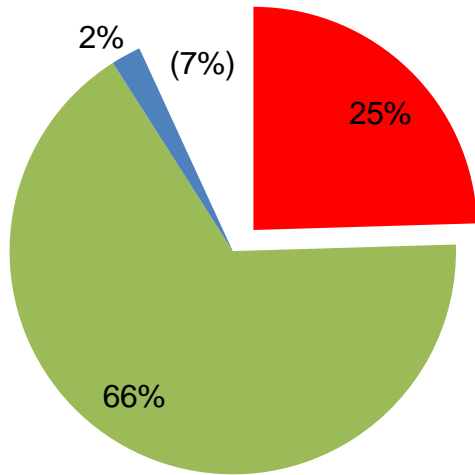
- Displaying sexually explicit images of women
- Making sexual gestures with hands, through body movements, or facial expressions (including winking, throwing kisses, or licking lips)
- Whistling at someone, kissing sounds, howling, cat calls

Sexual Harassment

1 in 4 Respondents Had Been Sexually Harassed, Primarily in Downtown Amherst or Residence Halls

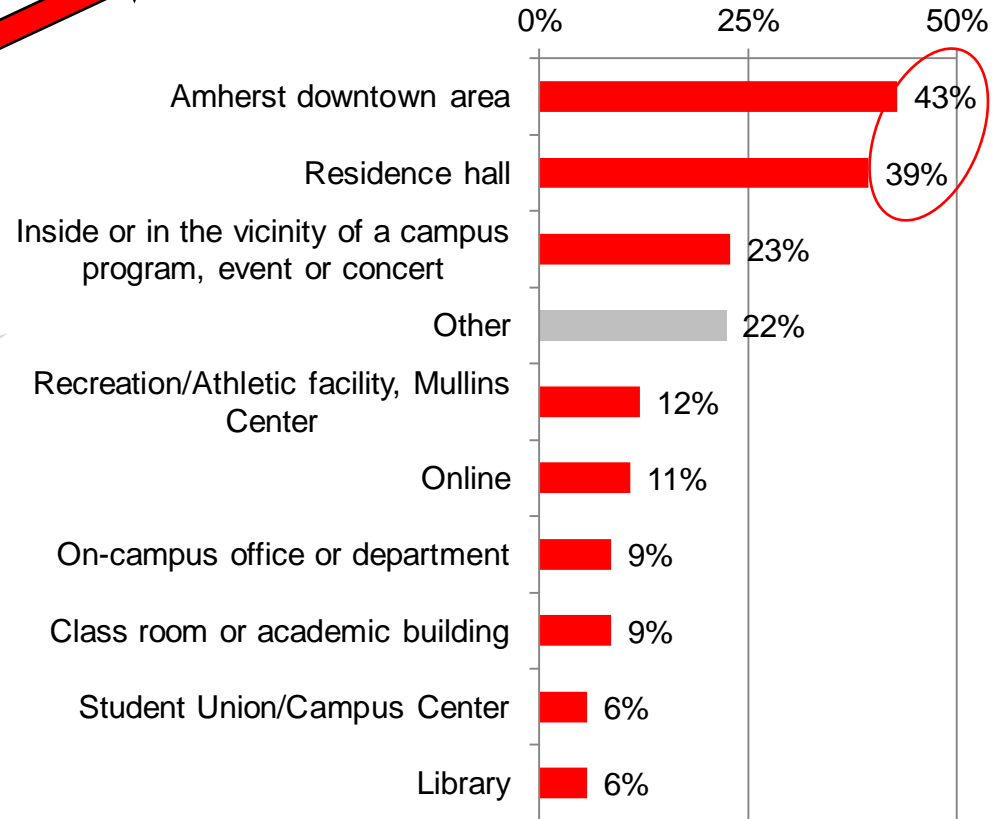
Students who Have Personally Experienced Sexual Harassment at UMass Amherst or Local Amherst Community (N=742)

- Yes, I have had one or more of these experiences
- No, none of these experiences has happened to me at UMass Amherst or in the local Amherst community
- I'd prefer not to say



ON CAMPUS
 • Walking outside
 • DC
 • Bus stop
OFF-CAMPUS
 • Party
 • Fraternity

Locations of the Sexual Harassment Experiences that Bothered Students the Most (n=175)

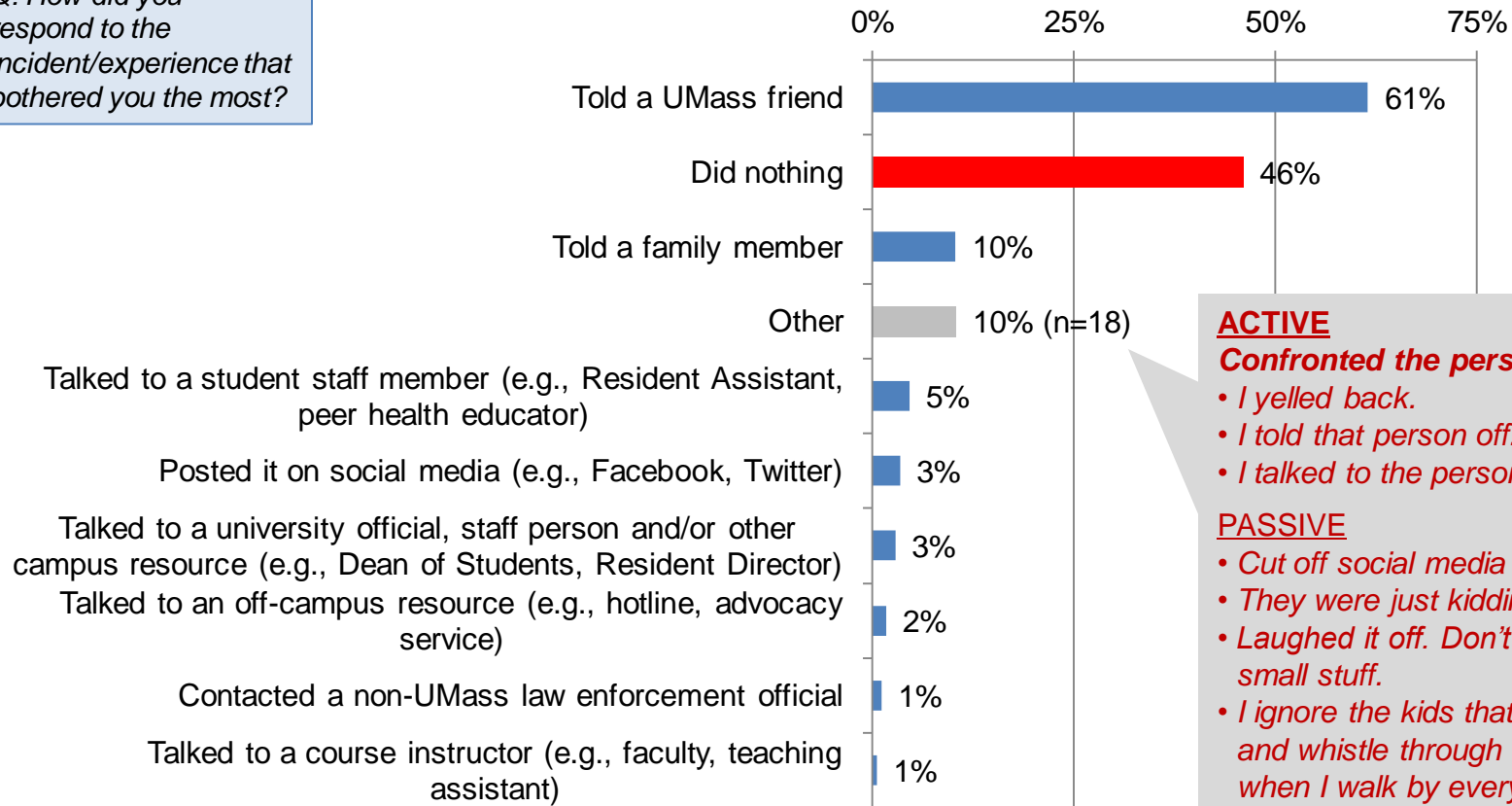


Sexual Harassment

Students' Most Prevalent Responses to the Incidents Were to Tell a UMass Friend or Do Nothing

Students' Responses to the Sexual Harassment Experiences that Bothered Them the Most (n=174)

Q: How did you respond to the incident/experience that bothered you the most?



ACTIVE
Confronted the person:

- I yelled back.
- I told that person off.
- I talked to the person directly.

PASSIVE

- Cut off social media contact
- They were just kidding.
- Laughed it off. Don't sweat the small stuff.
- I ignore the kids that say things and whistle through their window when I walk by every day.

Sexual Assault

*The next set of questions will help us to understand the extent to which students experience **unwanted physical conduct of a sexual nature** at UMass Amherst.*

*Examples of **unwanted physical conduct** include:*

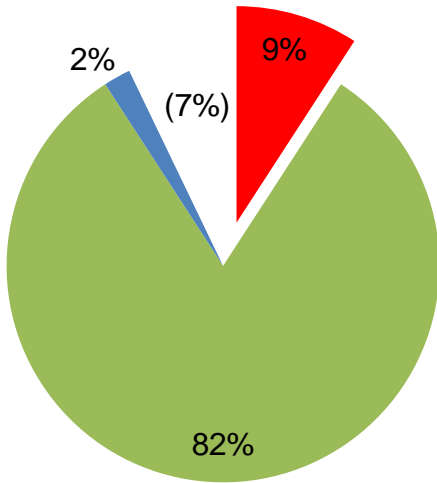
- *Actual or attempted rape*
- *Touching the person's clothing, hair or body*
- *Hugging, kissing, patting, or stroking*
- *Touching or rubbing oneself sexually around another person*

Sexual Assault

1 in 10 Respondents Had Been Sexually Assaulted While Attending UMass, Most Commonly in Residence Halls

Students who Have Personally Experienced Sexual Assault at UMass Amherst or Local Amherst Community (N=742)

- Yes, I have had one or more of these experiences
- No, none of these experiences has happened to me at UMass Amherst or in the local Amherst community
- I'd prefer not to say



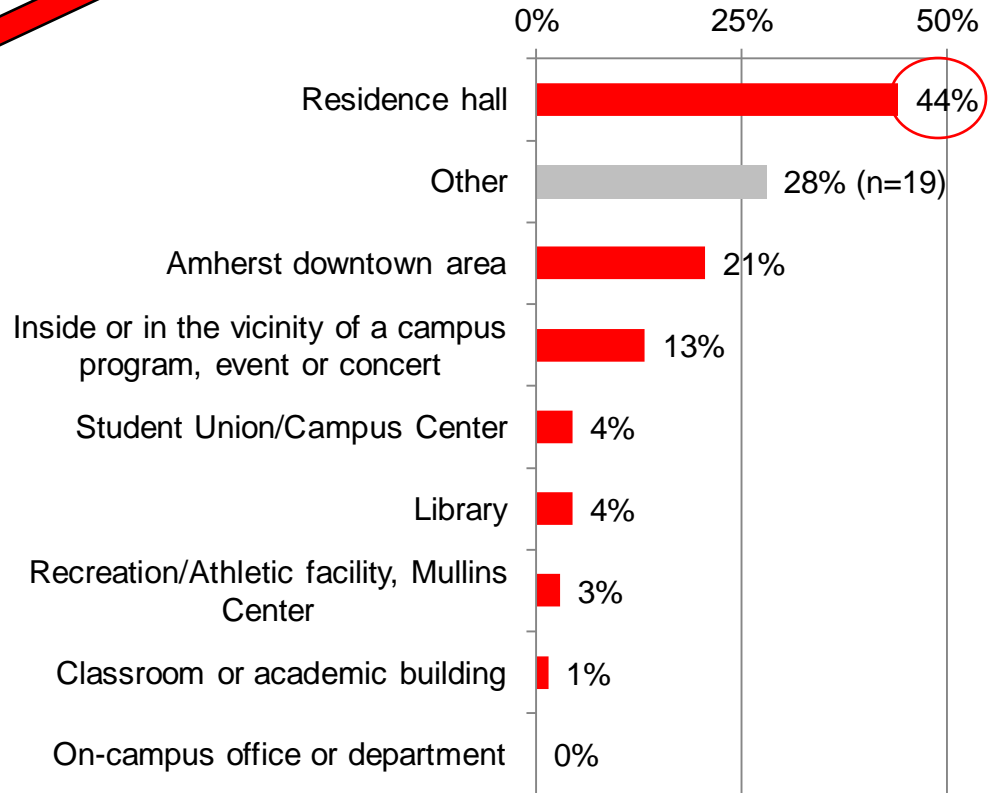
OFF CAMPUS

- Party
- Fraternity
- Apartment
- Bar

ON CAMPUS

- Bus & bus stop

Locations of the Sexual Assault Experiences that Bothered Students the Most (n=68)

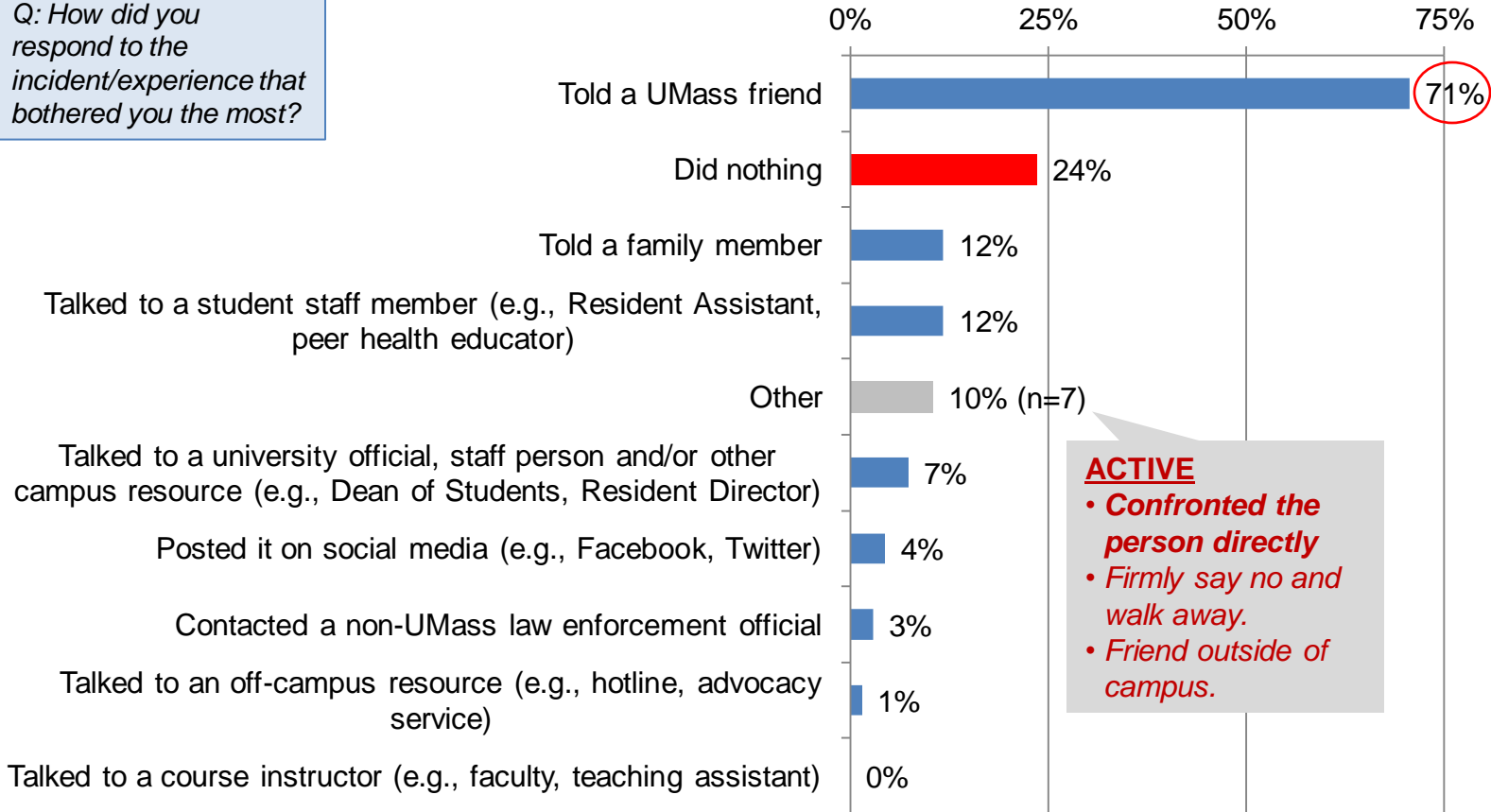


Sexual Assault

Victims Largely Responded by Telling a UMass Friend; 24% Did Nothing

Students' Responses to the Sexual Assault Experiences that Bothered Them the Most (n=68)

Q: How did you respond to the incident/experience that bothered you the most?

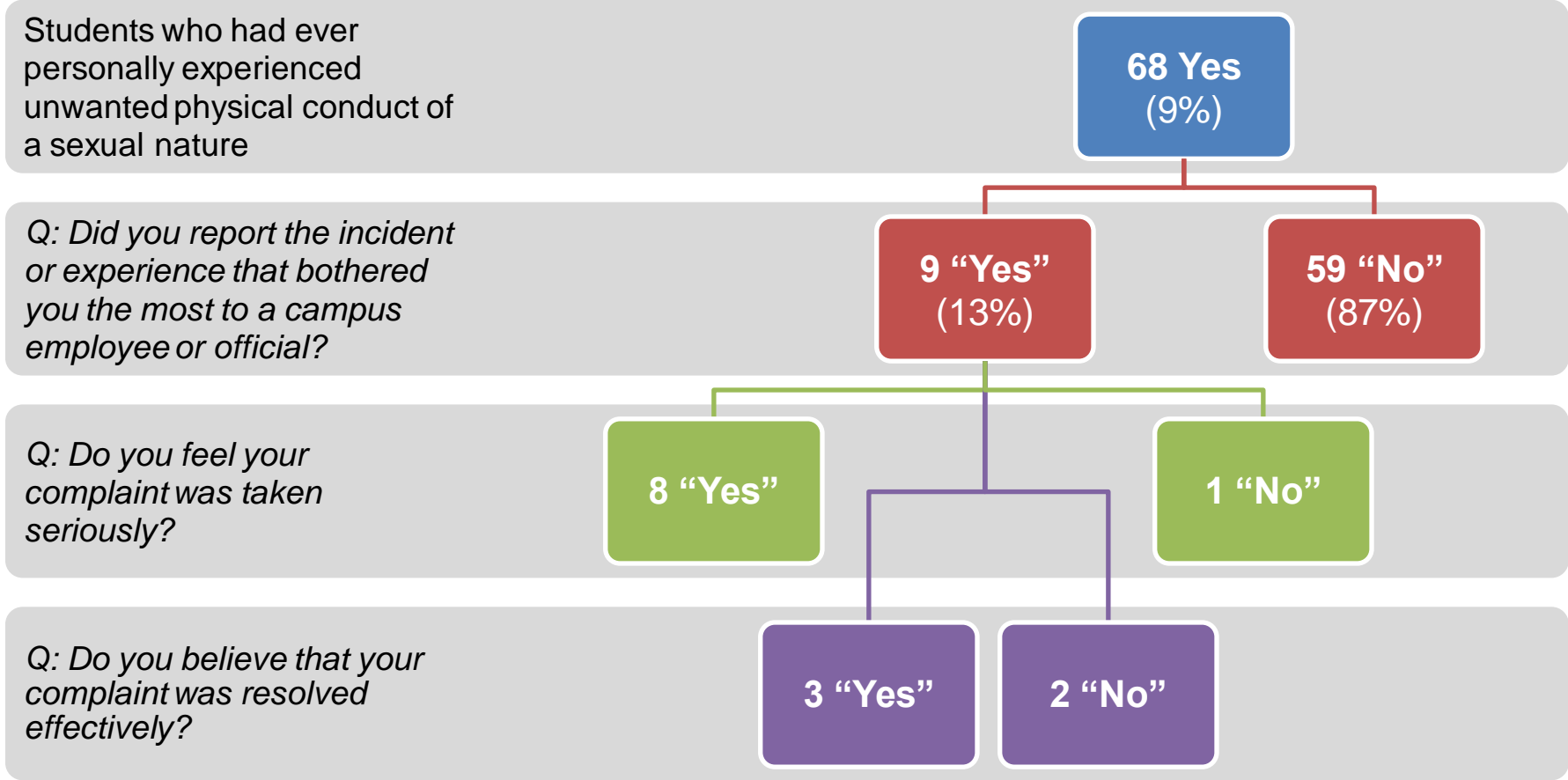


ACTIVE

- *Confronted the person directly*
- *Firmly say no and walk away.*
- *Friend outside of campus.*

Sexual Assault

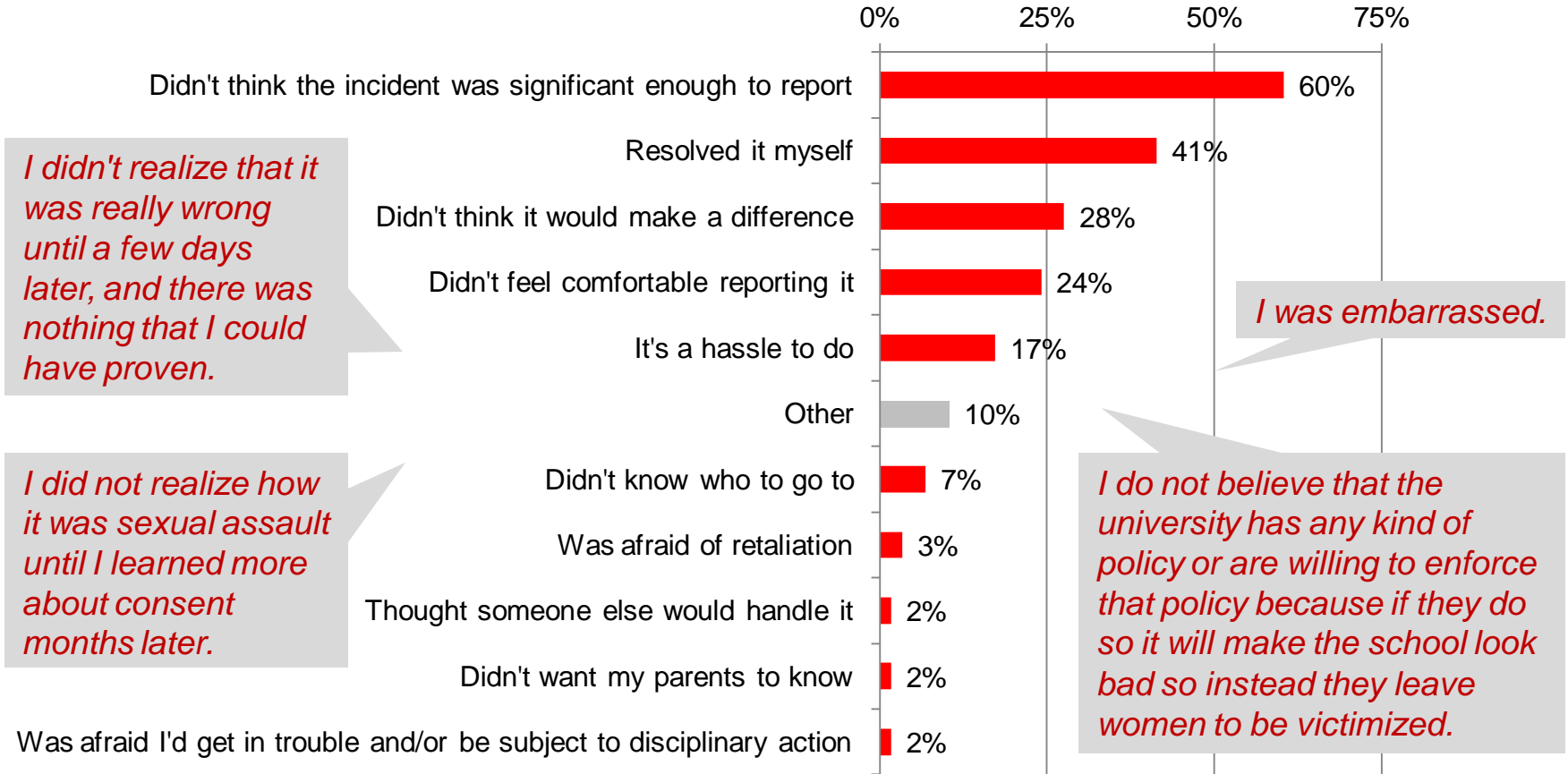
13% of Students Had Reported Their Sexual Assault Experience to a Campus Official



Sexual Assault

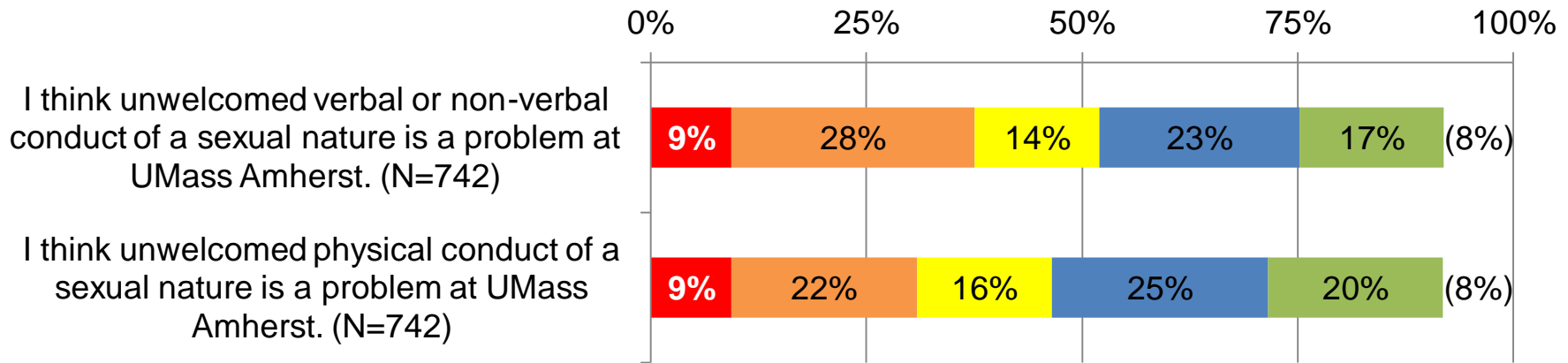
Non-Reporters Mostly Thought Their Incident Wasn't Significant Enough to Report or Resolved It Themselves

Non-Reporters' Barriers to Reporting Sexual Assault Experiences (n=58)

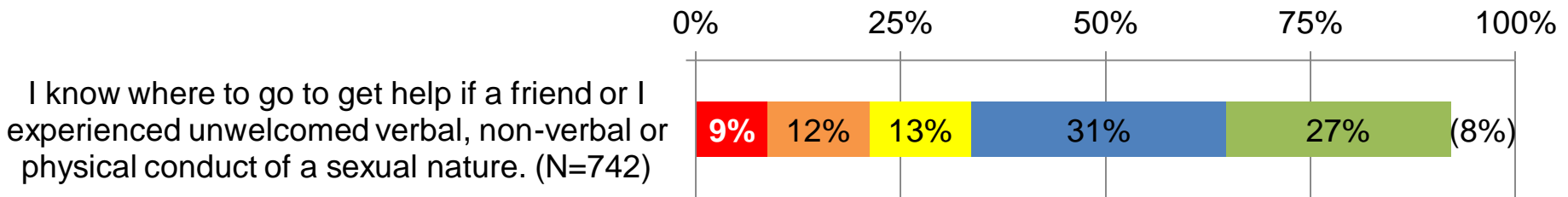


Attitudes about Sexual Harassment & Assault

■ Strongly agree
 ■ Somewhat agree
 ■ Don't know
 ■ Somewhat disagree
 ■ Strongly disagree

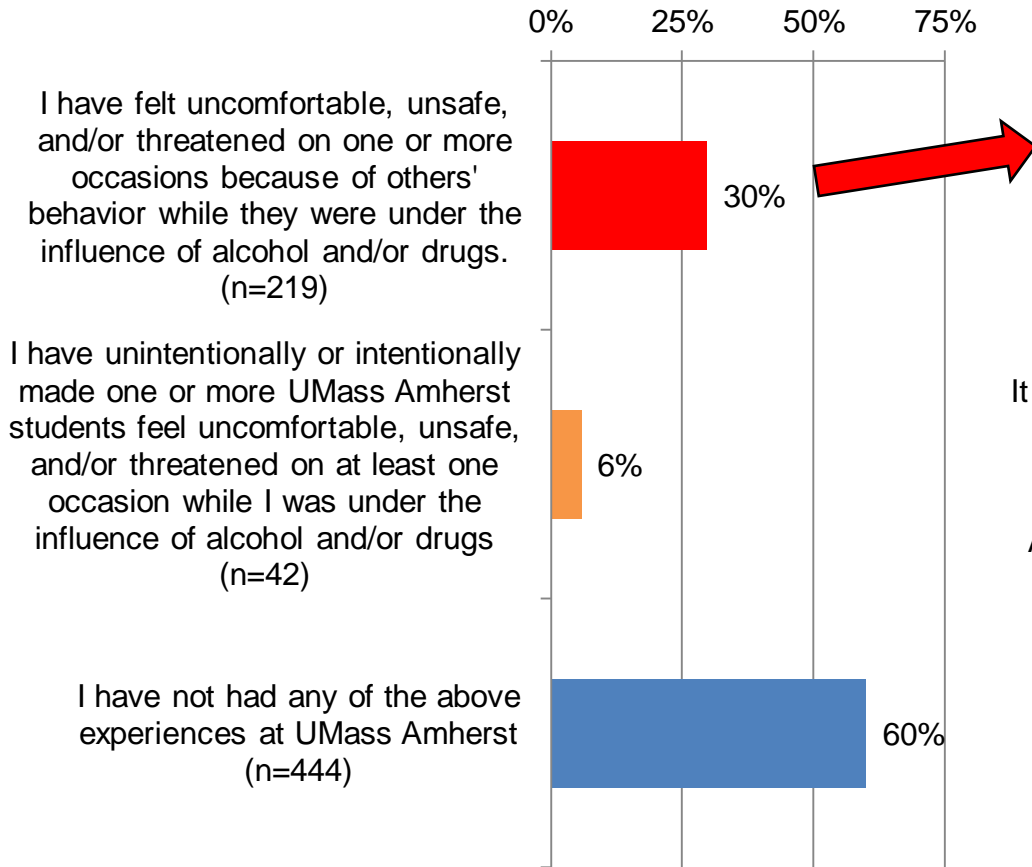


■ Strongly disagree
 ■ Somewhat disagree
 ■ Don't know
 ■ Somewhat agree
 ■ Strongly agree

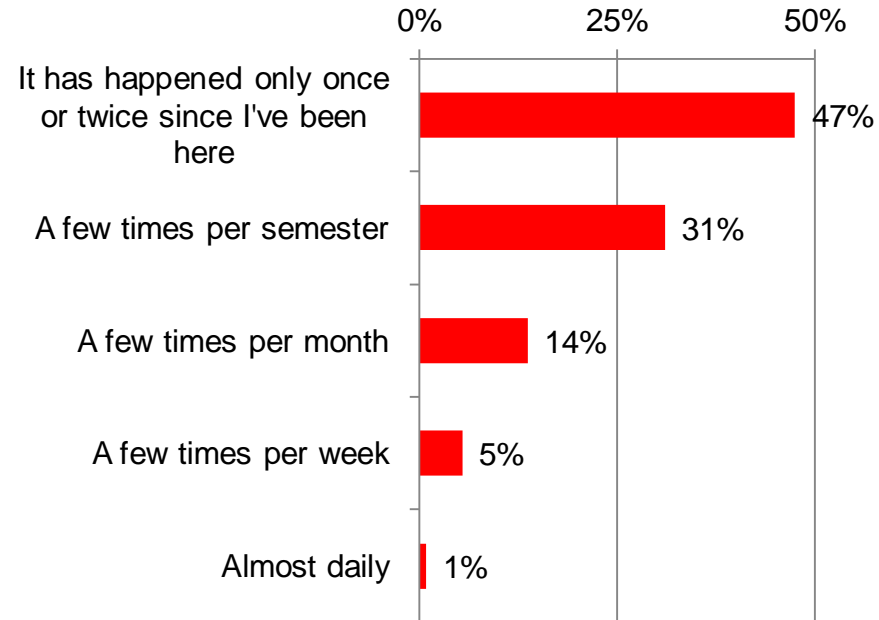


Alcohol & Drugs

Nearly 1 in 3 Respondents Had Felt Uncomfortable, Unsafe, or Threatened Due to Others' Alcohol- and/or Drug-Related Behavior

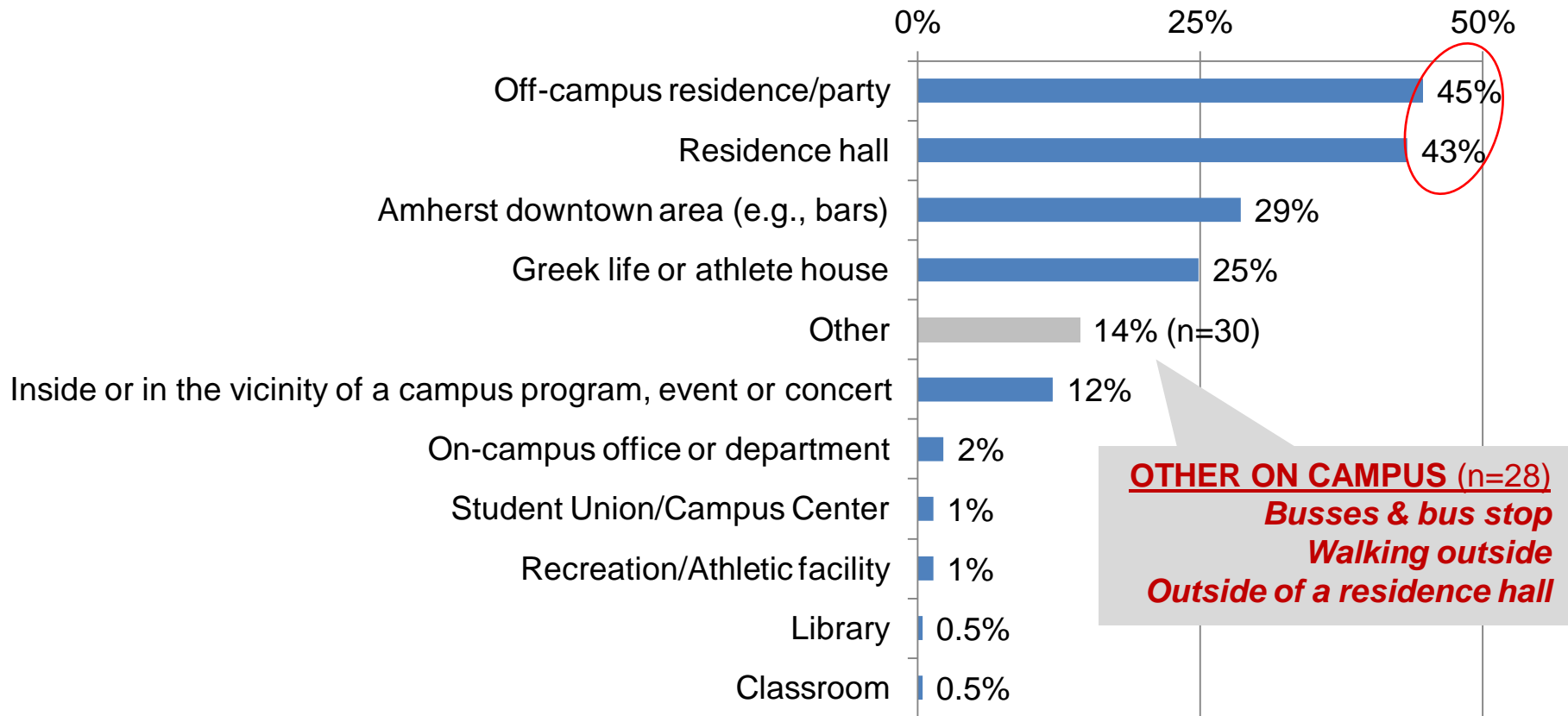


Q: How often have you felt uncomfortable, unsafe, and/or threatened at UMass Amherst (either on-campus or off-campus) because of others' behavior while they were under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs? (n=219)



Negative Alcohol/Drug-Related Incidents Occurred Most Commonly in Off-Campus or On-Campus Residences

Locations of the Alcohol/Drug-Related Experiences that Bothered Students the Most (n=217)



Alcohol & Drugs

113 Students Described Incidents that Have Made Them Feel Uncomfortable, Unsafe and/or Threatened

Characteristics of the Incidents	Respondents		Examples
	#	%	
Included a physical component	59	52%	Sexual advances, fights, property damage
Behaviors of one or more strangers	56	50%	Shouts, advances
Behaviors directed at the respondent	51	45%	Verbal threats, sexual advances
Random behaviors, not directed at respondent	47	42%	Drunk pedestrians, fights
Verbal behaviors	29	25%	Shouts, rape jokes
Inside a residence hall	18	16%	Shouts, intimidation toward non-participants
Behaviors of one or more friends	18	16%	Drunk driving
At a party	15	13%	Fights, sexual advances
Behaviors that singled out the respondent for personal reasons	14	12%	Ex-boyfriend
Involved other drugs	13	12%	Marijuana, molly
On a PVTA bus	11	10%	Groups of drunk passengers

Alcohol & Drugs

Students Offered Detailed Accounts of Their Experiences Around Alcohol and Drugs

A friend of mine made unwelcome sexual advances in a semi-public environment. I was not comfortable making a scene/refusing in that environment, so I went along with the sexual activity despite not being interested.

Masters

A really drunk guy came and sat next to me on the bus and when I tried to stand up he followed me to where I decided to stand. He kept talking to me making comments about my looks, and then when I got off the bus he followed me for a good few minutes, until he couldn't find me

Sophomore

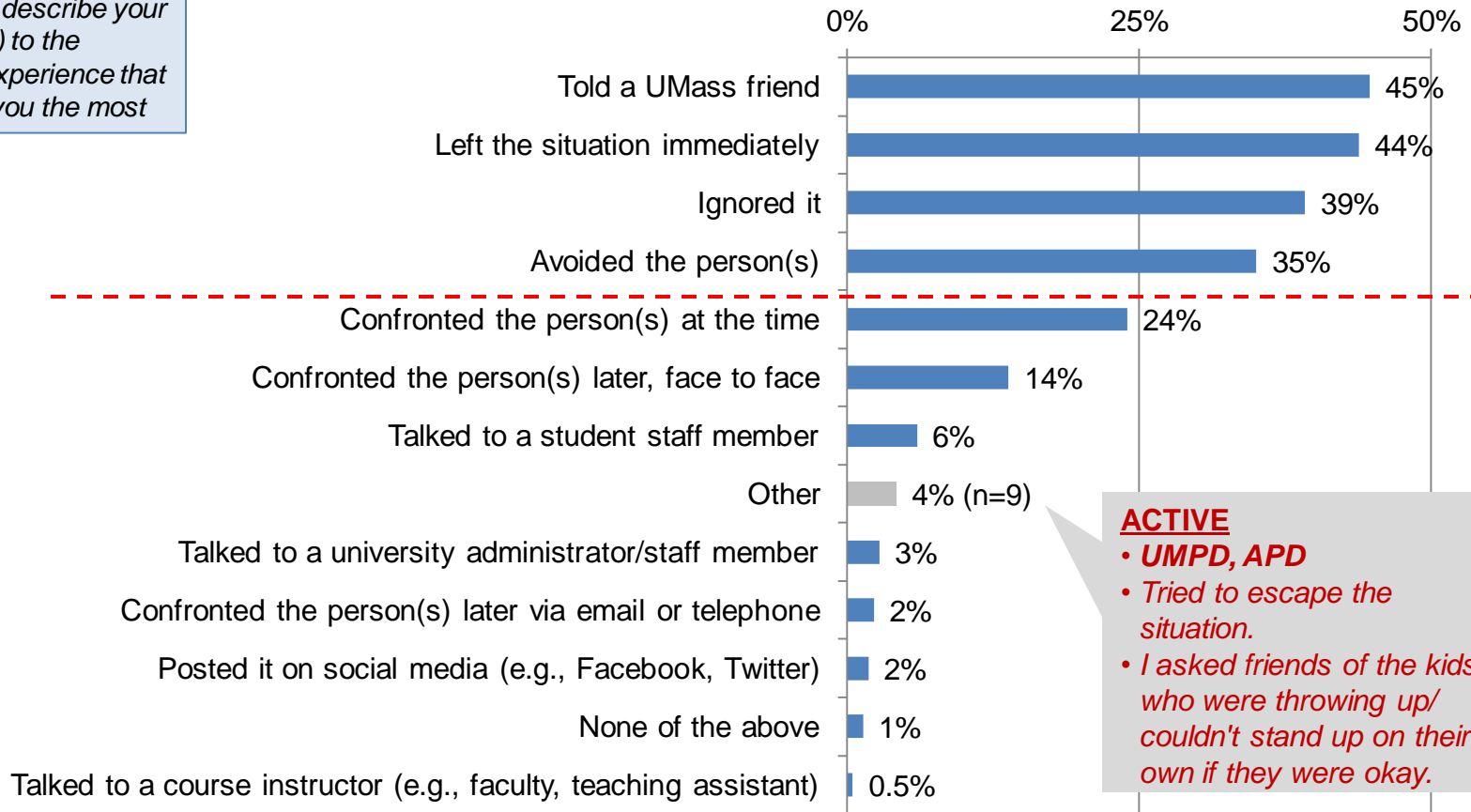
My roommate was attacked by somebody in the Amherst-area community, which was very poorly handled by the university. She received minimal counseling, was not sure where to turn to (or feared turning to somewhere and being bound to fees she could not afford), and remained silent on her experience until she withdrew from the university, due to the emotional trauma that she associated with the campus, the area, and her experience. I respect UMass tremendously for their advocacy in women's safety and mental health counseling, but wish that there was more help available for those coming out of shock/trauma.

Junior

Besides Telling a UMass Friend, Students Responded by Distancing Themselves from the Circumstances

Students' Responses to the Alcohol/Drug-Related Experiences that Bothered Them the Most (n=217)

Q: Please describe your reaction(s) to the incident/experience that bothered you the most



ACTIVE

- UMPD, APD
- Tried to escape the situation.
- I asked friends of the kids who were throwing up/couldn't stand up on their own if they were okay.

Alcohol & Drugs

Only 7% of Students Reported Their Worst Alcohol- or Drug-Related Incident to a Campus Official

Students who had ever felt uncomfortable, unsafe, threatened because of others' alcohol/drug behavior

219 Yes (%)

Q: Did you report the incident or experience that bothered you the most to a campus employee or official?

15 "Yes" (7%)

203 "No" (%)

Q: Do you feel your complaint was taken seriously?

10 "Yes"

5 "No"

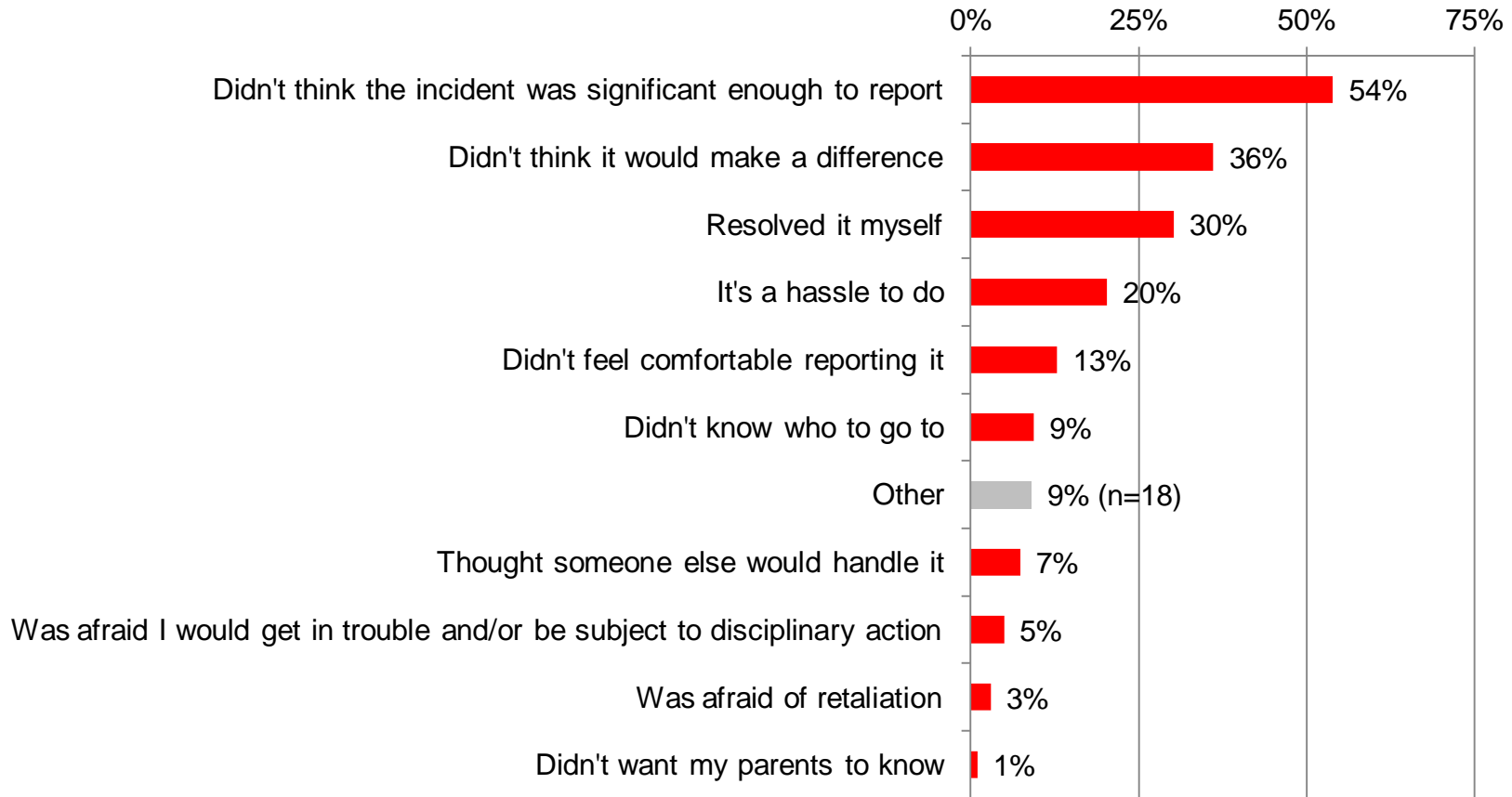
Q: Do you believe that your complaint was resolved effectively?

6 "Yes"

7 "No"

Again, the Most Common Reason for Non-Reporting Was the Belief that the Incident Wasn't Significant Enough

Barriers to Reporting Sexual Assault Experiences (n=202)



Incapable of taking action

- *Happened off campus; didn't know who to report*
- *It was impossible to pinpoint a specific individual responsible for the crime (car damage).*
- *I didn't know the persons name or anything about them to correctly report them.*
- *Too many people.*

Unmotivated to take action

- *I assumed the kids' friends would report it/take care of it. I also knew that the police were already notified.*
- *I'd rather not be patronized by the admin.*
- *It was in southwest. Complaining about drunk people in southwest is a waste of time.*

Don't want to cause negative consequences for peer(s)

- *They were my friends.*
- *I don't want him kicked out of school when the problem is solved so long as I avoid him.*
- *I didn't want to be responsible for the guys to get a noise complaint from the police.*
- *I didn't want them to get into trouble.*

It wasn't really a big deal

- *Realized it wasn't personal, he was just being confrontational because he was drunk and it wasn't a big deal.*
- *Nothing happened I just felt threatened briefly.*
- *He woke up conscious after a few seconds and got up, walked away and said he was fine for the night.*

Summary

- Most students have cultivated **one or more close friendships** at UMass
- Since coming to UMass:
 - **1 in 4** respondents had experienced uncomfortable diversity-related incidents
 - **1 in 4** respondents had experienced sexual harassment
 - **1 in 10** respondents had experienced sexual assault
- Students' most prevalent responses to negative diversity, sexual or alcohol/drug related incidents were:
 - **Tell a UMass friend**
 - Ignore it, do nothing, or other similarly **passive response** (leave the situation, avoid the person)
- Students tended to think that their negative diversity, sexual or alcohol/drug incidents – even the most serious ones -- were **not significant enough to report** to a campus official

Recommendations

- Addressing negative incidents must include **raising students' awareness and understanding** of the types of incidents that are significant.
- These findings confirm that **friends** will be an important and valuable resource to tap for educational, programming and policy collaboration and outreach.
- **On-campus and off-campus residences**, as well as **Amherst town**, are important locations for targeting education and outreach.
- Goals for “UMatter @ UMass” that could be measured in the next administration of this instrument (2015-16) include:
 - **Lowering the frequency of passive responses** to negative incidents, along with raising the frequency of reporting to appropriate campus and community authorities
 - **Lowering the frequency of incidents** occurring in targeted on-campus locations