Technology and violence on college campuses: a double-edged sword

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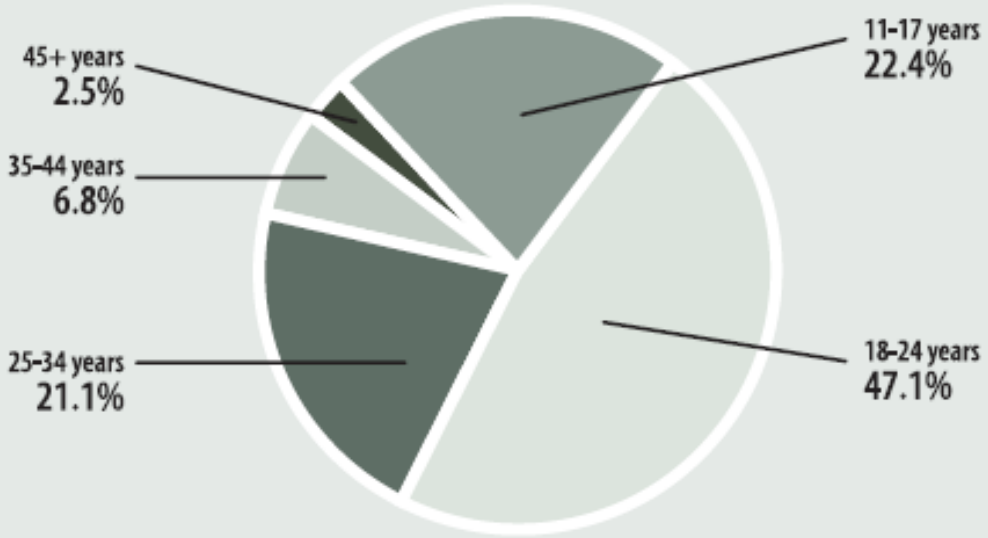
Intimate Partner Violence: Youth and Young Adults

Figure 4.5

Age at Time of First IPV[1] Experience Among Women Who Experienced Rape, Physical Violence, and/or Stalking by an Intimate Partner — NISVS 2010



[1]IPV includes physical violence, all forms of sexual violence, stalking, psychological aggression, and control of reproductive or sexual health.

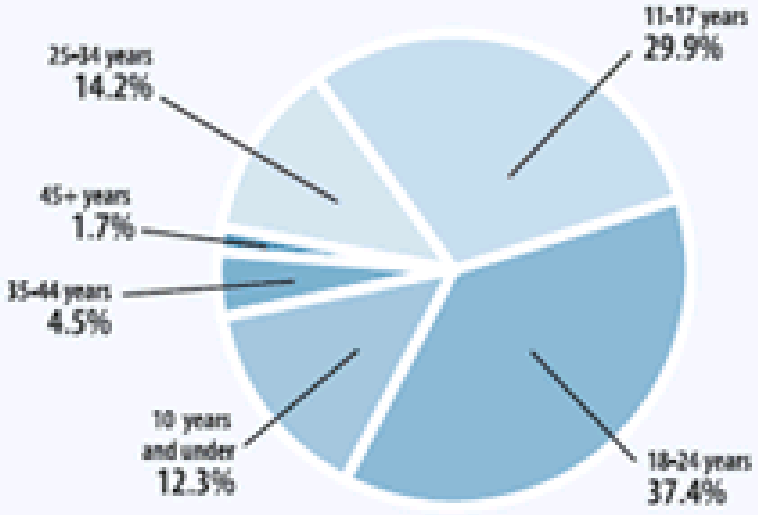
NISVS
The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey

Sexual Violence: Youth and Young Adults

Sexual Violence Victimization

Figure 2.2

Age at Time of First Completed Rape Victimization In Lifetime Among Female Victims — NISVS 2010[1,2]



[1]The reported age is the youngest age reported across all perpetrators.
[2]All percentages are weighted to U.S. population.

NISVS
The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey

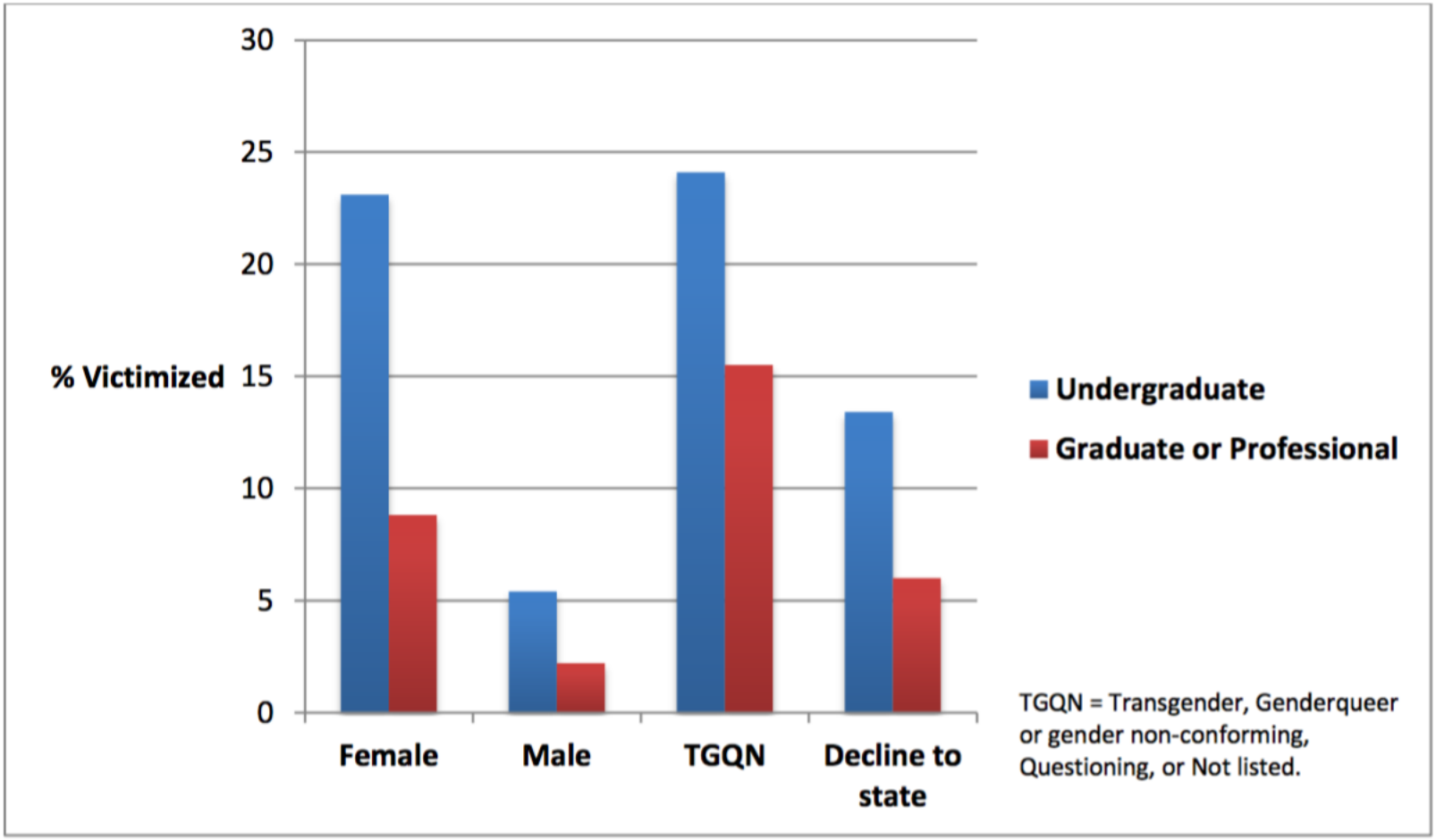
Unique context of college campuses

- Large numbers of youth away from family and home for the first time
- Shared living facilities
- Often designed as “bubbles” with all of the necessary services
- Students can operate in isolation from the broader community
  - Intended to protect them and their education
  - Can backfire
- Substance use widely tolerated in many settings

Campus Climate Surveys by the Association of American Universities (AAU)

- Administered spring 2015 at 27 universities
- Nonconsensual sexual contact:
  - Sexual penetration
  - Sexual touching
- Via one of four tactics:
  1. physical force or threat of physical force
  2. incapacitated because of drugs, alcohol, or being unconscious, asleep, or passed out
  3. coercive threats of non-physical harm or promised rewards
  4. failure to obtain affirmative consent

Nonconsensual sexual contact involving physical force or incapacitation since enrolling



From campus mixers to……

College Students: Online Harassment and Cyberstalking

- “Four Square or Facebook where you can check in is a great tool to track people down and so it can be dangerous. People use it for fun like, “I’m going here,” but you have to be careful because you could have a stalker that wants to see every location you are going to.”

- “He usually uses Facebook as a way to meet girls or whatever. And he’s actually gotten a girl’s class schedule and would be at every classroom that she got out of just to try and talk for a few minutes.”

- “I had a long-term bad relationship that took literally until this year to end. I had to literally re-friend the person, see how many friends she shared with me, it took me a week of just sorting this out and to block all those people, groups, and networks until I could finally know that she wasn’t looking at my stuff.”

J Interpers Violence. 2016 Jan 14. pii: 0886260515625501. [Epub ahead of print]

Preventing Online Victimization: College Students' Views on Intervention and Prevention.

White WE[1], Carmody D[2].

Digital dating abuse (DDA)

- A pattern of behaviors that control, pressure, or threaten a dating partner using a cell phone or the Internet
  - Looking at partner's private information on a computer or cell phone without permission
  - Monitoring partner's whereabouts
  - Threatening to end a relationship on a cell phone or the Internet
  - Monitoring who partner talk(s) to and who they are friends with
- Past-year DDA prevalence (n=321 students)
  - Victimization 69%
  - Perpetration 63%

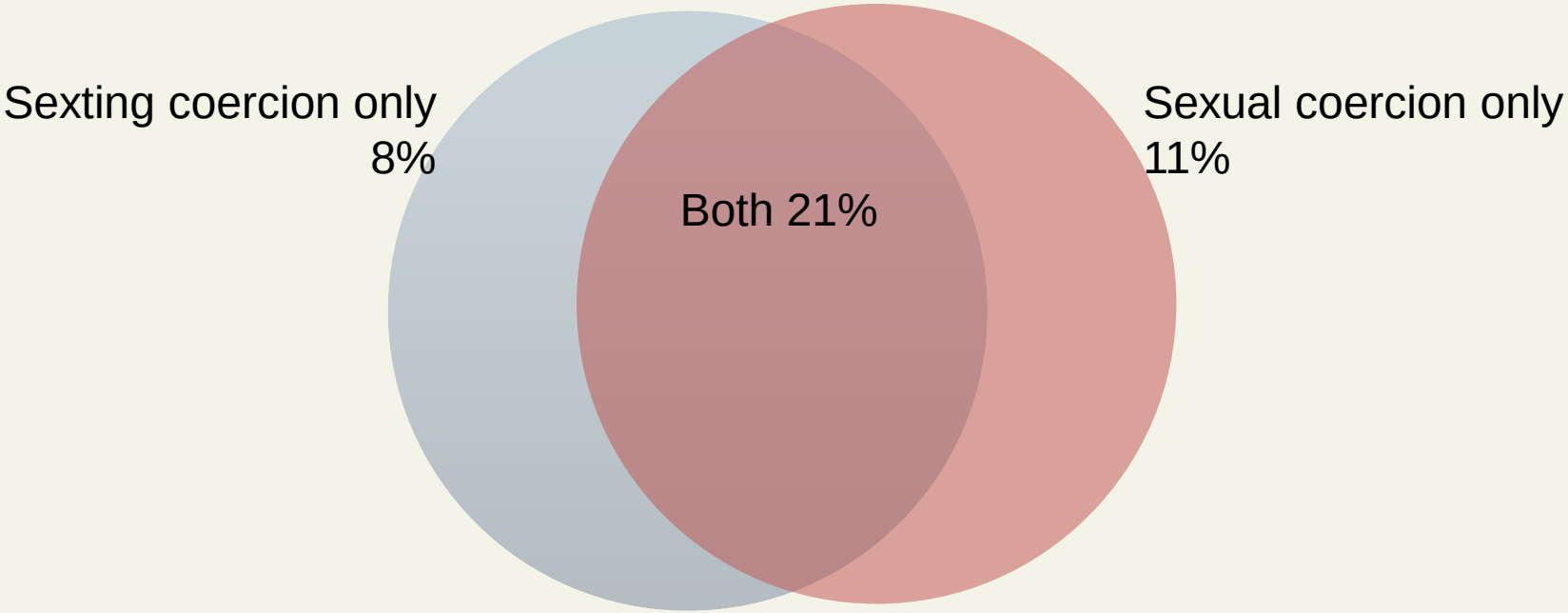
Violence Against Women. 2016 Feb 23. pii: 1077801216630143. [Epub ahead of print]

Snooping and Sexting: Digital Media as a Context for Dating Aggression and Abuse Among College Students.

Reed LA[1], Tolman RM[2], Ward LM[2].

Does tech violence co-occur with violence in real life?

- Study with 885 undergraduates (men=301, women=584), 40% had experienced some type of coercion



- Like sexual coercion “in real life”, sexting coercion creates risk for poor mental health and other forms of dysfunction

J Interpers Violence. 2016 Jul 20. pii: 0886260516660300. [Epub ahead of print]

Sexting Coercion as a Component of Intimate Partner Polyvictimization.

Ross JM[1], Drouin M[2], Coupe A[2].

Priorities & principles for prevention & response

- Safety (primary and secondary prevention)
- Connection to necessary health care, support services
- Access to justice

- Key principles
  - Empowerment
    - Self-directed response vs. externally imposed response
  - Confidentiality
    - Victim control over if, when, how to share information

Prevention & response

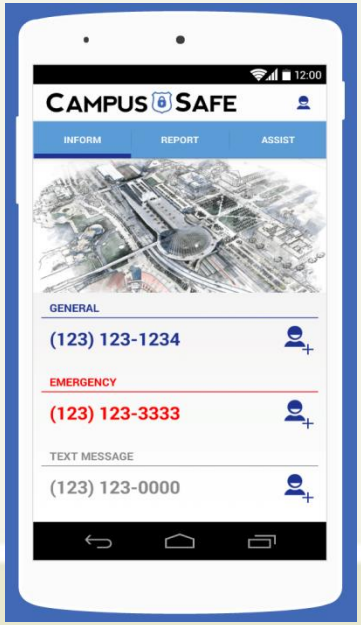
- Safety & prevention
  - Engaging bystanders to prevent and intervene
  - Basic knowledge, definitions
  - Self-defense training
- Connection to necessary health care, support services
  - Knowledge and use of support services is low
- Access to justice
  - Reporting rates are low
  - Reflect lack of confidence in response as well as confidentiality concerns, shame, stigma

WHO'S GOT YOUR BACK COLLEGE CAMPUS SAFETY CARD (PDF)

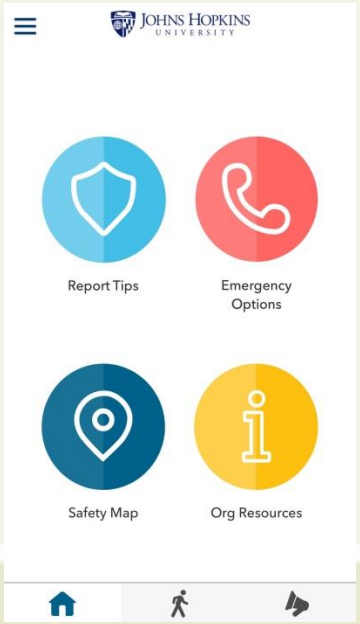
Immediate Safety & Connection to Security

- Users notify campus police rapidly for safety concerns
- Some also send tips to campus police (including GPS locations and photos)

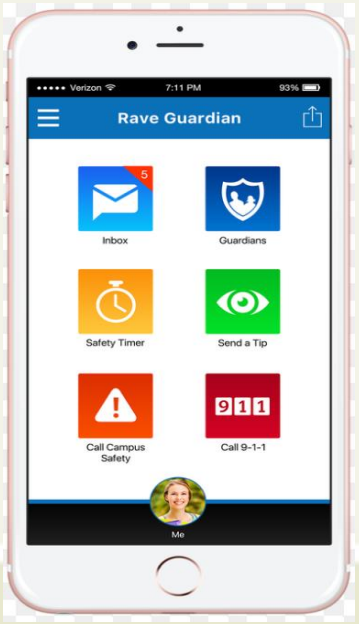
CampusSafe



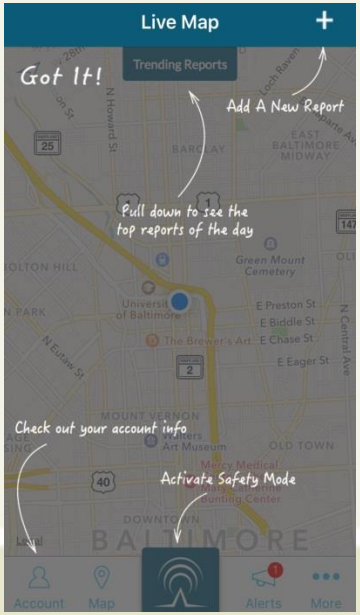
LiveSafe



Rave Guardian



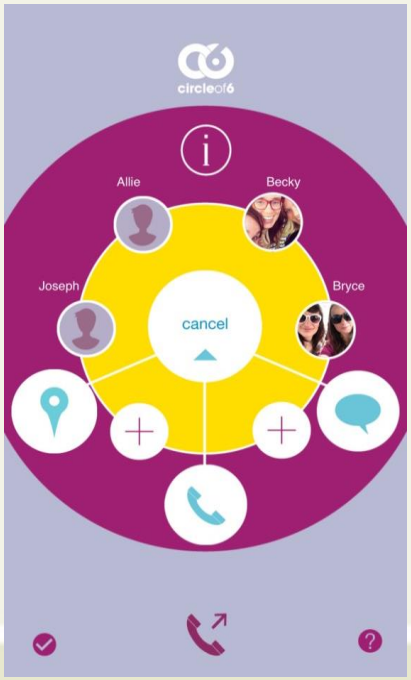
LifeLine Response



Immediate safety: engaging friends

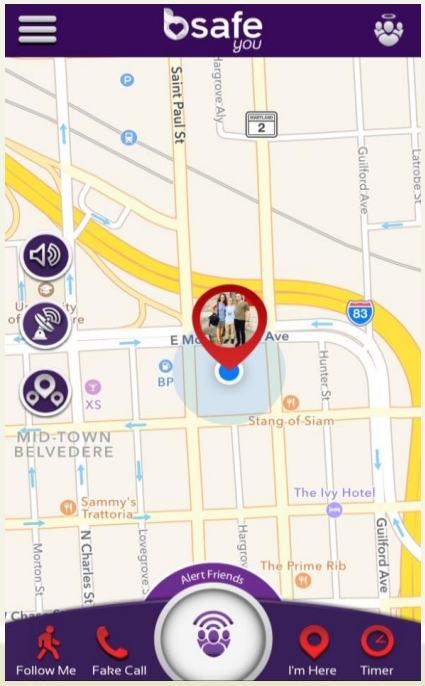
- Users engage contacts/friends to track their journey and can send alerts in situations of danger

Circle of 6



OnWatch

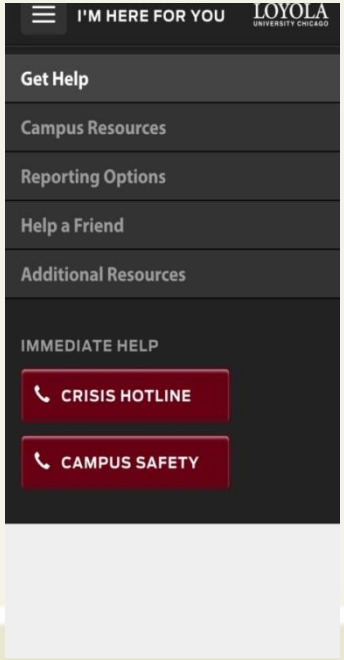
bSafe



Anonymous Access to Resources

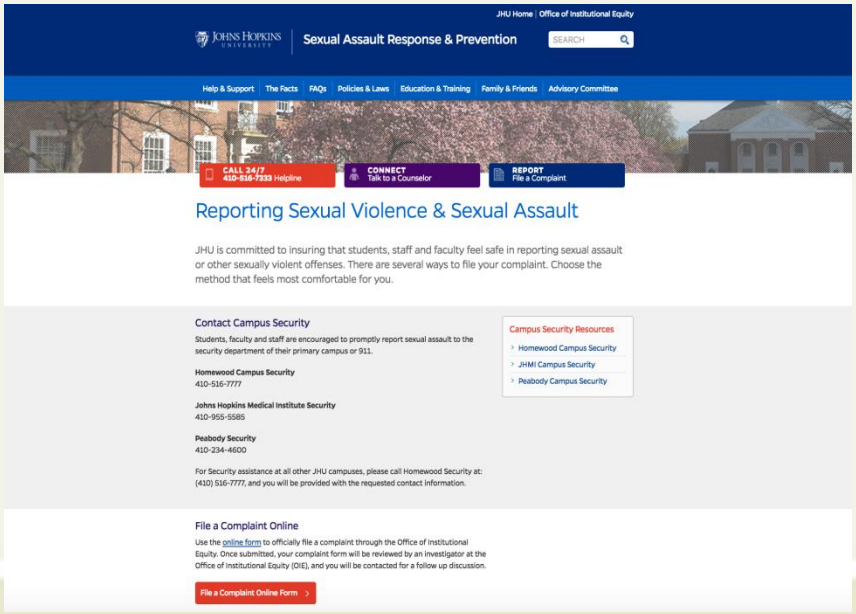
- Resource links including crisis hotlines, medical care and support services

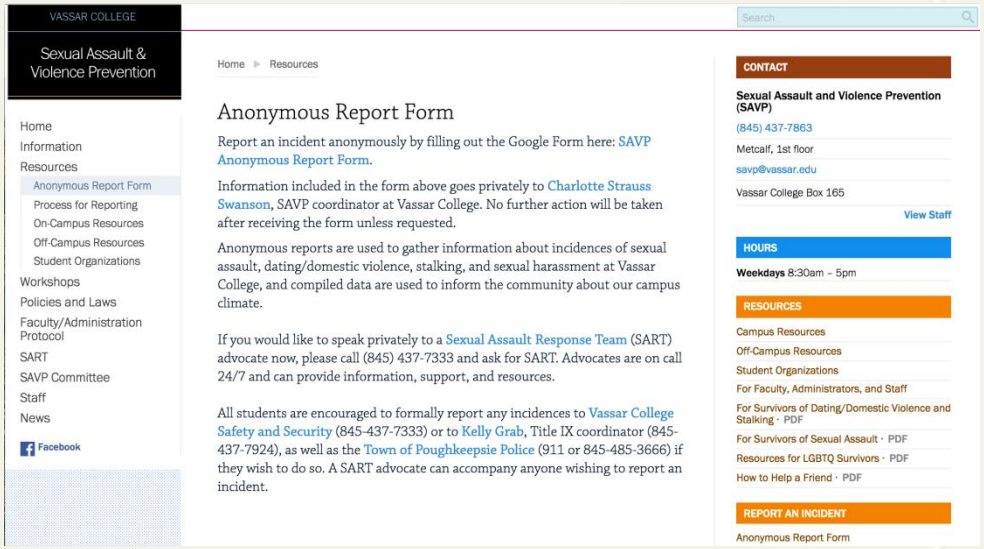
Here For You



Uask

Anonymous Reporting





- Technology is simultaneously
  - a context for violence perpetration/victimization
  - a tool for prevention, connection to service and accountability

- Significant unmet needs exist in prevention and connection to care on college campuses!

Other campus climate surveys

	Definitions	Prevalence	Sample size	Response rate
Johns Hopkins University	Overall prevalence of unwanted sexual behavior while at JHU	15% (n=613)	n=3,977	31%
	Unwanted sexual behavior	14% (n=542)		
	7% reported sexual violence as a labeled experience	7% (n=281)		
	Reported sexual violence as a described behavior	17%		
University of Chicago	Experiencing at least one unwanted sexual experience	Female undergraduates=52% Male undergraduates=20.5% Female graduates=18.2% Male graduates=8.1%	n=3,955	31.7%
MIT	Experiencing sexual harassment, rape, sexual assault, and other unwanted sexual behaviors while at MIT (one or more)	Female undergraduates=35% Male undergraduates=14% Female graduates=16% Male graduates=5%	n=3,844	35%
	"Labeled" unwanted sexual experiences including sexual harassment, sexual assault and/or rape	8%		
	Unwanted sexual behaviors, involving force, physical threat, or incapacitation.	6.5% (n=208)		
Stanford	Experienced sexual assault (according to Stanford's definition of sexual assault which is based on California's criminal rape and sexual offense statutes)	1.9%	n=9,067	59%
	Indicated having experiences categorized as meeting Stanford's definition of sexual misconduct since starting their degree programs at Stanford, including acts ranging from sexual touching to penetration	14.2 %		
University of California Berkeley	Had experienced unwanted sexual contact (including forcible rape, use of drugs to incapacitate, forcible sodomy, gang rape, sexual assault, sexual assault with an object, and forcible fondling) while at UC Berkeley	4%	n=13,102	24%

Context matters: distinguishing digital behavior

Table 3. Mean Scores for Number of Positive and Negative Words Chosen as Reactions (n = 365).

Variable	Mean score for female participants	Mean score for male participants	F statistic
Positive reactions to "sending a sexually suggestive/nude photo of you to a dating partner"	0.50	0.92	14.41***
Negative reactions to "sending a sexually suggestive/nude photo of you to a dating partner"	1.69	0.94	37.25***
Positive reactions to "receiving a sexually suggestive/nude photo of your dating partner"	0.82	1.91	70.63***
Negative reactions to "receiving a sexually suggestive/nude photo of your dating partner"	1.23	0.29	64.94***
Positive reactions to "having a dating partner call and/or text you repeatedly on your cell phone (on a normal day)"	1.43	1.30	0.52
Negative reactions to "having a dating partner call and/or text you repeatedly on your cell phone (on a normal day)"	0.23	0.28	0.24
Positive reactions to "having a dating partner message/post/Tweet several times a day on your social networking site"	0.87	0.87	0.004
Negative reactions to "having a dating partner message/post/Tweet several times a day on	0.55	0.56	0.004

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