

Sexual Conduct & Campus Safety Survey of 2016 (SCCS): Main Findings & Recommendations

The SCCS survey is supported by the Parent Fund and the Division of Student Services.

In 2016, survey participation as a percent of degree-seeking students (31%, n= 6439) was essentially the same as in 2014 (32%, n = 6098). Roughly, 78% of respondents in 2016 were new participants; 22% were repeat respondents from 2014.

Victimization

- 8% of respondents in 2016 self-identified as victims of physical sexual assault or rape (n = 516)
 - 89% of self-identified victims in 2016 (457 of 516) were "new" victims
 - 59 victims in 2016 also identified as victims in 2014
 - 15 have been re-victimized since 2014
 - 44 previously reported their victimization in 2014
- ↓ • This is a **difference of 3%** compared to 2014 wherein 11% (n = 651) self-identified as victims of *unwanted sexual contact*. The decrease in victimization is most likely due to a new measurement approach, not prevention efforts. Specifically...
 - In 2014, participants were asked "about experiences with sexual assault" further defined through a series of statements as *unwanted sexual contact* in the last year, and specifically, as a student at UNR.
 - In 2016, participants were asked a series of questions related first to sexual harassment, then sexual coercion (verbal coercion), and finally, sexual assault (physical coercion) or rape. Victims were asked to classify the timeframe as fall 2016, last academic year, or two or more years ago.
 - As expected, allowing participants to report sexual harassment and verbal coercion reduced the *measured or observed* prevalence of physical sexual assault and rape. *As such, we cannot state with confidence if any of the observed reduction in prevalence is due to prevention efforts.*
- Rates of Sexual Misconduct in the SCCS 2016 Survey [see common definitions on page 10]:
 - Sexual harassment = 24% of female respondents in 2016.
 - Sexual coercion = 13% of all respondents in 2016
 - Most common type of coercion was verbal; examples of verbal coercion include false promises, verbal threats to spread lies or rumors, and persistent verbal pressure.
 - Sexual assault = 8% of respondents in 2016 experienced nonconsensual, forcible, or attempted penetration.
 - **Incapacitated rape** (n = 246) 4% of respondents or 48% of self-identified victims
 - **Forcible rape** (n = 127) 2% of respondents or 25% of self-identified victims
 - **Attempted forcible rape** (n = 80) 1% of respondents or 15% of self-identified victims
 - **Suspected incapacitated rape** (n = 62) 1% of respondents or 12% of self-identified victims

- Victim Characteristics

- 87% of victims were women (83% in 2014)
- 13% were men (17% in 2014)
- 85% of victims were under the age of 26 in 2016 (86% in 2014)

Percent of Specific Groups:

- 21% of respondents with **diverse sexualities**, not heterosexual (14% in 2014)
- 19% of respondents who are **sorority women** identified as victims (18% in 2014) compared to 11% of non-member women; likewise, 6% of respondents who are **fraternity men** identified as victims (9% in 2014) compared to 2% of non-member men (4% in 2014).
 - Sorority and Fraternity victims were more likely to be drinking (85%).
- **65% of victims indicated they were drinking alcohol prior to the assault**; of those drinking, 80% identified as drunk.
 - In 2014, only 27% and 21% reported drinking and being drunk respectively

- Perpetrator Characteristics as reported by the Victim

- 90% of victims identified their perpetrator as male
- 52% identified the perpetrator as another student
- 86% knew the perpetrator
 - 30% identified the perpetrator as an acquaintance
 - 29% as a current, casual, or ex-romantic partner
 - 19% as a non-romantic friend
 - 14% as a stranger
- Victims were *more likely* to report drinking alcohol prior to the assault if the perpetrator was an acquaintance (81%) or stranger (79%); in contrast, victims were much *less likely* to report drinking alcohol if the perpetrator was a current, casual, or ex-romantic partner (49%)

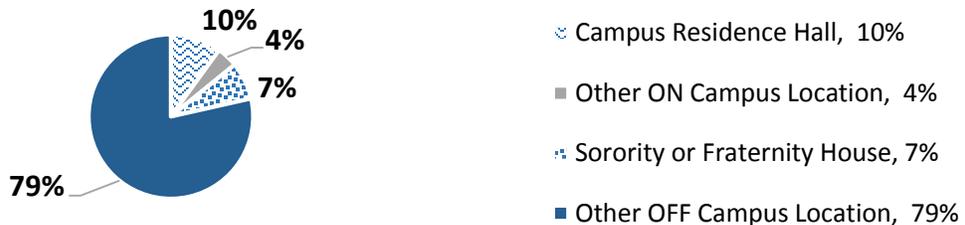
- Other experience related to the sexual assault experience

- 46% of victims reported the incident was somewhat or very frightening
- 22% of victims reported they felt helpless or frozen
- **49% of victims reported the assault affected their schoolwork**
- **27% of victims reported the assault affected their desire to stay at UNR**

- Victim reports about the sexual assault

- 27% of victims told no one
- When asked why they were hesitant to tell someone, 48% reported that they prefer to deal with it on their own

- Top 3 reasons women hesitate to tell someone
 - Felt somewhat responsible (42%);
 - Were ashamed or embarrassed (41%);
 - Want to forget (38%)
- Top 3 reasons men hesitate to tell someone
 - Not serious enough (26%);
 - Others would not think it is important (26%);
 - Want to forget (21%)
- Only 9% (n = 41) reported the sexual assault to a University of Nevada, Reno office or official; the majority contacted only one office/service (58%)
- Reports were made to the following campus services [not mutually exclusive selections]:
 - Counseling (27 of 41)
 - Victim Advocate (15)
 - Title IX, Denise Cordova (14)
 - Health Center (12)
 - Residence Hall Faculty or Staff (10)
 - UNR Police (9)
- The number of services contacted does not appear to impact the victim's "helpfulness" rating of University services; however, students who used Campus Counseling or Victim Advocate perceived greater helpfulness.
- Location of Sexual Assault
 - Most assaults (79%) occur off campus



Recommendations:

The SCCS surveys in 2014 and 2016 show that most sexual assaults occur through verbal coercion and intoxication, not overt violence. Indeed, both victims and perpetrators report high incidence wherein a coercing a verbal “yes” is the main tactic. This may indicate that messages about sexual consent have been heard, but are actively subverted by perpetrators. Outreach efforts should focus on emphasizing enthusiastic and on-going consent during sex.

Interpersonal Violence in Social Networks

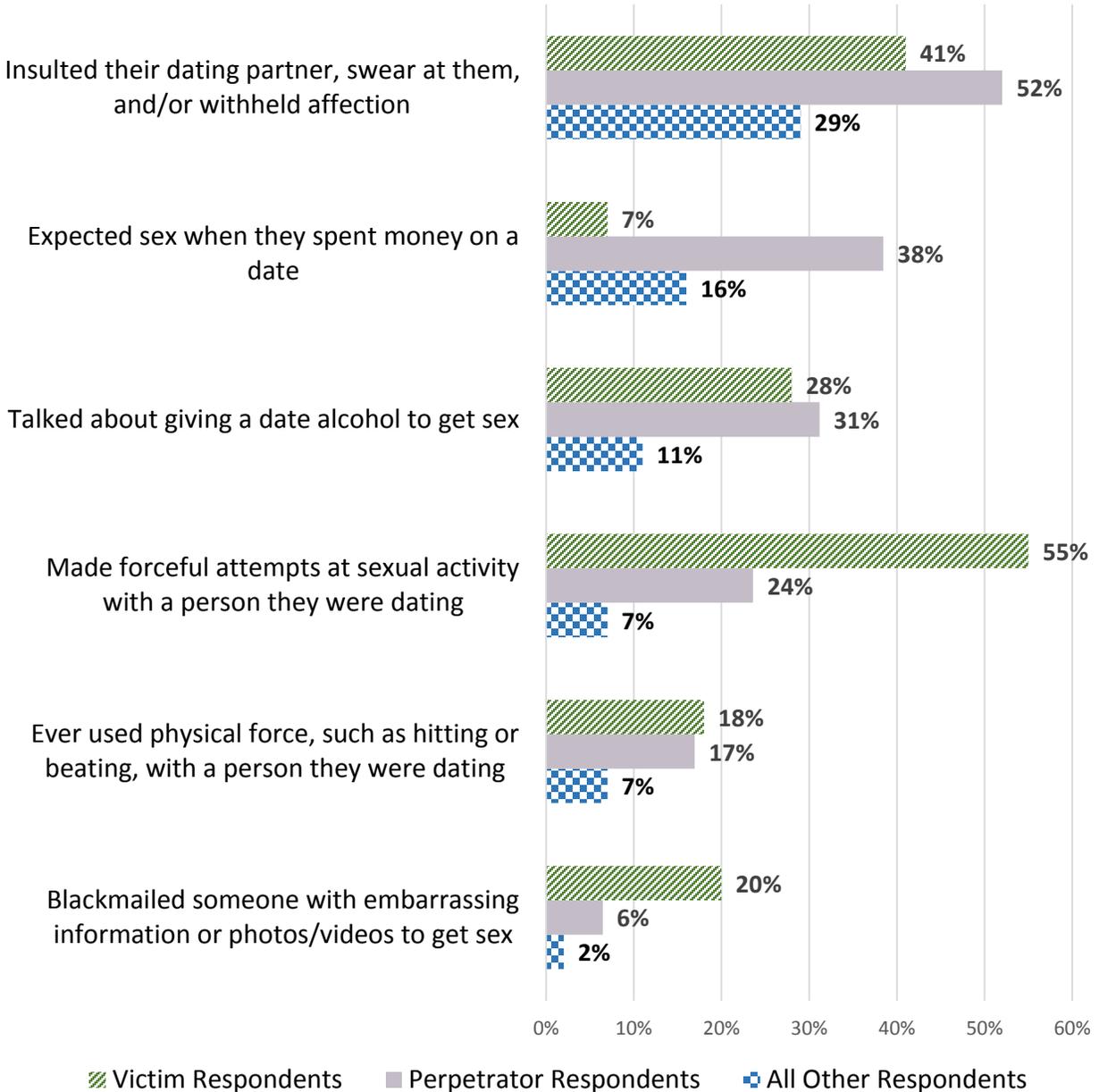
Over a thousand participants (n = 1029) reported that they had witnessed a situation that could or did lead to a sexual assault; of these participants, 52% reported they approached the person at-risk to assess the situation (i.e. 48% only report witnessing a potential assault and taking no action). The number of reported incidents amounts to roughly 200 a term; however, it is not possible to determine if these are unique incidents as multiple students may have witnessed the same event.

Furthermore, results reveal that victims and perpetrators (i.e. students who identified as having previously perpetrated sexual misconduct/assault) were more likely than other respondents to report their friends have perpetrated interpersonal violence, including both verbal and physical coercion. Thus, violence may exist with more frequency in certain friendship networks, putting individuals within those networks at greater risk of experiencing violence.

[See graph on next page]

The bar chart below (Figure A) displays the proportion of respondents reporting that at least one of their friends has engaged in interpersonal violence. The chart compares respondents indicating they are victims and perpetrators with all other respondents.

Friends' Interpersonal Violence Tactics as Reported by Victims, Perpetrators, and All Other Respondents



Recommendation:

Prevention efforts should occur on two fronts to address:

1. Sexual violence perpetrated by acquaintances, friends, and strangers in a party atmosphere
2. Sexual violence in the context of romantic relationships, wherein the perpetrator is a current, casual, or ex-romantic partners.

In more detail...

1. Violence that is perpetrated by acquaintances, friends, and strangers in a party atmosphere

Prevention efforts should continue to address the more common or “typical” types of sexual assault perpetrated by acquaintances, friends, and strangers. These assaults appear to be crimes of opportunity facilitated by alcohol. Prevention efforts should focus on proactive bystander interventions, especially the responsibility friends have to look out for one another. Likewise, alcohol risk and awareness needs to go beyond safety and address the attitude students hold that “alcohol facilitates sexual opportunity.”

The high ratings of direct confrontation among bystanders witnessing a possible sexual assault indicates that students may not be aware of the multitude of ways they can act to safely address violence. Providing students training to recognize violence as well as the wide variety of safe intervention strategies will help to increase proactive bystander confidence and intervention.

2. Violence that occurs in the context of romantic relationships (perpetrator is a current, casual, or ex-romantic partners).

Prevention efforts need to directly address coercion and violence in relationships (IPV).

The other track for prevention should address violence that happens within romantic or intimate relationships. For outreach addressing sexual violence within relationships, we should focus on the tendency for sexual, physical, and verbal violence to coincide in relationships. Prevention efforts should address healthy relationship communication, as well as the importance of sexual consent as ongoing and enthusiastic with current, past, or ex-romantic partners. Bystander awareness training for these relationship contexts would benefit from the domestic violence prevention literature, especially tactics that help victims identify unhealthy and controlling behavior by their partners as a form of violence.

SCCS Student Perceptions and Attitudes Assessed in 2014 & 2016

Section 1: Student Perceptions of General Campus Climate and Leadership

- Students appear to have a more positive perception of campus leadership in 2016 than they did in 2014. Ratings are more positive on average by 2/10^{ths} of a percent of the campus climate and leadership.
- Statistical analysis reveals specifically...
 - Students in 2016 **perceive more support** from faculty and administration than did students in 2014.
 - Students in 2016 are **more likely** to believe faculty and administration are **doing enough** to respond to and protect students than students in 2014.
 - Across both waves, **white** students are **more likely** to believe the administration is **doing enough**.
 - Across both waves, students who have been **victims** or have **friends** who have been victims of sexual assault are **less likely** to believe the administration is **doing enough**.
 - Across both waves, students who are **women** or who have been **victims** or have **friends** who have been victims of sexual assault are **less likely** to believe the administration will **take reports of sexual assault seriously**.
 - Students in 2016 are **less likely** to believe there will be **repercussions** against students who report a sexual assault.
 - Across both waves, students of more **advanced academic standing** are **less likely** to believe the college will respond well in a crisis.

Section 2: Bystander Readiness - the student's personal concern sexual misconduct or sexual assault is occurring at the University of Nevada, Reno.

- Students appear to be more concerned with sexual misconduct and assault on campus and more actively involved in prevention efforts in 2016 than they were in 2014.
- Statistical analysis reveals specifically...
 - Students in 2016 are **more concerned** with sexual misconduct and sexual assault than students in 2014.
 - Although students in 2016 are **more likely to be involved** with prevention efforts, they are **less likely to intend to learn more** about sexual assault on college campuses.
 - Across both waves, **women** are **more likely** to intend to learn more about sexual assault.
 - Across both waves, **white** students are **less likely** to intend to learn more about sexual assault.
 - Across both waves, **Fraternity and Sorority** students are **more likely to be involved** in prevention efforts.
 - Across both waves, **women** feel **less safe** on campus.
 - Student who believe **alcohol facilitates sexual opportunity** are **more concerned** with sexual misconduct and assault on campus; however, they are **less likely to be involved** in prevention efforts.

Recommendation:

We need to continue to promote sexual assault prevention among the general student population. That said, the victim profile suggests that we need to **actively recruit students of diverse sexualities and fraternity and sorority students** to participate in deeper training and prevention efforts. These students are at greatest risk of victimization.

[By extension, we have no quality indicators of the training fraternal organizations provide their students on this topic. Foremost, it does not appear to be enough to address the increased risk to sorority women in particular. We should attempt to assess the quality of sexual assault prevention information provided by organizations outside the University to our students. I am not currently aware of any effort by the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life to do so.]

SCCS 2016: Assessment of Prevention and Outreach Efforts

Over 50% of survey respondents (n = 3,439) have received some sort of training on campus policies, procedures, and resources to prevent sexual assault.

Table 2: Campus Sources identified as providing information on Sexual Assault Policies and Procedures [not mutually exclusive selections]	Number of Participants	Percent of Respondents
Student Orientation	2253	35%
Title IX Coordinator, Denise Cordova	1123	17%
Residential Life	764	12%
Sorority or Fraternity	501	8%
Other Campus Organization	393	6%
Student Conduct Office	314	5%
Campus Club or Organization	289	4%
Counseling Services	258	4%
Student Health Center	251	4%
Justine Hernandez, Coordinator of Interpersonal Violence	220	3%
Police Services	175	3%
Received training elsewhere (not UNR)	158	2%
Campus Victim Advocate	81	1%

Academic standing is a strong predictor as to how students report receiving of this information; new students, younger students, and those early in their academic career are more likely to report receiving this information at New Student Orientation, in residential life, from their sorority or fraternity, or some other club or organization. Older students, advanced undergraduates, and graduate students are *less likely* to report any exposure to this this information.

Recommendation:

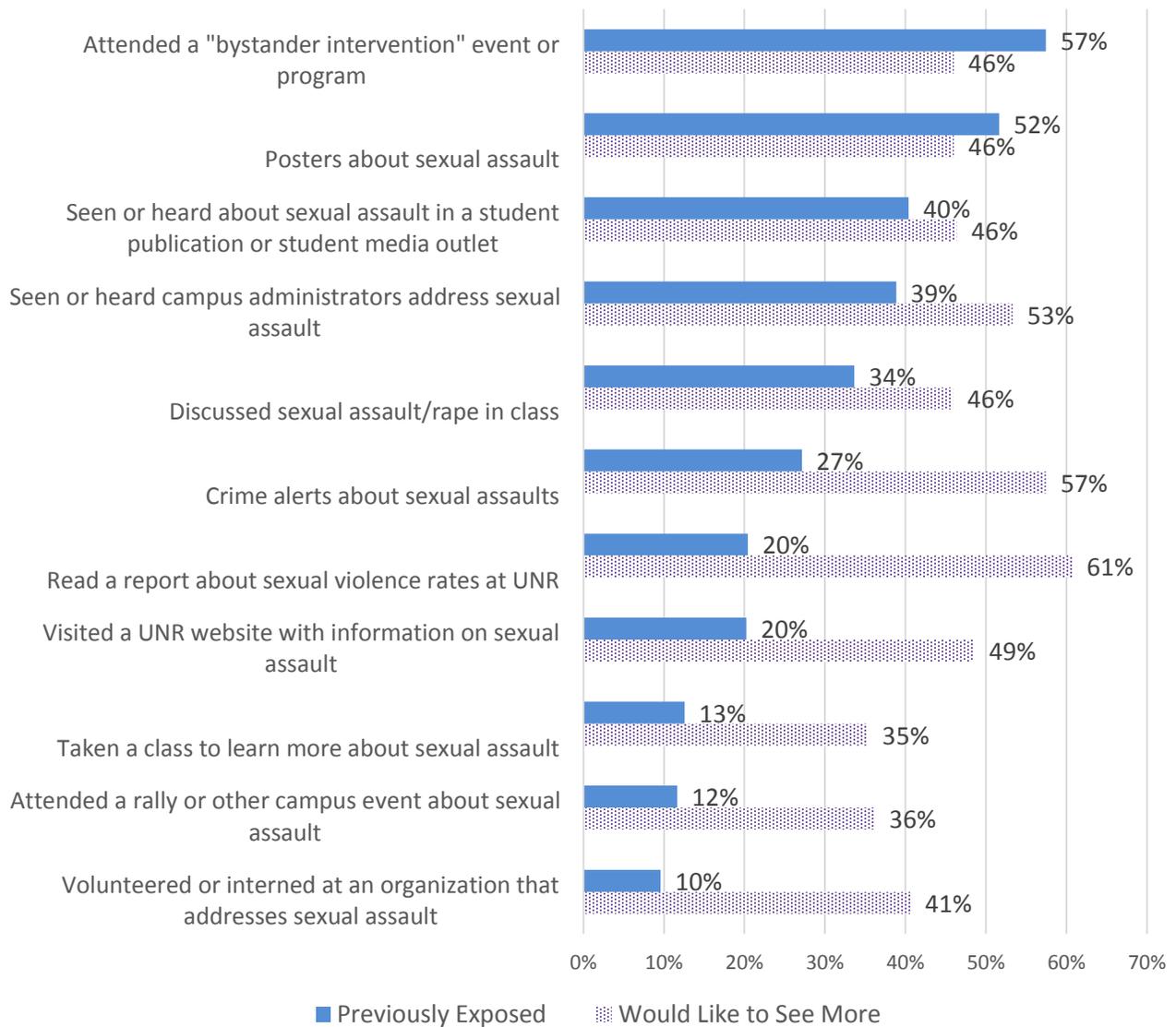
We recommend that sexual assault reporting information be incorporated into many diverse events throughout the year to increase exposure to information on the available resources. Students may only remember such information once they or a friend are in need. Likewise, faculty should continue to be

encouraged to incorporate this information in to their course syllabi and address it throughout each term.

Messaging

A subset of participants (n = 2003), were asked a follow-up question to identify the mode in which they were exposed to sexual assault outreach and prevention information or materials, as well as if they would like to see or receive information provided in this way. For example, 57% of students in this subset had attended a "bystander intervention" event or training, but only 46% desire to receive information in this way.

Previous Exposure and Preference for Sexual Assault Information by Mode



Recommendations:

Students appear to want to read more about sexual assault (interest in reports, 61%) and crime (crime alerts, 57%) at our University. It appears that students are seeking a greater level of transparency from the administration. They want to hear campus administrators discuss sexual assault (53%), even though they believe the leadership is “doing enough” to address sexual assault on campus.

It is also important to note that sexual assault prevention outreach messages should be tailored to the concerns of men and women. Based on findings that male victims are reporting that their assault will not be taken seriously, men need outreach messages that de-stigmatize help seeking by reassuring them that male sexual assault is not acceptable and reports will be taken seriously. In contrast, female victims feel partially responsible for their assault. As such, women need outreach that addresses self-blame and shame. As previously stated, we should create outreach materials and messages that reach audiences (male and female) with different assault type-risk (relationship and non-relationship) to increase message relevance, salience, and adoption.

Common Definitions for Sexual Misconduct

Definitions from the 2014, *White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault: Sample Language and Definitions of Prohibited Conduct for a School's Sexual Misconduct Policy*. Accessed on April 7th, 2016 at <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/page/file/910276/download>

Consent

"Consent" must be informed, voluntary, and mutual, and can be withdrawn at any time. There is no consent when there is force, expressed or implied, or when coercion, intimidation, threats, or duress is used. Whether a person has taken advantage of a position of influence over another person may be a factor in determining consent. Silence or absence of resistance does not imply consent. Past consent to sexual activity with another person does not imply ongoing future consent with that person or consent to that same sexual activity with another person. If a person is mentally or physically incapacitated or impaired so that such person cannot understand the fact, nature, or extent of the sexual situation, there is no consent; this includes impairment or incapacitation due to alcohol or drug consumption that meets this standard, or being asleep or unconscious.

Sexual assault

"Sexual assault" is actual or attempted sexual contact with another person without that person's consent. Sexual assault includes, but is not limited to: coercing, forcing, or attempting to coerce or force a person to touch another person's intimate parts without that person's consent; or rape.

Rape

"Rape" is penetration, no matter how slight, of (1) the vagina or anus of a person by any body part of another person or by an object, or (2) the mouth of a person by a sex organ of another person, without that person's consent.

Sexual violence

"Sexual violence" is physical sexual acts perpetrated against a person's will or when a person is incapable of giving consent (for example, due to the student's age or use of drugs or alcohol, or because an intellectual or other disability prevents the student from having the capacity to give consent). A number of different acts fall into the category of sexual violence, including rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, sexual abuse, and sexual coercion.

Sexual harassment

"Sexual harassment" is unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature, including but not limited to unwelcome sexual advances; requests for sexual favors; or other verbal or nonverbal conduct of a sexual nature, including rape, sexual assault, and sexual exploitation. In addition, depending on the facts, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking may also be forms of sexual harassment.

Bystander role

The "bystander role" includes interrupting situations that could lead to assault before it happens or during an incident; speaking out against social norms that support sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking; and having skills to be an effective and supportive ally to survivors.