

COLUMBIA SEXUAL RESPECT & GENDER-BASED MISCONDUCT SURVEY DATA REPORT

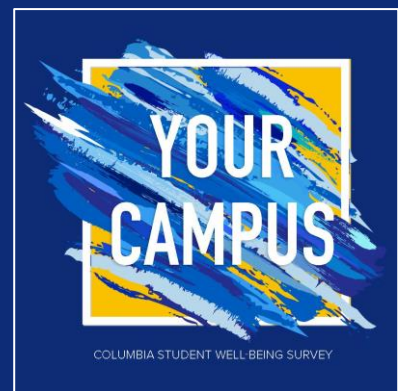
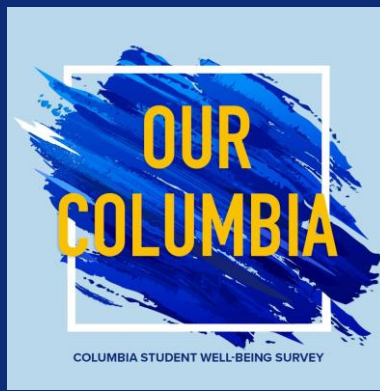
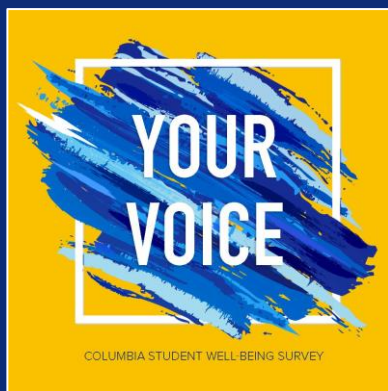


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OVERVIEW

This data report on sexual respect and gender-based misconduct is an excerpt from the comprehensive [2020 Columbia Student Well-Being Survey Report](#), available on the University Life website.

The Columbia Student Well-Being Survey grows out of Columbia's commitment to student health and well-being across the University and focuses on three areas: inclusion and belonging, overall health and mental health, and sexual respect and gender-based misconduct.

The 2020 Survey was completed by degree-seeking Columbia University students from mid-February to mid-March 2020. A total of 29,556 Columbia students were invited to participate, 9,096 (31%) of whom completed the survey. The overall participation rate ranged from 26% to 52% of students, depending on the school. The results presented in this report include data from students in all 16 schools at Columbia:¹ Columbia College; Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Sciences; School of General Studies; Columbia Business School; College of Dental Medicine; Columbia Journalism School; Columbia Law School; Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation; Graduate School of Arts and Sciences; Mailman School of Public Health; School of the Arts; School of International and Public Affairs; School of Nursing; School of Professional Studies; School of Social Work; and the Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons.

¹ Because Barnard College, Teachers College, Union Theological Seminary, and Jewish Theological Seminary are distinct institutions within Columbia University, they undertake their own surveys of their student bodies.

SEXUAL RESPECT AND GENDER-BASED MISCONDUCT

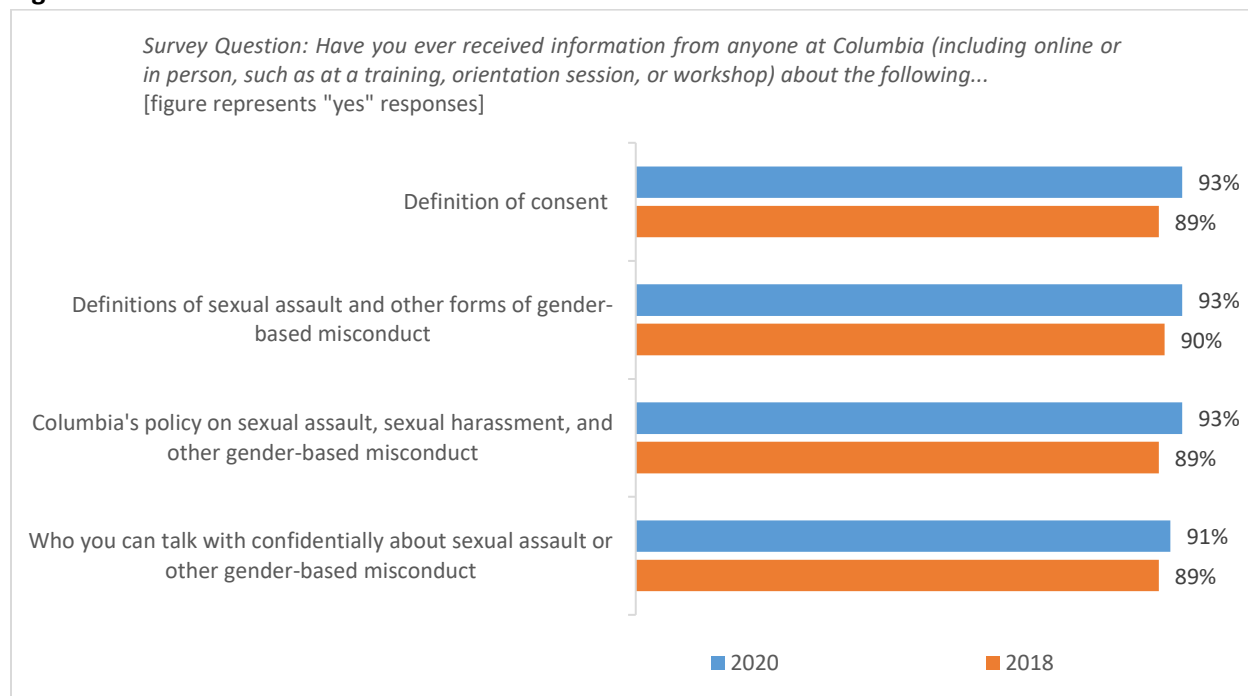
This section includes students' experiences with gender-based misconduct and knowledge and use of campus resources. Columbia University's [Gender-Based Misconduct and Interim Title IX Policies and Procedures for Students](#) notes the following regarding gender-based misconduct:

- Sexual harassment, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, gender-based harassment, stalking, domestic violence, and dating violence are all forms of gender-based misconduct. In some instances, behavior that is not sexual in nature can be considered gender-based misconduct.
- Gender-based misconduct can occur between strangers or acquaintances, or people who know each other well, including between people involved in an intimate or sexual relationship.
- Gender-based misconduct can be committed by anyone regardless of gender identity, and it can occur between people of the same or a different sex or gender. (2020, p. 3)

Knowledge of Essential Information about Sexual Respect at Columbia

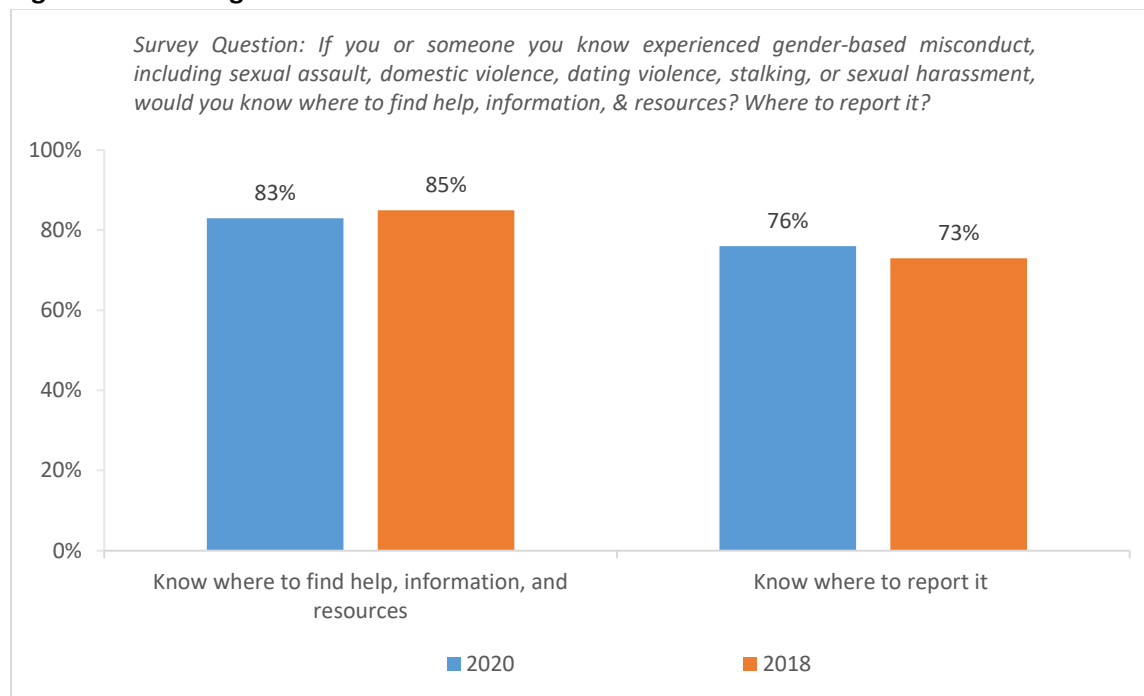
The survey asked students about their knowledge of essential information of key definitions and concepts and their awareness of campus resources related to gender-based misconduct. Over 90% of students confirmed that they received essential information, such as definitions of important concepts and policies on gender-based misconduct at Columbia. Most importantly, they know who they can talk to confidentially about a question or concern. Across all areas, student survey participants' knowledge of essential information increased slightly from the 2018 Survey.

Figure 1. Received Essential Information



Many know where to find support related to experiences of gender-based misconduct, though slightly less (76%) know where to report an experience to the University. This is not a noteworthy difference from the 2018 Survey when 85% indicated that they knew where to find support and 73% knew about reporting to the University. We will continue efforts to increase students' awareness.

Figure 2. Knowledge of Essential Information



Students were asked if they knew New York State's definition of affirmative consent before participating in the survey. New York is one of a small number of states in the U.S. that requires colleges and universities to have an affirmative consent standard in campus policies on sexual assault. Most student survey participants (89%) are aware of the definition, similar to what was found in the 2018 Survey.

Affirmative consent is a knowing, voluntary, and mutual decision among all participants to engage in sexual activity.

Experiences with Gender-Based Misconduct Prior to Columbia

Almost one in three (31%) student survey participants reported experiencing gender-based misconduct prior to enrolling at Columbia. This figure was 26% in 2018. This is especially important because individuals who have had prior experience(s) with gender-based misconduct are at heightened risk of re-victimization (Desai et al., 2002; Lalor & McElvaney, 2010; Mellins et al., 2017; Tjaden et al., 2000;).

Most importantly, as seen in Figures 25 and 26, there are gender and racial/ethnic differences. Students who identify as transgender/gender non-binary and as female indicated experiencing unwanted sexual contact prior to Columbia at higher rates than male students (56% of transgender/gender non-binary

students, 41% female, and 14% male). This data is consistent with national data that indicate that gender non-binary and transgender students are often at higher risk of experiencing gender-based misconduct, including sexual assault (Cantor et al., 2020; Mellins et al., 2017).

Figure 3. Experiences with Gender-Based Misconduct Prior to Columbia (by Gender)

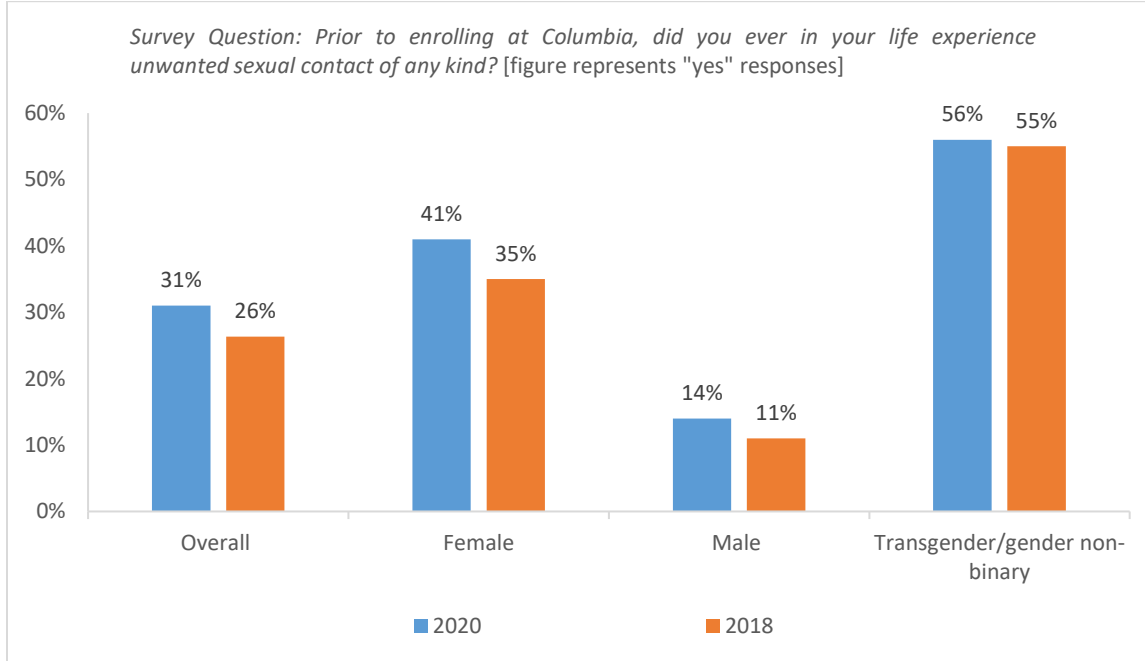
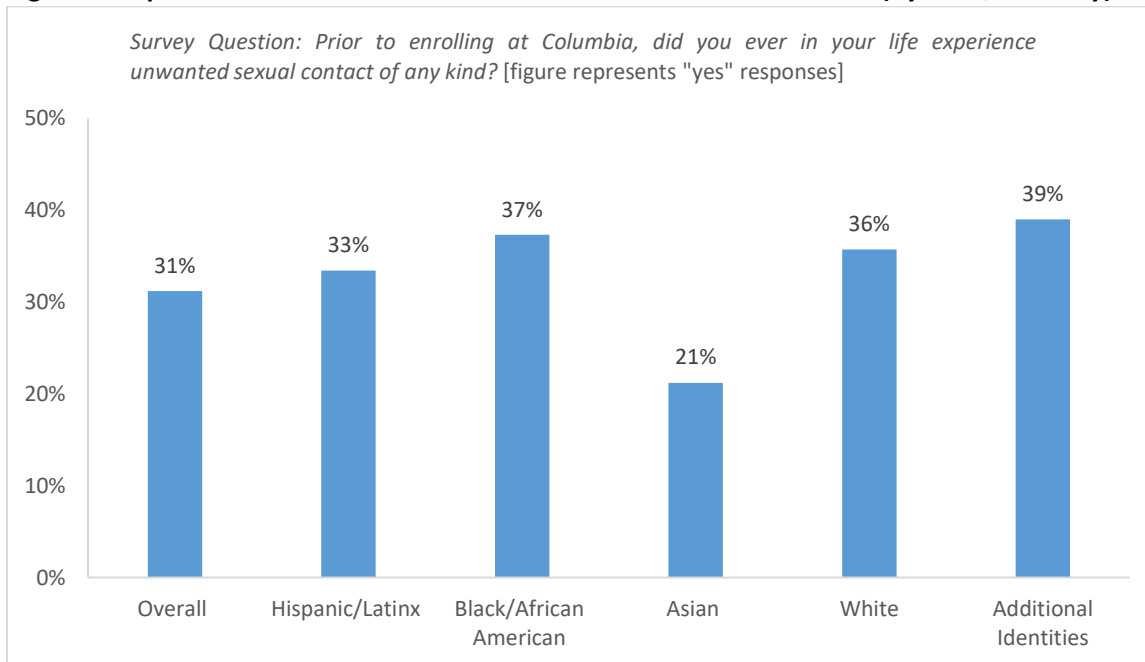


Figure 4. Experiences with Gender-Based Misconduct Prior to Columbia (by Race/Ethnicity)



Experiences with Gender-Based Misconduct at Columbia

While a majority of student survey participants did not report experiencing any kind of gender-based misconduct while at Columbia, some did indicate having these experiences. This has held true over the years as shown by the 2018 Columbia Student Well-Being Survey, along with the [Sexual Health Initiative to Foster Transformation \(SHIFT\)](#)² and the 2015 [Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct](#)³ conducted by the American Association for Universities (AAU) and of which Columbia University was a participant.

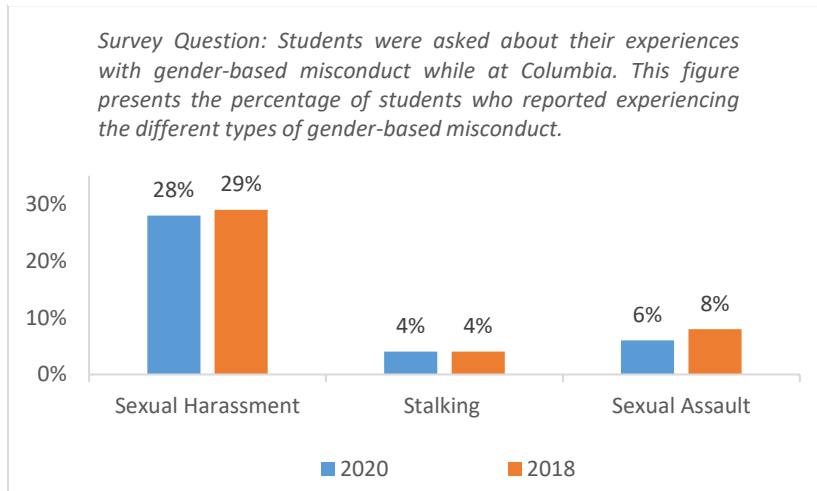
The 2020 Survey data show fewer incidents of gender-based misconduct at Columbia than were reported in the 2018 Survey and the 2019 AAU [Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct](#)⁴ and that are commonly reported by the national media (Cantor et al., 2020; Mellins et al., 2017;). Although this is a promising trend, we recognize that students may be reluctant for many reasons to report experiences of unwanted sexual contact, even on an anonymous survey and even with increased awareness and other shifts in the national discourse on issues related to sexual misconduct (Hirsch & Khan, 2020; Mellins et al., 2017). We will continue to look closely at the data and to survey students in the future about these experiences as we evaluate our collective work in creating a campus culture that rejects all forms of gender-based misconduct, including sexual assault.

Sexual Harassment, Stalking, and Sexual Assault

The survey asked students about their experiences with sexual harassment, stalking, and sexual assault since enrolling at Columbia. Figure 27 shows the percentages from the 2020 and 2018 Surveys, with overall percentages of sexual harassment and sexual assault decreasing slightly from 2018 to 2020 and percentages remaining the same for student survey participants with experiences of stalking.

As an additional point of comparison, even though the surveys are not fully comparable, national data from the 2019 AAU [Campus Climate Survey](#) showed 42% of student survey participants had experienced sexual harassment, 6% had experienced stalking, and 13% had experienced sexual assault.

Figure 5. Experiences with Gender-Based Misconduct at Columbia



² The [Sexual Health Initiative to Forster Transformation \(SHIFT\)](#) was a comprehensive research project that examined the individual, interpersonal, and structural (cultural, community, and institutional) factors that shape sexual health and sexual violence for undergraduates at Columbia University and Barnard College. SHIFT, led by CUIMC faculty members Jennifer S. Hirsch and Claude Ann Mellins, was funded by Columbia University in 2016.

³ Columbia University participated in the 2015 [Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct](#) as a part of a consortium of 27 colleges and universities organized by the American Association for Universities (AAU).

⁴ Although Columbia University did not participate in the 2019 AAU [Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct](#), it is useful to include for general comparison and insight into similar issues, even though it may not be fully comparable to the Columbia Student Well-Being Survey in part because of its different scope and questions. The 2019 AAU [Campus Climate Survey](#) included 33 colleges and universities.

Sexual Assault

The survey asked students about their experiences with sexual assault since enrolling at Columbia, using questions based on one of the most widely used and validated measures of sexual assault (Koss et al., 1987; Mellins et al., 2017). The survey defined sexual assault as unwanted touching, penetrative assault, and attempted penetrative assault.

As seen in Figure 28, 6% of student survey participants indicated that they had experienced any type of sexual assault since enrolling at Columbia as compared to 8% in 2018. Figure 29 on the next page provides data for each type of sexual assault from the 2020 and 2018 Surveys, with decreases across all three types of sexual assault from 2018 to 2020.

Figure 6. Sexual Assault Since Enrolling at Columbia (by Gender and Race/Ethnicity)

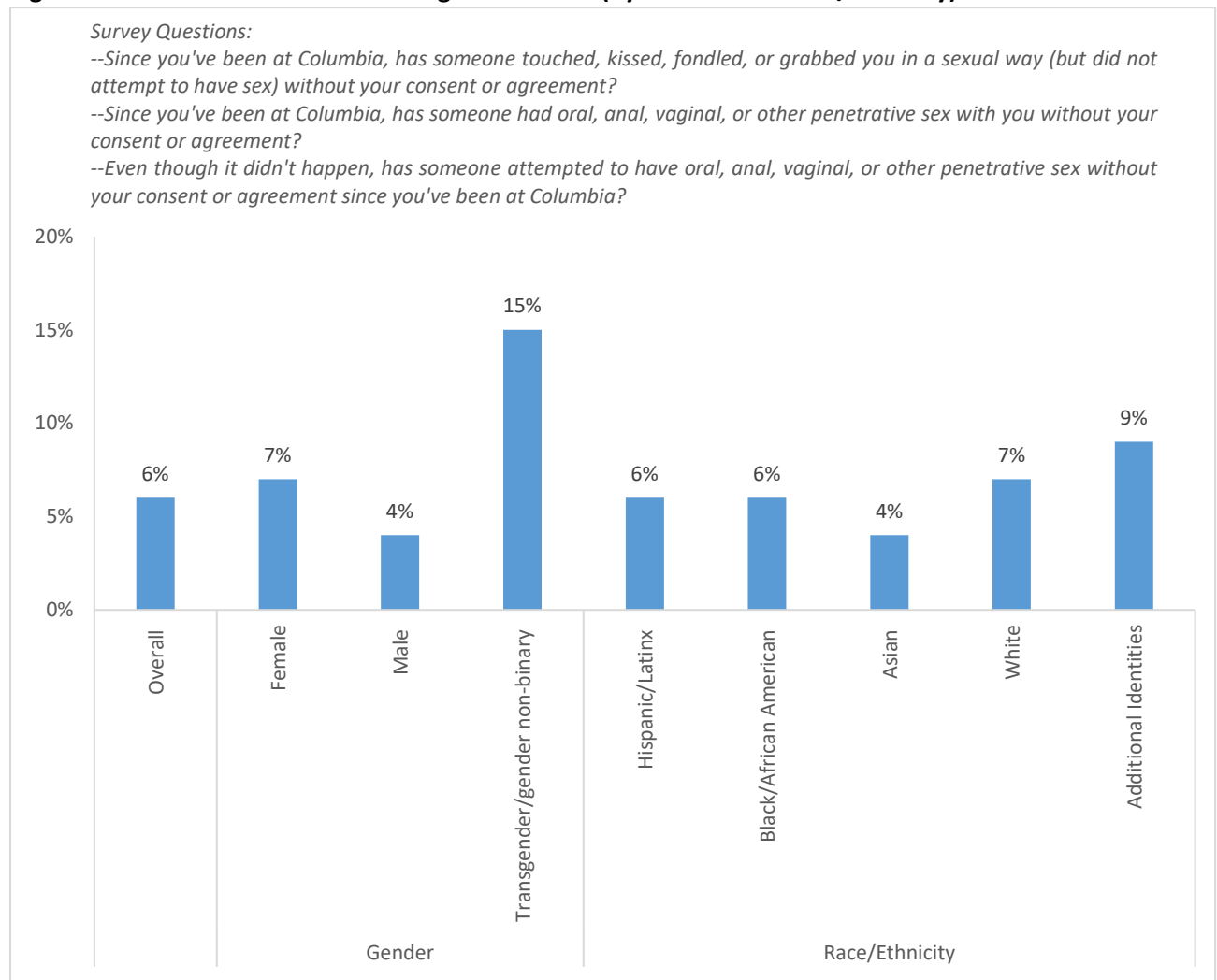
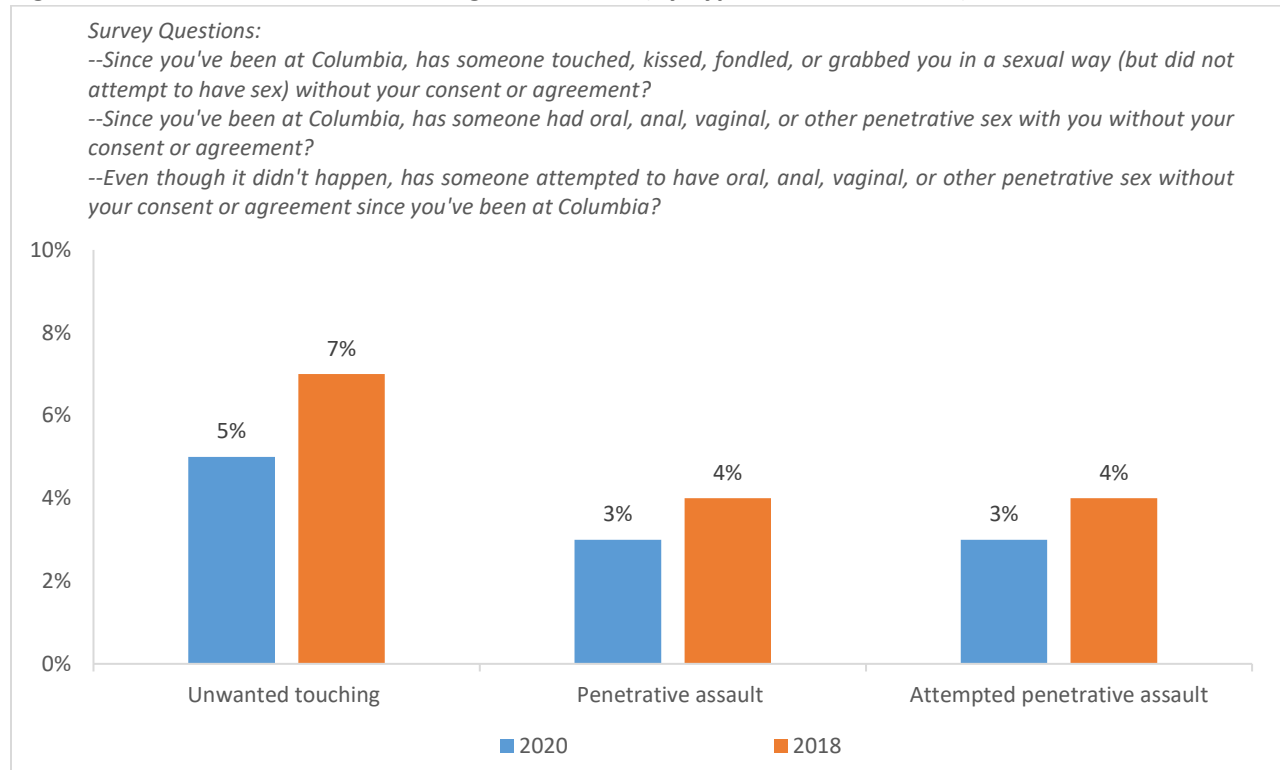


Figure 7. Sexual Assault Since Enrolling at Columbia (by Type of Sexual Assault)



Additionally, student survey participants were asked about their experience with sexual assault during the 2019-20 academic year. Three percent of student survey participants indicated that they experienced any sexual assault during the academic year in which the survey was administered (2019-20). From the 2018 Survey, 3.5% of student survey participants indicated that they had experienced any type of sexual assault during that academic year (2017-18).

Perpetrators of Gender-Based Misconduct

Student survey participants who indicated that they had experienced sexual harassment, stalking, or sexual assault were then asked who behaved in those ways toward them. The percentages shared here for the different categories of perpetrators do not total 100% as they do not represent the full list of response options in the survey. Refer to [Appendix](#) for complete details.

Among the 28% of student survey participants who experienced any form of sexual harassment, a majority of these students (81%) indicated that the person who behaved that way towards them was another student. Some students also indicated that the perpetrator was a faculty member (14%), an individual unaffiliated with Columbia (11%), a stranger off campus (9%), or a staff member, including administrator or supervisor (7%).

Among the 4% of student survey participants who experienced any form of stalking, a majority of these students (76%) indicated that the person who behaved that way towards them was another student. Some students also indicated that the perpetrator was an individual unaffiliated with Columbia (10%), a staff member, including administrator or supervisor (8%), or a faculty member (6%).

Among the 6% of student survey participants who experienced any type of sexual assault, many of these students (56%) indicated that the person who behaved that way towards them was another student (56%), followed by a friend or an acquaintance (20%). Some students also indicated that the perpetrator was a current or former boyfriend, girlfriend, intimate partner, or spouse (18%), current or former hook-up (18%), or a stranger (18%).

While the percentages of student survey participants who experienced sexual assault and harassment have declined slightly from the 2018 Survey to the 2020 Survey, there continues to be a need for additional work with and support for students regarding gender-based misconduct.

Resources and Supports at Columbia

The survey asked students whether they knew about resources related to gender-based misconduct and whether they used those resources. Overall, 83% of student survey participants have knowledge of campus resources that provide support if a student should have an experience with gender-based misconduct, though there are differences to students' awareness of each resource. Only a small percentage of students make use of the campus resources.

Table 1. Awareness and Use of Resources and Supports

Survey Question: Please indicate your awareness and use of the following campus resources for sexual assault or other forms of gender-based misconduct.	Used, Helpful (%)	Used, Not Helpful (%)	Aware, Not Used (%)	Not Aware (%)
Counseling & Psychological Services (Morningside) or Mental Health Services (CUIMC)	9	3	84	4
Gender-Based Misconduct Office/Student Conduct and Community Standards	1	1	74	24
Medical Services (Columbia Health at Morningside or CUIMC Student Health Service)	16	3	77	5
Office of the University Chaplain and Religious Life	1	0	65	34
Ombuds Office	1	1	57	42
Public Safety	6	1	86	8
Sexual Violence Response (Morningside or CUIMC)	2	0	84	14
University Title IX Coordinator	1	1	67	31

More information on Columbia resources can be found on Columbia's [Sexual Respect website](#). For more information about Columbia's extensive prevention and response efforts, visit the [Annual Report on Gender-Based Misconduct Prevention and Response at Columbia University](#), as well as Public Safety's

[Annual Security and Fire Safety Report](#). As the report notes, all students must participate in Columbia's Sexual Respect and Community Citizenship Initiative in their first semester on campus, in addition to receiving information before arrival on campus and during orientation, and all faculty and staff receive briefings and training on gender-based misconduct and related issues. See also the [Annual Report of the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action](#) for more information about formal complaints regarding sexual harassment and other gender-based misconduct by students, faculty, and staff.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED (STUDENTS, FACULTY, & STAFF)

As mentioned at the outset, creating an environment free from sexual and gender-based misconduct is a collective effort – and one that benefits from students, faculty, and staff contributions. There are many ways to get involved and resources available to you.

Resources can be found on Columbia’s [Sexual Respect website](#) and on [University Life’s website](#).

For Students

Get involved in the [Sexual Respect Initiative](#) that is an important part of the [Community Citizenship Initiative](#). Through the Sexual Respect Initiative, students can [participate in various opportunities that include workshops](#), learn about becoming a [University Life Ambassador](#), or find other ways to [get involved](#).

Students at the Morningside campus can [get involved](#) with Columbia Health by volunteering as educators, advocates, and ambassadors. Students at the CUIMC campus can contact [Well-Being and Health Promotion](#) to learn about opportunities to get involved. Also, learn about [volunteer opportunities with SVR](#) as a peer advocate or peer educator.

For Faculty

As the data show, faculty members are invaluable in supporting student well-being, both inside and outside the classroom. This finding also reinforces how important it is for faculty to be aware of student-support resources.

From office hour conversations to student mentoring to creating a welcoming classroom or lab environment and providing constructive feedback, faculty can make an enormous difference in students’ ability to thrive at Columbia.

A quick reference list of student resources is available on the [University Life website](#). The [Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Advancement](#) and the [Center for Teaching and Learning](#) also offer essential resources for faculty and staff on inclusive teaching, mentoring and many other topics.

For Staff

Students’ interactions with Columbia’s extensive staff at all levels can also make an important and positive difference in students’ well-being, both academically and socially. As the data show, staff play an essential role in fostering students’ campus connections and linking students to additional resources as needed. In addition to the work being done in many departments, schools and institutes, staff can participate in existing programs led by [University Life](#).

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APPENDIX: Perpetrators of Gender-Based Misconduct

Survey Question (asked only of student survey participants who had experienced sexual harassment or stalking since becoming a student at Columbia): *How was the person(s) who behaved this way affiliated with Columbia? Check all that apply.*

	% of Students (those who had experienced sexual harassment)	% of Students (those who had experienced stalking)
Student	81	76
Teaching Assistant (TA), Resident Assistant (RA), or another student supervisor	3	4
Faculty	14	6
Staff, including administrator, supervisor, or other staff	7	8
A patient or client at a Columbia-sponsored placement or internship	2	NA (data not available for n<3)
A supervisor or other employee at a Columbia-sponsored placement or internship	2	3
Someone you did not know, in a Columbia building or open space	6	4
Someone you did not know, off-campus	9	4
<u>Not</u> a Columbia affiliate	11	10
I don't know/remember	6	4

Survey Question (asked only of student survey participants who had experienced unwanted sexual contact (e.g., unwanted kissing, touching of private parts, grabbing, fondling, rubbing, but no attempt at penetrative sex; unwanted oral, anal, vaginal, or other penetrative sex; attempted but not completed penetrative sex) since becoming a student at Columbia): *Who was the person(s) who did this to you? Check all that apply.*

	% of Students (those who had experienced sexual assault)
Columbia student	56
Current or former boyfriend, girlfriend, intimate partner, spouse	18
Current or former hook-up	18
Friend or acquaintance	20
Teaching Assistant (TA), Resident Assistant (RA), or another student supervisor	2
Professor	1
Staff, including administrator, supervisor, or other staff	2
A patient or client at a Columbia-sponsored placement or internship	0.6
A supervisor or other employee at a Columbia-sponsored place or internship	NA (data not available for n<3)
Co-worker	2
Relative/family	NA (data not available for n<3)
Stranger/someone you did not know	18

