



Survey Results: Wentworth Sexual Misconduct Report 2016

In the spring 2015 semester, Wentworth Institute of Technology conducted a campus climate survey on sexual misconduct. The purpose of the survey was to understand students' attitudes, behaviors, and experiences regarding: sexual assault, harassment, stalking, and abusive relationships. The survey instrument was developed by a team of Wentworth community members who adapted questions based on similar work and surveys conducted at other colleges and universities and guidelines from The White House Task Force on Sexual Assault. The results have informed training during the 2015-2016 academic year for faculty, staff and students, intervention and protocol response, and educational programming, and will continue to do so. For a list of additional steps being taken for the summer and fall of the 2016-2017 academic year please see www.wit.edu/notalone.

Wentworth has had in place comprehensive policies, procedures, and training concerning Title IX and sexual misconduct. The data collected from the survey helped to inform and improve training during the 2015-2016 academic year for faculty, staff and students; intervention and protocol response; and educational programming and will continue to do so. The following steps were taken during the 2015 – 2016 academic year:

The Division of Student Affairs:

Additional bystander training for new students during new student orientation and Wentworth Opening Week (summer 2015 and continuing).

Additional Title IX training and reporting requirement for student orientation leaders, resident assistants, resident directors, and first-year seminar instructors (summer 2015 and continuing).

The Academic Division:

Deans and Department Chairs were informed of the survey results concerning attitudes, beliefs, and reported harassment experiences in academic facilities. Presentation included: Institute policies governing conduct of faculty, staff, and students; reminders about reporting obligations; and available resources.

Department of Public Safety:

All public safety officers continue to be state certified sexual assault investigators.

Promoted Clery report on multiples sites guiding students on process for reporting sexual misconduct and available resources.

Increased efforts to publicize Rape Aggression Defense ("RAD") training for women and a similar program for men, which led to increased participation rates in recent sessions.

Institute-wide Campus Climate Committee:

President Pantić appointed an Institute-wide Campus Climate Committee with a charge to examine and evaluate the survey results and to make recommendations to her on ongoing responses and training.

The committee was convened in fall 2015 and meets monthly. There are three subcommittees – (1) Student Programming; (2) Faculty/Staff Training; and (3) Communication – that meet independently reporting back to the full committee about ongoing analysis and work.

This report is a summary of key results from the survey. Students were asked to base responses on their experiences over the last 12 months as a student at Wentworth. Throughout the survey, students were able to select “I prefer not to answer” as a response or opt out of any question and still continue on in the survey. Some questions allowed individuals to select multiple answers to reflect multiple experiences.

This report is organized into the following sections:

- I. Response to Survey
- II. Climate: Student Experiences, Attitudes, and Knowledge
- III. Student Experiences with Sexual Assault, Harassment, Stalking, and Abusive Relationships
- IV. Engaging in Sexual Assault, Harassment, Stalking, and Abusive Relationships
- V. Reporting and Campus Resources
- VI. Additional Information

The survey included a trigger warning, and students were provided with persons able to assist them (confidential and non-confidential) and information related to concerns about taking the survey and personal responses it might elicit.

Reviewing the survey results in this report might remind you of experiences that you, or a friend or family member, have gone through. If you would like to talk to someone about questions or concerns relating to sexual assault, harassment, stalking, or abusive relationships, please contact one of the following resources:

- Wentworth’s Office of Student Affairs (non-confidential) 617-989-4702
- Wentworth’s Office of Public Safety (non-confidential) 617-989-4400
- Wentworth’s Title IX Coordinator (Vice President Anne Gill) (non-confidential) 617-989-4193
- Wentworth’s Center for Wellness and Disability Services (confidential) 617-989-4390
- Boston Area Rape Crisis Center 24-Hour Hotline (confidential) 800-841-8371
- Wentworth’s Employee Assistance Program: All One Health (confidential) 800-451-1834

I. Response to Survey

The survey was distributed electronically to 3,919 students: undergraduate, day students and to graduate students enrolled in the Master of Architecture program. 801 students participated in the survey, yielding a 20% response rate. The following are the response rates by gender identity:

- Of the 801 respondents:
 - 521 (65%) identified as male, 17% of overall male population
 - 269 (34%) identified as female, 34% of overall female population
 - 4 (>1%) identified as transgender/trans*¹, overall trans* population not gathered by Wentworth
 - 7 (>1%) preferred not to answer

The percentages of responding students by class were: 26% first year; 26% sophomore; 26% junior; 19% senior; 1% 5th year; and 2% Master of Architecture. The responses by undergraduate and graduate students are combined throughout this report. First year through fifth year class students reported nearly all forms of experiences of sexual assault², harassment, stalking, and abusive relationships (collectively “sexual misconduct”).³ Master of Architecture students did not report any experiences with sexual assault, but they did report experiences of harassment, stalking, and abusive relationships. Because the number of students identifying as trans* was limited to four, data provided by trans* students is not included to protect the confidentiality and privacy of this small group.

Response bias is expected in voluntary surveys such as this one. While twenty percent (20%) of students participated in this survey, it is not possible to know if students self-selected in or out of the survey in a way that would bias the results. It is difficult to determine whether students who have experienced sexual misconduct were more or less likely to respond to the survey. It is not possible to draw conclusions from these results about the incidence of these experiences across the Wentworth student population as a whole; these numbers should be understood only to represent the experiences among the students who responded. Additionally, students could choose to not identify their gender identity, class, where the incident happened, who was the perpetrator, to whom they reported the incident and could report multiple incidents of each type of experience; and therefore, the percentages in the tables that follow should not be added.

II. Climate: Student Experiences, Attitudes, and Knowledge

Students were asked a series of questions about Wentworth’s climate including: experiences regarding remarks, jokes, or comments of a sexual nature or comments about whether women meet the same intellectual standards as men for acceptance and success at Wentworth; sexually explicit, graphic, or degrading language; attitudes and beliefs about sexual misconduct; and knowledge about other students’ experiences with sexual assault.

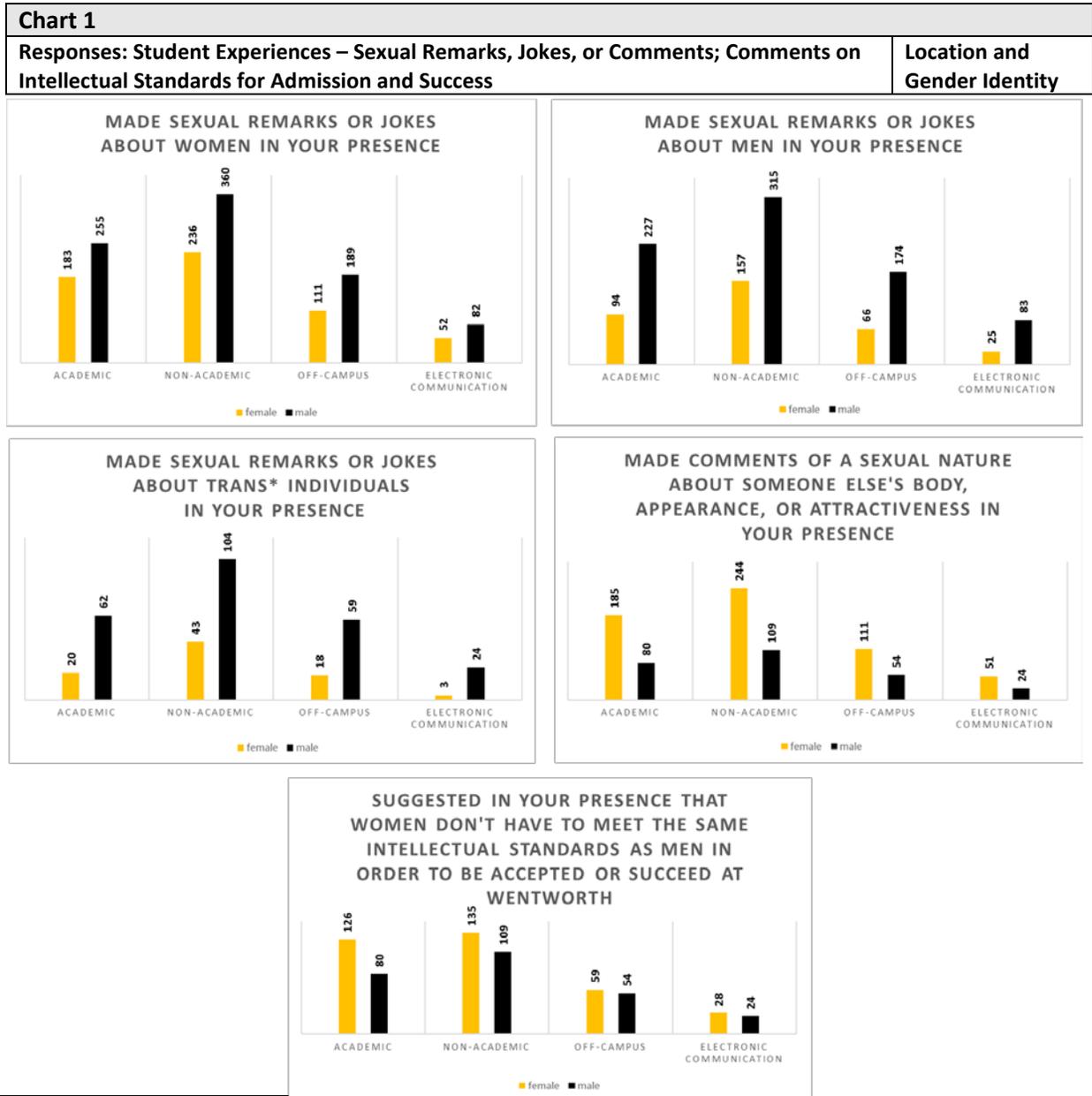
¹ The asterisk attached to “trans” is a recognition of the many ways in which individuals may identify their gender. Trans* may include transgender, genderqueer, transman, transwoman, or agender, among many others. Trans* is a commonly used term within the trans community.

² See footnote 5 on page 7 defining the three surveyed experiences that encompass sexual assault in this report.

³ Only juniors and seniors reported the experience of having someone make them insert their penis, tongue, finger, or inanimate object into another person’s anus, mouth, or vagina without consent.

A. Student Experiences – Sexual Remarks, Jokes, Comments and Intellectual Standards for Admission and Success

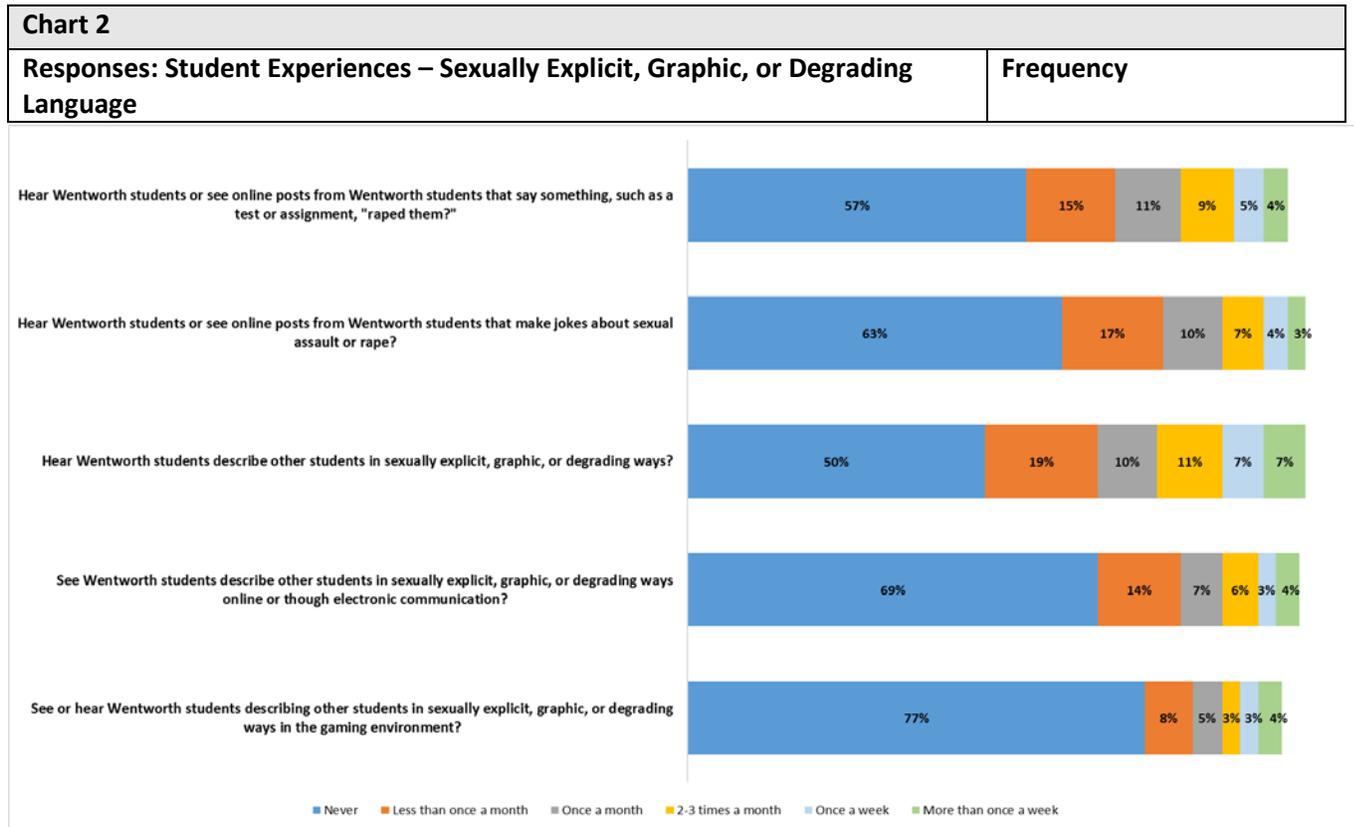
Students were asked if they had experienced, while a student at Wentworth over the past 12 months, anyone making sexual remarks or jokes; comments of a sexual nature about someone else’s body, appearance, or attractiveness; and/or suggestions that women do not meet the same intellectual standards as men. Chart 1 reflects the number of responses broken down by location and gender identity.⁴



⁴ Chart 1 above reflects the total number of responses. Academic spaces include classrooms, labs, and/or studios. Non-academic spaces may include another location on campus, including residence halls. All off-campus experiences, including study abroad and Wentworth-sponsored trips, were combined.

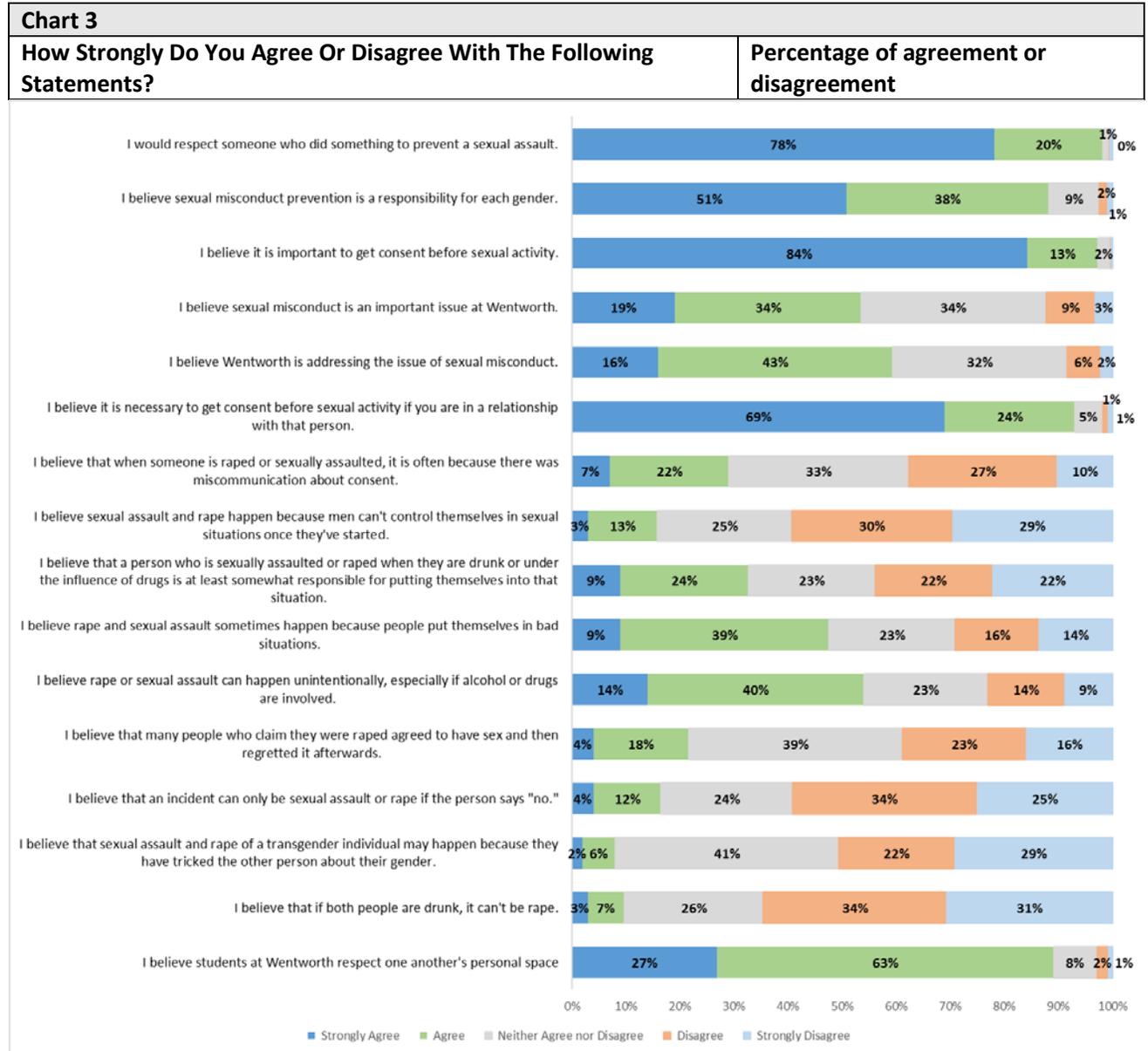
B. Student Experiences – Sexually Explicit, Graphic, or Degrading Language

Students were asked if they had experienced, while a student at Wentworth over the past 12 months, anyone describing other students in a sexually explicit, graphic, or degrading way in the gaming environment or through electronic communication; if they heard Wentworth students describe other students in sexually explicit, graphic, or degrading ways; if they heard Wentworth students or saw online posts from Wentworth students that made jokes about sexual assault or rape; or if they heard Wentworth students or saw online posts from Wentworth students referring to a test or assignment “raped them.” Chart 2 reflects responses by percentage of students answering for frequency of experience in the following order: never, less than once a month, once a month, 2-3 times a month, once a week, or more than once a week.



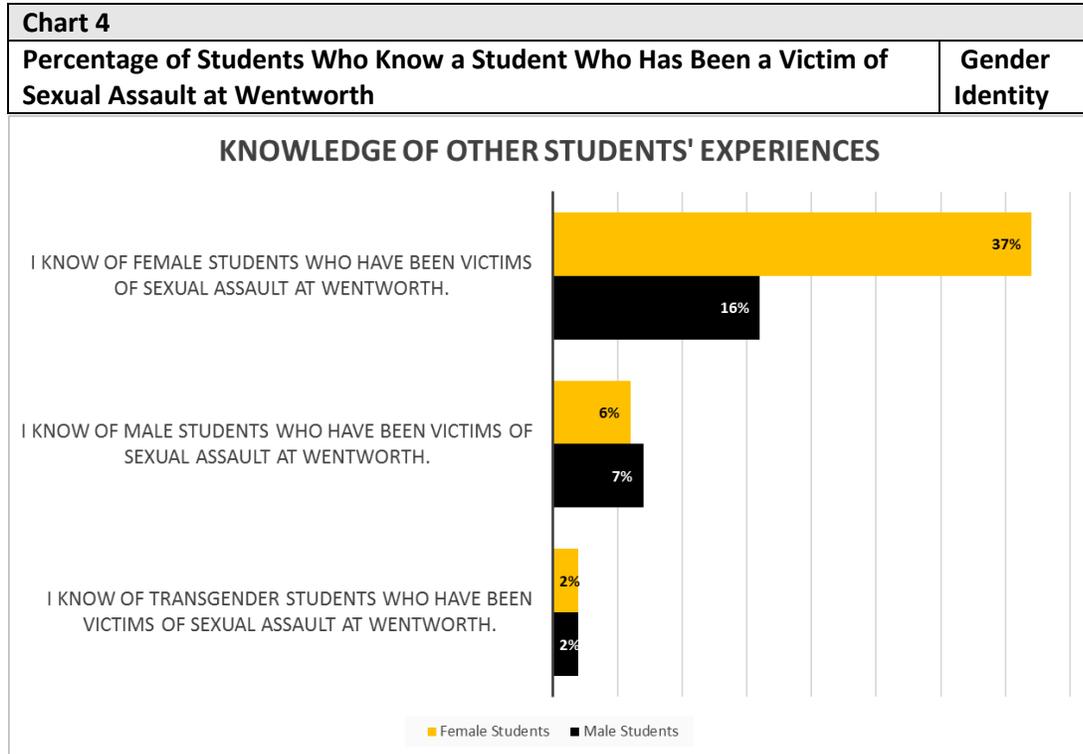
C. Student Attitudes

Students were asked to rate their level of agreement and disagreement with a set of statements about sexual misconduct, the importance of the issue at Wentworth, and how well Wentworth is addressing the issue. Chart 3 shows the attitudes of responding students in the following order: strongly agree, agree, neither agree or disagree, disagree, or strongly disagree.



D. Student Knowledge About Peers’ Experience of Sexual Assault

Students were asked if they knew female, male, and trans* students who had been victims of sexual assault at Wentworth. Chart 4 shows the percentage of male and female students who knew victims of sexual assault.



III. Student Experiences with Sexual Assault, Harassment, Stalking, and Abusive Relationships

Students were asked if they had experienced, while a student at Wentworth over the past 12 months, without their consent, sexual assault;⁵ being harassed; being stalked; and/or been in a relationship that was abusive (physically, sexually, psychologically, emotionally or financially). Students could report more than one experience(s).

Wentworth sought to understand broadly where students had these experiences including on campus, off campus, and/or through social media and electronic communication. The survey also asked about who was responsible for the behavior including those persons affiliated with Wentworth, non-Wentworth persons, strangers, or not sure. Students could select more than one response to location(s) and responsible person(s).

⁵ In this report, “sexual assault” includes the following non-consensual conduct: fondling, kissing, or rubbing against intimate parts of their body; inserting their penis, tongue, finger, or an inanimate object into their anus, mouth, or vagina; and/or making them insert their penis, tongue, finger, or an inanimate object into their anus, mouth, or vagina.

Because of this formulation of the survey, the values of different cells in the Table 1 cannot be added to determine an overall rate for sexual assault, harassment, stalking, and/or abusive relationships.

Table 1 is a summary of the percentage and number of students broken down by gender identity, indicating they experienced one or more incidents of sexual assault, harassment, stalking, and/or being in an abusive relationship.⁶

Table 1 Students indicating they experienced the following:	Female		Male	
	%	N	%	N
Was fondled, kissed, or rubbed up against intimate parts of body without consent	12%	33	2%	13
Another person inserted their penis, tongue, finger, or object into anus, mouth, or vagina without consent	2%	6	0%	0
Made student insert penis, tongue, finger, or inanimate object into another person’s anus, mouth, or vagina without consent	<1%	1	<1%	2
Harassment ⁷	36%	98	11%	59
Stalked	4%	11	2%	8
Abusive relationship	8%	22	3%	17

Both female and male students experienced attempts to be fondled, kissed or rubbed up against intimate parts of the body without consent (females – 8%; males – 2%) and attempts by another person to insert their penis, tongue, finger, or object into the student’s anus, mouth, or vagina without consent (females - 2%; males – less than 1%). There were no reports by students about experiencing the third type of sexual assault.

56% indicated that a Wentworth student was responsible for incidents of sexual assault; 69% indicated a Wentworth student was responsible for harassment; 42% indicated a Wentworth student was responsible for stalking; and 38% indicated that a Wentworth student was responsible for abuse in a relationship. There were students who reported experiencing harassment by one Wentworth faculty member and three Wentworth administrators/staff members.

⁶ Table 1 includes experiences where students responded that their experience(s) took place at on-campus locations, at a co-op (which could take place on or off campus), while on an Institute-sponsored trip or study abroad, and/or prefer not to answer. Table 1 includes experiences where students indicated that the person(s) who perpetrated the sexual assault, harassment, stalking, and/or abusive relationship were current or former Wentworth student(s), Wentworth-affiliated employees, stranger(s), not sure, and/or prefer not to answer. Responses that included strangers and not sure as perpetrators were included because it could not be ruled out that these persons might be Wentworth-affiliated persons. However, Table 1 excludes experience(s) where students indicated they had one or more experiences of sexual assault, or only one experience of harassment, and/or abusive relationship off-campus with a non-Wentworth person. The design of the survey precluded isolating experiences off campus with non-Wentworth persons when students reported multiple experiences with harassment, stalking, and abusive relationships; and thus, these experiences are included in Table 1.

⁷ The question on harassment was intended to be broad and included: repeated and unwelcome behaviors of sexual flirtation, advances or propositions; demands for sexual favors accompanied by an implied or overt threat; jokes or remarks of a sexual nature; verbal comments of a sexual nature about your body; display of sexually suggestive objects or pictures (electronic or otherwise); obscene gestures or suggestive or insulting sounds; indecent exposure; and/or harassment that has occurred online through social media or text message.

62% of reported incidents of sexual assault took place off campus, and 41% of reported incidents of sexual assault took place in residence halls. 53% of reported incidents of stalking took place on campus and 42% took place off campus. The most common reported locations for harassment were in residence halls, off-campus locations, classrooms, studios, or labs, and in other locations on campus. Students reported experiencing abuse in off-campus locations, residence halls, classroom, other locations on campus, at co-ops, or through social media or electronic communication.

Students who indicated that they had experienced incidents of sexual misconduct were asked if they believed that alcohol and/or other drugs played a part in the incident(s). Table 2 is a summary of the percentage students responding that alcohol and/or other drugs played a role.

Table 2 Percentage of students indicating they believed alcohol and/or other drugs played a part in the incident(s) they experienced.	Percent
Was fondled, kissed, or rubbed against intimate parts of body without consent	59%
Another person inserted their penis, tongue, finger, or inanimate object into anus, mouth, or vagina without consent	56%
Made student insert penis, tongue, finger, or inanimate object into another person’s anus, mouth, or vagina without consent	67%
Harassment	21%
Stalked	<1%
Abusive relationship	11%

IV. Engaging in Sexual Assault, Harassment, Stalking, and Abusive Relationships

The survey asked students, while a student at Wentworth over the past 12 months, whether they had engaged in any of the following behaviors without consent.

Table 3 Students indicating that they have engaged in the following unwanted behavior:	Female		Male		Prefer Not To Identify	
	%	N	%	N	%	N
Fondled, kissed, or rubbed against someone else’s intimate parts of their body without consent	0%	0	<1%	3	0%	0
Inserted penis, finger, tongue, or inanimate object into another person’s anus, mouth, or vagina without consent	0%	0	<1%	1	0%	0
Made another person insert penis, finger, or tongue into your anus, mouth, or vagina without consent	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0
Harassment	0%	0	2%	11	<1%	1
Stalked	0%	0	0%	0	<1%	1
Abusive relationship	<1%	2	<1%	2	<1%	1

V. Reporting and Campus Resources

Students who responded that they had experienced sexual misconduct were asked about whether they told anyone, and if so, whom they told about the experience. Students were also asked about their level of comfort in reporting sexual misconduct, if it occurred. The survey asked a series of questions about students' attitudes regarding campus resources, support, and safety.

A. Telling Someone About Experience(s) of Sexual Misconduct

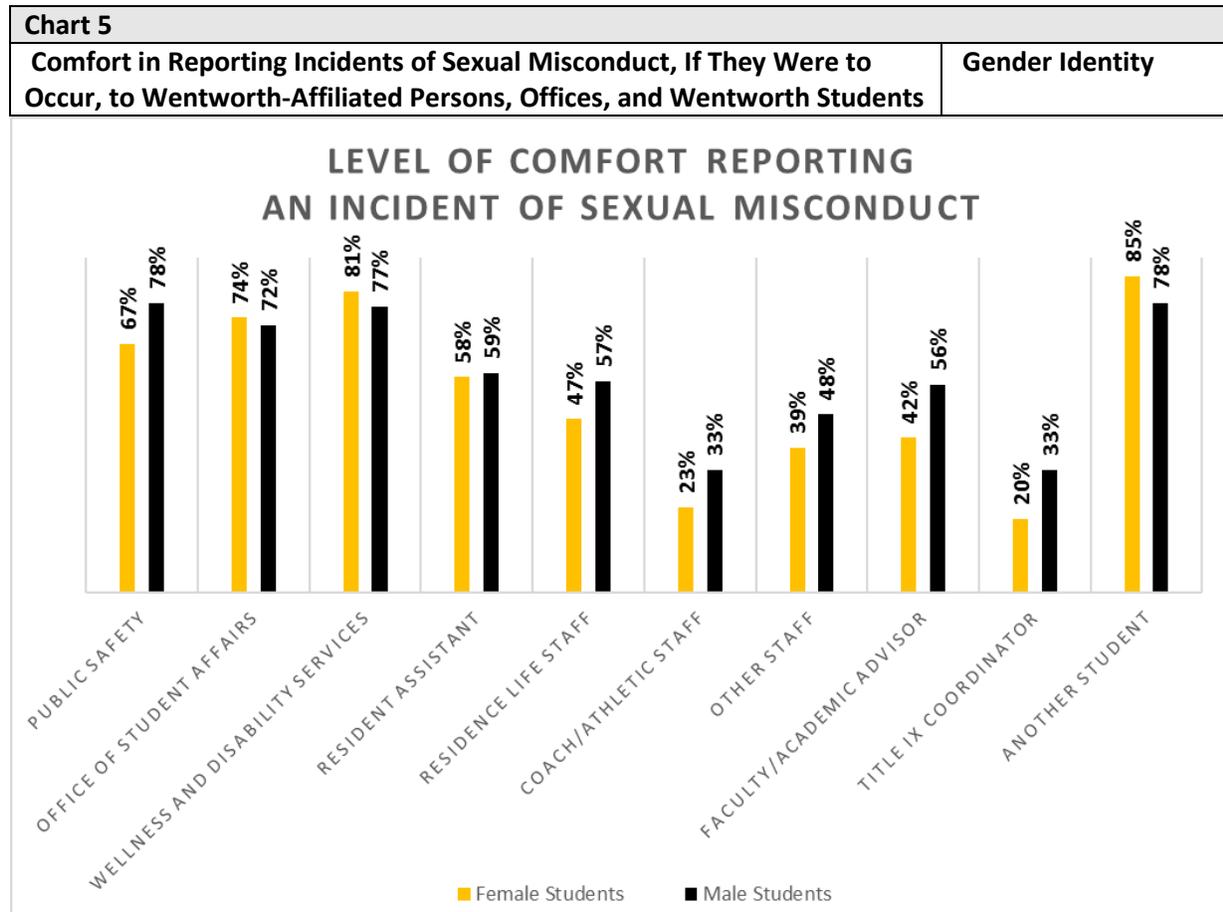
Students who indicated that they had experienced an incident(s) of sexual misconduct were asked if they told anyone about the incident, and if so, to identify whom they told from a list of all applicable Wentworth-affiliated persons or offices⁸, another Wentworth student, and/or a non-Wentworth person. Of students who told someone about the experience(s), in most cases, the majority of students told another Wentworth student or a non-Wentworth person.

For students who indicated they chose not to tell someone about the experience(s), the most common reasons selected by female students were: (1) "I didn't think the person who did it meant to hurt me;" (2) "I wasn't sure if it was partly my fault;" and (3) "I felt embarrassed or ashamed." The most common reasons given by male students were: (1) "Prefer not to answer;" (2) "I didn't think the person who did it meant to hurt me;" and (3) "I didn't think the situation would be handled appropriately."

⁸ The list of possible Wentworth-affiliated persons or offices included: Public Safety/Security on Campus; Office of Student Affairs/Dean of Students; Center for Wellness and Disability Services; Resident Assistant; Residence Life Staff Member; Faculty or Academic Advisor; Title IX Coordinator; Coach or Athletics Staff; and Other Staff Member.

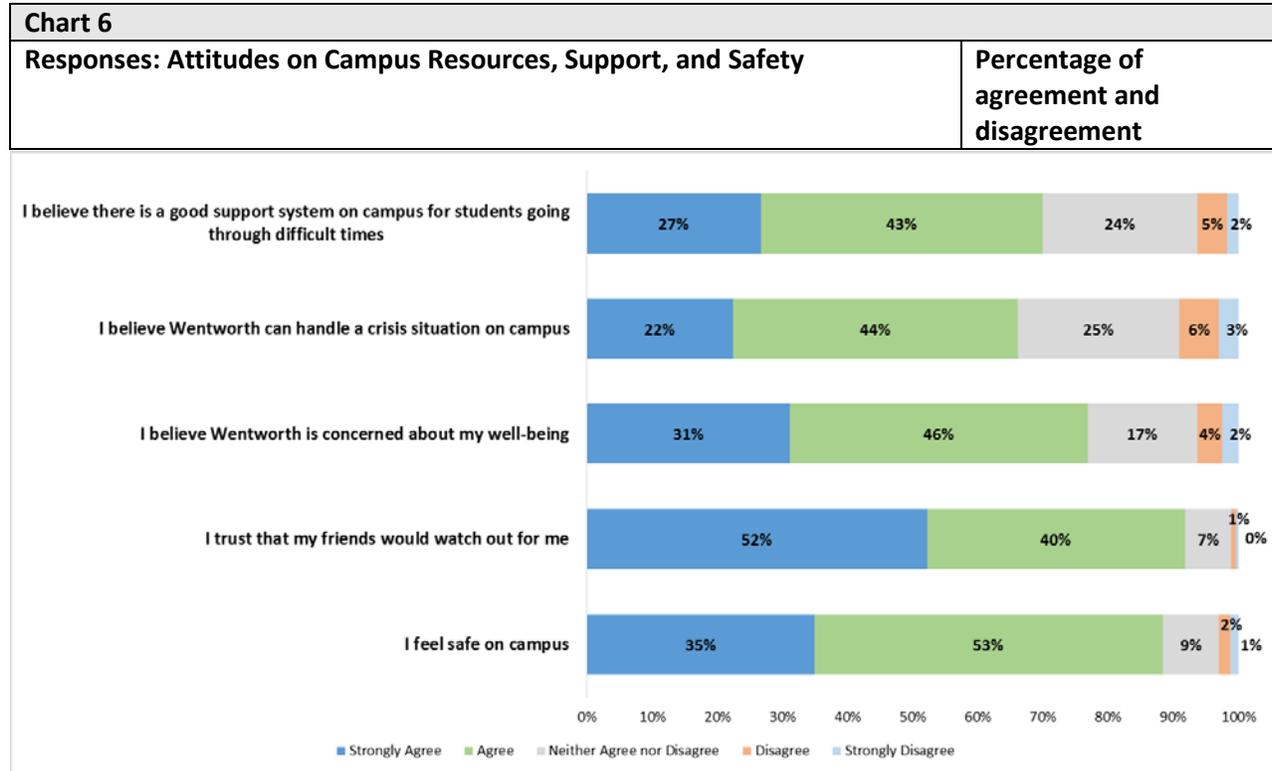
B. Levels of Comfort in Reporting Experiences of Sexual Misconduct, If They Were To Occur

Participants were asked to indicate if they were comfortable reporting to the following individuals or offices at Wentworth, **if they were to experience** sexual misconduct including: Public Safety, Office of Student Affairs/Dean of Students, Center for Wellness and Disability Services, Resident Assistant, Residence Life Staff, Coach/Athletics Staff, Other Staff, Faculty or Academic Advisor; Title IX Coordinator; and Another Student. Chart 5 shows the percentage of students comfortable in reporting by the categories of individuals/ offices and by gender identity.



C. Attitudes On Campus Resources, Support, and Safety

Students were asked about their attitudes regarding campus resources, support, and safety. Chart 6 shows the attitudes of students. Students could strongly agree, agree, neither agree or disagree, disagree, or strongly disagree.



VI. Additional Information

Please see wit.edu/notalone for the communication of this report to students, faculty and staff over the summer and fall 2016 and additional training and policy steps being taken in fall 2016 and beyond.

If you have ideas about how Wentworth can address sexual misconduct and enhance support the Institute offers when it does occur, please contact Annamaria Wenner, Dean of Students (wennera@wit.edu) and/ or Anne Gill, Title IX Coordinator (gilla@wit.edu), Co-Chairs of the Campus Climate Committee.