

2014 Community Attitudes on Sexual Assault

How can you help?

Get involved.

- Contact VPR for volunteer opportunities or join the "It's On Us MIT" student initiative.

Be an active bystander.

- We should all look out for each other.
- Notice the situation: Be aware of your surroundings.
- Interpret it as a problem: Does someone need help?
- Feel responsible to act: You are part of the solution to help.
- Know what to do: Educate yourself on how to speak up.
- Intervene safely: Take action but be sure to keep yourself safe – enlist help if you are unsure.

Support survivors.

- Believe them.
- Be respectful of their privacy and right to confidentiality.
- Let them make their own decisions.
- Be a good listener.
- Offer to get them connected to resources.

Campus Environment and Climate: Student Views & Experiences

What do the data tell us?

Survey participants were asked to rate their level of agreement with statements about sexual assault that are generally false, but considered widely held. This included statements such as "A person who is sexually assaulted or raped while she or he is drunk is at least somewhat responsible for putting themselves in that position." While the majority of respondents did not agree with these statements, both undergraduate and graduate male respondents were more likely than female respondents to agree.

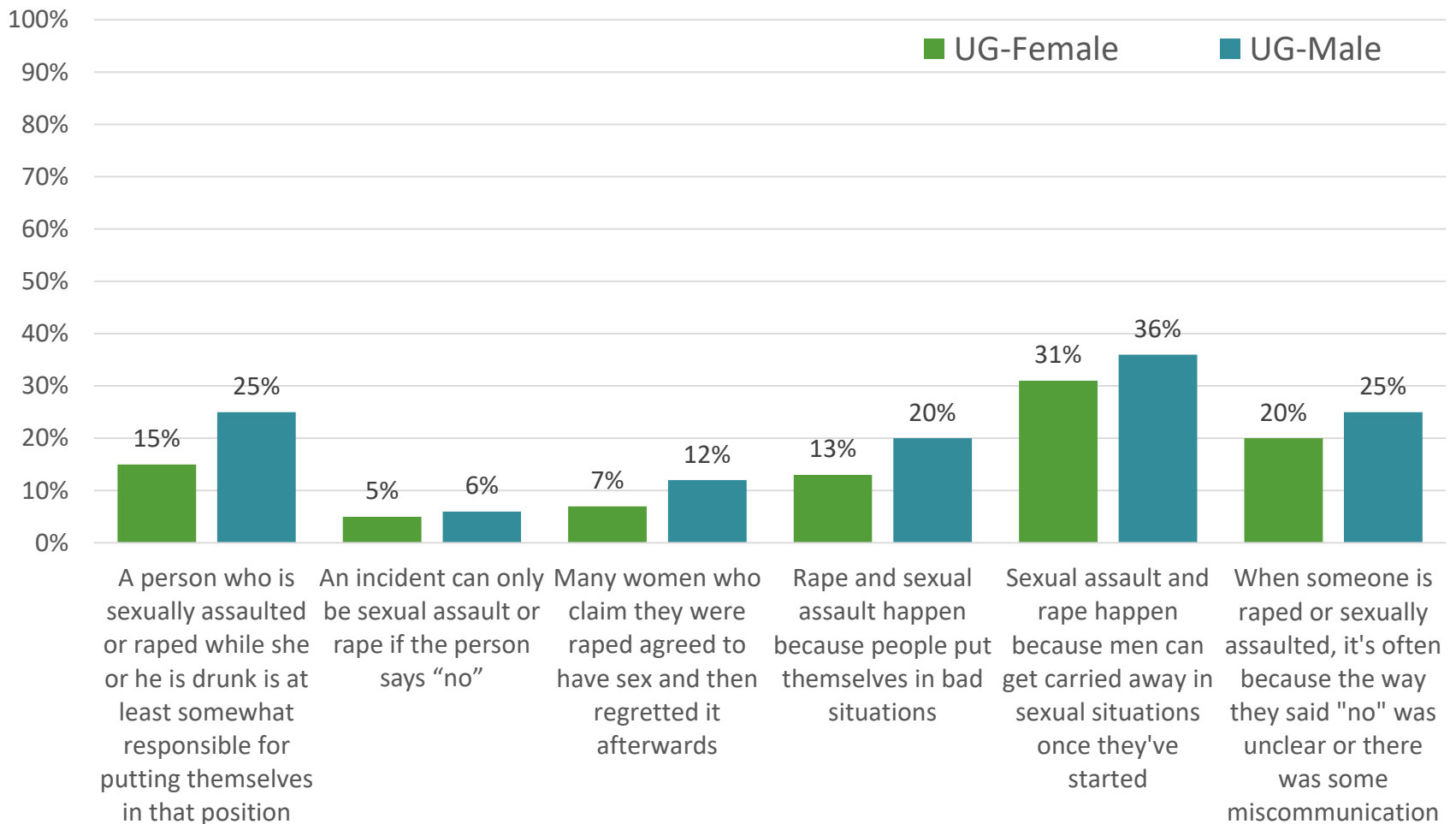
When asked if they thought their peers would agree or disagree with these statements, both male and female respondents indicated that their male counterparts would agree with the statements. For example, 7 out of 10 undergraduate female respondents thought that their male counterparts would agree with the statement "When someone is raped or sexually assaulted, it's often because the way they said 'no' was unclear or there was some miscommunication."

What are we doing in this area?

MIT staff and students have been developing educational messages and a social marketing campaign to help correct "rape myths". In addition, MIT's Infraternity Council (IFC), in collaboration with VPR and CDSA, created PartySafePlus trainings, designed to help students develop skills to create a safer social environment on campus.

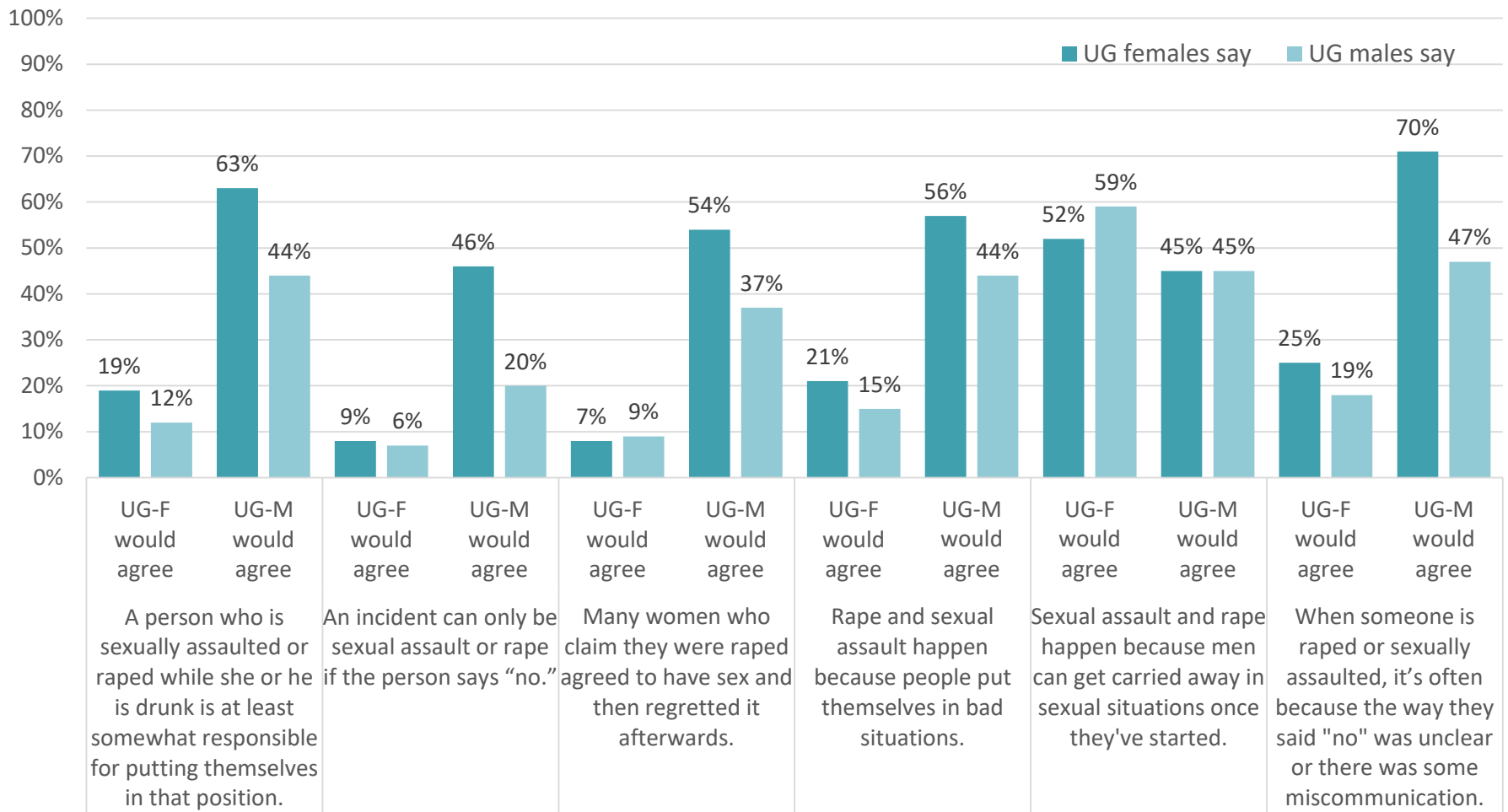
Student Views: Undergraduate Respondents

Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements (% Undergrads who "Agree" or "Strongly Agree," by Gender)



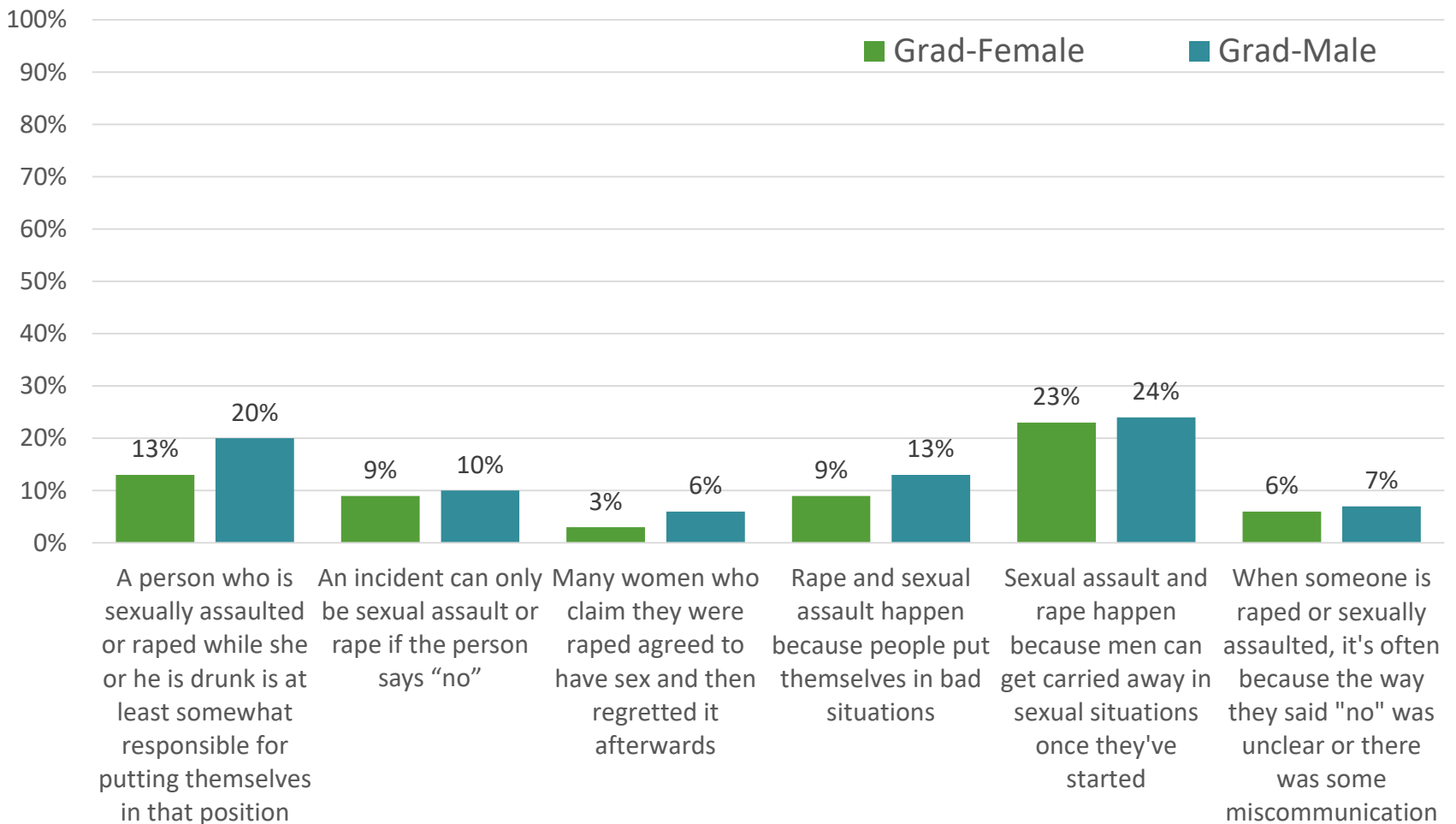
How strongly would the average MIT undergraduate agree or disagree with the following statements?

(% who think other undergrads would "Agree" or "Strongly Agree," by Gender)



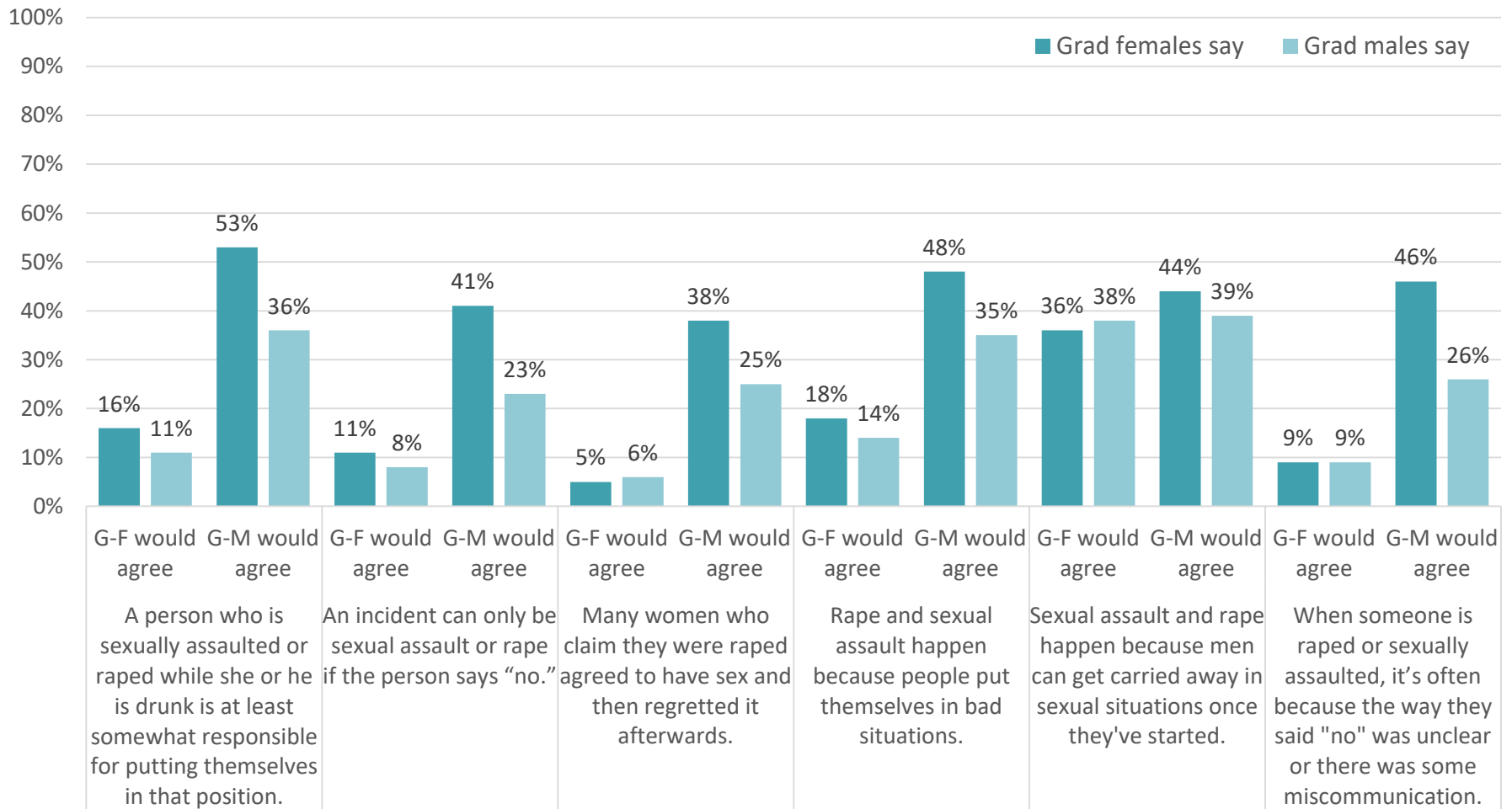
Student Views: Graduate Student Respondents

Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements (% Graduate students who "Agree" or "Strongly Agree," by Gender)



How strongly would the average MIT graduate student agree or disagree with the following statements?

(% who think other grad students would "Agree" or "Strongly Agree," by Gender)



Unwanted Sexual Behaviors: Incidence Rates and Circumstances

What do the data tell us?

24% of female respondents and 7% of male respondents indicated they had experienced an unwanted sexual behavior (USB) while at MIT. Higher incidences were seen among respondents who were LGBTQ, female, and affiliated with FSILGs. Incapacitation (someone taking advantage of when the person was too drunk, high, asleep or out of it) was the top circumstance for incidents among all respondents.

What are we doing in this area?

MIT is focusing on increasing prevention and education efforts by:

- Building a Peer Education program focused on sexual health
- Developing a bystander intervention and social host program for undergraduate and graduate students living in campus housing
- Incorporating behavioral expectations regarding sexual assault into intervention methods for high-risk drinkers, who are more likely to be perpetrators.
- Hosting opportunities for students to develop creative prevention strategies utilizing their abilities to "think outside the box" and problem-solve.
- Partnering with offices who serve the LGBTQ and FSILG community to create tailored prevention messages and outreach

Unwanted Sexual Behaviors: Definition

24% of female respondents and 7% of male respondents indicated they had experienced an unwanted sexual behavior* while at MIT

(*answered “yes” to one or more of the following survey questions)

This happened to me at MIT:

“Labeled assault”



- Been sexually assaulted
- Been raped

Have you experienced any of the following while at MIT:

“Sexual contact”



- Someone fondled, kissed or rubbed up against the private areas of my body or removed some of my clothes even though I didn’t want that

“Attempted penetration”



- Someone TRIED to perform oral sex on me or make me give them oral sex even though I didn’t want that
- Someone TRIED to sexually penetrate me even though I didn’t want that

“Completed penetration”



- Someone performed oral sex on me or made me give them oral sex even though I didn’t want that
- Someone sexually penetrated me even though I didn’t want that

Unwanted Sexual Behaviors while at MIT

Undergraduate Experiences

32% of female undergraduate respondents indicated they had experienced an unwanted sexual behavior

12% of male undergraduate respondents indicated they had experienced an unwanted sexual behavior

Graduate Student Experiences

13% of female graduate respondents indicated they had experienced an unwanted sexual behavior

4% of male graduate respondents indicated they had experienced an unwanted sexual behavior

Unwanted Sexual Behaviors: Detail

Some respondents do not label their experience as sexual assault or rape, but may have experienced unwanted sexual contact; attempted, or completed penetration.

	Female Undergrad		Male Undergrad		Female Grad Student		Male Grad Student	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Total respondents experiencing ANY of the following:	32%	260	12%	86	13%	80	4%	40
Labeled Assault	11%	91	2%	14	3%	19	1%	6
Sexual Contact	29%	229	10%	71	11%	66	3%	36
Attempted Penetration	15%	120	3%	23	5%	33	1%	13
Completed Penetration	10%	80	2%	14	3%	19	0%	5

*Note: Each sexual behavior was asked as a separate question; respondents could indicate experiencing more than one of these. Does not include 10 students identifying as trans**

Undergraduate Respondents Who Experienced and Unwanted Sexual Behavior: What Happened

Respondents provided some detail on a specific experience, including where it happened, some information about the perpetrator, and reporting.

- **Circumstance:**

50% said the incident involved someone taking advantage of them when they were too drunk, high, asleep or out of it; this number rises to close to 60% for those indicating more than unwanted contact. 23% said someone showed displeasure, criticized their sexuality, or got angry; 5% said someone used force or had a weapon.

- **Location:**

84% indicated the incident took place on campus in MIT affiliated housing (residential buildings or FSILGs); another 3% took place on MIT campus, in a non-residential building)

- **Perpetrator:**

3 out of 4 (76%) said the perpetrator was an MIT student; 40% of female and male undergraduate respondents indicated the perpetrator was a friend.

- **Impacts:**

63% of undergraduates indicated some impact related to the unwanted experience, including being unable to work or complete assignments (40%), being unable to eat (33%), loss of interest in intimacy or sex (35%), and grades dropping (35%)

Graduate Student Respondents Who Experienced and Unwanted Sexual Behavior: What Happened

Respondents provided some detail on a specific experience, including where it happened, some information about the perpetrator, and reporting.

- **Circumstance:**

When asked about the experience, 36% said the incident involved someone taking advantage of them when they were too drunk, high, asleep or out of it; 16% said someone showed displeasure, criticized their sexuality, or got angry; 5% said someone used force or had a weapon

- **Location:**

Half (47%) of all incidences took place off campus; 37% of incidences took place in an MIT residential building or affiliated housing; 9% took place on MIT campus, in a non-residential building

- **Perpetrator:**

54% said the perpetrator was an MIT student; another 6% said it was an MIT alum; 3% said it was an MIT faculty member or professor

- **Impacts:**

38% lost interest in intimacy or sex; 21% were unable to work or complete assignments; 20% had changes in appetite

Unwanted Sexual Behaviors: Telling or Reporting

What do the data tell us?

Less than two-thirds of respondents experiencing an unwanted sexual behavior told someone else about the experience, and fewer than 5% officially report it. The top four thoughts or concerns when deciding whether or not to share or report their experience were:

- "Did not think it was serious enough to share"
- "Felt that I was at least partly at fault or it wasn't totally the other person's fault"
- "Did not want any action to be taken"
- "Not clear harm was intended"

What are we doing in this area?

- Developing a robust campaign about reporting options and resources
- Completing a review of the Committee on Discipline procedures for sexual misconduct cases and recommending a number of changes to remove barriers and improve the process for all students involved
- Forming a dedicated Title IX Office with additional staff to conduct investigations and provide training to the community
- Creating a Sexual Assault Response Team with MIT Medical, MIT Police, and the Title IX Office to coordinate efforts and regularly assess issues of campus safety
- In response to the findings of our Community Attitudes on Sexual Assault (CASA) survey, MIT has created four new positions in Violence Prevention and Response (VPR). In addition, we created a new Title IX Office, appointed a new Title IX coordinator, and hired two new staff members to address issues of gender-based inequities.

Who did undergraduate respondents tell?

66% of UG female respondents and 60% of UG male respondents who indicated they had an unwanted sexual experience at MIT told someone else about the incident(s). Of those who told someone, 96% of UG female respondents and 94% of UG male respondents told a friend, classmate or peer.



Less than 5% of UG female respondents reported the experience(s) to someone in an official capacity (includes confidential resources): all of these were labeled rape or assault. None of the UG male respondents formally reported their experience.



Who did graduate student respondents tell?

60% of graduate female respondents and 56% of graduate male respondents who indicated they had an unwanted sexual experience at MIT told someone else about the incident(s). Of those who told someone, 98% of graduate female respondents and 96% of graduate male respondents told a friend, classmate or peer.




Close to 6% of graduate female respondents reported the experience(s) to someone in an official capacity (includes confidential resources): all of these were labeled rape or assault. Less than 3% of the graduate male respondents formally reported their experience.

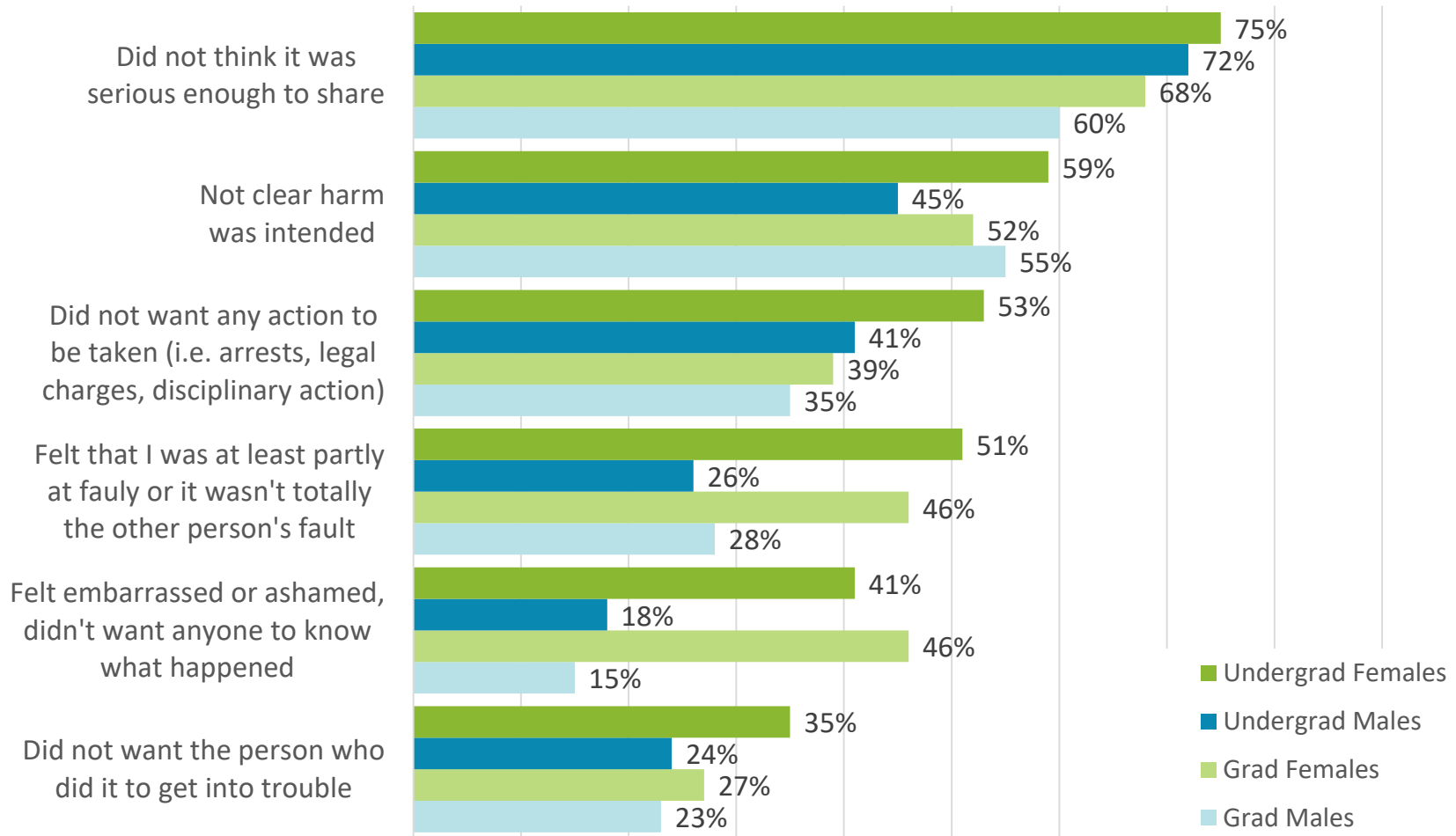


Deciding whether to tell

Did any of the following negative thoughts or concerns cross your mind when you were deciding whether or not to share or report your experience?

	Unwanted Sexual Behaviors		
	Attempted or completed penetration (n=254)	Sexual Contact Only (n=222)	
Did not think it was serious enough to share	66%	66%	0%
Felt that I was at least partly at fault or it wasn't totally the other person's fault	52%	28%	24%
Did not want any action to be taken	51%	36%	14%
Not clear harm was intended	50%	51%	-1%
Felt embarrassed or ashamed, didn't want anyone to know what happened	49%	17%	33%
Did not want the person to get into trouble	35%	21%	14%
Did not want to ruin the person's life or hurt their future	35%	16%	19%
Lack of proof that incident happened	34%	11%	23%
Did not know who I should tell	31%	13%	19%
Fear of being blamed or not believed by the person I would tell	22%	8%	14%
Worried that if I tell someone at Institute, action will be taken without my permission	21%	7%	15%
Afraid of retaliation by person who did it or others	20%	5%	15%
Did not want anyone to know the other things I was doing at the time	17%	5%	12%
Fear of being treated with hostility by the person I would tell	13%	5%	7%
Worried if I tell someone at Institute, action will be taken against whole group	7%	5%	3%

Thoughts or concerns when deciding whether or not to share experience: Respondents by Type & Gender



Prevention and Response: Bystander Actions & Resources

What do the data tell us?

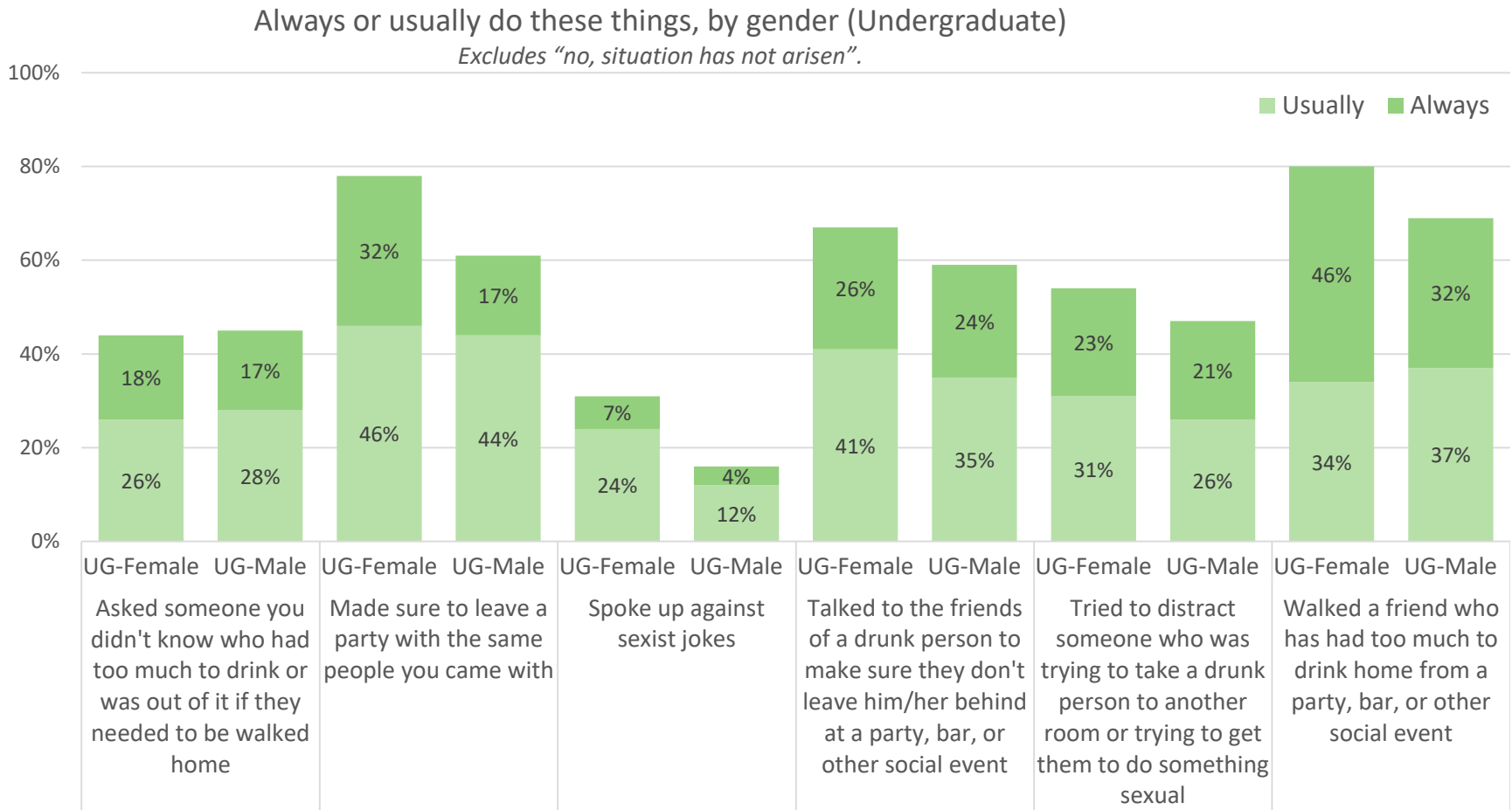
When the situation arises, many respondents indicate usually or always exhibiting good bystander behavior, especially for circumstances that involve helping a friend or someone they know. Many respondents indicated not knowing enough about key MIT resources to which they could turn if they were sexually assaulted in the future.

What are we doing in this area?

- Developing a social norms campaign to promote the bystander actions already employed and to promote behavior we would like to see increased
- Offering specialized training for key campus resources about the perception of and barriers to seeking services
- Promoting a campaign to increase awareness of resources, including short videos of service providers describing their offices, and partnering with communication experts to utilize technology to promote targeted messaging and resources

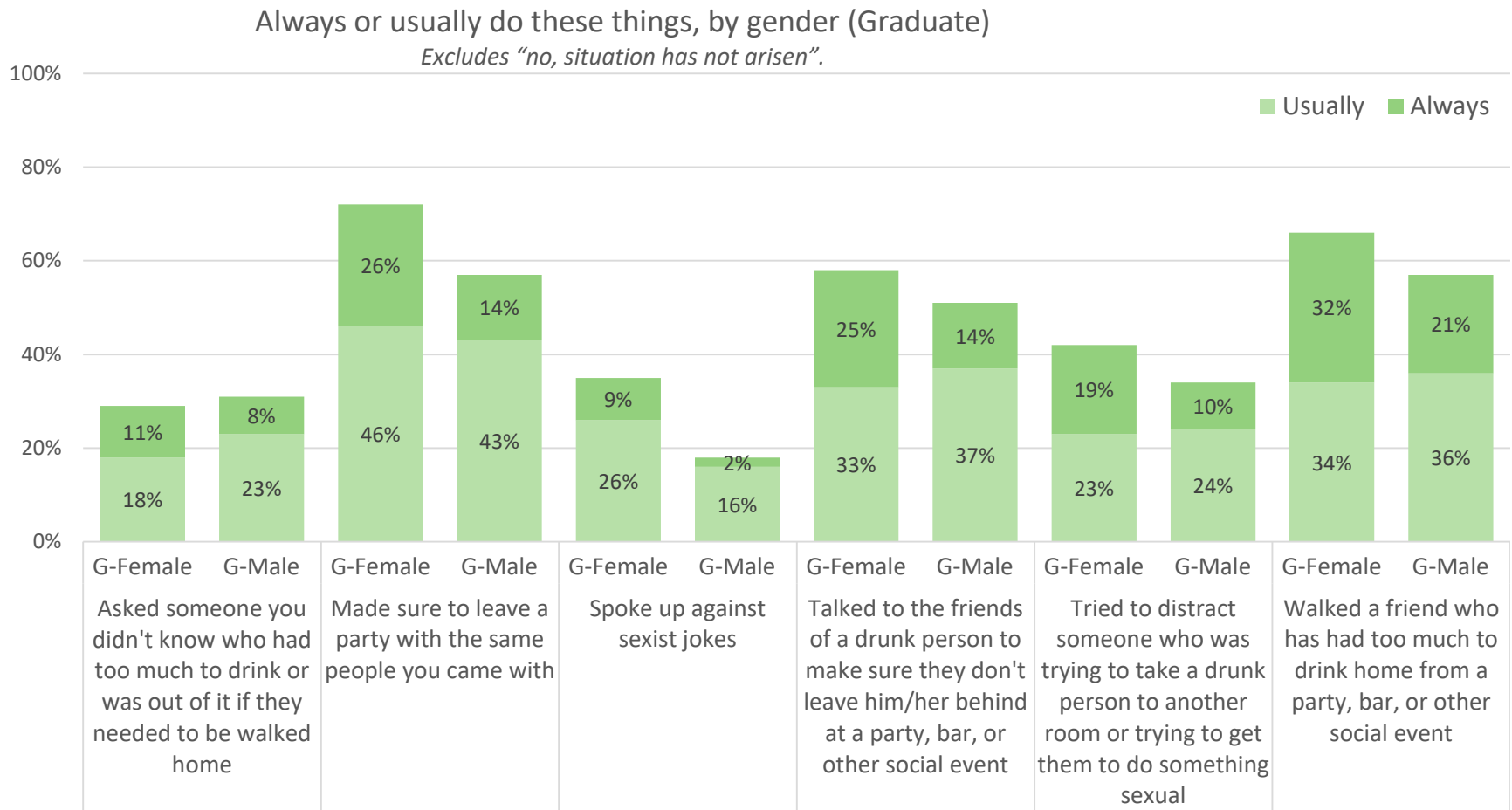
Undergraduate Student Bystander Actions

When the situation arises, many respondents indicate usually or always exhibiting good bystander behavior.



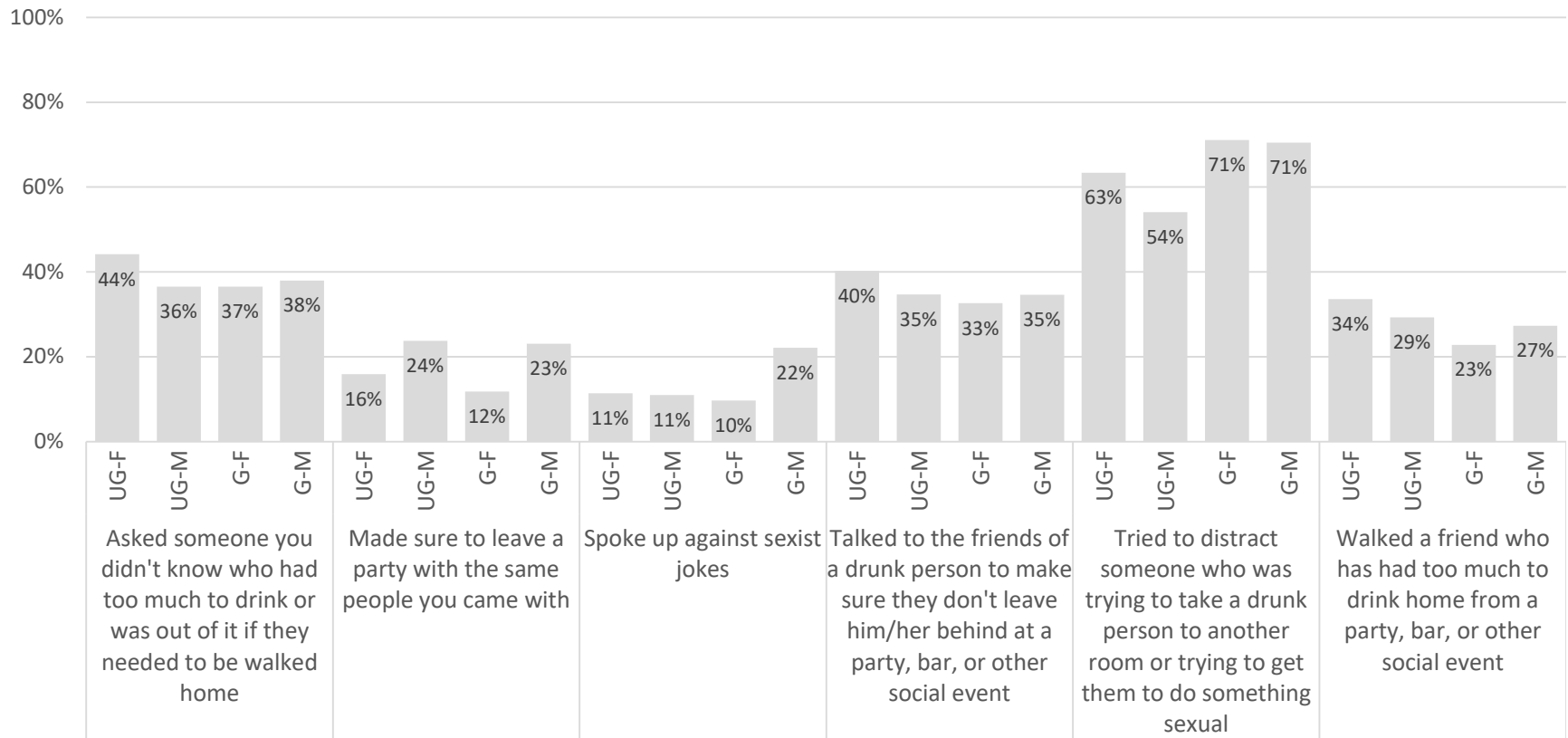
Graduate Student Bystander Actions

When the situation arises, many respondents indicate usually or always exhibiting good bystander behavior.



Are respondents in situations where they might need to exhibit bystander behavior?

Situation has **NOT ARISEN**, by student type & gender



Resources and Protocols

Which resources would MIT students use if they were to be sexually assaulted?
Which resources do they not know enough about?

	Would you use any of the following resources if you were to be sexually assaulted in the future?	Undergraduates			Graduate Students		
		Would use	Would not	Don't know enough	Would use	Would not	Don't know enough
Confidential Resources	Violence Prevention and Response (VPR)	48%	10%	42%	30%	7%	63%
	MIT Mental Health	74%	15%	11%	77%	9%	14%
	MIT Medical	79%	13%	8%	89%	4%	7%
	MIT Chaplains	10%	43%	47%	11%	46%	43%
	The Ombuds Office	6%	21%	73%	17%	23%	60%
	Local Rape Crisis Center	27%	30%	43%	35%	18%	47%
Private Resources	Title IX Coordinator	12%	31%	58%	8%	26%	66%
	Residential Life Staff (Housemasters, GRTs, ADs, RAs, FSILG staff) [dorm]	47%	38%	15%	18%	48%	33%
	Student Support Services (S3)	72%	17%	11%	--	--	--
	Office of the Dean of Graduate Education	--	--	--	23%	35%	42%
	Reducing and Easing Friction and Stress	--	--	--	13%	31%	56%
Formal Complaint	MIT Police	61%	19%	20%	82%	6%	12%
	Local Police	30%	39%	31%	64%	16%	20%
	Office of Student Citizenship	6%	31%	64%	5%	29%	67%

74% of respondents indicated they were “not at all familiar” with the Committee on Discipline.