Sexual Assault Survey: Preliminary Results

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Chair, Department of Economics
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Harvard University
September 21, 2015
My roles in implementing the survey

Internal roles:
• Member, Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Assault
• Chair, Survey Design Subcommittee of the Task Force
• Principal Investigator, Harvard Sexual Assault Survey

External roles:
• Chair, Ivy Plus Consortium for the Sexual Assault Survey
• Member, AAU RFP Committee
• Member, AAU Survey Design Committee
Sexual Misconduct: prevalence

- Penetration involving force
- Attempted penetration involving force
- Sexual touching involving force
- Penetration involving incapacitation
- Sexual touching involving incapacitation
- Harassment
- Stalking
- Intimate partner violence
- Sexual assault involving coercion
- Sexual assault involving absence of affirmative consent
This next section asks about nonconsensual or unwanted sexual contact you may have experienced while attending [University]. The person with whom you had the nonconsensual or unwanted contact could have been someone you know, such as someone you are currently or were in a relationship with, a co-worker, a professor, or a family member. Or it could be someone you do not know. The following questions separately ask about contact that occurred because of physical force, incapacitation due to alcohol or drugs, and other types of pressure.
Penetration involving force

The first few questions ask about incidents that involved force or threats of force against you. Force could include someone holding you down with his or her body weight, pinning your arms, hitting or kicking you, or using or threatening to use a weapon against you.

G1. Since you have been attending [University], has someone used physical force or threats of physical force to do the following with you:

• **Sexual penetration.** When one person puts a penis, fingers, or object inside someone else’s vagina or anus, or
• **Oral sex.** When someone’s mouth or tongue makes contact with someone else’s genitals
Attempted penetration involving force

G2. Since you have been attending [University], has someone used physical force or threats of physical force in an unsuccessful attempt to do any of the following with you:

• **Sexual penetration.** When one person puts a penis, finger, or object inside someone else’s vagina or anus

• **Oral sex.** When someone’s mouth or tongue makes contact with someone else’s genitals
Sexual touching involving force

G3. Since you have been attending [University], has someone used physical force or threats of physical force to do any of the following with you:

- kissing
- touching someone’s breast, chest, crotch, groin or buttocks
- grabbing, groping or rubbing against the other in a sexual way, even if the touching is over the other’s clothes
Penetration involving incapacitation

The next questions ask about incidents when you were unable to consent or stop what was happening because you were passed out, asleep, or incapacitated due to drugs or alcohol. Please include incidents even if you are not sure what happened.

G4. Since you have been attending [University], has any of the following happened to you while you were unable to consent or stop what was happening because you were passed out, asleep or incapacitated due to drugs or alcohol:

- **Sexual penetration.** When one person puts a penis, finger, or object inside someone else’s vagina or anus
- **Oral sex.** When someone’s mouth or tongue makes contact with someone else’s genitals
Sexual touching involving incapacitation

G5. Since you have been attending [University], has any of the following happened to you while you were unable to consent or stop what was happening because you were passed out, asleep or incapacitated due to drugs or alcohol:

• kissing
• touching someone’s breast, chest, crotch, groin, or buttocks
• grabbing, groping or rubbing against the other in a sexual way, even if the touching is over the other’s clothes
Survey structure: measurement period

When did the assault occur?
Measured in three ways:

• Current academic year: “since the beginning of the fall 2014 term”
• Since entering Harvard
• Since entering Harvard, seniors
Survey structure: measurement period

When did the assault occur?

Measured in three ways:

• **Current academic year:** “since the beginning of the fall 2014 term”
• **Since entering Harvard**
• **Since entering Harvard, seniors**
What does prevalence mean?

The fraction of people in the population (e.g., Harvard undergraduates) who are estimated to have experienced one or more assaults during the measurement period.

If a person has been assaulted one or more times, they are counted once in a measure of “prevalence.”

Prevalence is not a measure of the number of incidents.
An observation about comparisons...

- We will compare Harvard’s prevalence rate to the analogous average prevalence rate across other schools in the AAU study.
- The very high AAU average prevalence rates signify a crisis in higher education.
- Being marginally below the AAU average is not a sign of success.
The data:

1. Participation
2. Prevalence at Harvard
3. Prevalence by Harvard School
4. Prevalence by gender, undergraduate/graduate, and sexual orientation
5. Cumulative prevalence for Female Harvard Undergraduate Seniors
6. Alcohol and location
7. Reporting
8. Bystander intervention
9. Campus climate
Survey Participation Rates

Harvard Overall

- **53%**
- N = 20,906

By Gender and Enrollment Status

- **Female**: 62% (population 10,035)
- **Male**: 52% (population 10,871)
- **Undergrad**: 55% (population 7,126)
- **Grad or Prof**: 51% (population 13,780)

Average response rate across the 27 AAU schools was **19.3%** (population 779,168) with a range from 7% to 53%. 
**Prevalence:** Percent all students reporting nonconsensual sexual contact involving physical force or incapacitation in the current year.
Prevalence: Percent of Harvard students reporting nonconsensual sexual contact involving physical force or incapacitation in the current year by Harvard School

- Business: 3% (N=845)
- College: 8% (N=3827)
- Design: 3% (N=366)
- Divinity: 5% (N=627)
- Education (G.): 2% (N=627)
- Education (U.): 1% (N=471)
- Extension (G.): 1% (N=449)
- Extension (U.): 0% (N=226)
- Government: 3% (N=2002)
- Graduate (GSAS): 2% (N=1087)
- Law: 3% (N=516)
- Medical/Dental: 1% (N=491)
- Public Health: 1% (N=471)

Completed and Attempted Penetration
Penetration and Sexual Touching
Gender:
Which best describes your gender identity?

• Woman
• Man
• Transgender woman
• Transgender man
• Genderqueer or gender non-conforming
• Questioning
• Not listed
• Decline to state
Sexual Orientation:
Do you consider yourself to be

- Heterosexual or straight
- Gay or lesbian
- Bisexual
- Asexual
- Questioning
- Not listed
- Decline to state

LGBAQN
**Prevalence:** Percent of Harvard students reporting nonconsensual sexual contact involving physical force or incapacitation in the Current Year by gender, undergraduate/graduate, and sexual orientation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sexual Orientation</th>
<th>Completed and Attempted Penetration</th>
<th>Penetration and Sexual Touching</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Straight Female</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGBAQN Female</td>
<td>12.0%</td>
<td>17.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate Male</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Male</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Percentages are approximate and may vary between different studies. The chart shows the percentage of students reporting nonconsensual sexual contact involving physical force or incapacitation in the Current Year, categorized by gender, undergraduate/graduate status, and sexual orientation.*
Prevalence: Percent of Harvard students reporting nonconsensual sexual contact involving physical force or incapacitation in the Current Year by gender, undergraduate/graduate, and sexual orientation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Completed and Attempted Penetration</th>
<th>Penetration and Sexual Touching</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Straight</td>
<td>12.0%</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGBAQN</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>17.9%</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate or Professional</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Undergraduate Female*
Prevalence: Percent of Harvard students reporting nonconsensual sexual contact involving physical force or incapacitation in the Current Year by gender, undergraduate/graduate, and sexual orientation.
Prevalence: Percent of Harvard students reporting nonconsensual sexual contact involving physical force or incapacitation in the Current Year by gender, undergraduate/graduate, and sexual orientation:

- **Undergraduate Female**
  - Straight: 4.0%
  - LGBAQN: 12.0%
  - Completed and Attempted Penetration: 17.9%

- **Undergraduate Male**
  - Straight: 0.5%
  - LGBAQN: 2.7%
  - Completed and Attempted Penetration: 6.7%

- **Graduate or Professional Female**
  - Straight: 1.2%
  - LGBAQN: 3.5%
  - Completed and Attempted Penetration: 10.9%

- **Graduate or Professional Male**
  - Straight: 0.2%
  - LGBAQN: 0.8%
  - Completed and Attempted Penetration: 2.9%

- **Penetration and Sexual Touching**
  - Undergraduate Female: 4.0%
  - Undergraduate Male: 0.5%
  - Graduate or Professional Female: 1.2%
  - Graduate or Professional Male: 0.2%

**Completed and Attempted Penetration**

- Undergraduate Female: 12.0%
- Undergraduate Male: 2.7%
- Graduate or Professional Female: 3.5%
- Graduate or Professional Male: 0.8%
**Prevalence:** Percent of female undergraduate seniors reporting nonconsensual sexual contact involving physical force or incapacitation since entering college.
**Prevalence:** Percent of female Harvard College seniors reporting nonconsensual sexual contact involving physical force or incapacitation since entering college.
Alcohol use: Among Harvard students reporting one or more incidents of nonconsensual completed or attempted penetration, percent who reported that at least one incident involved drinking alcohol.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Force</th>
<th>Incapacitation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>64%</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68%</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Survey Respondent: 64% 68%
Perpetrator: 68% 79%
Where did this incident occur?

- University residence hall/dorm
- Fraternity or Sorority house
- Other space used by a single-sex student social organization
- Other residential housing
- Non-residential building
- Other property (ex. outdoors)
**Location:** Assault locations designated by Harvard College females’ who reported an incident of nonconsensual completed and/or attempted penetration.
**Reporting**: Percent female Harvard College students who did not report completed and attempted penetration, and top reasons for not reporting

- 69% of college female victims of penetration by force **did not** report
- 80% of college female victims of penetration by incapacitation **did not** report

**Reasons for not reporting**

- **I did not think it was serious enough to report**
  - 78% of female students
- **Felt embarrassed/ashamed/too emotionally difficult**
  - 42% of female students
- **I did not think anything would be done**
  - 34% of female students
- **I feared negative social consequences**
  - 26% of female students
- **I did not want the person to get in trouble**
  - 21% of female students

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**Force**

**Incapacitation**
Lack of bystander intervention: Percent of survey respondents who reported not taking action:

Among respondents who have:

- Seen a drunk person heading off for what looked like a sexual encounter: 80%
- Seen or heard someone was acting in a sexually violent or harassing way: 54%
**Climate**: Perceptions of responses to a report of sexual assault or sexual misconduct. **How likely is it that...**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>All</th>
<th>Female Undergrad</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Campus officials would take the report seriously</td>
<td>3% Not at all</td>
<td>4% Not at all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10% A little bit</td>
<td>16% A little bit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>27% Somewhat</td>
<td>38% Somewhat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>38% Very</td>
<td>32% Very</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>23% Extremely</td>
<td>11% Extremely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus officials would conduct a fair investigation</td>
<td>6% Not at all</td>
<td>6% Not at all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15% A little bit</td>
<td>21% A little bit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>41% Somewhat</td>
<td>45% Somewhat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>29% Very</td>
<td>24% Very</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9% Extremely</td>
<td>4% Extremely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus officials would take action against the offender(s)</td>
<td>7% Not at all</td>
<td>13% Not at all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>22% A little bit</td>
<td>33% A little bit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>39% Somewhat</td>
<td>38% Somewhat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>23% Very</td>
<td>13% Very</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9% Extremely</td>
<td>3% Extremely</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Climate:** Knowledge about university sexual assault policies and procedures. **How knowledgeable are you about...**

- **What happens when a student reports an incident of sexual assault or sexual misconduct**
  - Not at all: 43%
  - A little bit: 28%
  - Somewhat: 21%
  - Very: 6%

- **Where to make a report of sexual assault or sexual misconduct**
  - Not at all: 20%
  - A little bit: 29%
  - Somewhat: 33%
  - Very: 15%
  - Extremely: 5%

- **How sexual assault and sexual misconduct are defined at Harvard**
  - Not at all: 21%
  - A little bit: 32%
  - Somewhat: 32%
  - Very: 12%
  - Extremely: 3%

- **Where to get help if you or a friend experienced sexual assault or sexual misconduct**
  - Not at all: 11%
  - A little bit: 28%
  - Somewhat: 37%
  - Very: 19%
  - Extremely: 5%
TASK FORCE ON THE PREVENTION OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

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Demetrio Anaya: Harvard College '15
Paul Andrew: Vice President, Harvard Public Affairs and Communications
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Iris Bohnet: Professor of Public Policy; Director, Women and Public Policy Program, HKS
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Robert Iuliano: Vice President and General Counsel
Alison Frank Johnson: Professor of History
Mia Karvonides: Title IX Officer
Stephanie Khurana: Co-Master of Cabot House
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Bridget Terry Long: Academic Dean and Professor, Harvard Graduate School of Education
Youngme Moon: Professor of Business Administration; Senior Associate Dean, Chair, MBA Program, HBS
Alicia Oeser: Director of the Office of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response
Leah Rosovsky: Vice President for Strategy and Programs
Lauren Urke: Harvard College '15
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Jonathan Walton: Minister in Memorial Church, Professor of Religion and Society, Harvard Divinity School
Kenji Yoshino: Professor of Constitutional Law, NYU School of Law; Member of the Board of Overseers
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David Laibson (Chair)

Kafui Adjaye-Gbewonyo: HSPH, Doctor of Science ‘17
Paul Barreira: Director of UHS and Professor of Hygiene and Psychiatry
Iris Bohnet: Professor and Director, Women and Public Policy Program, HKS
Robert Iuliano: Senior Vice President and General Counsel
Mia Karvonides: Title IX Officer, Director of the Office for Dispute Resolution
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Christy Anthony: Title IX Senior Program Administrator
Erin Driver-Linn: Associate Provost for Institutional Research and Director of HILT
Ranna Farzan: Office of the General Counsel
Lisa Kamisher: Project Manager, Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Assault
Leah Whitehouse: Research Analyst, Office of the President and Provost
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Erin Driver-Linn: Associate Provost for Institutional Research and Director of HILT
Ranna Farzan: Legal Services Officer, Office of the General Counsel
Lisa Kamisher: Project Manager, Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Assault
Leah Whitehouse: Research Analyst, Institutional Research
OTHERS WHO MADE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS

Jennifer Anderson: Director of Communications Services
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Rachael Dane: Associate Director of Communications, FAS
Drew Faust: President, Harvard University
Karen Flood: Associate Dean; Lecturer, Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality
Ann Hall: Director of Communications, GSAS
Rakesh Khurana: Dean of Harvard College
Jeff Neal: Sr. Director of Communications and Chief University Spokesperson
Lori LoTurco: Director of Communications Strategy, Harvard College
Tania deLuzuriaga: Sr. Communications Officer
Michael Petroff: Assoc. Dir. Digital Content Strategy, Sr. Communications Officer
John Scanlon: Assistant Director, Institutional Research
Liam Schwartz: Associate Director for Strategic Analytics, Institutional Research
Shannon Sowards: Director of IRB Administration, FAS
Benjamin Sharbaugh: Associate Director, Digital Strategy
Albert Wang: Senior Research Analyst, Institutional Research
Thanks to the many Harvard students who helped us pre-test the survey and gave us valuable feedback.
• To access resources for counseling, reporting, and education, go to the Sexual Harrasment/Assault Response and Education website:
  – [http://SHARE.harvard.edu/find-resources](http://SHARE.harvard.edu/find-resources)

• To obtain more information about the survey (including the full Harvard report, this slide deck, and the full 27-school report), to comment on the findings, or to propose new sexual assault policies, contact Harvard’s Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Assault:
  – [http://SexualAssaultTaskForce.harvard.edu](http://SexualAssaultTaskForce.harvard.edu)
  – SexualAssaultTaskForce@harvard.edu
Appendix
Sexual Conduct Survey: Background

• In 2014, Harvard’s Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Assault initiated plans to conduct a campus-wide survey to study the incidence of sexual harassment and sexual assault on campus.

• Harvard and 27 other institutions joined the Association of American Universities’ (AAU) invitation to conduct a common survey on sexual assault/misconduct. The research company, Westat, was contracted by AAU to develop, administer and analyze the survey.

• Participating AAU institutions in the Ivy Plus Consortium have been meeting regularly since fall 2014 to discuss every aspect of the survey process.

• The survey was developed collaboratively by a team of experts from Westat and the universities. As part of the development, Harvard pretested draft questions from the instrument to a sample of Harvard students in January.

• The instrument was designed to collect students’ experiences with sexual harassment, stalking, intimate partner violence, and sexual assault as well as gather their perceptions of risk, awareness of resources, and perceptions of Harvard’s response.

• In early April 2015, Harvard received final IRB approval to promote and administer the survey and on April 12th, the Sexual Conduct Survey was sent electronically to all degree- and certificate-seeking students enrolled at Harvard, with the following exclusions: ART students, students with a FERPA block, and students without a valid email address.

• The Sexual Conduct Survey ran through May 2, 2015, and achieved an overall response rate of 53.2% (the highest among participating institutions).

• In early August 2015, Harvard received a report draft, series of data tables and data file from Westat and assembled an in-house analytics team to validate Westat’s analyses and produce supplementary analyses, visualizations and reports.
## Participating AAU Universities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Brown University +</th>
<th>California Institute of Technology</th>
<th>Case Western Reserve University</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Columbia University +</td>
<td>Cornell University +</td>
<td>Dartmouth College* +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvard University +</td>
<td>Iowa State University</td>
<td>Michigan State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio State University</td>
<td>Purdue University</td>
<td>Texas A&amp;M University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The University of Arizona</td>
<td>[University of Colorado Boulder]**</td>
<td>University of Florida</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Michigan</td>
<td>University of Minnesota, Twin Cities</td>
<td>University of Missouri-Columbia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</td>
<td>University of Oregon</td>
<td>University of Pennsylvania +</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Pittsburgh</td>
<td>University of Southern California</td>
<td>University of Texas at Austin</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Virginia</td>
<td>University of Wisconsin-Madison</td>
<td>Washington University in St. Louis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yale University +</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* Member of the Consortium on Financing Higher Education, whose non-AAU members were also invited to join the survey  
** UC Boulder signed up to participate but withdrew in the spring.  
+ Ivy Plus Consortium Survey Committee, Note: Princeton and Stanford joined the calls but did not administer the AAU survey  
Private universities in **bold**