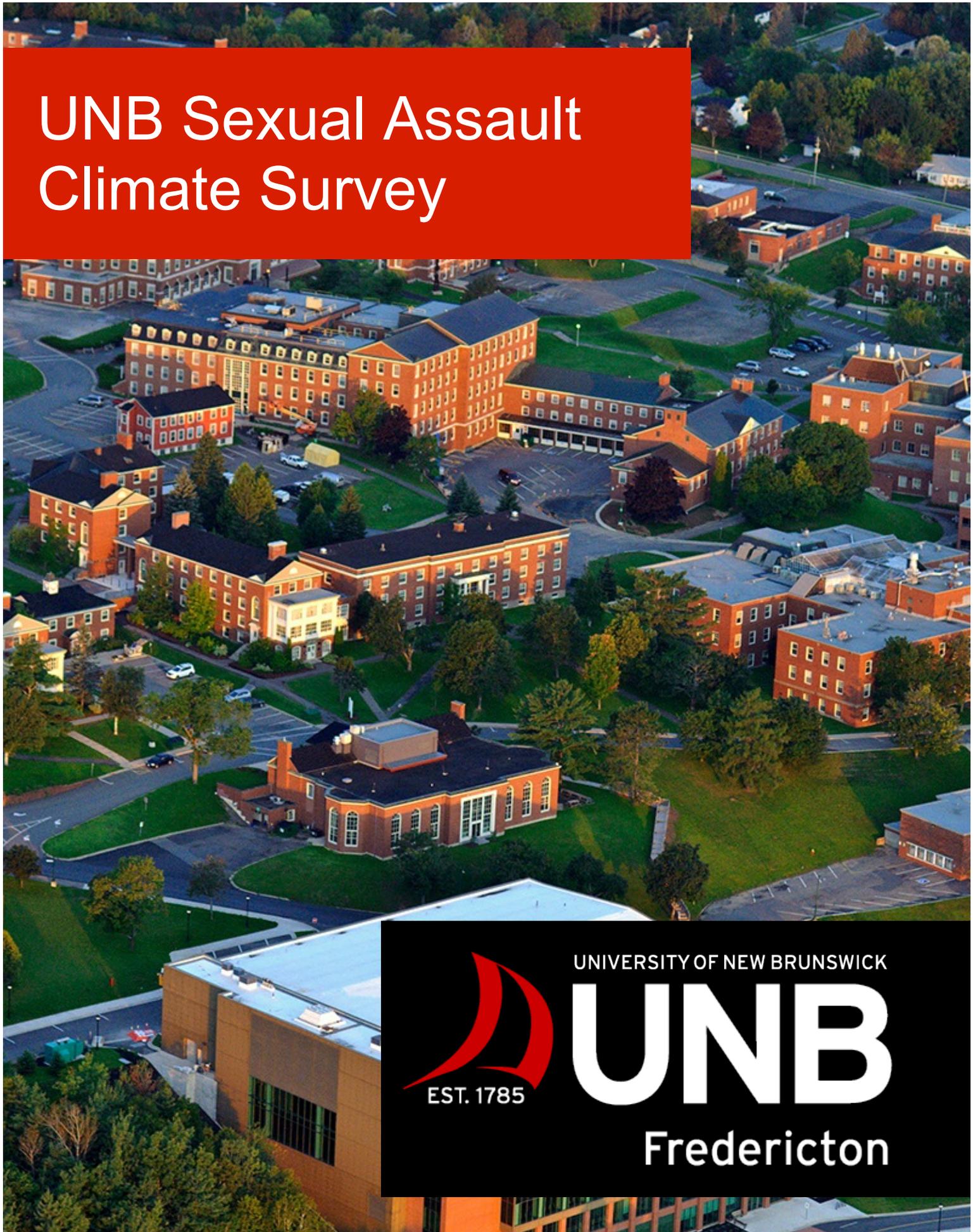


UNB Sexual Assault Climate Survey



EST. 1785

UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

UNB

Fredericton

Investigators

Rice B. Fuller, Ph.D.

Senior Director, Counselling Services, Health and Wellness
CC Jones Student Services Centre
UNB Fredericton

Lucia F. O'Sullivan, Ph.D.

Professor
Department of Psychology
UNB Fredericton

Charlene F. Belu, BA

PhD Graduate Student
Department of Psychology
UNB Fredericton

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Executive Summary

In the Fall of 2015, the University of New Brunswick (Fredericton) (UNB) launched the Sexual Assault Climate Survey, the results of which are discussed herein. The survey was based on recommendations made in Not Alone: The First Report of the White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault (White House Task Force, 2014). The survey was developed from the model survey described in a sexual assault climate toolkit provided by this task force. The UNB Sexual Assault Climate Survey also goes beyond these recommendations as it incorporates other standardized measures to explore this topic fully.

The overall aim of the survey was to gain some understanding of both attitudes towards and experiences of sexual assault among students at the University of New Brunswick, capturing in particular the “climate” of the university, which refers to views regarding the extent to which the university is a sociocultural context that condones or condemns sexual assault. In addition, it was designed to assess students’ experiences of sexual violence more broadly defined (sexual assault, sexual coercion), awareness and use of services offered on campus to help them cope with sexual assault or attempted assault should they have had such an experience, and to determine to what extent they would be willing to seek help or intervene in the case of a peers’ assault.

Sexual assault is very common among college and university populations, with estimates of 20-25% of women having experienced a sexual assault by the time they complete their undergraduate degree. Men also report experiences of sexual assault, but most studies estimate lower prevalence among men (Krebs, Lindquist, Warner, Fisher, & Martin, 2009). Despite decades of research, public health interventions, and increased public and professional awareness, there has been little change in the rates of sexual assault among young people. Relatively few incidents are reported to anyone, including health care providers and legal authorities.

Sexual assault is critical issue for college and university students as it can have many severe short-term and long-term consequences. Those who have been sexually assaulted report experiencing a wide range of physical and psychological consequences, such as anxiety, depression, drug use, suicidal ideation, heavy drinking, eating disorders, and academic achievement failure (American College Health Association, 2007; Carr, 2005; Fisher et al., 2009; Gidycz, Orchowski, King, & Rich, 2008).

Brief overview of the methodology:

- 1294 undergraduate and graduate students were surveyed from October 2015 through February 2016
- Overall, 2192 accessed the survey and 1294 completed the survey
- 1220 surveys comprised the final sample
- All surveys were anonymous and completed online
- Participation qualified students for a chance to win a gift card

Key findings:

- The majority of students agreed or agreed strongly that they felt connected to UNB
- Most (82%) reported that they felt safe on campus
- They were moderately confident that UNB would take appropriate action in a case of sexual assault, but less confident that victims would be sufficiently protected from repercussions
- More than one-third (36%) believed that the number of assaults at UNB (on-campus or off) is low
- More than one-third (39%) believed that they or their friends were not at risk for being sexually assaulted while at UNB
- Most indicated that they would **not** know how to get help (53%) or how to make a report following an assault (61%)
- There was low to moderate endorsement (i.e., not strong rejection) of all of the rape myths assessed in this survey
- Approximately half of students (49%) reported that there was some need for concern or action regarding sexual violence at UNB
- Few students believed that other students would do something to try to intervene if they were to witness an incident, but the majority thought that they themselves would try to intervene to prevent an assault if they were to witness an incident
- 21% had had a friend or acquaintance recently tell them about an experience of some type of negative sexual experience, including sexual assault
- 15% reported that they had witnessed a situation that was, or that could have led to, sexual assault since the start of the academic year; of these, 68% said that they took some action to intervene
- 34% reported that they had experienced some type of nonconsensual sexual activity before coming to UNB
- 21% reported they had been sexually assaulted since becoming a student at UNB
- 22% reported some form of sexual coercion (verbal pressure or aggression to engage in sex) while attending UNB
- 46% reported long-lasting effects when describing the impact of the incident on their lives
- Most (74%) had told someone about the incident, but typically a close friend, and rarely health care providers, security or law enforcement, typically because they wanted to forget the incident, did not think it would help, or believe it would be taken seriously
- 9% of the students who reported experiencing an incident ultimately had used UNB's Counselling Services to help deal with the impact of the incident

Recommendations and Next Steps:

These data provide UNB with valuable information about rates of sexual assault, student attitudes toward sexual assault, student access to services and resources provided here at UNB, students' understanding (or lack thereof) of policies, procedures, and resources regarding sexual assault, as well as their perceptions of how well UNB (Campus Administrators, Campus Security, Counselling and Health Services, etc.) respond to incidents of sexual assault. The results will help identify targets for education and awareness campaigns (e.g., consent, rape myths, available services). The results also will help to identify groups that are at higher risk of experiencing sexual assault and/or perpetrating sexual assault and to inform targeted interventions to these groups. Perhaps most importantly, these results will provide baseline data against which to compare our efforts to prevent sexual assault at UNB and to better respond to sexual assaults when they occur.

Introduction

The Sexual Assault Climate Survey was undertaken in 2015-2016. It was designed to support efforts to address sexual assault at the University of New Brunswick.

The University of New Brunswick had a student enrollment of 7667 (6233 undergraduate and 1434 graduate) students as of the Fall of 2015, which is when this survey was launched. This report captures the findings from surveys of 1294 of those students (16.9%) about their attitudes, perceptions, beliefs, and experiences pertaining to sexual assault of students.

Aim and Objectives

The primary aim of the study was to assess students' understanding of assault experiences and their views regarding how UNB can and should respond to these experiences.

The objectives were to:

1. Determine students' general attitudes about their feelings of connectedness to UNB, and the extent to which they perceived UNB as being committed to addressing students' needs;
2. Assess perceptions of leadership, policies and reporting as they pertain to students' experiences of sexual assault;
3. Conduct an assessment of students' bystander attitudes and behaviours, which refers to their responses when witnessing some form of sexual assault committed against another;
4. Provide some insights into the rates of sexual assault among students surveyed, including the range and type of forms experienced and their responses following those incidents;
5. Generate estimates of the extent to which students endorse rape myths, which are beliefs that reinforce negative responses toward those who experience sexual assault; and
6. Understand in greater detail what responses students have had following experiences of sexual assault, particularly with regard to help and services sought, disclosure, others' responses, knowledge and access of UNB resources, and the personal and interpersonal consequences of these events.

Sexual Assault-Related Services at the University of New Brunswick (UNB)

The university provides a variety of resources to those who have experienced sexual assault. These include:

- Immediate and ongoing counselling support
- Connection to Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner and other medical services at the Dr. Everett Chalmers Hospital
- Connection to specialized sexual assault counselling and support services at the Fredericton Sexual Assault Centre
- Connection to Fredericton City Police and Victim Services, if chosen by the survivor
- Ongoing medical care at the Student Health Centre
- Residence and academic accommodations (e.g., exam deferrals)

- Immediate and ongoing safety planning via Campus Security
- On-campus disciplinary process, if chosen by the survivor

Methods

Ethics Approval and Consent

Ethics approval for the study was obtained first from the Ethics Review Committee in the Department of Psychology, then from the Research Ethics Board (REB) for UNB-Fredericton. Students ages 19 and older who were interested in participating in the study were asked to read in full an informed consent form that provided information about the study, the voluntary and anonymous nature of participation, the potential benefits and potential risks associated with participation, as well as contact information for the UNB investigators and the REB. Those who were 18 (or younger) could not be included as the REB requires that parental consent for their participation be obtained, which would mean the survey could not be completed anonymously in such cases. Anonymity was deemed essential to help ensure validity of responses.

Students were encouraged to contact the researchers or ethics board for any questions or concerns about the study. Those who wished to continue into the study were asked to indicate their consent online prior to beginning; only those who provided consent were entered into the online survey.

Participants were informed that they could withdraw at any time without penalty by closing their browser, and were not required to complete any questions that they did not wish to complete. They were also informed that submitting the survey would be taken as an additional indication of the participant having provided informed consent.

Participants were instructed not to include any identifying information in survey responses. (In no case did anyone provide identifying information). Participants also were informed that the researchers would be obligated to report any information regarding child abuse of a person under the age of 19, sexual abuse perpetrated by a health care professional, or if the participant threatened harm to themselves or another identified person in some way.

Sampling

Students were recruited by sending a letter of invitation issued from UNB's Student Services office to all part- and full-time students at the UNBF campus. The first email comprised a note from the Interim Vice President-Academic foreshadowing the request to complete a survey on sexual assault attitudes and experiences.

A week later, students were sent another email with the official request to complete the survey. To complete it, they needed to indicate consent, then click on a link that directed them to the Sexual Climate Survey. Students' identity and surveys were kept separate. No IP addresses were collected. Two reminder emails were sent to students one and two weeks after the survey link was sent prompting those who had not responded to do so.

We also informed students about the survey through announcements posted online in a variety of forums, including student electronic news and UNB Facebook pages. In addition, the student newspaper *The Brunswickan* completed a story about the survey including coverage of the importance of participation to ensure broad representation of students' views.

Procedure

All data were collected between October 2015 and February 2016. Data were collected using an online platform (Checkbox®). Participants were encouraged to complete the survey in private. The study URL does not indicate the nature of the study should someone review the participants' browsing history.

Those who completed the survey were eligible to enter a draw to win a \$10 gift card. Identifying information for prize draws was collected through separate links to preserve anonymity at the end of the survey. That is, there was no way to connect draw entries to survey responses, thus ensuring the full confidentiality of respondents. The researchers randomly selected winners and sent them their prize through the mail. All students received some useful resources and background information about the study.

Measures

The survey was designed after reviewing sexual assault climate surveys that had been used successfully at other universities in North America and in consultation with others in the field. In particular, it was designed following the direct guidance of The First Report of the White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault (White House Task Force, 2014).

Participants were provided with measures assessing their sense of community on campus (Peterson et al., 2008) and perceptions of the University of New Brunswick's leadership, policies and reporting (DEOMI, 2014). They also completed measures assessing bystander attitudes and behaviours (Banyard et al., 2014; McMahon et al., 2014), as well as rape myth acceptance (Payne et al., 1999). Students were also asked about their specific sexual assault experiences at the University of New Brunswick (Koss et al., 2007).

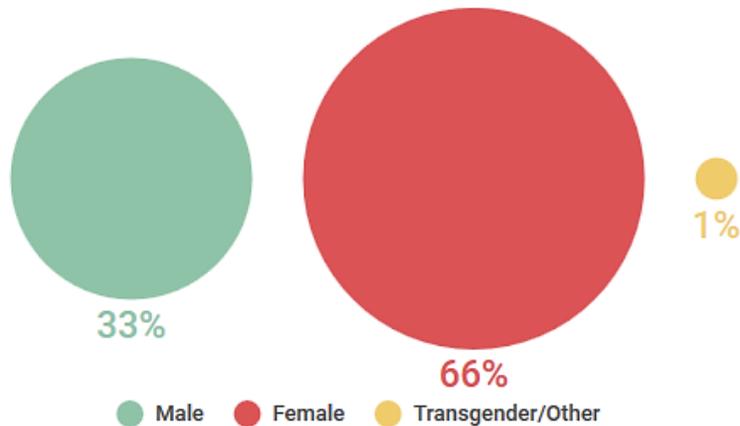
Data Preparation

Overall, 2192 current UNB students accessed the survey of which 1294 (59%) completed it. This is a very good response rate for anonymous online surveys. Of these 1294 surveys, 66 failed one or more validity check items embedded in the survey (e.g., "select strongly agree if you are paying attention") and another 8 participants had a high score on a social desirability measure, indicating a possibly biased response set. Thus, the final sample was 1220. Another 18 students provided detailed information about their sexual assault experiences, but did not choose to complete the attitudinal and opinion measures (thus the sample size for those measures tended to be 1202). We opted to keep these surveys after reviewing the details of their reports closely, and ensuring that these students otherwise had what appeared to be valid and consistent surveys.

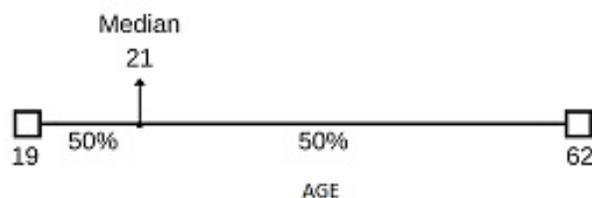
Sample Characteristics

Gender. Twice as many female students ($n = 801$; 65.7%) as male students ($n = 401$; 32.9%) participated in the study, which is typical for campus studies.

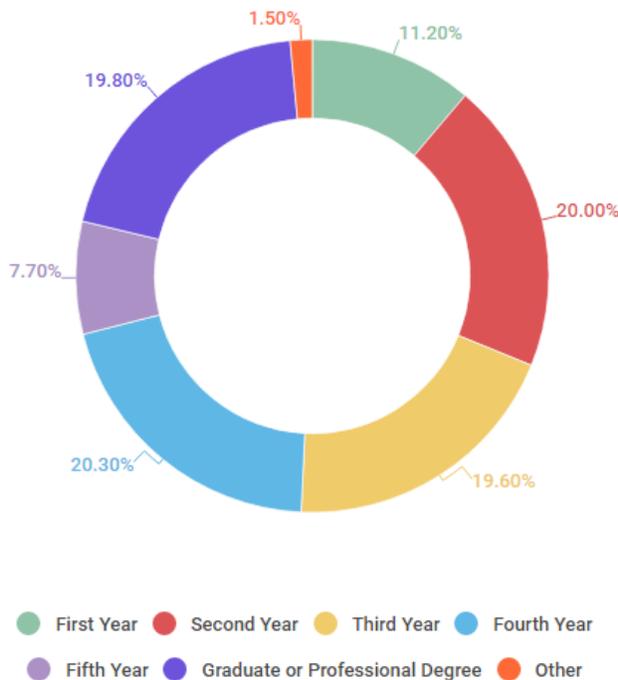
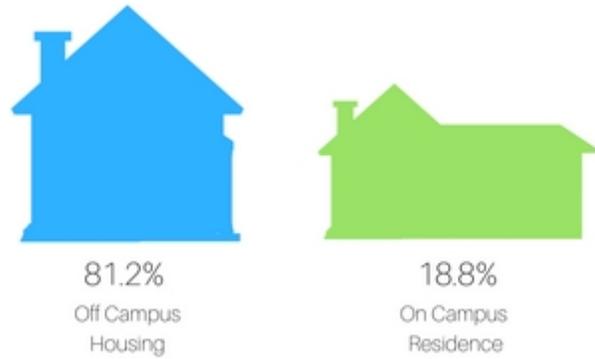
Very few participants identified as transgender male ($n = 3$; 0.2%), transgender female ($n = 4$; 0.3%), or other (10; 0.8%). Because of these small numbers of students, they were not analyzed separately.



Students' Ages. All participants had to be at least 19 years of age to be eligible and so we sampled students who were at least in their second year of university. Median age of students was 21.0 years (range 19 – 62 years). Almost three-quarters of the sample were between 19 and 23 years of age (73.7%).



Place of Residence. Most students indicated that they lived off campus at the time of the study ($n = 982$; 81.2%). A minority lived on campus in a residence ($n = 227$; 18.8%).



Year of University. Students from each year of university were fairly evenly represented from the second to fourth years, with somewhat fewer numbers in the first year given the age restriction for participation in the study. Thus, the sample comprised 136 (11.2%) first year, 243 (20.0%) second year, 238 (19.6%) third year, and 246 (20.3%) fourth year undergraduate students. The remainder were 93 (7.7%) fifth year undergraduates, 240 (19.8%) graduate or professional degree students, or 18 “other” (1.5%). The majority’s enrollment status was full time (92.3%) as compared to part-time (6.7%). Relatively few international students participated ($n = 66$; 5.5%).

Living Circumstances. We assessed with whom students were living. The highest proportion indicated that they lived with a roommate(s) or with a friend(s) ($n = 494$; 40.6%). The next most common living arrangement was with family ($n = 302$; 24.9%) followed by living with a romantic partner ($n = 215$; 17.7%) or alone ($n = 201$; 16.5%). Few indicated any other type of living arrangement (“other,” such as proctors) ($n = 3$; 0.2%).



Findings

General Campus Climate

We assessed the extent to which students felt connected to UNB and the campus as well as perceptions of UNB's leadership and policy around sexual assault. **Table 1** indicates the proportions who indicated disagree or strongly disagree as compared to agree or strongly agree. The remainder indicated a neutral position and are not included here. As can be seen in Table 1, the majority of participants agreed or strongly agreed with each statement indicating connection to UNB, with a few exceptions discussed below. Thus, most felt happy to be at UNB, believed that faculty, staff and administration respect and care about students, and indicated that they identified with UNB.

On the other hand, only half indicated that they felt connected to the UNB community and that those comprising the UNB community could influence others. Somewhat less than half believed that they could have an influence or impact on others at UNB. Of particular note, a notable majority (82%) reported feeling safe on this campus, which is important for understanding many of the results presented below.

There were no differences by gender. To analyze differences by sexual orientation, orientation was collapsed into heterosexual versus non-heterosexual as there were too few students who reported the range of non-heterosexual orientations to analyze separately. This analysis indicated that students who identified their orientation as being non-heterosexual in some way had somewhat less positive attitudes regarding their connection to UNB than did students who identified as heterosexual. Mean scores were 3.58 and 3.74, respectively, on a scale ranging from 1-strongly disagree to 5-strongly agree.

Table 1. Attitudes indicating connection to UNB

	% Disagree – Strongly Disagree	% Agree – Strongly Agree
I am happy to be at the University of New Brunswick (UNB)	5.3	74.8
Faculty, staff and administrators at UNB respect what students on this campus think	9.6	70.0
Faculty, staff and administrators at UNB are genuinely concerned about my welfare	10.6	63.0
Faculty, staff and administrators at UNB treat the students fairly	8.9	69.5
I have a good bond, or feel close with others in UNB's community	12.8	65.2
I feel connected to UNB's community	20.2	51.6
I feel safe on this campus	4.2	82.4
I feel like I am a part of UNB	9.4	67.6
I can get what I need from the UNB community	8.3	63.5
I can have an influence on other people in UNB's community	18.7	47.0
People in UNB's community are good at influencing each other	8.9	51.1
This campus community helps me fulfill my needs	12.9	56.0

N = 1202. Neutral responses not included here.

As can be seen in **Table 2**, slightly more than half indicated agreeing or agreeing strongly with the statement that UNB officials do enough to protect students' safety and that there is a good support system on campus for students going through difficult times. However, less than half indicated that they believed UNB would handle a crisis on campus well, that UNB responds quickly in difficult situations, or that officials handle incidents in a fair and responsible manner.

Most students revealed a neutral position in their beliefs about how UNB responds to difficult situations. Please note: These items do not indicate or provide examples of the nature of the difficult situations to which UNB might respond.

No differences by student gender emerged. However, students who identified as heterosexual had more positive attitudes regarding UNB's ability to respond to difficult situations than did those who identified as non-heterosexual (Mean scores 3.42 and 3.13 on a scale ranging from 1-strongly disagree to 5-strongly agree).

Table 2. Beliefs about UNB's ability to respond to difficult situations

	% Disagree – Strongly Disagree	% Agree – Strongly Agree
University officials (administrators, campus security) at UNB do enough to protect the safety of the students	17.6	52.7
If a crisis happened on campus, UNB would handle it well	21.2	43.4
UNB responds quickly in difficult situations	20.5	39.1
University officials handle incidents in a fair and responsible manner	15.0	42.9
There is a good support system on campus for students going through difficult time	14.6	56.1

N = 1202. Neutral responses not included here.

Perceptions of Leadership, Policies, and Reporting

It was important to assess students' views regarding how they thought UNB would respond to a sexual assault of a student. As such, we included questions specific to UNB (see **Table 3**).

We defined sexual assault for students as follows: Sexual assault includes sexual contact that you were unwilling to engage in, or for which you did NOT give consent. Examples might include touching of a sexual nature (i.e. kissing or fondling), oral sex, vaginal sex, anal sex, or anal/vaginal penetration by an object, or by a body part other than a penis or a tongue.

They were asked, "If someone were to report a sexual assault to a campus authority at UNB, how likely is it that..." then rated their agreement with a series of statements.

As can be seen in **Table 3**, their reports indicate moderately strong endorsement of beliefs indicating that UNB would take appropriate action and maintain the confidentiality of the report, but far less agreement with beliefs that victims would be protected from additional harms throughout this process.

A gender difference emerged: Women and trans-identified students had weaker endorsement of these beliefs compared to men (Means = 3.48, 3.25, and 3.64, respectively, on a scale ranging from 1-very unlikely to 5-very likely). In addition, non-heterosexually identified students gave weaker endorsement of these beliefs compared to heterosexually identified students (Means = 3.29 and 3.59).

Table 3. Beliefs about likely response to a report of sexual assault

	% Very Unlikely - Unlikely	% Likely – Very Likely
The University of New Brunswick (UNB) would take the report seriously	11.6	73.2
UNB would keep knowledge of the report limited to those who need to know in order for the university to respond properly	5.7	77.1
If requested by the victim, UNB would forward the report outside campus to criminal investigators (e.g., police)	8.3	74.3
UNB would take steps to protect the safety of the person making the report	11.2	65.5
UNB would support the person making the report	10.7	63.9
UNB would take corrective action against the offender	20.6	49.4
UNB would take steps to protect the person making the report from retaliation	17.1	50.9
Students would support the person making the report	9.2	62.1
The alleged offender(s) or their associates would retaliate against the person making the report	14.1	39.1
The educational achievement/career of the person making the report would suffer	29.8	38.5

N = 1202. Neutral responses not included here.

Essential to understanding students' experiences at UNB and their responses following a sexual assault is to enquire about their understanding of and attitudes about the available resources and supports at UNB, what happens when a report is made, and their perceptions of their own and peers' risk of sexual assault. We assessed these views using a series of nine items, outlined in **Table 4**.

Their responses revealed mixed views regarding their own or their friends' risk of sexual assault and most indicated that they did not know how to get help or make a report, and that they did not know about the procedures involved generally.

In short, little awareness or recognition of need and low levels of knowledge are apparent in the survey responses. Gender and orientation differences were not analyzed for these items as they do not comprise a scale.

Table 4. *Awareness of risk and supports at UNB*

	% Disagree – Strongly Disagree	% Agree – Strongly Agree
I believe that the number of sexual assaults that occur on the University of New Brunswick (UNB) campus is low	37.1	36.4
I believe the number of sexual assaults that occur at off-campus events or programs sponsored by the University of New Brunswick are low	36.3	31.2
I do not believe that I am, or any of my friends are at risk for being sexually assaulted on the campus of UNB	42.7	39.1
I do not believe that I am, or any of my friends are, at risk for being sexually assaulted at off-campus events or programs sponsored by UNB	44.0	34.4
I believe that the students at UNB would intervene if they witnessed a sexual assault	21.9	49.3
If a friend or I were sexually assaulted, I would know where to get help at the University of New Brunswick	52.5	34.7
I understand the process of what happens when a student reports a claim of sexual assault at the University of New Brunswick	76.9	11.6
I have confidence that the University of New Brunswick administers the formal procedures to address complaints of sexual assault fairly	25.0	43.7
If a friend or I were sexually assaulted, I know where to go to make a report of the sexual assault	61.0	28.9

N = 1202. Neutral responses not included here.

Rape Myth Acceptance

Students indicated the extent to which they agreed with each of 18 rape myths on a scale ranging from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree) (see **Table 5**). The possible range of summed scores is 18 (indicating attitudes that are least tolerant of rape) to 90 (indicating attitudes that are most tolerant of rape).

Of note, it is extremely uncommon to have students endorse strong agreement with these statements. Most researchers examine the proportions who *do not strongly disagree* with each statement (i.e., rape myth) as an index of ambiguity in their attitudes. In this sample, one-quarter (26.6%) strongly disagreed with each statement, revealing that the majority (73.4%) showed some ambiguity. The data were positively skewed, however, and the mean score was 25.68 (median 22.0), which indicates that the sample generally disagreed with these items, as expected.

Table 5. Acceptance of common rape myths

	% Who Did Not Disagree Strongly
Men don't usually intend to force sex on a woman, but sometimes they get too sexually carried away	50.7
Rape accusations are often used as a way of getting back at men	47.3
Although most women wouldn't admit it, they generally find being physically forced into sex a real "turn-on"	36.9
Rape happens when a man's sex drive gets out of control	35.0
If a woman is raped while she is drunk, she is at least somewhat responsible for letting things get out of control	32.9
A lot of women lead a man on, and then they cry rape	32.6
Many women secretly desire to be forced to have sex	30.1
When women are raped, it's often because the way they said "no" was ambiguous	29.4
It is usually only women who dress suggestively that are raped	24.6
A woman who dresses in skimpy clothes should not be surprised if a man tries to force her to have sex	24.5
If a woman is willing to "make out" with a guy, then it's no big deal if he goes a little further and has sex	24.1
Women tend to exaggerate how much rape affects them	23.4
Men from nice middle-class homes almost never rape	22.1
Rape is unlikely to happen in the woman's own familiar neighbourhood	21.8
A woman who "teases" men deserves anything that might happen	17.6
If a woman doesn't physically fight back, you can't really say that it was rape	16.3
Men cannot be sexually assaulted because sexual assault only happens to women	12.1
If the rapist doesn't have a weapon, you can't really call it rape	10.4

N = 1202. Neutral responses not included here.

Heterosexual students reported stronger endorsement than did non-heterosexually identified students (Means = 1.45 and 1.30, respectively). Men reported stronger endorsement than did

women and trans individuals, although still low endorsement overall (Means = 1.72, 1.27 and 1.40, respectively).

Bystander Attitudes and Behaviours

We enquired about the extent to which students viewed sexual violence generally to be a problem.

Sexual violence is a broader category of inappropriate, offensive, or unwanted behaviours that incorporates sexual assault and coercion.

We defined sexual violence for students as follows: Sexual violence refers to a range of behaviours that are unwanted by the recipient and include remarks about physical appearance, persistent sexual advances that are undesired by the recipient, unwanted touching, and unwanted oral, anal, or vaginal penetration, or attempted penetration. These behaviours could be initiated by someone known or unknown to the recipient, including someone with whom they are in a relationship.

Approximately half of the students reported some need for concern and action (see **Table 6**).

Table 6. Beliefs relating to sexual violence as a problem

	% Disagree – Strongly Disagree	% Agree – Strongly Agree
I do not think that sexual violence is a problem at UNB	49.6	25.3
I do not think there is much I can do about sexual violence at UNB	47.8	25.3
There is not much need for me to think about sexual violence on campus	57.9	23.5
Doing something about sexual violence is solely the job of the campus security	87.5	3.9
I think there is something that I can do about sexual violence	12.1	58.8

N = 1202. Neutral responses not included here.

Along this line, there has been a growing movement to motivate students to intervene on occasions where they are witnessing an incident that is or might be sexual violence as a way to prevent or reduce the rates of sexual assault.

To intervene as a bystander, students must recognize that an incident is or is becoming problematic and they must be concerned enough to actually do (or try to do) something about it.

We first assessed our respondents' perceptions of how likely they perceived their peers would be to engage in bystander intervention. Specifically, they were asked "Based on behaviour you have observed on campus (or at events sponsored by the University of New Brunswick), how likely are students to..." followed by six key items relating to bystander intervention (see **Table 7**).

Table 7. Perceptions of peers' likelihood of engaging in bystander intervention behaviours

	% Very Unlikely - Unlikely	% Likely – Very Likely
Confront other students who make inappropriate or negative sexual comments and gestures	41.9	32.3
Report other students who continue to engage in sexual harassing or unwanted sexual behaviours after having been previously confronted	36.6	37.3
Report other students who use force (physical means of compliance) or pressure (non-physical means, such as verbal manipulation, threats of force, use of guilt) to engage in sexual contact	28.1	48.2
Allow personal loyalties to affect the reporting of sexual assault	16.1	54.9
Choose not to report sexual assault out of concern that they, or others will be punished for infractions, such as underage drinking or illicit drug use	20.0	54.1
Be interviewed or serve as a witness in a sexual assault case if they knew relevant information	24.0	37.6

N = 1202. Neutral responses not included here

A minority of students in each case believed that students would do something proactive in cases of inappropriate or illegal sexual activity. Almost half believed it was likely to very likely that a student would intervene somehow in an incident where that person witnesses the use of force to engage in sexual contact with another, but otherwise their results revealed little perceived likelihood of intervention.

Men perceived other students as being more likely to intervene than did women and trans-identified students (Means = 3.03, 2.82 and 2.69, respectively, on a scale from 1-very unlikely to 5-very likely). Heterosexually-identified students perceived other students as being more likely to intervene when witnessing an incident of sexual violence than did non-heterosexually identified students (Means = 2.92 and 2.74, respectively).

By contrast, when asked about their own likelihood of intervening in some way if witnessing a range of assault-related scenarios, the majority indicated that they would behave in ways that might help prevent an incident of sexual assault (see **Table 8**). They saw themselves as far more likely than their peers to help prevent sexual violence.

Analysis of gender differences revealed that men reported being less likely to intervene compared to women and trans-identified students (Means = 3.73 and 4.15 and 4.01, respectively, from 1-very unlikely to 5-very likely). The analysis of orientation differences indicated that heterosexually-identified students indicated that they were less likely to intervene if witnessing an incident of sexual violence than were non-heterosexually identified students (Means = 3.97 and 4.21, respectively).

The last few items in this questionnaire enquire about students' interest in learning about sexual violence, possibly volunteering or actively seeking information. Note that a minority indicated interest in such activities.

Table 8. Endorsement of attitudes and experiences supporting prevention of sexual violence

	% Very Unlikely - Unlikely	% Likely – Very Likely	% reporting this experience (past month)
Ask for verbal consent when I am intimate with my partner, even if we are in a long-term relationship	18.4	69.9	63.8
Stop sexual activity when asked to, even if I am already sexually aroused	2.4	91.6	38.8
Check in with a friend who looks drunk when they go into a room with someone else at a party	8.0	81.2	27.6
Say something to a friend who is taking a drunk person back to their room at a party	7.6	78.5	15.0
Go with a female friend to the police department if she says she was sexually assaulted or raped	1.9	94.0	2.6
Go with a male friend to the police department if he says he was sexually assaulted or raped	3.2	91.7	0.7
Confront a friend who plans to give someone alcohol to get sex	5.0	85.8	4.5
Report a friend to the police if I had heard rumours that they forced sex on someone	23.0	49.4	1.3
Tell a dorm resident advisor or other campus authority about information I might have about a rape case even if pressured by my peers to stay silent	6.2	81.5	2.0
Stop having sex with a partner if they say to stop or imply to stop with their behaviour, even if it started consensually	1.2	93.9	18.8
Decide not to have sex with a partner if they are drunk	12.1	69.6	31.2
Visit a website to learn more about sexual violence	32.0	40.8	20.8
Join or volunteer with an organization that works to stop sexual violence (e.g., rape)	31.4	40.1	5.9
Participate in a rally on campus to stop sexual violence	31.9	43.0	3.9
Take a class to learn more about sexual violence	36.0	42.1	10.4
Express my discomfort if someone makes a joke about rape	14.8	70.9	43.5
Get help and resources for a friend who tells me they have been raped	1.7	93.8	7.7

N = 1202. Neutral responses not included here.

Experiences of and Attitudes Related to Sexual Assault

Awareness of a Peers' Sexual Assault. Since the start of the academic year, 257 (21.1%) students reported that they had a friend or an acquaintance tell them that he or she had been a victim of sexual assault or an unwanted sexual experience. Some reported learning of this experience from more than one person.

Although this question does not make clear when or where the peers' assaults took place, or whether those peers attended UNB, it does indicate that a notable number of UNB students have discussed negative sexual experiences with their peers.

Recent Bystander Experience. Another item determined the proportion who have observed a situation that they believed was, or could have led to, sexual assault since the start of the academic year.

Most (84.8%) reported that they had *not* had this experience, but 184 students (15.2%) reported that they had witnessed such an incident.

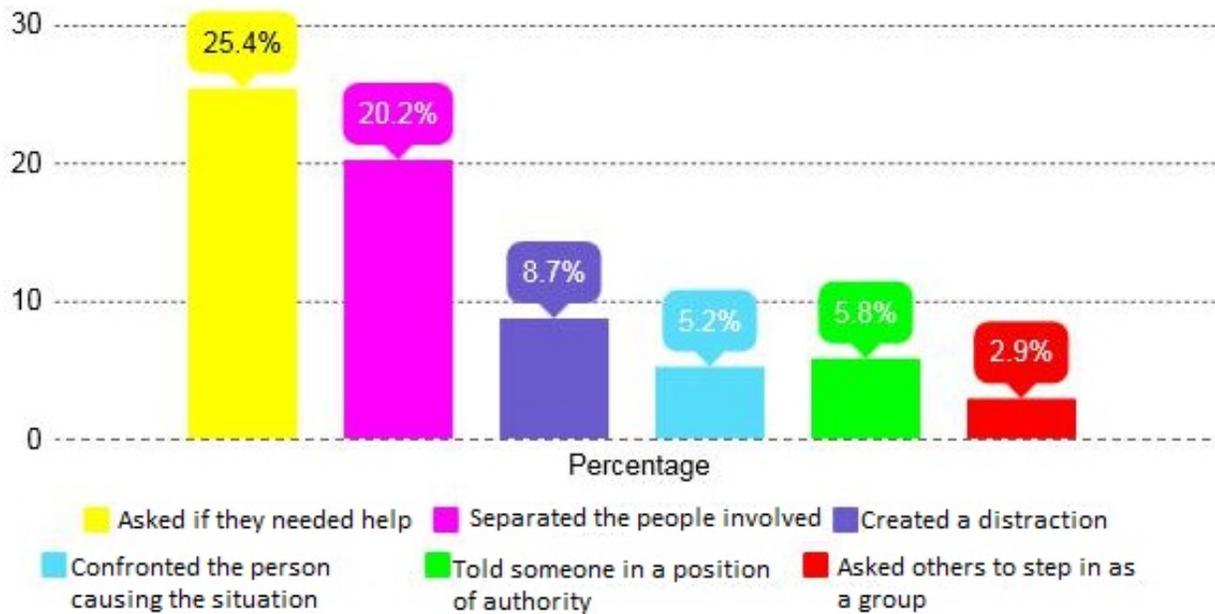
The person who they perceived was about to be or was assaulted was most often a friend (39.7%) or a stranger (36.8%) as compared to an acquaintance (14.4%), a student recognized from class (5.2%), or other (0.6%). The offender (or presumed offender) in these cases was typically a stranger (63.2%) rather than an acquaintance (14.6%), a friend (9.4%), a student recognized from class (7.6%), or other (5.3%).

For those who reported that they had witnessed a possible or actual sexual assault ($n = 184$), 173 provided their response to this situation: Most (68.2%) took some action, 6.4% considered taking action but ultimately did nothing, 15.0% decided not to take action, and 10.4% reported "other" (e.g., a response was not possible).

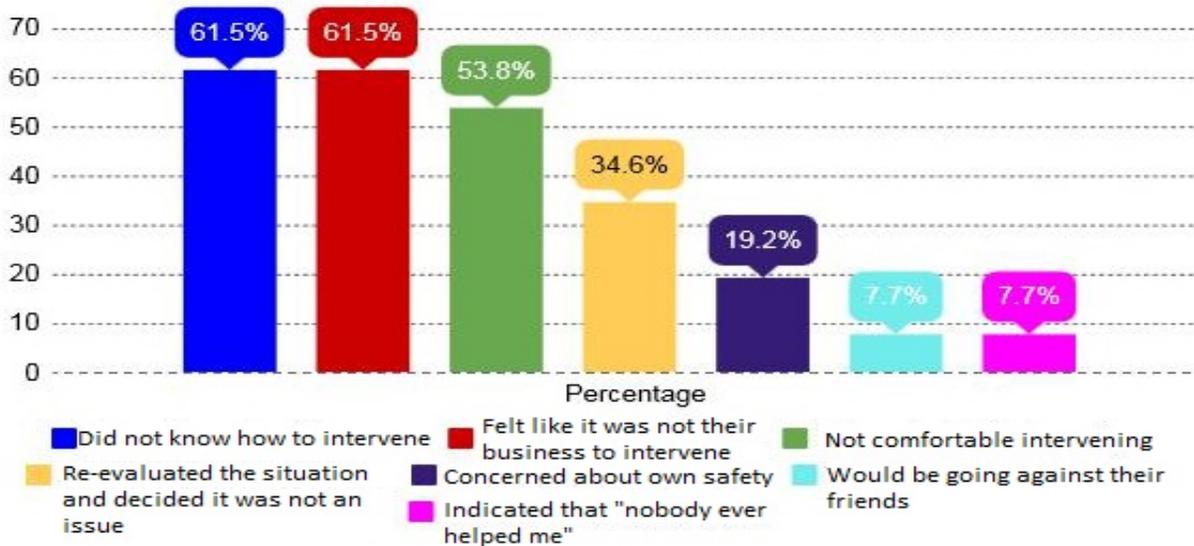
For those who took some type of action, they were most likely to ask the person who appeared to be at risk if they needed help (25.4%), or step in and separate the people involved in the situation (20.2%), rather than create a distraction to cause one or more of the people to disengage from the situation (8.7%), confront the person who appeared to be causing the situation (5.2%), tell someone in a position of authority about the situation (5.8%), or ask others to step in as a group and diffuse the situation (2.9%).

Those who took no action were asked for their reasons for choosing not to intervene. Their reasons were as follows in order of endorsement: did not know how to intervene (61.5%), felt like it was not their business to intervene (61.5%), was not comfortable intervening (53.8%), had re-evaluated the situation and decided it was not an issue (34.6%), was concerned about own safety (19.2%), would be going against their friends (7.7%), and indicated that "nobody ever helped me" (7.7%).

Actions taken by those who witnessed a possible or actual sexual assault



Reasons for Not Intervening



Definitions. We used the following definition of consent, which corresponds with standard definitions used by other researchers.

Consent	<p>A voluntary, positive agreement to engage in sexual activity with a partner(s).</p> <p>Nobody else can give your consent for you, and giving consent means that you are awake, conscious, sober, and able to make a deliberate, unforced and unpressured decision. You can change your mind at any time for any reason, and withdraw consent. Consent can be withdrawn verbally, or nonverbally through your behaviours. People in positions of trust, power, or authority cannot abuse their position to get you to agree to engage in sexual activity.</p>
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We asked specifically about the five behaviours below and defined them carefully for students to help reduce misinterpretation as follows:

Sexual touching	Kissing you, touching your private parts, grabbing, fondling, rubbing up against you in a sexual way, even if it was over your clothes
Oral sex	Someone’s mouth or tongue making contact with your genitals, or your mouth or tongue making contact with someone else’s genitals
Vaginal sex	Someone’s penis being put in your vagina, or your penis being put into someone else’s vagina
Anal sex	Someone’s penis being put into your anus, or your penis being put into someone else’s anus
Anal or vaginal penetration	With a body part other than a penis or tongue, or by an object

Experiences of Sexual Assault Before Attending UNB. We asked students whether they had experienced any of these five types of sexual activities *before* attending UNB when they did not want it or when they did not give consent.

Of 1176 responses to this item, 394 students (33.5%) reported that they had experienced at least one of the five forms of nonconsensual sexual activities before coming to UNB; 782 (66.5%) reported that they had not.

The genders of those who had were 60 male, 325 female, 3 transgender male, 1 transgender female, and 1 “other.” A significantly higher proportion of female than male students reported such an experience (42.2% and 15.5%, respectively), $\chi^2(1) = 82.88, p < .001$. (There were too few transmen and transwomen to include in this analysis). Moreover, a higher proportion of non-heterosexual than heterosexual students reported an incident (49.8% and 29.9%, respectively), $\chi^2(1) = 30.64, p < .001$.

Sexual Assault Experiences while a Student at UNB. We asked students whether they had experienced any of the following forms of sexual assault **since** becoming a student at the University of New Brunswick, either on campus, or during off-campus events sponsored by UNB, or experiences that they may have had with someone affiliated with UNB in some way.

The stem for each of the three questions was “Since starting at the University of New Brunswick, has anyone (e.g., student, professor, stranger on campus) ever...

Use of alcohol or substances	...taken advantage of you when you were too drunk or out of it to stop what was happening in order to make you engage in [any of the five types of unwanted sexual activity]”
Threat of physical force	...threatened to physically harm you or someone close to you in order to make you engage in [any of the five types of unwanted sexual activity]”
Physical force	...used physical force for example, held you down with their body weight, pinned your arms, or used a weapon, in order to make you engage in [any of the five types of unwanted sexual activity]”

Sexual Assault via Use of Alcohol or Substances. Most of the students ($n = 932$; 80.3%) who participated in the survey indicated that they had not been forced to engage in any of these types of sexual activities (touching of a sexual nature, oral sex, vaginal sex, anal sex, or anal or vaginal penetration) as a result of alcohol or other substances. However, 20% reported this type of sexual activity while a student at UNB. Of those who reported that they had had such an experience, they typically reported being forced to engage in one of these types of activities ($n = 107$; 9.2%). Seven students (0.6%) reported being forced to engage in all five forms of sexual assault. The number of occasions for each type can be seen in **Table 9**.

A higher proportion of female than of male respondents reported at least one occasion (23.5% and 12.1%, respectively), $\chi^2(1) = 20.28, p < .001$. No differences were noted by sexual orientation or year in school.

Sexual Assault via Threat of Physical Force. Relatively few (1.2%) reported having experienced sexual assault via threat of physical force while a student at UNB. Five of the 16 who reported this experience indicated that they were forced to engage in each of the five types of unwanted sexual activities assessed here. There were no differences in reports by gender or by year in school.

Sexual Assault via Physical Force. Slightly more common than reports of assault via threat, actual use of physical force was reported by 6.5% of the students surveyed for the period of time while they had been a student at UNB. Most ($n = 38$; 3.3%) had been forced to engage in one of the five types of unwanted sexual activities assessed; however, three students reported that they were forced to engage in all five.

As is common in research on physical forms of assault, a higher proportion of female than of male students reported this type of experience (8.9% and 1.6%, respectively), $\chi^2(1) = 23.00$, $p < .001$. Again, no differences by year in school emerged. However, more non-heterosexual than heterosexual students (12.1% and 5.2%, respectively) reported a history of this type of assault, $\chi^2(1) = 13.28$, $p < .01$.

Table 9. History of sexual assault while attending UNB

Type of Assault Experience	% Via Use of Alcohol or Substances					% Via Threat of Physical Force					% Via Physical Force				
	One or more	1-2	3-5	6-10	11+	One or more	1-2	3-5	6-10	11+	One or more	1-2	3-5	6-10	11+
Sexual touching	17.9	13.1	3.3	0.9	0.5	1.2	0.8	0.3	0.0	0.1	5.4	4.1	0.7	0.1	0.5
Oral sex	6.8	5.6	0.8	0.2	0.3	0.9	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.1	2.2	1.2	0.7	0.2	0.1
Vaginal sex	9.8	8.0	1.1	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	3.3	2.4	0.3	0.3	0.3
Anal sex	1.5	1.3	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.6	0.3	0.0	0.1
Anal or vaginal penetration	3.2	2.8	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.1	1.5	1.1	0.2	0.0	0.2

Ns range from 1147-1161 for these analyses.

In sum, 247 (21.4%) reported at least one type since coming to UNB; 907 (78.6%) respondents reported none of the forms of sexual assault. Of those reporting an incident, 190 (16.5%) reported one type of assault (i.e., via use of alcohol or substances, threat or use of physical force), 47 (4.1%) reported two of these assault forms, and 10 people (0.9%) reported all three types.

Sexual Coercion Experiences while at UNB. To complete our assessment of forms of unwanted sexual contact, students were asked about two forms of sexual coercion that they might have experienced while a student at the University of New Brunswick, either on campus, or during off-campus events sponsored by UNB, or experiences that they may have had with someone affiliated with UNB in some way.

The stem for the two questions was “Since starting at the University of New Brunswick, has anyone (e.g., student, professor, stranger on campus) ever...

Verbal pressure	... told you lies, threatened to end your relationship, threatened to spread rumours about you, made promises you knew were untrue, or continually verbally pressured to although you said you did not want to, in order to make you engage in [any of the five types of unwanted sexual activity]”
Verbal aggression	... showed displeasure, criticized your sexuality or attractiveness, or got angry (but did NOT use physical force) in order to make you engage in [any of the five types of unwanted sexual activity]”

The percentages who reported experiencing these types of sexual coercion in attempts to get the student to engage in the five forms of unwanted sexual activities that we assessed can be seen in **Table 10**.

As with sexual assault, the majority of students in each case reported zero (no) cases of verbal pressure or aggression.

Table 10. History of sexual coercion while attending UNB

Type of Unwanted Sexual Activity	Verbal Pressure					Verbal Aggression				
	One or more	1-2	3-5	6-10	11+	One or more	1-2	3-5	6-10	11+
Sexual touching	16.8	11.6	2.7	1.6	0.9	10.0	7.1	1.7	0.6	0.6
Oral sex	6.1	4.9	0.4	0.3	0.4	4.2	2.9	1.0	0.3	0.1
Vaginal sex	6.6	5.3	0.5	0.4	0.3	5.2	3.9	0.9	0.3	0.2
Anal sex	1.6	1.4	0.2	0.0	0.1	1.0	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.0
Anal or vaginal penetration	3.2	2.3	0.4	0.1	0.4	2.2	1.7	0.3	0.1	0.1

Ns range from 1147-1161 for these analyses.

Sexual Coercion via Verbal Pressure. Most ($n = 952$; 81.6%) reported being coerced to engage in none of these activities via verbal pressure; 120 (10.3%) reported one type of unwanted sexual activity, 40 (3.4%) reported two, 29 (2.4%) reported three, 20 (1.7%) reported four, and 7 (0.6%) reported having to engage in each of the five sexual activities because of verbal pressure.

More female than male students reported such an experience, however, 22.4% and 10.9%, respectively, $\chi^2(1) = 22.48$, $p < .001$. No differences were found in reports among students differing in year of school. However, rates varied by sexual orientation: Higher proportions of non-heterosexual than of heterosexual students reported an experience (23.4% and 17.3%, respectively), $\chi^2(1) = 4.38$, $p < .05$.

Three-quarters of the students who completed this survey ($n = 901$; 77.7%) reported no sexually coercive experiences while a student at UNB, but the remainder (22.3%) reported at least one. An experience of some type of verbal pressure to engage in unwanted sex was most common ($n = 127$; 10.9%) rather than verbal aggression ($n = 47$; 4.1%), although 85 students (7.3%) reported both.

Sexual Coercion via Verbal Aggression. The majority of students ($n = 1030$; 88.6%) said that they had not had an experience of sexual coercion in the form of verbal aggression while a student at UNB. However, 11.4% reported at least one experience, although typically involving just one type of these activities ($n = 67$; 5.8%).

Gender differences were again noted: more female than male students reported sexual coercion in the form of verbal aggression, 15.1% and 4.2% respectively, $\chi^2(1) = 30.10$, $p < .001$. No differences across years in school emerged. Again, higher proportions of non-heterosexual than of heterosexual students reported an experience (16.4% and 10.3%, respectively), $\chi^2(1) = 6.39$, $p < .05$.

The term sexual violence incorporates both sexual assault and sexual coercion. Overall, 355 students (29.1%) of the total 1220 reported at least one incident of sexual violence since attending UNB.

Worst Experiences of Unwanted Sexual Contact while a Student at UNB

Participants were asked to describe incidents that they perceived to be **the most serious**, which we defined as the incident with “the greatest impact on your life.” A total of 360 students who participated in this survey reported an incident of sexual assault or sexual coercion since becoming a student at UNB. Of these, 359 provided details about the worst experience that they had.

Type of Unwanted Sexual Contact. The type of unwanted sexual activity was typically sexual touching (28.9%), vaginal sex (9.5%), oral sex (6.3%), anal or vaginal penetration (with object or body part) (2.7%) or anal sex (1.8%). Most incidents involved one person, although 13.6% involved two or more.

Where the Incident Took Place. The incidents usually occurred off-campus (55.4%), or off-campus at an event or program sponsored by UNB (3.3%) as compared to on campus (37.0%) or some other place (4.3%).

Students were asked to explain in more detail where exactly the incident took place using an open-ended item. Of the 258 responses that could be coded, the responses were as follows: in a university residence (29.1%), house known to student but not their own (20.5%), bar or club (20.2%), student’s off-campus residence (12.0%), on campus space (e.g., lab, classroom, library, student union building) (8.9%), outside (e.g., on trail) (3.9%), car (1.6%), or miscellaneous (e.g., conference hotel room) (3.9%).

Who Was Involved. The individual involved in this incident was typically known to the student (88.9%) as compared to a stranger (11.1%). Of those known to the student, most perpetrators were a casual acquaintance (24.2%), non-romantic friend (17.3%) or ex-romantic partner (12.3%) as compared to casual or first date (8.4%), current romantic partner (5.8%), co-worker (3.3%), university professor/instructor (1.1%), university staff (0.8%), teaching assistant (0.6%), family member (0.3%), employer/supervisor (0.3%), coach (0.0%), or other (5.0%).

For almost two-thirds, the individual involved was a student (63.0%), although 13.9% did not know whether the person involved was a student.

The Number and Sex of the Individuals Involved. Students reported that the gender of the individual(s) forcing or attempting to force sex was male (78.3%) versus female (16.2%) or transmale (0.6%). (No incidents involved transwomen as perpetrators). The remainder did not report the gender of the individual(s) involved.

The perpetrator(s) involved was usually one person ($n = 277$; 85.5%), as compared to two (9.6%), 3-5 (3.7%), or 6-10 (1.2%) people.

Type of Coercion or Assault Experienced. Over one-third of students (39.0%) reported that they were unable to consent because they were incapacitated in some way (e.g., passed out, drugged, drunk, half asleep). The incidents typically involved both the student (60.7%) and the other individual (59.3%) drinking alcohol.

Approximately one-sixth (15.6%) reported the use of physical force or threat of force, coercion, or intimidation (15.8%). Use of drugs other than alcohol was reported by the minority of students (3.6%) for themselves or by the other individual (8.6%), and few (3.6%) reported having been given a drug without their consent.

Bystanders Aware of What Was Happening. Many participants (46.4%) who reported an incident indicated that there were bystanders who were aware of what was happening. Approximately one-quarter reported that 1-2 people were aware of what was happening (23.5%), 10.8% reported 3-5 bystanders, 5.6% reported 6-10 bystanders, and 6.2% reported 11 or more bystanders aware of what was happening at that time.

Few incidents (11.7%) involved anyone attempting to intervene or providing the student with assistance.

Emotional Impact on Student. When asked how frightened they were by the incident, they reported a mean score of 2.50 on a scale ranging from (1) not at all frightened to (4) very frightened. Almost one-fifth (19.1%) reported having been very frightened at the time. These incidents were viewed as moderately stressful (Mean = 2.94) on a scale ranging from (1) not at all to (5) the most stress ever. Four percent reported that the incident was the most stressful ever.

Ratings of how frightened and how stressful these events were varied by whether the incident was attempted or completed: Those students who reported an incident of unwanted sexual contact that was attempted (but not completed) had significantly lower mean ratings of fright (Means = 2.24 and 2.73) and stress (Means = 2.67 and 3.18) compared to those who reported a completed experience.

When asked whether this incident still had a negative impact on their life in some way (for example, stress, nightmares, feeling scared, feeling unsafe), 45.7% ($n = 148$) indicated that it did, whereas 54.3% ($n = 176$) reported that it did not.

Disclosure and Help-Seeking

This final section was completed by 325 of the 360 who reported at least one incident of sexual coercion or assault.

The majority of these students (73.5%) indicated that they had told someone about it. They typically told a few others (i.e., 1-3) in 46.2% of the cases rather than 4-10 (23.0%) or more than 10 (4.3%) people about the incident.

For those who **did not report it** to anyone ($n = 86$), they indicated the following reasons for why they chose not to do so (see **Table 11**). The most common reasons for not disclosing the incident to anyone was considering it a private matter or not sufficiently serious to disclose, followed by wanting to forget it happened, thinking others might not view the incident as serious, or not wanting others to worry about them.

Table 11. Reasons for non-disclosure of incident to another person

	%
It is a private matter - I wanted to deal with it on my own	57.0
I didn't think what happened was serious enough to talk about	53.5
I wanted to forget it happened	34.9
I was ashamed/embarrassed	32.6
I didn't think others would think it was serious	32.6
I didn't want others to worry about me	29.1
I didn't want the person who did it to get in trouble	25.6
I didn't think others would think it was important	24.4
I didn't think others would understand	23.3
I had other things I needed to focus on and was concerned about (classes, work)	23.2
I was concerned others would find out	19.8
I thought I would be blamed for what happened	18.6
I thought nothing would be done about it	17.4
I was scared I wouldn't be believed	16.3
I didn't have time to deal with it due to academics, work, etc.	16.3
I was scared the person who did it would spread rumours about me	14.0
I would feel like I was admitting failure	11.6
I didn't know reporting procedure on campus	9.3
I was scared the person who did it would retaliate	8.1
I didn't think the university would do anything about my report	8.1
I thought people would try to tell me what to do	7.0
I did not feel the campus leadership would be helpful	7.0
Other	7.0
I was scared others would harass me or react negatively toward me	5.8
I worried it would affect the mark I got in my class	2.3
I was scared that myself or another person would be punished for infractions or violations (such as underage drinking)	1.2

$N = 86$ who reported not having told anyone about the incident. Participants could endorse as many as were applicable.

For those 239 students who told at least one other person about the incident that they experienced, most did so within the first 24 hours (54.6%) or within the first week (14.7%); the remainder told someone within a month (10.5%), a year (14.3%), or longer (5.9%). **Table 12** shows who students typically told, and their ratings of who was most versus least helpful when told of the incident.

They typically told a close friend other than a roommate, followed by a roommate, or a romantic partner—likely peers with whom these students had their closest relationships. Both the friend and romantic partner received high ratings for “most helpful,” although roommates did not receive a corresponding high score. Least helpful, likely related to being the individuals to whom students most commonly disclosed, were also close friends and romantic partners.

Of note, very few of these students indicated that they reported the incident to health care providers, security, law enforcement, or counsellors of some type.

Table 12. *To whom students told of incidents and rankings of most and least helpful*

	% ¹	Rated as most helpful	Rated as least helpful
Close friend other than roommate	85.4	46.9	15.9
Roommate	35.1	9.2	6.7
Romantic partner (in cases where they were not the one who assaulted you)	23.4	12.1	6.3
Parent or guardian	9.6	2.1	2.1
Counsellor from UNB Counselling Services	8.8	3.8	0.4
Other family member	6.3	1.0	0.0
Residence hall staff (e.g., proctor or don)	5.9	2.9	1.7
Faculty or staff	3.8	2.1	2.5
Non-UNB counsellor, psychologist or social worker	2.9	1.0	0.8
Other	2.5	0.0	0.0
Campus security	1.3	0.0	0.8
Family doctor	1.3	0.0	0.0
Doctor or nurse at the UNB Health Centre	1.3	0.4	0.8
Coach	1.3	0.0	0.0
Doctor or nurse at a hospital	1.0	0.4	0.0
Fredericton Sexual Assault Health Centre	1.0	0.0	0.0
Police	0.0	0.0	0.0
CHIMO Help Line	0.0	0.0	0.0
Religious leader	0.0	0.4	0.0

N = 239 who told someone of the incident. ¹Participants could endorse as many as were applicable.

A final set of items asked students about what they knew with regard to UNB’s policies and procedures regarding sexual assault. One-quarter (23.4%) indicated that they were aware of formal procedures to report the incident, either on campus, or in the community. Among the few who reported the incident to UNB authorities (*n* = 5; 1.4%), they indicated that UNB formal procedures were not helpful in dealing with the incident in 2 of those cases, in the remaining 3 cases those procedures helped a lot. **Table 13** provides the proportions that reported having used or having wanted to use a UNB service after being sexually assaulted (but not doing so).

Table 13. Proportions reporting having used or having wanted to use support services

	Visited ¹	Did Not Visit but “Wanted to” ¹
UNB’s Counselling Services	13.4	23.1
Campus Security	1.1	10.9
UNB’s Health Centre	5.3	11.4
Spectrum	0.0	8.4
UNB’s Sexuality Centre	0.8	15.0
Fredericton Sexual Assault Crisis Centre	1.7	13.1
Non-UNB mental health practitioner	4.7	11.7
Non-UNB family doctor	3.9	9.7

N = 359. ¹Participants could endorse as many as were applicable.

Approximately one-sixth (13.4%) had used UNB’s Counselling Services in response to the incident of sexual assault, but few (4-5%) had used a health care provider. Far higher proportions indicated that they had considered using these services, but were unable to or else they chose not to do so.

If they reported that they had not accessed one or more of these services, they indicated their reasons for not doing so (see **Table 14**). The most common reasons were similar to those reported in Table 12 with regard to non-disclosure. They indicated that they did not access support services because they wanted to forget about the incident or viewed the incident as a private matter, did not think it would help or that it would be taken seriously.

Table 14. Reasons for not accessing support services

	% ¹
I’m just trying to forget about it	19.7
It’s a private matter that I want to deal with on my own	18.3
I don’t think other people will think it’s serious	17.6
I didn’t think it would help	15.5
I don’t want other people finding out	14.5
I don’t want to have to report it	14.5
I’m ashamed or embarrassed	13.1
I don’t want this information written down anywhere	10.3
I think I will be blamed	7.6
I don’t want the person who did it to get into trouble	6.9
I don’t want anyone to see me accessing these resources	6.6
Other	3.8
I did not know Spectrum existed	3.4
I did not know UNB’s Counselling Services existed	3.1
I did not know UNB’s Sexuality Centre existed	2.4
I was threatened not to say anything	2.1
I did not know UNB’s Health Centre existed	0.7
I did not know Campus Security existed	0.3

Note. *N* = 290. ¹Participants could endorse as many as were applicable.