



HEDS Sexual Assault Campus Climate Survey Summary Report

Released 06/27/17

This report contains comparative data on multiple dimensions of sexual assault and campus climate for undergraduates from the 75 small institutions that administered the HEDS Sexual Assault Campus Climate Survey in the 2015–2016 and/or 2016–2017 academic years. Small institutions have undergraduate student enrollments of below 4,000.

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[Campus Climate](#)

A comparison of your students' views of general campus climate in regard to sexual assault with the views of students at all small institutions — topics include students' views on: groups that contribute to a positive and supportive campus climate, risk of sexual assault at your institution, and institutional response to reports of sexual assault, as well as the proportion of students experiencing high levels of unwanted sexual contact.

[Sexual Assault](#)

A comparison of how often sexual assault occurred at your institution with how often it occurred at all small institutions — topics include: the percent of students that were sexually assaulted, whether bystanders were present and intervened, the percent of women victims that were assaulted multiple times, and the number of incidents per 100 students. We also provide specific details about sexual assaults at your institution, comparing assaults your students reported with assaults that students at all small institutions reported — topics include: the involvement of drugs and alcohol, the affiliation of the assaulters, and the location of the assaults.

[Sexual Assault Rate](#)

A graph that compares participating small institutions on the incidents of sexual assault per 100 women

[Multiple Assaults Rate](#)

A graph that compares participating small institutions on the percentage of sexual assault victims who experienced multiple assaults

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A graph that compares participating small institutions on the percentage of sexual assault victims who experienced the use of force

[Incapacitation](#)

A graph that compares participating small institutions on the percentage of sexual assault victims who were unable to provide consent due to incapacitation

[Male Assailants](#)

A graph that compares participating small institutions on the percentage of sexual assaults perpetrated by men

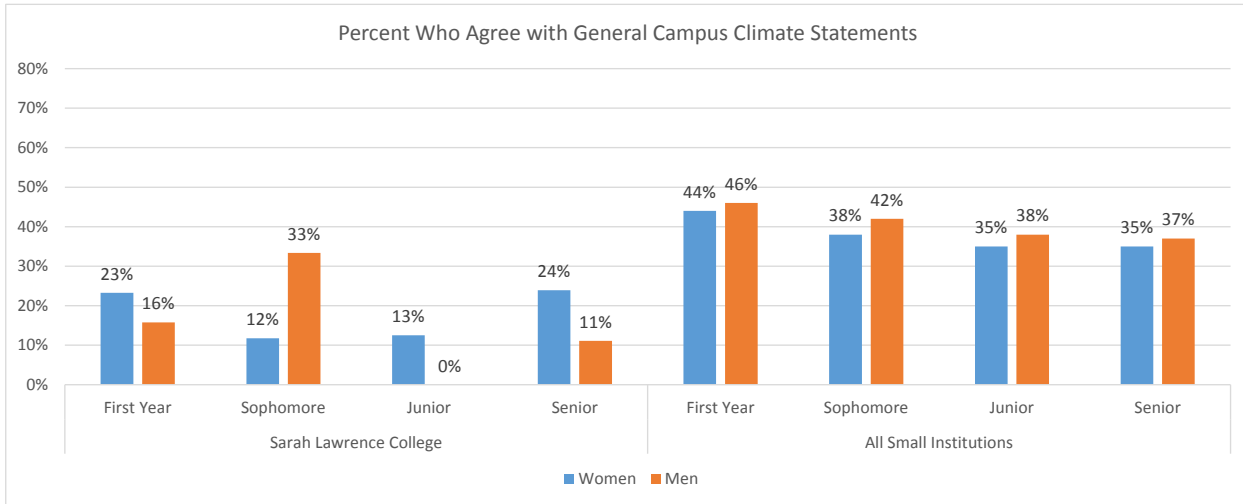
[Technical Information](#)

Detailed information about sampling, the different sections, and calculations for tables and graphs

Campus Climate

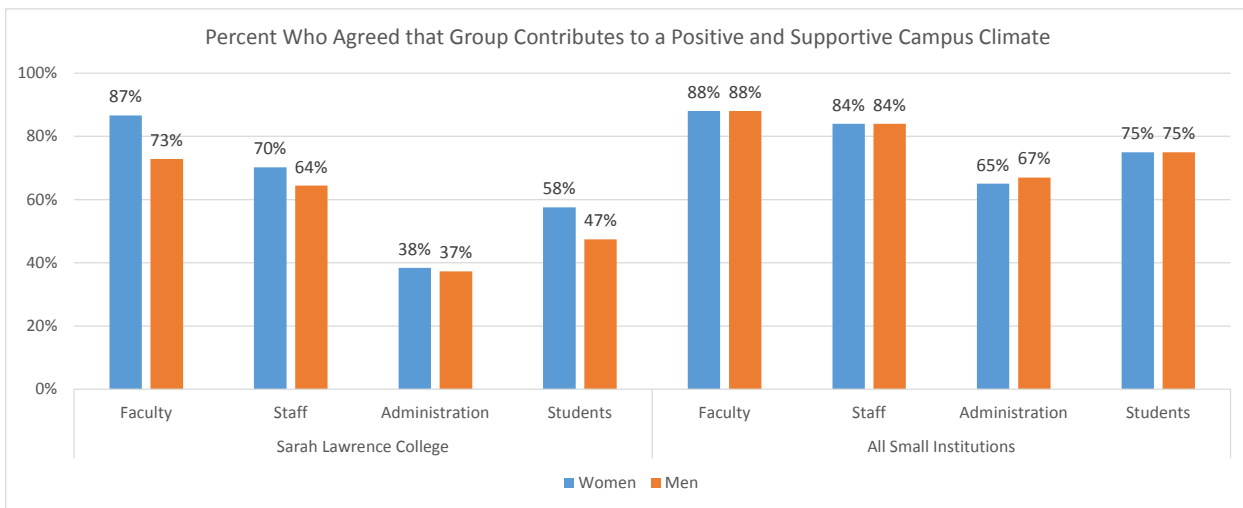
The HEDS Sexual Assault Campus Climate Survey asked undergraduates about their level of agreement with eight statements about their views on the general climate at their institution. Students indicated the extent to which (a) faculty, staff, and administrators respect what students think, are concerned about their welfare, and treat them fairly, (b) students are concerned about the welfare of other students and treat them fairly, and (c) they feel close to people, safe on campus, and like a part of the institution's community.

In the following graph, we show the percentage of students who selected "Agree" or "Strongly Agree" for all eight statements, comparing the responses of women and men at your institution with those of women and men at all small institutions.



Overall, students who experienced higher levels of unwanted sexual contact, who experienced an attempted sexual assault, and who have been sexually assaulted are less likely to agree with the general campus climate questions.

The survey also asked students the extent to which different groups of people contribute to a positive and supportive campus climate at their institution. As before, we show the percentage of students who selected "Agree" or "Strongly Agree" for each group on campus, comparing responses of women and men at your institution with those of women and men at all small institutions.





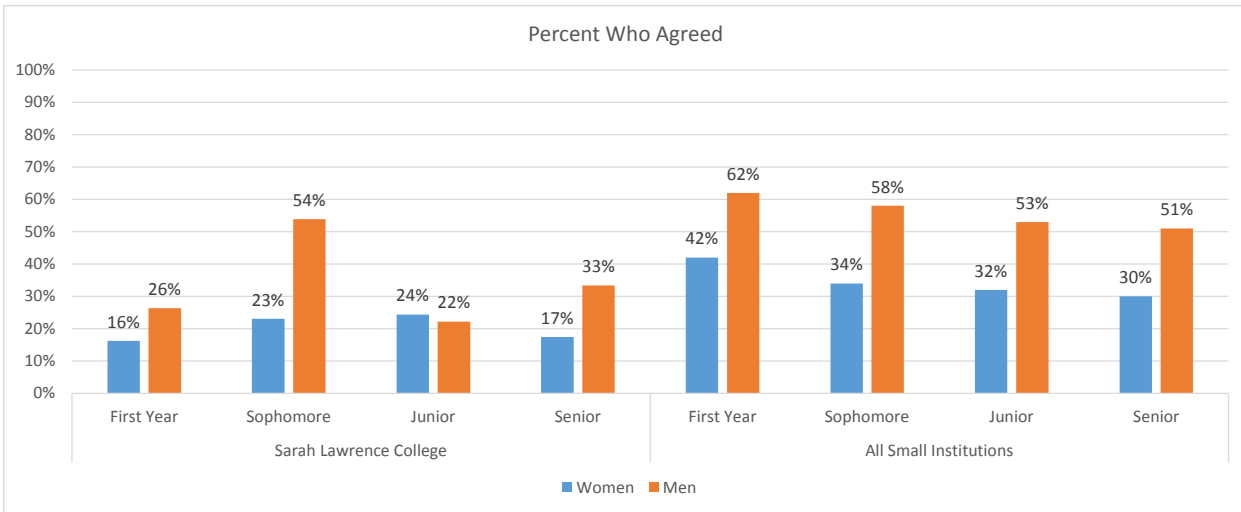
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Campus Climate on Issues Related to Sexual Assault

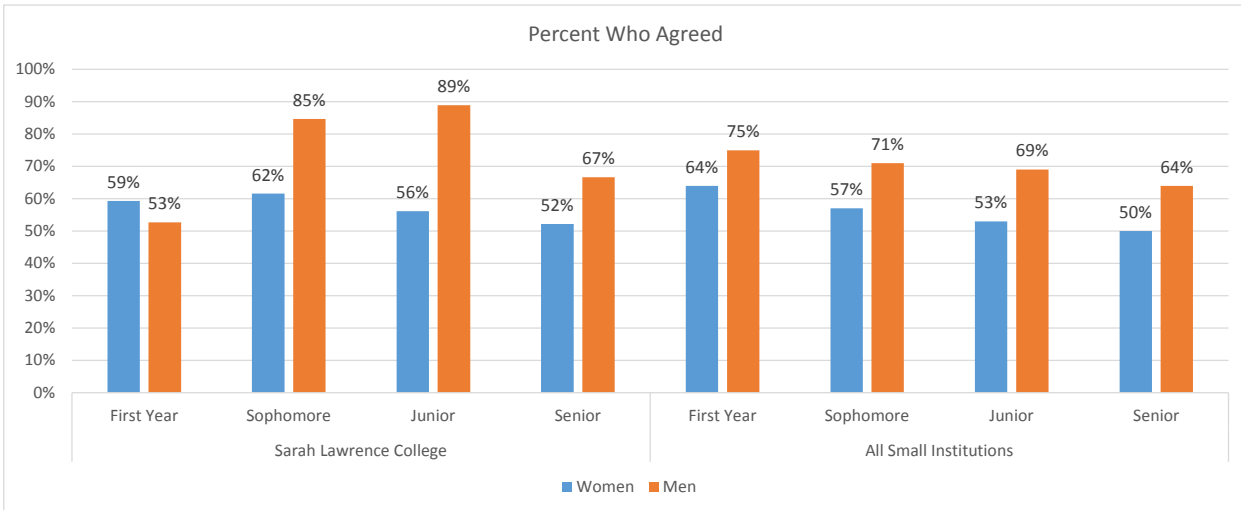
Perceived Risk of Sexual Assault

The HEDS Sexual Assault Campus Climate Survey asked students the extent to which they agree with statements about their perceived risk of sexual assault. We show the percentage of students who selected "Agree" or "Strongly Agree" on two of these statements below, comparing the responses of women and men at your institution with those of women and men at all small institutions.

I do not believe that I or one of my friends is at risk for being sexually assaulted on campus, off campus at an event or program connected with this institution, or at a social activity or party near campus.

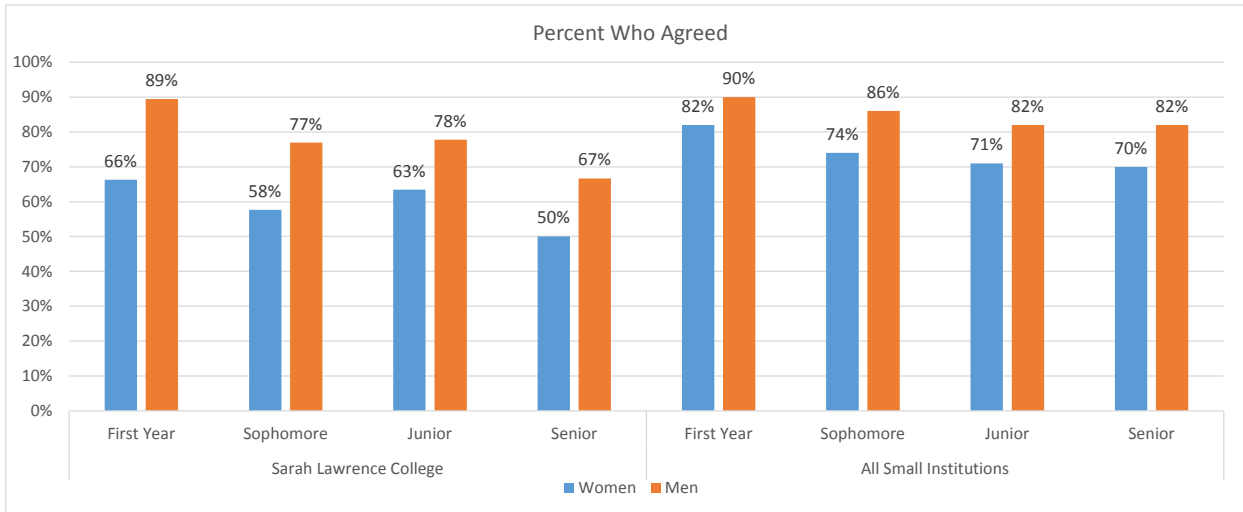
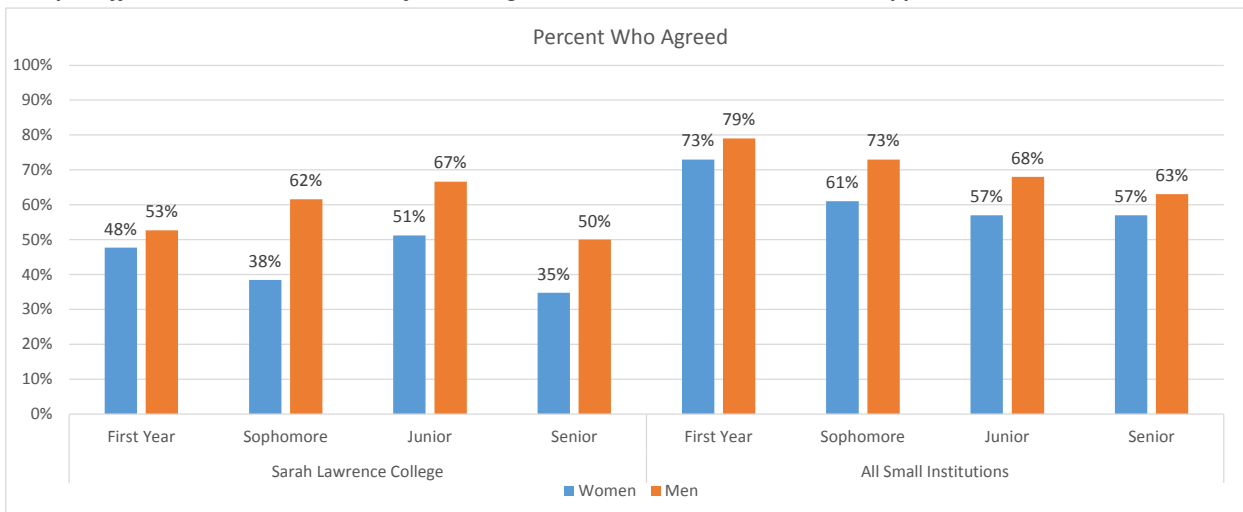


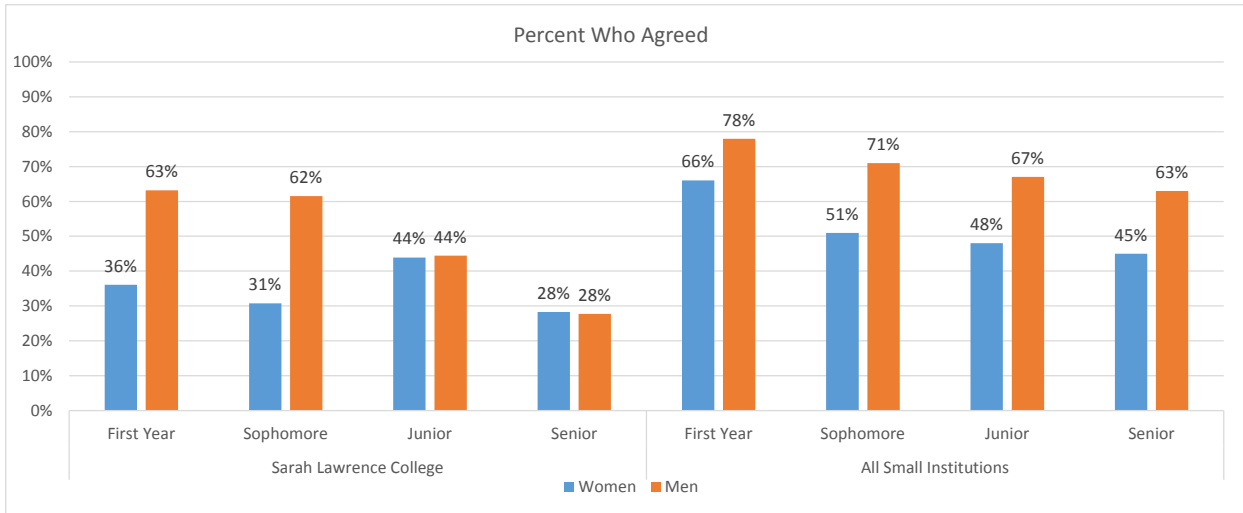
I believe that students at this institution would intervene if they witnessed a sexual assault.



Perceptions of Institutional Response to Sexual Assault

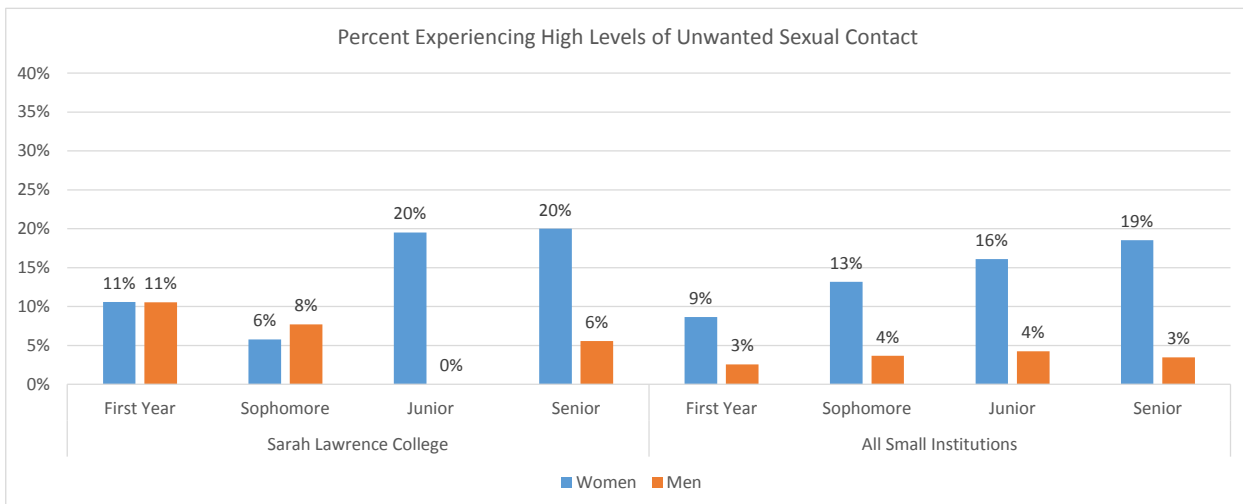
The survey also asked students the extent to which they agreed with statements about what the institutional response might be if someone reported a sexual assault. We show the percentage of students who selected "Agree" or "Strongly Agree" on three of these statements below, comparing responses of women and men at your institution with the responses of women and men at all small institutions.

Campus officials would take the report seriously.

Campus officials would conduct a careful investigation in order to determine what happened.


Campus officials would take action against the offender(s).

Unwanted Sexual Contact

The graph below depicts the percentage of women and men at your institution who experienced high levels of unwanted sexual contact compared to women and men at all small institutions. We designated students as experiencing high levels of unwanted sexual contact when they reported that they experienced one or more of the following kinds of unwanted sexual contact "Often" or "Very often":

- Unwanted verbal behaviors – e.g., someone making sexual comments about your body or making unwelcome sexual advances
- Unwanted nonverbal behaviors – e.g., someone sending you sexual emails/texts, leering at you, or making lewd gestures
- Unwanted brief physical contact – e.g., someone engaging in any brief inappropriate or unwelcome touching of your body





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How Often Does Sexual Assault Occur at Your Institution?

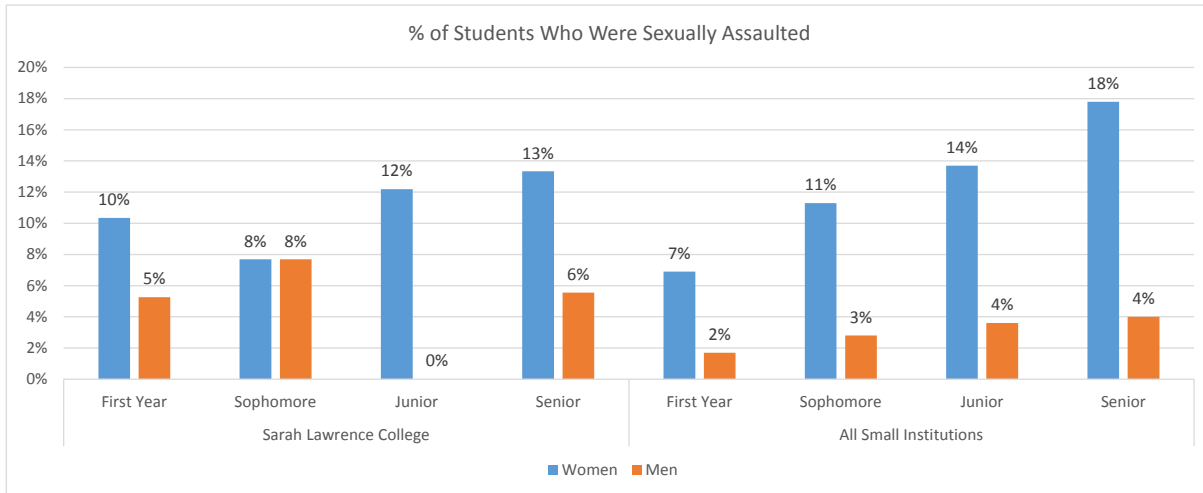
Prior to asking undergraduates about their experience with sexual assault, we provided them with the following descriptions of five kinds of sexual assault:

"When we ask about sexual assault, we are referring to five specific types of sexual contact, which you did not want or for which you did not give consent:

- Touching of a sexual nature (kissing you, touching of 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 in 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, like a bottle or candle"

Of the 313 students from Sarah Lawrence College who responded to this survey, 35 reported that they had been sexually assaulted, including 24 women and 3 men.

The graph below compares the percentage of women and men at your institution who experienced sexual assault with the percentage of women and men at all small institutions who experienced sexual assault.



Bystanders

Many institutions use Bystander Training as a means of reducing the number of sexual assaults. However, the effectiveness of Bystander Training is limited both by people's ability and willingness to intervene and by the number of assaults that occur when a bystander is present. In the tables below, we summarize data from your institution on both the presence of bystanders during sexual assaults, and the likelihood that they would intervene. The first table includes data from victims of sexual assault, and the second table includes data from bystanders who witnessed sexual assaults.

	Sarah Lawrence College	All Small Institutions
<i>Reports from victims of sexual assault</i>		
% of sexual assaults for which the victims reported that a bystander was present	31%	35%
% of these sexual assaults in which the bystanders intervened	27%	24%

At Sarah Lawrence College, bystanders were present for 11 of the 35 sexual assaults described in the survey. Bystanders intervened in 3 out of the 11 sexual assaults in which they were present.



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	Sarah Lawrence College	All Small Institutions
<i>Reports from bystanders of sexual assault</i>		
% of students who reported observing a sexual assault	8%	8%
% of these students who intervened	60%	68%

Multiple Assaults

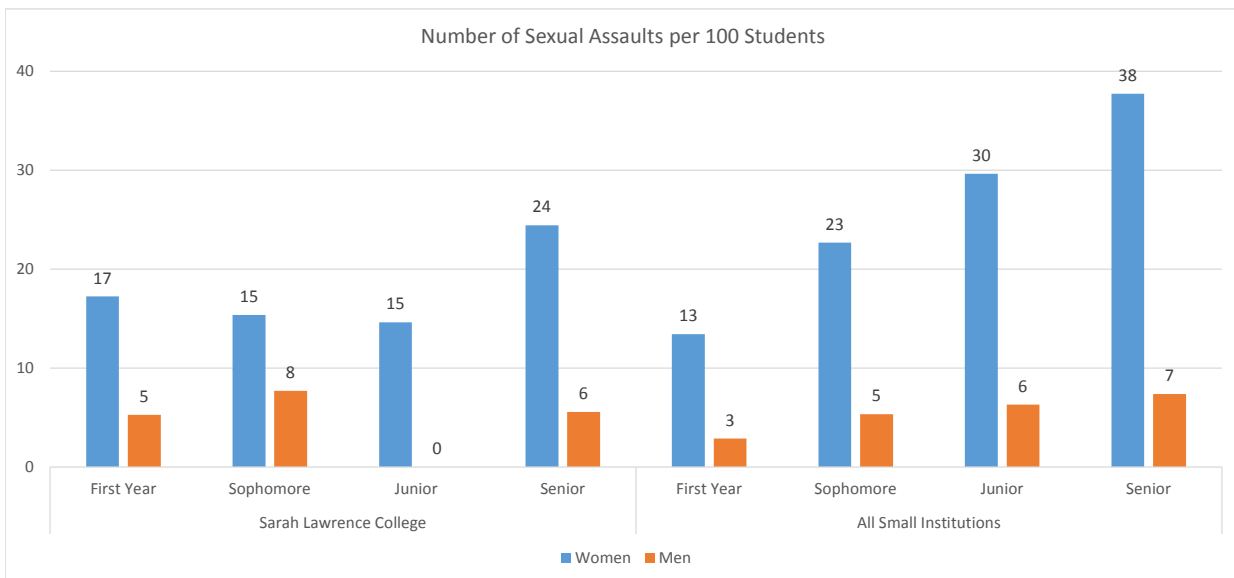
Many victims of sexual assault are assaulted multiple times. The table below depicts the percentage of women who were victims of sexual assault at your institution and experienced multiple assaults compared to the percentage of women who were victims of sexual assault at all small institutions and experienced multiple incidents of sexual assault. At the vast majority of institutions, the number of men who experienced sexual assault was too low to permit any statistical analyses or summaries. Across all small institutions, 44% of men who were victims of sexual assault experienced multiple incidents of sexual assault.

	Sarah Lawrence College	All Small Institutions
% of women victims that had multiple assaults	50%	58%

Incidence of Sexual Assault

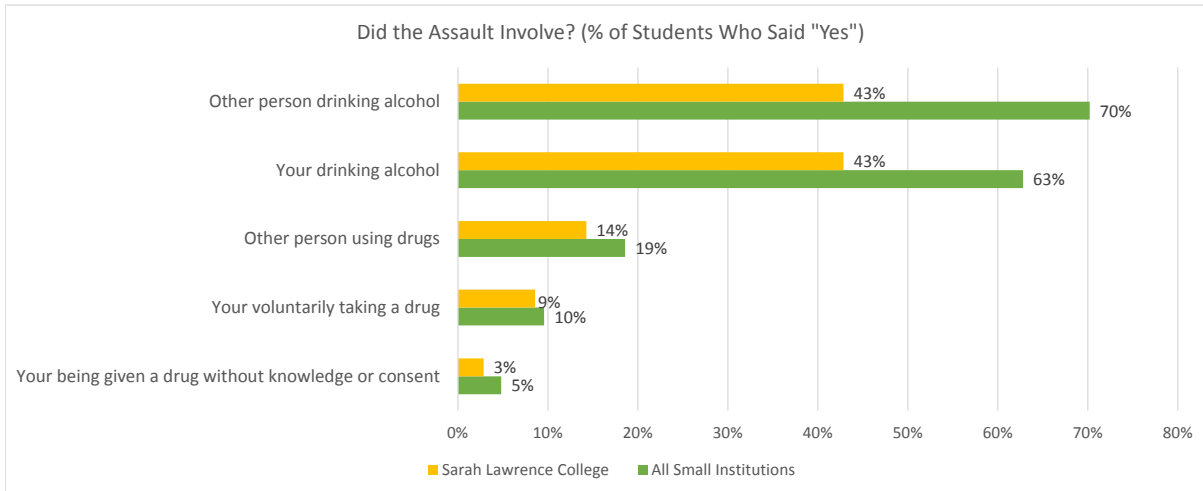
Because a majority of the people who were sexually assaulted experienced multiple assaults, focusing on the percentage of people who have been sexually assaulted underestimates how frequently sexual assault occurs.

In the following table, we compare the incidence rate of sexual assault for women and men at your institution with the sexual assault incidence rate for women and men at all small institutions. We've calculated the number of sexual assaults per hundred students to allow comparisons across institutions with different numbers of students.



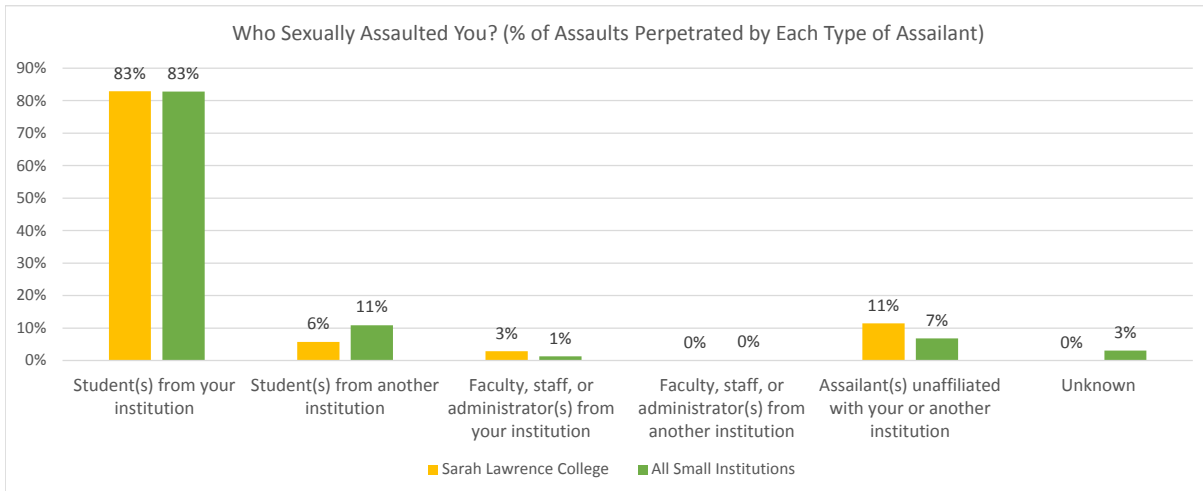
Details about Incidents of Sexual Assault

Alcohol was involved in the majority of sexual assaults across almost all schools. The graph below compares the extent to which alcohol, as well as other drugs, were involved in sexual assaults at your institution compared to all small institutions.



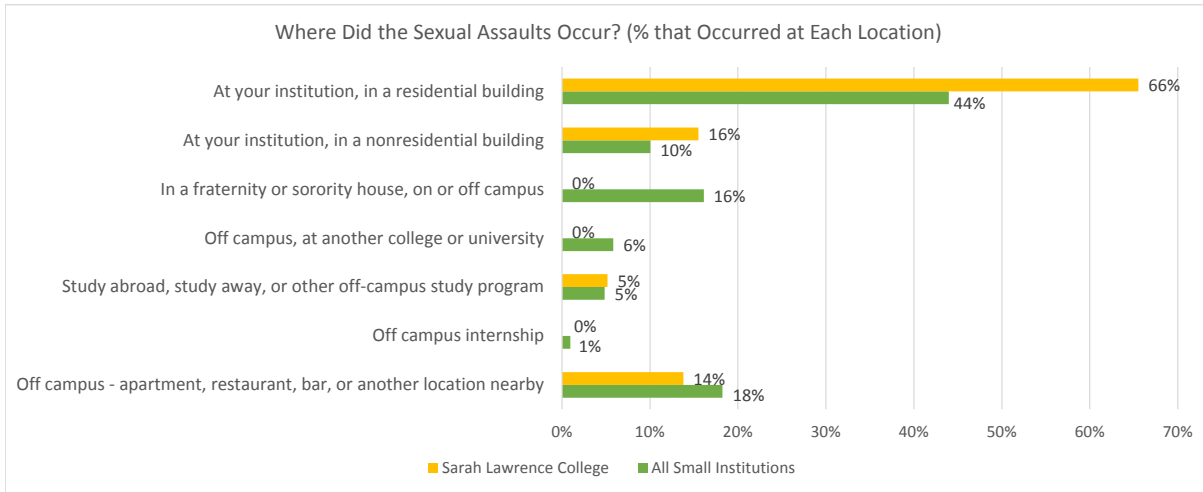
The percentage of students who experienced sexual assault at your institution and were unable to give consent or stop what was happening because they were incapacitated in some way (e.g., passed out, drugged, drunk, asleep) was 26%

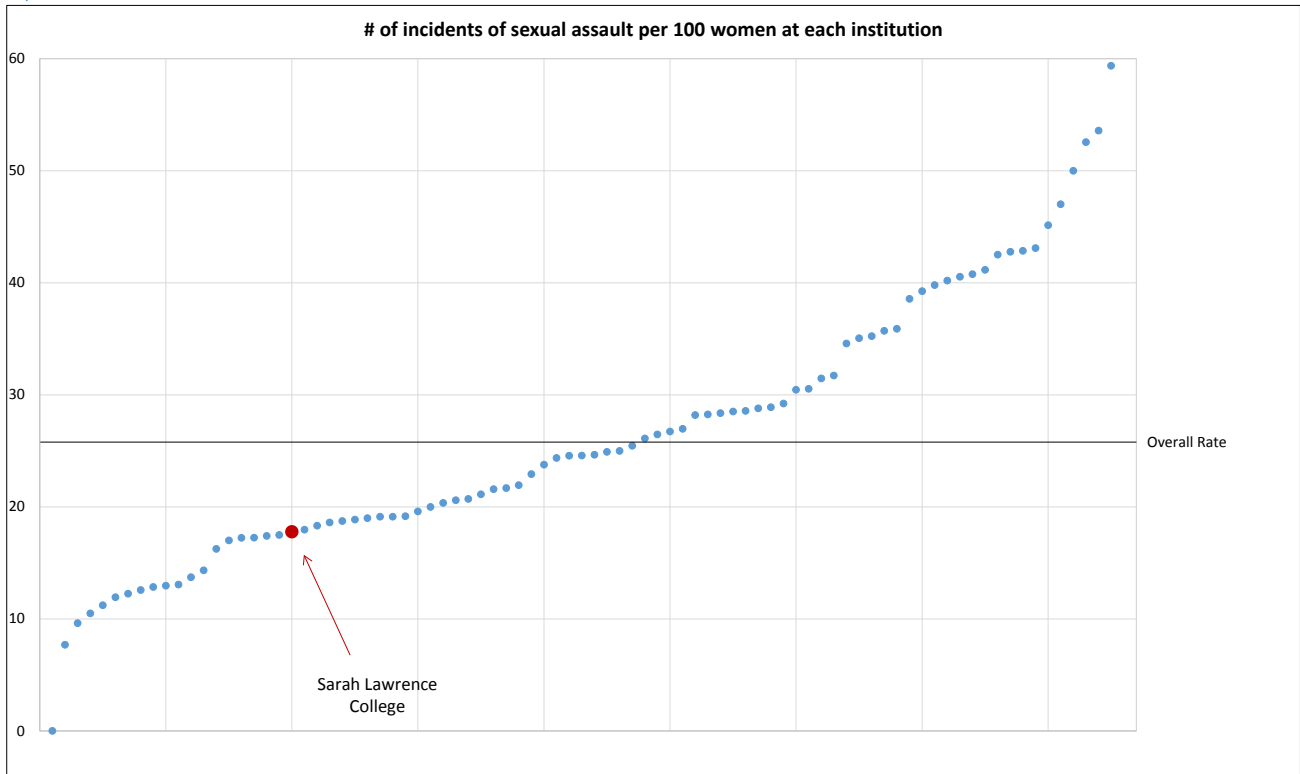
In many cases of sexual assault, the assailant(s) were affiliated with the victim's college or university. The following graph provides information about the person/people who were responsible for sexual assault at your institution and at all small institutions, along with information about whether the assailant(s) were affiliated with your institution or another college or university. Please note, since a significant number of victims were assaulted by more than one person during a single incident, the percentages will add up to more than 100%.

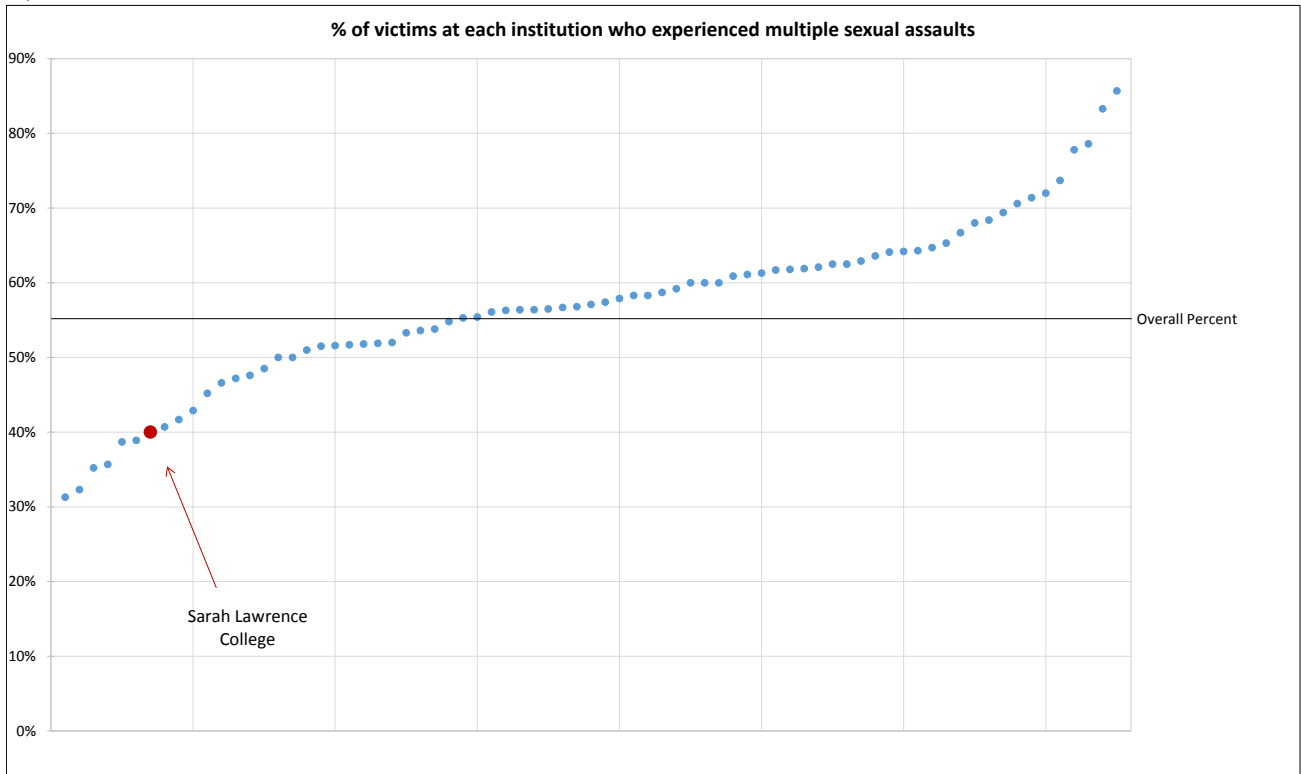


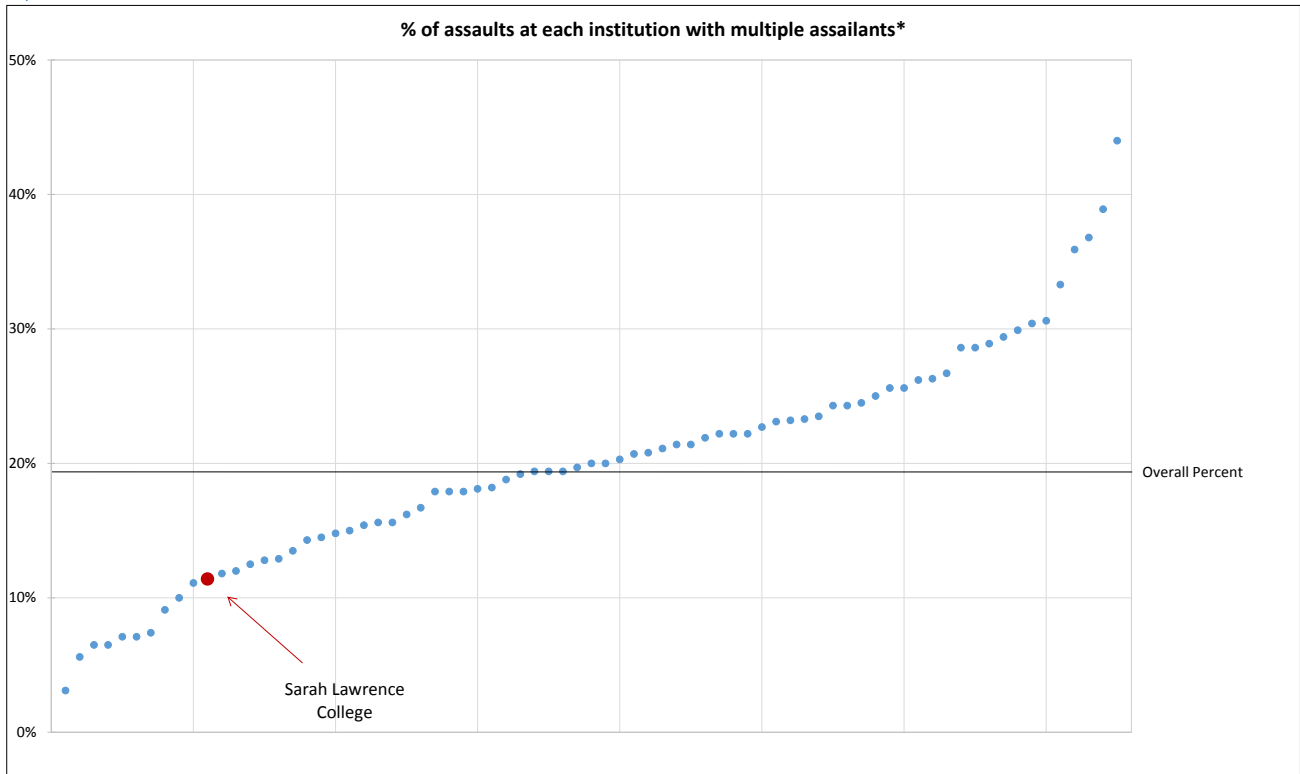
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The graph below shows where sexual assaults occurred, comparing incidents that your students experienced to incidents that students at all small institutions experienced.

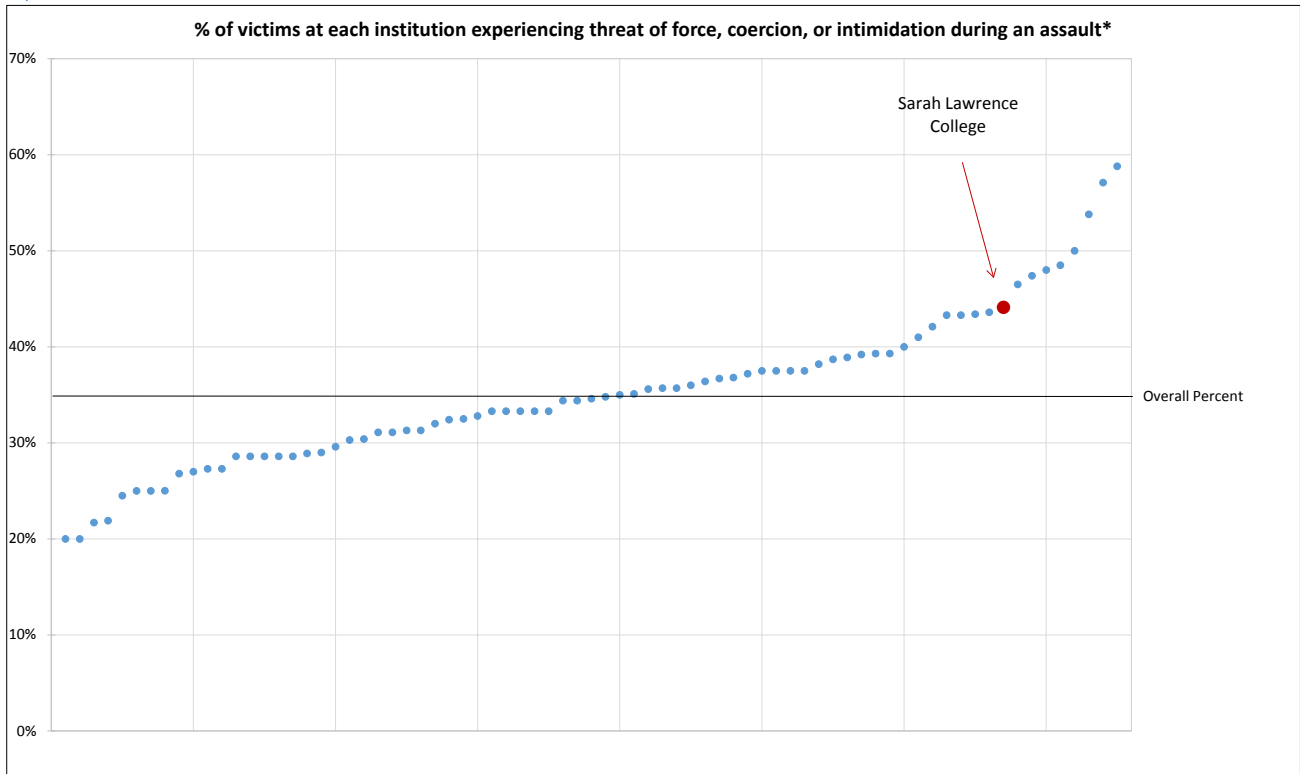




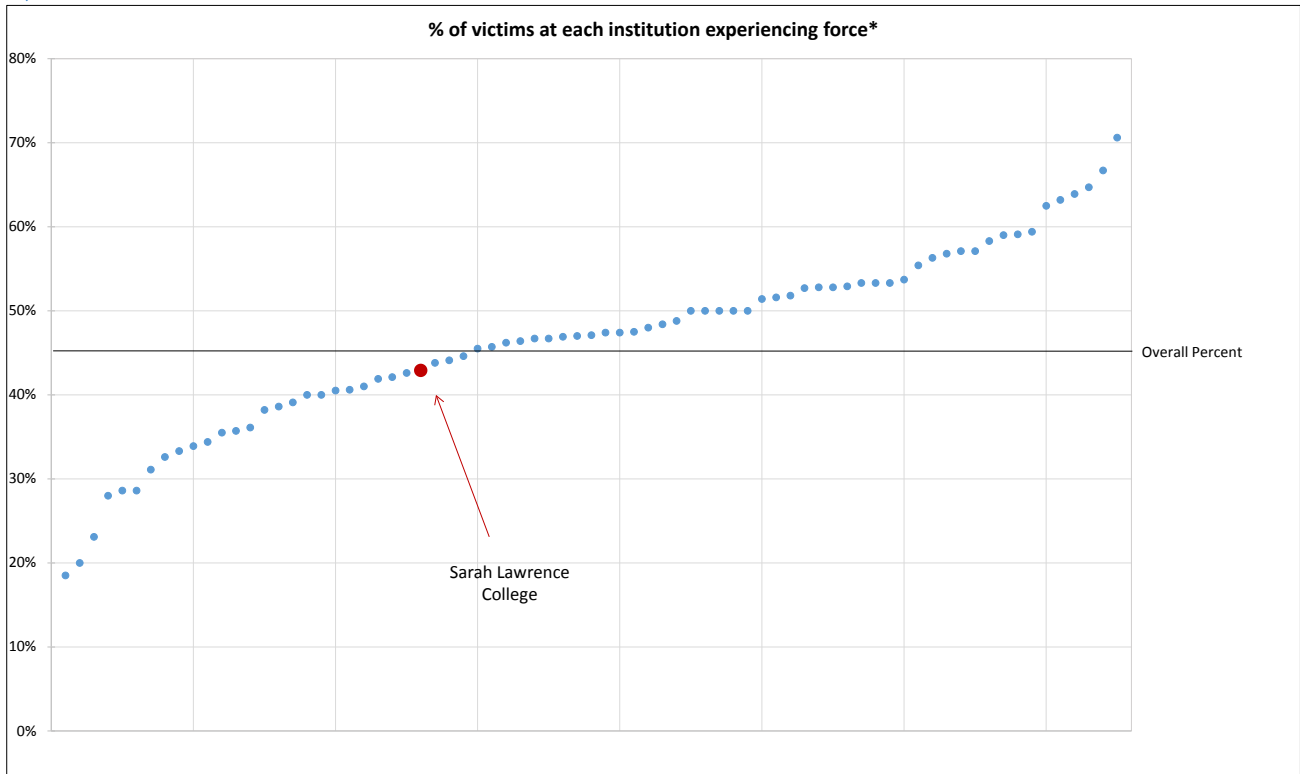




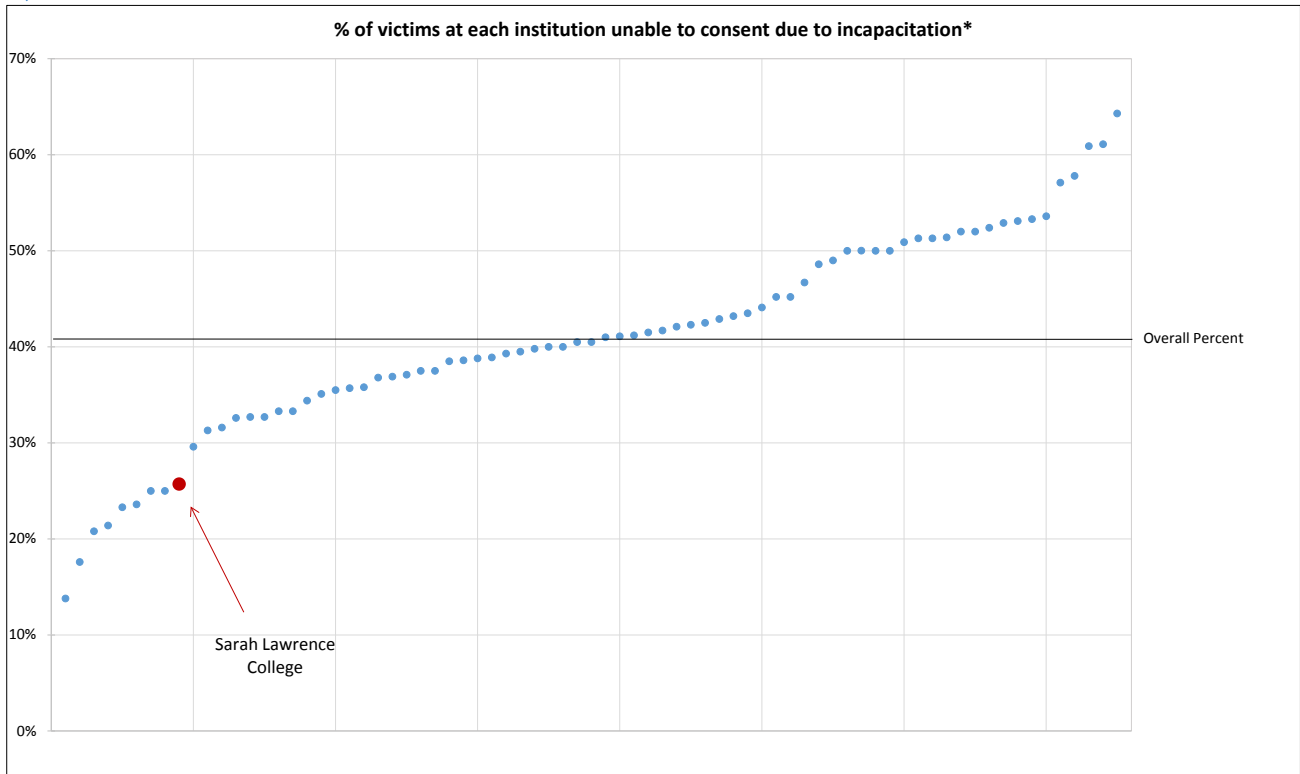
*We asked students who had experienced a sexual assault to describe, in detail, one assault. The information in this graph is from that description. Please note, because the majority of victims of sexual assault experienced more than one assault, this information pertains only to the assault the victims chose to describe.



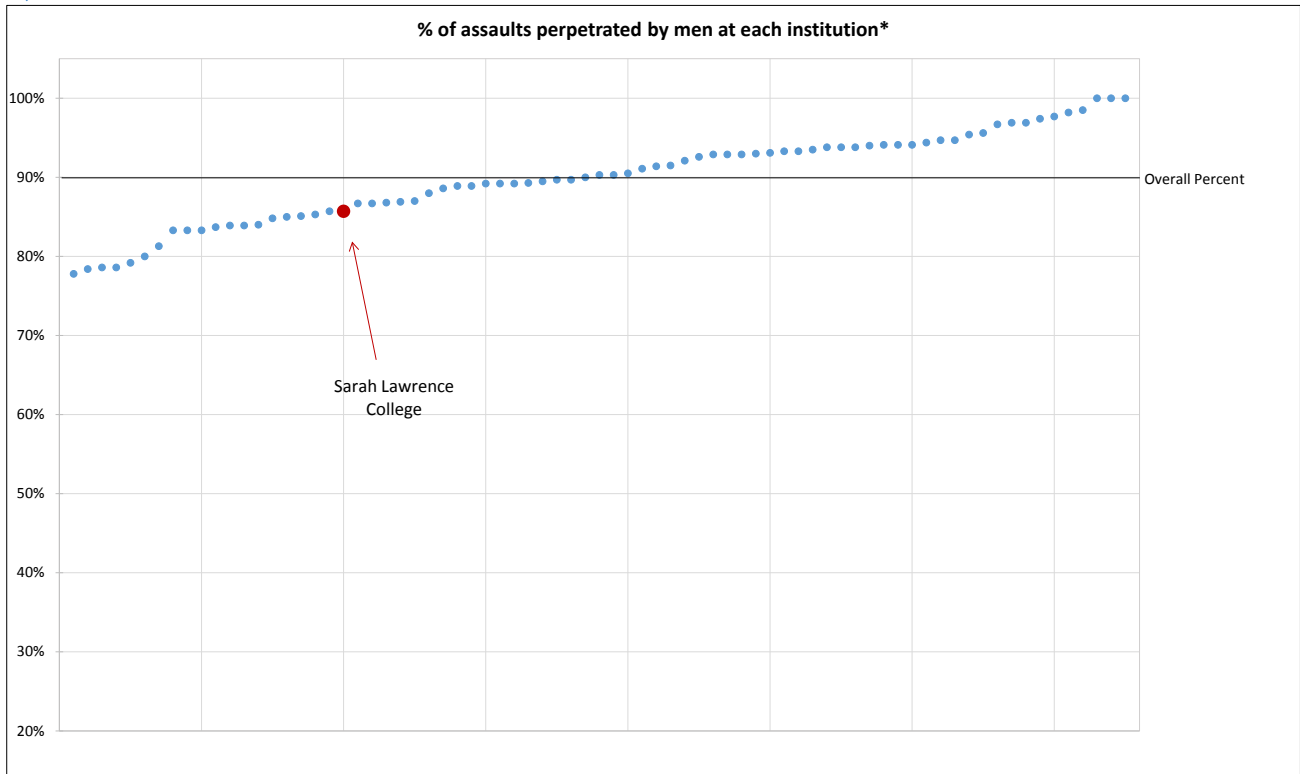
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Participating Institutions

This file summarizes data from approximately 33,000 undergraduates at 75 small institutions that administered the HEDS Sexual Assault Campus Climate Survey in academic year 2015–2016 and/or academic year 2016–2017. These institutions vary in size and come from diverse Carnegie classifications, but most are private, the majority of their students are undergraduates, and their undergraduate student enrollments are below 4,000. This report focuses only on undergraduate students.

	Sarah Lawrence College 2016–2017	All Small Institutions (2015–2016 & 2016–2017)
Response Rate¹	21%	23%
Total Undergraduate Respondents²	313	33,474
Undergraduate Women Respondents	226	22,371
First-Year Women	87	6,133
Sophomore Women	52	5,367
Junior Women	41	5,319
Senior Women	46	5,444
Undergraduate Men Respondents	59	10,312
First-Year Men	19	2,919
Sophomore Men	13	2,463
Junior Men	9	2,420
Senior Men	18	2,466

Notes: ¹ We calculated the response rate by dividing an institution's total number of valid responses by the number of emails successfully delivered through Qualtrics. Because we were unable to determine the number of undergraduate students that were contacted, the response rate reflects all responses, including those students that selected "Graduate Student" or "Other" as a college classification in the survey.

² The total number includes all valid responses, not just those students who identified as women or men.

To be considered a valid response, a respondent must have clicked "Submit" at the end of the survey.

The number of undergraduate women, number of undergraduate men, and total number of undergraduate respondents includes all respondents at undergraduate institutions, and respondents at other institutions who indicated that they were undergraduates.

In all worksheets, the information labeled "All Small Institutions" represents unit record data for all undergraduate students who responded to the survey. We provide breakdowns by gender and classification in portions of the report for institutions that had 50 or more women and 50 or more men respond to the survey. While these breakdowns reveal important differences in responses to the survey, we were not able to provide them for institutions with a low N for women or a low N for men (below 50 respondents in either category). We also did not provide comparison data to institutions with very low Ns for either group (below 19 respondents in either category). Additionally, we provide data for details about sexual assault only to those institutions with 10 or more respondents who reported experiencing sexual assault. While we encourage institutions to consider how their individual results vary by gender and classification, among other factors, we also caution against interpreting results based on low Ns.



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Campus Climate

This worksheet contains information on the General Campus Climate scale which consists of 8 statements, Cronbach's $\alpha = 0.85$.

The survey includes three statements regarding "Perceived Risk of Sexual Assault," and we provide results for two of those questions. The survey also includes five statements regarding, "Perceptions of Institutional Response to Sexual Assault," and we provide results for three of those questions. Please refer to your institution's data file and frequency report to find results on the statements not included in this report.

Sexual Assault

This worksheet is provided for those institutions with 10 or more undergraduate students who reported that they had experienced sexual assault. Institutions not receiving this worksheet can refer to their frequency report for a comparison of the number and percent of students experiencing sexual assault, broken down by gender and classification.

Bystanders

Reports from victims of sexual assault — In the survey, students who were sexually assaulted multiple times were asked to focus on only one incident of sexual assault when answering a set of questions about details of the assault, including questions regarding the presence and intervention of bystanders. In the "Bystanders" section, the percentages are based on only the one incident of sexual assault for which students provided details. Students who reported being sexually assaulted multiple times did not answer questions about bystanders for all incidents they experienced.

Reports from bystanders of sexual assault — This data comes from Section Three: Bystander Behaviors, Bystander Branch One, Questions I and III. Only those students who reported that they had not been sexually assaulted in Q13 responded to these questions.

Incidence of Sexual Assault

Reporting the proportion of women or men who have experienced sexual assault underestimates the frequency with which students are experiencing sexual assault at your campus, given that 58% of women and 44% of men who were sexually assaulted indicated that they had experienced multiple sexual assaults at their institution. To provide a better estimate, we have calculated the number of sexual assaults that students reported per 100 students by gender and classification.

We calculated the number of incidents of sexual assault per 100 students by adding up the number of sexual assaults students said they had experienced (Q14) and dividing that by the number of students who responded to a question about whether or not they'd been sexually assaulted (Q13). If a student reported being sexually assaulted "more than 4" times, we counted this as 5 incidents in our calculation. Because we capped the number of assaults that students could report at 5, and based on our analyses of other questions on the survey, the incidence rates that we calculated in this report likely underestimate the actual number of sexual assaults per 100 students.



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Details about Incidents of Sexual Assault

Students who experienced sexual assault were asked about the affiliation of the assailant(s) and the extent to which alcohol and drugs were involved in the assault in the section of the survey that asks respondents to focus on one incident. This means that students who reported multiple assaults were only able to report on the affiliation of the assailant(s) and the involvement of alcohol and drugs for the one incident they chose to focus on. The percentages in the "Who Sexually Assaulted You?" graph add up to more than 100% because students who were assaulted by more than one person were able to select more than one affiliation for their assailants.

We calculated the percentages in the "Where Did the Sexual Assault Occur?" graph using data from Q15 and Q16. We divided the number of assaults at each location by the total number of locations selected in Q15 or Q16. We determined the number of assaults at each location by combining Q15, seen by students who said they had been assaulted once, and Q16, seen by students who said they had been assaulted multiple times. When students reported "more than 4" incidents of sexual assault, we used a lower bound estimate of five incidents in our calculations.

Sexual Assault Rate

Please see the second paragraph in the "Incidence of Sexual Assault" section above for information on how we calculated the number of incidents of sexual assault per 100 women. The only difference here is that we calculate the incidence rate for women only, not for all students.

Additional Graphs: Multiple Assaults Rate, Multiple Assailants, Threat of Force, Use of Force, Incapacitation, and % Assailants Male

Reports from victims of sexual assault — In the survey, students who were sexually assaulted multiple times were asked to focus on only one incident of sexual assault when answering a set of questions about details of the assault, including questions regarding the number of assailants, threat of force, use of force, inability to consent due to incapacitation, and gender of the assailant(s). In the "Multiple Assailants," "Threat of Force," "Use of Force," "Incapacitation," and "Male Assailants" graphs, the percentages are based on only the one incident of sexual assault for which students provided details. Students who reported being sexually assaulted multiple times did not answer questions about these details for all incidents they experienced.

We calculated the percentages in the graph on the "Male Assailants" worksheet by using data from Q24a and Q24b. We divided the number of victims of sexual assault that indicated that the sex(es) of the assaulter(s) were "Male" by the total number of students that responded to Q24a or Q24b. We did not include victims who said the assaulters were "Both males and females" in the total number of male assailants but did include them in the total number of people that answered the question. Because of this, the percent of assaults perpetrated by men that we calculated in this report likely underestimate the actual number of sexual assaults perpetrated by men.