



Cornell Survey of Sexual Assault and Related Misconduct: Overview of Survey Results

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October 2023

This report describes the survey methodology and provides an overview of initial results from the *Cornell Survey of Sexual Assault and Related Misconduct*¹ conducted by Cornell University in spring 2023. The survey instrument and tables showing population estimates of survey responses are provided in separate documents available on Cornell’s SHARE website.

This report includes findings regarding the prevalence of sexual assault and related misconduct, patterns of victimization, and the contexts within which such incidents occur. Information about university policy and procedures, reporting options, and resources is available online at the [Office of Institutional Equity and Title IX](#) website and Cornell’s [SHARE](#) website.

This overview is organized into the following sections:

I.	Overview of the Survey.....	2
II.	Results.....	4
	a. Knowledge of Resources, Policies and Procedures.....	4
	b. Prevalence of Related Misconduct.....	6
	i. Sexual and Gender-Based Harassment.....	6
	ii. Stalking.....	8
	iii. Domestic and Dating Violence.....	9
	c. Prevalence of Nonconsensual Sexual Contact.....	10
	d. Context of Nonconsensual Sexual Contact Incidents.....	14
	e. Perceptions of Students’ Responses to Sexual Violence.....	16
III.	Summary and Next Steps.....	16

¹ “Sexual assault and related misconduct” includes nonconsensual sexual contact (penetration and/or sexual touching), sexual and gender-based harassment, domestic and dating violence, and stalking.

I. Overview of the Survey

As part of ongoing efforts to prevent and effectively respond to sexual violence, Cornell conducted the *Survey of Sexual Assault and Related Misconduct* in spring 2023. The goals of this survey were to:

- Estimate the prevalence of different forms of nonconsensual sexual contact, harassment, stalking, and domestic and dating violence among students at Cornell and to examine the context within which these forms of violence occur.
- Assess student knowledge of Cornell resources, policies and procedures related to sexual assault and related misconduct, and the obstacles that may prevent students' use of available resources.
- Explore students' beliefs concerning their own decisions to intervene or not as bystanders to various scenarios involving a risk of potential harm to other students.

Survey background. New York State Education Law Article 129-B requires that Cornell conduct a survey of campus sexual violence no less than every two years. For its first such survey effort, Cornell participated in the 2015 *Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct* as part of a consortium of 27 colleges and universities organized by the Association of American Universities [AAU].

In 2017, a Cornell-specific survey instrument, the *Cornell Survey of Sexual Assault and Related Misconduct*, was developed to collect data that would better inform internal planning and prevention purposes, minimize the burden of survey participation on students, and improve the survey response rate. The same Cornell-specific survey instrument, with minor revisions, was administered again in spring 2019, 2021, and most recently in spring 2023. Results from the 2015, 2017, 2019, and 2021 surveys are available on Cornell's [SHARE](#) website.

Survey content. The survey has eight sections (A-H). All respondents were asked questions in six sections: Background Information (A), Knowledge of Cornell Resources and Policies (B), Sexual and Gender-Based Harassment (C), Stalking (D), Nonconsensual Sexual Contact (F), and Perceptions of Cornell Students' Behaviors (H). In addition, respondents who indicated that they were or had been in some type of partnered relationship at Cornell were also shown a section on Domestic and Dating Violence (E). Respondents who indicated they had experienced one or more incidents of nonconsensual sexual contact in section F were asked follow-up questions about the experience of nonconsensual sexual contact that had impacted or affected them the most in section G.

Survey procedures. Cornell contracted with an independent consultant to program and administer the survey. A stratified, random sample of 6,000 students enrolled at our Ithaca, Weill Cornell Medicine, and Cornell Tech campuses during the spring 2023 semester received an email invitation, and non-respondents received email reminders twice a week until the

survey closed. The survey launched on April 12 and closed on May 12, 2023, for students on all three campuses. After the survey closed, all personal identifiers (e.g., Cornell NetIDs) were removed from the survey data file.

Response rates. A total of 2,163 students responded² to the survey, for an overall response rate of 36%. This response rate is comparable to response rates achieved in the two most recent administrations of the survey in 2021 and 2019, when roughly 38% of those invited responded to the survey. As shown in table 1, women graduate and professional students had higher response rates (41%), while undergraduate men responded at lower rates (27%). [See Table A1 in the Survey Tables document for more information about the characteristics of the Cornell survey population and respondents.]

Table 1. 2023 SARM survey response rates

By gender identity	All students			By enrollment type					
	Invited	Responded	Response rate	Undergraduate			Graduate/Professional		
				Invited	Responded	Response rate	Invited	Responded	Response rate
Total	6,000	2,163	36.1	3,435	1,152	33.5	2,565	1,011	39.4
Gender Identity ^a									
Man	2,837	763	26.9	1,602	438	27.3	1,235	389	31.5
Woman	3,163	972	30.7	1,833	570	31.1	1,330	538	40.5
TGQN	--	71	--	--	45	--	--	30	--

^aNot all survey respondents answered a question concerning their gender identity.

Statistical weighting procedure. Not all Cornell students were invited to participate in the survey and not all those who were invited chose to participate. A base weight was calculated to adjust for patterns of survey non-response. The percentages shown in this report and in associated tables of survey results are *weighted* estimates of the Cornell student population; however, a comparison of weighted and unweighted results revealed no substantive difference in interpretation between the two sets of results.

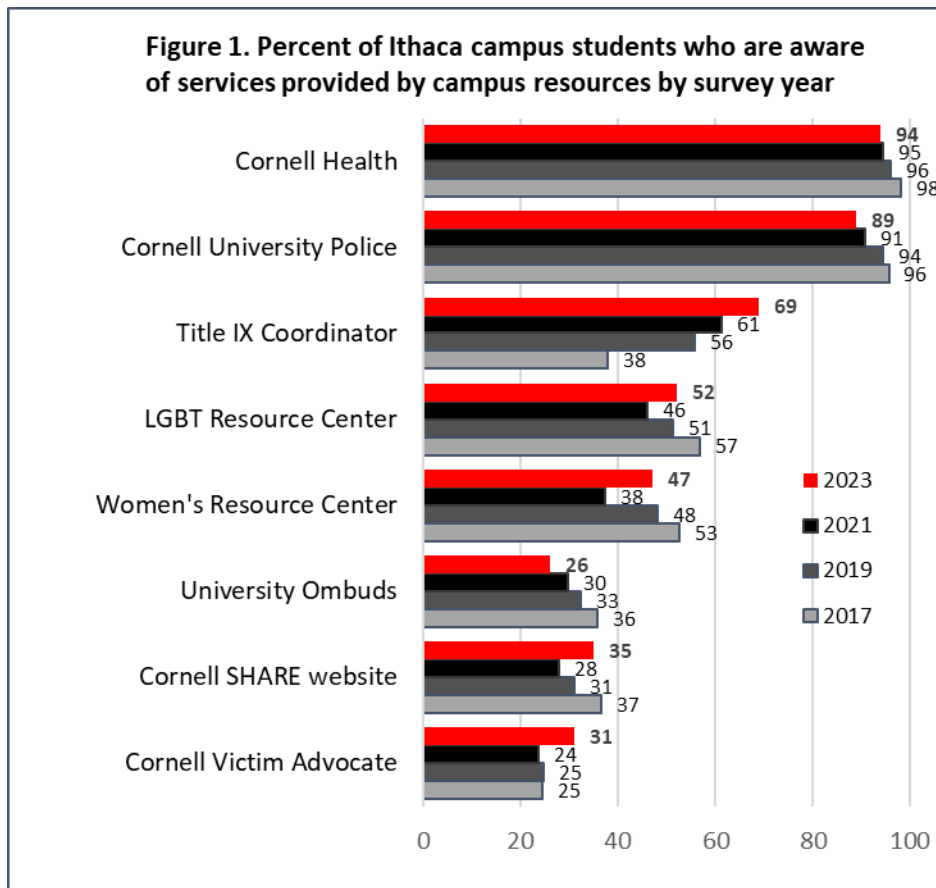
² In the calculation of statistical weights, a survey was counted as “completed” if a respondent consented to participating in the survey *and* answered at least one question in each of the sections concerning experiences with harassment, stalking, and nonconsensual sexual contact. Therefore, while 2,163 students responded to the survey (36% of those invited), only 1,797 (30% of those invited) are considered to have “completed” the survey according to this definition. Those who responded but did not complete the survey either a) did not consent to complete the survey or b) chose not to answer any questions concerning experiences with harassment, stalking, and nonconsensual sexual contact.

II. Results

Below are some initial findings from the 2023 survey. Figures below provide an overview and illustrate comparisons from the previous surveys. The discussion below also includes references to the more detailed tables that accompany this report.

a. Knowledge of Campus Resources, Policies, and Procedures

Awareness of resources. The survey asked about students' awareness³ of services and resources offered by Cornell for those affected by sexual assault or related misconduct such as harassment, stalking, or relationship violence.

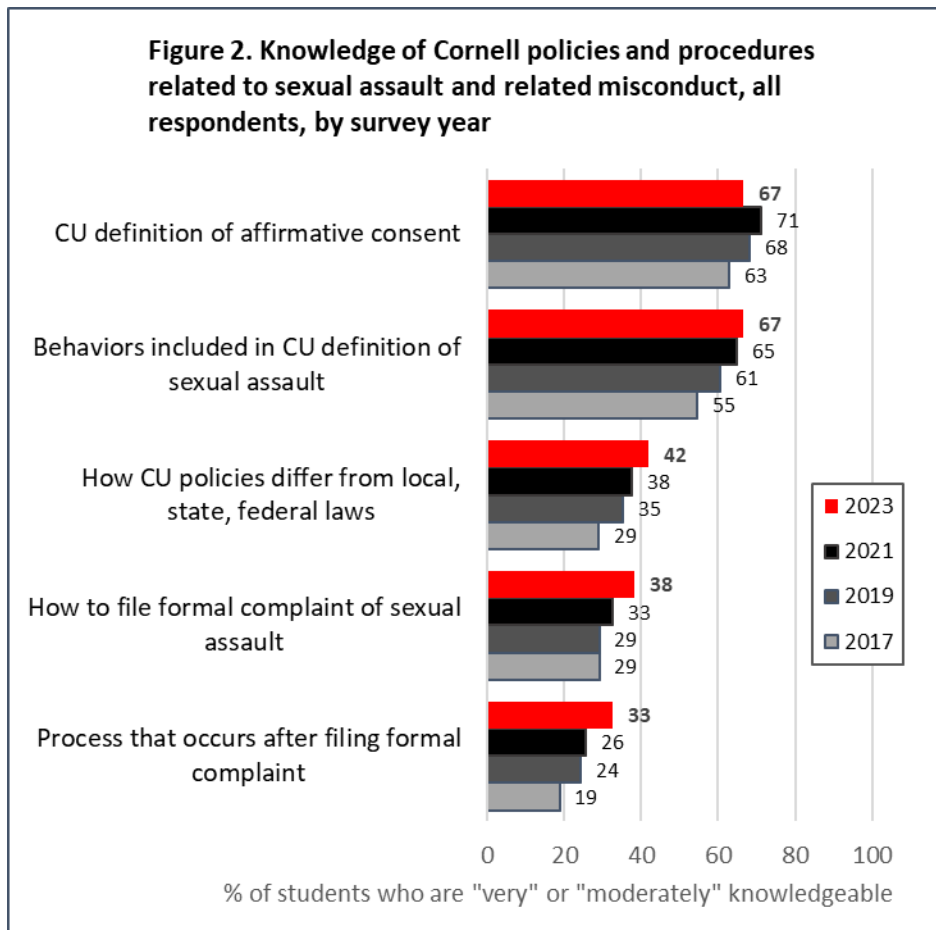


³ Question: “Are you aware of the services or information provided by each of the following.” Responses: “Yes I am aware of their services” / “No, I am not aware of their services.” Different campus-specific lists of resources were provided to students enrolled at Cornell Ithaca campus, Weill Cornell Medicine, and Cornell Tech.

Figure 1 shows responses from Ithaca campus students. Consistent across all four survey years, most Ithaca students reported being aware of general services related to student health and safety (e.g., campus health services, and police).

Students’ awareness of services provided by the Title IX coordinator has continued to increase over the past six years. Nearly 70% of Ithaca campus respondents were aware of Title IX services in 2023 versus 61% in 2021, 56% in 2019, and 38% in 2017. Ithaca students’ awareness of other listed resources mostly grew when compared with that of students in 2021. One notable exception is the University Ombuds, which has seen its awareness numbers decline from 36% in 2017 to 26% in 2023.

Knowledge of campus policies and procedures. Students were asked how knowledgeable⁴ they are about university definitions of sexual assault and affirmative consent, and about university definitions, policies, and processes concerning sexual assault or related misconduct.



⁴ Question (sexual assault example): “How knowledgeable are you about what behaviors are included in Cornell’s definition of sexual assault and related misconduct?” Responses: “Not at all” / “A little” / “Moderately” / “Very.”

As shown in Figure 2, about two-thirds of students who responded to the 2023 survey reported being “very” or “moderately” knowledgeable about Cornell’s definition of affirmative consent (67%) and about the behaviors included in Cornell’s definition of sexual assault and related misconduct (67%). In contrast, much smaller percentages indicated they were “very” or “moderately” knowledgeable about how Cornell policies differ from local, state, and federal laws (42%), how to file a formal complaint of sexual assault (38%), or the process that occurs after a student has filed a formal complaint (33%).

Men were more likely to report greater knowledge of policies and processes related to sexual violence than did their female peers [see Table B4 in Tables of Survey Results]. For example, while 73% of undergraduate men who responded reported being “moderately” or “very” knowledgeable about Cornell’s definition of affirmative consent, just 54% of undergraduate women respondents reported being “moderately” or “very” knowledgeable about Cornell’s definition.

b. Prevalence of Related Misconduct

The survey asked students about their own experiences with three forms of related sexual misconduct: sexual and gender-based harassment, stalking, and domestic and dating violence. Students who indicated they had experienced a particular form of misconduct were asked if they had experienced this since entering Cornell, and since the beginning of the Fall 2022 academic year. The three charts that follow in this section (Figures 3, 4 and 5) show the percentages of students who reported having experienced these forms of misconduct at least once “since entering Cornell.”

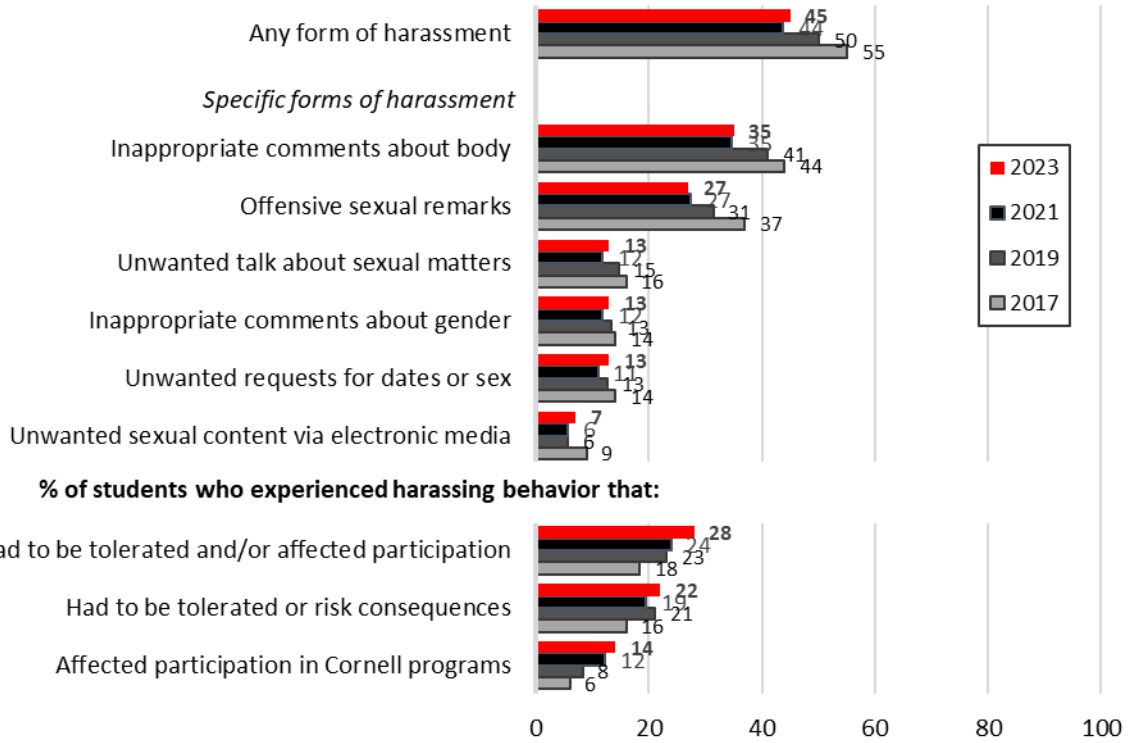
i. Sexual and Gender-Based Harassment

Students were asked if they had experienced any of six specific forms of harassing behavior by someone at Cornell⁵. Students who indicated they had experienced one or more forms of harassing behaviors were then asked two follow-up questions about the impact of those experiences: (1) *You felt that you had to tolerate this behavior or risk jeopardizing your academic standing, employment, or participation in Cornell programs or activities;* and (2) *This behavior was so severe or persistent that it interfered with or affected your participation in Cornell programs or activities.*

⁵ Question (insulting or offensive remarks example): “Since you have been a student at Cornell, have you experienced someone at Cornell (including students, faculty and/or staff) behaving in any of the following ways? Someone at Cornell made sexual remarks or told jokes or stories that were insulting or offensive to you.” Responses: “Yes” / “No.”

Figure 3. Students' experiences with sexual or gender-based harassment since entering Cornell, by survey year

% of students who experienced harassing behavior:



Overall, the prevalence of sexual or gender-based harassment as reported by 2023 survey respondents is similar to that reported in 2021. In 2023, 45% of survey respondents said they had experienced one or more specific forms of harassment; this compares to 44% of respondents in 2021 and 50% of respondents in 2019. As illustrated in Figure 3, the most commonly experienced forms of harassment were someone making inappropriate comments about one’s body, appearance, or sexual behavior (35%) and someone making sexual remarks or telling offensive jokes or stories (27%).

The prevalence of harassment experiences was notably higher among TGQN⁶ students (60%) and among undergraduate women (65%) than among men. Harassment prevalence was also higher among LGBAQ⁷ students and students who identify as having a disability [see Tables C1 and C2 in Tables of Survey Results].

As shown in the lower panel of Figure 3, the percentage of harassment victims who experienced impacts from those behaviors increased from 2021 to 2023. In 2023, 28% of students who had

⁶ TGQN includes students who reported any of the following gender identities: transgender woman, transgender man, questioning, and gender non-conforming or non-binary.

⁷ LGBAQ includes students who reported any of the following sexual orientations: gay, lesbian, bisexual, asexual, pansexual, queer, or questioning.

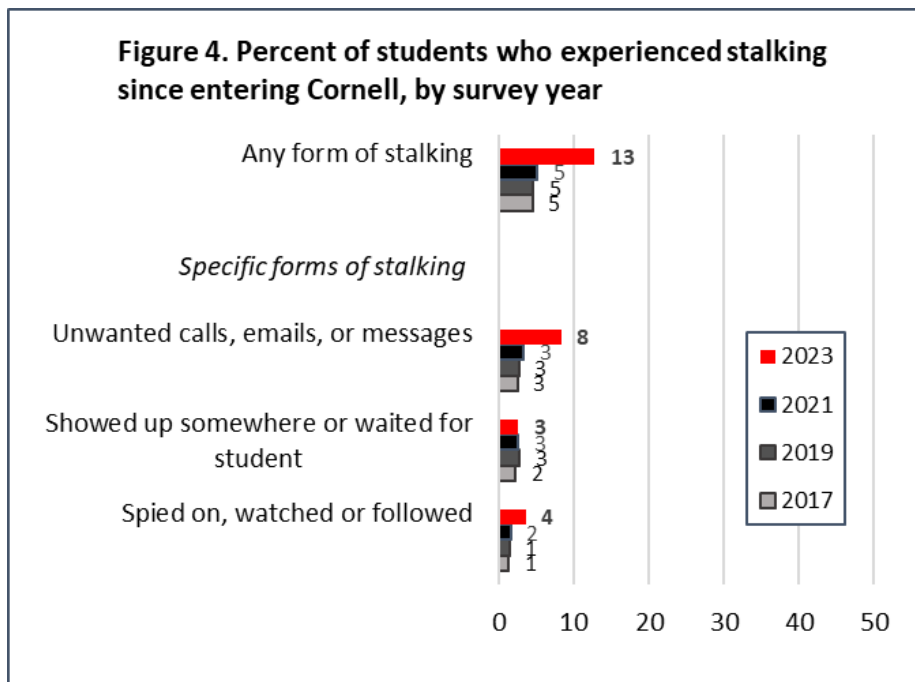
experienced harassing behavior said they had to tolerate the harassing behavior and/or that the severity of the harassment interfered with their participation in Cornell programs or activities (i.e., that the harassment created a hostile environment), as compared to 24% in 2021.

TGQN students and graduate women were more likely than others to report having to tolerate harassment. Among TGQN students who experienced harassment 37% reported having to tolerate the harassment, as did 41% of graduate women respondents who experienced harassment; see Table C1 in the accompanying tables of survey results document for more information.

Students who reported experiencing harassing behaviors were asked follow-up questions about their harassers and any subsequent reporting, including contacting any programs or telling others about these experiences [see Tables C3 to C6 in Tables of Survey Results].

ii. Stalking

Students were asked about experiences where “*someone at Cornell behaved in a way that made you afraid for your personal safety or caused you substantial emotional distress.*” Students were asked about three specific forms of stalking behaviors⁸. To meet the university definition of stalking used here, the respondent had to also indicate that the same individual had committed these behaviors, whether singly or in combination, more than once.



⁸ Question (unwanted messages example): “Since you have been a student at Cornell, has someone made unwanted phone calls or sent unwanted messages, pictures or videos to you; or posted unwanted messages, pictures or videos about you on social media or elsewhere online?” Responses: “Yes” / “No.”

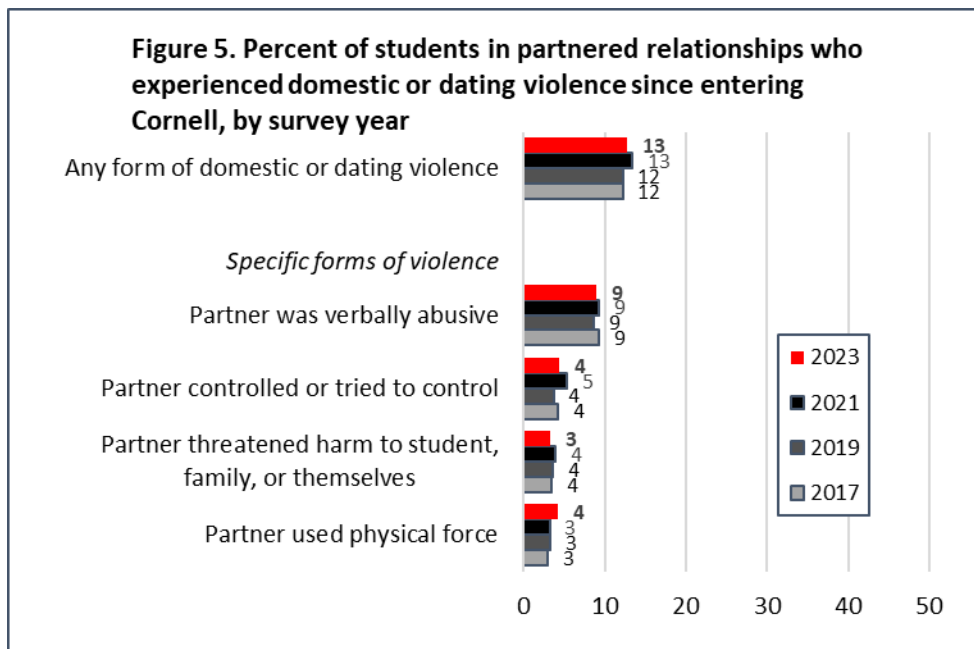
In 2023, 13% of survey respondents said they had experienced stalking since entering Cornell. This prevalence rate represents an increase from that of past surveys, when approximately 5% of respondents reported experiencing stalking since entering Cornell.

The prevalence of stalking was higher among TGQN students (23%) and undergraduate women (21%). Stalking prevalence was also higher among LGBAQ students, students with disabilities, and undergraduate women identifying as Hispanic/Latinx or Multiracial [see Table D3 in Tables of Survey Results].

Students who reported experiencing stalking were asked follow-up questions about their stalkers and any subsequent reporting, including contacting any programs or telling others about these experiences [see Tables D1 to D6 in Tables of Survey Results].

iii. Domestic and Dating Violence

Students who indicated they had been in some type of partnered relationship⁹ while at Cornell were asked if they had experienced any of four forms of violence within these relationships¹⁰.



⁹ The survey asked “Since you have been a student at Cornell, have you been in any of these types of relationships? Mark all that apply: marriage or civil union; domestic partnership or cohabitation; steady or serious relationship; casual relationship involving physical or sexual contact. Students who marked any of these options were shown questions about domestic and dating violence.

¹⁰ Question: “Since you have been a student at Cornell, has a partner controlled or tried to control you? Examples could be when someone: kept you from going to classes or pursuing your educational goals; did not allow you to see or talk with friends or family; made decisions for you such as where you go what you wear or eat; threatened to ‘out’ you to others.” Responses: “Yes” / “No.”

As shown in Figure 5, among 2023 survey respondents who had been in a partnered relationship, 13% reported that a partner had committed some form of violence against them. Verbal abuse was the most commonly experienced form of relationship violence, with 9% of respondents, overall, saying that a partner had been verbally abusive to them.

The overall prevalence rates of domestic/dating violence (any form and specific forms) observed in 2023 are consistent with those reported on the prior three administrations of the survey. Undergraduate women (21%) were more likely than other groups to have reported experiencing domestic or dating violence [see Table E1 in Tables of Survey Results].

The prevalence of domestic and dating violence is also higher among LGBAQ students (17%), as well as undergraduate women who identify as Asian, Hispanic/Latinx, and/or Multiracial [see Table E3 in Tables of Survey Results].

Students who had experienced domestic or dating violence were also asked if they had contacted any programs or talked to others about these experiences [see Tables E4 and E5 in Tables of Survey Results for detailed results].

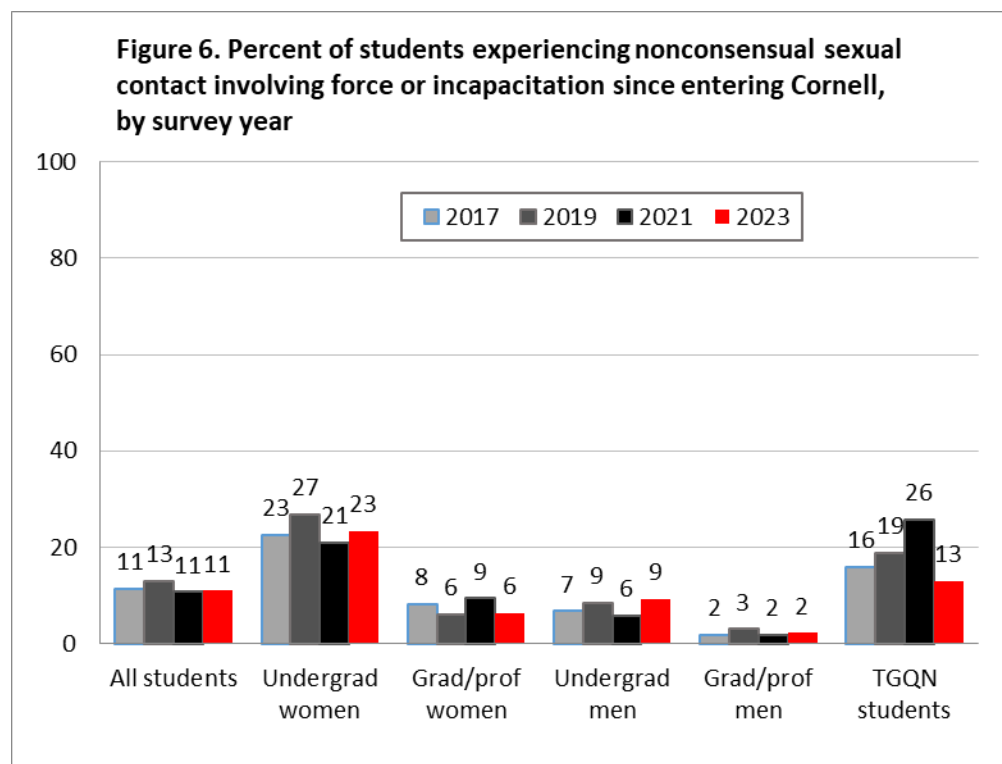
c. Prevalence of Nonconsensual Sexual Contact

Students were asked about their direct experiences with nonconsensual sexual contact while at Cornell¹¹. This contact was defined as including: *penetration* (vaginal or anal penetration or oral contact; including attempted acts involving physical force) and *sexual touching* (kissing; touching someone's breast, chest, crotch, groin, or buttocks; grabbing, groping or rubbing against the other in a sexual way). The survey asked separately about incidents involving four different tactics: the use or threatened use of *physical force*; *incapacitation* due to drugs or alcohol; the use of *coercion* (i.e., threats of non-physical harm or promises of rewards); and the *absence of affirmative consent* (i.e., contact that occurred without the student's knowing, voluntary and ongoing agreement). The charts that follow in this section (Figures 6 through 9), compare prevalence rates for nonconsensual sexual contact from 2023 with other recent survey administrations.

Nonconsensual sexual contact by physical force or incapacitation. National discussions concerning the prevalence of sexual violence on college campuses often define such violence as including experiences of nonconsensual penetration (including attempted penetration) *and/or* sexual touching that involves physical force *and/or* incapacitation. Using this definition, Figures 6 and 7 (next page) show the prevalence of nonconsensual sexual contact for students since entering Cornell, and during the 2022-23 academic year.

¹¹ Question: "Since you have been attending Cornell, has someone used physical force or threats of physical force to do either of the following with you: sexual penetration. When one person puts a penis, fingers, or object inside someone else's vagina or anus, or oral contact. When someone's mouth or tongue makes contact with someone else's genitals." Responses: "Yes" / "No."

For detail concerning the prevalence rates of different forms of nonconsensual contact, see Tables F1 to F5 in the Tables of Survey Results.

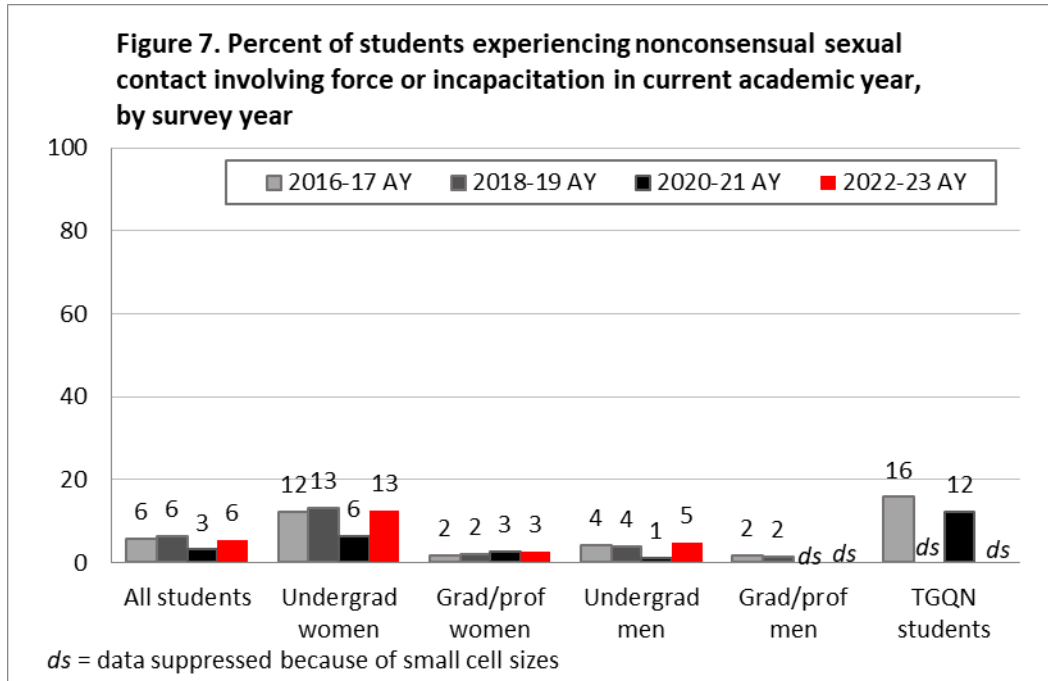


Prevalence since entering Cornell. As shown in Figure 6, the prevalence of nonconsensual sexual contact involving physical force, threats of physical force or incapacitation experienced by students since entering Cornell has remained relatively unchanged between 2017 and 2023. In 2023, we observe an increase in the prevalence rate for undergraduate women experiencing nonconsensual sexual contact involving force or incapacitation since entering Cornell (23% in 2023 vs 21% in 2021), as well as for undergraduate men (9% in 2023 vs. 6% in 2021). This prevalence rate has declined for graduate and professional women (6% in 2023 vs. 9% in 2021), and even more dramatically so for students with TGQN identities (13% in 2023 vs. 26% in 2021).

Prevalence during current academic year. As shown in Figure 7, the prevalence rates of nonconsensual sexual contact occurring during the academic year in which the survey was conducted increased substantially from prior administrations of the survey. For academic year 2022-23, we observe the *current year* prevalence of students experiencing nonconsensual contact reverting back to levels seen prior to the pandemic: for all students (6% in AY 22-23), undergraduate women (13%), graduate and professional women (3%), and undergraduate men (5%).

While determining the causes of this increase for the 2022-23 academic year goes beyond the scope of this report, one hypothesis that can be assessed by campus leadership is the extent to which campus' return to "mostly normal" after two years of significant interruption due to the COVID-19 pandemic contributed to an increase in risk-taking behaviors by Cornell students,

including increased alcohol and drug use, which contribute to incidences of sexual violence. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) notes that “many young adults’ social, emotional, and mental well-being has been impacted by the pandemic. Trauma faced at this developmental stage may have long-term consequences across their lifespan,” stemming from challenges including change in routines, employment or educational challenges, a break in continuity of health care, missed significant life events, and a loss of security and safety.¹²



The likelihood of experiencing nonconsensual sexual contact also differs by student characteristics including gender identity and student level (undergraduate vs. graduate and professional students). As in previous survey years, undergraduate women experience the highest rates of nonconsensual sexual contact involving force or incapacitation. TGQN students also experience higher rates of nonconsensual sexual contact – as do LGBTQ students, and students with disabilities [see Tables F1 and F2 in Tables of Survey Results].

Prevalence among undergraduate women by year in school. Using the same definition of nonconsensual sexual contact – nonconsensual acts of penetration and/or touching involving physical force and/or incapacitation – Figures 8 and 9 show prevalence rates among undergraduate women, disaggregated by their year in school, since entering Cornell (Figure 8) and during the academic year in which the survey was conducted (Figure 9).

¹² National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Division of Population Health. Center for Disease Control. “COVID-19 Parental Resources Kit – Young Adulthood: Social, Emotional, and Mental Well-being of Young Adults during COVID-19.” Accessed September 26, 2023.

The 2023 prevalence rates of nonconsensual sexual contact since entering Cornell are lowest among first year women; however, compared to 2021 results, the prevalence rate for first years has increased considerably from 7% in 2021 to 18% in 2023, and among sophomore women from 20% in 2021 to 28% in 2023. By the spring of their senior year in 2023, 26% of undergraduate women had experienced nonconsensual sexual contact involving force or incapacitation, a figure that represents a decline from the 30% prevalence rate observed for senior women in 2021. But seniors and juniors responding to this survey attended Cornell during the pandemic, which likely exerts a downward influence on the “since entering Cornell” prevalence rates for those two classes (graduating 2023 and 2024).

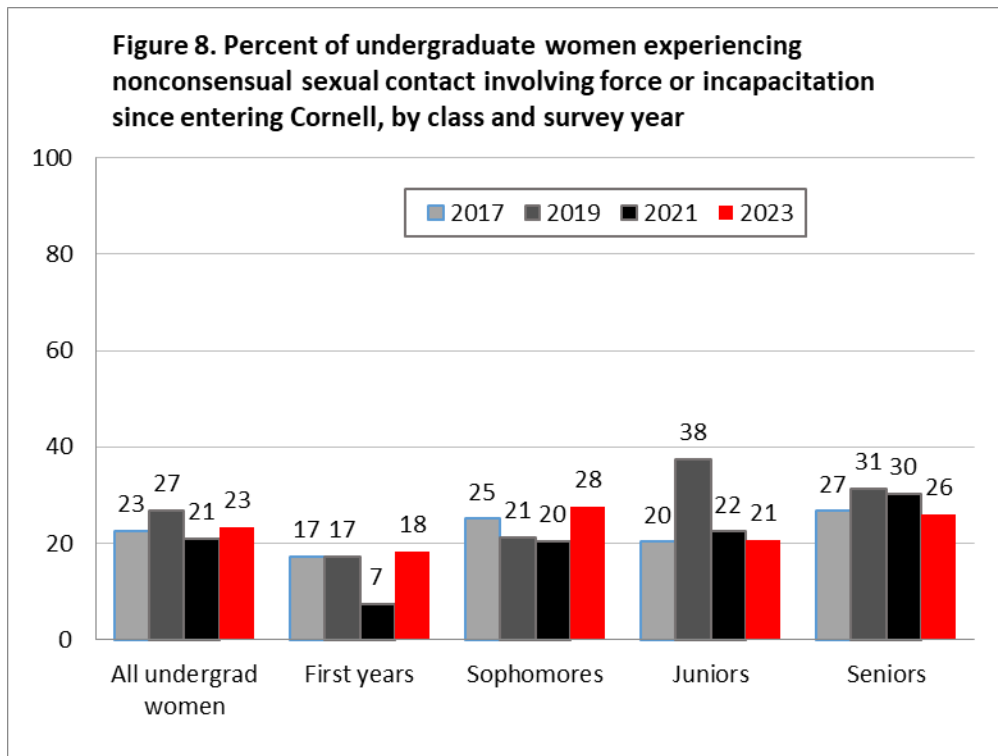
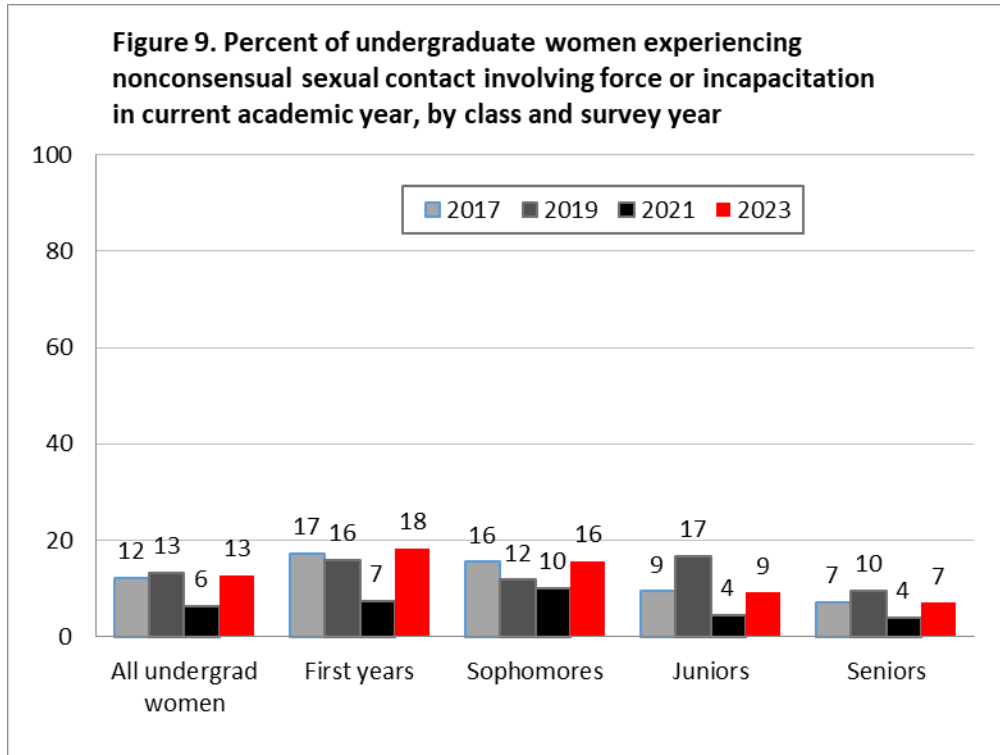


Figure 9 shows the same class and survey year comparisons for nonconsensual sexual contact involving force or incapacitation experienced by undergraduate women during the academic year in which the survey was conducted. When compared to 2021, prevalence rates reported in 2023 have increased across the board for women at all stages of their Cornell undergraduate career. However, 2021 was an outlier, presumably due to dramatic social changes brought about by the COVID pandemic. Excluding that year, prevalence rates by class year have not changed a great deal since 2017; the trendlines for current year nonconsensual sexual contact for undergraduate women at Cornell are essentially flat.



d. Context of Nonconsensual Sexual Contact Incidents

Students who had experienced nonconsensual sexual contact involving any tactics (physical force, incapacitation, coercion, and/or absence of affirmative consent) were asked follow-up questions concerning the characteristics of the perpetrator(s), involvement of alcohol or other drugs in the incident, location in which the incident occurred, and whether the student contacted any programs or told others about the experience. Students were instructed, *“While all such experiences are of great concern, if you have had more than one experience of nonconsensual or unwanted sexual contact since being at Cornell, please answer the following questions about the experience that has impacted or affected you the most.”* That is, the experience being described may or may not have taken place during the 2022-23 academic year. This section provides an overview of these results. For more detail see Tables G1 to G8 in Tables of Survey Results.

Type of nonconsensual contact. Eight percent of the incidents described involved nonconsensual penetration, while 66% involved sexual touching. More than 70% of the

experiences involved absence of affirmative consent as a tactic, while 40% involved inability to consent due to incapacitation, 20% involved the use or threatened use of physical force, and 3% involved coercion¹³.

Characteristics of perpetrators. Women who experienced nonconsensual sexual contact almost exclusively identified their perpetrator(s) as being men. More than two-thirds (70%) of undergraduate men identified their perpetrator(s) as women. A majority of students (83%) described the offender as a Cornell student. Graduate and professional students were more likely than undergraduate students to say the offender was *not* affiliated with Cornell (e.g., 17% of graduate/professional women did so versus 7% of undergraduate women). When asked about the relationship of the offender to themselves, students most reported the offender was someone known to them, at least casually: someone they had just met (30%), a friend (23%), acquaintance (18%), or a current intimate partner (26%). Nine percent said the offender was someone they did not know or recognize.

Involvement of alcohol or other drugs. Alcohol was involved in the majority of incidents. In 59% of reported incidents the perpetrator drank alcohol prior to the incident, and in 60% of incidents the victim drank alcohol prior to the incident. There was less involvement of other recreational drugs, with perpetrators using them in 14% of incidents and victims using them in 12% of incidents. In 30% of incidents, respondents said that they were conscious but incapacitated by alcohol or other drugs for all or parts of the incident, while 10% said they were passed out or unconscious for all or parts of it.

Location of incident. Among undergraduate women and men, the most common locations where the nonconsensual sexual contact experience occurred were a residence hall (24% of all incidents); a fraternity chapter house (17% of all incidents, 25% of incidents described by undergraduate women, and 14% by undergraduate men); an off-campus house or apartment unofficially affiliated with a student club or organization (13% of undergraduate women); and an off-campus house, apartment or private residence (16% of undergraduate women and undergraduate men). Graduate and professional women students most often identified an off-campus house, apartment, or private residence (42%) as the location of their nonconsensual sexual contact incident.

Impacts of incident. About two-thirds (67%) of respondents reported experiencing physical, emotional, or social impacts because of the nonconsensual sexual contact incident, the most frequent of which were feeling numb or detached, fearfulness or safety concerns, decreased social activities, and feelings of helplessness and hopelessness. Forty six percent of students described experiencing academic or professional impacts, chiefly difficulty concentrating on

¹³ The survey defines coercion as someone “threatening non-physical harm or promising rewards.” Examples provided in the survey include: “threatening to spread rumors or post damaging information about you online,” “threatening to give you bad grades, cause trouble for you at work or withhold a recommendation for a job or further education,” and “threatening to share damaging information about you with your family.”

studies or assignments and decreased class attendance. Eight percent reported that they considered leaving their school or program after the incident.

Contacted a program or resource or talked to others. Just 11% of students said they had contacted a Cornell- or community-based resource to talk about this nonconsensual sexual contact experience. The most common reasons for *not* contacting a program were that the student “did not think it was serious enough to contact a program” (58%), “didn’t think talking about it would make me feel better” (36%), “had other things I needed to focus on” (39%); “wanted to forget it happened” (41%), “did not think anything would be done” (30%), and “got the support I needed elsewhere” (18%).

While most students did not contact a program, the majority talked to someone about their experience. Undergraduate women (89%) were more likely to have done so than undergraduate men (82%). Overall, students were most likely to talk to a friend (84%), followed by a spouse, romantic or sexual partner (20%), and family member (20%). These percentages of talking to someone about the incident are on par with those reported in prior administrations of the survey.

e. Perceptions of Students’ Responses to Sexual Violence

The final section of the survey asked students about their own beliefs and their perceptions of other Cornell students’ beliefs about intervening in situations involving sexual or relationship violence [see Table H1 in Survey Tables report].

Students quite unanimously agree they believe it is important to speak up when they hear someone making inappropriate sexual comments, jokes, or gestures to another person (fewer than 3% disagree). Students also think it is important to intervene if they see someone behaving in a controlling or abusive way towards a dating or sexual partner: 97% “agreed” or “strongly agreed” with these statements.

When it comes to intervening as action, women and TGQN students are both more likely to have experienced a situation that called for intervention and to have intervened “usually” or “always” under those circumstances. For example, 45% of undergraduate women and 30% of TGQN students “usually” or “always” intervened in some way to help a friend avoid an unwanted, uncomfortable, or risky social interaction; this compares to 27% of undergraduate men, and 9% of graduate or professional men, who say that they “usually” or “always” intervened under those circumstances.

III. Summary and Next Steps

Cornell is committed to creating a safer, more caring campus culture in which bias, harassment, and violence have no place, but this work challenges us all. Results from the 2023 survey show there is more work to be done to educate and to help protect our students. The prevalence of different forms of sexual violence remains unacceptably high and has returned to levels previously observed prior to the pandemic. In addition, survey results show that particular

groups of students including undergraduate women, TGQN students, LGBAQ students, and those with disabilities, continue to experience victimization at higher rates than their student peers.

Sexual violence is most often being perpetrated by other students and by a person who is at least familiar to the victim. Particularly for undergraduate students, sexual violence often occurs in a campus-related context – that is, in a residence hall, fraternity chapter house, or off-campus residence affiliated with a student team or group. Students who have experienced nonconsensual sexual contact frequently experience psychological, social, or academic impacts as a result. Cornell students appear to be knowledgeable about resources and services provided by the Office of Institutional Equity and Title IX, and their reported awareness of other resources related to sexual violence are comparable to those observed on the 2021 survey. Yet, despite their apparent knowledge of available resources, only 11% who have experienced sexual violence choose to contact these resources to talk about their experience. However, those students do usually talk to someone about their experiences with sexual violence – most often, a friend.

These findings suggest possible avenues of intervention. Certainly, efforts to educate students about sexual violence prevention as well as how to respond to friends who experience sexual violence remain important. Cornell has devoted substantial attention and resources to sexual assault prevention and awareness programs. The SHARE Office, within the Skorton Center for Health Initiatives, continues to take a public health, upstream approach to implement environmental strategies that improve social conditions for students while reducing the risks associated with sexual and intimate partner violence. Examples of continuing programs include:

- All incoming undergraduate students, and graduate and professional students must complete an online educational program on sexual violence and related misconduct as new students. The Office of Institutional Equity and Title IX has developed three new online trainings that provide important information and resources related to sexual misconduct. A separate, audience-specific training was created for staff and faculty, graduate and professional students, and undergraduate students.
- Residential Advisors (RAs), Graduate Resident Fellows (GRFs) and Undergraduate Resident Fellows (URFs) receive specialized training in supporting students who may disclose an experience of unwanted sexual contact.
- Numerous programs and events are sponsored throughout the year by the LGBT Resource Center, the Skorton Center for Health Initiatives, Sorority and Fraternity Life, and other departments to raise awareness and educate students on topics such as affirmative consent, bystander intervention, and sexual education and related concepts.

- Several student-led organizations (e.g., Consent Ed, One Love, Sexual Violence Prevention Network) partner with Cornell departments and other student organizations to offer educational programming and hold ongoing peer-to-peer conversations.
- There are ongoing educational opportunities for specific groups such as athletes, Greek-life students, and leaders of registered student organizations.
- Each April a Take Back the Night march event sheds a spotlight on these issues.
- *Moving Forward*, a support group for survivors of all genders is offered each semester, co-sponsored by CAPS and the SHARE Office.

Several new programs are being developed. These include:

- A program for (1) student organization leaders and (2) student athletes and athletics staff is in development to provide training on a variety of topics including bystander intervention and healthy relationships.
- The concepts outlined in the book *Sexual Citizens* (Hirsch & Khan, 2020) (focusing on values clarification, sexual decision-making, the role of the environment) are being incorporated into a pilot program with the Intergroup Dialogue Project (IDP) that will enable students to be better prepared for healthy social interactions.
- A new course launching in October 2023 (UNILWYL 1420 “Sexual Citizenship”) will explore the social ecosystem that makes sexual assault on college campuses a common experience. Using the framework from *Sexual Citizens* (Hirsch & Khan, 2020) the course will examine the role of physical spaces, peers, and social and cultural influences that shape students’ experiences and interpretations of both sex and sexual assault.
- The Cornell Social Consultants (CSCs) Program is relaunching in Fall 2023 after being on hiatus during the pandemic. Cornell Social Consultants work in innovative and creative ways to nurture a safer and more enjoyable environment in which students can thrive. CSCs focus on shifting patterns within social environments that may contribute to the risk of sexual violence and proactively create a more positive sexual and social culture at Cornell.

This report and accompanying tables provide a broad overview of survey results. Cornell’s Office of Institutional Research and Planning (IRP) anticipates further analysis of data from the 2023 survey. Analysis results will be shared with relevant constituencies on campus, including the Coalition on Sexual Assault Prevention (CSVP). The Skorton Center for Health Initiatives, the Office of Institutional Equity and Title IX, and IRP will partner in examining aspects of the data that will inform current and future prevention efforts.