

Southwestern University Summary Report

2022 Higher Education Data Sharing Consortium Sexual Assault Campus Climate Survey

Completed February 2024

This report summarizes findings from the administration of the Higher Education Data Sharing (HEDS) Consortium Sexual Assault Campus Climate Survey (SACCS) to Southwestern University students February 13 to March 3, 2023. Summary results will be broken down into the following areas:

- general demographics of Southwestern students who responded to the HEDS SACCS;
- attitudes about the campus climate surrounding sexual assault among responding students;
- prevalence of unwanted sexual contact among responding students;
- characteristics of sexual assault reported by responding students; and
- prevalence of intimate partner violence and stalking among responding students.

The HEDS SACCS is an anonymous online survey of college students' experience of sexual assault and their attitudes concerning their campus climate surrounding sexual assault. During the 2021-22 and 2022-23 academic years it was completed by over 20,000 students nationwide at 74 institutions at an overall response rate of 13%. At the end of the results is a list of current and ongoing efforts for prevention of sexual misconduct at Southwestern.

Demographics of Southwestern respondents

All students above the age of 18 registered at Southwestern during the Spring 2023 semester were invited to complete the IRB-approved, anonymous survey online (n = 1,385); 279 Southwestern students completed the HEDS SACCS, resulting in a 20% response rate. Table 1 compares demographic characteristics of Southwestern students responding to the survey with the Spring 2022 Southwestern student population and the respondents at all participating institutes. Based on these comparisons, the responding sample can be regarded as representative of the total student population.

Table 1. Comparison of demographic characteristics of Southwestern students and all students responding to the HEDS SACC and the Southwestern student population.

Demographic	Category	SU Responding Sample	Southwestern Population	All Respondents ¹
Class	First-Year	29%	24%	30%
	Sophomore	19%	21%	23%
	Junior	21%	21%	23%
	Senior	29%	34%	23%
Gender	Female	72%	53%	67%
	Male	21%	46%	29%
	Other	6%	1%	4%
Race/Ethnicity	White, non-Hispanic	58%	56%	70%
	non-White	40%	43%	25%

Campus climate surrounding sexual assault at Southwestern

The HEDS SACCS includes five scales that measure different aspects of campus climate surrounding sexual assault and unwanted sexual contact: General Campus Climate, Response to Difficult or Dangerous Situations, Views on Sexual Assault at Your Institution, Views on Institutional Response to Report of Sexual Assault, and Frequency of Unwanted Sexual Contact.

Tables 2 through 6 show average scores obtained from Southwestern students responding to the HEDS SACCS on each of the five scales by gender and class, and overall. Additionally, average scores obtained from all institutions responding to HEDS

¹ Includes the 2021-22 and 2022-23 administrations

SACCS are shown at the bottom of each table. Responses to the first scale are similar to those provided by students at all other participating institutions. The averages of southwestern responses are lower than those from other institutions for scales two, three, and four. For scale five, on the frequency of unwanted sexual contact, the Southwestern average was higher than the average from other institutions.

For the first four scales, students indicated their degree of agreement or disagreement on a five-point scale from Strongly Disagree (1) to Strongly Agree (5). So, for Tables 2 through 5, higher average scores reflect stronger agreement with the scale items listed.

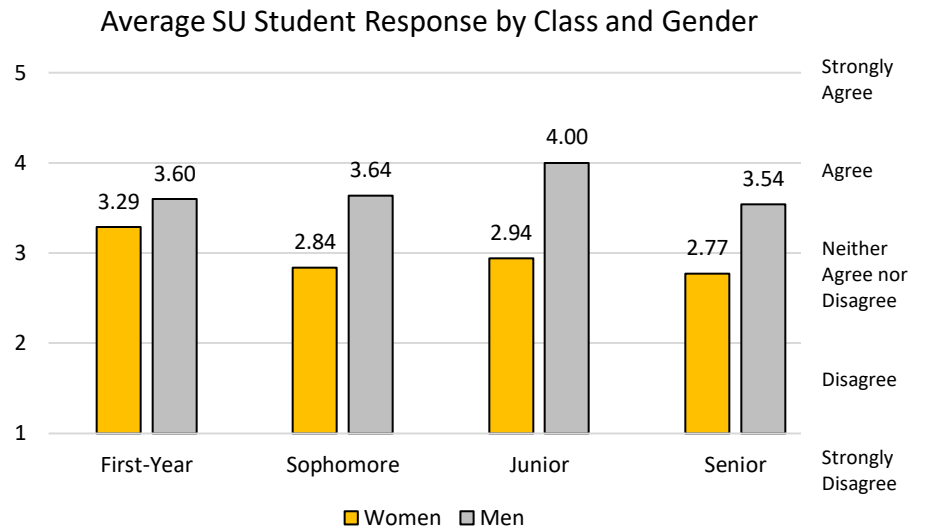
Table 2. Student Responses to General Campus Climate Scale																
<p>Below are statements about your views on the general climate at your institution. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty, staff, and administrators respect what students at my institution think. • Faculty, staff, and administrators at my institution are genuinely concerned about students' welfare. • Faculty, staff, and administrators on this campus treat students fairly. • Students at my institution are genuinely concerned about the welfare of other students. • I feel valued in the classroom/learning environment. • I feel close to people on this campus. • I feel like I am part of this campus's community. • I feel safe on this campus. 	<p>Average SU Student Response by Class and Gender</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Average SU Student Response by Class and Gender</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Class</th> <th>Women</th> <th>Men</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>First-Year</td> <td>4.02</td> <td>4.16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sophomore</td> <td>3.82</td> <td>4.05</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Junior</td> <td>4.01</td> <td>3.94</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Senior</td> <td>3.77</td> <td>3.80</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Class	Women	Men	First-Year	4.02	4.16	Sophomore	3.82	4.05	Junior	4.01	3.94	Senior	3.77	3.80
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<p>Strongly disagree (1) to Strongly agree (5); higher average scores indicate positive responses</p>																
<p>Average for all Southwestern University 3.89 Average for all Other Institutions 3.88</p>																

Table 3. Student Responses to Campus Response to Difficult or Dangerous Situations Scale																
<p>Below are statements about your views on your institution's response to difficult or dangerous situations. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campus officials do a good job protecting students from harm. • If a crisis happened here, I am confident campus officials would handle it well. • Campus officials respond quickly in difficult situations. • Campus officials handle incidents in a fair and responsible manner. • There is a good support system at my institution for students going through difficult times. 	<p>Average SU Student Response by Class and Gender</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Average SU Student Response by Class and Gender</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Class</th> <th>Women</th> <th>Men</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>First-Year</td> <td>3.69</td> <td>3.34</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sophomore</td> <td>3.14</td> <td>3.47</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Junior</td> <td>3.32</td> <td>3.58</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Senior</td> <td>3.09</td> <td>3.42</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Class	Women	Men	First-Year	3.69	3.34	Sophomore	3.14	3.47	Junior	3.32	3.58	Senior	3.09	3.42
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<p>Average for all Southwestern University 3.29 Average for all Other Institutions 3.43</p>																

Table 4. Student Responses to Views on Sexual Assault at Your Institution Scale

Below are statements about your views on sexual assault at your institution. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each:

- I believe that the number of sexual assaults that occur on campus at my institution or during off-campus events or programs sponsored by my institution is low.
- I do not believe that I or one of my friends is at risk for being sexually assaulted on campus at my institution or during off-campus events or programs sponsored by my institution.
- I believe that students at my institution would intervene if they witnessed a sexual assault.



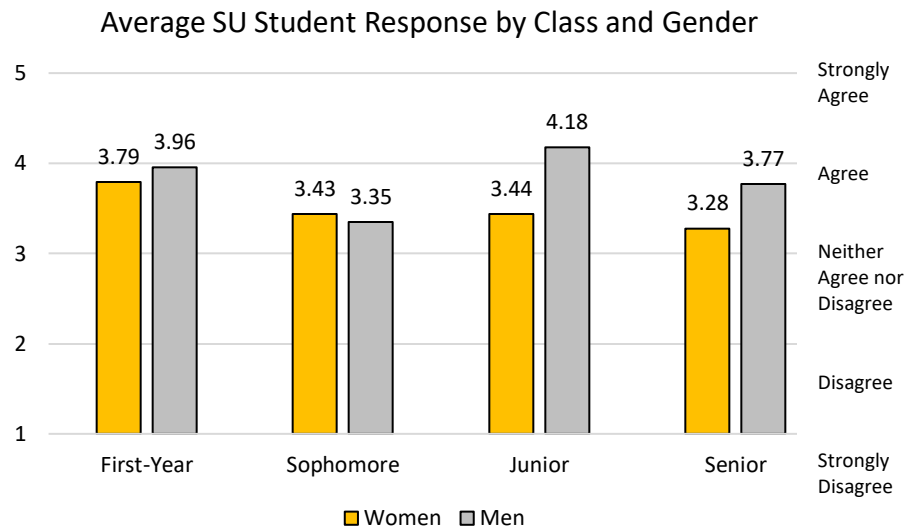
Strongly disagree (1) to Strongly agree (5); higher average scores indicate positive responses

Average for all Southwestern University 3.06
Average for all Other Institutions 3.25

Table 5. Student Responses to Views on Institutional Response to Report of Sexual Assault Scale

Below are statements about your views on what might happen if someone were to report a sexual assault to an official at your institution. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each:

- Campus officials would take the report seriously.
- Campus officials would support and protect the person making the report.
- Campus officials would conduct a careful investigation in order to determine what happened.
- Campus officials would take action against the offender(s).
- Students would support the person making the report.



Strongly disagree (1) to Strongly agree (5); higher average scores indicate positive responses

Average for all Southwestern University 3.48
Average for all Other Institutions 3.64

For the fifth scale, students reported the frequency of experience with unwanted sexual contact on a five-point scale from Never (1) to Very Often (5). Unwanted sexual contact included unwanted verbal behaviors, unwanted nonverbal behaviors, and unwanted brief physical contact. For Table 6, higher average scores on the Unwanted Sexual Contact reflect greater frequency of the descriptive items listed.

Table 6. Average Southwestern Student Response to Unwanted Sexual Contact Scale by Class and Gender																
<p>Since starting at Southwestern, how often have you experienced the following forms of unwanted sexual contact while you were on campus or while you were off campus during events or programs sponsored by Southwestern?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unwanted verbal behaviors – such as someone making sexual comments about your body; someone making unwelcome sexual advances, propositions, or suggestions to you; or someone telling you sexually offensive jokes or kidding about your sex or gender-specific traits • Unwanted nonverbal behaviors – such as sending you sexual emails, texts, or pictures; posting sexual comments about you on blogs or social media; showing you sexually offensive pictures or objects; leering at you or making lewd gestures towards you; or touching oneself sexually in front of you • Unwanted brief physical contact – such as someone briefly groping you, rubbing sexually against you, pinching you, or engaging in any other brief inappropriate or unwelcome touching of your body 	<p>Average SU Student Response by Class and Gender</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Average SU Student Response by Class and Gender</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Class</th> <th>Women</th> <th>Men</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>First-Year</td> <td>1.80</td> <td>1.51</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sophomore</td> <td>2.14</td> <td>1.48</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Junior</td> <td>1.72</td> <td>1.30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Senior</td> <td>1.76</td> <td>1.46</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Class	Women	Men	First-Year	1.80	1.51	Sophomore	2.14	1.48	Junior	1.72	1.30	Senior	1.76	1.46
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Never (1) to Very Often (5); higher average scores reflect greater frequency of unwanted sexual contact	<p>Average for all Southwestern University 1.74 Average for all Other Institutions 1.63</p>															

For Tables 2 through 5, women’s average scale scores tended to be lower than men’s average scale. However, this difference was found to be small in magnitude. Although women on average reported a higher frequency of experiencing unwanted sexual contact on campus than men (see Table 6), overall this average frequency was within the range of Never to Rarely.

Prevalence of sexual assault at Southwestern

Respondents were also asked to indicate if they had 1) experienced an attempted sexual assault or 2) had been sexually assaulted while on campus or during an off-campus event or program sponsored by Southwestern.

The HEDS SACCS defines campus-related sexual assault using the following rubric:

Sexual assault includes the following types of sexual contact, which you did not want or for which you did not give consent:

- a) *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)*
- b) *Oral sex (someone’s mouth or tongue making contact with your genitals, or your mouth or tongue making contact with someone else’s genitals)*
- c) *Vaginal sex (someone’s penis being put in your vagina, or your penis being put into someone else’s vagina)*
- d) *Anal sex (someone’s penis being put in your anus, or your penis being put into someone else’s anus)*
- e) *Anal or vaginal penetration with a body part other than a penis or tongue, or by an object, like a bottle or candle*

Being the victim of a campus-related attempted sexual assault was reported by 10% of Southwestern women (n = 18) and 2% (n = 1) of Southwestern men. This is slightly lower than the percentage for both women (12%) and men (4%) for all other HEDS SACCS respondents from baccalaureate institutions. Overall, 84% of all Southwestern students responding to the HEDS SACCS did not report having been a victim of campus-related attempted sexual assault.

Of the total sample of Southwestern students responding to the HEDS SACCS, 29 reported being the victim of campus-related sexual assault (11%). In addition, 11 students reported that they suspected being a victim of campus-related sexual assault, but were not certain (4%). 85% of respondents reported not being a victim of campus-related sexual assault.

Altogether, 21% (n = 55) of Southwestern respondents report they've been or suspect they've been a victim of a sexual assault or an attempted sexual assault.

Characteristics of campus sexual assaults at Southwestern

Of the 29 respondents who reported being the victim of a campus-related sexual assault, 26 were women, one was male, and two did not report their gender. Half (48%) reported experiencing more than one incident of campus-related sexual assault. Because some respondents indicated that they had experienced multiple incidents of campus-related sexual assault, the overall number of campus-related sexual assaults indicated for this sample of respondents was at least 53. A summary of the frequency of incidents of campus-related sexual assault reported by each of these 29 students appears in Table 7.

Table 7. Frequency of incidents of campus-related sexual assault indicated by Southwestern students responding to the HEDS SACCS.

How many incidents?	Number of Individuals	Percentage of Individuals	Number of Incidents	Percentage of Incidents
1	15	52%	15	28%
2	8	28%	16	30%
3	4	14%	12	23%
4	0	0%	0	0%
Greater than 4	2	7%	10*	19%
Total	29	100%	53	100%

*Assumes 5 incidents for each individual selecting Greater than 4.

The majority (85%) of reported assaults occurred in residential buildings, either in dorms/apartments on-campus or at fraternity/sorority housing. A summary of the frequency of incident locations reported by the 29 Southwestern students in in Table 8. Table 8 is comparable to Table 9 which shows summary of the frequency of incident locations reported by students from other institutions.

Table 8. Location of incidents of campus-related sexual assault indicated by Southwestern students responding to the HEDS SACCS.

Where did these incidents of sexual assault occur?	Number of Individuals*	Percentage of Individuals	Number of Incidents**	Percentage of Incidents
On campus in a residential building (not fraternity)	18	62%	23	43%
On campus in a nonresidential building	2	7%	2	4%
In a fraternity or sorority house on or off campus	15	52%	22	42%
Off campus, at a location nearby	5	17%	5	9%
Study abroad or study away	1	3%	1	2%
Total	29	--	53	100%

*Students could select more than one option so the total number of responses is greater than 29; percentages are calculated by dividing each count by 29.

**Assumes 5 incidents for each individual selecting Greater than 4.

Table 9. Location of incidents of campus-related sexual assault indicated by students at other institutions responding to the HEDS SACCS.

Where did these incidents of sexual assault occur?	Number of Individuals*	Percentage of Individuals	Number of Incidents**	Percentage of Incidents
On campus in a residential building (not fraternity)	1,466	69%	2,509	44%
On campus in a nonresidential building	356	17%	574	10%
In a fraternity or sorority house on or off campus	397	19%	729	13%
Off campus, at a location nearby	730	35%	1,367	23%
Study abroad or study away	80	4%	140	2%

	Total	2,093	--	5,764	--
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*Students could select more than one option so the total number of responses is greater than 2,093; percentages are calculated by dividing each count by 2,093.

**Assumes 5 incidents for each individual selecting Greater than 4.

Southwestern respondents reported more incidents of sexual assaults taking place at fraternity houses and less incidents off-campus than students from other institutions. Students from other institutions also reported incidents taking place at off-campus internships and off campus at another university. Southwestern respondents did not report that incidents took place at these locations.

The 29 Southwestern students who reported being the victim of a campus-related sexual assault were asked to describe, in detail, one assault. 21% of them reference an assault by multiple assailants. A majority involved threats of or the use of physical force. A majority also involved the use of alcohol by either the assailant, victim, or both, contributing to half of these incidents (48%) occurring when the victim was unable to provide consent due to being incapacitated. A summary of characteristics of the incidents that respondents chose to provide details on appear in Table 10.

Table 10. Summary of characteristics of one campus-related sexual assault reported by Southwestern respondents (n = 29).

Characteristic	SU Count	SU Percentage	All Other Respondents
Number of assailants			
One person	23	79%	66%
More than one person	6	21%	30%
Not sure	0	0%	4%
Total	29	100%	100%
Threat of force, coercion, or intimidation*			
Yes	7	25%	41%
No	15	54%	49%
Unsure	6	21%	9%
Total	28	100%	100%
Involved the use of physical force*			
Yes	12	41%	44%
No	13	45%	45%
Unsure	4	14%	11%
Total	29	100%	100%
Involved other person drinking alcohol*			
Yes	17	59%	63%
No	9	31%	28%
Unsure	3	10%	9%
Total	29	100%	100%
Involved you drinking alcohol*			
Yes	15	52%	56%
No	14	48%	42%
Unsure	0	0%	2%
Total	29	100%	100%
Unable to provide consent because you were incapacitated			
Yes	13	45%	40%
No	14	48%	53%
Unsure	2	7%	7%
Total	29	100%	100%

Characteristic	Count	Percentage	
Who they told about the incident**			
No one	1	3%	11%
Close friend	25	86%	80%
Romantic partner	6	21%	22%
Parent or guardian	6	21%	21%
Other family member	2	7%	9%
Roommate	11	38%	34%
Resident advisor/assistant or other peer	0	0%	7%
Campus counselor	6	21%	13%
Private counselor	2	7%	14%
Faculty, staff or administrator at Southwestern	4	14%	15%
Campus security/safety/police	2	7%	5%
Local or national sexual assault hotline	0	0%	2%
Campus pastor, minister, rabbi, or other	0	0%	1%
Campus sexual assault advocate	1	3%	6%
Campus Title IX Coordinator	5	17%	15%
Campus health services	2	7%	4%
Other	0	0%	3%

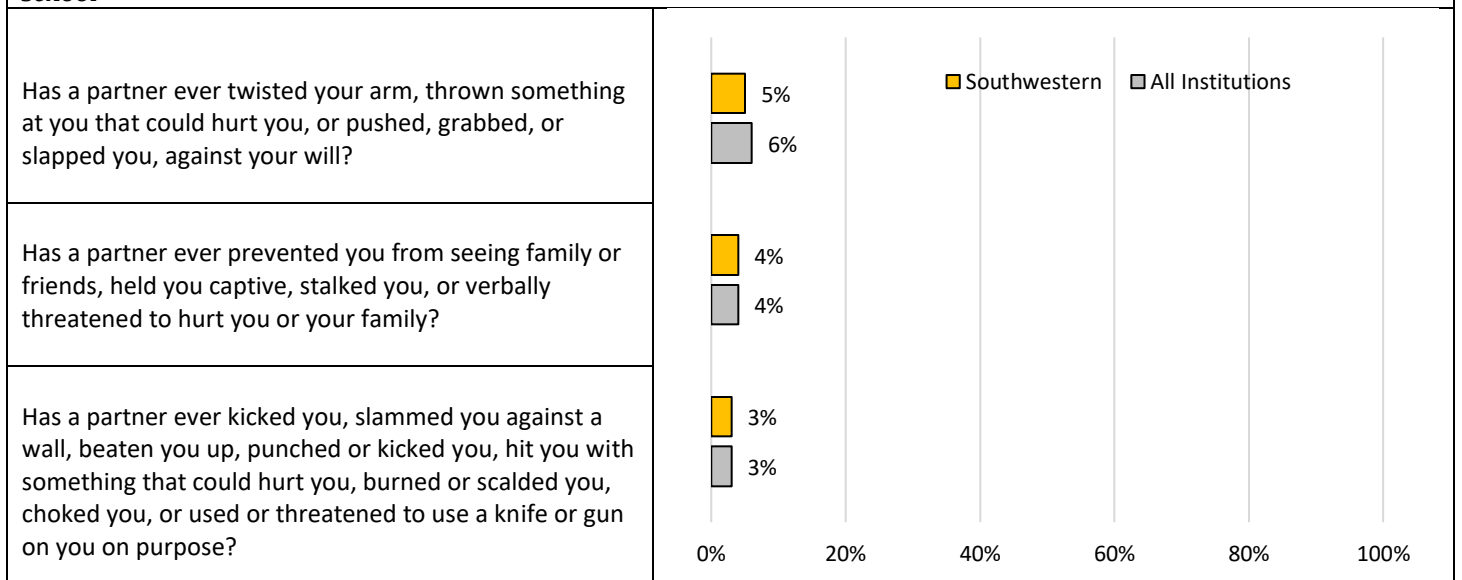
*Not all students responded to all questions, students could stop taking the survey at any time or choose not to answer particular questions.

**Students could select more than one option so the total number of responses is greater than 29; percentages are calculated by dividing each count by 29.

Intimate partner violence at Southwestern

The HEDS SACCS also asks respondents about their experiences with intimate partner violence. A comparison between Southwestern students and those from all other institutions participating in the HEDS SACCS can be found in table 11.

Table 11. Percent of students responding 'yes' or 'unsure' to experiencing intimate partner violence since starting school

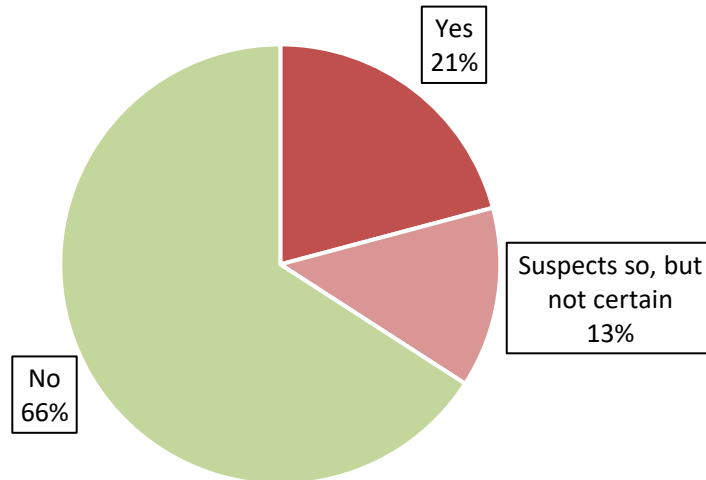


Bystander behaviors at Southwestern

Lastly, the HEDS SACCS asks respondents who indicated they had not experienced sexual assault about situations they had witnessed.

Table 12. Breakdown of student responses about situations they have observed (n = 211).

Have students observed a situation that was or could have led to a sexual assault since starting at Southwestern?



Only students who believe they witnessed a situation that was sexual assault were asked if they intervened in the situation. Of the 25 Southwestern students, 56% intervened; Compared to 67% of the 1,148 students from other institutions. Table 13 contains a summary of which intervention techniques were used by intervening Southwestern students.

Table 13. Summary of intervention techniques used by Southwestern students (n = 14).

How did you intervene?	Count	Percentage
Asked the person who appeared to be at risk if they needed help	5	36%
Stepped in and separated the people involved in the situation	5	36%
Asked others to help step in and defuse the situation	5	36%
Created a distraction to cause one or more of the people to disengage	4	29%
Confronted the person who appeared to be causing the situation	1	7%
Told someone in a position of authority about the situation	1	7%

**Students could select more than one option so the total number of responses is greater than 14; percentages are calculated by dividing each count by 14.

Southwestern University has been committed to ongoing evaluation and improvement of campus responsiveness to acts of sexual misconduct and prevention of such harm. This summary is meant to highlight the current ongoing efforts that will be built upon as we continue to review these survey results:

- Hiring of a Full-time Title IX Coordinator (May 2022)
- Revision of policies to create one Policy Prohibiting Sex Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct
- Development of educational materials for distribution to the campus community
- New Employee training for Sexual Harassment Prevention
- Ongoing Employee refresher training for Sexual Harassment Prevention
- New Faculty Orientation on the role of a Responsible Employee
- New Student online prevention training
- New Student Welcome Week educational session and safety talk

- NCAA Sexual Misconduct Policy compliance, including annual student-athlete and coach training
- Improved partnerships with Williamson County victim services, and HOPE Alliance
- On-Campus Service agreement with Brave Alliance, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner to use SU health center as-needed
- April Sexual Assault Awareness programming: Denim Day led by student volunteers
- Student artist participation in National Crime Victims Rights Week, Williamson County Art Exhibit