

STUDENT CAMPUS CLIMATE SURVEY

BRIEF 3: INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

INTRODUCTION

In fall 2014 the University of North Alabama (UNA) administered a Student Campus Climate Survey. The purpose of the survey was to provide UNA with critical information regarding our campus climate, campus resources, and experiences of our students. This is the third brief in a series of four that presents key findings from the survey along with recommendations for developing effective prevention and intervention programming for our students. The focus of this brief is on data pertaining to UNA students' experiences with intimate partner violence. The full report is available at una.edu/title-ix

METHODS

All measures in the survey were taken directly from the White House Task Force Report (2014). The online survey assessed intimate partner violence using the Safe Dates Physical Violence Victimization Scale. This scale lists sixteen acts of physical violence (e.g., slapped, pushed, kicked) and asks participants to indicate the number of times during the past year that an intimate partner committed that act of physical violence toward them. Participants were given a scale of 0 – 10+, where 0 indicated they had not experienced that act of physical violence during the past year and a 10+ indicated they had experienced that act of physical violence 10 or more times during the past year.

SAMPLE

A total of 978 surveys were completed. The median age of participants was 21 years old. Seventy-three percent (73%) of the sample identified as female, 26% identified as male, and approximately 1% identified as transgender or other. The class standing of participants was as follows: 20.2% freshman, 17.4% sophomore, 26.4% junior, 29.0% senior, 6.6% graduate student, and 0.4% special student. The racial composition approximated well the racial makeup of the University.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

The survey listed sixteen acts of physical violence (e.g., slapped, pushed, kicked) and asked participants to indicate the number of times during the past year that an intimate partner committed that act of physical violence toward them.

INCIDENCE OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

Incidence refers to a count of how many unique incidents of intimate partner violence occur during a given period of time (i.e., during the past year). Table 1 is a breakdown of the acts of physical violence most commonly reported in our sample. N represents the number of students indicating they had experienced that act of violence from an intimate partner at least once during the last year.

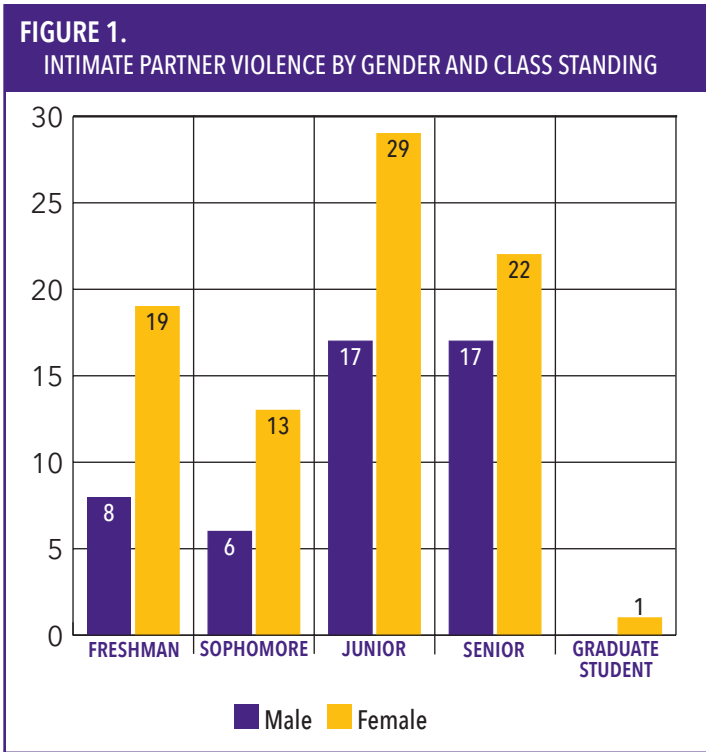
	N
PUSHED, GRABBED, OR SHOVED ME	79
BIT ME	72
SCRATCHED ME	62
SLAMMED ME OR HELD ME AGAINST A WALL	56
SLAPPED ME	48
THREW SOMETHING AT ME THAT HIT ME	47

PREVALENCE OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

Prevalence rates are a count of how many unique people have experienced intimate partner violence during a given period of time (i.e., during the last year). According to the National Institute of Justice (2008), prevalence rates are calculated by dividing the total number of individuals who report a crime by the sample population and multiplying that number by 100. A total of 157 individuals in our sample of 978 reported experiencing at least one act of physical violence during the last year. Therefore, the prevalence rate of physical violence in our sample was 16.1%.

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ABOUT INDIVIDUALS REPORTING IPV

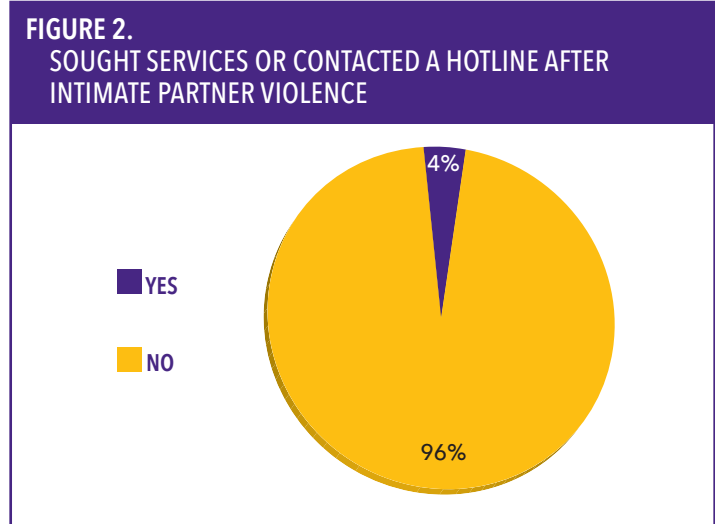
Figure 1 is a breakdown of the gender and class standing of the 157 individuals who reported experiencing at least one act of physical violence during the last year and provided demographic information.



Women reported a slightly greater incidence of intimate partner violence (63.4%) than men. Juniors and seniors accounted for over 60% of those who reported experiencing intimate partner violence.

REPORTING OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

When asked if they sought services or contacted a hotline after they experienced an act of physical violence during the last year, 4% of victims reported yes and 96% said no.



When asked if they were injured by an act of physical violence during the last year, 7% said yes and 93% said no. Of those who said they were injured, only 20% sought medical attention.

CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the survey findings, it is recommended that UNA develop and implement systematic programming to prevent intimate partner violence.

In order to ensure that the programming is as effective as possible, it is recommended that all freshmen be required to participate in intimate partner violence education. The First Year Experience (FYE) course would be an ideal delivery system for this programming. However, it will also be critical to target current students who will not have gone through a FYE course. Therefore, it is recommended that the university require all students to participate in online training that is focused on intimate partner violence prevention. It is also recommended that the university deliver a series of intimate partner violence education events throughout the year.

Only 4% of victims reported that they sought services or contacted a hotline after they experienced an act of physical violence. Therefore, it is recommended that UNA promote knowledge of its resources on campus in relation to intimate partner violence and consider the implementation of an advocate program on campus.

PROJECT COLLABORATORS

The principal investigators for the Student Campus Climate Survey were UNA faculty members Drs. Amber Paulk, Andrea Hunt, and Yaschica Williams from the Department of Sociology and Family Studies. Once the initial survey was compiled, the UNA Title IX Education and Prevention Advisory Board reviewed the survey. The advisory board includes UNAs Title IX Coordinator, Ms. Tammy Jacques; UNA faculty, staff, and students; representatives from UNA Student Counseling Services; the UNA Police Department; and Rape Response.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information, please contact UNAs Title IX Coordinator, Ms. Tammy Jacques, at tmwells@una.edu or **256-765-4223**.

REFERENCES

White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault (2014). *Not alone: The first report of the White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault*.