

The Sexual Assault Response & Prevention Center



"I feel validated and supported by my therapist"

"SARP is a comforting and professional space on campus"

"I appreciate SARP and would be lost without it"

"SARP has made a huge impact on my life"

Annual Report - AY 2018 – 2019

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Introduction

The staff of the Sexual Assault Response & Prevention Center (SARP) provides the following report to document progress over the past year. The primary objectives of SARP continue to be providing a specialized response to survivors of trauma and gender-based violence as well as raising awareness and activating prevention efforts on campus.

This report includes information pertaining to the Academic Year 2018-2019 (AY 18-19), which spans from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. Unless noted specifically, figures and graphs are representative of data collected during this time period. SARP clinicians collect anonymized data on students presenting with sexual assault, dating violence/IPV, stalking, sexual exploitation, and/or harassment. This is a count of students presenting to SARP but is unlikely to fully represent the University population, given that some individuals and groups may be more or less likely to seek services generally, or with SARP specifically. Clinicians capture as much data as possible without imposing on the student, meaning there are times when information is unable to be collected. Additionally, survivors of traumatic experiences may have difficulty with memory, secondary to physical or mental health symptoms resulting from their experience(s). This accounts for some of the instances when students are unable to report on information regarding their experiences or the perpetrator.

Prevention Services

Orientation

Students' introduction to sexual misconduct prevention at Boston University begins at Incoming Student Orientation (ISO). At ISO, students watch skits focused on bystander intervention opportunities in a variety of situations involving sexual misconduct. The skits are written and performed by returning BU students - SARP Actors. In summer 2019, the SARP actors performed a total of three skits and a call to action.

The first skit takes place at a party and addresses the role of alcohol in sexual assault and prosocial bystander opportunity. Alcohol is not addressed as the cause of assault, but as a tool that the perpetrator uses to assault another individual and to excuse their actions. Throughout the skit, the narrator "pauses" the progress of the skit, to check-in with various characters. This is done to allow audience members, an inside look into what each character may be noticing and what obstacles and motivating factors for intervention, characters may be thinking about.

The second skit addresses toxic masculinity, rape myths, and supporting survivors. It

demonstrates the importance of prosocial bystanders challenging unacceptable thoughts, beliefs, and behaviors in our community, even if the survivor is not present. The skit emphasizes that by challenging these thoughts, beliefs, and behaviors we can create long-term cultural change, making our community safer and more inviting for everyone.

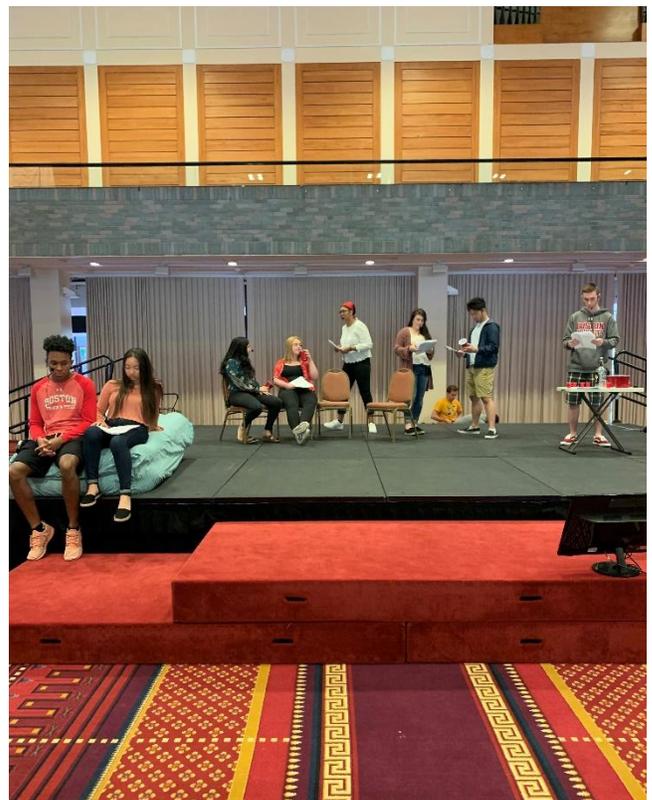


Fig 1. SARP Actors practicing skits

The third and final skit portrays an instance of interpersonal violence in a dating relationship. The harm doer uses abusive behaviors, including manipulation and limiting independence, threats and intimidation, isolation, and electronic abuse. Threats of physical violence during the skit are intentionally excluded. During the third skit, live polling is used to engage students in the decision-making process as active bystanders. Several response options are provided, including *“Do Nothing”*. An overwhelming majority of students selected that they would engage in a prosocial bystander intervention such as: *“Knock on the door to distract them,”* or *“Get an RA to intervene on your behalf,”* rather than *“Do Nothing”*. The poll results are a tool for normalizing bystander intervention.

Following the final skit, the SARP actors share a call to action. SARP actors remind the audience of the importance of supporting their peers, creating a positive climate, and taking the required online sexual misconduct prevention training.

Incoming students and parents/guardians attend separate sessions to see this performance. It is a hope that these skits will spark broader conversations about sexual misconduct between students and their loved ones before students begin their academic careers at BU, and will encourage students to participate in sexual violence prevention and awareness initiatives throughout their time at BU.

Sex is Like Pizza

Sex is like Pizza is a sex-positive, consent, and communication workshop. Through discussion and a faux pizza-making activity, students build skills in communication and asking for consent from a partner(s) and learn about the importance of ongoing consent in any situation. Sex is like Pizza is a forum for students to talk about communication and consent within sexual activity in a fun and less-threatening environment. This program is facilitated by the SARP Prevention Educators.

During AY 18-19, Sex is Like Pizza was delivered to 514 students. In the Fall semester, the workshop was facilitated to FY101 students, a one-credit elective in the College of Arts and Sciences' (CAS) First Year Experience series. In the Spring, the workshop was facilitated to

students from the Posse program. Both programs provide students with fundamental knowledge for navigating college and their personal lives.

Step Up Step In BU

Step Up Step In BU (SUSIBU) is SARP's primary program for sexual violence prevention. It is an interactive training that raises awareness about sexual misconduct and what students, as members of the BU community, can do to prevent it. Topics covered in SUSIBU include: the responsibilities of leaders and the community, consent, rape culture, and bystander intervention strategies. SUSIBU is based on the evidence-based program - Bringing in the Bystander, developed by Prevention Innovations at the University of New Hampshire (Banyard, Moynihan, & Plante, 2007). SUSIBU has been tailored to meet the needs of the BU community.

Step Up Step In BU 2

In AY 18-19, SUSIBU2 focused on examining a variety of situations through a framework which encouraged discussion about: the potential harm in the situation, the challenges, opportunities to intervene, the intervention goal, and safe strategies to intervene. Participants were given a selection of seven scenarios. After an anonymous vote, the top three scenarios they would most like to workshop were the focus of the program. SUSIBU2 was facilitated to returning Varsity Athletes and Orientation Ambassadors who had attended SUSIBU in the previous academic year.

SUSIBU and SUSIBU2 are facilitated by Prevention Educators - BU graduate students that are trained to facilitate discussions about sexual misconduct and bystander intervention. A total of 1303 students, in small groups ranging from 5- 26 participants, attended SUSIBU or SUSIBU2 in AY 18-19. Student participants listed the following group affiliations:

- CAS SO 240 - Sexuality and Social Life (19)
- CAS SO 241 – Sociology of Gender (12)
- COM Ambassadors, SUSIBU (13)
- COM Ambassadors, SUSIBU 2 (5)

- Club Sports Athletes (176)
- Engineering Peer Mentors (29)
- FY101 Peer Mentors (27)
- Greek Life (40)
- Incoming Student Orientation Student Staff, SUSIBU (82)
- Incoming Student Orientation Student Staff, SUSIBU2 (7)
- Kilachand Peer Mentors (29)
- SARP Actors, SUSIBU (9)
- Student Activities Organization Student Leaders, excluding Greek Life (340)
- Varsity Athletes, incoming athletes (191)
- Varsity Athletes, SUSIBU2 for returning athletes (324)

Prevention Educators

Prevention Educators are BU graduate students who support SARP prevention and awareness initiatives. Prevention Educators facilitate Step Up Step In BU, Step Up Step In BU 2, and Sex is like Pizza to the BU community. Additionally, they support the coordination of awareness events and ongoing SARP prevention promotional efforts. SARP student staff receive ongoing training, and individual and group supervision from the Prevention Program Administrator and other SARP staff.

Utilizing a peer education model, prevention educators facilitate in a small-group format, during afternoon and evening hours that are convenient for student schedules. Peer education is a helpful tool that allows students to more honestly discuss difficult or stigmatized topics.

SARP Ambassadors

SARP Ambassadors are a group of undergraduate students that work together to build community, promote sex-positivity and drive change to prevent sexual and interpersonal

violence at BU. They assist in the planning and implementation of SARP events and initiatives, assist in student outreach, provide valuable feedback on SARP prevention initiatives and facilitate important conversations with other BU students.

SARP Events and Activities

SARP strives to be inclusive of and welcoming to marginalized groups, such as LGBTQ students, in all outreach and programming efforts. SARP collaborates with individual students, student groups, and other departments to develop and promote awareness and programming. SARP's initiatives raise awareness of SARP as a resource for BU students, as well as highlight issues of consent, healthy sexuality, and sexual misconduct in our community.

An Overview of SARP's Programming

BU Sexual Assault Awareness Week: Aligning with National Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April, BU Sexual Assault Awareness Week (SAAW) is a collaborative effort to raise awareness of sexual assault on campus. Events are sponsored by several BU student organizations throughout SAAW. Events sponsored by SARP during SAAW 2019 were:

The Clothesline Project: An international awareness program started in Cape Cod that provides survivors of violence the opportunity to tell their story. Shirts made by survivors and allies in previous years were displayed in the BU Arts Initiative. Students and staff were invited to contribute to the project by writing encouraging and empowering messages on the clothespins used to display the shirts.



Fig 2. SARP Ambassadors writing empowering messages on clothespins

Becoming More Visible Documentary and Panel: Students and Staff were invited to view a 70-minute documentary that displays both male to female and female to male Trans* youth. Each is at different phases in their transition and with different levels of familial support. The

documentary was followed by a panel of experts including a counselor from SARP, a social work intern from Fenway Health, and one of the youths featured in the film.

I Will Walk with You: A collaborative art project aimed to visually demonstrate the BU



Fig 3. Students posing with 'I Will Walk with You' footprints

community's support of survivors of sexual violence. Members of the BU community were invited to chalk paint a footprint, which created a path across the BU campus, beginning in East Campus and ending at SARP's doors at 930 Commonwealth Ave. The footprints symbolized the commitment to support survivors. This project was created by BU student Keara Russell (CAS '19).

[Awareness and Additional Activities](#)

Be Heard BU Social Media Campaign: Boston

University participated in the 2019 Association of American Universities (AAU) *Campus Climate Survey* as part of a consortium of 33 colleges and universities. In 2015, AAU organized a similar survey; BU did not participate in that survey, developing one of its own. The results of the 2019 AAU survey will be published in the Fall of 2019.

Consensual Valentines: SARP consensual valentines modify common candy heart statements into consensual questions. SARP Ambassadors and other student volunteers distributed consensual valentines around campus, allowing for unique opportunities to discuss communication and consent. BU students were welcome to take valentines to share or write a message on a valentine that SARP mailed.

Sex in the Dark: During this event, sponsored by BU Wellness & Prevention Services, a panel of "sexperts" answer students' anonymous questions about sex and relationships. A SARP Crisis Counselor served on the panel of sexperts, and SARP Ambassadors wrote and performed brief voiceover skits throughout the event. Between the rounds of Q&A, the skits demonstrated setting boundaries, supporting friends, and asking for consent in sexual situations.

Alcohol & Sexual Assault

The following charts present data collected from *AlcoholEdu® for College*, a required online alcohol prevention program for first-year students. These data compare responses from first-year students before matriculation in the summer of 2018 and then again in the fall of 2018.

The use of the Likert scale- a 1-7 range from Always to Never - for what would appear to be “yes” or “no” answers- as well as the wording of the questions, is problematic as it supports the myth that there are hierarchies of sexual violence.

During the past two weeks, to what degree did the following happen to you when drinking or as a result of your drinking? Don't count things that have happened to you but were not because of drinking.

Been taken advantage of sexually.

| | Summer 2018 | | Fall 2018 | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| | Total | Percentage | Total | Percentage |
| 1 - Never Experienced | 1743 | 90.59% | 1254 | 92.21% |
| 2 | 77 | 4.00% | 29 | 2.13% |
| 3 | 39 | 2.03% | 23 | 1.69% |
| 4 | 41 | 2.13% | 40 | 2.94% |
| 5 | 18 | 0.94% | 12 | 0.88% |
| 6 | 3 | 0.16% | 1 | 0.07% |
| 7 - Always Experienced | 3 | 0.16% | 1 | 0.07% |
| Total Respondents | 1,924 | | 1360 | |

Fig 4. AlcoholEdu® Generated Data

In figure 4, we can assume that 1,743 BU students who selected “Never” had not been taken advantage of sexually in the past two weeks before matriculation at Boston University. Given that the second survey was administered in the fall semester of 2018, we can assume that the 106 students that did not answer “Never” were taken advantage of sexually while students at Boston University.

During the past two weeks, to what degree did the following happen to you when drinking or as a result of your drinking? Don't count things that have happened to you but were not because of drinking.

Taken advantage of someone sexually.

| | Summer 2018 | | Fall 2018 | |
|--------------------------|-------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| | Total | Percentage | Total | Percentage |
| 1 - Never | 1853 | 96.41% | 1318 | 96.91% |
| 2 | 38 | 1.98% | 13 | 0.96% |
| 3 | 10 | 0.52% | 5 | 0.37% |
| 4 | 15 | 0.78% | 20 | 1.47% |
| 5 | 2 | 0.10% | 2 | 0.15% |
| 6 | 2 | 0.10% | 1 | 0.07% |
| 7 - Always | 2 | 0.10% | 1 | 0.07% |
| | | | | |
| Total Respondents | 1922 | | 1360 | |

Fig 5. AlcoholEdu® Generated Data

Once again, given that the second survey was administered in the fall semester of 2018, we can assume that 42 students had taken advantage of someone sexually during their first three months as a Boston University student.

It should be noted that these figures include only students who have self-identified as using alcohol, leaving the experiences of a large number of first year students missing from the data.

Sexual Misconduct Training

[The required Sexual Misconduct Prevention training](#) equips students with knowledge and skills to support healthier decisions related to romantic relationships, sexual interactions, consent and supporting peers on campus. Boston University requires this training because we care about student well-being and are committed to maintaining a healthy campus community. This training is spearheaded by Boston University's Wellness and Prevention Center.

According to the Everfi® Boston University Sexual Assault Prevention Undergraduate Impact Report, 16,878 undergraduate students completed the training in AY 18 – 19. Some statistics from the undergraduate training are displayed below:

- Undergraduate students increased their knowledge of topics related to sexual assault by 17%
- 78% agreed that the training helped them identify characteristics of healthy and unhealthy relationships
- 77% reported that the education increased their confidence to intervene
- 43% agreed that they could play a role in preventing sexual assault on their campus

According to the Everfi® Boston University Sexual Assault Prevention Graduate Impact Report, 15,754 graduate students completed the training in AY 18 – 19. Below are some statistics from the graduate student training:

- Graduate students increased their knowledge of topics related to sexual assault prevention by 8%
- 80% agreed that the training helped them identify characteristics of healthy and unhealthy relationships
- 78% reported that the education increased their confidence to intervene
- 47% agreed that they could play a role in preventing sexual assault on campus

More information about the Sexual Misconduct Training can be found on the [Wellness and Prevention Center website](#).

Clinical & Response Services

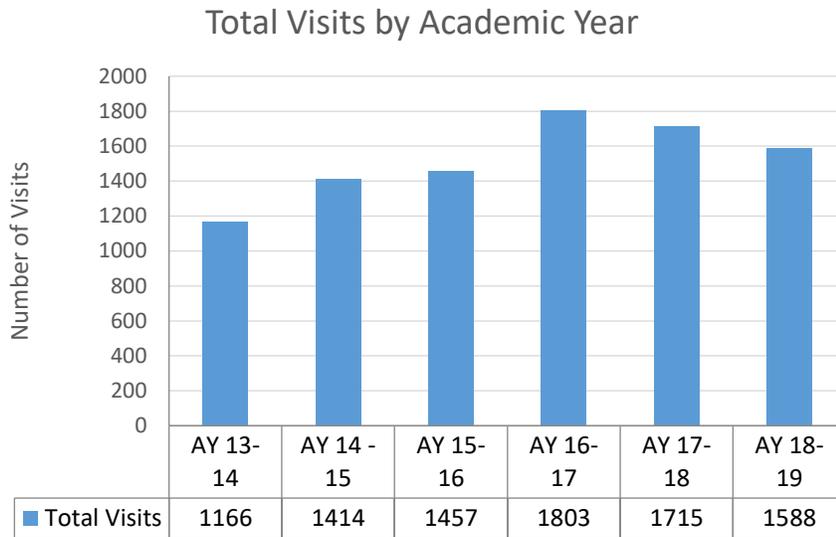


Fig 6. Total Visits by Academic Year

The total number of counseling visits for the AY 18-19 was 1588. This includes first time visits and students who initiated care prior to AY 18-19.

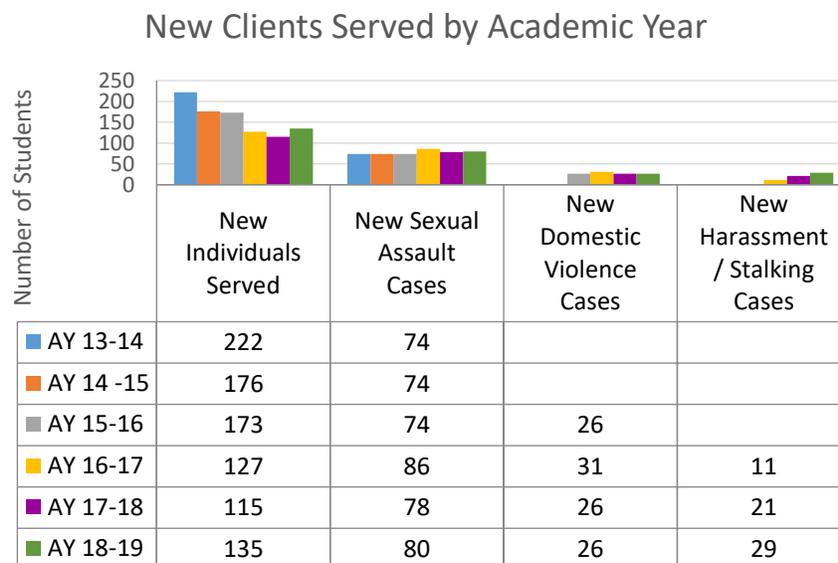


Fig 7. New Clients Served by Academic Year

In AY 18-19, 135 new students were seen by SARP clinicians. Of these new students, 80 were due to sexual assaults, 26 due to domestic/dating violence, and 29 due to harassment/stalking.

Sexual Assault

The following figures represent the 80 new students who received clinical services from a SARP counselor for the presenting issue of sexual assault.

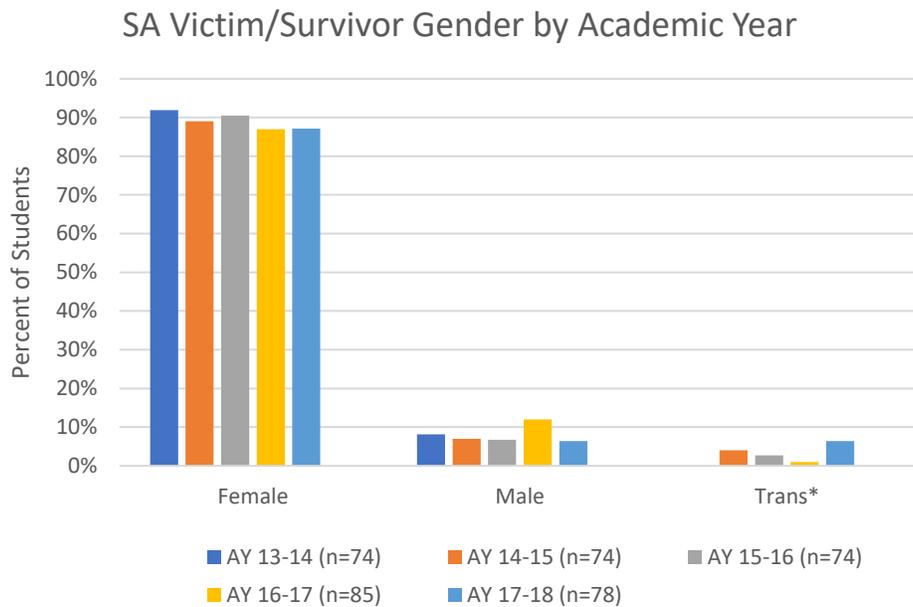


Fig 8. SA Victim/ Survivor Gender by Academic Year

SA Victim/Survivor by Gender AY 18-19 (n=80)

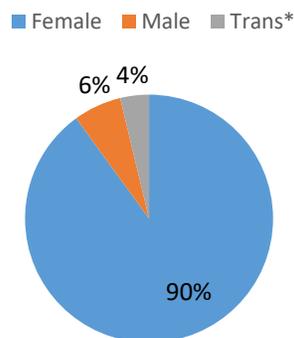


Fig 9. SA Victim/ Survivor by Gender

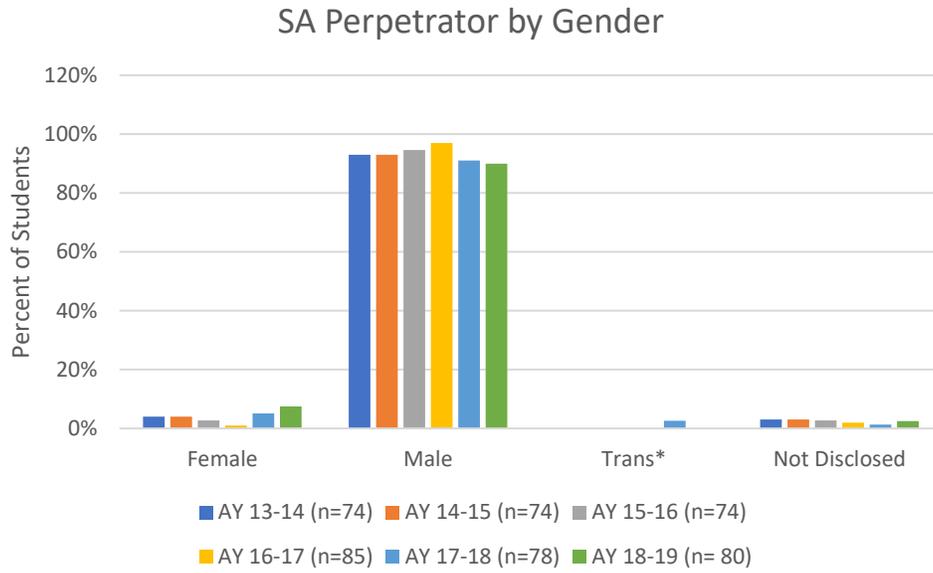


Fig 10. SA Perpetrator Gender by Academic Year

SA Perpetrator by Gender AY 18-19 (n=80)

■ Female ■ Male ■ Not Disclosed

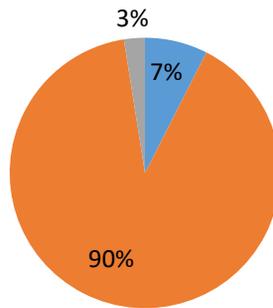


Fig 11. SA Perpetrator by Gender

The victims/ survivors of Sexual Assault (SA) in AY 18 – 19 were primarily female (female 90%, male 6%, trans* 4%). Similarly, perpetrators of SA were primarily male (male 90%, female 7%, not disclosed 3%).

The current gender distribution of SA victim/ survivor and perpetrators has remained consistent over the past 5 academic years.

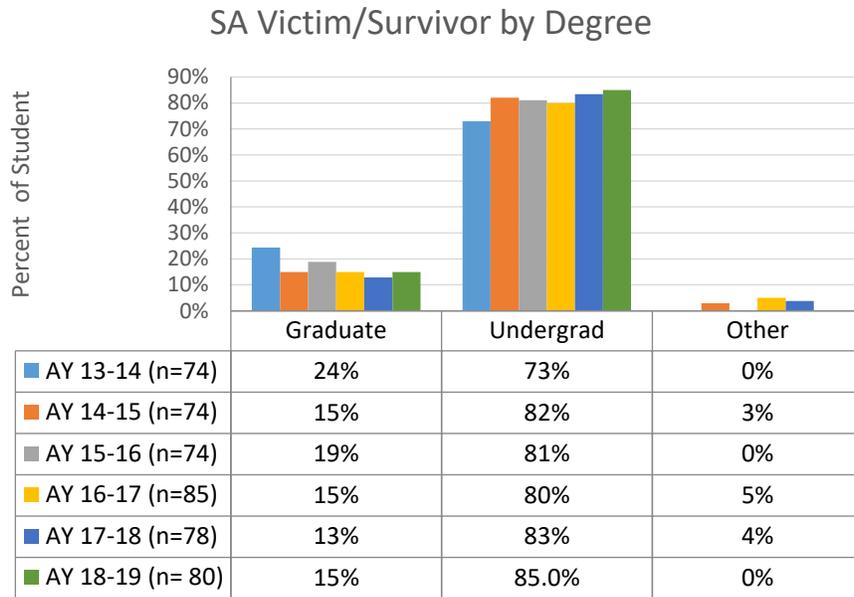


Fig 12. SA Victim/ Survivor Degree by Academic Year

SA Victim/Survivor by Degree

AY 18-19 (n=80)

■ Graduate ■ Undergrad

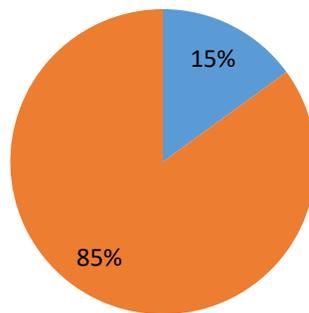


Fig 13. SA Victim/ Survivor by Degree

85% of the victims/survivors of SA – presenting at SARP, were primarily enrolled as undergraduate students while 15% were enrolled as graduate students. This data is consistent with the rates from AY 17 – 18 (Undergraduate 83%, Graduate 13%, Other 4%).

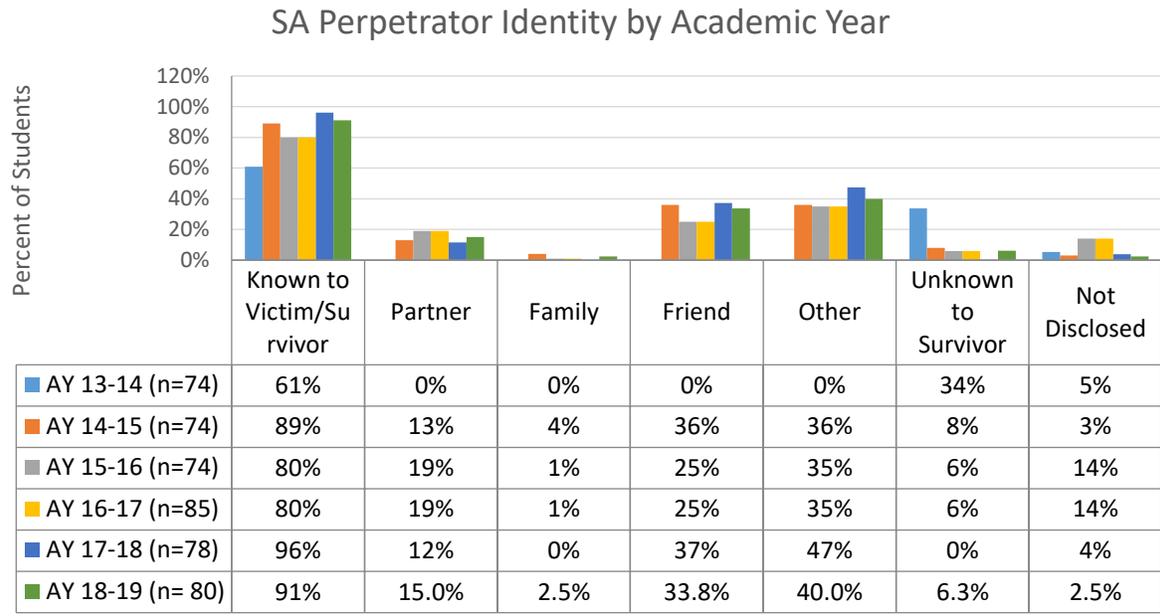


Fig 14. SA Perpetrator Identity by Academic Year

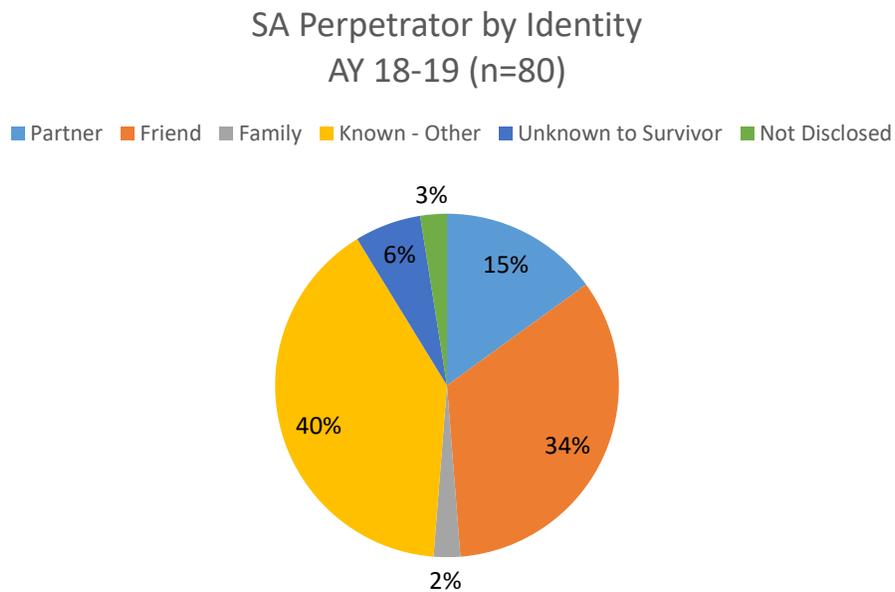


Fig 15. SA Perpetrator by Identity

Victims/ survivors of SA reported being assaulted by someone known to them (known-other: 40%, friend: 34%, partner: 15%, unknown to survivor: 6%, family: 2%). Two percent did not disclose the identity of the perpetrator to SARP staff.

SA Perpetrator BU Affiliation by Academic Year

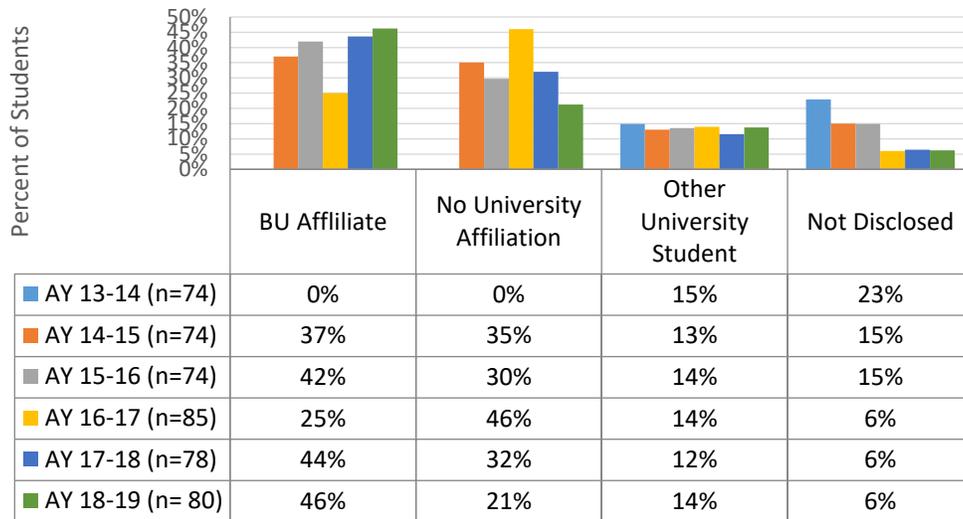


Fig 16. SA perpetrator BU Affiliation by Academic Year

SA Perpetrator by University Affiliation AY 18-19 (n=80)

■ BU Affiliate ■ Other University Student ■ No University Affiliation
■ Not Disclosed ■ Unknown to Survivor

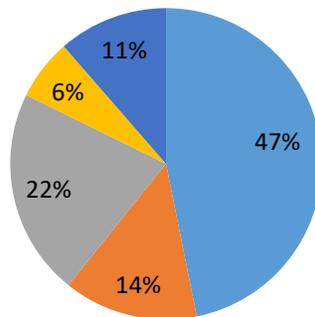


Fig 17. SA Perpetrator by BU Affiliation

47% of perpetrators of SA were BU affiliates, 22% had no university affiliation, 14% were students from another university, 11% were unknown to the survivor and 6% not disclosed.

SA Location by Academic Year

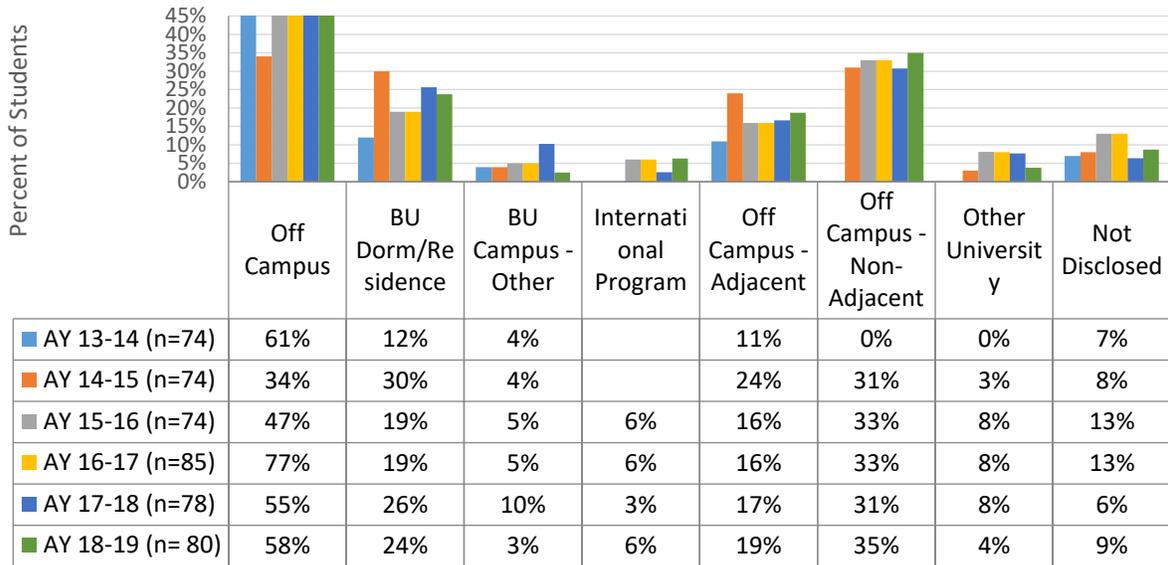


Fig 18. SA Location by Academic Year

SA Location AY 18-19 (n=80)

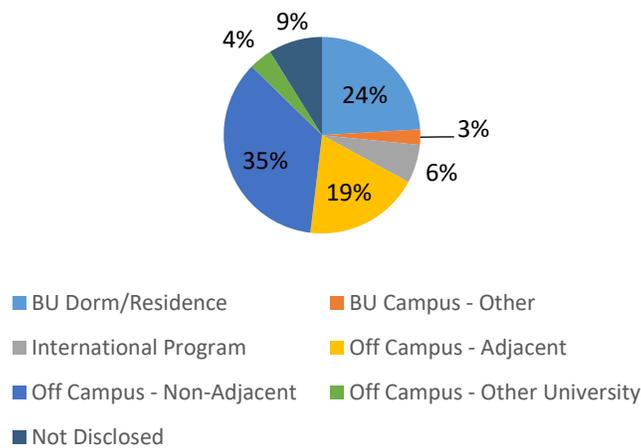


Fig 19. SA by Location

Victims/ survivors of SA reported several locations of their assault: off-campus non-adjacent (35%), BU dorm/ residence (24%), off-campus adjacent (19%), did not disclose (9%), while studying abroad (6%), off-campus – other university (4%), other on-campus location (3%).

Domestic Violence

The following figures represent the 26 students who received clinical services from SARP counselors for the presenting problem of Domestic/Dating Violence (DV)

DV Victim by Gender
AY 18-19 (n=26)

■ Female ■ Male

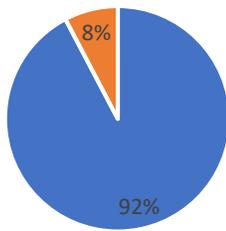


Fig 20. DV Victim by Gender

DV Perpetrator by Gender
AY 18-19 (n=26)

■ Female ■ Male

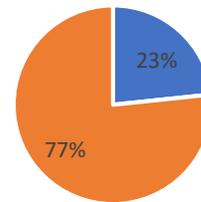


Fig 21. DV Perpetrator by Gender

Victims/survivors of DV were primarily female (female 92%, male 8%). Similarly, perpetrators of DV were primarily male (male 77%, female 23%).

DV Victim by Degree
AY 18-19 (n=26)

■ Undergraduate ■ Graduate

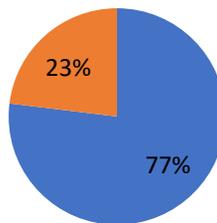


Fig 22. DV Victim by Degree

77% of the DV victims/survivors receiving services at SARP were undergraduate students while 23% were graduate students.

DV Perpetrator by Identity AY 18-19 (n=26)

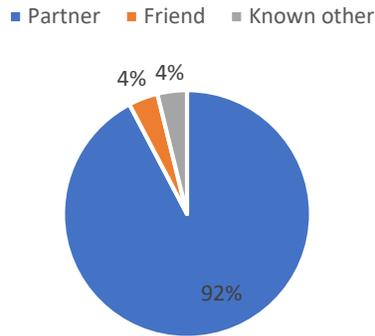


Fig 23. DV Perpetrator by Identity

Most perpetrators of DV were romantic or sexual partners (92%), while the others were friends (4%) or other known persons (4%). It should be noted that for data collection purposes, SARP uses a broad definition of domestic violence that includes romantic/ sexual partners, as well as loved ones and or/ family members.

DV Historical vs Ongoing AY 18-19 (n=26)

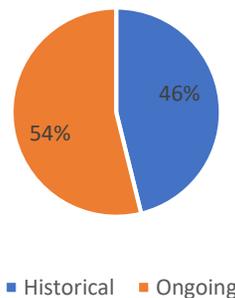


Fig 24. DV Historical vs Ongoing

46% of DV survivors SARP served had experienced DV in a previous relationship while 54% of the DV survivors were in a current relationship with DV present.

DV Perpetrator by Affiliation AY 18-19 (n=26)

■ BU ■ Other Univ ■ No Univ ■ Not Disclosed

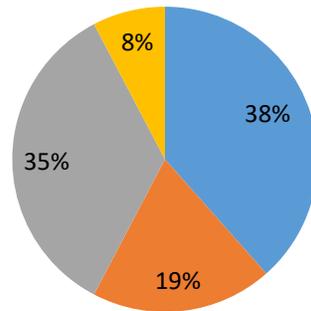


Fig 25. DV Perpetrator by Affiliation

38% of perpetrators were other BU students, 35% had no university affiliations, 19% were students of other universities and 8% of the affiliations were not disclosed.

Stalking/ Harassment

The following figures represent the 29 students who received clinical services from SARP counselors for the presenting problem of Stalking/ Harassment (S/H). For data collection, SARP defines stalking and harassment as more than one instance of unwanted attention in person or electronically, that can be reasonably regarded as alarming or threatening.

Stalk/Harass Victim by Gender
AY18-19 (n=29)

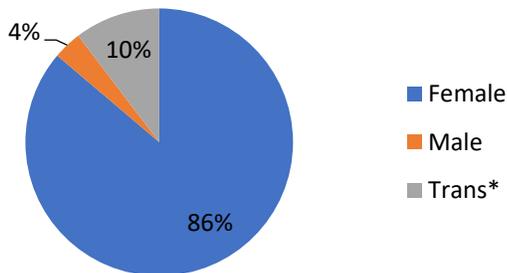


Fig 26. S/H Victim by Gender

Stalk/Harass Perpetrator by Gender
AY18-19 (n=29)

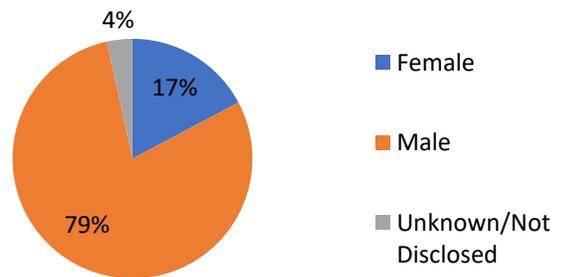


Fig 27. S/H Perpetrator by Gender

86% of the victims/ survivors of S/H identified as female, 10% identified as male and 4% identified as trans*. The perpetrators of S/H were primarily male (male: 79%, female: 17%, unknown/not disclosed: 4%).

Stalk/Harass Victim by Status
AY18-19 (n=29)

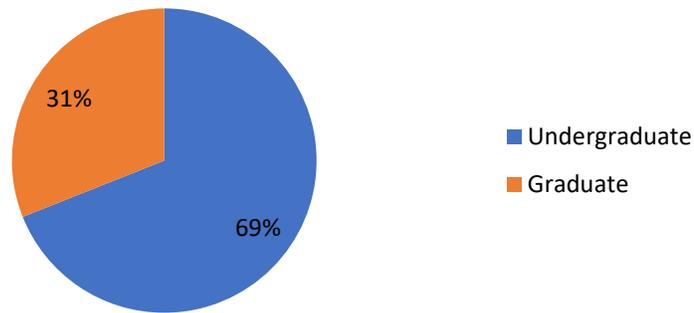


Fig 28. S/H Victim by Status

69% of the victims/ survivors of S/H were undergraduate students while 31% were graduate students.

Stalk/Harass Perpetrator by Identity
AY18-19 (n=29)

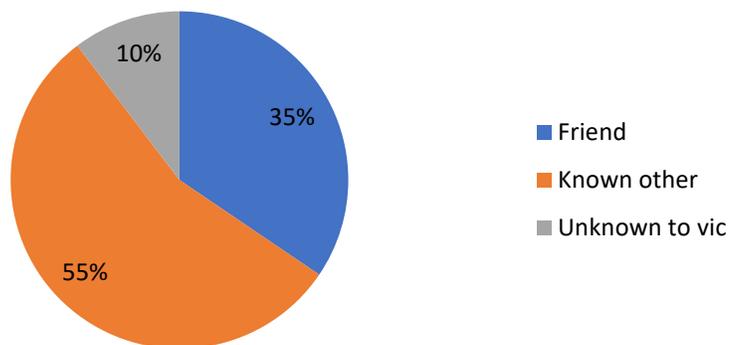


Fig 29. S/H Perpetrator by Identity

55% of the perpetrators of S/H were known (other persons) to the victims/survivors, 35% were identified as a friend and 10% were unknown to the victims/survivors.

Stalk/Harass Perpetrator by Affiliation AY18-19 (n=29)

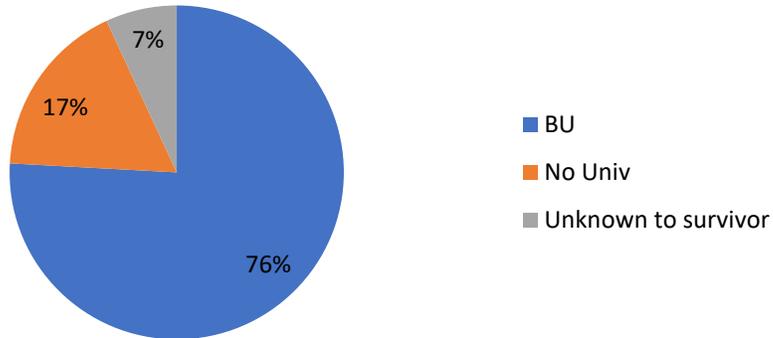


Fig 30. S/H Perpetrator by Affiliation

76% of perpetrators of S/H were BU affiliates, 17% were not affiliated with any university and 7% had an affiliation that was unknown to the victims/survivors.

Stalk/Harass by Location AY18-19 (n=29)

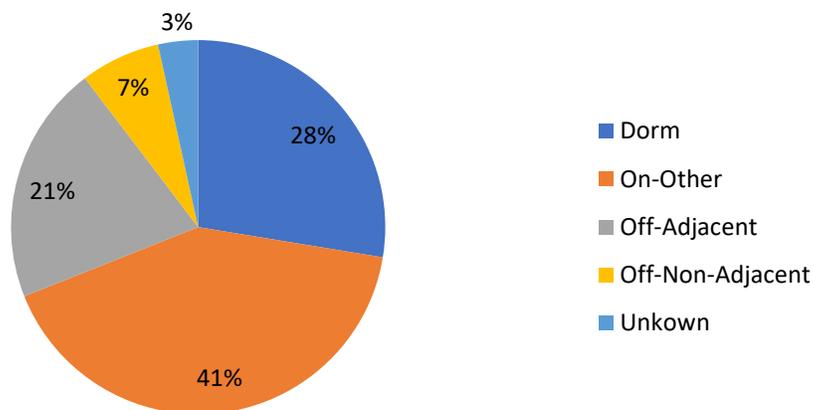


Fig 31. S/H by Location

Victims/ survivors of S/H reported a number of locations of their harassment: on-campus other than dorm or residence (41%), on campus dorm or residence (28%), off-campus adjacent (21%), off-campus non-adjacent (7%), unknown location (3%).

Groups

The group program benefits students seeking peer support and counselor-led guidance. This year, SARP counselors continued to lead process-oriented groups for survivors of sexual assault. In addition, SARP counselors created a two session trauma educational workshop designed to provide information about various forms of trauma-related responses and skills to help navigate the recovery process.