

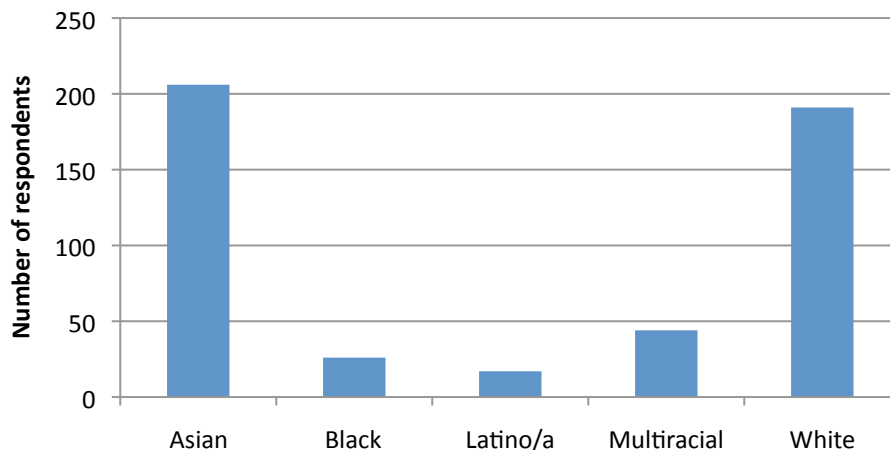
Summary of Climate Survey

A survey about diversity and school climate, based off of the National Climate Survey used by the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN), was distributed to students electronically in 2015. In all, 536 students took the survey. Those who did not finish the survey (29 students), or who marked all possible choices for sexual orientation or gender (implying inauthentic responses, 7 students) were removed from the sample. This report covers some of the major results from the study.

Race and Ethnicity

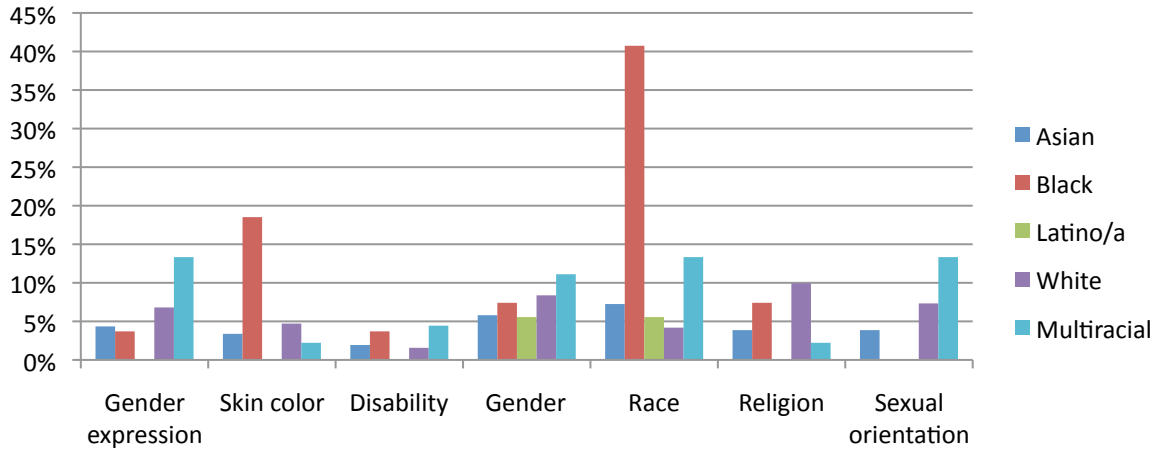
Students were asked to self-identify their race and their ethnicity, if Hispanic or Latino or Latina. Students were categorized as multiracial if they identified as more than one race, or if they were of Hispanic ethnicity and identified as a race other than White. There were too few American Indian or Pacific Islanders to include, and students who did not respond were excluded from categorizations by race or ethnicity.

Racial distribution of respondents



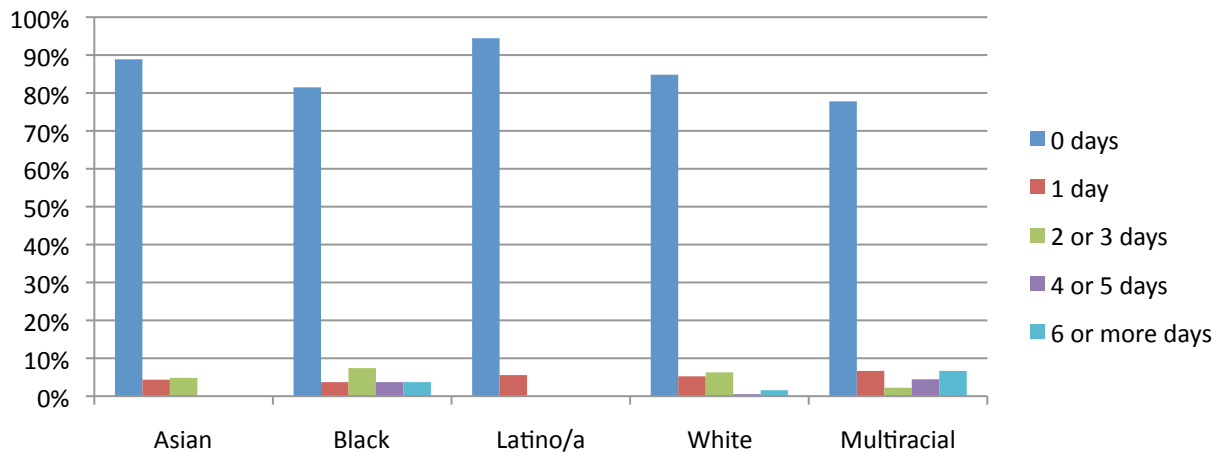
One question asked students reasons why they felt unsafe at school. Responses show little difference between different races responding except for skin color and race, in which Black respondents showed a clear difference.

Reasons for feeling unsafe at school

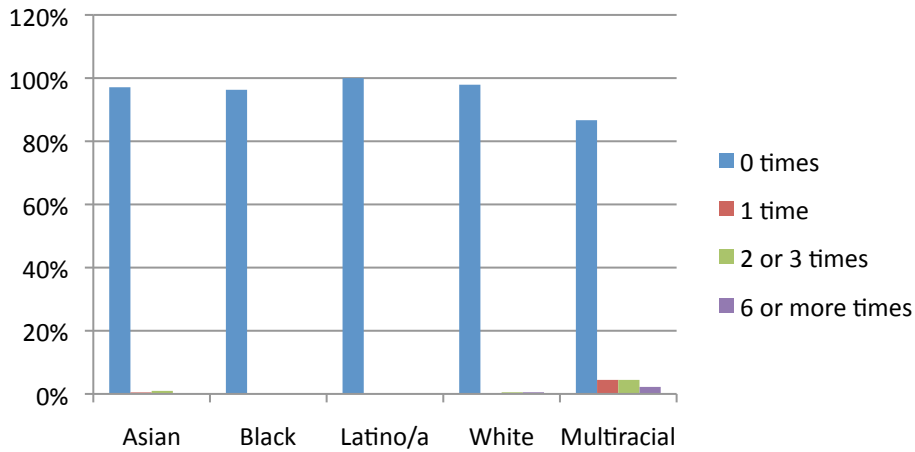


Few students reported feeling unsafe in the dormitories or skipping class because of feeling unsafe; however, the responses that did occur were more frequent among Black, White, and multiracial students. Only multiracial students reported noticeable rates of skipping class because of feeling unsafe.

Felt unsafe in dorms in last month

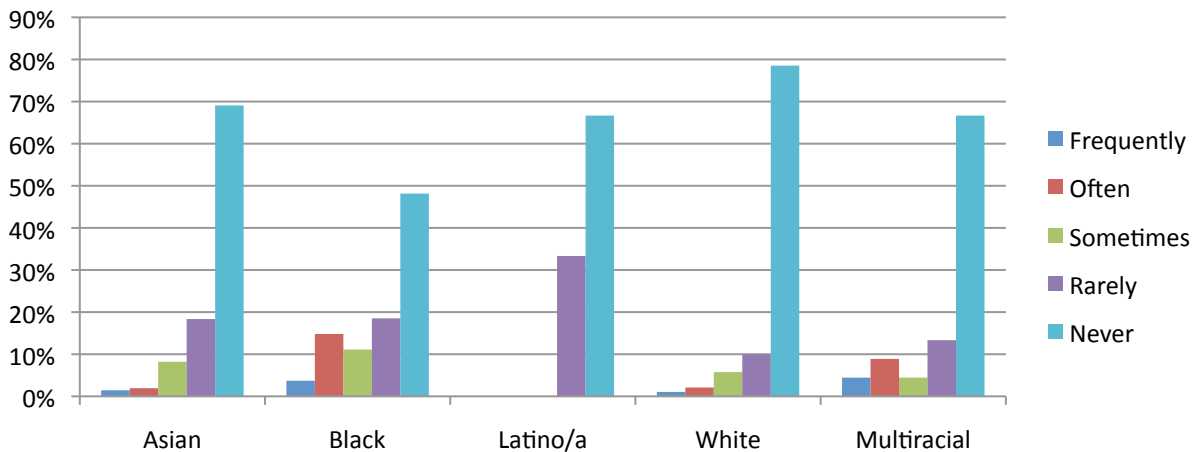


Skipped class in last month

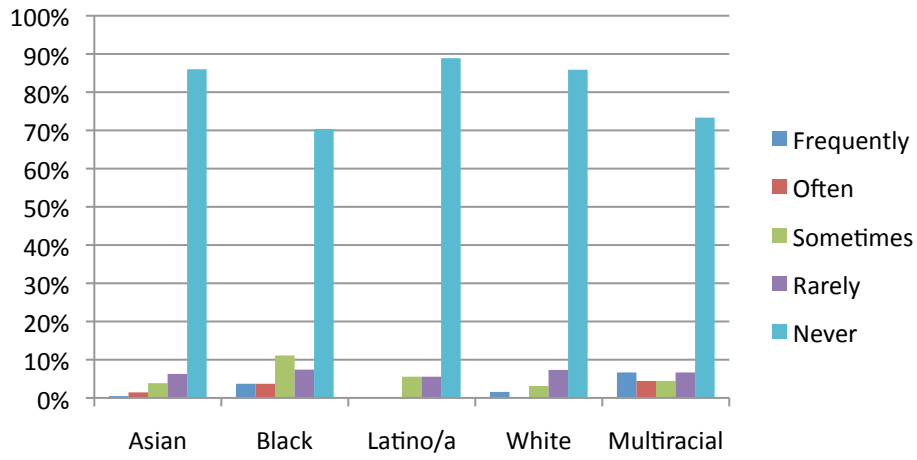


Black students were the most likely to report verbal harassment because of race, and at the highest rates. However, all races reported a substantial amount, although the majority of students reported never being verbally harassed because of race. Reported harassment because of skin color was less frequent, and Black students reported it at the highest rates.

Verbally harrassed because of race

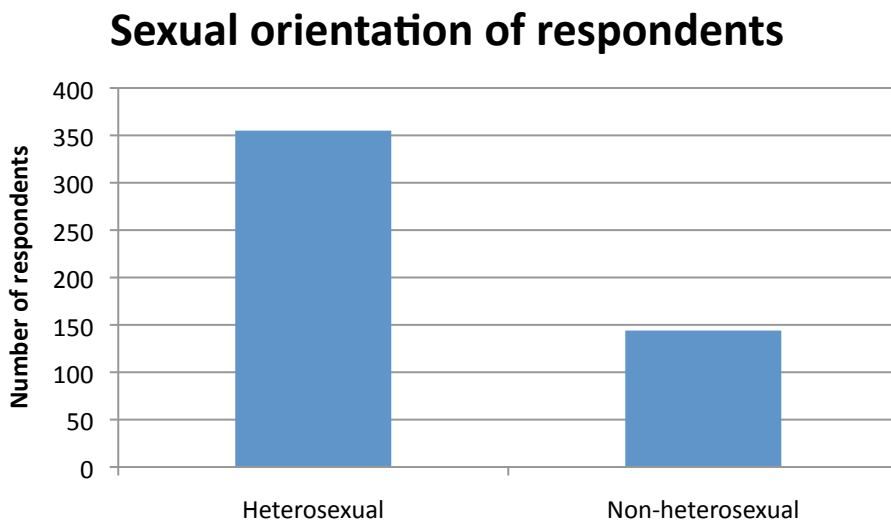


Verbally harrassed because of skin color

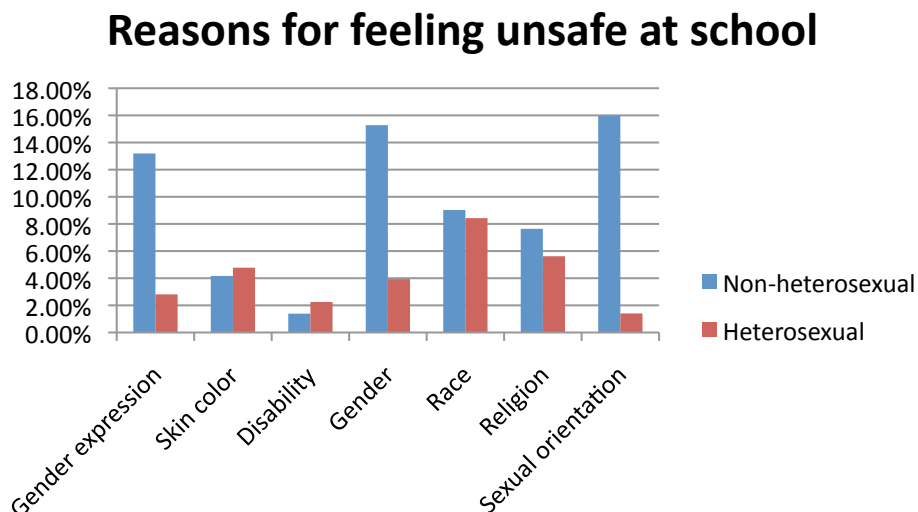


Sexual Orientation

Students were allowed to choose from a variety of responses for their sexual orientation. For the purposes of this analysis, students who responded with anything besides heterosexual were classified broadly as non-heterosexual, which includes gay, lesbian, bisexual, pansexual, and other identifications. Nearly 20% of non-heterosexual students also reported a non-traditional gender, as opposed to 5% of heterosexual students, so issues related to gender will also be seen in these responses.

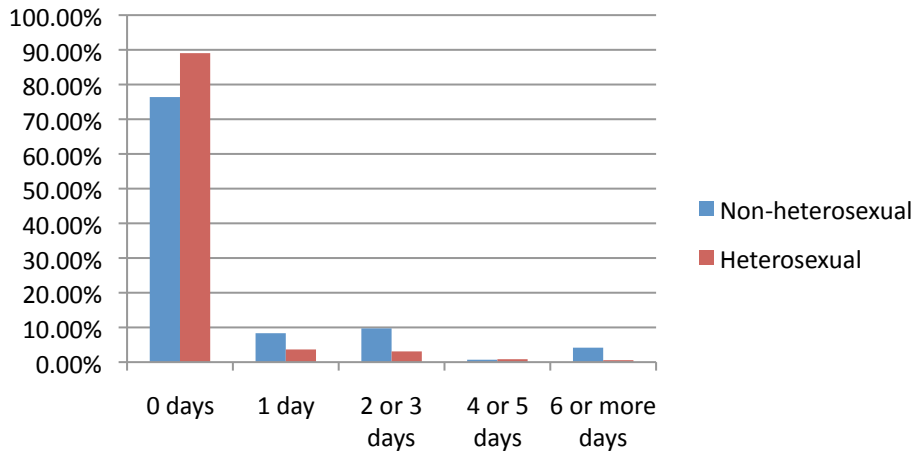


Students who identified as non-heterosexual reported much higher rates of feeling unsafe for gender expression, gender, and sexual orientation than heterosexual students. The highest rate of reported unsafety was nonetheless only 16% of non-heterosexual respondents.



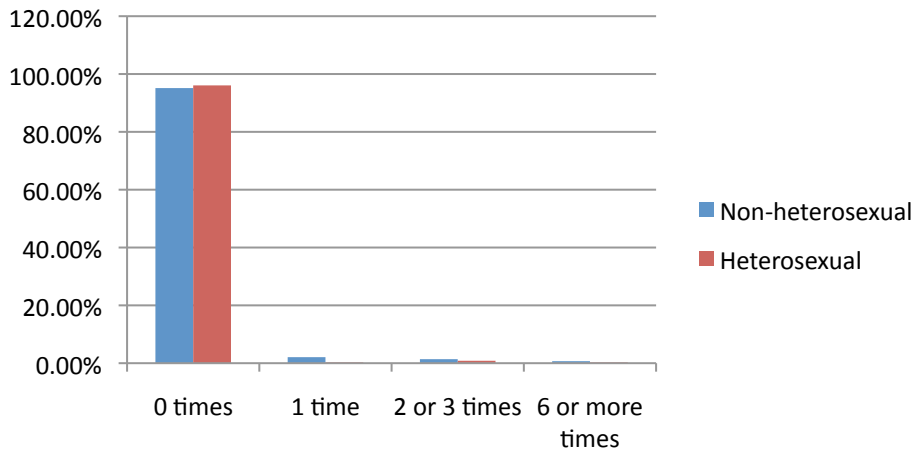
A substantial minority (23%) of non-heterosexual students reported feeling unsafe in their dorms in the previous month. Of those, most reported only a few days where this was the case. Four percent of non-heterosexual students reported feeling unsafe more than six days.

Felt unsafe in dorms last month



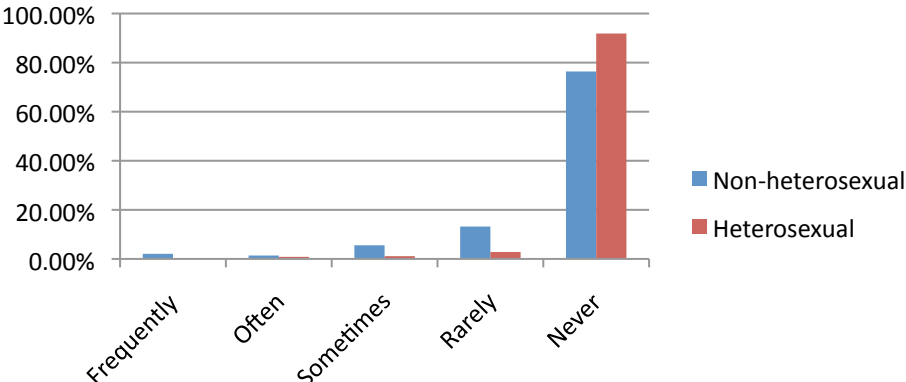
Only a small number of students (11 total respondents) reported skipping class because of feeling unsafe, with the numbers not significantly higher for non-heterosexual students.

Skipped class in last month



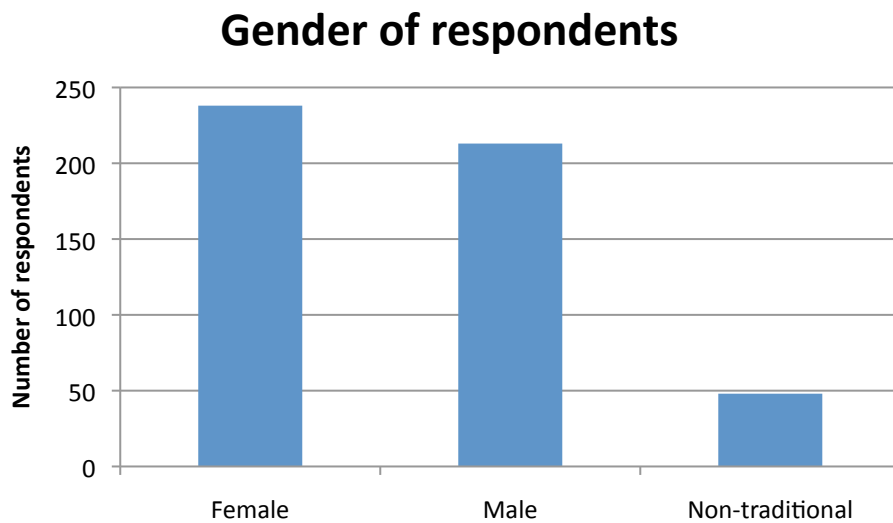
Most students did not report being harassed because of sexual orientation. Those who did were much more likely to be non-heterosexual. Most reported only rarely being harassed.

Verbally harrassed because of sexual orientation



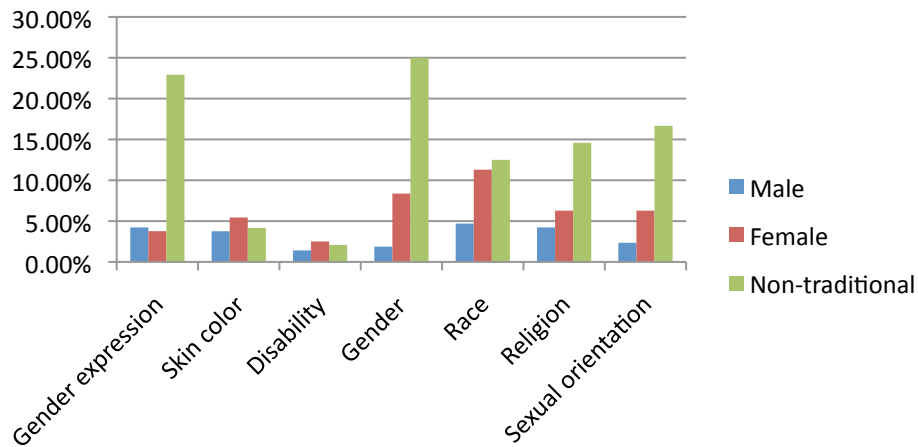
Gender

Students were given a variety of choices for their gender identity. Any choice other than male or female was categorized for this study as non-traditional.

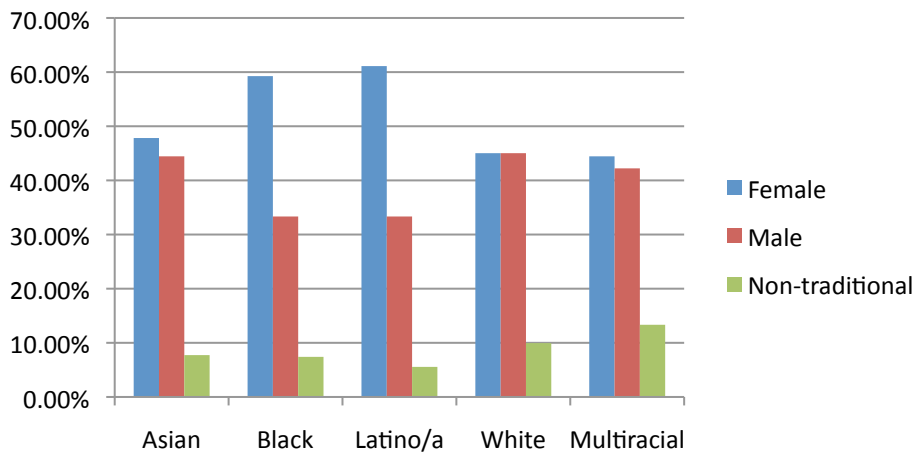


Students identifying with a non-traditional gender reported much higher rates of feeling unsafe for reasons of gender expression and gender, reaching as high as 25% of respondents. They also reported high rates for sexual orientation, race, and religion. The heavy overlap between non-heterosexual respondents and respondents of non-traditional gender explains the high rate of reporting feeling unsafe for sexual orientation. The fact that women reported feeling unsafe because of race much more often than men may be related to the fact that disproportionately large numbers of Black and Latina women responded to the survey. The high rate of reporting feeling unsafe because of religion among students of non-traditional gender cannot be easily explained, since no further information about religion was collected in this survey.

Reasons for feeling unsafe at school

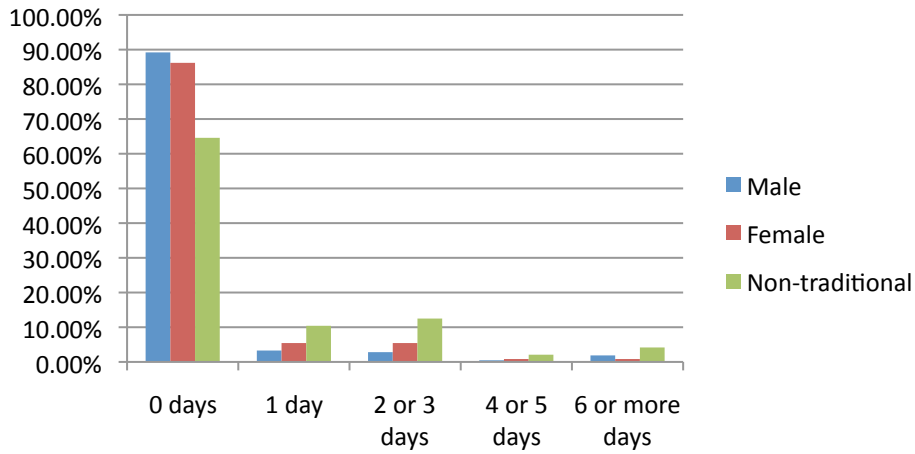


Gender of respondents

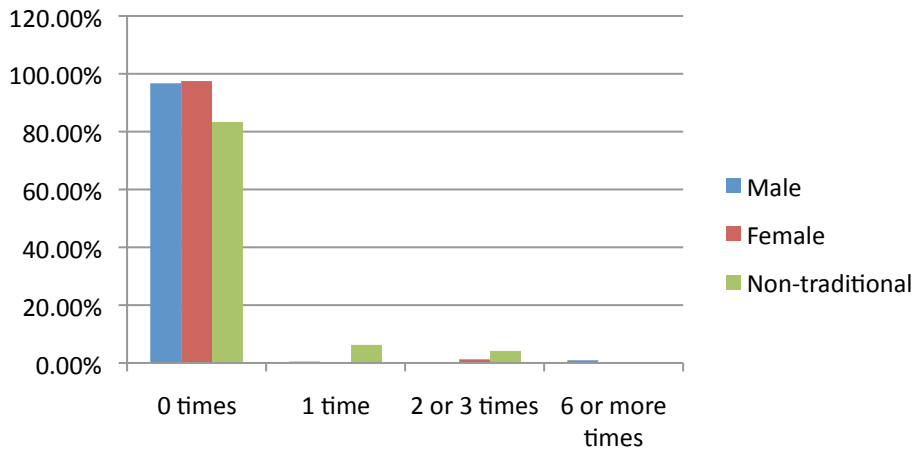


Students of non-traditional gender were much more likely to report feeling unsafe in their dorms (30%) or skipping class because of feeling unsafe (10%).

Felt unsafe in dorms in last month

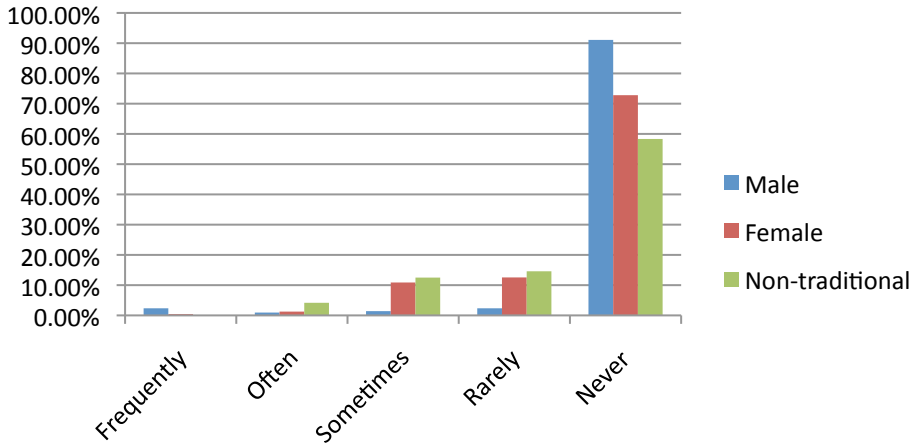


Skipped class in last month

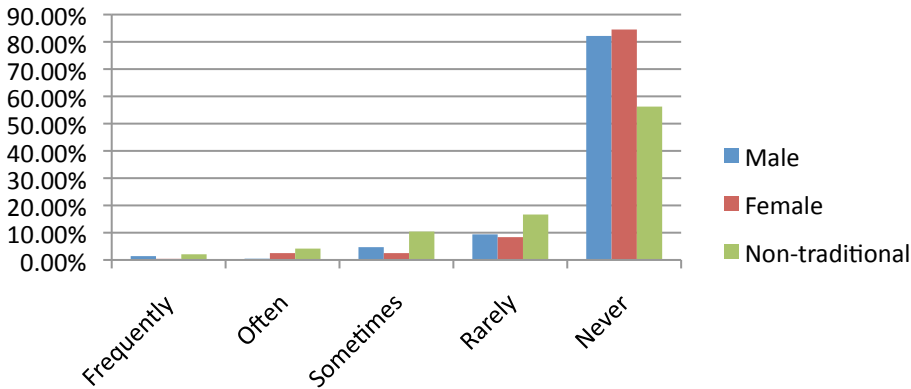


Students of non-traditional gender reported high rates of being verbally harassed because of gender (32%) and gender expression (34%). About half of these reported being harassed rarely, and most of the remainder reported being harassed sometimes. Females reported much higher rates of being verbally harassed because of gender than males, 26% to 7%.

Verbally harrassed because of gender



Verbally harrassed because of gender expression



Summary

The survey indicates that, as the national survey reported, several groups report feeling unsafe or harassed at disproportionate levels: Black, Latino/a, and multiracial students; non-heterosexual students; students who identify as a non-traditional gender; and, to a lesser extent, women. However, the levels reported here are much lower than the national survey on virtually all fronts, and a majority of students of all races, sexual orientations, and genders report no problems at all with feeling safe on campus. Questions on the survey dealing with physical harassment had almost no students reporting difficulty.

This survey provides a good baseline for understanding trends in future administrations of the survey and gives a way to look at the changing environment of IMSA over time. Future surveys could consider

additional questions to help understand students who mentioned feeling unsafe because of religion or a perceived disability.