

# Power Based Violence Task Force

## Presentation of Survey Results

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# Background

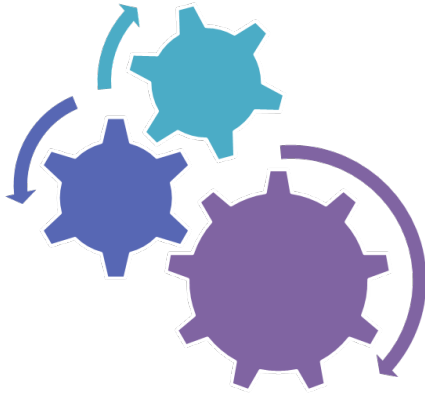
## Nevada Legislation and the Task Force



*Image credit: Microsoft*

- Nevada Revised Statute 396 (NRS 396) and Senate Bill 347 (SB 347), passed during the 81<sup>st</sup> (2021) legislative session, mandated the convening of a Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) Task Force on Sexual Misconduct.
- Per the Task Force's recommendation NSHE contracted The Center for Surveys, Evaluation, and Statistics (CSES) and the Grant Sawyer Center for Justice Studies (GSCJS) at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) to administer a survey to assess sexual misconduct at 7 of the 8 institutions that enroll students.
- The Task Force was subsequently renamed the Power-Based Violence Task Force (PBVTF) during the 82<sup>nd</sup> (2023) Legislative Session through the signing of Assembly Bill 245, and it became effective July 1, 2023.

# Methodology



*Image credit: Microsoft*

- The items in the power-based violence survey were mostly adapted from previous sexual assault surveys conducted at three other Nevada institutions (UNR, GBC, and WNC). All items were approved by NSHE prior to launching the survey. Each institution provided the research team with a contact list of both undergraduate and graduate students, including their first and last name, email address, and class ranking. No high school dual enrollment students were included, and only those students 18 years of age or older were permitted to participate in the survey. The institutions included were College of Southern Nevada (CSN), Great Basin College (GBC), Nevada State University (NSU), Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC), University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), and Western Nevada College (WNC).
- All survey distributions were completed using the software, Qualtrics, via email. The survey was first launched on December 1, 2023, with subsequent reminders sent twice a week. The reminders were distributed to non-respondents on December 6, 2023, December 8, 2023, December 11, 2023, December 14, 2023, December 18, 2023, and December 21, 2023. The survey was closed on December 26, 2023, at 7am.

# Definitions



*Image Credit: Adobe Stock*

- **Power-based violence** refers to any form of interpersonal violence intended to pressure, control, intimidate, or harm another person through the assertion of power over the person. This term includes, without limitation, dating violence, domestic violence, family violence, gender-based violence, violence based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression, sexual misconduct, sexual assault, sexual harassment, sexual exploitation, stalking, and observing another person who is naked or engaging in sexual activity without that person's consent.
- **Sexual misconduct** is a subset of power-based violence and is broadly defined as the use of power or control to intimidate or harass another person through unwanted intimate violence. Examples of sexual misconduct include intimate partner violence and stalking. Sexual misconduct occurs in the absence of consent. There are questions in the survey that address sexual misconduct in greater detail.
- **Sexual assault** is a subset of power-based violence and is defined as any sexual activity that happens without consent. There are questions in the survey that address sexual assault in greater detail.

# Summary of Findings I

- Responses differed between participants by institution type for the following items.
  - Generally, students at each institution reported positive perceptions of their campus leadership.
  - UNR students reported the most negative perceptions compared to UNLV, CSN, NSU, and TMCC.
  - However, most students reported only moderate perceptions of their campus leaders' abilities to protect their students, handle crises, and provide a good support system.
- Most students indicated that they were not interested in attending programs that prevented power-based violence, and they also were not already involved in such programs. Of those who did express interest, students from UNR expressed the greatest interest and ongoing involvement compared to other institutions.



*Image Credit: Vecteezy*

# Summary of Findings II

- Overall, reports of unwanted sexual experience perpetration and victimization were low.
- Generally, students from UNR reported the most experiences with being victims of, or witnessing, unwanted sexual contact or sexual assault. Additionally, these students had the most negative perceptions toward their campus leaders handling these issues. However, they also reported the most interest in preventing power-based violence through involvement in programs.
- Some students indicated that they had engaged in consensual sex within the past 12 months of taking the survey, with the most participants originating from UNR and NSU. When asked about being victimized by nonconsensual interactions that occurred over social media, the largest proportion of victimization was reported by UNR students.
- About half of the participants from each campus reported having a current romantic partner at the time of the study. However, most comparisons of behaviors enacted by and upon their partner were not significant.

# Survey Participants

The final contact list, compiled from contacts provided from each NSHE institution, yielded 107,386 students. Of those students, 3,298 emails were duplicated, 1,160 emails bounced, and 4 emails failed to send. Therefore, a total of 102,924 students received the survey. Out of the students who received the survey, 5,644 students completed the survey. However, 147 students did not consent to completing the survey; therefore, their surveys were terminated immediately (Figure 1). Thus, only 5,497 surveys had viable data. The response rate of this survey is 5.48%.

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Number of Respondents</b>
College of Southern Nevada	954
Great Basin College	100
Nevada State University	101
Truckee Meadows Community College	226
University of Nevada, Las Vegas	3,217
University of Nevada, Reno	990
Western Nevada College	56
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,644</b>

# Demographics

Students were asked various socio-demographic questions. The frequencies will be presented below by institution.

Figure 3	Race
Figure 4	Sex at Birth
Figure 5	Sexual Orientation
Figure 6	Transgender
Figure 7	Primary Language
Figure 8	International Student
Figure 9	Employment
Figure 10	Financial Support

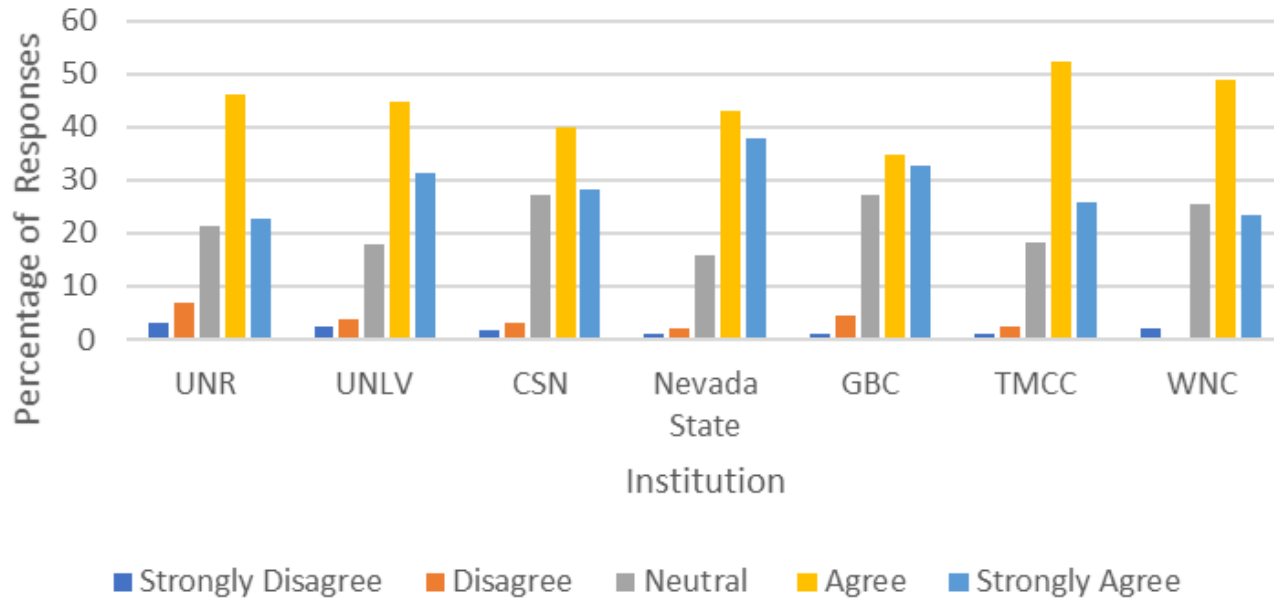


# Survey Sections

- Campus Policies and Procedures
- Bystander Readiness
- Reporting Observations
- Alcohol and Sexual Opportunities
- Power-Based Violence by a Perpetrator
- Relationships
- Interpersonal Violence
- Abuse Norms
- The Perpetrator
- Unwanted Sexual Experiences
- Unwanted Sexual Contact

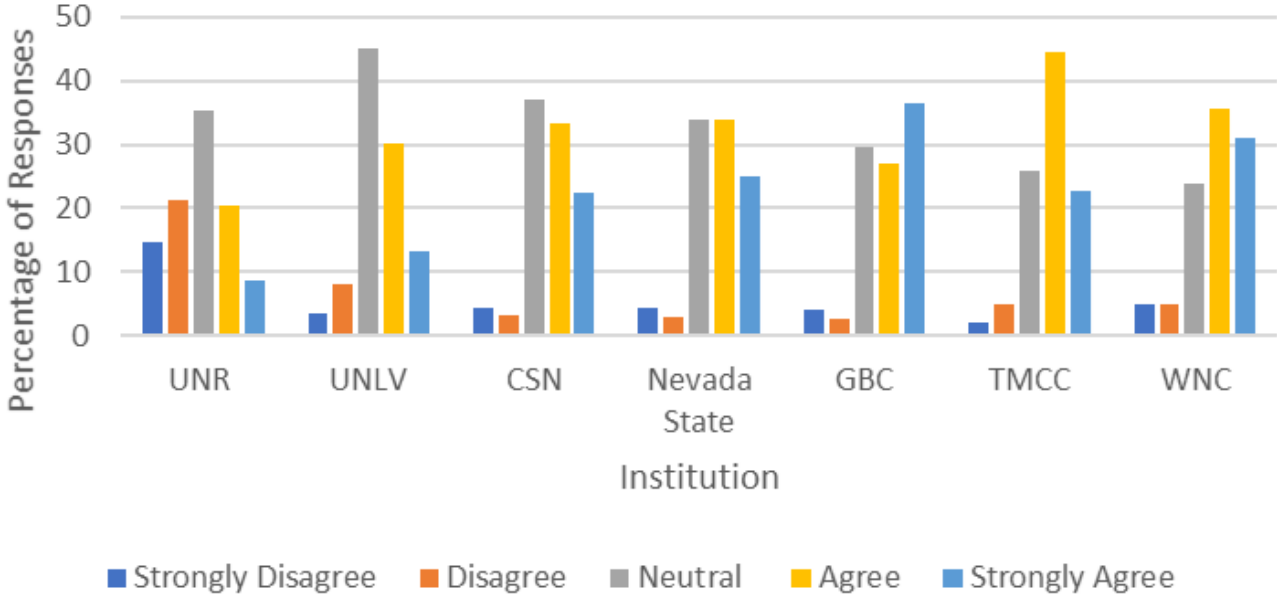
## Campus Policies and Procedures

**Figure 11.** *Campus Leaders: Faculty is genuinely concerned for student welfare*



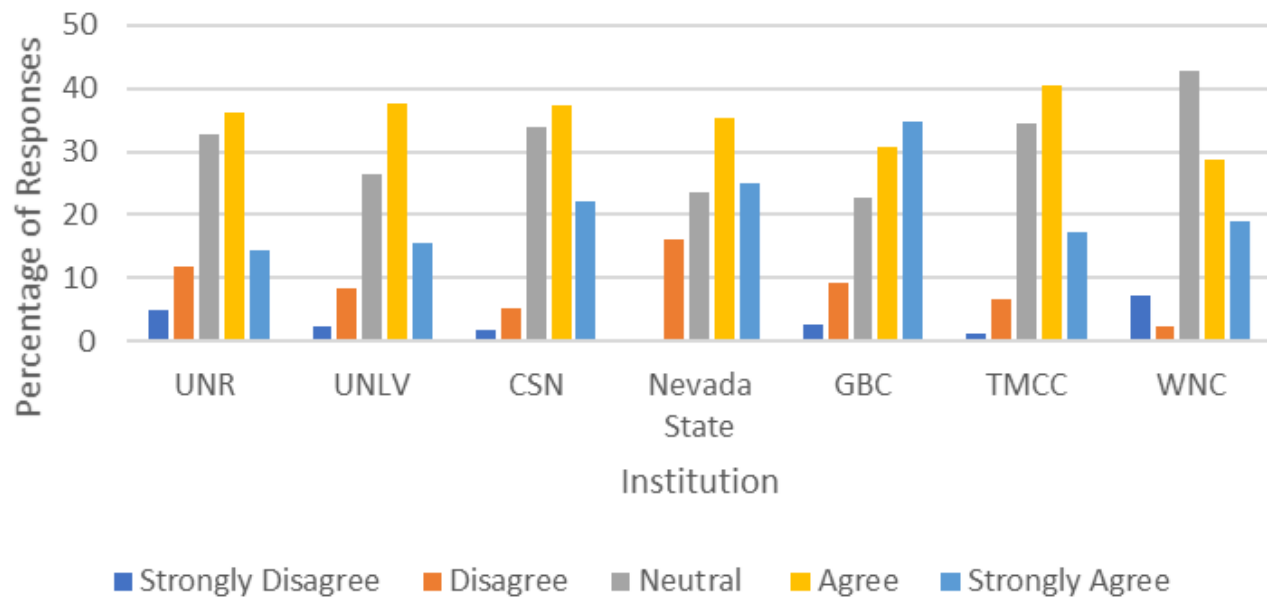
# Bystander Readiness

**Figure 42.** *PBV Beliefs: PBV is a problem at my institution*



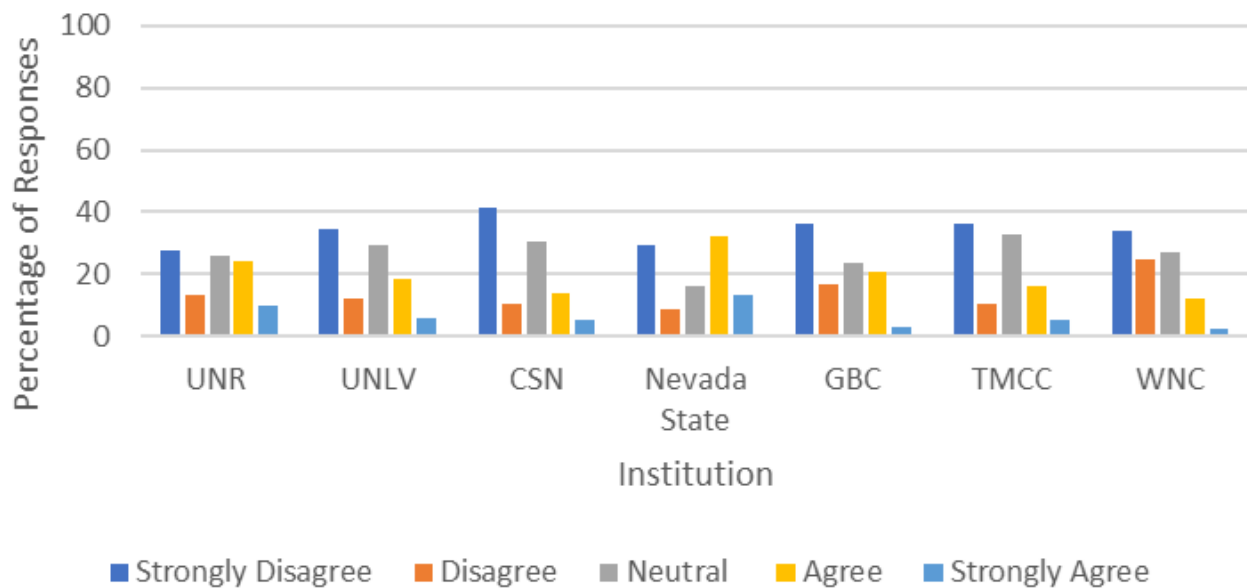
## Reporting Observations

**Figure 46.** *Affect Change: I can affect change if I witness a fellow student in a PBV situation*



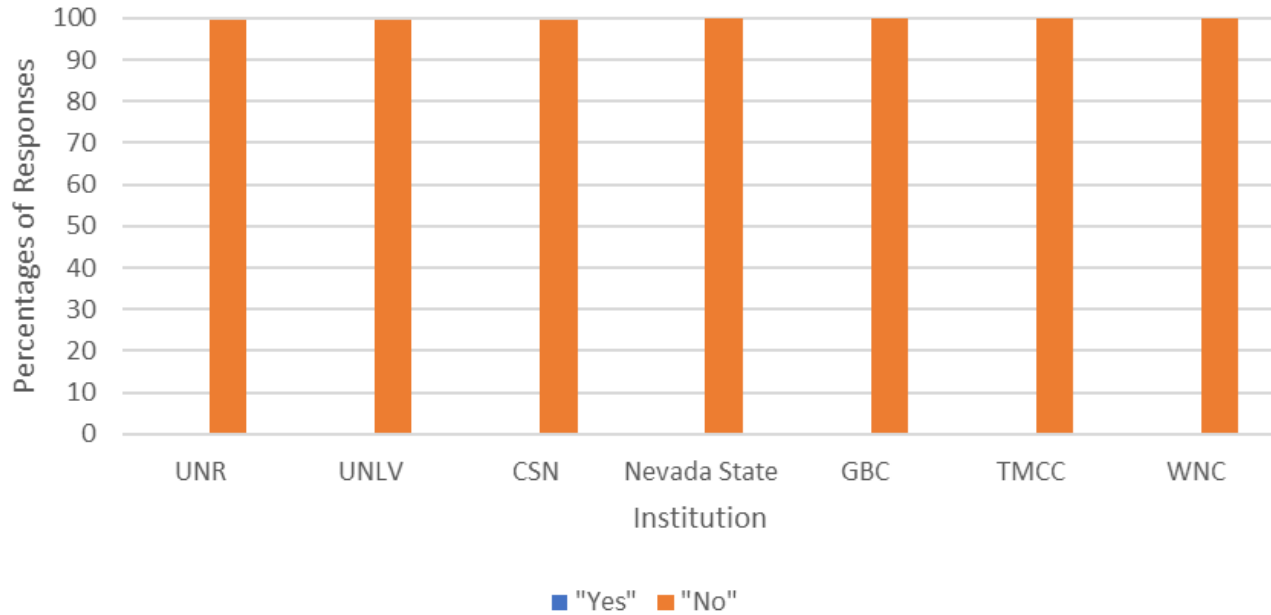
## Alcohol and Sexual Opportunities

**Figure 60.** *Alcohol Effects: Alcohol facilitates sexual opportunities*

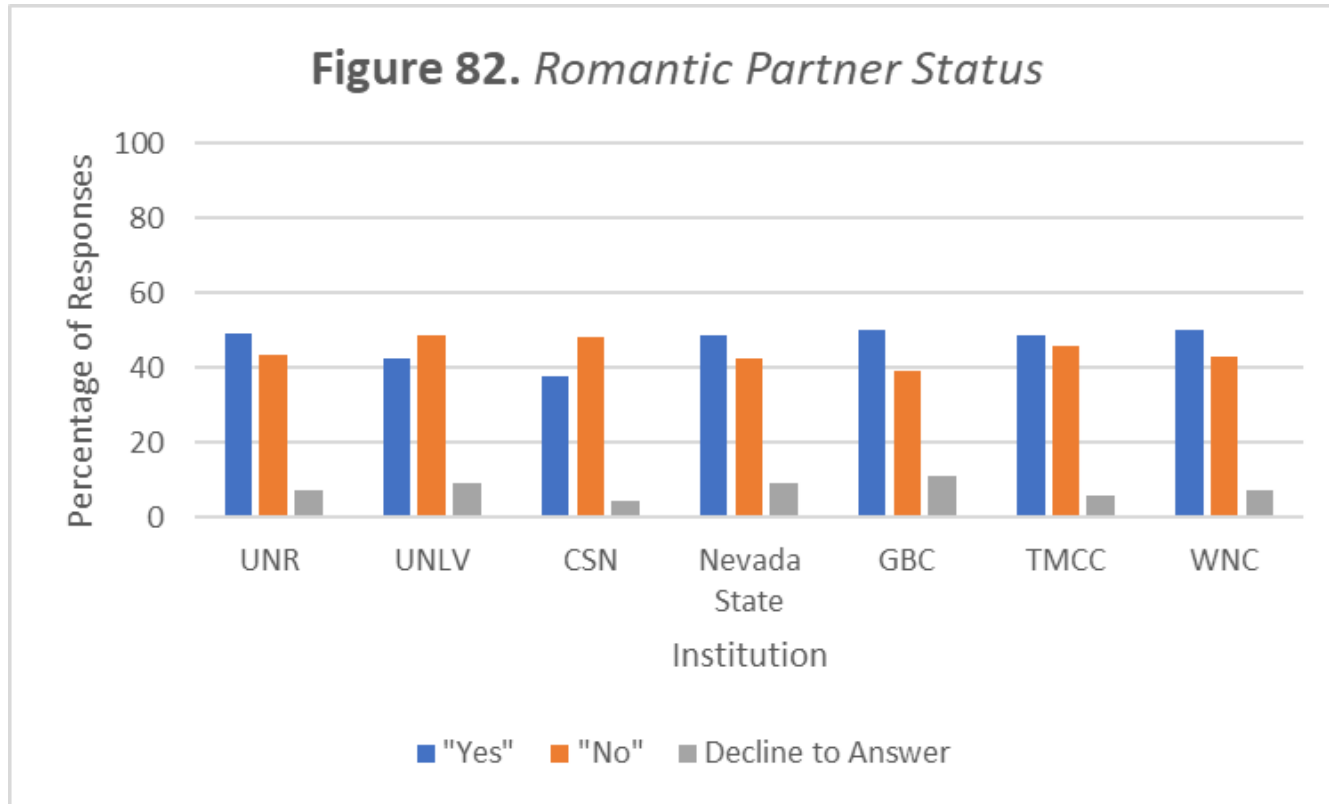


## Power-Based Violence by a Perpetrator

**Figure 65.** *Social Media Perpetration: Used intimidation to force unwanted intimate behavior*

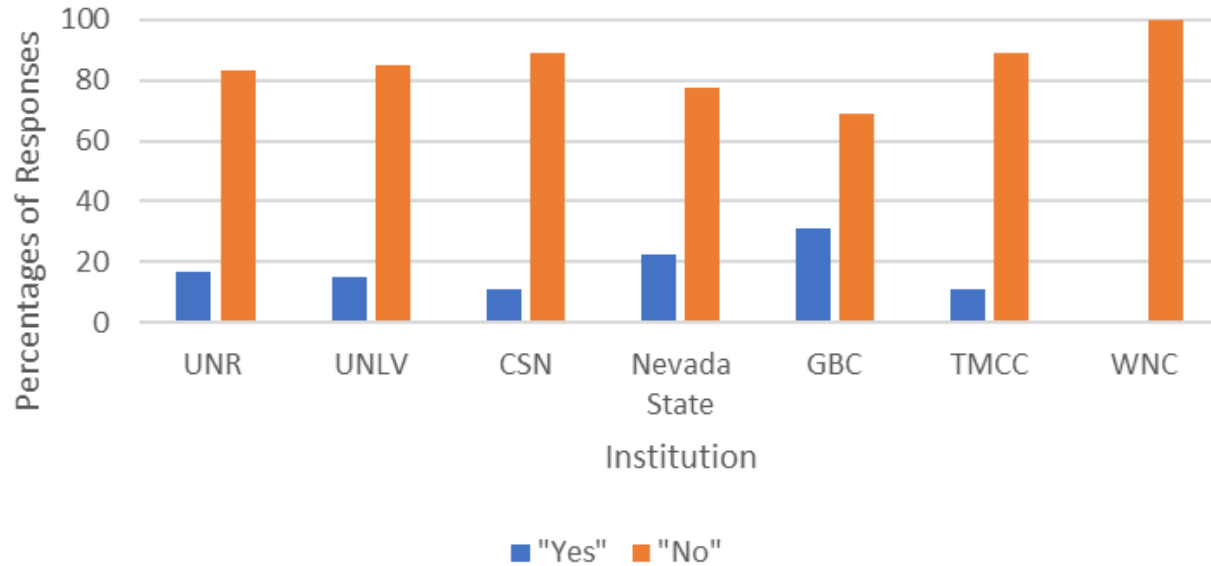


## Relationships



## Interpersonal Violence

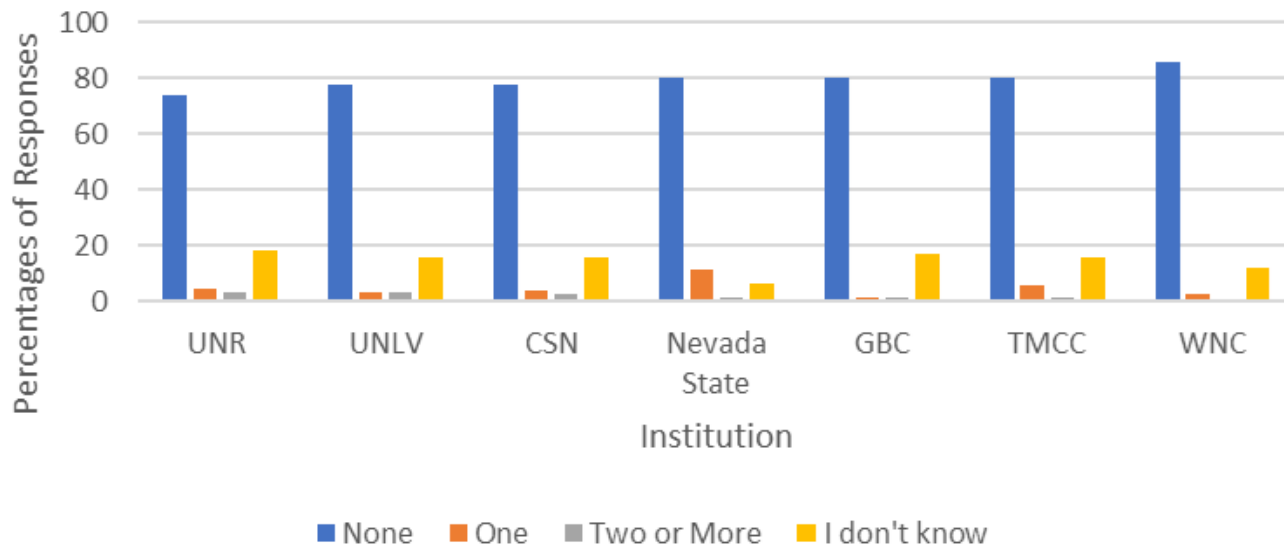
**Figure 83.** *Interpersonal Violence: Victim of interpersonal violence behaviors*





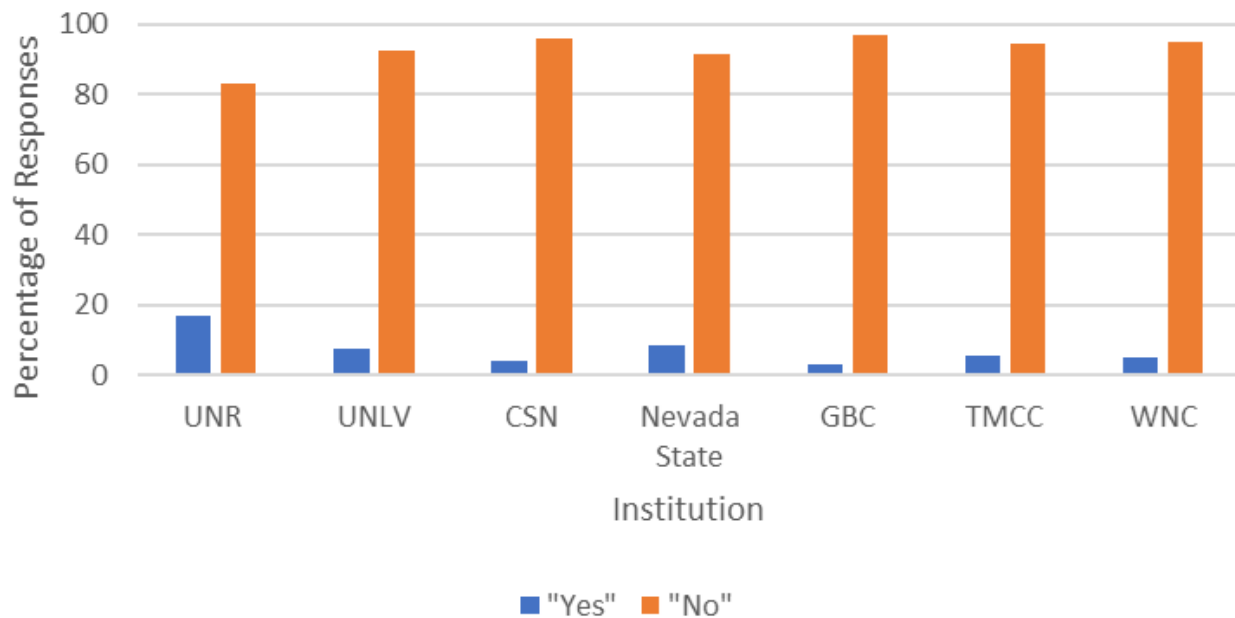
## The Perpetrator

**Figure 84.** *Friend Behavior: Number of friends that used coercion or intimidation to elicit companionship or sex*



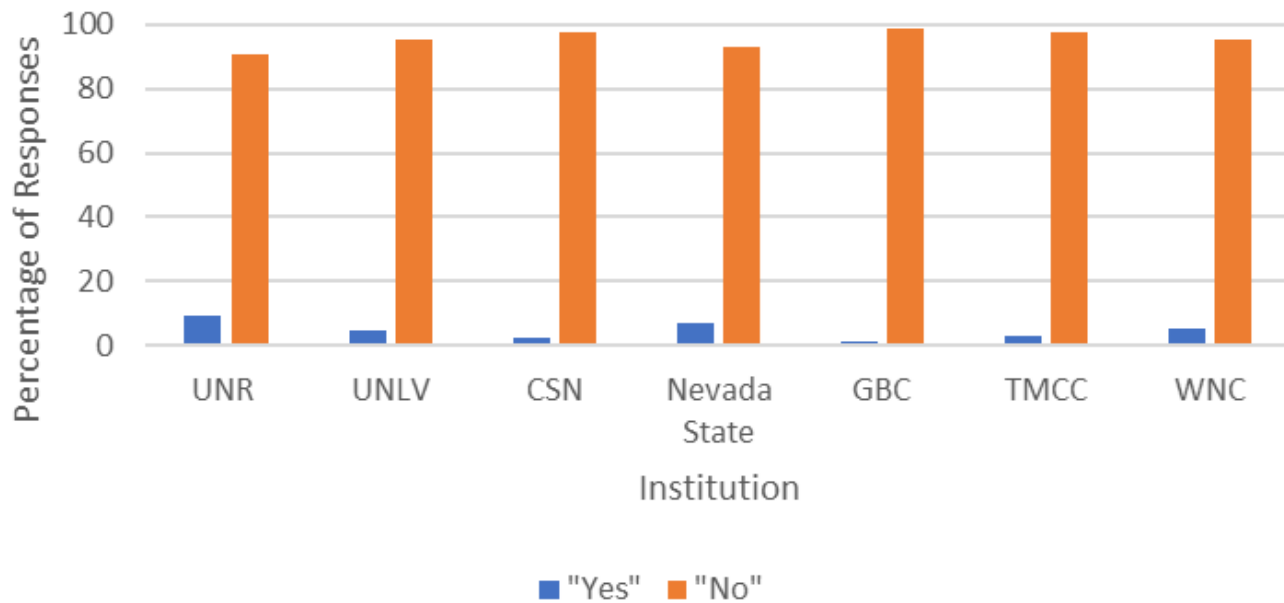
## Unwanted Sexual Experiences

**Figure 86.** *Initial Unwanted Contact:  
Experienced unwanted touching of a sexual nature*



# Unwanted Sexual Contact

**Figure 90.** *Initial Unwanted Contact: Coerced into being sexually available and/or active*





*Image Credit: Vecteezy*

# Discussion