

Sexual Misconduct Campus Climate Survey



Presented by:

Molly Lamping Fleck
Director, Office of Gender Equity

Katy Weseman
Assessment and Evaluation Specialist
Division of Student Affairs

October 2 & October 6, 2025

Survey Context: Base Instrument

- Required survey for all Universities in Illinois
 - To be administered annually, 2025 was the second year
 - Moving to every other year
- Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) provided a 90-question instrument
- We built DePaul's survey in Qualtrics
- We fielded the survey at DePaul from April 2–May 5, 2025
- DePaul made small modifications, where allowed



Survey Context: Survey Structure

- Demographics
- Perceptions of Student Wellness and Campus Safety
- Understanding of Resources
- Consent
- **Sexual and Gender Harassment**
- **Stalking**
- **Dating and Domestic Violence**
- **Sexual Violence**
- Student Outcomes
- Peer Response
- Institutional Response

Bold sections include experience-based questions



Survey Context: Incentives & Promotion

- We offered incentives, including:
 - Amazon gift cards (\$75)
 - Nike backpacks
 - Yeti water bottles
 - Blue Demon dining vouchers
- We advertised the survey (beyond emails):
 - Survey promotion at general Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) April events sponsored by Health Promotion and Wellness and Gender Equity
 - Promotion on SAAM website (go.depaul.edu/saam) while survey was live
 - Social Media posts throughout April



Survey Context: Responses

- **Number of surveys started = 1,995**
 - Compared to 2,053 in 2024
- **Number of surveys completed through Sexual and Gender Harassment block = 1,185**
 - All the data on the following slides is pulled from these respondents, as per IBHE instruction
 - Compared to 1,159 in 2024
- **Number of surveys fully completed = 592**
 - Compared to 602 in 2024
- Survey included demographics categories
 - Age, Gender identity, Race/Ethnicity, Sexual Orientation, Class year, Involvement, Role, College, Living situation, Disability status, Citizenship
 - < 20 respondents = insufficient data
 - Respondents were mostly representative of overall DePaul demographics
 - Variation in responses to most questions by demographic category were minimal



Perceptions of Student Wellness and Campus Safety

Survey Context: Responses

I feel safe on campus	2024		2025		Change (2025-2024)
	Count	%	Count	%	%
Favorable	760	66%	854	73%	7%
Neutral	284	25%	229	19%	-6%
Unfavorable	93	8%	70	6%	-2%

Favorable = Strongly Agree + Agree

Unfavorable = Disagree + Strongly Disagree

Percentages are based on the total number of responses to each question

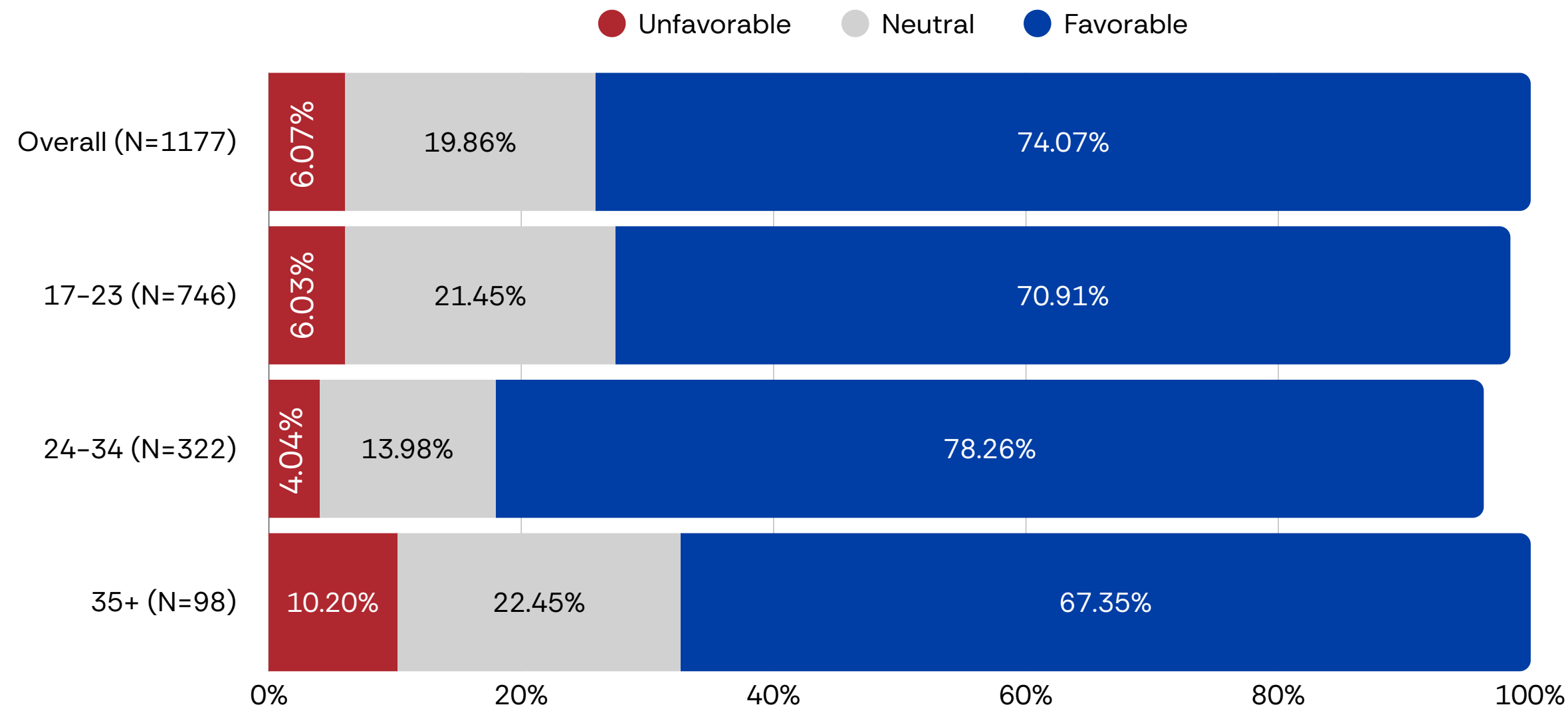
Key Observations:

- Favorable responses increased by 7% (from 66% to 73%), indicating improved perceived safety.
- Neutral and Unfavorable responses decreased, suggesting fewer uncertain or negative views.



Perception of Safety – Age

I feel safe on campus at DePaul University.



Favorable responses Compared to 2024

↑ 9.10% Up

↑ 5.01% Up

↑ 9.26% Up

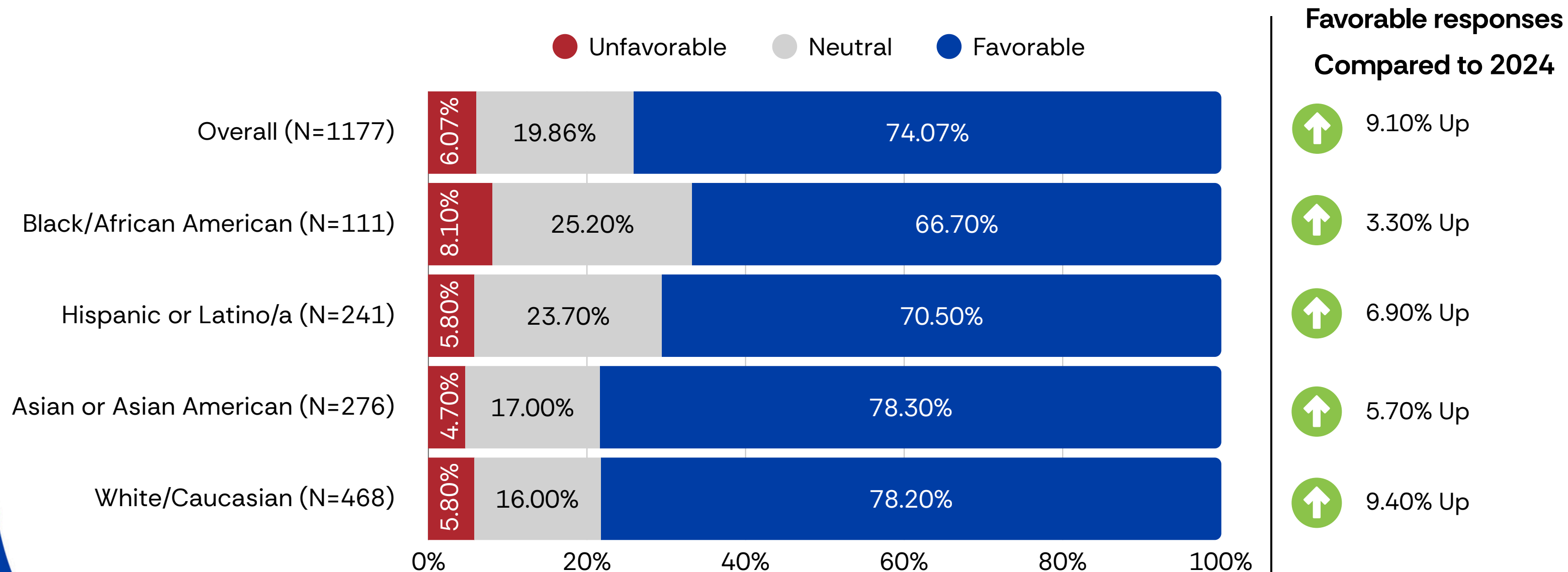
↓ 0.35% Down

Note: Totals do not sum to 100% due to a "prefer not to respond" option



Perception of Safety – Race/Ethnicity

I feel safe on campus at DePaul University.

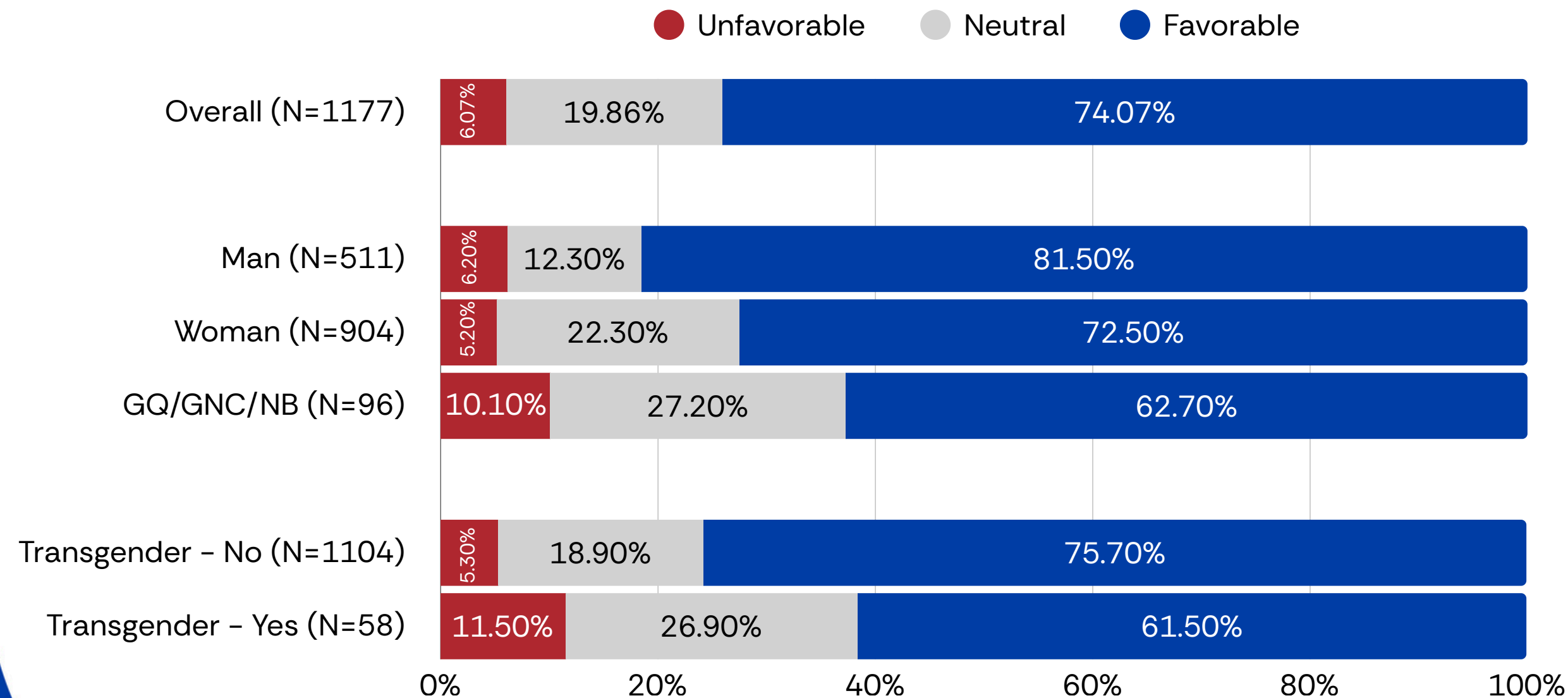


Note: Totals do not sum to 100% due to a "prefer not to respond" option



Perception of Safety – Gender Identity

I feel safe on campus at DePaul University.



Favorable responses Compared to 2024

↑ 9.10% Up

↑ 9.30% Up

↑ 11.20% Up

↑ 0.50% Up

↑ 4.40% Up

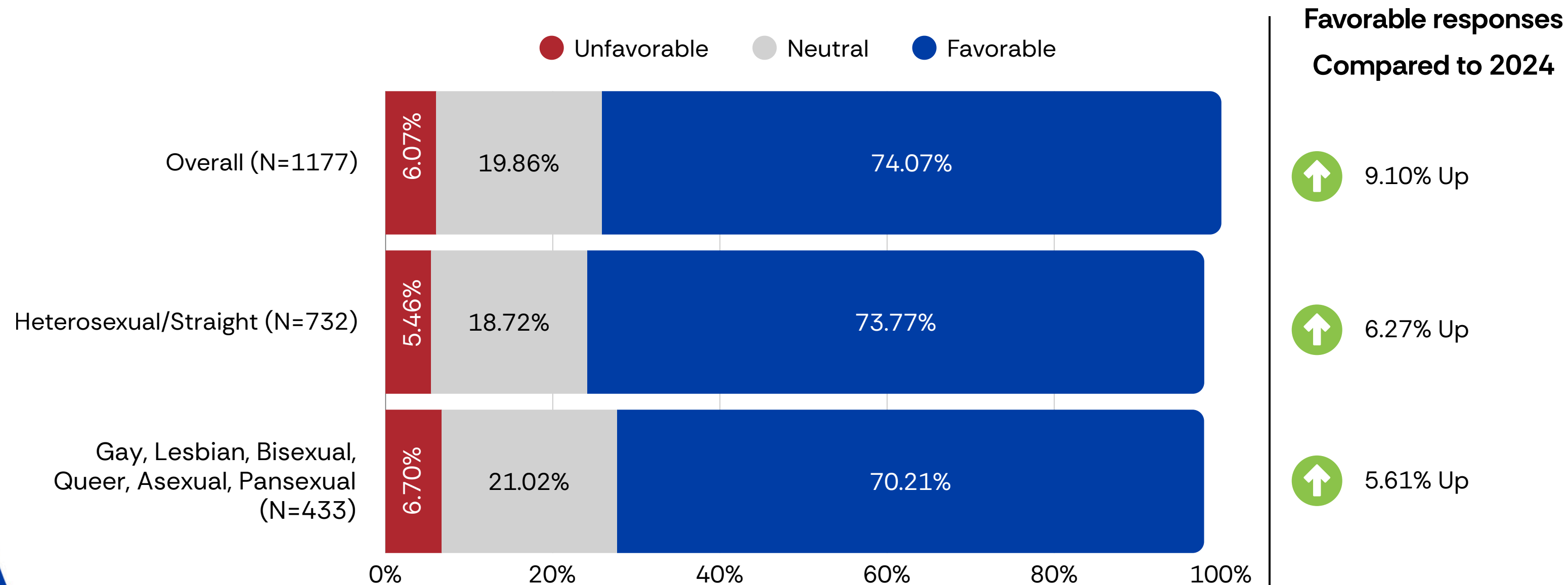
↑ 9.60% Up

Note: Totals do not sum to 100% due to a "prefer not to respond" option



Perception of Safety – Sexual Orientation

I feel safe on campus at DePaul University.

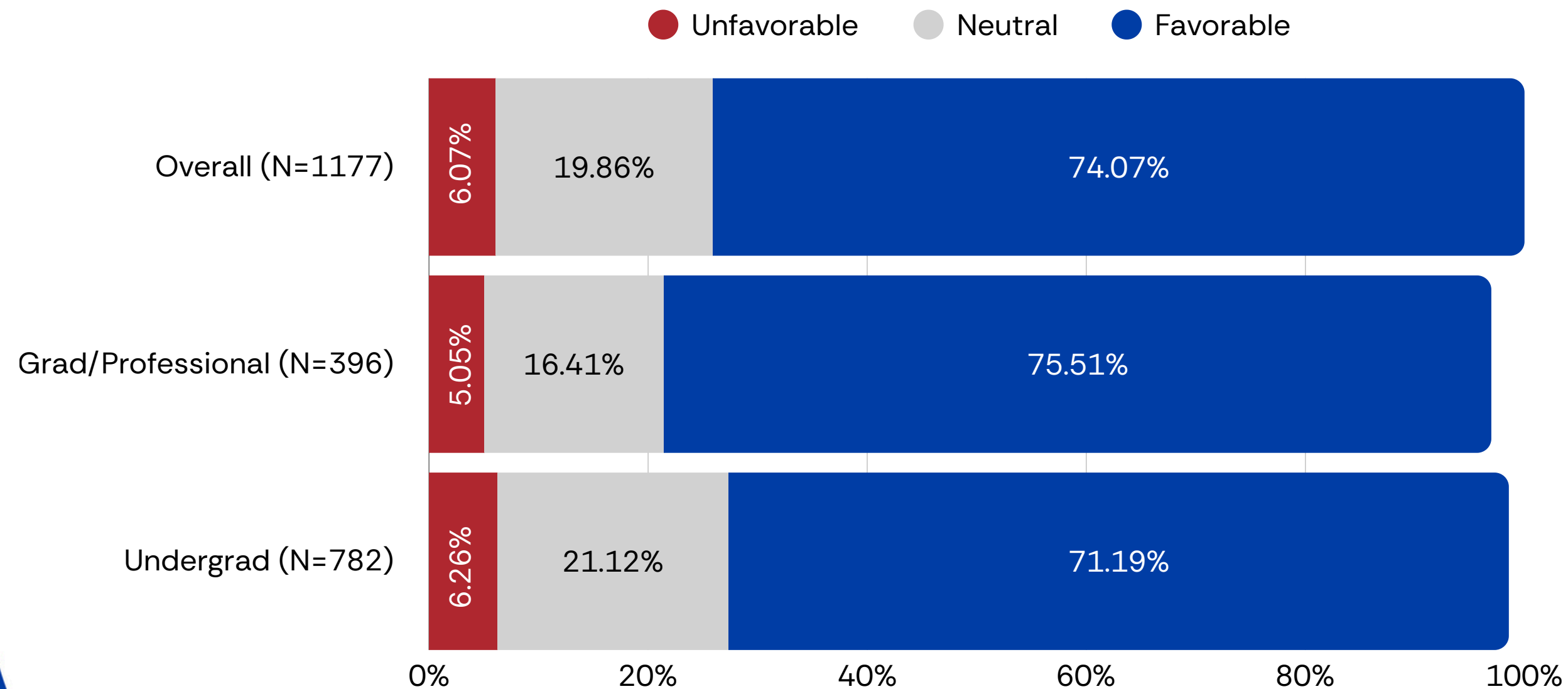


Note: Totals do not sum to 100% due to a "prefer not to respond" option



Perception of Safety – Academic Level

I feel safe on campus at DePaul University.



**Favorable responses
Compared to 2024**

↑ 9.10% Up

↑ 7.19% Up

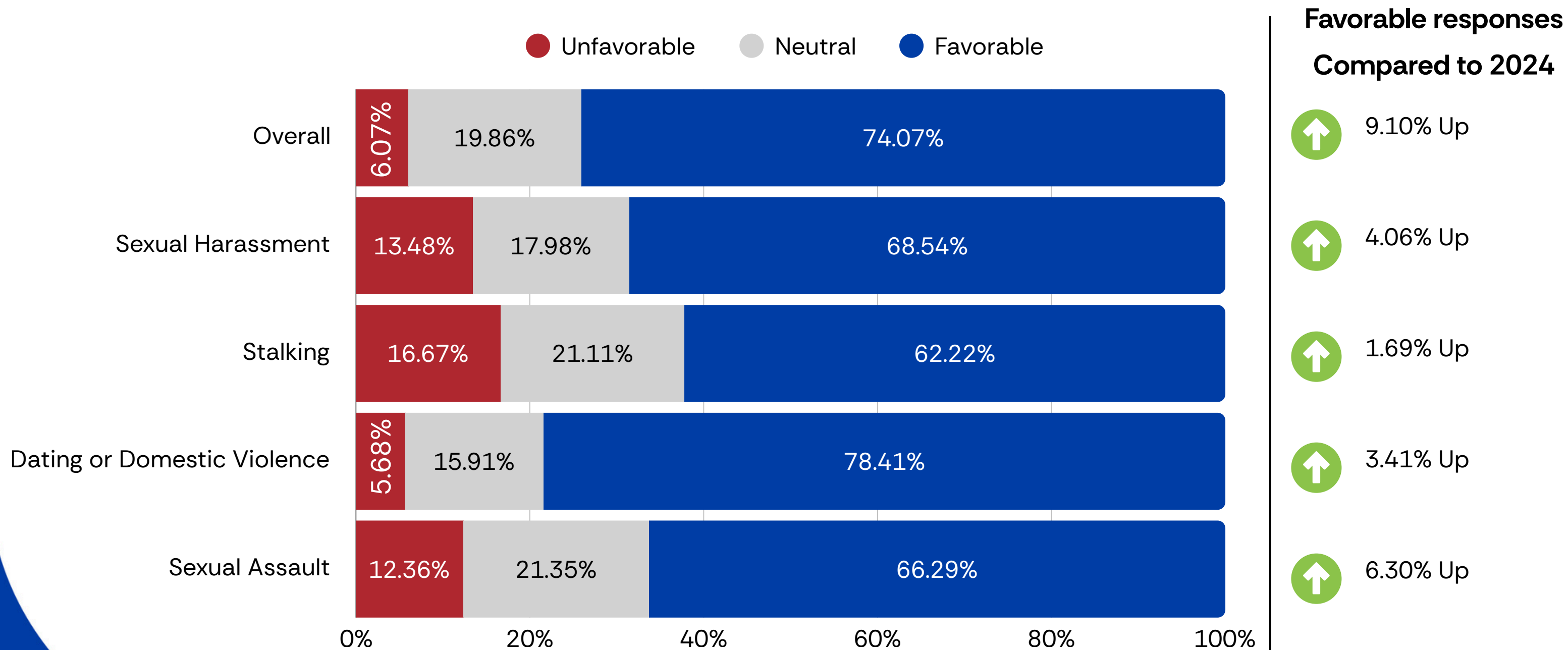
↑ 4.81% Up

Note: Totals do not sum to 100% due to a "prefer not to respond" option



Perception of Safety – Sexual and Relationship Violence

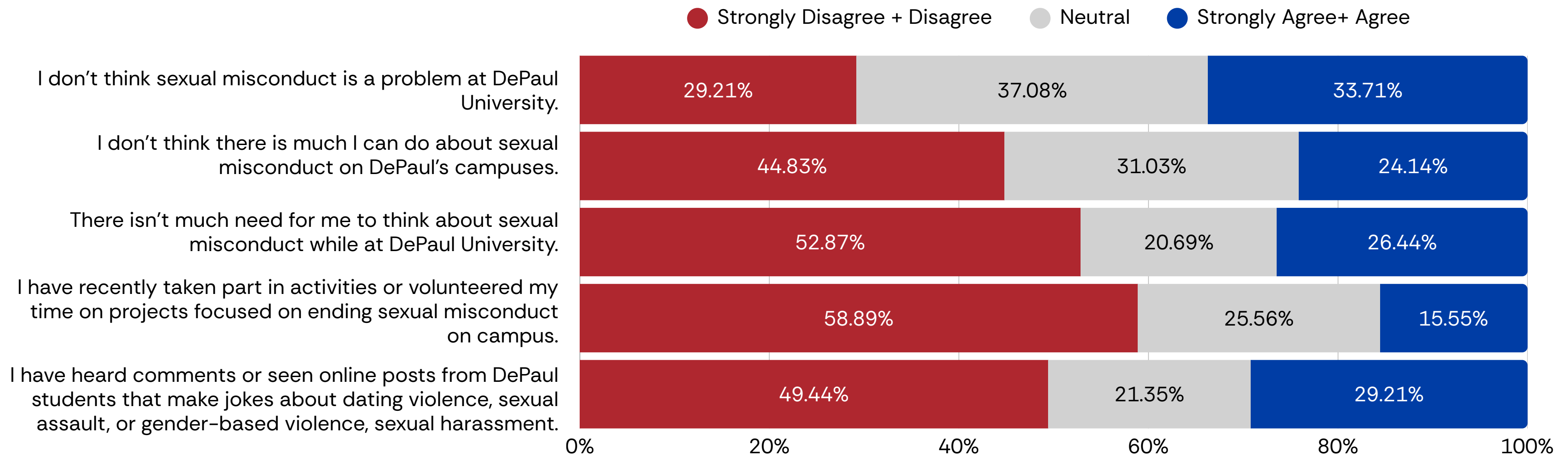
On or around DePaul's campuses, I feel safe from:



Note: Totals do not sum to 100% due to a "prefer not to respond" option



Perception of Sexual Misconduct

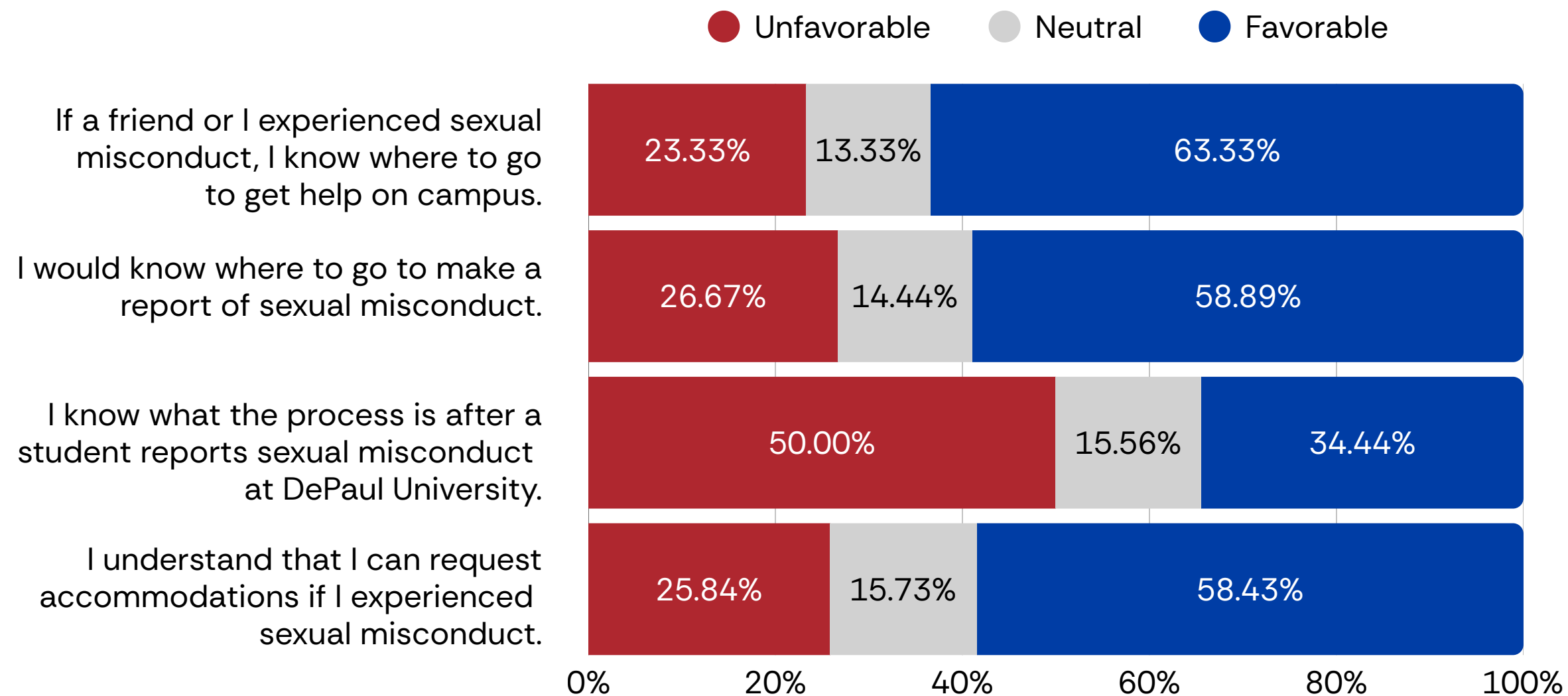


Note: Totals do not sum to 100% due to a "prefer not to respond" option



Understanding of Resources

Awareness of Resources



Favorable responses Compared to 2024

↑ 12.73% Up

↑ 7.29% Up

↑ 5.64% Up

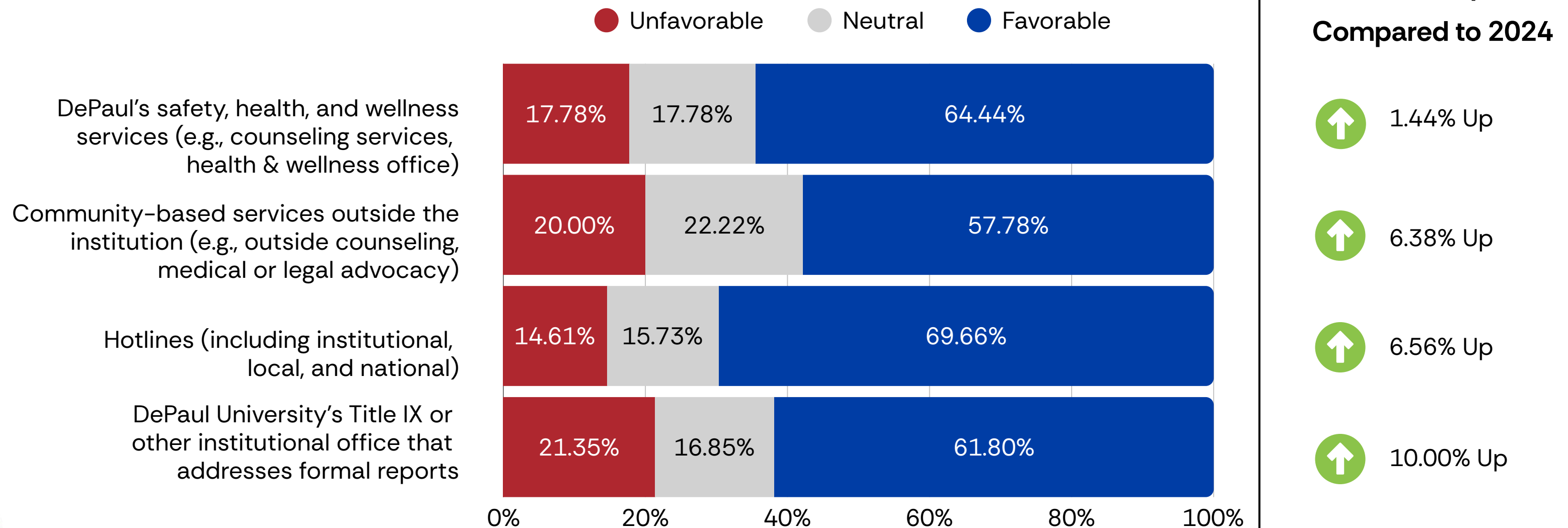
↑ 6.93% Up

Note: Totals do not sum to 100% due to a "prefer not to respond" option



Awareness of Resources – Functions

I am aware of the function of the following campus and community resources related to sexual misconduct:



Note: Totals do not sum to 100% due to a "prefer not to respond" option



Sexual and Gender Harassment

- **Sexual Harassment** refers to behaviors with sexual connotations that interfered with an individual's academic or professional performance, limited the individual's ability to participate in an academic program, or created an intimidating, hostile, or offensive social, academic, or work environment.
- These next questions ask about behaviors you may have experienced while a student at DePaul University in the last 12 months.



While you have been at DePaul University in the last 12 months, how often have you been in a situation in which someone...?

	% indicating 1+ times (2024)	% indicating 1+ times (2025)	Change
Treated you “differently” because of your gender or sex (ex., mistreated, slighted, or ignored you).	40.50%	37.53%	-2.97%
Made offensive sexist remarks.	37.80%	30.22%	-7.58%
Put you down or was condescending to you because of your gender or sex.	34.00%	29.61%	-4.39%
Made offensive remarks about your appearance, body, or sexual activities.	23.70%	21.39%	-2.31%
Repeatedly told sexual stories or jokes that were offensive to you.	23.30%	19.83%	-3.47%
Made unwelcome attempts to draw you into a discussion of sexual matters (ex. attempted to discuss or comment on your sex life).	23.00%	19.20%	-3.80%
Touched you in a way that made you feel uncomfortable.	20.00%	14.18%	-5.82%
Displayed, used, or distributed sexist or suggestive materials (ex. pictures, stories, or pornography which you found offensive).	19.80%	17.42%	-2.38%
Made unwanted attempts to establish a romantic sexual relationship with you despite your efforts to discourage it.	19.80%	17.04%	-2.76%

Response options for each statement: None, 1 time, 2-3 times, 4 or more times, Prefer not to respond



While you have been at DePaul University in the last 12 months, how often have you been in a situation in which someone...? (continued)

	% indicating 1+ times (2024)	% indicating 1+ times (2025)	Change
Made gestures or used body language of a sexual nature which embarrassed or offended you.	17.10%	14.75%	-2.35%
Continued to ask you for dates, drinks, dinner, etc., even though you said "No."	14.80%	13.98%	-0.82%
Made unwanted attempts to stroke, fondle, or kiss you.	13.20%	8.34%	-4.86%
Treated you badly for refusing to have sex.	10.70%	8.51%	-2.19%
Called you gay or lesbian or other terms related to gender identity in a negative way to others verbally or by text, email, social media, or other electronic means.	10.20%	9.74%	-0.46%
Sent or posted unwelcome sexual comments, jokes or pictures to you or about you by text, email, social media or other electronic means.	9.20%	8.19%	-1.01%
Implied better treatment if you submitted to sexual advances.	7.30%	6.89%	-0.41%
Made you feel like you were being bribed with a reward to engage in sexual behavior.	7.10%	6.11%	-0.99%
Spread unwelcome sexual rumors about you to others by text, email, social media, or other electronic means.	6.10%	6.56%	0.46%
Made you feel threatened with some sort of retaliation for not submitting to sexual advances.	5.80%	5.86%	0.06%

Response options for each statement: None, 1 time, 2–3 times, 4 or more times, Prefer not to respond



- To the statements on the previous slide:
 - 1,185 respondents provided answers
 - **554 (47%)** reported **no instances** in the past 12 months
 - Compared to 38% in 2024
 - **631 (53%)** reported experiencing **1 or more instances to 1 or more of the statements** in the past 12 months
 - Compared to 62% in 2024
- If yes, then:
 - Where the incident(s) occurred
 - Comfortable answering more questions
 - If yes, then:
 - Nature of the experience, the individuals involved, if they told someone about the incident prior to the survey, and if so whom.



Stalking

- **Stalking** refers to repeated (two or more occasions) visual or physical proximity, nonconsensual communication, or verbal, written, or implied threats by an individual that leads to fear for personal safety or substantial emotional distress.
- The next questions ask about instances where someone behaved in a way that made you afraid for your personal safety or caused you substantial emotional distress.



How many times have one or more people done the following things to you in the last 12 months?

	% indicating 2+ times (2024)	% indicating 2+ times (2025)	Change
Watched or followed you from a distance, or observed you with a listening device, camera, or GPS (global positioning system).	6.92%	6.09%	-0.83%
Left you unwanted messages (including text, voice mail or social media messages).	6.55%	6.41%	-0.14%
Approached you or showed up in places, such as your home, workplace, or school when you didn't want them to be there.	3.78%	3.99%	0.21%
Made rude or mean comments to you online.	5.17%	4.65%	-0.52%
Made unwanted phone calls to you (including hang up calls).	4.14%	4.81%	0.67%
Spread rumors about you online, whether they were based on truth or not.	3.45%	3.41%	-0.04%
Left you cards, letters, flowers, or presents when they knew you didn't want them to.	0.95%	1.43%	0.48%
Left strange or potentially threatening items for you to find.	0.95%	0.97%	0.02%
Sneaked into your home or car and did things to scare you by letting you know they had been there.	0.86%	1.07%	0.21%

Response options for each statement: None, 1 time, 2-3 times, 4 or more times, Prefer not to respond



Responses to Stalking Questions

- To the statements on the previous slide:
 - 1,185 respondents provided answers
 - **274 (23%)** reported **no instances** in the past 12 months
 - Compared to 71% in 2024
 - **68 (6%)** reported experiencing 2 or more instances in the past 12 months
 - Compared to 18% in 2024
 - 85 (7%) answered “prefer not to respond” to all of the questions
 - Compared to 2% in 2024
- If yes, then similar follow up questions to past section



Dating and Domestic Violence

This next question is about any committed relationships you have been in while you have been at DePaul University in the last 12 months. A committed relationship can be any of the following:

- Marriage or civil union
- Domestic partnership or cohabitation
- Steady or serious relationship
- Other ongoing relationship involving physical or sexual contact



While you have been at DePaul University in the last 12 months, has a partner controlled or tried to control you?

Examples could be when someone:

- kept you from going to classes or pursuing your educational goals;
- did not allow you to see or talk with friends or family;
- made decisions for you such as, where you go or what you wear or eat; and
- threatened to “out” you to others.

Has a partner controlled or tried to control you?	2024		2025		Change
	Count	%	Count	%	%
Yes	31	6%	40	4%	-2%
No	508	93%	1020	91%	-2%
Total responses	539		1060		-

Note: Percentages exclude “Prefer not to respond” (2024: < 20 responses; 2025: 59 responses).



How many times have one or more people done the following things to you in the last 12 months?

	% indicating 1+ times (2024)	% indicating 1+ times (2025)	Change
The person scared me without laying a hand on me.	9.00%	7.10%	-1.90%
The person pushed, grabbed, or shook me.	5.70%	4.50%	-1.20%
The person threatened to hurt me and I thought I might really get hurt.	Insufficient data	3.80%	-
The person blocked my exit or physically restrained me.	Insufficient data	3.40%	-
The person hit me.	Insufficient data	2.10%	-
The person choked me and/or tried to stop me from breathing.	Insufficient data	1.80%	-
The person controlled my finances.	Insufficient data	Insufficient data	-
The person stole or destroyed my property.	Insufficient data	2.20%	-
The person beat me up.	Insufficient data	Insufficient data	-

Response options for each statement: None, 1 time, 2-3 times, 4 or more times, Prefer not to respond

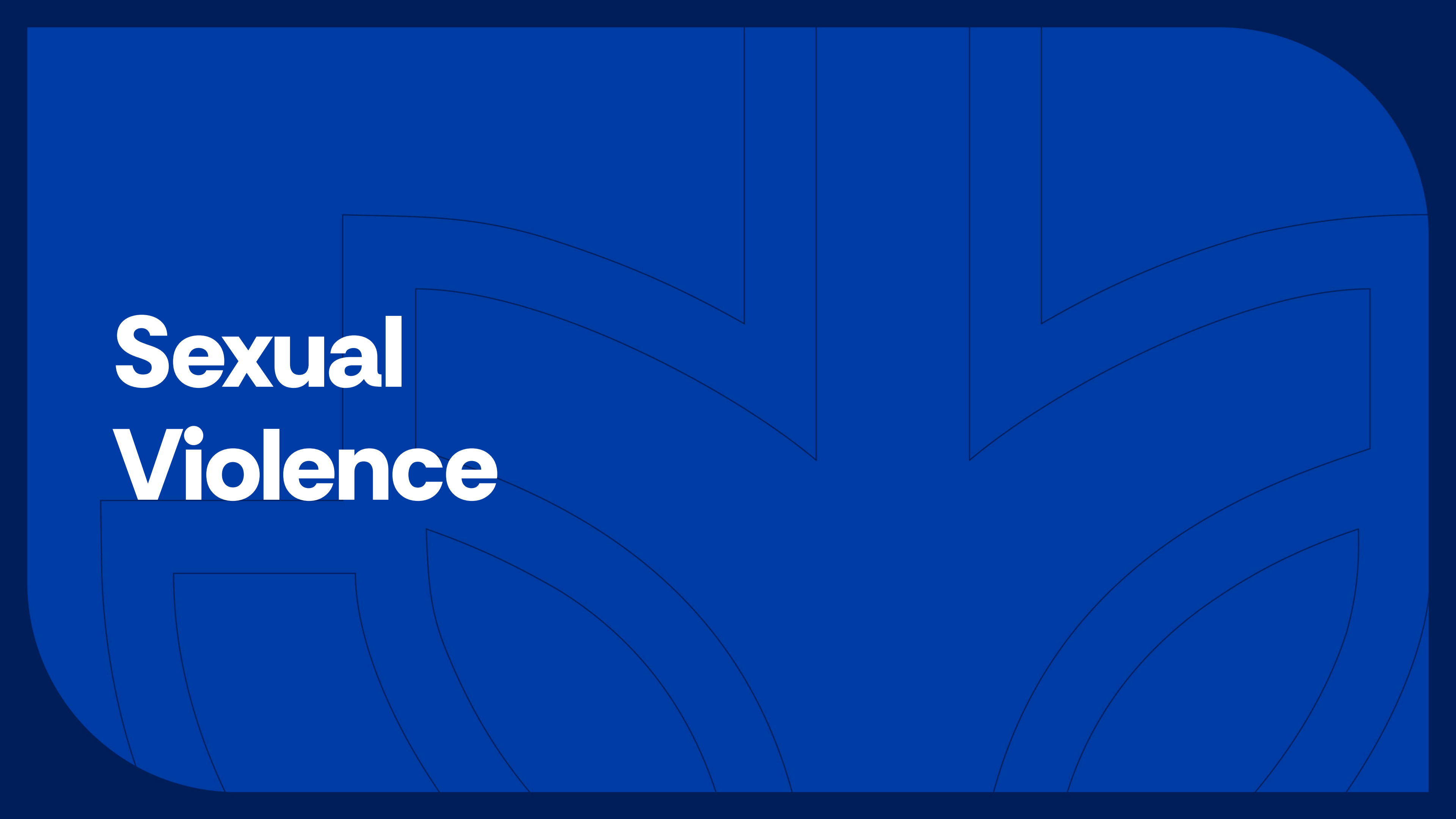


Responses to Dating and Domestic Violence Questions

- To the statements on the previous slide:
 - 1185 respondents provided answers
 - **956 (81%)** reported **no instances** in the past 12 months
 - Compared to 84% in 2024
 - **229 (19%)** reported experiencing **1 or more instances to 1 or more of the statements** in the past 12 months
 - Compared to 15% in 2024
 - 111 (9.4%) answered “prefer not to respond” to all the questions
 - Compared to <20 in 2024
- If yes, then similar follow up questions to past section



Sexual Violence

The background of the slide is a solid dark blue. Overlaid on this are several large, light blue geometric shapes, primarily triangles and polygons, some of which are partially cut off by the edges of the frame. These shapes are defined by thin white lines. The overall composition is abstract and modern.

- **Sexual Penetration** occurs when one person puts a penis, fingers, or object inside someone else's vagina or anus.
- **Oral Penetration** occurs when someone's mouth or tongue makes contact with someone else's genitals.
- **Physical Force** refers to the use of force or threats of physical force against an individual. Physical force could include someone using their body weight to hold the person down, pinning their arms, hitting, or kicking them, or using or threatening to use a weapon against them.
- **Inability to Consent or Stop What Was Happening** refers to when the student was unable to consent or stop what was happening because they were passed out, asleep, or incapacitated due to alcohol or drugs.

The following questions concern sexual experiences that you may have had that were unwanted. They are detailed and ask about specific types of touching. We know that these are personal questions, so we did not ask your name or other identifying information. Your information is completely anonymous. We hope that this helps you to feel comfortable answering each question, but you do not have to.

Answer the next questions about your experience with anyone, regardless of the length of the relationship.



How many times have one or more people done the following things to you in the last 12 months?

	% indicating 1+ times (2024)	% indicating 1+ times (2025)	Change
Someone fondled, kissed, or rubbed up against the private areas of my body without my consent.	11.00%	7.70%	-3.30%
Someone removed some of my clothes without my consent (but did not attempt sexual penetration).	4.20%	3.20%	-1.00%
Someone attempted to engage in nonconsensual sexual contact with me (including oral, anal, or vaginal penetration) even though they were not successful.	4.20%	3.40%	-0.80%
Someone put their penis, fingers, or other objects into my vagina and/or butt without my consent.	3.70%	2.60%	-1.10%
Someone orally or anally penetrated me or made me orally or anally penetrate them without my consent.	2.60%	3.20%	0.60%
Someone forced me to put my penis, fingers, or other objects into their vagina and/or butt without my consent.	Insufficient data	Insufficient data	-

Response options for each statement: None, 1 time, 2–3 times, 4 or more times, Prefer not to respond



Responses to Sexual Violence Questions

- To the statements on the previous slide:
 - 1,185 respondents provided answers
 - **854 (72%)** reported **no instances** in the past 12 months
 - Compared to 83% in 2024
 - **210 (18%)** reported experiencing **1 or more instances to 1 or more of the statements** in the past 12 months
 - Compared to 14% in 2024
 - 121 (10%) answered “prefer not to respond” to all of the questions
 - Compared to 3% in 2024
- If yes, then similar follow up questions to past section



Reports to the Office of Gender Equity

DePaul Reports Compared to Survey Response

Category	2024			2025		
	Reports to OGE	Experiences reported in survey	Concerns reported in survey	Reports to OGE	Experiences reported in survey	Concerns reported in survey
Sexual and gender harassment	29.00%	61.60%	11.10%	41.60%	53.20%	8.80%
Sexual offense (sexual assault)	13.00%	13.80%	14.20%	19.20%	17.70%	9.30%
Dating and domestic violence	12.00%	15.20%	6.10%	23.60%	19.30%	3.10%
Stalking	5.00%	18.00%	14.30%	10.80%	5.70%	11.00%
Sexual misconduct (fondling, etc.)	4.00%	–	–	4.40%	–	–
Other (past trauma, parenting)	7.00%	–	–	11.20%	–	–



Institutional Response

In thinking about the events related to sexual misconduct described in the previous sections, did DePaul University play a role by...

- Actively supporting you with either formal or informal resources (e.g., counseling, academic services, advocacy services, meetings, or phone calls)?
- Taking your report seriously?
- Allowing you to have a say in how your report was handled?
- Ensuring you were treated as an important member of the institution?
- Meeting your needs for support and accommodations?
- Discussing its policies about protection from retaliation?
- Sharing options for academic and other accommodations?
- Giving you information about options through a criminal process?

Response options for each statement: Yes, No, Prefer not to respond, Does not apply



Institutional Response Questions – First Set

- To the statements on the previous slide:
 - 587 respondents provided answers
 - **144 (25%)** answered **yes to 1 or more of the questions indicating they did receive support from DePaul**
 - Compared to 26% in 2024
 - **103 (18%)** answered **no to 1 or more of the questions indicating they did not receive support from DePaul**
 - Compared to 21% in 2024



In thinking about the events related to sexual misconduct described in the previous sections, did DePaul University play a role by...

- Making it difficult to report the experience/s?
- Responding inadequately to the experience/s, if reported?
- Mishandling your case, if disciplinary action was contemplated?
- Covering up the experience/s?
- Denying your experience/s in some way?
- Punishing you in some way for reporting the experience/s (e.g., loss of privileges or status)?
- Suggesting your experience/s might affect the reputation of the institution?
- Creating an environment where you no longer felt like a valued member of the institution?
- Creating an environment where staying at DePaul was difficult for you?
- Responding differently to your experience/s based on your sexual orientation or gender identity?
- Responding differently to your experience/s based on your racial or ethnic background?
- Responding differently to your experience/s based on your disability status?

Response options for each statement: Yes, No, Prefer not to respond, Does not apply



Institutional Response Questions – Second Set

- To the statements on the previous slide:
 - 588 respondents provided answers
 - **72 (12%)** answered **yes to 1 or more of the questions indicating they had a negative experience** with DePaul regarding their experience of sexual misconduct
 - Compared to 16% in 2024
- The 12% who answered yes were asked additional questions about how DePaul played a negative role in their experience
 - An insufficient number of respondents answered yes to any of these specific questions



Resources – Action

Since you came to DePaul University, which of the following have you done? (Select all that apply)

	2024 (N=587)	2025 (N=571)	Change
Discussed the topic of sexual misconduct with friends	69.70%	61.82%	-7.88%
Seen posters about sexual misconduct (e.g., raising awareness, preventing rape, defining sexual misconduct)	64.90%	60.07%	-4.83%
Seen crime alerts about sexual misconduct	60.50%	63.05%	2.55%
Discussed sexual misconduct or sexual assault in class	44.00%	38.53%	-5.47%
Discussed sexual misconduct with a family member	35.40%	33.45%	-1.95%
Seen or heard campus administrators or staff address sexual misconduct	28.80%	26.27%	-2.53%
Seen or heard about sexual misconduct in a student publication or media outlet	25.40%	25.74%	0.34%
Read a report about sexual violence rates at DePaul	21.80%	23.99%	2.19%
Attended an event or program about what you can do as a bystander to stop sexual misconduct	19.60%	20.84%	1.24%
Visited a DePaul website with information on sexual misconduct	18.60%	20.49%	1.89%
Taken a class to learn more about sexual misconduct	6.80%	4.03%	-2.77%
Attended a rally or other campus event about sexual misconduct or sexual assault	5.50%	9.46%	3.96%
Volunteered or interned at an organization that addresses sexual misconduct	5.50%	5.78%	0.28%
Prefer not to respond	4.10%	6.83%	2.73%
Other	8.20%	11.56%	3.36%

Note: Percentages represent "select all that apply" responses and therefore will not sum to 100%.



Resources – Receiving Materials

Since coming to DePaul University, have you received written (e.g., brochures, emails) or verbal information (e.g., presentations, training) from anyone at DePaul about the following? (Select all that apply)

	2024 (N=578)	2025 (N=562)	Change
Student code of conduct	45.50%	50.00%	4.50%
How to report an incident of sexual misconduct	42.40%	49.47%	7.07%
Where to go to get help if someone you know experiences sexual misconduct	40.80%	45.37%	4.57%
Title IX protections against sexual misconduct	39.40%	39.50%	0.10%
The definitions of types of sexual misconduct	38.90%	45.73%	6.83%
How to help prevent sexual misconduct	29.40%	37.37%	7.97%
I do not recall receiving any of the above	28.70%	21.71%	-6.99%
Protections against retaliation against those who experience and disclose sexual misconduct	22.10%	26.51%	4.41%
Prefer not to respond	5.20%	9.25%	4.05%

Note: Percentages represent "select all that apply" responses and therefore will not sum to 100%.



Office of Gender Equity Reporting and Processes

The **Office of Gender Equity** works to create a DePaul free from sex- and gender- based discrimination, harassment, and violence.

Response

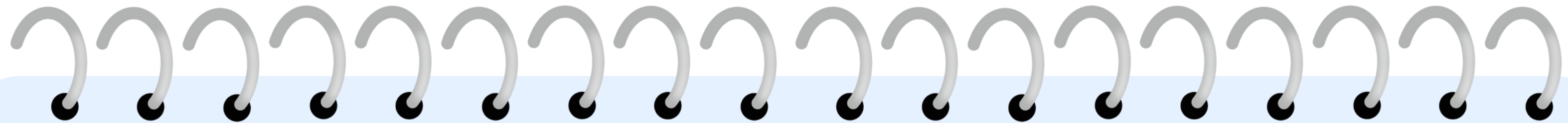
- Receive reports of sex discrimination and harassment
- Investigate complaints
- Provide supportive measures

Prevention

- Training for students, staff, and faculty
- Events for Domestic Violence Awareness Month and Sexual Assault Awareness Month



Responsible Employee



As DePaul employees, you are required to promptly report to OGE and in some cases, your supervisor, any information about alleged discrimination, harassment, or violence.

Please report:

- Names of involved individuals
- Relevant facts, including date, time, location



Why is it important to report to OGE?

- If we don't know that something is happening on our campus, we can't do anything about it.
- Mandatory reporting removes the barrier of power dynamics.
- Reporting creates a paper trail if behavior escalates in the future.
- Students see everyone who works here as "DePaul," so to them, reporting to you is the same as reporting to OGE.



How to Report

- Report via the form on the Gender Equity website – preferred option
- If it is an emergency, call 911 or Public Safety
- Confidential Reporting Resources
 - Health Promotion & Wellness (HPW) survivor support advocates
 - UCAPS counselors
 - Mission & Ministry when acting in pastoral role

How to Report

To report allegations of sex or gender-based discrimination, harassment, or violence (including sexual assault, dating and domestic violence, and stalking), please use the button to complete and submit the report form.

You can also submit a report via phone (312-362-8970) or email (titleixcoordinator@depaul.edu).

Report Now



What happens after a report is made?

- The Impacted Party will get an email from OGE.
- We will meet to discuss the Complainant's rights, options, and supportive measures.
- OGE will launch an investigation under 1 of 3 circumstances:
 - The Complainant wants to.
 - There is a risk to the university community.
 - The Respondent is an employee.



Investigations

- Notice of Investigation sent to Complainant and Respondent
- Interview Complainant, Respondent, and witnesses
- Gather evidence
- Investigators draft a report
- File review
- Decision



Thank You!

- Report will be posted on Office of Gender Equity's website this fall
- Recording will be posted to IRMA's website
- If you have questions, please contact:
 - Molly Lamping Fleck, mfleck4@depaul.edu
 - Katy Weseman, kweseman@depaul.edu

