



## **University student sexual assault and sexual harassment survey**

### **Notes on reading institutional-level data**

This is a note on reading the institutional-level data from the Australian Human Rights Commission *National university student survey on sexual assault and sexual harassment*

harassment, where some or all of the perpetrators were students, teachers or other people associated with the university.

Although the Commission acknowledges that some locations, in particular public transport to and from university, are not within the control of universities, this information has been included because travel to and from university were considered

Cognitive testing of the survey instrument was undertaken by Roy Morgan Research in August 2016 with 15 university students.<sup>1</sup> Upon completion of the survey, each respondent of the cognitive testing phase participated in an in-depth interview regarding their understanding and interpretation of the survey questions. Several key issues with the survey instrument were resolved through this process.

*(b) Sample design and size*

The population of interest for the survey was the Australian university student population aged 18 years and over. A total of 30,930 responses to the survey were received.

The sample was stratified to ensure that the survey responses were representative of the university student population in terms of: gender (male/female), year of study (commencing/continuing), residency (domestic/international) and level of study (undergraduate/postgraduate). This sample design ensured that each university strata was mutually exclusive (i.e. a student could only be selected in one stratum).

The selection of a student was based on a known and equal probability of selection, to be determined by the total population of students within each stratum at each university.

It was anticipated that response rate would be between 10 to 15 %. On that basis the sample drawn for each university was approximately 10,000 (1,500/0.15). For universities with smaller student enrolments, an equal sampling proportion of the university population was drawn.

Each university undertook the strict sampling of their student population and email invitation to the survey following set-up rules provided by Roy Morgan Research.

In total, survey invitations were sent to 319,959 students across the 39 universities via email from September 19, 2016. With a final response from 30,930 students, the overall response rate was 9.7% of issued sample.

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<sup>1</sup> *The students were recruited from Roy Morgan Research's database of previous Roy Morgan Single Source participants who were known to be undertaking a university course of study. The Roy Morgan Research Single Source Survey is a face-to-face interview conducted 50 weeks a year with a weekly sample of approximately 1,000 people drawn from a national sample that is proportional to the Australian population in terms of age, gender and location. Respondents provide extensive detail on a broad range of demographic characteristics (including current and past attendance of university), social attitudes and values, their consumption of consumer goods, their finances and, media habits.*





3. People who had been sexually assaulted or sexually harassed may have chosen not to respond to the survey because they felt it would be too difficult or traumatic. This may also have impacted on the accuracy of the results.

An independent analysis of the data was conducted in order to assess whether any between university response rates and the extent to which people said they had experienced or witnessed sexual assault or sexual harassment.

sexually harassed are more likely to respond to the survey than those who had not. - ple who had been sexually assaulted or sexually harassed choose **not** to respond to the survey because they felt it would be too difficult or traumatic. Either of these can impact on the accuracy of the results.

This analysis found that universities with a higher proportion of survey respondents who said they had witnessed sexual harassment at university in 2016 had higher response rates. This indicates that survey respondents who witnessed sexual harassment in 2016 may have been more likely to respond to the National Survey.

An examination of the responses from men and women revealed that for men, there was a positive association between response rates and experiencing or witnessing sexual assault or sexual harassment.

This indicates that men who had experienced or witnessed sexual assault or sexual harassment may have been more likely to complete the survey. Therefore, caution must be taken in relation to our results which are projected to the population of male students. These may be an overestimation of the rates of sexual assault po0 [n4gA00008871 0 59

