## MIT 2019 AAU Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Misconduct: Bystander Behavior Upon Witnessing Sexual Assault or Other Sexual Misconduct

The survey included questions about four different situations students may have witnessed related to sexual assault or other misconduct since they have been students at MIT, and what action(s) they took, if any.

#### **Sexual Comments**

Since you have been a student at MIT, have you noticed someone at MIT making inappropriate sexual comments about someone else's appearance, sharing unwanted sexual images, or otherwise acting in a sexual way that you believed was making others feel uncomfortable or offended? Overall, 21.2% of students indicated they noticed this type of incident. Among these, 67.5% took some type of action, with 40.7% who directly intervened or interrupted the situation, or confronted or expressed concern to the person engaging in the behavior.

#### **Sexual Harassment**

Since you have been a student at MIT, have you witnessed a pattern of ongoing sexual comments or behaviors that made you concerned that a fellow student at MIT was experiencing sexual harassment? Overall, 6.0% of students indicated they witnessed this type of incident. Among those who witnessed this type of incident, 80.6% took some type of action, with 26.2% who directly intervened or interrupted the situation, or confronted or expressed concern to the person engaging in the behavior.

#### **Controlling or Abusive to Partner**

Since you have been a student at MIT, have you witnessed someone at MIT behaving in a controlling or abusive way towards a dating or sexual partner? Overall, 9.9% of students indicated that they witnessed such an incident. Among those who witnessed this type of incident, 72.5% took some type of action, with 22.5% who directly intervened or interrupted the situation, or confronted or expressed concern to the person engaging in the behavior.

#### **Sexual Assault**

Since you have been a student at MIT, have you witnessed a situation that you believed could have led to a sexual assault? Overall, 9.4% of students indicated that they witnessed such an incident. Among those who witnessed this type of incident, 78.7% took some type of action, with 48.4% who directly intervened or interrupted the situation, or confronted or expressed concern to the person engaging in the behavior.

67.5% took some type of action upon noticing someone was making others feel uncomfortable or offended	
Checked in with the person who seemed impacted by the behavior	45.2%
Confronted or expressed concern to the person engaging in the behavior	29.4%
Directly intervened or interrupted the situation in the moment	24.3%
Expressed concern to administrators or person in position of authority	6.0%
Sought help from either person's friends	13.6%
Sought help from someone else	8.3%
Did nothing; person impacted appeared to be handling the situation	22.1%
Did nothing because I wasn't sure what to do	22.6%
Did nothing for another reason	12.6%
Other	2.3%

Note: column total exceeds 100%; students were instructed to mark all that apply.

8 out of 10 (80.6%) took some type of action when they were concerned						
a fellow student at MIT was experiencing sexual harassment						
Checked in with the person who seemed impacted by the behavior						
Confronted or expressed concern to the person engaging in the behavior	18.7%					
Directly intervened or interrupted the situation in the moment	15.4%					
Expressed concern to administrators or person in position of authority	13.3%					
Sought help from either person's friends	23.7%					
Sought help from someone else	13.5%					
Did nothing; person impacted appeared to be handling the situation	14.9%					
Did nothing because I wasn't sure what to do	16.3%					
Did nothing for another reason	7.3%					
Other	3.6%					

Note: column total exceeds 100%; students were instructed to mark all that apply.

72.5% took some type of action upon witnessing controlling or abusive behavior towards a dating or sexual partner	
Checked in with the person who seemed impacted by the behavior	59.1%
Confronted or expressed concern to the person engaging in the behavior	17.9%
Directly intervened or interrupted the situation in the moment	9.9%
Expressed concern to administrators or person in position of authority	7.7%
Sought help from either person's friends	31.6%
Sought help from someone else	12.6%
Did nothing; person impacted appeared to be handling the situation	12.1%
Did nothing because I wasn't sure what to do	17.6%
Did nothing for another reason	10.9%
Other	4.5%

Note: column total exceeds 100%; students were instructed to mark all that apply.

78.7% took some type of action upon witnessing situation that could lead to sexual assault	
Checked in with the person who seemed impacted by the behavior	52.9%
Confronted or expressed concern to the person engaging in the behavior	21.3%
Directly intervened or interrupted the situation in the moment	41.6%
Expressed concern to administrators or person in position of authority	3.8%
Sought help from either person's friends	30.8%
Sought help from someone else	18.4%
Did nothing; person impacted appeared to be handling the situation	10.3%
Did nothing because I wasn't sure what to do	13.8%
Did nothing for another reason	7.2%
Other	3.5%
Note: column total average 100%; students were instructed to mark all that apply	

Note: column total exceeds 100%; students were instructed to mark all that apply.

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#### 2019 AAU Aggregate as Reference

AAU Aggregate 2019 Actions taken upon witnessing or noticing behavior	Offensive sexual comments		Possible sexual harassment		Controlling or abusive towards sexual partner		Situation may have led to a sexual assault	
Checked in with the person who seemed impacted by the behavior		46.8%		63.9%		61.6%		50.3%
Confronted or expressed concern to the person engaging in the behavior		25.6%		20.4%		20.5%		21.3%
Directly intervened or interrupted the situation in the moment		23.1%		19.9%		13.5%		37.0%
Expressed concern to administrators or person in position of authority		5.0%		10.0%		3.6%		3.0%
Sought help from either person's friends		12.2%		20.0%		29.0%		27.5%
Sought help from someone else		7.7%		11.8%		10.7%		13.5%
Did nothing; person impacted appeared to be handling the situation		17.6%		12.8%		11.1%		10.8%
Did nothing because I wasn't sure what to do		20.4%		13.5%		14.4%		14.0%
Did nothing for another reason		12.9%		9.1%		11.7%		9.1%
Other		3.5%		4.2%		3.9%		3.4%

Note: column total exceeds 100%; students were instructed to mark all that apply.

### **Comparing to CASA 2014**

The bystander behavior results from MIT's 2014 Community Attitudes on Sexual Assault (CASA) survey are not comparable to those from the AAU 2019 survey because the questions in the two surveys were different. The same holds true for the AAU 2015 and 2019 surveys; the section on bystander behavior was revised to reflect feedback from the AAU survey design team and campus experts who help design training programs.