

WHO IS COMMITTING SEXUAL AND INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AGAINST LGBTQA+ STUDENTS?

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LGBTQA+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, asexual) students are at higher risk of sexual and intimate partner violence (SIPV) compared to their heterosexual peers, but prevalence rates differ by sub-communities within the LGBTQA+ population.

PRIOR LITERATURE SUGGESTS

- Men commit most sexual violence (SV) against gay and bisexual men, and bisexual and lesbian women
- Men commit most intimate partner violence (IPV) against bisexual women, bisexual men, and gay men



WHAT WE DON'T KNOW

- Who is committing SV and IPV against asexual students?
- Who is committing SV and IPV against transgender, genderqueer, and nonbinary (TGQN) students of different sexual orientations?

CURRENT STUDY

Using the Association of American Universities' (AAU) 2019 Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct data, we analyzed two samples: (1) 23,607 SV survivors and (2) 9,398 IPV survivors (Cantor et al., 2020).

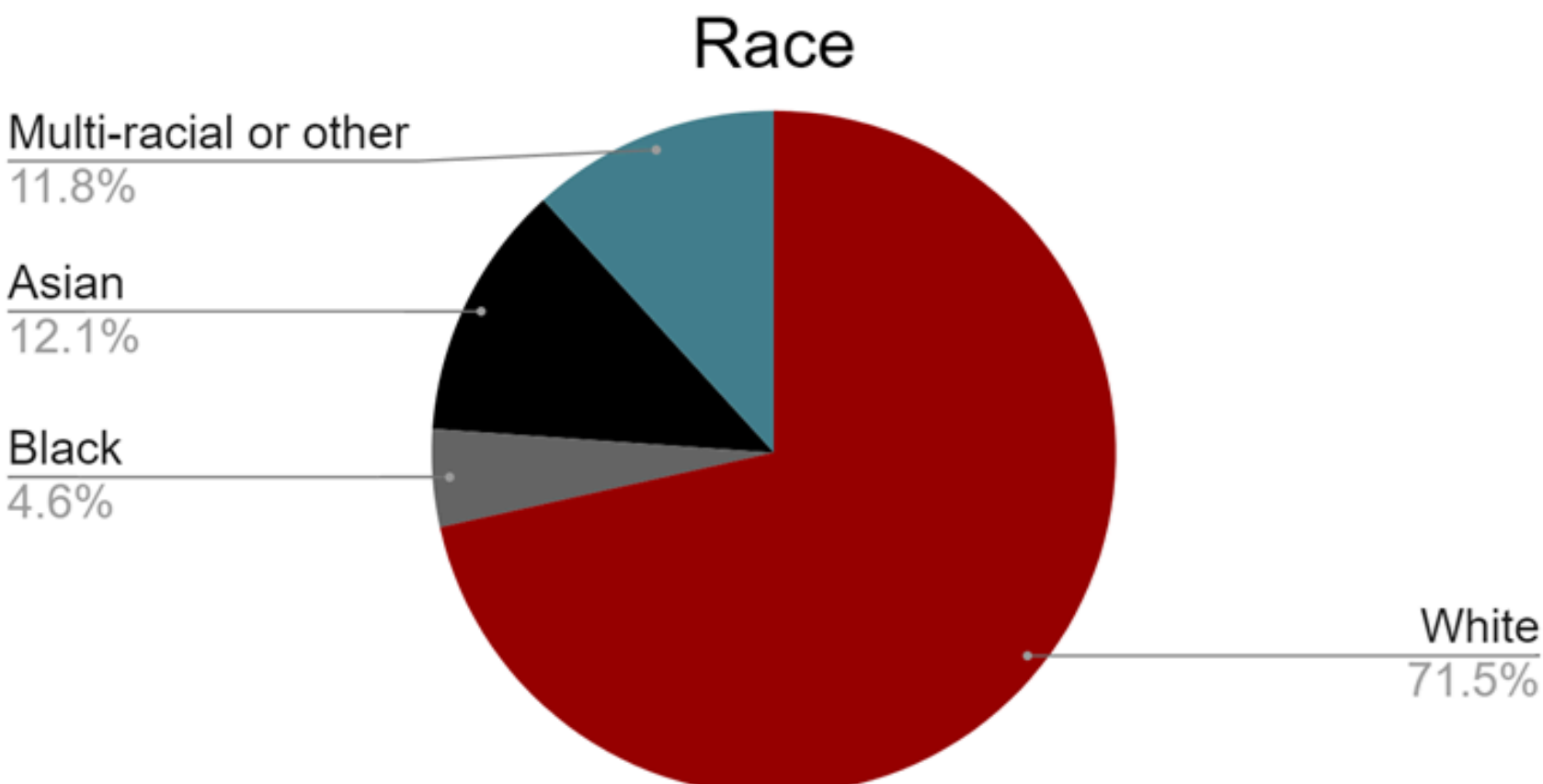
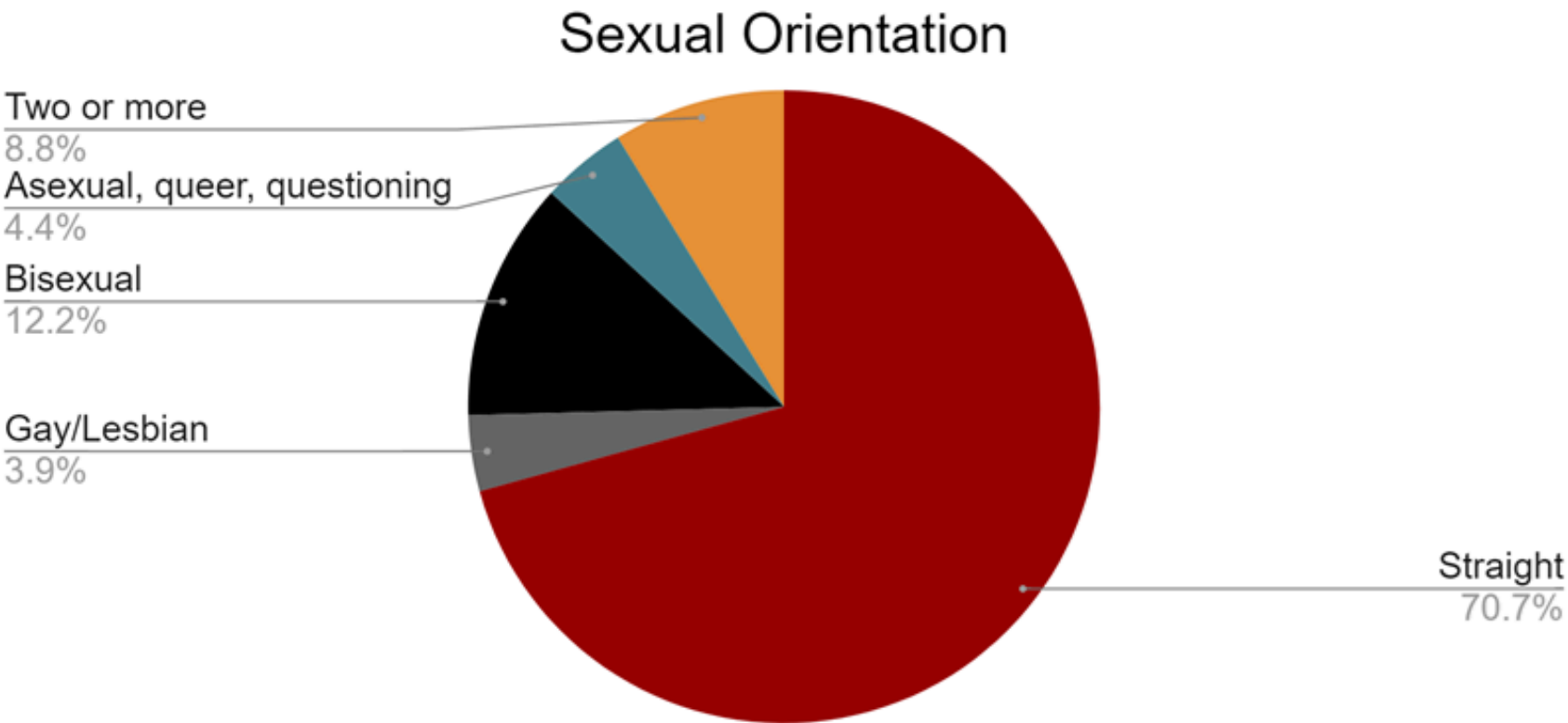
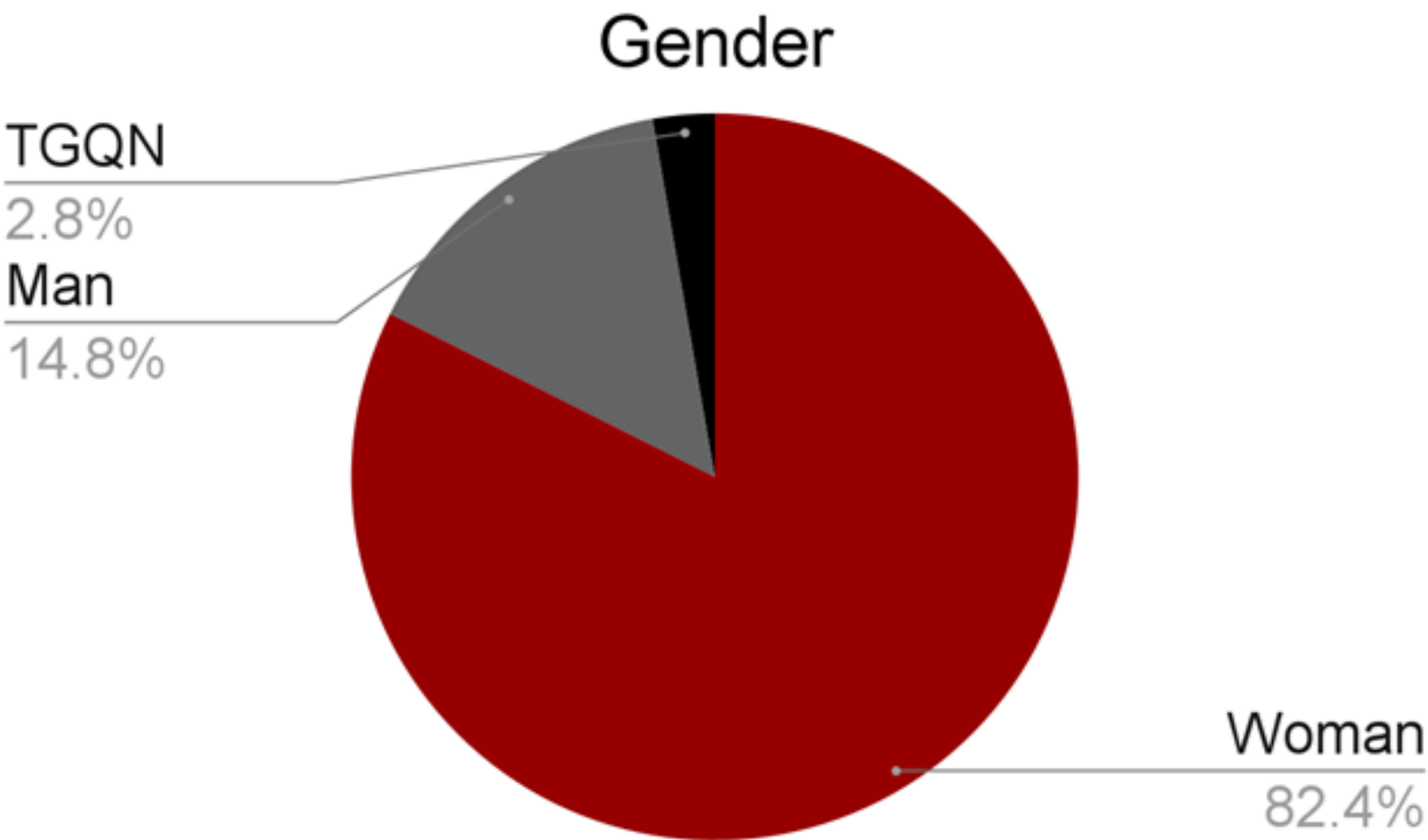


ANALYSIS

Using survivor-reported data about their gender and sexual identities, as well as the gender of their perpetrator, we conducted cross-tabulations to gather descriptive statistics on the gender of transgressors for each sexual orientation by gender of survivor.

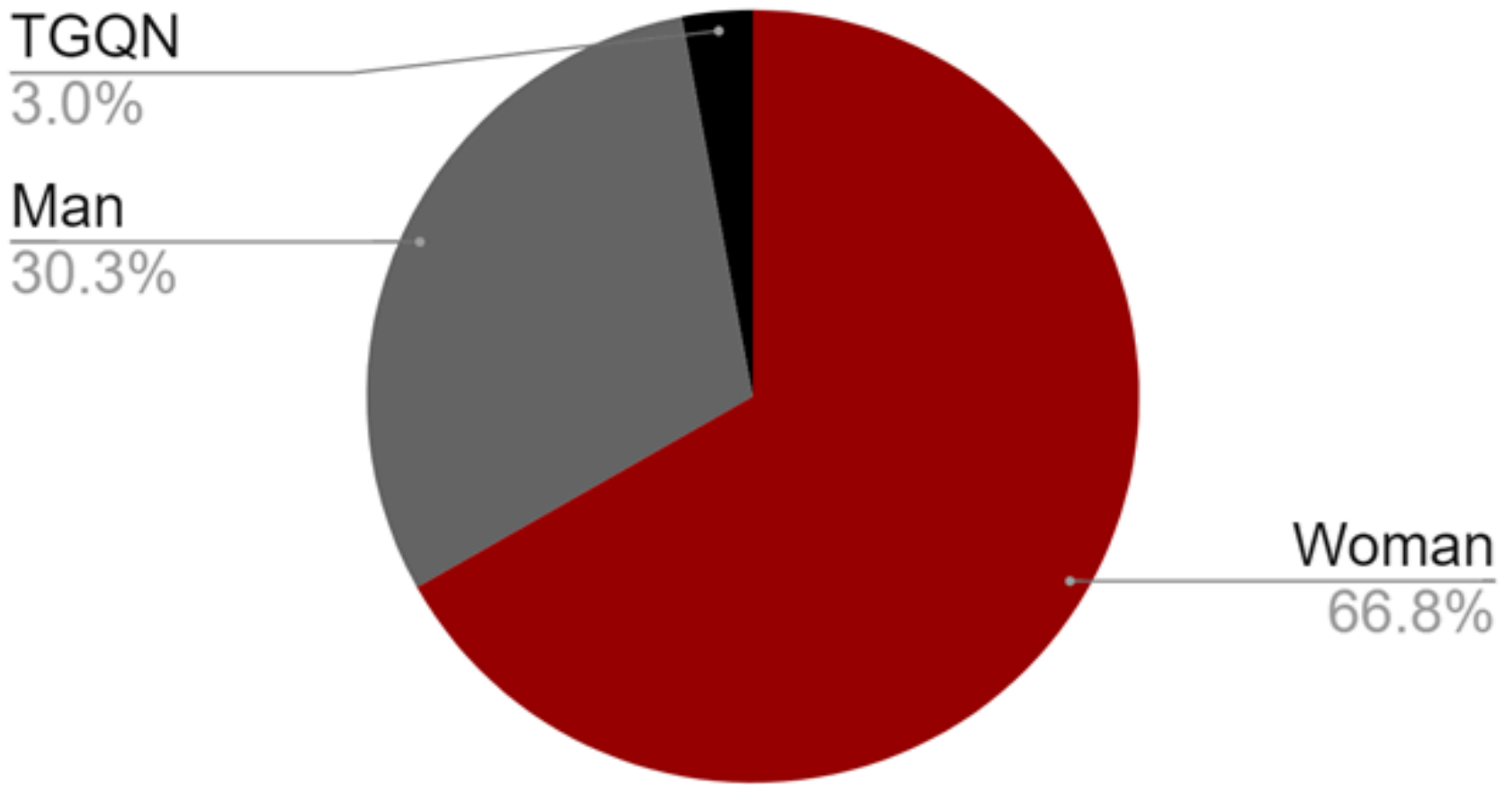
SAMPLE DESCRIPTIONS

Sexual Violence Survivor Sample (n = 23,607)

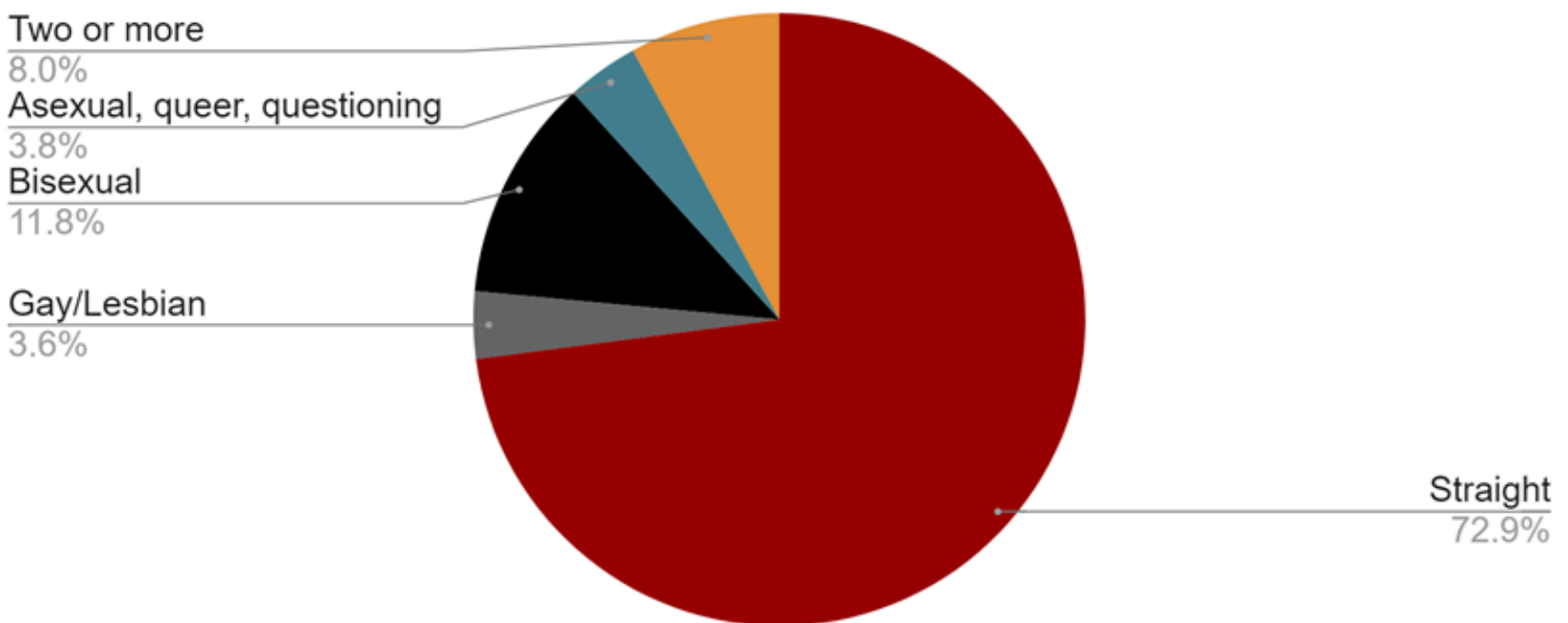


Intimate Partner Violence Survivor Sample (n = 9,398)

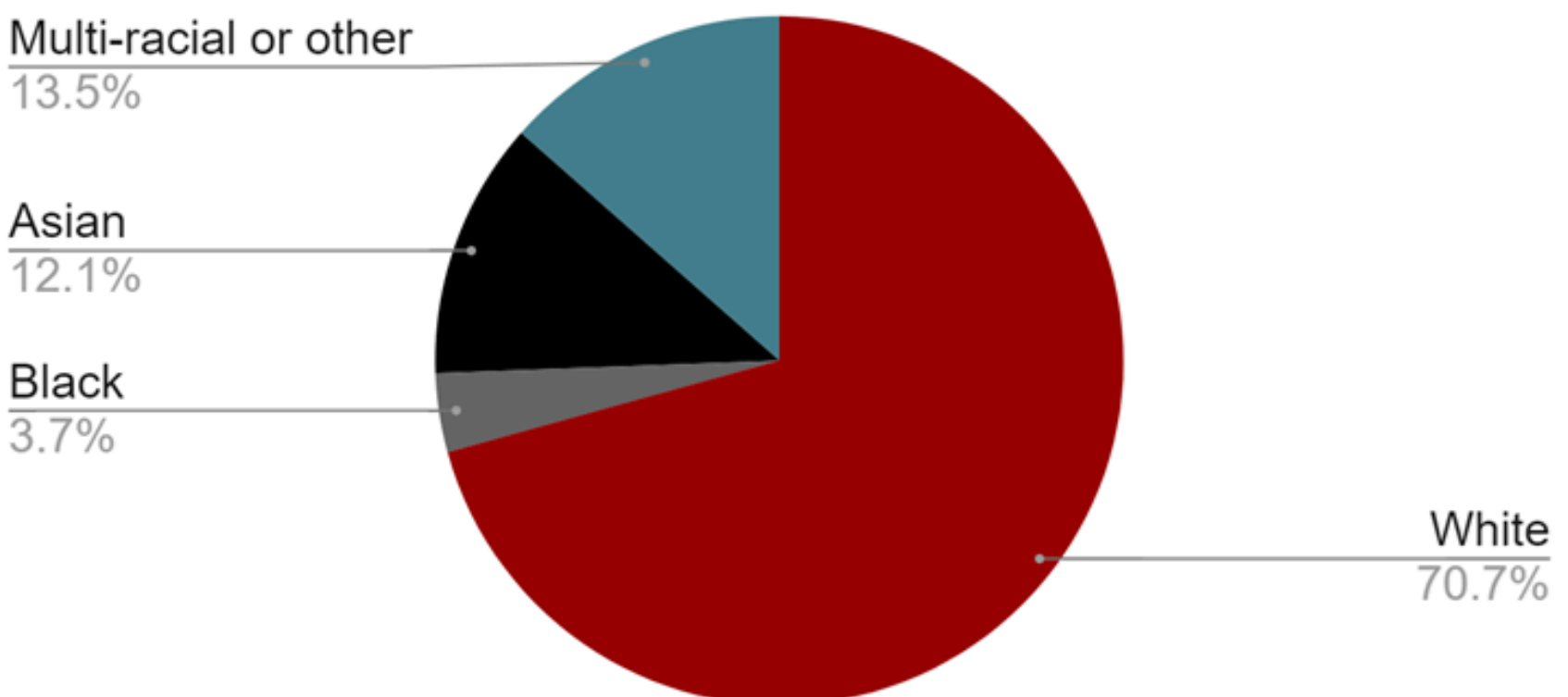
Gender



Sexual Orientation



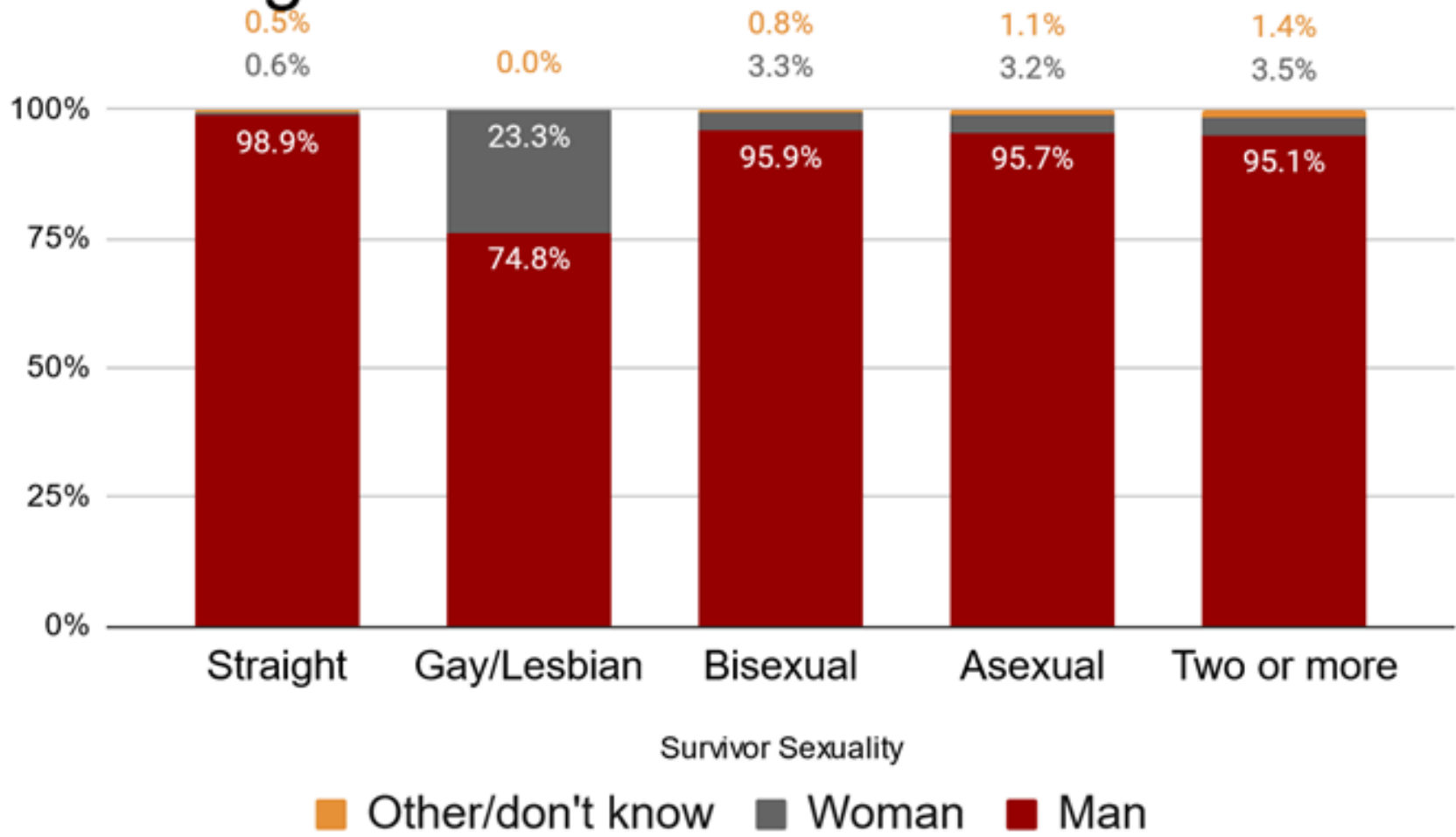
Race



RESULTS - WOMEN

PERPETRATORS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN STUDENTS

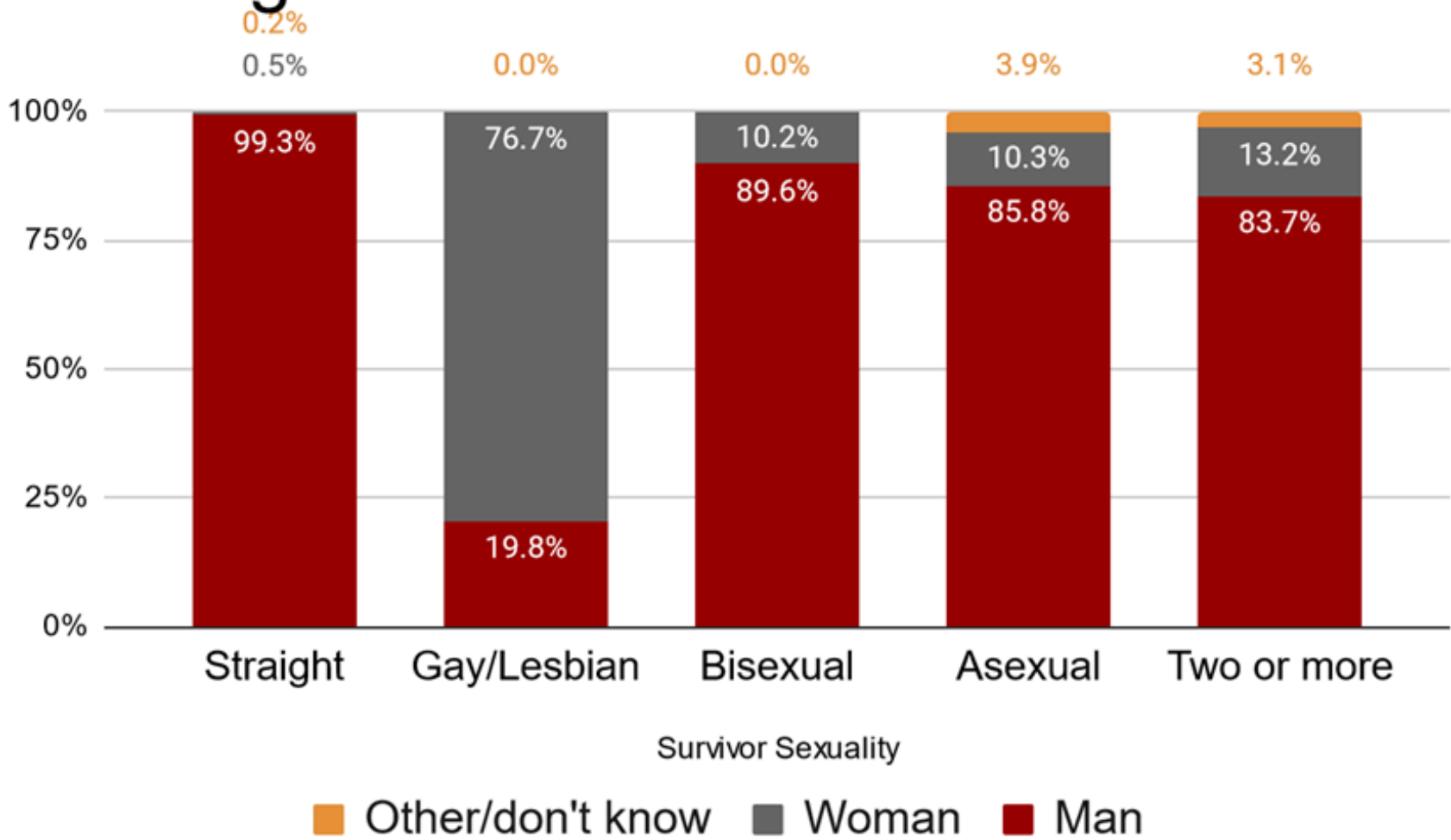
Transgressors of Women SV Survivors



The majority of women across sexual identities experienced SV from men, though 23% of gay/lesbian women reported experiencing SV from women.

PERPETRATORS OF IPV AGAINST WOMEN STUDENTS

Transgressors of Women IPV Survivors

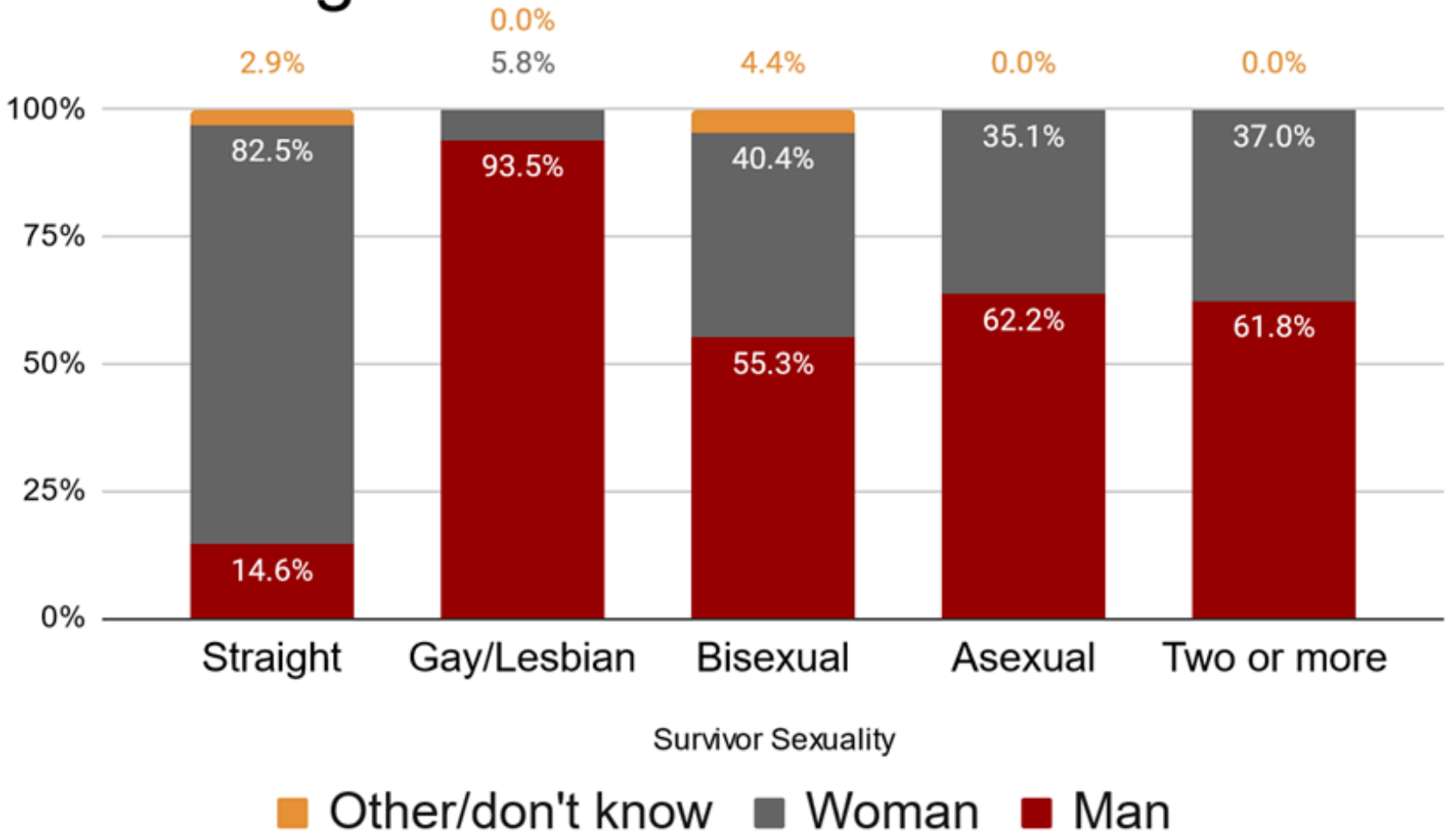


Among women IPV survivors, nearly all straight women have men perpetrators, while the vast majority of gay/lesbian women have women perpetrators of IPV. Bisexual, asexual women, and women who selected two or more orientations all reported mostly men perpetrators of IPV.

RESULTS - MEN

PERPETRATORS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST MEN STUDENTS

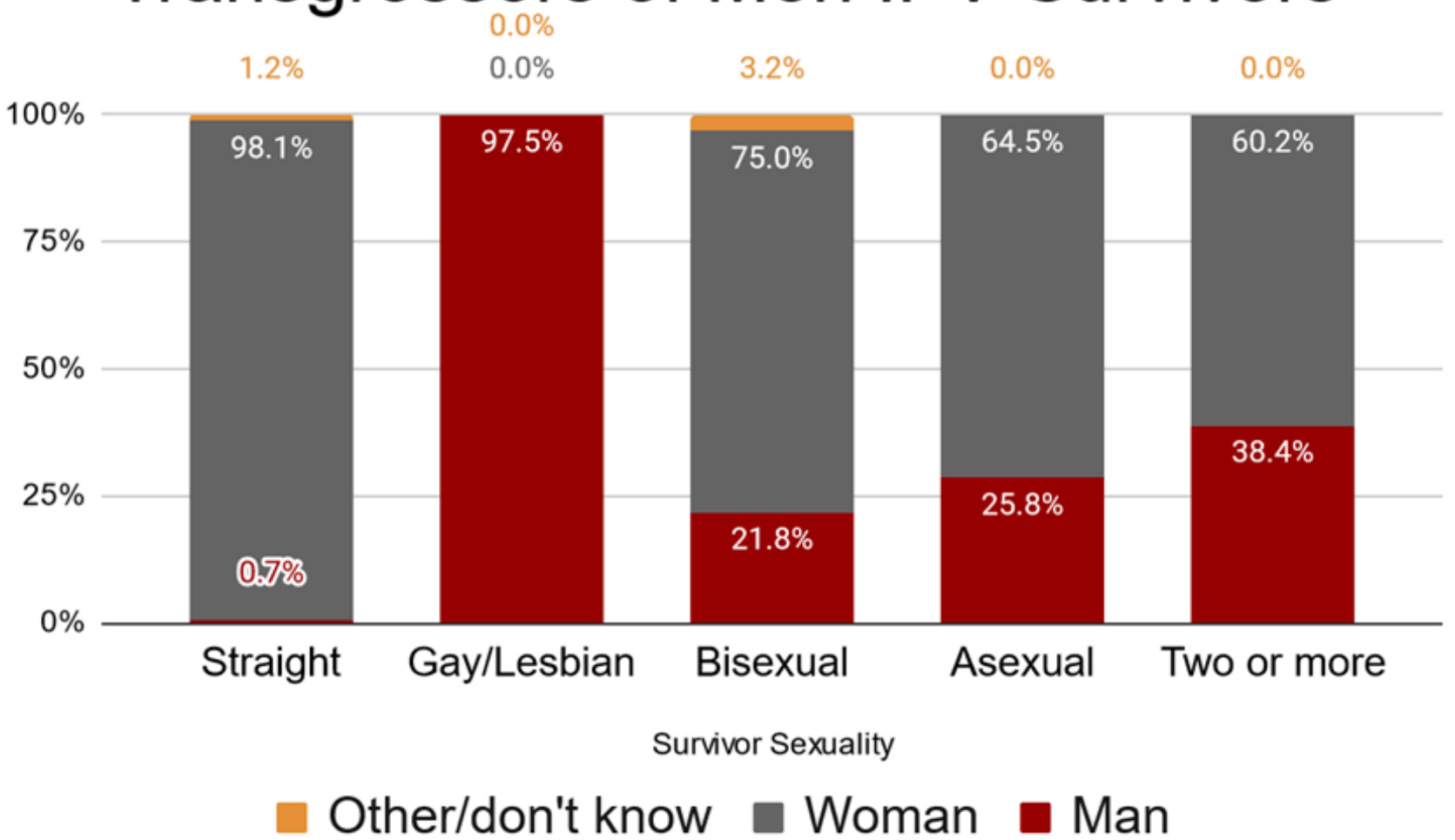
Transgressors of Men SV Survivors



For men, we see more variability in who is committing SV against them, with straight men mostly experiencing SV from women; gay men mostly experiencing SV from men; and bisexual, asexual and two or more identities selected experiencing closer to an even split, though with a majority of men perpetrators.

PERPETRATORS OF IPV AGAINST MEN STUDENTS

Transgressors of Men IPV Survivors

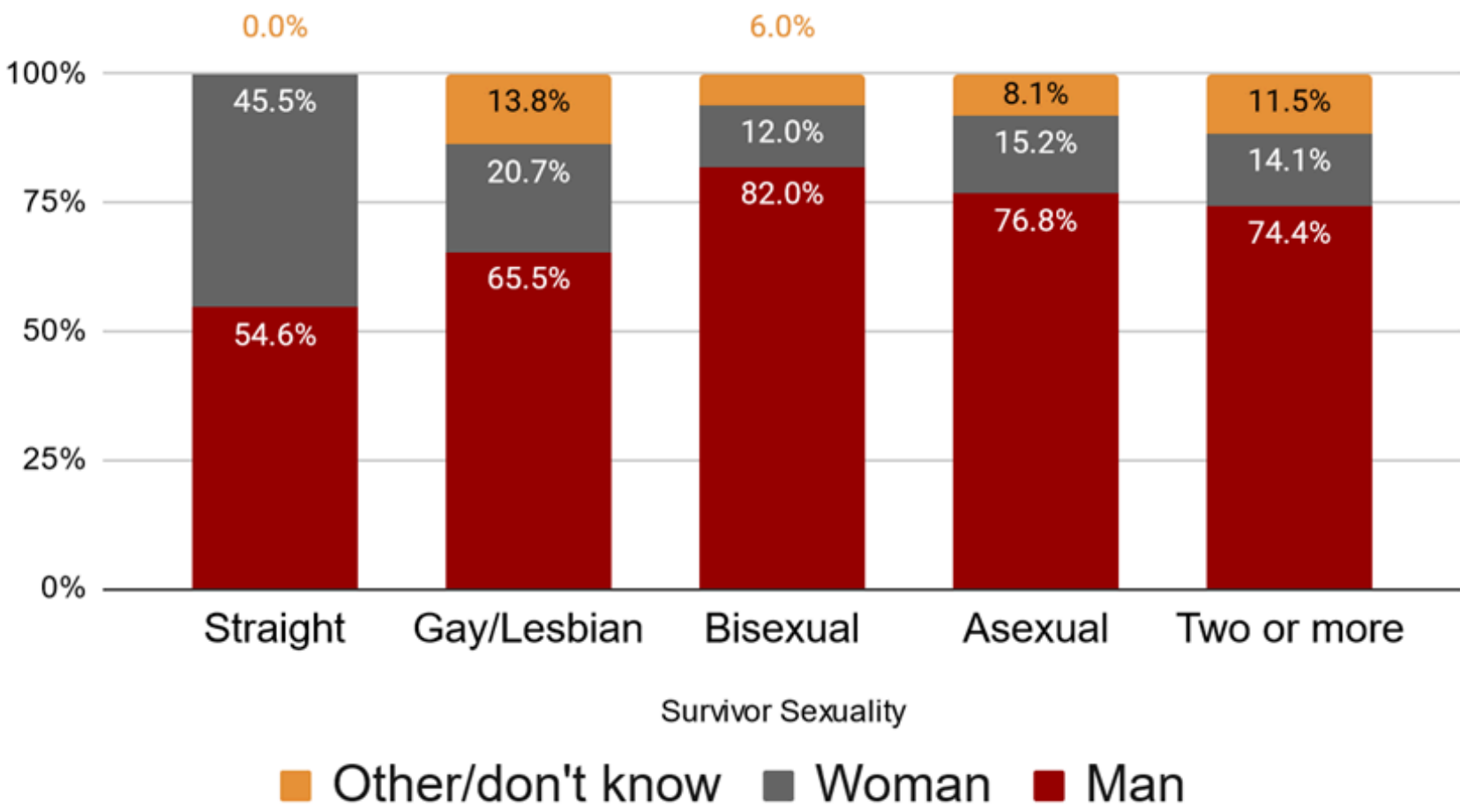


The majority of straight men experienced IPV from a woman, while most gay men experienced IPV from a man. Interestingly, most bisexual and asexual men and men who selected more than one orientation reported mostly women perpetrators of DV, which conflicts with prior literature.

RESULTS - TGQN STUDENTS

PERPETRATORS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST TGQN STUDENTS

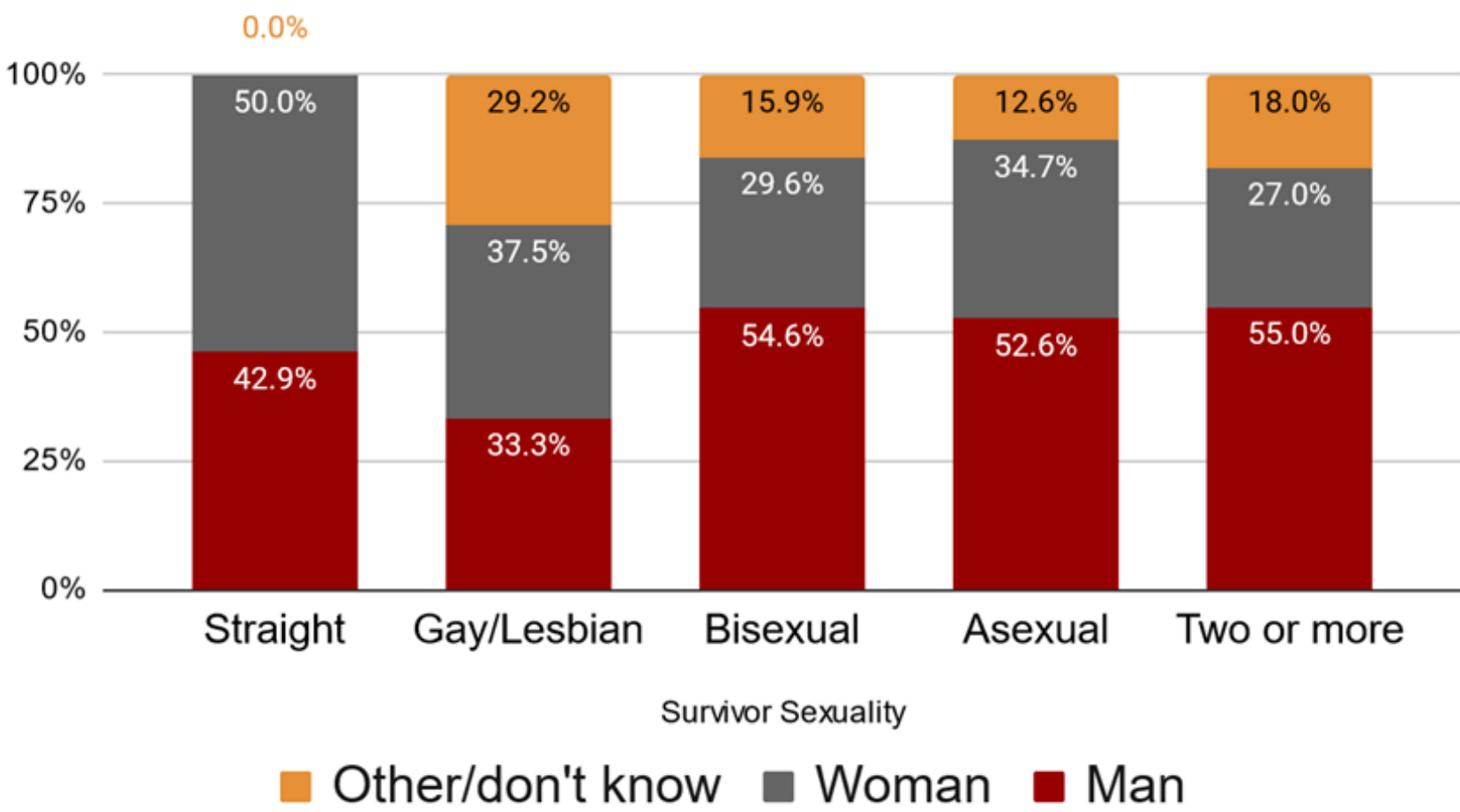
Transgressors of TGQN SV Survivors



Among TGQN survivors of SV, those who identify as straight reported nearly an even split between men and women perpetrators, while the other identities reported mostly men perpetrators, especially among bisexual TGQN students.

PERPETRATORS OF IPV AGAINST TGQN STUDENTS

Transgressors of TGQN IPV Survivors



Among TGQN survivors of IPV, straight survivors were fairly evenly split, with exactly 50% experiencing IPV from women, gay/lesbian TGQN survivors were almost evenly split into thirds across men, women, and other/don't know. Over half of bisexual, asexual, and 2+ orientations TGQN survivors experienced IPV from men, with almost/roughly a third each experiencing IPV from women.

DISCUSSION & IMPLICATIONS

DISCUSSION

- Men are committing most SV, except with straight men
- More variation among IPV:
 - Most women (except gay/lesbian women) experienced IPV from men
 - Most men (except gay/lesbian men) experienced IPV from women
 - TGQN survivors of all sexualities experienced IPV from men, women, or “Other/I don’t know”
- This is some of the first data we have that is specific about who is committing SV and IPV against larger samples of bisexual men and women, gay/lesbian men and women, and some of the only data on who is committing SV and IPV against TGQN and asexual survivors (though asexual survivors were grouped with those who selected “queer” or “questioning” for their sexuality).



IMPLICATIONS

- This data can help inform prevention programming that is inclusive of multiple experiences and identities.
- With more inclusive language, survivors of all genders and sexualities might feel more welcomed to use campus services.
- This data can also inform faculty and staff training around inclusivity and nuance among different gender and sexual identities.
- It is important for clinicians to recognize the differing power and gendered dynamics of experiences of sexual and intimate partner violence for people of various genders and sexual orientations, and how that differs depending on the gender of their perpetrator.



LIMITATIONS & FUTURE RESEARCH

The results of this study need to be interpreted within the context of a few limitations.

- Gender and sexual orientation measures are outdated; data is five years old.
- Collapsing TGQN complicates the results because we don't know if they're trans men, trans women, nonbinary, genderqueer, etc.
- Asexual participants were grouped with queer and questioning participants in the secondary data so it is not a subsample of exclusively asexual survivors.
- The victimization measures were not validated measures, though they were behaviorally specific.



FUTURE RESEARCH

- We still need more targeted sampling with trans, nonbinary, and genderqueer students so we don't have to group them into one TGQN group.
- We also need more research to better understand the unique experiences of bisexual and asexual survivors, as well as their unique risk and protective factors.



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For more information, contact
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ENDING VIOLENCE