



# Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

## Understanding Sexual Harassment on Public Transportation

Conducted in collaboration with . . .



January 30, 2016



# Background

In March 2012 Metro began an aggressive, multi-layered campaign to combat sexual harassment, which included educational outreach to our customers, as well as enhanced ways for customers to report harassment incidents to police.

In addition to our continued public outreach efforts, employee training and the online reporting portal, we've partnered with CASS and Stop Street Harassment to conduct a representative survey of customers' impressions as it relates to reporting sexual harassment. We hope to gain a regional perspective and use this tool as an additional measure of success in this area.

Broadly, we hope to learn four main things:

- How comparable the region is to national rates of sexual harassment? Specifically, on public transportation.
- Have customers experienced sexual harassment or assault incidents on Metro?
- Do our customers know how to report sexual harassment or assault incidents that occur on Metro?
- Are customers familiar with the PSA ads running in the system to raise awareness about the issue of sexual harassment in public spaces and encourage victims to report incidents to police?



# Methodology

This report presents the findings of a 1,000 person, regionally representative survey.

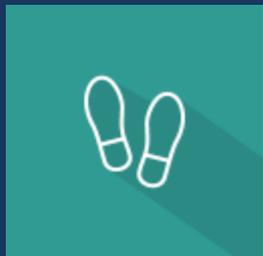
## Summary:

- Online-based survey in January 2016
- Survey development benchmarked previously completed work in the industry
- Survey designed collaboratively between WMATA, SSH, and CASS
- Data were weighted to reflect age and jurisdictional distributions



# Sexual Harassment Incidence by Place\*

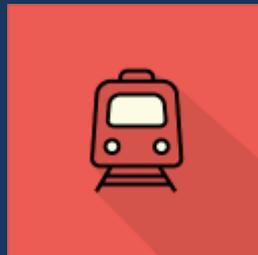
- Compact area residents experience similar levels of harassment compared to the nation.
- Sexual harassment on public transportation in the region is comparable to the nation as a whole, 21% vs. 18% respectively.
- However, women (28%) are nearly three times as likely as men (9%) to experience harassment on public transportation.



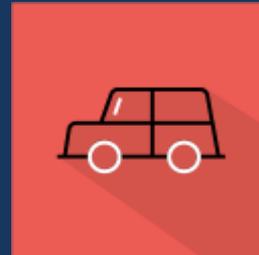
37%



Store 16%  
Arena 10%



21%



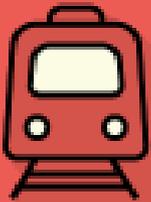
7%



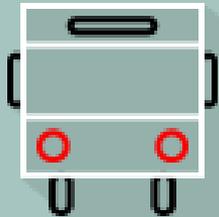
2%

\*Multiple response question. Percentages may not add to 100.

# Sexual Harassment on Metro Property



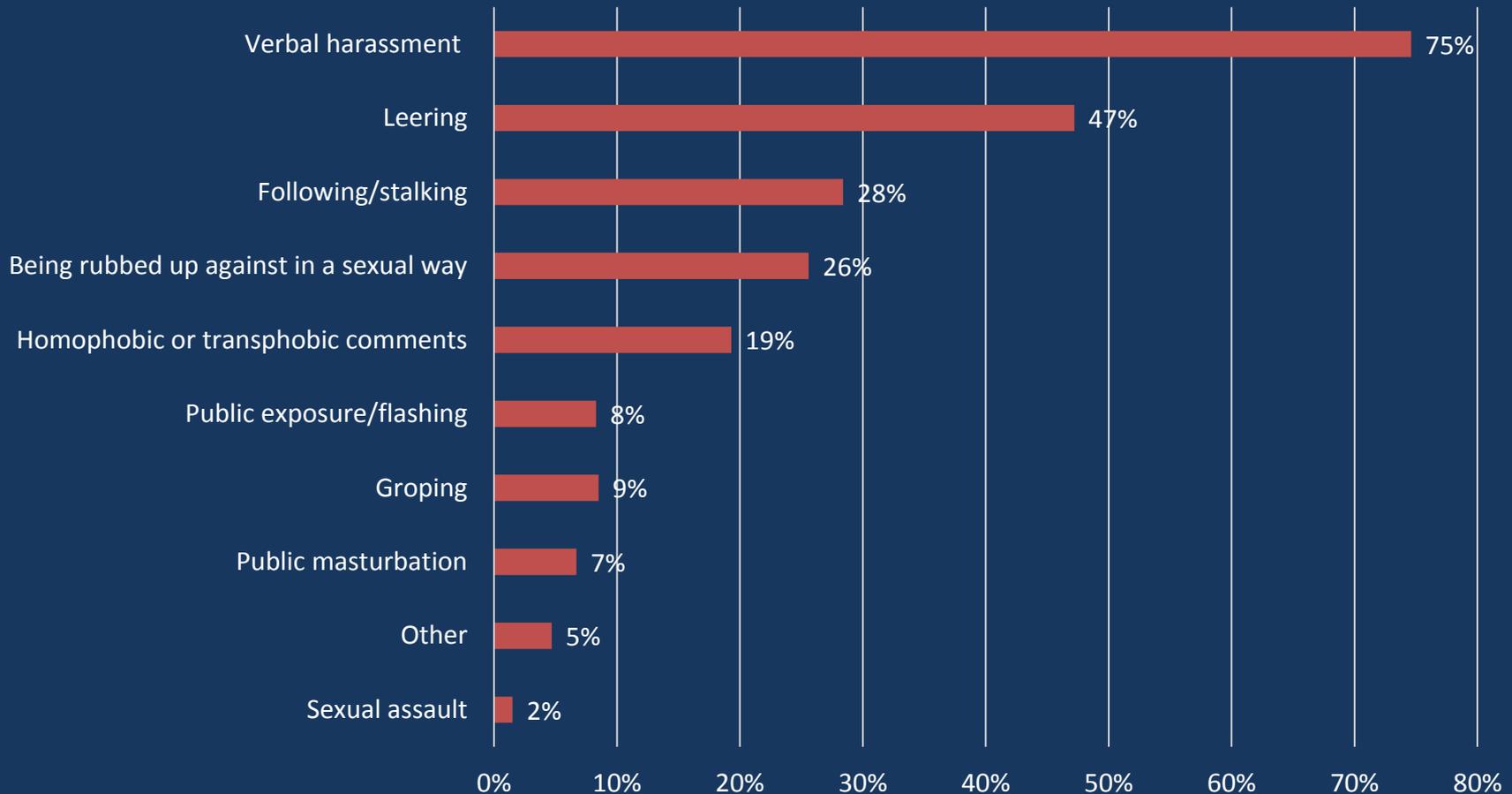
- Nearly two thirds (62%) of customers harassed on Metro, experienced it on board trains
- Three of five of customers (61%) harassed on Metro, experienced it in Metrorail stations



- Slightly more than a third (36%) of customers harassed on Metro, experienced it on board buses
- Nearly a third (32%) of customers harassed on Metro, experienced it at a bus stop



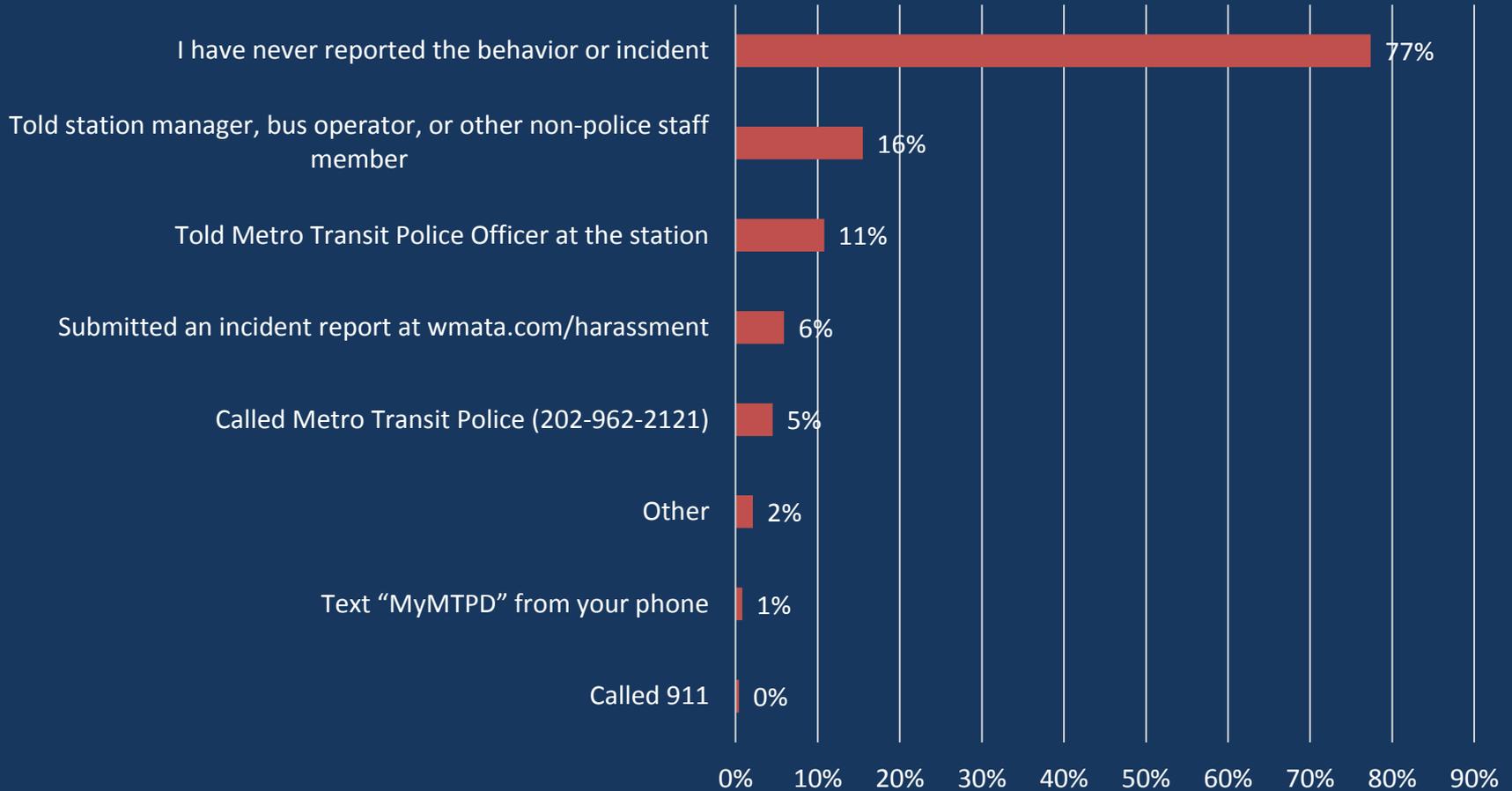
# Types of Sexual Harassment Experienced on Metro Property\*



\*Multiple response question. Percentages may not add to 100.



# Methods of Reporting Sexual Harassment Experienced on Metro Property\*



\*Multiple response question. Percentages may not add to 100.



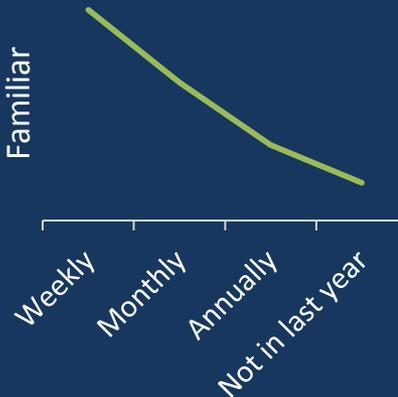
# Metro Sexual Harassment Education Campaign Familiarity

# 41%

Percentage of Metro customers familiar with the campaign.



Familiar



The more one rides the more familiar with the campaign.

Those aware of the campaign were twice as likely to report an incident as those not aware.