

# Selective Nonresponse Bias Regarding Questions about Experienced Mistreatment in PA Training Programs

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# DISCLOSURES

I have no relevant relationships with ineligible companies to disclose within the past 24 months.



# FUNDING

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This analysis is a part of a larger project associated with the AAPA-PAEA Research Fellowship.

# RESEARCH TEAM



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- Charlotte Bolch, PhD. Midwestern University, Glendale
- Nicholas Hudak, PhD, Mpa, Msed, PA-C. Duke University
- Dominique Frias-Sarmiento, MA. PAEA
- Bettie Coplan, PhD, PA-C, DFAAPA. Northern Arizona University



# OBJECTIVES

- At the end of the session participants will apply their understanding of nonresponse bias to evaluation of PA student mistreatment survey data.



# BACKGROUND

Approximately 38% of PA students experience mistreatment in the form of harassment, discrimination, or identity-biased evaluations, but fewer than 2% report it to their programs.

Mistreatment experience can have profound psychological effects on PA students and be disproportionately damaging to those with minoritized social identities.

Female PA students are at higher risk for gender-based discrimination.



# BACKGROUND

- The PAEA End of Program Surveys (EOPS) collects data on graduating PA students during their last month of training.
- Some respondents opt to not answer sections of the survey.
- Partial nonresponse can result from systematic differences between those who respond and those who do not. The current analysis aimed to better understand attributes of PA student participants based on whether they answered questions about their own experienced mistreatment.



# METHODS

- Midwestern University IRB exempt
- Data from the EOPS for 4 years (2017, 2018, 2019, and 2021) were utilized.
- Independent variables: gender, race, and ethnicity
- Dependent variables: responder or nonresponder



# METHODS

- The data were analyzed using the statistical software R.
- Descriptive analysis and logistic regression to assess the odds ratio (OR) of the event of “responder” being associated with the independent sociodemographic variables.
- Significance level was set at  $\alpha = 0.05$ .

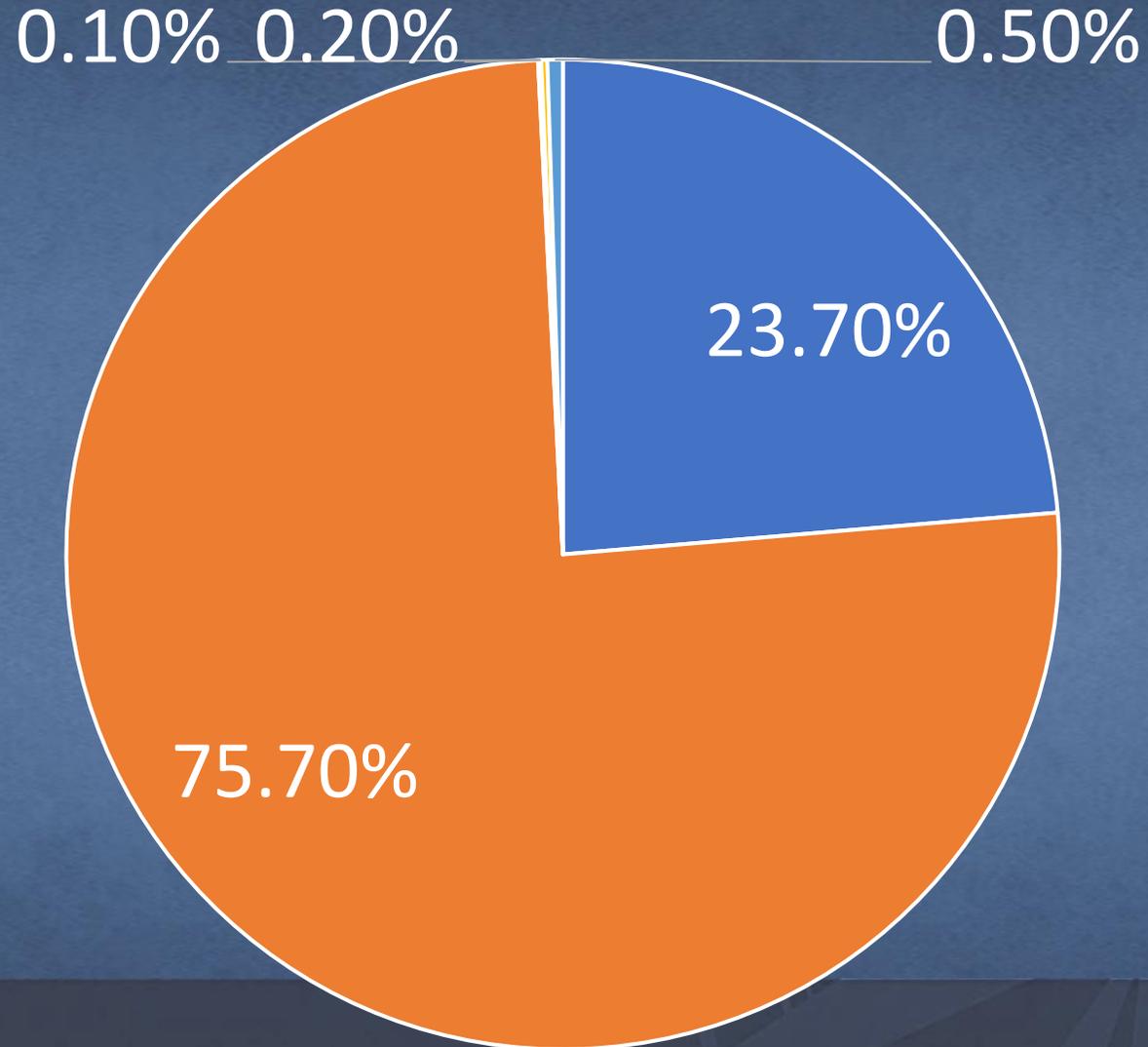
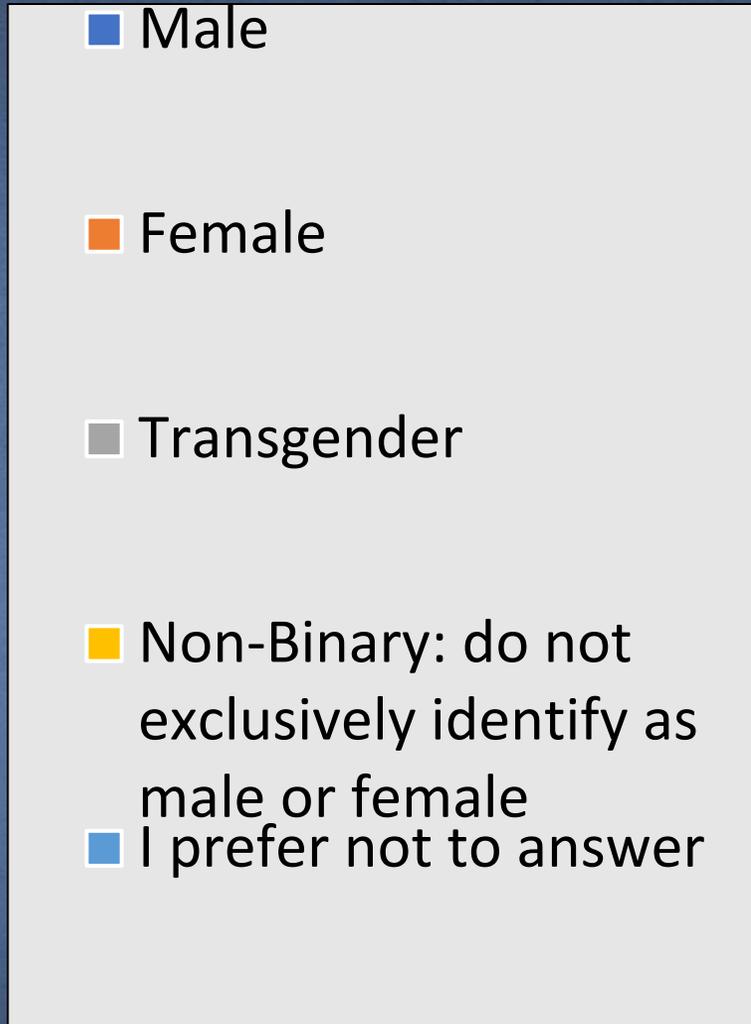


# RESULTS

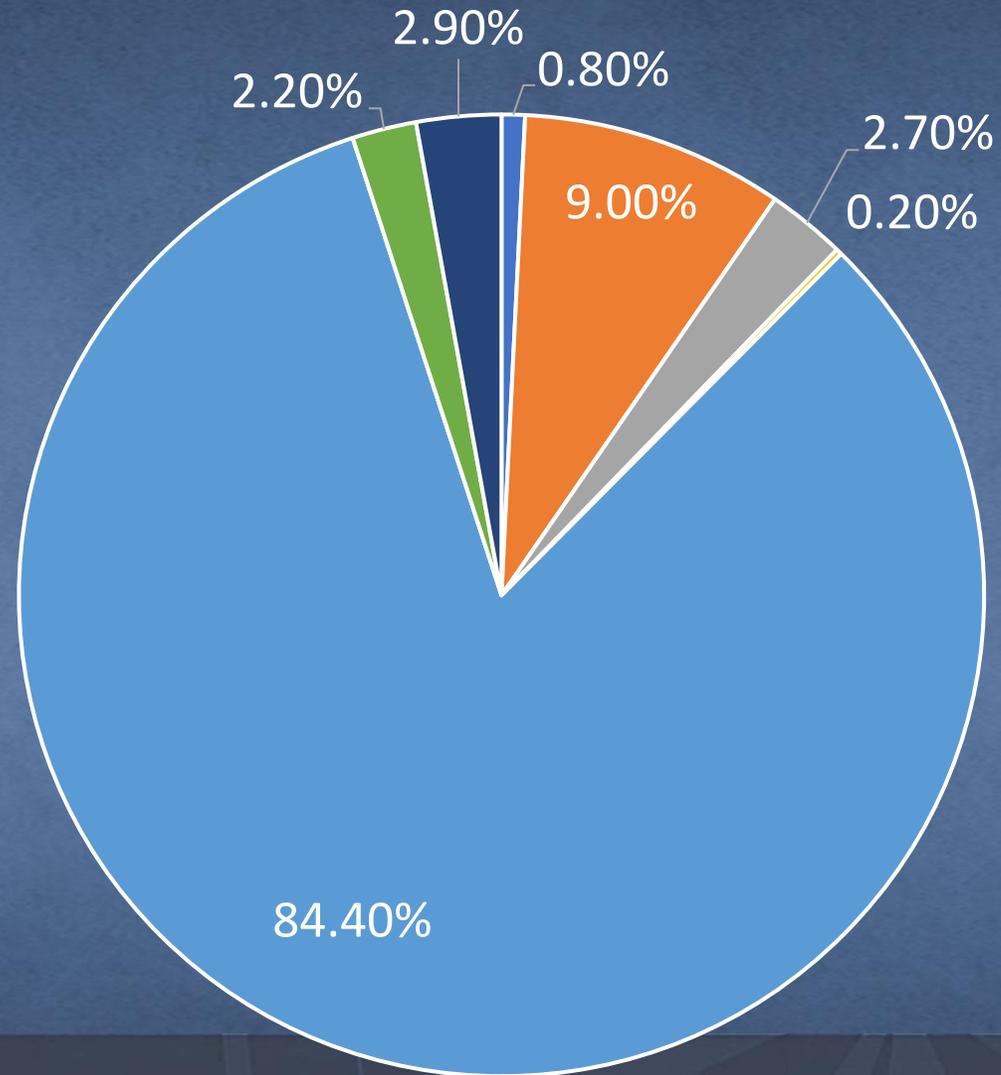
- **12,062 PARTICIPANTS** in the PAEA EOPS in 2017-2019 and 2021.
- **31% OF RESPONDENTS** were mistreatment question **NONRESPONDERS**.



# GENDER (Total EOPS Respondents)

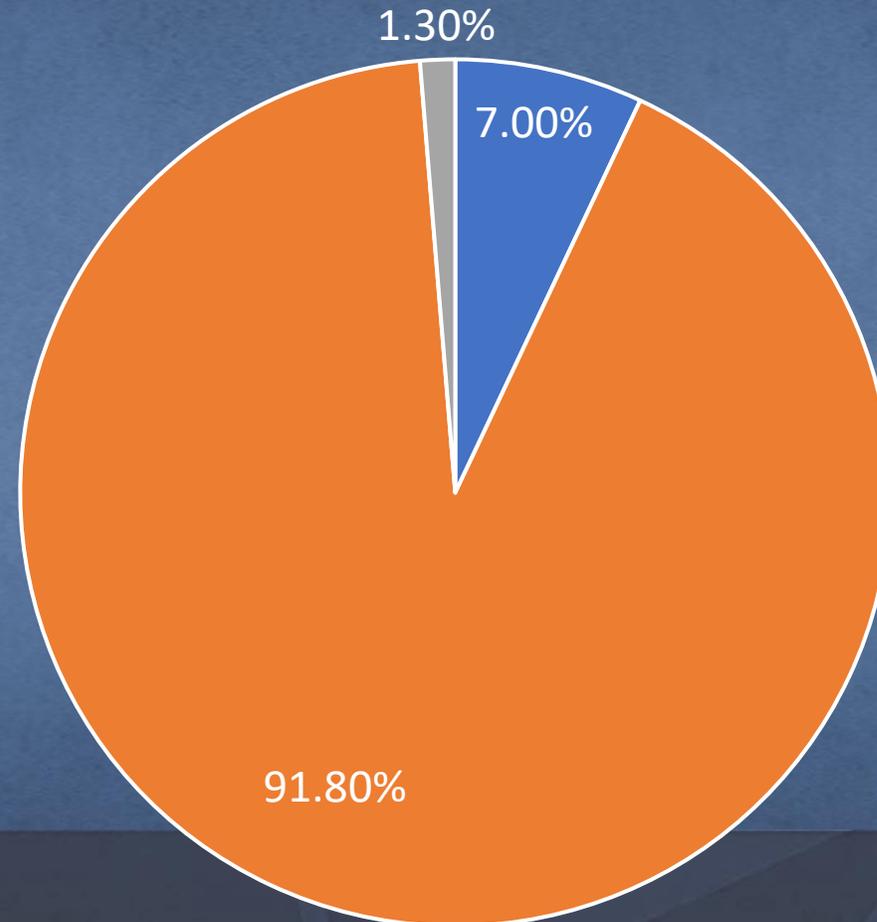
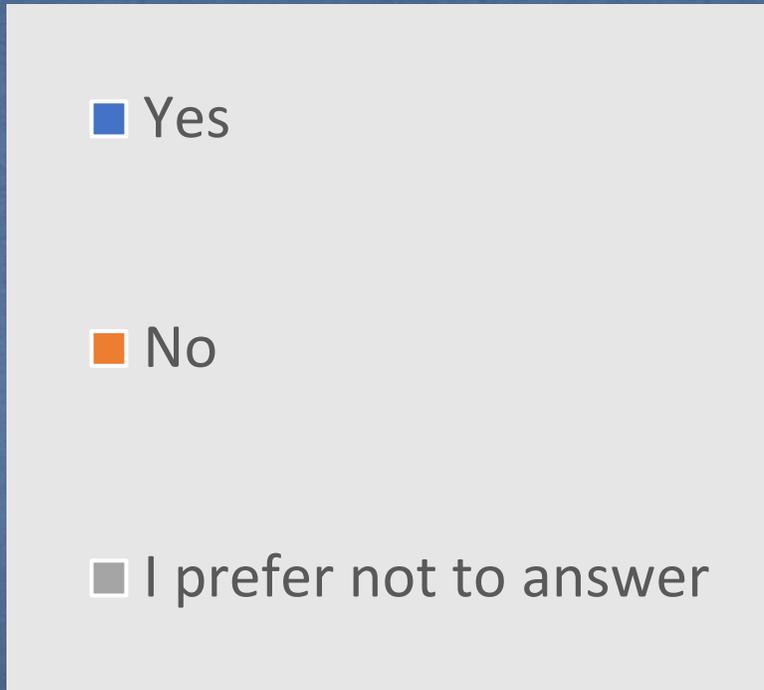


# RACE (Total EOPS Respondents)



# ETHNICITY (Total EOPS Respondents)

Are You Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish in Origin?



# Which demographics were associated with answering mistreatment questions?

Responders were more likely to be:

- Female (OR 1.41 p-value <0.001)
- Black (OR 1.38 p-value 0.04)
- White (OR 1.93 p-value <0.001)
- Non-Hispanic (OR 1.26 p-value 0.005)



# Which demographics were associated with not answering mistreatment questions?

- Transgender (OR 0.11 p-value 0.040)



# CONCLUSION

The PAEA EOPS survey results show that some participants' demographics are associated with higher or lower likelihood of answering questions regarding experienced mistreatment.

Participants who were Black, White, Female, or non-Hispanic were more likely to complete mistreatment questions, and transgender students were less likely to complete them.

Research is needed to evaluate hesitancy to discuss PA student mistreatment and improve equity in data collection on this topic.



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