

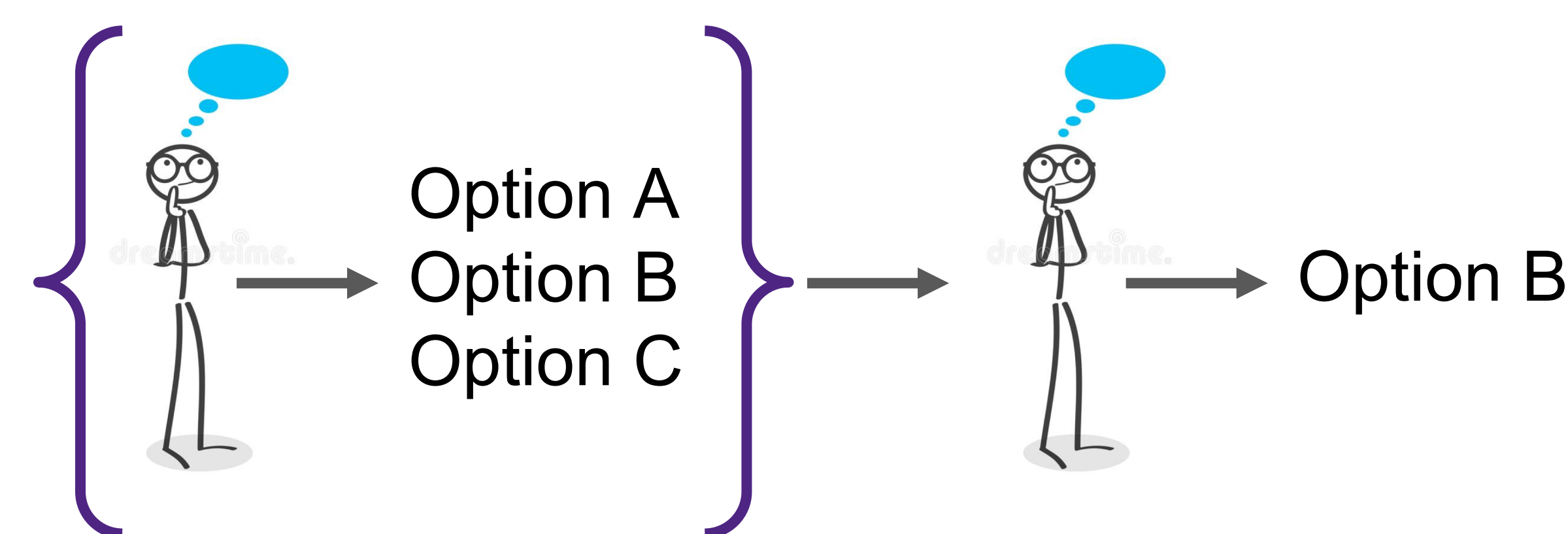
What are my options? Option generation in a context of potential sexual assault

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Background

- We often present participants with a set of options from which to choose.
- Yet real-world decisions often lack pre-defined options.
- Option generation is critical to decision-making: It determines the options from which people choose.



Method

- 99 undergraduates: 68 females, 31 males
- Read a hypothetical scenario characteristic of sexual assault
- Generated options for preventing unwanted sexual activity (5+ mins.)
- Prompts varied in terms of (1) goals and (2) perspectives
- Entered options into spreadsheet that recorded timestamp for each option

Given extended time, what is the range and nature of options that participants can generate—i.e., their self-generated option set? This study explored that question, focusing on a situation of significance to undergraduate students and society at large.

Sara should tell Ted that she is feeling uncomfortable so he knows when to stop. Ted probably thinks that Sara likes it since she has not told him to stop so she needs to express how she is feeling towards him.
 Sara can lie about getting something and not return back
 She could drink less
 Sara could walk away
 Sara can be aggressive and push Ted away
 Sara can "accidentally" trip and fall on purpose, injuring herself and needing to go home
 Sara should dance towards the group with Ted to make it obvious she doesn't want to be alone with him
 Sara could tell Ted a lie to keep him from wanting to kiss/dance with her (e.g. that she's sick)
 Just go upstairs and talk to him and if he tries to kiss me I will kiss him back but if he tries to go further I will either pretend to be too drunk or just say no but I probably would feel awkward saying no
 Katie and Sara could have discussed before going out if Sara wanted to go off alone with anyone so no questions would need to be asked later

Ted could have not drunk so much
 Ted could learn to read social cues
 Ted brings Jim with them so they aren't alone
 Ted could've avoided giving Sara drinks
 Ted could ask "Do you want to go upstairs?" rather than "Let's go upstairs"
 Ted could genuinely ask Sara what she wants to do
 For Ted to offer to just drop Sara off at home and if he really likes her he can talk to her again the next day
 Ted can respect Sara's wish to stay downstairs and dance
 Ted could've stopped kissing Sara when she pulled away
 Ted could ask for consent before trying to go any further with Sara
 Knowing Sara is intoxicated, Ted can find her friends and tell her he'll text her tomorrow
 Ted and Sara should not separate completely from the group and/or everyone else

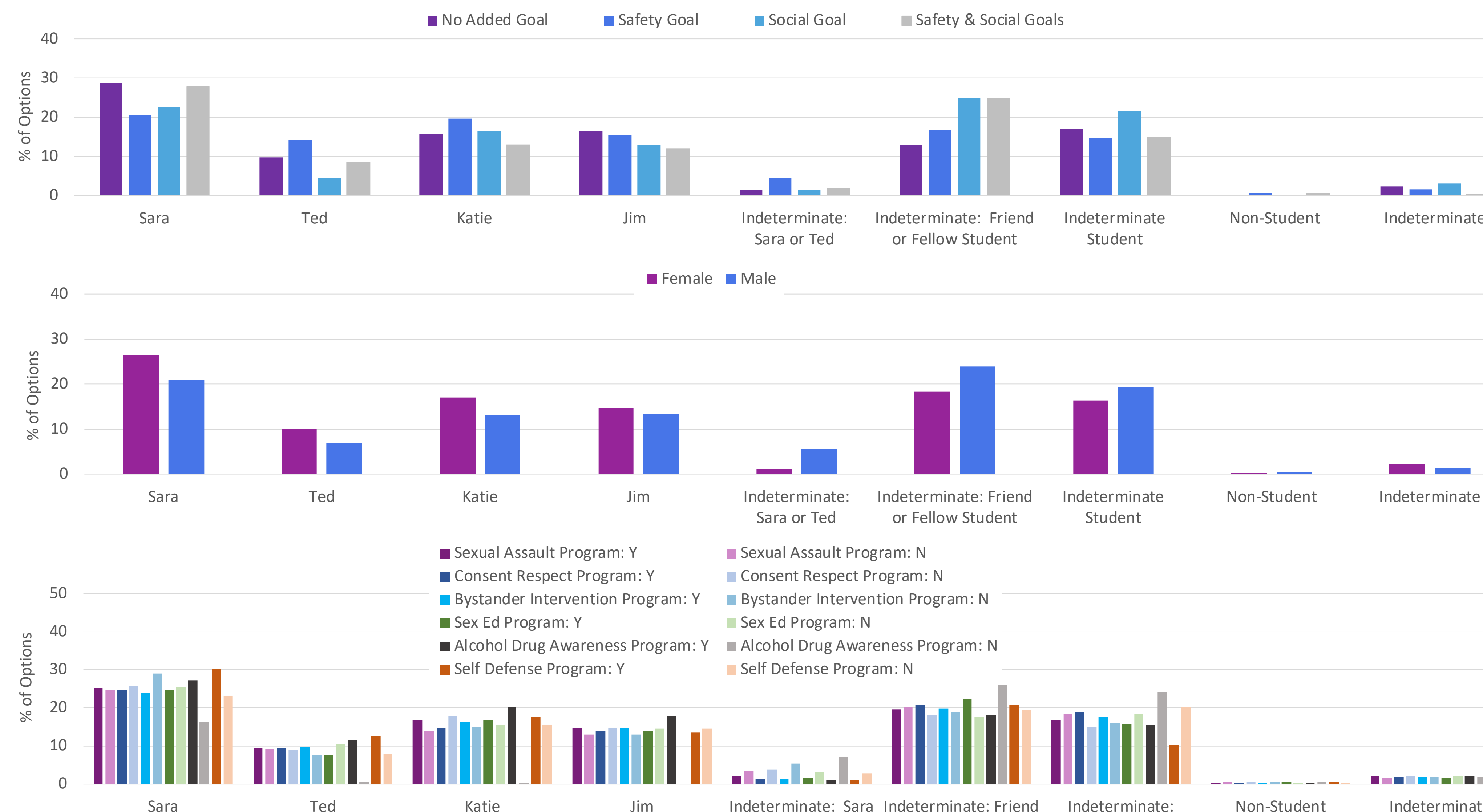
Katie could tell Sara that she needs her help with something for a minute, giving Sara the chance to leave if she wants or return in a minute if she wants
 Jim could ask Sara if she'd like to dance
 Offer Sara a tampon in front of Ted
 Katie should tell Sara that she wants to go to the bathroom with her to get out of the situation
 Tell Sara to agree on a date with Ted on another day and leave the scene
 Jim could be forward and warn Ted that Sara is very drunk
 Punch Ted if necessary
 Jim and Katie both step in and talk to Ted and Sara so they don't go upstairs
 Go upstairs with them to keep an eye on them without being creepy
 Ted could ask for consent before trying to go any further with Sara
 Jim can play the song "Closing Time" suggesting that everyone, including Sara and Ted need to leave the fraternity
 Speak up and intervene if a friend or peer is unable to take action themselves
 Let the one random cop that always comes to these parties notice this and find a way to intervene

There could be signs about consent in the fraternity
 Less social pressure to drink
 Everyone should receive bystander training so they know good ways that they can help/react in certain situations
 There can be risk managers who are sober and keeping their eyes out for any signs of danger
 Parties should be lit and no private areas should be available at the party
 Better education for students to recognize these sorts of situations and how to prevent them
 Have all students complete an alcohol/sexual conduct informational test
 Take away common source alcohol
 Create an open environment where people can talk about uncomfortable experiences and how they can be avoided in the future

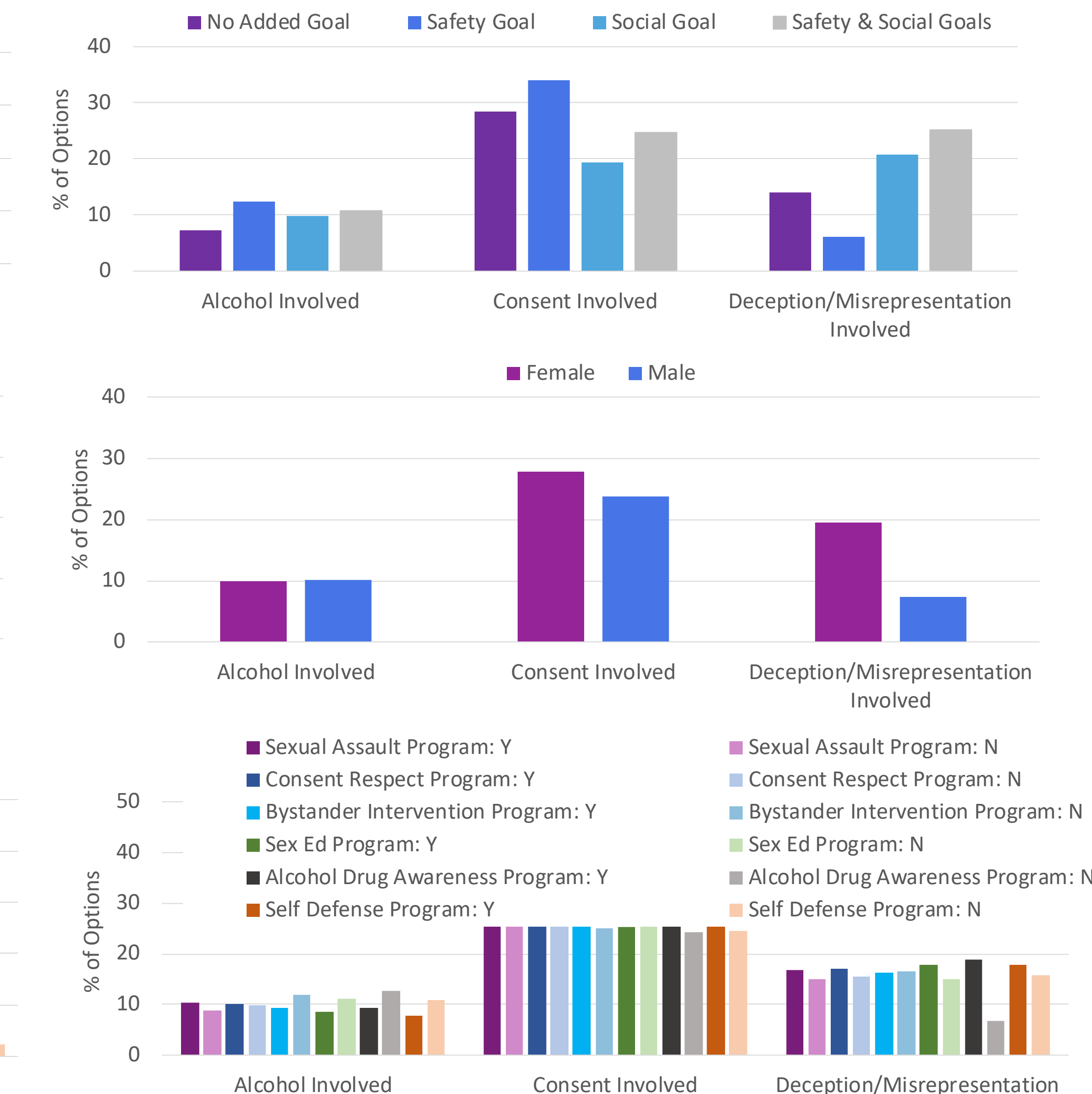
Experience and Attitudes



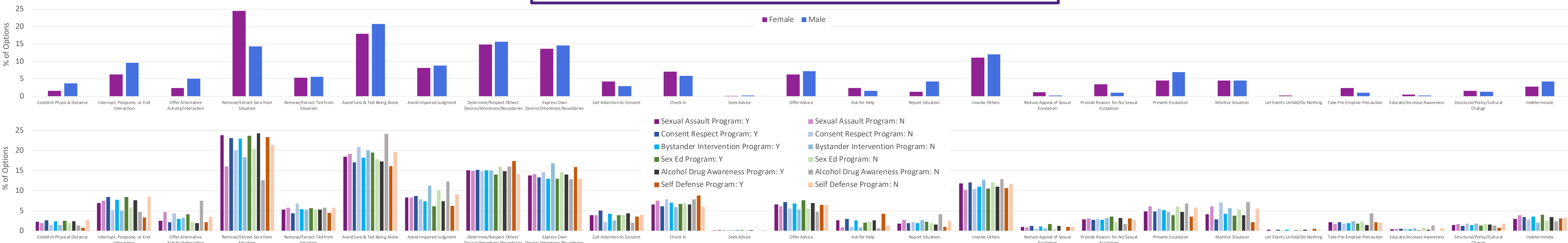
Option Initiators



Option Characteristics



Option Themes



Much more coming soon!