



Reviewing 10 years of campus climate research on undergraduates

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Presented by:

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Objectives

(1) Review results of campus climate research about Texas A&M undergraduates

- A. Hurtado, Maestas, Hill, Inkelas, Wathington, and Meador (1997-1998)
- B. Student Life Studies (SLS, 2002-2004)
- C. Student Life Studies (SLS, 2008-2009)

(2) Identify undergraduate perceptions of a “less-than-welcoming environment”

Have you ever felt uncomfortable based on someone’s reaction to your ... ? (2008 data)

- Gender
- Sexual orientation
- Race/ethnicity
- Nationality/citizenship

Objective 1: Review 10 years of campus climate research for undergraduates

Hurtado, et al. (1998) Perspectives on the Climate for Diversity: Findings and Suggested Recommendations for the Texas A&M Campus Community

Paper survey - Undergraduates, graduates, staff, and faculty

36% response rate = 2,166 forms returned/5,966 undergrads

Summary of findings

- Most of the discrimination or stereotyping that is reported by groups typically comes from other students rather than faculty, staff, or administrators.
- Increasing the representation of diverse groups on campus remains key in providing for interactions across different racial/ethnic groups.

Aggie R-r-ring Survey Program Campus Climate Study (2002-2004)

Student Life Studies (SLS, 2004) Campus Climate Project

- A. Surveyed undergraduates – Sophomores, Juniors, & Seniors
 - 1. Telephone survey: 82% response rate = 1,085 responses/ 1,331 for wrong numbers (2,001 sampled)
 - 2. Web survey: 10% response rate = 80 responses/800 sampled

Summary of findings

- Students of color are more likely to perceive racial and ethnic discrimination as a problem and report being uncomfortable in class than others
- *“The problem is within the student body and how students deal with differences.”*

Texas A&M – How's it Working for You? (2008-2009)

Student Life Studies (SLS, 2008) Texas A&M – How's it Working for You?

Stratified random sample (classification & ethnicity) of 5,045 full-time, undergraduates
- 1,025 responded to a web survey - 20% response rate

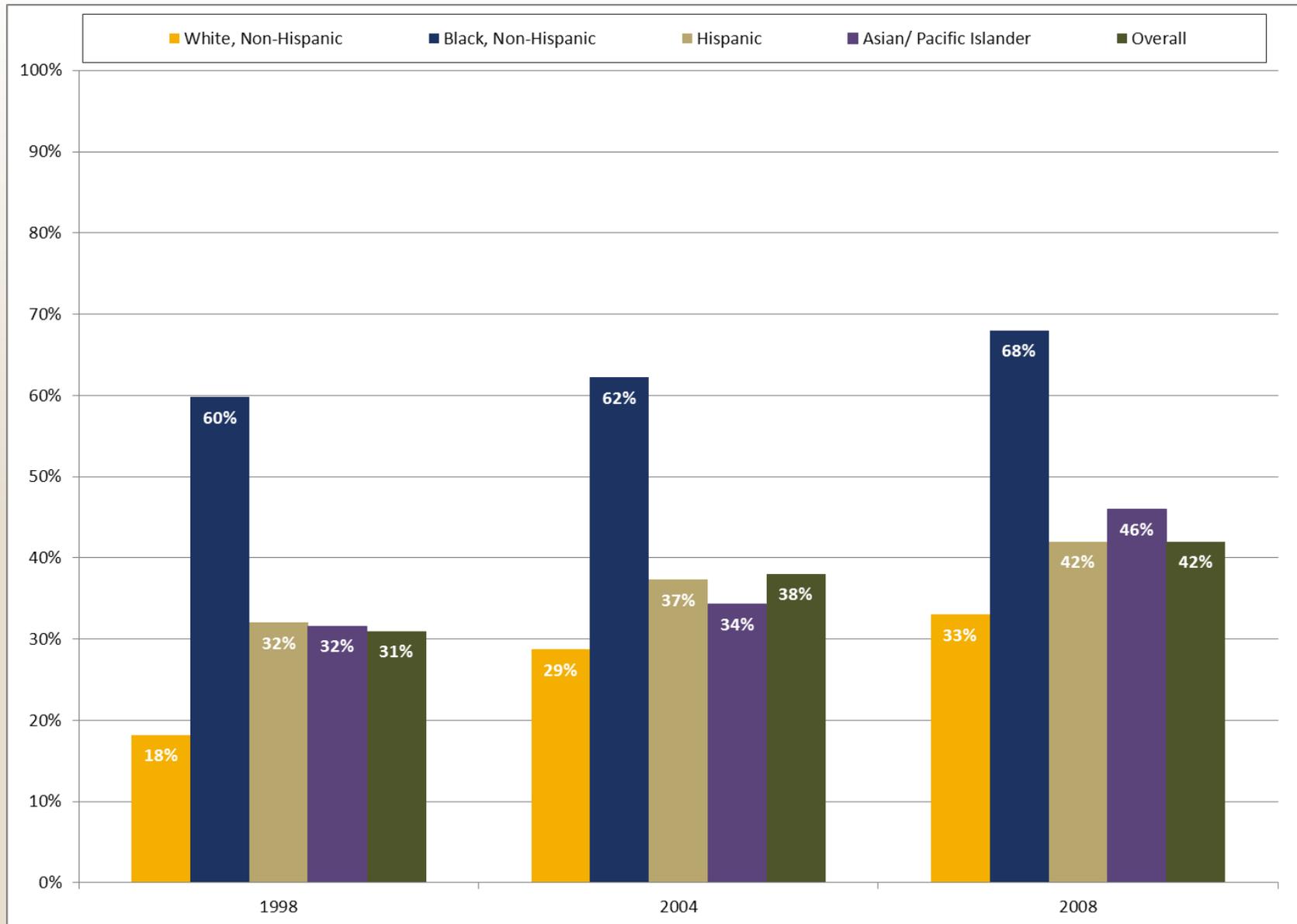
Summary of findings

- The majority of incidents of discrimination, stereotyping, and perpetuating a feeling of discomfort comes from other students.
- The Texas A&M culture may be friendly on the surface, but can be intolerant of different races, religions, political views, women, international students, and gay students.

Findings over 10 years of campus climate research

Major Findings	1998 Hurtado	2004 SLS	2008 SLS
The majority of respondents are glad that they attend Texas A&M and intend to complete their degrees at Texas A&M.			
Most of the discrimination or stereotyping students experience comes from other students rather than faculty, staff, or administrators.			
African Americans tend to respond with the least satisfaction and a lower sense of belonging on campus.			
Asian Americans & African Americans have the most difficulty acclimating to the social environment at Texas A&M.			
The longer students have been at Texas A&M, the more frequently they agree that racism is a problem at Texas A&M.			

Racism is a problem at Texas A&M (1998, 2004, 2008)



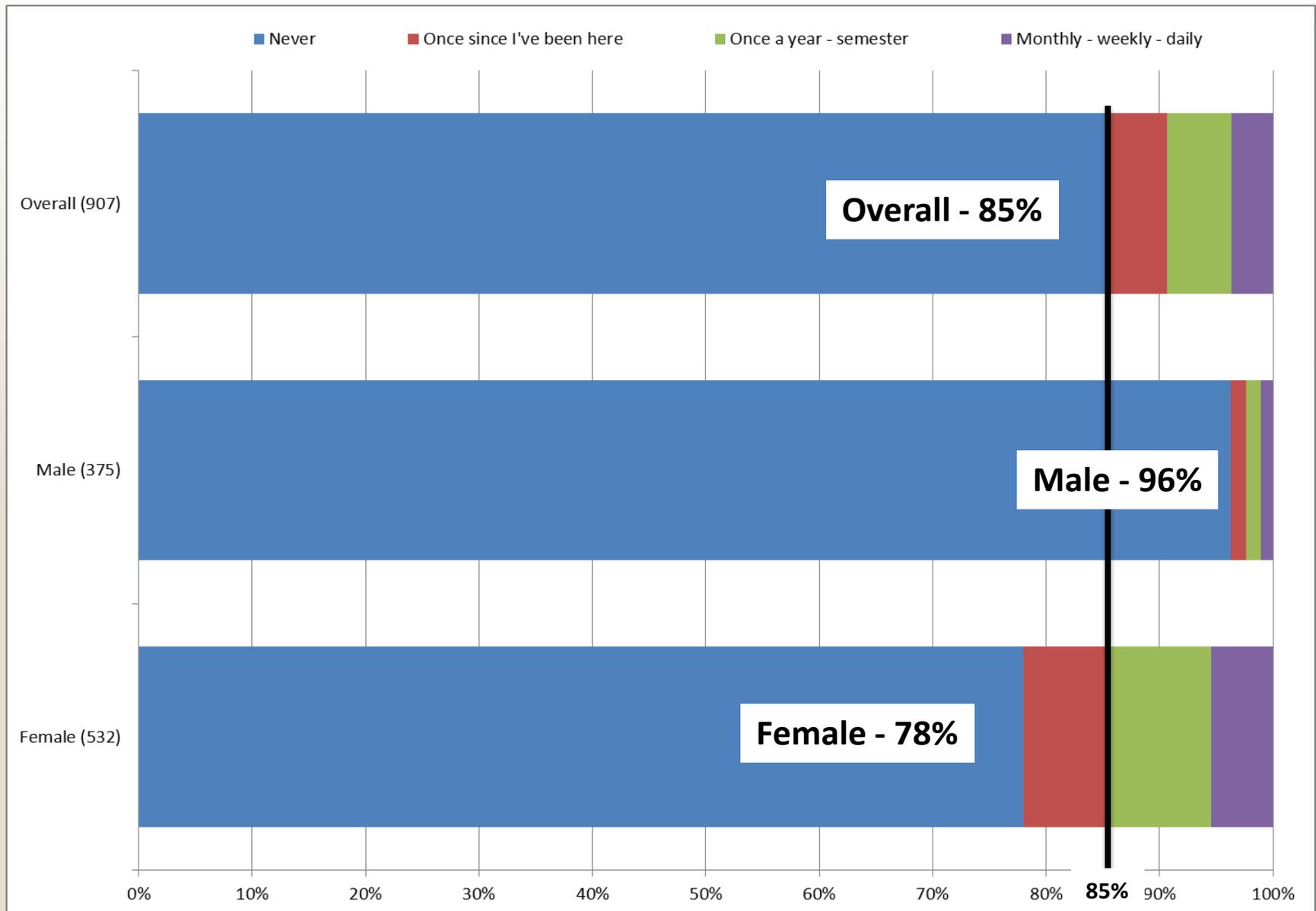
Objective 2: Identify undergraduate perceptions of a less-than-welcoming environment

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DIVERSIFY AND GLOBALIZE THE A&M COMMUNITY

Precept: Lead in diversity: *Create an environment that respects and nurtures all members of the student, faculty, and staff community -- Reduce to zero the number of students, faculty, or staff who leave because of a perception of a less-than-welcoming environment. (p. 44)*

At Texas A&M, how often have you felt uncomfortable because of someone's reaction to your gender?



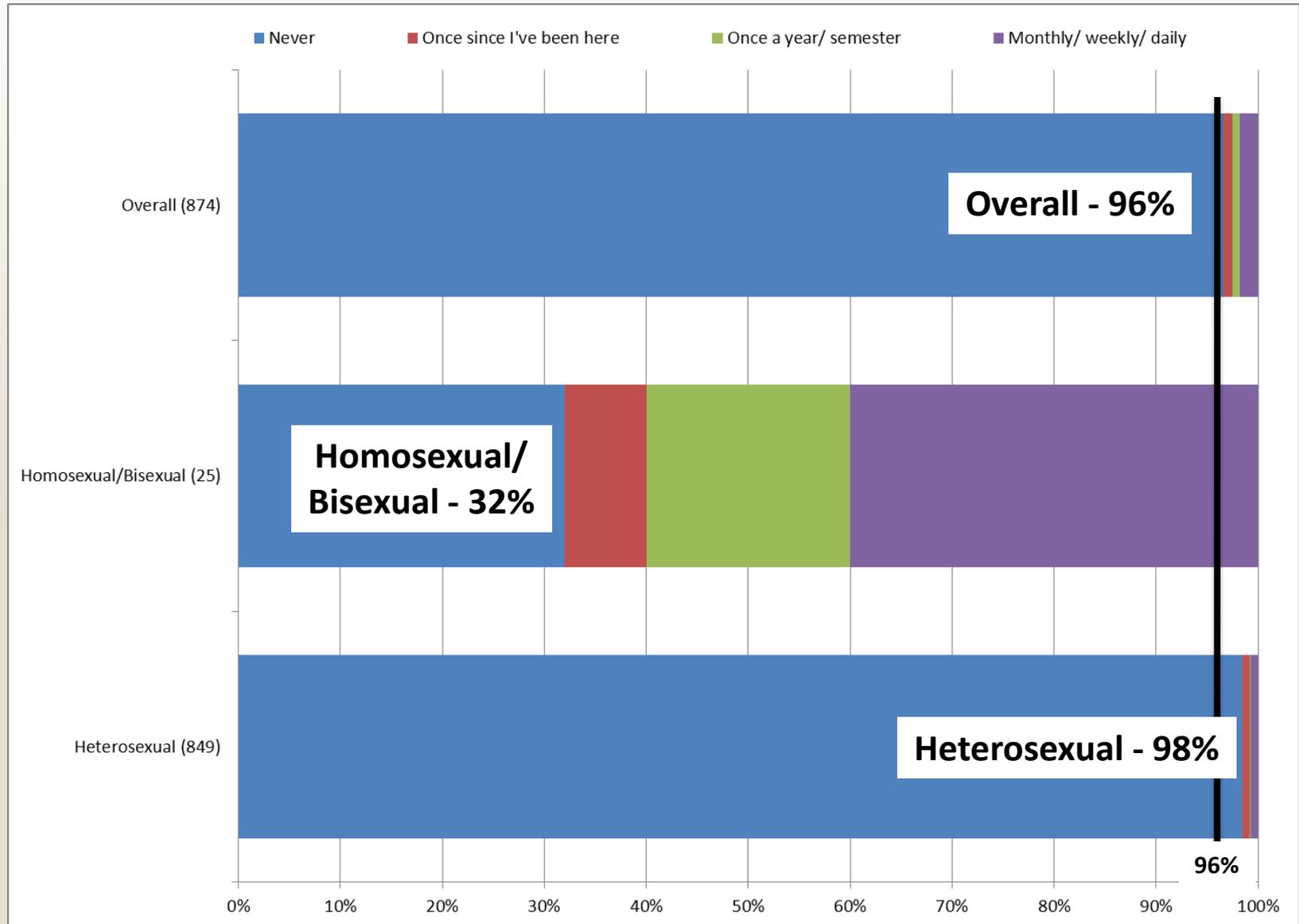
At Texas A&M, how often have you felt uncomfortable because of someone's reaction to your gender?

Once since I've been here: As the only girl in math classes, it can sometimes be uncomfortable because of the way guys talk and behave. U4/Senior – White - Female

Never: I'm male. people generally respect us for no reason around here. U2/Sophomore – Hispanic – Male

Never: I believe that this happens more to females and students who like the same sex. Since I have been here I have not been discriminated because of my gender, and I think it is because I am a male. U1/Freshman – International – Male

At Texas A&M, how often have you felt uncomfortable because of someone's reaction to your sexual orientation?



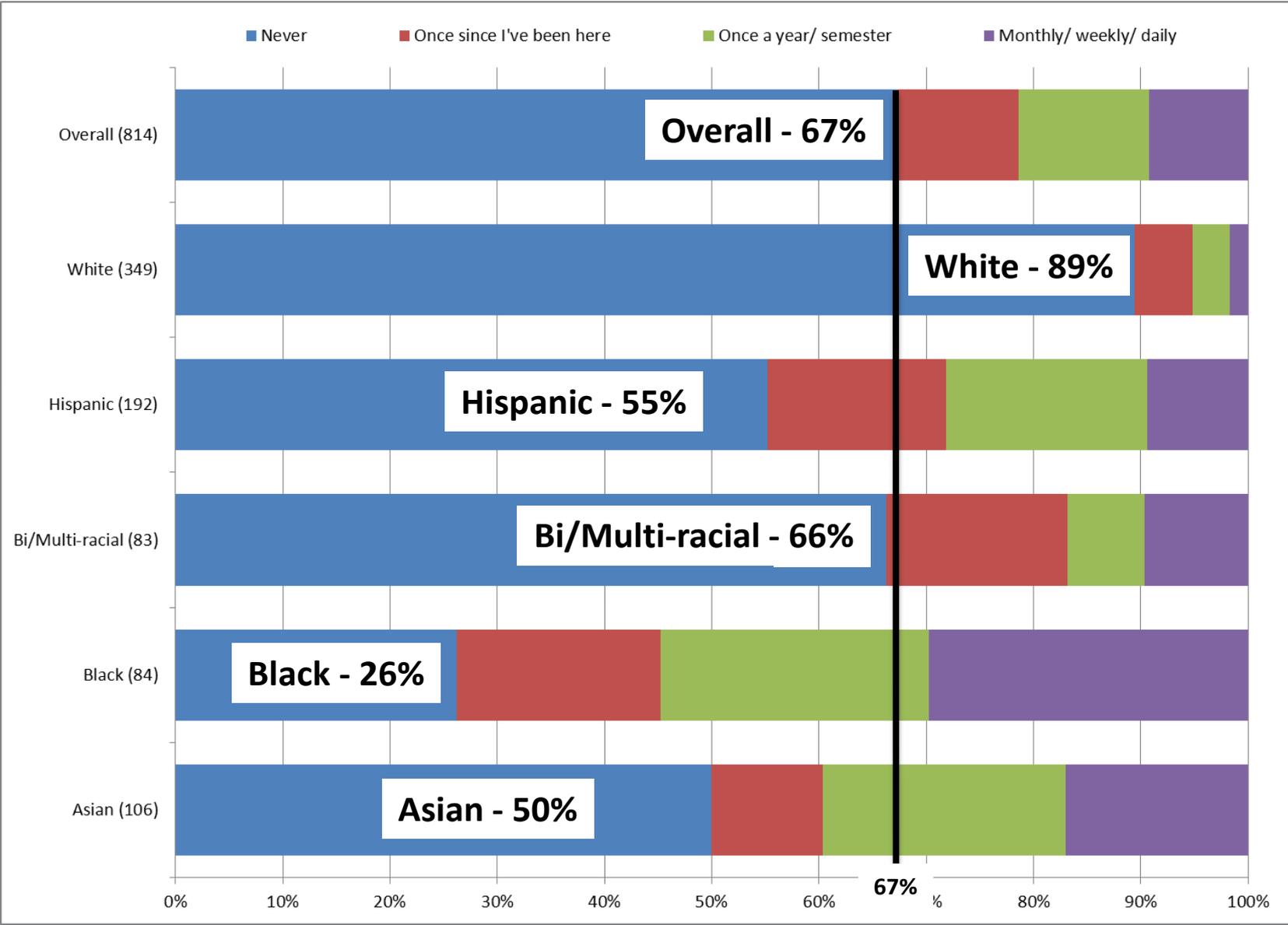
At Texas A&M, how often have you felt uncomfortable because of someone's reaction to your sexual orientation?

Daily: My orientation is a problem for some people. They don't understand and that is because they are uneducated. U3/Junior – Hispanic - Female

Never: I'm still in the closet, but I'm sure it's obvious how openly gay people are treated, especially remarks made behind their backs. U4/Senior – Hispanic – Male

Never: If I were gay I would not feel safe unless I hid that fact on campus. U4/Senior – White - Female

At Texas A&M, how often have you felt uncomfortable because of someone's reaction to your race/ethnicity?



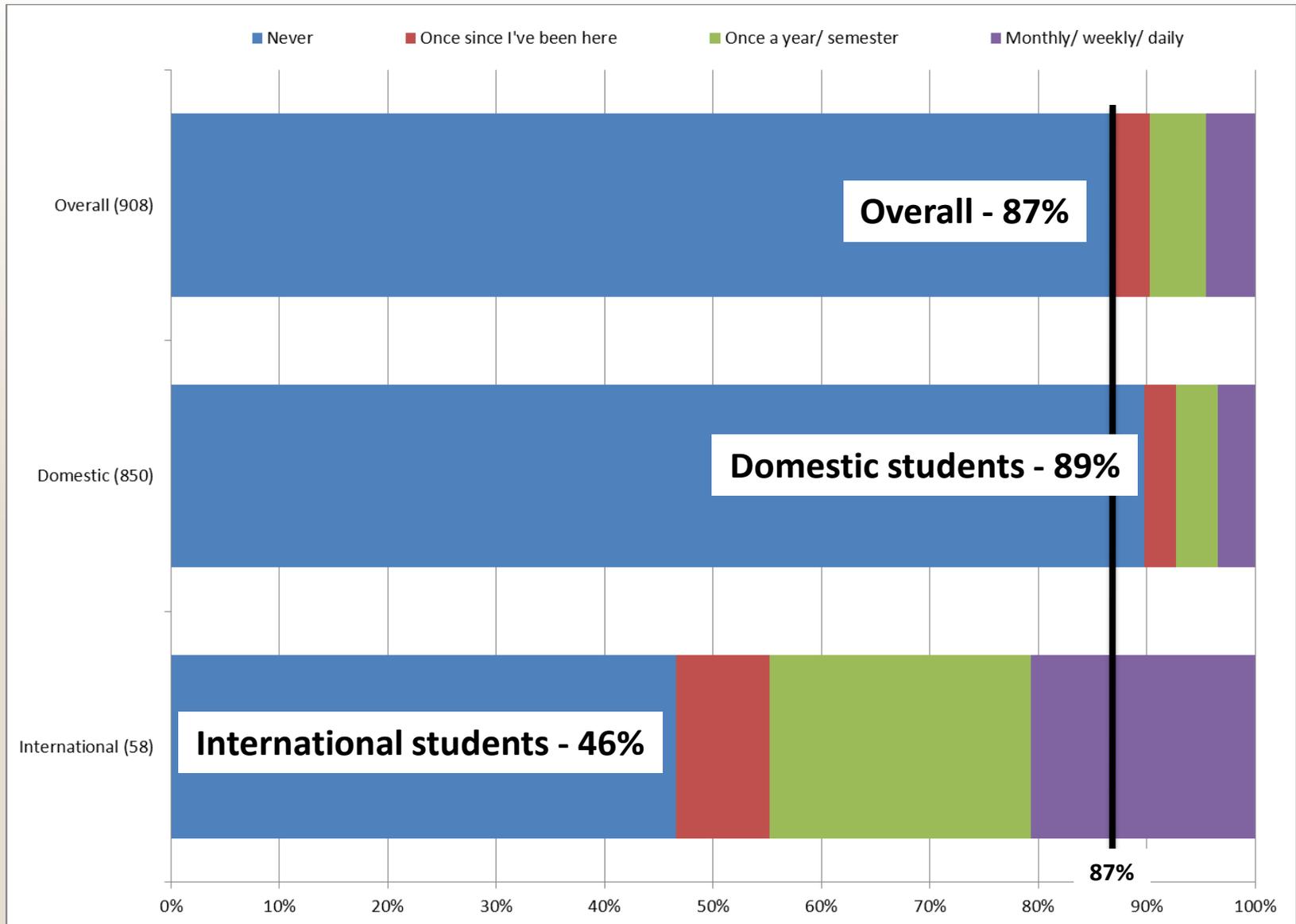
At Texas A&M, how often have you felt uncomfortable because of someone's reaction to your race/ethnicity?

Weekly: I put weekly, just to be nice. But I am sure some redneck has a problem with me at least once a day, that usually results in a stare. You learn to ignore it. U4/Senior – Hispanic – Male

Never: I'm part of the majority. U4/Senior – White – Female

Never: I'm half Hispanic and half White, but I look White so nobody cares. U1/Freshman – Hispanic – Male

At Texas A&M, how often have you felt uncomfortable because of someone's reaction to your nationality/citizenship?



At Texas A&M, how often have you felt uncomfortable because of someone's reaction to your nationality/citizenship?

Weekly: The shock on their face when you tell them you are from the middle-east. U3/Junior – International – Male

Once a year: One can notice it if one is really open minded, and reasonably intuitive, to notice people's behavior in public places like the dining places, buses, and sometimes in the class room, among other places. U1/Freshman – International - Male

Never: I'm an American so this hasn't been directed towards me but I have heard people say ignorant things on countless occasions concerning other nationalities. U4/Senior – White – Female

Summary

In the 2008 data, several respondents indicating they “Never felt uncomfortable” disclosed that looking/being/believing like the majority of people on campus might explain why they have never felt uncomfortable.

Respondents described “Microaggressions ... subtle insults (verbal, nonverbal, and/or visual)” (Solorzano, Ceja, & Yosso, 2000, p. 60).

Over 10 years of campus climate research, undergraduate respondents disclosed that the Texas A&M culture is friendly on the surface, but can be intolerant of different races, religions, political views, women, international students, and gay students.

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