

SURVEY REPORT ON STREET HARASSMENT in New York City

2024

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Executive Summary

Local Law 46 of 2022 requires the Street Harassment Prevention Advisory Board (SHPAB) and its co-chairs, the Mayor’s Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence (ENDGBV) and the NYC Commission on Gender Equity (CGE), to conduct a survey of members of the public to assess the prevalence of street harassment across New York City. The survey, conducted online and in person in the fall of 2023, generated 3,736 responses.¹ Survey respondents (hereinafter “respondents”) represented a broad cross-section of New York City residents, providing insight into the occurrence of street harassment and resulting in several recommendations for interventions.²

Overview of Key Findings (see pages 7–18)

Street Harassment in New York City:

- a. *Street harassment is common in New York City:* Seven out of 10 (71.5%, 2,672 of 3,736) respondents reported experiencing street harassment at some point in their lifetimes. More than half (52.1%, 1,948 of 3,736) of respondents reported being harassed in the past six months.
- b. *While verbal street harassment³ is most prevalent, physical street harassment⁴ is common:* Of the respondents who reported experiencing street harassment in the past six months, 74.6% (1,453 of 1,948) experienced verbal harassment, while 53.0% (1,053 of 1,948) experienced physical street harassment.
- c. *Street harassment occurs in public spaces, and it often occurs on public transportation:* Of respondents who experienced street harassment in the past six months, almost 90% (1,289 of 1,466) of respondents reported experiencing street harassment on the street, while 62.4% (915 of 1,466) experienced it on public transportation.
- d. *Street harassment occurs all hours of the day, but most individuals reported that it happened during the afternoon and early evening:* 62.1% (900 of 1,449) respondents experienced street harassment during the evening, between 5 p.m. through 9 p.m. and 61.3% (888

1 Of the 3,736 survey responses, 56 were completed in person and 3,680 were completed online.

2 The demographic data on the survey respondents is presented in Appendix A.

3 Verbal street harassment includes but is not limited to: receiving unwanted comments, noises, or signals (such as whistling, honking), explicit or rude comments (such as name calling, insults, slurs), gestures, commands, and/or being repeatedly asked for a date or your phone number when you’ve said no or ignored them.

4 Physical street harassment includes but is not limited to: being followed without your permission, being purposely touched, or brushed up against in an unwelcome way, being filmed or photographed in a harassing or inappropriate way or after you’ve told someone to stop, and someone exposing and/or touching their genitals in front of you.

of 1,449) reported that they experienced street harassment during the afternoon, from 1p.m. through 5 p.m.

- e. *Street harassment starts early in life*: Nearly six out of 10 (56.4%, 1,202 of 2,132) respondents who reported experiencing street harassment indicated that it first occurred when they were a minor, ages 17 years old and under.
- f. *Strangers commit almost all street harassment*. Nearly all (97.7%, 1,408 of 1,441) respondents reported that the person perpetrating the street harassment was a stranger to them.

Impact of Street Harassment:

- a. *Street harassment negatively affects victims' emotional state*: 52.2% (1,113 of 2,132) of respondents who reported experiencing street harassment stated that it caused them to feel anxiety or depression.
- b. *Street harassment affects victims' short-term behavior and/or long-term plans*: Half (50.8%, 1,084 of 2,132) of respondents reported that they changed their regular route or commute after experiencing street harassment and 28.4% (606 of 2,132) indicated that they considered moving out of New York City entirely.

Sources of Support for Victims of Street Harassment

- a. *Victims of street harassment often do not disclose their experience*: Almost eight out of 10 (77.2%, 1,621 of 2,099) respondents reported that they did not reach out to anyone for help or support after their experience with street harassment.

Community Response to Street Harassment in the Moment:

- a. *Most individuals who experienced street harassment would like someone to intervene or help if they witnessed someone being street harassed*: 54% (1,151 of 2,116) of respondents wanted someone nearby to intervene or help if they witnessed them being harassed. Thirty-eight percent (38% or 797 of 2,116) wanted police intervention.

Citywide Response to Street Harassment:

- a. *Public awareness campaigns and bystander trainings were identified as the most useful community interventions*. Respondents wanted community-based interventions that raise awareness of the prevalence of street harassment and provide the community with tools to intervene when street harassment occurs. 54% (1,091 of 2,004) of respondents would like to see public awareness campaigns or events. Similarly, 46% (916 of 2,004) of respondents want information about street harassment prevention and response distributed at busy locations.

Overview of Key Recommendations (see p. 19)

a. *Launch Ongoing Public Awareness Campaigns*

A public awareness campaign could educate New Yorkers about various forms of street harassment and the effects of street harassment on mental health, safety, and day-to-day decisions. A campaign would spread awareness of resources and services available to victims and to New Yorkers who hope to learn how to safely intervene to prevent or deescalate street harassment.

b. *Provide and Expand Trainings and Workshops*

Bystander intervention and de-escalation training provide trainees with the tools and strategies to safely and nonviolently respond when witnessing or experiencing street harassment or discrimination. Increasing opportunities for New Yorkers to participate in such trainings by leveraging existing programs and resources could provide more New Yorkers with expert guidance to intervene and de-escalate.

Background

Street Harassment Prevention Advisory Board

In January 2022, New York City enacted Local Law 46, which established the Street Harassment Prevention Advisory Board (SHPAB). The Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence (ENDGBV) and the NYC Commission on Gender Equity (CGE) co-chair this advisory board. CGE sits within the Mayor's Office of Equity & Racial Justice (MOERJ). The goals of the advisory board are to:

1. study the occurrence of street harassment in New York City;
2. identify people and communities most at risk of and most impacted by street harassment via a citywide survey;
3. develop programming, training, and a resource guide to prevent and respond to street harassment; and
4. promote public awareness of street harassment, including supportive services and resources for those who have experienced harassment.

SHPAB members include representatives of ENDGBV, CGE, the New York City Commission on Human Rights, the Office of Nightlife, the Department of Transportation, community-based and nonprofit organizations, and community advocates. Several SHPAB members were appointed by the mayor, the speaker of the New York City Council, and the New York City public advocate as required by Local Law 46 of 2022.

The law that created SHPAB required a survey of members of the public to be conducted regarding the occurrence of street harassment in New York City. To assess the prevalence of street harassment experiences across New York City, ENDGBV, CGE, and SHPAB members developed a survey in spring and summer of 2023.

Prior Research on Street Harassment in New York City

Street harassment in New York City is a pervasive element of urban life, transcending specific neighborhoods and demographics. Studies by Shah (2016) and Logan (2015) highlight its widespread nature across the city, indicating it is an issue that is intertwined with the city's social fabric. Street harassment affects individuals across gender, race, ethnicity, and sexual orientation, though the degree and nature of harassment can vary widely (Fileborn & O'Neill, 2023).

Previous research on street harassment in New York City suggests that as many as 80% of cisgender women in New York City experience some form of street harassment (Bowman, 1993). Experiencing street harassment can have profound impacts on the victim. Research by Hlavka (2014) shows that more than 60% of those who experience street harassment also experience long-lasting anxiety following such encounters. Street harassment can lead to a range of negative emotions, including fear, vulnerability (Ali & Naz, 2016), shame, and depression, which can persist long term. As a result, those targeted may alter their behaviors significantly, avoiding certain areas or changing their travel routines, thereby negatively impacting their freedom and quality of life.

Street harassment is a complex issue rooted in societal norms that reinforce gender and power disparities. Street harassment is deeply entrenched in broader societal issues such as gender inequality and power imbalances. Logan (2015) emphasized that it often functions as a display of power and control, manifesting societal norms and attitudes that allow discrimination and violence against marginalized groups to continue. It acts as both a product and a tool for continuing these social hierarchies, impacting individuals based on a range of intersecting identities (Logan, 2015; Crouch, 2009). A deeper understanding and a cultural shift towards equality and respect are essential for addressing the multifaceted impacts of street harassment effectively.

Survey Methodology

Survey Design and Objectives Implementation

An online survey was conducted capturing a broad cross-section of the city's populace, representing every borough and targeting specific groups, including but not limited to city employees. A simple random sampling technique was used.

The survey was designed using an internet-based form builder and field tested with a random selection of individuals. It was finalized after incorporating feedback and suggestions from survey testers. The survey was translated into the following languages: Arabic, Chinese (Simplified and Traditional), French, Haitian-Creole, Korean, Polish, Russian, Spanish, and Urdu.

A link to the survey was created and distributed via email listservs, social media, and in-person outreach materials to achieve a broad reach across the five boroughs. The survey was also available on paper for community outreach and events.

The primary objectives of the data collection were twofold:

1. **Measure the Prevalence of Street Harassment:** The incidence of street harassment across all five boroughs was counted to establish a foundational understanding of the issue's scope within the city.

2. Understand the Diversity of Street Harassment Experiences: The goal was also to explore how street harassment impacts different demographics, including variations across gender, race, sexual orientation, and neighborhood, thus highlighting specific challenges faced by these groups.

The survey included the following definitions for verbal and physical street harassment:

Verbal street harassment includes but is not limited to: receiving unwanted comments, noises, or signals (such as whistling, honking), explicit or rude comments (such as name calling, insults, slurs), gestures, commands, and/or being repeatedly asked for a date or your phone number when you've said no or ignored them.

Physical street harassment includes but is not limited to: being followed without your permission, being purposely touched, or brushed up against in an unwelcome way, being filmed or photographed in a harassing or inappropriate way or after you've told someone to stop, and someone exposing and/or touching their genitals in front of you.

To take the survey, respondents had to indicate that they were at least 18 years of age.

Limitations and Bias Considerations

A simple random sampling technique was utilized to minimize selection bias, though the absence of stratification in the sampling process may have impacted the representativeness of the sample.

The voluntary nature of the survey introduces the possibility of non-response bias, where the characteristics of respondents might significantly differ from those who chose not to participate. Such biases necessitate cautious interpretation of the findings, considering the potential skew in data reflective of only those who chose to respond.

Although the survey achieved a substantial response rate, several limitations inherent in the methodology include potential biases introduced by the digital distribution method and the non-random nature of voluntary participation.

Recommended Methods for Future Research

Future surveys should use complementary methodologies such as stratified sampling or targeted outreach efforts. These strategies could help reduce the observed limitations and provide a more accurate reflection of the diverse experiences of street harassment within New York City.

Survey Findings

The 43-question survey was available online between September 1, 2023, and December 10, 2023, and at a select number of community outreach events. The survey generated 3,736 responses.^{5,6} An explanation of the methodology of the survey is presented on page seven of this report.

The following pages provide an overview of key findings for the survey. The full survey results can be found in Appendix C.

Street Harassment in New York City: Results of the Survey

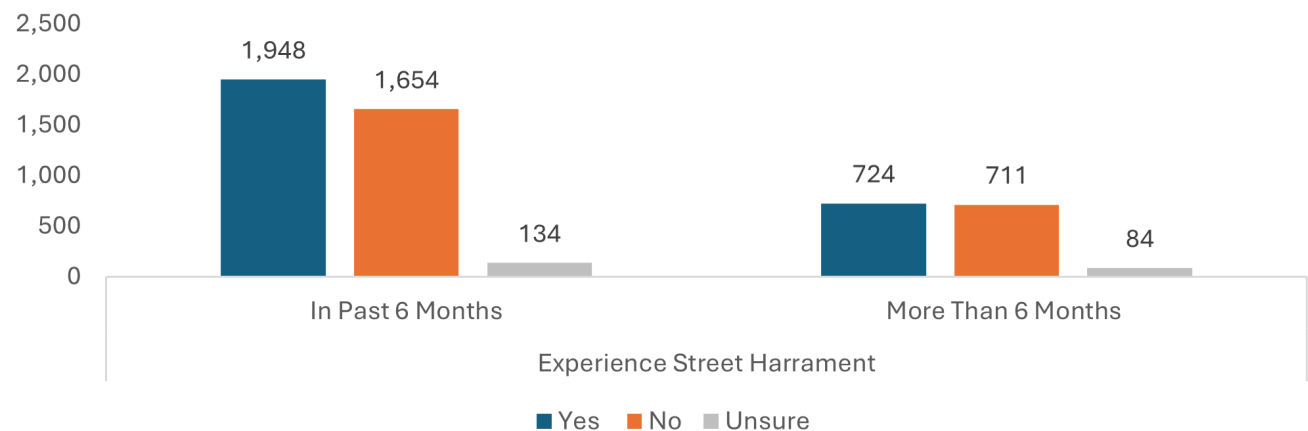
Street Harassment Is Common in New York City: A substantial number of respondents (52.1%, 1,948 of 3,736) reported experiencing unwanted street harassment in the past six months. If a New Yorker answered no or was unsure about experiencing street harassment in the past six months, they were asked whether they had ever experienced unwanted street harassment, to which 47.7% (724 of 1,519) reported they had. Taken together, 71.5% (2,672 of 3,736) of respondents reported experiencing street harassment at some point in their lifetime.

Although a significant portion of respondents experienced harassment, 26.2% (980 of 3,736) did not encounter any unwanted street harassment. This suggests that not all individuals face street harassment, or that certain individuals do not recognize street harassment as such, or that experiences can vary depending on factors such as location, time of day, and individual characteristics.

5 Of the 3,736 survey responses, 56 were completed in person and 3,680 were completed online.

6 The demographic data on the survey respondents is presented in Appendix A.

Figure 1: Experience Street Harassment in New York City



While Verbal Street Harassment is Most Prevalent, Physical Street Harassment is Common: Most (74.6%, 1,453 of 1,948) of respondents who reported experiencing street harassment in the past six months reported being harassed verbally. Of those respondents who experienced verbal street harassment, 76.3% (1,108 of 1,453) received unwanted comments, while just more than half 50.7% (736 of 1,453) reported being harassed by explicit comments. 47.1% (685 of 1,453) of respondents indicated being harassed with unwanted noises or signals.

More than half (54.1% or 1,053 of 1,948) of respondents who experienced street harassment in the past six months reported being physically street harassed. Of those respondents who reported experiencing physical street harassment, 46.6% (491 of 1,053) indicated they were followed without their permission, while 38.1% (401 of 1,053) were purposely touched or brushed up against in an unwelcome way. Almost a third of respondents (32.0%, 337 of 1,053) were street harassed by someone exposing themselves or touching their genitals.

Table 1: Forms of Verbal and Physical Street Harassment Experienced in Past 6 Months

Verbal Street Harassment (N=1,453)

Response	Number	Percent
Receiving unwanted comments	1,108	76.3%
Receiving explicit or rude comments, such as name calling, insults, slurs	736	50.7%
Receiving unwanted noises or signals, such as whistling or honking	685	47.1%
Receiving explicit or rude gestures or commands	531	36.5%
Being repeatedly asked for a date or your phone number when you've said no or ignored them	267	18.4%
Other	163	11.2%

Note: For verbal Street Harassment: No Data (N=1,559) and Not Applicable (N= 724) responses are excluded from the percentage calculations.

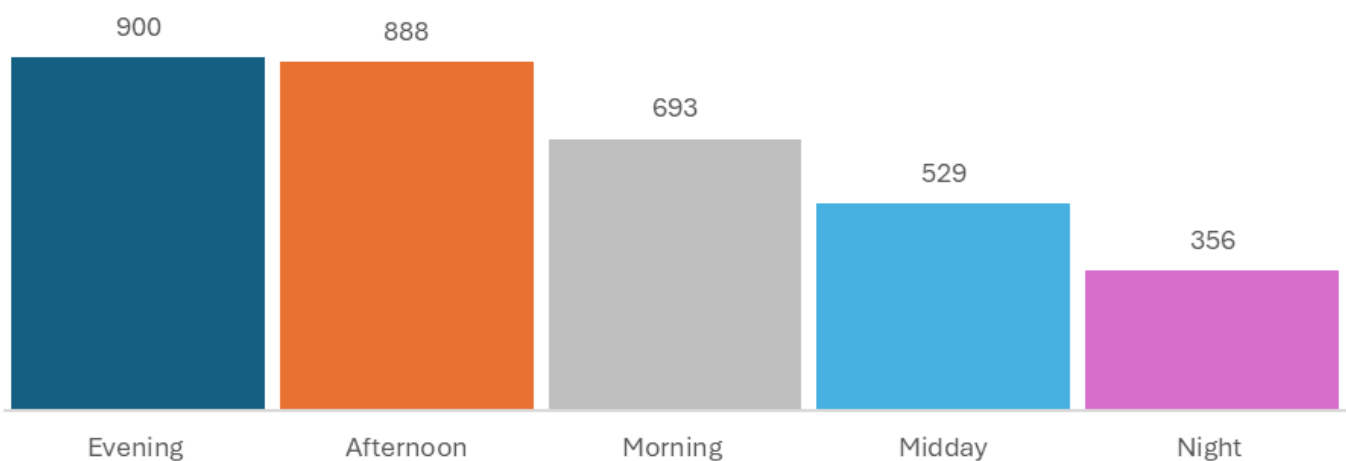
Physical Street Harassment (N=1,053)

Response	Number	Percent
Being followed without permission	491	46.6%
Being purposely touched or brushed up against	401	38.1%
Someone exposing or touching their genitals	337	32.0%
Other	212	20.1%
Being filmed or photographed in a harassing or inappropriate way	167	15.9%

Note: For physical Street Harassment: No Data (N=1,959) and Not Applicable (N= 724) responses are excluded from the percentage calculations

Street harassment takes place at all hours of the day: The results revealed that most respondents experienced harassment during daylight hours, with evening (5 p.m. through 9 p.m.) and afternoon (1 p.m. through 5 p.m.) being the most common times. Specifically, 62.1% (900 of 1,449) and 61.3% (888 of 1,449) of respondents respectively reported experiencing harassment during these periods. This may be due in part to the fact that streets and public transportation are more crowded during these times. While less frequent, harassment was still reported during mornings (5 a.m. through 11 a.m., 47.8% (693 of 1,449) and midday (11 a.m. through 1 p.m. (36.5% (529 of 1,449), highlighting that harassment can happen throughout the day. Nighttime (10 p.m. through 5 a.m.) harassment was the least common (25.2%, 356 of 1,449), which may be due to fewer people being out in public spaces during these hours.

Figure 2: Time of Day Street Harassment Experiences in Last 6 Months (N=1,449)



Street harassment occurs in public spaces, and it often occurs on public transportation: Around 88% (1,289 of 1,466) of respondents reported experiencing street harassment on the street or sidewalk, while around 62.4% (915 of 1,466) of respondents reported experiencing it on public transportation. The survey also found that harassment occurs indoors, with 33.4% (490 of 1,466) of respondents reporting that they experienced street harassment in a retail store, restaurant, bank, library, or night club. More than one in 10 respondents (11.1%, 162 of 1,466) reported being harassed as drivers or passengers in a car, taxi or other for hire vehicle.

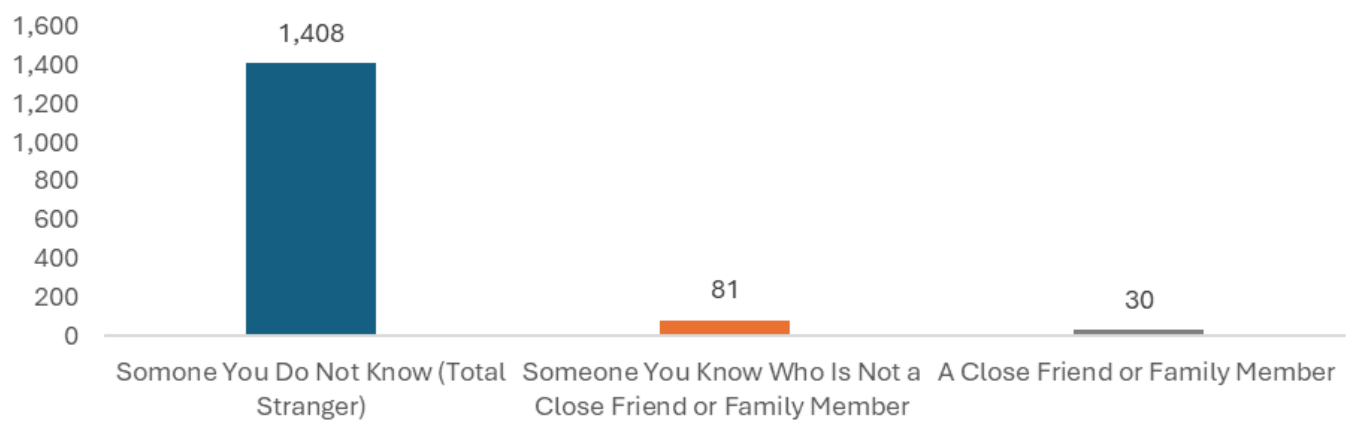
Table 2: Where Street Harassment was Experienced in Past Six Months (N=1,466)

Location	Number	Percent
On street or sidewalk	1,289	87.8%
On public transportation	915	62.4%
While working out (outside, in a gym or at a park)	189	12.9%
Inside bank, healthcare facility, laundromat, retail store, shopping mall or theater	167	11.4%
As the driver or passenger in a car, taxi, or for hire vehicle	162	11.1%
Inside a restaurant, coffee shop, or other food service entity	146	9.6%
Inside a bar, club or other nightlife venue	136	9.3%
Riding a bicycle, scooter, or skateboard	89	6.1%
Other	65	4.4%
Inside a school or library	41	2.8%

Note: Not Data (N=1,546) and Not Applicable (N=724) responses are excluded from the percentage calculations

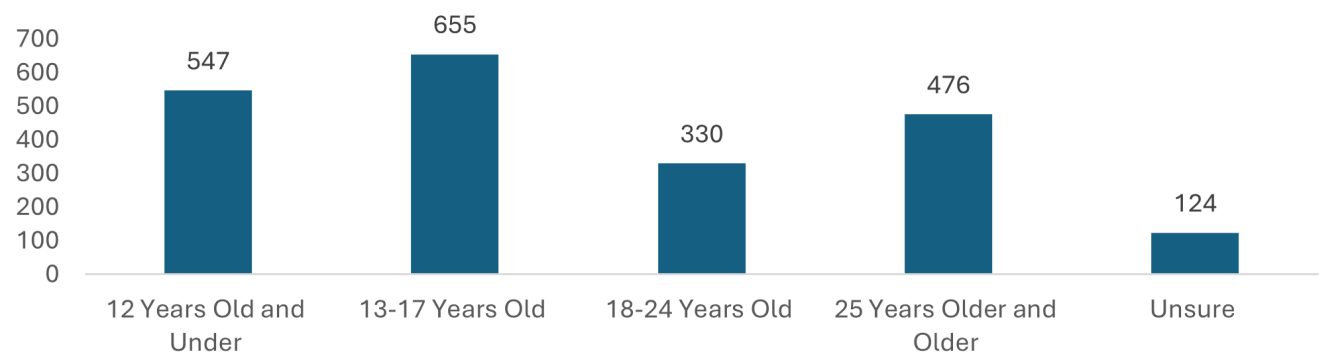
Almost All Street Harassment Is Perpetrated by Strangers: Almost 98% (1,408 of 1,441) of respondents reported that in the past six months, the person committing the street harassment was a stranger to them. Only 5.6% (81 of 1,441) of respondents reported being subjected to street harassment by someone they knew but who was not a close friend. Only 30 respondents (2.1%, 30 of 1,441) reported that a close friend or family member was the person who street harassed them.

Figure 3: From Whom Have You Experienced Street Harassment in Last 6 Months (N=1,441)



Experiencing Street Harassment Often Starts as a Minor: The survey also showed that experiencing street harassment starts early in life. Almost 6 out of 10 (56.4%, 1,202 of 2,132) respondents who reported experiencing street harassment indicated that their first incident occurred when they were a minor. A quarter (25.7%, 547 of 2,132) of respondents reported first experiencing street harassment at the age of 12 and younger, while 30.7%, 655 of 2,132) first experienced street harassment between the ages of 13 to 17. Less than 40% (37.8%, 806 of 2,132) first experienced street harassment when they were an adult.

Figure 4: Age at Which New Yorker First Experienced Street Harassment (N=2,132)



Desired Response to Street Harassment in the Moment

Most respondents who experienced street harassment would like someone to intervene or help if they witnessed someone being street harassed: The survey revealed that victims of street harassment had a clear desire for intervention in response to these incidents. The most common request was for bystanders to step in and help (54.4%, 1,151 of 2,116).

40% (37.7%, 797 of 2,116) of respondents wanted police intervention and 30.1% (623 of 2,116) wanted community members trained in de-escalation and bystander interventions to respond. Less immediate responses to street harassment, such as environmental changes like more streetlamps or larger sidewalks (29.4%, 622 of 2,116) and community conversations around the effect of and ways to prevent street harassment (29.4%, 622 of 2,116), were also interventions or responses that respondents desired. 15% (15.1%, 320 of 2,116) of respondents wanted ways to process their experience through art or support groups.

Table 3: Victim Wanted to Happen in the Moment or After Experiencing Street Harassment? (N=2,116)

Response	Number	Percentage
Someone nearby to intervene or help	1,151	54.4%
Police intervention	797	37.7%
Non-police intervention by local community members trained to de-escalate and process concerning situations using bystander intervention techniques	636	30.1%
A way to easily report it to the government for data collection to inform future targeted prevention and intervention activities (not for law enforcement)	623	29.4%
Environmental changes, like more streetlamps or larger sidewalks	622	29.4%
Community conversations around the effect of and ways to prevent street harassment	539	25.5%
A way to process or express the effects of street harassment (public art)	320	15.1%
None of these would be helpful	242	11.4%
Other	186	8.8%

Note: More than one response could be chosen. No Data (N=1,630) and Not Applicable (N=0) responses are excluded from the percentage calculations.

Impact of Street Harassment

Street Harassment Often Affects Victims' Behavior and Emotional State: Fifty-two percent (52%) of respondents who reported experiencing street harassment stated that the experience caused them to feel anxiety or depression. Fifty-one percent (51%) reported that they changed their regular route or commute after experiencing street harassment. Almost three out of 10 (30%) indicated that they considered moving out of New York City entirely.

Table 4: Victims' Response to Street Harassment (N=2,132)

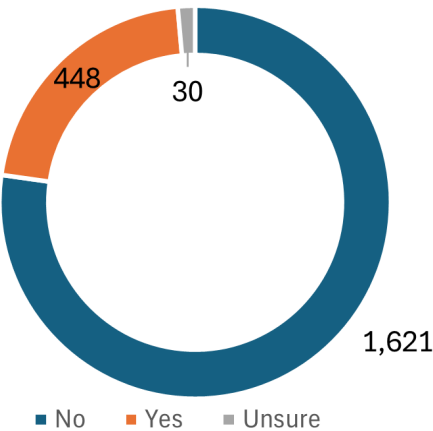
<i>Response</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Felt anxiety or depression	1,113	52.2%
Changed a regular route or commute	1,084	50.8%
Taken a car service instead of public transportation	724	34.0%
Changed style of dress or personnel appearance	617	28.9%
Considered moving out of NYC	606	28.4%
Skipped a social event, community activity or school	360	16.9%
Taken self defense classes	298	14.0%
Skipped going to a restaurant, bar or club	291	13.6%
Reported it to the police	229	10.7%

Note: No Data (N=2,132) and Not Applicable (N=0) responses are excluded from the percentage calculations.

Sources of Support for Victims of Street Harassment

Victims of Street Harassment Often Do Not Disclose Their Experience: Almost eight out of 10 (77.2%, 1,621 of 2,099) respondents reported that they did not reach out to anyone for help or support after their experience with street harassment. One in five (21.3%, 448 of 2,099) sought help from individuals, city agencies, or service providers. The remaining 1.4% (30 of 2,099) were unsure if they sought help.

Figure 5: Reached Out For Help or Support After Experiencing Street Harassment (N=2,099)



Of those who reached out for help or support, the most common source of support after experiencing street harassment was a friend or family member (58%, 258 of 444). 47% (208 of 444) of respondents contacted law enforcement, specifically the New York City Police Department (NYPD) of respondents while 23% (104 of 444) of respondents contacted mental health professionals such as therapists or counselors.

Table 4: To Whom Victim Reached Out to for Help or Support After Experiencing Street Harassment (N=444)

<i>Response</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
A friend or family member	258	58.1%
The NYPD (law enforcement)	208	46.8%
A therapist or other mental health practitioner	104	23.4%
Other	70	15.8%
The Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA)	50	11.3%
A community-based organization, nonprofit, or service provider	43	9.7%
NYC Well	13	2.9%
The NYC Commission on Human Rights (CCHR)	12	2.7%
The National Street Harassment Hotline	2	0.4%

Note: More than one response could be chosen. No Data (N=1,589) and Not Applicable (N=1,730) responses are excluded from the percentage calculations.

The majority of respondents who sought support after experiencing street harassment reached out for support relied on family and friends or mental health professionals. Few respondents sought help from civil city or state agencies or community-based service providers.

The survey also revealed that, when reaching out for support, respondents felt most supported by mental health professionals (87.4%, 90 of 103), friends and family members (84.3%, 215 of 255) and community-based organizations (55.8%, 24 of 43). While reaching out to city and state agencies was limited, those respondents that did reach out reported that they did not feel overly supported by these agencies. For example, 29.2% (60 of 205) of respondents who reached out to the NYPD indicated that they felt supported in reaching out of assistance. Likewise, 32.0% (16 of 50) of respondents who reached out to the Metropolitan Transportation authority (MTA) indicated that they felt supported in reaching out of assistance.

Table 5: Victim Felt Supported After Experiencing Street Harassment

<i>Response</i>	<i># of Responses</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>
NYPD/law enforcement	205	29.2% (60)	48.7% (100)
Commission on Human Rights (CCHR)	11	18.2% (2)	36.4% (4)
Metropolitan Transit Authority	50	32% (16)	52% (26)
NYC Well	11	27.3% (3)	63.7% (7)
National Street Harassment Hotline	2	-	50% (1)
Community-based organization/non-profit/ service provider	43	55.8% (24)	27.9% (12)
Friend or family member	255	84.3% (215)	6.2% (16)
Therapist or other mental health practitioner	103	87.4% (90)	6.8% (7)

Note: The question allowed for the following response options: strongly agree, agree, neither agree or disagree, disagree, and strongly disagree. In this chart agree and strongly agree are combined into agree and disagree and strongly disagree are combined into disagree. Neither agree nor disagree are omitted from the chart.

What Needs to Be Done in Response to Street Harassment

Public awareness campaigns and bystander training were identified as the most useful community interventions. Respondents wanted community-based interventions that raised awareness around the prevalence of street harassment and provide the community with tools to intervene when street harassment occurs by providing bystander intervention and/or de-escalation training. 54% (1,091 of 2,004) would like to see public awareness campaigns or events. Similarly, 46% (916 of 2,004) would like to see the distribution of information about street harassment prevention and response at busy locations.

52% (1,051 of 2,004) would like to see bystander intervention or de-escalation training, which is consistent with responses indicating that those who had experienced street harassment wanted someone to intervene when they witnessed it occurring.

Figure 6: Community Based Interventions New Yorkers Would You Like to See in Community (N=2,004)



Recommendations

Based on the survey, the following recommendations should be considered by New York City to raise awareness around the prevalence of street harassment and the supportive services available:

Ongoing Public Awareness Campaigns

A public awareness campaign to raise awareness of street harassment and highlight the role New Yorkers can play in creating safe public spaces should be developed.

A public awareness campaign about street harassment could educate New Yorkers about verbal and physical street harassment and the broad effects of street harassment on individuals' mental health, safety, and day-to-day decision-making. Such campaigns could also bring attention to the communities and individuals who may be disproportionately targeted by street harassers on the basis of actual or perceived age, race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or religious affiliation. Any public awareness campaign would also ideally spread awareness of resources and services available to individuals who have been street harassed or who want to learn to safely intervene to prevent or deescalate street harassment.

Public awareness campaigns could be launched in or around transit hubs and busy pedestrian areas to raise awareness of all forms of street harassment and elevate the impact of street harassment and available resources. The awareness campaign could include information displayed on kiosks and Taxi TV, as well as social media campaigns and public art installations.

Training and Workshops

Bystander intervention and de-escalation training provides individuals with the tools and strategies to safely and nonviolently respond when they witness street harassment and discrimination. This type of training already exists in New York City: the NYC Commission on Human Rights and the organization Right To Be both host bystander intervention trainings. By supporting the expansion or increased frequency of these and other existing trainings, the City of New York can educate more New Yorkers, while leveraging existing expertise and resources. The city can also assess whether new or updated trainings are necessary based on the results of this survey, and ongoing and future engagement with community members and community-based organizations.

In addition, to raise awareness of street harassment, community workshops could describe street harassment, its impacts, and how to support individuals who are being or have been street harassed while also holding one another accountable to prevent street harassment. To further increase awareness, ENDGBV, CGE, and other city agencies should consider incorporating street harassment, where appropriate, into ongoing training activities.

Plans for Future Research

Focus Groups with Interested Individuals: During the survey process, almost 400 respondents expressed interest in participating in focus groups to further explore the occurrence of street harassment. As part of the continued work of SHPAB, ENDGBV and CGE will conduct focus groups to gain a better understanding of the survey data and refine the recommendations in this report.

Engage Underrepresented Groups: ENDGBV and CGE plan to engage and learn from individuals whose demographics were underrepresented in the survey results. Men, transgender, gender-nonbinary, gender-nonconforming, and Hispanic/Latina/Latino and Middle Eastern/North African individuals were underrepresented in this survey.

Engage Young People: The survey results discussed in this report include only adults over the age of 18. Additional surveys, focus groups, or engagement with people under the age of 18 could help the city understand how they experience street harassment in New York City. ENDGBV, CGE, and SHPAB are planning to engage and learn from young people to inform the ongoing work of the Board.

Appendices

Appendix A: Demographics of Survey Respondents

Question 34 to Question 39: Descriptive tables of demographic variables

Variable	Count	Percentage
Race/Ethnicity		
White (non-Hispanic)	911	37%
Black/African American/African	496	20%
Hispanic or Latinx	438	18%
Asian	231	9%
Multiracial/Multiethnic	225	9%
Middle Eastern/North African	13	1%
Native Hawaiian or Alaska Native	2	0%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1	0%
Not identified	153	6%
Age Group (in years)		
18-24	98	3%
25-29	248	9%
30-34	326	11%
35-39	302	11%
40-44	332	12%
45-49	334	12%
50-54	347	12%
55-59	308	11%
60-64	265	9%
65-69	107	4%
70-74	48	2%
75-79	19	1%
80 and over	8	0%
Prefer not to answer	99	3%
Sexual Orientation		
Heterosexual	1281	54%
Bisexual	114	5%
Gay	78	3%
Queer	69	3%
Lesbian	27	1%
Pansexual	24	1%
Asexual	9	0%
Questioning	4	0%

<i>Variable</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Transgender	1	0%
Not identified	754	32%
<i>Physical Disability/Mobility</i>		
Yes	123	4%
No	2574	92%
Prefer not to answer	98	4%
<i>Religion</i>		
Christian	1060	49%
No religion	513	23%
Jewish	139	6%
Islam	64	3%
Hindu	24	1%
Buddhist	19	1%
Not identified	364	17%
<i>Gender Identity</i>		
Cisgender Woman	1562	57%
Cisgender Man	639	23%
Non-binary/gender Non-conforming/genderqueer	61	2%
Transgender Woman	9	0%
Transgender Man	1	0%
Prefer not to answer	375	14%
Other identity	96	3%

Appendix B: Survey

Street Harassment Prevention Advisory Board Survey

The following questions are about verbal and physical street harassment.

Verbal street harassment includes but is not limited to: receiving unwanted comments, noises, or signals (such as whistling, honking), explicit or rude comments (such as name calling, insults, slurs), gestures, commands, and/or being repeatedly asked for a date or your phone number when you've said no or ignored them.

Physical street harassment includes but is not limited to: being followed without your permission, being purposely touched, or brushed up against in an unwelcome way, being filmed or photographed in a harassing or inappropriate way or after you've told someone to stop, and someone exposing and/or touching their genitals in front of you.

1. Question 1: Have you experienced any unwanted street harassment (verbal or physical) in NYC in the last 6 months?

- a. Yes (skip to question 3)
- b. No (continue with question 2)
- c. Unsure (continue with question 2)

2. Question 2: Have you ever experienced unwanted street harassment (verbal or physical) in NYC?

- a. Yes (skip to question 10)
- b. No (skip to question 32)
- c. Unsure (skip to question 32)

3. Question 3: In the past 6 months, which of the following forms of verbal street harassment have you experienced? (check all that apply)

- a. Receiving unwanted comments
- b. Receiving unwanted noises or signals, such as whistling or honking
- c. Receiving explicit or rude comments, such as name calling, insults, slurs
- d. Receiving explicit or rude gestures or commands
- e. Being repeatedly asked for a date or your phone number when you've said no or ignored them
- f. Other

3a. Question 3 Other: If you choose “other” to question 3, please explain:

4. Question 4: In the past 6 months, which of the following forms of physical street harassment have you experienced in NYC? (check all that apply)

- a. Being followed without your permission
- b. Being purposely touched or brushed up against in an unwelcome way
- c. Being filmed or photographed in a harassing or inappropriate way, or after you've told someone to stop
- d. Someone exposing or touching their genitals in front of you
- e. Other

4a. Question 4 Other: If you choose “other” to question 4, please explain:

5. Question 5: In the past 6 months, how often have you experienced street harassment (verbal or physical)?

- a. Daily
- b. Weekly
- c. Monthly
- d. 1-3 times

6. Question 6: In the past 6 months, where have you experienced street harassment (verbal or physical) in NYC? (check all that apply)

- a. On the street or sidewalk (for example, while walking, standing, or waiting for a bus)
- b. On public transportation (for example, on a bus, at a bus stop, on the subway, or in a subway station)
- c. Riding a bicycle, scooter, or skateboard
- d. As the driver or passenger in a car, taxi, or for-hire vehicle (like Uber or Lyft)
- e. Inside of a bar, club, or other nightlife venue
- f. Inside of a restaurant, coffee shop, or other food service entity
- g. Inside of a bank, healthcare facility, laundromat, retail store, shopping mall, or theater
- h. Inside of a school or library
- i. While working out (outside, in a gym, or at a park/rec center, etc.)
- j. Other

6a. Question 6 Other: If you choose “other” to question 6, please explain:

7. Question 7: At what time of day have you experienced street harassment most often (verbal or physical) in NYC in the past 6 months?

- a. Morning (5am – 11am)
- b. Midday (11am – 1pm)
- c. Afternoon (1pm – 5pm)
- d. Evening (5pm – 10pm)
- e. Night (10pm – 5am)

8. Question 8: From whom have you experienced unwanted street harassment (verbal and physical) in NYC in the past 6 months? (check all that apply)

- a. A close friend or family member
- b. Someone you know who is not a close friend or family member
- c. Someone you do not know (a total stranger)

9. Question 9: Where have you experienced street harassment (either verbal or physical) in NYC in the past 6 months? (write in up to 3 neighborhoods)

Question 9 (Write):

Question 9b (Write):

Question 9c (Write):

The following Questions Ask About Lifetime Experiences of Street Harassment (Verbal or Physical)

10. Question 10: As best as you remember, approximately how old were you when you first experienced street harassment (either verbal or physical)?

- a. 12 years old or younger
- b. 13 – 17 years old
- c. 18 – 24 years old
- d. 25 years old or older
- e. Unsure

11. Question 11: Did your first experience with street harassment (either verbal or physical) happen in NYC?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Unsure

12. Question 12: Please indicate which part(s) of your identity you believe contributed to your experience of street harassment? (check all that apply)

- a. Sex
- b. Gender Identity or Expression
- c. Sexual Orientation
- d. Housing Status/Homelessness
- e. Race, Ethnicity, or Skin Color
- f. Religious Affiliation
- g. Disability or Mobility
- h. Immigration Status
- i. Physical Appearance (including body type, hair style, clothing, or outfit, etc.)
- j. Mental Health/State of Mind
- k. Class or Income Level
- l. Language (including ASL)
- m. Age
- n. Other

12a. Question 12 Other: If you choose “other” to question 12, please explain:

13. Question 13: Because of the street harassment you have experienced in NYC, have you done any of the following? (check all that apply)

- a. Changed a regular route or commute
- b. Taken a car service instead of public transit
- c. Skipped a social event, community activity, or school
- d. Changed your work schedule or job
- e. Stopped going to a restaurant, bar, or club
- f. Changed style of dress or personal appearance

- g. Changed schools and/or universities, or dropped out of school or university
- h. Moved from a dorm, apartment, house, or other form of residence
- i. Considered moving out of New York City
- j. Sought medical help, including mental health counseling
- k. Taken a self-defense class
- l. Reported it to the police
- m. Felt anxiety or depression
- n. Other
- o. None of the above

13a. Question 13 Other: If you choose “other” to question 13, please explain:

14. Question 14: When you experienced an instance of street harassment in NYC, what did you want to happen in the moment or after? (check all that apply)

- a. Someone nearby to intervene or help if they witnessed me being harassed (skip to question 16)
- b. A way to easily report it to the government for data collection to inform future targeted prevention and intervention activities (not for law enforcement) (skip to question 16)
- c. Police intervention (continue with question 15)
- d. Non-police intervention by local community members trained to de-escalate and process concerning situations using bystander intervention techniques (skip to question 16)
- e. Environmental changes, like more streetlamps or larger sidewalks (skip to question 16)
- f. Community conversations around the effects of, and ways to prevent, street harassment (skip to question 16)
- g. A way to process or express the effects of street harassment, like interactive public art or a speak-out (skip to question 16)
- h. Other (continue to question 14a)
- i. None of these would be helpful (skip to question 16)

14a. Question 14 Other: If you choose “other” to question 14, please explain:

15. Question 15: How would you like police to respond if you experienced street harassment in NYC? (check all that apply)

- a. Investigate the street harassment incident
- b. Provide a police escort to ensure you arrive to your destination safely
- c. Increase police presence in the area where the street harassment occurred
- d. Arrest the perpetrator
- e. Other

15a. Question 15 Other: If you choose “other” to question 15, please provide more information:

16. Question 16: What kind of, if any, mental or emotional support resources would be most useful following an experience of street harassment in NYC? (check all that apply)

- a. Therapy or counseling
- b. Training or resources to support with healing
- c. Training or resources on ways to respond to future instances of street harassment
- d. Ability to share story anonymously via social media or online forum
- e. Ability to connect with others with similar experiences via social media or online forum
- f. In-person or virtual street harassment support group
- g. Other
- h. None of these resources would be useful

16a. Question 16 Other: If you choose “other” to question 16, please explain:

17. Question 17: Which actions, if any, have you taken in the moment that have been useful to respond to street harassment in NYC? (check all that apply)

- a. Ignored or not responded to the harasser and moved away
- b. Politely asked the harasser to stop
- c. Loudly told the harasser to stop
- d. Asked someone nearby for help
- e. Went into a nearby business or building
- f. Documented the incident or harasser (for example, took a photo or video)
- g. Other

- h. I have not taken any actions to respond to street harassment in NYC
- i. None of these actions are useful

17a. Question 17 Other: If you choose “other” to question 17, please explain:

18. Question 18: Which, if any, intervention tools have you found useful to prevent or address street harassment in NYC? (check all that apply)

- a. A whistle or other noisemaking device
- b. A training
 - i. Please list the type of training here (Question 18b):
- c. An app
 - ii. Please list the name of the app here (Question 18c):
- d. A self-defense weapon, such as pepper spray
- e. Other
- f. I have not used any intervention tools to prevent or address street harassment in NYC
- g. None of the intervention tools listed are useful

18a. Question 18 Other: If you choose “other” to question 18, please explain:

19. Question 19: Did you reach out to any individuals, city agencies, or service providers for help or support after your experience with street harassment in NYC?

- a. Yes (continue to question 20)
- b. No (skip to question 29)
- c. Unsure (skip to question 29)

20. Question 20: Who did you reach out to?

- a. The NYPD (law enforcement) (continue with question 21)
- b. The NYC Commission on Human Rights (CCHR) (continue to question 22)
- c. The Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) (continue with question 23)
- d. NYC Well (continue to question 24)
- e. The National Street Harassment Hotline (continue to question 25)
- f. A community-based organization, nonprofit, or service provider (continue to question 26)

- i. Please list the name of the organization here (Question 20b)
- g. A friend or family member (continue to question 27)
- h. A therapist or other mental health practitioner (continue to question 28)
- i. Other (continue to question 20a)

20a. Question 20 Other: If you choose “other” to question 20, please provide more information:

21. Question 21: Please rate your agreement with the following statement: I felt supported by the NYPD/law enforcement after my experience with street harassment in NYC.

- a. Strongly agree
- b. Agree
- c. Neither agree nor disagree
- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly disagree

22. Question 22: Please rate your agreement with the following statement: I felt supported by the NYC Commission on Human Rights (CCHR) after my experience with street harassment in NYC.

- a. Strongly agree
- b. Agree
- c. Neither agree nor disagree
- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly disagree

23. Question 23: Please rate your agreement with the following statement: I felt supported by the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) after my experience with street harassment in NYC.

- a. Strongly agree
- b. Agree
- c. Neither agree nor disagree
- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly disagree

24. Question 24: Please rate your agreement with the following statement: I felt supported by NYC Well after my experience with street harassment in NYC.

- a. Strongly agree
- b. Agree
- c. Neither agree nor disagree
- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly disagree

25. Question 25: Please rate your agreement with the following statement: I felt supported by the National Street Harassment Hotline after my experience with street harassment in NYC.

- a. Strongly agree
- b. Agree
- c. Neither agree nor disagree
- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly disagree

26. Question 26: Please rate your agreement with the following statement: I felt supported by the community-based organization/nonprofit/service provider after my experience with street harassment in NYC.

- a. Strongly agree
- b. Agree
- c. Neither agree nor disagree
- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly disagree

27. Question 27: Please rate your agreement with the following statement: I felt supported by the friend or family member after my experience with street harassment in NYC.

- a. Strongly agree
- b. Agree
- c. Neither agree nor disagree
- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly disagree

28. Question 28: Please rate your agreement with the following statement: I felt supported by the therapist or other mental health practitioner after my experience with street harassment in NYC.

- a. Strongly agree
- b. Agree
- c. Neither agree nor disagree
- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly disagree

For Q29 – Q30: Please rate your agreement with the following statements.

29. Question 29: A central way to report street harassment, like 311, would help me process/recover from the effects of experiencing street harassment.

- a. Strongly agree
- b. Agree
- c. Neither agree nor disagree
- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly disagree

30. Question 30: Community conversations about street harassment hosted by a City agency or service provider would help me process/recover from the effects of experiencing street harassment.

- a. Strongly agree
- b. Agree
- c. Neither agree nor disagree
- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly disagree

31. Question 31: Which of the following options related to street harassment would you like to see in your community? (check all that apply)

- a. Community conversations on street harassment
- b. Distribution of information about street harassment prevention and response at busy locations
- c. Bystander intervention or de-escalation trainings
- d. Public art or installations to bring attention to street harassment

- e. Public awareness campaigns or events
- f. Other

31a. Question 31 Other: If you choose “other” to question 31, please explain:

32. Question 32: Were you aware of the New York City Street Harassment Prevention Advisory Board before today?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Unsure

33. Question 33: Are you aware of the New York City Street Harassment Prevention Resource Guide?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Unsure

34. Question 34: What best describes your racial/ethnic identity? (write in)

35. Question 35: What is your age group?

- a. 18-24
- b. 25-29
- c. 30-34
- d. 35-39
- e. 40-44
- f. 45-49
- g. 50-54
- h. 55-59
- i. 60-64
- j. 65-69
- k. 70-74
- l. 75-79
- m. 80 and over
- n. Prefer not to answer

36. Question 36: What best describes your current sexual orientation? (write-in)

37. Question 37: Do you have a physical disability or mobility issue that is visible to others?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Prefer not to answer

38. Question 38: What religion do you practice or identify with? (write-in)

39. Question 39: How do you primarily identify?

- a. Cisgender man (gender identity matches assigned-at-birth gender)
- b. Cisgender woman (gender identity matches assigned-at-birth gender)
- c. Transgender man (gender identity differs from assigned-at-birth gender)
- d. Transgender woman (gender identity differs from assigned-at-birth gender)
- e. Non-binary/gender non-conforming/genderqueer
- f. Other identity
- g. Prefer not to answer

39a. Question 39 Other: If you choose “other identity” to question 39, please explain:

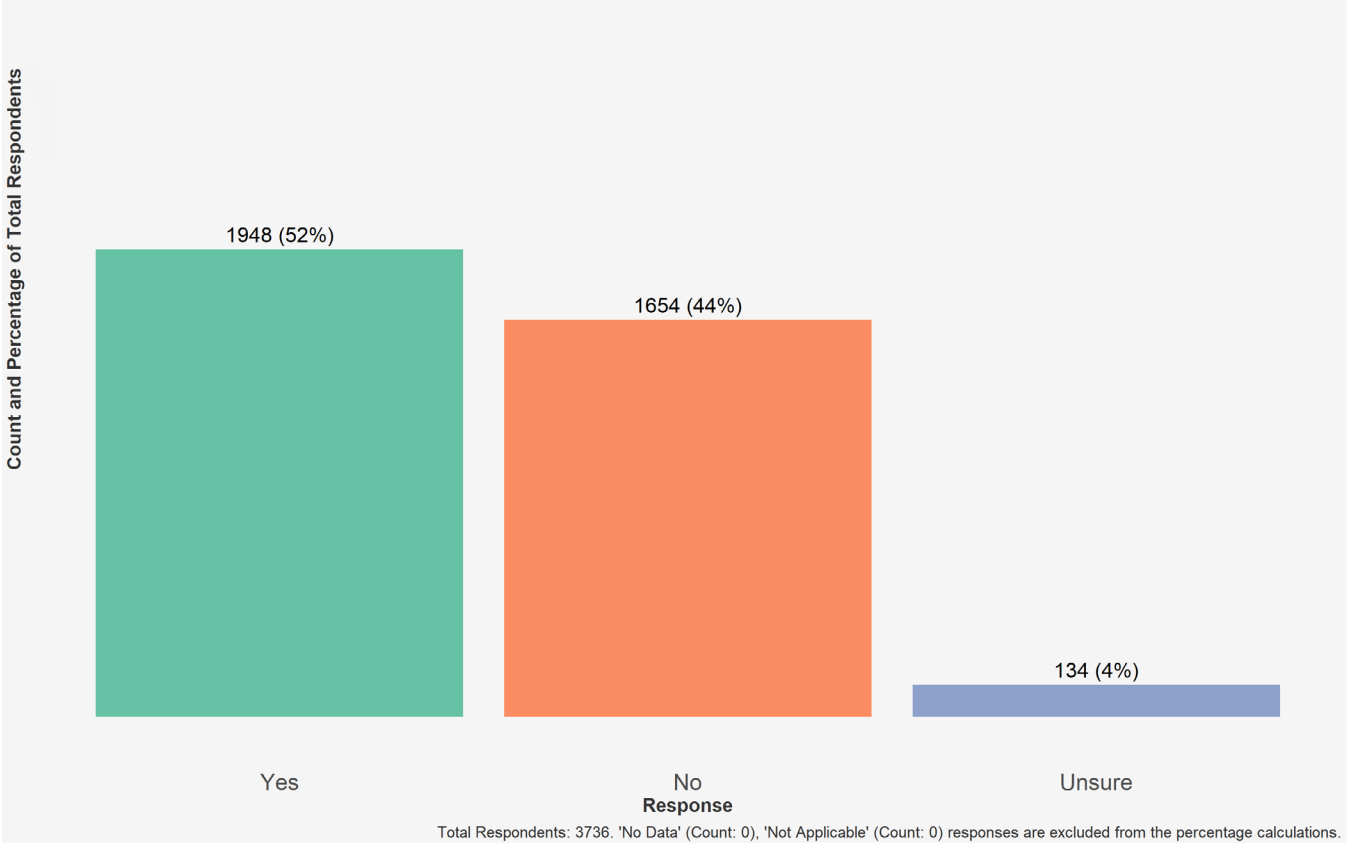
40. Question 40: Do you have any other comments, feedback, or information you’d like to share with the Board? Please do not include any personally identifying information, like your name, home address or phone number. (write-in)

41. Question 41: Would you like to be contacted about participating in future focus groups about street harassment in New York City?

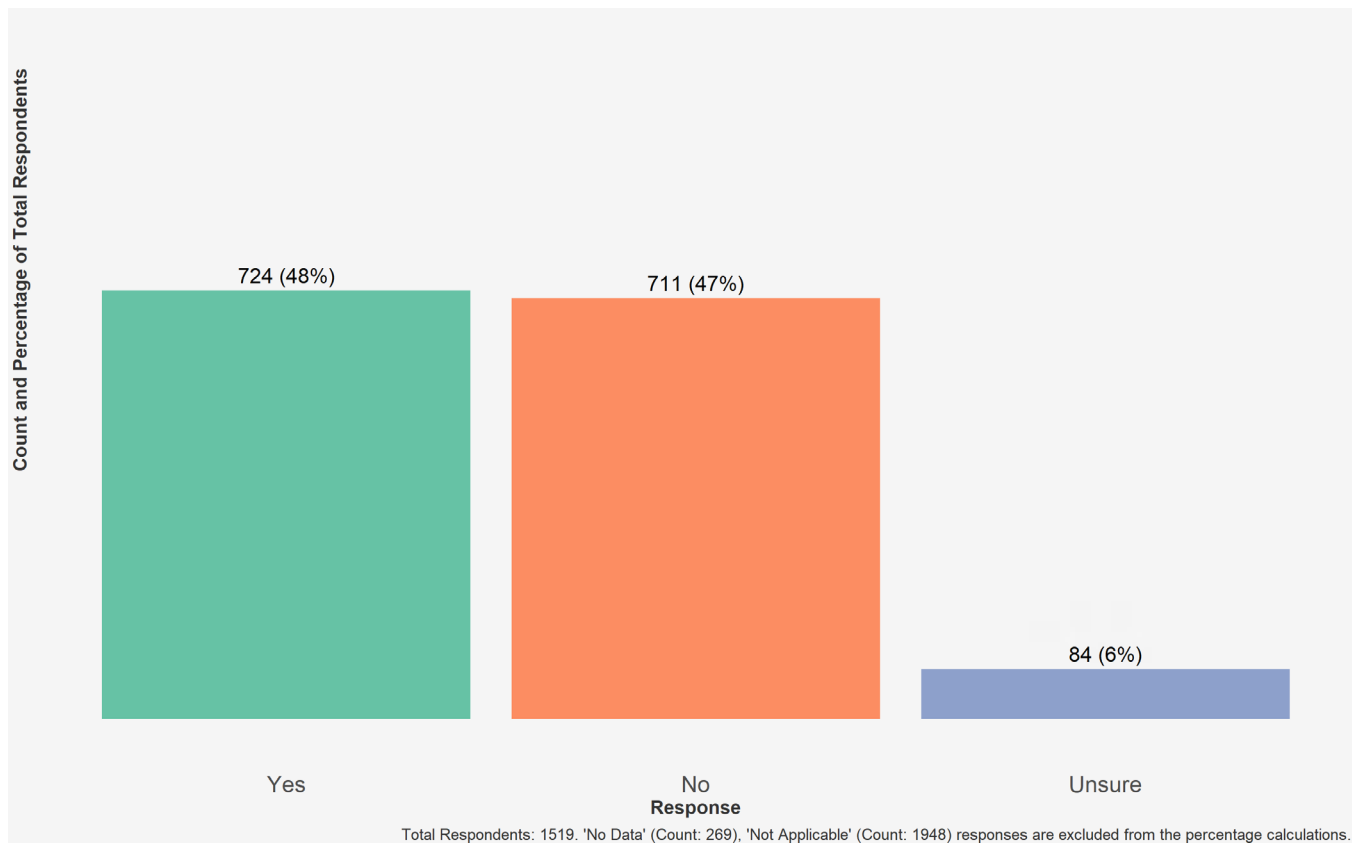
- a. Yes
- b. No

Appendix C: Full Survey Responses

Question 1: Have you experienced any unwanted street harassment (verbal or physical) in NYC in the last 6 months?



Question 2: Have you ever experienced unwanted street harassment (verbal or physical) in NYC?

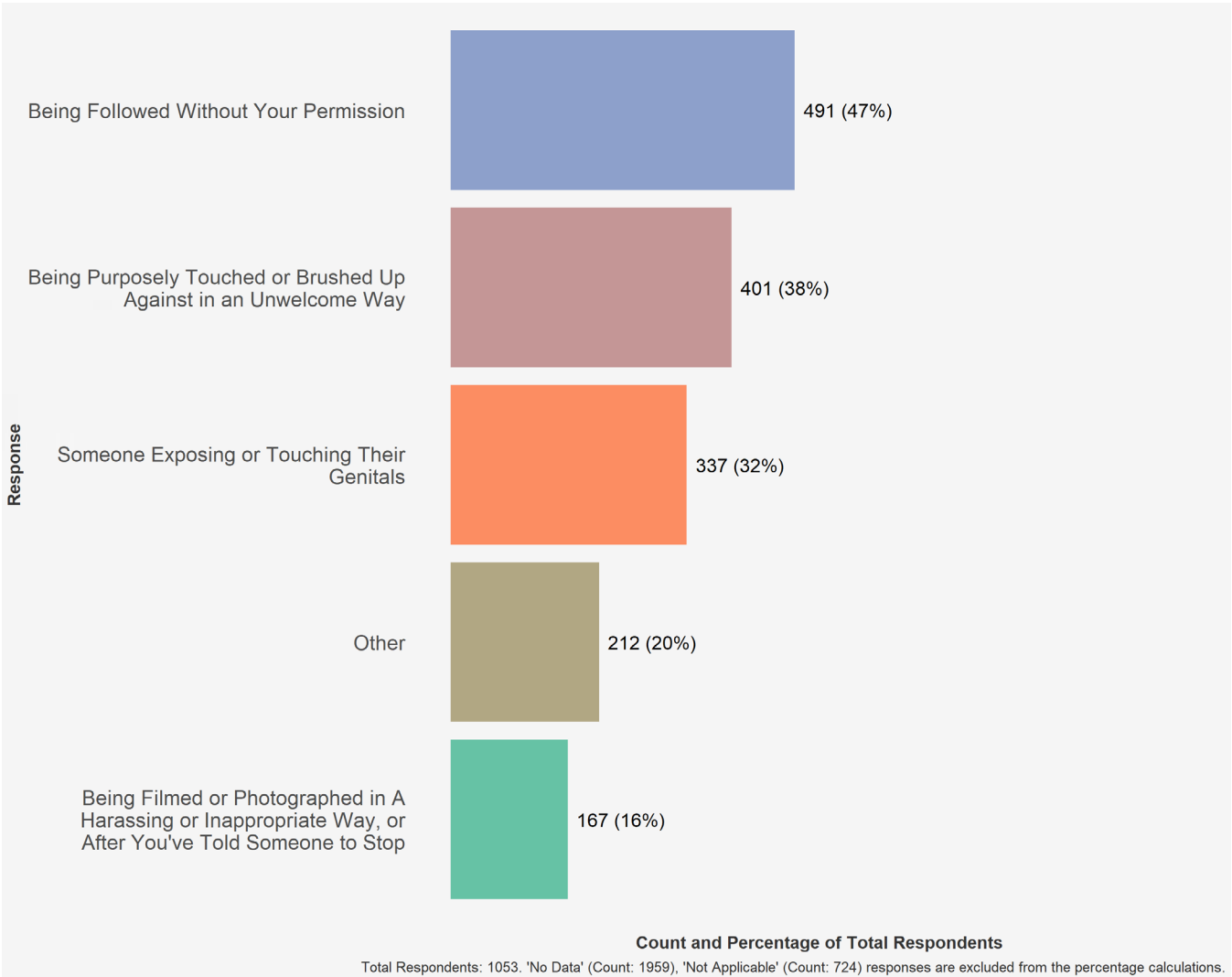


Question 3: In the past 6 months, which of the following forms of verbal street harassment have you experienced? (Multiple Responses)

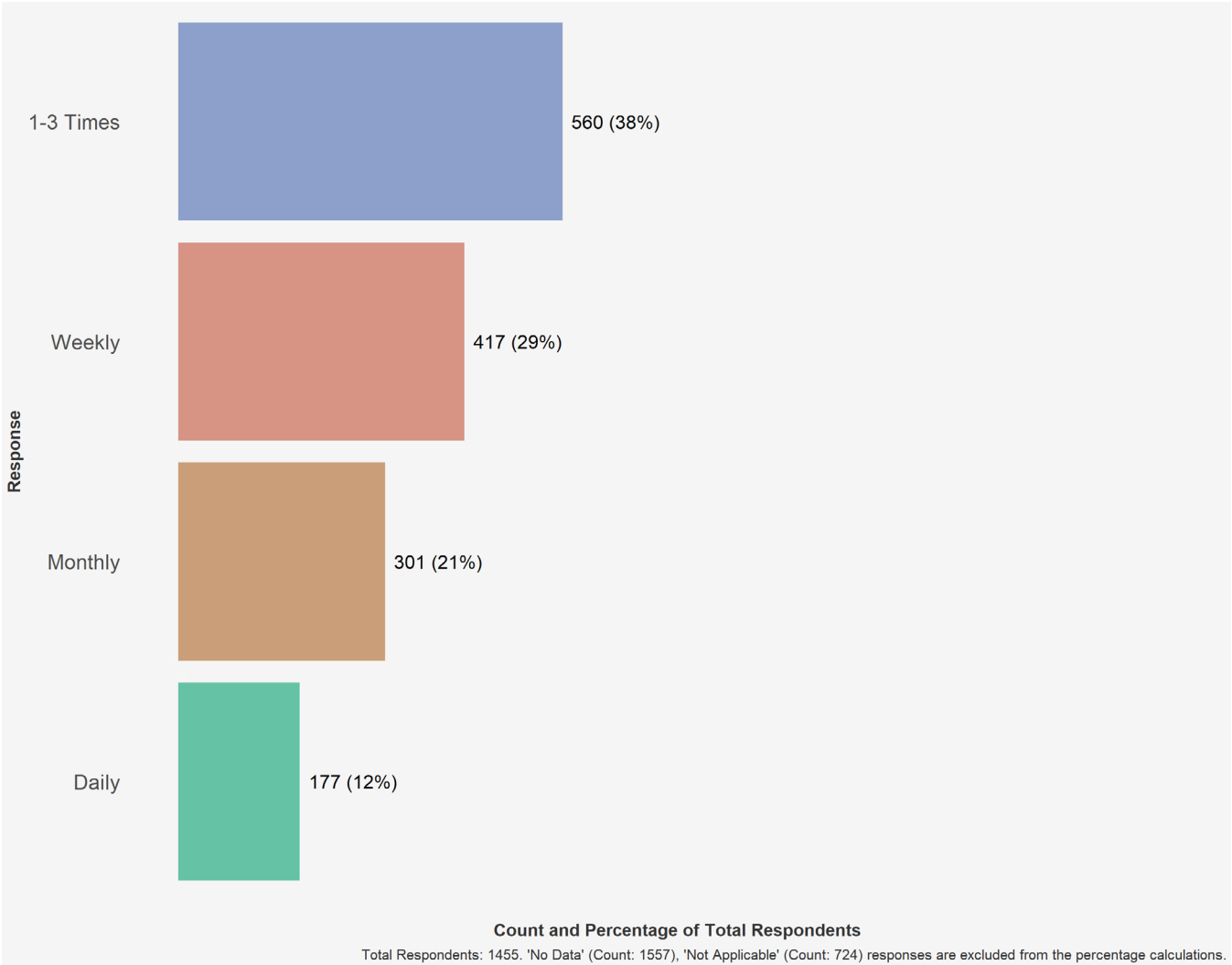
<i>Response</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent of Responses</i>	<i>Percent of Cases</i>
Receiving unwanted comments	1108	31.7%	76.3%
Receiving explicit or rude comments, such as name calling, insults, slurs	736	21.1%	50.7%
Receiving unwanted noises or signals, such as whistling or honking	685	19.6%	47.1%
Receiving explicit or rude gestures or commands	531	15.2%	36.5%
Being repeatedly asked for a date or your phone number when you've said no or ignored them	267	7.7%	18.4%
Other	163	4.7%	11.2%
Total Responses	3490	100.0%	NA
Total Respondents	1453	NA	100.0%

Notes: No Data: 1559 Not Applicable: 724

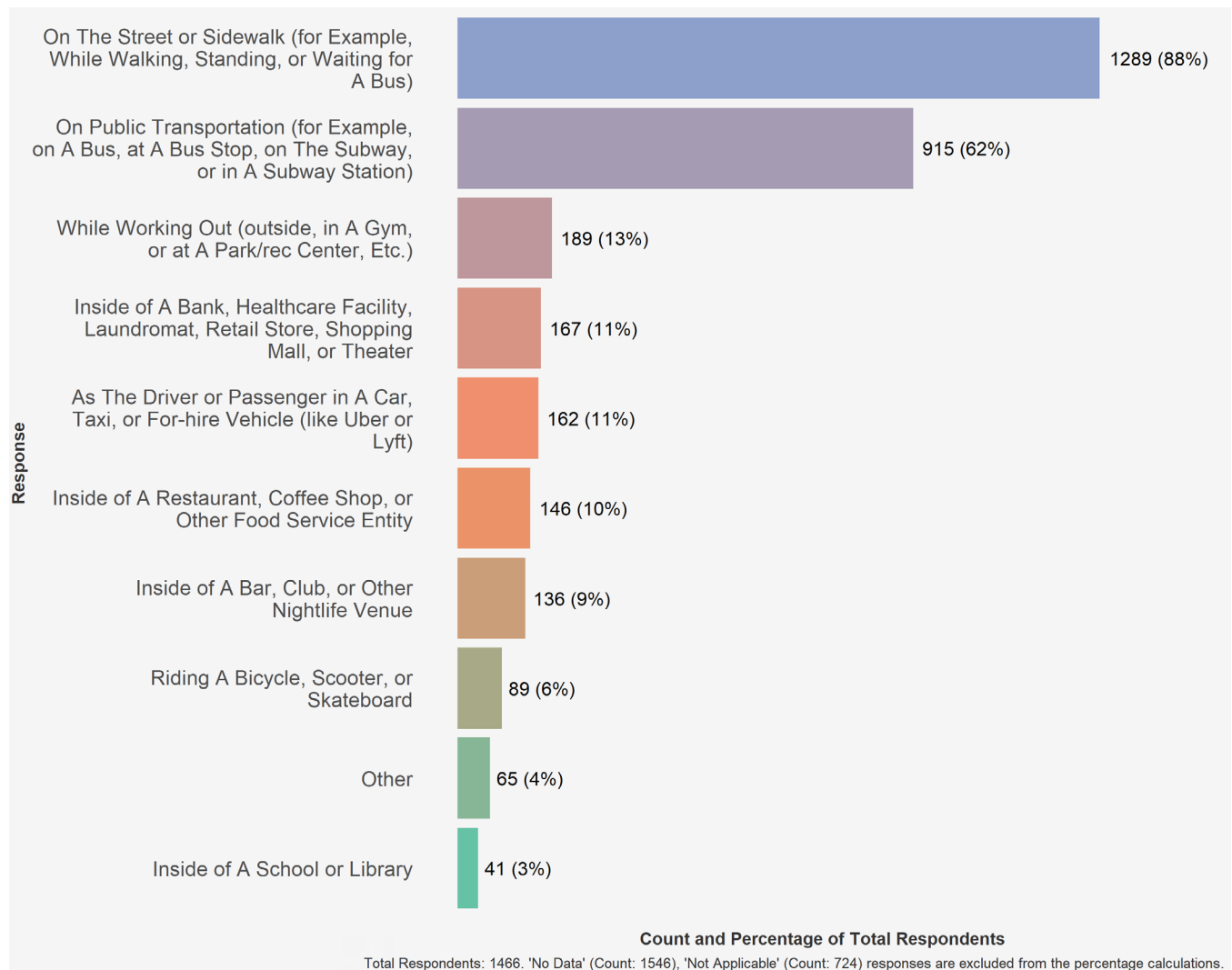
Question 4: In the past 6 months, which of the following forms of physical street harassment have you experienced in NYC? (Multiple Responses)



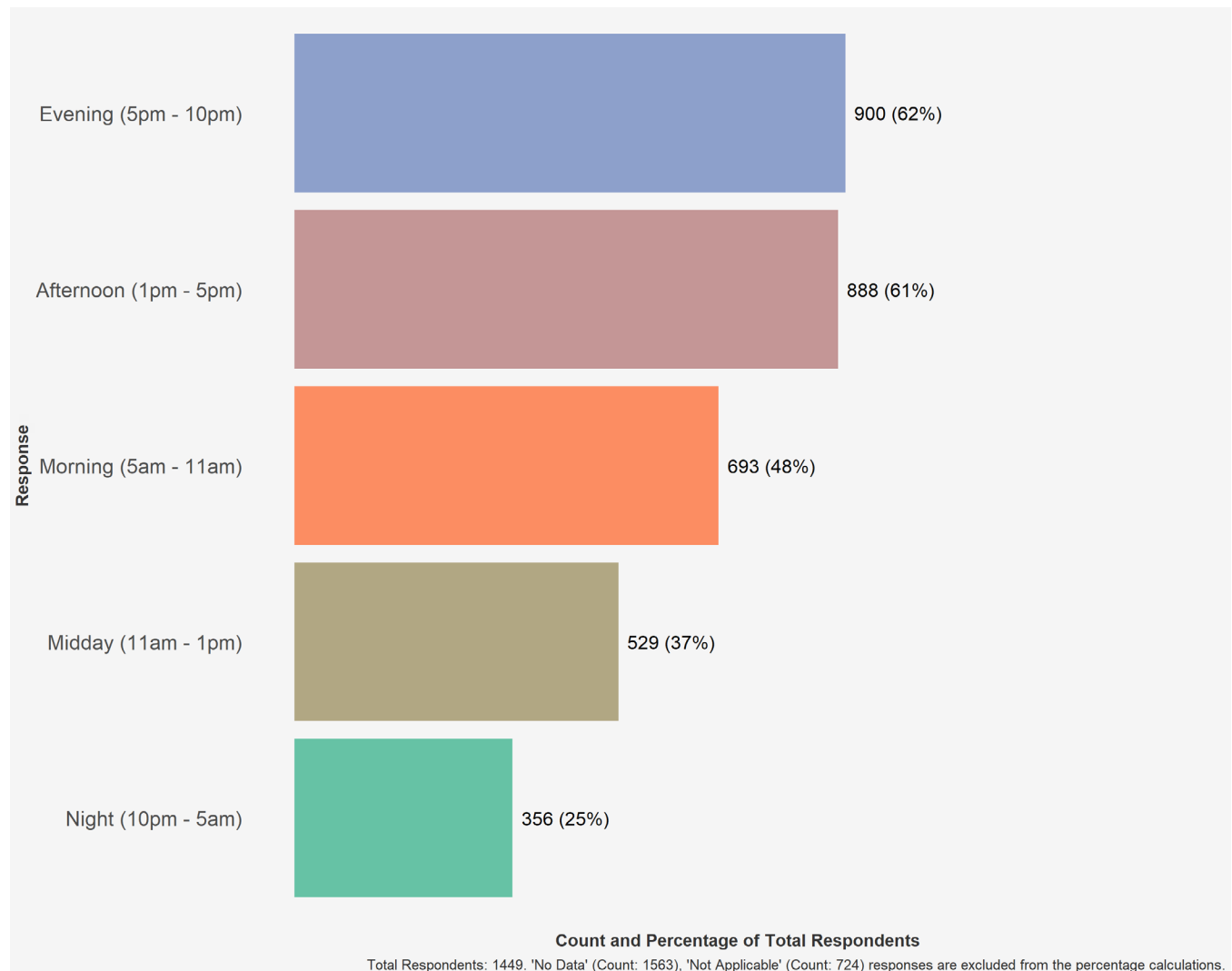
Question 5: In the past 6 months, how often have you experienced street harassment (verbal or physical)?



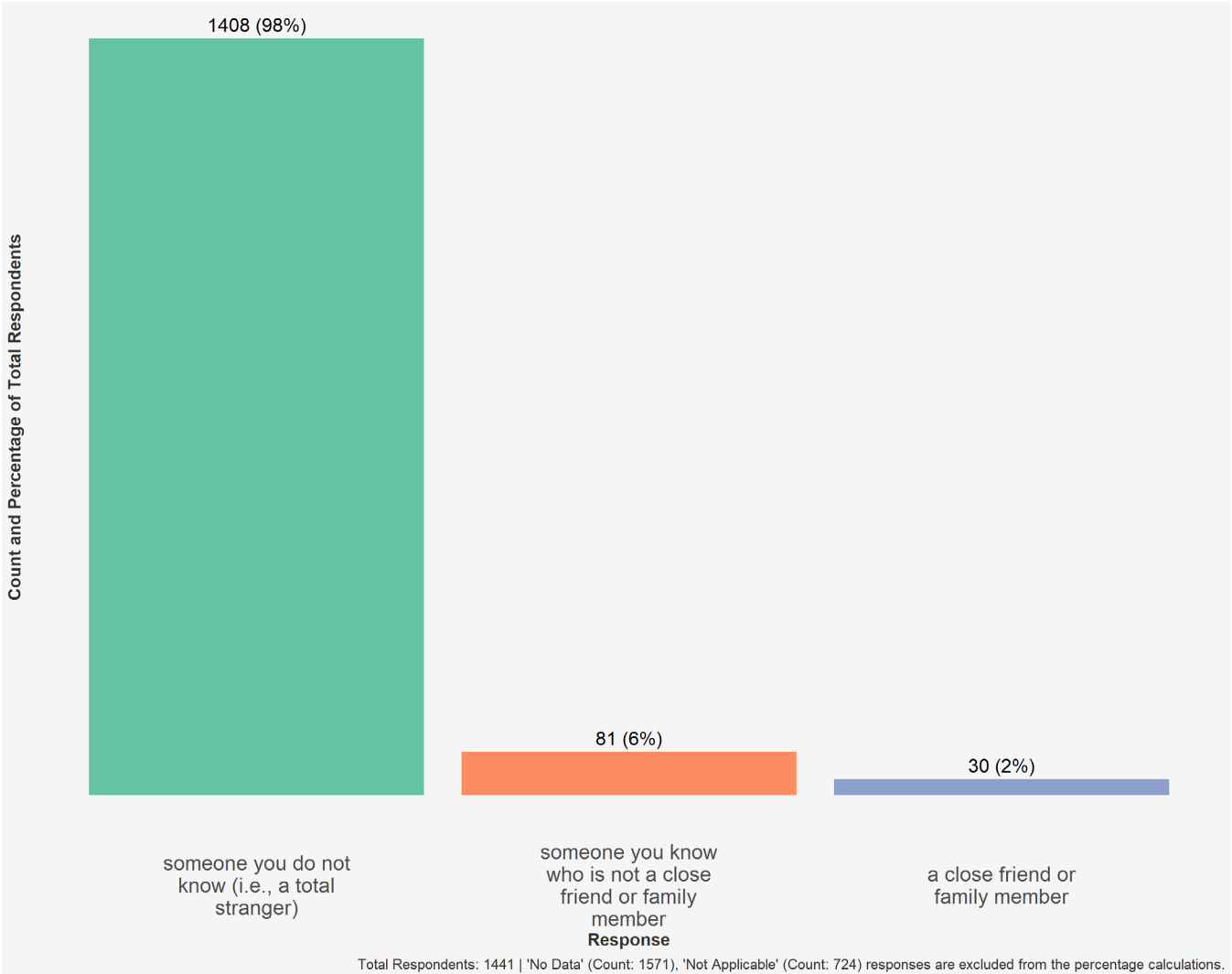
Question 6: In the past 6 months, where have you experienced street harassment (verbal or physical) in NYC? (Multiple Responses)



Question 7: At what time of day have you experienced street harassment most often (verbal or physical) in NYC in the past 6 months?



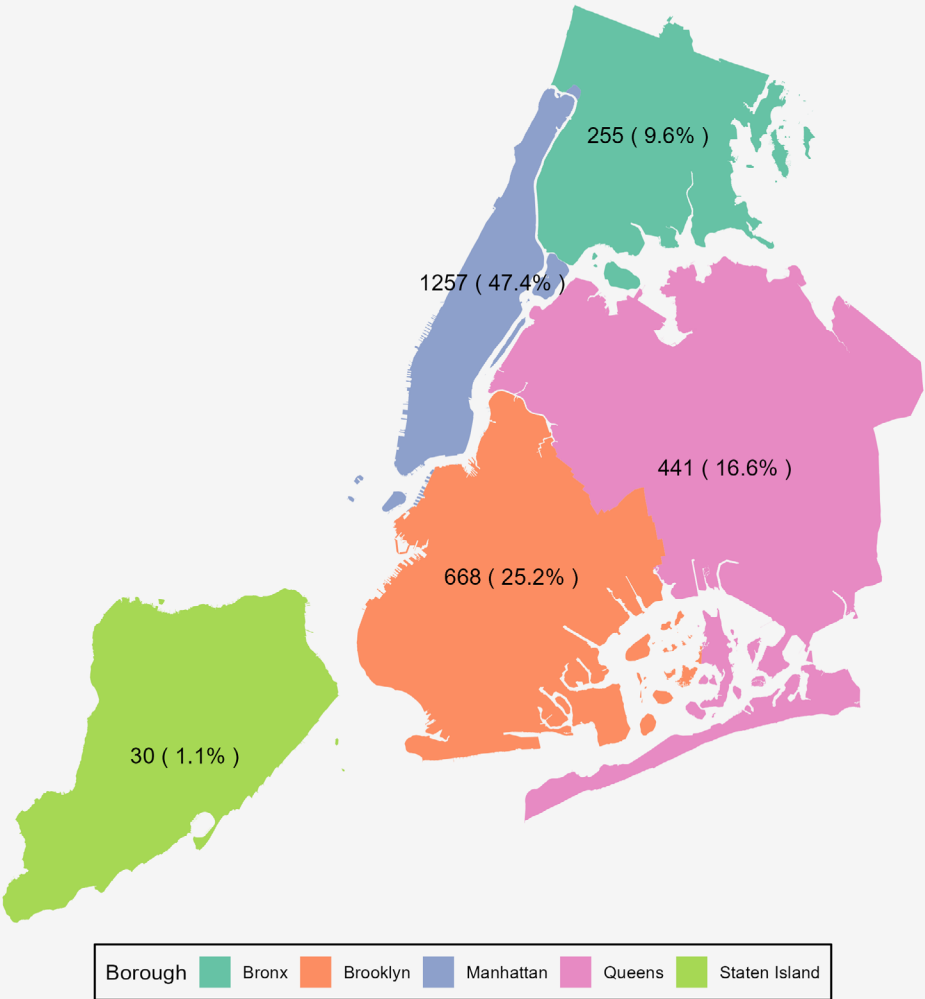
Question 8: From whom have you experienced unwanted street harassment (verbal and physical) in NYC in the past 6 months? (Multiple Responses)



Question 9: Where have you experienced street harassment (either verbal or physical) in NYC in the past 6 months?

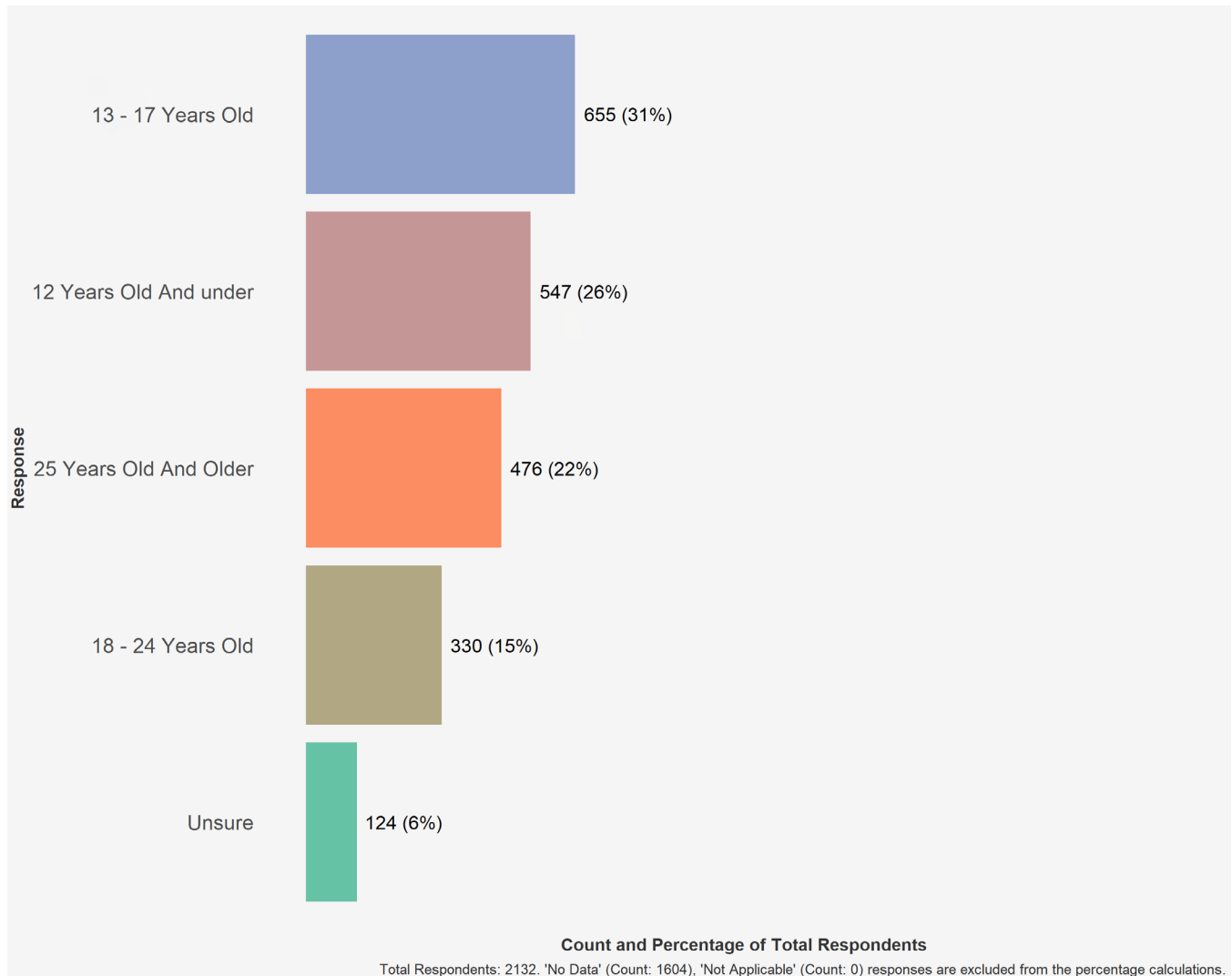
Voices from the Streets: Mapping Harassment in NYC Boroughs

A detailed look at total incident count across boroughs

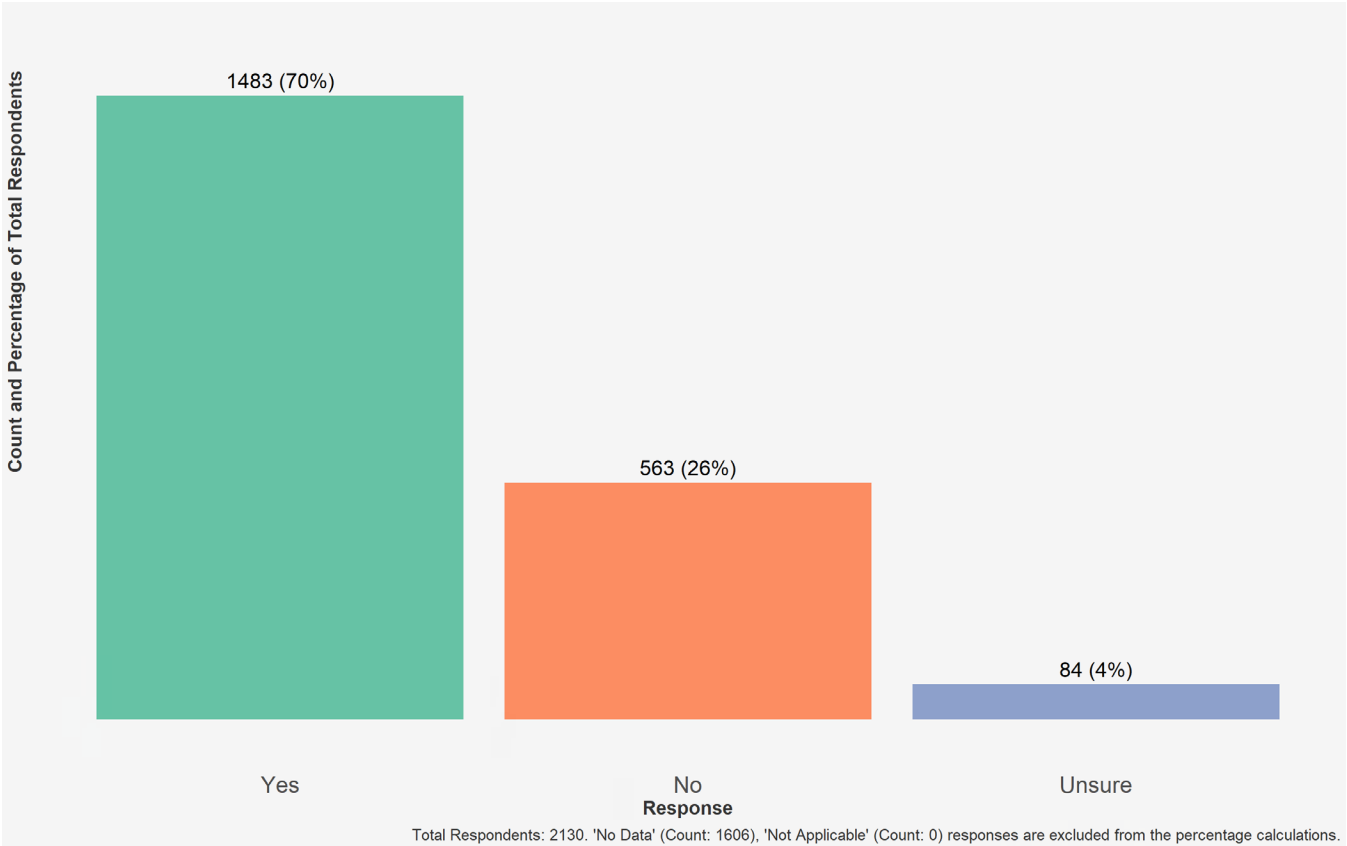


Data excludes 'No Data' (Count: 6122) and 'Not Applicable' (Count: 724) responses.

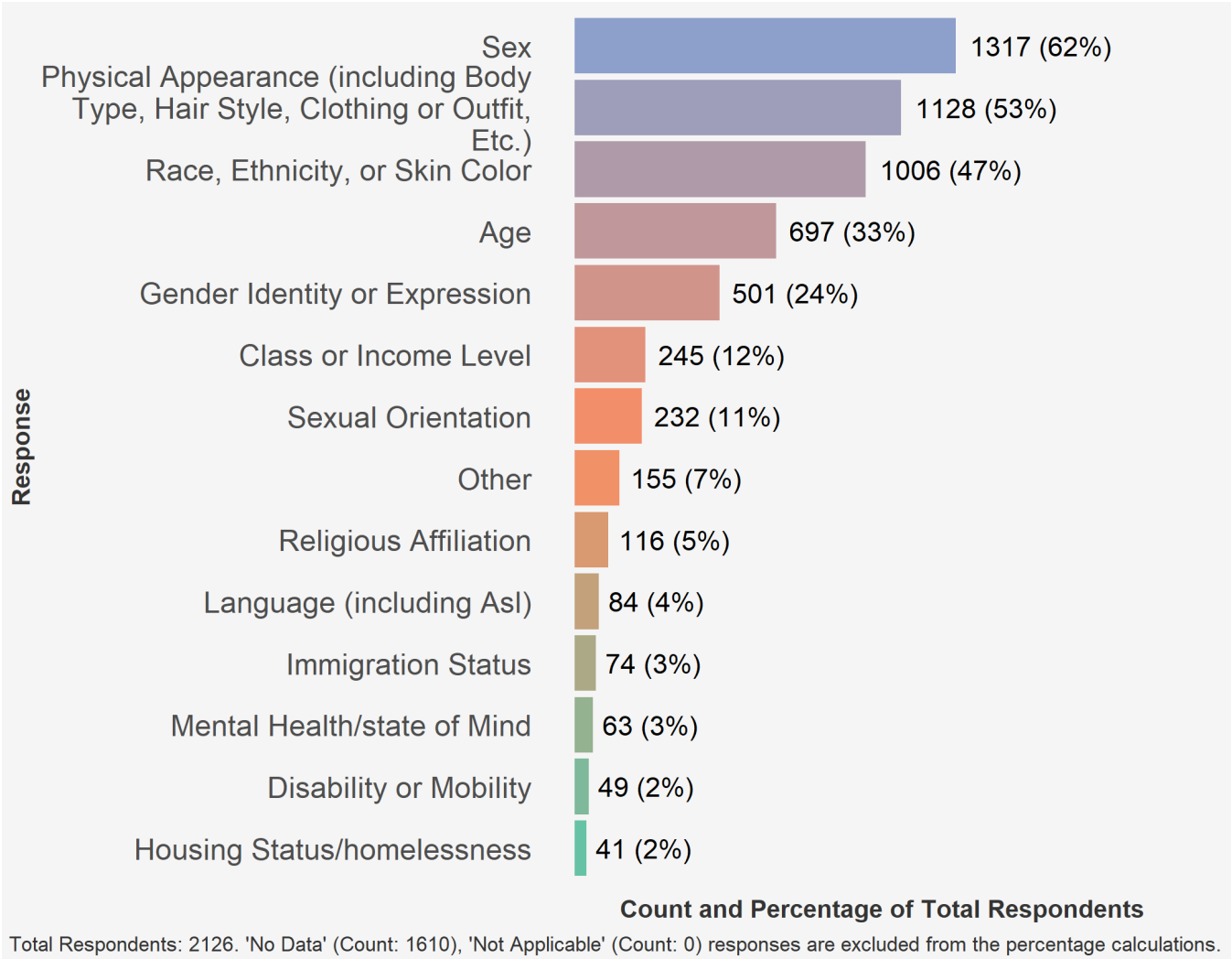
Question 10: As best as you remember, approximately how old were you when you first experienced street harassment (either verbal or physical)?



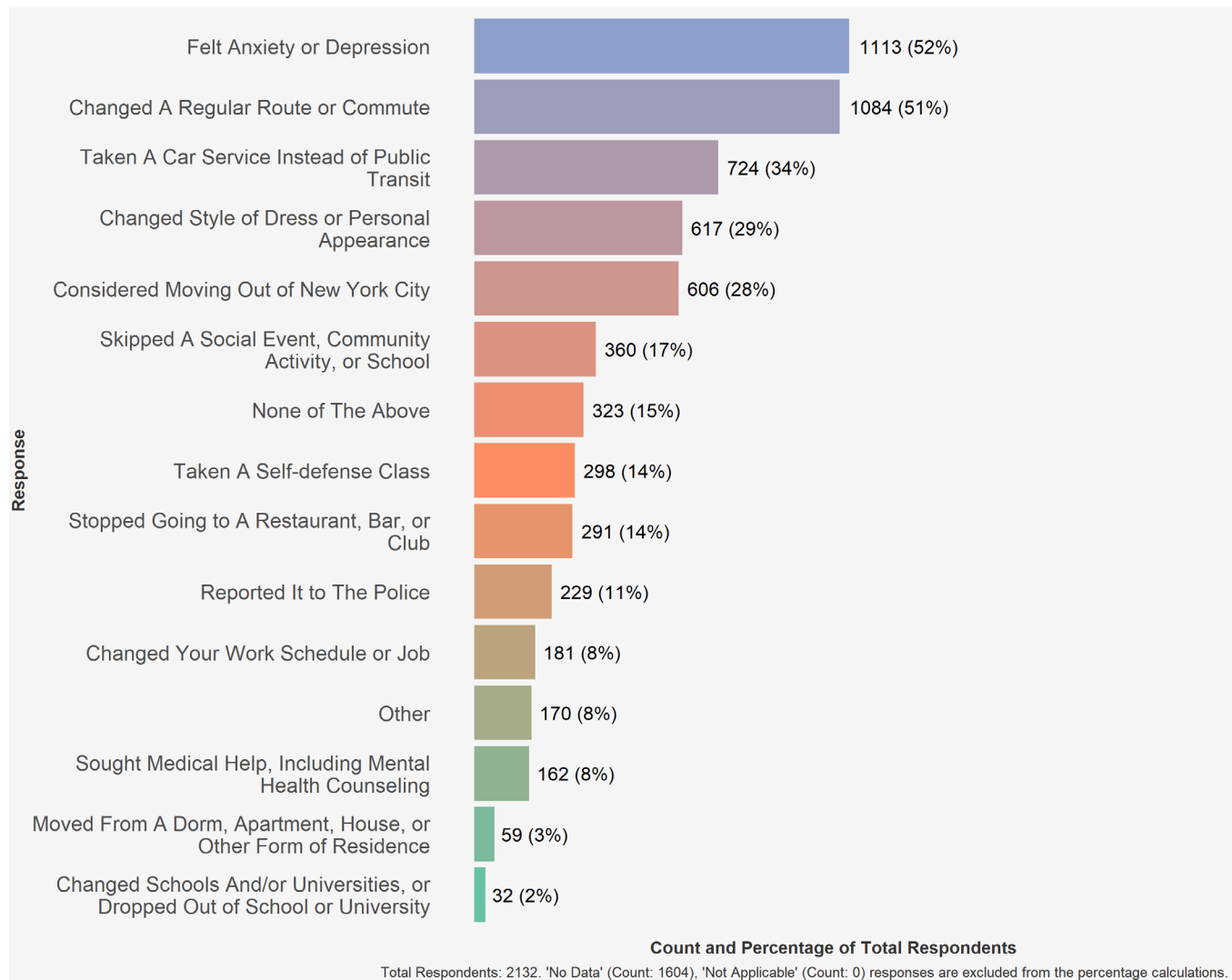
Question 11: Did your first experience with street harassment (either verbal or physical) happen in NYC?



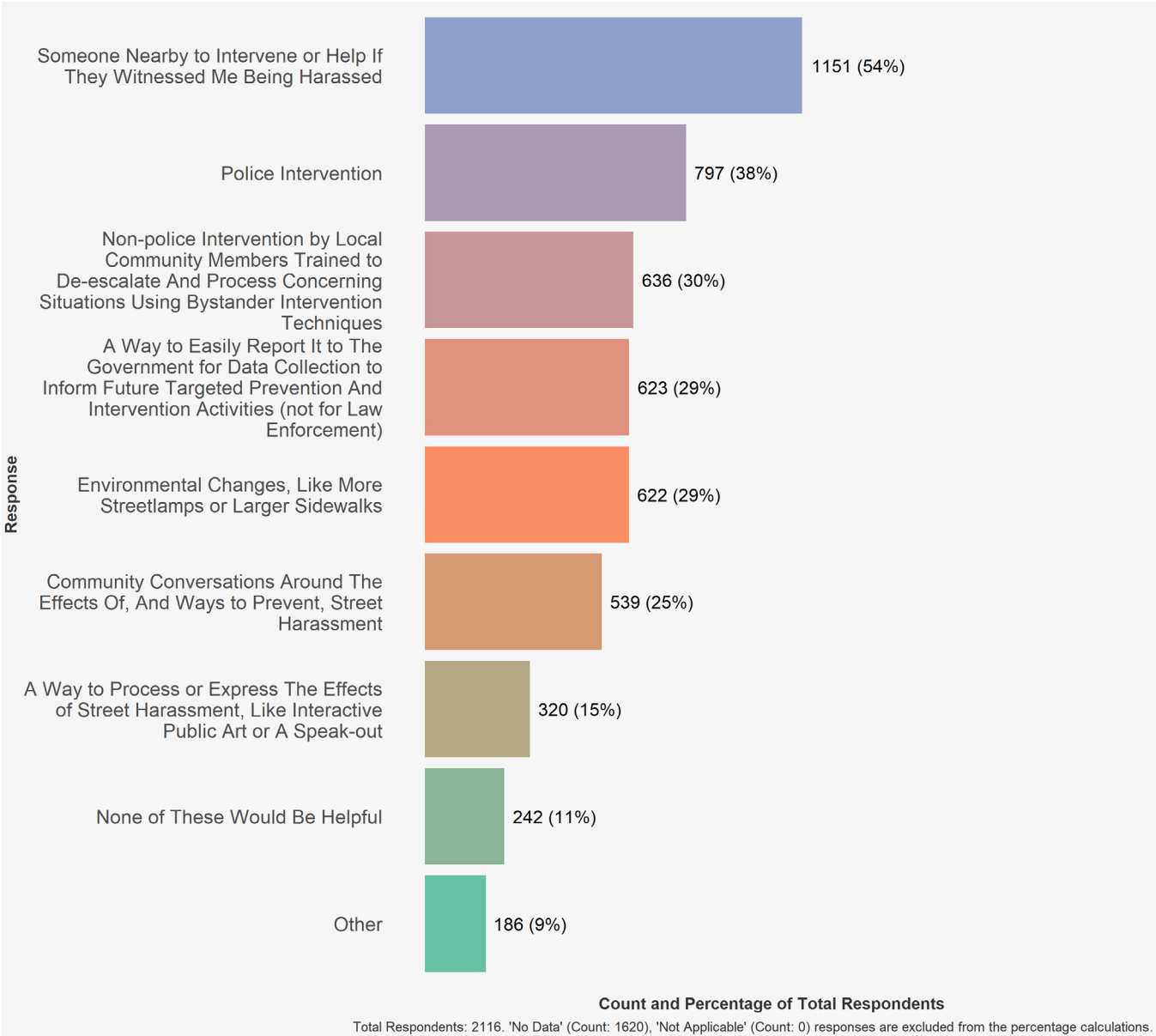
Question 12: Please indicate which part(s) of your identity you believe contributed to your experience of street harassment? (Multiple Responses)



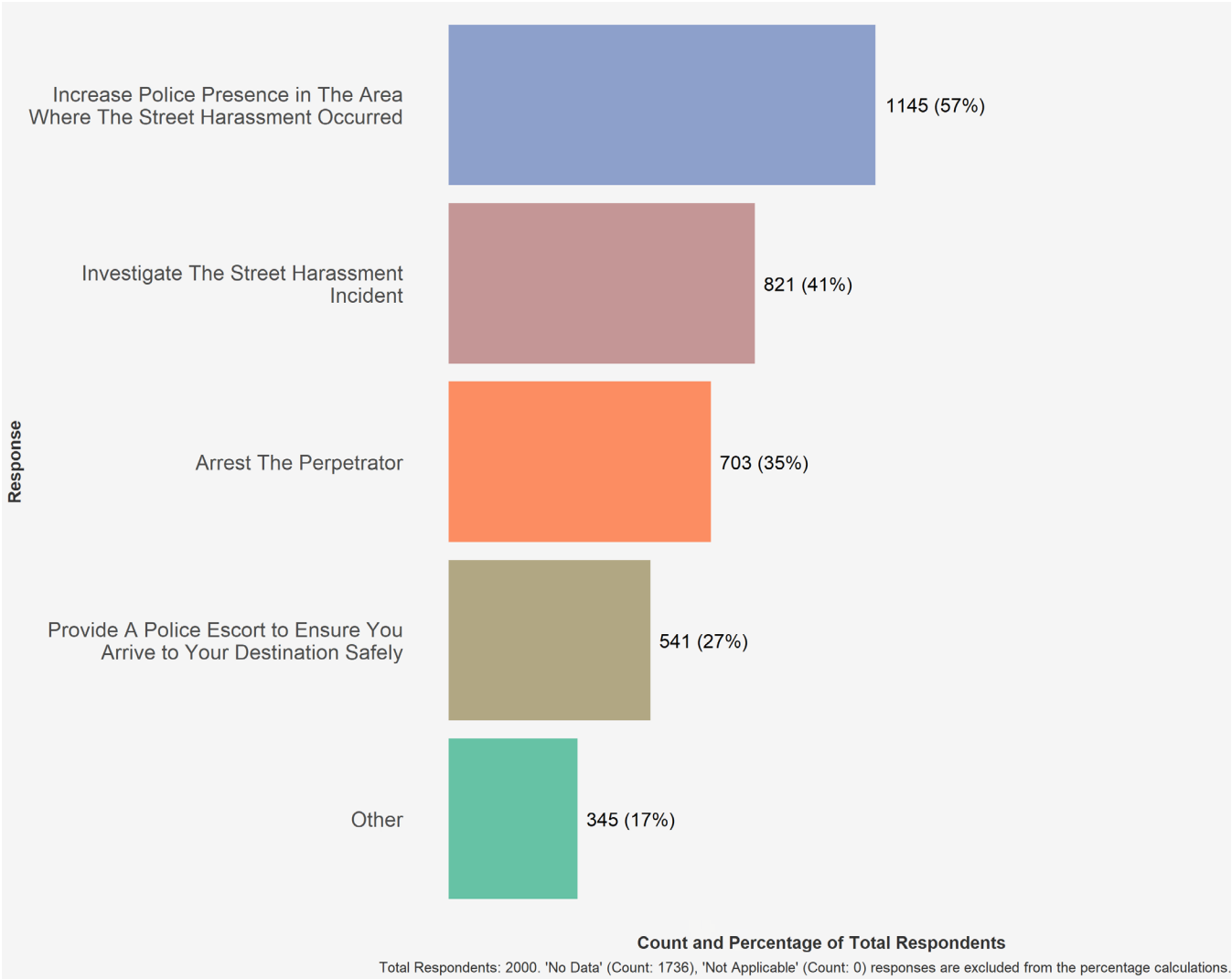
Question 13: Because of the street harassment you have experienced in NYC, have you done any of the following? (Multiple Responses)



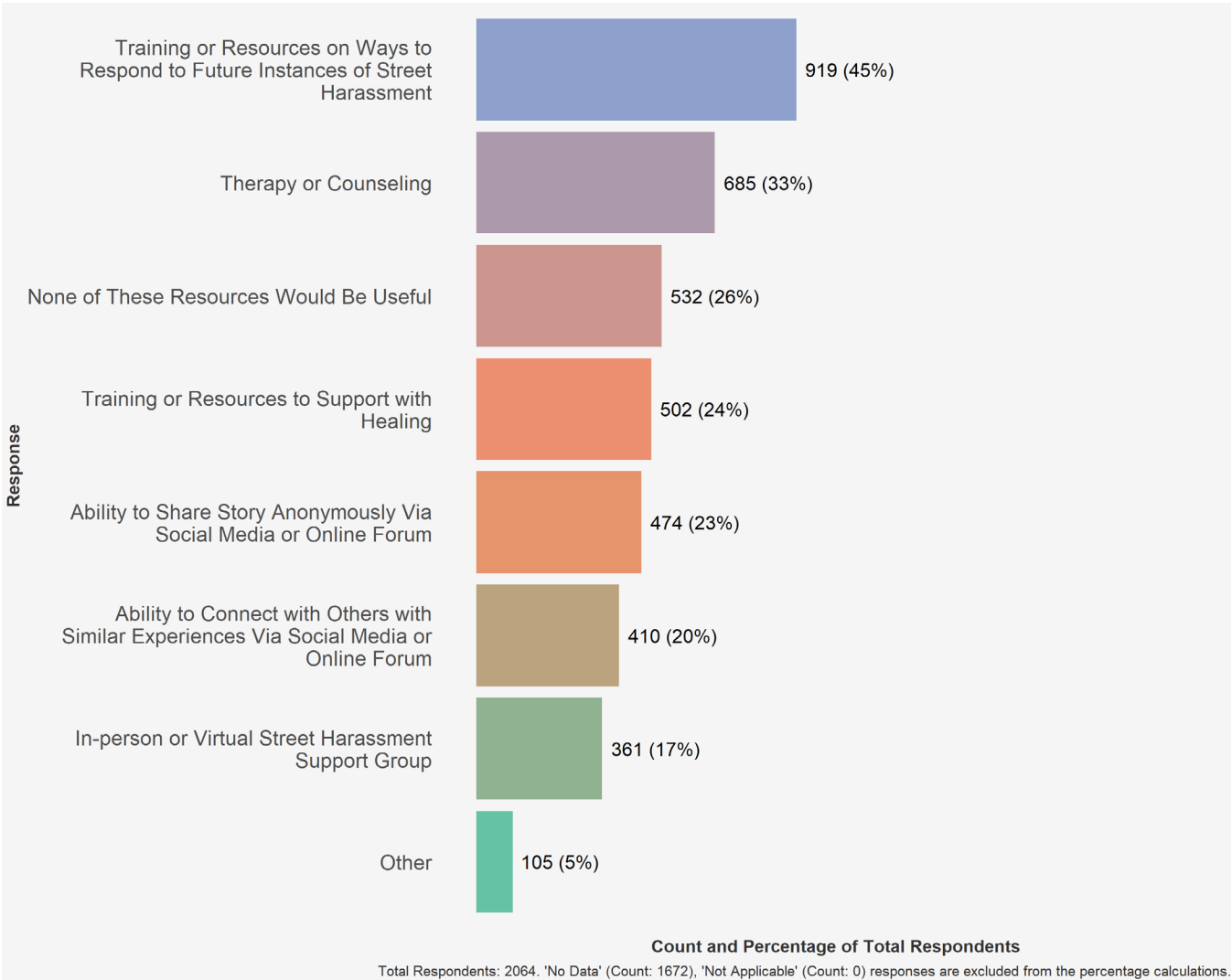
Question 14: When you experienced an instance of street harassment in NYC, what did you want to happen in the moment or after? (Multiple Responses)



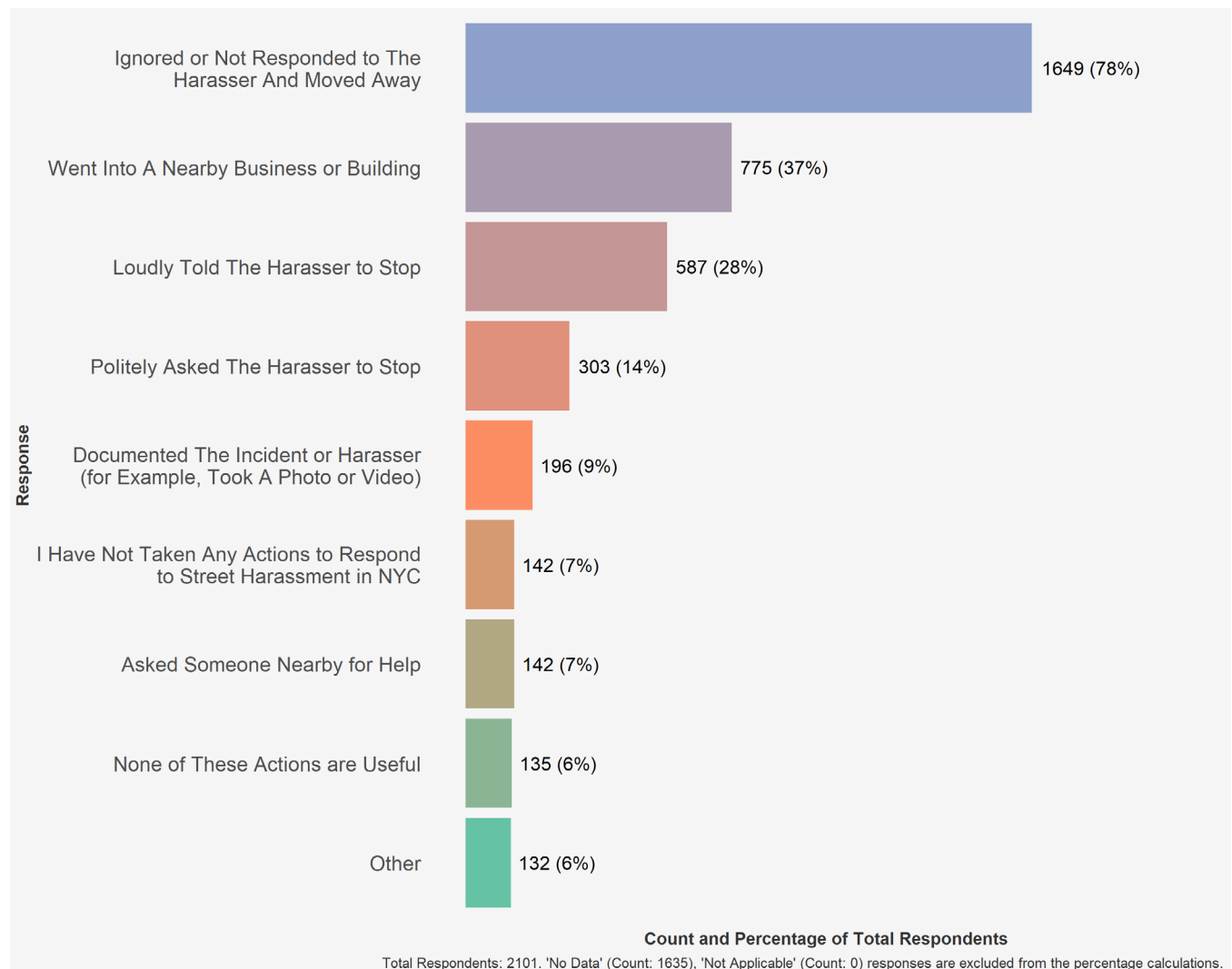
Question 15: How would you like the police to respond if you experienced street harassment in NYC? (Multiple Responses)



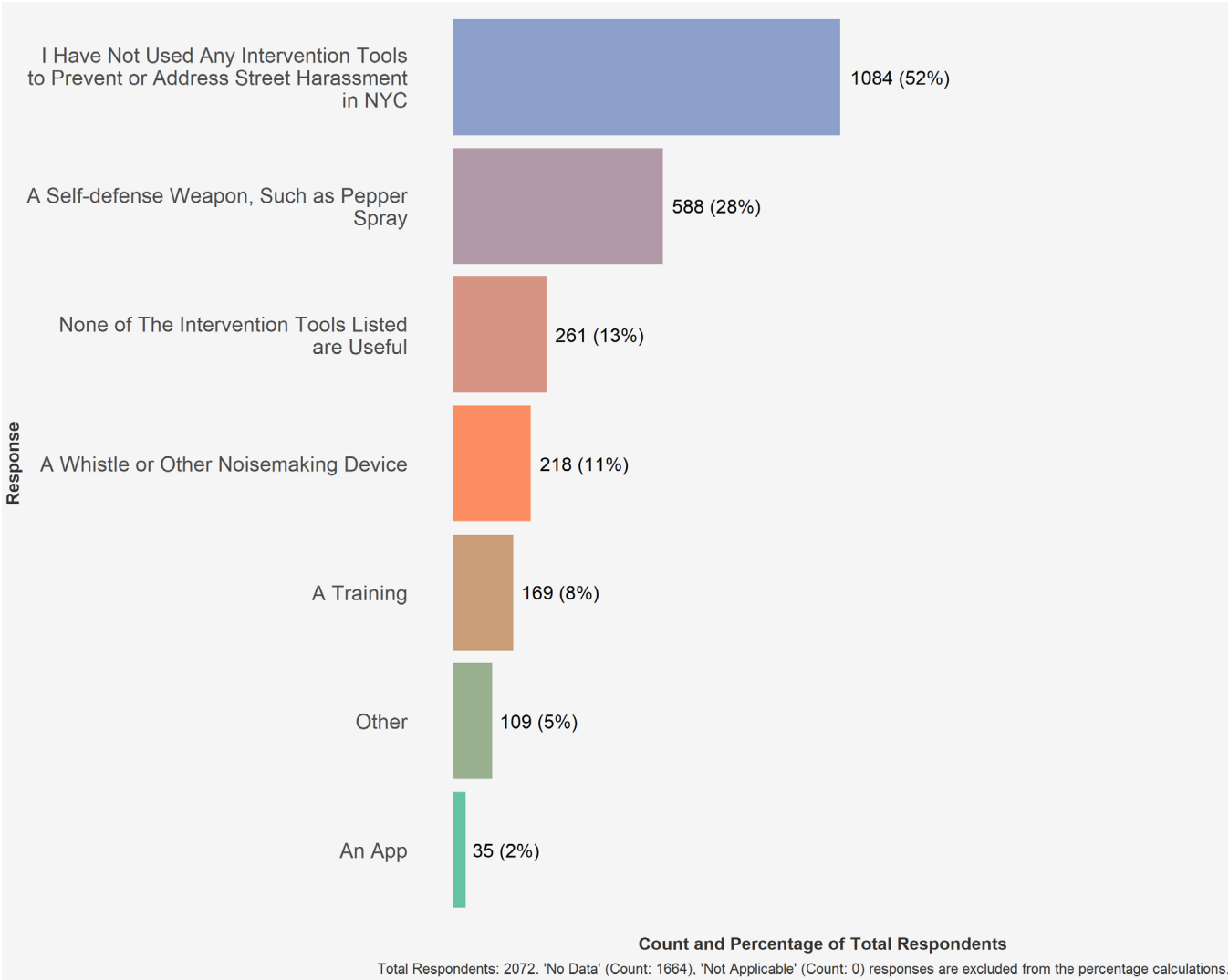
Question 16: What kind of, if any, mental or emotional support resources would be most useful following an experience of street harassment in NYC? (Multiple Responses)



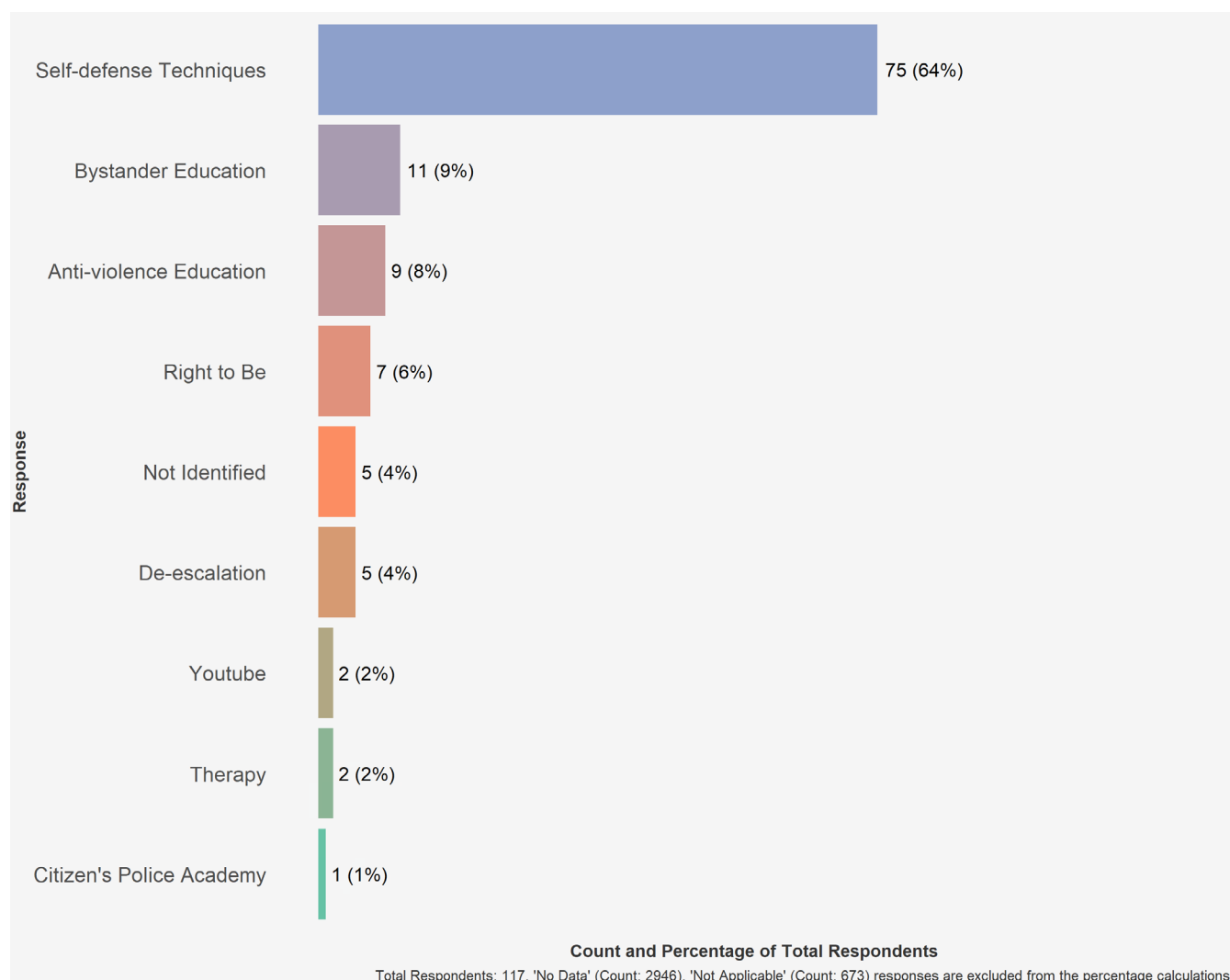
Question 17: Which actions, if any, have you taken in the moment that have been useful to respond to street harassment in NYC? (Multiple Responses)



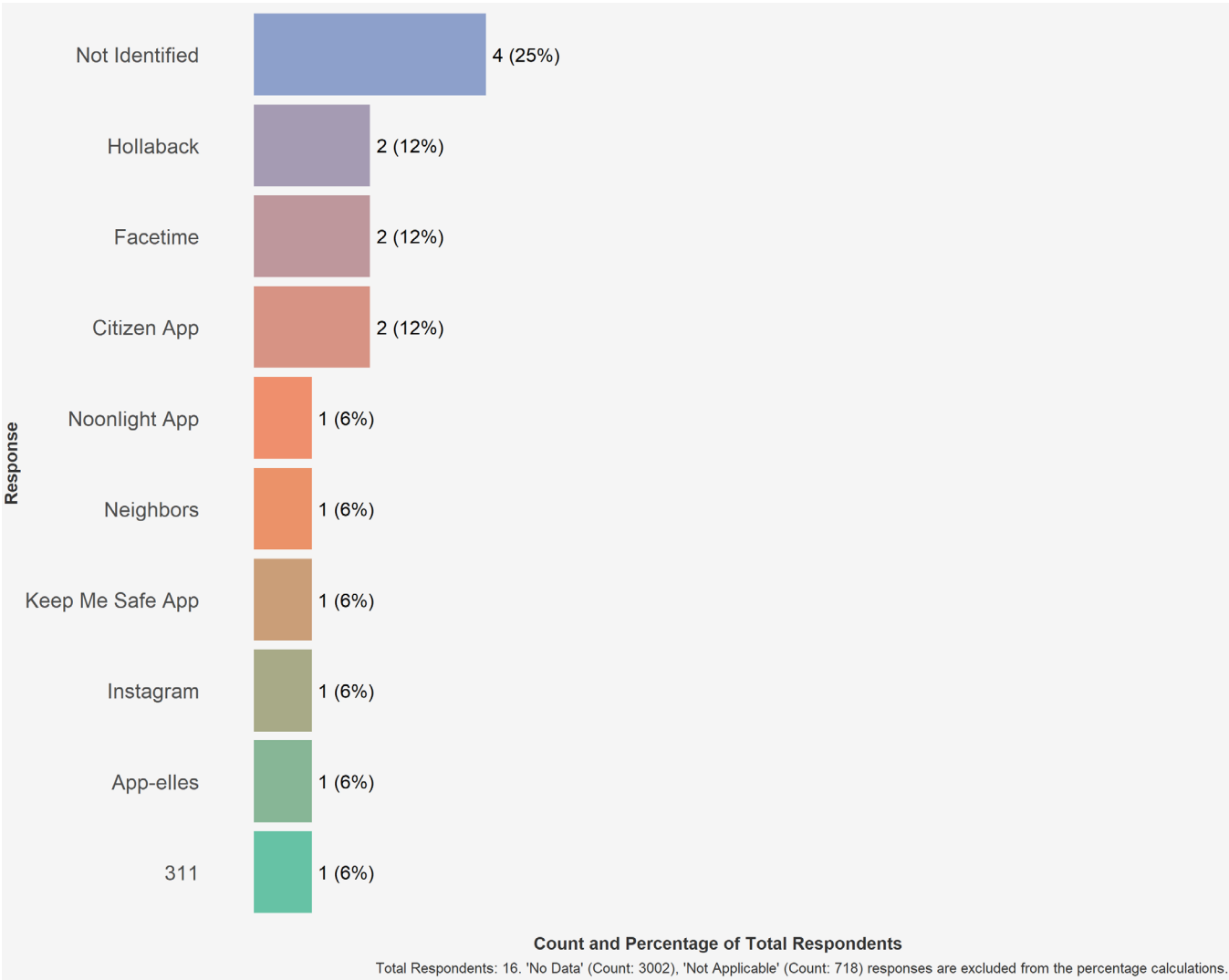
Question 18: Which, if any, intervention tools have you found useful to prevent or address street harassment in NYC? (Multiple Responses)



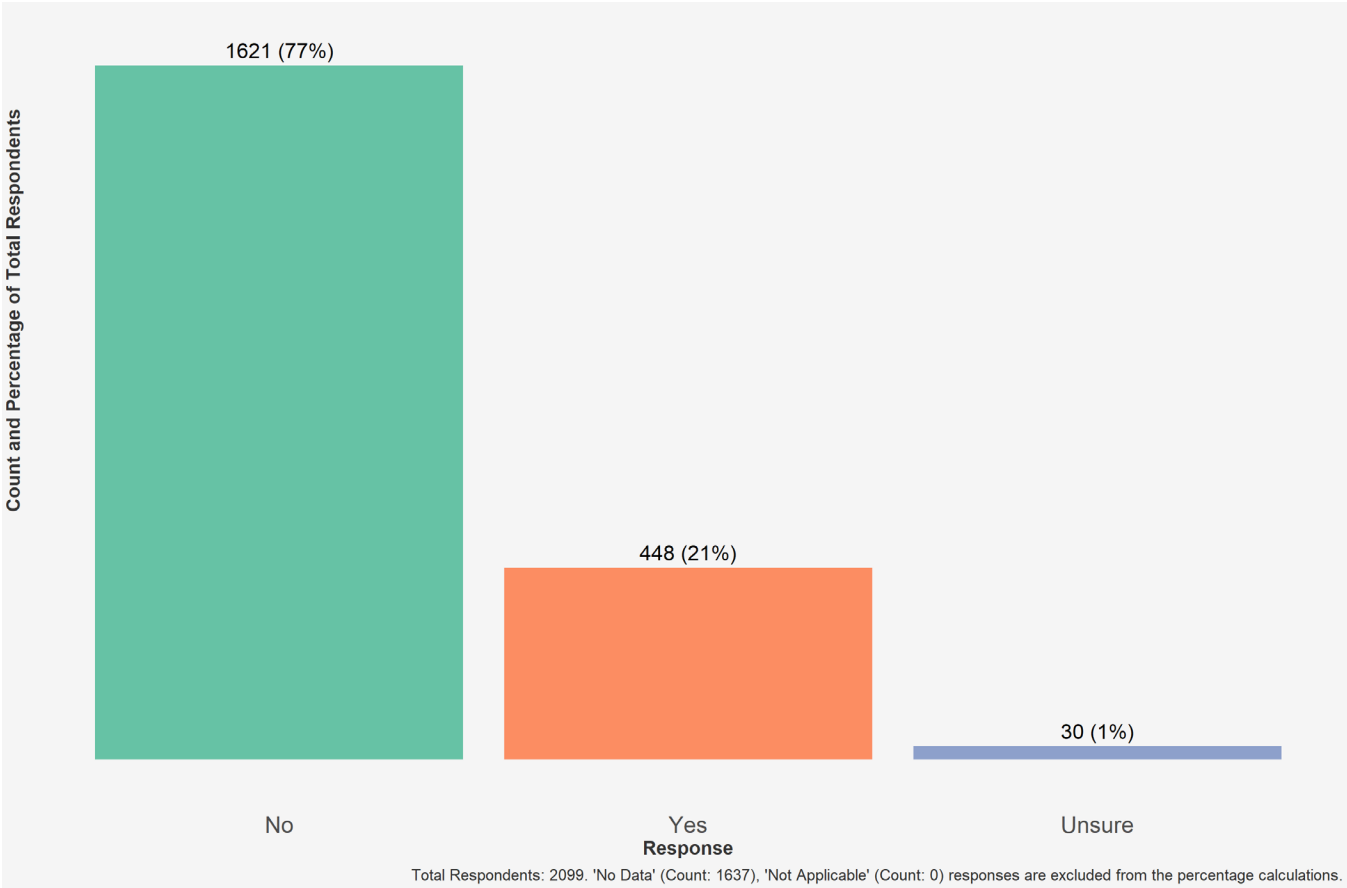
Question 18(b): A training- Please list the type of training here



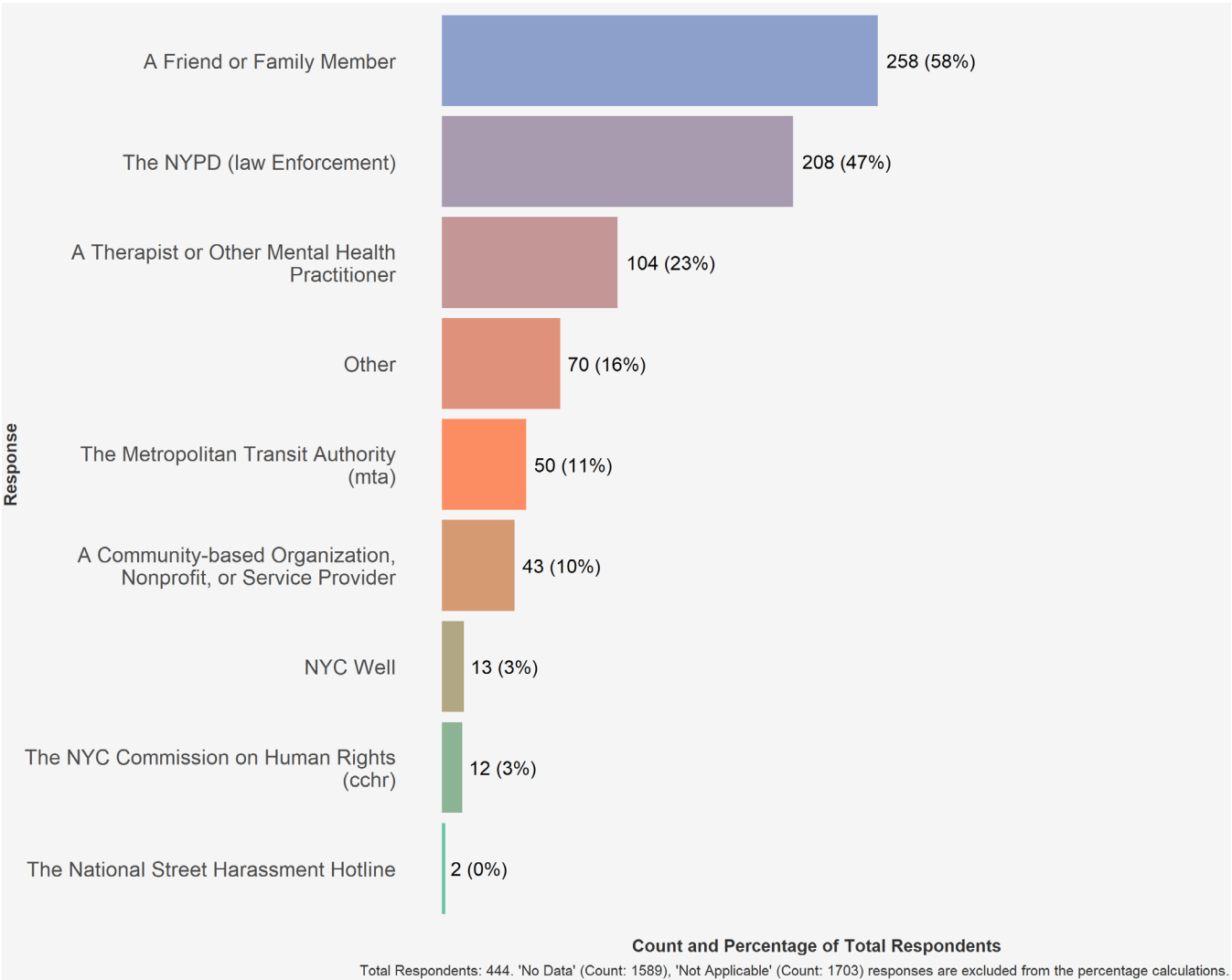
Question 18(c): An app- Please list the name of the app here



Question 19: Did you reach out to any individuals, city agencies, or service providers for help or support after your experience with street harassment in NYC?



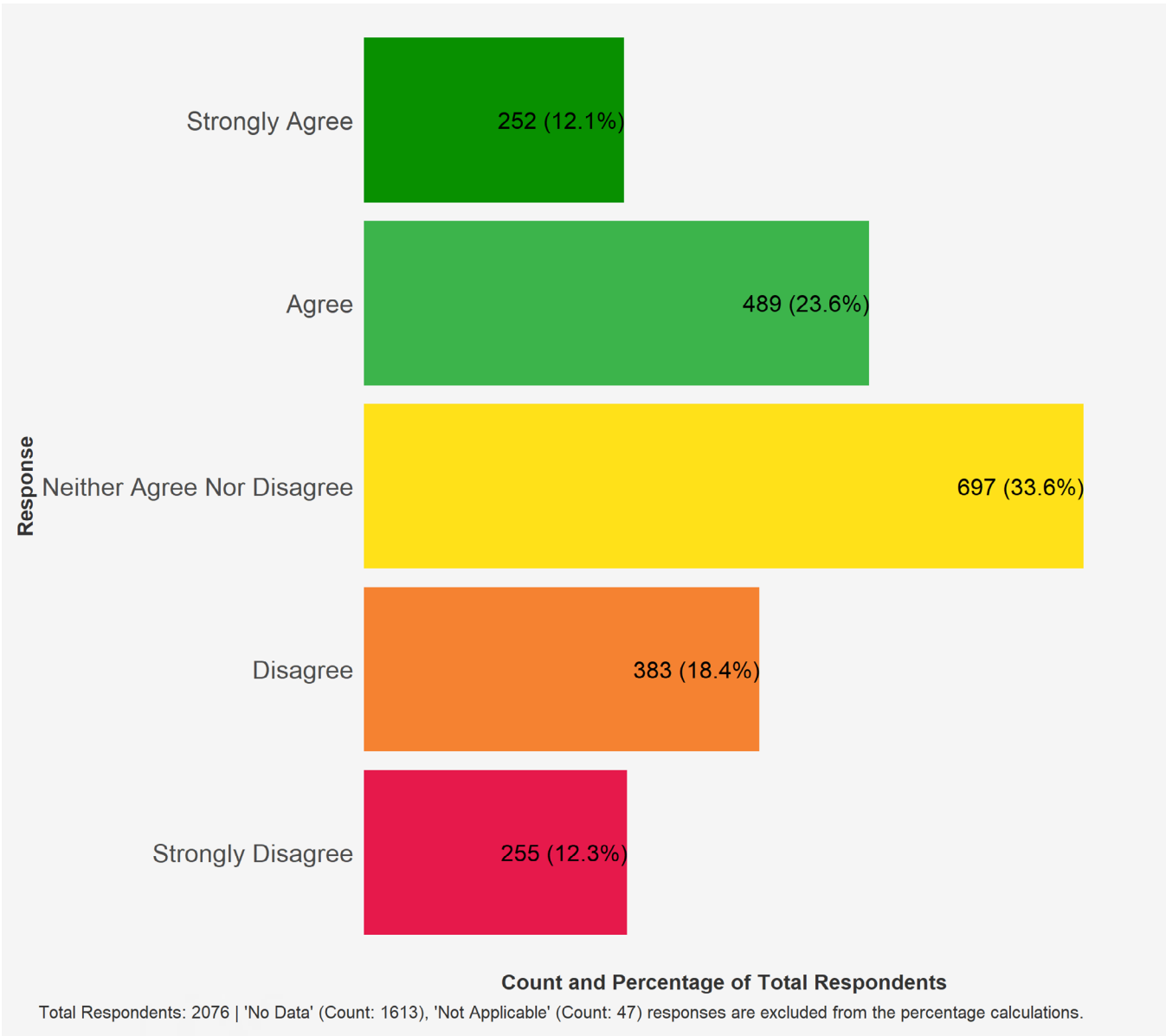
Question 20: Who did you reach out to?



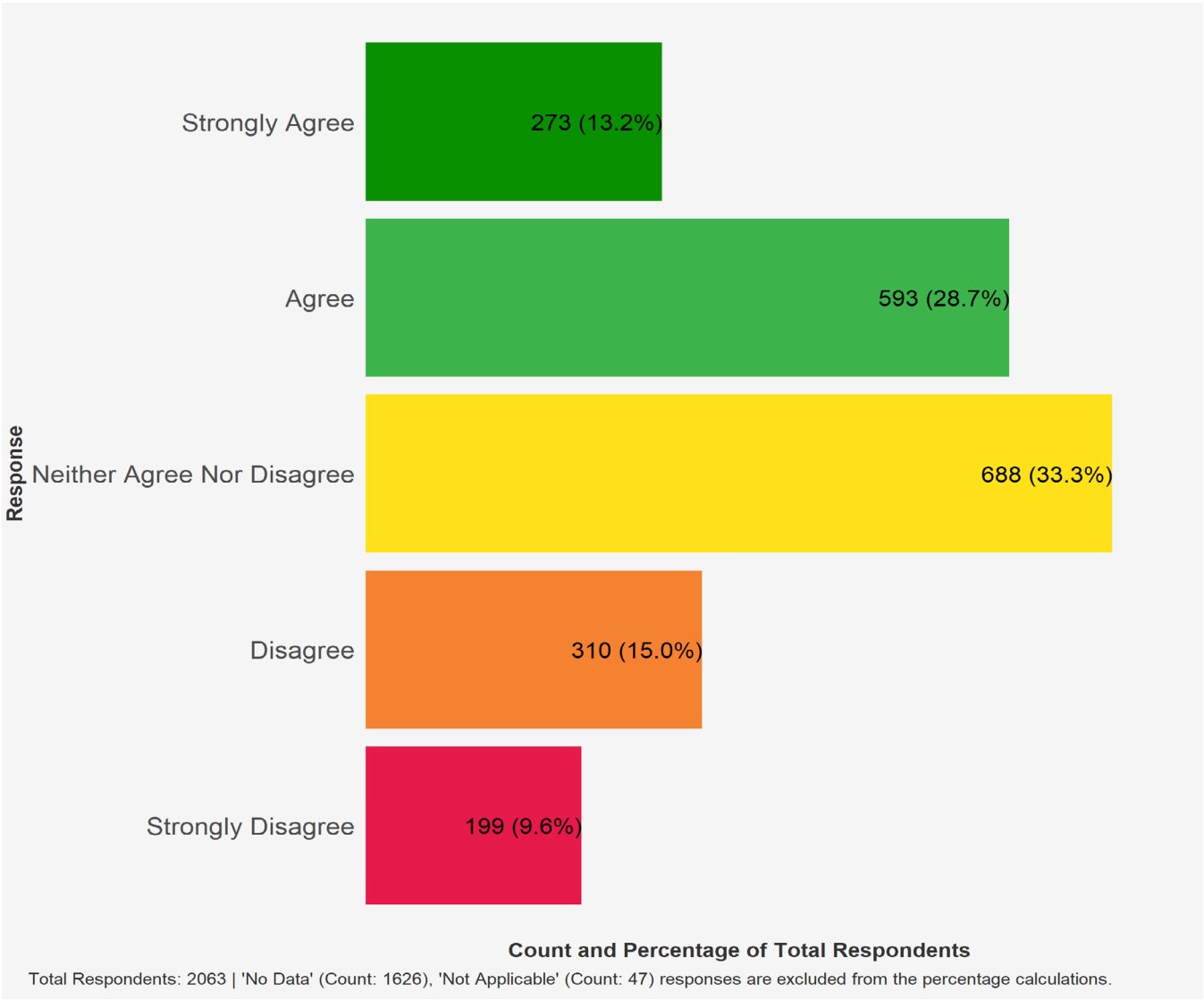
Questions 21 to Question 28: Please rate your agreement with the following statement: I felt supported by (insert agency/organization) after my experience with street harassment in NYC

<i>Response Category</i>	<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Neither Agree nor Disagree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>
NYPD/law enforcement	29 (14%)	31 (15%)	45 (22%)	38 (19%)	62 (30%)
NYC Commission on Human Rights (CCHR)	2 (18%)	-	5 (46%)	1 (9%)	3 (27%)
Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA)	8 (16%)	8 (16%)	8 (16%)	11 (22%)	15 (30%)
NYC Well	1 (9%)	2 (18%)	1 (9%)	3 (27%)	4 (37%)
National Street Harassment Hotline	-	-	1 (50%)	1 (50%)	-
Community-based organization/ nonprofit/service provider	11 (26%)	13 (30%)	7 (16%)	4 (9%)	8 (19%)
Friend or family member	130 (51%)	85 (33%)	24 (9%)	9 (4%)	7 (3%)
Therapist or other mental health practitioner	51 (49%)	39 (38%)	6 (6%)	5 (5%)	2 (2%)

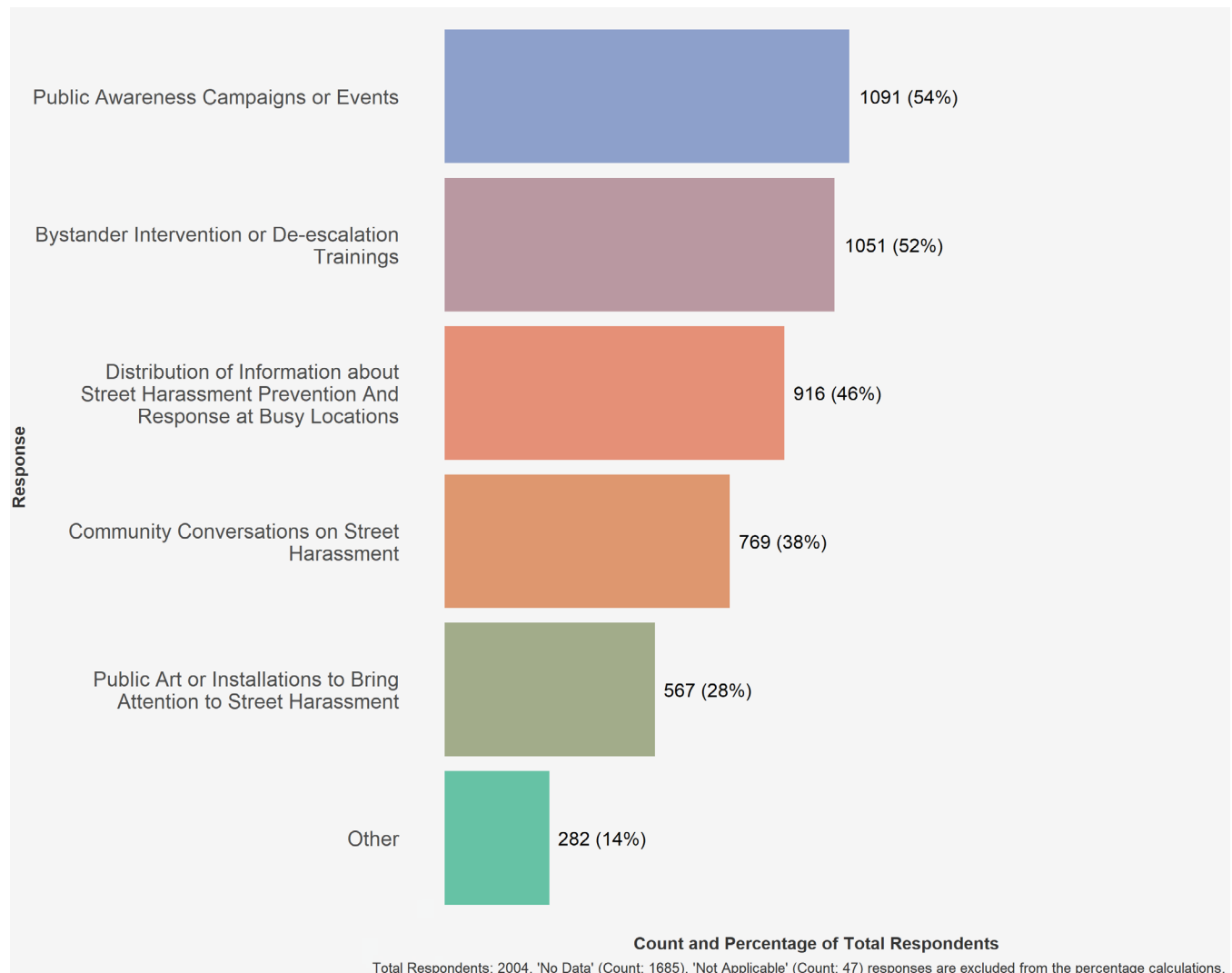
Question 29: A central way to report street harassment, like 311, would help me process/recover from the effects of experiencing street harassment.



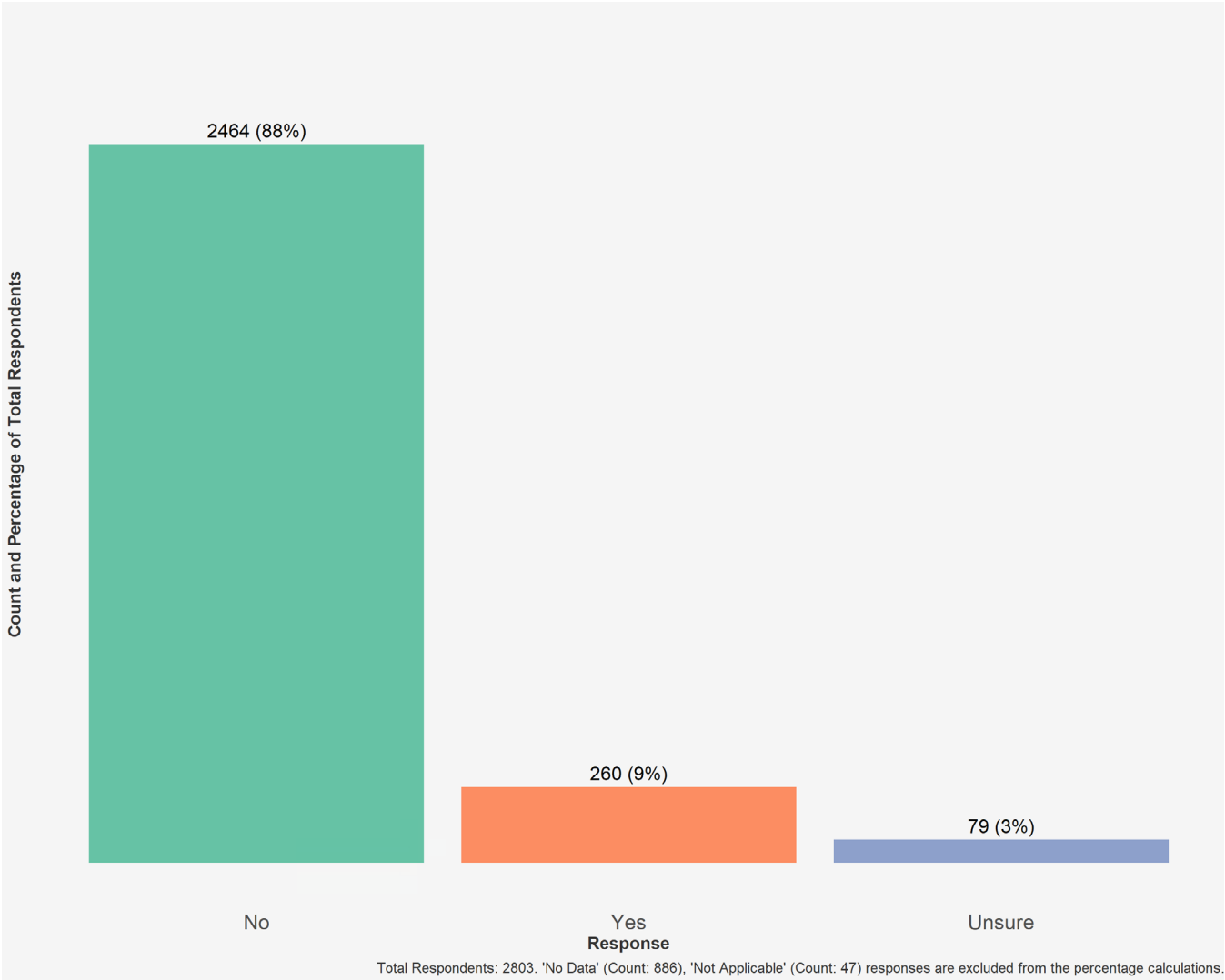
Question 30: Community conversations about street harassment hosted by a City agency or service provider would help me process/recover from the effects of experiencing street harassment.



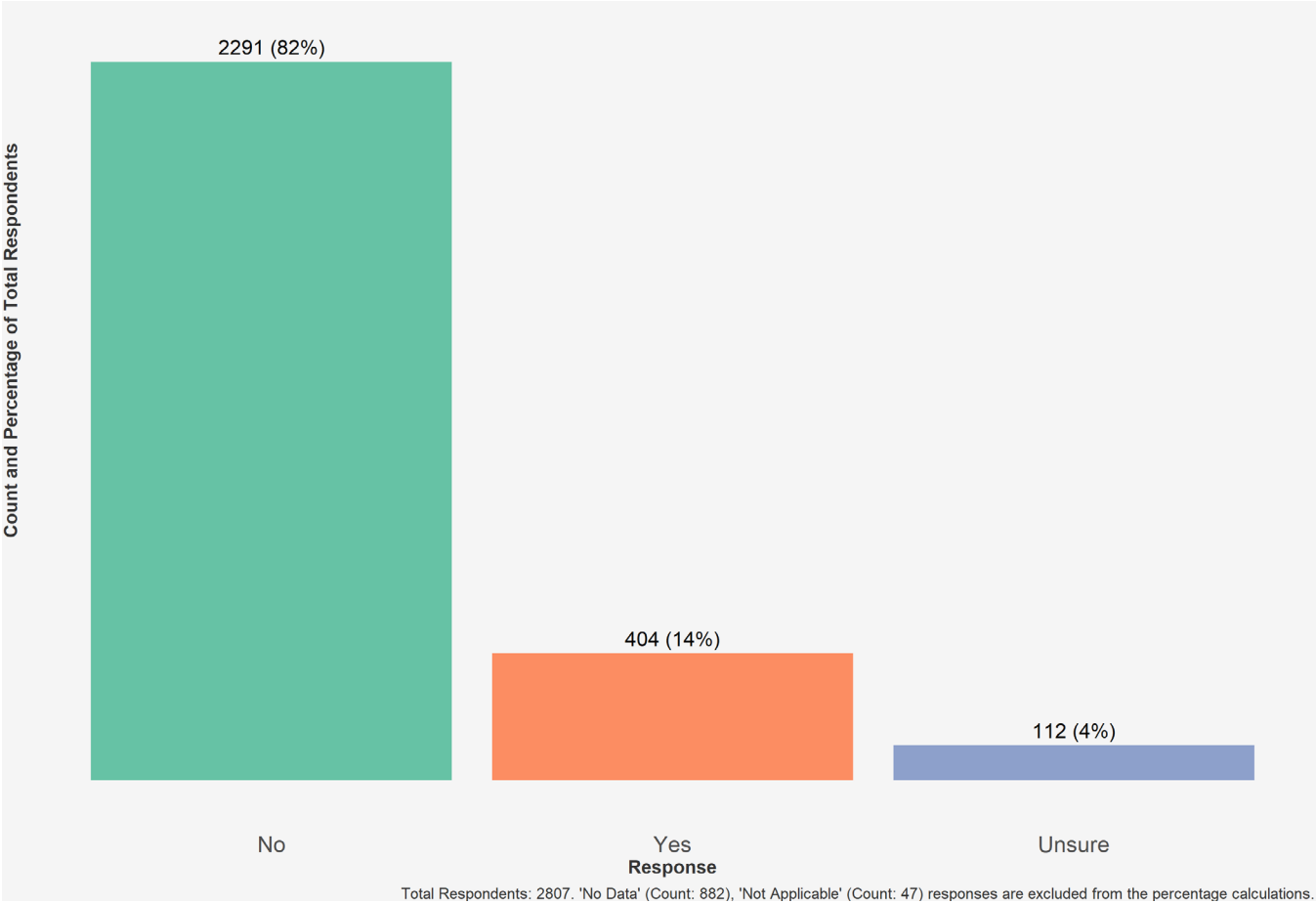
Question 31: Which of the following options related to street harassment would you like to see in your community? (Multiple Responses)



Question 32: Were you aware of the New York City Street Harassment Prevention Advisory Board before today?



Question 33: Are you aware of the New York City Street Harassment Prevention Resource Guide?



References

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