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Unique versus cumulative effects of  
physical and sexual assault on patterns of  
adolescent substance use of students at  
Utah Valley University

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Group 1  
CJ 4990- Senior Capstone Seminar





# Why?

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- Bring this issue to light
- Find a correlation
- Find ways to help those affected

# Project Abstract

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For our research project, the population that we sampled was the student population at Utah Valley University in Orem, Utah. We collected our data using an online survey with a set of questions that we selected and sampled via the online Qualtrics survey platform. We also asked for consent for all participants and required that all participants were at least 18 years and older so we did not need a parental consent. Due to the nature of this study, it could have emotional responses due to the subject matter so it was important that we disclose to the subjects about the nature of the questions that would be asked. We were careful to use proper questions so the subjects do not feel vulnerable or uncomfortable. This type of study has been completed before but students have not been surveyed in regards to their findings.



# Research Questions

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- Catch their attention
- Give this project meaning
- Easy to understand
- Important to the topic
- Importance to society



# Research Questions contd..

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- The language we used
- Asking the right kinds of questions
- Get answers we were looking for





# Literature Review: Research Design and Data Collection

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## Why we chose to do a survey for our research method

- Allowed for quicker and more effective results
- Allowed for anonymity
- Allowed us to reach out to more people
- Allowed us to collect our data flawlessly through the Qualtrics program

Sexual and Physical abuse is something that most people would rather not discuss or answer to a stranger about and so that is what makes an anonymous survey the best Research Design option.





# Problems Encountered

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- Asking the right questions
- Providing emotionally triggered respondents additional resources for help
- Actually getting people to take our survey
- Making our project different from other previous studies
- People taking the survey that have not been physically or sexually assaulted.

As with any survey, actually getting people to take the survey is not an easy task.







## *1. Unique versus cumulative effects of physical and sexual assault on patterns of adolescent substance use.*

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- Does physical and sexual assault when combined have a greater substance abuse impact in adolescent
- Experimental use, Light polysubstance use, and Polysubstance use
- Study found that adolescents that were exposed to both kind of abuse were ~~two~~ three more times likely to be a heavy polysubstance abuser.



Charak, R., Koot, H. M., Dvorak, R. D., Elklit, A., & Elhai, J. D. (2015). Unique versus cumulative effects of physical and sexual assault on patterns of adolescent substance use. *Psychiatry Research*, 230(768) doi:10.1016/j.psychres.2015.11.014



## 2. Substance abuse and behavioral correlates of sexual assault among South African adolescents.

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- Stratified sample of Cape Town high school students survey which included 2,946 kids
- Does substance abuse and behavioral problems correlate to sexual assault?
- Study found that substance abuse is significantly related but mostly alcohol and suicidal thoughts.
- Posed three possible reasons for this correlation.
  1. The subject was already involved with drugs or alcohol before they were victims
  2. Rape can cause depression or psychological problems which would increase the likelihood of seeking drugs or alcohol.
  3. Personal choices such as being impulsive or wanted to take risks would increase your chances of becoming a victim or substance abuser.



King G, Flisher A, Noubary F, Reece R, Marais A, Lombard C. Substance abuse and behavioral correlates of sexual assault among South African adolescents *Child Abuse & Neglect* [serial online]. January 1, 2004;28:653-666. Available from: ScienceDirect, Ipswich, MA. Accessed September 18, 2017.



### *3. The Association of Childhood Physical Abuse with the Onset and Extent of Drug Use Among Regular Injecting Drug Users*

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- Does childhood physical abuse have an effect on the onset and extent of drug use among regular injecting drug users?
- Two main goals
  1. Determine whether severity of childhood physical abuse was associated with an earlier onset of psychoactive substance use and injecting.
  2. Determine whether severity of childhood physical abuse was associated with the extent of lifetime and recent polydrug use.
- Sample size 300, 201 males and 99 females



## 4. *Effect of abuse by a close family member on health*

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- Cross-sectional study design
- Used a questionnaire and semi structured interviews from a sample of 200 women
- They found that women that had been sexually abused by a family member significantly predicted the women's psychological health.



# Sample Size

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- We chose a sample size of 500 random people from a list provided by UVU's IRI Department.
- Our population was between the ages of 18-65 who attend Utah Valley University.
- The number of males and females was randomly selected.
- Out of those 500 people, 34 responded back and participated in our survey.



# Confidence Level, Interval and Response Rate

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- The confidence level of our survey is 95%.
- The confidence interval for the population proportion is 4.6%.
- Our response rate was 6.8%.

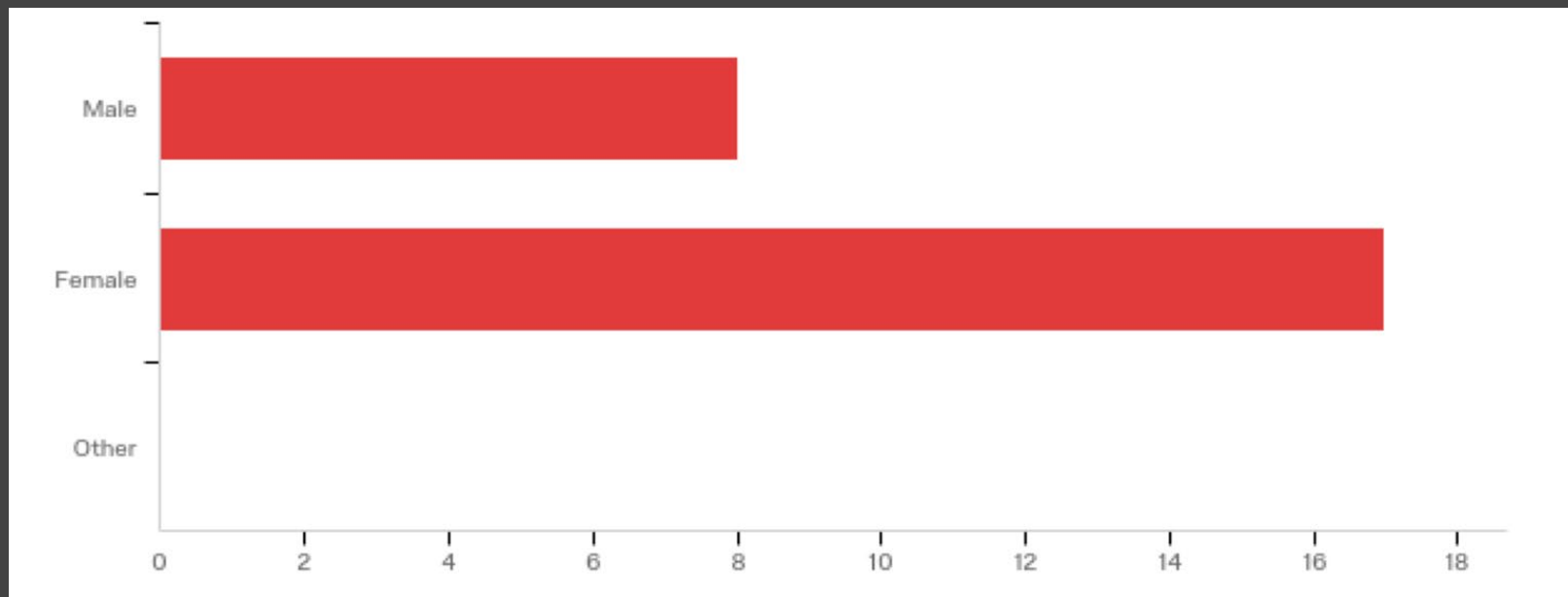


# Research Findings

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## What is your gender?





# Question Category: Sexual Assault

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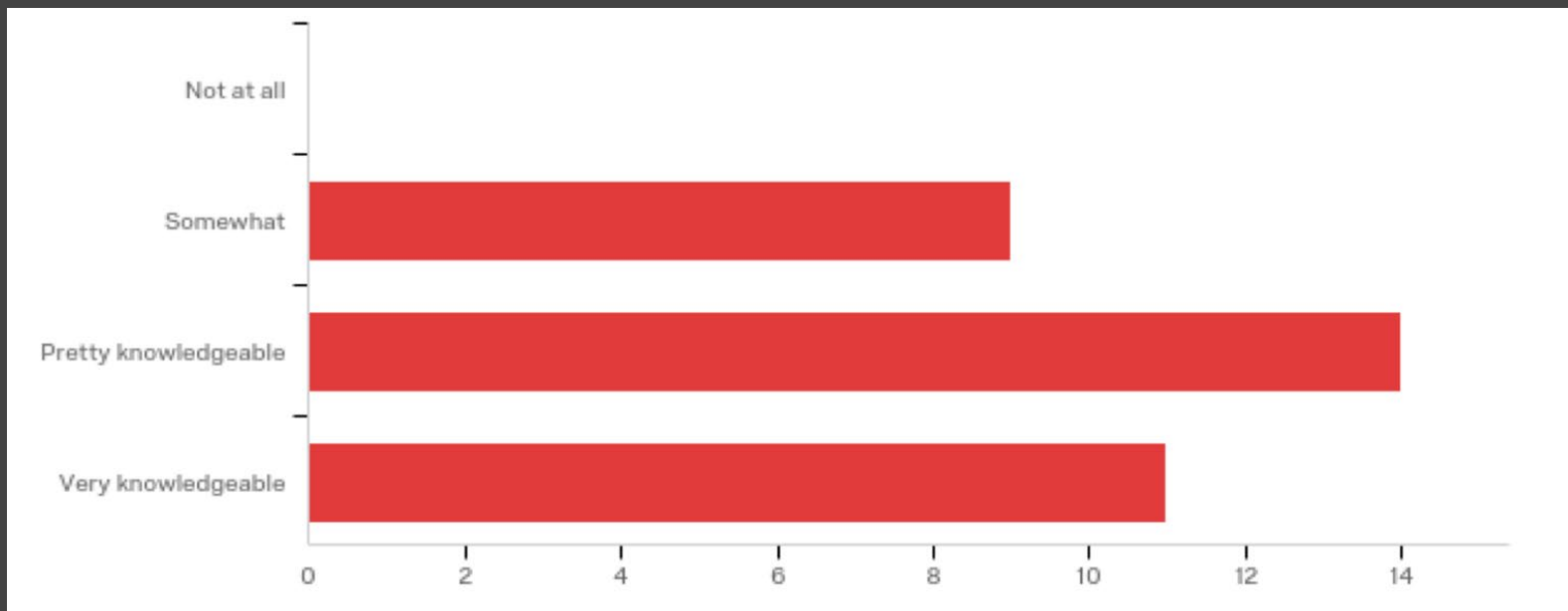


Hypothetically, if you were a victim of sexual or physical assault did/do you feel you are more likely to turn to drugs and alcohol?



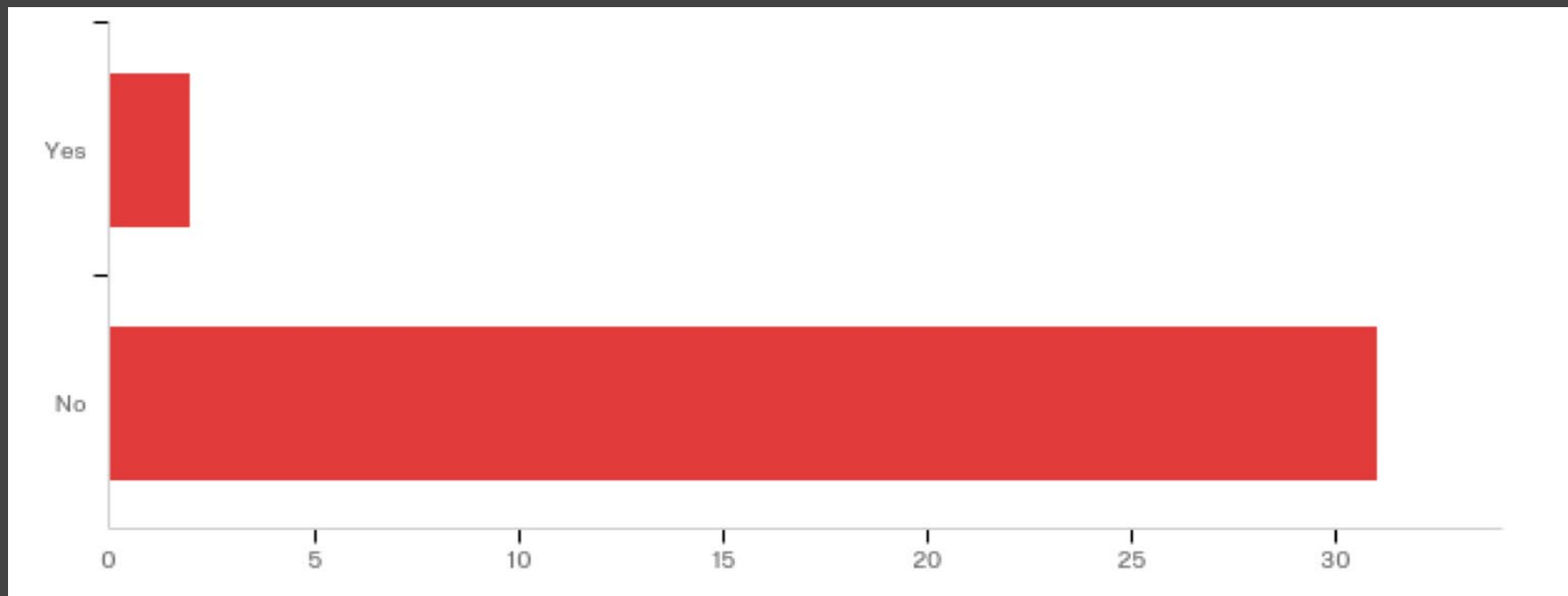


## How knowledgeable do you think you are on what sexual assault means?



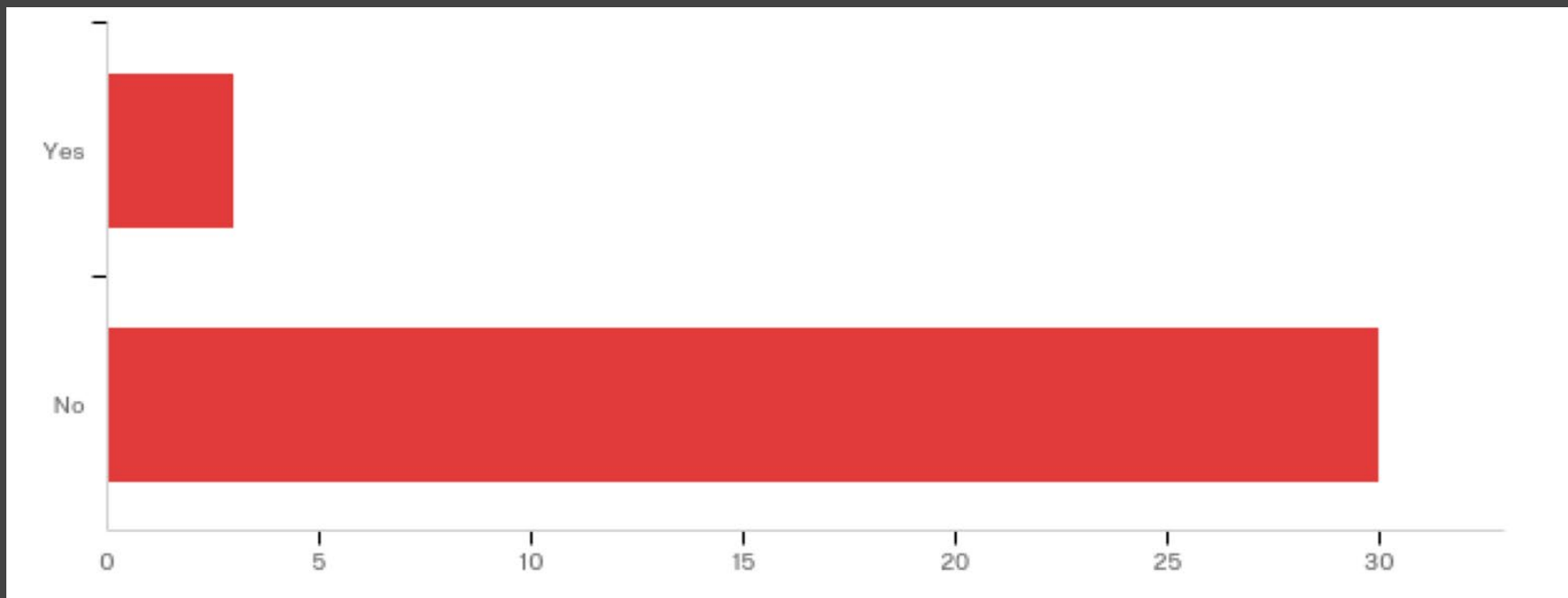


Has a man, or a woman, boy, or girl, EVER made you have sex by using force or threatening to harm you or someone close to you? Just so there is no mistake, by sex we mean a penis in your vagina, or vagina on your penis.



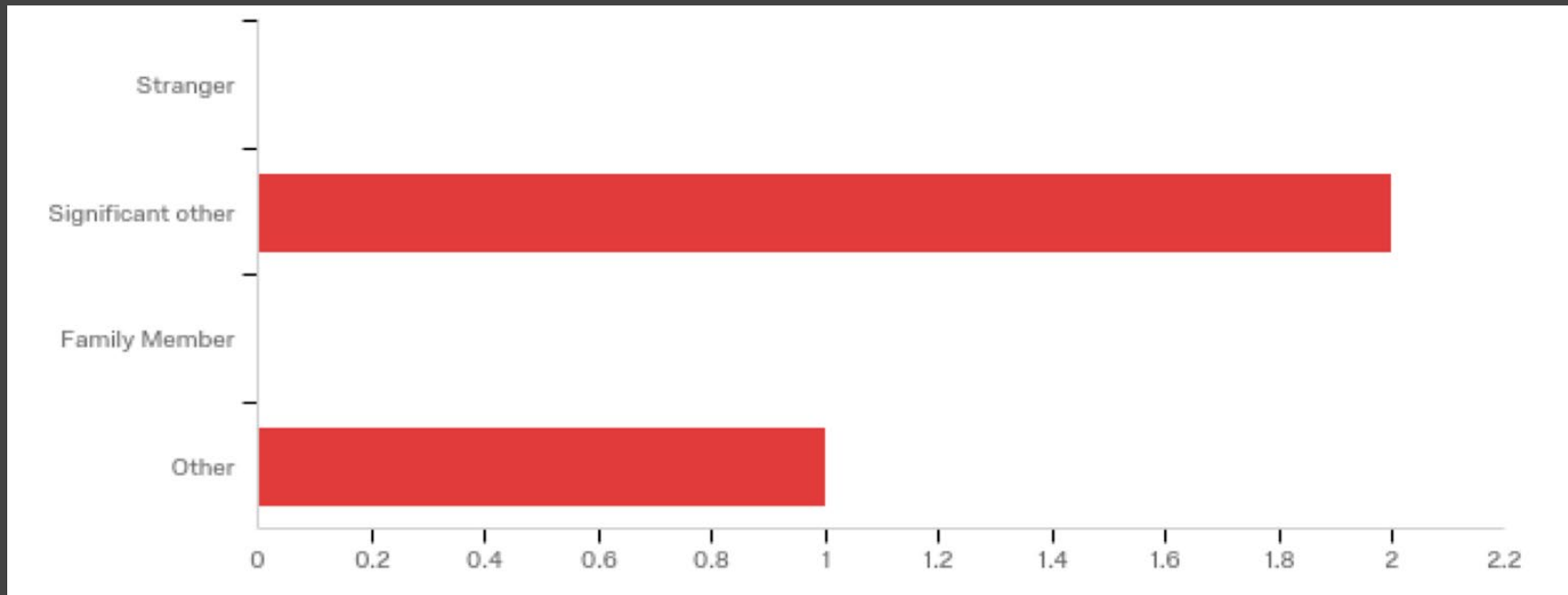


Has a man or woman **EVER** made you have oral sex by using force or threat of harm? Just so there is no mistake, by oral sex we mean that a man or boy put his penis in your mouth or a woman or girl, forced her vagina on your mouth, or someone penetrated your vagina or anus with their mouth or tongue.



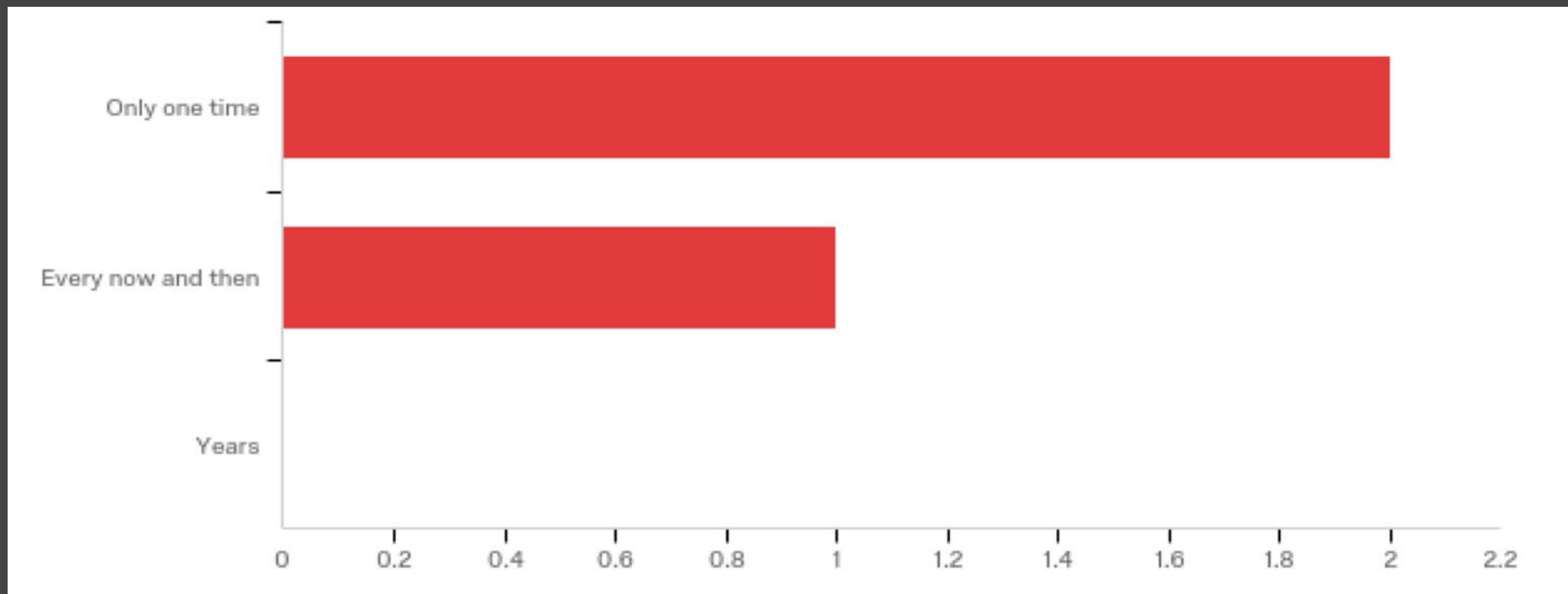


## Who were you assaulted by?



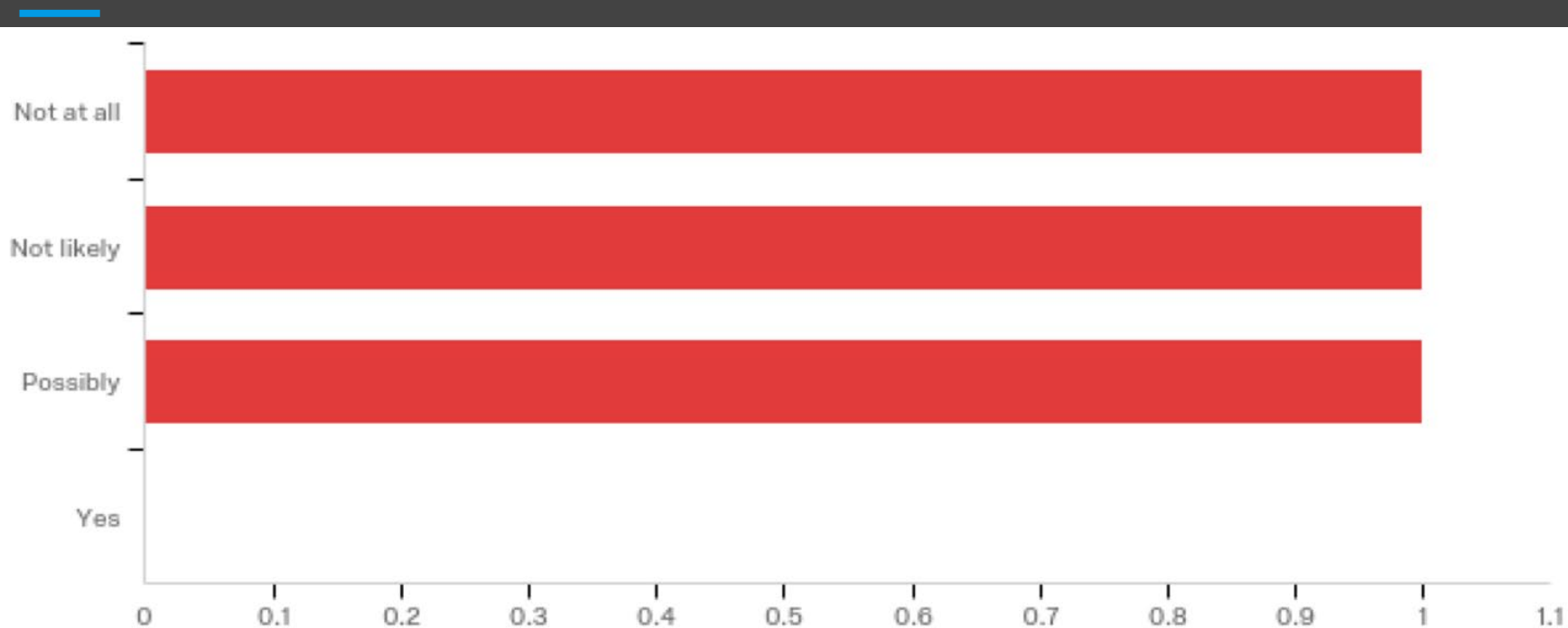


## How long did the abuse go on?





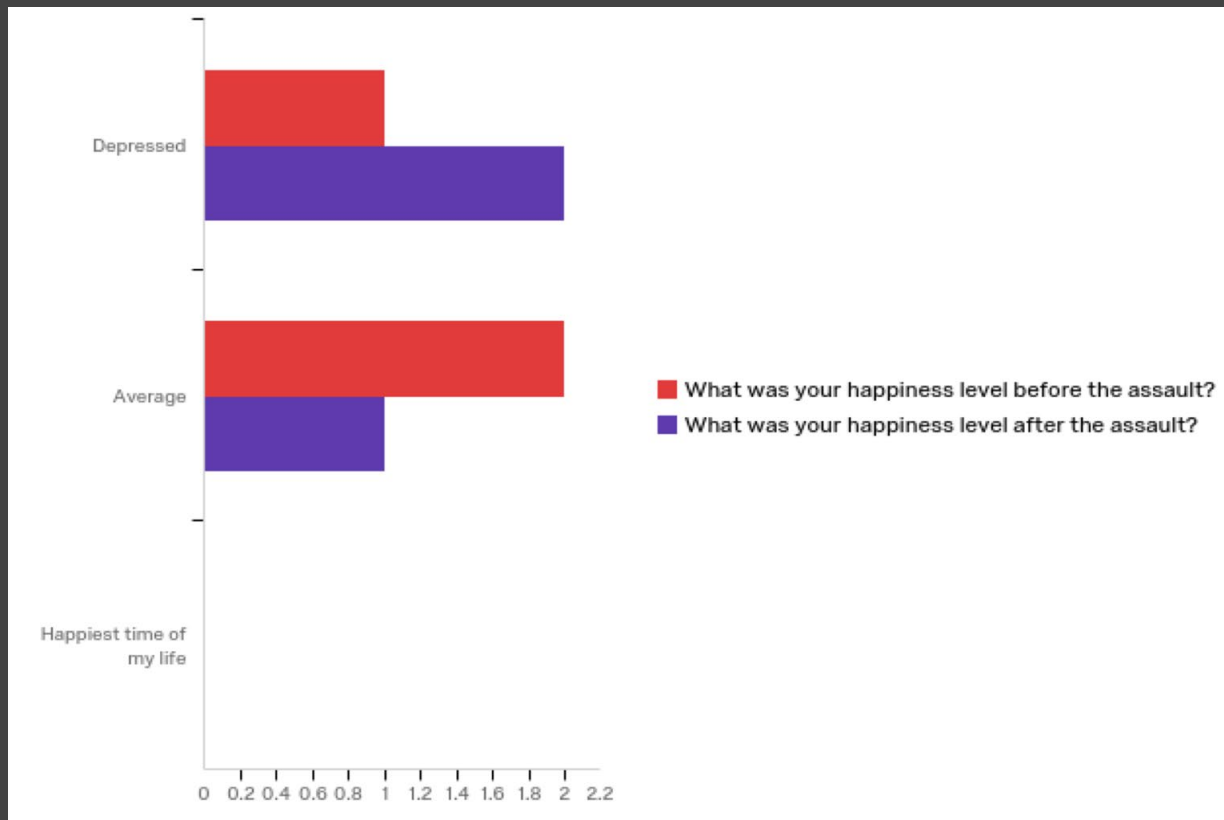
## Did you think you would ever be the victim of sexual assault?





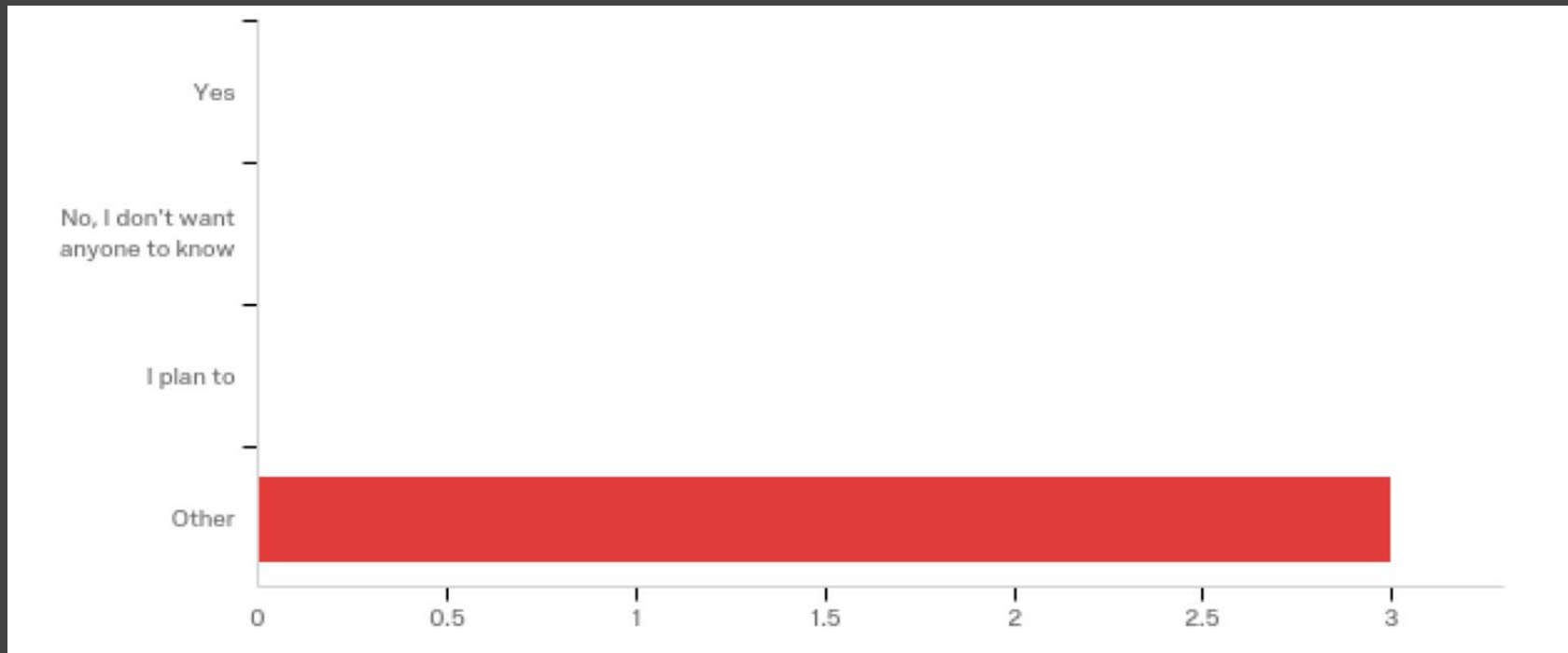


## Happiness level

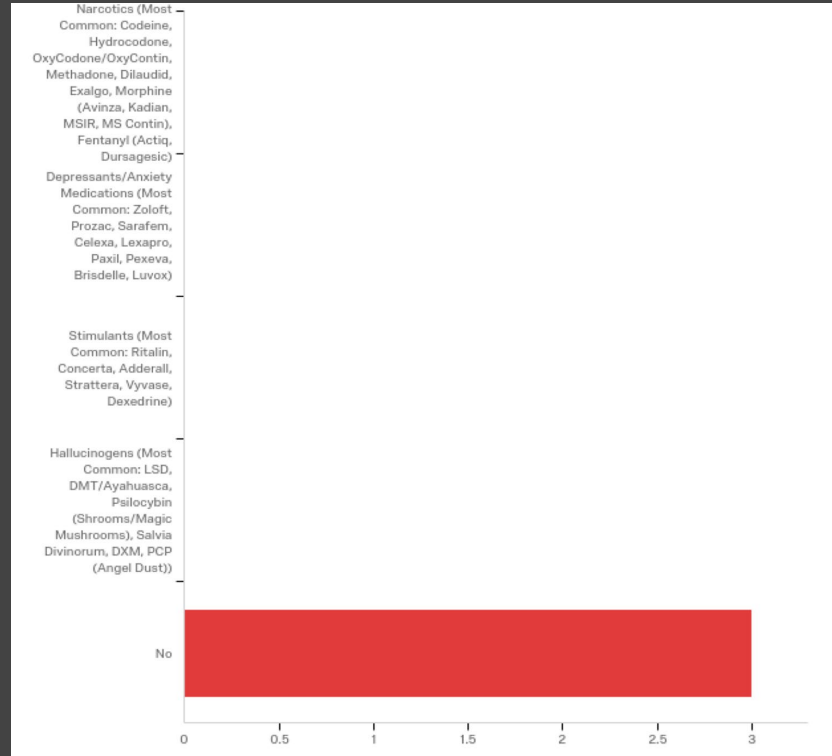




## Have you gotten advice and support to help you heal and move on after the assault?

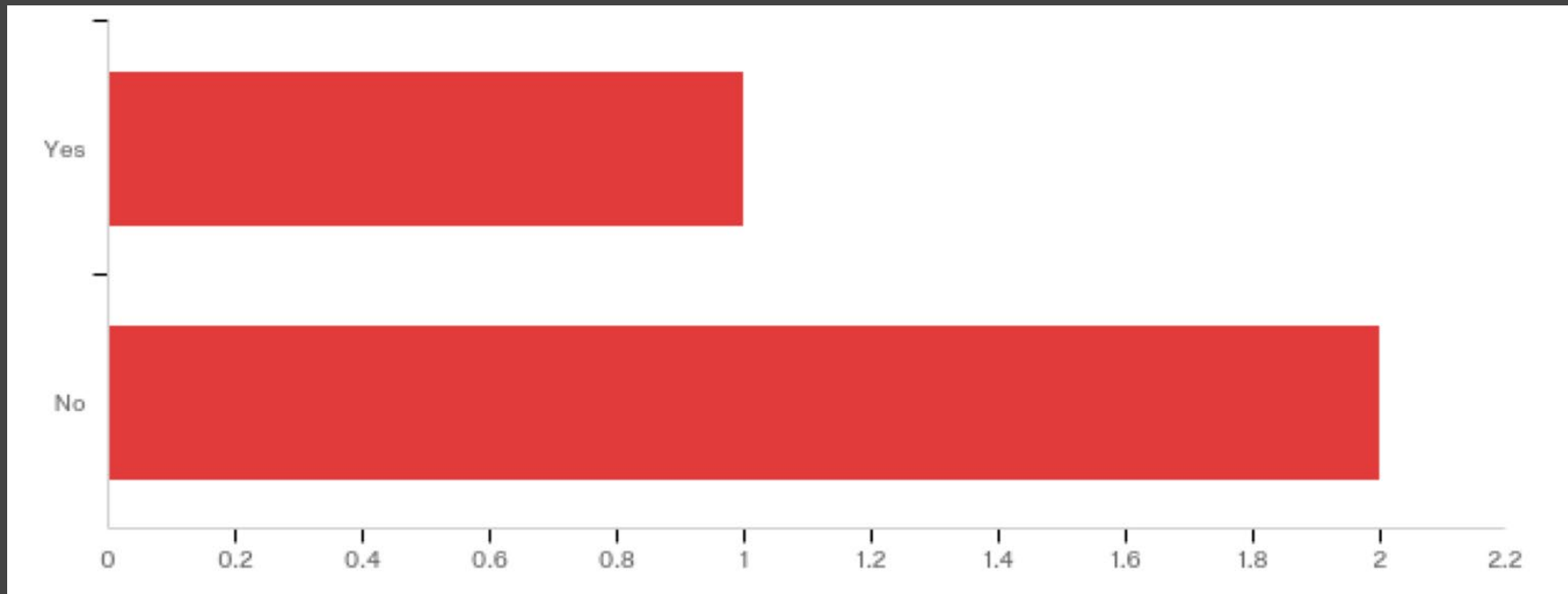


Did turn to any of the following due to the assault that took place? (Please select each applicable category, even if you've only used one medication or drug listed in each category)





## Did you turn to alcohol use due to the assault?



# Question Category: Physical Assault

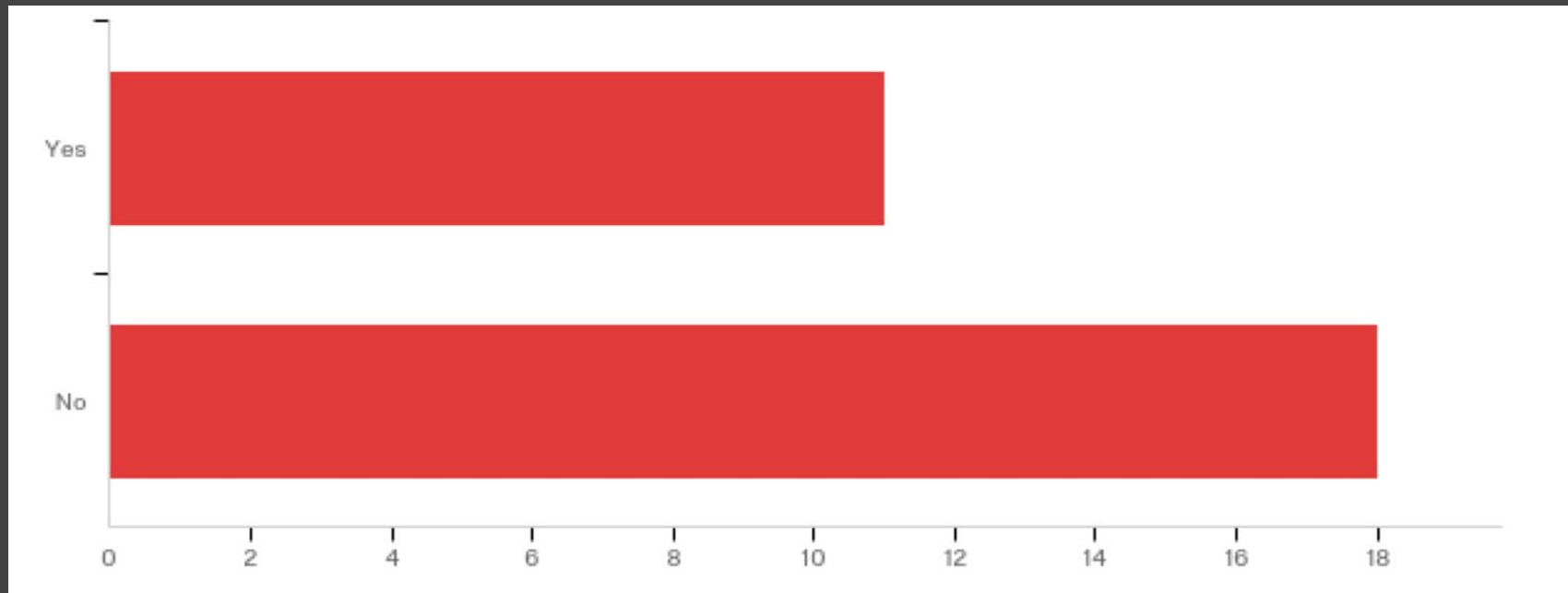
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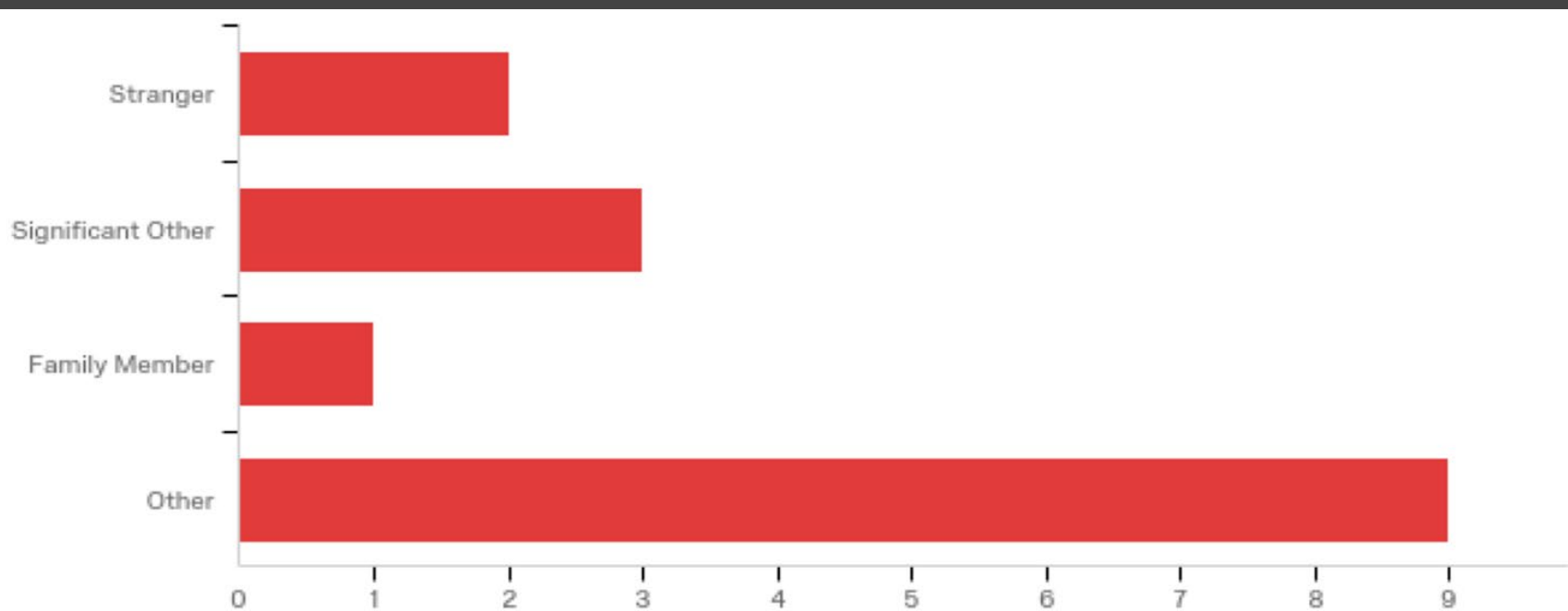


Have you EVER had someone physically assault you? Just so there is no mistake, by physical assault we mean an individual or group of people provokes and attacks a person physically, with or without the use of a weapon, or threatens to hurt that person.

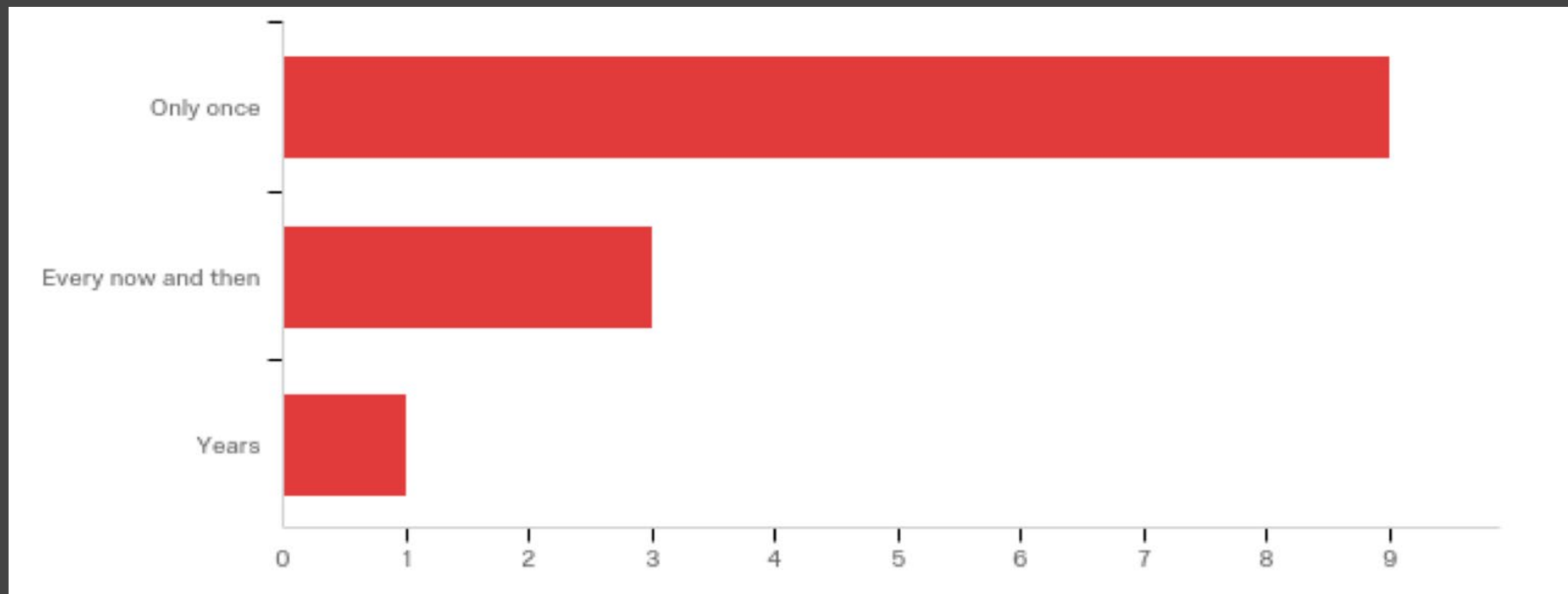
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## Who were you assaulted by?



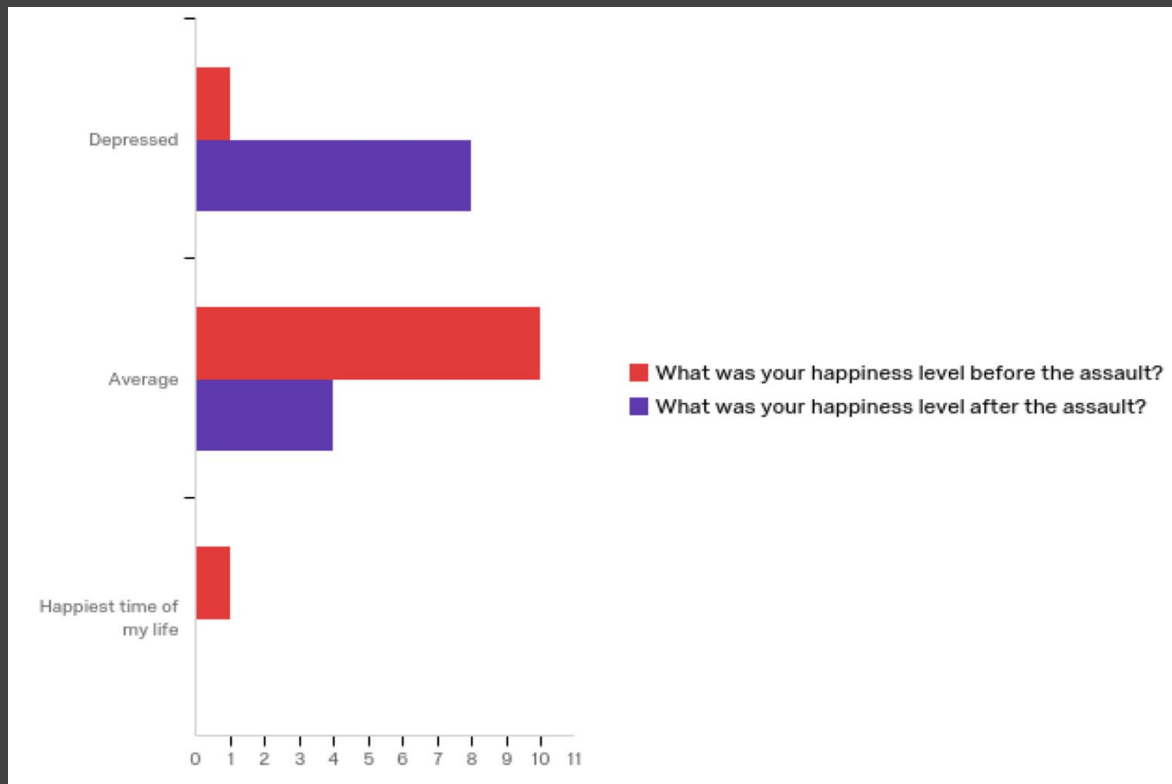
## How long did the abuse go on?





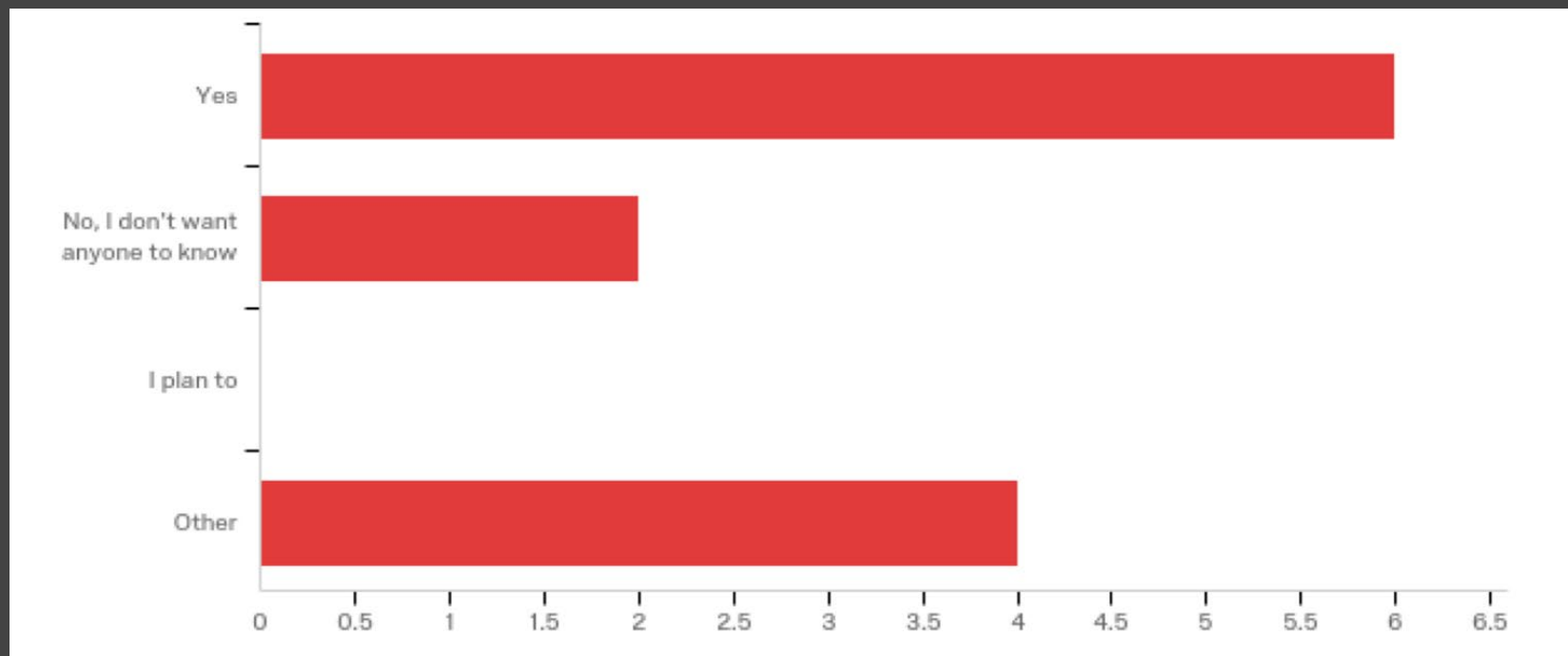


## Happiness Level



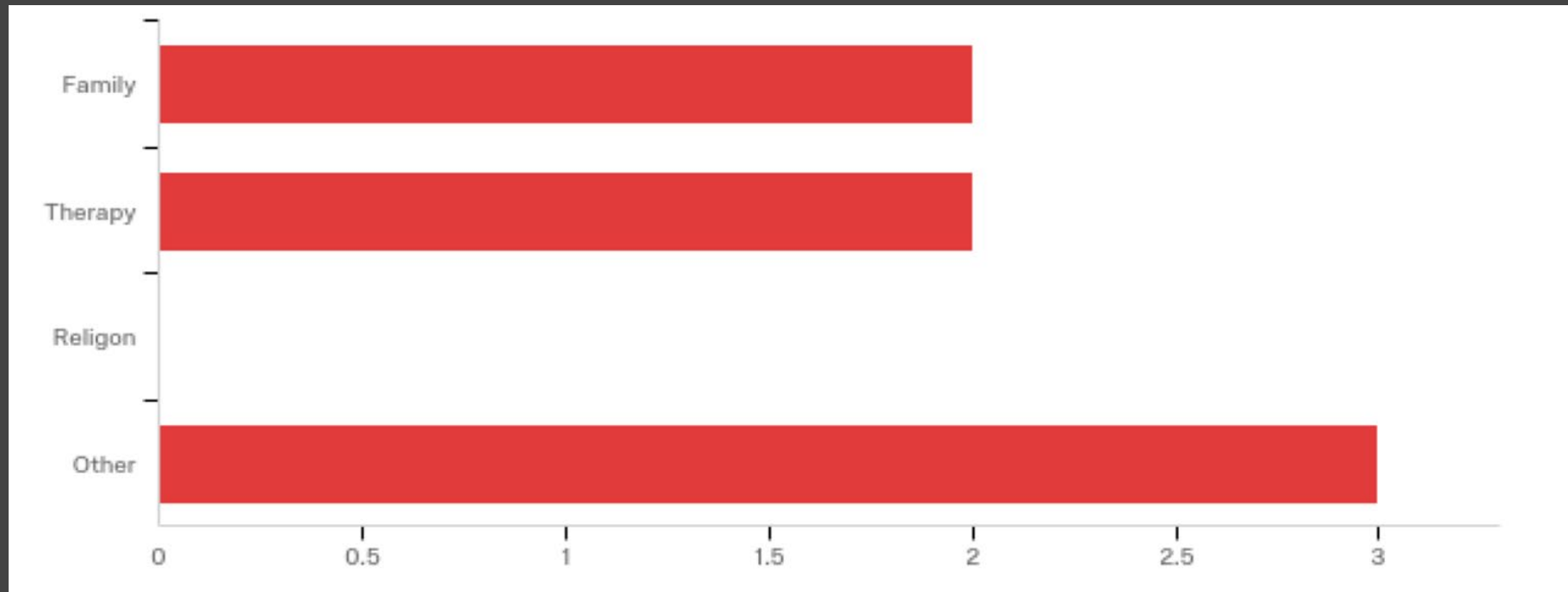


## Have you gotten help or advice after the assault?

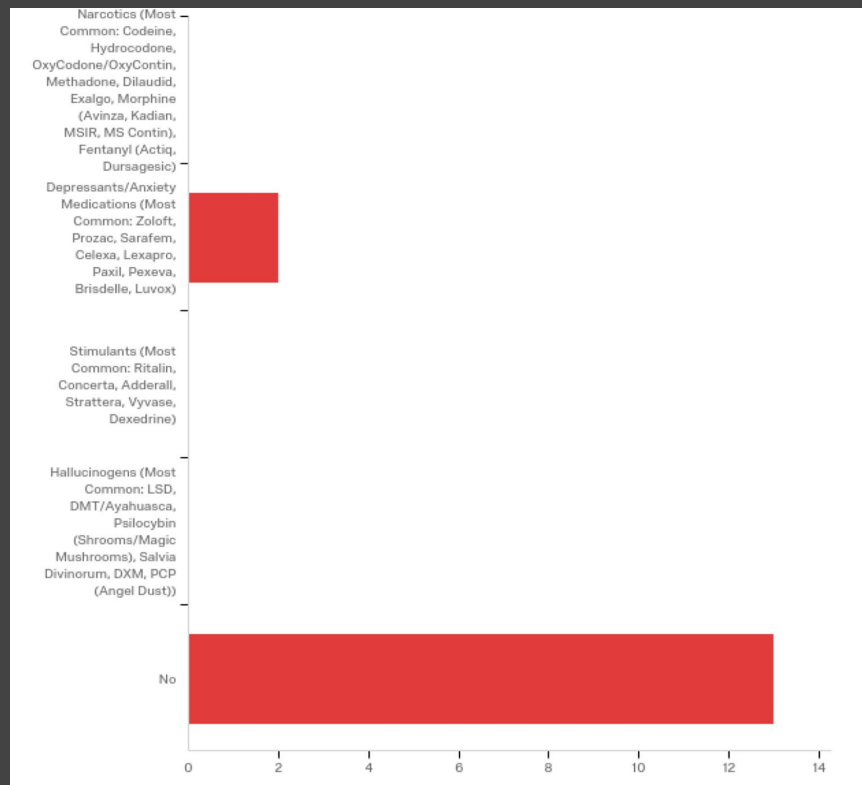




## If yes, where did you get your help or advice?

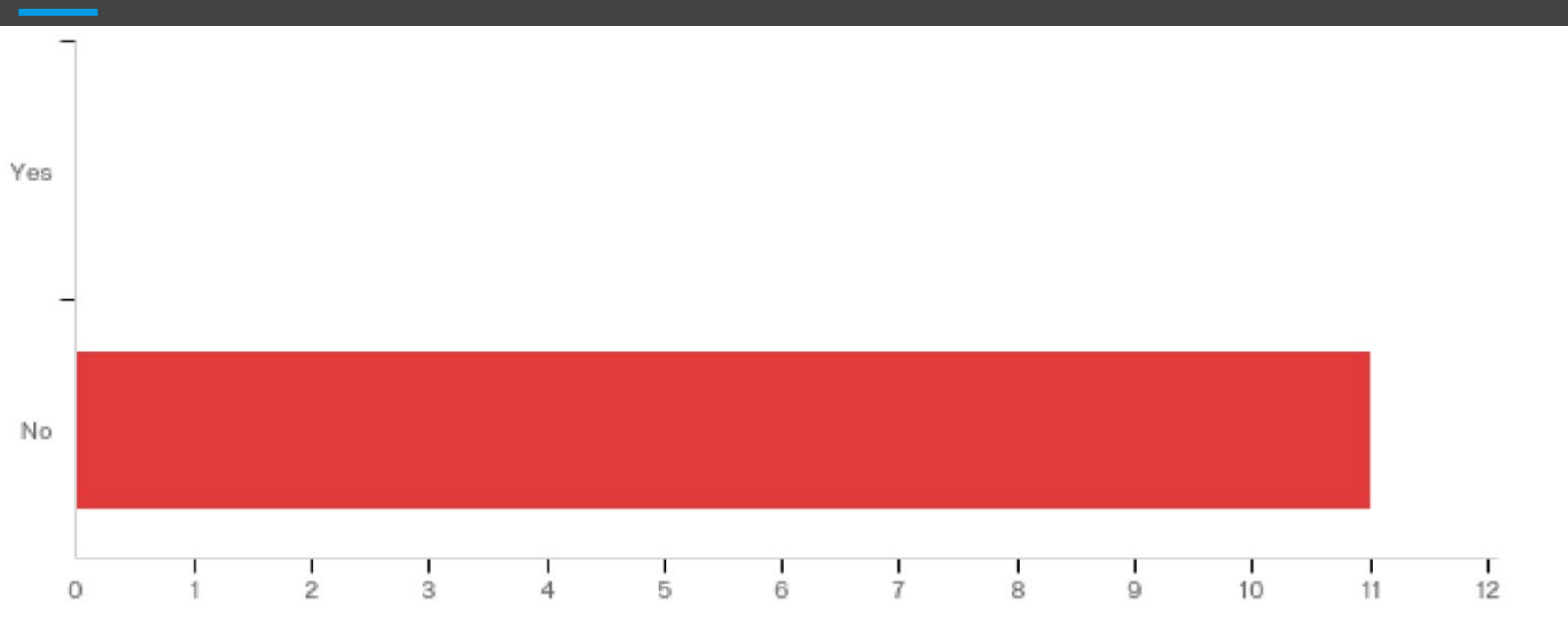


Did turn to any of the following due to the assault that took place? (Please select each applicable category, even if you've only used one medication or drug listed in each category)





## Did you turn to alcohol due to the assault?



# Conclusion

- All of the victims that were assaulted either sexually or physically were affected negatively.
- Often victims felt that the abuse wasn't “important enough” to get help.
- Individuals that were physically assaulted, turned to substance abuse more than those that were sexually assaulted.
- The abuse for the majority of our participants only happened one time, there were some situations where they happened every “now and again”.
- 33.3% of people that were Sexually Assaulted Turned to alcohol use.
- 100% of the people that had been Physically Assaulted did not turn to alcohol use.
- We need to help these victims know what happened to them was wrong and that they need help.