

University Students who Report Providing Sexual Services, Acts, or Materials for Financial Compensation: Survey Results at a Public University



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Building Interdisciplinary
Research Careers in
Women's Health

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BACKGROUND

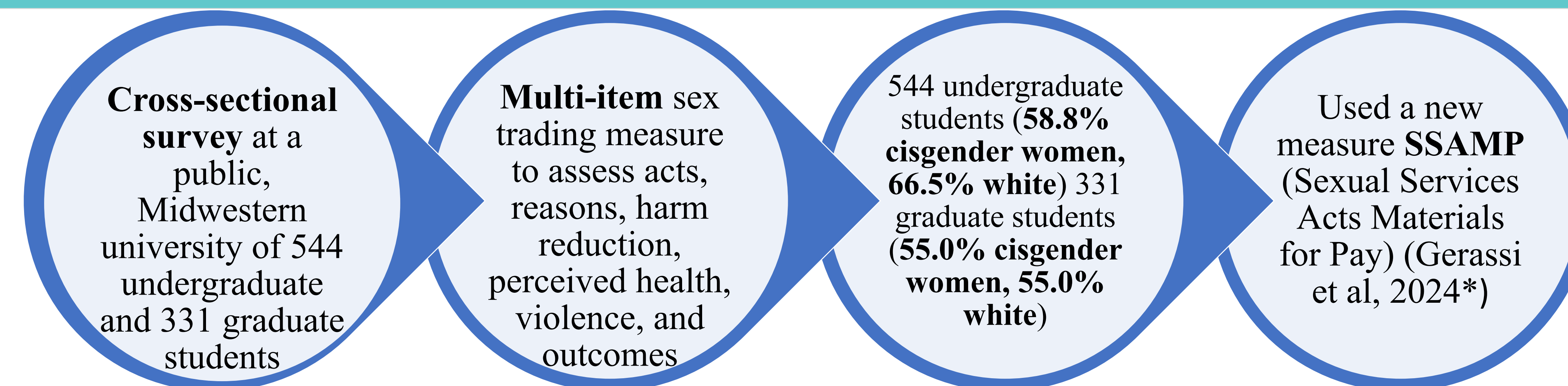
Background:

- **Trading sex** for financial compensation is a **global, public health issue**
- Previous **single-item** U.S. studies found that **2 – 4.5 % of university students trade sex for compensation**
- **Trading sex for compensation** is associated with **increased risk of harms** including:
 - Victimization
 - Sexual risk behaviors/STI's
 - Substance/mental health problems
- **Virtual sex trading** may protect from some of these, but may be associated with **unique harms** including:
 - Cyber violence
 - Stalking
 - Online harassment
 - Doxing

Research Questions:

1. What are the **characteristics and conditions** under which university students trade sex for compensation?
2. What **harm reduction strategies and outcomes** do these students experience? Is use of **more harm reduction strategies** associated with **fewer negative and more positive outcomes**?

METHODS



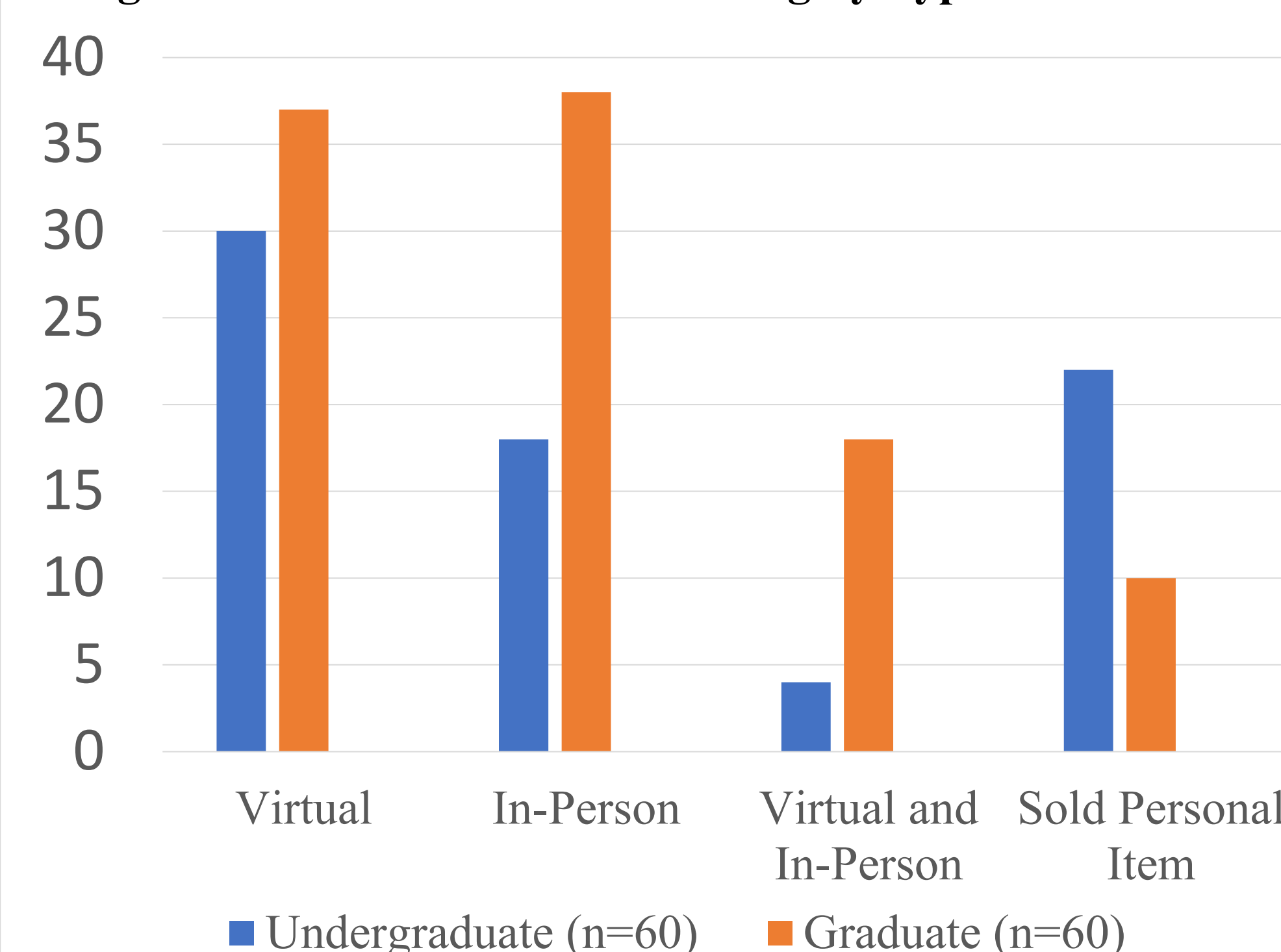
RESULTS

- Approximately **1 in 10 undergraduate** and **1 in 5 graduate** students reported providing in SSAMP
- On average, **undergraduates** reported beginning **SSAMP as minors** whereas **graduates** began as **young adults**
- Across samples, **those who traded sex:**
 - Held more **marginalized identities**
 - Cited **empowerment** and **pressure by an intimate partner** as primary reasons for trading
 - Received **money** and paid for **basic needs**
 - Met buyers on **social media** or **dating websites**
 - Experienced both **positive and negative outcomes**
- **Greater use of harm reduction strategies** was associated with both more **positive and negative outcomes**

Table 1. Age at First Sex Trading in Years

	Undergraduate (n=60)	Graduate (n=60)
Act	M (SD)	M (SD)
Any Sex Trading	16.4 (2.7)	19.9 (3.1)
Personal Item	15.2 (4.7)	20.0 (3.7)
Virtual	16.3 (2.1)	19.2 (3.3)
In-Person	17.5 (1.2)	20.6 (2.7)

Figure 1. Prevalence of Sex Trading by Type

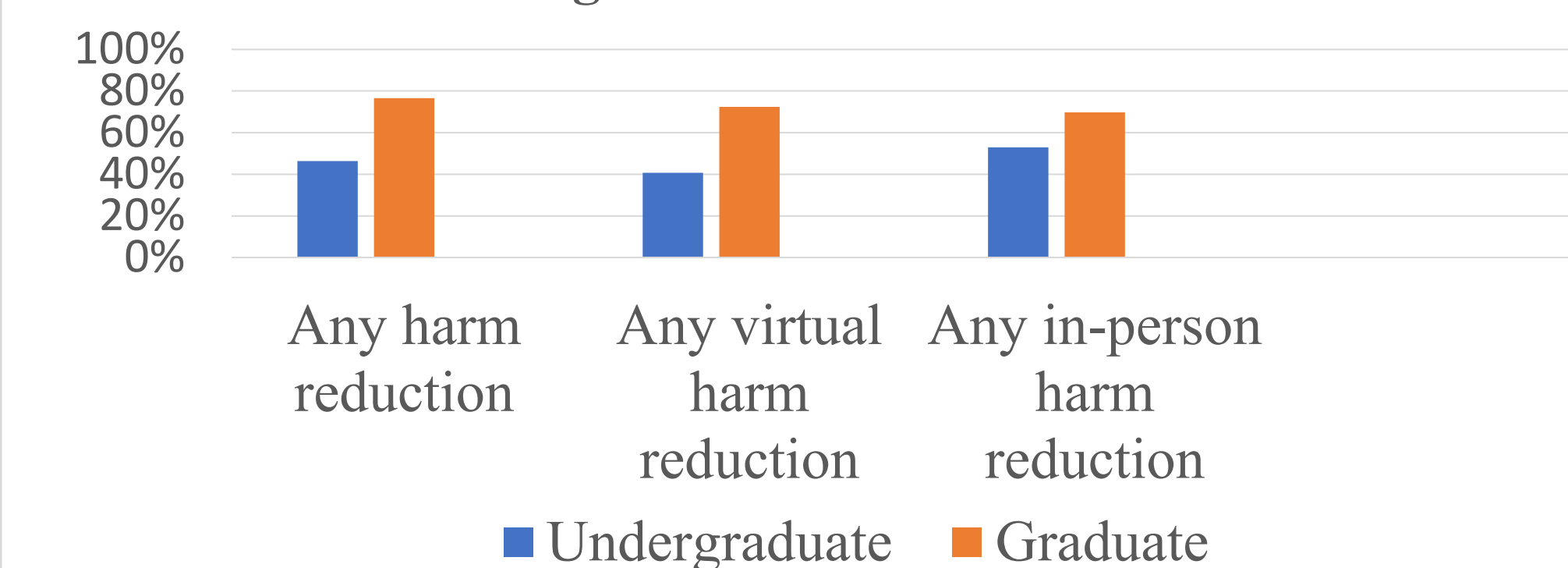


RESULTS

Table 2. Outcomes of SSAMP

	Undergraduate (n=52)	Graduate (n=49)
Any Negative Outcome	24/52 (46.2%)	30/49 (61.2%)
Violence	19/52 (36.5%)	22/49 (44.9%)
Negative Health/Mental Health	12/52 (23.1%)	20/49 (40.8%)
Negative Interpersonal	21/52 (40.4%)	22/49 (44.9%)
Any Positive Outcome	18/52 (34.6%)	32/49 (65.3%)
Positive Financial	2/52 (3.9%)	11/49 (22.5%)
Positive Interpersonal	17/52 (32.7%)	28/49 (57.1%)

Figure 2. Harm Reduction



CONCLUSION

- University students who trade sex for compensation **report diverse, and sometimes harmful, experiences**
- **Developmental differences** are important for tailored interventions
- Future research should replicate in different university contexts and conduct **longitudinal research** to inform **harm reducing practices and policies**.