

# Undergraduate Survey Results

*Slope Day 2025*





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## Undergraduate Slope Day Survey: *Spring 2025*

### Background

May 7, 2025 brought the third in-person Slope Day celebration since the COVID-19 pandemic. The event was open to Cornell undergraduate, graduate, and professional students, as well as to staff and faculty. A small number of tickets were available for purchase by alumni and no other outside guests were permitted. The Slope Day Survey was conducted by the Skorton Center for Health Initiatives at Cornell Health to assess undergraduate, graduate, and professional student attitudes and behaviors on Slope Day including among those who attended the University event and those who did not.

### Survey Administration

The Slope Day 2025 survey launched at 5pm on Wednesday, May 7, 2025 and closed at 2pm on Tuesday, May 20, 2025. A random sample of 5,000 undergraduate students with Ithaca-based addresses, stratified by gender and class year, were invited to participate in the Slope Day 2025 Survey.

- 1,187 surveys were started (23.7% response rate)
- 1,074 surveys were completed (21.5% response rate for completion)

### Slope Day Attendance

Among undergraduate students, 77% of the sample reported attending Slope Day on Libe Slope this year and 23% did not.

### Data Highlights

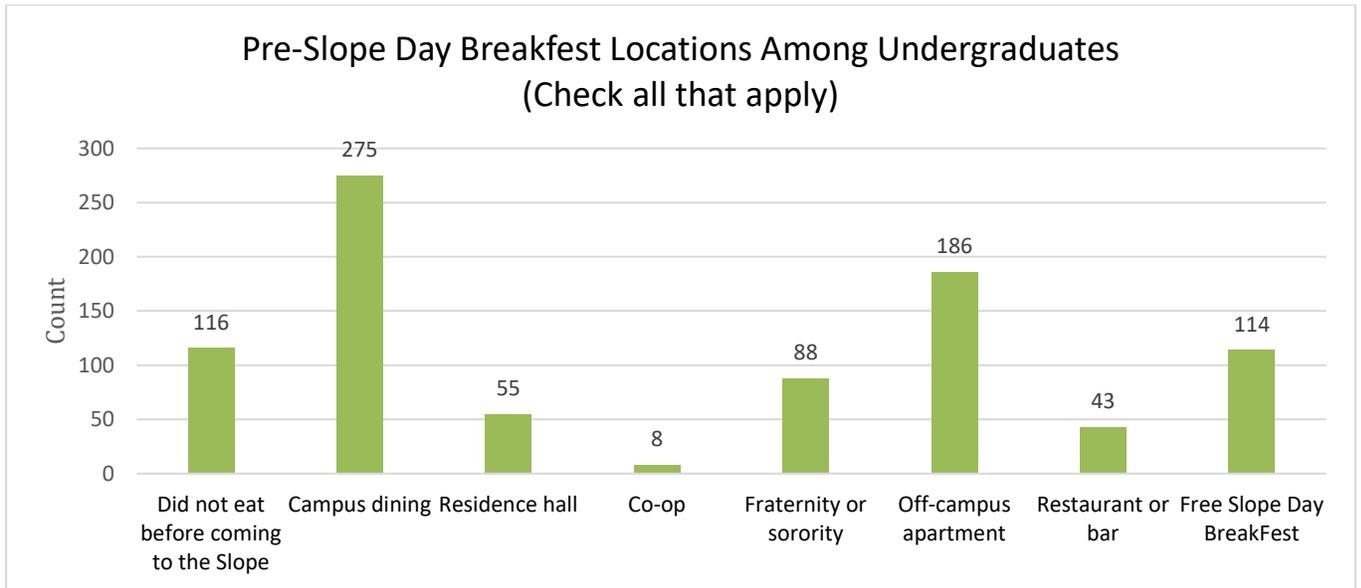
- **Alcohol Consumption:** The majority of Cornell undergraduate students (59%) reported they did not drink any alcohol on Slope Day, even if they did not go to the Slope.
- **Slope Day Satisfaction:** Overall, among Slope Day attendees, 71% of Cornell undergraduate students reported they were satisfied or very satisfied with Slope Day 2025 overall. However, only 50% of undergraduate Slope Day attendees were satisfied or very satisfied with Slope Fest.
- **Positive Social Norms:**
  - 98% of Cornell undergraduate students believe it is important to call for medical assistance if a person is passed out and can't be woken up.
  - 90% of Cornell undergraduate students are familiar with Cornell's Good Samaritan Protocol (GSP).
  - 93% of Cornell undergraduate students trust Cornell's GSP to protect those who call for help and the person in need of help in an alcohol or other drug (AOD) emergency.
  - 85% of Cornell undergraduate students are familiar with the New York State Good Samaritan Law.
  - 94% trust the NYS law to protect those who call for help and the person in need of help in an AOD emergency.



**Survey Results**

*Pre-Event Eating*

**Figure 1. Location of eating before coming to the Slope**



*Satisfaction with Performers and Overall Slope Day Event*

**Figure 2. Slope Day attendees' satisfaction with performers**

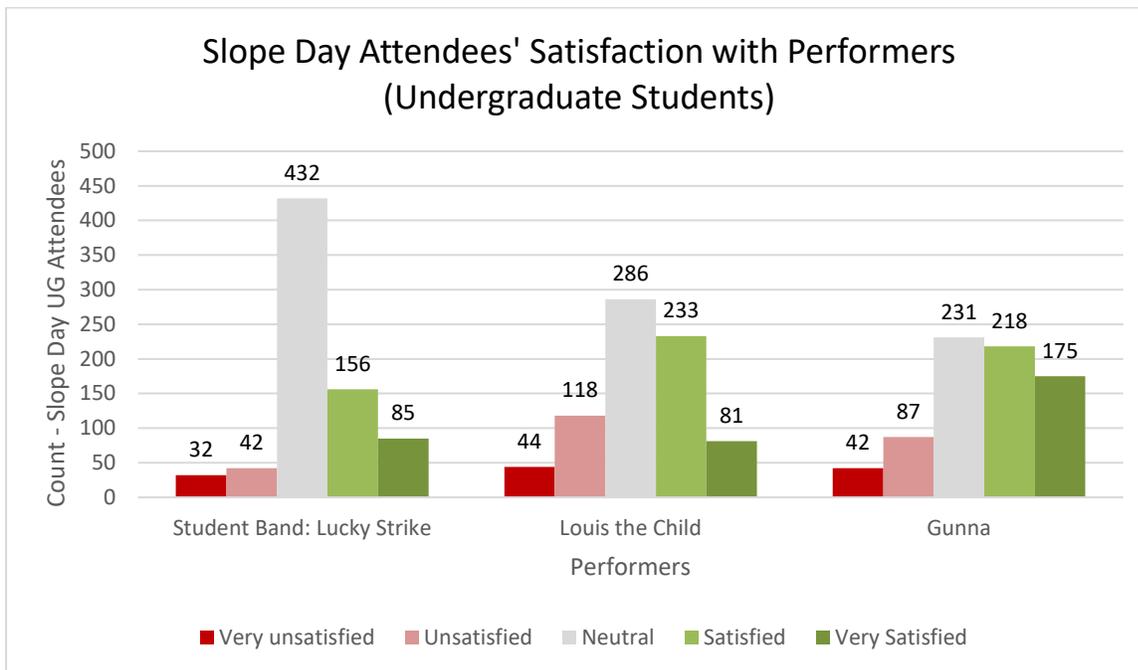




Figure 3. Slope Day attendees' satisfaction with Slope Day

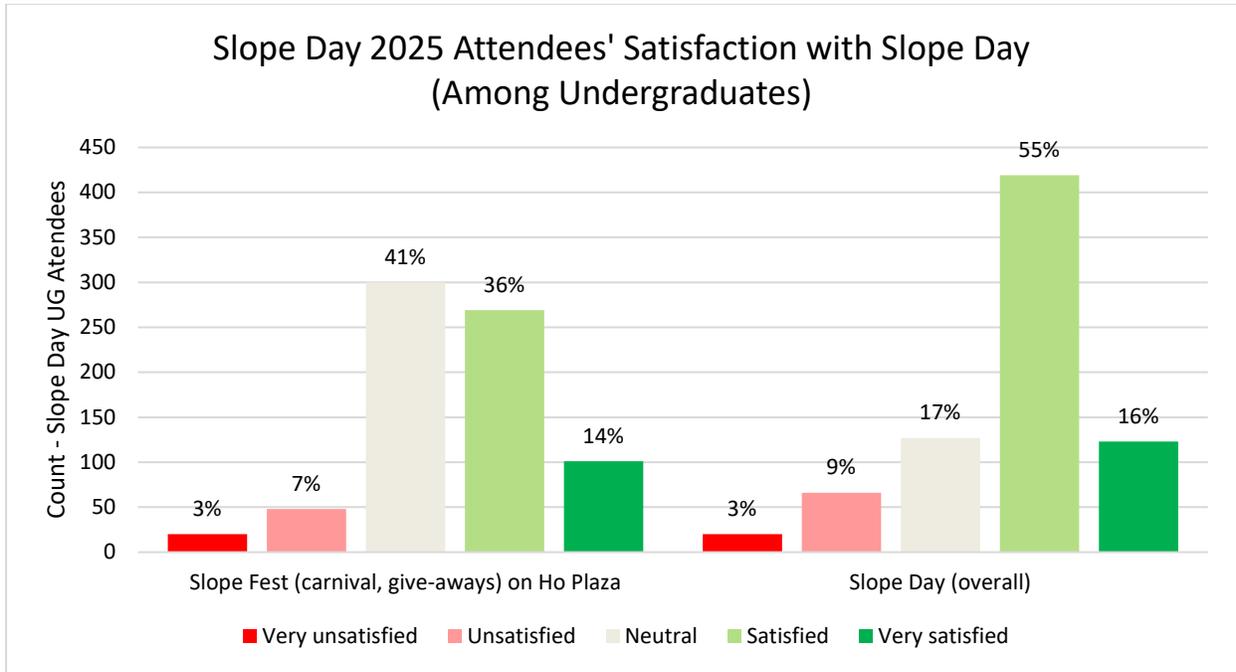
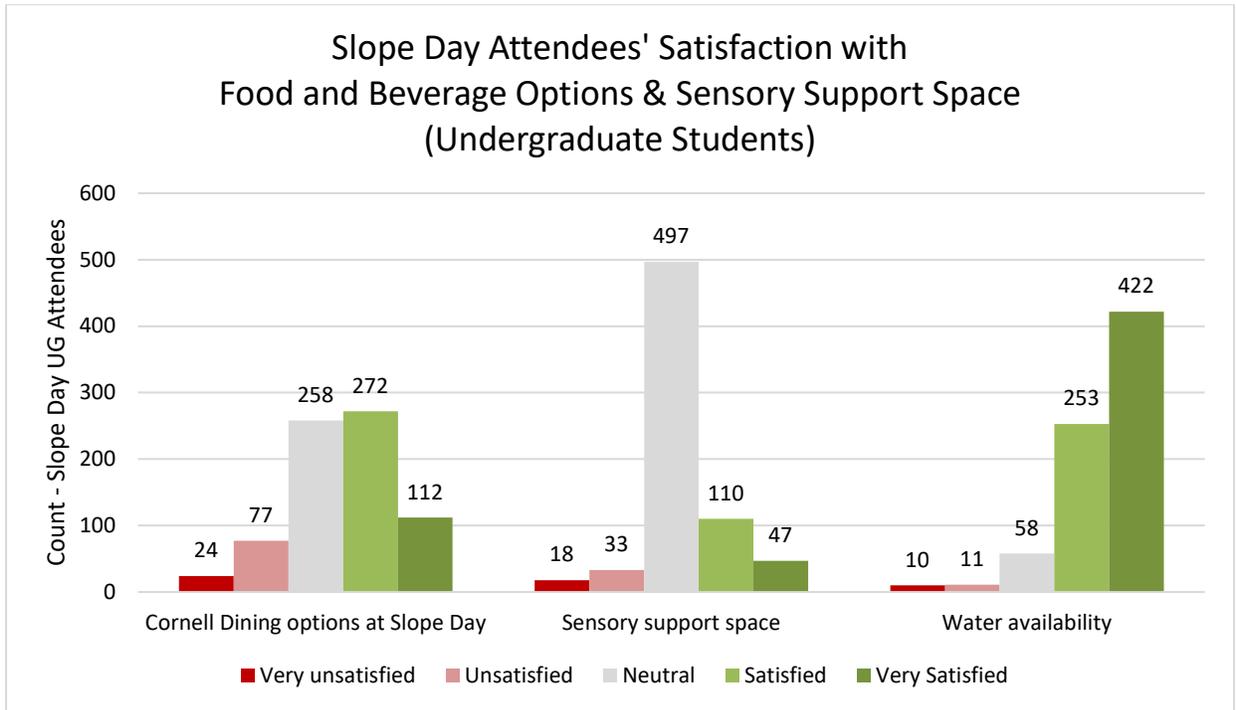


Figure 4. Slope Day attendee's satisfaction with other elements of Slope Day

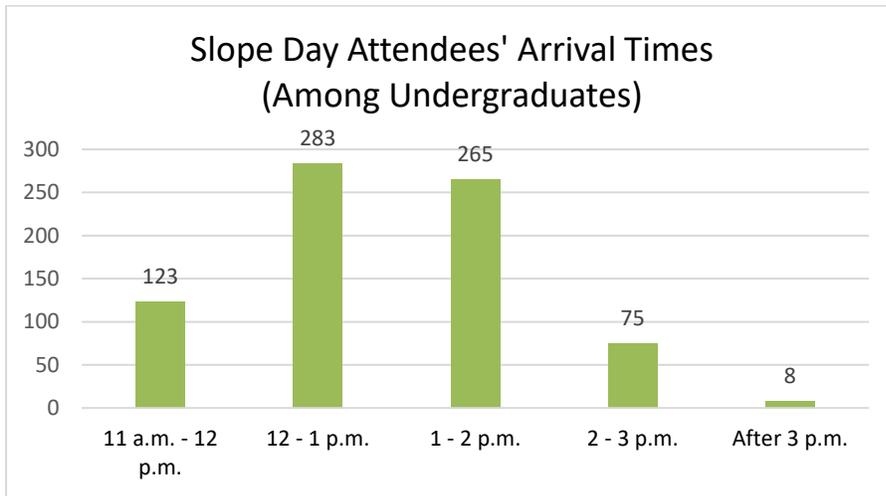




### Slope Day Arrival Times

This year, the gates opened at 11:30am. Most undergraduate students entered the Slope Day gates between 12pm – 2pm (73%).

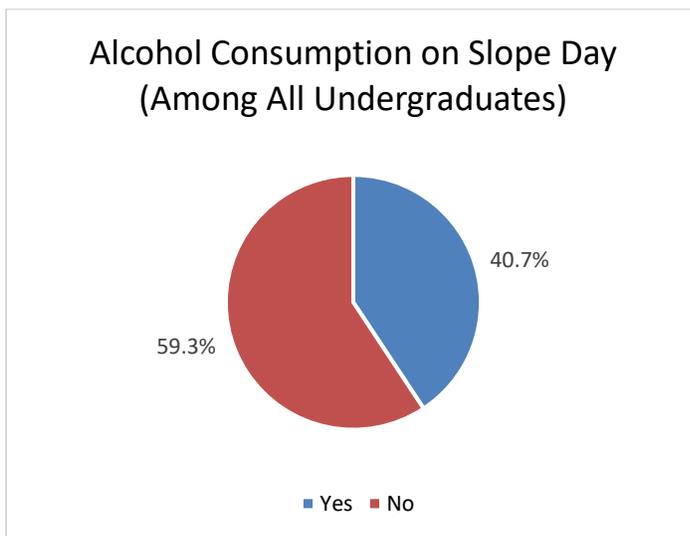
**Figure 4. Slope Day attendees' arrival time at the Slope**



### Alcohol Consumption on Slope Day

The following figures outline various measures about alcohol consumption on Slope Day including prevalence of drinking on Slope Day (pre-gaming, at Slope Day, after Slope Day), timing of drinks, quantity, and location.

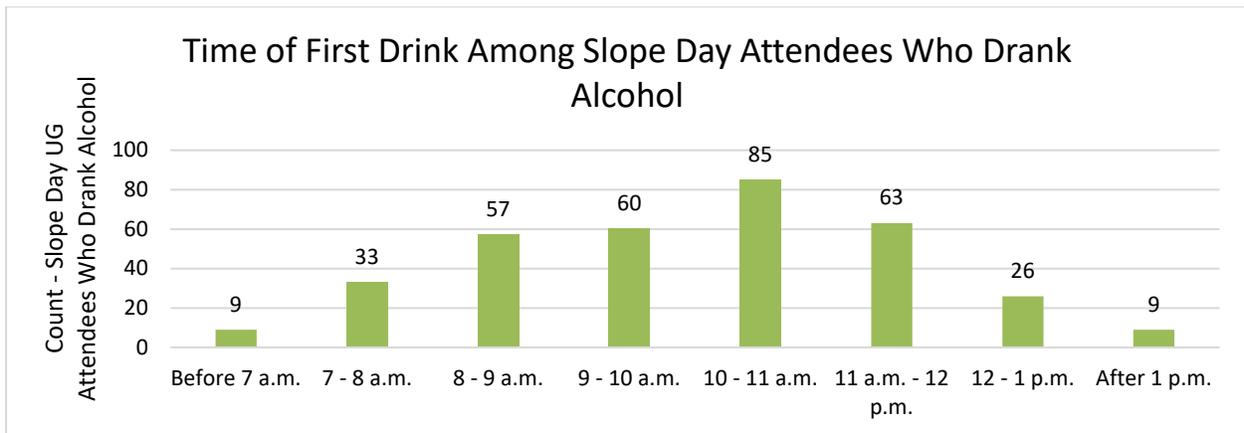
**Figure 5. Alcohol Consumption on Slope Day**





Among Cornell students who reported drinking alcohol on Slope Day and attended Slope Day, very few students reported pre-gaming before 7am (2.6%), however the majority reported their time of first drink on Slope Day occurred before 11am. Among students who drank alcohol and attended Slope Day, 9.6% reported first drink between 7am – 8am, 16.7% reported first drink between 8am – 9am, 17.5% reported first drink between 9am – 10am, 18.4% reported first drink between 11am – 12pm, 7.6% reported time of first drink between 12pm -1pm, and 2.6% reported first drink after 1pm on Slope Day.

Figure 6. Time of first drink among Slope Day attendees who drank alcohol



*Drinking BEFORE Slope Day (i.e., “Pre-gaming”)*

Among Slope Day undergraduate student attendees who drank BEFORE coming to the Slope (i.e., “pre-gamed”), the average number of alcoholic drinks consumed before coming to the Slope was  $M = 4.09$ ,  $SD = 2.6$ . This was lower than previous years (see Table 1).

Table 1. Average Number of Drinks Before Slope Day

	<i>Mean</i>	<i>Standard Deviation</i>
<b>2016</b>	5	3
<b>2017</b>	5	3.1
<b>2018</b>	4.7	3
<b>2025</b>	4.09	2.6



Figure 7. Number of alcoholic drinks consumed before coming to the Slope

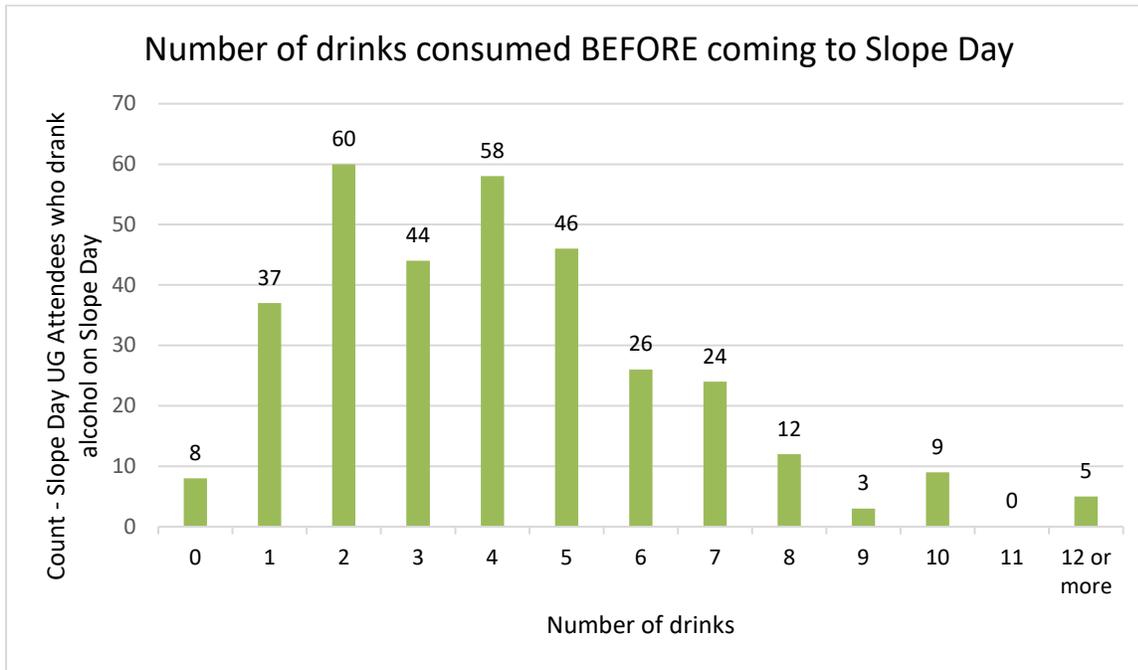


Figure 8. Drinking Locations BEFORE coming to the Slope





## Drinking AT the Slope

Among Slope Day undergraduate student attendees who drank AT the Slope, the average number of alcoholic drinks consumed at the Slope was  $M = 0.74$ ,  $SD = 1.24$ . This was higher than in previous years (see Table 2). Additionally, among those who said they drank alcohol at the Slope, the number of drinks consumed ranged from 1 to 5.

**Table 2. Average Number of Drinks at the Slope**

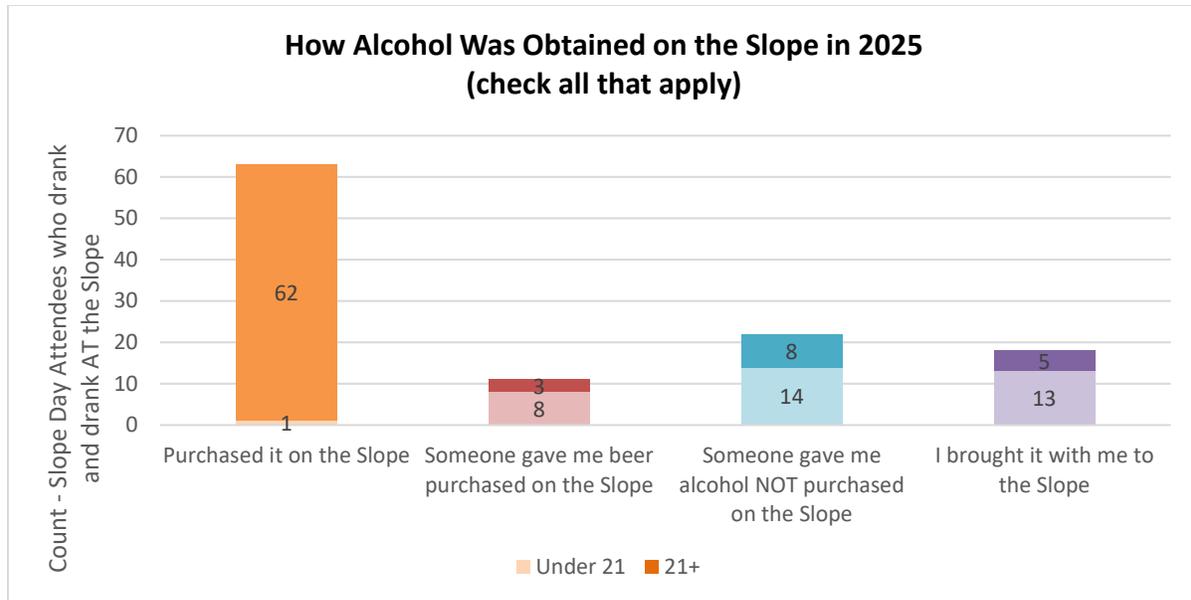
	<i>Mean</i>	<i>Standard Deviation</i>
<b>2016</b>	0.3	1.2
<b>2017</b>	0.4	1.2
<b>2018</b>	0.3	1.0
<b>2025</b>	0.7	1.2

**Table 3. How was alcohol obtained on the Slope in 2025**

<b>Which of the following describes how you obtained alcohol on the Slope? (check all that apply)</b> Counts			
<b>Purchased it on the Slope</b>	<b>Someone gave me beer purchased on the Slope</b>	<b>Someone gave me alcohol NOT purchased on the Slope</b>	<b>I brought it with me to the Slope</b>
69	12	24	20



Figure 9. Ways Alcohol Was Obtained on the Slope in 2025



(Lighter colors indicate age = Under 21; Darker colors indicate age = 21+)

*Drinking AFTER Slope Day*

Among Slope Day attendees who drank AFTER the event: n = 318. The average number of alcoholic drinks consumed AFTER the event was:  $M = 0.59$ ,  $SD = 1.65$ .

Table 4. Average Number of Drinks After Slope Day

	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>
2018	1.9	2.1
2025	0.6	1.7

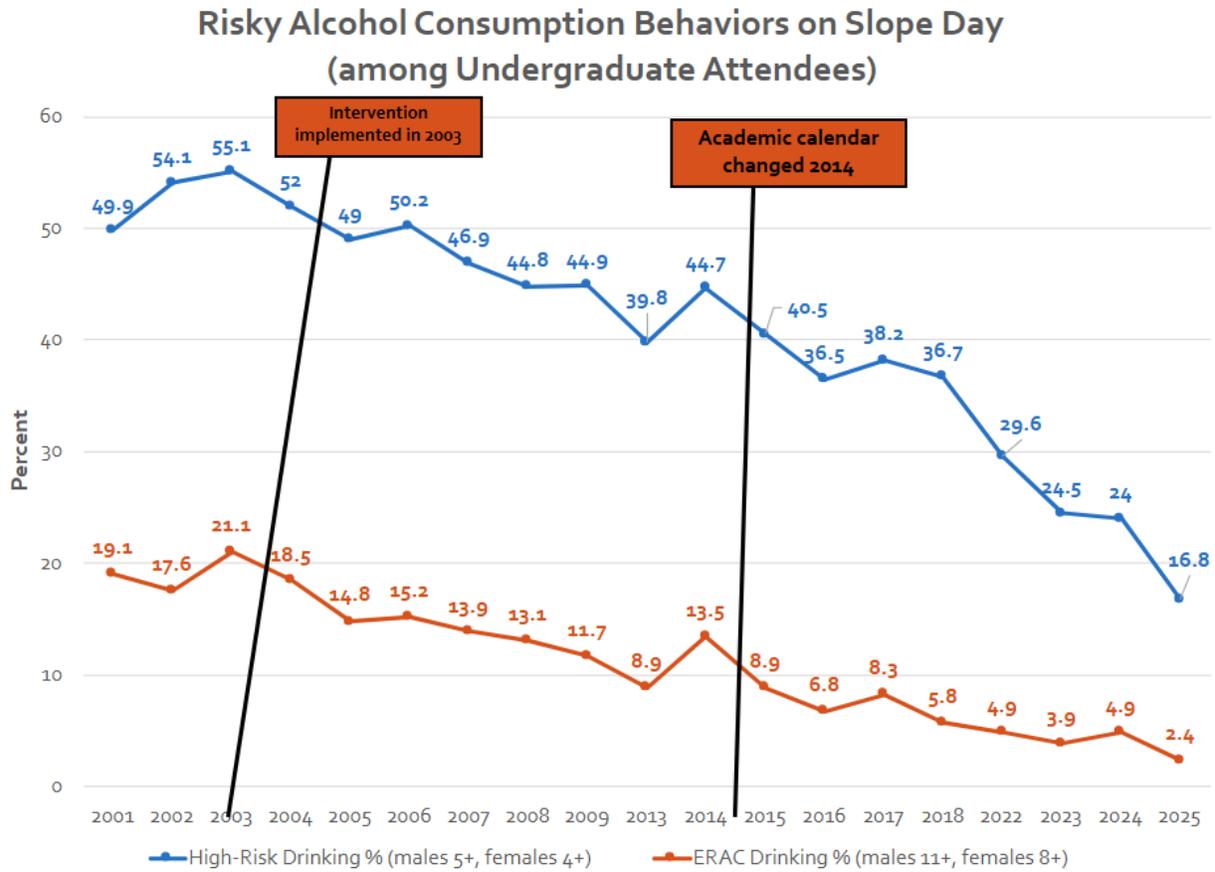
*High Risk and Extreme Ritualistic Alcohol Consumption*

Two standard ways to measure risky alcohol consumption are high-risk drinking and extreme ritualistic alcohol consumption. **High-risk drinking** is defined by having 4 or more drinks in a sitting for females and 5 or more drinks in a sitting for males. **Extreme Ritualistic Alcohol Consumption (ERAC)** is defined by having 8 or more drinks in a sitting for females and 11 or more drinks in a sitting for males.

In 2025, Cornell undergraduate students reported the lowest rates to date at 17% engaging in high-risk drinking on Slope Day and only 2.4% engaging in ERAC behavior on Slope Day.



Figure 10. Risky Alcohol Consumption Behaviors on Slope Day (among Undergraduate Attendees)



Other Drug Use on Slope Day

Other drug use on Slope Day was relatively low. On Slope Day, only 9% of students reported using cannabis, 6.1% reported using nicotine products, 1.7% reported using a hallucinogen (ecstasy, molly, MDMA, LSD, Shrooms, or Angel Dust), 1.1% reported using poppers (amyl nitrate), 0.7% reported using cocaine, 0.2% reported using prescription pain medication not prescribed to them, 0.2% reported using whippets (nitrous oxide) and 0.1% reported using ketamine. No students reported using fentanyl or heroin or prescription stimulants without a prescription on Slope Day.



## Undergraduate Slope Day Survey: Spring 2025

**Table 5. Other Drug Use Among Cornell Undergraduate Students on Slope Day**

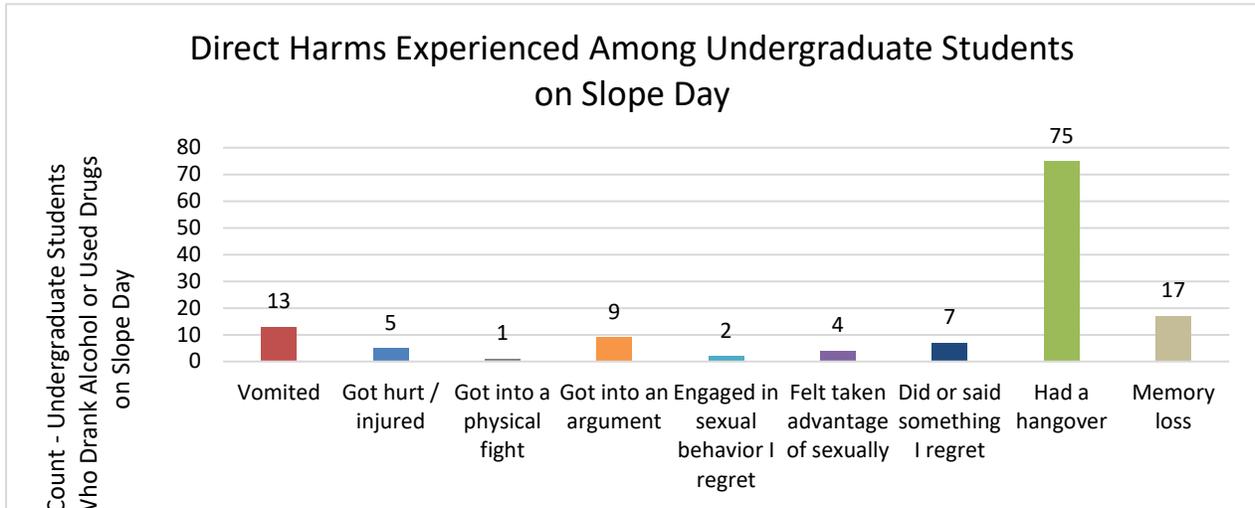
<b>Drug</b>	<b>% of Undergraduate Students Who Used on Slope Day</b>
Cannabis	9.1%
Cocaine	0.7%
Ecstasy / Molly / MDMA	0.6%
Fentanyl / Heroin	0.0%
Ketamine	0.1%
Nicotine products	6.1%
Other Hallucinogens (e.g., LSD, Shrooms, Angel Dust)	1.1%
Poppers (amyl nitrate)	1.1%
Prescription pain medication not prescribed to you (e.g., oxycodone or hydrocodone)	0.2%
Prescription stimulant not prescribed to you (e.g., Adderall, Ritalin, Concerta)	0.0%
Whippets (nitrous oxide)	0.2%



*Direct Harms Associated with Own AOD Use (Primary Harms)*

Harms that a person experiences as a result of their own drinking or drug use are known as primary harms. The three most common primary harms experienced among Cornell undergraduate students on Slope Day were: hangover, memory loss, and vomiting.

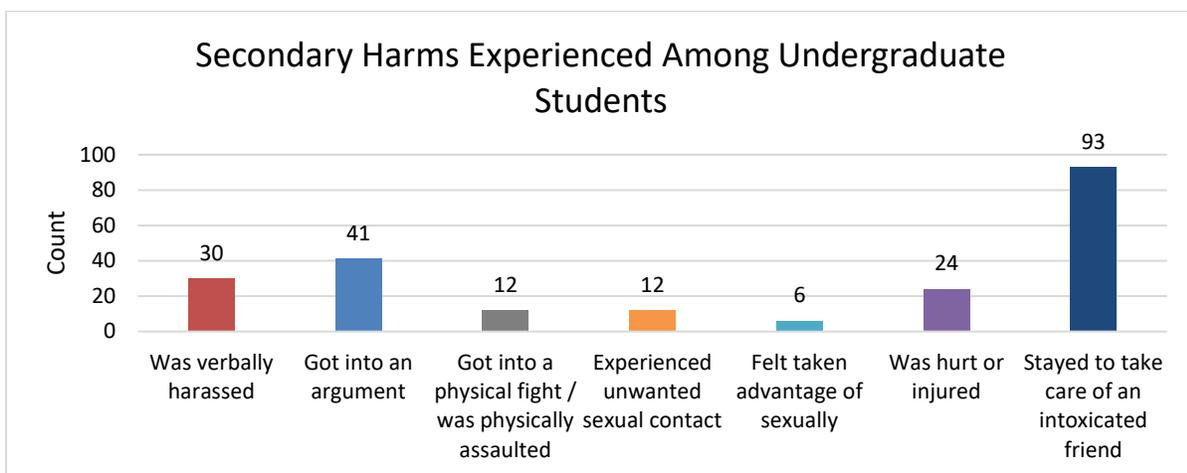
**Figure 11. Direct AOD Harms Among Undergraduate Students Due to Their Own Use on Slope Day**



*Harms Experienced as a Result of Someone Else's Use of Substances (Secondary Harms)*

Harms that a person experiences as a result of someone else's drinking or drug use are known as secondary harms. The three most common secondary harms experienced among Cornell undergraduate students on Slope Day were: stayed to take care of an intoxicated friend, got into an argument, and was verbally harassed.

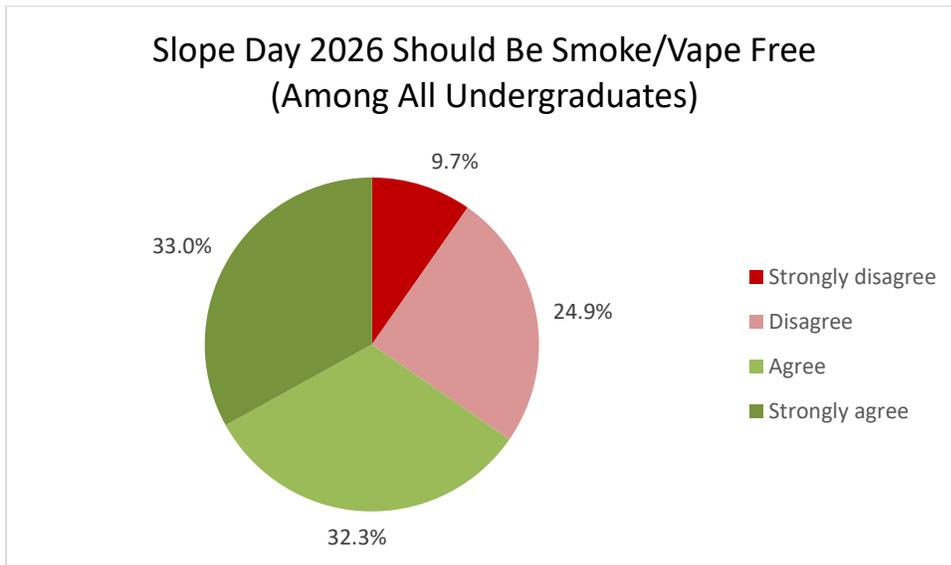
**Figure 12. Indirect AOD Harms Among Undergraduate Students Due to Others' AOD Use on Slope Day**





## Attitudes About Alcohol and Other Drugs and Slope Day

**Figure 13. "Slope Day 2026 Should Be Smoke/Vape Free"**



**Figure 14. "I had fun on Slope Day"**

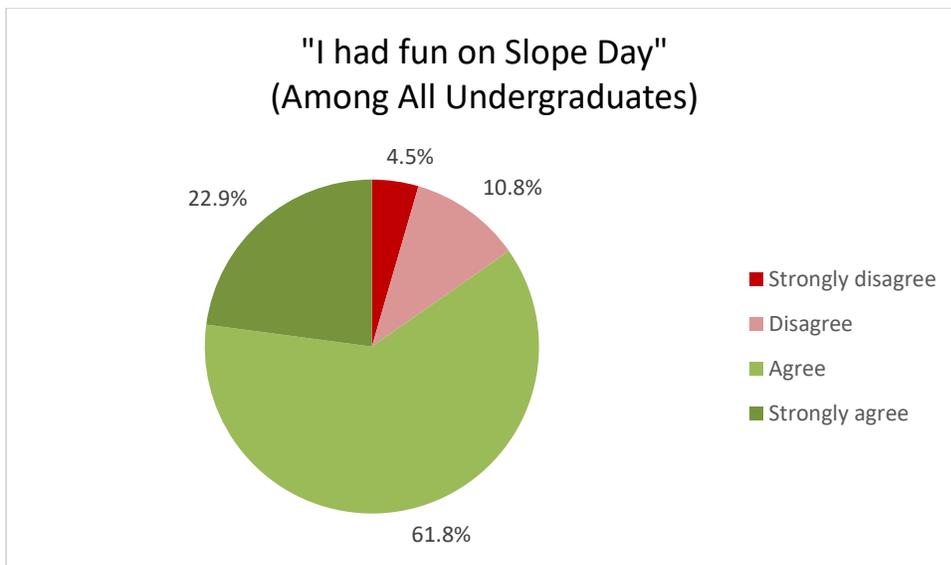




Figure 15. "I felt connected to my friends on Slope Day."

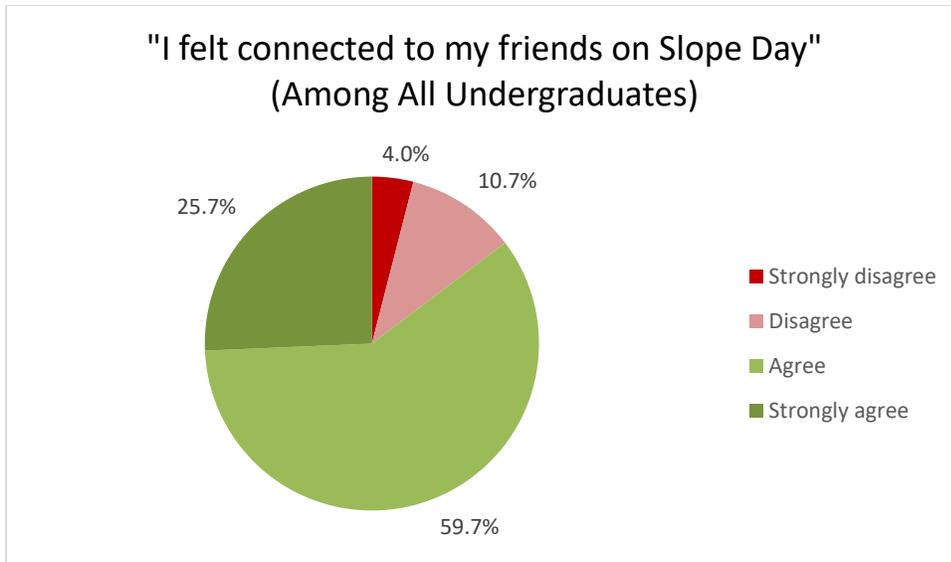


Figure 16. "I felt part of the Cornell community on Slope Day."

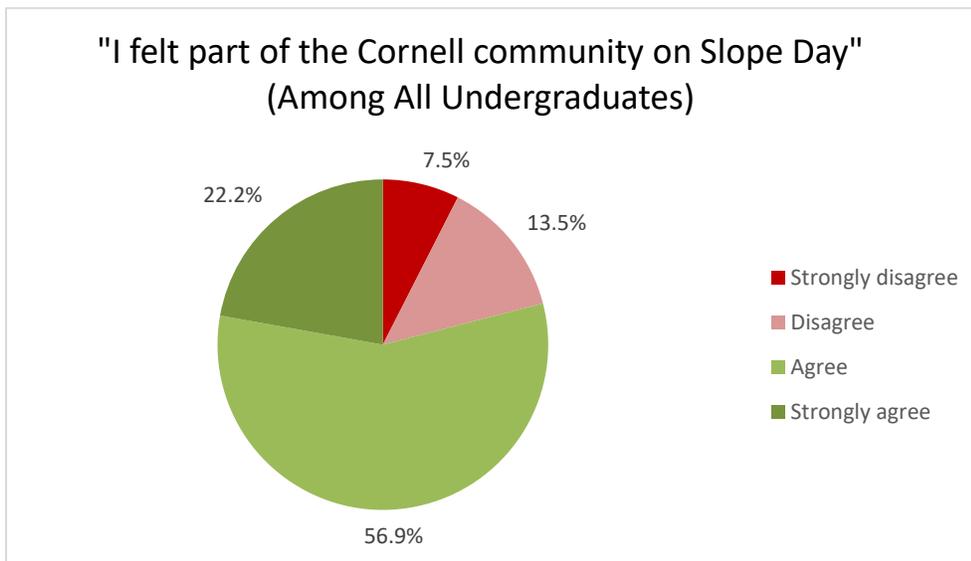
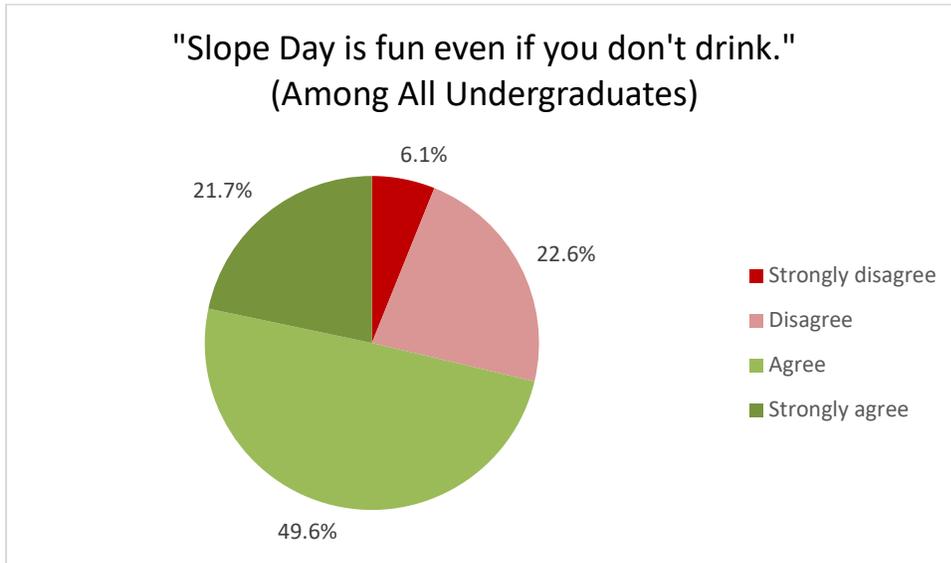


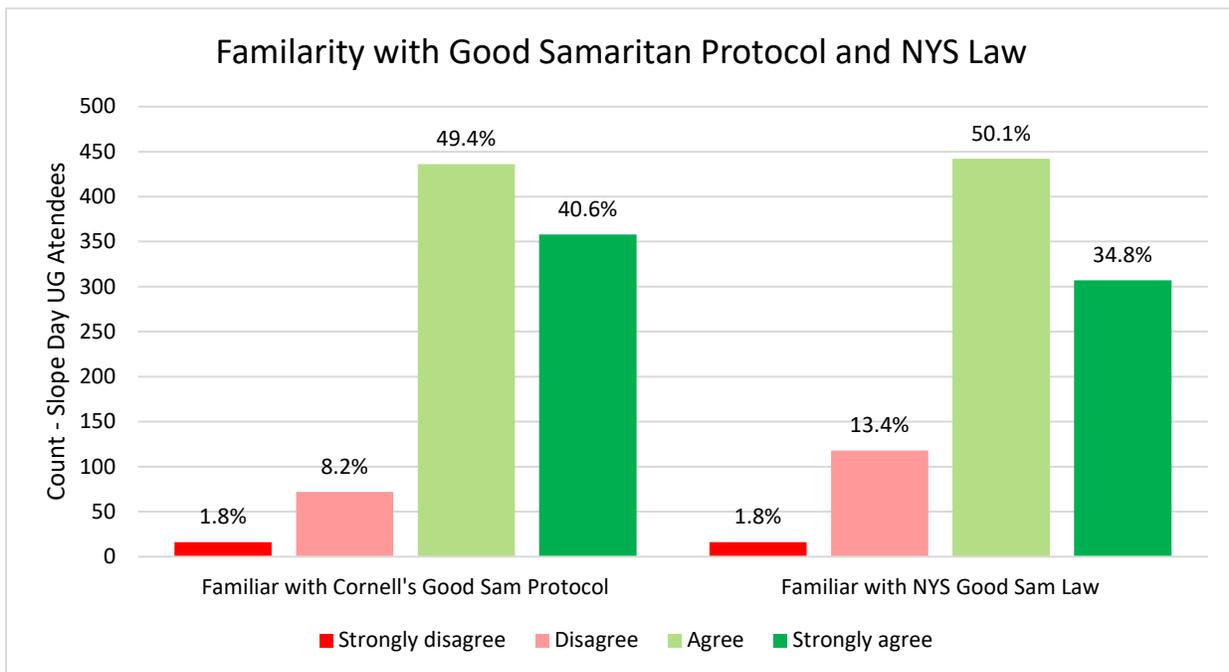


Figure 17. "Slope Day is fun even if you don't drink."



Good Samaritan Protocol and NYS Law

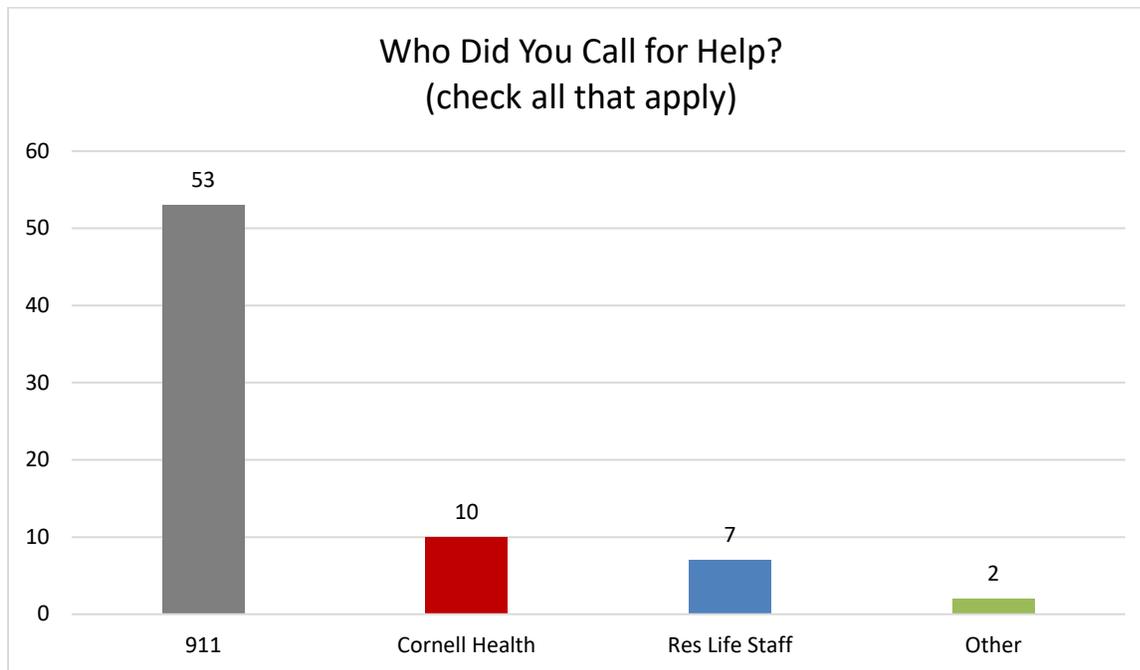
Figure 18. Knowledge and Attitudes Regarding Cornell's Good Samaritan Protocol and the NYS Law





- **Considered calling for help in an AOD emergency:** 175 undergraduate students (17% of Survey Respondents) said yes, to the question “in the last 12 months, did you EVER THINK about calling for medical help because you were concerned about someone who was severely intoxicated?”
- **Actually called for help in an AOD emergency:** Of these 175 students who thought about calling for medical help, 59 students actually called for medical help for a severely intoxicated person on one or more occasions. The majority of students reported calling 911, followed by Cornell Health and Residential Life.

Figure 19. Resources Contacted for Help in an AOD Emergency



\*Other: CUEMS / Cornell Police (n = 1), Their parents (n = 1)

- **Thought About Calling But Did Not Call:** 69 undergraduate students said yes to the question “in the past 12 months, did you ever experience a situation where you thought about calling for medical help for a severely intoxicated person BUT DID NOT CALL?”
- **Barriers to calling for medical help:** The number one reason students said they didn’t call for medical help was because they didn’t know if the person was sick enough, followed by concerns about cost of the ambulance or medical bills.



Figure 20. Barriers to Calling for Emergency Medical Assistance for an AOD Medical Emergency

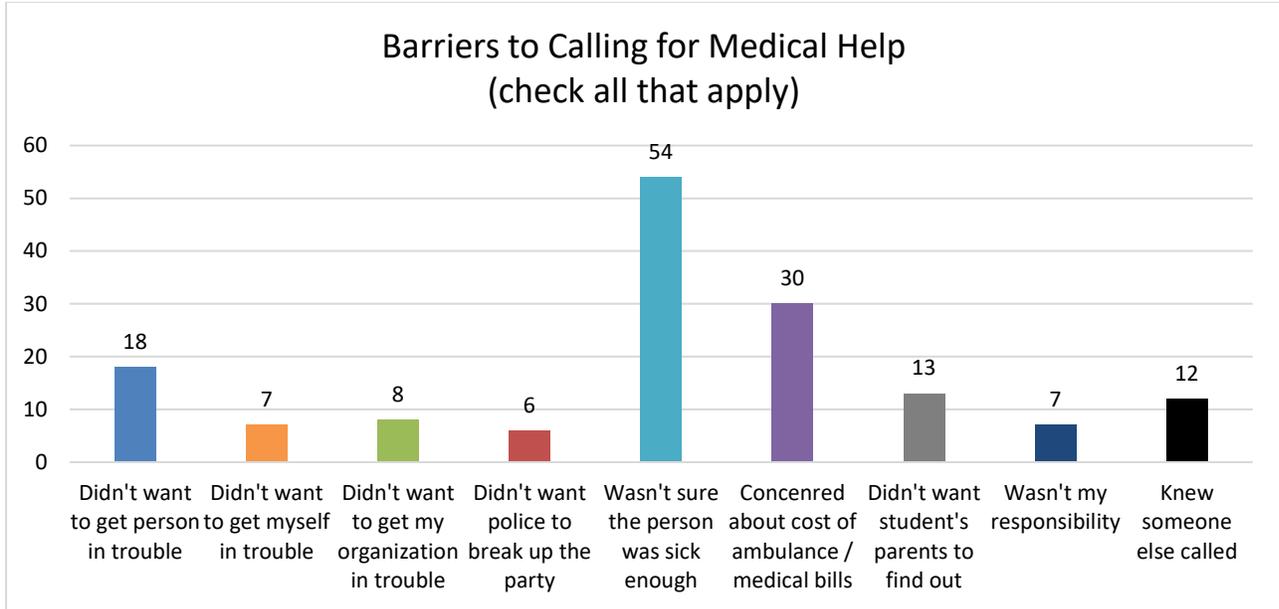


Figure 21. Other Actions Performed Instead of Calling for Medical Help

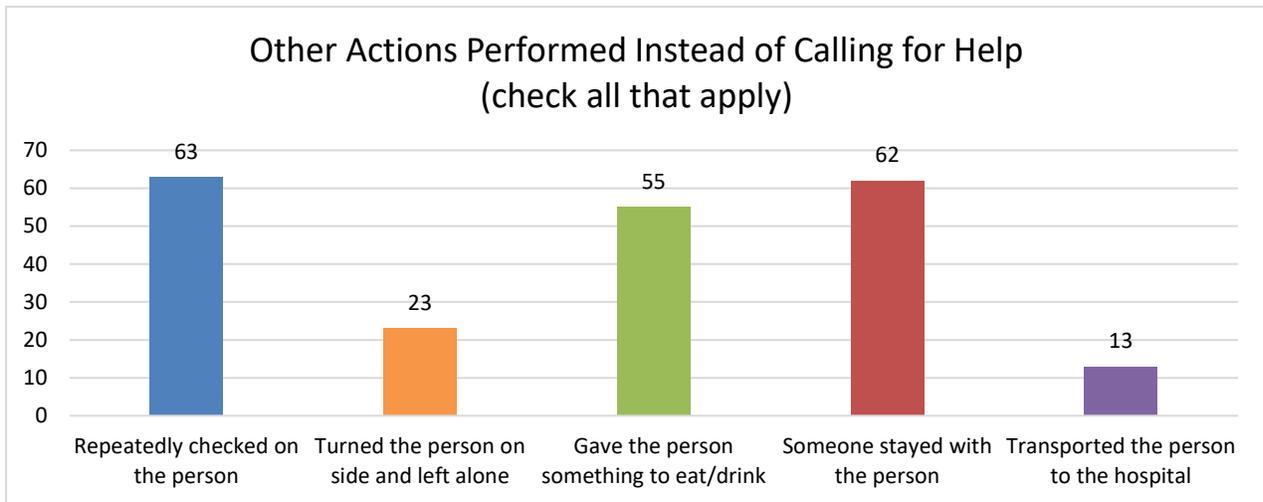




Figure 22. Cornell Undergraduate Student Attitudes Toward Calling for Medical Assistance

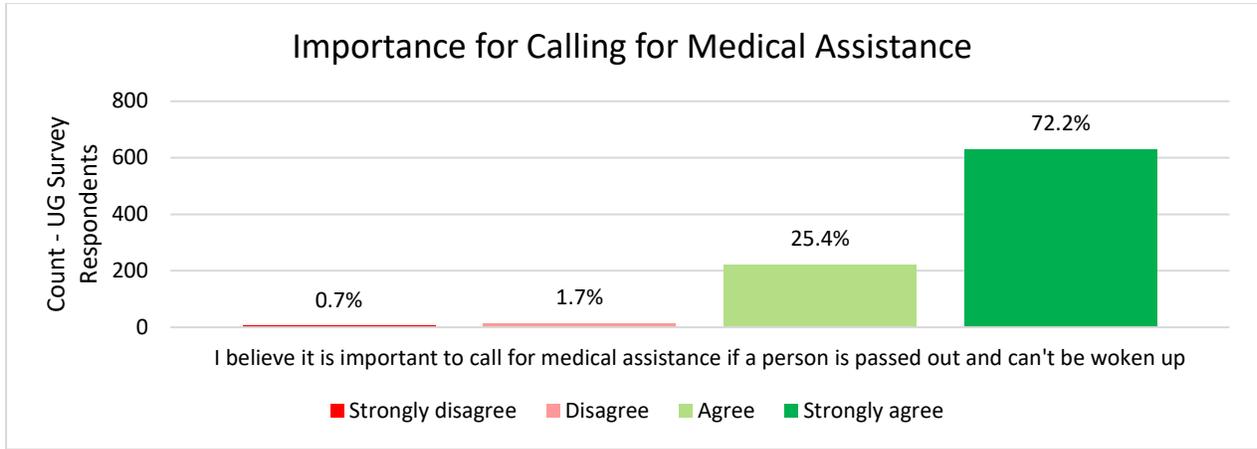
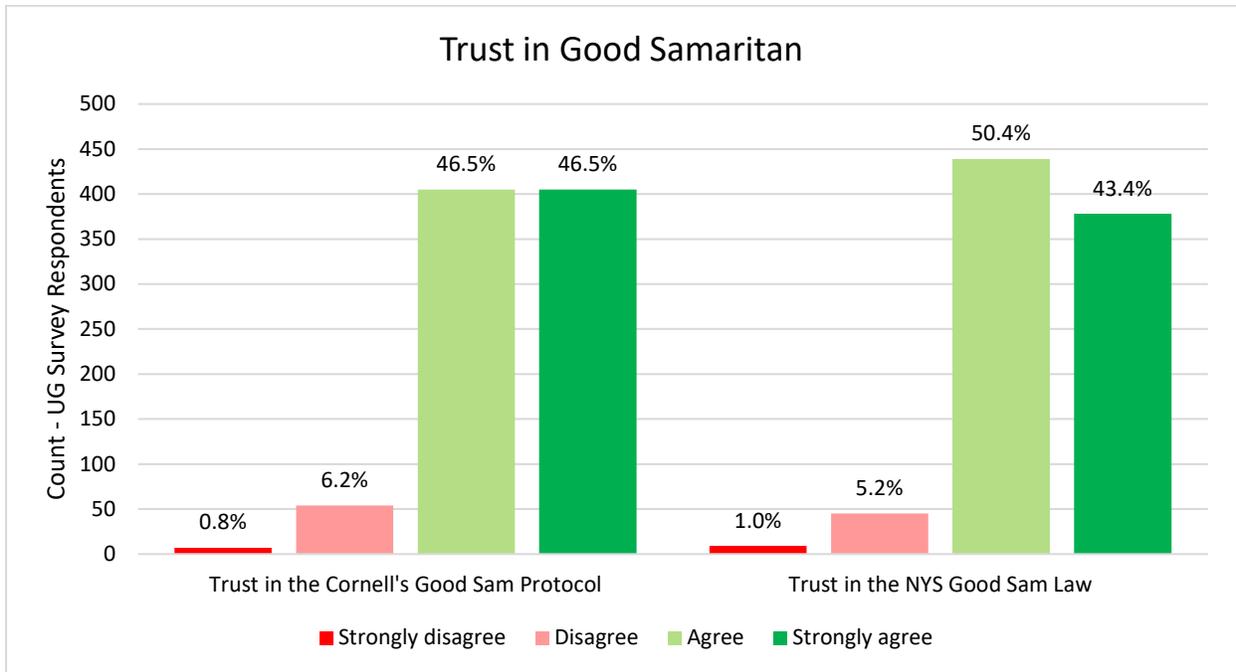


Figure 23. Trust in Good Samaritan Protocol and NYS Law





## Undergraduate Slope Day Survey: Spring 2025

### **Bias Incidents on Slope Day**

Students were asked if they experienced bias based on one or more of their identities (e.g., gender, race, sexual orientation, religion, disability, etc.) on Slope Day. Only 3.0% of undergraduate students reported they experienced some form of bias on Slope Day.

The examples shared were around the following themes:

### **Related to Political and/or Religious Views and Uninviting Kehlani to Perform**

*An artist that represented my identity as a woman and queer person of color was wrongly and immorally disinvited from Slope Day and I consider it to be a great offense to all women, and queer people of color who did not feel welcome and represented in the Cornell community.*

*As a person of color, I did not feel comfortable attending slope day after the way Kehlani was treated/handled for slope day.*

*Due to Pres. Kotlikoff's statements about students wearing keffiyehs, I did not feel safe or comfortable to wear my keffiyeh on slope day, although it is a cultural garment that has been passed through my family for decades and not an item I use as a signifier of my political views.*

*I felt judged for not wanting Kehlani to perform.*

*I was disappointed that the headliner (Kehlani) was rescinded her invitation. This made me feel unsafe and unwelcome, I was not as safe and comfortable as I could have been, had Cornell honored their contracts and affirmed pro-Palestinian students on campus.*

*I was not able to attend slope day as I was not allowed to wear my keffiyeh there. I acknowledge it is a political symbol, but it is also a cultural one. Why can I not wear my family's traditional clothing, meant to protect from the sun, on a day spent outside?*

*The organizers of slope day revoked a performer on the grounds that she would be offensive to my Jewish heritage, but as a Jewish person I support this performer. I felt that my place as a Jewish person on campus was marginalized by my identity's use to cancel her.*

### **Related to Race or Ethnicity**

*There were a lot of white people saying the n word and I really did not appreciate this at all.*

*Race, volunteers were consistently more aggressive toward POC.*



## Undergraduate Slope Day Survey: Spring 2025

*The staff was really strange toward people of color, specifically Asian students. The police/security stopped us multiple times while our white counter parts were not stopped. At one point while getting my beer (with my beer bracelet) an officer just approached me and demanded to see my ID as if I had not already been verified to even get my beers, it was so weird.*

*Too many white people, no BIPOC representative, cancelling Kehlani's performance was offensive to QTBIPOC students.*

*Cornell does not care to include queer/female/POC voices. In fact, they will go out of their way to silence these voices when they are inconvenient to their group of wealthy conservative donors. This makes me feel entirely othered and unvalued at this school.*

*Slope Day is unfortunately a time where the rich, white elite on campus are able to express all of their vices under the guise of alcoholism. People openly become less inclusive and more judgmental.*

### **Related to Gender**

*I am a man, so not only was able to see the stage better, but I was also able to be knocked around a little more upfront.*

*I find that as a woman, men take advantage of their larger physical bodies to push through the crowd and when asked to stop by women like me who are smaller they act as if we are not there.*

*I was in the mosh pit towards the front and got shoved and bumped into a girl in front of me who screamed "get the fuck off of me you white bitch."*

*Women are often pushed around by men who disregard them.*

### **Related to Disability Status**

*No easy access to sensory space.*

### **Related to Sexual Orientation**

*Somebody called my friend and I the f slur. So I fought him.*



Survey Respondent Demographics

Figure 24. Gender Identity

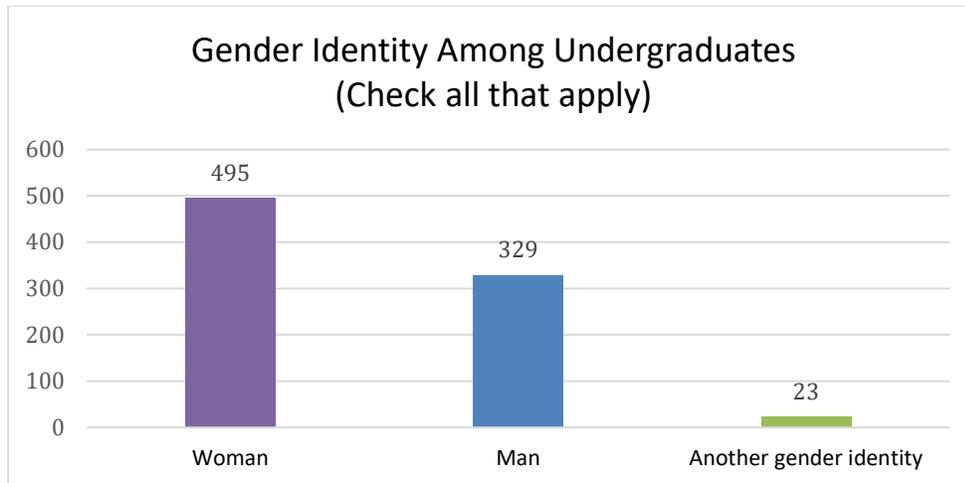


Figure 25. Race/Ethnicity

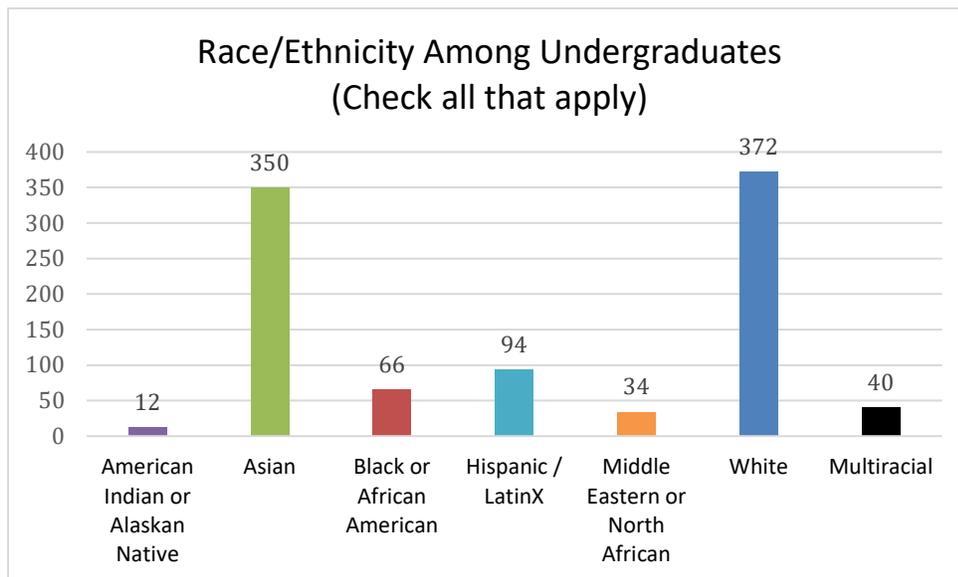




Figure 26. International Student Status

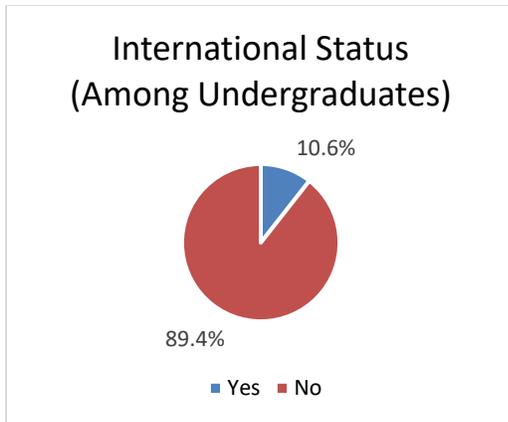


Figure 27. Legal Drinking Age

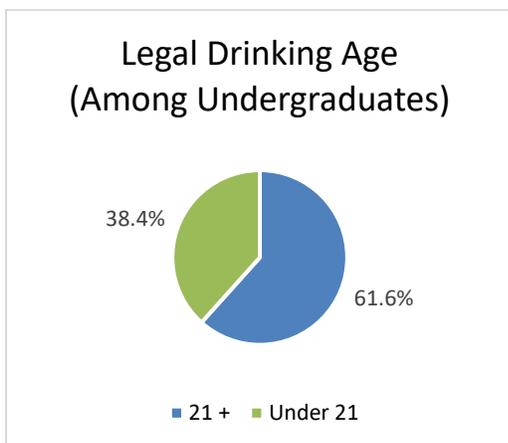


Figure 28. Class Year

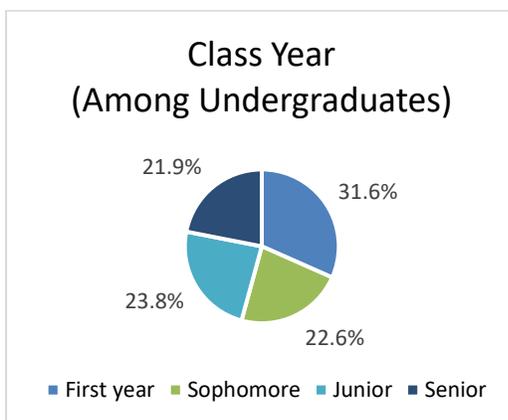




Figure 29. Varsity Athlete

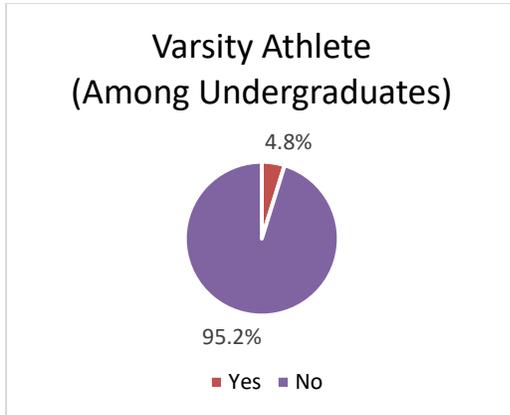


Figure 30. Greek Membership

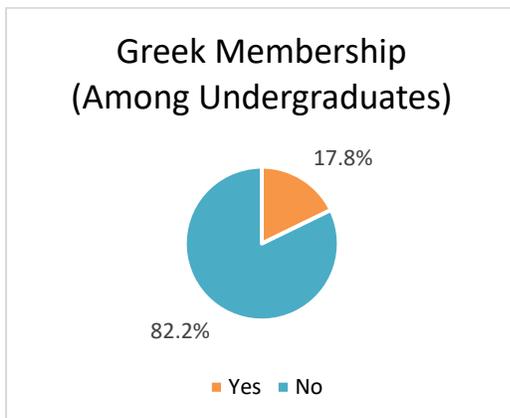


Figure 31. Disability Status

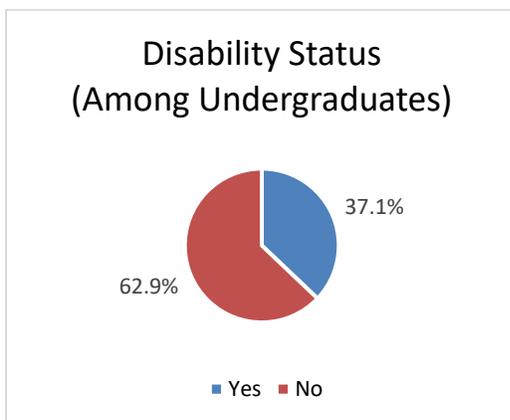




Figure 32. Living Arrangement

