

# Testing for a Mode Effect between Self-Administered and Interviewer Administered Surveys on Rape and Sexual Assault

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# Mode Effects and Self-Reports of Sexual Violence

- › There is a large literature on differences between self- and interviewer administered surveys for sensitive questions (Tourangeau and Yan, 2007).
  - “Intrusive” – Is it a topic that is brought up in normal conversation?
  - Third party – Can the information be harmful if revealed to a third party?
- › Self reports of rape and sexual assault (RSA) qualify on both of the above criteria
- › Surprisingly little research has been done on the effects of mode for self-reports of RSA (Laaksonen & Heiskanen, 2014; Cantor & Williams, 2013)

# A Number of Victimization Surveys on Sexual Violence

- › Surveys of sexual violence cover different populations
  - General population - National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS; Black et al., 2011),
  - College students (Koss, et al., 1987; AAU surveys – Cantor et al., 2015, 2019; CCVS, Krebs, et al., 2016).
  - Armed Forces (US DoD, 2012; Morral, et al, 2014)
- › The rates of sexual violence vary tremendously across different surveys (GAO, 2016)

# Primary Modes and Survey Conditions

- › Surveys have used many different modes (in-person, telephone, paper, web, IVR).
- › Difference in rates across surveys is primarily linked to question wording (Fisher and Cullen, 2000).
- › High rates have been produced with telephone surveys. These have generally taken extra procedures to ensure privacy and confidentiality.
  - Graduated consent process
  - Generally ask 'yes/no' questions.
  - Emphasize confidentiality at the start of the survey
  - Give respondents an 'out' if they feel distressed or feel someone else is listening

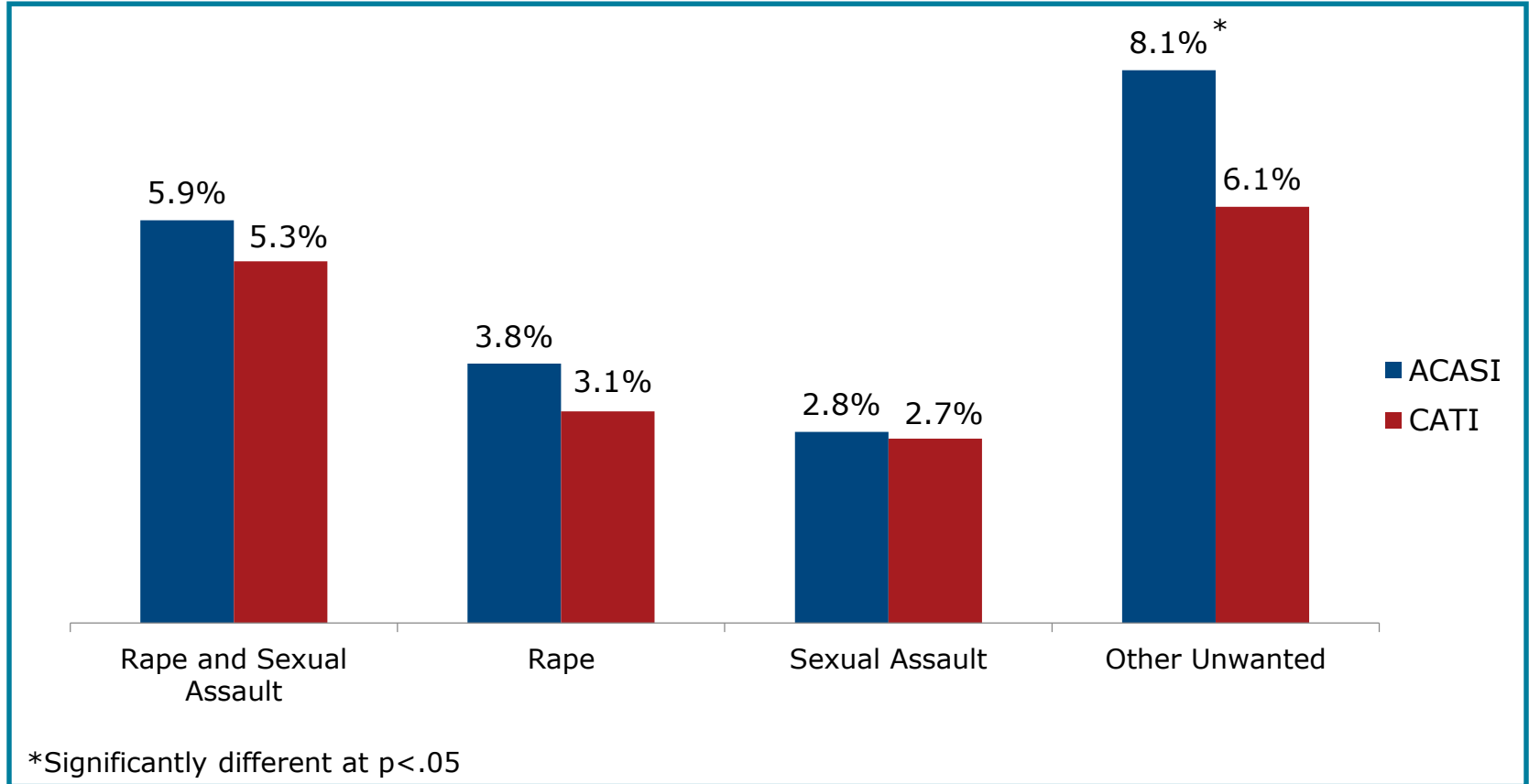
# Field Test Comparing Self-Administered vs. Telephone Administered

- › Study funded by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) to test different methodologies to measure rape and sexual assault (RSA).
- › Collected data in 5 metropolitan statistical areas for females age 18-49.
  - Address based sample of households. Collected data using Audio Computer Assisted Self Interviews (ACASI)(RR=40%; n=3,949)
  - Random Digit Dial (RDD) sample of telephone numbers (landline and mobile). Data collected using Computer Assisted Telephone Interviews (RR=18%, n=4,222)
- › Volunteer Sample. Women age 18-29 recruited from Craigslist in the five metropolitan statistical areas (n=2000). Randomly assigned to ACASI or Telephone
- › Both surveys took precautions to maintain confidentiality and privacy

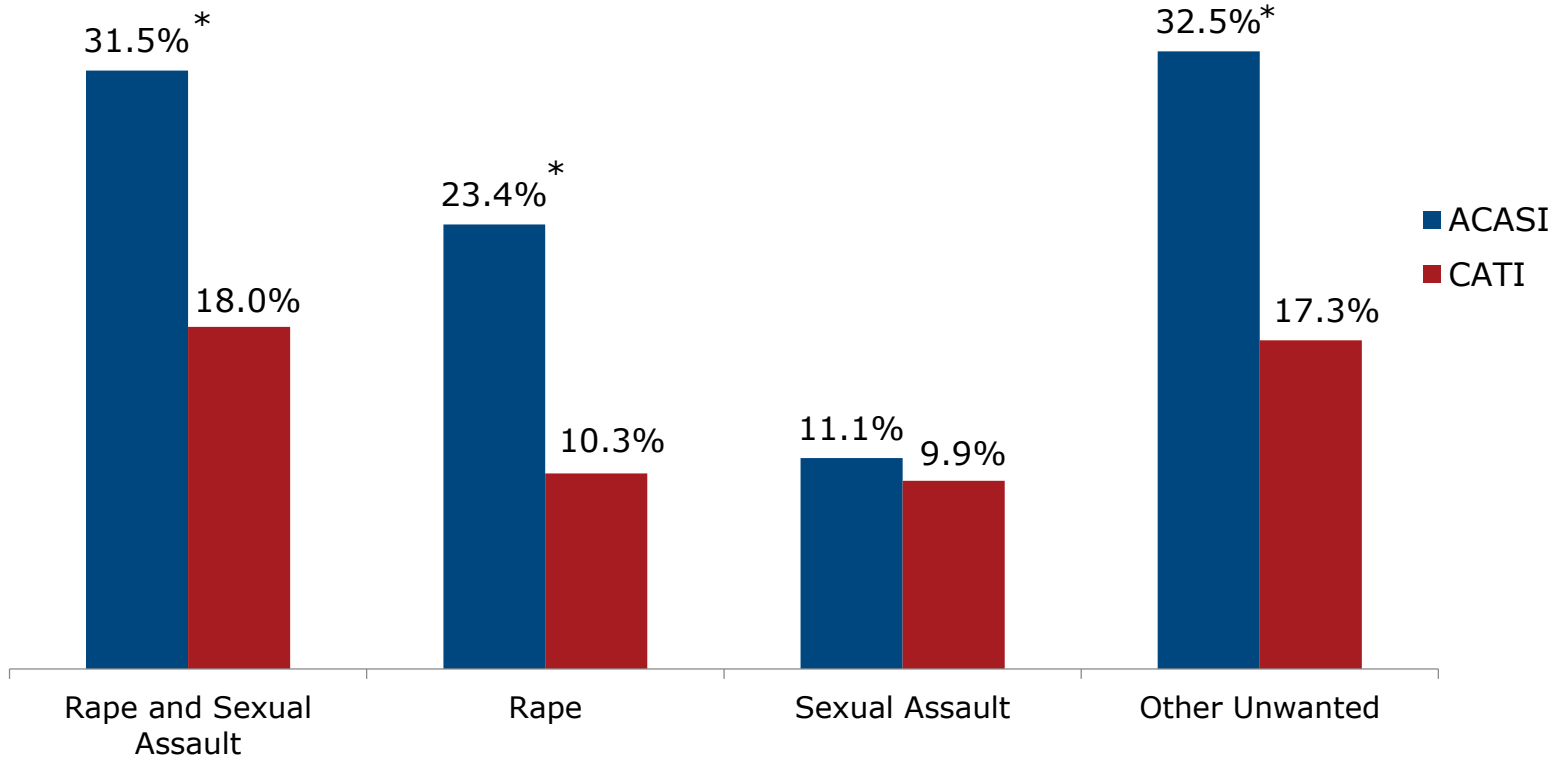
# Measurement Design

- › Survey used a two-stage strategy
  - Stage 1: Screen for relevant incidents. Lifetime and 12 months.
  - Stage 2: Administer crime incident report (CIR) for each incident to classify the incident.
- › Questions were based on other surveys that use behavior specific questions describing the elements of RSA (Behavior and Tactic)
- › One difference between modes: Order of lifetime and 12 month questions
  - Telephone: Lifetime then 12 months
  - ACASI: 12 month then lifetime

# RSA Prevalence Rate by Type and Mode of Interview, Females 18-49



# RSA Prevalence Rate by Type and Mode of Interview, Females 18-29, Volunteer Sample



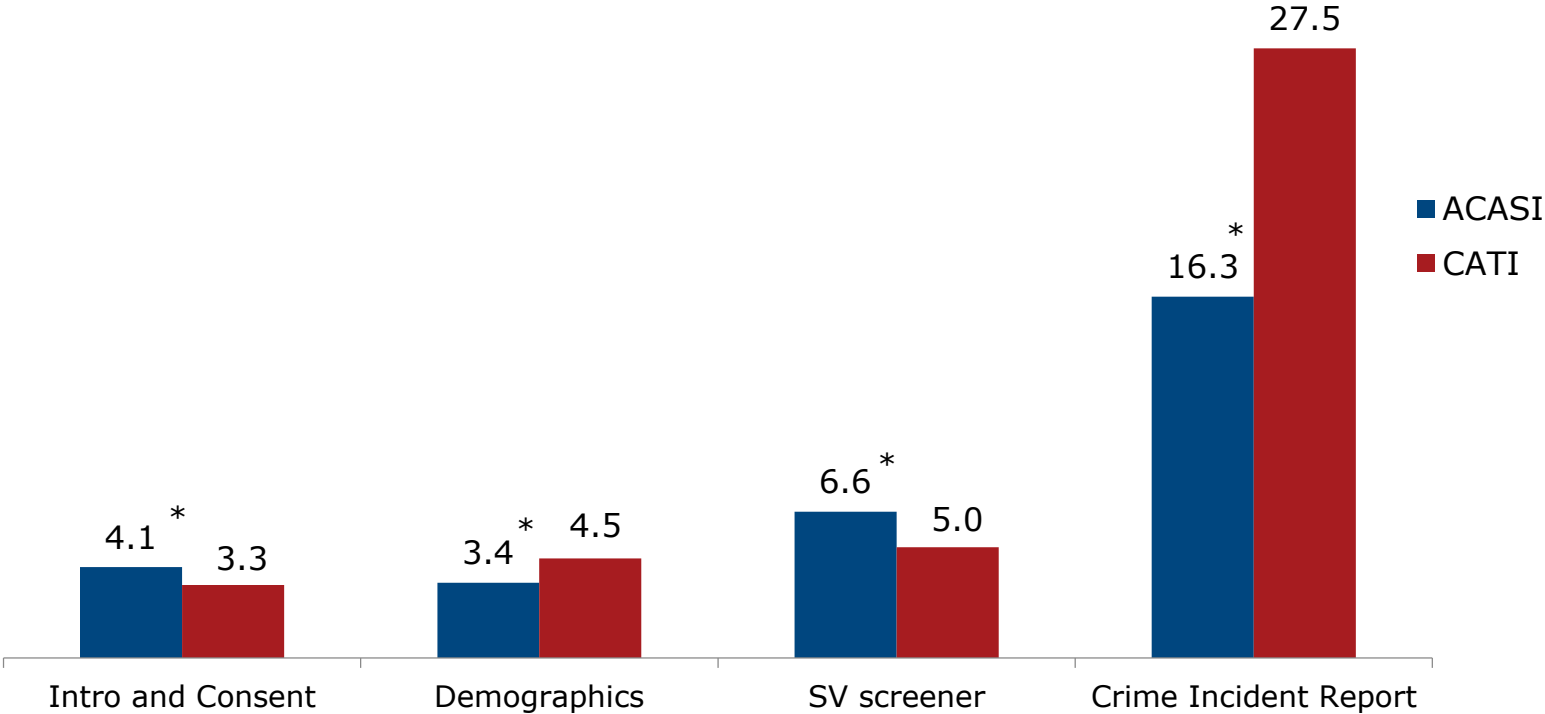
\*Significantly different at  $p < .05$



# Measures of Burden

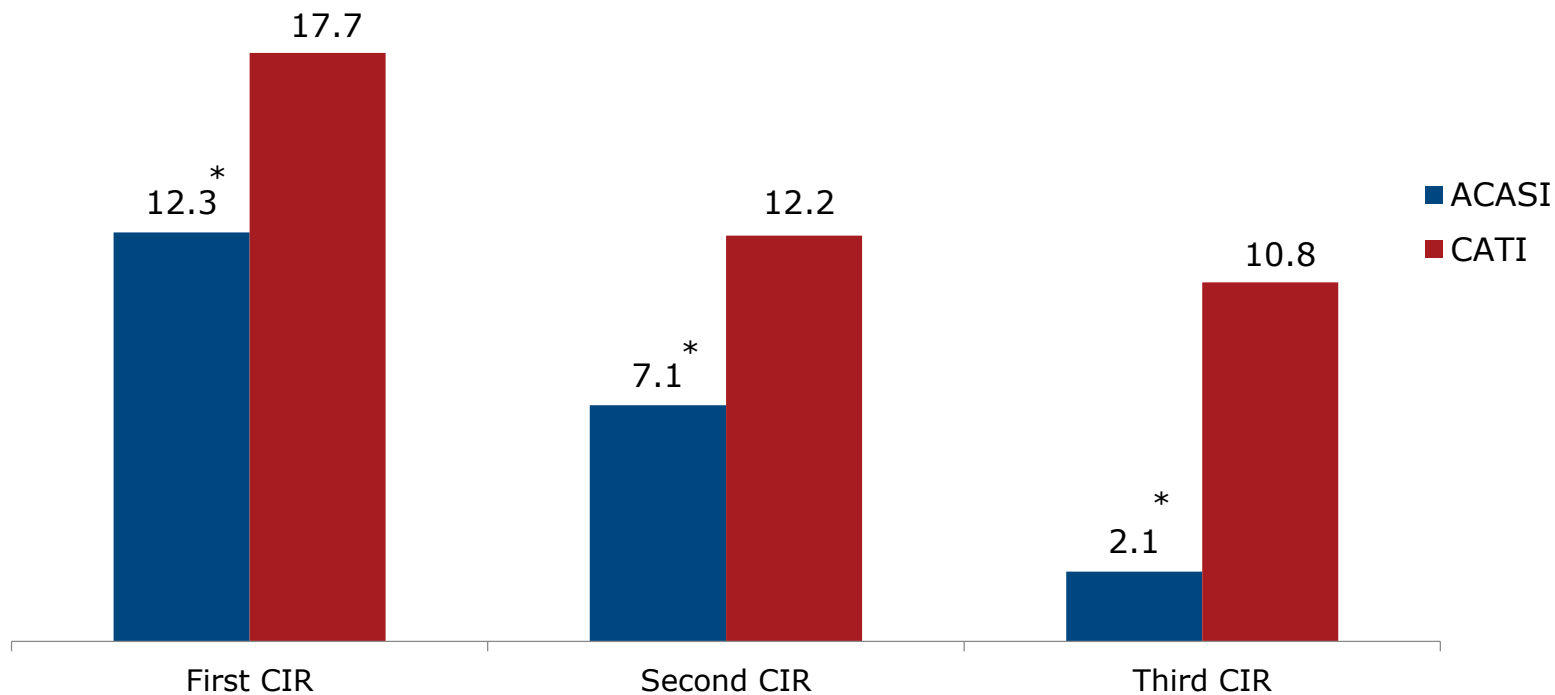
- › Self- and Interviewer-administered surveys pose different types of burden.
  - Reading vs. listening
  - Telephone interview read out all response categories
  - Feelings or emotions may be different when talking to an interviewer
- › Examine several different measures
  - Timing by mode
  - Reports of emotions
  - Willingness to do the survey again

# Average Minutes to Complete Sections of Survey by Mode, Females 18-49



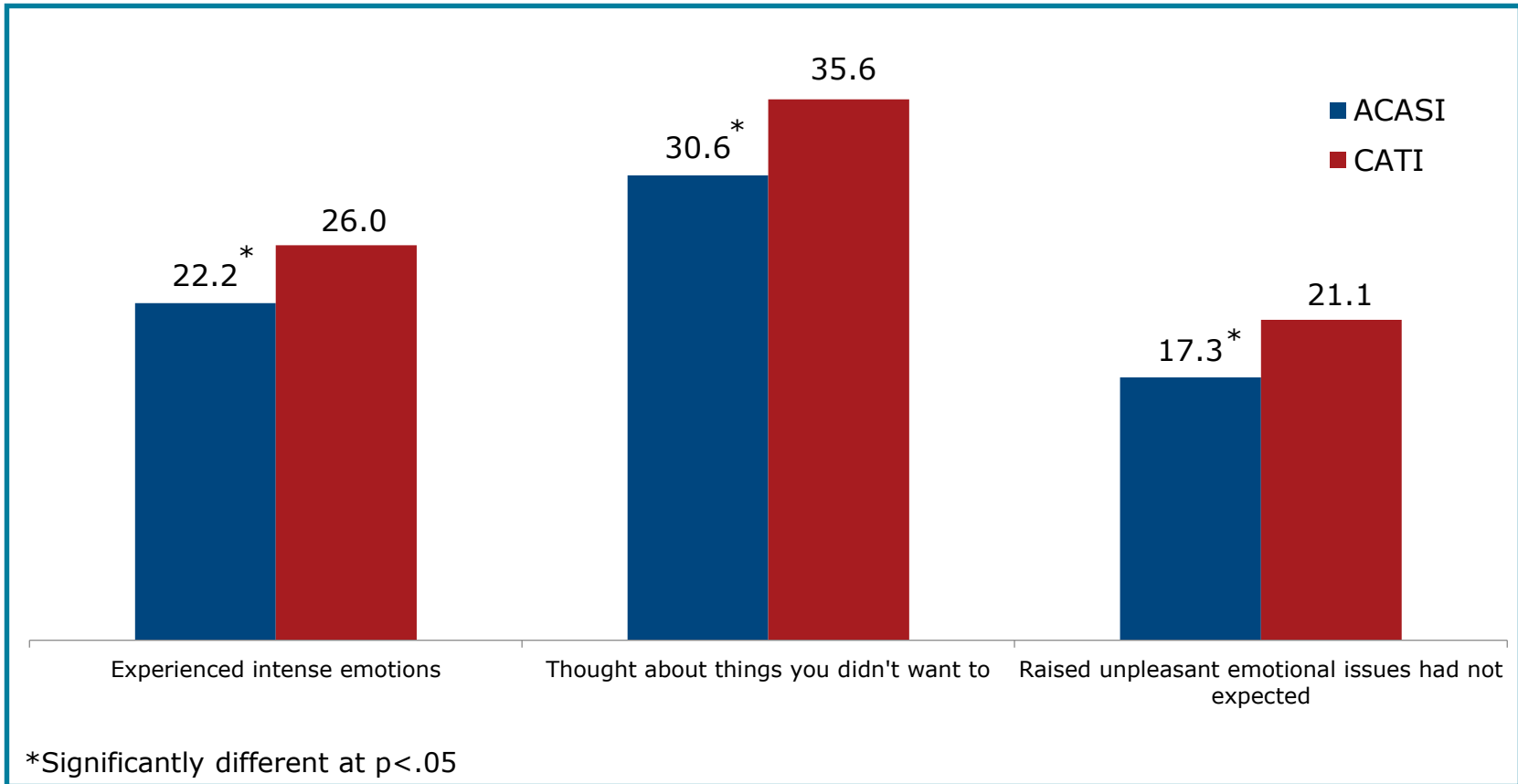
\*Significantly different at p<.05

# Average Minutes to Complete Crime Incident Report (CIR) by the First, Second and Third Form Completed, Females 18-49

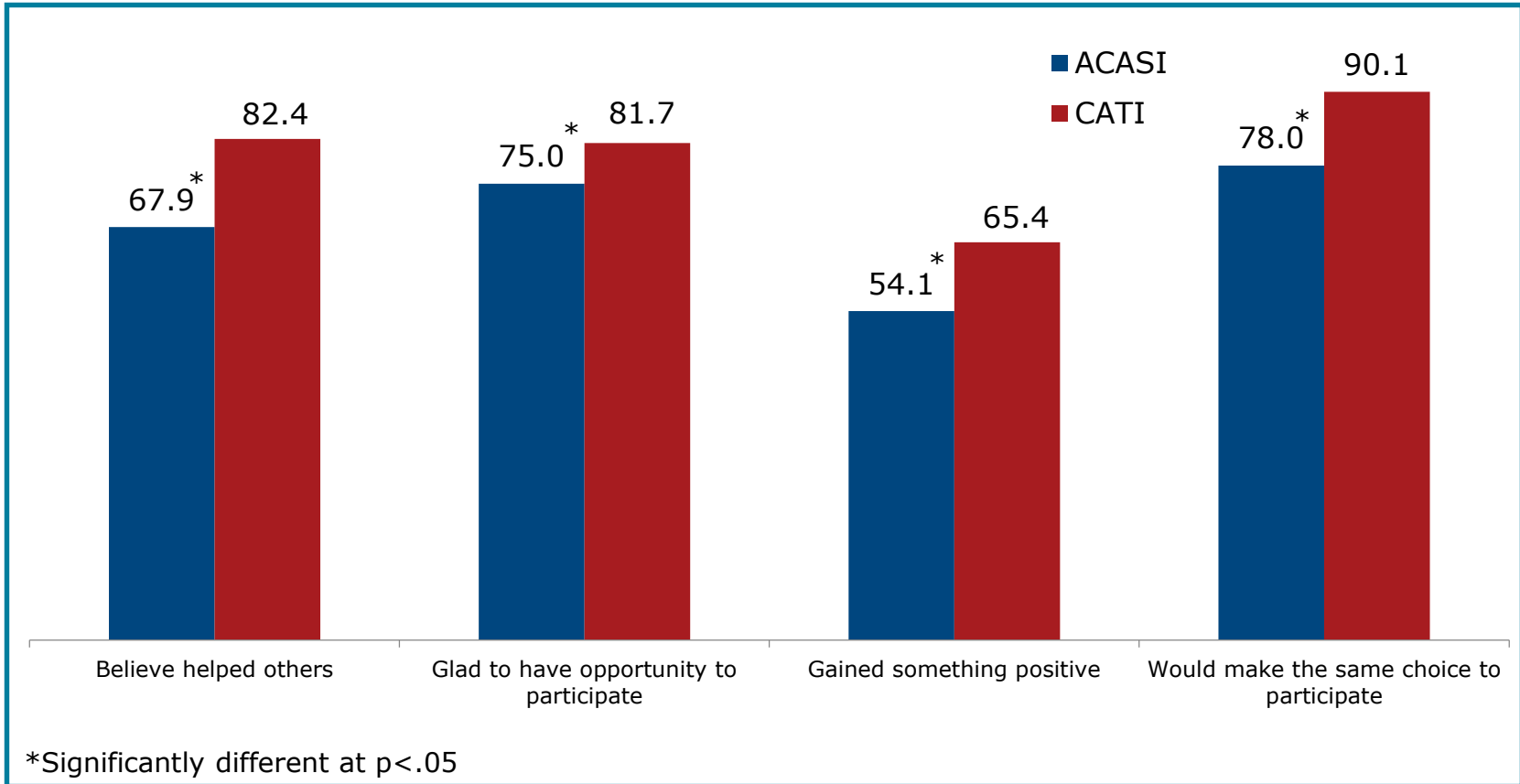


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# Measures of Emotional Reactions to the Survey, Females 18-49



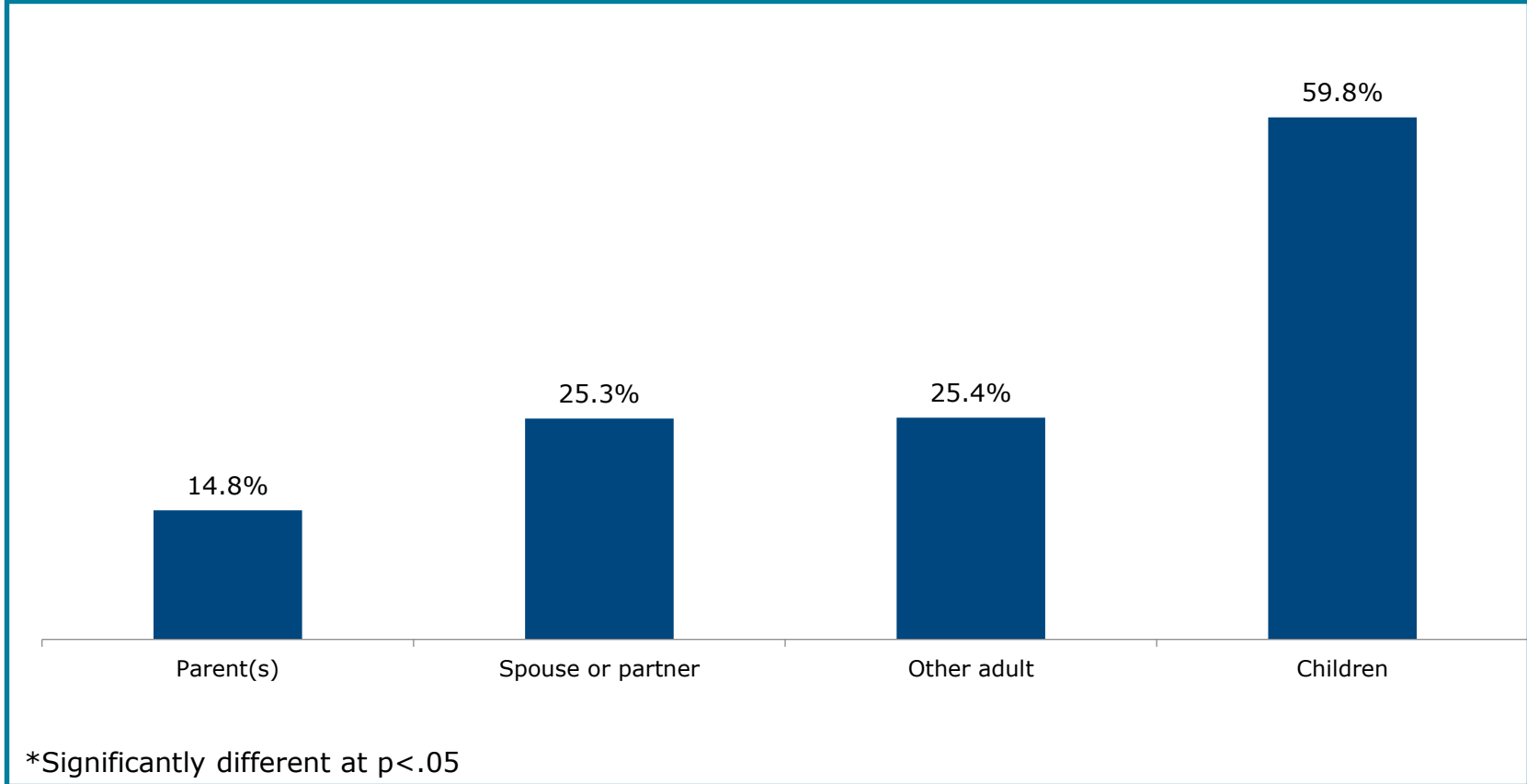
# Measures of Emotional Reactions to the Survey, Females 18-49



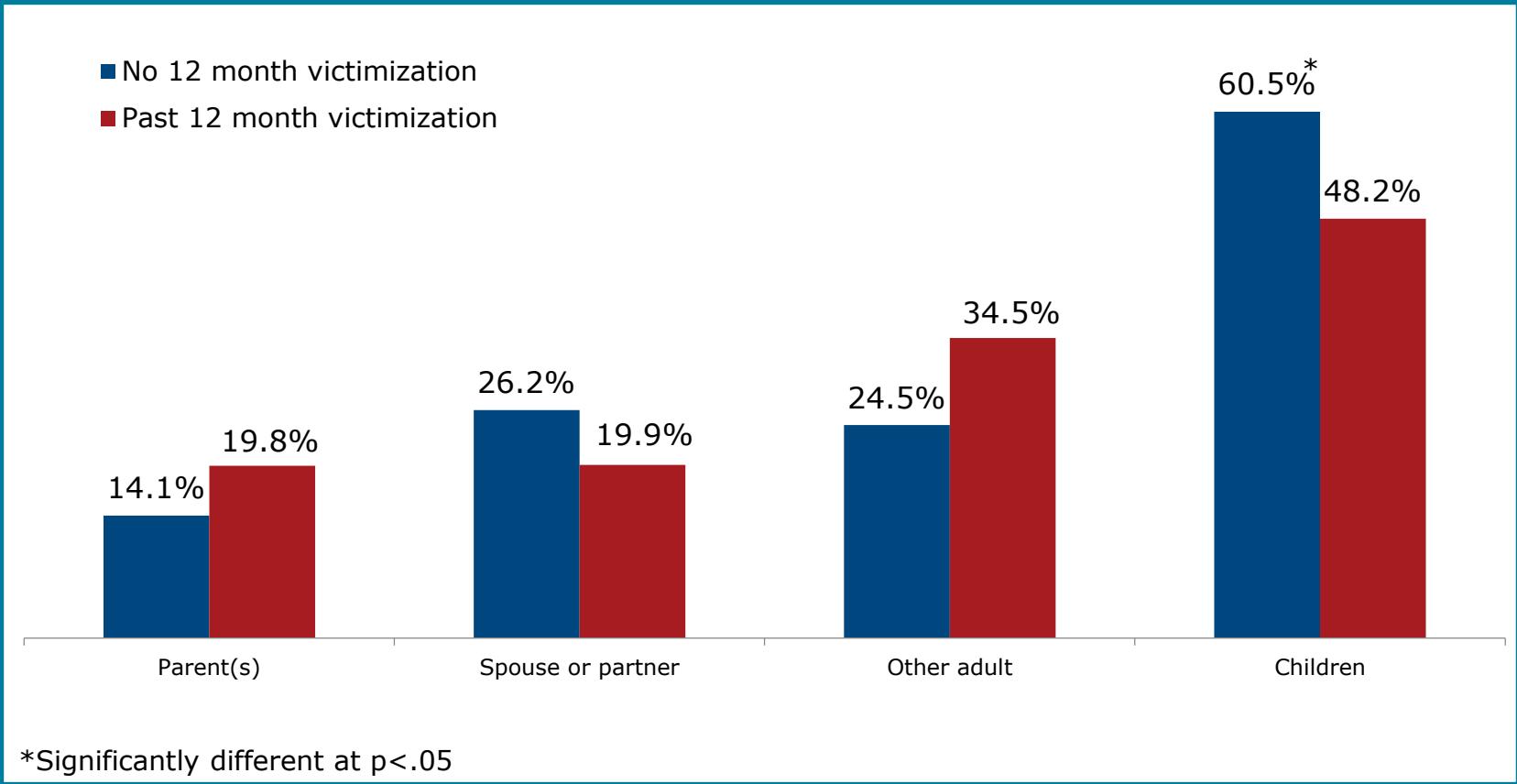
## Interviewing environment

- › The environment for surveys done in the respondent's household is hard to control. Interviewers are reluctant to ask respondents to shift locations or do the interview in private.
- › The ACASI provides additional layer of privacy, even if someone else is in the room.
- › Survey interviewers were instructed to ask the respondent to do the survey in a private setting if possible.
  - Interviewers reported that 35% of surveys were done when someone was in the room

# Percent of interviews completed with another person in the room by type of person, Females 18-49



# Percent of interviews completed with another person in the room by type of person present and victimization status, Females 18-49





## Summary – Reporting Sexual Violence

- › Overall, there was not a significant effect of self- vs. interviewer-administration on reports of RSA for general population.
  - Nominal differences existed for rape (ACASI > Telephone) for the general population sample.
  - There was some evidence that those at highest risk may report more rapes on ACASI
    - There were differences for young women in volunteer sample
- › There was a significant effect for reporting 'other unwanted sexual contact'

## Summary –Burden, respondent reactions, environment

- › It takes less time to do the self-administered survey.
  - The biggest differences were for victims, who fill out the crime incident report.
- › Respondents report fewer emotional reactions on ACASI, but also report less positive experiences with doing the survey. Some of this may be mode effects related to these questions.
- › For ACASI, about one-third of surveys were taken when someone else was in the room
  - The most common situation was having children in the room
  - Significantly fewer past 12 month incidents reported when children were in the room. Need to further control for other variables for definitive conclusion.

## Limitations

- › Survey was done with women 18-49. Unclear whether these results would hold for older women and for males.
- › Statistical power for testing for significant differences was not high. Nominal differences for rape would be significant with a larger sample
- › There were differences between the ACASI and Telephone surveys that are not related to mode:
  - Response rate.
  - Order of the lifetime and past 12 month questions.

# Thank You

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