Resident Assistants and their Role in the COVID-19 Pandemic on the UCSD Campus

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Background

The University of California, San Diego has placed a lot of **burden on RAs** on implementing and enforcing COVID-19 policies when the policies **have been constantly updated.**

❖ RAs are expected to continue reinforcing guidances and apply all necessary measures to keep all residents safe while the guidelines may be changing
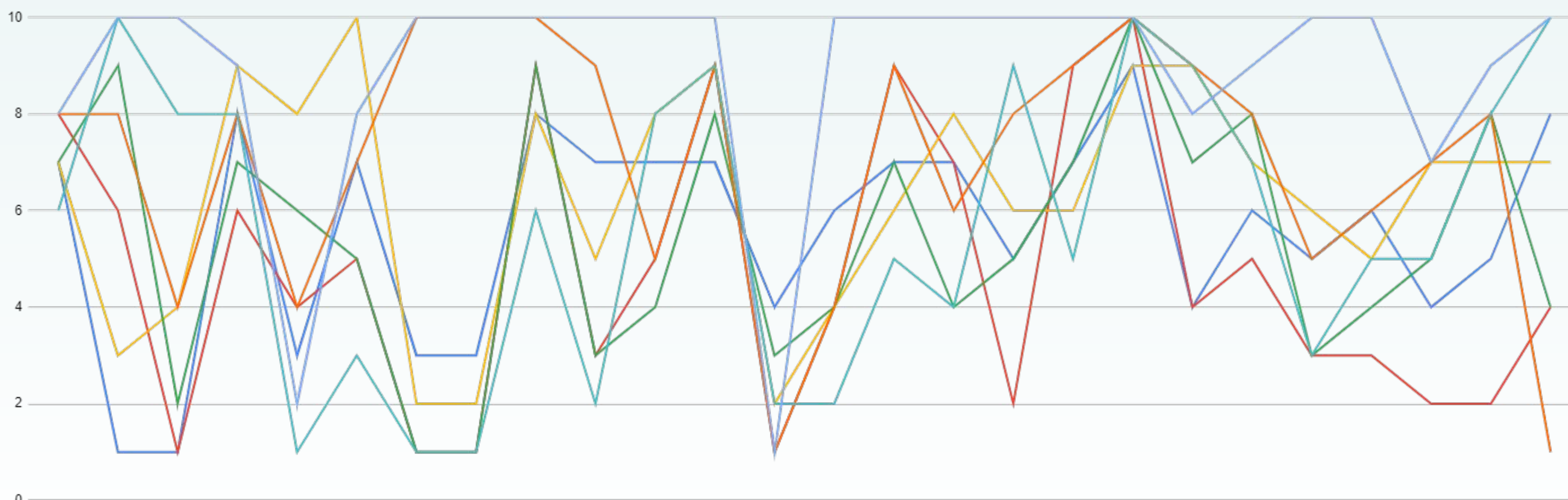
Purpose

❖ Identifying the emotional burden and additional labor of enforcing policies
❖ Learning more about the role of RAs' gives us insight into how additional COVID-19 responsibilities has affected them.

Methods

❖ We sent the survey to the lead Resident Assistant (RA) of each colleges residential area team through email
❖ The leads then dispersed the survey online to their team members
❖ After closing the survey we read over the responses and analyzed the overall results.

Results

Across the seven colleges at UCSD, 26 out of 250 RAs completed the survey.

❖ **Received responses:** Revelle, Muir, Marshall, Sixth, and Seventh
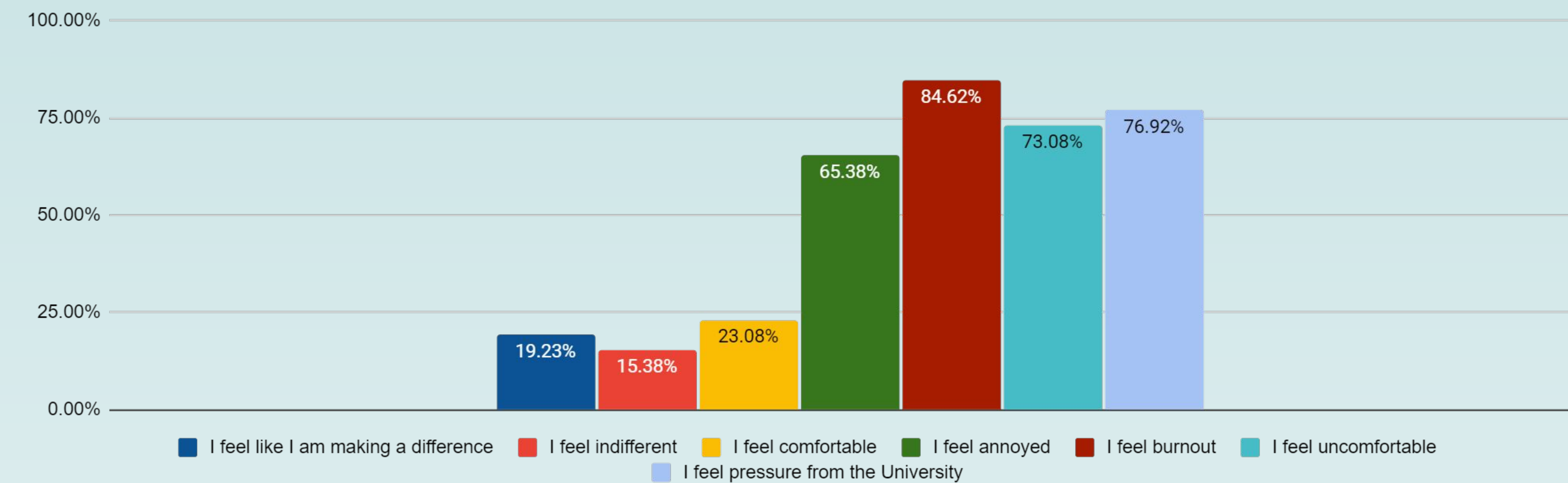❖ **NO responses received from:** Warren or the Village at Pepper Canyon

We asked open ended questions about what changes RAs would like to see and the following themes emerged:

❖ RAs have felt burdened by the additional responsibilities placed upon them due to COVID-19
❖ Certain RA responsibilities should be more enforced onto Triton Health Ambassadors
❖ Refrain from implementing direct punishments for breaking COVID-19 regulations
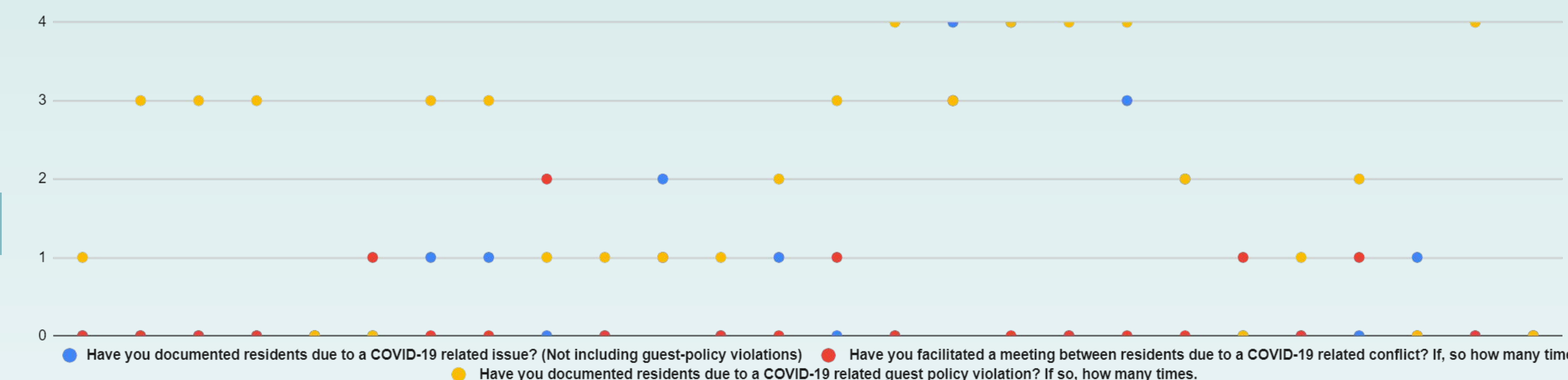❖ Advocate for safe interactions

Discussion

❖ Our data shows that there could be ways to address the issues that RAs have expressed through the school year
❖ Based on the feedback from the RAs there should be a focus on creating more preemptive processes to prevent them from feeling burnt out

"How do you feel about performing COVID-19 specific duties this year? Please check all that apply."

The following questions asked how many times RAs had to document or facilitate conversations due to COVID-19.

Limitations

❖ The data we received may not be a holistic understanding of all RAs at UCSD because the overall data collected does not represent the entire demographic from all the colleges.

The following questions were answered using a 1-10 scale with 1 being the least effective and 10 being the most effective.

— 1) Did you find the general training to be an RA effective and essential for your workplace and the responsibilities expected of you? Average: 6
— 2) Did you find the COVID-19 specific training to be an RA effective and essential for your workplace and the responsibilities expected of you? Average: 5
— 3) How prepared did you feel to execute your general RA duties this school year? Average: 6
— 4) How prepared did you feel to execute your COVID-19 specific RA duties this school year? Average: 5
— 5) Do you feel that the RA role is necessary in limiting the spread of COVID-19 on campus? Average: 7
— 6) How safe do you personally feel doing the RA duties on campus this year in relation to COVID-19? (Such as in office duty shifts and helping with move-in) Average: 6
— 7) Acknowledging that the original intentions of the RA role is to not police residents, do you feel the current expectations of the job that address COVID-19 involves policing residents (documenting for conduct violations) Average: 9

Public Health Relevance

❖ Public Health Concern:
  ➢ Data highlights **the burden and stress of RAs** due to their strenuous responsibilities.

As RAs are one of the main campus employees that have daily interactions and upholding COVID-19 policies on-campus, the data we collected **helps us understand the implications on employees of the public health guidances that were implemented this school year**.