



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2016 Sexual Misconduct Campus Climate Survey

WARNING: The Campus Climate Survey Report discusses sensitive topics, including sexual assault, sexual misconduct, and interpersonal violence. Some survey questions and sections in this report use explicit language to describe anatomical body parts and types of sexual acts. Reading this report might be emotionally difficult and bring up experiences that either you, or someone you know, have experienced. You may contact the following resources if you want to talk to someone confidentially about questions or concerns related to sexual assault and sexual misconduct:

Confidential Resources for Students

Interpersonal Violence Advocates: (503) 725-5672

Center for Student Health and Counseling: (503) 725-2800

Non-Confidential Resources and Reporting

PSU's Title IX Coordinator: Julie Caron, (503) 725-4410 or jucaron@pdx.edu

Office of the Dean of Student Life: (503) 725-4422

Office of Equity and Compliance: 503-725-5919

For any questions about the Sexual Misconduct Campus Climate Survey Report, please contact Julie Caron, PSU's Title IX Coordinator, at jucaron@pdx.edu.

The creation of the White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault in 2014 and the release of its report, *Not Alone*, in that same year, identified campus sexual violence as a national priority. Rutgers' report on their pilot Sexual Misconduct Campus Climate survey for the White House Task Force in 2015 and the publication of the Sexual Misconduct Campus Climate Survey Validation Study in 2016 provided a template for formulating high-quality Sexual Misconduct Campus Climate surveys. With this as a foundation, Portland State University (PSU) conducted its first ever Sexual Misconduct Sexual Misconduct Campus Climate Survey (Campus Climate Survey) in Spring 2016. PSU invited 12,556 of its undergraduate and graduate students to participate in the survey and obtained a 19% response rate (2,370), in keeping with other universities' climate surveys. We are indebted to the many PSU students who took the time to respond to this important survey. This executive summary highlights a number of key findings that warrant particular consideration.

A Summary of Key Findings

The PSU Sexual Misconduct Campus Climate Survey asked students to answer questions regarding a broad range of issues, including their experience of sexual misconduct;¹ their knowledge of key campus prevention and intervention resources; their beliefs about how PSU would respond to disclosures of sexual misconduct; and their perceptions of the PSU climate regarding sexual consent, bystander intervention, students' sense of community, and reporting sexual misconduct. The following summary illustrates some of the most important survey findings. A comprehensive examination of students' responses to the survey and their implications are provided in the full report that follows this summary.

- **PSU undergraduate women experience sexual violence¹ at rates lower than those reported at other universities. Rates vary based on students' gender identity and age.**
 - Thirteen percent (13%) of undergraduate women reported some type of sexual violence while attending PSU. This is nearly half the rate reported at other universities (e.g., the Association of American Universities [AAU] study reported 23%).
 - At the same time, PSU undergraduate men's rate of experiencing sexual violence (4%)² is closer to the national average (5.4%).
 - Findings indicated that undergraduate trans and non-binary students, while small in number (82 students), reported rates of sexual violence (29%) more than twice those of undergraduate women. This finding is also consistent with national trends.
 - Rates of sexual violence did vary by students' age with the highest rates reported by 20 to 21 year olds (18.5%) and the lowest rates reported by students above the age of 30 (4.7%-7.1%).

- **The majority of students indicated that they had been informed about sexual misconduct on campus, where to get help, and how to respond.**
 - More than 60% of students received definitions of sexual misconduct, and a similar number of students were informed about the PSU Student Code of Conduct (59%).
 - Approximately half of the survey participants indicated they had received information on how to report sexual misconduct (49%), where to go to get help for a friend who was victimized (51%), and how to help prevent sexual misconduct (47%).

- **Students were inconsistent in their knowledge of specific campus/community resources and of the confidential nature of services.**
 - Knowledge of specific sources of information and particular places to get help varied for student respondents. They were familiar with:
 - Campus Public Safety (68%);
 - Portland Police (76%);
 - SHAC Counseling (76%); and

¹ Survey participants were provided with the following definition before they began the survey: "Sexual misconduct," "sexual assault," and "sexual violence" refer to a range of behaviors that are unwanted, including statements about physical appearance, unwanted sexual advances, or behaviors and threats of force to get someone to engage in sexual behavior. These terms also refer to sexual acts when they are non-consensual (unwanted), including intentional (purposeful) touching and oral, anal, or vaginal penetration (rape) or attempted penetration. Sexual misconduct also includes stalking and domestic/dating violence. These behaviors could be initiated by someone known or unknown to the person, including someone with whom they are in a relationship.

² The response rate for men (553) was 21% lower than the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics Research and Development's recommended response rate (700).

- PSU's Safe Campus Module in D2L (76%).
NOTE: As of January 6, 2017, 41% of PSU students have completed and passed the module.
 - In contrast, students were less familiar with:
 - Title IX Coordinator (19%);
 - Interpersonal Violence Advocates (21%);
 - Sexual Misconduct Options Website (21%);
 - Office of Equity & Compliance (24%); and
 - Office of Dean of Student Life (43%).
 - With the exception of SHAC Counseling (69%), less than half of the students were aware that campus offices offered confidential services:
 - Interpersonal Violence Advocates (21%);
 - SHAC Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (29%);
 - Student Legal Services (46%); and
 - Call to Safety (formerly Portland Women's Crisis Line) (46%).
- **Less than half of the student participants reported having a positive sense of community on the Portland State University campus.**
 - Only a third (33%) of the students felt connected to the campus.
 - Three quarters (75%) of the respondents indicated that they did not feel they had a say about what goes on at PSU.
 - Fifty-seven percent (57%) of students said they did not feel like a member of the campus.
- **Students' willingness to actively intervene as a bystander to assist a friend was relatively low.**
 - The situations where respondents were most likely to intervene as a bystander involved asking someone who looked upset if they were okay (trans and non-binary respondents 41%; women 29%) and speaking up against a sexist joke or sexually suggestive comment (trans and non-binary respondents 39%; women 24%).
 - Participants reported being much less likely to intervene in situations that involved directly confronting someone trying to get a drunk person to go with them (10%).
 - Men consistently reported a lower likelihood of intervening as a bystander across the five different scenarios presented in the survey.
- **PSU students were accurate in describing the types of situations that constituted consent for sexual behavior.**
 - Undergraduate and graduate students demonstrated their ability to accurately identify behaviors that constituted consent.
 - In the few instances where there were differences, overall rates of correct identification of consent were high (e.g., above 80%) and differences favored women by small margins (5%-12%).

PSU Sexual Misconduct Campus Climate Survey findings offer insights into students' experiences, perceptions, and attitudes related to sexual misconduct. Results reflect a variety of bright spots, as well as areas that will require additional educational and preventive intervention services. Findings offer an opportunity to more closely examine survey results to identify areas requiring a tailored campus-wide response that will enhance students' safety.
