

The College of Saint Rose Campus Climate Survey 2018

Introduction

The 2018 Interpersonal Violence Survey was conducted at The College of Saint Rose, in partnership with the Office of Student Affairs and Institutional Effectiveness, from March 2018 until May 2018. The purpose of the survey was to better understand student experiences and attitudes in relation to sexual misconduct, including sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking. The New York State Education Law Article 129-B that was passed on July 7, 2015 (effective October 5, 2015) requires all colleges and universities to adopt policies and procedures to address the awareness and prevention of sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking, and to remedy the impact. This law also requires schools to administer a campus climate survey every two years and provide a summary of the findings in a format that is available to the public. An executive summary of the Spring 2018 Campus Climate Survey is listed below:

Demographics

This survey was administered to 4,559 undergraduate and graduate students of The College of Saint Rose. There were a total of 461 students that agreed to participate in the anonymous campus climate survey (10% response rate). Students that responded identified as female (77%), male (20%), transman (2%), transwoman (0%), and gender non-specified (1%). Respondents were between 18-22 (70%), 23-26 (14%), 27-30 (9%), and 30+ (6%). Respondents described themselves as White-Not Hispanic (72%), Hispanic/Latino (12%), Black-Not Hispanic (10%), two or more races (5%), Asian or Pacific Islander (4%), Otherwise Specified (3%), or American Indian or Alaskan Native (1%). Response rate for undergraduates was 73%, graduates 27%. During the 2017-18 academic year respondents reported living off-campus apartment/house (33%), residence hall (31%), at home with parents or other family (26%), on-campus apartment (8%), or otherwise specified (1%).

Witnessed Behaviors

Students responded to the following question, "While attending college, have you ever witnessed any of the following behaviors among students:"

- A person convinced another to engage in sexual activity while under the influence of alcohol or drugs (No, 68%; Yes, 32%);
- A person forced another person to engage in sexual activity when the decision was not consensual (No, 85%; Yes, 15%);
- A person was promised things in exchange for sexual favors (e.g., status, admittance to a group, drugs, grade) by another (No, 85%; Yes, 15%);
- A person exposed body parts to others (i.e. flashing) (No, 65%; Yes, 35%);
- A person stalked another (No, 71%; Yes, 30%);
- A person injured another (No, 74%; Yes, 26%).

Students witnessed incidents occurring at a bar or party (41%), an off-campus apartment (28%), a residence hall (24%), campus neighborhood (15%), or elsewhere on campus (2%).

Students responded to the following question, "Have any of the following happened to someone you know?:" Received persistent unwanted contact via phone calls, text, or email (48%), Harassed on campus (32%), Repeatedly followed (15%), and Received unwanted gifts (5%). When asked "Do you know someone or have you heard about someone who was forced to engage in sexual activity when they did not want to?," students responded: No (49%), Yes (38%), and Unsure (13%). For those students that reported knowing someone who was forced to engage in sexual activity when they did not want to, they encouraged them to seek help (61%), did nothing (25%), told a mutual friend (24%), sought help off campus (9%), did something other than options listed (9%), sought help on campus (8%), told faculty (6%), told a Resident Assistant (6%), told campus security (5%), and told the police (3%).

Student Experiences

Respondents were asked to read the following affirmative consent definition before proceeding:

"Affirmative consent is a knowing, voluntary, and mutual decision among all participants to engage in sexual activity. Consent can be given by words or actions, as long as those words or actions create clear permission regarding willingness to engage in the sexual activity. Silence or lack of resistance, in and of itself, does not demonstrate consent. The definition of consent does not vary based upon a participant's sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression."

Students responded to the following question, "Have you ever engaged in sexual activity where affirmative consent was not clear?:" No (68%), Yes (26%), and Unsure (6%).

Respondents were then asked to read the following definitions before proceeding:

Sexual contact – attempting or actually kissing, fondling, or touching someone in a sexually intimate way, EXCLUDING SEXUAL INTERCOURSE, which we will ask about later.

Unwanted sexual contact – those situations in which you were certain at the time that you did not want to engage in the sexual experience and you either communicated this in some way (e.g., you said no, you protested, you said you didn't want to, you physically struggled, you cried, etc.), or you were intimidated or forced by someone or you were incapacitated (e.g., drunk, passed out, etc.)."

When asked, "During this (2017-2018) school year, how many times has someone had sexual contact with you when you didn't want to?," students responded: 0 times this year (80%), 1 time this year (11%), 2 times this year (5%), 3 times this year (3%), 4 times this year (1%), 6 or more times this year (1%), and 5 times this year (0%). The students who experienced unwanted sexual contact responded that the behavior involved an acquaintance (19%) (including a non-romantic friend, co-worker, casual or first date, current romantic partner, or ex-romantic partner), a stranger (8%), or other (2%). Students who experienced unwanted sexual contact responded to the following question, "Was this person a student at the College of Saint Rose?:" No (18%), Yes (8%), and I do not know (4%). And students responded that the gender of the individual that perpetrated the unwanted sexual contact was: male (25%), female (3%).

Following the incident, students told: a close friend other than a roommate (15%), no one (10%), their roommate (8%), a romantic partner (3%), a counselor (3%), a parent or guardian (1%), other/other family member (2%), Faculty/Staff/Residence Hall Staff/Campus Sexual Assault Advocate (1%-combined total), and 0% reported to police. The most prominent reasons for not telling anyone were: fear (fear of retaliation, fear of not being believed or being blamed) (19%-combined), they didn't think what happened was serious enough or that others would understand or think it was important (19%-combined), they wanted to forget it happened (11%), or they considered it private and wanted to deal with it on their own (7%).

Student Awareness and Perception of College Resources

Students responded to the following question, "Do you feel safe on campus?" Responses were Yes (93%) and No (7%). Students were aware of the following on-campus resources: campus safety and security (95%), counseling center (88%), campus blue light system (83%), health services (78%), residence life (74%), campus ministry (51%), and 2% were not aware of on-campus resources. Students were aware of the following off-campus resources: the Albany Police Department (90%), the emergency room (82%), Albany County Crime Victims and Sexual Violence Center (36%), Equinox Relationship Violence Services (30%), The Legal Project (10%), None (5%), and other (2%).

Students suggested some areas for improvement for the College, including: training security officers, increasing awareness of resources, and prevention education training on a variety of topics.

Overall, 76% of students felt that the College was doing enough to ensure the safety of its students, such as: awareness and training education efforts, 24-hour availability of campus security, availability of counseling center and spiritual life staff, campus building access, lighting, and cameras.

We Heard You

Students responded to the following question, "In the event that you are physically or sexually violated, do you think you would be likely to utilize an anonymous online reporting system if one was offered on campus?;" responses were "Yes" (83%) and "No" (17%). As a result of this feedback, the College added an anonymous reporting online form (found here: <https://onlineforms.strose.edu/anonymous-report/submit>), an anonymous tip line (518-454-5275) and email (anonymous@strose.edu) for those who wish to report sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking.

Over the summer (2018), in direct response to student's requests, Campus Security Officers participated in a training on Title IX and The Clery Act, which included how to respond to victims from diverse backgrounds with a trauma-informed approach. Community agencies participated in a panel discussion, informing officers of the various support services available to students.

Campus Response and Moving Forward

The College of Saint Rose remains committed to raising awareness and educating our community about sexual and interpersonal violence, reducing its occurrence, and supporting survivors.

The College hired an Associate Director of Violence Prevention in the Fall of 2017 who's primary responsibility is to oversee the prevention education and training efforts on campus related to federal and state laws, which includes acting as the institutional liaison internally and externally. The Associate Director of Violence Prevention works closely with the Title IX Coordinator, students, other campus administrators, faculty, and community agencies to increase awareness of campus and community *resources*.

The Alliance for Sexual Assault Prevention (ASAP), a committee of students, faculty, staff, and administrators, meets regularly throughout the academic year to survey campus climate in relation to sexual offenses. The group focuses on ensuring campus compliance with relevant policies and laws, awareness, prevention, and education.

The Campus Climate Survey will continue to inform our prevention education efforts, in conjunction with our annual assessment data that is collected through our online sexual assault prevention course that is required for all new students. The survey data provides the College with opportunities to both enhance our training and education programs, while continually working towards a safe and healthy campus culture.