

Climate Survey Results

In the spring of 2015 and 2017 St. John’s University conducted Campus Climate Surveys on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct. The goal of these surveys was to estimate the incidence and prevalence of different forms of sexual assault and misconduct experienced by St. John’s Students; assess students’ perceptions of the campus climate surrounding sexual assault and misconduct; and to determine student knowledge of university procedures regarding reporting incidences of sexual assault and misconduct as well as the availability of campus and community resources following such incidences. Participation in these surveys was voluntary and respondents were not required to answer every question, thus the sample for each question fluctuates. This report summarizes the major findings of these surveys.

Samples

2015 Survey

In 2015, a randomized sample of over 2,700 undergraduate students (male=1,002, male response rate=38.8%; female=1,786, female response rate=57.2%) completed a Campus Climate Survey administered by RTI international. The racial/ethnic breakdown of this sample is below.

Table 1. Racial/ethnic Breakdown of Respondents	Response Rates
Non-Hispanic white	33.4%
Non-Hispanic Black	15.2%
Hispanic	15.7%
Asian	26.8%
Multiracial or another race	5.6%
Missing (did not answer)	3.4%

First year students were the highest responders to this survey with 40.7% respondents, followed by second year students (25.2%), third year (17.3%) and fourth year students (16.5%). Approximately .3% students did not provide their class standing.

This survey indicated that St. John’s male and female students are aware of the resources available to them and feel supported by the University. The table below displays the percentage of students who agree with the following statements.

Table 2. St. John’s Students Are Aware of Resources	Male	Female
This school takes training of sexual assault prevention seriously	87%	83%
This school is doing a good job of trying to prevent sexual assault	89%	85%
This school is doing a good job of providing needed services to victims of sexual assault	91%	86%
This school is doing a good job investigating incidents of sexual assault	88%	86%
I am aware if an understand this schools procedures for dealing with reported incidents of sexual assault	81%	76%
If a friend of mine were sexually assaulted, I know where to take my friend for help	78%	74%
At this school, when it is determined that sexual assault has happened, the perpetrator gets punished appropriately.	89%	84%

2017 Survey

As a result in changes to New York State law specifically, Education Law 129b commonly referred to as “Enough is Enough”, in 2017 St. John’s utilized in house resources to conduct our Campus Climate Survey. This survey was distributed to all matriculated full-time graduate and undergraduate students on the Queens, Staten Island, and Long Island campuses. Over 1,300 students (male=394, 29.6%; female=926, 69.6%; 11 students or .8% identified as “other” or transgendered) completed this survey. 83.5% of the sample identified as non-Hispanic and 16.5% identified as Hispanic. The racial/ethnic breakdown of this sample is below.

Table 3. Racial/ethnic Breakdown of Respondents	Number of Respondents	Response Rates
White	657	52.2%
Black	210	16.8%
Asian	404	32.3%
Multiracial or another race	51	4.1%
Missing (did not answer)	10	

**Note, this was a check all that apply question, so percentages can exceed 100%*

In contrast to the 2015 survey, the respondents to the 2017 survey provided a more even distribution of respondents’ class standing. The table below displays the distribution of respondents’ class standing

Table 4. Distribution of Respondents’ Class Standing	Number of Respondents	Response Rates
First Year	338	25.4%
Sophomore	274	20.6%
Junior	225	16.9%
Senior	206	15.5%
Graduate/Professional	288	21.6%
Missing (did not answer)	1	

Results

The majority of students (54%) indicated that they were aware that SJU’s Title IX Coordinator receives reports regarding sex discrimination, sexual assaults, and sexual misconduct complaints. Respondents were less sure about the specific functions of the Title IX Coordinator. The following percentage of students accurately identified the role of the Title IX Coordinator:

- 42% Coordinates the campus’ responses to complaints of sexual violence and misconduct.
- 41% Ensures training/education is provided to the campus community.
- 41% Provides reporting individuals with accommodations and services during an investigation.

However, it should be noted that over two thirds of women who responded to this question accurately identified the roles of SJU’s Title IX coordinator.

The overwhelming majority students completing this survey indicated that that they received information from St. John’s University on: the definition of sexual assault (68%), how to report a sexual assault (69%), where to go to get help if one is sexually assaulted (67%), and who you can talk to confidentially about a sexual assault (62%). Close to half (48%) of students were aware of the Title IX protections against sexual assault.

About half (47%) of St. John’s students are aware that University policies on sexual violence are different from local, state, and federal laws, and 70% of students were familiar with the definition of affirmative consent as outlined by “Enough is Enough.”

In addition, data from this survey suggests that St. John’s students are aware of the campus and community resources available to them following an incidence of sexual assault or misconduct.

The table below highlights the various campus and community resources St. John’s students are aware of can assist them regarding an incidence of sexual assault or misconduct.

Table 5. St. John’s Students Are Aware of Campus and Community Resources	Response Rates
Public Safety	90%
Local/State Police	77%
Health Services	76%
Counseling center	71%
Division of Student Affairs	66%
Campus Support Advisor	43%
Title IX Coordinator	32%
Local Rape Crisis Center	26%

Furthermore, our data suggests that more than three-quarters of our students know where a survivor or witness can formally disclose an incidence of sexual assault on campus, 78% indicating that they can report to Public Safety and 69% indicating they can report to the Title IX Coordinator.

Student Experiences

Unfortunately, 20% of students or 265 of the 1332 who responded to this survey reported an incidence of sexual violence during the past academic year. Nonconsensual sexual contact (n=109) and stalking (n=97) represent the most prevalent form of sexual violence experienced by St. John’s Students. Thirty-eight SJU students experienced intimate partner violence and 21 students experienced nonconsensual contact-sexual penetration. About two thirds (64%) of these incidents occurred off-campus and 78% were experienced by women.

Despite knowledge of resources and reporting structures at St. John’s there continue to be societal and psycho-social barriers that have prevented SJU students from reporting incidences of sexual violence. Not thinking the incident was serious enough to report (46%) and concerns that situation would not be kept confidential (31%) were the top reasons students did not report incidences of sexual violence. The table below displays the reasons why students did not reporting an incidence of sexual violence to a St. John’s official or local law enforcement.

Table 6. Respondents Stated Reasons Not To Report Sexual Assault or Misconduct	Response Rates
You did not think the incident was serious enough to report	46%
You were concerned that your situation would not be kept confidential	31%
You were concerned you'd be treated poorly or that no action would be taken	27%
You were worried that either the person who did this to you or other people might find out and do something to get back at you	27%
You did not need assistance	24%
You were embarrassed to report the incident	25%
You felt that other people might think that what happened was at least partly your fault or that you might get in trouble for some reason	25%
You didn't know how to report it	24%
You did not want the person to get in trouble	24%
You were afraid to report the incident	20%
You did not want any action taken	18%

Due to the reasons highlighted in Table 6 above, it is not surprising that the majority of students who indicated that they experienced an incidence of sexual violence chose not to report the incident. However, when students did report they most often reported to SJU Public Safety (23%), followed by local police/state police (19%), SJU faculty, staff and administrators (12%), Student affairs professionals (8%), and the SJU Title IX coordinators (8%).

When students did make a report, the majority reported receiving emotional support (55%) and St. John's resource guide for those who have experienced sexual violence including how to report to local law enforcement as well as health and mental health support resources (51%). About a third (35%) chose to have a non-contact order or other measures to feel safe on campus and assistance connecting with on or off-campus support resources.

According to this survey, St. John's University students have engaged in bystander behaviors within the past 12 months. Specifically, when presented with the opportunity, about half of St. John's students:

- Talked to the friends of a drunk person to make sure the friends don't leave him/her behind at a party, bar, or other social event (53%)
- Asked someone who looked upset at a party if they are okay or need help (50%)
- Walked a friend home from a party, bar, or other social event because the friend had too much (48%)

Furthermore, close to one-third of St. John's students intervened when they witnessed someone being verbally abusive to another person.