

**St. John's University  
2021 Sexual Violence Climate Survey**

In the fall of 2021, St. John's University conducted a Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct. This survey was titled the St. John's University Interpersonal Violence Survey. The goal of this survey was to: (1) estimate the incidence and prevalence of different forms of sexual assault and misconduct experienced by St. John's Students; (2) assess students' perceptions of the campus climate regarding sexual assault and misconduct; and (3) determine student knowledge of university procedures for reporting incidences of sexual assault and misconduct as well as (4) the availability of campus and community resources following an incident. This report summarizes the major findings of this survey based on the self-report information provided by the students who participated in the survey.

**METHODOLOGY**

The 2021 survey instrument was based on the Campus Climate Survey Validation Study (CCSVS), which was validated by RTI in a 2015 study sponsored by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) and the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) as well as items developed by RTI for St. John's University to assess required domains as specified by NYS Education law 129b. The survey was fielded from 11/14/2021 until 12/05/2021. All full-time matriculated undergraduate and graduate students who were 18 years of age or older at the time of the survey collection were invited to complete this confidential, web-based survey by email. The survey was confidential in that students' identities were not linked to their survey answers. The survey was voluntary. At the end of the survey, students were provided with links to local and national support services related to sexual violence.

Since respondents were not required to answer every question and some questions were contingent on prior responses, thereby the sample for each question fluctuates.

**SAMPLE**

Surveys were completed by 2,389 students. Table 1. Depicts the demographic characteristics of the sample, which generally mirrors St. John's University student demographics

**Table 1. Demographic Breakdown of Respondents**

<u><b>Campus</b></u>	<b>%</b>	<b>n</b>
Queens	91.4%	2184
Staten Island	6.5%	154
Long Island	0.4%	9
Manhattan	1.6%	37
Global Campus	0.2%	5
	<i>Answered:</i>	2389
	<i>Skipped:</i>	0
<u><b>Racial/ethnicity</b></u>		
American Indian or Alaskan Native	1.8%	42
Asian	22.4%	517
Black or African American	14.9%	345
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.9%	21
White	57.3%	1326
Other (please specify)	8.0%	184
	<i>Answered:</i>	2313
	<i>Skipped:</i>	76
Hispanic or Latino/Latina	19.0%	447
Not Hispanic or Latino/Latina	81.0%	1910
	<i>Answered:</i>	2357
	<i>Skipped:</i>	32
<u><b>International Student (Y)</b></u>	5.8%	138
	<i>Answered:</i>	2386

<u><b>Year of Study</b></u>	<b>%</b>	<b>n</b>
Freshman/First Year	28.4%	678
Sophomore	16.6%	396
Junior	15.0%	357
Senior	11.7%	278
Graduate/Professional Student	28.2%	672
Non-Degree or Other	0.3%	6
	<i>Answered:</i>	2387
	<i>Skipped:</i>	2
<u><b>Gender Identity</b></u>		
Man	28.0%	660
Woman	69.9%	1647
Transgender man	0.2%	5
Transgender woman	0.2%	4
You prefer not to answer	0.9%	20
You describe yourself some other way	0.8%	19
	<i>Answered:</i>	2355
	<i>Skipped:</i>	34

	<i>Skipped:</i>	3
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**RESULTS**

***Prevention Training on Sexual Misconduct***

The majority of students responding to the survey recall attending sexual violence training that addressed (1) the University’s policy on sexual assault, including the definition of sexual misconduct and consent; (2) how to report sexual assault; (3) how to intervene as a bystander, and (4) services available for survivors of sexual assault. Table 2. respondents reported a strong awareness and understanding of how sexual misconduct is defined at St. John’s University.

**Table 2. Students who reported an "Awareness and Understanding" of the following definitions used at St. John's**

	Strongly Agree & Agree		Total
	%	n	N
Sexual Assault	94.6%	1790	1893
Sexual Harassment	94.2%	1780	1889
Sexual Misconduct	92.7%	1756	1894
Domestic Violence	92.4%	1751	1894
Sexual Coercion	91.3%	1730	1894
Stalking	91.1%	1729	1897
Dating Violence	89.8%	1702	1895
I know how to get information about these definitions if I wanted to learn more	87.7%	1663	1897
		Answered	1899
		Skipped	490

The results in Table 3, suggest that most St. John’s students completing this survey know their rights if they experienced an incident of sexual misconduct (81.8%), were accused of sexual misconduct (74.3%), and understand St. John’s procedures for dealing with reported incidents of sexual misconduct (81.6%).

**Table 3. Students’ awareness of St. John’s response to gender-based violence**

	Strongly Agree & Agree		Total
	%	n	N
I know my rights at St. John’s if I experience an incident of sexual misconduct	81.8%	1534	1875
I know how to get information about St. John’s sexual misconduct procedures and student rights	81.6%	1526	1870
I am aware of and understand St. John’s procedures for dealing with reported incidents of sexual misconduct	81.6%	1530	1875
I know my rights at St. John’s if I were accused of committing an act of sexual misconduct	74.3%	1394	1875
		Answered	1877
		Skipped	512

***Affirmative Consent***

In addition to having an awareness and understanding of the various terms and definitions under the umbrella of sexual misconduct, Table 4. displays their robust understanding of affirmative consent in general and the nuances of affirmative consent within the context of relationships.

**Table 4. Knowledge of Definition of Affirmative Consent**

	Strongly Agree & Agree		Total
	%	n	N
I am aware of and understand the definition of affirmative consent as it is used at St. John's	96.7%	1944	2011
Someone who is incapacitated (e.g., unconscious, asleep, blacked out) cannot give consent	95.8%	1918	2003
Consent can be given by words or actions as long as those words or actions create clear permission regarding willingness to engage in sexual activity	94.9%	1906	2009
I know how to get additional information about affirmative consent if I wanted to learn more	88.1%	1768	2006
Someone who is silent or does not resist sexual activity is giving consent	12.7%	254	2002
Consent is not needed if the couple has a current or previous dating relationship	11.4%	229	2009
		Answered	2012
		Skipped	377

***Title IX***

The majority of respondents (56.8%) who completed the 2021 Climate Survey indicated that they had heard of the term “Title IX Coordinator”, 41.9% of respondents are aware St. John’s University has a Title IX coordinator, and 35.3% know how to get into contact with the Title IX coordinator. When queried about the responsibilities of the Title IX Coordinator, 40.9% indicated that they “do not know what the Title IX Coordinators’ responsibilities are.” Table 5. displays the scope of responsibilities respondents believe the Title IX Coordinator is responsible for addressing. As displayed in Table 6, most respondents, associate the scope of the Title IX coordinator’s responsibilities with addressing sexual misconduct.

**Table 5. Scope of Title IX Coordinator Responsibilities**

	%	n
Sexual misconduct	58.9%	1082
Sexual harassment	58.6%	1076
Sex discrimination	57.8%	1061
Dating and domestic violence	52.5%	965
Hate crimes	36.6%	672
Accommodations for students with disabilities	14.5%	267
Theft and property damage	8.9%	163
Plagiarism/academic integrity	8.0%	146
	Answered	1837
	Skipped	552

Furthermore, Table 6. highlights, that the overwhelming majority of respondents who answered this question accurately identified the ways in which the Title IX coordinator carries out its responsibilities.

**Table 6. Responsibilities of the Title IX Coordinator**

	%	n
Explaining available options to students who are facing one of these issues	90.3%	985
Receiving reports about these issues from students	90.2%	983
Investigating or coordinating investigations into reports received from students about these issues	87.8%	957
Providing students with support during an investigation of a report	87.7%	950
Providing training and education to students and employees about these issues	81.2%	884
	Answered	1092
	Skipped	1297

**Bystander Behaviors**

Most respondents (84.9%) “strongly agree” and “agree” with the statement that St. John’s students are “knowledgeable about the topic of sexual assault, including how it is defined, how often it occurs, how it affects students, and what the disciplinary consequences are”. Additionally, Table 7. displays students who “strongly agree” and “agree” with the following statements suggesting that St. John’s students engage in positive bystander behaviors when given the opportunity.

**Table 7. Percentage of students who “strongly agree” and “agree” statements regarding bystander behaviors among St. John’s Students.**

	Strongly Agree & Agree		Total
	%	n	N
At this school, if students see someone trying to have unwanted sexual contact with someone, they will try to stop them	83.92%	1717	2046
Many students at this school initiate or lead campus efforts to raise awareness about sexual assault	76.34%	1565	2050
At this school, when students make sexual comments, jokes, or gestures, other students stand up to them	71.26%	1458	2046
		Answered	2056
		Skipped	333

Table 8. highlights that the vast majority of students intend on engaging in bystander behavior when they witness sexual violence. This suggests that St. John’s steps to address sexual violence on campus are having a positive impact on changing cultural norms, attitudes, and behaviors related to sexual violence.

**Table 8. Likelihood of Engaging in Bystander Behavior to Prevent Sexual Misconduct**

	Likely & Vey Likely		Total
	%	n	N
If you suspect that one of your friends might be in an abusive relationship, how likely are you to ask them if they are being mistreated?	97.5%	2052	2104
If you see one of your friends leading someone who is obviously drunk away to have sex with them, how likely are you to say or do something to get them to stop?	97.0%	2042	2106
If you see someone you don't know who looks uncomfortable and is being touched, grabbed, or pinched in a sexual way, how likely are you to speak up or help in some other way?	95.5%	2009	2103
If your friends are sending sexual pictures, web pages, or messages to someone who didn't ask for them, how likely are you to say something to try to get them to stop?	93.3%	1964	2105
When you go out with your friends, how likely are you to come up with a plan for checking in with one another throughout the evening?	89.6%	1885	2104
If someone tells you that they had sex with someone who was passed out, how likely are you to report the incident to a campus administrator or police?	89.2%	1872	2099
If people you don't know very well are making unwanted sexual comments, jokes, or gestures, how likely are you to say something to try to get them to stop?	88.5%	1865	2107
		Answered	2110
		Skipped	279

***Reporting Options***

The results displayed in Table 9. suggest that students are aware that bystanders (92.7%) can report incidences of sexual violence and are knowledgeable about the differences between confidential and nonconfidential reporting options (79.6%) as well as where to get information about their reporting options (76.9%).

**Table 9. Knowledge about how to report an incidence of sexual violence**

	Strongly Agree & Agree		Total
	%	n	N
At St. John's, incidents of sexual misconduct can be reported by witnesses or bystanders	92.7%	1683	1816
I understand the difference between confidential and nonconfidential reporting options at my school	79.6%	1448	1820
I know how to get information about the options for reporting an incident of sexual misconduct at St. John's	76.9%	1398	1818
I know where to go to report an incident of sexual misconduct at St. Johns	71.8%	1303	1816
		Answered	1822
		Skipped	567

The results displayed in Table 10. suggest that students are aware of how to report an incident of sexual violence, approximately 85% of students know that they can report to local law enforcement (85.4%) and St. John's Public Safety (85.3%) as well as St. John's employees (77.4%) and the Title IX Coordinator (66.8%).

**Table 10. Where students can report incidences of sexual violence**

	True		Total
	%	n	N
An incident of sexual misconduct at St. John's can be reported to local law enforcement	85.4%	1531	1793
An incident of sexual misconduct at St. John's can be reported to SJU Public Safety	85.3%	1534	1798
An incident of sexual misconduct at St. John's can be reported to another St. John's administrator, student affairs staff member, or a faculty or staff member	77.4%	1391	1798
An incident of sexual misconduct at St. John's can be reported to the Title IX Coordinator	66.8%	1201	1798
		Answered	1800
		Skipped	589

It should be noted that the results of this survey indicated that Fifty percent (50.8%) of respondents reported being unaware of the differences between St. John's policies regarding sexual misconduct and local, state, and federal law.

**Resources**

Table 11. illustrates students know how to access information about on-campus (78.1%) and off-campus (77.9%) services and are knowledgeable about the types of services available on-campus (75.2%) and off-campus (74.7%) for those who experience sexual misconduct and need help.

**Table 11. On-and off-campus resources**

	Strongly Agree & Agree		Total
	%	n	N
<u>On-Campus</u>			
I know how to get information about services available <b>ON</b> St. John's campus for students who experience sexual misconduct and need help	78.1%	1361	1742
I know what services are available <b>ON</b> St. John's campus for students who experience sexual misconduct and need help	75.2%	1310	1742
<u>Off-Campus</u>			
I know how to get information about services available off-campus for individuals who experience sexual misconduct and need help	77.9%	1352	1735
I know what services are available off-campus for individuals who experience sexual misconduct and need help	74.7%	1301	1741
		Answered	1743
		Skipped	646

Table 12. highlights that students are aware of the various on-campus resources where they can seek support following an incidence of sexual violence.

**Table 12. Percentage of students aware of various on-campus resources**

		Aware	Total
	%	n	N
Public Safety	94.3%	1628	1727
Student Health Services	87.8%	1516	1727
Center for Counseling and Consultation	83.3%	1440	1728
Student Affairs professionals	74.6%	1287	1725
Office of Sexual Violence Outreach, Awareness, and Response (SOAR)	74.0%	1279	1729
Campus Support Advisor	72.9%	1255	1722
Title IX Coordinator's office	62.9%	1083	1723
		Answered	1733
		Skipped	656

**Prevalence**

As displayed in Table 13. In 2021 approximately one in five (19.3%) of survey respondents experienced some form of stalking. Furthermore, 5% of respondents experienced unwanted sexual contact and 4% experienced sexual contact as a result of threats or coercion.

**Table 13. Percentage of students who have experienced sexual violence, location of incident & by whom**

	%	Where			By Whom			
		On-Campus	Off-Campus: In NYC	Off-Campus: Not in NYC	Professor	Former dating partner, spouse, friends, or roommate	Acquaintance	Stranger/Don't Know/Unsure
Stalking	19.3%	10.4%	50.8%	29.7%	0.0%	21.7%	30.7%	43.2%
Unwanted Sexual Contact	5.0%	9.5%	57.1%	28.6%	0.0%	42.9%	34.5%	20.2%
Sexual Contact by threats or coercion	4.0%	15.3%	47.2%	30.6%	0.0%	49.3%	28.8%	17.8%

\*Responses of Unsure/Don't know is not displayed in this table, thus the total percentages may not equal 100%

Items were not mutually exclusive, and respondents were able to indicate all behavior they experienced. Thus, the same students may have indicated experiencing several forms of sexual violence, and thereby the total number of students experiencing sexual violence in each category is not summative or mutually exclusive for Tables 13-17.

**Table 14. The most prevalent forms of sexual violence students reported experiencing by category**

Types of Sexual Violence	Specific behaviors students reported experiencing within each category	%	n
Stalking	Sexual advances, gestures, comments, or jokes that were unwelcome to you	16.0%	264
sexual contact as a result of threats or coercion	Touching of a sexual nature (kissing, touching of private parts, grabbing, fondling, rubbing up against you in a sexual way, even if it is over your clothes)	3.8%	62
unwanted sexual contact	Forced touching of a sexual nature (forced kissing, touching, grabbing, or fondling of your sexual body parts; rubbing up against you in a sexual way, even if it is over your clothes)	4.7%	77

**Table 15. Types of Stalking in person or by phone, text message, e-mail, or social media students reported experiencing since the start of the 2021 calendar year** (students were able to select all that apply)

	%	n
None of these experiences occurred to me	80.7%	1333
Made sexual advances, gestures, comments, or jokes that were unwelcome to you	16.0%	264
Showed or sent you sexual pictures, photos, or videos that you didn't want to see	7.8%	129
Flashed or exposed themselves to you without your consent	3.9%	65
Showed or sent sexual photos/videos of you or spread sexual rumors about you that you didn't want shared	2.2%	37
Watched or took photos/videos of you when you were nude or having sex, without your consent	1.2%	20
	Answered	1651
	Skipped	738

**Table 16. Types of Sexual Contact by threats or coercion students reported experiencing since the start of the 2021 calendar year (e.g., threatening to tell lies, end your relationship, or spread rumors about you; making promises you knew or discovered were untrue; or continually verbally pressuring you)** (students were able to select all that apply)

	%	n
None of these experiences occurred to me	96.0%	1572
Touching of a sexual nature (kissing, touching of private parts, grabbing, fondling, rubbing up against you in a sexual way, even if it is over your clothes)	3.8%	62
Sexual intercourse	1.4%	23
Oral sex (someone's mouth or tongue making contact with your genitals or your mouth or tongue making contact with someone else's genitals)	1.3%	21
Other sexual penetration	0.5%	8
Anal sex (someone putting their penis in your anus)	0.4%	6
	Answered	1638
	Skipped	751

**Table 17. Types of Unwanted Sexual Contact students indicated they experienced since the start of the 2021 calendar year** (students were able to select all that apply)

	%	n
None of these experiences occurred to me	95.0%	1551
Forced touching of a sexual nature (forced kissing, touching, grabbing, or fondling of your sexual body parts; rubbing up against you in a sexual way, even if it is over your clothes)	4.7%	77
Sexual intercourse someone putting their penis in your vagina	1.1%	18
Oral sex (someone's mouth or tongue making contact with your genitals or your mouth or tongue making contact with someone else's genitals)	0.7%	11
Other sexual penetration (someone putting their finger or an object like a bottle or a candle in your "vagina, anus, or sexual body parts)	0.6%	9
Anal sex (someone putting their penis in your anus)	0.2%	4
	Answered	1633
	Skipped	756



**Reporting of Incidences of Sexual Violence**

Only 2.6% of respondents indicated that they had connected with any St. John’s University resources (e.g., faculty, Center for Counseling and Consultation, Campus Support Advisor, Title IX Office, Public Safety) because of an incident of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking. Table 18. displays the resources respondents contacted regarding a report of sexual misconduct.

**Table 18. Resources Contacted by students who experienced sexual violence**

<u>On-Campus St. John's Resources</u>	%	n
Administrator, Faculty Member, or Staff Member	58.33%	28
Public Safety	50.00%	21
counseling center, or crisis center or a helpline, or health care center	38.64%	17
<u>Off Campus Non-St. John's Resources</u>		
Local police NOT affiliated with St. John's University	21.95%	9
Crisis center or helpline, or a hospital or health care center	16.13%	5

Tables 19. displays the reasons respondents reported the incidence of sexual violence to the university or off-campus resources. The most common reason for reporting incidents of sexual violence was that the respondent “wanted the person to be held accountable” (40.6%).

**Table 19. Reasons students decided to contact University and Off-campus Resources.**

Answer Choices	Responses	
	%	n
You wanted the person who did this to you to be held accountable	40.6%	13
You wanted to find out what your options were for formal reporting or getting resources on or off-campus	37.5%	12
You wanted the incident to be investigated	37.5%	12
You wanted to prevent this from happening to someone else	37.5%	12
You wanted to get emotional support	34.4%	11
You needed physical or mental health care	25.0%	8
Other (please specify)	9.4%	3
	Answered	32
	Skipped	2357

After reaching out to these resources approximately half of the students who reported an incidence of sexual violence on this survey, indicated that they received information about assistance on campus (62.9%) and off-campus (54.3%), potential remedies (54.3%), how to report to local law enforcement (48.6%) and the “student’s bill of rights” and You are not alone” guide” (45.7%). This information is displayed in Table 20.

**Table 20. Support information students indicated they received**

	Yes		Total
	%	n	
Information about on-campus options for assistance?	62.9%	22	35
Information about off-campus options for assistance?	54.3%	19	35
Information on steps that could be taken to support you or options available to you, such as a no contact order, changes to your housing arrangements, or changes to your course schedule?	54.3%	19	35
Information about how to report the incident to local law enforcement?	48.6%	17	35
A students’ bill of rights, a “You’re Not Alone” guide, or other information about your rights and options?	45.7%	16	35
		Answered	35
		Skipped	2354

As noted earlier, the majority of students who reported experiencing sexual violence incidents on this survey also indicated that they did not report these incidents. Table 21. presents the reasons why students indicated that they did not report sexual assault incidents they experienced during the 2021 calendar year to various authorities. The most common reasons for not reporting a sexual assault incident (to each type of group/organization) were: “did not need any assistance”, “did not think the incident was serious enough,” and “did not want action taken.”

**Table 21. Reasons why students did not report Sexual Assault Incidents to school administrators, campus police, and local law police**

	SJU Public Safety	Administrators, Faculty, or other SJU officials	Counseling Center, Crisis Center, Helpline, or Health Care Center at SJU	Local police NOT at St. John's	Off-Campus Crisis Center, Helpline, Hospital, etc.
You did not need any assistance	39.4%	41.8%	39.89%	38.80%	38.72%
You did not think the incident was serious enough to report	16.0%	17.4%	16.39%	16.14%	15.01%
You did not want any action taken	14.5%	15.8%	15.13%	16.46%	14.55%
You were concerned you'd be treated poorly or that no action would be taken	7.6%	7.8%	8.24%	8.16%	5.41%
You were concerned they would not keep your situation confidential	6.7%	6.8%	6.68%	6.12%	4.30%
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	6.3%	8.1%	6.85%	6.51%	5.10%
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	6.0%	8.4%	6.25%	6.27%	5.57%
You didn't want the person who did this to you to get in trouble	5.9%	6.5%	5.97%	5.89%	5.20%
You were concerned about social repercussions (e.g., being excluded from a group or club)	5.0%	6.9%	5.63%	5.42%	4.46%
You didn't know how to contact them	4.3%	6.8%	7.60%	4.44%	5.02%