

2023 SUNY Adirondack Campus Climate Survey

Executive Summary

Consistent with New York State Education Law 129-B and policies of The State University of New York, SUNY Adirondack participated in the 2023 Sexual Violence Prevalence (SVP) Campus Climate Survey. This confidential survey was administered to students and employees and is required to address, at minimum, student and employee knowledge about:

- The Title IX Coordinator's role;
- Campus policies and procedures addressing sexual assault;
- How and where to report sexual violence as a victim/survivor or witness;
- The availability of resources on and off campus, such as counseling, health, academic assistance;
- The prevalence of victimization and perpetration of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking on and off campus during a set time period (for example, the last two years);
- Bystander attitudes and behavior;
- Whether victims/survivors reported to the University and/or police, and reasons why they did or did not report.
- The general awareness of the difference, if any, between the institution's policies and the penal law; and
- The general awareness of the definition of affirmative consent.

In reviewing the overall results, the surveys indicated that students and employees are generally aware of campus sexual and interpersonal violence related policies and resources. Although the vast majority of employees are aware of how to report formal complaints of sexual assault on campus, nearly half of the student respondents were unclear about the reporting process. Moreover, very few students knew how to contact the Title IX Coordinator.

The results also indicated that more information, outreach, and follow-up are needed to share resources and reporting options to students.

If you have any questions about the survey or the results included in this report, please contact Cornelius Gilbert, Ph.D., Chief Diversity Officer & Title IX Coordinator, at gilbertc@sunyacc.edu.

Background

The SVP survey is administered every other year by all SUNY campuses, who work closely with SUNY System Administration to coordinate the survey administration itself. An effort is made to keep the

questions from one administration to the next as consistent as possible to allow for reliable and meaningful longitudinal data. System-wide IRB review takes place for each survey administration.

Our campus administered the student and employee surveys between April 10 and April 28, 2023. An invitation was sent to all eligible survey participants followed by several reminder emails. Excluded survey populations were individuals under 18 years of age, all incarcerated individuals regardless of age, and all students concurrently enrolled in high school regardless of age.

Results

SUNY Adirondack had 75 students and 120 employees submit a survey response, for response rates of 4% and 33%, respectively. This is a significant decrease in student participation rates from 2021 and a slight increase for employees, where response rates were 17% for students and 32% for employees. Unlike previous administrations in 2019 and 2021, incentives were not offered for completion of the survey to students. This was likely a factor in the lower student response rate for 2023. ***Based on the low participation rate for students, it is difficult to generalize the results to the overall student population. Caution should be taken when attempting to draw any definitive conclusions from the results presented.***

Students Respondents

Student Demographics

Over three-quarters of the student respondents indicated living with their family (77.0%) during the last year and over a third reported living in campus housing (33.8%). The majority indicated having a disability or chronic health condition (68.0%) and nearly half (46.0%) were first generation students. The large majority of student respondents are taking classes on a full-time basis (72.0%).

Respondents described themselves as follows:

- 75.7% women;
- 24.3% men;
- 0.0% intersex.

The sexual orientation of respondents was as follows (students able to choose multiple responses):

- Respondents were primarily heterosexual (53.9%);
- 0.0% identified as gay;
- 0.0% identified as lesbian;
- 26.3% identified as bisexual;
- 0.0% identified as asexual;
- 7.9% identified as pansexual;
- 0.0% identified as queer;
- 0.0% were questioning/unsure.

The following section relates to students' knowledge and awareness of SUNY Adirondack's Title IX Office, policies and procedures, as well as campus and community resources.

- The majority of students (63.9%) reported knowing the campus has policies and procedures specifically addressing sexual assault.
- Very few students (16.2%) reported knowing how to contact the Title IX Coordinator.
- Most students reported awareness of the role of the Title IX Coordinator.
 - 59.6% reported knowledge of the Title IX Coordinator role in regards to receiving reports of sex discrimination/sexual assault/ sexual misconduct;
 - 50.0% reported knowledge of the Title IX Coordinator role in regards to coordinating the campus response;
 - 47.3% reported knowledge of the Title IX Coordinator role in regards to ensuring training/education to the campus; and
 - 50.9% reported knowledge of the Title IX Coordinator role in regards to providing accommodations and services to reporting individuals.
- Less than half of students responded knowing how to report Title IX incidents, with:
 - 47.8% knowing how to report a sexual assault;
 - 43.5% knowing how to report sexual harassment;
 - 34.8% knowing how to report domestic violence/dating violence;
 - 37.7% knowing how to report stalking; and
 - 44.9% not knowing how to report any of these types of incidents.
- The top five campus departments where students responded a victim or witness could file a formal complaint of sexual assault were:
 - Public Safety (82.5%);
 - Counseling Center (74.6%);
 - Title IX Coordinator (66.7%);
 - Health Center (62.7%); and
 - Human Resources (59.6%).
- Less than half of students reported receiving from SUNY Adirondack either written or verbal (presentations, trainings) information about sexual assault, including:
 - 36.6% received information on the definition of sexual assault;
 - 49.3% received information on how to report a sexual assault;
 - 45.1% received information on where to go to get help if you or someone you know is sexually assaulted;
 - 38.0% received information on who to speak to confidentially about a sexual assault;
 - 43.7% received information on policies prohibiting sexual assault; and
 - 36.6% reported not receiving information on any of the above.
- The vast majority of students (72.6%) are knowledgeable about the definition of affirmative consent. The vast majority of students (88.2%) reported knowing that someone who is incapacitated cannot provide consent.
- Most students (51.4%) reported knowing the difference between the college disciplinary process and the criminal justice system.
- Over a third of students (38.9%) reported being aware of the amnesty policy (related to the use of drugs and alcohol).

- The top five campus and community resources students reported having an awareness of were:
 - Public Safety (69.8%);
 - Counseling Center (69.8%);
 - Local Police/Sheriff (54.7%);
 - Local health services, hospitals (50.9%); and
 - Human Resources (43.4%)

Experiences with Sexual/ Dating/ Domestic Violence and/or Stalking

Respondents reported the following incidents having occurred without their consent within the year preceding the survey:

- 35.2% reported experiencing unwanted sexual comments, sexual slurs, or demeaning jokes;
- 27.8% reported experiencing unwanted sexually suggestive digital communications, words or images, or both, including emails, texts, social media, or other written communication;
- 11.1% reported experiencing an incident of being fondled, kissed, or being rubbed up against the private areas of body without consent;
- 11.1% reported experiencing an incident of sexual penetration (by inserting penis, fingers or object into vagina or anus) without consent; 6.2% reported the act was completed.

For the respondents who reported an incident, 35.0% of the perpetrators were affiliated with the campus community. 68.4% of respondents who reported an incident did not tell anyone.

Intimate Partner Violence

Students were asked about experiences with intimate partner violence (intimate partner was defined as “a boyfriend, girlfriend, spouse, or anyone [the respondent] was in an intimate relationship with or hooked up with, including exes and current partners”) within the past year.

- 27.5% of students reported that an intimate partner controlled or attempted to control them;
- 15.7% of students reported that an intimate partner threatened to hurt them, their family/friends, or themselves, in order to influence their partner; and

42.9% of students told someone about the most recent incident of intimate partner violence.

Stalking

22.4% of students reported that a stranger/friend/current or ex-partner repeatedly followed, watched, texted, called, emailed, or communicated with them in ways that seemed obsessive and made them afraid and concerned for their safety.

Overall, students were asked if incidents of sexual violence, dating/domestic violence and stalking made them change their educational plans, and reported:

- 28.6% of students reported changing academic schedule and/or housing.

College Response

Students were asked about their perceptions of how their fellow students would respond and how SUNY Adirondack would respond, in various situations. The following results indicate if a student answered “Very Likely” or “Likely” or “Strongly Agree” or “Agree.”

- 45.6% reported that a fellow student would express their discomfort if someone made a joke about a person’s body;
- 44.0% reported that a fellow student would call 911 for help if they heard a neighbor yelling “help”;
- 67.5% reported that a fellow student would get help and resources for a friend who disclosed they had been assaulted;
- 52.2% reported that a fellow student would confront a friend who told them they had sex with someone who was passed out or who did not give consent; and
- 58.9% reported that a fellow student would tell a resident assistant or other campus authority about information that might help in a sexual assault case, even if pressured by their friends to stay silent.

Students’ perceptions about how the campus would respond to a formal complaint of sexual violence:

- 60.9% reported that SUNY Adirondack would take the report seriously;
- 45.1% reported that SUNY Adirondack would conduct a fair investigation; and
- 57.5% reported that SUNY Adirondack would provide the student with the necessary support during the process.

Employee Respondents

Employee Demographics

Most of the employee respondents indicated having worked for SUNY Adirondack for six years or longer (55.9%). The majority of respondents were Staff/ Administrators (59.2%) while over a third were Faculty (40.8%). The vast majority were employed full-time (81.7%).

Respondents described themselves as follows:

- 61.7% women;
- 32.5% men;
- 0.0% intersex;
- 5.8% prefer not to respond

The sexual orientation of respondents was as follows:

- Respondents were primarily heterosexual (84.2%);
- 2.5% identified as gay;
- 0.0% identified as lesbian;
- 0.8% identified as bisexual;
- 0.0% identified as asexual;
- 0.0% identified as pansexual;
- 0.8% identified as queer;
- 0.0% were questioning/unsure.
- 1.7% two or more
- 8.3% prefer not to respond

Title IX Policies & Resources

The following section relates to employees' knowledge and awareness of SUNY Adirondack's Title IX Office, policies and procedures, as well as campus and community resources.

- The vast majority of employees (94.9%) reported knowing the campus has policies and procedures specifically addressing sexual assault.
- Most employees (73.5%) reported knowing how to contact the Title IX Coordinator.
- Most employees reported awareness of the role of the Title IX Coordinator.
 - 88.1% reported knowledge of the Title IX Coordinator role in regards to receiving reports of sex discrimination/sexual assault/ sexual misconduct;
 - 84.7% reported knowledge of the Title IX Coordinator role in regards to coordinating the campus response;
 - 83.8% reported knowledge of the Title IX Coordinator role in regards to ensuring training/education to the campus; and
 - 75.3% reported knowledge of the Title IX Coordinator role in regards to providing accommodations and services to reporting individuals.
- Most employees responded knowing how to report Title IX incidents, with:
 - 84.8% knowing how to report a sexual assault;
 - 85.7% knowing how to report sexual harassment;
 - 67.9% knowing how to report domestic violence/dating violence;
 - 71.4% knowing how to report stalking; and
 - 12.5% not knowing how to report any of these types of incidents.
- The top five campus departments where employees responded a victim or witness could file a formal complaint of sexual assault were:

- Public Safety (96.2%);
- Title IX Coordinator (90.4%);
- Counseling Center (90.3%);
- Health Center (81.6%); and
- Advocacy Services (75.0%).
- Most employees reported receiving from SUNY Adirondack either written or verbal (presentations, trainings) information about sexual assault, including:
 - 64.6% received information on the definition of sexual assault;
 - 79.6% received information on how to report a sexual assault;
 - 79.6% received information on where to go to get help if you or someone you know is sexually assaulted;
 - 69.9% received information on who to speak to confidentially about a sexual assault;
 - 70.8% received information on policies prohibiting sexual assault; and
 - 12.4% reported not receiving information on any of the above.
- The vast majority of employees (84.8%) are knowledgeable about the definition of affirmative consent. The vast majority of employees (92.0%) reported knowing that someone who is incapacitated cannot provide consent.
- Most employees (82.1%) reported knowing the difference between the college disciplinary process and the criminal justice system.
- Most employees (45.9%) reported being aware of the amnesty policy (related to the use of drugs and alcohol).
- Most employees (80.4%) reported being aware the difference between confidentiality and privacy.
- The top five campus and community resources students reported having an awareness of were:
 - Public Safety (96.2%);
 - Counseling Center (94.2%);
 - Human Resources (91.3%);
 - Local Police/Sheriff (79.8%); and
 - Local Health Services (74.0%).

Experiences with Sexual/ Dating/ Domestic Violence and/or Stalking

Respondents reported the following incidents having occurred within the year preceding the survey:

- 7.7% of employees reported personally experiencing unwanted sexual comments, sexual slurs, or demeaning jokes;
- 0.0% of employees reported personally experiencing unwanted sexually suggestive digital communications, words or images, or both, including emails, texts, social media, or other written communication;
- 13.6% of employees have had students disclose that they were a victim of an unwanted sexual experience (including sexual assault), domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking, regardless of where such incident is reported.

Of the employees in which a student disclosed that they were a victim, 69.2% stated they reported the disclosure to the Title IX Coordinator, Public Safety, Student Affairs, or another office on campus.

College Response

Employees were asked about their perceptions of how their fellow employees would respond and how SUNY Adirondack would respond, in various situations. The following results indicate if a student answered "Very Likely" or "Likely" or "Strongly Agree" or "Agree."

- 61.8% reported that a fellow employee would talk to a student who they suspect is in an abusive relationship;
- 88.4% reported that a fellow employee would call 911 for help if they heard a neighbor yelling "help";
- 85.1% reported that a fellow employee would get help and resources for a friend who disclosed they had been assaulted; and
- 77.4% reported that a fellow employee would tell a campus authority about information they have that might help in a sexual assault case even if pressured by their friends to stay silent.

Employees' perceptions about how the campus would respond to a formal complaint of sexual violence:

- 89.3% reported that SUNY Adirondack would take the report seriously;
- 83.6% reported that SUNY Adirondack would conduct a fair investigation; and
- 85.5% reported that SUNY Adirondack would provide the student with the necessary support during the process.

Employees' perceptions about how they would personally respond to a formal complaint of sexual violence:

- 83.7% reported that if a student were sexually assaulted, they would know how to advise them on where to get help on campus; and
- 57.7% reported that they understand what happens when a student reports sexual assault at my campus.

Recommendations

Following a review of the survey results, the Offices of Title IX (Cornelius Gilbert, Ph.D) is recommending the following:

- Enhance student awareness of policies and procedures specifically addressing sexual assault. Although most students (63.9%) reported knowing the campus has policies and procedures, 36.1% of students were not sure;

- Expand the written or verbal (presentations, trainings) information about sexual assault to students. 36.6% of students stated they have not received documentation or information on the definition of sexual assault, policies, reporting, or resources;
- Enhance student awareness of Title IX Office and the Title IX Coordinator. Only 16.6% of the respondents know how to contact the Title IX Coordinator;
- Enhance awareness of the amnesty policy for students and employees. Most student respondents (61.1%) and employees (54.0%) did not know or were unsure about the amnesty policy.
- Enhance awareness of the sexual violence formal complaint process for employees. Over a third of employees reported not understanding what happens when a student reports sexual assault on campus.
- Finally, while the MeToo movement has helped more people talk about their experiences with sexual assault, the survey underscores that more work has to be done to destigmatize sexual assault reporting.