



## Sexual Misconduct and Perceived Campus Response Survey 2017: What Did We Learn and What Are We Doing?

Sexual misconduct refers broadly to sexual assault, stalking/cyber harassment, sexual harassment and dating violence. To better understand and respond to the experiences of students at Illinois, the University created the Sexual Misconduct and Perceived Campus Response survey. The first iteration of the survey was produced in the Fall of 2015; all Illinois students were invited to share their perception and attitudes towards how divisions at the University were addressing sexual misconduct. That report can be found at [wecare.illinois.edu/reports](http://wecare.illinois.edu/reports). The survey was revised and administered in Spring 2017 to a purposeful sample of the 44,542 students enrolled at the time. 12,500 students were asked to participate, and 2,420 (19.4%) completed the survey. The survey's goal was to learn how the University could continue to evolve in reducing the risk of victimization and providing services for those who experienced violence. Although respondents generally reflected the demographic diversity of the campus, findings should be interpreted with caution and may not reflect the experiences of all students on campus. We do not limit responses to misconduct that happens on our campus, but include off-campus incidents as well. We feel strongly that anything our students experience anywhere while they are our students will have potential aftereffects.

### What Did Survey Participants Tell Us?

#### Both women and men report experiences of sexual misconduct on campus including sexual assault and sexual harassment.

- In total, 1 in 5 (19%)\* female and 1 in 25 (4.2%) male respondents indicated experiencing nonconsensual penetration through physical force (i.e., rape).
- 1 in 10 (9%) of first-year students reported an attempted or completed rape.
- Sexual assaults often occurred during the beginning of the academic year; for students who reported an assault in the past 12 months, over a third (37%) of sexual assaults occurred during the first three months of the academic calendar.

#### Students who do tell someone most often confide in friends, family or others first.

- Of those who experienced sexual assault, over half (61.8%) of women and over a third (36.8%) of men told someone; men are less likely than women to disclose.
- An overwhelming number of women (93.6%) who disclosed their sexual assault told a friend or roommate.
- Very few students (10.5%) believed their peers would label a survivor making a report as a "troublemaker."

#### Experiences of sexual misconduct can result in negative outcomes for students.

- Survivors of sexual assault reported higher levels of academic disengagement contrasted with students who did not report an assault.
- In general, women reported high levels of distress contrasted with their male counterparts.
- Students who identified as LGBTQ,\*\* Greek-affiliated and students living with a disability were more likely to report experiences of sexist and sexual hostility forms of sexual harassment.
- Survivors of sexual assault and harassment reported lower perceived health than those without victimization experiences.
- Survivors of sexual assault on average reported higher rates of alcohol use than those who were not victimized.

#### Students were willing to address issues related to sexual violence among peers.

- Two out of five students (40.2%) had attended an event or program that taught them what to do as a bystander to stop sexual misconduct.
- 6 in 7 students reported they would check in on an intoxicated friend at a party.
- 3 in 4 students said they would report a friend who had committed a sexual assault.

#### Students trust the University's ability to appropriately respond to an incident of sexual assault.

- 87.5% believe the university would take a report of sexual misconduct seriously.
- 95.9% believe the university would maintain the privacy of someone making a report.
- 86% believe the university would support the person making the report.

#### Many students are aware of the campus resources available to help and support.

- The majority of students (78.1%) reported knowing where to get help following an incident of sexual misconduct.
- Over half (64%) reported understanding the process that occurs following a report of misconduct.

\* This rate is comparable to the national average among universities as reported by the federal government.

\*\*Not enough students who identified as transgender completed the survey in order to make appropriate comparisons.



## Positive Benchmarks Made Related to Changes Made by the University Since 2015

**We expanded educational and training programs that empower students to help and support peers.**

- The majority of students (70%) reported taking FYCARE, a program that teaches strategies to reduce sexual violence on campus.
- 1 in 7 students had taken a class in order to learn more about sexual misconduct.
- 3 in 5 students talked with their peers about sexual misconduct.
- Nearly half of students (48.5%) reported talking in class about sexual misconduct.

**We continued to improve efforts to educate students, faculty and staff about resources for victims of sexual misconduct.**

- The We Care website ([wecare.illinois.edu](http://wecare.illinois.edu)) is continually improved and received 67,062 hits in FY17.
- 2 out of 5 students (40%) attended an event or program that taught them what to do as a bystander to stop sexual misconduct.
- The Counseling Center, SafeRides, University Police and SafeWalks were universally recognized.
- Sexual Assault Prevention Training (Haven) for students, faculty and staff is required.

## Where Can I Go for Help or Support?

[wecare.illinois.edu](http://wecare.illinois.edu)

This is a central website with information about all of the programs and services we offer to help our community report incidents of sexual misconduct and to help victims find support.

### Some Key Confidential Resources:

- Counseling Center (217) 333-3704
- McKinley Health Center (217) 333-2700
- McKinley Mental Health (217) 333-2705
- Women's Resources Center (Confidential Advisors) (217) 333-3137
- Rape Advocacy Counseling & Education Services (R.A.C.E.S.) (217) 384-4444
- Courage Connection (Domestic Violence) (217) 384-4390

### Some Key Non-Confidential Resources:

- Champaign, Urbana or University Police 911 (Emergency)  
(217) 333-8911 (Non-Emergency)
- Title IX Office and Disability Office (217) 333-3333
- Student Assistance Center (217) 333-0050  
(Office of the Dean of Students)
- Office for Student Conflict Resolution (217) 333-3680

For more information, go online

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