

Presidential Advisory Committee on Sexual Misconduct

2018 Climate Survey Executive Summary

Background and Method

The [Presidential Advisory Council on Sexual Misconduct \(PACSM\)](#) conducted this survey in Spring 2018 to gain a better understanding of our students' perceptions and experiences related to sexual misconduct at Ohio University. The survey used to collect this data was based on an instrument created by the Administrator-Research Campus Climate Collaborative (ARC3). Ohio University utilized the Qualtrics online survey platform to distribute and host the data, which allowed us to collect responses anonymously.

All Ohio University students registered for Spring Semester 2018, regardless of campus (i.e. regional, center, Athens, online, etc.) were invited to complete one of two climate surveys. PACSM and the Educational Advisory Board (EAB) diversity climate survey were conducted simultaneously. Survey assignments were random, and students who did not complete the EAB survey by the EAB deadline were diverted to the PACSM survey. A total of 13,172 students were invited to the PACSM survey.

The PACSM survey had a 27.8% response rate (3,668 participants completed the *full* survey). 66.5% of those that completed the full survey identified as female and 83% identified as White/Caucasian. The respondents could capture the diversity on campus as international students (5.4%), LGBTQ populations (16.6%) and class ranking. To control for this response bias, the survey results are reported separately for males, females, and those identifying as neither male nor female.

We are pleased with the survey response as compared to 2016, when only Athens campus undergraduates and graduate students were surveyed. In 2016, we had 1,350 students complete the full survey, which represented only 6.9% of the population of students surveyed.

Summary of Education, Knowledge, and Perception Data of our Sample

When participants were asked to report their perceptions about the campus climate in relation to sexual misconduct, there was a clear indication that students with gender identities that were captured in "other," meaning that they identify as neither male nor female, feel less safe on our campus when considering general safety, sexual harassment, sexual assault, and stalking. This group also reported fewer positive perceptions of how the University would handle a report of sexual misconduct.

Respondents overwhelmingly felt the University should work to increase awareness of the Survivor Advocacy Program, Office of Community Standards and Student Responsibility, ECRC, and the Survivor Advocacy Outreach Program. For those with a gender marked as other, they

were less aware of police, legal services, and health services than their male and female counterparts. The lack of awareness of these services may also be represented in the low numbers of respondents, across gender but particularly for those with a gender marked as other, who are aware of the process that occurs once a report is made.

While most respondents across all genders believed that sexual violence is a problem at Ohio University, the vast majority also believed that “there is much I can do about sexual violence on campus,” demonstrating a culture that recognizes individual responsibility in ending sexual violence. However, their acknowledgement that they could act was not reflected in bystander behaviors, with only 15.5% of undergraduates and 20% of graduate students reporting that they have acted “most of the time” or “always” when a bystander. The perception that access to training would show them how to respond shows a disconnect between responses and reality, as only 37.4% of students report attending an event or program about what they can do as a bystander to stop sexual misconduct. Contrary to earlier trends, when all participants were asked about their experiences of attending a bystander program at OHIO, the percentage of students who marked their gender as other were 5 percent higher than female and 10% higher than male respondents to participate in bystander training.

Summary of Victimization and Perpetration of our Data Sample

Graduate students (33.3%) reported rates of sexual harassment by faculty and/or staff higher than undergraduate students (23.4%). While females experience this slightly more than male respondents, those who marked their gender as other experience this at nearly twice the rate of men who also experienced it.

Sexual harassment by other students was reported at slightly higher rates in graduate students (37.7%) than undergraduate students (32.3%), and the rates for female respondents increase from 25.6% to 37.3%, with only a slight difference for males and those who marked their gender as other. However, undergraduate students’ reports (12.9%) of intimate partner violence and dating violence was slightly higher than graduate (9%). Rates were also higher among undergraduates than graduate students for nonconsensual sexual contact and/or intercourse. Students who marked their gender identity as other reported the highest percentages for all types of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment by faculty/staff and students, stalking, intimate partner and dating violence, except nonconsensual sexual contact and/or intercourse and attempted nonconsensual sexual intercourse.

Perpetration was most likely to occur by men, except for men whose perpetrator was more likely to be a woman. While most female and male respondents were familiar with their perpetrator (as an acquaintance, friend, or partner), 50 percent of those who marked their gender as other did not know their perpetrator. Most perpetrators were reported to be Ohio University students.

Summary of Disclosure, Reporting, and Institutional Responses of our Data Sample

Formal complaints of sexual misconduct were reported to Ohio University by 3.1% of survey participants. Most who reported incidents reported to personal support persons, not a formal resource. Among the students who reported to ECRC, female students expressed more positive experiences than men and respondents who marked their gender as other. Overall, those who identified as other or female also reported negative experiences, with exception of more men reporting that their case was mishandled and more men and those with a gender marked as other believing that their negative experience may have been due to issues relating to race.

Culturally, the majority of female and male survivors reported that they believed Ohio University had created an environment where sexual misconduct could be safely discussed and was seen as a problem, with about half of those who marked their gender as other agreeing.

Recommendations

PACSM has made several recommendations to improve the overall climate of Ohio University and reduce the rates of sexual misconduct. First, we would like to highlight the recommendations that we made in the 2016 Climate Survey Report. All recommendations in the report have either been implemented, or we have made progress toward those goals.

2016 Report Recommendations and Updates:

- Ohio University needs to develop and evaluate a systematic sexual misconduct prevention plan. Improved communication was established through developing a programming checklist, which included how to document what programs were occurring on PACSM's website. Initial steps have been made to establish scaffolded learning outcomes that may also guide programming efforts to ensure that other recommendations are being incorporated into programs (e.g. disparities of victimization rates, bystander intervention, etc.). Ongoing planning meetings had limited success without a grounded theory and approach. On a practical level, the barriers in implementing this plan support the 2018 recommendation for Ohio University to become a [Green Dot campus](#).
- The University community needs to focus resources on the prevention of student-on-student sexual harassment.
- We should invest additional resources in preventing unwanted sexual advances by faculty and staff. This should start with a review of current policy, training, education and prevention efforts directed toward faculty and staff. Towards this end, the BRIDGES program was successfully implemented with the expectation of a 100% completion rate, and a trainer was hired within Equity and Civil Rights Compliance to help train faculty and staff.
- Ohio University needs to continually integrate our sexual assault and alcohol prevention efforts.
- Increased effort and resources need to be provided to address the disparities in victimization rates for sexual and gender minorities. Survivor-centered programming has

been intentional in uplifting the voices of those who are members of the LGBTQ+ community as well as racial/ethnic minorities. This has included representation of survivors who are male, LGBTQ+, and women of color at Take Back the Night (both in-person and virtually during COVID-19), as well as concerted outreach to marginalized communities to encourage participation in the survivor-centered art installations shown every Fall semester.

- Training peers to positively respond to disclosures of sexual assault needs to be a component of our systematic prevention plan. SAP has instituted training on empathetic responses, and their guidance incorporated into messaging within other workshops.
- Greater work needs to be done to ensure that students are receiving and retaining information about resources on our campus to address sexual misconduct and relationship violence. Guidance about incorporating resources in all programs on sexual misconduct and interpersonal violence is now provided on PACSM's website.
- Increased support needs to be provided to investigatory units on our campus.
- The climate survey should be institutionalized and made a part of normal University operations.
- This report and subsequent reports should be placed on a University website for complete transparency and accessibility.

2018 Report Recommendations

- Based on a 2019 external review by Everfi, the company that supplies OHIO's online education modules on sexual assault prevention and alcohol and other drugs (AOD) safety, the University is under-staffed and under-supported in its prevention efforts. At present, there is only 1 FTE devoted to power-based violence prevention, and the graduate assistant helping with these efforts is funded only through the 2020-2021 academic year. Based on the Sexual Assault Diagnostic Inventory, completed by OHIO and Everfi, the University scores lower than 59% of institutions utilizing Everfi's educational services as it pertains to prevention institutionalization (based on FTEs, prevention budget, inclusion of prevention in overall strategic planning, and public investment from campus leadership). Based on recommended best practices, a school of OHIO's size should institutionalize a prevention budget of \$19,663 with 1.5 FTEs specifically devoted to prevention (see appendix for 2019 SADI). At this time, there is currently no dedicated, institutionalized prevention budget. Furthermore, only 37.4% of survey respondents report understanding bystander intervention strategies – highlighting the inability of our current prevention practices to be fully disseminated across campus.

It is recommended that Ohio University make the following institutionalized investments in order to maximize its prevention efforts:

- a. The graduate assistant position that helps with bystander intervention and power-based violence prevention should be permanently funded through a

sustainable personnel budget line. OHIO should also take steps to implement a comprehensive prevention framework that aligns with bystander intervention as best practice.

- b. PACSM recommends that OHIO implements the Green Dot bystander intervention program as a comprehensive, multi-layered, and multi-disciplinary approach to infusion of prevention practices across the university. 140 studies examining Green Dot have been reviewed by the CDC, and the latter has determined that the program is the only one of its kind to markedly reduce instances of interpersonal violence.
 - i. PACSM recommends the allocation of \$15,000 for an on-campus train-the-trainer program conducted by Green Dot's national staff for 50 OHIO faculty/staff members with an additional \$5,000 for materials at this training for faculty and staff.
 - ii. It is recommended to complete the on-site train-the-trainer in a virtual setting. Green Dot has confirmed its willingness and ability to do so.
- c. PACSM also recommends reoccurring funding for new staff training every 3-5 years depending on OHIO Green Dot trainers' turnover rates.
- d. Finally, PACSM recommends that an institutionalized prevention budget be allocated to adequately support annual Green Dot initiatives, complementary programming, operations expenses, and professional development for peer health educators that is in line with recommendations from Everfi. PACSM recommends between \$15,000-\$20,0000 to better align with peer institutions.

Future Survey Plan:

Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) and the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence (OAESV) have a provided vendor services for sexual misconduct campus climate surveys across the state. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2019 survey in collaboration with ODHE & OAESV was delayed until [Fall 2020](#).