

Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences 2020 Sexual Assault Awareness Climate Survey Executive Summary

Introduction

The Sexual Assault Awareness Climate Survey was conducted at ACPHS during March 2020 as a collaborative effort between the Division of Student Affairs and the Office of Institutional Effectiveness. The purpose of the survey was to better understand the attitudes and experiences of students with respect to sexual misconduct including sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking. A 30-question instrument was designed by ACPHS and used to assess students' personal experiences, and to measure students' knowledge of consent and policies, reporting, and college adjudicatory processes. Under the direction of Governor Cuomo, Education Law Article 129-B of New York State was passed on July 7, 2015 and became effective October 5, 2015. This law requires every NYS institution to adopt written rules addressing the prevention of sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking and to conduct a campus climate survey at least every two years. An executive summary of the results of the March 2020 survey is below:

Demographics

This survey was administered to 1190 ACPHS students on both the Albany and Vermont campuses. There were 300 complete, anonymous responses to the survey, yielding a 25% response rate. The response rate for women was 69% and 30% for men. 84% of the respondents were between 18-24 years old, and the remaining 16% were 25 and older (a 100% increase of older students' participation compared to 2018). Although 2% of respondents did not identify which campus they attend, 91% of participants are from the Albany Campus and 9% are from the Vermont Campus.

The following summarizes student responses to the survey questions:

Student Awareness and Perception of College Policies and Resources

The first step in policy accountability and supporting resources is making students aware of the policies and the resources in place at the College and within the community.

- 46% of participants indicated they were aware who their Title IX Coordinator is on campus;
- In listing 5 major Title IX Coordinator responsibilities 85%-96% of respondents identified the responsibilities;
- 90% of participants indicated they knew resources on-campus are available for victims of sexual misconduct;
- 82% of participants indicated they knew resources off-campus are available for victims of sexual misconduct;
- 57% of participants know where to find the College's policy on sexual misconduct;
- 65% of participants indicated knowledge of how to make a report of sexual misconduct as a victim, whereas 57% as witness (Note: how to make a report is the same regardless of one's role);
- 80% of participants believe the College's policy on sexual misconduct is clear;
- 75% of participants indicated they know their rights if they were ever to experience sexual misconduct;
- 88% of participants are aware of the Amnesty Policy at ACPHS and of those aware, 92% believe the Amnesty Policy encourages students to report sexual misconduct.

Personal Experiences

The data shared below reflects participant's responses to statements regarding the frequency of experiencing sexual misconduct:

- 96% of participants disclosed that they have not personally experienced sexual misconduct while enrolled at ACPHS.
- Only 4% of participants reported experiencing unwanted behaviors without their consent since enrolling

at ACPHS.

- Of those who have had experiences with sexual misconduct, many indicated their roommate/friend and family as extremely useful resources when managing the trauma of sexual misconduct. The Title IX Coordinator, Public Safety, Residence Life, and Advisors were very useful resources of support.
- Of those who reported experiencing unwanted behaviors, the majority (54%) indicated the incidents occurred on-campus, and 77% reported the incident, and they all reported it to the College. Reasons for reporting were due to job responsibilities and wanting to explain poor performance in classwork.
- Those who experienced sexual misconduct and did not report it, offered the following reasons: concern with retaliation, fear of people not believing them, or did not want to get involved in the process.

Understanding Consent

ACPHS has policies that support and enforce affirmative consent. The survey provided a variety of situations for students to share their understanding of consent.

- 92% of participants strongly agreed or agreed with the statement “Consent must be given at each step of the sexual encounter.”
- 93% of participants strongly disagreed or disagreed with the statement “If someone invites you to their place, they are giving consent for sex.”
- 91% of participants strongly disagreed or disagreed with the statement “Consent for sex one time is consent for future sex.”
- 89% of participants strongly disagreed or disagreed with the statement “If you and your sexual partner are both drunk, you don’t have to worry about consent.”
- 88% of participants strongly disagreed or disagreed with the statement “Mixed signals can sometimes mean consent.”
- 93% of participants strongly disagreed or disagreed with the statement “If a person doesn’t physically resist sex, they have given consent.”

Bystander Attitudes & Behavior

Students are aware of policies and resources (see above section) but taking action when a potential sexual misconduct behavior is about to happen or is happening is a much harder thing to do. Students indicated they would take action in numerous situations presented to them.

- 56% of participants indicated they would know how to intervene if they were a witness during sexual harassment;
- 82% of participants would be able to recognize a situation that has potential to become sexual assault;
- 86% of participants would be able to determine if someone was too intoxicated to give consent for sexual activity;
- Participants agreed they would be extremely likely or somewhat likely to
 - (94%) walk a drunk friend home from a party, bar, or another social event;
 - (91%) intervene when a friend was being physically abusive to another person;
 - (90%) intervene when a friend was being verbally abusive to another person;
 - (92%) intervene if they saw one of their friends leading someone drunk into another room or trying to get them to do preform a sexual act;
 - (85%) inquire about a suspected abusive relationship one of their friends is a part of;
 - (79%) report an incident to a campus official if someone told you that they had sex with someone who was passed out.

Penal Law vs. Institutional Policies

When sexual misconduct occurs in the College’s jurisdiction, victims have choices. Students can choose to file a charge with the judicial system and go the penal route and /or submit a formal report to initiate the College’s disciplinary process and policies. And of course, a victim can choose to go neither of those routes. In any case how to report the behavior/incident is the same.

- 58% of participants were not sure if the College Disciplinary Process is different from the Criminal Justice System;
- Participants know the potential sanctions a student may experience if found responsible for sexual misconduct.
 - (95%) receive a Suspension
 - (92%) receive an Expulsion
 - (84%) receive a Written Warning
 - (92%) receive a Mandated Behavioral or Substance Abuse Assessment
 - (72%) receive Community Service
 - (80%) receive Fines or Imprisonment

Comparison of Data Between 2018 and 2020

The response rate in 2020 was 72% higher than 2018. This also included a much higher rate of completing the entire survey. More than a majority (62%) of the survey participants were 21 and older, an indication of perhaps several years of Title IX training. The administration of the survey had been planned for months and ended up coinciding with the first few weeks of being on remote learning due to the COVID pandemic. This could explain the higher rate of participation, or the fact that Amazon gifts cards were given to ten random students who anonymously shared their names upon completing and submitting the survey, or a combination of the two. The survey used was the same survey used in 2018 with some minor rewording of three questions to provide some education to participants, so comparison is accurate, unlike previous years when a different tool was used.

2018	2020	Survey Data
N=215	N=300	Number of anonymous respondents.
2018	2020	Personal Experiences
96%	96%	Percent of participants who disclosed that they haven't personally experienced sexual misconduct while enrolled at ACPHS.
4%	4%	Percent of participants who reported experiencing unwanted behaviors without their consent while enrolled at ACPHS. In 2015 participants reported the majority of the incidents occurred off-campus while in the 2018 participants reported the majority of the incidents occurred on-campus.
2018	2020	Campus Policy & Resources
86%	90%	Percent of participants who indicated they knew about the resources on campus for victims of sexual misconduct.
70%	65%	Percent of participants who indicated knowledge of how to make a report of sexual misconduct (as a victim, as a survivor in 2020)
2018	2020	Understanding Consent
88%	92%	Percent of participants who "strongly agreed" or "agreed" with the statement "Consent must be given at each step of the sexual encounter."
94%	93%	Percent of participants who "strongly disagreed" or "disagreed" with the statement "If someone invites you to their place, they are giving consent for sex."
89%	91%	Percent of participants who "strongly disagreed" or "disagreed" with the statement "Consent for sex one time is consent for future sex."
88%	89%	Percent of participants who "strongly disagreed" or "disagreed" with the statement "If you and your sexual partner are both drunk, you don't have to worry about consent."
88%	88%	Percent of participants who "strongly disagreed" or "disagreed" with the statement "Mixed signals can sometimes mean consent."

Moving Forward...

ACPHS remains committed to both educating its community about sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, and sexual harassment and reducing its occurrence. This data supports focusing efforts in the

following areas:

- Increase awareness on what to do as a bystander. Survey results indicate students would do something but at the same time about half do not know how to intervene.
- Increase awareness on how to make a report of sexual misconduct and empower the community to make the report whether they are the victim or a witness (including hearing of an incident happening).
- Increase knowledge of Office of Counseling and Wellness staff and Faculty/Staff to be more knowledgeable around process, a victim's options, and resources.
- Enhance community knowledge on how to report (emphasize any incident is reportable), that a victim will be believed, and that the College has a zero-tolerance policy for retaliation on reports made by anyone.
- Increase awareness around the difference between the College's disciplinary process verses the criminal justice system's process.

This biannual date will continue to provide ACPHS with on-going opportunities to enhance its strengths related to prevention training and education, while cultivating a more comprehensive understanding of future challenges.

Comparison of Data Between 2015 and 2018

Please note that in 2018 a different survey was administered. This decision was made based on feedback from participants as well as new state requirements about content to be included. Some of the questions were the same or similar between the two administrations. That comparison data is shared below. Additionally, during the 2015 administration of the survey monetary incentives were offered in an effort to increase response rate. During the 2018 administration, no incentives were offered. The response rate for 2018 was significantly lower than 2015, but the data collected is still deemed helpful and valuable.

2015	2018	Survey Data
N=544	N=215	Number of anonymous respondents.
2015	2018	Personal Experiences
93-98%	96%	Percent of participants who disclosed that they haven't personally experienced sexual misconduct while enrolled at ACPHS.
0-2%	4%	Percent of participants who reported experiencing unwanted behaviors without their consent while enrolled at ACPHS. In 2015 participants reported the majority of the incidents occurred off-campus while in the 2018 participants reported the majority of the incidents occurred on-campus.
2015	2018	College Policy & Resources
74%	86%	Percent of participants who indicated they knew about the resources on campus for victims of sexual misconduct.
58%	70%	Percent of participants who indicated knowledge of how to make a report of sexual misconduct.
2015	2018	Understanding Consent
91%	88%	Percent of participants who "strongly agreed" or "agreed" with the statement "Consent must be given at each step of the sexual encounter."
94%	94%	Percent of participants who "strongly disagreed" or "disagreed" with the statement "If someone invites you to their place, they are giving consent for sex."
93%	89%	Percent of participants who "strongly disagreed" or "disagreed" with the statement "Consent for sex one time is consent for future sex."
91%	88%	Percent of participants who "strongly disagreed" or "disagreed" with the statement "If you and your sexual partner are both drunk, you don't have to worry about consent."
90%	84%	Percent of participants who "strongly disagreed" or "disagreed" with the statement "Mixed signals can sometimes mean consent."

Moving Forward...

ACPHS remains committed to both educating its community about sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, and sexual harassment and reducing its occurrence. This data supports focusing efforts in the following areas:

- Increasing awareness of who the Title IX Coordinator is on campus;
- Increasing awareness of where the College's policy on sexual misconduct can be found;
- Increasing awareness on the differences between institutional policy and penal law and what sanctions can occur if found in violation of the institutional sexual misconduct policy;
- Increase bystander action as it relates to reporting an incident to a campus official if someone was told that they had sex with someone who was passed out.

This biannual data will continue to provide ACPHS with on-going opportunities to enhance its strengths related to prevention, training and education, while cultivating a more comprehensive understanding of future challenges.