

Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences 2022 Sexual Assault Awareness Climate

Survey Executive Summary

Introduction

The Sexual Assault Awareness Climate Survey was conducted at ACPHS during February 2022 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 February 2022 survey is below.

Demographics

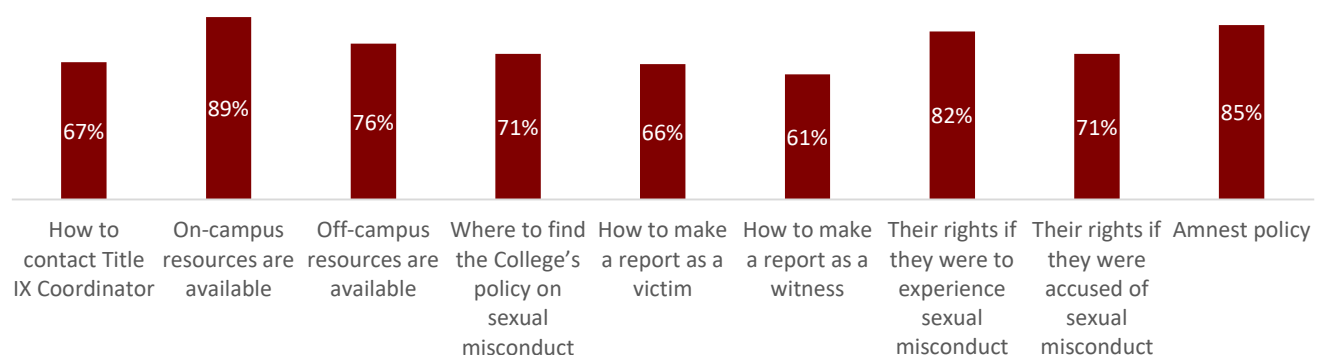
The 2022 Campus Climate Survey was administered to 1,032 matriculated students. 235 students submitted a complete response to the survey, resulting in a response rate of 22.7%.

About 69% of participants were women and 27% were men. A majority (84%) of respondents were between 18-24 years old and 16% were 25 years and older. More than 95% of participants were from the Albany Campus and about 5% were from the Vermont Campus.

Student Awareness and Perception of College Policies and Resources

Ensuring that students are aware of the policies and resources available at the College and within the community is integral for policy accountability.

Overall, participants had a high awareness of the college's policies and resources.



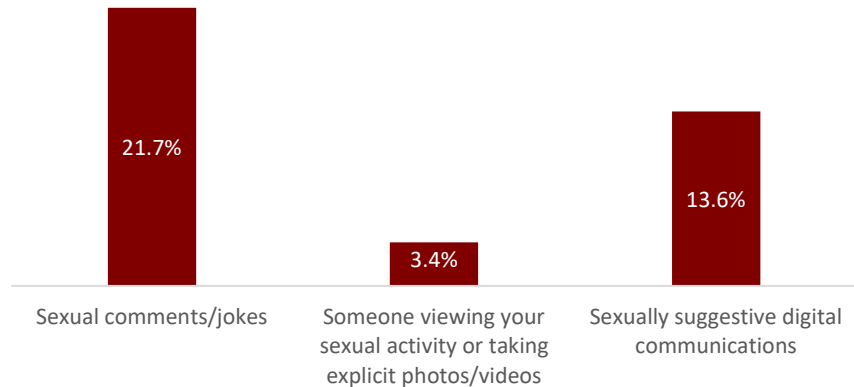
In addition, 88% of participants believe the College’s policy on sexual misconduct is clear, 92% believe the Amnesty Policy encourages students to report sexual misconduct, and 80%-92% of participants were able to identify the responsibilities of the Title IX Coordinator.

Personal Experiences

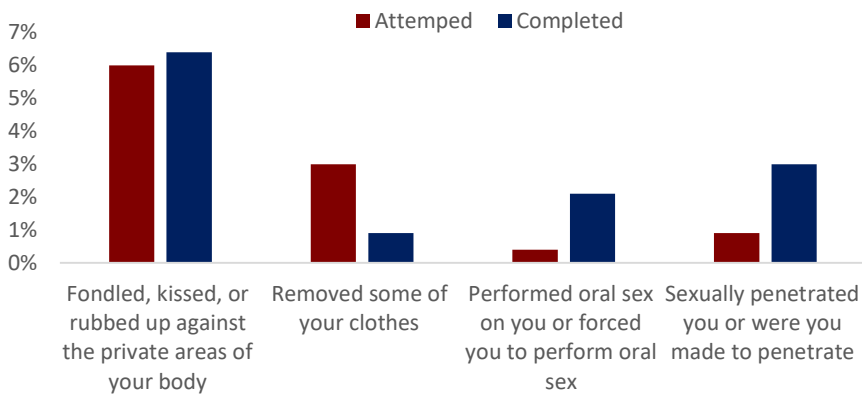
The data shared below reflects participant’s responses to statements regarding the frequency of experiencing sexual misconduct.

Prevalence of Sexual Harassment by Behavior

25% of participants reported experiencing at least one type of sexual harassment



Prevalence of Sexual Assault/Rape by Behavior



11% of participants reported experiencing at least one type of sexual assault/rape

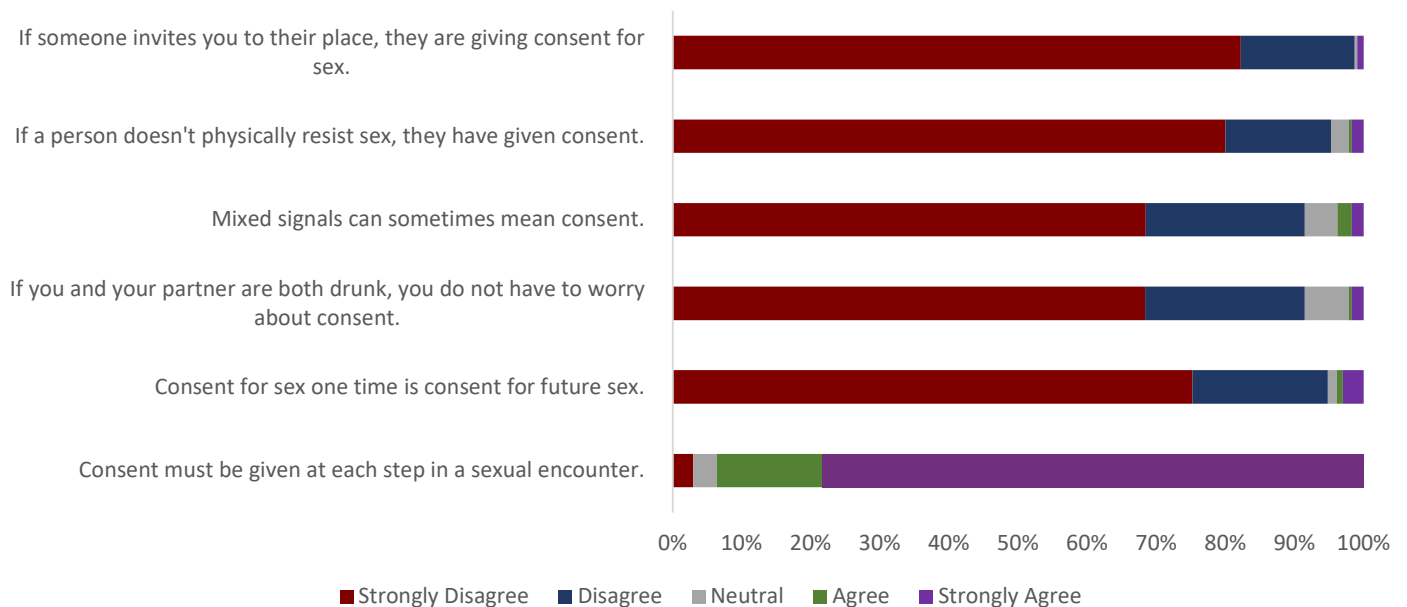
- Of those who have had experiences with sexual misconduct, many indicated their roommate/friend and family as extremely useful resources when managing the trauma of sexual misconduct. The Title IX Coordinator, Public Safety, Residence Life, and Advisors were very useful resources of support.
- Of those who reported experiencing sexual misconduct, the majority (80%) indicated the incidents occurred off-campus,

- 89% did reported the incident and among those that did report, they all reported it to the College
- Reasons for reporting were due to job responsibilities and wanting to explain poor performance in classwork.
- The most common reasons for not reporting the incident include:
 - I just did not want to deal with it
 - I did not think it was important enough
 - I did not recognize it as sexual assault at the time
 - I was ashamed or embarrassed
 - I was worried others would find out (e.g. friends, faculty, family)
 - I was worried it was partly my fault
 - I did not think I would be believed
 - I thought I would be blamed for what happened

Understanding Consent

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

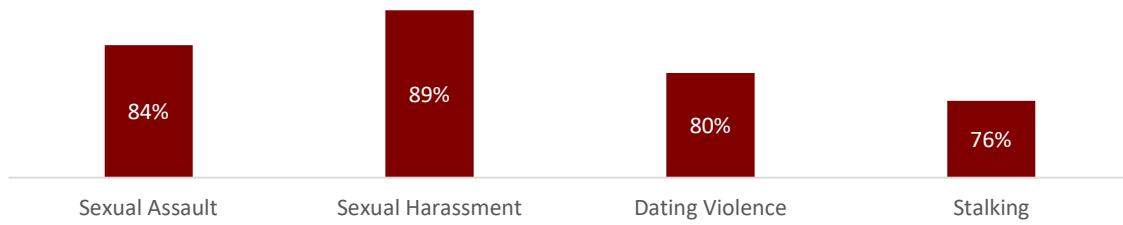
A majority of students indicated that they understood consent.



Bystander Attitudes & Behavior

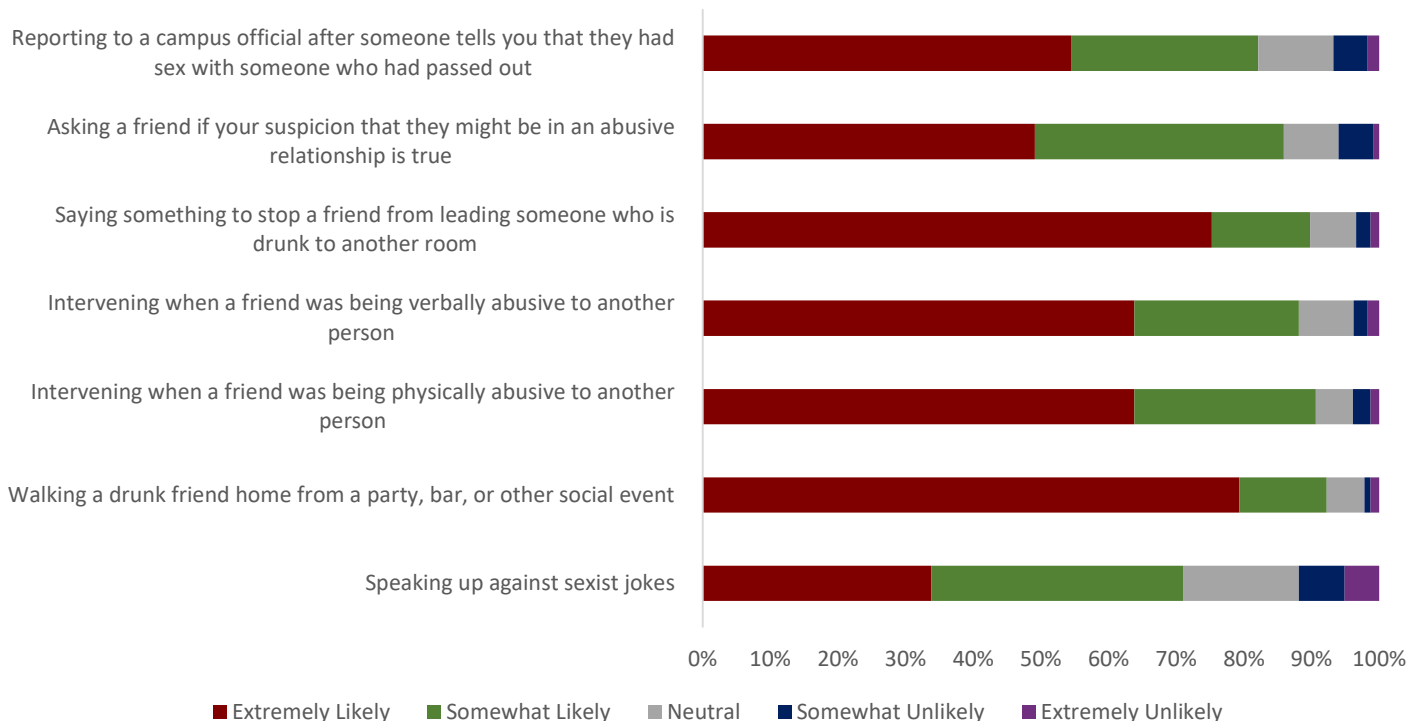
Students are aware of polices and resources (see above section) but taking action when a potential sexual misconduct behavior is about to happen or is happening is a much harder thing to do.

A majority of students were willing to intervene in incidents of violence or harassment

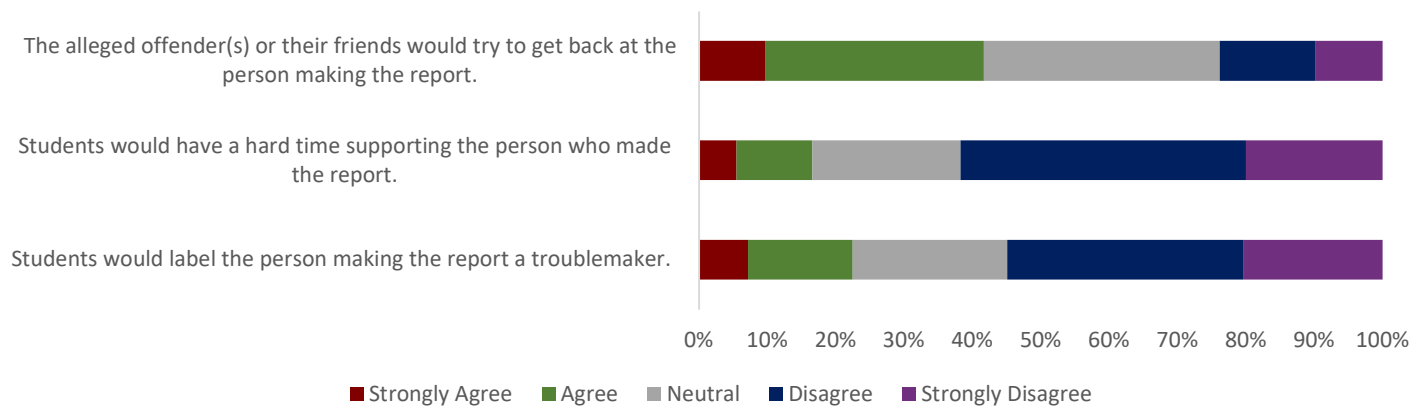


Students indicated they would take action in numerous situations presented to them. 86% of participants knew what it meant to be an active and positive bystander

A majority of participants said they would be somewhat or extremely likely to engage in bystander behaviors



Participants in general reported supportive attitudes toward someone if they were to report a case of sexual misconduct. However they expressed less certainty about if an alleged offender's or their friends would try to retaliate against the reporting individual.



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, or do neither.

- 60% 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.
 - (96%) receive a Suspension
 - (94%) receive an Expulsion
 - (86%) receive a Written Warning
 - (93%) receive a Mandated Behavioral or Substance Abuse Assessment
 - (78%) receive Community Service
 - (86%) receive Fines or Imprisonment

Comparison of Data Between 2020 and 2022

	2020 (n=300)	2022 (n=235)
Personal Experience*		
Experienced Sexual Misconduct	4%	--
Experienced Sexual Harassment	--	25%
Experienced Sexual Assault/Rape	--	11%
Campus Policy & Resources		
Knew about on-campus resources	90%	89%
Knew how to make a report	65%	66%
Understanding Consent		
Consent must be given at each step of the sexual encounter.	92% (strongly agree or agree)	94% (strongly agree or agree)
If someone invites you to their place, they are giving consent for sex.	93% (strongly disagree or disagree)	99% (strongly disagree or disagree)
Consent for sex one time is consent for future sex.	91% (strongly disagree or disagree)	95% (strongly disagree or disagree)
If you and your sexual partner are both drunk, you don't have to worry about consent.	89% (strongly disagree or disagree)	92% (strongly disagree or disagree)
Mixed signals can sometimes mean consent.	88% (strongly disagree or disagree)	92% (strongly disagree or disagree)
If a person doesn't physically resist sex, they have given consent.	--	95% (strongly disagree or disagree)

* The section on personal experiences was updated in the 2022 survey to separately ask about sexual harassment and sexual assault/rape. In 2020 the survey ask one question on sexual misconduct, which was defined as sexual harassment, sexual assault, rape, dating violence, and stalking.

The 2022 Campus Climate Survey was administered to 1,032 matriculated students. 235 students submitted a complete response to the survey, resulting in a response rate of 22.7%. This is a slight decrease from the response rate of the 2020 administration, which was 25.2%.

Moving Forward...

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

- Increase capacity and knowledge of Faculty/Staff, Public Safety, and Residence Life to appropriately support and respond to victims of sexual misconduct
- Increase awareness on how to contact the Title IX Coordinator and the specific roles of the Title IX Coordinator
- Increase knowledge about where to find the College's policy on sexual misconduct and how to report incidents both as a victim and witness
- Increase awareness on campus resources available and empower the community to make an informed decision about reporting and receiving services
- Increase awareness around the difference between the College's disciplinary process versus 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.