

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

Introduction

The Sexual Assault Awareness Climate Survey was conducted at ACPHS during November 2018 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 to assess students' personal experiences and to measure how strongly students felt that ACPHS serves their needs in preventing sexual misconduct. 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 November 2018 survey is below:

Demographics

This survey was administered to 1325 ACPHS students on both the Albany and Vermont campuses. There was a total of 215 anonymous respondents (16% response rate). The response rate for women was 66% and 34% for men. 92% of the respondents were between 18-24 years old, and the remaining 8% were 25 and older. Although 2% of respondents did not identify which campus they attend, 87% of participants are from the Albany Campus and 11% are from the Vermont Campus.

The following summarizes student responses to the survey questions:

Personal Experiences

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

- 96% of participants disclosed that they haven't personally experienced sexual misconduct while enrolled at ACPHS. Of those who have had experiences with sexual misconduct, many indicated their roommate as an extremely useful resource when managing the trauma of sexual misconduct.
- Only 4% of participants reported experiencing unwanted behaviors without their consent since enrolling at ACPHS. Of those who reported experiencing unwanted behaviors, the majority indicated the incidents occurred on-campus.

Student Awareness and Perception of College Policies and Resources

- 49% of participants indicated they were aware who their Title IX Coordinator is on campus;
- 88% of respondents are aware of the Title IX Coordinator's responsibilities;
- 86% of participants indicated they knew resources on-campus for victims of sexual misconduct;
- 71% of participants indicated they were aware of how to obtain resources off-campus for victims of sexual misconduct;
- 66% of participants know where to find the college's policy on sexual misconduct;
- 70% of participants indicated knowledge of how to make a report of sexual misconduct;
- 78% of participants believe the College's policy on sexual misconduct is clear;
- 80% 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;
- 94% believe the Amnesty Policy encourages students to report sexual misconduct.

Understanding Consent

- 88% of participants strongly agreed or agreed with the statement "Consent must be given at each step of the sexual encounter."

- 94% of participants strongly disagreed or disagreed with the statement “If someone invites you to their place, they are giving consent for sex.”
- 89% of participants strongly disagreed or disagreed with the statement “Consent for sex one time is consent for future sex.”
- 88% 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.”
- 84% 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

- 71% of participants indicated they would know how to intervene if they were a witness during sexual harassment;
- 85% of participants would be able to recognize a situation that has potential to become sexual assault;
- 89% of participants would be able to determine if someone was too intoxicated to give consent for sexual activity;
- 93% of participants agreed it would be extremely likely or likely to walk a drunk friend home from a party, bar, or another social event;
- 89% of participants agreed it would be extremely likely or likely to intervene when a friend was being physically abusive to another person;
- 86% of participants agreed it would be extremely likely or likely to intervene when a friend was being verbally abusive to another person;
- 87% of participants agreed it would be extremely likely or likely to 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;
- 86% of participants agreed it would be extremely likely or likely to inquire about a suspected abusive relationship one of their friends is a part of;
- 68% of participants agreed it would be extremely likely or likely to 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

- 65% of participants weren’t sure if the College Disciplinary Process is different from the Criminal Justice System;
- 95% of participants believe it is an institutional policy that if a student is found responsible for sexual misconduct receive a Suspension;
- 89% of participants believe it is an institutional policy that if a student is found responsible for sexual misconduct receive an Expulsion;
- 75% of participants believe it is an institutional policy that if a student is found responsible for sexual misconduct receive a Written Warning;
- 92% of participants believe it is an institutional policy that if a student is found responsible for sexual misconduct receive a Mandated Behavioral or Substance Abuse Assessment;
- 67% of participants believe it is an institutional policy that if a student is found responsible for sexual misconduct receive Community Service;
- 80% of participants believe it is an institutional policy that if a student is found responsible for sexual misconduct receive Fines or Imprisonment;

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.