



Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Assault 2016: Summary

Report authored by Elizabeth Duszak, Ph.D., & Stacy Ackerlind, Ph.D.,
Student Affairs Assessment, Evaluation & Research, and Lori McDonald, Ph.D., Dean of Students

- Survey was sent to all degree-seeking students in January 2016.
- Response rate 14.4%, 4014 students
- Respondents were fairly similar to overall student population, based on year in school; more women than men responded (55.8% and 41.5% respectively)

Students Beliefs and Behaviors related to Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention

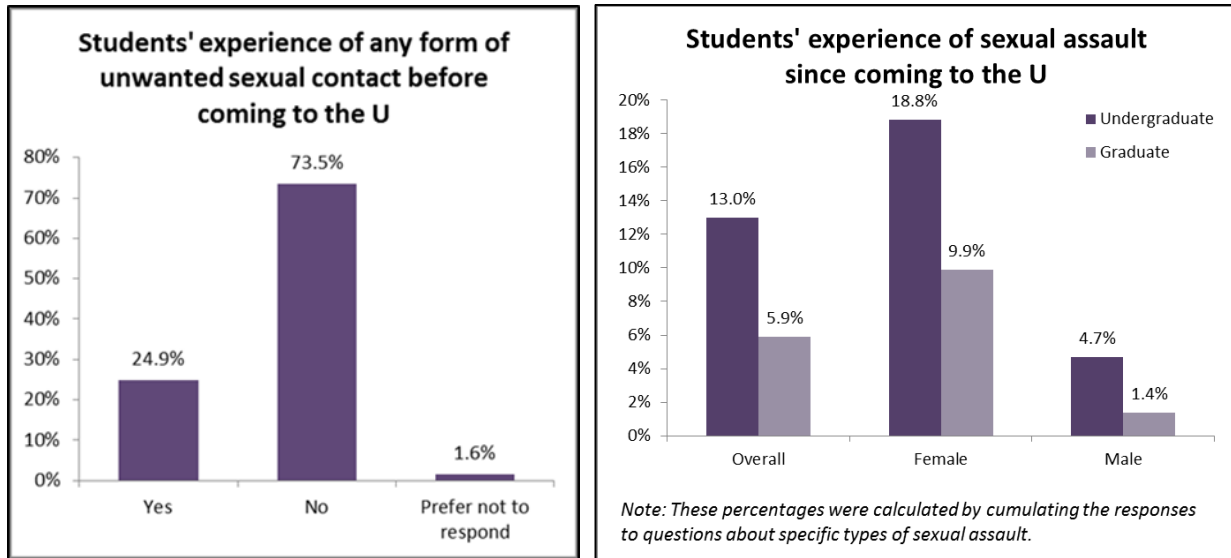
About half of respondents think that sexual violence is a problem at the University of Utah (48.7%), that they should learn more about sexual violence (55.6%), and that they can do something about sexual violence (53.8%). However, fewer than 10% of respondents are actively involved in projects to deal with sexual violence (5.7%) or have recently taken part in activities focused on ending sexual violence on campus (8.4%).

When asked about their agreement with statements that are common rape myths, most respondents did not agree with any of the statements, with the highest endorsed myth at 33.5% of respondents agreeing.

Respondents expressed likelihood that they would engage in a variety of bystander intervention behaviors if they had the opportunity; however, their self-confidence in doing so was not as strong.

KEY FINDINGS: There is willingness on the part of students to learn more about sexual violence and to do something to end it, but few students are actively doing so. There is an opportunity to find creative ways to engage more students in campus awareness and prevention efforts.

Prevalence



Specific questions that make up sexual assault occurrences: Since coming to the University of Utah...

- Has anyone had unwanted sexual contact with you by using physical force?
- Has anyone had unwanted sexual contact with you by coercing you or threatening to use physical force?
- Has anyone attempted but not succeeded in having unwanted sexual contact with you by using physical force against you?
- Has anyone attempted but not succeeded in having unwanted sexual contact with you by coercing you or threatening to use physical force against you?
- Has someone had sexual contact with you when you were unable to provide consent or stop what was happening because you were passed out, drugged, drunk, incapacitated, or asleep?

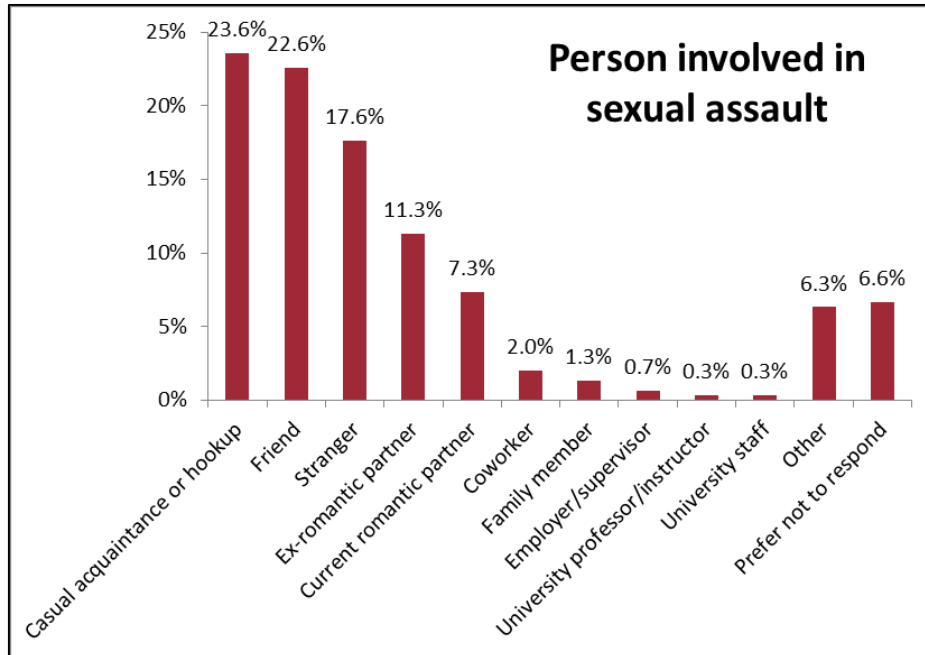
In addition to students' own experiences of unwanted sexual contact, many respondents know of others who have experienced unwanted sexual contact:

- 49.7% know someone who has been forced or coerced by another person to do something sexually that they did not want to do.
- 24.9% have had another University of Utah student tell them that they were a victim of an unwanted sexual experience.
- 13.3% have observed a situation that they believed was, or could have led to, a sexual assault, and another 24.9% were unsure if they had

KEY FINDINGS: Students are experiencing sexual violence while attending the University of Utah. Rates are higher for undergraduates than graduate students and for females.

Details of personal experiences of sexual assault

This series of questions was asked only of those who said they had experienced a sexual assault since coming to the University of Utah, by responding affirmatively to one of the five questions that make up the definition of sexual assault.

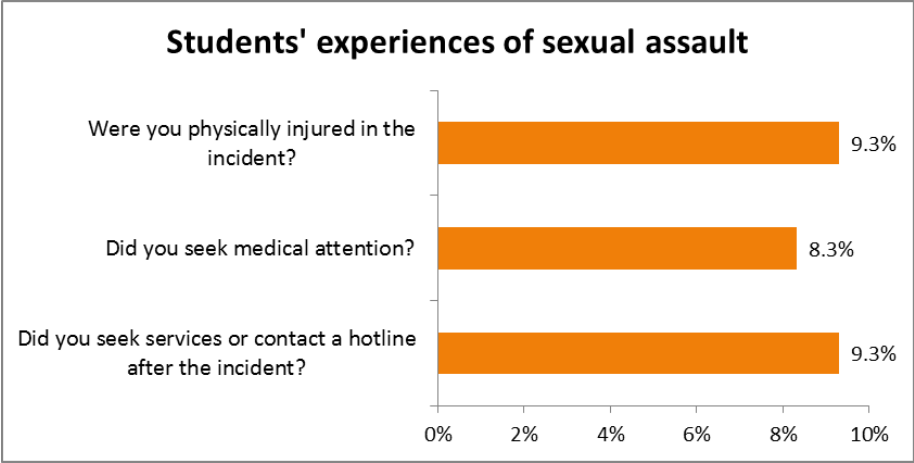


When asked specifically about the person's affiliation with the University of Utah, respondents indicated that the person was a University of Utah student in 48.5% of the incidences and a University of Utah faculty, staff, or employee in 8.0% of the incidences. Most frequently, the person was a male (81.3%), though sometimes a female (12.3%); the remaining were unknown or prefer not to respond.

Regarding the location of the sexual assault, 26.3% of those who experienced an incident indicated that it occurred in their own home or room, while 68.4% indicated that it occurred somewhere other than their own home or room.

Respondents were asked about their substance use just prior to the incident. These questions included the message, "Keep in mind that you are in no way responsible for the assault that occurred, even if you had been drinking."

- 72.8% of these respondents had been drinking alcohol.
 - Of these, 89.7% believe they were drunk.
- 17.3% of these respondents had voluntarily been taking or using drugs other than alcohol.
- 12.1% of these respondents suspect that they had been given a drug without their knowledge or consent.



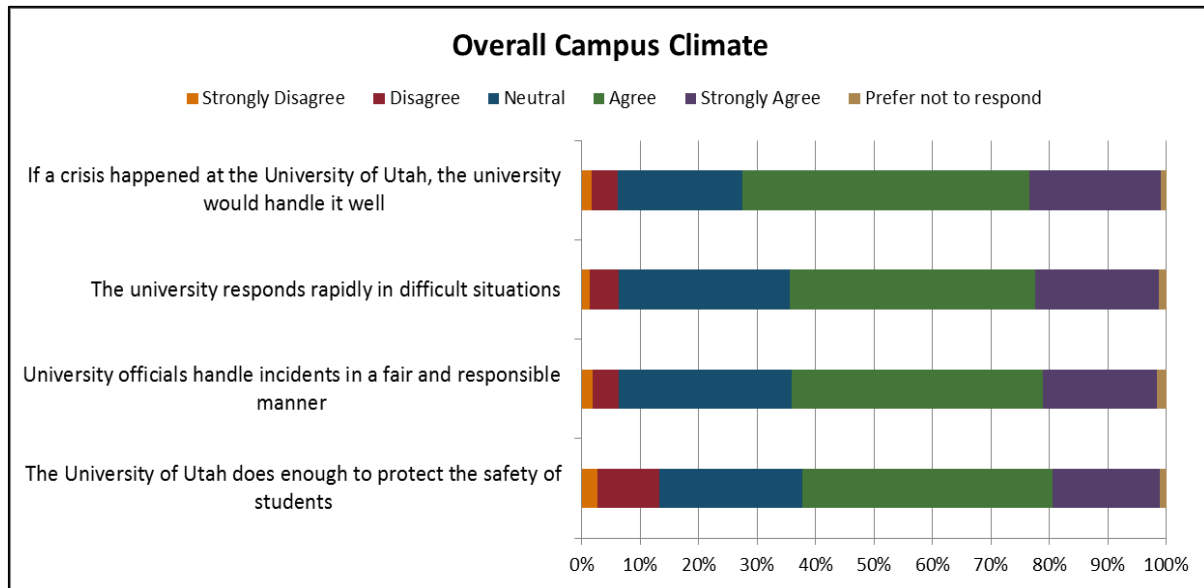
Most students (64.8%) told at least one person about the incident of unwanted sexual contact. Of those who did tell someone, 55.9% did so within the first 24 hours and 81.5% shared it with a close friend. Others who were told were roommates (36.9%), romantic partners (27.2%), or a parent or guardian (24.1%). Fewer than 5% shared with a University entity that could take a report (3.1% with the Office of the Dean of Students, 2.6% with Housing and Residential Education staff, 1.5% with Public Safety).

The top four reasons students did not share with anyone were the following:

- Didn't think what happened was serious enough to talk about (56.8%)
- It is a private matter; I wanted to deal with it on my own (51.6%)
- Ashamed/embarrassed (43.2%)
- Wanted to forget it happened (41.1%)

KEY FINDINGS: Experiences with sexual violence more frequently than not involved a person known to the victim, a person affiliated with the University, and the use of alcohol. Students will most likely tell another student about the issue. These data indicate that education about safety, alcohol use, and how to be supportive to victims including where to report is critical during students' college years.

Perceptions of Campus Climate and Awareness of Campus Services at the University of Utah



Regarding students' perceptions of how the University of Utah would respond to a report of sexual assault, most students feel that the University of Utah would respond well, with less than 10% disagreeing with each of the following statements:

- The university would take the report seriously
- The university would maintain the privacy of the person making the report
- If requested by the victim, the university would forward the report to criminal investigators
- The university would handle the report fairly
- The university would treat the accused individual(s) fairly
- The university would support the person making the report
- The university would take steps to protect the safety of the person making the report

Exception: 11.5% of respondents disagreed with the following statement:

- The university would take action to address factors that may have led to the sexual assault

Over half of all respondents indicated that they did not know where to go to make a formal complaint of sexual assault (52.4%), what happens when a report of sexual assault is made at the University of Utah (61%), and where to go to get help and support on campus (51.9%).

Some respondents were not at all aware of University of Utah resources specifically related to sexual assault response:

- Department of Public Safety (campus police), 20.6%
- Center for Student Wellness (victim support advocates), 26.1%
- Office of the Dean of Students, 40.9%
- Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 48.6%

Undergraduate students reported having received more information from the University of Utah related to sexual assault awareness (i.e. definitions, prevention strategies, where to report, etc.) than graduate students. Over half (55.5%) of respondents indicated that they had seen posters about sexual assault awareness on campus and nearly one third (28.9%) had seen or heard campus administrators or staff address the topic of sexual assault.

KEY FINDINGS: Students have an overall sense that the University would respond well to a report of sexual assault, but we need to improve awareness of how and where to report complaints and where to find support resources.