

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – STUDENT SURVEY RESULTS

On March 27, 2023, our campus began an online administration of the Sexual Violence Prevalence (SVP) Campus Climate Survey. This survey was administered to students and employees and is required to address, at minimum, student and employee knowledge about:

- The Title IX Coordinator's role;
- Campus policies and procedures addressing sexual assault;
- How and where to report sexual violence as a victim/survivor or witness;
- The availability of resources on and off campus, such as counseling, health, academic assistance;
- The prevalence of victimization and perpetration of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking on and off campus during a set time period (for example, the last two years);
- Bystander attitudes and behavior;
- Whether victims/survivors reported to the College/University and/or police, and reasons why they did or did not report.
- The general awareness of the difference, if any, between the institution's policies and the penal law; and
- The general awareness of the definition of affirmative consent.

The Title IX Office, Human Resources, and the Director of Institutional Research reviewed the survey results which highlight a low response rate, in which the college is unable to generalize the findings from this survey. However, information from the survey provides some guidance on potential next steps. The survey results are being used to assess and improve the college's sexual violence prevention programming, outreach, events, and for the betterment of the campus community.

BACKGROUND

The Sexual Violence Prevalence (SVP) Campus Climate Survey is administered every other year by all SUNY campuses, who work closely with SUNY System Administration to coordinate the survey administration itself. An effort is made to keep the questions from one administration to the next as consistent as possible to allow for reliable and meaningful longitudinal data. System-wide IRB review takes place for each survey administration.

SUNY Maritime College administered the student and employee survey between March 27, 2023, and April 14, 2023. The excluded survey populations included individuals under 18 years of age, all incarcerated individuals regardless of age, and all students concurrently enrolled in high school regardless of age.

Survey outreach and marketing included email correspondence to raise survey awareness. Additionally, SUNY Maritime College did not offer incentives for participants of the survey.

STUDENT SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

The Sexual Violence Prevalence (SVP) Campus Climate Survey was sent to 1279 students via their college email addresses on March 27, 2023. Several reminder emails were sent. The survey closed on April 14, 2023. 77 students participated in the survey. The student response rate was 6.02%.

Within the last year, most respondents lived in on-campus housing (83.1%) or housing with family (46.8%). 2 students responded stating they lived in an indoor location not meant for human habitation within the last year, such as an abandoned building, car, or garage. Additionally, 18.4% of respondents reported being the first in their family to attend college. 10.4% of respondents stated they have a disability or chronic health condition.

Respondents identified their gender as follows:

- 62.3% Man
- 27.3% Woman
- 1.3% Genderqueer/Gender-fluid
- 1.3% Transgender
- 2.6% Questioning or unsure

Respondents identified their sexual orientation as follows:

- 64.9% Heterosexual
- 1.3% Gay
- 2.6% Lesbian
- 11.7% Bisexual
- 1.3% Asexual
- 5.2% Pansexual
- 2.6% Queer
- 6.5% Questioning or unsure

KNOWLEDGE OF TITLE IX POLICIES, PROCEDURES, & RESOURCES

Most respondents (71.4%) stated that they were aware that Maritime College has policies and procedures specifically addressing sexual assault. Most respondents (70.1%) also knew how to contact the Title IX Coordinator.

Approximately 50% of respondents reported receiving written and/or verbal communication related to the definition of sexual assault, how to report sexual assault, where to get help if someone is sexually assaulted, confidential resources, and policies prohibiting sexual assault. 15.6% of respondents stated they did not receive information regarding any of the above. Many respondents (67.5%) know the definition of Affirmative Consent. Approximately 50% of respondents were aware of SUNY's alcohol and/or drug use amnesty policy in reporting sexual violence.

Most respondents stated that they know how to report sexual assault (63.6%), sexual harassment (58.4%), domestic violence/dating violence (49.4%), and stalking (40.3%). 15.6% of respondents stated they did not know how to report these incidents. 63.6% of respondents stated they could file a formal complaint about sexual assault with the Title IX Coordinator and University Police. Additionally, 40.3% of respondents stated they could file a formal complaint about sexual assault with Human Resources.

Most respondents stated that the Title IX Coordinator's role includes receiving reports (55.8%), coordinating campus response (50.6%), ensuring training and education for the campus community (54.4%), and providing reporting individuals with accommodations and services during an investigation (48.1%).

Approximately 50% of respondents reported awareness of campus health services and university police. Approximately 33% of respondents reported awareness of Human Resources, the student conduct office, counseling services, and local police.

STUDENT EXPERIENCES OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

The student response rate for this portion of the survey was 3.83%. Approximately 50 respondents provided answers related to their experiences with sexual violence. Respondents reported the following incidents occurred within the last year:

- 32.6% of respondents reported that they experienced unwanted sexual comments, sexual slurs, or demeaning jokes.
- 6.1% of respondents reported someone viewing their sexual activity or nakedness without their consent or taking explicit pictures or recordings without their consent.
- 12.2% of respondents reported experiencing unwanted sexually suggestive digital communications, either words or images or both, including emails, texts, social media, in letters, or other written communication.

- 10.4% of respondents reported a completed incident where someone fondled, kissed, or rubbed up against the private areas of their body without their consent. 2% of respondents reported this act was attempted, but not completed.
- 4.1% of respondents reported a completed incident where someone removed some of their clothes without their consent. 4.1% of respondents reported this act was attempted, but not completed.
- 2% of respondents reported a completed incident where someone performed oral sex on them or forced them to perform oral sex without their consent.
- 4.1% of respondents reported a completed incident where someone sexually penetrated them by inserting a penis, fingers, or objects into their vagina or anus, or they were made to penetrate someone else without their consent. 2% of respondents reported this act was attempted, but not completed.

The student response rate for this portion of the survey was 1.34%. Only 17 respondents provided additional information about their most recent incident.

- 76% of respondents stated the person was affiliated with the campus community.
- 41.1% of respondents told someone about their most recent incident. Respondents were most likely to tell a friend, the Title IX Office, a romantic partner, or other family members.
- 42% of the respondents who reported their most recent went on to file a formal complaint.

For respondents who decided to not report their most recent incident, the following statements made up the top three concerns.

- "I did not think it was important enough."
- "I did not recognize it as a sexual assault at the time."
- "I just did not want to deal with it."

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

Respondents were also asked about their experiences with intimate partner violence within the last year. An intimate partner may be a boyfriend, girlfriend, spouse, or anyone they were in an intimate relationship with or hooked up with, including exes and current partners.

- 4.2% of respondents reported that an intimate partner scratched, slapped, hit, kicked, beaten, punched, or physically harmed by them.
- 8.5% of respondents reported an intimate partner threatened to hurt the respondent, the respondent's family/friends, or themselves to influence the respondent.
- 10.6% of respondents reported an intimate partner controlled or tried to control them.

Of the respondents who reported intimate partner violence, 50% told someone about the most recent incident. 100% of respondents reported telling a friend.

STALKING

Respondents were also asked about their experiences with stalking within the last year.

- 14.9% of respondents reported someone repeatedly followed them, watched them, texted, called, written, e-mailed, or communicated with them in ways that seemed obsessive and made them afraid or concerned for their safety.
- 60% of respondents reported the most recent incident. 100% of respondents reported telling a friend.

IMPACTS OF VIOLENCE ON EDUCATIONAL PLANS

Respondents were asked to report whether their experiences with sexual violence impacted their educational plans.

- 10% of respondents reported changing their academic program.
- 10% of respondents reported changing their academic schedule and/or housing.
- 5% of respondents reported that these incidents caused them to leave school.
- 10% of respondents reported that these incidents caused them to transfer institutions.

BYSTANDER INTERVENTION

Respondents were asked questions about how they believe other students would respond to various situations.

- 32.6% of respondents believed that a fellow student is likely or more than likely to express their discomfort if someone makes a joke about a person's body.
- 58.7% of respondents believed that a fellow student is likely or more than likely to call for help (e.g., call 911) if they hear a neighbor yelling for "help".
- 63% of respondents believed that a fellow student is likely or more than likely to get help and resources for a friend who tells them that they have been assaulted.
- 52.1% of respondents believed that a fellow student is likely or more than likely to confront a friend who tells them that they had sex with someone who was passed out or who didn't give consent.
- 52.1% of respondents believed that a fellow student is likely or more than likely to tell a resident assistant or other campus authority about information they have that might help in a sexual assault case even if pressured by their friends to stay silent.

Respondents were also asked questions about how they believe Maritime College would respond to formal complaints of sexual violence on campus.

- 58.7% of respondents strongly agree or agree that Maritime College would take the report seriously.
- 39.1% of respondents strongly agree or agree that Maritime College would conduct a fair investigation.
- 45.6% of respondents strongly agree or agree that Maritime College would provide the student with necessary support during the process.

DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDED NEXT STEPS

SUNY Maritime College will continue its assessment of learning outcomes of our current training programs with the goal of increasing our educational efforts surrounding sexual violence prevention. Because of the small sample size, the college is unable to generalize the findings from this survey. Maritime College plans to increase participation in the next survey by creating flyers, sending reminders through social media apps, such as the BAND app, and requesting faculty to discuss it during their classes.

Notable strides have been made in the areas of creating awareness of Maritime College policies and procedures specifically addressing sexual assault and how to contact the Title IX Coordinator. It is encouraging to see that many respondents stated that they are aware that Maritime College has policies and procedures specifically addressing sexual assault and how to contact the Title IX Coordinator. More than half the respondents also knew they could file a formal complaint about sexual assault with the Title IX Coordinator. Additional strides in awareness initiatives are the result of the colleges' external partnerships with the Bronx District Attorney's Office and Kingsbridge Heights Community Center. The incorporation of the Every Mariner Builds a Respectful Culture (EMBARC) policy has also bolstered a continual emphasis in sexual violence prevention and response education.

Although the data is limited, information from the survey provides some guidance on potential next steps. Additional outreach about other on-campus resources, such as counseling services, needs to be provided to students. Suggestions include advertising on-campus resources through tabling events, the expansion of peer education programs such as We Are Advocates And Visionaries Ending Sexual violence (WAAVES), and additional programming for incoming students and families during orientation.