

2022-2023 Sexual Conduct and Campus Climate Survey Results Overview

Introduction

The University of Notre Dame administered its sixth climate survey in February 2023. The purpose of the survey was to assess the knowledge, perceptions, and experience of Notre Dame students in relation to sexual assault, sexual misconduct, dating or domestic violence, stalking, and other conduct that creates a sexually hostile environment. The survey instrument was developed by Notre Dame and administered by the Office of Institutional Research, Innovation, & Strategy (IRIS). Several questions were included from surveys utilized at peer institutions.

All enrolled students (12,901) were invited to participate in the survey, and 37.1% (4,789) completed the survey. By comparison, the survey yielded a response rate of 47.5% in 2020 and 44% in 2018. Individual student responses are kept strictly confidential.

The following report summarizes student responses according to four main categories: **student perspectives and knowledge; impressions of University response; student engagement and prevention efforts; and personal experiences.**

The University acknowledges that these results may be difficult for some individuals to review and process. Members of the community are encouraged to visit titleix.nd.edu for information on the variety of services for students, faculty, and staff who have been affected by sexual assault, sexual misconduct, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, and conduct that creates a sexually hostile environment.

Student Perspectives and Knowledge

99% of students agreed, or somewhat agreed, it is important for students to understand what constitutes conduct of sexual harm, and 98% of students agreed that they would be able to recognize a situation that has the potential for harm related to sexual assault, sexual misconduct, dating or domestic violence, stalking, and other conduct that creates a sexually hostile environment.

89% of students (a 1% decrease from 2020) were familiar or somewhat familiar with the University's policy related to sexual assault, and 77% of students (a 3% decrease from 2020) were at least somewhat familiar with the University's stalking policy.

79% of students agreed or somewhat agreed that Notre Dame's policies regarding sexual misconduct and sexual assault are clear (a 2% decrease from 2020). 76% percent of students agreed or somewhat agreed that Notre Dame's policies regarding dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking are clear (3% decrease from 2020). 91% of students correctly responded that intoxication is not an excuse for failure to obtain consent (a 1% decrease from 2020).

Students largely were aware of reporting and safety resources on campus. 77% of students reported that they were aware of emergency phones on campus (a 2% decrease from 2020). 70% of students were aware of SafeBouND/Safe Walk service (a 1% increase from 2020). 60% of students reported being aware of the newly introduced ND Safe App. 74% of students responded that they were aware of available courses of action if they pursue a University conduct process complaint or a criminal complaint (a 1% increase from 2020).

Impressions of University Response

Students also reported their impressions of the University's effectiveness in response to incidents of sexual assault, sexual misconduct, dating or domestic violence, stalking, or conduct that creates a sexually hostile environment.

81% of students reported that the University response to sexual assault is somewhat to very effective (a 9% decrease from 2020). Effectiveness in the University's response to sexual misconduct had an 8% decrease, a 6% decrease for dating or domestic violence, a 7% decrease for stalking, and a 7% decrease for other conduct that creates a sexually hostile environment. Like 2020, students' comments called for further transparency regarding University response to incidents.

3.7% of students who completed the survey reported being involved as a complainant, respondent, or witness in a University investigation or administrative hearing process.

Student Engagement and Prevention Efforts

Most students (94%) agreed or somewhat agreed that they trusted their friends would watch out for them. 94% of students agreed or somewhat agreed that they felt confident in their ability to judge if someone was too intoxicated to give consent. 32% of students reported that a fellow student had disclosed an experience with sexual assault at some time in their life, an increase of 11% from 2020. The majority, 83% responded that they provided personal support and empathy and 36% reported that they referred a fellow student to resources. 91% of students felt the University's prevention efforts were somewhat to very effective. A new question was added to this iteration of the survey which asked participants to rate the importance of programming and education surrounding these topics. Overall, most students agreed that such programming was important, with "consent" being rated the highest topic of importance.

Personal Experiences of Sexual Assault, Sexual Misconduct, Dating or Domestic Violence, Stalking, and Conduct that Creates a Sexually Hostile Environment

There was an increase from previous surveys in students' observations and experiences with sexual harassment. Students' self-reported instances of personal experiences with nonconsensual sexual intercourse and nonconsensual sexual contact increased in comparison to 2020 and 2018, while experiences of dating or domestic violence and stalking remained the same. 6% of women (a 2% increase from 2020) and 1% of men indicated they had personally experienced nonconsensual sexual intercourse (including any type of penetration) while a student at Notre Dame. 19% of women (a 3% increase from 2020) and 5% of men (a 1%

increase from 2020) indicated they had personally experienced other forms of nonconsensual sexual contact. Similarly, in 2020, 1% of all students (2% of women and 1% of men) reported they had experienced dating or domestic violence; and 3% of students reported experiencing stalking behaviors (5% of women and 2% of men).

When compared to 2020, there is a large increase in the percentage of reported incidents to the University. Students who experienced dating or domestic violence indicated the highest rates of reporting to the University (25%) compared to students who experienced stalking (20%), nonconsensual sexual intercourse (13%), or nonconsensual sexual contact (4%). Students cited several reasons they chose not to report an incident to the University. The top reasons across incident types that students chose not to report to the University were: thinking that reporting would not solve anything (49% on average), wanting to forget about the incident (44% on average), not wanting to go through the University process (41% on average), and not being sure if what happened constituted an offense (41% on average). These findings were different from previous years, in which students indicated that they did not report primarily because of reluctance to get the perpetrator in trouble or because they blamed themselves for what happened.

Conclusion

Opportunities continue to exist to further educate students about policies and how the University will respond to reports of sexual assault, sexual misconduct, dating or domestic violence, stalking, and other conduct that creates a sexually hostile environment. Even one instance of harm to a member of our community is too many, and Notre Dame will continue to adopt policies and develop programs designed to reduce these incidents.

For further questions about the survey results, please contact the Title IX Coordinator at equity@nd.edu.