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Dear Students, Faculty, and Staff:

Johns Hopkins remains resolute in its commitment to foster an environment free from sexual assault and other sexual misconduct, and from retaliation when sexual misconduct is reported. Empirical data are essential in understanding the prevalence and risk factors of sexual misconduct in order to inform the university's efforts in prevention, education response, and accountability.

We have now released the results of our third campus climate survey on sexual assault and misconduct, conducted in Spring 2019. Unlike our 2015 and 2018 independent campus surveys, this year Johns Hopkins participated in the survey administered by the Association of American Universities (AAU). Our report was prepared in concert with an [AAU aggregate report](#) using data from 181,752 students at 33 colleges and universities. We appreciate the participation of the 4,084 Johns Hopkins undergraduate and graduate students who completed the survey. That represented a 5% increase—to 28%—since our last survey and exceeded the AAU aggregate response rate of 22%.

Like our last two surveys, the data continue to affirm that sexual misconduct remains a serious and complex problem at our university, as it is on college campuses across the country. Johns Hopkins students report a prevalence and pattern of sexual assault (i.e., defined as nonconsensual sexual penetration and touching) that is similar to that reported in the AAU aggregate report.

Using the broadest measure of sexual assault (including attempts and completion without affirmative consent, by physical force, incapacitation, or coercion), the prevalence for Johns Hopkins was 12.5% overall, ranging from 4.5% for male graduate students to 30% for female undergraduate students and 26% for transgender, genderqueer, and non-binary (TGQN) students. These values were lower than that reported in the AAU survey as a whole: 17% overall, ranging from 3.6% for male graduate students to 32% for female undergraduate students and 29% for TGQN students. The prevalence of sexual harassment, intimate partner violence, and stalking were also similar to that reported in the AAU survey as whole.

Differences in the questions we asked in our past three surveys as well as differences in methodology make it difficult to assess trends over time. However, there is evidence that the prevalence of sexual assault reported in this survey is lower than what was reported in 2018 (19% overall, ranging from 8% for male graduate students to 37% for female undergraduate students and 40% for TGQN students). The prevalence of sexual harassment, intimate partner violence, and stalking were also down slightly.

The 2019 survey results point to several areas for improvement in our campus climate. We were dismayed to see that only 55% of respondents believe it would be "very" or "extremely" likely that



campus officials would take a report of a sexual assault or misconduct seriously, lower than the 66% reported by the AAU as a whole. Similarly, JHU had a lower percentage of respondents who believe campus officials would conduct fair investigations (43% at JHU vs. 51% in the AAU survey overall). The 2019 response represents a decline from 63% who answered affirmatively in our 2018 survey.

Knowledge about sexual assault policies and procedures by JHU students also appears to lag relative to our peers. The percentage of JHU students reporting they are “very/extremely” knowledgeable was lower than in the AAU survey overall for three topics: how the university defines sexual assault and other misconduct (26% vs. 37%), where to find help at the university if they or a friend are victims of sexual assault or other misconduct (25% vs. 37%), and where to make a report of sexual assault or other misconduct (21% vs. 32%). These data are despite 71% of students reporting they completed/attended at least one training or information session regarding sexual assault and misconduct since arriving at JHU.

The university remains committed to using climate survey data to shape university efforts surrounding sexual misconduct prevention, response, and accountability. While we’ve made progress, our most recent survey results confirm that we can and must do more to prevent sexual misconduct; increase awareness of policies, procedures, reporting and support options; and continue to increase confidence in the university’s handling of sexual misconduct matters.

Based on the 2018 survey results, the [Provost’s Sexual Violence Advisory Committee](#) prepared an action plan geared to respond to what we learned. Elements of that plan that are now in progress include new online training modules with enhanced bystander intervention content, an exploration of options to expand bystander intervention training to upperclass and graduate students across the university, and development of a healthy consent mobilization campaign. Kevin Shollenberger, the university’s inaugural Vice Provost for Health and Wellness, is also working with the SVAC to explore the most impactful ways to coordinate, expand, and promote existing sexual violence/misconduct support resources and educational outreach, and assess additional resources needed for each division of the university.

I encourage everyone in the university community to continue to engage in thoughtful discussions and participate in university efforts to improve the safety and well-being of all members of the Johns Hopkins community.

Sincerely,

Sunil Kumar
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs