

2018 Campus Climate and Sexual Violence Survey: Principal Findings

Spring 2019

Introduction and Background

Johns Hopkins is firmly committed to fostering a community free from sexual assault and other sexual misconduct, and from related retaliation. In furtherance of that commitment, during February and March 2018, we asked all full-time university students to participate in the Anonymous Climate Survey on Sexual Misconduct. The results will provide us with empirical data and information to assist university efforts surrounding sexual misconduct prevention and education.

The survey was designed to help the university better understand the following about sexual misconduct: (1) the prevalence and risk factors, (2) student perceptions of problems and responses on our campuses, and (3) student awareness and perceptions of available resources. The Office of Institutional Research led survey implementation and analysis efforts, in close collaboration with colleagues in the Provost's Office, including the Office of Institutional Equity. The survey was based on the Association of American Universities Campus Climate Survey administered in 2015, with Hopkins-specific modifications. The Provost's Sexual Violence Advisory Committee provided input on the survey instrument before implementation, as did faculty experts in sexual assault.

This document is a summary of the principal results of the survey, and conveys initial findings to the community. It was prepared by members of the Provost's Office, including those within the Office of Institutional Research and the Office of Institutional Equity.

Please note that there could be items in this document that are triggering, that you may be uncomfortable reading, or that you would just prefer not to read. Resources and support options are on the Sexual Assault Response and Prevention website at sexualassault.jhu.edu.

Methods and Definitions

All full-time graduate and undergraduate students enrolled during the spring 2018 term were asked to complete the survey. Invitations were sent to 5,485 undergraduates and 8,446 graduate students across all nine academic divisions via electronic mail on February 21, 2018. Reminder emails were sent periodically thereafter. The survey was hosted online by Qualtrics, took on average 20–40 minutes to complete, and was available through March 25, 2018. Students were told that their participation was entirely voluntary, and that they could skip questions or stop taking the survey at any point. To encourage participation, the solicitation noted that students would be offered the chance to win Amazon gift cards at the end of the survey. Raffle entries were kept completely separate from survey responses to protect anonymity. Responses were not used to identify survey participants in any way, and answers thus did not constitute formal reports of sexual misconduct.

The survey posed questions about student knowledge, experiences, and attitudes surrounding unwanted experiences and behavior. Questions about demographic background, race, age, and involvement in certain university activities were included in the survey for the sole purpose of institutional research. The survey asked students to self-identify their gender identity. In this report, we provide results for individuals categorized into one of four gender identity groups: women, men, trans/nonbinary, and prefer not to answer.

A set of questions in the survey asked about unwanted sexual behaviors that the participant might have experienced while at the university; these questions included explicit descriptions of the behaviors. For the purposes of this report, we use the following terms:

Sexual Assault includes reports of incidents of two types:

- **Nonconsensual Sexual Penetration:** any act of sexual intercourse with another individual against a person's will or without consent, where sexual intercourse includes vaginal or anal penetration, however slight, with any body part or object, or oral penetration involving mouth to genital contact.
- **Nonconsensual Sexual Touching:** fondling, which is any intentional touching of the intimate parts of another person or causing another to touch one's intimate parts against a person's will or without consent, where intimate parts may include genitalia, groin, breast, or buttocks, or clothing covering them, or any other body part that is touched in a sexual manner; disrobing or exposure of another against a person's will or without consent; other sexual acts or sexual contact against a person's will or without consent; sexual battery; sexual coercion; and attempted nonconsensual sexual intercourse.

In addition to reports of incidents that were completed, survey respondents were asked whether nonconsensual sexual penetration was attempted. If incidents were reported as completed, further questions asked whether such incidents occurred as a result of: (1) force or threat of force, (2) incapacitation due to alcohol or drugs, (3) coercion by threatening serious nonphysical harm or promising rewards, and/or (4) absence of active affirmative consent.

Sexual Harassment: Students were asked about situations in which an individual said or did something of a sexual nature that created a hostile environment at, or in connection with, any university program or activity, including interfering with academic or professional performance, limiting the ability to participate in an academic program, or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive social, academic, or work environment. Five behaviors were included: (1) made sexual remarks or told jokes or stories that were insulting or offensive, (2) made inappropriate or offensive comments about the student's or someone else's body, appearance, or sexual activities, (3) said crude or gross sexual things or tried to talk about sexual matters when the student didn't want to, (4) emailed, texted, tweeted, phoned, or instant messaged offensive sexual remarks, jokes, stories, pictures, or videos to the student, who didn't want them, and/or (5) continued to ask the student to go out, get dinner, have drinks, or have sex even though they said no.

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV): The measure of IPV was intended to capture violence associated with relationships that might not be captured in the questions on nonconsensual sexual contact. These questions were administered to anyone who said they had been in any "partnered relationship" since enrolling in college. Three behaviors were included: (1) a partner controlling or trying to control a student (examples included keeping the student from going to classes or pursuing educational goals, not allowing them to see or talk with friends or family, making decisions for them such as where to go or what to wear or eat, or threatening to "out" them to others); (2) a partner threatening to physically harm themselves, the student, or someone the student loves; and/or (3) a partner using any kind of physical force.

Stalking: Students were asked if someone behaved in a way more than once that made them afraid for their personal safety or the safety of others, or caused the student to experience substantial emotional distress. The behaviors included: (1) making unwanted phone calls; sending emails, voice messages, text messages, or instant messages; or posting messages, pictures, or videos on social networking sites; (2) showing up somewhere or waiting for a student when that activity was not wanted; and/or (3) observing, watching, or following a student either in person or using devices or software.

Individuals reporting unwanted sexual behavior were asked a series of follow-up questions about the incident or, if they experienced more than one incident, the experience that they remembered the most.

Response Rate

A total of 5,675 students started the survey, 4,578 students provided responses beyond the first demographic section, and 3,263 students completed it for a 23% overall response rate. The group that completed the survey included 1,388 undergraduates (25% response rate) and 1,875 graduate students (22% response rate). Students from all nine academic divisions of JHU participated. Female students were more likely to respond than male students: 31% of undergraduate and 25% of graduate female students responded, while 18 percent of each male group responded. As a result, the final sample has a greater proportion of women (61%) than does the surveyed student population (53%). The number of students identifying as trans/nonbinary gender was small (22 undergraduates and 21 graduate students), as was the number noting they preferred not to answer (28 students). The 23% response rate for our survey was lower than the 31% rate for the last JHU climate and sexual violence survey conducted in 2015.

Principal Findings

Campus Climate

In this section, we examine a series of issues that often fall under the label of campus climate. This broad construct is meant to address prevailing perceptions of risk (i.e., perceptions of the prevalence of sexual misconduct), attitudes (e.g., students' compassion and willingness to support other students who experience sexual misconduct, and student knowledge and use of specific university resources), and culture and norms on campus (e.g., normative acceptance of sexual misconduct). The following topics were part of this section:

Students were asked how problematic sexual misconduct (including sexual assault) is at the university.

- 28% of undergraduates and 65% of graduate students responded with “A little” or “Not at all.”
- 33% of undergraduates and 10% of graduate students responded with “Very” or “Extremely.”
- The highest percentage responding with “Very” or “Extremely” were transgender/nonbinary undergraduates (68%; n = 15 students).

Students were asked how likely they think they are to experience sexual misconduct (including assault) during their time at the university.

- 2% of men, 9% of women, and 14% of transgender/nonbinary students responded with “Very” or “Extremely.”
- Rates were lower overall for graduate students: 3% versus 12% for undergrads.
These perceptions should be compared with the reported prevalence rate (discussed above) of 19% for sexual assault (28% of undergraduates and 12% of graduate students).

Students were asked whether they agree with the statement, “I feel safe at this university.”

- 77% of all survey respondents indicated “Agree” or “Strongly Agree.”
- When stratified by student level and gender identity, patterns similar to those above emerged, with men reporting higher rates of agreement with feeling safe, followed by women, then by transgender/nonbinary students.
- Undergraduate and graduate responses were similar, except for transgender/nonbinary students, where graduate students reported much stronger agreement with feeling safe than undergrads (75% versus 41%).
- Overall, 54% of all survey respondents “Agree” or “Strongly Agree” that the university is doing enough to protect the safety of its students.

Students were asked about the support of other students and campus officials for a person reporting sexual assault or misconduct to the university.

- 80% of all survey respondents said it would be “Very Likely” or “Extremely Likely” that another student would support a person making a report.
- 69% said it would be “Very Likely” or “Extremely Likely” that campus officials would protect the safety of the person making the report.
- With respect to investigating sexual misconduct, 63% of survey respondents believe it would be “Very Likely” or “Extremely Likely” that campus officials would conduct a fair investigation.
- 67% believe it “Very Likely” or “Extremely Likely” that campus officials would take action against the offender(s) if a determination was made that the university’s sexual misconduct policy was violated.

With respect to training, 73% of students recalled their university orientation containing a training or information session regarding sexual misconduct. Among all survey respondents who recalled participating in sexual misconduct training or an information session during orientation, 71% found the session to be “Somewhat,” “Very,” or “Extremely” useful.

Compared to the 2015 survey, students reported overall a greater awareness of the Office of Institutional Equity (63% versus 20%), Campus Safety and Security (83% versus 74%), and the Counseling Center (75% versus 65%) as resources for matters related to sexual misconduct.

Sexual Assault

Overall, 625 students (395 undergraduates and 230 graduate students) reported that they had experienced some form of sexual assault (nonconsensual sexual penetration or touching) while attending the university, for an overall prevalence of 19% (28% of undergraduates and 12% of graduate students). Consistent with previous surveys here and elsewhere, reports of these incidents varied strongly by the type of student, as shown in **Table 1**, with the highest percentage of reports by undergraduate women and those identifying as trans or nonbinary gender. The table also displays the data for nonconsensual sexual penetration and nonconsensual sexual touching involving different combinations of tactics.

Table 1: Reports of Sexual Assault

Undergraduate Students

	Total (N=1,388)	Women (N=870)	Men (N=489)	Trans/ Non-Binary (N=22)	Prefer not to answer (N=7)
Sexual assault of any type	28%	37%	13%	41%	14%
Completed using Physical Force or Incapacitation					
Nonconsensual Sexual Penetration	9%	12%	3%	18%	14%
Nonconsensual Sexual Touching	21%	28%	9%	27%	14%
Completed using Physical Force or Incapacitation; Attempted Penetration using Physical Force					
Nonconsensual Sexual Penetration	10%	14%	3%	18%	14%
Nonconsensual Sexual Touching	21%	28%	9%	27%	14%
Completed using Physical Force or Incapacitation or Coercion; Attempted Penetration using Physical Force					
Nonconsensual Sexual Penetration	11%	15%	4%	18%	14%
Nonconsensual Sexual Touching	22%	29%	10%	27%	14%
Completed using Physical Force or Incapacitation or Coercion or Absence of Affirmative Consent; Attempted Penetration using Physical Force					
Nonconsensual Sexual Penetration	15%	20%	5%	18%	14%
Nonconsensual Sexual Touching	26%	34%	11%	41%	14%

Graduate Students

	Total (N=1,875)	Women (N=1,140)	Men (N=693)	Trans/ Non-Binary (N=21)	Prefer not to answer (N=21)
Sexual assault of any type	12%	14%	8%	38%	5%
Completed using Physical Force or Incapacitation					
Nonconsensual Sexual Penetration	3%	4%	2%	0%	0%
Nonconsensual Sexual Touching	8%	9%	5%	29%	0%
Completed using Physical Force or Incapacitation; Attempted Penetration using Physical Force					
Nonconsensual Sexual Penetration	3%	4%	2%	0%	0%
Nonconsensual Sexual Touching	8%	9%	5%	29%	0%
Completed using Physical Force or Incapacitation or Coercion; Attempted Penetration using Physical Force					
Nonconsensual Sexual Penetration	4%	4%	2%	5%	0%
Nonconsensual Sexual Touching	8%	10%	5%	29%	0%
Completed using Physical Force or Incapacitation or Coercion or Absence of Affirmative Consent; Attempted Penetration using Physical Force					
Nonconsensual Sexual Penetration	5%	6%	4%	10%	5%
Nonconsensual Sexual Touching	11%	13%	7%	33%	0%

The survey results include the following findings:

- Forty percent of those reporting any sexual assault said the most recent incident occurred since the fall of 2017.
- Eight percent of those reporting an assault indicated that more than one perpetrator was involved.
- Nearly all incidents reported by women (97% undergraduate and 99% graduate) occurred with male perpetrators.
- The majority of incidents reported by trans/nonbinary students occurred with male perpetrators (71% undergraduate and 63% graduate).
- The majority of incidents of any sexual assault reported by men occurred with female perpetrators (71% undergraduate and 60% graduate student).
- Nearly all incidents reported by student survey respondents occurred with perpetrators who were students (66%), individuals unaffiliated with the university (27%), or individuals whose affiliation was unknown (6%).
- Forty-four percent of incidents were reported as having been perpetrated by friends or acquaintances.
- Fifty-six percent of those reporting incidents indicated they and their perpetrator had been consuming alcohol immediately prior to the most recent incident; 6% indicated their assailant had been using drugs, and 5% said that they had voluntarily taken drugs.

In comparison to the 2015 It's On Us survey at Johns Hopkins (which only reported findings for men and women), the overall reported prevalence of sexual assault from this survey was slightly higher for both women (37% versus 33% for undergraduates and 14% versus 9% for graduate students) and men (13% versus 11% for undergraduates and 8% versus 5% for graduate students).

Sexual Harassment

Overall, 68% of undergraduate student survey respondents and 44% of graduate student survey respondents experienced some form of sexual harassment (**Table 2**), with the highest rate for trans/nonbinary students and lowest rate for men. Of those reporting, 69% indicated that they experienced sexual harassment by more than one person. Students perpetrated 84 percent of the sexual harassment incidents, and 69% of the respondents said the perpetrator was someone they considered a friend or acquaintance.

Only 11% of the survey respondents reporting sexual harassment in the survey indicated that they reported this incident to any of 18 resources, with the most reports made to the university Counseling Center (6%) and the Office of Institutional Equity/Title IX coordinator (3%). Among all survey respondents not reporting these incidents, the top three reasons for not reporting the event were that it wasn't viewed as serious enough to report (89%), that the student did not think anything would be done (21%), and that the student wanted to forget about it and move on with their life (17%). A small number of students (6%) indicated they did not know where to go or whom to tell.

Table 2: Reports of Sexual Harassment of Any Type

	Total	Women	Men	Trans/ Non-Binary	Prefer not to answer
Undergraduate students	(N=1,388)	(N=870)	(N=489)	(N=22)	(N=7)
	68%	76%	54%	91%	71%
Graduate students	(N=1,875)	(N=1,140)	(N=693)	(N=21)	(N=21)
	44%	49%	34%	52%	48%

Intimate Partner Violence

A majority of students (66% of undergraduate students and 75% of graduate students) reported that they had been in a partnered relationship at least part of the time that they have been a student at the university. Of these students, 14% of undergraduates and 6% of graduate students reported experiencing intimate partner violence (**Table 3**). Twenty-five of the 220 students reporting IPV (12%) indicated they were physically injured from these incidents; 5 of the 25 reported receiving medical attention for these injuries.

Sixty-three of the 220 respondents reporting IPV (29%) indicated that they reported this incident to any of 18 resources, with the most reports made to the university Counseling Center (65%), university mental health center (17%), and the Office of Institutional Equity/Title IX coordinator (16%). The top three reasons for not reporting this event were that it wasn't viewed as serious enough to report (57%), that the student wanted to forget about it and move on with their life (25%), and that they did not want the person to get into trouble (20%). A small number of students (4%) indicated they did not know where to go or whom to tell.

Table 3: Reports of Intimate Partner Violence

	Total	Women	Men	Trans/ Non-Binary	Prefer not to answer
Undergraduate students in relationships, reporting IPV of any type	(N=1,388) 917 14%	(N=870) 592 14%	(N=489) 304 14%	(N=22) 18 22%	(N=7) 3 33%
Graduate students in relationships, reporting IPV of any type	(N=1,875) 1,399 6%	(N=1,140) 861 6%	(N=693) 510 6%	(N=21) 12 33%	(N=21) 16 13%

Stalking

Overall, 450 students reported being subject to stalking incidents at least once, and 216 students reported stalking with more than one occurrence (9% of undergraduates and 5% of graduate students). As with other types of sexual misconduct, prevalence was highest among women and trans/nonbinary students (**Table 4**). Of the 216 students reporting stalking, 32% reported having been stalked by a student, and 12% reported having been stalked by a person not affiliated with the university. Nearly a quarter of those reporting stalking indicated they were stalked by a stranger, while 23% reported they were stalked by someone with whom they had previously been involved or intimate.

More than 67% of those reporting stalking indicated they did not contact any of 18 resources. The top three reasons for not reporting the event were that it wasn't viewed as serious enough to report (61%), that the student wanted to forget about it and move on with their life (29%), and that they did not want the person to get into trouble (19%). A small number of students (8%) indicated they did not know where to go or whom to tell.

Table 4: Reports of Stalking (more than once)

	Total	Women	Men	Trans/ Non-Binary	Prefer not to answer
Undergraduate students	(N=1,388) 9%	(N=870) 11%	(N=489) 4%	(N=22) 32%	(N=7) 14%
Graduate students	(N=1,875) 5%	(N=1,140) 7%	(N=693) 2%	(N=21) 10%	(N=21) 5%

Moving Forward: Institutional Next Steps

Any and all sexual misconduct is unacceptable. We thus remain committed to addressing the occurrence of sexual misconduct communicated by those participating in this survey. Sexual assault, sexual harassment, and behaviors such as stalking and violence between intimate partners have no place in the Johns Hopkins community. We are particularly concerned that our reported prevalence is higher than that in our 2015 survey. We are going to proceed as if sexual misconduct incidents are more frequent among JHU students now than in the past.

However, there may be alternative explanations. Our efforts to increase awareness of sexual misconduct may have been successful at improving the recognition of sexual assault, harassment, and other behaviors. Indeed, in our 2015 survey, we saw a lower reported prevalence when students were asked about a labeled experience (without any description of the nature of the experience) than when behaviors constituting sexual misconduct were explicitly described. Those data motivated us to redouble our efforts over the past three years to educate students to understand what behaviors constitute sexual misconduct. Thus, while the rate of sexual misconduct may be similar to that in 2015, it might be that JHU students in 2018, with improved training, are more likely to identify these incidents as sexual assault, harassment, or violence.

It may also be that students are now more willing to report these incidents. This may be due to our efforts to foster a more open environment for discussing sexual behavior, and the cultural changes between 2015 and 2018 that have increased understanding among students of the nature and characteristics of sexual misconduct. If students in 2018 who experienced sexual misconduct responded to the survey at a greater frequency than those who did not experience sexual misconduct, this could also account for the reported increased prevalence in 2018 compared to 2015.

There are important lessons to be learned from the perceptions of students. First, the reported prevalence of sexual assault of 19% is greater than the 7% of survey respondents who think it is “Very Likely” or “Extremely Likely” that they will experience sexual misconduct (and “sexual misconduct” includes sexual assault as well as sexual harassment, IPV, and stalking). As noted above, an important challenge in matching perceptions and reality is knowledge about what behaviors constitute sexual assault and other forms of sexual misconduct. In this regard, only 52% of undergraduates and one-third of graduate students think they are “Very” or “Extremely” knowledgeable about the university’s definition of sexual misconduct.

Second, only 54% of survey respondents reported that they think the university is doing enough to ensure students’ safety. JHU continues its commitment to protecting its community and addressing and resolving complaints of sexual misconduct in a manner that is fair, prompt, and effective. We have made a number of enhancements and attempted to improve awareness of student resources that are available to them. In this regard, we were pleased to see some notable improvements since our last survey, in 2015, with students reporting a greater awareness of the Office of Institutional Equity (63% versus 20%),

Campus Safety and Security (83% versus 74%), the Counseling Center (75% versus 66%), and the Student Health and Wellness Center (78% versus 76%) as resources for matters related to sexual misconduct.

Among other enhancements made since the last survey administration, the university has:

- Increased membership on the Provost's Sexual Violence Advisory Committee (SVAC) to more broadly seek community input and advice to the provost on matters relating to sexual violence prevention and education best practices;
- Increased Office of Institutional Equity (OIE) staffing and training, including the creation of a deputy Title IX coordinator position, the hiring of additional equity compliance investigators, the creation of two OIE case management/support positions, and the implementation of additional training and community engagement for OIE staff. OIE leadership changes also include the hiring of Kimberly Hewitt, vice provost for institutional equity, and Joy Gaslevic, assistant vice provost and Title IX coordinator;
- Enhanced Counseling Center services and staff available to assist those impacted by sexual misconduct;
- Created a Clery compliance administrator position;
- Initiated communications outreach campaigns to better inform the community—through print materials, as well as social and digital media ads—of the Sexual Assault Helpline, OIE, and other confidential and nonconfidential resources;
- Engaged in a universitywide training initiative for all faculty, staff, and students including a new and improved online sexual misconduct training and in-person undergraduate orientation programming; and
- Updated and enhanced the university's Sexual Misconduct Policy & Procedures and the Sexual Assault & Prevention website (<http://www.sexualassault.jhu.edu>). This included enhancing the lists of confidential and nonconfidential resources at the university and in the community available to assist individuals in connection with all sexual misconduct matters.

Based on data from the 2018 survey, the university will collaborate with SVAC to develop a Coordinated Action Plan for Comprehensive Prevention of and Response to Sexual Misconduct. We will consider the following items for proposed inclusion in the action plan:

- Additional evidence-based prevention strategies, including, but not limited to, expansion of bystander intervention training offerings to graduate students and employees.
- Survivor support, such as a confidential advocate position outside of the counseling center.
- Opportunities to use enhanced training to strengthen identification, referral, and the support network through existing infrastructure (e.g., Student Health, Campus Security).
- Increased policy/practice transparency regarding the post-OIE process and outcomes (including sanctions) possible as a result of an investigation.
- Continued community education, engagement, and progress updates.

The goal of these actions is to address concerns of prevalence noted in the 2018 survey, and to enhance prevention, support, transparency, and accountability efforts at the university.

During the spring semester, all full-time students will be called upon to participate in the AAU 2019 Campus Climate Survey. We again want to hear student voices on these important topics. Survey responses in 2019 will allow the university to collect additional data that will continue to boost the institution's efforts surrounding sexual misconduct and allow us a key opportunity to see how we compare to our AAU peers.

In all these efforts, we remain committed to President Daniels' message from 2014: "Sexual violence on our campuses, or anywhere, is unacceptable. It tears at the fabric of our university community; threatens the ability of our students, faculty, and staff to pursue scholarship and discovery; and diminishes our capacity to realize our fullest individual and collective potential. The safety and well-being of all members of the Johns Hopkins community are among our most fundamental responsibilities and will always be our shared priority."

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