

University of Baltimore

The University of Baltimore (UB) Sexual Assault Campus Climate Survey was administered by the Schaefer Center for Public Policy at the University of Baltimore, through a web-based survey hosted on the Qualtrics survey platform, between February 12 and February 29, 2016. Email invitations were sent to all students who were at least 18 years of age and who were enrolled in both the spring semester of 2016 and the fall semester of 2015. There was no sampling; all students were invited to participate (undergraduate, graduate, law and students taking classes at any campus location, including online courses). Reminder emails were sent one week after the initial invitation and the day before the survey closed to encourage participation from those students who had not yet responded. No inducements or incentives were offered to students to complete the survey. This is the first survey of its kind administered at UB, costing \$8,396.

Response

Of the 4,960 students invited to participate, 680 completed the survey, with an additional 106 completing some of the survey questions. Additionally, 40 students agreed to participate, but did not answer more than four questions. The total response rate was 16.7%. Thirty-eight students responded but did not participate. Sixteen students opted-out of the survey directly from the email invitation, and 22 students refused the informed consent to participate. Not all students elected to answer all the questions, and partial responses are included. Percentages reported exclude missing responses.

Demographics

The comparison of respondent demographics can be done for those who completed the survey, since the demographics were at the end of the survey. In general, the respondents were similar to the population of students at the university in terms of college (with a slight underrepresentation of the Yale Gordon College of Arts and Sciences and a corresponding overrepresentation of the College of Public Affairs).

While the university collects gender data as a “male/female/unknown” variable, the survey allowed students to select the category that represented their gender identity (male/female/transgender female to male/transgender male to female/other/prefer not to say). While males comprise 40.0% of the student population, they accounted for only 29.0% of the respondents. Conversely, female students accounted for 67.5% of the sample, while only comprising 58.3% of the student population at UB.

As compared to their proportion in the student population, undergraduate and graduate students were very slightly more likely to respond (.4 and 1.1 percentage points, respectively), while law and advanced professional degree students showed a corresponding lower response (1.2 and .2 percentage points, respectively).

Most respondents indicated that they were not of Hispanic or Latino origin (92%), while a small number (5.2%) self-identified as Hispanic or Latino and a handful preferred not to say (2.8%).

Students were almost evenly split between those who described themselves as Black or African American (42.9%) as those who described themselves as White or Caucasian (44.6%). The additional categories were American Indian or Alaskan Native (0.9%), Asian (4.9%), or Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (0.1%). The majority of students used one racial classification to define themselves (98.4%), while a small number described themselves as being of more than one race (1.6%).

Perception of Safety

Safety of the Campus

The perceptions of safety of the environment can be ascertained through questions 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, and 22. The students who responded to the survey were generally knowledgeable about how to contact various campus resources relating to instances of sexual misconduct (percentage indicating they were aware): UB Police Department (81.2%), UB Counseling Center (57.4%), Title IX Coordinator (30.7%); and the Deputy Title IX Coordinators (30.0% and 26.9%). The survey also asked about two UB Police Department safety programs, the Secure Escort Program and the LiveSafe Smartphone app. The Secure Escort Program was familiar to 49.9% of respondents, and the LiveSafe app was familiar to 44.1% of respondents.

General Campus Climate

The general campus climate was ascertained through questions 7, 8, 9, 10, and 23. Question 23 asked if students had personally experienced sexual misconduct since coming to UB (though this could include instances that were not related to the UB campus environment). Most students reported not having experienced any form of sexual misconduct (94.1%), though 4.3% responded that they had and 1.6% indicated that they preferred not to say.

Students had positive reactions to how UB would handle reports of sexual misconduct (percentages are of those selecting “likely” or “very likely”): UB would take reports of sexual misconduct seriously (79.5%) and handle the report fairly (73.4%); UB would maintain privacy (80.0%), take steps to protect the safety (80.0%), and support the reporter of sexual misconduct (73.2%); UB would forward the report for criminal investigation if asked (82.3%); UB would address factors that lead to the misconduct (75.6%).

In general, students were divided about the potential reactions of others at UB to a person reporting misconduct (percentages are of those selecting “unlikely” or “very unlikely”): label the reporter a troublemaker (55.8%) or have a hard time supporting the reporter (59.9%). Though, they were less certain about retribution from friends of the alleged offender(s), with 29.8% selecting that it was unlikely or very unlikely that this would happen, 22.4% neutral, and 23.6% reporting that it would be either likely or very likely (24% said they did not know).

Students generally agreed that they would know where to go to get help on campus if they or a friend were sexually assaulted (57.1% agree, 9.0% neutral, 25.4% disagree, 8.6% didn’t know); understood what happens when reporting sexual assault (43.7% agree, 14.1% neutral, 30.1% disagree, 12.1% didn’t know); and know where to go to make a report if they or a friend were sexually assaulted (59.2% agree, 9.3% neutral, 23.3% disagree, 8.3% didn’t know).

Students at UB felt that they would be likely to do positive things regarding instances of misconduct or heightened risk (percentages reporting “likely” or “very likely”): call police about someone being bothered in a parking lot, etc. (86.7%); tell campus authorities about information regarding misconduct (83.6%); confront a friend hooking up with someone who was passed out (89.6%) or who was rumored to have forced someone to have sex (80.6%); and go with a friend to the police if he or she reported being raped (94.8%).

Readiness and Ability to Address Sexual Assault and Violence

Training and Education

Questions 5, 18, and 19/20 addressed perceptions about training and education. Almost three-quarters of students reported having received information or education about sexual misconduct before they came to UB (74.5%). At the time of survey, most students reported that they took some sort of training about sexual assault or violence (69.9%), with a majority reporting that they took the HAVEN student online training, launched in September 2015 (54.7%), and 11.2% reporting that they attended a session as part of orientation. A small number reported having participated in some other training (4.0%), while 39.4% reported not taking orientation or training at UB about sexual assault/violence. UB's sexual assault training program offered at orientation began in August 2015.

Since coming to UB, most students reported that they received written or verbal information about various aspects of sexual misconduct, including: its definition (88.5%); how to report it (63.0%); where to go to get help (64.2%); Title IX protections (55.1%); and how to prevent it (73.7%). Students who reported that they had received information about each of these aspects at UB were then asked how familiar they were with each one (percentage of those saying very or somewhat familiar): definition (98.4%); how to report it (95.9%); where to get help (95.0%); Title IX protections (84.9%); and how to help prevent it (95.9%).

Support for Persons Reporting Sexual Assault/Misconduct

As discussed under the general campus climate, questions 7, 8, and 9 explored student perceptions of the support available at UB. These responses show a very positive feeling about the following: that UB would take positive actions in response to reports of sexual misconduct; that there would be positive reactions of others in response to someone who reported sexual misconduct at UB; and that the student respondents themselves would take positive actions in the future to prevent misconduct or help another person who has experienced sexual misconduct.

Administrators Responsible for Investigating Sexual Misconduct

Questions 10, 11, and 12 addressed the students' perceptions and understanding of administrators and staff as being responsible for reporting or investigating allegations of misconduct. Students were asked to choose which employees were "responsible employees" (percentage of those selecting each): UB Title IX Coordinator (73.4%); any UB staff member (62.2%); regular faculty (58.8%); and adjunct faculty (43.4%).

What actions will the institution most likely take on the basis of these results?

The University of Baltimore will pursue the following actions on the basis of its survey results: UB will make an effort, when possible and appropriate, to tailor sexual assault-related outreach and awareness activities to meet the needs of students within the individual colleges at UB, noting that students' needs may differ in certain colleges (Question 7, 10 and 11); UB will continue to make known to students the resources and services available on and off campus and continue a robust training and education program to enhance student knowledge about sexual misconduct (Questions 5, 18 and 19); UB will institute a cycle of providing students with notice about the Secure Escort and LiveSafe app to increase the number of students who have this app and to increase overall student awareness (Questions 21 and 22).