Northwestern University

2015 Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Misconduct

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Introduction

In spring 2015, Northwestern University conducted a study to understand student perspectives and experiences related to sexual misconduct, including sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking. The information gained from this study will be used to inform the University's education and prevention efforts, strengthen existing services for survivors, and create a safer and more caring community. This report summarizes the most pertinent results of the survey, beginning with campus climate and ending with student experiences.

Survey Design and Methodology

Northwestern's Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Misconduct was designed by a group of professional staff at the University that included subject matter experts (i.e., the Title IX coordinator and deputy coordinator; the director of Health Promotion and Wellness/ Center for Awareness, Response, and Education [CARE]; and the director of the Women's Center) and others with experience in distributing and analyzing data (i.e., the senior director and staff from the Office of Institutional Research and the director of Student Affairs Assessment). The questions were drawn from a sample climate survey provided by the US Department of Justice Office of Violence Against Women and from campus climate surveys recently designed and used by other institutions of higher education.

All students enrolled in any school at Northwestern in spring quarter 2015, with the exception of students on the Qatar campus, were invited to participate in the survey, which was web-based and accessible online for three weeks starting May 1. Participation was voluntary and anonymous, and respondents could skip questions they did not want to answer. Students were required to give their consent before starting the survey. Because some of the questions referred to body parts and described violent behavior, the survey included several trigger warnings, and a link to support services appeared at the bottom of every page.

- Three days prior to the launch of the survey, the vice president for student affairs sent an email to all students explaining the importance of the survey.
- An email from the president and provost requested all students to complete the survey and provided a link to frequently asked questions.
- The dean of students and the Title IX coordinator each reminded students about the survey by email.
- As an incentive, students who submitted surveys were entered in a drawing to win one of 10 $100 gift cards.

The Office of Institutional Research administered the survey. The data were analyzed by the Office of Student Affairs Assessment, with input from a committee of faculty, staff, and graduate and undergraduate students.

Topics described in this report can be hard to think about and may remind some readers of their own experiences or those of a friend or family member. To talk to someone immediately about questions or concerns relating to sexual misconduct, including sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking, please contact CARE or one of the resources listed on the Sexual Misconduct Response and Prevention website.

Definitions

Northwestern's Policy on Sexual Misconduct prohibits sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking. It applies to all students, faculty, and staff, as well as University vendors, contractors, visitors, guests, and third parties associated with the campus community.

In keeping with the policy, for purposes of the survey and this report, the term "sexual misconduct" includes the following: sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking. "Sexual assault" is one form of sexual misconduct and includes four specific behaviors: touching or fondling without consent, sexual penetration without consent, incest, and statutory rape.

Survey Respondents

The overall response rate was 15 percent. Table 1 shows the demographic characteristics of the respondents. The demographic characteristics of the students invited to respond were provided by the Office of Institutional Research; the demographic characteristics of the responding students were self-reported on the survey. This report focuses on differences by gender and enrollment status (undergraduate or graduate/professional). Undergraduate females from the Evanston campus constituted the largest proportion of respondents.

TABLE 1: Student and Respondent Demographics

	Evanston Campus		Chicago Campus		Total*	
	Invited	Responding (% of Invited)	Invited	Responding (% of Invited)	Invited	Responding (% of Invited)
Total	14,379	2,525 (18%)	5,262	356 (7%)	19,641	2,979 (15%)
Undergraduate						
Female	3,895	1,068 (27%)	112	11 (10%)	4,007	1,081 (27%)
Male	3,860	632 (16%)	132	12 (9%)	3,992	645 (16%)
Graduate/Professional						
Female	3,006	425 (14%)	1,830	176 (10%)	4,836	618 (13%)
Male	3,587	358 (10%)	2,666	142 (5%)	6,253	543 (9%)
Nondegree						
Female	6	14†	292	8 (3%)	298	23 (8%)
Male	6	7†	212	6 (3%)	218	17 (8%)
Missing	19	21†	18	1 (6%)	37	52†

*98 respondents did not report a primary campus.

† Respondents self-reported these demographics. The numbers exceed those provided by the Office of Institutional Research, therefore percentages are not presented.

Response bias is present in almost all voluntary surveys. In other words, it is difficult to know if the nearly 3,000 respondents differed systematically from those who did not respond. Students who experienced some form of sexual misconduct might have been less likely to respond or, alternatively, might have responded at higher rates. Regardless, this does not lessen the value of the survey's findings. But it does mean the responses may not be representative of the larger Northwestern University student population and may not be comparable to results from other surveys.

Student Attitudes and Views

The survey opened with questions about students' attitudes and beliefs about the campus climate related to sexual misconduct, including sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking.

- Overall, 74% of respondents agreed (57%) or strongly agreed (17%) that students at Northwestern respect one another's personal space.
- An overwhelmingly majority (88%) of all respondents agreed (47%) or strongly agreed (41%) that most Northwestern students would respect someone who did something to prevent a sexual assault.
- Overall, 91% of respondents believed their friends would watch out for them if it seemed like something bad might happen to them at a party or social event (45% agreed and 46% strongly agreed).
- Most respondents (68%) indicated they would officially report a friend who committed rape (34% agreed and 34% strongly agreed).
- Nearly all respondents (98%) said they would express disagreement if one of their friends said that it was okay to have sex with someone who is passed out or very intoxicated (20% agreed and 78% strongly agreed).

TABLE 2: Campus Climate

		Agree	Strongly Agree
Students at Northwestern respect one another's personal space.	Overall	57%	17%
	Undergrad Females	59%	8%
	Undergrad Males	59%	17%
	Grad Females	58%	21%
	Grad Males	49%	32%
Most Northwestern students would respect someone who did something to prevent a sexual assault.	Overall	47%	41%
	Undergrad Females	53%	34%
	Undergrad Males	44%	49%
	Grad Females	47%	37%
	Grad Males	38%	50%
I trust that my friends would watch out for me if it seemed like something bad might happen to me at a party or social event.	Overall	45%	46%
	Undergrad Females	45%	46%
	Undergrad Males	44%	46%
	Grad Females	42%	46%
	Grad Males	46%	44%
I would officially report a friend who committed rape.	Overall	34%	34%
	Undergrad Females	34%	27%
	Undergrad Males	31%	34%
	Grad Females	35%	41%
	Grad Males	34%	40%
If one of my friends said that having sex with someone who is passed out or very intoxicated is okay, I would express disagreement.	Overall	20%	78%
	Undergrad Females	15%	84%
	Undergrad Males	26%	70%
	Grad Females	15%	83%
	Grad Males	26%	68%

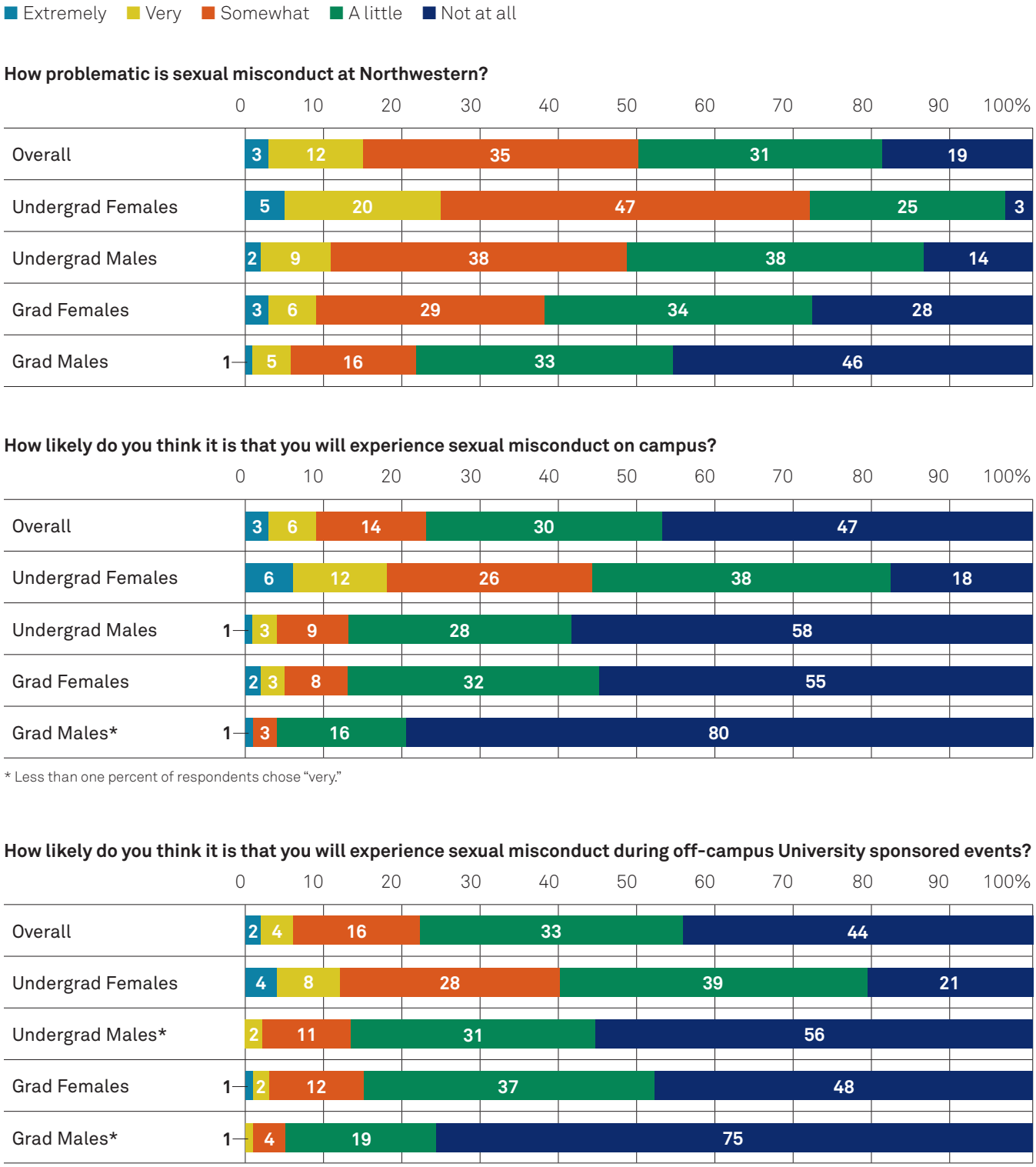
Data documenting additional attitudes and views are presented in Table 3. Nearly all respondents (97%) recognized the importance of getting consent before sexual activity.

TABLE 3: Student Views

	Respondents who Agreed or Strongly Agreed				
	Overall	Undergrad Females	Undergrad Males	Grad Females	Grad Males
It is not necessary to get consent before sexual activity if you are in a relationship with that person.	4%	3%	6%	3%	4%
I believe it is important to get consent before sexual activity.	97%	99%	96%	98%	94%
When someone is raped or sexually assaulted, it's often because the way they said no was unclear or there was some miscommunication.	8%	9%	13%	3%	7%
Sexual assault and rape happen because men can get carried away in sexual situations once they've started.	24%	27%	28%	18%	22%
Rape and sexual assault happen because people put themselves in bad situations.	11%	8%	17%	7%	16%
I feel confident in my ability to judge if someone is too intoxicated to give consent to sexual activity.	79%	78%	79%	82%	78%
Rape and sexual assault can happen unintentionally, especially if alcohol is involved.	42%	42%	53%	35%	40%
A person who is sexually assaulted or raped while drunk is at least somewhat responsible for putting themselves in that position.	11%	8%	15%	10%	17%
Many women who claim they were raped agreed to have sex and then regretted it afterwards.	6%	3%	12%	3%	11%
An incident can only be sexual assault or rape if the person says no.	5%	3%	6%	5%	8%

Figure 1 shows respondents' perceptions of how problematic sexual misconduct is and the likelihood they will experience sexual misconduct at Northwestern. Undergraduate females were more likely to indicate that sexual misconduct was a problem at Northwestern than other subgroups. They also felt they were more likely to experience sexual misconduct.

FIGURE 1: Student Views



* Less than one percent of respondents chose "very."

* Less than one percent of respondents chose "extremely."

Perceptions of Responses to Sexual Misconduct

Respondents answered questions about how they believed other students would respond to reports of sexual misconduct, including sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking. (See figure 2.)

- Slightly more than half (55%) of respondents believed it was unlikely (39%) or very unlikely (16%) that other students would label the person making the report a troublemaker.
- Similarly, 60% of respondents believed that it was unlikely (42%) or very unlikely (18%) that students would have a hard time supporting the person who made the report.
- However, 26% of respondents believed retaliation by the offender or friends of the offender was a more likely scenario; only 38% believed retaliation was unlikely (27%) or very unlikely (11%).

Figure 3 illustrates students' perceptions of how the University would respond to a report of sexual misconduct.

Of responding students,

- 45% believed the University would be likely (30%) or very likely (15%) to handle the report fairly.
- 60% reported believing it was likely (37%) or very likely (23%) that Northwestern would take steps to protect the safety of the person making the report.
- Similarly, a majority (72%) believed it was likely (41%) or very likely (31%) that the University would forward the report to law enforcement if requested by the survivor.
- Three-quarters (74%) said it was likely (45%) or very likely (29%) that the University would maintain the privacy of the person making the report.
- Finally, 63% indicated Northwestern would be likely (38%) or very likely (25%) to take the report seriously.

FIGURE 2: Perceptions of Student Responses to Sexual Misconduct

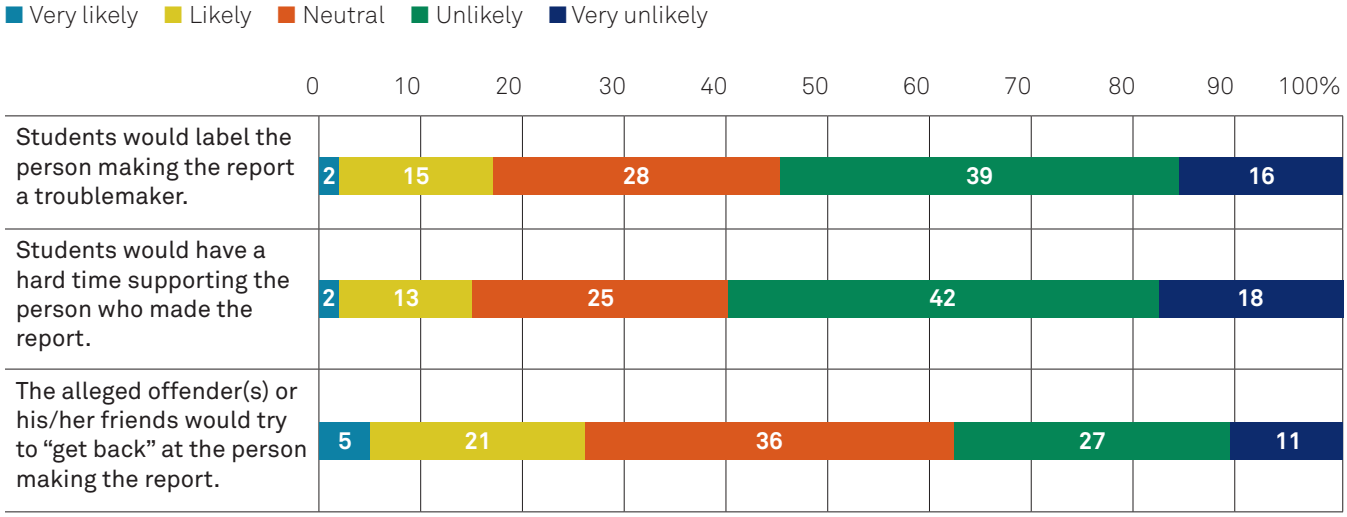
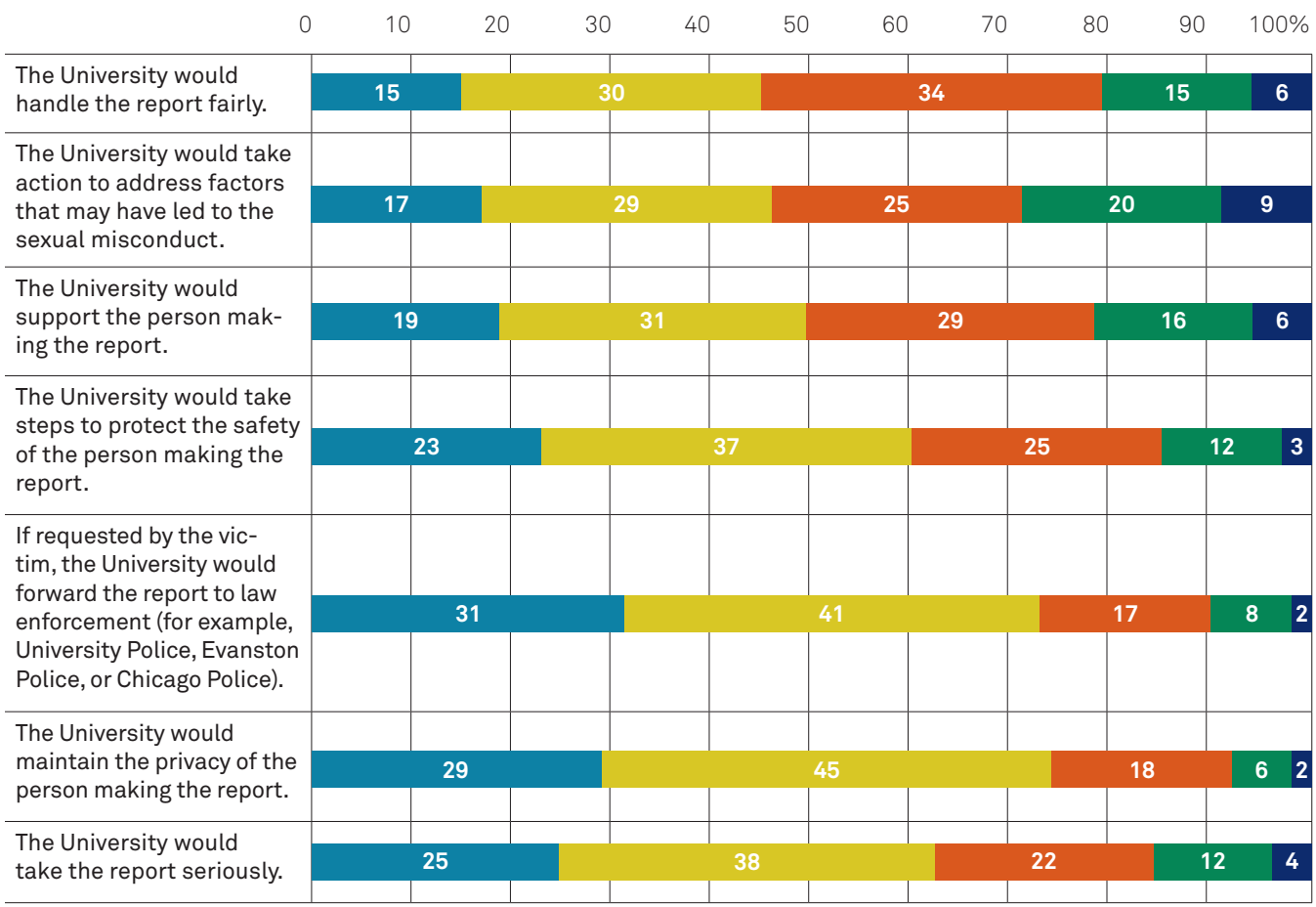


FIGURE 3: Perceptions of University Response to Sexual Misconduct



Protective Behaviors

Overall, undergraduate and graduate females were more likely than males to report behaving in ways to protect themselves and others, such as by walking home a friend who had too much to drink.

TABLE 4: Protective Behaviors

When the situation arises, how often do you do any of the following?

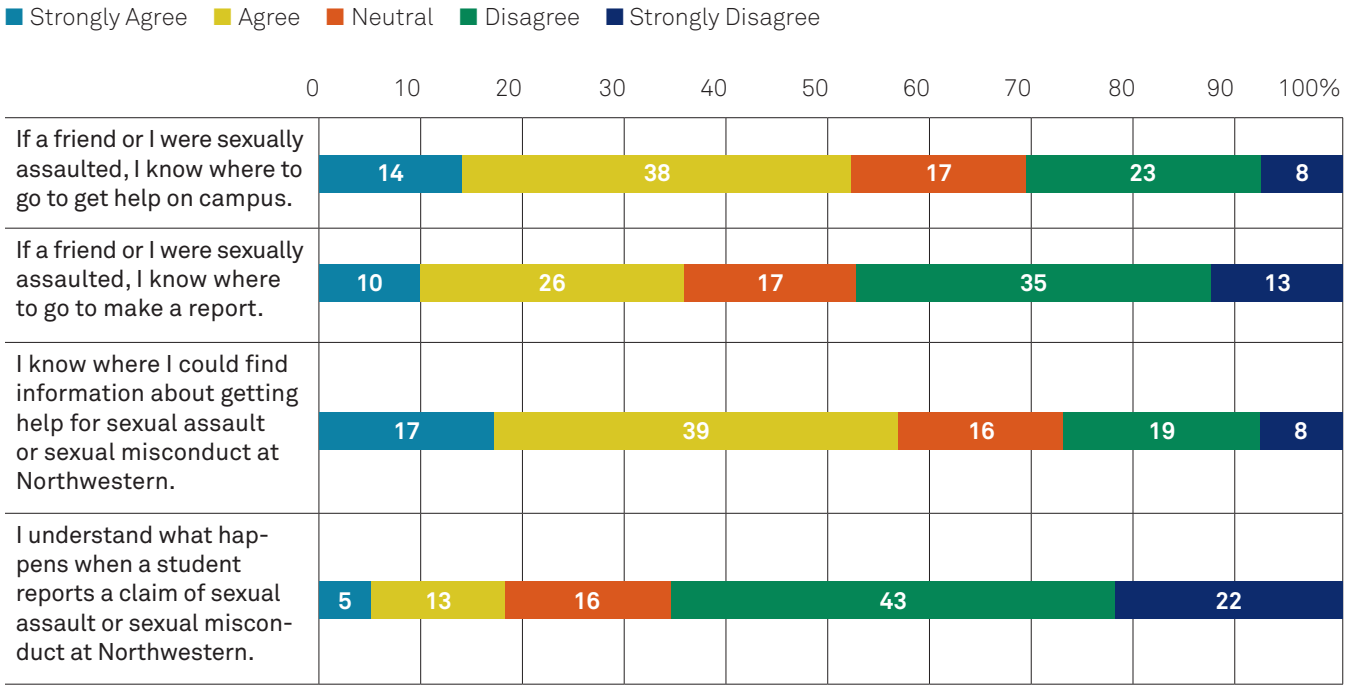
		Always	Usually	Sometimes	Never
Make sure to leave a party with the same people you came with.	Undergrad Females	32%	44%	22%	1%
	Undergrad Males	13%	42%	36%	8%
	Grad Females	34%	41%	23%	2%
	Grad Males	16%	36%	43%	5%
Walk a friend who has had too much to drink home from a party, bar, or other social event.	Undergrad Females	53%	33%	13%	1%
	Undergrad Males	43%	34%	22%	1%
	Grad Females	44%	36%	17%	2%
	Grad Males	33%	39%	25%	3%
Talk to the friends of a drunk person to make sure they don't leave the drunk person behind at a party, bar, or other social event.	Undergrad Females	36%	35%	23%	5%
	Undergrad Males	27%	41%	27%	4%
	Grad Females	34%	36%	23%	7%
	Grad Males	28%	40%	26%	7%
Speak up against sexist jokes.	Undergrad Females	22%	36%	34%	7%
	Undergrad Males	6%	24%	47%	23%
	Grad Females	17%	38%	39%	6%
	Grad Males	5%	20%	51%	24%
Try to distract someone who was trying to take a drunk person to another room or trying to get the drunk person to do something sexual.	Undergrad Females	25%	34%	33%	8%
	Undergrad Males	22%	29%	37%	11%
	Grad Females	43%	28%	20%	9%
	Grad Males	26%	23%	37%	14%
Ask someone you didn't know who had too much to drink or was "out of it" if they needed to be walked home.	Undergrad Females	23%	31%	33%	13%
	Undergrad Males	23%	35%	31%	12%
	Grad Females	23%	28%	30%	19%
	Grad Males	14%	22%	45%	18%

Resources at Northwestern

Among the services and resources offered by Northwestern for those who have experienced sexual misconduct, respondents reported the highest levels of awareness for University Police (95% at least slightly aware), University Health Service (92%), Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) (92%), and the Dean of Students Office (81%). Among the departments that deal directly with students who have experienced sexual misconduct, the Women's Center had the highest level of awareness (78%), followed by CARE (74%), the Sexual Harassment Prevention Office (54%), the Title IX coordinator/deputy coordinator (53%), and the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (52%). The University Chaplains had the lowest levels of awareness as a resource (45%).

- Slightly more than half (52%) of respondents agreed (38%) or strongly agreed (14%) they knew where to get help on campus if they or a friend were sexually assaulted.
- More than one-third (36%) indicated they knew where to go to make a report, and 56% said they knew where they could find information about getting help for sexual assault or sexual misconduct at Northwestern.
- Only 18% of respondents agreed (13%) or strongly agreed (5%) they understood what happens when a student reports a claim of sexual assault or sexual misconduct at Northwestern.

FIGURE 4: Knowledge of Resources



The table below indicates the resources respondents predicted they would use if they experienced sexual misconduct in the future.

TABLE 5: Future Use of Resources

		Yes	No	Unsure			Yes	No	Unsure
CARE (Center for Awareness, Response, and Education)	UG Females	65%	11%	24%	Northwestern University Police	UG Females	52%	27%	22%
	UG Males	58%	14%	28%		UG Males	65%	18%	17%
	Grad Females	31%	10%	59%		Grad Females	68%	14%	18%
	Grad Males	26%	23%	51%		Grad Males	70%	14%	16%
Sexual Harassment Prevention Office	UG Females	34%	22%	44%	Local police (Evanston or Chicago)	UG Females	44%	30%	26%
	UG Males	38%	23%	39%		UG Males	54%	23%	23%
	Grad Females	39%	14%	48%		Grad Females	70%	10%	20%
	Grad Males	40%	19%	42%		Grad Males	66%	14%	20%
Dean of Students Office	UG Females	21%	38%	41%	Northwestern University Health Service	UG Females	63%	19%	17%
	UG Males	29%	32%	38%		UG Males	57%	22%	21%
	Grad Females	30%	26%	44%		Grad Females	73%	12%	15%
	Grad Males	41%	26%	33%		Grad Males	63%	17%	19%
Women's Center	UG Females	72%	9%	19%	Residential Life Staff (RA, resident director, etc.)	UG Females	26%	51%	23%
	UG Males	19%	48%	33%		UG Males	31%	49%	20%
	Grad Females	51%	10%	39%		Grad Females	7%	55%	38%
	Grad Males	9%	51%	39%		Grad Males	10%	53%	37%
CAPS (Counseling and Psychological Services)	UG Females	68%	21%	11%	Northwestern Chaplains	UG Females	7%	48%	45%
	UG Males	71%	16%	13%		UG Males	13%	47%	40%
	Grad Females	73%	12%	15%		Grad Females	7%	49%	43%
	Grad Males	56%	18%	26%		Grad Males	9%	47%	44%
Title IX coordinator or deputy coordinators	UG Females	22%	24%	53%	Rape crisis center or hotline	UG Females	33%	28%	39%
	UG Males	18%	34%	48%		UG Males	24%	32%	44%
	Grad Females	19%	19%	63%		Grad Females	38%	17%	45%
	Grad Males	12%	34%	54%		Grad Males	24%	29%	47%
Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution	UG Females	16%	31%	53%	Other (please specify)	UG Females	12%	43%	45%
	UG Males	25%	31%	44%		UG Males	11%	42%	46%
	Grad Females	17%	25%	58%		Grad Females	13%	28%	59%
	Grad Males	23%	29%	48%		Grad Males	10%	43%	47%

Experiences of Sexual Misconduct

In one section of the survey, respondents were provided 10 descriptions of types of sexual misconduct reflected in Northwestern's Policy on Sexual Misconduct—including sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking—and asked to indicate each behavior they had experienced while at Northwestern. (Note: This question concerned the timing of each experience, not its location; the location was addressed in subsequent questions. See page 17.)

The results, summarized in the three tables below, show the number and percentage of respondents who answered the questions in this section of the survey and reported each form of sexual misconduct they had experienced since becoming Northwestern students (not just in the last year). Table 6 illustrates students' experiences with sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking. Table 7 summarizes the findings related to sexual assault. Table 8 provides data on attempted sexual assault. Respondents could check more than one behavior, thus the percentages cannot be totaled.

TABLE 6: Indicated Experiencing Sexual Exploitation, Sexual Harassment, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, or Stalking Since Being a Student at Northwestern

	Overall (N=2071)	Undergrad Females (N=792)	Undergrad Males (N=441)	Graduate Females (N=442)	Graduate Males (N=379)	Other* (N=17)
Someone sexually exploited you by taking advantage of you for the benefit of themselves or a third party without your consent.	113 (5%)	90 (11%)	17 (4%)	4 (1%)	2 (1%)	0 (0%)
Someone sexually harassed you (engaged in unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature, which includes, but is not limited to, unwelcome sexual advances; the use or threatened use of sexual favors as a basis for academic or employment decisions; or conduct that creates a hostile, intimidating, or offensive academic or working environment).	309 (15%)	207 (26%)	33 (7%)	52 (12%)	13 (3%)	4 (24%)
You were in a relationship with a current or former intimate partner, dating partner, domestic partner, or spouse that involved intimidation, harassment, physical abuse, or sexual abuse.	79 (4%)	46 (6%)	6 (1%)	21 (5%)	5 (1%)	1 (6%)
Someone stalked, followed, or sent you repeated unwanted messages, texts, emails, etc., that were unwelcome and caused you to fear for your safety or caused you substantial emotional distress.	171 (8%)	97 (12%)	25 (6%)	40 (9%)	8 (2%)	1 (6%)

*Other includes students who identified as transgender or other gender and nondegree students.
Note: Respondents could check more than one experienced behavior; thus the percentages cannot be totaled.

One form of sexual misconduct is sexual assault. Northwestern's Policy on Sexual Misconduct includes four behaviors in its definition of sexual assault. This same language was used in the 2015 Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Misconduct.

TABLE 7: Indicated Experiencing Sexual Assault Since Becoming a Student at Northwestern

	Overall (N=2071)	Undergrad Females (N=792)	Undergrad Males (N=441)	Graduate Females (N=442)	Graduate Males (N=379)	Other* (N=17)
Someone touched or fondled your genitals, breast, thighs, groin, or buttocks without your consent or knowingly touched you with their genitals, breasts, or buttocks without your consent.	336 (16%)	249 (31%)	40 (9%)	36 (8%)	9 (2%)	2 (12%)
Someone sexually penetrated your sex organs, anus, or mouth without your consent.	93 (4%)	74 (9%)	10 (2%)	8 (2%)	1 (<1%)	0 (0%)
Someone to whom you are related had sexual intercourse with you (i.e., committed incest).	2 (<1%)	1 (<1%)	0 (0%)	1 (<1%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Someone had sexual intercourse with you while you were under the age of consent (i.e., committed statutory rape).	5 (<1%)	3 (<1%)	1 (<1%)	1 (<1%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

* Other includes students who identified as transgender or other gender and nondegree students.
Note: Respondents could check more than one experienced behavior; thus the percentages cannot be totaled.

Although they are not included in Northwestern's definition of sexual assault (but they are still a violation of Northwestern's Policy on Sexual Misconduct), the 2015 Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Misconduct also sought information on attempts or tries on two of the four behavioral descriptions of sexual assault.

TABLE 8: Indicated Experiencing Attempts of Sexual Assault Since Becoming a Student at Northwestern

	Overall (N=2071)	Undergrad Females (N=792)	Undergrad Males (N=441)	Graduate Females (N=442)	Graduate Males (N=379)	Other* (N=17)
Someone *tried* to touch or fondle your genitals, breast, thighs, groin, or buttocks without your consent.	381 (18%)	284 (36%)	46 (10%)	37 (8%)	12 (3%)	2 (12%)
Someone *tried* to sexually penetrate your sex organs, anus, or mouth without your consent.	115 (6%)	93 (12%)	12 (3%)	8 (2%)	1 (<1%)	1 (6%)

* Other includes students who identified as transgender or other gender and nondegree students.
Note: Respondents could check more than one experienced behavior; thus the percentages cannot be totaled.

Telling and Reporting

Did the respondents who indicated they had experienced sexual misconduct (i.e., sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking) at Northwestern *tell* anyone and/or formally *report* the incident?

"Telling" was defined as sharing their experience with someone in an unofficial capacity without the expectation that action would follow. "Reporting" was defined as telling someone in an official capacity with the expectation either that action would follow or the report would be kept on an official record.

Respondents could choose from a list of 16 potential categories of people to whom they told or reported the incident. The list included people who are considered mandatory reporters at Northwestern (e.g., a staff member in the Dean of Student's Office); others who are confidential counselors at Northwestern (e.g., an on-campus counselor or therapist); and people who are not affiliated with the University (e.g., a family member or friend).

Telling. Three-quarters (75%) of respondents who indicated they experienced an incident of sexual misconduct (including sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking) while at Northwestern *told* someone about the incident.

Of those who reported telling someone,

- 96% told friends, classmates, or peers, and 32% told family.
- A large majority (88%) said the response from the person they told made them feel supported. However, 22% said that the person they told minimized the importance or seriousness of what happened.
- A smaller percentage (18%) said the person they told helped them gather information or find resources or services, and 16% said the person gave them resources they could use if they wanted to.

Reporting. Forty-six respondents (7%) who indicated they experienced sexual misconduct (including sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking) said they formally ***reported*** the incident.

Of the students who indicated reporting the incident,

- the largest percentages reported to an adviser, supervisor, mentor, or boss (34%); the Title IX coordinator or deputy coordinator (30%); University Police or local police (21%); and CARE (19%).
- 13% reported that their case went through a University investigation or hearing.

In deciding to share or report their experiences, respondents said they considered the following: they felt unsure that the incident was serious enough to share (68%), they indicated it was not clear that harm was intended (53%), and they did not want any action to be taken (i.e., arrests, legal charges, disciplinary action) (45%).

Specific Incident: Locations, Offenders, and Impacts

Students who indicated that they experienced an incident of sexual misconduct, again broadly defined, while at Northwestern were asked follow-up questions about that experience. If students experienced more than one incident, they were instructed to answer about the experience that had impacted or affected them the most.

- Forty-five percent (45%) of respondents reported that the incident happened on campus; 55% reported the incident occurred off campus. Undergraduate students were more likely than graduate students to experience sexual misconduct while on campus.
- The offenders were predominantly males (85%) and about two-thirds (64%) were Northwestern undergraduate or graduate students.
- Two-thirds of respondents reported that the offender was known to the respondent.

Respondents who experienced sexual misconduct reported a number of ways in which that experience had impacted their lives.

- The highest proportions of respondents reported at least occasionally feeling easily tired (70%), feeling detached or estranged from others (65%), and feeling hyperalert or on guard (62%).
- One in five (20%) respondents reported often feeling less happy or pleased about things that once caused them to be happy or pleased.
- Approximately one-third of respondents reported some loss of interest in intimacy or sex (35%) or some substantive changes in eating habits or appetite (e.g., being unable to eat, eating much less than usual, eating much more than normal, binging or purging, etc.) (30%).

Responsibility for Sexual Misconduct

Sixty-six (66) respondents (3%) reported that they had personally committed some form of sexual misconduct (sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking) since becoming a student at Northwestern. An additional 50 respondents (2%) reported being unsure if they had engaged in sexual misconduct. Twenty-one percent (21%) of respondents reported knowing someone who had engaged in sexual misconduct. Of those who had committed sexual misconduct (or were unsure), the most common forms reported were attempts at fondling without consent (22%), fondling without consent (21%), and sexual harassment (18%). Sixty-one percent (61%) of offenders reported that the incident occurred off campus.

Next Steps

Consistent with Northwestern's commitment to improve the climate on campus for all students, the information gained from this study will be used to inform our education and prevention efforts, strengthen awareness of existing services for survivors, and create a safer and more caring community. In fall 2015 the Campus Coalition on Sexual Violence and the Title IX Coordinating Committee will meet to discuss the survey findings and make recommendations based on the results by the end of the 2015–16 academic year. Opportunities for students, faculty, and staff to provide input will be offered throughout fall quarter.

The 2015 Campus Climate on Sexual Misconduct Survey is one of several initiatives at Northwestern to improve the climate on campus for our students. Below is a summary of some of those efforts.

- The Center for Awareness, Response, and Education (CARE)—established in September 2011 under the first three-year, $300,000 Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) grant awarded to Northwestern—is a centralized resource on campus for programs and services related to sexual violence prevention and response and healthy sexuality. The first survivor advocate was hired in January 2012.
- In January 2014 Northwestern adopted a new Sexual Misconduct, Stalking, and Dating and Domestic Violence policy that applies to all students, faculty, staff, and third-party vendors. A revision of this policy, effective September 10, 2015, contains policy, procedures, and resources regarding sexual violence, including information on seeking medical treatment; consulting with confidential on-campus or off-campus advocates; preserving evidence; filing reports with law enforcement and/or the University; and accessing interim protective measures and accommodations.

- A number of education programs are in place: (1) Incoming undergraduate students participate in two mandatory programs that engage them in issues related to sexual violence, relationships, and campus culture: an interactive online program, called Agent of Change, and a presentation during Wildcat Welcome, ***Student Body***, (2) Step-Up! is a bystander intervention program that educates students to be proactive in helping others, (3) Supports Starts Here, a program launched by CARE in fall 2015, is designed to help faculty, staff, and students learn how to respond to and assist survivors of sexual misconduct; and (4) Sexual Health and Assault Peer Educators (SHAPE) and Men Against Rape and Sexual Assault (MARS) continue their peer education efforts.
- In 2015, CARE created a new position, the coordinator of men's engagement, funded by a second OVW grant awarded in September 2014. This position works with men involved in MARS and Step-Up! and serves as a survivor advocate, with a focus on supporting male and male-identified survivors.
- A new website on sexual misconduct, featuring updated information created with student input, launched in September 2015: www.northwestern.edu/sexual-misconduct.
- An online, educational course on sexual misconduct for staff, faculty, and graduate and professional students will be implemented in phases for each group starting in fall quarter 2015.
- *You Have Options. Northwestern Can Help,* a new resource pamphlet for survivors of sexual misconduct was published (in print) and posted online in fall 2015.

Finally, analysis of these survey results will continue and explore the settings in which sexual misconduct occurs, the characteristics of students who are most at risk, perceptions of the University's response to sexual misconduct, and campus awareness of available resources and support.

If you have ideas about how Northwestern can reduce the incidence of sexual misconduct on campus and improve the support the University offers when it does occur, please contact the Title IX coordinator (SexualMisconductPolicyFeedback@northwestern.edu) or join the Campus Coalition on Sexual Violence.

Northwestern