

From: Official Announcements - University of Connecticut
On Behalf Of President Susan Herbst
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2016 1:00 PM
To: UCONN_OFFICIAL_ANNOUNCEMENTS-L@LISTSERV.UCONN.EDU
Subject: Campus Climate Survey Results

Dear Students, Staff and Faculty,

As a community, we must continue to work together to create and maintain a campus environment free from all forms of sexual violence. During April, Sexual Assault Awareness Month, we are especially focused on this important issue on our campuses, and across college and university campuses nationwide.

I write today to share the results of our fall 2015 sexual violence climate survey. These results, presented in summary below and more comprehensively [here](#), provide an important view into our students' experiences with and perceptions about sexual violence at UConn. This valuable information will inform our continuing efforts to prevent sexual violence and to enhance support to students when incidents occur.

More than 6,000 randomly selected students were invited to participate in this survey, administered by the Higher Education Data Sharing consortium (known as HEDS), with a strong response rate. We are grateful to each student who took the time to answer this comprehensive and critical survey. Results were compiled by HEDS and UConn's Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness (OIRE).

The survey asked students about their views on our campus climate generally and around sexual assault, their perceptions of how UConn responds to concerns regarding sexual assault, and whether and how often they have experienced unwanted sexual contact or sexual assault since arriving at UConn.

I encourage you to review the survey results in full, but want to highlight for you here some of the important findings that speak to UConn's commitment to supporting a safe environment for our students, and also provide us with insight on where to focus our prevention and response efforts moving forward.

Beginning with general climate data regarding on-campus experiences, across all campuses:

- 82 percent of responding students agree or strongly agree that they feel safe on their campus; 12 percent neither agree nor disagree; and 6 percent disagree or strongly disagree.
- 65 percent of responding students agree or strongly agree that UConn students are genuinely concerned about the welfare of other students; 26 percent neither agree nor disagree; and 9 percent disagree or strongly disagree.
- 77 percent of responding students agree or strongly agree that faculty, staff and administrators are genuinely concerned about students' welfare; 16 percent neither agree nor disagree; and 7 percent disagree or strongly disagree.

While we are pleased that so many of our students feel safe, we must continue our efforts to ensure the actual safety of every UConn student.

In terms of questions regarding student experiences with unwanted sexual contact or assault while at UConn:

- Regarding unwanted brief physical contact – 1.1 percent of responding students responded this occurred “very often”; 3.6 percent “often”; 12.1 percent “sometimes”; 19.7 percent rarely”; and 63.5 percent “never.”
- 6.5 percent of responding students experienced attempted, but not completed, sexual assault.
- 4.3 percent suspected, but were not sure, that someone attempted to sexually assault them.
- 5.5 percent of responding students experienced completed sexual assault; 2.6 percent suspected but were not sure that they were sexually assaulted.
- Of those students who reported experiencing sexual assault, 26.5 percent said they were unable to provide consent because of incapacitation.

While our UConn results depict fewer incidents here than the national figures that are often reported, we must continue to do all we can to eliminate every single sexual assault and to increase awareness of sexual violence on our campuses.

Questions regarding knowledge of resources and university staff and administrator responses to sexual assault and unwanted sexual contact provided the following responses:

- While 77 percent of responding students answered “yes” to knowing what sexual assault is and how to recognize it, fewer responding students, 56 percent, answered that they knew how to report an incident of sexual assault or knew the confidential resources for sexual assault. Fewer still, 35 percent, answered that they knew the university procedures for investigating a sexual assault.
- Regarding what might happen if someone were to report a sexual assault to a campus administrator, 74 percent agree or strongly agree that campus officials would take the report seriously, while 15 percent neither agree nor disagree with this statement, and 11 percent disagree or strongly disagree.

Regarding their fellow students intervening during, or providing support after, a problematic encounter:

- 57 percent of responding students agree or strongly agree that other UConn students would intervene if they witnessed a sexual assault; 26 percent neither agree nor disagree; and 17 percent disagree or strongly disagree.
- 69 percent of responding students responded that they knew the actions they can take to help prevent sexual assault, such as bystander intervention, clear communication with a potential partner, or some other action, while 21 percent answered that they did not know how to take such actions, and 10 percent were unsure.
- 67 percent of responding students agree or strongly agree that UConn students would support a person making a sexual assault report to the university; 24 percent neither agree nor disagree; and 8 percent disagree or strongly disagree.

This tells us that we must continue our commitment to bolstering university-wide awareness of actions that can be taken to prevent sexual assault and also how best our students, faculty and staff can provide support when incidents do occur.

In addition, while we have worked over the past several years to expand resources and clarify reporting options, our results make clear that there is more work to be done in this area to ensure that all of our community members are aware of these options and resources, and to ensure that our students feel comfortable and supported in accessing them.

Based on these results, I have asked our Division of Student Affairs, Title IX Coordinator, Graduate School and other key campus partners to focus concentrated efforts on enhanced prevention programming, and to continue to raise awareness of the support and resources available to anyone in the UConn community impacted by sexual violence.

For anyone looking for more information or resources now, I encourage you to visit UConn's newly relaunched comprehensive Title IX website, www.titleix.uconn.edu, which provides much more information regarding [resources](#), [reporting](#), [university policies](#), and how to [offer support](#) to those impacted.

I encourage all members of our community to review the [comprehensive survey results](#) carefully. Anyone with questions or thoughts about the climate survey or our ongoing prevention and response efforts may also contact our Title IX office at titleix@uconn.edu, and (860) 486-2943.

Also, several important events are taking place this week on campus as part of [Sexual Assault Awareness Month](#). I invite all members of our community to join in these critical efforts to raise awareness and support survivors by attending one or more of the following:

- Today's Third Annual UConn Consent Day on Fairfield Way on the Storrs campus between 1:30 and 4 p.m. Join in this event today, sponsored by Residential Life, which is focused on creating and fostering healthy relationships and preventing sexual violence on campus.
- Take Back the Night on Wednesday, April 13 at 7 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom. Held by the [UConn Women's Center's Violence Against Women Prevention Program](#), an evening of empowerment for survivors of gender-based violence, including a solidarity march with a stop at USG's Celeron Path groundbreaking ceremony, speak-out and late-night coffee house.
- An [important seminar](#) on Friday, April 15, for all members of our community by nationally renowned trauma expert Jim Hopper, Ph.D., at the Konover Auditorium in the Dodd Center from 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., on learning and applying trauma-informed responses to victims of sexual assault.

Finally, I express my gratitude to the students, staff and faculty who work every day to raise awareness, prevent violence, and provide support for UConn community members impacted by sexual violence. This longstanding and important work reflects positively on our profound commitment to eliminating all forms of sexual and gender-based violence on all of our campuses.

Sincerely,

Susan Herbst