

Results of the New Hampshire College Sexual Assault Policy and Prevention Initiative (CSAPP_{NH}) Climate Study

Nashua Community College (NCC)

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Introduction

In April 2014, the Obama Administration’s White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault released several action steps and recommendations to prevent and improve the response to sexual assault and other forms of sexual misconduct¹ on college campuses. To fulfill the first action step, “Identifying the Problem,” the Task Force recommended that all post-secondary institutions administer a campus climate survey to gauge the prevalence of sexual assault, test students’ awareness of the issue, and provide schools with a tool for crafting solutions (White House 2014). While the majority of current research on campus sexual assault has focused on traditional four-year residential colleges and universities, there is a lack of focus on the needs of non-residential and community college students, who comprise almost half of the undergraduate students in the United States (AACC 2015).

In July 2016, Prevention Innovations Research Center (PIRC) at the University of New Hampshire was awarded one of nine, three-year grants by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office on Women’s Health to work with eight-post secondary institutions in New Hampshire, including seven community colleges and one four-year, nonresidential college. The goal of the New Hampshire Campus Sexual Assault Policy and Prevention Initiative (CSAPP_{NH}), is to improve sexual misconduct policy and prevention at participating institutions.

In collaboration with the CSAPP_{NH} college partners, PIRC administered campus climate surveys at the eight participating post-secondary institutions during the spring of 2017. The Administrator-Researcher Campus Climate Collaborative (ARC3) is a free campus climate survey designed by a consortium of sexual assault researchers and student affairs professionals (ARC3 2015). The study was approved by the UNH IRB and institutional leadership at the participating schools and was administered as a confidential online survey through Qualtrics survey design software. A link to the survey was disseminated to all students at eight post-secondary schools in New Hampshire.

The results of the climate surveys will inform the eight CSAPP_{NH} Colleges and PIRC about 1) the extent and nature of sexual misconduct, sexual assault and intimate partner violence, 2) student awareness of sexual assault and intimate partner policies and practices at their schools, and 3) students’ views of the climate at the community and nonresidential colleges (e.g., social norms, safety, etc.) in the State of New Hampshire. Findings will be used to guide efforts of the CSAPP_{NH} project partners to address sexual misconduct, sexual assault and intimate partner violence policies, prevention and response.

Two reports have been developed to present the results and analysis of the climate surveys. This report provides information regarding student awareness and student views of campus climate. The second report provides information about the prevalence and nature of sexual misconduct, sexual assault and intimate partner violence.

1. As defined by the ARC3 survey, sexual misconduct refers to physical contact or non-physical conduct of a sexual nature in the absence of clear, knowing and voluntary consent. Examples include sexual or gender-based harassment, stalking, dating violence, and sexual violence (ARC3 2015).

Summary of School Specific Findings

The CSAPP_{NH} climate survey asked students to answer questions regarding a broad range of issues, including their knowledge of campus prevention resources, their beliefs about how their school would respond to disclosures of sexual misconduct, and their perceptions of the climate regarding bystander intervention, safety on campus, and reporting sexual misconduct. The survey also contained questions about students' experiences with sexual harassment, sexual assault, stalking, and intimate partner violence, which are not presented in this report. The summary below focuses on key findings related to campus climate at Nashua Community College (NCC).

- Student Demographics
 - The majority of NCC students are of traditional college age (18-24), an age range where both female and male traditional-age college students are more likely than the general population to be victims of sexual assault (DOJ 2014).
 - Over 20% of survey participants identified as a sexual orientation other than straight, demonstrating a need for LGBTQ focused prevention efforts on campus.
 - Almost all participants take at least some of their classes on campus (97.2%), giving NCC an important opportunity to connect with most of their students face-to-face. However, NCC should also consider online resources to support and educate students who may never step foot on a traditional campus.
- Campus Safety
 - The majority of participants feel safe on their campus and believe NCC officials will take them seriously regarding sexual misconduct reporting and take action regarding incidences of sexual misconduct, sexual assault and intimate partner violence.
- Knowledge of Resources
 - Participants reported low levels of exposure to sexual misconduct resources at NCC. Less than half of participants reported that they knew where to go to make a report of sexual misconduct and get help on campus, and even fewer participants understand what happens when these types of reports are made.
- Bystander Engagement
 - Bystander intervention occurs at varying levels depending on the circumstance, thus, there is significant opportunity for education in this area. Participants were most likely to intervene if a friend was being physically abusive to another person. They were least likely to intervene when they heard someone making sexist jokes.

Survey Data Report

1. Response Rate and Survey Demographics

Students enrolled at the eight CSAPP_{NH} community and nonresidential colleges were invited to participate in the climate survey. Of the 14,189 students who were emailed the link to the survey, 1,178 participated in the survey. Thus, the overall response rate was 8.3%. At Nashua Community College (NCC), approximately 1,852 students were emailed the link to the survey and 219 participated, for a slightly higher response rate of 11.8%. Respondents could choose the questions they wished to answer and they could exit the survey at any point. Accordingly, the number of responses presented in the following tables varies by question because a few participants chose to skip some of the questions. However, most respondents completed the entire survey.

In Table 1 we present key demographic characteristics of survey respondents at NCC (left column), and the aggregate responses for participants at the eight CSAPP_{NH} schools (right column). According to fall 2016 enrollment data, 75% percent of the NCC student population identifies as white, 51% identifies as female, and 68% are between the ages of 18-24 (NCES 2016). The survey participants are fairly representative of the larger NCC student population with slightly more participants identifying as white (84.5%), slightly more participants identifying as female (58.1%) and slightly fewer participants who were under the age of 24 (62%). Over 20% of survey participants identified as a sexual orientation other than straight, demonstrating a need for LGBTQ focused prevention efforts on campus. Almost all participants take at least some of their classes on campus (97.2%), giving NCC an important opportunity to connect with most of their students face-to-face.

Table 1: Participant Demographics		
	NCC (N=219)	CSAPP_{NH} (N=1,178)
Gender Identity		
Female	58.1%	69.9%
Male	39.4%	27.6%
Other	2.6%	2.5%
Age Range		
18-19	29.7%	21.3%
20-21	21.5%	21.2%
22-23	10.8%	9.7%
24-25	10.8%	7.3%
26-27	5.7%	6.2%
28-29	2.5%	4.7%
30 and older	19.0%	29.5%
Sexual Orientation		
Heterosexual	78.3%	81.9%
Bisexual	8.3%	10.3%
Gay/Lesbian/Queer/Asexual/Other	13.4%	7.9%

Table 1: Participant Demographics (Continued)		
	NCC (N=219)	CSAPP_{NH} (N=1,178)
Race/Ethnicity²		
White	84.5%	92.2%
Non-White	25.7%	11.8%
Living Situation		
Live with Children	12.8%	22.0%
Live with Partner/Spouse	23.1%	40.9%
Online vs On-Campus Education		
All classes online	2.8%	11.0%
All classes on campus	62.6%	44.6%
Both	34.6%	44.0%
Length of Enrollment		
1-2 Semesters	47.8%	41.4%
3-4 Semesters	31.9%	26.6%
5 or more Semesters	20.4%	32.1%
Overall Health		
Excellent	15.1%	11.0%
Above Average	19.5%	24.6%
Average	47.8%	44.8%
Fair	14.1%	16.3%
Poor	3.4%	3.3%

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2. The number of white/non-white does not add up to 100%, because survey participants could choose to identify as multiple races.

2. Participant Satisfaction and Safety

In Table 2, we present the percentage of participants who “agree” or “strongly agree” with positive statements about their satisfaction with their school and their perception of campus safety. The majority of respondents would recommend NCC to others, and would still attend the same school if they had to make the choice again. When asked about general safety, as well as safety from specific forms of violence, the majority of participants agreed that they feel safe at their school. The majority of participants reported that they do not believe sexual violence is a problem at NCC.

Table 2: Participant Perceptions of Institution Satisfaction and Safety		
	NCC (N=205) Agree/Strongly Agree	CSAPP_{NH} (N=1,080) Agree/Strongly Agree
Participant Satisfaction		
I would recommend attending my institution to others.	81.7%	88.2%
If I had to do it over again, I would still attend my institution.	76.1%	80.7%

Table 2: Participant Perceptions of Institution Satisfaction and Safety (Continued)		
	NCC (N=205) Agree/Strongly Agree	CSAPP_{NH} (N=1,080) Agree/Strongly Agree
Perceptions of Safety		
I feel safe on campus.	90.7%	91.3%
On or around this campus, I feel safe from sexual harassment.	84.5%	87.2%
On or around this campus, I feel safe from dating violence.	84.5%	88.7%
On or around this campus, I feel safe from sexual violence.	85.2%	88.4%
On or around this campus, I feel safe from stalking.	77.4%	84.3%
Perceptions of Sexual Misconduct as Problem		
I don't think sexual violence is a problem at my institution.	59.4%	63.4%
I don't think there is much I can do about sexual violence on this campus.	26.4%	20.6%
There isn't much need for me to think about sexual violence while at college.	38.5%	33.5%

3. Perceptions of How NCC Might Handle a Report of Sexual Misconduct

Participants were asked to respond to statements describing how they thought their school might handle a sexual misconduct report. In Table 3, we summarize participants' perceptions of how likely they believe NCC would be to handle a report of sexual misconduct. Overall, participants believed school officials would take the report seriously and handle it fairly. The majority of participants believed NCC would support and protect the victim and maintain his or her privacy.

Table 3: Participant Perceptions of How NCC Might Handle a Report of Sexual Misconduct		
	NCC (N=182) Likely/Very Likely	CSAPP_{NH} (N=1,005) Likely/Very Likely
<i>Please indicate the likelihood of each statement describing how your institution might handle it if a student reported an incident of sexual misconduct.</i>		
The institution would take the report seriously	81.4%	85.8%
The institution would maintain the privacy of the person making the report.	77.6%	83.4%
The institution would do its best to honor the request of the person about how to go forward with the case.	71.3%	79.6%
The institution would take steps to protect the safety of the person making the report.	76.5%	83.3%
The institution would support the person making the report.	76.5%	83.1%
The institution would provide accommodations to support the person (e.g. academic, housing, safety)	53.0%	64.5%

Table 3: Participant Perceptions of How NCC Might Handle a Report of Sexual Misconduct (Continued)		
	NCC (N=182) Likely/Very Likely	CSAPP_{NH} (N=1,005) Likely/Very Likely
<i>Please indicate the likelihood of each statement describing how your institution might handle it if a student reported an incident of sexual misconduct.</i>		
The institution would take action to address factors that may have led to the sexual misconduct.	72.0%	76.6%
The institution would handle the report fairly.	78.7%	82.0%
The institution would label the person making the report a troublemaker.	9.8%	8.1%
The institution would have a hard time supporting the person who made the report.	9.2%	8.2%
The institution would punish the person who made the report.	11.0%	7.8%

4. Exposure to Sexual Misconduct Information and Education

In Table 4 we summarize participants' exposure to information or education about sexual misconduct before and since enrolling at their school. The majority of participants reported that they had received information about sexual misconduct prior to attending NCC. However, participants reported low rates of exposure to sexual misconduct information and education at NCC. Participants were most likely to report exposure to the student code of conduct/honor code (48.6%) and posters about sexual misconduct (40.2%).

Table 4: Participant Exposure to Sexual Misconduct Information and Education		
	NCC (N=179) Yes	CSAPP_{NH} (N=991) Yes
<i>Before coming to your institution, had you received any information or education about sexual misconduct?</i>		
Yes, I had received information or education about sexual misconduct.	68.2%	75.2%
<i>Since you came to your institution, which of the following have you done?</i>		
Discussed sexual misconduct/rape in class	10.1%	9.0%
Discussed the topic of sexual misconduct with friends	24.2%	13.0%
Discussed sexual misconduct with a family member	18.4%	33.2%
Attended an event or program about what you can do as a bystander to stop sexual misconduct	2.8%	8.2%
Attended a rally or other campus event about sexual misconduct or sexual assault	1.1%	9.7%

Table 4: Participant Exposure to Sexual Misconduct Information and Education (Continued)		
	NCC (N=179) Yes	CSAPP_{NH} (N=991) Yes
<i>Since you came to your institution, which of the following have you done?</i>		
Seen posters about sexual misconduct (e.g. raising awareness, preventing rape, defining sexual misconduct)	40.2%	27.9%
Seen or heard campus administration or staff address sexual misconduct	6.15%	8.1%
Seen crime alerts about sexual misconduct	16.2%	7.3%
Read a report about sexual violence rates at your institution	4.5%	13.3%
Visited my institution's website with information on sexual misconduct	3.4%	4.3%
Volunteered or interned at an organization that addresses sexual misconduct	2.8%	7.6%
Seen or heard about sexual misconduct in a student publication or media outlet	12.8%	20.9%
Taken a class to learn more about sexual misconduct	2.2%	11.7%
<i>Since coming to your institution have you received written (e.g., brochures, emails) or verbal information (e.g., presentations, training) from anyone at your institution about the following?</i>		
The definitions of types of sexual misconduct.	10.1%	18.2%
How to report an incident of sexual misconduct.	12.3%	20.1%
Where to go to get help if someone you know experiences sexual misconduct.	11.2%	21.6%
Title IX Protections against sexual misconduct.	9.5%	14.6%
How to help prevent sexual misconduct.	12.8%	17.0%
Student code of conduct or honor code.	48.6%	55.6%

5. Participant Awareness of Resources and Reporting Options

Participants were asked if they agree or disagree with statements regarding their knowledge of campus sexual misconduct resources. Less than half of the participants knew where to go to get help on campus, how to report a sexual misconduct incident, or what happens when a sexual misconduct claim is made (see Table 5). When asked about NCC community resources related to sexual misconduct response, more than half of participants were very aware or extremely aware of the function of campus safety. However, the majority of participants indicated that they were not aware of the function of the Title IX Coordinator or the Human/Rights Equity Office.

Table 5: Participant Awareness of Institution Resources and Reporting Options		
	NCC (N=177) Agree/Strongly Agree	CSAPP_{NH} (N=992) Agree/Strongly Agree
<i>Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.</i>		
If a friend or I experienced sexual misconduct, I know where to go to get help on campus.	44.6%	48.8%
I understand what happens when a student reports a claim of sexual misconduct at my institution.	33.1%	33.9%
I would know where to go to make a report of sexual misconduct.	39.6%	42.6%
<i>Please use the following scale to indicate how aware you are of the function of the campus and community resources specifically related to sexual misconduct response at your institution:</i>		
Academic or Student Affairs Offices		
Extremely Aware	12.7%	--
Very Aware	14.5%	--
Somewhat Aware	27.2%	--
Slightly Aware	19.7%	--
Not at All Aware	26.0%	--
Title IX Coordinator		
Extremely Aware	2.9%	--
Very Aware	4.0%	--
Somewhat Aware	13.8%	--
Slightly Aware	13.8%	--
Not at All Aware	65.5%	--
Human Rights/Equity Office		
Extremely Aware	5.2%	--
Very Aware	8.7%	--
Somewhat Aware	18.5%	--
Slightly Aware	15.6%	--
Not at All Aware	52.0%	--

Table 5: Participant Awareness of Institution Resources and Reporting Options (Continued)		
	NCC (N=177) Agree/Strongly Agree	CSAPP_{NH} (N=992) Agree/Strongly Agree
Campus Safety		
Extremely Aware	23.0%	--
Very Aware	30.5%	--
Somewhat Aware	28.2%	--
Slightly Aware	8.6%	--
Not at All Aware	9.8%	--
Office of Human Resources		
Extremely Aware	13.9%	--
Very Aware	11.6%	--
Somewhat Aware	24.3%	--
Slightly Aware	19.7%	--
Not at All Aware	30.6%	--

6. Bystander Intervention

In the Bystander Intervention section of the survey, we invited participants to answer questions about how often they would intervene to help others in hypothetical situations. For almost all items, the majority of participants responded that they would intervene to help someone in need (see Table 6). However, less than half of participants reported that they would speak up against a person making sexist jokes.

Table 6: Bystander Intervention		
	NCC (N=150) Most of the Time/Always	CSAPP_{NH} (N=874) Most of the Time/Always
<i>If the following situations arose, how often would you do any of the following?</i>		
Walk a friend who has had too much to drink home from a party, bar, or other social event.	69.1%	71.3%
Talk to the friends of a drunk person to make sure they don't leave him/her behind at a party, bar, or other social event.	66.2%	68.0%
Speak up against sexist jokes.	43.3%	44.5%
Try to distract someone who was trying to take a drunk person to another room or trying to get them to do something sexual.	59.8%	62.7%
Ask someone who looks very upset at a party if they are okay or need help.	59.3%	67.9%
Intervene with a friend who was being physically abusive to another person.	70.4%	73.6%
Intervene with a friend who was being verbally abusive to another person.	67.3%	71.8%

7. Participant Feedback

PIRC is grateful to the students who participated in the survey. We appreciate the participants' time and thoughtfulness. Participant responses provided important information and feedback that will help inform sexual and relationship violence prevention, education, and intervention efforts at the eight CSAPP_{NH} schools.

Participants' feedback was gathered at the end of the survey. Most participants from NCC found the survey no more or less distressing than other things they encounter in everyday life. The majority of NCC participants believe research on sexual misconduct is "very important," and reported that participating in the survey was personally meaningful to them.

Table 7: Participant Feedback Regarding the Survey		
	NCC (N=158)	CSAPP_{NH} (N=883)
<i>For the questions that were asked about different experiences with sexual misconduct, did you find answering these questions to be more or less distressing than other things you sometimes encounter in day to day life?</i>		
Much Less Distressing	16.5%	18.3%
Somewhat Less Distressing	6.3%	5.8%
Neither More Nor Less Distressing	58.2%	57.2%
Somewhat More Distressing	15.2%	15.3%
Much More Distressing	3.8%	3.4%
<i>For the questions that were asked about different experiences you may have had, such as non-consensual sexual experiences or touching someone without their consent, please rate how important you believe it is for researchers to ask about these types of events in order to study the impact of such experiences.</i>		
Very Unimportant	6.3%	4.3%
Somewhat Unimportant	5.1%	2.0%
Neutral	15.8%	15.6%
Somewhat Important	20.3%	23.6%
Very Important	52.5%	54.5%
<i>I found participating in this study personally meaningful.</i>		
Strongly Disagree	4.5%	2.8%
Disagree	9.6%	6.8%
Neutral	33.1%	36.8%
Agree	37.6%	37.0%
Strongly Agree	15.3%	16.6%

Participant Comments:

Participants were asked if they had any comments to offer at the end of the survey. The 25 comments from NCC were examined for themes and commonalities. The majority of comments provided positive feedback, especially related to feeling safe at NCC. Some participants shared general comments about the topic of sexual misconduct. Others had suggestions for ways to better educate students on sexual misconduct at NCC.

Examples:

- *The fact that NCC has decided to engage in this survey greatly increases my respect for the school. I really hope good comes from this survey.*
- *The campus has always seemed safe, and I think I have seen the campus safety officers at least once every day that I am there.*
- *I have always felt safe on campus. It's a small building and good security, and I have never felt nervous. Also, I like that if I felt unsafe there is a safety office and I could always ask for someone to walk me to my car. I have never felt the need for that, but it is nice to know it's there*
- *I have never felt uncomfortable attending school, which I am so happy I can say. The only thing I will say is I am not knowledgeable on how to report an incident or who I should talk to. I will look into this myself because I can and should, though I think it would be helpful to spread information about what resources are available to students, and about where to go to report an incident.*
- *I have nothing to complain about being on campus. NCC is place where I feel safe. I have not ever had any problems with other students.*
- *I do feel safe on campus when I am there. I have many friends in the school and know sexual harassment wouldn't be tolerated and I could ask my friends where to receive help if I ever needed it.*
- *I don't live on the campus, so I don't find it very easy to be integrated into the school. I go to class, get my work done, and go home-I don't get involved with extra school activities. I think this is why I'm not very knowledgeable about what are school does to protect victims of sexual misconduct, or where to report incidents of sexual misconduct if I ever hear/know about such a thing-I have not come across any of it personally. What I'm saying is, I would probably be more knowledgeable about information regarding sexual misconduct at our school if, hypothetically, it had rooms and I lived on the campus.*
- *Most of the answers I put for neutral is due to not being at this school very long and being a cis-het white male who does not have to worry about being sexually abused.*
- *The person who was sexually suggestive and made me feel uncomfortable was already fired.*
- *I think information on sexual misconduct and where to get help at the campus should be part of freshman orientation along with other violent circumstances.*
- *It would be helpful to have information on hand (easily accessible on website) about who to contact if sexual misconduct occurs, and what happens after it is reported.*

- *While almost all of my friends haven't run into any of the problems mentioned in this survey, many of them wouldn't have a clue what to do if they did experience any of these things. I think it would be beneficial to students if the security office and other security measures were explained more thoroughly to them, even if one of the security officers were to talk to freshmen classes about what they can do to help with different types of problems, flyers were passed out to new students, or even if academic advisors actively asked their students if they were aware of their options. The only reason I know about security is because of my freshmen orientation, where I went to get my parking pass and Student ID; if I hadn't gone to freshmen orientation, I probably wouldn't even know what the security office does.*
- *There is not much information made available to students. I'm sure if we went looking for it, we could find it but it's not out there to see. With the exception of the violence phone number in the girls bathroom on nursing floor*

Use of Findings and Next Steps

The report findings illustrate the importance of providing sexual misconduct education and prevention training to NCC students. The results will inform the direction of CSAPP_{NH} and provides guidance for CSAPP_{NH} college partners and PIRC in the areas of:

1. Providing education regarding sexual misconduct, sexual assault and intimate partner violence to students and information on reporting an incident
2. Enhancing support for unique student populations, including LGBTQ students, minority students, students with families, and online students
3. Increasing students' exposure to sexual misconduct resources, and education regarding prosocial bystander intervention

Next Steps:

CSAPP_{NH} partner schools will receive a second report that will include victimization and perpetration rates related to sexual harassment, sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and stalking in July 2017. Over the course of the year, PIRC will work with NCC and other CSAPP_{NH} partner schools on ways to use climate survey information to inform institution policies and programming.

We welcome any questions or comments regarding this report, or the climate survey in general. Please contact Sharyn Potter (Sharyn.Potter@unh.edu) or Rebecca Howard (Rebecca.Howard@unh.edu) with your feedback.

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