

CAMPUS CLIMATE SURVEY SUMMARY REPORT

July 14, 2016

Acknowledgment

A committee of Ferris State University community members assisted in the creation and implementation of the 2016 Campus Climate Survey, including:

- Kevin Carmody, Title IX Coordinator/Associate Dean of Student Life
- Amy Otteson, Institutional Research and Testing
- Renee Vandermyde, Director, Birkam Health and Counseling Center
- Leroy Wright, Dean of Student Life
- Kristen Salomonson, Dean of Enrollment Services
- Nicholas Campau, Associate Dean of Student Life
- Lisa Ortiz, Assistant Director of Residence Life and Housing
- Casmira Bogucki, Student

It is the hope of the committee that this data will inform the university's efforts to address sexual and relationship violence, and add to a greater understanding of this issue nationwide.

Overview

Relationship violence and sexual misconduct have been, and remain troubling societal problems. While the exact rate of sexual victimization differs from study to study, national data suggests that between one in five (Fisher, Cullen and Turner, 2001; Krebs, et al., 2007) and one in four women report being sexually assaulted while in college (Cantor, et al., 2015). The Department of Justice's National Crime Victimization Survey shows that college-aged females (18-24) are at particular risk for sexual assault. (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2014) This same study showed that females in the same age range but not enrolled in college are at a slightly higher risk than their peers who do attend college.

Surveys to determine the prevalence of relationship violence and stalking are fewer than those for sexual violence, but the national data that does exist presents an equally alarming rate of victimization. The 2001 National Institute of Justice study remains the largest study to examine experiences of stalking behavior. It found that 13.1% of women reported experiencing stalking since the beginning of the school year. (Fisher, Cullen and Turner, 2001). In looking at relationship violence, nearly 1 in 3 college women reported experiencing abusive or violent dating behaviors by a current or former dating partner.

Ferris State University is committed to working to combat relationship violence and sexual misconduct on our campuses. The university's Sexual Assault Task Force, established in 2014, determined that conducting a campus climate survey would provide integral information to support their efforts.

In February 2016, Ferris State University conducted a campus climate survey of students to gain an understanding of their experiences and perceptions relating to sexual assault, stalking and relationship violence. The data gathered by this survey will inform and improve the university's efforts to address and prevent sexual violence and relationship abuse. This report summarizes information derived from Ferris State University's 2016 Campus Climate Survey. *Key Findings*

Areas of strength

1. A majority of respondents reported that they believe that Ferris State University takes reports of unwanted behavior seriously and responds effectively.
2. Students who reported that they have received information and prevention programs reported that they found them to be beneficial.
3. A majority of respondents were able to correctly identify elements of consent.

Areas of concern

1. Of the 632 students who responded, the reported rates of experiencing relationship violence and sexual misconduct since attending Ferris State University at the following rates:
 - a. 131 (20.7%) reported unwanted sexual experiences (ranging from sexual touching to penetration).
 - b. 186 (29.4%) reported experiencing stalking behaviors.
 - c. 127 (20.1%) reported experiencing relationship abuse.

2. Less than half of respondents (38.4%) reported that they had received information relating to bystander intervention.
 - d. Women reported significantly higher rates of these experiences than men.

Survey Design and Methodology

The design of Ferris State University's 2016 Campus Climate survey was based on the guidelines and model provided by the White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault (<https://www.notalone.gov/assets/ovw-climate-survey.pdf>). Additional elements and evidence-informed measures were utilized from the Administrator-Researcher Campus Climate Collaborative (ARC3) instrument. Considerations were given to the length of the instrument to ensure that the information gathered would be impactful, but that the survey would not be so long as to create a barrier to participation.

The survey instrument was designed to facilitate respondents' identifications of coercion and force, relationship abuse, stalking and unwanted sexual behaviors by presenting a series of example behaviors and prompting respondents to indicate if they had experienced each of them. This feature of the design ensured that behaviors considered to represent coercion or force, stalking, relationship abuse or sexual assault for the purposes of the survey were accurately identified by respondents. The survey instrument was designed to allow respondents to indicate if they experienced multiple forms of unwanted sexual behavior and identify multiple forms of coercion or force experienced in association with that behavior.

On February 1, 2016, an email invitation with a link to the survey was sent to all enrolled students at Ferris State University and Kendall College of Art and Design (KCAD). Included in this email was a brief message explaining the importance of the survey, as well as potential risks associated for participants. A list of resources, including counseling and reporting options was provided to all participants. A follow up email was sent on February 12, 2016.

In addition to the email invitation and reminder, student volunteers and university staff members staffed tables in the University Center and during the first two weeks of February. They presented students who passed the table with the opportunity to complete the questionnaire on iPads. Housing and Residence Life staff also hosted programs in residence halls to encourage students to complete the survey.

Participants who completed the surveys in person at the UC, IRC, or in the Housing programs were given a voucher for a free coffee at either on-campus Starbucks location.

The survey closed on February 29, 2016.

Considerations for Interpretation of Survey Data Related to Design

This survey's data regarding sexual misconduct, stalking and relationship abuse behaviors is not sufficient to support definitive conclusions about the frequency of these events across the university population or in an individual academic year. The most apt interpretation of the results is as an indication of the prevalence of experience of these behaviors among students who responded to the survey.

The language of the instrument, which asked respondents to report experiences “Since [they] began attending Ferris State University,” potentially resulted in students of higher class standing reporting on a greater number of experiences over longer period of time than their counterparts of lower class standing. The instrument did not offer means for respondents to identify more specific time frames for their experiences.

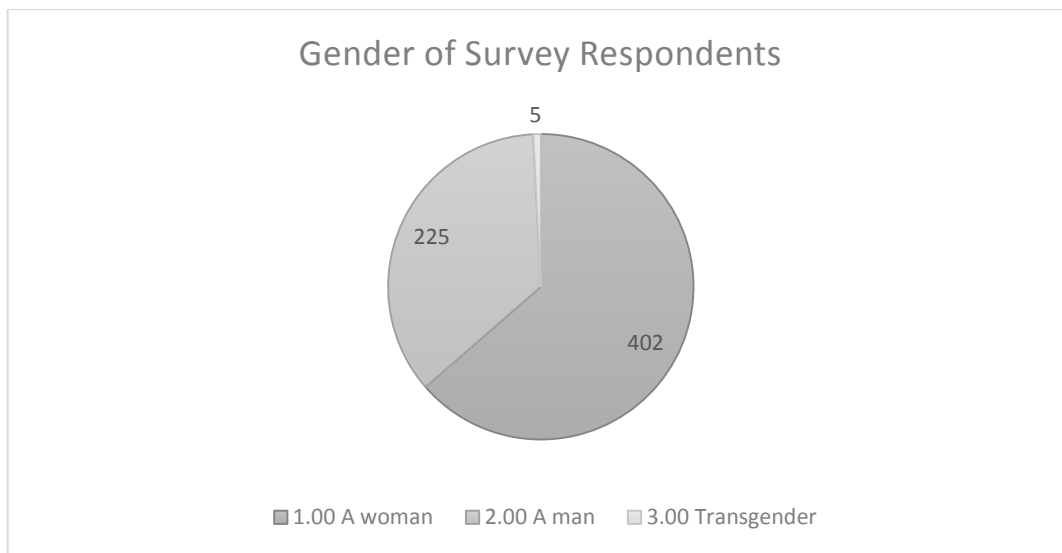
Future surveys should include follow-up questions that allow reported behaviors to be analyzed by year, to yield more accurate data regarding the level of victimization experienced each year, and facilitate comparison of data by class standing.

Survey Response

A total of **632 completed responses** to the survey were received. A completed response is defined as any respondent who provided information related to experiences of sexual assault, relationship violence or stalking.

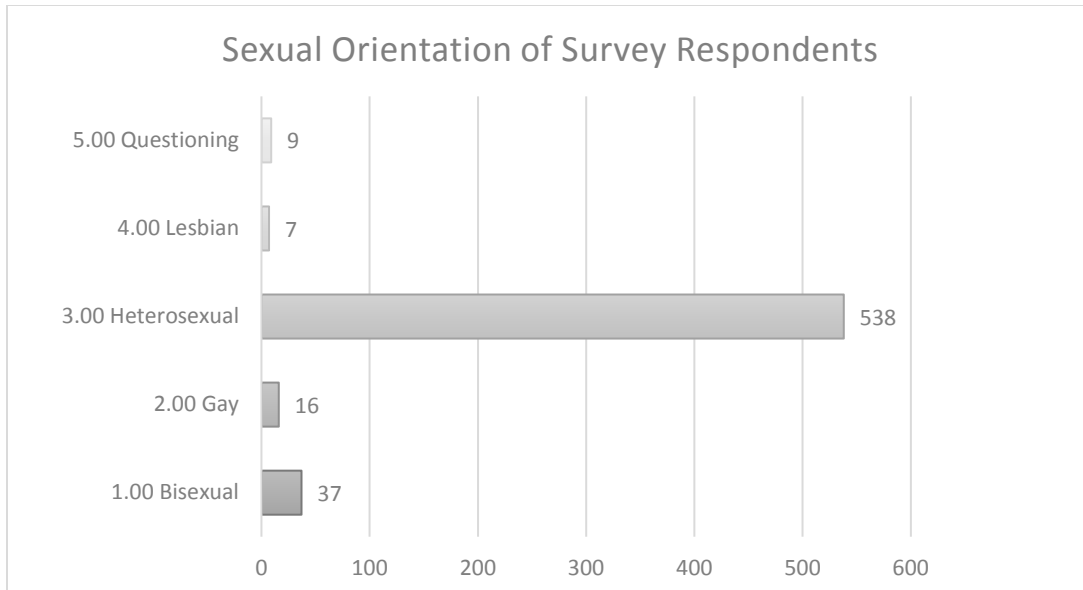
Demographic Analysis of Respondents

A majority of 402 respondents (63.6%) identified as A Woman. Two hundred forty respondents (36.31%) identified as A Man. Six respondents (0.91%) identified as Transgender.

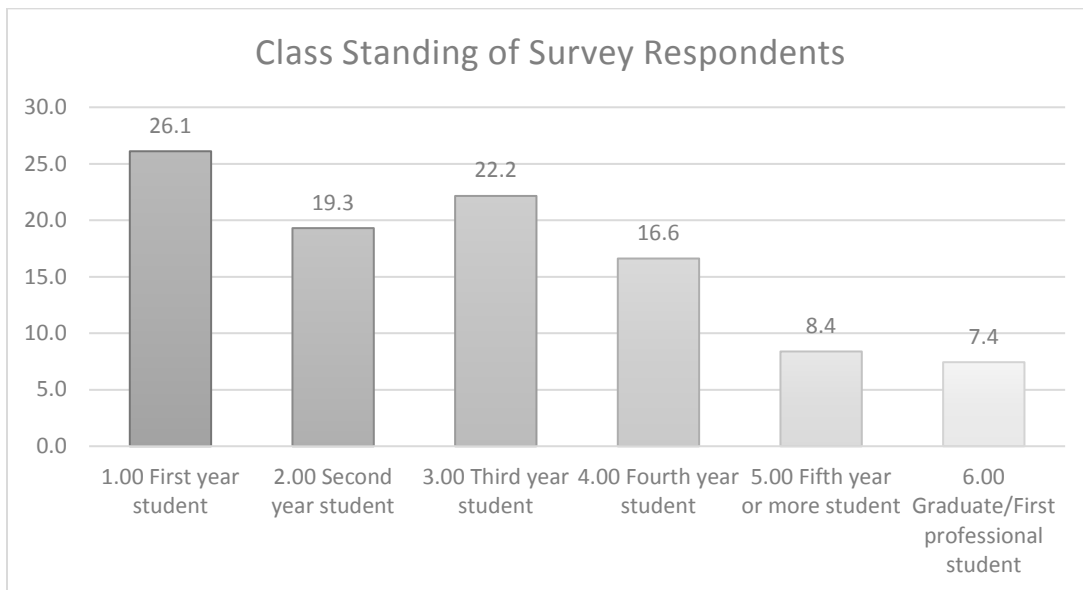


The majority of respondents (553, 87.5%) identified as White. The next largest demographic group (42, 6.6%) identified as Black/African American. Twenty respondents (3.2%) identified as Hispanic/Latino. Thirteen respondents (2.1%) identified as Asian. Ten respondents (1.6%) identified as American Indian or Alaskan Native. Four respondents (0.6%) identified as Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander.

The majority of respondents (538) identified as Heterosexual, and an additional 6 wrote in a response of “Straight” which was added to this total, with 544 respondents (86.1%) identified as heterosexual. Thirty-seven respondents (5.9%) identified as Bisexual. Twenty-three respondents (3.6%) identified as Gay or Lesbian, and an additional 9 (1.4%) identified as Questioning. Twenty-four respondents (3.66%) identified as a sexual orientation not listed and are broken down as follows: 7 respondents (1.1%) wrote in identifying as Pansexual; 4 respondents (0.6%) identified as Asexual; and 2 respondents (0.3%) identified as Queer.



The class group with the largest representation among respondents was First-Year Students, with 165 (26.1%). Third-Year Students accounted for 140 (22.2%) of respondents, and Second-Year Students accounted for 122 of respondents (19.3%). 105 respondents (16.6%) were Fourth-Year Students. The class groups with the smallest representation were Fifth-Year Students (53, 8.4%) and Graduate Students (47, 7.4%).



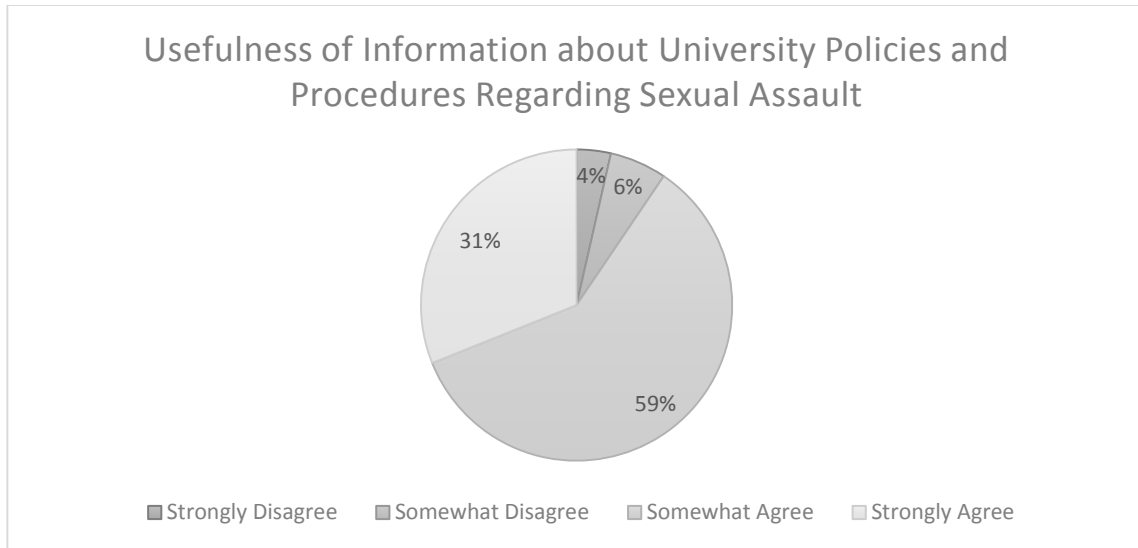
The majority of responses came from students at the Big Rapids Campus, with 541 responses (85.6%). The campus with the next largest representation was the Grand Rapids Campus, which accounted for 30 responses (4.7%). Kendall College of Art and Design (which was not included in the Grand Rapids Campus group) accounted for 25 responses (4.0%), and Online and other Statewide Campuses accounted for 21 (3.3%) and 14 responses (2.2%), respectively.

Respondent Perceptions of Campus Climate

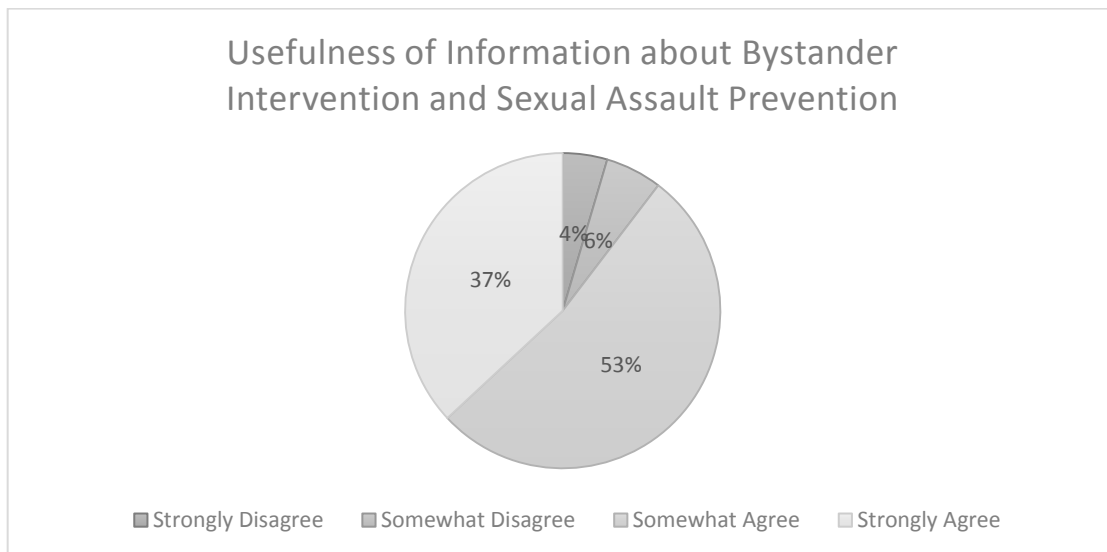
- **The majority of respondents agreed that the university would take a report of sexual assault seriously** (52.7% Strongly Agree; 35.6% Somewhat Agree; 8.1% Somewhat Disagree; 2.5% Strongly Disagree).
- **The majority of respondents agreed the university would keep knowledge of the report limited to those who need to know** (48.1% Strongly Agree; 39.6% Somewhat Agree; 8.4% Somewhat Disagree; 2.7% Strongly Disagree).
- **The majority of respondents agreed that the university would provide emotional support for the person making the report** (44.3% Strongly Agree; 39.7% Somewhat Agree; 12.0% Somewhat Disagree; 2.5% Strongly Disagree).
- **The majority of respondents agreed that the university would take corrective action to address factors that may have led to the sexual assault** (41.3% Strongly Agree; 42.2% Somewhat Agree; 11.4% Somewhat Disagree; 3.8% Strongly Disagree).
- **The majority of respondents agreed that the university would take corrective action against the offender** (44.3% Strongly Agree; 38.9% Somewhat Agree; 12.2% Somewhat Disagree; 3.3% Strongly Disagree).
- **The majority of respondents agreed that the university would take steps to protect the person making the report from retaliation** (41.0% Strongly Agree; 41.3% Somewhat Agree; 12.3% Somewhat Disagree; 3.6% Strongly Disagree).
- **Respondents were evenly split regarding whether students and/or others would label the person making the report a troublemaker** (50.4% Strongly or Somewhat Disagree; 48.5% Strongly or Somewhat Agree) **and whether the educational achievement/career of the person making the report would suffer** (52.5% Strongly or Somewhat Disagree; 45.9% Strongly or Somewhat Agree).
- **Despite the above responses, the majority of respondents agreed that students and/or others would support the person making the report** (34.3% Strongly Agree; 53.2% Somewhat Agree; 9.3% Somewhat Disagree; 1.7% Strongly Disagree).

Respondent Perceptions of University Information Regarding Sexual Assault

The majority of respondents (335, 53.0%) reported that they have received information or education on the university's policies and procedures regarding sexual assault. Of that group, 335 (91.0%) reported that they Somewhat Agreed or Strongly Agreed that the information or education was useful.



Conversely, a majority (389, 61.6%) of respondents reported that they had not received information on how to intervene or prevent sexual assault. Among those who had received this information or education, 90.4% reported that they Somewhat Agreed or Strongly Agreed that it was useful.



Respondent Reporting of Unwanted Sexual Behavior

The number of respondents who reported experiencing any form of unwanted sexual behavior is presented in this section.

Respondents were asked to indicate if they had experienced each of a series of forms of unwanted sexual behavior since attending Ferris State University, in response to the following questions (in relevant part):

- Questions 13.1 to 13.5: "...someone fondled, kissed or rubbed up against the private areas of my body or removed some or all of my clothes without my consent (but did not attempt sexual penetration)..."
- Questions 20.1 to 20.5: "...someone had oral sex with me or made me have oral sex with them without my consent..."
- Questions 27.1 to 27.5: "...someone put their penis, finger(s) or other objects into my vagina without my consent..."
- Questions 34.1 to 34.5: "... someone put their penis, finger(s) or other objects into my butt without my consent..."

and asked in each instance if they had experienced the unwanted sexual behavior as a result of one or more of the following forms of coercion or force:

- "...by telling lies, threatening to end the relationship, threatening to spread rumors about me, making promises I knew were untrue or continually verbally pressuring me after I said I didn't want to."
- "...by showing displeasure, criticizing my sexuality or attractiveness, getting angry but not using physical force, after I said I didn't want to."
- "...by taking advantage of me when I was too drunk or out of it to stop what was happening."
- "...by threatening to physically harm me or someone close to me."
- "...by using force, for example, holding me down with their body weight, pinning my arms, or having a weapon."

Of the 402 respondents who identified as female, 106 (26.4%) reported experiencing unwanted sexual behavior since attending Ferris State University. While variation between methodologies and this survey's smaller sample size challenge comparison with national studies, this percentage is similar to that reported in other national surveys (Break the Cycle, Inc. 2005; Cantor, et al., 2015).

Male respondents reported unwanted sexual behavior at a lower rate than females, with 25 of the 240 respondents (10.4%) who identified as male reporting experiencing unwanted sexual behavior since attending Ferris.

Number of Respondents Reporting One or More Experiences of Unwanted Sexual Behaviors*, by Campus

	Female	Male	Total
Big Rapids	99	23	122
KCAD	3	1	4
Grand Rapids	3	0	3
Online	1	1	2
Total	106	25	131

*Total number of respondents = 632

The highest concentration of reported unwanted sexual behaviors was among fifth-year students, (18, 34%). The second highest concentration was among third-year students with 38 (27.1%) reported experiencing unwanted sexual behaviors. The next highest was among fourth-year students, of whom 26 (24.8%) reported unwanted sexual behaviors. Graduate/Professional students reported the lowest number of unwanted sexual behaviors, 9, but given the limited number of Graduate and Professional student respondents, accounted for a greater concentration (19.1%) than among first- and second-year respondents. Twenty-five (15.2%) first-year respondents and 15 (12.3%) second-year respondents reported unwanted sexual behaviors.

Number of Respondents Reporting One or More Experiences of Unwanted Sexual Behaviors*, by Class Level

	Female	Male	Total
First Year	22	3	25
Second Year	12	3	15
Third Year	31	7	38
Fourth Year	21	5	26
Fifth Year or Greater	13	5	18
Graduate/Professional	7	2	9
Total	106	25	131

*Total number of respondents = 632

National research indicates that first- and second-year students experience higher rates of unwanted sexual behavior than students at higher levels of class standing (Krebs, et al., 2007); however, fewer first- and second-year respondents in the Ferris survey reported unwanted sexual behavior, which may relate to the language of the survey instrument.

The language of the instrument, which asked respondents to report experiences “Since [they] began attending Ferris State University,” potentially resulted in students of higher class standing reporting on a greater number of experiences over longer period of time than their counterparts of lower class standing. The instrument did not offer means for respondents to identify more specific time frames for their experiences.

Future surveys should include follow-up questions that allow reported behaviors to be analyzed by year, to yield more accurate data regarding the level of victimization experienced each year, and facilitate comparison of data by class standing.

Therefore, the survey's data regarding sexual misconduct, stalking and relationship abuse behaviors is not sufficient to support definitive conclusions about the frequency of these events across the university population or in an individual academic year. The most apt interpretation of the results is as an indication of the prevalence of experience of these behaviors among students who responded to the survey.

Respondent Reporting of Stalking Behavior

The number of respondents who reported experiencing behaviors consistent with stalking behavior is presented in this section.

Respondents were presented with a series of examples of stalking behavior and asked to indicate how many times they had experienced each type of behavior:

- Questions 48.1 to 48.9: How many times have one or more people done the following things to you since you began attending Ferris State University?
 - Watched or followed you from a distance or spied on you with a listening device, camera or GPS (global positioning system).
 - Approached you or showed up in places such as your home, workplace or school when you didn't want them to be there.
 - Left strange or potentially threatening items for you to find. Sneaked in to your home or car and did things to scare you by letting you know they had been there.
 - Left you unwanted messages (including text or voice messages).
 - Made unwanted phone calls to you (including hang up calls).
 - Sent you unwanted emails, instant messages or sent messages through social media apps.
 - Left you cards, letters, flowers or presents when they knew you didn't want them.
 - Made rude or mean comments to you online.
 - Spread rumors about you online, whether they were true or not.

The most recent national survey on stalking behavior among college students was conducted in 2000 by the U.S. Department of Justice (Fisher, Cullen and Turner, 2000). It was reported in this study that college women reported experiencing stalking at a higher rate than they reported experiencing sexual violence, with 13% indicating that they had experienced stalking behavior and 3% indicating that they had experienced sexual violence in an academic year. The national study focused on female experiences, and did not report similar statistics for males. Additionally, it has been found that the highest rates of reported stalking experiences are among persons aged 18 to 19 and 20 to 24 (Baum, Catalon and Rand, 2009).

Similarly, respondents to Ferris' Campus Climate Survey reported experiencing stalking behavior in higher numbers than they reported experiencing unwanted sexual behaviors. More female respondents reported having experienced stalking (140) than unwanted sexual behavior (106) and represented a greater percentage of the sample (34.8%) than their male counterparts (46, 19.2%).

Number of Respondents Reporting One or More Experiences of Stalking Behaviors, by Campus*

	Female	Male	Total
Big Rapids	130	37	167
KCAD	6	4	10
Grand Rapids	2	1	3
Online	1	4	5
Total	140	46	186

* Total number of respondents = 632

Respondent Reporting of Relationship Abuse Behaviors

The number of respondents who have reported experiencing various forms of behaviors consistent with relationship abuse is presented in this section.

Respondents were presented with a series of examples of behaviors consistent with relationship abuse and asked to indicate how many times they had experienced each type of behavior:

- Questions 54.1 to 54.6: Answer the next questions about any hook-up, boyfriend, girlfriend, husband or wife you have ever had (including exes), regardless of the length of the relationship, since you began attending Ferris State University. Not including horseplay or joking around,
 - “The person threatened to hurt me and I thought I might really get hurt.”
 - “The person pushed, grabbed or shook me.”
 - “The person hit me.”
 - “The person called me names or insulted me.”
 - “The person stole or destroyed my property.”
 - “The person can scare me without laying a hand on me.”

One hundred three (25.6%) respondents who identified as female indicated that they had experienced one or more relationship abuse behaviors, a significantly higher number than their male counterparts, among whom 24 (10.6%) reported experiencing relationship abuse behaviors.

While these numbers are alarming, they are lower than those reported in national surveys. Nationally, nearly 1 in 3 college women reported experiencing abusive or violent dating behaviors by a current or former dating partner (National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 2007). The difference by gender in the number of respondents reporting relationship abuse in Ferris' survey is similar to differences reflected in national data.

Number of Respondents Reporting One or More Experiences
of Relational Abuse Behaviors *, by Campus

	Female	Male	Total
Big Rapids	92	20	112
KCAD	9	3	12
Grand Rapids	1	0	1
Online	1	1	2
Total	103	24	127

**Total number of respondents = 632*

Implications for Future Programming

The data gathered in the Campus Climate Survey suggests that the rates of victimization at Ferris State University are largely in line with national levels. As these rates remain alarming, it best serves the university community to further its prevention and awareness efforts related to sexual and relationship violence in intentional and concerted ways.

Awareness

In Fall 2015, Ferris contracted with the Haven online program and offered it to all incoming students. In order to increase participation, additional communication to students about importance of this information is being provided at first-year student orientation. Additionally, Student Affairs staff have collaborated with university partners to create incentives for students to complete the program.

In September 2015, Ferris' Title IX Coordinator, Director of Birkam Health Center and two student leaders presented new students with the Sexual Health and Wellness for College and Beyond program, a required assignment for students in FSUS courses, and discussed sexual health, the importance of consent and the elements that must be present to ensure active consent. The program concluded with a brief introduction to bystander intervention.

Planning has begun for the 2016 presentation, as well as a new program, Choices, Communication and Consent, which will include a more robust conversation about barriers to consent, as well as the process for reporting sexual assault and additional bystander intervention materials. A committee of campus and community stakeholders has been formed to develop programming related to relationship violence and stalking for Ferris' Big Rapids campus throughout the 2016-2017 academic year.

Bystander intervention

In 2015, Ferris' Step Up! Bystander Intervention program was launched, training 10 students to engage with and present to their peers regarding strategies to successfully and safely intervene in potential sexual assault situations. The students gave 12 presentations to the campus community and launching a campus-wide event in April 2016 to coincide with Sexual Assault Awareness Month. This campaign will continue in the residence halls in September 2016.

Additionally, the members of the Step Up! program will work to provide presentations as part of FSUS courses and to student organizations. The Choices, Communication and Consent program also will include a heightened focus on bystander intervention by utilizing interactive elements that allow participants to choose methods for intervention and experience those methods' application in simulated scenarios.

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