

CAMPUS CLIMATE SURVEY SUMMARY REPORT

6/28/2018

Acknowledgment

A committee of Ferris State University community members assisted in the creation and implementation of the 2018 Campus Climate Survey, including:

- El Boynton, Student
- Sandy Britton, Dean of Student Success at Kendall College of Art & Design
- Kevin Carmody, Title IX Coordinator/Associate Dean of Student Life
- Sandy Gholston, News Services/Social Media Manager
- Peter Hector, Assistant Professor of Social Work
- Joy Pufhal, Dean of Student Life
- Kristen Salomonson, Dean of Enrollment Services
- Andy Slater, Counselor/Assistant Professor, Personal Counseling Center
- Darcy Storms, Director of Counseling, Disability & Tutoring Services Kendall College of Art & Design

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. 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. 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). Cantor, et al. also discovered that rates at individual institutions varied significantly. This study concludes that national averages of the rates of victimization may not apply to a specific institution, and that institution would need to survey their own student population in order to accurately project rates of victimization on campus.

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 one in three 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. Of the 13,964 recipients, this survey received responses from 632 students. A majority of those who responded indicated that they felt that Ferris State University takes reports of unwanted behavior seriously, and responds effectively. A majority of these students also were able to identify correctly the elements of consent. In regards to experiences of sexual or relationship violence, 131 (20.7%) reported unwanted sexual experiences; 186 (29.4%) reported experiencing stalking behaviors; and 127 (20.1%) reported experiencing relationship abuse. Because of the lower response rates, the data was insufficient to support definitive conclusions about the frequency of these events across the university population or in an individual academic year.

In February 2018, Ferris State University conducted a second campus climate survey of students in order to further understand the experiences and perceptions relating to sexual assault, stalking and relationship abuse. This survey utilized a slightly modified version of the same instrument administered in 2016 in order to be able to compare the data to that gathered two years prior. Additionally, an incentive was used more broadly in the administration of the survey in order to encourage greater participation, and have stronger ability to support conclusions. This iteration of the survey received responses from 1,518 students.

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. There was an increase in the percentage of students who reported receiving information (+ 2.4%) and prevention programs (+ 4.8%) from the 2016 Campus Climate Survey.
3. Students who reported that they have received information and prevention programs reported that they found them to be beneficial.
4. The numbers of those reporting unwanted sexual behavior and stalking behaviors decreased from those reported in 2016. While these numbers still represent a significant issue, the numbers are less than previously reported.

Areas of concern

1. Of the 1518 students who responded, the reported rates of experiencing relationship violence and sexual misconduct since attending Ferris State University are as follows:
 - a. 259 (17.1%) reported unwanted sexual experiences (ranging from sexual touching to penetration). Women are most vulnerable, with 220 (20.7%) reporting unwanted sexual experiences.
 - b. 437 (28.8%) reported experiencing stalking behaviors. Women are most vulnerable, with 342 (32.2%) reporting experiencing behaviors consistent with stalking.
 - c. 367 (24.1%) reported experiencing relationship abuse. Women are most vulnerable, with 282 (26.5%) reporting experiencing abuse. This percentage represents an increase from what was reported in 2016.
2. Despite an increase from 2016, less than half of respondents (43.2%) reported that they had received information relating to bystander intervention.

Survey Design and Methodology

The design of Ferris State University's 2018 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 8, 2018, an email was sent to all students enrolled at Ferris State University to notify them that the survey was being sent out as part of the initiatives to ensure that we respond effectively to concerns of sexual violence. Targeted messaging with the same information was sent out to students at Kendall College of Art and Design (KCAD). On February 11, 2018, an email invitation with a link to the survey was sent to all enrolled students at Ferris State University. Included in this email was a brief message explaining the importance of the survey, as well as potential risks associated for participants, and a statement that those who completed the survey by a deadline of February 23, 2018 would receive a \$5 gift certificate to Starbucks. A list of resources, including counseling and reporting options was provided to all participants. Additionally, follow up advertisement went out via Social Media on the Title IX social media accounts, the Student Life accounts, and the Ferris State University accounts.

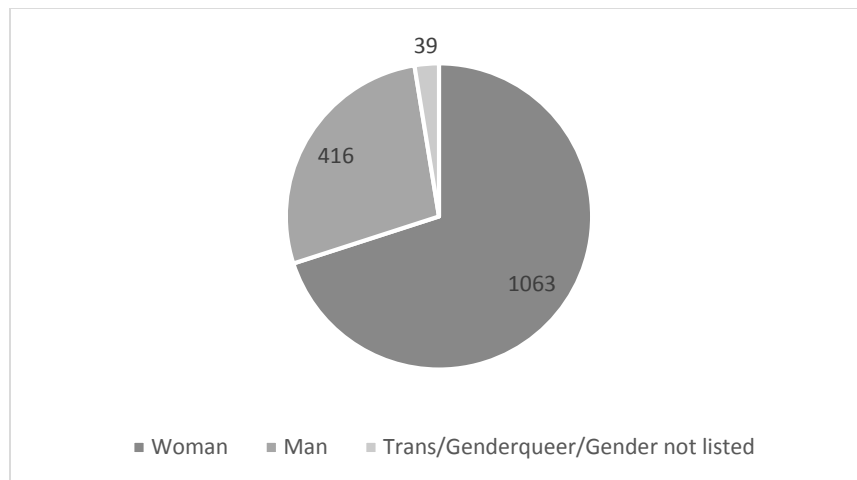
The survey closed on March 2, 2018.

Survey Response

A total of **1518 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.

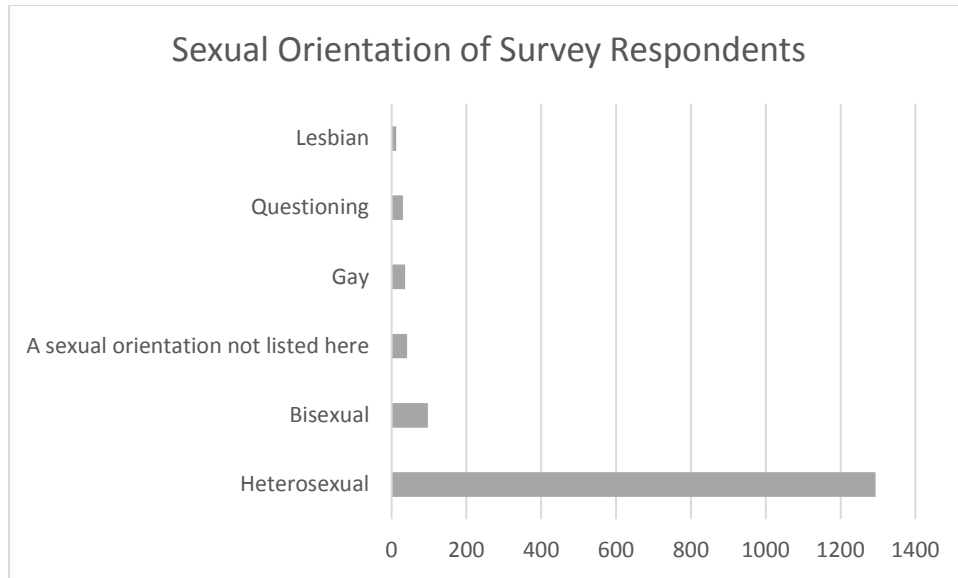
Demographic Analysis of Respondents

A majority of 1,063 respondents (70.0%) identified as a Woman. Four hundred sixteen respondents (27.4%) identified as a Man. Thirty-nine respondents (2.6%) identified as a Transman, Transwoman, Genderqueer/Gender non-conforming, or another gender not listed.

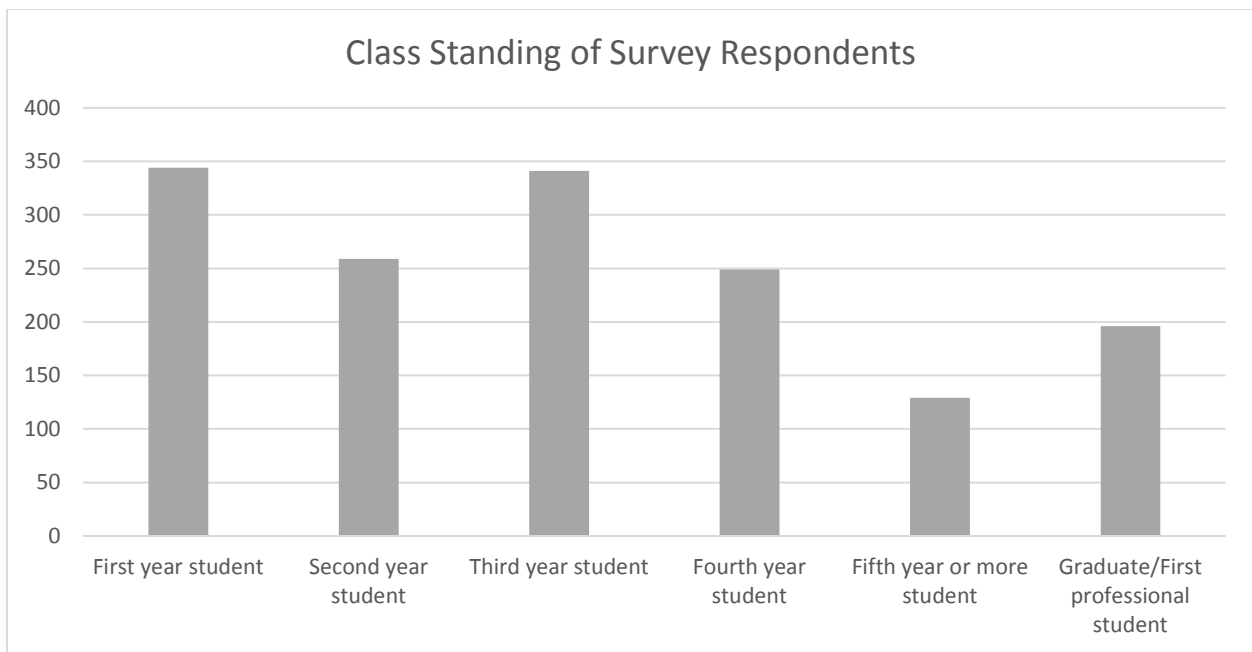


As respondents could choose more than one race or ethnicity, the number of responses in each category will exceed the total number of respondents. The majority of respondents (1,298, 85.4%) identified as White. The next largest demographic group (103, 6.8%) identified as Black/African American. Eighty-nine respondents (5.9%) identified as Hispanic/Latino. Fifty-six respondents (3.7%) identified as Asian. Thirty-three respondents (2.2%) identified as American Indian or Alaskan Native. Twenty-three respondents indicated that they preferred not to respond, and 22 identified that they identified as a race/ethnicity not listed in the options. Five respondents (0.3%) identified as Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander.

The majority of respondents (1,294) identified as Heterosexual. Ninety-seven respondents (6.4%) identified as Bisexual. Forty-eight respondents (3.2%) identified as Gay or Lesbian, and an additional 30 (2.0%) identified as Questioning. Forty-one respondents (2.7%) identified as a sexual orientation not listed.



There was a fairly even distribution of respondents with different class standings. The class group with the largest representation among respondents was First-Year Students, with 344 (22.6%). Third-Year Students accounted for 341 (22.4%) of respondents, Second-Year Students accounted for 259 of respondents (17.0%), and 249 respondents (16.4%) were Fourth-Year Students. The class groups with the smallest representation were Graduate Students (196, 12.9%) and Fifth-Year Students (129, 8.5%).



The majority of responses came from students at the Big Rapids Campus, with 1,153 responses (75.9%). The campus with the next largest representation was Kendall College of Art & Design,

which accounted for 165 responses (10.9%). Grand Rapids Campus (not Kendall) accounted for 80 responses (5.3%), and Online and other Statewide Campuses accounted for 71 (4.7%) and 51 responses (3.4%), respectively.

Respondent Perceptions of Campus Climate

- **The majority of respondents agreed that the university would take a report of sexual assault seriously** (52.2% Strongly Agree; 34.9% Somewhat Agree; 12.8% Somewhat Disagree; 3.4% Strongly Disagree).
 - A **higher percentage of men** agreed that the University would take a report seriously, than other respondents (61.4% Strongly Agree; 27.2% Somewhat Agree).
- **The majority of respondents agreed the university would keep knowledge of the report limited to those who need to know** (52.4% Strongly Agree; 38.9% Somewhat Agree; 5.9% Somewhat Disagree; 2.7% Strongly Disagree).
 - There was no significant difference based on gender.
- **The majority of respondents agreed that the university would provide emotional support for the person making the report** (46.1% Strongly Agree; 40.1% Somewhat Agree; 11.6% Somewhat Disagree; 2.2% Strongly Disagree).
 - There was no significant difference based on gender.
- **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; 40.6% Somewhat Agree; 13.8% Somewhat Disagree; 4.3% Strongly Disagree).
 - A **lower percentage of trans and genderqueer/gender non-conforming** respondents agreed that the University would take corrective action to address factors that may have led to the sexual assault than other respondents (18.2% Strongly Agree; 54.6% Somewhat Agree; 22.73% Somewhat Disagree; 4.55% Strongly Disagree).
- **The majority of respondents agreed that the university would take corrective action against the offender** (45.0% Strongly Agree; 38.1% Somewhat Agree; 12.2% Somewhat Disagree; 4.7% Strongly Disagree).
 - A **higher percentage of men** agreed that the University would take corrective action against the offender, than other respondents (54.1% Strongly Agree; 34.5% Somewhat Agree).
 - A **lower percentage of trans and genderqueer / gender non-conforming** respondents agreed that the University would take corrective action against the

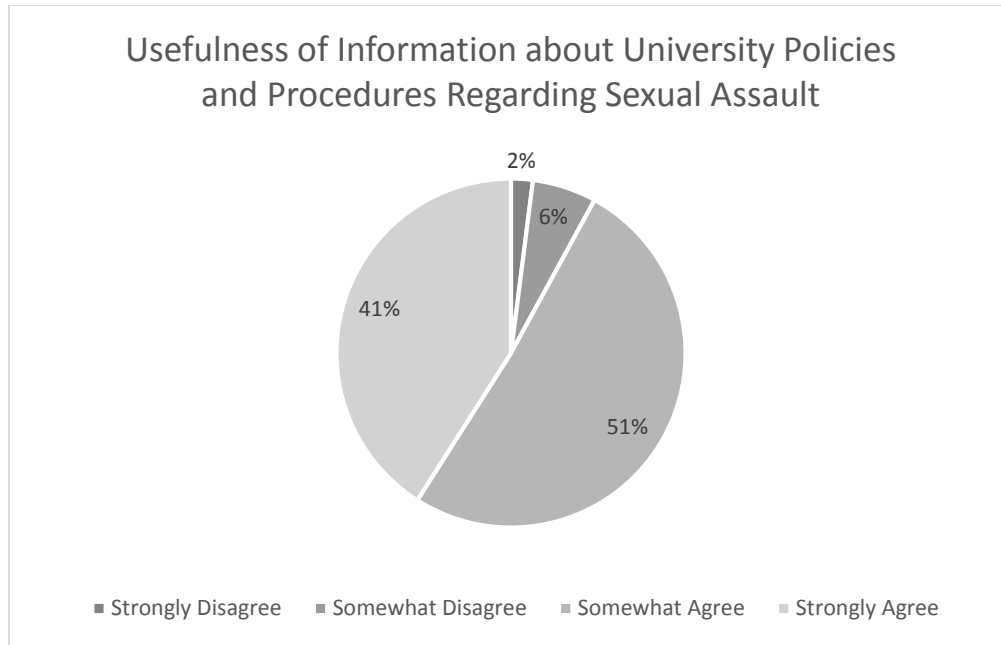
offender, than other respondents (18.2% Strongly Agree; 54.5% Somewhat Agree; 22.7% Somewhat Disagree; 4.5% Strongly Disagree).

- **The majority of respondents agreed that the university would take steps to protect the person making the report from retaliation** (41.1% Strongly Agree; 41.7% Somewhat Agree; 13.5% Somewhat Disagree; 3.6% Strongly Disagree).
 - A **higher percentage of men** agreed that the University would take steps to protect the person making the report from retaliation, than other respondents (54.1% Strongly Agree; 34.5% Somewhat Agree).
- **The majority of respondents agreed that students and/or others would support the person making the report** (40.3% Strongly Agree; 48.4%; Somewhat Disagree 9.2%; Strongly Disagree 2.1%) **These numbers were significantly higher than the 2016 Campus Climate Survey.**
 - There was no significant difference based on gender.
- **A majority of respondents stated that they didn't think the educational achievement/career of the person making the report would suffer** (15.6% Strongly Agree; 27.9% Somewhat Agree; 32.8% Somewhat Disagree; 23.6% Strongly Disagree). **This was a significant improvement from the 2016 Campus Climate Survey**
 - A **higher percentage of transmen** stated that they didn't think the educational achievement/career of the person making the report would suffer (42.9% Somewhat Disagree; 57.1% Strongly Disagree.)
- **A small majority of respondents stated that they didn't think that students or others would label the person making the report a trouble maker.** (57.0% Strongly or Somewhat Disagree; 42.9% Strongly or Somewhat Agree).
 - A **lower percentage of transmen** stated that they didn't think others would label the person making the report a trouble maker. (83.3% Strongly or Somewhat Disagree; 16.7% Somewhat Agree; 0.0% Strongly Agree)

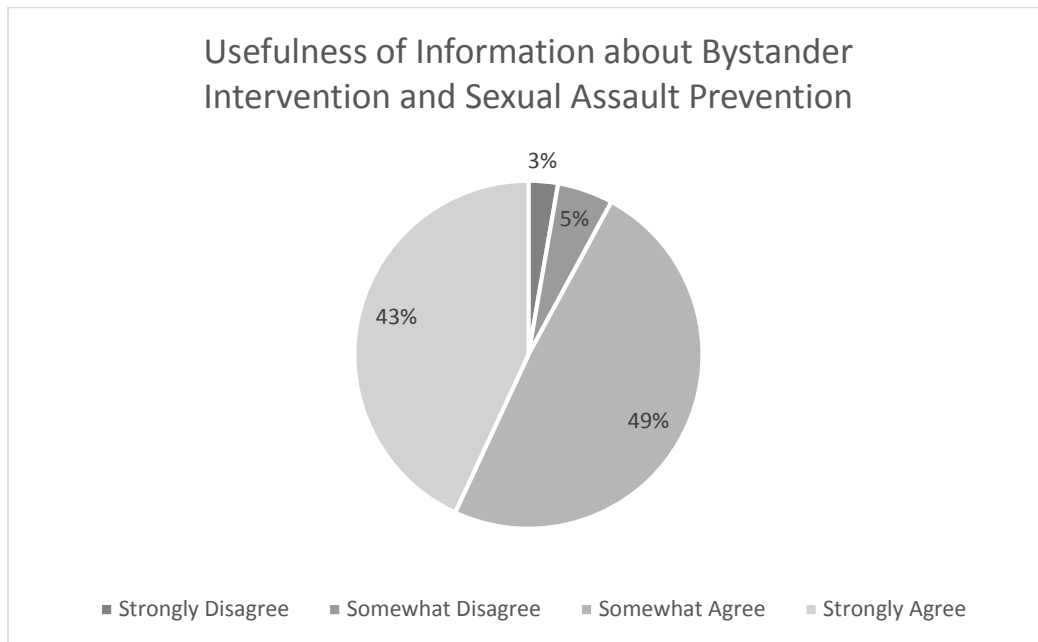
Respondent Perceptions of University Information Regarding Sexual Assault

The majority of respondents (831, 54.7%) reported that they have received information or education on the university's policies and procedures regarding sexual assault. Of that group, 775 (93.3%) reported that they Somewhat Agreed or Strongly Agreed that the information or education was useful.

Both the percentage of individuals who reported that they received information, and the perceptions of the utility of this information increased from the 2016 campus climate survey.



Conversely, a majority (892, 58.7%) 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, 92.1% 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: "...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: "...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..."

Respondents were then 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."

Additionally, respondents were asked the gender of the person who had committed the reported act, the relationship that person had with the respondent, if that person was a student at Ferris State University, if the reported incident happened on campus, who the respondent told about their experience, and to indicate when the incident occurred.

Of the 1518 individuals who completed the survey, 259 (17.1%) reported experiencing unwanted sexual behavior since attending Ferris State University. The vast majority of these individuals reporting unwanted sexual behavior identified as women. Of the 1,063 respondents who identified as a woman, 220 (20.7%) 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 (Cantor, et al., 2015; Krebs, et al., 2007).

Respondents identifying as men reported unwanted sexual behavior at a lower rate than women, with 35 of the 416 respondents (8.4%) who identified as male reporting experiencing unwanted sexual behavior since attending Ferris. Four (10.3%) respondents identified as transmen/women, genderqueer/gender non-conforming, or a gender not listed. Given the lower report rates for this group, as well as write-in responses indicating that some responses did not reflect their identity (i.e. “I’m a woman, but wanted to make you look down here because I guess I can identify as a coffee table”) create challenges to generalizing the numbers reported in this survey.

Respondents taking classes at the Big Rapids campus reported significantly higher incidence of unwanted sexual behaviors (20.4%) than other campuses. Students taking classes predominantly online had the lowest concentration of reported behaviors (5.6%). This matches national research which suggest that factors associated with more traditional college involvement, including proximity to off-campus parties with alcohol, indicate a heightened risk for victimization. (Krebs, et al., 2007)

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

	Female	Male	Trans/ Genderqueer	Total
Big Rapids	196	35	4	235
KCAD	10	0	0	10
Grand Rapids	5	0	0	5
Online	4	0	0	4
Other Campus Not Listed	5	0	0	5
Total	220	35	4	259

**Total number of respondents = 1518*

The highest concentration of reported unwanted sexual behaviors was among second-year students, (57, 22.0%). The second highest concentration was among third-year students with 65 (19.1%) reporting experiencing unwanted sexual behaviors. The next highest was among fourth-year students, of whom 46 (18.5%) reported unwanted sexual behaviors. Eighteen (14.0%) students in their fifth year or more, and 27 (13.8%) Graduate/Professional students reported unwanted sexual behaviors. Given the limited number of respondents in these categories, they accounted for a greater concentration than among first-year respondents. Forty-six (13.4%) first-year respondents reported unwanted sexual behaviors. This was the smallest concentration of those reporting unwanted behaviors.

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

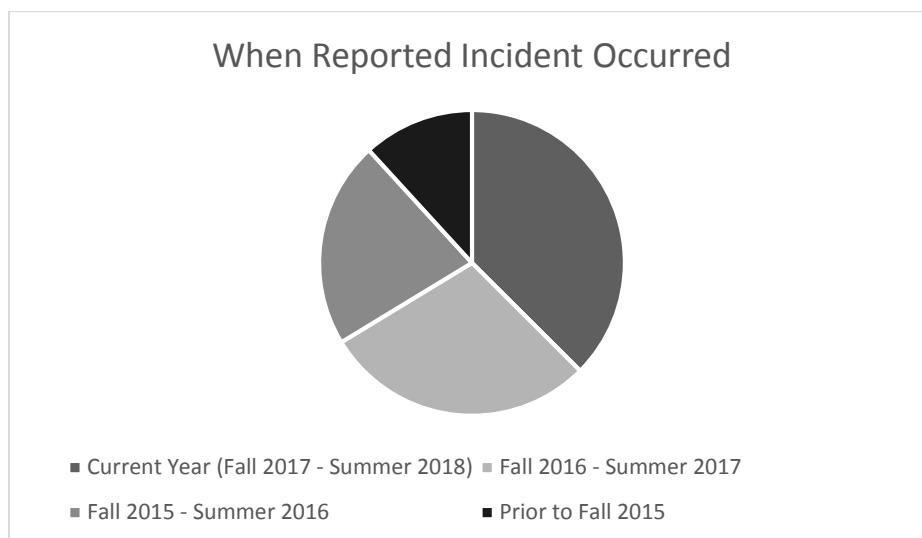
	Female	Male	Trans/ Genderqueer	Total
First Year	36	10	0	46
Second Year	51	5	1	57
Third Year	55	9	1	65
Fourth Year	38	6	2	46
Fifth Year or Greater	16	2	0	18
Graduate/Professional	24	3	0	27
Total	220	35	4	259

*Total number of respondents = 1518

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-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.

Of those who reported unwanted sexual behaviors, the largest percentage (37.5%) reported that the experience occurred during the 2017-2018 academic year. Slightly smaller percentages (28.8% and 21.9%) reported that the experience occurred in previous academic years (2016-2017 and 2015-2016, respectively). The smallest percentage (11.8%) reported that the behavior occurred prior to Fall of 2015.



Respondents 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 58.1 to 58.9: 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. 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).

Respondents to Ferris' Campus Climate Survey reported experiencing stalking behavior in higher numbers than they reported experiencing unwanted sexual behaviors. Four hundred thirty-seven (28.8%) respondents reported experiencing stalking behaviors since enrolling at Ferris State University. More female respondents reported having experienced stalking (342) than unwanted sexual behavior (220) and represented a greater percentage of the sample (32.2%) than their male counterparts (88, 21.2%). Men also reported experiencing stalking behaviors at higher rates than other forms of victimization.

Respondents taking classes at the Big Rapids campus again reported victimization in higher concentration (30.8%) than students at other campuses; however, this difference was not significantly higher than students taking classes at Kendall College of Art & Design (29.1%). Students taking classes at other campuses had the lowest rate of reported experiencing stalking

behaviors (13.7%).

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

	Female	Male	Trans/ Genderqueer	Total
Big Rapids	272	77	5	355
KCAD	41	6	1	48
Grand Rapids	14	2	0	16
Online	9	2	0	11
Other Campus Not Listed	6	1	0	7
Total	342	88	7	437

*Total number of respondents = 1518

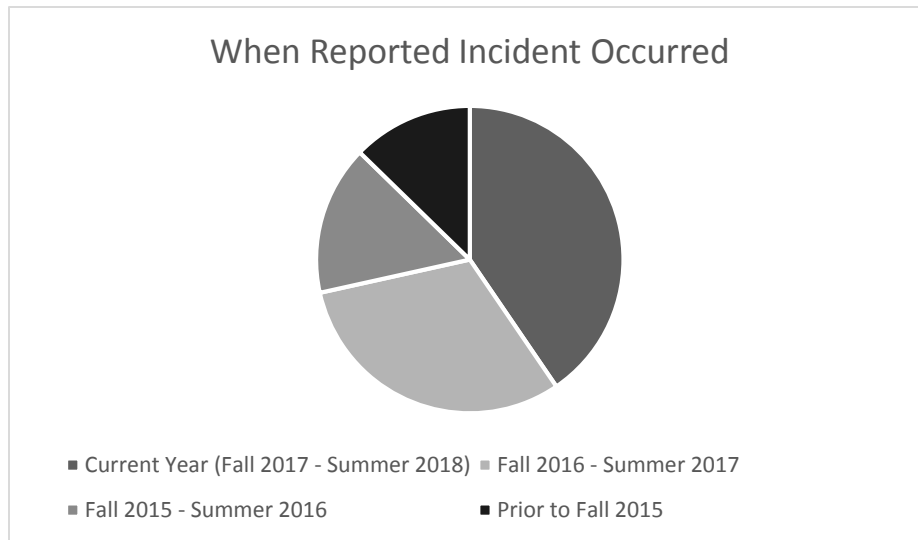
Reports of stalking behavior appear to increase throughout students' career, with a drop off in concentration for Graduate/Professional students. For women, this trend is even more pronounced. The highest concentration of reported stalking behaviors was among students in their fourth year, (86, 33.3%). The second highest concentration was among students in their fifth year or higher with 43 (19.1%) reported experiencing stalking behaviors. The next highest concentration, and the most reported experiences were among third-year students, of whom 110 (32.3%) reported stalking behaviors. Seventy-seven (29.7%) of second-year students and 80 (23.3%) of first-year students reported stalking behaviors. Graduate/Professional students reported the smallest concentration, with 41 (20.9%) reporting experiencing stalking behaviors.

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

	Female	Male	Trans/ Genderqueer	Total
First Year	62	17	1	80
Second Year	62	13	2	77
Third Year	90	19	1	110
Fourth Year	63	21	2	86
Fifth Year or Greater	34	8	1	43
Graduate/Professional	31	10	0	41
Total	342	88	7	437

*Total number of respondents = 1518

Of those who reported stalking behaviors, the largest percentage (38.7%) reported that the experience occurred during the 2017-2018 academic year. A slightly smaller percentage (29.7%) reported that the experience occurred the previous academic year (2016-2017). Next, 15.1% reported that the behavior occurred during the 2015-2016 Academic year. The smallest percentage (12.1%) reported that the behavior occurred prior to Fall of 2015.



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 66: 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.”

Overall, 367 (24.2%) reported experiencing behaviors which would constitute relationship abuse since attending Ferris State University. Two hundred eighty-two (26.5%) 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 79 (19.0%) reported experiencing relationship abuse behaviors. This concentration of men who reported experiencing relationship abuse is nearly double what was reported in 2016.

While these numbers are alarming, they are lower than those reported in national surveys. Nationally, nearly 1 in 3 college women and 1 in 5 college men reported experiencing abusive or violent dating behaviors by a current or former dating partner (Black, et al., 2011). 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 Relationship Abuse Behaviors, by Campus*

	Female	Male	Trans/ Genderqueer	Total
Big Rapids	221	67	4	292
KCAD	32	7	2	41
Grand Rapids	11	5	0	16
Online	8	0	0	8
Other Campus Not Listed	10	0	0	10
Total	282	79	6	367

*Total number of respondents = 1518

Reports of behavior constituting relationship abuse appear to increase throughout students' career, with a drop off in concentration for Graduate/Professional students. The highest concentration of reported relationship abuse behaviors was among students in their fifth year or higher, (41, 31.8%). The second highest concentration was among students in their fourth year with 68 (27.3%) reported experiencing relationship abuse behaviors. The next highest concentration, and the most reported experiences were among third-year students, of whom 96 (28.2%) reported relationship abuse behaviors. Sixty-five (25.1%) of second-year students and 55 (16.0%) of first-year students reported experiencing relationship abuse behaviors. Graduate/Professional students reported the smallest concentration, with 42 (21.4%) reporting experiencing stalking behaviors.

Number of Respondents Reporting One or More Experiences of Relationship Abuse Behaviors, by Class Level*

	Female	Male	Trans/ Genderqueer	Total
First Year	46	9	0	55
Second Year	55	10	0	65
Third Year	73	21	2	96
Fourth Year	47	19	2	68
Fifth Year or Greater	31	10	0	41
Graduate/Professional	30	10	2	42
Total	282	79	6	367

*Total number of respondents = 1518

Implications for Future Programming

The data gathered in the Campus Climate Survey suggests that the rates of victimization at Ferris State University have declined slightly when compared with that reported in the survey conducted in 2016. It remains difficult to gauge a cause for why these reports may be slightly lower, as they may be a result of successful prevention programming, or due to the higher response rate revealing a more accurate snapshot of the experiences of victimization. In any case, the rates of victimization remain in line with national levels. Additionally, the rate of victimization shows that incidents of sexual assault, relationship abuse, and stalking appear to be greatly underreported to campus authorities.

Awareness/Outreach

Efforts at awareness and outreach have increased since 2016. These efforts are having a positive impact on the number of individuals who know about policies, and where to report sexual misconduct. The climate survey reveals that sexual assault, stalking and relationship abuse remain underreported on this campus, and so these efforts should continue to increase. Communication, Choices, and Consent has been required for FSUS students since Fall of 2015. While the Title IX Office has added more elements on how to report concerns of sexual misconduct, this element of the presentation can be increased and include a plea that individuals report their experience. Greater outreach efforts could target student leaders – specifically Greek Life, Student Government, and others to ensure that these individuals who will likely receive disclosures have a better understanding of the reporting process.

One element that the University can increase is better awareness of Stalking and Relationship Violence. While we have traditional awareness activities for sexual assault (Take Back the Night, What Were You Wearing, etc.) we have not done anything around Relationship Violence or Stalking. Given the high amount of students who reported experiencing these behaviors, this should be given a priority. A good place to start would be using the designated awareness months (October – Dating/Domestic Violence; January –Stalking) as well as developing a visual campaign (poster/social media/etc.) to help amplify these efforts. Lastly, the Title IX Office should reach out to the Office of Housing & Residence Life to include more information relating to Relationship Abuse and Stalking in training for Resident Assistants and Hall Directors.

Greater focus should be paid to highlighting the significant training undergone by University staff and police in how to effectively and sensitively respond to concerns of sexual misconduct and relationship abuse. With the increased attention paid to this issue, highlighting this good work can hopefully increase the trust in these institutions, and hopefully continue to increase reporting. Care must be given to ensure that this training is truly happening, and that those who respond to sexual misconduct and relationship abuse are properly resourced to ensure that this training is supported by practice.

Bystander Intervention/Prevention

While the number of students reporting having received information on how to safely intervene has increased since 2016, it remains the case that the majority of those responding have not. In order to foster a culture of intervention, more intrusive methods must be utilized to ensure that this training has a broader reach. Specifically, greater targeting of those who Student Affairs has access to – Greek Life, Student Government, Club Sports, etc. and requiring that these students get training in how to intervene would greatly increase the reach of these programs.

The Step Up program has struggled with participation since its inception. Greater effort needs to be put into recruiting leaders to become a part of this group. Additionally, scrutiny of how this group is organized, supervised, and advertised needs to be initiated to ensure that this is the best investment of our time and resources if this is to remain the chief vehicle of delivery of prevention initiatives for the institution. Further seeking federal and state grants to infuse these efforts with greater resources would be energy well-spent.

Feedback from focus groups is that there has been a dearth of visual campaigns around Bystander Intervention. There is an annual event to put up a large Step Up banner in the Fall, and have students to sign a pledge – but this event does not come with information on how to intervene, but just involves a call to arms to do so. Posters, and Social Media campaigns on helping to teach individuals safe and effective ways to intervene could help to increase the reach of this campaign.

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