

# **Campus Climate Survey: 2015-16**

## **Description of the survey and rationale for conducting the survey**

As part of our campus prevention efforts regarding the issues surrounding sexual violence students have been asked to participate in this important survey. Sexual assault is a significant challenge for colleges nationwide and the Doane community is not immune.

Climate surveys can provide information about community perceptions, knowledge and attitudes relevant to sexual assault. Incident rates assessed via confidential or anonymous surveys can be another source of data about the extent of the problem. Regularly administering surveys can show changes over time, such as decreases in sexual assaults and increases in awareness or reporting. Surveys can provide information about the problem in a particular campus community, enabling schools to tailor prevention and response efforts. Conducting a climate survey can demonstrate the university's commitment to addressing sexual assault and build trust with students, faculty, parents, and others.

## **Participants**

- a) 265 students (22%) from the Crete campus participated in the anonymous, IRB-approved, online survey
- b) 32% identified as male, 66% identified as female, 2% identified as other
- c) 35% first year students, 17% second year students, 21% third year students, 26% fourth year students

## **Perceptions**

- a) Majority (85%) of students reported they feel safe on this campus (10% neither agree nor disagree, 5% disagree/strongly disagree)
- b) Majority (79%) of students believe that the college would take a report of a sexual assault seriously (13% uncertain, 7% slightly/not at all likely)
- c) Majority (67%) of students believe that if a crisis happened on campus that the college would handle it well (17% disagree/strongly disagree, 17% don't know)
- d) Half (51%) of student respondents agreed that college officials should do more to protect students from harm (30% disagree/strongly disagree, 20% don't know)

## **Training**

a) Half (50%) of student respondents reported that they had received training or information on policies and procedures regarding incidents of sexual assault (for example, what is defined as sexual assault, how to report an incident, confidential resources, procedures for investigation). Half (50%) reported that they had not received such training

b) Of those who indicated they had received training, 15% stated the training was not useful, 65% stated it was slightly/moderately useful, 20% stated it was very useful

c) 41% of students reported that they understood Doane's formal procedures to address complaints of sexual assault, 36% disagreed/strongly disagreed, 23% neither agreed nor disagreed

## **Assaults**

a) 14% (n=25) of respondents reported that someone had sexual contact with them by using physical force or threatening to physically harm them. 17% (n=21) of female respondents endorsed this item

b) 13% (n=24) of respondents reported that someone had attempted but not succeeded in having sexual contact with them by using or threatening to use physical force against them. 15% (n=19) of female respondents endorsed this item

c) 21% (n=20) of respondents (and 24%, n=16, of female participants) responded "yes" to the following statement: "Since enrolling at Doane, have you suspected that someone has had sexual contact with you when you were unable to provide consent or stop what was happening because you were passed out, drugged, drunk, incapacitated or asleep? This question asks about events that you think (but are not certain) happened."

d) 12% (n=21) of respondents and 14% (n=17) of female participants responded "yes" to the following statement: "Since enrolling at Doane, have you suspected that someone has had sexual contact with you when you were unable to provide consent or stop what was happening because you were passed out, drugged, drunk, incapacitated or asleep? This question asks about events that you are certain happened."

e) Participants who indicated that they had been sexually assaulted while at Doane reported that 35% of the incidents occurred during their first year, 35% of the incidents occurred in their sophomore year, and 29% of the incidents

occurred during their junior year. Students did not report that the incidents occurred during their senior year, but it is important to note that this survey was sent very early (October) in the academic year for our seniors.

f) 88% of respondents reported that their perpetrator was a Doane student.

g) Students reported that 60% of assaults occurred off-campus and 40% of assaults occurred on-campus.

h) 100% of the students who reported that they had been sexually assaulted during their college career stated that they DID NOT use the college's formal procedures to report the incidents.

i) Finally, it is important to realize that sexual assault does not limit its impact to those who are victimized. 34% of respondents endorsed the following statement: "Since the start of the current academic year, I have had a friend or acquaintance tell me that they were the victim of an unwanted sexual experience." (once again, please note that the survey was administered early in the 2015-2016 academic year).

## **Summary**

Based on the 265 students who participated in the survey, it is reassuring to know that the majority of students felt safe on campus and believed that the college would take a sexual assault report seriously. The survey does suggest that we must do better with training and awareness as 50% of participants stated they had not received any training on policies and procedures relating to sexual assault and only 20% of those who stated they had received such training found it to be "very useful." Furthermore, several items had a significant percentage of uncertainties regarding policies, procedures and trainings which suggests a lack of awareness of these topics.

The survey clearly showed that this is happening to our students, by our students, on and off our campus, and students believe it is a problem on our campus. It is also worth highlighting that 100% of survey participants who reported they had been assaulted said they did not use the formal procedures to report the incident. While it is encouraging that our annual security report indicates that some students do make official reports to the institution, the survey indicates that many more students are impacted by sexual violence during their college career.

Sexual assault is an epidemic on college campuses nationwide. Doane's students are not exempt. Research clearly indicates implications of sexual assault including retention, substance use/abuse, depression, anxiety, academic performance, self-harm and suicide.