

Spring 2017: An assessment of the prevalence of nonconsensual sexual contact on the Champlain College campus and student perceptions of campus climate, College responsiveness, and bystander behaviors

# Champlain Culture of Consent Survey Results

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## Executive Summary

The Champlain Culture of Consent survey was conducted for multiple purposes that included assessing the prevalence of sexual violence on our campus and the campus climate around sexual violence in order to both understand our own setting and to develop appropriate educational programs for the campus.

All traditional undergraduate students, both full and part-time, in Burlington, Montreal and Dublin, along with MFA students studying on our Burlington campus, were invited to participate (n=2136). Of those, 873 students clicked through to the survey, 790 completed some portion of the survey, and 699 answered nearly all questions resulting in a response rate of 32.7%. A higher proportion of respondents were females (47%, versus 38% of the invitees) and residential students (70%, versus 63% of the invitees).

### **How extensive is nonconsensual sexual contact<sup>1</sup>? What do we know about those incidents?**

These statistics are based on the students who responded to most questions on the survey.

1. Nonconsensual sexual contact by physical force or threat of force: 13.7% (96/699 students)
2. Nonconsensual sexual contact while incapacitated: 7.9% (55/699 students, some overlapping with #1)
3. Overall estimate of likelihood of nonconsensual sexual contact:
  - a. Raw estimate: 21.6% (151 incidents indicated on the survey, 699 students)
  - b. Adjusted estimate: 18.0% (adjusted to account for the disproportionate response by female identifying students)
4. Additionally, 15.6% (109 students) indicated attempted, but uncompleted, sexual contact by force or threat of force
5. A total of 260 “nonconsensual sexual acts or attempts” were indicated by 180 different students.

Students who identify as women, live off-campus and are LGBQA+<sup>2</sup> are more likely to report incidents of nonconsensual sexual contact than would be expected by their representation in our survey respondents.

The vast majority of incidents (87%) involved individuals that students knew prior to the incident. Forty-one respondents indicated incidents that involved Champlain students and one indicated the involvement of a Champlain faculty or staff member. Where the gender of the offender was indicated, 87% were reported to be men.

While the vast majority (79%) of Champlain students providing details about an indicated incident of nonconsensual sexual violence (n=96) told someone about the incident, only nine (9%) students said they had used the College’s formal procedures for reporting. A total of 21 students said they spoke to a counselor, residential life, student life, or campus public safety staff member. Those who didn’t tell anyone most commonly offered: wanting to forget, thinking the incident wasn’t serious enough, or not

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<sup>1</sup> Nonconsensual contact is defined as forced touching of sexual nature, oral sex or sexual penetration as a result of coercion, physical force, threatening to harm physically or emotionally, or while incapacitated.

<sup>2</sup> LGBQA+ = Lesbian, gay, bisexual, questioning, asexual or other sexual orientations

wanting others to worry as the reasons. While students commonly said they would know where to go to get help in a case of sexual assault, only half were confident that they know how to use Champlain’s formal reporting procedures.

**How do these results compare to 2016?**

Participation in the survey increased dramatically from 2016 and so did both the number and percent of indicated incidents of nonconsensual sexual contact (NSC) as shown below.

*Table 1. Comparison of 2016 and 2017 survey results*

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Invited population	2114	2136
Number of survey respondents	351	790
Number of survey completers	280	699
Participation rate (respondents/completers)	16.6% / 13.2%	37.0% / 32.7 %
Total number of NSC incidents indicated	30	151
Overall estimate of likelihood of NSC	10.8%	Raw Rate: 21.6% *Adjusted Rate: 18.0%
Total number of NSC attempts	3	109
Proportion of NSC attempts	1.1%	15.6%

\* Adjusted to account for the disproportionate response by female identifying students

Most other patterns related to incidents of nonconsensual sexual contact are consistent with those in 2016. We do, however, see a slight increase in the likelihood of students to report an incident using the College’s formal procedures (9 students this year versus 1 last year) and to tell a College official about an incident (25 students this year compared to 1 last year).

**How do students feel about the Champlain campus climate generally and in relation to sexual misconduct? How likely are they to engage in preventative bystander behaviors?**

When specifically asked about how they expected the College would respond to a report of sexual assault, 84% of respondents agreed that the College would take the report seriously and 89% thought that it would protect the confidentiality of the report. Students were less likely to agree (67%) that the College would appropriately address institutional factors that may have led to the assault or that they would forward the report outside the campus to criminal investigators, both lower agreement than in 2016. Our LGBTQA+ students were generally less positive than their peers about how the institution would respond in all areas except the area of confidentiality of information. Students who identify with a gender identity other than man (as woman or TGQN<sup>3</sup>) were also less confident/positive about the institution’s response in all areas except that the College would take an incident seriously. Students of color were less likely to believe that the College would refer incidents to outside agencies for criminal investigation.

Students were generally less confident that their peers would engage in a range of bystander behaviors than they were in their own behaviors. They believed that peers were most likely to report repeat offenders, be willing to serve as a witness in a sexual assault case and confront other students who make inappropriate gestures or comments. Nearly half believed that Champlain students would allow

<sup>3</sup> TGQN = Transgender man, transgender woman, Genderqueer, gender non-conforming, questioning, or other

personal loyalties or fear of punishment to affect their reporting of sexual assaults. These results were little changed from 2016, although slightly less likely in all categories.

We saw very few differences in student responses to campus climate or bystander behavior based on race and ethnicity and only a small number based on age or residential status. There were a larger number of differences for students who identify as women and LGBTQA+, where these two groups were generally less positive about climate and more likely to say they would engage in related bystander behaviors.

Next steps include planning for the communication of results across the campus and engaging the community, including students, in responding to the report.

## Analysis Details

### Survey Methodology, Response and Demographics

The Champlain College survey was based on the methodology and questions in the toolkit provided by the federal government's [Not Alone: Together Against Sexual Assault](#) initiative. Most questions contained in the survey come directly from their research-based recommendations; some modifications were made to better reflect the culture of the Champlain community.

The survey was administered via the Qualtrics survey tool between January 30 and February 10, 2017. Students received an announcement of the survey from Vice-President Leslie Averill and Provost Laurie Quinn prior to receiving an invitation directly from Qualtrics that contained a direct link to the survey. Three reminders were sent to students; all students were offered a \$5 voucher to the College snack bar as an incentive to participate.

All traditional undergraduate students, both full and part-time in Burlington, Montreal and Dublin, and all Masters students studying on the Champlain campus in Burlington were invited to participate (n=2136), with the following response:

- 873 students clicked through the email to the survey introduction page and answered at least one question (40.9%)
- 699 students completed 97% or more of the survey (32.7% of invitations)

Survey responses are representative of the Champlain population with regard to age and class level of the student body, ethnic and racial characteristics. A higher proportion of respondents were females (47%, versus 38% in the population) and living in Champlain housing in Burlington or Winooski (70%, versus 63% of the invitees).

## Sexual Violence

We asked about nonconsensual sexual contact in three separate questions on the survey: 1) by physical force or threat, 2) while incapacitated (unable to give consent), and 3) as attempted, but uncompleted contact. In the remainder of this report, we will typically analyze attempts separately from those occurring through force or incapacitation (together referred to as nonconsensual sexual contact—NSC).

### **How extensive is nonconsensual sexual contact?**

The following is based on the number of students who responded to most questions on the survey (n = 699).

1. Nonconsensual sexual contact by physical force or threat: 13.7% (96/699 students)
2. Nonconsensual sexual contact while incapacitated: 7.9% (55/699 students, some overlapping with #1)
3. Overall estimate of likelihood of nonconsensual sexual contact:
  - a. Raw estimate: 21.6% (151 incidents indicated on the survey, 699 students)
  - b. Adjusted estimate: 18.0% (adjusted to account for the disproportionate response by female identifying students)
4. Additionally, 15.6% (109 students) indicated attempted, but unsuccessful, sexual contact by force or threat of force

5. A total of 260 “nonconsensual sexual acts or attempts” were indicated by 180 different students.

In addition to analyzing reports of NSC incidents, we also asked students if they thought sexual violence was a problem on the Champlain campus and if they thought they could personally do something about it. Overall, student opinion is equally split among those who believe sexual violence is a problem at Champlain, those who believe it is not, and those who are neutral. Students who say they have attended a program about sexual violence at the College during the past two semesters are more likely to have strong positive or negative opinions (and less likely to be neutral) about how much of a problem sexual violence is on our campus. Students who reported recent attendance at an educational program are 7% less likely to believe that there is nothing they can personally do about sexual assault on campus (48% compared to 55%).

### **Who are the students who are reporting nonconsensual sexual contact?**

Students who identify as women and are LGBQA+<sup>4</sup> are more likely to report incidents of nonconsensual sexual contact than would be expected by their proportion in our survey respondents.

- 96% of NSC occurred in the 18-22 age group (compared to 93% of survey respondents)
- 18% of NSC occurred in students of color (compared to 17% of survey respondents)
- 77% of NSC occurred in woman-identifying students (compared to 49% of survey respondents), and 11% as TGQN<sup>5</sup> (6% of survey respondents)
  - 33% of the woman-identifying survivors indicated an LGBQA+ sexual orientation
- 69% of NSC occurred in students living Champlain residence halls (compared to 73% of survey respondents)
- 48% of NSC occurred in students reporting LGBQA+ sexual orientations (compared to 32% of survey respondents)
  - Of the LGBQA+ survivors, 33% were woman-identifying and 10% were TGQN

### **Who is involved in nonconsensual sexual contact incidents?**

The vast majority of incidents (87%) involved individuals that students knew prior to the incident; only 5% involved strangers. Of the known individuals, three quarters were friends, acquaintances or ex-romantic partners. Of the remaining 25%, casual or first dates and current romantic partners were more commonly involved than co-workers, family members, family friends, classmates or others in the student’s residence hall.

One half of the indicated incidents (54/107 for which follow-up detail was provided) involved Champlain College students as the alleged offender. One incident as a result of incapacitation involved a Champlain faculty or staff member.

The vast majority (87%) of indicated offenders were men.

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<sup>4</sup> LGBQA+ = Lesbian, gay, bisexual, questioning, asexual or other sexual orientations

<sup>5</sup> TGQN = Transgender man, transgender woman, Genderqueer, gender non-conforming, questioning, or other

### Who do students talk to about incidents?

The vast majority of Champlain students who indicated an incident of nonconsensual sexual violence told someone about the incident—only 13% told no one. Most students (40%) talked to a roommate or other close friend, 15% told a current or ex-romantic partner, 6% told a parent or guardian and 6% told a Champlain College counselor. A total of 13.5% (17 students) told someone with the responsibility to prosecute an offense or support students: a residential life, student life, campus public safety, or faculty/staff member or a student resident assistant—up from 0 in our 2016 survey.

Only 8% of the 107 students who answered the survey question related to reporting an NSC incident said they used the College’s procedures to report the incident; an additional 4 students were not sure if they had. Five of these nine students said that the College’s procedures helped them a lot, while two said they did not help at all. None of the students reporting an NSC incident occurring while incapacitated used the Colleges reporting procedures.

### What role did drugs and alcohol play in the incidents?

More than three quarters (79%) of the students who indicated a nonconsensual sexual contact incident responded to the question about the role of substance use in the incident. Approximately equal proportions of incidents (30%) involved no substance use at all or use only by the offender. Slightly more (38%) of those assaulted indicated their own substance use. Alcohol was much more commonly reported (75%) to be associated with the incident than other drugs, and was more commonly used by the victim (43% vs 31%).

### How are students supporting one another?

Students were asked if a Champlain friend or acquaintance had told them about an incident of sexual assault or if they had observed one (or an incident that might have led to sexual assault) themselves. Nearly 34% of respondents indicated they had been told by someone else that they were a survivor of sexual assault; nearly 20% said more than one friend had told them this. Most students (41%) said they either knew or believed that their friend wanted emotional support from them. About 25% of students said their friend wanted them to keep the information confidential and an equal number were seeking advice, resources, or specific help.

*Table 2. Assistance sought by friend informing of sexual assault*

Assistance Sought	Number of students
Emotional support	178
Keep it confidential	111
Advice	72
Other (please specify)	38
Information about resources	24
Help to file a report	11

Fewer respondents, about 13%, indicated having observed a situation involving the College or its students that they believe was, or could have led to, a sexual assault. When asked how they responded to the situation, the most common response was, “asked the person who appeared to be at risk if they

needed help.” A total of 10% of students said they did not take action, most commonly because they did not feel it was safe for them to do so. These students said they took between one and nine different actions from the list below, with the median number being two.

*Table 3. Indicated responses to observation of a potential act of sexual violence*

Action	Number of students taking this action
Asked the person who appeared to be at risk if they needed help	53
Confronted the person who appeared to be causing the situation	26
Asked other(s) to step in and diffuse the situation	25
Created a distraction to cause one or more of the people to disengage from the situation	21
Stepped in and separated the people involved in the situation	21
Told someone in a position of authority about the situation	21
Considered intervening in the situation but I could not safely take any action	14
Took another action	13
Decided not to take action	7

### Who did students tell?

While just over 8% of Champlain students acknowledge using the College’s formal reporting procedures, 13.4% of students (n=17) said they told someone inside or outside the College with authority or responsibility to investigate reports or support victims (this represented more than 20% of the 151 indicated incidents).

*Table 4. Student descriptions of who they told about an NSC incident.*

Response Category	Response Detail	Number of responses
<b>Close friend or roommate</b>		76
<b>Internal/External Authority/Agency</b>		<b>33</b>
	Residential Life Staff	7
	An RA	7
	Champlain counselor	12
	Champlain faculty or staff	5
	Other student life staff	1
	Campus public safety	1
	Police, doctor, Hope Works	3 (1 each)
<b>Romantic partner</b>		29
<b>No one</b>		25
<b>Parent, guardian, other family member</b>		21
<b>Other</b>		10

Note: Students may select more than one answer and report on more than one incident. These 191 responses reflect information about 151 incidents reported by 99 students.



### Why didn't students tell anyone?

Twenty-one out of 99 students providing this detail about their NSC incident(s) said they didn't tell anyone about the incident and provided a total of 120 reasons why. Anywhere from one to 21 reasons were given (students could provide details on both types of NSC incidents), with the median being five, suggesting that the decision not to talk to anyone is complex. See summary of responses in Table 5.

*Table 5. Reasons stated for not reporting incidents of nonconsensual sexual contact*

Question	Percent of Responses	Number of Responses
I wanted to forget it happened.	11%	13
It wasn't serious enough to do anything about.	10%	12
I didn't want others to worry about me.	9%	11
I was ashamed/embarrassed and wanted to keep it private.	9%	11
I thought I would be blamed for what happened.	8%	10
I didn't want the person who did it to get in trouble.	8%	9
I didn't think others would understand.	7%	8
I was afraid I wouldn't be believed.	7%	8
I didn't have time to deal with it due to academics-work-etc.	6%	7
Other (please specify)	6%	7
I thought nothing would be done.	5%	6
I was afraid of retaliation from the person who did it or others.	4%	5
I didn't know reporting procedure on campus.	3%	4
It would feel like an admission of failure.	3%	3
I feared I or someone else would be punished for infractions or violations (such as underage drinking).	2%	2

## Perceptions of Leadership, Policies, and Reporting

The survey asked two different sets of questions about how students perceive the College would respond to situations related to sexual assault. The first set addresses general safety, while the second focuses more on sexual assault. Overall, about 77% of the respondents held a positive perception about the College’s response, similar to last year’s rate of 79%.

Chart 1. Average scores for campus climate related to general campus safety (4-point scale)

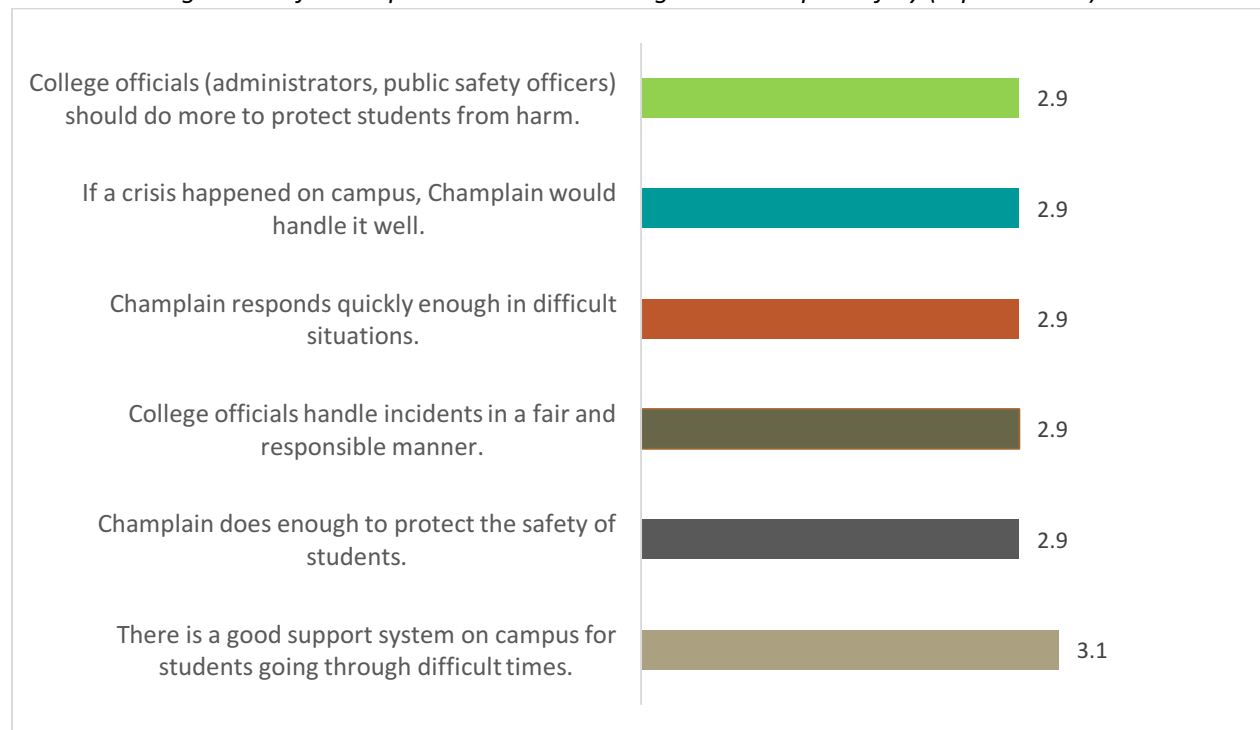


Table 6. Percent agreement with statements about campus climate related to sexual assault

Question Text	Percent Agree or Strongly Agree
College officials (administrators, public safety officers) should do more to protect students from harm. <i>Note: A low score is desirable on this question.</i>	75%
If a crisis happened on campus, Champlain would handle it well.	77%
Champlain responds quickly enough in difficult situations.	75%
College officials handle incidents in a fair and responsible manner.	76%
Champlain does enough to protect the safety of students.	75%
There is a good support system on campus for students going through difficult times.	80%

As in 2016, students were least likely to agree that Champlain would refer sexual assault incidents to outside authorities and would address its own institutional factors that might contribute to sexual assault, both at 67%. Respondents agreed most strongly that the College would take a report seriously (89%) and keep information as contained as possible (84%), again similar to last year.

*Chart 2. Average scores for institutional response to reports of sexual assault (4-point scale)*



*Table 7. Percent of agreement with statements about institutional response to reports of sexual assault*

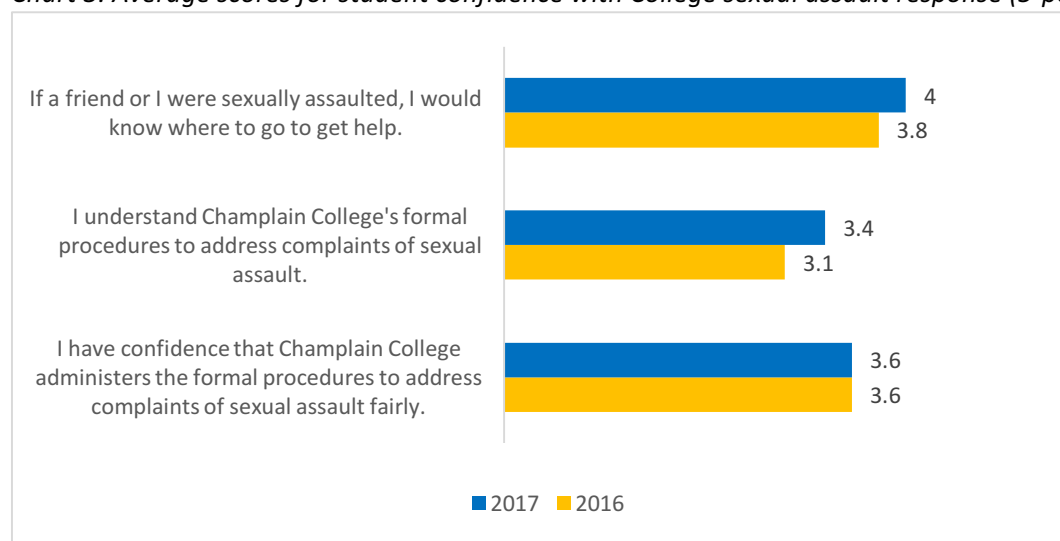
<b>If someone were to report a sexual assault to a campus authority, how likely is it that:</b>	<b>Percent “Moderately” or “Very” likely to occur</b>
The College would take the report seriously.	84%
The College would keep knowledge of the report limited to those who need to know in order for the College to respond properly.	89%
The College would forward the report outside the campus to criminal investigators.	67%
The College would take steps to protect the safety of the person making the report.	79%
The College would support the person making the report.	79%
The College would take appropriate action to address institutional factors that may have led to the sexual assault.	67%
The College would take action against the offender if a policy violation occurred.	78%
The College would take steps to protect the person making the report from retaliation.	74%
The educational achievement/career of the person making the report would be protected.	82%

## Education about Sexual Assault

The vast majority of students (83% vs 70% in 2016) reported receiving information about *policies and procedures* regarding sexual assault from Champlain College, as well as from their high school (57%) and from family (31%). A similar pattern is seen regarding education related to *prevention* of sexual assault: Champlain College (73%, up from 58% in 2016), high school (55%) and their family (37%). Students reporting receiving education from family sources declined in both areas between 2016 and 2017. The information provided by Champlain College was rated moderately useful or higher by 81% of the 620 students responding to this question.

We also asked three questions to judge the impact of our educational programming in terms of how well students felt prepared to respond to instances of sexual assault. Students are more confident about their knowledge of how to get help than they are of Champlain’s formal procedures, but improvements were seen in both of these areas in the 2017 survey.

*Chart 3. Average scores for student confidence with College sexual assault response (5-point scale)*



*Table 8. Percent positive responses for student confidence about College sexual assault response*

	Percent “Agree or Strongly Agree” Responses
If a friend or I were sexually assaulted, I know where to go to get help.	77%
I understand Champlain College’s formal procedures to address complaints of sexual assault.	52%
I have confidence that Champlain College administers the formal procedures to address complaints of sexual assault fairly.	59%

## Bystander Response

### Confidence and Likelihood of Personal Behaviors

Students were asked two sets of questions about their own behaviors in situations that might be associated with or lead to sexual misconduct or sexual assault. The first questions were more focused on bystander behaviors associated with sexual assault and asked students how likely they were to engage in each behavior. Here we see large differences in student response about the different behaviors, with students reporting they are least likely to engage in behaviors associated with sexual harassment/misconduct than those more closely associated with (or possibly leading to) sexual assault. We also see many areas where students responding to the 2017 survey say they are much more likely to engage in bystander behaviors than our respondents in 2016.

Chart 4. Percent of students “moderately or very likely” to engage in bystander behaviors

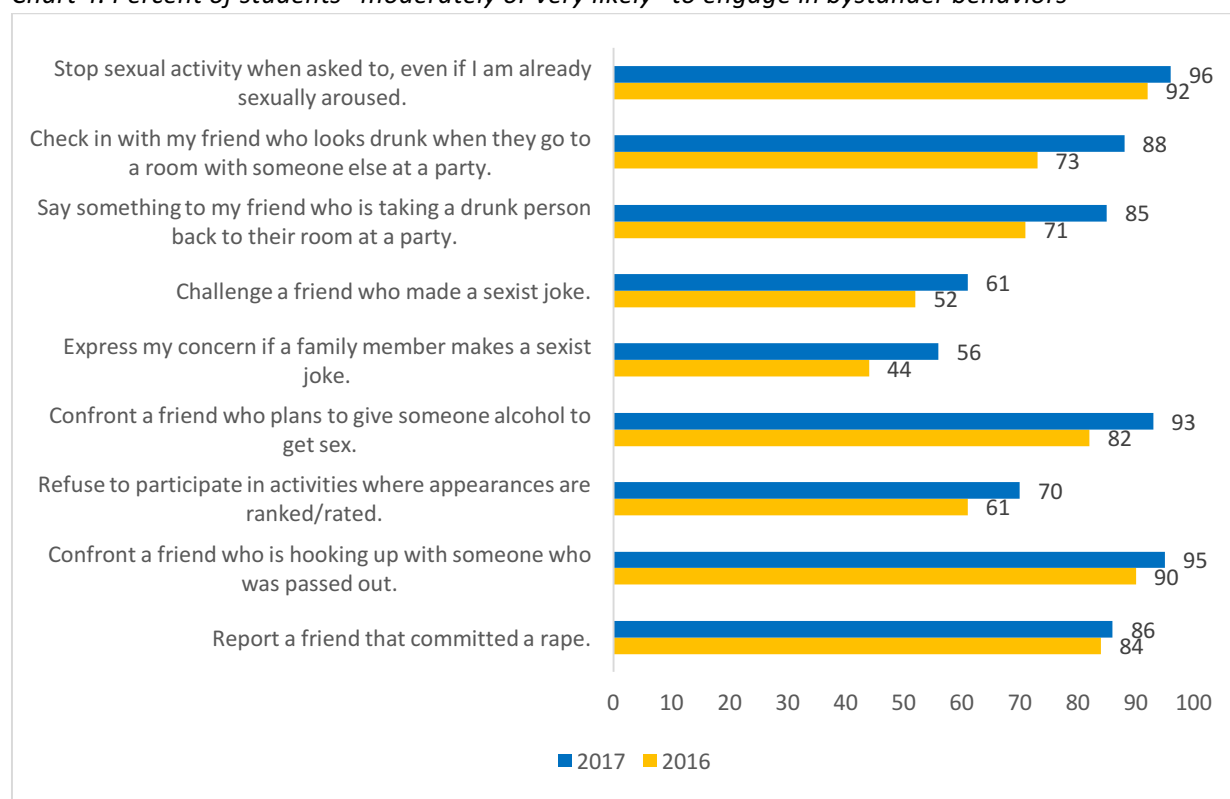


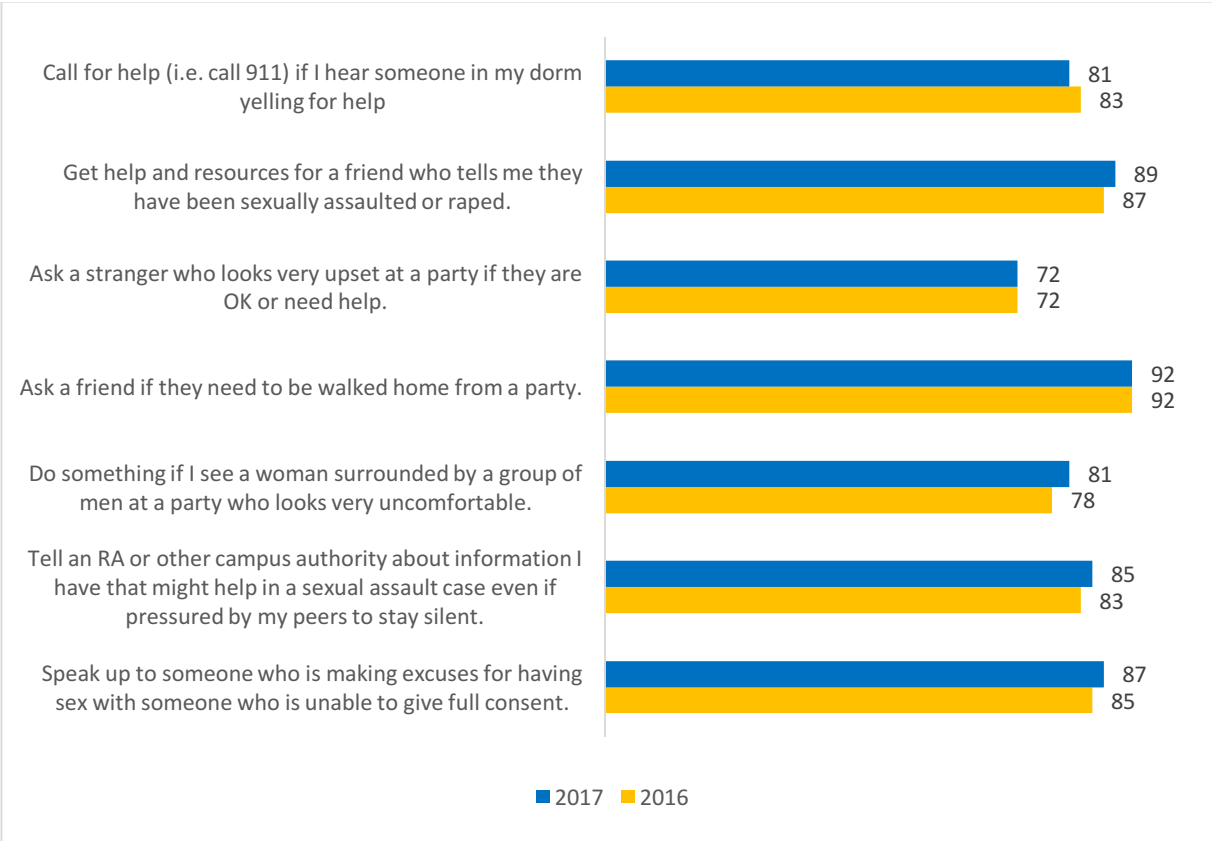
Table 9. Average for student personal actions responding to sexual misconduct (4-point scale)

How likely are YOU to engage in each of the following behaviors	Average Rating
Stop sexual activity when asked to, even if I am already sexually aroused.	3.8
Check in with my friend who looks drunk when they go to a room with someone else at a party.	3.4
Say something to my friend who is taking a drunk person back to their room at a party.	3.4
Challenge a friend who made a sexist joke.	2.8
Express my concern if a family member makes a sexist joke.	2.7

Confront a friend who plans to give someone alcohol to get sex.	3.7
Refuse to participate in activities where appearances are ranked/rated.	3.1
Confront a friend who is hooking up with someone who was passed out.	3.8
Report a friend that committed a rape.	3.4

A second set of questions asked students how confident they were that they could engage in a series of bystander behaviors related to or possibly leading to sexual violence. Students reported an 80% or higher confidence level on all behaviors with the exception of: “ask a stranger if they need help.” Student respondents in 2017 were slightly more confident on most items than our 2016 respondents, with the exception of their ability to “call for help...in my dorm.” Again this year, students were most confident they could offer to walk a friend home from a party.

*Chart 5. Student confidence in their ability to respond to situations associated with sexual violence*

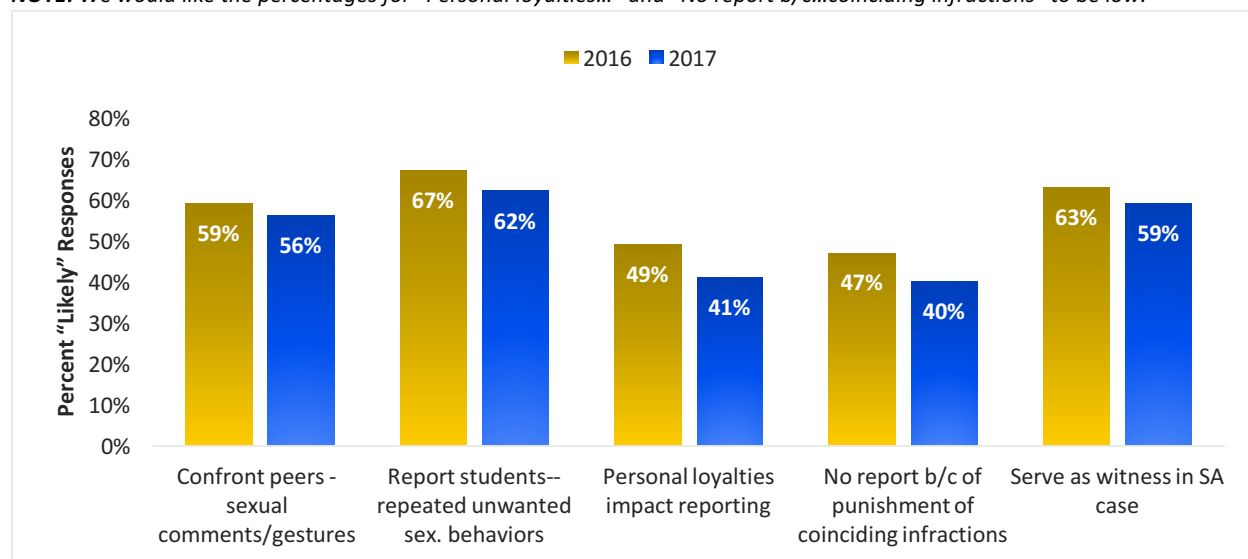


## Perception of Likely Responses from Champlain Student Body

In most areas, respondents were less likely to believe that other members of the Champlain student body would respond to incidents of sexual harassment and violence than they would. Of particular interest is the gap between students who say they would report a friend who committed a rape (86%) and the belief by about 40% of respondents that Champlain students would be likely to let personal loyalties or the fear of being punished for other infractions affect their willingness to report. It is encouraging to see that the greatest declines from 2016 to 2017 responses are for the two behaviors where a lower expectation that Champlain students would exhibit the behavior is desirable.

*Chart 6. Percent believing that other Champlain students are “moderately or very likely” to behave in a particular way.*

**NOTE:** We would like the percentages for “Personal loyalties...” and “No report b/c...coinciding infractions” to be low.



*Table 10. Average rating of perceptions about the responsiveness of the Champlain student body*

Based on behavior you have observed, how likely are Champlain students to:	Average Score (4-point scale)
Confront other students who make inappropriate or negative sexual comments and gestures?	2.6
Report other students who continue to engage in sexual harassing or unwanted sexual behaviors after having been previously confronted?	2.8
Allow personal loyalties to affect reporting of sexual assault?	2.4
Choose not to report sexual assault out of concern they or others will be punished for infractions, such as underage drinking or fraternization?	2.3
Be interviewed as or serve as a witness in a sexual assault case if they knew relevant information?	2.7

## Differences in Campus Climate & Bystander Response for Key Student Characteristics

This section of the report summarizes the responses to the survey by the following student characteristics: 1) race/ethnicity, 2) gender identity, 3) sexual orientation, 4) status as a NSC survivor, and 5) a combination of age and number of semesters at Champlain. Detailed visual and numerical summaries of this data are found in Appendix A at the end of this document.

### Race/ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation and survivorship status

- Students were asked questions related to both race and ethnicity (Hispanic or non-Hispanic) and were grouped as either white (78%), student of color (17%), or prefer not to respond/unknown (5%).
- Students were asked about gender identity with five possible responses, plus “I prefer not to respond” and other. Responses were grouped as either man-identifying (44%), woman-identifying (48%), TGQN<sup>6</sup> (6%), or prefer not to respond/unknown (1%).
- Students were asked about sexual orientation with six possible responses, plus “I prefer not to respond” and other. Response were groups as heterosexual (64%), LGBQA+<sup>7</sup> (33%) or prefer not to respond/unknown (3%).
- Survivorship status is coded for respondents (n=126) reporting that they have had a nonconsensual sexual incident during their time at Champlain College through either the use of force or while incapacitated (attempted incidents are not included).

When responding to questions about campus climate-related general safety issues (timeliness, fairness, and sufficiency of response to crises), students identifying as men and as heterosexual presented more positive views. Students with TGQN gender identities, LGBQA+ sexual orientations, or who were survivors consistently responded less positively. These same general patterns were seen when students were specifically asked about the College’s likely response to reported incidents of sexual assault. In addition, students identifying as women and students of color were less positive on a number of items in this group (Appendices A-1 and A-2).

On the five questions about perceptions of Champlain College peer behaviors again, the responses were more positive for students identifying as men and as heterosexual and less positive for survivors. Students who were heterosexual and man-identifying are more likely to believe that sexual violence is not a problem at Champlain and, not surprisingly, survivors are most likely to believe that it is.

Students identifying as women or TGQN are more likely to report that they would engage in many of the bystander behaviors than their male-identifying counterparts. We also see this more positive response for survivors. Less pronounced differences are seen between the heterosexual and LGBQA+ populations. Interestingly when students are asked to rate their own confidence that they could take particular actions to combat/prevent sexual misconduct, the differences seen among the groups are smaller. This could be in part to difference in measurement in that the first set asks about “likelihood” of engaging in a behavior on a four-point scale, and the second set asks students to pick a specific percentage related to their own self-confidence.

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<sup>7</sup> LGBQA+ = Lesbian, gay, bisexual, questioning, asexual or other sexual orientations



## Age and length of time at Champlain College and residential status

Students were asked to report their age and the number of semesters that they had been enrolled at Champlain. Each of these variables was then organized into two groups: 19 or below/20 or above and four or fewer vs five or more semesters at Champlain. These two variables were then combined for analysis to eliminate the shared variability between them. This resulted in four groups of students:

- 1) typical first year or sophomore students:  $\leq 19$  years and  $\leq 4$  semesters at Champlain (n=358),
- 2) typical junior or senior students:  $> 19$  years and  $> 4$  semesters at Champlain (n=299),
- 3) likely transfer students:  $> 19$  years and  $\leq 4$  semesters at Champlain (n=119),
- 4) an unexplained group (n=2) and
- 5) a group for which we did not have complete information (n=11).

Differences among the first three groups were analyzed for both on campus and off campus students.

Overall, there were few differences among the three groups. There were noticeable, but not statistically significant differences on the items related to familiarity with procedures for getting help or for reporting sexual assaults. Likely first year or sophomore students were consistently more positive in their reports than were either likely transfer or likely upper class students. In five other items, crossing perceptions of campus response and personal self-confidence, upper class students were again less positive than the underclass students with transfer student responses falling in between these two groups (perhaps suggesting that time at Champlain was a greater influencer than age in their responses). Likely first year/sophomore students living off campus were significantly more positive in their perceptions of the likelihood that the College would: a) take a report of sexual assault seriously than transfer students were and b) protect the claimant of sexual assault from retaliation than likely junior/senior students, and c) respond well to a crisis than likely junior/senior students.

## Summary

While we were pleased that nearly all students responded to at least one question beyond the demographic questions, we need to remember this represents just over one-third of the Champlain student body and so should not be considered representative. The 2015 Association of American Universities' (AAU) study<sup>8</sup> on sexual assault and misconduct showed that institutions with higher response rates on the survey also had higher reported rates of sexual assault—a phenomenon that holds true when comparing Champlain's 2016 survey (13% response rate, 10.8% estimated likelihood of nonconsensual sexual contact) to its 2017 results (32.7% response rate, 18.0% estimated likelihood of nonconsensual sexual contact).

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<sup>8</sup> Cantor, D., Fisher, B., Chibnall, S., Townsend, R., Hyunshik, L., Bruce, C., and Thomas, G., (2015). Report on the AAU Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct. Rockville, MD: Westat. Accessed 3/14/2015. [https://www.aau.edu/uploadedFiles/AAU\\_Publications/AAU\\_Reports/Sexual\\_Assault\\_Campus\\_Survey/Report%20on%20the%20AAU%20Campus%20Climate%20Survey%20on%20Sexual%20Assault%20and%20Sexual%20Misconduct.pdf](https://www.aau.edu/uploadedFiles/AAU_Publications/AAU_Reports/Sexual_Assault_Campus_Survey/Report%20on%20the%20AAU%20Campus%20Climate%20Survey%20on%20Sexual%20Assault%20and%20Sexual%20Misconduct.pdf)

The often cited<sup>9</sup> rate of sexual assault on College campuses is 20%, even as we know that the crime of sexual assault is under-reported nationally. Champlain’s estimated rate of 18.0%<sup>10</sup> exceeds that of the AAU study’s reported incidence of 11.7% for all students and 14.1% for undergraduates. There was wide variability among individual schools’ rates (13-30%), with that of private institutions being 25.3%. If we assumed that the rate indicated on this survey is accurate, that would mean that 384 students within our survey population of 2136 would, at some point in their college career, experience at least one nonconsensual sexual contact<sup>11</sup>.

Champlain first year student respondents are slightly less likely to indicate an incident of NSC than the overall rate in the AAU study, however, female-identifying and TGQN-identifying students indicate equal or higher rates than this comparison group. Cumulative rates for seniors at Champlain are higher than AAU rates overall and for all gender identities except males.

*Table 11. Cumulative rates of nonconsensual sexual contact for undergraduates by gender identity*

	<b>(Likely) First Year Students</b>				<b>(Likely) Senior Students</b>			
	<b>N=267</b>				<b>N=141</b>			
	Overall	Male	Female	TGQN	Overall	Male	Female	TGQN
Champlain College	<b>9.7%</b>	<b>2.3%</b>	<b>17.1%</b>	<b>20.0%</b>	<b>24.1%</b>	<b>5.0%</b>	<b>38.6%</b>	<b>40.0%</b>
<b>AAU</b>	10.7%	3.6%	17.1%	14.4%	16.5%	6.3%	26.1%	29.5%

While just over 8% of Champlain students acknowledge using the College’s formal reporting procedures, 13.4% of students (n=17) said they told someone inside or outside the College with authority or responsibility to prosecute offenders or support victims (this represented more than 20% of the 151 indicated incidents).

We are encouraged by some of the responses in the survey about how students perceive Champlain’s response to a reported sexual assault. Our students strongly believe that the College will take the report seriously (84%) and would effectively protect this sensitive information (89%, up from 79% in 2016).

We can also clearly see where there is work to be done to positively impact the student experience. Participating students feel quite confident in their ability to intervene in some circumstances that might lead to sexual violence (checking in with friends who appear drunk at a party and confronting friends that appear to be taking advantage of someone else who has been drinking). They feel less confident that they would, or would be able to, respond to situations like checking in with a stranger or taking action when a woman is surrounded by men and looking uncomfortable. This gives us an opportunity for education designed to help our students deal with the situations they find more challenging. This survey again illustrated a phenomenon often seen in social norming studies: students are more confident in their own likelihood of responding to potentially harmful situations than they are in what their peers might do.

<sup>9</sup> Krebs, C.P., Lindquist, C.H., Warner, T.D., Fisher, B.S., & Martin, S.L. (2007). The Campus Sexual Assault (CSA) Study. Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice, U.S. Department of Justice.; Krebs, C.P., Lindquist, C.H., Warner, T.D., Fisher, B.S., & Martin, S.L. (2009). College Women’s Experiences with Physically Forced, Alcohol- or Other Drug-Enabled, and Drug-Facilitated Sexual Assault Before and Since Entering College. *Journal of American College Health*, 57(6), 639-647.

<sup>10</sup> adjusted to account for the disproportionate response by female identifying students

<sup>11</sup> Including those that happen over summer/holiday breaks

This year's survey results reveal some pretty substantial differences in the perceptions of our students of TGQN gender identity, LBQA+ sexual orientation, and survivors of sexual assault. This is true across the three major areas of our survey: perceptions of the institution's response, perceptions of peers, and personal bystander behaviors. These same groups are more likely to have recently attended an educational program related to sexual violence at the College, but are also more likely to have had a friend tell them they were the victim of a sexual assault or to have observed an incident that was or might have led to sexual assault.

Students living in Champlain residence halls were more likely to have attended an educational program about sexual violence. They too were more positive about their perceptions of how the college would respond to a sexual violence report than were their peers who live off campus with regard to confidentiality and systems of support for students. However, they were less confident that they could engage in such bystander behaviors as: calling for help, offering help to a stranger at a party or a woman who looks uncomfortable when surrounded by a group of men, and speaking up when someone else is unable to consent to sexual activity.

Near term next steps include planning for the communication of results across the campus and engaging the community, including students, in responding to the report.

## Appendix A-1

### Perceptions of the College's CLIMATE RE: GENERAL SAFETY

	Overall	Diversity		Gender Identity			Sexual Orientation		Survivor Status
		White	SOC	Woman	Man	TGQN	Hetero	LGBQA+	Survivors
<b>Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.</b>									
College officials (administrators, public safety officers) should do more to protect students from harm. NOTE: a high percentage of agreement is undesirable	75%	75%	79%	80%	67%	89%	72%	80%	78%
If a crisis happened on campus, Champlain would handle it well.	77%	78%	73%	77%	79%	60%	79%	70%	63%
Champlain responds quickly enough in difficult situations.	75%	70%	74%	74%	77%	67%	77%	70%	66%
College officials handle incidents in a fair and responsible manner.	76%	78%	72%	77%	78%	67%	80%	70%	61%
Champlain does enough to protect the safety of students.	75%	76%	70%	69%	82%	60%	79%	64%	56%
There is a good support system on campus for students going through difficult times.	80%	81%	76%	78%	84%	62%	84%	71%	70%

Percent of students responding agree/strongly agree on a 4-point scale.

KEY: Green shading is a positive/desireable response, Orange-gold shading is a negative/undesireable response.

## Appendix A-2

### Perceptions of the College's likely response to a REPORT OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

	Overall	Diversity		Gender Identity			Sexual Orientation		Survivor Status
		White	SOC	Woman	Man	TGQN	Hetero	LGBQA+	Survivors
The College would take the report seriously.	84%	86%	82%	81%	89%	83%	88%	78%	73%
The College would keep knowledge of the report limited to those who need to know in order for the College to respond properly.	89%	90%	87%	89%	94%	78%	90%	87%	82%
The College would forward the report outside the campus to criminal investigators.	67%	68%	57%	61%	75%	61%	71%	59%	50%
The College would take steps to protect the safety of the person making the report.	79%	80%	74%	75%	86%	72%	83%	71%	66%
The College would support the person making the report.	79%	81%	74%	75%	85%	72%	83%	72%	70%
The College would take appropriate action to address institutional factors that may have led to the sexual assault.	67%	66%	66%	63%	74%	52%	73%	54%	46%
The College would take action against the offender if a policy violation occurred.	78%	78%	74%	73%	84%	72%	81%	70%	60%
The College would take steps to protect the person making the report from any form of retaliation.	74%	74%	71%	68%	81%	69%	77%	67%	58%
The educational achievement/career of the person making the report would be protected.	82%	84%	78%	80%	87%	82%	86%	74%	71%

Percent of students responding moderately/very likely on a 4-point scale.

KEY: Green shading is a positive/desireable response, Orange-gold shading is a negative/undesireable response.

## Appendix A-3

Perceptions of sexual violence on Champlain campus and the likely RESPONSE OF THE CHAMPLAIN STUDENT BODY to specific situations

	Overall	Diversity		Gender Identity			Sexual Orientation		Survivor Status
		White	SOC	Woman	Man	TGQN	Hetero	LGBQA+	Survivors
I don't think sexual violence is a problem on this campus. NOTE: a high percentage of agreement is undesirable	32%	32%	32%	27%	40%	23%	35%	27%	20%
I don't think there is much I can do about sexual violence on campus. NOTE: a high percentage of agreement is undesirable	23%	23%	21%	20%	26%	27%	21%	26%	21%
<b>Based on behavior you have observed, how likely are Champlain students to:</b>									
Confront other students who make inappropriate or negative sexual comments and gestures?	56%	59%	50%	51%	66%	39%	60%	48%	48%
Report other students who continue to engage in sexual harassing or unwanted sexual behaviors after having been previously confronted?	62%	64%	58%	54%	75%	50%	67%	55%	48%
Allow personal loyalties to affect reporting of sexual assault? NOTE: a high percentage of agreement is undesirable	41%	41%	43%	41%	42%	36%	39%	46%	52%
Choose not to report sexual assault out of concern they or others will be punished for infractions such as underage drinking or drug use? NOTE: a high percentage of agreement is undesirable	40%	40%	42%	44%	35%	42%	38%	44%	53%
Be interviewed as or serve as a witness in a sexual assault case if they knew relevant information?	59%	60%	58%	54%	67%	51%	62%	55%	48%

First two items: Percent of students responding *somewhat or very much true* on a 5-point scale.

Last five items: Percent of students responding *more likely than not or very likely* on a 4 point scale.

KEY: Green shading is a positive/desireable response, Orange-gold shading is a negative/undesireable response.

## Appendix A-4

### Perceptions of students' PERSONAL BEHAVIORS

	Overall	Diversity		Gender Identity			Sexual Orientation		Survivor Status
		White	SOC	Woman	Man	TGQN	Hetero	LGBQA+	Survivors
<b>Please indicate how likely YOU are to engage in each of the following behaviors.</b>									
Stop sexual activity when asked to, even if I am already sexually aroused.	96%	97%	93%	96%	95%	98%	96%	96%	96%
Check in with my friend who looks drunk when they go to a room with someone else.	88%	89%	87%	93%	82%	91%	88%	90%	96%
Say something to my friend who is taking a drunk person back to their room.	85%	86%	89%	87%	83%	89%	85%	87%	89%
Challenge a friend who made a sexist joke.	61%	61%	62%	70%	47%	80%	55%	70%	70%
Express my concern if a family member makes a sexist joke.	56%	55%	64%	66%	42%	75%	54%	61%	63%
Confront a friend who plans to give someone alcohol to coerce sex.	93%	95%	92%	96%	90%	98%	93%	94%	93%
Refuse to participate in activities where peoples' appearances are ranked/rated.	70%	70%	73%	82%	55%	80%	66%	76%	75%
Confront a friend who is hooking up with someone who was passed out.	95%	97%	91%	97%	93%	93%	95%	95%	96%
Report a friend that committed a sexual assault.	86%	87%	89%	89%	84%	93%	86%	89%	85%

Percent of students responding **more likely than not or very likely** on a 4 point scale.

KEY: Green shading is a positive/desireable response, Orange-gold shading is a negative/undesireable response.

## Appendix A-5

### Perceptions of students' SELF-CONFIDENCE TO TAKE ACTION

	Overall	Diversity		Gender Identity			Sexual Orientation		Survivor Status
		White	SOC	Woman	Man	TGQN	Hetero	LGBQA+	Survivors
<b>How confident are you that you could do the following?</b>									
Call for help (i.e. call 911) if I hear someone in my dorm yelling help.	81%	82%	80%	81%	83%	78%	83%	78%	81%
Get help and resources for a friend who tells me they have been sexually assaulted or raped.	89%	90%	90%	91%	88%	89%	89%	90%	91%
Ask a stranger who looks very upset at a party if they are OK or need help.	72%	73%	70%	75%	71%	63%	74%	70%	75%
Ask a friend if they need to be walked home from a party.	92%	92%	91%	93%	90%	92%	92%	90%	92%
Do something if I see a woman surrounded by a group of men at a party who looks very uncomfortable.	81%	81%	83%	84%	78%	87%	81%	82%	86%
Tell an RA or other campus authority about information I have that might help in a sexual assault case even if pressured by my peers to stay silent.	85%	85%	84%	85%	85%	83%	85%	84%	82%
Speak up to someone who is making excuses for having sex with someone who is unable to give full consent.	87%	88%	88%	89%	86%	88%	87%	88%	90%

Average percent rating on 0-100% scale

KEY: Green shading is a positive/desireable response, Orange-gold shading is a negative/undesireable response.