

Spring 2016: 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

# Campus Climate Survey Results

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## Executive Summary

The Campus Climate 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 over the age of 17, both full and part-time were invited to participate (n=2114). Of those, 351 students completed some portion of the survey and 280 completed a substantive portion or all of the survey (13% of invitations). A higher proportion of respondents were females (54%, versus 38% in the population).

### **How extensive is nonconsensual sexual contact? What do we know about those incidents?**

These statistics are based on the 280 students who responded to most questions on the survey.

1. Nonconsensual sexual contact by physical force or threat of force: 5.0% (14 students)
2. Nonconsensual sexual contact by incapacitation: 7.5% (21 students, some overlapping with #1)
3. Overall estimate of likelihood of nonconsensual sexual contact: 10.8% (30 incidents reported)
4. An additional 1.1% (3 students) reported attempted, but unsuccessful, sexual contact by force or threat of force
5. A total of 42 “nonconsensual sexual acts or attempts” were reported by 33 different students.

Students who are students of color, identify as women, live off-campus and are LGBTQIA are more likely to report incidents of nonconsensual sexual contact than would be expected by their proportion in our population (or in the case of gender identity and sexual orientation their proportion in the survey respondents).

The vast majority of incidents (85%) involved individuals that students knew prior to the incident. [Thirteen students reported incidents that involved Champlain students, two of whom were also described as Champlain employees. Where the gender of the offender was indicated, 95% were reported to be men.]<sup>1</sup>

While the vast majority (79%) of Champlain students who reported an incident of nonconsensual sexual violence told someone about the incident, only one student said they had used the College’s formal procedures for reporting and none 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 embarrassment, wanted to forget and not wanting to cause worry as the reasons. While students said they would know where to go to get help in a case of sexual assault, they were less confident about knowing how to use Champlain’s formal reporting procedures.

### **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?**

Among the general campus climate questions, we were struck by the lower student satisfaction with the statement, “I seldom get the run-around” when seeking information on this campus. Students were

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<sup>1</sup> In the report published on April 25, 2016, this section originally said: “Two of the 33 reported incidents involved Champlain College employees and 13 involved our students. Slightly more than half (58%) of reported offenders were men.” We believe the language above states this information more clearly and accurately.

generally quite positive about the College's response to crises and its attention to the safety and support of students. When specifically asked about how they expected the College would respond to a report of sexual assault, 87% believe the College would take the report seriously and 84% thought that it would limit institutional knowledge about the report. Students were the least positive (72% in agreement) that the College would appropriately address institutional factors that may have led to the assault. Our LGBTQIA students were generally less positive than their peers about how the institution would respond.

Students were generally less confident that their peers would engage in a range of bystander behaviors than they were in their own likelihood to participate. 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 personal loyalties or fear of punishment to affect their reporting of sexual assaults.

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 LGBTQIA, 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 Survey Monkey survey tool between January 22 and February 1, 2016. Students received an announcement of the survey from Vice-President Leslie Averill and Provost Laurie Quinn prior to receiving an invitation directly from Survey Monkey that contained a direct link to the survey. Two reminders were sent to students and no incentives for participation were provided.

All traditional undergraduate students over the age of 17, both full and part-time were invited to participate (n=2114), with the following response:

- 1591 students opened the email invitation (75%)
  - 440 of those clicked through the email to the survey introduction page (21%)
  - 351 students completed some of the survey (17% of invitations, 80% of “click throughs”)
- 280 completed substantive portion or all of the survey (13% 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, and proportion living in campus residences. A higher proportion of respondents were females (54%, versus 38% in the population).

## Sexual Violence

In this section, please note that we are talking about a relatively small number of students and responses. When the use of a percent statistic represents 5 or fewer students, we will also state the number of students reflected in that statistic.

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

These statistics are based on the number of students who responded to most questions on the survey (n = 280).

1. Nonconsensual sexual contact by physical force or threat of force: 5.0% (14 students)
2. Nonconsensual sexual contact by incapacitation: 7.5% (21 students, some overlapping with #1)
3. Overall estimate of likelihood of nonconsensual sexual contact: 10.8% (30 incidents reported)
4. An additional 1.1% (3 students) reported attempted, but unsuccessful, sexual contact by force or threat of force
5. A total of 42 “nonconsensual sexual acts or attempts” were reported by 33 different students.

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

Students who are students of color, identify as women, live off-campus and are LGBTQIA are more likely to report incidents of nonconsensual sexual contact than would be expected by their proportion in our population (or in the case of gender identity and sexual orientation their proportion in the survey respondents).

- 88% in the 18-22 age group (89% of survey respondents)
- 18% students of color (13% of survey respondents)
- 82% identify as women (52% of survey respondents), and 3% (1 student) as non-binary gender (also 3% of survey respondents)
- 48% students in Champlain residence halls (61% of survey respondents)
- 64% heterosexual (70% of survey respondents), 36% LGBTQIA (25% of survey respondents)

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

The vast majority of incidents (85%) involved individuals that students knew prior to the incident; only 15% involved strangers. Of the known individuals, half of all incidents involved either friends or acquaintances, 10% casual or first dates, and 10% ex-romantic partners. The remaining 15% are split evenly among roommates, dorm-mates, and family members.

Thirteen students reported incidents that involved Champlain students, two of whom were also described as Champlain employees. The majority of incidents involved individuals who were not associated with the College.

When asked about the gender of the offender in the incident, 39% of respondents chose not to reply. Of those answering the question, 19/20 offenders were reported to be men and one was reported as a woman.

### **Who do students talk to about incidents?**

The vast majority of Champlain students who reported an incident of nonconsensual sexual violence told someone about the incident—only 21% told no one. Most students (50%) talked to a roommate or other close friend, 12% (n = 4) told another romantic partner, 6% (n = 2) told a parent, and 3% (n = 1) talked to an employee, the police, HopeWorks, or another family member. No students reported talking to a counselor, a residential or student life staff member, or campus public safety.

Only 5% of students (n = 1) reporting using the College's formal procedures to report the incident; an additional 10% (n = 2) were not sure if they had.

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

Nearly half (42%) of the students who reported a nonconsensual sexual contact incident did not respond to the question about the role of substance use in the incident. Of those who did respond, equal numbers (37%) reported no substance use was involved and the offender was using alcohol. Victims also commonly reported alcohol use (21%, n = 4), but the involvement of other drugs was rarely reported (5% use by victims (n = 1), none reported for offenders).

### Why didn't students tell anyone?

Fifteen students who said they didn't tell anyone about the incident provided a total of 88 reasons why as shown in the table below. Anywhere from one to thirteen reasons were provided by respondents, with the median being six, suggesting that the decision not to talk to anyone is complex. There is a cluster of multiple reasons that includes not wanting others to worry, wanting to forget, and being ashamed that are commonly selected as a group. See summary of responses in Table 1.

*Table 1. Reasons stated for not reporting incidents of nonconsensual sexual contact.*

Question	Percent of Responses	Number of Responses
I didn't want others to worry about me	11%	10
I wanted to forget it happened.	10%	9
I was ashamed/embarrassed and wanted to keep it private.	10%	9
I thought I would be blamed for what happened.	9%	8
It wasn't serious enough to do anything about	9%	8
I was afraid I wouldn't be believed	8%	7
It would feel like an admission of failure.	6%	5
I didn't have time to deal with it due to academics, work, etc.	6%	5
I didn't want the person who did it to get in trouble.	6%	5
I was afraid of retribution from the person who did it or others.	6%	5
I thought nothing would be done.	5%	4
I didn't know reporting procedure on campus.	3%	3
I feared I or someone else would be punished for infractions or violations (such as underage drinking).	3%	3
I didn't think others would understand.	3%	3
I thought people would try to tell me what to do.	3%	3
Other	1%	1

## Campus Climate Questions

The survey inquired about students' general sense of the campus climate, not necessarily related to sexual misconduct. All responses were quite positive with the exception of one—student perceptions related to “getting the run-around” on campus—a finding that is surprising for a school of our size.

Chart 1. Average score for campus climate questions

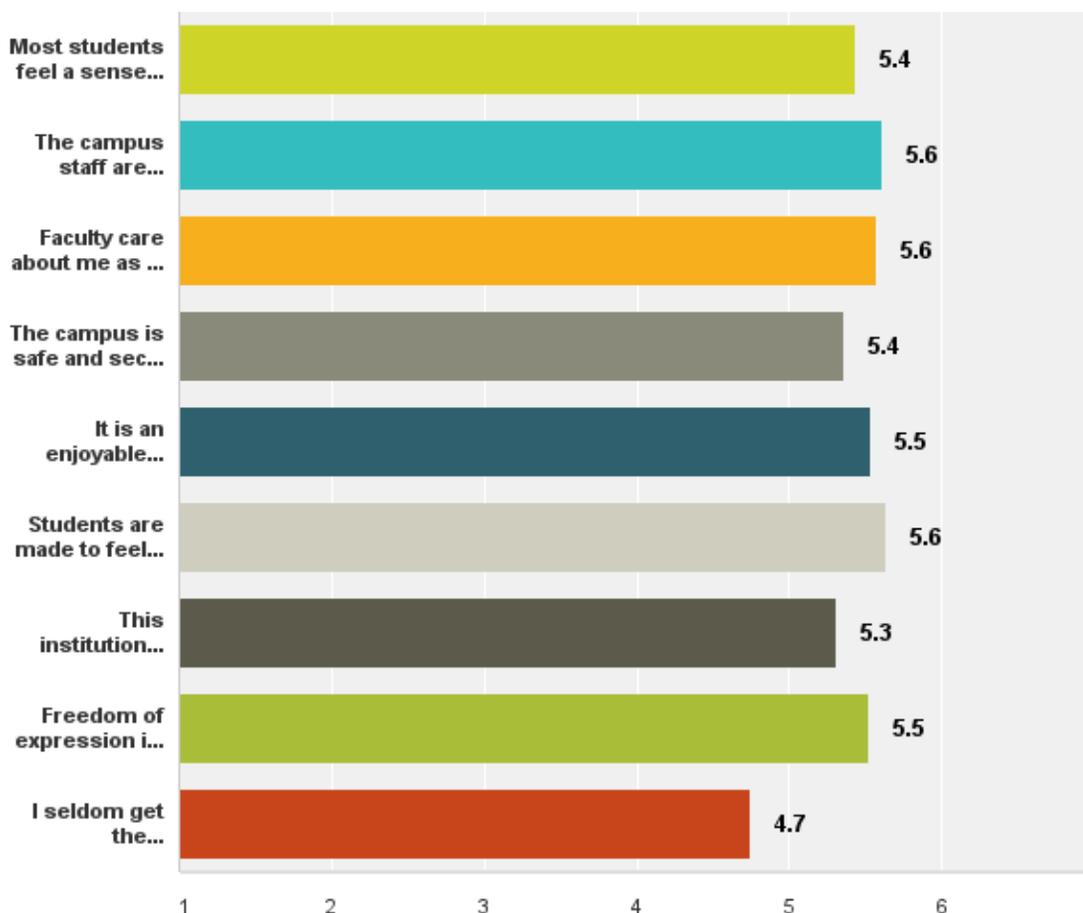


Table 2. Percent positive response to general campus climate questions

Question	Percent Positive Ratings (Rating of 5,6,or 7)
Students are made to feel welcome on this campus.	84%
The campus staff are caring and helpful.	86%
Faculty care about me as an individual.	83%
It is an enjoyable experience to be a student on this campus.	82%
Freedom of expression is protected on campus.	81%
Most students feel a sense of belonging here.	79%
The campus is safe and secure for all students.	74%
This institution shows concern for students as individuals.	78%
I seldom get the "run-around" when seeking information on this campus.	57%

## Perceptions of Leadership, Policies, and Reporting

The survey asked two different sets of questions related to student perceptions of the College’s anticipated response to situations related to sexual assault. Overall, about 79% of the respondents held a positive perception about the College’s response tendencies. The lowest ratings were about the likelihood that Champlain would report to outside authorities (74%) and would address its own institutional factors that might contribute (72%). Students were most positive in their perceptions that the College would take a report seriously (87%) and keep information as contained as possible (82%).

Chart 2. Average scores for campus climate related to sexual assault

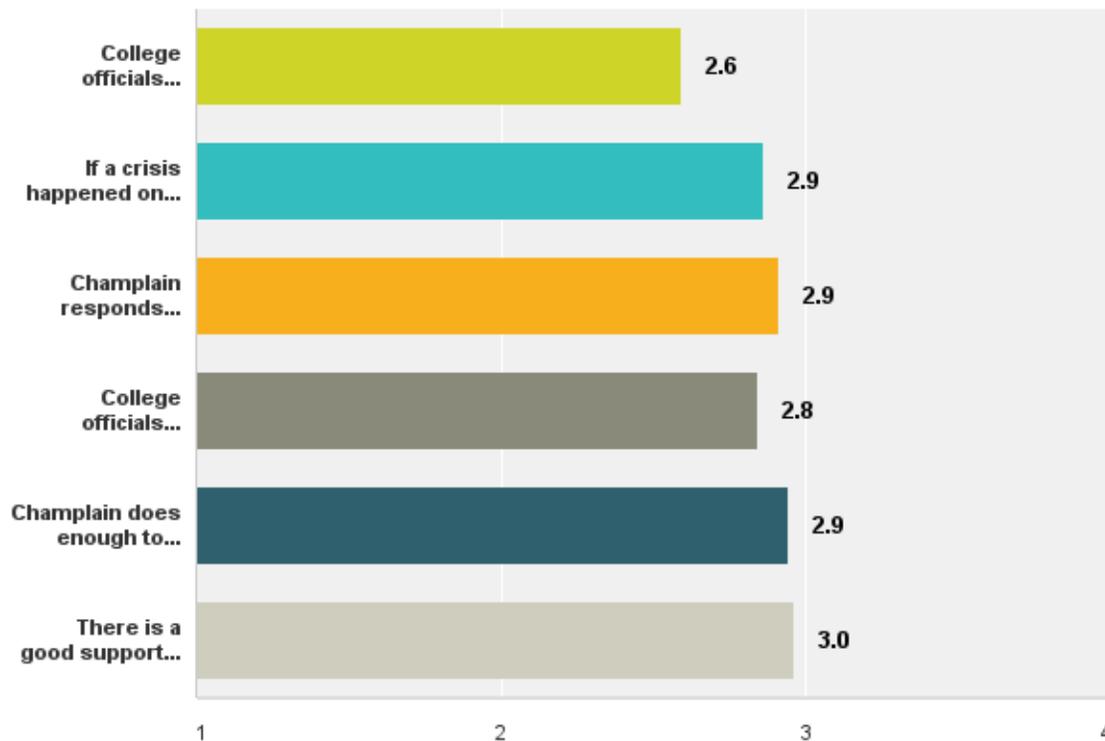


Table 3. Percent agreement with statements about campus climate related to sexual assault

Question Text	Percent Agree (score of 3 or 4)
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>	56%
If a crisis happened on campus, Champlain would handle it well.	78%
Champlain responds quickly enough in difficult situations.	80%
College officials handle incidents in a fair and responsible manner.	75%
Champlain does enough to protect the safety of students.	79%
There is a good support system on campus for students going through difficult times.	77%

Chart 3. Average scores for institutional response to reports of sexual assault

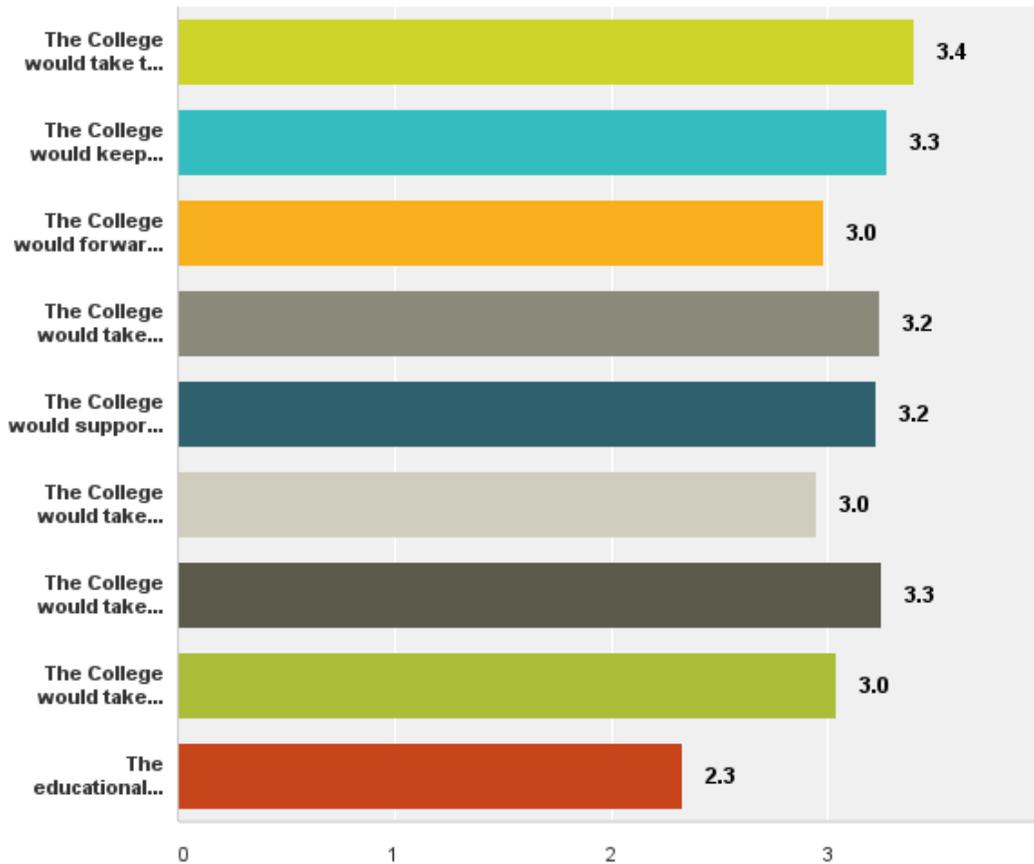


Table 4. Percent of agreement with statements about institutional response to reports of sexual assault

If someone were to report a sexual assault to a campus authority, how likely is it that:	Percent "Likely" Responses (rating of 3 or 4)
The College would take the report seriously.	87%
The College would keep knowledge of the report limited to those who need to know in order for the College to respond properly.	84%
The College would forward the report outside the campus to criminal investigators.	74%
The College would take steps to protect the safety of the person making the report.	82%
The College would support the person making the report.	82%
The College would take appropriate action to address institutional factors that may have led to the sexual assault.	72%
The College would take action against the offender if a policy violation occurred.	82%
The College would take steps to protect the person making the report from retaliation.	76%
The educational achievement/career of the person making the report would suffer. <i>Note: A low score is desirable on this question.</i>	43%

## Education about Sexual Assault

A majority of students (70%) reported receiving information about policies and procedures regarding incidents of sexual assault from Champlain College, as well as from their high school (56%) and from family (36%). When asked about education related to *prevention* of sexual assault, respondents were almost equally likely to say Champlain College, their high school and their family (58%, 58% and 44% respectively). The information provided by Champlain College was rated useful (moderately or very) by just under half of the respondents 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.

Chart 4. Average scores for student confidence with College sexual assault response

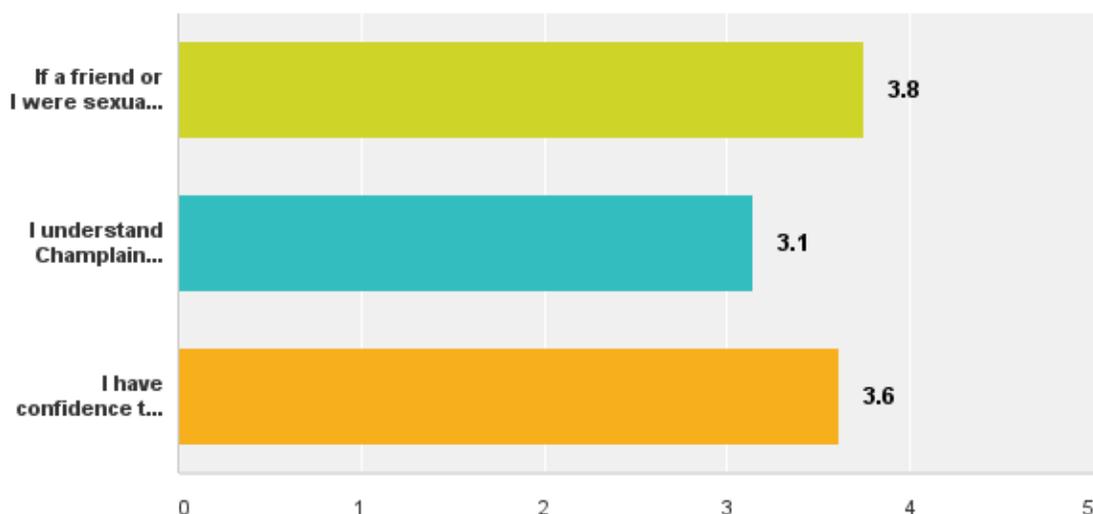


Table 5. Percent positive responses for student confidence about College sexual assault response

	Percent "Agree" Responses
If a friend or I were sexually assaulted, I know where to go to get help.	67%
I understand Champlain College's formal procedures to address complaints of sexual assault.	40%
I have confidence that Champlain College administers the formal procedures to address complaints of sexual assault fairly.	58%

## Bystander Response

### Confidence and Likelihood of Personal Behaviors

The first question we asked students was “How confident are you that you could do the following?” All responses averaged 80% or higher with the exception of: “ask a stranger if they need help” and “act to help a woman surrounded by a group of men.” 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 of potential sexual misconduct

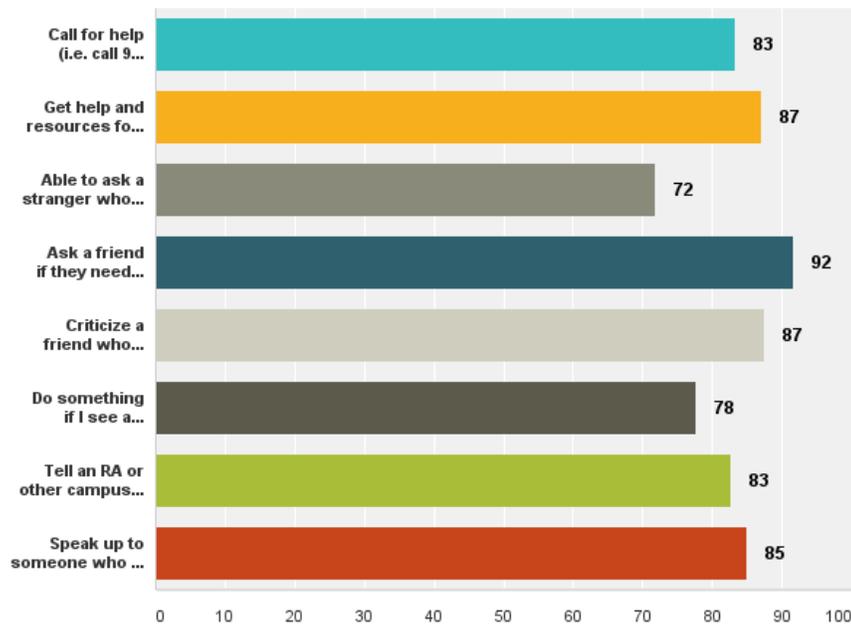


Table 6. Full question text for the table above:

How confident are you that you could do the following?
Call for help (i.e. call 911) if I hear someone in my dorm yelling “help.”
Get help and resources for a friend who tells me they have been raped.
Able to ask a stranger who looks very upset at a party if they are ok or need help.
Ask a friend if they need to be walked home from a party.
Criticize a friend who tells me that they had sex with someone who was passed out or who didn’t give consent.
Do something if I see a woman surrounded by a group of men at a party who looks very uncomfortable.
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.
Speak up to someone who is making excuses for having sex with someone who is unable to give full consent.

A second set of questions related to personal action reveals large differences in how likely a student is to respond to different types of sexual misconduct.

Chart 6. Average for student personal actions responding to sexual misconduct

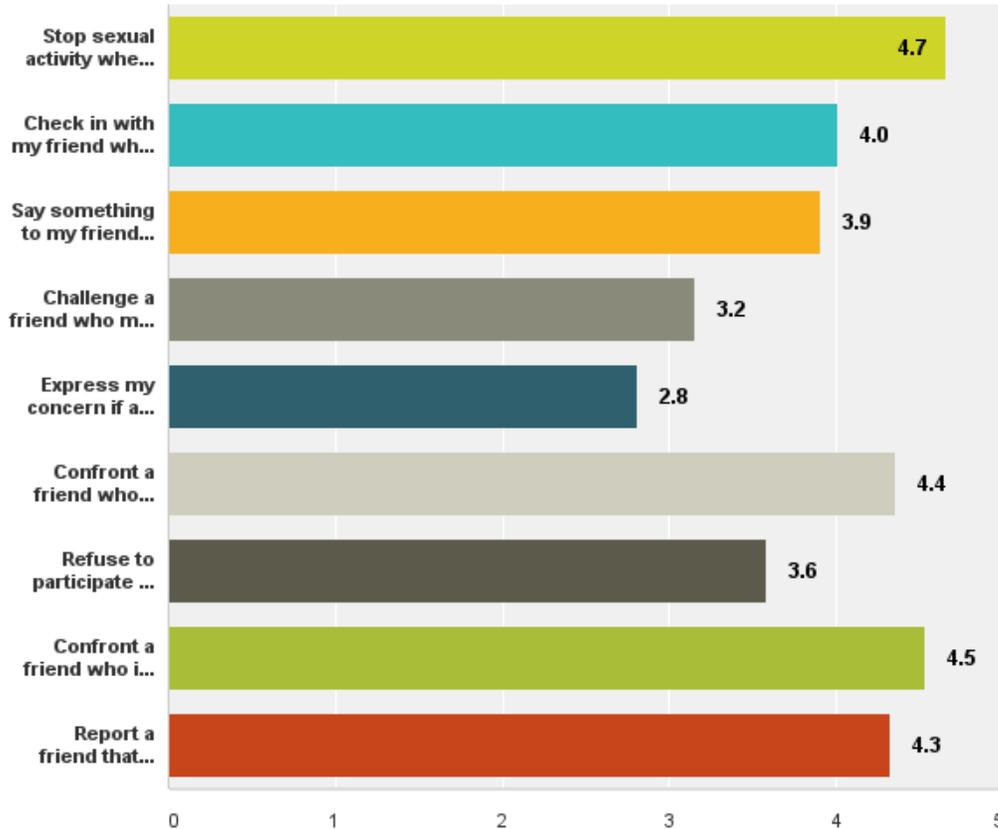


Table 7. Average for student personal actions responding to sexual misconduct

How likely are YOU to engage in each of the following behaviors	Percent "Likely" Responses (4 or 5 on 5-point scale)
Stop sexual activity when asked to, even if I am already sexually aroused.	92%
Check in with my friend who looks drunk when they go to a room with someone else at a party.	73%
Say something to my friend who is taking a drunk person back to their room at a party.	71%
Challenge a friend who made a sexist joke.	52%
Express my concern if a family member makes a sexist joke.	44%
Confront a friend who plans to give someone alcohol to get sex.	82%
Refuse to participate in activities where appearances are ranked/rated.	61%
Confront a friend who is hooking up with someone who was passed out.	90%
Report a friend that committed a rape.	84%

### 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 (84%) and the belief by nearly half 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.

Chart 7. Average for perceptions about the responsiveness of the Champlain student body

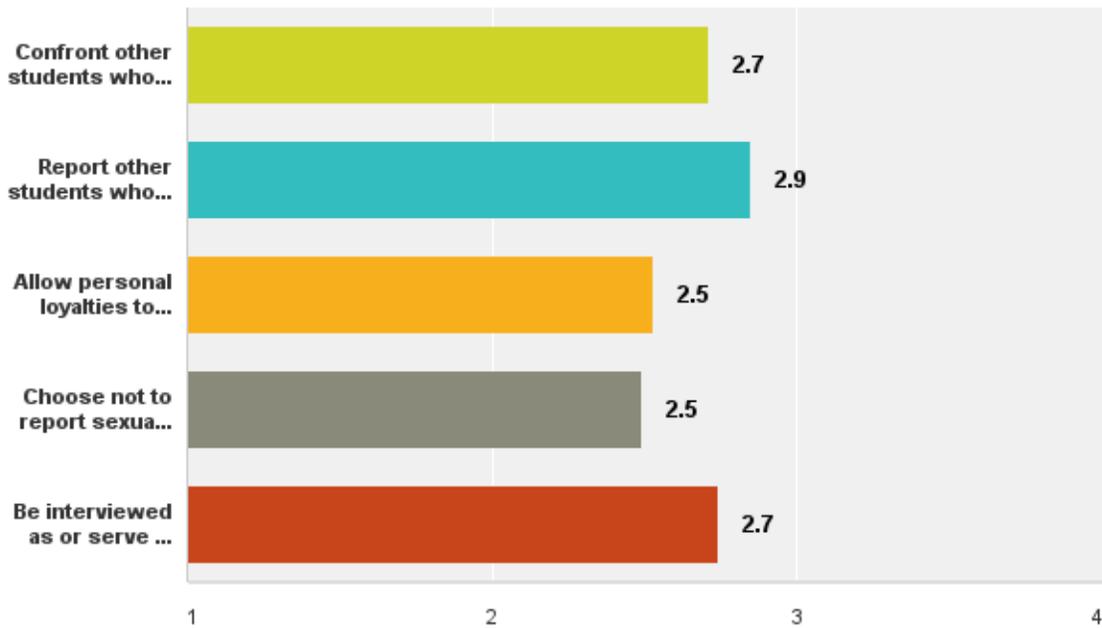


Table 8. Positive responses for perceptions about the responsiveness of the Champlain student body

Based on behavior you have observed, how likely are Champlain students to:	Percent "Likely" Responses
Confront other students who make inappropriate or negative sexual comments and gestures?	59%
Report other students who continue to engage in sexual harassing or unwanted sexual behaviors after having been previously confronted?	67%
Allow personal loyalties to affect reporting of sexual assault?	49%
Choose not to report sexual assault out of concern they or others will be punished for infractions, such as underage drinking or fraternization?	47%
Be interviewed as or serve as a witness in a sexual assault case if they knew relevant information?	63%

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

The following section of this report includes only those areas where statistically significant differences were seen between groups within each of the demographic characteristics.

**Students of Color:** Students were asked to report on both race and ethnicity. Categories were then grouped to students of color (all non-white races and Hispanic students regardless of race), white (non-Hispanic), and unknown (5% of respondents).

*Table 11. Items where students respond differently ( $p < 0.05$ ) based on their age grouping.*

	<b>Students' of color responses compared to white students are:</b>
<b>Most students feel a sense of belonging here.</b>	Lower (5.08, 5.57)

### Age related differences:

Student ages were grouped into those that were 18-22 (students younger than 18 were not invited to take the survey) and those that were 23 or older. There were differences in how students responded on five questions.

*Table 12. Items where students respond differently ( $p < 0.05$ ) based on their age grouping.*

	<b>Older students' responses compared to younger students are:</b>
<b>Most students feel a sense of belonging here.</b>	Lower (4.90, 5.49)
<b>I have recently attended a program about sexual violence.</b>	Lower (1.56, 2.17)
<b>How likely are YOU to engage in the following behaviors?</b>	
Call for help (i.e. 911) if I hear someone in my dorm yelling "help"	Higher (92%, 82%)
Challenge a friend who made a sexist joke	Higher (3.88, 3.11)
Express my concern if a family member makes a sexist joke	Higher (3.94, 2.74)

Residential status differences:

Students living on campus feel more confident and aware of campus procedures related to sexual assault, but less ready to engage in some particular bystander behaviors.

Table 13. Items where students respond differently ( $p < 0.05$ ) based on their residence.

	<b>On-campus students' responses compared to off-campus were</b>
<b>If someone were to report a sexual assault to a campus authority, how likely is it that:</b>	
The College would take the report seriously	Higher (3.47, 3.28)
The College would take action against the offender if a policy violation occurred	Higher (3.33, 3.12)
<b>I understand Champlain College's formal procedures to address complaints of sexual assault</b>	Higher (3.15, 2.79)
<b>I have recently attended a program about sexual violence</b>	Higher (2.33, 1.82)
<b>How likely are YOU to engage in the following behaviors?</b>	
Get help and resources for a friend who tells me they have been raped	Lower (85%, 91%)
Able to ask a stranger who looks very upset at a party if they are ok or need help	Lower (69%, 77%)
Express concern if a family member makes a sexist joke	Lower (2.55, 3.26)

### Longevity at Champlain College:

Students were asked how many semesters they have been enrolled at Champlain College. Responses were divided into two groups: those with four or fewer semesters and those with five or more semesters. Overall, the longer students have been at Champlain, the less positive they are about the College's response and climate for sexual violence and the more confident they are in their own abilities to respond.

Table 14. Items where students respond differently ( $p < 0.05$ ) based on the number of semesters at Champlain

	<b>Newer students' responses compared to those who have been here longer are:</b>
<b>College officials (administrators, public safety officer) should do more to protect students from harm.</b>	Lower (2.51, 2.69)
<b>If someone were to report a sexual assault to a campus authority, how likely is it that:</b>	
The College would take appropriate action to address institutional factors that may have led to the sexual assault	Higher (3.04, 2.80)
The College would take action against the offender if a policy violation occurred.	Higher (3.36, 3.11)
The educational achievement/career of the person making the report would suffer	Lower (2.33, 2.48)
<b>I don't think sexual violence is a problem on this campus</b>	Higher (3.11, 2.73)
<b>I don't think there is much I can do about sexual violence on campus</b>	Higher (2.89, 2.43)
<b>How likely are YOU to engage in the following behaviors?</b>	
Criticize a friend who tells me that they had sex with someone who was passed out or who didn't give consent	Higher (90%, 84%)
Challenge a friend who makes a sexist joke.	Lower (2.89, 3.60)
Express my concern if a family member makes a sexist joke.	Lower (2.57, 3.26)
<b>Since the start of the current academic year, have you had a friend or acquaintance tell you that they were the victim of an unwanted sexual experience?</b>	Lower (1.77, 1.83)
<b>Since the start of the current academic year, have you observed a situation that you believe was, or could have led to sexual assault?</b>	Lower (1.85, 1.91)

**Sexual Orientation:** Students were asked about their sexual orientation along five dimensions, plus an option for other. Responses were collapsed to three categories: heterosexual, LGBTQIA and unknown. The following results compare the heterosexual and LGBTQIA groups.

*Table 15. Items where heterosexual and LGBTQIA students respond differently (p<0.05).*

	LGBTQIA response is:
<b>If someone were to report a sexual assault to a campus authority, how likely is it that:</b>	
The College would take the report seriously	Lower (3.24, 3.45)
The College would take appropriate action to address institutional factors that may have led to the sexual assault	Lower (2.76, 3.03)
<b>I have recently attended a program about sexual violence</b>	Lower (1.86, 2.27)
<b>How confident are you that you could do the following:</b>	
Criticize a friend who tells me that they had sex with someone who was passed out or who didn't give consent	Higher (91%, 86%)
<b>How likely are YOU to engage in the following behaviors?</b>	
Stop sexual activity when asked to, even if I am already sexually aroused	Higher (4.83, 4.59)
Check in with my friend who looks drunk when they go to a room with someone else at a party	Higher (4.34, 3.92)
Say something to my friend who is taking a drunk person back to their room at a party	Higher (4.09, 3.85)
Challenge a friend who made a sexist joke	Higher (3.72, 2.95)
Express my concern if a family members makes a sexist joke.	Higher (3,19, 2.64)
Confront a friend who plans to give someone alcohol to get sex	Higher (4.61, 4.26)
Refuse to participate in activities where appearances are ranked/rated	Higher (4.02, 3.42)
Confront a friend who is hooking up with someone who was passed out	Higher (4.72, 4.48)
<b>Since the start of the current academic year, have you had a friend or acquaintance tell you that they were the victim of an unwanted sexual experience</b>	Lower (1.64, 1.84)

## Gender Identity:

Students identifying as women express less comfort and confidence in the College actions and environment than men do. They report being more likely to take action as a bystander than men.

Table 16. Items where men, women, and all other gendered students respond differently ( $p < 0.05$ ).

	<b>Men's responses compared to women's are:</b>
<b>The campus is safe and secure for all students</b>	Higher (5.64, 5.16)
<b>College officials (administrators, public safety officer) should do more to protect students from harm.</b>	Lower (2.37, 2.74)
<b>Champlain does enough to protect the safety of students</b>	Higher (3.09, 2.83)
<b>If someone were to report a sexual assault to a campus authority, how likely is it that:</b>	
The College would take action against the offender if a policy violation occurred.	Higher (3.40, 3.13)
<b>I understand Champlain College's procedures to address complaints of sexual assault</b>	Higher (3.32, 2.82)
<b>I don't think sexual violence is a problem on this campus</b>	Higher (3.34, 2.66)
<b>I don't think there is much I can do about sexual violence on campus</b>	Higher (2.94, 2.49)
<b>How likely are YOU to engage in the following behaviors?</b>	
Stop sexual activity when asked to, even if I am already sexually aroused	Lower (4.49, 4.78)
Check in with my friend who looks drunk when they go to a room with someone else at a party	Lower (3.54, 4.33)
Say something to my friend who is taking a drunk person back to their room at a party	Lower (3.67, 4.06)
Challenge a friend who made a sexist joke	Much Lower (2.31, 3.73)
Express my concern if a family members makes a sexist joke.	Much Lower (2.10, 3.28)
Confront a friend who plans to give someone alcohol to get sex	Lower (4.10, 4.50)
Refuse to participate in activities where appearances are ranked/rated	Much lower (2.78, 4.09)
Confront a friend who is hooking up with someone who was passed out	Lower (4.30, 4.70)
Report a friend that committed a rape	Lower (4.13) than Other respondents (4.73), equivalent to females (4.41)

Looking across these demographic variables for patterns reveals a few interesting findings:

1. When it comes to addressing sexist jokes made by either family or friends students who are older, have been at Champlain longer, are LGBTQIA, and identify as women report that they are more likely to take action.
2. Our residential and younger students are more likely to have recently attended a sexual violence program; however students with an LGBTQIA sexual orientation are less likely to have attended.

3. If a violation of sexual conduct policy were to have been found to take place, there is a stronger belief that the College would take action among those students who identify as men, are residential, and who are new to the Champlain community.

## Summary

While we were pleased that nearly 300 students responded to the substantive portion of the survey, we need to remember that our responses represent only 13% of the Champlain student body and so cannot be considered representative. We suspect those students who did not respond include those who are less engaged at Champlain and who cannot face taking a survey about these issues, among other reasons that would under-represent the prevalence of sexual violence for Champlain students. In fact, the 2015 Association of American Universities' (AAU) study<sup>2</sup> on sexual assault and misconduct showed that institutions with higher response rates on the survey also had higher reported rates of sexual assault.

The often cited<sup>3</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 reported rate of 10.8% is similar to the AAU study's reported average of 11.7%; however, there was wide variability among individual schools' rates (13-30%). That same study showed that rates of sexual assault tended to be higher at smaller, private institutions and lower at institutions that were less diverse. While we might take comfort in Champlain's relatively low rate, if we assumed that this rate was accurate, that would mean that 228 students within our undergraduate survey population of 2114 would have experienced at least one nonconsensual sexual contact.

It is worth noting additional areas where the results of the Champlain College survey parallel and differ from the national picture according to the AAU survey. Fewer upperclassmen reported being victims of nonconsensual sexual contact both at Champlain and in the AAU study group and the most common reasons stated for not reporting incidents were similar (embarrassed/ashamed, not wanting to worry others). However, Champlain does not see the disproportionately high incidence among LGBTQIA students, nor as high a reported rate of alcohol and drug involvement in incidents as seen on the national study. Our students were also less likely to report incidents when compared to the national study findings (maximum of 28% in AAU study, none at Champlain).

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

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<sup>2</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)

<sup>3</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.

We can also clearly see where there is work to be done to positively impact the student experience. None of our students who had experienced a nonconsensual sexual incident reporting talking to a counselor, residential life, student life, or campus public safety staff member. That tells us that the prevalence of incidents is more accurately the sum of those we know about and the ones reported in the survey (with the exception of a few incidents that we know were reported as a result of taking the survey). We have the opportunity to explore the reasons students do not report to these likely staff members and potentially address to provide more support for students.

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 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.

Survey respondents who indicated an LGBTQIA sexual orientation were less positive than heterosexual peers about their perceptions of how the College would respond to a reported sexual assault and were less likely to have attended an educational program. They also were less likely to report that a friend had told them that they were the victim of an unwanted sexual experience. These students were more likely to report that they would take action to avert an unwanted sexual encounter and to confront instances of potential sexual harassment/discrimination.

Students living in Champlain residence halls were more likely to have attended an educational program about sexual violence and more confident that they understood the College's formal reporting procedures. 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. However, they were less confident that they could engage in such bystander behaviors as: getting help and resources for a friend who had been raped, offering help to a stranger at a party, or expressing concern to a family member who makes a sexist joke.

One area that we did not explore with students was their experiences in supporting a friend who had experienced sexual misconduct. We asked about how often this occurred, but did not follow-up with questions about their experience with, or preparedness to, serve in that role. We plan to add this to our next survey.

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.