

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
CULTURE OF CONSENT CLIMATE SURVEY RESULTS
SPRING 2022

Prepared by Ellen Zeman & Danelle Berube

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Executive Summary

Climate surveys measure how often sexual violence occurs on college campuses and how students perceive such violence. Understanding other climate issues, such as students' knowledge about reporting policies and resources for victims, their attitudes about prevention and their perceptions about how their community is addressing the problem of sexual violence, are critical pieces of information for improving campus responses.

Conducted over a period of time, Climate Surveys can reveal trends such as decreases in sexual assault, increases in reporting and increases in awareness. They can identify a particular campus problem, which gives Title IX offices the ability to tailor prevention efforts. Champlain College, and many other higher education institutions across the country, administer these surveys with an awareness that sexual violence is a larger and systemic issue in America. Prior to 2022, the last time a campus climate survey was administered was 2018.

SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

The Culture of Consent Survey was administered in the Spring 2022. Students were asked about experiences since they started their studies at Champlain College. All traditional undergraduate students, both full and part-time, in Burlington, Montreal and Dublin, were invited to participate (n=1658). Of those, 550 students clicked through to the survey, 432 completed some portion of the survey, and 335 answered nearly all questions resulting in a response rate of 20.2%. A higher proportion of respondents identified as women (43%, versus 36% of the survey population) and residential students (73%, versus 69% of the survey population).

SEXUAL VIOLENCE:

- The likelihood of non-consensual sexual contact* (NSC) is down slightly in comparison to prior years (17.8% in 2018 and 15.6% in 2022).
- Students who identify as women, TGQN** or Bi-/Pan-/Demi-sexual reported incidents of nonconsensual sexual contact at a higher rate than men and heterosexual respondents.
- The majority of incidents included individuals known to the student (92%).
- Over half (61%) of the incidents involved Champlain College students as the alleged offender.
- Over half of the incidents involved drugs and alcohol with alcohol being more prevalent than other drugs (57% of the students who reported a NSC said that substance use played a role in the incident. When substance use was reported, alcohol was more commonly reported, 64%).

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

**TGQN = Transgender man, transgender woman, Genderqueer, gender non-confirming, questioning, or other.

REPORTING:

- The majority of students who experienced an NSC told someone (87%).
- 12% of respondents who experienced an NSC used the college's procedures to report the incident

- None of the students who experienced an NSC while while incapacitated, used the Colleges reporting procedures (0%) .

STUDENT PERCEPTIONS:

- The College saw a decline in agreement with statements related to college response to students' general safety (handled well, efficiency, fair and responsibly, etc) in the 2022 survey compared to prior years. As an example, 43% of the respondents agreed that the college would handle a crisis on campus well. These responses are lower than any previous years' rates which ranged from 67% to 78%.

AWARENESS & EDUCATION:

- The majority of students responded positively that they knew where to go to get help if they or their friend were sexually assaulted (70%).
- However, the college saw a slight decline in students' understanding of where to go for help, formal procedures, and a decline in confidence in those procedures from surveys in prior years.

BYSTANDER INTERVENTION:

- Students reported greater confidence in engaging in bystander response than they have in the past (95%, compared to 91% in 2018 and 85% in 2017).
- Students confidence in their ability to respond to situations associated with non-consensual sexual contact has increased or remained flat in comparison to prior years (91% compared to 87% in 2017).
- Students reported a decline in confidence that their peers would respond or support them in a NSC. Of particular interest is the gap between students who say they themselves report a friend who committed a sexual assault (95%) and the belief of respondents that other Champlain students would be likely to let personal loyalties or the fear of being punished for other infractions affect their willingness to report (42%).

IDENTITY DIFFERENCES:

- 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 Bi-/Pan-/Demi-sexual or LGQ+ sexual orientations, or who were survivors consistently responded less positively. Responses in 2022 are less positive than they were in 2018 across all groups.

NEXT STEPS AND COMMUNICATION

- The Vice President of Student Affairs, and the Title IX Team will outline a plan of communication to share findings with the College community (students, faculty and staff).
- Working with Title IX Coordinator the College will develop training based on the results of this survey for students. For example, enhance education regarding the College's amnesty (Good Samaritan) policy.