CUNY’s ‘Enough is Enough’ Sexual Violence Campus Climate Survey

On Feb. 20, 2018, 115,100 students received emails from Christopher Rosa, Interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, explaining that on the following day students would be receiving an email with a link to the CUNY Sexual Violence Campus Climate Survey. The Feb. 20 email contained the following message:

Colleges and universities throughout New York State are sending their students surveys that ask about their awareness and experiences with campus sexual violence and sexual harassment. Every CUNY student has the right to live, learn and work free from sexual violence and sexual harassment. Therefore, we too are sending confidential surveys to a sample of randomly selected students to gain a more complete understanding of your knowledge and experiences. You have been randomly selected to receive this survey, and we will use what we learn from your responses to improve the campus climate at our university.

Participation in the survey is voluntary and responses are confidential. All survey responses will be compiled together and analyzed as a group. Individual student responses will not be identified.

The City University of New York is committed to ensuring a safe, healthy, and nondiscriminatory learning environment for all CUNY students; your participation in the survey is invaluable in achieving this goal. Your answers can help our university become a safer, healthier place to study.

I strongly encourage you to complete the survey. Your voice matters!

On Feb. 21, 2018, the follow-up email with the link to the survey was sent to the 115,100 students. All students who completed the survey were eligible to participate in drawings for MetroCards with a value of $65. In total, 60 students received MetroCards.
Methodology

CUNY’s Sexual Violence Campus Climate Survey was an online, confidential survey that could be taken on smartphones, tablets or desktops. The instrument was designed with Qualtrics, a web-based survey tool. The survey, which took 10-20 minutes to complete, was sent to 115,100 randomly selected enrolled students at 23 CUNY colleges and schools. The survey was open from Feb. 21 through March 25, 2018. Throughout that time, students who had not completed the survey received multiple email reminders. We received 13,658 responses for a response rate of 12 percent. (See Appendix A for response rate by college/school.)

With very few modifications, the 2018 CUNY Sexual Violence Campus Climate Survey was identical to CUNY’s 2016 survey. The survey was drafted by a design team; members included CUNY administration, faculty and staff with expertise in the study of sexual violence, relevant federal and state law, compliance, survey research and policy analysis. There was also a 17-member advisory board charged with reviewing drafts of the survey instrument and providing comments to the design team. The advisory board was composed of faculty, administration and staff with expertise in public health, public safety, relevant state and federal law, compliance, student advocacy, counseling and student affairs. (Please see final page of this report for the names of team members.)

In designing the survey, we reviewed survey instruments that had been administered at more than 100 colleges and universities, and used many of the questions found in these surveys. We were also mindful that our campus climate assessment contain questions that captured information on the 11 topic areas required by New York State’s Enough Is Enough statute. In addition, CUNY’s survey contained several questions regarding sexual harassment. Finally, the design team and advisory board were especially interested in gaining a better understanding about the relationship between sexual violence and academic engagement. We expanded the survey section on the prevalence of intimate partner violence (IPV) to include questions about the impact of IPV on academic engagement.

Furthermore, the design team modified some commonly used questions, and wrote questions not seen in other surveys, in order to capture the unique experiences of CUNY students. As the largest urban public institution in the country, the experiences of CUNY students differ in many ways as compared to most of the students in the surveys that have already been published. Only a small fraction of CUNY students live on campus; they commute, primarily by public transportation, to and from school. Fraternities and sororities have a minimal presence on CUNY campuses, and only a small number of our students participate in intercollegiate athletics. Many CUNY students hold jobs off campus, and CUNY offers many evening and online programs and classes.

Finally, to make the survey’s results representative of the general student population at each college, responses were weighted to compensate for non-response bias – the underrepresentation or over-representation of discrete groups in the pool of respondents. A logistic regression model was used to predict the probability of response to the survey for each student in the population, based on college of attendance. Gender, race/ethnicity, age, degree level and full-time/part-time status were selected as significant predictors. The predicted probability of response to the survey was computed for each student in the sample, based on the logistic model for their college of attendance. To compensate for the overrepresentation of those who were more likely to respond, and the underrepresentation of those who were less likely to respond, each respondent was weighted by the inverse of his/her predicted probability of response.

1 See: Education Law Article129-B, as added by Chapter 76 of the Laws of 2015, Section 6445.
This report is organized into the following sections:

I. Respondent Profile
II. Campus Climate
III. Campus Involvement
IV. Information and Resources
V. Knowledge of Policies, Procedures and Resources
VI. Affirmative Consent
VII. Bystander Intervention
VIII. Training
IX. Prevalence
   A. Harassment
   B. Stalking
   C. Non-consensual Touching
   D. Non-consensual Penetration
   E. Intimate Partner Violence
X. Location of Incident

Getting Help and Stopping Sexual Violence on Campus
Acknowledgments

Appendix A: Response Rate by College
Appendix B: Charts and Tables
Appendix C: Survey Instrument
Appendix D: Glossary
### 2018 Campus Climate Survey: Respondent Profile

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Demographics</th>
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Note: Each demographic indicator is provided with a corresponding count (N), which reflects the total number of valid cases for the indicator. Total percentages may not equal to 100% due to rounding.

(*) Survey results were weighted by college, based on logistic regression modeling that included age, gender, race, full/part time status, and are based on available administrative and survey data.

(**) CUNY Total data reflects all degree and non-degree students enrolled at CUNY as of Spring 2018.

(*** ) Sexual Orientation and Transfer Status indicators are survey-based.
II. Campus Climate

A high percentage of CUNY students say that they feel respected and safe on their campuses. Further, a similarly high percentage say that they trust their college to do the right thing in situations involving sexual misconduct. (See: Appendix B, Chart 1.)

III. Campus Involvement

Club membership (24 percent) was reported by more students than other campus-involvement items. Being a member of student government (4 percent), participating in CUNY intercollegiate (3 percent) or intramural (1 percent) athletics, and being a member of a fraternity or sorority (3 percent), were the campus-involvement items with lowest participation rates.

Eleven percent of respondents\(^2\) said that they were employed by CUNY within the past 12 months, and 5 percent said they lived in residence halls within the past 12 months.

IV. Information and Resources

Students were provided with a list of both on-campus and off-campus resources and were asked: “If you experienced sexual violence on campus, where would you go for information and help?” When asked “where would you go for information?” survey respondents said they were most likely to go to their campus or CUNY Title IX webpage (54 percent). Slightly more than one out of three respondents identified campus women’s/men’s centers (39 percent), campus health services/wellness centers (39 percent), Title IX coordinators (38 percent), off-campus rape crisis sexual abuse/anti-violence hotlines (36 percent), and campus counselor (35 percent) as sources of information. When asked “If you experienced sexual violence on campus, where would you go for help?” approximately two out of three students answered the local police precinct/district attorney’s office (65 percent) and campus public safety (63 percent). Students identified on-campus and off-campus resources about equally in regard to sources for help. (See: Appendix B, Chart 2.)

V. Knowledge of CUNY’s Sexual Misconduct Policies and Procedures

In response to the question “how knowledgeable are you about where to go on my campus to get help if a friend or I experience sexual violence?” 40 percent of student respondents said that they were very knowledgeable or knowledgeable; 29 percent answered: not knowledgeable at all. (See: Appendix B, Chart 3.)

One out of three (33 percent) respondents said that they were very knowledgeable or knowledgeable about the formal procedures on their campus for reporting an incident of sexual violence. Forty percent of survey respondents said they were not at all knowledgeable. (See: Appendix B, Chart 3.)

\(^2\) Throughout this report, the term “respondent” is used to identify students who answered survey questions. For purposes of this report, the term “respondent” should not be confused with the legal term used to describe a person who is alleged to have committed an unlawful act.
Half of all students said they were very knowledgeable or knowledgeable with their rights on campus if they experienced an incident of sexual violence. One out of four students (24 percent) said that they were not at all knowledgeable. In regard to knowledge of rights on campus if accused of committing an act of sexual violence, four out of 10 students (41 percent) said they were very knowledgeable or knowledgeable; 36 percent said they were not at all knowledgeable. (See: Appendix B, Chart 3.)

Two out of three CUNY students (66 percent) said that they are not at all familiar with the role and responsibilities of a Title IX coordinator; 16 percent of survey respondents said that they were very familiar or familiar. (See: Appendix B, Chart 4.) Almost three out of four (74 percent) respondents said they did not know if there was a Title IX coordinator on their campus; 23 percent of the respondents said that there was a Title IX coordinator on their campus.

When students were asked: “In regard to an incident of sexual violence, how familiar are you with the difference between CUNY’s procedures and the criminal justice process?” half (50 percent) of all student respondents said that they were not at all familiar. Twenty-two percent of the survey respondents answered familiar or very familiar.

VI.  Affirmative Consent

Almost four out of 10 (37 percent) students said that they were very familiar or familiar with CUNY’s policy on affirmative consent. Approximately one-third of the respondents (32 percent) said that they were not at all familiar with the policy. (See: Appendix B, Chart 5.) However, when CUNY students were provided with hypotheticals and asked how likely they would be to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with affirmative consent, the overwhelming majority consistently said likely or very likely. (See: Appendix B, Chart 6.)

VII.  Bystander Intervention

CUNY students consistently expressed a high degree of likelihood to help or intervene in situations involving sexual violence. Almost nine out of 10 (87 percent) of students said that they were very likely or likely to intervene if they saw a student being groped by another student and the student being groped was trying to get away. Ninety-one percent of respondents said that they were very likely or likely to provide campus authorities with information that might be helpful in a sexual assault case, even if they were being pressured by others to stay silent. (See: Appendix B, Chart 7.)

VIII.  Training

Students were asked if, since coming to CUNY, they had participated in at least one training on sexual violence or sexual harassment. Twenty-seven percent (N=3596) said that they had participated in one or more trainings or information sessions. Of these students, 65 percent said that they had participated in at least one training or information session in the past 12 months.

The students who had participated in the past 12 months were asked about the topics covered in their trainings. The topic most frequently covered was affirmative consent. The concept least likely to be covered was the role of the Title IX coordinator. (See: Appendix B, Chart 8.)
IX. **Prevalence**

A. **Sexual Harassment**

Students were asked about their experiences in the past 12 months with three different kinds of sexual harassment:

- Has anyone made inappropriate sexual comments in writing, verbally or electronically?
- Has anyone made you feel like you were being bribed with some sort of reward or special treatment to engage in sexual behavior or made you feel like you were being threatened with some sort of retaliation for not agreeing to engage in sexual behavior?
- Has anyone viewed or distributed images or recordings of your private sexual activity or nakedness without your consent?

Almost 20 percent (19.6 percent) of respondents to the harassment questions reported at least one sexual harassment incident within the past 12 months.

Overwhelmingly, the most common form of sexual harassment reported was inappropriate sexual comments, with 18 percent of the respondents saying that they had experienced this sometime in the past 12 months. (See: Appendix B, Chart 9.) Of the respondents reporting inappropriate sexual comments in the past 12 months, 75 percent said that they were CUNY students at the time of the incident. (See: Appendix B, Table 1.)

These respondents said that 23 percent of the persons responsible for the inappropriate sexual comments were enrolled in and/or employed by CUNY at the time of the incident. Among those, students were overwhelmingly identified as the persons responsible for the harassment. (See: Appendix B, Table 1.)

Slightly more than three percent of survey respondents reported feeling like they were being bribed with some sort of reward or special treatment to engage in sexual behavior, or feeling like they were being threatened with some sort of retaliation for not agreeing to engage in sexual behavior. (See: Appendix B, Chart 9.) Seventy-three percent of these respondents were CUNY students at the time of the incident.

These respondents said that 32 percent of the persons responsible for the harassment were enrolled in and/or employed by CUNY at the time of the incident. Among those, students were overwhelmingly identified as the persons responsible for the harassment. (See: Appendix B, Table 1.)

Slightly more than one percent of the respondents reported having images or recordings of their private sexual activity or nakedness viewed or distributed without their consent. (See: Appendix B, Chart 9.) Seventy-three percent of those respondents were CUNY students at the time of the incident.

These respondents said that 25 percent of the persons responsible for the harassment were enrolled in and/or employed by CUNY at the time of the incident. Among those, students were overwhelmingly identified as the persons responsible for the harassment. (See: Appendix B, Table 1.)
B. Stalking

Students were asked about their experiences in the past 12 months with three different kinds of stalking:

- Has anyone sent you unwanted phone calls, emails, voice, texts or instant messages, or posted messages, pictures or videos on social networking sites in a way that made you feel unsafe?
- Has anyone showed up or waited for you in a way that made you feel unsafe?
- Has anyone spied on you, watched or followed you either in person or using technology in a way that made you feel unsafe?

Fourteen percent of the respondents to the stalking questions reported at least one stalking incident in the past 12 months.

The most common form of stalking reported was receiving unwanted communications or having phone calls, emails, voice, texts or instant messages, or posted messages, pictures or videos on social networking sites in a way that made the respondent feel unsafe. Almost nine percent of the students said they had experienced this form of stalking. (See: Appendix B, Chart 10.) Of those respondents, 75 percent said that they were CUNY students at the time of the incident. These respondents said that 21 percent of the persons responsible for the stalking were enrolled at and/or employed by CUNY at the time of the incident. Among those, students were overwhelmingly identified as the persons responsible for the stalking. (See: Appendix B, Table 2.)

Six percent of survey respondents reported that in the past 12 months, someone showed up or waited for them in a way that made them feel unsafe, with 78 percent saying they were a CUNY student at the time of the incident. (See: Appendix B, Chart 10.) These respondents said that 36 percent of the persons responsible for the stalking were enrolled in and/or employed by CUNY at the time of the incident. Among those, students were overwhelmingly identified as the persons responsible for the stalking. (See: Appendix B, Table 2.)

Five percent of respondents reported being spied on, watched or followed, either in person or with use of technology, in a way that made them feel unsafe. (See: Appendix B, Chart 10.) Seventy-four percent of these respondents said they were CUNY students at the time of the incident. These respondents said that 28 percent of the persons responsible for the stalking were enrolled in and/or employed by CUNY at the time of the incident. Among those, students were overwhelmingly identified as the persons responsible for the stalking. (See: Appendix B, Table 2.)

C. Non-consensual Sexual Touching

Students were asked if, in the past 12 months, someone touched them in a sexual way without their consent.

Seven percent of respondents to this question reported that they experienced non-consensual sexual touching at least once in the past 12 months. Of the respondents who reported experiencing non-consensual sexual touching in the past 12 months, 71 percent were CUNY students at the time of the incident. These students reported that:
28 percent of the persons responsible for the non-consensual sexual touching were enrolled at and/or employed by CUNY at the time of the non-consensual sexual touching. Among these, 88 percent were students and 10 percent were faculty members or instructors.

22 percent of the students said they were incapacitated and unable to give consent when the non-consensual sexual touching occurred.

18 percent of the incidents of non-consensual sexual touching involved force or threats of force.

Fifty-seven percent of the respondents who were CUNY students at the time of the non-consensual sexual touching said that they told someone about the incident. Of those who told someone, friends and family were overwhelmingly most often told: 84 percent told a friend, and 32 percent told a family member. Three percent of the respondents who were CUNY students at the time of the non-consensual sexual touching said that they told 911 or the local police, and three percent told public safety.

Forty percent of the respondents who were CUNY students at the time of the non-consensual sexual touching said that they did not tell anyone about the incident. These students were asked why they did not tell anyone about the incident. The three most common reasons given by respondents were:

1. I was worried that it was not serious enough to report. (52 percent)
2. I was ashamed or embarrassed. (31 percent)
3. I was worried that it was partly my fault. (27 percent)

D. Non-consensual Sexual Penetration

Students were asked if, in the past 12 months, anyone penetrated them sexually without their consent. Two percent of the respondents to this question reported non-consensual sexual penetration at least once within the last 12 months. Of the respondents who reported an incident of non-consensual sexual penetration in the past 12 months, 63 percent were CUNY students at the time of the incident. These students further reported that:

- 53 percent of the students said they were incapacitated and unable to give consent when the non-consensual sexual penetration occurred.
- 34 percent of the incidents of non-consensual sexual penetration involved force or threats of force.
- 30 percent of the persons responsible for the non-consensual sexual penetration were enrolled in and/or employed by CUNY at the time of the incident. Among these, 91 percent were students, and 8 percent were faculty members or instructors.

Forty-six percent of the respondents who were CUNY students at the time of the non-consensual sexual penetration said that they told someone about the incident. Of those who told someone, 78 percent told a friend, and 24 percent told a family member; 6 percent told the local police, and 3 percent told public safety.

Fifty-two percent of the respondents who were CUNY students at the time of the non-consensual sexual penetration said that they did not tell anyone about the incident. Respondents who did not tell anyone were asked why they did not tell anyone about the incident. The three most common reasons given by respondents were:
1. I worried that it was not serious enough to report. (43 percent)
2. I worried that it was partly my fault. (42 percent)
3. I was ashamed or embarrassed. (37 percent)

E. Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

Students were asked if, in the past 12 months, they had experienced intimate partner violence:

- Has a former or current romantic or sexual partner made physical threats to harm you or someone you love?
- Has a former or current romantic or sexual partner pushed, shoved, slapped, punched, hit, kicked or physically harmed you in some other way?
- Has a former or current romantic or sexual partner kept track of you by demanding to know where you are and what you are doing?
- Has a former or current romantic or sexual partner withheld money from you or controlled how your money was spent?

Almost 10 percent of respondents reported that they had experienced at least one incident of IPV in the past 12 months.

The most common form of IPV reported was having a former or current romantic or sexual partner who kept track of the respondent by demanding to know where they were and what they were doing, with 7 percent of respondents reporting. (See: Appendix B. Chart 11.) Of those respondents, 74 percent said that they were CUNY students at the time of the incident.

Almost 4 percent (3.5 percent) of the respondents said that a former or current romantic or sexual partner, pushed, shoved, slapped, punched, hit, kicked or physically harmed them at least once in the past 12 months. (See: Appendix B. Chart 11.) Sixty-seven percent of these respondents said that they were CUNY students at the time of the incident.

Two percent of survey respondents reported that in the past 12 months on at least one occasion, a former or current romantic or sexual partner made physical threats to harm them or someone they love, with 68 percent reporting they were a CUNY student at the time of the incident. (See: Appendix B. Chart 11.)

Almost two percent (1.5 percent) of respondents reported that on at least one occasion in the past 12 months, a former or current romantic or sexual partner withheld money from them or controlled how money was spent. Of these respondents, 71 percent said they were CUNY students at the time of the incident. (See: Appendix B. Chart 11.)

Intimate Partner Violence and Impact on Academic Performance

Of the respondents who reported that a former or current romantic or sexual partner kept track of them in the past 12 months by demanding to know where they were and what they were doing, and who were CUNY students at the time:
39 percent reported that the IPV prevented them from studying.
26 percent reported that the IPV caused them to miss or delay a test or prevented them from submitting an assignment on time.
21 percent reported that the IPV caused them to miss class or not be able to attend school for multiple days.
7 percent reported that the IPV caused them to leave school for a semester/term.
(See: Appendix B, Chart 12.)

Of the respondents who reported that a former or current romantic or sexual partner physically harmed them within the past 12 months and who were CUNY students at the time:

34 percent reported that the IPV prevented them from studying.
30 percent reported that the IPV caused them to miss or delay a test or prevented submitting an assignment on time.
26 percent reported that the IPV caused them to miss class or not be able to attend school for multiple days.
12 percent reported that the IPV caused them to leave school for a semester/term.
(See: Appendix B, Chart 12.)

Of the respondents who reported that a former or current romantic or sexual partner made physical threats to harm them or someone they love in the past 12 months and who were CUNY students at the time:

59 percent reported that the IPV prevented them from studying.
46 percent reported that the IPV caused them to miss or delay a test or prevented them from submitting an assignment on time.
41 percent reported that the IPV caused them to miss class or not be able to attend school for multiple days.
14 percent reported that the IPV caused them to leave school for a semester/term.
(See: Appendix B, Chart 12.)

Of the respondents who reported that within the past 12 months, a former or current romantic or sexual partner withheld money from them or controlled how their money was spent, and who were CUNY students at the time:

53 percent reported that the IPV caused them to not have enough money to pay for school costs such as tuition, books, supplies or transportation.
35 percent reported that the IPV caused them to miss or delay a test or prevented submitting an assignment on time.
27 percent reported that the IPV caused them to miss class or not be able to attend school for multiple days.
17 percent reported that the IPV caused them to leave school for a semester/term.
(See: Appendix B, Chart 12.)
Respondents who reported at least one incident of IPV and who were CUNY students at the time were asked if the IPV occurred because “you were attending college or devoting time to school.” Among students who answered “yes” to this question:

- 33 percent reported that a former or current romantic or sexual partner withheld money from them or controlled how their money was spent;
- 25 percent reported that a former or current romantic or sexual partner kept track of them by demanding to know where they were and what they were doing;
- 20 percent reported that a former or current romantic or sexual partner made physical threats to harm them or someone they love; and
- 10 percent reported that a former or current romantic or sexual partner physically harmed them.

(See: Appendix B, Chart 13.)

X.  **Where Did the Incident Occur?**

On selected prevalence questions, where location was relevant, respondents who were CUNY students at the time of the incident were asked where the incident occurred. By a sizeable difference, incidents were more likely to occur at locations not associated with CUNY. This is especially true with non-consensual sexual touching, non-consensual sexual penetration and intimate partner violence where more than eight out of 10 incidents experienced by CUNY students occurred at locations not associated with CUNY. (See: Appendix B, Table 3.)

**Getting Help and Stopping Sexual Violence on Campus**

If you would like information on the issues contained in this survey, please go to CUNY’s [Enough Is Enough: Combating Sexual Misconduct](#) website. This website provides resources and contact information for all CUNY campuses; the website also includes community-based and on-line resources. You can link to your college’s webpage which provides contact information for your Title IX Coordinator, a staff member with special training in helping students who are facing issues related to sexual harassment and sexual violence. You can also learn about how to report an incident, how to get medical or emotional support, confidentiality, and ways you can help stop sexual violence on campus. The webpages also contain links to important CUNY policies regarding sexual misconduct.