



**Sexual Violence Prevalence (SVP) Campus Climate Survey**  
**[SUNY Potsdam Report](#)**  
**August 2023**

*Provided by:*

**State University of New York System Administration's  
Office of University of Life,  
Office of Institutional Research and Data Analytics,  
Office of General Counsel (Risk Management and Compliance)**

And

**SUNY Potsdam**

*last updated October 31, 2023*

SUNY's Sexual Violence Prevalence (SVP) Campus Climate Survey is intended to gather information about the rate of incidents of sexual violence and about the knowledge of policies and resources. Per [NYS Education Law](#)<sup>1</sup> and [SUNY BOT policy](#)<sup>2</sup>, every SUNY campus is required to participate in this uniform survey project bi-annually. As per policy, "results will be published on the campus website providing no personally identifiable information shall be shared". This document contains a reporting template that can be used for public websites or other campus publications.

Questions regarding this document can be sent to [svplimatesurvey@suny.edu](mailto:svplimatesurvey@suny.edu) and/or [IR@suny.edu](mailto:IR@suny.edu).

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## Executive Summary

On April 11, our campus began an online administration of the Sexual Violence Prevalence (SVP) Campus Climate Survey. This survey was administered to students and employees and is required to address, at minimum, student and employee knowledge about:

- The Title IX Coordinator's role;
- Campus policies and procedures addressing sexual assault;
- How and where to report sexual violence as a victim/survivor or witness;
- The availability of resources on and off campus, such as counseling, health, academic assistance;
- The prevalence of victimization and perpetration of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking on and off campus during a set time period (for example, the last two years);
- Bystander attitudes and behavior;
- Whether victims/survivors reported to the College/University and/or police, and reasons why they did or did not report.
- The general awareness of the difference, if any, between the institution's policies and the penal law; and
- The general awareness of the definition of affirmative consent.

In reviewing the results, we highlight that the survey ...

- *Indicated that students are generally aware of the relevant campus support services available to them.*
- *Indicated that students generally know how to contact the Title IX coordinator and understand the role of the Title IX coordinator.*
- *Indicated that students generally know how to report an incident to the campus.*

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/laws/EDN/6445>

<sup>2</sup> <https://system.suny.edu/sexual-violence-prevention-workgroup/policies/campus-climate/>

- *Indicated that more information may be needed for students to understand the difference between the college disciplinary process and the criminal justice system and SUNY's alcohol and/or drug amnesty policy in reporting sexual violence.*
- *Indicated that employees are very aware of the policies and laws, and of the available resources.*
- *Indicated that employees are likely to know how to advise a victim of sexual assault of where to go to get help on campus.*
- *Indicated that more information may be needed for employees to understand SUNY's alcohol and/or drug amnesty policy in reporting sexual violence.*
- *Of the 327 employees who responded, 95.7% knew of the Title IX Coordinators role on campus.*

The survey results will be reviewed by our Culture of Respect Campus Leadership Team as part of our assessment of policies and procedures. The results of this survey will further inform the work the campus has been involved with as part of the NASPA Culture of Respect program. Through Culture of Respect, the campus has embarked on an intensive 2-year self-assessment to reduce campus sexual violence.

If you have any questions about the survey or the results included in this report, please contact Andrea Waters, Title IX Coordinator, [watersal@potdam.edu](mailto:watersal@potdam.edu), (315) 267-2224; or Judith Singh, Director of Institutional Research & Assessment, [singhjr@potdam.edu](mailto:singhjr@potdam.edu), (315) 267-2188.

## Background

The SVP survey is administered every other year by all SUNY campuses, who work closely with SUNY System Administration to coordinate the survey administration itself. An effort is made to keep the questions from one administration to the next as consistent as possible to allow for reliable and meaningful longitudinal data. System-wide IRB review takes place for each survey administration.

Our campus administered the student survey between April 11, 2023 and May 1, 2023 and the employee survey between April 11, 2023 and May 1, 2023. Excluded survey populations were individuals under 18 years of age, all incarcerated individuals regardless of age, and all students concurrently enrolled in high school regardless of age.

- *The survey invitation was sent to all eligible survey participants.*
- *The campus did not offer incentives.*
- *Survey outreach: Reminder emails from the President and Associate Vice President/CDO were sent to the campus in addition to the reminders from SUNY. The survey administration period was during the same time as Sexual Assault Awareness Week. Members of the Culture of Respect Team tabled during the Health, Wellness and Safety Expo encouraging students to participate in the survey. Emails were also sent to the Student Government Association and supervisors of employees to ask them to promote the survey at their events. The campus event system (Get Involved) was used to promote the survey and table tents for all dining locations were also used to promote the survey. The Director of Institutional Research also announced the survey during Faculty Senate and encouraged members to participate in the survey.*

By administering this survey, our institution hopes to gain a better understanding of where the Culture of Respect Leadership Team can further their work that has already been initiated on campus over the

last 2 years. The Leadership Team will consider the results from the survey when evaluating the goals and objectives that were previously established and potentially create additional goals and objectives to meet the needs and understanding of our campus community.

## Results

- *2,200 students and 811 employees received a survey invitation.*
- *448 students and 327 employees submitted a survey response.*
- *The Response rate for students was 20.4% and for employees was 40.3%.*

Regulatory Topic / Thematic Area	Student Tableau tab (in bold), followed by survey question(s)	Faculty / Staff Tableau tab (in bold), followed by survey question(s)
<p><i>The Title IX Coordinator's role</i></p>	<p><b>Awareness of Policies</b> Do you know how to contact the Title IX Coordinator?</p> <p>61% Yes</p> <p>To whom can a victim/survivor or witness formally disclose a sexual assault on campus?</p> <p><i>University Police 90.9%</i> <i>Title IX Coordinator 88.7%</i> <i>Health Center 72.2%</i> <i>Counseling Center 72%</i> <i>Human Resources 52.8%</i></p> <p><b>Resources</b> Which are the roles of a Title IX Coordinator in regards to sex discrimination/sexual assault/sexual misconduct?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Receiving Reports 80.3%</i></li> <li>• <i>Ensuring training/education is provided to the campus community 71.3%</i></li> <li>• <i>Coordinating campus response 70.8%</i></li> <li>• <i>Providing reporting individuals with accommodations and services during an investigation 70.7%</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Awareness of Policies</b> Do you know how to contact the Title IX Coordinator?</p> <p>90% Yes</p> <p>To whom can a victim/survivor or witness formally disclose a sexual assault on campus?</p> <p><i>University Police 98%</i> <i>Title IX Coordinator 95.7%</i> <i>Health Center 87.6%</i> <i>Counseling Center 86.7%</i> <i>Human Resources 74.1%</i></p> <p><b>Resources</b> Which are the roles of a Title IX Coordinator in regards to sex discrimination/sexual assault/sexual misconduct?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Receiving Reports 94.5%</i></li> <li>• <i>Coordinating campus response 88.8%</i></li> <li>• <i>Ensuring training/education is provided to the campus community 84.5%</i></li> <li>• <i>Providing reporting individuals with accommodations and services during an investigation 75.2%</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Student Incidents</b> For the most recent disclosed incident, did you report the disclosure to the Title IX Coordinator, Campus Police/Public Safety, Student Affairs, or another office on campus?</p> <p><i>55% did report the most recent incident, however, of those who did not report, 60% were designated confidential reporters who are not allowed to report.</i></p>
<p><i>Campus policies and procedures addressing sexual assault</i></p>	<p><b>Awareness of Policies</b> My campus has policies and procedures specifically addressing sexual assault.</p> <p>76.7% Yes</p> <p>Have you received written and/or verbal information from anyone at your campus about the following? <i>Policies Prohibiting Sexual Assault</i></p> <p>43.8% Yes</p> <p>Do you know about SUNY's alcohol and/or drug use amnesty policy in reporting sexual violence?</p>	<p><b>Awareness of Policies</b> My campus has policies and procedures specifically addressing sexual assault.</p> <p>96.6% Yes</p> <p>Have you received written and/or verbal information from anyone at your campus about the following? <i>Policies Prohibiting Sexual Assault</i></p> <p>89.8% Yes</p> <p>Do you know about SUNY's alcohol and/or drug use amnesty policy in reporting sexual violence?</p>

	46.3% Yes	59.1% Yes
<i>How and where to report sexual violence as a victim/survivor or witness</i>	<p><b>Awareness of Policies</b> Have you received written and/or verbal information from anyone at your campus about the following?</p> <p><i>How to report a sexual assault 62.3%</i></p> <p>Which of the following incidents do you know how to report to the college?</p> <p><i>Sexual Assault 69.2%</i> <i>Sexual Harassment 65%</i> <i>Domestic Violence/Dating Violence 54.6%</i> <i>Stalking 49.1%</i></p> <p>To whom can a victim/survivor or witness formally disclose a sexual assault on campus?</p> <p><i>University Police 90.9%</i> <i>Title IX Coordinator 88.7%</i> <i>Health Center 72.2%</i> <i>Counseling Center 72%</i> <i>Human Resources 52.8%</i></p>	<p><b>Awareness of Policies</b> Have you received written and/or verbal information from anyone at your campus about the following?</p> <p><i>How to report a sexual assault 93.5%</i></p> <p>Which of the following incidents do you know how to report to the College?</p> <p><i>Sexual Assault 95.3%</i> <i>Sexual Harassment 95.9%</i> <i>Domestic Violence/Dating Violence 87.8%</i> <i>Stalking 86.9%</i></p> <p>To whom can a victim/survivor or witness formally disclose a sexual assault on campus?</p> <p><i>University Police 98%</i> <i>Title IX Coordinator 95.7%</i> <i>Health Center 87.6%</i> <i>Counseling Center 86.7%</i> <i>Human Resources 74.1%</i></p> <p><b>Student Incidents</b> For the most recent disclosed incident, did you report the disclosure to the Title IX Coordinator, Campus Police/public Safety, Student Affairs or another office on campus?</p> <p><i>55% Yes</i></p> <p>To which office(s) did you report the most recent disclosed incident?</p> <p><i>Title IX Coordinator 77.3%</i> <i>Counseling Center 36.4%</i> <i>University Police 36.4%</i></p> <p>Why didn't you report the most recent disclosed incident?</p> <p><i>Designated Confidential Resource 60%</i></p> <p><b>Faculty/Staff Incidents</b></p> <p>Unwanted Sexual Comments: <i>4.9% Yes</i></p> <p>Did you take any action after this experience/s?</p> <p><i>42.9% confronted the person who made the comments.</i></p> <p>Unwanted Digital Communications: <i>5.6% Yes</i></p>

<p><i>The availability of resources on and off campus, such as counseling, health, academic assistance</i></p>	<p><b>Awareness of Policies</b> Have you received written and/or verbal information from anyone at your campus about the following? ...Where to go to report, get help...</p> <p><i>Where to go to get help if you or someone you know is sexually assaulted 63.5%</i></p> <p><i>To whom you can speak confidentially about a sexual assault 54.8%</i></p> <p>To whom can a victim/survivor or witness formally disclose a sexual assault on campus? <i>Lists several resources including Health Center, Counseling, etc.</i></p> <p><i>University Police 90.9%</i> <i>Title IX Coordinator 88.7%</i> <i>Health Center 72.2%</i> <i>Counseling Center 72%</i> <i>Human Resources 52.8%</i></p> <p><b>Resources</b> Please indicate your awareness of the following on-campus and community resources? <i>Lists several resources including Health Services, Counseling Center, etc.</i></p> <p><i>University Police 90.7%</i> <i>Counseling Center 83.9%</i> <i>Campus Health Services 83.3%</i> <i>Local Health services 64%</i> <i>Local police/Sherriff 59.3%</i> <i>Peer Counselors 58.7%</i> <i>Office of Student Conduct 53.4%</i></p>	<p><b>Awareness of Policies</b> Have you received written and/or verbal information from anyone at your campus about the following? ...Where to go to report, get help...</p> <p><i>Where to go to get help if you or someone you know is sexually assaulted 91.3%</i></p> <p><i>To whom you can speak confidentially about a sexual assault 87.9%</i></p> <p>To whom can a victim/survivor or witness formally disclose a sexual assault on campus? <i>Lists several resources including Health Center, Counseling, etc.</i></p> <p><i>University Police 98%</i> <i>Title IX Coordinator 95.7%</i> <i>Health Center 87.6%</i> <i>Counseling Center 86.7%</i> <i>Human Resources 74.1%</i></p> <p><b>Resources</b> Please indicate your awareness of the following on-campus and community resources? <i>Lists several resources including Health Services, Counseling Center, etc.</i></p> <p><i>University Police 99%</i> <i>Counseling Center 94.2%</i> <i>Campus Health Services 94.5%</i> <i>Local Health services 83.6%</i> <i>Local police/Sherriff 88.7%</i> <i>Peer Counselors 62.3%</i> <i>Office of Student Conduct 84.2%</i> <i>Human Resources 93.8%</i></p>
<p><i>The prevalence of victimization and perpetration of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking on and off campus during a set time period (for example, the last two years)</i></p>	<p><b>Student Incidents</b></p> <p><b>Sexual Assault/Harassment</b> During the last year, have you experience any of the following...</p> <p><i>Someone viewing your sexual activity or nakedness without your consent, or taking explicit pictures or recordings without your consent 5.8%</i></p> <p><i>Unwanted sexual comments, sexual slurs, or demeaning jokes 30.2%</i></p> <p><i>Unwanted sexually suggestive digital communications, either words or images or both, including emails, texts, social media communications, or in letters or other written communications 22%</i></p> <p>During the last year, has someone....</p>	<p><b>Student Incidents</b> During the last year, have any students disclosed to you that they were a victim of an unwanted sexual experience, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking, regardless of where such incident is reported to have occurred?</p> <p><i>14.6% Yes</i></p> <p><b>Faculty/Staff Incidents</b></p> <p><b>Unwanted Sexual Comments</b> During the last year, have you experienced unwanted sexual comments, sexual slurs, or demeaning jokes?</p> <p><i>4.9% Yes</i></p> <p><b>Unwanted Digital Communications</b> During the last year, have you received</p>

	<p><i>Fondled, kissed, or rubbed up against the private areas of your body even though you did not give consent for that activity:</i> 8.9% Attempted, but not completed 13.1% Completed</p> <p><i>Performed oral sex on you or forced you to perform oral sex even though you did not give consent for that activity:</i> 2.4% Attempted, but not completed 3.7% Completed</p> <p><i>Removed some of your clothes even though you did not give consent for that activity:</i> 6% Attempted, but not completed 5% Completed</p> <p><i>Sexually penetrated you (that is, someone put a penis or inserted fingers or objects into your vagina or anus) or were you made to penetrate even though you did not give consent for that activity:</i> 2.4% Attempted, but not completed 4.2% Completed</p> <p><b>Domestic Partner</b> In the last year, has an intimate partner... <i>Controlled or tried to control you in the past year</i> 12.1%</p> <p><i>Scratched, slapped, hit, kicked, beaten, punched, or physically harmed you</i> 5.8%</p> <p><i>Threatened to hurt you, your family/friends, or themselves in order to influence you</i> 8.5%</p> <p><b>Stalking</b> In the past year, has anyone-from stranger to a friend or current or ex-partner- repeatedly followed you, watched you, texted, called, written, e-mailed, or communicated with you in ways that seemed obsessive and made you afraid or concerned or your safety? 12.6%</p>	<p>unwanted sexually suggestive digital communications, either words or images or both, including emails, texts, social medial communications, or in letters or written communications?</p> <p>5.6% Yes</p>
<p><i>Bystander attitudes and behavior</i></p>	<p><b>Incidents – Tell</b> Did any of the following thoughts or concerns cross your mind when you decided not to report or otherwise share your experience?</p> <p><i>I did not think it was important enough</i> 71.4% <i>I just did not want to deal with it</i> 58.7% <i>I did not recognize it as a sexual assault at the time</i> 47.6%</p>	<p><b>Readiness to help</b> The following items relate to your understanding of a fellow employee’s willingness to help if they become aware of an incident. You may interpret the phrase “do something” to mean acting in some way, such as asking for help, creating a distraction, or talking directly. <i>(Responses below are likely or very likely)</i></p> <p><i>Call for help if they hear a neighbor yelling help</i> 85%</p>



	<p><b>Domestic Partner – No Report</b> Did any of the following thoughts or concerns cross your mind when you decided not to report or otherwise share your experience?</p> <p><i>Too Few Results to Display.</i></p> <p><b>Stalking – No Tell</b> Did any of the following thoughts or concerns cross your mind when you decided not to report or otherwise share your experience?</p> <p><i>Too Few Results to Display.</i></p> <p><b>Change of Plans</b> Have any incidents disclosed in this survey caused you to modify your education plans?</p> <p><i>Change academic schedule and/or housing 18.3%</i></p> <p><b>Student Readiness to Help and College Response</b> Indicate how likely you think a fellow student is to do the following: <i>(Responses below are likely or very likely)</i></p> <p><i>Call for help if they hear a neighbor yelling help 58.2%</i></p> <p><i>Confront a friend who tells them that they had sex with someone who was passed out or who did not give consent 55.8%</i></p> <p><i>Express their discomfort if someone makes a joke about a person's body 43%</i></p> <p><i>Get help and resources for a friend who tells them that they have been assaulted 73.8%</i></p> <p><i>Tell a resident assistant or other campus authority about information they have that might help in a sexual assault case even if pressured by their friends to stay silent 44%</i></p> <p>If you or a friend filed a formal complaint of sexual violence on your campus, do you think your college would...? <i>(Responses below are agree or strongly agree)</i></p> <p><i>Conduct a fair investigation 48.3%</i> <i>Provide the student with necessary support during the process 54.7%</i> <i>Take the report seriously 58.1%</i></p>	<p><i>Talk to a student who they suspect is in an abusive relationship 68.7%</i></p> <p><i>Get help and resources for a friend who tells them that they have been assaulted 91.2%</i></p> <p><i>Tell a campus authority about information they have that might help in a sexual assault case even if pressured by their friends to stay silent 77.2%</i></p> <p>If you reported a student complaint of sexual violence on your campus, do you think your college would...? <i>(Responses below are agree or strongly agree)</i></p> <p><i>Conduct a fair investigation 78.8%</i> <i>Provide the student with necessary support during the process 78.7%</i> <i>Take the report seriously 91.4%</i></p> <p>Indicate your level of agreement or disagreement to the following: <i>(Responses below are agree or strongly agree)</i></p> <p><i>If a student were sexually assaulted, I know how to advise them on where to get help on campus. 91.6%</i></p> <p><i>I understand what happens when a student reports sexual assault at my campus. 72.4%</i></p>
Whether victims/survivors reported to the	<b>Incidents – Tell</b> Did you tell anyone about the most recent	<b>Student Incidents</b> For the most recent disclosed incident, did

<p><i>College/University and/or police, and reasons why they did or did not report</i></p>	<p>incident? 40.2%</p> <p>Who did you tell about the most recent incident?</p> <p><i>Friend 77.6%</i> <i>Roommate or housemate 50%</i></p> <p>Did you file a formal complaint about this incident with anyone at the college? 16.7%</p> <p><b>Domestic Partner - Tell</b> Did you tell anyone about the most recent incident (intimate partner)?</p> <p>52% Yes</p> <p>Who did you tell about the most recent incident?</p> <p><i>Friend 84.6%</i> <i>Roommate or housemate 53.8%</i></p> <p>Did you file a formal complaint about this incident with anyone at the college?</p> <p><i>Too Few Results to Display.</i></p> <p><b>Stalking - Tell</b> Did you tell anyone about the most recent incident? 65.9%</p> <p>Who did you tell about the most recent incident?</p> <p><i>Friend 84%</i> <i>Parent or guardian 48%</i></p> <p>Did you file a formal complaint about this incident with anyone at the college? <i>Too Few Results to Display.</i></p>	<p>you report the disclosure to the Title IX Coordinator, Campus Police/Public Safety, Student Affairs, or another office on campus? 55% Yes</p> <p>To which office(s) did you report the most recent disclosed incident?</p> <p><i>Title IX Coordinator 77.3%</i> <i>Counseling Center 36.4%</i> <i>University Police 36.4%</i></p> <p>Why didn't you report the most recent disclosed incident?</p> <p><i>Designated Confidential Resource 60%</i></p> <p><b>Faculty/Staff Incidents</b></p> <p>Unwanted Sexual Comments</p> <p>4.9% Yes</p> <p>Did you take any action after this experience/s?</p> <p><i>42.9% confronted the person who made the comments.</i></p> <p>Unwanted Digital Communications</p> <p>5.6% Yes</p> <p>Did you take any action after this experience/s?</p> <p><i>Too Few Results to Display.</i></p>
<p><i>The general awareness of the difference, if any, between the institution's policies and the penal law</i></p>	<p><b>Awareness of Policies</b> Do you know the difference between the college disciplinary process and the criminal justice system?</p> <p>53.7% Yes</p>	<p><b>Awareness of Policies</b> Do you know the difference between the college disciplinary process and the criminal justice system?</p> <p>82.4% Yes</p>
<p><i>The general awareness of the definition of affirmative consent</i></p>	<p><b>Awareness of Policies (see also Student Employee Comp 3)</b> Do you know the definition of Affirmative Consent?</p> <p>82.1% Yes</p> <p>Can someone who is incapacitated provide consent?</p>	<p><b>Awareness of Policies</b> Do you know the definition of Affirmative Consent?</p> <p>89.6% Yes</p> <p>Can someone who is incapacitated provide consent?</p> <p>0.9% Yes</p>

	2.6% Yes	
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## Discussion and next steps

Since the last survey was administered, a new Title IX Coordinator was hired, and their location was moved on campus to the Center for Diversity. A significant amount of work went in to ensuring that the SUNY Potsdam campus community was aware of who the new Title IX Coordinator was and how to contact them. This is ongoing work that continues each semester with new, incoming and transfer students and new employees through orientation efforts, parent and family notification, website development and distribution of resources and support information campus wide. Through the HEERF funding, the Culture of Respect campus initiative used the funding for hand out materials, educational print materials, tabling cards and banners, and orientation materials.

To address challenges, our campus intends to work with the Sexual Violence Prevention Task Force and the Culture of Respect Leadership Team to institutionalize the policy and procedure review, make the work of the Culture of Respect Leadership Team sustainable, and look for ways to continue to finance the education and training initiatives that was initiated with HEERF funding.