

Canisius College

2016 Campus Climate Survey

Executive Summary

Introduction and Response Rate

As required by the Enough is Enough legislation in New York State and because the safety of our students is our number one priority, Canisius College conducted a campus climate survey from November 23, 2016 through December 31, 2016. The survey was sent to 2,467 students and 584 students responded with 560 consenting to participate in the survey. The response rate was 24.67%. This is a very high response rate for an on-line survey of this type. The racial identity and sexual orientation of those who responded was similar to that of the student population. There was a fairly equal distribution of students across class years and the responses from resident and commuter students mirrored the percentages in the student population. All of these factors allowed us to conclude that we have a very representative sample of students respond to the survey. We strongly believe that no Canisius student should ever be the victim of an act of sexual violence. While our data do not indicate that to be the case, the percentage of Canisius students who are victims of sexual violence is far lower than national data would indicate. We believe we have a safe campus and we will continue to educate our students to reduce the number of incidents of sexual violence at Canisius.

The survey

The survey began with this introductory paragraph.

This is a survey to measure the incidence of certain types of sexual and physical experiences in relationships on campus. The questionnaire takes about 15-20 minutes to complete. Your participation is voluntary, and you may choose to skip questions or stop responding at any point. However, your cooperation would be greatly appreciated and would contribute to our understanding of a very important aspect of student life at Canisius College. We are committed to ensuring a safe, healthy, and nondiscriminatory environment for our students and your participation in this survey will help us in our work to keep all students safe. If you agree to participate, you can be assured that your responses will be confidential. Your name is not anywhere on the questionnaire and web data is stripped of any identifying computer related information before we receive the data. Your responses will be reported in terms of groups of students rather than as individual cases. You may stop your participation at any time, or choose not to answer particular questions without penalty. Some of the questions will ask about sexual and personal information. Some individuals might experience emotional discomfort while answering some of the questions. If you have any questions regarding this survey, please email: mangiont@canisius.edu.

The survey consisted of 71 questions. Six demographic questions were asked followed by 5 general climate questions. The students were then asked 15 questions regarding their perceptions of campus leadership, policies, and reporting. The following paragraph preceded the next 18 specific questions about incidents of sexual assault and use of the college's policies in addressing these incidents.

This section asks about nonconsensual or unwanted sexual contact you may have experienced. When you are asked about whether something happened since your arrival at Canisius, please think about what has happened since your arrival at Canisius. The person with whom the unwanted sexual contact occurred could have been a stranger or someone you know, such as a family member or someone you were dating or going out with. These questions ask about five types of unwanted sexual contact: forced touching of a sexual nature (forced kissing, touching of private parts, grabbing, fondling, rubbing up against you in a sexual way, even if it is over your clothes) oral sex (someone's mouth or tongue making contact with your genitals or your mouth or tongue making contact with someone else's genitals) sexual intercourse (someone's penis being put in your vagina) anal sex (someone's penis being put in your anus) sexual penetration with a finger or object (someone putting their finger or an object like a bottle or a candle in your vagina or anus) The questions below ask about unwanted sexual contact that involved force or

threats of force against you. Force could include someone holding you down with his or her body weight, pinning your arms, hitting or kicking you, or using or threatening to use a weapon against you.

The students were then asked a series of 20 questions related to bystander confidence followed by 5 very specific questions on intimate partner violence. The paragraph below preceded the questions on intimate partner violence.

This section will ask questions about relationship and dating experiences. No matter how well a couple gets along, there are times when they disagree, get annoyed with the other person, want different things from each other, or just have spats or fights because they are in a bad mood, are tired, or for some other reason. Couples also have many different ways of trying to settle their differences. This is a list of things that might happen when you have differences.

Responses to key questions

If someone were to report a sexual assault to a campus authority, how likely is it that each of the following would occur?

The college would take the report seriously

55% Very Likely, 30% Moderately Likely

The college would take steps to protect the safety of and support the person making the report

49% Very Likely, 37% Moderately Likely

Have you received education related to policies and procedures regarding incidents of sexual assault (e.g., what is defined as sexual assault, how to report an incident, confidential resources, procedures for handling complaints)? **77% Yes**

Please indicate your level of agreement to each of the following statements: - I have confidence that Canisius administers the procedures to address complaints of sexual assault fairly.

80% Agree or Strongly agree

How familiar are you with the following? - The definition of consent regarding sexual activity for the campus community?

76% Very familiar

21% Somewhat familiar

Determined that our educational campaign surrounding the new Enough is Enough definition of consent was very successful.

Since your arrival at Canisius, has anyone had sexual contact with you by using physical force or threatening to physically harm you?

94% No

6% Yes

National data suggests that this could be 20% Yes. Canisius is well under the national percentage, however, we continue to educate and adjudicate to try to reduce our percentage.

Since your arrival at Canisius, has someone had sexual contact with you when you were unable to provide consent or stop what was happening because you were passed out, drugged, incapacitated, or asleep? This question asks about incidents that you are certain happened.

94% No
6% Yes

National data suggests that this could be 20% Yes. Canisius is well under the national percentage, however, we continue to educate and adjudicate to try to reduce our percentage.

Since your arrival at Canisius, have you suspected that someone has had sexual contact with you when you were unable to provide consent or stop what was happening because you were passed out, drugged, incapacitated, or asleep? This question asks about events that you think (but are not certain) happened.

94% No
6% Yes

National data suggests that this could be 20% Yes. Canisius is well under the national percentage, however, we continue to educate and adjudicate to try to reduce our percentage.

The 5 questions below dealt with bystander behavior and our students' responses indicated they were very confident about how and when they would positively intervene to reduce incidences of sexual violence.

Please read each of the following behaviors. Indicate how confident you are that you could do them. Rate your degree of confidence by using a 1-7 Likert scale with 1= not at all confident and 7=completely confident. - Express my discomfort if someone says that rape victims are to blame for being raped

85% indicated confidence scores of 5-7

Please read each of the following behaviors. Indicate how confident you are that you could do them. Rate your degree of confidence by using a 1-7 Likert scale with 1= not at all confident and 7=completely confident. - Talk to a friend whom I suspect is in a sexually abusive relationship

80% indicated confidence scores of 5-7

Please read each of the following behaviors. Indicate how confident you are that you could do them. Rate your degree of confidence by using a 1-7 Likert scale with 1= not at all confident and 7=completely confident. - Get help and resources for a friend who tells me they have been raped

82% indicated confidence scores of 5-7

Please read each of the following behaviors. Indicate how confident you are that you could do them. Rate your degree of confidence by using a 1-7 Likert scale with 1= not at all confident and 7=completely confident. - Ask a friend if they need to be walked home from a party

93% indicated confidence scores of 5-7

Please read each of the following behaviors. Indicate how confident you are that you could do them. Rate your degree of confidence by using a 1-7 Likert scale with 1= not at all confident and 7=completely confident. - Criticize a friend who tells me that they had sex with someone who was passed out or who didn't give consent

87% indicated confidence scores of 5-7

Please indicate how likely you are to engage in each of the following behaviors: - Stop sexual activity when asked to, even if I am already sexually aroused

88% Extremely likely

10% Somewhat likely

Please indicate how likely you are to engage in each of the following behaviors: - Stop having sex with a partner if they say to stop, even if it started consensually

88% Extremely likely

9% Somewhat likely

Areas for improvement

How familiar are you with the following? - The role of the College's Title IX Coordinator

44% very or somewhat familiar

55% not very or not at all familiar

Added more information on the role of the Title IX Coordinator to on-boarding presentations at New Student Orientation in 2017.

Where did the incident occur? (Incident of sexual violence)

48% Off campus

49% On campus

We were surprised and alarmed that there were as many incidents on campus as there were off campus and are engaging in additional educational programming in our residence halls to try to address this.

Executive Summary prepared by:

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Canisius College