

# Association of American Universities Campus Sexual Climate Survey

Yale conducted a survey of students’ experiences of sexual misconduct and campus climate from February 4 to March 4, 2019. The confidential survey, sponsored by the Association of American Universities (AAU), was sent out to all Yale undergraduate, graduate, and professional students. Thirty-two other colleges and universities also participated in the AAU survey this spring. The survey was a follow-up to the AAU’s 2015 campus sexual climate survey, in which Yale also participated. Westat, a private research firm, administered the survey and conducted the initial data analysis. On October 15, 2019, Yale released its campus-specific data.

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## GENERAL INFO

### What was the survey about?

The 2019 survey measured students' attitudes about, perceptions of, and experiences regarding Yale's sexual climate, including individual experiences of sexual misconduct, resources for support and reporting, and bystander intervention.

### Why is the survey important?

Yale strives to be a safe, respectful community—one where sexual misconduct is prevented wherever possible, and appropriately addressed if it does occur. The more we know about the patterns and dynamics of sexual misconduct on campus, the more effective we will be in our efforts to combat it. Gathering data about the broader climate also helps us understand current community perceptions, skills, and strategies.

### How will Yale use the data?

The survey results will help us to assess and improve our programs, policies, and strategies related to both sexual misconduct prevention and response. The 2015 survey results also raised community awareness and increased community engagement in efforts to eliminate sexual misconduct on our campus; we hope this will again be true with the 2019 results.

### Are Yale's survey findings public?

Yes. The findings from the 2015 survey are available [here](#). Yale's 2019 survey findings, released on October 15, may be found at: <https://provost.yale.edu/title-ix/yale-report-aau-campus-climate-survey>.

### What changed at Yale after the 2015 survey?

Yale's survey data, as well as the survey itself, prompted intensive community conversation and engagement. Significantly more community members have sought out and participated in sexual misconduct prevention and response training. We have also seen a substantial increase in reporting of sexual misconduct since the results of the 2015 survey were released. Orientation programming and bystander intervention training have expanded and evolved, especially in the graduate and professional schools; prevention and response work has intensified in Yale College as well. A new online module with foundational information about Yale's resources and bystander intervention has been added to our training programs. The SHARE Center has grown, adding new staff and expertise. Guided by the student advisory boards, a new, more user-friendly website has also been developed ([smr.yale.edu](http://smr.yale.edu)), and new features have been added to the LiveSafe app to provide an additional mechanism for reporting sexual misconduct.

### Why did Yale conduct the survey again?

Campus climate changes over time. The 2015 survey provided baseline data, which increased community engagement and led to improvements in resources to address sexual misconduct

in our community. Administering the survey again allows us to evaluate the efforts that have been made to improve the climate at Yale since 2015, to identify trends in students' experiences and knowledge, and to adapt our approaches as appropriate.

Beyond taking the survey or learning about results, how else can I help?

Combatting sexual misconduct is the work of the whole community. To learn more about ways you can be involved, please visit the Sexual Misconduct Response and Prevention website and click on the [Get Involved](#) tab.

## THE AAU CAMPUS CLIMATE SURVEY PROJECT

What is the AAU?

The [Association of American Universities](#) is an association of 62 leading research universities in the United States and Canada. AAU projects and programs focus on issues that are important to research-intensive universities, such as funding for research, research policy issues, and graduate and undergraduate education.

Which schools took part in the survey?

A list of the participating schools can be found [here](#).

Did participating in the AAU campus climate survey prevent Yale from fielding other surveys?

No. Yale conducts a range of climate assessments, including semi-annual reports of complaints of sexual misconduct (which can be found on the Yale [Title IX website](#)) and more localized projects within specific departments and schools.

Is there a public report on the findings from all participating schools?

On October 15, 2019, Westat issued a report based on the aggregate data from all participating AAU schools. Individual institutions chose whether or not to issue their own campus-specific reports. Yale did so, as we did in 2015.

## SURVEY DESIGN & ADMINISTRATION

Who designed the survey?

The survey was developed by Westat, a leading social science research firm, in conjunction with a multi-disciplinary team of AAU and campus representatives. The university survey design team included co-chairs Dr. Lily Svensen, Director of the Office of Institutional Research at Yale University, and Dr. Christina Morell, Associate Provost and Director of the Office of Institutional Assessment and Studies at the University of Virginia. The design team included researchers, practitioners, and administrators with expertise in survey research, sexual assault, gender issues, student affairs, Title IX, and other related topics.

Was the survey approved by an institutional review board?

The survey was reviewed and approved by the Westat IRB, which served as the IRB of record for the administration of this survey at Yale.

Were students offered incentives to participate?

Yes. As is common with such surveys, modest material incentives were offered to encourage student participation. Westat created a stratified random sample of five thousand Yale students, who were each offered a \$5 amazon.com gift card as an incentive for participation. This method allowed the Westat researchers to conduct more nuanced analysis of potential nonresponse bias in the survey results.

Where can I find the survey instrument?

The survey instrument – the survey questions and display logic – can be found in the appendix section at the end of the report.

## SURVEY RESULTS

How was the data analyzed?

Westat used rigorous statistical techniques to analyze the data from Yale student survey submissions. A brief discussion of Westat’s methodology is included in the Yale-Westat report.

Who received the results of the survey?

Each participating university received all of its own data files, along with a report of the aggregate data from all the schools. Westat analyzed the data and generated a findings report, and institutions were free to conduct additional analysis on their own data files.

What kind of data did Yale release?

Yale released a report on the survey findings as well as the underlying data tables on October 15, 2019. Yale’s 2019 survey findings may be found at: <https://provost.yale.edu/title-ix/yale-report-aaucampus-climate-survey>.

How did Yale protect confidentiality in reporting the results?

The data that Westat provided to Yale was anonymous. Survey results were released only in summary form so no individual can be identified from the data. In addition, in the data tables, summary information was suppressed for very small demographic clusters.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

What else is Yale doing about sexual misconduct?

Yale devotes extensive resources and attention to addressing and preventing sexual misconduct on campus. The [Sexual Misconduct Response](#) website summarizes our key resources and links to more detailed information. Yale’s 24/7 resource is the Sexual

Harassment and Assault Response & Education Center (SHARE), which offers information, advocacy, and support to community members dealing with sexual misconduct of any kind. SHARE assists individuals who are dealing with acute and recent experiences, as well as experiences from their past. They also support individuals whose friends, family, or loved ones have experienced sexual misconduct. SHARE operates a 24-hour hotline and daytime drop-in services, offers individual and group sessions, and provides support and facilitates connections with the Yale Police, the Title IX Coordinators, the University-Wide Committee on Sexual Misconduct (the UWC), as well as resources in the broader community.

Yale also pursues a number of educational and prevention initiatives, guided by the Title IX Steering Committee with assistance from its student advisory boards. At the undergraduate level, the Communication and Consent Educators (CCEs) work throughout the year to help their peers create safe, strong, respectful communities; this includes mandatory in-person workshops for the entire first-year and sophomore classes, as well as in-person and online training options for juniors and seniors. At the graduate and professional student level, there are multiple school- and department-level initiatives and committees that work on sexual climate issues. Additionally, the Title IX office has offered—in close collaboration with campus partners across the university—bystander intervention workshops for graduate and professional students since 2016. For additional information about recent and future initiatives, please refer to the Introduction to the Yale-Westat Report.

What should I do if I've experienced sexual misconduct at Yale?

Individuals' experiences vary widely, as do individual needs, but sexual misconduct can have a profound impact. You do not need to cope with this alone. SHARE is a wonderful first place to seek help and support, as well as to consider pursuing disciplinary and criminal processes. SHARE's services are completely confidential and available 24/7. Other resources (accessible directly, or facilitated by SHARE) include the Yale Police, the Title IX Coordinators, the University-Wide Committee on Sexual Misconduct (the UWC), and Yale Health. At Yale, you have choices about what to do and when—and many people to explain the options, answer your questions, and support you along the way.

I still have questions. Where can I get more information?

If you have any questions about this survey, you can call Westat's survey Help Desk at (855) 497-4787. If you have questions about your rights as a research participant, you can call the Westat IRB at (888) 920-7631.

Yale's Title IX Office is also able to answer many questions. Email us at [titleix@yale.edu](mailto:titleix@yale.edu) or call (203) 432-6854.