

## Executive Summary of Yale Results

### Background

During spring 2015, the Association of American Universities, working with the Westat Corporation, administered a survey of students in 27 colleges and universities to gather data about the prevalence of sexual assault and sexual misconduct on university campuses. Aggregated results of the AAU 2015 Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct are online at <https://www.aau.edu/Climate-Survey>. Yale's results are posted on our Title IX website: <http://provost.yale.edu/title-ix/yale-report-aau-campus-climate-survey>.

Yale's goal in participating in the survey was to gather critical information to help us eliminate sexual misconduct on our campus and to identify additional ways to change behavior and foster a culture in which all students are safe and feel well-supported. Initial findings from the report are summarized below. While this summary includes examples of findings to give a general picture of the survey results for Yale, the full reports contain more detailed statistical information, accompanying data tables, and a description of the survey methodology.

### Summary Findings – Sexual Assault on Campus

The AAU survey asked students about their experiences of nonconsensual sexual contact including sexual penetration, oral sex, and sexual touching. It also asked if the contact occurred as a result of force, incapacitation, coercion, or the absence of affirmative consent. Under Yale University policy, all of the circumstances of nonconsensual sexual contact described in the survey constitute sexual assault and are a violation of the disciplinary regulations of Yale College and the graduate and professional schools.

The survey estimates that 16.1 percent of all Yale students—undergraduate, graduate, and professional—have experienced an attempted or completed sexual assault since arriving on campus. The data reveal additional patterns of experience within student sub-groups. Some of these findings include:

#### Undergraduate Students

- Since arriving on campus, 25.2 percent of undergraduates are estimated to have experienced at least one incident that does not meet Yale's standard for consent, and 18.1 percent of undergraduates have experienced an incident that involved force or incapacitation.
- By a ratio of more than three to one, women were more likely than men to report experiencing any form of sexual assault. Undergraduates who did not identify in the traditional gender binary experienced sexual assault at approximately the same rate as, or higher rates than, women.
- The cumulative estimate of sexual assault among undergraduates at Yale was higher than the AAU aggregate, but when considering female students' experiences of sexual assault for the past academic year only, Yale posted lower numbers than the AAU aggregate. This could be an early indicator of some improvement in Yale's rates of sexual assault.

#### Graduate and Professional Students

- Since arriving on campus, 8.6 percent of graduate and professional students reported that they have experienced sexual assault, as defined by Yale's affirmative consent standard.
- Among women, the percentage reporting some type of sexual assault was 13.3 percent, and for students who identified as other genders, it was 17.7 percent.

## Summary Findings – Sexual Harassment

The AAU survey also examined sexual harassment, which was defined as any of a range of behaviors that interfered with a student's academic or professional performance, limited the student's ability to participate in an academic program, or created an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment. The behaviors most commonly reported both by undergraduate and graduate and professional students involved either sexual remarks, jokes, and stories, or inappropriate comments regarding body, appearance, or sexual activity. Some of the survey findings include:

- Over half (55.1 percent) of all Yale students reported at least one incident of sexual harassment since arriving at Yale.
- Among women, 74 percent of undergraduates and 53.9 percent of graduate and professional students reported some form of sexual harassment. Among men, 57.6 percent of undergraduates and 38.2 percent of graduate and professional students did.
- Students identifying as other genders were most likely to have experienced sexual harassment, with 84.2 percent of undergraduate other gender students and 78 percent of graduate and professional other gender students reporting incidents.
- At the undergraduate level, over 80 percent of students who experienced sexual harassment indicated that it occurred primarily in the context of interactions with peers.
- At the graduate level, over 70 percent of students who experienced sexual harassment indicated that friends or acquaintances were the source of harassing behaviors; 29.5 percent of women and 18.2 percent of men who experienced sexual harassment indicated that faculty members were the source of harassing behaviors.

## Summary Findings – Reporting and Resources

The survey also asked students about resources and reporting on campus. Students demonstrated broad awareness of Yale's resources and programs: among students who enrolled in 2014 or 2015, 82 percent of all students at undergraduate and graduate and professional levels recalled being provided with relevant information on sexual misconduct and resources during orientation, versus only 48.8 percent of students from the AAU aggregate.

Students were also asked about their reporting of nonconsensual sexual incidents to university officials, and the survey estimates indicate a substantial gap between how often students experience sexual misconduct and how often they report it.

- Men are less likely than women to report sexual misconduct of all types.
- Women who experience sexual assault by force or incapacitation are most likely to report experiences of forced penetration (27.4 percent). Men who experience sexual assault report so infrequently that the survey could not generate an estimate.
- Students who did report chose among different university programs listed on the survey: the Sexual Harassment and Assault Response and Education Center (SHARE), Title IX coordinators, the University-Wide Committee on Sexual Misconduct, the Yale Police Department, the New Haven Police Department, and Yale Health. Students often accessed more than one of these resources and appeared to choose the reporting venue based on the type of misconduct they encountered.
- The large majority of students reporting sexual assault to a university program indicated that they were treated with respect and received helpful explanations of their options.

# Yale University 2015 AAU Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Misconduct

- When asked whether they felt pressure from university officials regarding the incidents they had reported, some students indicated they had felt pressured by a Title IX Coordinator to proceed with a complaint, but no students reported being pressured by any official to drop or abandon a complaint.
- A majority of students who chose not to report indicated that the most common reason for not reporting was that they thought the incident was “not serious enough to report.”

## Conclusions and Next Steps

In recent years, guided by the 2011 report of the Advisory Committee on Campus Climate and other comprehensive qualitative reviews, Yale has made extensive changes in its programs and resources to address sexual assault and other forms of campus sexual misconduct. The findings in the AAU survey underscore the need to do even more. In his message to the community (<http://provost.yale.edu/title-ix/yale-report-aau-campus-climate-survey>), President Salovey has reinforced his commitment to sustained action, stressing the need to intensify our focus on behavior change.

We remain dedicated to our goal of eliminating sexual misconduct from our campus. Doing so is essential to protecting individual students, our learning environment, and our sense of community.