

Title IX Climate Survey, February 2022: Executive Summary

Prepared by the Office of Assessment and Research

Introduction

In collaboration with the Director of Title IX and Equal Opportunity, the Office of Assessment and Research administered a Title IX survey in February 2022. This survey was distributed to all current Holy Cross students who were over the age of 18 to collect information about their attitudes toward, beliefs about, understanding of, and experience with sexual misconduct. The survey was sent electronically to students via emails using Qualtrics, and students were incentivized with a random lottery of 5 \$50 GrubHub giftcards for participating. There were 7 reminder email sent asking students to take the survey. The survey was open for approximately four weeks.

Of the 3103 current students over the age of 18 whom were invited to participate in the survey, 837 answered at least one survey question, resulting in an **overall response rate of 27%**. This was lower than the response rate to the Campus Climate Student Survey administered in 2019 (38%) that also contained questions about sexual misconduct on campus. Higher proportions of first year (30%) and sophomore students (33%) completed the survey compared to junior (24%) and senior students (21%). A higher proportion of female students (35%) responded to the survey compared to male students (17%). A higher proportion of Pell eligible students (31%) responded compared to students who were not Pell eligible (26%). And a higher proportion of non-athlete students (30%) responded to the survey compared to student athletes (19%).

The remainder of this report summarizes key findings from the closed-ended (i.e., multiple choice) questions contained on the survey. After the key findings, student responses to each survey question are presented, first overall, then disaggregated by a variety of demographic variables. Disaggregation by current residence is only reported for questions about students' experience of sexual misconduct behaviors, the locations where the behavior occurred, and who the source of the behavior was. Students who did not have race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, political view, or religious affiliation data are excluded from disaggregations by those demographic variables where they had missing data, but are included in the overall tables for each question. Students were coded as students of color if they selected that they belonged to any non-white racial/ethnic category, or if they selected that they were white and belonged to one or more other non-white racial/ethnic category. Students were coded as LGBTQIA+ if they selected that they had any non-heterosexual sexual orientation, or if they selected that they had a heterosexual sexual orientation and one or more other non-heterosexual sexual orientations. Effect size data is reported using Cramér's V. Effect sizes were calculated for residence hall data using three categories: on-campus, HC program off-campus, and off-campus. A separate report will be prepared for the open-ended (i.e., written response) survey questions.

Key Findings

- In terms of knowing about how to report sexual misconduct at Holy Cross, high proportions of respondents at least somewhat agreed with most statements relating to knowing how they can report sexual misconduct ($\geq 82\%$ per statement). However, a substantively lower proportion of

respondents somewhat agreed that they understood what happens when a student reports sexual misconduct at Holy Cross (65%).

- In particular, female respondents reported a lower level of agreement that they understood what happens when a student reports sexual misconduct at Holy Cross compared to male respondents.
- High proportions of respondents at least somewhat agreed with all statements regarding receiving education and training from College officials about resources available for those who experience sexual misconduct ($\geq 80\%$ per statement).
 - However, female respondents reported a lower level of agreement that College officials had provided sufficient information to know what constitutes sexual misconduct compared to male respondents. Additionally, female respondents reported a lower level of agreement that the College provided sufficient opportunities to participate in sponsored workshops or training about sexual misconduct compared to male respondents.
- High proportions of respondents at least somewhat agreed with all statements regarding having trust and confidence in the College in terms of how sexual misconduct reports are handled ($\geq 74\%$ per statement).
 - However, female respondents reported a lower level of agreement that they had confidence that College officials would take steps to protect the safety of the person making an official report of sexual misconduct compared to male respondents.
 - When comparing these statements to similar statements that were asked in 2019 on the Campus Climate Survey, it was clear that respondents in 2022 agreed at higher levels to all of these statements compared to respondents in 2019.
- Respondents were asked a series of statements about their beliefs around sexual misconduct. Among these statements, the highest proportions of respondents strongly agreed that consent can be revoked at any time during a sexual encounter (91%), and that it is never someone's fault if they are a victim of sexual violence (85%). The highest proportions of respondents strongly disagreed that it's ok to hide/omit information about contraception or birth control as long as a sexual partner consents to engaging in sex (95%) and that they are entitled to have sex with someone that they're in a dating relationship with whenever they want to (93%). There was a greater divide in respondents' agreement with two statements in particular: 1) rape and sexual assault can happen unintentionally, especially if alcohol or drugs are involved, and 2) sexual assault and rape happen because people can get carried away in sexual situations once they have started.
 - Male and politically conservative respondents agreed more with the statement "rape and sexual assault happen because people put themselves in bad situations" compared to female respondents, and politically liberal or middle of the road respondents. Male respondents also agreed more with the statement "it is acceptable for dating/sexual partners to use physical force under certain circumstances" compared to female respondents.

- High proportions of respondents strongly disagreed that they observed current staff (94%) or current faculty (92%) engage in behaviors toward them that were inappropriate with respect to their personal boundaries.
- Most respondents at least somewhat disagreed that they had been subjected to sexually harassing behavior via social media (85%).
- About one-quarter of respondents at least somewhat agreed that they had sexual activity when they didn't want to because their sexual partner(s) pressured them (23%).
- About one-third of respondents at least somewhat agreed that they witnessed someone at the College behaving in a controlling or abusive way towards a sexual or romantic partner (31%).
- Over half of respondents (58%) reported never experiencing any sexual misconduct behaviors in the past year. Respondents reported most frequently experiencing inappropriate comments about their sexual attractiveness and jokes about sexual misconduct. The lowest proportions of respondents reported experiencing threat-related behaviors.
 - Female respondents reported higher rates of experiencing inappropriate or unwelcome comments about sexual attractiveness compared to male respondents.
 - LGBTQIA+ respondents reported higher rates of experiencing inappropriate or unwelcome comments about their sexual orientation compared to non-LGBTQIA+ respondents.
 - Compared to the 2019 Campus Climate Student Survey, comparable percentages of respondents reported never experiencing each behavior, and never experiencing any misconduct behaviors that were asked about. However, a higher proportion of respondents in 2022 reported experiencing inappropriate or unwelcome comments about their sexual attractiveness at compared to respondents in 2019.
- Of the respondents who reported experiencing at least one sexual misconduct behavior in the past year, the highest proportions reported that at least one behavior occurred in either a residence hall (53%) or at a party off-campus (44%). The lowest proportions of respondents reported that at least one behavior happened on a college-sponsored trip (1%), during office hours (1%), while studying in the DC or New York programs (1%), in a classroom after hours (2%), while studying abroad (3%), in a library (4%), or at an athletic event (4%).
 - Athlete respondents who reported experiencing at least one sexual misconduct behavior in the past year reported higher rates of experiencing misconduct behaviors in athletic facilities compared to non-athlete respondents.
 - Juniors, seniors, and LGBTQIA+ respondents who reported experiencing at least one sexual misconduct behavior in the past year reported higher rates of experiencing misconduct behaviors while studying abroad compared to sophomores, first years, and non-LGBTQIA+ respondents.
 - LGBTQIA+ respondents who reported experiencing at least one sexual misconduct behavior in the past year reported higher rates of experiencing misconduct behaviors at parties off-campus compared to non-LGBTQIA+ respondents.
- Of the respondents who reported experiencing at least one sexual misconduct behavior in the past year, the highest proportions reported that the perpetrators of at least one behavior were

either other Holy Cross students not in their friend group (69%) or other Holy Cross students in their friend group (43%). The lowest proportions reported that the perpetrator of at least one behavior was a Chaplain (0%), a student affairs/residence life staff member (1%), other administrators/staff (1%), athletic coaches or staff (3%), or faculty members (3%). One-fifth of respondents reported that the perpetrator of at least one behavior was not listed as an option on the survey (20%).

- A higher proportion of athlete respondents who reported experiencing at least one sexual misconduct behavior in the past year reported that the perpetrators of at least one misconduct behavior were athletic coaches or staff compared to non-athlete respondents.
- A higher proportion of respondents with no religious affiliation who reported experiencing at least one sexual misconduct behavior in the past year reported that the perpetrators of at least one misconduct behavior were visitors off-campus compared to respondents with a religious affiliation.
- Of the respondents who reported experiencing at least one sexual misconduct behavior in the past year, most indicated that they did not ever report any sexual misconduct behavior that they experienced (78%).
- Of the respondents who reported at least one negative behavior, most reported the behavior to other Holy Cross students (77%). The lowest proportion of respondents who reported at least one negative behavior told off-campus police (1%).
 - A higher proportion of juniors and first year respondents who reported at least one sexual misconduct behavior told a faculty member compared to seniors and sophomores.
 - A higher proportion of seniors and athletes who reported at least one sexual misconduct behavior reported the behavior to athletic coaches or staff compared to respondents of other class years and non-athletes.
 - A lower proportion of first generation respondents, non-athletes, and politically liberal respondents who reported at least one sexual misconduct behavior reported the behavior to a confidential on-campus resource compared to non-first generation, athlete, politically conservative, and politically middle of the road respondents.
 - A lower proportion of seniors, juniors, white, non-first generation, non-Pell eligible, and politically liberal respondents who reported at least one sexual misconduct behavior reported the behavior to a confidential off-campus resource compared to sophomore, first year, student of color, first generation, Pell eligible, politically conservative, and politically middle of the road respondents.
 - A higher proportion of student of color respondents and respondents without a religious affiliation who reported at least one sexual misconduct behavior reported the behavior to other administrators/staff not listed on the survey compared to white respondents and respondents with religious affiliations.
 - A lower proportion of politically conservative respondents who reported at least one sexual misconduct behavior reported the behavior to someone not listed on the survey compared to politically liberal and middle of the road respondents.

- Of the respondents who did not report at least one negative behavior, most did not report the behavior because they did not think that it was serious enough to report (72%). Another commonly reported reason for not reporting was that respondents wanted to deal with the problem on their own (48%). The lowest proportions of respondents reported that they didn't report because they didn't want anyone to know drinking or drugs were involved (2%), they were threatened not to come forward (2%), or they were afraid that a report might prompt questions about their sexual orientation or gender identity (3%).
 - A higher proportion of LGBTQIA+ respondents who did not report at least one negative behavior did not report the behavior because it might have prompted questions about or revealed their sexual orientation or gender identity compared to non-LGBTQIA+ respondents.
- High proportions of respondents at least somewhat agreed that they felt confident in understanding and communicating consent ($\geq 96\%$ per statement).
- A high proportion of respondents at least somewhat agreed that if they experienced sexual misconduct, they would contact the College to access resources (85%).
- In terms of bystander behaviors, high proportions of respondents reported that they would be at least somewhat likely to intervene in situations of sexual misconduct by obtaining resources for friends, and reporting and confronting perpetrators ($\geq 79\%$ per statement). However, about half of respondents reported that they were at least somewhat likely allow personal loyalties, friendships, or affiliations to impact their decision to report an incident of sexual misconduct (46%).
 - When comparing these statements to similar statements that were asked in 2019 on the Campus Climate Student Survey, it was clear that respondents in 2022 rated themselves as less likely to be bystanders for all of these statements compared to respondents in 2019.