

PRESIDENT'S CAMPUS COALITION ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND EDUCATION AT UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI RELEASES PILOT SURVEY RESULTS OF CAMPUS ATTITUDES ON SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

The President's Coalition on Sexual Violence Prevention and Education today presented the results of its pilot survey of students, detailing attitudes on the University of Miami campus toward unwanted sexual behavior and bystander intervention, prevention programming resources available around the University, and how comfortable victims have been to utilize campus services following some kind of nonconsensual behavior. This data will serve as a baseline to help shape future University programming by a group of key UM administrators, faculty and students, who were appointed in May 2014 by UM's former President, Donna Shalala.

A subcommittee of the Coalition developed an electronic survey that was modeled after existing resources from educational, private and government institutions, including the "Not Alone" survey toolkit, created by the White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault. Last Fall semester, the pilot survey was sent to 16,774 enrolled students, aged 18 or older, however, only 1,036, or 6.2%, of students agreed to participate, 954 of which completed the survey.

In this first-time survey, students were asked a series of questions about the attitudes they experience on the UM campus. They were invited to share their opinions about the University's sexual misconduct written-complaint policy, perceptions of other students, their experiences with a variety of behaviors believed to be associated with "rape culture," their awareness of and participation in sexual-violence prevention programming, and their awareness of and comfort with on-campus resources.

Overall, survey participants report a common culture of attitudes about rape and sexual violence, including hearing sexist remarks or jokes about women (89%) and men (72%), including in online posts (67.4%). As to the "rape myth":

- 11.6% of respondents agreed that a drunk person who is assaulted or raped is, at least somewhat, responsible for putting themselves in that situation
- 8.7% of respondents agreed that sexual assault and rape often occurs because the way the victim said "no" was unclear or there was some miscommunication
- 23.8% of respondents agreed that sexual assault and rape happens because people get carried away
- 29.8% of respondents reported that sexual assault and rape can happen unintentionally especially if alcohol is involved

PERCEPTIONS OF ON-CAMPUS SERVICES

Just over half of all respondents indicated that they were aware of any campus programs that provide information or training related to sexual violence (all respondents: 54.4%; female: 55.6%; male: 50.7%). Roughly one-third reported participation in any campus programming that provided information or training related to sexual violence (all respondents: 31.3%; female: 32.3%; male: 28.6%.) Additionally:

- 52.6% of respondents believe there are good support systems in place for students who are going through difficult times
- 52.6% of respondents believe the University of Miami does enough to protect the safety of students
- When asked if the University does enough to educate students about sexual violence, male respondents agreed 50.4% of the time, while female respondents agreed 27.3% of the time.
- Less than 20% of respondents reported they knew how to report issues of sexual assault or sexual harassment
- 33.4% of students indicated low confidence that the University oversees procedures fairly following a report (45.7% confidence for men; 28.8% confidence for women).
- 74.1% believe that the University would “limit knowledge of a report to involved parties”
- 61.7% believe the University would take steps to protect individuals making a report
- More men (60.5%) than women (45.4%) believed the University would “take action” against an offender.

ON-CAMPUS RESOURCE AWARENESS AND COMFORT UTILIZATION

There was overwhelmingly good awareness of campus resources, in descending order, from: the University of Miami Police Department, Student Health Services, Dean of Students Office, Counseling Center, Sexual Assault Resource Team (SART), and Title IX Coordinator. Comfort using them varied as follows:

- Counseling Center (64.2%)
- Student Health Services (58%)
- Sexual Assault Resource Team (76.8%)
- UMPD (47.8%. Gender differences: female: 45.4%; male: 54.5%)
- Dean of Students Office (29.5%. Gender differences: female: 29.4%; male: 41.3%).
- Title IX Coordinator (17.9%. Gender differences: female 14.6%; male: 27%).

BYSTANDER PERCEPTIONS AND INTERVENTION SELF EFFICACY

Regardless of gender, students' responses generally believe that most UM students respect personal boundaries, would respect someone who did something to prevent a sexual assault, and would watch out for them at a social event or party.

- 45.2% believed most students would take action to prevent a sexual assault from occurring (female: 41.8%; male: 54.9%)
- 92% reported they agree they would speak up if friends say it is acceptable to have sex with someone who is intoxicated or who had passed out
- 93.4% indicated they agree they would talk to a friend in an abusive relationship
- 93.1% indicated they would get help and resources for a friend, or go with them to talk to someone who had experienced sexual misconduct or relationship violence
- 78.2% reported they would tell a resident assistant or other campus authority about information they had that might help in a sexual assault case
- 66.9% believe taking action to prevent sexual assault could lead to them getting physically hurt (66.9%)
- 58.2% believe taking action to prevent sexual assault could lead to them being embarrassed if they intervene when nothing is wrong
- 53.5% believe taking action to prevent sexual assault could lead to them cost friendships
- 26.8% reported not knowing what to do to prevent a sexual assault or rape

THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Respondents reported the following phenomena:

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

- 19% of respondents reported being *victims* of IPV (women 20.3%, men 14.4%)
- 5.2% reported being *perpetrators* of IPV (women 5.5%, men 4.5%)
- Females reported more experiences of stalking and harassment, whereas males reported more experiences of coercive control and expressed anger

Unwanted sexual experiences

- 28.6% reported experiencing unwelcome fondling, kissing, rubbing of genitals, or removal of clothing on one or more occasions (34.3% women, 12.7% men)
- 11.9% experienced *attempted* forced oral sex (13.8% women, 6.4% men)
- 8.4% experienced *completed* forced oral sex (9.3% women, 5.6% men)
- 12.9% experienced *attempted* sexual penetration (15.8% women, 4.8% men)
- 9.5% experienced *completed* sexual penetration (12.4% women, 0.8% men)
- The perpetrator was male (93%)

- The perpetrator was known to the victim (86.3%)
- The perpetrator was believed to have been using alcohol or other substances (67.3%)
- 11 students reported initiating unwelcome fondling, kissing, rubbing of genitals, or removal of clothing on one or more occasions (9 women, 2 men)
- 6 students reported initiating *attempted* forced oral sex (4 women, 2 men)
- 4 students reported initiating *completed* forced oral sex (3 women, 1 man)
- 5 students reported initiating *attempted* sexual penetration (3 women, 3 men)
- 4 students reported initiating *completed* sexual penetration (3 women, 1 man)

Reporting Unwanted Sexual Experiences

The following reflect percentages of students who reported experiencing unwanted sexual activity:

- 12.7% reported they never spoke of the incident with anyone (10% of the women who responded and 40% of the men).
- Confidential campus resources (these campus professionals collect and maintain confidential information that would only be reflected in the University's Annual Security Report (ASR) if the reporting party ALSO chose to report the incident to a non-confidential source) were reportedly informed of nearly 4% of those incidents.
 - Counseling Center – 2.3%
 - Student Health Services – 1.3%
 - Sexual Assault Resource Team – 0.3% / 1 student
- Responsible employees (as required by law, the numbers below are reflected in the ASR) were reportedly informed of just more than 4% of those incidents.
 - Dean of Students Office – 1.6%
 - UMPD – 0.7%
 - Title IX Coordinator – 0.7%
- Survey respondents chose to confide in faculty members (neither confidential resources nor responsible employees based on current University policy) in roughly 1% of those incidents.
- Survey respondents who experienced sexual violence chose to talk with someone other than a university resource in nearly 78% of those incidents. "Others" may include roommates, friends, parents or other relatives, family friends, or romantic partners. (Note: These incidents may or may not have ever been reported to the university.)

With these results, The Coalition pledges to undertake the following:

- Better promotion of campus services and how they work
- Increased community messaging (increased emphasis in community messaging began in the summer of 2015 through the "It's On Us" Campaign)
- Increased / focused education on rape myths and the gender differences reported

- Increased efforts in bystander intervention
- Creation of “dialogues” around sexual misconduct and gender discrimination prevention, education, as well as services available for survivors
- Integration of messaging into all areas of campus academic and non-academic life
- Improved methodology for future survey implementation, including multiple shorter, focused surveys rather than one long survey, varied launch timelines, and intentional sampling
- Increased promotion of future surveys

Another survey is expected to be conducted in the Spring 2016 semester.

You can also follow this story in the *Miami Hurricane* by following this link:

<http://www.themiamihurricane.com/2015/10/26/survey-gathers-insight-of-sexual-assault-at-university-of-miami/>