



Institutional Assessment and Effectiveness

SUNY Oneonta Sexual Violence Prevention (SVP) Campus Climate Survey Report Fall 2016

Executive Summary

Background

SUNY Oneonta (henceforth, Oneonta) is committed to providing a safe environment for all students, faculty, and staff. To this end, Oneonta participated in the pilot administration of the SUNY Sexual Violence Prevention (SVP) survey in fall 2016. The survey was designed after New York state enacted a law requiring all SUNY campuses to assess respondents' awareness of their institution's policies regarding the reporting of sexual assault and violence, the adjudication process for these, and the resources available to victims.

A total of 319 of the approximately 1,100 Oneonta faculty/staff members (henceforth employees) consented to participate; however, only 278 completed the survey. Similarly, 691 out of approximately 6,000 students enrolled in the fall of 2016 consented to participate, but only 622 completed the survey. Race, gender, and other demographics were not collected for employees. All student respondents were at least 18 years old (96% were between 18 and 24). The majority of students identified as white (81%), female (81%) and heterosexual (77%).

Two versions of the survey were created; one for faculty and staff, and one for students. The faculty survey was composed of 58 questions. The student survey was composed of 111 of questions, as it included questions about individual experiences with sexual assault and other forms of violence.

SUNY System Administration contracted with CampusLabs to administer the survey online. Oneonta's Office of Institutional Assessment & Effectiveness provided CampusLabs with employee and student population contact information. Potential participants received an initial email inviting them to participate in the survey. In addition to the initial email, participants received two reminders via email. The survey was open for approximately three weeks.

Results

Forty-nine percent of employees and 61% of students either strongly agree or agree that the college should do more to protect students from harm. Yet, 65% of employees and 60% of students believe that if a crisis happened in Oneonta, the college would handle it well. Similarly, 70% of both employees and students noted that if they reported an incident of sexual violence, the victim would receive the necessary support during the investigation. Seventy-two percent of students and 70% of faculty reported having received information (written or verbal) about the definition of sexual assault. However, 39% of employees and 55% of students reported that they have not received or are not sure that they received information about Title IX protections against sexual assault. Sixty-seven percent of employees and 60% of students know where to go to get help for victims of sexual assault. Only 34% percent of students and 58% of employees reported receiving training in prevention of sexual assault. Of these, 3% of students and less than 1% of employees did not find the training useful at all.

Limitations and Recommendations

Results from the fall 2016 SVP survey have limitations. It is important to note that the data gathered came from a pilot administration of the survey. The results of the pilot were used to make changes to the final surveys, as well as their administration in spring 2017. The response rates for these surveys are within the range of what we may have come to expect from online surveys. However, the responses are self-reported, so biases (selection bias, social desirability, etc.) are inherent in them. Still, the number of individuals reporting not having received information and/or training about sexual assault, prevention, and the adjudication of these suggests additional education may be needed to ensure employees and students know how to properly respond to sexual assault and violence on campus.