

UA's 2019 Climate Survey results indicate prevalence of misconduct similar to other universities

Background

The University of Alaska conducts annual systemwide climate surveys to determine the prevalence of sexual harassment, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence among university students and gather feedback on institutional response and overall perceptions of campus climate

A report with the results of the 2019 University of Alaska Climate Survey is now available for review [HERE](#).

The 2019 Climate Survey, conducted in conjunction with Brad Myrstol of the UAA Justice Center, used the survey instrument developed by the Administrator Researcher Campus Climate Collaborative (ARC3). The open source survey is nationally recognized for utilizing vetted methodology, and, importantly, allows the university to compare its results to other universities across the country. In fact, the survey found that UA's rates of sexual misconduct are similar to other public universities.

The ARC3 survey was distributed to a sample of 10,000 undergraduate and graduate students between March 18 and April 15, 2019. Reminders to the group were sent four times via email. There was an 8.4 percent response rate.

The sex/gender identity of UA student respondents was used as the primary point of comparison rather than specific campus data. The experiences focused on in the survey are heavily gendered experiences, and with minor exceptions, there was no significant difference in responses from students at UAA, UAF and UAS.

Research consistently shows that while people of all sexes/genders experience sexual harassment, stalking, dating violence and sexual assault, those who identify as female or gender non-conforming (GNC) experience victimization at much higher rates than those who identify as male.

Findings

The survey revealed the prevalence of sexual harassment, stalking, dating violence or sexual assault victimization experienced by UA students. The research indicates that potentially thousands of UA students may have been victims of one or more forms of sexual misconduct since enrolling at the university, including on- or off-campus incidents.

A comparison of UA's prevalence rates with universities that have conducted campus

Nearly half of UA students (47.9 percent) reported experiencing sexual harassment perpetrated by fellow students. Less than five percent of UA students indicated that they told the person to stop, or that they reported the person.

A large majority of the sexual harassment incidents experienced by UA students occurred at an on-campus location. Among students who were sexually harassed by university faculty, instructors or staff, approximately 85 percent reported that the incident occurred on campus. A smaller percentage of students who were sexually harassed by fellow UA students—an estimated 72.4 percent —reported that incidents occurred on campus.

Key Findings/Stalking

Overall, approximately 1 out of every 4 UA students (26.1 percent) experienced at least one instance of stalking since enrolling at the university. Female UA students are significantly more likely than male or gender non-conforming students to experience stalking. Slightly more than half of stalking perpetrators were identified by victims as being fellow UA students, and less than half of stalking incidents occurred on campus.

Stalking victimization was measured using 10 survey items including how many times one or more people did the following: (1) watched or followed respondents from a distance, or spied on respondents with a listening device, camera, or GPS; (2) approached them or showed up in places such as their home, workplace, or school when the respondent didn't want them to be there; (3) left strange or potentially threatening items for the respondent to find; (4) sneaked into a respondent's home or car and did things to scare them by letting the respondent know they'd been there; (5) left the respondent unwanted messages, including text or voice messages; (6) made unwanted phone calls to the respondent, including hang-up calls; (7) sent the respondent unwanted emails or instant messages, or sent messages through social media apps; (8) left the respondent cards, letters, flowers or presents when they knew the respondent didn't want them to; (9) made rude or mean comments to a respondent online; or, (10) spread rumors about the respondent online, whether they were true or not.

If a survey participant indicated that they experienced *any* of these behaviors since enrolling at the university, they were coded as having experienced stalking.

Key Findings/Dating Violence

An estimated 14.9 percent of UA students—roughly 3,000 individuals— experienced at least one incident of dating violence since enrolling at the university. Female UA students are significantly more likely than male students, but not gender non-conforming students, to experience dating violence victimization.

Nearly 9 out of 10 dating violence victims indicated that the perpetrator was a current or former intimate partner or spouse. Less than one-fourth of victims reported that dating violence perpetrators were fellow UA students, and only about 10 percent of victims indicated that the dating violence incident that impacted them the most occurred at an on-campus location.

The survey asked respondents to indicate dating violence committed by "any hook-up, boyfriend, girlfriend, husband, or wife you have had, including exes, regardless of the length of the relationship, since you enrolled at the University of Alaska." Dating violence prevalence was measured if respondents indicated experiencing any of these five things, not including horseplay or joking around: (1) the person threatened to hurt the respondent and the respondent thought they might really get hurt; (2) the person pushed, grabbed or shook the respondent; (3) the person hit the respondent; (4) the person beat up the respondent; or, (5) the person stole or destroyed property of the respondent. Dating violence prevalence was measured if respondents indicated experiencing any of these five things, not including horseplay or joking around: (1) the person threatened to hurt the respondent and the respondent thought they might really get hurt; (2) the person pushed, grabbed or shook the respondent; (3) the person hit the respondent; (4) the person beat up the respondent; or, (5) the person stole or destroyed property of the respondent.

report their experiences to university employees. Only 2 percent reported to the Title IX Office, and less than 1 percent reported to campus police.