

# **Bates College Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Misconduct**

## **Summary Findings**

Bates College, February 2017

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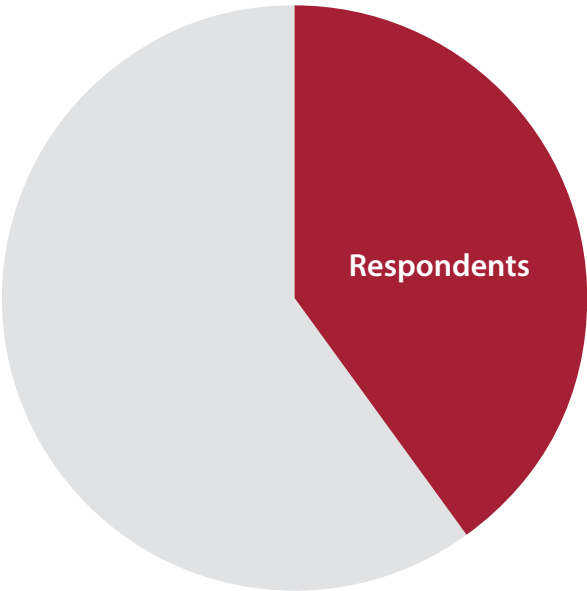
For more information: [www.bates.edu/sexualrespect](http://www.bates.edu/sexualrespect)

Data compiled by the Office of Institutional Research, Analysis, & Planning,

# Survey Background

In Spring 2016, Bates College distributed the Bates Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Misconduct. The survey was developed in conjunction with the Director of Title IX and Civil Rights. Compliance, the Office of Institutional Research, Analysis, and Planning, the Office of the Dean of Students, and the Office of the President.

The survey was distributed to 1,891 Bates students. This number exceeds the college's reported enrollment numbers because it includes students who were studying abroad or in other off-campus study programs and students who were on leave from the college. There was a total of 838 responses, yielding a response rate of 44%. All responses were anonymous. The survey did not collect any identifying information other than what was provided by the survey respondents. To protect the identity of respondents, when there are 5 or fewer respondents to questions about identity or the nature of unwanted sexual contact or sexual assault, the numbers were masked in the reporting of the data.



1,891	Surveys distributed
838	Responses
44%	Response rate

## Demographic and Background Characteristics of Respondents

For the most part, the survey responses were representative of the overall Bates student population. Each class year represented about a quarter of survey responses, which is consistent with the overall student population.

- A slight majority of survey respondents were female and similar to the proportion of females in the overall student population (55% of respondents vs. 51% of students).
- Where the survey respondent population deviated most was in regard to race/ethnicity. White students were overrepresented in the population of survey respondents.
- Most students (86%) reported that their sexual orientation was heterosexual or straight.
- Students represented a broad range of activities. 95% reported that they were active in at least one campus activity, with academic organizations/clubs (56%), intercollegiate athletics (39%), and camping, hiking, and outdoor activities (32%) being the most popular types of activities.

	Survey Respondents	Actual Enrollment
<b>Gender</b>		
Female	55%	51%
Male	43%	49%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
White	77.8%	71.4%
Hispanic	6.2%	7.6%
International	5.3%	7.3%
Black or African American	3.7%	4.9%
Asian	3.6%	3.9%
Multiracial	3.3%	4.5%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.1%	0.2%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%

# Incidents of Misconduct: Definitions

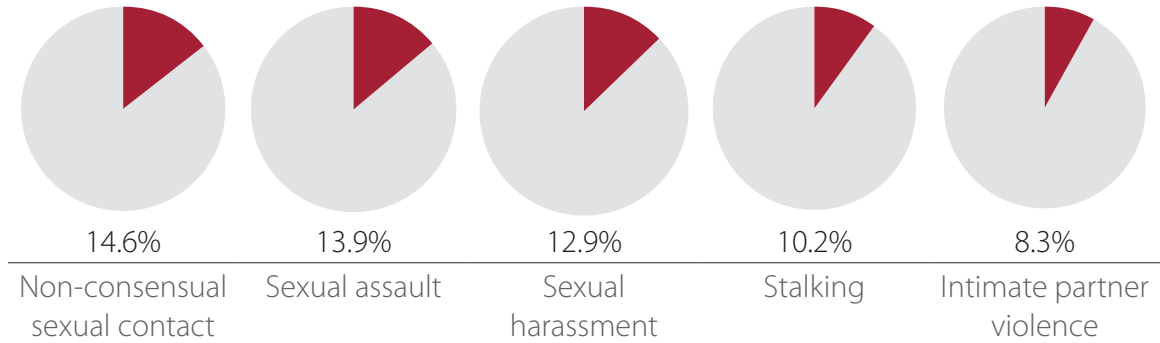
This survey asked students about their personal experiences with sexual misconduct, such as harassment, sexual assault, and other forms of violence.

For analysis of the survey results, incident types were categorized and defined as follows:

<b>Incident Type</b>	<b>Survey Question</b>
<b>Sexual harassment</b>	Has another Bates community member said or done something of a sexual nature that interfered with your academic performance or created an intimidating, hostile or offensive academic, social, or residential environment?
<b>Stalking</b>	Has someone made unwanted phone calls, sent emails, voice, text or instant messages, or posted messages, pictures or video on social media sites in a way that made you afraid for your personal safety?  Has someone showed up, spied on, watched or followed you in a way that made you afraid for your personal safety?
<b>Non-consensual sexual contact</b>	Has someone used physical force or threats of physical force to kiss you or to touch you in a sexual way?  Have you experienced any kind of non-consensual sexual contact when you were unable to consent because you were passed out, asleep or incapacitated by drugs or alcohol?
<b>Intimate partner violence</b>	Has an intimate partner physically harmed you or threatened to physically harm you?  Has an intimate partner controlled (or tried to control) you?
<b>Sexual assault</b>	Have you ever had sexual intercourse (including oral sex) when you did not want to because you were overwhelmed by continual arguments or pressure?  Has someone used physical force or threats of physical force to have or attempt to have sexual intercourse (including oral sex) with you?  Have you experienced sexual intercourse (including oral sex) when you were unable to consent because you were passed out, asleep or incapacitated by drugs or alcohol?

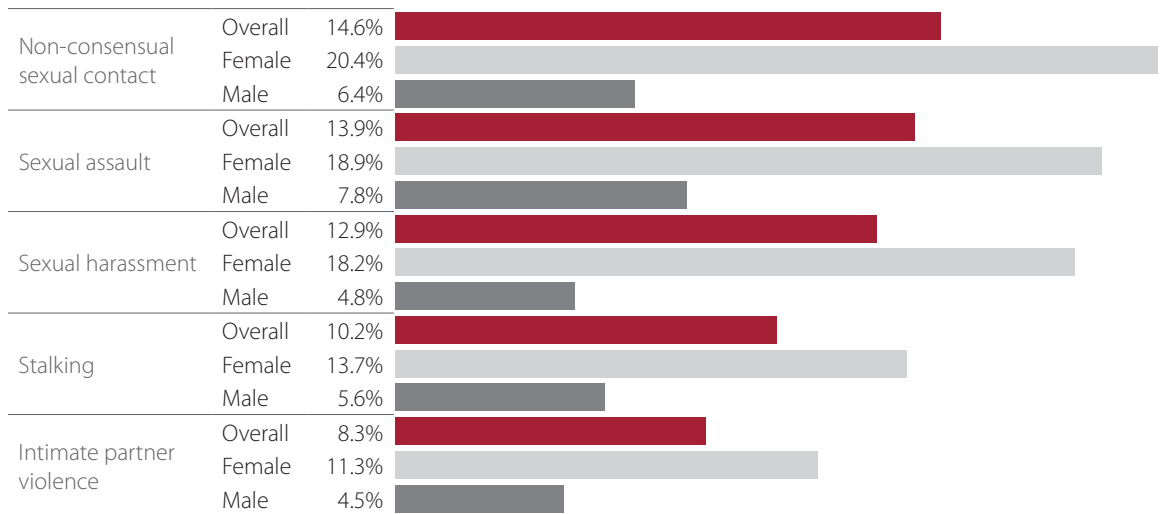
## Incidents of Misconduct

25.5% of respondents reported having experienced at least one incident of any type during their time at Bates. 23.9% experienced at least one incident of a type other than sexual harassment (stalking, intimate partner violence, sexual assault, or non-consensual sexual contact). 19.6% reported having experienced either sexual assault or non-consensual sexual contact.



- Respondents were most likely to have reported that they have experienced non-consensual sexual contact (14.6%), while intimate partner violence was the least common incident type (8.3%).

## Gender and Incident Type



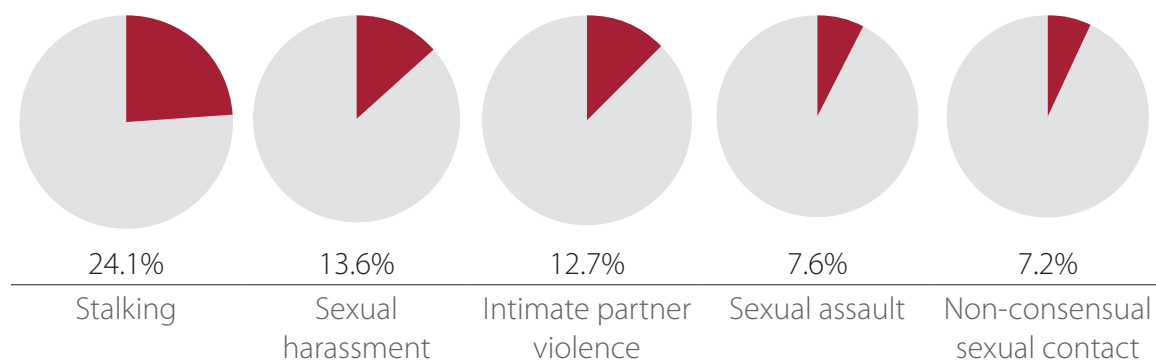
The most frequent incident type among females was non-consensual sexual contact (20.4%), while the most frequent incident type among males was sexual assault (7.8%). Intimate partner violence was the least common incident type for both males and females. Gender difference showed 33.6% of females, 14.6% of males, and 57.9% (n=7) of students in other gender categories reported having experienced at least one incident of any type.

## Reporting of Incidents

Respondents were asked to indicate whether they made official reports of the incidents that they have experienced. In most cases, students responded that they did not make an official report.

- The incident type that was reported at the highest rate was stalking. About a quarter of those who experienced stalking (24.1%) indicated that they made an official report.
- The incident types that most often went unreported were non-consensual sexual contact (7.2%) and sexual assault (7.6%).
- Comparing gender identities, there were no significant differences in reporting for any of the incident types.

### Reporting by Incident Type



### Non-Reporting

Respondents were asked, "If you did not report this incident, which of the following thoughts or concerns crossed your mind when you decided not to report your experience?" The most frequent response, by far, was that the respondent did not think it was serious enough to share (73%). Other frequent responses were that they did not want the person to get into trouble or any action to be taken (40%), that they wanted to forget it happened (38%), and that they did not recognize the incident as sexual misconduct at the time it happened (35%).

Exploring the differences by incident type, the most frequent response was usually that the reporting party did not think that the incident was serious enough to share. There was one incident type for which this was an exception; for the reporting parties of sexual assault, the most common response was that they wanted to forget that it happened, while not thinking that it was serious enough to share was the second most frequent response.

## Reasons for not Reporting

<b>73%</b>	I did not think it was serious enough to share.
<b>40%</b>	I did not want the person to get into trouble or any action to be taken.
<b>38%</b>	I wanted to forget it happened.
<b>35%</b>	I did not recognize the incident as sexual misconduct at the time.
<b>34%</b>	I feared negative social consequences.
<b>30%</b>	I felt embarrassed or ashamed or thought that it would be too emotionally difficult.
<b>30%</b>	I lacked proof that the incident happened.
<b>22%</b>	I did not think the college would do anything.
<b>20%</b>	I feared it would not be kept confidential.
<b>13%</b>	I did not think anyone would believe me.
<b>11%</b>	I did not want anyone to know the other things I was doing at the time (underage drinking, etc.).
<b>7%</b>	I feared for my personal safety.

With the exception of stalking, more than a quarter of reporting parties in each incident type indicated that they did not recognize the incident as sexual misconduct at the time, including 48% of sexual assault incidents.

On average, students gave more than 5 reasons for not reporting incidents of intimate partner violence and sexual assault, compared to about 3 reasons for stalking and sexual harassment incidents.



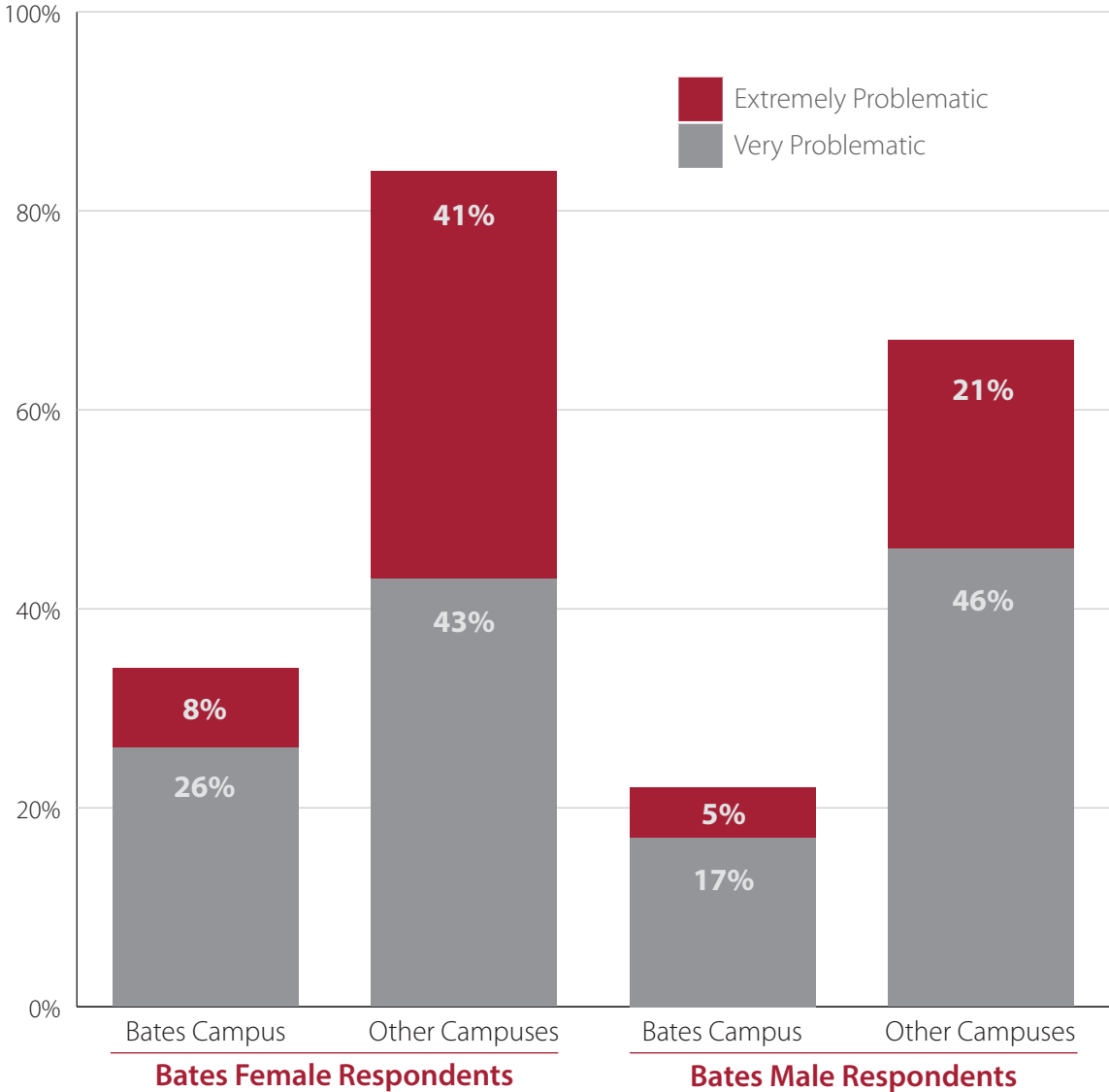
# Perceptions of Risk

82% reported that they feel “extremely” or “very” safe on the Bates campus.

77% indicated that they believe that sexual assault and other sexual misconduct on college campuses in general is “extremely” or “very” problematic.

29% reported that they believe that sexual assault and other sexual misconduct on the Bates campus are “extremely” or “very” problematic.

**Bates Student Perception of Risk at Bates and Other College Campuses by Gender**



## Perceptions of Leadership, Policies, and Reporting

Overall, 83% of respondents reported that they were satisfied with the information they have received from the college regarding policies and procedures regarding sexual assault, sexual harassment, and other sexual misconduct. This included 79% of females and 89% of males.

The vast majority of respondents (greater than 90%) indicated that they believe that it is likely that the college would keep knowledge of the report limited to those who need to know in order for the college to respond properly, take the report seriously, and provide support to the person making the report.

Respondents also believed that the college would take action to remedy the underlying factors that may have led to the sexual assault (56%) and that the college would provide support to the person who is accused of committing the assault or misconduct (61%).

## Bystander Behaviors

Nearly all respondents indicated that they “always” or “usually” ask for consent from their partners (91%).

The majority of respondents reported that, when the situation has arisen, they “always” or “usually” walk home a friend who has had too much to drink, intervene when they see someone acting in a sexually aggressive manner, challenge a friend who made a sexist joke, and try to distract someone who was trying to take a drunk person to another room.

Only about a quarter of students responded that they “always” or “usually” ask a student they did not know if they need to be walked home from a party, when the situation has arisen.

## National Comparisons

In recent years, many colleges and universities have conducted surveys on sexual misconduct and have made their results public on their websites. These institutional reports are valuable for comparing results and putting numbers in context. Additionally, you can find information on three multi-institutional efforts at the links below:

AAU: [www.aau.edu/Climate-Survey.aspx?id=16525](http://www.aau.edu/Climate-Survey.aspx?id=16525)

CCSVS: [www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/ccsvsfr.pdf](http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/ccsvsfr.pdf)

HEDS: [www.hedsconsortium.org/sexual-assault-survey/](http://www.hedsconsortium.org/sexual-assault-survey/)



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