

Date: September 26, 2024

To: Martin Berger, Provost

From: Jackie Hennard, Director Title IX, EEO, and Employee Relations

Copy: Alex Holt, EVP Finance and Administration
Denise Banks, Chief Human Resources Officer

Re: Illinois Board of Higher Education Campus Sexual Misconduct Survey Results

Requirements

In August 2021, the Illinois Preventing Sexual Violence in Higher Education Act was amended to require institutions of higher education to conduct an annual anonymous campus sexual misconduct climate survey. The requirement was in response to other surveys that have found that 90-95% of survivors of sexual violence did not make a report to their institution following such an incident.

The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) recommended that institutions field the survey for the first time in Spring 2024. Institutions that fielded the survey in Spring 2024 are required to report results using an IBHE provided template by September 30, 2024.

The survey contains 90 questions and takes on average 45 minutes to complete.

Background

Human Resources retained a team from the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) to administer the survey, provide raw anonymized data, a summary table and complete the state's required template.

Consistent with IBHE's guidelines, the survey was distributed to all students enrolled during the 2023 - 2024 academic year who were at least 18 years old including undergraduate [2917], graduate [751], continuing studies [1478], and students who have taken a leave of absence [421], totaling 5,414 students. The survey was distributed via email between May 7, 2024 and June 18, 2024 consistent with IBHE's recommendation to have the survey open for six weeks. Students received an invitation to complete the survey and weekly email reminders encouraging them to complete the survey. 301 students completed at least a portion of the survey. Institutions are only to report responses where at least 20 participants responded to the question. SAIC provided responses to 52 of the 90 questions.

The response rate was likely influenced by the survey taking approximately 45 minutes to complete and the difficult nature of the subject matter. While we are unable to confirm, we also anticipate that students who have experienced sexual misconduct or otherwise been involved in a Title IX resolution process would be more likely to respond to the entire survey. Thus, we recognize that the results are not necessarily reflective of the general student population.

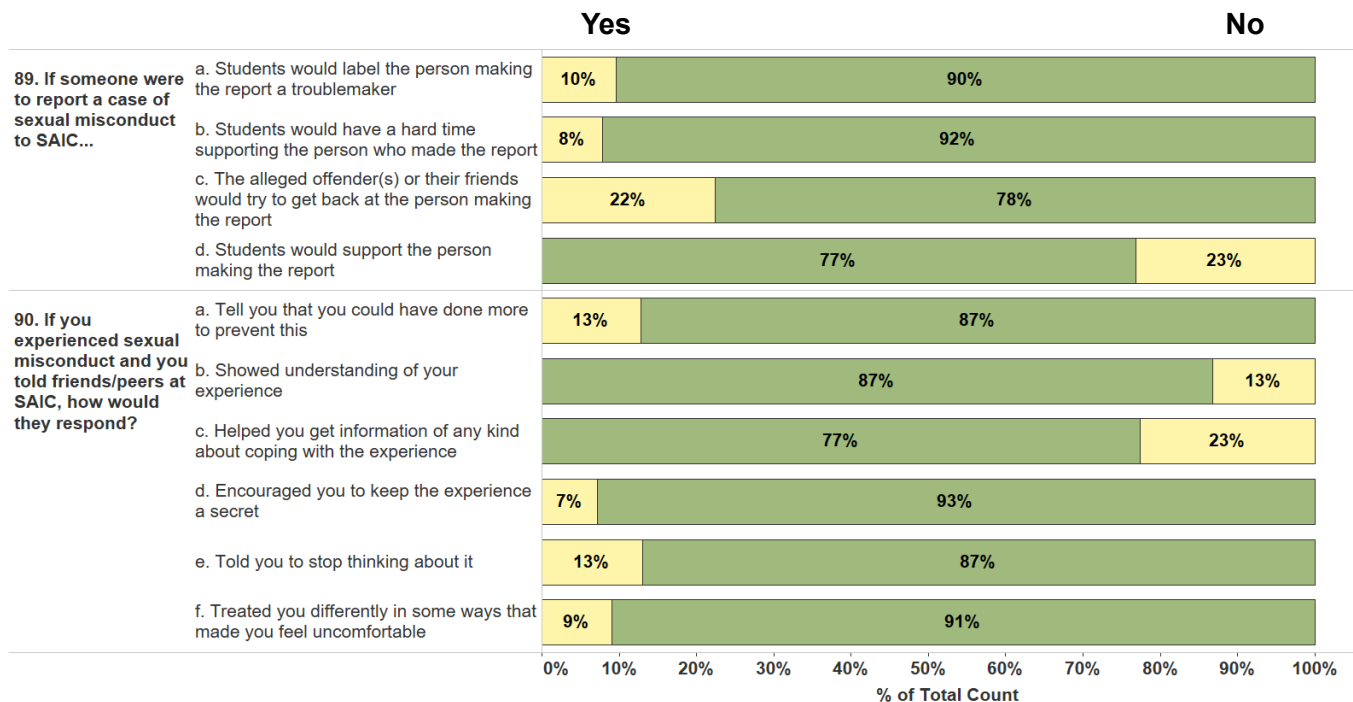
Summary Outcomes

Anticipated Responses from Friends

There were high percentages of favorable responses to hypothetical questions about how students anticipate friends would respond after learning if someone reported sexual misconduct. Similarly, there were high percentages of favorable responses to a series of hypothetical questions as to how students believed their friends would respond if they experienced sexual misconduct while at SAIC.

Category

- Favorable
- Unfavorable



The Title IX Office hopes to sustain and build upon these favorable results. Our campus community messaging, including training, includes information for people who may have experienced sexual misconduct or sexual violence but also encourages people to consider our resources if they may be in a situation where they can help a friend or anyone else who may disclosure such an experience.

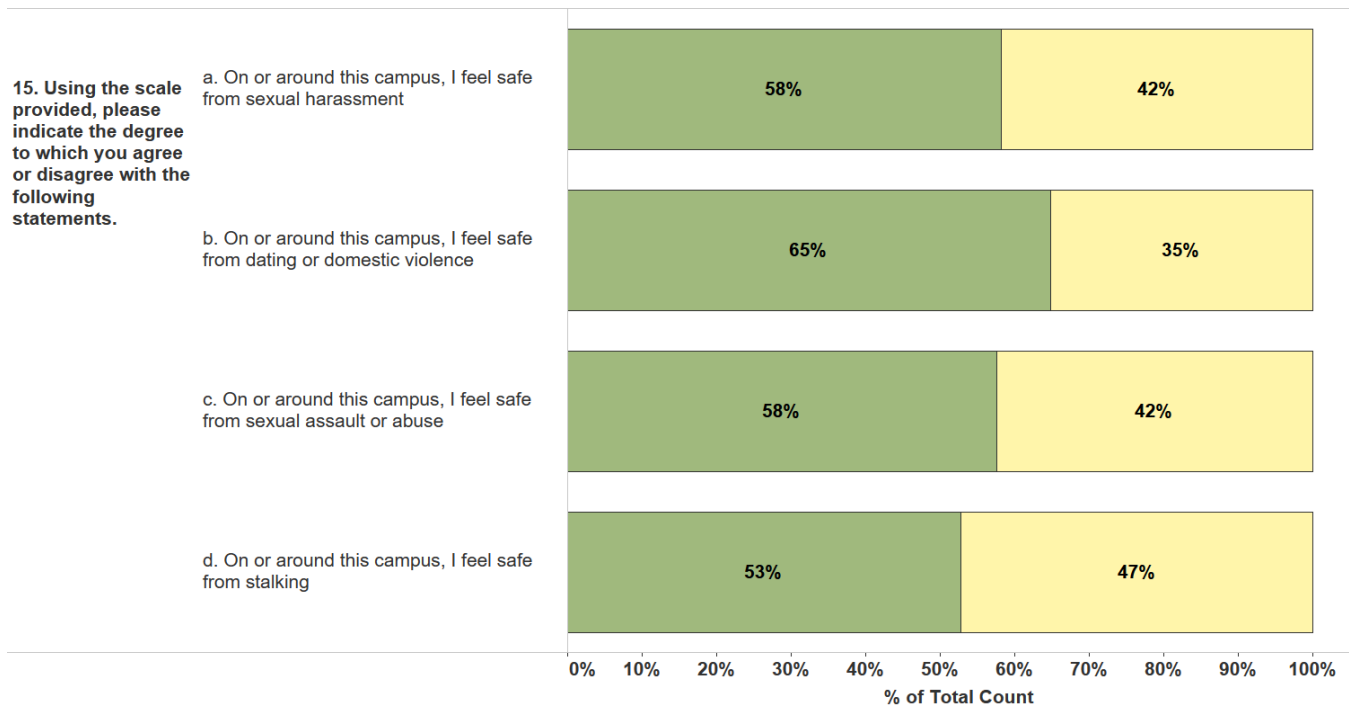
Feeling Safe

We found the responses reflecting students' feelings of safety on campus to be particularly important. The most favorable responses involve feeling safe from intimate partner violence. Of 274 students who responded to the question, 65% indicated that they feel safe from dating or domestic violence.

Category

■ Favorable

■ Unfavorable

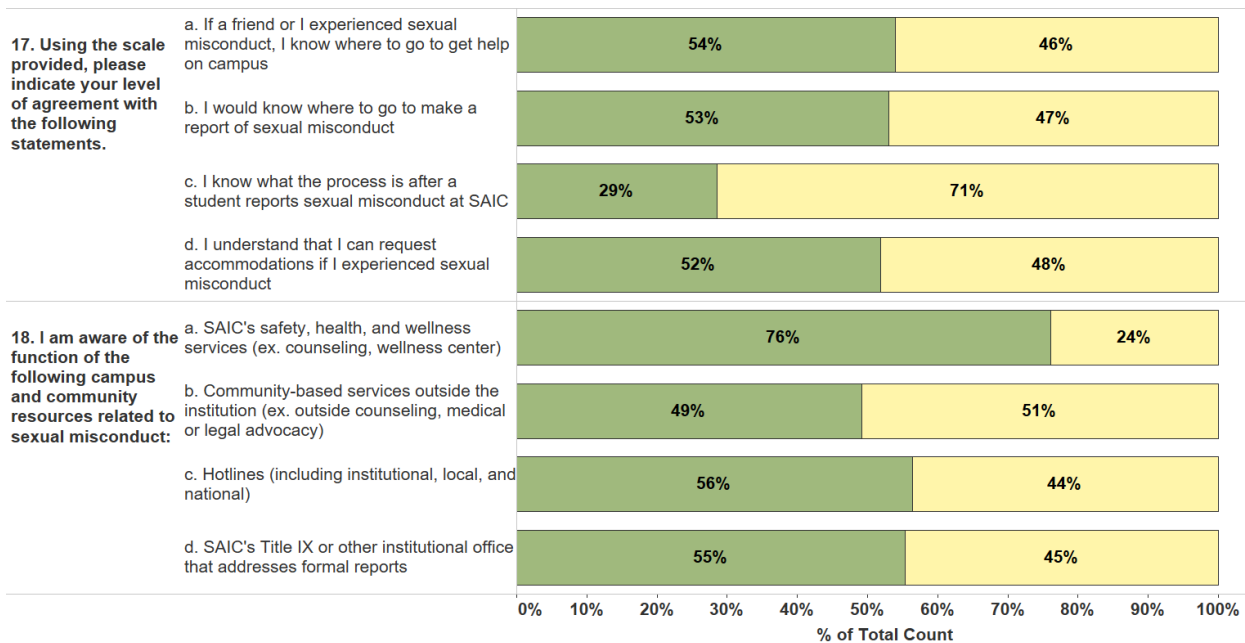


Awareness for Reporting

Response rates regarding awareness of SAIC’s safety, health, and wellness services as a campus resource related to sexual misconduct received a 76% positive response. Response rates regarding awareness for reporting options, specifically through the Title IX Office are an area to focus on in the upcoming academic year. Of particular note, 263 students who responded to the statement, “I know what the process is after a student reports sexual misconduct at SAIC,” only 29% provided a favorable response.

Category

- Favorable
- Unfavorable



We have revised our current training to focus less on the legal requirements of Title IX and more on a message that reporting allows us to provide information about resources and an opportunity to discuss multiple resolution options, including supportive measures and informal processes. We further plan on developing initiatives focused on prevention, building trust with the Title IX Office, and highlighting local resources.

Survey results are required by the state to be posted by September 30, 2024.

[Copy of Sexual Misconduct IBHE State Report - SAIC 2024.xlsx.pdf](#)