



Olin College of Engineering

Campus Climate

Sexual Misconduct Survey of Students, Spring 2023

Frances Mantak, MPH – Director of Wellness

Mike Nguyen, MS – Director of Institutional Research & Decision Support

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Content Warning

This is a difficult topic, so please do whatever you need to do to take care of yourself.

You can find on campus and off campus resources at www.olin.edu/about/TitleIX/resources

Background

- The Campus Climate Survey was administered in spring of 2023, as part of the Sexual Violence on Higher Education Campuses Law (Chapter 233), which requires that all IHEs in Mass conduct climate surveys of students at least every 4 years.
- Olin used the survey instrument that was provided by the Survey Task Force designated in Chapter 233. These survey questions come from validated survey instruments.
- Chapter 233 requires institutions to post a summary of the results on their website.
- We received Institutional Review Board approval to conduct the survey.
- Because of the difficult nature of the questions, resources were provided for students in all communications about the survey, such as the email introduction, email reminders, and on every page of the survey.

Survey Topics

- The Campus Climate Survey included the following topics:
 - Perceptions of Olin's response to these issues
 - Knowledge of Resources related to Sexual Misconduct
 - Experiences of Sexual Misconduct
 - Sexual Harassment by staff, faculty or students
 - Stalking
 - Sexual Assault
 - Dating Abuse
 - Institutional Responses to Sexual Misconduct
 - Bystander Intervention Behaviors
- The timeframe for all questions: since you enrolled at Olin

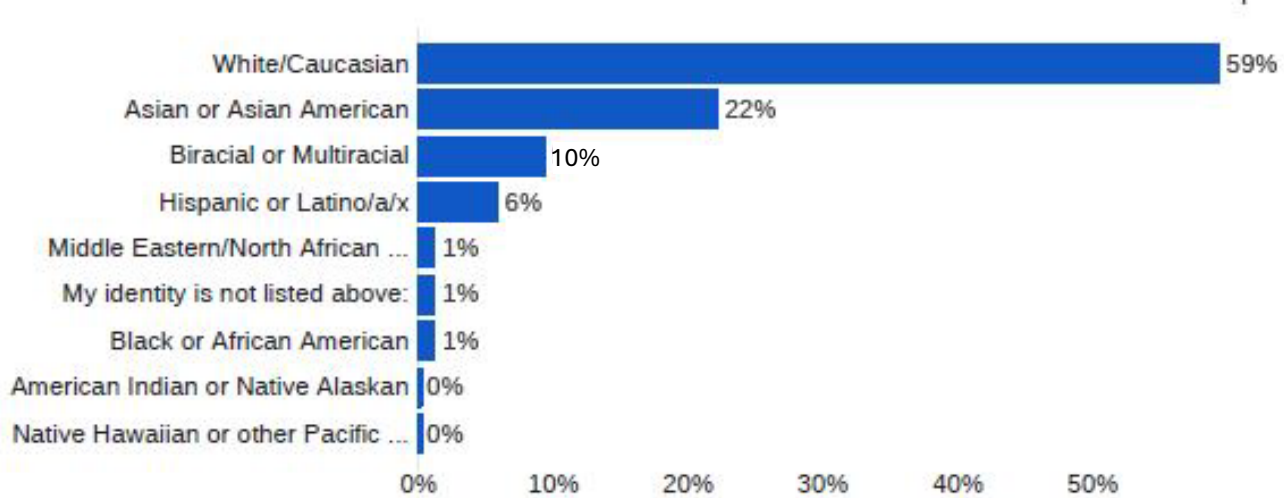
Responses

- 73 students responded to the survey
 - 22% response rate (All 336 students invited to participate)
- Demographics of students at Olin reflected in responses
- Every question was optional, so many of the results reported here have much smaller numbers.
- Because Olin is a small college, it will be difficult to make many generalizations regarding the results.
- Response numbers are too small to analyze differences across demographic groups.

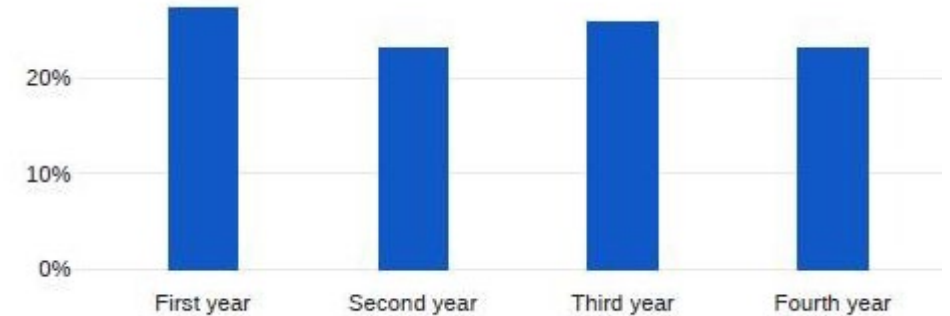
Demographics

Demographics

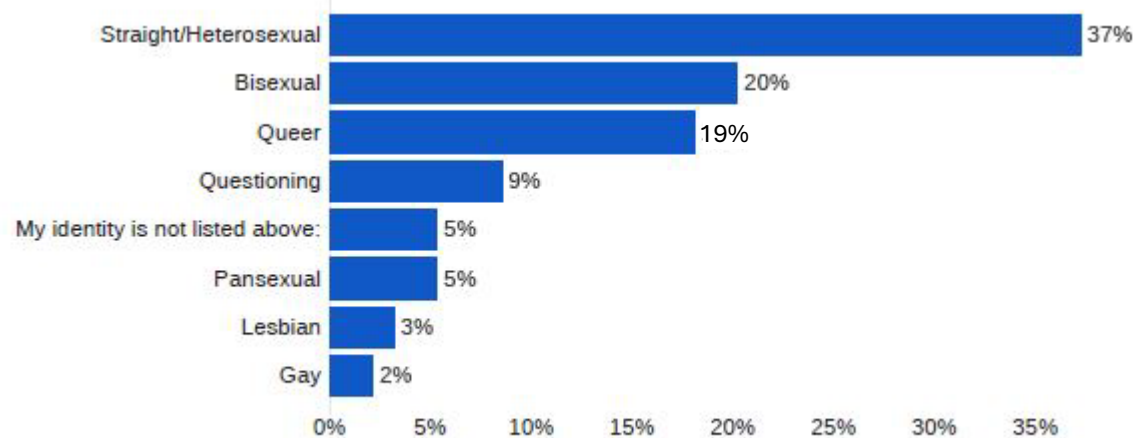
Race/Ethnicity



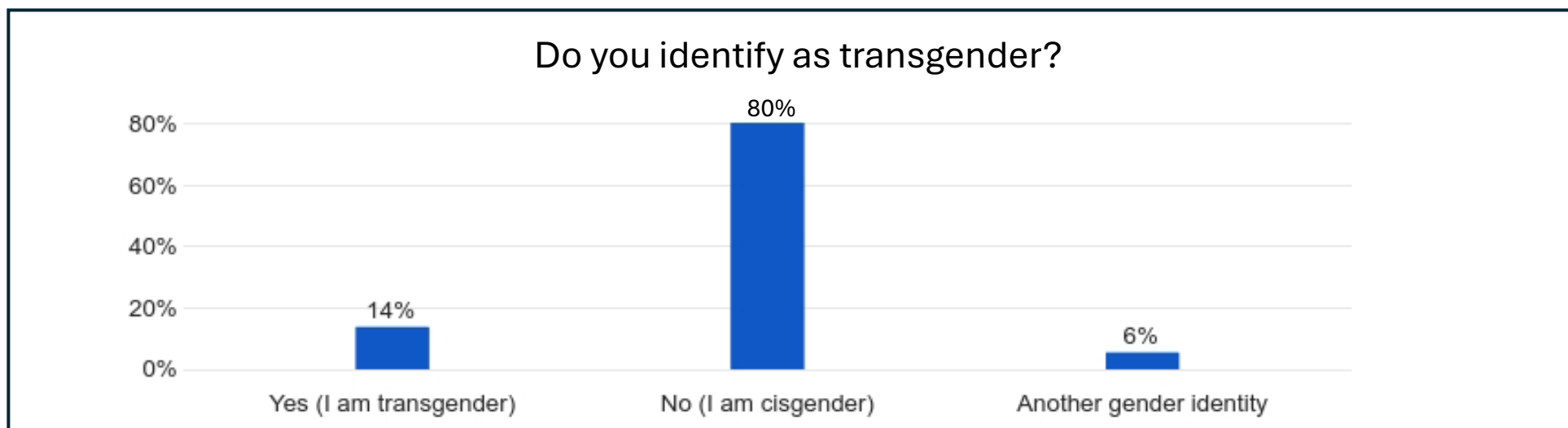
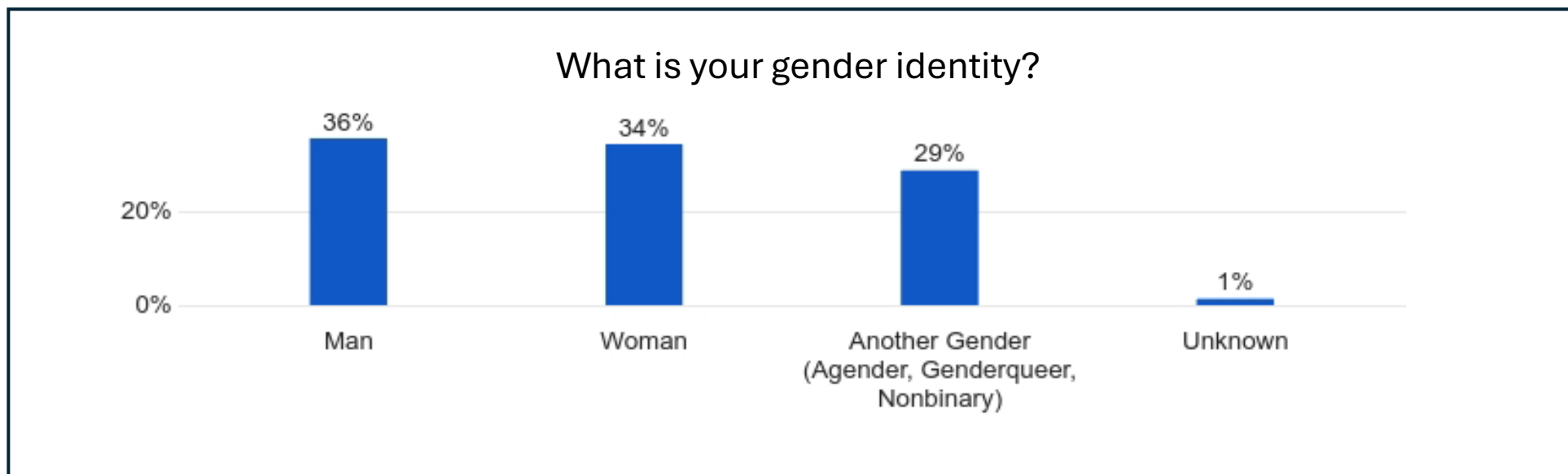
Year in School



Sexual Orientation

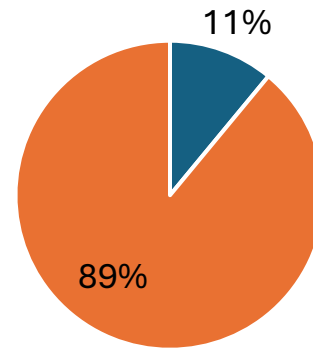


Demographics



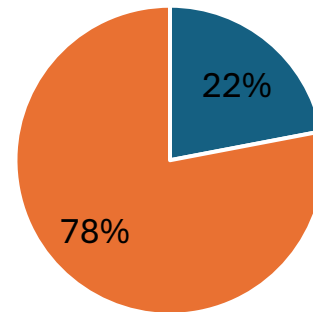
Demographics

Do you have a visa?



■ Yes ■ No

Do you identify as having a disability?



■ Yes ■ No

Perceptions of Institutional Response to Sexual Misconduct

Overall, students have positive perceptions of how Olin handles sexual misconduct (N=72)

- 86% report that Olin is unlikely or very unlikely to punish the person who made the report.
- 76% indicate that Olin is likely or very likely to take a report seriously
- 68% indicate that Olin is likely or very likely to support the person making the report
- 64% indicate that Olin is likely or very likely to maintain the privacy of the person making the report
- 63% indicate that Olin is likely or very likely to handle the report fairly

Awareness of Resources

Overall, students are very aware of on-campus resources (N=64)

- 92% agreed or strongly agreed that they know where to go on campus for information, support and help related to sexual misconduct
- 92% agreed or strongly agreed that they can choose to initiate a formal complaint at Olin in connection with an incident that happened to them
- 86% agreed or strongly agreed that they can speak about an incident in confidence to an on-campus resource and know who and where those confidential resources are
- 71% agreed or strongly agreed that they know where to go to make a report of sexual misconduct

Students are less aware of off-campus resources (N=64)

- 56% agreed or strongly agreed that they know where to go off campus for information, support and help related to sexual misconduct
- 45% agreed or strongly agreed that they know where to go off campus (in the community) to make a report of sexual misconduct

Sexual Misconduct

Sexual Harassment

Stalking

Abuse in Dating Relationships

Sexual Assault

Sexual Harassment by Faculty or Staff

- 40% of students who responded (N=55) reported at least one experience of sexual harassment by faculty or staff since enrollment
 - Most common experiences:
 - 25% of students reported that a faculty or staff member(s) treated them differently because of their sex (for example, mistreated slighted, or ignored you)
 - 18% of students reported that a faculty or staff member(s) put them down or was condescending to them because of their sex
 - 15% of students reported that a faculty or staff member(s) made offensive sexist remarks (for example, suggesting that people of your sex are not suited for the kind of work you do)
- Of those who responded to follow-up questions, 63% indicated faculty sexually harassed them; 25% indicated staff; 13% indicated other (N=16)
 - 78% indicated that male(s) sexually harassed them; 11% indicated female(s); 5.5% indicated groups of different genders; 5.5% indicated non-binary person(s) (N=18)

Sexual Harassment by Students

- 71% of students who responded (N=51) reported at least one experience of sexual harassment by another student since enrollment
 - Most common experiences:
 - 52% of students reported that a student treated them differently because of their sex (for example, mistreated slighted, or ignored you)
 - 46% of students reported that a student(s) made offensive sexist remarks (for example, suggesting that people of your sex are not suited for the kind of work you do)
 - 37% of students reported that a student(s) put them down or was condescending to them because of their sex
- Of those who responded to follow-up questions, 97% indicated that another Olin student sexually harassed them; and 94% indicated that it happened on campus (N=33)
 - 78% indicated that male(s) sexually harassed them; 9% indicated female(s); 6% indicated groups of different genders; 3% indicated non-binary persons; 3% declined to answer (N=32)*

Stalking

- 33% of students who responded (N=51) reported experiencing stalking
- Most common experiences:
 - 20% of students reported that one or more people left them unwanted messages (including text or voice messages)
 - 16% of students reported that one or more people sent unwanted emails, instant messages, or sent messages through social media apps
 - 12% of students reported that one or more people spread rumors about them online, whether they were true or not
- Of those who responded to follow-up questions (N=17), 88% of those who experienced stalking reported that it occurred at Olin, and 76% indicated that the person(s) was a student at Olin. Students indicated that they were stalked by friends, former romantic partners, strangers or acquaintances in nearly equal percentages.
 - 80% indicated that they were stalked by male(s); 7% by females; 7% by non-binary persons and 7% preferred not to answer (N=15)

Abuse in a Dating Relationship

- 23% of students who responded (N=47) reported abuse in a dating relationship by a hook-up, partner or spouse, including exes
 - Most common experiences
 - 21% of students indicated that the person can scare them without laying a hand on them
 - 4% of students indicated that the person stole or destroyed property
 - 2% of students indicated that the person hit them; 2% indicated that the person pushed, grabbed or shook them; and 2% indicated that the person threatened to hurt them
- Of those who responded to follow-up questions (N=11), 73% reported that they were hurt by a male; 18% indicated a non-binary person; and 9% indicated a female
 - 64% reported that they were hurt by an Olin student, and 64% reported that the abuse happened on campus.

Sexual Assault and Attempted Sexual Assault

- The survey asked about different types of sexual assault: vaginal penetration, anal penetration, oral sex and touching of sexual body parts without consent. It also asked about attempted sexual assault.
- 24% of students who responded (N=49) reported experiencing sexual assault or attempted sexual assault
 - The survey also asked about tactics. The most common are indicated below.*
 - Taking advantage of me when I was too drunk, high, asleep or out of it to stop what was happening
 - Telling lies, threatening to end the relationship, threatening to spread rumors about me, making promises I knew were untrue or continually verbally pressuring me after I said I didn't want to.
 - Showing displeasure, criticizing my sexuality or attractiveness, getting angry but not using physical force, after I said I didn't want to.
 - Using force, for example holding me down with their body weight, pinning my arms, or having a weapon

*Percentages are not provided because questions about tactics were asked for five different behaviors.

Nonconsensual Sexual Contact Without Active, Ongoing Voluntary Agreement

- Another set of questions asked about sexual assault (penetration, oral sex or sexual touching) without the student's active, ongoing, voluntary agreement. These questions were developed by the American Association of Universities for their Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Misconduct in order to capture typical school policies related to maintaining or confirming consent.
- 29% of students who responded (N=49) experienced nonconsensual sexual contact without active ongoing voluntary agreement

Sexual Assault: Follow-up Questions

- Students who experienced oral, anal or vaginal sex without their consent could respond to a series of follow-up questions (N=11)
 - 82% indicated that they were sexually assaulted by male(s)
 - 36% were sexually assaulted by a romantic partner; 36% by a former romantic partner; 14% by a stranger; 7% by a friend and 7% by an acquaintance
 - 82% indicated that it happened on campus
 - 55% indicated that they were sexually assaulted by an Olin student
 - During the incident, 45% indicated that they were scared; and 27% felt that the other person would hurt them if they didn't go along.

Institutional Response to Experiences of Sexual Misconduct

Institutional Response

- If a student had experienced sexual misconduct since enrolling at Olin, they were asked a series of questions about Olin's role related to providing resources, how they were treated, responding adequately, creating a safe environment, managing the case, etc.
- Most students responded "not applicable" to these questions (range: 79% to 94% endorsed N/A, N=34)

Institutional Response

Questions with the lowest % of N/A responses N=34	Yes	No	N/A
Olin played a role in creating an environment where the incident was recognized as a problem?	15%	6%	79%
Olin played a role in creating an environment in which this type of experience seemed normal?	3%	18%	79%
Olin played a role in creating an environment in which this type of experience seemed more likely to occur?	6%	15%	79%
Olin played a role in creating an environment where staying at the College was difficult for you?	9%	12%	79%
Olin played a role in not doing enough to prevent this type of experience?	12%	9%	79%

Students do NOT report experiences of bias or discrimination by Olin

Summary of 9 Questions on Bias or Discrimination N=34	Yes	No	N/A
Did Olin respond differently/discriminate/express bias based on your sexual orientation? (3 questions)	0%	15%	85%
Did Olin respond differently/discriminate/express bias based on your race? (3 questions)	0%	15%	85%
Did Olin respond differently/discriminate/express bias based on your gender identity or expression? (3 questions)	0%	15%	85%

Bystander Behavior

When the following situations arose at Olin, how often did you do any of the following?

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Most of the time or Always	N/A
Walked a friend who had too much to drink or is very high home from a party, bar or other social event	10%	10%	23%	33%	23%
Talked to the friends of a drunk or high person to make sure they don't leave them behind at a party, bar or other social event	15%	13%	17%	31%	25%
Spoke up against sexist jokes	15%	6%	27%	29%	23%
Ask someone who looks very upset at a party if they are okay or need help	13%	11%	6%	41%	29%

Results are rounded, and for which students are least likely to respond "N/A." N=48

Conclusions

Conclusions

- Given the small number of respondents, we are limited in our ability to interpret the results.
- Very broadly, there are indications that the same experiences occur at Olin as on other campuses: sexual misconduct is more likely to happen among people who know each other and as part of relationships. Males are more likely to commit sexual misconduct.
- We need to remain committed to preventing and responding to sexual misconduct and improve our work where needed.

Conclusions

- Overall, students are aware of on-campus resources and perceive Olin's response to sexual misconduct as positive/appropriate. Students are less aware of off-campus resources and we need to insure that this increases.
- Students who have experienced sexual misconduct and reached out to Olin for resources indicated NO experiences of bias or discrimination (across 9 questions related to sexual orientation, race and gender identity/expression)
- In future surveys, we need to promote the survey in new ways so that we can increase the response rate.
- Future surveys should be shortened, recognizing that small numbers can't be analyzed/reported. This must be balanced with statutory requirements for climate surveys.

