

# STUDENT CAMPUS CLIMATE SURVEY

## BRIEF 2: UNWANTED SEXUAL EXPERIENCES AT UNA

### INTRODUCTION

In fall 2014 the University of North Alabama (UNA) administered a Student Campus Climate Survey. The purpose of the survey was to provide UNA with critical information regarding our campus climate, campus resources, and experiences of our students. Based on the findings of the survey, the UNA Title IX Education and Prevention Advisory Board developed and implemented a series of recommendations.

Beginning in fall 2015, all freshman and transfer students were required to take a First-Year Experience (FYE) course that contained a mandatory Title IX/Bystander Intervention training. In addition to requiring the Title IX/Bystander Intervention training in all FYE courses, the training was also made available on request to all campus entities (e.g., registered student organizations). The Title IX portion of the training included information about Title IX policies and procedures regarding incidents of power-based violence (e.g. what is power-based violence, how to report an incident, confidential resources, procedures for investigating). The Bystander Intervention portion of the training included information about how to engage in active bystander behaviors, specifically behaviors that would prevent power-based violence in risky situations.

In fall 2016, UNA administered a second Student Campus Climate Survey to examine the impact of the Title IX/Bystander Intervention trainings on campus climate. This is the second brief in a series of four that presents key findings from the 2016 survey. The focus of this brief is on data pertaining to unwanted sexual experiences of students at UNA. The full report is available at [una.edu/titleix](http://una.edu/titleix)

### SAMPLE

A total of 1,457 surveys were completed. The median age of participants was 22 years old. Seventy-four percent (74%) of the sample identified as female, 24% identified as male, and approximately 2% identified as transgender or other. The class standing of participants was as follows: 37% freshman, 18% sophomore, 17% junior, 21% senior, 6% graduate student, and 1%

special student. The racial composition approximated the racial makeup of the University.

### MEASURES

All questions assessing unwanted sexual experiences in the survey were taken directly from the White House Task Force Report (2014). The questions assessed the incidence and prevalence of unwanted sexual experiences, demographic information about individuals reporting unwanted sexual experiences, demographic information about perpetrators, context of unwanted sexual experiences, and disclosure and reporting of unwanted sexual experiences.

### DEFINITION OF TERMS

The survey defined sexual contact as touching of a sexual nature, oral sex, sexual intercourse, anal sex, and sexual penetration with a finger or object. Participants were asked about nonconsensual or unwanted sexual contact they may have experienced since becoming a student at UNA.

### INCIDENCE OF UNWANTED SEXUAL EXPERIENCES

Incidence refers to a count of how many unique incidents of a particular act, in this case unwanted sexual experiences, occur during a given period of time (i.e., since becoming a student at UNA). A total of **200 incidents** of unwanted sexual contact were reported from a sample of 1,457 students for an incidence rate of **14%**. **There was not a significant difference in the incidence of unwanted sexual experiences between the 2014 and 2016 survey.**

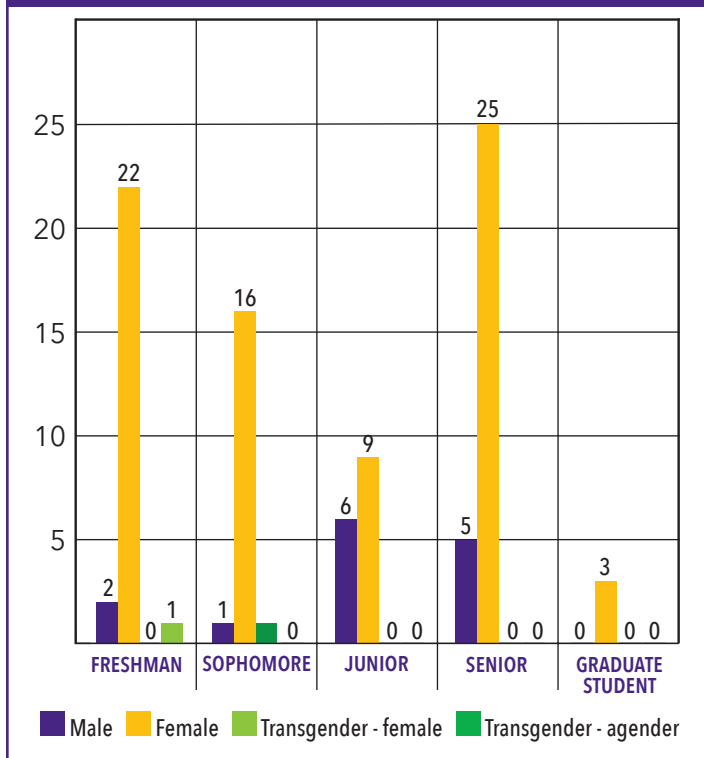
### PREVALENCE OF UNWANTED SEXUAL EXPERIENCES

Prevalence rates are a count of how many unique people experience a particular act, in this case unwanted sexual experiences, during a given period of time (i.e., since becoming a student at UNA). A total of **112 students** in our sample reported experiencing at least one incident of unwanted sexual contact for a prevalence rate of **8%**. **There was not a significant difference in the prevalence of unwanted sexual experiences between the 2014 and 2016 survey.**

### DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ABOUT INDIVIDUALS REPORTING UNWANTED SEXUAL EXPERIENCES

Prevalence of unwanted sexual experiences was higher among women (83%) than men. Figure 1 is a breakdown of the gender and class standing of the 112 individuals in our sample who reported an unwanted sexual experience and provided demographic information.

**FIGURE 1.**  
UNWANTED SEXUAL EXPERIENCES BY GENDER AND CLASS STANDING

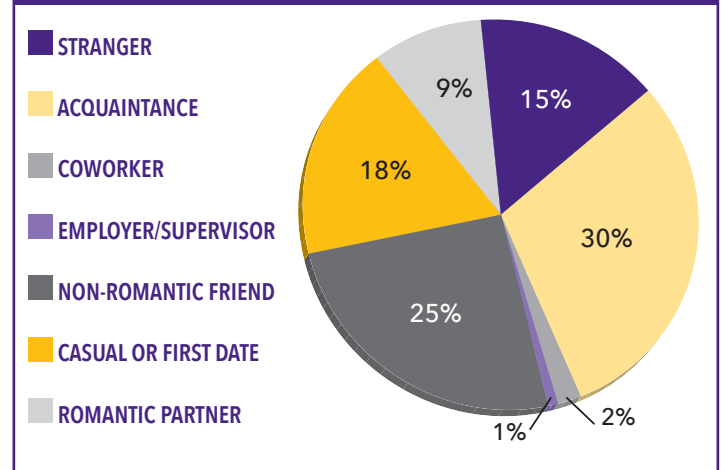


Group affiliation was also analyzed to determine if any of the following groups were overrepresented in comparison to the overall campus population in reporting victimization: athletes; social fraternity and sorority members; band members; ROTC cadets; international students; and early college students. Social fraternity and sorority members were the only group that was overrepresented in reporting victimization. While social fraternity and sorority members accounted for 20% of the overall sample, they accounted for 37% of reported victims. An independent samples t-test confirmed the association between Greek affiliation and victimization was statistically significant ( $p < .001$ ).

### DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ABOUT PERPETRATORS

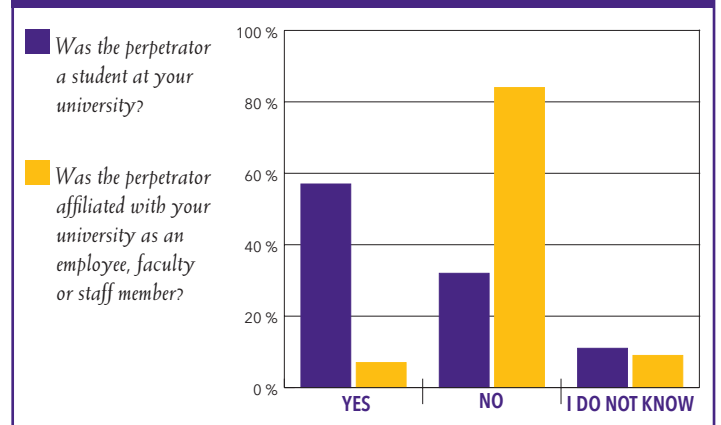
Eighty-six percent (86%) of victims identified their perpetrators as male, 10% as female, and 4% were unsure of the gender of their perpetrator. Over 85% of victims reported their perpetrator was someone known to them. Figure 2 is a graphic representation of the relationship of the perpetrator to the victim.

**FIGURE 2.**  
PERPETRATOR RELATIONSHIP TO VICTIM



Sixty-four percent (64%) of victims identified their perpetrator as someone affiliated with the university as either a student or employee. Figure 3 is a graphic representation of the perpetrators' relationship with the university.

**FIGURE 3.**  
DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ABOUT PERPETRATORS



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### CONTEXT OF UNWANTED SEXUAL EXPERIENCES

When asked where the incident occurred, 68% of victims reported that the incident took place off campus while 32% reported that the incident took place on campus.

Victims were asked a series of questions that assessed if the incident involved their or the perpetrators' use of alcohol and/or drugs, including if they were given drugs without their consent. Table 1 is a breakdown of victims' responses.

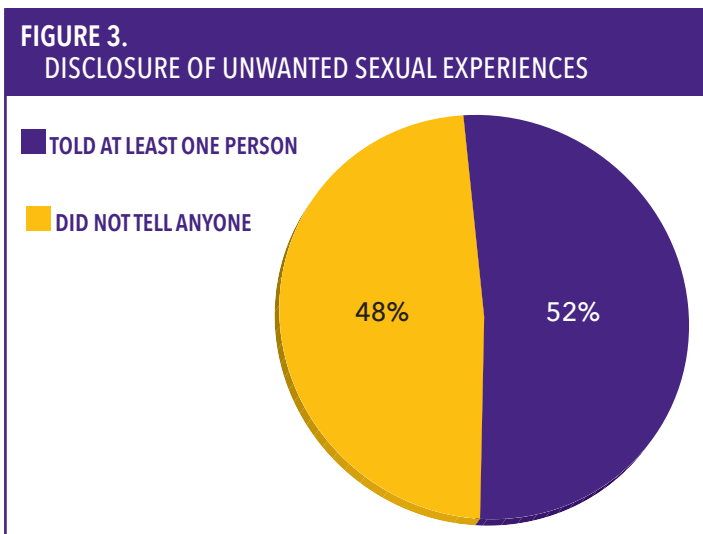
**TABLE 1.**  
**ALCOHOL AND/OR DRUGS USED OR GIVEN DURING INCIDENTS.**

	VALID %
THE OTHER PERSON'S USE OF ALCOHOL	85
YOUR USE OF ALCOHOL	87
THE OTHER PERSON'S USE OF RECREATIONAL DRUGS	20
YOUR USE OF RECREATIONAL DRUGS	20
YOU BELIEVE YOU WERE GIVEN DRUGS WITHOUT YOUR CONSENT	7
YOU ARE NOT SURE IF YOU WERE GIVEN DRUGS WITHOUT YOUR CONSENT	25

\* Valid percentages reflect % of those who answered yes to that specific question.

### DISCLOSURE OF UNWANTED SEXUAL EXPERIENCES

Of the 112 individuals in our sample who reported an unwanted sexual experience, 52% said they had told at least one person about the incident, while 48% said they did not tell anyone about the incident.



Victims who said they had told at least one person about their unwanted sexual experiences were asked to identify who they told about the incident and were allowed to indicate multiple individuals if they had told more than one person. Victims were approximately twice as likely to disclose to a close friend than to any other group listed, including roommates, romantic partners, parents, counselors, faculty, staff, police, or victim support services.

If victims indicated they did not tell at least one person about the incident, they were asked to indicate why and were allowed to indicate multiple reasons. Table 2 is a break down of the most common reasons listed by victims for why they chose not to disclose.

**TABLE 2.**  
**MOST COMMON REASONS FOR NON-DISCLOSURE.**

	N
FELT IT WAS A PRIVATE MATTER	28
WANTED TO FORGET IT HAPPENED	26
DIDN'T WANT OTHERS TO WORRY ABOUT ME	18
DIDN'T THINK IT WAS THAT SERIOUS	17
HAD OTHER THINGS I NEEDED TO FOCUS ON (SCHOOL, WORK)	15
THOUGHT I'D BE BLAMED	14

### REPORTING OF UNWANTED SEXUAL EXPERIENCES

Out of 112 individuals reporting an unwanted sexual experience, only 10% of victims (N=11) chose to use UNA's formal procedures to report the incident.



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These 11 individuals were asked to indicate how much they were helped by UNA's formal procedures on a scale of 1 – 4 (1=didn't help me at all; 4=helped me a lot). The average rating of UNA's formal procedures by those who utilized them was a 2.70 (SD=1.25) with 40% of those who utilized the services reporting that they were helped a lot by them.

### CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

A comparison of the 2014 and 2016 samples provides evidence of the positive impact of Title IX programming on UNA's campus, including, a 24% increase in the number of victims who were aware of UNA's formal procedures to report sexual assault.

The findings also indicate some potential areas of concern.

- There was no significant difference between the 2014 and 2016 samples in the incidence and prevalence of sexual assault.
- An analysis of group affiliation found that social fraternity and sorority members were overrepresented as victims of sexual assault.

Based on these findings, it is strongly recommended that UNA continue its Title IX programming and initiatives on campus. Specifically, UNA should continue (1) the mandatory requirement of providing Title IX/Bystander Intervention education in all First-Year Experience (FYE) courses, (2) the mandatory online training program, Haven, and (3) provide several campus-wide education events throughout each academic year that focus on the prevention of power-based violence and increasing awareness of campus resources for victims. Since social fraternity and sorority members were overrepresented in reporting victimization, it is recommended that this population be targeted for programming. It may also be beneficial to add a measure in the next round of the Student Campus Climate Survey to assess if victimization and perpetration is more prevalent in particular Greek organizations on campus so they may be targeted for intervention.

### PROJECT COLLABORATORS

The principal investigator for the Student Campus Climate Survey was UNA faculty member, Dr. Amber Paulk from the Department of Sociology and Family Studies. Her co-principal investigators were UNA faculty members Drs. Andrea Hunt and Yaschica Williams, also from the Department of Sociology and Family Studies. The UNA Title IX Education and Prevention Advisory Board reviewed both the 2014 and 2016 surveys and subsequent technical reports. The advisory board includes UNA's Title IX Coordinator, Ms. Tammy Jacques; UNA faculty, staff, and students; representatives from UNA Student Counseling Services; the UNA Police Department; and local community partners. Both the 2014 and 2016 surveys were approved by UNA's Human Subjects Review Committee.

For More Information

For more information, please contact UNA's Title IX Coordinator, Ms. Tammy Jacques, at [tmwells@una.edu](mailto:tmwells@una.edu) or **256.765.4223**.

### REFERENCES

White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault (2014). *Not alone: The first report of the White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault*.