

STUDENT CAMPUS CLIMATE SURVEY

BRIEF 4 : STALKING/BULLYING

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 fourth and final brief that presents key findings from the 2016 survey. The focus of this brief is on data pertaining to UNA students' experiences with stalking/bullying. The full report is available at 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

Stalking and bullying was assessed using the National Violence Against Women (NVAW) Scale, which lists fourteen acts of stalking/bullying (e.g., unwanted text messages, following or spying, soliciting information from friends) and asks participants to indicate the number of times during the past year that they have experienced that act. Participants were given a scale of 0 – 5,000+, where 0 indicated they had not experienced that act of stalking/bullying during the past year and 5,000+ indicated they had experienced that act of stalking/bullying 5,000 or more times during the past year.

INCIDENCE OF STALKING/BULLYING

Incidence refers to a count of how many unique incidents of a particular act, in this case stalking/bullying, occur during a given period of time (i.e., during the past year). Table 1 is a breakdown of the acts of stalking/bullying most commonly reported in our sample. N represents the number of students indicating they experienced that act of stalking/bullying at least once during the last year.

	N
UNWANTED MESSAGES THROUGH FACEBOOK, TWITTER, SNAPCHAT, ETC.	369
UNSOLICITED TEXT MESSAGES	207
UNWANTED COMMENTS, PICTURES, ETC. ON SOCIAL NETWORKING WALL	205
UNSOLICITED PHONE CALLS TO YOU	168
FRIEND(S) APPROACHED TO GET INFORMATION ABOUT YOU OR FIND YOU	166
UNWANTED E-MAILS	131

PREVALENCE OF STALKING/BULLYING

Prevalence rates are a count of how many unique people experience a particular act, in this case stalking/bullying, during a given period of time (i.e., during the last year). A total of 450 individuals in a sample of 1,457 reported experiencing at least one act of stalking/bullying during the last year. Therefore, the prevalence rate of stalking/bullying in our sample was 31%.

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ABOUT INDIVIDUALS REPORTING STALKING/BULLYING

Prevalence of stalking/bullying was higher among women than men. Seventy-eight percent (78%) of the individuals who reported experiencing stalking/bullying were women while 20% were men. Figure 1 is a breakdown of the gender and class standing of the 450 individuals who reported experiencing at least one act of stalking/bullying during the last year and provided demographic information.

DISCLOSURE OF STALKING/BULLYING

Participants who reported experiencing stalking/bullying were asked a series of follow-up questions. Of the 124 victims who participated in the follow-up questions, 58% said they had told at least one person about their experience with stalking/bullying, while 42% said they did not tell anyone about their experience.

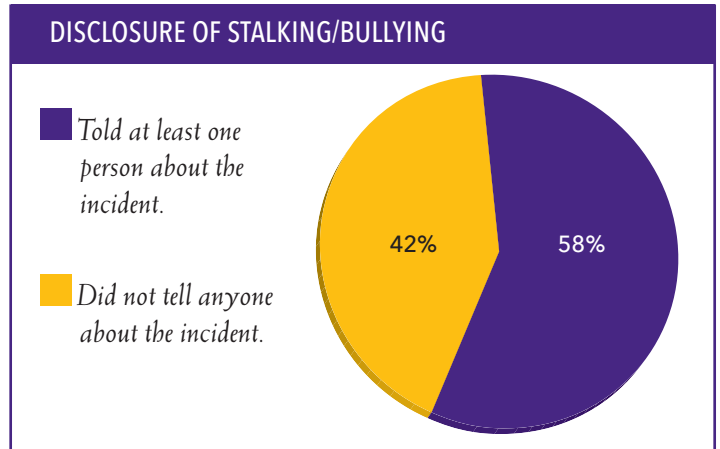
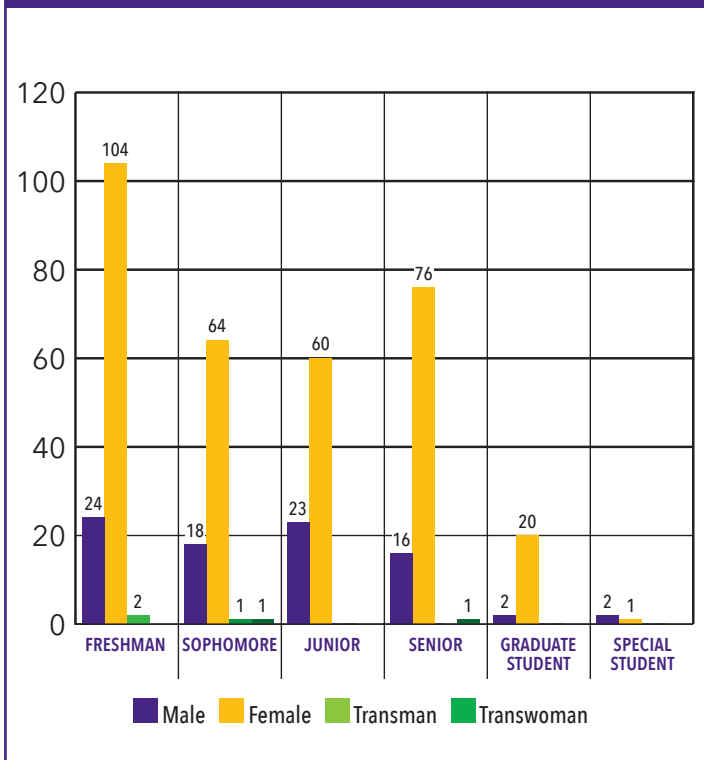


FIGURE 1.
STALKING BULLYING BY GENDER AND CLASS STANDING



Victims who said they had told at least one person about their experience with stalking/bullying were asked to identify who they told 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 REPORTED.

Reason	N
FELT IT WAS A PRIVATE MATTER	19
DIDN'T THINK IT WAS THAT SERIOUS	18
DIDN'T WANT OTHERS TO WORRY ABOUT ME	11
DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO DEAL WITH IT	11

REPORTING OF STALKING/BULLYING

When asked if they were aware of UNA's formal procedures to report their experience(s) with bullying/stalking, 56% of victims reported yes and 44% said no. Out of 71 individuals who responded to the question, only 10% of victims (N=7) chose to use UNA's formal procedures to report the incident.

These 7 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 3.13 (SD=1.24) with 63% of those who utilized the services reporting that they were helped a lot by them.

CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

The findings indicate some potential areas of concern.

- There was no significant difference between the 2014 and 2016 samples in the incidence and prevalence of stalking/bullying
- Nearly one third of our sample (31%) reported experiencing at least one act of stalking/bullying during the last year.

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, in all FYE courses, 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.

It is recommended that the Title IX Education and Prevention Advisory Board review the Title IX/Bystander Intervention presentation that is given in FYE courses to include more specific information about stalking/bullying prevention and resources. It is also recommended that other campus-wide education events focus on stalking/bullying prevention and resources.

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 or **256.765.4223**.