



**Sexual Violence Prevalence (SVP)**  
**Campus Climate Survey Report**  
**2023**



## Executive Summary

On April 19, 2023 Suffolk County Community College began an online administration of the Sexual Violence Prevalence (SVP) Campus Climate Survey. This survey was administered to students and employees and is required to address, at minimum, student and employee knowledge about:

- The Title IX Coordinator's role;
- Campus policies and procedures addressing sexual assault;
- How and where to report sexual violence as a victim/survivor or witness;
- The availability of resources on and off campus, such as counseling, health, academic assistance;
- The prevalence of victimization and perpetration of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking on and off campus during a set time period (for example, the last two years);
- Bystander attitudes and behavior;
- Whether victims/survivors reported to the College/University and/or police, and reasons why they did or did not report.
- The general awareness of the difference, if any, between the institution's policies and the penal law; and
- The general awareness of the definition of affirmative consent.

Results indicated that faculty and staff are aware of the policies, laws and resources. Student respondents were less aware, so the college will increase its outreach to students by providing additional information regarding college policies and resources. We will also increase outreach and communication to improve student awareness of the proper avenues to report. The results indicated:

- 92.8% of faculty and staff indicated that the campus has policies and procedures specifically addressing sexual assault, while 63.2% of students indicated that they were aware of these policies.
- 70.9% of faculty and staff indicated they knew how to contact the Title IX Coordinator, while only 15.6% of students indicated that they did.
- 43.9% of students indicated they were unaware of the alcohol and/or drug use amnesty policy and 27.3% of students were unsure of this policy.
- 58.7% of student respondents indicated that they did not know how to report sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic violence, dating violence or stalking.
- 46.8% of student respondents indicated they knew the Title IX Coordinator's role in receiving reports and 53.2% were not sure.
- 81.4% of students indicated that they were aware that they could file a formal complaint about sexual assault with Public Safety, 73.8% stated with the Counseling Center and 61.7% stated with the Title IX Coordinator.
- 84.2% of faculty and staff indicated they were aware of how to report incidents of sexual harassment.
- 76.9% of faculty and staff responded that they know where to go to get help for themselves or a student who was sexually assaulted and 91.0% indicated they agree or strongly agree that the report would be taken seriously by the college.

- 79.8% of students understood that someone who is incapacitated cannot provide consent and 71.3% stated they understood the definitions of affirmative consent.

The College's Title IX Coordinator and Deputy Title IX Coordinators will communicate and meet with college leadership and departments such as Student Affairs, Mental Health and Wellness Services, Student Health Services, Disability Services, Counseling, Campus Activities, Public Safety, Human Resources and Academic Affairs to review these results and to create actionable recommendations based on the findings.

If there are any questions about the survey, please contact Christina Vargas, Chief Diversity Officer/Title IX Coordinator at [vargasc@sunysuffolk.edu](mailto:vargasc@sunysuffolk.edu).

## Background

The SVP survey is administered every other year by all SUNY campuses, who work closely with SUNY System Administration to coordinate the survey administration itself. An effort is made to keep the questions from one administration to the next as consistent as possible to allow for reliable and meaningful longitudinal data. System-wide IRB review takes place for each survey administration. The project was coordinated through the Office of Planning and Institutional Effectiveness, who ensured coordination with SUNY. The results remained confidential and it was communicated to all that survey results would be aggregated to ensure protection of identity.

Suffolk County Community College administered the survey during a two-week period between April 19, 2023 and May 2, 2023. It was sent to all students enrolled at the college during the Spring 2023 semester, along with faculty and staff at the college's three campus locations. The survey was administered online and introduced through a college email communication. A total of 13,594 students, and 2,331 employees were issued the survey. Excluded survey populations were individuals under 18 years of age and all students concurrently enrolled in high school regardless of age.

## Results

233 students responded to the survey for a 1.7% participation rate.

- *63.0% were full time*
- *19.7% were part time*
- *61.3% indicated they had been on campus one semester*
- *54.3% were the first in their family to go to college*
- *50.7% were individuals with disabilities/chronic health condition (physical, mental health, cognitive, sensory, developmental and/or other)*
- *No respondents were from athletic teams or military veterans*

422 faculty/staff responded to the survey for an 18.1% participation rate.

- *61.1% indicated they were faculty*
- *38.6% indicated they were staff or administrators*
- *55.9% were full time and permanent/continuing*
- *3.1% were full time and not permanent/continuing*
- *40.8% were part time*

Summary of Results:

Regulatory Topic / Thematic Area	Students	Faculty/Staff
<p><b>Awareness of the Title IX Coordinator's role</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Employees are aware of the Title IX coordinator's role, while for students there is room for improvement.</i></li> <li>• <i>Employees are aware of where to report and what options may be shared with students.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15.6% of students knew how to contact the Title IX Coordinator.</li> <li>• When asked about who a victim/survivor or witness can formally disclose a sexual assault to on campus, 81.4% of students knew they could contact Public Safety, 73.8% knew they could contact the Counseling center and 61.7% knew they could contact the Title IX Coordinator.</li> <li>• When asked about the roles of a Title IX Coordinator in regards to sex discrimination/sexual assault/sexual misconduct 46.8% of students knew the TIX coordinator received reports and 44.6% knew they provided reporting individuals with accommodations during investigations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 70.9% of employees knew how to contact the Title IX Coordinator.</li> <li>• 87.8% of employees knew that a victim/survivor or witness formally disclose a sexual assault on campus to the Title IX Coordinator and 95.7% knew they could report to Public Safety.</li> <li>• 82.2% of employees understood the roles of a Title IX Coordinator in regards to sex discrimination/sexual assault/sexual misconduct.</li> <li>• When asked about reporting incidents disclosed by students, 73.3% of employees stated they reported the incident to the Title IX Coordinator, 60% stated they reported to Public Safety, and 40% stated they reported to Student Affairs. This is in alignment with college expectations since the Associate Deans of Student Affairs serve as Deputy Title IX Coordinators.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Campus policies and procedures addressing sexual assault</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Employees are very aware of the college having policies and procedures. There is room for improvement in understanding the amnesty policy.</i></li> <li>• <i>Students and employees are less aware of the amnesty policy.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 63.2% of students knew that their campus has policies and procedures specifically addressing sexual assault.</li> <li>• 28.8% of students knew about the SUNY alcohol and/or drug use amnesty policy.</li> <li>• 71.3% of students knew the definition of affirmative consent and 79.8% knew that someone who is incapacitated could not provide consent.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 92.8% of employees knew that their campus has policies and procedures specifically addressing sexual assault.</li> <li>• 44.8% of employees knew about the SUNY alcohol and/or drug use amnesty policy.</li> <li>• 80.7% of employees knew the definition of affirmative consent and 82.8% knew that someone who is incapacitated could not provide consent.</li> </ul>
<p><b>How and where to report sexual violence as a victim/survivor or witness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>There is strong awareness of contacting public safety to report an incident and where to go for assistance.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50.5% of students were unaware of receiving information about the definitions or how to report an assault, where to go, who to speak to confidentially and policies prohibiting assault.</li> <li>• 58.7% of students were unaware of how to report Sexual Assault, Sexual Harassment, Domestic/Dating Violence, or Stalking.</li> <li>• When asked about who a victim/survivor or witness can formally disclose a sexual assault to on campus, 81.4% of students knew they could contact Public Safety, 73.8% knew they could contact the Counseling center and 61.7% knew they could contact the Title IX Coordinator.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 84.2% of employees were aware of receiving information about the definitions or how to report an assault, where to go, who to speak to confidentially and policies prohibiting assault.</li> <li>• 87.7% of employees were aware of how to report Sexual Assault, Sexual Harassment, Domestic/Dating Violence, or Stalking.</li> <li>• 87.8% of employees knew that a victim/survivor or witness formally disclose a sexual assault on campus to the Title IX Coordinator and 95.7%</li> </ul>

		<p>knew they could report to Public Safety.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>80.1% of employees 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' that if a student were sexually assaulted, they knew how to advise them where to get help on campus.</li> </ul>
<p><b>The availability of resources on and off campus, such as counseling, health, academic assistance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>There is awareness of where to go for assistance.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>74.7% of students were aware of on campus counseling, 62.3% were aware of on campus health services, 44.8% were aware of local health services, 26.0% were aware of local crisis centers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>86.6% of employees were aware of on campus counseling, 83.8% were aware of on campus health services, 63.4% were aware of local health services, 38.3% were aware of local crisis centers</li> </ul>
<p><b>The prevalence of victimization and perpetration of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking on and off campus during a set time period (for example, the last two years)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>There was some prevalence of incidents, and most perpetrators were not affiliated with the college.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>28.2% of students reported experiencing unwanted sexual comments, sexual slurs or demeaning jokes.</li> <li>20.5% stated they experienced unwanted sexually suggestive digital communications.</li> <li>16.2% of students reported concerns about stalking (In the past year, has anyone-from stranger to a friend or current or ex-partner- repeatedly followed you, watched you, texted, called, written, e-mailed, or communicated with you in ways that seemed obsessive and made you afraid or concerned or your safety?)</li> <li>Of those students who reported that an incident occurred, students stated that 71.2% of the perpetrators of the incident were not affiliated with the campus community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7.8% of employees reported that during the last year, students disclosed to them that they were a victim of an unwanted sexual experience, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking</li> <li>8.4% of employees reported that during the last year they experienced unwanted sexual comments, sexual slurs, or demeaning jokes; 24.1% of these respondents stated these occurred in an office on campus. 34.5% confronted the person who made the comments, 20.7% spoke to their chair/supervisor, and 41.4% did not take any action.</li> <li>4.3% stated they experienced unwanted sexually suggestive digital communications.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Bystander attitudes and behavior</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>It is likely that people will call for help and assist victims.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>62.6% of students stated they were likely or very likely to call for help if they hear a neighbor yelling for help.</li> <li>74.2% of students stated they were likely or very likely to get help and resources for a friend who tells them that they were assaulted.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>90.7% of employees stated they were likely or very likely to call for help if they hear a neighbor yelling for help.</li> <li>89.2% of employees stated they were likely or very likely to get help and resources for a friend who tells them that they were assaulted.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Perception of the college response</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>There is a positive perception of how the college would respond to incidents.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>62.1% of students agreed or strongly agreed the college would conduct a fair investigation, 65.8% felt the student would be provided the necessary support during the process and 75% felt the report would be taken seriously.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>82.9% of employees agreed or strongly agreed the college would conduct a fair investigation, 84.9% felt the student would be provided the necessary support during the process and 91% felt the report would be taken seriously.</li> </ul>
<p><b>The general awareness of the difference, if any, between the institution's policies and the penal law</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>There is awareness of the differences between college policy</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>51.3% of students stated they knew the difference between the college disciplinary process and the criminal justice system.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>83.2% of employees stated they knew the difference between the college disciplinary process and the criminal justice system.</li> </ul>

<i>and the criminal justice system.</i>		
<p><b>The general awareness of the definition of affirmative consent</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>There is awareness of the definition and characteristics of consent.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 71.3% of students stated they knew the definition of Affirmative Consent.</li> <li>• 95.6% of students knew that someone who is incapacitated cannot provide consent.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 80.7% of employees stated they knew the definition of Affirmative Consent.</li> <li>• 95.6% of employees knew that someone who is incapacitated cannot provide consent.</li> </ul>

## Discussion and next steps

The College has a continuing commitment to address issues of sexual violence, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. There have been additional hires of Mental Health and Wellness Services coordinators, who are critical in providing confidential services and referrals. There is a partnership with an external agency who provides support to victims and training to students enrolled in college seminar courses. There has been comprehensive training to enhance Public Safety’s response; training on orders of protection for student affairs staff members, media and educational campaigns devoted to Domestic Violence prevention and awareness. Face to face and online training is provided to faculty, staff, counselors, peer mentors, orientation leaders, student athletes, and student clubs. Policies and information are presented and shared at orientation, college seminar, during major events and as part of prevention and awareness campaigns throughout the year. The College is interested in continually improving the effectiveness of its prevention work.

Suffolk County Community College plans to continue its work in educating students, faculty, staff, and visitors about their rights and responsibilities related to sexual violence. Despite the small response rate for this survey, the College intends to continue to increase its visibility and reach additional college community members by providing resources, education and training, and ongoing communication.

The College will work with student affairs, college leadership and student representatives to generate ideas for increasing awareness, communication, and an improved understanding of these policies and issues. The results of this survey in combination with assessment efforts from presentations given to student athletes and student leaders will inform the priorities and goal improve knowledge and awareness of on and off campus resources.

If you have suggestions about how Suffolk County Community College can reduce incidents and increase prevention of sexual violence, sexual harassment, dating violence, domestic violence or stalking, please contact Christina Vargas, Chief Diversity Officer/Title IX Coordinator at [vargasc@sunysuffolk.edu](mailto:vargasc@sunysuffolk.edu) to share your ideas.