SUNY WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Sexual Violence Prevalence (SVP)

Campus Climate Survey Report

September 2023

SUNY Westchester Community College Department of Institutional Research, Planning, and Effectiveness

Background and Executive Summary

SUNY Westchester Community College (SUNY WCC) values the safety and well-being of all its students, faculty, staff, and administrators. To gather information relative to the knowledge of policies, procedures, and incidents of sexual violence, as well as to comply with of New York State Educational Law EDN § 6445 and SUNY Board Policy, SUNY WCC administered the Sexual Violence Prevalence (SPV) Campus Climate Survey during the Spring of 2023 to all students and employees.

The response rate among students was 2.2% (158 of 7,174) with a slightly higher rate of 12.4% among employees (287 of 2,307). A larger percentage of respondents to the questionnaire may have rendered more generalizable results.

Highlights of the findings include:

- Most students (63.1%) and employees (85.5%) were aware of policies specifically relating to sexual assault.
- Fewer than half of all students indicated that they knew how to report a sexual assault (46.0%) or sexual harassment (46.8%) incident. However, more than three-quarters of all employees indicated that they knew how to make these notifications, 75.9% and 77.4%, respectively.
- Regarding unwanted sexual comments, sexual slurs, or demeaning jokes, more than one-fifth of students (21.6%) and 6.1 percent of employees indicated that they have experienced these incidents.
- Fewer than half of all students indicated that they were aware of the various roles of the Title IX Coordinator regarding sex discrimination/ sexual assault/sexual misconduct including coordinating campus response (39.6%), ensuring training/education is provided to the campus community (46.1%), providing reporting individuals with accommodations and services during an investigation (39.2%), and receiving reports (46.2%). These percentages were well below those of benchmark (SUNY community colleges) institutions (48.9%, 48.5%, 48.1%, and 55.2%, respectively).

Results

This section addresses the participants' awareness of relevant policies at SUNY Westchester Community College. The awareness of policies among the college community is a crucial aspect that directly impacts the overall campus environment, student experiences, and institutional operations. This section aims to provide insights into the extent to which students, faculty, and staff are informed about existing policies that govern various aspects of campus life.

Awareness of Sexual Assault Policies and Knowledge Among SUNY WCC Community

This table showcases the responses of SUNY WCC students and faculty/staff to a survey aimed at understanding their awareness of sexual assault policies and related knowledge. The presented data reveal the percentage of respondents who provided affirmative responses that they were familiar with crucial aspects of sexual violence prevention like campus policies, Title IX coordination, affirmative consent, disciplinary vs. legal processes, reporting amnesty policy, and understanding of confidentiality. These data offer a snapshot of the community's awareness and aid in pinpointing areas for potential education and policy enhancement.

Awareness of Sexual Assault Policies and Related Knowledge	Student SUNY WCC	Faculty/Staff SUNY WCC
My campus has policies and procedures specifically addressing sexual assault.	63.1%	85.5%
Do you know how to contact the Title IX coordinator?	26.3%	51.7%
Do you know the definition of affirmative consent?	62.1%	77.8%
Can someone who is incapacitated provide consent?	5.1%	5.7%
Do you know the difference between the college disciplinary process and the criminal justice system?	50.4%	78.1%
Do you know about SUNY's alcohol and/or drug use amnesty policy in reporting sexual violence?	35.1%	33.8%
Are you aware of the difference between confidentiality and privacy?	N/A	62.2%

Awareness of Different Forms of Misconduct Reporting Among the SUNY WCC Community

The following table illustrates the outcomes of the survey conducted among SUNY WCC students and faculty/staff regarding their awareness of reporting procedures for various types of misconduct. The percentages indicate the levels who said that they understood how to report various incidents of sexual misconduct. Additionally, the data highlight the proportion of respondents who were uncertain about how to report these incidents. These data assist in identifying gaps in awareness and potential areas for improving reporting mechanisms and information dissemination.

Awareness of Misconduct Reporting Procedures	Student SUNY WCC	Faculty/Staff SUNY WCC
Sexual Assault	46.0%	75.9%
Sexual Harassment	46.8%	77.4%
Domestic Violence/Dating Violence	34.5%	61.3%
Stalking	30.9%	62.4%
I do not know how to report any of the above	46.8%	20.7%

Communication of Sexual Assault Awareness Resources Among the SUNY WCC Community

The following table provides insights from the SVP survey regarding the percentage of both students and employees who said that they received either written or verbal information regarding various definitions, procedures, reporting, or resources. The data underscore the gaps in knowledge about these crucial communications regarding sexual violence prevention. Additionally, they reveal the percentage of respondents who indicated they did not receive information about these critical resources. This information aids in identifying areas for improving the availability and dissemination of resources aimed at enhancing sexual assault awareness and support within the community.

Received Verbal or Written Resources	Student SUNY WCC	Faculty/Staff SUNY WCC
The definition of sexual assault	29.9%	64.6%
How to report sexual assault	34.3%	70.3%
Where to go to get help if you or someone you know is sexually assaulted	31.4%	66.9%
To whom you can speak confidentially about a sexual assault	27.7%	62.7%
Policies prohibiting sexual assault	32.1%	65.0%
To my knowledge, I have not received information regarding any of the above	51.1%	20.5%

Awareness of Campus Resources for Addressing Sexual Assault Among the SUNY WCC Community

This table showcases survey responses from SUNY WCC students and faculty/staff, revealing their awareness of available campus resources for reporting sexual assault incidents. The percentages represent those who indicated that they were knowledgeable regarding various people or agencies with whom they could file a formal complaint regarding sexual assault. These data underscore varying degrees of familiarity with these resources and aid in better understanding the current state of knowledge within the community. This information is valuable for enhancing communication and awareness efforts surrounding these essential support resources on campus.

Knowledge of to Whom One Can File a Formal Complaint of Sexual Assault on Campus	Student SUNY WCC	Faculty/Staff SUNY WCC
Title IX Coordinator	56.0%	84.0%
University Police or Public Safety	72.2%	89.2%
Counseling Center	69.0%	77.2%
Advocacy Services	48.7%	64.3%
Student Affairs	39.3%	54.0%
Health Center	59.8%	75.3%
Affirmative Action	41.1%	44.3%
Human Resources	48.2%	70.3%

Awareness of Title IX Coordinator Roles Regarding Sexual Misconduct at SUNY WCC

This table presents responses from a survey administered to individuals at SUNY WCC, highlighting their understanding of the roles of the Title IX Coordinator concerning sex discrimination, sexual assault, and sexual misconduct. The percentages indicate the proportion of participants who acknowledged specific roles, such as receiving reports, coordinating campus responses, ensuring training/education, and providing accommodations/services during investigations. The data reveal varying levels of awareness of these roles, offering insights into the community's grasp of the Title IX Coordinator's functions related to sexual misconduct issues. This information assists in identifying areas for further education and clarification regarding the coordinator's vital responsibilities.

Awareness of Title IX Coordinator Roles	Student SUNY WCC	Faculty/Staff SUNY WCC
Receiving reports	46.2%	78.2%
Coordinating campus response	39.6%	71.1%
Ensuring training/education is provided to the campus community	46.1%	72.0%
Providing reporting individuals with accommodations and services during an investigation	39.2%	63.1%

Awareness of On-Campus and Community Resources for Support at SUNY WCC

The following table compiles responses from the SVP survey aimed at gauging awareness levels of various on-campus and community resources for support. The percentages represent the extent to which participants were familiar with different resources. These include the Office of Student Conduct, University Police/Public Safety, Peer Counselors, Campus Advocacy Center, Counseling Center, Campus Health Services, Health Educator, Human Resources, Local Police/Sheriff, Local Crisis Center, Local Advocacy Center, Local Health Services (including hospitals), and an option indicating awareness of none of the mentioned resources. The data reflect the breadth of knowledge about available support services, helping identify areas where communication and awareness efforts could be reinforced.

Awareness of On-Campus and Community Resources for Support at SUNY WCC	Student SUNY WCC	Faculty/Staff SUNY WCC
Office of Student Conduct	37.1%	61.0%
University Police or Public Safety	43.8%	85.9%
Peer Counselors	21.9%	25.7%
Campus Advocacy Center	22.9%	31.7%
Counseling Center	58.1%	82.7%
Campus Health Services	54.3%	83.5%
Health Educator	21.9%	24.9%
Human Resources	29.5%	84.3%
Local police/sheriff	35.2%	63.9%
Local crisis center	13.3%	28.1%
Local advocacy center	10.5%	17.7%
Local health services (including hospitals)	35.2%	57.8%
None of the above	21.0%	3.6%

Understanding Incidents and Reporting: A Look into Sexual Misconduct Experiences and Responses

Student Responses: Sexual Misconduct at SUNY WCC

In this segment, the spotlight is on incidents of sexual misconduct reported by SUNY WCC students within the past year. The data disclose that 21.6% of students encountered unwanted sexual comments, slurs, or demeaning jokes. Moreover, 8.8% experienced unwarranted viewing of intimate activities or the creation of explicit images/recordings. An additional 18.6% faced unsolicited suggestive digital communications. In terms of physical encounters, 5.9% reported instances of non-consensual fondling, kissing, or inappropriate touching. These percentages illuminate the range of unwanted experiences that students faced.

Employee Responses: Addressing Disclosures by Students and Reporting

Shifting focus to employee responses, the survey explored whether they had been approached by students disclosing their experiences of unwanted sexual encounters, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking, regardless of incident location. Notably, approximately 8.9% of employees acknowledged receiving such disclosures. Among those aware of these incidents, a significant 60.0% took the

step to report them to various campus offices. A standout office in this reporting process was the Title IX Coordinator, with 58.3% of incidents directed to their attention. This section provides insight into the prevalence of these incidents and reveals the proactive steps taken by employees to address and report them within the SUNY WCC community.

Relationship to the Person and Reporting Decisions: Insights into Recent Student Incidents

This portion of the analysis delves into the dynamics surrounding the most recent student incidents, shedding light on their relationship with the person involved at the time of the incident. Among student responses, 28.6% indicated they had no prior relationship but knew the person (acquaintance). Furthermore, 42.3% indicated that the perpetrator involved was associated with the campus community.

The decision to disclose or report the incident is explored as well. Approximately 39.1% of students who encountered an incident shared their experience with someone else, while a substantial 77.8% chose not to file a formal complaint with anyone at the college.

The circle of individuals informed about the incident is significant. Among those mentioned, friends were at the forefront with 66.7%, emphasizing the importance of personal networks for support. Additionally, insights into thoughts and concerns influencing the decision not to report were gathered. The most prevalent factors were not wanting to deal with the issue (63.6%) and not considering it important enough (54.5%).

The following percentage of students chose the options of either *strongly agree* or *agree* with the following statement, "If you or a friend filed a formal complaint of sexual violence on your campus, do you think your college would . . .?" conduct a fair investigation (65.7%), provide the student with the necessary support during the process (67.4%), take the report seriously (69.8%).

Additionally, the following percentage of students indicated that they were either *very likely* or *likely* to think that a fellow student would: call for help (e.g. call 911) if they hear a neighbor yelling help (61.6%), confront a friend who tells them that they had sex with someone who was passed out or who didn't give consent (50.5%), express their discomfort if someone makes a joke about a

person's body (42.4%), get help and resources for a friend who tells them that they have been assaulted (69.5%), tell a resident assistant or other campus authority about information that they have that might help in a sexual assault case even if pressured by their friends to remain silent (45.3%).