University of Denver
HEDS Sexual Assault Campus Climate Survey
2022 Executive Summary

I. Background

The University of Denver (University or DU) Office of Equal Opportunity & Title IX (EOIX) administered a comprehensive campus climate survey of undergraduate students, graduate students, faculty, staff, and administrators for the 2021-2022 academic year.

The University contracted with the Higher Education Data Sharing Consortium (HEDS) to administer to students, and for the first time to faculty and staff, an anonymous online survey. The HEDS Sexual Assault Campus Climate Surveys asks students, faculty, staff, and administrators about their perceptions of the institution's climate, how the institution responds to sexual assaults, and whether students, faculty, and staff have experienced unwanted sexual contact or sexual assault. In addition, the University included supplemental questions specific to DU to ascertain the participants' knowledge about the availability of resources. The survey was available for five weeks, between March 28, 2022, and April 29, 2022. The 2022 data provided by HEDS can be found here: https://www.du.edu/ir/surveys/institutional/perceptions.

II. Administration

The online survey was sent to 4,873 employees, 5,603 undergraduate students, and 7,744 graduate students utilizing DU student and employee email addresses. A reminder was sent out on multiple occasions and the survey was advertised on the University's social media, electronic bulletin boards, and printed flyers. The overall completion response rate was 5.9%. [2]HEDS calculates the response rate by dividing an institution's total number of submitted surveys by the number of invited participants.

After surveying students in 2016, 2017, and 2018, the University chose to refrain from administering a survey in 2020 and 2021 due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

III. Demographic Information

The survey was sent to all students enrolled at the University in a course for credit at the time of the survey administration.

Table 1. Demographics

Category	Number Surveyed	Number of Responses	Response Rate

Undergraduate Students	5,603	320	5.7%
Advanced Degree Students	7,744	290	3.7%
Faculty, Staff, and Administrators	4,873	480	9.8%

Table 2. Undergraduate Students

Undergraduate Students	**Survey Respondents**
Class Year	
First Year/Freshman	35%
Sophomore	25%
Junior	21%
Senior	18%
Other	1%
Race/Ethnicity	
American Indian or Alaska Native	2%
Asian	10%
Black or African American	6%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	2%
White	90%
Gender	
Man	22%
Woman	72%
Nonbinary, prefer to self-describe	6%

Table 3. Advanced Degree Students

Advanced Degree Students	**Survey Respondents**
Class Year	
In my first year	50%
In my second year	31%
In my third year	11%
In my fourth year	5%
Beyond my fourth year	4%
Race/Ethnicity	
American Indian or Alaska Native	4%
Asian	13%
Black or African American	8%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	1%
White	82%
Gender	
Man	28%
Woman	67%
Nonbinary, prefer to self-describe	5%

Additionally, online surveys were sent to faculty, staff, and administrators. The survey was sent to all active employees, including unionized and non-benefitted staff, as well as adjunct faculty.

Table 4. Faculty, Staff, and Administrators

Faculty and Staff	**Survey Respondents**
Primary Work	
Faculty	35%
Staff	61%
Administrator	4%
Other	0%
Supervisory Role	
Supervisor	38%
Non-supervisor	62%
Length of Employment	
Less than 1 year	16%
1-4 years	30%
5-9 years	20%
More than 10 years	35%
Race/Ethnicity	
American Indian or Alaska Native	2%
Asian	6%
Black or African American	6%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0%
White	89%
Gender	

Man	31%
Woman	67%
Nonbinary	3%

IV. Results

A. Undergraduate Students

The following section will describe the results from the undergraduate student portion of the 2022 HEDS Undergraduate Sexual Assault Campus Climate Survey.

Perceived Risk of Sexual Assault

The survey asked undergraduate student respondents various questions regarding their perceived risk of sexual assault. Overall, 18% of women and 39% of men agreed or strongly agreed with the following statement: *I do not believe that I or one of my friends is at risk of being sexually assaulted on campus, off campus at an event or program connected with University of Denver, or at a social activity or party near campus.* Additionally, the survey asked participants to agree or disagree with the following statement: *I believe that students at this institution would intervene if they witnessed a sexual assault*, and 39% of women and 52% of men agreed or strongly agreed.

Perceptions of Institutional Response to Sexual Assault

The survey asked undergraduate student participants what the institutional response might be if someone reported a sexual assault. Overall, 47% of women and 70% of men agreed or strongly agreed that *Campus officials would take the report seriously*. In addition, participants were asked if they agreed or disagreed with the statement that *campus officials would conduct a careful investigation to determine what happened*, 37% of women and 47% of men agreed or strongly agreed. However, only 27% of women but 51% of men agreed or strongly agreed that *campus officials would take action against the offender(s)*.

Unwanted Sexual Contact

Regarding unwanted sexual contact, the survey asked undergraduate student participants how often they experienced high levels of unwanted sexual contact. In response to these questions:

- 21% of women and 6% of men reported that they experienced unwanted verbal behaviors often or very often;
- 8% of women and 4% of men reported that they experienced unwanted nonverbal behaviors often or very often; and
- 11% of women and 2% of men reported that they experienced unwanted brief physical contact often or very often.

Campus Climate

The HEDS Sexual Assault Campus Climate Survey asked undergraduate student participants to agree or disagree about certain statements related to the University's general climate. For example, the following statements were offered:

- Faculty, staff, and administrators respect what students at the University of Denver think;
- Faculty, staff, and administrators at the University of Denver are genuinely concerned about students' welfare; and
- Faculty, staff, and administrators on this campus treat students fairly.

Undergraduate students provided the following views:

- 75% of undergraduate student participants agreed or strongly agreed that they believe faculty, staff, and administrators respect what students think.
- 73% of undergraduate student participants agreed or strongly agreed that they believe faculty, staff, and administrators are genuinely concerned about students' welfare.
- 62% of undergraduate student participants agreed or strongly agreed that they believe faculty, staff, and administrators treat students fairly.

How Often Undergraduate Students Experience Sexual Assault

Three hundred twenty (320) undergraduate students answered the question *Since starting at the University of Denver, have you been sexually assaulted while you were (a) on campus; (b) off campus at an event or program connected with the University of Denver, including study abroad and internships; or (c) at a social activity or party near campus such as at an apartment, restaurant, or bar?*

- Of the 320 students who responded, 57 (18%) said they had experienced sexual assault, and 246 (77%) said they did not experience sexual assault. Seventeen (5%) responded that they suspected but were uncertain that they had experienced sexual assault.
    - Of those who responded that they had experienced sexual assault, 4 identified as men, 51 identified as women, and 2 identified otherwise or declined to identify themselves. One man experienced multiple sexual assaults and 30 women experienced multiple assaults.

- When asked to describe one assault, those who experienced sexual assault provided the following information:
  - 76% of women and 50% of men responded that the other person/people had consumed alcohol;
  - 68% of women and 50% of men responded that they had consumed alcohol;
  - 52% of women and 50% of men responded that the assault occurred during their first year at the University;
  - 78% of women and 75% of men responded that the person involved was a student at the University of Denver; and
  - 33% of women and 67% of men responded that the assault occurred in on-campus housing.

Bystander Intervention

The University of Denver implements bystander training (Intervene DU). The HEDs survey asked participants who experienced sexual assault to provide details about bystanders for one of their assaults. Participants in the survey responded that bystanders were present in 12% of these incidents. Of these incidents, bystanders intervened in 25% of the incidents for which they were present.

B. Advanced Degree Students

The following section will describe the results from the advanced degree student portion of the 2022 HEDS Advanced Degree Sexual Assault Campus Climate Survey.

Perceived Risk of Sexual Assault

The survey asked advanced degree student respondents various questions regarding their perceived risk of sexual assault. Overall, 36% of women and 53% of men agreed or strongly agreed with the following statement: *I do not believe that I or one of my friends is at risk for being sexually assaulted on campus, off campus at an event or program connected with University of Denver, or at a social activity or party near campus.* Additionally, the survey asked participants to agree or disagree with the statement that *I believe that students at University of Denver would intervene if they witnessed a sexual assault*, and 49% of women and 59% of men agreed or strongly agreed.

Perceptions of Institutional Response to Sexual Assault

The survey asked advanced degree student participants what the institutional response might be if someone reported a sexual assault. Overall, 56% of women and 83% of men agreed or

strongly agreed that *Campus officials would take the report seriously*. In addition, participants were asked to agree or disagree with the statement that *campus officials would conduct a careful investigation in order to determine what happened*, 46% of women and 66% of men agreed or strongly agreed. However, only 36% of women but 54% of men agreed or strongly agreed with the statement that *campus officials would take action against the offender(s)*.

Unwanted Sexual Contact

Regarding unwanted sexual contact, the survey asked advanced degree student participants how often they experienced unwanted sexual contact. In response to these questions:

- 4% of women and 1% of men reported that they experienced unwanted verbal behaviors often or very often;
- 2% of women and 1% of men reported that they experienced unwanted nonverbal behaviors often or very often; and
- 2% of women and less than 1% of men reported that they experienced unwanted brief physical contact often.

Campus Climate

The HEDS Sexual Assault Campus Climate Survey asked advanced degree student participants about the University's general climate. For example, participants were asked to agree or disagree with the following statements:

- Faculty, staff, and administrators respect what students at the University of Denver think;
- Faculty, staff, and administrators at the University of Denver are genuinely concerned about students' welfare; and
- Faculty, staff, and administrators on this campus treat students fairly.

Advanced degree students provided the following views:

- 71% of advanced degree students responded that agreed or strongly agreed that they believe faculty, staff, and administrators respect what students think.
- 72% of advanced degree students agreed or strongly agreed that they believe faculty, staff, and administrators are genuinely concerned about students' welfare.
- 64% of advanced degree students agreed or strongly agreed that they believe students treat students fairly.

How Often Advanced Degree Students Experience Sexual Assault

Two hundred eighty-nine advanced degree students answered the question *Since starting your advanced degree at the University of Denver, have you been sexually assaulted while you were*

(a) on campus; (b) off campus at an event or program connected with the University of Denver, including internships, job shadowing, field placements, and preceptorships; or (c) at a social activity or party near campus such as at an apartment, restaurant, or bar?

- Of the 289 students who responded, 10 (3%) said they had experienced sexual assault, and 275 (95%) said they did not experience sexual assault. Four (1%) responded that they suspected that they were sexually assaulted, but they were not certain.
    - Of those who responded, 2 identified as men, 6 identified as women, and 2 identified otherwise or declined to identify themselves. One man experienced multiple sexual assaults, and 3 women experienced multiple assaults.
    - When asked to describe one assault, those who experienced sexual assault provided the following information:
        - 83% of women and 100% of men responded that the other person/people had consumed alcohol;
        - 83% of women and 100% of men responded that they had consumed alcohol;
        - 50% of respondents said that the person involved was a student at the University and 30% of respondents said the person involved was a faculty member, staff member, or administrator at the University; and
        - Women reported that 60% of the incidents occurred off-campus at an apartment, restaurant, bar, or another location nearby and men said that 50% of incidents occurred off-campus at an apartment, restaurant, bar, or another location nearby.

C. Faculty and Staff

The following section describes the results from the employee portion of the 2022 HEDS Faculty and Staff Survey of Campus Climate for Sexual Violence.

Campus Climate

For the first time, the University surveyed faculty and staff regarding their perception of the campus climate and sexual assault. For example, participants were asked to agree or disagree with the following statements:

- Faculty, staff, and administrators respect what students at the University of Denver think;
- Faculty, staff, and administrators respect what other employees at the University of Denver think;
- Faculty, staff, and administrators at the University of Denver are genuinely concerned about students' welfare;

- Faculty, staff, and administrators at the University of Denver are genuinely concerned about each others' welfare; and
- Students at the University of Denver are genuinely concerned about the welfare of other students.

80% of participants agreed or strongly agreed that faculty, staff, and administrators respect what students at DU think. 69% of participants agreed or strongly agreed that faculty, staff, and administrators respect what other employees of DU think. 90% of participants agreed or strongly agreed that faculty, staff, and administrators are genuinely concerned about students' welfare, but only 68% of participants agreed or strongly agreed that students at DU are genuinely concerned about the welfare of other students.

Institutional Response to Report of Sexual Violence

The survey asked faculty and staff about their views on what might happen if someone were to report an incident of sexual violence to an official at the University. Specifically, the survey asked the extent to which they agreed with the following statements:

- Campus officials would take the report seriously;
- Campus officials would support and protect the person making the report;
- Campus officials would conduct a careful investigation in order to determine what happened; and
- Campus officials would take appropriate action against the offender(s).

Overall, 79% of faculty and staff agreed or strongly agreed that campus officials would take the report seriously. In addition, 71% of participants agreed or strongly agreed that campus officials would support and protect the person making the report. Further 68% of faculty and staff agreed or strongly agreed that campus officials would conduct a careful investigation in order to determine what happened; however, 53% of participants believed campus officials would take appropriate action against the offender(s).

Confidence in Ability to Respond

The survey asked faculty and staff participants three questions about their confidence in responding to disclosures of sexual violence. 59% of participants responded that they were very confident or confident in response to the question, *How confident are you that you can effectively and appropriately support students who have experienced sexual violence?* Further, when asked *If a student told you that they had experienced sexual violence, how confident are you that you could respond according to the University's official procedures*, 60% responded that they were very confident or confident, whereas 11% responded that they were not confident. When asked about their confidence in responding to a staff member, administrator,

or faculty member who told them they had experienced sexual violence 55% were very confident or confident that they could respond in accordance with the University's procedures.

Campus Training Efforts

The survey asked faculty and staff about the University's training efforts. 70% of participants responded that they were trained on how to report an incident of sexual violence and 50% responded that they were trained on the procedures for investigating incidents of sexual violence. The survey asked further questions of those participants who responded that they had received training. 36% of those who responded stated they remembered *some of it*, 39% responded that they remembered *most of it*, and 15% responded that they remembered *almost all of it*.

Interactions with People who Have Experienced Sexual Violence

The survey asked participants about their interactions with people who have experienced sexual violence. The following table demonstrates the responses from faculty and staff for these questions.

Table 5. Frequencies

Question	**Yes**	**No**
Interactions with Students		
Talked with a student about sexual violence that the student experienced	26%	74%
Talked with a student about sexual violence that the student was accused of or perpetrated	7%	93%
Witnessed a student experiencing sexual violence	1%	99%
Made a report to the Title IX coordinator or other campus authorities about a student who experienced sexual violence	12%	88%
Made a report to the Title IX coordinator or other campus authorities about a student	4%	96%

who perpetrated sexual violence		
Interactions with staff, faculty, and administration		
Talked with a member of the faculty, staff, or administration about sexual violence that they experienced	15%	85%
Talked with a member of the faculty, staff, or administration about sexual violence that they were accused of or perpetrated	6%	94%
Witnessed a member of the faculty, staff, or administration experiencing sexual violence	2%	98%
Made a report to the Title IX Coordinator or other campus authorities about a member of the faculty, staff, or administration who experienced sexual violence	4%	96%
Made a report to the Title IX Coordinator or other campus authorities about a member of the faculty, staff, or administration who perpetrated sexual violence against another member of the campus community	4%	96%

Unwanted Sexual Behavior

The survey asked faculty and staff participants about unwanted sexual behavior. The questions asked if the participants had experienced unwanted sexual behavior. The data compares frequencies of unwanted behavior by gender. 85% of men and 72% of women responded that they had never experienced unwanted verbal sexual behaviors since starting work at the University. 94% of men and 92% of women responded that they had never experienced unwanted nonverbal sexual behaviors since starting work at the University.

Sexual Violence

Regarding sexual violence, the survey asked faculty and staff participants whether anyone had engaged in non-consensual touching and non-consensual sexual penetration during any aspect of their work at the University. 97% of the participants responded they had not experienced nonconsensual touching of a sexual nature and 99% of participants responded that they had never experienced any other form of sexual violence during any aspect of their work at the University.

D. DU Supplemental Questions

The University included additional questions regarding the resources available to students, faculty, and staff. Undergraduate student, graduate student, and faculty and staff participants were asked, *Which of these offices do you know enough about to contact or refer a friend to, if needed?* The chart below summarizes the results.

Table 6. Resources – Student responses

Office	**Undergraduate Students**	**Advanced Degree Students**
Which of these offices do you know enough about to contact or refer a friend to, if needed? (Select all that apply)		
Center for Advocacy, Prevention, and Empowerment (CAPE)	50%	23%
Health and Counseling Center	74%	58%
Title IX Coordinator and/or Office of Equal Opportunity & Title IX	42%	31%
Student Outreach and Support (SOS)	46%	22%
Student Rights and Responsibilities (SRR)	21%	5%
The Cultural Center	8%	7%
DU Department of Campus Safety	42%	34%
Office of Health Promotions/Thrive and/or Coordinator of Gender Violence Prevention Education	12%	5%

Thrive Peer Educators	14%	2%
Disability Services Program (DSP)	22%	9%
Human Resources & Inclusive Communities and Shared Services	4%	3%
DU Sexual Violence website	13%	12%
Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion (ODEI)	13%	20%
Office of Inclusion & Equity Education	9%	8%
None of the above	8%	20%

Table 7. Resources – Faculty and Staff Responses

Office	**Faculty and Staff**
Which of these offices do you know enough about to contact or refer a student to, if needed? (Select all that apply)	
Center for Advocacy, Prevention, and Empowerment (CAPE)	49%
Health and Counseling Center (HCC) Counseling Services	79%
HCC Medical Services (e.g., STI Testing)	28%
HCC SANE forensic examination services	8%
HRIC Human Resources & Inclusive Community	28%
Title IX Coordinator and Office of Equal Opportunity & Title IX	69%
Student Outreach and Support (SOS)	51%
The Cultural Center	13%
Campus Safety Department	65%
Gender Violence Prevention Education Office	11%
Student Advocacy, Prevention & Education Groups (e.g., Peer Health Educators, DU Do Better)	11%
University of Denver Sexual Violence Website	15%

V. Recommendations and Next Steps

EOIX and other University offices will utilize the climate survey results and data to strengthen awareness of the University's policies, procedures, and resources available to students, faculty, and staff who experience sexual violence.

As the survey results indicate an opportunity to increase the confidence of faculty and staff in recognizing, reporting, and providing resources in their roles as responsible employees, EOIX will continue to strengthen the training and resources for employees. The University will continue to offer events and education on sexual assault awareness and prevention, bystander intervention, and other related topics.

In Spring 2023, EOIX and the Center for Advocacy, Prevention, and Empowerment (CAPE) launched a Coordinated Campus Response Team (CCRT), bringing University stakeholders together on a monthly basis to collaborate and coordinate efforts around response, prevention, advocacy, and education related to sexual violence. The CCRT will continue those efforts and utilize the climate survey data in its work.