

W E S L E Y A N
U N I V E R S I T Y



*Results from the 2015 Wesleyan
Sexual Assault Climate Survey*

September 2015

Office of Institutional Research

BACKGROUND

In spring of 2015, Wesleyan administered a Sexual Assault Climate Survey to all enrolled on-campus undergraduate and graduate students. The survey instrument was developed in collaboration with a group of over 40 institutional researchers, student life, and counseling services professionals from over a dozen colleges representing the NESCAC and other peer institutions.¹ The government's "Not Alone" survey served as the foundation of our instrument, with modifications serving to better align the instrument with the needs and mores of our campuses.

We launched the anonymous survey on March 29 via an all-campus email and distributed reminder emails on April 1, 4, and 8. The survey closed with an overall response rate of 33.7% (broadly-defined based on students completing at least one question following the demographic information appearing in the survey's first section). Using a more stringent standard, 30.9% of students completed the survey in its entirety. Regardless of the formula, participation rates were suboptimal and affect our confidence in viewing survey results as representative of the larger Wesleyan study population.² This concern is especially true given that this low response rate is coupled with a respondent pool whose demographic composition does not mirror the Wesleyan student population (more details follow) and the likelihood that the survey topic promotes self-selection bias.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Survey participation was limited (34%) and non-representative. Thus, survey results should be viewed as reflecting the perceptions and experiences of survey respondents but they may not necessarily be an accurate representation of the entire student body. Despite these concerns, the survey provides actionable insights by highlighting possible strengths and areas for improvement.
- Ninety-nine undergraduate female respondents and 28 undergraduate male respondents reported being sexually assaulted (involving penetration) during their time at Wesleyan. Just over 200 undergraduate female respondents (209) and 61 undergraduate male respondents reported experiencing unwanted sexual contact (other than penetration).
- Among graduate students two female respondents and one male respondent indicated experiencing sexual assault during their time at Wesleyan, while seven males and four females reported experiencing unwanted sexual contact (other than penetration).
- Most incidents reported occurred in on-campus residential locations and were perpetrated by fellow Wesleyan students.

¹ The colleges participating in the design of the survey included Amherst, Bates, Bowdoin, Bryn Mawr, Connecticut College, Hamilton, Middlebury, Mount Holyoke, Smith, Swarthmore, Trinity, Tufts, Vassar, Wellesley, Wesleyan, and Williams.

² The lower than average response rate is disappointing given the amount of outreach and promotion we conducted for the survey.

- Females reported males as perpetrators; males reported females and males equally.
- The majority of students experiencing sexual assault or misconduct had some previous relationship/interaction with the perpetrator. One quarter of perpetrators were unknown prior to the incident.
- Most students experiencing sexual assault or misconduct told *someone* about the incident, but the majority did not file an official report.
- When deciding whether to report an incident, students experiencing sexual assault or misconduct most often cited thinking that the seriousness of incident was not sufficient or being uncertain as to whether harm was intended as their top considerations.
- Across several dimensions, most students agreed that Wesleyan's response to sexual assault is favorable. However, females were more critical than males of Wesleyan's response and those reporting sexual assault or misconduct (in the survey) were more critical than those who did not report having such an experience.
- Three-quarters of students viewed Wesleyan as working on measures to prevent sexual assault. No gender differences emerged, but those reporting sexual assault or misconduct (in the survey) were less likely to hold this view.
- Most respondents reported having participated in Wesleyan-sponsored educational opportunities related to policies and procedures, prevention, or intervention (each at about 2/3rds) Despite this, respondents' knowledge of Wesleyan resources was inadequate.

1. What type of student are you at Wesleyan?

#	Answer	Bar	Response
1	Degree-seeking undergraduate		1,097
2	Degree-seeking graduate		62

2. What is your class year?

#	Answer	Bar	Response
1	2018		278
2	2017		290
3	2016		253
4	2015		302
5	Other or not applicable		37

3. How did you enter Wesleyan?

#	Answer	Bar	Response
1	As a first-year student		1,082
2	As a transfer student		67
3	Other	Privacy Suppressed	

4. What is your current gender identity? (mark all that apply)

#	Answer	Bar	Response
1	Female		664
2	Male		475
3	Trans*	Privacy Suppressed	
5	Genderqueer/Gender-nonconforming		
6	Other, please specify		
7	Prefer not to answer		

5. Are you Hispanic or Latino/a?

#	Answer	Bar	Response
1	Yes		80
2	No		1,062
3	Prefer not to answer	Privacy Suppressed	

6. What is your race (as you define it)? Check all that apply.

#	Answer	Bar	Response
1	American Indian or Alaska Native	Privacy Suppressed	
2	Asian		183
3	Black or African American		103
4	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	Privacy Suppressed	
5	White		880
6	Prefer not to answer	Privacy Suppressed	

7. Are you a U.S. citizen or permanent resident (hold a permanent Visa)?

#	Answer	Bar	Response
1	Yes		1,063
2	No	Privacy Suppressed	
3	Prefer not to answer	Privacy Suppressed	

8. Which term best describes your sexual orientation?

#	Answer	Bar	Response
1	Asexual	Privacy Suppressed	
2	Bisexual		99
3	Gay		50
4	Heterosexual/Straight		879
5	Lesbian	Privacy Suppressed	
6	Queer		66
7	Questioning/unsure		71
8	Other, please specify	Privacy Suppressed	
9	Prefer not to answer		

Other, please specify

I haven't explored anything other than being straight and am possibly interested in doing so.

Pansexual

Pansexual

Pansexual

Pansexual

pansexual

Pansexual

Pansexual

Poly-pansexual

Attracted to all genders, but unable to pursue relationships with men due to past trauma

Sexual

Polyamorous

Pansexual

pansexual

flexual

pansexual/demisexual

Pansexual

Pansexual

Mostly asexual, mostly lesbian romantically, but with some exceptions to both.

Demisexual

9. If someone reports a sexual assault Wesleyan would...

#	Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
1	Take the report seriously. .	29	164	509	263	965
2	Take steps to protect the person making the report from retaliation.	83	285	440	154	962
3	Keep knowledge of the report limited to those who need to know in order for the university to respond properly.	34	132	593	201	960
4	Take steps to protect the safety of the person making the report.	61	250	457	198	966
5	Provide support for the person making the report.	65	217	470	213	965
6	Provide support for the person who is accused.	79	296	464	122	961
7	Take corrective action against the offender if it was determined a sexual assault had been committed.	98	211	452	204	965
8	Take action to remedy the underlying factors on campus that may have led to the sexual assault.	169	304	366	124	963

10. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following?

#	Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
1	Wesleyan is working on measures to prevent sexual assault	50	187	654	94	985

11. How seriously would Wesleyan take reports of sexual assault against the following?

#	Question	Not at all	Somewhat	Moderately	Extremely	Total Responses
1	Students	31	198	390	331	950
2	Faculty	46	135	256	504	941
3	High-level administrators (such as deans, vice presidents or higher)	74	122	182	565	943
4	Other staff members	38	175	327	403	943
5	Visitors to campus	84	243	314	307	948
6	Our students on other campuses	164	302	287	193	946

12. How seriously would Wesleyan consider reports of sexual assault filed by the following?

#	Question	Not at all	Somewhat	Moderately	Extremely	Total Responses
1	Students	31	200	398	316	945
2	Faculty	10	83	290	556	939
3	High-level administrators (such as deans, vice presidents or higher)	13	54	174	698	939
4	Other staff members	46	176	371	345	938
5	Visitors to campus	103	278	281	277	939
6	Our students on other campuses (OPTIONAL)	154	233	216	149	752

13. When the situation arises, how often do you do any of the following? There is no right answer; these questions aim to establish a baseline of what Wesleyan students do and do not do. If you haven't encountered a situation where you might do this, please check "No, situation has not arisen."

#	Question	Always	Usually	Sometimes	Never	No, situation has not arisen	Total Responses
1	Made sure to leave a party with the same people you came with	122	371	330	44	73	940
2	Walked a friend who has had too much to drink home from a party, bar, or other social event	333	292	211	7	96	939
3	Talked to the friends of a drunk person to make sure they don't leave him/her behind at a party, bar, or other social event	242	257	227	38	174	938
5	Tried to distract someone who was trying to take a drunk person to another room or trying to get them to do something sexual	115	129	143	27	526	940
8	Got help and resources for a friend who told me they have been sexually assaulted	146	55	50	29	660	940

14. Have you received education from Wesleyan in the prevention of sexual assault (We Speak We Stand Orientation performance, consent workshops and/or healthy relationships workshops)?

#	Answer	Bar	Response
1	Yes		714
2	No		241

15. Have you participated in Wesleyan's We Speak We Stand bystander intervention training?

#	Answer	Bar	Response
1	No		649
2	Yes		307

16. Have you received education from Wesleyan in policies and procedures regarding incidents of sexual assault?

#	Answer	Bar	Response
1	Yes		590
2	No		363

17. Please answer the following questions.

#	Question	Yes	No	Total Responses
1	Do you know to whom to report an instance of sexual misconduct at Wesleyan?	439	487	926
2	Do you know how to seek confidential counseling about unwelcome sexual conduct/attention at Wesleyan?	639	288	927
3	Are you familiar with the disciplinary processes available to you should you decide to file an internal, university complaint regarding any unwelcome sexual conduct/attention?	311	610	921
4	Are you familiar with the options available to file a criminal complaint regarding any unwelcome sexual conduct/attention?	293	632	925
5	Do you know who the Title IX coordinator is at Wesleyan?	255	669	924

18. Have you read Wesleyan's sexual misconduct and assault policy?

#	Answer	Bar	Response
1	No		604
2	Yes		343

19. Prior to your time as a student at Wesleyan, had you experienced any form of non-consensual or unwanted sexual contact?

#	Answer	Bar	Response
1	No		708
2	Yes		236

This section asks about non-consensual or unwanted sexual contact you may have experienced. The person with whom you had the unwanted sexual contact could have been **a stranger or someone you know, such as an acquaintance, friend, or someone you were dating or going out with.**

These questions ask about two types of unwanted sexual contact:

a. sexual penetration: includes someone’s penis, finger(s), or other object being put in your vagina or anus or someone’s mouth or tongue making contact with your genitals, or your mouth or tongue making contact with someone else’s genitals;

b. sexual contact other than penetration: includes forced kissing, touching of genitals, grabbing, fondling, rubbing up against you in a sexual way (even if over your clothes).

20. During your time as a student at Wesleyan, have you experienced non-consensual or unwanted sexual penetration (as described in "a" above)? Check all that apply:

#	Answer	Bar	Response
1	No		817
2	Yes, during the current academic year		45
3	Yes, during my time at Wesleyan prior to the current academic year		99

21. During your time as a student at Wesleyan, have you experienced non-consensual or unwanted sexual contact that did not include sexual penetration (as described in "b" above)? Check all that apply:

#	Answer	Bar	Response
1	No		656
2	Yes, during the current academic year		127
3	Yes, during my time at Wesleyan prior to the current academic year		204

22. During your time as a student at Wesleyan, have you suspected that you have experienced non-consensual or unwanted sexual penetration, sexual contact, or non-contact behaviors of a sexual nature (such as filming) when you were passed out, drugged, drunk, incapacitated, asleep, or otherwise unable to provide consent? Check all that apply:

#	Answer	Bar	Response
1	No		843
2	Yes, during the current academic year		42
3	Yes, during my time at Wesleyan prior to the current academic year		68

23. What type of non-consensual or unwanted sexual contact occurred during this incident? (select one):

#	Answer	Bar	Response
1	Unsure	Privacy Suppressed	
2	Sexual penetration: includes someone's penis, finger(s), or other object being put in your vagina or anus and someone's mouth or tongue making contact with your genitals, or your mouth or tongue making contact with someone else's genitals;		87
3	Sexual contact other than penetration: includes forced kissing, touching of genitals, grabbing, fondling, rubbing up against you in a sexual way (even if it is over your clothes).		78

24. In what academic year did the incident take place? (If the incident took place over the summer, report the incident took place in the prior academic year).

#	Answer	Bar	Response
1	2014-15		65
2	2013-14		50
3	2012-13		39
4	2011-12	Privacy Suppressed	

25. How many perpetrators were involved in this incident?

#	Answer	Bar	Response
1	Unsure	Privacy Suppressed	
2	One		169
3	More than one	Privacy Suppressed	

26. At the time of the incident, what was the perpetrator's affiliation with Wesleyan? The perpetrator was... (select one).

#	Answer	Bar	Response
1	Wesleyan student		
2	Wesleyan alum		
3	Wesleyan faculty member or professor		
6	Other Wesleyan employee, administrator, or staff member	Privacy Suppressed	
7	None, but the perpetrator was affiliated with another college or university		
8	None		
9	Unsure		
10	Other, please specify		

27. At the time of the incident, what was the affiliation with Wesleyan of the perpetrators? The perpetrators were... (check all that apply).

#	Answer	Bar	Response
1	Wesleyan student		
2	Wesleyan alum		
3	Wesleyan faculty member or professor		
6	Other Wesleyan employee, administrator, or staff member	Privacy Suppressed	
7	None, but they were affiliated with another college or university		
8	None		
9	Unsure		
10	Other, please specify		

**28. What was your relationship to the perpetrator(s) at the time of the incident?
Check all that apply.**

#	Answer	Bar	Response	
1	No prior relationship		53	
2	Acquaintance, peer, or colleague		69	
3	Friend		47	
4	Former dating partner, sexual partner, or spouse	Privacy Suppressed		
5	Current dating partner, sexual partner or spouse			
6	Resident advisor			
7	Professor, lecturer, or advisor			
9	Teaching assistant			
10	Boss, manager, or supervisor			
12	Family member			
13	Other, please specify			
14	Someone you supervise, mentor, or oversee			
Other, please specify				
Had previously hooked up				
current exclusive boyfriend				
some one I had hooked up with before but not consistantly				
I marked the question wrong, this did not happen to me				

29. Where did the incident occur? Select the one best location.

#	Answer	Bar	Response
1	On-campus residence or off-campus Wesleyan-affiliated residence		152
3	Other location or setting	Privacy Suppressed	
4	On-campus, non-residential location		
5	Off-campus, Wesleyan-affiliated or -sponsored event/activity or study abroad.		
6	Off-campus activity not affiliated or sponsored by Wesleyan		
7	Home		
8	Off-campus residence not affiliated with Wesleyan		

30. What was the gender of the perpetrator(s)? Check all the apply.

#	Answer	Bar	Response
1	Unsure	Privacy Suppressed	
2	Female		30
3	Male		143
4	Trans*		
6	Genderqueer/Gender-nonconforming	Privacy Suppressed	
7	Other (please specify)		

31. Did you tell anyone about the incident?

#	Answer	Bar	Response
1	Yes		115
2	No		62

32. Please indicate all of the people that you told about this incident or to whom you reported the incident.

#	Question	I told this person, not wanting them to take official action	I told this person, wanting them to take official action	Total Responses
5	Roommate or close friend	86		86
6	Family member			
7	Counselor at Wesleyan's Counseling and Psychological Services			
8	Faculty or staff			
9	Residence hall staff			
10	Local police			
11	Wesleyan Public Safety			
12	Sexual Violence Resource Coordinator		Privacy Suppressed	
13	Religious staff			
14	On-campus medical staff			
15	Title IX coordinator			
16	Off-campus sexual assault advocate			
17	Other, please specify			
18	Middlesex Hospital staff			
19	Women and Families Center staff			
20	Community therapist			

33. Which of the following choices below best describes the on-campus residence or off-campus Wesleyan-affiliated residence where the incident occurred?

#	Answer	Bar	Response
1	Residence Hall		62
2	Program House		32
3	Apartment or Woodframe		44
4	Other		
5	Study abroad residence	Privacy Suppressed	

34. Did you file an official report about the incident?

#	Answer	Bar	Response
1	Yes	Privacy Suppressed	
2	No		100

35. It is common to have mixed feelings when deciding whether or not to share your experience with someone else. Did any of the following thoughts or concerns cross your mind when you decided whether or not to report your experience? Please check all that apply.

#	Answer	Bar	Response
1	Did not know who I should tell	Privacy Suppressed	
2	Did not want anyone to know the other things I was doing at the time (e.g., drinking underage, using drugs)	Privacy Suppressed	
6	Not clear that harm was intended		112
7	Did not think it was serious enough to share		118
8	Lack of proof that incident happened		53
9	Fear of being treated with hostility by the person I would tell		42
11	Did not want the person who did it to get into trouble		60
13	Did not think the Wesleyan administration would do anything		40
15	Worried that if I told someone at Wesleyan, the administration would take action against the entire organization/group that this person belongs to, rather than just the person who did something wrong	Privacy Suppressed	
16	Worried that if I told someone at Wesleyan, the administration would take action on their own without my permission		31
17	Other, please specify	Privacy Suppressed	
19	Fear of retaliation from the perpetrator(s)		30

