

Report: 2021 Climate Survey on Student Sexual Misconduct



JOHNS HOPKINS
UNIVERSITY



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I. Introduction

Johns Hopkins University is firmly committed to fostering a community free from sexual assault and other sexual misconduct. To that end, we asked all full-time university students to participate in a climate survey on sexual misconduct in 2018, 2019, and most recently in 2021. This document is a summary of the principal results of the 2021 Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Misconduct and conveys initial findings to the community.

We recognize that the 2021 data presented here—unlike the data from 2018 and 2019—were impacted to an unknown degree by the COVID-19 pandemic, making interpretation and comparability more difficult. The 2021 survey was administered in October and November 2021, not long after many students had returned to on-campus learning for the first time since March 2020. Because the survey asks students to recount their experiences, knowledge, and perceptions related to sexual misconduct based on their time at the university, there can be little doubt that months of remote learning, social distancing, and limited in-person interactions had some effect on the results. Nevertheless, the survey results provide valuable insight that will guide future and ongoing efforts in prevention, response, and survivor support.

Please note that this document may contain content that is upsetting and uncomfortable, or that you would prefer not to read. Resources and support options for students, faculty, and staff are included at the end of this document.



II. Methods and Definitions

The 2021 Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Misconduct was an online survey developed by the university's Office of Institutional Research and hosted in Qualtrics. The questions in the 2021 survey were drawn almost entirely from the Association of American Universities (AAU) 2019 climate survey, which was administered in spring 2019. In addition, the 2021 survey included new and revised questions that were developed on the basis of input from the university's Sexual Violence Advisory Committee.

All full-time graduate and undergraduate students enrolled during the fall 2021 term were invited by email to complete the survey (n = 17,393). A comprehensive communications plan was developed and implemented to promote survey participation, including print and social media, as well as tabling events. To incentivize participation, approximately 20% of survey participants received an Amazon gift card. The rate of response was 19.7% (n = 3,426 students).

The first section of the survey collected data regarding student demographics and affiliations with Johns Hopkins University. Students could skip any question in the survey. To be considered complete, a survey had to include answers to the demographic questions regarding gender and student level and meet one of the following sets of criteria: (1) the student took at least five minutes to complete the survey and hit Submit, or (2) the student answered at least one of the screener questions for the four types of sexual misconduct.

Of the survey respondents, 37% were undergraduate students, and 63% were graduate and professional students. By gender, students who identify as women made up the largest proportion of respondents; respondents were 62% women, 35% men, and 3% identified as trans, nonbinary, or questioning, or self-described their gender. Individuals who identified outside the gender binary were aggregated in analysis under the label TGQN.

In order to collect data regarding sexual misconduct that survey respondents might have experienced since enrolling at the university, the questions in the survey included explicit descriptions of behavior. For the purposes of this report, we use the following terms:

Sexual Assault includes reports of incidents of two types:

- **Nonconsensual Sexual Penetration:** any act of sexual intercourse with another individual against a person's will or without consent, where sexual intercourse includes vaginal or anal penetration, however slight, with any body part or object, or oral penetration involving mouth to genital contact.
- **Nonconsensual Sexual Touching:** fondling, which is any intentional touching of the intimate parts of another person or causing another to touch one's intimate parts against a person's will or without consent, where intimate parts may include genitalia, groin, breast, or buttocks, or clothing covering them, or any other body part that is touched in a sexual manner; disrobing or exposure of another against a person's will or without consent; other sexual acts or sexual contact against a person's will or without consent; sexual battery; sexual coercion; and attempted nonconsensual sexual intercourse.

In addition to reports of incidents that were completed, survey respondents were asked whether nonconsensual sexual penetration was attempted. If incidents were reported as completed, further questions asked whether such incidents occurred as a result of (1) force or threat of force, (2)



incapacitation owing to alcohol or drugs, (3) coercion by threatening serious nonphysical harm or promising rewards, and/or (4) without active affirmative consent.

Questions asking whether someone experienced sexual assault provided three possible answers: “Yes,” “No,” and “I am not certain.” The latter option was included for the first time in the 2021 survey, based on a recommendation from the university’s Sexual Violence Advisory Committee.

Sexual Harassment: Students were asked about situations in which an individual said or did something of a sexual nature that created a hostile environment at, or in connection with, any university program or activity, including interfering with academic or professional performance, limiting the ability to participate in an academic program, or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive social, academic, or work environment. Five behaviors were included: (1) made sexual remarks or told jokes or stories that were insulting or offensive, (2) made inappropriate or offensive comments about the student’s or someone else’s body, appearance, or sexual activities, (3) said crude or gross sexual things or tried to talk about sexual matters when the student didn’t want to, (4) emailed, texted, tweeted, phoned, or instant messaged offensive sexual remarks, jokes, stories, pictures, or videos to the student, who didn’t want them, and/or (5) continued to ask the student to go out, get dinner, have drinks, or have sex even though they said no.

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV): The measure of IPV was intended to capture violence associated with relationships that might not be captured in the questions on nonconsensual sexual contact. These questions were administered to anyone who said they had been in any “partnered relationship” since enrolling in college. Three behaviors were included: (1) a partner controlling or trying to control a student (examples included keeping the student from going to classes or pursuing educational goals, not allowing them to see or talk with friends or family, making decisions for them such as where to go or what to wear or eat, or threatening to “out” them); (2) a partner threatening to physically harm themselves, the student, or someone the student loves; and/or (3) a partner using any kind of physical force.

Stalking: Students were asked if someone behaved in a way more than once that made them afraid for their personal safety or the safety of others, or caused the student to experience substantial emotional distress. The behaviors included (1) unwanted phone calls, emails, voice messages, text messages, or instant messages, as well as posted messages, pictures, or videos on social networking sites; (2) showing up somewhere or waiting for a student when that activity was not wanted; and/or (3) observing, watching, or following a student either in person or using devices or software.

Individuals reporting unwanted sexual behavior were asked a series of follow-up questions about the incident or, if they experienced more than one incident, the experience that they remembered the most.



III. Year-to-Year Trends

The 2021 survey had a lower response rate than both the 2018 and 2019 surveys, as shown in **Table 1a**. The proportion of survey respondents who were graduate students was higher than in past years. Across the four categories of sexual misconduct that were addressed in the survey, the prevalence decreased from 2018 to 2019 to 2021, **Table 1b**. We recognize that the virtual learning and social distancing measures implemented to address the COVID-19 pandemic likely influenced these results.

Table 1a: Demographics of Survey Respondents,
by Survey Year

Survey Year	2018	2019	2021
Enrolled Students (N)	13931	14364	17393
Total Responses (N)	3263	4084	3426
Response Rate	23%	28%	20%
Women (N)	2010	2441	2127
%*	62%	60%	62%
TGQN (N)	43	62	97
%	1%	2%	3%
Undergraduate (N)	1388	1740	1255
%	43%	43%	37%
Graduate (N)	1875	2344	2171
%	57%	57%	63%

* University data indicate that, among the survey population of 17,393 full-time students, 55.8% (9,697) are women and 44.1% (7,670) are men. The student system does not include a TGQN category.

Table 1b: Prevalence of Sexual Misconduct,
by Survey Year

	2018	2019	2021
Sexual Assault (N)	625	574	298
% of Total Responses	19%	14%	9%
Harassment (N)	n/a	782	451
% of Total Responses	n/a	19%	13%
Stalking (N)	n/a	218	129
% of Total Responses	n/a	5%	4%
IPV (N)	220	217	100
**	9%	8%	5%

**Percentage of students experiencing IPV based on number of students who reported being in a partnered relationship.

Note: The 2019 survey introduced methodological changes to the definitions of sexual harassment and stalking; thus we exclude 2018 data for those rates in the year-to-year comparisons.



IV. Principal Findings

Campus Climate

In this survey section, students were asked a series of questions to assess perception of risk, perception of university support, and perception of campus culture and norms.

Regarding perception of risk, students were asked how problematic sexual misconduct (including but not limited to sexual assault) was at the university and how likely they thought they were to experience sexual misconduct in the future.

When asked how problematic sexual misconduct (including sexual assault) is at the university

- 40% of undergraduates and 67% of graduate students answered with “A little” or “Not at all”;
- 25% of undergraduates and 9% of graduate students answered with “Very” or “Extremely.”

Students who had experienced sexual assault viewed sexual misconduct as more problematic at the university than did students who had not experienced sexual assault¹.

- 48% of undergraduates who reported experiencing sexual assault compared to 20% of students who did not report experiencing sexual assault indicated that sexual misconduct was “Very” or “Extremely” problematic.
- 29% of graduate students who reported experiencing sexual assault compared to 8% of students who did not report experiencing sexual assault indicated that sexual misconduct was “Very” or “Extremely” problematic.



When asked how likely they think they are to experience sexual misconduct (including sexual assault) during their time at the university

- 71% of undergraduates and 88% of graduate students answered with “A little” or “Not at all”;
- 10% of undergraduates and 3% of graduate students answered with “Very” or “Extremely.”

Students who had experienced sexual assault were more likely to expect to experience future sexual assault or sexual misconduct than were students who had not experienced sexual assault.

- 29% of undergraduates who reported experiencing sexual assault compared to 6% of students who did not report experiencing sexual assault answered with “Very” or “Extremely.”
- 16% of graduate students who reported experiencing sexual assault compared to 2% of students who did not report experiencing sexual assault answered with “Very” or “Extremely.”



Students were asked if they agree with the statement, “I feel safe at this university.”

- 76% of undergraduates and 74% of graduate students either “somewhat” or “strongly” agreed.
- 10% of undergraduates and 12% of graduate students either “somewhat” or “strongly” disagreed.

Students who had experienced sexual assault were less likely to agree with the statement than were

¹ For this comparison we define the category of students who did not experience sexual assault as those who answered explicitly “no” to all nine of the sexual assault screener questions. Students who answered “I am uncertain” or left a field blank were excluded from this breakout analysis.



students who had not experienced sexual assault.

- 65% of undergraduates who reported experiencing sexual assault compared to 79% of students who did not report experiencing sexual assault agreed with the statement.
- 60% of graduate students who reported experiencing sexual assault compared to 75% of students who did not report experiencing sexual assault agreed with the statement.



When students were asked whether they believed Johns Hopkins is genuinely concerned about their welfare, similar trends emerged.

- 55% of undergraduates and 66% of graduate students either “somewhat” or “strongly” agreed.
- 28% of undergraduates and 17% of graduate students either “somewhat” or “strongly” disagreed.

Students who had experienced sexual assault were less likely to agree with the statement than were students who had not experienced sexual assault.

- 39% of undergraduates who reported experiencing sexual assault compared to 58% of students who did not report experiencing sexual assault agreed with the statement.
- 44% of graduate students who reported experiencing sexual assault compared to 68% of students who did not report experiencing sexual assault agreed with the statement.



Overall, the majority of students, 58%, either “somewhat” or “strongly” agree that the university does enough to protect the safety of students.

- 51% of undergraduates and 62% of graduate students either “somewhat” or “strongly” agreed.
- 26% of undergraduates and 14% of graduate students either “somewhat” or “strongly” disagreed.

Students who had experienced sexual assault were less likely to agree with the statement than were students who had not experienced sexual assault.

- 31% of undergraduates who reported experiencing sexual assault compared to 55% of students who did not report experiencing sexual assault agreed with the statement.
- 38% of graduate students who reported experiencing sexual assault compared to 63% of students who did not report experiencing sexual assault agreed with the statement.



Students were asked about their perception of what would likely happen if they were to report sexual assault or other sexual misconduct to an official at Hopkins. When asked how likely it would be that “*campus officials would take the report seriously,*”

- 52% of undergraduates and 61% of graduate students answered with “Very likely” or “Extremely likely,”
- 19% of undergraduates and 13% of graduate students answered with “A little likely” or “Not at all likely.”

Students who had experienced sexual assault were less likely to trust that a report of future misconduct would be taken seriously.

- 31% of undergraduates who reported experiencing sexual assault compared to 56% of students who did not report experiencing sexual assault answered with “Very likely” or “Extremely likely.”
- 48% of graduate students who reported experiencing sexual assault compared to 67% of



students who did not report experiencing sexual assault answered with “Very likely” or “Extremely likely.”



When asked how likely it would be that “*campus officials would conduct a fair investigation,*”

- 36% of undergraduates and 55% of graduate students answered with “Very likely” or “Extremely likely,”
- 26% of undergraduates and 15% of graduate students answered with “A little likely” or “Not at all likely.”

Students who had experienced sexual assault were less likely to trust that an investigation of sexual misconduct would be conducted fairly.

- 17% of undergraduates who reported experiencing sexual assault compared to 40% of students who did not report experiencing sexual assault answered with “Very likely” or “Extremely likely.”
- 31% of graduate students who reported experiencing sexual assault compared to 55% of students who did not report experiencing sexual assault answered with “Very likely” or “Extremely likely.”



Students were asked about their knowledge of university resources and processes for dealing with sexual misconduct. These questions asked students to rank how knowledgeable they were regarding how sexual assault and misconduct are defined at Hopkins, where to get help if they or a friend experienced sexual misconduct, where to make a report of sexual misconduct at Hopkins, and what happens when a student reports an incident of sexual assault or sexual misconduct at Hopkins. Overall, undergraduate students reported being more knowledgeable than graduate students, except with regard to the question, “What happens when a student reports an incident of sexual assault or other sexual misconduct?”

- 49% of undergraduates and 41% of graduate students said they were “very” or “extremely” knowledgeable about how sexual assault and misconduct are defined at Hopkins.
- 45% of undergraduates and 36% of graduate students said they were “very” or “extremely” knowledgeable about where to get help if they or a friend experienced sexual misconduct.
- 42% of undergraduates and 34% of graduate students said they were “very” or “extremely” knowledgeable about where to make a report of sexual misconduct at Hopkins.
- 27% of undergraduates and 29% of graduate students said they were “very” or “extremely” knowledgeable about what happens when a student reports an incident of sexual assault or other sexual misconduct.

Sexual Assault

Overall, 298 students reported experiencing one or more sexual assaults while attending JHU, with a total of 540 separate incidents of sexual assault reported by these students. This overall prevalence represents 9% of all respondents, 14% of undergraduates, and 6% of graduate students. An additional 102 students, 3%, indicated that they were unsure whether they had experienced sexual assault. **Table 2** breaks out the prevalence of the different forms of sexual assault by student gender (women/men/TGQN) and level (undergraduate/graduate).

**Table 2: Prevalence of Sexual Assault, by Gender and Student Level**

Undergraduate Students					
		Total N = 1255	Women N = 748	Men N = 458	TGQN N = 49
Sexual Assault of Any Form	%	14%	18%	8%	20%
Physical Force or Threat of Physical Force					
Nonconsensual sexual penetration or oral sex	%	2%	3%	2%	6%
Nonconsensual sexual touching	%	5%	7%	2%	10%
Attempted sexual penetration or oral sex	%	1%	2%	0%	2%
Unable to Consent					
Nonconsensual sexual penetration or oral sex	%	2%	3%	1%	2%
Nonconsensual sexual touching	%	4%	4%	2%	4%
Coercion/Threat of Non-physical Harm					
Nonconsensual sexual penetration or oral sex	%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Nonconsensual sexual touching	%	0%	1%	0%	0%
Lack of Ongoing Voluntary Consent					
Nonconsensual sexual penetration or oral sex	%	5%	7%	2%	6%
Nonconsensual sexual touching	%	5%	7%	2%	8%
Graduate Students					
		Total N = 2171	Women N = 1379	Men N = 744	TGQN N = 48
Sexual Assault of Any Form	%	6%	7%	3%	10%
Physical Force or Threat of Physical Force					
Nonconsensual sexual penetration or oral sex	%	1%	1%	1%	0%
Nonconsensual sexual touching	%	2%	3%	1%	0%
Attempted sexual penetration or oral sex	%	1%	1%	1%	0%
Unable to Consent					
Nonconsensual sexual penetration or oral sex	%	1%	1%	0%	2%
Nonconsensual sexual touching	%	1%	1%	1%	2%
Coercion/Threat of Non-physical Harm					
Nonconsensual sexual penetration or oral sex	%	0%	0%	1%	0%
Nonconsensual sexual touching	%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Lack of Ongoing Voluntary Consent					
Nonconsensual sexual penetration or oral sex	%	2%	2%	1%	6%
Nonconsensual sexual touching	%	2%	3%	1%	2%

As in past years and consistent with national data, higher prevalence of sexual assault was identified among women compared with men and among undergraduate students compared with graduate



students. By sexual orientation, students who identified as queer² experienced higher prevalence of sexual assault than students who identified solely as straight/heterosexual. When broken out by race/ethnic identity, international students³ were the only group that reported “I am uncertain” at higher rates than “yes” when asked if they had experienced sexual assault.

The above type of sexual assault described as “Unable to Consent” captures situations where the survey participant reported being unable to consent to or stop what was happening because they were “passed out, asleep, or incapacitated due to drugs or alcohol.” Separately, the survey asked all individuals who reported experiencing any type of sexual assault whether they or the perpetrator had voluntarily consumed drugs or alcohol. In 46.5% of reported sexual assaults (251 of 540 incidents), survey respondents indicated that they had voluntarily consumed alcohol and/or drugs. In 52.6% of reported sexual assaults (284 of 540 incidents), the survey respondent reported that the perpetrator had been consuming alcohol and/or drugs. Undergraduate survey participants reported a slightly higher frequency of drug/alcohol use by both the survivor and the perpetrator than did graduate student participants, but the variation is not statistically significant.

Tables 3a, 3b, and 3c present the prevalence of sexual assault while attending JHU as broken out by student gender, sexual orientation, and race/ethnic identity.

Table 3a: Prevalence of Sexual Assault, by Gender

		Total N = 3426	Women N = 2127	Men N = 1202	TGQN N = 97
Yes	N	298	226	57	15
	%	8.7%	11%	5%	16%
Unsure	N	102	73	25	4
	%	3.0%	3%	2%	4%

Table 3b: Prevalence of Sexual Assault, by Sexual Orientation

		Total N = 3404	Straight N = 2486	Queer N = 839	Decline to State N = 79
Yes	N	298	148	142	8
	%	8.8%	6%	17%	10%
Unsure	N	101	67	31	3
	%	3.0%	3%	4%	4%

Note: 'Total' for 3b excludes students who did not provide demographic information regarding their sexual orientation.

² Inclusive of all students except those who identified solely as “straight/heterosexual” or who did not identify their sexual orientation.

³ Defined as those students who are not U.S. residents.



Table 3c: Prevalence of Sexual Assault, by Race/Ethnicity

	Total N = 3425	Inter- national N = 1043	Hispanic of any race N = 372	Black or African American N = 159	Asian N = 577	White N = 1044	Two or More Races N = 182	Race and ethnicity unknown N = 48	
Yes	N	298	38	49	12	50	109	32	8
	%	8.7%	4%	13%	8%	9%	10%	18%	17%
Unsure	N	102	41	15	5	12	24	2	3
	%	3.0%	4%	4%	3%	2%	2%	1%	6%

Students were asked if they had ever experienced nine different types of sexual assault, and could answer, “Yes,” “No,” or “I am uncertain” for each of the questions. Five percent (178) of survey respondents answered “I am uncertain” to at least one of these nine categories of sexual assault. Students who answered “I am uncertain” were asked to indicate why they felt uncertain about what occurred during their experience, and could check all reasons that applied. The most frequently cited reasons were the following:

- “I do not see myself as someone who experienced sexual assault” (120 citations, 45%);
- “I do not believe the other person intended to cause me harm” (89 citations, 33%);
- “I don’t recall exactly what happened” (74 citations, 28%);
- “I was intoxicated at the time this occurred.” (74 citations, 28%).

Students who answered “Yes” to experiencing one or more incident of sexual assault were asked if they had contacted any university resource (listed in the survey) or the police. The results indicated that 75% of the 540 reported incidents were not reported to any university resource or the police. When students did utilize resources, the most frequently cited ones were the Office of Institutional Equity (47 incidents), the Counseling Center (47 incidents), and the JHU Sexual Assault Hotline (18 incidents).

Students who indicated that they did not report an incident of sexual assault to any resource were asked to explain. The three most frequently cited reasons for not reporting were the following:

- “I did not think it was serious enough to contact any of these programs or resources” (187 incidents);
- “I could handle it myself” (171 incidents);
- “I did not want the person to get in trouble” (74 incidents).

Sexual Harassment

Overall, 862 students, 25% of all respondents, reported experiencing at least one incident of unwelcome sexual behavior while attending JHU; 451 of these 862 students, 13% of all respondents, indicated that this behavior affected them in ways such as:

- interfered with the victim’s academic or professional performance,
- limited the victim’s ability to participate in an academic program, or
- created an intimidating, hostile, or offensive social, academic, or work environment.

Unwelcome sexual conduct that resulted in one of the three outcomes noted above was considered sexual harassment. The most common impact of sexual harassment cited was “creating an



intimidating, hostile, or offensive social, academic, or work environment” (89% of responses).

Using this definition of sexual harassment, 20% of undergraduates and 9% of graduate students reported experiencing sexual harassment since they enrolled at JHU, **Table 4**.

Table 4: Prevalence of Sexual Harassment, by Gender & Student Level

Undergraduate Students		Total N = 1255	Women N = 748	Men N = 458	TGQN N = 49
	N	254	193	42	19
	%	20%	26%	9%	39%
Graduate & Professional Students		Total N = 2171	Women N = 1379	Men N = 744	TGQN N = 48
	N	197	148	39	10
	%	9%	11%	5%	21%

As with sexual assault, the prevalence of sexual harassment was highest for TGQN students, followed by women, **Table 5a**. Similarly, queer students report higher prevalence of harassment than heterosexual/straight students, **Table 5b**. When broken out by race, the prevalence of sexual harassment is highest among students who self-identify as Hispanic or self-identify as “Two or More Races,” **Table 5c**.

Table 5a: Prevalence of Sexual Harassment, by Gender

		Total N = 3426	Women N = 2127	Men N = 1202	TGQN N = 97
Yes	N	451	341	81	29
	%	13%	16%	7%	30%

Table 5b: Prevalence of Sexual Harassment, by Sexual Orientation

		Total N = 3404	Straight N = 2486	Queer N = 839	Decline to State N = 79
Yes	N	448	243	194	11
	%	13%	10%	23%	14%

Note: 'Total' for 5b excludes students who did not provide demographic information regarding their sexual orientation.



Table 5c: Prevalence of Sexual Harassment, by Race/Ethnicity

	Total N = 3426	Inter- national N = 1043	Hispanic of any race N = 372	Black or African American N = 159	Asian N = 577	White N = 1044	Two or More Races N = 182	Race and ethnicity unknown N = 48
Yes	N 451	61	73	18	92	166	34	7
	% 13%	6%	20%	11%	16%	16%	19%	15%

In follow-up questions, 59% of students who were sexually harassed indicated that two or more people participated in the harassing behavior. Regardless of gender identity of the victim, the vast majority of sexual harassment was perpetrated by individuals identified as men (83% of reported incidents of sexual harassment were perpetrated by a single individual). In 89% of incidents where harassment was perpetrated by multiple people, the victim identified at least one perpetrator as a man. The plurality of harassment, 82%, involved other JHU students, with undergraduates reporting higher prevalence of harassment by other JHU students, 95% of incidents for undergraduates versus 66% of incidents for graduate students. Overall 18% of students who experienced harassment identified the perpetrator as a JHU faculty member or instructor, with graduate students reporting higher prevalence of harassment by JHU faculty (31%) than undergraduate students (8%).

Only 22% of students who experienced sexual harassment contacted any university resource or the police. The top three reasons students cited for not contacting any resource were

- “I did not think it was serious enough to contact any of these programs or resources” (n = 212, 62%);
- “I did not think it would be helpful” (n = 191, 56%);
- “I could handle it myself” (n = 128, 38%).

For students who did report, the top three resources utilized were JHU Counseling Center, OIE, and Dean of Students/Student Affairs.

Intimate Partner Violence

The majority of students indicated they had been in a partnered relationship for at least a portion of the time they had been enrolled at JHU: 48% of undergraduates and 59% of graduate and professional students. Of those students who had been in a partnered relationship, 9% of undergraduates and 4% of graduate students indicated that they had experienced intimate partner violence, **Table 6**.

Table 6: Prevalence of Intimate Partner Violence, by Gender & Student Level

Undergraduate Students	Total N = 598	Women N = 363	Men N = 207	TGQN N = 28
N	52	36	13	3
%	9%	10%	6%	11%
Graduate & Professional Students	Total N = 1279	Women N = 809	Men N = 433	TGQN N = 37
N	48	31	15	2
%	4%	4%	4%	5%

Note: Percentage prevalence is calculated based on students who reported being in a partnered relationship.



Prevalence of intimate partner violence was higher among women and TGQN-identified individuals than among men, **Table 7a**; and higher among queer students than among straight/heterosexual students, **Table 7b**.⁴

Table 7a: Prevalence of Intimate Partner Violence, by Gender

		Total N = 1873	Women N = 1172	Men N = 640	TGQN N = 61
Yes	N	100	67	28	5
	%	5%	6%	4%	8%

Table 7b: Prevalence of Intimate Partner Violence,
by Sexual Orientation

		Total N = 1866	Straight N = 1334	Queer N = 494	Decline to State N = 38
Yes	N	100	66	32	2
	%	5%	5%	7%	5%

Note: 'Total' for 7b excludes students who did not provide demographic information regarding their sexual orientation

Of those students who reported in our survey that they had experienced intimate partner violence, the majority reported experiencing IPV with one partner; however, 16% indicated they had experienced intimate partner violence with two or more partners. In 74% of reports the student identified their abuser as a man. Sixteen students indicated they had been physically harmed as the result of intimate partner violence.

Most students, 83%, who experienced intimate partner violence did not contact any university resource or the police. The three most frequently cited reasons for not utilizing such resources were

- "I could handle it myself" (n = 42, 54%);
- "I did not think it would be helpful" (n = 37, 47%);
- "I did not think it was serious enough to contact any of these programs or resources" (n = 33, 42%).

Stalking

Overall 10% of students (n = 328) reported having experienced at least one incident of stalking-like behavior; 4% of students (n = 129) reported experiencing conduct that fit the definition of stalking, in that they experienced stalking behaviors more than once by the same person and reported fear for safety or substantial emotional distress as a result. **Table 8** presents the prevalence of stalking broken out by gender and level.

⁴ A breakdown of IPV prevalence by race/ethnicity is not included owing to small numbers.



Table 8: Prevalence of Stalking, by Gender & Student Level

Undergraduate Students		Total N = 1255	Women N = 748	Men N = 458	TGQN N = 49
N		72	56	12	4
%		6%	8%	3%	8%
Graduate & Professional Students		Total N = 2171	Women N = 1379	Men N = 744	TGQN N = 48
N		57	42	13	2
%		3%	3%	2%	4%

As with other forms of sexual misconduct, women and TGQN-identifying students reported experiencing higher prevalence of stalking than men, **Table 9a**; and queer students reported experiencing higher prevalence than heterosexual/straight students, **Table 9b**.⁵

Table 9a: Prevalence of Stalking, by Gender

		Total N = 3426	Women N = 2127	Men N = 1202	TGQN N = 97
Yes	N	129	98	25	6
	%	4%	5%	2%	6%

Table 9b: Prevalence of Stalking, by Sexual Orientation

		Total N = 3404	Straight N = 2486	Queer N = 839	Decline to State N = 79
Yes	N	128	70	55	3
	%	4%	3%	7%	4%

Note: 'Total' for 9b excludes students who did not provide demographic information regarding their sexual orientation.

Of the students who provided information regarding the identity of the individual(s) who stalked them, 63% indicated that their stalker was another JHU student. Undergraduates identified their stalker as a fellow JHU student at notably higher prevalence than graduate students (75% for undergraduates, 47% for graduate students). Overall, 23% of students indicated that their stalker had no affiliation with JHU. Including students who indicated they had experienced stalking by multiple perpetrators, 74% of stalking victims identified their stalkers as men; including incidents with stalkers of multiple genders, 81% included a male stalker.

Among students who answered follow-up questions regarding reporting the stalking they experienced, 66% (80 of 122 respondents) indicated that they did not contact any university

⁵ A breakdown of stalking prevalence by race/ethnicity is not included owing to small numbers.



resources or the police. The three most frequently cited reasons for not reporting were

- “I did not think it would be helpful” (n =43, 54%);
- “I could handle it myself” (n = 37, 46%);
- “I did not think it was serious enough to contact any of these programs or resources” (n = 30, 38%).

Bystander Intervention Behavior

Students were asked whether they had witnessed four different situations in which one person was engaging in, or seemed likely to engage in, sexual misconduct. If so, they were asked whether they took any measures to intervene, such as direct confrontation, checking in with the potential victim, or seeking help from others. Overall, 77.3% (690) of the 893 students who reported witnessing potential sexual misconduct took some action in response, with high rates of intervention from both undergraduate and graduate students.

Table 10: Bystander Intervention Response

Type of Conduct Witnessed	Number of Witnesses	Undergraduate Students		Graduate Students	
		<i>Took Action</i>	<i>No Action</i>	<i>Took Action</i>	<i>No Action</i>
Sexual comment / conduct	406	73.4% (190)	25.5% (66)	64.6% (95)	33.3% (49)
Pattern of ongoing sexual conduct	132	83.1% (64)	13.0% (10)	76.4% (42)	16.4% (9)
Controlling/abusive toward partner	155	86.2% (94)	12.8% (14)	78.3% (36)	21.7% (10)
Conduct that could lead to sexual assault	200	83.8% (119)	19.7% (28)	86.2% (50)	13.8% (8)

Note: For each of the four types of conduct, a few witnesses declined to indicate whether they took action or took no action, and thus were not included in either category.

V. Moving Forward

While the 2021 survey results show a decrease in prevalence across all types of sexual misconduct, we recognize that the lifestyle and behavioral changes resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic likely had an impact on the student experiences captured by the survey.⁶ Thus, even assuming that the prevalence of sexual misconduct decreased during the era of virtual learning and social distancing, we cannot and do not assume that this decrease is permanent. Moreover, any and all sexual misconduct is unacceptable, and we remain committed to preventing and addressing such conduct at Johns Hopkins University.

Notwithstanding lower overall prevalence, the survey results indicated sexual assault involving the

⁶ Notably, the 2019–21 annual reports issued by the Office of Institutional Equity similarly show that student reporting of sexual misconduct to OIE decreased dramatically from 2019 to 2021, with 246 total student sexual misconduct reports in 2019, 113 in 2020, and 76 in 2021. However, OIE found that student reporting once again increased in fall 2021 after most students returned to campus. See [OIE Annual Reports](#).



lack of ongoing, voluntary agreement is one of the most common types among students. Beginning in fall 2021, the university launched a campaign to promote affirmative consent in sexual encounters, referred to as the *I Ask – I Listen – I Respect* campaign. This campaign was developed by SVAC and utilized feedback from student surveys and focus groups. Health Promotion & Well-Being is spearheading the ongoing promotion of this campaign, with significantly increased activity across all campuses and divisions in fall 2022, particularly during Orientation.

The 2021 survey also highlighted the high rate at which alcohol and/or drugs were involved in the reported sexual assaults, even when the survivor did not report being incapacitated by drugs and/or alcohol. The results indicate that almost half the reported sexual assaults (46.5%, 251) involved the voluntary consumption of alcohol and/or drugs by the survivor. Far fewer participants (90 students, 111 total incidents) reported an assault where they were unable to consent or stop what was happening because they were incapacitated owing to drugs or alcohol, or they were asleep or unconscious. In addition, more than half the reported assaults involved the voluntary consumption of alcohol and/or drugs by the perpetrator (52.6%, 284). Perpetrators of sexual assault are responsible for their actions, and alcohol and/or drug use is not a justification or explanation for an assault. In fact, perpetrators of sexual violence may seek out someone who has been using drugs or alcohol as an easier target, and/or may use drugs or alcohol themselves to lower their own inhibitions or in an attempt to excuse violent or harmful behaviors. The frequency with which alcohol and/or drug use overlaps with incidents of sexual assault suggests an opportunity for more education and prevention work in this area.

The survey revealed an ongoing need for students to become more knowledgeable about where to get help and support if they or a friend experiences sexual misconduct. The university has numerous resources, both confidential and nonconfidential, to provide support, yet some students indicated they were unaware of or reluctant to consult these resources. In spring 2022, the Provost's Sexual Violence Advisory Committee (SVAC) partnered with the Bloomberg School of Public Health's Center for Communication Programs (CCP) to address this issue. Since that time, CCP and SVAC have been developing a student-vetted, cohesive, trauma-informed messaging strategy addressing awareness of and access to supportive resources. The themes and outputs for this strategy are currently being reviewed and tested in student focus groups, with a plan of launching a long-term messaging campaign during spring term 2023.⁷

The 2021 survey also indicated that some students are unsure of how to make a report of sexual misconduct or what happens if such a report is made. In addition, many students lacked confidence in the investigation process that can follow a report. While the above-described CCP campaign will bring attention to all university resources related to gender-based violence, this particular finding suggested a need for the Office of Institutional Equity (OIE) to increase its visibility. In fall term 2022, OIE engaged in numerous in-person and virtual trainings for new students, various departments and groups, and key student contacts, such as resident advisers and first-year mentors. OIE also published its 2021 Annual Report in spring 2022, and it will continue to promote and utilize these reports to shed light on the complaints it receives and how they are handled. OIE will continue to

⁷ Notably, the CCP project will draw attention to the university's recent and intentional expansion of its confidential resources for students, a development stemming from the results of the 2018 and 2019 climate surveys on sexual misconduct but temporarily delayed owing to the pandemic. Our confidential resources for gender-based violence now include an associate director of Student Well-Being—Gender-Based Violence and two gender violence prevention, education, and response coordinators, all of whom are confidential and can serve students across the university. This is a welcome complement to our confidential counseling, health, and spiritual resources for students.



assess how to increase knowledge of and confidence in its reporting mechanisms and subsequent processes.

We were pleased to see the high percentage of participants who took an intervening action upon witnessing potential sexual misconduct or a situation that could lead to sexual misconduct. Undergraduate participants generally showed a higher rate of intervention than graduate students, which may be explained by the fact that all undergraduate students have received mandatory bystander intervention training (BIT), typically in their first year. In the past several years, through the collaboration of SVAC and Health Promotion & Well-Being, BIT has also been available to graduate students. Graduate survey participants also showed positive rates of intervention, and slightly exceeded the undergraduate intervention rate in one of the most concerning scenarios—upon witnessing conduct that could lead to sexual assault. Overall, the survey results appear to suggest that requiring multiple years of undergraduate BIT, along with expanding BIT to graduate students, helps support a culture of intervention.

The university remains committed to evidence-based prevention of and response to sexual violence. These results have been carefully reviewed by the SVAC to ensure that the most relevant and recent data are shaping development, implementation, and evaluation of policies and programs. While the presence of sexual violence in our community is alarming, the university is not unique in this regard, and it is critical to remember that sexual violence is preventable. National entities provide guidance on evidence-based prevention and survivor-centered accountability approaches, including via CDC STOP SV Technical Package and NASEM Action Collaborative on Preventing Sexual Harassment in Higher Education, in which JHU participates. During fall 2023, the university will launch another student climate survey on sexual misconduct. The data collected will help establish a new baseline and understanding of sexual misconduct on our campuses, particularly given that (hopefully) more than a year will have passed since the most tumultuous months of the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, the survey results may provide insight into the impact of the above-described efforts to prevent sexual misconduct. These data are critical to our joint efforts to eradicate sexual misconduct from the university, and we sincerely thank the students who have taken the time to anonymously share their experiences through the survey.

To provide feedback on the 2021 Climate Survey on Sexual Misconduct and Sexual Assault, and/or to provide suggestions for the 2023-24 survey, please email the Office of Institutional Research @ ClimateSurvey@jhu.edu.



VI. Resources

Below is a list of resources that provide confidential and non-confidential support to students, faculty, and staff across the University. There are even more resources on the [Office of Institutional Equity's Confidential Resources website](#).

JHU Counseling Center

410-516-8278

Provides emotional support and assistance for mental health needs for Homewood, Peabody, and School of Education students

JHU Student Health and Wellness Center

410-516-8270

studentaffairs.jhu.edu/student-health

Provides confidential health care to Homewood and Peabody students

JH Student Assistance Program (JHSAP)

443-287-7000

jhsap.org

Provides support to graduate students by helping to manage life challenges and enhance emotional well-being

University Health Services (UHS)/Mental Health Services

410-955-3250

hopkinsmedicine.org/uhs

Provides medical, mental health, and wellness services to students, residents, fellows, trainees, and their immediate family members on the Johns Hopkins East Baltimore campus

JHU Sexual Assault Hotline

410-516-7333

Provides confidential assistance to students affected by sexual assault, relationship violence, and/or stalking

Gender Violence Prevention & Education

443-927-3548

HopkinsGBVP@jh.edu

Provides confidential support to students

Religious & Spiritual Life

410-516-1880

<https://studentaffairs.jhu.edu/religious-spiritual-life/>

Provides confidential support to students

The Ombuds Office

410 -218-6669

<https://www.jhu.edu/ombuds-office/>

Provides confidential support to PhD Students, Doctoral Fellows, and Postdoctoral Fellows only

Johns Hopkins EAP

888-978-1262

hr.jhu.edu/benefits-worklife/support-programs/

Provides professional, confidential, short-term counseling to faculty, staff, and their immediate family members

**Speak2Us/Ethics & Compliance Hotline**

<http://johnshopkinsspeak2us.com/>

1-844-SPEAK2US (1-844-773-2528)

24/7 hotline to report concerns about unethical or illegal acts that are detrimental to JHU and harmful to patients, students, faculty, staff, and visitors

Public Safety

410-516-4600 (Campus Security)

410-516-7777 (Campus Police)

publicsafety.jhu.edu

Responds to safety concerns from/involving students, faculty, staff and visitors

Accommodation Requests Student Disability Services:

<https://oie.sites.jhu.edu/requesting-student-accommodations/>

Employee Accommodations:

<https://oie.sites.jhu.edu/requesting-faculty-and-staff-accommodations/>

Religious Accommodations:

<https://oie.sites.jhu.edu/religious-accommodations/>