

Report: 2024 Student Survey to Assess the Climate of Sexual Misconduct



JOHNS HOPKINS
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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, 2021 and most recently in 2024. This document is a summary of the principal results of the *2024 Student Survey: Assessing the Climate of Sexual Misconduct at JHU*. This report sets forth comparative information from the last four student surveys on sexual misconduct, as well as providing data about our students' experience of sexual misconduct, awareness and usage of resources, understanding of the campus climate, and perceptions of problems and responses related to sexual misconduct.

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 2024 Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Misconduct was an online survey developed by the university's Office of Institutional Research and Analytics and hosted on Qualtrics. The questions in the 2024 survey were drawn almost entirely from the Association of American Universities (AAU) 2019 climate survey, which was administered in spring 2019. In addition, the 2024 survey included revised questions that were developed based on input from the university's Sexual Violence Advisory Committee.

All full-time graduate and undergraduate students enrolled during the spring 2024 term were invited by email to complete the survey (n = 18,086). 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 33% of survey participants received an Amazon gift card, which was an increase from approximately 20% for the fall 2021 survey. The rate of response was 14% (n = 2,457 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 response had to include answers to the demographic questions regarding gender and student level, and the student had to have spent at least 5 minutes taking the survey before submitting. Only submitted responses were included, and respondents under the age of 18 were not permitted to take the survey.

Of the survey respondents, 37% were undergraduate students, and 63% were graduate and professional students¹. By gender, students who identify as women made up the largest proportion of respondents; respondents were 60% women, 36% men, and 3% identified outside the gender binary (trans, nonbinary, or questioning) or self-described their gender². 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

¹ The student population invited to complete the survey was 31% undergraduate and 69% graduate students.

² University data indicate that the invited survey population was 55% female and 45% male. The student system does not include a 'TGQN' category.



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 last 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 2024 Campus Climate survey saw a further decrease in response rate with 14% of JHU students completing the survey, **Table 1a**. When broken out by student level, the response rate was 16.4% for undergraduate students (n = 910) and 12.3% for graduate students (n = 1,547).

Rates of sexual assault and harassment were similar to those reported in the 2021 survey, **Table 1b**, which were lower than those reported in 2018 and 2019. Stalking rates have remained steady, and the rate of intimate partner violence dipped in 2021 before returning to a similar rate as 2018 and 2019.

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

Survey Year	2018	2019	2021	2024
Enrolled Students (N)	13931	14364	17393	18086
Total Responses (N)	3263	4084	3426	2457
Response Rate	23%	28%	20%	14%
Women (N)	2010	2441	2127	1482
%	62%	60%	62%	60%
TGQN (N)	43	62	97	82
%	1%	2%	3%	3%
Undergraduate (N)	1388	1740	1255	910
%	43%	43%	37%	37%
Graduate (N)	1875	2344	2171	1547
%	57%	57%	63%	63%

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

	2018	2019	2021	2024
Sexual Assault (N)	625	574	298	201
% of Total Responses	19%	14%	9%	8%
Harassment (N)	n/a	782	451	339
% of Total Responses	n/a	19%	13%	14%
Stalking (N)	n/a	218	129	111
% of Total Responses	n/a	5%	4%	5%
IPV (N)	220	217	100	109
%*	9%	8%	5%	8%

*Percent 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

Sexual Assault

Overall, 201 students reported experiencing one or more sexual assaults while attending JHU, with a total of 386 incidents reported by these students. These rates represent 8% of all survey respondents; 12% of undergraduates, and 6% of graduate students. **Table 2** breaks out the frequency of different forms of sexual assault by gender identity and student level (undergraduate/graduate) of the survey respondent.

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

Undergraduate Students				
	Total	Women	Men	TGQN
	N = 910	N = 549	N = 321	N = 40
Sexual Assault of Any Form	12%	15%	5%	20%
Physical Force or Threat of Physical Force				
Nonconsensual sexual penetration or oral sex	2%	3%	0%	0%
Nonconsensual sexual touching	6%	9%	3%	5%
Attempted sexual penetration or oral sex	1%	1%	0%	3%
Unable to Consent				
Nonconsensual sexual penetration or oral sex	2%	2%	1%	5%
Nonconsensual sexual touching	3%	4%	2%	8%
Coercion/Threat of Non-physical Harm				
Nonconsensual sexual penetration or oral sex	0%	0%	0%	0%
Nonconsensual sexual touching	0%	0%	0%	0%
Lack of Ongoing Voluntary Consent				
Nonconsensual sexual penetration or oral sex	4%	6%	1%	13%
Nonconsensual sexual touching	6%	7%	2%	13%
Graduate Students				
	Total	Women	Men	TGQN
	N = 1547	N = 933	N = 572	N = 42
Sexual Assault of Any Form	6%	7%	5%	12%
Physical Force or Threat of Physical Force				
Nonconsensual sexual penetration or oral sex	1%	1%	1%	5%
Nonconsensual sexual touching	3%	3%	2%	7%
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%	0%
Coercion/Threat of Non-physical Harm				
Nonconsensual sexual penetration or oral sex	0%	0%	1%	0%
Nonconsensual sexual touching	0%	0%	1%	0%
Lack of Ongoing Voluntary Consent				
Nonconsensual sexual penetration or oral sex	2%	2%	1%	5%
Nonconsensual sexual touching	2%	3%	1%	7%

As in past years, and consistent with national data, women and students who identified as TQGN report higher rates of sexual assault than men, **Table 3a**. When broken out by sexual orientation, the prevalence of sexual assault reported by students who identified as queer was higher than that



reported by students who identified as straight/heterosexual, **Table 3b**. When broken out by race/ethnicity, the prevalence of sexual assault reported by Hispanic students was higher than that among students of any other race/ethnicity, **Table 3c**.

Table 3a: Prevalence of Sexual Assault, by Gender

		Total N = 2457	Women N = 1482	Men N = 893	TGQN N = 82
Yes	N	201	145	43	13
	%	8.2%	10%	5%	16%
Unsure	N	81	50	29	2
	%	3.3%	3%	3%	2%

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

		Total N = 2435	Straight N = 1735	Queer N = 635	Decline to State N = 65
Yes	N	197	102	89	6
	%	8.1%	6%	14%	9%
Unsure	N	79	51	23	5
	%	3.2%	3%	4%	8%

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

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

		Total N = 2457	Inter-national N = 725	Hispanic of any race N = 332	Black or African American N = 137	Asian N = 458	White N = 650	Two or More Races N = 120	Race and ethnicity unknown N = 41
Yes	N	201	29	52	9	35	58	13	4
	%	8.2%	4%	16%	7%	8%	9%	11%	10%
Unsure	N	81	33	10	5	18	10	5	0
	%	3.3%	5%	3%	4%	4%	2%	4%	0%

Uncertainty About Incidents

In addition to the 386 incidents of sexual assault reported by 201 students, 81 students³ reported 211 incidents in which they were 'unsure' if they had experienced an assault. Students were then

³ With 9 screener questions for sexual assault, a student could answer 'yes' to one form of assault and 'unsure' to another. The 201 students who experienced sexual assault and the 81 students who indicated that they were unsure if they experienced an assault are not mutually exclusive groups.



asked to identify the reasons why they felt uncertain about what occurred. The most frequently reason for this uncertainty, cited in 40% of incidents, was ‘I do not see myself as a someone who experienced Sexual Assault.’ Other frequently cited reasons for uncertainty included not recalling exactly what happened (27%), being intoxicated at the time of the incident (26%), and not wanting to define what happened as a crime or policy violation (21%).

Substance Use

In follow-up questions, students were asked about the use of drugs and/or alcohol either by the assailant or themselves prior to the assault.⁴ In 48% of sexual assaults (187 out of 386 incidents) students reported having voluntarily consumed drugs or alcohol prior to the assault. In 47% of reported sexual assaults (181 out of 386 incidents) students reported that the perpetrator had consumed drugs or alcohol prior to the assault. There was no significant difference in the rate of drug and/or alcohol consumption prior to sexual assaults reported by undergraduates than those reported by graduate students. These results were similar to those from the 2021 survey, in which 47% of students who reported sexual assault indicated that they had consumed drugs or alcohol prior to the assault and 53% reported the perpetrator had been consuming drugs or alcohol.

Identity of Perpetrator

The majority of sexual assaults were perpetrated by men. Most assaults involved a single assailant; students identified the perpetrator as a man in 85% of these cases involving a single assailant. Men were identified as one of the assailants in 96% of the cases involving more than one assailant.

When asked about their relationship(s)⁵ to the assailant(s), students identified the assailant as ‘someone I was involved or intimate with at the time’ in 43% of assaults. Other frequently cited types of relationship to the assailant included friends (25%), someone known who was not a friend (21%), and classmates (12%). In 73% of sexual assaults the respondent identified the assailant as another Johns Hopkins student.

Sexual Harassment

Overall, 705 students, 29% of all survey respondents, reported experiencing at least one incident of unwelcome sexual behavior while attending JHU. 339 of these students, 14% 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. Using this definition of sexual harassment, 19% of undergraduates and 11% of graduate students reported experiencing sexual harassment since they enrolled at JHU, **Table 4**.

⁴ These follow-up questions asked the participant about voluntary alcohol or drug consumption of any amount, not whether they were incapacitated by alcohol or drugs at the time of the sexual assault. The follow-up questions were asked of all students who reported experiencing sexual assault, including the 51 students reported experiencing sexual assault while they were unable to consent or stop what was happening due to incapacitation by drugs or alcohol.

⁵ Students could select multiple types of relationships to describe the assailant.



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

Undergraduate Students	Total N = 910	Women N = 549	Men N = 321	TGQN N = 40
N	172	129	29	14
%	19%	23%	9%	35%

Graduate & Professional Students	Total N = 1547	Women N = 933	Men N = 572	TGQN N = 42
N	167	113	41	13
%	11%	12%	7%	31%

The prevalence of sexual harassment across distinct student demographics followed similar trends to those observed in the prevalence of sexual assault. Women and TGQN students reported higher rates of sexual harassment than Men, **Table 5a**. Queer students reported higher rates of sexual harassment than Straight students, **Table 5b**; and Hispanic students and students of two or more races reported higher rates of sexual assault than students who identified with other race/ethnicity identities.

Table 5a: Prevalence of Sexual Harassment, by Gender

	Total N = 2457	Women N = 1482	Men N = 893	TGQN N = 82
N	339	242	70	27
%	14%	16%	8%	33%

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

	Total N = 2435	Straight N = 1735	Queer N = 635	Decline to State N = 65
N	336	160	159	17
%	14%	9%	25%	26%

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



Table 5c: Prevalance of Sexual Harassment by Race/Ethnicity

	Total N = 2457	Inter- national N = 725	Hispanic of any race N = 332	Black or African American N = 137	Asian N = 458	White N = 650	Two or More Races N = 120	Race and ethnicity unknown N = 41
N	339	48	69	11	68	109	25	7
%	14%	7%	21%	8%	15%	17%	21%	17%

Identity of Perpetrator

Most incidents (57%) of sexual harassment involved more than one perpetrator and the majority of incidents of sexual harassment were perpetrated by men. When asked to identify their relationship to the perpetrator(s), the most common types of relationships included: classmates (40% of incidents), someone known who was not a friend (37%), and friends (19%). In most harassment incidents (77%), at least one of the perpetrators was a JHU student.

Intimate Partner Violence

Most students reported having been in some form of an ongoing intimate relationship while enrolled at Hopkins; 50% of undergraduates and 62% of graduate students. Of the students who had been in an ongoing relationship while enrolled, 13% of undergraduate and 5% of graduate students indicated that they had experienced intimate partner violence (IPV).

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

	Total N = 451	Women N = 275	Men N = 157	TGQN N = 19
Undergraduate Students				
N	59	39	18	2
%	13%	14%	11%	11%
	Total N = 956	Women N = 584	Men N = 344	TGQN N = 28
Graduate & Professional Students				
N	50	34	14	2
%	5%	6%	4%	7%

Note: Percent prevalence is calculated based on students who reported being in a partnered relationship, not total count of survey respondents



Tables 7a, 7b, and 7c present the frequency of intimate partner violence broken out by gender, sexual orientation, and race/ethnicity. As with other forms of sexual misconduct, women and TGQN-identifying students reported higher rates of intimate partner violence than men, and queer students reported higher rates of intimate partner violence than straight students.

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

	Total N = 1407	Women N = 859	Men N = 501	TGQN N = 47
N	109	73	32	4
%	8%	8%	6%	9%

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

	Total N = 1399	Straight N = 998	Queer N = 381	Decline to State N = 20
N	108	66	39	3
%	8%	7%	10%	15%

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

Table 7c: Prevalence of Intimate Partner Violence, by Race

	Total N = 1407	Inter-national N = 327	Hispanic of any race N = 210	Black or African American N = 61	Asian N = 257	White N = 465	Two or More Races N = 63	Race and ethnicity unknown N = 23
N	109	10	31	6	21	32	4	5
%	8%	3%	15%	10%	8%	7%	6%	22%

Identity of Perpetrator

As with other forms of sexual misconduct, a disproportionate percentage of intimate partner violence perpetrators were men. Of the students who answered the follow-up question about the gender of the partner(s)⁶ who perpetuated intimate partner violence, 72% experienced IPV with a male partner and 30% experienced with a female partner.⁷

⁶ A small number of students reported experiencing intimate partner violence with more than one partner.

⁷ Survey participants were not asked about the perpetrator’s relationship to Johns Hopkins in follow-up questions for intimate partner violence.



Stalking

Overall 10% of students reported having experienced at least one incident of stalking-like behavior; 5% of students reported experiencing conduct that fit the definition of stalking, in that stalking behaviors occurred more than once by the same person and resulted in fear for the student’s safety or the safety of others or substantial emotional distress. **Table 8** presents the prevalence of stalking broken out by gender and student level.

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

Undergraduate Students	Total N = 910	Women N = 549	Men N = 321	TGQN N = 40
N	61	52	5	4
%	7%	9%	2%	10%
Graduate & Professional Students	Total N = 1547	Women N = 933	Men N = 572	TGQN N = 42
N	50	33	15	2
%	3%	4%	3%	5%

Tables 9a, 9b, and 9c present the frequency of stalking broken out by gender, sexual orientation, and race/ethnicity. As with other forms of sexual misconduct, the prevalence of stalking was higher among the population of women and TGQN-identifying students than among men, **Table 9a**; the prevalence of stalking experienced by queer students was higher than that reported by heterosexual/straight students, **Table 9b**.

Table 9a: Prevalence of Stalking, by Gender

	Total N = 2457	Women N = 1482	Men N = 893	TGQN N = 82
N	111	85	20	6
%	5%	6%	2%	7%

Table 9b: Prevalence of Stalking, by Sexual Orientation

	Total N = 2435	Straight N = 1735	Queer N = 635	Decline to State N = 65
N	110	55	50	5
%	5%	3%	8%	8%

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



Table 9c: Prevalence of Stalking, by Race

	Total N = 2457	Inter- national N = 725	Hispanic of any race N = 332	Black or African American N = 137	Asian N = 458	White N = 650	Two or More Races N = 120	Race and ethnicity unknown N = 41
N	111	26	16	4	19	32	9	4
%	5%	4%	5%	3%	4%	5%	8%	10%

Identity of Perpetrator

Men were identified as the perpetrator in 82% of stalking cases. When students were asked to identify their relationship to the perpetrator(s), the most common types of relationships included someone known who was not a friend (35% of incidents), classmates (33%), friends (26%), and someone they had previously been involved or intimate with (23%). In most stalking cases (70%), the perpetrator was another JHU student.

Resource Utilization

Most students who experienced sexual assault or other sexual misconduct did not contact any university resources following the incident. Following 79% of sexual assault incidents (275) and 79% of sexual harassment incidents (259), students indicated that they did not contact any university resource. Only 18 of the 109 students who experienced intimate partner violence and 30 of the 111 students who experienced stalking contacted a university resource.

Table 10 highlights the most frequently cited reasons by students as to why they did not contact any university resource. Multiple reasons could be identified in each response.

Table 10: Reasons Cited for Not Utilizing University Resources, by Type of Sexual Misconduct Experienced

	Assault	Harassment	IPV	Stalking
<i>Distinct Response Count</i>	284	264	49	77
I could handle it myself	50%	41%	57%	40%
I did not think it was serious enough to contact any of these programs or resources	45%	58%	31%	43%
I didn't think these resources would give me the help I needed/I did not think it would be helpful	18%	57%	51%	61%
I felt embarrassed, ashamed or that it would be too emotionally difficult	25%	12%	14%	14%

“I could handle it myself” and “I did not think it was serious enough to contact any of these programs or resources” were in the top 3 most frequently cited reasons across the different types of sexual misconduct. Feeling embarrassed or ashamed was the third most frequently cited reason for incidents of sexual assault; this reason was less frequently cited for other forms of sexual



misconduct. For those students who did use resources, the most frequently used were Mental Health Services, the Office of Institutional Equity, and Student Affairs.

While university resources were not frequently used, most students who experienced sexual misconduct did talk to someone about their experience. Friends were most frequently cited following incidents of any type of sexual misconduct. Family members, sexual or romantic partners, and therapists or counselors were also commonly cited. **Table 11** details sources of support broken out by type of sexual misconduct experienced.

Table 11: Support From Other Sources, by Type of Sexual Misconduct Experienced

	Assault	Harassment	IPV	Stalking
<i>Distinct Response Count</i>	360	266	47	78
Friend	81%	77%	75%	87%
Family Member	23%	21%	28%	35%
Sexual or Romantic Partner	24%	17%	2%	26%
Therapist or counselor	23%	9%	11%	5%
<i>I didn't tell anyone (else)</i>	11%	0%	23%	6%

Campus Climate

The survey included questions to assess students' perception of risk, perception of the university's support of students, and perception of how the university addresses incidents of sexual assault and other misconduct.

Perception of Risk of Experiencing Sexual Assault or Misconduct

Overall, undergraduate students perceived a greater risk of sexual misconduct at the university than graduate students. Students who reported having experienced sexual assault perceived sexual misconduct to be more problematic and a greater risk than students who had not experienced sexual assault.

When asked 'how problematic is sexual assault or other sexual misconduct at JHU?'

- 17% of undergraduates and 8% of graduate students answered 'Very' or 'Extremely' Likely
- 48% of undergraduate and 70% of graduate students answered "A little" or 'Not at all'

When stratifying the data by experience of sexual assault while at JHU:

- 31% of undergraduates who experienced sexual assault answered 'Very' or 'Extremely', compared to 15% of undergraduates who did not report experiencing assault
- 22% of graduate students who experienced sexual assault answered 'Very' or 'Extremely', compared to 7% of graduate students who did not report experiencing assault

When asked 'how likely do you think it is that you will experience sexual assault or misconduct in the future while enrolled at JHU?'

- 7% of undergraduates and 3% of graduate students answered 'Very' or 'Extremely' Likely
- 77% of undergraduate and 88% of graduate students answered "A little" or 'Not at all'

When stratifying the data by experience of sexual assault while at JHU:



- 19% of undergraduates who experienced sexual assault answered 'Very' or 'Extremely', compared to 5% of undergraduates who did not report experiencing assault
- 10% of graduate students who experienced sexual assault answered 'Very' or 'Extremely', compared to 2% of graduate students who did not report experiencing assault

Perception of University Support for Students

There were minor differences between undergraduate and graduate students in terms of their perception of university student support. Students who had experienced sexual assault were less likely to feel safe and supported by the university than students who had not experienced sexual assault.

When asked to evaluate the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with the statement, "Johns Hopkins is genuinely concerned about my welfare:"

- 60% of undergraduate and 63% of graduate students either 'somewhat' or 'strongly' agreed
- 49% of undergraduates who experienced sexual assault 'somewhat' or 'strongly' agreed compared to 62% of undergraduates who had not experienced sexual assault
- 45% of graduate students who experienced sexual assault 'somewhat' or 'strongly' agreed compared to 65% of graduate students who had not experienced sexual assault

When asked to evaluate the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with the statement, "Johns Hopkins treats students fairly:"

- 67% of undergraduate and 67% of graduate students either 'somewhat' or 'strongly' agreed
- 59% of undergraduates who experienced sexual assault 'somewhat' or 'strongly' agreed compared to 69% of undergraduates who had not experienced sexual assault
- 42% of graduate students who experienced sexual assault 'somewhat' or 'strongly' agreed compared to 69% of graduate students who had not experienced sexual assault

When asked to evaluate the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with the statement, "I feel safe at Johns Hopkins:"

- 73% of undergraduate and 74% of graduate students either 'somewhat' or 'strongly' agreed
- 58% of undergraduates who experienced sexual assault 'somewhat' or 'strongly' agreed compared to 76% of undergraduates who had not experienced sexual assault
- 59% of graduate students who experienced sexual assault 'somewhat' or 'strongly' agreed compared to 76% of graduate students who had not experienced sexual assault

Perception of Response to Reports of Sexual Assault or Other Misconduct

Overall, the responses from undergraduates reflected less confidence in the University's response to reports of sexual misconduct than graduate students.

When asked to evaluate how likely it is that campus officials would take a report of sexual misconduct or assault seriously:

- 54% of undergraduates and 64% of graduate students answered 'Very' or 'Extremely'

When asked to evaluate how likely it is that other university students would support the person making a report of sexual assault or misconduct:

- 61% of undergraduates and 71% of graduate students answered 'Very' or 'Extremely'

When asked to evaluate how likely it is that campus officials would protect the safety of the person



making the report

- 48% of undergraduates and 59% of graduate students answered ‘Very’ or ‘Extremely’

When asked to evaluate how likely it is that support from the university would be available to the accused

- 45% of undergraduates and 52% of graduate students answered ‘Very’ or ‘Extremely’

When asked to evaluate how likely it is that campus officials would conduct a fair investigation

- 41% of undergraduates and 53% of graduate students answered ‘Very’ or ‘Extremely’

When asked to evaluate how likely it is that the university would take action to address factors that may have led to the sexual assault or misconduct:

- 38% of undergraduates and 50% of graduate students answered ‘Very’ or ‘Extremely’

Bystander Intervention Behavior

Students were asked whether they had witnessed four different situations in which one person engaged in, or seemed likely to engage in, sexual misconduct. If students reported having witnessed a situation, 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, students reported witnessing a total of 777 situations. In 79% (612) of those situations the student witness reported taking some form of action to intervene. This is consistent with the 2021 survey results, in which 77% of students took action.

Rates of intervention were slightly higher among graduate students than undergraduate students. This was a change from 2021, when undergraduate students had a slightly higher rate of intervention in most categories.

Table 12: Bystander Intervention Response

Type of Conduct Witnessed	Number of Witnesses	Undergraduate Students		Graduate Students	
		Took Action	No Action	Took Action	No Action
Sexual comment/ conduct	341	74.0% (151)	24.0% (49)	75.2% (103)	24.1% (33)
Pattern of ongoing sexual conduct	121	76.6% (49)	20.3% (13)	86.0% (49)	14.0% (8)
Controlling/ abusive toward partner	163	78.0% (96)	21.1% (26)	82.5% (33)	17.5% (7)
Conduct that could lead to sexual assault	152	83.3% (85)	12.7% (13)	92.0% (46)	8.0% (4)

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.

In addition to our standard questions on bystander intervention, the 2024 survey additionally incorporated new hypothetical questions recommended by the Maryland Higher Education Commission:

- When asked how likely they were to confront a friend who was hooking up with someone who was passed out, 89.5% of respondents indicated that they were likely or very likely to do so. Less than 3% said they were unlikely or very unlikely to do so.



- When asked how likely they were to confront a friend about rumors that they forced someone to have sex, 83.7% of respondents indicated that they were likely or very likely to do so. 5% indicated they were unlikely or very unlikely to do so.
- When asked how likely they were to call the police or authorities if they saw a group bothering someone in a parking lot or similar settings, 67.9% of respondents indicated that they were likely or very likely to do so. 11.6% indicated they were unlikely or very unlikely to do so.
- When asked how likely they were to tell campus authorities about information they might have about a sexual assault case, 76.5 % of respondents indicated that they were likely or very likely to do so. 6.7% indicated they were unlikely or very unlikely to do so.

V. Moving Forward

When we presented the results of the 2021 survey, we recognized that the COVID-19 pandemic likely impacted the survey results in meaningful ways. The 2021 data showed a decrease in the prevalence of all forms of sexual misconduct compared to 2019 data, but we knew that the effect of extended periods of remote learning and social distancing could not be ignored. The 2024 survey, however, was administered more than two full years after students' return to on-campus learning, interacting and (for some) living. As a result, we were interested to see how the 2024 survey results compared to those from 2019, the last sexual misconduct survey conducted prior to the pandemic. We were pleased to see that the prevalence of sexual assault and sexual harassment remained at the lower rates captured in the 2021 survey. In contrast, the prevalence of stalking and intimate partner violence unfortunately returned to 2019 levels. In interpreting these data, we note two important factors. First, because the survey asks students about their experiences while at Johns Hopkins University, the pandemic may still be impacting students who attended JHU in 2020 and/or 2021. Second, our low participation rate cautions against over-extrapolation from the survey results, particularly when our response rate for the 2019 survey was roughly double that of 2024.

Since the 2021 survey, JHU has continued its efforts to prevent and respond to sexual misconduct in our community. Our 2021 survey results indicated that students who experienced sexual misconduct often were not accessing supportive resources offered through the University. As a result, the Provost's Sexual Violence Advisory Committee ("SVAC")⁸ partnered with the [Johns Hopkins Center for Communications Promotion](#) to develop and launch a student-focused, evidence-driven campaign entitled *We Listen, You Decide* to promote confidential University resources for victims of sexual misconduct. The 2024 survey results indicate that continued work is needed to advance this campaign. Less than 20% of survey respondents recalled communications related to *We Listen, You Decide*, but for those that did, 80% found it useful. Moreover, the 2024 survey results continue to show that students who experience sexual misconduct frequently do not access supportive resources, with the most common reasons including "I could handle it myself" and "I did not think it was serious enough to contact programs or resources." This suggests that education is needed not only to raise awareness of resources but to emphasize their value in a variety of circumstances.

The 2024 results echoed several themes from past surveys:

- The survey results indicate that sexual assault involving lack of ongoing, voluntary agreement continues to be one of the most common types among undergraduate and graduate students. For several years, the university has promoted affirmative consent in

⁸ The SVAC includes student, faculty and staff representatives from across JHU, including undergraduate and graduate students.



sexual encounters with a communications campaign referred to as the *I Ask – I Listen – I Respect* campaign. The 2024 survey results show that 65% of undergraduate students and 28% of graduate students specifically recall the campaign, 83% found it personally useful and 95% believed it is helpful for other students. Health Promotion & Well-Being has been spearheading the campaign and will continue to promote and expand on its important message.

- The considerable overlap between sexual assault and use of alcohol or drugs was again reflected in the survey results. As in 2021, a large percentage of students who reported experiencing a sexual assault indicated that they had voluntarily consumed drugs or alcohol before it occurred (48%). This 48% includes students who reported being sexually assaulted when they were unable to consent or stop what was happening due to incapacitation by alcohol or drugs. The survey further revealed that 47% of perpetrators of sexual assault were consuming alcohol or drugs prior to the assault. Given the high rate at which alcohol and drug use coincide with student sexual assault, there continues to be an opportunity for more education and prevention work in this area.
- The 2024 survey again indicated that some students lack confidence in the university to fairly investigate sexual misconduct and support the parties involved. This suggests a continued need for the Office of Institutional Equity (OIE) to engage with students to explain the policies and procedures that guide sexual misconduct investigations, emphasize OIE's neutral, fact-finding role, and reiterate OIE and the University's dedication to providing students with various forms of support.
- We were again pleased to see the high percentage of students who took an intervening action upon witnessing potential sexual misconduct or a situation that could lead to sexual misconduct. In a reversal of the 2021 results, graduate students in the 2024 survey showed a slightly higher rate of intervention than undergraduate students, which may be explained by the greater availability of bystander intervention training to graduate students. Overall, the fact that the majority of students both report intervening in concerning situations they observed and anticipate intervening in hypothetical situations demonstrates a culture of intervention.

The university remains committed to evidence-based prevention of and response to sexual violence. These survey results have been carefully reviewed by the SVAC to ensure that the most relevant and recent data are shaping the development, implementation, and evaluation of policies and programs. While the presence of sexual violence in our community is deeply concerning, the university is not unique in this regard, and it is critical to remember that sexual violence is preventable. During fall 2025, 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. Additionally, the survey results may provide further 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 *2024 Student Survey: Assessing the Climate of Sexual Misconduct at JHU*, please email the Office of Institutional Research at ClimateSurvey@jhu.edu.



Resources

JHU Sexual Assault Hotline

410-516-7333

Provides 24/7 confidential assistance to students affected by sexual misconduct

Mental Health Services

Homewood: 410-516-8278

East Baltimore: (410) 955-1892

Washington, D.C.: (202) 287-7000

<https://wellbeing.jhu.edu/MentalHealthServices/>

Provides emotional support and assistance for mental health needs for students

Gender-Based Violence Prevention & Education

443-927-3548 or HopkinsGBVP@jh.edu

Alyse Campbell, MSW, LMSW | Maggie Lewis, MSW | Sherry Zhang, MSW

JHU Public Safety

911 for emergencies

667-208-1200

<https://publicsafety.jhu.edu>

Primary Care

Homewood: (410) 516-8270

East Baltimore: (410) 955-3250

Washington, D.C.: (202) 249-7333

<https://wellbeing.jhu.edu/PrimaryCare/>

Provides high-quality, confidential primary health care to students

The Ombuds Office

[Annalisa Peterson](#) serves PhD students, full-time masters students, and medical students, as well as doctoral and postdoctoral fellows.

TimelyCare

<https://app.timelycare.com/auth/login>

Available to degree-seeking students and trainees, this mental health and primary care telehealth resource includes on-demand support and scheduled appointments with licensed clinicians.

Speak2Us/Ethics & Compliance Hotline

<http://johnshopkinsspeak2us.com/>

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

Hotline for concerns about unethical or illegal acts that are detrimental to JHU and harmful to students, employees, patients and visitors.

Johns Hopkins Employee Assistance Program

888-978-1262

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

Professional, confidential, short-term counseling to employees and immediate family members

Disability Accommodations:

Students: Student Disability Services, <https://sds.jhu.edu/>

Employees: Office of Institutional Equity: oie.jhu.edu/ada-compliance/request-accommodations-employees/

Religious Accommodations: oie.jhu.edu/religious-accommodations/

Pregnancy Adjustments/Accommodations: <https://oie.jhu.edu/pregnancy-adjustments-and-accommodations/>

