

2021 Sexual Assault Climate Survey Results

In Fall 2021, a task force was formed to examine the scope of campus sexual misconduct, students' and employees' knowledge of the reporting process and resources, as well as their perceptions of the university's efforts to prevent or respond to sexual assault and how they thought the university might respond if a student reported an incident of sexual misconduct. The purpose of gathering this information was to help inform the university's prevention and response efforts and enact policy and practice changes that improve the safety and well-being of students, faculty, and staff. All Kansas State University undergraduate students, graduate students, and employees received an invitation through their K-State email to complete the Sexual Assault Climate Survey (SACS) on Friday, October 29, 2021. The Qualtrics survey remained open for three weeks, closing on Friday, November 19, 2021. The survey was anonymous, and each question was optional. A total of 1,319 students and 786 employees provided complete and valid responses. This represents a 12.1% response rate for students and a 21.5% response rate for employees.

The SACS contained 19 modules measuring K-State Wildcats' attitudes, beliefs, and experiences on various topics related to sexual harassment and assault. This included, but was not limited to, 1) respondents' sense of safety, 2) perceptions of campus climate, 3) knowledge of campus resources, 4) rates of victimization, and 5) barriers to filing a formal report of sexual misconduct. Primary findings for both students and employees are provided below.

Student Results

Demographics:

- Students who completed the survey ranged from 18 to 50+; 78.1% were between 18 and 25.
- 62.8% of students who completed the survey identified as a woman, 33.6% identified as a man, 3.6% of students who completed the survey identified as transgender, genderqueer/gender non-conforming, or nonbinary.
- 83.3% of student who completed the survey identified as White/Caucasian, 7.1% identified as Hispanic or Latinx, 4.8% identified as Asian or Asian American, 3.2% identified as Black/African American, 1.2% identified as Native American or Alaskan native.
- 5.7% of students who completed the survey were international students.
- 78.8% of students who completed the survey identified as heterosexual, 12.3% identified as bisexual, 2.9% identified as queer, 1.9% identified as asexual, 1.8% identified as gay, and 1.5% identified as lesbian.
- 90.6% of student who completed the survey attended classes at the K-State Manhattan campus.
- 78.7% of students who completed the survey were undergraduates.

Mental Health:

- **73.6%** of students who completed the survey reported mild, moderate, or severe levels of anxiety.

- **59.6%** of students who completed the survey reported mild, moderate, or severe levels of depression.

Rates of Sexual Harassment, Stalking, and Intimate Partner Violence:

- **36%** of students who completed the survey reported experiencing at least one incident of **sexual harassment by a K-State employee** since attending K-State. Sexual harassment included a series of questions examining the use of sexist or sexually offensive language, gestures, or pictures; unwanted sexual attention; unwanted touching; and subtle or explicit bribes or threats.
- **57.7%** of students who completed the survey reported experiencing at least one incident of **sexual harassment by a fellow K-State student** since attending K-State.
- **30.3%** of students who completed the survey reported experiencing at least one incident of **stalking**.
- **18.7%** of students who completed the survey reported experiencing at least one incident of **intimate partner violence** (i.e., an act or perceived threat of physical violence or harm perpetrated by anyone with whom they have had a relationship).

Rates of Non-Consensual Sexual Contact and Assault:

Students were asked to share any experience of sexual assault (i.e., non-consensual sexual contact without attempted penetration; sexual assault in which someone attempted to sexually penetrate the victim, but did not; vaginal sexual assault; oral sexual assault; and anal sexual assault) they have had since coming to K-State, regardless of whether the assault occurred on or off campus or when classes were in session or over break. Similar to data collected at other universities across the country (Cantor et al., 2020), **25.2% of students who completed the survey reported experiencing at least one incident of sexual assault since coming to K-State**. Most of the assaults took place **off-campus** at private residences, fraternity houses, and in large social settings such as at house parties or in Aggieville.

Institutional Prevention and Intervention Efforts:

To assess students' perceptions of K-State's efforts to prevent or respond to sexual assault, students who disclosed their assault on the survey were asked 26 questions regarding K-State's actions leading up to and following the sexual assault. Below are the top five areas where the university could increase their prevention and intervention efforts.

- **63.9%** of students who responded to this series of questions believe K-State **responded inadequately to their report of sexual assault**.
- **62.5%** of students who responded to this series of questions **do NOT** believe K-State is **doing enough to prevent sexual assault**.
- **60%** of students who responded to this series of questions believe K-State **creates an environment in which sexual misconduct seemed common and/or normal**.
- **55.6%** of students who responded to this series of questions believe that K-State **makes it difficult to report** an incident of sexual assault.

- **52.5%** of students who responded to this series of questions believe K-State **creates an environment in which sexual assault is more likely to occur.**

Knowledge of Campus Resources:

Students were provided with 15 statements about knowledge of campus resources. The campus resources students who completed the survey were least aware of are listed below.

- **72.9%** of students who completed the survey **do NOT understand what happens when a student reports a claim** of sexual misconduct at K-State.
- **60.8%** of students who completed the survey **do NOT know where to go to make a report** of sexual misconduct.
- **56.9%** of students who completed the survey **do NOT know where to go to get help on campus** if they or another student experienced sexual misconduct.
- **62%** of students who completed the survey are **not aware of, or only slightly aware of, the Office of Institutional Equity/Title IX Office.**
- **53.2%** of students who completed the survey are **not aware of, or only slightly aware of, the CARE Office.**

Institutional Response to Report of Sexual Misconduct:

Students who completed the survey were given 11 statements that described how Kansas State University might respond if a student reported an incident of sexual misconduct. Most student who completed the survey believed K-State would be likely to **handle the report fairly (53.6%), take the report seriously (58.1%), support the person making the report (57.8%), take steps to protect the safety of the person making the report (64.3%), and maintain the privacy of the person making the report (77.9%).** However, only **45.8%** of student who completed the survey believed K-State would be likely to **take action to address factors that may have led to the sexual misconduct.**

Perception of Campus Climate:

Overall, student who completed the survey feel valued, respected, safe, and cared about at K-State. However, it is important to note that:

- **46%** of students who completed the survey **do NOT think administrators are genuinely concerned about their welfare.**
 - **40%** of students who completed the survey **do NOT feel close to people on campus.**
 - **34.1%** of students who completed the survey **do NOT feel like they are part of the university.**
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Employee Results

Demographics:

- Employees who completed the survey ranged from 19 to 70+; 87% were under the age of 60.
- 65.1% of employees who completed the survey identified as a woman, 33.7% identified as a man, 0.8% identified as transgender, genderqueer/gender non-conforming, or nonbinary.
- 86.7% of employees who completed the survey identified as White/Caucasian, 5.7% identified as Hispanic or Latinx, 4.4% identified as Asian or Asian American, 1.5% identified as Black/African American, 1.2% identified as Native American or Alaskan native.
- 88.6% of employees who completed the survey identified as heterosexual, 5.7% identified as bisexual, 1.4% identified as lesbian, 1.3% identified as queer, 1.1% identified as gay, and 1.1% identified as asexual.
- 91.7% of employees who completed the survey were employed at the K-State Manhattan campus.
- 39.1% of employees who completed the survey had been employed at K-State for five years or less; 36.5% for more than 10 years.
- 68.4% of employees who completed the survey identified as staff, 27% identified as faculty, and 4.1% as administrators

Mental Health:

- **52.5%** of employees who completed the survey reported mild, moderate, or severe levels of anxiety.
- **38.9%** of employees who completed the survey reported mild, moderate, or severe levels of depression.

Rates of Sexual Harassment, Stalking, and Intimate Partner Violence:

- **43.2%** of employees who completed the survey reported experiencing at least one incident of **sexual harassment by their supervisor** at K-State.
- **38.3%** of employees who completed the survey reported experiencing at least one incident of **sexual harassment by a fellow employee** at K-State.
- **17.2%** of employees who completed the survey reported experiencing at least one incident of **stalking** since being employed at K-State.
- **15%** of employees who completed the survey reported experiencing at least one incident of **domestic violence** since being employed at K-State.

Rates of Non-Consensual Sexual Contact and Assault:

Employees were asked to share any experience of sexual assault (i.e., non-consensual sexual contact without attempted penetration; sexual assault in which someone attempted to sexually penetrate the victim, but did not; vaginal sexual assault; oral sexual assault; and anal sexual assault) they have had since being employed at K-State, regardless of whether the assault occurred on or off campus or when

classes were in session or over break. **10.9% of employees who completed the survey reported experiencing at least one incident of sexual assault since being employed at K-State.**

Knowledge of Campus Resources:

Most employees who completed the survey knew where to make a report or get help if for they, a fellow employee, or a K-State student experienced sexual misconduct. However,

- **62.7%** of employees who completed the survey **do NOT understand what happens when an employee reports a claim** of sexual misconduct at K-State.
- **66.1%** of employees who completed the survey **do NOT understand what happens when a student reports a claim** of sexual misconduct at K-State.
- **42.6%** of employees who completed the survey are **not aware of, or only slightly aware of, the CARE Office.**
- **31.7%** of employees who completed the survey are **not aware of, or only slightly aware of, the Office of Institutional Equity/Title IX Office.**

Institutional Response to Report of Sexual Misconduct:

Employees who completed the survey were given 11 statements that described how Kansas State University might respond if an employee reported an incident of sexual misconduct. Most employees who completed the survey believed K-State would be likely to **handle the report fairly (59.7%), take the report seriously (73.8%), support the person making the report (61.8%), take steps to protect the safety of the person making the report (68.6%), and maintain the privacy of the person making the report (80.1%).** However, only **51%** of employees who completed the survey believed K-State would be likely to **take action to address factors that may have led to the sexual misconduct.**